

COMMUNITY PROTECTION PANEL

A meeting of the Community Protection Panel was held on Wednesday 22 April 2009 in the Members Conference Room at Police Headquarters.

PRESENT: Cllr Hazel Pearson OBE (Chairman), Cllr Victor Tumilty (Vice Chair), Mr Ted Cox JP, Mr Mike McGrory JP, Cllr Ron Lowes.

OFFICIALS: Mr John Bage and Mrs Sarah Wilson (CE)
ACC Sean White, T/ACC Dave Pickard and Miss Kate Rowntree (CC).

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Cllr Dave McLuckie (ex officio), Mr Chris Coombs Cllr Paul Kirton, Miss Pam Andrews-Mawer and Mr Peter Race MBE (ex officio).

DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS

There were no declarations of interests.

MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

The minutes of the Community Protection Panel meeting held on 18 February 2009 were agreed as a true and accurate record.

OUTSTANDING RECOMMENDATIONS

ORDERED that:-

1. The outstanding recommendations be noted.

2009/10 LOCAL POLICING SUMMARY

Members were informed that the Serious Organised Crime and Police Act 2005 set out the requirement for police authorities to prepare local policing information, on matters relating to the policing of the area for the year and is referred to as the Local Policing Summary.

It is planned that the 2009/10 Local Policing Summaries will be distributed to households in the six weeks following delivery to a distribution company on 1st July 2009. Electronic copies will be added to the Cleveland Police and the Police Authority websites.

The production of the local policing summary highlights some of the policing activities and areas of interest for the public. It supports the implementation and development of our citizen focus activities and helps to drive forward the vision of the Force and Authority.

ORDERED that:

1. Members considered and approved the proposal and schedule included within the report, be noted.
2. Members approved the content, format and style of the 2009/10 local policing summaries, be noted.

JOINT FORCE AND AUTHORITY CONSULTATION STRATEGY

The Assistant Chief Constable (Territorial) informed Members that the original Joint Consultation Strategy was approved by this Panel in March 2008. This replaced previous separate Force and Authority policies.

Members were informed that the Joint Consultation Strategy has been updated to take account of the citizen focus agenda, the new joint neighbourhood survey and the recently established programme of education activity in schools regarding stop and search. The Joint Consultation Strategy remains aligned and complementary to the Communications Strategy.

ORDERED that:

1. Members agreed the revised Joint Consultation Strategy, be noted.

HATE CRIME UPDATE

The Temporary Assistant Chief Constable (Crime Operations) provided Members with an overview of the Force's current response to incidents of Hate Crime.

Members were informed that the Diversity Unit had been successful in their bid to become a pilot site for the new Equality Standards for Policing, and will work with NPIA on the implementation of the new standards which incorporate hate crime. This will put Cleveland Police in the best possible position for the HMIC Work Force Inspection in 2010 as outlined in the recent Green paper.

Hate Crime and Incidents are key concerns and a continuing focus needs to be maintained. The response to such a problem calls for improved confidence in communicating with the Police and improved initial police intervention together with longer-term solutions involving partner agencies.

ORDERED that:

- 1 the contents of the report be noted.

DOMESTIC ABUSE UPDATE

The Temporary Assistant Chief Constable (Crime Operations) updated Members on the current work being undertaken across the Force to tackle domestic abuse.

Members were informed that each District has a domestic abuse unit within the Neighbourhood Safety Team. The unit is responsible for a daily review of all incidents of domestic abuse.

The unit has the role of conducting a risk assessment in relation to each incident and putting in place further protective measures according to the level of risk.

Domestic abuse is a key area of work for the Force and forms part of mainstream policing activity. The incidence of reported domestic abuse had increased since the last report although it should be noted that increased reporting in this area can reflect increased confidence in the police.

The Force has recognised the importance of domestic abuse and initiated a review of current structures. This will be reported to Members when complete.

ORDERED that:

- 1 the contents of the report be noted.

STOP AND SEARCH

The Assistant Chief Constable (Territorial) presented Members with the latest statistics on stop and search by ethnicity and the reason for stop and search.

Members were informed that the Cleveland Police policy on stop and search was agreed in December 2007 setting out the responsibilities of officers and staff in relation to stop and search powers. This policy will be the subject of an annual review.

The policy sets out a framework for the effective management of stop and search to:

- Reduce the fear of crime
- Promote trust and confidence in the police by providing transparency and accountability, for police initiated stop and search encounters
- Increase trust and confidence within the community.

Members were informed that encounters between police officers and the public range from a general conversation to detention and arrest. The continuum of activity is:

- conversational encounter
- stop and account
- stop and search
- arrest

During the period October 2008 to March 2009 the Force carried out 6363 stop and searches, of which 96.1% were white and 2.4% were of a visible minority ethnic (VME) origin. Of those stopped and subsequently arrested, 95% were white and 3.4% were of VME origin.

ORDERED that:

- 1 the contents of the report be noted.

COMMUNICATIONS STRATEGY 2009

The Consultation and Performance Officer informed Members that the original Communications Strategy was approved by the Community Protection Panel in April 2007. Members were informed that it was designed to describe the required standards for police authority communications and to improve stakeholder and public awareness of the police authority.

The Communications Strategy has been revised to take account of the new national focus on public confidence measures for policing and remains aligned and complementary to the (Joint) Consultation Strategy.

ORDERED that:

- 1 the revised Communications Strategy at Appendix A to the report be agreed.

YOUNG PERSONS POLICING PLAN 2008/2009 CONSULTATION REPORT.

The Police Act 1996 clearly sets out the statutory duty placed upon police authorities to 'consult with those in that policing area, about the policing of that area.' This is one of the authority's core activities. Throughout the year Cleveland Police Authority consulted with a wide range of groups and individuals from communities across the Cleveland Police area.

Cleveland Police Authority had commissioned a young people's version of the policing plan summary since 2007, which had attained national recognition for its engagement with young people. The youth proofing service is provided by the "Just4Youth" organisation, a community organisation that engages with young people in our policing area.

The project has again been a great success, with a greatly increased response to the consultation exercise. Criminal damage is an increasing concern for young people in Cleveland, and teenagers hanging around the streets remains the key anti-social behaviour priority.

ORDERED that:

- 1 the results of the consultation exercise be noted.

- 2 the continued engagement of the "Just4Youth" organisation to 'youth proof' the policing plan summary for 2009/10 be agreed.

CLEVELAND POLICE CADET PROGRAMME UPDATE

The Temporary Assistant Chief Constable (Crime Operations) informed Members that the aim of the Cadets programme is to provide an inclusive youth scheme with a focus on diversion and re-engagement for young people across Cleveland.

The first phase of the scheme has been met, within agreed time frames, with the delivery of the programme beginning week commencing 9th March 2009.

There are currently 76 cadets on the programme in the age range 14-17 years old. One third of the cadets are from wards indicated nationally as the most deprived 10%.

ORDERED that:

- 1 the contents of the report be noted.