

<b>Meeting Date</b>	<b>12 JUNE 2023</b>
<b>Report of</b>	<b>PANEL'S SUPPORT OFFICER</b>
<b>Subject</b>	<b>LEAD / LINK MEMBERS – REVIEW</b>

## **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 1 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 5 June 2022, it was agreed that the Panel would 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 – Councillor Haleem – Lead Member / Chair of the Budget Working Group.
- Performance Sub-Group – Councillor Garbutt - Lead Member. Deputy Lead Member – Councillor Haleem.

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 10 and 11).

The report also provides the Panel with an update in relation to the Performance Sub-Group and informs the Panel that a proposal has been received from the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner (OPCC) for arrangements to be made for all Panel Members to attend a Performance Induction Briefing later in the year.

There will also be an opportunity at the Performance Induction Briefing for a conversation to take place with Panel Members on the current performance framework where options around data provision can be discussed. Panel Members will also be presented with options around future performance reporting. It is recommended that the Panel considers appointing a Lead and Deputy Lead Member for performance following the Performance Induction Briefing.

It is worth noting that the Budget Working Group is working very well and providing an invaluable opportunity for Members to discuss the budget 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.

## **RECOMMENDATION(S)**

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

- a) Agree that the current arrangements for the Budget Working Group continue.
- b) Agree that arrangements be made with the OPCC for all Panel Members to attend a Performance Induction Briefing later in the year.
- c) Agree to consider appointing a Lead and Deputy Lead Member for performance following the Performance Induction Briefing.
- c) Appoint a Barnsley Member to the Budget Working Group (see paragraph 10).
- d) Appoint the new Chair of the Panel and an Independent Member to the Complaints Panel (see paragraph 11).

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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 Police and Crime Panel already has an established Budget Working Group (BWG) which is working extremely well, and a Complaints Panel.

## **PERFORMANCE SUB-GROUP – REVIEW AND PROPOSAL**

5. In July 2019, a Lead and Deputy Lead Member role was created in the area of performance. At this time, a Performance Sub-Group was established, which provided an opportunity for the Lead and Deputy Lead to discuss the quarterly Police and Crime Plan performance reports in more depth with the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner's (OPCC's) Evaluation and Scrutiny officer.
6. At the OPCC's Performance Induction session held on 24 November 2022, a discussion and review took place with the Lead Member for Performance and Panel Members around the effectiveness and value of the Performance Sub-Group.
7. Following Member feedback and discussion with the OPCC, it was agreed that meetings of the Performance Sub-Group should be put on hold due to the considerable staffing resources that are required from the OPCC's Evaluation and Scrutiny officer to support the Group.
8. To assist Panel Members in understanding the data presented in the quarterly Police and Crime Plan performance report, the OPCC are proposing that arrangements be made later this year for all Panel Members to attend a Performance Induction Briefing.
9. At the Performance Induction Briefing, a conversation with Panel Members will take place on the current performance framework where options around data provision can be discussed. Panel Members will also be presented with options around future performance reporting.
10. It is recommended that the Panel considers appointing a Lead and Deputy Lead Member for Performance following the Performance Induction Briefing.

## **CURRENT ARRANGEMENTS**

11. The Budget Working Group is well-established, and ably supported by the OPCC's Chief Finance Officer. It is recommended that the Budget Working Group 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
<b>VACANCY</b>	<b>Barnsley</b>
Cllr Cynthia Ransome	Doncaster
Cllr Roger Davison	Sheffield
Warren Carratt	Independent Member

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

<b>VACANCY</b>	<b>Chair</b> (or the Vice-Chair if the Chair is unavailable)
Warren Carratt	Independent Member
<b>VACANCY</b>	Independent Member
Panel Legal Adviser	
Panel Support Officer	

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

13. 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 Budget Working Group has been invaluable in scrutinising and supporting the PCC.

#### **Role and Remit of Lead Members**

14. 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.
  - Generally, promote the Panel (raise awareness of the role).
  - Provide additional support and scrutiny of the PCC.
15. 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 Governance Unit).
  - Through the District Commander (SY Police).
  - At local Safer Neighbourhood Team (or equivalent) meetings.

16. 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**

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

#### **LEGAL IMPLICATIONS**

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

#### **HEALTH AND SAFETY IMPLICATIONS**

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

#### **EQUALITY & DIVERSITY IMPLICATIONS**

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

<b>List of background documents</b>		
Lead / Link Members Report to PCP – 6 June 2022		
Report Author:	Name:	Andrew Shirt, Council Governance Officer
	e-mail:	andrewshirt@barnsley.gov.uk
	Tel no:	(01226) 772207

**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 2023-24:
  - **Budget**
5. The above area is 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 12 June 2023 and will be subject to an annual review unless an earlier review is requested either by the Panel or the OPCC.