



Durham Police and Crime Panel

9 January 2020

National Association of Police, Fire and Crime Panels

Report of Helen Lynch, Head of Legal and Democratic Services

Electoral division(s) affected:

None

Purpose of the Report

- 1 To provide information to Members of the Police and Crime Panel to consider joining the National Association of Police, Fire and Crime Panels.

Executive summary

- 2 The National Association of Police, Fire and Crime Panels was established as a special interest group of the Local Government Association (LGA) in 2018.
- 3 The role of the National Association is to identify and promote best practice and provide a collective voice for Panels. The Association has recently removed the requirement for members to pay a membership fee.
- 4 The report provides information to the Panel on the National Association so that the Panel can consider whether or not to become a member. .

Recommendation

- 5 The Police and Crime Panel is recommended to:
 - (a) Consider whether to become a member of the National Association of Police, Fire and Crime Panels.

- (b) Request that the Chair of the Durham Police and Crime Panel advises the Chair of the National Association of Police, Fire and Crime Panels of the Panel's decision.

Background

- 6 The National Association of Police, Fire and Crime Panels was established in April 2018 and its Terms of Reference shown at Appendix 2 were agreed at its Annual General Meeting (AGM) in November 2018. The LGA hosts up to four meetings a year for the National Association.
- 7 When the Association was established, there was a membership fee of £500 per year. The cost could not be met through the Home Office Grant agreement to Police and Crime Panel's, which meant that Panel authorities had to bear the costs.
- 8 A report to the National Association's AGM in November 2019, highlighted that there had been a reduction in its membership and the membership fee was a barrier to panels joining the association. The national association considered and subsequently agreed to remove the membership fee and operate on subscription free basis with effect from 19 November 2019.
- 9 On the 27 November 2019, an email was received from the Chair of the National Association to Cllr Lucy Hovvels, Chair of the Durham PCP to advise of the changes as detailed above at paragraph 7 and asked for an expression of interest from Durham PCP to join the National Association.
- 10 In considering the Terms of Reference within Appendix 2, membership to the association could provide opportunities for networking with other panels, share best practice and experiences to deliver panel work programmes.
- 11 There are 24 panels who are members of the National Association and it is currently chaired by John Gili-Ross from Essex PCP. The appointment of chair is agreed on annual basis at the association's AGM and the secretariat services to the association are provided by the Chair's host authority. It is to also note that any associated costs with activity in relation to membership of the association would be required to be met in line with the Durham PCP panel arrangements and cannot be met from the home office grant.

Conclusion

- 12 The Police and Crime Panel are invited to consider whether to become members of the National Association of Police Fire and Crime Panels..

Background papers

- None

Other useful documents

- None

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Appendix 1: Implications

Legal Implications

There are no direct legal implications arising out of the report. However, membership of the National Association may assist the Police and Crime Panel identify and promote good practice

Finance

As set out in the report, any costs associated with membership such as travel and subsistence allowances will need to be met in accordance with the Panel arrangements and the relevant authorities members allowance schemes.

Consultation

None.

Equality and Diversity / Public Sector Equality Duty

None.

Human Rights

None.

Climate Change

None.

Crime and Disorder

None.

Staffing

None.

Accommodation

None.

Risk

None.

Procurement

None.