

## **Police and Crime Panel- update from Councillor Clucas from the meeting held on 7 July 2023**

The meeting on the 7th of July took place in Shire Hall in Gloucester.

I attended virtually rather than in person. My contributions are in the minutes, though I am down as apologising in the attendance list.

The range of matters discussed included violence against women and girls not in the public domain, but within the police force itself.

It is amazing to see that police officers, themselves are subject to misogyny, discrimination and have reports that include such matters not fully investigated. We were advised that a number of officers had been suspended following matters raised. The figure is almost unheard of. The move now, following the Casey report, is to change how things are done.

The police have introduced a new report in relation to violence against, and intimidation of, women and girls. The outcomes the report are designed to build trust and confidence, to respond unequivocally to allegations of police perpetrated abuse, helping people to learn from mistakes and seeing best practice.

This will also then involve organisations, including Charities, who support black and minorities women and girls as well as those with a lived experience. It will also collect local and national information on the availability of specialist free VAWG investigators to build the right capacity and capability.

It was agreed how important it is that these matters are fully dealt with and that independent views are also sought in relation to actions that can be taken .

To that end I suggested that Florence Nyasomo-Thomas be invited to attend those meetings, so that her experience and work within the black community can add weight to discussions and debates, and also can assist in training, and in ensuring that people understand the gravity of some of these situations.

That has been accepted both by the police, and by Florence, and I am pleased that she will be taking part on behalf of BLM, CARE and the black women of Gloucestershire.

Other matters under discussion at various points in the meeting were:

Youth Anti Social Behaviour and disturbances. I raised the matter of rival gangs 'at war' in parts of town, which had been reported to me by Cheltenham councillors.

What is clear is that the lack of social interaction and learning during Covid has had a significant effect on behaviour. Taken with social media use and school closures and because of strikes and holidays, there is real concern.

I raised the potential for officers to go into schools and work with our children and

young people.

GCC and the PCC will be working together on these.

Vulnerability during Cheltenham Festival was also discussed. Panel colleagues needed to be aware of safety matters in Cheltenham. There was a discussion which included:

Vulnerability;  
Age;  
Ethnicity;  
Drugs;  
The Moors.

We also discussed:

The independent custody visitors annual report.;

The Police and Crime Commissioner's annual report;

The joint independent audit committee's annual report;

An update from the police and crime Commissioner;

The Chief Executive's report together with the work plan and a range of dates for the coming 12 months.