



Cheshire Police Authority - Performance Panel

MINUTES OF A MEETING HELD ON 20 OCTOBER 2009 AT CONSTABULARY HEADQUARTERS, WINSFORD

Present:

M Ollerenshaw, Chairman	B Hodson
D Cargill	C Oliver
M Chapman	B Silvester

Also in attendance: M Darby
V Edmonds, Audit Commission

<i>Authority Officers:</i>	<i>Constabulary Officers:</i>
M Sellwood, Chief Executive	D Whatton, Chief Constable
D Taylor, Deputy Chief Executive	G Gerrard, Deputy Chief Constable
J Hunking, Research Officer	K Watkins, Director of Performance Development
	Supt. N Adderley, Head of Performance Improvement

Apologies for absence: J Ebo

25. MINUTES

RESOLVED:

That the Minutes of the meeting held on 18 August 2009 be confirmed as a correct record.

26. PERFORMANCE REVIEW: APRIL – SEPTEMBER 2009

The Chief Constable presented the performance report for the period April to September 2009 and highlighted the positive performance that had been recorded, including a 10.8% decrease in total crime when compared with the same period the previous year; the continued reduction in serious acquisitive crimes; and the significant reduction in business robberies. It was reported that work was ongoing with partners on how the confidence agenda could be addressed better together and following some positive recent performance in the Western Area, exploring how other agencies could be more involved in reducing the vulnerability of properties to domestic burglaries.

The Chief Constable also reported that a recent letter from the Home Office, following recent high profile cases, suggested a renewed vigour on anti-social behaviour for forces and that this would form the main part of the agenda at the Discussion Day on 26 January 2010. The current performance threats, including serious violent crime and perceptions of drug use were also discussed and the initiatives being put in place to address them.

Members welcomed the continued reduction in crime and the all round positive performance and raised several issues including the work of the 'confidence'

inspectors with partners; the joining up of survey work with local authorities; the recoding of hate crime against people with disabilities; and variations in investigative processes across the Areas. The Chief Constable responded that the 'confidence' inspectors were currently scoping their work internally before talking to partners; shared the frustration of the inability to use common information across agencies and believed that the new sub-regional Community Safety & Justice Commission would lead to more effective joint working; new ACPO guidance on the reporting and recording of hate crime was awaited and the outcome reported to the next Panel; and outlined the work of the Gold Group chaired by an Assistant Chief Constable which was looking at driving forward best practice, including in the investigative process.

Members also raised a number of other queries including spikes in the detection performance, particularly around serious acquisitive crime; the welcome reduction in business robberies, given the difficulty in engaging with some businesses; the performance in relation to counter terrorism activity; and the application of the PCSO deployment policy. The Chief Constable responded that the spikes in performance were analysed to try and understand patterns of criminality; a number of key arrests and significant work on crime reduction initiatives had assisted in the reduction in business robberies; there were no serious concerns around the current local Level 3 capability; and robust challenge would take place in terms of infringements of deployment policies.

RESOLVED:

That the performance report for April – September 2009, including performance against the Policing Pledge, be noted.

27. HMIC POLICING PLEDGE INSPECTION

The Deputy Chief Constable presented the HMIC report "Delivering the Policing Pledge" and the Constabulary's initial response to the findings. It was reported that the inspection had used a different methodology from previous inspections in that significant use was made of 'mystery shoppers' and cold calling to build evidence about compliance with the Pledge. Although the Constabulary was disappointed with the 'fair' grading awarded, they highlighted that a significant amount of work had taken place since the inspection which they believed would now ensure that they would be adjudged to be compliant in most areas.

Members noted the report and supported the significant progress that the Constabulary had made in delivering the Pledge and the associated work around the confidence agenda, and raised a number of issues including the application of the Victim's Code and the Constabulary's compliance with it; the development of a common template to record local priorities; and working with partners, particularly in rural areas. The Director of Performance Development reported that a performance framework was currently being developed for Pledge points 7-10, and performance against the Victims' Code would be included in this; work was ongoing to develop a priorities template and a number of parish councils were now coming together for meetings on local

crime & disorder issues to ensure that police officers could provide coverage at meetings in large rural areas and avoid duplication of effort.

The Director of Performance Development also reported that progress against the areas for improvement highlighted in the inspection report would be presented to the Panel in six months time, whilst the performance against delivering the Pledge would continue to be included in future performance reports to the Panel.

RESOLVED:

That the report on the HMIC inspection of the Policing Pledge, be noted.

28. **HMIC INSPECTION REPORTS: CRITICAL INCIDENT MANAGEMENT; PUBLIC ORDER AND CIVIL CONTINGENCEIS: PROGRESS AGAINST ACTION PLANS**

The Director of Performance Development reported on the action plans which had been developed following the HMIC inspection of a number of policing areas during the early part of the year, which had resulted in a number of primarily low level recommendations, most of which were now complete.

Members noted the report and queried whether the Constabulary was confident that, in terms of critical incidents, community impact assessments were in place for all incidents. The Director of Performance Development undertook to check that this recommendation was being complied with.

RESOLVED:

That the progress against the inspection action plans, be noted.

29. **REVIEW OF HEADQUARTERS DEPARTMENTS: APRIL – SEPTEMBER 2009**

The Chief Constable introduced the report in respect of the contributions made by headquarters' departments towards force performance for the period April to September 2009 and highlighted in particular the contribution that many different specialised units were making to successful major operations.

Members welcomed the report which they felt gave a valuable insight into the work of headquarters departments and raised a number of queries including the timescale for the completion of the 'Safe Place' and the current waiting time for the forensic analysis of computers to which the Chief Constable responded.

RESOLVED:

That the report on headquarters performance, be noted.

30. HMIC ROUNDED ASSESSMENT

The Chief Executive presented the APA's formal response to the consultation on the new rounded assessment process, together with HMIC's response to the consultation

RESOLVED:

That the report be noted.

31. DIRECTION & CONTROL COMPLAINTS: QUARTERLY REPORT

The Deputy Chief Constable submitted the quarterly report for July to September 2009 on direction and control complaints. It was reported that statistics on complaints were inextricably linked with Pledge 10 and that work was currently ongoing to consider how best this information could be presented to Members in future to ensure that it had more relevance.

RESOLVED:

That the report be noted.

32. AREA VISITS

The Chief Executive submitted the notes of the recent Authority visits to the three Areas, together with the response from the Area Commanders.

RESOLVED: That

- (1) the notes of the three Area visits, be noted; and
- (2) the Management Teams' responses to the issues raised by staff, be noted, and circulated to staff on the Areas.

Duration of meeting: The meeting commenced at 9.00am and concluded at 10.40am.