

WILTSHIRE POLICE MINUTES

MEETING: Public Service Board
VENUE: SKYPE
DATE: Thursday 16 April 2020
TIME: 18.30 hrs

ATTENDANCE

Wiltshire Police

| | |
|---------------------|-----------------------------------|
| Paul Mills (PM) | Deputy Chief Constable - CHAIR |
| Kier Pritchard | Chief Constable |
| Liz Coles | County CPT Inspector |
| Jerry Herbert (JH) | Deputy PCC |
| Phil Staynings (PS) | Swindon CPT Superintendent |
| Clare Mills (CM) | Head of Corp Comms and Engagement |
| Andy Grant (AG) | Corp Comms and Engagement |
| Wendy Colyer (WC) | PA to Mr Mills |
| Eirin Martin (EM) | Staff Officer to Mr Mills |

IAG Chairs

| | |
|------------------------|---------------------------|
| Ishak Mogul (IM) | IAG Chair – Swindon South |
| Ashish Channawar | |
| Anton James | IAG – Swindon North |
| Liz Priscott | IAG – County North |
| Maria Stevenson | IAG – County South |
| Rebecca?? | |
| Kelly Higson (KH) | IAG Chair – East County |
| Nick Westbrook (NW) | IAG Chair – West County |
| Johnathan Russell (JR) | IAG Chair – South County |
| Steve Philips (SP) | IAG Chair – North County |

Guests

APOLOGIES

1. INTRODUCTIONS/PURPOSE OF MEETING

A powerpoint presentation was circulated prior to the meeting where PM outlined discussions going forward that included an overview of the ongoing COVID-19 response and what the organisation has put in place to ensure delivery of service. Towards the end of the meeting PM will hand over to PS and LC and AG for online work where JH will then take over the agenda. PM welcomed the IAG Chairs and thanked them for joining this online meeting. This will be PM's last PSB with KP taking over the chair going forward.

2. OUR RESPONSE TO COVID-19

This Board was initially set up alongside JH who wanted to expand it to become a Public Service Board and KP will take the meeting forward with JH as a standing member. Alongside there is also a BAME Advisory Group that will sit separately with BAME members of the community where, going forward, will feed in to this meeting from a co-chair in order to add value. KH asked if there would be youth involvement in the meeting with PM recognising that is a gap that he is really keen to fill. Laura Schell has joined the organisation as the Youth Engagement Early Intervention supervisor and she has been set some objectives to work in that particular area.

ACTION: Laura Schell to update the group at a future date in relation to how we are working with young people and what part they may play in any future Public Service Board approach.

Our purpose: Proud to serve and protect our communities

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Initially the meeting was due to be held on 8 April but was moved to 16 April due to the Easter period. JH will, at the end of meeting, take members through the potential plan, clear schedule and how best to engage. The next key date was 13 May, a critical incident exercise, but due to social distancing and an extension of 3 weeks, this will have to postpone until later in the year.

COVID-19. Policing work to a command structure of GOLD/SILVER/BRONZE and on behalf of the Chief Constable, PM is chairing the GOLD and senior leaders meetings that look at the impact of COVID and also to try and plan for the future in order to continue service. ACC Maggie Blyth takes away the planning of the response and feeds back into PM. There are also various cells in place to ensure focus on key business, how the organisation are communicating with the public and what the new world looks like through the Intelligence Cell. The Chief Constable is responsible for the external engagement, stakeholder manager and he is also the Local Resilience Forum Chair, that through internal processes, co-ordinate how all agencies are responding to the incident, how they protect vulnerability, safeguarding and keeping people safe.

PM then went on to give a brief overview of the organisation's RAG status that looks across business areas to include critical and non-critical services. This is important and gives a high level abstraction rate for the organisation, giving vital information to ensure the business is fit for purpose. Thus far, the organisation has been able to maintain all critical area functions.

3. HOW WE ARE DELIVERING OUR SERVICES

PM further outlined that a decision was made to close all Enquiry Offices and those services are now being provided through the 101 call centre and telephones outside police stations. Although it was a difficult decision it was an important one, in line with Public Health England advice, and the role of volunteers who ably support the organisation on a daily basis. Community Speed Watch has also been suspended for 3 months as well as Force volunteers in public facing roles.

Although non-essential proactive work has been suspended, teams are still out there looking to target criminality. All internal training, with the exception of IPLDP (new recruits) with a reduction in their training, in line with national guidance and the requisite essential training, by bringing it forward by 6 weeks. There are also a number of officers potentially retiring and scoping is being carried out on the feasibility of extending retirement dates.

Whilst KP is the LRF Chair, Assistant Mark Cooper chairs a twice weekly Strategic Co-ordinating Group that discusses the national issue of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) and also ensures hospital provision is in place.

PM then went on to give an overview of 101 calls (non-emergency) over the last 5 weeks where there was an initial spike that waivered up and down throughout the 3 week period and quite a number of calls over the Easter period. There is a specific opportunity for members of the public to use an online form rather than call into 101 and that has been heavily used. From 23 March, at the start of lockdown, saw a slight drop of 999 calls and the organisation have been able to maintain their average response times.

4. CHANGES TO DEMAND

The organisation has undertaken analysis locally seeing a 27.5% fall in crime comparative to the period of last year. Increases has been seen in some categories, ie anti-social behaviour (ASB) has seen a slight variation. A growing trend of incidences of ASB, particular during the Easter weekend, were just above average. Domestic Abuse (DA) continues to rise nationally and to a lesser extent locally. And certainly throughout the lockdown period there is potential for DA and the organisation are seeing an increase in reported incidences. The organisation is working with partner agencies in order to ensure people feel confident in reporting DA, as well as to increase awareness.

5. WORKING WITH THE PUBLIC TO KEEP YOU SAFE

The police were given certain powers that look at the restriction of movement and ensuring people are complying, ie restrictions on gatherings etc and this linked to members of the public being issued fixed penalty notices (FPNs). The approach with this has been clear; policing by consent and working closely with the College of Policing (CoP) and the National Police Chiefs Council (NPCC) advice and guidance given to staff – 3E's plus one:

Our purpose: To prevent crime and protect the public

Engage
Encourage
Explain
Enforce

Engage – explain restrictions and encourage compliance with those restriction. This has been successful.

Enforcement – a last resort and includes a flagrant abuse of regulations or repeated non-compliance. Those powers have been used on 75 occasions and predominantly more into the South of the County.

KP has been clear on the policing style and tone with all officers and PCSOs, such that they ensure the right balance is met. These officers and staff have to engage with members of the public, who are anxious, and the right style and tone will have a positive impact on the trust and confidence now and into the future.

The meeting went on to discuss that legalisation does not allow the issue of FPNs to children, however PS explained it does allow for persistent cases, to issue FPNs to parents/guardians.

6. HOW WE ARE ENGAGING WITH OUR COMMUNITIES

AG gave an overview on how Comms support the LRF and structures within the organisation and explained there is a multi-agency Comms Cell in place that brings all teams together in order to co-ordinate messaging and plan ahead for more proactive Comms. The recent Easter campaign was pulled together as a multi-agency approach and looked to reinforce guidance, ie information around gatherings, bonfires and local beauty spots. These have been done via social media, press activity, media interviews and working across partners to share information as much as possible. There has also been a good level of engagement with members of the public.

7. UPDATE FROM OUR COMMUNITY POLICING TEAM (CPT)

PS felt it important to reiterate all resources in Swindon are stable with good resilience, and have been briefed on KP's approach to style and tone with the emphasis on policing by consent, engaging and explaining. As alluded to previously, ASB has seen a slight rise in last few days, particularly the Easter period but has seen a downward trend for the Force.

Community Impact Assessments are low/moderate with co-operation from the public in relation to COVID. There has been support from the Specialist Operations teams who have been assisting in patrolling some areas, but on the whole, it is very much business as usual.

Coming up to Ramadan PS is maintaining dialogue with mosques and partnership work is in scope around the importance of engaging with young people; PS is also looking to engage with youth key workers in supporting and engaging with young people. In terms of vulnerability, Inspector Mike Hughes (mental health lead), has been working closely with Councils around the challenges. With regard to DA teams have been proactive in targeting key locations to drive messages on. However, this is not just about policing resources, fantastic work has been carried out by the Special Constabulary cohort who have supported in excess of 3,400 hours. Police Cadets – although they cannot be proactive at this time they have been provided with lesson plans and their focus is on staying home.

LC – county hub. In relation to the 4E's teams have run some positive operations where they have spoken to an excess of 100 motorists through engagement and assurance. In terms of enforcement they have utilised Section 35 dispersal powers around drinking. Community impact – patrol strategies are all in place and in ensuring officers are out. Business as usual is targeting prolific criminals, vehicles, utilising lockdown drug activity, detecting crime and disruptions. In terms of resourcing, the new recruits have settled in fantastically and are helping with patrols and reassurance. Work is ongoing with partners, including the MOD, who are using the same policing approach and are patrolling those areas on Salisbury Plain. Rural crime – there has been a recent launch around specific patrols that are intelligence based that includes linking in with farmers by way of ICT platforms.

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8. YOUR VOICE-YOURCOMMUNITY-YOUR CONCERNS

JH asked the IAG for feedback, in particular on the style and tone of policing and how it has been received in communities, and to email them through to EM.

IM explained there are a few concerns around the increase in crime, petty crime and fly tipping.

AJ has not been out but keeps a watching eye on media. The encouragement of the youth group into the IAG has so far been unsuccessful. PCSOs Lee Hare and Kate Jackson have been posting on Facebook which has been well received by locals.

KH confirmed the positive response in terms of policing.

MS agreed people are widely using the web to report incidence for non-conformance and it is widely shared on internet forums. MS has not seen many patrols on the housing estate but generally, CPT are highly visible in the City. Echo's IM's update around petty crime and highlighted food banks being a target too. This being MS' first meeting she asked the IAGs for assistance with the role. PM will get Inspector Ben Huggins to link in with MH to discuss.

ACTION: Inspector Ben Huggins to link in with Maria Stevenson to give her a brief on how the Force can support her work as an IAG chair

NW is self-isolating and has not been out and about, but is monitoring and has picked up that the community have noted an increase of officers patrolling which has been welcomed. There has also be some interesting incidences with minor issues where a large number of cyclists, some family groups, who are clearly travelling some distance. NW also wanted to highlight a third group of elderly social care homes who have bought/leased their homes from property companies where managers have little or no training. There are 3 premises in Melksham alone with between 300-300 elderly residents. Also to note, an increase in speeding.

SP thanked PM for the comprehensive briefing.

Finally, it was agreed the presentation, once sanitised, would be shared by EM.

ACTION: EM to share the presentation, once appropriately sanitised, with IAGs.

9. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

The meeting agreed a monthly meeting for one hour going forward.

End 08.00 hrs

10. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

To be confirmed by KP's office.