

3 April 2014



Organised Crime

Report of Lorraine O'Donnell, Assistant Chief Executive

Purpose of the Report

1. To provide Members of the Committee with information in advance of a presentation from Detective Chief Superintendent Jane Spraggon, Durham Constabulary on tackling Organised Crime.

Background

2. At its meeting in October 2013, following consideration of the Safe Durham Partnership briefing, Members requested further information in relation to the approach to tackle organised crime and outcomes of activity of work undertaken by the Organised Crime Task and Finish Group to reduce the threat from organised criminals.
3. Durham Constabulary has an ongoing campaign known as Sledgehammer to disrupt, dismantle and destroy organised crime groups within County Durham and Darlington. Community intelligence and partnership working has been vital and has led to the arrests, seizure of money and vehicles in relation to criminal activity including drugs, money laundering, puppy farms and cash for crash. By way of context, within the past 12 months there has been a minimum of £560,000.00 worth of drugs seized, £332,000.00 in cash detained (which does not include confiscation orders made of criminal benefit) and there have been at least 70 arrests. In addition through the Proceeds of Crime Act, in the region of £4000 has been given to community initiatives.
4. The presentation to the Committee's meeting will provide Members within an overview of the approach to tackling organised crime and work undertaken by the Organised Crime Task and Finish Group.

Recommendation

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

Background Papers

None

Appendix 1: Implications

Finance – None

Staffing – None

Risk - None

Equality and Diversity / Public Sector Equality Duty – None

Accommodation - None

Crime and Disorder – Information contained in this report and presentation relates to the Altogether Safer element of the Council Plan.

Human Rights – None

Consultation – None

Procurement – None

Disability Issues – None

Legal Implications – None