

**Meeting held at the OPCC, Victory House Balliol Business Park, Benton Lane, Newcastle, NE12 8EW**

**Monday, 5th August 2013 at 5.30pm**

ISSUES DISCUSSED

- Vera informed all groups present that she had decided to merge the PCC Advisory groups of Faith and BME together as many of the issues raised by both groups were closely related.
- The group discussed the EDL and Anti-Fascist demonstrations that took place in Newcastle during May 2013. Group members stated that the police established good communication with community groups and regular updates were provided by the force.
- A discussion took place with the Jewish Community member in attendance and Vera requested that further information relating to this was to be provided by the force.
- Vera discussed the concerns raised in recent media reports relating to the use of stop and search powers by police officers. Following the concerns raised, which included disparities in search to arrest ratios throughout England and Wales. The Government agreed to hold a six week public consultation into the use of stop and search powers and gather public opinion on these powers. A response has been provided to the Home Office from the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner for Northumbria.
- The group discussed recent media stories relating to the UK Border Agency checks on suspected illegal immigrants. Members of the group stated that they had experience of random spot checks being carried out at local businesses. Comments were also made about current employment law. Group members were informed that local Council Trading Standards Departments can provide help and support in relation to UK employment laws.
- Vera discussed previous issues raised by the group relating to Police Officer training. Group members felt that senior officers are aware of community issues but more work could be carried out to train police officers of the needs and issues within certain communities. The force is currently reviewing the training that officers receive including specific training being given to officers relating to the location where they will be deployed and the specific communities they will serve. Members of the group were to be involved in assessing the training given to officers and gather views on areas that could be improved.