



# Cheshire Police Authority - Performance Panel

## MINUTES OF A MEETING HELD ON 17 FEBRUARY 2009 AT CONSTABULARY HEADQUARTERS, WINSFORD

*Present:*

P Nurse, Chairman	P Findlow
R Hodson, Vice-Chairman	R McNeil
D Bateman	M Ollerenshaw
D Cargill	S Proctor
A Doran	

*Also in attendance:* M Chapman and B Maher

<i>Authority Officers:</i>	<i>Constabulary Officers:</i>
M Sellwood, Chief Executive	G Gerrard, Deputy Chief Constable
D Taylor, Deputy Chief Executive	Supt. N Adderley, Head of Performance Improvement
J Hunking, Research Officer	

### 44. MINUTES

#### *RESOLVED:*

That the Minutes of the meeting held on 23 December 2008 be confirmed as a correct record.

### 45. PERFORMANCE REVIEW: APRIL 2008 - JANUARY 2009

The Deputy Chief Constable presented the performance report for the period April 2008 to January 2009, during which time the level of total crime had reduced by 4.4%, or 2,930 crimes, when compared to the comparative period the previous year. The detection rate of 29% fell slightly short of the 29.6% target, although performance over a rolling twelve month period showed that the Constabulary was now exceeding the Most Similar Group average detection rate.

The Deputy Chief Constable highlighted some of issues behind the performance exceptions and the emerging threats to performance. The Constabulary reported that detections for domestic burglary had recently decreased, in line with the rest of the country, but still left the force sixth best nationally for such detections, and as a result a number of proactive operations were being undertaken. The contribution that restorative justice was making to the overall resolution of crimes, and the continued decreasing level of vehicle crime, were also highlighted.

Members noted the report and welcomed the continued positive performance and reduction in overall crime levels, but expressed some concern at the significant variations in NPU performance which was being masked by overall positive Area performance, and enquired what actions were being taken to

address failing performance at both the NPU and individual officer level. The Deputy Chief Constable outlined a number of reasons for poor performance and the possible courses of action taken to improve poorly performing NPUs. Members emphasised the importance of evaluating both good and bad performance to enable the organisation to learn lessons and ensure wider dissemination and learning from good practice.

*RESOLVED:*

That the performance report for April 2008 – January 2009, be noted.

#### 46. LOCAL AREA AGREEMENTS: PROGRESS AGAINST TARGETS

The Deputy Chief Constable presented a report which set out the progress in achieving the targets contained in the three Local Area Agreements in the Authority area during the period April – September 2008.

Members noted the report and raised a number of issues including the importance of achieving the LAA targets as part of the wider confidence agenda and the wider remit of LAAs which encompassed the work not only of the police but local authorities.

*RESOLVED:*

That the performance against the targets contained in the three LAAs for the period April – September 2008, be noted.

#### 47. CONSTABULARY PERFORMANCE MANAGEMENT FRAMEWORK & POLICE AUTHORITY INVOLVEMENT

The Deputy Chief Constable presented a report which advised on developments in the Constabulary's performance management framework. The report had been developed following the Discussion Day on 26 January 2009, when the Chief Constable gave his initial views on the current performance regime and how he wished to see it develop.

The Panel noted the report and emphasised the great importance they attached to this issue and that it was essential that the Authority was able to effectively carry out its performance scrutiny role. Members noted the current constructive and positive dialogue they had with the Constabulary over performance issues and urged that this continue and develop further.

Members raised several other issues including recognition that the Chief Constable wished to have his own managerial arrangements in place where he could privately address performance issues; the importance of receiving full, frank and timely information from the Constabulary both in terms of performance and emerging issues; the Authority's role in representing all communities of Cheshire which justified the need for Members to drill down to NPU level and ask searching questions around performance issues; and the role of the Authority, in particular officers, in the new Strategic Management meetings, to which the Deputy Chief Constable responded.

Members welcomed the opportunity to have a discussion about the new arrangements, but again emphasised their key role in holding the Chief Constable to account, and requested that a further report be submitted to the next meeting which would clearly set out the exact nature of the Chief Constable's proposals and how they would complement and link into the scrutiny role of the Authority.

*RESOLVED:* That

- (1) the proposals for internal Constabulary performance management, as set out in the report, be noted;
- (2) a further report be submitted to the Panel on 21 April 2009 on the information to be presented to future meetings to enable the Authority to effectively fulfil its statutory duty; and
- (3) the role of the Authority in scrutinising performance be further developed and reported to the Panel in due course.

#### 48. PROPOSED POLICING PLAN TARGETS 2009/10 – 2011/12

The Deputy Chief Constable presented the report which set out the proposed targets for inclusion in the 2009-12 Policing Plan, to be formally approved at the Authority on 24 February 2009.

Members noted the report and raised a number of issues including the Constabulary's assessment of the potential impact of the recession on its ability to achieve future performance targets; evidence about what underpins public confidence; the role of the Authority in developing the emerging Confidence Strategy; and the more proactive role of the Authority in setting targets, to which the Deputy Chief Constable responded.

Whilst Members were in general agreement with the targets contained in the report, the Deputy Chief Constable was requested to review the targets around 'user satisfaction' to ensure that performance continued to improve, and 'serious sexual offences brought to justice', in view of the development of the Safe centre in Crewe.

*RESOLVED:* That

- (1) the proposed targets be revised in the light of Members' comments and recommended for approval in the 2009-2012 Policing Plan at the Authority on 24 February 2009;
- (2) future years' targets be developed earlier and in greater consultation with the Authority and be initially considered by the Panel each December; and
- (3) the emerging Confidence Strategy be discussed at the Panel on 21 April 2009.

49. VIOLENT CRIME: NORTHERN AREA UPDATE

The Deputy Chief Constable presented a report on the work to reduce and detect violent crime in Warrington town centre and Runcorn.

Members noted the report and whilst welcoming the work to tackle alcohol related violence, queried the actions being taken to address domestic abuse related violence.

*RESOLVED:*

That the report be noted.

50. STREET ISSUE OF PENALTY NOTICES

The Deputy Chief Constable presented a report which provided information on the new procedures in relation to the street issue of fixed penalty notices (FPNs). The Constabulary reported that the issue of taking DNA in the street on every occasion when issuing a FPN was currently being reviewed, and a further report would be presented to the Panel. It had also become evident that there was a lack of corporacy around the powers of PCSOs in issuing FPNs, and this too would be the subject of a further report to Members.

The Panel noted the report and raised a number of issues including the percentage of unpaid fines and the subsequent level of bureaucracy required to chase payment; the list of crimes for which FPNs could be issued; the availability of DNA kits for frontline officers; and the outcome of the European Court for Human Rights ruling on DNA retention, to which the Deputy Chief Constable responded.

*RESOLVED:* That

- (1) the report be noted; and
- (2) further reports be submitted on the taking of DNA when issuing FPNs, and the consistent use of PCSO powers across the force area.

*Duration of Meeting: The meeting commenced at 9.45am and concluded at 11.45am.*