CHAMPIONS

1.0 EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

1.1 This report asks the Police and Crime Panel to consider whether it wishes to introduce a "champion" approach to areas of work forming part of the Police and Crime Commissioner’s plan.

2.0 RECOMMENDATION

2.1 The Panel are asked to consider the introduction of a “champion” approach and piloting it in one or two areas and if agreed to consider which of the following areas volunteers should be sought from:

- Drugs
- Alcohol
- Anti social behaviour
- Irresponsible driving
- Public opinion in policing matters
- Domestic abuse and sexual violence
- Victim support
- Offender behaviour
- Vulnerable veterans
- Hate crime
- Crime levels
- Rural crime
3.0 BACKGROUND

3.1 During the last two years one of the County Council’s scrutiny boards has been operating a system of “member champions” where councillors have volunteered to become a champion for a particular service area. This has worked very well and it is hoped that the system will be rolled out across more service areas in the future. The members who have taken part say that by establishing closer working relationships with staff in the areas concerned their level of knowledge has increased considerably and this has helped them to better understand the work of the County Council.

3.2 At the PCP conference in Leeds delegates were advised that in some PCPs members are taking a lead in familiarising themselves with particular areas of the police and crime agenda based around the priorities in the Police and Crime Plan in a similar way to the County Council’s member champion approach. Upon receiving this feedback the Cumbria Panel agreed at its last meeting that a paper should be submitted outlining potential areas for such an approach to be developed for consideration.

3.3 Listed in paragraph 2.1 are the potential areas that the Panel may wish to choose to establish a “champion” for. If adopted it is proposed that an initial meeting will be held between the member of the Panel and the relevant officer at which the member will be provided with background information relating to the service area. Following this initial meeting the champion may then go on to make site visits, attend conferences etc although the amount of time commitment will be left entirely to the member concerned.

3.4 The member would then be responsible for regularly reporting back to Panel meetings and bringing any issues to the attention of members of the Panel as appropriate between meetings.

3.5 There are several options that the Panel may wish to take in relation to this proposal. The Panel may choose

- not to appoint any Champions at this stage
- to choose to appoint one or two Champions as a pilot exercise for 6-9 months to ascertain how effective the scheme is
- to choose to appoint a number of Champions to cover some or all of the potential areas
4.0 CONCLUSION

4.1 Members are asked to consider whether they wish to pursue the champion approach as outlined in paragraph 3.5 above, and if appropriate to seek volunteers for any areas to be covered.

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APPENDICES

None

BACKGROUND PAPERS

No background papers

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