

Police and Crime Panel

7th March 2022

Neighbourhood Problem Solving Approach

Report of the Police and Crime and Commissioner



Purpose

1. To describe to Members the local problem-solving approach to be developed through the employment and deployment of Community Safety Champions in 2022/23 and 2023/24. The cost of employing the two Community Safety Champions will be met in full by the OPCC Durham, but any activities suggested by residents, councillors and organisations could be funded (if considered doable and appropriate) by contributions from the local Area Action Partnership (AAP).
Local engagement will be critical to identifying specific areas of concern and building the evidence base on which progress can be assessed and conclusions on effectiveness drawn.
The two roles will target areas of County Durham with the intention to design a delivery model which can be extended to other geographical force areas.
A robust evaluation and quality assurance process will ensure effective delivery and a service level agreement will be in place with Durham Agency against Crime to measure outcomes and impact of the posts.

Background

2. The main purpose of the roles will be to engage with communities, stakeholders and businesses and help address the six safer themes to help reduce crime, ASB, victimisation and the fear of crime, with an overall aim of helping communities feel safer.
In October 2021, the PCC met with councillors from Wingate, Wheatley Hill and Trimdon areas to discuss the response to anti-social behaviour in their respective wards. At the meeting the proposal to create Community Coordinator roles (now called Community Safety Champions) was shared as a potential response to local problems which councillors highlighted.
The proposal for Community Safety Champions was developed to understand and define solutions in partnership with local communities and their representatives at a local level, that would be owned by the community and implemented by the community.
The Durham Agency against Crime has agreed to recruit and manage two posts and is undertaking a recruitment exercise with the aim of having the posts filled as near to early April as possible.

Following the meeting with the councillors in October, the plan is for one of the roles to work with communities in Ferryhill and the second role in the area around Wingate, Wheatley Hill and the Trimdons.

Once there is agreement between the local communities and their representatives on the problems to be resolved and the actions to achieve resolution, the Community Safety Champion will work with the communities to a point where the actions have been completed, then move on to the next geographical area where the needs are most acute.

The ASB Champion will be active across the Force area and will advise where the need is greatest and the opportunity to work in partnership exists.

3. The PCC collated responses from a survey during the election campaign. The respondents identified anti-social behaviour (ASB), drug use and drug dealing, fly tipping, speeding, and vandalism as the main areas of concern.

Recommendation

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

Charles Oakley
Head of Governance & Finance

Appendix 1: Risks and Implications

Finance

All funding decisions are reflected in the OPCC 2022/23 budget.

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 PCC's funding streams is set out in the Police and Crime 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

Contact Officer:	Charles Oakley
Job Title:	Head of Governance & Finance
Telephone:	0191 375 2001
Email:	charles.oakley@durham-pcc.gov.uk