

STAFFORDSHIRE POLICE FIRE AND CRIME PANEL – 5 FEBRUARY 2023

NATIONAL CONFERENCE FOR POLICE, FIRE AND CRIME PANELS - 9 NOVEMBER 2023

1. Report of the Secretary

The Panels Chairman, Councillor Peters, Vice-Chairman, Councillor Cox and Support Officer Mandy Pattinson, attended the National Conference for Police, Fire and Crime Panels hosted by Warwick University on 9 November 2023.

Councillor Cox attended in person and Councillor Peters and Mandy Pattinson attended online. This was the 12th National Conference organised by Frontline Consulting. Representatives of most Panels in England and Wales attend this event as it is recognised as a valuable opportunity to update on the national picture for Panels.

2. National Conference – 9 November 2023.

The event had a number of keynote speakers and a question and answer session during the morning and a selection of themed workshops during the afternoon.

2.1 Keynote Speech's from:

- **Joy Allen**, Durham Police and Crime Commissioner
- **Jonathan Evison**, Humberside Police and Crime Commissioner
- **Roger Hirst**, Essex Police Fire and Crime Commissioner
- **Ann Reeder**, Ex Director and Founder of Frontline Consulting (Chair)
- **Danny Shaw**, Crime, Justice, Policing and Immigration

2.2 Question and answer session:

1. Know do you build a good relationship between the Panel and Commissioner:

- Respect
- Communication
- Publicity- the panel is working on behalf of the public
- What does the Panel want from reports ? They need to be specific/clear about requirements; need to be transparent; no need to rewrite reports if the information is already available as its been to another body - ask for papers which have

already been written, therefore scrutinizing the information the decision was based on.

- Have a Work programme so the Commissioners know what is coming and timing.
2. How do panels add value?
 - Public may be unaware of the panel and right to ask questions.
 - Summary included in reports
 - Website to access documents
 - Raise profile of the panel
 - Critical and positive challenge
 - Scrutiny of delivery of the plan
 - Nonpolitical works best
 - Site visits add value for panel development e.g. control room
 3. What do Panels do less well?
 - Stray into operational matters which takes up time.
 - Parochial items should be dealt with outside meetings
 - Consistency – members can change every year
 4. Issues for some Panels
 - PCC office – can hold back on information/gatekeeping. If so contact Commissioner directly
 - Some areas are not coterminous – courses issues/cross over
 - Combined authorities and devolution – confusing for the public
 - Deputy's should be elected at the same time by the public?
 - Future – funding formular

2.3 Afternoon Workshops

Session 1 Public Confidence in Policing

Facilitator: Jonathan Evison, Humberside Police and Crime Commissioner

Points of interest:

- Some panels had set up Working Group looking into a) Public Confidence b) Public Perceptions c) Managing Expectations
- PFCC Elections: Collaboration and Change: Make it Work and What next?
- Share Good Practice
- Chief Constable or Deputies and Chief Fire Officers or Deputies may attend panel meetings; however, questions must be through the Commissioner.

- Use of social media of panels activities (not universally agreed as potentially problematic)
- Some Panels had 4 independents with 4-year terms. Appointments to be made at different times to avoid new independents all at once.
- Training is essential.

Session 2 Measuring Success

Facilitator: Dave Burn, Director Frontline Consulting

How do the Panel know if they are delivering on outcomes?

- Consider/cover all statutory requirements
- Task group recommendations – monitor implementation of recommendations
- How do you measure VFM
- How much engagement do members have with public to enable challenge
- How do Members evaluate spending on activities
- Home office funding being spent
- Success of meetings – do all the members turn up? Therefore value the meetings and role of the panel
- Annual reports? What happens to them?
- Make recommendations after debates (if it needs one)

Session 3 Preparing for Change

Wayne Chandai, Frontline Consulting Associate

How can Panels prepare? Why is it important?

- Need to be able to react
- Consistence is a challenge-both panel membership and Commissioner
- Takes a while to understand the role even with training.
- Some local authorities have gone back to their districts/boroughs and asked them to reappoint the same member to ensure continuity.
- Work programme, confirmation hearings, diary dates
- Some panel buddy new members – car share etc.

Attending the Conference: Councillors B Peter, Councillor R Cox and Mandy Pattinson