



## Report to Safer and Stronger Scrutiny & Policy Development Committee

**Report of:** Executive Director, Communities

**Subject:** The work of the Police and Crime Panel

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**Summary:** This report will provide information on the work of the Police and Crime Panel in 2016 to date.

**Type of item:** The report author should tick the appropriate box

Reviewing of existing policy	
Informing the development of new policy	
Statutory consultation	
Performance / budget monitoring report	
Cabinet request for scrutiny	
Full Council request for scrutiny	
Community Assembly request for scrutiny	
Call-in of Cabinet decision	
Briefing paper for the Scrutiny Committee	<b>x</b>
Other	

**The Scrutiny Committee is being asked to:**  
Note the report.

### Background Papers:

Appendix A – Membership of PCP

Appendix B - Police and Crime Plan 2016

Appendix C - Drew Review

Appendix D - Proposal under s38, Police Reform and Social Responsibility Act 2011

Appendix E – PCP recommendation re appointment of new Chief Constable

**Category of Report:** OPEN (please specify)

# **Report of the Executive Director, Communities**

## **The Work of the Police and Crime Panel**

### **1. Introduction/Context**

- 1.1 The Police and Crime Panel has an important role in scrutinising the Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC). It scrutinises the PCC's activities, including reviewing the police and crime plan, annual report and the power to veto the amount of the policing precept in council tax and seek views from Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary (HMIC) regarding dismissals of the Chief Constable.
- 1.2 The Police and Crime Panel is made up of councillors from each South Yorkshire district (Barnsley, Doncaster, Rotherham and Sheffield), plus two co-opted independent members. There are twelve members of the panel and these are listed at appendix A.
- 1.3 This report will provide information on the work of the Police and Crime Panel in 2016 to date. The work programme for 2016/17 is currently being redrafted by the Panel, as much of the original programme of work has been moved to accommodate additional issues during recent months, as described in section 2 of the report.

### **2. Main body of report, matters for consideration, etc**

- 2.1 In January 2016, the Police and Crime Panel considered the Police and Crime Commissioner's proposed council tax precept for 2016/17. The panel considered an annual increase in council tax of £5 for a Band D property, which was equivalent to an increase of 10p per week (or a 3.3% increase). The proposal was in response to the Government's Spending Review which gave additional flexibility to PCCs in local funding decisions and would offset the actual reductions in the Police Grant and Formula Grant and a reduction in resources amounting to £0.4m. This would require South Yorkshire Police to make savings of around £6m in 2016/17. The majority of savings would be found through reductions in employee numbers but this would be through the Chief Constable's review of the existing operational policing model and further collaborations with Humberside Police. The proposal to increase council tax by £5 for a Band D property was supported by the PCP.
- 2.2 *Putting Safety First* South Yorkshire Police and Crime Plan 2013-17 was refreshed in March 2016 and can be found in full at appendix B. The plan describes the priorities for the Police for the year ahead, as a result of consultation with community groups, local authorities and the voluntary sector. The aim of the plan was that 'South Yorkshire will be and feel a safe place to live, learn and work.'
- 2.3 The existing priorities as described in the previous version of the plan (2015) would remain:
  - Protecting Vulnerable People

- Effective action tackling child sexual exploitation, rape and serious sexual offences
- Effective response to threats to the most vulnerable people
- Appropriate response by police and justice services to those suffering mental health issues
- Tackling Crime and ASB
  - Effective action tackling crime, anti-social behaviour and re-offending
  - Targeted response to those who cause most harm in the community and intervention with others before they enter the criminal justice system
  - Prioritise the crime and behaviour that cause the most harm within the community
  - Finding the best outcomes for victims of crime and anti-social behaviour.
- Enabling Fair Treatment
  - Planned engagement that seeks public feedback to inform the delivery of policing and crime services
  - Prioritise the delivery of services to those most in need of the them, ensuring a visible presence in those areas where this will have the most impact
  - Services that inspire trust in the general public
  - Recognise staff confidence and morale and adherence to codes of ethics and professional practice as central to delivering an efficient and effective police service.

Across these priorities run two cross-cutting themes of *Victim Focus* and *Efficient and Effective Policing*.

- 2.4 The Police and Crime Commissioner approved a net revenue budget of £241.9m for 2016/17, of which £230m was allocated to the Force. The remaining budget was made up of a provision for any potential costs arising from the Hillsborough Inquest and investigations of allegations of child sexual exploitation, for partnership and commissioning activity and financing asset acquisitions.
- 2.5 The Police and Crime Plan also describes a review of the existing operational policing model. During 2015, the force moved to the LPT structure, to provide greater resilience and operational responsiveness. Key operational departments and support services, administrative and financial functions had been brought together through a strategic partnership with Humberside. In 2016, an evidence based review of structures would be conducted, including looking at the management of CSE and child abuse, preparing for potential elected mayoral models and reduce administrative and support costs.
- 2.6 The public's access to advice, information and services will be transformed and improved to ensure the most effective response and that the police 'get it right first time'. This includes improving technology and enabling opportunities for collaboration with partners.

- 2.7 The Police and Crime Panel received an update on the PCC's Engagement Strategy in March 2016. The panel noted that consultation had taken place over the summer and autumn 2015, focussing on the priorities for the Police and Crime Plan 2016/17. As part of the ongoing consultation, residents' views had been sought, via an online survey, on the proposed increase in Council Tax precept as detailed at 2.1 above. The results of this survey were that 63% of respondents were in favour and this was clarified as being 67 out of 117 responses. The engagement strategy also described proposals to re-brand PACT (Partners and Communities Together) meetings as Community Engagement Meetings.
- 2.8 Professor John Drew's review of South Yorkshire Police's response to child sexual exploitation across the county was commissioned in September 2015 and was reported to the Police and Crime Panel in June 2016, along with the Police and Crime Commissioner's response. The review was in response to questions arising from the Jay report (2014) and the Casey report (2015) and was to answer the following questions:
- Has the police response to safeguarding children and young people from child sexual exploitation been adequate in the past?
  - Has South Yorkshire Police understood and acted on the findings of and recommendations in previous reports and inspections, the media and during parliamentary questioning?
  - Is the police response to safeguarding children and young people from child sexual exploitation adequate now?
- 2.9 In response to the first question, the Drew review found that the force's response to safeguarding children and young people had been inadequate in the past, although some efforts had been made in Sheffield, through the Sheffield Sexual Exploitation Service.
- 2.10 In response to the second question about whether the force had acted on various findings and recommendations, Professor Drew was satisfied that considerable progress had been made and continued to be monitored by the force.
- 2.11 The third question; whether the police response to safeguarding children and young people from child sexual exploitation was now adequate, Professor Drew believed that it was now adequate.
- 2.12 There were eleven recommendations from the Drew review (attached at Appendix C).
- 2.13 The Police and Crime Commissioner's response to the review report was to acknowledge that the force had learnt from mistakes made in the past, and that action had been taken to address these mistakes. The Commissioner asked the Chief Constable to provide regular updates on progress against the recommendations at his Governance and Assurance Board which met 6-weekly.
- 2.14 The Police and Crime Panel received a report on the PCC's initial response to the Hillsborough Inquests verdict in June 2016. New inquests were opened by HM Coroner Lord Justice Goldring on 31 March 2014. The inquest lasted for 296 days and on 26<sup>th</sup> April 2016 the jury returned verdicts of unlawful killing in respect of all 96 victims. The

jury made a specific finding that the behaviour of football supporters at the FA Cup semi-final match at Hillsborough Stadium on 15<sup>th</sup> April 1989, did not cause or contribute to the dangerous situation. South Yorkshire Police, who were in charge of policing the match, were found to have caused or contributed to the deaths.

- 2.15 The Police and Crime Commissioner and the Chief Constable each released a statement to the media after the verdicts, on 26<sup>th</sup> April 2016. The Chief Constable issued a second statement on 27<sup>th</sup> April 2016 which concerned the approach that South Yorkshire Police had adopted during the Inquests. The statement resulted in further media attention and criticism of the force.
- 2.16 The Police and Crime Commissioner made a decision to exercise his power under section 38 of the Police Reform and Social Responsibility Act 2011, to propose to call on the Chief Constable to resign or retire. The Chief Constable was suspended pending the completion of the process. The Panel therefore received information on the statutory process that must be followed by the PCC to call for the retirement or resignation of the Chief Constable. This involved seeking and considering the views of HM Chief Inspector of Constabulary, the Chief Constable himself, and the Police and Crime Panel. Further information can be found at appendix D.
- 2.17 The Police and Crime Panel were notified of the PCC's decision at a private scrutiny hearing on 16<sup>th</sup> September 2016. The panel considered written submissions from the PCC, Chief Constable Crompton and HM Chief Inspector, Sir Thomas Winsor. The Police and Crime Panel gave unanimous support to the proposals by the Police and Crime Commissioner and recommended that he should call on the Chief Constable to resign with immediate effect, in the interests of South Yorkshire Police and the people of South Yorkshire.
- 2.18 In June and July 2016, the Police and Crime Panel received full details of the recruitment process for the appointment of a new Chief Constable, and in particular, the panel's own role in the process. Part 1 of Schedule 8 of the Police Reform and Social Responsibility Act 2011 sets out the process by which the PCP must consider a proposed appointment at a confirmation hearing and make a recommendation regarding the appointment, subject to two-thirds of the panel membership being in agreement.
- 2.19 A confirmation hearing was held by the Police and Crime Panel on 8<sup>th</sup> July. The panel received a report from the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner, which asked the panel to recommend to the Police and Crime Commissioner that Stephen Watson should be appointed as Chief Constable of South Yorkshire Police.
- 2.20 Members of the panel questioned Mr Watson, who held the position of Deputy Chief Constable of the Durham Police Force. Questions were asked of Mr Watson in relation to his proposed appointment on the following areas:
  - Change management
  - Child Sexual Exploitation and Safeguarding
  - Ethics
  - Key Challenges in South Yorkshire

- Local Authority Partnership Working
- Neighbourhood Policing
- Relationship with the Police and Crime Panel
- Priorities
- Values

The panel agreed that Mr Watson had answered each question very well and that he was an outstanding candidate (see appendix E).

### **3 What does this mean for the people of Sheffield?**

- 3.1 The work of the Police and Crime Panel is important to the people of Sheffield as it provides scrutiny of the activities of the Police and Crime Commissioner. As can be seen in section 2 of this report, the PCC has a difficult role to fulfil in ensuring that the people of Sheffield, and South Yorkshire, receive an effective and fair police service. Learning from the investigations into child sexual exploitation in the county and the Hillsborough Inquests in particular, will continue to result in improvements in standards in operational policing and the administration and leadership of South Yorkshire Police. In addition, the panel has oversight of aspects of the PCC's budget, including how much of council tax is used to fund policing in the county.

### **4. Recommendation**

- 4.1 The Committee is asked to note the contents of the report.