

North Yorkshire Police and Crime Panel

17 May 2018

Media protocol for the Panel

1.0 Purpose of Report

1.1 To invite the Panel to agree a media protocol.

2.0 Background

2.1 Many Panels have a media protocol in place, which is intended to help provide guidance for members and supporting officers, as well as communications teams, on how to deal with the media. For Members it aims to provide clarity between their role on the panel and their role as elected Members, representatives and spokespeople for district, area or party.

2.2 The introduction of local democracy reporters and the potential for greater interest to be taken by the press in Panel business going forward creates a good opportunity for the Panel to ensure they have a common understanding of how best to handle enquiries or requests for statements. A draft protocol is provided to this effect for your agreement at Appendix A.

3.0 Recommendation

3.1 That the Panel agree to adopt the draft media protocol at Appendix A.

Diane Parsons
Principal Scrutiny Officer
County Hall
Northallerton

9th May 2018

Background Documents:

Appendix A - Draft media protocol for the North Yorkshire Police and Crime Panel

Draft media protocol for the North Yorkshire Police and Crime Panel

Panel Spokesperson

It is important to have spokespeople available whenever they are reasonably needed by the media.

This is to ensure the Panel is seen to be responsive and accessible, which in turn enhances its reputation for openness and transparency. It is likely that with the introduction of local democracy reporters there will be more reporting and questioning of Panel matters.

The Panel's spokesperson is the Panel Chair and in his/her absence, one of the Vice-Chairs.

Individual Panel Members and the Media

Generally speaking the Panel communicates with the media collectively through its agreed mechanisms (its official spokespersons and its officers supporting Panel communications). If another member of the Panel is approached by the media for comment on behalf of the Panel, they should be referred to the Panel Secretariat to arrange an official response in consultation with the Chair. When speaking to the media about the work of the Panel, Members should make it clear if they are speaking as an individual Panel Member and as a courtesy inform the Chair. This is not intended to stop individual Panel members discussing matters with the media, especially where these concern their own Councils.

Press releases

In line with the Panel's Communication Plan, the Panel will consider after each meeting whether there are key messages that it may wish to share via press release, to reflect the views of the Panel. These press releases will be co-ordinated with the support of the County Council's Communications Team, and will be considered in conjunction with the key messages sent to Councils for distribution to all Members.