

DYFED-POWYS POLICE AND CRIME PANEL

22ND JULY 2016

PRESENT: Cllr A. Lloyd-Jones (Vice-Chair)

Carmarthenshire County Council Members:-

Councillors W.J.W. Evans, P.E.M. Jones and W.G. Hopkins

Ceredigion County Council Members

J.D. Rowland Jones and T. Haydn Lewis

Pembrokeshire County Council Members

Councillors R. Summons and T. Wilcox

Powys County Council Members

Councillors D.O. Evans, G. Jones and P. Medlicott

Independent Member

Professor I. Roffe

In attendance from the Office of the Police & Crime Commissioner:-

Mr D. Llywelyn – Police and Crime Commissioner

Mrs C. Morgans – Chief of Staff

Ms J. Woods –Chief Finance Officer

Officers also in attendance: -

Carmarthenshire County Council:-

Mrs W. Walters – Assistant Chief Executive – Regeneration and Policy

Mr R. Edgecombe – Acting Legal Services Manager

Mrs D. Williams – Assistant Media & Marketing Manager

Mr K. Thomas – Democratic Services Officer

(Council Chamber, County Hall, Aberaeron 10.30 a.m. – 12.10 p.m.)

1. APOLOGIES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor S. Yelland (Pembrokeshire County Council) and from Mr A. Edwards (Chair).

2. DECLARATIONS OF PERSONAL INTERESTS

There were no declarations of personal interest

3. MINUTES

RESOLVED, that the minutes of the meeting of the Dyfed-Powys Police and Crime Panel held on the 13th May, 2016 be signed as a correct record.

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4. MATTERS ARISING

4.1. Minute 8 – Home office Grant for Panel Activities

Reference was made to the grant claimed by the Panel from the Home Office for 2014-16 being less than the maximum allowance, and a query raised on whether the Panel was allowed to retain the unspent allocation or, if had to be returned to the Home Office.

The Legal Service Manager advised that the Panel did not receive a budget from the Home Office, but a maximum level of grant it could claim in respect of its duties. Claims against expenses incurred were submitted twice a year and had to be accompanied with supporting evidence. If those claims totalled less than the maximum payable allowance, any unclaimed allocation was retained by the Home Office and could not be rolled-over into the following financial year.

4.2. Minute 10 – Draft Forward Work Programme

In response to a question on the Panel's Draft Forward Work Programme, the Legal Services Manager advised that preparatory work thereon was continuing with a view to its submission to the Panel's October meeting.

4.3. Minute 11 – Increasing the Media Presence of the Panel

The Assistant Media and Marketing Manager advised the Panel that subsequent to its previous meeting a number of activities/initiatives had been undertaken to promote its media presence. Those included the issue of press releases, reviewing the Panel's website with a view to a draft being presented to its October meeting, liaising with its constituent local authorities on the placement of adverts for the appointment of Independent Members', together with extending specific invitations to press organisations to attend its meetings.

In response to the above, it was suggested that a simple guide be produced for the public detailing the Panel's role, membership and relevant contact points. The Assistant Media and Marketing Manager confirmed that the suggested information would be incorporated within the new website.

The Police and Crime Commissioner suggested there was scope for the Panel to work collaboratively with his office to also explain to the public his and his office's role.

5. ANNUAL REPORT OF THE POLICE AND CRIME COMMISSIONER

The Panel, in accordance with the provisions of Sections 12 and 28 of the Police Reform and Social Responsibility Act 2011, received for consideration the Annual Report of the Police and Crime Commissioner for 2015/16. In considering that report, the Panel recognised that it was in respect of the activities of the former Police and Crime Commissioner prior to the new Commissioner's election in May 2016.

The Following questions/issues were raised on the report:-

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- A concern was expressed at the increasing number of serious road traffic accidents occurring along the A40 and A487 and on the need for the police to take action to reduce those levels.

The Police and Crime Commissioner confirmed that the issue of road safety/speeding had been raised with him subsequent to his election, and he would be incorporating that as a priority within his Police and Crime Plan.

- Reference was made to the increase in recorded incidents of domestic abuse and the Panel advised of concerns expressed by both the Health Board and Ceredigion County Council's Social Services Committee at that increase which, it was felt, could not be attributed solely to changes in recording methods and that, in reality, the number of incidents were increasing.

The Police and Crime Commissioner confirmed that he had raised the issue at a recent meeting and expressed the point that amendments to the recording methods being offered as a reason for the increase was not sufficient, and further investigation should be undertaken to understand why the number of recorded incidents had doubled from 200 to 400. He also advised that whilst the changes in recording methods should be regarded as a positive, the force would need to examine future trends to ascertain whether the current level of incidents had plateaued.

- Reference was made to the numbers of recorded sexual offences for 2015/16, and clarification sought on the current position on the former Commissioner's proposal to provide two new Sexual Assault Referral Centres for victims living in Ceredigion and Powys to avoid the need for their transportation to Carmarthen for physical examination.

The Police and Crime Commissioner advised that it was his understanding the centre in Newtown, Powys was able to undertake forensic examinations under sterile conditions. However, one difficulty being encountered within the rural areas related to the availability of paediatric expertise.

- Reference was made to police response times to 101 calls and the Commissioner advised of complaints received by a panel member in relation to response times in rural areas and to the lack of local knowledge.

The Commissioner in response advised that the Police Control Room was endeavouring to increase response times which, he would be monitoring via the Police Accountability Board. He also accepted there was an inconsistency in emergency response times between rural and urban areas of 80-85% and 98% respectively within a 20 minute period, and that he had raised that with the Chief Constable.

- Reference was made to the inclusion in the annual report of ensuring high standards of professionalism within the police and treating people with respect. Whilst the report reflected that as a priority area, a view was expressed that it didn't appear to be reflected by the police's tone for the provision of special training for ethnic groups, and would that be addressed as part of the Commissioner's Police and Crime Plan.

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The Commissioner advised that whilst he could not comment on his predecessor's plan, he had taken note of the issue and would have regard thereto when formulating his plan.

- Reference was made to the £50k underspend on the commissioning budget for research and a view expressed that was a missed opportunity which should not be replicated in future years.

The Commissioner advised that there was a national drive for police forces to provide evidence based policies, and that research had an important role in that regard. He confirmed that the current under spend would roll over to the current financial year, and that it was his intention to establish an evidence based board to which, he would be inviting academics and other professionals to contribute to, and assist with research.

- Reference was made to the approximated 240 referrals every quarter to substance misuse services across Dyfed Powys and clarification sought on whether the Commissioner considered enough was being done to reduce those numbers.

The Commissioner advised that it would be his intention to examine that area over the next four years with a view to ensuring, as far as possible, a consistency of service availability across the force area.

- Reference was made to the current situation whereby health care professionals had to travel to Carmarthen to Section persons under the Mental Health Act, and the resultant drain on police/ambulance and social services.

The Commissioner confirmed that he would liaise with the Public Service Board on the issue raised, together with the need to work strategically and for the Board to invest in the provision of resources to support local organisations. He also reminded the Panel that the force currently operated a Triage system with the Hywel Dda University Health Board to improve support and provide more timely assessments for people suffering episodes of mental distress.

- In response to a question on police officer levels within the Dyfed Powys Force, the Commissioner advised that he had requested the Chief Constable to examine that, having particular regard to both rural policing levels and the recent Inspectorate of Constabulary's report on the force. He also stated that the Chief Constable, in undertaking that review, could not look at police officer levels in isolation, but would also need to have regard to the level of other skilled professionals required for the force's operation.

RESOLVED that the Police and Crime Commissioner's Annual Report for 2015/16 be received.

6. **PROGRESS REPORT ON THE POLICE AND CRIME PLAN**

The Panel received for consideration a progress report on the Development of the Police and Crime Plan, which the Police Commissioner was required to produce under Section 5 of the Police Reform and Social Responsibility Act 2011.

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The following questions/issues were raised on the report:-

- Reference was made to Dyfed Powys Police Force being one of four Welsh Police Forces, and to whether the new Police and Crime Plan could contain reference to collaborative working arrangements between the forces e.g. procurement.

The Commissioner confirmed that collaborative working was an area he would like to explore further and develop over the next four years. However, any such arrangements would have to be of benefit to, and ensure high levels of service for the people of Dyfed Powys.

- In response to a question on CCTV provision, the Commissioner advised that whilst he would not be looking to re-introduce coverage it was his intention to re-invest and improve the existing infrastructure. To that end, he would be establishing a project team to look at provision across the force area and, if appropriate, look to establish partnership arrangements with local authorities, local health boards and private and public sector organisations.

RESOLVED that the report be received

7. REVIEW OF GOVERNANCE ARRANGEMENTS

The Panel gave consideration to the issue of governance arrangements introduced by the former Police and Crime Commissioner

The following questions/issues were raised on the report:-

- Reference was made to the operation of the Police Accountability Board and the Commissioner questioned on its accountability, being an unelected Board.

The Commissioner reminded the Panel that he had been democratically elected and it was his role to ensure the Chief Constable was held to account and scrutinised over the management of the Dyfed Powys Force.

With regard to existing governance arrangements, he reminded the Panel that the Policing Board met every two weeks and minutes of those meetings were published on the website. The Public Accountability Board met every few months with the meetings being open to the public. He had also discussed with the Panel's chair the possibility of involving the Panel with future Board meetings, to which he had no objection. Additionally, he would arrange for the new Chief Constable to accompany him to future Panel meetings following his/her appointment.

RESOLVED, that the report be received.

8. DECISIONS TAKEN BY THE POLICE AND CRIME COMMISSIONER

The Panel received, for information, a report detailing the decisions made by the former Police and Crime Commissioner for the period 15th January to 11th May, 2016 and by the new Commissioner for the period 12th May to 13th July, 2016.

RESOLVED, that the report be received.

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9. COMPLAINTS AND CONDUCT MATTERS

The Panel received a report on complaints and conduct matters recorded against the Police and Crime Commissioner subsequent to its previous meeting.

The Legal Services Manager informed the Panel that a complaint had been received from a Mr and Mrs Blackburn against the Police and Crime Commissioner in the way he had dealt with a complaint they had made against the Chief Constable. He advised that consideration of the complaint fell to be heard via the 'Informal Resolution Process' detailed in Part 4 of the Elected Local Policing Bodies (Complaints and Misconduct) Regulations 2012. Accordingly, the Panel should ask questions of the Commissioner on the complaint and, thereafter, issue a report on the outcome of its considerations to both the Commissioner and the complainants.

The Panel in accordance with the Legal Services Manager's advice questioned the Police and Crime Commissioner and, having given due consideration to the complaint:-

RESOLVED that a report be sent to the complainants, and the Police and Crime Commissioner, detailing the outcome of the complaint.

SIGNED:

DATE: