



Policing Performance Committee

18 September 2024

Minutes of the Policing Performance Committee held on 18 September 2024 via Webex

Board Members present:	Alasdair Hay - Chair Tom Halpin Katharina Kasper Mary Pitcaithly
Board Member apologies:	Chris Creegan
In attendance:	<u>Scottish Police Authority (SPA)</u> Barry Sillers, Director Chief Executive (Strategy & Performance) Amanda Coulthard, Head of Strategy & Performance Scott Ross, Head of Change & Operational Scrutiny Damian Armstrong, Change & Improvement Lead Lesley Carnegie, Performance & Impact Lead Catherine Reid, Governance Support Officer <u>Police Scotland (PS)</u> DCC Bex Smith, Crime ACC Mark Sutherland, Local Policing West ACC Stuart Houston, Professionalism & Assurance Tom McMahon, Director of Strategy & Analysis Detective Chief Superintendent Graham Grant, Specialist Crime Division Jimmy Paul, Head of Scottish Violence Reduction Unit

	<p>Superintendent David Reid, Partnerships Chief Inspector Michelle Grant Inspector Julie Presslie Inspector Gerard Bryceland Gillian Cherry, Head of Demand & Productivity Unit Tina MacLucas, Principal Analyst Nicola Hamilton, Senior Planning Performance Officer</p> <p><u>National Crime Agency (NCA)</u> Gerry McLean QPM</p> <p><u>COSLA</u> Councillor Maureen Chalmers Lesley Weber, Policy Manager – Communities</p> <p><u>HMICS</u> Alan Wright</p>
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1. WELCOME AND STANDING ITEMS

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting, which was held via Webex. He advised that there were no Member apologies.

1.2 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST AND CONNECTIONS

There were no declarations of interest or connections.

1.3 MINUTE FROM MEETING OF POLICING PERFORMANCE COMMITTEE FOR 11 JUNE 2024 - FOR APPROVAL

Members approved the Minute of the Policing Performance Committee held on 11 June 2024 as an accurate record of the meeting.

1.4 ACTION LOG AND MATTERS ARISING

Members noted the updates provided and agreed with the proposed recommendations for closure.

2.1 QUARTERLY POLICING PERFORMANCE REPORT – Q1 2024/25 – TOM MCMAHON

Members considered the report which provided the Committee with an update in relation to Police Scotland's Performance at the end of Quarter 1 2024/25. During discussion and in addition to the written report, the following points were noted and discussed.

- Members considered a brief overview of the report. It was highlighted that occurrences of the following have all increased in

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this reporting period: Crimes of dishonesty, Crimes against society, Anti-social offences, Miscellaneous Offences and Road Traffic Offences.

- The Committee focussed their oversight and scrutiny on the following areas: partnership working, decrease in 999 and 101 calls, increase in sexual offences and road traffic offences and wellbeing support provided to officers and staff who are victims of assaults.
- The Committee considered deep dives on the following areas: 1) Youth disorder & violence; 2) Road Fatalities; and 3) Nitazines.
- With regard to youth violence.
- Members sought clarity around the work being undertaken to prevent youth violence and to prevent re-offending. The Committee received assurances from Police Scotland that activity is ongoing in this space with key partners. For example, with the Children and Young People Unit co-located at the Edinburgh Futures Institute.
- The Committee queried Police Scotland on their decision-making process when agreeing to partner with external organisations. Action PPC20240918-001 was raised to address this.
- The Chair highlighted the media reports of dropped C3 calls and expressed concern around this. Assurance was sought from Police Scotland that this is in hand. Members were advised that the data in the media is misleading as Police Scotland are currently unable to scrutinise the data to ascertain the reasons for the dropped calls. Action PPC 20240918-002 was raised to address this.
- The Chair queried the action Police Scotland is taking to address the wellbeing of Police Officers and Staff who have been assaulted at work. Members were advised that Officers and Staff are encouraged to report assaults and submit use of force forms. The Committee were also advised of other initiatives/ reporting mechanisms in place such as: the Assaults and Wellbeing Diamond Oversight Group & Force monitoring group, Your Safety Matters Champions network, Officer Safety Training and effective absence management. The Chair emphasised that being assaulted is not part of the job.

Members noted the report and agreed the following actions:

PPC20240918-001 - The Committee to receive an update detailing Police Scotland's decision-making process when partnering with external organisations.

PPC 20240918-002 - Police Scotland to provide an update on the timeline for when the Committee can expect to receive more comprehensive data regarding dropped calls.

2.2 ANNUAL POLICE PLAN 2024/25 DELIVERY PLAN - TOM MCMAHON

Members considered the report which provided an update in relation to Police Scotland's Annual Police Plan 2024/25 Delivery Plan. During

discussion and in addition to the written report the following points were noted by the committee and discussed.

- The Committee sought and received assurance that sufficient detail is provided to allow assessment of progress throughout the year, in order to understand the impact of activity when delivered for and alignment of this activity to support delivery of the Joint Strategy for Policing.
- Members were assured that the half yearly Annual Police Plan will be presented at the December 2024 Committee.
- Police Scotland also committed to providing detailed timescales for each of the key deliverables.

Members endorsed the report.

2.3 POLICING PERFORMANCE COMMITTEE – PRIORITIES & OUTCOMES – COMMITTEE CHAIR

Members considered the report which provided reflections on areas of committee focus over 2023-24 and outlined priority areas of focus and target outcomes for the period of 2024-2026. During discussion and in addition to the written report the following points were noted and discussed.

- The Committee received clarity regarding the Chair’s priorities and expectations for the next two years.
- Cllr Chalmers expressed appreciation that by the end of 2025, there will be a revised national approach to dealing with those in mental health crisis or distress. The Chair thanked Cllr Chalmers for highlighting this and emphasised the need to work collaboratively to achieve this.

Members noted the report and endorsed the Priorities & Target Outcomes.

2.4 PUBLIC POLLING INSIGHTS AUGUST 2024 – AMANDA COULTHARD

Members considered the report which provided information relating to three pieces of polling and analytical work undertaken during the summer of 2024. The report also detailed the next steps being taken in relation to these three areas. During discussion and in addition to the written report the following points were noted and discussed.

- Members considered an overview of the data, insights and conclusions regarding: 1) Public Polling Results from August 2024; 2) A deeper dive analysis of confidence and trust in the police in remote & rural Scotland and 3) Qualitative analysis of focus groups,

specifically examining why some people have low confidence and trust in the police.

- With regard to the Proportionate Response to Crime (PRTC) policy, the Committee sought and received assurance from Police Scotland around how this is being applied when responding to reports of anti-social behaviour. Members were assured that the THRIVE assessment is still used and PRTC is used in conjunction as an additional process.
- Members highlighted the value of this work and endorsed the continuation of this work to facilitate continuous public interest polling upon conclusion of the existing contract.

Members noted the report and endorsed the continuation of the Public Polling work.

2.5 COSLA UPDATE REPORT – COUNCILLOR MAUREEN CHALMERS

Members noted the report. The following points were highlighted and discussed:

- Members noted the updates on the key areas of work undertaken by COSLA in relation to policing including; Community Safety matters: Processions, Hate Crime, Antisocial Behaviour, Fireworks & Pyrotechnics and PREVENT. Members also received comprehensive updates on Community Justice the Equally Safe Strategy.
- Members sought clarity from Police Scotland and Cllr Chalmers that there is alignment between the commitments in the new Equally Safe Delivery Plan and Police Scotland's own implement plan for Violence Against Women & Girls. Members were reassured of the strength of partnership working between Police Scotland and COSLA despite the resourcing pressured on both sides.
- The Chair gave thanks to Cllr Chalmers for the update.

Members noted the verbal update.

3.1 VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN & GIRLS STRATEGY PROGRESS REPORT – DCS GRAHAM GRANT

Members considered the report which provided the Committee with a progress update on the Violence Against Women and Girls Strategy. During discussion and in addition to the written report, the following points were noted and discussed.

- Members were advised that the VAWG work is progressing well against the HMICS thematic inspection actions.
- Members received assurance that the tranche of frontline officers that missed out on Domestic Abuse Training, due to the impact of Covid-19, will receive this training by March 2025.

- Concerns were raised regarding the impact gender self-identification could have on public confidence and the safety of women in the criminal justice system. This matter will be discussed further at the Authority Meeting on 26 September 2024.
- Members sought and received assurance that learning from the Victim Survivor Feedback portal is being embedded into Police Scotland Practice.

Members noted the report.

3.2 POLICING IN A DIGITAL WORLD UPDATE – CS CONRAD TRICKETT

Members considered the report which provided an update on the progress and direction of the Policing in a Digital World Programme (PDWP). During discussion and in addition to the written report, the following points were noted and discussed.

- Members sought and received assurances that Police Scotland continue to deliver appropriate training in this space and that there is sufficient funding to do so.
- Members emphasised the importance of the creation of the joint Biometrics Strategy between Police Scotland and SPA Forensic Services to assist with this work.
- The Committee were supportive of the proposal for Police Scotland to engage with The City of London Police to consider implementing their new Fraud and Cybercrime Reporting and Analysis Service (FCCRAS) from Spring 2025.

Members noted the report.

3.3 DEEP DIVE ANALYSIS OF VIOLENCE – ACC MARK SUTHERLAND, JIMMY PAUL & CI MICHELLE GRANT

Members considered the report which provided an update on the challenges, strategies and collaborative prevention activity relevant to violence. The report had a specific focus on children and young people coming into conflict with the law. During discussion and in addition to the written report and deep dive presentation, the following points were noted and discussed.

- The Chair expressed that the key insights into understanding the data, trends and insights regarding violence involving children and young people detailed within the report were useful. He queried whether any long term studies are taking place to better understand all aspects of violent crime going forward. Action PPC20240918-003 was raised to address this.

- The Committee commended Police Scotland for their approach to date and their future plans in tackling violence through a coordinated and focussed approach that ensures communities are safe and supported.

Members noted the report and agreed the following action:

PPC20240918-003 - Police Scotland to advise if any long-term studies are being put in place to better understand the increase in violent crime.

4.1 HMICS INSPECTIONS IMPROVEMENT PLANS – ACC STUART HOUSTON

Members considered the report which provided an update of recommendations from HMICS Inspections selected for review. During discussion and in addition to the written report, the following points were noted and discussed.

- The Committee sought and received assurance that work on the remaining actions is sufficiently advanced to mitigate the associated risks relating to public trust and confidence, staff wellbeing, and service delivery.
- Members also requested that the format of the report was adjusted to articulate overall progress made against recommendations.
- The Committee welcomed assurance that Police Scotland is on track to meet the recommendations and noted the effort and focus in these areas.

Members noted the report.

4.2 POLICE SCOTLAND APPROACH TO BIOMETRICS – DCC BEX SMITH

Members considered the report which provided an update on Police Scotland's approach to the governance of biometric data and samples. During discussion and in addition to the written report the following points were noted and discussed.

- Members sought and received assurance from Police Scotland regarding their confidence to deliver the strategy by Q4 24/25.
- Members were assured that Police Scotland are clear on the utilisation of technology and their use and storage of data.

Members noted the report.

4.3 SCOTTISH VIOLENCE REDUCTION UNIT ANNUAL REPORT – JIMMY PAUL

Members considered the report which provided an update on the progress of the Scottish Violence Reduction Unit's (SVRU) work in the last year, and detailed plans for the year ahead. During discussion and in addition to the written report the following points were noted and discussed.

- The Committee raised that they would like to see the SVRU business plan. It was agreed that this would be provided to the Authority for circulation to members.
- Members were encouraged by the work undertaken by the SVRU.

Members noted the report.

4.4 NATIONAL CRIME AGENCY UPDATE REPORT – GERRY MCLEAN QPM

Members considered the report which provided an update on the collaborative work between the NCA and Police Scotland to ensure Moderate and Major disruptions to Organised Criminal Groups in Scotland. During discussion and in addition to the written report the following points were noted and discussed.

- The report had a specific focus on Drugs, Fraud, Firearms, Money laundering and Child Sexual Abuse.
- Members queried the methods NCA use to gather intelligence to stay ahead of emerging threats.
- The Chair thanked Gerry MacLean for attending and providing the update.

Members noted the report.

5.1 COMMITTEE WORKPLAN – COMMITTEE CHAIR

Members considered the Policing Performance Committee Work Plan for the period of September 2024 – August 2025.

- Members considered and endorsed the Work Plan.

End.