

Safer and Stronger Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee

6 January 2015

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 following areas from the Panel's meetings in October and December 2015:
 - Presentations on the WOW! Awards and priority areas.
 - Police and Crime Plan
 - Budget Monitoring and Precept
 - PCP Task and Finish Group report
 - HMIC Inspections
 - Structure of the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner
 - Panel Membership

Detail

3. **Presentations**

The Panel's meeting in October was held at the new headquarters and was opened by video presentations of the Force's nominations to the National WOW Awards for outstanding customer service. The presentations highlighted the professionalism of Officers in making a difference to victims, people, families and communities within the Force area. The Panel were informed at its December meeting that PC Amanda Holland was successful in being awarded the WOW award for the 'You Changed My Life' category at the National awards ceremony.
4. The Panel has also received presentations and information on delivery of the PCC's priority areas Violence against Women and Girls and Tackling the Harm caused by alcohol and drugs to individuals and Communities. These presentations focused on an update of the Regional violence against women and girls strategy, an update from the PCC's Reform of the Drugs policy symposium and work undertaken to reduce the harm from alcohol through education and enforcement.

5. ***Police and Crime Plan***

At its October meeting the Panel received a comprehensive update including activity and statistical information on all areas of the PCC's Police and Crime Plan 2013-2017. The Commissioner notified the panel he was planning to refresh his Plan and prior to launching a consultation exercise presented a draft version to the Panel's meeting in December. In summary, the refreshed plan includes three new priorities of 'To increase confidence in local policing, to reduce reoffending and to improve the service provided to those with poor mental health. In addition, the wording on priority areas on domestic abuse and hate crime has slightly changed to focus on reducing the incidence and impact of these areas. The draft plan also illustrates links from the PCC to the public, partner organisation and the Home Office and includes performance data to monitor delivery of priority areas.
6. Consultation on the plan is scheduled to commence in December 2014 and will include AAPs and Town and Parish Councils.
7. In accordance with the Police Reform and Social Responsibility Act 2011, the Panel is to formally respond to the Plan following closure of the consultation period and a further report being presented to the Panel's meeting in March 2015.
8. ***Budget Monitoring and Precept***

A report on budget monitoring from the Chief Finance Officer to the Panel's meeting in October outlined performance of the 2014/15 revenue and capital budgets as at 20th September 2014. The report forecasted that revenue and capital expenditure at 31st March would be below budget. The Panel were also informed at its December meeting that consultation on the PCC's precept was to take place during December and January. Following consultation, a report on the PCC's precept is to be considered by the Panel at its February meeting in accordance with the Police, Reform and Social Responsibility Act 2011.
9. ***PCP Task and Finish Group report***

The Panel agreed a report following task and finish group activity that looked at ways of further developing the Panel's work programme with activity to enhance challenge to the PCC as its critical friend. The report recommended a structured approach to the PCP's Agenda to include a focus on a key priority area and information on decisions taken by the PCC, Commissioning activity and feedback from HMIC Inspections.
10. In addition the report recommended the December PCP meeting include a report on budget and precept consultation, the panel hold two half day development days per year and that Panel Members receive copies of press releases from the PCC's Office. The Commissioner was also supportive of these recommendations.

11. ***HMIC Inspection Reports***
The Panel has received information reports providing feedback of findings from three inspections carried out by HMIC at Durham Constabulary. At its meeting in October a report was presented two HMIC inspections on Core Business: An inspection of crime prevention, police attendance and use of police time and Valuing the Police and both had generally positive outcomes for the Force.
12. At its December meeting, the panel received feedback from the first HMIC Annual Assessment of Policing in England and Wales 2014 known as the PEEL Report which assessed each force in terms of effectiveness, efficiency and legitimacy. The Panel welcomed the report that highlighted Durham was the only force in the country judged to be 'outstanding' at investigating offending within in the effectiveness strand of the assessment. Durham, was also rated 'outstanding' at tackling anti-social behaviour, received a rating of 'good' for efficiency and for reducing crime and preventing offending.
13. ***Structure of the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner***
The Panel received an update on the structure of the PCC's office since the Chief of Staff had been appointed. In addition the Panel also considered a report containing a 'Safeguards Protocol' that been developed for the role of a joint Chief Finance Officer to both the Chief Constable and the PCC.
14. **Panel Membership**
Following a recruitment process the Panel at its October meeting approved a report from the Monitoring Officer to appoint Mr Nicholas James Hawksley Cooke and Mr Derek Kenneth Graham Dodwell as independent co-opted Members for the period 1st November 2014 to 30th April 2017.

Recommendation

15. Members of the Committee are asked to note information contained within the report 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 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