

Appendix 1

Scrutiny Management Board Briefing from Chair of Cumbria Police and Crime Panel

1.0 Purpose of Update

- 1.0 This report updates Scrutiny Management Board (SMB) on the work of the Cumbria Police and Crime Panel and any issues and developments that have occurred since the last meeting of SMB.

2.0 Board Meeting Update

- 2.0 The Police and Crime Panel last met on 14th October 2019.
- 2.1 The Panel received the Annual Report from the Joint Audit Committee (JAC) that provides assurance on the arrangements for governance of the Police and Crime Commissioner. Members were informed that during the 2018/19 financial year Committee members had considered over 91 reports covering matters of governance, substantive reviews of key elements of the governance framework and effectiveness of arrangements to secure value for money.
- 2.2 Members noted that for 2019/20 the Committee had prepared an action plan to help ensure that the work of the Committee was proactive in focusing on new and emerging issues of governance. It was explained this would support and monitor the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner and Constabulary plans to address the increasingly stringent funding environment.
- 2.3 The Panel considered a detailed report by the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner (OPCC) which summarised the Commissioner's work in relation to support for victims of crime and abuse. This is a key objective of the Police and Crime Plan for Cumbria.
- 2.4 Members received information regarding commissioning of victim services, and heard about the different services that are available to people affected by crime.
- 2.5 The Panel sought further information about the low uptake of the opportunity to make a Victim Personal Statement (VPS). In response a group has been set up to review and address the issues identified and members were informed of the key actions undertaken to improve compliance and to ensure people that have been the victim of crime have their voices heard in the criminal justice system.

2.6 Members were informed that during 2018/19 the OPCC had worked with partner agencies, in particular Cumbria County Council, to commission a new integrated support service for victims of crime and abuse. It was explained that the service, which was provided by Victim Support Cumbria, had been developed in response to feedback from victims about improving their journey to obtain support after a crime.

3.0 Additional Scrutiny activity undertaken by the Board

3.1 A representative of the Panel is attending the National Police and Crime Panel Conference in November.

3.2 The next full Panel meeting will take place in January 2020 and will focus on the Council Tax precept for the year ahead.

4.0 Conclusion

4.1 The Panel continues to develop a strong working relationship with the Commissioner and is keen to explore joint areas of interest over the coming year to develop the Panel's work programme.

Chair: Cllr William McEwan