

Minutes

Policing Plan Group

Thursday 3 December 2015, at 1.30pm
at The Forum, 74-80 Camden Street

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Present:

Mark Phillips (Chair)
Liz France
Bill Matthews
Stella Thomas

Apologies:

Dominic Booth

In attendance:

Paul Crowther, Chief Constable BTP
Mike Furness, Head of Strategic Development BTP
Vanita Patel, Performance & Analysis Manager BTP
Andrew Figgures, Chief Executive BTPA
Samantha Elvy, Strategy and Performance Manager BTPA
Jon Newton, Performance Analyst BTPA (minutes)

12/2015 Welcome and apologies

Non-Agenda

1. The Chair welcomed attendees to the Policing Plan Group meeting. Apologies were noted for Dominic Booth.

13/2015 Minutes of meeting 1 - 16.10.2015

Agenda Item 1

2. The minutes were approved as an accurate record.

14/2015 Matters arising

Agenda Item 2

3. The Group received an update further to action 1, for a meeting to be arranged with the President of the Police Superintendents' Association of England and Wales to discuss the review of police targets. The Group was informed that the review had been completed and that the report was in the process of being written. A

meeting had been arranged but cancelled; it has been rearranged for January 2016.

4. All other actions were noted as complete or were addressed elsewhere in the meeting.

15/2015 Update on progress with 2016/17 Policing Plan

Agenda Item 3

5. The Chair reiterated comments made at the previous Policing Plan Group meeting that prior to January 2016 the focus of the Group should be on identifying the targets, and their direction of travel, rather than the level of change required.
6. The Chief Constable provided an overview of the current position with respect to the financial context for 2016/17. It was noted that the 2013-19 Strategic Plan had outlined RPI cost increases as the limiter on the budget for the life of the strategy. It was highlighted that the Authority's Finance Committee meeting on 26 November, to discuss the 2016/17 budget proposals, had set the direction to model a 0% increase budget; it was further noted that the Government's Comprehensive Spending Review had ring-fenced Home Office police force budgets.
7. The Group was informed of a number of ongoing projects which would result in operational benefits. These included the Mobile Project, which would not be implemented until at least December 2016; Chief Superintendent Brogden's work with Network Rail, which could possibly lead to funding for joint work; and the Demand Review, which was likely to result in improved availability of resources at key times, matched to demand. These projects meant that, as benefits were realised over time, there was less need to set a linear profile for achieving the remaining balance of the strategic objectives. The proposals for disruption reduction were presented in this phased way. Much of this, however, was reliant on the Force's budget settlement.
8. Members queried the level of confidence BTP had in its crime figures, given the transfer of crime recording to the Niche IT system. The Group was informed that other police forces had experienced an increase in recorded crime resulting from the changeover of their crime recording systems to Niche. This was because Niche integrated the crime system with the command and control, and incident

recording systems, making the conversion of incidents to crimes easier, resulting in less under-recording of crimes.

9. The change to Niche would, for BTP, primarily have an impact on crime related incidents (CRIs). BTP had reviewed all of its CRIs for the first six months in 2015. It was found that out of approximately 1,700 CRIs, 216 should have been recorded as notifiable crimes. If these figures were extrapolated to a full year, this would result in approximately 450 additional crimes, which represented around 1% of the 40 thousand crimes typically recorded by BTP over the course of a year.
10. There was a discussion around wider criminality and the accuracy of crime recording, including the recording of Section 5 Public Order Act Offences as Section 4A offences and the impact on the violence against the person crime figures. There was also a discussion about the Force's work around sexual offences, which is focused on three strands; victims, through the 'report it to stop it campaign'; offenders, through offender profiling; and mobilising the general public to be alert to these types of offences.
11. Members highlighted that current performance was close to the crime reduction target. It was noted that the change to Niche, in February 2016, was likely to have little impact on the 2015/16 crime figures, but could impact on the 2016/17 figures and that, as a result, care should be taken around setting the 2016/17 crime reduction target, which should be set in the context of an anticipated improvement in crime recording.
12. Members emphasised the need for a value for money target. The Force proposed that the Mobile Project could inform a future target, with data to identify a baseline being available from quarter 4 of 2016/17, which could be described in the Plan for 2016. Other proposals were suggested around using the administrative cost per officer, which would capture the increasing number of hours of duty; an indicator based on existing Force activities, such as the Transformation programme or Evidence Review Gateway; and cost per passenger km, which would provide an indication of the efficiency of the Force as well as passenger and freight tonnage activity. Cost per passenger km was to be further explored as an option by the Chief Constable.
13. There was a discussion around the measurement of confidence. It was noted that the two core questions used for the passenger confidence target remained in the National Rail Passenger Survey

(NRPS), but that BTP's diagnostic questions had been removed. It was noted that the NRPS surveyed 100 thousand passengers, and that there was a 20% response rate to these questions. The Force had looked at confidence data for the previous five years in order to identify the 20 lowest confidence stations. Whilst it was not possible to identify what the specific drivers were, it was possible to identify the BTP actions taken at these 20 locations and that confidence has increased. It was noted that BTP now ran its own passenger and rail staff surveys, the most recent of which had received 6,000 and 3,000 responses respectively. BTP was confident that it knew what the general longer term confidence issues were.

14. The Group was informed that the Force was able to respond to confidence related issues as they were identified. Members noted that it would be beneficial if the Force was able to capture in a narrative the range of confidence related work it was undertaking to support progress on that strategic objective.
15. The Group questioned the proposed safeguarding target to deliver key elements of year two of the Safeguarding Strategy. The Chief Constable noted that the Railway Children charity strongly supported BTP's efforts. Members discussed the provision of safeguarding training to rail industry staff. Members noted their disappointment that only 20 minutes training was provided rather than the full day which had been offered by BTP. Members suggested that the training could be divided into a series of smaller packages to be aligned with the 12-weekly briefing cycle for rail staff. It was suggested that the Rail Delivery Group Policing and Security Implementation Group (RDG P&S IG) could assist with implementing this.
16. There was a discussion about the Sub-Divisional consultation workshops. Members reviewed the key themes emerging from these meetings, as set out in the report at Agenda Item 3; it was noted that these meetings had gone well. The Group was informed that there had been strong support from stakeholders for a Problem Solving Plan (PSP) approach to be taken at the local level, and there was consistent feedback about enhanced communication with rail staff assault victims about the outcomes and disposals of cases. Members did, however, highlight comments at the Pennine meeting which suggested that the Force could improve its communications with stakeholders around some of its PSPs.

17. The BTPA Executive Team will work with BTP to finalise the Sub-Divisional targets to be included in the written consultation in the New Year.

16/2015 Agreed next steps

Agenda Item 4

18. Agreed

- 18.1. Policing Plan Group to recommend to the Authority's Audit and Risk Assurance Committee that Niche is added to the Strategic Risk Register. The Group will then return to the issue at its next meeting with respect to the setting of the crime reduction target.
- 18.2. BTP to develop proposals for a value for money target, based on cost per passenger km and cost per freight km.
- 18.3. BTPA Executive to liaise with the RDG P&S IG about BTP safeguarding training for rail staff being divided into a series of packages to align with rail staff 12-weekly briefings.
- 18.4. Proposed national Policing Plan targets as outlined at Agenda Item 3, or as discussed, to be consulted with stakeholders in January 2016.
- 18.5. BTP to provide local Sub-Divisional targets to BTPA to be included in the January 2016 Policing Plan stakeholder consultation.

Date of next meeting:

Meeting 3: 3 February 2015, 10am-12pm.