



South Yorkshire
POLICE & CRIME PANEL

Supporting and Scrutinising
the Police and Crime
Commissioner for
South Yorkshire

Annual Report 2018/19

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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 2018-19, 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, and 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.

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

With thanks
Cllr Abdul Khayum

Chair,
South Yorkshire Police and Crime Panel
(2018/2019)



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 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.



2 PANEL MEMBERSHIP 2018/19

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 2018-19, Panel members were:

Barnsley MBC:	Councillor Robert Frost Councillor Martin Dyson
Doncaster MBC:	Councillor Sue Wilkinson Councillor David Nevett Councillor Chris McGuinness (Substitute Member)
Rotherham MBC:	Councillor Stuart Sansome (Vice-Chair) Councillor Brian Cutts (left 31st October 2018) Councillor Peter Short (replaced Cllr Cutts, October 2018)
Sheffield CC:	Councillor Abdul Khayum (Chair) Councillor Bob Johnson Councillor Moya O'Rourke Councillor Joe Otten
Independent Members:	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 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 2018/19

As in 2017/18, the Panel saw a further change to its membership with 5 new Members, together with a mid-year change (October 2018) – giving a total of 6 new Members; half of the Panel's total number.

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. This view has also been expressed to the Home Office as part of a review commissioned by the Minister for Policing and Fire.

July 2018 – The Chair, Vice-Chair, one of the Independent members and the Panel's Support Officer attended an LGA Police, Fire and Crime Panels Workshop which provided an opportunity to network with other Panels, pick up on the latest proposals from the Home Office and share best practice. Some Commissioners have already taken on responsibility for Fire and Rescue Services, with the nearest being North Yorkshire in November 2018.

November 2018 - The Panel was represented by the Chair, Vice-Chair and one of the Independent members, together with the Panel's Legal Adviser and Support Officer, at the Seventh 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: Neighbourhood policing, Re-thinking the demand on Police resources, Modern Slavery, Police Complaints reforms, as well as governance and scrutiny.

Regionally, the Panel's Vice-Chair and Support Officer are active members of the **Yorkshire and Humberside Regional Network**. The Network is facilitated by Frontline Consulting, which runs the national Police, Fire and Crime Panel Conference, and met in September 2018. The Network is made up of Panel Members and Support Officers and shared information around how different Panels provide support and scrutiny for the Commissioner, the use of the Grant from the Home Office, innovation, work programming and future plans. There is an intention for the Network to meet – at least – twice per year – May / June and again in the Autumn (September / October).

November 2018 - 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 Hertfordshire Police and Crime Panel and the Local Government Association (LGA). The National Association met in November 2018, and has held additional discussions via Skype.

It is hoped the National Association will complement the work of the National Association of Police and Crime Commissioners, and enable information to be shared to jointly influence and deliver the very best policing services for our communities. The Association will also be able to collectively assist the Home Office in their work with Police, Fire and Crime Panels.

February 2019 – The Police Commissioner provided a 'refresh' of his Police and Crime Plan to the Panel. The Plan remains, largely, the same and Members will continue – through the work programme and quarterly performance reports – to monitor the delivery of the commitments within the Plan.

April 2019 – As the municipal year drew to a close, Frontline Consulting – which is a leading expert in the field of Police and Crime Panels – delivered an informal session for Members, and senior officers from the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner (OPCC). The session focused on strengthening relationships between the Panel and the OPCC, developing proactive scrutiny and the work programme and the potential implications of national and regional changes – including the potential for the PCC to take on responsibility for the Fire and Rescue Service.



5 GOVERNANCE, SUPPORT AND SCRUTINY

In line with best practice, the Panel established a Budget Working Group in April 2018. 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 OPCC. The Group meets informally 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 have 'observer status' at the Commissioner's Public Accountability Board (PAB) which 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.

Additionally, the Panel has strengthened its links with the four District Community Safety Partnerships, through a combination of attending meetings, receiving documentation and the Commissioner's Countywide Community Safety Forum.

Individually, Panel Members attended a range of conferences and events around criminal justice management, restorative justice, modern slavery and human trafficking, combatting gangs, violence and weapon crime and problem-solving policing etc.

Locally, several Members were involved in the Commissioner's South Yorkshire initiative – 'You're Only Young Once' (YOYO) which engages young people in a truly ground-breaking way. Through a series of workshop and classroom-based sessions it empowers them to research social issues which affect them, and to create podcasts, radio commercials, videos and news reports on the subject.

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 a challenge. However, work continues supported by the host Authority 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.

6 THE POLICE & CRIME PANEL AND THE PUBLIC

South Yorkshire Police and Crime Panel has a website 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

7 THE YEAR AHEAD (2019-20)

Panel Membership for 2019/20 is given below:



Cllr David Nevett
(LABOUR)
(Doncaster) **CHAIR**



Cllr Stuart Sansome
(LABOUR)
(Roth) **VICE-CHAIR**



Vacancy
Opposition
(Rotherham)



Cllr Abdul Khayum
(LABOUR)
(Sheffield)



Cllr Kath Mitchell
(LABOUR)
(Barnsley)



Cllr Martin Dyson
(LABOUR)
(Barnsley)



Cllr Julie Grocutt
(LABOUR)
(Sheffield)



Cllr Sue Wilkinson
(LABOUR)
(Doncaster)



Cllr Joe Otten
(LIB DEM)
(Sheffield)



Cllr Peter Garbutt
(GREEN)
(Sheffield)



Mr Alan Carter
Independent
Member



Mr Steve Chufungleung
Independent
Member

Previous Police and Crime Panel Members who left in 2018/19:

Cllr Brian Cutts (Rotherham) Cllr Moya O'Rourke (Sheffield)

Cllr Bob Johnson (Sheffield) Cllr Robert Frost (Barnsley)

Cllr Peter Short (Rotherham)

Thanks are given to all Panel Members for their contributions during 2018/19.

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.

8 CONTACT DETAILS

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

Contact details:

Barnsley MBC
Church Street
BARNSLEY
S70 2TA

E-mail: PCP@syjs.gov.uk

Or via the website at
www.southyorks.gov.uk





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