



Cleveland & Durham Joint External Ethics Committee



Cleveland Police & Durham Constabulary recognise that commitment to integrity is absolutely essential to the legitimacy of policing. We value public trust and confidence in policing and to earn this we need to be open to scrutiny and transparent, our behaviours, actions and decisions must always consider the public interest.

We believe our joint Independent External Ethics Committee is a key contributor to maintaining and improving trust and confidence in the two organisations.

The remit of the Committee will be to promote the highest standards of ethical conduct and to act a 'critical friend' to both forces, providing a focus for education, a source of support and a measure of compliance with organisational values. The Committee will ensure senior leaders are aligned to both their force values and those of the Code of Ethics, through scrutinising, challenging and advising the organisations in areas such as:

- Leadership
- Police culture
- Complex operational decision making
- Themes of national significance
- Strategic influence
- Development and management of resources and estate

The committee will consider both broad thematic issues such as discrimination and surveillance as well as practical day-to-day issues such as the use of body-worn cameras. Members of the public can also raise issues with the committee, although it cannot consider individual complaints about police.



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We recognise that professional ethics is far broader than integrity alone. It incorporates the requirement to give an account of one's judgements, acts and omissions. In simple terms it is not only about doing the right thing but also about doing it for the right reason and considering our decisions 'through the public lens' .

Chief Officers in Cleveland & Durham Police are operating in an increasingly complex business environment as well as an operationally challenging one. We hope the skills and experiences of our committee members can assist with the decision making of senior leaders within Cleveland & Durham Police and improve our transparency for the benefit of the communities we serve.