

## AGENDA ITEM 8

Essex Police and Crime Panel	<b>EPCP/22/16</b>
Date: 1 December 2016	

### **A National Association of Police and Crime Panels**

Report by the Secretary to the Panel

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### **Purpose of report and background**

To seek the Panel's views on the possibility of establishing a national association of Police and Crime Panels.

### **A proposal for a national association**

At its last meeting the Panel was updated on Essex's involvement with the Eastern Region Police and Crime Panel Network. The network has previously discussed the potential benefits of Police and Crime Panels having a national voice and more widely there appears to be growing support for the idea.

Whilst other parties involved have national associations, the Commissioners and the Chief Executives of the Commissioners' Offices, this is not the case for the Panels. The Panels have struggled to make their voice heard in their dealings with the Home Office in relation to the lack of clarity of the role and lack of any real powers to be able to hold a commissioner to account.

A number of benefits would appear to flow from having a national association:

- having a recognised voice to represent views at a national level
- providing support and development
- being better able to provide national leadership and influence change
- consulting members to develop consolidated views
- disseminating best practice, ensuring consistency and identifying efficiencies by working together
- taking co-ordinated action that can help remove barriers at a national level
- providing a forum for debate
- representing and promoting the interests of panels to key stakeholders and partners
- increasing the visibility and status of panels
- providing support and guidance
- enabling panels to prepare for change, for instance in becoming Police and Fire Panels.

The Chairman was in support of this proposal and agreed to seek the Panel's views. Essex has said it would be willing to get involved with helping to develop the idea.

The Panel is recommended to support the further investigation of the possibility of creating a national association of Police and Crime Panels.