

DEVON AND CORNWALL POLICE AUTHORITY

PERFORMANCE MANAGEMENT AND AUDIT COMMITTEE

A meeting of the **Performance Management and Audit Committee** was held on 17 March 2005.

Further information on the items referred to below is contained in the agenda for the meeting held on 17 March 2005.

Matters discussed (with minute references shown in brackets) included: -

[PM/343] Forensic/Scientific Services Performance

Members received a report on the current performance of forensic and scientific services.

A Project Board has been formed to deliver on the recommendations emanating from the Force Forensics Project.

Members suggested that forensics performance should be included in future Basic Command Unit Performance Management Reviews.

The imminent changes to senior Basic Command Unit officers was highlighted as a key opportunity to raise the urgency and importance of delivering on the Forensics Project recommendations.

Members discussed the capacity of the Scientific Services Unit to manage increased workloads following the establishment of additional detectives. The Assistant Chief Constable (Operations) stated that whilst the extra detectives should not lead to an immediate increase in forensic submissions, an increase would be seen in the medium-term.

[PM/344] Issues Involving Migrant Workers in Cornwall and Isles of Scilly BCU

A report was presented on issues around migrant workers in Cornwall.

The Gangmasters Bill became law in 2004. This will provide the police and other agencies with a framework within which to operate to tackle issues more effectively.

The Police Authority is represented on the Cornwall and Isles of Scilly Migrant Worker Strategy Group.

[PM/345] Boxing Day Celebrations in Padstow

The Deputy Chief Constable made a statement on the Forces' response to the Padstow Celebrations on 26 December 2004.

[PM/346] Violent Crime Gold Group

Members were provided with a closure report of the work of the Violent Crime Gold Group.

The trend in violent crime increase has now been turned around. The violent crime detection rate has improved since July 2004.

The success of the group was largely due to a combined Basic Command Unit and Force-level approach.

[PM/348] Activity Survey Results 2004 – Overtime

Members were presented with a report detailing overtime across Devon and Cornwall Constabulary during the activity surveys from 2004.

Members called for information relating to the attainment of the target to spend at least 6 hours per shift on neighbourhood beat related activity to be presented as a 9-hour average. This would ensure all Sectors are assessed equally.

[PM/349] Performance against the Annual Policing Plan (Targets)

Members considered a report on Force performance in relation to the Annual Policing Plan targets for the period 1 April 2004 to 28 February 2005.

There have been improvements in reducing violent crime after a large increase early in the financial year 2004-2005.

Burglary is at its lowest point for 6 years and may soon plateau.

A working group is looking at how the sanction detection rate can be improved.

The offences brought to justice target is not being met.

Only Plymouth Basic Command Unit is achieving target for Neighbourhood Beat Managers to spend at least 6 hours per shift on neighbourhood beat related activity.

From 1 April 2005, the new National Management Information System will allow performance data to be more readily available down to individual level.

Christine Ryan
Chairman of the Performance Management and Audit Committee