



**South Yorkshire**  
POLICE & CRIME PANEL

Supporting and Scrutinising  
the Police and Crime  
Commissioner for  
South Yorkshire

**Annual  
Report  
2017/18**

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# 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, Rotherham, Doncaster and Sheffield, together with two independent members.

In 2017-18, the Chair was Councillor Abdul Khayum from Sheffield City Council and the Vice Chair Councillor Stuart Sansome from Rotherham Metropolitan Borough Council.

Police and Crime Panels were established in November 2012 and this report covers a year in which the Panel has worked hard to fulfil its statutory responsibilities, but also 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

If you want to know more, our contact details and web site address are given at the end of the report.

With thanks  
Cllr Abdul Khayum

Chair,  
South Yorkshire Police and Crime Panel



# 1 WHAT IS SOUTH YORKSHIRE POLICE AND CRIME PANEL?

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 Authority and took over respectively its governance and scrutiny functions under the Police Reform and Social Responsibility Act 2011.

Police and Crime Panels are, in effect, joint scrutiny bodies of the local authorities in the police force area and are mainly composed of elected members from these authorities. All panels also 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.

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# 2 PANEL MEMBERSHIP 2017/18

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 2017-18, Panel members were:

<b>Barnsley MBC:</b>	Councillor Ralph Sixsmith MBE Councillor David Griffin
<b>Doncaster MBC:</b>	Councillor Sue Wilkinson Councillor David Hughes Councillor Chris McGuinness (Substitute Member)
<b>Rotherham MBC:</b>	Councillor Brian Cutts Councillor Stuart Sansome <b>(Vice-Chair)</b>
<b>Sheffield CC:</b>	Councillor Helen Mirfin-Boukouris (left 1st Nov 2017) Councillor Jayne Dunn (replaced Cllr Mirfin-Boukouris – Nov 2017) Councillor Abdul Khayum (Chair) Councillor Joe Otten Councillor Bob Johnson
<b>Independent Members:</b>	Alan Carter Steve Chufungleung

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

# 3 TERMS OF REFERENCE

- 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 s12 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 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 (as defined by the Act). Appendix 1 2 Case No: 049244.

- 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 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 Commissioner exercises his / her statutory function of providing strategic direction in local policing.

Police and Crime Panels are often described as acting as a 'critical friend' – a supportive but independent voice seeking to investigate the PCC 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 can require the Commissioner 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 or 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.



# 4 HIGHLIGHTS OF ACTIVITY IN 2016/17

The year commenced with a significant change in Panel membership (6 of the 10 elected Members were replaced). Since its establishment, a constantly changing membership has been a feature of the Panel in South Yorkshire. Whilst it is recognised that elections will change the representation and make up of local authorities, Panel Members have regularly expressed the view that a more stable membership would be beneficial in ensuring the effective discharge of its responsibilities in holding the Police and Crime Commissioner to account. The Panel is hopeful that the South Yorkshire Leaders will recognise the value of consistent membership in providing effective scrutiny and informed decision-making.

**July 2017** – As part of the Panel's development, Frontline Consulting – who are leading experts in the field of Police and Crime Panels – came in to deliver a session for Members around the Panel's key powers and responsibilities, the national context of policing and crime and what the Panel could do to develop its work programme for the coming year. The session built on the Induction for new Members, and provided existing Members with some ideas on how to maximise the powers they have to support and scrutinise the Commissioner.

**July 2017** – The Chair, Vice-Chair and Panel's Support Officer attended an LGA Police and Crime Panel Workshop which provided an opportunity to network with other Panels, pick up on the latest proposals from the Home Office and share best practice.

**Early November 2017** – The Panel held a confirmation hearing for the Commissioner's recommended applicant for the post of Chief Finance and Commissioning Officer.

As part of the budget and precept-setting process, the Panel worked with the postholder to ensure they were as well-prepared as possible for the Panel meeting in February 2018.

**November 2017** - The Panel was represented by the Chair and Vice-Chair (and Panel Support Officer) at the Sixth Annual PCP Conference in Warwick facilitated by Frontline Consulting. The event was very well-attended with Panel representatives from across the UK. Further information on the work to support Police and Crime Panels can be found here - <https://www.pcps-direct.net/>

The Conference covered key national issues relevant to Police and Crime Panels, including those who have already taken on responsibility for Fire and Rescue Services. The afternoon saw thematic, topical and practitioner-led workshops where experience was shared around a range of topics including:

Collaboration, Complaints handling, Performance monitoring, Public engagement, Budget scrutiny, Police and Crime Plans etc. There was also an opportunity for Panels to meet with their regional colleagues, and the formation of a **Yorkshire and Humberside Regional Network** was agreed at that session with the inaugural meeting being held on 23rd May 2018 in Leeds.

**April 2018** – One of the issues covered at the Annual Conference in November 2017 was the formation of a national 'voice' for Police and Crime Panels. Led by Hertfordshire Police and Crime Panel and the LGA, a Special Interest Group was established and met on 19th April 2018, at which a National Association of Police and Crime Panels was agreed. The Vice-Chair, Cllr Stuart Sansome, will represent South Yorkshire and it is hoped the Association will raise the profile of Police and Crime

Panels nationally and strengthen relationships with the Home Office.

**April 2018** – As the municipal year drew to a close, the Panel held an informal session facilitated by Frontline Consulting to reflect on the year, and to plan for the year ahead – develop the work programme, and increase their scrutiny role to better serve the public within South Yorkshire.

At the Panel's meeting on **20th April 2018**, the development of the increased scrutiny role commenced with the approval to set up a Budget Working Group. The Group will consist of one Member from each District and one Independent member, and will be supported by the Chief Finance and Commissioning Officer from the OPCC. The Group will provide an opportunity for Members to informally receive, examine and digest issues around the budget in advance of the formal budget and precept setting in February each year.

### **More generally ....**

Governance – the role and responsibilities of the Panel and the Commissioner's own governance framework in holding the Chief Constable to account - remains a challenge. However, work continues supported by the host Authority and Frontline Consulting to ensure the Panel has the skills, knowledge and support to be the very best it can be.

One of the principal outcomes from the discussion with the Commissioner on his governance framework was Panel Members deciding to attend meetings of the Commissioner's Public Accountability Board, his forum for holding the Chief Constable and senior leadership of South Yorkshire Police to account.

Panel members have observer status at the PCC's Public Accountability Board, and that helps to understand some of the operational challenges facing the Force, and how the Commissioner is providing support and challenge for those.

The Police Commissioner provided a 'refresh' of his Police and Crime Plan to the Panel in February 2018. The Plan remains, largely, the same and Members will continue – through the work programme – to monitor the delivery of the commitments within the Plan.

# 5 THE POLICE & CRIME PANEL AND THE PUBLIC

South Yorkshire Police and Crime Panel has a website [www.southyorks.gov.uk](http://www.southyorks.gov.uk) 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 at [www.southyorks.gov.uk](http://www.southyorks.gov.uk)

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# 6 THE YEAR AHEAD (2018-19)

Panel Membership for 2018-19 is given below:



Cllr Abdul Khayum  
(LAB)  
(Sheffield)  
CHAIR



Cllr Stuart Sansome  
(LAB)  
(Rotherham)  
VICE-CHAIR



Cllr Brian Cutts  
(UKIP)  
(Rotherham)



Cllr Bob Johnson  
(LAB)  
(Sheffield)



Cllr Robert Frost  
(LAB)  
(Barnsley)



Cllr Martin Dyson  
(LAB)  
(Barnsley)



Cllr David Nevett  
(LAB)  
(Doncaster)



Cllr Sue Wilkinson  
(LAB)  
(Doncaster)



Cllr Joe Otten  
(LIB DEM)  
(Sheffield)



Cllr Moya O'Rourke  
(LAB)  
(Sheffield)



MR Alan Carter  
Independent  
Member



Mr Steve Chufungleung  
Independent Member

Previous Police and Crime Panel Members who left in 2017/18:

**Cllr Ralph Sixsmith MBE (Barnsley)**

**Cllr David Griffin (Barnsley)**

**Cllr Jayne Dunn & Cllr Helen Mirfin-Boukouris (Sheffield)**

**Cllr David Hughes (Doncaster)**

Thanks are given to all Panel Members for their contributions during 2017/18.

## **Work Programme**

The Panel have a work programme that is reviewed every 4-6 weeks as part of the pre-agenda planning with the Commissioner. As you would expect the Programme covers the statutory responsibilities of the Panel, alongside other key issues of importance to the public of South Yorkshire, and which emanate from the Commissioner's Public Accountability Board. For example, the Panel has received reports around the 101 service which is currently under review. Complaints from the public around accessing 101 when something happens have been significant, and it's important this issue is discussed with the Commissioner so that elected representatives can provide reassurance in their own communities.

Going forward, it is hoped to align the Panel's work programme with that of the Commissioner's Public Accountability Board, to ensure that reports submitted to the Panel are timely, and issues being discussed are of equal importance to the Commissioner, Chief Constable and the elected Members serving on the Panel.

The Panel is also working to strengthen links with the four District Community Safety Partnerships. They look after all issues concerned with the safety in our towns and villages, and it's important the Panel are aware of the issues they're discussing.

South Yorkshire Police and Crime Panel will continue its commitment to support, and to scrutinise the decisions of the PCC 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 2017-2021.
- Hold the PCC to account for the delivery of his precept commitments.
- Undertake a programme of proactive scrutiny across a range of areas.

- 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 PCC and Chief Constable recruit, retain and progress a workforce which reflects the communities it serves.
  - Support the PCC to maximise opportunities for joint working.
  - Liaise with HMICFRS to improve the Panel's understanding of South Yorkshire Police's performance.
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# 7 CONTACT DETAILS

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

**Contact details:**

Barnsley MBC  
Church Street  
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S70 2TA

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Or via the website at

**[www.southyorks.gov.uk](http://www.southyorks.gov.uk)**



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