



## **REPORT TO THE SOUTH WALES POLICE AND CRIME PANEL**

**17<sup>th</sup> September 2019**

### **Appointment of Panel Champions**

#### **Purpose of the Report**

To consider whether to agree to the appointment of member champions.

#### **1.0 Report details.**

- 1.1 Every year the Police & Crime Commissioner for South Wales' (the Commissioner) in accordance with statutory requirements presents the Panel with the Police & Crime (Reduction) Plan or revisions to it (the Plan). The Panel's role is to consider the same with the aim of contributing to the development of the Plan (on which it is a statutory consultee). The Commissioner must have regard to the Panel's views and recommendations on the draft. Another statutory duty imposed upon the Panel is its duty to make comments and question the Commissioner on his annual report.
- 1.2 In addition to the above the Panel in its role as a scrutiny body exists to generally scrutinise the Commissioner in order to (1) promote openness in the transaction of police business and (2) to support the Commissioner in his effective exercise of his functions. In carry out this role the Panel may make reports and recommendations on matters relating to the Commissioner on which he is obliged to provide a response. The Panel may also carry out investigations into decisions made by the Commissioner or into topics of particular interest or public concern. These are not statutory functions but may be necessary in order to effectively carry out the rest of the Commissioner's business.

#### **2.0 The Proposal.**

- 2.1 Members have considered for some time whether or not the aforementioned Panel functions could be improved if Member Champions were appointed by the Panel to further consider and scrutinise specific areas within the Commissioner's Plan. The appointment of Champions has been adopted by many other Panels both in Wales & England and from discussions with lead officers from other Welsh Panels it would seem to work well.

2.2 The Commissioner's current Plan has 6 overarching priorities and they are -

1. To reduce and prevent crime and anti-social behaviour to keep people safe and confident in their homes and communities.
2. To engage with involve and inform our communities, working with partners in Local Government, Health, Fire and Welsh Government to build resilience.
3. To protect the most vulnerable in our communities, understanding causes and taking prompt positive action as issues arise.
4. To make the local Criminal justice System the most effective and efficient it can be to meet the needs of victims and reduce offending.
5. To make our contribution to the Strategic Policing Requirement and successfully police major events.
6. To spend your money wisely and support our people to provide the best possible policing in your community.

2.3 Sitting below these priorities, the Commissioner's Plan also highlights the main concerns of the Commissioner's partners which are in effect the concerns of the people of South Wales. These concerns are:-

1. Substance misuse
2. Supporting young people
3. Protecting vulnerable people
4. Domestic abuse
5. Mental Health
6. Anti-social behaviour
7. Reducing re-offending
8. Terrorism
9. Violent Crime
10. Child sexual exploitation.
11. Road safety
12. Acquisitive crime.

2.4 It is envisaged that the role and remit of the Member Champion would be to:

- liaise if necessary with the Commissioner and his office

- keep the Panel up-to-date with activities within their specific interest
- generally promote the remit of the Panel

2.5 Members of the Panel are asked to consider adopting Member Champions and to determine what aspects of the Commissioner's Plan they would like to Champion. One suggestion previously put forward was for the Panel members to work in pairs and to co-ordinate their work on the areas in which they are Champions and to enable them to effectively question and scrutinise the Commissioner as and when required. It is also proposed that if the proposal to introduce champions is adopted by the Panel then this would be initially for a 12 month trial period, after which the proposal would be reviewed and extended if successful.

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