

27 November, 2012 - Meeting with Northumbria Chief Constable (First formal meeting)

1. Discussed the IPCC report. The abuse of police powers to perpetuate sexual violence September 2012. This report was commissioned following the criminal conviction of a Northumbria Police officer Stephen Mitchell. The PCC sought information from the CC about what had changed within Northumbria as a result of this case. A brief overview was provided to be followed up with a further full briefing.
2. Discussed the HMIC Report on an inspection visit to police custody suites in Northumbria November 2011. A number of issues had been raised in the report and the PCC asked the CC to outline what had been done since the report publication. The CC gave an overview with an undertaking to follow up with a full briefing.
3. Received a briefing from the Senior Investigating Officer of the Sarah Gosling murder trial ongoing at Newcastle Crown Court. This was a domestic murder with reputational implications for Northumbria Police and of particular interest to the PCC. The PCC expressed an interest in being part of the future multi-agency Domestic Homicide Review into the case. This was agreed to be progressed.
4. Discussed ITL interpreting services who are contracted by the PCC to provide interpreting services to Northumbria Police. A complaint had been made into the competence of ITL to provide those services by a former interpreter to Northumbria Police. The CC agreed to undertake a review of the case and quality assure the service provided.
5. Discussed the HMIC report 'A step in the right direction' and the implications for Northumbria Police. The CC outlined what had been undertaken and provided examples of how operational practice had changed in line with the recommendations contained within the report. It was agreed that this would require regular updates and would be a significant part of the Police and Crime Plan. 6 The PCC requested to meet the senior leaders of Northumbria Police, this was agreed and a date arranged.