



ACCOUNTABILITY BOARD

**TUESDAY 4 FEBRUARY 2025 AT 09:30AM IN THE JORDAN SUITE,
THE EXCHANGE, COUNTY HALL, PRESTON**

PRESENT

Clive Grunshaw – Police and Crime Commissioner
Sacha Hatchett – Chief Constable, Lancashire Constabulary

IN ATTENDANCE

Sam Mackenzie – Deputy Chief Constable, Lancashire Constabulary
Karen Edwards – Acting Assistant Chief Constable
Mark Winstanley – Acting Assistant Chief Constable
Philip Davies – Acting Assistant Chief Constable
Chris Hardy – Chief Superintendent – Lancashire Constabulary
Duncan Arthur – Inspector – Lancashire Constabulary

Dr Anna Hopkins – Chief Executive, Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner
Steve Freeman – Chief Finance Officer, Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner
Ian Dickinson – Head of Governance and Accountability, Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner
Rachel Whittle – Head of Communication and Engagement, Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner
Richard Harrison – Performance and Scrutiny Officer, Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner

WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

The Commissioner welcomed all to the meeting.

The Commissioner introduced Dr Anna Hopkins to the Board, who had commenced her employment at the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner undertaking the role of Chief Executive Officer.

The Commissioner also welcomed Chief Superintendent Chris Hardy to the Board, who had now joined the membership.

APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from the Constabulary's Chief Operating Officer, Gillian Routledge.

DECLARATION OF INTEREST

No declarations of interest were received by the Board.

MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

The minutes of the meeting held on 5th November 2024 were received by the Board.

Resolved: That the minutes of the meeting held on 5th November 2024 were received as a true and accurate record.

ACTION LOG

The Commissioner's Performance and Scrutiny Officer outlined two outstanding actions, which related to the inclusion of requested information in the performance report received at each Board meeting.

It was explained that these would be addressed during *item 14. Performance Report (Model Example)*.

CURRENT AND SIGNIFICANT ISSUES

The Police and Crime Commissioner raised that the external Custody Detention Scrutiny Panel, Independent Custody Visitors, and HMICFRS had individually communicated the view that staffing levels could be bolstered in custody suites in the county. The Commissioner, therefore, asked for further information regarding the current resourcing model.

The Deputy Chief Constable noted that the Commissioner could be provided with more information via a presentation outlining the current resourcing model.

Resolved: - That the Police and Crime Commissioner receive a presentation outlining the current resourcing model in terms of staffing levels in custody suites.

HIS MAJESTY'S INSPECTORATE OF CONSTABULARY AND FIRE AND RESCUE SERVICES (HMICFRS) PEEL INSPECTION 2024

The Police and Crime Commissioner was informed that the Constabulary were inspected by HMICFRS as part of their police, effectiveness, efficiency and legitimacy (PEEL) assessment framework from February 2024 to August 2024, with the final report from the inspection published in December 2024.

The report, it was explained, was largely positive and reflected the significant progress made by the force in providing outstanding service in preventing crime, whilst improving its response and investigative functions. It was explained that the report placed Lancashire Constabulary as one of the top forces in the country.

The Board was informed that the report identified a number of areas of promising and innovative practice, with several deemed 'good practice' by the College of Policing and were deemed to be the national benchmark for other forces.

In terms of areas for improvement, the Commissioner was informed that eight had been identified by the inspection, with the key areas relating to the MASH in Lancashire and the management of Domestic Violence Disclosures (DVDS). It was explained that both areas were subject to formal review by the force and immediate steps had been taken to bolster resources and improve efficiency.

The Commissioner received an overview of the challenges faced by the Constabulary throughout the process and a breakdown of the force's position in relation to areas of promising practice and areas for improvement.

The Commissioner commended officers for the positive report and stated his intention, as outlined in the Forward Plan, to continue to monitor the progress of the Constabulary's implementation of plans to address areas for improvement.

Resolved: -

- (i) That the HMICFRS PEEL Inspection Report, alongside the force's position be noted.
- (ii) That the Commissioner continue to monitor progress in addressing the HMICFRS areas for improvement going forward.

PROFESSIONAL STANDARDS DEPARTMENT – COMPLAINTS AND MISCONDUCT

The Board received a report in respect of professional standards matters from the period 1st May 2024 to 30th November 2024.

It was explained that the department had made improvements in terms of timeliness; however, there was a recognition that additional resource was required going forward, with a proposal to be considered by the Constabulary's Chief Officer Team pending.

The Commissioner's Head of Governance and Accountability commended the quality of output in relation to complaints and misconduct that he handled as an aspect of his role.

It was highlighted that figures that the Commissioner's Office received via the Independent Office of Police Complaints (IOPC) did not correspond with those provided by the Constabulary outlined in the report. In response, it was explained that the IOPC may be interpreting the numbers via a different method as they worked with the same information.

The Board was informed that there were issues identified nationally regarding the availability of Legally Qualified Advisors (formerly Legally Qualified Chairs), which was intimated may be an unintentional consequence of recently changed legislation, as issues had exacerbated since its introduction. It was explained this had the potential to impact the rapidity Misconduct Hearings could be advanced and that the issue had been discussed at regional and national level.

Resolved: That the Professional Standards Department – Complaints and Misconduct report be noted.

POLICE AND CRIME PLAN 2024 – 2029 DELIVERY PLAN

The Police and Crime Commissioner invited his Head of Governance and Accountability to outline the intentions of the Office to monitor the delivery of his Police and Crime Plan 2024 – 2029.

The Commissioner's Head of Governance and Accountability outlined to the Board that following the Police and Crime Panel's meeting held in December 2024, the Police and Crime Plan for Lancashire 2024 – 2029 had launched.

Following the launch, it was explained, the commitments within the Plan had been extracted and formed the basis of a delivery plan, whereby the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner, Lancashire Constabulary and partners were tasked with identifying the areas they would lead, contribute to and deliver upon over the course of its life span.

It was explained that the commitments in the Plan that could be gauged in terms of their delivery via performance information supplied by the Constabulary would form an integral aspect of the performance report received at the Accountability Board going forward.

It was explained that the intention was for the monitoring of the Plan, following the preliminary work, would commence from 1st April, and therefore required the Constabulary to assess their involvement by this date.

Resultantly, it was concluded that Lancashire Constabulary would be tasked with identifying areas of the Plan that would be delivered or contributed to by 1st April 2025.

Resolved: That Lancashire Constabulary identify the areas of the Plan that they could contribute to or, where appropriate, deliver by 1st April 2025.

FORWARD PLAN

The Board received the proposed Forward Plan for 2025/26 which outlined the activity it would undertake during this period.

In response, it was noted that there may be merit concerning the inclusion of risk registers onto the Forward Plan, which was noted.

Resolved: That the Forward Plan for 2025/26 be agreed, subject to consideration of the inclusion of risk registers.

DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The date of the next meeting was highlighted to be 3rd June 2025.

EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC

That the press and public be excluded from the Meeting during the consideration of the following Items of business on the grounds that there would be a likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in the Freedom of Information Act 2000 as indicated against the heading to the Item, and the public interest not to disclose it outweighed the public interest in disclosing it.

CURRENT AND SIGNIFICANT ISSUES

The Commissioner and Chief Constable discussed current and significant issues further to those outlined in Part 1 of the Board meeting.

PERFORMANCE REPORT (MODEL TEMPLATE)

A model template of the performance report to be received at future meetings of the Board was presented.

The Police and Crime Commissioner took the opportunity to raise a number of queries in relation to the data outlined, with responses received.

The Police and Crime Commissioner stated the intention for the performance report to be published going forward in the interest of openness and transparency.

Resolved: That a meeting be organised regarding the performance data pack's contents going forward, with the intention for information to be published as much as deemed possible in the interest of openness and transparency.

Dr Anna Hopkins

Chief Executive, OPCC