

HUMBERSIDE POLICE AUTHORITY

POLICING COMMITTEE

26 JULY 2011

<u>PRESENT:-</u>	Mr Palmerley JP, in the Chair.
Elected Members:-	Councillors Cracknell, Jawaid MBE, Rudd, Sumpton and Wheatley.
Independent Members:-	Mr Smith JP, Mrs Spencer and Mrs Taylor MBE.
Officers: -	Mr K Sharp, Chief Executive, Mr N Kingston, Strategic Development Manager (Assistant Chief Executive), Mr P Cheeseman, Strategic Development Manager (C&P), Ms V Wise, Strategic Development Officer (C&P), Miss C Harrison, Communications, Engagement and Equalities Officer, C/Supt K Hunter, Divisional Commander (D Division), Mr A Leaver, Assistant Chief Constable (OS), Supt M Oliver, CMB, Insp C Ellwood, CMB and Mr S Garmston, Humberside Police Federation

The Committee met at Pacific Exchange, Kingston upon Hull.

- 1 **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST/OFFERS OF GIFTS OR HOSPITALITY** – The Chair reminded Members of the need to record any personal or prejudicial interest in items on the agenda, and to disclose any relevant receipt or offering of gifts or hospitality.

There were no declarations or disclosures made.
- 2 **APOLOGIES** – There were no apologies for absence submitted.
- 3 **MINUTES** – **Resolved** – That the minutes of the meeting held on 10 May, having been printed and circulated, be taken as read and correctly recorded and be signed by the Chair.
- 4 **UPDATE ON THE MINUTES** – There were no updates to report.
- 5 **(1) PRESENTATION – SERIOUS SEXUAL OFFENCES** – Superintendent Oliver and Inspector Ellwood attended from the Crime Management Branch to provide Members with a presentation on serious sexual offences. The presentation updated Members on Force activity in this area and included information on the SARC (Sexual Assault Referral Centre).

Members referred to recently published reports that showed Humberside to be at the bottom of the league tables both for sexual offences and also a number of other indicators; they queried the apparent gap in performance between Humberside and that of other Forces and whether a rise in figures for the area of sexual offences should in fact be classed as positive as the higher the figures, the more crimes were being reported indicating increased confidence in the police. Following discussions by Members that the Humberside area appeared to have a greater number of sexual offences than other Force areas, the Assistant Chief Constable (OS) responded to say that this was a wider issue than just the Force and Authority to consider and stated that he felt it positive that victims had the confidence to report crimes knowing that they would receive a victim centred response. He concluded that although further work was required, he was happy with the progress that had been made in relation to the figures for sexual offences.

In response to a query from a Member on the publicity that the SARC received, the Assistant Chief Constable (OS) advised that although the SARC had previously been publicised, there was not currently any funding for this.

Following on from a Member's comments that the Force's recorded crime had risen by 35% yet the detection rate had only risen by 4%, Chief Superintendent Hunter advised that it would not be the case that the more crime reported, the higher the detection rates; he advised of targeted preventative work that was ongoing in the area.

In response to an invitation from the Assistant Chief Constable (OS) for Members to visit the SARC, the Strategic Development Manager (C+P) advised that he would include information within the next issue of the Member Newsletter to ensure that all Members were aware of the work of the SARC and would also include arrangements for a visit.

Resolved – That information be included within the next issue of the Member newsletter to inform all Members of the work being conducted within the SARC and provide all Members with the opportunity to visit the Centre.

- 6** (2) **ACTION SCHEDULE** – Members received a rolling schedule of actions arising from previous meetings which provided an update on outstanding actions.

The Assistant Chief Constable (OS) referred to minute 12 of the Police Authority and explained that the report due to be submitted on the systems in place for dealing with repeat victims of anti-social behaviour would now be submitted to the next meeting of the Committee.

The Assistant Chief Constable advised Members that as the changes made

to Stop and Account had only been in place for a couple of months, an update would be provided to the next meeting of the Committee (minute 43 refers).

Resolved – (a) That a briefing be received at the next meeting of this Committee on the systems in place for dealing with repeat victims of anti social behaviour, and (b) that an update be provided at the next meeting of this Committee on the impact of the changes to Stop and Account and Stop and Search.

7 **LEAD MEMBER UPDATES** – Mr Palmerley JP advised that he and the Lead Member for B Division, Councillor Jawaid MBE, had visited B Division in June in relation to the reported performance issues. They had met with the then Divisional Commander and reported that they were impressed with the measures that were in place. Mr Palmerley went on to advise of a meeting that he had attended with the Assessment and Review Unit and reported that the Force had approved the purchase of the Northgate system. He advised that this would update the Force’s mapping software and commented that it would provide great benefits to the command centre operation.

Councillor Wheatley, the Lead Member for A Division, advised that following a recent visit he had made to A Division, he had been surprised to learn that the Force set their own response targets; he expressed concern that this would not allow the Force or Authority to make like with like comparisons to other forces. He advised that he had a variety of meetings organised on which he would provide updates to the next meeting of the Committee.

Mrs Spencer reported on a mystery shopping exercise to beat meetings that she had been conducting in her capacity as Lead Member for Accessibility and Responsiveness. She advised that although to date this had only been conducted for D Division, additional mystery shoppers had recently been recruited and the other three Divisions were also now to be included in the process. She updated Members in relation to the Incident Handling Unit’s ongoing review and advised that she felt that the end result would be very workable.

Councillor Rudd, Lead Member for C Division advised that he and Councillor Cracknell had attended a meeting with the Divisional Commander for C Division where the Divisional Commander had reiterated his determination in relation to improving public confidence for the area. In response to queries from Members as to whether it was mandatory for each BCU to have a policing plan / plan of action, the Assistant Chief Constable (OS) advised that this decision was left to the Divisional Commanders however he assured Members that both local and national best practice was shared across the Force.

8 **(3) SCORECARD** – The Chief Executive submitted a report that examined

the second Scorecard of the Policing Committee and highlighted a number of key issues from within it.

The Strategic Development Manager (C+P) referred to a meeting with the former Divisional Commander for B Division that had been arranged following Member concerns with regards to the Division's performance (minute 7 also refers). He advised that he would arrange a follow up meeting with the new Divisional Commander for the near future.

In response to a Member's request in relation to comparisons made within the report to 'similar policing areas', the Strategic Development Manager (C+P) advised that he would publish information from Iquanta within the next Member Newsletter to provide Members with the data that had informed the statements within the report. Members queried if such comparative data could be added to future Scorecards; the Strategic Development Manager (C+P) advised that he would discuss this with the Strategic Development Manager (Corporate Business).

Following reference to the Scorecard in relation to criminal damage, Chief Superintendent Hunter advised Members of the tight recording practices that the Force adhered to and advised that these practices differed from other force areas which could account for the difference in figures. He assured Members however that Neighbourhood Policing was delivering its aims and that a plan was in place for each of the neighbourhood areas for Hull.

Following a query from a Member as to whether the Force would be looking at changing their recording practices to improve the Force's performance, Chief Superintendent Hunter stated that the Force were doing all they could to deal with criminal damage effectively whilst also not damaging confidence; he advised that he encouraged his team to log each case of anti-social behaviour to ensure that all cases were dealt with. If these cases were not recorded, they would not be dealt with effectively and this would therefore impact on confidence levels. The Assistant Chief Constable (OS) agreed, adding that although the Force had recognised that a change in recording practices might improve the rates of recorded crime, a decision had been made to continue with current recording practices as it was believed that this provided the public with a better service. Members agreed that this was the right decision although they queried whether there were any other forces that recorded crimes in the same way. Chief Superintendent Hunter assured Members that the Force do look at other forces to see if there are any cases of best practice that can be learned from. The Assistant Chief Constable (OS) encouraged Members to look at what the Force had achieved over the last few years and commented that no other force in the country could report the same levels of reductions that Humberside had achieved in the timeframes they had.

Following on from these discussions, Chief Superintendent Hunter advised

Members that increases in crime did not necessarily result from a lack of police action. He informed Members that the unemployment rates for Hull were worse than anywhere in the country and that this had contributed to an increase in low value acquisitive crimes. In addition, he advised Members that the City had seen a significant increase of prisoner releases and provided Members with the monthly figures for the past year.

Resolved – (a) That the report and Scorecard be noted, (b) that the B Division Command Team be commended for the work they have put in to obtain their summary performance results but that it be noted that it is the Committee's expectation that the Division continue in its efforts to bring these performance results within the bounds of similar policing areas, and (c) that the Chief Executive, in conjunction with the Chief Constable prepare a report to identify those issues where the Force falls within the bottom 10% compared to all other Forces nationally, for early submission to all Members and in the meantime, Lead Members discuss the situation with their respective BCU Commanders and report back to a future meeting of the Committee.

- 9 **(4) PARTNERSHIP REPORT** – The Chief Executive submitted a report that highlighted national and local partnership issues on an exception basis and identified opportunities and risks for the Authority.

In response to a request for a report in respect of the Force's use of 'out of court' disposals and their review of restorative justice disposals, the Assistant Chief Constable (OS) suggested that the guidelines due to be issued by the Ministry of Justice be received prior to a report being submitted to enable the Force to further advise the Authority on how they would be responding to these. It was also suggested that there be input into the report from other partners such as the probation service and the Local Criminal Justice Board (LCJB). It was agreed that the Strategic Development Manager (C+P) liaise with the LCJB as to the best way to progress.

Resolved – (a) That the report be noted; (b) that the Chief Constable be requested to provide a written response to the next meeting of this Committee on how the Force will deliver the revised Prevent strategy; (c) that the Lead Member be requested to work with the Lead Officer to revise the Authority's Prevent action plan and report any changes to the next meeting of this Committee; (d) that following clarification from the Strategic Development Manager (C+P) as to the most suitable format, the Chief Constable, in conjunction with the Local Criminal Justice Board (LCJB) report to the next meeting of this Committee in respect of the Force's use of 'out of court' disposals and their review of restorative justice disposals, and (e) that each of the BCU leads be requested to act as 'Children's Champions' in their respective Local Authority areas and report any issues to the Strategic Development Manager (C+P).

- 10 **(5) COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT** – The Chief Executive submitted a report that updated Members on recent activity to engage communities in tailoring policing services to meet their needs.

The Strategic Development Officer (C+P) provided Members with a presentation on the headline findings from the Authority's Citizens Panel that was conducted May/June 2011.

Members discussed the proposal to introduce a programme of Focus Groups to be led by the Elected Police Authority Members and it was agreed that as not all Elected Members were present at the meeting, that the proposal be taken to the All Member Event planned for 6 September.

In response to a query from a Member, the Strategic Development Manager (C+P) provided Members with information on the neighbourhood beat meetings that were organised by the Force. He advised Members that these meetings concentrated on local issues and that the Focus Groups proposed by the Authority would be more strategic. The Strategic Development Manager (C+P) advised Members that details of the beat meetings were advertised on the Force's website and in local papers and encouraged Members to attend these meetings to determine whether they were working effectively.

Resolved – (a) That the report be noted; (b) that reports containing details of changes/developments in community engagement be submitted to future meetings of this Committee; (c) that the Authority continue to scrutinise the Force on behalf on local people, and (d) that the proposal to introduce a programme of Focus Groups to be led by the Elected Police Authority Members to be taken to the 6 September All Member Event.

- 11 **(6) POLICING ISSUES REPORT** – The Chief Executive submitted a report that highlighted national, regional and local issues on an exception basis.

The Strategic Development Officer (C+P) referred to paragraph 4 of the report and advised that a further pilot area had been agreed as the village of Aldbrough in C Division.

In response to a Member's concerns as to whether involvement in the Olympics should be led by the Authority's Lead Member or as a more corporate approach, the Strategic Development Manager (C+P) advised that the Lead Member would be closely assisted by the Strategic Development Manager (Corporate Business).

Resolved – (a) That report and the progress made with the crime-mapping project be noted; (b) that the Lead Member for Olympic Issues (Mr Clive Palmerley (JP) be kept abreast of local developments and is informed or involved to a level deemed suitable, and (c) that a report be received from the

Lead Member (Mr Neil Gammon) on the outcome of the HMIC review of police crime and incident data.

12

(7) APPROVAL OF POLICE FORCE COLLABORATION AGREEMENT –

The Chief Constable submitted a report that sought the formal approval of the Police Authority to a Police Force Collaboration Agreement to be entered into between the four Forces within the Yorkshire and Humber region to enable authorised personnel within the Forces to give cross boundary authorisations in respect of certain covert policing powers. The proposed agreement was attached as an Appendix to the report.

Members referred to differences at paragraph 9.1 of the Collaboration Agreement compared to the JPAC version of the same Agreement and sought clarification with regards to this.

Resolved – That the relevant Section 23 Police Force Collaboration Agreement be approved subject to clarification of the differences at paragraph 9.1 of the Agreement compared to the JPAC version.