

CUMBRIA POLICE AND CRIME PANEL

Meeting date: 19 July 2022

**From: Policy & Scrutiny Project Officer, Cumbria
County Council**

PANEL UPDATE REPORT

1.1 PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

1.2 This report updates the Police and Crime Panel on key issues and developments that have occurred since the last meeting on 25 January 2022.

2.0 ISSUES FOR THE PANEL

2.1 Note the range of information and activity set out in the report.

2.2 Identify any areas on which Panel Members require further information or other action.

2.3 Review and agree the work programme as attached at Appendix 1.

3.0 BACKGROUND

Progress on actions agreed at the 25th January 2022 Panel meeting

Further to the Panel meeting held on 25 January 2022 the OPCC received a letter as confirmation of the Panel's unanimous decision to agree (without qualification) the Council Tax precept increase of 3.67% (an increase of £9.99 per annum for a Band D property).

At the last meeting Members were asked to identify issues to be included in the Work Programme for meetings during 2022/23. A proposed work programme following this is included in this report and at Appendix 1.

The Panel meeting scheduled to take place on 5 April 2022 was postponed. A new date is currently being arranged for later in the year.

An informal development session for panel members took place in June by the OPCC on the fire governance arrangements, presentation slides from the session have been shared with members.

Update on national policy and legislation

Police, Crime, Sentencing and Courts Act

The Police, Crime, Sentencing and Courts Bill received royal assent at the end of the last parliamentary session at the end of April 2022. The Panel have received briefing on the Act as it has progressed through parliament. The [commencement schedule](#) has been published, which outlines when each part of the Act is due to come into force. The serious violence duty requires secondary legislation to be passed and the commencement date for this will be updated.

Draft Victims Bill

The Draft Victims Bill was announced in the Queen's Speech in April 2022. The Bill proposes a number of measures to improve the support victims receive, including introducing a duty on local partners, such as PCCs, the NHS and local authorities, to collaborate when commissioning victims' services. The Justice Committee has started to undertake pre-legislative scrutiny of the Bill.

Home Office Review into the role of Police and Crime Commissioners: Part Two

The Home Secretary has announced the outcomes of Part Two into the role of Police and Crime Commissioners review, as well as the outcome on the government's consultation on providing PCC's with a wider power of competence. Part Two of the review focused on longer-term reform, ensuring that PCCs have the information, levers and tools to help reduce crime, drugs misuse and anti-social behaviour.

The new measures announced sees the expansion of the PCC role with a functional power of competence similar to what most combined mayoral authorities and fire and rescue authorities have. Measures announced that have potential direct impact on the panel:

- Ensure effective local scrutiny through police and crime panels, focusing on recruitment and retention of independent members, and whether a regional model of panel support could improve the quality and consistency of support provided to panels

- Scope out whether a new code of conduct for complaints about the PCC from the public, that aligns with the regime for mayors and councillors, would help ensure that complaints are handled fairly and consistently

Further measures introduced:

- Create a statutory duty for collaborative working between PCCs and the Probation Service – to enable PCCs to work effectively across their local criminal justice system
- Partnership working – strengthen guidance that underpins the PCCs role in bringing partners together to address crime and drug misuse; give PCCs a central role on Local Criminal Justice Boards; support their work on Violence Reduction Units and conduct a review of Community Safety Partnerships in England and Wales
- Improve public confidence in policing through ensuring PCCs have access to evidence on this through working with the Association of Police and Crime Commissioners and the College of Policing
- New guidance on fostering a data-confident culture to encourage PCCs to use this information more confidently to better understand how effectively and efficiently their police force is operating within the wider criminal justice landscape

Panel members will be kept updated as recommendations are implemented. Further detail on the full package of measures is available here:

[Written statements - Written questions, answers and statements - UK Parliament](#)

Guidance for local delivery partners: from harm to hope – a 10 year drugs plan to cut crime and save lives

The Home Office has [published the local guidance](#) outlining the structures and processes through which local partners in England should work together to reduce drug-related harm. This includes forming clearly defined partnership structures and involving individuals and organisations affected by drugs in developing joint solutions.

State of Policing: The Annual Assessment of Policing in England and Wales 2021

The HM Chief Inspector of Constabulary has published his ten-year view of policing in England and Wales, based on inspections carried out between April and November 2021, before leaving office at the end of March 2022 after a decade in post.

Key points to highlight:

- Prevention of crime is best and the key purpose of the police, and the least expensive way of dealing with crime in terms of human suffering, money and effort;
- Public trust and confidence in the police have fallen and it is essential that it is rebuilt;
- Demand on the police has changed in the last decade through online crime now being the most prevalent type of crime, as well as the epidemic of violence against women and girls;
- Technology provides opportunities both for the police and criminals, however the police have struggled to keep pace;
- The importance of the powers that police & crime commissioners have in investing in early intervention and prevention services, particularly local support programmes for children and young and people
- the state of the system of local police accountability and the sometimes brittle and fragile relationships between chief constables and police and crime commissioners, and the need for trust and confidence in a special constitutional relationship which the public needs to work

The report also stated that the Home Office should use its powers and influence to provide much greater guidance to PCCs and police chiefs about the constitutional positions of each, and ideally should do so before investing police and crime commissioners with more powers.

The Chair of the Association for Police and Crime Commissioners (APCC) welcomed the report alongside the recommendations from the Home Office PCC Review Part Two.

Statement by the APCC Chair: [State of Policing: The Annual Assessment of Policing in England and Wales 2021 \(apccs.police.uk\)](https://apccs.police.uk)

Full report available here: [State of Policing: The Annual Assessment of Policing in England and Wales 2021 - HMICFRS \(justiceinspectorates.gov.uk\)](https://justiceinspectorates.gov.uk)

Effective Police & Crime Panels – Training Resources

As part of the recommendation from Part One of the Home Office Review into the role of PCCs, the Home Office collaborated with the LGA to develop resources as part of a training package. This included centrally issued panel guidance, good practice guides, and video guides on key panel functions. Training resources have since been shared with Members.

New performance tables show 999 calls data

As part of the commitment to improve transparency and performance on the Beating Crime Plan, new performance data has been published for the first time which shows the time it takes each police force area to answer 999 calls. The data shows 71% of calls are answered within the target of under 10 seconds, with an average of 16.1 seconds answer time. The latest data for April 2022 shows Cumbria constabulary answered 82.9% of calls in under 10 seconds. The data is available at www.police.uk.

Police and Crime Panel Work Programme

The Panel is responsible for setting its own work programme ensuring it is fulfilling the responsibilities that must be undertaken and the priorities set by the Commissioner in the context of the Police and Crime Plan.

A proposed work programme at Appendix One has been informed following discussion with the Chair and members suggestions and feedback. The work programme focuses on delivery of the Police and Crime Plan objective-by-objective over the coming months. It will also need to be flexible to consider any changes that could impact the work of the panel in the future e.g., should the PCC take on the governance responsibility for Cumbria Fire and Rescue Service.

Members are invited to provide any comments or further suggestions to the work programme.

4.0 CONCLUSION

The Police and Crime Panel are invited to consider issues that have been highlighted in this report, and whether they would like any further information or information on any other topic they consider important.

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BACKGROUND PAPERS

None

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Appendix One – Cumbria Police & Crime Panel Proposed Work Programme 2022/23

Meeting Dates	Agenda Items
14 th October 2022	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Revenue Budget Monitoring – Quarter 1 • Performance Update – Police & Crime Plan Objectives 2 & 6 – A Visible and Effective Police Presence and Ensuring the Police are at the Forefront of the Response • Update on Complaints • Panel Update Report
26 th January 2023	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Revenue Budget Monitoring – Quarter 2 • PCC Precept Proposals • Draft Precept Proposals (Cumbria County Council) 2023/24 • Performance Update – Police & Crime Plan Objective 1 – A Focus on Crime and the Causes of Crime and Objective 5 – Be the Voice of the Public on Policing Matters • Update on complaints • Panel update report
18 th April 2023	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Election of Chair & Vice-Chair • Revenue budget monitoring – Quarter 3 • Performance Update – Police & Crime Plan – Objective 4 – Preventing Offending and Reducing Offending and Objective 7 – Integrating Blue Light Services • Update on Complaints • Panel Update Report