

North Yorkshire County Council

North Yorkshire Police, Fire and Crime Panel

Minutes of the Special Meeting held in the Brierley Room at County Hall, Northallerton, on Wednesday, 21st June, 2023, commencing at 2.30 pm.

Councillors Carl Les (North Yorkshire Council) in the Chair; Chris Aldred (North Yorkshire Council), Lindsay Burr MBE (North Yorkshire Council), Tim Grogan (North Yorkshire Council), Emilie Knight (City of York Council), Rich Maw (North Yorkshire Council), Heather Moorhouse (North Yorkshire Council), Danny Myers (City of York Council), Michael Pavlovic (City of York Council) and Peter Wilkinson (North Yorkshire Council).

Community Co-opted Members: Fraser Forsyth and Mags Godderidge

Chief Constable Lisa Winward QPM (North Yorkshire Police)

Chief Fire Officer Jonathan Dyson (Chief Fire Officer) (North Yorkshire Fire & Rescue Service) and Lisa Winward (Chief Constable) (North Yorkshire Police).

Officers from the Office of the Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner: Zoë Metcalfe (Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner for North Yorkshire), Michael Porter (Chief Financial Officer), Simon Dennis (Chief Executive & Monitoring Officer), Tamara Pattinson (Director, Delivery and Assurance), Amanda Wilkinson (Director of Public Confidence) and George Jabbour.

Officers present: Diane Parsons (Principal Scrutiny Officer).

In Attendance: Cllr George Jabbour (North Yorkshire Council).

Apologies: Martin Walker (Community Member).

Copies of all documents considered are in the Minute Book

665 Welcome and apologies

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting and introductions were made for the new Panel Members. The Chief Constable and Chief Fire Officer attended remotely. Apologies were noted.

666 Declarations of Interest

Mags Godderidge notified that she is CEO of Survive; a charity which is commissioned by the OPFCC to provide services to survivors of domestic abuse and sexual violence.

667 Minutes of the Panel Meeting held on 6th February 2023

Resolved –

That the minutes of the meeting held on 6th February 2023, having been printed and circulated, be taken as read and confirmed and signed by the Chair as a correct record.

668 Minutes of the informal Panel meeting held on 9th March 2023

That the minutes of the informal meeting held on 9th March 2023, having been printed and circulated, be taken as read and confirmed and signed by the Chair as a correct record.

669 Progress on Issues Raised by the Panel

Resolved –

That the progress report be noted with no further follow-up actions required.

670 Public Questions or Statements to the Panel

The Panel were advised that no public questions or statements had been received.

671 Members' Questions

In response to a query regarding the progress of the EnableNY programme and savings generated, the Commissioner agreed to bring back an update report to the Panel.

The Commissioner was asked about her level of confidence around the robustness of policies for the suspension and return of firearms licences where individuals are under investigation for serious sexual and violent offences. The Commissioner offered to follow up on this matter further outside of the meeting.

A Member highlighted asked a question on the back of a recent study of firefighters in London which identified that cancer is up to 320% more prevalent among that population as compared with the general population. The Commissioner was asked about health surveillance measures of firefighters in North Yorkshire. In response, the Commissioner highlighted that there is a lot of work underway around this and that a detailed report can be provided for the Panel.

In response to a query regarding how effectively County Lines is being tackled, the Commissioner felt that a good deal of progress has been made in partnership with the police and other agencies but that there is still much to do.

The Commissioner was asked about the Victims' Centre and it was clarified that this should be opened by the end of the year. The Commissioner will verify that the requirement for compliance with the FSR regulator will be extended from October 2023 to April 2024.

672 The Commissioner's monitoring of progress and improvements following recent inspection activity

Considered –

The Commissioner's report regarding how she is holding the Chief Constable and Chief Fire Officer to account in relation to ensuring adequate progress against

improvement plans following recent HMICFRS inspections, as follows:

- 'PEEL' inspection of North Yorkshire Police 2021/22
- National Child Protection Inspection: Post-Inspection Review of North Yorkshire Police
- Inspection of North Yorkshire Fire and Rescue Service 2021/2: Re-visit findings.

The Commissioner outlined from the report the various ways in which she provides challenge to both services and that she feels this challenge to be robust. In terms of giving assurance to the Panel, this included highlighting the following points:

- The Commissioner has launched an Assurance Framework against which delivery of outcomes from the key Plans will be continually monitored and assessed.
- The governance of EnableNY has been reviewed and a renewed plan put in place to re-focus its work around collaboration;
- With regards to the PEEL report on North Yorkshire Police (NYP), the Commissioner has obtained specific reassurance that the workforce plan is being reality-tested and challenged.
- The Commissioner expects to see a return on her investment into the Force Control Room and has been clear on this with the Chief Constable.
- The Chief Fire Officer is required to report to the joint Executive Board on a monthly basis. The Commissioner is confident that the new leadership team at the fire service (NYFRS) and the rollout of the new Risk and Resource Model (RRM) will see an increase in prevention and protection.

Members considered the Commissioner's response and asked questions on a number of aspects around the inspection reports, including the following:

- Members sought further detail on progress under the RRM and the Chief Fire Officer outlined elements which are well underway. The Panel were advised that delays to progress had been experienced following the recent fire strikes and the Chief Fire Officer outlined that dialogue continues with the trade unions around the proposals for Huntington. A report will be brought to the Panel in October.
- The Commissioner was asked whether trauma-informed approaches from elsewhere have been considered for adoption in North Yorkshire. The Chief Constable highlighted various elements of practice underway nationally around wellbeing and trauma-informed approaches which North Yorkshire will be tapping into. The Panel expressed concern that the position regarding staff vacancies in the force may be trauma-related. The Chief Constable agreed to share the results of a wellbeing survey, assuming the results are sufficiently anonymised.
- The Commissioner was asked about 101 call performance. It was noted that the abandonment rate had been unsatisfactory but that performance is on the right trajectory. The Commissioner highlighted that there has been a steep increase in demand for 999 and 101 too.
- In response to concern expressed regarding the need for rapid improvements in the police service and having adequate (visible) policing resource available, the Commissioner highlighted that a new organisational model is being developed, which will re-align resources and ensure focus on high-risk and high-demand areas.

- The Panel expressed concern at the child protection findings in relation to safeguarding and sought reassurance that additional measures have been put in place to ensure adequate safeguarding awareness. The Chief Constable highlighted in response the additional ongoing training for officers in this regard to ensure a greater professional curiosity and improvements around children missing from home.
- Members similarly sought reassurance of change and improvement around the management of known sex offenders. The Commissioner responded by outlining various measures such as ensuring that unannounced visits are undertaken and outing additional staffing into these teams. HMICFRS will be revisiting specifically on this issue in July 2023.
- As the inspectorate have raised concerns regarding the efficacy of arrangements for service collaboration and the Panel discussed its concerns at the rate of progress for the Enable programme in February 2023, the Panel requested that a further detailed update report be provided by the October Panel meeting. Members were particularly keen that this includes detail of quantifiable savings and efficiencies derived through the Enable programme. Simon Dennis outlined the focus on refreshing the Enable programme and recent actions put in place around leadership appointments and decision-making. The Commissioner's office agreed to work with the Panel's supporting officers to review the timeliness of reporting on this in view of the early stage that the performance management regime is at.
- On a more specific note, a Member asked if further information could be shared outside of the meeting in relation to how the case study investigation highlighted on page 111 of the pack (child protection arrangements re-visit) culminated, due it being of concern that this investigation had not been well-led.

The Panel noted the reports and comprehensive responses provided at the meeting and requested a further update following the anticipated re-visits of the services by the inspectorate, which will be taking place in the autumn.

Resolved –

That the Panel:

- (a) Notes the report provided by the Commissioner regarding recent inspection activity and the responses provided to the Panel's questions regarding monitoring against the inspection outcomes;
- (b) Will receive a detailed update report regarding progress of the EnableNY programme (to include performance data and linked savings information) at the earliest feasible opportunity (currently pencilled in for October 2023);
- (c) Will further consider the effectiveness of the Commissioner's arrangements for monitoring progress against inspection outcomes following the inspectorate's re-visits in the autumn;
- (d) Will receive an anonymised update from the recent wellbeing survey conducted at North Yorkshire Police; and
- (e) Will receive a written update on implementation of the Risk and Resource Model in October 2023.

The report of the Panel Secretariat outlining the Panel's forward work programme.

The Panel agreed that the following items would be helpful for inclusion on the programme:

- Cross-border collaboration for policing and between neighbouring PCCs;
- Rural crime and hunting/persecution of wildlife (*it was noted this is currently scheduled for April 2024*);
- Child sexual exploitation – to form part of the Commissioner's report on the Violence Against Women and Girls strategy update in October 2023.

Resolved –

That the Panel agrees its outline work programme.

674 Any other items

The Panel were advised that no urgent business had been notified to the Chair.

675 Date of Next Meeting

Thursday, 20th July 2023 at 10:30am (Annual Meeting) – County Hall, Northallerton.

The meeting concluded at 4.04 pm.
DP.