



South Yorkshire

POLICE & CRIME PANEL

**Supporting and Scrutinising the
Police and Crime Commissioner for
South Yorkshire**

**ANNUAL REPORT 2021-22
(DRAFT)**

FOREWORD

Welcome to the Annual Report of the South Yorkshire Police and Crime Panel. The Panel is made up of ten councillors from across the four District Councils – Barnsley, Doncaster, Rotherham and Sheffield, together with two Independent Members.

In 2021-22, the Chair was, myself, Councillor Rukhsana Haleem, from Rotherham MBC and the Vice-Chair Councillor Anita Cherryholme from Barnsley MBC.

Police and Crime Panels were established in November 2012 to provide support to, and scrutiny of, the Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC). There is more about this in Section 1.

The Annual Report provides an update on the work the Panel has undertaken in the period June 2021 to June 2022 to fulfil its statutory responsibilities, whilst continuing to develop its role to support and scrutinise the work of the Police and Crime Commissioner. We hope it will give you a good idea of who we are, what we do, and how we do it.

The ongoing restrictions as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic inevitably impacted on some of the Panel's public meetings, but not all. However, the public can rest assured that virtual meetings were held where we were unable to come together in person, and governance and scrutiny continued without interruption. The Panel also managed to take advantage of online learning and development to support their role.

As with the 2020-21 Annual Report, myself and the Panel, wish to pay tribute to the way in which the Police and Crime Commissioner and South Yorkshire Police have responded to the challenges the pandemic has brought. We give our thanks also to the staff within the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner (OPCC) who have continued to provide information and data to allow the Panel to fulfil their role.

Our contact details and website address are given at the end of the report.

With thanks



Cllr Rukhsana Haleem
Chair, South Yorkshire Police and Crime Panel 2021-22

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1. WHAT IS SOUTH YORKSHIRE POLICE AND CRIME PANEL?

The South Yorkshire Police and Crime Panel came into being in November 2012, at the same time as elections for Police and Crime Commissioners were held across the country. Both were part of the new police governance arrangements whereby Commissioners and Panels replaced the old Police Authorities and took over, respectively, their governance and scrutiny functions under the Police and Social Responsibility Act 2011.

Police and Crime Panels are joint scrutiny bodies of the local authorities in the police force area and are mainly composed of elected members from these authorities. All Panels have the right to co-opt independent members who are not local Councillors. Councillor membership of a Police and Crime Panel must be geographically and politically proportionate.

Some areas have Police, Fire and Crime Panels (PFCP) where their Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner has also taken on responsibility for the Fire and Rescue Service. The nearest PFCP to us is [North Yorkshire](#). In West Yorkshire, the Police and Crime Panel is overseen by a Mayor.

2. PANEL MEMBERSHIP 2021/22

In South Yorkshire the number of members from each authority and each political party was agreed by Council Leaders as follows: -

- 2 members each from Metropolitan Borough Councils and 4 from Sheffield City Council
- 2 Independent Members

In 2021-22, the membership changed substantially, including a new Chair and Vice-Chair.

Barnsley MBC: Councillor Anita Cherryholme (Vice-Chair)
 Councillor Clive Pickering
 Councillor Sarah Tattersall (Substitute Member)

Doncaster MBC: Councillor Sue Knowles
 Councillor Cynthia Ransome

Rotherham MBC: Councillor Rukhsana Haleem (Chair)
 Councillor Tim Baum-Dixon

Sheffield CC: Councillor Bryan Lodge
 Councillor Peter Garbutt
 Councillor Ruth Milsom
 Councillor Roger Davison
 Councillor Joe Otten (Substitute Member for Cllr Davison)

Independent Members: Professor Adrian James
 Warren Carratt

The host Authority for the Police and Crime Panel is Barnsley MBC which took over responsibility from Rotherham MBC on 1st April 2017.

3. TERMS OF REFERENCE OF SOUTH YORKSHIRE POLICE AND CRIME PANEL

- To review the draft police and crime plan, or draft variation, given to the Police and Crime Panel (the Panel) by the Police and Crime Commissioner (the Commissioner).
- The Panel must make a report or recommendations on the draft plan or variation to the Commissioner.
- To review the annual report produced in accordance with s.12 of the Police Reform and Social Responsibility Act 2011 (the Act) and make a report or recommendations on the report to the Commissioner. The Panel is required to arrange a public meeting at which they ask the Commissioner questions, as appropriate, on the annual report.
- To hold a confirmation hearing and review, make a report and recommendation in respect of proposed senior appointments made by the Commissioner. These appointments are:-
 - the Commissioner's Chief Executive;
 - the Commissioner's Chief Finance Officer;
 - a Deputy Commissioner; and
 - the Chief Constable.
- To make recommendations to the Police and Crime Commissioner with regard to any proposal by the Commissioner to suspend the Chief Constable.
- To review and make a report and recommendations (as necessary) on the proposed precept. The Panel has the power to veto the proposed precept.
- To review or scrutinise decisions made, or other action taken, by the Commissioner in connection with the discharge of the Commissioner's statutory functions.
- To make reports or recommendations to the Commissioner with respect to the discharge of the Commissioner's statutory functions.
- To support the effective exercise of the statutory functions of the Commissioner.
- To fulfil functions in relation to complaints about conduct matters, in accordance with the responsibilities accorded to the Panel by the Act.
- To appoint an Acting Commissioner if necessary.

- To suspend the Commissioner if it appears to the Panel that the Commissioner has been charged with a relevant offence (s.30 of the Police Reform and Social Responsibility Act 2011).
- To exercise any other functions conferred on the Panel under the Act, as required.

What is the difference between the Police & Crime Commissioner and the Police & Crime Panel?

The relative roles of the Police and Crime Panel and the Police and Crime Commissioners are as follows:

- the Police and Crime Commissioner provides strategic governance to the area police force and holds the Chief Constable to account;
- the Police and Crime Panel scrutinises the decisions and policy making and the performance of the Commissioner, on behalf of local authorities in the area and the general public.

The Panel's primary role is to scrutinise the way the Police and Crime Commissioner exercises his statutory function of providing strategic direction in local policing, and also provide support to him in carrying out his role.

Police and Crime Panels are often described as acting as a 'critical friend' – a supportive but independent voice seeking to examine and challenge the Commissioner's policies and actions in the interests of recommending changes and improvements. The purpose of the Panel's recommendations is 'to add tangible value to the delivery of the Commissioner's policies across the force area', as well as to scrutinise his activities.

The Panel requires the Commissioner and/or his staff to attend Panel meetings. It can invite the Chief Constable or any other witness but can't require them to be there. The Panel should not scrutinise the Chief Constable on operational policing matters, and must maintain an awareness of the boundary between operational and strategic policing issues, which is not always easy.

One of the main challenges for all Panels is how to provide robust scrutiny whilst staying within its remit and avoiding duplicating research or consultation undertaken by the Commissioner or other scrutiny bodies. For example, in confirmation hearings for a Chief Constable appointment, the Panel's role is to confirm that the candidate has both the professional competence and the personal independence to fulfil the role, without replicating the original selection process.

The Panel's Core Work Programme

The Panel has some statutory scrutiny responsibilities which it must deliver and these constitute its core work programme:

- review annually the Commissioner's proposed council tax precept, with powers to veto once;

- review annually the Commissioner's Police and Crime Plan and his Annual Report;
- scrutinise the Commissioner's proposed appointment of a Chief Constable, with the power to veto once, and scrutinise the appointment of any deputy commissioner and the Commissioner's senior executive staff;
- consider non-criminal complaints against the Commissioner.
- In addition to the above, the Panel can engage in further scrutiny reviews on any topic relevant to its role.

The Panel can also make reports and recommendations to the Commissioner over and above its core work programme, on any topic which falls within its remit, and it can carry out investigations as it sees fit into the Commissioner's decisions and delivery of his duties.

Apart from the two instances where the Panel has a veto (the level of the police precept and the appointment of a Chief Constable) it achieves its impact by influence, by examining reports and draft policy documents, questioning the Commissioner and/or external witnesses, and then making recommendations. These are communicated to the Commissioner in writing and are publicly recorded in the Panel's Minutes.

The main Panel meetings are open to the public to attend physically.

Meetings of the Panel can also be viewed live by following the link below, and the recordings of the meeting are retained in the public domain for six months – <https://southyorks.public-i.tv/core/portal/home>

The Panel's website is www.barnsley.gov.uk/sypcp

4. HIGHLIGHTS OF ACTIVITY IN 2021/22

2021-22 saw a significant change in the membership of the Panel following the local elections. This included a new Chair and Vice-Chair.

Whilst we welcome new Members, consistency is important to ensure informed decision-making. Panel Members have regularly expressed the view that a more stable membership would be beneficial in ensuring the effective discharge of its responsibilities, and it is hoped that the South Yorkshire Leaders will recognise this when appointing to the Panel. Nationally, this view has also been expressed to the Home Office who, as part of their Home Office Review of the role of Police and Crime Commissioners, are advocating greater use of Independent Members of the Panel who are recruited outside of the political appointment process.

Lead Member arrangements

Police and Crime Panels across the country have differing arrangements in place to provide additional support and scrutiny around the Police and Crime Plan priorities and key areas of work. The most common way of doing this is through Lead Members, Task and Finish Groups, or other sub-group arrangements.

South Yorkshire has a Lead Member for finance and the budget, and an established

Budget Working Group which meets outside Panel meetings on a quarterly basis to look at financial information in more detail, particularly in advance of the precept setting in February.

Additionally, the Panel has appointed a Lead and Deputy Lead for performance. The Performance Lead Member and Deputy provide additional - more detailed - scrutiny on the quarterly performance reports submitted to the Panel to understand the data and narrative behind them. This has proved extremely useful. The issues raised are shared with the Panel as part of the briefing process for main meetings.

Members will continue - through the work programme and quarterly performance reports - to monitor the delivery of the priorities and commitments within the Police and Crime Plan. The Plan can be viewed here - <https://southyorkshire-pcc.gov.uk/what-we-do/police-crime-plan/>

Other Events

The Panel continued to engage in virtual learning and development to enhance their knowledge, and where physical visits were unable to take place.

Of particular note are:

Confirmation Hearing for the new Chief Constable – 11th June 2021

One of the statutory responsibilities of the Police and Crime Panel is to formally confirm the appointment of the Chief Constable, and other senior posts within the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner.

1st – 2nd November 2021 – Annual Police, Fire and Crime Panels Conference

This was a physical event held in Warwick. It brings together representatives from Police, Fire and Crime Panels across the UK to network, hear from the Home Office and other key speakers on the important issues Panel's should be dealing with to support their Commissioner.

5th November 2021 – Session with District Community Safety Partnerships (CSP).

Part of the Panel's role is a requirement to strengthen links with their District Community Safety Partnerships (CSP).

This was the second annual session held with Panel representatives and Lead officers from each District CSP. Yet again, it was extremely helpful for all involved.

12th November 2021

The Chief Constable offered Panel Members a 'Force Induction Day' to provide more information around key areas of work such as the Force Control room, tackling rural crime, commissioning services and performance. It is hoped that this can be repeated annually.

6th December 2021

A virtual session from IDAS around domestic abuse, and how the Panel can help to support and scrutinise the Commissioner in this important area.

10th December 2021

Some of the Panel visited the Sexual Abuse and Referral Centre (SARC) in Sheffield to learn of the work they do to protect and support the most vulnerable.

25th February 2022

A virtual session from those working within the Violence Reduction Unit. Violence Reduction Units have been set up across the country and funded by Government to prevent and reduce violence.

Regionally, the Panel's Support Officer is an active member of the **Yorkshire and Humberside Regional Police, Fire and Crime Panels Network**. The Network is facilitated by Frontline Consulting, which runs the Annual National Police, Fire and Crime Panel Conference, and provides support to Police, Fire and Crime Panels across the UK. The Network met virtually in September 2021 and March 2022 and is made up of Panel Members and Support Officers who share information around good practice, support and scrutiny for the Commissioner, learning and development, the use of the Grant from the Home Office, innovation, work programming and future plans etc.

A **National Association of Police, Fire and Crime Panels** has been established as a national 'voice' for Police and Crime Panels. It is led by Essex Police, Fire and Crime Panel and the Local Government Association (LGA). The Association has met virtually during 2021-22 and continues to share information and documentation via e-mail.

It is hoped the National Association will continue to develop and complement the work of the National Association of Police and Crime Commissioners. The Association will be a forum where information can be shared to jointly influence and deliver the very best policing services for our communities.

5. GOVERNANCE, SUPPORT AND SCRUTINY

As mentioned above, the Panel has a **Budget Working Group**. The Group consists of one Member from each District and one Independent Member, and is supported by the Chief Finance and Commissioning Officer from the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner (OPCC). This informal Group meets quarterly to receive, examine and digest issues around the Force and OPCC budget in advance of the formal budget and precept setting in February each year.

Panel Members can attend to observe, but not participate in, the Commissioner's **Public Accountability Board (PAB)**. This forum is where the Commissioner holds the Chief Constable, and senior leadership team of South Yorkshire Police, to account. The Board has provided Panel Members with increased operational knowledge to enable them to better fulfil their support and scrutiny role.

The Panel also has the same status - observing but not taking part - at the Commissioner's **Countywide Community Safety Forum**. This Forum involves the key officers from the four District Community Safety Partnerships.

To complement the above, the Panel has strengthened its links with the District Community Safety Partnerships (CSPs). An annual session is held with the Panel and

Lead Officers from each of the District CSPs. Additionally, the Panel has representation at each of the District CSP meetings, either as a full member or an observer member. Each of the Member representatives provides feedback to the wider Panel on the work in their own area.

In terms of wider governance - the role and responsibilities of the Panel and the Commissioner's own governance framework in holding the Chief Constable to account - remains challenging. However, work continues supported by the host Authority (Barnsley MBC) and Frontline Consulting, to ensure the Panel has the skills, knowledge and support to continually improve and serve the electorate the very best it can. The Panel itself will continue to develop its role to ensure it is supporting and scrutinising the work of the Police and Crime Commissioner.

6. THE POLICE & CRIME PANEL AND THE PUBLIC

South Yorkshire Police and Crime Panel has a [website](https://www.barnsley.gov.uk/south-yorkshire-police-and-crime-panel) – <https://www.barnsley.gov.uk/south-yorkshire-police-and-crime-panel> and this is where you can find copies of the agenda papers and minutes for the Panel meetings.

There is information about Members of the Panel, its spending, how to make complaints and other useful documentation.

Police and Crime Panel meetings are open to members of the Public and the **Rules of Procedure** for submitting and asking public questions are in the Document Library of the Police and Crime Panel website.

7. THE YEAR AHEAD (2022-23)

Panel Membership for 2022-23 is given below:

****TO BE ADDED POST ANNUAL MEETING****

Previous Police and Crime Panel Members who left in 2021/22:

Barnsley – Councillor Anita Cherryholme (Vice-Chair)
Sheffield – Councillor Bryan Lodge (Sheffield City Council)
Independent Member - Professor Adrian James

Thanks are given to all Panel Members for their contributions over the past year.

Home Office - Fire Reform White Paper

The biggest challenge facing the Panel in 2022-23 is the Home Office consultation on Fire and Rescue Service reform. As mentioned earlier, legislation already allows for Police and Crime Commissioners to take on responsibility for fire and rescue where consultation has been undertaken. Some areas have a Mayoral model such as Greater Manchester and West Yorkshire. The [Fire Reform White Paper](#) and consultation was published on 18 May 2022, which seeks to introduce a system wide

reform to strengthen fire and rescue services across England. Proposals are set out under three key themes: people, professionalism, and governance. The consultation launched on 18 May 2022 will be open for 10 weeks.

At the centre of the White Paper are plans to deliver:

- **Increased public safety:** by improving the professionalism of the fire and rescue service through modern workforce practices and potentially establishing a College of Fire and Rescue.
- **Improved accountability:** through the proposals to transfer fire governance to a single elected individual, overseeing delivery by operationally independent Chief Fire Officers.
- **Better engagement with the public:** through the 10-week consultation the government will listen to the views of the public and stakeholders, after which it will finalise its reform programme.

Additionally, the Home Secretary has commissioned two reviews of the role and responsibilities of Police and Crime Commissioners. Part One reported in March 2021, and the recommendations are being implemented.

Part Two reported in March 2022 and, again, the recommendations and actions will be implemented by Police and Crime Commissioners and host Authorities as appropriate.

Work Programme

The Panel has a work programme that is reviewed every 4-6 weeks as part of the pre-agenda planning with the Commissioner. As would be expected the programme covers the statutory responsibilities of the Panel, alongside other key issues of importance to the public of South Yorkshire, and which emanates from the Commissioner's Public Accountability Board. The Panel has, quite rightly, focused on the performance post-COVID and what the Commissioner is doing to ensure the Force is focusing operational resources on areas of concern such as domestic abuse, child sexual exploitation, anti-social behaviour, burglary and Violence Against Women and Girls.

Whilst the Commissioner is ultimately responsible for holding the Chief Constable to account for the delivery of policing, the Panel has an important role to play - through its work programme - in ensuring that their constituents' views are represented.

South Yorkshire Police and Crime Panel will continue its commitment to support, and to scrutinise the decisions of the Police and Crime Commissioner in order to secure an efficient and effective Police Force for the people of South Yorkshire.

Over the next twelve months the Panel will focus on the following key areas:

- review the PCC's Annual Report;
- work with the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner (OPCC) to ensure the delivery of the Police and Crime Plan 2022-2025, including the receipt of quarterly performance reports;
- support and scrutinise the PCC for the delivery of his precept commitments;

- undertake proactive scrutiny where there is value in doing so;
- maintain a work programme in consultation with the OPCC;
- have regard to the Policing and Crime Act and the legislative changes, including emergency services collaboration;
- continue to monitor progress on improving crime data integrity;
- Ensure that the Police and Crime Commissioner and Chief Constable recruit, retain and progress a workforce which reflects the communities it serves.
- Support the Police and Crime Commissioner to maximise opportunities for joint working with other partners, organisations and the community and voluntary sector.
- Liaise with Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary, Fire and Rescue Service (HMICFRS) to improve the Panel's understanding of South Yorkshire Police's performance.
- Provide ongoing Panel Member learning, development and support.

8. CONTACT DETAILS

The host authority for South Yorkshire Police and Crime Panel is currently Barnsley MBC.

Contact details:

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Or via the website at <https://www.barnsley.gov.uk/sypcp>