



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



**Joint Independent Audit Committee**

**Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup> April 2019**

**11:00 – 12:40**

**Police HQ, Watson Room**

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**Minutes**

**1. Attendance/Apologies**

**Chair**

Mrs E Davies

**Members**

Cllr E Bell, Mrs J Flynn, Mrs D Murphy, Mr D Shingleton, Cllr D Storr

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

Mrs J Connor, Mr S White, Mr C Oakley, Mrs S Sahani, Mrs J Trotter

**Durham Constabulary**

Mr G Ridley, Ms X Tait (Director of Evolve Legal Services for Durham, Cleveland and North Yorkshire)

**External Audit**

Mr J Collins

**Internal Audit**

Mr P Bradley

**Apologies**

Mr R Humphries

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.

**3. Minutes of the meeting held on 12<sup>th</sup> March 2019**

Minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> March 2019 were recorded as a true record. A copy of these minutes are available on the PCVC website.

**4. Local Criminal Justice Plan**

Mrs Trotter updated the Committee on the history and current state of play of the Cleveland and Durham Local Criminal Justice Partnership which aims to bring together agencies with

responsibility for delivering criminal justice, and services for victims and people who have offended.

Mrs Trotter shared the vision '*County Durham, Darlington, Hartlepool, Middlesbrough, Redcar and Cleveland, and Stockton-On-Tees are areas where people have confidence in a local criminal justice system which supports victims, rehabilitates offenders and reduces reoffending, and delivers value for money*' with the Committee and the innovative new plan which has three core objectives:

- Positive Outcomes for Victims and Witnesses
- Reduced Intergenerational and Repeat Offending
- High Public Confidence in the Criminal Justice System

Mrs Trotter explained that too often victims are let down by the system because they are passed from one agency to another and not properly supported. This has an impact both on their ability to cope and recover from crimes, and on the likelihood of justice being done. The plan should address this by creating seamless services for victims.

The Local Criminal Justice Partnership understand that people who commit offences often have many problems in their lives, in particular with accommodation, substance misuse, relationships, self-esteem, finances and employment. Instead of endlessly putting them through the cycle of the criminal justice system, partners are going to work together to build a whole system approach to address the underlying issues of offending, which will help to prevent crime and result in fewer victims.

Mrs Trotter explained that a commissioning process has been embedded to ensure services are victim-centred and based on evidence of need. Committee members asked for evidence as to what processes are in place to ensure the money commissioned is spent well. Mrs Trotter agreed to attend another meeting with accountability data.

The Committee thanked Mrs Trotter for the excellent presentation and appreciated her honesty in sharing the innovative work that has happened as well as the inefficiencies that could be ironed out with partner working.

## **5. Evolve Legal Services Review**

Ms Xanthe Tait, formerly the Chief Crown Prosecutor for North Yorkshire and a senior prosecutor at the Crown Prosecution Service, took up a new role as Director of Evolve Collaborative Legal Services for the Evolve Programme in January 2017.

The Evolve Programme is a collaboration between Cleveland, Durham and North Yorkshire Police services. It aims to save money and provide a better service to the public by identifying areas where the three Forces can work together.

Ms Tait explained how the Evolve legal service collaboration had absorbed and replaced legal service functions within the three police forces. She evidenced how the team structures had been rationalised thus ensuring that capacity is available to meet the legal services needs of the Chief Constables as well as Police and Crime Commissioners and their offices, and reduce costs to the public purse by making specialist skills available across several forces. (More details of this can be found on the PCVC website Decision Record 025/2018 refers).

Committee members asked if the Evolve legal services team linked in with the Police Federation Ms Tait explained that they don't as they are an advisory service whose clients are the three Chief Constables and three Police and Crime Commissioners.

The Committee thanked Mrs Tait for the update and have requested a report for a later meeting.

## **6. Annual Governance Statement Action Plan**

Mr Bradley explained the purpose of the Annual Governance Statement Action Plan report and advised the Joint Audit Committee on the progress being made in relation to the actions arising from the Annual Governance Statements for the Chief Constable and Police, Crime and Victims' Commissioner

The Committee considered the assurance provided as a result of progress being made in relation to the actions arising from both statements and agreed they were of significance to warrant inclusion in the Annual Governance Statement 2018/19.

Committee members agreed the report.

## **7. Draft Annual Governance Statement 2018/19 PCVC & CC**

Mr Bradley 2018/19 presented the draft Annual Governance Statement for 2018/19 for the Chief Constable and the Police, Crime and Victims' Commissioner which he asked the Committee to review and comment on.

The Committee asked for some minor amendments to both statements before this is presented to the Executive Board on 15<sup>th</sup> May for final comment and agreement.

## **8. Internal Audit Progress Report**

Mr Bradley presented the Committee with details of the Internal Audit Progress Report

Mr Bradley shared a summary of the agreed plan for 2018/19 showing the status of each audit and amendments to planned work agreed with the Assistant Chief Officer.

The Committee thanked Mr Bradley for the Internal Audit Plan Progress Report.

## **9. Any Other Business**

Committee members all returned their code of conduct forms for the year 2018/19 with all members expressing they had been offered no gifts and hospitality within the financial year.

All members completed the related party forms which were handed to the PCVC Office Manager to forward to Julie Diamond, Head of Finance.

Mrs Davies reminded members that a training day is scheduled at Police Headquarters on Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> May 2019 @ 11.00am and the next Joint Audit Meeting is on Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> June at 11am.