

Police, Fire & Crime Panel – Public Question

Questions Posed:

1) Given the following within relevant legislation

<https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2011/13/section/34/enacted>

34Engagement with local people

(1)A chief officer of police must make arrangements for obtaining the views of persons within each neighbourhood in the relevant police area about crime and disorder in that neighbourhood.

(2)A chief officer of police must make arrangements for providing persons within each neighbourhood in the relevant police area with information about policing in that neighbourhood (including information about how policing in that neighbourhood is aimed at dealing with crime and disorder there).

(3)Arrangements under this section must provide for, or include arrangements for, the holding in each neighbourhood of regular meetings between—

(a)persons within that neighbourhood, and

(b)police officers with responsibility for supervising or carrying out policing in that neighbourhood.

(4)It is for a chief officer of police to determine what the neighbourhoods are in the relevant police area

What date was the last time officers held in person meetings with local people to discuss problems arising and what date/s is your next in person meeting with all local communities? Please provide your plan of action with dates. (all Staffordshire)

Panel Member: Mrs Mallender

Question Date: 20/02/2024

Commissioner Response:

Staffordshire Police communicate and engage with members of the public and local communities across Staffordshire on a daily basis, whether it be through the course of their usual day to day activities, as well as more structured and formal pre-arranged meetings.

Each of the 10 Local Policing Teams has a bespoke Community Engagement Plan, that outlines all planned activity and captures Local Police Officer and PCSO communication and engagement with their local communities. Activities include drop in sessions hosted by the Police, and attendance at Parish Council meetings, school visits, local clubs (eg cycling club, junior cadets), Careers events, Church Groups, local festivals and much more. These events and activities are promoted locally on social media platforms, via posters displayed in shops and notice boards, and local networks.

Staffordshire Police have recently developed a new approach to Community Engagement and Community Mapping, to improve the way in which engagement and feedback is captured, with both quantitative and qualitative data, enabling better evaluation of engagement activity and feedback to the public and local communities. The new approach will 'go live' later in the summer. Feedback on this new approach has been very positively received by His Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary and Fire and Rescue Services (HMICFRS).

Effective engagement with all sections of the community, partners and the public is also a fundamental part of the Commissioner's role, as a representative of the public and their voice in policing, fire and rescue and community safety more broadly.

Public accountability for the delivery and performance of the police service is placed into the hands of the Commissioner on behalf of their electorate. The Commissioner draws on this mandate to set and shape the strategic objectives for Staffordshire Police in consultation with the Chief Constable and publish this in the form of the Police and Crime Plan.

The Commissioner has three statutory duties relating to community engagement:

- to obtain the views of local people and victims of crime on matters concerning policing in their area and represent them to the force
- to obtain their views on the draft Police and Crime Plan
- to obtain their views before setting the council tax precept.

However, good engagement is about much more than simply consulting to meet legal requirements. The Commissioner is keen to truly represent the communities he serves by giving them a strong voice, understanding their concerns and making sure their needs are being met.

Good public engagement aims to bring people and communities together to address issues of common importance, to solve shared problems and to bring about positive social change. When done well it gives a voice to those who may have traditionally been left out of political and policy debates.

Community engagement provides people with opportunities to have an influence in how services are provided to them. It allows individuals an opportunity to become actively involved in decision making, to scrutinise services and provide support as a volunteer, all of which are vital to increasing public trust and confidence in services.

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