

STRATEGIC SCRUTINY MEETING

WEDNESDAY 22 AUGUST 2018 AT 12:30PM IN ROOM CH1:08, COUNTY HALL

NOTE

PRESENT

Clive Grunshaw - Police & Crime Commissioner
Andy Rhodes - Chief Constable, Lancashire Constabulary

IN ATTENDANCE

Angela Harrison, Director, Office of the Police & Crime Commissioner
Terry Woods – ACC, Lancashire Constabulary
Jo Edwards – ACC, Lancashire Constabulary
Peter Lawson, Chief Superintendent, Lancashire Constabulary
Ian Dawson - Superintendent, Lancashire Constabulary
Ian Dickinson – Governance & Policing Lead, Office of the Police & Crime Commissioner
Rachel Whittle - Communication and Engagement Lead

NOTE AND ACTIONS FROM LAST MEETING

The Police and Crime Commissioner noted that all of the actions identified at the last meeting had been completed.

ITEM 2 – PERFORMANCE REPORT

The Chief Constable presented a report in relation to the performance of Lancashire Constabulary to the 30 June 2018.

Fracking

The update provided in the report was noted. The Commissioner receives ongoing briefings as appropriate.

Citizens in Policing

Special Constabulary

The Chief Constable advised the Commissioner that there had been an intake of 38 Special Constables in April 2018 who were then attested in July and August. It was noted that there were future intakes planned for September 2018 and January 2019.

The final intake of 17 University of Central Lancashire (UCLan) Special Constables were attested in April and had started in their divisions.

The Special Constabulary Review was currently being led by Chief Inspector Sewart and will look at the structure of the Special Constabulary, the establishment and the use of Specials to support frontline policing. The review will report in early autumn.

The Special Constabulary are continuing to assist with frontline policing activities and have recently played a part in assisting with the Winter Hill Fire road closures and engaging with the public of Lancashire at numerous local fetes and parades.

Volunteers

The Commissioner noted that Lancashire Constabulary currently had 386 volunteers (with an additional 40 in the vetting process). The Constabulary recently recruited approximately 70 cyber/digital community support volunteers. Following training, they will give inputs to schools and community groups on how to stay safe on the web. As part of this initiative over 2,000 school children have had cyber safety presentations delivered to them between 1st Jan-31st March 2018. Additionally recruitment was undertaken for Restorative Justice Volunteers across the County.

Cadets

The Constabulary has an establishment of 650 cadets and was currently recruiting for the majority of units across Lancashire ready for the new term to start in September.

It was noted that the Constabulary now had 4 junior cadet schemes in West, 1 in South and 1 about to be established in East. Currently a review of the cadets was being undertaken looking at the feasibility of collaboration with the Lancashire Fire and Rescue Service (LFRS) and how, if feasible, this could work.

Tackling Crime & Re-Offending

The meeting focussed on the tackling crime & reoffending priority issue of recorded crime. For the 12 months to the end of June 2018 compared to the 12 months to the end of June 2017, there had been an increase of 24.8% in recorded crime.

It was noted that the increase in crime in Lancashire did not make Lancashire unique, in fact 41 other forces in the UK had also experienced increases in recorded crime.

A detailed discussion ensued about the figures and what the Constabulary knew about the "real" increases in crime. The Commissioner was of the view that it was important to understand that whilst the recording of crime was increasing, crime itself was not going up by that amount, further, that the calls to the police are high, but were remaining fairly static. Police officers were deploying to around only 2% more jobs than previously. However, the amount of recorded crimes that required investigation had risen and therefore had an impact on the finite resources available.

Accordingly, the Commissioner considered that the Panel would be better informed around this issue if they were to receive a presentation on this issue at their Panel meeting.

Action - It was agreed that a representative from Lancashire Constabulary would explain the figures and to provide headline explanations and key messages.

ITEM 3 – CONTACT MANAGEMENT

The Chief Constable updated the Commissioner on the progress for Contact Management. The Chief informed the Commissioner that since the agreed uplift in staffing to meet demand, the establishment had now increased to 331 FTE.

With the business case for POD working agreed, it was noted that Contact Management was currently working through a change programme to align staff and technology to facilitate this. As outlined in previous Scrutiny reports the benefits of this would be realised through PCRO's gaining more local knowledge, increased knowledge of resolution options at first contact and more efficiencies with a reduction of changes roles.

The Commissioner was informed that the Constabulary was focused on answering 999 calls above any other type of demand.

In summary, for the period April – June 2018 when compared to the same period in 2017, for 999 demand:

- An increase of 1069 emergency calls
- An increase in service level consistently for the 3mths
- Average speed to answer for 2018 within 10secs

With regard to the Non-Emergency Calls, the Commissioner was informed that these remained a challenge for the Control Room and again, this could be attributed to the nature of demand coming in.

In summary for the period April - June 2018 when compared to the same period in 2017, for 101 Demand:

- A reduction of 28,974 101 calls (previous increase potentially due to repeat calls but no data to support this at present)
- An increase in service level consistently for the 3mths
- Average speed to answer improvement compared to same time period last year

It was noted that call volumes and handling times had increased, both of which increased the Control Room workloads.

Accordingly, whilst the Constabulary was rightly focused on answering 999 calls above any other type of demand the Chief Constable indicated that he would welcome a broader discussion around the future offer to the public around non-emergency calls in order to draw up an action plan.

ITEM 4 – BEST USE OF STOP AND SEARCH

The Commissioner received a report in respect of the Force's progress and position relating to the Best Use of Stop and Search (BUSS) scheme. A copy of the report is set out on the Commissioner's website.

It was noted that an HMIC reassessment in Spring 2017 within the Police Effectiveness, Efficiency and Legitimacy (PEEL) inspection outlined 93% compliance in acceptable grounds), as well as commentary on how well officers appeared to understand their powers and impact on communities as well as praise for the governance and scrutiny structures the Constabulary has in place.

Further it was noted that the numbers of searches across the force had dropped significantly since the BUSS scheme was introduced, with around 250-300 searches per month. However, positive outcome rates were healthy. Arrest rates stood at around 15%, and all positive outcomes (charge, arrest, PND, summons, RJ / Community Resolutions) stand around the 27-30% of searches conducted.

In order to build upon the progress made the Constabulary needed to continue to enhance community confidence in the use of stop and search whilst ensuring that officers had the knowledge and confidence to apply the power to effectively prevent and detect crime. Key areas of work ongoing in the coming months:

- Greater links between the Independent Scrutiny Panel with OPCC, in order to ensure further independence in the vital work being undertaken by the panel. This had been agreed in principle between the constabulary, Independent Panel and the OPCC. The details and logistics are being worked through.
- Use of Volunteers to support scrutiny and broaden out public engagement across the force.
- Officer support – anecdotally willingness in using the powers may have been impacted with the increased scrutiny. Analytical work has been commissioned recently to better understand this, which will also use officer surveys to gather views and understand if this is indeed an issue.
- Re-launch of the Ride Along programme, with greater involvement of co-ordination through the OPCC.
- Tactical Deployment – analytical work has been commissioned to map out the use of stop and search against Place based issues, Organised Crime Group activity and crime. A Business Intelligence Dashboard has been developed which will inform Place leaders and NHP staff about the effectiveness of the power in their area, as well as proportionality / diversity information.

ITEM 5 – NATIONAL VULNERABILITY ACTION PLAN 2018-2021

The Commissioner received a report outlining the requirements of the national vulnerability plan and providing an overview of Lancashire Constabulary's present status in respect of actions required within the plan.

It was noted that the plan includes a total of 39 actions. Forces were expected to complete 28 of these actions with the College of Policing and NPCC completing the remaining. The assessment of Lancashire's responses to the 11 priority areas had identified that the force was in a strong position at present with all but one presently being met through existing work streams.

Of the remaining 17 non priority actions the force was in a similarly strong position for the large majority of these. However, three areas were identified as a risk.

- Analytical capabilities and capacity to regularly and effectively underpin the tasking and co-ordination of responses to vulnerability.
- The use of joint or shared systems between partner agencies to improve information sharing. Examples of this are in existence but remain low.
- At present the force does not generically include vulnerability within its workforce recruitment. The only exception to this is the past recruitment of early action staff.

The commissioner was advised that issue number 1 had been identified by ACC Edwards and Chief Superintendent Webster. Considerations were being made as to how best to address this issue and as such, no specific action needed to be taken at this stage.

In respect of issue number 2, this was not covered within the forces digital capability plan and consideration would be given to its inclusion in that work stream.

Finally, issue 3 was relatively easy to address through a review of external recruitment requirements.

The Commissioner noted that progress was being monitored through the Constabulary's HMICFRS Board.

DATE OF NEXT MEETING

It was noted that the next scheduled Strategic Scrutiny meeting will be held on 13th February 2019 at 12:30am in Room CH1:08, County Hall, Preston

PART II

HMICFRS UPDATE

The Police and Crime Commissioner received an update report in relation to the activity undertaken by the Constabulary following the recent HMICFRS inspections.

A Harrison
Director