

Safer and Stronger Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee

23 September 2016

Police and Crime Panel



Report of Lorraine O'Donnell, Director of Transformation and Partnerships

Purpose of the Report

1. To provide Members of the Safer and Stronger Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee with progress of the Police and Crime Panel (PCP) for the Durham Constabulary Force area.

Background

2. This report builds upon information previously presented to the Committee and the aim of this report is to provide an update to Members in relation to the following areas from the Panel's meeting held on 19th July 2016:

- Panel Membership and Chair and Vice Chair
- HMIC Inspection Overview and Year End Performance
- Police, Crime and Victims' Commissioner's Annual Report 2015-16
- Draft Police, Crime and Victims Plan 2016-2021
- Commissioning and Community Safety Funding 2016/17
- Police and Crime Panel Work Programme
- Police, Crime and Victims' Commissioner and Police and Crime Panel, Memorandum of Understanding/Partnership Working Arrangement

Detail

3. **Panel Membership and Chair and Vice Chair**
The Panel is politically balanced and consists of 12 Members, seven Elected Members from Durham County Council, three Elected Members from Darlington Borough Council and two Independent Co-opted Members. The Panel's Membership for 2016/17 is:

Durham County Council

Councillors J Allen, J Armstrong, D Boyes, P Brookes, S Forster, A Hopgood and P May

Darlington Borough Council

Councillors I Haszeldine, S Harker and B Jones

Independent Co-opted Members

Mr NJH Cooke and Mr DKG Dodwell

4. The Panel elected Cllr J Allen and Cllr S Harker as its Chair and Vice Chair for 2016/17.

HMIC Inspection Overview and 2015/16 Year End Performance

5. The Chief Constable, Mike Barton provided Panel Members with an overview on how Durham Constabulary was performing against each of the three pillars of Effectiveness, Efficiency and Legitimacy within the HMIC PEEL Inspection programme. Overall, Durham Constabulary is the only Force in the country to have been assessed as outstanding in two of the three PEEL assessment pillars and the only force to receive an outstanding for Effectiveness.

6. The Panel received a report on the Year End 2015-16 Performance from the Police, Crime and Victims' Commissioner (PCVC), Mr Ron Hogg. The report provided Members with performance information on victim based crime, public confidence and victim satisfaction. The report is available from the PCC's website and provides information on key performance data linked to the Commissioner's priorities and anti-social behaviour at a local level.

Police, Crime and Victims' Commissioner's Annual Report 2015-16

7. In accordance with the Police Reform and Social Responsibility Act 2011, the Panel considered and responded to the PCVC's Annual Report. Within its response the Panel acknowledged the comprehensive report detailing work that has been undertaken by the Commissioner's Office and with partners to deliver priority areas throughout the past year. The response also highlighted achievements within the HMIC PEEL inspection as reported in paragraph five of this report.
8. The PCVC's Annual report highlighted the national perspective through delivery of the Strategic Policing Requirement and the Panel acknowledged the many local achievements including delivery of the Checkpoint programme, work of the ERASE team and supported the view that Neighbourhood Policing remains a priority for Durham Constabulary.
9. Within its response to the 2014/15 Annual Report, the Panel were interested in issues of public confidence and harm caused by alcohol. The Panel noted that Durham Constabulary's national position for 'confidence' and 'police do a good job' has improved and acknowledged work undertaken through delivery of the Constabulary's confidence plan and that the Commissioner had undertaken a variety of initiatives including Community Days, Area Action Partnership Meetings and the Celebration of Superheroes event. With regard to alcohol harm, the Panel welcomed support for the Panel's development session in December 2015, the invitation to attend the 'Reduce Alcohol Related Harm Conference' in February 2016 and acknowledged work that has been undertaken to lobby and campaign for reform of licensing laws and drink driving limits.

10. In addition to acknowledging these achievements, the panel shared the Commissioner's concerns to the number of fatal road traffic collisions within the past year and requested road safety being included within the Panel's work programme for 2016/17.

Draft Police, Crime and Victims Plan 2016-2021

11. In advance of launching a consultation exercise, the PCVC provided the Panel with details of a draft Police, Crime and Victims Plan 2016-2021. The draft plan is structured into the following three aims 'Improve confidence in policing and criminal justice', Support victims and the vulnerable' and 'Tackle crime and make our communities safe'.
12. The consultation exercise closes on 30th September 2016 and in accordance with the Police Reform and Social Responsibility Act 2011, the Panel will consider a refreshed Plan at its meeting in October 2016, prior to publication.

Commissioning and Community Safety Funding 2016/17

13. The report, presented by Mr Alan Reiss, Chief of Staff provided an update to members on the allocation of community safety funding and commissioning activities within the 2016/17 financial year.
14. The report provides further detail on allocation of funding through Ministry of Justice Funding, Community Safety Partnerships and projects that have received Community Safety Funding within the County Durham & Darlington area during 2016/17.

Police and Crime Panel Work Programme 2016-2017

15. The work programme enables the Panel to plan how it will effectively provide challenge to the PCVC and deliver its responsibilities within the context of the terms of reference and rules of procedure and the Police Reform and Social Responsibility Act. The programme includes identified dates for considering the Commissioner's 2016/17 precept and consideration of the draft Police and Crime Plan.
16. The Panel agreed the work programme report and requested that arrangements be also made to hold a Panel meeting in Darlington and to undertake a development session in 2016/17.

Police, Crime and Victims' Commissioner and Police and Crime Panel, Memorandum of Understanding/Partnership Working Arrangement

17. The document was first published following the election of the PCC in November 2012 as a statement of the PCC's and PCP's commitment to build and nurture an effective partnership based on the principles set out in the agreement.

18. Following the re-election of the Commissioner in May 2016 and change of the Commissioner's title to PCVC the agreement was refreshed. The document was agreed by the Panel and provides a framework for attendance at meetings, work programme and the development and agreement of additional protocols/procedures to deal with specific issues including procedures for dealing with complaints against the PCVC or Deputy PCC, Confirmation Hearings for Chief Constable and Statutory Officer posts and Information Sharing.

Recommendation

19. Members of the Committee are asked to note information contained within the report and comment accordingly.

Appendix 1: Implications

Finance – None

Staffing – None

Risk - None

Equality and Diversity / Public Sector Equality Duty – None

Accommodation - None

Crime and Disorder – information contained within this report is linked to Altogether Safer element of the Council Plan.

Human Rights – None

Consultation – None

Procurement – None

Disability Issues – None

Legal Implications – the Panel's responsibilities within the Police, Reform and Social Responsibility Act is referenced within the report