

# North Yorkshire Police, Fire and Crime Panel

Key Messages from meeting

26 September 2019

## Drug crime in North Yorkshire and York

North Yorkshire has seen one of the biggest growths of drug activity in the country. The Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner (“the Commissioner”) outlined some of the measures underway to tackle the issue and her scrutiny of the police; including via the Serious Organised Crime Board, increasing resources and working with partners to prevent and disrupt drugs activity. The Commissioner is also liaising with the Home Office to try to achieve greater recognition of the threat and as such greater funding. A recent peer review highlighted some good practice by the force but also that increased partnership work and a better understanding of demand is needed. The Panel expressed concern that the police may only be “scratching the surface” of this significant issue and requested that the Commissioner revisits this with them in due course.

## Force Control Room – update on 999 and 101 non-emergency service

The Panel continues to have concerns regarding the performance of the 101 non-emergency service, although it welcomes the measures put in place at the Control Room over the last year. Members expressed concern in particular at the 25% abandonment rate of 101 calls in July 2019. The Commissioner highlighted the correlation between abandonment and the significant increase in demand for the service over the summer months. It was agreed that the reasons for this increase needed to be better understood. The 999 service has seen an average call answer time of 16 seconds in July 2019. This was also attributed to a recent spike in demand and changes in staffing. The Panel will keep performance of the services under review.

## Criminal justice – Commissioner’s role

The Panel welcomed the Commissioner’s overview of her work around criminal justice and commissioning of services and commended the range of initiatives put in place around prevention and early intervention. It was agreed that more detail would be brought to Panel in due course to help draw out the outcomes of the initiatives.

## Tasers survey

The Panel sought clarity on the Commissioner’s intentions regarding her public survey on the use of Tasers in North Yorkshire. The Panel heard that the Commissioner and Chief Constable have jointly agreed to gather the views of the public on this although any further rollout in North Yorkshire would be an operational decision. The Panel will receive details of the outcomes of the survey at its next meeting.

## Next meeting – 14<sup>th</sup> November 2019, Selby District Council

The Panel will be reviewing progress made by the Commissioner since the transfer of governance of the fire and rescue service in November 2018.

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