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12 March 2012

Mr Geoff Lee
Chair, Community Safety Partnership
Stockton on Tees Borough Council
Municipal Buildings
Church Road
STOCKTON ON TEES
TS18 1LD

Dear Mr Lee

Domestic Homicide Reviews

The Association of North East Councils is the representative voice for local government in the North East, representing the 12 local authorities in the North East on issues of concern to them and the communities they serve. It is supported by a Regional Chief Executives Group, consisting of the 12 local authority Chief Executives, which provides strategic and policy advice to the Leaders and Elected Mayors.

The Regional Chief Executives Group recently considered a report (copy attached) from Durham County Council on the arrangements for the conduct of Domestic Homicide Reviews (DHRs).

Government guidance locates the responsibility for DHRs with Community Safety Partnerships. However, the lack of financial provision for supporting DHRs creates resource and capacity issues, and the report therefore proposed that collaborative working across the North East should be explored to determine if economies of scale can be achieved. As you will see, the report put forward two options for consideration:

- a) that the local authorities in the North East create an annual rota for hosting DHRs, with the hosting authority receiving support from a pooled budget to offset the administrative costs; and
- b) a pairing arrangement under which each authority sought reciprocal arrangements with another authority.

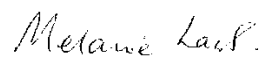
Chair: Councillor Paul Watson

Vice Chairs: Councillor Simon Henig, Mayor Linda Akley, Councillor Jeff Reid

Chief Executives were strongly in favour of working together on this but were not clear as to the best option. It was agreed that it would be helpful to seek the views of Community Safety Partnerships given their responsibilities in this matter.

I should therefore be grateful if you would let me have your views on the principle of collaborative working on DHRs and on which of the above options (or any other option) you would prefer. It would be particularly helpful if you could reply by the end of this month. If you need any more information, please contact me by email at melanie.laws@northeastcouncils.gov.uk or by telephone on 0191 261 3906, or Jonathan Rew (Specialist Support Officer) by email at jonathan.rew@northeastcouncils.gov.uk or by telephone on 0191 261 3905.

Yours sincerely



Melanie Laws
Chief Executive

Enc

cc: Neil Schneider, Chief Executive
Mike Batty, Head of Community Protection