

OFFICE OF THE POLICE AND CRIME COMMISSIONER
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF CONSTABLE

JOINT AUDIT COMMITTEE

9th March 2017

Present: Mr R Leadbeter (Chair)
Mr J Sheppard, Mr A Blackmore, Mr G Hughes and Ms D Turner

Together with: Mr J Cuthbert – Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC)
Mr D Garwood-Pask – Chief Finance Officer (CFO)
Mrs S Curley – Chief of Staff (CoS)
Mrs J Regan – Information Officer (IO)
Mr J Farrar – Chief Constable (CC)
Mr N Stephens – Assistant Chief Officer, Resources (ACOR)
Mr J Herniman – Wales Audit Office (WAO)
Ms T Veale – Wales Audit Office
Mr A Townsend – TIAA (IA)

The meeting commenced at 11:15am.

The Chair welcomed the new Audit Manager Ms T Veale from the WAO and the Chief Executive of TIAA, Mr A Townsend to the meeting. **Action**

APOLOGIES

1. Apologies for absence were received from Ms E Thomas – Deputy Police and Crime Commissioner (DPCC), Mrs R Kirk – Chief Superintendent Service Development (HoSD) and Ms V Davies – TIAA.

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

2. The Chair queried if 3 members of the Joint Audit Committee (JAC) would need to declare an interest in item 19b, JAC Member Recruitment. We agreed that as it was an information only update and that no decision was being made that declarations of interest did not need to be recorded.

APPOINTMENT OF CHAIR

3. As per the JAC Terms of Reference (ToR) the current Chair, Mr R Leadbeter, was unable to continue with the role for the coming year; he therefore moved Mr J Sheppard to take on the role of Chair. All members agreed and Mr J Sheppard was appointed as Chair for the ensuing year.

The outgoing Chair thanked all officers involved with the JAC for their support during his tenure and wished the incoming Chair every success in his new role.

The incoming Chair thanked members for supporting his nomination. On behalf of all JAC members he provided thanks for the leadership and counsel Mr Leadbeter had shown in his role as Chair and credited him for the way the Committee had developed since its inception in September 2012.

Action

The Chair noted and agreed to the request to take item 19b, JAC Member Recruitment, prior to discussions regarding the appointment of the Vice-Chair.

JOINT AUDIT COMMITTEE MEMBER RECRUITMENT

4. The CFO informed us that the eligibility criteria for JAC members allowed them to serve a maximum of 2 terms of 5 years each; the first 5 year term for 3 of the members was due to end in September 2017.

The CFO advised us that there was not currently a defined process in place if members wished to continue in their roles for the next 5 years. He stated he would speak to his colleagues in the Police And Crime Commissioner Treasurers' Society (PACCTS) to determine what process other JACs operated and would provide a formal proposal and present it at the next JAC meeting in June 2017. We noted that options for consideration ranged from current members undertaking a full application process, through to a formal review process with officers and the Chair which would result in automatic continuation into the final 5 year term, if they were satisfied with the contribution made by the member. The CFO stated that if members wished to continue in their roles for a further term it would be useful if officers were informed as soon as possible, as if they declined, a recruitment and vetting process would need to be completed. The WAO stated that a variety of the options discussed were followed by a number of other organisations and confirmed it would be a decision that would need to be taken locally on how best to proceed.

CFO

We queried if it would be possible to review the current 10 year limit incorporated into the eligibility criteria so it would fit with the duration that a member was able to serve as Chair. The CoS advised us that the limit placed on the tenure of 10 years was best practice as set out by the Standards in Public Life. The CoS suggested that it would be more appropriate to re-look at the term of office the Chair was able to serve rather than not follow best practice advice. We also noted that even though the Chair was able to serve for 3 consecutive years, they may decide not to; this would also mean that the tenure served as Chair would not fit with the 10 year maximum term.

IO

We noted that the self-assessment process could be used to highlight any concerns which should be addressed throughout the year and as such suggested that this would allow an internal process at the end of the first 5 year term to take place.

APPOINTMENT OF VICE-CHAIR

Action

5. Ms D Turner was nominated and accepted the appointment as Vice-Chair for the ensuing year.

MINUTES

6. The minutes of the meeting held on 21st December 2016 were received and confirmed. The following was highlighted:

Page 1, Apologies

We welcomed Mr G Hughes back to the meeting after a period of absence due to illness. He thanked members for the letter he received wishing him well and for their kind thoughts.

Page 2, Actions

Action 5, WAO Annual Audit of Financial Statements

The ACOR informed us that a new Head of Finance had now been appointed and was currently undergoing vetting. It was hoped that they would be in post in May 2017. The Interim Head of Finance was still in post and would not be leaving the organisation until the end of July 2017. We were also advised that the third and final accountant had now been appointed and was in place. We were also made aware that a pivotal member of the Finance team in relation to the delivery of the accounts had recently informed officers of his intention to leave the organisation. Negotiations were underway to retain him in post until the end of May 2017 which would ensure all critical dates for the delivery of the accounts would be met. His leaving had however been formalised as in internal risk for the coming financial year and would be closely monitored by the ACOR and CFO.

Page 3, Actions

Action 19, OPCC Risk Register, Welsh Language Standards

The PCC informed us that the Welsh Language Commissioner (WLC) had visited the force in November 2016, which she found to be useful in her understanding of the challenges the force faced in the operational implementation of the Welsh Language Standards. We were also advised that the Welsh Government had announced a review of the Welsh Language Standards; the review would not undermine the current principles and as such the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner (OPCC) and the force would continue with their implementation of the Standards.

ACTIONS

7. We received and noted the actions from the meeting held on the 21st December 2016. The following were highlighted:

Action 3, Actions

We noted that a letter had been sent to Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary (HMIC) formally inviting them to attend a future meeting of the JAC and queried if a response had been received. The ACOR

informed us that no contact had been received from HMIC in relation to them attending a meeting but he would raise it with them in the coming weeks as they would be in force undertaking an inspection. The WAO also informed us that they were meeting with HMIC on 10th March 2017 and would reiterate the JAC's invitation to them to attend a future meeting.

**Action
ACOR**

WAO

Action 5, WAO Annual Audit Report 2015/16

The PCC informed us that the Welsh Government had provided a steer to PCCs and forces in relation to community safety. An implementation group was to be established to look holistically at the area of community safety and to enable the sharing of best practice. We were assured that community safety would still need to be locally led.

Action 6, Internal Audit Update Report

We queried if information had been gathered by internal audit comparing the level of outstanding debt in Gwent to that of other force areas. Internal audit informed us they were still working on this request and would provide the information as soon as it was available.

IA

Action 8, Internal Audit Provisions – ICT Controls

We noted that the 3 year audit plan had been sent to the other Shared Resource Service (SRS) organisations' external auditors for comment and queried if the WAO had provided any comments. The ACOR informed us that Torfaen County Borough Council's (TCBC) external auditors had seen the plan and provided comments on it. The WAO explained that Grant Thornton undertook the role of external auditor to TCBC as part of a contract with the WAO and would provide assurance on the audit plan as part of their role.

We noted that there was only 1 critical area on the plan that was to be reviewed annually and queried if this satisfied the needs of the force and OPCC. The ACOR assured us it did and stated he was comfortable with the approach that the plan had taken.

Action 10, Treasury Management Strategy 6 Month Update Report 2016/17

The CFO informed us that the Newport City Council debt had cost £640,000 to clear (£560,000 of debt and £80,000 of accrued interest). The Public Works Loan Board debt would be repaid on 31st March 2017 and would total approximately £5.8million (£4.3million of debt and £1.5million of interest). Once this had been repaid the only debt the Commissioner had left was in relation to the Private Finance Initiative (PFI) which was accounted for in the PFI Sinking Fund.

Action 13, JAC Action Plan

We noted that a request had been sent to the Team Gwent organiser to include a JAC briefing on the next agenda in May. The CFO informed us that inclusion on the agenda was a matter for the CC but that he and the AOCR would need to meet in order to determine what the briefing would cover. The CC informed us that Team Gwent days were used as a developmental forum and suggested that if it was purely a briefing then it

**CFO/
ACOR**

may not fit with the format of the day but if it engaged with the audience then it was an area he could consider. We stated there seemed to be a knowledge gap within the leadership of Gwent police in relation to the JAC and what its role was and believed it would be something that would fit in a developmental forum; we asked the CC to consider its inclusion on a Team Gwent agenda.

Action

CC

WAO AUDIT PLAN 2017

- **INCLUDES PROPOSED FEE FOR 2017**

8. We received and noted the Annual Audit Plan 2017 from the WAO.

The Annual Audit Plan set out the work proposed for the 2016/17 financial year, timescales, costs and task owners.

We noted the table of risks under section 9. The WAO highlighted the following points:

- A workshop had been undertaken with 3 of the 4 Welsh finance teams to work through the changes required in the accounts for 2016/17.
- We noted that earlier closure would be required for 2016/17 accounts and as such the audit timescales would be brought forward to ensure any issues that arose were resolved.

The WAO highlighted that the proposed audit fee for 2016/17 remained at £77,900 for financial statements audit and the proposed fee for the use of resources audits had reduced from £7,760 in 2015/16 to £4,700 in 2016/17. We noted that the use of resources fee had been reduced to the minimum required as the WAO were unsure that the more in-depth work they had previously undertaken in this area had added value as they had intended.

We were surprised to note that any work required to respond to detailed investigations or queries would be paid by the force. The WAO informed us that as a public body they could not make a profit so would only charge for work that was complex in nature. We noted that where issues had been raised with the WAO previously, these had not resulted in any further fees charged to the force but had been dealt with within the current fee arrangement. Any possibility of additional fees being charged would be discussed with the CFO and ACOR.

The Chair welcomed Ms T Veale to the meeting as the new Audit Manager, replacing Mr M Coe.

WAO UPDATE REPORT - VERBAL

9. We received a verbal update from the WAO of which the following points were highlighted:

We noted that preliminary work on the audit of the accounts had started; there were no concerns to be raised to date. The WAO were aware of the restructure of the finance department and would be working with them closely over the coming months to ensure that this did not impact on the closing of the accounts.

Action

Mr J Herniman left the meeting at 12 noon.

INTERNAL AUDIT UPDATE REPORT

10. We received the IA Progress Report against the Annual Plan for 2016/17.

We noted the number of audits completed since the last meeting and number of recommendations and observations around Operational Effectiveness Matters (OEM) made in each case.

We discussed the JAC queries previously sent to IA relating to the length of time between the draft and final report of the HR Absence Management audit being issued. IA advised us that the delay in the issue of the final audit was due to an email from the force being missed. We also discussed the rationale for not providing an assurance rating when an audit was undertaken to look at practices rather than at the control environment. We stated that the assurance rating was used to determine if an audit needed to be added to the JAC agenda and we queried if any extra work would be involved to ensure that future audits such as the Corporate Communications audit were given an assurance rating. IA informed us that this was possible but a caveat would be included to state that only practices were looked at during the audit. We queried if the Corporate Communications Manager post had now been filled. The ACOR informed us that the post had been filled but the person had left after a short period. The force had reviewed the post and realised that the responsibilities it attracted had not been reflected in the remuneration offered. In order to mitigate the risk the vacancy posed, the role was currently being over seen by the HoSD with the Deputy Chief Constable's Staff Officer taking the daily lead over the Communications team. The post had now been re-advertised and a further update would be provided to the next meeting.

IA

ACOR

We queried why the ACOR had requested that a review of Data Assurance be added to the audit plan. The ACOR advised us that a review was taking place within Information Management and that the force wanted to understand any risks this may pose and determine if any mitigation needed to be taken whilst the review was on-going.

We were pleased to note that there had been a reduction in the rescheduling of audits. The ACOR stated that the scrutiny the JAC placed on this area was an important factor as it ensured management provide the focus needed on the audits.

OUTSTANDING AUDIT INSPECTION RECOMMEDATIONS

Action

• UPDATE ON IT DISASTER RECOVERY AND DISCUSS HOW FUTURE UPDATES ARE TO BE PRESENTED

11. We received a report that scheduled outstanding recommendations from previous audit reports and the current status of the work necessary to implement the required actions.

Page 1, R01 Wales Interpretations and Translation Services (WITS)

The ACOR informed us that Cardiff Council had now approved the handover of WITS from Gwent Police. There were 2 outstanding issues they had requested were finalised prior to handover taking place regarding an enhancement to the IT system that had been developed and finalising procurement processes so that the interpreters could be paid as per new HMRC rules being introduced. Work on these was progressing and would be completed prior to handover on 1st June 2017; we noted that the force would need to manage the service over year-end.

The ACOR advised us that he was now chairing the WITS collaboration board and that the final draft of the collaboration document had now been approved which included information regarding the governance of the handover process. We noted that the service should have passed to Cardiff Council by the next meeting in June.

Page 3, R03 IT Disaster Recovery

The ACOR informed us that a large amount of work had been undertaken in this area but there was still more to do. He stated that the tour of the Disaster Recover site due to take place for JAC members after the meeting would ensure any questions they had could be answered by the staff members who were directly involved in the work. The ACOR advised that a progress report would be provided to the September meeting.

ACOR

We discussed risk owners being invited to the meeting to provide an explanation on the delay to the completion of outstanding audits. The ACOR stated it was a useful tool to be able to utilise, he explained that rather than asking the risk owner to attend the meeting and explain, the tour of the disaster recovery site had been arranged so members could see first-hand what was happening. We noted that risk owners had attended a previous JAC in relation to WITS and Data Protection in order to provide further detail on the reasons for the delay in completing the audit recommendations. It was agreed that in future, if necessary, risk owners would attend the JAC to explain any delay in completing the recommendations.

Disaster Recovery Project Charter

We noted the project charter and were advised by the ACOR that the report author would be available for members to ask questions of on the tour of the site after the meeting. We agreed that the document would be discussed in more detail during the site visit.

12. We received a verbal budget setting update for 2017/18 from the CFO, explaining revisions to the Medium Term Financial Plan from that seen by JAC in Dec 16 meeting to that presented to the PCP at their Jan meeting.

The CFO informed us that he had budgeted for a reduction in central Government funding of 2%. When the provisional settlement was announced this reduction in funding amounted to 1.4% which resulted in Gwent receiving £436,000 more funding than had been expected for 2017/18. At the same time the Council Tax base also grew more than expected at 1.1% rather than the 0.8% budgeted for, resulting in an additional £128,000 of funding for 2017/18.

In addition pay awards overall increased by £238,000 whilst inflation and known pressures/developments reduced by £426,000 and £1,551,000 respectively.

We were informed that of the circa £6 million of accelerated efficiency savings available for reinvestment in 2017/18, £4.3 million would be used to reinvest into the police service to assist in dealing with areas of emerging threat. This left £2 million which would be invested in the Local Government Pension Scheme (LGPS). The police staff section of the LGPS was £28 million in deficit with a 66% likelihood of the deficit being repaid over the next 23 years. We noted that even though £2 million of the accelerated efficiency savings would be paid into the scheme, this would not reduce the debt but would increase the likelihood of repaying the deficit over the 23 year period.

It was highlighted that the projected deficit for 2021/22 now stood at circa £9.5 million.

We were informed that, at the Police and Crime Panel on 27th January 2017, the precept for 2017/18 had been agreed at 3.99%. Although members had the ability to veto the proposed precept level, they did not, they did however put a counter proposal forward to the PCC for his consideration of 3.55%. After careful consideration the PCC decided to keep the precept rise at 3.99%, as although the funding received for 2017/18 would be higher than anticipated by £0.56 million, this would be put towards frontline service delivery in support of the force's investment plan. The CFO also advised us that policing budgets were only protected from reduction in central Government funding if the local precept level was maximised; even then this only maintained flat cash funding. Therefore a proposed increase of 3.99% provided stability to the planning of the savings programme. We were also informed that the PCC's consultation process on the precept level showed that the majority of the public (51.2%) who took part in the survey supported an increase in the precept level of 3.99% or more. We also noted that the other Welsh PCC's had their precept levels agreed as follows:

- Dyfed Powys – 6.9%

- North Wales – 3.79%
- South Wales – 5%

Action

The CFO highlighted that £41 million of recurring efficiency savings had been delivered since 2008/09.

We were advised that the Medium Term Financial Projections would now be revised and presented to the June meeting of this Committee.

**CFO/
ACOR**

We queried if we received full payment of the Council Tax precept from all Local Authorities. The CFO confirmed that we received monthly payments from all 5 Local Authorities and that the full amount was received every year.

ASSET MANAGEMENT STRATEGY

13. We received and considered the annual refresh of the Asset Management Strategy.

The Strategy considered how the Commissioner's assets were able to support the delivery of the Police and Crime Plan priorities and provided the overarching framework from which the Estates, Vehicle Fleet, ICT and Procurement Strategies were developed.

The Strategy ensured that the PCC's assets produced value for money and that they were utilised and disposed of correctly as well as considering the carbon footprint produced by all assets and the sustainability of buildings; we were reminded that the asset register had been circulated to members recently.

The PCC informed us that the fire station in Abertillery had recently been developed into a blue light service provision housing fire, ambulance and the police and had been well received on its launch day. It would be a model that would be considered in the future, where appropriate, when developing the estate strategy. The PCC also informed us that the public would be consulted on any changes made to the estate.

We queried if a cost benefits analysis had been undertaken with regards to the sharing of premises with other blue light services. The ACOR informed us that the initial business case provided the anticipated savings but highlighted that this scenario may not be the best option for all communities. The CC informed us that the fire station was still owned by South Wales Fire and Rescue and that the force paid rent to be housed there; we noted that the condition of Abertillery Police Station was poor and would have been expensive to repair; housing the blue light services together allowed the force to still retain a presence in Abertillery at a reduced cost.

We were advised that the PCC's Estate Strategy was currently being reviewed and we queried what environmental features the new Headquarters building would contain. The ACOR informed us that there was a requirement for the proposed development to meet the Building

Research Establishment Environmental Assessment Method (BREEAM) rating as a condition of sale for the land we were looking to purchase from the Welsh Government.

Action

We noted that once any amendments suggested at this meeting had been incorporated into the Strategy, it would be presented to the Commissioner for approval at the Strategy and Performance Board (SPB) on 21st March 2017.

FORCE GIFTS AND HOSPITALITY POLICY REVIEW

14. We received and considered the Gifts and Hospitality Policy for the force.

We noted that the Policy was a high level document and had been recently reviewed by the Professional Standards Department. The procedure that supported the Policy would be subject to review via the internal audit process.

We noted that the force Anti-Bribery and Corruption Policy was also due to be presented at this meeting and requested an update from the ACOR. He informed us that the Policy was currently being reviewed and would be presented to the JAC once completed.

ACOR

REVIEW OF MANUAL OF CORPORATE GOVERNANCE INCORPORATING THE ANNUAL REVIEW OF THE JOINT AUDIT COMMITTEE TERMS OF REFERENCE

15. We received a report that highlighted the proposed changes to the Manual of Corporate Governance and also to the JAC ToR.

Manual of Corporate Governance Annual Review

We noted the proposed amendments highlighted at appendix 1. We were informed that the basis of the document remained fit for purpose, the changes made related to amendments regarding the procurement thresholds contained within the Standing Orders Relating to Contracts. It was proposed that the threshold levels were altered to correspond with those of South Wales Police as a requirement of the FIRMS project. The CoS informed us that this had been discussed for some time and that the force was confident that the threshold levels would work well and had mitigated any risks that the increase may pose. We noted the increase to the thresholds and raised concern that as South Wales had a larger budget, in percentage terms, the lifting of the thresholds posed a greater risk to Gwent. The CFO assured us that the budgetary control processes were centralised in Gwent and that the new FIRMS system had built in checks and balances to assist in mitigating these risks. The ACOR also advised us that an assessment had been undertaken of the volume of the various categories processed in Gwent and the increase in the thresholds would not present a challenge. We noted that the increase in threshold to align with South Wales would be of benefit when undertaking collaborative purchasing arrangements between the 3 southern Welsh forces.

We queried when the increased threshold would be in use. The CFO informed us that they would be in use from 1st April 2017. We noted that these limits would be utilised in the 2017/18 WAO Audit Plan.

Action

We agreed to recommend approval of the changes highlighted at appendix 1.

Joint Audit Committee Terms of Reference

We noted the minor changes to the ToR as outlined in appendix 2. We discussed the operating principles and eligibility criteria and requested that the documents were merged.

IO

We agreed to recommend approval of the changes highlighted at appendix 2.

The CFO informed us that the report highlighting the changes to the MoCG would be placed on the agenda of the Strategy and Performance Board for the final approval of the PCC and the CC at the meeting on 21st March 2017.

IO

JAC SELF-ASSESSMENT ACTION PLAN

16. We received and noted the JAC Self-Assessment action plan for 2016/17.

We were advised that the Self-Assessment forms would be handed out at the meeting today with instructions as to the date they needed to be returned.

We discussed the use of lead members and requested that a list of topics that had been covered over the last 12 months, as well as key areas such as the development of the estates strategy and any key areas of audit, be produced in order to determine the areas that were most appropriate for each member to lead on. The CoS suggested that other JAC's could be contacted in order to determine if they had lead member role descriptions that we could utilise.

IO

IO

We noted that some of the actions contained in the plan would roll over into the next plan whereas others would be removed and others would be new based on the responses received to the self-assessment process.

IA requested that a further discussion take place on the ToR and suggested that a distinction be made in the 'Internal Audit' section to separate the work of TIAA as the main internal auditors and the work of TCBC as the internal auditors for Information Technology. We agreed and requested that the amended wording was circulated to members.

IO

The WAO queried if the JAC had the ability to request an area for inclusion in the IA plan. The ACOR informed us that the plan would initially be set by officers but the JAC had an opportunity to recommend areas for inclusion when the draft plan was discussed at the meeting

annually.

Action

EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC

17. The information contained in the report(s) below has been subjected to the requirements of the Freedom of Information Act 2000, Data Protection Act 1998 and the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner for Gwent's public interest test and is deemed to be exempt from publication under sections 7.

TO MONITOR THE JOINT STRATEGIC RISK REGISTER

18. We received and monitored the Joint Strategic Risk Register.

We discussed the technical issue the force was experiencing in uploading data to a national computer system and noted that an email updating members on progress had been sent by the ACOR prior to the meeting.

We queried why the Welsh Language was a high risk when an area such as Information Security was not. The ACOR informed us that the risks associated with areas such as information security had been mitigated and although the risk had not been removed it did not fall into the high risk bracket. With regards to the Welsh Language we were informed that there were significant pieces of work that needed completion by set deadlines; there were over 180 actions on the joint action plan for the force and the OPCC to work through. The CoS also informed us that incorrect and/or late implementation of the Welsh Language standards posed a reputational risk to the OPCC and the force as well as the possibility of receiving substantial fines from the WLC. We also noted that the rating of the Welsh Language risk may have been lowered in the coming weeks as many of the actions had a deadline of 31st March 2017 so the timing of JAC meetings had an impact on the rating that members received.

The CFO highlighted that the risk methodology currently undertaken by the force and OPCC did not reflect the seriousness of certain risks due to the lack of weighting; there was a need to provide greater weighting to the impact the risk would have over the possibility of it happening. The CFO had written to the risk manager to highlight this concern. We noted an offer of assistance from Mr A Blackmore who specialised in the risk field when undertaking the review. We also suggested that the force may want to consider whether operational risks were separated from those risks deemed to be reputational in nature.

**ACOR
/CFO**

TO MONITOR THE OPCC RISK REGISTER

19. We received and monitored the OPCC Risk Register.

We discussed the risk associated with Partnership Working and were informed that decisions made in other organisations could negatively impact the OPCC. The CoS advised us that work was on-going to

mitigate this risk such as OPCC attendance at the newly established Public Service Boards in each Local Authority area. The Commissioning Board had also been re-established. The OPCC was also raising awareness of the impact decisions made by other organisations had on the OPCC.

Action

We noted that the Welsh Language update had primarily been provided under the Joint Risk Register discussions. The PCC informed us that the Welsh Language Compliance Officer had now been appointed. Assistance had been requested from the WLC in order to implement some of the Standards.

ANY RELEVANT REPORTS FROM OTHER ORGANISATIONS THAT SHOULD BE BROUGHT TO THE ATTENTION OF THE JOINT AUDIT COMMITTEE

20. Overview of Policing and Crime Act 2017

The CoS provided us with a brief update on the impact the Policing and Crime Act 2017 would have on the OPCC and force.

We noted that the main drive in England was to ensure blue light services collaborated. This did not apply in Wales as the Police service was not devolved although collaborative opportunities would be considered where possible. The recent collaboration between the force, fire and ambulance service at Abertillery was highlighted.

The options open to PCC's in relation to complaints was highlighted. We were advised that the PCC had until May 2018 to make a decision as to the level of complaints he wanted to adopt. The 4 Welsh PCCs would discuss further as it had been agreed that if possible, a similar service would be provided across all force areas in Wales. The CoS informed us that the PCC had established a Public Response Unit a year ago to deal with low level complaints. Since its introduction a 20% reduction in the number of complaints received in the force Professional Standards Department had been realised.

The Act also stopped the detention in police cells of children and young people under 18 who were experiencing a mental health crisis. The force had recently implemented a pilot whereby a qualified mental health professional worked in the Force Control Room (FCR). Due to its success this pilot was being extended and further qualified mental health professionals were to be recruited (and subsequently referred to as Police Control Room Clinical Advisors). We noted that over a 3 month period, when the qualified mental health professional was working, only 2 mental health detentions were made in custody, when not working, 26 detentions were made.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

21. a) Funding Formula Update

The CFO informed us that he was still waiting for further information. An update would be provided to the next meeting.

CFO

b) JAC Member Recruitment

Action

This item was taken after the appointment of the Chair and is covered in section 4 of the minutes.

c) Agree Deep Dive Areas for 2017/18

We discussed the potential areas for deep dives and agreed the following:

- Operating Model – East/West (June);
- Public Protection (September);
- Value for Money Profiles (December); and
- NICHE/Visit to FCR (March)

We noted that an overview on Capital Management would be provided as part of the Value for Money deep dive in December.

We requested that when the cybercrime deep dive was undertaken that a briefing on the force Digital Strategy was included. The CC informed us that the Assistant Chief Constable was developing a digital strategy and stated that he was currently considering appointing some Police Community Support Officers to 'patrol' on line. We noted that there was and would continue to be more threat and risk online than there was visible in our communities. The CC indicated that digital leadership and working collaboratively was the future of policing and suggested that the JAC considered how they held him to account on the running of the force in a digital era. He suggested that consideration was given to the membership of the JAC and that a member with cybercrime expertise may be needed in the future.

**ACOR/
CFO**

**ACOR/
CFO**

d) Update from All Wales Development Day, 9th March 2017

○ **Discuss use of Lead Members**

The Chair thanked the Information Officer for arranging the development day and stated that he found it well organised, well facilitated and useful.

We noted the action plan that had been developed as a result of the development day and requested that we started to complete the Gwent specific actions. We also requested that the action plan was provided at all future meetings, highlighting any updates. We discussed the resourcing of the JAC and the CFO informed us that it would be considered as part of the development of the OPCC business plan.

IO

IO

**CoS/
CFO**

TO IDENTIFY ANY RISKS ARISING FROM THIS MEETING

22. There were no new risks arising as a result of the meeting.

The meeting concluded at 2.05pm.