

Leicester
City Council

Minutes of the Meeting of the
LEICESTER, LEICESTERSHIRE AND RUTLAND POLICE AND CRIME PANEL

Held: TUESDAY, 28 JULY 2020 at 1:00 pm as a Virtual meeting using Zoom

P R E S E N T:

Cllr Orson (Chair)
Cllr Pantling (Vice-Chair)
Cllr Kaur Saini Cllr Leigh Harper-Davies
Cllr Loydall Cllr Mullaney
Cllr Phillimore Cllr Rae Bhatia
Cllr Rahman Cllr Taylor
Cllr Walters Cllr Woodman
Mr Culverwell Ms Lalani

In Attendance:

Lord Bach – Police and Crime Commissioner
Kirk Master – Deputy Police and Crime Commissioner
Simon Cole – Chief Constable, Leicestershire Police

Also Present:

Paul Dawkins – Chief Finance Officer (temp), OPCC
Simon Down – Head of Strategy and Commissioning, OPCC
Grace Strong – Performance Manager, OPCC
Andrew Furlong – Advisor to Lord Bach, OPCC
Angela Perry – Executive Director, OPCC
Kamal Adatia – Monitoring Officer

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13. ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN

The Monitoring Officer invited nominations for the role of Chairman of the Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland Police and Crime Panel.

It was proposed, seconded and upon being put to the vote carried that Joe Orson take the position of Chairman for the municipal year 2020/21.

RESOLVED:

1. That Joe Orson be elected as Chairman of the Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland Police and Crime Panel for the municipal year 2020/21.

14. ELECTION OF VICE CHAIRMAN

The Chairman invited nominations for the role of Vice-Chairman of the Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland Police and Crime Panel.

It was proposed and duly seconded that Elaine Pantling take the position of Vice-Chairman. It was also proposed and duly seconded that Deborah Taylor take the position of Vice-Chairman.

Upon being put to a ballot, Elaine Pantling was elected as Vice-Chairman for the municipal year 2020/21.

RESOLVED:

2. That Elaine Pantling be elected as Vice-Chairman for the municipal year 2020/21.

15. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

The Chairman led introductions including new members to the panel and advised this was a virtual meeting as permitted under section 78 of the Coronavirus Act 2020 to enable meetings to take place whilst observing social distancing measures.

Apologies for absence were received and accepted from Simon Whelband.

It was also noted that Sharmen Rahman and Alan Walters needed to leave the meeting before its conclusion.

16. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Members were asked to disclose any pecuniary or other interest they may have in the business on the agenda.

Keith Culverwell made a standing declaration that two family members were in the Police Force.

There were no other declarations of interest.

17. MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING 15TH JUNE 2020

RESOLVED:

- That the minutes of the meeting held 15th June 2020 be confirmed as an accurate record.

18. PUBLIC QUESTIONS

There were no public questions submitted.

19. QUARTER 4 FORCE PERFORMANCE EXCEPTION REPORT 1 JAN 2020 - 31 MAR 2020

The Police and Crime Panel considered a report providing an update of the performance exceptions of Leicestershire Police for the period 1 January 2020 to 31 March 2020.

Panel members noted that:

- Violence with Injury offences had seen a reduction throughout Quarter 4 however there had been an increase in the most recent data point (March 2020) and a comparison to the same quarter of the previous year indicated a 25% increase.
- The increase in these offences was attributed to an adjustment to correctly classify crimes as Common Assault (Violence without Injury) to Actual Bodily Harm offences (ABH, Violence with Injury).
- Burglary Residential offences were showing a month on month reduction with comparison to the same quarter of the previous year indicating a 21% decrease.
- Stalking and Harassment offences showed a prolonged increasing trend with an average monthly volume increase by approximately 100 offences and a comparison to the same quarter of the previous year indicating a 18% increase.

The ensuing discussion included the following points:

- In relation to the increased reporting of incidents and call handling the introduction of new software had enabled call handlers to switch more easily between 999 and 101 calls improving performance throughout the year. Online crime reports remained stable.
- The purpose of providing comparison data of response times to 2018 was to generate an idea of longer trends, 2018 was a notable year as it was the World Cup and there were other large events taking place across the County. Overall the data showed response times were quite steady and had recovered from a difficult period. It was also hoped that the introduction of the new Target Operating model in March 2020 during the Covid 19 impact would show further improvement on call handling response times.
- It was suggested that the report could be more consistent in the presentation of data and simplified rather than a statistical manner.
- Regarding the missing person data and how that related to Looked After Children, there were 2 elements, children from Leicester who were looked after in Leicester and children from outside Leicester/Leicestershire who were placed here. For the latter group it was not always clearly communicated who had been placed where and when. It was recognised this was a challenging area with 62% of those “missing” being repeaters for a variety of reasons.

Action: Chief Constable to provide a breakdown of the missing person data related to Looked After Children to panel members.

1.40pm Alan Walters left the meeting.

- In terms of harassment and stalking offences it was suggested this was often linked to domestic violence and so some of those offences should be categorised as such. It was clarified that many offences featured in more than one category, but each crime was reported and categorised through Home Office rules. Crimes were being assessed to try and analyse other factors surrounding the crime such as domestic violence.
- It was noted that there had been a slight increase month on month of hate offences, and it was queried whether this was linked to the challenges of Covid 19. It was acknowledged there had been some increase in this type of crime month on month however this data was only up to the end of March 2020, so before the Covid 19 lockdown began. More often this type of crime was linked to neighbour disputes.
- In relation to Stop and Search data, each Stop and Search had to be documented and the act of searching must be recorded, if a search was conducted the reasonable grounds for that search were also noted. Police Officers had been told to use their body cams at each stop and search and there was a process for dip sampling and watching recordings of stop and searches by an independent panel.
- Stop and Search was carried out in areas where there was a focus on crime e.g. knife crime, and a third of stop and searches turned up a positive result of some sort. An officer could only stop and search if they had reason to suspect a person had certain articles upon them. Stop and search was a legitimate tool and the force tried to use it reasonably, the data in charts within the report showed the 3-5 year trend and indicated the volume of positive outcomes achieved was proportionate to the volume of searches.
- The use of Prevention Orders had risen by 60%, this was a relatively new piece of legislation that allowed the Superintendent to issue a Prevention Order with conditions around domestic violence incidents and used to provide protection to victims of domestic abuse and control of offenders.

RESOLVED:

1. That the Chief Constable provide a breakdown of the missing person data related to Looked After Children to panel members.
2. That the proposals for further analysis of exceptions be supported,
3. That the contents of the report be noted.

20. PEER MENTORING WITHIN SUBSTANCE MISUSE PROVISION - DEAR ALBERT REPORT

The Police and Crime Panel considered a report informing them about the peer mentoring work undertaken within substance misuse provision across Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland including details of Dear Albert a Leicester based, peer led social enterprise.

The panel noted key points that:

- within a relatively small area of Leicester there were three places using

peer mentoring: – Turning Point; Number 5 and Dear Albert.

- Dear Albert, provided mentoring to people over 18 years and Turning Point had provision for younger people.
- Dear Alberts approach was unique as the whole organisation was 100% peer led and every mentor had overcome an addiction to drugs or alcohol.
- PCC Funding had expanded the “through the gate” provision enabling more individuals to be met at the prison gate and supported in the community.
- The Violence Reduction Network were also looking at opportunities with the providers as a means of recognising effective violence prevention.

Lord Bach, Police and Crime Commissioner referred to the Safer Streets Home Office ambition to give grants to various OPCC so that towns and small areas could take steps towards Safer Streets and advised that the OPCC had applied for grants for three areas and had been successful in securing that funding which would enable increased spending towards Safer Street initiatives in the following areas:

- West Bridge/Narborough Road - £550k
- New Parks/Braunstone Frith - £420k
- Warwick Way/Loughborough - £550k

The panel welcomed the report on peer mentoring and congratulated the OPCC team on securing additional funding that would help make safer streets.

RESOLVED:

1. That arrangements be made for panel members to visit Dear Albert once lockdown and social distancing measures had eased.
2. That the contents of the report be noted.

21. VIOLENCE REDUCTION NETWORK OVERVIEW

The Police and Crime Panel considered a report providing an overview of the Violence Reduction Network (VRN) with a focus on the programme for 2020/21.

The panel noted that:

- This was an important piece of work reliant on a Home Office grant given to certain police areas to look at initiatives and cut serious violence in the area.
- The Home Office prescribed the function and core membership of the VRN and there had been excellent partnership involvement including the voluntary and community sectors.
- There had been significant progress and developments since the VRN was established in September 2019 with several interventions commissioned including the Violence Intervention Project based in the Emergency Dept at Leicester Royal Infirmary and a Community Grant Scheme aimed at grass root community groups and organisations.
- The VRN continued to focus on serious violence in public places with a

priority on under 25's, and despite the Covid 19 pandemic progress was still being made, the programme plan for 2020/21 had been drawn from the findings of the Strategic Needs Assessment and the Response Strategy setting out projects, key priorities and activity within each project.

- The VRN were monitoring the three success measures set by the Home Office which were also monitored centrally although no feedback has been received to date.

There was a brief discussion around continuation of funding from the Home Office in 2021/22 and it was noted that currently there was no indication of future funding. All VRNs had made approaches to the Home Office and were expecting to hear more after the forthcoming spending review. Funding had been secured in the sum of £880k for this year and where possible the VRN were commissioning with sustainability in mind, investing in such things as train the trainer to build capability and become more self-sufficient.

Panel members discussed the report noting the following comments:

- In relation to planned work with children and young people it was intended to introduce interventions and services across Primary and Secondary prevention as well as tertiary to ensure we reduce reoffending.
- In terms of seeing the impact of initiatives on reducing crime the first quarter performance report was being compiled for the VRN Board and this could be shared with panel members in future too.

Action: to provide more performance data in future reports.

Action: to share the Young People Involvement Strategy with panel members.

- Work was ongoing to develop and review progress in relation to known risk factors regarding Young People such as attendance and exclusion rates in schools.
- A core principle of VRN was to link with others and VRN were seeking to collaborate and strengthen links with projects/services such as Troubled Families and Early Help to avoid duplication.
- It was planned to spend around £364k on interventions which was more than the Home Office required (set at 20%). It was suggested it would be useful to benchmark that expenditure with other VRN's.

Action: Grace Strong to explore other VRN expenditure and provide a comparison of units across England/Wales.

There was discussion around the VRN priority focus on crime committed by under 25's and whether serious sexual crime was included within that as it was suggested a lot of serious sexual and domestic violence crime was harvested in the home. At this stage, the focus was public place serious violence although it was acknowledged that there are links between different types of violence and a link between children experiencing violence in the home and future violent behaviours.

RESOLVED:

1. That the contents of the report be noted.
2. That officers provide more evidence in future reports of working with

- Young People and the impact of that work upon reducing crime.
3. That the Young People Involvement Strategy be shared with panel members.
 4. That officers explore other VRN expenditure on interventions and provide a comparison of VRN units across England/Wales.

22. ETHICS COMMITTEE ANNUAL REPORT

The Police and Crime Panel considered the annual report December 2018 to March 2020 of the Ethics, Integrity and Complaints Committee for the purpose of informing them of the work of that committee.

The panel noted that the period of the report had been altered to align with reporting periods of the OPCC, and the current membership of the Ethics, Integrity and Complaints Committee.

RESOLVED:

That the contents of the report be noted.

23. ANY OTHER URGENT BUSINESS

The Chairman agreed to take an item of urgent business to allow the Police and Crime Panel to consider a report on the financial liability arising to Leicestershire OPCC as a result of the Independent Inquiry into Child Sexual Abuse (IICSA).

The panel noted that IICSA was due to sit in October 2020 to hear evidence about historic allegations concerning the late MP Greville Janner and the local police's management of them. Leicestershire Police was a core participant at IICSA as are several former police officers. The former police officers are separately represented as they face challenge regarding their individual conduct during the investigation.

The cost of the Leicestershire Police's preparations has been anticipated and built into the budget for 2020/21. However, the OPCC is also responsible for meeting the legal costs of the core participant officers, in accordance with the provisions of Home Office Circular 010/2017. These costs have not been budgeted for because, until recently it was uncertain whether IICSA would go ahead; whether these individuals would be called as witnesses and whether the OPCC was responsible for meeting their costs. The OPCC have only recently been able to estimate the likely overall costs of IICSA to the OPCC and still await complete clarity regarding these costs due to uncertainty over other former officers being given core participant status.

The OPCC has fully investigated the extent of their liability to meet these costs and have estimated the likely total sum of meeting the legal costs of former employees of Leicestershire Police covering the duration of the investigation up to £1.2m plus VAT. It was noted that there may be additional costs once the proceedings concluded.

The panel were asked to write to the Home Secretary to request support and financial assistance to meet the anticipated liability.

Panel members were satisfied that Leicestershire Police and Leicestershire OPCC have acted entirely appropriately in response to this issue, alerting the panel members of this liability and its impact on the budget approved in February 2020, and agreed to write to the Home Secretary to lobby support.

The Chairman asked officers to provide a brief update on the financial position to the next meeting.

RESOLVED:

1. That the financial liability and its impact on the OPCC budget approved in February 2020 be noted,
2. That a letter be written to the Home Secretary to request support and financial assistance to meet the anticipated financial liability,
3. That an update on the financial position be provided to the next meeting on 1st October 2020.

24. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Date of the next meeting noted on Thursday 1st October 2020 at 2pm. Venue to be confirmed.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 3.30pm

Minute Item 23

Joe Orson JP CC

Priti Patel MP
Home Secretary,
Home Office
2 Marsham Street
London
SW1P 4DF

3 August 2020

Dear Priti Patel MP,

I am writing on behalf of the Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland Police and Crime Panel regarding costs related to the Independent Inquiry into Child Sexual Abuse (IICSA).

I understand that IICSA is due to sit in October 2020 to hear evidence about historic allegations concerning the late MP Greville Janner and the local police's management of them. Leicestershire Police is a core participant at IICSA as are several former police officers. The former police officers are separately represented as they face challenge regarding their individual conduct during the investigation.

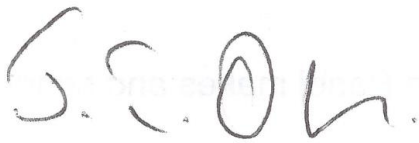
The cost of the Leicestershire Police's preparations has been anticipated and built into the budget for 2020/21. However, the Office for the Police and Crime Commissioner (OPCC) is also responsible for meeting the legal costs of the core participant officers, in accordance with the provisions of Home Office Circular 010/2017. These costs have not been budgeted for because, until recently it was uncertain whether IICSA would go ahead; whether these individuals would be called as witnesses and whether the OPCC was responsible for meeting their costs. The OPCC have only recently been able to estimate the likely overall costs of IICSA to the OPCC and still await complete clarity regarding these costs due to uncertainty over other former officers being given core participant status. For all these reasons IICSA costs were not included in the budget that was approved by the Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland Police and Crime Panel in February 2020.

The OPCC has fully investigated the extent of their liability to meet these costs and have estimated the likely total sum of meeting the legal costs of former employees of Leicestershire Police covering the duration of the investigation up to £1.2m plus VAT.

I would submit that Leicestershire Police and Leicestershire OPCC have acted entirely appropriately in response to this issue, alerting the Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland Police and Crime Panel members of this liability and its impact on the budget approved in February 2020, but they have no control over the total liability that the OPCC is likely to incur and I would therefore ask you to give full consideration to whether the Home Office can provide financial assistance to meet the anticipated liability during the current financial year. All Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland Police and Crime Panel members are very much in support of this request.

I look forward to hearing positive news on this matter.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'J. Orson'.

Joe Orson JP CC

Chairman of the Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland Police and Crime Panel