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

5th February 2019

Commissioners Update

1. Purpose of Report

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to provide Members of the Cleveland Police and Crime Panel (PCP) with an update in relation to key matters since the previous meeting in September including;
- A whole system approach to domestic abuse
 - White Ribbon Campaign
 - Restorative Cleveland Launch – 23rd November
 - Cleveland Divert Launch – 2nd January
 - Anti-extremism Event - 23rd January

2. A whole system approach to domestic abuse

- 2.1 The whole system approach to domestic abuse project has now been fully rolled out in Cleveland Police for over 12 months. The Home Office Police Transformation funded regional project was awarded to leads Force Northumbria PCC and Police in 2016, to administer on behalf of a seven force region, including Cleveland, Durham, North Yorkshire, Humberside, West Yorkshire and South Yorkshire.
- 2.2 The aim of the project was to transform the way the police understand, approach and response to domestic abuse. Ensuring that, through a systemic model of work they become better attuned to coercive controlling behaviour, pilot initiatives to test out early intervention approaches with victims and perpetrators, establishing better links with

family courts and adopting good practice multi agency safeguarding approaches.

- 2.3 Since the project restart in December 2017, the Project Manager has assembled a team of six experts, including a Safeguarding Police Inspector, as well as five officers from both statutory and the independent specialist domestic abuse sector to progress the programme.
- 2.4 A summary of the Cleveland achievements so far is:
- 2.5 Commissioning an award winning theatre company, to deliver specialist domestic abuse (DA) training to all police officers, staff and partner agencies involved in the local response. Approximately 825 officers and staff are booked onto the training, which is close to the critical mass target of 921 (90%) of relevant officer/ staff who should attend.
- 2.6 Developing an early intervention response to domestic abuse victims who call for police assistance, through the provision of a specialist worker in Force Control Room, who conducts ring backs to victims within an hour. Off 505 relevant victims who have been contacted since October 2018, 244 have engaged, and received advice and support, and 91 have gone onto engage with a local specialist domestic abuse service; the service costs just £3.81 per victim.
- 2.7 Operating a domestic abuse partnership second responder car at peak demand times (normally Fridays and Saturdays), partnering a plain clothes police officer with a specialist DA support worker, who then conduct early response outreach visits to victims, to provide advice, support and assistance in respect of immediate safeguarding and short terms needs. To date, 673 victims have received early victim contact, either through outreach visit or telephone support. Of those, 390 have engaged, receiving specialist advice and support, and
- 2.8 Establishing an Independent Domestic Abuse Scrutiny Panel, enabling expert 'outside eyes' to view and comment upon 'no further action' cases; partners from independent specialist services attend and examine a selection of randomly selected cases each quarter.
- 2.9 Securing agreement for implementing effective standards within force; all relevant officers and staff will be required to complete a portfolio of evidence, to be included in their annual Professional Development Review, over the next year.
- 2.10 Leading on the design and publication of an advice leaflet for domestic abuse victims on Family Court proceedings, which has been made available online and in key thoroughfares for victims.

- 2.11 Enabling timelier disclosure of relevant police information to unrepresented victims, for use within family court proceedings and decision making to improve safeguarding of children subject to formal contact arrangements; in the past 10 months, the workers have provided assistance to over 50 victims engaged in lengthy family court proceedings.
- 2.12 The appointment of two dedicated family court liaison posts, to provide advice and assistance to victims of domestic abuse, particularly those without formal legal representation, to share safeguarding information in a timely manner, and minimise opportunities for re-victimisation.
- 2.13 Supporting the development of a South Tees multi agency safeguarding approach, to facilitate early information sharing and safeguarding interventions including for DA victims of households with children in.
- 2.14 The introduction of a dedicated problem solving focus for DA perpetrators, the Multi Agency Tasking & Coordination (MATAC), to which all key partner agencies are signed up. Through the collaborative work of the MATAC partners, the process has resulted in a significant reduction to the harm causing behaviour, including DA and other types offending.
- 2.15 Establishing a key strategic stakeholder Cleveland wide partnership board, featuring representatives from key partner agencies, including police commands, local authority community safety and safeguarding representatives, health agencies, offender management agencies, and independent specialist DA services.
- 2.16 A full evaluation of the programme is being conducted and will be reported on in July. The evaluation will inform future decision making about embedding the model long term.

3. White Ribbon Campaign



- 3.1 The White Ribbon Campaign is a global movement of men and boys working to end male violence against women and girls. To mark this year's White Ribbon day on 25th November 2018, the PCC together with senior male colleagues from various partner agencies signed the White Ribbon Pledge.
- 3.2 The White Ribbon Campaign followed 16 days of action which ended on Monday 10th December 2018 (Human Rights Day) with an event to highlight the coercive controlling behaviour training being delivered to our officers and partner agency staff. The event also formally launched the Teeswide Violence Against Women and Girls Communication Strategy and showcased local perspectives on the issues of violence against women and girls, its impact on communities across Cleveland and the ongoing work by Cleveland Police and partners to tackle its issue on a long term basis, making our communities safer and stronger.

4. Restorative Cleveland Launch – 23rd November 2018



- 4.1 In April 2018, the PCC commissioned Restorative Cleveland, a dedicated restorative justice service responsible for ensuring victims have the right to take part in a restorative intervention should they wish.
- 4.2 Since then, the service has been awarded the prestigious Restorative Service Quality Mark and has dealt with over 70 cases – eight of which resulted in face-to-face meetings between the victim and the offender.
- 4.3 Restorative justice continues to be an important part of the Police and Crime Plan and the PCCs on-going commitment to tackling Cleveland's high rates of re-offending.
- 4.4 That's why the PCC has invested in Restorative Cleveland, to ensure victims across Cleveland have access to a high-quality service they can access at any time in their journey.
- 4.5 Victims will always be at the heart of restorative justice, but if we can also help offenders see the impact of their crimes, I'm hopeful we will make a real difference.

- 4.6 Cleveland Police encourage anyone who has been a victim of crime who feels that this process can help them to contact our Restorative Justice team.
- 4.7 The award-winning Restorative Cleveland service will officially launch on Friday 23 November at a conference at the Community Safety Hub in Hemlington.

5. Cleveland Divert Launch 2nd January 2019



- 5.1 Cleveland OPCC are leading the way and introducing a new deferred prosecution option to first time and low level offenders The Divert team is led by a project manager from the Office of The Police and Crime Commissioner. The team are now in post and comprise of: Project Manager (OPCC) Cleveland Police Team lead (acting police inspector), Durham, Tees Valley Community Rehabilitation Company Team Lead (Probation Officer), Durham, Tees Valley Community Rehabilitation Company Probation Service Officer and a Female and Complex Needs Specialist, A way out (seconded officer).
- 5.2 A leaflet has been developed (a copy is appended to this report) by the team and used as a means of consulting with members of the public about the pilot. Throughout December 2018 the PCC and OPCC staff, together with staff from the newly commissioned Cleveland Divert custody diversion scheme, undertook a series of public consultations in shopping centres across Cleveland to speak to the public about Divert and obtain their views on the proposed service. Divert offers an alternative way to engage with first time and low-level offenders, instead of sending them to court and prosecuting them. A person on the scheme is expected to engage in support helping to address the issues in their lives that led to criminal behaviour. Feedback from the public obtained through the consultation was overwhelmingly supportive.
- 5.3 The project went live as a pilot on 2nd January 2019 with an initial focus on perpetrators of shoplifting and drunk and disorderly offences. Full implementation of the project which will include other offence types will start on 1st April 2019.

6. Anti-Extremism Event 23rd January 2019

- 6.1 Following the appointment of Sara Khan, independent Anti-extremism commissioner. She is drawing up a programme on tackling extremism for publication next year, and will be consulting across the country in the autumn to feed into the programme.
- 6.2 I invited stakeholders to attend an event on 23rd January focusing on the response to counter extremism across the Cleveland area.
- 6.3 The aim of the event was to discuss responses , experiences, views and concerns locally in the countering extremism space in order to put together a cross Cleveland response to the Independent Commission for Countering Extremism's call for evidence, which aims to improve understanding of extremism and its impact on individuals, communities and wider society.
- 6.4 This call for evidence asks for information on 5 themes:
- public understanding of extremism
 - the scale of extremism
 - extremists' objectives and tactics
 - harms caused by extremism
 - the current response to extremism
- 6.5 The Independent Commissioner for Counter Extremism, Sara Khan, opened the event with an overview of the aim and focus of the consultation.

Barry Coppinger
Police and Crime Commissioner for Cleveland