

PROPOSAL FOR A REGIONAL NETWORK FOR POLICE AND CRIME PANELS

Benefits of a regional network

A network would enable the Panels to share their perspectives and ways of working, their experiences of engaging with their Police and Crime Commissioners, exchange views about good practice and discuss potential solutions to difficult problems.

As cross-border and regional collaboration among Forces and PCCs increases, the Panels especially would be better positioned to look at common issues that might arise from regional collaboration. Networking also lays the basis for potential joint working on items that affect a Police and Crime Plan's strategic objective of more than one or perhaps all of the PCCs in the region.

Support from Frontline Consulting Associates

Frontline Consulting Associates has been supporting Police and Crime Panels across England since the early days of shadow Panels. Following a national conference in Gloucester in June 2012, we ran a number of induction sessions for Members joining the new Panels, then learning and development events and reviews for Panels so they could take stock of their experiences and reflect on how they might improve their working practices.

At our second national conference, which took place in July 2013, some participants raised the possibility of regional networks being set up to assist Panels and provide mutual support. As a result, we have worked in the South West, East Midlands and East to bring the PCPs together.

At our third national conference, in October 2014, our speakers highlighted the trend to increasing regional collaboration and raised the implications for PCPs and joint working, and this has developed ever since, including Regional Collaboration, Strategic Alliances and most recently the prospect of Blue Light Collaboration. We therefore extended our offer to facilitate regional networks in other parts of England and Wales.

How a network might operate and what is on offer

Our proposal for Regional PCPs Networks is customised to meet the precise requirements of the participating PCPs. We are able to offer the following:

- Two meetings a year for the Chairs, Vice-Chairs and support officer (substitutes allowable) of each Panel to share information and experience, to problem-solve and to collaborate as appropriate; agendas would be devised by the participants and would include a regional update based upon information provided in a common template as well as 'hot topics' of challenges to address across the Force areas, all as identified by participants
- A 'helpline' facility (by telephone, e-mail and online) supported by Tim Young, Frontline Consulting's Lead on Policing and Crime, to answer queries and provide advice
- A website www.pcps-direct.net, which all PCP members and support officers can sign up for, for free, to share their experiences and good practice, including:
 - an Information section: open-access pages that include a digest of news covering issues around Police and Crime Panels that will interest councillors, Independent Members and support officers, plus occasional features. There is provision for Panels to post films, articles and more in-depth pieces about latest PCP developments; and

- an Exchange section, offering scope for you to network with each other across PCPs by setting up personal circles or engaging in broader networks by theme, role, activity or Force area. One of the Networks is Ask Tim, where you can post your queries

In addition, we offer:

- Three places for the price of two for Network members who want to attend our annual PCP conference (equivalent to a £99 discount)
- a 10% discount on any learning and development sessions that PCPs might want to engage Frontline Consulting to deliver.

Costs

We are very aware of the limited budget available for Police and Crime Panels. We therefore charge a modest annual subscription of £500 per Panel. As with any subscription, this does not presuppose automatic annual renewal.

Any queries?

Please feel free to contact Ann Reeder to discuss any aspects of this proposal.

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