



Devon & Cornwall Police



PCC
Office of the Police and
Crime Commissioner
Devon and Cornwall



DORSET
POLICE & CRIME
COMMISSIONER

Devon and Cornwall and Dorset Police and Crime Commissioners

Summary of the Strategic Alliance Use of Force Scrutiny Panel

Thursday 31 May 2018 at 11am

Attendees

- Martyn Underhill Dorset Police and Crime Commissioner (Chair)
- Vicky Booty Policy Officer, Devon & Cornwall OPCC
- Paul Cashmore Member of the Public, Dorset
- Allan Daniels Member of the Public, Devon & Cornwall
- Julie Downton Member of the Public, Devon & Cornwall
- Graham Fice Member of the Public, Devon & Cornwall
- Tom Smith Governance Advisor, Dorset OPCC

plus 5 officers from Devon and Cornwall and Dorset Police.

Apologies

Alison Hernandez, Devon and Cornwall PCC, Charlie Souter-Phillips, Ebony Harding and Stan Sadler.

Summary of Meeting

As highlighted on the agenda, it had been decided that instead of the usual quarterly panel meeting, this meeting would provide an opportunity for members to receive training on use of force methods and to discuss the future of the panel. The minutes, summary and action list were therefore be held over to the next regular meeting.

The Panel were provided with a training session by the officers present, including two short videos used for officer training, plus an explanation/demonstration of:

- The National Decision Model and how it is used for every operation;
- The relevant legislation that applies in respect of use of force and the tactical options available to officers.
- The strategy and risk assessment methods used, together with the powers and policies and tactical options;
- The skills aimed at improving public and officer safety; and

- The equipment used and procedures followed, including a demonstration of Taser firing,

The second part of the meeting was to enable the panel to consider its future role.

Reference was made to background to the Strategic Alliance joint scrutiny panel for use of force which had been formed in November 2017. It had become clear after two meetings of the panel that there were significant differences between the two Forces in terms of both their training and governance.

Following careful consideration and discussions between the two PCCs and Forces, it had reluctantly been suggested that the panel should separate temporarily into a Devon and Cornwall and a Dorset Panel until at least the end of the year to help with scrutiny. The position could then be reviewed once the outcome of the merger between the two forces is known, and action taken to reunite the two panels as one joint scrutiny panel. Panel members noted that it was clear from the two previous Panel meetings that there are differences in the way the performance data is presented for both Forces. There are also differences in the way the dip sample cases are presented. Following discussion, the Panel agreed that the solution was to temporarily split the Panel into two, with a view to realigning as one, once the governance position has been resolved.

In the meantime, it was agreed to continue to share learning between the two panels going forward and that information sharing with Devon and Cornwall and Dorset should be a standing item on each panel's agenda. There would also be an open invitation to each panel member to observe the other panel in meetings.

It was suggested it would be helpful to monitor progress to see how many changes or recommendations are implemented in response to input from the panel and capture this in an Annual Report for publication by both PCCs in April 2019.

The date of the next meeting of the Dorset panel was confirmed for 3rd October 2018.