



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

6th October 2020

Commissioner's 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 an overview of the activity of the former Police & Crime Commissioner (PCC) and the Acting PCC (A/PCC) since the last meeting held in July 2020.
- 1.2 The report highlights specific updates aligned to the priorities of the Police & Crime Plan, as agreed by the Panel in July 2020.
- 1.3 This report should be considered in conjunction with progress detailed in the PCC Scrutiny and Decisions of the PCC reports. Collectively, these reports provide progress in all areas of the Police & Crime Plan.

2. COVID 19

- 2.1 The Office of the Police & Crime Commissioner (OPCC) has continued to adapt ways of working to ensure business as usual is maintained. Agile working arrangements remain in place, enabling all team members to work from home.
- 2.2 The provision and sustainability of PCC commissioned services, and maintaining effective communication and engagement with communities across Cleveland continues to be of paramount importance. During the reporting period the OPCC has;
 - Maintained regular contact with commissioned services and Government departments to review business continuity arrangements, understand demand and impacts on service delivery and explore future funding opportunities.

- Utilised a range of digital platforms to communicate and consult with communities and has:
 - Issued 19 press releases, 76 tweets and 72 Facebook posts
 - Received 12,617 website visits, 135,000 Twitter impressions
- Continued the production and distribution of the PCC monthly newsletters - <https://www.cleveland.pcc.police.uk/News-and-Events/PCC-Newsletter-Archive.aspx>
- Actively hosted and participated in virtual local meeting forums covering a range of crime, policing, public health and criminal justice matters - including Community Safety Partnerships, Stockton-on-Tees Health & Wellbeing Board; Cleveland & Durham Local Criminal Justice Partnership; Cleveland Strategic Hate Crime Group; Cleveland Strategic Independent Advisory Group, Cleveland Working Together Group, Cleveland External Ethics Committee and Middlesbrough Local Outbreak Control Board.

3. Investing in Our Police

3.1 Despite the challenges of the ongoing pandemic Cleveland Police has continued to drive forward the 'Towards 2025 - Road to Improvement' programme. The Force's breadth and momentum of activity can be commended and early signs of performance improvement relating to the vulnerability work stream is encouraging. Key high level achievements to date include:

- Introduction of Neighbourhood Policing across the organisation which has seen a surge in confidence amongst our partners in a commitment to working together to solve long standing community problems.
- The Force has moved from one of the lowest arrest rates for domestic abuse (DA) in the country to above both the national and Most Similar Group (MSG) average.
- The DA victim withdrawal rate has moved from amongst the highest in the country to well below the national and MSG average.
- The Public Protection Notice (PPN) completion rate is now consistently around 99%, with 93% of submissions now including details of all associated children – a rise from 49% in May 2019.
- Performance in relation to Domestic Violence Protection Notices (DVPNs) has also improved with 71 applied for over the past 12 months resulting in 51 Domestic Violence Protection Orders (DVPOs) being issued. This compares to 30 in the preceding 12 months, an increase of 137%.

3.2 As reiterated by the Chief Constable at the Stakeholder Event held on 25 September 2020, the Force's journey to improvement is long term and will be challenging, requiring tolerance and time for change to be implemented and take effect.

- 3.3 In early November, HMICFRS will be conducting an Integrated Vulnerability Inspection which will aim to verify and confirm the improvements that the Force have made since entering Police Performance Oversight Group (PPOG) in 2019.
- 3.4 In July 2020, an OPCC review of Force Control Room performance information identified a concerning '101' call abandonment rate and public feedback highlighted lengthy '101' waiting times. In response, a deep-dive scrutiny review of the Force Control Room commenced in August 2020 which has led the Force to incorporate the delivery of change requirements for Force Control Room into the wider Service Improvement Programme.
- 3.5 On the 30 September 2020, the strategic partnership with Sopra Steria came to an end, with the 237 staff employed in Business Support, Criminal Justice Unit (CJU), Estates and Facilities, Finance and Payroll, People Services (HR), Information and Communications Technology (ICT), Learning and Development and Operational Support transferring back to Cleveland Police with effect from 1 October 2020. The A/PCC will continue to scrutinise the work being done to transition these important services to the Force and will monitor and assess this change work, as part of Cleveland Police's ongoing programme of improvement.

4. A Better Deal for Victims & Witnesses

- 4.1 The OPCC are in regular communication with services that support victims and thanks to funding secured from the Ministry of Justice, reported to the Panel at the last meeting in July, many services have been able to safely re-open to provide support to vulnerable victims face to face. Support service capacity is being monitored locally and monthly reporting is required to the Ministry of Justice.
- 4.2 As part of the PCC's commitment to ensure victims of sexual violence have access to high quality and specialised support, a service specification for a new Sexual Assault Referral Centre (SARC) service has been finalised and a procurement process commenced. Co-commissioned with neighbouring PCCs and NHS England, the new service will provide enhanced 24/7 crisis support to anyone who has experienced rape or other sexual offences where forensic, health and support services can be accessed. This service will be complemented by a new Tees-wide Independent Sexual Violence Advisor (ISVA) Service, which will support victims throughout the criminal justice process. Both services will be in place from 1 April 2021.
- 4.3 To address the increased demand for specialist support services for victims of both historic and acute sexual violence, during the reporting period the OPCC was successful in securing £116k from the Ministry of Justice to enhance current ISVA provision. The funding will be used to support the provision of two additional ISVA roles across Cleveland between 1 July 2020 and 31 March 2022. In Cleveland, the current ISVA service is delivered through Teesside-based charity Arch North East. In the last 12 months, the service offered 5,712 sessions of support, including 467 new assessments, 1,371 face to face meets and 151 court support sessions.

- 4.4 In July 2020, the OPCC launched an online consultation to inform the future design of a support service for Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic (BAME) victims of illegal cultural harms, including forced marriage, honour-based violence and female genital mutilation. Seeking views from affected individuals, communities and agencies - findings from the survey, which will be available later this month, will be used to design a new Tees-wide specialist service that will offer culturally informed support to help victims break free and recover from abuse.
- 4.5 In partnership with a range of voluntary and statutory agencies the OPCC submitted a bid to the Home Office Child Sexual Abuse Support Services Transformation Fund. If the bid is successful funding will be used to strengthen and enhance support for children and young people who have experienced sexual abuse, this will be achieved through the development of:
- A transformational partnership which will bring together key stakeholders, including commissioners and service providers.
 - A Specialist pathway development for BAME and male victims.
 - A whole family approach support offer.
 - A co-located children & young person specialist worker in the Police Complex Exploitation Team.

5. Tackling Offending and Reoffending

- 5.1 As approved by the Panel in July 2020, the further development of the Heroin Assisted Treatment (HAT) pilot forms part of Police & Crime Plan Strategic Programme 2020-21. In August 2020, the PCC announced the extension of the Middlesbrough HAT Scheme for a further 12-months. Supported by funding seized from criminals under the Proceed of Crime Act, the HAT scheme will continue to provide specialist treatment and support to up-to 15 individuals. Early results of the scheme have shown promising results in reducing offending behaviour, reducing substance misuse, greater engagement with services and improvement in the health and wellbeing of clients. Latest analysis of six participants who had completed at least 29 weeks of treatment showed:
- Previously the group had committed 541 detected crimes with an estimated cost to victims and the public purse of £2.1m. In the 29 weeks since starting treatment their crime total fell to three lower scale offences.
 - Four of the participants had committed no crime since starting the programme and in all six cases the individuals had either completed probation or shown improved compliance with their probation order.
 - The participants had a 98% attendance rate at the twice daily treatment sessions despite the challenges posed during the Covid lockdown.

- In all cases there had been a fall in the use of street heroin and for four of the group, no street heroin had been consumed during the final ten weeks of the study period.
- Self-declared data suggests none of the participants were sleeping rough, their use of other illicit substances had declined markedly and their mental wellbeing was improving.

5.2 Funding has also been secured from Durham Tees Valley Community Rehabilitation Company to support the continuation of the HAT scheme. An independent evaluation of the scheme is being conducted by Teesside University and is expected to be finalised in late November.

5.3 In support of the improvements Cleveland Police have progressed in addressing domestic abuse related offending behaviour, the OPCC has submitted a partnership funding bid to the Home Office Domestic Abuse Perpetrator Fund to extend the provision of behaviour change programmes. If successful the funding will be used to enhance service provision across Cleveland and address gaps in service to improve outcomes, including:

- Enhancing the ability of services to swiftly respond and assess new referrals.
- Increasing and support referrals from underrepresented groups including LGBTQ+ and BAME communities.
- Increasing and support referrals from female abusers/ perpetrators.
- Increasing awareness and access points via primary health care settings including GP surgeries.
- Enhancing the early help offer within children's services.
- Offering support/engagement following first call outs to the police.
- Increasing self-referrals.
- Ensuring those perpetrators with pregnant partners or children under school age get the earliest/fastest route to access the most appropriate perpetrator provision, as we know 30% of abuse begins during pregnancy.
- Enabling whole family approach to intervention and support addressing all identified needs.

5.4 In a continued effort to address the underlying causes of offending behaviour the OPCC are working in partnership with GamCare, the Beacon Trust, TEWV Liaison & Diversion Service and Cleveland Police to implement a Police Custody Gambling Screening Programme. The programme will seek to introduce routine gambling screening of detained persons, similar to those processes that are already in place for drug and alcohol screening. Where a gambling issue is identified individuals will be signposted into support

services/programmes, linking with the Cleveland Divert scheme where appropriate.

- 5.5 Following a submission to the Home Office Safer Streets Fund, the OPCC was successful in securing £1,034,696 to prevent acquisitive crimes. The partnership project will target the Newport area of Middlesbrough, Hartlepool's Burn Valley, including Oxford Road and adjacent 'ladder' streets, and South Bank in Redcar and Cleveland – areas selected due to their disproportionately high levels of crime. A range of measures will be implemented to protect communities from crime and deter offending behaviour, including enhanced CCTV coverage, alley gate improvement schemes, metal shutters and improved lighting. The area's most vulnerable households will receive home security provisions and funding will be provided for Neighbourhood Watch schemes and dedicated Victim Care Officers.

6. Working Together to Make Cleveland Safer/Securing the Future of Our Communities

- 6.1 In March 2020, the PCC formed a unique partnership with Teesside University to undertake independent research into Community perceptions of Cleveland Police's implementation of the Coronavirus Act powers. Concluded in August (report attached at Appendix B) of the 530 people who took part in the research it found:

- People in the Cleveland Police area were generally happy with the police response – with 60% believing they did a good job.
- 72% of people in Teesside believed that the police presence in their area was not enough
- 81% were generally comfortable with the police asking people why they were out of their home during lockdown
- One respondent said: "The police have been amazing near where we live."
- Two thirds of people in Teesside complied with lockdown measures out of concern for the NHS, rather than for their own safety.
- The majority (86%) said they were also comfortable with fixed penalty notices being issued for those breaching lockdown and 76% said they supported the police in arresting people who did not comply.

- 6.2 The OPCC funds Safer Communities to manage the Cleveland Police Cadet scheme across each Local Policing Area, working with young people aged 13 to 17 to:

- Promote a practical understanding of policing amongst young people.
- Encourage a spirit of adventure and good citizenship.
- Support local policing priorities through volunteering and giving young people a chance to be heard.
- Inspire young people to participate positively in their communities.

- 6.3 During the height of the pandemic the Police Cadet programme was paused, but plans are now in place to recommence delivery under strict regulations of 'bubbles' and social distancing. Youth workers will be put in place to support Unit Leaders in delivering appropriate safeguarding. The cadets will continue to support local police teams where practicable and will also be involved in a specific project raising awareness of hate crime with young people.
- 6.4 On the 12th September 2020, the first Cleveland Youth Commission meeting was held. Bringing together over 20 young people from a diverse range of backgrounds, the virtual meeting provided an opportunity for the Commission members to meet and identify a set of priorities which included:
- Young people and their relationship with the Police
 - Hate Crime and Online Crime
 - Mental Health
 - Drugs and Alcohol Addiction
 - Youth Activities and Re-offending
- 6.5 Delivered by Leaders Unlocked, the Youth Commission project will provide the views of young people across Cleveland to the A/PCC to support the development and delivery of the Police and Crime Plan. The next meeting is scheduled for 10th October.
- 6.6 The OPCC has been working closely with Stockton Council, through the Cleveland Strategic Hate Crime and Incidents group, to develop new branding for third party reporting centres across Cleveland. The branding will be launched during Hate Crime Awareness Week in late October as part of a re-launch of the scheme to encourage more residents to report hate crime if they experience it.