

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

## **PUBLIC ACCOUNTABILITY BOARD**

**WEDNESDAY 13 OCTOBER 2021**

PRESENT: Dr A Billings (Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC))  
Michelle Buttery (PCC's Chief Executive & Solicitor)  
Fiona Topliss (PCC's Engagement and Communications Manager)  
Kevin Wright (PCC's Evaluation and Scrutiny Officer)  
Sally Parkin (PCC's Governance and Compliance Manager)  
Ellie Parkinson (PCC's Performance and Assurance Officer)  
Tim Forber (Deputy Chief Constable)  
Dan Thorpe (T/Assistant Chief Constable)  
Jackie Bland (SYP's Director of Resourcing)  
Sarah Poolman (T/Assistant Chief Constable)  
Debbie Carrington (Chief Finance Officer)  
Alison Fletcher (SYP's SCT Office Manager)  
Melanie Palin (Chief Superintendent, Doncaster)  
Carrie Goodwin (SYP's Head of Corporate Communications)  
Ann Macaskill (Chair of the Independent Ethics Panel)  
S Wragg (Chair of the Joint Independent Audit Committee)  
Jessica Adams (Violence Reduction Unit)  
Nancy Byrne (Violence Reduction Unit)

APOLOGIES: L Poultney, S Abbott, E Redfearn, D Hartley and G Jones.

### 1 **WELCOME AND APOLOGIES**

The Commissioner informed attendees that this was a 'hybrid' meeting (mixed physical meeting with some joining virtually via MS Teams), and he welcomed those who had joined the meeting, including Councillors Haleem, Ransome and Milsom members of the Police and Crime Panel, Councillor Tattershall and one member of the press.

The Commissioner introduced the following people, who had attended the meeting in person; Deputy Chief Constable Forber, T/Assistant Chief Constable Thorpe; T/Assistant Chief Constable Poolman, Director of Resources, Jackie Bland, Chief Superintendent Palin, F Topliss and S Parkin.

### 2 **FILMING NOTIFICATION**

The Commissioner confirmed that the meeting was being streamed live on YouTube (SYPCC Media) and was being recorded and uploaded via YouTube to the website ([www.southyorkshire-pcc.gov.uk/](http://www.southyorkshire-pcc.gov.uk/)) where it can be viewed at a later date.

### 3 **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

The Commissioner informed the Board that a number of Police and Crime Commissioners' Offices (OPCCs) across the country had experienced resilience issues following the ill health of their PCCs. Whilst he has got arrangements in place to address this, the Home Office want to see Deputy Police and Crime Commissioners (DPCCs) in place. A DPCC must be from the same political party. The Commissioner confirmed that he had sent a letter to all members of the Labour Party asking for expressions of interest. He has received seven responses so far and he is currently talking to each of them. The closing date is the 15 October 2021.

The Commissioner highlighted Hate Crime Awareness Week. He had been out and about in Barnsley earlier in the day where he had attended a stall in Barnsley Market with the Barnsley Hate Crime Coordinator.

S Poolman informed the Board that it is also County Lines Intensification Week and some proactive work is taking place.

#### 4 PUBLIC QUESTIONS

The following public question had been received:

"On p.12 of PAB papers, under item 11 (Force Performance Against the Police and Crime Plan 2021-2024 (Updated June 2021) Treating People Fairly), it is recorded that "The Commissioner enquired if Tasers are monitored as part of the Use of Force data. T Forber confirmed that every use of force is recorded, including Taser discharges. Internal scrutiny and oversight takes place including dip-sampling. To support external oversight and governance – scrutiny is also in place through the Independent Ethics Panel, and Independent Advisory Groups to ensure transparency to local communities."

Arising from this statement, I would like to ask the following question:

In the light of the recent IOPC report Review of IOPC cases involving the use of Tasers (Review of IOPC cases involving the use of Taser 2015-2020, August 2021) which found that "In the cases we reviewed, when black people were subject to Taser discharges, they were more likely to be Tasered for prolonged periods", what information do SYP record about the use of Tasers?; does this include information about the ethnicity of the person Tasered and the length of the discharge?; what are the figures for the number of officers who have been issued with Tasers in SYP over the last five years?"

*T Forber provided the following response:*

- ***What information do SYP record about the use of Tasers?***

*SYP currently have the following processes in place for recording and reviewing use of Taser/CED:*

*Use of Force system – Every time a Taser is used (including drawing from the holster, aiming, red dotting or discharging) a comprehensive electronic report has to be submitted by each Officer having used Taser individually, relaying the full details, circumstances and NDM rationale for use. Every Taser use of Force submission is reviewed and ratified by the designated Force Taser Lead Officer*

*(FTLO). Where Taser is discharged a Supervisory Officer 'Post Usage Package (PUP)'/Investigatory report has to be compiled and submitted to both the local Operational District Chief Inspector and FTLO for review into the use of Taser on that occasion and its legitimacy and proportionality. Both Use of force and PUP's are retained by the Force Taser Training Unit.*

*As part of the 'PUP' the Taser download is retrieved electronically in respect of the unique history which identifies the chronology of weapons checks, and any activations inclusive of how long any particular discharge was maintained upon a subject.*

*SYP are due imminently to record all Taser deployments to incidents along with Officer training records on Chronicle Management system (as used for conventional firearms). This module will allow accurate records of all Taser deployments to be maintained and reviewed for purposes of organisational learning.*

*The FTLO has recently prepared the Forces inaugural Taser Strategic Threat and Risk Assessment which records and provides the following information to support the following areas, (reviewed bi-annually):*

- *Type(s) and number of devices purchase*
- *Number of STO's required*
- *Deployment and bases of STOs across the force*
- *To identify and assess known and foreseeable risks to the public, police (personnel and organisation)*
- *To ensure that the resource planning and allocation of devices is proportionate*
- *To identify gaps in policies, procedures and training*
- *To inform local and national policy and practice on Taser*
- *Recommend actions to mitigate identified threat and risks*
- *Provide an evidence based link between demand and Taser capability*

*The Use of Taser is governed through the Use Of Force Board (Chaired by Superintendent Force lead), Quarterly Taser Governance Group (Chaired by ACC).*

- ***Does this include information about the ethnicity of the person Tasered and the length of the discharge?***

*SYP does conduct analysis around the use of Taser and any disproportionality in respect of its use on BAME groups.*

*SYP do not actively record and analyse the length of time a subject has been subjected to a Taser discharge in comparison to their ethnicity, it is only reviewed via the Post Usage Report and Taser download, to ensure that the use of Force and time the subject was exposed to Taser is commensurate with the Officer's report and is proportionate to the circumstances of the threat.*

*From the Use of Force reports, PUP's and Taser down loads it would be possible to analyse and compare the length of Taser discharges against BAME and non BAME subjects, but this would be a specific and challenging piece of work .*

(The STRA also records and reviews use of Taser in respect of Gender, age and vulnerability groups).

- **What are the figures for the number of officers who have been issued with Tasers in SYP over the last five years?**

Table shows the number of trained Specialist Taser Officers (STO's) within SYP for the last five years:

	2021-22	2020-21	2019-20	2018-19	2017-18
<b>NUMBER OF STO</b>	472	426	398	361	329

## 5 URGENT ITEMS

There were no urgent items.

## 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 6 SEPTEMBER 2021

The minutes of the meeting held on 6 September 2021 were agreed as an accurate record.

## 9 MATTERS ARISING/ACTIONS

419	Information on the burglary reduction pilot evaluated by Lancaster University would be provided to the PCC. 06/09/21 – result would be provided when available. Ongoing
421	Dip-sample information of different crime categories would be provided to the PCC. 06/09/21 – this will be provided in due course. Ongoing
423	D Hartley would consider the possibility of having an anonymous reporting line 06/09/21 – The Commissioner confirmed that this had been highlighted by members of the public. D Hartley informed the Commissioner that an early review had taken place at Atlas Court. There does not appear to be a significant gap between information being reported to Crime Stoppers and this being passed to SYP. Further information will be provided at the next meeting. 13/10/21 - Crimestoppers reports come into the organisation through two channels. Firstly, during office hours, any

	<p>Crimestoppers intelligence will be submitted directly to the Single Point of Entry (SPOE) team who will then review and disseminate as appropriate in line with threat, harm, and risk.</p> <p>Out of office hours, Crimestoppers will contact the Force Incident Manager over the phone in order to obtain contact details and should the intelligence refer to a matter that is ongoing, verbally brief the Force Incident Manager (FIM) for consideration of immediate action. Crimestoppers will then email details of the report through to the FIM they have spoken to and SPOE for their information.</p> <p>The FIM will then review. Any intelligence that requires immediate action, will be placed onto a Smart Contact incident log and resourced appropriately. Intelligence that can be managed slow time is forwarded on to the local intelligence cell for progression. Having spoken with both staff in the intelligence department and the some of the FIMs and Silver Support staff, SYP is not aware of any delays in the current reporting process. In fact, this works particularly well.</p> <p>To date this year, there has been 4385 Crimestoppers reports made into SYP. Compared with previous years, 2020 saw 4572 reports during the same time period (Covid breaches exacerbated this number) and 4347 in 2019, so it appears to be relatively stable in terms of reports received.</p> <p>In terms of other forces having their own 'in house' anonymous reporting systems, SYP is not aware of any other alternatives. The main reporting charity for anonymous information to be passed is Crimestoppers, however, there are others, Fearless (directed towards young people) and National Ugly Mugs (reporting forum for sex worker).</p> <p>With regards to other means of reporting anonymous information to the police, SYP still see anonymous reports through the 999 and 101 channels. This will often be through use of a pre-paid, unregistered mobile phone or public kiosk and no contact details will be left by the caller.</p> <p>There are a number of third-party reporting centres within South Yorkshire, predominantly for reporting hate crime. From speaking with one of our hate crime coordinators, these are not actually deemed as anonymous as the victims/informant's details are often passed to SYP.</p>
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10 FORCE PERFORMANCE - DONCASTER DISTRICT SUMMARY REPORT

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 complimented M Palin on the format and readability of the report. He particularly liked the sections which identify what is working well and what they are concerned about.

The Commissioner highlighted the increase of 'high' risk domestic abuse. He enquired what M Palin's view was on this and what action is being taken. M Palin

confirmed that Doncaster has seen an increase in 'high' risk domestic abuse for some time. Staff and partners have an increased awareness and a better understanding around incidents of coercive control and are acting on this.

The Commissioner enquired if partnership working was key and M Palin said it was; there is focused work around responding to domestic abuse. A new Doncaster partnership Domestic Abuse Strategy is in place and a delivery plan sits alongside this which supports victims and survivors. The Commissioner enquired if the Strategy had been agreed at full Cabinet of Doncaster MBC. M Palin agreed to find this out. [Cllr Milsom provided an affirmative to this question in the margins of the meeting].

M Palin highlighted the need to manage perpetrators to stop re-offending. She welcomed the re-introduction of Inspire to Change which addresses the behaviour of offenders.

The Commissioner enquired if Clare's Law was well used. M Plain confirmed that Clare's Law allows disclosures to be made to victims in relation to the previous offending of a partner. They are well used. There are two aspects to Clare's Law: a right to know and a right to ask. The right to know relates to previous offending which may influence the decisions of victims. The Commissioner asked if the police always make a disclosure. M Palin said that approximately 50-55% of right to ask disclosures are granted. 60-65% of right to know disclosures are granted. If victims are already aware of the perpetrator's history, a disclosure would not be made. The main objective is to make sure someone is safe. If a family member makes a request, the disclosure would not be made to the family member; it would be made to the person at risk.

The Commissioner enquired about victims who do not support a prosecution and whether support was still provided. M Palin confirmed that a victim supporting a prosecution was not a pre-requisite to getting support. SYP will conduct an investigation whether or not the victim wants to give evidence or go to court. In some cases, there may be evidence to support a prosecution without the victim giving evidence - for example CCTV evidence, a statement by a neighbour or Body Worn Video evidence. Support of the victim is not required when applying for a Domestic Violence Protection Order, but this would be taken into consideration by the court. Support is offered in all domestic abuse incidents. In high risk cases, the victim will be referred to support agencies without their consent but, in medium or low risk cases, the victim has to consent before support is provided. Any cases involving children are referred to social care.

T Forber confirmed that SYP do undertake evidence led prosecutions where the victim does not support a prosecution, when there is a valid reason, but this is on a case-by-case basis. They do focus on the victims' wishes. The Commissioner commented that the public have no concept of this.

S Poolman gave an example of a case where the victim was not engaging, but the officer continued to gather evidence. This was then presented to the victim and, once they had seen all the information, agreed to support the prosecution. This had a successful outcome.

S Poolman highlighted the high threshold for evidence led prosecutions.

The Commissioner made reference to Operation Makesafe and enquired about the importance of this. This is a proactive operation undertaken by the partnership to raise awareness of the vulnerability of children to exploitation, and

seeks to develop 'eyes and ears' across a broad network of services and locations. It aims to inform people who may come across exploitative situations of the signs to look for, and provide them with guidance in relation to what action they should take. M Palin confirmed the importance of this.

The Commissioner highlighted the impact that mental health concerns have on service capacity, and the ability of services to meet this need. He enquired if the ability of the Ambulance Service to meet the agreement that mental health patients should be transported by ambulance - not by police vehicle - was getting better or worse. M Palin acknowledged the challenges around dealing with people with mental health concerns. The aim of the agreement with the Ambulance Service is to stop people who are in crisis being detained in a police station or car and to treat the situation as a medical incident. Doncaster is continuing to see challenges around the support the Ambulance Service can provide. The Commissioner confirmed that he had raised this with Government ministers.

The Commissioner acknowledged the link between high volumes of calls for service involving public safety/welfare incidents with mental health. M Palin confirmed that only around 30% of calls received by SYP related to crime and disorder. The majority of other calls relate to welfare concerns, such as missing persons.

T Forber highlighted the need to adopt a problem-solving approach with partners at a local level to address this type of incident.

The Commissioner enquired if non-crime incidents were growing. M Palin confirmed that this ebbs and flows. During the Covid-19 pandemic, non-crime incidents rose and crime fell. SYP are now seeing a correction of the imbalance.

The Commissioner highlighted that some members of the public expect the police to only deal with crime, and are surprised by the amount of non-crime incidents the police have to deal with. T Forber confirmed that it is incorrect to say that non-crime incidents are not the police's responsibility. The police have a duty to safeguard people, but this needs to be undertaken in partnership.

D Thorpe provided an example of a police officer who had concerns about an individual. This was highlighted to partners and the partnership were able to make a referral to a support group which in turn reduced the demand on SYP. Partnership working needs to take place at a local and a strategic level.

T Forber highlighted the public perception around the need to have an increase in officer numbers. However, the most important asset is quality data to enable SYP and its partners to make the right decisions.

M Palin highlighted that the last thing SYP want to see is someone in need getting pushed from one agency to another. The Commissioner concurred.

The Commissioner raised the week of intensification in Mexborough and Conisbrough, where visits had taken place with local primary schools. He enquired if visits had also taken place in secondary schools. M Palin confirmed that officers regularly attend secondary schools. This tends to be targeted activity. Hate Crime specialists have been into schools this week as part of Hate Crime Awareness week. M Palin acknowledged the importance of influencing young people at an earlier age.

The Commissioner highlighted the issue of speeding vehicles. This is at the top of the public's agenda at community meetings. This is not always about speeding vehicles but is about inappropriate speed. For example, people not regulating their speed around bends. T Forber highlighted that, whilst the police can enforce speeding, the road design is the responsibility of the local authority.

D Thorpe highlighted that neighbourhood policing teams do work with local communities to enforce and consult about speeding.

The Commissioner confirmed that road safety would feature in his new Police and Crime Plan.

The increase in personal robbery was highlighted by the Commissioner. M Palin confirmed that robbery is dealt with by way of a specialist crime investigation. Statistics and incidents are reviewed, but there are no obvious themes or patterns. SYP will continue to monitor this.

The Commissioner highlighted the increase in most serious violence, which has nearly doubled. He enquired if Doncaster required an Armed Crime Team (ACT). T Forber confirmed that the ACT had been formed to address the increase in shootings in Sheffield and has been a significant factor in reducing this. Resources had come from Sheffield District and the Intelligence Unit to ensure a more focused approach. SYP are actively looking at what resources are required across South Yorkshire as part of the officer uplift.

T Forber highlighted the challenges around the increase in officer numbers. Officers take three years to be fully trained and, even when they are trained, officers in the ACT need to be experienced. The Commissioner commented that the public do not realise this. T Forber confirmed that SYP are committed to expanding the ACT approach to all four districts. M Palin confirmed SYP are clear on the impact this would have.

M Palin highlighted that Doncaster had just completed its public priorities survey as part of Doncaster's consultation on the Community Safety Strategy. ASB has been raised as a concern. M Palin assured the Commissioner that this is an area of focus. The Commissioner acknowledged the impact of ASB on local communities. He highlighted the reduction in youth services and youth engagement activity and the impact this has on ASB.

Difficulty in contacting SYP has also been raised in the survey and M Palin confirmed that she is meeting with Corporate Communications and Atlas Court about this.

## 11 FORCE PERFORMANCE AGAINST THE POLICE AND CRIME PLAN 2021 - 2024 (UPDATED JUNE 2021) - 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 Community Triggers. D Thorpe confirmed that there are other options in place to support policing and partner activity such as Community Protection Notice Warnings, Community Protection Notices, Criminal

Behaviour Orders and civil injunctions before things get escalated to a Community Trigger. The Commissioner enquired if Community Protection Notices and Warnings are effective. D Thorpe confirmed that they are.

The Commissioner made reference to retail crime. He had recently met a regional manager from the Co-op who had expressed frustration at the length of time it took to report crimes. D Thorpe acknowledged this. He highlighted the need for local shop managers and owners to make contact with their local neighbourhood team who may be able to provide advice and support. Sheffield now has a retail crime coordinator who provides an intelligence link with the Council's CCTV platforms, and provides advice and guidance across the retail establishments. A Force lead has also been appointed. The Commissioner agreed to send D Thorpe a report of the issues raised.

The Commissioner enquired if separate data was kept for wildlife crime and crimes which take place in a rural area. D Thorpe acknowledged that they did not. Criminal damage can occur in a rural area but this would be recorded as criminal damage rather than a rural crime. SYP do have a mapping system called Mosaic where crime data is overlaid with postcodes. This enables them to define what rural crime looks like.

The Commissioner acknowledged the work which had been undertaken with a student from the University of Sheffield which identifies the key variables which occur in areas with high burglary rates within Sheffield. Plans are now in place which outline the activity required by local teams to undertake preventative activity.

The Commissioner highlighted drug dealing and trafficking, and acknowledged that a critical part of delivering crime reduction is in gathering intelligence from the public. He highlighted that people can be very nervous of reporting. D Thorpe encouraged the public to use CrimeStoppers if they wanted to report anything anonymously. Over the last 6 months, 1600 pieces of intelligence have been received from CrimeStoppers relating to issues around drugs. This intelligence helps SYP to identify the bigger picture.

The Commissioner raised the backlog of deferred visits for firearms licensing applications that did not take place during lockdown. He confirmed that he had made enquiries outside of the meeting about this. The following response had been provided.

*"In order to qualify for a later visit the applicant would have to meet the following criteria:*

- *No convictions or convictions that are over 20 years old*
- *No police intelligence*
- *No medical conditions declared are reported by the GP*
- *All Guns match*
- *No issues raised in the last 5 years.*

*These visits are then deferred for booking in at a later date to inspect security. All the interview and vetting has been done over the phone and the certificates are now renewed.*

*The 51 grant visits refer to applications that are ready to be granted but require a final security and identification check at the applicant's home address."*

T Forber confirmed that SYP take firearms licensing very seriously, and are acutely aware of the backlog. S Poolman confirmed that all firearms licensing applications are triaged, and any high risk applications or enquiries are escalated.

T Forber confirmed that SYP's Business Continuity Officer is involved in the debriefing of the Plymouth shootings and any immediate learning from this will be actioned.

The Commissioner enquired whether SYP have good relationships with GPs in relation to relevant information they may hold about firearms licence holders or applicants. S Poolman confirmed that they did. However, there can be delays in obtaining a GP's report. Nationally, forces are campaigning for GP reports to be included in the initial application, with the onus being on the applicant to provide this.

**It was agreed that:**

- **The Commissioner would provide D Thorpe with the issues being experienced by retail managers in reporting incidents to SYP**

## 12 SYP DELIVERY PLAN

A report of the Chief Constable was presented to the Board. The purpose of the report was to update Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC) as to the Chief Constable's plan to contribute to delivery of the transitional Police and Crime Plan 2021-2024.

The Commissioner complimented T Forber on the format and content of the report.

T Forber highlighted that the report also showed the governance process in place to deliver the interim Police and Crime Plan.

T Forber thanked T Percy for the work undertaken in producing the report.

## 13 PCC'S STRATEGIC PLANNING TIMETABLE

A report of the Chief Executive & Solicitor was presented to the Board. The purpose of the report was to provide an overview of the Police and Crime Commissioner's (PCC's) annual strategic and financial planning process in relation to setting a Police and Crime Plan (2022-2025) and setting a supporting budget and council tax precept for 2022/23.

M BATTERY informed the Board that the report provided information on where the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner (OPCC), working with SYP, is in terms of its strategic and financial planning.

On 8 October 2021 a joint strategic planning engagement event took place with key partners. This went well and the product will feed the writing of the new Police and Crime Plan.

The Commissioner highlighted the national financial position. We are expecting a 3-year government comprehensive spending review (CSR).

The Home Office has recently announced a police funding formula review. This will come after the CSR. Some forces may be disadvantaged.

#### 14 OPCC DELIVERY PLAN

A report of the Chief Executive & Solicitor was presented to the Board. The purpose of the report was to provide to the Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC) the Delivery Plan from the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner (OPCC) which explains how the OPCC will contribute to delivery of the PCC's transitional Police and Crime Plan for 2021-2024 (due for substantial revision in February 2022).

M Buttery informed the Board that the Delivery Plan shows the organised activity the OPCC will undertake to support the PCC and his two statutory officers in the discharge of their statutory responsibilities.

#### 15 PCC DECISIONS

A report of the 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 PCC outside of this Board since the last PAB meeting.

M Buttery highlighted two decisions:

- The Ministry of Justice (MoJ) Critical Support Fund where the PCC had agreed to make up the shortfall in the funding received from his Partnerships and Commissioning budget.
- Accepting external funding for the police uplift project.

#### 16 JIAC EXCEPTION REPORT

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

S Wragg brought the following two areas to the attention of the Board.

The report from the Head of Internal Audit confirmed that the annual assurance opinion for SYP and the OPCC for 2020-21 was a 'Reasonable' opinion.

Members were not able to provide assurance about the adequacy and effectiveness of SYP's IS Audit Framework. Consequently, JIAC have called the responsible SYP officers to the December meeting of the committee to explain the situation and to provide the required assurance.

#### 17 IEP EXCEPTION REPORT

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

The Panel is trying to work more effectively to give more time for discussion.

To facilitate the work of the IEP in supporting the Commissioner, panel members are allocated specific areas to lead on either singly or in pairs. This work is supported by officers from the OPCC and SYP.

A Macaskill provided the following updates, on the link member activity:

## Stop and Search

The Panel have had concerns around the amount of consistent scrutiny of stop and search. To address this, panel members have conducted stop and search scrutiny themselves, but this will stop once scrutiny panels are up and running. No issues have been identified.

A discussion took place around having a central stop and search scrutiny panel. This has now been advertised, and over 50 people have responded.

Both the IEP and SYP would like to involve more young people in the stop and search process. This age group is closer in age to people who are actually stopped and searched.

D Thorpe confirmed that he is keen to set up a youth panel for stop and search.

## Equality, Diversity and Inclusion

The link members had met with SYP's new Positive Action lead. The Panel highlighted the need for this area of work to be supported and properly resourced. SYP are a bit behind in this area but, overall, SYP are moving in the right direction, and have great commitment and enthusiasm.

The link members are also monitoring the breakdown of ethnicity from the July recruitment round.

## Hate Crime

The Panel have expressed concern about the amount of hate crime committed against officers. In most cases, this does not get reported.

The link member has met with the new force Hate Crime lead. Plans are in place to refresh and streamline the Hate Crime Strategy, improve victim care and create a bigger profile across the districts.

## Complaints

The link member attends the quarterly Professional Standards Department (PSD) Champions meetings. Current areas of focus for PSD include victims of crime, Body Worn Video, ethnicity and diversity.

The link member updated the Panel on the changes to the Specified Information Order. The Order sets out two broad reporting requirements for complaints. The first is how each PCC is holding the chief officer to account for the force's complaints handling. The second is an assessment of the PCC's own performance in delivering their complaint handling functions.

The link member will be undertaking some independent scrutiny when they visit the department in the next few weeks.

The Panel agreed that PSD had responded well to all the changes in legislation over the last 18 months, which has been undertaken during the Covid-19 pandemic.

## Digital Policing

The link members are looking at court cases in relation to artificial intelligence to see if the digital policing policy and checklist needs updating.

Members have attended a number of meetings where they have seen the digital

policing policy and checklist in use.

The Panel will continue to receive updates on facial recognition.

The Chair had met with the GPS Tracker Pilot Team. This is for people who have been diagnosed with medium to severe Dementia and are at risk of being a high risk missing person. This had been looked at as a 'proof of concept' and the Chair and the GPS Tracker team had been through the project alongside the ethical guidelines for research. The trackers have been purchased and participants are in place.

D Thorpe highlighted the importance of the work the Panel had undertaken in relation to the GPS tracker. In high risk missing cases, this can be the difference between life and death. He raised a recent high risk missing person case where, if the missing person had had the tracker, they would have been found in a couple of hours rather than a number of days.

A Macaskill confirmed that the pilot is being undertaken in a controlled way, with users being surveyed before and after the pilot. A control group is also being used who do not have the trackers.

Separately under the digital policing heading, consideration is being given to the use of drones.

#### Use of Force

This is a new link member role and the link member is still familiarising themselves with the role.

#### 18 WORK PROGRAMME

Noted.

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

There was no other business raised.

#### 20 DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING - 9 NOVEMBER 2021 AT 1PM

Tuesday 9 November 2021 at 10.00 am.

CHAIR

