



South Yorkshire
POLICE & CRIME PANEL

Supporting and Scrutinising
the Police and Crime
Commissioner for
South Yorkshire

Annual Report 2020/21

Contents

	PAGE
Foreword	3
1 What is South Yorkshire Police and Crime Panel?	4
2 Panel Membership 2020-21	5
3 Terms of Reference of South Yorkshire Police and Crime Panel	6 - 7
4 Highlights of Activity in 2020-21	8 - 10
5 Governance, Support and Scrutiny	11
6 The Police and Crime Panel and the Public	12
7 The Year Ahead	13 - 14
8 Contact Details	15

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 2020-21, 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 2020 to June 2021 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, and – inevitably – our programme of work was more restricted than usual and fewer events took place. However, the important work around governance – and support and scrutiny of the Police and Crime Commissioner – continued and virtual meetings of the Panel were held from April 2020 to April 2021. These were accessible to the public. Our first physical meeting was held on 7th June 2021 in line with health and safety guidance and Government advice.

As with the 2019-20 Annual Report, myself and the Panel, wish to pay tribute to the way in which the Police and Crime Commissioner and South Yorkshire Police have responded to the challenges the pandemic has brought. We give our thanks also to the 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.

My term of office as Chair of the Panel came to end this year, and I would like to wish the incoming Chair all the very best. I have thoroughly enjoyed leading the Panel, and supporting the Police and Crime Commissioner in his role.

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

With thanks

Clr David Nevett
Chair,
South Yorkshire Police
and Crime Panel
(2019/2021)



1 WHAT IS SOUTH YORKSHIRE POLICE AND CRIME PANEL?



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.

Some areas have Police, Fire and Crime Panels (PFCP) where their Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner has also taken on responsibility for the Fire and Rescue Service. The nearest PFCP to us is [North Yorkshire](#).

2 PANEL MEMBERSHIP 2020/21

In South Yorkshire the number of members from each authority and each political party was agreed by Council Leaders as follows: -

- 2 members from each Metropolitan Borough Council and 4 from Sheffield City Council
- 2 Independent members

In 2020-21, the membership remained largely unchanged due to the COVID-19 pandemic, apart from one mid-year change from Barnsley MBC.

Barnsley MBC: Councillor Kath Mitchell (left October 2020) replaced by Councillor Clive Pickering (w.e.f. 22 October 2020)
Councillor Caroline Saunders (Substitute Member)

Doncaster MBC: Councillor Sue Wilkinson
Councillor David Nevett (*Chair*)
Councillor Chris McGuinness (Substitute Member)
Councillor Glyn Jones (Substitute Member)

Rotherham MBC: Councillor Stuart Sansome (*Vice-Chair*)
Councillor Peter Short

Sheffield CC: Councillor Julie Grocutt
Councillor Peter Garbutt
Councillor Jim Steinke
Councillor Joe Otten

Independent Members: Alan Carter (left the Panel 30-4-21)
Professor Adrian James

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 (s.30 of the Police Reform and Social Responsibility Act 2011).
- 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, and also provide support to him in carrying out his role.

Police and Crime Panels are often described as acting as a 'critical friend' – a supportive but independent voice seeking to examine and challenge the Commissioner's policies and actions. 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.

The main Panel meetings are open to the public – albeit virtually since March 2020.

Meetings of the Panel can be viewed by following the link below, and these are retained in the public domain for six months –

<https://southyorks.public-i.tv/core/portal/home>

The Panel's website is www.barnsley.gov.uk/sypcp

4 HIGHLIGHTS OF ACTIVITY IN 2020/21

Given the extraordinary challenges posed by the COVID-19 pandemic, the Panel's membership remained largely unchanged. There was one mid-year change from Barnsley MBC, and an early departure of an Independent member which necessitated a recruitment process earlier than originally planned.

Since its establishment, the Panel has often seen a significant change in its membership year on year. The stability provided by the pandemic helped the Panel build on its knowledge and collective scrutiny and support of the Police and Crime Commissioner, which has - in turn - improved governance and decision-making on behalf of the people of South Yorkshire. Panel Members have regularly expressed the view that a more stable membership would be beneficial in ensuring the effective discharge of its responsibilities, and it is hoped that the South Yorkshire Leaders will recognise this when appointing to the Panel. Nationally, this view has also been expressed to the Home Office.

Lead Member arrangements

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. The most common way of doing this is through Lead Members, Task and Finish Groups, or other sub-group arrangements.

South Yorkshire has a Lead Member for finance and the budget, and an established Budget Working Group which meets outside Panel meetings

on a quarterly basis to look at financial information in more detail, particularly in advance of the precept setting in February.

Additionally, the Panel has appointed a Lead and Deputy Lead for performance.

The Performance Lead Member and 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. The issues raised are shared with the Panel as part of the briefing process for main meetings.

Members will continue - through the work programme and quarterly performance reports - to monitor the delivery of the priorities and commitments within the Police and Crime Plan. The Plan can be viewed here - <https://southyorkshire-pcc.gov.uk/what-we-do/police-crime-plan/>

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the Police and Crime Commissioner elections due to take place in 2020 were postponed. The PCC issued an addendum to the Police and Crime Plan in February 2021 to set out an interim arrangement, and this can be viewed via the same link.

Other Events

As mentioned above, the COVID-19 pandemic, and subsequent restrictions, impacted on the Police and Crime Panel's activities. That said, governance and scrutiny continued - including learning and development and engagement with partners.

Of particular note are:

11 September 2020 – Development session

The Chair, Vice-Chair, Lead member and Deputy lead member for performance held an independently facilitated session with the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner (OPCC) to build on issues around scrutiny and questioning. This formed part of the Panel's development of their role to improve decision-making.

15th October 2020 – Session with District Community Safety Partnerships (CSP)

Part of the Panel's role is a requirement to strengthen links with their District Community Safety Partnerships (CSP).

This was the first session held with Panel representatives and Lead officers from each District CSP. It was extremely successful, and there is a commitment from both the Panel and the officers involved to repeat this annually.

10th November 2020 - Confirmation Hearing for the Chief Finance Officer

As part of its statutory responsibilities, the Panel confirmed the appointment of the acting Chief Finance Officer in November 2020.

23rd – 25th November 2020 - Annual Police, Fire and Crime Panels Conference

The Conference was held virtually over three days and covered key national issues relevant to Police, Fire and Crime Panels such as:

- Policing 2020 - which covered the Police Force's response during the COVID-19 pandemic;
- National Strategic Review of Policing being undertaken by the Police Foundation;
- Women in the criminal justice system;

- Tackling human trafficking and modern slavery;
- Working together : policing and mental health;
- Effective scrutiny of Police, (Fire) and Crime Commissioners.

And keynote speakers included:

- Greater Manchester Combined Authority Mayor and PCC, Andy Burnham
- <https://www.greatermanchester-ca.gov.uk/what-we-do/police-and-fire/>
- Frances Cook, Chief Executive, Howard League for Penal Reform – <https://howardleague.org/>
- Unseen - <https://www.unseenuk.org/>
- Chief Constable Olivia Pinkney QPM, MA, Hampshire Police Service
- Chief Fire officer Becci Bryant QFSM, MBA, MIFireE HonDPP, Staffordshire Fire and Rescue Service

15th December 2020

A virtual session with REMEDI and officers from the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner (OPCC) to explore Restorative Justice. Restorative justice is a system of criminal justice which focuses on the rehabilitation of offenders through reconciliation with victims and the community at large.

Regionally, the Panel 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 Annual National Police, Fire and Crime Panel Conference, and provides support to Police, Fire and Crime Panels across the UK. The Network met virtually in 2020 and March 2021 and is

4 HIGHLIGHTS OF ACTIVITY IN 2019/20 continued

made up of Panel Members and Support Officers 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 voice for Police, Fire and Crime Panels has been established. It is led by Essex Police, Fire and Crime Panel and the Local Government Association (LGA). The Association has met virtually during 2020-21 and continues to share information and documentation via e-mail.

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

As mentioned above, 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 quarterly 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.

To complement the above, the Panel has strengthened its links with the District Community Safety Partnerships, holding the first of a proposed annual event to discuss their priorities, how those priorities contribute to the Police and Crime Plan, successes and outcomes and - in particular for 2020-21 - the impact COVID-19 has had on their work.

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.

6 THE POLICE & CRIME PANEL AND THE PUBLIC

South Yorkshire Police and Crime Panel has a website <https://www.barnsley.gov.uk/sypcp> 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 <https://www.barnsley.gov.uk/sypcp>

7 THE YEAR AHEAD (2021-22)

Panel Membership for 2021/22 is given below:



Cllr Rukhsana Haleem
(LABOUR)
(Roth) **CHAIR**



Cllr Tim Baum-Dixon
(CONS)
(Roth)



Cllr Sue Knowles
(LABOUR)
(Doncaster)



Cllr Cynthia Ransome
(CONS)
(Doncaster)



Cllr Clive Pickering
(LABOUR)
(Barnsley wef Oct 2020)



Cllr Anita Cherryholme
(LABOUR) **VICE-CHAIR**
(Barnsley wef Feb 2020)



Cllr Gary Weatherall
(LABOUR)
(Sheffield)



Cllr Ruth Milsom
(LABOUR) (Sheffield)
(wef 16.6.21)



Cllr Roger Davison
(LIB DEM)
(Sheffield)



Cllr Peter Garbutt
(GREEN)
(Sheffield)



Warren Carratt
Independent Member



Professor Adrian James
Independent Member

Previous Police and Crime Panel Members who left in 2021/22:

Rotherham Councillors Cllr Stuart Sansome Cllr Peter Short

Sheffield Councillors Cllr Joe Otten Cllr Jim Steinke Cllr Julie Grocutt

Doncaster Councillors Cllr David Nevett Cllr Sue Wilkinson

Barnsley Councillors Cllr Kath Mitchell

Independent member Mr Alan Carter

Thanks are given to all Panel Members for their contributions during the past year.

7 THE YEAR AHEAD (2021-22) continued

Home Office - Fire Reform

The biggest challenge facing the Panel in 2021-22 is the Home Office consultation on Fire and Rescue Service Reform. As mentioned earlier, 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, after the elections in 2021, West Yorkshire.

As part of a review of the role of Police and Crime Commissioners undertaken by the Home Office, there was strong support for the Government's ambition to increase the accountability of fire and rescue services by having a directly elected official taking on responsibility for the governance of the service(s) in order to strengthen and simplify provisions across England.

As a result, the Home office will consult publicly in the Summer on whether to mandate the transfer of fire and rescue authority functions to Police and Crime Commissioners in England. This will form part of a forthcoming Fire Reform White Paper.

The review findings also confirmed the Government's desire to see more Combined Authority Mayors with responsibility for both PCC and fire and rescue authority functions, and there will be a further White Paper on Devolution and Local Recovery which will set out the longer-term aim for achieving this. There are currently no timescales for the White Paper.

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 emanates from the Commissioner's Public Accountability Board. For example, the Panel has regularly received reports about the effectiveness of neighbourhood policing, updates on the criminal justice system, outcomes of inspections as well as the statutory reports covering budget and performance. Additionally, the Chief Constable attends the Panel annually to provide an update on a range of key operational areas.

Concerns from the public remain primarily around anti-social behaviour, fear of crime, police visibility and accessing the police when needed via the 101 service. The 101 service has seen significant improvements which has resulted in a reduction in call wait times and additional means of contact have been provided during the course of the year. 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 - in ensuring that their constituents' views are represented.

South Yorkshire Police and Crime Panel will continue its commitment to support and 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 a new Chief Constable;
- hold a Confirmation Hearing for the appointment of a Deputy Police and Crime Commissioner;
- 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 Services (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 currently Barnsley MBC.

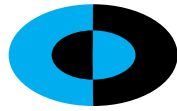
Contact details:

Barnsley MBC
Church Street
BARNSLEY
S70 2TA

E-mail: PCP@syjs.gov.uk

Or via the website at

<https://www.barnsley.gov.uk/sypcp>



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PANEL

