



NAPFCP - Panel Meeting update - June 2022.

As there are a number of new panel members to the Essex Police, Fire & Crime Panel this update 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. 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 became a LGA Special Interest Group. The LGA normally holds a PFCP focussed event twice yearly and these sessions are also used to host a NAPFCP Executive Committee meeting (in addition to other regular Executive Committee meetings that are held online). The LGA did not host any sessions for the sector during the pandemic. The LGA plans to hold its first sector event in September 2022 which may be held face-to-face or as a remote event. LGA sessions are open to all Essex panel members and support officers subject to budget constraints.

As of 2022, 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 focussed on P(F)CPs. The trainers have many years' experience of the public sector and prior to the formation of the PCPs and PFCPs 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 PFCP in the past when significant panel member changes occur following the May elections. It is recommended that all new panel members undertake training on panel roles and responsibilities.

All panel members are advised to familiarise themselves with the 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. As part of the findings from the PCC Review part 1, the Home Office contracted with Dods consulting to produce a Police (Fire) and Crime Panels guidance

document which was released in April 2022. Clarity is currently being sought as to whether this new guidance is intended as a companion document to the LGA guidance which remains current and comprehensive.

As referenced above the NAPFCP Executive Committee meets monthly by remote means, to update progress on workstreams 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

In addition to the above workstreams the Executive Committee responds on behalf of its members to various information and call for evidence documents providing a collective view from within the sector. These responses are shared with panel support officers and chairman as appropriate.

Activities recently undertaken or being worked on by the NAPFCP include:

- ❖ Fire and Rescue Service Reform Consultation
- ❖ Response to the Policing Protocol Order 2011 Consultation
- ❖ College of Policing Review
- ❖ Police Foundation - Call for Evidence Part 1 and 2
- ❖ Quarterly meetings with the LGA
- ❖ Quarterly meetings with the APCC
- ❖ 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
- ❖ Home Office PCC Review - Call for Evidence Part 1 and 2
- ❖ Panels Remote Working Survey
- ❖ Government Remote Meetings - Call for Evidence
- ❖ Advising Chairs and Support Officers.

NAPFCP Executive Committee

The executive members, are subject to annual appointment at the AGM. The members of the executive committee as of June 2022 are Chairman (5), Vice Chairman(2) and Panel members (3) from the following panels:

Essex PFCP
Cheshire PCP
North Wales PCP
Nottinghamshire PCP
Northants PFCP
Herts PCP
Derby PCP
Lincolnshire PCP
Dyfed Powys PCP
Northumbria PCP