

Devon and Cornwall Police Authority

Minutes

A meeting of the **Performance Management and Audit Committee** was held in the Conference Room, Devon and Cornwall Police Authority, Endeavour House, Woodwater Park, Exeter on Tuesday 18 January 2005 commencing at 10.30am.

Present: -

Mrs C Ryan,.... Chairman
Mr M Bull, Mr C Bulley, Sir Simon Day, Mr M Hicks, Mr S Malloni, Mr D Money, Mr M Nevitt and Mrs J Owen.

Officers in Attendance:

Police Force : Dr R Bullock (Force Performance Analyst), Mr B Fousert (Scientific Services Unit), Miss E Lewis (Police Authority Liaison Officer), Chief Supt B Marsden (Commander Strategic Development), Mr G Oakden (Force Crime Registrar)
Ms L Tull (Force Activity Analyst)

Police Authority: Mr S Mellor (Finance Manager); Miss J Norris (Assistant Chief Executive)

PM/329 Apologies

An apology for absence was received from Mr W Thomas.

PM/330 Declarations Of Interest

There were no declarations of interest made in respect of any item on the Agenda.

PM/331 Minutes

Resolved

- (i) that the minutes of the meeting held on 19 November 2004 be confirmed as a correct record;
- (ii) That a report on the work of the Violent Crime Gold Group be provided for the next meeting of the committee.

PM/332 Activity Based Survey Results 2004

The report summarised the main results at Force level of the activity surveys carried out in May and October 2004. The definitions of activities are compiled by the Home Office to whom the results will be submitted in January 2005.

Issues discussed during consideration of this item included:

- Overtime trends within each Basic Command Unit and the reasons that overtime is necessary;
- Service demand profile and staffing levels and what is being done to ensure that resources available match demand as closely as possible;
- The role of Neighbourhood Beat Managers in responding immediate or prompt calls;
- Approximately 33% of Officer time is spent on support activity, this figure is similar in all Basic Command Units but when comparing sectors there is significant variation;
- The number of hours waiting in custody per Police Officer should reduce as the recently implemented procedural changes mature;
- Time spent at court has only limited data available and is an area of work that needs to be developed; it will be necessary to work with partners such as the Local Criminal Justice Board and

the Crown Prosecution Service if the amount of time Police Officers spend at court waiting is to be reduced;

- The percentage of Police Officer time spent on frontline duties is a very important statistic; a number of human resources issues impact upon this figure including vacancy rates and amounts of sickness;
- There will be two further surveys regarding neighbourhood beat activity in the current financial year;
- The correlation between detection rates and the involvement of Neighbourhood Beat Managers;

Resolved

- (i) to note the report
- (ii) That a report on overtime trends be made to a future meeting of the Committee;
- (iii) That the Local Criminal Justice Board be contacted for information on targets they may have set relating to waiting times at court.

PM/333 Audit Commission National Report on National Crime Recording Standards

The Audit Commission has published its first national report reviewing crime recording in all Police Forces and Police Authorities in England and Wales. Devon and Cornwall has been given an overall 'green' traffic light rating which is defined as "a good standards of crime recording has been achieved, and no further action is required other than to maintain performance."

Issues discussed during consideration of this item included:

- Congratulations are due to all staff and especially the team led by the Force Crime Registrar for the successful transition to the National Crime Recording Standards
- An action plan has been compiled for the specific areas of training, process, resourcing and quality of service which were rated 'amber'; these areas will be reviewed by the Audit Commission in 6 months time.

Resolved to note the report.

PM/334 Forensic/Scientific Services Performance

The report provided an update on the current performance of forensic / scientific services.

Issues discussed during consideration of this item included:

- Forensic / scientific services is a support service; the implementation of new technology and increasing expectations from the Basic Command Units will lead to greater demand on the service, this is unlikely to be met by an increased capacity to respond;
- The use and performance of forensic / scientific services has a direct implication on the number of detected crimes and other Force key performance indicators;
- Devon and Cornwall has low expenditure on forensic / scientific services compared to other Forces.

Resolved to note the report.

PM/335 Force Forensics Project

Mr Mike Bull one of the Lead Members for forensic / scientific services updated the Committee regarding the Force Forensics Project.

Assistant Chief Constable Stowe is the Command Team lead for the Project. The recently received reports highlight the importance of management and supervision at the Basic Command Unit level regarding forensic and scientific information. Performance in the topic area of forensic / scientific services has an impact on many aspects of the Baseline Assessment and is vital for improving the Force detection rates.

Currently there are delays in processing some forensic work within the Scientific Support Unit due to limited resources. There is a concern that unless the resource issue is addressed these problems will be exacerbated with the employment of the 80 additional detectives and the impetus to increase successful investigations

Resolved

- (i) to note the report;
- (ii) that regular progress reports be presented to the Committee

PM/336 Performance against the Annual Policing Plan (Targets)

The report provided details of the Force's performance for the period 1 April 2004 to 30 November 2004 against the Annual Policing Plan targets and some Policing Performance Assessment Framework (PPAF) performance indicators

Issues discussed during consideration of this item included:

- The increased amount of violent crime is not solely attributable to the change in the way crime figures are recorded
- The upward trend in the amount of violent crime is slowing down;
- Thirty four Forces have recorded an increase in violent crime in 2004/05;
- Compared to its Most Similar Forces Devon and Cornwall is now showing a below average incidence of violent crime;
- Monitoring arrangements to enable crime statistic comparisons pre and post implementation of the Licensing Act 2003;
- One persistent offender can skew figures relating to the number of crimes committed and the number of detections made – this is particularly relevant to acquisitive crime.

Resolved to note the report.

PM/337 Performance Management Reviews

The report provided information from the recent Performance Management Reviews (PMRs) conducted with Basic Command Units and Departments.

Issues discussed during consideration of this item included:

- That Performance Management Reviews help to strengthen the performance culture within the organisation;
- That the next Performance Management Reviews will be conducted at sector level;
- The timing and level of Performance Management Reviews will be kept under consideration.

Resolved to note the report.

PM/338 Continuous Improvement Database

The report provided an update on the principle recommendations and actions stored on the Continuous Improvement Database within the Strategic Development Department.

Issues discussed during consideration of this item included:

- The amount of resources required to deliver the National Centre for Policing Excellence work packages;
- The need to know what action has been taken when an item is recorded as complete on the database.

Resolved

- (i) to note the report;

Performance Management and Audit Committee
18 January 2005

- (ii) That a summary progress report be presented to the Committee on a quarterly basis;
- (iii) That a presentation be made to the Committee about the new Continuous Improvement Database.

The meeting closed at 1.15pm