



Police & Crime Commissioner for Cleveland
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Report of the Police and Crime Commissioner to the Chair and Members of the Police and Crime Panel

30 July 2015

Programme of Engagement

1. Purpose of Report

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to provide Members of the Cleveland Police and Crime Panel (PCP) with a brief update in relation to meetings attended by the PCC from January to June 2015.
- 1.2 Future meetings of the PCC will also be summarised.

2. Background

- 2.1 The PCCs consultation and engagement activities focus on increasing understanding of the communities of Cleveland, ensuring clear and consistent communication with the public and ensuring effective consultation and community engagement.
- 2.2 The PCC attends a number of meetings on a regular basis with key partners, stakeholders and residents from across the Cleveland area.
- 2.3 In addition to this the PCC has attended many regional and national meetings representing Cleveland.

3. Your Force Your Voice

- 3.1 The '*Your Force Your Voice*' engagement initiative continues to take place with community meetings in all of Cleveland's 79 ward areas being revisited on an annual basis. So far in 2015, 60 meetings have been attended through the initiative.
- 3.2 Reduced resources both within policing and other public sector agencies was frequently raised as a concern. Work is currently ongoing to procure a new information sharing database to enable easier exchange of information between agencies to reduce duplication of effort and maximise the use of resources. A number of products are currently being assessed as part of this process, which will involve input from Police, Local Authorities, Housing and the Voluntary and Community Sector.
- 3.3 A reduction in the number of Neighbourhood Watch schemes was raised in several areas as a concern. On 14th April 2015 the Commissioner hosted a Cleveland wide Neighbourhood Watch event focusing on reinvigorating the scheme and establishing a Cleveland wide board to drive forward initiatives. A further workshop has since been held and work is ongoing to select individuals to be represented on the Board and take forward the recommendations identified.
- 3.4 Lack of feedback when reporting incidents was raised as an issue in many areas. Work is ongoing to re-establish the Cleveland Police Volunteers scheme which will potentially assist in providing feedback to communities, together with the review of neighbourhood policing which is currently being undertaken.
- 3.5 The lack of a dedicated point of contact for hate crime was raised as an issue through several minority group meetings. The Force are currently looking at developing the Hate Crime Officer role to increase community engagement, particularly with Cleveland's diverse communities.
- 3.6 All of the issues raised at community meetings are raised with the local Integrated Neighbourhood Teams for action where necessary.

4. Other Meetings

- 4.1 Below is a summary of key other meetings attended by the PCC. The full diary is published on the PCC website at www.cleveland.pcc.police.uk.
- 4.2 Scrutiny meetings continue to be held with the Chief Constable on a weekly basis. Discussions from these meetings are published on the PCC website under 'Force Accountability'. Any outstanding actions are followed up by the Office of the PCC.
- 4.3 A schedule of targeted Scrutiny Meetings has been implemented covering Finance, Resources and Policing, Performance and Partners and Commissioning.

- 4.4 On 16th January the PCC held a consultation event with partner organisations to discuss the refreshed Police and Crime Plan and the proposals for the precept for 2015/16. Representatives from over 30 organisations attended, and feedback from the event was used to refresh the plan and ensure it accurately reflected stakeholder input.
- 4.5 On 4th February the PCC hosted a Stalking and Harassment training event for frontline police officers, to ensure officers are fully aware of the signs to look out for regarding stalking and harassment and the relevant legislation. This has already resulted in one arrest for suspected stalking which took place the day after the training session was delivered.
- 4.6 On 20th February the PCC attended a Gypsy and Traveller Awareness Course for criminal justice agencies, which was delivered by the Society for the Promotion and Advancement of Romany Culture (SPARC). This was one of a series of four sessions funded by the PCC and aimed at improving the understanding of those working within the criminal justice arena regarding engaging positively with gypsies and travellers. The sessions were attended by Police, Probation, Prison Service and Youth Offending Service and feedback from the sessions was extremely positive.
- 4.7 On 10th March the PCC hosted an engagement event for partners to raise awareness of sexual assault services. This formed part of the PCC's wider work improving services for victims, and highlighting what support is available to victims to ensure that the maximum number of referrals are achieved from other services.
- 4.8 On 22nd March the PCC took part in Operation Scarecrow with the Redcar and Cleveland Unit of Cleveland Police Cadets. The operation involved the cadets designing crime prevention leaflets for allotment holders and distributing this information, together with padlock alarms funded through the PCC Community Safety Initiatives Fund, to allotment holders in areas where vandalism and theft from allotments has been highlighted as an issue. The PCC has since been involved in similar operations across Hartlepool and Stockton, and work is ongoing to undertake a similar exercise in Middlesbrough.
- 4.9 On 11th May the PCC launched the Cleveland Victim Services Directory, an online directory, commissioned by the PCC, which hosts the contact details of charities, groups and specialists from across Cleveland, who all offer support to people who have experienced crime or antisocial behaviour. More information can be found at www.cvsd.co.uk.
- 4.10 On 18th May the PCC hosted the launch of the new Cleveland Police Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender (LGB&T) Network, which will provide support for LGB&T police officers and staff, whilst also promoting a greater awareness within all officers and staff of the potential issues affecting LGB&T communities, particularly regarding hate crime. This will link in with the wider work being undertaken by the PCC around raising awareness of hate crime and increasing confidence within LGB&T communities, together with other diverse communities, to report incidents.

- 4.11 On 21st May the PCC hosted a Human Trafficking and Slavery training event for police officers and partnership agencies. The event formed part of a series of nine training events funded by the PCC and delivered by Hope for Justice, which aim to raise awareness of the signs of trafficking and slavery and equip professionals with the skills to identify victims and the knowledge of what mechanisms are available both to support victims and bring perpetrators to justice. Demand for sessions has been high, therefore further sessions will be held in the future.
- 4.12 On 7th June the PCC attended the Middlesbrough Mela event with members of his team to give out free crime prevention equipment and advice, whilst gathering the views of members of the public on hate crime and police engagement. The Mela is a highly successful multi cultural event which the PCC part funded this year through the PCC Community Safety Initiatives Fund.

5. Future Engagement / Meetings

Every month, the PCC holds themed Scrutiny Meetings with the Force and/or partners. In the future a number of scrutiny meetings are scheduled to take place namely:

- Finance, Resource & Policy – 20th July 2015
- Partnerships & Commissioning – 28th July 2015
- Performance – 29th July
- Audit Committee – 24th September

5.1 Other meetings of note include:

- Retail Crime Conference – 14th July 2015
- Antisocial Behaviour Seminar – 16th July 2015
- Stockton Eid Festival, consultation event – 26th July 2015
- Launch of Restorative Cleveland – 19th September 2015

Barry Coppinger
Police and Crime Commissioner for Cleveland