



Durham Police Authority

PRESS RELEASE

1 July 2009

Independent Custody Visitors Conference – 24/25 June 2009.

Peter Thompson, Chair of Durham Police Authority and Vice-Chair of the Independent Custody Visitors Association (ICVA) recently welcomed and addressed delegates to the ICVA's Scheme Administrators Conference in Birmingham. 30 Police Authorities and Joint Police Boards from across England, Northern Ireland, Scotland and Wales were represented at the Conference.

Delegates were reminded that the Constitution of ICVA had been amended to adopt a regional representation on its Executive Committee mirroring the region's set-up by the Association of Police Authorities in its move towards regional working. He commented that he was substantially pleased that the regional working ideal was reflected in the Conference Programme and stated that he was particularly looking forward to listening to and learning from the presentation on collaborative working to be given by a delegate from the East Midlands region.

Much of ICVA's work is supported and funded by the Home Office who were also represented by Alan Brown and Ami Badmus who were present to update delegates on the national picture and developments affecting custody visiting.

Notes to Editors

(Custody Visitors are volunteers who attend cells in Police Stations throughout the country to ensure that the human rights and other statutory requirements of individuals are upheld whilst individuals are in police custody. Further details of the Independent Custody Visitors Association (ICVA) can be found on www.icva.org.uk)

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 and 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 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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