



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

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

**4<sup>th</sup> March 2021**

### **Commissioner's Update**

#### **1. Purpose of the Report**

1.1 The last meeting of the Police and Crime Panel was held on 2 February 2021. As a result the purpose of this report is to provide a holistic PCC update including:

- Activity against the Police and Crime Plan since the last reporting period
- Overview of decisions made by the Acting PCC since the last reporting period.

1.2 There has been no formal scrutiny meeting since the last meeting, with the next one taking place on 17 March 2021.

#### **2. Investing in Our Police**

2.1 On 19<sup>th</sup> February 2021, Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary and Fire and Rescue Services (HMICFRS) published their post-inspection review that took place during November 2020. The review was not graded but provided both HMICFRS and Cleveland Police with an understanding of progress made to date following the introduction of the service improvement programme.

2.2 The review report provided an accurate reflection of where the force is in their improvement journey. The Acting PCC shared the view that improvements have been made but these must continue with the expectation being that the rate of change will increase as national restrictions ease.

2.3 Following approval by members at the last panel meeting, the 1.99% increase in precept provides the Chief Constable with the resources needed to support the accelerated police officer recruitment.

2.4 Through the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner (OPCC) scrutiny programme, work will continue in terms of further scrutiny in areas where little or no progress has been made. This will involve further triangulation of information to inform the key lines of questioning put to the force.

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

3.1 As regularly reported, victim support services have continued to provide high quality support to victims of crime throughout the pandemic. This has been acknowledged through additional funding provided during 2019/20 from the Ministry of Justice (MoJ) to enable them to adapt to new ways of working, effectively deal with increased demand and increased complexity of need.

3.2 The MoJ have recently announced that they will be providing further uplift funding to PCCs for the 2021/22 period, specifically for domestic abuse and sexual violence services. In Cleveland this is £220,073 for Domestic Abuse services and £42,994 for Sexual Abuse. Through an open and transparent process, bids have been welcomed from specialist services across the Cleveland area. Bids are in the process of being evaluated to enable service delivery from 1 April 2021.

3.3 In addition to the above, OPCCs have the opportunity through a competitive expression of interest process to apply for additional Independent Sexual Violence Advisors (ISVA) / Independent Domestic Violence Advisors (IDVA) resources. ISVA/IDVAs are fully trained, specialist staff who prioritise safety, reduce risk and provide an independent voice for victims. The OPCC is currently working with providers to understand any unmet need to inform the application process.

3.4 The first governance meeting for the Cleveland Wide Domestic Abuse Review being undertaken by SafeLives took place on 26 February 2021. As previously reported this review has been commissioned by the OPCC, Tees Safeguarding Adults Board and the areas two Children's Safeguarding Boards. A project delivery plan was shared with the group with an initial draft report of the findings encompassing recommendations being shared in June 2021.

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

4.1 The Safer Streets project continues to deliver positive results across the three project areas (Burn Valley – Hartlepool, Newport – Middlesbrough and South Bank – Redcar and Cleveland).

4.2 The current funding comes to an end on 31 March 2021, however on 28 January 2021, the Home Office announced an additional £20million for 2021/22.

4.3 In the first funding round areas such as car parks and city centres were excluded from the criteria, however following feedback from PCC areas this has changed with the scope broadened to reflect particular issues and concerns.

- 4.4 Work is ongoing with Cleveland Police and Local Authority colleagues to identify locations that meet the funding criteria and to identify relevant and appropriate interventions to build into future bids. It is anticipated that a primary, secondary and tertiary bid will be submitted based on the greatest evidence of need – bid deadline 25 March 2021.

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

- 5.1 As reported in the previous reporting period, Cleveland's first Youth Commission launched five online surveys covering the areas below:

- Hate Crime and Online Crime
- Drugs and Alcohol Issues
- Youth People and their Relationship with the Police
- Youth Activates and Preventing Offending
- Mental Health Awareness

- 5.2 Over 1000 responses have been received to these surveys and have been analysed to be presented at a 'Big Conversation' virtual event with local leaders including the Acting PCC and the Chief Constable on 3<sup>rd</sup> March.

- 5.3 Consultation is ongoing with Community Safety Partnerships in relation to a Cleveland Wide Serious Violence Strategy following on from a successful partnership event held back in February 2020. The strategy encourages a public health approach to serious violence which aims to acknowledge the root causes. To support deliver of a final strategy the OPCC are seeking external funding opportunities to support the delivery of key interventions.

- 5.4 The OPCC in partnership with the Tees Rural Crime Forum have launched a survey to capture crime and safety concerns of rural residents, landowners and business owners. The survey will be conducted twice a year and seek to understand what crime rural communities are most worried about and what they believe agencies should be doing to protect them. The survey is open until 23:59 on 12 April 2021.

## **6. Transparency Quality Mark**

- 6.1 The OPCC on 24 February 2021 were 'highly commended' following the awarding of independent accolade for their commitment to transparency for the sixth year running.

- 6.2 On an annual basis CoPaCC assess how OPCCs fulfil their statutory obligations for transparency as required by the statutory transparency factors contained within The Elected Local Policing Bodies (Specified Information) Order 2011, based on the information delivered through the OPCC website.

- 6.3 Those OPCCs that are judged as reaching a satisfactory standard are awarded the CoPaCC Open and Transparent Quality Mark. This year CoPaCC added a further criteria for assessment, 'ease of access' which

considered how easy it is for members of the public to find the information disclosure.

6.4 The OPCC has a continued commitment to operate in an open and transparent manner ensuring the public continue to have access to up-to-date information about the things that we do.

## 7. **Summary of Decisions made by the Acting PCC (from February 2021 to date)**

### **Independent sexual violence advisor service for Cleveland**

In 2017, NHS England and the Office of the Police & Crime Commissioner (OPCC) wanted to build on and improve joint funding arrangements for the Sexual Assault Referral Centre (SARC)

This was in line with national guidance, which supported collaborative commissioning arrangements. The aim was to provide county-wide coverage and a consistent service.

The SARC provides a 'hub' of information and advice for victims of sexual assault and abuse as well as coordinating services for them.

Following a successful procurement exercise, the contract was awarded to Safer Communities. The contract was for three years with an option to extend for a further year

During 2020, NHS England decided to re-contract SARC to include forces across the North East and Cumbria. This contract would start at the end of the initial contract.

As a result, the OPCC needed to procure a separate independent sexual violence advisor service (ISVA.)

The OPCC carried out procurement via open tender using the EU Supply Tender Portal. That meant all interested bidders could access tender documentation and submit a bid.

Full details of the procurement process are attached to this decision notice. The OPCC has decided to award the contract to Bidder 1.

### **Decision 2019-00259879 – Weightmans LLP Report Publication**

The PCC has approved a decision relating to the publication of the independent report into Cleveland Police's use of RIPA powers.

The Investigatory Powers Tribunal (IPT) decision in 2016 found that the Professional Standards Department (PSD) of Cleveland Police had inappropriately sought and obtained authorisations under and within PSD in relation to the use of powers to obtain communications data.

Both the former Police and Crime Commissioner for Cleveland and the then Chief Constable recognised the seriousness of the issues which emerged in the course of the IPT hearing. A decision was made (Decision Notice 2016-23430) to proactively determine whether the apparent failings in this one case, may or may not be symptomatic of individual, institutional or systemic failings and accordingly the Commissioner and Chief Constable agreed to conduct a full audit and review of cases dealt with by PSD (including the Anti-Corruption Unit), between 2011 and 2017 in which telephone communications data authorisation was sought.

Accordingly the former Police and Crime Commissioner for Cleveland (in conjunction with the then Chief Constable) appointed Weightmans LLP to carry out a specialist legal compliance review, for the period since 1st January 2011 to 30 June 2017, with a view to determining whether RIPA authorisations were sought in a procedurally and legally correct manner and authorised in accordance with all relevant legislation, case law, and guidance.

The specification for the review required that the resulting report would be suitable for publication, subject to the Chief Constable's discretion as to operational sensitivity, and subject to other compelling public interest considerations. The specification also made provision to the effect that there should be no obligation upon the Contractor to share data (obtained or generated in the process of provision of the Services) with the Police and Crime Commissioner in circumstances in which the Chief Constable considered that such data was operationally sensitive in nature and whose disclosure to the Police and Crime Commissioner would be other than in accordance with normal operational principles.

The Weightmans LLP review is now complete and as part of a pre-publication process Weightmans LLP invited key stakeholders to attend at their offices to inspect the report and, where applicable, to raise any issues with the content of the report. The invitation to inspect the full report included interested parties and included the Investigatory Powers Commissioner's Office, the Independent Office of Police Conduct.

The stakeholder engagement has been conducted independently by Weightmans LLP and has resulted in a short Addendum to the report that takes account of the responses provided during the stakeholder engagement stage.

This Decision Notice records the decision of the Acting Police and Crime Commissioner in respect of publication (in full or in part) of the Weightmans LLP Report and the Addendum report.

The Acting PCC and Chief Constable of Cleveland Police continue the original commitment to publish the full Report and Addendum by Weightmans LLP. This commitment was also made to relevant parties to the IPT findings into the unlawful use of RIPA authorisations.

### **Decision 2019-00259901 – Precept Proposal 2021/22**

The PCC has approved a decision regarding the police budget for 2021/22 and the setting of the precept for the next financial year.

Legislation requires that the Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC) agrees their budget and associated precept and basic council tax for the forthcoming year before 1st March each year. However before doing so the PCC must notify the relevant Police and Crime Panel, by the 31st January, of the precept which they propose to issue for the following financial year.

The PCC has been informed by the Home Office that "This settlement provides a total of up to £15.8 billion for policing in 2021/22, an increase of £636 million on the 2020/21 funding settlement. Available funding to Police and Crime Commissioners (PCCs) will increase by up to an additional £703 million in 2021/22, including local flexibility to increase council tax precept.

This increase is broken down as follows:

- A £415 million increase in Government grant funding to PCCs. This additional funding will support year 2 of the Police Uplift Programme. £100 million of this funding will be ring-fenced and allocated according to funding formula shares, and will be paid in line with progress on recruitment.
- Up to £288 million additional funding from council tax precept, if all PCCs maximise their precept flexibility. We are enabling PCCs to increase precept by up to £15 for a Band D equivalent property. Furthermore, PCCs will receive a portion of the £670million of additional grant funding announced for local council tax support as part of the Spending Review 2020.
- This precept flexibility is that PCC's have been provided with is the option to increase their Band D precept by £15 in 2021/22, without the need to call a local referendum. In Cleveland this equates to an increase of 5.74%.

The results of consultation with the public of Cleveland, in relation to the level of precept for 2021/22, which had 181 responses, has resulted in the following:

- 52% (94) stated that they would be willing to pay more Council Tax to support policing. This figure rose to 58% (105) if the alternative meant cutting police services.
- Just over 20% indicated that they would be willing to pay an increase of £15.

If the precept is increased by 1.99% then the Net Budget Requirement is expected to increase in 2021/22, by nearly £7.3m (or 5.2%), and after taking into account the additional grant that will be provided if the Force deliver against the Governments recruitment targets for Police Officers, the total funding available in 2021/22, in comparison to 2020/21, is forecast to increase by £6.4m.

The funding will support the continued accelerated increase in Police Officer numbers within in the Force and will ensure that National Target are delivered a year earlier than expected. It would also mean that the number of Police Officers within the Force will have increased by over 250 FTEs in 3 years, which is an increase of over 20%.

**Decision 2021-00258905 – Funding – Targeted Youth Outreach Service 2021/22**  
Using PCC funding each CSP will commission targeted street based youth outreach service with the aim of reducing youth antisocial behaviour.

Introduced by the Crime and Disorder Act 1998, Community Safety Partnerships (CSPs) have a statutory responsibility to develop and implement strategies to reduce crime and disorder, substance misuse and re- offending in their local area – including anti-social behaviour.

CSPs are made up of representatives from the six responsible authorities, these include the Local Authority, Police, Fire Brigade, Community Rehabilitation Company, National Probation Service, and Clinical Commissioning Group.

Using PCC funding each Local Authority (Hartlepool, Middlesbrough, Redcar & Cleveland, Stockton) CSP will commission a Voluntary and Community Sector organisation to deliver a targeted street based youth outreach service with the aim of reducing youth antisocial behaviour. In Redcar & Cleveland the service will be delivered by the Local Authority Streetz team.

The service will deliver a range of early intervention, diversionary and positive activities centred on assertive street based youth work, engaging with young people aged 5-18

who are at risk of exploitation, and/or of becoming involved in anti-social behaviour activity.

The service will be intelligence led delivered in a reactive manner, providing short term interventions in antisocial behaviour hotspot locations identified by partnership information and analysis and reviewed at local multi agency meetings. The service delivery organisation will sit on these multi agency meetings.

A Local Authority lead will be identified to coordinate the commissioned Targeted Youth Outreach Service and report back to the OPCC on activity undertaken with PCC funding.

#### **Decision 2021-00259281 – Funding for North East Retail Crime Partnership**

The PCC is asked to approve a £7,000 spend to the North East Retail Crime Partnership (NERCP) to enable the continuation of services in 2021/22.

The North East Retail Crime Partnership (NERCP) is a not for profit regional organisation that works with the retail community, police and crime prevention agencies to help tackle retail crime in the North East. NERCP is managed by registered charity Northumbria Coalition Against Crime.

£7,000 contribution from Cleveland OPCC will allow the continuation of NERCP services across Cleveland, delivering the following:

- **NERCP Forums** – a platform for police and retailers operating in Cleveland to problem solve at a strategic level to ensure retail crime is managed effectively and confidence is built and sustained from both.
- **Information & Intelligence Sharing** – identification and tracking of local, regional and national travelling offenders and trends, forewarning retailers and police of their activity, reducing crime and disorder
- **Retail Crime Initiatives** – the identification and delivery of intelligence led initiatives and campaigns aimed at raising the awareness of retailers, police and the general public e.g. Counterfeit money, purse dipping, seasonal campaigns.
- **Support for the Cleveland Divert programme**, creating a forum for dialogue between the OPCC and retailers to develop Divert services with shoplifting perpetrators

#### **Decision 2021-00260467 – Harm Reduction Union – Peer to Peer Naloxone Programme**

The PCC is asked to approve funding for the Harm Reduction Union upto the value of £20,000 between January 2021 and December 2021.

In December 2019; the OPCC received a funding application via the Community Safety Initiative for £20,000 from Foundations to deliver a Peer to Peer Naloxone Project in Cleveland via the Harm Reduction Union (HRU) for a 12 month period.

Opiate based drugs are a key contributor to the high rates of drug related deaths in Middlesbrough and Hartlepool, which have the highest rates nationally. Naloxone is a life-saving treatment that temporarily reverses the effects of an overdose from opiate based drugs.

In 2015 the Home Office published guidance on Naloxone being issued to people who take drugs as part of a 'Take Home Kit'. These kits can be acquired from substance misuse services, but there are drug users who do not access treatment services, and are at a greater risk of death due to the lack of contact with health care professionals, and

support services that do not have access to Naloxone. To address the gap and meet the needs of this vulnerable group of people, Foundations have formed a Harm Reduction Union Peer to Peer Naloxone Project, which will involve a group of volunteers, who are themselves in recovery for their substance use, who will distribute the kits to those who need it most.

Foundations have stated that the key aims of the project are to:

- Reduce drug related deaths
- Increase access to meaningful recovery and support
- Reduction in drug related litter in communities
- Reduction in costs on public services
- Increase education and employment opportunities.

Foundations is the clinical delivery partner for Heroin Assisted Treatment, which was the first scheme of its kind to commence in England. The services of the organisation have been rated as 'outstanding' for care of vulnerable people, providing effective care via CQC at their Acklam Road site, and 'outstanding' overall for the care provided at their Harris Street site.

This proposal aligns with the OPCC's commitments to provide people with substance abuse issues the treatment and support they need, as stated in the Police and Crime Plan.

Funding was initially agreed by the OPCC to cover the twelve month period 1st July 2020 to 30th June 2021. Due to the initial outbreak of COVID'19, and subsequent quarantine, Foundations were not in a position where they could operate the scheme. The new funding period will cover 1st January 2021 – 31st December 2021.

All decisions can be found on the PCC website:

<https://www.cleveland.pcc.police.uk/working-for-you/decisions/decision-notice/>

**Lisa Oldroyd**  
**Acting Police and Crime Commissioner**