



## Police and Crime Panel

**Date** Thursday 4 February 2021  
**Time** 10.00 am  
**Venue** Remote Meeting - This meeting is being held remotely via Microsoft Teams

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### Business

#### Part A

**[Items during which the Press and Public are welcome to attend.  
Members of the Public can ask questions with the Chairman's  
agreement]**

1. Apologies for Absence
2. Substitute Members
3. Declarations of interest, if any
4. Minutes of the meeting held on 16 October 2020 (Pages 3 - 8)
5. Media Report - Report of Acting Police, Crime and Victims' Commissioner (Pages 9 - 12)
6. PCVC Proposed Precept - Report of Acting Police, Crime and Victims' Commissioner (Pages 13 - 26)
7. Quarterly Performance Report - Report of Acting Police, Crime and Victims' Commissioner (Pages 27 - 42)
8. Commissioning Activity - Report of Acting Police, Crime and Victims' Commissioner (Pages 43 - 46)
9. PCVC Decision Records - Report of Acting Police, Crime and Victims' Commissioner (Pages 47 - 50)
10. Joint Independent Audit Committee Report - Report of Acting Police, Crime and Victims' Commissioner (Pages 51 - 58)
11. Complaints Update - Report of Monitoring Officer and Clerk to the Police and Crime Panel (Pages 59 - 62)
12. HMICFRS Inspection Reports - Report of Acting Police, Crime and Victims' Commissioner (Pages 63 - 66)
13. Such other business, as in the opinion of the Chairman of the meeting, is of sufficient urgency to warrant consideration

**Helen Lynch**  
Monitoring Officer

County Hall  
Durham  
27 January 2021

To: **The Members of the Police and Crime Panel**

**Durham County Council**

Councillors D Boyes, P Crathorne, L Hovvels (Chair), J Nicholson, S Quinn,  
A Savory and M Simmons

**Darlington Borough Council**

Councillors J Dulston, B Jones (Vice-Chair) and Wallis

**Independent Co-opted Members**

Mr N J H Cooke and Mr D K G Dodwell

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**Contact: Ian Croft**

**Tel: 03000 269702**

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## DURHAM COUNTY COUNCIL

At a Meeting of **Police and Crime Panel** held via Microsoft Teams on **Friday 16 October 2020 at 9.30 am**

**Present:**

**Councillor L Hovvels (Chair)**

**Durham County Council:**

Councillors D Boyes, L Brown, P Crathorne, J Nicholson, S Quinn and A Savory

**Darlington Borough Council:**

Councillors J Dulston, B Jones (Vice-Chair) and Wallis

**Independent Co-opted Members:**

Mr D K G Dodwell

### **1 Apologies for absence**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor M Simmons and Mr N Cook.

### **2 Substitute Members**

Councillor L Brown was present as substitute for Councillor M Simmons.

### **3 Minutes**

The minutes of the meetings held on 12 March and 15 June 2020 were agreed as a correct record to be signed by the Chair.

### **4 Declarations of interest**

There were no declarations of interest.

### **5 Media Report**

S White, Acting Police, Crime and Victims' Commissioner provided an update of press coverage concerning the work of the Police, Crime and

Victims' Commissioner since the previous meeting (for copy see file of minutes).

The Acting PCVC informed the Panel the Media and Engagement Officer had left the organisation in August and a new member of staff had been recently appointed. He thanked the staff in the office who had continued to provide media support in the interim.

The Chair acknowledged the comments on the interim arrangements and confirmed that the officer had worked in the role since the former Police Authority and wished her all the best in her new position on behalf of the Panel.

Councillor Quinn asked whether there had been increased reports on fireworks and the Chair confirmed it had been raised at a recent AAP Board. The Acting PCVC confirmed that no increase in reports had been received as yet, however he commented on the increased demands on forces across the Country on Halloween and in the run up to 5 November

**Resolved**

That the report be noted.

**6 Police, Crime & Victim's Commissioner's Annual Report**

The Panel considered the Acting Police, Crime & Victims Commissioner's (PCVC) Annual Report 2019-20 (for copy see file of minutes).

The Acting PCVC confirmed that since the report had been published an independent analysis had been done by the National Farmers Union which showed that Durham was not following the trend and doing well with regards to rural crime levels.

**Resolved**

That the report be noted.

**7 Quarterly Performance Report**

The Panel considered a report of the Durham Police, Crime and Victims' Commissioner's Office which provided performance against the Police, Crime and Victims' Plan 2018-2021 (for copy see file of minutes).

Councillor Boyes was concerned at the number of offenders reoffending and the high percentage of the public that did not have confidence in the force. He asked whether this was repeat reoffenders that could not be rehabilitated and confirmed that he had attended an area in Easington where criminal activities were taking place openly and residents did not report crime. The

reasons given were that people were afraid of reprisals, but many were of the opinion that the Police would not act on reports. Councillor Boyes asked whether the Checkpoint scheme had changed as he was under the impression that it was for low to medium levels of crime, yet it had been used in an incident where a police officer had been assaulted.

The Interim Chief Executive & Monitoring Officer confirmed that some of the comments would be referred to the force for a specific report and she would consult PACT and update the Panel with the response. She confirmed that there was a number of reoffenders with a mindset that they could offend with impunity, but there was a high level of information and a lot of concerted effort in responding to those matters. She was aware that the Easington locality received regular attention due to ongoing issues and that the force were actively working to get on top of them and it was a benefit for the community to bring those matters to attention of the office to ensure they were prioritised.

With regards to the Checkpoint scheme, the Interim Chief Executive & Monitoring Officer was unaware that assaulted police officers was an eligible offence but suspected it would be getting reviewed as there had been an increase in assaulted police officers and she would seek a formal response for the Panel.

The Acting PCVC advised that the crucial thing was that people report crime to the police, and was confident that the force was responsive in such a way that they responded appropriately when given the information. With regards to offending and reoffending, one of the drivers behind Checkpoint was to deal with issues relatively quickly and to ensure there was no repeat offending and he assured the Panel that robust governance was in place to ensure offenders were not put through rehabilitation schemes if they were having no effect. He reiterated the importance of reporting crime and asked the Panel to reiterate to any of their constituents.

The Interim Chief Executive & Monitoring Officer confirmed that last week concluded a visit from HM Inspectorate of Constabulary Fire and Rescue Service which had investigated the effectiveness and efficiency of the Covid 19 response and she would ensure that the interim report was included on the next Agenda.

In response to a question from D Dodwell, the Interim Chief Executive & Monitoring Officer confirmed that there had been an increase in cyber-crime and scams on vulnerable people especially during the lockdown period when people were isolated and in poor mental health. This was similar across all force areas and a key priority for the National Police Chiefs Council and had also been recognised by the College of Policing in the Future Operating Environment Model.

Councillor J Dulston suggested that the out of court initiatives and education had worked for a time but suggested that especially during recent times the wider community would prefer the force to take a tough approach on the minority of people who were putting businesses at risk.

**Resolved**

That the report be noted.

**8 Commissioning Update**

The Panel noted a report of the Acting Police, Crime and Victims' Commissioner which provided an update of key decisions at the Commissioning Boards held between 1st April 2020 and 30th September 2020 (for copy see file of minutes).

**9 PCVC Decision Records**

The Panel considered a report of the Acting Police, Crime and Victims' Commissioner which provided an update on the Police, Crime and Victims' Commissioner's decision register for 2020, and address the forward plan (for copy see file of minutes).

Councillor Jones expressed concerns regarding the operational impact of the custody project development. The Acting PCVC confirmed that an abridged version of the Estate Strategy 2020-2025 had been produced and offered to brief any of the Panel with similar concerns.

In response to a question from the Chair, the Acting PCVC confirmed that there would be a briefing session with the Chief Constable which would take place in early November and the Panel would be briefed as well as respective Councillors, Parish Councils.

**Resolved**

That the report be noted.

**10 HMICFRS Inspections**

The Panel considered a report of the Acting Police, Crime and Victims' Commissioner with regards to the findings of the recent inspections by HM Inspectorate of Constabulary and Fire and Rescue Services (HMICFRS) that had required a PCC comment (for copy see file of minutes).

**Resolved**

That the report be noted.

**11 Police and Crime Panel Annual Report 2019/20 and Work Programme 2020/21**

The Panel considered a report of the Head of Legal and Democratic Services which presented the Durham Police and Crime Panel Annual report 2019/20 and sought agreement to the Panel's Work Programme for 2020/21 (for copy see file of minutes).

**Resolved**

- (a) That the Durham Police and Crime Panel Annual Report be endorsed
- (b) That the work programme for 2020/21 be agreed.

**12 Review of Complaints Procedure**

The Panel considered a report of the Monitoring Officer and Clerk to the Police and Crime Panel which provided an update to the procedure for handling complaints relating to the Police, Crime and Victims Commissioner (PCVC) or the Deputy Police, Crime and Victims Commissioner (where appointed). The report also recommended that the Panel received an update report from the Clerk to the Panel at each regular meeting on complaints relating to the PCVC or Deputy PCVC (for copy see file of minutes).

**Resolved**

- (a) That the draft complaint procedure to be implemented and applied to any complaint formally received after 16 October 2020
- (b) That the Panel receive a report from the Clerk to the Panel on complaints received at each regular meeting including those which have not been referred to the Panel

**13 Exclusion of the public**

That under Section 100(A)(4) of the Local Government Act 1972, the public be excluded from the meeting for the following item of business on the grounds it would involve the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in paragraph 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Act.

**14 Concerning complaints about the Acting Police, Crime and Victims' Commissioner**

The Panel considered a report of the Monitoring Officer and Clerk to the Police and Crime Panel with regards to a number of complaints about the Acting Police, Crime and Victims' Commissioner.

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## Police and Crime Panel

4 February 2021

## Media Report



## Report of the Acting Police, Crime and Victims' Commissioner

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### 1. Purpose

This paper provides an update of press and social media coverage concerning the work of the Police, Crime and Victims' Commissioner since the previous meeting.

### 2. Top stories in the press and broadcast media

Press coverage since the last meeting has included:

- Additional court support for victims and witnesses welcomed amid Covid delays
- 16 Days of Action to end domestic abuse
- Additional funding for domestic abuse and sexual violence services in County Durham and Darlington
- Funding lifeline for charity fighting homelessness in Darlington
- Planning application for new custody and investigation suite submitted by Durham Constabulary
- Funding lifeline provided to Youth Centre in Bishop Auckland
- High Sheriff Youth Awards Scheme launched for the second year running
- Consultation open to residents for their view on budget for policing and community services
  - Pre-record radio interviews with Metro Radio / BBC Radio Tees
  - Precept consultation has been featured in Northern Echo, Hartlepool Mail, Sunderland Echo, Teesdale Mercury, Durham Times and Newton News
- APCVC urges victims of abuse support services are still available during lockdown
- PCVC to hold first ever BUS scrutiny panel next week
- Pre-record interview between APCVC and ITV News in relation to the use of Naloxone in custody

Key publications include Northern Echo, The Sun, Chronicle Live, Durham Times, Darlington & Stockton Times, Newton News, Hartlepool Mail, Sunderland Echo and Teesdale Mercury

### 3. Social media activity

- 7602 followers on Twitter (6<sup>th</sup> highest number amongst PCCs)
- 5,585 followers and 5,173 likes on Facebook (2<sup>nd</sup> highest number amongst PCCs)
- 507 followers on the PCVC Instagram Account (6<sup>th</sup> highest number amongst PCCs)

#### Top Tweets:

- **November - January 2021**

- 16.1k impressions – Ron Hogg- Today marks one year since we lost our dear friend and colleague CBE Ron Hogg. Ron has left a lasting legacy within the community and remains in our thoughts forever
- 8.2k impressions – Consultation open to residents for views on budget for policing and community services Have your say on the policing precept for 2021/220
- 2.3 k impressions – White Ribbon Day - Today is [#WhiteRibbonDay](#) and the start of [#16DaysOfAction](#). The importance of raising awareness and working together to prevent violence and abuse are more important than ever during the coronavirus pandemic
- 2.2k impressions – Keeping Kind This Christmas - Every minute of the working day a shopworker is verbally abused, threatened with violence or physically attacked. Please show some kindness to the shopworkers helping to keep us all going this Christmas.

#### Top Facebook posts:

- **November –January 2021**

- 83k reach – Consultation/Precept
- 17.1k reach – Christmas Card competition winner
- 16k reach – Admin Assistant Temporary Vacancy
- 3.7k reach – Ron Hogg memorial

#### Top Instagram posts:

- **November –January 2021**

- 120 reach - Ron Hogg memorial
- 116 reach - White Ribbon Day
- 108 reach - Remembrance Sunday

### 4. Columns

- Durham Advertiser/Teesdale Mercury/Weardale Community News
  - Consultation/Precept
  - The impact of the pandemic
  - Technology in Policing
  - Reflection of 2020 and the pandemic
- One Darlington Magazine
  - Working together to reduce reoffending
  - Victim Care and Advice Service

## **5. Recommendations**

Panel Members are recommended to note the information contained in this report.

**Lucy Constantine**  
**Senior Media Officer**

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**Appendix 1: Risks and Implications**

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**Finance**

None

**Staffing**

None

**Equality and Diversity**

None

**Accommodation**

None

**Crime and Disorder**

None

**Children's Act 2004**

None

**Stakeholder/Community Engagement**

None

**Environment**

None

**Collaboration and Partnerships**

None

**Value for Money and Productivity**

None

**Potential Impact on Police and Crime Plan Priorities**

Positive coverage of activity will help to boost confidence in policing.

**Commissioning**

None

**Other risks**

None

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**Police and Crime Panel****4<sup>th</sup> February 2021****Precept Consultation****Report of the Office of the Police, Crime and Victims' Commissioner****Purpose**

1. To update the Panel on the process for setting the Policing precept for 2021/22, and to seek the Panel's support for an increase of £15 per household per year for properties in Band D, and commensurate increases for other properties.

**Background**

2. Normally in December every year, the Police, Crime and Victims' Commissioner (PCVC) is informed by the Home Secretary of the amount of Government grant that will be provided for policing during the following financial year. That enables the PCVC to formulate plans for the level of precept that he will need to ask Council Taxpayers to contribute, in order to deliver policing in County Durham and Darlington in line with the Police, Crime and Victims' Plan. The Government normally puts a cap on the level of precept increase.

**Funding in 2021/22**

3. Government funding for policing in Durham and Darlington in 2021/22 includes the following:
  - The Police Grant will increase by 3.5% to £97.8m. This comprises the 'Operation Uplift' funding for 68 extra Police Officers in Durham and Darlington, with no additional funding beyond that.
  - Capital funding will remain at £0.13m which is no change.
  - The PCVC is enabled to increase funding from the precept for the council taxpayer by 6.97% or £15 for a Band D property.
  - The total potential revenue funding, assuming maximum precept, increases from £133.2m to £140.4m, an increase of £7.2m or 5.4%.
4. To achieve the £140.4m, it will be necessary to increase precept by the maximum permitted, i.e. £15 per household per year, for properties in Council Tax Band D. If this happens, the implications for each Council Tax Band would be as follows:

Council Tax Band	Police Precept 2020/21	Proposed Annual increase for 2021/22	Proposed Police Precept for 2021/22
	£	£	£
Band A	143.49	10.00	153.49
Band B	167.41	11.67	179.08
Band C	191.32	13.33	204.65
Band D	215.24	15.00	230.24
Band E	263.07	18.33	281.40
Band F	310.90	21.67	332.57
Band G	358.73	25.00	383.73
Band H	430.48	30.00	460.48

## Consultation

5. The PCVC has been running an on-line survey, and an awareness-raising campaign on social media. A press release was circulated to local media on 31<sup>st</sup> December (printed in Northern Echo, 4<sup>th</sup> January edition) to gain the attention of the press and broadcast media, and material has also been placed on the ODPCVC website.
6. Noting that Operation Uplift, i.e. the increase in Government grant, will only cover the additional Police Officers and some associated costs, it will be necessary to increase the precept to cover rising costs in other areas and to avoid an impact on effectiveness and efficiency.
7. The on-line survey has generated over 1,100 responses as at 25<sup>th</sup> January:
  - 500 responses from the Elucd survey with analysis to be provided after 31<sup>st</sup> January in preparation for an update to the Panel.
  - 632 responses from Survey Monkey. There were two specific questions related to the precept:
    - Would you be prepared to invest more in policing to help improve the services? Of the 632 responses 234 (37.0%) said Yes, 302 (47.8%) said No and 96 (15.2%) were not sure.
    - How much more would you be prepared to contribute to support more investment in policing? Of the 632 responses, 314 (49.7%) were prepared to contribute £5 or more and 318 (50.3%) were not prepared to pay more.
8. In addition, respondents were asked to provide additional comments. A summary of typical comments is listed below:

- The extra money should be coming from the central government not the local people. People do not object to paying for a service, but a non-existent service is shocking.
- Do not centralise custody suite, don't need crime commissioner, reinstate traffic division and use revenue from speeding fines ...
- I think they are doing a tremendous good job in these difficult days. Well done!
- Do not centralise the holding cells in Spennymoor. It's a totally stupid idea and will be a total waste of money and resources especially officers being otherwise engaged instead of being out policing the area making us feel safe.
- We need more community police who actually know people and what's happening on the ground in communities.
- I'm not opposed to increased funding for police and services. You can't though keep hitting us with massive increases every year...with police, social care precepts and increased council tax...the bills are rising massively every year. If you don't pay....go to prison We can't afford these massive hikes in council tax any more.
- I wish there was more action from the police over COVID breeches.
- I would like to see the police to be tougher and nice to keep the community safer. Durham city is becoming a kids city so police officers need to be more tougher then been political.
- My partner is joining your force in September, so it was good to see how money is apportioned out.

9. At the time of writing the survey has been operating for 25 days, and more responses are expected before the Panel meets on 4<sup>th</sup> February. An update on consultation findings will be provided to the Panel, verbally, at the Panel meeting.

## Summary

10. Given the overall support for an increase, and the clear need to support Policing beyond the constraints of Uplift funding, the Panel is recommended to support an increase in precept of £15 per household per year for Band D properties.
11. At the meeting on 4<sup>th</sup> February, I will present feedback to the Police and Crime Panel. Under Schedule 5 of the Police Reform and Social Responsibility Act 2011, the Police and Crime Panel is required to review the proposed precept, and to make a report on it (the Panel are to determine the manner of this report). The report can include recommendations on the level of the precept. The panel has the power to veto the proposed precept, which requires a two-thirds majority in favour of a veto.

## Recommendation

The Panel is recommended to:

- a) Note the current position of the consultation and the expected outcome;

- b) Consider my proposal for a £15.00 precept increase at Band D with the same percentage increase applied to all Council Tax bands as shown at paragraph 4 of the report;
- c) Decide whether to veto my proposal; and,
- d) Produce a report.

**Steve White**

**Acting Police, Crime and Victims' Commissioner**

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**Appendix 1: Risks and Implications**

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**Finance**

The outcome of consultation will influence the size of the PCVC's, and the Constabulary's, budget in 2021/22

**Staffing**

None

**Equality and Diversity**

None

**Accommodation**

None

**Crime and Disorder**

None

**Children's Act 2004**

None

**Stakeholder/Community Engagement**

A consultation exercise has taken place as set out in the report

**Environment**

None

**Collaboration and Partnerships**

None

**Value for Money and Productivity**

None

**Potential Impact on Police and Crime Plan Priorities**

Size of budget will influence delivery of priorities

**Commissioning**

None

**Other risks**

None

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# Policing Precept

2021/22



# Finance

## Revenue Budget

- Officers 1206, 1274, 1364
- Staff 1,240 all years
- 2% precept rise from 2022/3
- Tax base rise 0.75%
- Pay rise 0% , 1.75%, 2 % , 2.5%
- Flat grant plus uplift
- Nothing for pension costs
- No other growth

# Finance

## Capital budget

- Custody £21.5m
- Stations £0.3m pa
- Fleet £1.2m pa
- ESN £4M 2024/25
- Dems £1.1m every 3 years
- Mast £0



# Finance

## Revenue Budget

- Balanced for next 2/3 years
- 2024/5 £1.5m deficit
- 2025/6 £5.0m deficit

## Capital Budget

- 2024/5 £4.3m deficit
- 2025/6 £2.9m deficit

## Reserves

- £6.6m working balance
- Will have spent all reserves including the £1.5m pcc reserve



# Efficiency

- Scenario planning report agreed
- Plan on a page agreed
- Core indicators of efficiency
- Secondary indicators
- National efficiency group
- High expectation



# Deliverables

- Delivering uplift of police officers
- Delivering additional PCSOs
- Providing DA support
- Tackling Cyber Crime
- Investing in IT for the frontline
- Investing in Force Control Room



# Questions?

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**Police and Crime Panel**

**4 February 2021**

**Quarterly Performance Report**

**Office of the Durham Police, Crime and Victims' Commissioner**



**Purpose**

1. To update the Police & Crime Panel and the public on performance against the Police & Crime Plan 2018-2021.

**Background**

2. The Police & Crime Plan (PCP) sets out the Police Crime & Victim Commissioner's (PCVC) vision for County Durham and Darlington, the outcomes sought, and the Key Performance Questions (KPQs) which will help determine whether those outcomes are being achieved.
3. This report considers KPQs 1-4, looking at questions in relation to the safety of our communities, the ambition to reduce crime, and that victims and the vulnerable feel supported.

<b>Communities are safe and crime is reduced</b>	<b>Victims and the vulnerable feel supported</b>	<b>Reoffending is reduced and rehabilitation is improved</b>	<b>People have confidence in the police and the criminal justice system</b>
KPQ1: How safe are our communities?	KPQ3: How well are victims supported to cope and recover, and engage in criminal justice processes?	KPQ5: How well are we reducing reoffending?	KPQ7: How confident are people in the Criminal Justice System?
KPQ2: How well are we preventing and reducing crime?	KPQ4: How well are vulnerable people supported?	KPQ6: How well are we rehabilitating people who have offended?	KPQ8: How confident are people in the police?

*Figure 1: Police Crime and Victims' Plan Outcomes and KPQs*

## Outcome 1 – Communities are safe and crime is reduced

### KPQ1: How safe are our communities?

4. Keeping communities safe is a central tenet of policing and ensuring that this is achieved, to the best possible standard, is one of the Acting Police, Crime and Victims' Commissioner's (APCVC's) main areas of work. While policing is intrinsically connected to community safety, there is a wider range of organisations across the public and voluntary sectors who also need to be involved. Working with local people in all areas, urban and rural alike, to keep where we all live safe.
5. Community safety is a broad topic to consider, thus in the interests of length and accessibility, this report remains focused on some top-level information and indicators.

### ***Crime severity and response***

6. Firstly, the Crime Severity Score is a measure where sentencing information is used to 'weight' the severity of offences. Such a statistic is helpful when changes to crime recording practices have had a significant effect upon police recorded offences. Another benefit is that it allows for easy comparison between Durham and the rest of England and Wales in a more meaningful way than perhaps recorded crime could. Of course, such an indicator is limited by the extent to which sentencing guidelines reflect the severity of an offence. Similarly, over time this indicator can still be affected by changes to crime recording practices.

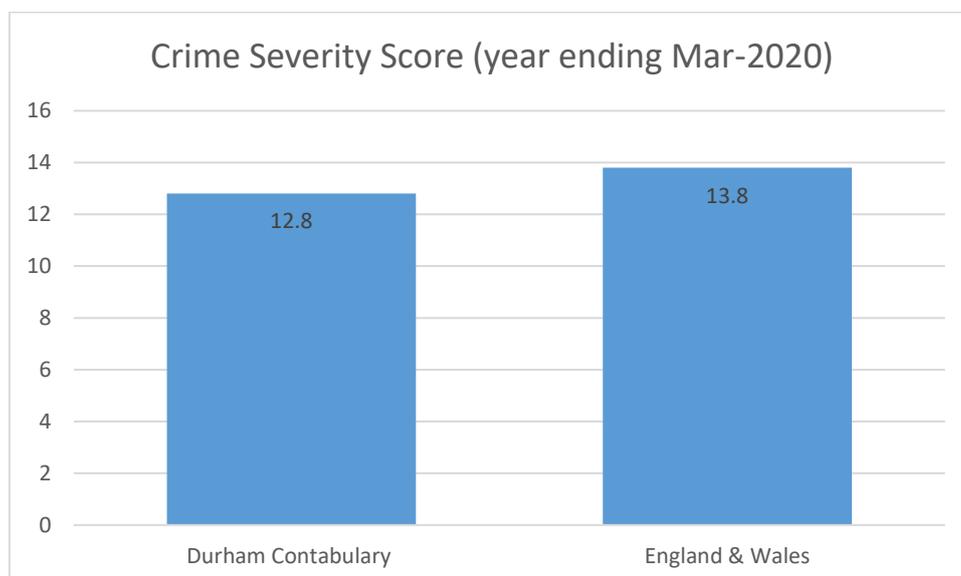


Figure 2: Crime Severity Score (Year Ending March 2020, Office for National Statistics)<sup>1</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> All ONS data is the most recent data available, which runs up to March 2020.

7. The Crime Severity Score shows broadly similar results between Durham Constabulary and England and Wales. In a similar way to the Crime Severity Score, looking at the offence rate per 1000 population has benefit in allowing easy comparison with England and Wales.

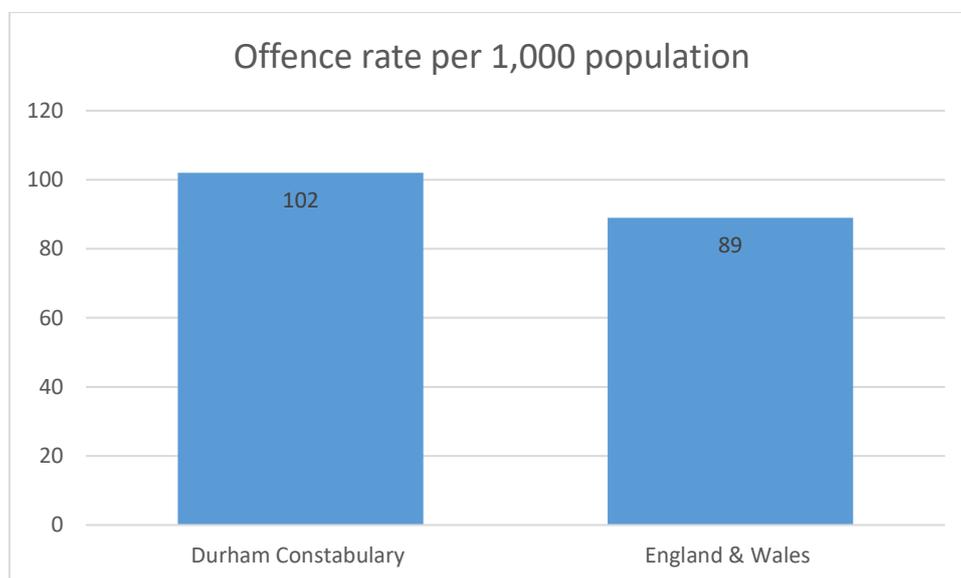


Figure 3: Offence Rate per 1000 Population (Year Ending March 2020, Office for National Statistics)

8. The police recorded rate per 1000 population is higher for Durham than it is for the England and Wales average. A key reason for this is that Durham Constabulary is one of the most compliant forces for recording offences. In addition, the North East region has higher levels of recorded Criminal Damage and Arson.
9. Total volume of crime across Durham Constabulary dipped to its lowest point in 23 months in March 2020. This then increased up until July 2020, after which a steady decline was noticeable in the total volume to uncommonly low levels in November/December 2020. This appears to be linked to the impact of local and national lockdown measures in response to the COVID-19 crisis.
10. The general performance of Durham Constabulary, according to the Crime Severity score, may be measured in an equally effective manner through comparison with the Constabulary's Most Similar Group (MSG) of forces. Figure 4 shows that Durham has a lower crime severity score than every force in their MSG, barring South Wales.

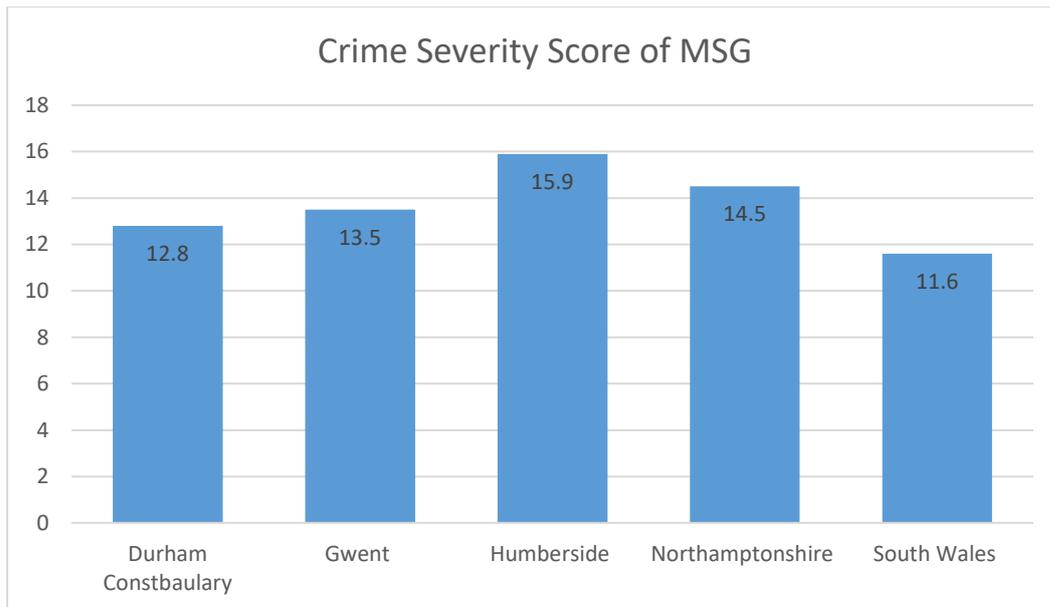


Figure 4: Crime Severity Score of MSG's (Year Ending March 2020, Office for National Statistics)

- It is important and pertinent to community safety that when people require a police response, they can be confident that officers will arrive when they need them. Figure 5 below shows the percentage of victims satisfied with arrival time.

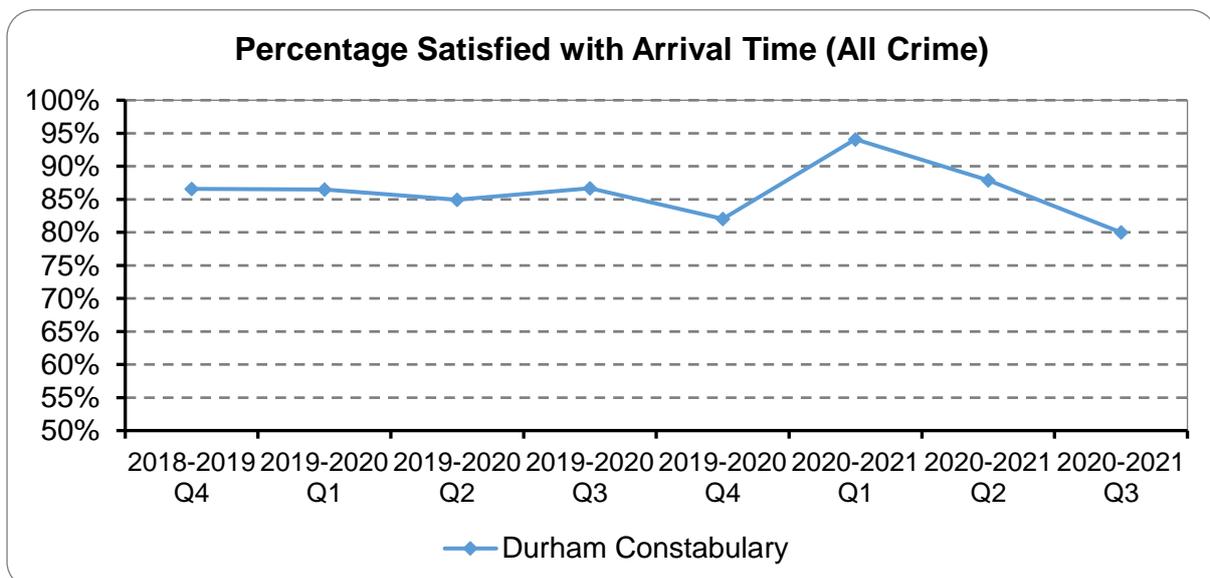


Figure 5: Percentage Satisfied with Arrival Time (All Crime)

### Anti-Social Behaviour

- Police recorded Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB) incidents are at broadly similar levels to what they have been over the past three years. There has of course been fluctuations within specific ASB categories, including most recently, the COVID-19 related impact upon the service. However, all ASB satisfaction categories remain within the typical quarterly fluctuation patterns.

13. The proportion of all incidents that have an ASB qualifier has risen from 10.45% (Quarter 3 2019/20) to 11.45% (Quarter 3 2020/21).
14. Additionally, ASB incident levels have been above those recorded in previous years. This year ASB incident levels have bucked the trend, as we can see in the graph below there was a significant spike from March to April 2020, of 50.9%. This can be attributed in part to lockdown measures and it is then likely that levels then remained comparatively high due to the typical summer spike in ASB incident levels. We have since seen these levels return to relatively typical levels.

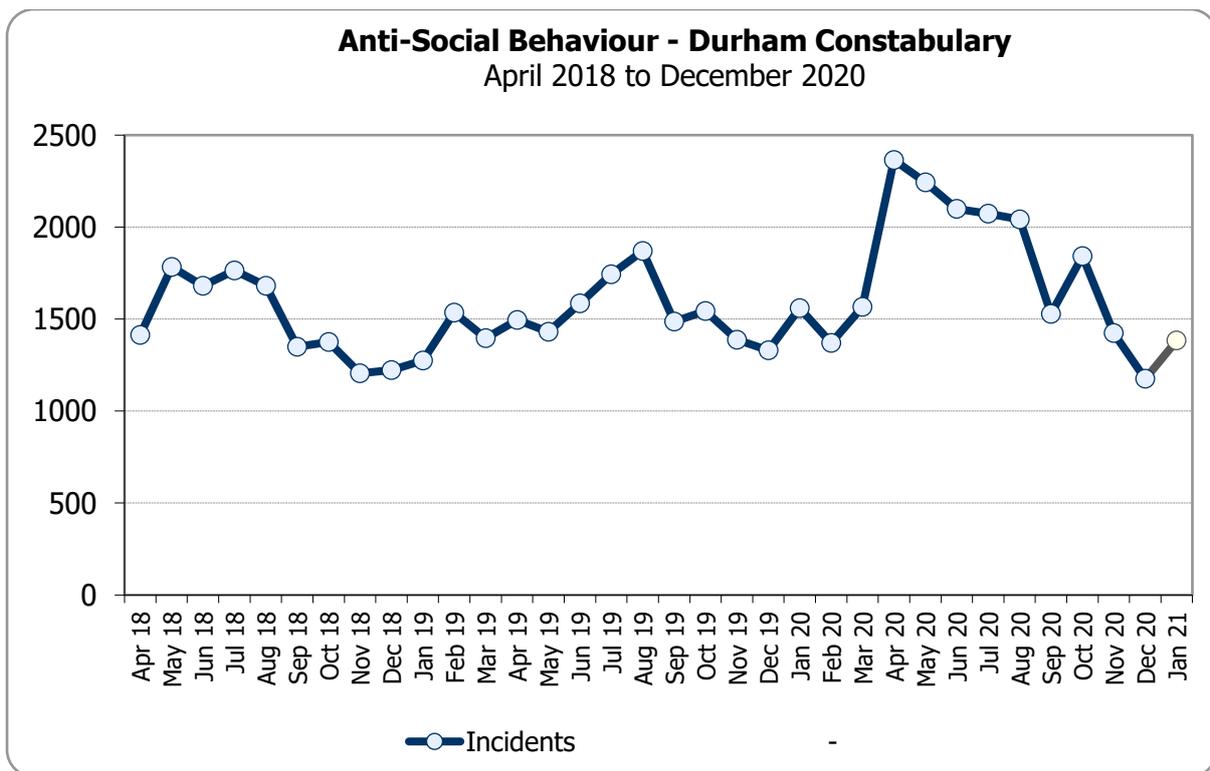


Figure 6: Police Recorded Anti-Social Behaviour Incidents over time

### Road Safety

15. Improving road safety is a Strategic Priority within the PCVC’s police and crime plan; the number of people killed or seriously injured on our roads can be an important indicator in helping to answer KPQ1. Figures 7 and 8 below show the number of fatal and seriously injured casualties for Durham’s force area. The number of these casualties fell in 2020 compared with 2019, though it should be noted that 2019 was an atypically high year for road deaths in the force area.
16. There has, however, been a downward trend in casualties over the past fifteen years. Explaining why the number of fatalities may have fallen is challenging given the number of factors that influence an accident, and it is worth noting that the downward trend in fatal

casualty figures accelerated once Durham Constabulary changed their recording method to Collision Recording and Sharing (CRASH) in March 2016.

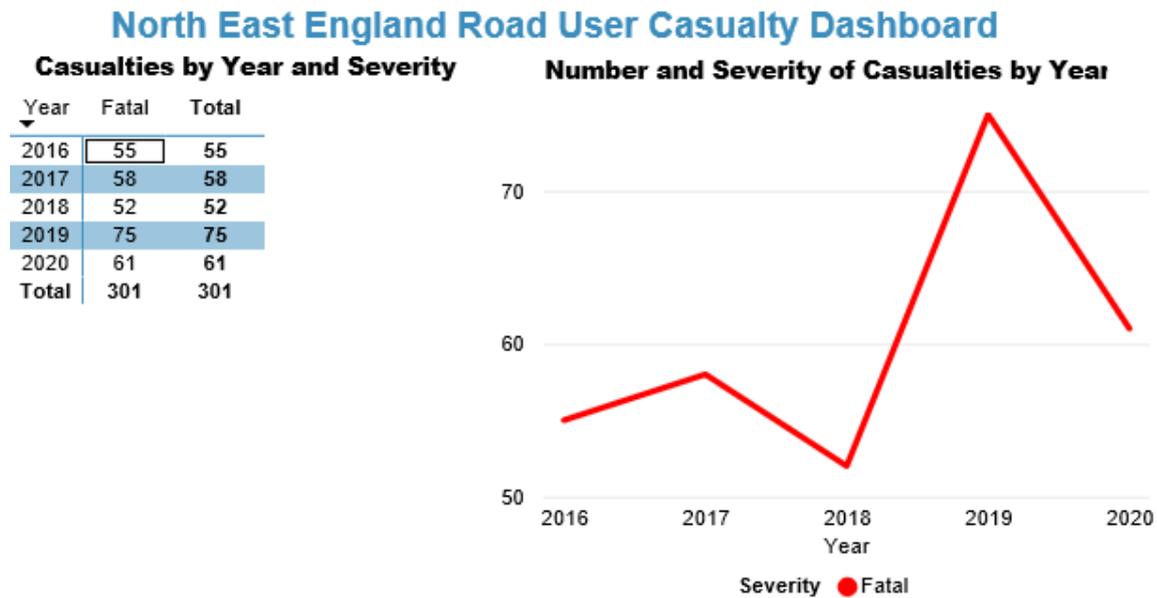


Figure 7: Fatal Casualties (North East Regional Road Safety Resource)

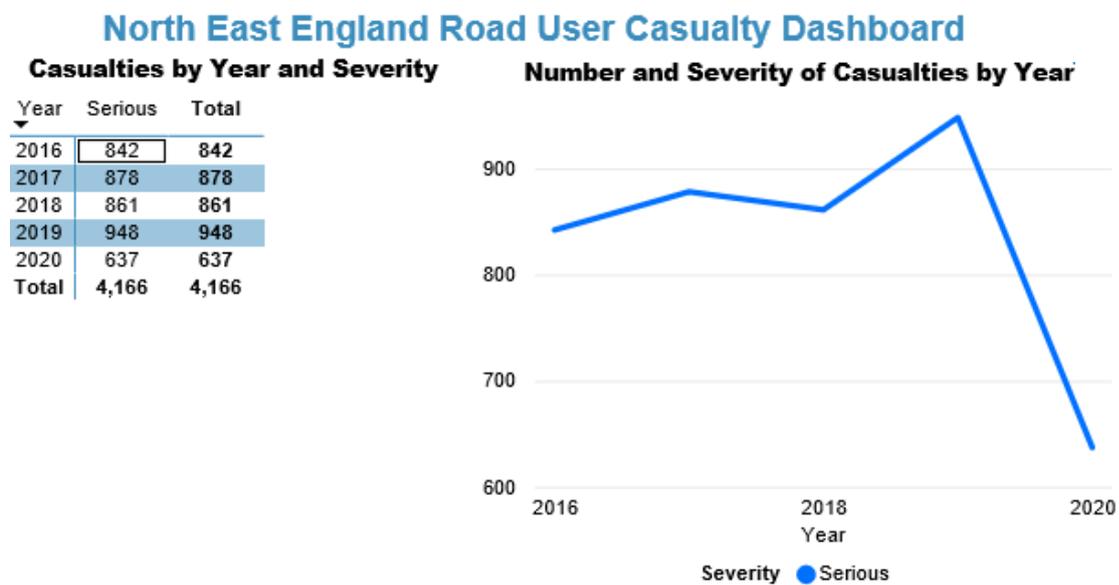


Figure 8: Seriously Injured Casualties (North East Regional Road Safety Resource)

- Since the adoption of the CRASH system of recording, serious casualties have increased. This is due in part to the change in categorisation of injury standards adopted with CRASH. As shown in *Figure 8*, serious road casualties saw an unprecedented reduction. This is predominantly due to the significantly reduced traffic on our roads, in light of the COVID-19 lockdown measures. Notwithstanding, Durham Constabulary continue to seek new ways in which to tackle the rise in serious casualties for road users.

18. In 2019 the PCVC contributed funding to the Community Speedwatch (CSW) van for Crook which was also match funded by three Area Action Partnerships and Durham Constabulary. This project now has a commissioning agreement in place to extend it to the Dales.
19. The Roads Policing Unit of Cleveland and Durham Specialist Operations Unit (CDSOU) also supports a calendar of campaigns throughout the year on top of their continuous policing and enforcement work. These campaigns currently focus upon; the “Fatal 4”, tyre safety and child road safety awareness.

### ***Neighbourhood Policing Teams***

20. The role of Neighbourhood Policing Teams (NPTs) and PCSOs are the core policing model in Durham Constabulary, though some adaptation has been required due to COVID-19. Across the rural NPTs, work has been ongoing to revitalise and invigorate rural communities into establishing and leading their priorities. A recent peer review identified best practice in rural NPTs specifically regarding engagement; use of technology; and, ensuring that the hard to reach rural communities are included. A recent ambition is that this will be replicated in those rural fringes that are on the cusp of urban areas.

### **KPQ2: How well are we preventing and reducing crime?**

21. Overall, Her Majesty’s Inspectorate of Constabulary and Fire & Rescue Services (HMICFRS) has graded Durham Constabulary as ‘Outstanding’ at preventing and reducing crime in four of the Police effectiveness, efficiency and legitimacy (PEEL) inspections it has undergone.
22. Crimes recorded by the police have risen recently in Durham, mirroring national trends, except for Sexual Offences. This is because of improved recording, increased confidence to report certain crimes, and actual rises for some categories (as of Year ending March 2020). The disparity in Sexual Offence rates is partly due to the historic sexual abuse cases investigated in Operation Seabrook.
23. Figure 9 shows the percentage change in Violence Against the Person, Sexual Offences, and Robbery between the period March 2019 to March 2020. These have increased marginally, while Theft Offences and Criminal Damage and Arson levels have reduced (Source DCOP).

Police Recorded Crime Rate of Offences per 1000 Population (with % Change), Year Ending March 2020			
	Durham	North East	England and Wales
<b>All Crime (excl. Fraud offences)</b>	102 [1%]	105 [-4%]	89 [1%]
<b>Violence Against the Person</b>	42 [5%]	36 [1%]	30 [6%]
<b>Sexual Offences</b>	3 [3%]	3 [-3%]	3 [-1%]
<b>Robbery</b>	0 [11%] *	1 [3%]	1 [6%]
<b>Theft Offences</b>	29 [-3%]	33 [-9%]	32 [-5%]
<b>Criminal Damage and Arson</b>	14 [-6%]	15 [-4%]	9 [-3%]

Figure 9: Police Recorded Crime Rate of Offences per 1000 Population (with % Change from Year Ending March 2019 Compared to Year Ending March 2020), Year Ending March 2020 (Office for National Statistics)<sup>2</sup>

### Crime Outcomes

24. Durham Constabulary has a higher proportion of resolved outcomes (where a crime has been solved by the police) than is the case nationally. Between January 2020 and December 2020, Durham's solved rate was 15.7%, compared to a 14.3% average for forces across England and Wales from the same period.
25. There is an increased onus within Durham Constabulary upon tackling high harm crime. From December 2019 to December 2020 solved rates have improved in some of the highest harm crime categories, including; Rape and other Sexual Offences, Robbery, Modern Slavery and Violence with Injury (Source DCOP).

### Criminal Justice Partnership

26. Criminal Justice (CJ) is made up of many agencies and partners. Whilst an increase in police officer numbers is welcome, the CJ partnership has raised concerns that more crimes being detected will impact on local delivery of other CJ services, for instance by Crown Prosecution Service, and Her Majesty's Courts & Tribunal Service. This situation has also been exacerbated by COVID-19.
27. During the COVID-19 pandemic the closure of courts and subsequent need for social distancing has resulted in significant backlogs in the number of cases being heard. Local partners including the force, CPS, HMCTS, probation, prison and the OPCVC worked hard to relieve this situation. The backlog in the magistrate's courts has been cleared and there is ongoing work to manage the numbers in the Crown Court which have reduced but remain significant. The further lockdown period may have an impact on this, although all services are more prepared to manage the situation going forward and the partnership will continue to work together. Additional funding has been provided by the MOJ for victim support services which has further enabled the OPCVC to ensure that victims of crime can be helped both remotely and face to face where necessary.

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\*Please note that a score of zero per 1000 of the population does not equate to zero robberies crimed actual. Please also note the 11% rise year on year is a reflection of the small figures involved.

### ***Prevention and Reduction techniques***

28. Durham Constabulary is committed to keeping County Durham and Darlington safe for residents, businesses, students and visitors alike. A large part of this centres around the work of Durham's Neighbourhood Policing Teams who continuously engage with their local communities and help to promote public safety.
29. In addition, the Constabulary's crime prevention officers offer specific advice about particular crimes – as well as how individuals and households can help to prevent crime through keeping their valuables and homes secure. More information can be found on Durham Constabulary's website: [www.durham.police.uk/Information-and-advice](http://www.durham.police.uk/Information-and-advice)
30. Reducing reoffending will be included in the next Quarterly Performance Report. However, there are a multitude of projects and schemes which Durham Constabulary work in partnership with, that aim to reduce reoffending which have the additional impact of improving community safety. Examples include Community Speedwatch, Checkpoint, electronic tagging and alcohol ignition interlocks.

### **Outcome 2 – Victims and the vulnerable feel supported**

#### **KPQ3: How well are victims supported to cope and recover, and engage in criminal justice processes?**

31. Victims often feel let down by the system because of the way in which they are passed from one agency to another and are not properly supported. As the commissioner of victims' services, the OPCVC works, with CJ partners, to ensure that victims and witnesses are able to cope and recover from their experience and that they can engage with the Criminal Justice System in a positive way.
32. This work is led and coordinated through the Local Criminal Justice Partnership's (LCJP) County Durham and Darlington Victim and Witness Group. The group has a delivery plan and summary version, Plan on a Page. Below are the five sections of this delivery plan, with updates:

#### **Provide co-ordinated, end-to-end care and support for victims and witnesses**

- This means understanding and identifying current pathways for victims as a part of ongoing commissioning to reach the right model in support of victims. Also included is ongoing work to ensure that officers within the Constabulary have the correct level of understanding and awareness of victim and witness services. This focuses upon the critical first point of contact with the victim of an offence. As such, part of the work been done has been to ensure that officers share information about the support services available, and that they proactively refer them too.

#### Effective pathways

- In terms of these pathways for victims, the establishment of the Root Cause Analysis Group (detailed further below) helps the LCJP's Victim and Witness Group to ensure that the services are available and are of good quality, which assist with OPCVC commissioning processes, for instance, by identifying where there may be gaps in service.

#### Victim centred criminal justice system processes

- Following pilot work around the proactive offer of Restorative Justice during the court process, the PCVC has retained this through the role of Criminal Justice Victims Liaison Officer. We have also extended the remit to offer specific support to those victims of crime whose cases progress into the court system. This team has been increased recently and will be part of a pilot to improve support during case progression to court.

#### Performance management

- A performance framework group has worked to develop a performance management framework to enable better monitoring against outcomes and the delivery plan. This is now in place. Performance management of PCVC commissioned services includes both quantitative and qualitative measures which are collated alongside police satisfaction levels. The Victims' Code of Practice (VCOP) has recently been updated and the PCVC has responsibility to measure compliance with this across agencies. This is currently being developed with partners and will assist with our desire to increase our measurement of qualitative support.

#### Awareness raising

- Work is ongoing to develop a communications plan which seeks to: increase awareness of all services available to support victims of crime; increase awareness of the referral pathways to access this; and, to ensure improved understanding among partners of one another's work.

### ***Victim Care Services***

33. Victim's Care & Advice Service (VCAS) is commissioned by the OPCVC and the Cleveland OPCC. Alongside other more specialised services, it supports victims to cope and recover from the crime committed against them. The below graph shows the number, and origin, of referrals received by VCAS over time. The VCAS contract has been extended until the end of March 2021 and whilst they continue to deliver a high-quality service, they will also work with the OPCVC to look at ways of improving the service in line with the critical contact point pilot work. Figure 10 tells us that, even over the COVID-19 period, referrals made into VCAS via the police have been gradually increasing. The sharper rises seen in the last two quarters are linked to the roll out of the new Red Sigma system, and the increased focus on officers completing Victim Contact Contracts.

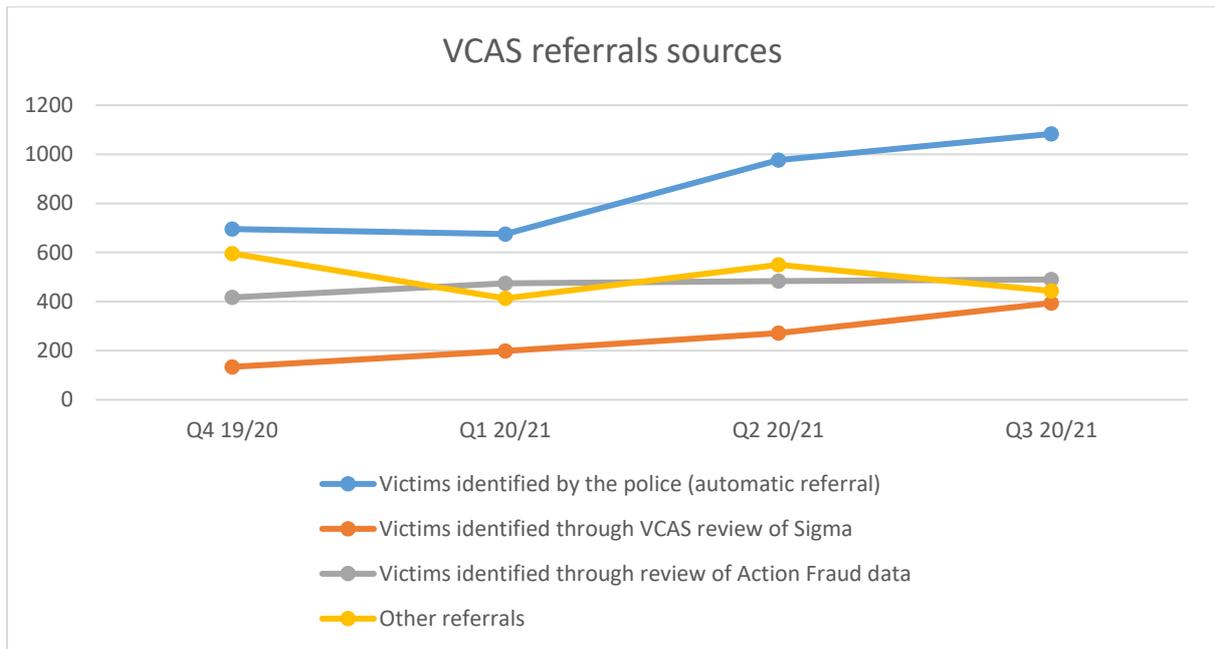


Figure 10: Referrals into VCAS

34. While VCAS remains the main support service for victims, victims of certain crimes require a specialised type of support. Accordingly, some of the specialised services that we either commission or contribute to their funding include:

- the Rape and Sexual Abuse Counselling Centre (RSACC) – a charity which provides free and confidential counselling and advice for women and girls who have been raped, sexually abused, or have suffered domestic abuse;
- the Sexual Assault Referral Centre (SARC), which offers forensic medical examination, advice, support, counselling and sexual health screening for people in County Durham and Darlington who have experienced rape or sexual assault;
- Harbour, which works with families and individuals who are affected by domestic abuse from a partner, former partner or other family member; and
- the Halo Project Charity, which supports victims with regard to those suffering abuse in the name of honour and those experiencing forced marriage.
- Hate crime advocacy service HCAS- Evaluation underway this autumn with a view to any changes to arrangements from September 2020.
- Offer support to victims of road traffic collisions (RTCs) which have happened as a result of a crime. This is offered to families of, and witnesses to, RTCs, usually coming under the category of killed or seriously injured (KSI) (but not exclusively).

35. In terms of these specialised areas, the OPVC works to improve the way victims feel supported in a number of ways. For instance, with regard to sexual abuse, the increase in Independent Sexual Violence Advocate (ISVA) provision for victims across Durham which is delivered through RSACC has been sustained.

- 36. Tackling and preventing domestic abuse (DA is a PCP priority; the OPCVC worked with regional forces and OPCCs to deliver the ‘The Whole System Approach’ collaboration and transformation project which sought to deliver lasting change, positive outcomes for victims, and meaningful consequences for perpetrators, including the set-up of the Multi Agency Tasking & Coordination process to manage high risk serial perpetrators of DA.
- 37. To ensure the most effective service is provided to support victims of Hate Crime, the OPCVC is currently undergoing an internal review of Hate Crime scrutiny and the more general strands of work associated with it.

**Victim Satisfaction and Experience**

- 38. Recorded victim satisfaction is one of the indicators that is monitored by the OPCVC when holding the Constabulary to account in respect of service given to victims.

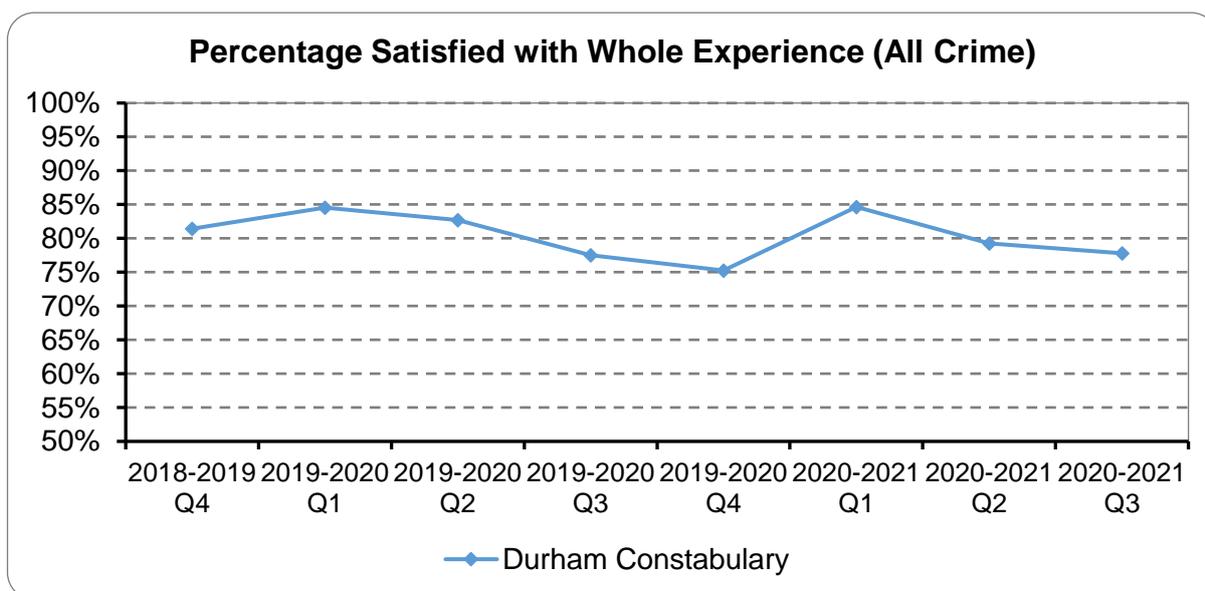


Figure 11: Percentage Satisfied with Whole Experience (All Crime)

- 39. There have been decreases since the last quarter in two out of six satisfaction categories; ‘whole experience’ and ‘treatment’. There have been increases in three categories; ‘ease of contact’, ‘actions taken’, follow up received’. The satisfaction levels remain within typical fluctuation patterns.
- 40. Understanding the *experience* of victims needs to be looked at across the whole of the journey through the CJS, this is carried out by the OPCVC in several ways. The Office works with the Constabulary and others to undertake certain scrutiny work. An example of this is the Rape Scrutiny Panel, which was established in line with the North East Regional Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG) Strategy. The OPCVC works with Durham Constabulary to improve performance in the investigation of rape cases and to improve the service offered by the

police to victims of rape. Similarly, the Domestic Abuse Scrutiny Panel does the same regarding cases of domestic violence, including examination of cases where there has not been a prosecution.

41. In addition to this work, the LCJP's Victim and Witness Group established a working group which looks to build on anecdotal feedback received from victims in relation to their experience with the Criminal Justice System. These Root Cause Analysis groups report back to the Victim and Witness Group on their findings, having identified issues within the current system, thereby aiding commissioning to drive improvements. The Victim and Witness Group also receive detailed and meaningful performance reports from an analyst working within the OPCVC to understand and measure progress.

#### **KPQ4: How well are vulnerable people supported?**

42. Vulnerable people encompass a wide range of issues and persons including, but not limited to, alcohol and drugs, mental health, domestic abuse victims, missing from home individuals, child and adult safeguarding, those who have fallen victim to human trafficking and modern slavery, and CSAE. Some of these categories are laid out in more detail below. Those which have been omitted in this section are discussed in depth in other sections of the two respective Quarterly Performance Reports.

#### ***Modern Slavery***

43. Incident reports and crimes relating to Modern Slavery and Human Trafficking (MSHT) remain low across County Durham and Darlington. Despite this, the Constabulary has a MSHT action plan which, because of the cross-boundary nature of these crimes, mirrors regional and national action plans. There is no dedicated MSHT team in the Constabulary, but it is a standing agenda at high level strategic meetings, where responsibilities to identify and review the quantity and quality of investigations and intelligence for their area is emphasised.
44. As a result of participation in both national and regional MSHT networks, a Modern Slavery Statement has now been published in partnership with six neighbouring Police Forces and PCCs outlining the commitment and intended actions in terms of addressing modern slavery and human trafficking through business activities and supply chains. This will be underpinned by a local delivery plan currently being reviewed and updated.
45. Effective collaboration across partner agencies is an essential element of identifying and addressing MSHT. Subsequently, this issue is a regular and routine agenda item on both Adult and Children's Safeguarding Boards. Separately, a Memorandum of Understanding has been developed and agreed between the Constabulary, Durham County Council and Darlington Borough Council. This ensures that victims of MSHT are managed within safeguarding procedures as part of a strategy meeting.

46. There is currently no designated Victim Reception Centre in County Durham or Darlington. However, there is future scope to utilise different neighbouring Local Authority area facilities. Separately, planned operations always have robust engagement from all partners, in particular the Fire Service, when accommodation is required. Reactive operations have previously been more problematic but now that cases are discussed in the context of safeguarding processes, the required partners involved and a Memorandum of Understanding in place, issues relating to ongoing accommodation have eased.

**Mental Health**

47. A significant number of incidents that the police deal with involve mental ill-health. Figure 12 displays that since July 2019, incidents with a mental health qualifier have remained reasonably consistent. The dramatic fall in numbers is attributed to a change in recording and data population.

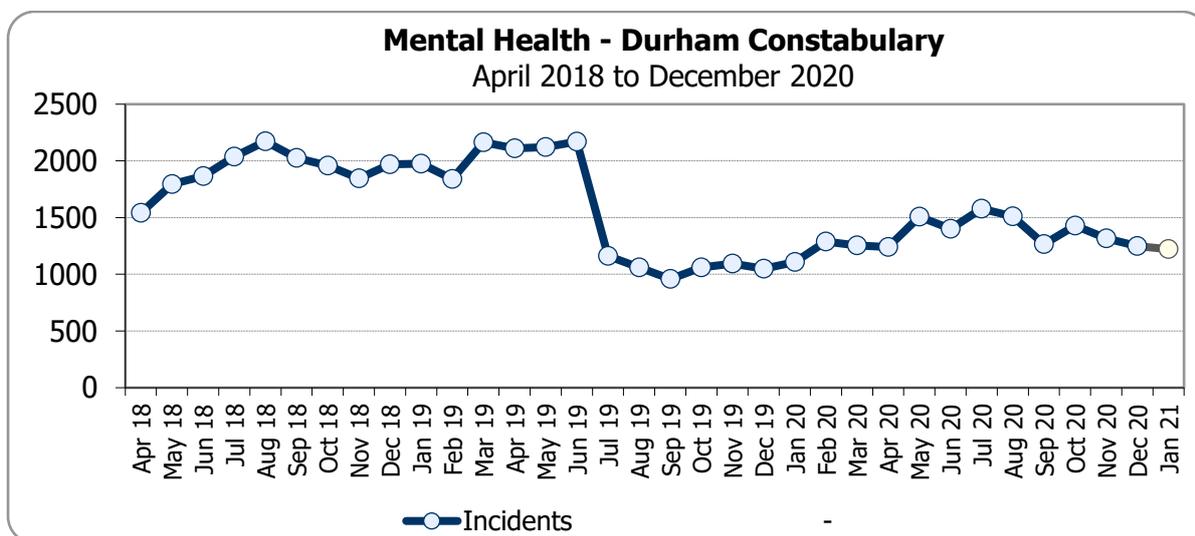


Figure 12: Monthly Incidents with a 'Mental Health' Qualifier (Durham Constabulary)

48. Incidents with a mental health qualifier attached have been involved, on average, in 10.3% of all recorded incidents in the last quarter (Oct-Dec 2020).
49. On average, 39% of mental health incidents in the force control room have received support from the street triage service to inform decision making processes for deployment. This level has remained consistent throughout the pandemic. The Street Triage Team also has a wider remit which includes working with NPT Officers to support people with mental health issues in non-crisis situations.
50. There is an overall year to date (YTD) increase in the number of under 18s detained under s136 and taken to a Health based place of safety (9 detained compared to 1 in the previous YTD period of April – Nov 2019). This suggests there is an increased demand for places of safety in relation to s136.

51. The OPCVC also promotes referral to Liaison and Diversion (L&D) services. These identify people who may be vulnerable when they first encounter the Criminal Justice System (CJS). L&D can also support people into appropriate health or social care.

***Educate and Raise Awareness of Sexual Exploitation (ERASE)***

52. The ERASE team focus on Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE) as well as on missing children (given that this can be an indicator that a child is at increased risk of sexual exploitation). As part of this programme of work, the Philomena and Herbert protocols are two schemes which look to help prevent children in care, as well as vulnerable adults, from going missing or to help to find them more quickly if they are already missing.

***Vulnerable people with complex needs***

53. The Vulnerability Intervention Pathway (VIP) Navigator Service in Durham works with adults with needs that require multi-agency support. The initiative is led by Durham County Council, and police representatives work with partners, including on the VIP Programme Board and Tactical Group. In Darlington this is linked to the early intervention workers that the OPCVC co-commissions with the local authority, namely the 700 Club.
54. Community Peer Mentors is a project which aims to reduce the pressure on frontline emergency services. This is done by engaging with and supporting people who feel they are vulnerable owing to anti-social behaviour, neighbour disputes, or crime. It engages with those who make frequent calls, helping reduce the severity and/or frequency of these calls.

**Recommendation**

55. That the Panel note the contents of the report and seek any relevant points of clarification.

**Steve White**

**Acting Police, Crime and Victims' Commissioner**

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**Appendix: Risks and Implications**

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**Finance**

N/A

**Staffing**

N/A

**Equality and Diversity**

N/A

**Accommodation**

N/A

**Crime and Disorder**

N/A

**Children's Act 2004**

N/A

**Stakeholder/Community Engagement**

N/A

**Environment**

N/A

**Collaboration and Partnerships**

N/A

**Value for Money and Productivity**

N/A

**Potential Impact on Police, Crime and Victims' Plan Priorities**

Highlights performance in relation to the Police, Crime and Victims' Plan.

**Commissioning**

N/A

**Other Risks**

N/A

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## Police and Crime Panel

4 February 2021

## Commissioning Update



## Report of the Acting Police, Crime and Victims' Commissioner

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### Purpose

1. To update Panel Members of key decisions and considerations at the Commissioning Boards held between 1<sup>st</sup> October 2020 and 31<sup>st</sup> January 2021.

### Commissioning Board Decisions

2. At the Board meeting held on 13<sup>th</sup> October 2020, these were the key decisions and considerations:
  - The COVID Emergency Fund monies (£400,000) had a balance of £43,000 to be allocated at 30<sup>th</sup> September 2020.
  - The submission of tenders for the Regional Sexual Assault Referral Centre (SARC) procurement exercise closes on 28<sup>th</sup> October 2020, with the conclusion of the exercise to be reported at a future meeting.
  - The PCVC Community Safety Fund 2020 application round closed on 12<sup>th</sup> October with the independent panel meeting to consider applications to the fund arranged for 27<sup>th</sup> November 2020.
  - An update on the OPCVC community safety activities was provided. The current phase of the process is the mapping of current provision and support, including the identification of overlaps and referral routes to and between the Vulnerable Intervention Pathways (VIP), Community Peer Mentors, Restorative Justice, Community Mediation and the OPCVC commissioned victim referral service.
  - The OPCVC is working in partnership with Durham County Council to support the development of the Making Every Adult Matter (MEAM) approach, linking that work into the wider community safety activities mentioned in the above bullet point.
3. At the Board meeting held on 13<sup>th</sup> January 2021, these were the key decisions and considerations:
  - The COVID Emergency Fund monies (£525,000) from the Ministry of Justice (MoJ) have been fully allocated. An extra £125,000 of emergency funding was received from the MoJ in December 2020.
  - The Regional SARC procurement exercise concluded with no bids received. The procurement exercise will be repeated (tender will be live for three months) with

an expectation that the new service will commence in April 2022. A SARC Board, which is Durham Force area specific, comprising the OPCVC, Constabulary and NHS England has been established (from 25<sup>th</sup> January 2021). The aim is to ensure preparedness for the forthcoming ISO and CQC accreditation requirements, and to oversee implementation of the new contract when awarded.

- A decision was taken to contribute a single one-off payment of £22,000 towards the Rural Communities Speed Watch activities.
- The Board received an update about the recent Domestic Abuse, Sexual Violence Executive Group (DASVEG) budget prioritisation exercise. The Board noted the need for a coordinated partner approach to investment in domestic abuse perpetrator programs.
- The Board noted a strategic conversation is needed with partners on key shared community safety priorities before further allocation of funds for 2021/22.
- The Board agreed a contribution of £3,050 to support this one-off contribution for provision of a male Independent Sexual Violence Advisor (ISVA) service.
- The Board agreed a contribution of £2,000 for the Sliding Doors Project, which is the National Modern Slavery/Human Trafficking initiative.

### **Recommendation**

4. To consider the report and provide any comments and questions.

**Charles Oakley**

Head of Governance & Commissioning

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## Appendix 1: Risks and Implications

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### Finance

All funding decisions are reflected in the OPCVC 2020/21 budgets and the medium-term financial planning process.

### Staffing

n/a

### Equality and Diversity

n/a

### Accommodation

n/a

### Crime and Disorder

Many of the projects are aimed at reducing crime and disorder.

### Children's Act 2004

n/a

### Stakeholder/Community Engagement

Information about the PCVC's funding streams is set out in the Police, Crime and Victims' Plan.

### Environment

n/a

### Collaboration and Partnerships

n/a

### Value for Money and Productivity

Value for Money is a key consideration in the allocation of all funding.

### Potential Impact on Police and Crime Plan Priorities

All funding is expected to have a positive impact on priorities.

### Commissioning

As per the report.

### Other risks

n/a

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## Police and Crime Panel

4 February 2021

## PCVC Decision Records

## Report of the Acting Police, Crime and Victims' Commissioner

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### Purpose

1. To update Panel Members on the Police, Crime and Victims' Commissioner's decision register for 2020-2021, and address the forward plan.

### Background

#### Decision Making Process

2. Key decisions are made at an Executive Board comprising the PCVC, the PCVC's Chief Executive, the Chief Constable and the Joint Chief Finance Officer. Other officers of the PCVC or the Chief Constable will attend as and when required. On occasion it is necessary to take decisions outside of this process for reasons of expediency, but all relevant parties are consulted and informed.
3. All key decisions are supported by a report setting out the decision required, all relevant factors to be considered, the outcome of any consultation undertaken and the risks and implications of the course of action being recommended.
4. An online record is maintained of all key decisions taken by the OPCVC. This includes a link to any documents which are disclosable under FOI. This record includes decisions taken by the PCC or any person to whom delegated powers have been granted.
5. The PCVC will consider holding public meetings when this will provide a means of consultation on decisions (i.e. precept consultation) where there is a clear interest in actively seeking views of the community.
6. The PCVC may choose to delegate powers to any deputy appointed, his statutory officers or a senior member of police staff.
7. A record is kept of all decisions made under delegated powers detailing the factors taken into consideration, including any consultation carried out.
8. Decisions to be made by the PCVC will relate in the main to his statutory functions and financial responsibilities. A Forward Plan for key decisions to be taken over a 3 month period will be published on the PCVC's website.

9. Generally Key decisions are likely to include:
- The preparation, drafting and issuing of the Police and Crime Plan
  - Issuing the precept
  - Adopting a Medium Term Financial Plan
  - Commissioning of Services
  - Preparation and issue of the Annual Report
  - Any decision which is considered to be of significant public interest or impact either generally or on a particular locality
  - Any decision which will incur revenue expenditure in excess of £100,000
  - Any decision which will incur capital expenditure in excess of £100,000
  - The approval of or adoption of strategies/policies
  - Key procurement decisions
  - Significant changes to the police estate
  - Allocation of grants
10. Details of the Police Crime and Victims' Commissioner's Decision Register 2020/2021 can be found in Appendix 2.

### **Recommendation**

11. That Panel Members note the contents of the report and ask any questions.

**Sharon Caddell**  
Interim Chief Executive & Monitoring Officer  
Office of the Durham Police, Crime and Victims' Commissioner

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## Appendix 1: Risks and Implications

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### Finance

All decisions with financial implications are made with value for money as a key consideration, and are affordable within budgets.

### Staffing

n/a

### Equality and Diversity

n/a

### Accommodation

n/a

### Crime and Disorder

n/a

### Children's Act 2004

n/a

### Stakeholder/Community Engagement

Consultation with key stakeholders is carried out as appropriate to each decision.

### Environment

n/a

### Collaboration and Partnerships

Consultation with key partners is carried out as appropriate to each decision.

### Value for Money and Productivity

n/a

### Potential Impact on Police and Crime Plan Priorities

Decisions will impact directly or indirectly on the pursuit of Police and Crime Plan priorities.

### Commissioning

Several decisions relate to commissioning of services.

### Other risks

n/a

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**Key Decisions**

(Links to more detailed reports are available on the website)

Decision Number	Decision Taker	Details
2020-023	Acting PCVC	The Acting PCVC agreed to the acquisition of the preferred site at a provisionally agreed base rate per acre subject to technical investigation and planning permission for progressing the Custody project.
2020-024	Acting PCVC	The Acting Police, Crime and Victims' Commissioner and the Constabulary for Durham signed the Section 22A collaboration agreement for the formal establishment of the Forensic Collision Investigation Network (FCIN).
2020-025	MOJ	Ministry of Justice (MOJ) Funding awarded to County Durham and Darlington for Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence services to the value of £525,491.
2021-001	Acting PCVC	A review was undertaken in 2020 of the North East Transformation, Innovation and Collaboration (NETIC) unit.  A decision was made to disband the NETIC team with effect from 31 <sup>st</sup> March 2021. The Cyber and other existing collaborations that PCCs and Chief Constables deem appropriate will be retained.
2021-002	Acting PCVC	The Acting PCVC approved contributions presented at the Commissioning Board held on 13 <sup>th</sup> January 2021.  £22,000 contribution toward the Rural Communities Speedwatch Vehicle. £3,050 contribution toward the provision of a male Independent Sexual Violence Advisor. £2,000 contribution toward the Sliding Door Project (national initiative for Modern Slavery and Human Trafficking).

Forward Plan

- Covid-19 Reaction
- Approval of draft Medium Term Financial Plan
- Commissioning and Grant Funding for 2021/22
- Precept Consultation 2021/22

**Police and Crime Panel**

**4 February 2021**

**Joint Independent Audit Committee Report**

**Report of the Acting Police, Crime and Victims' Commissioner**



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**Purpose**

1. To provide Panel Members with an update on a recent report taken to the Joint Independent Audit Committee (JIAC) in respect of use of consultants by the Office of Police, Crime & Victims Commissioner for Durham, as well as by Durham Constabulary.

**Background**

2. The Joint Independent Audit Committee is an advisory committee. Its purpose is to seek and consider independent assurance and advise the Chief Constable (CC) and the Acting Police, Crime and Victims' Crime Commissioner (APCVC), as those charged with governance for Durham Constabulary, on the adequacy and effectiveness of the risk management framework, the internal control environment, the integrity of the financial reporting and the overall corporate governance arrangements in place within the Office of Police Crime and Victims' Commissioner (OPCVC) and Durham Constabulary.
3. The establishment of an audit committee is a key element of good governance, in the public and private sectors. The establishment of a JIAC is specifically recommended in the statutory Financial Management Code of Practice that supports the Police Reform and Social Responsibility Act 2011, and takes consideration of the Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy (CIPFA) position statement.
4. The report attached at Appendix 1 was previously requested by the JIAC. It was formally included as an agenda item at the JIAC meeting held on Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> January 2021.
5. The report provided an overview on spend associated with consultants who have been commissioned by the PCVC and CC in financial years 2019/20 and 2020/21 to date.
6. In the JIAC meeting, questions were received in respect of budget allocations, and whether use of local providers formed part of the procurement process.
7. Following discussion and receipt of responses to questions, the JIAC members accepted and approved the report.

8. In line with responsibilities around transparency, the report has been made available on the APCVC's website along with other reports that were received at that JIAC meeting.

**Recommendation**

9. That Panel Members consider and accept the report.

**Sharon Caddell**  
Interim Chief Executive & Monitoring Officer

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## Appendix 1: Risks and Implications

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### Finance

All decisions with financial implications are made with value for money as a key consideration, and are affordable within budgets.

### Staffing

n/a

### Equality and Diversity

n/a

### Accommodation

n/a

### Crime and Disorder

n/a

### Children's Act 2004

n/a

### Stakeholder/Community Engagement

Consultation with key stakeholders is carried out as appropriate to each decision.

### Environment

n/a

### Collaboration and Partnerships

Consultation with key partners is carried out as appropriate to each decision.

### Value for Money and Productivity

n/a

### Potential Impact on Police and Crime Plan Priorities

Decisions will impact directly or indirectly on the pursuit of Police and Crime Plan priorities.

### Commissioning

Several decisions relate to commissioning of services.

### Other risks

n/a

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## Joint Audit Committee

4 February 2021

## Use of Consultants

## Report of Interim Chief Executive &amp; Monitoring officer



## Purpose

1. To appraise the Joint Audit Committee on the cost and impact of use of consultants by the Durham Office of Police, Crime & Victims Commissioner (OPCVC), and the Chief Constable, in the financial years 2019/20 and 2020/21 (to date).

## Background

2. The Committee previously requested information on the use of consultants for both the OPCVC and the Chief Constable.
3. Table 1 below sets out the detail associated with consultants who have been commissioned by the OPCVC.

Table 1

Supplier	Reason	2019/20 £	2020/21 £	Total £
Enlighten	Support to PCVC re role on national ICT Company	18,026	18,000	<b>36,026</b>
Waterstons	General Data Protection Regulation Advice and support	3,580		<b>3,580</b>
We Do HR	Staff job evaluation review	9,988		<b>9,988</b>
Outcome Delivery Network	Estates Advice		7,437	<b>7,437</b>
Lichfields	Advice regarding previous telecoms mast		(no cost at present – advice ongoing)	

4. In relation to procurement, where the value is below £10,000 only one quote is required. With regard to Enlighten, a direct award was made within a procurement exercise based.
5. In respect of budgetary provision, the costs of consultants for the OPCVC are met from budget savings within the Office, and/or reserves. There is no specific budget set aside for consultants.
6. Table 2 below shows the use of consultants relating to the Chief Constable.

Table 2

Supplier	Reason	2019/20 £	2020/21 £	Total £
Turner Townsend	New custody build		500,000	500,000
Link Treasury Management	Treasury Management Advice Contract	8,100	8,100	16,200
Cell:cm	Telecoms advice re market lifespan for mast		750	750
Grant Thornton	VAT advice contract	3,000	3,000	6,000
Ian Carswell Ltd	Estates mechanical and electrical advice	20,915	4,471	25,386
Maurice Daley Ltd	Estates mechanical and electrical advice		1,869	1,869
Ward Haddaway Ltd	Legal advice re disposal and acquisition of assets	11,798		11,798
Eversheds	Legal advice re disposal of Barnard Castle	2,619	599	3,218

7. In relation to procurement:

- the custody consultants were appointed from a national framework. The spend on this will increase as the project develops.
- Treasury management and vat consultants are formal contracts which are periodically retendered.
- Consultants spend below the £10,000 procurement threshold was not subject to tender/ quotes
- Carswell/ Daley and subject to quotes where necessary.
- Legal fees are subject to Evolve advice.

8. In relation to budget provision, specific budgets are held for the above within the revenue budget with the exception of custody which is a capital project.

### Recommendation

9. The Joint Independent Audit Committee is recommended to consider the report.

**Sharon Caddell**  
Chief Executive

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**Appendix 1: Risks and Implications**


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**Finance**

N/A

**Staffing**

N/A

**Equality and Diversity**

N/A

**Accommodation**

N/A

**Crime and Disorder**

N/A

**Children's Act 2004**

N/A

**Stakeholder/Community Engagement**

N/A

**Environment**

N/A

**Collaboration and Partnerships**

N/A

**Value for Money and Productivity**

N/A

**Potential Impact on Police and Crime Plan Priorities**

N/A

**Commissioning**

N/A

**Other risks**

N/A

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## Durham Police and Crime Panel

4 February 2021

### Complaints Update

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## Report of Helen Lynch, Monitoring Officer and Clerk to the Police and Crime Panel

### 1 Purpose of the Report

- 1.1 To update members of the implementation on the procedure for handling complaints relating to the Police, Crime and Victims Commissioner (PCVC) or the Deputy Police, Crime and Victims Commissioner (where appointed).
- 1.2 To update members on number of formal complaints received since the last meeting.

### 2 Executive Summary

- 2.1 On 16 October 2020 the Police and Crime Panel approved an update to the procedure for handling complaints relating to the PCVC or the Deputy PCVC. In addition to this the Police and Crime Panel agreed to receive at each regular meeting an update on the number of formal complaints received including those which may have been rejected without consideration by the Panel in accordance with the procedure.

### 3 Recommendation

- 3.1 The Panel are asked to note the report.

## **4 Complaints Procedure**

- 4.1 The Police and Reform and Social Responsibility Act 2011 sets out the role and responsibility of Panels, this includes handling complaints relating to the Police and Crime Commissioner and their Deputy where appointed.
- 4.2 The Police and Crime Panel on 16 October 2020 reviewed and agreed an update to the procedure for dealing with complaints and conduct matters about the PCVC and their Deputy. The updates to the procedure were made following recommendations of the Local Government Association (LGA) on the best practice for complaints handling.
- 4.3 Following the approval by the Panel to adopt the updated procedure, the procedure took effect for all complaints received after 16 October 2020. A copy of the updated procedure is available on the Durham County Council website and is also available on request.
- 4.4 The formatting of the procedure has been altered for presentation on the Durham County Council website to ensure that this complies with current accessibility laws. This has been altered to ensure that the procedure is accessible to those who use assistive technology such as screen readers.

## **5 Complaints Update**

- 5.1 The Panel have delegated responsibility to the Monitoring Officer to the Police and Crime Victims Commissioners Office for the initial receipt of complaints, and referral to the Panel, if there appears to be any substance in it. There may be instances where a complaint is not presented to the Panel such as withdrawn complaints or those which are outside of the policy to be considered.
- 5.2 In order to promote transparency and ensure effective scrutiny it was agreed on 16 October 2020 that the Panel would receive a report at each regular meeting on formal complaints received relating to the PCVC, including those which have not been presented to the Panel.
- 5.3 Between 16 October 2020 and 27 January 2021 there have been no formal complaints received in accordance with the procedure.

## **Background Papers**

None

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Contact: Kamila Coulson-Patel                      Tel: 03000 269674

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## **Appendix 1**

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### **Legal Implications**

The Elected Local Policing Bodies (Complaints and Misconduct) Regulations 2012 set out the functions of police and crime panels in relation to the handling of complaints concerning the conduct of police and crime commissioners, and provide for local arrangements to be made in order to resolve complaints.

### **Finance**

None specific for this report.

### **Consultation**

None specific for this report.

### **Equality and Diversity / Public Sector Equality Duty**

None specific for this report.

### **Climate Change**

None specific for this report.

### **Human Rights**

None specific for this report.

### **Crime and Disorder**

None specific for this report.

### **Staffing**

None specific for this report.

### **Accommodation**

None specific for this report.

### **Risk**

None specific for this report.

### **Procurement**

None specific for this report.

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**Police and Crime Panel**

**4 February 2021**

**HMICFRS Inspections**

**Report of the Acting Police, Crime and Victims' Commissioner**

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**Purpose**

1. To brief the Police & Crime Panel (PCP) on the findings of the recent inspections conducted by Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary and Fire and Rescue Services (HMICFRS), upon which Police & Crime Commissioners are required to comment.
2. In the period that has elapsed since the last PCP meeting, one report has been received by the Office of Police, Crime & Victim's Commissioner for Durham, as detailed below:
  - *HMICFRS Inspection Report: An inspection of the National Crime Agency's relationship with regional organised crime units.*

**Individual inspections and findings**

*HMICFRS Inspection Report: An inspection of the National Crime Agency's relationship with regional organised crime units.*

3. This inspection focused upon:
  - current capabilities;
  - resourcing;
  - alignment with the Serious and Organised Crime (SOC) Strategy and the National Strategic Assessment;
  - ability to provide a single, authoritative, strategic assessment of the threat from serious and organised crime; and
  - compliance with national intelligence standards and existing legislation.

4. The inspection report details national themes. Prime observations made within the report are that the APCVC is mindful of the importance of a clear need for forces and PCCs to be involved in the conversation around how the SOC system develops. It is crucial that the Force's 'local voice' is represented in national tasking discussions based on national threat.

#### **General comment on reports from Acting Police, Crime & Victim's Commissioner**

5. All recommendations and areas for improvement are taken seriously, and I have confidence that these are being dealt with by the Force appropriately, with the aim to improve methods of working and the effectiveness and efficiency of Durham Constabulary. Where the Force may operate differently to some recommendations, I am satisfied that there is a strong rationale behind doing so.
6. Please find below the following link which will direct you to the Section 55 responses presented to HMICFRS by the Acting Police, Crime and Victims' Commissioner for Darlington and Durham:

<https://www.durham-pcc.gov.uk/Your-PCC/Accountability/HMICFRS-Inspections.aspx>

This will provide members of the Panel with all of the associated Durham Constabulary updates in relation to HMICFRS reports.

#### **Known inspection schedule 2020**

7. Some elements of planned thematic inspections for 2019/20 may be integrated into the PEEL all-force inspection programme; some may also be included in the Criminal Justice Joint Inspection Plan. It is important to note that thematic inspections are still an essential part of the programme of work and will continue to take place alongside the PEEL inspections.

2020/21 inspection programme:

- the policing response to COVID-19 (Durham Constabulary are currently awaiting formal feedback);
- joint inspection of the investigation and prosecution of rape cases;
- proposed investigation area of super-complaints;
- initial scoping for potential thematic inspections for 2021/22 which will potentially include issues of race and disproportionality (issues surrounding these

areas will inevitably be touched upon throughout the current inspection programme); and,

- pre-charge bail and released under investigation: striking a balance.
8. HMICFRS will also continue their rolling programmes on child protection, Youth Offending Teams and crime data integrity. Crime data integrity inspections assess whether police forces record and categorise crimes correctly. This current programme of inspection is due to finish this financial year.
  9. The Force is expecting an integrated PEEL assessment in 2020.
  10. The OPCVC is currently in the process of preparing a response to HMICFRS on the 'Pre-charge bail and released under investigation: Striking a balance' report.

### **Recommendations**

11. That the Panel notes the content of the inspection report.
12. The Panel notes that all HMICFRS inspections were postponed due to the initial Covid-19 emergency but resumed in October 2020.

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**Appendix 1: Risks and Implications**

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**Finance**

N/A

**Staffing**

N/A

**Equality and Diversity**

N/A

**Accommodation**

N/A

**Crime and Disorder**

N/A

**Children's Act 2004**

N/A

**Stakeholder/Community Engagement**

N/A

**Environment**

N/A

**Collaboration and Partnerships**

There will be a renewed focus upon ensuring collaborations are working as effectively as possible and in line with national guidance measures.

**Value for Money and Productivity**

N/A

**Potential Impact on Police and Crime Plan Priorities**

The emergence of Covid-19 and its impacts upon policing will have an impact upon future Police and Crime Plan priorities.

**Commissioning**

N/A

**Other risks**

N/A

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