**Executive Board Minutes**

**Meeting Date:** 26th May 2022

**Duration:** 10:30am – 11:40am

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

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| **Attendees** | | |
| **Durham Police and Crime Commissioner’s Office** | **Durham Constabulary** | |
| **Chair:** Joy Allen, Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC) | Chief Constable (CC) - Jo Farrell | |
| Chief Executive Officer – Steve White (CEO) | Deputy Chief Constable (DCC) - Ciaron Irvine | |
| Head of Accountability - Jeanne Trotter (JT) | Assistant Chief Constable (ACC) – Tonya Antonis | |
| Head of Private Office – Sweety Sahani (SS) | Assistant Chief Officer (ACO) – Gary Ridley | |
| Scrutiny & Accountability Officer – James Atkinson (JA) | Detective Chief Superintendent - Paul Gray (PG) | |
| Champion: Victims, Michael Banks (MB) |  | |
| Governance and Finance Manager (note taker) – Jo’Anne Connor (JAC) |  | |
| Policy Officer, Andrew Woodward (AW) |  | |
| **Guests** |  | |
| Miss Tracy Henderson – Internal Audit |  | |
| **Apologies** | | |
| Head of Governance and Finance – Charles Oakley (CO) |  | |
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| 1. **Welcome and Introductions** | | **Action Owner** |
| PCC Joy Allen, as Chair, welcomed all members to the meeting. PCC informed the board that the meeting will be recorded for note taking purposes only.  Apologies were received as documented above.  There were no declarations of interest shared. | | PCC |
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| 1. **Minutes from the meetings held on 21st April 2022** | |  |
| Minutes from the previous Executive Board meeting held on 21st April were accepted and recorded as true record.  A copy of the minutes is 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 60 - Force to provide Community Trigger briefing to PCC and share outcomes from CASBRAC – ongoing. DCC explained that the community trigger used by the Police force is a statutory national standard. PCC new policy lead Andrew Woodward and PCC ASB champion have met with Neal Bickford and Alastair Simpson. | |  |
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| 1. **Thematic Report – Safer Countryside** | |  |
| ACC Tonya Antonis provided a summary to the PCC on Safer Countryside sharing the below.  Northumbria Police are the lead on the National Police Chiefs’ Council (NPCC) National Rural and Wildlife strategy which will inform the local strategy and will reflect the national policy.  Durham Constabulary carried out a rural issues survey in partnership with the National Farmers Union (NFU) which outlined 5 key priority areas. In priority order these were trespassing with bikes/off-road 4x4, speeding, fly tipping, poaching/hare coursing, and machinery theft. These concerns have formed the focus for rural policing across Durham Constabulary in 2021/22. CC and PCC discussed running a campaign with Crimestoppers around the above priorities.  ACC gave a brief update on the forces position for each of the priorities. Questions were raised by the PCC, “With fly-tipping highlighted as the third most prominent concern for rural communities, are the force confident that effective partnership working is ongoing in this space? (This is asked in context of the ‘resolve without deployment’ for most fly-tipping incidents)”. ACC said Durham County Council are the lead for fly tipping and Durham Constabulary are looking to improve their intelligence sharing and reporting processes to support them. The public need to know where and how to report rural incidents. Intelligence led joint operations are continuing with Durham County Council and neighbourhood wardens targeting hot spot locations.  PCC asked, “Of the incidents identified as generally caused by anti-social behaviour because of 'off-road' bikes, 23 were linked to a police recorded crime – is this typical/expected as a proportion’ – how does this compare to other force areas in terms of comparator of incident v crime? DCC said this sits in the crime category and other forces do not categorise this way. PCC pleased at the way Durham responds.  Information was shared around Operation Hawkeye which oversees the regional intelligence gathering and targeting of machine theft and serious and organised crime groups (OCGs) with significant success. Known OCG’s operating across forces to target rural communities have now been caught – this is primarily Quad bike thefts which are easy to steal, and insurers often replace old for new.  Mr Andrew Woodward asked, “How are the force measuring the effectiveness of Community Protection Warning/ Notice (CPW/ CPN) use for trespass and poaching offences and what is the assessment so far? Is this being used as a comparator against other forces who have signed up to the regional Memorandum of Understanding (MOU)”. ACC said they were usually CPNs in Northumbria and displaces some to Durham. The MOU with all the regional forces went live in April so it is a bit early to give a true assessment, but Durham Constabulary are reviewing, and details will be shared on how effective this has been at a later meeting.  Mr Banks asked, “What progress has been made in terms of supporting victims of Domestic Abuse in a rural setting, and how is the rural third-party work on DA linking into existing services and approaches used in-force and by the OPCC? ACC said the standardised approach to Domestic Abuse goes through GP surgeries or schools and they push for third party reporting. They all link in with the Multi Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH) which means the detail is all captured in the right place. National work is ongoing with the NFU and there are direct links to the Neighbourhood policing teams. Durham Constabulary recognise there is always more to do on raising awareness in this area. CC spoke about the third-party agencies which is a good way of progressing lines of enquiry.  The PCC commented that during the last PEEL inspection inspectors raised concerns (not in the official report) around the outdated Rural Plan from 2019. The introduction of a Rural Safety Plan is a key deliverable within the PCC plan, which will be a joint enterprise between the OPCC and Force. While Durham Constabulary are awaiting the development of a national strategy before full work can commence, it will be important to begin preparations for the new Rural Safety Plan as soon as practicable. DCC updated that Durham Constabulary have started recruitment of the Community Safety Volunteers with the bulk of these applicants coming from rural communities which is positive. Additional technology options are being explored. Looking to expand capabilities around drones. Long established Police Community Support Officers who have the local knowledge is key.  PCC commented it was extremely positive to see the most recent NFU report’s findings in Durham, which shows how good Durham are at policing their rural communities despite the challenges. | |  |
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| 1. **Accountability Report** | |  |
| Mr Atkinson presented the accountability report and highlighted the following.  In relation to the PCC caseworker system 81 items of correspondence was received by the PCC’S office in April 2022. There were 9 freedom of information requests which is significantly higher than usual. There were 35 General Enquiries into the Office, which is an increase of 84.2% from levels entering the Office in March (19). 51.4% of all the General Enquiries received in April pertained to Kier Starmer’s visit to Durham.  The first Hate Crime scrutiny meeting took place on 28th April 2022 and the Domestic Abuse scrutiny panel met for a formal session. The OPCC will benefit from further clarification over the coming weeks with the force’s Senior Information Risk Owner (SIRO) around the specifics of redaction for external scrutiny purposes. DCC said the review work is still ongoing.  PCC wanted to share the details of the next Public Accountability meeting topic for July 2022 which will be Alcohol related Crime and Anti-Social Behaviour. Further discussions to take place with Paul Gray around this.  PCC said the correspondence received from the Secretary of State for Justice highlighting the positive work of Operation Soteria. Relating to the new Criminal Justice System Scorecards and the impact the project has had upon ‘driving reform and improving collaborative working’ around rape and sexual violence was really good news.  The Executive Board noted and agreed the content of the PCC Accountability Report. | |  |
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| 1. **Draft Annual Governance Statement 2021/22** | |  |
| Miss Henderson introduced herself to the Executive Board as the Chief Internal Auditor and Corporate Fraud Manager from Durham County Council.  Miss Henderson explained the purpose of the draft Annual Governance Statement 2021/22 for the PCC and CC.  The statements reflect the requirement of the Delivering Good Governance in Local Government Framework 2016 and will be presented with updated version if required to the Joint Audit Committee at its meeting on 5th July 2022.  A comment was raised by the OPCC Victims Champion on the possibility of including a Victim Impact Assessment as an additional item within the statement to improve good governance on all documents. Mr Ridley to put this in the right section on the Annual Governance Statement.  The Executive Board considered and commented on the Annual Governance Statements and noted that these statements will be considered by the Joint Audit Committee at its meeting on 5th July 2022 as the final version prior to the inclusion within the Statement of Accounts. | |  |
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| 1. **Race Disparity/NPCC Toolkit** | |  |
| Mr Ridley outlined the work carried out in Durham Constabulary in respect of race and inclusion. He thanked Miss Jennifer Dixon who created the report.  ACO outlined both the national documents that have been produced, and the local action taken.  Durham Constabulary continues to work against the National Police Chiefs Council Diversity, Equality, and Inclusion (DEI) strategy 2018-2025.  Durham Constabulary is working to continue to live its values, promoting inclusivity, equality, and diversity, embedding DEI as a golden thread in its organisational culture. The Force Inclusion Charter and Durham Difference Values lie at the heart of what it does. DEI is a collective and shared responsibility.  Key work elements which included enhancing the understanding of Durham Constabulary’s diverse communities whilst ensuring they are fully supported of their communities. Also ensuring links with partners are also key to ensuring effective DEI delivery and outputs. Durham Constabulary are reviewing its approach to mapping and tracking its strategic DEI progress to ensure they have a greater degree of accountability and a stronger outcomes framework.  In relation to workforce representation the force has undertaken focussed positive action work in support of achieving this.  Durham Constabulary’s Positive Action work has involved forging proactive links with local universities and a range of educational establishments. Officers attend a varied range of engagement events and work closely with the force Community Cohesion Team. They also link in with the Regional Positive Action Group (RPAG) to share and gain best practice. This is in addition to Durham Constabulary being members of the National Positive Action Practitioner Alliance (PAPA).  The Force’s ability to tangibly deliver in terms of wider positive action / achieving workforce representation has been bolstered by an additional temporary Positive Action Constable, effective from February 2022.  In terms of workforce diversity, following Durham Constabulary’s latest PC intake in March 2022, their ratio of diverse police officers is 1.9%, compared to our local community demographic as per 2021 census data of 2.2%. The updated 2021 census data is due imminently.  The National Police Chiefs Council (NPCC) have an action plan with four key strands. One of these is around internal inclusivity. ACC Tonya Antonis is the lead on this area of business.  Mr Banks complimented Mr Ridley on the detailed report and mentioned one of the points on the race action plan includes protecting from victimisation and harm. This is another example of where the victim impact assessment can be put on the back of the report and issues can be picked up. Mrs Trotter said this is very much considered within all the PCC services that are currently Commissioned and the PCC office provide a specialist service that can be reported back on for victims. Mrs Trotter shared details of the first hate crime scrutiny group which had gone really well and she expressed her gratitude for the support that the force gave the PCC around developing this and putting it into practice.  PCC thanked everyone for their updates with this report. | |  |
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| 1. **Any Other Business** | |  |
| Chair thanked all members of the Executive Team and the PCC staff and all who have contributed to this meeting.  Next Executive Board to be held on 30th June at 10am. | |  |