

NOTES OF THE SCRUTINY BOARD HELD ON 3 MAY 2017 IN THE CONFERENCE ROOM, OFFICE OF THE POLICE & CRIME COMMISSIONER, CLEMONDS HEY, WINSFORD.

Present: Office of the Police & Crime Commissioner
D Keane, Police & Crime Commissioner
S Dirir, Deputy Police and Crime Commissioner
B McCrorie, Head of Policy and Partnership
E Allison, Performance Analyst

Cheshire Constabulary
S Byrne, Chief Constable
J McCormick, Deputy Chief Constable
P Woods, Head of Planning & Performance

2017/1 POLICE & CRIME PLAN: PERFORMANCE

The Commissioner considered in detail a revised performance pack aligned to the 2016-21 Police & Crime Plan, with detail on performance for the period up to 31 March 2017. It was acknowledged by the Chief Constable that the measures within the performance pack were still under developed and would be further refined to ensure the Commissioner was able to scrutinise the Constabulary's performance against the Police & Crime Plan.

The Chief Constable recognised that the Commissioner wished to see an improvement in the visibility of Police Officers and PCSOs. Whilst the figure force wide had remained stable there had been small decreases in the time outside the station for Officers in Macclesfield and for PCSOs in Crewe and the Chief Constable confirmed that he would review these.

The Commissioner asked for further localised data regarding grade 1 (emergency) and grade 2 (priority) response calls, particularly to identify those localities which were under performing. The Constabulary would submit a thematic report on response times and 999/101 calls to the next Scrutiny Board including information on the public perception regarding ease of contact.

The Commissioner noted the increased search to arrest rate for stop and searches and commended the Constabulary for improvements. The Commissioner noted that it was part of a continuing programme of improvement and highlighting factors such as increased representation of individuals from a BME background based on the demographic for Cheshire's resident population. The Chief Constable invited the Deputy Commissioner to look at stop and search in conjunction with knives and weapons as part of knife crime awareness week.

The Commissioner raised concerns regarding the increases in recorded crime rates, in particular relating to violence and public order. The Chief Constable indicated that this was due largely to improvements made in the Constabulary's crime recording following early findings from HMIC crime data integrity inspections undertaken in Constabulary areas. The Commissioner asked for further context regarding the rise in public order offences and the fall in ASB, and asked the Chief Constable if a proportionate approach was being taken to investigation. The Commissioner raised concern that a more stringent approach

to crime recording could lead to young people being criminalised for very low level offences which would impact upon their future life chances. The Chief Constable indicated that significant work was being undertaken with Schools' Liaison Officers and the Youth Offending Service to mitigate these risks and the Deputy Chief Constable reported that there was work currently being undertaken regarding malicious communications, misuse of social media and 'sexting' as these were offences which had a significant hold in youth culture.

It was noted that the Constabulary were awaiting the publication of the HMIC Crime Data Integrity report and the Commissioner requested that a special Scrutiny Board be convened to consider the increase in recorded crime and any issues raised by the HMIC Inspection.

The Chief Constable reported an increase in public space violence. The Commissioner reported that there was a view held by the Community Safety Partnerships that this was in part due to more visible policing through operations such as 'Street Safe' and better recording as much of the increase was recorded in areas with significant night time economies.

The Chief Constable reported that the Constabulary were looking at how to get the maximum impact from the Road Safety Partnerships. The Commissioner welcomed the increased work that had been undertaken with PCSOs and the fact that enforcement activity was increasingly being viewed as "part of the job". The Chief Constable confirmed that there would be a roll out of training to Special Constables.

The Commissioner questioned whether the Constabulary was receiving appropriate amounts of support from partner agencies in regards to vulnerable young people and those suffering from mental health crisis. The Chief Constable welcomed the Commissioner's support for challenging partners to work with the Constabulary. The Commissioner outlined that he wished to explore options for a scheme similar to the Herbert Protocol to safeguard vulnerable young people. The Chief Constable agreed that a report would be presented to the next Scrutiny Board with further details of the Care Home Notification for vulnerable people.

The Commissioner asked if there was a correlation between the increase reporting of Child Sexual Abuse and the on-going non-recent sexual abuse investigations. The Chief Constable agreed to submit a detailed report on this issue.

The Commission asked for an update on the upcoming domestic abuse awareness campaign, and for reassurance that the Constabulary had the resources in place to deal with an increase in reporting. The Chief Constable confirmed that there had been delays in what was a victim lead campaign and that he would be working to ensure progress was made. An invite was extended to the Deputy Commissioner to become involved in campaign development.

The Deputy Chief Constable confirmed that there had been a large amount of training rolled out to police officers to ensure the signs of domestic violence were identified and addressed in the community. Concerns were expressed as to whether there was sufficient trained IDVAs in the communities.

The Commissioner raised the need to not only support victims but work with perpetrators to drive behavioural change. The Chief Constable suggested that the Ethics Advisory Panel may be a suitable forum to discuss the issues regarding work with perpetrators. The Commissioner asked for an update regarding Clare's Law and the Deputy Chief Constable confirmed that Safer Lives data would be shared and a full update presented to the next Scrutiny Board.

It was confirmed by the Chief Constable that the apparent spike in rape offences was due to additional crimes being recorded as a response to HMIC feedback. Work was on-going by the Constabulary with a focus on maintaining victim care. This will be discussed in more detail following the publication of the HMIC findings and it was agreed that this would be included on the agenda for the special Scrutiny Board.

The Commissioner requested that localised hate crime data be included in upcoming performance packs and sought assurance that work was being undertaken on a local level to address community tensions and support cohesion. The Deputy Chief Constable outlined a range of initiative developed to support the community and promote positive action in reporting hate crime.

The Commissioner welcomed the progress that the Constabulary had made in developing performance measures aligned with the new Police & Crime Plan and looked forward to a finalised suite being available in the future.

ACTION:-

- (a) A thematic paper on response times and 999/101 calls on an LPU basis to include information on the public perception regarding ease of contact, be presented to Scrutiny Board on 23 August 2017.
- (b) A special Scrutiny Board be convened to discuss the increase in recorded crime and the findings of the HMIC Crime Integrity Data report following publication.
- (c) A report on the action taken within the 'Streetsafe' scheme in relation to public space violence to be presented to Scrutiny Board on 23 August 2017
- (d) A report on possible notification schemes using principles similar to the Herbert Protocol to safeguard vulnerable young people in Children's Care homes and at risk of being missing from home to be submitted to Scrutiny Board on 23 August 2017.
- (e) Reassurance be provided to the Commissioner at the special scrutiny board that young people are not being unnecessarily criminalised.
- (f) A report be provided on the impact of non-recent sexual abuse investigations on the number of Child Sexual Abuse recorded crimes in Cheshire to Scrutiny Board on 23 August 2017.
- (g) A report on Clare's Law be submitted to Scrutiny Board on 23 August 2017.
- (h) The Constabulary continue to work with the OPCC to develop a full suite of performance measures with localised data where appropriate.

2017/2 PEOPLE STRATEGY: QUARTERLY REPORT

The Commissioner reviewed performance against the key measures included in the People Strategy. The report summarised the establishment figures for officers and staff; recruitment and progression; health and wellbeing initiatives and included a detailed breakdown by rank/post and diversity factors.

The Commissioner commended the Constabulary for the positive work which had been undertaken in relation to recruitment and requested that focus should continue on the issue of diversity at more senior ranks. The Deputy Chief Constable confirmed that the approach in relation to recruitment would now be extended to include Special Constables. It was reported that Cheshire was hosting the National Association of Black Police Officers conference which was seen as positive recognition of work.

ACTION:-

That a measure be developed to show and track the progress in developing an improved gender and BME representation in senior Constabulary ranks.

2017/3 COMPLAINTS, GRIEVANCES & EMPLOYMENT TRIBUNALS: QUARTERLY REPORT

The Commissioner scrutinised the number, nature and frequency of public complaints; performance against key complaint measures for the 2016/17; and details of employment tribunals and grievances.

The Chief Constable confirmed that body worn video had been issued to armed response officers and that Taser officers would be next in the roll out. The Deputy Chief Constable agreed to meet with the Commissioner and the Deputy Commissioner to discuss actions taken to address abuse of authority.

The Commissioner welcomed the fall in incivility complaints.

ACTION:-

The Deputy Chief Constable arrange to brief the Commissioner and the Deputy Commissioner on the action being taken to address abuse of authority.

2017/4 CONSTABULARY ARRANGEMENTS FOR ENGAGEMENT WITH LOCAL PEOPLE

The Commissioner noted the report and asked that best practice be identified and rolled out across the LPUs.

2017/5 NOTES FROM 26 OCTOBER 2016 MEETING

The notes of the meeting held on 26 October 2016 were noted.

PRIVATE ITEMS

The following matters were considered in private on the grounds that they involved the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in the Freedom of Information Act 2000 and in accordance with the sections of the Act indicated below:-

<i>Item</i>	<i>Section</i>
<i>Complaints, Grievances & Employment Tribunals: Quarterly Report</i>	<i>(40) Personal Information</i>
<i>Action Log</i>	<i>(31) Law Enforcement</i>
<i>Conduct Matters and IPCC Referrals</i>	<i>(40) Personal Information</i>

2017/6 COMPLAINTS, GRIEVANCES & EMPLOYMENT TRIBUNALS: QUARTERLY REPORT

The Commissioner noted the Peer Review of the Constabulary's Professional Standards Department completed by North Wales Police.

2017/7 ACTION LOG

The action log was reviewed and updated.

2017/8 CONDUCT MATTERS AND IPCC REFERRALS

The Commissioner considered a report on the number of conduct matters relating to police officers and police staff, and incidents which had been statutorily or voluntarily referred to the Independent Police Complaints Commission. The Commissioner identified that there were no particular trends emerging.

Duration of meeting: The meeting commenced at 10.00am and finished at 12.15pm.