

## **BELIEF, BME and FAITH ADVISORY GROUP**

**Meeting held at the OPCC, Victory House Balliol Business Park,  
Benton Lane, Newcastle, NE12 8EW  
Thursday, 5<sup>h</sup> June 2014 at 5.30pm**

### **ISSUES DISCUSSED**

- The group discussed and agreed the previous minutes of the last meeting.
- Discussion took place regarding the recruitment by Northumbria Police of officers from the BME community, who are currently underrepresented within the force, with only 1.6% of current serving officers from the BME community.
- Members commented on how Northumbria Police can extend recruitment to encourage a greater number of applicants, particularly from the BME community. The group highlighted the negative impact on which the media can portray and emphasised the need to build confidence between the BME Community and Northumbria Police. Members agreed to refreshing the connections within the BME community and the OPCC to maximise the opportunity for careers within Northumbria Police.
- The group discussed the need to undertake a recruitment drive to target and engage with young people to tackle the issue of underrepresentation. In targeting young people, opportunities for special and cadet roles within the force can be encouraged and seen as a step towards a positive and rewarding career.
- Members requested an update on the progress of Operation Sanctuary in order to discuss the lessons learnt. As a sensitive, operational investigation, it was agreed that Northumbria Police would be contacted to request an update to be provided at the next meeting. Information will be circulated to the group once received.
- Members were provided an update of ongoing Commissioning work undertaken by the OPCC. It was agreed that members play an important role with their feedback as part of the consultation process in identifying gaps in the provision of existing crime prevention services. An update on this work will be presented at the next meeting.

Meeting closed at 6.30pm