

Avon and Somerset Police and Crime Panel - Link Members Guidance Note

Overview

Avon and Somerset Police and Crime Panel is responsible for supporting and scrutinising the work of the Police and Crime Commissioner in carrying out her role. The Police and Crime Commissioner and her Office (the OPCC) have worked with the Panel from the outset to develop a positive working relationship, based on the principle of open and constructive dialogue.

Link Member Role

The Avon and Somerset Police and Crime Panel, with the support of the Commissioner, has established the PCP Link Member role with the aim to:

- Draw on the knowledge, expertise and interests of Panel Members to contribute to and influence the work of the PCC in key areas of business;
- Develop the role of the Panel in proactive scrutiny work;
- Support the development of strong and effective partnership working with Local Authorities, Community Safety Partnerships and the wider partners at a local level in delivering the Police and Crime Plan;
- Strengthen accountability and transparency by inviting Link Members to report back to the full Panel Membership on activities and key issues in their area of business.

Working Arrangements

- It is proposed to structure the Link Member roles under the four Police and Crime Plan priorities.
- The OPCC lead contact will liaise with the PCP Clerk to arrange quarterly briefing sessions to brief Link Members on key issues and identify opportunities for Link Members to contribute to specific areas of work.
- Link Members will continue to participate in existing meeting mechanisms as appropriate, for example through membership of the Business Crime Forum and the Reducing Reoffending Executive Board.
- The OPCC lead contact will circulate a draft agenda in advance of each quarterly briefing session, inviting suggestions for issues for discussion.
- The OPCC lead will endeavour to give a full briefing on issues under discussion, in line with the agreed principle of open and constructive dialogue. It is not anticipated that the OPCC lead will prepare a written briefing note, however relevant internal reports will be shared where appropriate.
- It is proposed that Link Members report back on activity through standing reports to the Police and Crime Panel meeting.
- Draft reports should be shared with the OPCC lead in advance of the publication deadline for comment and clarification prior to publication.
- All OPCC communications/notifications of meetings should be copied to the PCP Clerk.

**Avon and Somerset Police and Crime Panel
Link Member Roles
2018-19**

Police & Crime Plan Priority	Topic	Mechanisms	Link Member	OPCC Contact
SP1: Protecting the most vulnerable people from harm	Vulnerability: 1. Recommissioning victim services 2. Vulnerability Service Delivery Assurance 3. Mental Health	Quarterly Link Member Briefing • Victim Services Recommissioning Board	Cllr Roz Willis Joe Mullis	Marc Hole
SP2: Strengthening and improving local policing teams	Neighbourhood Policing Review Cyber Crime Estates Update	Quarterly Link Member Briefing • Visits / ad hoc meetings as required	Cllr John Parham <i>Additional Member</i>	John Smith
SP3: Ensure A&S Constabulary has the right people, right equipment and right culture	Representative Workforce	Quarterly Link Member Briefing • Engagement events as required	Cllr Asher Craig Cllr Afzal Shah	Rebecca Hehir
SP 4: Working together effectively with other police forces and key partners to provide better services	Collaboration / Analytics Business Crime	Quarterly Link Member Briefing • Business Crime Forum	Cllr Mark Weston Cllr Mark Shelford Andrew Sharman	John Smith/ Mark Simmonds Mark Simmonds
Police & Crime Plan Development	Police & Crime Plan Development	Strategic Planning Working Group	Cllr Asher Craig	Karin Takel