

Unconfirmed Minutes of the Suffolk Police and Crime Panel held on Tuesday 31 January 2017 at 10:30 am in the Elisabeth Room, Endeavour House, Ipswich.

Present: Members

Councillor Patricia O'Brien	Suffolk County Council (Chairman)
Manwar Ali	Independent Co-opted Member
Councillor John Burns	Suffolk County Council
Councillor Peter Gardiner	Ipswich Borough Council
Councillor Brian Harvey	Forest Heath District Council
Councillor Colin Hedgley	Suffolk Coastal District Council
Councillor Len Jacklin	Suffolk County Council
Councillor Diana Kearsley	Mid Suffolk District Council
Councillor Stephen Plumb	Babergh District Council
Councillor Patricia Warby	St Edmundsbury Borough Council
Councillor John Field	Suffolk County Council

Other participants and local authority officers

Paul Banjo	Scrutiny Officer, Suffolk County Council
Katherine Bailey	Democratic Services Officer, Suffolk County Council
Tim Passmore	Police and Crime Commissioner
Chris Bland	Chief Finance Officer, Suffolk Constabulary and Office of the PCC for Suffolk
Gareth Wilson	Chief Constable

1. Public Participation Session

There were no applications to speak in the public participation session.

2. Apologies for Absence and Substitutions

Apologies for absence were received from Rev Canon Paul Daltry, Cllr Mark Bee, Cllr David Wood, who was substituted by Cllr John Field and Cllr David Rose, who was substituted by Cllr Stephen Plumb.

3. **Declarations of Interest and Dispensations**

There were no declarations of interest received or dispensations reported.

4. **Minutes of the Previous Meeting**

The Minutes of the meeting held on 7 October 2016 were approved as a correct record subject to the amendment of minute no 6, paragraph 2 (pg3) to read “which was not as many as he had previously indicated to the Panel.”

5. **PCC’s proposed Precept 2017/18**

At Agenda Item 5, the Panel was asked to consider the PCC’s proposed precept and to respond to the report in accordance with the Act and regulations, including the Panel’s power of veto.

Decision: The Panel, having had regard to the written and verbal information provided:

- i) Unanimously supported the Police and Crime Commissioner’s proposal to increase the precept by 1.972% in 2017-18.
- ii) Recommended to the PCC that further information be provided regarding the areas of need on which the additional precept money will be invested, or what would be at risk of being lost without the extra funding, and that the Panel would receive an update on progress of the PCC’s precept investment and financial performance in six months.
- iii) Agreed that the Panel Chairman would make a formal report, on behalf of the Panel, on the PCC’s precept, by the statutory deadline of 8 Feb 2017.

Reasons for decision: The Panel’s reasons for approving the increase in the PCC’s precept are set out in the Chairman’s Report, which was published on 1 February 2017, and is attached as Appendix 1 to these minutes. It also can be found by following this link:

<https://www.suffolk.gov.uk/assets/community-and-safety/crime-and-public-safety/police-and-crime-panel/Suffolk-PCP-Report-Proposed-Precept-2017.pdf>

6. **Cybercrime**

At Agenda Item 6, the Panel, having received written evidence and details of investigations resulting in eight convictions, questioned the Police and Crime Commissioner on the issue of cybercrime in Suffolk.

Members heard that 62% of financial fraud was cyber-enabled and 80% of cybercrime was avoidable. The average age of people detained for cyber offences was 17, and those most vulnerable to cyber fraud were young people and the elderly.

In the last year there had been investment in PCSOs to work with schools to stop young people becoming victims of cyber-crime. “Sexting” and “On-Line Trolling” had significant impact on victims, and recognised effects on mental health. These were complex cases, in which both victims and perpetrators were often under age, and in sexting cases, victims had usually sent the original photograph, which was recorded as a crime in national statistics, even though they subsequently became victims.

Neighbourhood Support Teams were working with older people to raise awareness of and investigate cybercrimes involving older people. There was a need to educate people about the “cyber-hygiene” steps they could take to avoid cyber-fraud, and a need to encourage people to allow data sharing between agencies to enable more joined up working in response to crime.

The Constabulary was working on cyber-related issues in partnership with other forces and organisations, and there were mechanisms for exchange of funding for joint investigations. Cases costing more than £1m to investigate could be recouped from the government, but the funding mechanism for international investigations into this increasingly global crime was unclear and there was a need to ensure the response was proportionate to the crime, especially if the perpetrator was abroad.

Members heard that the PCC was continuing to invest in the Halesworth based Cybercrime Unit, which was a leader in its field. Compared with other forces, Suffolk Constabulary was advanced in the area of cyber-crime, and there was an awareness that normal incidents often included cyber-related elements. A general upskilling of staff was taking place, but the Force was also recruiting officers with cyber-specific expertise. The anticipated staff turn-over in the next couple of years (related to expected retirements) was a risk in terms of loss of expertise, but also an opportunity for the diversification of skills.

The relationship between the Suffolk Constabulary and CPS remained strong and, even though the evidential test was continually getting more complex, the Force was obtaining convictions in this area. There was a need to ensure that there was a good understanding of these crimes all the way through the criminal justice system.

Members heard that the success of the Cybercrime Policy would be monitored by measuring the effectiveness of prevention (the number of cases that occurred), the investigation rate, the number of successful prosecutions and the sentences achieved. The PCC's Accountability and Performance Panel would monitor performance against these parameters regularly, and consider how the Suffolk Constabulary was performing against national statistics and the performance of the National Cybercrime Centre. One of the big challenges would be keeping up with the continual influx of newly invented crimes.

Decision: The Panel recommended to the PCC that after six months there should be a further update to the Panel on cybercrime performance.

7. Suffolk Police and Crime Panel Annual Report 2016

At Agenda Item 7, the Committee received the draft Police and Crime Panel Annual Report 2016.

Decision: The Panel unanimously agreed to approve the Police and Crime Panel Annual Report 2016 for publication.

Reason for decision: The Panel was satisfied that the Annual Report adequately summarised the Panel's undertakings and associated outcomes over the period January to December 2016.

8. Information Bulletin

The Panel noted the Information Bulletin at Agenda Item 8.

9. Forward Work Programme

At Agenda Item 9, the Committee considered its Forward Work Programme and agreed:

- i) to request, for the next meeting, Information Bulletin updates on the new crime reporting process and the effects of legacy data on the efficiency of the service.
- ii) that at its meeting in October, the Panel would receive updates on the financial position of the PCC and Constabulary, and performance of the Constabulary with regard to Cybercrime and Sexual Exploitation of vulnerable people.

10. Urgent Business

No urgent business was considered.

11. Date and Venue of the Next Scheduled Meeting

Members heard that the next meeting would be held on Friday 17 March 2017 at 10:30 am in the Conference Room (West), West Suffolk House, Bury St Edmunds

The meeting closed at 12:15 pm.

Chairman