

**Safer and Stronger Communities
Overview and Scrutiny Committee**

5 November 2019

Police and Crime Panel



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

Electoral division(s) affected:

Countywide

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.

Executive summary

- 2 The report provides Members of the Committee with an update of agenda items presented to the Panel's meetings that were held on 20 September and 17 October 2019.

Recommendation

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

Background

- 4 At its meetings held on 20 September and 17 October 2019, the Panel's agendas included the following items:
 - (a) Proposed appointment of an Acting Police, Crime and Victims' Commissioner
 - (b) Proposed appointment of Acting Chief Executive for the Office of the Police, Crime and Victims' Commissioner
 - (c) Police, Crime and Victims' Commissioner's Annual Report
 - (d) Quarterly Performance Report
 - (e) Commissioning Update and PCVC Decision records

- (f) Work Programme and panel activity 2019/20

Proposed appointment of an Acting Police, Crime and Victims' Commissioner

- 5 At its special meeting on 20 September 2019, the Police and Crime Panel considered a request from the Police, Crime and Victims' Commissioner (PCVC), Ron Hogg, to appoint an acting commissioner. Legislation within the Police Reform and Social Responsibility Act 2011 requires an acting commissioner to be appointed from within the PCVC's staff. Within this context, the panel appointed Steve White, Chief Executive, Office of the PCVC as acting PCVC.
- 6 Section 62 (4) of the Act provides authority of all the functions of a police and crime commissioner are exercisable by an Acting commissioner, apart from issuing or varying a police and crime plan under section 5 of the Act.

Proposed appointment of Acting Chief Executive for the Office of the Police, Crime and Victims' Commissioner

- 7 Following the appointment of Steve White to Acting PCVC, the Police Reform and Social Responsibility Act 2011 states that the Police and Crime Commissioner must appoint a person to act as Chief Executive, if and for as long as "that post is vacant". Within this context, the Acting Police, Crime and Victims Commissioner proposed that Jon Carling, Head of Policy and Communications be appointed as Acting Chief Executive on an interim basis.
- 8 In accordance with the Act, a Panel confirmation hearing was held on 17 October 2019 and unanimously recommended approval for the proposal by the Acting PCVC, Steve White.

Police, Crime and Victims' Commissioner's Annual Report

- 9 In accordance with the Police Reform and Social Responsibility Act 2011, the Panel considered and responded to the PCVC's Annual Report. The report was presented by the Acting PCVC, Steve White.
- 10 Within its response, the Panel acknowledged the revised format of the report to be concise and provided focus on priority areas, highlighted achievements linked to the PCVC plan and aimed to increase engagement with the Office of the PCVC. The response also highlighted achievements from outcomes of HMICFRS PEEL inspections.

- 11 In addition, the panel commented on campaign activity undertaken by the PCVC, with specific reference to funding and requested that progress updates be included within the Panel's work programme.

Quarterly Performance Report

- 12 The Panel considered a report on quarterly performance from the Acting PCVC. The report provided Members with performance information on key performance questions in relation to the safety of our communities, crime levels, and support for victims and the vulnerable.

Commissioning Update and PCVC Decision records

- 13 The panel received reports providing a summary of the Commissioning Board meeting held in July 2019 and a detailed analysis of funding allocations for 2019/20 by the three strategic budget headings of Reducing Reoffending, Victims' Services and Community Safety and Prevention.
- 14 In addition, the panel considered a report detailing the PCVC's decision records that have been undertaken since the panel's previous meeting and a forward plan of decisions. A copy of the decision record is available from the Office of the PCVC's website.

Work Programme and panel activity 2019/20

- 15 The panel considered a report to provide an update on panel activity for 2019/20. The report provided details of future panel meetings, arrangements for a proposed development session and financial support received from a Home Office grant.

Main implications

Crime and Disorder

- 16 Information with this report aims to contribute to objectives within the existing Council Plan and Safe Durham Partnership plan to reducing crime and disorder.

Conclusion

- 17 The attached provides the Committee with a summary of items considered at the Panel's meeting on 20 September and 17 October 2019.
- 18 Background papers
- None

Other useful documents

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Appendix 1: Implications

Legal Implications

None.

Finance

None.

Consultation

None.

Equality and Diversity / Public Sector Equality Duty

None.

Human Rights

None.

Climate Change

None

Crime and Disorder

Information with this report aims to contribute to objectives within the existing Council Plan and Safe Durham Partnership plan to reducing crime and disorder.

Staffing

None.

Accommodation

None.

Risk

None.

Procurement

None.