

NORTHUMBRIA POLICE MINUTES

Title	Meeting Number
EXECUTIVE BOARD	8/2024

Date	Location	Duration
20/08/2024	Executive Team Meeting Room, Middle Engine Lane	09:06 – 15:41

Present:

Vanessa Jardine	Chief Constable (CC) (<i>Chair</i>)
Jayne Meir	Deputy Chief Constable (DCC)
Alastair Simpson	Assistant Chief Constable (Crime and Safeguarding)
Deborah Alderson	T/Assistant Chief Constable (T/ACC) (Force Coordination)
Kevin Laing	Head of Finance (CFO)
Lewis Fletcher	Governance and Planning Adviser (<i>Secretary</i>)

Invitees:

Paul McLauchlin	Chief Technology Officer (<i>Present for item 5</i>)
Helena Barron	Chief Superintendent (Ch Supt), People
Jamie Pitt	Superintendent (Supt), Force Coordination (<i>Present for item 7</i>)
Sarah Robson	Chief Inspector, Staff Office
Garry Armstrong	HMICFRS Force Liaison Lead

Apologies:

Andy Hill	Assistant Chief Constable (Communities)
Joscelin Lawson	Assistant Chief Officer Corporate Services

OPEN AND CLOSED SESSION UNDER THE FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT 2000

1. OPENING

CC opened the meeting.

2. MINUTES OF EXECUTIVE BOARD HELD ON 23 JULY 2024

Agreed as a true and accurate record.

3. MATTERS ARISING

Noted.

4a. PERFORMANCE UPDATE

DCC introduced the performance update, noting the update is out of sync due to the revised date for the next Strategic Performance Board.

73% of 101 calls within the last 12 months were answered within service level agreement. DCC advised the abandonment rate has been positive but has recently increased. This has been impacted by software and algorithms, along with the recent riots.

Grade one (G1) and grade two (G2) response rates have marginally improved since the introduction of the Force Operating Model (FOM). The positive outcome rate has increased to 13.2%, there has also been an increase in charge rate. The use of community resolutions is now having a positive impact. RASSO outcome rates have also improved.

The number of open crimes is an area of concern, however more crimes are being allocated as a result of the change from the Investigative Framework which is allowing more crimes to be screened in.

Chair commented that there should be a piece of work regarding the heavy focus on calling 101, with the opportunity to modernise the guidance to direct people to social media channels.

Action: DCC to evaluate the current media campaign for the next 12 months, including legacy campaign items, to ensure they contain up to date information and guidance.

Chair noted that the positive outcomes and burglary rate are encouraging. Chair also advised they are not overly concerned with the number of open crimes, as there are more crimes, response officers are able to discuss the crimes that are assigned to them and that to lift the outcome rate, more crimes needed to be investigated.

ACC (Crime and Safeguarding) advised the feedback from Sergeants is positive and the additional support and leadership focus has had a positive impact on the culture.

DCC advised since the introduction of the new FOM, 44% of the available Dedicated Response Appointments have been used, with 74% of appointments being attended in the allocated slots. Members of the public rescheduling appointments affects the figures.

DCC noted that there is a deep dive into anti-social behaviour at Strategic Performance Board. Shoplifting has seen an improved level of service, with improved outcome rates and improved business confidence in reporting incidents.

DCC noted the increase in burglary is unusual for the Force and is currently tasked as a priority. High risk missing persons continues to be a focus, the importance of the use of the proportionate tactical options for the type of missing child was noted.

The number of outstanding Digital Forensics Unit (DFU) cases is continuing to reduce, the Force are evaluating outsourcing some cases to reduce the number further.

Chair queried if there is any correlation between the increase in robbery and the decrease in theft from person. DCC advised that nothing has changed this year, but the only challenge may be inexperience of officers.

Update ***noted***.

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

DCC introduced the Police and Crime Plan 2023/24 Key Performance Indicators. The FOM has resulted in an improvement of G1 response rate, with G2 also increasing 14%.

DCC noted the importance of amplifying the public awareness of the positive work the Force carries out, with the recent increase in public confidence as a result of the recent disorder.

Motorcycle antisocial behaviour continues to be an area of concern, work is ongoing regarding the use of drones and the tactics to respond to these incidents. Hate crime overall was decreasing, however, there has been an increase of faith and race hate crime recently.

Serious violence crime has seen a small decrease, but knife enabled crime is increasing, this is a control strategy priority, with a 4P Plan being developed.

Update ***noted***.

4c. FORCE CHANGE BOARD UPDATE

Exempt under the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

4d. HMICFRS UPDATE

DCC introduced the HMICFRS update recommending. The Force is looking to close one recommendation in relation to the race plans policing inspection race disparity, each local authority has clear monitoring on all aspects of diversity reporting and monitor disproportionality. The Force is satisfied that processes are in place in the Prevention Team to identify any trends or issues and has confidence in the ability to respond to them.

Four level three recommendations have been subject to a review by the HMICFRS Vetting & Corruption Portfolio have been verified for closure.

Agreed: To the submission of closure letters of evidence for one Level 2 recommendation and four Level 3 recommendations to HMICFRS, by upload to the Monitoring Portal.

5. DIGITAL POLICING PEER REVIEW

Exempt under the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

6a. REVENUE MONITORING POSITION – AS AT 31 JULY 2024

Exempt under the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

6b. CAPITAL MONITORING POSITION – AS AT 31 JULY 2024

Exempt under the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

7. PUBLIC ORDER TL2 CAPABILITY

Exempt under the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

8. GOVERNANCE AND MULTI-AGENCY ARRANGEMENTS FOR MAI RECOMMENDATIONS

T/ACC (Force Coordination) presented the governance and multi-agency arrangements for MAI recommendations.

17 recommendations have been closed, including Body Worn Video compliance. The recommendation regarding compliance to the Airwave Tactical Advisors role profile has not achieved the 24 hour on call element, but the Force has two trained Airwave Tactical Advisors, for each team in communications, with one on duty at all times.

CC queried how many are trained as Airwave Tactical Advisors. Currently, there are eight members of staff trained.

Significant progress has been made on the Review of the Mass Fatality Plan and the Review of the Casualty Bureau Plan. A bid for investment has been made for around £9,000 for a victim holding area.

The Force has identified the correct number of staff within communications to train as National Mutual Aid Telephony advisers, with training planned for September. This is currently a risk, but there is mitigation as some are trained.

CC asked if the Force could establish a CAS Bureau. The Force would be able to set a CAS Bureau but there would be issues, the resilience aspect is the current weakness. The issues and risks have been identified, the Force currently may have to rely on mutual aid, other forces are in similar positions.

T/ACC (Force Coordination) advised the Local Resilience Forum will lead a multi-agency exercise in October which will run over 4 days, with different stages of an incident being simulated. The Major Incident Plan is currently under review.

Body Worn Video is in place at Northern and Southern Communication areas to allow the FIM to record the decision making, which was a recommendation from the Manchester Arena Inquiry.

Update **noted**.

9. REVIEW OF FORCE STRATEGIES

Exempt under the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

10. EXECUTIVE BOARD FORWARD PLAN

Action: Governance and Planning Adviser to include Digital Strategy and Capital Proposals as agenda items for the Extraordinary Executive Board on 9 October 2024.

11. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

No further business.

12. DATE, TIME, AND VENUE OF NEXT MEETING

25 September 2024, 09:00, Executive Team Meeting Room, Middle Engine Lane