

REGIONAL NETWORKS FOR POLICE (FIRE) AND CRIME PANELS 2021-22

Supported by Frontline Consulting

BENEFITS OF A REGIONAL NETWORK

- A regional network enables Panels to share their experience and ways of working, explore the nature of their engagement with their Police (Fire) and Crime Commissioners, exchange views about good practice, consider different perspectives on hot topics and discuss potential solutions to difficult challenges
- As cross-border and regional collaboration among Forces and P(F)CCs increases, Panels in regional networks are better placed 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 P(F)CCs 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 and has worked with each of the Panels in some way. We also work with the National Association of P(F)CPs
- Following a national conference in Gloucester in June 2012, we ran induction sessions for Members joining the new Panels. Since then, we have facilitated learning and development and reviews for Panels to take stock of their experiences and reflect on how they might improve their working practices. We have held nine annual conferences
- At our second national conference 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 East Midlands, Eastern and Yorkshire and Humberside regions to bring the P(F)CPs together on a regular basis and have hosted two ad hoc meetings in the South West.

ACTIVITY ON OFFER

Each regional P(F)CP network is customised to meet the requirements of the participating Panels and usually includes the following:

- Two meetings a year for two or three representatives of each Panel -the Chairs and/or Vice-Chairs and the Support Officers of each Panel-. Panels may send substitutes
- A 'helpline' facility (by telephone or e-mail) supported by Frontline Consulting, usually by Dave Burn, our Lead on Policing, Fire and Crime, to answer queries and provide advice
- A website www.pcps-direct.net with briefings, experiences and good practice (Panels are welcome to contribute to by email to Dave)
- A quarterly newsletter to highlight key topics and links to associated articles
- A 10% discount on any learning and development sessions that P(F)CPs engage Frontline Consulting to deliver

HOW A NETWORK MEETING WORKS

- Due to COVID meetings have been held during 2020/21 virtually. Under normal circumstances Panels who are members of a regional network agree a preferred location. Previously we used the offices of Grant Thornton (sponsors of our national project for Panels) in London for the Eastern network and in Leeds for the Yorkshire and Humberside network. This will be reviewed as the Lockdown regulations are lifted. We use a meeting room of East Midlands Councils in Melton Mowbray for the East Midlands network. We have used a meeting room at South West Councils in Taunton for the two ad hoc meetings in the South West
- At the two meetings a year, Panel representatives:
 - share information about their recent and planned activity
 - compare experiences eg in respect of scrutiny of the precept, holding of meetings about the annual report of the P(F)CC or undertaking of confirmation hearings
 - identify training topics for joint discussion and learning
 - work together to develop new ways of working or to solve problems
 - collaborate as appropriate eg some of the East Midlands' Panels decided to hold a seminar to look at the impact of increasing regional collaboration on the role of Panels
- Participants feed in ideas for the agendas, which Dave coordinates. Agendas usually include a regional round-up prepared in advance by the Network relevant, as well as items of 'hot topics', usually new developments to explore, good practice to share or challenges to address across the Force areas

COSTS TO A PANEL

We are very aware of the limited budget available for Police (Fire) and Crime Panels, so charge only a modest subscription to cover our time and expenses to support the Networks

Our annual subscription for 2021-22 will remain at only £400 per annum per Panel + VAT

As with any subscription, this does not presuppose automatic annual renewal

ANY QUERIES?

Please feel free to contact Dave to discuss any aspect of this project.

Dave Burn

Police, Fire and Crime Panels Lead

www.pcps-direct.net

daveb@frontlineconsulting.co.uk

07732 331000

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