



South Yorkshire

POLICE & CRIME PANEL

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

**ANNUAL REPORT 2022-23
(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 three Independent Co-opted Members.

In 2022-23, the Chair was, myself, Councillor Rukhsana Haleem, from Rotherham MBC and the Vice-Chair Councillor Clive Pickering 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 2022-23 Municipal Year 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.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all Members of the Panel over the last year for their commitment and contributions, and to the Police and Crime Commissioner and his 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.

I have enjoyed my two years in office and hand over to the new Chair secure in the knowledge that the Police and Crime Panel will continue to play a constructive and effective role in scrutinising and supporting the Police and Crime Commissioner.

With thanks



Councillor Rukhsana Haleem
Chair, South Yorkshire Police and Crime Panel 2022-23

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1. **INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND**

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.

The PCC has responsibility for setting the direction, objectives and budget of South Yorkshire Police, and for holding the Chief Constable to account. The Police and Crime Panel's role is to scrutinise and support the performance of the PCC over a range of policy areas, including the delivery of the Police and Crime Plan.

The key functions of the Panel are:

- To review the PCC's Police and Crime Plan.
- To hold the PCC to account for the delivery of the Police and Crime Plan – the Panel has the powers to request any necessary information from the PCC on his decisions.
- To review and report on the appointment of the Chief Constable and other senior appointments – the Panel has the powers to veto the appointment of the Chief Constable.
- To review the Commissioner's proposed police precept – the Panel has powers to veto the precept.
- To scrutinise the PCC's Annual Report.
- To consider complaints against the PCC.

Further information is available on the Panel's website at: <https://www.barnsley.gov.uk/sypcp>

2. PANEL MEMBERSHIP 2022/23

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; and
- 3 Independent Members

The membership of the Panel for 2022/23 was:

Barnsley MBC: Councillor Clive Pickering (**Vice-Chair**)
Councillor Janine Moyes (w.e.f. 21 May 2022)
Councillor Kevin Osborne (*Substitute Member*)

City of Doncaster Council: Councillor Sue Knowles
Councillor Cynthia Ransome

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

Sheffield City Council: Councillor Tony Downing (w.e.f. 19 May 2022)
Councillor Peter Garbutt
Councillor Ruth Milsom
Councillor Roger Davison
Councillor Maleiki Haybe (*Substitute Member*)

Independent Members: Warren Carratt
Jacqueline Griffin (w.e.f. 3 February 2023)
Richard Hindley (w.e.f. 3 February 2023)

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

3. PANEL ACTIVITIES AND ACHIEVEMENTS IN 2022/23

As in 2021/22, the Panel saw further changes to its membership. The Panel welcomed two new elected Members and two new Independent (Co-opted) Members, giving a total of four new Members over the municipal year. Councillor Rukhsana Haleem continued her second year in office as Chair of the Panel, and Councillor Clive Pickering was appointed as Vice-Chair at the Panel's Annual meeting held in June 2022.

During 2022/23, the South Yorkshire Police and Crime Panel held five public Panel meetings on 6 June 2022 (Annual Meeting), 10 October 2022, 5 December 2022, 3 February 2023 and 24 April 2023.

The Panel meeting scheduled for 18 July 2022 was cancelled, when an extreme unprecedented heatwave hit the UK.

The Panel also held a private question and answer session with the Chief Constable of South Yorkshire Police on 5 December 2022.

All meetings were held in person and webcast live via <https://www.southyorks.public-i.tv>

Details of the agendas, supporting papers and minutes for those meetings were published on the host authority's website and can be found at: <https://www.barnsley.gov.uk/sypcp> (meetings, agendas and documents).

During 2022/23, five Member only pre-meetings were held and attended by the Chair, Vice-Chair, Monitoring Officer/Legal Adviser to the Panel, Support Officer to the Panel, and various Panel Members as availability permitted.

The Chair and Vice-Chair have meet virtually with the Commissioner and his Senior Leadership Team in advance of the public meetings. This provides an opportunity to discuss and plan future business, the content of the agenda and reports, and also to keep each other informed of developments.

In addition, to the formal Panel meetings, the Panel has an established Budget Working Group which meets outside Panel meetings on a bi-annual basis to look at financial information in more detail, particularly in advance of the precept setting in February.

Panel Members and the Support Officer have also attended national and regional conferences and network meetings. These have provided an opportunity to share best practice with other Panels and to increase knowledge and understanding of key issues and national developments.

Three Panel Members and the Support Officer attended the 11th Annual National Conference for Police, Fire and Crime Panels in November 2022. The conference, which was held hybrid for the first time, included keynote addresses on changing culture and partnership working together with a variety of interactive workshops sessions focusing on good practice and Panel development.

During the Municipal Year, Panel Members sitting on their District Community Safety Partnership have provided quarterly update reports at Panel meetings on key issues that are pertinent to the work / role of the Panel.

During 2022/23, the Panel has received regular verbal updates from and questioned the Commissioner on matters of current local and national interest and concern. Some of the topics of particular interest to the Panel have been recruitment, retention and vetting of police officers and staff, public trust and confidence in South Yorkshire Police, tackling crime and anti-social behaviour, domestic violence, hate crime, Child Sexual Exploitation, Violence Against Women and Girls, road safety and speeding, wildlife and rural crime.

The Panel have questioned and scrutinised the Commissioner on the progress being made by all policing and crime partners across South Yorkshire against achieving the priorities set out in the Commissioner's Police and Crime Plan throughout the municipal year.

Throughout 2022/23, the Panel have received, and asked questions in response to the Commissioner's update reports, which have presented information on key PCC and Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner (OPCC) activities against the Delivery Plan for the OPCC. The decisions taken by the Commissioner have been reviewed and scrutinised by the Panel at each meeting.

At its June 2022 meeting, the Panel considered, and asked questions on the Delivery Plan for the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner (OPCC) which explained how the OPCC is contributing to delivery of the Police and Crime Commissioner's Police and Crime Plan for 2022-2025.

In July 2022, Panel Members reviewed the contents of the Commissioner's Annual Report for 2021/22.

The Panel has received, and scrutinised quarterly consolidated Budget Monitoring reports, which cover the budget managed by the Chief Constable of South Yorkshire Police and budgets managed by the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner.

At the Panel meeting held on 3 February 2023, the Panel considered, asked questions, and made comments on the Commissioner's draft Police and Crime Plan for 2023-2025.

In February 2023, the Panel considered a proposal by the Commissioner to levy an annual increase in the policing element of the Council Tax precept for 2023/24 equivalent to £15.00 per annum on a Band D property. The Panel considered a report which included financial information detailing cost pressures and investments that would result from the increase. The Commissioner and Chief Finance Officer were questioned in detail by Panel Members regarding the proposed increase. The Panel voted and resolved to support the proposed precept for 2023/24.

In line with statutory requirements, the Panel has written to the Commissioner in response to the proposed Council Tax Precept for 2023/24 (February 2023), the PCC's draft Police and Crime Plan for 2023-2025 (February 2023), and the PCC's draft Annual Report 2021/22 (July 2022). Where appropriate, the Panel's responses have been published on the host Authority's website.

During the autumn of 2022, an open and thorough recruitment process was held for the recruitment of two new Independent (Co-opted) Members. All applicants were interviewed by the Panel's Recruitment and Evaluation Sub-Panel. Following this process, the Sub-Panel recommended that Miss Griffin and Mr Hindley be appointed as Independent (Co-opted) Members of the Panel. This was approved by the Panel at its meeting held on 3 February 2023.

4. **PANEL LEARNING AND DEVELOPMENT**

The Panel continued to engage in learning and development to enhance their knowledge.

Of particular note are:

27th September 2022 - Local Government Association (LGA) Police and Crime Panel webinar – The Panel was represented at a webinar which provided an opportunity for Panel Members and Support Officers to discuss a range of current issues and new developments including updates from the Home Office around the second phase of their review of Police and Crime Commissioners and upcoming priorities.

20th October 2022 - Virtual Workshop Session with Frontline Consulting

The session provided an induction for recently appointed Members to the Police and Crime Panel, including a refresh for existing Panel Members and an opportunity to discuss any issues and plan for the year ahead. It also provided an additional opportunity to discuss the Panel's role and remit, work programme and the challenges facing the Panel in the coming year.

10th-11th November 2022 – Annual Police, (Fire) and Crime Panels Conference

The Panel was represented at the eleventh Annual Conference, which was held as a hybrid event held for the first time in Warwick. The hybrid event was well attended with Panel representatives from across the UK. The conference covered key national issues relevant to Police, Fire and Crime Panels. The theme of the conference was 'Changing Culture and Partnership Working'.

24th November 2022 – Panel Members attended a **Performance Induction and discussion session** hosted by the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner (OPCC).

Regionally, the Panel's Chair and Support Officer are active members of the **Yorkshire and Humberside Police, Fire and Crime Panels Regional 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 in September 2022 and March 2023 and is made up of Panel Members and Support Officers from the four Police, Fire and Crime Panel's in Yorkshire and Humberside 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 2022-23 and continues to share information and documentation via email.

5. **GOVERNANCE, SUPPORT AND SCRUTINY**

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 Officer from the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner (OPCC). This informal Group meets twice a year 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.

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.

The Panel has the statutory power to deal with complaints made about the PCC's conduct, this power had been delegated by the Panel to the Monitoring Officer / Legal Adviser of the host Authority and a full procedure for complaints handling is set out in the Panel's Constitution.

6. PANEL'S BUDGET FOR 2022/23

As host Authority, Barnsley Metropolitan Borough Council receives an annual grant from the Home Office to support the administration of the Panel. For the 2022/23 financial year a Home Office grant of up to £65,260 was available.

For the period 1 April 2022 to 30 September 2022, the total costs submitted to the Home Office for reimbursement were £21,070.00. For the period 1 October 2022 to 31 March 2023, the total costs submitted to the Home Office for reimbursement were **£40,930.00 (To be confirmed)**.

The costs are to cover:

- Staffing to support the Panel;
- Specialist advice and support;
- Meetings management;
- Financial administration and management;
- Website management and updates;
- Recruitment of Independent Co-opted Members;
- Members' expenses and allowances;
- Conference attendance fees and subscription to the Yorkshire and Humberside Regional Police, Fire and Crime Panels Network.

The Panel has, whilst meeting all statutory obligations and undertaking appropriate work as a Panel, kept its costs contained within the Home Office Grant, demonstrating that South Yorkshire Police and Crime Panel continues to deliver good value for money.

7. THE POLICE AND CRIME PANEL AND THE PUBLIC

Members of the public are invited to attend all Panel meetings held in public and are able to access the agenda, supporting reports and minutes on the South Yorkshire Police and Crime Panel's website at: <https://www.barnsley.gov.uk/sypcp>

Panel meetings are held in a central location to provide the best opportunity for members of the public to attend.

There is information about Members of the Panel, its spending, how to make complaints and other useful information on the Panel's website.

The Rules of Procedure for submitting and asking public questions at Panel meetings are in the Document Library of the Police and Crime Panel website.

8. PANEL'S WORK PROGRAMME AND THE YEAR AHEAD

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.

Whilst the Commissioner is ultimately responsible for holding the Chief Constable to account for the delivery of policing, the Panel has a key 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.

The biggest challenge facing the Panel in 2023 are the next steps arising from the Home Office consultation on Fire and Rescue Service reform. 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 were set out under three key themes: people, professionalism, and governance.

The consultation was launched on 18 May 2022 and closed on 26 July 2022. Currently, no timelines have been provided as to when the Home Office will respond to the Fire Reform White Paper.

During 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 for 2023-2025, including the receipt of quarterly performance reports.

- Support and scrutinise the PCC for the delivery of his precept commitments.
- Maintain a work programme in consultation with the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner.
- 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.
- Provide ongoing Panel Member learning, development and support.

9. CONTACT DETAILS

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

Contact details:

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