

CHIEF CONSTABLE PROVIDES AN UPDATE TO THE POLICE AND CRIME PANEL POLICE AND CRIME PANEL

27th July 2020

South Yorkshire's Chief Constable, Mr Stephen Watson, provided Members of the Police and Crime Panel with a (virtual) briefing on Monday 20th July 2020.

Mr Watson covered the Force's response to the COVID-19 pandemic, and the enforcement of the regulations. He also talked about the recovery phase and what that would mean for South Yorkshire Police.

In his time with South Yorkshire, Mr Watson has been instrumental in re-introducing Neighbourhood Policing, a move that has seen public satisfaction increase.

The Panel were informed of the intention to recruit more officers within South Yorkshire by 2023, in addition to those already working out in communities.

Despite the challenges, Mr Watson acknowledged the significant challenges that will face Forces as a result of the pandemic, not least the cessation of Court Hearings which will inevitably result in a backlog and the impact on budgets and funding.

The Chief Constable's attendance is an annual event, and one which the Panel welcomes to provide additional context around the operational policing. The Panel's role is to support and scrutinise the Police and Crime Commissioner, Dr Alan Billings, who – in turn – holds the Chief Constable to account for the delivery of the Police and Crime Plan.

Cllr David Nevett, the Chair of South Yorkshire Police and Crime Panel, said:
"It was a pleasure to hear from Mr Watson. Whilst the Panel does not hold the Chief Constable to account, it's always useful to have an insight in to the challenges faced operationally. The information provided will help the Panel to more effectively support and scrutinise the Police and Crime Commissioner. We thank Mr Watson for taking time out of his busy schedule".

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