

Board Continuous Improvement Project 2015-16.

Part V of the Police (NI) Act 2000¹ requires the Board to make arrangements to secure continuous improvement in the way in which it functions in respect of economy, efficiency and effectiveness. The Board agreed as its continuous improvement project to undertake a review of its internal and external corporate governance arrangements and implement improvements.

Strand 1 involved a review of internal governance arrangements within the Board (including between the Executive Office and the Board) to identify areas for improvement. Strand 2 focussed on identifying improvements to external governance arrangements and to gain views on improvements to governance arrangements.

Section 25 (1) of the Police (Northern Ireland) Act 2000 provides for the Board to determine the objectives for policing. To comply with this statutory duty the Board developed a number of Strategic Outcomes for Policing. These were developed in partnership with the PSNI and outline what we collectively believe to be achieved by 2020. In developing these Outcomes, the Board took a wide range of views and experiences of policing into account, through a wide consultation and consideration of the Programme for Government, the Minister of Justice's long term Policing Objectives, the programme for Justice and PSNI's strategic assessment of threat, risk and harm. The resulting themes identified outline what the Board believes will have an impact on successfully delivering the long term outcomes for policing. A performance framework underpins the strategic Outcomes which will allow the Board to hold PSNI to account in a meaningful way.

A number of other areas were progressed, such as: in July 2015 the induction programme for newly appointed Board Members provided an overview of governance and accountability and the strategic priorities for the Board, DOJ and PSNI; the Terms of Reference of each of the Committees are currently being reviewed and will be offered to the Board for approval following the Assembly elections. The Terms of Reference will improve how Committees conduct their business by better aligning the Committee programme of work to each of the Committee's roles. This aspect of the project will therefore continue into 2016. The Board and the DOJ conducted a review of the Management Statement and Financial Memorandum which sets out the broad framework

¹ Paragraph 28 (1) The Board shall make arrangements to secure continuous improvement in the way in which its functions, and those of the Chief Constable, are exercised, having regard to a combination of economy, efficiency and effectiveness.

within which the Board will operate. The protocol for information exchange between the Board and PSNI was reviewed and updated in July 2015 which is intended to improve the efficiency in terms of receiving and forwarding information between the Board and PSNI.