

# National Association of Police Fire & Crime Panels

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## February 2020 Activity Report

This report provides a brief update of the association's activities between December 2019 and February 2020.

### Executive Committee Membership

Following the National Conference in November 2019 and the resolution agreed by members to move to a non-subscription operating model the next item of business was to appoint committee members to the two vacant positions one of which was for the vice-chairman position.

Qualifying applications were received for the vacant vice chair and exec. member positions;

Appointed as NAPFCP Vice Chairman - Evan Morris MBE (Chairman Cheshire PCP)

Appointed to the committee - Cllr David Reilly (Chairman Warwickshire PCP)

The Executive Committee is made up of a mixture of co-opted and councillor members, as well as chairman, vice chairman and ordinary members as follows;

Chairman – John Gili-Ross (Essex Police, Fire and Crime Panel)

Vice Chairman – Cllr Stuart Sansome (Vice Chair South Yorkshire PCP)

Vice Chairman – Evan Morris MBE (Chair Cheshire PCP)

Cllr Barry Young (Lincolnshire PCP)

Cllr Richard Britton (Wiltshire PCP)

Cllr Mohammed Iqbal (West Yorkshire PCP)

Cllr Gill Mercer (Chairman Northamptonshire PFCP)

Suma Harding (Nottinghamshire PCP)

Cllr Joyce Welsh (Northumbria PCP)

Cllr David Reilly (Chairman Warwickshire PCP)

### Activities

The association provided a response to the Review of Policing - Call for Evidence in December 2019. The review has been launched by the Police Foundation with the stated overall aim being to “set the long-term strategic vision for English and Welsh Policing for a modern service capable of meeting the challenges of the 21st century”. The review consists of two parts with the first call for evidence submission date in December 2019 and the second planned for summer of 2020.

The association intends to respond and provide a panel perspective of why Police (Fire) & Crime Commissions are meeting public demands for policing within their respective areas, by work successfully with the Chief Constable. The panels role in area policing being to “Challenge” and as appropriate “Support” Commissioners in their role.

The associations submission only addressed those questions within the Call for Evidence document that were specifically relevant to Police and Crime Panels engagement in policing. A copy of the association’s submission is available from Emma Tombs.

### Activities and Actions

The executive committee met on Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> February and had a comprehensive agenda including items relating to membership updates, Executive member skill sets, Review of Policing – Call for Evidence timetable, PCP/PFCP Regional Meetings, LGA Workshop program, PCC Elections and Co-opted Member Appointments.

The full meeting minutes will be available in due course through Emma Tombs, with the summary discussion outcomes from the above agenda being;

- 1 None of the members have the appropriate skills to populate the Police and Crime Panels web site and this will function remains with JGR. SH is a serving magistrate and has offered her CJ experience as required. There is extensive experience in operational policing and the FRS from retired officers – EM, DR
- 2 The associations submission to the call for evidence was submitted in December 2019. Cheshire PCP made a submission in January 2020. The association will review the findings of the first call for evidence and comment at that time, or wait until the second call for evidence is released in the summer.
- 3 Regional training days are being arranged by Frontline Consulting and a list was provided. Frontline has not been able to generate training interest in the South or South western PCP’s including Hampshire, IOW, Dorset, Devon, Cornwall, or Somerset. Only Wiltshire has shown interest in taking part in regional events. The NA to consider how best to promote regional training in these panel areas.
- 4 The LGA annual workshop has been moved forward from its usual position in June/July to March. The NA were not consulted on this date which, considering its status as a SIG , appears strange. The reasons given for the change was to accommodate the PCC elections in May. Exec members believe that holding the event after the May elections would have been more appropriate, particularly as some councils have elections in May with the potential for panel membership changes.
- 5 There are expected to be a number of PCC’s that will not be standing for election in May including, Dorset, Durham (Deceased), Nottinghamshire and Wiltshire.
- 6 Co-opted panel member appointments were discussed wrt the term of office that panels have been taking above the initial term of 4 years. This was particularly relevant where co-opted members are panel chairman or vice-chairman. Exec member panels had either extended the term after the initial term (but only for a defined period) or had opened up the co-opted positions for other candidates. In all

cases the sitting co-opted members were invited to reapply for positions. Essex PFCP will therefore be following best practice by formally reviewing its co-opted positions in June/July 2020.

The Home Office has asked the NA whether Panels may require further information on the range of reforms to the police discipline and complaints system introduced by the HO on 1<sup>st</sup> February. They have published a new set of regulations and the NA has asked if a revised summary report is available other than the one the NA reviewed 2019. Explanatory documents have been received from the HO but these have not yet been reviewed

### **Conduct Regulations, Performance Regulations, PAT Rules**

[http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukxi/2020/4/pdfs/ukxiem\\_20200004\\_en.pdf](http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukxi/2020/4/pdfs/ukxiem_20200004_en.pdf)

### **Complaints Regulations**

[http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukxi/2020/2/pdfs/ukxiem\\_20200002\\_en.pdf](http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukxi/2020/2/pdfs/ukxiem_20200002_en.pdf)

The NA will attempt to influence the southern regional panels into taking part in cross sector training sessions. The Wiltshire Exec Member together with the Chair and Vice Chair will formulate and agree an engagement plan to promote the above objective.

The timetable and preliminary agenda for the Frontline Annual Conference has been set for 23<sup>rd</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup> November in Scarman House, Warwick Conference Centre. The NA will hold its AGM on the main conference day.

John Gili-Ross  
Chairman NAPFCP