**Meeting: Policing Board**

**Venue: Teams Meeting**

**Date: 20th December 2022**

**Time: 09:00 – 10:30**

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| **Members:** | Dafydd Llywelyn, Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC)  Chief Constable Dr Richard Lewis (CC)  Carys Morgans, Chief Executive, OPCC (CEX)  Beverley Peatling, Chief Finance Officer, OPCC (CFO) |
| **Also, Present:** | Edwin Harries, Director of Finance (DoF)  Supt Jane Butler (Agenda item 4 (h) only)  T-Insp Richard Davies, Staff Officer  Ellen Jones, Executive Support , OPCC (EJ) |

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| **Decision No** | **Summary** |
| PB T3 51 | The PCC approved that the existing Contract with New Pathways at the annual value of £306,075 be extended for the period 1st April 2022 to 31st March 2024. |

**Administrative Matters**

Minutes from the previous meeting were deemed a true and accurate record of the meeting.

1. **Apologies and Introductions** *(Chair)*

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| **Action No.** | **Action Summary** | **Update** |
| PB 163 | Consideration to be given to the engagement of rape survivors | In progress with the OPCC Victims Engagement Forum |
| PB 171 | CC to review of the number of officer rank in the Force and provide update to PCC | On Agenda |
| PB 172 | OPCC Executive Team to review outcomes of future HR Policing Board reports | Complete |
| PB 173 | Review of Vale Occupational Health’s cost and outcomes to be undertaken | Complete |
| PB 185 | Review of delivery plan enablers to be undertaken | Complete |
| PB 186 | To receive a briefing in relation to the Strip Searching of Children at a future Policing Board | On Agenda |
| PB 198 | Force to provide formal written response to HMIC report on vetting by 9th December, and a briefing session to be arranged for the PCC w/c 12th December | Complete |
| PB 199 | OPCC to arrange further meetings with Cllr Alex Evans | Complete |
| PB 200 | CC to review security review in regard to relocating Carmarthen station to HQ | In progress |

1. **Update on actions from previous meetings** *(Chair)*

*Action PB 173 - Review of Vale Occupational Health’s cost and outcomes to be undertaken –* The DoF informed that issues that were raised by Occupational Health have been addressed via a temporary single quotation award which total value is £7K and provided reassurance that this would address the critical issues regarding service requirement for the short term. The DoF informed that the full collaborative tender is due to be awarded in March 2023 and is a collaborative approach.

*Action PB 186 - To receive a briefing in relation to the Strip Searching of Children at a future Policing Board –* The PCC noted the briefing provided. RD informed that Chief Inspector Chris Neve had provided a response to the Children’s Commissioner.

*Action PB 198 - HMIC report on vetting* – The PCC informed that he had received briefing from the Force and noted that he had been reassured in regard to the Force’s vetting process. The PCC noted the need to review the wider culture of the Force and referred to the culture webinars that were previously held.

A discussion ensued regarding Force contract management. The CFO informed that she and the DoF had met with the Head of Procurement to discuss and informed that progress is being made and that staff are undergoing training.

The CEX questioned if the Force could provide an update on the Force’s response to the Police and Crime Plan. The CC informed that it has been reviewed and suggested that it is discussed at the next Policing Board meeting.

**Action: Force’s plan in response to Police and Crime Plan to be discussed on 25th January Policing Board**

1. **Standing Items** 
   1. Chief Constable’s Update (including decisions by Chief Constable)

The CC provided an overview of the paper provided that highlighted key operational and organisational activity. The CC highlighted the Policing Partnership for Wales meeting and a discussion ensued regarding the meetings governance structure.

* 1. Police and Crime Commissioner’s Update

The PCC highlighted key aspect of the report provided. The PCC informed that he had met with Peter Vaughan from the University of South Wales who is their lead for the policing education qualifications framework activity. The PCC informed that they discussed the potential change in approach being advocated by the College of Policing. The CFO questioned the procurement process of re-tendering academic collaborations. The PCC sought clarity and suggested that the CFO and DoF review the process.

**Action: CFO and DoF to review the procurement process in regard to re-tendering academic collaborations**

1. **Matters for Discussion**
   1. Budget Monitoring

The PCC thanked the DoF for the in-depth and transparent report provided. The DoF provided an overview of the report provided. The CFO queried the variances on police officer pay and sought reassurance on the month-on-month estimate. The DoF informed that this had been projected due to the number of transferees. The CFO queried in regard to Uplift whether the Force will increase the intake of officers to ensure that the target is reached. The DoF confirmed that the Force would increase its intake to ensure the grant is received.

The PCC questioned the detail of what is considered within the totality of the other miscellaneous transactions, subscriptions to other bodies and contributions to other bodies. The DoF informed that other miscellaneous payments include non-pay budgets and informed that if the payment is not required the amount is forwarded into the savings budget. The DoF continued to inform that subscriptions to other bodies include legal and professional programmes and contributions to other bodies include both national and international collaboration services. The PCC thanked the DoF for the explanation.

* 1. Finance - Safer Communities Board for Wales

The Board acknowledged the Safer Communities Board for Wales report which focused on the rise in the cost-of-living and implications for policing and for crime and harm.

The PCC queried what measures the Force are putting in place to support its staff during the cost-of-living crisis and questioned if a more practical support could be provided. The CC informed that work has been undertaken through the staff support networks and the Force have re-introduced support services. The CC informed that services have been highlighted through UNISON and the Film Fridays. The PCC suggested that the OPCC provide scrutiny in evaluating the support available for staff.

**Action: OPCC to review support available for Staff during cost-of-living crisis externally and review the possibility of launching an internal initiative.**

* 1. Firearms department

The PCC informed the CC that the OPCC had received an increase of communications relating to concern with the firearms department. The PCC noted the suggested actions noted within the provided briefing. The CEX noted that the Business Support Unit had provided an overview response, but further work is required and questioned whether the matter can be discussed at the next Policing Board.

**Action: Firearms concerns to be discussed on 25th January Policing Board**

* 1. Making off without Payment (MOWP)

The PCC noted that following communication received he sought clarity on the Force’s position. RD provided a summary of the Force’s position to the PCC. The PCC suggested the future automation of information in collaboration with the driver, the vehicle licence agency, and the Force to ensure a better process. The CC informed that Chief Superintendent David Guiney is pulling together a piece of work on MOWP and suggested that the PCC’s proposal be considered as part of this activity.

**Action: RD to discuss automated process for MOWP with ChInsp David Guiney**

* 1. Strip Searching of Children

The PCC noted that the agenda item was discussed earlier under agenda item 2.

* 1. Children in Custody

The PCC informed that he had met with the Chair of the Regional Safeguarding Board to discuss safe places and secure beds for children. The PCC noted that there had been an increase in the number of children in custody and sought reassurance over this position. The CC noted that the during the Force performance meeting custody rates were discussed but there is a need to review the age of those arrested. The CC noted that the Force could undertake a review and provide a response at the next Policing Board.

**Action: Force to review the increase of children in custody and provide a briefing at the 25th of Jan Policing Board**

* 1. Driver Training

The PCC informed that he wished for this matter to be discussed at Policing Board following his recent visit to the driver training centre. The PCC questioned the Force’s position on the proposals raised by the driver training unit. The CC informed that the Force are considering the viability of proposals and the potential impact on the required savings plan. RD informed that a business case is to be submitted to the Force review team and then COG. The PCC noted his concern that the original business case was provided in August. The CC noted that the case will be reviewed at the next COG meeting.

* 1. HMICFRS – police super complaint - How the police respond to victims of sexual abuse when the victim is from an ethnic minority background and may be at risk of honour-based abuse

The PCC noted that the His Majesty’s Inspectorate of Constabulary and Fire & Rescue Services will be discussed at the next Policing Board meeting

**Action: HMICFRS – police super complaint to be discussed on the 25th of January Policing Board meeting and Supt Jane Butler to provide a briefing**

1. **Focus:** HR report (to include PB 171- CC to review of the number of officer rank in the Force and provide rationale to PCC & PB 172 OPCC Executive Team to review outcomes of future HR Policing Board reports )

The PCC thanked the CC for the report provided and noted the positive detail enclosed. The PCC noted the usefulness of being able to compare the Force rank figures for 2022 with previous years. The PCC questioned whether the CC is content with the figures stated within the report. The CC noted that it isn’t the position he’d hoped to be in, but work is being undertaken.

The PCC noted the gender imbalance within the ranked officers. The CC noted that a piece of work is being undertaken by the DCC to increase the number of high rank female officers. The CFO informed that she had some queries arising from the report and stated that they can be sent through correspondence.

**Action: CFO to provide HR report questions through correspondence**

1. **Matters for Decision**
   1. Single Tender Award New Pathways

The PCC approved that the existing Contract with New Pathways at the annual value of £306,075 excluding VAT be extended for the period 1st April 2022 to 31st March 2024, to enable transition to the procured services under the regional model.

**Decision: The PCC approved that the existing Contract with New Pathways at the annual value of £306,075 be extended for the period 1st April 2022 to 31st March 2024.**

1. **Any Other Business**
   1. Welsh Language

The PCC informed he met with Siwan Iorthwerth from ‘Dysgu Cymraeg Cymru’ and informed that feedback received indicated that the Force need to be more proactive with the Emergency Services work Welsh sessions. The CC noted that he will seek reassurance. The PCC informed that he would circulate the correspondence received

Action: The PCC to send correspondence relating to Welsh work sessions to the CC and CEX

* 1. HMIC report on digital forensics

The CEX informed a response is required by the CC and questioned whether a response will be available soon. The CC noted that he will seek the response and provide to the OPCC.

**Action: Force to provide response to HMIC report on digital forensics**

1. **Review of all actions and decisions taken** *(Chair)*

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| **Action No.** | **Action Summary** | **To be progressed by** |
| PB 203 | Force’s plan in response to Police and Crime Plan to be discussed on 25th January Policing Board | OPCC |
| PB 204 | CFO and DoF to review procurement process in regard to re-tendering academic collaborations | CFO |
| PB 205 | OPCC to review support available for Staff during cost-of-living crisis externally and review the possibility of launching an internal initiative | OPCC |
| PB 206 | Firearms concerns to be discussed on 25th January Policing Board | OPCC |
| PB 207 | RD to discuss automated process for MOWP with ChInsp David Guiney | RD |
| PB 208 | Force review team to review the increase of children in custody and provide a briefing at the 25th of Jan Policing Board | Force |
| PB 209 | HMICFRS – police super complaint to be discussed on the 25th of January Policing Board meeting and Supt Jane Butler to provide a briefing | OPCC |
| PB 210 | CFO to provide HR report questions through correspondence | CFO |
| PB 211 | Force to provide response to HMIC report on digital forensics | Force |