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Ask for:
Date:

Dear Member

KENT AND MEDWAY POLICE AND CRIME PANEL - WEDNESDAY, 25 APRIL 2018

I am now able to enclose, for consideration at next Wednesday's, 25 April 2018 meeting of the Kent and Medway Police and Crime Panel, the following report that was unavailable when the agenda was printed.

Agenda Item No

D2 **Panel SIG Update** (Pages 3 - 6)

Yours sincerely

Benjamin Watts
General Counsel

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By: Ben Watts, General Counsel, Kent County Council
Mike Overbeke, Head of Public Protection, Kent County Council

To: Kent and Medway Police and Crime Panel – 25th April 2018

Subject: Police and Crime Panel national Special Interest Group

Background

1. At the meeting on 2nd February 2017 the Panel were advised that a number of Police and Crime Panels around the country had expressed a desire to form a national association to sit alongside the National Association of Police and Crime Commissioners and the National Association of Police and Crime Commissioners' Chief Executives. Panel Members expressed the view that, rather than establish a new national association, it would be preferable to build on existing regional networks and to use the services of the Local Government Association (LGA) if possible.
2. After further discussions nationally about the practical and resource difficulties of setting up a National Association, other panels came to a similar view, which was reported to the Panel on 15th November 2017. This led to a suggestion that the LGA could be asked to set up a Special Interest Group (SIG). The Chairman supported this approach on behalf of the Panel.
3. In order to develop this suggestion into a formal proposal each Panel was invited to send a representative to a meeting on 19th April where decisions would be made on the detailed arrangements to set up an SIG. Kent and Medway were represented at that meeting
4. This report advises the Panel of the decisions made at that meeting,

Special Interest Groups

5. SIG's consist, under the LGA's constitution, of individual Member Councils and they meet to discuss and make representations about their area of interest. The LGA does not provide general support beyond access to meeting rooms and other LGA facilities - that is for each SIG to provide for itself.

Decisions

6. At the meeting on 19th April 15 Panels, including Kent and Medway, indicated their willingness to be part of a SIG. LGA require a minimum of 10 members

so this threshold was met. It was felt from other national and regional discussions that a number of other Panels would be willing to join, but were unable to be present to express support. The Chair of the SIG agreed to write to all Panels not present on 19th April inviting them to join.

7. Because SIGs consist of LGA member Councils it is not possible for a Panel to be a member so it was agreed that the host authority for each Panel (in the case of the Kent and Medway Panel this is Kent County Council) would be the formal member of the SIG, unless a particular Panel wished to make another arrangement.
8. It was agreed to call the SIG the National Association of Police, Crime and Fire Panels. Initial terms of reference were agreed and these are set out in the Appendix. It was also agreed that the next step is to prepare a constitution for the SIG.
9. It was agreed that, to enable the SIG to function effectively, some money would be required and it was agreed that each member Panel should initially contribute £500 (payable from the Home Office grant). It was agreed that this money would be used to develop a costed work plan, which would be presented to the National Conference at Warwick in November, at which time a more rounded judgment could be made on the level of subscription. It was also agreed that the Chair of the SIG would be able to use some of this money to support the operation of the SIG.
10. The meeting elected Cllr John Gili-Ross (Essex PCFP) as interim Chair and Cllrs Alison Lowe (West Yorkshire PCP) and John Adams (Dorset PCP) as interim Vice Chairs of the SIG. Full appointments will be made at an inaugural AGM of the SIG to be held in November. Finally the meeting agreed to submit a formal application to the LGA to create an SIG.
11. This report is for the Panel's information.

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National Association of Police, Fire and Crime Panels - Terms of reference

1. To provide a forum for collaborative discussion of issues relating to and impacting on Police and Crime Panels
2. To share ideas and experience in response to the expanding role of PCCs and thereby PCFPs
3. To create a mechanism for direct liaison between PCFPs and the Home Office
4. To provide an opportunity for dialogue with relevant bodies such as the Association of Police and Crime Commissioners, Association of Police and Crime Chief Executives and others
5. To support the development of joint PCFP responses to relevant consultations
6. To promote professional standards
7. To share good practice and create guidance and other supporting materials for PCFPs
8. To ensure stability and collective memory in a landscape where PCFPs can have significant changes in membership
9. To provide capacity for horizon scanning across all PCFPs.
10. To raise the understanding of the role of PCFPs

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