

OPERATIONAL POLICING PANEL

A meeting of the Operational Policing Panel was held on Thursday 22 July 2010 commencing at 10.30 am in the Executive Conference Room at Police Headquarters.

PRESENT	Chris Coombs (Chair), Mayor Stuart Drummond, Miss Pam Andrews-Mawer, Mr Aslam Hanif, Councillor Carl Richardson and Mr Peter Race MBE (ex officio).
ADDITIONAL ATTENDEES	Councillor Ron Lowes
OFFICIALS	Mr Norman Wright (CE) ACC Sean White, ACC Dave Pickard and Miss Kate Rowntree (CC).

INTRODUCTION

The Chair welcomed the two new Members to the panel - Mayor Stuart Drummond and Councillor Carl Richardson.

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from, Councillor Dave McLuckie (ex officio), Councillor Barry Coppinger, Councillor Hazel Pearson OBE, Councillor Mary Lanigan and Mr Geoff Fell.

DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS

There was a declaration of interest from Mr Peter Race MBE regarding item 6 (SARC) on account of him being on the governing body of the Redcar and Cleveland PCT, which is indirectly involved in the management and part-funding of the SARC facility.

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD 20 MAY 2010

Members enquired as to the notes relating to the rise in serious violent crime.

Members were informed that the overall figures were low, with 12 crimes accounting for the increase. In Hartlepool this is being tackled with targeted responses to the night time economy around Church St and on domestic violence issues.

The minutes of the previous meeting were agreed and held as a true record.

OUTSTANDING RECOMMENDATIONS

ORDERED that:-

1. the outstanding recommendations be noted.

FORCE PERFORMANCE REPORT (APRIL TO MAY 2010)

ACC White presented the report to Members. He commented on the background of community consultation that assisted in the creation of policing priorities which are then reflected in the 18 performance indicators within the Priority Indicator Set. There are 8 indicators marked green, 3 amber and 7 red. There has been a continued good performance in reducing crime, increasing detections and reducing ASB, all of which has continued during periods 3 and 4.

The force is working on reducing the perception indicators around drugs, alcohol and rowdy behaviour. There are also initiatives to reduce assault without injury, taken forward by the Violent Crime Group. Another area to tackle is the prevalence of shoplifting and metals theft, which may both be reflective of the economic downturn.

The overall aim is to turn as many red and amber performance indicators to green by year end.

Mayor Drummond enquired as to how ASB is measured and does it relate to local authority data? ACC White explained the reporting and recording mechanisms via the control room and stated that local authority recording of ASB is separate.

Cllr Richardson enquired as to whether the Priority Indicator Set can be reported at District level. ACC White commented that some of the targets measures are at force level only and that performance at District level is discussed in more detail at the monthly Strategic Performance Group. He invited all members to attend this forum in future if they wished to (action noted below). Mr Race and Mr Coombs explained that District performance details are also available in the papers that go to the BCU performance meetings, which are copied to all members.

Mr Hanif enquired as to the public confidence measure, where Cleveland is now 9th nationally. ACC White commented that most forces are now in a narrow band of 52-58%, so relatively small changes in this percentage can lead to relatively large changes in the league table. He noted that the Head of Corporate Planning and Governance is working on an action plan to boost this public confidence score and offered a future briefing to members on the subject.

ORDERED that:

1. The report be noted.
2. ACC White arrange for the Head of Corporate Planning and Governance to prepare a briefing for members on the action plan to improve public confidence.

ACC White

UPDATE ON SEXUAL ASSAULT REFERRAL CENTRE (SARC)

ACC Pickard presented this report. He commented on the governance and funding arrangements and the fact that the usage of the facility is up 13% in a year, with male users up 100%. The SARC is meeting all of its objectives and

functioning well.

Mr Coombs and Miss Andrews-Mawer enquired as to the risk to future funding as the PCTs may be abolished. ACC Pickard stated that the funding was not yet identified as being under threat but that if it was to come under threat it would become an item for action via the force risk register.

ORDERED that:

1. The report be noted.

POLICING PLEDGE UPDATE (verbal report)

ACC White described the 10 Pledge measures and the initiatives taken up since the Pledge was introduced in December 2008. He noted that the Home Secretary has scrapped the initiative as a bureaucratic solution to what is core policing. He stressed that the indicators are important for the public and that the police will continue to try to maintain and improve performance in these areas for the public.

ORDERED that:

1. The report be noted.

STOP AND SEARCH STATISTICS

ACC White described the PACE powers and the reasons for encounters that lead to stop and search. He commented on the 9815 incidents as being 54 per day, which are proportional with regard to the community ethnic profile and which lead to a 16% arrest rate. The statistics are broken down to District level. The process will be documented on CUPID in the near future.

Overall this is a proactive and intelligence-led form of policing that is very effective. It shows that our police are on the streets tackling the crime and disorder problems that matter to our communities.

Mayor Drummond enquired as to the "other" category. ACC Pickard pointed to Section 60 disorder powers such as searching in-coming football fans for alcohol.

CLr Richardson enquired as to comparisons with other forces and ACC White stated that this can be covered in a future report.

CLr Richardson enquired as to the 16 firearms searches where there was no arrest. ACC Pickard explained that this is where allegations are made of possession that turns out not to be the case when searched.

ORDERED that:

1. The report be noted.

2. A future report to include comparisons to most similar forces. **ACC White**

LEGISLATIVE PROGRAMME AND POLICING PRIORITIES

Mr Wright presented this report. He focused on the 3 simple messages from the new Coalition Government:-

- Central targets will be swept away, including the single confidence measure and those around the Policing Pledge.
- The Big Society theme for policing is that the public must be informed and consulted with over policing priorities and targets.
- There has to be big cuts in funding so forces must focus on reducing costs whilst protecting frontline services.

These themes will be developed in the new Police Reform and Social Responsibility bill.

ACC Pickard commented that a restricted definition of frontline policing may affect the morale of those staff in protective services and other areas of policing.

ACC White noted the concerns over the proposal for a Directly Elected Individual that may replace up to 17 experienced and hard working members. Also the widely-remarked concerns over possible politicization of policing.

ORDERED that:

1. The report be noted.

BME FOCUS GROUP RESULTS

Mr Wright presented this report. He commented on how these focus group sessions follow on from the joint local survey and that the meetings in Middlesbrough and Hartlepool were well attended. Common themes from these BME groups were:-

- A high proportion of attendees have experienced racism recently but tended not to report verbal attacks.
- Police officers were seen as polite and professional but perhaps should have more cultural awareness training and should do more to follow up incidents by informing victims.
- Many attendees had not seen the various publicity materials on neighbourhood policing and they suggested more advertising in free newspapers and on Facebook.

Mr Hanif stated that he attended the Middlesbrough event and had reported the issue raised over lack of contact with the communities to the District Commander.

ORDERED that:

1. The report be noted.

MINUTES OF THE STRATEGIC PERFORMANCE GROUP

Members inspected the minutes of the Strategic Performance Group meetings held on:

- 30 April 2010 and
- 20 May 2010

ORDERED that:

1. The minutes be noted.
2. The invitation from ACC White that members are welcome to attend these monthly meetings be noted.

Mrs Leng

MINUTES OF THE CITIZEN FOCUS PROJECT BOARD (11 MAY)

Members inspected the minutes of this Board meeting.

ORDERED that:

1. The minutes be noted.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

ACC Pickard gave members an overview of Cleveland's assistance in the Raoul Moat incident. This involved over 100 personnel over 10 days, and the helicopter. There was a good collaboration from Cleveland and Durham firearms teams. The costs will be recovered from Northumbria Police.