

National Association of Police, Fire and Crime Panels – Application to form a Special Interest Group

Purpose of Report

For decision.

Summary

John Gili-Ross (Lay member of Essex Police and Crime Panel and Chair of the National Association of Police, Fire and Crime Panels) has written to the LGA to request that the LGA Leadership Board consider an application to form an LGA Special Interest Group to further the specific interests of Police, Fire and Crime Panels.

A copy of the application, including the purpose of the National Association of Police, Fire and Crime Panels, and list of members committed to joining, is attached at **Appendix A**.

Recommendation

That the LGA Leadership Board approves the application to form a Police, Fire and Crime Panels LGA Special Interest Group.

Action

Officers to action in accordance with the Board's decision.

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Background

1. The LGA Constitution provides for 10 or more member authorities with common features, interests or concerns to form a Special Interest Group (SIG). The LGA's Statement on Special Interest Groups (SIG) is attached at **Appendix C**.
2. An application (**Appendix A**) and minutes of the inaugural meetings of the National Association of Police, Fire and Crime Panels (NAPFCP) (**Appendix B**) have been received from John Gili-Ross, lay member of Essex PCP and Chair of NAPFCP, acting on behalf of 16 authorities in membership of the LGA, proposing to establish a SIG to better represent the interests of police and crime panels / police, fire and crime panels, which are hosted by local authorities and on which all English and Welsh authorities outside London are represented.

Purpose of the Group

3. The following terms of reference for the National Association of Police, Fire and Crime Panels were agreed at the inaugural meeting:
 - 3.1 To provide a forum for collaborative discussion of issues relating to and impacting on Police and Crime Panels and Police, Fire and Crime Panels (PCPs / PFCPs);
 - 3.2 To share ideas and experience in response to the expanding role of PCCs and PFCCs and thereby PCPs / PFCPs;
 - 3.3 To create a mechanism for direct liaison between PCPs / PFCPs and the Home Office;
 - 3.4 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;
 - 3.5 To support the development of joint PCP /PFCP responses to relevant consultations;
 - 3.6 To promote professional standards;
 - 3.7 To share good practice and create guidance and other supporting materials for PCPs /PFCPs;
 - 3.8 To ensure stability and collective memory in a landscape where PCPs / PFCPs can have significant changes in membership;
 - 3.9 To provide capacity for horizon scanning across all PCPs / PFCPs; and
 - 3.10 To promote better public understanding of the role of PCPs / PFCPs.

4. At the Inaugural meeting on 19 April 2018 the Association agreed the following focus areas for development over coming months were agreed as:
 - 4.1 Meetings with relevant partner organisations and the Home Office;
 - 4.2 The development of guidance for PCPs /PFCPs on handling complaints;
 - 4.3 Updating the existing suite of LGA / Centre for Public Scrutiny guidance for PCPs / PFCPs;
 - 4.4 Exploring the impact of changes to FRA governance and the enhanced role for PCCs, and therefore PFCPs, in this area;
 - 4.5 A review of Panel resourcing;
 - 4.6 Promoting and sharing best practice; and
 - 4.7 Increasing the public's understanding of the role of Panels.

Financial/ Resource Implications

5. Should NAPFCP wish to utilise the support offer open to SIGs (as set out in paragraph 3 of the LGA's Statement on SIGs), there would be minor budgetary and resources implications as a result of lost revenue from hireable meeting rooms and cost of providing secretariat support services.