



**VERA BAIRD**<sub>QC</sub>  
POLICE & CRIME COMMISSIONER

## **Joint Business Meeting of the OPCC / Northumbria Police**

**6<sup>th</sup> August 2015 OPCC, Victory House**

**Start time 9am**

**Finish 11.20am**

**Attendees:** Vera Baird QC, CC Steve Ashman, Elaine Snaith, T/DCC Winton Keenan, ACC Jo Farrell, ACC Debbie Ford, ACO Bernie McCardle, Dean Lowery, Richard Heron, Mike Tait and Mike Mullen.

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Assistant Chief Constable Farrell presented an update in relation to the work of the mental health street triage pilot scheme. The pilot scheme was setup in partnership with the Northumberland and Tyne and Wear NHS Foundation Trust in the south area of the force.

The pilot scheme aimed to improve the response to mental health incidents, reduce the inappropriate use of Section 136 power of arrest, reduction in those suffering from mental health issues being admitted to police custody.

The evaluation found that the Street Triage pilot has met and exceeded the original objectives which were set. The evaluation also suggests that the pilot scheme provides a more suitable and enhanced quality of service to individuals who are suffering from mental health episodes.

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T/Deputy Chief Constable Keenan provided a verbal update in relation to the work the force are undertaking to prepare to submit bids for Police Innovation Funding. Officers of all ranks have been encouraged to put forward ideas of potential bids and these are currently being collated.

Further updates are to be provided once all responses have been collated.

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The commissioner received a number of key decisions as set out below:

- **Sale of Former Police Station, Tower View**

An offer has been received for the former police station at Tower View, Benwell. The property has been declared surplus to requirements and has been on the market with a commercial agent. The Commissioner subsequently agreed the sale.

- **Co-location of Neighbourhood Police Front Desk Facility within Hebburn Central**

The Estates Strategy envisages the establishment of neighbourhood bases within the community. Hebburn Neighbourhood Policing Team is to be relocated to Hebburn Fire Station and a more centrally located building has been sought to provide a neighbourhood front desk facility in the heart of Hebburn Town Centre. South Tyneside Council have offered a licence of space within Hebburn Central which is considered suitable.

The Commissioner subsequently agreed to the acquisition of a licence of space within Hebburn Central.

- **Sale of 3 The Crescent, Wallsend**

An offer has been received for the former police house at 3 The Crescent, Wallsend. The property has been declared surplus to requirements and has been on the market with a local Estate Agent.

The Commissioner agreed to the sale of the above property.

- **Sale of Haltwhistle Police Station**

The property has previously been declared surplus to requirements and has been marketed for sale by a commercial agent.

Several offers have now been received on the property.

The Commissioner subsequently agreed to the sale of the property.

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