

Minutes of the Staffordshire Police, Fire and Crime Panel Meeting held on 25 April 2022

Present:

Lesley Adams	Philip Hudson
Adrian Bowen	Bryan Jones
Richard Cox (Vice-Chairman)	Roger Lees
Ann Edgeller	Martin Summers
Gill Heesom	Keith Walker
Tony Holmes	

Also in attendance: Ben Adams, Helen Fisher, David Greensmith, Emma Christmas (Observer representing the ETAP) and Louise Clayton.

Apologies: Bernard Peters

PART ONE

65. Declarations of interest

None were made at the meeting.

66. Minutes of the meeting held on 14 February 2022

RESOLVED – That the minutes of the Panel meeting held on 14 February 2022 be approved and signed by the Chair of the meeting.

67. Confirmation Hearing - Chief Executive

The Secretary to the Panels report explained that the Panel was required to hold a Confirmation Hearing following receipt of formal notification by the Police Fire and Crime Commissioner of his wish to appoint his preferred candidate for the post of Chief Executive.

The report explained that guidance on the role of the Panel, recommended that through questioning of the candidate they should consider the 'professional competence' and 'personal independence' of the individual. To assist, the Panel had been provided with the preferred candidates CV in advance of the meeting and a job description was attached to the agenda.

Presentation by the Police Fire and Crime Commissioner

The Commissioner reported on the detailed and lengthy process followed by him to recruit a new Chief Executive for the Commissioner's Office.

The Commissioner reported that Ms Louise Clayton was his preferred candidate.

Presentation by and questions to Ms Clayton:

Ms Clayton briefly summarised her career, work experience and achievements to date.

The Panel questioned Ms Clayton on various issues including her experience of managing change, delivering results, working with partners, agencies and the public and measuring performance.

The Panel adjourned at 10.30 am to consider their decision.

The Panel reconvened at 10.40am. The Commissioner and Ms Clayton were re-admitted to the meeting and informed of the Panel's decision.

RESOLVED – That the Staffordshire Police Fire and Crime Commissioner be informed that this Panel recommends that he proceed with the appointment of Ms Clayton as the Chief Executive Officer for Staffordshire.

68. Decisions published by the Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner (PFCC)

No decisions had been published on the Commissioners website since the last meeting.

69. Questions to the PFCC from Members of the Public

No questions were submitted in time for this meeting.

70. Police and Crime Plan update

The Commissioner Introduced his Police and Crime update report and summarised some of the progress made in addressing his main priorities which were designed to 'Keep Staffordshire Safe'. The Commissioner reminded the Panel that the Police and Crime Plan provided the strategic direction for the force. The Commissioners priorities were:

- A flexible and responsive service
- Prevent harm and protect people
- Support victims and witnesses
- Reduce offending and reoffending
- A more effective criminal justice system

The Commissioner raised the issue of two recent HMICFRS inspection reports which had shown failings in the service. The first inspection had looked at Child protection arrangements and the second was an interim Peels inspection report which had highlighted two areas of concern. These were, effective investigations and appropriate ongoing support for victims, and the area of identifying and assessing the vulnerabilities of those who contact Staffordshire Police. The Commissioner expressed his concern and stated

that this was 'not where the service want to be' and there were plans to address the issues raised.

Information on how the plans were being actioned would come to the panel as part of his Annual report in June 2022. In response to the panel's questions on how these action plans would be monitored, the Commissioner informed members that some of the actions had date requirements and some areas had previously been identified as needing improvement and so work had started to improve these. The Commissioner stated that he was comfortable that the actions needed to address the problems would not result in diverting resources away from core priorities. The Panel were reminded that the Commissioner held regular public performance meetings with the Chief Constable, and these could be observed or watched via the webcast. The agenda for the Commissioners performance meetings with the Chief Constable would be circulated to members of the Panel before each meeting for information but could also be found at [Public Meetings - Staffordshire Commissioner \(staffordshire-pfcc.gov.uk\)](https://www.staffordshire-pfcc.gov.uk)

Following the Commissioners presentation and questions from the Panel, the following information was shared with the Panel. This was in addition to that provided in the report:

- The Chief Constables new, more localised model of policing should be in place by the end of June 2022. It was hoped that this would help to provide focus on local issues and enable the police to respond in a more timely and appropriate manner.
- The Commissioners Independent scrutiny panels and his Audit panel were now fully recruited and had started work. He hoped that these would provide good oversight and independence of specific services such as stop and search and use of force. They would also be looking at strip and search guidance and repeat episodes of anti-social behaviour, where more needed to be done together with partners. The Panels would be supported by the Commissioner's office and members were being trained appropriately dependent on their needs.
- Funding grants were now available at a local level to support anti-social behaviour projects and community safety.
- Bidding for additional Safer Streets funding would continue with a new round of opportunities available soon.
- Drug treatment and addiction was a particularly important aspect to long term reoffending and would be considered by the Community Safety Forum.
- Working with the Criminal Justice system, particularly the Probation service and the NHS would continue. It was reported that the use of Alcohol or drug treatment orders was being looked at to help quicken access to services.
- There was also research taking place to look at what works in reducing reoffending in various age groups, particularly helping mature offenders into employment. PSHE co-ordinators were also working in

schools to help develop the PSHE curriculum to meet the needs of young people.

- The number of children going missing was a concern. The numbers going missing from either their home or a care setting would be provided to the panel.
- There was an Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB) Delivery Group whose aim was to look at repeat incidents and help to tackle them at a local level. It was explained that this may lead to additional work short term but should lead to longer term gain.
- A working group had been established by the Commissioner to uniform the requirements for a 'Community Trigger' which currently was different in each local authority area.
- County Councillors were the appropriate contact point for replacement or road signs.
- Work with the NHS on prisoner mental health was continuing.
- The working of the Multi Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH) was being reviewed with regard to the way information was shared between partners. Information on this piece of work would be shared with the appropriate panel/scrutiny committee.
- The potential use of Naloxone nasal spray to treat overdose victims would be reported back to the panel.
- The Chief Constable's new delivery model was more traditional than the current system with more local hubs. It was reported that this should not cost more but should deliver a more focused neighbourhood focused policing.
- The Chief Constable was keen to learn of the public's experience of policing and this should highlight any areas where officers were not confident in the way they respond to situations.
- The location of justice centres was not considered to be an issue, but there was more work taking place to establish why people didn't attend court or withdraw 'dropped out' from prosecutions at very short notice which resulted in wasted time and resources.
- Community Safety Strategic Partnerships are a statutory duty. Portfolio holders would normally be the lead members and questions could be channelled through them.
- The Commissioner's new Staffordshire and Stoke on Trent Strategic Board would meet three times a year. Again, the lead member would normally be the portfolio holder.
- There was no extra financial support from the Home Office or Central Government to deal with the recent and ant future public protests surrounding the HS2 developments.

The Deputy Commissioner briefly updated the panel on road safety issues and reported that sadly there had been 12 deaths so far this year compared to 18 for the whole of 2021. There were seven priority road user groups who appeared to be more at risk of accidents. These included, cyclists; newly qualified drivers; and more mature drivers. Work was ongoing to

share information and educate drivers e.g. through schools and colleges and websites. Following a question on grants to support the work of the Safer Roads Partnerships, it was confirmed that there wasn't any available funding at the moment through that partnership but there may be opportunities to bid through the Community Grants scheme.

RESOLVED:

- a) That the report be received
- b) That information on the following points be provided to the panel:
 - i. Information on the how the action plans to address the failings identified in the HMICFRS inspection reports be included in the Commissioners Annual Report (June 2022 panel meeting).
 - ii. The agenda for the Commissioners performance meetings with the Chief Constable be circulated to members of the Panel before the next meeting.
 - iii. The number of children going from either their home or a care setting.
 - iv. Is Naloxone nasal spray used to treat overdose victims currently in Staffordshire and if not will it be considered.

71. Questions to the PFCC by Panel Members

Members of the Panel questioned/sought the views of the Commissioner on the following issues and received the responses indicated:

Question	Response
At the last meeting it was reported that liaison with the Fire Service and Housing Associations throughout the County needed to be developed and would be looked at. Had this been done?	The Commissioner would provide information to the Panel.
The member for Stoke on Trent thanked the Fire and Rescue service for their response to both the fires at the Leopard Public House earlier this year and the recent fire in Trentham.	This would be passed to the Fire Service.

72. Dates of Future Meetings and Work Programme

The Vice Chairman asked for a means of tracking information requested by the panel so that the public could also access the information. An action on minutes sheet or a more detail included in the work programme report would be investigated.

The Vice Chairman thanked all members for their support over the past 12 months and wished all those facing local elections well.

RESOLVED:

- a) That the dates future meetings be noted.
- b) That some form of listing and tracking information requested be added to future agendas.

Chairman