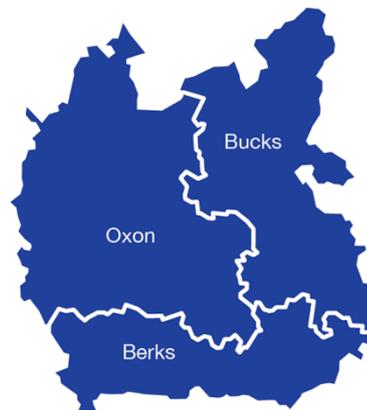


Report to the Thames Valley Police & Crime Panel

Title: Report of the Thames Valley Police & Crime Panel Complaint Sub-Committee

Date: 16 November 2018

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Thames Valley Police & Crime
Panel



Background

1. As set out in the Police Reform and Social Responsibility (PRSR) Act 2011, and further explained in the Policing Protocol Order 2011, Police and Crime Panels (PCPs) perform a scrutiny function for PCCs, providing challenge and support, and acting as a critical friend. PCPs are currently responsible for handling non-serious complaints made about a PCC, and resolving these through the process for “informal resolution”, as set out in the PRSR Act 2011 and the Elected Local Policing Bodies (Complaints and Misconduct) Regulations 2012.
2. A Sub-Committee of the Panel discharges this duty on its behalf. The Chairman of the Sub-Committee is currently Councillor Emily Culverhouse.
3. It was agreed that the Sub-Committee should submit its report to the Panel on a quarterly basis, when complaints had been considered.

Complaints Received

4. Two complaints were considered at the Sub-Committee meeting on 7 September 2018.
5. The Sub-Committee considered that both complaints were an abuse of the complaints process. An abuse of process was defined as where there had been misuse of the complaints system to influence another process or outcome. It was used where it could be demonstrated that the complaints should not be allowed to continue because the complaints system (under the 2012 Regulations) was not designed to cater for such matters.
6. The Sub-Committee agreed to use its powers to dis-apply the requirements of the Elected Local Policing Bodies (Complaints and Misconduct) Regulations 2012 in respect of both complaints. Under Regulation 15(3)(e) the Panel may decide that the complaint should not be subject to resolution under Part 4 of the Regulations or that no action should be taken in relation to it at all if the complaint is considered to be vexatious, oppressive or an abuse of process.

Recommendation

It is recommended that the Thames Valley Police & Crime Panel note the report of the Complaint Sub-Committee