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**Title**  
JOINT BUSINESS MEETING

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<b>Date</b>	<b>Location</b>	<b>Duration</b>
9 June 2016	Office of the PCC	9:45 – 12:00

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**Present:**

Ms Vera Baird - Police and Crime Commissioner  
Ms Elaine Snaith – Chief Executive  
Mr Steve Ashman - Chief Constable  
Mr Winton Keenen – Deputy Chief Constable  
Mrs Jo Farrell – Assistant Chief Constable  
Mr Darren Best - Assistant Chief Constable  
Mr Mike Mullen – Head of Strategic Asset Management  
Mr Mike Tait – Director of Finance  
Mr Dean Lowery – Officer of the PCC

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**OPEN AGENDA**

**1. NPT Communications Plan**

ACC Farrell updated the Commissioner and Chief Constable on the communications plan following a review of the future operating model of the force Neighbourhood Policing teams.

To support the launch of the new neighbourhood operating model there is a communications plan which outlines the strategy for how the Force will communicate the changes being made. The Force is constantly under scrutiny from the public, partners and media and this strategy will instil confidence to facilitate the change. The communication activity will focus on this new structure and other changes within the Force that will continue to deliver an outstanding service to our communities.

Elaine Snaith discussed whether consideration had been given to local authority boundaries in relation to each of the Neighbourhood Teams. ACC Farrell confirmed that a recheck of these boundaries would be undertaken.

It was agreed that rollout of the Communications plan would begin at the end of June 2016.

## **2. Mental Health Update**

To provide an update on Street Triage and activities conducted by the Force in the area of Mental Health and demonstrate a commitment to supporting the mental health needs of our own internal work force.

### **Street Triage Team**

In September 2014 Northumbria Police in partnership with Northumberland Tyne and Wear NHS Foundation Trust (NTW) began a mental health street triage pilot in the South of the Force which aimed to improve the response to mental health incidents. In July 2015 Street Triage was implemented across the Force area. In July and December 2015 an internal evaluation of the pilot was conducted and reported that:

- There had been a significant and consistent reduction in the inappropriate use of S 136 detentions
- The use of police custody for persons detained under S 136 was minimal and infrequent
- There was a significant reduction in the cumulative time spent by officers dealing with persons detained under S 136
- The Triage Team offers a qualitative and enhanced service to individuals dealing with mental health episodes and can provide the appropriate clinical or diversionary pathways
- In cases where the Triage Team invoke the use of S 136 a higher proportion of patients are admitted to a hospital (either voluntarily or under the mental health act), highlighting
- the use of S 136 is being used more appropriately Not only has the introduction of Street Triage reduced the use of S 136 but it has also ensured professional support is available to officers who are dealing with mental health incidents
- Since the beginning of May a more detailed recording of all Street Triage data has been implemented. This now captures time spent offering advice and guidance for incidents which were not initially believed to involve mental health as well as a detailed breakdown of the pathways which individuals have been directed.

Following the initial internal evaluation of Street Triage, an independent evaluation was conducted by Newcastle University. Whilst the findings were extremely similar, the authors are waiting to have their report published.

ACC Farrell provided an overview of the cost savings which had been provided by Newcastle University however final figures were to be given once the final evaluation report had been published.

The Commissioner and Chief Constable agreed that the introduction of the Street Triage team does not only provide savings but also delivers an enhanced service to members of the public who need the support of trained professionals and in a care environment.

ACC Farrell also confirmed that following a meeting yesterday with Health partners, confirmation was given that funding from the Health Service would continue.

