



DORSET POLICE AND CRIME PANEL

MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY 14 DECEMBER 2022

Present: Cllrs Mike Short (Chairman), Les Fry, Sherry Jespersen, Andrew Kerby, Chris Rigby and David Taylor

Attending virtually: Cllrs May Haines and Mark Howell

Officers present (for all or part of the meeting):

Simon Bullock (Chief Executive, OPCC), Adam Harrold (OPCC Director of Operations), David Sidwick (Police and Crime Commissioner), Julie Strange (OPCC Chief Finance Officer), Marc Eyre (Service Manager for Assurance), Chris Harrod (Senior Democratic Services Officer) and Megan Rochester (Democratic Services Officer)

23. Apologies

Apologies for absence were received Cllrs P Barrow, B Dove, T Johnson and Iain McVie.

The following Members of the Panel had advised that they were unable to attend in person, but would be attending the meeting via MS Teams:

Cllr M Haines
Cllr M Howell

24. Minutes

The minutes of the meeting held on 29 September 2022 were confirmed and signed.

The PCC confirmed that there was no update on the 101 contract.

The PCC also confirmed that all uniformed operational encounters with the public were to be recorded on body-worn video cameras by all officers present that were equipped with such equipment and that all officers were to be provided with these devices as personal issue. The captured footage was then downloaded to secure storage at the end of each operational shift, or, in exceptional circumstances, as soon as practicable.

25. Declarations of Interest

In relation to the Road Safety report, Cllr Haines reminded the Panel that she was part of a Community Speed Watch Programme.

26. **Public Participation (00:05:12 on recording)**

There were no statements or questions from members of the public or local organisations.

27. **Q2 Monitoring Report 2022/23 (00:05:21 on recording)**

Before the monitoring report was introduced, the Chairman requested information relating to the PCC's stance on reclassifying cannabis to a Class A drug. In response, the PCC highlighted his concerns surrounding its status as an "entry-level" drug and the harm that it caused to the health and wellbeing of its users, which could lead to "harder" drugs. The stance taken by the PCC was to provoke discussion. The ultimate objective of the PCC and his officers was to keep Dorset's residents safe.

The Chairman also queried the vetting processes for police staff and misogynistic behaviour that had been highlighted in a national report by the HMICFRS and requested clarification that the relevant recommendations would be actioned by the Chief Constable. In response, the PCC confirmed that there had been no concerns in relation to either of these issues and that a series of recommendations had been made, which had been duly accepted by the PCC and Dorset Police. He further added that Dorset Police would always review and act on the recommendations of the IOPC where appropriate.

Following the clarification of the above points, the PCC introduced the report and highlighted areas of progress within the six priority areas of the PCC's plan.

Priority 1 – Cut Crime and Anti-Social Behaviour (00:16:54 on the recording)

The PCC's report covered following themes within Priority 1:

- Road Safety
- Burglary
- Crime and ASB
- Fraud and Cyber Crime
- Supporting Young People

The PCC responded to comments and requests for clarification from Panel Members, details included:

- The PCC had submitted a letter, co-signed by the leaders of both Dorset Council and BCP Council to the Minister for Transport that requested the ability for both Councils to increase parking fines due to the difficulties that were experienced with illegal and inconsiderate parking during the summer season, however, this had not yielded the desired results, but would be pursued nonetheless.
- Burglaries were graded according to threat and the appropriate response would be determined. Category 1 and 2 burglaries were attended 100% of the time. Where a burglary didn't fit into categories 1

or 2, 50% would be attended at the time, where the remainder would be followed up by subsequent attendance by officers from a local station.

- The PCC requested that any negative instances when trying to report a crime or when interacting with the police were communicated to him so that he could raise with the Chief Constable and ensure constant improvement of the police force.
- Dorset Police were regularly expected to assist other constabularies when policing events, some of which were high profile, but did not receive any additional financial assistance for the summer season, whereby many visitors were attracted to the area and a huge pressure was put on the force.

Actions:

PCC to report back as part of the Q3 report with the response to the issues raised relating to theft outside of the home.

Priority 2 – Make Policing more Visible and Connected (00:40:36 on the recording)

The PCC's report covered following themes within Priority 2:

- Uplift and Visibility
- Engagement and Connectivity
- Customer Service

The PCC responded to comments and requests for clarification from Panel Members, details included:

- Dorset Police had recently changed its supplier and methodology relating to the engagement survey and it therefore the figures could not be directly compared with the previous figures.
- The summer survey that had been undertaken was very much a perception-based survey and did not go into a considerable amount of detail.
- It was pleasing to hear that members of the public had valued the recent engagement event in Dorchester by community officers and this was something that the PCC was seeking to expand upon.

Actions:

PCC to send further details relating to the summer safety survey to panel members.

PCC to report back on the force's Gold Group findings on 101 and emergency response.

Priority 3 – Fight Violent Crime and High Harm (00:49:20 on the recording)

The PCC's report covered following themes within Priority 3:

- Addiction and Substance Misuse
- Violence Reduction
- Child Abuse
- Violence against Women and Girls
- Domestic Abuse and Stalking

The PCC corrected one of the figures in the report relating to serious violence from 11.4% to -6%.

The PCC responded to comments and requests for clarification from Panel Members, details included:

- Within the 'From Harm to Hope' strategy, outcomes were clearly defined as part of the guidance that had been provided, which were being integrated into each of the sub-groups and the outcomes for the area would be brought forward to a future meeting.
- The PCC was pleased that the number of domestic abuse and stalking prevention orders was increasing and demonstrated that the force now had the capability to do what was required.
- There was close working between both of the Community Safety Partnerships covering the Dorset Area and Dorset Police to prevent child abuse.

Actions:

PCC to provide panel members with the measures of success and a slide would be sent in advance of the next meeting.

Priority 4 – Fight Rural Crime (01:04:46 on the recording)

The PCC's report covered following themes within Priority 4:

- Rural Resources
- Fly-Tipping
- Country Watch
- Wildlife Crime

The PCC responded to comments and requests for clarification from Panel Members, details included:

- Special Constables were being recruit for specific tasks to ensure that peoples specialisms were being utilised.
- The PCC had met with representatives of the NFU and had discussed the changes in the rural crime team and the work that they had recently undertaken including the recovery and return of stolen farm machinery, fly-tipping and firearms.

Priority 5 – Put Victim and Communities First (01:14:05 on the recording)

The PCC's report covered following themes within Priority 5:

- Criminal Justice Service and Restorative Justice
- Victims and Community
- Business and Retail Crime
- Vulnerability
- Hate Crime

The PCC responded to comments and requests for clarification from Panel Members, details included:

- Sanctions relating to shoplifting offences were determined by magistrates as opposed to the police, and the Panel were assured that magistrates would differentiate between serial offenders and someone that was trying to feed themselves and/or their family.
- The PCC would liaise with both Council's respective Licensing Teams and Committees in relation to problem gambling.
- The PCC was happy to bring an item base on restorative justice to the Panel, subject to the agreement of it being added to the forward workplan.
- Where it was identified during an interview with the police that a shoplifter had serious financial problems, they could be signposted to financial support networks.
- The PCC was concerned at the volume of gambling related advertising that tv audiences were being exposed to and the impact that it could have.
- The PCC felt that Out of Court Disposals could be effective when correctly managed and highlighted that he was currently happy with the management, largely thanks to the input from the scrutiny panel, which was keeping things on track.

Actions:

A paper on the value of the Restorative Justice Service will be added to the Forward Plan.

Priority 6 - Make Every Penny Count (01:32:25 on the recording)

The PCC's report covered following themes within Priority 6:

- Funding
- Evidence Based Policing
- Efficiency
- Philosophy and Co-operation

The PCC responded to comments and requests for clarification from Panel Members, details included:

- The Chief Constable had undertaken a number of actions to bring the in-year expenditure back in line with the budget by the end of the financial year, through the use of a cost challenge process, which reviewed all areas of spend across the force to identify savings for both the in-year and next year's budget. The established vacancy review process was carefully managed. The recruitment of police officers was not affected by the challenge process.
- The capital budget was monitored quarterly by the Capital Strategy Group and by the Resources Control Board on a monthly basis to ensure any implications of slippage in projects were addressed. Currently there were no implications for the delivery of the police and crime plan as spend was either operational in nature or would deliver within the timeframe of the plan.
- The revised capital programme had been updated based on the latest information available and it was expected that the vehicle replacement programme, although delayed due to supply chain issues, would deliver on time. The largest area of slippage related to the estates programme, in particular the development of the new police HQ, which was delayed by the planning permission and procurement processes. Work was now underway and the expenditure would begin to flow into the monitoring reports. Other areas of were either complete or on track for completion in early 2023 and revenue costs had been built into the MTFP. The PCC confirmed the sustainability of the projects.
- The borrowing costs had been factored into the budgeting process for 2023/24.
- The PCC highlighted the difficulties in securing speed cameras in certain communities due to certain requirements that need to be met and funding arrangements.

NOTED

28. Road Safety Report (01:53:49 on recording)

The PCC introduced the report on Road Safety which set out the work undertaken in relation to road safety

The PCC responded to comments and requests for clarification from Panel Members, details included:

- The PCC regularly engaged with other road safety partners in relation to road traffic collisions where there were no injuries, i.e. whereby there has been damage to property only and that while there was a data gap, the force's safety teams and camera operators didn't exclusively deploy to areas on the basis of injuries and collisions.
- The force regularly received considerable evidence of poor driver behaviour and pro-actively acted upon community concerns. The PCC reiterated the importance of the police force ensuring that all work relating to road safety was joined up.

- Nuisance drivers or “boy/girl racers” should be reported to the police and action would be taken. The police had the ability, where appropriate, to issue such drivers with an S.59, which allowed for vehicles to be seized.
- It was possible to utilise a noise camera to manage the issue of vehicle noise, however, for these to be utilised a PSPO would need to be in place and the PCC offered financial support to provide such cameras.
- The revenue that was generated by the Driver Awareness Courses worked on a cost recovery basis and was in compliance with the NPCC guidelines. The charges for the scheme reflected the cost of being able to make available the course, the cost of operating the ‘no excuses’ road safety team, the ANPR interceptor team, fixed and mobile ANPR cameras, road safety support team and the road safety partnership. This funding was invested back into where it needed to be.

Actions:

PCC to provide details of funding for speed cameras.

Noted

29. **Review of Precept Activity (2:30:35 on recording)**

The PCC introduced the report which set out how the precept was being utilised for the 2022/23 financial year.

The PCC responded to comments and requests for clarification from Panel Members, details included:

- The Regional Organised Crime Unit (ROCU) was held to account by the PCC and had various funding streams to ensure its effective operation. Performance was monitored quarterly, and the PCC considered that the ROCU was well governed.
- When bids had been submitted for the funding of additional police officers Dorset Police had been awarded enough to recruit 15 new officers.

Noted

30. **Complaints Update (2:49:58 on recording)**

Marc Eyre, Service Manager for Assurance, gave a brief verbal update relating to complaints and advised that there was currently one complaint being investigated and that within the terms of reference for the complaints sub-committee there was a line that indicated that the complaints protocol would be reviewed annually, which had not yet taken place and that the committee would meet informally and report back to the February meeting of the Panel for ratification of any changes made.

Actions:

PCP Complaints Sub Committee to hold an informal virtual meeting to review the protocol.

31. **Dorset Police and Crime Panel Forward Workplan (2:52:27 on recording)**

The Forward Workplan was noted and it was confirmed that an informal Meeting would be held in March 2023 to challenge the current plan to ensure that it remained fit for purpose.

32. **Urgent items**

There was no urgent business.

33. **Exempt Business**

There was no exempt business.

Duration of meeting: 10.00 am - 12.49 pm

Chairman

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