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Mr Ron Hogg
Durham Police and Crime Commissioner
County Hall
Durham
DH1 5UL

6th March 2014

Dear Mr Hogg,

Police and Crime Panel Response to the refreshed Police and Crime Plan 2013-2017

As Chair of the Durham Police and Crime Panel, I would like to thank you and your Chief Executive, Lesley Davies for attending the Panel's meeting on 3rd March 2014 to present and respond to questions on your revised Police and Crime Plan.

The Panel acknowledge the work that has been undertaken throughout the past year in contributing to delivery of your priorities and that within the context of current financial pressures County Durham and Darlington remains amongst of the safest places in the country to live. Mental Health and maintaining existing performance of Integrated Offender Management Units are important areas and supported by the Panel for inclusion within the plan.

Members note the harrowing effect hate crime can have upon its victims and that this is often predicated by ignorance and prejudice and would encourage greater education as an element to address hate crime. The Panel would welcome a specific report on hate crime within its work programme for 2014/15.

With regard to providing value for money, the panel support the approach taken for shared accommodation with County Durham & Darlington Fire and Rescue Service and to explore further avenues of collaboration with partners. In addition, the panel request that future budget monitoring reports include information on commissioning of community safety services, the 'Community Safety Pot' and victim and witness services.

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Members of the Panel continue to support identified priorities but also feel that tackling organised crime is an important area that should be referenced more explicitly within the Plan.

To conclude, in accordance with the Police Reform and Social Responsibility Act 2011, I trust you find the Panel's views are constructive and contribute to delivery of your revised Police and Crime Plan and I look forward to your response.

Yours Sincerely

L Howvels

Councillor Lucy Howvels
Chair of the Durham Police and Crime Panel

Cc: Lesley Davies, Chief Executive, Office of Durham Police and Crime
Commissioner
Lorraine O'Donnell, Assistant Chief Executive
Colette Longbottom, Head of Legal and Democratic Services
Ian Croft, Senior Committee Services Officer