

AGENDA NO: 9



INDEPENDENT AUDIT COMMITTEE – 18 SEPTEMBER 2018

FORCE PROTECTED DISCLOSURE POLICY

REPORT BY SUPT PETE WINDLE

PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

The purpose of this report is to update and inform the Independent Audit Committee as to the current position within the strategic alliance concerning Protected Disclosures.

1. BACKGROUND TO CURRENT POSITION

- 1.1 Devon and Cornwall Police and Dorset Police currently have separate policies and procedures that deal with Protected Disclosures made by serving members of the Force.
- 1.2 In Devon and Cornwall this is currently the Protected Disclosure Policy PSD17 and in Dorset it is the Support for persons reporting wrongdoing policy and procedure P09:2000.
- 1.3 Within these policies there a number of differences in what the Force policy and procedure is and how individuals who report potential wrongdoing are supported in the work place.
- 1.4 The Force Professional Standards Department (PSD) are in effect the 'owners' of the relevant policies and are currently conducting a harmonisation process of all their policies and procedures, as part of the implementation of the Alliance PSD business case.
- 1.5 At present the two relevant policies have yet to be harmonised but work is underway for this to be done.
- 1.6 In addition work is currently underway to review the welfare provision and support provided to officers and staff who report potential wrong doing in the work place. This is likely to lead to further additional changes to the policies to harmonise how this is managed in both forces to provide a consistent approach.

2. CONCLUSION

- 2.1 There are existing policies currently in place within both Devon and Cornwall Police and Dorset Police which detail the exiting approach for managing relevant disclosures by staff and officers.
- 2.2 However it is recognised that with the implementation of the Strategic Alliance single PSD across both Forces and the ongoing implementation of Alliance departments, the existing policies and working practices require harmonisation in the coming months.

3. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 3.1 Once the existing policies have been formally harmonised and adopted across the alliance they are brought to the Independent Audit Committee for information. It is intended that they will be brought to the April 2019 meeting.

Supt Pete Windle
Head of the Alliance Professional Standards Department
Devon and Cornwall and Dorset Police