

## SURREY POLICE AND CRIME PANEL

### NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF POLICE, FIRE AND CRIME PANELS (NAPFCP)

15 September 2020

#### SUMMARY

This report sets out to provide information to the Panel to consider joining the National Association of Police, Fire and Crime Panels (NAPFCP).

#### RECOMMENDATIONS

The Police and Crime Panel is asked to:

- (i) Consider whether to become a member of the National Association of Police, Fire and Crime Panels (NAPFCP).

#### 1.0 INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 The National Association of Police, Fire & Crime Panels was established in April 2018 as a special interest group of the Local Government Association (LGA). Police and Crime Panel representatives within England and Wales attended an inaugural meeting hosted by the Local Government Association (LGA) in London. At the meeting it was agreed that the National Association of Police, Fire & Crime Panels (NAPFCP) be formally established.
- 1.2 The NAPFCP is the national body that supports both Police and Crime Panels (PCP's) and Police, Fire and Crime Panels (PFCP's) across England and Wales and its role is to identify and promote best practice and provide a collective voice for Panels. The National Association agreed to waive its annual subscription fee for Panels at its meeting in November 2019.

#### 2.0 BACKGROUND

- 2.1 The NAPFCP's Terms of Reference shown at Appendix 1 were agreed at its Annual General Meeting (AGM) in November 2018; where an Executive Committee was formed consisting of ten volunteers from member panels.
- 2.2 Since the formation of the NAPFCP, there had been an annual subscription fee of £500 and this was anticipated to be funded through the Home office Grant Agreement to Police and Crime Panels. The Home Office will not agree the use of the Grant for that purpose, so the difficulty was that Panel authorities had to bear the costs themselves.
- 2.3 The National Association's Executive Committee therefore recognised that asking for a subscription presented a significant barrier to membership of the Association and

proposed that the NAPFCP operate on a subscription-free basis which was agreed with immediate effect at its AGM in 19 November 2019.

- 2.4 On the 27 November 2019, an email was received from the Chairman of the National Association to the Panel's support officer to advise of the changes as detailed above and asked for an expression of interest from Surrey's Police and Crime Panel to join the NAPFCP. Panel members were provided with the NAPFCP's AGM November 2019 agenda and are asked to consider joining the National Association.
- 2.5 With regard to the NAPFCP's Terms of Reference within Appendix 1, membership to the association would be beneficial as it would 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); facilitate the sharing of ideas and experiences in response to the expanding role of PCCs and PFCCs and thereby PCPs / PFCPs and creates a mechanism for direct liaison between PCPs / PFCPs and the Home Office.
- 2.6 As noted in the November 2019 report, in order to achieve the objectives of the NAPFCP as set out in its Terms of Reference, the intention was to use the subscription fee funding to work with a training provider or consultancy firm to develop tailored guidance packages for Panels. However, under a subscription-free basis beneficial outcomes can still be obtained via peer-to-peer learning and other more informal methods. The National Association is entitled to have up to four meetings a year hosted by the LGA as it is a Special Interest Group, those meetings would provide discussion forums and help identify best practice.
- 2.7 Of the 42 Police, Fire and Crime Panels nationally, 25 had expressed an active interest in membership of the NAPFCP and were invoiced for their 2019/20 annual subscriptions. The NAPFCP is currently chaired by John Gili-Ross from Essex Police, Fire and Crime Panel. The chairman's appointment is agreed on an annual basis at the NAPFCP AGM and secretariat support is provided by the Chair's host authority.

### **3.0 CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 3.1 The Police and Crime Panel is invited to consider whether to become members of the National Association of Police Fire and Crime Panels.

### **4.0 REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 4.1 Joining the NAPFCP would be beneficial as it would facilitate the sharing of ideas and experiences in response to the expanding role of PCCs and PFCCs, 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); and creates a mechanism for direct liaison between PCPs / PFCPs and the Home Office.

### **5.0 WHAT HAPPENS NEXT**

- 5.1 The Committee Manager to liaise with the Chairman of the Surrey Police and Crime Panel to advise the Chair of the National Association of the Panel's decision.

## 6.0 BACKGROUND INFORMATION

- National Association of Police, Fire and Crime Panels (NAPFCP)  
Website: <http://policecrimepanels.com/>
- NAPFCP – ToR (Appendix 1)
- NAPFCP – Agenda November 2019

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