

Safer and Stronger Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee

22 September 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 Annual General Meeting held on 22 June 2015:
 - Panel Membership and Chair and Vice Chair
 - Police and Crime Commissioner's Annual Report 2014/15
 - Presentations Delivering an Efficient Policing Service and Year end Performance
 - Reports on HMIC Inspections, PCC Decisions Records and Commissioning Activity
 - Police and Crime Panel Work Programme

Detail

3. **Panel Membership and Appointment of Chair and Vice Chair**
The Panel is politically balanced and consists of 12 Members, seven Elected Members from Durham County Council, three Elected Members from Darlington Borough Council and two Independent Co-opted Members. The Panel's Membership for 2014/15 is:

Durham County Council

Councillors J Allen, J Armstrong, D Boyes, P Brookes, S Forster, A Hopgood and P May

Darlington Borough Council

Councillors I Haszeldine, S Harker and B Jones

Independent Co-opted Members

Mr NJH Cooke and Mr DKG Dodwell

4. The Panel elected Cllr J Allen and Cllr S Harker as its Chair and Vice Chair for 2015/16.
5. **Police and Crime Commissioner's Annual Report 2014/15**
In accordance with the Police Reform and Social Responsibility Act 2011, the Panel considered and responded to the PCC's Annual Report.

Within its response the Panel acknowledged the succinct format to the plan that highlights the significant amount of positive work that has been undertaken by the PCC's Office and in partnership throughout the year to deliver priority areas. The Panel publically recorded their acknowledgment and praise that Durham was the only Force to be rated as 'Outstanding' for detecting crime in 2014/15 and was also rated outstanding for tackling anti-social behaviour within the PEEL inspections.

6. In addition to acknowledging these achievements the panel were interested in issues such as public confidence and harm caused by alcohol and how these issues are being tackled. Members also noted emerging threats such as cybercrime. Within this context, the Panel requested that further updates on these areas are included within its work programme during 2015/16.
7. The Panel noted positively that more victims of domestic violence are reporting incidents to the Police and also the number of repeat offenders is reducing. The Panel took the view that the latter should also be included within the Annual report.
8. Members also commented that County Durham and Darlington remains one of the safest places in the country to live and in times of financial pressures it is reassuring that the Force is recruiting Police Constables and Police and Community Support Officers.
9. **Presentations on Delivering an Efficient Policing Service and Year end Performance**
Mr Gary Ridley, Chief Finance Officer and the Police and Crime Commissioner provided a presentation on details of the Medium Term Financial Plan outlining potential impact of anticipated financial challenges.
10. The Panel received a presentation on the Year End performance report 2014/15 from the PCC and Mr Alan Reiss, Chief of Staff to the PCC. The interactive report provided Members with performance information on the Victim Based Crime, Public Confidence and Victim Satisfaction. 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. The interactive report is available from the PCC's website <http://www.durham-pcc.gov.uk/Home.aspx>
11. **Reports on HMIC Inspections, PCC Decisions Records and Commissioning Activity**
Mr Gary Ridley, Chief Finance Officer presented a report on feedback from a HMIC inspection undertaken in April 2015 regarding efficiency. The report provided feedback in relation to 'Force efficiency at keeping people safe and reducing crime', 'Use of resources to meet demand', 'Force workforce model sustainability and affordability', 'Force's financial sustainability for the short and long term', 'Legitimacy pillar' and 'Leadership'.

12. The report highlighted that overall the inspection was positive and that formal national results will not be published until early autumn.
13. Mr Alan Reiss, Chief of Staff to the PCC, presented reports on the PCC's decision records and commissioning activity. The Decision register reported key decisions taken between January – May 2015 and a forward plan of anticipated key decisions from June to August 2015. The report on Commissioning Activity provided the Panel with information for 2015/16 that included a grant to commission services to support victims funded by the Ministry of Justice and the allocation of the PCC's budget of £735,000 to support community safety activities within the Force area.
14. **Police and Crime Panel Work Programme 2015/16**
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. The Panel agreed the work programme report and requested that arrangements be also made to hold a development session for Panel and Substitute Members.

Recommendation

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

Background Papers

None

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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