

NORTHUMBRIA PCC MINUTES

Title

Business Meeting

Date

25 November 2020

Location

Middle Engine Lane/Skype

Duration

9.30am-10.10am

Present:

Kim McGuinness – Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC)

Ruth Durham – Chief of Staff of the OPCC

Winton Keenen – Chief Constable (CC)

Debbie Ford – Deputy Chief Constable (DCC)

Adrian Pearson – Director of Planning and Delivery

Mike Tait – Chief Finance Officer

Tanya Reade – Corporate Governance Manager - NP

Vicki Wilson – OPCC - Minute Taker

OPEN SESSION

1. Minutes of the Open Session of the Business Meeting held on 29 October 2020

The minutes were **agreed** as a true record with a minor amendment to Item 4. This would be rectified before the minutes were published.

2. Matters Arising

There were no matters arising.

It was **agreed** that an Action Log would replace Matters Arising in future meetings.

3. Violence Reduction Unit

The PCC gave a verbal update of the VRU.

The planning for year three was on track, and the staffing structure was currently being reviewed. One addition to the Year three plan would be work around re-offending and employment. Work had taken place with Greggs prior to lockdown and this would be further explored. It was hoped that there may be funding available from the DWP.

Most of the programmes in place had continued to deliver throughout the second lockdown which was very positive.

A board meeting had recently taken place and it was hoped these would have regular attendees going forward as opposed to representative replacements.

It was hoped secure funding information would be available in the near future to assist with the planning.



The DCC advised that work was ongoing around clarifying Early Intervention regarding organisational, practical, tactical, operational and delivery. A strategy was to be implemented in order to ensure a connected view between the Force and the VRU.

4. Op Talla (COVID-19) Response and Recovery

The DCC gave a verbal update:

There had been increased infection rates amongst staff but this had not affected any operations. Covid secure messaging had been reinforced.

Response to the public remains good. There was still a low level of complaints being received.

The recovery plan would need to be reviewed due to an obvious blur between the response and the recovery plans. Given the current climate, response remained a higher priority than recovery. The Force were now running SCG for Op Talla response and RCG for Covid recovery, and there was now the addition of the EU Exit.

Sufficient funding was in place until early next year, however the tier system may have an effect, along with the impact of Christmas. There was a structure in place however and the internal governance at the Force remained in a strong position.

Positive feedback had been received from HMIC regarding the desktop review. This news had been passed to all the staff as a lot of work had been carried out and the staff deserved to be thanked for this.

The Chief of Staff gave a verbal update:

Covid 19 had reduced capacity across both the Crown and Magistrates Courts with significant delays in the volume of live cases increasing by 55% which equated to 1701 more live cases.

The LCJB Recovery Group would be taking place later in the day so there was not a lot of narrative to present at this time, however the November report shows the live cases have decreased to 1499 cases so evident progress was being made.

The backlog remained high however the Magistrates Courts were dealing well with these, however there was slower progress within the Crown Courts. This was due to only four trials running at present. It was hoped six would be running by the end of the year with the relevant protective screens and remote areas in place. This was progress however there would normally be 8-10 courts running at one time.

Following a query, it was explained that there had been some Covid cases within the courts which had affected operations. The DCC advised she chaired the National PSV meeting and there had been good practice of redirecting volunteers into courts to assist. The DCC would pass on any useful information which may help.



The Chief Finance Officer explained a claim was now able to be submitted for non-medical grade PPE along with reimbursement for the logistical element. This would be submitted by Monday 30 November.

5. National Issues Impacting on Policing

The DCC gave a verbal update:

The Silver meetings were now up and running.

Public Order was being mapped out. The plans for December should be made available to the DCC next week from the Force Co-ordination Centre.

Local and National Intelligence was being received but there was no direct information regarding protests as of yet. There was the potential of anti-vaccination protests.

Clarity was given over the tier system across the Christmas period alongside the allowance of three household bubbles. It was predicted the North East would be placed into tier 3, however further clarity would be needed on the exact rules. The Force would continue to encourage the public to remain sensible with the rules in place.

There was a significant piece of work happening through the ICC regarding the EU Exit which would assist with preparing Forces for the changes in legislation. The critical infrastructure was a cause for concern and the lack of preparation some businesses may have in place regarding the import and export of goods. Due to this, the business continuity through the SCG process was being reviewed.

The vaccination programme would require police support and the Force would work with the military appropriately.

6. Police and Crime Plan Consultation Update

This item would be discussed separately following this meeting.

7. Forward Plan – Open Session

The Special Police Services Costs would be discussed the OPCC Business Meeting on 16 December.

The update from JIAC was yet to be confirmed as to when this would be discussed.

The remaining Forward Plan was noted and **agreed**.

8. Any Other Business

There was no other business to discuss.

9. Date and Time of Next Meeting

The next meeting would take place on Thursday 28 January 2021 at 2pm – Skype/Middle Engine Lane.