

HAMPSHIRE POLICE AND CRIME PANEL

Report

Date considered:	24 January 2014	Item:	14
Title:	Police and Crime Panel – Development for 2014/15		
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1. Executive Summary

1.1. As the Hampshire Police and Crime Panel (hereafter referred to as ‘the Panel’) has been established formally for one year, following the election of the Police and Crime Commissioner (hereafter referred to as ‘the Commissioner’) in November 2012, it is timely to review the workings of the Panel, and steps that can be taken to ensure that activities are proactive in scrutinising and supporting the Commissioner.

1.2. Members will also want to reconsider their development programme, which is designed to enable the Panel to fully understand their role and remit. It is proposed that the nature of the programme is guided by the requirements of Members. This paper sets out possible elements of a programme for the Panel for consideration.

2. Police and Crime Panel development 2014/15

2.1. The Panel met on 4 October 2013 in order to hold a seminar with the Centre for Public Scrutiny (CfPS) on learning and development. This session focused on:

- A review of the work undertaken by the Panel in year one.
- Best practice and learning from other Panels and scrutineers.
- Work-programming for year two.

2.2 An action plan was drawn together by the CfPS following Member feedback, and the Chairman and Vice Chairman met in early December in order to discuss and agree how this would translate to the 2014/15 Panel work programme.

2.3 The Panel have previously publically expressed a desire to build on the ‘statutory functions’ by moving to a fuller work-programme focusing on core elements of the Commissioner’s Police and Crime Plan. It is expected that this will include:

- A minimum of 5 meetings per year, lasting all day (with ad-hoc additional Panel meetings as required).
- Meetings split into usual agenda items dealing with statutory functions and work-programme issues (morning session), followed by a proactive

scrutiny evidence gathering session on selected actions under one priority of the Police and Crime Plan (afternoon session).

- Additional meetings of the Police and Crime Plan working group held in order to set the agenda for the afternoon sessions of the Panel.
- Scrutiny sessions to be planned in advance so that information can be invited from the Commissioner, key partner stakeholders, and the public (written and oral evidence as specified by the members) in a timely fashion.
- Reports from each meeting sent to the Commissioner to outline the Panel's findings following their scrutiny session.

2.4 In addition, the Chair and Vice Chair see value in sharing information and observing best practice with other Panels, both in the South East region and nationally. Therefore it is also proposed that:

- Panel members observe other Panels for best practice gathering.
- The Chair and Vice Chair attend PCP network meetings.

3. Member Briefing Programme:

3.1. Members may also wish to review options for the Panel's member briefing programme, which are presented below:

- a. That Members identify their individual needs for induction materials or briefings on topics relating to their role on the Police and Crime Panel. It is proposed that Members complete an analysis of their needs to facilitate this, and that individual and group briefings are organised based on the demand identified.
- b. That a one-off Police and Crime Panel development session is held in 2014/15, where a programme of briefings could be organised based on need identified by the Panel.
- c. That regular briefing sessions are held based on the ongoing identification of topics to enable Members to fulfil their role. It is anticipated that the work of the Commissioner, in particular the publication of the refreshed Police and Crime Plan, would lead to the identification of briefing topics. This scheduling would make the most effective use of Members' time and the Panel's budget

3.2. Any briefing or specialist training activity at external locations, or involving outside providers, would likely incur costs attributable to the Panel budget.

4. Briefing Programme Topics

4.1. A list of potential topics for briefings are included in Appendix One. Further areas could be identified via the individual needs assessment, through the Chairman or in the course of discussions held by the Panel.

5. Recommendations

5.1. **That the Panel development activities for 2014/15 are agreed:**

- A minimum of 5 – 6 meetings per year, lasting all day (with ad-hoc additional Panel meetings as required).
- Additional meetings of the Police and Crime Plan working group in order to set the agenda for the afternoon sessions of the Panel.
- Reports from each meeting sent to the PCC to outline the Panel's findings following their scrutiny session.
- Panel members observe other PCPs for best practice gathering.
- The Chair and Vice Chair join a South East Network of PCPs.

5.2 That the preferred elements of a briefing programme for 2014/15 are considered and agreed.

Section 100 D - Local Government Act 1972 - background documents

The following documents discuss facts or matters on which this report, or an important part of it, is based and have been relied upon to a material extent in the preparation of this report. (NB: the list excludes published works and any documents which disclose exempt or confidential information as defined in the Act.)

Document

Location

Proposed Police and Crime Panel briefing and induction programme

<http://documents.hants.gov.uk/partnerships/2012-06-29PoliceandCrimePanelItem12.pdf>

Appendix One

Possible Police and Crime Panel Briefing Programme topics

Related to the work of the Police and Crime Panel

- The Police and Crime Plan, and the Panel's role in making recommendations to it.
- Police budgets and the precept setting process - what happens if the Police and Crime Commissioner's precept is vetoed.
- The annual report, and the Panel's role in reviewing this.
- The role the panel has in handling complaints against the Police and Crime Commissioner.
- The role of the Panel in the appointment of the chief constable, Deputy Police and Crime Commissioner and the Police and Crime Commissioner Office's Chief Executive and Finance Officer.
- How the Police and Crime Panel dovetails with other local scrutiny arrangements (e.g. Crime and Disorder scrutiny).
- Peer reviews – how the Police and Crime Panel can work with and learn from other Panels.

Related to the work of the Police and Crime Commissioner

- The Strategic Policing Requirement - links between this document and wider emergency planning in an area.
- The role of responsible authorities, and how these will work in partnership with the Police and Crime Commissioner.
- Collaboration agreements between the force and neighbouring forces - how work on these areas might be scrutinised with other Police and Crime Panels.

Police/Partnership areas

- The use of available data e.g. CrimeReports website, Safety Net, published statistics, etc.
- Partnership projects
- Any topics that fall under the discharge of functions of the PCC
- Any topics that relate to policing, criminal justice, community safety, etc.