

SOUTH YORKSHIRE'S POLICE AND CRIME COMMISSIONER

PUBLIC ACCOUNTABILITY BOARD

10 SEPTEMBER 2020

PRESENT: Dr Alan Billings (Police and Crime Commissioner)
Michelle Buttery (Chief Executive and Solicitor)
Sophie Abbott (Interim Chief Finance Officer)
Fiona Topliss (Community Engagement & Communications Manager)
Sally Parkin (Governance and Compliance Manager)
Sharon Baldwin (Evaluation and Scrutiny Officer)
David Hartley (Assistant Chief Constable)
Tim Forber (Assistant Chief Constable)
Lauren Poultney (Assistant Chief Constable)
Debbie Carrington (Interim Director of Finance)
Carrie Goodwin (Head of Corporate Communications)
Una Jennings (Chief Superintendent, Sheffield)
Andrew Lockley (Chair of the Ethics Panel)
Steve Wragg (Chair of the Joint Independent Audit Committee)
Cllr Garry Weatherall (Sheffield City Council)
Rachel Staniforth (Joint Head, Violence Reduction Unit)

APOLOGIES: Stephen Watson, Mark Roberts, Jackie Bland, Alison Fletcher, Erika Redfearn, Kevin Wright

1 **WELCOME AND APOLOGIES**

The Commissioner welcomed those who had dialled into meeting, including Councillor Grocutt, Nevett, Steinke and Otten members of the Police and Crime Panel, Councillor Khayum, Clive Betts, MP and three members of the press (P Whitehouse, G Dennison and D Andrews).

2 **FILMING NOTIFICATION**

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

3 **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

There were no announcements.

4 **PUBLIC QUESTIONS**

The Commissioner informed the Board that the following question had been submitted by the Nasar Raof, Vice Chair of the Firth Park Neighbourhood Network.

“It’s in regards to Page Hall the problems here are getting worse every minute of every hour of every day. Bins overflowing, rats everywhere, anti social behaviour , drugs, gangs , intimidation of our elderly, littering, fly tipping, underage prostitution and grooming, vehicles speeding late at night, off road bikes on footpaths, brawls and fights late at night and all times of the day, Covid-19 breaches, late night gangs intimidating females walking and mosque goers.

Every authority has given us promises to help turn Page Hall around and have failed. When will we get a zero tolerance approach to policing and heavy enforcement action against the criminals that are making the lives of our most vulnerable suicidal?

When will we get the PSPO we so desperately need? Rotherham had it in Eastwood and it has helped, why here is it not being considered. We also are requesting Una Jennings to come meet me to discuss this further, will she meet with our group?”

The Commissioner confirmed that he had a lot of sympathy with the people living in this area. The area is highly populated and has a number of different communities coming together. There are also language barriers. He confirmed he is aware there are issues and what they are. A number of the issues are not directly policing matters but involve the local authority, landlords, schools and the community itself.

T Forber informed the Board that Page Hall is policed by the North East Neighbourhood Policing Team which is made up of an Inspector, four Sergeants and 18 PCs and 13 PCSOs.

The North East Neighbourhood Policing Team covers Burngreave which includes Page Hall and the Northern General Hospital.

By the end of September the North East Neighbourhood Team will be increased by one additional Sergeant and 8 PCs. The team will then be split in two with one team covering Page Hall.

Page Hall consists of approximately 300 properties; only 24 of those are council owned. The area is overly populated with multi-occupancy properties and a population that is made up of Romanian and Slovakian families.

The Force does struggle with community cohesion.

The vast majority of incidents in Page Hall do not relate to criminality - there are cultural ASB issues - but an overriding problem is the over-crowding and environmental issues.

There has been highly publicised disorder and this has been dealt with.

T Forber acknowledged the challenges in Page Hall during the Covid-19 pandemic and highlighted some of the key activity which had taken place in Page Hall since the lockdown.

- In March 2020 North East Neighbourhood Policing Team commenced the Education, Explain and Engagement phase with all residents.

- Every address in the area was leafleted with initial Covid-19 restrictions in English and Slovak.
- Patrols were undertaken, with Roma students from Hallam University engaging with problem addresses and those congregating in the street

T Forber confirmed that Page Hall has seen the majority of the Fixed Penalty Notices issued. Of the 310 Fixed Penalty Notices issued in Sheffield, 165 were issued to people from the Page Hall and Burngreave area.

A male was arrested for threatening a PCSO on Covid-19 patrols. He was charged and bailed to court. Another was arrested for verbal threats to council street wardens whilst enforcing noise and Covid-19- related issues, charged and bailed to court.

T Forber assured the Commissioner that the Force will continue to take positive action to ensure restrictions are complied with.

The Commissioner enquired about the possibility of a Public Space Protection Order (PSPO) in the area. T Forber confirmed that these have to be applied for by the local authority. The Force will support Sheffield City Council and, if granted and put in place, will enforce it. A partnership approach is required.

The Commissioner enquired if this was being considered by Sheffield City Council. Cllr G Weatherall agreed to speak to Cllr P Wood and come back to the Commissioner separately.

T Forber confirmed that the Force recognises Page Hall is a challenging area and that there are issues with the environment and overcrowding. U Jennings and her team are willing to engage with people. This is a complex problem that needs a cohesive approach.

U Jennings confirmed she was happy to meet with Nasar Raof.

It was agreed that:

- **U Jennings to meet with Nasar Raof**

5 URGENT ITEMS

The Commissioner highlighted the new announcements around Covid-19 and enquired about any implications.

D Hartley confirmed the regulation changes had still to be received, but the Force is now used to adapting to quick changes.

There will be no difference to the Force's approach of engage, educate, explain and enforce. Bespoke assessments will take place in relation to small gatherings.

D Hartley welcomed the mention of Covid-19 marshals. These should be managed by the strategic coordinating group to ensure they work effectively.

A discussion took place around whether these would be over and above the existing resource level and fully funded by the Government.

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 11 AUGUST 2020

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

Page 8, last paragraph: "He acknowledged that it was sensible to draw a line on 30 June 2020 but ...".

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
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

M Buttery confirmed that all the actions relate to the format and contents of PAB reports. The new district performance report template will be introduced in October. The OPCC is working with Force colleagues on the format of the other report templates.

10 FORCE PERFORMANCE SHEFFIELD 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 Sheffield, in line with the reporting requirements.

The Commissioner confirmed this was the last time the report would be in this format. A new template had been developed to obtain consistency across the districts.

The Commissioner enquired about 'The Bridge'. The Bridge utilises staff who have been displaced through Covid-19 or are returning from a period of sickness. They conduct victim ring backs for all attended and non-attended burglary and auto-crime. The Commissioner referred to the reference to vulnerable victims and asked if this included victims of Hate Crime. U Jennings confirmed that it did. The Commissioner enquired about the Hate Crime lead. U Jennings confirmed that the Hate Crime lead had left, but the work is continuing and Sheffield will be recruiting to the post.

The Commissioner highlighted the Resource Management Sergeant role. U Jennings confirmed this had started in Rotherham but is now in place in every district. This provides better resource management which increases capacity. The Commissioner enquired if this impacted on the quality of the response. It did not, and this is corroborated by the victim satisfaction results.

The Commissioner enquired about the Evidence Review Team. U Jennings confirmed these were right across the Force and assist 'new in service' frontline officers make the right choices and improve the quality of the investigation.

T Forber confirmed the Force had been looking at the quality of investigations for some time. The Covid-19 pandemic had freed up capacity to look at this, and this is now being rolled out across the Force.

The Commissioner highlighted that he receives quite a bit of correspondence in relation to residential burglaries, and the Force is an outlier in this area. He enquired about the Residential Burglary Team. U Jennings confirmed that Sheffield has a dedicated team because of the volume of residential burglaries. The team will focus on outcomes over the next few months.

A discussion took place around burglary dwellings. Burglary dwellings now include sheds. T Forber confirmed the changes in how burglary is recorded make it difficult to compare year on year.

The Commissioner enquired if there were any delays in Forensics. T Forber confirmed that he would like to see an increase of Crime Scene Investigators (CSIs) at burglaries, and to ensure that the management of the forensic products are robust to enable offenders to get arrested without delay. The Commissioner asked his office to follow this up with the Force.

The Commissioner raised drug-related crime and the links with organised crime gangs. M Buttery highlighted the recent establishment of a Serious Violence Programme Board chaired by ACC Poultney (and which she deputy chairs). This brings together the activity of the partnership Violence Reduction Unit with that of the Force's Taskforce and new Armed Crime Team.

The Commissioner enquired about the increased focus on county lines. U Jennings confirmed that there is increased tasking following intelligence gathering.

U Jennings highlighted the Armed Crime Team which has been established to respond to the threats posed by gun crime. 17 firearms have been seized in the last month.

The Commissioner highlighted the controlled drugs recovered with the approximate street value of over £1million. He enquired about how proactive the Force are in

seizing assets which can be used through the Proceeds of Crime Act to be re-invested in local communities. U Jennings confirmed that the Force is proactively looking at this.

T Forber confirmed financial investigations are now in place and this will increase the amount of cash seized.

The Commissioner highlighted that several Albanian nationals had been sentenced to substantial periods of imprisonment and enquired if these persons are routinely deported. U Jennings confirmed that an application has to be made to have them deported but, where appropriate, the Force does do this.

The Commissioner enquired if U Jennings would like to raise anything else. U Jennings highlighted that she had just taken over from S Barton and said the report today was really celebrating the success of someone else.

The Commissioner thanked U Jennings for the report and welcomed her to Sheffield.

It was agreed that:

- **The Commissioner's Office would follow up with the Force any issues or concerns relating to forensics**

11 FORCE PERFORMANCE AGAINST THE POLICE AND CRIME PLAN 2019 - 2021 (RENEWED 2019) TREATING PEOPLE FAIRLY

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 'Treating People Fairly' 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 referred to the new legislation reforms for complaints which are designed to support a culture of learning rather than blame and punishment. This is a cultural shift.

T Forber acknowledged this was a more nuanced approach to establish why someone is not satisfied and learn from it, before it becomes systemic.

The Commissioner highlighted the Equality Hub. This brings together representatives from across the Force area who can bring focus to issues of diversity, equality and inclusion within the Force. T Forber confirmed that this is again about being a learning organisation and using the power of its workforce to address issues.

The Commissioner highlighted the improvements in recruitment and retention of the workforce but acknowledged the Force still has a way to go. T Forber confirmed that the Force is starting to see a shift.

A new recruitment campaign is underway and there is an equality and diversity plan attached to this. Neighbourhood Teams are also encouraging people to join the workforce.

T Forber highlighted the future direction / development section which highlighted the determination of the Force in becoming a learning organisation, including:

- Understanding the implications of Covid-19 on the long-term working practices of the organisation,
- Continued monitoring of our response to complainants through the work of PSD, and
- Developing the opportunities presented through the work of the Equality Hub

The Commissioner raised his meeting with members of the Black Community in Sheffield. The members do not want to speak directly to South Yorkshire Police but have started to ask to include others in discussions - e.g. from the Crown Prosecution Service. The Commissioner acknowledged that the police want to be involved and learn from the group, and confirmed this will help the Force make real progress.

T Forber confirmed that the Force was absolutely clear that policing is done with the community and not to them. This will help build trust and confidence in the police.

A Lockley commented on the reference in the report to data. Over the five years the Independent Ethics Panel has been operating, the data has improved. He highlighted the importance of the data and having the correct explanation.

The Commissioner congratulated A Lockley on his appointment to the National Police Chiefs Council (NPCC) which is looking at ethical dilemmas around the enforcement of the Covid-19 regulations.

12 WELLBEING OF SYP WORKFORCE

A report of the Chief Constable was presented to the Board. The purpose of the report was to update and inform the Commissioner of the Wellbeing agenda in South Yorkshire Police to include the current work streams and plans going forward.

D Hartley highlighted the outstanding achievements of the workforce during the Covid-19 pandemic. He emphasised that the only way this could have been achieved was by ensuring staff were as fit and motivated as possible prior to the pandemic.

Staff have been allowed to work from home whilst continuing to provide a service.

The focus has been to invest in all staff physically and mentally.

To support staff physically there are all manner of referrals available, including referrals to the Force Occupational Health Unit. Gyms are also being brought back following the Covid-19 restrictions.

Seven Wellbeing Kiosks have been purchased following a successful pilot. These test staff's BMI, blood pressure etc.

There are also sports and social clubs which have over 50 groups for staff to participate in.

An area of development has been around the psychological support to staff. The Force has developed the Back-Up Buddy App. Since March 2020, the App has

been downloaded around 3000 times and is available on all Force equipment. This gives a range of options to staff including support to family members.

The Commissioner acknowledged the shift towards the emotional and psychological support and the support to families of staff.

D Hartley highlighted that the Force had recognised that loved ones or those close to staff usually recognise the early signs of someone needing support.

13 PCC'S ANNUAL REPORT

A report of the PCC's Chief Executive and Solicitor was presented to the Board. The purpose of the report was to receive and comment on the PCC's Annual report 2019/20.

M Buttery highlighted that the PCC's Annual Report was a statutory responsibility.

The draft Annual Report had been presented to the Police and Crime Panel on 20 July 2020 and their comments had been incorporated.

The report was received.

14 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.

The report was noted.

15 VIOLENCE REDUCTION UNIT UPDATE

A report of the Joint Heads of the Violence Reduction Unit was presented to the Board. The purpose of the report was to provide an update on the progress of the South Yorkshire Violence Reduction Unit.

R Staniforth highlighted the following key points.

The South Yorkshire Area Profile, which pulls together police data, public health data and the available evidence base, to provide a baseline understanding of violence and its complex causes across South Yorkshire, was published on 8 September 2020.

The Violence Reduction Unit (VRU) team is currently producing a set of key performance indicators that will be used to evidence the impact of the local violence reduction strategy and specially the work of the VRU.

Plan B Custody Navigators, which aim to engage young adults to help them make the right choices and to step away from crime, will be in Doncaster Custody from 17 September 2020.

The Mentors in Violence Prevention is a leadership and bystander programme which offers schools opportunities to discuss a range of current social issues within an educational framework where positive relationships, Health and Wellbeing are

key. Despite delays due to Covid-19, 16 schools have committed to the programme.

Forging Ahead is an employment programme developed by Total Training Provision, the About Face project (in conjunction with Her Majesty's Prison and Probation Service (HMPPS)) and South Yorkshire Police. It is a bespoke programme that is designed to address a need in relation to reducing the risk of reoffending with those being released from prison. As of September 2020, referrals will be accepted for those who are on the periphery of crime. Referrals will be available to police and partners.

The VRU has been asked by Public Health England to chair a national board.

Matthew Rycroft CBE, Home Office Permanent Secretary is scheduled to visit the VRU, including the Plan B Custody Navigators, on 11 September 2020.

R Staniforth highlighted how passionate and committed the South Yorkshire response had been to the work of the VRU.

The Commissioner agreed that the work had been embraced by all partners acknowledged the good working relationships.

The Commissioner highlighted that funding for the VRU had been received for this year. The results of the Comprehensive Spending Review is awaited in relation to future funding. This is a long term commitment which requires long term funding.

L Poultney confirmed that significant links between the Force and the work of the VRU is now taking place, and improvements are now being seen. The VRU Champions Network is now embedded within the Force.

The Commissioner wished R Staniforth good luck with the visit from the Permanent Under Secretary.

16 PAB WORK PROGRAMME

The work programme was noted.

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

There was no any other business.

18 DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING

13 October 2020 at 10am.

CHAIR

