

**DERBYSHIRE POLICE AND CRIME PANEL**

**REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR OF LEGAL SERVICES OF DERBYSHIRE  
COUNTY COUNCIL**

**REGIONAL COLLABORATION WORKING GROUP UPDATE REPORT**

**23 March 2017**

**1. Purpose of Report**

To update the Panel on the regional collaboration working carried out by the working group.

**2. Information and Analysis**

The Panel agreed at its pre-meeting on 17 November 2016 to establish a working group to look in more detail at regional collaboration of PCCs and police forces. Furthermore, the Panel agreed on 26 January 2017 for it to be a standing working group and for regional collaboration to be a standing agenda item.

The Police Reform and Social Responsibility Act 2011 strengthened the duties of Police Chief Constables and PCCs to keep collaboration under review and to collaborate where it is in the interests of effectiveness. Indeed, where collaboration is judged to be the best option, a Police Chief has to pursue it even if his/her own force would not benefit directly.

Where collaboration is judged to be the best option, they must collaborate. Additionally, where collaboration would provide the best outcome for another police force or group of forces, then a chief officer or policing body (e.g. PCC) should pursue it – even if they do not expect their own force to benefit directly itself. This is designed to ensure that collaboration takes place wherever it is in the wider public interest.

Furthermore, the Police and Crime Act 2017 became law on 31 January 2017 and includes provisions for collaboration agreements between emergency services. This is a duty on services to consider collaboration in the interests of ‘efficiency or effectiveness’. It introduces the new title of ‘Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner’ and a corresponding change for the Police and Crime Panel to ‘Police, Fire and Crime Panel’. Naturally these titles only apply if a PCC takes on the Fire and Rescue Authority role, not otherwise.

Her Majesty’s Inspectorate of Constabularies (HMIC) states that as force collaborations become more mature, while increased collaborative working is generally positive, forces need to analyse the benefits of collaborating

effectively both with other forces and with other agencies and to make informed and intelligent decisions about collaborative working arrangements.

HMIC further state that while there are some good examples of strong partnership working within and outside policing, there remain a number of missed opportunities. Some areas of joint working have not changed much since last year and some forces have cancelled plans for further collaborative work. HMIC found that there are still too many examples of forces unable to demonstrate clearly the benefits of their collaborative or partnership working and which are not taking advantage of potential efficiencies that can be made. In some cases this has led forces into collaborative working arrangements that may have little benefit for the public or for the efficiency of the force, and may actually be causing the force to perform less well.

It is therefore important for PCPs to have an understanding of collaboration activities agreed by the PCC (and also decisions as to why not undertaken) to ensure effective challenge and support.

### **Current position:**

The Panel agreed on 26 January to meet with other East Midlands PCPs to discuss regional collaboration arrangements. Initial discussions have been held in the East Midlands PCP Network regarding a common set of questions on regional collaboration for each East Midlands PCC to answer at their respective Panels. A generic presentation is being developed by representatives of the PCC Board, which is proposed to be shared with Panels after April 2017. Furthermore, the PCC Board is reviewing and developing its governance, accountability and performance monitoring arrangements. Going forward, this may include dedicated officer support for the Board. As yet, these arrangements have not been agreed by the PCC Board.

### **Proposed way forward:**

Members of the working group met with representatives from Nottinghamshire Police and Crime Panel in February 2017. As a result of this meeting, it is proposed that a workshop will be arranged, possibly in the summer, and facilitated by Frontline Consulting, who have skill and experience in such development sessions. It is proposed the workshop will have the following features:

- It will enable an agreement on a structure for how Panels can collect evidence and monitor regional collaboration activities on an ongoing basis. This will be so they can support and challenge their respective PCCs.
- It will provide the opportunity to review the common set of questions on regional collaboration for each East Midlands PCC.

- It will provide the opportunity to give respective Panels the same level of knowledge and understanding of regional collaboration activities and those from outside the East Midlands area.
- It may provide the opportunity to learn from other Panels across the country on how they challenge and support their PCC on collaboration.
- It will allow Panels to challenge and support the governance, accountability and performance monitoring arrangements of the East Midlands Regional Collaboration.
- It is proposed that each Panel can have up to five representatives to attend the workshop.

### **Next steps:**

The proposal was discussed with Frontline Consulting and the East Midlands Regional Network on the 2nd March. There was agreement on the proposed way forward in principle. Officers from the East Midlands Regional Network will now work with Frontline Consulting to develop a detailed proposal for a regional collaboration workshop, included costs, venue and a programme of activity. This will then be put forward to each East Midlands PCP for their consideration and, if agreeable, they may nominate representatives to attend the workshop.

### **3. Other considerations**

In preparing this report the relevance of the following factors has been considered: financial, legal, prevention of crime and disorder, equality and diversity, human resources, environmental, social value, health and transport considerations.

### **4. Background papers**

Files held by the Improvement and Scrutiny Officer.

### **5. OFFICER'S RECOMMENDATIONS**

That the Panel;

1. Notes the information provided in this update from the working group,
2. Notes the work to develop an East Midlands Regional Collaboration Workshop and to receive a detailed proposal in due course.

**John McElvaney**  
**Director of Legal Services**  
**Derbyshire County Council**

