



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



Joint Independent Audit Committee

Tuesday 5th September 2017

11.00 a.m. – 12.30 p.m.

Watson Room, Police HQ, DH1 5TT

Minutes

1. Attendance/Apologies

Chair

Mrs Elsie Davies

Members

Cllr E Bell, Mr D Shingleton

Office of the Police, Crime and Victims' Commissioner

Mr C Oakley, Dr V Fee, Mrs J Connor

Durham Constabulary

Mr G Ridley, Mr K Weir

Internal Audit

Mr S Carter,

External Audit

Mr M Kirkham, Mr C Kneale

Apologies

Mrs J Flynn, Mr R Humphries, Mr A Reiss, Mrs C Eddowes

Mrs Davies welcomed everyone to the meeting.

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 – The Committee members declared they had an interest in item 7, Governance Policy Reports for Joint Audit Committee comprising of Conflict of Interest Policy, Scheme of Allowance Policy, and Gifts and Hospitality Policy.

3. Minutes of the meeting held on 11th July 2017

Minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday 11th July 2017 were recorded as a true record. Detective Superintendent Weir attended the meeting to update the Committee on actions from the last meeting around Custody.

Detective Superintendent Weir gave a breakdown of overtime costs from 2014 to date. He reassured the Committee that detainees in Custody are suitably assessed and appropriate pathways are in place to ensure they are safe on their release. He also updated the Committee on how many staff are assaulted in Custody suites.

The Committee were satisfied that all outstanding actions on Custody had been addressed.

4. Draft Audit Completion Report

A verbal update of the draft audit completion report was presented to the Committee by Mr Kirkham.

Mr Kirkham explained the purpose of the report which sets out the findings of the external audit on the Office of the Police, Crime and Victims' Commissioner and the Chief Constable of Durham for the year ended 31st March 2017.

The Committee were assured that in all significant respects, both the PCVC and the Chief Constable has put in place proper arrangements to secure economy, efficiency and effectiveness in the use of resources for the year ended 31st March 2017.

5. HMIC Efficiency Inspection update

Mr Ridley presented to the Committee feedback from Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary (HMIC) regarding the PEEL efficiency review carried out in June.

HMIC recommended two areas which could be improved, **stop and search** and **talent management**.

Mr Ridley explained that the force need to improve external scrutiny of **stop and search** and a recommendation is to establish a stop and search scrutiny board which is truly independent and whose members have been trained in areas such as grounds and unconscious bias and are able to provide feedback on areas such as officer safety training. The group should include representation from groups not only young people and BME communities but also those that have less confidence in the police. It should have an independent Chair. Mr Ridley explained that this could be expanded to cover all use of force powers.

Mrs Davies has requested a review of this in six months and also would like a comparison with other forces to identify trends.

Mr Ridley addressed the other area which HMIC have requested could be improved which is **talent management**. There is currently no formal talent management scheme. Mr Ridley has produced a policy which he is taking to the Force Leadership Group for consultation. HMIC have recognised that there is currently a lot of good practice but want to ensure opportunities are open to all.

The Committee commended the force on the positive report that identified many very good areas of work.

6. Treasury Management Report

Mr Ridley presented the treasury management report to the Committee. He highlighted short term borrowings and showed details of short term investments.

Mr Shingleton queried the role of Capita and Durham County Council and was satisfied with Mr Ridley's assurance and explanation that security was his prime concern.

The Committee agreed the principles of the report in achieving best value in treasury management and were satisfied with the performance management techniques within the context of risk management.

7. Governance Policy Reports

A review of governance arrangements within the Committee, carried out by Internal Audit, has identified the need for a number of policies.

Mr Ridley presented three policies to the Committee in respect of conflicts of interest, allowances and expenses, and gifts and hospitality for consideration.

The Committee were satisfied with the content and have requested that the expenses policy is reviewed annually.

8. Quarterly Performance Management Report

Dr Fee updated the Committee on the quarter 1 performance report for 2017/18 highlighting the following areas:-

- Anti-social behaviour
- Victim based crime
- Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence
- Cybercrime
- Safeguard Vulnerable People
- Hate Crime
- Road Safety
- Support for Victims
- Public Confidence
- Victim Satisfaction

Councillor Bell asked for a clearer breakdown of figures showing the number of victims, the crime type and outcomes.

Dr Fee agreed the current report could be improved and advised a new format of this report will be available going forward with a new focus.

The Committee agreed the report and its content.

9. Victim Care and Advice Service (VCAS) Performance Report

Dr Fee reported on the performance of VCAS for 2017/18.

Dr Fee explained that although there has been a significant increase in the number of crimes recorded by Durham Police this has not led to an increase in the number of referrals being made to VCAS. Also there has been a slight decrease in the number of referrals made to Action Fraud, this has led to VCAS working with Durham Police to develop a new approach to identifying fraud victims that need support, establishing a clear referral pathway to VCAS and then provide the appropriate support.

Dr Fee confirmed that VCAS now receive all recorded Hate crimes and work is ongoing to establish clear referral pathways with the Hate Crime Advocacy Service (HCAS) in County Durham and Darlington in order that victims of Hate crime get appropriate support through the Criminal Justice System.

Dr Fee informed the Committee that the number of referrals made directly by police officers has increased this quarter and that this correlates to the number of referrals made to VCAS by Special Branch officers following the terrorist attack at Manchester on 22nd May 2017. VCAS has worked closely with local partners to ensure timely and effective support is being provided.

Mrs Davies requested more detail on outcomes. Dr Fee agreed that a key area of focus is around what has this service achieved for the victims and that this piece of work is currently being developed with VCAS.

The report was accepted and commended by the Committee.

10. Decision Report

Mr Oakley updated the Committee on the Police, Crime and Victims' Commissioner's decision register and forward plan.

The report was agreed by the Committee.

Any other business

No other business discussed. Meeting closed at 12:30 p.m.

Date of next meeting: Tuesday 17th October 2017

Time: 11.00 Place: Watson Room, Police HQ

Alan Reiss

Chief of Staff

G Ridley

Chief Finance Officer