

NORTHUMBRIA POLICE MINUTES

Title	Meeting Number
EXECUTIVE BOARD	18/2023

Date	Location	Duration
24 October 2023	Executive Team Meeting Room, Middle Engine Lane / TEAMS	09:00 – 12:30

Present:

Vanessa Jardine	Chief Constable (Chair)
Kevin Laing	Head of Finance (CFO)
Joscelin Lawson	Assistant Chief Officer (ACO) Corporate Services
Jayne Meir	Deputy Chief Constable (DCC)
David Sadler	Chief Information Officer (CIO)
Alastair Simpson	Assistant Chief Constable (ACC) (Crime and Safeguarding)
Scott Young	Assistant Chief Constable (Force Coordination)
Sara Purvis	Governance and Planning Adviser (<i>Secretary</i>)

Invitees:

Paul Godden	Head of Corporate Development (<i>Present for items 4, 5 and 6</i>)
Mark Hall	T/Chief Superintendent, Southern Area Command (<i>Present for item 8</i>)
Jon Keenan	Standards and Integrity Lead (<i>Present for item 7</i>)
Jo Park-Simmons	Chief Superintendent, Prevention (<i>Present for item 9</i>)

Apologies:

Brad Howe	T/Assistant Chief Constable (Communities)
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OPEN SESSION UNDER THE FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT 2000

1. OPENING

2. MINUTES OF THE OPEN SESSION OF EXECUTIVE BOARD HELD 19 SEPTEMBER 2023

Agreed as a true and accurate record.

3. MATTERS ARISING

Action list updated.

ACO Corporate Services, to request the Citizens in Policing Governance Board further examine the sex ratio in the Special Constabulary to understand the disparity between males and females.

ACO Corporate Services clarified the issue was not around understanding the disparity between males and females within the Special Constabulary, but the challenge around increasing female representation. ACO Corporate Services confirmed the

matter was scheduled for further discussion at the Citizens in Policing (CiP) Board on 8 November 2023.

Chief Constable suggested further consideration regarding a rank structure within the Special Constabulary to support development. ACO Corporate Services confirmed this was being progressed via the CiP Board and proposals would be presented to a future Executive Board.

Action: ACO Corporate Services to present proposals regarding rank structure within the Special Constabulary to a future Executive Board.

4. POLICE AND CRIME PLAN – 2023/24 KEY PERFORMANCE INDICATORS

Head of Corporate Development provided a summary of performance against the three commitments in the Police and Crime Plan 2022-2025: Fighting Crime; Improving Lives; and Preventing Crime, highlighting performance remains largely unchanged since the previous reporting period.

Chief Constable commended the consistent improvement in call handling performance; however, questioned whether the 101 non-emergency calls target remained appropriate. ACC (Force Coordination) advised of ongoing work with the College of Policing, the national contact lead, and other forces to explore a more meaningful and consistent measure for 101 calls.

The static performance relating to response times and factors contributing to the lack of improvement (e.g., demand, abstractions) was discussed. Chief Constable suggested consideration of this issue as part of the Force Operating Model review.

Update ***noted.***

5. HMICFRS UPDATE

Head of Corporate Development provided an overview of progress in response to recommendations and areas for improvement (AFIs) identified by His Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary and Fire and Rescue Services (HMICFRS).

Update ***noted.***

6. FORCE STRATEGIC RISK REGISTER

Head of Corporate Development presented the current Force strategic risk register (FSRR) advising there have been no significant updates to the FSRR in this reporting period and the overall risk level remains unchanged.

Update ***noted.***

7. HMICFRS: A REPORT INTO THE VETTING ARRANGEMENTS IN NORTHUMBRIA POLICE

Standards and Integrity Lead provided an overview of the findings from the HMICFRS inspection into the effectiveness of vetting arrangements in Northumbria Police and progress to date.

The issue raised regarding individuals who are in designated posts without management vetting (MV) clearance was discussed. Standards and Integrity Lead noted the number of individuals is rolling and those individuals for whom this currently applies are not the same applications referred to at the time of inspection. Immediate business needs can result in appointment without full clearance; however, a level of vetting clearance is always in place, and mitigations e.g., restrictions to IT systems, double crewed or non-public facing, are implemented where necessary. Notably, the introduction of the revised Authorised Professional Practice in early 2024 will change the criteria set for posts requiring MV.

DCC suggested monthly reporting of individuals in designated posts without MV clearance to ensure appropriate monitoring. In addition, they advised that following discussions at the Priority Based Budgeting panels, the vetting process would be examined holistically to ensure the process is as efficient and effective as possible, and the appropriate resources are in place to support it.

Standards and Integrity Lead welcomed the proposed monitoring of non MV vetted individuals by the DCC and highlighted that the proposed revised criteria for MV will see the removal of vulnerability and focus mainly on access to and potential abuse of Force assets or finances. The impact of this change will significantly reduce the current number of MV posts.

Update **noted**.

8. VICTIM SATISFACTION IMPROVEMENT PLAN INTERIM UPDATE

T/Chief Superintendent, Southern, provided an update on the plan to improve victim satisfaction. They advised that although activity is well underway across all five workstreams within the plan, overall victim satisfaction may not show large scale statistical improvements until early 2024, due to the delay in insight surveys and the need to embed cultural change.

Chief Constable noted confidence and satisfaction is one of the Force's key areas for improvement and acknowledged the significant amount of activity being undertaken to improve performance in this area. Chief Constable suggested further discussion at a future Force Leadership Conference to enable a strategic focus upon victim satisfaction and consider whether the tools and measures the Force currently uses to collate satisfaction data remain fit for purpose.

Update **noted**.

9. POLICE AND CRIME PLAN – PREVENTING CRIME

Chief Superintendent Prevention provided an update on the work undertaken by Northumbria Police in support of the Police and Crime Plan commitments on preventing crime, and progress against recommendations arising from the thematic inspection on multi-agency public protection arrangements.

Members acknowledged further work was required to understand measures for prevention activity.

Update **noted**.

10. HIGHLIGHT REPORT – INVESTIGATING CRIME: RESOLVED OUTCOME RATES

ACC (Crime and Safeguarding) provided an updated Force position on total crime resolved rates and progress with the Force improvement plan.

The Force has a total crime resolved rate of 12.4% for the 12 months up to September 2023. This is a rise from 12% in the previous 12 months to March 2023, when last reported. Although this is a minor shift in the resolved rate, August and September are both showing slight increases, demonstrating a positive trend.

Update ***noted.***

11. CHANGES TO RETAIL CRIME POLICY

ACC (Crime and Safeguarding) provided an update on changes to the Force retail crime policy in line with recent government guidance to police forces stating the importance of following all reasonable lines of enquiry in cases of shoplifting, including using CCTV to identify suspects, and using clear images of any unknown suspects of crime to search the Police National Database.

The Force will investigate shoplifting offences when: individuals have been injured, verbally abused/threatened; a weapon has been used; offences involve target offenders or high repeat locations; offences involve vulnerable or exploited individuals; the business is a sole trader; or the offence involves a named offender.

Update ***noted.***

12. VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN AND GIRLS PROGRESS UPDATE

ACC (Crime and Safeguarding) updated on the current position for Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG) including Domestic Abuse and Rape and Serious Sexual Offence investigations.

ACC (Crime and Safeguarding) highlighted the proportion of VAWG related offences closed because of evidential difficulties where the victim does not support further action (Outcome 16) has increased by 3% (+ 1,275 crimes). Stalking and harassment has the highest proportion of crimes closed with this outcome and account for the highest proportion of overall recorded VAWG offences. They advised this would be subject of further discussion at the next Strategic Management Board on 26 October 2023.

Update ***noted.***

13. HIGHLIGHT REPORT – RESPONDING TO THE PUBLIC

ACC (Force Coordination) advised the previously circulated paper was withdrawn and an updated report would be submitted for the forthcoming OPCC Scrutiny meeting on 1 November 2023.

Noted.

14. MANCHESTER ARENA INQUIRY UPDATE

ACC (Force Coordination) provided an update in respect of ongoing activity to ensure compliance against the Manchester Arena Inquiry (MAI) recommendations, advising overall the Force is in a good position in terms of progress with recommendations.

Update ***noted.***

15. UNMANNED AERIAL VEHICLES (DRONES) POLICY

ACC (Force Coordination) sought approval for the Unmanned Aerial Vehicles (UAV) policy which has been created to outline the operational circumstances in which Northumbria Police will deploy UAVs (Drones) and to progress the project to operational status.

Agreed: To publication of the Unmanned Aerial Vehicles policy.

16. NATIONAL ISSUES IMPACTING ON POLICING

The ongoing conflict in the Middle East and the impact on policing in the UK, particularly in terms of protests was discussed.

Noted.

17. CHIEF CONSTABLES' COUNCIL UPDATE

Chief Constable advised an update was provided to the Executive Team by the former Deputy Chief Constable who attended the Chief Constables' Council meeting.

Noted.

18. FORCE ATTENDANCE AT CONFERENCES AND EVENTS

Chief Constable noted the number of reports awaiting completion and sought clarification regarding the process for attendees submitting their updates and disseminating learning post attendance at conferences and events.

Action: ACO Corporate Services to clarify process for submission of reports and dissemination of learning post attendance at conferences and events.

19. INSTRUCTIONAL INFORMATION - PROGRESS UPDATE

Chief Constable requested that an explanation is provided by owning departments regarding any remaining instructions with an expiry date pre-2023 which aren't updated by the next Executive Board.

Action: Instruction owners to provide an explanation for any outstanding expired instructions, with an expiry date pre-2023, which are not updated by the next meeting.

20. EXECUTIVE BOARD FORWARD PLAN (OPEN SESSION)

Noted.

21. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

None.

22. DATE, TIME, AND VENUE OF NEXT MEETING

28 November 2023, 09:00, Executive Team Meeting Room, Middle Engine Lane / Teams