



Durham Police and Crime Panel

20 October 2015

Committee for Standards in Life Report 'Tone from the top - leadership, ethics and accountability in policing'

Report of Lorraine O'Donnell, Assistant Chief Executive

Purpose of the Report

1. To provide detail and seek agreement to a response from Members of the Police and Crime Panel (PCP) to a report 'Tone from the top - leadership, ethics and accountability in policing' published by the Committee for Standards in Public Life.

Background

2. Published in June 2015, the Committee for Standards in Life report details findings and recommendations from an inquiry considering whether the accountability model for local policing was effective in supporting and promoting high ethical standards. The report includes findings on four key areas of 'Leadership', 'Accountability', 'Integrity' and 'Openness' and identifies 20 recommendations for the Home Office, Police and Crime Commissioner's, Police and Crime Panel and Associations. Appendix 2 contains the report's Executive Summary and full copy is available from https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/439208/Tone_from_the_top_-_CSPL.pdf.
3. Recommendations 9, 10 and 19 of the report are relevant to the Police and Crime Panel and the Committee for Standards in Public Life have requested a response to the recommendations from the Chair of the Police and Crime Panel be submitted by 29 November 2015. The table below lists these recommendations and provides information on activity undertaken by the Police and Crime Panel.

| Recommendation | PCP Activity |
|---|---|
| Recommendation 9 Police and Crime Panels should review the PCC's Annual Report in public session attended by the PCC as part of their annual scrutiny | Following presentation by the PCC, the Panel has considered and commented on the PCC's Annual Reports at its meetings in June 2013, |

| Recommendation | PCP Activity |
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| programme and make any recommendations as appropriate. | 2014 and 2015. |
| <p>Recommendation 10</p> <p>As a matter of good practice:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● PCCs should publish a forward plan of decisions identifying the subject matter of the decision, why it is key, the meeting at which the decision is due to be taken, who will be consulted before the decision is taken and what reports/papers will be available for inspection; and ● Police and Crime Panels should produce a forward plan of work specifying, as appropriate, the information required from PCCs in order for them to carry out that work. | <p>The PCP undertook review activity to enhance constructive challenge to the PCC as its critical friend to the PCC. An outcome from this review was a recommendation to include 'Decisions by the PCC' as a standard item on its agenda. The rationale for this was linked to the Home Affairs Committee report and was also supported by the PCC's Office.</p> <p>At its meeting in June 2015, the Panel considered a report containing the forward plan of decisions for the period June – August 2015. The report also informed the Panel of the criteria for a key decision and that information is also available from the PCC's website.</p> <p>From its outset in shadow form, in August 2012, the Panel has had in place a work programme and this has been reviewed and agreed by the Panel at its June meetings in 2013, 2014 and 2015. It is to be acknowledged that development of the work programme has been considered with the Office of the PCC and provides details of forthcoming topics to be considered throughout the year.</p> |
| <p>Recommendation 19</p> <p>The Committee endorses the Home Affairs Committee's recommendations that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Police and Crime Panels inquire and report into the circumstances whenever a chief constable's service is brought to an end irrespective of whether the Schedule 8 scrutiny process is formally engaged. | <p>In March 2014, the Panel agreed a protocol between the Police and Crime Panel, Police and Crime Commissioner and the Chief Constable to ensure transparency and fairness and to set out a process and procedures which will be followed by the Commissioner in the event that he is contemplating the exercise of his power under section 38 of the Act.</p> <p>The protocol was further considered in June 2014 to take account of a national protocol on Section 38 of the Act that was agreed between the</p> |

Appendix 1: Implications

Finance – None

Staffing – None

Risk – None

Equality and Diversity / Public Sector Equality Duty – None

Accommodation – None

Crime and Disorder – None

Human Rights – None

Consultation – None

Procurement – None

Disability Issues – None

Legal Implications – None