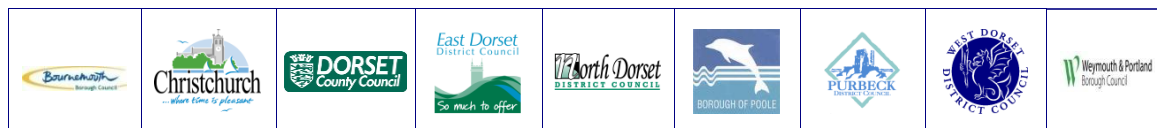


Agenda item:

# Dorset Police and Crime Panel



Date of Meeting	3 February 2017
PCP Lead Member Officer	John Adams – Chairman of the PCP Chief Executive - Dorset County Council
<b>Subject of Report</b>	<b>PCP Improvement Action Plan</b>
Executive Summary	<p>A key aspect of the Police and Crime Panels commitment to continuous development is to hold regular training sessions. These sessions enable the Panel to reflect upon its role, actively review the contribution it makes and, where necessary, identify areas for improvement.</p> <p>The Panels latest training session on 8 December 2016, included a workshop session which lead to the compilation of a draft 5 Point Action Plan. This Plan seeks to improve the effectiveness and impact of the work of the Panel going forwards.</p> <p>The 5 key action points that were identified can be summarised as follows;</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Introduce Themed Member Champion Roles.</li> <li>2. To review the nature and content of Quarterly reports and other papers provided by the OPCC which are considered by the PCP.</li> <li>3. Agree principles which underpin the PCP’s activity.</li> <li>4. Prepare for the impact of Local Government Reorganisation.</li> <li>5. Engage with other stakeholders and build links with partners and the public.</li> </ol> <p>It was agreed that this would be reported to a full meeting of the Police and Crime Panel to seek collective agreement and commitment to its content.</p>

Impact Assessment:	<i>Equalities Impact Assessment:</i> There are not considered to be any issues associated with this report.
	<i>Use of Evidence:</i> The proposals are based upon summary notes which captured the key outcomes from the training session.
	<i>Budget:</i> Other than Panel member and officer time there are not considered to be any additional costs associated with the proposals.
	<i>Risk Assessment:</i> Having considered the risks associated with this decision using the County Council's approved risk management methodology, the level of risk has been identified as: Current Risk: MEDIUM Residual Risk: LOW  Other Implications: None
Recommendation	That the Police and Crime Panel supports:  i) The content of the PCP Improvement Action Plan, which seeks to support the Panels clear commitment to continuous improvement.
Reason for Recommendation	To support and develop the effectiveness of the Police and Crime Panel.
Appendices	None
Background Papers	Summary training session notes - 8 <sup>th</sup> December 2016
Report Originator and Contact	John Adams Chairman of the Police and Crime Panel  Mark Taylor Group Manager – Governance & Assurance Tel: 01305 224982 Email: <a href="mailto:m.taylor@dorsetcc.gov.uk">m.taylor@dorsetcc.gov.uk</a>

## **1. Introduction**

- 1.1 The Police and Crime Panel hold regular training sessions to deliver against its commitment to continuous development.
- 1.2 These sessions enable the Panel to reflect upon its role, actively review the contribution it makes and, where necessary, identify areas for improvement.
- 1.3 Training is important to ensure that the Panel members are kept up to date on specific emerging legislation; are aware of the wider national context; have access to information on best practice work; and to discuss and share views on opportunities to improve local arrangements.
- 1.4 This helps to ensure that the Panel are able to discharge its statutory duties in both supporting and holding the Police and Crime Commissioner to account.
- 1.5 The most recent training session, held on 8 December 2016, covered the following 3 key topics;
  - i. Scene setting – the national context
  - ii. ‘Power Check’ – Key outcomes from the national survey of PCP’s
  - iii. Self-assessment workshop
- 1.6 The final element, the self-assessment workshop, lead to compilation of a draft 5 Point Improvement Action Plan to provide specific focus for the Panel in its work going forwards. These are summarised below.

## **2. Improvement Action Plan**

### **i) Introduce Themed Member Champion Roles**

In order to achieve a broader appreciation and understanding of key areas of activity it is proposed that ‘Themed Member Champion Roles’ are established.

It is recognised that this concept has already been trialled by the Panel, and continues to be successfully applied in certain areas (e.g. Finance matters). However it is acknowledged that significant benefits could be achieved if this approach was applied more widely.

These roles, which would be allocated across the members of the Panel, would help to provide direct points of liaison with the Office of the PCC outside of formal Panel meetings and ‘champions’ would therefore take a lead role in briefing the Panel and leading on topic related discussions and/or scrutiny issues.

Equally, through the increased use of task and finish type work which takes place outside of formal Panel meetings, this would help to achieve greater insight and deliver increased scrutiny coverage.

It is suggested that the themed roles could be closely aligned with the content of the new Police and Crime Plan.

**ii) To review the nature and content of Quarterly reports and other papers provided by the OPCC which are considered by the PCP**

It is important to ensure that the Panel is confident that its work is directed and focused upon key areas of activity. In order to achieve this there is a need to review the OPCC Quarterly reports / outputs with a "less is more" mind-set. This will enable the limited time available at formal Panel meetings to be maximised in order to ensure that focus is given to the achievement of constructive outcomes.

In addition, the establishment of the 'PCP Forward Plan' has greatly improved clarity and scope of what is required and why. However, this should be developed further to ensure that agendas and supporting reports and papers are manageable and realistic, which will lead to increased effect.

*(NB: - the proposed 'principles' which follow will also help to provide a mechanism to help with the achievement of this)*

**iii) Agree Principles which underpin the PCP's activity**

It was felt that the establishment of some clear 'principles', which could be applied to guide and prioritise the work of the Panel, would be helpful.

The following four principles are suggested for consideration and use;

- i) Focussing on less, but doing it more thoroughly;
- ii) Proactive scrutiny work, which is clearly focused on improving outcomes for Dorset;
- iii) Being clear on the rationale and scoping of items for coverage (e.g. the use of Key Lines of Enquiry (KLoE's))
- iv) Seeking to deliver clear conclusions and recommended areas for improvement for the Police and Crime Commissioner.

It is further suggested that these principles are included on all future PCP Agendas to act as a reminder and for ease of reference when considering items for specific attention.

**iv) Prepare for Local Government Reorganisation**

Discussion and decisions on the future of local government arrangements in Dorset are ongoing and will be very relevant to future Panel arrangements. As such, the Panel is aware of the need to plan for potential impacts that are associated with any change.

It is important that legislative requirements are fully understood to ensure the future make-up and representation of Panel membership is correct to meet statutory requirements.

**v) Engage with other stakeholders and build links with partners and the public**

The Panel members recognise the importance of building links with panels, partners and other relevant agencies in order to achieve an improved and wider understanding of subject matters.

It is equally important that opportunities to share experiences and best practice with other Police and Crime Panels are explored more fully.

The Panel is primarily established to support and scrutinise the Police and Crime Commissioner for Dorset on behalf of the public. It is therefore important that key outcomes from the work specifically undertaken by the Panel is widely communicated to provide timely information and reassurance to the public. These objectives can be delivered through the use of targeted support from the Communications Team and also increased awareness and use of the PCP website.

**3. Conclusion**

- 3.1 The Police and Crime Panel has a clear commitment to continuous improvement.
- 3.2 This Improvement Action Plan is an important element of this commitment as it seeks to improve the effectiveness and impact of the work of the Panel going forwards.
- 3.3 The Panel are therefore requested to consider the proposed 5 areas identified for specific attention and commit to the necessary activity to achieve implementation.

John Adams  
Chairman of the Police and Crime Panel

Debbie Ward  
Clerk to the Police and Crime Panel

February 2017