



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

21 July 2016

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 February 2016 to July 2016.
- 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. Since coming into office in November 2012 the PCC has attended over 375

community meetings allowing him to better understand the needs of local communities across Cleveland

- 3.2 Lack of visible neighbourhood policing and a reduction in community engagement was often raised as an issue. Following a review of Neighbourhood Policing, the force moved to a new Integrated Neighbourhood Team (INT) model on 6th June, focusing resources where there is the most demand and changing the shift pattern of officers to ensure that they are on duty when most needed. Increased staffing in the Protecting Vulnerable People unit also aims to allow INT resources to focus on neighbourhood issues. Since the new model was implemented there has been a visible reduction in job queues.
- 3.3 Several residents raised concern that some police offices were shutting, following misinformation on this issue. Following a review of police office usage a business decision was made to close the front desks of some of the less used police stations, which on average were receiving only one or two calls for service per day. Police officers and staff remain based at these offices, and members of the public can make appointments to meet officers at the locations.
- 3.4 Some residents raised concern over a perceived lack of support to Refugees and Asylum Seekers (RAS) to assist them in integrating into local communities. The PCC has recently funded a project to be conducted by the Regional Refugee Forum, which aims to create links between the police and other criminal justice agencies and the RAS community. As part of the wider Everyone Matters programme, a series of Cultural Awareness sessions have been funded by the PCC to increase staff and officer knowledge of the particular issues faced by certain communities. This has included two RAS focused sessions where members of the RAS community spoke to officers and staff to highlight the particular issues they may face in engaging with the police and other authority figures due to fear of authority from home country experiences.
- 3.5 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 In addition to this the PCC monitors the Control Room Log and the Serious Incident Log on a daily basis.
- 4.4 On 3rd February the PCC hosted an event to launch an awareness DVD highlighting the range of sexual abuse support services available throughout Cleveland. The PCC

continues to develop the Violence Against Women and Girls Strategy, one of the key aims of which is to promote the Sexual Assault Referral Centre (SARC) as a hub for all sexual abuse services across Cleveland.

- 4.5 On 21st February the PCC attended the Chinese New Year celebrations in Hartlepool, facilitating engagement with the Chinese community.
- 4.6 During February and March the PCC held a series of four Community Safety Roadshows, one in each Local Policing Area, in key shopping locations. The roadshows were an opportunity for the PCC Office, police and partners to engage with local residents and offer crime prevention advice, together with information on a wide range of support services available across Cleveland. Agencies taking part in the roadshows included Cleveland Fire Brigade, Harbour domestic abuse services, Unite mediation and Community Safety Partnerships.
- 4.7 On 22nd February the PCC hosted a multi agency event to give information on the new Victim Care and Advice (VCAS) service, which replaced Victim Support as the police victim referral agency from 1st April 2016. VCAS, which is operated by Safe in Tees Valley, runs across both Cleveland and Durham following a joint commissioning exercise between Cleveland and Durham PCCs. Early indications suggest the localised approach offered by VCAS is delivering immediate benefits, with VCAs operatives having direct access to police systems to identify potentially vulnerable victims who may need support.
- 4.8 Between 24th March and the PCC elections on 5th May, the PCC operated a purdah period, meaning that business as usual activity continued, but public engagements were undertaken in a personal capacity without the assistance of the PCC Office.
- 4.9 On 14th May the PCC attended the Justice First annual international football tournament. Justice First provides support to Refugees and Asylum Seekers (RAS), and the aim of the tournament is to encourage integration between the RAS community and residents of the local area. For the first time Cleveland Police entered a team in the competition, and won the event.
- 4.10 On 14th May the PCC also attended Exercise Aurora, which is a multi agency community safety exercise aimed at young people involved in the Duke of Cornwall awards. The young people undertake a variety of emergency planning scenarios including Mountain Rescue, Cleveland Police and Cleveland Fire Brigade workshops.
- 4.11 On 22nd May the PCC attended Operation Scarecrow at Oxbridge Lane allotments, where members of the Cleveland Police cadet unit offered free crime prevention advice and equipment to allotment holders as part of a target hardening initiative.
- 4.12 On 15th June the PCC attended a Show Racism the Red Card (SRTRC) workshop held at Thorntree Primary in Middlesbrough. The PCC has funded SRTRC for the second

year running to deliver anti racism workshops in schools together with teacher training conferences to equip teachers with the skills needed to adequately challenge racist attitudes displayed in the classroom. This year the project will focus on Hartlepool and Redcar and Cleveland where there was less engagement in the previous year's project.

- 4.13 On 1st July the PCC hosted a multi agency engagement event to consult on his draft Police and Crime Plan. Representatives from over 40 organisations attended and the feedback given is being included in the development of the plan.
- 4.14 On 10th July the PCC attended Middlesbrough Mela, together with the PCC Office and Cleveland Police, to give out crime prevention advice and equipment, together with information on support services available across Cleveland. The Mela is a multi cultural event, partly funded by the PCC, which aims to promote community cohesion and tolerance of diversity.

5. Future Engagement / Meetings

- 5.1 Meetings of note over the next few weeks include:
- Nagar Kirtan – Sikh parade in Middlesbrough – 17 July
 - PCC Crime Prevention stand, Cleveland Show, Stewarts Park – 23 July
 - PCC Crime Prevention stand, Stockton EID Fusion Festival, Ropner Park – 24 July
 - Tees Rural Crime Forum – 15 August

Barry Coppinger
Police and Crime Commissioner for Cleveland