

MINUTES OF THE GM POLICE AND CRIME PANEL HELD ON TUESDAY 30 JUNE 2020 VIA MICROSOFT TEAMS

PRESENT:

Councillor Nadim Muslim	Bolton Council
Councillor Nigel Murphy	Manchester City Council – (In the Chair)
Councillor Steve Williams	Oldham Council
Councillor Janet Emsley	Rochdale Council
Councillor David Lancaster	Salford City Council
Councillor Amanda Peers	Stockport Council
Councillor Warren Bray	Tameside Council
Councillor Mike Freeman	Trafford Council (Guest)
Councillor Graham Whitham	Trafford Council
Councillor Kevin Anderson	Wigan Council
Majid Hussain	Independent Member

ALSO PRESENT:

Baroness Beverley Hughes	GM Deputy Mayor
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OFFICERS:

Chris Sykes	Assistant Chief Constable, GMP
Clare Monaghan	Director Policing, Crime and Fire, GMCA
Jeanette Staley	Salford City Council & GM Police and Crime Policy Lead
Gwynne Williams	Deputy Monitoring Officer, GMCA
Sylvia Welsh	Head of Governance & Scrutiny, GMCA
Sarah Keaveny	Head of Comms, GMCA
Sarah Barnes	Principal Researcher, GM
Peter Langmead-Jones	Head of External Relations & Performance, GMP
Lisa Lees	Strategic Manager, GMCA
Lee Teasdale	GMCA Governance and Scrutiny,
Steve Annette	GMCA Governance and Scrutiny

PCP/15/20 APPOINTMENT OF CHAIR AND VICE CHAIR

Councillor Nigel Murphy having been nominated as Chair and Councillor Janet Emsley having been nominated as Vice Chair, and members then voting separately thereon, it was -

RESOLVED/-

That Councillor Nigel Murphy be appointed as Chair and Councillor Janet Emsley as Vice-Chair of the Police and Crime Panel for the ensuing Municipal Year.

PCP/16/20 MEMBERSHIP 2020/21

The Membership of the Panel for the ensuing Municipal Year was noted.

The Chair thanked Councillor Sharon Briggs (Bury) and Councillor Mike Freeman (Trafford) for their contributions to the work of the Panel, and the Chair would write to each to convey those thanks.

He then welcomed Councillor David Jones (Bury) and Councillor Graham Whitman (Trafford) as new members and hoped that they would find the work of the Panel interesting and rewarding.

PCP/17/20 APOLOGIES

An apology for absence was received from Angela Lawrence (Independent Member).

PCP/18/20 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest made.

PCP/19/20 MINUTES

RESOLVED/-

That the Minutes of the meetings held on 28th and 31st January 2020 be approved as correct records, subject to a declaration of interest from Councillor Freeman being recorded in the minutes of 31st January 2020.

PCP/20/20 POLICE AND CRIME TEAM UPDATE

In opening the item, the Chair immediately placed on record his appreciation of the work of the team during the current emergency and the many instances where innovative working arrangements and sensitivity had ensured the maintenance and continuity of services to the public at a time of unparalleled difficulty.

The Deputy Mayor then presented her report that provided an overview of the work of the GMCA police and crime team across a range of functions and key issues, including the specific responses to the Covid-19 emergency, and she shared the generous appreciation already expressed by the Chair to all involved. Selecting highlights from the report, she emphasised the importance in the context of homeworking during the period of Covid-19 lockdown, of having robust arrangements in place by which the Deputy Mayor was enabled to continue to exercise her functions to hold the Chief Constable to account and to scrutinise decisions and actions by GMP during the crisis. Daily performance reports were provided to the Deputy Mayor and these were supplemented by regular GOLD meetings, and a careful overview was maintained of the impact of the pandemic on Force staffing

levels, particularly in the initial stages of the quarantine period, and she considered it was worthy of note that GMP had one of the lowest sickness absence rates of police forces nationally during the period, and had therefore been able to continue to meet its responsibilities to the public.

She also praised the innovation shown by officers and staff, PCSOs and special constables in finding new ways of working, many of which would continue to be relevant when the current crisis is passed, and their critical contribution to humanitarian work across Greater Manchester in relation to the temporary mortuary at Trafford Park, and the establishment of the Nightingale Centre.

Overall most crime types had fallen during the lockdown period but a comprehensive strategy was put in place with close partnership working between local authorities and other agencies, in order to provide an effective response to any pressures that might have emerged in relation to supporting victims of domestic abuse or child exploitation.

She drew attention to the situation in the criminal justice system where a serious and significant backlog of over 1000 trials and others cases has built up, attempts are being made to address the issues, some national level action is necessary but any areas where local actions can be taken are already in hand. Serious and organised crime has not been inactive during the period with several examples of situations where fraudsters have sought to capitalise on the pandemic. As lockdown relaxed there have been tragic deaths around water which required summer safety messages to be reinforced. GMP has also had to face challenges of large gatherings, the focus being of de-escalating situations, also raves that presented particular difficulties for control and enforcement. Robust measures are in place for further relaxations on 4th July in the hospitality sector.

In discussion Members, asked –

- when the Panel can expect to see the race equality policing report
- the extent to which the failed disciplinary hearing in respect of former ACC Steve Heywood undermines public confidence in the Police
- IOPS, clear that there have been improvements but still evidence of lack of confidence by some staff in the new system and does the Deputy Mayor consider that this continues to impact on the operational capabilities of GMP,
- implications of Covid pandemic on recruitment targets and budgetary control, and
- impacts of the Covid emergency on police sickness and mental health.

The Deputy Mayor responded to each of these issues and outlined the reporting timetable that can be envisaged. On budgetary implications she was able to assure the Panel that the Force had a very clear picture of the additional financial consequences directly attributable to the Covid emergency, and that these had been notified to Government though it remained unclear as to the proportion of those costs that might attract additional resources from Government.

Other members referred to –

- the rave situation and the initial responses by the Force,

- in terms of the ageing hub it was important that recognition was given to the fact that many older people did not have access to electronic means of communication, and messaging needs to be sensitive to this
- Probation Service – is the reorganisation progressing to plan
- Police Division review of resource distribution,
- provision of crime statistics disaggregated to local areas
- how many women remain in secure accommodation due to domestic violence and whether the action against perpetrators was also being actioned robustly
- Jury trials, is there a timescale for when these will be up and running again
- Importance of local crime statistics to support development of local Hate Crime Plans
- GMP Transport Unit increasing patrols on road network, how will areas be prioritised and will local authorities have an input in those priorities,
- issues about off-road biking and whether this will be part of the Safer Summer Campaign.

In responding, the Deputy Mayor indicated that the response to raves had been developed in recent weeks, drawing in intelligence from local authority partners and local communities that had led to at least one planned rave being prevented. She outlined the various responses that are used in terms of ensuring effective communication with older people especially around organised crime and fraud. She outlined the current position around the reorganisation of the Probation Service, and that she would write to the member on the position in relation to the Police Division resourcing and local crime statistics, recognising that both issues may have been impacted by the Covid emergency.

She was able to confirm that though accommodation had been procured or identified for single women fleeing domestic abuse as a contingency, cooperation between districts had in fact worked so well that each local authority had been able to find the accommodation they required in their local areas. She recognised all the good work that had been undertaken during the emergency period, especially with supermarkets and pharmacists and that these examples of good practice would in many cases continue. Road safety issues during lockdown were related to vehicle speeding that had led to a number of RTAs and that had led to a focussed campaign on speeding. Summer Campaign focus in relation to off-road biking needs to be built into local plans where it is an issue.

RESOLVED/-

1. To note the report and the responses made to detailed issues raised.

PCP/17/20 GMCA (FIRE AND RESCUE FUNCTIONS) (AMENDMENT) ORDER 2020

The GMCA Solicitor and Monitoring Officer submitted a report advising that the Amendment had been passed by Parliament and came into force on 26 June 2020, and allows the Mayor to make arrangements for fire and rescue functions to be exercised by the Deputy Mayor for Policing and Crime, and also amends the remit of the Police and Crime Panel to review or scrutinise decisions made, or action taken in the discharge of these functions. The Procedure Rules for the Police, Crime and Fire Panel will be presented to the Panel at its next meeting.

The Deputy Mayor and other members welcomed that the Fire Service now had a political home and a robust and effective mechanism through which elected members can apply the same scrutiny that they have been able to do for some time in respect of policing.

RESOLVED/-

1. To welcome the report

PCP/18/20 POLICE AND COMMUNITY SAFETY SURVEY 2019/20

A report of the Deputy Mayor was considered summarising survey results for the period July 2019 – March 2020 (i.e. prior to lockdown)

Some cross-cutting themes emerged from the data; people who self-identified as more financially secure also exhibited high feelings of safety, confidence in services and high satisfaction in those services, whereas people from BAME groups consistently had lower confidence, lower satisfaction and felt less safe and were less likely to contact the Police if they needed them in an emergency or non-emergency situation. The pandemic has resulted in cessation of face-to-face interviews and the data to date has to be interpreted in view of that, and going forward there will need to be some revision to the format of questions that takes account of the impact of the Covid emergency.

The Chair suggested that it would be both helpful and useful to receive an update at the next meeting of the GM Police and Crime Steering Group and for the Group to interrogate the data in more detail, and to explore how effectively community safety issues were being dealt with locally and how messaging was being targeted.

RESOLVED/-

1. To note the report at this stage; to accept the importance of the ground-breaking work involved that will inform the work of this Panel and other groups, and to continue the dialogue on the interpretation of the data at the next GM Police and Crime Steering Group.

PCP/19/20 GMP CRIME DATA

The Panel considered a report of recorded crime data in 2019 compared to the previous year. It was noted that crime-recording standards in GMP had significantly improved from 2018 to 2019 and continued in an upward trajectory. Although overall crime was down, in line with national findings, it was accepted that continued improvement was required to ensure crime data is accurate and in line with NCRS requirements. GMP had already invested extensively in dedicated resources to improve crime recording and NCRS compliance and the new centralised Crime Recording and Resolution Unit would undoubtedly assist in this regard, using specially trained staff to record crime at the first point of contact in Greater Manchester. On a note of caution the Panel was advised that crime statistics for 2020 would indicate a significant decrease in crime overall but this would need to be considered against the Covid-19 emergency.

Members looked forward to being able to interrogate reliable local crime data when this was available as this would be key to understanding the relationship with district level re-sourcing and to enable local responses to be formulated. A member indicated that it would be useful to have the Chief Constable's attendance at future meetings, though it was

accepted that the primary role of the Panel was to hold the Deputy Mayor to account in relation to her holding of the Chief Constable to account.

RESOLVED/-

1. To note the report.

PCP/20/20 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

1. To be determined in consultation with the Chair