



Durham Police Authority

PRESS RELEASE

11 November 2010

Takeover Day at Durham Police Authority!

On Friday 12 November, young people in Durham took over top jobs for the day. The activities were organised as part of Takeover Day, a national event led by the Children's Commissioner for England which gives children and young people the chance to shadow jobs, get involved in decision-making and offer their opinions on key issues.

Kieran Hornsby from Ferryhill Business and Enterprise College spent the day shadowing Peter Thompson, Chair of Durham Police Authority. The day involved meeting staff, attending meetings at Police Headquarters and having lunch with the Chief and Deputy Chief Constable.

Peter Thompson, Chair of Durham Police Authority said:

"We were delighted to be involved in Takeover Day, it is an excellent opportunity for children to gain new skills and knowledge and give them experience of leadership and decision making.

Takeover day has given us the chance to demonstrate our commitment to listening to the views of the children and young people in the Durham area.

I was privileged to be in the company of Kieran who is a pupil from Ferryhill College. He was nominated to take part in the day by the Deputy Head Teacher and as well as being a student at the college is Chairman of Ferryhill Youth Council. With the future in mind I think we can take comfort that our interests will be well served by young people like Kieran and it was my pleasure to spend the day with him"

For Takeover Day 2009, around 30,000 children and young people worked with organisations including businesses, schools, police and fire services, newspapers, banks, TV and radio stations, local councils, MPs, hospitals, charities and Government departments. Everyone got involved, including the BBC, Tesco, the British Red Cross and the Bank of England.

Children's Commissioner for England Maggie Atkinson said:

"I am enormously excited about Takeover Day this year, and I look forward to hearing about what people are doing. The day provides such a brilliant opportunity for children and young people to make a difference to their schools and communities and have their voices heard. Children and young

people have so much to offer. They bring ideas, imagination and energy which can really make a difference to organisations.”

ENDS.

Notes to Editors

****Please find attached photograph of Maggie Atkinson and Kieran Hornsby**

Durham Police Authority is an independent body responsible for ensuring Durham Constabulary delivers an efficient and effective police service. It is made up of 17 local people who include 9 councillors, 8 members of the public who are the independent members.

The Authority ensures that the Constabulary is accountable to the people of County Durham and Darlington and ensures that citizens have a say in how they are policed.

The Authority is responsible, amongst other matters, for setting the budget for the Constabulary and, following consultation with local communities, mapping out the strategic direction of policing. This includes agreeing policing priorities and setting the Constabulary challenging targets to drive performance higher.

The Authority's Vision

“To ensure that policing in County Durham and Darlington is fair, effective and visible”

The Authority's Mission

“To be the effective voice of our communities in securing the delivery of high quality policing by:

- Exercising strong & effective leadership
- Engaging positively with communities to build confidence in local policing
- Strengthening partnership working
- Promoting equality, tolerance & respect for human rights
- Scrutinising and challenging police performance to secure continuous improvement
- Scrutinising and challenging business systems and processes to ensure effective use of resources

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