

## **29 January - Meeting with Northumbria Chief Constable, Assistant Chief Constable (Crime) & Director of Finance.**

**29th January – Meeting with Chief Constable (CC), Assistant Chief Constable (Crime) (ACC), NP Director of Finance.**

1. The PCC provided an outline of her proposals for the Police and Crime Plan, in particular the emerging priorities, as established through extensive public consultation, including through NP's Community Safety Survey. It was agreed that regular meetings and updates would be required as the Plan developed further to ensure that Northumbria Police were alongside in being ready and well-prepared to implement the plan through a matching delivery plan.
2. The PCC requested further detail on the NP budget proposals, in particular the use and efficiency of the Drugs Intervention Programme fund and how discrete funding was allocated to the Youth Offending Service from Northumbria Police.
3. Following a previous PCC request, ACC Crime gave an update on Operation Nutmeg, the ACPO-led campaign to request DNA from offenders whose serious criminal offences pre-date the law making samples compulsory. Concern had been raised by the LGBT community that the policy specifically targeted gay men. Northumbria police have determined to triage the process to exclude from requests for DNA, men who had ONLY been convicted of homosexual acts which were consensual prior to the repeal of the law criminalising gay sex. The PCC had been in correspondence with Peter Tatchell, the gay rights campaigner on this issue and was pleased to be able to assure him and the local LGBT community that discriminatory practice had not been undertaken
4. ACC Crime gave an overview of the current caseload of the Northumbria Police Witness Protection Unit.
5. ACC Crime provided an update into the North Tyneside shooting and criminal activity together with the police response.
6. The CC provided a briefing on current work around crime and incident reporting and how Northumbria Police take initial reports of crime and incidents from the public. This had included a survey of frontline staff and also a review of compliance with national crime recording standards.
7. The PCC discussed with the CC how the scrutiny of the CC by the PCC would be reported and published to the public via her website and also available on request through her office if required.
8. The PCC outlined to the CC that she intended to commence reviewing completed police complaint cases to establish how Northumbria Police was dealing with complaints about their service. This was likely to be by recruiting members of the public to join her in dip sampling complaints regularly and discussing any trends and lessons to be learnt. This was agreed and welcomed by the CC.
9. ACC Crime outlined concerns over the operating practice of the Northumbria Ambulance Service which had lead to officers either waiting for ambulances to attend an injured party for lengthy periods or being put into a position of considering whether to take someone, the

extent of whose injuries were unknown to hospital in a police vehicle. This was having a direct impact upon police officer availability and risk levels in dealing with ill or injured persons.

A further update was requested following inquiry and communication between NP and Northumbria Ambulance Service.