



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

**Joint Audit Committee**

**Tuesday 19 May 2015  
11.00 a.m.**



**The Watson Room  
Police HQ**

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**Attendees**

**Mrs E M Davies** in the chair

**Members**

Cllr E Bell, Mr R J Humphries, Ms J Flynn, Ms M Raine

**Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner**

Mr A Reiss, Mr C Oakley and Mrs K Bambridge

**Durham Constabulary**

Mr G Ridley, Mrs T Ashforth and Mr S Winship (Inspection of Files)

**Auditors**

Mr M Barnes and Mr P Monaghan

**1. Minutes of the meeting held on 21 April 2015**

The minutes of the meeting held on 21 April 2015 were agreed as a correct record.

**2. HMIC Feedback**

The committee received a report on feedback received from the latest Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary's (HMIC) inspections.

Mrs Ashforth presented the findings and informed members that the formal national results will not be published until early autumn to give HMIC time to inspect all 43 Forces, seek feedback and moderate overall findings.

Mr Ridley added that there was some concern with regards to the Health Management Unit which is located directly under the Chief Constable's Office at Police Headquarters. Cllr Bell highlighted the importance of provision to be made Police Officers/Staff to discuss issues in a private place. Mr Ridley agreed to keep members updated on any changes in this area.

Mr Humphries added that the feedback was impressive and showed that improvements have been made throughout the force. He went on to question why some misconduct cases were finalised by Human Resource rather than Professional Services & Legal Services. Mr Ridley confirmed that this was being reviewed and that the force were looking to bring together guideline for police officers/staff.

With regards to the Joint Finance Officer role, it was agreed that this would be attend to the Joint Audit Committee forward plan to be reviewed in October.

### **3. Crime Data Integrity**

The committee received an update on the position regarding the Crime Data Integrity recommendations.

Mrs Ashforth reported that progress is being made against most if not all recommendations. HMIC will eventually re-inspect this area of business and will subsequently report on the forces effectiveness.

Mrs Flynn suggested that it would be useful for members to have a presentation on Red Sigma/Blue Delta IT systems. Report to future meeting.

### **4. Victims Commissioning & Restorative Justice Funding**

The committee received an update regarding the application of victims commissioning and restorative justice funds in 2014/15, the decisions taken in respect of 2015/16 funding and the process for the procurement of victims services in 2016/17.

Mr Oakley highlighted the following:

- From April 2014 Ministry of Justice (MoJ) passed responsibility for the provision of victims' services (along with some funding) to the Police and Crime Commissioner.
- A group of PCC Offices that were in the Early Adopter's tranche received a full year's funding in 2014/15 to pilot a number of approaches in the development and delivery of victims' services. The Durham PCC Office was in the tranche of Late Adopters who received part year funding from November 2014.
- The victims' funding included some provision for the development of local restorative justice practices.
- From 2015/16 each PCC received a full year of funding to develop and deliver victims services. The next sections of this report will describe how the funding received has been applied in 2014/15 and will be applied in 2015/16.

Cllr Bell commended the report and requested that regular updates (every 6 months) be given to the Joint Audit Committee in order to provide members with assurances that these areas were being monitored appropriately.

### **5. PCC Risk Register**

The committee received a report on the latest PCC draft risk register.

Mr Reiss reported that the risk register is in need of substantial updating. And that work has begun to identify the major risks in the management of the Office. The next step will be to identify the actions that we need to take to mitigate those risks. Following this work, the risk register will be brought back for consideration at a future meeting.

The committee asked for the following risks to be added to the register:

- Reduction in budget leading to inability to deliver Police and Crime Plan (austerity)
- Public Accountability (leading to a lack of confidence)
- Capacity in the PCC's office is reduced by an increase in complaints received by the PCC.

### **Any other business**

#### **ICT – Parental Controls**

Cllr Bell asked if the force provided any training on parental controls and use of internet for parents. Mr Ridley said that the force would carry out work with partners but would provide Cllr Bell with some feedback in this area.