

SOUTH YORKSHIRE POLICE AND CRIME PANEL – REPORT TO MEMBERS

1.	Meeting:	South Yorkshire Police and Crime Panel
2.	Date:	31st January 2014
3.	Title:	Website
4.	Organisation:	RMBC – Host Authority

5. Summary

This report provides members of the Panel with a summary of the main options with regard to developing a more effective website presence for the PCP, as part of its approach to increase public engagement in its work.

6. Recommendations

That the Panel:

- **Notes the key issues as summarised in this report**
- **Considers and agrees the next steps for the Panel.**

7. Proposals and details

At the early stages of formation of the Panel discussions took place about the role of the PCP in terms of community engagement and how the website could be used to assist with this. In a report dated 19th December, it was noted that whilst it is not a statutory requirement of the PCP to carry out direct community and victim consultation, it was felt that the panel 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.

It was agreed that whilst the panel was becoming established, developing its ways of working and becoming familiar with its duties and responsibilities, there was little to be gained from seeking community engagement in its formal meetings. It was concluded that the best opportunities to promote its work to the general public were through mechanisms such as its website. The current website for the panel is a page within the RMBC website, with limited information about the panel. The purpose of this paper is to identify the main options with regard to the ongoing development of the web pages for the PCP.

There are two main options available:

1. To further develop the web page on the RMBC website. RMBC's website is currently undergoing reconstruction, with the new version due to go live in March 2014. The timing is right, therefore, to look at making more effective use of the webpage in terms of informing the general public in the work of the PCP and generating community engagement. Under the new website, there will be the ability to generate community discussions about specific issues and to provide a more interactive tool around current issues for the PCP. This will prove more useful as the Panel considers and starts to deliver on its new work programme. The new website will be corporately branded and it would therefore be very much a part of the Rotherham website and will be clearly identifiable as such. This may be perceived as a difficulty, as the other local authorities may prefer to see something which is more independent and is branded across all four of them. There will be some scope to change colours etc, but it will be limited within the new corporate brand. The advantage of this model is that it will be supported, free of charge, by the IT support team in RMBC, including any changes, updates and further development that is required of the page.

2. To create a "galaxy" web page; effectively a web site within the RMBC web site. This will be able to achieve all of the above but would also allow more of a distinct identity to be created for the panel and can be linked to all of the other local authorities' websites. In terms of ability to engage the public across the whole of South Yorkshire this would clearly have an advantage over option 1, however, the issue that would need to be considered would be resourcing. With option 2 the galaxy site owner needs to make provision for support – editing, policing etc.. – as this would not be provided by the IT support team within RMBC. This would have to be funded by the PCP themselves.

Members of the Panel are therefore asked to consider which option they would like officers to pursue.

8. Finance

There are financial implications associated with option 2 in the paper.

9. Risks and Uncertainties

These are outlined under each of the options in section 7.

10. Background Papers and Consultation

Contact

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