



Durham Police and Crime Panel

12 December 2024

National Association of Police, Fire and Crime Panels Annual Report 2024

Report of Helen Bradley, Monitoring Officer and Clerk to the Panel.

Electoral division(s) affected:

None

Purpose of the Report

1. To provide members with the annual report of the National Association of Police, Fire and Crime Panels (NAPFCP).

Executive summary

2. At the NAPFCP Annual General Meeting in November 2024, the Chair presented his annual report setting out key events and activities undertaken in the last year.
3. The annual report is attached for information.

Recommendation

4. The Police and Crime Panel are asked to note the report.

Background

5. The Police Reform and Social Responsibility Act 2011 established Police and Crime Panels within each force area in England and Wales (excluding Greater London).
6. In June 2018 following an inaugural meeting of PCP representatives, a National Association of Police, Fire and Crime Panels was formed as a national body supporting both Police and Crime Panels and Police, Fire and Crime Panels. Durham and Darlington Police and Crime Panel is a member of the NAPFCP.
7. The NAPFCP provides, amongst other things, a forum for collaborative discussions on matters that impact PCPs, a mechanism for direct liaison between PCPs and the Home Office and an opportunity for dialogue with relevant bodies.
8. The NAPFCP Chair's annual report was submitted to the NAPFCP annual general meeting held on 19 November 2024. Cllr Gerald Lee, the vice chair of Durham PCP attended the AGM which was held on line.
9. The chair of the AGM stressed the importance of training for members and it is noted that members of the Durham PCP undertake training on appointment to the Panel at the start of the municipal year. Any members joining mid year are offered bespoke training. Members also receive training on an ad hoc basis such as prior to confirmation hearings, in preparation for considering the precept plus any informal briefings as required.
10. The chair of NAPFCP reminded Panels to ensure the Home Office grant is used widely. Durham PCP's grant funding reflects the level of training which is provided to members together with officer time supporting and advising the Panel.
11. In terms of remote meetings, Durham County Council as host of the Panel will provide a response to the government consultation. Members can submit their own responses if they wish. The deadline is 19 December 2024
12. Cllr Lee raised the issue of formula funding and how authorities in Durham and Darlington have a disproportionately high number of Band A properties and consequently a low council tax base which determines the funding received. He asked if NAPFCP could take this up with the Home Secretary. Other members of the NAPFCP supported this approach.

13. During the NAPFCP AGM's discussion on confirmation hearings, Cllr Lee expressed his frustrations around the type of questions that could be asked at the hearings. The chair agreed and reiterated the Panel's role was not the appointment but confirmation of the PCC's choice of candidate. He added that Panels should ensure how the candidate had been scored during the appointment process. The chair stressed the need for Panels to satisfy themselves that all vetting had been carried out prior to the confirmation process and particularly when someone is being rehired.

Background papers

- None

Other useful documents

- None

Appendix 1: Implications

Legal Implications

None.

Finance

None.

Consultation

None.

Equality and Diversity / Public Sector Equality Duty

None.

Climate Change

None.

Human Rights

None.

Crime and Disorder

This is a key focus of the role of the Police and Crime Commissioner and Police and Crime Panel.

Staffing

None.

Accommodation

None.

Risk

None.

Procurement

None.

Appendix 2: NAPFCP Annual Report
