

Agenda Item 14**Reference number: EPFCP/15/21**

Report title: National Association of Police, Fire and Crime Panels Essex Panel Meeting Report June 2021	
Report to: Essex Police, Fire and Crime Panel	
Report author: John Gili-Ross, Chairman National Association of Police, Fire and Crime Panels (NAPFCP)	
Date: 17 June 2021	For: Noting
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County Divisions affected: All Essex	

1. Purpose of report

- 1.1 To note the report on the background and current workstreams of the National Association of Police, Fire and Crime Panels.



NAPFCP Essex Panel Meeting Report June 2021.

As there are a number of new panel members to the Essex Police, Fire & Crime Panels this meeting report provides a brief summary on the background and current workstreams of the National Association of Police, Fire and Crime Panels.

The NAPFCP was formed in April 2018 by panel members across England and Wales to provide a common voice and perspective on the work of panels, promotion of best practice and a forum to provide advice and feedback for panels as required. Most feedback and interaction between the NAPFCP and the individual panels is with the respective Chair, Vice Chair and Support Officers.

The first NAPFCP AGM took place in November 2018, to elect a Chairman, Vice Chairman (2), Treasurer and 6 other members from different panels. The NAPFCP agreed primary workstream topics for development in addition to any responses resulting from surveys, call for evidence documents or work with the Home Office, LGA and other panel related organisations.

In 2018 the NAPFCP was accepted as a LGA Special Interest Group. The LGA normally holds a PFPCP meeting twice yearly and these meetings are also used to host a NAPFCP Exec Committee meeting. LGA meetings are open to attendance from all Essex panel members and support officers.

As of April 2021, there were 37 panels in NAPFCP membership out of a total of 41 in England and Wales. All four Welsh panels are members.

Training of panel members and support officers is largely undertaken by Frontline Consulting who are an independent private organisation. The trainers have many years' experience within the public sector and prior to the formation of the PCP's and PFPCP's they provided training for the various Police and Fire Authorities. The NAPFCP works closely with both Frontline Consulting and the LGA in the creation of panel best practice. Frontline have provided tailored training courses for Essex PFPCP in the past when there have been significant panel member changes as is the case following the May elections. It is recommended that all new panel members undertake training on panel roles and responsibilities.

In the interim I recommend all panel members familiarise themselves with the excellent Guidance Document for Police and Crime Panels entitled Policing and Fire Governance which was produced in 2019 by the Centre for Public Scrutiny with input from Frontline Consulting and the NAPFCP.

The Executive Committee meets each month by remote means, to update progress on work streams and discuss and agree any written response to events affecting the sector.

The agreed work stream topics currently include:

- ❖ Promotion of Best Practice for Panels & Scrutiny of Commissioners
- ❖ Technology Changes & Impact on Budgets
- ❖ Promotion of the Panels Role within Police and FRS to the public
- ❖ Commissioner & Chief Constable Senior Appointments
- ❖ Complaints Handling - PCC and Policing

Other Activities Undertaken

In addition to the above workstreams the Executive Committee has responded to numerous information and call for evidence documents providing a collective view from panel members. Many of these responses are shared with panel support officers and chairman as appropriate.

Other activities undertaken by the NAPFCP include:

- ❖ The Emergency Services Network project. - “Over Budget and Under Delivery”.
- ❖ Impact of ESN delays and the Airwave network on budgets
- ❖ Addressing the Public Accounts Committee on ESN delay
- ❖ Police Foundation - Call for Evidence Part 1 & 2
- ❖ Home Office PCC Review - Call for Evidence Part 1
- ❖ College of Policing Review
- ❖ Panels Remote Working Survey
- ❖ Government Remote Meetings - Call for Evidence
- ❖ Quarterly meetings with the LGA
- ❖ Quarterly meetings with the APCC - Chairman & CEO
- ❖ Advising Chairs and Support Officers - On average 3 sessions per month.

NAPFCP Executive Committee

The executive members, are subject to election annually at the AGM. The members of the executive committee as of June 2021 are:

Chairman John Gili-Ross - Essex PFCP

Vice Chairman - Evan Morris MBE Cheshire PCP Chairman and Co-opted Member

Pat Astbury - North Wales PCP Chair and Co-opted Member

Suma Harding - Nottinghamshire PCP Co-opted Member

Mohammed Iqbal - Chair West Yorkshire PCP

Gill Mercer - Chair Northants PFCP

Siobhan Monahan - Chair Herts PCP

Ged Potter - Vice Chair Derby PCP

Professor Ian Roffe - Vice Chair Dyfed Powys PCP

Joyce Welsh - Northumbria PCP

Observer - Godfrey Isaacs Essex PFCP

Support - Emma Tombs Essex Democratic Services Manager