



Durham Police and Crime Panel

16 October 2020

Police and Crime Panel Annual Report 2019/20 and Work Programme 2020/21

Report of Helen Lynch, Head of Legal and Democratic Services

Electoral division(s) affected:

None

Purpose of the Report

- 1 To present the Durham Police and Crime Panel Annual report 2019/20 and seek agreement to the Panel's Work Programme for 2020/21.

Executive summary

- 2 The Panel's Annual report provides details of activity undertaken by the Panel in 2019/20 and a proposed work programme for 2020/21.

Recommendation

- 3 The Police and Crime Panel are asked to
 - (a) Endorse the Durham Police and Crime Panel Annual Report 2019/20 as attached in appendix 2, and
 - (b) Agree the work programme for 2020/21 as attached at Appendix 3

Background

- 4 The Durham Police and Crime Panel Annual Report presents the Panel's activity during 2019/20. The report attached in Appendix 2 provides detail on the role and responsibilities of the Police, Crime and Victims' Commissioner (PCVC), the Police and Crime Panel (the Panel), the Panel's Membership, activity through scheduled and special Panel meetings, Panel development, complaints, engagement with public and the Office of the PCVC and panel support. It is to note that a copy of the Annual Report was submitted to the Home Office as an element of the Panel's Grant Agreement in July 2020.
- 5 In summary, 2019/20 has been an unprecedented year for the Panel. During this period the Panel held five scheduled meetings, three confirmation hearings and one development session. The Panel were represented at the National Police, Fire and Crime Panels conference and panel members also attended a counter terrorism seminar at County Hall, Durham.
- 6 In December 2019, the Panel were deeply saddened to learn of the passing of Ron Hogg CBE, Durham Police, Crime and Victims' Commissioner following a short illness of motor neurone disease and the panel's thoughts remain with Mr Hogg's family and colleagues. Prior to the commencement of its meeting in January 2020, Members of the Panel stood for a minute's silence as a mark of respect for Mr Hogg.
- 7 At the end of 2019/20, the Country was responding to the outbreak of Coronavirus. The impact of the virus led to the publication of Coronavirus Act 2020 that included the cancellation of Police and Crime Commissioner elections in May 2020 to May 2021 and required the Panel to implement an alternative format through a virtual platform to hold Panel meetings.
- 8 Within this context, throughout 2019/20, the Panel continued to deliver its work programme and duties within the Police, Reform and Social Responsibility Act 2011 and has valued the continued support from the Office of the PCVC.

Work Programme 2020/21

- 9 The Panel's rules of procedure state that the Panel will be responsible for setting its own work programme taking into account the priorities defined by the PCVC within the context of the Police and Crime Plan and Annual Report. The work programme must also include the functions described in the terms of reference for the Panel.
- 10 The work programme will enable the Panel to plan and focus on 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 namely:

- Review and comment on the Draft Police and Crime Plan and Precept
- Reviewing the PCVC's Annual Report
- Holding confirmation hearings following a proposed appointment by the PCVC to the posts of Chief Constable and Deputy Police and Crime Commissioner, Chief Executive Officer and Chief Finance Officer within the Commissioner's Office.

- 11 The Panel can also establish 'Sub Committees and Task Groups' to undertake specific task based work on issues it deems necessary in line with its remit.
- 12 Within this context, Appendix 3 outlines a work programme for 2020/21. It is to note that at the time of writing this report, due to the impact of Coronavirus, all Panel meetings are being held remotely. The work programme is to be flexible to manage this impact but also accommodate consideration of additional items throughout the year.

Main implications

Crime & Disorder

- 13 Activity within the Panel's Annual report and work programme aims to contribute to reducing crime and disorder within County Durham & Darlington.

Conclusion

- 14 The Annual report provides Members with an overview of activity undertaken by the panel during 2019/20 and information to consider a proposed work programme for 2020/21.

Background papers

- None

Other useful documents

- None

Contact:	Kamila Coulson-Patel	Tel: 03000 269674
	Jonathan Slee	Tel: 03000 268142

Appendix 1: Implications

Legal Implications

The Panel's Annual Report includes Panel activity in accordance with the Police Reform and Social Responsibility Act 2011 and requirements within the Home Office Grant Agreement 2019/20.

The Panel's work programme is to be delivered in accordance with the Police Reform and Social Responsibility Act 2011

Finance

The Panel's Annual report includes panel support within the Home Office Grant Agreement and activity through precept consultation and consideration of the Acting PCVC's precept. The Panel's work programme includes precept consultation and consideration of the Acting PCVC's precept.

Consultation

None.

Equality and Diversity / Public Sector Equality Duty

None

Climate Change

None.

Human Rights

None

Crime and Disorder

This is a key focus of the work of the Acting Police, Crime and Victims Commissioner and Police and Crime Panel.

Staffing

None

Accommodation

None

Risk

None

Procurement

None.

**Appendix 2: Durham Police and Crime Panel Annual Report
2019/20**

Durham Police and Crime Panel Annual Report 2019/20

Chair's Foreword

Welcome to the Durham Police and Crime Panel Annual Report for 2019/20. This is the first report within this format and provides detail on our activity throughout the past year.

In summary, 2019/20 has been an unprecedented year for the panel in which we have held five scheduled meetings, three confirmation hearings and one development session. We were represented at the National Police, Fire and Crime Panels conference and panel members also attended a counter terrorism seminar at County Hall, Durham.



Within this period, the panel approved and welcomed the appointment of Jo Farrell as Durham's Chief Constable following the retirement of Michael Barton Q.P.M. in June 2019. In December 2019, the Panel were deeply saddened to learn of the passing of Ron Hogg CBE, Durham Police, Crime and Victims' Commissioner following a short illness of motor neurone disease. Mr Hogg will be greatly missed and I would like to pay tribute to the many achievements and difference he made to the Communities of County Durham and Darlington as the Durham PCVC.

At the time of preparing this report, the Country is responding to the outbreak of coronavirus. The impact of the virus has led to Coronavirus Act 2020 that has included the cancellation of PCC elections in May 2020 to May 2021 and we will be exploring alternative formats to hold PCP meetings.

The Panel has continued to deliver its work programme and duties within the Police, Reform and Social Responsibility Act 2011. To conclude, I would like to thank the office of the Durham PCVC for their continued support and to all Panel and substitute Members for their valued and dedicated commitment to the work of the Durham Police and Crime Panel.

Cllr Lucy Hovvels MBE
Chair of Durham Police and Crime Panel

Background

The Police Reform and Social Responsibility Act 2011 introduced arrangements for elected Police and Crime Commissioners who are to be the voice of the people and have responsibility for holding their chief constable to account for policing in their force area. The Act also required the establishment of a Police and Crime Panels who are required to scrutinise and support the work of the Police and Crime Commissioner.

Elections for Police and Crime Commissioners take place every four years. The first election in November 2012 elected Mr Ron Hogg as the Durham Police and Crime Commissioner and following re-election in May 2016, Mr Hogg included victims within his title to be known as the Durham Police, Crime and Victims' Commissioner (PCVC).

It was with great sadness that the Office of the PCVC announced the passing of Ron Hogg C.B.E., Police, Crime and Victims' Commissioner on Tuesday 17 December 2019, after a very short battle with Motor Neurone Disease. During his time in Office the Panel had maintained a positive and professional relationship with Mr Hogg and the Office of the PCVC. Mr Hogg was a strong voice for victims and believed passionately in supporting young people and families. He also believed people deserved a second chance and his determination, empathy and willingness to work with others made a great difference to many lives.

Mr Hogg will be sadly missed and the panel's thoughts remain with Mr Hogg's family and colleagues. Prior to the commencement of its meeting in January 2020, Members of the Panel stood for a minute's silence as a mark of respect for Mr Hogg.

Steve White, Chief Executive, Office of the Durham PCVC, was appointed into the role of acting PCVC in September 2019, by the Police and Crime Panel following Mr Hogg's diagnosis.

Elections for Police and Crime Commissioners were scheduled to take place in May 2020. Following the outbreak of coronavirus, the government announced in March 2020 that the elections for the Police and Crime Commissioners in May 2020 have been postponed and are currently scheduled for May 2021.

Police, Crime and Victims' Commissioner

The role of the PCVC is to be the voice of the people and hold the police to account. They are responsible for the totality of policing.



The PCVC is elected by the public to hold Chief Constables and the force to account, thus making the police answerable to the communities they serve. The PCVC is to ensure community needs are met as effectively as possible and are improving local relationships through building confidence and restoring trust. The PCVC works in partnership across a range of agencies at local and national level to ensure there is a unified approach to preventing and reducing crime.

The PCVC has the mandate for ensuring the effectiveness and efficiency of policing services across County Durham and Darlington. As well as holding the Chief Constable to account on behalf of local people, the role will also involve:

- represent and engage with all those who live and work in the force area, including the vulnerable and victims;
- set the police and crime objectives for their area through a police and crime plan;
- set the force budget and determine the precept;
- appoint the Chief Constable, hold them to account for running the force, and if necessary dismiss them;
- contribute to the national and international policing capabilities set out by the Home Secretary; and
- bring together community safety and criminal justice partners, to make sure local priorities are joined up
- Publishing an Annual Report;
- Securing the maintenance of an efficient and effective police force for the area;
- Responsibility for holding community safety budgets and commissioning services

Police and Crime Panels

The Durham PCVC and Constabulary area covers the local authorities of Durham County Council and Darlington Borough Council. The Police and Social Responsibility Act 2011 required the two constituent authorities within Durham Constabulary area have a statutory duty to create a Police and Crime Panel.



This led to the establishment of the Durham Police and Crime Panel holding its inaugural meeting in October 2012 and the Panel is hosted by Durham County Council. A web page containing information on the panel including the panel arrangements can be accessed from the following link:

<https://www.durham.gov.uk/policeandcrimepanel>

The Panel's membership consists of 10 elected members for the constituent authorities and two co-opted independent members.

The Durham Police, Crime and Victims' Commissioner is held to account by the Durham Police and Crime Panel. The role of the Durham Police and Crime Panel is to provide scrutiny of the Commissioner, but also has decision making powers and are also required to provide support to the PCVC in pursuit of objectives within the Police, Crime and Victims Plan.

Within the Police Reform and Social Responsibility Act, the Panel's key responsibilities are:

- to review the draft Police and Crime Plan;
- to publicly scrutinise the Police and Crime Commissioner's (PCC's) Annual Report;
- to review and scrutinise decisions and actions by the PCC;
- to review the PCC's proposed precept levels;
- to review the PCC's Conduct;
- to review and confirm the PCC's proposed appointments of Chief Constable, Chief Executive, Chief Finance Officer, and Deputy Police and Crime Commissioner

The Act also includes procedures and processes for undertaking the above responsibilities and the panel are required to publish reports following reviewing the PCC's Annual report, police, crime and victims' plan, precept and confirmation hearings. The panel also has a power of veto on the PCC's precept and proposed appointment of Chief Constable.

Panel Membership

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. In addition, each elected Member has a nominated substitute member. The Panel's Membership for 2019/20 is illustrated in the following table with their nominated substitute members listed in underneath.

Durham County Council	Darlington Borough Council	Independent Co-Opted Members
Cllr D Boyes (Cllr H Liddle)	Cllr H Crumby (Cllr E Heslop)	Mr NJH Cooke
Cllr P Brookes* (Cllr H Smith)	Cllr J Dulston (Cllr Jamie Bartch)	Mr DKG Dodwell
Cllr P Crathorne (Cllr S Quinn)	Cllr B Jones (Vice Chair) (Cllr R Mills)	
Cllr L Hovvels (Chair) (Cllr A Laing)		
Cllr J Nicholson (Cllr A Shield)		
Cllr S Quinn* (Cllr K Hopper)		
Cllr A Savoury (Cllr A Bell)		
Cllr M Simmons (Cllr E Brown)		

* Cllr Quinn replaced Cllr Brookes at the Panel's meeting in February 2020

Police and Crime Panel Activity 2019/20

This section highlights the Panel's activity in relation to:

- Scheduled Panel Meetings
- Special Police and Crime Panel meetings
- Panel Development
- Complaints
- Engagement with public and Office of the PCVC

Scheduled Panel meetings

In 2019/20, the Durham Police and Crime Panel held five scheduled meetings and included the following activity:

28 June 2019 - Annual General Meeting – County Hall, Durham

- Election of Chair and Vice-Chair
- Recent Media Activity
- Quarterly Performance Report – PCVC Plan objectives
- Police and Crime Work Programme
- Commissioning Update
- PCVC Decision Records
- HMICFRS Integrated Performance Assessment Report

Link to Agenda and Minutes -

<https://democracy.durham.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=872&MIId=11428&Ver=4>

17 October 2019, County Hall, Durham

- Recent Media Activity
- Police, Crime and Victims' Commissioner Annual Report
- Quarterly Performance Report – PCVC Plan objectives
- Commissioning Update
- PCVC Decision Records
- Work Programme and Panel Activity

Link to Agenda and Minutes -

<https://democracy.durham.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=872&MIId=11429&Ver=4>

9 January 2020, County Hall, Durham

- Recent Media Activity
- Countering Terrorism
- Precept Consultation
- Quarterly Performance report – PCVC Plan Objectives
- PCVC Commissioning Activity

- PCVC Decisions
- HMICFRS – Inspection Report: Joint Inspection of police custody
- Conference Feedback report
- National Association of Police and Crime Panels

Link to Agenda and Minutes

<https://democracy.durham.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=872&MId=11430&Ver=4>

6 February 2020, County Hall, Durham

- Recent Media Activity
- Precept 2020/21
- Revenue & Capital Budgets 2020/21, Medium Term Financial Plan 2020/21 to 2023/24 Revenue & Capital Budgets 2019/20
- Transforming Probation
- PCVC Decision Records
- HMICFRS Overview of 2020 and updates on current items

Link to Agenda and Minutes

<https://democracy.durham.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=872&MId=11431&Ver=4>

14 March 2020, Town Hall, Darlington

- Rural Crime
- Recent Media Activity
- Quarterly Performance Report – PCVC Plan objectives
- Commissioning Update
- PCVC Decision Records

Link to Agenda

<https://democracy.durham.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=872&MId=11432&Ver=4>

Special Police and Crime Panel meetings

6 June 2019, County Hall Durham

- Chief Constable Confirmation Hearing

20 September 2019, County Hall, Durham

- Proposed Appointment of Acting Police, Crime and Victims' Commissioner

17th October 2019, County Hall, Durham

- Confirmation Hearing for Proposed Appointment of Acting Chief Executive for the Office of the Durham Police, Crime and Victims' Commissioner

Panel Development

Counter Terrorism 'Far Right Extremism' (PREVENT) – 18 September 2019, County Hall, Durham

National Police, Fire and Crime Panel Conference – 19 November 2019, Warwick Conference Centre

Attended by Cllr Hovvels, Chair of the Police and Crime Panel and the Overview and Scrutiny Officer and participated in sessions on

- Strategic Review of Policing in England and Wales
- Preparing for the P(F)CC elections in 2020
- Reducing the arrests of women
- Forum on rural crime

A report to provide feedback from the conference was presented to the Panel's meeting in January 2020 and can be accessed from the following link.
<https://democracy.durham.gov.uk/documents/s117342/National%20PCP%20Conference%20report.pdf>

Police and Crime Panel Development Session 16 December 2019

The development session provided an opportunity to gain a further insight into wider specific areas associated within the Panel's work programme. Within this context the development session provided Panel Member's with both a refresh and further knowledge on:

- The role, responsibilities and forthcoming priorities of the Durham Police, Crime & Victims' Commissioner
- Overview of Policing within Durham Constabulary
- Police and Crime Panel Governance arrangements
- Policing (and Fire) Governance – Guidance for Panels

Complaints

The Panel has responsibilities within the Elected Local Policing Bodies (Complaints and Misconduct) Regulations 2012 to record and consider non-criminal complaints made against the PCVC.

During 2019/20 the panel received no complaints against the PCVC or Acting PCVC.

Engagement with the work of the Panel by members of the public and the Police, Crime and Victims' Commissioner for Durham Constabulary

Activity from Police and Crime Panel meetings has received coverage within local newspapers and their websites. This has been generated by regular attendance by the Local Democracy Reporter and the panel issuing press releases or statements following consideration of confirmation hearings and the acting PCVC's precept. The following are outcomes of promotion of the panel's activity:

- A press release from the PCP following appointment of the Chief Constable in June 2019 was posted on social media through twitter and received 3,446 impressions.
- A press statement on appointment of the Acting Police, Crime and Victims' Commissioner in September 2019 received 3,495 impressions on twitter and reached 9,665 people on Facebook.
- A press statement following the appointment of Acting Chief Executive, Office of the Police, Crime and Victims' Commissioner. The press statement in October 2019, received 3391 impressions on Twitter and reached 7,012 people on Facebook.
- A press release following consideration of the Acting PCVC's precept by the Panel was published by the Office of the PCVC. The press released included a statement from the Chair of the panel that supported the proposed precept and acknowledged the high level engagement that had taken place by the Office of the PCVC within a very short period and provided public reassurance for the precept increase.

Engagement with the Office of the PCVC

The Panel through both members and officers have regular and open contact to which has forged and maintained a professional and positive relationship with the Office of the Police, Crime and Victims' Commissioner. Throughout 2019/20, in what has been an extremely challenging year, engagement with the Office of the PCVC has included arrangements and preparations for the PCP's Work programme, development session, consideration of the PCVC's Annual Report and precept, undertaking Confirmation Hearings for the Chief Constable and Acting Chief Executive for the Office of the PCVC and the Panel's scheduled and special meetings.

Member of the panel also receive all press releases that are issued by the Office of the PCVC.

Panel Support

The Panel receives financial support through grant funding from the Home Office. The grant enables the host to claim up to £64,340 for administration and members expenses.

Total panel expenditure for 2019/20 was £86,768 with £64,340 to be recovered from the central government grant and the variance met by the Host Authority. A breakdown of expenditure is listed in the table below.

Breakdown of expenditure (items)	£ (0,000s)
Director of Transformation and Partnerships advice/ support	19880.85
Legal Advice /Support	24218.88
Overview and Scrutiny Support	18922.84
Democratic Services Support	10613.97
HR/ICT/Finance/Accommodation costs	12127.91
Printing and distribution	150.30
Travelling Expenses	293.48
Dedicated Data base	560.00
Subtotal Total:	86768.23

It is to note that elected member expenses for panel activity are borne by their respective authority and for co-opted independent members travelling expenses, £133.60 was claimed by Mr D Dodwell in 2019/20.

The Panel's expenditure has been reviewed in June 2020 by Durham County Council's Internal Audit and Risk Management Division, who concluded that *"The review confirmed that expenditure incurred had been in accordance with the terms and conditions of the grant."*

Appendix 3 : Durham Police and Crime Panel Work Programme 2020/21

Date & Time	Suggested Items for Work Programme
16 th October 2020 9.30am Virtual meeting held on Microsoft Teams	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Media Articles ● APCVC Annual Report ● PCP Annual report 2019/20 ● PCP Work Programme 20/21 ● Quarterly Performance Report (Q1 and Q2) ● APCVC Commissioning Activity ● APCVC Decisions (Q1 and Q2) ● HMIC Inspection Reports ● Complaints Procedure Review
8 th January 2021 (TBC) 10.00 a.m. Virtual meeting/ Committee Room 1A, County Hall, Durham	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Joint Audit Committee Report ● Media Articles ● Precept Setting Consultation ● Quarterly Performance Report ● APCVC Commissioning Activity ● APCVC Decisions ● HMIC Inspection Reports
4 th February 2021(TBC) 10:00 am Virtual meeting/ Committee Room 1A, County Hall, Durham	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Media Articles ● Police, Crime and Victims' Commissioner's Proposed Precept for 2021/22
12 th March 2021 (TBC) 1 p.m. Virtual meeting/ Committee Room 1B, County Hall, Durham	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Media Articles ● Quarterly Performance Report ● APCVC Commissioning Activity ● APCVC Decisions ● HMIC Inspection Reports

