

Minutes

Policing Plan working group

Wednesday 3rd October 2013

at The Forum, 74-80 Camden Street

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Present:

Mark Phillips (Chair)
Lew Adams
Dominic Booth
Liz France

In attendance:

Paul Crowther, Deputy Chief Constable BTP
Steve Thomas, Assistant Chief Constable Central Operations
BTP
Mike Furness, Head of Strategic Development BTP
Andrew Figgures, Chief Executive BTPA
Samantha Elvy, Research & Policy Manager BTPA
Jon Newton, Performance Analyst BTPA (minutes)

06/2013 Welcome and apologies

Non-Agenda

The Chair welcomed all attendees to the Policing Plan Working Group meeting.

07/2013 Terms of Reference

Agenda Item 1

Mr Phillips provided an overview of the Terms of Reference for the Group. It was explained that the role of the Group is to task the Chief Constable to produce a plan which is implemented and to ensure that this Group is consulted.

The Group was informed of the proposed timeline. This first meeting is to discuss and agree the approach for developing the policing plans. The plans will then be reviewed in the second meeting of the Group, before an update is reported to the ATOC Policing Forum in January. The plans will then be refined for the third meeting of the

Group in February before going out for written consultation. They will then be submitted to the full Authority in March for approval.

DCC Crowther highlighted that the new approach to developing the plans, in which the local targets will be developed initially, meant that local consultation would be key. There was a discussion about whether it would be better to have a more significant consultation earlier in the development process, rather than a separate further consultation at a later stage. Group Members highlighted that initially there may not be agreement from all stakeholders with regard to the proposals, and that in this situation it would be useful to further consult on the more developed plans. The importance of being able to demonstrate and have on record that local priorities had been taken into account before communicating what was planned was also highlighted, as was being able to show stakeholders how the local priorities will fit with the national plan.

It was agreed that there was a requirement for the second phase of consultation, but that the aim of this consultation should be to provide visibility of the process and results, rather than generating too many responses.

There was a discussion about the proposed consultations on the local plans. ACC Thomas noted the short time period in which these needed to be completed and that the local targets should be focussed around the strategic '20-20-10' objectives, but focussed on local problems and delivered locally.

It was suggested that there be more time to consult and develop the local policing plans. Mr Phillips informed the Group that, working backwards from the March Authority meeting, the date of the third meeting would have to take place around the 3rd February 2014, with the second meeting, in December, providing a useful checkpoint for the Group to receive an update on progress.

There was a discussion about whether the national consultation should start earlier in the process, as the proposed timetable did not give sufficient opportunity to consider the consultation feedback. It was proposed that consultation on the national targets could begin now and run in parallel with the consultation on the local plans. It was suggested that earlier consultation would not necessarily lead to an increased number of targets, but that the feedback could be aggregated into meaningful targets at the local and national level. There may be increased work required for Assistant Chief Constables

but it would be better if we can provide reasons to stakeholders if their wants are not necessarily reflected in the Policing Plans.

Mr Booth asked for confirmation that the superintendents will have delegated budgets on which to base the new route plans. DCC Crowther confirmed this would be the case

Mr Adams questioned why the previous top-down approach to developing the policing plans was being changed and noted that disruption was the only exceptional target that the force had to get control of, with stakeholders generally satisfied with BTP's performance in delivering other previous policing plan targets. A risk was highlighted that the new approach could lead to a diverse range of smaller issues being raised which cannot all be included, possibly leading to problems.

It was explained that the new strategic objectives had been set and that it was now for the force to work locally to deliver these objectives. Essentially policing is local and although there can be high level targets, it is important to address the issues in local areas. It is also important that we are able to demonstrate that we have consulted with stakeholders and understand the issues at a local level. Mr Phillips outlined that there had been feedback from stakeholders indicating that we need to engage more at a local level; some Chief Inspectors had, in the past, been good at engagement but some less so. This new approach will establish the mechanism for the policing plan process; it is what Network Rail and the industry have asked for.

DCC Crowther highlighted the Home Office direction that there should be a single objective, to reduce crime, and that less can equal more with respect to the '20-20-10' strategic objectives.

Mr Booth proposed that, if we consult early, we should identify the areas we see as priorities based on the strategic objectives. There should also be a two-way process which involves a collaborative approach, with partners contributing to delivery in the local areas.

ACC Thomas informed the Group that there will be objectives set for the force at different levels. There will, at the highest level, be the '20-20-10' strategic objectives; below this there will be the Superintendent Area targets; below these, there will be local targets at the Chief Inspector level; and then, at specific locations, Problem Solving Plans.

DCC Crowther provided the Group with an overview of the new operating model, highlighting the C Division. The Northern Command of C Division will be sub-divided into three Chief Inspector areas, which will cover the Liverpool, Manchester and Leeds areas, with the Superintendent based in Leeds. As a result of engagement it may be seen that in Liverpool there has been a problem with violence, so this would be a key focus in Liverpool. The Superintendent will be using Chief Inspectors to talk to Network Rail, Northern Rail, Transpennine Express, and the Northern part of the West and East Coast mainlines. It will be necessary to judge which of the '20-20-10' issues will be most pertinent. Mr Phillips stated that, if needed, the force can call upon the Group for assistance.

There was a discussion about the proposed timescales. DCC Crowther suggested that following the meeting the force could start its planning for local consultation, to run until January. The national level consultation could also be started at the same time. There would in the December Policing Plan Group meeting be some results and a checkpoint on progress for the local targets. In January, the Authority meeting could be updated on progress with the policing plans. It was agreed that the ATOC Policing Forum and RDG Policing and Security Sub-Group could be updated on progress in January. In the February Policing Plan Group meeting, the Plan would be more or less at its final stages and the Group could provide some sort of approval and sign-off. This meeting would then be followed by a written consultation, which would check that there were no significant objections. By running an early national consultation, the February consultation should be a courtesy to provide visibility on the proposed plans and should not generate anything new.

Mrs Elvy highlighted that the passengers had not yet been mentioned in any of the discussions about consultation. ACC Thomas informed the Group that Passenger Focus will be invited to every consultation meeting. Members agreed that it was important that they be invited to every meeting.

The Group was informed that Superintendent level communications with the stakeholders will develop along similar lines to a Community Safety Partnership, there will be discussions about balancing priorities and contributions from the different parties.

Mr Phillips questioned whether the Arriva issue had been resolved. ACC Thomas informed the Group that he would be going to meet with them during the following week. It had been suggested that they could have a six month interim plan at Chief Inspector level until

an agreed plan for Wales has been developed. It was suggested that Arriva's plan could be used as a baseline plan.

The Group was informed that the budget was approved in December but that the force would need to be aware of its development in case of any substantial change; this was not anticipated.

There was a discussion about a proposed confidence measure. DCC Crowther informed the Group that the force needed to do some further work with respect to developing a measure. The target could include a number of indicators. The NPS is a measure as is the Which Survey, which looks at a different stakeholder group. There was also the victim of crime survey, and rail staff and stakeholder confidence to consider.

BTP's Research and Development Manager has been doing some work into what this target should look like. Mr Figgures suggested that the force produces a paper outlining the force's current position and where it aims to be. Mr Adams suggested writing to District Officers at trade unions to ask them their opinions on potential confidence measures.

08/2013 Issues raised by stakeholders in 2013-14

Agenda Item 2

Members highlighted that this was a good summary note but that Mr Adams was listed as being present, which was not the case. The summary note will be distributed to invitees and attendees to the 26th September stakeholder workshop.

09/2013 Agreed next steps

Agenda Item 3

Mrs Elvy informed the Group that following this meeting, we will write out to the stakeholders at a national level and conduct a local consultation. Then at the 5th December Policing Plan Group meeting there will be a health check on progress with the national plan and an update on progress with the local discussions. This will be followed by the Authority meeting on 20th January; at this time we should be in a position for the local and national plans to be checked by the full Authority. The third meeting of the Policing Plan Group will then take

place during the week commencing 3rd February 2014; this will involve a final check from the Group on the Plans.

Members will, following this meeting, go to RDG and ATOC to remind them of the '20-20-10' strategic objectives and inform them of the process to develop the policing plans, and request sensible contributions and assistance.

The Authority will lead on the initial contacts with the stakeholders, but in doing so will inform them that the force will be getting in contact with them. BTPA will write out on the national consultation, with the force then getting in touch with stakeholders with respect to the local consultations.

10/2013 Any other business

Agenda Item 4

DCC Crowther informed the Group that the force will do further work on developing a confidence measure. Mr Figgures suggested that an update be given at the next Policing Plan Group meeting.

10/2013 Date of next meeting: Thursday 5th December 2013

Agenda Item 5