



Durham Police Authority

PRESS RELEASE

3 October 2011

North East Police Training Centre commended for excellence

Members of Durham Police Authority have expressed their sincere appreciation to the dedication and commitment of the staff at the North East Centre for Policing Excellence, naming them as a “linchpin to the success of the centre, which has continued to produce high quality student officers who can meet the needs of the public within Durham and Northumbria by offering a quality service”.

The training centre, set up in April 2005, is a good example of collaboration between Durham Constabulary and Northumbria Police, initially training student police officers. This was extended to the training of PCSO's in Durham and Community Support Officers (CSO's) in Northumbria in 2006. Since 2009 the NECPS has run short courses for specialist PCSO's, CSO's and other members of Police Staff.

Over the years 385 students in total have gone through the centre from Durham, with a further 990 from Northumbria. Durham has had 171 student officers, 201 PCSO's and 13 other students trained at the centre. The centre was quickly recognised nationally as a successful and effective initiative and many other forces came to see how they achieved their success. Much of the success can be attributed to the clear governance, effective leadership and dedicated staff.

Considering a report on the training centre at a Police Authority meeting held on Friday 30 September, Mr Peter Thompson, Chair of Durham Police Authority said: “It is clear that NECPS was an excellent example of collaborative working. Not only did it ensure a standardised approach across forces, it also delivered economies of scale which would not otherwise have been achieved. The Strategic Board played a critical role in its governance during its period of operation which is to be commended”.

On the future of the training centre, Mr Thompson said:

“The centre has served both forces extremely well. However as a result of the comprehensive spending review nationally and regional significant changes to the way police forces both recruit and train staff mean the centre in its current format would no longer meet the needs of both forces.

“However, this being said, the concepts of the training centre are being developed nationally which allow greater flexibility to police forces in how they recruit and train their student officers; this will now be progressed within each force making significant cost savings whilst still producing high calibre of student officers”.

ENDS

Notes to Editors

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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