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Devon and Cornwall Police Authority

MINUTES

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A meeting of the **Local Policing & Confidence Committee** was held on Wednesday 15th December 2010 in the Conference Room, Devon and Cornwall Police Authority, Endeavour House, Woodwater Park, Exeter, starting at 10:00hrs.

Present:
Chairman: Mrs L Williams
Vice Chairman: Mrs J Zito
Members: Mrs L Dunn, Mr B Greenslade, Mr M Hodge, Mrs J Owen.
Also present: Mrs J Norton (Chair of Corporate Governance Committee).

Officers in attendance:
Police Authority
Ms E Macaulay (Policy Officer), Mrs G Clifton (Committee & Meeting Services Officer).
Constabulary
Superintendent P Kennedy, Ms A Poole (Head of Performance and Analysis), Ms G Sims (Consultation Manager).

1.   Apologies for Absence
Apologies for absence were received from Mr M Hicks and Mr W Maddern.

2.   Declarations of Interest
No declarations of interest were made in respect of any item on the agenda.

3.   Chairman's Announcements
There were no Chairman's announcements

4.   Local Policing & Confidence Committee Work Plan and Terms of Reference
The report presented the newly formed Local Policing and Confidence Committee with a proposed work plan, based on the Authority's delivery plan 2010-13. The plan covered the next twelve months and will direct the activities of the committee. The terms of reference are included in the work plan. Issues discussed during consideration of this item included:

- The Terms of Reference had been approved by the Police Authority and were accepted by the committee. References to 'confidence' in the document were confidence in the wider sense of the word and not directed at the previous confidence target.
- This was the first draft of what would be a living document subject to change. It had been largely based on the Police Authority Strategic Plan but had been formulated prior to the recent legislation introducing Police and Crime Commissioners.
- Lots of work had been done on the partnership strategy proposed by the Community Engagement Committee and it was hoped that it would be finalised in time for the next meeting of this committee.
- With the demise of the Performance Management Committee, performance would become one of the cross-cutting themes and targets would be allocated by the Corporate Governance Committee to the appropriate committees. There was concern that any delay in doing this would mean Force performance was not being scrutinised. The Chair of the Corporate Governance Committee agreed to treat this issue with priority.
- It was proposed that a Working Group be set up to concentrate on 'Public Confidence' this was because of the amount of detailed performance data, academic research etc. that was available for scrutiny. The NPIA were currently working on public confidence but the data did not always reflect Devon and Cornwall. The proposal to set up a working group would be put to the next meeting of the Strategic Planning and Co-ordination Committee with draft terms of reference.

- The Police Authority Chairman and Chief Executive were assigning members to be responsible for the cross-cutting themes. It was hoped that members that already had experience in those areas would be considered.
- The content of the work plan was such that it naturally formed its own priorities; this would be subject to review as other issues arose.
- There was a need for the committee to scrutinise the effect of the budget cuts on local, visible policing. The work plan should be amended by splitting paragraph 6.3 into two or three sections to include visible policing and the wording changed to 'monitor delivery' rather than monitor application. Changes implemented as a result of the Blueprint project should also be monitored.
- The main priority for the Force was victim satisfaction it was likely that this would be overseen by the Protecting Vulnerable People Working Group that reported to the Protective Services Committee. However, the Local Policing and Confidence Committee would monitor victim satisfaction for anti-social behaviour.
- The performance scorecard would be brought to each committee that would enable links between committees to be identified.

> **RESOLVED** (i) that the Local Policing and Confidence Committee establish a Working Group for 'Public Confidence';
> (ii) that the proposed workplan be amended as discussed, accepted and reviewed as appropriate.

5. Update on HMIC Report into Anti-social Behaviour.

The report provided an update to the review and commented on specific queries raised by the Community Engagement Committee (now dissolved). Issues discussed during consideration of this item included:
- Of particular concern was the need to identify repeat victims of anti-social behaviour and incidents that affect vulnerable people. There was no national definition of anti-social behaviour, vulnerable or 'repeat'. The Force had adopted the definition in the 'No secrets' report as a shared agency definition. Anti-social behaviour was difficult to define as incidents could be recorded under many different incident codes. A consultation due at the end of January 2011 will include a definition of anti-social behaviour. Currently "anything that causes harassment, alarm or distress" is the definition generally used.
- The new STORM system when implemented will give greater flexibility to identify repeat callers than the current ICT system. Repeat addresses can be identified through the Neighbourhood Harm Register; if more than three incidents occur at one address in three months this will be flagged to the Neighbourhood Policing Teams. Officers will assess the risk at the address i.e. whether there is domestic violence, vulnerable adults or children. A problem solving plan is then drawn up to scrutinise and score each incident.
- Call handling staff have received training on identifying a vulnerable caller at the point of call by the use of a script.
- There had been some variation in the performance in different teams. Some of the work plans had been scored and fed back to the local policing teams. A lot of work had been done at BCU and LPA level using peer reviews of each other's work.
- Not all incidents of anti-social behaviour are linked to an address. A working group had been set up to establish a more efficient method for identifying repeat phone numbers work was ongoing on an anti-social behaviour profile to identify generic issues such as age, place, type etc. The outcome of this work will be reported in the New Year.
- From April 2011 the number of classifications for anti-social behaviour would be reduced from 14 to three, namely – personal threat, public nuisance and environmental.
- Part of the Blueprint project was looking at 'prompt categorisation' i.e. whether and how quickly to attend an incident. With diminishing resources it was important to deploy officers tactically and strategically.
- The Harm Register is available force-wide but is not inter-agency on a force-wide basis. A number of partners including health needed to be involved to roll out the scheme throughout Devon and Cornwall; this was being worked on.

- An action plan had been developed to carry through the recommendations from the HMIC report. This would be brought to the meeting in March 2011. A report on the problem solving plans would also be brought to that meeting.

> **RESOLVED** (i) to note the progress in tackling the HMIC recommendations
> (ii) to note implementation of the Force ASB process review.

6. Outcome of the Strategic PALMs

The first round of strategic Police Authority Liaison Meetings (PALMs) in Cornwall had now been completed. The report outlined the results from the meetings. Issues discussed during consideration of this item included:

- The topic given for discussion at the meetings was "What makes a good police force?" This was intentionally vague to promote discussion. The turnout for the meetings had been very low; therefore it was proposed that for the second round only four meetings be arranged instead of seven.
- It had been difficult to encourage the audience to think strategically, there remained a tendency to want to talk about local issues. It was important to try to target different groups e.g. Neighbourhood Watch Co-ordinators, rural communities, the elderly etc. to get more feedback on policing. Local concerns were already dealt with at PACT meetings.
- These strategic PALMs were to be piloted for a year. The Authority was also looking at value for money and how public consultation could be achieved through partnerships. The Chairman agreed to prepare a briefing for the Strategic Planning and Co-ordination Committee to show how issues from community engagement feed into the work of the Police Authority.

> **RESOLVED** (i) to approve the report and its dissemination to all Authority members, in order to be cognisant of its contents during decision-making;
> (ii) to move to a model of four PALMs per round (West Cornwall, Mid Cornwall, North East Cornwall and South East Cornwall) with an anticipated audience of Neighbourhood Watch Co-ordinators and parish councillors..

7. Dates of Future Meetings

> **RESOLVED** that the following dates for meetings of the Local Policing and Confidence Committee be approved:
> Thursday 27th January 2011
> Thursday 31st March 2011
> Tuesday 17th May 2011
> Thursday 14th July 2011
> Thursday 15th September 2011
> Thursday 17th November 2011

Members discussed the current starting time of the meetings. For those that have a long way to travel a later time of 10.30 would be preferable, however meetings should finish by 1.00 p.m. for those that have other meetings in the afternoon. The Chairman agreed to talk to the Police Authority Chairman about the issue.

8. Review of Committee Risks

The item was to consider all risks allocated to the Local Policing and Confidence Committee and make recommendations to the Risk Review Group of any suggested changes. Issues discussed during consideration of this item included:

- The risks were in need of review; it was intended to go back to basics and re-assess risks. The two risks on the list were poorly articulated and there were other risks not on the register. The risk template would be circulated to members to feedback what the key risks are. These would be proposed to the Corporate Governance Committee for consideration. It was important to look at opportunities alongside risks.

RESOLVED that members should feedback to the Corporate Governance Committee risks and opportunities for the Local Policing and Confidence Committee.

9. Cross-cutting Themes

Each committee is responsible for ensuring that, in respect of the committee's work, activities and decisions, full and proper consideration is given to the cross-cutting themes:

- Performance management
- Equality, human rights and diversity
- Environmental impact and sustainability
- Risk management
- Value for money.

The members responsible for these themes would be assigned by the Police Authority Chairman.

There being no other business the meeting closed at 1250 hours