

# **SOUTH YORKSHIRE'S POLICE AND CRIME COMMISSIONER**

## **PUBLIC ACCOUNTABILITY BOARD**

**13 OCTOBER 2020**

PRESENT: Dr Alan Billings (Police and Crime Commissioner)  
Michelle Buttery (Chief Executive and Solicitor)  
Sophie Abbott (Interim Chief Finance Officer)  
Erika Redfearn (Head of Governance)  
Fiona Topliss (Community Engagement & Communications Manager)  
Sally Parkin (Governance and Compliance Manager)  
Sharon Baldwin (Evaluation and Scrutiny Officer)  
Stephen Watson (Chief Constable)  
Mark Roberts (Deputy Chief Constable)  
David Hartley (Assistant Chief Constable)  
Tim Forber (Assistant Chief Constable)  
Lauren Poultney (Assistant Chief Constable)  
Debbie Carrington (Interim Director of Finance)  
Alison Fletcher (Office Manager)  
Carrie Goodwin (Head of Corporate Communications)  
Shaun Morley (Chief Superintendent, Doncaster)  
Melanie Palin (Chief Superintendent, Doncaster)  
Danielle Taylor (Sustainability Manager)  
Andrew Lockley (Chair of the Ethics Panel)  
A Macaskill (Independent Ethics Panel)  
Steve Wragg (Chair of the Joint Independent Audit Committee)  
Tracy Webster (Community Engagement Officer)

APOLOGIES: Jackie Bland and Cllr Garry Weatherall

### 1 **WELCOME AND APOLOGIES**

The Commissioner welcomed those who had dialled into meeting, including Councillors Short and Steinke members of the Police and Crime Panel, and three members of the press (P Whitehouse, D Andrews and B Bason).

### 2 **VIDEO CONFERENCING AND RECORDING**

The Commissioner confirmed that the meeting was being recorded and, subject to the quality being acceptable, would be published on the website.

### 3 **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

The Commissioner announced that it was Chief Superintendent Shaun Morley's last meeting prior to his retirement and welcomed Chief Superintendent Melanie Palin, the new Doncaster District Commander.

4 PUBLIC QUESTIONS

There were no public questions.

5 URGENT ITEMS

The Commissioner invited D Hartley to provide an update on Covid-19.

D Hartley confirmed that South Yorkshire is in Tier 2. This means that you must not mix with family and friends indoors in any setting unless you live with them or have formed a support bubble with them. You may continue to see friends and family you do not live with outside, including in a garden or other outdoor space but not in a group of more than six.

The Force is currently receiving 400 Covid-19 related incidents per week and this is expected to increase as the regulations change. In May 2020 over 200 Covid-19 related incidents were being received every day. Plans are in place if levels return to those seen in May.

D Hartley confirmed that the Force approach of engage, educate, explain and enforce will continue. Any enforcement action will be evidence-based. Analysis shows that around 18% of Covid-19 related incidents are to shops, 16% are to pubs and about 12% are to restaurants.

Public health geographical mapping information is now available. This will enable enforcement activity to be undertaken based upon where the Force can have the best impact on what is a public health issue in terms of infection rates.

The Commissioner acknowledged Government consultation with local Council Leaders and the Elected Mayor and enquired if any similar consultation in relation to law enforcement was taking place with the police. The Chief Constable confirmed that this takes place at a national level.

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 THE 10 SEPTEMBER 2020

The minutes of the last meeting were agreed as an accurate record.

9 MATTERS ARISING/ACTIONS

391	Consideration be given to district reports following the same format 24/06/2020 - A template for district reports will be developed for the August meeting. Ongoing 28/07/2020 – Template has been developed and will be used at the September meeting. 01/09/20 - This has been delayed until the October Meeting. DISCHARGED
392	Headings be included for all future reports on the Police and Crime Plan priorities 10/09/20 – Ongoing 13/10/20 – New templates are being developed
393	The content of future Protecting Vulnerable People reports be discussed with the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner (OPCC) 10/09/20 – Ongoing 13/10/20 – See action 392
394	U Jennings to meet with Nasar Raof 13/10/20 – Complete. DISCHARGED
395	The Commissioner’s Office would follow up with the Force any issues or concerns relating to forensics CSI attendance. 13/10/20 – M Buttery confirmed that the Force had provided assurance that there are robust governance arrangements in place and there are currently no concerns. DISCHARGED
396	The Commissioner’s Office would establish if Sheffield City Council are considering a Public Space Protection Order (PSPO) in the Page Hall area. 13/10/20 - Ongoing

10 FORCE PERFORMANCE DONCASTER DISTRICT SUMMARY

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 Doncaster, in line with the reporting requirements.

The Commissioner highlighted the under reporting of domestic abuse during lockdown and the peak in July 2020 as lockdown eased. He enquired about the current levels and whether the Domestic Abuse (DA) team in Doncaster was sustainable.

S Morley confirmed that Doncaster was still seeing an increase and to address this demand had introduced an additional DA team. Each team is led by a Detective Sergeant and includes a combination of detectives and specialist constables with bespoke training around DA. This has resulted in a rise in positive outcome rates against a quarter of all offenders. Further outcomes include educational or partner agency intervention including referrals to Inspire to Change, or the issuing of Domestic Violence Protection Notices or Orders. S Morley confirmed this was sustainable.

The Commissioner acknowledged the work being undertaken with partners to respond and get upstream of the mental health demand and enquired if this was sustainable.

S Morley informed the Board that as the country locked down for the first time in March 2020, Doncaster mental health leads and partners recognised the likelihood of surges in mental health demand. A twice-weekly high-level demand partnership was established to identify and support those identified as some vulnerable.

A single point of access line has been established for members of the public and partner agencies to call, where all mental health related matters are triaged and directed to the most appropriate resources. The use of street triage by officers has increased month on month from nine referrals for the month of January, 66 in June, to a high of 167 referrals for the month of July.

The mental health reduction programme within the Safer Neighbourhood Service Hub is designed to help manage and support complex individuals, who repeatedly contact emergency services. The programme consistently sees in excess of a 60% reduction in the number of deployments and a 39% reduction in the number of people who have been detained under the Mental Health Act assessment. This demand reduction saves all agencies in the region of £160,000 per annum.

The Commissioner acknowledged the difficulty in engaging with communities during lockdown. He highlighted the online Police and Communities Together (PACT) meeting and enquired if this was taking place in other districts. S Morley confirmed this had been trialed in Sheffield prior to lockdown and has been utilised in Sheffield and Doncaster during lockdown. He highlighted that historically the Mexborough PACT meeting had attracted about 10 people. The Mexborough online PACT in May 2020 had 312 hits.

As lockdown began to ease, Doncaster also undertook 'pop up' PACT meetings outside supermarkets where they made available facemasks to shoppers.

Key messages were also delivered via leaflet drops in certain localities. The leaflets were in different languages to maximise the number of communities reached.

T Forber assured the Commissioner that engagement with local communities during Covid-19 had been discussed at the last Quarterly Performance Review. An element of Covid-19 secure face-to-face, online engagement, newsletters and community media is taking place in all districts. A consistent but bespoke approach to community engagement is being obtained.

The Commissioner highlighted the positive results obtained by the Off-Road Bike Team.

The Commissioner referred to correspondence he had received relating to Edlington and Warmsworth. S Morley confirmed that a multi-agency problem solving approach had been undertaken to address the issues in Edlington and Warmsworth. In Edlington offending relates to burglary and anti-social behaviour in unoccupied properties and is not connected to Organised Crime Groups (OCGs). A range of approaches are currently in place, including target hardening premises, increased CCTV provision and work with partners and landlords to improve the quality of security of unoccupied premises. Improved youth diversionary activities

are also taking place including work with the local community to create decorative boards to cover boarded windows. This will improve the look of the area whilst trying to involve young people and therefore instil some pride in the area. This has led to a 64% reduction in offences since the operation began.

There has been some displacement in Warmsworth from Edlington. A multi-agency approach has been undertaken to identify and proactively target offenders and support repeat vulnerable victims. Liaison has also taken place with local groups including local Parish Councils, to help the issues and feedback results. As a result, there has been a significant reduction in youth nuisance.

The Commissioner acknowledged the work taking place to tackle organised criminality across Mexborough and Conisbrough.

The Commissioner enquired about the increased levels of auto crime. S Morley confirmed that levels had increased since the lockdown had eased. This is linked to OCGs and is taking place in specific geographical areas. This is a specific operation involving the theft of catalytic convertors. A number of warrants have been served and catalytic convertors seized. This will hopefully lead to individuals being charged.

S Morley highlighted Doncaster districts intention for neighbourhood teams to become multi-agency, with officers and staff fully integrating and working alongside officers from DMBC. This approach is part of the 'Locality' working model being introduced in Doncaster and will mean a much more integrated approach at an operational level as well as at a tactical and strategic level.

The Commissioner thanked S Morley for all the work he had undertaken as District Commander in Doncaster, including the good working relationships he has had with the Local Authorities both in Doncaster and whilst working in Sheffield.

The Commissioner welcomed M Palin and wished her well in the role.

The Chief Constable echoed the gracious comments made by the Commissioner.

11 FORCE PERFORMANCE AGAINST THE POLICE AND CRIME PLAN 2019 - 2021 (RENEWED 2019) TACKLING CRIME AND ASB

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 'Tackling Crime and Anti-Social Behaviour' 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.

The Commissioner highlighted the demand mental health places on the Force and the challenges around being able to quantify this. T Forber confirmed that through the introduction of new IT systems such as Connect and SmartContact the Force is now in a far better position to identify trends in mental health both from a perpetrator and victim perspective. Support to individuals is provided through neighbourhood policing and informs strategic discussions with partners.

The Commissioner enquired about the review of the seven strands of neighbourhood policing and enquired if this was being undertaken internally or

externally. T Forber confirmed that a review of the seven strands of Neighbourhood Policing is taking place to ensure neighbourhood policing is being undertaken well, consistently and done with the community and not to them. He highlighted the investment made into neighbourhood policing enabling a more preventative police force supported by response and investigation. Perspectives are being obtained through the community and the Force is working with partners to address any concerns. Problem solving is being looked at by academic partners.

Reviews have been undertaken for the stands of Engagement, Targeted Activity, Problem Solving and Developing Analytical Capability. Two activity reports have been delivered, Engagement Activity and Targeted Activity.

The Commissioner enquired about the Outcomes Tactical Board. T Forber highlighted previous discussions at the Public Accountability Board around improving the quality of investigations and the Force becoming more effective at dealing with volume crime. The Force has seen an improvement in the quality of its investigations and this translates into improved outcomes. This Board provides a checking mechanism and will ensure learning is shared widely across the Force and has been seen as emerging best practice by HMICFRS. This complements the Force's approach to Complete Victim Care.

The Commissioner highlighted the Armed Crime Team. T Forber confirmed this is the Force's response to an increase in firearms discharges across the county. The majority of discharges are driven by the activity of OCGs involved in the supply of controlled drugs.

T Forber provided reassurance to local communities and the Commissioner that the Force takes this type of offence very seriously. He confirmed that if someone is involved in this type of criminality they will be dealt with.

T Forber made reference to the life imprisonment of Stephen Dunford for the shooting of a 12 year old boy on 12 January 2020. This clearly shows that the Force has the capability and capacity to deal with this type of incident and sends a clear message to communities.

The team was established in July 2020 and has made 30 arrests and been involved in the disruption of OCGs across the county. The Commissioner acknowledged the significant developments which had been made.

T Forber highlighted the difficulty in dealing with this type of crime and confirmed that intelligence was key. He urged communities to engage with their local neighbourhood team if they know of anyone involved in OCG activity.

The Commissioner enquired about protecting people's identity. People can report anonymously and if they are a witness their identity can be protected.

S Morley informed the Board that Doncaster had got authority from the Crown Prosecution Service (CPS) to charge a number of OCG leaders in Doncaster with conspiracy to supply drugs. This will impact on OCG activity in Doncaster.

## 12 SUSTAINABILITY

A report of the Chief Constable was presented to the Board. The purpose of the report was to present the new South Yorkshire Police sustainability strategy highlighting the Force's approach to sustainability together with the vision and priorities.

The Commissioner confirmed that this meeting represented the official launch of the strategy following delays due to the Covid-19 pandemic. He highlighted that climate change must not be lost sight of and that everyone has to make a contribution.

D Taylor confirmed this was a new strategy which builds on 10 years of work.

The new strategy has been developed with consultation and engagement from across the Force to achieve a more holistic approach with a wider impact and a focus on net positive sustainability. Net positive sustainability focusses on a reduction of negative environmental, social and economic impacts whilst also maximising the positive impacts.

The strategy reflects changes and key developments in sustainability, which has taken place over recent years; including global commitments of the UN Sustainable Development Goals, the climate emergency agenda, and an increased focus on social value.

D Taylor highlighted the sustainability strategy summary. The strategy is made up of five elements (rings in the diagram), the first of which is the seven sustainability development goals. The sustainability development goals are:

- Good health & wellbeing
- Quality education
- Reduced inequalities
- Responsibility production & consumption
- Climate Action
- Peace, justice & strong institutions
- Partnerships of the goals

The second element is the statements of intent against the goals i.e. how the Force is going to contribute. This is followed by the strategic vision, quality objectives and the Force's aspiration.

D Taylor highlighted the targets at a glance on page 11 of the strategy which shows the goals, strategic intent and the move towards implementation.

The Commissioner thanked D Taylor and acknowledged the need to continue to support and promote the strategy widely.

The Chief Constable thanked D Taylor for a good summary and all the work she had personally put into the strategy. He acknowledged the linkages to the global ambitions and how these had been turned into practical and achievable targets for the Force. The strategy is about bringing about change whilst enabling the Force to work more effectively within its means whilst saving the public money - doing the right thing at less cost.

13 ATLAS COURT UPDATE

A report of the Chief Constable was presented to the Board. The purpose of the report was to provide an update to the Public Accountability Board around the positive investment and progress made in terms of the Atlas workforce plan and uplift in staffing level

This paper covered the progress of recruitment for the planned and authorised uplift in terms of Switchboard and Digital Desk, and provided information on when staff will be fully trained and begin positively influencing improved service delivery.

D Hartley confirmed the project was on target and had not been delayed by the Covid-19 pandemic.

Switchboard

The initial uplift of four additional Switchboard staff in August 2020 meant that the Switchboard opening hours were extended to 0800-1830 Monday to Friday.

An additional 15 Switchboard staff will be in place by the end of November. This will allow the Force to offer Switchboard services to members of the public over the entire 7 day period between the hours of 0800-2200.

Digital Desk

16 new members of staff have been recruited to provide a bespoke Digital team to deal exclusively with the varied Digital methods of public contact.

The training for these 16 new staff began on 7 September and will run until 8 October, when all new starters will start within the Tutor Unit. New Digital Desk staff will be mentored within the Tutor Unit for two and a half weeks. New staff will work a mixed shift of day and night working, with the Digital Desk open between the hours of 0700-0300 (20 hours from 24).

The Digital Desk will provide live chat, email and text online form submissions, call back requests and manage links with partner agencies.

The Digital Desk will allow the Force to manage the volume of 101 calls by redirecting victims to more suitable methods of contact for non-urgent enquiries, freeing up call handlers to take more urgent and appropriate requests for assistance on both 999 and 101.

The Commissioner thanked D Hartley for the report and acknowledged this was a real step change. He requested a report be brought back in June 2021 on the benefits of the changes.

**It was agreed that:**

- **A report on the benefits of the uplift in Switchboard staff and the Digital Desk at Atlas Court be brought back to the Public Accountability Board in June 2021**

14 DRUG USE AND THE IMPACT OF DIVERSIONARY ACTIVITY

A report of the Chief Constable was presented to the Board. The purpose of the report was to outline the current assessment of drug use in South Yorkshire, highlight some of the enforcement activity in place to deal with drug related crime, and describe some of the diversionary activity that takes place across the county.

The Commissioner informed the Board that drugs are a frequent area of concern for the public and a large amount of crime can be referenced back to drug use.

T Forber confirmed that the number of drug offences recorded in South Yorkshire had increased during Covid-19, although this is not necessarily seen on the streets.

The neighbourhood teams play an important part in enhancing the Force ability to action community intelligence about drug use and supply.

T Forber urged members of the public to talk to their local neighbourhood team if they suspect anyone is involved in drug offences and confirmed the Force would take action.

The neighbourhood teams are complemented by the Fortify teams who aim to disrupting organised crime. Additional proactive enforcement capability is also in place through the Serious Violence Crime Task Force, and the newly formed Armed Crime Team.

Towards the end of July a week of action was undertaken with the intention of disrupting organised crime groups and violent crime. During this operation, 71 search warrants were executed at addresses across South Yorkshire and resulted in an estimated £3 million worth of drugs, including heroin, crack cocaine and cannabis being taken off the streets. Three firearms and over £60,000 cash were also seized. Arrests were made for a range of offences including possession of firearms, possession with intent to supply Class A and Class B drugs, possession of offensive weapons, assault and acquisition and possession of criminal property.

T Forber confirmed that the Force supports a number of initiatives to divert away people away from drug use. In custody the Force works with Liaison & Diversion (L&D) who signpost offenders to other agencies who are able to provide support. This service has been impacted by Covid-19 but is now up and running, although this is a slightly reduced service.

T Forber confirmed that he wanted to see an increase in the number of drug tests being authorised in custody.

T Forber referred to the examples provided on pages 77 and 78 of the agenda pack and the robust approaches taken to those addicted to drugs, including rough sleepers.

The Commissioner highlighted a reference to two school officers in the neighbourhood teams in Barnsley and enquired if this was unique to Barnsley. T Forber confirmed that all neighbourhood policing teams have resources which work with schools.

15 REVISED CAPITAL PROGRAMME 2020/2021

A report of the PCC's Interim Chief Finance Officer was presented to the Board. The purpose of the report was to provide the Public Accountability Board (PAB) with an update on the re-stated 2020/21 capital programme.

S Abbott reported that a detailed review of the capital programme had been undertaken by the PCC's Interim Chief Finance Officer, the Force's Interim Director of Resources and Interim Director of Finance in March 2020. This review focused on the capacity of the organisation to deliver the current programme, the future ambition, affordability and deliverability.

A number of new schemes have been added, particularly in relation to the Police Uplift.

The programme has been broken down into five priority areas, and a reduction made to the overall programme based on two of the priorities, so the programme only includes expenditure where there is greater certainty.

The revised capital programme budget is £14m. If all schemes spend to budget in year the capital programme will overspend by £6.5m.

The recommended programme was approved by the Commissioner on 5 August 2020. Currently, progress is on target, with a small underspend projected.

16 PCC DECISIONS

A report of the Chief Executive and 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 outside of this Board since the last PAB meeting.

M Buttery highlighted the Domestic Abuse training and confirmed this would still be going ahead during the Covid-19 pandemic restrictions.

17 JIAC EXCEPTION REPORT

S Wragg presented the Joint Independent Audit Committee's (JIAC) exception report.

S Wragg highlighted the sign-off of the accounts and confirmed that Grant Thornton, the external auditors, are expected to issue their audit opinion and ISA 260 audit findings report in late October/early November.

The Commissioner confirmed that he had met with Grant Thornton and had been assured that the audit was on target to meet the agreed timescales.

The Chief Constable confirmed that notwithstanding the pensions liability issues everything appeared to be favourably reported on and an unqualified opinion was expected. He thanked D Carrington, S Abbott, J Bland with support from JIAC for their work on the accounts.

18 JIAC ANNUAL REPORT 2019/2020

S Wragg presented the Joint Independent Audit Committee's (JIAC) Annual Report. He confirmed that the Committee had focused on the issues that it needed to cover.

The Commissioner confirmed that all was going well.

The Chief Constable thanked the Committee for its ongoing work.

19 IEP EXCEPTION REPORT

A Lockley presented the Independent Ethics Panel (IEP) exception report.

The report focused on matters which historically the Panel has been asked to focus on: complaints; equality; diversity and inclusion and stop and search.

The Panel received a detailed overview of Complaints and Discipline performance. This was the first report received since the legislation changes and did not include performance figures of comparison with Most Similar Forces as this is not currently available from the Independent Office for Police Conduct (IOPC). The Panel received reassurance from DCI D Mahmood that the Force was not out of kilter with other Force.

The Panel had agreed to keep under review the greater proportion of complaints made against BAME officers compared to white officers but were reassured that the Force's Equality & Diversity lead periodically reviews complaints for unconscious bias.

There was some good news in relation to recruitment. Amongst police officers, the ratio of BME officers had risen to 5% and particularly pleasing was that amongst the latest new recruits VME groups are at 7.4%.

The Panel had been able to increase the scrutiny of Stop and Search by temporarily taking up the role of the Stop and Search Scrutiny Panel. Body Worn Video footage had been used which showed officers being friendly but firm.

20 SOUTH YORKSHIRE INDEPENDENT POLICING ETHICS PANEL - THE FIRST 5 YEARS

The Commissioner confirmed that hard copies of the report would be available.

The Commissioner referred to the Foreword in the report. This acknowledged the important role the panel had played in the journey South Yorkshire Police had taken to be rated a good force by Her Majesty's inspectors and its ethical leadership as 'outstanding'.

The panel is one of three independent panels in the country.

The Commissioner highlighted the importance of the panel being independent and confirmed this was an important document.

21 PAB WORK PROGRAMME

The work programme was noted.

22 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

There was no any other business.

23 DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING

10 November 2020 at 10am.

CHAIR

