

MERTHYR TYDFIL COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL



MINUTES OF MEETING

**SOUTH WALES POLICE AND
CRIME PANEL MEETING**

TUESDAY, 5TH JUNE, 2018

PRESENT: Councillor R Smith (Rhondda Cynon Taf CBC) (Chair)

Councillors:

B Bowen-Thomson (Cardiff Council), T Davies (Cardiff Council),
R Lewis (Rhondda Cynon Taf CBC), P Rees (Neath Port Talbot
CBC) and R Young (Bridgend CBC)

Co-optees:

M Jehu (Vice-Chair)
M Jones

Outside Bodies:

Mr Alun Michael (Police and Crime Commissioner)
Mr Matt Jukes (Chief Constable)
Mr Lee Jones (Chief of Staff – Commissioner’s Office)
Ms Paula Hardy (Strategic Policy Lead – Violence Against
Women and Girls)

Officers:

S Jones (Senior Solicitor) and H Jones (Scrutiny Officer)

M Hemmings (Democratic Services Officer)

| ITEM NO. | AGENDA MATTER | DECISION |
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| 1 | Apologies for Absence | Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Kelly Roberts and Christine Richards. |

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| 2 | Declarations of Interest | No Declarations of Interest were made. |
| 3 | Appointment of Chair of the South Wales Police and Crime Panel | Resolved that: Councillor Robert Smith be appointed as Chair of the Panel. |
| 4 | Appointment of Vice Chair of the South Wales Police and Crime Panel | Resolved that: Mr Melvin Jehu, Co-opted Member be appointed as Vice Chair of the Panel. |
| 5 | Minutes of Previous Meeting(s) | Resolved that: The Minutes of the Meeting on 20 March 2018 be accepted as a correct record. |
| 6 | Change in Membership of the South Wales Police and Crime Panel | Simon Jones referred the Panel to the report 'Change in Membership of the South Wales Police and Crime Panel' and provided an update with regard to the Home Office confirmation of new appointments. The Chair welcomed Councillor Chris Davies, Merthyr Tydfil (as an observer) to the meeting. The Chair also requested that the two departing members of the Panel be sent a letter thanking them for their service. Resolved that: a) The changes in membership of the South Wales Police and Crime Panel be noted, subject to Home Office confirmation; and b) A letter be sent to Councillors Kevin Gibbs and John Thomas thanking them for their service on the Panel. |
| 7 | Attendance of Police Officers at A & E Departments | The Chair welcomed Alun Michael – Police and Crime Commissioner, Lee Jones – Chief of Staff of the Commissioner's Office and Matt Jukes – Chief Constable to the meeting. The Panel then received a presentation from the Police and Crime Commissioner on the attendance of Police Officers at A & E Departments and in particular Mr Michael referred to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Attendance and Trends (not including hospitals calling Police to attend). • Mental Health. • Influence of drink and/or drugs. • Diagnosis of psychiatric treatment. • Pressures that individual cases can cause. • Changes in admission process. |

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| | | <p>The Chief Constable advised that a typical month requires between 800 to 1000 hours of Police commitment to hospital watch, which doesn't include voluntary attendance (800 to 1000 hours equals five Police Officers).</p> <p>Further discussion took place with regard to safeguarding individuals in hospital and those in custody, the substantial commitment of police time and the benefits of the new control room which replaced the previous eight control rooms and which now includes the Fire Service and an Ambulance Desk and in the future will accommodate Mental Health Nurse support.</p> <p>The following questions were raised/matters discussed and answered in detail by the Police and Crime Commissioner and the Chief Constable:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How strong are the relationships between the Police and the three Health Boards? • Successful integration of Bridgend moving under Cwm Taf Health Board. • Safety of NHS as a workplace. • Is approach consistent across South Wales? • Request for a report to be provided following mental health post being implemented. • Is too much emphasis being made on social housing with regard to ACE's? <p>The Chair expressed his view that a lot of work had been undertaken for the protection of the public.</p> <p>A comfort break was taken at 11.50 a.m. At this point, following verbal outbursts from members of the public, they were escorted from the meeting.</p> <p>Meeting resumed at 11.55 a.m. and a discussion took place around complaints and how to manage these situations.</p> |
| 8 | Police involvement in the Sexual Assault Referral Centre | <p>Paula Hardy, Strategic Policy Lead, Violence Against Women and Girls provided a verbal update on Police involvement in the Sexual Assault Referral Centre and in particular referred to:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The purpose of SARC and the provision of support • Police Involvement – 1297 referrals for the financial year 2017/18 • Overview of 2016/17 National Rape Data Comparisons • Rape attrition (2015 Home Office study) <p>The following questions/matters were raised:-</p> |

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| | | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Whilst Cardiff were accessing SARC 50%, remainder was split equally between Merthyr Tydfil and Swansea. Given the difference in size of these two areas, how are the numbers so high for Merthyr Tydfil? • Rape attrition rates for South Wales. • Highlighted that there had been significant progress made in reporting, but acknowledged that an increase in reporting would reflect in the attrition rates. <p>The Chair thanked Paula Hardy for the update.</p> <p>Resolved that:</p> <p>a) An update be brought to Panel on the rape attrition rates for South Wales.</p> |
| 9 | Date and time of next meeting | <p>The date of the next meeting is Tuesday, 2nd October 2018.</p> <p>Venue: Orbit Centre, Merthyr Tydfil.</p> <p>The Chair advised Panel that this would be Howard Jones last Panel Meeting as he was retiring. The Chair thanked him on behalf of the Panel for the contribution he had made and wished him a long and happy retirement.</p> |
| 10 | Any other business deemed urgent by the Chair | <p>The Chair advised that there was no other business deemed urgent.</p> |