



Durham Police and Crime Panel

27 June 2024

Police and Crime Panel Annual Report 2023/24 and Work Programme 2024/25

Report of Helen Bradley, Monitoring Officer and Clerk to the Police and Crime Panel

Electoral division(s) affected:

None

Purpose of the Report

- 1 To present the Durham Police and Crime Panel Annual report 2023/24 and consider development of the Panel's Work Programme for 2024/25.

Executive summary

- 2 The Panel's Annual report provides details of activity undertaken by the Panel in 2023/24 and development of a work programme for 2024/25 in accordance with the Panel's arrangements and requirements within the Police Reform and Social Responsibility Act 2011.

Recommendation

- 3 The Police and Crime Panel is asked to
 - (a) Endorse the Durham Police and Crime Panel annual report 2023/24 as attached in appendix 2, and
 - (b) Agree the Panel's work programme as attached in appendix 3 for 2024/2025 and the flexibility it offers to respond to emerging issues.

Background

- 4 The Durham Police and Crime Panel annual report presents the Panel's activity during 2023/24. The report, attached in Appendix 2 provides detail on the role and responsibilities of the Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC), the Police and Crime Panel (PCP), the Panel's membership, activity through Panel meetings, Panel development, complaints, engagement with public and the Office of the PCC (OPCC) and Panel support. It is to note that the annual report is to be submitted to the Home Office as an element of the Panel's grant agreement by the 30 June 2024.

- 5 In summary, 2023/24 has been a busy year for the Panel in which we held:
 - five scheduled meetings
 - two special meetings
 - two confirmation hearings for the new Chief Constable of Durham Police and the Chief Finance Officer
 - induction and refresher training
 - briefing sessions for members in advance of the confirmation hearings
 - a briefing session in advance of considering the PCC's precept
 - an informal session to discuss policing in Newton Aycliffe.

- 6 The Panel has continued to deliver its work programme and duties within the Police, Reform and Social Responsibility Act 2011. This has included:
 - receiving the PCC's draft annual report 2022/23
 - considering, approving and responding to the PCC's proposed precept
 - scrutinising the PCC and the Chief Constable of Durham Police on Durham's Constabulary's PEEL Inspections findings
 - receiving a report on missing people and protecting the vulnerable
 - considering an update on force progression on the delivery of recommendations by the Independent Inquiry into Child Sexual Abuse

Work Programme 2023/24

- 7 The Panel's rules of procedure state that the PCP will be responsible for setting its own work programme taking into account the priorities defined by the PCC 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.

- 8 The work programme will enable the PCP to plan and focus on how it will effectively provide challenge to the PCC and deliver its responsibilities within the context of the terms of reference and rules of procedure namely:
- (a) Review and comment on the draft Police and Crime Plan and precept
 - (b) Reviewing the PCC's annual report
 - (c) Holding confirmation hearings following a proposed appointment by the PCC to the posts of Chief Constable, Deputy PCC, Chief Executive Officer and Chief Finance Officer within the Commissioner's Office.
- 9 In addition, the Panel's meetings receive a quarterly performance report which includes:
- (a) Key performance indicators
 - (b) Safer communities - force staffing levels, public contact methods, neighbourhood crime, anti-social behaviour
 - (c) Safer people – violent crime
 - (d) Non-crime demand – missing from home and mental health
 - (e) Safer roads – casualties, safety campaigns
 - (f) Funded services for victims – community peer mentors, victim care and advice service, Ministry of Justice funding, safer streets, CCTV and security control centre
 - (g) HMICFRS reports
 - (h) Media and engagement
 - (i) PCC decision records
- 10 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.
- 11 Appendix 3 outlines a work programme for 2024/25 which is flexible to accommodate additional items throughout the year.

Main implications

Crime & Disorder

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

Conclusion

- 13 The annual report provides members with an overview of activity undertaken by the Panel during 2023/24 and development of the Panel's work programme for 2024/25.

Background papers

- None

Other useful documents

- None

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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 2023/24.

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 PCC's precept.

The Panel's work programme includes precept consultation and consideration of the PCC'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 role of the Police and Crime Commissioner and Police and Crime Panel.

Staffing

None

Accommodation

None

Risk

None

Procurement

None.

Durham

Police and Crime Panel

Annual Report 2023/24



Chair's Foreword

Welcome to the Durham Police and Crime Panel annual report for 2023/24 which provides detail on our activity throughout the past year.

Having served as a substitute member of the Police and Crime Panel, I was delighted and honoured to be elected as the Panel's Chair together with Cllr Gerald Lee as Vice Chair at its annual general meeting in June 2023.

In summary, 2023/24 has been a busy year for the panel in which we held five scheduled meetings, two special meetings, two confirmation hearings and several briefing sessions in advance of confirmation hearings and consideration of the PCC's precept.

Within this period, the panel received the PCC's draft annual report 2022/23 in September 2023, confirmed the appointment of Rachel Bacon as the new Chief Constable of Durham Constabulary in September 2023 and the appointment of the OPCC's Chief Finance Officer in January 2024.

The Panel agreed the PCC's precept in February 2024 and responded accordingly to the OPCC.

The Panel has continued to deliver its work programme and duties within the Police, Reform and Social Responsibility Act 2011.

I would like to thank the office of the Durham PCC 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. I would also like to thank all the support staff for their work and the Monitoring Officer for her advice and assistance to me in my role as chair of the Panel.

Cllr Liz Brown
Chair of Durham Police and Crime Panel 2023/24

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).

Following his death, Steve White, Chief Executive, Office of the Durham PCVC, was appointed acting PCVC in September 2019, by the Police and Crime Panel.

Elections for Police and Crime Commissioners were scheduled to take place in May 2020 however due to Covid 19 elections were postponed.

In May 2021 Joy Allen was elected as the Durham PCC.

Following elections in May 2024, Joy Allen was re-elected to the position of PCC in May 2024.

Police and Crime Commissioner

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



The PCC is elected by the public to hold the Chief Constable and the force to account, making the police answerable to the communities they serve. The PCC is to ensure community needs are met as effectively as possible and are improving local relationships through building confidence and restoring trust. The PCC 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 PCC 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 also involves:

- 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
- 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 PCC and Constabulary area covers the local authorities of Durham County Council and Darlington Borough Council. The Police and Social Responsibility Act 2011 statutorily require the two constituent authorities within Durham Constabulary area to create a Police and Crime Panel.



The Durham Police and Crime Panel held 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 here: <https://www.durham.gov.uk/policeandcrimepanel>

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

The Durham Police and Crime 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 is required to provide support to the PCC in pursuit of objectives within the Police and Crime and 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 2023/24 is below and includes nominated substitutes.

Durham County Council	Darlington Borough Council	Independent Co-Opted Members
Cllr David Boyes Sub: Cllr Shirley Quinn	Cllr Sajna Ali Sub: Cllr Dr Amanda Riley	Mr N Hallam
Cllr Liz Brown (chair) Sub: Cllr Mamie Simmons	Cllr Neil Johnson Sub: Cllr Jim Garner	Mr R Rodiss
Cllr Joyce Charlton Sub: Cllr Ken Robson	Cllr Gerald Lee (vice chair) Sub: Cllr Jonathan Dulston	
Cllr Lucy Hovvels Sub: Cllr Jake Miller		
Cllr Dan Nicholls Sub: Cllr Chris Varty		
Cllr Robert Potts Sub: Cllr Luke Holmes		
Cllr Anita Savory Sub: Cllr Alan Bell		

Police and Crime Panel Activity 2023/24

Panel meetings

The Panel has held five scheduled meetings, two special meetings and two confirmation hearings between 1 April 2023 to 31 March 2024.

6 April 2023, County Hall, Durham.

[Special PCP 6 April 2023 agenda/minutes](#)

- PCC Performance and Delivery update
- National Association of Police Fire and Crime Panels Annual report – follow up
- Former Telecommunications Mast
- Complaints update
- Complaint against the PCC

23 June 2023, County Hall, Durham.

[PCP 23 June 2023 agenda/minutes](#)

- Problem orientated policing
- Joint Independent Audit Committee annual report 2022/23
- Quarter four 2022/23 performance
- Complaints update
- Police and Crime Panel annual report 2022/23 and work programme 2024/25

21 Sept 2023, County Hall, Durham

[PCP 21 Sept 2023 agenda/minutes](#)

- Missing people and protecting the vulnerable
- IICSA – force progress following HMICFRS recommendations
- PCC annual report 2022/23
- Quarter one 2023/24 performance
- Investigative hub
- Complaints update

25 Sept 2023, County Hall, Durham

[Special PCP 25 Sept 2023 agenda/minutes](#)

- Confirmation hearing – proposed appointment of Chief Constable of Durham Constabulary

14 Dec 2023, Darlington Town Hall

[PCP 14 Dec 2023 agenda/minutes](#)

- Quarter two 2023/24 performance
- Complaints update
- PCP work programme priorities
- Complaint against the PCC

25 Jan 2024 County Hall, Durham

[Special PCP 25 Jan 2024 agenda/minutes](#)

- Confirmation hearing – proposed appointment of Chief Finance Officer for the OPCC

1 Feb 2024 County Hall, Durham

[PCP 1 Feb 2024 agenda/minutes](#)

- PCC's proposed precept 2024/25
- Commissioner's Victims' Champions
- National Association of Police, Fire and Crime Panels annual report 2023
- Complaints update

15 Feb 2024, County Hall, Durham

[Special PCP 15 Feb 2024 agenda/minutes](#)

- Summary of Durham Constabulary's PEEL 2023 Inspection findings
- Review of OPCC external scrutiny
- Former telecommunications mast

20 March 2024, County Hall, Durham

[PCP 20 March 2024, agenda/minutes](#)

- Quarter three 2023/24 performance report
- Vetting process and acceptable policing behaviours and standards
- Complaints update

Panel Development

Panel Member induction/refresher sessions

- 12 June 2023 - induction and refresher training
- 15 June 2023 - induction and refresher training
- 14 Sept 2023 - briefing for confirmation hearing
- 13 November 2023 - informal session on policing in Newton Aycliffe
- 23 January 2024 - briefing in advance of PCC precept consideration and confirmation hearing

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 PCC. An update on complaints received is presented at each panel meeting.

During 2023/24, there were two complaints received for consideration by the Police and Crime Panel. The first complaint was heard by the Panel at its special meeting on 6 April 2023. The second complaint was heard by the Panel at its meeting held on 14 December 2023.

In accordance with Reg 28 (13) of the Elected Local Policing Bodies (Complaints and Misconduct) Regulations 2012, the Panel resolved not to publish the outcome of either of the complaints.

Engagement by the public and the PCC

Durham County Council as host authority has a PCP webpage that provides an overview of the panel and the PCC's role and responsibilities. It also

includes the panel's arrangements, complaints procedure and links to agendas and minutes and the PCC's webpage.

The Panel's meetings during 2023/24 have been held at County Hall, Durham with the December meeting held in the Town Hall, Darlington. In addition, activity from Police and Crime Panel meetings has received coverage with local media.

Engagement with the Office of the PCC

The Panel has a professional and positive relationship with the OPCC. Throughout 2023/24 engagement has included arrangements and preparations for the PCP's work programme, development sessions, consideration of the PCC's annual report and precept, undertaking confirmation hearings and the PPC's revised performance reporting arrangements.

At its meeting in June 2023, the panel considered the Joint Independent Audit Committee Annual report 2022-23 presented by the PCC and which provides detail of the assurance and risk management frameworks within which the PCC and Chief Constable operates.

At the Panel meeting in September 2023, members received an update report from the PCC on how she was holding Durham Constabulary to account for the delivery of recommendations by the Independent Inquiry into Child Sexual Abuse (IICSA). The PCC confirmed that she was confident that Durham Police were considering the work appropriately and continue to track progress.

The Panel considered the National Association of Police, Fire and Crime Panels' Annual Report 2023 in February 2024 and has worked with the PCC to bring follow up reports to the Panel in respect of police recruitment and vetting procedures and acceptable behaviours and standards within Durham Constabulary.

There has been regular engagement between the Panel secretariat, the overview and scrutiny officer and the OPCC. Engagement ensures a planned approach to the Panel's work programme with meetings considering the PCC's annual report 2022/23, the new style comprehensive performance management reports and HMICFRS Inspection reports. The Panel has also received reports following requests from members for update information on the new investigative hub and a former telecommunications mast located on the site of the former police headquarters.

The office of the PCC has also shared with the panel secretariat press releases for circulation to panel members upon release.

Responding to Government Consultations

The Panel provided feedback to the Home Office on the questioning process for confirmation hearings in December 2023.

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 2023/24 was £110,957.81 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 Resources advice/ support	13,124.37
Legal advice /support	58,197.25
Overview and scrutiny support	15,994.17
Democratic Services support	7668.76
HR/ICT/finance/accommodation costs	15,262.96
Printing and distribution	150.30
Travelling expenses	Nil
Dedicated data base	560
Subtotal	110957.81

Elected member expenses for Panel activity are borne by their respective authority.

The Panel's grant claim for 2023-24 has been considered by the Council's Internal Audit service as part of the financial management assurance framework. Confirmation is awaited that the expenditure incurred has been in accordance with the terms and conditions of the grant.

APPENDIX 3

Draft Durham PCP Work Programme 2024/25

Date	Work Programme Item
Friday 27 June 2024 1.30pm County Hall, Durham	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• AGM – Appointment of chair and vice-chair• Joint Audit Committee annual report 2023/24• Right Care Right Person – force update• Investigative Hub update• Quarter 4 Performance report 2023/24• PCP annual report and work programme• Complaints report
19 Sept 2024 1.30pm County Hall, Durham	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• PCC Annual report 2024/25• Q1 Performance report 2024/25• Draft PCC Police and Crime Plan 2024/28• Independent Custody Visitor scheme annual report 2023/24• Complaints report
12 December 2024 1.30pm County Hall, Durham	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Q2 Performance report 2024/25• Force Estate update• Complaints report
3 Feb 2025 10am County Hall, Durham	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Police, Crime and Commissioner’s proposed precept for 2025/26• Victims champion annual update• National Association of Police, Fire and Crime Panels annual report 2024• Complaints report
19 March 2025 10am County Hall Durham	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Q3 Performance report 2024/25• Vetting and Acceptable Policing Behaviours and Standards update• Complaints report

Reports requested for inclusion:
20 March 2024 - Use of Drones