



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

Joint Audit Committee

**Tuesday 20th October 2015
11.00 a.m.**



Peterlee Warehouse

Attendees

Mrs Elsie Davies - Chair

Members

Cllr E Bell, Mrs J Flynn

Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner

Mrs J Connor, Mr C Oakley, Mr A Reiss

Durham Constabulary

Mr G Ridley

Auditors

Internal Auditors

Mr S Carter

Apologies: Mr R. Humphries, Mr M Barnes

Tour of the magnificent Peterlee Warehouse was carried out by Mr Ridley. The Joint Audit Committee were very impressed.

1. Minutes of the meeting held on 20th October 2015

The minutes of the meeting held on 22nd September were agreed as a correct record.

Cllr. Bell questioned in a previous meeting how schools were selected and was informed that currently PCSOs approach the schools, however some decline. He asked for detail on which schools had declined. This action was brought back to the attention of the Committee as it had not been resolved. Mr Ridley to supply further details.

Cllr. Bell noted that the information would be useful for parish and town councils. He also raised further concerns over cyber-crime.

Mr Ridley to show the video delivered to schools to the Committee.

2. External Audit Progress Report

Mrs Davies and the Committee decided not to discuss this report as they had not seen it.

3. Victims Commissioning and Restorative Justice Funding

Mr Oakley presented a comprehensive report to the Committee.

He highlighted the extension of grant to Victim support to provide additional support to victims who suffer from poor mental health. Also a he spoke of a pilot at Darlington Police Station to co-locate a multi-agency team working from a single information source and sharing decision making process that will assess victim needs on their individual circumstances. Victims are offered this service however it is up to them to decide whether or not to accept. Mr Oakley to bring separate report showing the uptake.

Mr Oakley advised the group of the appointment of a Restorative Justice (RJ) Coordinator, Derek Robson. The current position is that the PCC has agreed to provide funding in order to appoint two RJ Coordinators across the force area.

The RJ group has pulled together partners from across Co. Durham and Darlington to map existing work and identify gaps.

Cllr Bell enquired about success rates and Mr Oakley informed the Committee that RJ or Restorative Approach (RA) means different things to different officers and clarity is sought.

4. Corporate Governance Action Plan Update

Mr Carter informed the Committee on the progress being made in relation to the actions arising from the Annual Governance Statements for the Chief Constable and the PCC.

The five significant governance issues highlighted in both statements relate to:-

- Further funding reductions
- Continued collaboration with other forces and organisations
- The Strategic Policing Requirement (SPR)

- Commissioning of Services
- The PCC Chief Financial Officer Role

Mr Ridley and Mr Carter stated this is the position now and agreed this should be looked at again in 6 months.

Cllr Bell requested that the Committee should have sight of commissioning of services detail to ensure the service is being delivered efficiently and effectively – Mr Ridley agreed.

5. Committee on Standards in Public Life Report: Tone from the Top

Mr Ridley delivered an executive summary about leadership ethics and accountability in Policing.

Cllr Bell mentioned the Code of Ethics and has not had sight of the content – Mr Ridley to discuss at next meeting.

The Committee wanted assurance that money is given to valid organisations.

One recommendation suggests that Joint Audit Committees should publish an Annual Report in a form that is easily accessible to the public – Mr Ridley/Mr Reiss should be able to assist with this. Mrs Davies more than happy to progress this.

6. ODPCC Complaints Procedure

The Committee had previously requested detail on complaints and Mr Ridley delivered an in depth report highlighting complaints against the force and complaints where the complainant has exhausted the Professional Standards process and remained unsatisfied.

Cllr Bell agreed the complaints procedure for the ODPCC and the Chief Constable looked a robust system.

A quarterly report on facts and figures was suggested and agreed as good practice.

Issues that requested further consideration were the potential for the PCC to take responsibility for all complaints against the police and to create a triage system so that complaints can be dealt with quickly and the complainant satisfied prior to the ten day recording deadline.

7. Emerging Issues

Mr Ridley informed the team:

- Outstanding HMIC Inspection
- HMIC Stop and Search measures
- IT issues
- Resourcing
- Grant Thornton – Examining the Evidence (paper given to Committee)
- Consultation with Fire and Rescue
- Funding formula – results of the Comprehensive Spending Review (CSR) which gave a clearer picture

8. Any other business

Mr Ridley to bring Consultation documents re: changing funding for police forces from 2016/17.

Agreed that Police and Crime Panel minutes can be circulated to the Committee – copies sent out electronically for information.

Further discussion PCC taking on Fire Services – Committee would like Mr Hogg and or Mr Barton to attend future meetings.

The training was postponed for another date.