



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



**Joint Independent Audit Committee**

**Tuesday 30<sup>th</sup> May 2017**

**10.40 a.m. – 13.00 p.m.**

**Mycroft Room, Police HQ, DH1 5TT**

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**Minutes**

**1. Attendance/Apologies**

**Chair**

Mrs Elsie Davies

**Members**

Cllr E Bell, Mrs J Flynn, Mr R Humphries, Mr D Shingleton

**Office of the Police, Crime and Victims' Commissioner**

Mr A Reiss, Dr V Fee and Mrs J Connor

**Durham Constabulary**

Inspector R Stockdale, Mr D Dove

**Cadets**

Mr N Gaskill (Young PCVC), Miss L Wright

**Internal Audit**

Mr S Carter, Mr P Bradley

**External Audit**

Mrs C Eddowes

**Apologies**

Mr M Kirkham, Mr Ridley, Mr Winship

Mrs Davies welcomed everyone to the meeting and introduced Mr Shingleton to the meeting as a new member of the Joint Audit Committee.

**2. Declarations of Interest**

*To remind members of the Committee of the need to record any personal interest in items on the agenda. If a member has a personal interest that is a prejudicial interest, he/she must withdraw from the room during consideration of that item of business.* Mrs Davies asked the Committee if they had any Declarations of Interest – Mrs Flynn declared she was part of the Durham Community Action (item 11 on the agenda) and this was noted.

**3. Minutes of the meeting held on 18<sup>th</sup> April 2017**

Minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup> April 2017 were recorded as a true record.

**4. Scrutiny Stop and Search Arrangements.**

Mr Reiss, chief of staff for the PCVC requested the Committee to look at current arrangements in place within Durham Constabulary on their processes on Stop and Search. Members of the Committee were given an overview of what Stop and Search is and why it is carried out. Inspector Stockdale gave a whistle stop tour on what happens when Stop and Search powers are used within Durham Constabulary using Red Sigma. (Red Sigma enables police to build up a database of people, places and objects to help streamline the fight against crime).

The Committee were invited to randomly select a number of cases to review from January 2017 to date. On the basis of evidence from body worn cameras the Committee participated in the process filling in the GO WISELY form and feedback concerns and issues to Inspector Stockdale.

From the cases the Committee reviewed there are indications that most officers understand the grounds for searches, including the rights of the individual, the proper completion of reports and the correct understanding of the mnemonic GO WISELY. However the Committee felt that there was some uncertainty that when more than one individual was stopped, at the same time, that the process was followed. There was some concern expressed that officers didn't receive refresher training on a regular basis.

Members commented that they found that effective scrutiny of stop and search incidents from bodycam footage was extremely difficult and stressed that extensive training was essential for those eventually selected to carry out such scrutiny. It was suggested that a system of bullet points could be adopted to clarify the phraseology used. Mr Reiss felt that improved data recording would allow for clearer scrutiny.

Members also asked for a breakdown of Stop and Search data to ensure what monitoring arrangements were in place for scrutiny of emerging patterns e.g. individuals, areas, ethnicity etc.

## **5. Performance Management of Victims**

Dr Fee updated the Committee on the Annual performance provided by the Victim Care and Advice Service (VCAS).

Dr Fee explained that supporting victims of crime to cope and recover is a key priority for the Police, Crime and Victims' Commissioner. She hi-lighted the referral process and where referrals had come in from.

Dr Fee explained that a full victim needs assessment was undertaken in 319 cases, and support provided and concluded during an initial contact with a further 166 victims where no assessment was required. Dr Fee reported that national evidence showed 80% of victims don't need or want support.

The Committee considered and approved the Victim Care and Support performance report.

## **6. Quarterly Performance Management Report**

Dr Fee updated the Committee on the quarter 4 performance report for 2016/17. Dr Fee hi-lighted a significant increase in crime from 2015/16 figures. Cllr Bell enquired as to whether this is due to the reduction of police officers on the streets.

Mrs Davies was reassured with the comparison to other forces with Durham ranking third in the country for victim satisfaction.

The performance report was approved for publication by the Committee.

#### **7. Annual Governance Statement**

Mr Carter asked the Committee to review and provide final comment on the proposed Annual Governance Statement (AGS) 2016/17 for the Chief Constable and the draft AGS for the PCVC before the reports are taken to Executive board meeting.

Mrs Davies suggested that Stop and Search should be reflected in Internal Audit reports going forwards.

Mr Humphries asked for a link to the CIPFA guidance document (this was circulated to the Committee 30<sup>th</sup> May 2017).

The Committee considered and recommended that the report go forward to the Executive board meeting.

#### **8. Annual Fraud Corruption Report**

Mr Carter advised and provided assurances to the Committee of the results of work being undertaken with the Office of the PCVC in seeking to identify, control and prevent fraud and corruption.

Members considered the progress made in relation to counter fraud and corruption arrangements and were assured by the content.

#### **9. Annual Review of the System of Internal Audit**

The Committee were invited to consider and comment on the Annual Review of the system of Internal Audit.

The Committee considered the findings and conclusions of the 2016/17 review of the effectiveness of the system of Internal Audit and were reassured with the information contained within this report.

#### **10. Annual Internal Audit Report**

The Annual Internal Audit Report was presented to the Committee. Mr Carter summarised the work which was carried out by Internal Audit during 2016/17 and provided assurance on the effectiveness of the Office of the PCVC and the Constabulary's control environment, risk management and corporate governance arrangements in place during the year.

The Committee considered the Annual Internal Audit report and were assured that the overall opinion provided on the adequacy and effectiveness of the Office of the PCVC and the Constabulary's control environment for 2016/17 was recommended.

**11. Decision Log PCVC**

The decision log was presented to the Committee. Mrs Flynn expressed that she had an interest in item 17/2017 and Mrs Eddowes expressed she had an interest in item 7/2017. The Committee noted the content of the report.

**Any other business**

No other business declared. Meeting closed at 13.00

Date of next meeting: Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> July 2017

Time: 11.00

Place: Watson Room, Police HQ

**Alan Reiss**  
Chief of Staff

**G Ridley**  
Chief Finance Officer