



**Durham Police & Crime Commissioner/ Chief
Constable**

Joint Audit Committee

**Tuesday 24th May 2016
11.00 a.m.**



Darbley Room Police HQ

Attendees

Mrs Elsie Davies - Chair

Members

Cllr E Bell, Mrs J Flynn, Mrs M Raine, Mr R Humphries, Cllr D Regan

Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner

Mr R Hogg, Mr A Reiss, Mrs J Connor, Ms R Watterson, Mr R Bridgett

Durham Constabulary

Mr G Ridley, Mr S Winship, Mr S Exley

Auditors

Mrs C Eddowes, Mr C Neal

Internal Auditors

Mr P Bradley, Miss T Henderson

Apologies: Mr S Carter

1. Minutes of meeting held on 15th March 2016

The minutes of the meeting held on 15th March 2016 were agreed as a correct record.

2. Ron Hogg Collaboration and Q and A

Mr Hogg spoke about collaboration, austerity and moving forward.

PCC was asked whether the change of the PCC title to include Victims' would give the office anymore funding – the answer was no.

PCC was asked about collaboration – He explained how the combining and streamlining of services to make savings across some areas of business is vital in moving forward.

PCC was asked about devolution – Mr Hogg does not see this as a threat and said the wider concern was on strategic capability to streamline national, regional and local service delivery.

3. HR Strategy Update

Mr Ridley explained to the Committee the recruitment and selection process. Recently senior officer recruitment has taken place – internal and external candidates have been successful.

There has been a bigger turnover of police officers due to voluntary severance and the Constabulary will continue with a programme of workforce modernisation.

Mr Ridley highlighted the need to look after staff by promoting Well Being in the workplace affording opportunities to staff to enable them to achieve an appropriate work life balance.

There has been a slight increase in the number of Black and Minority Ethnicity, (BME) and female officers.

There is currently a review of Independent Advisory Groups (IAGs) to see if they are functioning properly.

Mr Ridley assured the Committee that the PCC and the Constabulary continue to work well with trade unions and engage with staff associations.

4. Update Post PCC Election

PCC updated the Committee on being re-elected and his plans for the future.

Mr Hogg touched on the success of Operation Checkpoint which is an adult diversion scheme with the aim of reducing reoffending. He also reported on the new victim care and advice service.

Mr Hogg will be working closely with partners in the public and voluntary sectors to ensure that the needs of victims are for most as they progress through the criminal justice system.

Mr Hogg spoke about the shift in the style of crime and will shape the force accordingly.

The Committee were happy with Mr Hogg's update.

5. Performance Report

Miss Waterson informed the Joint Audit Committee of the accountability process involved in the production and utilisation of the PCC Performance Report.

Miss Waterson explained how Durham Constabulary works with Dr Joe Sullivan who is a respected forensic psychologist to spot signs to help safeguard children from sexual abuse.

This report is a key vehicle to hold the Chief Constable to account.

The Committee praised Miss Waterson on the quality and detail of her report.

6. Internal Audit Progress Report

Mr Bradley presented to the Committee the Internal Audit progress report. Mr Bradley provided independent assurance that adequate progress was made in the implementation of agreed recommendation at the appropriate service operational level and confirmed that all audits have been agreed and finalised with nothing overdue.

This report was accepted by the Committee.

7. Professional Standards Presentation

Mr Winship delivered a presentation to the Committee on Complaints received in Professional Standards.

Mr Winship gave a general view of cases and allegations from July 2014 to March 2016. He explained that the police complaints system is already undergoing reform and that the PCC will have more governance around the complaints arena in the future.

The Committee commended the presentation.

8. Demand Reduction Command

Mr Exley presented a snap shot to the Committee of the Demand Reduction Command and showed the changes over the last eight years. Immediate response, one phone call, one response, one visit equals outstanding customer service.

Mr Exley reported that other forces have commended Durham on their style as incident lists are now more manageable.

H.M. Senior Coroner Andrew Tweddle attended Durham Constabulary to gain an understanding of the call handler/dispatcher process, he found this beneficial.

Mr Exley explained that internally they measure calls daily categorising the style of call and he reports that Durham Constabulary has reduced call volumes with very few complaints and are now able to influence national products

The Committee were reassured and agreed we have to move with the times.

Any other business

Mrs Eddowes updated the Committee on External Audit with a progress report. The audit of the statements is planned to start in detail in July. Detail of the planned work to support the VFM conclusion was clarified.

The Committee were pleased with the update.

Action - Set up quarterly meetings with VCAS to feed into Joint Audit Committee.

Action – Sgt Dave Sampson to present on cybercrime.

Part B

Training

Committee were delivered training on: Demand Reduction

Emerging Issues

- PEEL Inspection in two weeks
- Training with Bahrain to continue as the recent trial was very successful

Examination of Files

Professional Standards presented the files and Steve Winship was available to answer any queries.

- Complaint files: 17
- Conduct files: 5

The Committee were satisfied that the appropriate procedures had been followed.

Date of next meeting: Tuesday

19th July 2016 Time: 11.00 Place: Watson Room, Police HQ

Alan Reiss
Chief of Staff

G Ridley
Chief Finance Officer