

Briefing for Police and Crime Commissioner

Topic: Accountability

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Purpose of briefing

To brief the PCC on the processes of holding the force to account, and scrutiny, which the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner administer. These processes are some of the main statutory processes within the purview of the PCC.

Background

Accountability

One of the central functions of the PCC is to hold the Chief Constable (CC) to account for delivery of the Police and Crime Plan and for the totality of policing. This is engaged with in line with the Policing Act 2011 and official guidance and best practice advice given by the APCC and APACE.

The Policing Act 2011:

- Requires PCCs to hold their CC to account for the operational delivery of policing and secure and maintain efficient and effective local policing services, while maintaining the operational independence of the force.
- Scrutinise, support and challenge the overall performance of the Force including against the priorities agreed within the Police and Crime Plan
- Hold the CC to account for the performance of the Force's officers and staff
- Maintain an efficient and effective police force for the area
- Hold the CC to account for the exercise of the functions of the office of CC and the functions of the persons under the direction and control of the CC.

Executive Board

The primary forum in which the PCC holds the CC to account is the Executive Board. The Board consists of the PCC and their Senior Leadership Team and the CC and their Executive Leadership Team. The Board convenes once per month and receives; a monthly Accountability Report, reports on matters discussed at Scrutiny groups which are "owned" by the PCC, a series of reports on relevant issues at the time that may require an executive level decision, and updates on delivery of the Police and Crime Plan via Force-owned Thematic Reports and the PCC- owned Strategic Work Plan.

Her Majesty's Inspectorate of the Constabulary and Fire and Rescue Service (HMICFRS)

HMICFRS carry out national, regional, and local inspection programmes of Durham Constabulary. They give recommendations and areas for improvement which the Force are expected to address and respond to within the time frame set out by HMICFRS. The PCC is required to respond to these inspections as well (Section 55 letter), within the statutory time period where appropriate.

NB there are other strands of accountability which are covered in other briefings, such as; grant recipient, partner, Police and Crime Panel and OPCC complaints handling accountability.

Current issues

Accountability is an iterative process, as such the framework continually adapts to demand and business change.

We are currently in the process of the PCC Home Office review (Please see the PCC Review briefing for more information).

Decisions needed

None at present.

Partnership involvement

Information we receive from our partners, both strategic and operational, is cross referenced with the information we receive from the Force. Where there are shared themes or consistent evidence relating to actions of the Force, this will be put through our Accountability framework accordingly.

Police involvement

The Force share data with the OPCC in line with corporate governance arrangements and memorandums of understanding. OPCC leads also attend force led meetings for information and to feedback to PCC. The OPCC and Force leads should have close professional working relationships in order to allow accountability processes to run smoothly and find solutions at the earliest possible stages.

People to meet

Key individuals:

OPCC: Sharon Caddell CEO, James Atkinson, Jeanne Trotter, Sweety Sahani

Durham Constabulary: CC-Jo Farrell, Executive Leadership Team, Head of Tasking and Coordination- Gillian Routledge.