

MINUTES of a meeting of the **DERBYSHIRE POLICE AND CRIME PANEL** held on 12 September 2019 at Derbyshire Police and Fire and Rescue Service, Butterley Hall, Ripley.

PRESENT

Councillor C Hart (in the Chair)

Councillors F Atkinson (Amber Valley Borough Council) A Barrow (High Peak Borough Council), R Bright (Derbyshire Dales District Council), J Frudd (Erewash Borough Council), J Mannion-Brunt (Chesterfield Borough Council), R Mee (Erewash Borough Council), C Moesby (Bolsover District Council), (substitute member) P Niblock (Chesterfield Borough Council), P Pegg (Derby City Council), G Potter (Derby City Council), M Potts (NE Derbyshire District Council), J Smale (Derby City Council) A Wheelton (South Derbyshire District Council) M White (Erewash Borough Council), and B Woods (Derbyshire County Council) and S Handsley (Independent Member),

Derbyshire County Council officers also in attendance: J Berry (Director of Legal and Democratic Services, DCC) Ivan Walters, (Democratic Services, DCC) and L Wild (Legal Services, DCC).

Also in attendance: H Dhindsa, Police and Crime Commissioner, K Gillott, Deputy Police and Crime Commissioner, D Peet, Chief Executive, Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner, A Dale, Chief Finance Officer, Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner and L Taylor, Derbyshire Fire and Rescue Service.

Apologies for absence were submitted on behalf of Councillors M Bagshaw, G Hickton and S Peake and V Newbury.

18/19 **MINUTES RESOLVED** that the minutes of the meeting of the Derbyshire Police and Crime Panel held on 27 June 2019 be confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

19/19 **MEMBER QUESTION & ANSWER SESSION** Members were provided a written response to the Police and Crime Panel to the pre-submitted questions raised by individual Panel members.

Councillor Pegg: What is the strategic priority of the 101 service, and how call waiting time factors are used in evaluating the effectiveness of the service?

PCC Response: The 101 service is an integral component of policing, providing access for the public in non-emergency situations. The reason for calls is highly varied and may be to report an incident or to try and make contact with a specific officer or member of staff. As part of our work we have introduced the concept of THRIVE (Threat, Harm, Risk, Investigation (opportunities), Vulnerability & Engagement) in order for call handlers to be able to better deal with the issues callers are raising, therefore delivering a better quality of service. However, as with all aspects of the police budget, austerity has had its impact, and money spent on employing call handlers and police officers based in the control centre cannot then be spent on employing police officers based in communities.

The decision to improve crime recording at point of contact has understandably meant that individual calls are taking longer, which can impact on the time it takes to answer a call. The Force are working on technological solutions that may help filter some of the calls that come through – asking to speak to specific officers for example, which should help direct people to where they want to be more quickly, and reduce call times.

There are no specific targets for answering calls, though the time it takes to answer a call and the rate of people abandoning calls are reviewed as a proxy measure for performance. It should, however, be noted that for emergencies the Force are consistently able to respond to a call in under ten seconds and at the end of the day these are the calls that we would all expect to be answered quickly as there may be a risk to life.

The Panel should also note that alternative methods of contacts such as the use of the national Single Online Home portal that will allow people to do many of the things they would wish to do through the use of 101, again potentially reducing the volume of calls into 101.

Councillor Potter: The National Crime Agency has recently issued some concerning reports regarding Serious & Organised Crime Gangs and the financial expectations of combating these gangs Nationally. If the Derbyshire Constabulary still undertakes crime mapping of such gangs what and how many such groups have we operating within the County and especially in the City of Derby?

PCC Response: Derbyshire currently have a total of 50 OCGs (Organised Crime Groups) mapped across the County.

- 15 of these are on the South Division (with 11 operating within the City area itself)
- North Division have 10
- Crime Support have 3
- The Organised Crime Management Group have 22

The Panel should also be aware that in their most recent PEEL (Police Efficiency, Effectiveness & Legitimacy) inspection, HMICFRS deemed Derbyshire Constabulary's performance to be Outstanding for Tackling serious and organised crime.

Supplementary Question Councillor Potter: I appreciate the answer but the National Crime Agency (NCA) has stated that it would take an extra £3bn to fight organised Crime. Following the most recent PEEL inspection which deemed Derbyshire Constabulary's performance to be Outstanding for tackling serious and organised crime how might this announcement affect this.

PCC Response: Derbyshire continue to work closely the NCA, who have a base in the East Midlands Regional Collaborative Unit and would continue to work in Partnership within budget resources to fight crime both locally, regionally, nationally, and globally.

Councillor Potter: When can we expect to see the practice of "lone working" for patrol officers on night shift eradicated?

PCC Response: Patrol strategy is something that is clearly an operational matters and as such falls within the remit of the Chief Constable. That said, as PCC I have sought assurance from the Chief Constable that all 'frontline' officers, and staff, have received the appropriate training and have the necessary equipment to undertake their roles effectively and safely.

Supplementary Question Councillor Potter: Whilst I appreciate its operational it is the PCC's responsibility to ensure efficient and effective policing in the Area. Assaults are up by 20% nationally and this is inevitably having an impact on the sickness and mental Health issues amongst officers.

PCC Response: I agree with your comments. Even before PCC's the reality is that if policing is under funded it will have an impact on how it works. In order to eradicate lone working more funding would be needed. It's a matter of balancing resources against service delivery. The welfare of the workforce is important to me and I will continue to work with the Chief Constable to protect the workforce.

Councillor Wheelton: How will the promised increase in police funding be used to address the two biggest criticisms of front line policing; 'Lack of police visibility on the street' and 'speed of response'?

PCC Response: As the Panel are only too well aware, a consequence of austerity since 2010 has been that the number of police officers in Derbyshire fell by approximately 450 to a level not seen in decades. In addition, there were also significant cuts to police staff numbers, including PCSO's. In 2018/19 and 2019/20, the Government gave me the option of increasing the

local council tax to first halt, and then reverse some of these cuts to police officer and staff numbers. However, even this year's increase of 120 additional police officers and staff still leave the Force under resourced, a factor which continues to have an impact on visibility and speed of response.

Whilst much has been made of the headline figure of 20,000 new police officers, frustratingly, at the time of writing the detail of how and where these officers will be delivered and deployed has yet to be worked out by Government. I am working to make sure that Derbyshire is at the forefront of forces when it comes to recruiting any additional officers and Derbyshire Constabulary are engaging with other forces nationally to understand the preparedness to be able to deliver this challenging pledge. My expectation is that Derbyshire should be entitled to the best part of 300 new officers joining the ranks if the Prime Minister delivers on his pledge. Whilst welcomed, this uplift would not fully reverse the decline in officer numbers felt locally over the past ten years due to austerity, and it is still unclear what this announcement means for police staff numbers, including PCSO's. However, this increase would result in additional officers being deployed out in communities which would, in turn, have an impact on both visibility and speed of response. The locations of any deployments would be an operational decision and therefore one for the Chief Constable to make, but as I have explained there are significant potential opportunities through the uplift pledge.

Supplementary Question Councillor Wheelton (covers all three questions) I used the word 'frontline' officers as I wasn't sure how else to describe it. The public I speak to are interested as to how many police officers they see on the ground and how visible they are in the locality?

PCC Response: By my response I meant that frontline is hard to define. It's not just about officers on the street. For example 60% of the contact from the public is through the contact centre and this is a vital role. I prefer to describe it as the total number of people required to deliver an efficient and effective service to the public. Whilst I have been visiting the many communities across the County, visibility of officers is the key concern for people. No doubt as more resources have become available to assist in officer recruitment visibility on the streets clearly has a positive impact.

Councillor Wheelton: In a multi-media world, where increasingly the Public's perception of the Police is shaped by the PR skills and personal awareness of the officer in front of the lens - what support, guidance and advice is provided to police interviewees to ensure that they consistently reflect the professionalism of their colleagues and an image of the service that inspires public respect.

PCC Response: This is an operational matter and as such is the responsibility of the Chief Constable. Inevitably, the level of training varies

depending upon the seniority of the officer, what level of media engagement they are routinely expected to undertake and so as part of the ongoing training and development of officers, elements of media and PR skills are given. The Force encourages officers to embrace modern technology, but guidelines are given on how social media should be used as a positive tool for public engagement. As part of the training for senior officers, input is given as they often will find themselves in front of the camera as representatives of the organisation. As part of the recruitment of the Chief Constable, my office devised a series of tests as part of the interview process to see how well candidates responded to both supportive and hostile media. As reported to the Panel at his confirmation hearing, CC Peter Goodman performed well in these tests.

Councillor Wheelton: Building on the need to strengthen public trust and confidence in local policing, please can you provide a clear County overview of the current number of front-line officers? Likewise, how you see those numbers moving forward over the next 12/24 months?

PCC Response: This very much depends upon what is meant by the “front-line” and the reality is, is that without a clear understanding of what the questioner means by that concept any answer would be misleading.

As stated previously, as far as future police numbers are concerned, the Home Office has only been able to give minimum details of the pledge beyond the Prime Minister’s headline figure of “20,000” police officers. As of today, we do not know how many of those extra officers will be allocated to Derbyshire, what years we will be allowed to recruit them in or how they and the associated on-costs will be paid for. That said, I will be disappointed if we do not get the best part of 300 new officers as a consequence of the Prime Minister’s announcement and we are working hard to ensure that Derbyshire is ready, willing and able to start recruiting immediately the Government confirms that funding is in place to allow us to do so.

Councillor Hart: Please can an update be provided on the recruitment process connected to the additional precept award and where their placements have been in relation to the Safer Neighbourhood teams?

PCC Response: When the Chief Constable and I discussed the potential of a £24 precept rise I was very clear that people needed to feel the difference, a view that was supported by the Chief. He made the commitment that we would have all of the officers recruited by the end of July and I am pleased to be able to say that this has been achieved. As I am sure that panel will appreciate, the process of training and preparing new recruits for the challenging role of a police officer is not a quick or simple one that process is still ongoing.

Supplementary Question Councillor Hart: Are the new recruits still in training or are they 'out on the street'

PCC Response: 60 officers were now on the beat, 40 were working independently and 20 with their tutors. On top of those numbers there were 17 detective staff investigators, 11 Neighbourhood Investigating officers, and 40 PCSO's

RESOLVED to note the question and answer session

20/19 **CHALLENGE TOPIC : RURAL CRIME TEAM** Hardy al Dhindsa updated the Panel on the work of the Derbyshire Rural Crime Team and provided a briefing on the work around rural criminality

The Challenge topic requested the PCC to explore the following areas:

- What services is it providing for rural Derbyshire?
- How is the team comprised, where is it based and how does it work?
- What is the distinction between this newly created team and the existing Safer Neighbourhood Team
- What issues are they looking at and strategies for reaching out to remote communities.

Since taking up office, PCC Hardy al Dhindsa had been clear that he was the PCC for the whole of Derbyshire: Urban, suburban and rural.

As a county Derbyshire had very urban communities such as those in Derby City and Chesterfield, as well as very rural communities such as those in the High Peak and Derbyshire Dales.

The types of crimes and issues facing these different communities could often be very different and as a result under the former PCC Alan Charles, and continued through PCC Dhindsa, the Force had worked with a small team of officers who had a greater level of understanding of the crime types and potential impacts on these communities

The main aim of the Rural Crime Team was to provide a dedicated and effective policing service to the various rural communities of Derbyshire.

This included working with those communities should they find themselves a victim of crime e.g. fuel or plant theft, fly tipping as well as looking at specific crime types that are perpetrated within rural settings such as the persecution and destruction of protected species i.e. raptors, badgers and bats.

A key part of the work has been, and continued to be, building relationships and trust with those who lived within Derbyshire's rural communities. This included working closely with the National Farmer's Union as well as other key stakeholders to ensure that Derbyshire Constabulary's commitment to this area of business is understood out there in communities.

The team provided a co-ordinating function that linked into the wider Force and acted as a focus for understanding what worked in tackling rural and wildlife crime.

As with any area of policing business there would be specific tactics used which could not be shared in a public arena, but it is fair to say that an approach that used the 4 Ps of Prepare, Prevent, Protect and Pursue underpin the work.

The work of the team also supports the National Police Chiefs' Council (NPCC) Rural Affairs Strategy which sees priorities in the following areas:

- Farm machinery, plant and vehicle theft
- Livestock Offences
- Fuel Theft
- Equine Crime
- Flytipping
- Poaching

The team also had a focus around CITES – the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of wild flora and fauna. (This would include the illegal trade in ivory, animal skins and animal parts for traditional medicine.)

The Rural Crime Team itself had 7 full time constables and a Sergeant and was supported by an admin support officer.

The Force had allocated a Superintendent as the Gold Strategic Lead, supported by an Inspector as Silver. Both supported by the Rural Crime Team Sergeant as the Bronze. The Force had 34 Wildlife Crime Officers across the whole of the Force area who have all completed specific Wildlife Crime training. They are supported by 2 co-ordinators who are both former police officers and wildlife crime officers (including one who was a national trainer on the subject). There were also 2 specifically trained Forensic Wildlife Crime Officers.

This gave a total of 48 officers and staff who have responsibilities that include wildlife and/or rural crime

Members of the Special Constabulary and Police Service Volunteers also support this area of work. Work is being developed to understand where specially trained PCSOs would be able to add value to the work.

The team had a base at Matlock Police Station and a hub based in Melbourne to support work in the south of the County.

The work of the team was intelligence led, but they were also able to respond to non-urgent incidents when on duty.

The Rural Crime Team offered an additional layer of specialism that compliments the work of the Safer Neighbourhood Teams.

Their training had focussed on rural and wildlife crime related issues but there was a clear understanding of the necessary links into Safer Neighbourhood Teams, who would already have links and relationships with local communities.

As previously stated the team works based on a 4 Ps approach:

- **Prepare:** Building relationships with stakeholders, understanding what works (locally and nationally), understanding threats and risks;
- **Prevent:** Through work with partners providing information, advice and equipment to help prevent people becoming victims of crime as well as disrupting activity of known offenders;
- **Protect:** Again by providing information and support to help prevent people becoming victims and providing support to those who unfortunately do; and
- **Pursue:** Undertaking thorough and effective investigations and ensuring those who are identified are brought to justice including work on organised crime groups.

The team had built up strong working relationships with key stakeholders including the NFU, NFU Mutual, Young Farmers etc. as well as originations such as the Peak Park Authority and local wildlife charities. Arrangements had also been arranged for a Peak Park summit

Training and support had been provided to the Peak Park Rangers so they were able to identify and report incidents of rural or wildlife crime.

Work was currently underway to produce a resource that could be distributed to interested parties with crime prevention advice and other useful information. The team also worked to help deliver the NPCC's strategy where applicable.

The PCC remained committed to ensuring that rural and wildlife crime remained a priority for the Force. He sat as a Board Member on the National Rural Crime Network and Derbyshire were one of the participants in both the National Rural Crime Survey and specific project that sought to understand the impact and prevalence of domestic abuse within rural communities. This latter piece of work attracted national interest and the office was currently working through both the national and local findings to understand what the research is telling us.

Members were given the opportunity to ask questions or make comments which were duly answered or noted. The general consensus was that the dedicated Rural Crime team was starting to show

RESOLVED to note the report

21/19 POLICE & CRIME COMMISSIONERS ANNUAL REPORT 2018/19 Hardyal Dhindsa, Police and Crime Commissioner for Derbyshire, presented the draft Annual Report for the period 1 April 2018 - 31 March 2019 in accordance with Section 12 of the Police Reform and Social Responsibility Act 2011.

Members were given the opportunity to ask questions and also made a number of comments and observations on the Annual Report, to which the Police and Crime Commissioner responded.

RESOLVED (1) to recommend to the Police and Crime Commissioner that the Annual Report 2018-19 be issued subject to the agreed amendments; and

(2) that the report be published via the Police & Crime Commissioner's Website, www.derbyshire-pcc.gov.uk.

22/19 ANNOUNCEMENTS FROM THE PCC Hardyal Dhindsa, the Police and Crime Commissioner announced the following:-

- County Lines Event organised for 16 September 2019 at The Post Mill Centre for Senior officers from all Authorities;
- The Knife Angel would be in the Cathedral area of Derby during October with many events organised throughout the period. The launch event was 6.15pm on 3 October;
- Lobbying with the PM's office and the Home Office continued to make sure that on the back of the promise for 20,000 new officers that Derbyshire got its fair share. The force was committed to 50 new recruits by 31 March each year should the funds be made available;
- The comprehensive spending review had been put back a year but work would continue to ensure the best deal for Derbyshire; and

- It was noted that following the Whaley Bridge incident, the magnificent emergency response from all partner agencies involved which had been coordinated by the Deputy Chief Constable had been recognised nationally and by the public. The PCC was extremely proud of everyone involved and placed on record his thanks and appreciation to the local community and the many people agencies involved in keeping people safe whilst the situation was resolved. This was echoed by all the Members of the PCC and highlighted fantastic partnership working.

RESOLVED to note the announcements from the Police and Crime Commissioner.

23/19 FORTHCOMING EVENTS Members were reminded of the Training Event for elected members to be run by Front Line consulting on the morning of 24 October 2019, commencing at 9.30am at County Hall, Matlock. Full details would be circulated in due course.

Two members of the Police and Crime Panel were to attend the National Police and Crime Panel conference in Warwick on 19 November 2019

RESOLVED to note the update

24/19 DATE OF NEXT MEETING RESOLVED to note that the next meeting of the Derbyshire Police and Crime Panel would take place on Thursday 21 November 2019 commencing at 10.00am at County Hall, Matlock.

Following the meeting some members of the Panel were given a tour of the facilities, including the dog unit, the contact centre, and a demonstration of the work of drones. This was well received by all those present and Panel members placed on record their thanks and appreciation to the OPCC and the police officers who had made this possible, for a most interesting and informative visit.