

WEST MERCIA POLICE AND CRIME PANEL 7 FEBRUARY 2017

THE FORMATION OF A NATIONAL ASSOCIATION FOR POLICE AND CRIME PANELS

Recommendation

- 1. The Police and Crime Panel are recommended to consider the advantages to the formation of a National Association of Police and Crime Panels and discuss whether they would like to feed back their opinion to the meeting scheduled to take place on 17 February 2017.**

Background

2. Discussions have taken place at the PCP conference organised by Frontline consulting and at regional networks and Panel meetings, regarding the formation of a National Association. It was felt that Panels have struggled to make their voice heard in their dealings with the Home Office in relation to the lack of clarity of the role and lack of any real powers to be able to hold a commissioner to account.

3. Colin Ismay, Secretary to the Essex PCP, prepared a paper for his Panel's meeting last December which detailed the benefits of having a national association. These are:

- having a recognised voice to represent views at a national level
- providing support and development
- being better able to provide national leadership and influence change
- consulting members to develop consolidated views
- disseminating best practice, ensuring consistency and identifying efficiencies by working together
- taking co-ordinated action that can help remove barriers at a national level
- providing a forum for debate
- representing and promoting the interests of panels to key stakeholders and partners
- increasing the visibility and status of panels
- providing support and guidance
- enabling panels to prepare for change, for instance in becoming Police and Fire Panels

4. A meeting has been convened by Frontline Consulting to further explore the formation of an Association of Police and Crime Panels. The meeting will be held in London on Friday 17 February 2017.