



## **DORSET POLICE AND CRIME PANEL**

### **MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON THURSDAY 29 SEPTEMBER 2022**

**Present:** Cllrs Mike Short (Chairman), Iain McVie, Bobbie Dove (Vice-Chairman) (attended remotely), Les Fry, May Haines, Mark Howell, Sherry Jespersen, Toby Johnson, Andrew Kerby, Chris Rigby (attended remotely) and David Taylor (attended remotely)

**Apologies:** Cllrs Pete Barrow

**Also present:**

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

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

#### **CHAIRMAN'S INTRODUCTION**

The Chairman welcomed all to the meeting.

The Chairman thanked the Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC) for signing a joint letter to the Home Secretary requesting a medal similar to the Elizabeth Cross that would ensure any emergency service worker who died while carrying out their duties would be honoured and remembered appropriately with the dignity they duly deserved.

The Chairman also commended Dorset Police for their support to Operation London Bridge.

#### **14. Minutes**

The minutes of the meeting held on 30 June 2022 were confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

The PCC noted that there was no update available in respect of the national 101 contract but noted that this did not affect the local 101 situation.

#### **15. Declarations of Interest**

M Haines declared an interest as a member of a local community speed watch group.

16. **Public Participation (00:04:35 on recording)**

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

17. **Q1 Monitoring Report (00:04:48 on recording)**

The panel discussed a number of strategic issues, which included drug searches in schools, PCC action based on prevention of future deaths following the coroner's report on the death of Gaia Pope and sought confirmation that the PCC had sought assurance from the Chief Constable that Dorset Police were actioning the recommendations in the HMICFRS Statement. In addition, the PCC responded to questions relating to investment in the rural crime team and the categorisation of burglaries.

The PCC highlighted areas of progress within the six priority areas of the PCC's plan.

**Priority 1 – Cut Crime and Anti-social Behaviour (00:23:18 on recording)**

The panel considered support for young people and proposed interventions, including the release of a community grant scheme. The PCC provided an update on issues and noted that information on the grant scheme could be provided to panel members. In addition, the role of the Youth Voice and detail of surveys to be undertaken were noted.

Further information was requested on how the PCC was holding the Police to account in respect of increasing the detection rate for burglaries.

**Actions:**

Information on the Community Grant Scheme to be provided to panel members to advertise to communities.

A report to be brought to the panel in respect of increasing the detection rate for burglaries.

**Priority 2 – Make Policing more visible and connected (00:48:23 on recording)**

Discussion was held on budget issues and the link to rising energy costs and an assurance sought that mechanisms were in place to deliver stated commitments. There was confidence that mechanisms were in place, but this would be kept under review.

In addition, discussion was held regarding the use of body worn video, the target for victim satisfaction indicators and raising awareness of alternative ways to report digitally in addition to 101.

**Actions:**

Update on 101 contract requested as part of next quarterly report.  
Clarification of process for ensuring appropriate use of body worn video.

### **Priority 3 – Fight violent crime and high harm (01:19:13 on recording)**

A question was raised with regard to the Op Soteria scheme and how this should improve the reported 1.7% of the 815 rape investigations concluded by Dorset Police in 2021 that led to a charge or summons. The PCC provided information on the scheme, its aims, outcomes to date and local solutions that were being investigated. The panel considered how success was measured in this area and the PCC noted that this was not a preventative system but about gaining understanding and getting justice for victims.

### **Priority 4 – Fight rural crime (01:34:30 on recording)**

The PCC provided an overview of the outcomes from three initial multi-agency 'task and finish' groups which focused on; engaging with rural communities through Watch groups; fly-tipping prevention through both awareness raising and enforcement; rural crime prevention through better communication and engagement work with rural communities.

The importance of public engagement on these issues was recognised.

### **Priority 5 – Put victims and communities first (01:53:45 on recording)**

A question was raised on the reporting of hate crimes and a summary of work in progress was given, including links to neighbourhood police teams and overall engagement.

A request was made for information on the common platform system and the timetable for its introduction in Dorset.

The PCC provided information on the recent Force Pulse Survey.

#### **Actions:**

Information to be provided on the common platform system and the timetable for introduction.

At 12.08pm the Chairman adjourned the meeting. (02:08:32 on recording)

The meeting restarted at 12.20pm. (02:19:07 on recording)

### **Priority 6 – Make every penny count (02:19:11 on recording)**

The PCC responded to questions in the following areas: capital programme slippage, impact of the pay award, link to increase in inflation rates and interest in respect of the capital programme, mitigation measures around rising overhead costs and costs relating to the secondment of officers. These items were monitored monthly and scrutinised through normal processes. Some factors such as the pressures around the pay award were not known at present. The position with reserves was noted. Pressures in the current

year's budget and next year's budget pressures were being considered across the Medium-Term Financial Strategy.

An updated copy of the Quarter 1 Monitoring report for this priority relating to 'Usable Reserves', is attached to the minutes at Appendix 1.

### **CONTINUATION OF THE MEETING BEYOND 3 HOURS (02:55:30 ON RECORDING)**

In accordance with the Constitution, at this point in the meeting it was proposed by S Jespersen seconded by L Fry that the meeting continue beyond 3 hours. This was supported by the panel.

#### **18. Domestic Abuse (02:56:44 on recording)**

The Police and Crime Commissioner presented a report to provide an update on work on domestic abuse and the role of Domestic Abuse Advisors.

M Haines, Lead Member for this area asked questions relating to cost of living and training around the identification of early signs of potential domestic abuse, consistency in approach in this area and levels of demand at different times of the year.

The role of the Domestic Abuse Advisors was considered and how the success of these roles could be measured and links to the Maple review.

In response to a question around education for younger persons, the PCC provided information on the Police's Safer Schools Programme, which included a specific module in this area.

Opportunities for prevention and intervention work were being considered as part of the Maple review.

#### **Action:**

Information on the turnover of Domestic Abuse Advisors to be sought.

#### **19. Road Safety (03:39:40 on recording)**

The Chairman reported that this item would be considered at the next meeting of the panel.

### **COMPLAINTS UPDATE (03:40:06 ON RECORDING)**

I McVie noted that one complaint had been reported since the last meeting of the panel. This had been dealt with and resolved under the legislation and was now concluded.

The Service Manager for Assurance would be arranging the annual meeting of the Complaints Sub-committee. It was noted that the sub-committee required a new member, and it was proposed by I McVie seconded by L Fry that T Johnson be appointed to the Complaints Sub-committee.

## **Decision**

That T Johnson be appointed to the Complaints Sub-committee.

### **20. Forward Workplan (03:41:52 on recording)**

Key lines of inquiry would be put together for the Road Safety item to be considered at the next meeting and sent to the Office for the Police and Crime Commissioner.

### **21. Urgent items**

There were no urgent items.

### **22. Exempt Business**

There was no exempt business.

## **Appendix 1**

**Duration of meeting:** 10.00 am - 1.45 pm

**Chairman**

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