

Report to the Thames Valley Police & Crime Panel

Title: Topical issues
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National Police and Crime Association

Hopefully the establishment of the Police and Crime Panel Special Interest Group will be set up at an inaugural meeting in late February/early March. The Herts Police and Crime Panel Chairman who is co-ordinating the setup of the SIG has sent a letter to Panel Members outlining some proposals with regard to chairing, frequency of meetings (suggestion is quarterly) with decisions reached by consensus and subscription levels. Comments on the structure were asked for by the end of January 2018.

Panel Members are asked to agree in principle to contribute up to £500 to support the establishment of the PCP SIG as long as clarification is sought on whether this money can be paid from the Home Office Grant

The HO grant conditions stipulate that it cannot be spent on activity which influences or attempts to influence government, political parties, etc. This has been put this as an item for discussion at the first group meeting, where the purpose of the SIG will need to be specified and agreed. Further liaison would most likely be needed with the Home Office on its definitions around this point.

Webcasting

	Cost per hour	Cost per meeting	Cost per year	Total
Set up fee for webcast				625
Recording rate per hour	37.5	112.5	562.5	562.5
Technician per hour	29	87	435	435
Additional cost for Oculus		171	855	855
Total				2477.5
does not inc vat				

Panel Members are asked to agree whether they are happy for the Panel to be webcast based on the figures above. (Unfortunately the venue for webcasting the precept meeting was not

available but is available for the April meeting if Members agree to this proposal). Microphones remain the same cost.

PEEL – Legitimacy

<https://www.justiceinspectorates.gov.uk/hmicfrs/wp-content/uploads/peel-police-legitimacy-2017-thames-valley.pdf>

Thames Valley Police is good at how legitimately it keeps people safe and reduces crime. For the areas of legitimacy they looked at this year, the overall judgment is the same as last year. The force is good at treating the people it serves with fairness and respect. It is also good at ensuring its workforce behaves ethically and lawfully and good at treating its workforce with fairness and respect.

Areas for improvement

- The force should ensure that it supports the work of the Independent Advisory Groups by providing training for members and by providing clearly accessible information about their work, and about how to become a member, on the force internet.
- The force should ensure that its arrangements to scrutinise use of force by its staff incorporate greater use of external scrutiny.
- The force should do more to ensure it has made comprehensive arrangements to provide information and support to people who may wish to make a complaint against the police, in particular when they come from a group that might find this difficult or is less likely to engage with the police.
- The force should consider how it could ensure that the ethical implications of its policies and procedures are reviewed systematically and in a way that incorporates an external view – and that officers and staff are aware of how to raise ethical issues within the force.
- The force should do more to ensure that officers and staff have confidence in the grievance procedure and the new promotion assessment processes. The force should refresh the processes and provide more information to the workforce about them.

HMICFRS Reports

<https://www.justiceinspectorates.gov.uk/hmicfrs/publications/abuse-of-position-for-a-sexual-purpose/>

[https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/628397/Joint targeted area in spection of the multi-agency response to abuse and neglect in Wokingham.pdf](https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/628397/Joint_targeted_area_in_spection_of_the_multi-agency_response_to_abuse_and_neglect_in_Wokingham.pdf)

<https://www.justiceinspectorates.gov.uk/hmicfrs/publications/living-in-fear-the-police-and-cps-response-to-harassment-and-stalking/>

Recent high profile case on this area

[http://www.oxfordmail.co.uk/news/yourtown/oxford/15863626.Newsnight presenter Emily Maitlis criticises justice system after 20 years of harassment by Oxford stalker/](http://www.oxfordmail.co.uk/news/yourtown/oxford/15863626.Newsnight_presenter_Emily_Maitlis_criticises_justice_system_after_20_years_of_harassment_by_Oxford_stalker/)

<https://www.justiceinspectorates.gov.uk/hmicfrs/publications/stolen-freedom-the-policing-response-to-modern-slavery-and-human-trafficking/>

The OPCC have commented in the Level 1 papers that some Forces (including Thames Valley) have made modern slavery and human trafficking a strategic priority, but this had not always been translated into consistent operational practice. Nationally the fieldwork found that little proactive and preventative activity is taking place in the majority of Forces, and local threats or high risk locations were not identified or shared in a partnership approach. Thames Valley Police made the seventh highest number of referrals to the NRM in 2016.

<https://www.justiceinspectorates.gov.uk/hmicfrs/wp-content/uploads/planes-drones-and-helicopters-an-independent-study-of-police-air-support.pdf>

On Thursday (November 30), Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary and Fire and Rescue Services (HMICFRS) criticised National Police Air Service for weaknesses in governance, tasking arrangements, and its response times. It made several recommendations for the air service to consider, and HM Inspector of Constabulary Matt Parr said "urgent reform" was needed.

Thames Valley PCC Anthony Stansfeld (a Member of the Board) insists the National Strategic Board (NSB) – responsible for setting the strategic direction of NPAS – considered “every possible way of tasking” and the current model, which charges forces every time they request a helicopter, is the most “logical and fair”.

<http://www.policeprofessional.com/news.aspx?id=30988>

Enabling Police and Crime Commissioners (PCCs) to sit and vote on Combined Fire and Rescue Authorities (FRAs)

https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/662393/171124_Consultation_paper.pdf

The consultation ended on 15 January 2018 and the Panel has not commented on the consultation as each authority has submitted their own response, which vary across the Thames Valley. The amendments being consulted upon would allow the following options:-

A – Enable a PCC to be appointed with voting rights;

B – Set out this provision can only take place after a request has been made by a PCC;

C – Set out the process for making such a request;

D and E – Enable a PCC to delegate to a deputy to attend and speak at FRA meetings, but that this deputy does not have any voting rights and will not be treated as a member of the Authority for any purpose, for example being part of the meeting quorate. This is owing to Fire and Rescue Authorities comprising of elected individuals, who do not themselves have similar rights to delegate to an unelected official as exists for PCCs.

These amendments will enable a PCC to have representation on their local FRA and/or its committees, with voting rights; this will be subject to PCCs making clear reasons for seeking membership and the FRA agreeing. The FRA will be required to publish their response to ensure transparency. The provisions will enable a PCC to be a member of the FRA until there is either a vacancy in the OPCC or if there were to be no vacancy in the office before then, the day on which their term of office as PCC would end.

Policy Planning and Performance PCC public meeting

The next Policy Planning and Performance Meeting is being held on 23 January 2018 and papers should be available from the following link:-

<https://www.thamesvalley-pcc.gov.uk/information-hub/agendas-and-minutes/policy-planning-and-performance/>

Some points to note area as follows:-

- The Thames Valley Partnership Restorative Justice contract revision and extension had been agreed with a significant downsizing of the current model which will involve the CRC working with the OPCC. The Panel had previously questioned the OPCC on the value for money for this contract.
- In the Complaints Integrity and Ethics Panel minutes on 13 December 2017 the Deputy Chief Constable commented that the Operating Model would be reviewed in January 2018.
- Revenue Monitoring – at the end of December 2017 the overall 2017/18 budget is £1.223m underspent against profile with a forecast full year underspend of £0.455m. The underspend has arisen due to the shortfall on police officer numbers caused by high attrition rates and low recruitment numbers. Significant work has and continues to be undertaken across the organisation to mitigate the impact of low police officer numbers on service delivery. The Force has received a refund from the Treasury for the Operation Hornet costs (HBoS fraud) which will be appropriated to the improvement performance reserve (£1.992m).

- Capital budget – the PCC noted that revised budget of £30.144m, which includes additional budget of £0.717m (for new/existing projects), re-phasing into future years of £15.124m, £0.453 of budget savings and £0.585m of budget reductions based on reviews. The total annual budget released to date is £25.088m. The Contact Management Programme go live date is now revised to March 2018. The PCC has put in additional funding of £1.644m.
- Property Asset Management Plan – the update report summarises progress on the AMP estate rationalisation programme. The National ‘One Public Estate’ programme is now operating in Berkshire and Buckinghamshire, with Oxfordshire securing some set up funding from the Cabinet Office. TVP are working alongside a number of partners to deliver collaborative projects.

Recent publications/events and media interest

Go to <https://twitter.com/thamesvalleypcc> for information on twitter activity which includes links to media articles which may be of interest.

National Issues

Extra £400m for police funding

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-42414018>

Use of reserves to support frontline cannot continue after 2020

<http://www.policeprofessional.com/news.aspx?id=31017>

Fact sheet on police funding

<https://homeofficemedia.blog.gov.uk/2017/12/19/fact-sheet-police-funding-for-2018-19-explained/>

Hundreds of cases dropped over evidence disclosure failings

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-42795058>

County lines case

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/b803d33c-dac5-11e7-aacd-025601055216>

Anti virus software used by some police forces

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/antivirus-firm-kaspersky-lab-ruled-by-russian-spies-2ghtw38ql?shareToken=e2d0ca0a4c53fbcc720e09c2cae3b463>

Police complaints process overhaul

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-42598843>

Police ignoring needs of detainees

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-42556384>

Early intervention – a guide for frontline officers

<http://www.eif.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2015/09/Police-Guide-FINAL.pdf>

National Action arrests relating to planned terrorist operation

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-42552750>

Local Issues

Thames Valley OPCC report on modern slavery

<https://www.thamesvalley-pcc.gov.uk/news-and-events/thamesvalley-pcc-news/2017/12/report-shows-the-true-extent-of-modern-slavery-in-the-thames-valley/>

Thames Valley Police may scrap mounted section

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-berkshire-42651577>

Contents Management System

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-hampshire-41588709>

Jail for taxi driver who targeted vulnerable passengers

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-oxfordshire-42612577>

Hotels fail CSE checks

http://www.oxfordmail.co.uk/news/15828484.Hotels_fail_test_over_child_sex_risk_after_police_go_undercover/

Oxford – spotting drug deals

http://www.oxfordmail.co.uk/news/15824195.Extra_police_heading_out_into_Oxford_city_centre_to_spot_drug_deals/

ORGANISED drug dealing is a top priority for police over the coming year

http://www.oxfordmail.co.uk/news/15891856.Police_crack_down_on_illegal_gig_economy_in_Oxford_which_offers_a_Deliveroo_for_drugs/?ref=ebln

Thames Valley Police Officers sacked for gross misconduct

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-berkshire-42425617>

Windsor issue in relation to the Royal Wedding

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-berkshire-42558501>

OPCC response

<https://www.thamesvalley-pcc.gov.uk/news-and-events/thamesvalley-pcc-news/2018/01/windsor-statement-from-police-and-crime-commissioner/>

Custody death

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-oxfordshire-42401446>