

Meeting Date	6 JUNE 2022
Report of	CLERK TO THE POLICE AND CRIME PANEL
Subject	LEAD / LINK MEMBERS – REVIEW

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Lead / Link Member arrangement has been cited as best practice for Police and Crime Panels across the country as an alternative model of delivering effective support and scrutiny for the Police and Crime Commissioner.

It provides additional capacity for Members to explore, in more detail, key elements of the Police and Crime Plan priorities. As outlined in a report to the Panel on 1st July 2019, the Lead / Link model varies from region to region dependent on the number of members on the Panel, and the capacity to support extra meetings / activity. What is important is that the model works for both the Panel and the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner (OPCC).

At the Panel meeting on 7 June 2021, it was agreed that to continue with the Budget Working Group and Performance Sub-Group with the following Lead Members, but to review on an annual basis:

- Budget Working Group – Chair of the Panel
- Performance Sub-group – (Temporary Lead Member) - Cllr Peter Garbutt following the resignation of Professor Adrian James on 3 May 2022, Deputy Lead Member – Vacancy.

However, following the District Council Annual meetings there have been some changes in the membership of the Panel which has resulted in vacancies (see paragraphs 7 and 9).

It is worth noting that both the Budget Working Group and Performance Sub-group are working very well, and providing an invaluable opportunity for Members to discuss the budget and performance issues in greater detail than is possible during a public Panel meeting. That said, there should also be cognisance of the collective role and responsibility of the Panel; any arrangement should not impinge on, or dilute, those statutory responsibilities.

The Panel is also grateful for the support of the OPCC for both Groups.

RECOMMENDATION(S)

Members of the Police and Crime Panel are recommended to:-

- a) Agree that the current arrangements for the Budget Working Group and Performance Sub-Group continue.
- b) Appoint a Sheffield Member to the Budget Working Group (see paragraph 7).

- c) Appoint a permanent Lead Member and Deputy Lead Member for Performance (see paragraph 8)
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Main Report

Appendix A – Protocol (Lead Member Role Profile)

BACKGROUND

1. The Police Reform and Social Responsibility Act 2011 introduced Police and Crime Panels, and included scrutiny as one of their core functions.
2. There are many ways effective scrutiny can be exercised – through the Panel meetings, Task and Finish Groups, sub-committees. Another model, and one which has been adopted in many Police and Crime Panels is the introduction of Lead Members (sometimes known as Link Members or Member Champions).
3. The models vary from Panel to Panel; some have one Member supporting an area and others a Group of Members. Frequency of meetings and support arrangements also vary. What is important is that whatever is introduced works for the Panel – and the OPCC - and provides added value.
4. South Yorkshire PCP already has an established Budget Working Group (BWG) which is working extremely well, and a Complaints Panel.
5. In July 2019, an additional Lead Member role was established in the area of performance. The Performance Sub-Group provides an opportunity for the Lead and Deputy lead to discuss the performance information in more depth. This has provided a greater understanding of how the data is gathered, what is reported to the Home Office, the role of the Office for National Statistics etc. Issues raised at the sub-group meetings are included in the wider Panel Briefing. It is also safe to say that input from the Lead and Deputy Lead members has assisted in the development of the performance report to meet the Panel's needs.
6. In terms of the Performance sub-group, the Panel accepts that there is considerable resource from the OPCC's Evaluation and Scrutiny officer to support the Group, but it is strongly suggested that the Group continue as it is considered best practice in other Police, (Fire) and Crime Panels by the Centre for Public Scrutiny / LGA.

CURRENT ARRANGEMENTS / PROPOSAL

7. The BWG is well-established, and ably supported by the OPCC's Chief Finance and Commissioning Officer. It is recommended that the BWG continue with the existing membership – one Member from each District and one Independent Member. The membership is, therefore, as follows with one vacancy.

Cllr Rukhsana Haleem	Lead Member (Budget) / Chair of Budget Working Group
Cllr Clive Pickering	Barnsley
Cllr Cynthia Ransome	Doncaster
Vacancy	Sheffield
Warren Carratt	Independent Member

8. The Complaints Panel (which deals with complaints against the PCC only) is made up of:

Cllr Rukhsana Haleem	Chair (or the Vice-Chair if the Chair is unavailable)
Warren Carratt	Independent Member
Vacancy	Independent Member
Panel Legal Adviser	
Panel Support Officer	

The Complaints Panel is only convened if the Legal Adviser considers this to be absolutely necessary, and the complaint needs further discussion over and above e-mail correspondence.

9. The current (temporary) Lead Member (Performance) is Cllr Peter Garbutt following the Lead Member's resignation from the Panel on 3rd May 2022. There is a vacancy for the Deputy Lead. The Performance sub-group is supported by the OPCC's Evaluation and Scrutiny Officer, Kevin Wright.

The Panel will need to nominate a permanent Lead Member and Deputy Lead Member.

10. It is important that the OPCC are comfortable with this approach, and the role and boundaries, as they will be the first point of contact in respect of detail around each of the areas.
11. It should also be acknowledged that Elected Members of the Panel are already extremely busy with constituency and Council duties, and this is additional work over and above the Panel. However, the value of the BWG and the additional information around performance has been invaluable in supporting the support and scrutiny of the PCC.

Role and Remit of Lead Members

12. A Lead Member Role Profile is given at Appendix A, but in summary Lead Members will:
 - Liaise regularly with a nominated person at the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner and **not** South Yorkshire Police.
 - Keep the Panel up-to-date by providing feedback as appropriate at full Panel meetings. This could be a standing agenda item.
 - Generally, promote the Panel (raise awareness of the role).
 - Provide additional support and scrutiny of the PCC.
13. Lead Members should remember that the Panel covers the whole of South Yorkshire, and care should be taken not to become too parochial around operational activity in specific Districts / Wards. The role should not impinge on issues outside the Panel's remit which is holding the PCC to account, and **not** the Chief Constable. There are other ways of raising operational issues as follows:
 - Questions to the Public Accountability Board (submitted in writing 5 working days in advance).
 - Questions to the Commissioner at the Police and Crime Panel (informally via the Joint Authorities Governance Unit).
 - Through the District Commander (SY Police).
 - At local Safer Neighbourhood Team (or equivalent) meetings.
14. The Lead Member role has no additional allowance attached to it, but reasonable expenses (travel and subsistence) are paid if the role necessitates attending meetings across the County, or any regional / national conferences.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

15. Reasonable travel and subsistence associated with the role will be reimbursed on submission of the usual claim form and receipts.

LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

16. There are no direct legal implications arising from this report.

HEALTH AND SAFETY IMPLICATIONS

17. There are no direct health and safety implications arising from this role.

EQUALITY & DIVERSITY IMPLICATIONS

18. The role of Lead Member is open to all Panel Members without discrimination.

List of background documents		
Report to PCP – 7 June 2021		
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PROTOCOL (LEAD MEMBER ROLE PROFILE)

1. A Lead Member can be any member of South Yorkshire Police and Crime Panel (PCP).
2. The PCP is responsible for appointing Lead Members.
3. Lead Members will be appointed for one municipal year and reviewed at the Annual Meeting.

Role of a Lead Member

4. Lead Members will be appointed to the following areas for 2021-22:
 - **Budget**
 - **Performance**
5. The above areas are subject to change should the Police and Crime Commissioner issue a variation to the current Police and Crime Plan. They will also be subject to an annual review.
6. The role and remit of the Lead Member is to liaise with the staff from the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner as appropriate and **not** South Yorkshire Police.
7. Lead Members should remember that the Panel covers the whole of South Yorkshire, and that their role should not impinge on issues outside the Panel's remit; the PCP's role is to hold the PCC to account and **not** the Chief Constable.
8. A Lead Member cannot make decisions and must not commit the PCP in any way or in a manner that could be interpreted as being contrary to the established Rules of Procedure, e.g. committing monies or resources.
9. A Lead Member must not talk to the media without first consulting the Panel's Legal Advisor and/or the Chair of the PCP.
10. The Lead Member will:
 - Regularly liaise with the officers of the OPCC as appropriate.
 - Keep the PCP up-to-date with activities within their area (as a standing item on the PCP agenda);
 - Generally, promote the work of the Panel.

Review

11. The Protocol (Lead Member Role Profile) will be effective from 8th June 2021 and will be subject to an annual review unless an earlier review is requested either by the Panel or the OPCC.