

NORTHUMBRIA PCC MINUTES

Title

JOINT BUSINESS MEETING

Date

15th November 2018

Location

Middle Engine Lane

Duration

15:00– 16:35

Present:

Vera Baird – Police and Crime Commissioner (Chair)
Winton Keenen – Chief Constable
Ruth Durham – Chief of Staff, Office of Police and Crime Commissioner
Mike Tait – Director of Finance and IT and Joint Chief Finance Officer
Ged Noble – Temporary Assistant Chief Constable (Local Policing)
Rachel Bacon – Assistant Chief Constable (Citizen Focus)
Neil Hutchison – Area Commander, Central
Scott Duffy – Director of Governance and Communications
Dean Lowery – Officer of the PCC

Apologies:

Darren Best – Deputy Chief Constable
Helen McMillan – Assistant Chief Constable (Protective Services)
Joscelin Lawson – Director of People and Development

OPEN SESSION

1. MINUTES OF THE OPEN SESSION OF JOINT BUSINESS MEETING 22nd October 2018

Agreed as a true and accurate record.

2. LATE NIGHT LEVY SPEND 2017/18 AND SPEND PROPOSAL FOR 2018/19

Chief Supt Hutchison presented a paper to provide an update regarding use of the Late Night Levy spend for the year 2017/18 and provide the spend proposals for 2018/19.

In relation to the spend for 2017/18 Chief Supt Hutchison confirmed that the spend plan was approved at Joint Business Meeting on 16th November 2017 and was based on a likely collection of £180,000. The final amount will be confirmed in December 2018 once all contributions have been collected. The City Council have advised that the final figure is still expected to be around £180,000.

Chief Supt Hutchison felt that if additional funds are received then his proposal would be to utilise this funding for policing which the Commissioner in agreement.



VERA BAIRD PCC
POLICE & CRIME COMMISSIONER



NORTHUMBRIA
POLICE
Proud to Protect

In relation to the spend proposals for 2018/19, the City Council have advised that they are forecasting income from the levy unchanged from 2017/18, and therefore the 70% contribution to the PCC is estimated to be £180,000. It was agreed that the following items would be funded:

- SIA Taxi Marshals - £38,000
- Street Pastors - £20,000
- CCTV to NCC - £8,000
- Safe Haven staffing - £25,600
- Alcohol Reception - £20,000
- NTE Resourcing - £68,400

The Director of Business queried the costs in relation to CCTV and whether this related to the purchase of additional cameras. Chief Supt Hutchison confirmed that this cost related to the technical connection to continue the existing cameras to be utilised by the force and not for the purchase of additional cameras.

The Commissioner highlighted an error in the appendix to the report presented which was to be amended.

AGREED:

- *That the update on spend for 2017/18 was noted.*
- *That the spend proposals for 2018/19 were agreed.*

3. Growing Up Neglected: A Multi-Agency Response to Older Children Joint Targeted Area Inspection – Outline of Northumbria’s Positions and Next Steps as a Result of the Findings

ACC Bacon presented a report to provide awareness of Growing Up Neglected: A Multi-Agency Response to Older Children Joint Targeted Area Inspection (JTAI) report and outline of the current Northumbria Police position and provide reassurance of ongoing and planned activity against identified issues.

The Commissioner highlighted that in the report it states at point 2.17 that “Professionals across all agencies must challenge the notion that of older children not engaging and being described as choosing a lifestyle or resilient and this being a reason to end any multi agency intervention”. The Commissioner queried that during a previous vulnerability inspection that it contained some worry regarding how the force deal with young people in custody. ACC Bacon confirmed that this was addressed with a referral mechanism in place for all young people that come into custody. ACC Bacon assured the Commissioner that she was satisfied that staff have the correct mind-set with juvenile offenders however this will be reinforced with custody staff.

The Commissioner was provided with an overview of the Multi Agency Safeguarding Hubs (MASH) across the force area.



VERA BAIRD DC
POLICE & CRIME COMMISSIONER



**NORTHUMBRIA
POLICE**
Proud to Protect

The Commissioner highlighted point 2.25 of the report which discusses Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACE) and highlighted that recent funding has been received for a youth intervention project which should link in with this work. ACC Bacon confirmed that current work is not linked to the ACE methodology however it is the intention to do this and will undertake work and discussions with partners to move the force towards the ACE methodology. ACC Bacon did however highlight that in relation to ACE methodology, at the current time there is no clear evidence on which programmes are effective. The Commissioner was keen to take this approach forward and that the force and PCC take this forward working together.

ACTION: That ACC Bacon take forward work in relation to the adoption of ACE methodology and programmes.

AGREED:

- *That the report was noted*
- *That ACC Bacon take forward work in relation to the adoption of ACE methodology and programmes in partnership with the Office of the PCC.*

4. RAISING INVESTIGATIVE STANDARDS

T/ACC Noble provided an update on the key accomplishments and continued progress on Raising Investigative Standards.

The report highlighted the ongoing drive to improve Investigative Standards with the issues that have been identified as contributory factors impacting on delivery of the AFI presented including an overview of work being undertaken in each one of the fifteen areas to improve overall performance.

The Commissioner highlighted point 2.7.3 of the report which related to the Domestic Abuse No Further Action (NFA) Review which are scheduled on a bimonthly basis between the force and Criminal Prosecution Service (CPS), she queried whether this related to cases where no further action was taken by them or the force. ACC Bacon confirmed that these meetings related to decisions made by the CPS. The Commissioner felt that it would be useful for a representative of the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner to be involved in future meetings which ACC Bacon agreed would be beneficial and would contact the CPS to inform them of the additional attendee.

ACTION: ACC Bacon to confirm the attendance of OPCC staff at future review meetings

The Commissioner highlighted point 2.21.3 of the report in relation to the review of Stalking and Harassment and the recording of incidents of stalking and harassment and asked for further clarity on whether at the initial point of contact whether incidents are recorded as stalking or harassment. T/ACC Noble confirmed that initial incidents will be recorded as stalking and harassment with an emphasis on stalking. Each day a review of these cases is undertaken through the daily management meetings within area commands. ACC



VERA BAIRD DC
POLICE & CRIME COMMISSIONER



**NORTHUMBRIA
POLICE**
Proud to Protect

Bacon confirmed that the force are recording more stalking than harassment and figures relating to this are to be presented in due course.

The Commissioner welcomed the document presented however queried how a measurement of improvement will be made. ACC Noble confirmed that improvements have been made however it was felt that these improvements need to occur quicker. He highlighted the drive by the leadership team through monthly audits and management performance framework to ensure continued improvements. The Commissioner requested that the performance figures be presented for further scrutiny at a Scrutiny meeting in May 2019.

ACTION: That performance information regarding Raising Investigative Standards be presented to Scrutiny in May 2019.

AGREED:

- That the report was noted
- That a performance report relating to improvements in investigative standards be presented to the Scrutiny Meeting in May 2019

5. DOMESTIC ABUSE IMPROVEMENT PLAN

ACC Bacon presented a report and revised Domestic Abuse Improvement Plan 2018/19 which has been produced in response to the current performance challenges of Northumbria Police in relation charge and conviction rates being lower than the national threshold.

In order to address the issues and improve performance a revised Domestic Abuse Improvement Plan has been created for 2018/19 (Appendix A). The improvement plan considers the AFI's but expands upon them; taking a more holistic approach to better meet the challenges locally to Northumbria Police.

The Commissioner welcomed the revised action plan and provided a number of comments as listed below:

Action 4 (Ensure Positive and Preventative action is taken in cases of domestic abuse including an increase in arrest rates)

The Commissioner highlighted the reference to 116 outcomes and prior reference made to reclassifying these as 115 outcomes which does not show increase in performance. ACC Bacon confirmed that this text have been worded too positively and will be revisited.

The Commissioner also highlighted the references to Criminal Justice Liaison Workers and the work they are undertaking throughout the document. She highlighted that these positions are funded through the Police Transformation Fund and this funding is due to end shortly. ACC Bacon confirmed that she has requested the evaluation of the project to allow a decision to be made on the benefit of the workers.



VERA BAIRD DC
POLICE & CRIMINAL COMMISSIONER



**NORTHUMBRIA
POLICE**
Proud to Protect

The Commissioner queried whether the combination of not arresting and utilising voluntary attendance is having a detrimental effect on complainants. ACC Bacon agreed with this point and work is being undertaken within the raising investigative standards improvements to address this.

The Commissioner also highlighted the effective use of DVPN and whether the referral of victims to support organisations such as Women's Aid is immediate. ACC Bacon provided an overview of the work undertaken by officers initially with victims such as safety planning and referrals mechanisms in place and the support that is offered and confirmed that encouragement is given to victims to refer at the earliest opportunity. The Commissioner felt that consideration should be given to the safety planning function currently carried out by Northumbria Police may be better dealt with directly by a women's support organisation with ACC Bacon confirming that she would reflect on the point made.

Action 12 (That the Domestic Violence Disclosure Scheme process is used effectively to ensure people are able to protect themselves and those around them from harm)

The Commissioner asked for clarification regarding the disclosure rate contained within the action plan in relation to "Right to Know". ACC Bacon discussed past approaches to recording disclosure and the changes that have been made to the process such as disclosure decisions now being dealt with by the MASH and a less risk averse decision making process. In relation to "Right to Ask" the same process as "Right to Know" is now in place.

In relation to the scoring used to assess the disclosure rate by the force, the Commissioner felt that a consistent mechanism needs to be found to ensure that the a comparison can be made with other forces with ACC Bacon to consider this.

AGREED: That the report was noted

6. REVIEW OF THE 2018 CIPFA AUDIT COMMITTEE GUIDANCE AND JOINT INDEPENDENT AUDIT COMMITTEE TERMS OF REFERENCE

The Joint chief Finance Officer presented a report and key decision relating to the findings of a review carried out between the revised 2018 CIPFA Audit Committee Practical Guidance for Local Authorities and Police, and the Terms of Reference (TOR) of the Joint Independent Audit Committee (JIAC).

If agreed, the amended TOR will be presented to the next meeting of JIAC on 19 November 2018.

The Commissioner agreed the key decision as presented.

AGREED: That the JIAC Terms of Reference were approved.



VERA BAIRD DC
POLICE & CRIME COMMISSIONER



**NORTHUMBRIA
POLICE**
Proud to Protect

7. ANNUAL REVIEW OF GOVERNANCE FRAMEWORK

The Joint Chief Finance Officer presented for approval the Governance Framework which has recently been reviewed.

The Commissioner agreed the key decision as presented.

AGREED: That the revised Governance Framework was approved.

8. FORWARD PLAN

The forward plan was agreed as presented.

9. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

There was no further business to discuss.

10. Date and Time for Next Meeting

29th November 2018, 10am, Victory House, Balliol Business Park



VERA BAIRD DC
POLICE & CRIME COMMISSIONER



**NORTHUMBRIA
POLICE**
Proud to Protect