

DURHAM COUNTY COUNCIL

SAFER AND STRONGER COMMUNITIES OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

At a Meeting of **Safer and Stronger Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee** held in **Committee Room 2 - County Hall, Durham** on **Friday 22 March 2019** at **9.30 am**

Present:

Councillor D Boyes (Chairman)

Members of the Committee:

Councillors B Avery, A Bainbridge, J Charlton, J Considine, R Crute, S Durham, C Hampson, L Kennedy, H Liddle, L Maddison (substitute for K Thompson), E Mavin, J Nicholson, J Turnbull and C Wilson

Co-opted Members:

Mr D Balls and Mr A J Cooke

Co-opted Employees/Officers:

Chief Superintendent A Green

1 Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors D Hall, S Iveson, J Maitland, A Patterson, J Stephenson and Chief Fire Officer S Errington.

2 Substitute Members

Councillor L Maddison substituted for Councillor K Thompson.

3 Minutes

The minutes of the meeting held on 14 February 2019 were agreed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

4 Declarations of Interest

There were no Declarations of Interest.

5 Any items from Co-opted Members or Interested Parties

There were no items from Co-opted Members or Interested Parties.

6 Media Relations

The Overview and Scrutiny Officer referred Members to the recent prominent articles and news stories relating to the remit of the Safer and Stronger Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee (for copy see file of minutes).

The articles included: "Police forces unite for new Operation Sentinel against organised crime", noting this was joint operation between Durham Constabulary, Northumbria Police and Cleveland Police in tackling a range of offences including burglary, cybercrime and fraud – linking to the item on Organised Crime; and "A fifth of road fatalities involve a speeding driver", noting that between 2014 and 2018, the group also said out of 31,801 casualties, which include deaths, more than 2,300 instances involved a speeding vehicle, or a vehicle travelling too fast for the road conditions – linking to the items relating to performance reporting and Overview and Scrutiny Review updates.

Resolved:

That the presentation be noted.

7 Organised Crime

The Chairman introduced Superintendent Kevin Weir, Durham Constabulary to give an update presentation on Organised Crime (for copy see file of minutes).

Superintendent K Weir reminded Members of the approach in terms of tackling organised crime, with the Special Operations Unit, Major Crimes Unit and the work in terms of Operation Sentinel, a rebranding of what had previously been known as Operation Sledgehammer, involving three forces, as discussed in the media item. He added that there was a lot of proactive work carried out in County Durham and Darlington, with the work being undertaken considered as national best practice, with visits from the Home Office to learn from Durham's approach, and with Durham receiving an outstanding rating from Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary and Fire and Rescue Services (HMICFRS).

Members were reminded of a definition of organised crime: *"organised crime can be described as serious crime planned, coordinated and conducted by people working together on a continuing basis. Their motivation is often, but not always financial gain. Organised criminals working together for a particular criminal activity or activities are called an organised crime group"*.

Superintendent K Weir explained the types of crime undertaken by organised crime groups, including: burglary; counterfeit goods vehicle crime; drug dealing; environmental crime; fraud / computer fraud; identity theft; kidnapping; loan sharks; plant theft; prostitution; robbery; sheep rustling; shoplifting; theft; and violence. He noted that organised crime represented a continuing and enduring threat and that the cost to the UK annually was around £37 billion. Members noted that organised crime represented a threat to national security and had elements of intimidation and links to corruption. It was highlighted that organised crime often involved the exploitation of the vulnerable and there was an impact on victims and wider community cohesion.

Superintendent K Weir noted “county lines”, an issue that had been recently reported in the media, which had links to modern day slavery and child sexual exploitation, however he noted that this was more of an issue elsewhere in the country.

The Chairman thanked Superintendent K Weir for the update and noted that the subject was one the Committee had been involved in, with a Working Group that had looked at the topic.

Councillor E Mavin asked what the best way of providing the Police with information in terms of activities, for example drug dealing. Superintendent K Weir noted that individuals could ring through to the Police Control Room, use the anonymous Crimestoppers service, or speak to Officers from their Local Beat Team. He added that intelligence was very important, and all helped to provide a richer picture for Officers investigation activities.

Councillor J Turnbull noted an important element was to provide feedback to those providing the intelligence, and to report back to communities and for communities to be able to witness positive outcomes, referring to some areas where people felt nothing seemed to change. Superintendent K Weir noted that there was a lot of work undertaken, and a lot of positives and agreed that perhaps they could be better promoted within communities. He added that current up-to-date intelligence was vital and that while it may appear that there was little or no activity, he reassured Members that the Police were working hard to gather evidence, to ensure that when action was taken it was such to ensure convictions and disrupt the activities of the criminals. The Chairman noted that in his Division there had been an issue with a particular group and that it had, at the time, felt that there was little progress. He added that work had been progressing, with Officer gathering intelligence and building their case, and that when action was taken it had been successful and the positive effect was noted and appreciated by the community.

Councillor L Maddison asked as regards being able to contact the Police quickly when witnessing an incident, noting that by the time one had gone through the welcome message from the Chief Constable and the various options listed criminals would likely have moved on. Superintendent K Weir noted that there was a graded response via the Police Control Room, based on a THRIVE system, ensuring the appropriate level of response and best allocation of resources.

He added that depending upon the type of incident there were several ways to contact as previously mentioned and that he understood there could be frustration, however, he emphasised it was important to continue to make those calls and provide the Police with as much intelligence as possible. Chief Superintendent A Green added that there were a number of different responses that the Police could make, foot patrols, response cars and so on. He added that there was some misunderstanding in terms of how the Police would tackle issues, such as drug dealers. He noted that intelligence and evidence was vital in being able to ensure a successful operation and outcome and reiterated that the Control Room automated response was to help make best use of finite resources. The Chairman reiterated as regards the work of the Police in his Division, with Councillors having a role as community leaders, and that information did help the Police and successful operations could include additional benefits for communities, for example through the Proceeds of Crime Act (POCA) where appropriate.

Councillor E Mavin noted an issue had been raised on two occasions at a Police and Communities Together (PACT) meetings and asked as regards having progress reported back.

Superintendent K Weir noted that in some cases it would not be possible or appropriate to act immediately, as previously mentioned, to ensure the maximum impact in tackling issues there was a need to gather evidence and be able to secure convictions.

Councillor J Nicholson asked whether those organised crime groups operating within the County were from outside of the area, or existing known groups of families. Superintendent K Weir explained that most were already known to the Police, however, "county lines" was a different phenomenon.

Councillor J Charlton asked as regards education of young people in schools in terms of organised crime groups, noting that Police Community Support Officers (PCSOs) were very proactive. Superintendent K Weir noted that educational work in this regard, in schools, colleges and businesses, was undertaken by the Organised Crime Disruption Team and while there was a lot of these type of education sessions the Police would like to do more.

Resolved:

That the report and presentation be noted.

8 Schools 20 mph Part-Time Speed Limits Project

The Chairman introduced the Head of Technical Services, John Reed and the Traffic and Streetworks Manager, Danny Harland who were in attendance to give an update presentation in relation to the Schools 20 mph Part-Time Speed Limits Project (for copy see file of minutes).

The Head of Technical Services thanked Members for the opportunity to provide an update in terms of the project, noting that this year was the last of four years, albeit now having a slight extension. He reminded the Committee that the original project had been approved by Cabinet in 2014 for 33 schools, with those having the highest accident rate having been prioritised. It was explained that those original 33 schools were funded from a one-off Public Health grant, together with revenue budget to deliver road safety education and social marketing. The Head of Technical Services reminded Members that following the Department for Transport (DfT) noting that only a specific type of sign could be used, cheaper than those originally costed for, it had been possible to have schemes for a further 33 schools from this underspend. He noted that for those 33 schools, Overview and Scrutiny set up a Working Group looking at the criteria for allocating schemes, and also in developing a wider 20mph Limits and Zones Policy. It was noted that the new criteria were more sophisticated, looking at accident rate but also including risk, whether there was a school crossing patrol, volume of pedestrians, volume of vehicles and data on the speed of traffic.

The Head of Technical Services noted that when the 66 schemes had been undertaken it had been determined that, where there were other schools in close proximity to those on the allocated, there was the opportunity to have added benefit by including those nearby schools. Councillors noted that this meant a total of 78 schools had benefited from the original Public Health grant and revenue budget allocation.

Members were reminded that the 20mph Limits and Zones Policy allowed for schemes to be funded by third parties and that an additional 31 schemes had been completed, with the majority of the funding coming from Member's Neighbourhood Budgets, and other sources of funding including Area Action Partnerships (AAPs), Parish Councils, Schools and other external funding. It was noted there were a further 15 such third party funded schemes in development. Members were made aware that an underspend had been identified in the final year of the scheme, and therefore it would be recommended that an additional six schemes based upon the 2016 criteria would be delivered within the 2019/20 financial year, subject to agreement by Cabinet.

The Traffic and Streetworks Manager, explained that, in addition to the physical works, the road safety education and social marketing was vitally important. He noted that the purpose was to ensure that people were made aware of the schemes, children and young people were encouraged to walk and cycle to schools, and that motorists were persuaded to slow down. Councillors noted that activities to help raise awareness included: cycle training and practical child pedestrian training; peer-to-peer learning through theatre education; Junior Road Safety Officers (JRSOs) to promote and maintain road safety messages; working with Living Streets, the sustainable walking charity to introduced incentivised walking schemes; and the distribution of letters and plans to the wider community where schemes were delivered to ensure buy-in from local people.

Members watched a video featuring schoolchildren from various schools reciting poetry with messages linked to road safety.

The Traffic and Streetworks Manager reminded Committee that an evaluation had been carried out over a six-month period in 2016, looking at four elements: a survey of 10 schools, comprising of 493 pupils; a case study, including interviews and a focus group; feedback from a JRSO event; and a school census on active travel. Members noted that it had been found that there had been a number of positives, including acceptance of the schemes, and increase in perception of road safety and an increased desire to walk and cycle to school. The Committee noted that the evaluation had highlighted that changing driver behaviour was a long-term goal and that all 20mph schemes needed to be supported with “soft measures” and “nudge” approaches to help ensure schemes’ success.

Councillors were referred to charts setting out how safe young people felt walking to school before and after the introduction of a 20mph limit. It was noted that prior to schemes, the percentages for those feeling not safe, quite safe and very safe were 7 percent, 48.77 percent and 44.24 percent respectively. It was added that following the introduction of schemes the response was 3.09 percent, 36.21 percent and 60.70 percent respectively, a significant improvement. The Traffic and Streetworks Manager added that DfT had also published a study they had undertaken in respect of 20mph limits nationally, with evidence showing a small 1mph reduction in median speeds, however it was noted that there was a greater reduction in vehicles travelling at greater speeds. Members noted that it had also been demonstrated that the 20mph limits had encouraged use of healthier and more sustainable transport, such as walking and cycling. The Traffic and Streetworks Manager explained that the DfT evaluation had noted that there had been insufficient evidence to conclude that 20mph limits within residential area had led to a significant change in collisions or casualties.

The Chairman thanked the Head of Technical Services and the Traffic and Streetworks Manager and asked Members for their comments and questions. Councillor C Wilson noted a school in her Division, St. Helen’s Primary, was not on the list for a 20mph limit, she noted that earlier in the week a young girl had been knocked down, though thankfully not seriously injured, she asked if there was anything that could be done to help in this situation. The Head of Technical Services reiterated that the list of schemes was in line with the criteria agreed, however, if the matter was deemed a local priority and Members and relevant partners were able to secure funding then it may be possible to bring forward a scheme. He reminded Members that their new Neighbourhood Budget would be in effect from 1 April and they could speak to the Traffic and Streetworks Manager should they have funding and wish to have a scheme developed.

Councillor B Avery thanked the Head of Technical Services and the Traffic and Streetworks Manager for their work, noting that Ferryhill had also not been on the list of schemes, however local Members had been able secure funding and a scheme was delivered. He added it was an excellent job and much appreciated by Members and the community.

Councillor H Liddle asked if it was known how many more schools would need to have schemes brought forward so that all schools within the county were covered and would it be possible to link schemes to any development that may be taking place within an area. The Head of Technical Services noted that he did not have the number to hand, however, with there being around 280 schools in the county, then with the schemes completed, and in the pipeline, it would mean that around half of the schools had schemes. He reiterated that there was always the potential for further schemes if third party funding was secured. The Chairman supported Councillor H Liddle's point and to explore the possibility to utilise Section 106 (s106) monies from development to help deliver more schemes.

Councillor R Crute thanked the Head of Technical Services and the Traffic and Streetworks Manager and all of the Team for their work with Members, the Committee, the 20mph Working Group, Schools, Town and Parish Councils and AAPs. He added that this was an excellent example of how to maximise funds and the work of all involved was very commendable. He noted the Durham University evaluation and that the improved feeling of safety was important, however, he asked if there had been any common factors that could be learned from going forward, for example in terms of speed enforcement. The Traffic and Streetworks Manager explained that the evaluation noted that wider engagement was important and to involve young people, an example being the video with the schoolchildren reciting their poetry.

Councillor E Mavin noted 109 schemes had been completed, though only five schemes that had involved Town and Parish Councils and asked if they were aware of the potential for schemes to be brought forward. The Head of Technical Services noted that Town and Parish Councils were aware, and it was their choice whether they wish to bring forward a potential scheme, working with Local County Councillors. He added that he would welcome any support that would help progress a scheme.

Councillor L Maddison noted the 20mph schemes in Spennymoor/Middleton had been very effective. She added that a scheme, part-funded by the AAP and Neighbourhood Budget and working with Durham Constabulary, utilised interactive headgear to help educate young people as regards the consequences of speeding. Councillor L Maddison added that additional software could be used to demonstrate cycling and help engage with children and young people while providing important safety information.

The Chairman added that there was a lot of hard-hitting and effective information presented at events such as WiseDrive and while perhaps a little shocking for young people he reiterated that it was vital important to get those safety messages across. The Head of Technical Services noted he had used the technology mentioned by Councillor L Maddison and that it was a great tool. He added that the Council and partners such as Durham Constabulary and County Durham and Darlington Fire and Rescue Service worked together to deliver road safety messages and would always look at any new opportunities to promote those messages.

The Head of Technical Services reiterated that there would be work in the near future relating to the Road Safety Strategy, with an Overview and Scrutiny Working Group looking at the topic.

Councillor L Kennedy noted that schemes in her area had been positive and had involved agencies such as the Police, AAP and schools themselves. She added that the “Mini-Police” had also been involved with activities in relation to community safety and Community Speedwatch, with their signs, pictures and presentations helping to bring home the safety messages.

The Chairman thanked the Head of Technical Services and his Team, noting they had been very accommodating and helpful to Local Members in order to help get schemes underway.

Councillor J Turnbull asked as regards the criteria and cited Neville’s Cross Primary as an example of where he felt traffic would not be able to get in excess of 20mph during peak times yet he and his fellow Divisional Councillor, Councillor P Taylor had worked together to pay £25,000 for a single scheme in their area, with this having large wagons traveling past to access a nearby industrial estate. The Chairman reiterated that Overview and Scrutiny had been involved with the revised criteria, through a cross-party working group, and added that the criteria were not subjective and represented a fair matrix by which to allocate schemes. Councillor J Turnbull noted he had been involved with the working group and noted that perhaps there would be scope for s106 funding from developments nearby, for example at Browney. The Head of Technical Services reiterated that the criteria had been developed with Overview and Scrutiny. He noted that in terms of Neville’s Cross, while at busy times the traffic may indeed be travelling below 20mph, there was a very high number of vehicles and pedestrians in the locality. He added that the project had an aim of not only reducing speeds, but also to have benefits in terms of the perception and feeling of safety, to encourage walking and cycling.

The Chairman thanked the Team and noted that this would be the last update on the project.

Resolved:

That the report and presentation be noted.

9 Quarter Three 2018/19 Performance Report

The Chairman introduced the Corporate Scrutiny and Performance Manager, Tom Gorman who was in attendance to speak to Members in relation to the Quarter Three 2018/19 Performance Management Report for the Altogether Safer theme (for copy see file of minutes).

The Corporate Scrutiny and Performance Manager noted that the information within the performance report would be useful to Members in terms of identifying potential future review activity and items for the Committee work programme. He referred Members to the report, with the key performance indicators (KPIs) being set out against the key performance questions (KPQs): how effective are we at tackling crime and disorder; how effective are we at tackling anti-social behaviour; how well do we reduce misuse of drugs and alcohol; how well do we tackle abuse of vulnerable people, including domestic abuse, child sexual exploitation and radicalisation; and how do we keep our environment safe, including roads and waterways.

It was noted that the key performance issues in terms of crime and disorder, with an increase in the crime rate (reported), reminding Members of the workshop session on Recorded Crime that had taken place, led by Chief Superintendent A Green. The Corporate Scrutiny and Performance Manager noted that the numbers appeared to be settling down, though as reported at Quarter 2, violence against the person had shown an increase, adding that a number had been without injury or had been harassment.

It was added that there had been an increase in shoplifting in particular areas, and that this had been an area that Members had asked if any there was any links to the roll out of Universal Credit (UC). The Corporate Scrutiny and Performance Manager noted that this information was still being assessed, with early indications being inconclusive. Members noted that the Police and Local Council anti-social behaviour confidence indicator had fallen, with a statistically significant decrease, though within the confidence level. The Corporate Scrutiny and Performance Manager added that he and the Overview and Scrutiny Officer had attended a Safer Durham Partnership joint tasking group that was looking at the issue and would report back to the Committee at a future meeting.

The Corporate Scrutiny and Performance Manager reiterated the improvement in terms of the Drug and Alcohol Recovery Service, with completion rates for alcohol and non-opiates now better than target, albeit less than the national average. He added that the completion rate in relation to opiates was below target, though was improving and approaching target. Members were informed that a recent Care Quality Commission (CQC) inspection the Council's provider in this regard, Centre for Change, now operating as HumanKind, had received an overall rating of "requires improvement". It was noted that an action plan had been developed and progress against this may be an area that the Committee would wish to look at in the future.

Councillors noted information relating to the vulnerable people, with an increase in domestic violence year-on-year, though it was noted that increase confidence in reporting was a factor. It was added that in respect to the statistics relating to a safe environment, which included the numbers of those killed or serious injured (KSIs), showing a slight improvement year on year and with a favourable long-term trend.

The Corporate Scrutiny and Performance Manager reminded the Committee of the ongoing work of the Overview and Scrutiny Officer in terms of the Working Group that would look at the topic of road safety and the recent meeting where the Strategic Traffic Manager, Dave Wafer had attended to provide an update for Members.

The Chairman thanked the Corporate Scrutiny and Performance Manager and noted the information as regards the CQC inspection of the Drug and Alcohol Service provider. He added that this should be taken in the context of issues, such as Public Health cuts, however, it would be an area the Committee would need to monitor.

The Chairman referred to a recent television programme highlighting issues following the roll-out of Universal Credit (UC) at Hartlepool and the issues faced by people in the town. He added that he could not see there not being a link to the problems faced and the roll-out of UC.

The Chairman asked Members for their comments and questions.

Councillor R Crute noted that Indicator 95, as set out in the table on page 66 of the agenda pack, was how the Police and Local Council were perceived to be dealing with crime issues. He noted that it was a tracker indicator and also had issues in terms of data lag. He asked what the Council could do to influence the indicator and how much context those individuals completing the survey had, namely in terms of demands upon the Police and Local Authorities, and what issues did fall under the remit of the Council such as selective licensing, private sector housing and how we could inform in terms of this, in the context of austerity and funding cuts.

Chief Superintendent A Green noted that when the public perception of the actions of the Police alone was asked, not including Local Authorities, then the result was far higher. He noted that it was important to try to understand why this was and it was an area being looked at by a joint tasking group. Chief Superintendent A Green added that it may be due to the "softer" nature of the issues the Council was responsible for, long-term and complex and often dealt with in partnership which could perhaps be perceived as being acted upon slowly, or it could be as a result of wider issues as suggested by Members, such as UC or Brexit. The Overview and Scrutiny Officer noted that the joint tasking group were researching the issue and he would bring back further information in due course and feed into the work programme.

The Corporate Scrutiny and Performance Manager noted that the confidence levels in the work of the Police had not always been so high and that the Police had undertaken a lot of work to try to understand this, with help from Durham University looking at three areas: performance; police behaviours and values; and communications and education activities. He added that this was an area the joint tasking group would look at relative to the partnership arrangements in place.

The Chairman noted that there were areas elsewhere in the country where Police Forces were not perceived as highly as Durham Constabulary and he added he felt this was attributable to the emphasis that the Chief Constable, Mike Barton had placed on Neighbourhood Policing and this was reflected in all his interactions with Police Officers and Police Community Support Officers (PCSOs).

Councillor B Avery noted he was very happy with the local Police in his area, Ferryhill, with mention of the excellent work of Inspector Warren Edwards, Neighbourhood Inspector for Spennymoor. He added that there had been a number of thefts from the local supermarket and while he had met with their staff, he asked what influence the Council could have as regards the issue. The Chairman noted that the particular store layout was likely determined corporately. Chief Superintendent A Green noted that some supermarkets had decided in terms of the cost of the the loss in terms of stock weighed up against the increase in sales by having promotions and items close to the entrance of stores. He added that in Durham City and Darlington, a reduction in the numbers of people begging within those centres was contrasted by an increase in shoplifting. Chief Superintendent A Green noted a link to UC in terms of the types of items being stolen, for example sanity products, and issues such as “sofa-surfing” and homelessness.

Councillor J Nicholson noted there had been a large increase in the use of foodbanks when comparing 2017 to 2018 and that speaking to her local Foodbank and the Local Inspector there had been an increase in shoplifting, noting that the Inspector at Stanley had foodbank vouchers and used these to help vulnerable people.

Councillor C Hampson noted help available in her area, at PACT House, not a regular foodbank, though it gave out hundreds of food parcels each week. The Chairman noted the good work of those organisations helping the most vulnerable in our communities.

Councillor J Considine referred to the information relating to domestic violence and asked if mental health was also an issue. She noted that the impact on the children in our county was highlighted at the Corporate Parenting Panel and the Children and Young People’s Overview and Scrutiny Committee, with the statistics from the provider of support services, Harbour being encouraging. The Corporate Scrutiny and Performance Manager noted there had not been changes in definition and would speak to the provider as regards their statistics.

Resolved:

That the report be noted.

10 Refresh of the Work Programme

The Chairman asked the Overview and Scrutiny Officer to speak to Members in relation to the Refresh of the Work Programme (for copy see file of minutes).

The Overview and Scrutiny Officer explained that the report highlighted work that had been undertaken by the Committee within the past year and also looked forward, seeking suggestions from Members to be included within the Committee's work programme for the forthcoming year. Members were reminded that the aims and objectives were aligned to those of the Council Plan and associated plans, as well as the Safe Durham Partnership Plan priority areas. It was explained that the report set out the activities undertaken at Appendix 3 and the Overview and Scrutiny Officer noted the ongoing Joint Working Group with the Children and Young People's Overview and Scrutiny Committee looking at Residential Children's Homes and the upcoming Road Safety Strategy Working Group.

The Overview and Scrutiny Officer noted Members could also suggest possible areas that Committee could consider, with a further report to come back to Committee in June.

The Chairman thanked the Overview and Scrutiny Officer and noted the Vice-Chairman, Councillor H Liddle would chair the meetings of the Road Safety Strategy Working Group. He added that a topic he felt could be looked at by the Committee was volunteering, civic duty and how that helped society, however, he noted that the decision upon any topics to be considered would be for the Committee to decide upon collectively.

Resolved:

- (i) That the Safer and Stronger Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee note the information contained in the Altogether Safer priority theme of the Council Plan 2016 -2019.
- (ii) That the Safer and Stronger Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee at its June meeting receive a further report detailing the Committee's Work Programme for 2019 -2020.

11 Overview and Scrutiny Review Update

The Overview and Scrutiny Officer noted that the joint Working Group of the Children and Young People's and Safer and Stronger Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committees looking at the topic of Residential Children's Care Homes would meet the following week and would look at issues in relation to the accreditation scheme and partnership arrangements.

Members noted that in relation to the Committee's chosen topic for review, Road Safety Strategy, the Overview and Scrutiny Officer was working with the Head of Technical Services and other Officers with the first meeting of the working group to take place on 1 May 2019.

Resolved:

That the verbal update be noted.

12 Police and Crime Panel

The Overview and Scrutiny Officer gave a verbal update report in respect of the Police and Crime Panel (PCP), noting issues considered at the meeting held on 14 March included: precept consultation; an update on the Police Crime and Victims' Plan Outcome Two "Victims and the Vulnerable feel supported"; and the quarterly performance report; and a focused report on the Police, Crime and Victim's Commissioner Plan Outcomes – Outcome 3 "Reoffending is reduced and rehabilitation is improved".

The Overview and Scrutiny Officer noted that he would circulate the relevant links to Members. The Chairman reminded Members that the Safer and Stronger Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee maintained close links and fed into the PCP as appropriate.

Chief Superintendent A Green noted that the Chief Constable, Mike Barton was retiring in June 2019. The Chairman noted the Committee's thanks to the Chief Constable, adding he had been very open and frank in his discussions with Members and supportive of the work of the Committee, as evidenced by the high-ranking Officers from Durham Constabulary that attended the meetings of the Committee.

Resolved:

That the verbal update be noted.