

LGA Special Interest Group Annual Report to LGA Board

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Membership

In moving to a subscription free basis, the following are members of the NAPFCP

Avon and Somerset
 Bedfordshire
 Cambridgeshire
 Cheshire
 Cleveland
 Durham
 Dyfed Powys
 Essex
 Gloucestershire
 Greater Manchester
 Gwent
 Kent and Medway
 Lincolnshire
 North Yorkshire
 Northamptonshire
 Nottinghamshire
 South Yorkshire
 Staffordshire
 Suffolk
 Thames Valley
 Warwickshire
 West Midlands
 West Yorkshire

Brief Overview of the NAPFCP Aims

The National Association of Police and Crime Panels (NAPCP) is a body that supports Police and Crime Panels (PCP) in England and Wales and aims to be nationally recognised as representing and promoting their views and best interests and so influence change for the better.

The following are the agreed NAPFCP terms of reference confirmed at the first annual meeting of members in November 2018.

- To provide a forum for collaborative discussion of issues relating to and impacting on Police and Crime Panels and Police, Fire and Crime Panels (PCPs / PFCPs)
- To share ideas and experience in response to the expanding role of PCCs and PFCCs and thereby PCPs / PFCPs
- To create a mechanism for direct liaison between PCPs / PFCPs and the Home Office
- To provide an opportunity for dialogue with relevant bodies such as the Association of Police and Crime Commissioners, Association of Police and Crime Chief Executives and others
- To support the development of joint PCP /PFCP responses to relevant consultations
- To promote professional standards
- To share good practice and create guidance and other supporting materials for PCPs /PFCPs
- To ensure stability and collective memory in a landscape where PCPs / PFCPs can have significant changes in membership
- To provide capacity for horizon scanning across all PCPs / PFCPs.
- To promote better public understanding of the role of PCPs / PFCPs

The membership of the National Association's Executive Committee was confirmed at the AGM that took place in November 2019. Half of the original Executive members had not been reappointed to their county panel or had left for other reasons such as retirement. An open and transparent election process took place prior to the AGM, with nominations invited from all eligible Panels. The Executive Committee now comprises representatives from 10 different Panels including representation from two Panels that have both police and fire governance responsibilities.

The first meeting of the new Executive Committee took place in December 2020 with the purpose of agreeing a response to the Call for Evidence in relation to the Strategic Review of Policing in England and Wales undertaken by the Police Foundation. The submission was made addressing relevant questions for Panels and a copy is available if the LGA require it.

At the AGM in November 2019, members passed a resolution unanimously that the National Association would be re-established on a subscription free basis, with authority granted to the Executive Committee to consider and agree the practicalities of how it will now operate. This was necessary because the Home Office had confirmed that the Association's subscription fees could not be paid from the grant provided to Police, Fire and Crime Panels. As the grant represents the only source of funding available to Panels, this presented a significant barrier

to membership. Inevitably, and as acknowledged at the AGM, operating on a subscription free basis will impact on how the National Association is able to fulfil its objective. The Executive Committee envision that this will be on a collaborative, self-help basis, drawing on the skills on both the Executive members and, in due course, the wider membership.

The National Association was due to make a presentation to attendees at the planned LGA workshop in March 2020, however this was cancelled due to the then emerging Covid-19 pandemic. Following lockdown restrictions and the decision to postpone Commissioner elections until 2021, the National Association agreed that its work program should concentrate on producing Key Lines of Enquiry (KLOE's) relating to policing activities that would be of assistance to support officers and Chairmen of Panels when developing their work programmes.

Key Activities / Outcomes of work undertaken

Activity / Outcome – Establishment of the Executive Committee of the Association and the progression of the management / governance functions of the Association that do not require the input of the wider group. The Executive Committee meets monthly by remote means which has proven to be highly effective at near zero cost.

Activity / Outcome

Liaison with additional key partners including the Home Office, Chairman/CEO of the Association of Crime Commissioners and National Police Chief Council

Activity / Outcome

Production of a "Call for Evidence" response to the Police Foundation from the perspective of Police and Crime Panels.

Activity / Outcome

The Executive Committee has developed a positioning document to detail the work areas in which the National Association should be involved. This document is available for LGA review if required.

Activity / Outcome

The development of Covid-19 related Key Lines of Enquiry for support officers to consider using at their Panel meetings. These KLOE's were tested by Cheshire PCP at its meeting in May with Commissioner given prior notice of the KLOE's so that he was fully prepared. This approach aligns with the Panels' remit of delivering Challenge and Support to Commissioners.

Activity / Outcome

Establish a Communications liaison representative from the Executive Committee to work with the press and social media to promote the work of Panels.

Activity / Outcome

Production of a survey for all Chairman and Support Officers to shape the work of the NAPFCP for the next 24 months.