

AGE Advisory Group – 10th February 2014

- A discussion took place regarding dementia friendly communities programme which focuses on improving the inclusion and quality of life for people with dementia. It is hoped that key partners and members of the public will better understand the signs and behaviour of people living with dementia. The group discussed training packages that are available from Alzheimer's UK which could be used to train officers. The Commissioner requested that current Alzheimer's training materials be explored by Northumbria Police and included in the current officer training package.
- The group were informed of volunteering opportunities within Northumbria Police including Police Cadets, Special Constables, Police Staff volunteers, Independent Advisory group members and Community Volunteers. The group agreed to distribute volunteering opportunities to members of their organisation. It was agreed that Northumbria Police would provide members with marketing material for volunteering opportunities once prepared.
- Commissioner Baird also discussed future volunteering positions within the Office of the PCC including Independent Complaint Scrutiny members and sexual violence case court observers.
- From November 2014 PCC's are to commission a wide range of services for victims, witnesses and others affected by offences. The legislation will enable PCCs to commission via grant or contract or provide services themselves. The intention is that service provision by PCCs focus on support services for victims of crime. Victim services currently also provide support to some witnesses if required (for example, to someone who was the witness of a particularly distressing violent crime), and this is not envisaged to change. The main source of support to witnesses will be the court-based witness service that is to be centrally commissioned by the Ministry of Justice.

The Commissioner informed the group that a Commissioning Director will soon take up post in the Office of the PCC to drive the commissioning of victims services forward.