

Police and Crime Plan Consultation Plan

Background

The role of the Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC) is designed to be the link between the public and the policing service which is delivered on their behalf. PCCs are elected by the public to hold Chief Constables and the Force to account, effectively making the police answerable to the communities they serve. A key role for PCCs is therefore representing and engaging with local communities to help ascertain and deliver their policing priorities.

The focus of OPCC consultation is to ensure that:

- Members of the community feel engaged with the work of the OPCC.
- Members of the community feel able to voice their concerns, are able to influence the OPCC scrutiny of Cleveland Police and understand what happens as a result.
- Strategic policy is developed in a manner which reflects the needs of local communities.
- Commissioned services are designed around the needs of the client.

The PCC produces a Police and Crime Plan covering their term of office that sets out the priorities for local policing for the whole force area, and how they are going to be addressed. This document sets out the PCC's objectives for policing and reducing crime and disorder in the area, how policing resources will be allocated, agreements for funding and performance reporting requirements. The Police Reform and Social Responsibility Act states that before the Police and Crime Plan is issued the PCC must make arrangements for obtaining the views of people in that police area on that plan.

As a public sector body the PCC has to meet the requirements of the Equality Act 2010 which brings together all previous equality legislation and includes a new public sector equality duty. The Equality Act refers to nine different protected characteristics - Age, Disability, Gender Reassignment, Marriage and Civil Partnership, Pregnancy and Maternity, Race, Religion and Belief, Sex and Sexual Orientation. While there is no explicit legal requirement under the Act to engage with people with different protected characteristics, the Act does require public authorities to have due regard to the need to eliminate conduct prohibited by the Act, including discrimination, harassment and victimisation, and to undertake Equality Impact Assessments to consider the likely impact of work on different groups of people.

The draft Police and Crime Plan will be presented to the Police and Crime Panel for consultation on 6th July. Consultation with the wider community will then take place over the summer period to inform the further development of the plan, with a final plan incorporating public feedback being launched in the Autumn, subject to final approval from the Police and Crime Panel.

Consultation Programme

Online Survey

Digital engagement is an effective methodology for reaching a large number of participants from across a cross sector of backgrounds and demographics. An online consultation undertaken by the OPCC earlier in 2021 as part of Safer Streets funding development obtained 1206 responses.

It is therefore planned that the main focus of the Police and Crime Plan consultation will be an online survey. The survey will focus on the key priorities identified in the Police and Crime Plan and ask for community input on:

- Areas of focus needed
- Gaps in work currently being delivered
- Suggestions for other areas of focus

The survey will be promoted through OPCC social media networks, with promotional graphics designed by the OPCC Communications Team.

Information on the online survey will be disseminated to local communities through a variety of networks:

- Press release
- OPCC website
- OPCC social media
- Facebook community forums, i.e. Newport Matters, The Mighty Redcar etc
- Police Staff Networks
- Independent Advisory Groups
- Community Safety Partnerships
- Local elected members
- VCSE networks
- Youth Commission
- Cleveland Police Community Engagement Team

It is recognised that this online methodology will not reach all sectors of the community – the Safer Streets survey had a particularly unrepresentative sample of views from the BAME community and older people. It is also widely documented that rural communities may not be as digitally connected as urban communities. Additional work will therefore be undertaken to supplement the results from the online survey

Community Safety Roadshows

The OPCC team will attend community events over the summer period with crime prevention equipment and face to face surveys focusing on the same themes as the online survey. The advantage of this methodology is it includes a wider range of people who might not complete a survey online but will engage whilst on a day out at an event. This will also allow targeting of diverse communities, through specific events such as Middlesbrough Mela. At least one event will be attended in each Local Authority area.

Focus Groups

Working in conjunction with the Cleveland Police Community Engagement Team and the Equality, Diversity and Inclusion team focus groups will be arranged with communities across Cleveland representing protected characteristics. Discussions will be framed around the same themes as the online survey. This will ensure that the voices of hard to hear communities are included in the consultation and that these communities are able to influence the strategic development of the Police and Crime Plan.

The different consultation methodologies which will be used are summarised in the table below:

Method	Considerations	Advantages	Disadvantages
Online Survey	Consideration will be given to the graphics used to promote the survey to ensure they are targeted at diverse profile of respondents	Reaches a large target audience. Accessible to people with access issues. More appealing to a younger audience.	Only accessible to those who are digitally connected. Previous online surveys have lacked diversity in the respondents with most being White British.
Community Safety Roadshow	Where possible events aimed at hard to hear communities will be included in the roadshow programme.	Reaches people who may not engage with traditional consultations. Allows participation for people with childcare commitments. Can be targeted at hard to hear groups. More appealing to a younger audience.	Small number of participants so results are qualitative rather than quantitative.
Focus Group	The OPCC will work with the Cleveland Police Community Engagement team to ensure that focus groups are effectively targeted.	Can be targeted at specific hard to hear groups. Use of interpreters can increase access to diverse groups.	Small number of participants so results are qualitative rather than quantitative.

Timelines

The consultation results will be used to inform the development of the final Police and Crime Plan, which will be presented to the Police and Crime Panel on 14th September 2021.

The table below sets out the timelines for each section of the consultation:

Methodology	Timeline
Online Survey	6 weeks from 9 th July to 20 th August 2021
Community Safety Roadshows	A variety of events from 31 st July to 15 th August
Focus Groups	A variety of sessions from 9 th July to 20 th August

Final Summary

The consultation will use a range of methodologies to ensure that a diverse cross section of the local community are consulted and given the opportunity to feed their views into the development of the Police and Crime Plan.