

North Yorkshire Police, Fire and Crime Panel

13 October 2022

Recent engagement activity by the Panel: conferences and networks update

1 Purpose of Report

- 1.1 To update the Panel on recent activity involving the North Yorkshire Panel and the key messages arising from network events attended.

2 LGA Annual Webinar for Police, Fire and Crime Panels

- 2.1 Each year, the LGA hosts an event to bring together Members and supporting officers for Panels, along with other key stakeholders, to receive updates on national policy developments and to share good practice. This year's event was held remotely, on 27th September 2022. The programme is attached for information at Appendix A. Sessions were led by, among others, the Home Office and the Association of Police and Crime Commissioners (APCC).
- 2.2 The event was attended by Cllr Peter Wilkinson, Cllr Keith Aspden, Fraser Forsyth and Diane Parsons. The North Yorkshire Panel was asked by the LGA to present a short session on complaints handling; specifically with reference to issues and allegations dealt with by the Panel in relation to two former Commissioners. This was with a view to exploring processes, powers, outcomes and implications. The session appeared to be well-received and there was engagement in Q&A subsequently with the Chair and other attendees.
- 2.3 In terms of key messages arising from the other sessions, Panel may find it useful to note the following points highlighted by the Home Office:
- 2.4 Regional Panel support
One area coming out of the recent Home Office Review of PCCs was the idea of creating a regional support structure for Panels. There is scant concrete information behind this proposal currently, or the rationale for progressing this. What we do know is that the model would have to be created within the current budgetary envelope for Panels and would be about having an umbrella secretariat providing additional, streamlined support in a given area or region (although the "regions" have also not yet been defined).
- 2.5 This concept appears to be around providing consistency around governance across Panels (e.g. having standardised approaches/documentation) as well as looking at whether efficiencies can be made. The Home Office has procured a delivery partner to undertake this review work, which is expected to take three to four months. The point was conveyed by Panels to the Home Office in the workshop that other arrangements in place currently, such as the regional networks facilitated by Frontline (see section 3, below) already work well as fora for sharing good practice and as such an additional regional structure would be creating an unnecessary layer.

- 2.6 Recruitment and retention of co-opted independent members
Another piece of work led by the Home Office, stemming from the PCC Review, is around exploring how to enhance recruitment and retention of co-opted independent members. The aim appears to be to develop some helpful standard resources which can be shared with all Panels and which will deliver good practice.
- 2.7 The Home Office are speaking to various Panel officers about approaches taken to recruitment and to consider what might constitute good practice. They will shortly be sending out a survey to Panels on this issue to gather further information. Some Panels did express in the workshop session that the issue most experienced in relation to retention is around retention of councillor members, due in the main to political changes.
- 2.8 Funding support for Panels
The Home Office reiterated the pressures of maintaining the current levels of funding available to Panels, particularly where there are some Panels who do not take-up the full amount of funding offered. Only around 28 Panels have claimed between 90% and 100% of the grant awarded in 2021/22, although this position is somewhat better than in previous years, and some claim only a small proportion. Often it is the case that the host authority is not fully claiming back for the resource of the supporting officers involved. There was no suggestion made that funding levels will consequently be reduced in the near term but Panels are strongly encouraged to make use of the full grant to help ensure that the current levels can be maintained.

3 Regional Yorkshire and Humber network meeting

- 3.1 Members will know that the North Yorkshire Panel subscribes to a regional Yorkshire and Humber network for Panel Members and officers, which is facilitated by Frontline Consulting and meets informally twice a year. The rationale is to share experiences and good practice, horizon scanning and development on key issues of interest. The network met in person, in Leeds, on 28th September 2022. The meeting was attended by Cllr Peter Wilkinson and Diane Parsons. The other three constituent Panels also had Member and officer representation. The agenda is provided for information at Appendix B.
- 3.2 There was clearly some cross-over, intentionally, with some of the topics raised at the LGA session the previous day, particularly on issues such as outcomes of the PCC Review. It was particularly helpful to discuss with West Yorkshire colleagues around logistics and governance for their Panel under the Mayoral Combined Authority, including complaints handling.
- 3.3 It was also helpful to hear about the work underway in other areas by Commissioners seeking to develop strategies around tackling violence against women and girls and how those Panels have reviewed this work. This is clearly a key focus for all Commissioners. For example, it was highlighted that in Humberside the Commissioner surveyed women and girls locally about their experiences and received around 1600 responses. A leading academic

was engaged to help in development of the strategy and a subsequent campaign was aimed at perpetrators/potential perpetrators on the bus network, encouraging men to consider behaviour they had used or action taken.

3.4 In terms of looking at how Panels undertake budget scrutiny effectively, North Yorkshire Panel was asked to share details of how it structures its approach, for example making use of the informal Finance Sub-Group prior to precept decision-making.

3.3 Panels in West and South Yorkshire and Humberside were also keen to hear about North Yorkshire's experience in relation to undertaking scrutiny on fire and rescue issues; the logistics of meetings, how Members are supported in developing knowledge and so on. As it is anticipated that all Panels will ultimately be called upon to broaden out their remit to include fire and rescue, this continues to be an area of both interest and concern to the other Panels on the network.

3.4 The next meeting of the network will again be held in central Leeds, probably on Thursday 9th March 2023. Up to two Members may attend these meetings with a supporting officer and Members are asked to make a note of this for the diary.

4 Financial Implications

4.1 There are no significant financial implications arising from this report at this time. Clearly, once the Home Office has refined its position in respect of a model of regional Panel support, there may be financial implications for the Panel to consider further.

5 Legal Implications

5.1 There are no significant legal implications arising from this report.

6 Equalities Implications

6.1 There are no significant equalities implications arising from this report.

7 Climate Change Implications

7.1 There are no significant climate change implications arising from this report.

8 Recommendations

8.1 That the Panel notes the update report provided.

Report prepared by:

Diane Parsons
Principal Scrutiny Officer
North Yorkshire County Council

4th October 2022

Background Documents:

- Appendix A – Agenda for the LGA Webinar for Police, Fire and Crime Panels (27 September 2022)
- Appendix B – Agenda for the Regional Yorkshire and Humber Network Meeting (28 September 2022).

10.30	<p>Welcome and introduction</p> <p>Cllr Clive Woodbridge, Deputy Chair, LGA Safer Stronger Communities Board</p>
10.35	<p>Home Office update</p> <p>James Bennett-Clark, Head of PCC Policy, Governance, Accountability and Scrutiny, Home Office</p> <p>Dan West, Senior Policy Advisor, Home Office</p> <p>Cian Bates, Policy Advisor, Home Office</p> <p>Stuart Harwood, Fire Strategy and Reform, Home Office</p>
11.05	Questions and discussion
11.30	<p>Police and Crime Panels and Police and Crime Commissioner Complaints</p> <p>Ranjit Patel, Policy official, Police Integrity Unit, Home Office</p> <p>Ann Oldroyd, Policy official, Police Integrity Unit, Home Office</p>
11.40	Questions and discussion
11.45	<p>Association of Police and Crime Commissioners (APCC)</p> <p>Carolyn Graham, Head of Governance and Business, APCC</p> <p>Marcus Roberts, Interim Chief of Staff, APCC</p>
11.55	Questions and discussion
12.00	Comfort break
12.05	<p>Police and Crime Commissioner Complaints: Reflections from North Yorkshire</p> <p>Cllr Peter Wilkinson, Vice Chair, North Yorkshire Police, Fire and Crime Panel</p> <p>Cllr Keith Aspden, Vice Chair, North Yorkshire Police, Fire and Crime Panel</p> <p>Diane Parsons, Principal Scrutiny Officer, North Yorkshire County Council</p>
12.20	Questions and discussion
12.35	<p>Reflections on – Key issues – summing up</p> <p>John Gili-Ross, Chair, National Association for Police, Fire and Crime Panels</p>
12.55	<p>Closing comments</p> <p>Cllr Clive Woodbridge, Deputy Chair, LGA Safer Stronger Communities Board</p>
1.00	Webinar ends

REGIONAL NETWORKS FOR P(F)CPs
YORKSHIRE & HUMBERSIDE

Yorkshire and Humberside Regional P(F)CP Network

Wednesday 28 September March 2022 @ 10.00 am

West Yorkshire Combined Authority

Wellington House

40-50 Wellington Street

Leeds

LS1 2DE

AGENDA

1. Introductions and welcome

2. Notes of the last meeting

3. P(F)CP round-up and information exchange

Details from each P(F)CP have been circulated with the agenda using the proforma form provided, thank you for submitting them.

4. Learning and Development session

- Outcomes of the Fire Reform White Paper Home Office Review
https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/1074948/DRAFT_WP_consultation_HO_template_110522.pdf

<https://www.local.gov.uk/parliament/briefings-and-responses/reforming-our-fire-and-rescue-service-lga-response>
- Assessing Commissioners' progress against the Police and Crime Plan/Fire and Rescue Plan

REGIONAL NETWORKS FOR P(F)CPs YORKSHIRE & HUMBERSIDE

- PFCP/PFCC implications under a Mayoral Combined Authority
- Following the Police and Crime Commissioners Home office review recommendation, how might a regional panel support secretariat work?
<https://hansard.parliament.uk/commons/2022-03-07/debates/22030711000009/PoliceAndCrimeCommissionerReviewPart2>
- Promoting the work of the Panel e.g. through social media and websites etc- what do other Panels do?
- Budget Scrutiny – how do colleagues go about this?

5. Horizon Scanning

- NCA Director General Appointed – focus on Fraud
<https://www.apccs.police.uk/latest-news/nca-director-general-set-to-prioritise-fraud/>
- HMICFRS Finding Time for Crime Report
<https://www.justiceinspectorates.gov.uk/hmicfrs/publications/police-response-to-burglary-robbery-and-other-acquisitive-crime/>

6. National Conference – 10 and 11 November 2022

The programme will be discussed.

7. Date of next meeting and venue

To note that the next meeting of the Regional Network will be held on Thursday 9 March 2023.

8. Any other business