

## **NORTHUMBRIA POLICE AND CRIME PANEL**

**25 April 2017**

### **PRESENT:**

<b>Gateshead Council</b>	Councillors J McElroy (Chair) and J McClurey
<b>Newcastle City Council</b>	Councillor N Kemp
<b>North Tyneside Council</b>	Councillor T Mulvenna
<b>Northumberland County Council</b>	Councillor L Simpson
<b>South Tyneside Council</b>	Councillor G Kilgour and J Welsh
<b>Sunderland City Council</b>	Councillor H Trueman
<b>Independent Co-opted Members</b>	J Guy and S Isaacson

### **ALSO IN ATTENDANCE:**

#### **Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner for Northumbria**

Dame V Baird QC	- Police and Crime Commissioner for Northumbria (PCC)
E Snaith	- Chief Executive
M Tait	- Chief Finance Officer
P Godden	- Head of Corporate Development, Northumbria Police

#### **Gateshead Council**

M Harrison	- Legal, Democratic and Property Services
M Aynsley	- Democratic Services

**APOLOGIES:** Councillors J Robinson (Newcastle City Council), C Burdis (North Tyneside Council), I Hutchinson (Northumberland County Council), and P Watson (Sunderland City Council)

### **51. MINUTES**

- RESOLVED -** That the minutes of the last meeting held on 28 February 2017 be approved as a correct record subject to:
- Minute 48 being amended to read: The PCC replied that tackling crime was more aspirational as it included early intervention, etc. and was not just about arrests but she would look at this.
  - Minute 49 being amended to read: Nationally it has been sent to the Lord Chancellor and Solicitor General and

their shadows for them to consider improvements that could be made.

## **52. FEEDBACK FROM NATIONAL AND REGIONAL EVENTS**

There were no national and regional events reported.

RESOLVED – That the information be noted

## **53. POLICE AND CRIME COMMISSIONER – PROGRESS AND UPDATE REPORT 2016/17**

The Police and Crime Commissioner presented her update report to the Panel which covered the following:-

- Commissioning intentions
- Commissioner's Community Fund 2017/18
- Visit by the Parliamentary Under Secretary for Victims, Youth and Family Justice
- Out of Court Disposals Project
- Workplace Champions and Domestic Abuse Workplace Policy
- Police and Crime Plan
- HMIC – PEEL Inspections 2016- Effectiveness
- Monitoring Actions Plans in response to PEEL 2016
- Launch of Northumbria's Mini Police Programme
- Paying the Price for Strong White Cider
- Sex and relationships education in schools
- Lobbying and shaping the national agenda

Reference to the PEEL inspection on the effectiveness of the Force at investigating crime and reducing re-offending and the PCC pointed out that issues relating to the Force's ability to examine digital devices had resulted from this of work being contracted out to a firm which had been slow in undertaking it. In response to a question from a Panel member, the PCC stated that she was satisfied with the improvement plan to address the issues raised in the inspection.

With regard to Northumbria's Mini Police Programme, the PCC explained that a similar programme had been undertaken in Durham. The participants are educated about safety in areas such as grooming and road safety. The aim was to ensure that the children on the programme were safer and that they would pass on the good advice to other children.

RESOLVED - That the Police and Crime Commissioner's update report be noted.

## **54. POLICE AND CRIME PLAN – ANNUAL PERFORMANCE REPORT 2016/17**

The Panel considered the Police and Crime Plan annual performance report for 2016/17.

The PCC advised that she was pleased at the high satisfaction levels for victims of anti-social behaviour. However, she was less satisfied with the average time to

answer 101 calls. In respect of domestic and sexual abuse, the PCC explained that the rates were not as high as anticipated and an action plan had been developed to address this which would be reported to a future Panel meeting.

With regard to the increase in recorded crime, the PCC explained that this was not due to an increase in crime but rather improvements in the ways in which it was recorded. She added that generally officers were getting better at dealing with complaints but there was still some progress to be made.

Members enquired about the increase in total crime and asked when it was estimated that this figure would stabilise. It was reported that in the next 12 months to March 2018 it was anticipated that the increase would be in the region of 0-4%.

Reference was made to the satisfaction levels referred to for domestic and sexual abuse and reducing crime, and in particular, the need for more information on the basis for these statistics eg sample sizes.

Members questioned the worth of the target for the percentage of guilty pleas at a first hearing. They were advised that this was being reviewed.

Reference was also made to the 1% increase in the time neighbourhood officers spend outside of a police station and what this actually equated to. The members were informed that this was a very small amount of time.

In response to a question, the Panel was advised that more victims of domestic and sexual abuse were reporting incidents.

A member referred to the reduction in the number of victims provided with a satisfactory needs assessment and asked whether there was a plan to improve this figure. The PCC advised that changes had already been made to address this issue.

RESOLVED - That the information be noted.

## **55. COMPLAINTS AGAINST THE POLICE AND CRIME COMMISSIONER – ANNUAL REPORT 2016/17**

In accordance with the agreed procedure, an update report about the complaints and purported complaints against the PCC and every conduct matter recorded by the Monitoring Officer between April 2016 and March 2017 was submitted.

RESOLVED - That the information be noted.

## **56. KEY ISSUES IN THE NEXT QUARTER**

The PCC advised the Panel of the following key issues she would be addressing in the next quarter:-

- Development of the delivery plan for the Police and Crime Plan
- Progressing the sale of estate
- Development of the Youth Advisory Group
- Seeing is Believing – CPS to train members of the Soroptimists to become observers

- Placement of Domestic Violence Coordinators in health bodies
- Engagement with Tyne and Wear Fire and Rescue Authority on governance.
- Liaise with Community Safety Managers on the Commissioner's Community Fund
- Police Transformation Fund
- Bid in respect of violence against women and girls
- Appointment process for Assistant Chief Constable

A member enquired whether the Youth Advisory Group would include looked after children. The PCC felt that this was a good suggestion and her officers would look into it.

## **57. THEMED REPORT – POLICE AND CRIME COMMISSIONER AND COMMUNITY SAFETY PARTNERSHIP WORKING CLOSER TOGETHER**

Consideration of this matter was deferred to a future meeting.

## **58. SCHEDULE OF FUTURE MEETINGS**

RESOLVED - That the following programme of Panel meetings be approved:

Tuesday, 1 August 2017 at 2.00pm  
 Tuesday, 31 October 2017 at 2.00pm  
 Tuesday, 16 January 2018 at 2.00pm  
 Tuesday, 6 February 2018 at 2.00pm  
 Tuesday, 6 March 2018 at 2.00pm  
 Tuesday, 24 April 2018 at 2.00pm