

ACCOUNTABILITY AND PERFORMANCE PANEL

A meeting of the Accountability and Performance Panel was held via Microsoft Teams at 09:30 on Friday 5 March 2021.

PRESENT:

Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner

Sandra Graffham (Head of Communications and Engagement), Christopher Jackson (Chief Executive), Anna Parkinson (EA to the PCC and CEO), Tim Passmore (PCC) and Vanessa Scott (Head of Policy and Performance).

Suffolk Constabulary

Eamonn Bridger (Detective Superintendent – observing), Rob Jones (Assistant Chief Constable), Steve Jupp (Chief Constable), Rachel Kearton (Deputy Chief Constable) and Kenneth Kilpatrick (Assistant Chief Officer).

In attendance for the public agenda

Councillor John Burns (Member of Police and Crime Panel), Ross Daniels (Metropolitan Police), Andrew Eley (Democratic Services, Suffolk County Council), Mark Jepson (Chair of Police and Crime Panel), Raj Kohli (Chief Superintendent, Metropolitan Police), Tom Potter (Journalist, East Anglian Daily Times) and Councillor Keith Welham (Member of Police and Crime Panel).

Apologies

Chris Bland (Chief Finance Officer) and Simon Megicks (Assistant Chief Constable).

PUBLIC AGENDA

- 1 **Open minutes of the meeting held on 15 January 2021** (Paper AP21/12)
 - 1.1 The minutes of the meeting held on 15 January 2021 were agreed as an accurate record and approved by the PCC.
 - 1.2 The actions were noted as complete/in hand.

2 **Revenue and Capital Monitoring** Report by the Assistant Chief Officer and Chief Finance Officer (Paper AP21/13)

- 2.1 The Assistant Chief Officer presented this report, highlighting some key areas.
- 2.2 He emphasised the importance of building the reserves in view of forecast deficits in future years and also the significant cost pressures which the Force will be facing. For perspective, it costs c.£400k to run the Force and therefore reserves of c.£4m would only be enough to keep the Force going for 10 days.
- 2.3 The PCC was pleased to note the financial position.

3 **Performance Priorities Monitoring Report** Report by the Chief Constable (Paper AP21/14)

- 3.1 The Deputy Chief Constable presented this report. She began by highlighting what an extraordinary and unusual 12 months due to the pandemic and the impact of this on crime and the performance of the Force. She drew attention to the graphs throughout the report which indicate when Suffolk was under national lockdown levels with crime patterns set against this.

Performance Report: Summary

- 3.2 Page 5 of the Summary Report shows the Public Confidence Statistics. ACC Jones expressed his frustration that there is a significant time lag on the data produced by the Office for National Statistics (ONS). Suffolk has been undertaking a significant amount of work around public trust and confidence however any progress is yet to be seen in ONS data as the pandemic has impeded the ONS in conducting surveys as they tend to undertake these face-to-face. It is hoped that more recent data will become available very soon. However, the Force does have victim satisfaction data collected locally which overall indicates improvement.

Performance Report: Workforce

- 3.3 The PCC was pleased to see that the Force is over establishment on officers and to note that recruitment for additional police staff is underway.
- 3.4 Sickness levels remain good and compare with previous rates and with other Forces nationally.
- 3.5 The PCC asked if the numbers of Specials and Volunteers could be included in future reports as they form a vital part of the workforce mix. The Deputy Chief Constable said that consideration could be given to this.
ACTION: Consideration to be given to including the numbers of Specials and Volunteers in future Workforce reports.
- 3.6 The Chief Executive then asked, following recent comments by the Policing Minister, what work was underway, if any, to increase the diversity of the Force. The Deputy Chief Constable explained that work was ongoing to improve minority ethnic representation of the local population, such as engagement with Higher Education Institutes. She added that Suffolk was one of the best Forces in terms of female representation.

Performance Report: Domestic Abuse (DA)

- 3.7 The Deputy Chief Constable introduced this report by saying that while there had been an increase in reports of DA, this is now being to plateau.
- 3.8 The Suffolk Violence Abuse Partnership is absolutely central to how police, and partners, care for victims of DA. Not all victims report directly to the police and it can be through information shared by partners which can inform the Force of a fuller picture. The Partnership also ensures that the victim receives the services and support they require.
- 3.9 Looking at the low “solved” rate, the Chief Executive asked what the reasons were for this other than a victim not wanting to co-operate with an investigation. ACC Jones said that there were many reasons for this – for example historic incidents are much harder to evidentially prove. Crime reporting standards have also led to an increase in the recording of DA crimes. In addition the DA abuse definition has been broadened to include psychological harm. ACC Jones emphasised that the victim remains absolutely central and a number choose not to pursue the Criminal Justice for their own reasons. Supporting the victim in their choices remains of the utmost importance.

Performance Report: Serious Sexual Offences (SSO)

- 3.10 The PCC noted that the position with regards to SSO was very similar to that of DA.

Performance Report: Emergency and Non-Emergency Call Handling

- 3.11 The PCC was pleased to note the ongoing strong performance in these areas.
- 3.12 The Deputy Chief Constable reported that “channel shift” remained an active strand of work, reflecting the increasing appetite of the public to contact the Force digitally and not just through traditional channels.

Performance Report: Traffic Offence Reports

- 3.13 There has been an increase in Killed or Serious Injured collisions (KSIs) when compared to the long-term average. The PCC asked whether these figures could be broken down to include number killed, number seriously injured, and whether it was single occupancy cars in or multiple occupants in one vehicle/incident.
ACTION: KSI figures to be broken down (if possible) to indicate number killed, number seriously injured, whether single occupancy cars or multiple occupants in one vehicle/incident.
- 3.14 The Chief Executive asked whether it would be possible to establish whether the poor state of road surfaces in Suffolk was also a contributing factor, particularly in incidents involving cyclists. The Deputy Chief Constable said that she would see if this information was available as it could add helpful context to the safety of roads in Suffolk.
ACTION: Establish (if possible) whether the poor state of road surfaces in Suffolk contributes to traffic incidents.

Performance Report: Violence with Injury

- 3.15 There were no substantive points or questions raised.

Performance Report: Violence without Injury

3.16 There were no substantive points or questions raised.

4 **Children and Young People Update** Report by the Chief Constable (Paper AP21/15)

4.1 ACC Jones presented this report, highlighting key areas.

4.2 With regard to missing children, the PCC asked whether there were any trends to be aware of amongst the reasons that children are reported missing. ACC Jones said that the reasons are mixed and consideration is being given to commission further work in this area. He added that there had also been discussion about “return home” interviews and the importance of these taking place in the most appropriate environment where the missing person would feel supported and more likely to articulate their reasons. For example, rather than an interview taking place in the back of a police car when immediately found, the interview could take place – if it was such a situation – back at a Children’s Home with care home staff present and once the individual had been made comfortable.

4.3 The PCC overall was delighted with this very comprehensive paper and the extent of the work underway in Suffolk to support children and young people.

5 **Any Other Business**

5.1 There was no other business.

The open part of the meeting closed at 11:25 and members of the public left the meeting.

PRIVATE AGENDA

[A detailed account of the discussions and decisions on the following items is contained in the confidential minutes]

6 **Closed minutes of the meeting held on 15 January 2021** (Paper AP21/16)

6.1 The confidential minutes of the meeting held on 15 January 2021 were agreed as an accurate record and approved by the PCC.

7 **Protective Services Command Update** Report by the Chief Constable (Paper AP21/17)

7.1 The Chief Constable presented this report.

8 **Protective Services CONTEST Update** Report by the Chief Constable (Paper AP21/18)

8.1 The Chief Constable presented this report.

9 **Suffolk Strategic Risk Register** Report by the Chief Constable (Paper AP21/19)

9.1 The Chief Constable presented this report.

The meeting closed at 11:45

Summary of Actions

Item	Action	Owner
3.5	Performance Report – Workforce: Consideration to be given to including the numbers of Specials and Volunteers in future Workforce reports.	Deputy Chief Constable
3.13	Performance Report – Traffic Offence Reports: KSI figures to be broken down (if possible) to indicate number killed, number seriously injured, whether single occupancy cars or multiple occupants in one vehicle/incident.	Deputy Chief Constable
3.14	Performance Report – Traffic Offence Reports: Establish whether the poor state of road surfaces in Suffolk contributes to traffic incidents.	Deputy Chief Constable