**Meeting: Police Accountability Board**

**Venue: Aberystwyth University**

**Date: 14th October 2022**

**Time: 10:00 – 13:00**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Members:** | Dafydd Llywelyn, Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC)  Chief Constable Dr Richard Lewis (CC)  Edwin Harries, Director of Finance (DoF)  Carys Morgans, Chief Executive, OPCC (CEX)  Beverley Peatling, Chief Finance Officer (CFO) |
| **Also Present:** | Superintendent Andrew Edwards, Chief of Staff (AE)  T-Inspector Richard Davies, Staff Officer OPCC (RD)  Neil Evans, Business Manager, OPCC  Emily Wheeler, Engagement Advisor, OPCC  Ellen Jones, Executive Support Officer, OPCC |
| **Observers:** | Aberystwyth University Students (Criminology, Law and Politics department)  Aberystwyth University Lectures  Aberystwyth Neighbourhood Watch  Police and Crime Panel Members  Members of the Wider Public |

1. **Apologies and Introductions**

The PCC welcomed attendees to the meeting of the Police Accountability Board. The PCC provided an introduction followed by the OPCC Executive Team present at the meeting. The CC and his Executive team followed suit and provided brief introductions. Both the CC and CEX informed that they are past students at Aberystwyth University and the PCC informed that he was a past lecturer and stated the importance of meetings such as the Police Accountability Board being in public.

1. **Questions and Answers**

The PCC welcomed any questions from the members present at the meeting.

*Q. How does the Force determine how many officers are put on a shift for example at Aberystwyth station, especially on the weekends?*

A. The CC responded that this matter is operationally sensitive as the resourcing of shifts can vary depending on multiple factors. He informed that an assessment of area requirements is being undertaken and stated that with the increase of Police Officers due to uplift programmes the Force is in a better position to ensure a fair share of resources across all Dyfed Powys areas.

*Q. Is the Aberystwyth Police station always manned?*

A. The CC informed that the Aberystwyth station is open to the public 24/7 station but there is an emphasis for officers to be more active in the communities thus why the station may not always have officers present. The PCC stated his ambition was for Dyfed Powys Police (DPP) Officers to be more visible and more accessible for the public. The PCC provided reassurance that the Office of Police and Crime Commissioner (OPCC) is regularly scrutinising matters such as accessibility of police stations through meetings such as the Policing Board meeting which is held fortnightly.

*Q. What training do Force communication call handlers have in regard to cursive and controlling behaviour?*

A. The PCC responded that Force communication officers receive regular training due to the ever-changing nature of crimes. The PCC informed that the Force has put domestic abuse as one of its key priorities with a new vulnerability hub established. The PCC informed that more domestic abuse incidences are now being recorded within Dyfed Powys and informed that this is positive as twice as many victims are now being safeguarded. The CC offered to speak individually with the individual at the end of the meeting to be informed of their personal experiences. The CC stated that any learning experiences are welcomed as the experience should be continuously seeking to improve. The CC re-emphasised how the Force has set domestic abuse as a priority with the aim to eliminate domestic abuse within Dyfed-Powys. The PCC informed that domestic abuse is also a key priority for the Welsh Government and informed that he co-chairs the All-Wales Violence Against Women and Girls board alongside the Minister for Social Justice Jane Hutt MS. The PCC also referred to the Knife Angel that was brought to Aberystwyth in June 2022 which focused on preventing all types of anti-social behaviour and violence.

*Q. What is the Force doing about Anti-Social behaviour, particularly in Ceredigion?*

A. The PCC informed that multiple public meetings have been held alongside neighbourhood policing teams and Councillors to listen to the communities concerns and to hold the Force to account. The PCC informed that due to the recently secured Safer Street fundings additional CCTV has been added to the seafront in Aberystwyth. The CC informed that the DPP neighbourhood policing teams are prioritising anti-social behaviour and encouraged people to phone to report any such behaviour. The PCC informed that he had been on patrol with Aberystwyth neighbourhood policing team and was sighted on their ongoing work to tackle anti-social behaviour. The PCC informed meeting members of the Force Single Online Home and social media pages that members can contact the Force through and informed that digitally reporting is an important way of dealing with the demand where possible.

A volunteer from the OPCC quality assurance panel (QAP) informed meeting attendees that the QAP regularly review Force performance including the Force’s responses to incidents from a call handling perspective. He informed that hate crime had been a recent focus and reassured attendees that systems are in place to review Force performance when mistakes are made and critically, to learn from them. The PCC welcomed individuals to volunteer for the QAP, independent custody visitors, and animal welfare visitor schemes which support his assurance activity.

*Q. Why does the INTACT programme work very differently across each youth offending team programme with a bit of confusion and lack of communication?*

A. The PCC informed that comments will be feedback and will be raised with the INTACT team.

**Action: OPCC to review the concerns raised regarding the INTACT team**

*Q. How does the Force receive and action communication from the Force and British Transport?*

A. The PCC responded that British Transport police are often visible at stations and informed that significant anti-social behaviour on the Swansea trainline has been identified. The CC informed that day to day interactions involve the sharing of intelligence, including issues such as child trafficking and county lines.

*Q. In regard to the recent 90 million drug hall found on the Aberystwyth coastline is there any concern for county lines and how can the Force reassure the public?*

A. The PCC stated that a meeting was held with an input from the National Crime Agency where the PCC received reassurance on progress. The CC informed that specifics of the operation cannot be shared due to the ongoing investigation. The CC informed that he is the National Police Chief Council lead on drugs and reassured the members that the matter is a priority for DPP.

*Q. How to get a CCTV camera changed as it is facing the wrong way?*

A. Th PCC responded that the Force works within the national guidance to ensure that CCTV cameras are placed. The PCC informed that he would question the area in question with the local neighbourhood policing team. Th CC welcomed a further discussion after the meeting.

The CC and PCC reflected how important and useful feedback from members of the public is and thanked all for their questions.

1. **Minutes of previous meeting and matters arising**

Minutes from the previous meeting were deemed as a true and accurate record of the meeting.

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| ACTION SUMMARY FROM MEETING ON 28/07/2022 | | |
| Action No | Action Summary | Update |
| PAB 155 | Supt Andrew Edwards, and Head of Strategy and Policy to progress the Specified Information Order | Complete |
| PAB 156 | Stalking and Harassment Force profile to be shared with OPCC | Completed |
| PAB 157 | PCC to share CC’s performance appraisal infographic with Police and Crime Panel | Completed |
| PAB 158 | DoF to share Salex impact report with PCC | Completed |
| PAB 159 | Domestic Abuse documentary pilot contract to be shared with PCC for approval prior to signing. | Completed |
| PAB 160 | Force to provide a response to the query regarding communication of community safety updates | Complete |
| PAB 161 | CEX to await APACE legal advice regarding BMW contract. | Complete |
| PAB 162 | Scope standardised NPT engagement strategy to be drafted. | Complete |
| PAB 163 | Force to provide a service recovery with Chwarter Bach community council. | Complete |

PAB 156 - *Stalking and Harassment Force profile to be shared with OPCC-* The PCC informed that the OPCC are due to undertake deep dive activity upon stalking and harassment. The PCC questioned the Force’s increase of the violence protection orders. The CC informed orders are actively being used more by Officers as the Force is trying to communicate more with victims.

*PB 162- Scope standardised NPT engagement strategy to be drafted-* The PCC informed the board of the aim to host neighbourhood team conferences in 2023 in each community across Dyfed Powys, where community councillors and citizens can pose questions and engage with their local team.

1. **Matters arising from Policing Board scrutiny focus themes (by exception)**

The PCC provided a report highlighting the activity undertaken at Policing Board meetings which included topic such as the End-2-End project and the Force governance structure. The PCC asked the CC as to whether he is confident with the Force’s governance structure. The CC responded that he currently feels this is work in progress and processes are being finalised with some decision making and learning to be done. However, the CC indicated that the Force is in a better position.

A discussion ensued regarding the current Force review. The PCC questioned the CC on the timescale of the review. The CC informed that the Force review is still in progress and that the OPCC will have sight of the review outcomes. The CC highlighted the cost-of-living crisis and informed that senior leaders are due to review their business areas to ascertain where the Force can generate some savings.

1. Force contribution to National Measures

Superintendent AE provided a dashboard presentation to the meeting and highlighted key aspects in the Force’s performance to the National measures included an overview on the Forces action against drugs. The PCC questioned what the Force current position on drug trafficking is. The PCC highlighted that within the data presented that there was an increase in drug trafficking activity in May and June of 2021. The CC informed that the Force currently positions 24th nationally in relation to this crime type and explained that the vast Force land area contributes to this. Although the CC informed that DPP position is the highest of it’s the similar forces, the CC provided reassurance that this has been discussed at the Force performance event with the matter under review. AE informed that whilst drug trafficking is a concern, the Force prioritises drug possession and as a result DPP is currently the 3rd highest in the country for drug possession cases, showing the impact of pro-activity of officers. The CC informed that the Force now aims to improve its case outcomes and aims to better use diversionary schemes. The PCC queried how the Force is focusing on de-criminalising young people. The CC informed that staff have been involved in diversionary scheme drug awareness course. The PCC questioned the CC’s view upon the current debate regarding categorising cannabis as a category A drug. The CC responded that this is a matter for the Government to decide, but due to the metal and physical effects that cannabis can have the Force is concerned level of violence and anti-social behaviour related with its use and dealing.

*Q. An individual asked what the Force was doing to tackle the issue of drugs in Newcastle Emlyn?*

A. The PCC noted that unfortunately drugs are available in market towns but that the Force need to use their engagement and presence to reassure the communities. The PCC stated that in order for the Force to tackle the distribution and possession of drugs they require specific information and urged members of the public to share any such information with the Force. The CC quoted that the official national statistics estimated that in 2021 3.2 million adults used drugs. The CC noted that there is accessibility to drugs in all communities but stated that he is confident in the Force’s proactivity in areas such as stop search.

AE continued the presentation. The PCC questioned how the areas that were noted of concern were being reviewed. The CC informed that work is being undertaken by an external partner as the Force is working to reduce the backlog of crimes. The PCC noted that the forfeiture fund within the OPCC will be available to support if required.

1. Force Performance Against Priority 1*:* Victims are supported

AE provided an overview of the dashboard created by the Force in response to the Police and Crime Plan priorities focusing on priority 1, victims are supported. The PCC noted that the outcomes are positive and sought reassurance that the activity will continue. AE informed the PCC that a 60-week case audit review is being provided.

The PCC questioned the activity with engagement with universities and questioned whether the partnership will continue. AE informed the PCC that the Force recently signed contract with Cardiff University and the Force look forward to continuing the academic collaboration work.

The PCC questioned the current percentage for rape arrests. The CC informed that only a few rapes are reported at the time of the incident which results in forensic issues. The CC noted nationally that more historic rapes being reported, which is a positive.

The PCC noted that the wider Criminal Justice system has a part to play in a victims journey and emphasised the need for the Force to work alongside other organisations. AE agreed with the PCC and informed that terms of reference for the Force’s response to priority 1 has been sent to wider organisations and the Force received a positive amount of feedback. AE stated that the terms of reference can be sent to the PCC for information.

**Action: Terms of reference for Force response to priority 1 to be sent to the PCC**

1. Hate Crime

The PCC referred to the papers circulated in the agenda prior to the meeting. The PCC informed that Hate Crime Awareness week 2022 runs from the 8th until the 19th of October and stated that the OPCC had been involved within activities such as the Llanelli Seaside premier league kicks hate crime session and the QAP reviewing hate crime cases. The CC informed that DPP have the lowest rate of hate crime incidents compared to other Welsh Forces, however the CC noted that hate crime is an underreported crime and that the Force is working to ensure all incidents are reported and informed that the Force have introduced a hate crime support officer. The PCC noted that it is pleasing that incident figures are the lowest in Wales and noted that this is an area for the OPCC to monitor.

1. Finance

The DoF provided an overview of the finance report that was circulated within the agenda. The DoF highlighted key issues such as current year end position, police staff pay, inflation concerns, and the current overspend on overtime. The DoF summarised that the overall financial position is relatively healthy considering the uncertainty with the current financial climate and noted that additional work is needed to review the overspend on overtime costs. The PCC questioned the DoF’s assurance on the current predicted £1.3 million year end underspend.. The DoF noted the difficulties of producing an accurate figure within the current financial climate and noted that the prediction will be more accurate as time goes on. The PCC noted the challenging circumstances within the financial climate. The PCC sought reassurance on the scrutiny and governance surrounding the stated overspend on the overtime. The CC informed that scrutiny activity is being undertaken by the ACC via the End-2-End review board. DoF noted that there is vast information available for the reasoning for overtime and noted possible reasons could be due to the recent busy summer period with the Royal Welsh Show and National Eisteddfod in the Force area.

The DoF provided an overview of the capital programme budget. The PCC questioned the optimism of the schemes stated and questioned whether work requires to be undertaken to review. The DoF informed that the capital programme had been affected by Covid-19 through the shortages or equipment and impact on key suppliers and noted this effect has been seen through all Forces. The CFO noted the positive position but stated that there is a need to consistently monitor due to the current finical climate and the noted areas of pressure. The CFO noted that the financial work is monitored and scrutinised through the extensive work ongoing within the Force review and the strategic finance and medium-term financial plan group.

1. Any Other Business
   1. Letter from West Midlands OPCC

The PCC acknowledged the correspondence received from West Midlands OPCC noting the mutual aid for the Commonwealth Games.

The PCC thanked Aberystwyth University for their hospitality and for students and staff involvements. The PCC expressed how important public involvement is and thanked all for attending.

END

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| ACTION SUMMARY FROM MEETING ON 14/10/2022 | | |
| Action No | Action Summary | To be progressed by |
| PAB 163 | OPCC to review the concerns raised regarding the INTACT team | OPCC |
| PAB 164 | Terms of reference for Force response to priority 1 to be sent to the PCC | RD |