

NORTHUMBRIA PCC MINUTES

Title

Business Meeting

Date

13 March 2025

Location

Teams/MEL

Duration

10.30am-11.25am

Present:

Susan Dungworth – Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC)
Clare Penny Evans – Deputy Police and Crime Commissioner
Vanessa Jardine – Chief Constable (CC)
Ruth Durham – Chief of Staff of the OPCC
Gail Thompson – Deputy Head of Finance
Joscelin Lawson – ACO for Corporate Services
Steven Hume (Director of Violence Reduction Unit)
Sarah Robson – Staff Officer (NP)
Tanya Reade – Corporate Governance Manager (NP)
Vicki Wilson – Minute Taker (OPCC)

Apologies:

Jayne Meir – Deputy Chief Constable (DCC)

OPEN SESSION

1. Minutes of the open session of Business Meeting held on 21 January 2025

The minutes were agreed as a true record.

2. Matters Arising

The PCC queried the additional powers for Nexus Metro staff. The CC advised that although these had been authorised, there was an implementation process as relevant staff would need to be vetted and trained.

There were no actions to be addressed on the Action Log.

3. National Issues Impacting on Policing

Chief Constable's Strategic Update

The CC noted they would be in attendance at a Safer Streets Roundtable later in the day. Discussions would be around the CJS, the Neighbourhood Guarantee, and Technology.



The meeting would be held under the Chatham House Rule. The CC would report back any relevant points.

There had been changes to the reporting of business robberies. The DCC was the lead for commercial robberies and had been working hard on this aspect.

There had been a recommendation for a new terrorism offence over planned attacks. No further information had been received as of yet.

Police and Crime Commissioner's Strategic Update

The PCC would be attending the NPCC/APCC one day conference in Coventry on 18 March.

Discussions with relevant partners was taking place in how best to distribute the Hotspot Action Funding.

4. Violence Reduction Update (VRU)

The Director of the VRU highlighted the main points from the report.

In February 2025, the Home Office confirmed that funding to support VRU activity would roll over for the financial year 2025/26. A funding allocation of £2.14m was available which was the same level as the previous year. There had not been much change to the grant guidance. A summary of the guidance had been detailed in the report.

The Home Office had also confirmed that Serious Violence Duty Funding would also continue for 2025/26. £115,562.56 would be available for labour costs and £38,337.50 for non-labour costs.

The Government had made a commitment to halving knife crime and violence against women and girls over the next 10 years as part of its Safer Streets manifesto pledge. As part of this, the revised guidance for VRU's clearly indicated a need to work with partners to prepare for a 'pivot' of activity locally. Further information and guidance were due on what this will look like, however, early discussions suggested a broadening of scope to incorporate a wider preventative approach to tackling vulnerability, particularly in relation to serious violence, VAWG, ASB and Child Criminal Exploitation. Part of this work would see the establishment of Prevention Partnerships across all Local Authority areas.

There was a proposal to pilot new arrangements for Prevention Partnerships in the existing 20 VRU areas during 2025/26. Further detail on what this would look like was still being finalised by the Home Office, with guidance due in April. Following the release of guidance, consultation with local areas would take place to determine how best to implement the revised arrangements.

It was likely that the new Partnerships would focus on those aged 10-17 year old. Following a query from the CC, it was felt that the new implementation would naturally



link with presentence reports written by Probation Officers. It was advised that in the first instance, police data would be exclusively used, however it was felt this would provide a challenge around generating relationships with the young people and their families as it was the other partner agencies who would likely hold the remaining key information to develop these relations.

Processes currently in place across local authority areas would be reviewed to see how these could be implemented into the new Partnerships.

Following a query from the CC, it was noted that relevant meetings with the force had been set up to discuss the next steps in how the Partnerships might develop. This would also be taken to the Strategic Violence Reduction Board for discussion. Plans needed to be in place by the end of July 2025.

Extra funding for those currently with A&E Navigators would be made available for an expansion of 12 months.

The PCC queried the development of the County Lines film that had been made. It was advised that the film that had been made in conjunction with Northern Stage would be used online as a resource tool and had recently been sold to West Midlands who wanted to use it as a training package. Credit received from the use of this would be used to develop more E-Learning resources which would enhance the Violence Prevention Ambassadors training.

5. Forward Plan – Open Session

The Forward Plan had been noted.

There were a number of items listed for March which had already been approved in a special Joint Business meeting held in February.

6. Any Other Business

There was no other business.

7. Date and Time of next meeting

The next meeting would take place on Thursday 15 May 2025 – 2pm-4pm – Victory House/Teams.