

NORTH YORKSHIRE POLICE, FIRE AND CRIME PANEL

20 July 2023

Progress on Issues Raised by the Panel

1.0 PURPOSE OF REPORT

1.1 To advise Members of:

- (i) progress on issues which the Panel has raised at previous meetings; and
- (ii) any other matters that have arisen since the last meeting and which relate to the work of the Panel.

2.0 BACKGROUND

2.1 This report will be submitted to the Panel as required, listing the Panel's previous resolutions and/or when it requested further information to be submitted to future meetings. The table below provides a list of issues which were identified at previous Panel meetings and which have not yet been resolved. The table also indicates where the issues are regarded as completed and will therefore not be carried forward to this agenda item at the next Panel meeting.

2.2 Appendix A provides an update from the Commissioner's office against each of the issues listed below. The Commissioner's office will be happy to respond to any further queries.

2.3 The Panel is asked to consider whether any further follow-up is required.

	Date	Minute number and subject (if applicable)	Panel resolution or issue raised	Comment / date required	Complete at publication?
1	21 June 2023	671 – Members' Questions	Query regarding PFCC's level of confidence around robustness of policies for the suspension and return of firearms licences.	20.07.23	√ (see Appendix A)
2	21 June 2023	671 – Members' Questions	Information sought on health surveillance of firefighters in NY and York.	20.07.23	X – report to be brought to Panel later in the year (see Appendix A)
3	21 June 2023	671 – Members' Questions	Victims' Centre - PFCC to verify requirement for compliance with FSR	20.07.23	√ (see Appendix A)

			regulator extended to April 2024.		
4	21 June 2023	672 – PFCC’s monitoring of progress following inspection activity.	Query regarding outcome of the case study on p25 of the child protection post-inspection review.	20.07.2023	√ (see Appendix A)

3.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

3.1 There are no significant financial implications arising from this report.

4.0 LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

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

5.0 EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS

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

6.0 CLIMATE CHANGE IMPLICATIONS

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

<p>7.0 RECOMMENDATIONS</p> <p>7.1 It is recommended that the Panel:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) notes the report; (b) considers whether any of the points highlighted in this report require further follow-up.

APPENDICES:

Appendix A – Updates against issues and queries from the Commissioner’s office.

BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS:

None.

Barry Khan
Assistant Chief Executive, Legal and Democratic Services
County Hall
Northallerton
11 July 2023

Report Author: Diane Parsons, Principal Scrutiny Officer.

	Query raised	Response from Commissioner's office
1	Member query regarding the PFCC's confidence about the robustness of police policies for the suspension and return of firearms licences where the individual is under investigation for serious sexual and violent offences.	This query pertains to correspondence that the Member has directed to the Commissioner's office. It has regard to a live complaint with the Professional Standards Department at NYP and as such the Complaints Team at the Commissioner's office will be confirming this status for the Member in question. The PFCC will as such be unable to comment further at this stage.
2	A report to be provided for Panel updating on the health surveillance of firefighters in North Yorkshire and York, following a study highlighting 320% greater prevalence of cancer among London firefighters as compared with the general population.	North Yorkshire Fire and Rescue service are commissioning a report which will explore this. Further information will be provided later in the year when the report is produced.
3	Victims' Centre – PFCC to verify that the requirement for compliance with the FSR regulator has been extended to April 2024 from October 2023.	<p>Sexual Assault Referral Centres (SARCs) are required to achieve UKAS Accreditation within 24 months of the effective date of the new Forensic Science Regulator (FSR) Code.</p> <p>The new FSR guidance was delayed, and was not finalised and released March 2023 – this has delayed the new FSR Code effective date until 2nd October 2023.</p> <p>As a result, we now have until October 2025 to achieve UKAS Accreditation – the application and accreditation process is anticipated to take</p>

		<p>around 12-18 months to complete from pre-assessment planning to accreditation.</p> <p>Once the October 2025 deadline has passed, any SARCs who are not accredited must declare compliance or non-compliance in reports and statements for the criminal justice system and may be subject to FSR compliance notices or enforcement action (similar to CQC processes).</p>
4	<p>The PFCC was asked if any information could be provided by way of follow-up re: the case study on p25 of the child protection post-inspection review report. The case study regarding a vulnerable young person had been highlighted by HMICFRS to illustrate an investigation which did not appear to have been well led.</p>	<p>As outlined in the report, a suspect arrested for Child Sexual Offences whilst in custody commented to the custody officer that 'I wouldn't do that, I have children of my own'. This was raised with the Force due to this comment not having been explored or established whether the individual had access to children. After further investigation (following an immediate response) it was established the suspect did not have access to children. HMICFRS were informed at the time and were content.</p> <p>HMICFRS also made negative comment regarding forensic and digital examination not being submitted promptly in this case. These aspects have now been resolved but no further information can be provided as it is an ongoing investigation.</p>