



**VERA BAIRD**<sup>QC</sup>  
POLICE & CRIME COMMISSIONER

### **Gender Advisory Group**

**Meeting held at OPCC Victory House on  
Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> May 2014 at 5.00pm**

- The group were updated on the Domestic Violence Champions Network.

Three Network hubs have been set up across Northumbria (Newcastle, North Tyneside and Northumberland) which are supported by a steering group comprised of the Domestic Violence leads in each area.

Domestic Violence Champion's are to be trained and supported to be the link between their agency and the network, to be a conduit for information and to enhance their response to individuals affected by DV. So far 116 champions have been trained within the public sector across the three above areas.

An event was held in March 2014 at The Beacon (attended by Local Chief Executives/ Managing Directors of local companies) to raise awareness of DV and how this impacts on them and what they can do as employers to make a difference.

During April 2014 workplace champions were trained from a number of organisations including Intu, Ringtons, Dickson's, Mcardle Care, Gordon Brown Law Firm, Gentoo, Phoenix Security and Northridge Care.

- The group were informed that a Sexual Violence Strategic Co-ordinator had recently been appointed to the Sexual Violence Strategic Forum. The group discussed the membership of the board and how this could be representative of all areas relating to sexual violence eg. Rape, Domestic Violence, Female Genital Mutilation, Honour Based Violence and Forced Marriage.
- Group members received a presentation on a training package that has been developed by The Ladybirds and supported by Your Voice Counts. The presentation and training package highlights the issue of domestic abuse within the disabled community and how victims can recognise the signs of domestic abuse and informed of the help available to them.
- The group were presented with the Northumbria Police Draft Hate Crime Strategy. The purpose of which is to increase victim satisfaction following an increase in the reporting of hate crime. Members discussed the consultation process and how this could provide a true cross-section from the community.