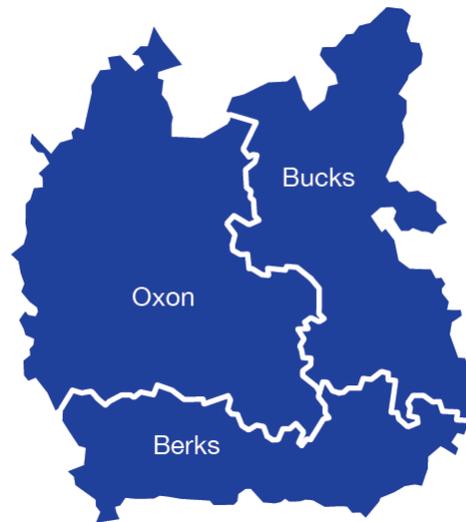


Agenda

- Date:** Friday 22 November 2019
- Time:** 11.00 am
- Venue:** Aylesbury Vale District Council
Offices, Gatehouse Road,
Aylesbury, Bucks, HP19 8FF



Map and Directions

The Briefing Meeting for Members will be held at 10am. There should be sufficient space in the car park at the Council Offices.

<http://www.aylesburyvaledc.gov.uk/finding-us>

1. Apologies for Absence

2. Declarations of Interest

3. Minutes

To agree the Minutes of the Meeting held on 6 September 2019.

5 - 12

4. Public Question Time

Anyone who works or lives in the Thames Valley can ask a question at meetings of the Police and Crime Panel, at which a 20 minute session will be designated for hearing from the public.

If you'd like to participate, please read the Public Question Time Scheme and submit your questions by email to contact@thamesvalleypcp.org.uk at least three working days in advance of the meeting.

<http://www.southbucks.gov.uk/article/5242/Public-questions-at-Panel-meetings>

- 5. Update on the allocation by TVP of the additional £8.5m Precept Funding** **13 - 20**

To consider an update report from the PCC.
- 6. Update on the TVP Local Policing Model**

To be provided with an oral update on TVP's Local Policing Model.
- 7. Themed Item - Increase in Crime rates and falling number of prosecutions/ Restructuring of Courts and the implications of this on the Criminal Justice System** **21 - 32**

To be provided with a presentation from the Chief Constable on the increase in crime rates and the falling number of prosecutions.

A presentation on the Restructuring of Courts and the implications of this on the Criminal Justice System will be given by the Deputy Police and Crime Commissioner and Chair of the Local Criminal Justice Board, Matthew Barber. David Colchester (LCJB support officer) will also be in attendance.

A report is attached prepared by the Panel's Scrutiny Officer providing background information on the themed item.
- 8. Thames Valley Police and Crime Panel Arrangements and Rules of Procedure** **33 - 66**

To consider a report on the future Panel arrangements.
- 9. Report of the Complaints Sub-Committee** **67 - 68**

Members are asked to note the report.
- 10. PCC/ Chairman Updates and Topical Issues report** **69 - 80**

To consider updates from the PCC and the Chairman of the Panel and to note and ask questions on the Topical Issues report prepared by the Panel's Scrutiny Officer.
- 11. Work Programme** **81 - 84**

For Panel Members to put forward items for the Work Programme including ideas for themed meetings.
- 12. Date and Time of Next Meeting**

The next meeting of the Panel is scheduled to take place on 31 January 2020.

Panel Members

Councillor Kieron Mallon (Oxfordshire County Council) (Chairman), Councillor Trevor Egleton (South Bucks District Council) (Vice-Chairman), Councillor Bill Bendyshe-Brown (Buckinghamshire County Council), Councillor Robin Bradburn (Milton Keynes Council), Councillor David Cannon (Royal Borough of Windsor and Maidenhead), Councillor David Carroll (Wycombe District Council), Councillor Nigel Chapman (Oxford City Council), Councillor Neil Fawcett (Vale of White Horse District Council), Councillor Steve Good (West Oxfordshire District Council), Councillor John Harrison (Bracknell Forest Council), Councillor Sophia James (Reading Borough Council), Councillor Andrew McHugh (Cherwell District Council), Phillip Morrice (Independent Member), Councillor Mohammed Nazir (Slough Borough Council), Councillor Barrie Patman (Wokingham Borough Council), Councillor David Rouane (South Oxfordshire District Council), Councillor Jonathan Waters (Chiltern District Council), Councillor Mark Winn (Aylesbury Vale District Council), Councillor Howard Woollaston (West Berkshire Council) and a vacancy (Independent Member).

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Minutes

Minutes of the Thames Valley Police and Crime Panel held on Friday, 6 September 2019, in Aylesbury Vale District Council Offices, Gatehouse Road, Aylesbury, Bucks, HP19 8FF, commencing at 11.00 am and concluding at 12.45 pm.

Members Present

Councillor Kieron Mallon (Oxfordshire County Council) (Chairman), Councillor Trevor Egleton (South Bucks District Council) (Vice-Chairman), Councillor Robin Bradburn (Milton Keynes Council), Councillor David Cannon (Royal Borough of Windsor and Maidenhead), Councillor David Carroll (Wycombe District Council), Councillor Nigel Chapman (Oxford City Council), Councillor Steve Good (West Oxfordshire District Council), Councillor John Harrison (Bracknell Forest Council), Councillor Andrew McHugh (Cherwell District Council), Councillor Mohammed Nazir (Slough Borough Council), Councillor Barrie Patman (Wokingham Borough Council), Councillor Ian Snowdon (Substitute - South Oxfordshire District Council), Councillor Mark Winn (Aylesbury Vale District Council) and Councillor Howard Woollaston (West Berkshire Council).

Officers Present

Khalid Ahmed (Scrutiny Officer).

Others Present

Matthew Barber (Deputy Police and Crime Commissioner), John Campbell (Chief Constable, Thames Valley Police), Paul Hammond (Chief Executive Officer of PCC), Shona Morrison (Head of Policy and Commissioning, Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner), Anthony Stansfeld (Police and Crime Commissioner) and Ian Thompson (Chief Finance Officer, Office of Police and Crime Commissioner).

Apologies

Councillor Bill Bendyshe-Brown (Buckinghamshire County Council), Councillor Neil Fawcett (Vale of White Horse District Council), Councillor Sophia James (Reading Borough Council), Curtis-James Marshall (Independent Member), Phillip Morrice (Independent Member), Councillor David Rouane (South Oxfordshire District Council) and Councillor Jonathan Waters (Chiltern District Council).

MURDER OF PC ANDREW HARPER

At the start of the meeting, Thames Valley Police and Crime Commissioner, the Chief Constable for Thames Valley Police both paid tribute to PC Andrew Harper who was tragically murdered whilst on police duty at Sulhamstead, Berkshire.

The Panel stood for a moments silence to remember PC Andrew Harper.

15 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor Andrew McHugh declared a Personal Interest in Agenda Item 6 – Victims First Scheme as he was involved in restorative justice in the Health Service.

16 MINUTES

The Minutes of the Police and Crime Panel held on 21 June 2019 were agreed as a correct record.

[In relation to Minute No.11 – Annual Review of Panel’s Rules of Procedure, Panel Membership, Appointment to Sub-Committees/ Task Groups and Budget, the Panel was provided with additional information relating to the future location and webcasting of future Panel meetings.

It was **RESOLVED** – That future meetings of the Panel take place at Aylesbury Vale District Council Offices in the Oculus meeting room, and meetings be webcast. This arrangement would be reviewed after 12 months to assess the cost effectiveness of this arrangement.

Complaints Sub-Committee – It was **RESOLVED** – That Councillor Steve Good be appointed as a Member of the Complaints Sub-Committee for 2019/20.]

17 CHAIRMAN'S UPDATE / PCC UPDATE / TOPICAL ISSUES

The Panel considered a report prepared by its Scrutiny Officer on Topical Policing and Crime issues. Areas which were covered in the report included:-

Recruitment of 20,000 extra Police Officers and Crown Prosecution Service to receive an extra £85m over the next two years to deal with rise in violent crime

The Police and Crime Commissioner welcomed the announcement by the Prime Minister to fund the recruitment of 20,000 new police officers in England and Wales. The Panel was informed that these additional officers would bring police numbers back to the levels of 2012. For Thames Valley Police an increase in the number of police officers would improve even further an efficient Police Force.

Reference was also made to the increased funding for the CPS which would help the Criminal Justice System deal with the increase in violent crime.

Panel Members asked the following questions:

(1) Has there been any indication at this stage what the rationale will be for where the reported extra officers (400-800) for TVP may be deployed?

[The PCC reported that the extra officers would be allocated across the 18 Local Police Areas of the Thames Valley with the vast majority deployed as front line police officers. Reference was made to the challenges of recruitment within Thames Valley because of the cost of housing and the cost of living.]

(2) Reference was made to all Police Forces losing experienced Police Officers and the PCC was asked what could be done to improve recruitment and retention?

[The PCC reported that the Government had launched a national recruitment campaign aimed at the recruitment of 20,000 Police Officers. The PCC stated that an issue with the recruitment was the requirement from 2020 that all new Police Officers in England and Wales would have to be educated to degree level. This would impact on how quickly officers could be recruited and would delay the appointment process. The Panel was informed that recruitment would not be easy because of the cost of living and high house prices in the Thames Valley.]

The majority of the extra Police Officers would be put into neighbourhood front line policing but with extra officers being put into specialist units such as the Serious Organised Crime Unit to tackle serious crimes such as “County Lines”.

The Chief Constable informed the Panel that Thames Valley Police ensured that quality officers were retained as far as possible and there would be a recruitment drive to ensure Thames Valley was at the forefront of the recruitment process.

The PCC reported that he would have more information on possible numbers and when the recruitment process would commence by the time of the next Panel meeting].

(3) In view of the increased number of assaults on Police Officers, would the PCC offer all front-line Police Officers Tasers, as other Police Forces have done?

[The PCC acknowledged the increasing number of violent assaults on Police Officers and that some Police Forces had issued officers with Tasers for protection. The PCC said that he was looking into the use of Tasers for the Force and referred to a three day training course which had to be undertaken for officers to use Tasers.

In response to a comment regarding the safe secure storing of Taser equipment, the PCC reported that the storage of Tasers around Thames Valley was an issue and referred to the closure of a number of police stations which had reduced storage space.

The Chief Constable reported that 12 months ago, Thames Valley Police had agreed to increase the use of Tasers by Police Officers and that they were a very useful bit of kit for officers. The protection of Thames Valley Police Officers was very important and the use of Tasers would be kept under review, subject to a threat and risk assessment.]

Thames Valley Police: Crime Data Integrity re-inspection 2019

The Panel was provided with details of the Crime Data re-inspection results which found that Thames Valley Police had improved its crime recording arrangements since the 2017; however, it was found that still more needed to be done.

The PCC reported that there was clearly more work to be done to improve crime recording in response to the HMICFRS re-inspection of Crime Data Integrity and it was a concern that some of the issues raised at the last inspection were not yet satisfactorily remedied. Reference was made to how crime was recorded which meant certain crimes had to be recorded multiple times.

Panel Members asked the following questions:

(1) Could the PCC indicate to the Panel how is he holding the Chief Constable to account regarding the processes which are being put in place to address the issues raised in the report relating to training of frontline officers in the use of NICHE and to Contact Management Centre staff for recording crimes correctly?

[The PCC reported that greater training would be taking place and improvements would be made. Meetings took place every two weeks where issues were discussed to improve processes. The Chief Constable said that improvements would take place on recording crime when the public first contacted the Police and first calls would be recorded. A review and further training would take place to improve performance on this.

Reference was made to other Police Forces also having poor reports and Chief Constables questioning the process for recording crimes. A meeting would be taking place with the Home Secretary to discuss the issue.]

(2) What was the impact of reporting on the Victims First scheme, particularly around crimes relating to Domestic Violence, sexual assault which from the report, were not always being recorded properly. In addition, reference was made to those crimes which were not always reported at the time they were committed.

[The PCC reported that victims wanted to see justice being done. Crimes were on the increase and yet prosecutions were down. The PCC continued that all crimes which were reported were investigated and the Chief Constable reported that all sexual assault and domestic abuse crimes were investigated consistent with national risk assessments. There was a duty to protect victims. Reference was made to needing to act quickly in relation to Domestic Violence to ensure a speedy court appearance and the CPS had an important role in this respect.]

(3) A Member enquired about the impact of the reporting of crimes on national systems and whether there was enough resource to deal with this.

[The PCC made the point that the Police Force with the best recording of crime arrangements had the worst outcome rates. The Chief Constable reported that reporting was a very complicated process and that systems did not help. An example was given of stalking, which used to be recorded just the once, but under the new system, this has to be recorded by the number of instances, which was challenging.]

(4) A comment was made regarding the increase in the crime of possession of knives which had occurred because of the increased recording of the crime and the efficiency of the Police.

[The PCC in response said that the success in terms of knife crime was due to the effective and efficient use of “stop and search” powers. The same applied to drug related arrests. These type of outcomes were not reflected in the inspection report.]

(5) Are other Police Forces struggling with the recording of crimes or is this a unique situation to the Thames Valley? Is there liaison with other Forces who are performing better in terms of Crime Data to ensure lessons and best practise can be shared?

[The PCC referred to West Midlands and Kent who received similar reports. The Chief Constable explained that the background to this area of inspection was that there had been allegations that the Police massaged crime figures. The Panel was informed that 17 Police Forces were rated inadequate in terms of crime reporting with 3 Police Forces classified as good. Reference was made to the introduction of on-line reporting which was a good facility.]

RESOLVED – (1) That the updates provided and the topical issues contained in the report be noted.

(2) That the PCC be requested to provide an annual update to the Panel on Recruitment and Retention within Thames Valley Police, which would include further information on the impact and benefit of the additional Police Officers, once the process to recruit them has been completed.

(3) That the PCC be requested to provide an update to the Panel in six months’ time on progress made by TVP in making improvements to Crime Data Integrity.

18 PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

There were no public questions submitted.

19 THEMED ITEM - VICTIMS FIRST SCHEME

Shona Morrison, Head of Policy and Commissioning at the Office of the Thames Valley Police and Crime Commissioner attended the meeting to provide a presentation on the first year of operation of the Victims First Scheme.

The Panel was informed that Victims First was the overarching brand name for all of the PCC's activity aimed at improving the post-offence experience of victims of crime. The 4 main strands of activity were:-

- Support: Ensuring appropriate services for victims exist across the policing area;
- Accessibility: Raising public awareness of services and improving ease of access;
- Awareness: Campaigns to improve knowledge about specific types of victimisation and encourage people who need support to seek it;
- Rights: Improving the overall standard of services for victims across the Criminal Justice System and beyond.

Support

Victims Needs Assessments have been carried out in 2014 and in 2017. Specialist reviews also have mapped services or identified needs in relation to Domestic Violence (2015 and 2016), Counselling Support (2016 and 2017), Young Victims (2015 and 2017) and Rape Support (2019).

Since 2015, the Thames Valley OPCC has delivered around 22 market engagement events involving around 250 providers; 3 bid writing workshops; 6 'developing consortia' workshops and made consultants available to emerging consortia/agencies to support them to 'think outside the box'.

Some of the standout statistics around support were:-

- Around 20% of victims want support (Crime Survey England and Wales, Apr 2019);
- Around 60% of those who want support require a short-term, supportive intervention which can be provided by many non-specialists;
- Around 40% (or 8% of all those needing support) access 'specialist support' (i.e. services involving highly skilled and experienced staff).

Around 60% of those needing 'specialist support' have their needs reasonably well met (mainly by Domestic and Sexual Violence Services). Many victims have crime types or complex/multiple needs which do not fit the present arrangements and are not being well met. These include stalking/harassment, cybercrime (e.g. sextortion, fraud), ASB, Exploitation/Modern Slavery, DV/SA victims who do not fit 'traditional services' (e.g. inter-familial, male victims, historical, medium risk victims, LGBT+), Hate Crime victims, very young victims, witnesses (e.g. murder victims), family members (e.g. parents of victims of sexual abuse/CSE), traumatised couples or families.

Reference was made to sometimes the issues being compounded by mental health problems or other vulnerabilities.

Since 2016, the OPCC has implemented a Victims Service's Re-design Project:-

- To bring to an end several existing contracts and posts.
- To commission a multi-disciplinary Victims First 'Adult Specialist Service' to provide 'specialist support' to all who need it regardless of crime type by 1st April 2020.

In Thames Valley in 2015, PCC funding for 'specialist' support versus 'non-specialist' support was

around 50:50. From April 2020, funding from the OPCC for 'specialist' support compared to 'non-specialist' will be approximately 80:20.

Accessibility

The Panel was informed that sometimes it was difficult to make contact with victims. There had been the creation of an internet-based victim's portal www.victim-first.org.uk. There was an on-line Referral Form for public and professionals.

The Victims First Hub was established in March 2018, with Freephone number 0300 1234 148. A new referral mechanism had been established for TVP officers and staff directly from the police CMS.

In 2018-19, Victims First Hub received around 22,000 referrals and details of these were reported.

Members were informed that around 4 in 10 victims cannot be contacted or no longer want support. Support Services funded by the PCC received around 8,000 'valid' referrals (where contact has been made and support still required). The majority referred from the Victims First Hub are to the Victims First Emotional Support Service (low level support), followed by the Sexual Violence Service, followed by the Young Victims Service.

Reference was made to the use of social media to increase awareness <https://www.facebook.com/victimfirstTV> and campaigns such as 'Lets Hate Hate', #KnowThisIsntLove (coercive control)

Members were provided with details of Victims First Connect which will consist of localised, community based Victims First information points. This would allow support to be accessed at a community level which will make it easier for those who have not reported the crime to the police. Victim First Connect points will provide:

- Information on Victims First and what services are available;
- Provide crime prevention/ safety advice
- Information on hate crime
- The ability to make a third party report of hate crime
- Someone to make a referral to Victims First on the victim's behalf

Rights

Infographics to explain the Victims Code of Practice, the Criminal Justice process and Restorative Justice. Use of social media, a Victims Information Pack has been produced which would be used by TVP.

A recent development would be the PCC holding to account other agencies via the Local Criminal Justice Board and other forums. This was to ensure that victims were receiving rights in accordance with the Victims code of practice. This would happen through the chairmanship of the Deputy PCC who was Chairman of the Local Criminal Justice Board.

In response to a question relating to monitoring the analytics (number of "hits", the time spent on items) of the Victims First website, the Panel was informed that the Communications Team of the PCC monitored this. However, the time users "hovered" on items on the website, would be looked at to see if any changes or amendments needed to be made.

A Member asked a question relating to restorative justice and how successful would this be. Members

were informed that it was recognised that it was a difficult offer to fulfil; some victims and offenders did want to take part in the scheme. Under the new scheme this would be promoted.

RESOLVED – That the Head of Policy and Commissioning be thanked for the presentation and Members of the Panel were asked to forward the Victims First Scheme information onto their constituent authorities.

20 POLICE AND CRIME PLAN STRATEGIC PRIORITY 4 - SERIOUS ORGANISED CRIME AND TERRORISM

Consideration was given to a report of the PCC, which summarised the progress to date (Year 3, 2019/20) on the delivery of the Police and Crime Plan Strategic Priority 4 – Serious Organised Crime and Terrorism.

The PCC reported that Thames Valley headed Serious Organised Crime and Terrorism for the South East which consisted of Surrey/Sussex/Hampshire/ Thames Valley. Kent attended meetings as observers, with meetings taking place every three months.

Reference was made to the successes which had taken place on “County Lines, working across other Police Force boundaries. The Prevent Strategy was being implemented across the Thames Valley with an officer from the PCC delivering Prevent training to organisations.

The Panel was informed that there had been a number of successful results in relation to cases of exploitation and modern slavery. Incidents of rough sleepers/begging continued to cause problems in certain parts of the region with some of these being “professional beggars”.

Discussion took place on elements of the report and reference was made to the large number of low-level crime such as ATM Crimes, illegal cigarettes etc. The PCC referred to lenient sentences for such crimes, with offenders back out on the streets committing crime again. The Thames Valley needed to be an unattractive place for these criminals.

In relation to rough sleepers and beggars, the PCC commented that there was a shortage of local authority housing provision. Reference was made to young people being drawn into crime and discussion took place on what could be done to change this. The PCC referred to cuts to youth services reducing activities for young people to do. Action for Youth was an organisation in Aylesbury which worked very well.

RESOLVED – That the information contained in the report be noted.

21 POLICE AND CRIME PLAN STRATEGIC PRIORITY 5 - POLICE ETHICS AND REFORM

Consideration was given to a report of the PCC, which summarised the progress to date (Year 3, 2019/20) on the delivery of the Police and Crime Plan Strategic Priority 5 – Police Ethics and Reform.

The PCC reported that there were three major IT programmes, with the Contact Management Platform almost completed. This system would record and manage police contact with the public and would be used to control operational responses to crimes and incidents.

Body worn video, Automatic Number Plate Recognition and CCTV were working effectively. The Data Enablers Programme which was a Thames Valley collaboration with Hampshire, aimed to implement a structured approach to data management.

Reference was made to the aim of clarification of processes on issues which sit best with other authorities, particularly in relation to the Police dealing with people with mental health issues. The PCC reported that there had been changes to detention in the Mental Health Act which gave the Police power to remove someone from a public place to a place of safety. This had led to a reduction in the number of unlawful detentions in police custody. Improvements had been made with triage nurses working on patrol with the Police.

RESOLVED – That the information contained in the report be noted.

22 THAMES VALLEY POLICE AND CRIME PANEL HOSTING ARRANGEMENTS

RESOLVED – (1) That approval be given to Oxfordshire County Council carrying out the function of Host Authority for the Thames Valley Police and Crime Panel, and that the function would be transferred on a date to be agreed between South Bucks District Council and Oxfordshire County Council once the TUPE arrangements have been finalised and transition arrangements are in place between South Bucks District Council and the new Host Authority.

(2) That the Panel arrangements be amended accordingly to reflect that the Host Authority would be Oxfordshire County Council from the date agreed between South Bucks District Council and Oxfordshire County Council.

(3) That meetings of the Thames Valley Police and Crime Panel continue to take place at Aylesbury Vale District Council offices.

23 WORK PROGRAMME

Noted.

24 DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING

The Panel noted that the next meeting would take place on 22 November 2019 at 11.00am at Aylesbury Vale District Council offices.

CHAIRMAN

THAMES VALLEY POLICE AND CRIME PANEL

22 November 2019

Agenda item: 2019/20 Investment in TVP Service Delivery of £8.5m Additional Funding (as at the end of July 2019)

Summary

The Thames Valley Police (TVP) Medium Term Financial Plan (MTFP) incorporated funding for an extra 202 posts (57 officers and 145 staff). This has now been revised to 212 posts (69 officers and 143 staff). The split between officers and staff may still vary slightly as we challenge all new officer posts to ensure they should be officers not staff. In relation to funding in the current year (2019/20) we are expecting to spend about £6.6m on salaries for these new posts, subject to the actual recruitment dates, plus overtime etc. For next year (2020/21) this will increase to £8m+ as we would expect to have all the posts for a full year.

The residual funding available of approximately £2m in the current year represents the money we intend to invest in technology to improve the information and communications available to our officers to improve the service they provide. Funding across the initiatives is being managed to reflect actual recruitment timings, etc.

We therefore expect to be on target for spending the £8.5m.

The table below indicates the current year initiatives, budget allocations and intended improvements through these investments. As with the delivery of all areas of our service it is not possible to isolate individual cause and effect and other contributors will affect the outcomes.

Improved Service to the Public Through Contact Management £1.3m

The rise in demand and the complexity of that demand have increased the length of time it takes to assess the threat, harm and risk and ensure every call receives the appropriate response. We will reduce call handling times, particularly for 101 calls, by recruiting additional staff to deal with the additional demand and more complex crime and incidents being reported.

Contact Management	Initial Bid	Officers /Staff	Forecast Outturn	Outcome Measure
Temp increases in staff & overtime. Increased supervision	£1.3m	48 staff	£1.0m	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> An improvement in the average time taken to answer 101 calls to three minutes, working towards an average of two minutes in 2020/21. No more than 5% of callers wait over 10 minutes for their 101 calls to be answered <p>The year to date average time to answer 101 calls is 2 minutes 49 seconds and 215,890 calls have been answered to date. This is a significant improvement on this time last year when the average time was in excess of 4 minutes and much closer to our target of 2 minutes</p>
New Initiative - Shift pattern change	£0		£0.1m	
Total	£1.3m	48	£1.1m	

The recruitment of the additional staff was budgeted at 80% occupancy the actual recruitment profile and utilisation of overtime will be monitored against this. At this point in time virtually the full £1.3m will be utilised albeit the split between salaries and overtime is dependent on recruitment. In addition the approved change in shift pattern from October 2019 has additional costs in the current year plus full year costs needs to be captured in the MTFP.

Increasing Front Line policing and Service Delivery £2.5m

We will recruit additional officers and staff to increase visibility to our communities and respond to increasing crime demand and complexity and the impact (particularly in the areas of mental health and children’s safeguarding) of the reduction in the resources of and services provided by other agencies.

Front Line Policing	Initial Bid	Officers/Staff	Forecast Outturn	Outcome Measures
Additional 26 Officers in LPAs and the continuation of temp case investigators to provide additional resource	£2.5m	26 Officers 57 staff	£2.8m	An improvement in the average times for attending immediate and urgent incidents without an unintended displacement to ‘by appointment’ incidents.
New Initiatives - Interest on the purchase of a new station at Reading.	£0		£0.3m	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 65% of domestic abuse incidents attended within four hours. • Achievement of 90% of investigations conducted within appropriate timescales. • Achievement of 90% of investigations graded as ‘Good’ as a minimum
Total	£2.5m	83	£3.1m	

The increases in establishments in the LPAs have been actioned and we should reach the revised target establishment in September 2019. The increase in Sergeants and Inspectors in the Local Policing Areas (LPAs) was not budgeted for in the initial £8.5m. The temporary case investigators employment contracts will all be extended until the end of March 2020 with a small increase in cost. .

Improved Volume & Complex Investigation £2.2m

Stretched resources are operating in an increasingly expanding and complex environment, with investigations at all levels growing in size and complexity. There has been an impactful increase in organised crime which exploits the vulnerable as well as cyber enabled crime fraud and economic crime. We will recruit more investigators and invest in appropriate new technology and tools.

Volume & Complex Investigation	Initial Bid	Officers / Staff	Forecast Outturn	Outcome Measure
<p>This included a number of measures</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increase of 31 Officers & Overtime provision • Enhanced Covert Human Intelligence Sources(CHIS) provision • Economic Crime Unit (ECU) Uplift • Justice gateway & Postal requisitions in Criminal Justice • Forensic freezers • Body Worn Video (BWV) Uplift 	£2.2m	31 Officers 16 Staff	£2.1m	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Achievement of 90% of investigations conducted within appropriate timescales. • Achievement of 90% of investigations graded as ‘Good’ as a minimum. • An increase in the force’s overall positive outcome rate. • A reduction in residential burglary (dwellings) by at least 5% with the intention of achieving an 18% reduction over four years. • Substantial evidence of effective identification and disruption of the most impactful organised crime groups and county drugs lines.
<p>New Initiatives - Purchase of ROCU Western Hub (Interest Costs).</p>	£0		£0.1m	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • An increase in the volume of rape and sexual offences that result in a charge. • Substantial evidence of co-ordinated activity to reduce instances of exploitation. • 90% of calls of vulnerable people being exploited at financial institutions attended within 15 minutes (or safe

				guarding assessment made with victim within 24 hours when offender not at scene). • 90% of identified high-vulnerability victims of fraud contacted within 24 hours and an ECU1 assessment completed within 48 hours.
Total	£2.2m	47	£2.2m	

The recruitment of officers will impact on the split between officers and staff which will also effect the utilisation of the budget, the Operation Endeavour programme may also impact. The postal requisitions will not start until September and the Freezers and BWV are underway. In addition we have also invested capital in a new station for SEROCU.

Learning & Development (L&D) Increased Recruitment Volumes & Apprenticeship Costs

An additional 30 posts have been agreed for L&D, these were not in the original budget. These posts are to facilitate the increased recruitment rates to help us achieve our budgeted establishment by September 2019 and introduce the new PC Apprenticeship training scheme.

Increased Recruitment Volumes & Apprenticeship	Initial Bid	Officers/ Staff	Forecast Outturn	Outcome Measure
New Initiatives <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Foundation trainers • Driver Training • Police Development Assessment Officer (DAOs) • PCSO DAOs • Accreditation Assessment • Vetting & Occy Health 	£0	12 Officers 18 staff	£0.6m	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Achieve full establishment by 30/9/2019 • Exceed establishment by 100 by 31/03/2020 • Implement PCDA
Total	£0m	30	£0.6m	

The current position is that most posts will be filled by the year end however they are struggling to recruit driver trainers.

Increasing our Digital Development Programmes **£2.5m**

We will exploit the modern platforms we have been investing in through the development of operational designed tools, expanding our mobile capability and improving connectivity will allow officers and staff to maximise the use of online digital applications facilitating the fast access and transfer of data, while investing in Intelligence technologies will improve the efficiency of transactional processes.

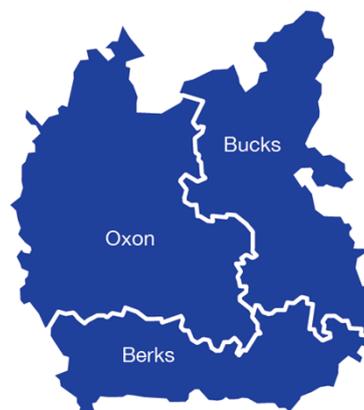
Digital Development	Initial Bid	Officers / Staff	Forecast Outturn	Outcome Measure
This was primarily ICT based capital projects such as Wi-Fi, Laptops , digital development with some temp posts	£2.5m	1	£1.5m	This is part of the transformation of the organisation into a truly mobile workforce which leverages digital capabilities both regionally and nationally increasing productivity and efficiency
Total	£2.5m	1	£1.5m	

A review of items under this heading had identified some over provision (where costs will be split will Hampshire Constabulary) and some over optimistic assumptions, hence some funding has been identified to help fund the additional L&D posts. The largest item is the purchase of Laptops for £1m, of which the funds have been committed these are in the process of being obtained as part of the Windows 10 project; the other projects are all underway with only the CMP front end postponed for at least a year.

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Report to the Thames Valley Police & Crime Panel

Title: Increase in Crime rates and falling number of prosecutions/ Restructuring of Courts and the implications of this on the Criminal Justice System



Date: 22 November 2019

Author: Khalid Ahmed, Scrutiny Officer, Thames Valley Police & Crime Panel

Objective

The objective of this themed item will be for the Panel to assess why with an increasing crime rate in the Thames Valley has the number of convictions/ prosecutions reduced?

The Deputy Police and Crime Commissioner and Chief Constable will be in attendance to provide the Panel with presentations on this themed item.

Background

The number of people formally dealt with by the criminal justice system fell last year¹ to the lowest level since 1970 despite police figures showing a six per cent rise in offending, official statistics have revealed. The Ministry of Justice figures showed that the number of people dealt with by the justice system in England and Wales fell by three per cent in 2018.

The decline was made up of a two per cent drop in prosecutions and an 11 per cent fall in “out-of-court disposals”, such as community punishments. The statistics also revealed that nearly two-fifths of offenders now have long criminal records, up by 10 per cent on the figure a decade ago.

The disclosures have heightened concerns that cuts to police funding and other parts of the justice system are affecting the ability of law enforcers to bring criminals to court and to stop reoffending.

Among the exceptions to the trend were prosecutions for possession of weapons, which rose by four per cent during 2018 in response to the significant increase in knife offending

¹ <https://www.bucksfreepress.co.uk/news/>

nationwide. Prosecutions for sex offences and fraud were also up over the year, but all other categories of offending fell.

The result was that the number of people taken to court fell to 1.38 million, marking a 16 per cent drop compared with the equivalent tally for 2008.

An analysis accompanying the figures said a nine per cent fall in people charged by police over the past year was one factor behind the phenomenon. It also pointed out that police recorded crime rose by six per cent over the same period, with a total of 5.7 million offences, including fraud crimes, registered by forces during 2018. The conviction rate remained high at 87 per cent.

Thames Valley Police

The Thames Valley PEEL (police effectiveness, efficiency and legitimacy programme) assessment of 2018/19 ² concluded that Thames Valley Police was effective at reducing crime and keeping people safe, however, it needed to improve how it investigated low level crime.

The force has improved its processes for locating and arresting suspects. However, the force is bringing fewer offenders to justice than it has in the past. Its approach to disclosing evidence to the defence is good and staff have been well trained in this area.

Over the last four years the number of crimes recorded has increased, yet the number of offenders being brought to justice has decreased. The report concluded that this lends weight to the findings of reviews of completed and ongoing investigations, which suggested that the overall quality of some investigations has reduced.

Between 1 April 2016 and 31 March 2017, the force recorded 138,000 crimes, of which offenders were taken to court in 17,000 cases. The force dealt with a further 7,500 cases in other ways, such as with a caution. In the same period a year later, the force recorded 149,000 crimes, but took only 14,000 offenders to court and dealt with just over 5,500 in other ways. The improvement in processes for recording crime since crime data integrity inspections explain why recorded crime has increased. But it does not explain why the number of offenders being brought to justice has fallen.

The PEEL assessment stated that after legislation changed the way in which police bail was applied, the force did not strike the right balance between the use of pre-charge bail and the released under investigation (RUI) option. Previously, it was possible for police to, in effect; hold a person indefinitely by extending the bail period every 28 days. Following the introduction of the Policing and Crime Act 2017 c. 3, only an officer of inspector rank or higher could authorise police bail, so normally a suspect would be released without bail if they were not charged. Now, this period can only be extended once, and a superintendent officer must authorise it. A magistrates' court is responsible for any further extension.

² <https://www.justiceinspectorates.gov.uk/hmicfrs/peel-assessments/peel-2018/thames-valley>

Since then, the force had been used RUI too often, rather than using bail conditions to protect victims and control offenders.

The force has raised awareness among officers of how to use the legislation, to improve their knowledge and expertise. It emphasises that they should always consider pre-charge bail.

Local Criminal Justice Board

Local Criminal Justice Boards (LCJBs) bring together criminal justice organisations at police force area level to support joint working and improve services. The purpose and vision of the LCJB is to reduce crime, harm and risk by increasing the efficiency and credibility of the Criminal Justice System. By working in partnership, the board aims to improve services to the public with the minimum costs, supported by the best available evidence.

The Thames Valley LCJB consists of the Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC), Thames Valley Police, Thames and Chiltern Crown Prosecution Services (CPS), Her Majesty's Courts and Tribunals Service (HMCTS), Thames Valley Probation, Thames Valley Community Rehabilitation Company, Her Majesty's Prison Service, Youth Offending Service and the Legal Aid Agency.

Priorities for 2019/20 are:

- Delivering improvements in performance across the Criminal Justice System (CJS), particularly with regard to increasing the proportion of effective trials.
- Identifying and creating efficiencies across the CJS including the delivery of digital working by all agencies and working with as little paper as possible.
- Improving victim and witness satisfaction - putting people at the centre of the CJS.
- Supporting the principle of facilitating the required Criminal Justice processes necessary to make Restorative Justice a timely, safe and efficient intervention in order to reduce re-offending and the risk of repeat victimisation.
- Reducing Re-offending – reducing crime, harm and risk by removing adult and youth offenders from the CJS, especially through the use of Integrated Offender Management.
- Improving access to health provision for offenders and reducing health inequalities.
- Supporting Children and Young People who are going through the CJS and increasing diversion from it, where appropriate.

However, there has been a restructuring of the Criminal Justice System which has resulted in two thirds of magistrates' courts in Thames Valley being closed over the last decade.

Experts have expressed concerns that widespread court closures could deny people access to justice. House of Commons library data reveals that 10 of the 15 magistrates' courts in Thames Valley have shut since 2010: (Witney, Didcot, Wantage, West Berkshire (Newbury), Maidenhead (East Berkshire), Bicester, Amersham, Aylesbury, Banbury and Bracknell. The following courts remain open: East Berkshire Magistrates' Court, Slough, High Wycombe Magistrates' Court, Milton Keynes Magistrates' Court and Family Court, Oxford and Southern Oxfordshire Magistrates' Court and Reading Magistrates' Court and Family Court.

Nationally, more than half the magistrates' courts in England and Wales have closed as part of reforms by the Ministry of Justice and HM Courts and Tribunals Service. The reasoning behind this is to "improve access to justice" by using technology, including having defendants entering pleas online and testifying remotely via video screen. However, campaigners say this could hamper communication between defendants and their legal representatives.

In Thames Valley six courts have been sold - four to private buyers - raising a total of £4.7 million for the Ministry of Justice (MoJ). The Treasury has stipulated that £400 million of the MoJ's £1.2 billion digital modernisation programme must be raised through the sale of courthouses.

Across England and Wales, £223 million has been raised by closing 162 out of 323 magistrates' courts. This closure of magistrates' courts has hampered witnesses and defendants, who are put off by having to travel long distances, which has had an impact on the number of collapsed cases. The MoJ maintains that the programme will make access to justice easier and improve efficiency, particularly by closing under-used court houses.

On 15 February 2019, Thames Valley's PCC offered the following comment in response to court closures at Newbury, Bicester and Aylesbury:-

"I am disappointed that the Ministry of Justice has decided to close three magistrates Courts in the Thames Valley, those in Aylesbury, Bicester and Newbury. It has made this decision in spite of the response to its own consultation showing overwhelming opposition from local Councils, MPs, Magistrates, and many other interested parties across the Thames Valley, including myself as Police and Crime Commissioner. Furthermore, the decision flies in the face of the Ministry's own pledge to put the victim first.

"It will result in more failed cases as victims and witnesses will have to travel long distances to get to courts. It will waste a considerable amount of police time getting officers to courts. It takes local justice away from the areas in which crimes are committed. Local justice will not be seen to be done as the local press will not turn up to cases heard in courts many miles away. It will prevent good people becoming Magistrates if they have to commute long distances to attend cases. It does nothing for the victims of crime or the effectiveness of the criminal justice system.

"It is true that proposed CCTV links to Courts will overcome some problems, but until that system is up and running properly we will not know how effective it will be, and in many cases it will not be possible. The alternative suggestion to close the Court buildings, but retain the function locally, and use Council offices or some other venue to host Court hearings, does not seem to have been looked at.

"The decision to close these three Courts may save the Ministry of Justice money in the short term, but it will cost the Police money, do nothing for victims and witnesses, and is likely to result in yet more failed cases. It would seem to waste money rather than save it, at the expense of local criminal justice."

Thames and Chiltern Crown Prosecution Service is the main prosecuting authority in England and Wales, and was set up in 1986 to prosecute criminal cases investigated by the police in England and Wales. Thames and Chiltern is one of 14 CPS Areas and covers three police force areas; Bedfordshire, Hertfordshire and Thames Valley (Berkshire, Buckinghamshire and Oxfordshire) and serves a population of approximately four million. The CPS' aim is to be a service that is confident and independent, efficient and effective, becoming truly world class. Everything that the CPS does, aims to support victims and witnesses, deliver justice for all, and make communities safer. They work in partnership with police forces, but are independent of them.

In the financial year 2017-18, CPS Thames and Chiltern prosecuted 27,524 cases in Magistrates' Courts and 4,664 cases in Crown Courts. The conviction rate for this period was 84.3% in Magistrates' Courts and 81.1% in Crown Courts.

An issue which is causing a problem in the criminal justice system has been the number of prosecutions that have collapsed because of a failure by police or prosecutors to disclose evidence. In 2018 this had increased by 70% in the previous two years.³

A particular area of concern has been the number of collapsed rape cases caused by a failure to share evidence with defence solicitors.

In the lead up to criminal trials, police and prosecutors have a duty to disclose evidence that might either assist the defence case or undermine the prosecutions. However, the collapse of several rape cases has heightened concerns that evidence is not being disclosed early enough, and that the rules are not being followed.

The CPS figures demonstrate that there are not just isolated cases of disclosure-related failed prosecutions, they are on the increase. There have been three official reports into disclosure in seven years (Lord Justice Gross, Richard Horwell, CPS inspectorate) but only now, it seems, is there a determination among police and prosecutors to grip the issue.

The reason for failings in disclosure was partly down to lack of police resources but also the police needed to consider all possible lines of inquiry, not just focus on building up a case, and the prosecution should not be holding onto evidence. In addition, lack of investment, training and attention to the criminal justice system was another reason.

The figures, obtained under the Freedom of Information Act, revealed that the total number of people whose trials have ended or the charges against them dropped due to a failure to disclose evidence. Over a four-year period, the number of completed prosecutions fell by almost 150,000 cases - from more than 736,000 in 2013-14 to just over 588,000 in 2016-17.

The National Police Chiefs Council (NPCC) acknowledged that the Police needed to swiftly improve and appoint disclosure champions in each force. The Chief Constable of Surrey Police⁴, the lead on criminal justice for the NPCC, commented that "We have had a cultural problem with disclosure, where it is too often seen by police officers as a thing to be done at

³ <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-42795058>

⁴ <https://www.theguardian.com/law/2018/jan/>

the end of an investigation, becoming subsequent to, rather than integral to, the investigation. Changing this mind-set is an immediate challenge for us.” Training ... is forming part of a very aggressive improvement plan that I’ve developed together with colleagues in the CPS, which is imminently due for publication,” he said.

Reference was made to the increase in digital information which presented challenges for the police service, with the average smartphone containing the equivalent of 30,000 pages of A4 paper in information.

Recent Developments

Since becoming Prime Minister, Boris Johnson has made a number of law-and-order announcements which will have an impact on policing and on the number of prison places available.

The hiring of 20,000 more police officers by 2022, which will cost £1.1bn. The creation of 10,000 places in new prisons by 2020. However, this target was to create new places in order to shut old, outdated prisons, not to increase the overall capacity of the prison system.

Plans have also been announced for an extra £85m over the next two years for the Crown Prosecution Service. Since 2010-11, the CPS has had its budget cut by roughly 30% in real terms - a total of about £225m. In the same period, staff numbers have decreased from 7,978 to 5,518.

Rehabilitating our criminal justice system

Thames Valley’s Deputy PCC made the following statement on 13 September, 2019:

“Confidence matters. Not just in the sense of good PR, or a nice warm feeling inside, it actually matters. Thankfully, most people have very little or no contact with the criminal justice system, but we all need to have confidence that the system is in good health and working to protect us and those around us. You do not have to believe in a rose-tinted past in order to see that this confidence has taken a battering over recent years, and indeed decades.

Justice is seen as too slow and bureaucratic; investigative outcomes are poor; sentencing is seen as weak and reoffending rates are high. We urgently need to rehabilitate both offenders, and the criminal justice system itself. Few complex systems are perfect, especially those that have to deal with human tragedy and transgression as their bread and butter, but through the leadership of Local Criminal Justice Boards, that bring together all of the agencies involved in delivering justice, Police & Crime Commissioners can be the midwives to that transformation.

Much of the attention to police performance is understandably about visibility, but that is only part of the picture. The investigative outcomes are well below where the public would expect them to be. In Thames Valley a major new initiative is being launched to ensure that

investigation is at the heart of what the police do. It is one of the unique functions that can only be carried out by the police and it goes beyond the immediate response to incidence which is so often the focus of attention and resources.

The effectiveness and quality of prosecutions must also be rigorously scrutinised. Undoubtedly much of this rests with the police in terms of providing thorough investigations and properly dealing with issues such as disclosure, but the Crown Prosecution Service also need to ensure that they are not prioritising the safest cases at the expense of confidence in the wider system.

The use of technology in our courts and prisons needs to be improved. Too often the correct technology is not in place or the infrastructure isn't up to the job. With court closures making the physical journey to secure justice a longer one for many victims and witnesses, the facilities and the support for them needs to be right first time, every time.

The public response to sentencing, often without understanding the details of the case will always be a problem, but whilst prisoners continue to be routinely released half way through the sentence that has been imposed by the courts it is little wonder that confidence is draining away. If we are to retain this policy the Ministry of Justice should seriously consider GPS tagging for all serious or violent offenders as part of their sentence. This is currently used by Thames Valley on a voluntary basis for a small cohort of offenders, but the potential of this technology is significant. Not just by imposing an additional restriction on someone's liberty as part of their sentence, but as an active tool to reducing reoffending and helping people to turn their lives around.

This final point about reducing the chances of someone committing further crimes is key. Too often the pendulum of debate swings all the way to draconian punishment to ultra-lenient sentencing with no evidence of success. There is a balance to be struck. Whilst offenders are in prison they are there to be punished, but there is no reason why that time inside should not be used to equip them with the basic skills to become law abiding members of society on their release. Once they are outside there is no reason why they should be cast aside. Restrictions on liberty, provision of education, and where necessary treatment should all be part of how the state deals with offenders in order to keep society safe.

Reform will cost money, but as is so often the case, cash isn't the only answer. By properly joining the system up, through bodies such as Local Criminal Justice Boards, can improve working practices, encourage the sharing of data and ensure that all agencies have a shared goal of improving justice for victims.

Just as there is no contradiction between punishment and rehabilitation, there should also be no conflict between delivering an efficient criminal justice system and at the same time ensuring public confidence in it."

Further background information

Half of rape victims drop out of cases even after suspect is identified
<https://www.theguardian.com/society/2019/nov/10/>

Campaigners say victims may be dropping out fearing disclosure of their intimate private life after police requests for the contents of their digital devices.

Almost half of rape victims are dropping out of investigations, as a growing proportion do not want to pursue a prosecution even when a suspect has been identified, according to a Cabinet Office report.

The figures, which were prepared for a secret internal government review earlier this year, reveal a system in crisis as tens of thousands of women are reluctant to pursue their alleged attackers when faced with invasive disclosure demands, a lower likelihood of securing a conviction and lengthy delays in seeing their case brought to court.

The report, suggests a lack of resources which is impacting the criminal justice system's ability to pursue rape cases.

Reported rapes are on the rise. However, police are referring fewer cases to the Crown Prosecution Service, which in turn is prosecuting even fewer cases.

While recorded rapes increased by 173% between 2014 and 2018, the police referred 19% fewer cases for charging decisions and CPS decisions to prosecute fell by 44% in the same period.

One of the most concerning changes is the growing proportion of cases resulting in "outcome 16", whereby a suspect has been identified after a police investigation but the victim does not support further action. The document reveals that from 2015 to 2018, the proportion of cases dropped owing to an outcome 16 rose from 33% to 48%.

Last year, more than 20,000 women – an average of one every 30 minutes – decided not to proceed with a rape investigation, even when the suspect had been identified.

Campaigners believe the sharp rise may reflect victims being discouraged from pursuing complaints because they face disclosure of their intimate, private life through requests for the contents of their phones and laptops. The sheer length of time from offence to completion at court, which has increased by 37% to an average of two years since 2014, may be deterring others.

The lower number of cases referred to the CPS has been compounded by a further decline in the charging rate. The majority of CPS areas showed a decline in the charge rate for rape between 2014 and 2018. Overall 11 of 14 CPS areas showed significant falls in the rate of charging suspects and three – Wales, the south-east and east Midlands – showed increases. This effectively results in further variation in a victims' chances of seeing their case prosecuted.

The review also shows the amount of time taken by the CPS to produce a decision on whether or not to charge a suspect has doubled since 2013-14, when it was on average 30.6 days, to 2018 when it reached 86.2 days.

Crimes and convictions

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-49986849>

In 2018-19, fewer than 8% of offences led to a suspect being charged or ordered to appear in court, and under 4% were dealt with outside court, by an on-the-spot fine, caution or community resolution, such as an apology or compensation.

When deciding if a suspect should be charged, police generally work with the Crown Prosecution Service (CPS), which prosecutes crimes in court on behalf of the state.

The two tests which must be met for the CPS to authorise charges are whether there is sufficient evidence for a realistic prospect of conviction and if a prosecution is in the public interest.

Charging rates and overall detection levels vary according to what type of crime it is.

Drugs offences are often discovered by the police through searches or raids, which is why charging rates are higher. Most murders are detected because of the huge investigative effort that goes into solving them.

The proportion of crimes that are "detected" - meaning they have been resolved in some way - has been falling continuously since 2015. Offences such as robbery, where witnesses are needed and sexual offences, which often revolve around the issue of consent, have far lower clear-up rates.

Genuine increase in crime

In England and Wales, crime is measured through the Crime Survey of England and Wales, and by counting offences that are reported to and recorded by police. The Survey is seen as the better way of measuring long-term trends and its methods have remained consistent and it includes unreported offences.

Its results indicate an overall downward trend in offending over the past two decades, before stabilising in the past few years. Some crimes, such as murder, offences against businesses, and crimes against people aged under 16 - are not included in its main findings.

The Survey is also not regarded as being good at estimating less common crimes which cause the most harm, like stabbings and robbery.

Police data provides a more reliable measure of these crimes, which have shown a genuine increase.

Overall, the police figures **show the number of offences logged by forces is up.**

This is partly because more people feel comfortable approaching the police about under-reported crimes, such as sexual offences, and because police themselves are getting better at recording crime.

Police officers are central to the criminal justice system's smooth running as they:

- deal with crimes, disorder and anti-social behaviour
- help victims and identify suspects
- prepare cases for trial

The number of officers in the 43 England and Wales forces has fallen by about 20,000 since 2010, but the government is in the process of restoring those numbers by April 2023 in the most ambitious police recruitment drive in modern times.

There has also been a steep decline in the number of police community support officers and civilian staff, who provide vital back-up roles.

When officers are called to reports of a crime, they have several options, including resolving matters informally, issuing a warning, or making an arrest - which can lead to a charge. But as officer numbers have dropped, arrests have gone down for almost all crimes.

Detective work has been made more complex because of the mass of digital material from smartphones, computers and data storage devices. A roughly 30% reduction in the CPS budget between 2011 and 2018 has also affected the volume of prosecutions and how quickly cases can be processed, though court success rates have improved.

Once a case goes to court, most crimes are dealt with by magistrates or district judges but serious offences are heard in the Crown Court, where defendants have the right to trial by jury. Almost half of Magistrates Courts in England and Wales have been closed since 2010.

This is partly because of a government strategy to move some cases, such as low-level thefts and motoring offences, out of the court system, by extending the use of video links and virtual hearings conducted online.

If a defendant admits the offence they are accused of, or is found guilty after a trial, a magistrate or judge will determine the most appropriate sanction. The maximum (and in some cases, minimum) penalty for each offence is set out in legislation, but the judge will also refer to Sentencing Council guidelines.

Most crimes are dealt with through fines or community sentences, administered by probation officers. The probation system was partially privatised in 2014, but is now undergoing a further substantial overhaul to undo some of the changes.

Prison is usually reserved for serious offenders, persistent criminals and those who pose a risk to the public; it is intended to be used as a "last resort", but England and Wales have one of the highest rates of imprisonment in the Western world, with almost 83,800 people currently locked up.

Prisons, like other parts of the criminal justice system, also faced significant budget cuts, which led to the loss of more than 6,000 front-line prison staff between 2010 and 2016.

The reduction coincided with a rise in violence, drug-taking and self-harm.

Prison officer numbers are now on the increase and the government has promised to invest £2.5bn in 10,000 new places.

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Report to the Thames Valley Police & Crime Panel

Title: Thames Valley Police and Crime Panel Arrangements and Rules of Procedure

Date: 22 November 2019

Author: Monitoring Officer



Recommendations

1. That the Panel Arrangements for the Thames Valley Police and Crime Panel “the Panel” be updated (as attached in Appendix 1) to reflect:
 - a) That the Host Authority will be Oxfordshire County Council as at 1 January 2020.
 - b) The changes arising from local government reorganisation in Buckinghamshire which take effect from 1 April 2020.
2. That the Panel’s Rules of Procedure be amended (as attached in Appendix 2) to include the appointment of four co-opted members from Buckinghamshire Council due to local government reorganisation in Buckinghamshire. The four co-opted members are in addition to the one member nomination to the Panel from Buckinghamshire Council. The changes take effect from 1 April 2020 and are required in order to satisfy the requirements of the Police Reform and Social Responsibility Act 2011 and produce a balanced panel.
3. That subject to the Panel’s agreement to recommendation 2 that agreement be sought from the Home Secretary each time co-optees are appointed by Buckinghamshire Council.

Reasons for recommendations

- 1.1 The recommendations support the duty for councils to produce a balanced panel in accordance with the Police and Reform and Social Responsibility Act 2011. The recommendations ensure that Buckinghamshire Council maintains its numerical member representation on the Panel following local government reorganisation and the reduction in the number of appointing councils in Buckinghamshire.

Options

- 2.1 That the Thames Valley Police and Crime Panel arrangements be amended as recommended ensuring that five members (one nominee and four co-optees) continue to represent Buckinghamshire Council to ensure a balanced panel is maintained.
- 2.2 That no change be made to the Thames Valley Police and Crime Panel arrangements resulting in one member representing Buckinghamshire Council (rather than the current five) resulting in a numerical under representation on the Panel for Buckinghamshire Council.

Purpose of Report

- 3.1 To seek authority to request that agreement be sought from the Thames Valley Police and Crime Panel to amend the Panel's arrangement to enable 4 co-optees and one member nomination to be appointed to the Panel to represent Buckinghamshire Council thereby maintaining a balanced panel after the number of appointing councils in Buckinghamshire (excluding Milton Keynes) reduces from five to one on 1 April 2020.
- 3.2 The proposal to have 4 co-optees and one member representative appointed by Buckinghamshire Council, rather than 5 member representatives, is due to the legislation which prevents more than one representative being appointed by each local authority in areas where there are more than 10 local authorities in a single police area such as Thames Valley. It is therefore proposed that 4 co-optees be appointed to maintain a geographically balanced panel as provided for by the legislation.

Background

- 4.1 From 1 April 2020, a single new Buckinghamshire Council will replace:
 - Aylesbury Vale District Council
 - Buckinghamshire County Council
 - Chiltern District Council
 - South Bucks District Council
 - Wycombe District Council
- 4.2 The Buckinghamshire (Structural Changes) Order 2019 came into force on 23 May 2019 and created a Shadow Authority for the non-metropolitan district council of Buckinghamshire to be established on 1 April 2020. This was a direct result of the announcement by the Secretary of State regarding a change to the future structure of Local Government in Buckinghamshire.
- 4.3 The Thames Valley Police and Crime Panel arrangements state that the Panel is comprised of 18 elected members (one from each of the local authorities in the Thames Valley). Therefore, the Panel arrangements need to be updated to reflect this legislative change.

Legislation and procedural requirements

- 5.1 Schedule 6 of the Police Reform and Social Responsibility Act 2011 provides that the Police and Crime Panel must make arrangements and rules of procedure. The Panel is required to agree any changes to the rules of procedure. Whilst not totally prescriptive the legislation provides a clear framework for governance, which includes expectations around Panel membership being applied in relation to the number and type of local authorities in the police force area.

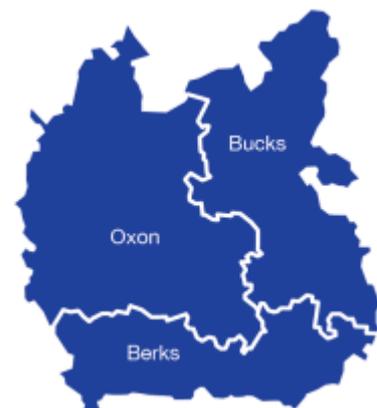
How appointments are made

- 6.1 Appointments of elected Members to the Panel are made by each of the local authorities in accordance with their own procedures and in making their appointments to the Panel each individual authority shall have regard to the requirement in the Act that appointments shall be made with a view to ensuring that the 'balanced appointment objective' is met so far as is reasonably practicable.
- 6.2 Schedule 6 of the Police Reform and Social Responsibility Act 2011 makes detailed provisions on Panel composition under Parts 2 and 4 of Schedule 6 and under Section 31 places a duty on councils to produce a 'balanced panel' which means that the councillors on the panel
- a) represent all parts of the police area
 - b) represent the political make-up of the Authorities (when taken together)
 - c) have the skills, knowledge and experience necessary for the Panel to discharge its functions effectively
- 6.3 Paragraph 4 of the Act on membership and status states that where a force area consists of more than 10 authorities there will be as many members as there are local authorities in the force area plus the two required independent co-opted Members. The upper limit on the size of the panel is 20. Therefore Thames Valley PCP is at its maximum size currently with 5 Members from Buckinghamshire, five from Oxfordshire, six for each of the Unitary Councils in Berkshire, one from Milton Keynes Council, one from Oxford City.

Suggested change to the rules of procedure

- 7.1 Currently one nominee is appointed from each local authority. Due to local government reorganisation there will be a single Council in Buckinghamshire from 1 April 2020. This will mean that Buckinghamshire will only have one member representing the area where previously it had five. This will create a geographical imbalance with regards to population as shown below:

- Berkshire population 905,000 with 6 representatives
- Combined Buckinghamshire population 765,800 currently with 6 representatives (Buckinghamshire Council: 535,900; Milton Keynes Council: 229,900)
- Oxfordshire population 682,000 with 6 representatives



- 7.2 For many areas (but not all) once the two independent co-opted members have been appointed, the panel can consider co-opting additional councillors to meet the balanced appointment objective. To avoid geographical imbalance it is recommended that due to local government reorganisation that four members be co-opted onto the Panel for Buckinghamshire to ensure that the Panel's representation is balanced geographically, and that the Panel's Rules of Procedure be amended (as attached in Appendix 2 with the proposed amendments shown in bold and underlined).

Guidance on representation

- 8.1 The Local Government Association guidance states that in an area in which there are both unitary and county/district councils, there could be a perceived imbalance in the geographical representation on the panel due to the requirement that each authority in the force area must be represented by at least one member. This is because in two-tier areas both the county and its districts will each have a member on the panel, while a neighbouring unitary, however large in terms of size or population, would only have one member on the panel.
- 8.2 There is a political balance objective and this has historically been met by each authority appointing a representative from the Council's majority political group. It would be difficult to achieve a political balance from the overall number of Council seats across the Thames Valley Police Area due to the size of the Panel (currently 18 authorities and in future 14) and the limit on the number of nominees being 18 members and 2 co-optees. It is also important to recognise the requirement to meet the required political balance also needs to be set against good practice; the Panel should operate and conduct its business on a non-political basis in order to be fully effective.

Requirement to notify the Home Office

- 9.1 The Police and Crime Panels (Nominations, Appointments and Notifications) Regulations 2012 require that where a panel co-opts local authority members, the panel must notify the Home Office of their names and of the local authority of which they are a member. The panel must also explain the reasons for deciding that co-opting these individuals will help them meet, or better meet, the balanced appointment objective. Indications from the Home Office in respect of the proposals in this report are that approval is likely to be automatic provided the co-options do not weight the balance on the panel in favour of one particular interest.

Updates to the Panel arrangements

- 10.1 Paragraph 3.0 of the Panel arrangements attached at Appendix 1 refers to Membership which needs to be updated to reflect the change in composition following the implementation of Local Government Reorganisation in Buckinghamshire on 1 April 2020
- 10.2 Subject to the Panel's agreement, 3.1 (panel composition) will need to be amended to reflect that the Panel comprises:
- a) 14 elected members (one from each of the Oxfordshire district councils (4), one for each of the Unitary Authorities in Berkshire (6), and one each for Oxfordshire County Council, Oxford City Council and Milton Keynes Council.

This number includes Buckinghamshire Council who will have one member plus four further local authority co-opted Members to meet with the balanced panel objective (see 3.1 c)).

- b) Two co-opted members who may not be members of the local authorities in the Thames Valley Police area;
- c) Four co-opted members from Buckinghamshire Council to meet the balanced appointment objective (in addition to 3.1 a)

10.3 The heading in 3.11 will be amended to refer to co-opted members who may not be members of local authorities in the Thames Valley Police area. The proposed amendment are shown in bold and underlined at Appendix 1.

Host authority

11.1 The Panel agreed at the meeting on 6 September 2019 that the host authority, currently South Bucks District Council, will change to Oxfordshire County Council. This change will take place on 1 January 2020. The Panel's arrangements will therefore be updated to reflect this change.

Financial Implications

12.1 There are no direct financial implications arising from the recommendations in this report.

Legal Implications

13.1 The recommendations support the duty for councils to produce a balanced panel in accordance with the Police and Reform and Social Responsibility Act 2011.

Equalities Implications

14.1 No specific equalities implications arise from the recommendations in this report.

Next Steps

15.1 Subject to the proposals being agreed, the Panel arrangements will be updated with the change to hosting taking effect from 1 January 2020. The change to the local authority co-optees will take effect from 1 April 2020 when the new Buckinghamshire Council will be established.

Background Papers	None other than those referred to in the report. https://democracy.buckscc.gov.uk/documents/s59999/Panel%20arrangements%20guidance.pdf https://www.southbucks.gov.uk/article/8102/Thames-Valley-Police-and-Crime-Panel https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/117477/police-and-crime-panel.pdf http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2011/13/schedule/6/enacted#schedule-6-paragraph-10-6
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THAMES VALLEY POLICE AND CRIME PANEL ARRANGEMENTS

Published: 26 April 2012

Amended: **[insert date]**

This document was agreed by a Joint Committee on 19 April 2012 on behalf of the following Authorities, and updated **[insert date]** to reflect Local Government Reorganisation in Buckinghamshire:

- Bracknell Forest Council
- **Buckinghamshire Council**
- Cherwell District Council
- Milton Keynes Council
- Oxford City Council
- Oxfordshire County Council
- Reading Borough Council
- Royal Borough of Windsor and Maidenhead Council
- Slough Borough Council
- South Oxfordshire District Council
- Vale of White Horse District Council
- West Berkshire Council
- West Oxfordshire District Council
- Wokingham Borough Council

In this agreement:

- the above Authorities are referred to singularly as ‘Authority’ and together as ‘the Authorities’;
- the “Panel” is the Police and Crime Panel for the Thames Valley Police Force;
- the “Secretariat” is the financial, administrative, scrutiny and other officer support to the Panel;
- the “Host Authority” is the council which hosts the Secretariat at the relevant time;
- the “Act” is the Police Reform and Social Responsibility Act 2011;
- the “Thames Valley Local Authority Chief Executives” are the chief executive officers of the “Authorities”;
- the “Panel Arrangements Document” is this document, as amended from time-to-time; and
- the “Rules of Procedure” are the Rules of Procedure as agreed by the Panel from time to time.

1.0 Background

- 1.1 This Panel Arrangements Document will normally be reviewed every four years by all Authorities, alongside a review of the Rules of Procedure. Proposed changes to the Panel Arrangements Document will be referred to the Thames Valley Local Authority Chief Executive Officers (or to other such arrangement as may be agreed by all Authorities) for comment prior to the decision by the Panel.
- 1.2 The Police Reform and Social Responsibility Act 2011 ('the Act') introduces new structural arrangements for national policing, strategic police decision making, neighbourhood policing and police accountability.
- 1.2 The Act provides for the election of a Police and Crime Commissioner ('PCC') for a police area, responsible for securing an efficient and effective police force for their area, producing a Police and Crime Plan, recruiting the Chief Constable for an area, and holding him/her to account, publishing certain information including an annual report, setting the force budget and police precept and requiring the Chief Constable to prepare reports on police matters. The PCC must co-operate with local community safety partners and criminal justice bodies.
- 1.3 The Act requires the Authorities to establish and maintain a Police and Crime Panel ('the Panel'). It is the responsibility of the Authorities for the police area to make arrangements for the Panel ('Panel Arrangements').
- 1.4 The Thames Valley is a multi-authority police area ('the police area') as defined in Schedule 1 of the Police Act 1996. All the Authorities, as the relevant local authorities within the police area must agree to the making and modification of the Panel Arrangements. If the Authorities are not able to agree the Panel Arrangements the Secretary of State is able to establish a Police and Crime Panel for the Police Area.
- 1.5 Each Authority and each Member of the Panel must comply with the Panel Arrangements.
- 1.6 The functions of the Panel—to be known as the "Thames Valley Police and Crime Panel"—are to be exercised with a view to supporting the effective exercise of the functions of the PCC for that police area.
- 1.7 The Panel must have regard to the Policing Protocol issued by the Home Secretary, which sets out the ways in which the Home Secretary, the PCC, the Chief Constable and the Panel should exercise, or refrain from exercising, functions so as to encourage, maintain or improve working relationships (including co-operative working); and limit or prevent the overlapping or conflicting exercise of functions.
- 1.8 The Panel is a scrutiny body with responsibility for scrutinising the PCC and promoting openness in the transaction of police business in the police area.
- 1.9 The Panel is a Joint Committee of the Authorities and as such is subject to the requirements of the Local Government Act 1972 and subsequent legislation
- 1.10 The Authorities by being parties to this Agreement signify their agreement to the Panel Arrangements.

2.0 Terms of Reference and Functions

- 2.1 The overarching role of the Panel is to scrutinise the work of the PCC in the discharge of the PCC's functions in order to support the effective exercise of those functions.
- 2.2 To undertake this scrutiny role the Panel will carry out the functions set out in the Act. These functions relate to the scrutiny of the Police and Crime Plan, PCC's Annual Report; confirmation hearings of appointments; issuing of precepts; and the appointment of the Chief Constable. These functions may not be discharged by a sub-committee of the Panel.
- 2.3 The Panel is a statutory consultee on the development of the **PCC's Police and Crime Plan** and must:
- a) review the draft Police and Crime Plan (or a variation to it); and
 - b) report and/or make recommendations on the draft Plan which the PCC must take into account.
- 2.4 The Panel must comment upon the **Annual Report** of the PCC, and for that purpose will:
- a) question the PCC on the Annual Report at a public meeting;
 - b) make a report and/or recommendations on the Annual Report to the PCC.
- 2.5 The Panel must hold **confirmation hearings in respect of proposed senior appointments** made by the PCC. This includes the posts of the PCC Chief Executive; Chief Finance Officer and Deputy Police and Crime PCC in accordance with the requirements set out in Schedule 1 of the Act. The Panel will review the appointments and make a report and/or recommendations to the PCC.
- 2.6 The Panel must hold a **confirmation hearing in respect of the appointment of the Chief Constable** by the PCC. The Panel has the right of veto for the appointment of this post in accordance with the Act and regulations.¹
- 2.7 The Panel must review the **precept** proposed by the PCC in accordance with the requirements set out in Schedule 5 of the Act, and will have a right of veto in respect of the precept in accordance with the Act and Regulations made thereafter.
- 2.8 The right of veto will require that at least two-thirds of the persons who are Members of the Panel at the time when the decision is made vote in favour of making that decision.²
- 2.10 The Panel may appoint an Acting PCC if necessary.
- 2.11 The Panel may suspend the PCC if he/she is charged with an offence carrying a maximum term of imprisonment exceeding two years.

¹ Subject to Home Office regulations

² Ibid.

- 2.12 The Panel will have any other powers and duties set out in the Act or Regulations made in accordance with the Act.
- 2.13 The Panel may carry out in-depth reviews into the work of the PCC. This work may be delegated to a Sub-Committee or Task Group.

3.0 Membership

Elected Members

3.1 The Panel comprises:

- a) **14** elected members (one from each of the Oxfordshire district councils (4), one for each of the Unitary Authorities in Berkshire (6), and one each for Oxfordshire County Council, Oxford City Council and Milton Keynes Council. **Buckinghamshire Council will have one member plus four further local authority co-opted Members to meet the balanced panel objective (see 3.1 c).**
- b) Two co-opted members who may not be members of the local authorities in the Thames Valley Police area;
- c) **Four co-opted members from Buckinghamshire Council to meet the balanced appointment objective (in addition to 3.1 a)**

3.2 Appointments of elected Members to the Panel shall be made by each of the Authorities in accordance with their own procedures and in making their appointments to the Panel each individual authority shall have regard to the requirement in the Act that appointments shall be made with a view to ensuring that the 'balanced appointment objective' is met so far as is reasonably practicable. It is recognised that each Authority may choose to appoint from within the membership of the majority group.

3.3 The balanced appointment objective requires that the Panel should (when taken together), and as far as is reasonably practicable:

- a) represent all parts of the police area;
- b) represent the political make-up of the Authorities (when taken together);
- c) have the skills, knowledge and experience necessary for the Panel to discharge its functions effectively.

3.4 In the event that an Authority does not appoint a Member in accordance with these requirements, the Secretary of State will appoint a Member from the Authority to the Panel in accordance with the provisions in the Act.

Term of Office

3.5 A member shall be appointed annually to the Panel to hold office for the following municipal year, and all such appointments shall be notified to the Secretariat no later than 31 May in each year, subject to the following proviso that he or she:

- a) shall cease to be a member of the Panel if he or she ceases to be a member of the Authority (and does not on the same day again become a member of the Authority).

- 3.6 Each Authority will give consideration to the 'balanced objective requirement' in its annual appointment process. Where possible, an Authority will give consideration to continuity of membership to enable the Panel's expertise and skills to be developed for the effective scrutiny of the PCC.

Resignation and removal of elected members on the Panel

- 3.7 An Authority may decide in accordance with its procedures to remove its Member from the Panel at any time and upon doing so shall give written notice to the Secretariat of the change in its Member.
- 3.8 A Member may resign from the Panel at any time by giving notice to the appointing Council who will inform the Secretariat.
- 3.9 In the event that any Member resigns from the Panel, or is removed from the Panel by his or her Authority, the Authority shall immediately take steps to nominate and appoint an alternative Member to the Panel, applying the considerations given in paragraph 3.2-3.3 above.
- 3.10 Where a Panel Member fails to attend meetings of the Panel over a six month period then the Secretariat shall recommend to the relevant Authority that due consideration is given to removing the member from the appointment to the Panel and the appointment of a replacement member from that Authority.

Non-local authority co-opted members

- 3.11 Two co-optees shall be appointed by the Panel who may not be members of the local authorities in the Thames Valley police area.
- 3.12 those co-optees shall:
- a) be disqualified from being appointed if:-
 - i) he or she has not yet attained the age of eighteen years, or
 - ii) neither his or her principal or only place of work, nor his or her principal or only place of residence, has been in the police area during the whole of the period of twelve months ending with the day of appointment.
 - b) be disqualified from being a member so appointed if, at any time, neither his or her principal or only place of work, nor his or her principal or only place of residence, is within the police area.
- 3.13 The following shall be disqualified from being appointed, and from being a co-opted Member if so appointed:
- a) the PCC for the police area;
 - b) a member of staff of the Police and Crime PCC for the area;
 - c) a member of the civilian staff of the Police Force for the area;
 - d) a Member of Parliament;
 - e) a Member of the National Assembly for Wales;

- f) a Member of the Scottish Parliament;
- g) a Member of the European Parliament;
- h) a member of the uniformed Police Force for the area;
- i) a member of a principal council within the Thames Valley Police Authority area.

3.14 A co-opted Member shall be a Member of the Panel for four years. The maximum time length that a co-opted member may serve for is two terms.

3.15 The appointments of co-opted Members are undertaken in accordance with the following principles:

- a) The appointment will be made on merit of candidates whose skills, experience and qualities are considered best to ensure the effective functioning of the Panel.
- b) The selection process must be fair, objective, impartial and consistently applied to all candidates who will be assessed against the same pre-determined criteria.
- c) The selection process will be conducted transparently with information about the requirements for the appointment and the process being publicly advertised.
- d) The selection process will endeavour to encourage applications from candidates which reflect the breadth of communities in the Thames Valley and will welcome applications from all eligible people irrespective of gender, ethnic origin, religious belief, sexual orientation, disability, age or other factor.

3.16 Costs of the recruitment process shall be met from within the existing budget approved by the Panel as set out in section 5. Costs will be minimised by utilising existing networks and advertising online through the national public appointments website, rather than by paid advertisement in newspapers.

3.17 A co-opted Member of the Panel may resign from the Panel by, giving at least three months written notice to the Secretariat. In exceptional circumstances the Panel may agree to a shorter notice period.

3.18 The Panel may at any time terminate the appointment of a co-opted Member of the Panel by notice in writing with immediate effect if:

- a) he or she has been convicted of a criminal offence but not disqualified in accordance with 3.21(c); or
- b) reasonably satisfied that the member is otherwise unable or unfit to discharge his functions as a member; or

3.19 In the event that a co-opted member fails to attend the meetings of the Panel over a six month period the Panel shall give due consideration to the termination of the appointment of the co-opted member.

- 3.20 Where, in accordance with Paragraphs 3.17 and 3.18 a co-opted Member resigns from the Panel or is removed from the Panel following a decision of the Panel, the Panel shall ensure that a replacement is sought as soon as possible in accordance with the principles set out in paragraph 3.15.
- 3.21 Subject to the exemptions set out in paragraphs 3.21 and 3.22, a person shall be disqualified from being appointed as or being a member of a Panel if:
- a) a bankruptcy order has been made against him or her or his or her estate has been sequestrated or he or she has made a composition or arrangement with, or granted a trust deed for, his creditors;
 - b) he or she is subject to a disqualification order or disqualification undertaking under the Company Directors Disqualification Act 1986, to a disqualification order under Part II of the Companies (Northern Ireland) Order 1989, to a disqualification undertaking accepted under the Company Directors Disqualification (Northern Ireland) Order 2002 or to an order made under section 429(2)(b) of the Insolvency Act 1986(failure to pay under county court administration order); or
 - c) he or she has within five years before the date of appointment or since appointment been convicted in the United Kingdom, the Channel Islands or the Isle of Man of an offence, and has had passed on him or her a sentence of imprisonment (whether suspended or not) for a period of not less than three months.
- 3.22 Where a person is disqualified under paragraph 3.20(a) by reason that a bankruptcy order has been made against him or her or his or her estate has been sequestrated, the disqualification shall cease:
- a) unless the bankruptcy order is previously annulled or the sequestration of his estate is recalled or reduced, on his obtaining a discharge; and
 - b) if the bankruptcy order is annulled or the sequestration of his estate is recalled or reduced, on the date of that event.
- 3.23 Where a person is disqualified under paragraph 3.20(a) by reason of having made a composition or arrangement with, or granted a trust deed for, creditors and pays debts in full, the disqualification shall cease on the date on which the payment is completed, and in any other case it shall cease at the end of the period of five years beginning with the date on which the terms of the deed of composition or arrangement or trust deed are fulfilled.
- 3.24 For the purposes of paragraph 3.20(c) the date of a conviction shall be taken to be the ordinary date on which the period allowed for making an appeal or application expires or, if an appeal or application is made, the date on which the appeal or application is finally disposed of or abandoned or fails by reason of its non-prosecution.
- 3.25 **Balanced appointment objective**

3.26 The balanced appointment objective is the objective that local authority members of the Panel (when taken together) represent all parts of the police area as well as the political make-up of the local authorities in the police area (when taken together); and have the skills, knowledge and experience necessary for the Panel to discharge its functions

3.27 **The Panel resolved on [insert date] that subject to the Secretary of State's agreement to appoint up to four additional co-opted members, who are members of Buckinghamshire Council to the Panel to meet the balanced appointment objective. Appointments and resignation and removal of elected members on the Panel will be the same as Rules 3.5 to 3.10.**

4.0 Host Authority

4.1 The Panel shall agree a Host Authority for the Secretariat for the Panel, which shall provide such scrutiny, legal, financial, administrative and other support as is reasonably required to enable the Panel to undertake its functions within the resources agreed by the Panel.

4.2 **In accordance with the Panel's agreement made at the meeting held on 6 September 2019 South Bucks District Council shall act as the Host Authority until 31 December 2019. Oxfordshire County Council shall act as the Host Authority from 1 January 2020 until such time as either:**

- a) The Panel resolves at its annual meeting (held in June of each year) that another Authority should carry out this function, provided that such other Authority agrees. In which case, the function will be transferred six months after the Panel decision unless a shorter period is agreed between the existing Host Authority and the new Host Authority; or
- b) The existing Host Authority serves notice that it no longer wishes to be the Host Authority and this function is transferred to another Authority in which case, a six month notice period will apply, unless a shorter period is agreed between the existing Host Authority and the new Host Authority; or
- c) In the event that no Authority comes forward to act as Host Authority the home Council of the current Chairman of the Panel shall be expected to be the Host Authority.

4.3 The staff employed to support the Panel will be employed by the Host Authority. Should the Host Authority change the TUPE legislation which is in force at the time shall apply as necessary.

5.0 Budget and Costs of the Panel

5.1 An annual draft budget for the operation of the Panel shall be drawn up each year by the Host Authority and approved by the Panel. All monies (which are not ring-fenced) provided by the Home Office to support the operation of the Panel shall be taken into account in preparing the Budget.

- 5.2 For the first year of operation (until April 2013), the Host Authority will provide a level of service to the Panel within the resources granted by the Home Office, excluding some of the on-costs which will be covered by the Host Authority.
- 5.3 If in subsequent years, the Panel considers that the Budget is insufficient to support the functions of the Panel, the Panel may make a funding request to all Authorities, which request shall be made via the Thames Valley Local Authority Chief Executives.
- 5.4 Any additional costs arising under paragraph 5.3 shall be borne between the Authorities in equal shares.

6.0 Allowances and Expenses

- 6.1 Each Authority has the discretion to pay its representatives on the Panel Special Responsibility Allowances, and to reimburse reasonable expenses incurred. No allowance or expenses payments will be made by the Panel itself to elected members. Any allowances or expenses which may be made to elected members arising out of Panel Membership shall be determined and borne by the appointing Authorities for each Panel Member individually.
- 6.2 The Host Authority, on behalf of the Panel will reimburse reasonable expenses to co-optees provided that this is agreed as part of the annual budget approved by the Panel.

7.0 Promotion of the Panel

7.1 The Panel shall be promoted and supported by the Host Authority and the Secretariat through:

- a) The inclusion of dedicated webpages on the work of the Panel, with the publication of meeting agendas; minutes; and papers where those papers are public, in line with the rules of procedure and legal obligations under the Local Government Act 1972. All reports and recommendations made, with responses from the PCC will be published. Information on member attendance and other publications will be included.
- b) Media and communications support provided by the corporate communications team, this includes the issuing of press release where required.
- c) Clerking support to be provided for all public Panel meetings. This includes sending out agendas; minutes; procedural advice.
- d) Legal advice where required for the Panel to carry out its duties effectively.
- e) Independent policy advice to the Panel through a dedicated scrutiny officer, this includes written and oral briefings to Panel members.

7.2 The costs of the promotion work identified above will be identified as part of the annual budget approved by the Panel. Costs will be met as set out in section 5 above.

7.3 The Panel shall be promoted and supported by each Authority through:

- a) Ensuring that briefings take place for local stakeholders on the work of the Panel. This includes officer briefings to respective members in each authority to support the work of the Panel (executive/non-executive members including Panel member) on a regular basis to ensure that members are fully informed about local relevant matters.
- b) Information on each respective website about the work of the Panel and links to the main web-pages.
- c) Sharing of information on the work of the designated statutory Crime and Disorder Scrutiny Committee in order to ensure that the work programme of the Panel complements local scrutiny work and vice-versa.

8.0 Validity of Proceedings

8.1 The validity of the proceedings of the Panel shall not be affected by a vacancy in the Membership of the Panel or a defect in appointment.

8.2 All Panel members (including co-opted members) must observe the Members Code of Conduct and any related Protocols as agreed by the Panel *[further regulations may follow on this issue]*.

9.0 Rules of Procedure

9.1 The Panel shall determine its Rules of Procedure (in accordance with the statutory requirements and regulations).

9.2 The Rules of Procedure shall include arrangements in relation to:

- a) the appointment, resignation and removal of the Chairman and Vice-Chairman;
- b) the appointment of sub-committees;
- c) the appointment of Task Groups;
- c) the making of decisions;
- e) the circulation of information;
- f) the frequency, timing and place of meetings;
- g) public participation; and
- h) minority reporting.

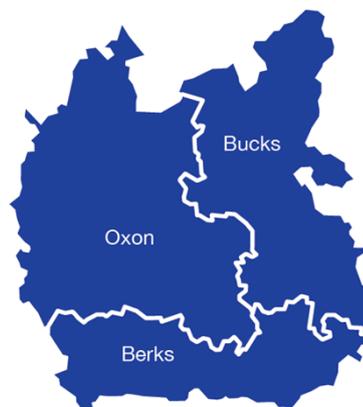
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Thames Valley Police and Crime Panel

Thames Valley Police & Crime Panel

Title: Thames Valley Police and
Crime Panel Rules of
Procedure

Date: Agreed [insert date]



Rules of Procedure

These rules of procedure were originally agreed by the Thames Valley Police and Crime Panel at its meeting on 19 July 2012 and subsequently reviewed and agreed by the Panel meeting held on [insert date].

1.0 General

1.1 In this document:

the “Panel” is the Police and Crime Panel for the Thames Valley Police Force;

the “Secretariat” is the financial, administrative, scrutiny and other officer support to the Panel;

the “Host Authority” is the council which is host to the Secretariat at the relevant time;

the “Act” is the Police Reform and Social Responsibility Act 2011;

the “Panel Arrangements Document” is the document which sets out the agreement of all principle Authorities on the overarching framework for how the Panel will operate;

the “Rules” are the rules as set out in this Rules of Procedure Document.

1.2 These Rules of Procedure (“the Rules”) are made by the Panel pursuant to Schedule 6, paragraph 25, of the Police Reform and Social Responsibility Act 2011 (the ‘Act’). The Police and Crime Panel (‘the Panel’) will be conducted in accordance with the Rules. The Rules should be read and considered in conjunction with the Panel Arrangements.

1.3 The Rules shall be reviewed annually at the Panel’s Annual meeting. In the first year of operation amendments may be made mid-year to take into account the Memorandum of Understanding between the Panel and the newly elected Police and Crime Commissioner; and at any time may be updated should regulations require.

1.4 The Rules shall not be amended unless written notification of the amendment/s required are received by the Panel Secretariat not less than fifteen working days prior to

the Panel meeting. No amendment may be considered by the Panel which does not comply with the Act, relevant Regulations or statutory guidance.

1.5 If there is any conflict in interpretation between these Rules and the Act or Regulations made under the Act, the Act and Regulations will prevail. The Monitoring Officer of the Host Authority will have the final ruling as to the interpretation of legal requirements, these Rules and the Panel Arrangements Document.

1.6 Where the Rules do not explicitly address an issue the Standing Orders from the Host Authority will apply.

1.7 All Panel members will be subject to a Member Code of Conduct which for elected members will be those of their own Council; co-opted members will be subject to the Code of Conduct of the Host Authority provided that the Panel may agree to adopt such additional protocols as it thinks fit.

2.0 Election of Chairman and Vice-Chairman

2.1 The Chairman and Vice-Chairman of the Panel shall be elected from amongst the members of the Panel. The election will take place annually at the Annual meeting of the Panel, which will normally be held in June of each year.

2.2 Save for the requirement for re-election; there is no maximum term length for the Chairman or Vice-Chairman positions.

2.3 The positions will be elected by those members present at the June/July Annual Meeting by a simple majority vote.

2.4 The Vice-Chairman will preside in the absence of the Chairman and if neither is present the Panel will appoint a Chairman from among the remaining Members for the purposes of that meeting.

3.0 Resignation and removal of the Chairman and Vice- Chairman

3.1 The Chairman and/or Vice-Chairman may be removed by a vote of no confidence by a simple majority vote at a formal meeting of the Panel.

3.2 In the event of the resignation or removal of the Chairman or Vice-Chairman an election for the position will be held at the next meeting of the Panel.

4.0 Panel Meetings

4.1 The Panel will hold at least six ordinary meetings per year to carry out its functions. The calendar of meetings will normally be agreed by the Panel at its Annual Meeting.

4.2 Extraordinary meetings may also be called by the Chairman or by any four Members of the Panel by giving notice in writing to the Secretariat.

4.3 At least 10 working days notice will be given before an Extraordinary meeting (unless the Chairman agrees that there are special reasons for an urgent meeting) and the meeting must then be held within 20 working days of the notice.

4.4 Any request for an Extraordinary Meeting must specify the particular item of business for which the Extraordinary Meeting of the Panel is to be called.

4.5 The panel will meet at the Oculus at Aylesbury Vale District Council.

4.6 Ordinary meetings will take place in accordance with a work programme agreed by the Panel, and will start at the time decided by the Panel. The maximum length of a meeting shall normally be three hours.

4.7 The agenda to be followed at ordinary meetings will be as follows:

- a) to receive apologies for absence;
- b) to receive any declarations of interest from members;
- c) to approve the minutes of the last meeting;
- d) to receive the minutes of sub-committees and task groups and any reports submitted to the Panel by those Sub-committees and task groups; and
- e) to consider written and verbal reports from officers and Panel members; and
- f) items requested by members of the Panel in accordance with 4.10

4.8 The only business to be conducted at an Extraordinary Meeting of the Panel will be to choose a person to preside if the Chairman and Vice-Chairman are absent or otherwise unable to preside and to consider the matter specified in the request to call an Extraordinary Meeting. No other business may be conducted at the meeting unless the Panel otherwise resolve.

4.9 The Panel Agenda, and accompanying papers, will normally be issued to Panel Members at least 5 working days before the meeting. It will also be published on the Panel's website, and publicised by any other means the Panel considers appropriate. Papers will normally be sent by Email.

4.10 The Secretariat will endeavour to co-ordinate the circulation of papers as early as possible to enable members to have as much time as possible to consider the issues before the meeting.

The scheduling of ad-hoc agenda items

4.11 Any Member of the Panel shall be entitled to give notice to the Secretariat that he or she wishes an item relevant to the functions of the Panel to be included on the agenda following the existing scheduled items of business. Items will normally be considered at the next ordinary meeting of the Panel, providing that the following conditions apply:

At least 15 working days written notice is given to the Secretariat (The PCC is required to be given 10 working days notice therefore this timing allows for discussions prior to this).

The item must be relevant to the remit of the Panel, as set out in the Panel Arrangements Document.

The item must not have been already considered within the last six months by the Panel.

4.12 In the event of a dispute on whether the conditions listed above apply, the Monitoring Officer of the Host Authority will advise the Chairman and Panel. The Panel's decision shall be final.

4.13 Where the conditions above apply and the agenda item is discussed, the Panel may consider at this point whether any further action is needed in terms of further agenda time; investigation outside of the meeting; or a written response or information from the PCC.

5.0 Quorum

5.1 A meeting of the Panel cannot take place unless at least one third (7) of the membership of the Panel is present.

6.0 Voting

6.1 A decision is taken by a majority of those present and voting.

6.2 Voting is generally by a show of hands unless a named vote is called for by a member of the Panel.

6.3 If a Panel Member arrives at the meeting before the casting of votes on any item has been commenced he/she is entitled to vote on that item.

6.4 Immediately after a vote is taken any Panel Member may ask for it to be recorded in the minutes that he/she voted for or against the question, or that he/she abstained.

6.5 The Chairman of the Panel, or other person presiding, shall have a second and/or casting vote where votes for and against a proposal are equal. There shall be no restriction on the manner in which the casting vote is exercised.

Membership

Elected Members

6.6 The Panel comprises:

- a) **14** elected members (one from each of the Oxfordshire district councils (4), one for each of the Unitary Authorities in Berkshire (6), and one each for Oxfordshire County Council, Oxford City Council and Milton Keynes Council. **Buckinghamshire Council will have one member plus four further local authority co-opted Members to meet the balanced panel objective (see 6.6 c).**
- b) Two co-opted members who may not be members of the local authorities in the Thames Valley Police area;
- c) **Four co-opted members from Buckinghamshire Council to meet the balanced appointment objective (in addition to 6.6 a)**

6.6.1 Appointments of elected Members to the Panel shall be made by each of the Authorities in accordance with their own procedures and in making their appointments to the Panel each individual authority shall have regard to the requirement in the Act that appointments shall be made with a view to ensuring that the 'balanced appointment objective' is met so far as is reasonably practicable. It is recognised that each Authority may choose to appoint from within the membership of the majority group.

6.6.2 The balanced appointment objective requires that the Panel should (when taken together), and as far as is reasonably practicable:

- a) represent all parts of the police area;
- b) represent the political make-up of the Authorities (when taken together);

- c) have the skills, knowledge and experience necessary for the Panel to discharge its functions effectively.

6.9 In the event that an Authority does not appoint a Member in accordance with these requirements, the Secretary of State will appoint a Member from the Authority to the Panel in accordance with the provisions in the Act.

7.0 Public Participation

The Panel will allow up to 20 minutes at each full meeting held in public for public questions. Public questions will be subject to strict criteria that will be set out and made publicly available in the Panel's Public Question Time Scheme. The scheme will be reviewed on an annual basis.

8.0 Work Programme

8.1 The Panel will be responsible for setting its work programme. In doing so it shall have regard to:

- a) the requirement to undertake the functions and responsibilities of the Panel as set out in the Act including consideration of the necessary timings to meet its legal responsibilities;
- b) the priorities defined by the PCC;
- c) the ascertainable views of the public on Police and Crime matters;
- d) the views of key partners, including Probation, Health, Community Safety Partnerships;
- e) the views of its members and advisers; and
- f) the resources available to support the delivery of the work programme.

9.0 Sub-Committees

9.1 The Panel may set up sub-committees to undertake specified functions of the Panel. The role of sub-committees is to carry out delegated Panel functions, excluding those functions that are not able to be delegated under the Act. Sub-committees may formally take decisions as delegated to them by the Panel.

9.2 The work to be undertaken by a sub-committee will be agreed by the Panel. In commissioning the work the Panel will agree as part of the scoping document the following:

terms of reference and delegations

purpose/objectives

resources

timescales for completing the work and reporting back

membership

9.3 The Panel shall appoint sub-committees. The Chairman of the Panel may make a recommendation to the Panel on Membership.

9.4 The maximum size of a sub-committee shall be seven members. The minimum size is three members. Size shall be determined on a case-by-case basis at the point that the review is commissioned.

9.5 The membership of sub-committees shall be confined to members of the Panel.

9.6 In determining the membership of a sub-committee the Panel shall give so far as practicable, consideration to the duties in the Act to consider political balance; geographical balance; and the skills and expertise of members.

9.7 Sub-Committees shall report back to the Panel, and the minutes of the Sub-committee shall be received by the Panel.

10 Task Groups

10.1 The role of Task Groups is to undertake time-limited investigations into particular issues, such as a scrutiny topic review. They are informal working groups, and as such have no decision-making power. Task Groups will report back upon the completion of their work with a report and recommendations to the Panel.

10.2 The work to be undertaken by a Task Group will be agreed by the Panel. In commissioning the work the Panel will agree as part of the scoping document the following:

- terms of reference;
- purpose/objectives;
- approach to gathering evidence;
- resources to support the review;
- timescales for completing the work and reporting back; and
- membership.

10.3 Task Groups can only make reports or recommendations to the Panel. The Panel will consider reports it receives, and if agreed, such reports may be adopted as the Panel's report.

10.4 The Panel will appoint Task Groups. The Chairman of the Panel may make a recommendation to the Panel on the membership.

10.5 The maximum size of a Task Group shall be agreed by the Panel at the point that the review is commissioned. The minimum size is three members.

10.6 The Panel shall appoint a Chairman of the Task Group from within the membership of the Panel. The Chairman of the Panel may make a recommendation on whom to appoint.

10.7 The composition of a Task Group will be determined by the role it is to perform. Whilst issues of political and geographical balance may be taken into account, to help the effectiveness of the group consideration may also be given to:

- skills and expertise
- availability of members to undertake the work
- interest and commitment

10.8 The Panel may choose to co-opt non-Panel members onto a Task Group if it is considered that they possess skills, expertise, or a perspective which will assist the Group in its work. Co-opted members on a Task Group are non-voting members of the Group.

10.9 The following eligibility rules will apply to non-voting co-opted members of Task Groups:

must live and/or work in the Thames Valley Police Force area; and

must be able to provide expertise/layperson's perspective to assist the group in carrying out its scrutiny function.

11.0 Panel Reports and Recommendations—General

11.1 Where the Panel makes a report to the PCC it will publish the report or recommendations on its website, except where the information is exempt or confidential as defined in the Local Government Act 1972 (as amended).

11.2 The Panel may require the PCC within 20 working days (or within such other period as is indicated in these Rules) of the date on which s/he receives the Panel's report or recommendations to:

- a) consider the report or recommendations;
- b) respond to the Panel indicating what (if any) action the PCC proposes to take;
- c) where the Panel has published the report or recommendations, publish the response from the PCC.

11.3 The Panel will formally make requests to the PCC or issue other statements by way of reports and recommendations. As the Panel is a scrutiny body, rather than an executive decision-making committee, motions or resolutions will not be considered by the Panel.

Procedure for Agreeing Reports and Recommendations

11.4 Recommendations to the PCC from the Panel will be made as an outcome of a scrutiny review or as a result of an agenda item discussion.

11.5 As a cross-party scrutiny committee reports and recommendations to the PCC should normally be agreed by consensus rather than a formal vote. Where this is not possible a vote may be taken, under the voting procedure outlined above. This includes the option of a Panel member requesting a named vote is taken at the meeting to ensure that views are recorded.

Minority Reporting

11.6 In exceptional circumstances, one minority report in relation to reports prepared by Task Groups may be prepared and submitted for consideration with the majority report to the PCC. Where a member or members wish to submit a minority report the Chairman of the Panel and Secretariat should be notified as soon as possible in advance of the Panel meeting, normally 10 working days notice should be given depending on the timing of the Task Group's consideration of its majority report.

11.7 The PCC's responsibilities and remit relate to the Committee as a whole, therefore the PCC will respond to the Committee as a whole and not to individual members of the Panel. This means that for the purposes of communication to the public, stakeholders and the PCC the majority report represents the viewpoint of the Panel and the PCC will be required only to respond to the majority report.

12.0 PCC and others giving account

12.1 The presumption will be that the PCC will be required to attend all formal Police and Crime Panel meetings (ordinary and extraordinary) to answer questions which may be necessary to assist the Panel in discharging its functions, unless the Panel decides that this is not necessary and informs the PCC that they will not be required.

12.2 The PCC shall be notified on the Annual Work Programme of the Panel including meeting dates.

12.3 In setting the Annual Work Programme the Panel should identify and consider where possible what papers will be required, and if any supporting staff from the Secretariat, Police or otherwise are likely to be needed in addition to the PCC, in order to give as much notice as possible.

12.4 Where a new agenda item is scheduled for a meeting that is not included within the work programme and the PCC (and staff/or Chief Constable) is required to attend, the Secretariat will inform the relevant persons of the nature of the agenda item and any written information that is required as soon as possible.

12.5 At least 15 working days notice will be given of the new agenda time to the PCC and any requirement to provide written information (owing to the access of information requirements this equates to 10 working days notice for the provision of written information).

12.6 In exceptional circumstances, and where there is agreement between the PCC and Chairman of the Panel, shorter notice may be required for either attendance or papers.

12.7 If the Panel requires the PCC to attend before the Panel, the Panel may also request the Chief Constable to attend on the same occasion to answer any questions which appear to the Panel to be necessary in order for it to carry out its functions.

12.8 In undertaking its functions, the Panel may invite persons other than those referred to above to attend Panel meetings, to address the meeting, discuss issues of local concern and/or answer questions. This may, for example and not exclusively, include residents, stakeholders, Council Members who are not members of the Panel and officers from other parts of the public sector.

13.0 Special Functions

13.1 The Special Functions of the Panel, as set out in the Panel Arrangements, are those functions which are conferred on the Panel in relation to:

- a) the review of the Police and Crime Plan as required by Section 28(3) of the Act;
- b) the review of the Annual Report as required by Section 28 (4) of the Act;
- c) the review of senior appointments in accordance with Paragraphs 10 and 11 of Schedule 1 of the Act;
- d) the review and potential veto of the proposed precept in accordance with Schedule 5 of the Act;
- e) the review and potential veto of appointment of the Chief Constable in accordance with Part 1 the Act.

14.0 Police and Crime Plan

14.1 The Panel is a statutory consultee on the development of the PCC's Police and Crime Plan and will receive a copy of the draft Police and Crime Plan, or a draft of any variation to it, from the PCC.

14.2 The Panel will:

- a) hold a meeting to review the draft Police and Crime Plan (or a variation to it); and
- b) report or make recommendations on the draft Plan which the PCC must take into account.

15.0 Annual Report

15.1 The PCC must publish an Annual Report about the exercise of his/her functions in the financial year and progress in meeting police and crime objectives in the year. The report must be sent to the Panel for consideration.

15.2 The Panel must comment upon the Annual Report of the PCC, and for that purpose must:

- a) arrange for a meeting of the Panel to be held as soon as practicable after the Panel receives the Annual Report;
- b) require the PCC to attend the meeting to present the Annual Report and answer such questions about the Annual Report as the Panel think appropriate;
- c) make a report and/or recommendations on the Annual Report to the PCC.

16.0 Proposed precept

16.1 The Panel will receive notification from the PCC of the precept that they are proposing to issue for the coming financial year. The Panel will arrange for a meeting of the Panel to be held as soon as practicable after the Panel receives the proposed precept and make a report including recommendations.

16.2 Having considered the precept, the Panel will:

- a) support the precept without qualification or comment; or
- b) support the precept and make recommendations; or

The Panel would need to indicate whether it considered the proposed precept to be too high or too low.

- c) veto the proposed precept (by the required majority of at least two thirds of the persons who are members of the Panel and present at the time when the decision is made).

16.3 If the Panel vetoes the proposed precept, the report to the PCC must include a statement that the panel has vetoed the proposed precept and give reasons for that decision. The Panel will require a response from the PCC to the report and any such recommendations.

17.0 Senior Appointments

17.1 The Panel must review the proposed appointment by the PCC of the Chief Constable, Chief Executive, Chief Finance Officer and Deputy Police and Crime PCC.

17.2 The Panel will receive notification of the proposed appointment from the PCC, which will include:

- a) the name of the candidate;
- b) the criteria used to assess suitability of the candidate;
- c) why the candidate satisfies the criteria; and

d) the terms and conditions proposed for the appointment.

17.3 The Panel must hold a confirmation hearing for all proposed senior appointments within 15 working days of receipt of notification by the PCC. It must also report to the PCC at the same time with its recommendations. The 15 working days will not include the post-election period.

17.4 The confirmation hearings will be held in public and the candidates will be questioned in relation to their appointment. Candidates must attend, either in person or by video link.

17.5 Following the hearing, the Panel will make a report and/or recommendations to the PCC on the proposed appointment. The PCC must respond in writing within the usual 20 working days confirming whether the recommendation has been accepted or not.

17.6 In relation to the proposed appointment of the Chief Constable, the Panel is required to make recommendations to the PCC and has the power to veto the appointment. Following the hearing, the Panel will be asked to:

- a) support the appointment without qualification or comment;
- b) support the appointment with associated recommendations, or
- c) veto the appointment of the Chief Constable (a two thirds majority is required of those members present at the time when the decision is made).¹

17.7 If the Panel vetoes an appointment, it must set out its reasons for doing so in a report to the PCC and the PCC must not then appoint that candidate as Chief Constable.

18.0 Suspension of the Police and Crime Commissioner

18.1 The Panel may suspend the PCC if it appears to the Panel that:

- a) the PCC is charged in the United Kingdom, the Channel Islands or the Isle of Man with an offence; and
- b) the offence is one which carries a maximum term of imprisonment exceeding two years.

18.2 This decision will be taken at a formal Panel meeting via a vote.

18.3 The suspension of the PCC ceases to have effect upon the occurrence of the earliest of these events:

- a) the charge being dropped;
- b) the PCC being acquitted of the offence;
- c) the PCC being convicted of the offence but not being disqualified under Section 66 of the Police Reform and Social Responsibility Act 2011 by virtue of the conviction; or
- d) the termination of the suspension by the Police and Crime Panel.

18.4 In this section references to an offence which carries a maximum term of imprisonment exceeding two years are references to:

- a) an offence which carries such a maximum term in the case of a person who has attained the age of 18 years, or

¹ Subject to change following HO regulations

b) an offence for which, in the case of such a person, the sentence is fixed by law as life imprisonment.

19.0 Suspension and Removal of the Chief Constable

19.1 The Panel will receive notification if the PCC suspends the Chief Constable.

19.2 The PCC must also notify the Panel in writing of his/her proposal to call upon the Chief Constable to retire or resign together with a copy of the reasons given to the Chief Constable in relation to that proposal.

19.3 The PCC must provide the Panel with a copy of any representations from the Chief Constable about the proposal to call for his/her resignation or retirement.

19.4 If the PCC is still proposing to call upon the Chief Constable to resign, she/he must notify the Panel accordingly (the 'further notification').

19.5 Within 30 days from the date of receiving the further notification the Panel must make a recommendation in writing to the PCC as to whether or not s/he should call for the retirement or resignation. Before making any recommendation the Panel may consult the chief inspector of constabulary, and must hold a meeting.

19.6 The scrutiny hearing which must be held by the Panel is a Panel meeting in private to which the PCC and Chief Constable are entitled to attend to make representations in relation to the proposal to call upon the Chief Constable to retire or resign. Appearance at the scrutiny hearing can be by attending in person or video link.

19.7 The PCC may not call upon the Chief Constable to retire or resign until the end of the scrutiny process which will occur:

- (a) at the end of 30 days from the Panel having received notification if the Panel has not by then given the PCC a recommendation as to whether or not she/he should call for the retirement or resignation; or
- (b) the PCC notifies the Panel of a decision about whether she/he accepts the Panel's recommendations in relation to resignation or retirement.

19.8 The PCC must consider the Panel's recommendation and may accept or reject it, notifying the Panel accordingly.

20.0 Appointment of an Acting Police and Crime Commissioner

20.1 The Panel must meet to appoint a person to be acting PCC if:

- a) no person holds the office of PCC;
- b) the PCC is incapacitated (i.e. unable to fulfil the functions of PCC) which is a matter for the Panel to determine; or
- c) the PCC is suspended.

20.2 In the event that the Panel has to appoint an acting PCC it will meet to determine the process for appointment which will comply with these Rules of Procedure and any legal requirements.

20.3 The Panel may appoint a person as acting PCC only if the person is a member of the PCC's staff at the time of the appointment.

20.4 In appointing a person as acting PCC in a case where the PCC is incapacitated, the Panel must have regard to any representations made by the PCC in relation to the appointment.

20.5 The appointment of an acting PCC will cease to have effect upon the earliest of the following:

- a) the election of a person as PCC;
- b) the termination by the Panel, or by the acting PCC, of the appointment of the acting PCC;
- c) in a case where the acting PCC is appointed because the PCC is incapacitated, the PCC ceasing to be incapacitated; or
- d) in a case where the acting PCC is appointed because the PCC is suspended, the PCC ceasing to be suspended.

20.6 Where the acting PCC is appointed because the PCC is incapacitated or suspended, the acting PCC's appointment does not terminate because a vacancy occurs in the office of PCC.

21.0 Complaints

21.1 Serious complaints which involve allegations which may amount to a criminal offence by the PCC or senior office holders are dealt with by the Independent Police Complaints Commission (the 'IPCC').

21.2 The Panel may however be involved in the informal resolution of certain other complaints against the PCC and Deputy PCC, where they are not being investigated by the IPCC or cease to be investigated by the IPCC.

21.3 The Panel shall have a Complaints Procedure for complaint handling that shall be set out in a protocol.

22 Further Guidelines/Protocols

22.1 The Panel may agree further guidelines/protocols to assist it in carrying out its business so long as these are in accordance with the Rules of Procedure, Panel Arrangements and legal requirements.

ANNEX A: ACCESS TO INFORMATION STANDING ORDERS

1.0 SCOPE

1.1 These standing orders apply to all formal meetings of the Police and Crime Panel.

1.2 These rules do not affect any additional rights to information contained elsewhere in this Constitution or granted by law.

2.0 RIGHTS TO ATTEND MEETINGS

2.1 Members of the public may attend all meetings subject only to the exceptions in these standing orders.

3.0 NOTICES OF MEETING

3.1 The Secretariat will give at least **five** clear days notice of any meeting by posting details of the meeting at the principal offices of the Host Authority and on the Internet.

4.0 ACCESS TO AGENDA AND REPORTS BEFORE THE MEETING

4.1 The Secretariat will make copies of the agenda and reports open to the public available for inspection at the designated offices at least five clear days before the meeting. If an item is added to the agenda later, the Monitoring Officer of the Host Authority shall make each report available to the public as soon as the report is completed and sent to members, and will ensure that it will be open to inspection from the time the item was added to the supplementary agenda.

5.0 SUPPLY OF COPIES

5.1 The Secretariat will supply copies of:

- a) any agenda and reports which are open to public inspection;
- b) any further statements or particulars necessary to indicate the nature of the items in the agenda; and
- c) if the Monitoring Officer of the Host Authority thinks fit, copies of any other documents supplied to members in connection with an item to any person on payment of a charge for postage and any other costs under the Host Authority's Charging Policy. Under the Freedom of Information Act, information would be supplied free until these costs go over the threshold of £450, when a charge would be levied.

6.0 ACCESS TO MINUTES ETC AFTER THE MEETING

6.1 The Secretariat will make available copies of the following for six years after a meeting:

- a) the minutes of the meeting, or, where appropriate, records of decisions taken, together with reasons, for all meetings of the Panel excluding any part of the minutes of proceedings when the meeting was not open to the public or which disclose exempt or confidential information;
- b) a summary of any proceedings not open to the public where the minutes open to inspection would not provide a reasonably fair and coherent record;
- c) the agenda for the meeting; and
- d) reports relating to items when the meeting was open to the public.

7.0 BACKGROUND PAPERS

7.1 *List of background papers:* Reports will include a list (prepared by the Secretariat) of those documents (called background papers) relating to the subject matter of the report which in their opinion disclose any facts or matters on which the report or an important part of the report is based; and which have been relied on to a material extent in preparing the report but does not include published works or those which disclose exempt or confidential information.

7.2 *Public inspection of background papers:* The Council will make available for public inspection for six years after the date of the meeting one copy of each of the documents on the list of background papers.

7.3 *Use of media technology at Panel Meetings:* At the discretion of the Chairman of the Panel recording of meetings and use of media technology will be permitted provided that it does not release information that the Secretariat has identified as being confidential under the Access to Information Regulations.

7.4 The Secretariat supports the use of networking sites to disseminate information during their meetings, provided that confidential information as outlined above is not deliberately or inadvertently disclosed.

8.0 SUMMARY OF THE PUBLIC'S RIGHTS

8.1 A written summary of the public's rights to attend meetings and to inspect and copy documents is available for inspection at the Principal offices of the Host Authority.

9.0 EXCLUSION OF ACCESS BY THE PUBLIC TO MEETINGS

Confidential information – requirement to exclude public

9.1 The public must be excluded from an item at a meeting whenever it is likely in view of the nature of the business to be

9.2 *Meaning of confidential information:* Confidential information means information given to the Panel by a Government Department on terms which forbid its public disclosure or information which cannot be publicly disclosed by reason of a Court Order or any enactment.

9.3 *Exempt information – discretion to exclude public:* The public may be excluded from an item at a meeting whenever it is likely in view of the nature of the business to be transacted or the nature of the proceedings, that exempt information would be disclosed.

9.4 *Meaning of exempt information:* Subject to, and to the test of the Public Interest set out in paragraph below, information is exempt information where it falls within any of the following categories:

- 1 Information relating to an individual.
- 2 Information which is likely to reveal the identity of an individual.
- 3 Information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the public authority holding the information), except where the information is required to be registered under certain prescribed statutes including the Companies Act 1985 and the Charities Act 1993. "Financial or business affairs" includes contemplated, as well as past or current activities.
- 4 Information relating to any consultations or negotiations, or contemplated consultations or negotiations, in connection with any labour relations matter arising between the authority or a Minister of the Crown and employees of, or office holders under, the Authority. "Labour relations matter" means any matter which may be the subject of a trade dispute, or any dispute about any such matter (ie a matter specified in paragraphs (a) to (g) of section 218(1) of the Trade Union and Labour Relations (Consolidation) Act 1992.
- 5 Information in respect of which a claim to legal professional privilege could be maintained in legal proceedings.
- 6 Information which reveals that the Authority proposes:
 - a) to give under any enactment a notice, under or by virtue of which requirements are to be imposed on a person; or
 - b) to make an order or direction under any enactment.
- 7 Information relating to any action taken or to be taken in connection with the prevention, investigation or prosecution of crime.

9.5 *Public interest test:* Information falling within any of categories 1-7 set out above, which is not prevented from being exempt because it falls within category 3, and is required to be

registered under the prescribed enactments is exempt information if, and so long as, in all the circumstances of the case, the public interest in maintaining the exemption outweighs the public interest in disclosing the information.

10.0 EXCLUSION OF ACCESS BY THE PUBLIC TO REPORTS

10.1 The Monitoring Officer of the Host Authority may exclude access by the public to a report which, in his or her opinion, relates to an item during which, in accordance with this Access to Information Standing Order, the meeting is likely not to be open to the public; or, as the case may be, was not open to the public. Such reports will be marked "Not for publication", together with the category of information likely to be disclosed.

11.0 RECORD OF DECISIONS

11.1 After any formal meeting of the Panel, the Secretariat will produce a record of every decision taken at that meeting as soon as practicable. The record will include a statement of the reasons for each decision and, where appropriate, any alternative options considered and rejected at that meeting.

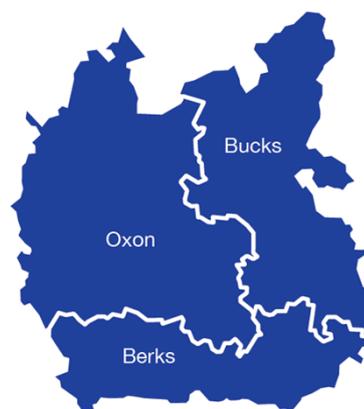
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Report to the Thames Valley Police & Crime Panel

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

Date: 22 November 2019

Author: Khalid Ahmed, Scrutiny Officer,
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 Steve Good.
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 from the same complainant were made against the Police and Crime Commissioner was considered at the Sub-Committee meeting on 6 September 2019.
5. The Sub-Committee partially upheld one of the complaints and asked that the PCC be asked to review internal procedures to ensure there is clarity and transparency when the PCC is acting in his respective roles as the PCC for Thames Valley and the Association of PCC’s Deputy Lead Portfolio Holder for Fraud and Cyber Crime.
6. In relation to the second complaint, the Sub-Committee found that there was no firm evidence to substantiate the allegations made by the complainant. The Sub-Committee after considering the written submissions provided by the complainant and the Police and Crime Commissioner, decided that this complaint made against the Police and Crime Commissioner, did not have any merit.

Recommendation

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

Report to the Thames Valley Police & Crime Panel

Title: Topical Issues

Date: 22 November 2019

Author: Khalid Ahmed, Scrutiny Officer,
Thames Valley Police & Crime
Panel



Thames Valley Police set to get 600 new officers after Prime Minister's promise

<https://www.oxfordmail.co.uk/news/17869978.thames-valley-police-set-get-600-new-officers>

Six hundred of the Prime Minister's promised police officers are expected to be recruited across Thames Valley Police. If all goes to plan then Thames Valley Police will be given an estimated 600 police officers.

The PCC has previously said that eight years of cuts to TVP will be 'made good' by these new officers. At the time he explained: "Thames Valley Police continues to face an increase in both demand and financial pressures, and I was pleased that the prime minister has promised another 20,000 officers. This should make good the cuts to Thames Valley Police over the last eight years."

The Deputy PCC has already committed to using the promised police on the front line to tackle community issues such as shoplifting. The idea is that the officers will be in place within three years.

Home Office announces first wave of 20,000 police officer uplift (183 for Thames Valley)

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/home-office-announces-first-wave-of-20000-police-officer-uplift>

Recent announcements by the Home Secretary

In addition to the recruitment of 20,000 additional police officers the Home Secretary has recently made a number of other announcements set to ensure the police are empowered to act to keep us all safe and that they have the resources and the support they need in carrying out their difficult and often dangerous job.

- £20m to step up the fight against county lines gangs that exploit children
- Proper sentences for those convicted of assaults on police officers

- The ending of automatic early release for violent and sexual offenders
- An increase in the use of electronic tagging to track offenders and reduce reoffending
- £10m to increase the number of officers trained to carry tasers.

HMICFRS has rated Thames Valley Police as ‘Good’ for Effectiveness, Efficiency and Legitimacy.

In the first combined inspection report covering effectiveness, efficiency and legitimacy the Inspectorate rate the force as ‘Good’ across the board. This performance is in line with TVP’s peer forces. HMICFRS found that Thames Valley Police is effective at reducing crime and keeping people safe. It also noted that the force is good at protecting vulnerable people and works well with partner agencies to achieve this.

While the report says that TVP investigates serious crime well the inspectorate wants to see improvements in how the force investigates low-level crime. The report notes that the force has created a comprehensive plan to achieve this.

The inspectors found that the force continues to be outstanding in how it uses its resources to meet current demand and has a good understanding of trends in demand and the impact of changing technology. The report notes that the force is good at treating the public fairly but notes that the historical backlog in vetting officers is a cause for concern and that the force should take steps to ensure that officers and staff are aware of how to raise ethical issues.

Anthony Stansfeld, Police and Crime Commissioner for Thames Valley, said: “We are pleased that Thames Valley Police has been rated ‘Good’ by Her Majesty’s Inspectorate of Constabulary and Fire & Rescue Services (HMICFRS). It is testament to the hard work which has taken place and continues to progress. I was particularly pleased that HMICFRS found the force to be outstanding in the way it uses its resources to meet current demand. In the period of cuts to policing this has enabled TVP to continue providing an excellent service to the public. It reflects particularly well on the way TVP has been managed over this difficult period.

“Of course, we will continue to focus on areas which need improvement and we welcome the suggestions which have been made in the report. The recent announcement that we will be getting hundreds of new police officers will also have a positive impact and will support these improvements.

“Our priority is to support our local communities in any way we can and we are delighted that the HMICFRS has recognised this.”

All police officers in Thames Valley Police are likely to be eventually equipped, trained and able to carry a Taser

<https://thamestalk.co.uk/?p=70951>

Currently 550 officers at the force are Taser trained, but the Police Federation is working on increasing this number with the Chief Constable.

Home Secretary announced that up to 60% of officers could be equipped with Tasers earlier this month as part of a raft of plans aimed to crack down on crime. The Home Office pledged £10 million in ring-fenced funds to pay for the equipment and training, but added that it was up to chief constables to decide how many officers would be issued with the kit.

The force has had backing from the Police and Crime Commissioner, who had lobbied the Home Office for the extra protection for officers. The force has already seen a 15% uplift in Taser.

A Police Federation of England and Wales poll found earlier this year that 89% of officers would want to routinely carry Taser after being given appropriate training with nearly 97% saying their colleagues should be allowed to carry the devices.

Police response to 'transphobic' stickers branded 'extraordinary'

<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2019/10/14/police-response-transphobic-stickers-branded-extraordinary/>

101 Calls to Thames Valley Police

<https://www.oxfordmail.co.uk/news/17885195.performance-polices-101-service>

The performance of Thames Valley Police's non-emergency 101 hotline was 'dreadful' last year, according to the Deputy Police and Crime Commissioner. Matthew Barber conceded it took too long for calls to be answered but insisted it was taking less time for them to be picked up by operators this year. According to TVP's own statistics, on average it took eight minutes to get through to an operator on 101 in 2018. But it said it is now taking an average of less than three minutes.

Currently, according to TVP figures, the average time for callers to wait until they are answered is two minutes and 45 seconds. Mr Barber said: "The target is to get [all calls answered] in less than three minutes next year and to get the call waiting time to two minutes.

"We are there at the moment under three minutes so we've achieved the target that we've set ourselves. There will be outliers to that but when I've used the service recently it has been improving."

Modern slavery

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-49508981>

Of the almost 7,000 people referred to a Home Office scheme to combat modern slavery and help potential victims, almost a quarter, or 1,625, were born and raised in the UK, up from 820 such referrals in 2017, figures show.

Since 2015, people who have been used to traffic or sell drugs can be treated as victims of modern slavery rather than perpetrators of crime. To be classed as a victim, authorities have to be satisfied that a person was groomed by someone, usually through a combination of emotional blackmail, threats and violence. Experts say the official figures are unlikely to paint the full picture of modern

slavery in Britain. Yet despite the rapid rise in potential victims, the conviction rate is only around 2% of reported slavery-related crimes.

Kevin Hyland, who was the UK's first anti-slavery commissioner before leaving the role after a disagreement with the government last year, says one of the biggest factors behind low conviction rates is that few police forces have the issue within their policing and crime plans. He said, "This has got to be one of the biggest priorities but if it's not contained in policing plans it's going to be very difficult to get this as a priority,"

Police recorded 2,255 crimes relating to modern slavery in England and Wales during 2016-17. In 2017, 205 people were prosecuted for modern slavery offences in England and Wales, compared to 136 in 2016 and 162 in 2015. Yet convictions, which may come in subsequent years following a prosecution, remain much lower. In 2017, 59 people were convicted of modern slavery offences.

The Home Office has said conviction rates change due to the "relatively small number of cases" and the complexity of the crimes involved. The Association of Police and Crime Commissioners told the BBC that its members remain committed to "tackling trafficking and modern slavery at every level" and that "there have been substantial improvements" in processes.

Police 'dealing with more mental health incidents'

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-49317060>

The number of mental health incidents dealt with by police has risen by more than a quarter in four years. While there were 385,206 incidents flagged as mental health-related in 2014, in 2018 that figure was 494,159, a rise of 28%. Police chiefs have said the issue is affecting the amount of time officers can focus on fighting crime.

A police incident could be classed as mental health related for a range of reasons, for example responding to someone in mental health crisis or a suspect with a mental health problem.

In 2018 there were 494,159 incidents flagged as mental health related - an average of 56 incidents per hour. The findings are a cause for alarm, echoing a warning from the Inspectorate of Constabulary that the police service has been "left to pick up the pieces" of a "broken" mental health system.

In November 2018, the watchdog said it had "grave concerns" about the extent to which officers were involved in mental health call-outs pointing out they often lacked the skills needed to deal with such complex issues. The effect is that people in crisis don't always get the right help, while dealing with such troubled individuals can take a heavy emotional toll on police themselves.

Some of the increase in mental health incidents is because there's greater awareness and better reporting; but it is also likely to be due to the growing reliance on police as the service of "last resort" amid cutbacks elsewhere - the service that can't say "no" when there's an emergency.

In response to the increasing demand, around 20 areas of the UK have mental health street triage vehicles, which are sent out by police in partnership with the NHS. The triage service is designed to deliver fast and efficient access to care and avoid unnecessary police detention for people in a

mental health crisis. Officers are joined by an NHS mental health practitioner and are prioritised to respond to calls relating to mental health. The government has announced an additional £2.3bn to enhance mental health services by 2023/24, providing the healthcare services to relieve the pressure on police.

Victims First launches video to help young people spot the signs of relationship abuse

Victims First, which supports victims of crime and abuse across Berkshire, Buckinghamshire and Oxfordshire, has launched a video to raise awareness of coercive control and emotional abuse in relationships. Following on from Victims First's 'Know It Isn't Love' campaign launched in February this year, the video, 'Don't Disappear' highlights the red flags to look out for in a relationship which can be the warning signs of controlling behaviour and abuse.

Coercive control became a criminal offence in 2015 and involves an act or a pattern of acts of assault, threats, humiliation and intimidation or other abuse by a perpetrator that is used to harm, punish or frighten their victim.

Although many people associate domestic abuse with physical violence, coercive control recognises the damaging impact of other forms of abuse in relationships as well. 'Don't Disappear' follows the story of Jamie and Emma, from the seemingly loving early stages of their relationship, to the development of abusive behaviour.

Although anyone can be a victim of coercive control, 'Don't Disappear' is particularly aimed at younger people who may have less experience of relationships or people who are at the beginning of a relationship, to raise awareness of the red flags which at the time, may be missed or misinterpreted as acceptable behaviour.

The video covers a range of controlling behaviours exhibited from Jamie to Emma including:

- Jealousy and possessiveness including accusations of flirting and cheating
- Isolating her from her family and friends
- Controlling the use of her phone and social media
- Constantly checking on her whereabouts
- Sudden outbursts of anger and mood changes, and
- Love bombing - showering her with excessive affection and attention in order to retain control

Although in this example Emma is the victim, both men and women can be victims or perpetrators of coercive control which can take place in heterosexual and same sex relationships.

Other examples of coercive control include, depriving someone of basic needs, monitoring their time and activities, taking control over aspects of their everyday life such as where they can go or who they can see, humiliating, degrading or dehumanising someone, controlling their finances and making threats or intimidating behaviour.

In 2019 Victims First surveyed victims of coercive control across Berkshire, Buckinghamshire and Oxfordshire and had 670 people respond who described 811 relationships. Some key findings included:

- A third of people who responded to our survey have been in more than one abusive relationship
- Half of the abusive relationships began when the victim was under the age of 25

- 45% of people who responded to our survey were in the abusive relationship for more than 10 years

The most common types of behaviour that victims faced was verbal abuse, isolation from friends and family and emotional abuse, including gaslighting (manipulating someone into doubting their sanity).

- 79% had experience verbal abuse, shouting and name calling
- 74% had experienced gaslighting or emotional abuse
- 71% had been isolated from their friends or family
- 62% had been victims of extreme jealousy or obsessive behaviour
- 53% had been manipulated into doing things they were uncomfortable with
- 51% had experienced their finances being controlled
- 48% had been threatened with violence to keep them controlled

Police watchdog warns 35,000 police staff 'not vetted properly'

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-49847206>

Police officers raise concerns about 'biased' AI data

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/technology-49717378>

Police officers have raised concerns about using "biased" artificial-intelligence tools, a report commissioned by one of the UK government's advisory bodies reveals. The study warns such software may "amplify" prejudices, meaning some groups could become more likely to be stopped in the street and searched. It says officers also worry they could become over-reliant on automation. And it says clearer guidelines are needed for facial recognition's use.

Royal United Services Institute (Rusi) interviewed about 50 experts for its study, including senior police officers in England and Wales, as well as legal experts, academics and government officials. The work was commissioned by the Centre for Data Ethics and Innovation, which plans to draw up a code of practice covering the police's use of data analytics next year.

One of the key concerns expressed was about using existing police records to train machine-learning tools, since these might be skewed by the arresting officers' own prejudices. Human bias is then introduced into the datasets and bias is then generated in the outcomes of the application of those datasets.

An added factor, the report said, was people from disadvantaged backgrounds were more likely to use public services frequently. And this would generate more data about them, which in turn could make them more likely to be flagged as a risk. Matters could worsen over time, another officer said, when software was used to predict future crime hotspots.

The National Police Chiefs' Council has responded saying UK police always seek to strike a balance between keeping people safe and protecting their rights.

Voluntary and community organisations £106,733 from the Police Property Act Fund.

Twenty two voluntary and community organisations were awarded £106,733 from the Police Property Act Fund. The Fund, jointly managed by the PCC and the Chief Constable, is created from money recovered by the police and the proceeds from the sale of items that cannot be returned to identified owners, including seizures from criminals.

There were 61 applications to the current funding round with 27 organisations successful in receiving funding of between £1,000 – £6,925 to support the PCC's Police and Crime Plan strategic priorities of Reducing Re-Offending and Serious Organised Crime and Terrorism.

The successful projects will receive funding to support a range of issues including domestic violence perpetrators, exploitation of vulnerable people, gangs and knife crime, offender management, public awareness and substance abuse.

Large-scale investment needed in developing police skills and attracting cyber-aware officers is vital

<https://www.raconteur.net/technology/police-skills-cybercrime>

Home Secretary has signed an historic agreement to enable British law enforcement agencies to directly demand electronic data relating to terrorists, child sexual abusers and other serious criminals

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/uk-and-us-sign-landmark-data-access-agreement>

Knife Crime

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-49923129>

The rate of knife attacks in some regional towns and cities is higher than in many London boroughs. Overall, London remains the most dangerous part of England and Wales - but data, obtained from 34 of the 43 police forces, shows the rate of serious knife crime offences rising sharply in some areas outside London, and outstripping some of the city's boroughs in places like the city of Manchester, Slough, Liverpool and Blackpool.

Under Freedom of Information Law, the BBC asked all 43 regional police forces in England and Wales for details of serious knife crime in their area.

Serious knife crime is defined as any assault, robbery, threat to kill, murder, attempted murder or sexual offence involving a knife or sharp instrument.

Manchester, Liverpool, Slough and Nottingham are all in the top 25 most dangerous places in England and Wales for serious knife crime. In 2018, almost half of all suspects in serious knife crime offences in England and Wales, were aged 24 and under. Last year, 15% of knife crime suspects were female and, including those attacked in domestic abuse incidents, a quarter of victims of knife crime were women.

A Home Office spokesperson commented that "We are taking action to tackle the violent crime which has such a devastating impact on our communities.

"This includes supporting the police by recruiting 20,000 new police officers over the next three years, making it easier for them to use stop and search powers, and investing £10m in additional funding to allow forces to increase the number of officers carrying Tasers."

Knife Crime on the increase

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-50080236>

School play about county lines drug dealing dangers

<https://www.oxfordmail.co.uk/news/17968807.school-play-county-lines-drug-dealing-dangers/>

The Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner for the Thames Valley has commissioned a theatre company to tour 130 schools across its region, including in Oxfordshire. More than 15,000 children will watch the performance during its 13-week tour, including Year 9 pupils at The Oxford Academy in Littlemore.

County lines dealing refers to big city drug gangs who expand into smaller towns and cities, often using violence to mark their new territory and recruiting vulnerable children to sell drugs. The performance highlights other important issues including grooming and child sexual exploitation.

Applied theatre specialists AlterEgo Creative Solutions Ltd are staging the production, named County Lines, having been supported by the PCC's Early Intervention Youth Fund.

The tour started in September and runs until December 13, and additional sessions are being held for youngsters not in education, parents and professionals.

The PCC has also funded someone called a 'fearless worker', who will deliver workshops in schools and youth venues on topics such as drugs and knife crime.

More than 500 professionals across the Thames Valley have already attended gang awareness training delivered by Reach Every Generation, with more sessions scheduled between now and Christmas. The County Lines play has already been seen by more than 100,000 thousand young people and thousands of professionals around the UK.

County-lines gangs fuelling child slavery rise

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/education-50081696>

There has been an eightfold increase in the number of child victims of modern slavery referred by local councils in England for support. National Crime Agency figures reveal the number of children earmarked for help grew from 127 in 2014 to 1,152 last year - an increase of 807%.

Town hall bosses say the increase has been fuelled by the growing of issue "county-lines" drug gangs. Councils receive no specific funding for supporting such victims.

Under the Modern Slavery Act 2015, it is an offence to hold a person in a position of forced labour or facilitate their travel with the intention of exploiting them soon after. The act introduced

tougher sentences, and more help for people forced into labouring, domestic servitude, sex work or selling drugs.

County-lines drug gangs move young people around the country with the intention of forcing them to aid with the distribution of drugs for criminal gain.

The Local Government Association is warning the rapid increase in child referrals for modern slavery is adding to the already huge pressure on the services they provide for vulnerable children.

In one year alone, from 2017 to 2018, the number of child referrals grew 67%, and 92% of all referrals from councils related to children. At the same time, increases in adult victims are putting pressure on the already stretched adult social care system, the LGA says.

Hate crimes recorded by police up 10%

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-50054915>

Crime Rising in affluent areas

<https://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-7594703/Crime-rising-four-times-faster-affluent-parts-Britain.html>

Computer Software Service Fraud

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/technology-50117796>

Super-complaint over handling of domestic abuse allegations made against officers

<https://www.thebureauinvestigates.com/stories/2019-10-20/police-face-super-complaint-over-officers-domestic-abuse-scandals>

Police forces in England and Wales are facing a super-complaint over their handling of domestic abuse allegations made against officers, after a Bureau investigation revealed that police employees were less likely to be convicted than members of the public.

A super-complaint is a new legal device brought in last year to help groups challenge endemic problems in policing.

Association of PCCs - making a difference prevention in focus. Addressing the root causes of crime - helping the vulnerable, children and young people move away from the risk factors that can lead to crime or victimisation.

<https://www.apccs.police.uk/media/4679/pccs-making-a-difference-prevention-in-focus.pdf>

Thames Valley

The Commissioner maintains a community safety budget of approximately £3million to support the delivery of Police and Crime Plan priorities. The majority of the budget is given in grants to

county and unitary councils in the Thames Valley area to commission services that help tackle drugs and crime, reduce re-offending and improve community safety. However, in 2018/19 the PCC used 10% to fund Thames Valley-wide and other priority service initiatives. Anthony Stansfeld said: "One recipient of funding was Berkshire Youth which was awarded £76,193 to expand its prevention programme to reduce the risk of exploitation of young people into gangs and knife crime.

The Mentored Moves Project was originally only operating in Bracknell, but funding has enabled its expansion into Newbury and Thatcham. Mentored Moves supports vulnerable young people, aged 11 to 18, who may be involved in gangs, or at risk of exploitation from them, often on the edge of County Lines drug trafficking. Some are known to the Youth Offending Team and police. Some engage in criminal damage to property. And many have a range of difficult life experiences; including bullying, troubled family relationships, unemployment or economic hardship.

The detached youth work is aimed at transitioning vulnerable young people off the street and into local youth activities, or other local provision. Youth workers engage with young people where young people gather. During the transition from street to club, young people receive one-to-one mentoring and support from selected, trained community volunteers. The volunteer mentor offers a 'trusted relationship' for the young person, who will receive mentoring support for up to one year. Once engaged in youth activities, young people have access to a range of personal development opportunities.

Mentored Moves will support 100 young people across Berkshire within its two-year funding period, aiming to make them feel more socially connected, skilled, independent and resilient. In its first nine months, youth workers have had over 500 contacts with young people:

Funding provides employment and housing support to ex-offenders across the Thames Valley

<https://www.thamesvalley-pcc.gov.uk/news-and-events/thamesvalley-pcc-news/2019/10/funding-provides-employment-and-housing-support-to-ex-offenders-across-the-thames-valley/>

The PCC has awarded Aspire £154,000 to support its 'Through the Gate' programme to expand and provide additional employment support as well as housing support to ex-offenders across the Thames Valley. The employment charity and social enterprise has operated a 'Through the Gate' programme in Oxfordshire for four years and provides holistic support for both people in custody and ex-offenders in the community.

The £154,000 funding is for a one year period and forms part of the Police and Crime Commissioner's work to tackle re-offending, exploitation and violence. It has enabled Aspire to expand its 'Through the Gate' programme further into Buckinghamshire, providing ex-offenders with specialist employment support and links to employers in Milton Keynes and High Wycombe, and for the first time into Berkshire.

The programme works with ex-offenders to help them gain employment by providing support such as CV writing and interview skills workshops, training and work experience on Aspire's own enterprise businesses. They also work with local employers to encourage and support them in recruiting ex-offenders. Referrals into the programme are made through bail hostels, probation

services and prisons (Bullington and Springhill prisons in Oxfordshire and Woodhill prison in Buckinghamshire).

Aspire has also recently benefitted from the Police Property Act Fund, supporting the delivery of three specialist Family Links parenting courses to ex-offenders. These courses are designed to support parents, who are ex-offenders, to manage their feelings and behaviour while becoming more positive and nurturing in relationships with their children.

CPS concern over huge drop in police disability hate crime cases

<https://www.disabilitynewsservice.com/cps-concern-over-huge-drop-in-police-disability-hate-crime-cases/>

New contracts for the provision of support for victims of crime in the Thames Valley

Following a commissioning process conducted by the Office of the PCC, the charity Thames Valley Partnership will deliver a Specialist Service for Adult Victims while SAFE! have been awarded a further 3 year contract to provide services to young victims of crime across the Thames Valley beginning in April 2020.

The Adult Specialist Service will provide support to victims who have higher level, or longer term, needs. The support will be provided by specialist Independent Sexual Violence Advisers (ISVAs), Restorative Justice Practitioners, Exploitation Specialists and staff with other relevant specialist skills and knowledge.

Support will be tailored to meet victims' individual needs, regardless of the crime type they have experienced and could include trauma-informed interventions in individual or group settings, advocacy support including help to access mental health or drug and alcohol services, restorative justice conferencing, as well as practical and emotional support to navigate the criminal justice process.

Thames Valley Partnership will work closely with partner organisations Oxford Sexual Assault and Rape Crisis Centre (OSARCC) and Trusthouse Reading to deliver the service involving co-located teams; bringing professionals with different specialisms together.

As the existing service provider of the PCC's Young Victim's Service, SAFE! will continue to provide practical and emotional support to young victims from 5 to 18 years of age; implementing its Protective Behaviours model to equip young people with the tools they need to keep themselves safe. Thames Valley Partnership and SAFE! will also work closely together to provide a new model of family support. The value of both contracts is just over £4.5 million over the 3 year period; an increase of half a million compared to the previous contracts.

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Thames Valley Police & Crime Panel Work Programme 2019/20

Date	Main Agenda Focus	Other agenda items
22 November 2019	Themed item – Increase in Crime rates and falling number of prosecutions/ Restructuring of Courts and the implications of this on the Criminal Justice System	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Public questions • Update on the additional funding and commitment made by the PCC from the increase in the Police Precept for Council Tax • Update on Local Policing Model • Membership of the Police and Crime Panel • Report of Complaints Sub-Committee • Chairman/PCC Updates/Topical issues • Work Programme
31 January 2020	PCC Draft Budget – To review and make recommendations on the proposed precept for 2019/20 and to receive a report from the Budget Task and Finish Group	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Public questions • Annual Assurance Report – Joint Independent Audit Committee • Complaints Integrity and Ethics Annual Assurance Report • Performance – Prevention and Early intervention • Performance report – Vulnerability • Chairman/PCC Updates /Topical Issues • Work Programme
20 March 2020	Themed Item: Exploitation - Preventing CSE/Modern Slavery/Forced Marriage/Hidden Harm/ FGM/ People Trafficking	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Public questions • Update on the work and structure of the Thames Valley Road Safety Working Group / Safer Roads Strategy • Progress made by TVP in making improvements to Crime Data Integrity • Performance Reports - Reducing Reoffending , Prevention and Early Intervention

Date	Main Agenda Focus	Other agenda items
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chairman PCC Updates /Topical Issues • Work Programme

Thames Valley Police & Crime Panel Work Programme 2020/21

Date	Main Agenda Focus	Other agenda items
19 June 2020	New Police and Crime Commissioner – Previous PCC’s Annual Report and vision of the new PCC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Election of Chairman/ Appt of Vice Chairman • Public questions • A Joint Protocol for the working relationship between the Thames Valley Police and Crime Commissioner and the Thames Valley Police and Crime Panel • Community Safety Partnerships update • PCP Annual Report • Annual Assurance Report – Joint Independent Audit Committee • Annual Review of PCP Rules of Procedure and Budget • Chairman/ PCC Updates /Topical Issues • Work Programme

Date	Main Agenda Focus	Other agenda items
4 September 2020	Themed Item - Rural Crime	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Public questions • Update on Recruitment and Retention within Thames Valley Police • Performance Reports – Serious Organised Crime and Terrorism • Performance Report – Police Ethics and Reform • Update on Local Policing Model • Chairman/PCC Updates/Topical Issues • Work Programme
20 November 2020	Themed item – To be confirmed	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Performance – Prevention and Early intervention • Public questions • Chairman/PCC Updates/Topical issues • Work Programme
29 January 2021	PCC Draft Budget – To review and make recommendations on the proposed precept for 2012/21 and to receive a report from the Budget Task and Finish Group	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Public questions • Annual Assurance Report – Joint Independent Audit Committee • Complaints Integrity and Ethics Annual Assurance Report • Performance report – Vulnerability • Chairman/PCC Updates /Topical Issues • Work Programme

Date	Main Agenda Focus	Other agenda items
16 April 2021	Themed Item – To be confirmed	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Performance Reports - Reducing Reoffending , Prevention and Early Intervention• Public questions• Chairman/PCC Updates /Topical Issues• Work Programme