

**POLICE AND CRIME PANEL
19th December, 2012**

Present:-

Barnsley Metropolitan Borough Council:-

Councillor K. Richardson

Doncaster Metropolitan Borough Council:-

Councillor P. Bartlett

Councillor C. Ransome (Substitute for Mayor Davies)

Rotherham Metropolitan Borough Council:-

Councillor J. Akhtar

Councillor T. Sharman

Sheffield City Council:-

Councillor S. Anginotti

Councillor H. Harpham (in the Chair)

Councillor H. Mirfin-Boukouris

Co-opted Member:-

Mr. Kash Walayat.

Apologies for Absence were received from:-

Mayor P. Davies (Doncaster Metropolitan Borough Council).

Councillor T. Hussain (Sheffield City Council)

Councillor M. Noble (Barnsley Metropolitan Borough Council)

Mrs. M. Tennison. (Co-opted Member)

J16. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING HELD ON 23RD NOVEMBER, 2012

Consideration was given to the minutes of the previous meeting of the Police and Crime Panel held on 23rd November, 2012.

Reference was made to Minute No. 15 (Schedule of Future Meetings) and whether or not the Chairman and Vice-Chairman of this Panel had yet met with the Police and Crime Commissioner on the 14th December, 2012 as proposed. It was confirmed that such a meeting had not yet taken place and would do so early in the new year.

Resolved:- That the minutes of the meeting held on 23rd November, 2012 be approved.

J17. COMPLAINTS PROCESS

Consideration was given to a report presented by Deborah Fellowes, Scrutiny Manager, which outlined the duties that the Panel had in receiving and dealing with complaints about the Police and Crime Commissioner and Deputy Police Crime Commissioner, the options available to Panel Members in discharging these duties and recommendations on taking this forward, including an outline process.

The report set out in detail the functions for which the Panel were responsible and the various options for the delegation of functions, which included:-

- Panel/host authority retains all functions.
- Triage role for the Chief Executive of the Police and Crime Commissioner.
- Making arrangements for securing informal resolution of complaints.
- Delegation of receipt, triage and resolution activity.

The Panel were advised that they may wish to adopt a mixture of delegation of its functions, which could involve a sub-committee of the Panel being established to oversee the complaints process with the support of the Monitoring Officer with all final resolutions and outcomes being reported back to the full Panel.

Discussion ensued on the various options available to the Panel and clarification sought on potential number of complaints, the need to sieve out vexatious and frivolous complaints, informal resolutions, definitions of serious and criminal complaints, the merits in assigning a small sub-committee to receive complaints on the Panel's behalf and the role of the Monitoring Officer.

Having debated various issues at some length it was suggested that the best way to take complaints forward was for them all to be received by the Monitoring Officer and for these to be presented to the Panel on an as and when received basis until it became clearer what the likely numbers would be. This would be revisited should the numbers become more of an issue in six months. A report setting out the agreed process was to be presented to the next meeting in January, 2013.

Resolved:- (1) That all complaints be received by the Monitoring Officer and for these to be presented to the Police and Crime Panel on a regular basis.

(2) That a report setting out the full process be submitted to the next meeting in January, 2013 and for this to be revisited in six months time.

J18. WAYS OF WORKING

Consideration was given to a report presented by Deborah Fellowes, Scrutiny Manager, which outlined the main options for the Panel in terms of how it worked with other partners, in particular the Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC) and how it engaged the wider community in its work.

The Panel discussed at the induction workshop how it wanted to work. The particular focus was on work with the Commissioner, however, links with the Community Safety Partnerships and other partners were also discussed along

with ways of engaging more widely with communities. Whilst it was noted that it was not a statutory requirement of the Panel to carry out direct community and victim consultation, it was felt that they needed to be aware of wider issues and priorities within the community. It was also agreed that ways of making the workings of the Panel more transparent and accountable via community engagement needed to be explored.

At the Panel's request the Offices Group considered the following issues and made recommendations accordingly which were set out in detail as part of the report:-

- Protocols for working with others.
- Being a proactive Panel.
- Being open and accountable.

The Panel considered the recommendations of the Task and Finish Group and were in complete agreement with the development of protocols to clarify the working relationships within a Memorandum of Understanding, merger of the two groups to ensure there was a fit for purpose officer network, the need for a regular progress report from the Police and Crime Commissioner and the best opportunities for promoting the Panel's work through the website. Longer term facilities such as webcasting could be explored once the Panel was more established, but it was suggested that the host authority continue to hold meetings in its Council Chamber so that it was more accessible to the general public if they so wished.

Resolved:- (1) That the Memorandum of Understanding be approved, subject to discussion and agreement with the Police and Crime Commissioner about his expected attendance.

(2) That officers draft working protocols for the Panel, Community Safety Partnerships and area Scrutiny Committees and report to a future Panel meeting.

(3) That the merger of the two South Yorkshire officer groups be approved.

(4) That regular progress report from the Police and Crime Commissioner on community engagement and consultation be submitted on a regular basis.

(5) That the continued use of the offices of the host authority for Panel meetings, as an interim measure until the Panel is more established, be approved.

(6) That the recommendation for Panel minutes to be reported to all the South Yorkshire Council meetings be approved.

J19. PRESENTATION ON PRIORITIES FOR COMMUNITY SAFETY PARTNERSHIPS IN ROTHERHAM, SHEFFIELD, BARNSELY AND DONCASTER.

The Chairman welcomed Steve Parry, Rotherham's Neighbourhood Crime and Justice Manager, who gave a short presentation on the Priorities for the Community Safety Partnerships across South Yorkshire.

The presentation drew attention to:-

- Introduction and background about the Community Safety Partnerships.
- Joint Strategic Intelligence Assessment and the four partners key priorities.
- Joint Strategic Intelligence Assessment Data Sources.
- One Barnsley Priorities.
- Safer Doncaster Priorities.
- Sheffield First Priorities.
- Safer Rotherham Priorities.
- The common themes.
- Contact details of each of the partners.

A discussion and a question and answer session ensued and information was requested on the total budget allocated to each of the Community Safety Partnerships, which would be circulated in due course to all Panel Members.

Resolved:- That Steve Parry and the Community Safety Partnership representatives be thanked for their attendance and informative presentation.

J20. DATE AND TIME OF THE NEXT MEETING

Resolved:- That the next meeting of the Police and Crime Panel take place on Monday, 28th January, 2013 at 10.00 a.m. at Rotherham Town Hall, but that an earlier meeting also be held on Friday, 18th January, 2013 at 10.00 a.m. at the same venue.