

Safer and Stronger Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee

23 March 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 meeting on 3 March:
 - Reviewing the Police and Crime Plan 2015-17
 - Revenue and Capital Budgets 2015/16
 - HMIC Inspection Update
 - Presentations on 'Checkpoint', Mental Health and interactive Public Performance Report

Detail

3. **Reviewing the Police and Crime Plan 2015**
The Police Reform & Social Responsibility Act requires that prior to the Police and Crime Commissioner publishing or revising a Police and Crime Plan that the Police and Crime Panel are to review and make a report to the Commissioner on its content.
4. The Panel considered the refresh of the Police and Crime Plan and in summary, provided support and acknowledgement to the PCC and his office for the comprehensive publication and their approach to consultation across the Force area. A copy of the plan can be obtained from the PCC's website <http://www.durham-pcc.gov.uk/Home.aspx>
5. **Revenue and Capital Budgets 2015/16**
Mr Gary Ridley, Chief Finance Officer and the Police and Crime Commissioner presented the budget report to the Panel. The report provides information on the overall budget, income, capital and reserves and highlights that whilst a balanced budget for 2015/16 can be achieved there is a tougher challenge for 2016/17 and future years. The Panel are to receive the Medium Term Financial Plan at its next meeting in June.
6. **Inspection Update**
The Panel received a report from the Chief Finance Officer providing details of anticipated inspections in 2015, recently published inspection reports and pending inspection reports.

During 2015, it is expected that the Force will receive HMIC inspections on 'Identifying vulnerability in case files', 'Firearms Licensing', 'Missing and Absent Persons', 'Stalking and Harassment', 'Trafficking and Slavery/Honour based violence' and 'Digitisation in the Criminal Justice Service'. The HMIC with the Criminal Justice Joint Inspection are to undertake an inspection on Local Criminal Justice Partnerships and an Ofsted-led joint inspection on Child Protection is also anticipated.

7. The Panel were informed that a report from HMIC/HMCPSI on Road Traffic Accidents including fatalities had recently been published and that reports from the HMIC were pending on 'Building the Picture' (Information Management) (Savile) and '21st Century Child Sexual Exploitation'.

8. ***Presentations on 'Checkpoint', Mental Health and interactive Public Performance Report***

Superintendent Kevin Weir, Durham Constabulary was in attendance to provide the panel with two presentations on 'Checkpoint' and Mental Health. The Checkpoint initiative builds upon restorative practices with the aim through partnership working to reduce reoffending following 'low level crime'. The Panel noted information within the presentation and requested that a progress report be included within the Panel's work programme.

9. The second presentation provided the Panel with an overview on the challenges and future work with regard to people with Mental Health and learning disabilities. The Panel were informed that County Durham had the 2nd highest level of suicide, accounted for 20% police time nationally and availability of accurate information. Work undertaken within the Force area has included Mental Health Qualifier Definition on Systems recognising Victim, Witness, Perpetrator, Liaison and Diversion staff across Force Custody suites with outreach follow-up and work with CAMHS (Children and Adolescent Mental Health Service) Crisis Team for out of hours cover for Custody and A & E. The Panel acknowledged work that had been undertaken, commented on the importance of partnership working and information sharing protocols and requested an update report to a future Panel meeting.

10. Alan Reiss, Chief of Staff to the PCC, provided the Panel with a demonstration of a recently launched interactive public performance report published by the PCC. The report available from the PCC's website provides information on key performance data linked to the Commissioner's priorities and anti-social behaviour at a local level.

Recommendation

11. 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

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