

## **OPERATIONAL POLICING PANEL**

A meeting of the Operational Policing Panel was held on Thursday 20 May 2010 commencing at 10.30 am in the Media Briefing Centre at Police Headquarters.

**PRESENT** Councillor Barry Coppinger (Chair), Miss Pam Andrews-Mawer, Mr Aslam Hanif, Mrs Hazel Pearson OBE, Mr Geoff Fell and Mr Chris Coombs.

**ADDITIONAL ATTENDEES** Mr Ted Cox JP and Councillor Ron Lowes.

**OFFICIALS** Mr John Bage (CE)  
Mr Dave Pickard and Miss Kate Rowntree (CC).

### **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence were received from, Councillor Dave McLuckie (ex officio), Mr Peter Race MBE (ex officio) Councillor Mary Lanigan and Mr Sean White.

### **DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS**

There were no declarations of interests.

### **MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD 18 MARCH 2010**

The minutes of the previous meeting were held as a true record.

### **OUTSTANDING RECOMMENDATIONS**

**ORDERED** that:-

1. the outstanding recommendations be noted.

### **FORCE PERFORMANCE REPORT (APRIL 2009 – MARCH 2010)**

The Assistant Chief Constable presented the report to Members on Force performance to March 2010.

Progress against the Policing Plan Priority was monitored using the Priority Indicator Set. The Priority Indicator Set provided a reduced suite of performance measures (i.e. 'a performance dashboard'), which aimed to reflect outcome performance in relation to the local policing priority and the Chief Constables vision of Putting People First.

For 2009-10, there are 18 performance measures within the Priority Indicator Set. Of these 14 are green, 0 are amber and 4 are red.

However, Members were informed that recorded crime continued to fall significantly. The annual target for 2009-10 was a reduction of 5%. The actual year end figures showed an

overall decrease of 14.2% (7, 841 less crimes) when compared to last year. Significant reductions had been achieved in all headline target crime categories (Overall Violent Crime, Serious Acquisitive Crime, Criminal Damage and Other Theft).

The Chair sought clarification about the measure for 'public confidence'.

The Assistant Chief Constable informed Members that there had been a slight reduction in the public confidence measure, but Cleveland remained in the top ten performing Forces across the country for public confidence.

Members expressed their appreciation over the recent result of a local murder enquiry. The perpetrator had been identified and apprehended very quickly and had just been handed a very lengthy custodial sentence. This had gone a substantial way to increase public confidence for local communities.

Members queried the slight rise in Most Serious Violent (MSV) crime, and sought clarification to the reasons for this, and whether the Police dealt with this in isolation.

The Assistant Chief Constable informed Members that the overall rise in MSV was down to just one District. The District Commander is preparing a robust response plan to tackle these issues.

Members were informed that an increase in MSV offences is a concern but the numbers are relatively small and a plan to achieve a reduction will be in place for 2010/11.

Members queried whether or not powers to close premises had been used in an effort to reduce MSV crime, and whether the Force work with local Councils to combat such activities.

The Assistant Chief Constable informed Members that the power to close premises is a good one for the Police. The Force had closed two premises using these powers, but need to take into consideration any public order problems that may arise due to this. Members were informed that the Force works closely with local authority's especially local crime reduction partnerships to reduce crime.

**ORDERED that:**

1. the report be noted.

**CLEVELAND POLICE CADETS PROGRAMME UPDATE**

The Assistant Chief Constable informed Members that the Cleveland Police Cadet Programme had now reached the milestone of 1 year since its launch. He expressed gratitude to the Police Authority, the Force and the four Local Authorities for the generous funding. The Force had developed a robust community safety-themed programme of personal

development for young people across Cleveland.

Members were informed that the Cleveland Police Cadets scheme continued to develop as it approached its first anniversary, and there continued to be strong interest from young people who wish to join the scheme.

Members queried why, if the Force currently had a waiting list of 150 young people, have Hartlepool District, a shortage of approximately 10 people.

The Assistant Chief Constable informed members that there was a recruitment programme planned to overcome this shortage. The Force have a waiting list of young people wishing to join the Programme and plan to engage with more of these in the short to medium term by introducing a new recruitment strategy that enabled a number of young people each month, in each District, to experience a taster day and then be fast-tracked into the programme.

Members sort clarification on how the best method of introducing young people from the BME communities into the programme and onto the waiting list.

Members were informed that recruitment was carried out across all communities that make up the Force area, and consideration is taken into account to ensure BME networks are included.

**ORDERED that:**

1. the report be noted.

**DOMESTIC ABUSE REPORT**

The Assistant Chief Constable updated Members on the current work being undertaken across the Force to tackle domestic abuse. Members were also informed of the ACPO definition of domestic abuse.

Members were informed that Vulnerability Units were launched on 13<sup>th</sup> July 2009, the North unit sited at Billingham is responsible for Hartlepool and Stockton, the South unit sited at Kirkleatham is responsible for Middlesbrough and Redcar and Cleveland.

The Vulnerability Units investigate all serious and complex cases of domestic abuse, this will include:

- Serious assaults
- Domestic abuse linked sexual offences including rape
- Honour Based Violence or Forced Marriage crimes

- Any domestic violence related offence, however minor, when the incident is classified as “high risk” due to previous incidents involving either the perpetrator or the victim.

The Vulnerability Units and partner agencies are working together to identify early, those victims who need support to ensure a successful outcome at court, this will be monitored at the Domestic Abuse Gold Group.

Members queried whether it was possible to include in future reports, statistical information on Honour Based Violence.

The Assistant Chief Constable informed Members that this was to be carried out.

**ACC Crime Ops**

**ORDERED that:**

1. the report be noted.

**APPOINTMENT OF TEMPORARY CHAIR**

Due to the urgent need for the Chair of Panel and a number of other Members to leave the meeting, to attend a meeting with HMIC and the Audit Commission, the following was agreed.

**ORDERED that:**

1. Mr Chris Coombs take over the Chair for the remaining business of the meeting.
2. Cllr Ron Lowes be given delegated powers to vote if required as a replacement for Miss Andrews - Mawer

The meeting remained quorate.

**MR CHRIS COOMBS IN THE CHAIR.**

**PREVENT STRATEGY UPDATE**

The Assistant Chief Constable informed Members that the purpose of the report is to update the Police Authority on the Prevent work currently taking place within Cleveland Police.

Members were informed that Prevent is one of the four components that make up the Government's national counter-terrorism strategy (CONTEST). These are:

- Pursue - to stop attacks
- Prepare - where we cannot stop an attack, to mitigate its impact
- Protect - to strengthen our overall protection against terrorist attacks
- Prevent - to stop people becoming or supporting

terrorists and violent extremists.

Prevent is about developing a community-led approach to tackle violent extremism, led by the Department for Communities and Local Government in partnership with local authorities and a range of statutory and voluntary organisations within the community.

The Assistant Chief Constable informed Members that Terrorism is a key concern for our local communities especially the Muslim community. Negative media coverage of Prevent has impacted on delivery, so it was vital that the trust of the local community is sought and maintained. A clear focus should be continued.

Members noted the recent Ricin discovery in Durham and requested information on whether or not there were possible terrorist links in the Cleveland area.

The Assistant Chief Constable updated Members on the current position in the Force area, and informed Members on some of the methodology used to operate the PREVENT strategy.

**ORDERED that:**

1. the report be noted.

**MYSTERY SHOPPING – SCRUTINY OF POLICING PLEDGE**

The Secretariat Support Manager informed Members that the purpose of the report is to update Members on the progress of the 'Mystery Shopper' checks which have been implemented as part of the Police Authority's scrutiny of the implementation of the Policing Pledge.

In December 2009 the Police Authority Executive agreed to implement specific measures to oversee the Force's progress with the implementation of the Policing Pledge, one of which was Mystery Shopping by police volunteers to check on aspects of the Pledge. To date, 13 checks have been carried out – 8 police office visits, 4 public meetings and 1 website check.

The Secretariat Support Manager informed Members that the initial Mystery Shopper checks had been largely positive, with many examples of excellent customer service being identified. Those issues which had been noted had been either dealt with directly, or passed to the Force for appropriate action. The full programme, using volunteers, is planned to commence in late May.

Members sought clarification on whether Members can attend beat surgeries.

The Assistant Chief Constable informed the meeting that

Members can attend beat surgeries and that he was aware that some Members already do so.  
The Chair enquired as to what the usual attendance is at beat surgeries.

The Assistant Chief Constable informed Members that anecdotally the levels were low, but would provide fuller details to Members.

**ACC Crime Ops**

**ORDERED that:**

1. the report be noted.

**REVIEW OF CLEVELAND POLICE AUTHORITY  
COMMUNITY CONSULTATION ARRANGEMENTS**

The Secretariat Support Manager updated Members that Cleveland Police Authority and Force are in the process of revising and reviewing Joint Community Engagement and Consultation Strategy. In order to inform this piece of work, an evaluation of the current approach to community engagement had been commissioned by Cleveland Police Authority to Safe in Tees Valley and Manchester University.

The overall aim of this work was to:

- Make an assessment on whether or not we had robust plans in place for engaging the public and are using them to influence policing priorities and service delivery.

Members were informed that on an annual basis Cleveland Police Authority and Force review and update the Consultation and Engagement Strategy. The current strategy 2009-2012 was due to be updated in May/June 2010.

The Secretariat Support Manager informed Members that there is a number of policy and legislative changes including, 'The Police Authority (Community Engagement and Membership) Regulations 2010', which came into force on 17<sup>th</sup> March 2010. This had the potential to change the approach and therefore it was felt it was timely and appropriate to commission an independent evaluation of our strategy to ensure our approach is fit for purpose and offers value for money.

Members were informed that the report gave preliminary findings from the review of community consultation arrangements. A further report will be brought to a future Operational Policing Panel outlining the new consultation strategy accompanied by a detailed action plan.

**Strategy  
Manager**

**ORDERED that:**

1. the report be noted.

## **YOUNG PERSONS LOCAL POLICING SUMMARY 2010-2011**

The Secretariat Support Manager informed Members that the report outlined Cleveland Police Authority's approach to participation and engagement with Young People in the Cleveland Police Area. The overall aim of the work was to:

- Communicate Cleveland Police Authority's Local Policing Plan Summary to young people aged 11-19, living in the area.
- Deliver some of the key messages within the plan to young people and obtain their views on policing priorities for 2011-2012.

The Serious and Organised Crime and Police Act 2005 introduced the requirement on Police Authorities to produce and distribute a local policing summary to all council tax paying households in the area. The summaries are seen as a good means of communicating with the public to get across some key messages about the force and its planned activities.

The Police Authority (Community Engagement and Membership) Regulations 2010 which came into force on 17<sup>th</sup> March 2010 stated that in making arrangements for obtaining the views of people in the police area, the Police Authority had particular regard for people who are under 21.

For the past three years, Cleveland Police Authority had worked with groups of young people from each of our policing districts to produce district versions of the summary specifically for 11-19 year olds.

This project will allow young people in the Cleveland Police area to make a positive contribution through better involvement in our decision making processes.

Members queried whether the police themselves are practically involved in these processes.

The Assistant Chief Constable informed Members that Police and PCSO's had been fully involved in the consultation process and activities with the Police Authority.

The Chair passed on the thanks of the Panel to Joanne Hodgkinson and Sarah Wilson for their work on these matters, and instructed that this be recorded in the minutes.

### **ORDERED that:**

1. the report be noted.

## **EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC**

**ORDERED** that pursuant to the Local Government Act 1972 the press and public be excluded from the meeting under Paragraph 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A to the Act.

## **MINUTES OF THE STRATEGIC PERFORMANCE GROUP**

Members inspected the minutes of the Strategic Performance Group meetings held on:

- 18 January 2010 and
- 15 March 2010

Members sought clarification as to whether substitutes were permitted to attend such meetings when the nominated Member was unable to attend.

The Assistant Chief Constable informed Members that that was permissible.

### **ORDERED that:**

1. the minutes be noted.

## **MINUTES OF THE CITIZEN FOCUS PROJECT BOARD**

The minutes of the Citizen Focus Project Board held on the 11 May 2010 were un available for inspection, however Members noted an informal working note of the meeting.