



MINUTES

NATIONAL POLICE AIR SERVICE (NPAS) NATIONAL STRATEGIC BOARD (MEETING NUMBER 12)

9 September 2015

PRESENT

NAME	REPRESENTING
PCC Mark Burns-Williamson OBE (MBW) Chair	Police and Crime Commissioner for West Yorkshire police – Lead Local Policing Body
T/CC Dee Collins QPM – (DC)	West Yorkshire Police – Lead Local Chief Constable
Ch. Supt. Ian Whitehouse (IW)	NPAS Accountable Manager
Fraser Sampson (FS)	Chief Executive & Solicitor – Office of Police and Crime Commissioner for West Yorkshire
Katherine Johnson (KJ)	Treasurer – West Yorkshire Office of Police and Crime Commissioner
Mark Reeves (MRe)	Head of Accountancy - Financial Accounts and Projects Manager West Yorkshire Police
Supt Tyron Joyce (TJ)	NPAS Programme Director
Ollie Dismore (OD)	NPAS Director of Flight Operations
Janine Nelson (JN)	Commercial Lawyer West Yorkshire Force Solicitor
PCC Barry Coppinger (BC)	Police and Crime Commissioner for Cleveland - North East Region
Claire Craven-Griffiths (CCG) representing CC Dave Jones	Service Delivery Advisor - North Yorkshire Police – North East Region
ACC Ian Wiggett (IW)	Greater Manchester Police – North West Region – IAG Chair
Emma Smithies (ES) representing CC Simon Byrne	Staff Officer to CC Simon Byrne –Cheshire Police – North West Region
PCC Ron Ball (RB)	Police and Crime Commissioner for Warwickshire – Central Region
CC Neil Rhodes (NR)	Lincolnshire Police – Central Region
Cmdr. David Musker (DM)	Metropolitan Police Service – London Region

PCC Anthony Stansfeld (AS) – (by phone)	Police and Crime Commissioner for Thames Valley - South East Region
ACC Steve Barry (SBa)	Operations – Surrey & Sussex Police – South East Region
Insp Mark Callaghan (MC)	Drone Project Manager, Operations Command, Surrey & Sussex Police – South East Region
PCC Christopher Salmon (CS) (by phone)	Police & Crime Commissioner for Dyfed Powys – South West Region
Jan Blomfield representing CC Suzette Davenport (JB) (by phone)	Gloucestershire Police - South West Region
Rebecca Lawrence (RL)	MOPAC – Mayors Office for Police & Crime
Rachel Watson (RWa)	Home Office –Head of Police Workforce and Capability Unit
Jonathan Scanlan (JS)	Home Office – Workforce and Capability Unit
DCC Richard Morris (RM)	Police Business Change Lead - ESMCP Programme
Supt Mark Mulcahy (MM)	Police Business Change & Assurance Manager - ESMCP Programme
Dave Thomas (DT)	A2G Project Manager
Andy Bell (AB)	Deputy CFOA CBRNE Lead - London Fire Brigade
Jenny Turner (JT)	Business Engagement, West Yorkshire Police
Melanie Jaundziekars (MJ)	NPAS Support Officer

APOLOGIES

NAME	REPRESENTING
Susan Carte (SC)	NPAS Business Development Manager
CC Simon Byrne (SB)	National Police Chiefs' Council (NPCC) Aviation Lead
PCC John Dwyer (JD)	Police and Crime Commissioner for Cheshire – North West Region
CC Mark Polin QPM (MP)	North Wales Police – North West Region
T/Chief Supt Simon Hawkins (SH)	Hertfordshire Police – South East Region
D/Supt Richard Mann (RM)	British Transport Police
Patricia Gallan (PG)	Assistant Commissioner – Metropolitan Police Service
CC David Jones (DJ)	North Yorkshire Police – North East Region
ACC Sarah Hamlin (SH)	Norfolk Police – South East Region

The Chair, PCC Mark Burns-Williamson (MBW) opened the meeting and gave introductions.

1. APOLOGIES

Noted and recorded.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No Declarations of Interest were declared.

3. MINUTES OF MEETING HELD 2 JULY 2015

Minutes were agreed and passed as a correct record.

4. ACTIONS

See Action list for updates.

5. EMERGENCY SERVICES MOBILE COMMUNICATIONS PROGRAMME (ESMCP) UPDATE

DCC Richard Morris (RM), Supt Mark Mulcahy (MM), and Dave Thomas (DT) gave a presentation on ESMCP. They explained the benefits of ESMCP which are that it is less expensive and provides more flexibility than the current Airwave system. However a large amount of work still needs to be done in a short space of time. Concerns were raised by members of the Board around the realistic feasibility of achieving the timescales suggested as the fitting to an aircraft would be into the early months of 2017 and would take around 4 weeks per aircraft to fit.

T/CC Collins (DC) stated there were two different issues, namely the potential costs for NPAS in terms of devices, fitting etc and the impact of the timing for the introduction of the operating model. As the NPAS fleet would need to go through this process along with the Air Ambulance and other partner agencies the question was raised as to who would get priority. This will need monitoring.

Ian Whitehouse (IW) raised concerns around the lack of aviation subject matter experts and stated as NPAS are assisting the programme there had to be an element of independence as there is no longer a Home Office aviation advisor. It was acknowledged that further engagement needs to take place with NPAS in order to move this issue forward.

RM stated there would be no financial obligation to NPAS but non core items such as devices would not be covered and would need separate Home Office funding.

Action 12.1 – ESMCP to be a standing Agenda item to move this issue forward around the expertise and timeline of installation of the programme into NPAS.

Board members were content to take this issue forward but raised concern as above.

6. UPDATE ON FIXED WING

Ollie Dismore (OD) stated that following the last Strategic Board meeting it was agreed to purchase four P68 airframes from Airbourne Technologies and contract negotiations are due to be finalised within the coming weeks. NPAS expect to sign the contract towards the end of September/early October 2015 in order to have delivery of the first aircraft by September 2016. Doncaster Airport is progressing as the fixed wing base and the aim is for the base to be ready by July 2016. Interviews are taking place week commencing 14 September 2015 for the Base Manager and advertisements for the first tranche of pilots will go out shortly. A full report will be provided at the Strategic Board meeting on 9 December 2015.

Action 12.2 – SC/OD to produce an updated progress report for the fixed wing project.

7. SALE OF AIRCRAFT

MBW highlighted to Board members that the report is commercial in confidence and for Board members to note this. IW stated that the new operating model will lead to a surplus of aircraft within the fleet and NPAS need to be in a position to reduce liability and costs. All of the assets are owned by the PCC for West Yorkshire who has a statutory obligation to achieve best value. IW stated that the sale of aircraft is a complex process and NPAS propose to use a broker to manage sales with the potential to sell two aircraft in advance of any brokerage contract to minimise the number of risks that may be realised in 2016.

PCC Anthony Stansfeld (AS) expressed caution if the government agency were used for disposal based on his previous experiences with the agency.

NPAS should have ■■■ MD902 Explorers along with the aircraft from Dyfed Powys which is an Augusta Westland 109 to sell prior to April 2017. The sale of the airframes will be closely monitored by the Local Strategic Board to ensure that NPAS achieve the best value.

Agreed – the Board agreed to dispose of two airframes in advance of the contract to maximise the opportunities for early capital income and minimise the impact of external events that may arise in 2016 and endorsed the proposed disposal route.

8. UPDATE ON FUNDING MODEL/FINANCE

Mark Reeves (MR) reiterated that Option 1 (Actioned Calls to Service) had been approved at the last Board meeting and stated that an indicative budget for 2016/17 will be produced using the up to date actioned calls to service data from 1 April 2015 and presented at the meeting in December. PCC Barry Coppinger (BC) asked whether any funding had been agreed for those forces adversely affected. It was stated that the principles around the funding model agreement and the inequalities would be difficult to be addressed at this stage

and would have to be looked at across the board and not just on an individual basis to which BC accepted.

It was highlighted that since 1 April 2015 when the NPAS Operations Centre had been recording data, there had been a change in behaviour from forces in asking for air support. It was stated if activity is less than anticipated when the budget was set variable cost elements of the budget will reduce. If there is an underspend in the variable cost elements the Board would need to make a decision what to do with the underspend and decide whether to return contributions back to force. If there are specific issues that the Board wish to invest in these would be considered and a detailed report will be provided at the next meeting.

Commander Dave Musker (DM) stated it would be helpful if it could be shown what forces are paying for the service and how the costs are calculated listing fixed revenue, statutory costs and calls to service. DM likened his vision of the report he envisaged similar to those produced by utility companies.

Action 12.3 – MR to produce a detailed report for discussion at the December board meeting.

Budget Monitoring Report

The budget monitoring report for NPAS as at 31 July 2015 shows the revenue budget was £294k underspent due to the major change NPAS is undergoing. There is an underspend of just under £190k in aircraft costs due to the change in activity and the Ops Centre despatching aircraft more efficiently.

The capital budget has a balance of £9.1m still to spend. It was highlighted that NPAS looks in a healthy financial position and the Finance Team were congratulated on their hard work.

The Home Office stated that they were unable to provide assurance of what the level of any capital grant would be but confirmed that NPAS would continue to receive the Capital Grant. Jon Scanlan (JS) stated that the Home Office are keen to send a Funding Agreement letter for 2015/16 and are liaising with Katherine Johnson (KJ) regarding this.

The spare parts line in the capital budget has increased to £4 million in 2015/16. This increase is attributable to the increase of the fleet [REDACTED] as a result of the Metropolitan Police Service joining NPAS on 31 March 2015.

PCC Ron Ball (RB) raised concerns about the high level of vacancies and asked where they were. IW outlined the strategy for HR under the programme of change which had led to the vacancies. The Board acknowledged the approach taken.

9. LASER ATTACKS

IW stated that there had been a considerable increase in the use of laser devices against aircraft and a pilot had suffered permanent and debilitating eye damage caused by a laser attack whilst on approach to Heathrow Airport.

It was noted that there is a Laser Group on which NPAS are represented but NPAS do not have a strategic champion from a policing perspective and legislation from an aviation perspective is not known to officers on the ground. A discussion took place regarding the current legislation and it was highlighted that witness statements and expert witness testimonies had been sent to forces but the issue needs constant reinforcement and for individuals to realise that there are serious implications.

As NPAS are both the victims of laser attacks and an effective policing tool that can be utilised to catch offenders, it was agreed for CC Simon Byrne (SB) will take this forward to the National Operations Group to obtain clarity where this piece of work sits on behalf of NPAS and provide a report at the next meeting.

Action 12.4 – CC Simon Byrne to provide an update at the Strategic Board meeting in December.

10. ANNUAL REPORT

Jenny Turner (JT) presented the draft Annual Report from the NPAS Accountable Manager and raised the highlights within the report. MBW commended the progress that NPAS had achieved with the support of colleagues across the country.

Action 12.5 – The Annual Report to be circulated once finalised to all Chief Constables and Police and Crime Commissioners with a covering letter from T/CC Collins and PCC Mark Burns-Williamson.

MBW noted that NPAS had worked hard to bring the remaining Forces into the service.

DM stated that the transition of the Metropolitan Police into NPAS had been a very positive experience and had gone exceptionally well and this had been reflected back in the monthly performance meetings.

MBW thanked the NPAS team for the work involved in compiling the report.

11. CT USER REQUIREMENT

Tyron Joyce (TJ) reported that NPAS had now established from CT Command a user requirement and will seek to develop an NPAS response. NPAS are in receipt of a combined user requirement around armed services and counter terrorism. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Action 12.6 – TJ to provide a full report at the next Strategic Board meeting on 9 December 2015.

A discussion took place and it was agreed that any proposal must be affordable and conversations will need to take place if not a sustainable option. The challenge for the Board will be to consider the level of indicative risk, cost and service should the requirement be supported using the existing fleet.

[REDACTED]. NPAS need to be content that the user requirement is correct and aware of the implications in terms of service delivery.

12. NPAS DOCUMENTARIES

JT stated that the documentary work had been awarded to Mentorn Media and filming will commence early Autumn at Boreham, Carr Gate, Hawarden and Birmingham. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] CS questioned the objective of doing the documentary and sought reassurances that NPAS were not using resources inappropriately. It was stated that the aim of the documentary is to promote and raise awareness of the work carried out by NPAS and not for monetary purposes. Any money received would be to cover the costs of the NPAS personnel involved.

Fraser Sampson (FS) is to raise [REDACTED] with the West Yorkshire for Innovation Team who deal with income and sponsorship matters to close off the risk. A discussion took place regarding the editorial control built within the filming agreement. DC stated that she would need to view all episodes before they are aired.

Action 12.7 – JT to check the editorial rights and establish what has been agreed with Mentorn Media and ensure the CC has editorial rights.

Agreed - The Board agreed to support the proposed filming locations and the themes suggested.

13. REMOTELY PILOTED AERIAL SYSTEMS (RPAS) UPDATE

A presentation was given by ACC Steve Barry (SBa) around the use of drones. It was proposed that NPAS become involved with the accredited training to be able to deliver in-house training to the police service and NPAS need an accredited system in place to do this.

IW stated that this would need appropriately resourcing and questioned where the College of Policing sat in this work. IW also expressed concern that lessons needed to be learnt from how Forces had previously set up air support units explaining the benefits of NPAS in terms of standardising contracts and purchasing powers.

A discussion took place regarding the use of drones by police forces and the remit, if any, of the Board. FS advised that the Board's authority was derivative and came from the s.22A Collaboration Agreement. The applicability of the Collaboration Order was discussed. There was further discussion as to how the strategic oversight and monitoring of RPAS use and criminal activity could be achieved and it was noted that the West Yorkshire OPCC had bid successfully for a European grant to fund research in this area. The OPCC team would make contact with SB.

Action 12.8 – FS to confirm the legal position from an NPAS perspective.

Action 12.9 – FS to ensure that the WY OPCC team make contact with the RPAS project team regarding the criminal use of drones.

It was agreed by the Board that this was an important issue and regular updates would be needed to progress and establish where NPAS sat.

14. NPAS STRATEGIC ASSESSMENT

TJ provided an update on the NPAS Strategic Risk Assessment which will provide an overview of the current and long term threat, harm and risk facing NPAS from a strategic policing, operational and organisational perspective. The Strategic Assessment will be discussed at the Local Board and circulated to the Independent Assurance Group (IAG) Board members and a detailed report will be provided at the National meeting in December.

Agreed – the Board endorsed the approach proposed to producing the Strategic Assessment.

15. RISK REGISTER

IW stated that the main risk had now been reduced as a result of NPAS being awarded the Home Office funding for the purchase of the fixed wing airframes.

MBW raised awareness to the Board of the implications of a Lead Force model explaining that leaders had submitted a Devolution Bid regarding the powers of the Police and Crime Commissioners in the region being transferred to an elected Mayor. MBW will report back what the implications would be should this happen.

16. AOB

ACC Ian Wiggett (IW) requested that the new Operating Model be a standing Agenda item for future meetings.

Action 12.10 – MJ to add the Operating Model as a standing Agenda item.

Police Innovation Fund Bid

Emma Smithies (ES) and Andy Bell (AB) gave an update re the Police Innovation Fund bid. They stated that following on from previous meetings SB and AB had identified air support lead officers within Chief Fire Officer Association (CFOA) and Association of Ambulance Chief Executives (AACE). Initial discussions had concluded a requirement to establish a multi agency cross governmental air support strategy group consisting of emergency service leads, relevant government depts, (Search and Rescue) SAR and the military to identify the air support requirements across agencies whilst developing a cohesive air support strategy for the UK. This has been discussed and is supported in principle by the Home Office.

In order to undertake this work it is proposed to bid for Police Innovation Funding (PIF) to establish a small project team to identify air support requirements and consider how those requirements might be delivered in a more joined up way, including how NPAS might support the delivery of requirements beyond its current Police focus. As such SB will submit a PIF Expression of Interest supported by CFOA and AACE as a precursor to a formal 'proof of concept' bid. Initial discussions with the PIF team in Home Office indicated that such a bid would appear to meet the requirements outlined in recent correspondence.

MBW closed the meeting and thanked everyone for their attendance and contributions.

**Date and time of next meeting - 9 December 2015 - 1.00pm – 4.00pm
Bishopgarth House, Carr Gate, Bradford Road, Wakefield, WF2 0QD.**