



Annual Report 2020 – 2021

The purpose of this report is to inform Cleveland Police and Crime Panel, our key stakeholders and the residents of Cleveland about the achievements of the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner (OPCC) over the last financial year.

It will be formally presented to the Police and Crime Panel for their consideration in July 2021, before being published on the Police and Crime Commissioner's website.

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Introduction

This report comes in the wake of an incredibly challenging 16 months, in which the world sadly lost millions of lives to Coronavirus and we experienced restrictions on our daily lives and the way services were delivered. The scope of this report covers the very height of the pandemic in April 2020 and takes us through two further lockdowns across England and Wales.

Our priority during the crisis was protecting the wellbeing and health of our team. Having practiced agile working since 2016, staff adapted to permanent home working exceptionally well and without delay. Despite additional challenges of home schooling and caring for vulnerable relatives, the team stepped up to the mark and ensured there was no break in the service we provide to the public of Cleveland.

Like many organisations, we adapted our working practices to accommodate remote working through the use of digital technology and innovative practices. All core areas of OPCC business continued to operate during the pandemic, including scrutiny of the Chief Constable, community engagement, supporting our criminal justice colleagues and supporting vulnerable victims.

We're delighted to say that throughout the crisis, Cleveland's victim services have displayed resilience and determination to provide life-changing care to those in need. All of them utilised digital technology to reach those who could no longer access support in person and many faced increased demand as lockdowns increased the vulnerability of certain groups. I'm pleased we were able to assist services supporting victims of domestic abuse and sexual violence with an additional £690,000 to meet demand and adapt their services.

Our work to reduce offending has also continued despite the challenges of the last 12 months. Our Divert scheme continued to provide first-time or low-level offenders the opportunity to address underlying issues in their lives that have caused them to offend.

We were successful in securing £1m from the Home Office's Safer Streets fund to make three of Cleveland's theft-hit neighbourhoods more secure from crime. Newport, South Bank and Burn Valley all benefitted from the investment, which saw significant increases in CCTV coverage, improved street lighting and the refurbishment of alley gates in all three areas. This investment has already resulted in reductions in acquisitive crime and theft in the three areas and we look forward to monitoring the more long-term success of the new crime prevention measures.

The work doesn't stop there – we've recently secured a second grant of £366,000 from the Safer Streets Fund to conduct similar work in Stockton Town Centre. In addition, we're already looking ahead to the third round of funding, which will support us to make areas safer for women and girls in our communities.

As the world returns to a sense of normality, we are looking forward to working with new PCC Steve Turner to develop his Police and Crime Plan. Work is already underway on his objectives and his overarching objective of putting the pride back into Cleveland Police.

Lisa Oldroyd – Acting Chief Executive & Monitoring Officer

Key Achievements at a Glance

Objective 1: Investing in Police

- ✓ Continued scrutiny of Cleveland Police's journey of improvement
- ✓ More officers return to neighbourhood policing
- ✓ Significant steps forward made in equality, diversity and inclusion
- ✓ Continued scrutiny of Cleveland Police control room
- ✓ Independent Ethics Committee strengthened

Objective 2: A Better Deal for Victims

- ✓ Victim support agencies continue to deliver during COVID-19
- ✓ Tees-wide Independent Sexual Violence Advisor (ISVA) service commissioned
- ✓ Secured to support victims of domestic or sexual violence
- ✓ Transformation of support for victims of child sex abuse underway
- ✓ Funding boost to prevent child criminal exploitation

Objective 3: Tackling Offending & Re-offending

- ✓ £1m invested in three theft-hit neighbourhoods – crime reduced
- ✓ Evaluation of Heroin Assisted Treatment scheme shows early promising results
- ✓ Giving young people a chance through sport and activity
- ✓ Middlesbrough chosen for system-wide approach to tackling drugs

Objective 4: Working Together to Make a Safer Cleveland

- ✓ Partnered with Teesside University to measure perceptions of policing during COVID-19.
- ✓ Rural communities protected and consulted during the pandemic
- ✓ A continued leadership role in multi-agency working to tackle hate crime
- ✓ Better information sharing between agencies involved in tackling crime

Objective 5: Securing the Future of Our Communities

- ✓ Youth Commission launched to gather views of Cleveland's young people

- ✓ Football diversion project helps tackle Mischief Night and Halloween
- ✓ Anti-racism work adapted during the pandemic to train police officers
- ✓ Youth outreach services engage with nearly 5,000 young people

Police scrutiny and accountability

Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary and Fire and Rescue Services (HMICFRS) carry out annual inspections of Cleveland Police and produce reports so the public know how well the police are performing.

Their PEEL assessments examine the Force in three areas: efficiency, effectiveness and legitimacy. Additional specialist inspections look at a particular aspect of policing on a national level and make recommendations for improvements.

Cleveland Police's current inspection rating (2019)

Efficiency: Inadequate
Effectiveness: Inadequate
Legitimacy: Inadequate

Holding Cleveland Police to account

To address the areas of improvement identified by HMICFRS, Cleveland Police created a new strategic plan-on-a-page which outlines their vision, priorities and enablers in how they will be the best they can be to improve and:

- Protect the vulnerable
- Prevent and detect crime
- Provide a public service
- Provide support for our people and be proud of what we do

Cleveland Police's improvement work was a key feature of the OPCC's Scrutiny and Accountability Work Programme during 2020/21, where monthly progress updates scrutinised the review of programme control documents, outcomes were tracked against the programme stage plan and assurances were sought from internal and external sources, including HMICFRS, to evidence programme delivery and impact of the Service Improvement Programme.

Scrutiny of policing during the pandemic

In order to ensure effective oversight and scrutiny of the Force's preparedness and handling of the COVID-19 pandemic, the OPCC utilised the technology available to maintain scrutiny processes as normal, as well as a number of additional levels of scrutiny, including:

- Weekly Scrutiny and Accountability meetings with the Chief Constable
- Daily briefings from the Strategic Command Group
- Daily briefings from the Tactical Command Group

As an extra layer of scrutiny, the PCC asked members of the public for questions which were to be put to Chief Constable Richard Lewis. Over 25 questions submitted by the public were put directly to Mr Lewis and his senior team, with topics ranging from police powers, travel for exercise, social distancing and queries about MOT tests.

As a result, key questions from the public were collected regularly and put to Mr Lewis in recorded virtual meetings, which were published on the OPCC website. This meant the public could hear key messages about Coronavirus from the Force and the OPCC.

Cleveland Independent Custody Visitor Scheme

COVID-19 lockdowns and subsequent restrictions prevented Independent Custody Visitors from undertaking face-to-face visits in Cleveland Police's custody suite, oversight and scrutiny of custody arrangements and treatment of detainees has been maintained.

This was achieved through dip sampling of police custody records, results of which are fed into the national dataset collated by the Independent Custody Visiting Association (ICVA) and shared with the Police Custody Management Team to support continuous improvement. Face-to-face visits will return in June 2021.

Complaints

On 1 February, national changes to the way police complaints are handled were introduced. As such, the OPCC is now responsible for undertaking independent reviews of complaints dealt with by the Force.

This means when a member of the public makes a complaint to Cleveland Police they have a right to ask for their complaint to be reviewed. If they are dissatisfied about the outcome of their complaint.

Complaints reviews handled by the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner

From February 2020 - 31 March 2021:

Total reviews completed	68
Upheld	13
Not upheld	53
No further action	2

The PCC's Complaints Service Team have been maintaining business as usual throughout the pandemic and have responded to numerous concerns and complaints linked to COVID-19, providing advice and assistance and resolving issues for the public.

Objective 1. Investing in Police

✓ Continued scrutiny of Cleveland Police’s journey of improvement

In early 2020, Cleveland Police commenced its ‘Towards 2025 - Road to Improvement’ programme, noting that significant progress had already been made in stabilising operational activity.

Despite additional policing challenges brought about by COVID-19, the Chief Constable confirmed that the Service Improvement Programme (SIP) would continue throughout the pandemic. During this time progress has been made in relation to programme governance, leadership, planning and delivery, where key appointments have been made by the Force to lead the Service Improvement Team.

Work during 2020-21 focused on a combination of review work and implementation of change summarised in the table below:

Organisational Reviews	Implementation Work
✓ End to end domestic abuse mapping	✓ Progression of the Vulnerability Desk
✓ Equality, Diversity & Inclusion Assessment	✓ Development of Neighbourhood Policing
✓ Community Safety	✓ Problem Solving, Prevention and Tasking
✓ Internal business processes such as Recruitment, Promotion, Grievance	✓ Development of Ethics and EDI including increasing champions
✓ Demand Management – Duties, Events, Civil Contingencies and Critical Incidents	✓ Philomena Protocol
✓ Multi Agency and Children Safeguarding	✓ Senior Leadership Coaching
✓ Clarification of Investigation demand	✓ Victims Code of Practice development
✓ Leadership Training Needs Assessment	✓ Complaints legislation
✓ Longer term approaches to regional Murder Investigation Team	✓ Crime Assessment & Allocation Framework
	✓ Raising Investigative Standards Development Programme

In November 2020, HMICFRS returned to review the progress the force had made in responding to the recommendations from all three inspections that specifically relate to **how**

the force protects vulnerable people. The report provided an accurate reflection of the forces position with the requirement for further improvements to be made.

✓ **More officers return to neighbourhood policing**

More local, visible and accessible policing is always a theme when engaging with communities and as a result, the OPCC is closely monitoring the re-introduction of neighbourhood policing teams across the area.

In May 2020, as part of Cleveland Police's service improvement work and the PCC's commitment to strengthen neighbourhood policing, an additional 28 police officers joined neighbourhood policing teams across Cleveland to provide a greater focus on prevention and problem solving activity.

✓ **Significant steps forward made in equality, diversity and inclusion**

The five-strong Equality, Diversity and Inclusion (EDI) team have continued to embed best practice within Cleveland Police. In terms of policy development, the Force's Equality Impact Assessment (EIA) process was redesigned and launched in September 2020. The team also implemented a new Staff Network Policy, to strengthen the Force's existing eight networks.

The team continue to provide advice and co-ordination of positive action in recruitment activities of the Force, to encourage underrepresented groups to apply for roles in policing. During 2020-21, campaigns included recruitment for police officers, PCSOs and force contact officers.

Training has continued to be important work for the EDI team. 90 leaders within the Force received input on inclusive behaviour and 62 officers in neighbourhood policing were trained in community engagement. Force contact officers and police staff receive a briefing on EDI as part of their induction.

✓ **Continued scrutiny of Cleveland Police control room**

The OPCC deepened scrutiny of the performance of the Force Control Room, following concerns regarding the high number of calls being abandoned.

A new control room shift pattern was introduced on 25th January 2021 ensuring staff are on shift at the points of highest demand. The impact of this change will continue to be monitored through the monthly scrutiny programme, with further assurances required in relation to the provision of a responsive, sustainable and high-quality service.

✓ **Independent Ethics Committee strengthened**

Following a successful recruitment campaign in November 2020, five individuals were appointed to the Independent Ethics Committee. The Committee plays a key role in scrutinising and advising on a wide range of ethical dilemmas faced by Cleveland Police. The new recruits will ensure a more diverse and representative panel, enabling a wide level of challenge and debate.

Objective 2: A Better Deal for Victims

✓ Victim support agencies continue to deliver during COVID-19

At the outset of the COVID-19 pandemic, the OPCC recognised the priority of ensuring vulnerable people and victims of crime have access to the vital services they need, many of which are commissioned by the OPCC.

Throughout the pandemic all locally OPCC commissioned services including the Victim Care and Advice Service (VCAS), Domestic Abuse Support Services, Sexual Violence Support Services and Restorative Cleveland adapted their delivery models to meet Government social-distancing guidelines and have continued to accept new referrals, engage and offer support to individuals.

The Victim Care and Advice Service is a free, independent and confidential support service for victims of crime and their families. The service delivered by Safer Communities enables victims to cope with the immediate impact of crime and assists them in their subsequent recovery.

During the period 1 April 2020 – 31 March 2021 the VCAS Service supported 2,250 individuals ranging from victims of violent crime, criminal damage, burglary and fraud.

Quarter of a million pounds secured to support services during COVID-19

The OPCC were successful in securing £571,000 from the Ministry of Justice to support Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence Services to address costs associated with the pandemic. This included short term disruption to income, essential costs of sustaining current activities or addressing increases in demand. This funding has been a substantial help to specialist services locally who have been able to retain additional staff with the appropriate skills and knowledge to continue providing high quality support.

✓ Tees-wide Independent Sexual Violence Advisor (ISVA) service commissioned

Following a recent procurement process the OPCC have appointed Arch Teesside to deliver a Tees-wide Independent Sexual Violence Advisor Service (ISVA).

The role of an ISVA is crucial in providing tailored support to victims and survivors of sexual violence. This includes emotional and practical support before, during and after a court process. An ISVA will also provide support regardless of whether the victim wishes to report to the police.

The OPCC along with Arch Teesside further promoted the role of an ISVA during Sexual Violence Awareness Week in February 2021. Support such as this is all the more important given anticipated delays in court dates as a result of the pandemic.

✓ **£477,000 secured to support victims of domestic or sexual violence**

Through the development of successful funding applications the OPCC secured £477,000 from the Ministry of Justice to support vulnerable people, children and families affected by domestic abuse and sexual violence. Supporting nine organisations across Cleveland including; A Way Out, Eva, Arch, Safer Communities, Nacro – SWITCH Project, My Sister's Place, Harbour, Foundation and Halo, the funding was used to:

- Purchase digital equipment and technical support to allow staff to support vulnerable people remotely;
- Provide welfare supplies for vulnerable victims including groceries, household goods and mobile phones to ease isolation;
- Support additional provision or staff to deal with an increase in demand or to replace work normally carried out by volunteers;
- Provide additional support for young people affected by domestic abuse, including support workers and specialist counselling – and more.

✓ **Transformation of support for victims of child sex abuse underway**

The OPCC with a range of voluntary and statutory agencies submitted a bid to the Home Office Child Sexual Abuse Transformation Fund to strengthen and enhance support for children and young people who have experienced sexual abuse. This bid was successful and £232,027 has been secured for 2020-2022 to deliver:

- 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 that provides tailored support to parents to help them improve their understanding of sexual abuse and increase their confidence to safeguard their children. This will be supported by the development of resources.
- A co-located children & young person specialist worker in the Police Complex Exploitation Team.
- Transitions worker which will bridge the gap and provide continuity of support from childhood to adulthood reducing the risk of further exploitation.

✓ **Funding boost to prevent child criminal exploitation**

In December 2020, the OPCC were successful in securing £3,000 from the Modern Slavery Organised Immigration Crime Programme (MSOICP).

The funding was secured to strengthen and enhance our approach to supporting and increasing awareness of modern slavery for families, children, children's services staff and other young people who are linked to modern slavery, especially those via the typology of child criminal exploitation. Working with specialist service providers including Barnardos with support from Cleveland Police, a series of seminars for parents, carers and professionals were held. To reach as many people as possible the webinars were recorded and shared with schools across the Cleveland area.

Objective 3: Tackling Offending and Re-Offending

✓ £1m invested in three theft-hit neighbourhoods – crime reduced

The Government's £25m Safer Streets Fund aims to reduce the impact of theft and burglary in some of the country's most vulnerable communities. The Home Office invited Police and Crime Commissioners (PCCs) to make up to three bids to support neighbourhoods disproportionately affected by theft-related crime.

The OPCC worked in partnership with Cleveland Police, Middlesbrough, Hartlepool and Redcar and Cleveland Councils to develop three bids. All were successful, securing over £1m in funding for three at-risk areas of Cleveland:

- Burn Valley and Oxford Road ladder (Hartlepool) – £444,608
- Newport (Middlesbrough) – £479,838
- South Bank (Redcar and Cleveland) – £110,250

Over the past 10 months, the PCC's office has worked with partners to deliver:

- 78 additional CCTV cameras
- 249 updated lighting columns
- 330 improved alley gate locks
- 1500 at home crime prevention packs
- 59 secured 'void' nuisance properties
- 200 supported victims of crime

Has the project worked?

Acquisitive crime in Newport from April 2020 to April 2021 dropped by 22 per cent compared to the previous twelve months, with Burn Valley and South Bank seeing reductions in burglary of 40 per cent and 49 per cent respectively. The area will continue to be monitored in the years to come to see the long-term benefits of the investment.

✓ Evaluation of Heroin Assisted Treatment scheme show early promising results

Working with partners in public health, prison, probation, police and drug treatment services, the OPCC launched Middlesbrough's HAT programme in October 2019, with four individuals starting on the scheme immediately.

Early findings from the treatment.

- Total number of people who have received treatment: 12
- Current number of people on the scheme: 9
- Attendance rate: 98%
- Changes between month one of treatment and month three of treatment:
 - Overall quality of life score increased by 200%
 - Use of illicit opioids dropped by 97.8%
 - Combined substance use down by 48%

The evaluation results showed early promising results for the treatment population. These results will be used to inform future funding options with partners.

✓ **Giving young people a chance through sport and activity**

The OPCC has committed to part funding the Chances programme, together with Cleveland's four local authorities, which is being delivered by Middlesbrough FC Foundation. The Chances programme is an evidence-based sport and activity programme. Chances will be delivered through the use of a Social Impact Bonds (SIB). SIB's are intended to improve the social outcomes of publicly funded services by making funding conditional on achieving results. In this instance, the Social Investor is Big Issue Invest. They pay for the project at the start, and then receive payments based on the results achieved, ultimately getting their funding back IF all outcomes are met.

The outcomes aiming to be achieved are:

- Improving Physical Literacy
- Improving School Attendance
- Reducing Not in Education, Employment or Training status
- Reducing Offending and Reoffending – this is the outcome the OPCC funding will be linked to

✓ **Middlesbrough chosen for system-wide approach to tackling drugs**

The Middlesbrough Council area has been chosen by the Home Office and Public Health England to pilot a new system wide approach to tackling drugs.

Project ADDER (Addiction, Diversion, Enforcement and Recovery) will see the Police, Council and Health Services come together working in partnership to address the root causes of drugs misuse and the breaking down of supply chains. The Project will run for three years and bring Home Office investment of £1.325million.

Project outcomes include:

- A reduction in the rate of drug related deaths
- A reduction in the prevalence of drugs use
- A reduction in the level of drug related offending
- A reduction in reoffending for prolific offenders who are motivated by drugs
- Increase in the number of drug users engaging in treatment and recovery support, deriving benefit from doing so; and also completing treatment
- Reduction in drugs supply to local areas.

Objective 4: Working Together to Make a Safer Cleveland

- ✓ **Partnered with Teesside University to measure perceptions of policing during COVID-19**

To deepen scrutiny of Cleveland Police during the pandemic, the OPCC formed a unique partnership with Teesside University to undertake independent research to understand:

- **Community perceptions regarding Cleveland Police's implementation of the Coronavirus Act powers** - The University were an independent player acting to advise the PCC on public perceptions regarding Cleveland Police's use of COVID-19 powers to ascertain whether the community, and in particular 'at risk' groups, felt that the new powers were being used appropriately with the desired focus on engagement, education and encouragement before resorting to enforcement.
- **How the community would like the PCC and Cleveland Police to engage with them during the period of social distancing when traditional face to face engagement mechanisms are not appropriate** – This included recommendations regarding future engagement mechanisms to better reflect the diverse range of platforms available for engagement, and will potentially have longer term implications for the format of community engagement, going beyond the timescales of the pandemic.

The results of the research undertaken provided general robust support for Cleveland Police and the lockdown measures introduced by the government. It was clear that members of the public want community engagement during lockdowns to not be solely driven by public health concerns.

- ✓ **Rural communities protected and consulted during the pandemic**

The OPCC continues to Chair the Tees Rural Crime Forum where a multi-agency action plan has been developed focusing on:

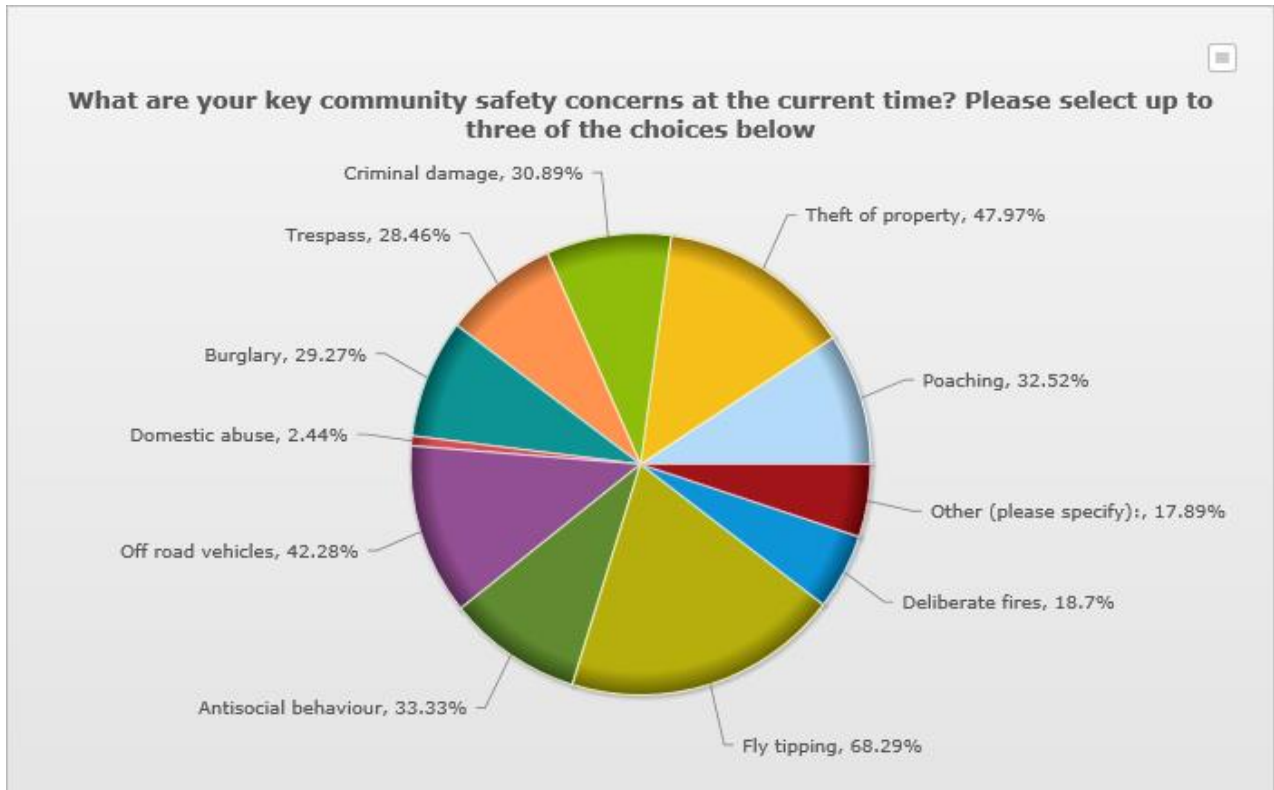
- Improving public confidence in our rural communities
- Better understanding of our rural communities
- Improving awareness within the wider workforce regarding rural crime
- Disrupting criminal activity in rural areas
- Developing best practice in relation to rural crime.

Early in the COVID-19 pandemic concerns were raised both locally and nationally that rural communities were particularly impacted by the social distancing measures. The PCC launched a Rural Crime Survey to better understand how the pandemic was impacting rural communities and their experiences of crime and antisocial behaviour.

The top five community safety concerns raised by respondents were:

- Fly tipping (68%)
- Theft of property (48%)
- Off road vehicles (42%)
- Antisocial behaviour (33%)
- Poaching (32.5%)

The chart below shows the full range of responses received:



Speeding, and inconsiderate and illegal parking were the main concerns mentioned in the Other section of this question.

In response to the concerns raised, the PCC has convened monthly virtual meetings of a Tees Rural Crime Task Force, bringing together Police, Specials, Rural Volunteers, Fire, Local Authorities and Environment Agency. In advance of the meetings the wider community members of the Tees Rural Crime Forum are asked to feed in local concerns to ensure that these are reflected in the discussions due to the difficulties of holding a virtual meeting of the wider forum. Action taken following the Task Force's first meeting includes:

- Additional patrols of rural areas using Specials and Neighbourhood Teams
- Drone patrols of Eston Hills and Guisborough Woods, two sites that have had ongoing issues with fire setting during the pandemic
- Increased promotion through social media of the partnership work ongoing to provide public reassurance
- Engagement with local MP to ensure partnership linkages

✓ **A continued leadership role in multi-agency working to tackle hate crime**

Monthly virtual meetings of the Cleveland Strategic Hate Crime and Incidents group were convened. The group is chaired by the PCC and involves representatives from a wide range of community safety and criminal justice organisations including Police, Local Authorities, Youth Offending, Housing, and VCAS. A key element of the meeting is monitoring community tensions. Some of the key outcomes from the meeting have been:

- Application to Faith, Race and Hate Crime grant scheme
- Plans for a Cleveland Police Cadets hate crime awareness campaign on social media – risk assessments currently being undertaken

✓ **Better information sharing between agencies involved in tackling crime**

Ensuring staff from different agencies can all access the same information about an individual or a family is a key feature in preventing crime, safeguarding vulnerable people and reducing offending effectively. The OPCC and partners continue to invest in E-CINS – an information sharing system designed to make it easy for different agencies to add, update and remove case information.

The system is currently used by 16 agencies across Cleveland for:

- A total of **537** cases were created on ECINS between Apr-20 and Mar-21. There are 115 of these cases currently open and 422 which have been archived.
- Of the 422 that have been archived, 77% have been archived as resolved or needs met;
- The cases relate primarily to: the Divert program, Victims, anti-social behaviour, integrated offender management and problem solving
- Organisations using ECINS include teams from Cleveland Police, local authorities, housing associations, Cleveland Fire and Safe in Tees Valley

Objective 5: Securing the Future of our Communities

✓ Youth Commission launched to gather views of Cleveland's young people

In 2020 the OPCC commissioned a social enterprise organisation, Leaders Unlocked, to develop a Youth Commission (YC) model for Cleveland as a mechanism for engaging young people aged 14 to 25 in relation to policing and community safety. 27 young people were recruited from a range of diverse backgrounds and life experiences. They decided on the following key priorities for young people across Cleveland:

- Young people and relationships with the police
- Hate crime and online crime
- Mental health awareness
- Drug and alcohol abuse
- Youth activities and preventing re-offending

The YC engaged with over 1200 young people across Cleveland through the 'Big Conversation' to establish a wider picture of young people's priorities and views in the five key areas identified. A recommendations report was then produced and presented to the OPCC, Cleveland Police and other local leaders in an online conference.

The event was very well received by local services who attended, with one stating:

'I have been involved in numerous initiatives where young people have been consulted on numerous issues. What struck me about the Youth Commission presentation it was very different - it was clear that the process had empowered young people; they presented in a manner that showed they had taken ownership of the research; were very articulate in what they had found out; had obviously explored underneath the issues that are affecting young people and crucially identified solutions. The evening very definitely demonstrated that Leaders were being unlocked.'

The project has been re-commissioned for another year. Key activities planned are:

- Working with the OPCC, Police and partners to implement the recommendations of the 'Big Conversation' report
- Stop and Search scrutiny
- Ethics scrutiny
- Development of a Youth Independent Advisory Group model
- Mental health project – Tree of Life

World Children's Day 2020

On Friday 20th November, the PCC and Chief Constable took part in World Children's Day by allowing a young person to take over their role for the day. The young people were appointed from the Youth Commission following an application process which saw 11 applications received.

The youth PCC had a busy day with meetings to Chair and attend in relation to Serious Violence, Stop and Search and Restorative Justice. The remaining 9 candidates who were unsuccessful in the takeover roles still played a vital role in the day through engaging workshops, with the aim of identifying real life community projects which will see the youth PCC decide on what project to award £1,000 of funding to.

✓ **Youth outreach services reach nearly 5,000 young people**

The OPCC funds each Local Authority to commission a Targeted Youth Outreach Service to deliver an assertive street based programme of early intervention, diversionary and positive activities, engaging with young people who are involved in, or at risk of becoming involved in antisocial behaviour and criminal activity.

During 2020/21 social distancing restrictions meant that the services had to be paused intermittently, however over the course of the year the services were able to engage with nearly 5,000 young people through street based activity.

The focus of the outreach changed to engaging with young people and encouraging them to follow social distancing restrictions. During the pandemic the majority of young people across Cleveland have been compliant with the Covid measures. Services have targeted hotspot areas such as parks where young people were congregating and have built relationships with young people and gained trust. At a time when most youth services were closed and potentially vulnerable young people had restrictions in the positive interactions in their lives the Youth Outreach Service were able to provide a valuable link to services.

✓ **Football diversion project helps tackle Mischief Night and Halloween**

MFC Foundation Kicks provides free of charge sporting activities for young people in deprived areas across Cleveland using the power of the MFC brand to engage with potentially vulnerable young people and divert them from potential offending behaviour. Like other youth services MFC Foundation activity has been restricted due to social distancing restrictions; however activity has been undertaken in 9 centres across Cleveland engaging over 800 young people.

The project supported Operation Autumnus to divert young people from offending over the Halloween and Bonfire Night period. Over 100 young people attended sessions during this time, and the positive impact of the sessions was noted by Cleveland Police. Daryll Thomlinson, Cleveland Police Chief Inspector, said:

“The Neighbourhood Police Teams in Middlesbrough continue to support the community sessions where possible and have seen first-hand the value the sessions bring. We have witnessed the diversity in the sessions and how the coaches are able to build trust and confidence and engage with them. During the session it is clear that the activity is pivotal in diverting them from walking the streets and potential crime and anti-social behaviour”.

✓ **Anti-racism work adapted during the pandemic to train police officers**

SRTRC are a charity who provide anti-racism training and awareness raising sessions.

During 2020/21 SRTRC received OPCC funding to deliver awareness raising sessions in schools across Cleveland. With schools being closed due to the pandemic funding was diverted into front line training for police officers regarding racism and unconscious bias. 8 sessions were delivered to over 300 front line staff as part of the Equality, Diversity and Inclusion programme running within Cleveland Police. A ‘train the trainer’ session was also

delivered to OPCC and Cleveland Police staff to ensure sustainability of the training package being rolled out internally going forwards.