

DURHAM COUNTY COUNCIL

At a Meeting of **Police and Crime Panel** held in Committee Room 1B, County Hall, Durham on **Tuesday 25 June 2013 at 1.00 pm**

Present:

Durham County Council:

Councillors J Armstrong, D Boyes, P Brookes, S Forster, L Hovvells and A Willis

Darlington Borough Council:

Councillors B Jones, S Harker, I Haszeldine, K Larkin-Bramley and N Vaulks

Independent Co-opted Members:

K Larkin-Bramley and N Vaulks

1 Election of Chairman

Moved by Councillor Haszeldine, **Seconded** by Councillor Boyes and

Resolved:

That Councillor L Hovvells be elected Chairman of the Panel for the ensuing year.

Councillor L Hovvells in the Chair

2 Election of Vice-Chairman

Moved by Councillor Armstrong, **Seconded** by Councillor Harker and

Resolved:

That Councillor I Haszeldine be elected Vice-Chairman of the Panel for the ensuing year.

3 Apologies for Absence

There were no apologies for absence.

4 Substitute Members

There were no substitute Members in attendance.

5 Minutes

The Minutes of the meeting held on 5 March 2013 were confirmed by the Panel as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

6 Declarations of interest

There were no declarations of interest.

7 Durham Police and Crime Commissioner and Durham Constabulary Joint Annual Report 2012-13

The Panel considered a report of the Assistant Chief Executive which contained the Durham Police and Crime Commissioner and Durham Constabulary Joint Annual Report 2012-13 (for copy see file of Minutes).

Mr R Hogg, Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC) for Durham, presented the Joint Annual Report to the Panel. In making his presentation the PCC informed the Panel that he had been in post for four months of the period covered by the Annual Report and acknowledged the work previously carried out by the Durham Police Authority.

Referring to the Performance section of the Annual Report, the PCC informed the Panel that an HMIC investigation of crime recording in the Kent Force, which had been commissioned by the PCC for Kent, had found irregularities and inaccuracies in the way crimes were recorded. The Commissioner informed the Panel that HMIC was to conduct crime data integrity inspections of all Forces and he would be writing to request that Durham be one of the first Forces to be inspected.

Councillor Haszeldine referred to recent issues with a travelling community event in the Darlington area. Due to a lack of communication from the police, he had been unaware that the event was being held and therefore unable to make local residents aware of what was taking place. Had this communication taken place then residents could have been made aware which would have alleviated the number of complaints received and also increased public confidence. There was a need for the police to be more open in their conversations with communities and documentation should be available for communities as it is for the travelling community. This single issue only happened in a small window of time each year and there was a need to start to develop a strategy for next year's event.

The Chairman replied that the County Council had worked with partners and the business community to address similar problems within the County and could share this information with the Borough Council.

Councillor Boyes welcomed the Joint Annual Report and the contribution of the PCC and Chief Constable, and welcomed the approach that Neighbourhood Policing would remain the bedrock for future plans.

Resolved:

That the Durham Police and Crime Commissioner and Durham Constabulary Joint Annual Report 2012-13 be noted

8 Police and Crime Panel Work Programme

The Panel considered a report of the Assistant Chief Executive which sought agreement to the Panel's Work Programme for 2013/14 (for copy see file of Minutes).

Ms K Larkin-Bramley, while agreeing to the proposed Work Programme, suggested that there was a need for a more regular update on the Police and Crime Plan.

Resolved:

That the report be approved and that more regular updates on the Police and Crime Plan be included in the Work Programme.

9 Restorative Approaches

The Panel considered a report of the Assistant Chief Executive and received a presentation from Ch Supt Paul Beddow on Restorative Approaches (for copy of report and presentation see file of Minutes).

Ch Supt Beddow informed the Panel that he was the Durham Constabulary lead for Restorative Approaches (RA). Durham Constabulary was committed to embedding the use of RA principles into everyday policing in order to reduce crime, the fear of crime, reoffending and to enhance community cohesion and victim satisfaction that would ultimately lead to an improvement in public confidence.

Restorative processes brought those harmed by crime or conflict, and those responsible for the harm, into communication, which enabled everyone affected by a particular incident to play a part in repairing the harm and finding a positive way forward.

In criminal justice, restorative processes gave victims the chance to tell offenders the real impact of their crime, to get answers to their questions, and an apology. RA held offenders to account for what they had done, helped them understand the real impact of what they had done, to take responsibility and make amends.

Councillor Jones asked about the responsibility for supervision of reparation work. Ch Supt Beddows replied that although reparation work was not the impactful part of RA, it did have a part to play within the RA approach, and as such the supervision element needed to be considered in each case.

Councillor Boyes referred to reoffending figures in Darlington where, of 110 offenders who had been through the RA process, only 10 had re-offended, and asked the timescale that this covered. Ch Supt Beddow replied that RA had shown a reduction in re-offending rates nationally, although the reduction in Darlington was

higher than the national average. The statistics quoted were since the RA programme started one year ago.

Councillor Brookes referred to the labour-intensive nature of RA and asked how this resource implication could be met. Ch Supt Beddows replied that Level 1 RA was instant and therefore carried no extra labour implications. Level 2 RA, while being more labour-intensive, reduced demand long-term due to the reduction in re-offending and therefore reduced demands on police time.

Ch Supt Beddows informed the Panel that training in Level 1 RA was to take place in September 2013 and invited Members of the Panel to attend.

Resolved:

That the report and presentation be noted and arrangements be made for Members of the Panel to attend the Level 1 RA training in September 2013.

The Chairman of the Meeting was of the opinion that the following item of business was of sufficient urgency to warrant consideration to enable the PCC to update Members on current initiatives and developments.

10 Staffing Review and Consultations

The Commissioner provided the Panel with the following updates:

- The officer structure review for the Office of the PCC had been completed and there was now a need to consult with staff. The next stage of the review would be to consider job descriptions and identify possible skills shortages.
- Community consultation would be taking place in the following areas:
 - Stray horses – including links with the National Farmers Union – Members views would be sought
 - A reformed approach to Anti-Social Behaviour – consultation on community remedies
 - 20 m.p.h. zones and proactive work by the Roads Policing Unit on reclaiming the footpaths – vehicles parking on footpaths and use of footpaths by cyclists.