



## **NORTHUMBRIA POLICE AND CRIME PANEL**

**19 October 2021**

### **PRESENT:**

<b>Gateshead Council</b>	Councillor A Douglas (Chair)
<b>Newcastle City Council</b>	Councillors C Penny-Evans and D Wood
<b>South Tyneside Council</b>	Councillor J Welsh
<b>Sunderland City Council</b>	Councillor P Stewart
<b>Independent Co-opted Members</b>	Mr J Klajn and Mr A Shepherd

### **ALSO IN ATTENDANCE:**

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

K McGuinness	- Police and Crime Commissioner for Northumbria (PCC)
R Durham	- Chief of Staff
A Pearson	- Director of Planning and Delivery
S Hume	- Director of the Northumbria Violence Reduction Unit

#### **Gateshead Council**

G Morton	- Representing the Clerk to the Panel
B Wilson	- Democratic Services

**APOLOGIES:** Councillors P Maughan (Gateshead Council), C Burdis and C Johnson (North Tyneside Council), C Dunbar and C Horncastle (Northumberland County Council), E Gibson (South Tyneside Council) and D MacKnight (Sunderland City Council)

### **15. MINUTES**

RESOLVED - That the minutes of the last meeting held on 27 July 2021 be approved as a correct record.

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

Councillor Welsh reported that the Excellence in Blue Light conference that she had attended had been very interesting.

RESOLVED – That the information be noted.

**17. COMPLAINTS AGAINST THE POLICE AND CRIME COMMISSIONER – JULY - SEPTEMBER 2021**

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 for July - September 2021 was submitted.

RESOLVED - That the information be noted.

**18. DELIVERY OF THE POLICE AND CRIME PLAN – PREVENTING CRIME**

The PCC referred to the horrendous murder of Sir David Amess and the national ramifications. The police plans and support to MPs had been updated.

The PCC reported that she had been successful with two safer streets fund bids to improve transport and park safety. The PCC referred to the challenges faced by youth services because of reduced funding. She had asked the Government to back the increase of support to the youth services to divert young people away from anti-social behaviour and becoming involved with drugs.

The PCC submitted a thematic report on preventing crime setting out the aims to support this core theme and updates on the work being undertaken in regard to the two priorities preventing violent crime and neighbourhood policing in the new Police and Crime Plan. Northumbria Police and Crime Plan core performance data was also provided.

Steven Hume, the PCC's Director of the Northumbria Violence Reduction Unit gave a presentation which included: years 2 and 3 of the unit, response strategy, a public health approach, preventing crime and examples of pathway to employment work with some offenders involved with the unit.

The Panel raised the following issues:-

The unit's pathway to employment work was praised as it gave those involved stable life chances. The PCC added that gaining employment was the biggest thing to stop reoffending.

Short term prison sentences could reassure victims of low level crime who may think that other sentences may not be strong enough. It was replied that it was a difficult question between imprisonment or showing evidence that other referrals had a positive impact on the offender and addressed their behaviour. The PCC added that victims' rights were supported and restorative justice was not suitable for everyone. Strict criteria applied and the decision to refer only lower level offenders to the unit was made at sentencing. The unit was reducing reoffending and, therefore, keeping people safer.

It was asked if there were sufficient resources to support the work of the unit. The unit looked to make the most of the resources it received and add value. The provision of more resources would prevent more crime but a Government commitment to provide long term funding instead of the current year on year basis was needed.

The public health approach to addressing and preventing reoffending which also identified and gave support to any issues the offenders may have was to be applauded. The PCC reported that a holistic approach was taken to also engage with other family members, etc.

The PCC referred to the current force position in regard to anti-social behaviour during the Covid-19 pandemic and the work being undertaken. It was considered that there was difficulty in understanding what was anti-social behaviour and a crime. There was no clear definition of anti-social behaviour and it was a different thing to different people. The PCC was to work closely with the constituent Councils and other agencies to better tackle anti-social behaviour issues. The aim was to share resources and best practice to understand victims and address their problems.

It was suggested that more information in regard to the PCC's performance targets and historical context could make the data more meaningful. The PCC replied that this could be looked at.

The increase in speeding cars on estates was raised and it was suggested that this should be publicised more to change people's behaviour. The PCC replied that more joint work between Councils and the police was needed to identify the areas where this regularly occurred and to look at enforcement and traffic calming measures.

RESOLVED - That the information be noted.

#### **19. DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

Tuesday, 7 December 2021 at 2.00pm.

#### **20. EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC**

RESOLVED - That the press and public be excluded from the meeting during consideration of the remaining item in accordance with Paragraph 3 of Schedule 12A to the Local Government Act 1972.

#### **21. FINAL ACCOUNTS POSITION (Paragraph 3)**

The PCC gave a verbal update on the final accounts position.

RESOLVED - That the information be noted.