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Minutes of a meeting of the **Cheshire Police and Crime Panel**  
held on Friday, 15th March, 2024 in the 1st Floor Committee Room,  
Ellesmere Port Library, Civic Way, Ellesmere Port, CH65 0BG

## **PRESENT**

Councillors:

Cheshire East: Councillors Steve Edgar, Judy Snowball and  
Stewart Gardiner

Cheshire West & Chester: Councillors Keith Millar and Sam Naylor

Halton Councillors Martha Lloyd Jones and Peter Lloyd  
Jones

Warrington: Councillor Mo Hussain

Independent Co-optees: Mr Evan Morris MBE, Mrs Gemma Shepherd –  
Etchells and Miss Yasmin Somani

Officers: Mr Brian Reed and Mr Martin Smith, Cheshire East  
Council (Secretariat)

## **51 APOLOGIES**

Apologies were received from Cllr Mick Warren, (Cheshire East), Cllr Norman Plumpton Walsh (Halton), Cllr Wendy Maisey (Warrington) and Cllr Phil Marshall (Cheshire West and Chester). Cllr Peter Lloyd Jones substituted for Cllr Plumpton Walsh, and Cllr Gardiner for Cllr Warren.

## **52 CODE OF CONDUCT - DECLARATION OF INTERESTS. RELEVANT AUTHORITIES (DISCLOSABLE PECUNIARY INTERESTS) REGULATIONS 2012**

No issues were raised.

## **53 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

Three representatives of Northwich Town Council attended the meeting and spoke on the issue of the safety of women and girls. A number of questions were asked, to which the Chair promised a written response.

*The response sent to Northwich Town Council is attached to these minutes.*

**54 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING**

**RESOLVED:**

That the Minutes of the meeting held on 2<sup>nd</sup> February 2024 be approved.

**55 APPOINTMENT OF DEPUTY CHAIR OF THE COMPLAINTS MANAGEMENT SUB COMMITTEE**

**RESOLVED:**

That Cllr Keith Millar be appointed as Deputy Chair of the Complaints Management Sub Committee.

Cllr Stewart Gardiner abstained from voting, as a substitute member of the Panel, he indicated that, excepting fellow Cheshire East Councillors, he did not know other Panel members.

**56 REVIEW OF COMPLAINTS RECEIVED DURING 2023.**

The Panel noted that two complaints about the Police and Crime Commissioner had been received during 2023. One complaint had been rejected as it was judged to be a complaint about an operational policing issue. The second complaint had been considered by the Panel's Complaints Management Sub Committee, with the outcome being published on the Panel's page of the Cheshire East Council website.

Both complaints had been processed within the timescale (40 working days) set by the Panel

**57 CHAIR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS**

The Chair briefed the Panel on his work as Vice Chair of the National Association of Police, Fire and Crime Panels, commenting that all Panels in England and Wales were now members of the Association. He also referred to a meeting that the Association had recently held with the Home Office, where the issue of support hubs to Panels has been discussed.

**58 PAPERS FROM THE COMMISSIONER'S SCRUTINY BOARD HELD ON MONDAY 19 FEBRUARY 2024**

The Panel noted the papers for the Commissioner's Scrutiny meeting held on 19 February 2024.

**59 PROPOSED PROGRAMME OF MEETINGS FOR THE 2024/25 CIVIC YEAR**

The programme of meetings for the coming civic year was noted.

**60 QUESTIONS SUBMITTED IN ADVANCE TO THE POLICE AND CRIME COMMISSIONER**

The Chair explained that four questions had been formally submitted to the Commissioner in advance of the meeting and that these had been included in the published papers.

**61 WELCOME TO THE POLICE AND CRIME COMMISSIONER, AND INTRODUCTION BY THE POLICE AND CRIME COMMISSIONER**

The Chair welcomed the Commissioner to the meeting.

The Commissioner made a number of introductory comments, including updating the Panel on a Retail and Business Crime conference held on 15<sup>th</sup> February, an event that he had mentioned at the previous meeting of the Panel. He also briefed the Panel on the installation of a new “speed on green” camera in Halton and the planned construction of new Police Stations in Wilmslow and Crewe.

Noting that the current Panel meeting was the final one before the Police and Crime Commissioner elections in May, the Commissioner reviewed his achievements over his three-year term of office. He made reference to scrutiny documents which had been circulated with the Panel’s papers.

**62 REVIEW OF THE INITIATIVES COMMISSIONED BY THE POLICE AND CRIME COMMISSIONER IN RELATION TO THE SAFETY OF WOMEN AND GIRLS**

Sarah Tilling from the Commissioner’s Office made a detailed presentation on the wide range of work that had been undertaken over the last three years in relation to the safety of women and girls in Cheshire.

The Chair thanked Ms Tilling for her comprehensive and informative presentation. Following the presentation Panel members asked Ms Tilling and the Commissioner a number of questions. The areas covered included the Casey Review (which had specifically related to the Metropolitan Police Service, but had potential wider implications for policing), the work of the Commissioner’s Youth Commission, the vetting of Police Officers, coercive control, “Clare’s Law” (the Domestic Violence Disclosure Scheme) and CARA (Cautioning and Relationship Abuse) interventions.

The importance to national policing of the Angiolini Review was discussed by the Panel.

**RESOLVED**

That the incoming Police and Crime Commissioner be encouraged to include the 16 recommendations from the Angiolini Review in their new (2024 – 2028) Police and Crime Plan and that progress should be

monitored through the Commissioner's Scrutiny meetings with the Chief Constable, with reports back to the Police and Crime Panel as appropriate.

## **63 OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY OF THE POLICE AND CRIME COMMISSIONER**

Panel members asked the Commissioner a range of questions. Details of questions and the Commissioner's responses can be found on the Police and Crime Panel page of the Cheshire East Council website.

At the conclusion of the meeting the Police and Crime Commissioner thanked the Panel for its support during his three-year term of office. The Chair wished all candidates well in the forthcoming election.



Cllr Bob Cernik  
Northwich Town Council

**Date:** 15<sup>th</sup> April 2024

Cheshire Police and Crime Panel  
c/o Cheshire East Council  
Westfields  
Middlewich Road  
Sandbach  
Cheshire  
CW11 1HZ

Dear Cllr Cernik,

#### **CHESHIRE POLICE AND CRIME PANEL**

I would like to thank you and your colleagues for sparing the time to attend the Police and Crime Panel on 15<sup>th</sup> March. At the meeting you raised a number of issues and I promised to respond to you in writing, I apologise that it has taken me a little time to get back to you.

By way of introduction, it would be helpful if I outlined the formal responsibilities of the Panel, these are enshrined in statute and are outlined in the Panel's Procedure Rules, which include the Panel's Terms of Reference, these are attached to this letter.

In the context of the issues currently under discussion, the key paragraphs are (6), (7) and (8). As you will see these all relate to the work of the Commissioner, not the Chief Constable or Constabulary. That said, I do recognise that leadership on issues such as culture and behaviour comes from the top, and that the words and actions of the Commissioner are important in setting a tone for policing across Cheshire.

Over the last three years since the Commissioner's election, the Panel have had a number of conversations with him over the culture he wishes to see across the Constabulary. The Panel have also discussed the Constabulary's approach to vetting with both the Commissioner and senior Police Officers, these discussions have predominantly taken place at informal meetings, such meetings are held with the Commissioner three or four times a year. Whilst challenging questions have been asked, the Panel have been reassured by the outcome of these conversations.

Whilst the vetting of new recruits and the ongoing vetting of police officers may seem a relatively narrow issue, the Panel have taken the view that vetting plays a vital role in establishing and maintaining the culture of the Constabulary. As you may be

aware, the quality and frequency of the vetting of officers has featured as a key issue in the reviews that have been undertaken into the Metropolitan Police Service following a number of high profile cases, including the inquiry following the murder of Sarah Everard by serving Metropolitan Police Officer, Wayne Couzens.

You asked a number of specific questions about the nature, detail, take up and effectiveness of the equalities training undertaken by the Cheshire Constabulary. You also asked what training the Commissioner himself had undertaken. I have written to the Commissioner to ask these specific questions but have yet to receive a reply. I will ensure that you are provided with a copy of his reply when it is received.

You also ask what training Panel members have received. Equalities training was undertaken by the Panel a number of years ago, but I am conscious that following a period of relative stability, there has been significant turnover in Panel membership over recent months. However, it should be noted that ten of the Panel's thirteen members are elected Councillors. The training delivered across the four Cheshire Councils will vary, but I am confident that all Councillor members of the Police and Crime Panel will have undertaken some equalities training within their own Council since their election, such training is frequently mandatory.

A "new" Police and Crime Panel will be appointed for the 2024/25 civic year. At the present time I have no idea what the Panel's councillor membership will be following the annual meeting in June. However, irrespective of the detail of membership, I have asked that a training plan is developed, this plan will include the issue of equalities.

As you will be aware from your attendance at the last meeting, the Panel formally resolved to recommend that the newly elected Commissioner should include the 16 recommendations from the Angiolini Review in their new Police and Crime Plan and that progress should be monitored through the Commissioner's Scrutiny meetings with the Chief Constable. I will be writing to the newly elected Commissioner to draw this request to his attention. You may find it helpful to read the recommendations of this important Review, they can be seen at [Reports – The Angiolini Inquiry](#).

Thank you again for your attendance at, and contribution to, the last meeting of the Panel. I will be in contact with you again when I receive a response to my questions from the Commissioner.

Yours sincerely,

*Evan Morris*

**Evan Morris MBE  
Chair, Cheshire Police and Crime Panel**

**(a) The Panel's Terms of Reference**

- (1) To review and make a report or recommendation on the draft police and crime plan, or draft variation, given to the Panel by the Police and Crime Commissioner (the PCC).
- (2) To review the annual report of the PCC, and to put questions about the annual report to the PCC at a public meeting, and make a report or recommendation upon it.
- (3) To hold a confirmation hearing and review, make a report, and recommendation (as necessary) in respect of proposed senior appointments made by the PCC.
- (4) To review and make a report on the proposed appointment of the Chief Constable.
- (5) To review and make a report and recommendation (as necessary) on the proposed precept.
- (6) To review or scrutinise decisions made, or other action taken, by the PCC in connection with the discharge of the PCC's functions.
- (7) To make reports or recommendations to the PCC with respect to the discharge of the PCC's functions.
- (8) To support the effective exercise of the functions of the PCC.
- (9) To fulfil functions in relation to complaints about conduct matters, in accordance with the responsibilities accorded to the Panel by the Police Reform and Social Responsibility Act 2011.
- (10) To appoint an Acting PCC where this becomes necessary.
- (11) To suspend the PCC if it appears to the Panel that the PCC has been charged in the United Kingdom with an offence which carries a maximum term of imprisonment exceeding two years.

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