



South Yorkshire
POLICE & CRIME PANEL

Supporting and Scrutinising
the Police and Crime
Commissioner for
South Yorkshire

Annual Report 2019/20

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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 2019-20, the Chair was, myself, Councillor David Nevett from Doncaster MBC and the Vice Chair Councillor Stuart Sansome from Rotherham Metropolitan Borough Council.

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 at Section 1.

The Annual Report provides an update on the work the Panel has undertaken in the period June 2019 to June 2020 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.

Given the unprecedented events during 2020, and the response to the COVID-19 pandemic, the work of the Panel was impacted. However, governance – and support and scrutiny of the Police and Crime Commissioner – continued and virtual meetings of the Panel were held – including the Annual Meeting on 8th June 2020 – which was accessible to the public.

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

With thanks

Cllr David Nevett
Chair,
South Yorkshire Police
and Crime Panel
(2019/2020)

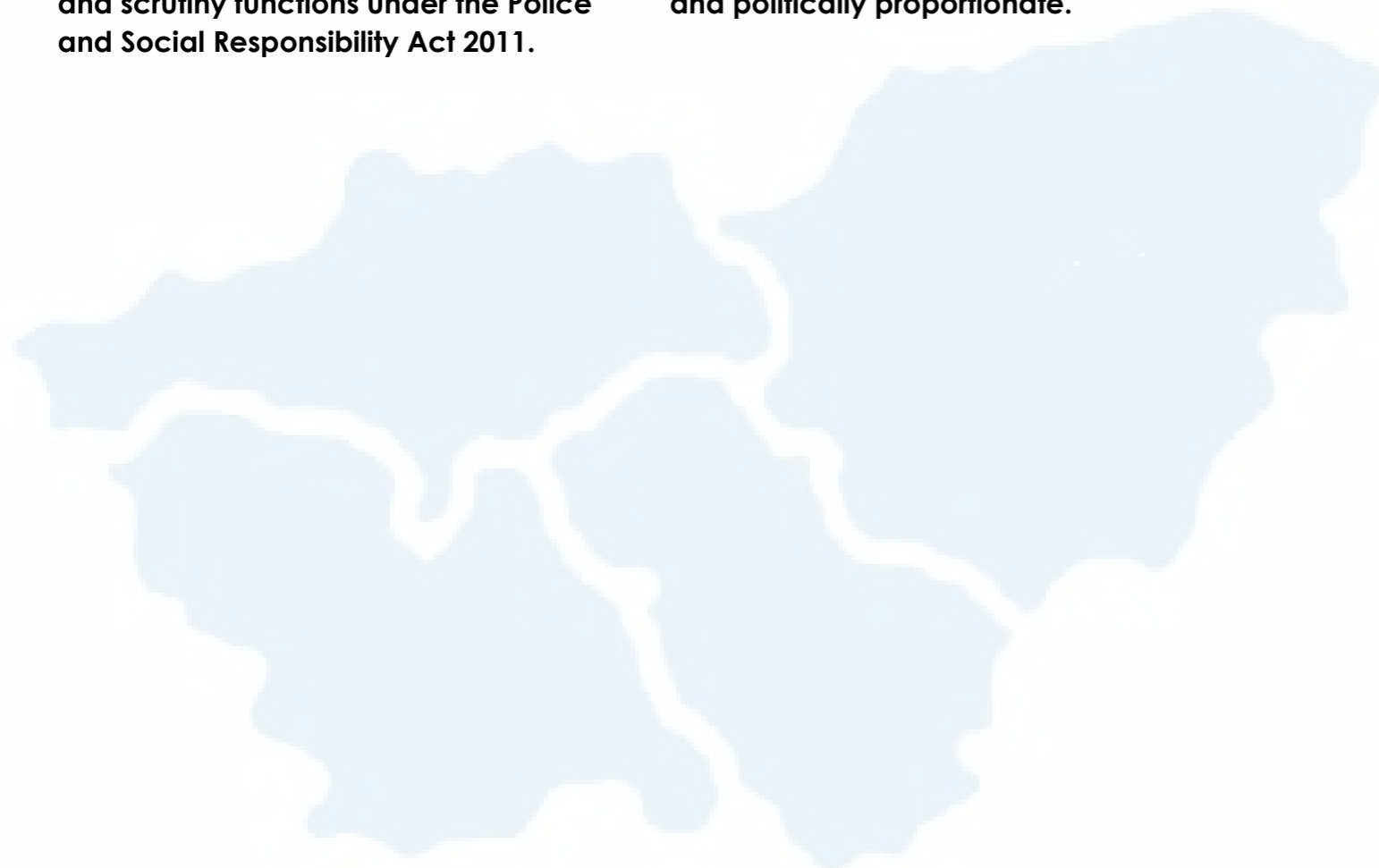


1 WHAT IS SOUTH YORKSHIRE POLICE AND CRIME PANEL?



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 2019/20

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 2019-20, there were some in-year changes due to resignations and the recruitment of a new Independent member.

Panel members during 2019-20

Barnsley MBC:	Councillor Kath Mitchell Martin Dyson (resigned w.e.f. 20 Jan 2020) and replaced by Councillor Anita Cherryholme
Doncaster MBC:	Councillor Sue Wilkinson Councillor David Nevett (<i>Chair</i>) Councillor Chris McGuinness (Substitute Member) Councillor Glyn Jones (Substitute Member)
Rotherham MBC:	Councillor Stuart Sansome (<i>Vice-Chair</i>) Councillor Peter Short
Sheffield CC:	Councillor Julie Grocutt Councillor Peter Garbutt Councillor Michelle Cooke (resigned Feb 2020) and replaced by Councillor Jim Steinke (May 2020) Councillor Joe Otten
Independent Members:	Alan Carter Steve Chufungleung (tenure expired end Sept 2019) and replaced by Professor Adrian James (appointed w.e.f. 1st Oct 2019)

The host Authority for the Police and Crime Panel is Barnsley MBC which took over responsibility from Rotherham MBC on 1 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 and Crime Commissioner provides strategic governance to the County's 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 and Crime 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 the Commissioner 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 2019/20

As in 2018/19, the Panel saw a further change to its membership – some of those taking place mid-year. The Panel welcomed 6 new elected Members and 1 new Independent Member, giving a total of 7 new Members over the municipal year.

Given the COVID-19 pandemic, the four local authorities did not hold their Annual Council meetings in May 2020, and appointments to the Police and Crime Panel, therefore, remain unchanged for 2020-21.

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 scrutinising and supporting the Police and Crime Commissioner. 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.

July 2019 – At the Panel meeting in early July it was agreed to broaden the Lead Member arrangements to include a Lead Member for Performance. Police and Crime Panels across the country have differing arrangements in place to provide additional support and scrutiny around the Police and Crime Plan priorities and key areas of work.

South Yorkshire already had a Lead Member for Budget, and an established Budget Working Group which meets outside Panel meetings to look at financial information in more detail, particularly in advance of the precept setting in February.

The Performance Lead Member (and a deputy) provide additional – more detailed – scrutiny on the quarterly performance reports submitted to the Panel to understand the data and narrative behind them. This has proved extremely useful.

July 2019 - The Chair, Vice-Chair, an Independent member and the Panel's Support Officer attended the LGA Police, Fire and Crime Panels Workshop. The day had a varied and interesting programme which saw a presentation on the revised Police, Fire and Crime Panels Guidance produced by the Centre for Public Scrutiny and the LGA, an update from the Home Office, and the National Association of Police, Fire and Crime Panels as well as sessions on Serious Violent Crime and the work of the Association of Police and Crime Commissioners.

November 2019 - The Panel was represented by the Vice-Chair two elected Members, one of the Independent members and the Panel's Support Officer, at the Eighth Annual Police, Fire and Crime Panels 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, Fire and Crime Panels and, in particular a session on the national Strategic Review of Policing in England and Wales being undertaken by the Police Foundation. The afternoon saw thematic, topical and practitioner-led workshops where experience was shared around a range of issues including: Tackling Human Trafficking and Modern Slavery, Reducing the Arrests of Women, Using the Home Office Grant (which is provided to run Police, Fire and Crime Panels), Preparing for the Police, (Fire), and Crime Commissioner elections 2020*, Supporting a new Police, Fire and Crime Panel, Effective Scrutiny, Rural Crime, Tackling Serious Violent Knife Crime and County Lines. A full report of the Conference can be found by visiting the website above.

**NB: Given the COVID-19 pandemic the Police, (Fire) and Crime Commissioner Elections have been postponed until May 2021.*

February 2020 - Given the postponement of the Police, (Fire), and Crime Commissioner elections for 2020, the Police and Crime Plan remains unchanged. Members will continue – through the work programme and quarterly performance reports – to monitor the delivery of the priorities and commitments within the Plan. The Police and Crime Plan can be viewed here - <https://southyorkshire-pcc.gov.uk/what-we-do/police-crime-plan/>

March 2020 – The impact of the outbreak of the pandemic and the subsequent restrictions saw the cancellation of the annual LGA Police, Fire and Crime Panels Workshop due to be held in March 2020. It has also had an impact on other areas of work, but the Police and Crime Panel continued to engage with the Police and Crime Commissioner through virtual meetings, e-mail and tele-conference to ensure their support and scrutiny on behalf of the communities they serve continued in the best way it could.

The Chair, and the Panel, wanted to pay tribute in the Annual Report to the way in which the Police and Crime Commissioner and South Yorkshire Police, have responded to the challenges the pandemic has brought, along with enforcing the new legislation. Thanks also to the staff within the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner who have continued to provide information and data to allow the Panel to fulfil their role.

4 HIGHLIGHTS OF ACTIVITY IN 2019/20 continued

Other visits – The Police and Crime Panel have been involved with several other visits and pieces of work. Of particular note are:

Contact management – the 101 service

Members visited Atlas Court, Sheffield in November 2019 and again in February 2020. The latter meeting covered the review carried out by South Yorkshire Police, and the recommendations for improvement.

As part of the Panel's scrutiny role, the Police and Crime Commissioner provides regular reports on the 101 service, and this will continue to feature in the Panel's work programme.

Sexual Abuse and Referral Centre, Hackenthorpe, Sheffield

Members visited in February 2020 to learn about the valuable work the SARC does to protect the most vulnerable in South Yorkshire.

South Yorkshire Restorative Justice Launch - May 2019

South Yorkshire Modern Slavery Partnership Launch – May 2019

Visit to Lifewise Centre, Hellaby, Rotherham – February 2020

The Lifewise Centre is home to the Joint Community Safety Department for South Yorkshire Fire and Rescue and South Yorkshire Police. It is a scenario-based learning facility which benefits from a film-set environment where educational inputs are delivered in a realistic setting. You can find out more about the work of the Lifewise Centre here - <https://www.lifewise999.co.uk/>

Visit to Doncaster Custody Suite – February 2020

Regionally, the Panel's Vice-Chair and Support Officer are active members of the Yorkshire and Humberside Regional Police, Fire and Crime Panels Network. The Network is facilitated by Frontline Consulting, which runs the national Police, Fire and Crime Panel Conference, and last met in early March 2020. The Network is made up of Panel Members and Support Officers who share information around support and scrutiny for the Commissioner, the use of the Grant from the Home Office, innovation, work programming and future plans. There is an agreement that the Network will meet – at least – twice per year, and the next meeting will be held in late September 2020.

A National Association of Police, Fire and Crime Panels has been established as a national 'voice' for Police, Fire and Crime Panels. The Association last met as part of the November 2020 Annual Police, Fire and Crime Panels Conference, but continues to hold virtual meetings and share information via e-mail and other social media platforms.

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.

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 Officer from the OPCC. The Group meets informally to receive, examine and digest issues around the Force and OPCC budgets in advance of the formal budget and precept setting in February each year.

The Panel also have a Lead Member and Deputy Lead member for Performance, which provides an opportunity for greater scrutiny of the quarterly performance reports.

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.

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. The Panel itself will continue to develop its role to ensure it is supporting and scrutinising the work of the Police and Crime Commissioner.

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 (2020-21)

Panel Membership for 2020/21 is given below:



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



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



Cllr Peter Short
(Independent)
(Roth)



Cllr Jim Steinke
(LABOUR)
(Sheffield)



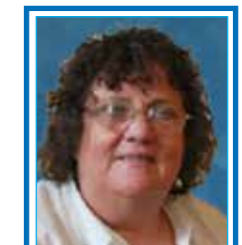
Cllr Kath Mitchell
(LABOUR)
(Barnsley)



Cllr Anita Cherryholme
(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



Professor Adrian James
Independent Member

Previous Police and Crime Panel Members who left in 2019/20:

Cllr Martin Dyson (Barnsley) Cllr Michelle Cooke (Sheffield)

Cllr Abdul Khayum (Sheffield) Stephen Chufungleung (Independent member)

Thanks are given to all Panel Members for their contributions during 2019/20.

7 THE YEAR AHEAD (2020-21) continued

Work Programme

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, and which emanate from the Commissioner's Public Accountability Board. For example, the Panel has regularly received reports around the effectiveness of neighbourhood policing and the changes to the contact management (101) telephone service. Additionally, the Chief Constable attends Panel at least once each year to provide an update on key issues.

Concerns from the public are primarily around police visibility, accessing the Police (101 service) and anti-social behaviour. The Commissioner is ultimately responsible for holding the Chief Constable to account for the delivery of policing, but the Panel has an important role to play – through its work programme – to ensure 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.

Over the next twelve months the Panel will focus on the following key areas:

- Review the PCC's Annual Report.
- Hold a Confirmation Hearing for the appointment of the OPCC's Chief Finance Officer.
- Work with the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner (OPCC) to ensure the delivery of the Police and Crime Plan 2017-2021, including the receipt of quarterly performance reports.
- Support and scrutinise the PCC for the delivery of his precept commitments.
- Undertake proactive scrutiny where there is value in doing so.
- 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 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.
- Liaise with Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary, Fire and Rescue Service (HMICFRS) to improve the Panel's understanding of South Yorkshire Police's performance.
- Provide ongoing Panel Member learning, development and support.

8 CONTACT DETAILS

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

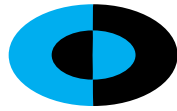
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E-mail: PCP@syjs.gov.uk

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

Click on the blue South Yorkshire Police and Crime Panel logo



SOUTH YORKSHIRE
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PANEL

