
NEIGHBOURHOOD POLICING

Version 4

1. Policy statement

Neighbourhood policing is fundamental to public confidence and trust in the police service and therefore should be effectively resourced to ensure its success.

Neighbourhood policing is under threat. Officers with warranted powers have been transferred from neighbourhood policing teams to response policing with the decline in police officer numbers in recent years. PFEW is aware that some neighbourhood policing teams have few or no warranted police officers engaged on neighbourhood policing duties.

Warranted police officers are becoming more remote and solely engaged on reactive, challenging, hostile and confrontational policing. This should not become their sole purpose. Police officers should also be engaged in understanding and identifying local priorities, solve local problems and engage with the community.

2. Responsibility

The National Board is responsible for all policy formation.

3. Summary

We believe that the neighbourhood is the key building block for fair and effective policing.

We believe it is vital that visible, locally responsive policing is protected in times of fiscal constraint. Any reduction in the investment in neighbourhood policing could jeopardise the trust and relationship between the police and local communities.

The police service is facing unprecedented demands on its resources. PFEW agrees with HMICFRS comments that 'neighbourhood policing across the country is suffering as police forces try to maintain critical service delivery'.

PFEW believes that every neighbourhood should have a guaranteed level of policing, as well as guaranteed response times when a crime is reported.

Neighbourhood policing is under threat and the police are at risk of retreating into a discredited reactive model with the police merely seen as crime fighters. HMIC has warned that there is growing

evidence that neighbourhood policing is being eroded, and this is likely to negatively affect forces' ability to undertake the vital proactive and preventative aspects of fighting crime.¹

PFEW believes that consideration should be given to changing the law on a similar basis as in Scotland to provide that “the purpose of policing is to promote public safety and community wellbeing, thereby preventing crime as well as reacting to crime.”

There should be stronger links between the police and other organisations including giving neighbourhoods and local authorities more say over local policing priorities

4. Procedures/implementation

We will work closely with communities, criminal justice partners, charities and other public sector providers to build trust and confidence in policing.

We will lobby the Government and Police and Crime Commissioners to ensure action is taken to address the points raised by HMICFRS in particular the erosion of neighbourhood policing and crime prevention due to reductions to the frontline.

Responsibility is delegated to the National Secretary and/or appropriate sub-committee.

	Author	Date	Date to be reviewed	Change
Version 1	EP-KP	April 2015	April 2016	
Version 2	KP-EP	April 2016	April 2017	Minor changes
Version 3	KP-EP	April 2017	April 2018	Reference to PEEL effectiveness report 2016
Version 4	KP	January 2019	April 2020	Minor changes

Signed by:



National Chair



National Secretary

¹ HMIC PEEL – police effectiveness 2016