



**Durham Constabulary
Durham Police Authority**



PRESS RELEASE

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Your Views Matter to Us

Durham Police Authority and Durham Constabulary Launches Engagement Strategy.

Citizens across County Durham and Darlington are being asked to have their say on a new strategy designed to help both Durham Police Authority and Durham Constabulary get more people involved in decisions that affect them.

The Community Engagement Strategy has been produced to help Durham Police Authority and Durham Constabulary reach out to all members of the community. The strategy has been designed to help raise awareness of its role, and assist members of the public in taking part in how policing in their area is run. It is vital in ensuring the public's, thoughts and opinions are taken into consideration when identifying policing priorities.

Alongside the Strategy is an action plan, which sets out how the Strategy will be delivered in the first year, it lists the topics that the Police Authority must consult on to satisfy its statutory obligations. The action plan also includes additional topics that the Authority plans to consult on during the year.

Chair of Durham Police Authority, Mr Peter Thompson said "Good governance is all about involving the community. We want to undertake our engagement with you in as many different ways as possible, in order to gather community views that reflect a true picture of the kind of service that you would like from the Police".

"Our Joint Engagement Strategy aims to avoid duplication in the way we and our partners engage with you to make it easier for you to be involved in decisions that affect you."

Mr Peter Thompson added "I would encourage everyone to look at the new strategy and tell us what is important to them, and how we can do a better job of including the people of County Durham and Darlington in what we do."

Deputy Chief Constable Gary Barnett said;

“The community’s views are vital to us in deciding what’s important and how to respond. We welcome everyone’s participation.”

The Police Authority and Durham Constabulary are asking your views on both the strategy and the action plan.

The documents can be found on both the Constabulary and Authority websites

www.durham-pa.gov.uk
www.durham.police.uk

For further information please contact

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The websites will be a central place for information in the future about surveys and questionnaires and their results with details on how the information provided will be used and how that will be fed back to those who participated.

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, 3 magistrates and 5 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 be the effective voice of our communities in securing delivery of the highest quality policing.”

Our mission

“Working in partnership to ensure fair, effective and visible policing”

The Authority aims to: -

- Exercise strong and effective leadership in partnership working
- Engage positively with our Citizens and Communities to build confidence in local policing.
- Promote equality, tolerance and respect for human rights.
- Scrutinise and challenge police performance & procedures to secure continuous improvement
- Ensure Effective use of resources

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