

Safer and Stronger Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee

3 April 2014

Police and Crime Panel



Report of Lorraine O'Donnell, Assistant Chief Executive

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.

Background

2. This report builds upon information previously presented to the Committee and the aim of this report is to provide an update to Members in relation to the Panel's meeting on the 3 March 2014.

Detail

3. ***Refresh of the Police and Crime Plan 2013-17***
At its meeting on the 3 March 2014, the Police and Crime Commissioner, Mr Hogg presented a refresh of his Police and Crime Plan for consideration by the Panel. There were no significant variances from the previous priorities identified by the Commissioner but the refreshed plan now includes Mental Health and maintaining existing performance of Integrated Offender Management Units.
4. These additions were supported by the Panel, who also requested to include work programme items on hate crime and that future budget monitoring reports include information on commissioning of community safety, victim and witness services.
5. The Panel gave support to the identified priorities but also felt that tackling organised crime is an important area that should be referenced more explicitly within the Plan.
6. ***Draft protocol on exercise of the PCC's power under Section 38 of the Police Reform and Social Responsibility Act 2011***
Section 38 of the Police Reform and Social Responsibility Act 2011 includes powers for the Police and Crime Commissioner to call upon the chief constable of the police force for that area to resign or retire. Schedule 8 of the Act requires the PCC inform the Panel of the reasons to call upon the resignation or retirement of the chief constable.

7. The purpose of the protocol which is to be agreed by the PCC, Police and Crime Panel and the Chief Constable is to ensure transparency and fairness and sets out the process and procedures which will be followed by the PCC in the event that he is contemplating the exercise of his power under section 38 of the Act. The Panel was also supplied with supporting information re-enforcing the powers of scrutiny should this situation occur and agreed to the protocol.

Recommendation

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

Background Papers

Police and Crime Plan – Durham Police and Crime Panel 3 March 2014
Draft Protocol on Exercise of the PCC's power under Section 38 of the Police Reform and Social Responsibility Act 2011 – Durham Police and Crime Panel, 3 March 2014

Appendix 1: Implications

Finance – the report contains information following the Panel’s consideration of the PCC precept for 2014/15.

Staffing – None

Risk - None

Equality and Diversity / Public Sector Equality Duty – None

Accommodation - None

Crime and Disorder – information contained within this report is linked to Altogether Safer element of the Council Plan and establishment of a Police and Crime Panel to scrutinise the elected Police and Crime Commissioner.

Human Rights – None

Consultation – None

Procurement – None

Disability Issues – None

Legal Implications –the Panel’s responsibilities within the Police, Reform and Social Responsibility Act is referenced within the report