NORTHUMBRIA POLICE MINUTES

Title	***Meeting Number***
EXECUTIVE BOARD	6/2024

Date	***Location***	***Duration***
25/06/2024	Executive Team Meeting Room, Middle Engine Lane	09:00 – 14:38

Present:

Vanessa Jardine	Chief Constable (CC) *(Chair)*
Deborah Alderson	T/Assistant Chief Constable (ACC) (Force Coordination)
Andy Hill	Assistant Chief Constable (Communities)
Jayne Meir	Deputy Chief Constable (DCC)
Gail Thompson	Deputy Head of Finance
Lewis Fletcher	Governance and Planning Adviser *(Secretary)*
Tanya Reade	Corporate Governance Manager *(Observer)*

Invitees:

Craig Metcalfe	D/Chief Superintendent - Crime *(Present for item 5)*
Sarah Robson	Chief Inspector, Staff Office
Dawn Turnbull	Head of Business Services *(Present for item 10)*

Apologies:

Kevin Laing	Head of Finance (CFO)
Joscelin Lawson	Assistant Chief Officer Corporate Services
Alastair Simpson	Assistant Chief Constable (Crime and Safeguarding)

OPEN AND CLOSED SESSION UNDER THE FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT 2000

1. OPENING

Chair opened the meeting.

2. MINUTES OF EXECUTIVE BOARD HELD ON 21 MAY 2024

Corporate Governance Manager clarified there is one minor amendment: item 2. Minutes of the Open Session of Executive Board held on 16 April 2024 should refer to 'Draft Minutes of Executive Board held on 16 April 2024'.

Agreed as a true and accurate record.

3. MATTERS ARISING

None.

4a. PERFORMANCE UPDATE

DCC provided performance highlights, noting general movement in the right direction.

DCC acknowledged a small increase in the abandonment rate for 101 over the last 28 days; however, noted this can be impacted by many factors. It was confirmed previous reporting issues have been rectified.

DCC advised more is being done to achieve channel shift in initial contact, where appropriate.

T/ACC (Force Coordination) noted there was an influx of 999 calls within a few hours over the weekend, which impacted the reported figures.

Chair highlighted the Force usually performs very well with burglaries. Chair queried if there was a reason for a small dip when there is a focus on outcomes. DCC clarified there has recently been an increase in burglary. DCC also mentioned that many of the burglaries are taking place at outbuildings, garages and sheds. DCC expressed concern the public may believe that residential burglary has gone up in the local area. DCC mentioned that communications should be sent out to clarify the situation.

Feedback from staff in the Missing team was positive with Area Commanders confirming the Missing team have improved their ability to find missing people quicker. DCC added the Force has gone from 2% to 4% in terms of high risk missing, but noted the national average is 17%. The difference is due to the risk categorisation of children. ACC (Communities) added the methodology needs to be reviewed.

T/ACC (Force Coordination) advised reviews being completed by the Missing from Home team are saving time. DCC added the Force needs to work through the high-risk cases, which currently the Missing team does not work on.

Chair asked if the numbers of missing cases is reducing. ACC (Communities) clarified they are.

DCC highlighted the problem-orientated policing (POP) plans were positive, however work may be needed to ensure the methodology is clear. Chair asked about the quality of POP reports, highlighting that this was previously an area of improvement. DCC clarified that as part of Business Assurance the quality will be reviewed.

ACC (Communities) added the Force is an outlier nationally in Community Resolutions. ACC (Communities) noted it is important that an intervention is meaningful. DCC added Community Resolutions are heading in the right direction with correct use.

DCC advised currently 74% of staff have an active Performance and Development Review (P&DR), with a target of 95% by 30 June 2024.

DCC added a surge plan is in place to deal with the POLIT referrals from the National Crime Agency (NCA).

Overall, there are no areas of significant concern. DCC advised quality of service is important, that the Force is on an improved performance footing and that it is recognised performance is important to the Force.

The management of response times for Grade 2s over the summer will be a test, to see if the balance is right. DCC is confident the Force's positive outcome rate will continue in the right direction. Performance in relation to the management of Registered Sex Offenders (RSOs) will need to be monitored due to the withdrawal of neighbourhood resources. DCC commented that Area Commanders have a good understanding of the performance outcomes required, and that there is less difference between areas, but there is healthy assessment across the teams.

Chair asked if subject matter experts (SMEs) are clear on their role and if direction had been given. T/ACC (Force Coordination) advised refresh and development of 4P Plans will support understanding.

Chair queried embedding of the Force Operating Model (FOM). The imbalance of resource in South Tyneside/Sunderland has been addressed and generally Area Commanders are more empowered.

Update ***noted.***

b. FORCE STRATEGIC RISK

DCC noted an update to Digital Policing to reflect the findings of the recent internal audit by Gateshead Council around patching. DCC ensured at Force Assurance Board that controls are up to date.

The Force has been subject to an audit by the Information Commissioner's Office; early feedback has been positive, which supports adequacy of controls in place for information management.

Corporate Governance Manager added work is ongoing for the annual review, which is presently scheduled for delivery in August. Chair highlighted that another workshop could be useful.

Update ***noted.***

c. FORCE CHANGE BOARD UPDATE

ACC (Communities) advised Niche is currently on track, but acknowledged there are underlying issues and challenges ahead. Chair questioned if the Force should invite the Chief Executive of Blue Skies to meet. ACC (Communities) advised they are currently receiving reassurance the project is going well.

ACC (Communities) raised concerns about disaster recovery testing aligned to the move of NPICCS to different servers at the end of July.

FOM is in the review stage; Chair will receive a presentation at the end of the week.

HRIT has experienced delays in reporting, which is being closely monitored.

Delays with SDWAN is preventing progress to other projects; work is ongoing to resolve.

DCC queried if the report provided the right level of information for Executive Board. Chair stated the report goes into a level of detail which is helpful. Chair added they are happy for it to be reviewed. DCC added that Estates Programme and other Force projects should be included in appendices.

Update ***noted.***

d. HMICFRS UPDATE

DCC provided an update in support of the closure of recommendations identified by His Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary and Fire Rescue Services (HMICFRS).

DCC advised the recommendations have been through the relevant boards, and the Force is making effective progress.

Chair queried forensic hits and burglary rates. DCC added that it may be helpful to provide a performance update at a future Executive Board.

Agreed: To the submission of closure letters of evidence for 15 Level 2 recommendations to HMICFRS by upload to the Monitoring Portal.

5. CRIME AND INVESTIGATION INVESTMENT AND OVERVIEW – SUMMARY OF OUTCOMES

Exempt under the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

6. ACCESS CONTROL SYSTEM

Exempt under the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

7a. STRATEGIC RESOURCING – REVENUE BUDGET & KEY RESOURING UPDATES

Exempt under the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

b. CAPITAL MONITORING POSITION – AS AT 31 MAY 2024

Exempt under the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

8. APPROVAL OF STRATEGIES AND DELIVERY PLANS

Force Strategies and Delivery Plans, which underpin delivery of the Northumbria Police Force Strategy 2024-2026 were presented for approval: People; Finance, Resourcing and Procurement; Diversity, Equality and Inclusion; Sustainability; Estates; Digital, Data and Technology; Engagement; Prevention; Protecting Vulnerable People; and Investigation.

Chair noted they want assurance that members are satisfied with the strategies and are delivery plans that sit beneath, and DCC is content with governance arrangements.

ACC (Communities) noted they are content with the prevention strategy. DCC added they had raised with Head of Corporate Development and Corporate Governance Manager the capacity of centralised strategic planning resource to monitor. DCC added that updates should be presented in a common format to help identify interdependencies.

T/ACC (Force Coordination) stated they are satisfied but would like to change the format for reporting to the Trust and Confidence Board.

DCC suggested when reports are presented in future, they should be on one slide, with the strategy lead providing the update to ensure consistency.

Reporting timeline was discussed and agreed that next reporting would remain August 2024.

Agreed: Force strategies to be presented individually by the strategy lead in future updates.

9. EXECUTIVE BOARD FORWARD PLAN

Corporate Governance Manager confirmed the open and closed forward plans would be combined in future.

ACC (Communities) confirmed Project Shield (formerly GRIP Funding) Quarterly Return will be complemented with an update on serious violence.

T/ACC (Force Coordination) has given apologies for the next meeting. Therefore, it was agreed that On Call / Standby Framework will be moved to the Executive Board in August.

Action: On Call / Standby Framework agenda item to be moved to Executive Board in August.

Corporate Governance Manager highlighted they would confirm with the Chief of Staff, OPCC, Strategic Policing Requirement (SPR) reporting to the PCC.

Action: Corporate Governance Manager to confirm when Strategic Policing Requirement will be presented to the PCC.

10. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

i) MFD CONTRACT SIGN-OFF

Exempt under the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

11. DATE, TIME, AND VENUE OF NEXT MEETING

23 July 2024, 09:00, Executive Team Meeting Room, Middle Engine Lane