



## Police & Crime Commissioner for Cleveland Cleveland Community Safety Hub

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## Report of the Police and Crime Commissioner to the Chair and Members of the Police and Crime Panel

26 September 2019

### Commissioners Update

#### 1. Purpose of the Report

- 1.1. The purpose of this report is to provide Members of the Cleveland Police and Crime Panel with a summary update on progress since the meeting in July
- 1.2. The report has been reformatted to provide clarity on the key areas of progress within the Police and Crime Plan.
- 1.3. Further detail on progress made is included within Community Engagement feedback (Appendix 1) the Performance report, Scrutiny report and Decisions of the PCC.

#### 2. Investing in Our Police

- 2.1. Following the recruitment of the Chief Constable this theme and 'A Better Deal For Victims' within the Police and Crime Plan has been under constant focus and scrutiny as demonstrated within the Scrutiny report and scrutiny minutes.
- 2.2. The overall service provided by Cleveland Police to the public needs to improve and as a result the progress made within the Police and Crime plan must also improve. The Chief Constable has begun communication with the public, local partners and stakeholders to set out the issues and confirm his approach to respond.
- 2.3. To continue to develop the breadth and depth of scrutiny that the PCC can discharge, a wider range of information and data is required from Cleveland Police to ensure that discussions taking place with the PCC are transparent in terms of what can and cannot be demonstrated.

- 2.4. The Chief Constable is committed to ensuring that the information presented within the scrutiny processes clearly articulates what is working and what requires improvement. This in itself is an area for improvement for Cleveland Police and will continue to develop in how the Chief responds to the PCC Strategic Direction issued on the 28<sup>th</sup> June 2019<sup>1</sup>.
- 2.5. The purpose of the Strategic Direction is to ensure that the Chief Constable responds to the PCC in 3 key areas:
  - 2.5.1. An annual assessment on how Cleveland Police are providing services to the public and a plan for development
  - 2.5.2. Clarification on areas of joint working such as Everyone Matters and Community Engagement
  - 2.5.3. Clear and transparent decision making that through scrutiny will support improvements in Cleveland Police and demonstrate progress and results to the public
- 2.6. Members will note that the Strategic Direction is referenced within the August scrutiny meeting minutes in addition to other aspects within this theme of the Police and Crime Plan as follows:
  - 2.6.1. Confirmation that Operation Phoenix was being received well both internally and externally and demonstrating improvements. This will be formally reported into the PCC in October and can be made available to panel members including how improvements can be sustained into the longer term
  - 2.6.2. Confirmation that 16 officers had started the return to neighbourhood policing across the Local Authority areas and discussions were in progress as to how this service will be developed further. The PCC will utilise feedback from community meetings to obtain feedback on this service
  - 2.6.3. Clarification on improvement areas within this theme<sup>2</sup> including performance reporting and realising the benefits on investments made.
  - 2.6.4. Confirmation and assurances were provided on the Force finances, further detail on this is included within the Performance report
- 2.7. Members will be aware that performance and service that Cleveland Police are currently providing has been the subject of further scrutiny by HMICFRS as part of the PEEL Inspection programme 2019.
- 2.8. The report will be published with copies being distributed to panel members for discussion in the panel meeting.
- 2.9. Within the wider context of the theme of 'Investing In Our Police' the PCC has progressed changes to the Everyone Matters programme in partnership with the Chief Constable and has launched recruitment for the core team.

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<sup>1</sup> [Strategic Direction 28th June 2019](#)

<sup>2</sup> Other improvements have been covered across other scrutiny meetings

- 2.10. This team will form part of the Commissioner's independent Office and will work closely with officers, staff and volunteers right across Cleveland Police and with our communities, to drive the programme forward for the benefit of the whole Cleveland area.
- 2.11. As part of an on-going campaign for fairer funding the PCC has also written to the Home Secretary to address the decisions made in relation to funding provided to other forces to tackle serious violence. This is included at Appendix 1.
- 2.12. Cleveland was not one of the areas selected for funding despite having the fourth highest level of recorded violent crime per 1,000 population in the country. The PCC will continue to lobby for this to be addressed.

### **3. A Better Deal for Victims**

- 3.1. As mentioned within the previous section this theme has been a key area for development since the last report following announcements being made by the Chief Constable about the service currently provided to victims by Cleveland Police.
- 3.2. The OPCC have been engaged in how improvements are being developed ensuring that any change or service can demonstrate that victims will be responded to accordingly.
- 3.3. An example of this was to request that investment from Operation Phoenix further support the use of Domestic Abuse Support Workers from across the county's providers including Foundation, My Sister's Place, Harbour and Eva Women's Aid.
- 3.4. This investment enabled a support worker to engage with those victims of priority in conjunction with the police attending on a Friday and Saturday. Results of Operation Phoenix will be presented to the PCC in October.
- 3.5. Members will note from the scrutiny minutes that this theme was subject of formal discussion with chief officers from Cleveland Police on the 1<sup>st</sup> July 2019. This meeting commenced with a call from a vulnerable victim that demonstrated that the service received was not of the standard expected.
- 3.6. Immediate and longer term arrangements were discussed including agreement as to how the Chief Constable would evidence that improvements would be made as quickly as possible including compliance with the Victim's Code of Practice and Operation Encompass<sup>3</sup>.
- 3.7. Wider to Cleveland Police progress can be confirmed from the following areas:
- 3.7.1. The Restorative Cleveland scheme commissioned by the PCC has been recognised and shortlisted by the Howard League of Penal Reform for the

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<sup>3</sup> Service previously commissioned to Safer In Tees Valley to inform schools of any child who had been exposed to domestic abuse the morning after the incident took place

category of 'Use of Restorative Approaches in Hate Crime. Confirmation of the final winner will be announced during November.

- 3.7.2. The OPCC are currently in the process of consulting on the Cleveland wide Human Trafficking and Modern Day Slavery Strategy. This will explore longer term approaches across the county.
- 3.7.3. A workshop has taken place to discuss the initial findings from the Domestic Abuse Whole System Approach project that took place regionally across seven force areas. The final report is yet to be published but the initial feedback for the region is positive and Cleveland Police are in the process of developing these into longer term proposals.
- 3.7.4. As part of the Whole Systems Approach a key strength was identified as the Domestic Abuse Scrutiny Panel. These are chaired by the OPCC, involve a number of agencies and have recently been merged with the former Rape Scrutiny panel.
- 3.7.5. A Domestic Abuse conference has been arranged in partnership between the PCC and Cleveland Police for the 30<sup>th</sup> September. This will further enable discussions with strategic leaders on areas such as; scrutiny across agencies including the outcomes of domestic homicide reviews, co-commissioning opportunities and developing the way in which themes that cut across all local authorities and agencies can be better co-ordinated.
- 3.7.6. As part of the Early Intervention Fund bid awarded to the OPCC earlier this year, training is now in progress for Adverse Childhood Experiences for staff across agencies such as Cleveland Police, Youth Offending Teams, ASB Co-ordinators and Youth Services. The impact of this training will be evaluated in February 2020 and future sessions are targeted to staff in children's homes and foster carers.
- 3.7.7. In addition training will commence in October aimed at improving awareness and knowledge across agencies of what to do when supporting young people who are involved with activities across county lines.
- 3.7.8. The Knife Angel project has now completed following the PCC, Chris Cave Foundation and Middlesbrough Council arranging for the National Monument against Violence and Aggression to be brought to Middlesbrough during August. The final benefits will be reported to the PCC in October to demonstrate value for money, education and awareness, knife crime prevention and tourism. Discussions are now in progress to determine how this work can continue.

#### **4. Tackling Offending and Reoffending**

- 4.1. A detailed progress update has been provided within the Performance report to support the summary below.
- 4.2. Proactive engagement is taking place with local and regional leaders in Probation to clarify and where possible influence the changes being in 2020. One of the key

risks (or opportunities) will be for the region to maintain the ability to develop innovative ways to manage offenders and to increase funding opportunities.

- 4.3. Recognition has been provided for the deferred prosecution scheme DIVERT currently commissioned by the PCC with local criminal justice partners. The scheme is in the process of being formally evaluated prior to decisions being made on funding sustainability.
  - 4.3.1. A certification of excellence has been confirmed from the North East NEPACS Ruth Cranfield Award
  - 4.3.2. Shortlisted for the Women's Category for the Howard League of Penal Reform Awards. The winner will be confirmed during November 2019
- 4.4. Discussions continue with Public Health and wider commissioning groups to further develop the design of future substance and alcohol misuse support services. These include:
  - 4.4.1. An event for exploring Community Sentence Treatment Requirements took place on the 13<sup>th</sup> September to focus on increasing the use of treatment to reduce re-offending and short custodial sentences.
  - 4.4.2. The Heroin Assisted Treatment project which is planned to launch at the end of September. The scheme is attracting a high level of interest including national research by Sheffield University, discussion at the Cambridge International Conference for Evidence Based Policing, supportive engagement with the Home Office to aid national development work and a planned visit by the Health and Social Care Committee.
- 4.5. Further development work will progress in this area following the recent publication of 'Public Health Approaches in Policing.
- 4.6. The Accommodation Group has been successful in a regional bid for £700k of regional funding for the Rough Sleeper Initiative and Rapid Rehousing Pathway. Both schemes have resulted into funding for local authorities across Durham Tees Valley to work with people who are homeless or at risk of being homeless through co-ordination roles and the introduction of assessment centres for immediate housing requirements.
- 4.7. Opportunities for funding from the Youth Endowment fund have been unsuccessful across a number of partners mainly due to constraints with time to submit the bid and subsequent feedback on the bids being able to demonstrate impact. Discussions are now progressing to proactively strengthen these and identify further schemes for opportunity to bid again next year mitigating against the time constraint.

## **5. Working Together to Make Cleveland Safer/Securing the Future of Our Communities**

- 5.1. Both of these themes continue to be developed through partners, regional and national structures.
- 5.2. Locally the ECINS project has been subject of review whilst awaiting confirmation as to the police lead for the solution. This has confirmed that project is delivering benefit in a number of areas such as Integrated Offender Management, DIVERT

and local authority community safety. Further benefits can be developed by widening the number of partners using the solution.

- 5.3. Plans to progress ECINS will be formulated through the multi agency Steering Group in October following confirmation that ACC Graham will be the Chief Officer lead from Cleveland Police. The group will include assurances from each agency on matters of compliance such as management of information as well as making plans for the future.
- 5.4. In support of developing safeguarding arrangements for children, the PCC has agreed that the Community Safety Hub will accommodate the South Tees Children's Hub.
- 5.5. The national 'Show Racism The Red Card' scheme is supported by the PCC and commissioned to work with schools across the county to educate and increase awareness about racism. The latest report from April until the end of June confirms that over 900 young people received the presentation across 15 schools within the county.
- 5.6. During May workshops were also delivered at two youth clubs in Middlesbrough reaching 54 young people. This included 3 small group workshops at Breckon Hill and a discussion with young people attending Newport Youth Club took place that was led by ex-player and Middlesbrough First team coach, Curtis Fleming.
- 5.7. The most recent feedback from the Your Force Your Voice programme has been discussed at the PCC Working Together group. Consultation activities conducted by the PCC range from face to face meetings with local communities, focus groups with specific hard to hear groups and attendance at events such as Middlesbrough Mela or Festival of Thrift.
- 5.8. This information is used to share with Cleveland Police and partners to confirm how issues will be addressed, and also used within the PCC scrutiny process to demonstrate how the force are performing in key areas. The detail of this feedback is included within the Community Engagement report at Appendix 2.

## Appendix 1 – Letter to Home Secretary on funding for Serious Violence



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Rt Hon Priti Patel MP  
Direct Communications Unit  
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16 August, 2019

### **Funding for Violence Reduction Units**

Dear Home Secretary,

I am writing following the Government's announcement on Monday 12<sup>th</sup> August that eighteen PCCs are to be awarded an additional £35m to establish Violent Reduction Units to tackle violent crime. While I welcome news that the Government has acknowledged that increased funding is needed to tackle the most serious and violent crimes on our streets, I am disappointed that Cleveland continues to be omitted from this funding stream.

Cleveland is an incredibly difficult area to police, despite its relatively small size. It has a recorded crime rate of 101 per 100,000 of the population, the fifth highest level in the country and increasing by 12% last year. While these increases are reflected nationally, the increasing levels of knife crime are not. At 0.8 crimes per 1,000 population, Cleveland's rates of knife crime exceed those of significantly larger metropolitan areas such as Greater Manchester and Merseyside.

Risk factors influencing young people being drawn into serious violence are high in Cleveland. In a three month period in 2018, a shocking 1,834 children in Cleveland witnessed a domestic abuse incident and 91 children were identified as vulnerable, at risk of CSE, missing or trafficked. The rate of Looked After Children (LAC) is double the

national average and the high prevalence of Class A Drug misuse has resulted in Cleveland being selected as a Heroin & Crack Cocaine Area by the Home Office. Considering our high crime rates and increasing levels of knife crime, it is incredulous that Cleveland is not among the 18 'worst affected' areas in the country for serious violence. This is in part as a result of the decision to use out-of-date hospital admission figures, which provide a one-dimensional view of the extent of serious violence and does not take into consideration the evidenced surge in knife crime which has taken place over the last 12 months.

The data fails to take into account the number of admissions per population, meaning as a smaller region of the country, Cleveland are clearly at a disadvantage. If a more proportionate approach had been taken, it would clearly show that Middlesbrough has the same number of knife-crime related hospital admissions as Doncaster, a town with double the population. It also does not consider violent assaults where a weapon other than a sharp object was used – or potentially no weapon at all.

Despite the challenges we face, we are optimistic about our ability to reduce levels of serious violence in Cleveland. We are grateful for the Home Office's £546,000 grant from the Early Intervention Youth Fund, which has allowed us to develop a Tees-wide Violence Prevention Strategy. This work will focus four key areas: prevention, early intervention, targeted intervention and diversion.

This investment has allowed us to double the funding for our four local authorities to spend on youth outreach services and will fund training for professionals about the impact of Adverse Childhood Experiences. Young offenders will have increased opportunities to turn away from crime through diversion schemes and can access counselling to help them to rebuild their damaged relationships with family and friends.

You may have also seen that we have secured a visit from the Knife Angel sculpture, which serves as a haunting reminder of the cost of knife crime and the devastation felt by the families who have suffered loss. A range of educational presentations will accompany the Angel's visit, to create a lasting legacy with our young people.

My office are working with local partners to organise a conference on serious violence, due to take place in Hartlepool in October. We would like to extend an invitation to you to attend this event, to hear first-hand the pressure serious violence is placing on our public services and the good practice taking place to tackle the issue. Please let my office know if you would be interested in attending.

We're proud of the work we are undertaking in Cleveland to disrupt and prevent serious violence, but I have no doubt that we could accomplish so much more with the right resources. Once again, Cleveland has fallen foul to a funding system that fails to recognise the significant demand and social issues we face.

We would ask that the Government reconsider the sole use of hospital admission figures as a means of identifying areas in need of financial support, as this approach leaves areas like Cleveland without the resources we need to tackle what is a growing and significant issue.



This selective resulted of the allocation of almost £100m to only 18 out of 43 police forces, further deepening the inequality in public sector funding across the country. We would encourage you to prioritise our area in any future funding opportunities so we are able to stem this issue that has long lasting consequences on victims and communities.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Barry Copping'.

Barry Copping  
Police and Crime Commissioner for Cleveland

## Appendix 2 – Community Engagement Overview

### OPCC Community Engagement – Overview

#### Background

Through the 'Your Force Your Voice' initiative the Office of the Police & Crime Commissioner undertakes a wide range of consultation activities to obtain the views of the people of Cleveland on policing, crime and antisocial behaviour issues. This ensures that the priorities established through the Police and Crime Plan truly reflect the concerns of our local communities.

Consultation activities range from face to face meetings with local communities, focus groups with specific hard to hear groups and attendance at community events such as Middlesbrough Mela, Festival of Thrift. Since coming into office the Commissioner has attended almost 700 Your Force Your Voice meetings.

#### Overview of Recent Concerns

Over the last six months the top concerns raised by residents through community engagement meetings have been:

- Lack of visible police resources – many residents have expressed concern at reduced police and partnership resources as a result of ongoing budget cuts. Reduced visibility of community safety staff has, in some cases, led to increased fear of crime and antisocial behaviour and a perception that agencies are not tackling localised community safety issues.
- Drug dealing and using – drug related crime has been the top crime type mentioned in consultation. Some residents expressed frustration at a perceived lack of action when reporting intelligence regarding drug dealing. Police and partnership teams have had many successes regarding drugs in recent months, which have been well publicised, but it can be difficult to directly link intelligence to positive activity.
- Antisocial use of off road vehicles – this has been a key issue over the summer period, especially in rural areas. Operation Endurance continues to target this activity, and the community are encouraged to report the whereabouts of vehicles which are being used antisocially. The Force have recently purchased two drones which will assist in policing off road activity.
- 101/Control Room – a common complaint received through community engagement is response times when contacting 101. Online reporting will become available towards the end of 2019 through the transition to the Single Online Home system, and this will provide an alternative reporting route for non emergency issues. Additional resources have also been brought into the Police Control Room to assist with demand.
- Speeding – a common community complaint is speeding vehicles in residential areas. A review has recently been conducted of Community Speedwatch and each Local Policing Area now has speed watch equipment and trained PCSOs to deliver speed watch operations in conjunction with community members. The Special Constabulary also provide additional speeding enforcement support in residential area.
- Antisocial behaviour – a key concern raised by residents regards antisocial behaviour, in particular related to young people. This was reinforced by a recent consultation undertaken by Middlesbrough Council where 83% of residents stated

that antisocial behaviour was a concern for them. The PCC commissioned Victim Care and Advice Service continues to provide support for victims of antisocial behaviour, and the Police and community safety partners continue to work in partnership to target people behaving antisocially.

- Retail crime – a perceived lack of police response to shoplifting offences was raised by a number of retailers. A newly established retail crime team is working to target repeat offenders and engagement with retailers continues through the North East Retail Crime Partnership.
- Rural crime – some residents in rural areas reported a perceived lack of agency response to rural specific issues. The Force Rural Crime Prevention Officer works in partnership with other agencies to tackle rural crime. This includes regular operations in rural areas such as Eston Hills and Guisborough Woods, target hardening with rural residents and businesses and targeted activity through the PCC chaired Tees Rural Crime Forum
- Crucial Crew – 10 and 11 year olds in Middlesbrough were engaged with through the Crucial Crew community safety event. The top crime concerns mentioned were drug dealing, violence and house burglary, with young people reporting that they felt particularly unsafe in parks, mostly due to the activity of older children. This was reflected in the fact that the top antisocial behaviour concerns was teenagers hanging around.
- Victim focus groups – the OPCC conducted a series of focus groups with victims of crime and frontline staff to ascertain their views on victim expectations when reporting incidents to the Police. Key areas highlighted were:
  - Clear and realistic timescales – to be set at the point of reporting the incident. Victims recognise the pressure on resources and are prepared to wait for a response if this is outlined realistically at the point of reporting
  - Police attendance – as the Force puts in places measures to manage demand police attendance is only undertaken when this is deemed appropriate, however many victims expect Police to physically attend all incidents – *'everything is a zero to a victim'*
  - Accurate, Consistent Information - lack of consistency between the information provided by call takers and the information provided by attending officers can lead to confusion for the victim.
  - Single Point of Contact - Victims appreciate having a specific point of contact to deal with regarding the progress of their case.
  - Communication - Victims would like regular updates on the progress of their case. Even if nothing has happened they would like an update periodically to let them know this.
  - Repeat Victims - repeat victims expect officers to have an awareness of previous incidents, and also expect that all incidents will be considered in one investigation rather than in isolation.

## **Conclusion**

A range of issues has been raised through community engagement conducted by the OPCC. Issues raised are fed into the OPCC scrutiny and performance mechanism.