

## SOUTH YORKSHIRE POLICE AND CRIME PANEL – REPORT TO MEMBERS

<b>1. Meeting:</b>	South Yorkshire Police and Crime Panel
<b>2. Date:</b>	2 <sup>nd</sup> September, 2013
<b>3. Title:</b>	Update and Future Work of the Police and Crime Panel
<b>4. Organisation:</b>	RMBC – Host Authority

### 5. Summary

This report provides members of the Panel with an update on issues that have arisen during the Summer period and prompts discussion about how the Panel would like to take its work forward, now that its statutory commitments for the first year have been fulfilled.

### 6. Recommendations

**That the Panel:**

- **Consider and note the update on issues relating to Police and Crime Panels.**
- **Consider the proposals forwarded by the officer group in section 7.**

## **7. Proposals and details**

At its last meeting, the Police and Crime Panel considered the first Annual Report of the Police and Crime Commissioner. This effectively completed its statutory functions for the first year, which also included:

- Consideration of the Precept and Budget
- Confirmation Hearing for the appointment of the Deputy PCP
- Consideration of the Police and Crime Plan
- Agreement and implementation of a complaints procedure

Since its last meeting, a number of developments have taken place which are considered in this report:

### **Report of the House of Commons Home Affairs Committee on Police & Crime Commissioners Register of Interests (Printed 16<sup>th</sup> May 2013)**

The report on this agenda looks at how the Panel should respond to these findings.

### **HMRC Policing in Austerity report**

It is anticipated that a report on this will come to the Panel in due course.

### **Police and Crime Panel conference in Leeds, July 2013**

This highlighted a number of key issues for PCPs now that they have mostly fulfilled their statutory duties and focused on how they might carry out proactive scrutiny of PCCs with such limited resources. How PCPs carry out their work planning was also discussed.

### **Centre for Public Scrutiny are carrying out research assessing the impact of the first year's work of Police and Crime Panels.**

A request has been sent for anyone wishing to contribute to this research, perhaps by highlighting good practice in their area, to contact Ed Hammond from the CfPS.

### **Expert Adviser support being offered through LGA and Centre for Public Scrutiny.**

The Centre for Public Scrutiny has a number of Expert Advisers – all are well-versed, from professional experience, in accountability and governance at local level. Many have direct experience of working with the police, with a couple having been serving police officers. These Expert Advisers can provide assistance in a number of areas, such as:

- Work programming, and understanding how work can be prioritised;
- Gathering and triangulating evidence from a variety of different sources;
- Carrying out work within significant resource constraints;
- Engaging with the PCC – developing relationships and understanding the culture of the police, and the Chief Constable's strategic relationship with the PCC;

- Understanding the wider community safety and criminal justice landscape;
- Skills needed to ask effective questions, and chairing skills.

South Yorkshire has been successful in securing this support and a representative will be present at the meeting to discuss how this is taken forward.

Also during July, a meeting was held with support officers across South Yorkshire from both the Community Safety Partnerships and the Crime and Disorder Scrutiny functions. The purpose of this was to determine how best to support the work of the PCP going forward. As a result it was proposed that:

- That appropriate officers from each authority ensure that their individual members of the PCP receive the necessary briefing support with locality Scrutiny officers and Community Safety Partnership officers potentially carrying out a key role here.
- To hold a development or training session with the Panel members to discuss work planning - following the priorities outlined in the Police and Crime Plan and any other emerging local issues. This could be supported by officers as outlined above.
- South Yorkshire's PCP consider adopting a similar process to West Yorkshire who hold quarterly meetings with reports from all of the CSPs and invite Crime and Disorder Scrutiny Chairs to attend this also.
- Priorities to consider for working with the expert adviser could be around gathering and triangulating evidence and operating with constrained resources.

## **8. Finance**

There are no immediate financial implications of this report.

## **9. Risks and Uncertainties**

Effective work programming and understanding of the appropriate role for PCPs are both key to avoiding undue risks in carrying out their functions.

### **Background Papers and Consultation**

Notes of Leeds Conference  
Notes of Officer meeting 30<sup>th</sup> July 2013

### **Contact**

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