



**POLICE AND CRIME COMMISSIONER FOR BEDFORDSHIRE
STRATEGIC BOARD MINUTES**

Recorded 19th March 2020

Confirmed with	Kathryn Holloway, Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC) <i>Chair</i>
	Garry Forsyth, Chief Constable (GF)
	Trevor Rodenhurst, Deputy Chief Constable (DCC)
	Jacqueline Sebire, Assistant Chief Constable (ACC)
	Phil Wells, Assistant Chief Officer (ACO)
	Clare Kelly, Chief Executive, OPCC (CK)
	Gavin Hughes-Rowland, Staff Officer (GHR)
	Rachel Glendenning – Staff Officer (RG)
	Victoria Roberts – Executive Assistant to the PCC (<i>Minutes</i>)
Apologies	NONE

<p><u>ITEM 1 - Welcome & minutes of meeting held and for agreement and matters arising</u></p> <p>1.A – Minutes from February 2020</p> <p>The PCC instructed that there are to be no abbreviations as these minutes are for public record.</p> <p>Page 2 – The PCC confirmed that the four-year plan did not have anything to correct.</p> <p>1.B – Actions from previous meetings:</p> <p>The PCC noted that many of the previous actions will be impacted by the current COVID-19 situation. The PCC proposed that actions from November Strategic Board meetings around the Enquiry Offices remaining visible should be changed in light of social distancing in terms of our advice publicly around Enquiry offices.</p> <p>Action: Force to look at changing information online about enquiry desks with reference to COVID-19</p> <p>Updates were updated directly on the linked action log.</p>
<p><u>ITEM 2 - OPCC Updates or formal requests to the Force</u></p> <p>2.A - PCC Elections</p> <p>CK confirmed that everyone has been written to as to whether they are being funded this year or not. This has been shared with the Force. CK advised the ACC that there was no bid to re-fund the VARAC. ACC confirmed VARAC post came up in PBB and was granted. ACC requested a further meeting with CK outside of this meeting to discuss this further.</p> <p>Action: ACC and Clare Kelly to discuss VARAC</p>

2.B - Police and Crime Plan

CK confirmed we are 100% completed for the four-year plan and this will be submitted to the Police and Crime Panel on April 7th, although the meeting is likely to be postponed. The three Local Authority Chief Executives will be deciding whether Local Authority public meetings can still to go ahead remotely.

2.C - Request for April Strategic Board

2.1 - Recurring papers: VERU and Serious Violence Funds, Estates, Performance, Data protection, Complaints (from OPCC)

2.2 - Citizens in Policing - (Restricted section)

2.3 - Legislative changes around reporting crimes via social media

CK confirmed this will be looked into at the next STRATEGIC Board meeting. There is a lot of different legislation coming through, which the Force is responding to. CK requested this detail be made available for the next STRATEGIC meeting. The PCC also confirmed this request.

ITEM 3 – CC Update

GF gave an update on the inspection in January and results came through on 24th February. It was a very positive report from the Surveyance Commissioner in relation to Bedfordshire and also ERSOU. GF read one part of the report out to the board, which stated ‘...**very positive and I would like to continue high standards achieved by your force, in particular the quality of authorisations granted by your force by your Authorising Officer, which is one of the best in the country**’. The PCC congratulated the Force and requested this is minuted.

ITEM 4 – Efficiency

4.A – Data Protection

It was noted on last page that it stated there had been no significant data breach recorded in January or February.

4.B – Estates update

An update around Greyfriars was covered in AOB section (see below).

The PCC requested an update on the window replacements plan for three stations in Bedfordshire. The PCC pointed out that there could be a saving if Bedford HQ was done after Luton. The PCC felt that this should be done as HQ is our public facing HQ. It would also enable us to commence refurbishment of the work places for our officers and staff at HQ. The PCC would like to endorse this as a decision that we move Luton first, Bedford HQ second and Dunstable third, however noted this would be dependent on COVID-19 and whether the appropriate companies can carry out the work.

PW agreed to this and noted, that as the PCC has a one-year extension due to COVID-19, the custody work and windows could be done at the same time. PW assured the PCC that it will be clear on the capital programme that this work had already by agreed to by the PCC. The PCC confirmed her intention to leave this estate for all our officers and staff in the best position possible within affordability. The PCC advised the Board, that once it is safe to move around the estate, she will be able to progress this work.

PW advised the Board that the focus is now on its student accommodation at Dunstable. Extensive planning is in place in relation to IT, the classrooms and what it looks like when you walk into the station from the carpark at Dunstable. The PCC confirmed she was in favour of all this work and also the work in the canteen at Luton station should continue. The PCC informed the Board that the accommodation for CAVAA at HQ should be looked at as a matter of urgency. PW confirmed Luton will start first and HQ following simultaneously at the same time.

The PCC has requested a meeting with estates to discuss finishes etc and how the OPCC can help facilitate this **(there is already a meeting in the diary with Phil, Clare, KH and Lorraine for 7th April)**. The PCC stated that deliveries and supplies will be difficult given the current climate, so the opportunities to do this work will be limited.

ITEM 5 – Effectiveness

5.A - Crime performance figures and comparisons

The PCC requested an update from the ACC, as there looks to be a good news story that she is starting to be able to tell about serious youth violence. The ACC gave an update on the alarm system which showed recorded crime has increased slightly, but there no cause for concern at present. The solved rate overall remains consistent. The good news is that the solved rate is now up to approx. 30% and Boson crime rate had been running at 69% throughout the year but this had gone up to 80 - 90% at the time of this Board Meeting. This story will be added to our surge fund bid. The ACC advised the board that an end of year report is currently being drafted and will subsequently be issued to the PCC. The PCC approved this and advised the Board that she will write again to Kit Malthouse with a further update.

The ACC advised the Board that the domestic abuse rate could potentially increase due to the COVID-19 outbreak. A report from China showed an increase of 30% in domestic abuse reports. The PCC informed the Board that she is putting £60k of the contingency fund aside for emergency accommodation for those who find themselves in this situation. The ACC expressed her gratitude for this and informed the PCC that this will be very helpful, as some refuges are refusing to take new clients on now.

The PCC requested an update on Bebit and if any complaints had been received. The ACC confirmed the Force has not received any complaints. A paper was sent to the Change and Continuous Improvement Board earlier in the week which showed how we have quantified the amount of police officer hours Bebit has saved (this is in the thousands), so a considerable level of funding has been returned and therefore, officers have been able work in other areas of the organisation. We are now starting to work with Cambridge around what other potential crimes types we could use Bebit for, but no final decisions have been made on this yet.

The PCC enquired about outstanding warrants and whether, during the COVID-19 situation, it would be easier to pick people up as they are home. ACC advised the numbers have not gone down considerably as yet, The Force has regular taskings each day with warrants being managed in the morning and evening, but over the past two weeks there has been no spare capacity for officers to do this. ACC advised, that once officers are working from home, they may be able to do more of the open source research to enable the Force to target warrants more effectively. The PCC agreed that this was an excellent idea and requested that ACC provides an update on this at the next STRATEGIC board.

The PCC confirmed to the Board that Bedfordshire Police Force has had very successful operations recently, in particular around prolific burglars, and enquired whether there are any other plans in place on particular crime types to actively target these individuals. ACC confirmed this will come through the Force tasking and are using the Cambridge harm index to review. This is being managed through the Serious Violence Meeting and which has identified our top 20-30 individuals who are out of prison and we have in place, bespoke plans and ownership around them. The ACC advised the PCC that Phil McCarthy in OPCC attends these meetings and is aware of the current plans in place.

CK raised a question on performance figures and whether the Force are considering changing the policy on street bail options with COVID-19 to make it easier to keep people out of custody. ACC advised that this will be raised at the next meeting on Friday 20th March and also the meeting with CPS.

5.B – Signpost (Restricted section)

5.C - VERU and Serious Violence Fund

The ACC gave apologies for not sending through her paper. ACC and CK have been working together to ensure that the applications are of the quality expected for funding bids. With regards to Surge Funding, the ACC informed the Board that we are approx. £100k under what had been anticipated. Stuart Goodwin and Sam Davies have been working on this to ensure that any overtime can be backfilled out of that.

In terms of VERU, ACC advised that she has been in contact with Kimberley regarding their home working policy and contingency plans around COVID. ACC said we are in a good place financially due to Stuart working closely with Kimberley to ensure the quarter returns are to the penny. The PCC stated she was glad to hear this and requested that ACC passes on her thanks to Stuart for his help.

ITEM 6 – Leadership and Culture

6.A - Chief Constable Complaints

The PCC confirmed that there are no complaints against GF. CK gave an update on a pre-existing complaint that has been ongoing for some time now. CK advised the Board that The Independent Complaints Commission did not support the response provided. There are upcoming meetings in April with them to look at options they have suggested. CK confirmed to the Board there was one new complaint, which CK made a non-recording decision on and sent back to Force.

6.B - Reviews (will feature as a regular item on this agenda. This update is on the response of the OPCC to the change in legislation.

CK asked the Board whether there were any questions on this. DCC confirmed the Executive are happy with this, understood it, agreed with it and had no questions.

6.C - Awards and Recognition (continued after last month's discussion)

The PCC advised the Board that there have been many comments made to the OPCC from within the Force that there are some areas who do not feel they are as well recognised as others. There have been specific complaints to the PCC

that she will pay for certain awards ceremonies and not others. The PCC stated that she pays for the following events and gave the reasons why:

- Community Cohesion Awards: because this is not just an award ceremony for officers/staff recognising them, but an opportunity for us to showcase what we are doing and create greater community cohesion and a much greater partner knowledge about what the police is doing .
- Community Hub Thank You Awards, which has a dual purpose, in recognising exceptional work by officers and teams, informing the wider community partners and indeed rewarding them in the same way as the Community Cohesion Awards

The PCC advised the board that other opportunities were created to invite others to these, so they could hear what has been achieved. The PCC confirmed that the area that keeps coming back to us repeatedly is mainly Custody.

The DCC advised that because of COVID-19, all awards have been suspended and this has been communicated. This will give us time to review our plan on what we are going to keep and then plan a marketing pitch when we can relaunch it. The DCC confirmed that the Force intends to promote the role of the detective within the force. The DCC advised that a more finessed paper on the proposal has already put in motion if the PCC is content with it. The PCC confirmed that she is content with it and looks forward to seeing the proposal at a future meeting. The PCC stated that if there are elements around an additional public knowledge piece with partners, this can be submitted to the OPCC for funding. DCC thanked the PCC for that offer and will build it into the proposal.

6.D – Bi-monthly culture update

GF confirmed that a Culture Board meeting will be taking place shortly and a more detailed update will be given at the next Strategic Board meeting. It was confirmed that Culture Board will continue to take place remotely as it is one of the crucial meetings that the Force has. The Board was informed that the Better for Beds piece this year has been postponed due to COVID-19.

ITEM 7 – Quarterly Reporting

The PCC informed the Board that she had raised a query through CK about the move of £500,000 from the CTC money that has been reused across the Tri-force for the last four years. The purpose of this was to ease pressures whilst we wait for the special grant. The PCC requested that any future move of CTC money, must be discussed and have specific approval in advance from the PCC. The PCC appreciated that this move was for a temporary purpose and that it is coming back. PW agreed to this, but also advised the PCC that it was discussed in December Strategic Board when looking at budget options. The PCC stated that had not been made clear enough to her at the time of the meeting.

ITEM 8 – AOB

Coronavirus

CK gave an update on the OPCC arrangements whilst the COVID-19 situation is taking place. CK confirmed that a contingency action log is being run with every commissioned service and third sector known to the OPCC. This was well responded to and similar practices are in place with regards to home working. More communications will be sent to OPCC commissioned partners on this.

Sign Post and Victim Care moved out on 18th March and Control Room / Crime Bureau moved in on 19th March. CK confirmed all Signpost workers now have a mobile phone and laptop. The Signpost telephone system will remain live for

callers to leave contact details for a call back. All VCCs have access to the answering machine and will call people back. Online referrals are still being taken through Athena. Assessments will be done as per in the normal hierarchy order of vulnerability. CK confirmed that a list of OPCC staff contact telephone numbers and emails etc will be given to the Force's Executive Support Team. CK confirmed the OPCC will continue to work as normal. Government has announced that Safer Streets Fund timeline has been extended to April 3rd. There has been no update on VERU, but this is anticipated this will move to first week of April.

PCC thanked CK for her work on ensuring the telephony system in Signpost would be compatible with the Force in the event of an emergency as it has proved useful this week. The PCC approved the plan for managing calls to Signpost. The PCC noted that some call handlers may not have worked from home before and may find this a very different environment. Performance monitoring may be required for this to ensure that the calls are handled correctly.

(Restricted section)

The PCC would like add a regular innovation slot to the Strategic Board agenda so that if there are new innovations around and in particular, because of the way in which we engage with them as an office, whether the responsibilities of key individuals have changed. The PCC suggested that the Board uses this innovation slot on the agenda to capture what has happened in Force which is a significant change which the PCC should know about and which could affect the way the OPCC engages with us to get information provided etc.

CK gave an update on Stop & Search complaints being received. There had been a misunderstanding of processes with PSD. The OPCC spoke with them and reconfirmed the processes with them. CK confirmed that a debrief will be carried out to ensure no other complaints have been missed. The PCC advised the Board of a postponed meeting that was due to take place to review a particular example of one stop and search and requested the Executive team to pick this up as there were some significant concerns about it and report back to the panel remotely.

DCC confirmed the new Temporary Head of Crime (for when Liz Mead retires) will be Dee Perkins from Hertfordshire, who will be coming across on a temporary promotion. Dee has extensive experience of safe guarding and covert policing. The PCC stated she looks forward to meeting her once the current COVID situation is over and wished her well in that particular post. The PCC stated that this sends the message of the Force's willingness to promote women from within.

The ACC wished to formally record in the meeting minutes the Force's gratitude to Liz Mead in terms of the wellbeing work she has done for the Force. The PCC reiterated this as well.

Next meeting:

23 April 2020 10.30am – 12.30pm (Skype)