

## NORTHUMBRIA PCC MINUTES

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### **Title**

JOINT BUSINESS MEETING

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### **Date**

28<sup>th</sup> June 2018

### **Location**

Victory House, Balliol

### **Duration**

10:05– 11.15am

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### **Present:**

Vera Baird – Police and Crime Commissioner (Chair)  
Winton Keenen – Chief Constable  
Darren Best – Deputy Chief Constable  
Joscelin Lawson – Director of People and Development  
Rachel Bacon – Assistant Chief Constable (Citizen Focus)  
Helen McMillan – Assistant Chief Constable (Protective Services)  
Mike Tait – Director of Finance and IT  
Scott Duffy – Interim Director of Governance and Communications  
Dean Lowery – Officer of the PCC

### **Apologies:**

Ruth Durham – Chief of Staff, Office of Police and Crime Commissioner  
Ged Noble – Temporary Assistant Chief Constable (Local Policing)

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## **OPEN SESSION**

### **1. MINUTES OF THE OPEN SESSION OF JOINT BUSINESS MEETING 11<sup>th</sup> JUNE 2018**

Agreed as a true and accurate record.

### **2. PROPOSED NATIONAL CAP OF TOXICOLOGY SUBMISSIONS**

ACC McMillan presented a report for information relating to the recent proposal for forces to manage the submission of toxicology samples for an anticipated period of approximately 8-10 weeks following issues with a sub contracted forensic toxicology provider Alere Toxicology who are currently unable to receive submissions.

ACC McMillan confirmed that the Home Office and East Midlands Special Operations Unit have proposed a national toxicology submissions cap for all forces to create capacity with remaining providers. This will result in 15% reduction for each force which equates to 1-2 cases per month for Northumbria.

ACC McMillan confirmed that there are currently no concerns for Northumbria in the above reduction being put in place.

**AGREED:** The report was noted



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### **3. CRIMINAL JUSTICE VICTIM SATISFACTION SURVEY**

ACC Bacon presented a report relating to Criminal Justice Victim Satisfaction Survey including an appendix setting out the questions that will be asked of victims.

The PCC was keen to ensure that when questions are asked of victims, that staff explain the reasoning behind Northumbria Police asking these questions with ACC Bacon providing re-assurance that this would be the case.

The PCC queried who the survey would be applied to and to how many people. ACC Bacon confirmed that at present that there are no specific numbers at present but the exact numbers will be clarified in due course.

Secretary Note: Immediately following the meeting, the Director of People and Development confirmed that the survey sample is derived from the survey of victims of crime who are asked when surveyed whether they would be happy to give consent to be re-contacted. Victims need to have gone through the Criminal Justice System so the numbers surveyed will likely be quite small, approximately 10 per month. The value of using the victims of crime survey victims is that the force can then track the victim's whole journey from a satisfaction/service perspective.

**AGREED:** The report was noted.

### **4. OUT OF COURT DISPOSAL WORK IN YOUTH OFFENDING TEAMS**

ACC Bacon presented a report which provided an overview of the recommendations, current force position and anticipated direction of travel following the publication of the joint HM Inspectorate of Probation and HMICFRS report 'Out of Court Disposal Work in Youth Offending Teams', which examined the work done by Youth Offending Teams (and the police with children who committed (usually) low level offences resulting in out of court disposals (OoCD).

The Commissioner asked for clarity on "disposal codes" which was provided and ACC Bacon confirmed that unless Northumbria Police clarify their process, one child could be disadvantaged over another in relation to whether a record would remain on file.

The Chief Constable highlighted and provided an overview of the Triage process operated by Northumbria Police which is not part of the national framework.

The PCC queried how effectiveness can be measured. ACC Bacon discussed the review of Youth Offending Services which stated that effectiveness was hard to quantify in terms of outcomes and in terms of a strong evidence base, however the national position is that this is advantageous for young people. The PCC felt that the Triage process used by Northumbria Police should be championed with other forces which ACC Bacon has done through her attendance at regional boards.

The PCC highlighted point 3.3 of the report regarding clarity which is being sought on whether the requirement is an admission of guilt or acceptance of responsibility. The Chief Constable confirmed his support for moving to "acceptance of responsibility" with the PCC in agreement with this. ACC Bacon confirmed she was also in agreement however felt that the timescale for this change was not known. It was noted that if the process of the triage team and admission of guilt is put in place, this would mean less children and young people receiving community resolutions.

**AGREED:** The report was noted.



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## **5. INTRODUCTION OF SPIT GUARDS IN NORTHUMBRIA POLICE**

The Chief Constable presented a report to inform the Commissioner of the operational decision taken by himself for the introduction of spit guard's by Northumbria Police Officers at the earliest opportunity.

The report discussed in detail the reasons behind the introduction where all operational police officers will be issued with the guards. The report also provided further information including the specific product to be used, training of officers and associated costs.

The Commissioner asked for clarification on when the guards were to be used with assurances given that a specific protocol has to be followed and officers will be fully trained on these protocols and methods for their use in programmed training.

**AGREED:** The report was noted.

## **6. FORWARD PLAN**

The forward plan was agreed as presented.

## **7. ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

There was no further business to discuss.

## **8. Date and Time for Next Meeting**

12<sup>th</sup> July 2018, 10am, Victory House, Balliol Business Park



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