

SOUTH YORKSHIRE'S POLICE AND CRIME COMMISSIONER

PUBLIC ACCOUNTABILITY BOARD

26 MARCH 2019

PRESENT: Dr Alan Billings (Police and Crime Commissioner)
Michelle Buttery (Chief Executive and Solicitor, OPCC)
Stephen Watson (Chief Constable, SYP)
Mark Roberts (Deputy Chief Constable, SYP)
Tim Forber (Assistant Chief Constable, SYP)
Nigel Hiller (Director of Resources, SYP)
Michael Clements (Chief Finance and Commissioning Officer, OPCC)
Erika Redfearn (Head of Governance, OPCC)
Fiona Topliss (Community Engagement & Communications Manager, OPCC)
Sally Parkin (Governance and Compliance Manager, OPCC)
Kevin Wright (Evaluation & Scrutiny Officer, OPCC)
Alison Fletcher (Office Manager, SYP)
Carrie Goodwin (Head of Corporate Communications, SYP)
Sharon Baldwin (Evaluation & Scrutiny Officer, OPCC)

Apologies for absence were received from: David Hartley, Lauren Poultney and Rob Winter

1 WELCOME AND APOLOGIES

The Commissioner welcomed those present at the meeting.

Councillors Sansome, Khayum, Wilkinson, Nevett, Chapman and Short (members of the Police and Crime Panel), three members of the public and one member of the press present.

2 FILMING NOTIFICATION

The Commissioner informed attendees that the meeting was being filmed and may be uploaded onto his website. By entering the meeting room, attendees are consenting to being filmed and to the possible use of those images and sound recordings for publication on our website and/or training purposes.

3 ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Commissioner welcomed Sharon Baldwin, the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner's new Evaluation and Scrutiny Officer, to the meeting.

4 PUBLIC QUESTIONS

There were no public questions.

5 URGENT ITEMS

The Commissioner highlighted the recent debates in Parliament around Brexit and asked the Chief Constable for reassurance on the Force's considerations and preparedness for Brexit.

The Chief Constable confirmed that the Force has plans in place and remain prepared with the ability to be agile should the need arise.

The Commissioner highlighted the Force PCSO Review which is underway. A meeting was taking place at Rotherham Town Hall that evening where the review team would be making a presentation.

The Chief Constable clarified that this was an ongoing review and no decisions have been made. He emphasised that this was not a cost cutting exercise but was about bolstering neighbourhood policing with increased officer numbers.

6 ITEMS TO BE CONSIDERED IN THE ABSENCE OF THE PUBLIC AND PRESS

There were no items to be considered in the absence of the public and press.

7 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

8 MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE PUBLIC ACCOUNTABILITY BOARD HELD ON 26 FEBRUARY 2019

The minutes of the last meeting were agreed as an accurate record, subject to the following amendment on page 1:

Nigel Hiller (Director of Finance, SYP) be changed to Nigel Hiller (Director of Resources, SYP).

9 MATTERS ARISING/ACTIONS

362	<p>F Topliss to meet with the Chair of the Rotherham Neighbourhood Watch Association to discuss:</p> <p>a) the issues around the information being received from South Yorkshire and work with ACC Hartley</p> <p>b) the issues around calls to 101</p> <p>20/03/19 - An Engagement Officer visited the Chair of the Rotherham Neighbourhood Watch Association at her home following PAB and a briefing of her issues was prepared. This has been circulated to ACC Hartley and DCC Roberts. A further meeting with Neighbourhood Watch was taking place today.</p> <p>DISCHARGED</p>
363	<p>F Topliss to meet with the member of the public to discuss how the OPCC could advertise public questions and increase engagement with the public</p> <p>20/03/19 – F Topliss spoke with the member of public following</p>

	<p>the meeting. Concern was expressed around the timeliness of the records for PAB being put on the website and sound quality in the meetings. Suggestions had also been made around publicising the meet on community alerts and providing feedback sheets. These have been noted and will be discussed at the OPCC Senior Leadership meeting and with the Force, where appropriate.</p> <p>DISCHARGED</p>
364	<p>The Joint Independent Audit Committee (JIAC) would continue to monitor the Force savings and the level of reserves.</p> <p>DISCHARGED</p>
365	<p>The OPCC would work with the Force to consider how seized cash might be re-invested in a way that is transparent to communities</p> <p>26/03/19 - ongoing</p>

10 PAB WORK PROGRAMME

A revised work programme was circulated at the meeting. E Redfearn highlighted that the Force and OPCC delivery plans had been added to the work programme for the April meeting, along with the Force IS Strategy.

11 FORCE PERFORMANCE - DONCASTER DISTRICT SUMMARY UPDATE

A report of the Chief Constable was presented to the Board. The purpose of the report was to provide a brief update in relation to local operational based delivery of the Police and Crime Plan in Doncaster, in line with the reporting requirements.

The Commissioner thanked Chief Superintendent Morley for the report which provided brevity and clarity and used language which the public could understand.

S Morley highlighted that Doncaster had re introduced Neighbourhood Policing around 18 months ago and they continued to look at ways to increase resources in this area. The impact of this activity is an 11.2% reduction in incidents compared to the previous twelve months.

In the new financial year Doncaster will receive 20 additional officers, 17 of which will be allocated to neighbourhood policing.

The Commissioner commented that he had received questions from other local authorities around the number of additional officers being allocated to Doncaster. M Roberts confirmed that detailed analysis had taken place in relation to where additional officers should be placed. This had been acknowledged in a recent inspection by Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary and Fire and Rescue Service (HMICFRS). He also acknowledged that the Force needed to listen to the public.

In the last quarter the total number of incidents occurred was substantially lower than over the last 3 years. There has also been a steady reduction in recorded crime since August last year. This is as a result of the focused and targeted activity by the neighbourhood policing teams around Organised Crime Groups (OCGs).

S Morley highlighted the significant demand generated by the four prisons in Doncaster and the good working taking place with the prisons and key partners to combat this. In collaboration with the Crime Training Department, Doncaster District has developed a two-week Prison Officer Course, focused on improving prison officers knowledge in a number of areas, including statements, exhibit handling and forensic awareness. This has provided assistance to the Force in the investigating of crime and enforcement activity.

The district has introduced a Prison Partnership Board, which meet bi-monthly and is jointly chaired by HMP Lindholme's Governor and Superintendent Dan Thorpe. This is proving to be a productive and positive forum that has generated improved, integrated and more effective ways of working.

Collectively, through the work of the Prison Partnership Board, the Prison Crime Unit and Neighbourhood Policing Teams have achieved significant reductions in offending within the prison estate with Lindholme and Moorlands reporting over a 50% reductions in crime. This work has been acknowledged nationally.

The Commissioner confirmed that the Mayor of Doncaster had commented on the good work taking place in the prisons and the impact this has on the wider community.

The Commissioner highlighted that the public did not appreciate that crime is committed inside prison. M Roberts confirmed that this was nationally recognised. He highlighted that prison officers need looking after as well.

The District has redesigned its delivery model around organised crime and is working towards establishing a multi-agency OCG management hub at Adwick Police Station. May 2019 will see the introduction of a sub-regional Child Criminal Exploitation team, following a recent successful funding bid. The team will work with young people in local communities where organised crime is prevalent and intelligence suggests that children are criminally exploited

The Commissioner enquired if there was evidence of County Lines taking place in South Yorkshire. Yes, across borders to the North East of Doncaster, Humberside, West Yorkshire and Lincolnshire and coordinated activity is taking place to address this.

In October 2018, Doncaster launched Op Shield, a joint initiative with Sheffield which has led to a decrease in residential burglary offences in the communities where the initiative has been implemented, such as Hexthorpe, Balby and Mexborough.

The Commissioner enquired whether this involved Smartwater. M Roberts highlighted that this was more than just marking property and confirmed that he monitored this fortnightly.

In the summer and autumn of 2018, Doncaster Town Centre saw a rapid rise in the number of issues relating to the new psychoactive substance known as 'Spice'.

The Doncaster Partnership has taken an integrated and coordinated approach to this issue, focussing on the targeting of drug supply channels and support of vulnerable persons. This approach has resulted in a 53% reduction in anti-social behaviour and a reduction in the known street population from 63 to just 16 individuals. Additional funding had been secured for the next 6 months to enable this approach to be sustained.

S Morley highlighted that Doncaster would have 84 new recruits, from September 2019. The District has introduced a tutor unit at College Road. This will not only improve the training and development of student officers but also create additional capacity and visibility within the town centre, without any additional funding being required.

The Chief Constable highlighted the first class work that has taken place in Doncaster and congratulated the team on the positive work.

The Commissioner confirmed that he had spoken to residents and local councillors in Doncaster and they speak highly of the work being undertaken.

S Morley raised the latest Your Voice Counts survey figures which showed the number of people entirely satisfied with the police in Doncaster had increased from 28% to 34%. There are a number of reasons for this including the problem solving approach being taken by neighbourhood policing teams and engagement with local communities.

S Morley informed the Board that Doncaster District's aim was to have every household aware of what the police are doing. He confirmed that there was still work to be done but the current engagement was starting to have an impact.

The Commissioner highlighted that the public were grateful when the police listened to them rather than just telling them. The public want the police to deal with issues that matter to local communities.

The Chief Constable emphasised that he wanted neighbourhood policing with a purpose. The police cannot just listen in a passive way, they need to address the issues.

M Buttery enquired if the good practice being undertaken in Doncaster was being rolled out to all districts. The Chief Constable confirmed that this was undertaken and the Deputy Chief Constable was responsible for managing this process.

S Morley highlighted a positive engagement as being an off-road motorcycle initiative. The visibility of off-road bikes and the resulting anti-social behaviour is a key area of concern for Doncaster residents. In response, both Doncaster and Sheffield have seconded two officers each to support the initiative. The interventions of this team has dramatically reduced incidents of off-road bikes in Doncaster as well as increasing confidence through their proactive engagement with communities.

The Commissioner confirmed he had welcomed the initiative.

Doncaster had experienced consistent rises in the number of children who are reported missing from children's homes. As a result, the district has implemented clear governance and accountability structures, introducing a monthly scrutiny meeting that brings together key partners, including Ofsted. This has resulted in a decrease of 52% of children missing from children's homes.

The Commissioner acknowledged this was a good initiative particularly around involving Ofsted. M Roberts confirmed children were now getting the service and support they required.

The Commissioner enquired if this approach was copied in the other districts. The Chief Constable confirmed that Ofsted was now a key partner. He highlighted that it was not the police's job to make a professional judgement but the police can point out issues that they are seeing.

S Morley highlighted the fantastic people working in Doncaster and acknowledged this had been recognised in the annual police awards. The Commissioner confirmed the award ceremony had been good.

The Chief Constable emphasised that this was a very positive report which has tangible detail around the real effect policing is having on the people of Doncaster. This is policing with a purpose and is a good example of how the operating model is starting to give positive results. This has been done broadly within the same spending envelope. Resources are tight and there remain constraints but the Force is starting to see a difference. There is a slightly better financial settlement than was originally thought but the raise in precept is important.

12 FORCE PERFORMANCE AGAINST EFFICIENCY, EFFECTIVENESS AND VFM

A report of the Chief Constable was presented to the Board. The purpose of the report was to provide an update on the progress South Yorkshire Police has made to meet the requirements of the Commissioner's Police and Crime Plan (2017-2021) regarding Efficiency, Effectiveness and Value for Money.

N Hiller reminded the Board that a lengthy report had been provided in November and last month a video presentation had been shown around the efficiency domain.

The Collaboration Review Framework used to evaluate collaborative activity is now being used by the North East policing region. This tool has also been shortlisted in the Public Finance and Innovation Awards 2019 in the Good Governance category.

In relation to financial planning each month a detailed budget monitoring report is presented to Planning & Efficiency Group (PEG), the Strategic Resourcing Board (SRB) and also Senior Command Team (SCT) to ensure that new priorities can be accommodated and unforeseen changes managed within the resources available to the force.

The Force is playing a lead role in the development of the Excellence in Policing Finance initiative supported by National Police Chiefs Council (NPCC) and

Association of Police and Crime Commissioners (APCC), which is to be launched in April.

The Force has recently piloted an early draft of the CIPFA Code of Financial Management. The feedback given has been used to improve the Draft Code, which was issued last week for widespread consultation. Compliance with this Code will become a statutory requirement from April 2020

The South Yorkshire Police (SYP) and South Yorkshire Fire and Rescue (SYFR) collaboration in respect of Estates and Facilities is progressing. A key part of the Estates Plan is to manage the disposal of surplus accommodation.

The Commissioner acknowledged the amount of savings referenced in the report.

N Hiller highlighted the ongoing discussions taking place in relation to the new Police Station and Custody Suite at Doncaster.

The savings plan for 2018/19 anticipated the Force delivering £6.1m. The Force is confident that the savings will be delivered.

Disappointingly, the capital programme continues to slip, this is now being proactively managed through the SRB and Estates Board.

N Hiller confirmed he had recently been appointed as NPCC Strategic Lead for vehicles.

The SYP/SYFR have been announced as the winner of the 2019 Fleet News Fleet of the Year Award.

The Commissioner highlighted the use of the electric vehicle pilot taking place in conjunction with the Energy Savings Trust and Highways England. N Hiller confirmed that electric vehicles are being used in a crime environment. He highlighted that the use of non fossil fuel is something to watch in the future.

The draft Information Strategy is now complete and the Commissioner has been briefed and this will be presented to the April meeting of the Public Accountability Board.

Human Resources (HR) have implemented a new Workforce Strategy which has successfully removed two outstanding HMICFRS Causes of Concern. Work is ongoing in relation to de-collaboration with Humberside Police.

M BATTERY highlighted the Value for Money section in the renewed Police and Crime Plan and confirmed that the OPCC would work with N Hiller in relation to future reports to the Public Accountability Board.

M Roberts welcomed the opportunity to drive down spend through the enabling services review and savings made by Fleet and Procurement. This would enable growth to be realised.

13 PCC DECISIONS

E Redfearn highlighted that 2 decisions had been taken outside of the Public Accountability Board. She confirmed that the Commissioner would take as many decisions as possible at the meeting.

14 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

None.

15 DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING

30 April 2019 at 10am, Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner, 5 Carbrook Hall Road, Carbrook, Sheffield, S9 2EH.

CHAIR

