

SOUTH YORKSHIRE'S POLICE AND CRIME COMMISSIONER

PUBLIC ACCOUNTABILITY BOARD

7 FEBRUARY 2020

PRESENT: Dr Alan Billings (Police and Crime Commissioner)
Michelle Buttery (Chief Executive and Solicitor)
Michael Clements (Chief Finance and Commissioning Officer)
Alison Fletcher (Office Manager)
Tim Forber (Assistant Chief Constable)
Carrie Goodwin, (Head of Corporate Communications)
David Hartley (Assistant Chief Constable)
Nigel Hiller (Director of Resources)
Andrew Lockley (Chair, Independent Ethics Panel)
Sally Parkin (Business Manager)
Lauren Poultney (Assistant Chief Constable)
Mark Roberts (Deputy Chief Constable)
Fiona Topliss (Community Engagement & Communications Manager)
Stephen Watson (Chief Constable)
Steve Wragg (Chair, Joint Independent Audit Committee)
Kevin Wright (Evaluation and Scrutiny Officer)
Tracy Webster (Engagement Officer)

Apologies for absence were received from: Erika Redfearn

1 WELCOME AND APOLOGIES

The Commissioner welcomed Alex Johnson, the Chief Fire Officer for South Yorkshire Fire and Rescue Service to the meeting.

There were Councillors Nevett, Wilkinson and Short (members of the Police and Crime Panel) Mounsey, Steinke, Smith, Wray and Tyas present.

2 FILMING NOTIFICATION

The Commissioner informed attendees that the meeting was being filmed and would 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 highlighted that the Police and Crime Panel had met yesterday and approved the 2% Council Tax precept increase for 2020/21 that he had recommended.

4 PUBLIC QUESTIONS

The Commissioner informed the Board that the following question had been submitted by Councillor Mounsey.

“Can I request that due to the escalating number of drug dealers and ASB incidents in our Adwick / Carcroft Ward in Doncaster a multi-agency approach is adopted to show our communities that we are listening to their serious concerns?”

The Commissioner confirmed that a written response had been prepared and would be provided to Councillor Mounsey.

S Morley acknowledged the increase in ASB and confirmed that there is some evidence of increased drug dealing within the area. A dedicated police constable and Police Community Support Officer (PCSO) are now working in the area. A number of individuals have been placed on criminal behaviour orders. The off-road bike team will also be work more in the area. Response officers will also be working out of Adwick alongside the local neighbourhood team. There will be an increase in the number of neighbourhood officers in Adwick and the surrounding areas in the next 6 to 12 months.

Cllr Mounsey acknowledged the increase in officers. He said that Ward members work closely with the police. He highlighted that the biggest deterrent was police officers walking the street because members of the public will give them information. Ward members can only report what people tell them. He suggested that a slogan poster campaign may reassure local communities.

The Commissioner acknowledged Councillor Mounsey’s comments.

5 URGENT ITEMS

There were no urgent items.

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

Item 19 – Serious Violent Crime Task Force.

7 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

8 MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE PUBLIC ACCOUNTABILITY BOARD HELD ON 14 JANUARY 2020

The minutes of the meeting of the Public Accountability Board held on 14 January 2020 were agreed as an accurate record.

9 MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE SPECIAL PUBLIC ACCOUNTABILITY BOARD HELD ON 28 JANUARY 2020

The minutes of the meeting of the Special Public Accountability Board held on 28 January 2020 were agreed as an accurate record.

10 MATTERS ARISING/ACTIONS

379	Police forces were being charged a court fee for applying for a Domestic Violence Protection Order was to be raised with Association of Police and Crime Commissioners (APCC). 24/01/20 – M Buttery to supply more detailed information and has asked DCC Roberts for assistance. 07/02/20 – This is being progressed nationally.
381	The Commissioner would be shown a demonstration of the Connect Partner. 07/02/20 – Briefing took place on 06/02/20. DISCHARGED
383	A report on the Serious Violent Crime Task Force and the Violence Reduction Unit to be brought to a future meeting of the Board. 27/01/20 – On work programme for meeting on 7 February 2020. DISCHARGED

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 operationally based delivery of the Police and Crime Plan in Barnsley, in line with the reporting requirements.

S Morley highlighted that Doncaster District Command team has made significant changes to its governance structures and service delivery.

Over the next 12 months Doncaster will see an increase in resources and continue to work closely with partners.

S Morley highlighted the excellent partnership working which took place during the floods in November and December and acknowledged the dedicated, professionalism and courage displayed by staff.

The Commissioner acknowledged the good work that had taken place with Doncaster Metropolitan Borough Council (DMBC) and other partners such as the South Yorkshire Fire and Rescue Service (SYF&RS) during the floods.

The Commissioner enquired about the health and wellbeing of the officers and staff involved in the floods. S Morley confirmed that physical support to staff had been provided such as vehicles, hot drinks and food. Post event, the district had ensured that officers had time to recuperate. He also highlighted that Doncaster had received support from officers from across the Force to reduce the impact on one district.

T Forber highlighted the good response the Force had received from local communities.

Doncaster district has seen a 1.2% drop in overall crime.

The district is now co-located with partner agencies in the Safer Neighbourhood Services Unit (SNS). The SNS is working closely with the local neighbourhood teams. This has generated a real and sustained reduction in anti-social behaviour (ASB).

The Commissioner enquired if the data in the ASB graph on page 21 included partner data. S Morley confirmed that the data did not include partner data but that this showed the same trends as the information presented by partners at the Doncaster Community Safety Partnership.

The Force has allocated 17 additional posts to Doncaster. 13 additional police constables and 4 police sergeants. As a result of the PCSO review Doncaster district now has concrete plans to develop and expand neighbourhood policing in Doncaster including:

- 24 February 2020 – the reopening of Edlington police station and the creation of a neighbourhood policing team;
- May / June 2020 – the creation of neighbourhood policing team for Conisborough / Denaby. This is likely to be based in Conisborough library;
- September 2020 – the creation of a neighbourhood policing team at Rossington police station;
- January 2021 – the creation of a neighbourhood policing team for Adwick and surrounding communities at Davies House;
- March 2021 – the creation of a neighbourhood policing team at Armthorpe.

The Commissioner highlighted that residents had raised concerns previously about the car parking at Rossington police station and enquired if this have been considered. S Morley confirmed that this had been considered and he did not expect that this would be a problem due to the reduced number of officers who would be working out of the station.

S Morley highlighted the following operational activity:

Operation Drum Alpha – the West Neighbourhoods Team has been working with the Fortify Tasking Teams and partners to tackle the embedded organised criminality across Mexborough and Conisborough. This is now moving into a phase of engagement and educational activity with young people to prevent them from getting drawn into criminality.

The Commissioner enquired if this was a one-off event. S Morley confirmed that Operation Drum Alpha had been running for 6-months. This is a long-term approach to address the issues.

The Commissioner also highlighted that Doncaster would be able to utilise the Violence Reduction Unit.

Operation Bradford – this operation is in place to tackle ASB in Conisborough Town Centre. Feedback from residents has been positive and incidents of reported ASB has fallen by almost 25%.

Community Alcohol Partnership (CAP) – since its introduction in Auckley in July 2019, the district has seen a significant reduction in complaints of youth based alcohol related ASB. This is a partnership approach with retailers and DMBC and involves working with parents.

The Commissioner highlighted speeding vehicles on page 23. He confirmed that he receives a large number of emails from local communities in relation to speeding vehicles and enquired how well activities to address speeding vehicles are publicised. M Roberts confirmed that local initiatives requested by local communities are publicised using social media and community alerts and these are well received. Broader initiatives can get negative feedback so are not as well publicised.

Doncaster is implementing a 'Best Bar None' scheme in the Town Centre. This is a national programme that promotes higher standards of safety and security within the night-time economy. There are 20 accredited premises already signed up to the programme and it is anticipated that there will be a further 20 premises by April 2020. Once the 'Best Bar None' programme is embedded, the Doncaster Partnership will work towards achieving Purple flag status.

The Safer Neighbourhood Services Hub has seen 6 police officers start a new role as case managers. Their primary role is to work with some of the most vulnerable and complex individuals within the community who are placing additional demand on the police service and who need extra support from other agencies. Initial indications are that there has been a reduction in calls for service in over 90% of cases.

The mental health demand reduction programme within the Hub has revealed some positive gains for each agency involved. The programme has seen a 67% reduction in the number of police deployments over the past 12 months and a 39% reduction in the number of people who have been detained under the Mental Health Act for assessment.

Residential burglary in Doncaster remains a key focus for the district. The main areas affected are Bessacar, Cantley and Wheatley. Dedicated burglary investigators have been introduced to address this. They will commit much of their time to investigating crimes, increasing patrols and community engagement. Early indications are positive with burglary incidents reducing from approximately 40 per week to 15. If this can be sustained this will have a significant impact.

The Commissioner enquired if the Force knew why burglaries had increased. S Morley confirmed that in Doncaster this had been down to specific individuals and once they had been arrested there had been a dramatic reduction.

S Morley highlighted the proactive work being undertaken by the Prison Team. He highlighted Operation Canyon, a HMP Lindholme based staff corruption and financial conspiracy operations around drug supply and money laundering.

Doncaster district had improved its governance structures. This enabled the district to work more smartly with resources and improve response times to both immediate and priority incidents. In May to July, the average response time for Doncaster, for priority incidents was around 2 hours. From October, when the new business processes were introduced, the response time had steadily reduced. December saw an average response time for priority incidents of 47 minutes 44 seconds.

The Commissioner enquired if this was sustainable. S Morley confirmed that he did think it was sustainable if resources were used efficiently and effectively.

Doncaster district has improved its arrest rate for domestic abuse. In 2018, the average arrest rate for domestic abuse rate was 30%, but in 2019, this rose to 46%.

There has been an increase in the number of stop and searches undertaken.

A Lockley highlighted that the Commissioner had asked the Independent Ethics Panel to look at stop and search. He enquired if Doncaster was in line with the rest of the Force in relation to positive outcomes for January. S Morley confirmed that he did not have the information available as the data was currently unaudited for January but he would provide the information once this was available.

S Morley acknowledged the complex and emotionally demanding environment of the Protecting Vulnerable People department and highlighted Operation Albany. A complex sexual abuse case spanning from 1976 to 2000. The offender was found guilty and was sentenced to 30 years in prison. He was convicted of 21 offences, involving 5 male victims. The concurrent sentences handed to the defendant totalled 84 years.

Doncaster district have been working closely with the Doncaster Youth Council to develop and deliver a creative programme about knife crime #LivesUpKnivesDown. This programme is designed to generate discussions about the issues but also establish the reality of the situation and not simply rely on perceptions generated by social media and the national press. The programme and associated video were being rolled out to every school in Doncaster.

S Morley highlighted the outstanding work and acts of bravery undertaken by officers and staff in Doncaster. The Commissioner echoed this statement.

The Commissioner thanked S Morley for a good report.

IT WAS AGREED THAT:

- **S Morley would provide the stop and search positive outcome comparisons for January**

12 FORCE PERFORMANCE REPORT AGAINST POLICE AND CRIME PLAN 2017 - 2021 (RENEWED 2019) - PROTECTING VULNERABLE PEOPLE

A report of the Chief Constable was presented to the Board. The purpose of the report was to provide an update on the progress against the 'protecting vulnerable people' outcome of the Police and Crime Plan 2017-2021 in support of the Commissioner's overarching aim of South Yorkshire being a safe place in which to live, learn and work.

T Forber highlighted that in July 2019, Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary and Fire and Rescue Service (HMICFRS) had published their report and recommendations on Crimes Against Elderly People. Within the report were a number of recommendations for National Police Chiefs Counsel (NPCC) and all

Chief Constables. An action plan had been developed and T Forber was leading a programme of work to address the issues raised.

Whilst older victims were naturally seen across all types of criminality, there was specific concern for older victims of cyber and internet fraud. The Force had dedicated Fraud Crime Prevention Officers to work with elderly residents to prevent them becoming repeat victims.

The Force used a tool called Mosaic to segment and categorise local policing areas; to better support and target the delivery of effective services and messaging for elderly people.

T Forber suggested a more detailed report around older victims of crime be brought to a PAB in 6 to 12 months' time.

The Force had seen a significant increase in the arrest rate for domestic abuse over the previous 12 months. The arrest rate for those offences carrying higher risk were more frequent, with a 77% arrest rate for high risk domestic abuse offences and judicial outcomes were being seen. The Force recognised that a judicial outcome was not what the victim wants.

The Force can apply for a Domestic Violence Protection Order (DVPO) which have been shown to support a reduction in reoffending. Over the three months to November 2019, the Force had increased its use of Domestic Violence Protection Notices (DVPN).

HMICFRS had shown an interest in the Force's approach to DVPNs as it was amongst the highest users nationally for this protection order.

Apply for DVPOs is labour intensive. The Force recognised this was an area for growth and therefore identified that in order to maximise efficiency and support operational capacity, a DVPO team should be established to improve the quality of applications, support capacity within Legal Services, and deal with breaches and contested hearings.

Funding for the Domestic Abuse Matters programme had recently been approved. This was to be delivered to all officers and staff who encounter domestic abuse situations within their role.

T Forber highlighted the new Stalking Protection Orders (SPO). SPOs allow courts, in England and Wales to move more quickly to ban stalkers from contacting victims or visiting their home, place of work or study. The Force has set up a page on the internal website with guidance to support officers' understanding of SPOs and will encourage and monitor the appropriate use of SPOs in future months. T Forber suggested a report on SPOs be brought to PAB in 12 months.

T Forber highlighted a case where a former teacher was sentenced to four years for the sexual assault of an eight-year-old boy.

The Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE) workstreams were fully embedded across all districts.

The Child Criminal Exploitation (CCE) delivery, with a particular focus on county lines was starting to embed, with training ongoing in relation to CCE, County Lines and Cuckooing. T Forber emphasised that South Yorkshire is not seeing as much CCE as some rural areas.

In November 2019, the Force realised the culmination of months of investigation into an international human trafficking ring within Romania and across the UK. A total of 10 suspects were arrested on suspicion of human trafficking for the purpose of sexual exploitation and money laundering, and were taken into custody.

A pilot team was set up in December 2019 within the Crime Support Hub to review, triage and support investigative quality across the full range of fraud offences. The team will work closely with colleagues who identify the vulnerability of fraud victims and continue to specialist service in crime prevention and practical learning around fraud prevention.

The Force has invested in financial investigation. Financial investigators are now being embedded across the districts with increasing success in bringing outstanding cases to finalisation. T Forber confirmed that he wanted to see this develop over the next 12 months.

Following a pilot in Doncaster, a review of the Doncaster Serenity Integrated Mentoring (SIM) is taking place. Early indication is that the concept works, with a current update regarding the impact from a cost point of view to date.

T Forber confirmed that a full business case was agreed for a restructure at Atlas Court. The design principles were to move to a model where 90% of 999 calls could be answered within 10 seconds, and fewer than 10% of all 101 calls were abandoned.

Demand data had been analysed and used to build a simulated model by which numbers of staff and call line times were tested to support an improved abandonment rate. This also took into account Interactive Voice Response (IVR) technology to direct calls appropriately based on public need.

Technological advances around online reporting, including webchat and social media were to be considered within the management of online demand.

T Forber highlighted the national grading for calls and acknowledged that, on occasion, the Force cannot service the demand within the target time. Focus was on emergency attendance, and as a result, priority incidents demand was less effective. Rather than removing the target times which cannot be achieved, the Force will internally monitor and report against the following three tiers of response:

1. Emergency – 15 minutes to arrive at scene
2. Priority 1 – 1 hour to arrive at scene
3. Priority 8 – 8 hours to arrive at scene

T Forber highlighted that call handling in Atlas Court was seen as good by HMICFRS.

Vulnerable victim satisfaction is stable. T Forber acknowledged that hate crime victims continue to report lower levels of satisfaction with the service received and confirmed this has been looked at.

D Hartley acknowledged the need to improve how well victims were being kept informed and confirmed that he had set ambitious targets.

The Commissioner enquired if officers leave their contact details following a visit to a victim of burglary. D Hartley confirmed that they did and it was now mandated that if another officer takes over a case, for them to contact the person and leave their details. They should also leave the contact details of the local neighbourhood team.

The Commissioner thanked T Forber for the full report and welcomed the work taking place in relation to domestic abuse and stalking.

IT WAS AGREED THAT:

- **A report around older victims of crime be brought to a Public Accountability Board in 6 to 12 months' time**
- **A report on Stalking Protection Orders be brought to a Public Accountability Board in 12 months' time**

13 QUARTERLY BUDGET MONITORING OVERVIEW

A report of the Chief Constable was presented to the Board. The purpose of the report was to inform the Public Accountability Board of the Force's projected outturn on its revenue and capital budgets as at 31st March 2020. It was based on an analysis of income and expenditure for the period 1st April 2019 to 31st March 2020 before accounting adjustments.

N Hiller highlighted that the Force projected a £0.76m underspend, after £2.8m of non-recurrent expenditure on in-year bids, which was 0.30% of the total budget.

Key points include:

- one-off Home Office 'surge' funding for increased serious violence interventions required secondments, causing an underspend;
- the operational uplift - the Force will ensure it maximises the funding to facilitate the uplift in officer numbers;
- the floods - the total cost of the floods is £0.3m. If the Force receives any funding from the Bellwin scheme this will increase the underspend;

The 2019/20 savings target of £3.9m had been delivered.

There had been some slippage in the capital programme, this related to the ERP system, the land for the Doncaster police station and custody suite and audio visual recording equipment.

The Commissioner enquired if there was a risk that money assumed to be spent on the bids may not occur in February and March, adding to the underspend. N Hiller confirmed this was likely.

14 SERIOUS VIOLENCE CRIME FORCE UPDATE DISCUSSION

T Forber highlighted the significant investment made in relation to violence reduction.

The Serious Violent Crime Task Force was funded from one-off Home Office 'Surge' funding and was essentially work undertaken on overtime and secondments.

Hotspots were identified by Intelligence Officers across the county and interventions were having a significant impact.

There had been 16,800 hours of visible patrol undertaken; approximately 200 stop and searches undertaken each month, 1661 since the Task Force was formed in July 2019; over 1000 vehicles stopped and 343 arrests made.

Additional resources were deployed in Arbourthorne following a shooting in the area.

T Forber confirmed he was keen to continue the Task Force however, funding was not yet confirmed by the Home Office for 2020/21.

15 VIOLENCE REDUCTION UNIT UPDATE

The Commissioner highlighted in June 2019, the then Home Secretary, announced that South Yorkshire could apply for £1.6m to support the establishment of a Violence Reduction Unit (VRU), which, following a successful application was confirmed in August.

On 29 December 2019, the Government announced that £1.6m was to be made available to South Yorkshire to continue the work of the VRU in 2020/21, subject to successful application. Details of the application process and Home Office expectations in relation to provision of this funding was unknown.

M Clements confirmed that the Home Officer had specified two mandatory products to be delivered by the end of March 2020 – an Area Profile and Response Strategy.

The VRU Executive Board met monthly. The draft Area Profile and Response Strategy will be renewed at the VRU Executive Board next week, before final sign off at March's VRU Executive Board.

A number of new projects were underway; Navigators (Accident and Emergency and Police Custody) and Assertive Outreach.

The Home Office set an expectation that at least 20% of funding would be spent on interventions. In South Yorkshire, 50% of the grant funding was being spent on interventions.

16 PCC DECISIONS

A report of the Commissioner's Chief Executive & Solicitor was presented to the Board. The purpose of the report was to provide the Board with a record of key decisions taken by the Commissioner since the last meeting.

M Buttery highlighted three decisions which are of public interest: the National Vehicle Procurement Contracting Authority; You're Only Young Once (YOYO) Sport and the Police Uplift Programme.

17 PAB WORK PROGRAMME

The report was noted.

18 SYF&R COLLABORATION UPDATE

The Commissioner introduced A Johnson and confirmed she was attending the meeting as a partner.

Chief Fire Officer A Johnson provided an update on the South Yorkshire Fire and Rescue (SYFRS) and South Yorkshire Police (SYP).

A Johnson highlighted that SYFRS and SYP had been collaborating for a number of years to provide joined up services to the communities of South Yorkshire. However, in 2017, this was formalised by the establishment of a collaboration programme which had supported the creation and management of a number of joint projects and work streams.

The projects and activities of the collaboration programme were managed and assured through a dedicated governance process, which included project meetings, and tactical and strategic boards with representatives from SYFRS, South Yorkshire Fire and Rescue Authority, SYP and the South Yorkshire Police and Crime Commissioner.

A Johnson highlighted the following key collaborations:

- The Joint Community Safety department. The aim of which was to keep people safe. Activities include; home safety checks; gun and knife crime awareness; crime prevention visits and youth engagement activities such as the Princes Trust Team Programme.
- The Joint Vehicle Fleet Management department. The aim of which was to provide a joint fire and police vehicle fleet department. This included the sharing of a workshop facility in Eastwood and integrated fleet services under a single management and support structure.

- The Joint Estates and Facilities Management project which was designed to propose and implement options for the management of SYFR and SYP's Estates and Facilities Management. This included a joint Head of Estates and Facilities Management and a joint Head of Facilities Management.

Key collaborative work streams include:

- Gaining entry – Firefighters gain entry at hundreds of 'medical break-in' incidents each year instead of the police.
- Operation Dark Nights – This involved partners working together to jointly manage their response to incidents during the traditionally busy Halloween and Bonfire Night period.
- Sharing venues – for the delivery of training.
- Communications – the fire service communications team had used the police in-house graphic designer to develop resources to support public safety campaigns.

Key successes include:

- Over 200 students had participated in the Princes Trust programme in the last 2 years, with SYFRS and SYP jointly supporting young people in the South Yorkshire community.
- Education support and prevention packages delivered to more than 20,000 local people every year, including nearly every Year 6 pupil in South Yorkshire.
- Thousands of hours saved through joint training and training resilience between both organisations.
- Over 42,000 school children across 60 South Yorkshire schools have received gun and knife crime awareness package.

A number of awards had been received.

The Commissioner thanked A Johnson for the report and confirmed that the approach to the collaboration was pragmatic and projects / collaborations will only be undertaken if there are benefits.

19 SERIOUS VIOLENCE CRIME TASK FORCE UPDATE REPORT

Discussed under agenda item 14.

20 ANY OTHER BUSINESS - TO BE NOTIFIED AT THE BEGINNING OF THE MEETING

There was no any other business.

21 DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING

Special meeting to be held on the 25 February 2020 at 2pm at New York Stadium,
New York Way, Rotherham, S Yorkshire, S60 1AH.

CHAIR

