**Executive Board Minutes**

**Meeting Date:** 17th February 2022

**Duration:** 11:06 a.m. – 13:06 p.m.

**Location:** Dixon Room, Police HQ/Microsoft Teams

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| **Attendees** | | |
| **Durham Police and Crime Commissioner’s Office** | **Durham Constabulary** | |
| **Chair:** Deputy Police and Crime Commissioner – Nigel Bryson | Chief Constable (CC) - Jo Farrell | |
| Head of Governance and Finance – Charles Oakley (CO) | Deputy Chief Constable (DCC) - Ciaron Irvine | |
| Head of Private Office – Sweety Sahani (SS) | Assistant Chief Officer (ACO) – Gary Ridley | |
| Head of Accountability - Jeanne Trotter (JT) | Detective Chief Supt. Paul Gray (PG) | |
| Scrutiny & Accountability Officer – James Atkinson (JA) | Detective Chief Supt. Adrian Green (AG) | |
| Champion – ASB, Andrea Patterson (AP) | Superintendent Neal Bickford (NB) | |
| Champion – Victims, Michael Banks (MB) |  | |
| Champion – Domestic Abuse and Survivor, Chris Mackay (CM) |  | |
| Governance and Finance Manager (note taker) – Jo’Anne Connor (JAC) |  | |
| Admin Assistant – Ashleigh White (AW) |  | |
| **Guests** |  | |
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| **Apologies** | | |
| PCC – Joy Allen  CEO – Stephen White | ACC – John Ward | |
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| 1. **Welcome and Introductions** | | **Action Owner** |
| Deputy PCC Nigel Bryson, as Chair, welcomed all members to the meeting in the absence of the PCC.  There were no declarations of interest shared.  Apologies were received from PCC Joy Allen, CEO Stephen White and ACC John Ward for this meeting. | | PCC |
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| 1. **Minutes from the meetings held 16th December and 27th January 2022** | |  |
| Minutes from the previous Executive Board meeting held on 16th December 2021 and 27th January 2022 were accepted and recorded as true record.  A copy of the minutes are available on the PCC website. | | JAC |
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| 1. **PCC Action Log Update** | |  |
| Chair updated the Executive Board on the PCC outstanding Action log as below:  **Reference 55 –** Regular updates on Force Review to the Executive Board, Deputy PCC requested an estimated timeline for implementation.Chief Constable confirmed implementation will be 1st April 2022 and details will be shared with the OPCC at the April Meeting.  **Reference 58 -** The forward plan for the Public Accountability meeting has been developed and an agreement was made to delay the January 2022 meeting to February – topics (Contact Methods or VAWG) to was agreed by CEO and CC outside of Executive Board. This item is now complete and can be removed from the action log.  **Reference 59 -** Chief Constable requested a position statement on safer streets. Document shared with Exec Team 7th Feb 2022. - Chief Constable thanked the PCC office for the detail. This item is now complete and can be removed from the action log. | |  |
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| 1. **Police and Crime Plan update** | |  |
| Mrs Sahani explained that hard copies of the police and crime plan are in process of being distributed to stakeholders, partner agencies, Neighbourhood Police Teams, MPs, local county, town, and parish councillors as well as areas within the communities.  It was agreed to take this standing item off the agenda.  Chair thanked Mrs Sahani for the update. | |  |
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| 1. **Thematic – Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB)** | |  |
| A comprehensive thematic report on ASB was shared with the Executive Board. The summary provided an overview of the constabulary’s self-assessment of the activities under Prevent, Protect, Deter and Pursue.  Superintendent Neal Bickford (NB) shared that over the last 5 years there were approximately 19,000 reported incidents of ASB which represents around 12% of total demand for Durham Constabulary. Year to date figures show that total ASB across the county is down although NB explained that due to Covid caution should be exercised in drawing any conclusion.  In relation to **prevent** there are significant education programmes across all localities. All schools receive input around good citizenship. This has been augmented with the launch of the ‘Fearless’ campaign across the force, ‘Fearless’ is essentially ‘Crimestoppers’ for under 18’s.  Enrolment for selective licensing is open and is compulsory for 41% of privately rented housing, in areas of the county with low housing demand and higher levels of ASB. Within the (mandatory) selective licensing conditions are obligations that private landlords will take all reasonable measures to ensure tenants do not cause ASB to the community. The Constabulary continue to lobby their partners in Durham County Council (DCC) to ensure such conditions are rigorously enforced, and the potential benefits of selective licensing are fully realised.  DCC have agreed that proposals for a Durham City Public Space Protection Order (PSPO) will go to full public consultation imminently. The constabulary continue to lobby in favour of this, and if successful will help prevent ASB in the city, such as aggressive begging and street drinking. The PCC ASB champion asked if there was an appetite to replicate the PSPO approach and was advised by Chief Superintendent Adrian Green (AG) this has been in place in Darlington for over 3 and half years with no prosecutions. It has been a fantastic preventative tool which works well with communities and partners.  In relation to **protect** the constabulary were successful in tandem with the PCC office and the respective councils in securing money from the last two rounds of Safer Streets funding. A significant proportion of this capital is being spent on increasing CCTV coverage and lighting in Durham City and Darlington Town centre.  There is an agreed protocol operating within Durham City to tackle Anti-Social noise predominantly within student premises. The Community Response Teams (CRT) are on duty every night of the week throughout term time, and DCC are now issuing community protection notices (CPN’s) and community protection warnings (CPW’s) as required to problem premises. AP asked how many Community Protection Notices and Community Protection Warnings have been given since their inception and what are the most common outcomes? NB said he couldn’t give exact data on this as the current IT function did not have this capability, he estimated about 40 a month. NB is linking in with providers of the new IT to enable a drill down to station/local level with the ability to overlay onto mapping which will give this data.  In relation to **deter** and because of the ASB workshop the partnership secured funding to treble the investment in the Curve Project. Chair asked for a brief update on the Curve project. AG explained it is an 8-week programme for young people who are perpetrators of ASB. This is being trialled in the Peterlee area where there has been a lot of fires set by 10 -16-year-old youths. The current outcomes have been positive as all of the children are engaging, turning up at school with no repeat ASB. NB invited the Chair to see the project for himself and he agreed to visit in the future. The full wrap around service has included their wider families and navigators. A full evaluation will be presented in due course.  Stay safe operations have been held in response to spikes in ASB by youths. Chair asked, what are Stay Safe operations? What do they involve,what have the outcomes been, how are they enacted? NB explained this is where the parents, carers and children are invited to a location which is not a police station and can view the body worn footage of the incident. This bespoke intervention has been successful albeit labour intensive.  In relation to **pursue** the ASB escalation process is fully understood by the neighbourhood police teams. The CASBRAC is now embedded and adopted throughout the whole force area. AP asked how this was working and how is the process being linked/ separated out from Community Trigger to avoid confusion for the public? NB indicated that there is more work to be done with councillors. It is in early stages, more agile, responsive, and directional. Community trigger is a separate entity to CASBRAC. AG said it is workable as it is problem solving in an agile, fast way. NB said CASBRAC is an internal mechanism. Chair acknowledged the positive work.  The licensed economy team continue to robustly target licensed premises and licensees who show disregard to the licensing objectives (prevention of crime and disorder, prevention of public nuisance, public safety, and protection of children from harm). There have been some very notable successes in this area, with several closure orders linked to disorder. AP asked are those landlords who have it on their licensing conditions to attend Pubwatch attending the meetings? Who ensures that they are engaging and how often? How many people currently attend the Pubwatch meetings, are there problems with non-attendance? Are there any problem areas regarding attendance that have been identified? NB indicated Pubwatch is generally well attended across all localities, and it is coordinated by the Alcohol and Council Licensing Teams. The force encourages all partnership working but there are no mandatory conditions for any licensee to attend Pubwatch.  The ASB escalation process is fully understood by the Neighbourhood Police Teams, who liaise with partners in DCC to ensure appropriate targeting and escalation of issues, using a problem-solving approach. JA asked if this is replicated in Darlington Borough Council? AG said Durham Constabulary feed into the CSP directly with four priorities one of which is ASB. AG chairs the Youth Offending Service Board and has monthly meetings with the Chief Executive of Darlington Borough Council. During COVID they shared resource, radio systems which made the collation process a lot slicker and currently share E-bikes with the wardens. JA said it would be fair to say that the force is expecting the CASBRAC approach to be a little more effective in Darlington in comparison to Durham.  JA asked what the forces’ assessment is as to why there has been reductions in ASB (10% in Durham and 13% in Darlington)? NB said there are too many variables to draw any meaningful conclusions however there have been numerous lockdowns, rule of 6, premises opening and closing due to COVID-19 but the force continued to police throughout and continue to do their best.  NB explained that there are weaknesses within both police and partner IT systems which can hinder the police responsiveness and understanding to problems; ‘Orcuma’ for example has no analytical function and each incident requires a drill down. Red Sigma, likewise, has analytical limitations. JT asked what is being done to address the issues surrounding weaknesses in police and partner IT systems to improve understanding of the landscape and responsiveness? NB sits on the working group for the next IT provider but in the interim the force has a shared drive where the force and the council can both access data. NB confident that the new product will address these issues.  Are there any plans in place to manage potential increases in demand from the selective licensing programme and PSPO? If so, what are they? Deputy CC said a range of responses have been put in place from high end safeguarding for people who may have mental issues or other reasons to be out on the street to enforcement in cases of economic begging. There is a significant likelihood of increased demand on the force where Durham Constabulary end up conducting investigations with no results.  JA asked if the Force were satisfied that problem solving mapping is demonstrable to the required level cited in PEEL 2021 i.e., detail of response to the matter and the result of the intervention? Deputy CC said the force are looking specifically around how they strengthen problem solving/undergoing/preventative approach. There is a new NPCC prevention strategy that Durham Constabulary are supporting. Durham Constabulary have invited the College of Policing to do a peer review so that they can learn from other forces. There is also a dedicated Chief Inspector coming into post to the problem-solving portfolio.  Chair asked, which support services are routinely signposted via text to victims? Is there scope for this to be widened to other signposting e.g., Keep in the Know or are these texts purely to update with crime number and primary signposting? NB said at the very least every victim will get the details and contact number for their PCSO or neighbourhood beat officer in all circumstances. There are always hyperlinks in relation to Keep in the Know online which is already established.  Chair asked how will the force define ‘Vulnerable Victims’ of ASB? The force used the College of Policing THRIVE definition which means a person is vulnerable if, as a result of their situation or circumstances, they are unable to take care of or protect themselves or others from harm or exploitation. NB said in terms of ASB the force is looking at the THRIVE process regarding repeat reporting so to answer the question there is no separate definition.  Chair requested the PCC keenness to see outcomes from CASBRAC and have a briefing with relevant force leads on Community Trigger to understand the effectiveness moving forward. This was noted as an Action and added to the action log. (Action 60 refers)  AP asked how can the force work to involve local members in the Neighbourhood Policing Team/ Local Authority ASB communication process to provide a more consistent and locally informed approach? NB replied the force have a good working relationship with elected members and NPTs.  Chair said **t**he PCC welcomes the suggestion to consider including ‘review how the Police, Darlington Borough Council and Durham County Council take ownership of ASB reports to ensure people get the right support at the right time by the right organisation (including CASBRAC, Community Trigger, and signposting)’ as part of the new ASB strategic group’s approach, provided it will provide meaningful direction.  AP asked how many Criminal Behaviour Orders (CBO) have been achieved in the area? How many have been breached? NB explained that currently the force is unable to separate CBO data out on the current reporting systems due to limitations of the IT software.  Chair said there have been issues with getting magistrates to understand Criminal Behaviour Orders and the role they can play, a PCSO in Newton Aycliffe who was on response due to covid worked on days off to pursue CBO and has achieved 2. CC agreed there is a lot of frustration around the process but recognises the extremely positive work carried out by her dedicated officers.  Chair highlighted the positive working relationship between the force and Darlington Borough Council, and he is going to look at how this can be replicated with Durham County Council.  Chair, on behalf of the PCC, wanted to thank the force for their hard work and detail that has been shared with the PCC office on ASB. | |  |
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| 1. **PCC Accountability Report** | |  |
| Mr James Atkinson (JA) provided the Executive Board with issues, risks, and good practice highlighted by the Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC) as a product of Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner (OPCC) deep-dives and other accountability activities, and to hold the Chief Constable to account in line with the Police and Crime Plan (PCP). He highlighted areas of key deliverables.  In relation to promoting and supporting a multi-agency problem solving strategy to prevent neighbourhood crime, JA asked what has the outcome been of the NPT review and how is that been linked to the force review? CC said the Governments beating crime plan was the main thing to consider.  In relation to ensuring the public know where to report issues the OPCC would benefit from regular information from the 101 Gold Group which will give assurance to the PCC. Deputy CC said that work around the live chat has moved on, digital desk is now a preferred option which does include the option of a virtual contact handler and enables the force to receive reports through social media platforms.  JA indicated at the Police and Crime Panel (03/02/2022) that one of the investment projects cited because of an increase in precept was an upgrade of IT systems, what are the plans for this project? Deputy CC replied that the conversion rate of calls to incidents is good which is a decent proxy measure that signposting to non-policing services is good. There are plans to put investment into IT systems to give a better infrastructure there are also plans for a broader upgrade to the force control room telephony system.  In relation to encouraging residents to report crime and anti-social behaviour to enable positive action JA asked what external communications are planned for this and can the PCC press office be sighted on this. OPCC still promoting out keep in the know. JA said this was mainly covered in the ASB thematic section however NB mentioned the importance of regular social media messaging and daily briefings in each locality along with weekly media briefs.  The future financial investment into the SentrySIS tool is currently under long term review. ACO said there were long term plans to move off the SentrySIS system when the force would move over to Single online Home. However, there is no timeline for this and funding to SentrySIS is still set to be received until that time.  JA asked how are the force engaging with the Tackling Child Sexual Abuse Strategy 2021/ Inquiry into Child Sexual Abuse (IICSA) report 2022? How are the force addressing the specific concern regarding pursuing and bringing to justice those who groom children online or those who download or share images of abuse and protect those at risk raised in the post-review Child Protection Inspection? The force has been candid with inspections and reports and are learning in a fast-moving environment. Physical safeguarding of victims is a high priority. There is difficulty around international elements in these crimes. However, there has been significant investment into this area, but it is challenging to keep up with demand. It was acknowledged that the IICSA report was disappointing though a lot of the content was around data rather than directly focused on protection of children tactics and policies. Mapping work is ongoing, and the landscape will be clearer after the force have reviewed itself in relation to IICSA findings, particularly around capturing protected characteristics in data more consistently.  In relation to monitoring and promoting the use of stalking legislation and powers to measure effectiveness JA said the PCC office would benefit from stronger links to the discussion and act as a critical friend principle.  JA offered to go through rationale for rag rating to provide clarity in the interests of time it was agreed that a briefing note on this topic will be provided to the force executive in due course. (Action 61 refers) | |  |
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| 1. **Any other Business** | |  |
| CC said there is a need to cross reference the deliverables against the Police and Crime Plan.  AP updated the Executive Board on the new round of Safer Streets funding – AG aware.  Chair thanked all members of the Executive Team and the PCC staff and all who have contributed to this meeting.  Next Public Accountability Meeting and Executive Board to be held on 17th March 2022. | |  |
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