

Meetings between PCC + CC

11 September 2013

The DPCC and CEO OPCC attended the Strategic Management Board, the following issues were discussed;

Putting Victims First

Victim satisfaction remains high for Northumbria Police though there has been a decreasing trend over the past 12 months.

Area Commanders gave their own view of this trend and requested further information to assist their interpretation of the information they receive from the Safer Communities Survey of the public. Victims of certain crimes are more satisfied than others. The Chief Constable agreed that further information would be provided to assist Area Commanders at the next meeting.

Dealing with Anti-Social Behaviour

Three of the four satisfaction measures were being met and all four measures had improved since the previous month. Reports of anti-social behaviour from the public continue to fall and there was a 7% reduction in comparison to the previous year. Significantly youth anti-social behaviour had reduced by 20% year on year.

Domestic and Sexual Abuse

All targets around high risk victims are being met. A discussion followed around action taken with medium risk victims suggesting ways to improve service delivery to these victims given that they made up the volume of reported incidents of domestic abuse.

ACC Farrell, the Force Crime lead gave an update on analysis and profiling currently being undertaken and intended work on domestic abuse perpetrators.

Reducing Crime

The Force is currently meeting its crime reduction target and recorded crime has increased by 9%. Comment was made that more than half of all Forces are experiencing an increase in crime.

The Deputy Chief Constable updated the Board that both he and the Chief had met with all operational inspectors and had outlined their expectation around performance delivery and its links to community confidence.

The Chief Constable discussed with each Area Commander in turn their performance and intentions to reduce crime. A number of discussions on the types of crimes increasing and the causal factors followed. Generally opportunist thefts and shoplifting were increasing, as were minor assaults in the home within families and between neighbours, often with alcohol as a factor.

Operation Soundwave specifically targeting known offenders and priority offences had been successful and would be repeated.

A number of Area Commanders made comment that mental health was also a significant factor in both the increase in reported crimes and also time taken by officers in dealing generally with mental health issues in the community. An example was given of an individual in Newcastle with a mental health condition who had been responsible for 49 crimes so far this year.

Community Confidence

The Force is not meeting its targets in the areas of the percentage of people who think the police do a good or excellent job and the percentage of people who think the police can be relied upon when needed and also the percentage of people who agree that the police understand the issues that affect their area.

The Force is meeting its target in the percentage of people who believe the level of police patrol in their area is about right and the percentage of people who feel safe living in their local area.

Use and Effectiveness of Powers to Stop and Search

HMIC published their national thematic report on Stop and Search in July 2013. Northumbria Police received a specific report as did each Force inspected. The report for Northumbria showed;

Officers showed a good understanding of the legislation and statutory requirements and that there is a culture of being polite and fair with people in all interactions including stop and search. However, understanding the effectiveness of stop and search on recorded and detected crime and a lack of oversight and scrutiny to ensure stop and search is recorded appropriately were highlighted as areas for improvement.

An Action Plan for improvement was presented to the meeting and responsible officers for the implementation of the actions were identified.

The Chief Constable will in discussion with the PCC ensure that arrangements are put in place to enable scrutiny by community representatives, including those people who are stopped and searched, for example young people.

Strategic Policing Requirement

Serious and Organised Crime: Updates were given on current activity in relation to Organised Crime Groups which included;

A police operation in Blyth where 14 separate addresses were searched simultaneously and arrests made concerning the supply of drugs in the area.

A team of criminals were arrested for an offence of conspiracy to rob with firearms, all pleaded guilty.

Counter Terrorism: An update was provided on the recent North East Infidels / English Defence League protest demonstration held in South Shields

Public Order: Updates were provided in relation to the Newcastle Sunderland Derby football match disorder and the 153 arrests made thus far.

Following notification of police concerns over public safety the Sunderland Newcastle Derby football match will be brought forward to a 1.30pm kick off.