

CUMBRIA POLICE AUTHORITY

CARLISLE AREA COMMUNITY LIAISON FORUM

Notes of the Forum held at Tullie House, Carlisle on Tuesday 12 January 2010

- Beth Furneaux, Chair, **welcomed** 8 people to the meeting.
- **Apologies** were received from Reg Watson OBE, Cllr Luckley, Diane Moses, Jessica Riddle.
- **Minutes** of the meeting held on 19 October 2009 were approved.
- The clerk reported that 10 visits had been made by **Independent Custody Visitors (ICVs)** to detainees in the Custody Suite at Durranshill, Carlisle. No serious complaints made by detainees. The North Cumbria Panel currently has 11 members.
- **Douglas Thomas, Treasurer**, explained the 2010/11 budget which is set by the Police Authority for the Constabulary. In line with the Authority's policy, the budget increase has been confined to a 3% council tax increase which will require savings of £2.8m in 2010-11 increasing to £7.5m over the three year period 2013-14. However, there will be no reduction in the number of front-line police officers employed by Cumbria Constabulary. Savings will be made in a number of different ways, including the possibility (in the short-term) of keeping vacancies open, and all areas of potential savings are currently being explored by the strategic reviews currently being undertaken by the Chief Constable with the aim of achieving a sustainable budget based on current standards and excellence. A 3% increase means that the police portion of Council Tax in Band 'B' will increase from £146 to £150 per annum. The meeting was invited to express its opinion on this increase and it was generally felt that 3% was an acceptable level of increase. Overtime and hire of vehicles was discussed and Ch Supt Spiller explained that in exceptional circumstances overtime is required to deal with major incidents, though it is always closely monitored and has to be accounted for. Similarly the hire of vehicles is occasionally required so that police vehicles can remain operational, and once again any request for car hire is closely scrutinised. Ch Supt Spiller confirmed that the proceeds of crime are divided equally between the Home Office and Cumbria Constabulary.
- **Ch Insp Don Spiller** gave an overview of the current crime statistics for North Cumbria which show that the Carlisle area currently has the lowest number of reported offences ever recorded and consequently Carlisle is a very safe place to live. Ch Insp Spiller spoke about and his officers' commitment to fulfilling the Police Pledge. A member of the public commented that in the last two or three years there had been a noticeably increased police presence in her community.
- Questions about the treatment of detainees with mental health problems were discussed and Insp Diane Bradbury confirmed that to her knowledge taser had been used once on a detainee but this was a very rare occurrence and taser would not normally be deployed in the custody suite. Ch Insp Spiller explained that the use of taser is closely monitored, and is operated by specially trained officers after authorisation by an Inspector.
- The Court Diversion Scheme was explained by two members of the public who are preparing a report regarding the inappropriate treatment of people with mental health problems who may be suspected on committing crime. Comments were made that Custody Suite staff, and on occasions even the Police Doctor, do not always have sufficient knowledge to deal with people with mental disabilities, and the Custody Suite staff do not always alert the registered Appropriate Adult.

The next **Carlisle Forums** will be on:-
Tuesday 20 April 2010
Tuesday 20 July 2010
Tuesday 19 October 2010

The Chair thanked the speakers and the members of the public for attending. The meeting closed at 2100.