

# Safer and Stronger Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee

16<sup>th</sup> September 2014



## Police and Crime Panel

### Report of Lorraine O'Donnell, Assistant Chief Executive

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#### 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 following areas from the Panel's meeting in June 2014:
  - PCP's Chair and Vice Chair
  - Durham Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC) Annual Report 2013-14
  - Hate Crime
  - Police and Crime Panel Work Programme 2014/15
  - Independent Co-opted members
  - Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary (HMIC) Inspection Reports

#### Detail

3. ***PCP Chair and Vice Chair***  
The Panel selected Cllr Lucy Hovvels and Cllr Brian Jones as its Chair and Vice Chair for 2014/15.
4. ***Durham Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC) Annual Report 2013-14***  
In accordance with the Police Reform and Social Responsibility Act the Commissioner attended the PCP's meeting in June to present and respond to questions from the Panel on his annual report. In its response to the PCC, the Panel welcomed the format of the plan to succinctly report performance, progress towards achievement of priorities and the use of finance and resources within the last financial year.
5. In addition, the Panel also acknowledged the PCC's approach to continuously engage with communities across the Force area, achievements that have been highlighted within the report and work undertaken within existing financial pressures so that County Durham and Darlington remains amongst one of the safest places in the country to live. However, the Panel commented that the Plan could make stronger reference to tackling organised crime and reference to the Police and Crime Panel holding the PCC to account.

6. ***Hate Crime***

Hate Crime is a priority within the Police and Crime Plan. Following reviewing the Plan at its meeting in March 2014, the Panel requested a specific report on activity to address hate crime. Within this context Chief Superintendent Graham Hall, Durham Constabulary and chair of the County Durham and Darlington Hate Crime Action Group provided an overview of the Group's work. This included a range of positive initiatives and interventions that have been implemented through partnership work including volunteers to raise awareness and confidence in reporting incidents of hate crime, provide training and support to victims and bring perpetrators to justice. Following consideration of the presentation, the Panel has requested to receive further information on Hate Crime training.

7. ***The Panel's Work Programme***

The work programme enables the PCP to plan how it will effectively provide challenge to the PCC and deliver its responsibilities within the context of the terms of reference and rules and the Police Reform and Social Responsibility Act. The programme includes identified dates for considering the Commissioner's 2015/16 precept and monitoring delivery of the Police and Crime Plan. At the Panel's meeting, Members also considered a report following an inquiry by the Home Affairs Select Committee that identified a number of recommendations to the Government to enhance activity of the Police and Crime Panel. Following consideration of these reports, Members requested to establish a task and finish group to look further developing the Panel's work programme.

8. ***Independent Co-opted members***

In accordance with the Police Reform and Social Responsibility Act 2011, the Panel's membership includes two independent co-opted Members who are full voting members of the panel. The term for the Panel's current two co-opted independent Members ends on 31<sup>st</sup> October 2014. Within this context, the panel at its meeting in June agreed a recruitment and selection process to seek appointment of two independent co-opted members to be effective from 1<sup>st</sup> November 2014 to 30<sup>th</sup> April 2017.

9. ***HMIC Inspection Reports***

The Panel received an information report providing feedback of findings from recent inspections carried out by HMIC at Durham Constabulary. The PCC is keen to appraise the Panel with outcomes of HMIC inspections and published HMIC reports are available from the HMIC website. <http://www.justiceinspectorates.gov.uk/hmic/>

## **Recommendation**

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

## **Background Papers**

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## **Appendix 1: Implications**

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**Finance – None**

**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