



Mae'r ddogfen hon ar gael yn Gymraeg yn ogystal â Saesneg.

This document is available in Welsh as well as English.



Police Collaborations Oversight Board

Introduction

This document defines the terms of reference for the Police Collaborations Oversight Board, its membership and the roles and responsibilities of the members.

Purpose

The Policing Protocol Order 2023 sets out the Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC) has the legal power and duty to:

'enter into collaboration agreements with other PCCs, other policing bodies and partners that improve the efficiency or effectiveness of policing for one or more policing bodies or police forces in consultation with the Chief Constable (where this relates to the functions of the police force, then it must be with the agreement of the Chief Constable);' (paragraph 17h)

And

'a duty to ensure that all collaboration agreements with other Local Policing Bodies and forces deliver better value for money or enhance the effectiveness of policing capabilities and resilience;' (paragraph 20d)

It also sets out the Chief Constable is responsible to the public and accountable to the PCC for:

'entering into collaboration agreements with other Chief Constables, other policing bodies and partners that improve the efficiency or effectiveness of policing, and with the agreement of their respective Policing Bodies;' (paragraph 23i)

The Police Act 1996, as amended by schedule 12 of the Police Reform and Social Responsibility Act 2011, makes it clear that Commissioners and Chief Constables must keep collaboration arrangements under review and collaborate where it is in the interests of the efficiency or effectiveness of their own and other police force areas.

In deciding whether an existing or proposed collaboration agreement is, or would be, in the interests of the efficiency or effectiveness of one or more police forces, section 23HA requires that Chief Officers and Police and Crime Commissioners must, in particular, consider:

- existing collaboration agreements, and other arrangements for co-operation, to which the police forces concerned are parties;



- the desirability of police forces taking a consistent approach in making such agreements and other arrangements, and
- opportunities available to the police forces concerned to make such agreements and other arrangements.

The Home Office Statutory Guidance for Police Collaboration provides as follows in relation to governance and oversight of collaborative arrangements:

102. When deciding what governance structures to put in place for collectively holding their chief officers to account for collaboration activity, policing bodies will want to consider the **formation of a joint oversight committee consisting of PCCs or their representatives**.

Although individual chief officers will still be held to account by their own policing body, all of the chief officers concerned could be made answerable to a joint oversight committee for their performance in relation to a collaboration.

103. A joint oversight committee is likely to want the involvement and advice of chief officers taking part in a collaboration, and the terms of reference of a joint oversight committee should be drafted to provide for this.

Chief officers cannot be bound operationally by decisions of a joint oversight committee any more than by the decisions of a policing body itself.

The Police Collaborations Oversight Board provides opportunity for joint scrutiny and oversight of the performance of collaborations affecting police forces in Wales. It will focus on ensuring collaborations are providing value for money and demonstrable benefits for the people of Wales, working to achieve the Vision for Policing in Wales.

Governance

The Chair of the Board will be nominated by and from the Police and Crime Commissioners in Wales.

The Board will provide accountability oversight of any existing or proposed collaboration in Wales involving any/all of the four Police Forces in Wales (but not any third parties), predominantly through oversight of the Police Collaboration Wales Programme Board and through 'calling in' any other existing or proposed collaborations for scrutiny. The Board will not have oversight of e.g. collaborations which North Wales Police have with Forces in the North West of England.

The 'calling in' process will involve requesting submission of the existing or proposed collaboration agreement and any relevant reports such as business cases and progress reports. Members of the Board in consultation with the four Chief Constables will agree the scope and focus, and a list of Chief Officers to invite to advise the Board. The secretariat and



/ or individual PCC offices may also propose other individuals from the relevant forces to be involved and advise the Board. This advice may take the form of a mixture of written and/or oral submissions.

The secretariat will coordinate the arrangements for receiving and distributing written information, briefings and suggested questions, as well as the practical arrangements for providing oral contributions at the designated meetings.

The Board's opinions and any recommendations or requests emanating will be drafted in a report by the secretariat of the Board. This report will be submitted to Policing in Wales for consideration. Any issues that cannot be resolved by the Board or require escalation will be formally considered at Policing in Wales.

Authority and Responsibilities

The Board will not have the authority to commit resources or decide whether to enter or exit any collaborations. It will make recommendations to Policing in Wales on its judgement of the efficiency and / or effectiveness of existing, or proposed, collaboration agreements. It is also agreed that in accordance with the Statutory Guidance for Police Collaboration that Chief Officers cannot be bound operationally by any decisions or recommendations of the Board.

In line with sections 22 and 23 of the Policing Act 1996 and the Policing Protocol Order 2023, the Police Collaborations Oversight Board will:

- Ensure a comprehensive register of all police collaborations is centrally held and maintained;
- Review any proposed collaborations in advance of their approval by any one of the police forces in Wales;
- Scrutinise collaborations' performance against their business cases and collaboration agreements;
- Consider risks, audits and external inspections relating to collaborations;
- Request involvement and advice of chief officers taking part in collaborations to enable Commissioners to hold their respective chief officers to account;
- Communicate and engage with key stakeholders;
- Provide critical friend challenge to drive improvement in policing services; and
- Ensure collaboration agreements are appropriately recorded and published.

Membership

- Police and Crime Commissioners or Deputy Police and Crime Commissioners – Dyfed-Powys, Gwent, North Wales and South Wales Police
- Chief Executives – Dyfed-Powys, Gwent, North Wales and South Wales
- Chief Finance Officers (PCC) – Dyfed-Powys, Gwent, North Wales and South Wales Police
- Head or Deputy Head of the Police Liaison Unit



- Chair of the Collaboration Management Board
- All Wales Programme Collaboration and Change Programme Lead (ACC)
- Senior Responsible Owners for 'live' projects
- All Wales Programme Manager Collaboration
- *Project Leads will be requested to attend on a need-only basis*

Frequency of meetings

The Group will meet quarterly, at a time which will enable progress to be reported to Policing in Wales in a timely manner.

Secretariat

The Police Liaison Unit (PLU) will act as the secretariat for this meeting.

An agenda and associated reports for the Police Collaborations Oversight Board will be circulated to Members no later than 5 working days in advance of the meeting. As such, papers for consideration must be received by the secretariat 6 working days in advance of the meeting. Urgent or late reports will need to be approved by the Chair before inclusion for consideration by the Board.

The PLU is responsible for the maintenance of records relating to the Police Collaborations Oversight Board. This will include the management and publication of the minutes and the compilation of meeting agendas and papers. Minutes of meetings will be distributed to the Chair for approval within one week of the meeting and within 3 working days to Members. The secretariat will communicate outcomes and actions to relevant collaborations and ensure appropriate escalation of matters to Policing in Wales meetings.

A forward work programme will be established to ensure that meetings are effective and focus on matters at appropriate intervals throughout the year. This will be reviewed on a quarterly basis by Policing in Wales.

Papers submitted to the Police Collaborations Oversight Board must be presented in an agreed format. All papers received will need to be appropriately marked in accordance with the Government Security Classification Scheme to safeguard against inappropriate disclosure.

Matters discussed at the Police Collaborations Oversight Board which have operational sensitivity, relate to personal information or have commercial sensitivity will either be made public at an appropriate time in the future or be retained by the PLU. The decisions relating to the public release of information will be made in accordance to the Freedom of Information Act and other statutory instruments or regulations which are applicable to the policing service and PCCs.



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