

NORTHUMBRIA PCC MINUTES

Title

Business Meeting

Date

3 October 2022

Location

Teams/MEL

Duration

2.55pm-3.25pm

Present:

Kim McGuinness – Police and Crime Commissioner
Winton Keenen – Chief Constable (CC)
Debbie Ford – Deputy Chief Constable (DCC)
Ruth Durham – Chief of Staff of the OPCC
Adrian Pearson – Director of Planning and Delivery (OPCC)
Tanya Reade – Corporate Governance Manager (NP)
Kevin Laing – Chief Finance Officer (CFO)
Sav Patsalos – T/ACC – Crime and Safeguarding (NP)
Laura Repton – Public Affairs and Governance Officer (OPCC)
Vicki Wilson – Minute Taker (OPCC)

Apologies: There were no apologies.

OPEN SESSION

1. Minutes of the open session of Business Meeting held on 5 September 2022

The minutes were agreed as a true record.

2. Matters Arising

The PCC noted that the VRU Update was missing from the agenda and offered a verbal update. It had now been agreed across all six Local Authorities that the Serious Violence Duty would be handled by the OPCC and VRU. This would strengthen the VRU's approach, and the VRU Board membership had also been revised alongside this. Following a query from the DCC, the PCC advised there was not yet a set strategy timeline but this would be a priority in order to meet statutory requirements.

3. National Issues Impacting on Policing

The PCC offered praise to the officers for their displayed professionalism in London for the Queen's funeral. The CC advised that the replacement of resources to include the King's cypher would be costly and therefore would be phased accordingly.



The CC expressed concern that the cost of living issues at present along with strike actions could see further protest action, and that these protests may result in other members of the public joining in who could possibly express their discontent in more challenging ways. An increase in protests would spread resources and would therefore have an impact on other criminal activity.

4. HMICFRS – PEEL 2021/22 – An Inspection of Northumbria Police

The DCC drew particular attention to the Summary of Findings contained within the circulated report.

His Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary and Fire & Rescue Services (HMICFRS) overall assessment congratulated the Force on its performance in keeping people safe and reducing crime.

HMICFRS recognised that the force prioritised prevention and deterrence, worked well with partners; had strengthened its links with local communities; was working well to identify and safeguard the vulnerable; and that this was supported by a robust internal governance and performance framework.

Overall the report was very good and Ian Levitt would be visiting the Force on 15 December to review the progress.

The PCC congratulated the Force on the positive report.

5. HMICFRS – The police response to burglary, robbery and other acquisitive crime – Finding Time for Crime

T/ACC (Crime and Safeguarding) highlighted the recommendations as outlined in the report.

The Force would review crime types, and where there was no Force Lead one would be appointed to this area.

There was still work to be carried out with resolved rates however this was in a good position.

The PCC felt that Right Care, Right Person was an important initiative. The DCC fully agreed however it was noted that the strategy was complex due to the various partner agencies involved and the incurred costs alongside this.

6. Victim and Witness Service

T/ACC (Crime and Safeguarding) highlighted the main points from the circulated report.

The merging of Victims First Northumbria (VFN) into the Force was now complete. The phased rollout had been outlined.



There was an issue with the website being used as although the VFN branding had been removed, some of their old narrative remained. Discussions were ongoing as to how to best tackle this issue including potential contractual obligations and possible incurred costs.

The PCC felt it was important to keep the website as a separate entity due to particular victims who may not want to go to the police directly, and a separate website may encourage more users to engage with the service.

T/ACC (Crime and Safeguarding) would investigate this further with the relevant parties.

7. Forward Plan

The Forward Plan had been noted.

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 Tuesday 22 November – 2pm – Middle Engine Lane/Teams.