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**Meeting: Policing Board**

**Venue: Teams Meeting**

**Date: 28th April 2022**

**Time: 09:00 – 10:45**

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| **Members:** | Dafydd Llywelyn, Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC)  Chief Constable Dr Richard Lewis (CC)  Beverly Peatling, Chief Finance Officer, OPCC (CFO) Carys Morgans, Chief of Staff, OPCC (CoS) |
| **Also, Present:** | Chief Inspector Chris Neve, Staff Officer, DPP (CN)  Claire Bryant, Policy & Assurance Advisor, OPCC (CB) |

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| **Decision No.** | **Decision Summary** |
| PB T3 32 | The PCC, in consultation with the CC, approved the signing of the Modern Slavery and Organised Immigration Crime Programme 2021-22 S22a agreement |
| PB T3 33 | The PCC decided that the Policing Accountability Board meeting scheduled for May 12th 2022 would be cancelled |

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| **Action No.** | **Action Summary** | **Update** |
| PB 105 | OPCC and Force engagement to develop engagement plan for Eisteddfod, to include consideration of recruitment and debates | Complete |
| PB 119 | To progress estates future decisions for South Ceredigion forward operating base and future strategy for Pembrokeshire estates | Ongoing |
| PB 124 | PCC to arrange discussion with UNISON regarding redundancy entitlements following the JNCC meeting | Complete |
| PB 125 | OPCC to engage with recent stop and search data to understand the effect on race disproportionality | In progress |
| PB 126 | PCC to circulate weekly update ahead of next PB meeting | Discharged |
| PB 127 | PCC and CC to sign the acceptance of the bronze award in the defence employer recognition scheme. | In Progress |
| PB 128 | CC to write to the PCC formally explaining the steps taken and his assurances and view on the individual case discussed | Complete |
| PB 129 | CFO to review Section 22 Agreement between the West Coast Collaboration forces | Complete |

The PCC opened the meeting welcoming the CoS back from a period of sickness absence.

1. **Update on actions from previous meetings**

The minutes from the previous meeting were approved as a true and accurate record of the meeting held on 29th March 2022.

***PB 105 – Eisteddfod engagement plan.*** A working group was meeting on a fortnightly basis to progress an action plan of engagement activities. It was also highlighted that the Urdd Eisteddfod in 2023 and 2024 would take place in the Force area, in Llandovery and Machynlleth respectively.

***PB 119 – Estates future.*** The CC was awaiting the outcome of the six month review of the End to End project to inform the decision-making. A discussion ensued regarding response demand. The CC stated that feedback received from the frontline had suggested that the project was being received well in Carmarthenshire and Pembrokeshire. Resourcing challenges in Ceredigion and Powys had resulted in less favourable feedback from these areas.

The PCC expressed his interest in seeing the data for the project and that suggested the Force exercise caution in ensuring consistent data sets are presented. He also emphasised his pleasure at seeing the CC’s high visibility in conducting regular station and patrol visits.

***PB 124 – Redundancy entitlements.*** The PCC stated that UNISON had written to him formally following their discussion on the matter, expressing their frustration that DPP currently offered the lowest staff redundancy package across Wales. The PCC expressed his desire to see parity across the four Welsh forces. A discussion ensued where it was agreed that a comparison of the Welsh forces’ packages be conducted to consider the differences and impact on staff.

**Action: Comparison of all-Wales staff pay & conditions to be undertaken and reported to the Policing Board meeting of 21st June**

***PB 126 – Stop and search data.*** CB1 confirmed that she had received an update on the current Force data via a recent Ethical Use of Police Powers meeting. She confirmed that further analysis would be completed in order to brief the PCC fully.

***PB 127 - PCC weekly updates.*** The PCC explained this would be progressed when his office’s restructure had been completed.

***PB 128 – receipt of the Defence Employer Recognition Scheme bronze award.*** Signing to be held off until after the Purdah period due to local elections.

1. **Standing Items** 
   1. **Chief Constable’s update**

The CC referred to his written report and highlighted a number of key points of note. Workshops were being held to develop the detail under the CC’s operational priorities. He was pleased to report that there had been good attendance at the workshops held to date.

The CC reported that 133 stop searches had been conducted in the preceding 7 days, a significant increase from the weekly average of 55. Crucially, the linked outcome rate was remaining stable.

The CC was also pleased to see an improvement in the weekly arrest and charge rate.

The CC had met with PCC Alun Michael to discuss the CC’s article regarding a single police force for Wales. He iterated he hoped that the article would stimulate a greater ambition for collaboration. A discussion ensued regarding the governance structure for all-Wales collaborations and the PCC’s oversight of these. It was agreed that the regional collaboration lead Assistant CC Andy Valentine be invited to the next meeting to provide an overview of current arrangements and progress against the Audit Wales review of collaboration.

**Action: Assistant CC Andy Valentine to be invited to the next meeting of the Policing Board to provide a verbal update on all-Wales collaborations**

* 1. **Police and Crime Commissioner’s update**

The PCC highlighted his positive meeting with the Force performance team representatives to discuss the Force’s performance framework and future analytical capabilities.

The PCC then provided an update on the rationale and progress of the OPCC restructure. It was hoped that the office would be running at fully capacity by mid-July.

The CC suggested the OPCC may wish to work closely with the Force’s Partnership Manager when progressing the office’s delivery against the Police and Crime Plan. The PCC concurred that he was keen to see closer working between the OPCC and Force.

The PCC concluded by detailing the significant impact the Single Unified Safeguarding Repository project had made, resulting in a change in policy and procedure around Domestic Homicide Reviews. He also noted policing in Wales’ sector leading work relating to the serious violence duty.

1. **Scrutiny Focus: Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG)**

It was highlighted that the Force Performance Board (FPB) had been postponed the previous week. An overview of VAWG performance could be provided but further detail would follow the rescheduled meeting the following day.

The PCC sought particular assurance on the Force’s actions to address rape and serious sexual offences, and how improvement would be demonstrated. The PCC also explained his desire to re-establish his office’s deep dive scrutiny activity, in synergy with the Force’s operational priorities and performance focus, to support and inform the desired improvements.

The CC provided an overview of the performance presentation prepared for the FPB meeting, highlighting his aspiration to eliminate domestic abuse, stalking and harassment (DASH). He reported early successes including improved arrest rates which were now among the highest in country, and an increase in the use of body worn video when responding to DASH crimes.

The CC had approached Her Majesty’s Inspectorate of Constabulary and Fire and Rescue Services (HMICFRS) to agree the Force would complete a briefer version of the Force Management Statement this year to free capacity to progress delivery against priorities.

The PCC enquired whether the Force was monitoring the use of protection orders, acknowledging that these were just one of the options to address DASH and not always appropriate for every case. The CC was aware that their use was low across Wales and committed to discuss the matter at the FPB.

The PCC was impressed with the level of data presented and stated that CB would be attending FPB the following day. Following this the terms of reference for the OPCC’s deep dive into VAWG would be developed.

The PCC noting it was positive to read of an example of a victimless prosecution being progress using body worn video footage.

A discussion ensued regarding the direction for the OPCC’s forthcoming deep dive into VAWG. The CC stated that stalking and harassment recording and investigation required significant improvement and would welcome the OPCC’s support to drive this. The PCC agreed as he intended for his scrutiny work to add value and support improvements. He was supportive of the consideration of current best practice, research, and evidence, linking with experts in field. The PCC reported he had visited the Dewis choice team in Aberystwyth University and had found the domestic abuse virtual training that was being developed in collaboration with DPP very interesting.

The CC stated that the Force’s performance team was being developed to enhance their ability to provide insights such as identifying the correlation between police actions and the impact on victims.

The PCC also highlighted the groundbreaking work with Swansea and Cardiff Universities regarding research into the efficacy of the DASH risk assessment.

1. **Matters for Discussion / Action** 
   1. **HMICFRS Update**

The CC stated that he had highlighted to HMICFRS that he wanted to ensure the Force was in a sustainable position regarding crime data integrity before the current cause for concern was signed off.

The crime data integrity victim service assessment re-inspection was conducted between 28th February and 4th March 2022. The overall recording rate was found to be 92.77%, equating to a ‘good’ grading. The CC had subsequently set the target to achieve 96%, which would take the Force to ‘outstanding’. He continued to provide a detailed overview of the findings, focusing in particular on feedback relating to 8 out of the 20 stalking and harassment cases reviewed, where issues were identified by HMICFRS.

The PCC expressed concern that there were a number of issues within a relatively small sample. The CoS sought clarity on the expected publication date for the resulting report.

**Action: OPCC to be provided with date for publication of the recent HMICFRS re-inspection report**

* 1. **Decisions by CC**

Attendees discussed the rationale and format for reporting the CC’s key decisions to the PCC in a similar vein to the way in which the PCC reports his key decisions to the Police and Crime Panel. It was agreed that a register of decisions from Chief Officer Group (COG) would be shared moving forward.

**Action: Register of decisions from COG to be provided to the PCC**

* 1. **Benefits / Projects Update**

A discussion ensued regarding the reporting requirements relating to projects funded by the PCC, with CN suggesting the OPCC provide a formal request setting out the OPCC’s specific requirements.

**Action: OPCC Executive Team to discuss the reporting requirements for Force project benefits oversight**

1. **Matters for Decision**
   1. **Annual Governance Statement**

The CFO stated that the Annual Governance Statement was being developed through the Corporate Governance Group and was currently being redrafted. The final version would be provided to the Joint Audit Committee for sign-off and therefore there was no requirement for the matter to be brought back to the Policing Board for approval.

* 1. **Modern Slavery and Organised Immigration Crime Programme 2021-22 S22a Agreement**

The PCC noted that the collaboration agreement had been signed prior to the meeting in line with the national deadline. CN assured that the agreement had been reviewed by Legal Services and Force modern slavery leaders. The PCC confirmed his approval for the agreement.

**Decision: The PCC, in consultation with the CC, approved the signing of the Modern Slavery and Organised Immigration Crime Programme 2021-22 S22a agreement**

1. **Any Other Business**

The CoS highlighted that the next meeting of the Policing Board was scheduled for 9th May, with the next Policing Accountability Board (PAB) scheduled for the same week. Due to the current restructuring of the OPCC, development of the Force performance reporting capability and imminent local council elections affecting the membership of the Police and Crime Panel, the PCC decided to cancel the forthcoming PAB.

**Decision: The PCC decided that the Policing Accountability Board meeting scheduled for May 12th 2022 would be cancelled**

It was agreed that the Policing Board meeting on 9th May would focus on governance, where the Deputy CC would be in attendance.

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| **Action No.** | **Action Summary** | **To be progressed by** |
| PB 130 | Comparison of all-Wales staff pay & conditions to be undertaken and reported to the Policing Board meeting of 21st June | CN |
| PB 131 | Andy Valentine to be invited to the next meeting of the Policing Board to provide a verbal update on all-Wales collaborations | CN |
| PB 132 | OPCC to be provided with date for publication of the recent HMICFRS re-inspection report | CN |
| PB 133 | Register of decisions from COG to be provided to the PCC | CN |
| PB 134 | OPCC Executive Team to discuss the reporting requirements for Force project benefits oversight | CoS |