

The background of the report cover is an aerial photograph of Durham, England, taken at dusk. The Durham Cathedral is the central focus, its Gothic architecture and spire illuminated with warm golden lights. The surrounding city buildings are also lit up, with their windows glowing. The sky is a mix of deep blue and orange from the setting sun. The image is framed by white diagonal lines that create a sense of depth and movement.

# Durham Police and Crime Commissioner's **ANNUAL REPORT**

**2023/24**

Making the communities of County Durham and Darlington safer, stronger and more resilient to crime, drugs and anti-social behaviour



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# FOREWORD



**Joy Allen**  
Police and Crime Commissioner

It has been an honour to serve the communities of County Durham and Darlington as your Police and Crime Commissioner.

We have been extremely busy over the past three years, and I am proud of the many achievements that have been made along the way. These successes could not have been reached without the commitment and determination of our police officers, staff and many partners with whom we work side by side to keep our communities safe.

Through my continued commitment to neighbourhood policing, there are now more officers in the force than in 2019, when the Police Uplift Programme came in to effect. These new recruits are active and visible in our communities, delivering the robust policing presence you have told me is very important to you. However, I must highlight that this still leaves us with fewer officers than in 2010.

Whilst we could do so much more with further recruits, it is clear to see that these additional officers have already made an impressive impact in our neighbourhoods and will be critical for the delivery of my new Police and Crime Plan.

Both the Chief Constable and I remain committed to strengthening neighbourhood policing which is the lifeblood of a strong and effective force and further recruitment events are planned this year to grow our headcount of officers as far as funding will allow. This will include additional intakes of PCSOs and Special Constables who play an equally important role in reassuring our communities, deterring crime and assisting regular officers through enforcement.

This report covers the financial year 2023-24 and reflects the performance made against my original Police and Crime Plan priorities. There is much to be pleased about, and we are already seeing benefits from the money you have invested in your police force through the precept.

One such area is our call handling operation which is an area our residents have rightly demanded improvements. Earlier this year, the force recruited 20 extra call handlers with a further two training

courses expected imminently. We have moved closer towards full implementation of the Single Online Home website, enabling residents to contact the force digitally, ensuring wider accessibility to the force in their time of need. The good news is, call answering times have already reduced, with the average answer time for a 999 call between January and March being 10.3 seconds – a reduction of 2.3 seconds on the previous quarter.

More improvements are expected as we fully implement a £1.5m cloud-based telephony system over the next five years which will reduce transfer delays of calls coming into the control room. In addition, we have recently rolled out a new SMS deflection system to direct some callers to the force website if digital communication is preferred.

Every victim matters and I am proud of the work I have undertaken with partners to ensure the victim's voice is heard and that justice is delivered. The detrimental effects of anti-social behaviour (ASB) on victims are well known, and we have directed vast resources into preventing and enforcing these incidents, providing appropriate support to victims and diverting future offending.

ASB incidents fell 11.5% between April 2023 and March 2024 compared to the previous year. We were fortunate to have been selected to trailblaze the previous government's 'Hotspot Policing' programme which has seen the roll out of thousands of extra policing patrols in ASB hotspot areas across the force area. The associated Immediate Justice Scheme has also ensured perpetrators are dealt with quickly and decisively after coming to the attention of officers.

The recent partnership with my Community Peer Mentors scheme has ensured victims of ASB identified through the pilot are offered bespoke, non-time limited support, mediation and advocacy by one of three ASB Coordinators working on behalf of the team, helping to promote their recovery. Some of these victims have also been supported through my recently re-launched ASB Case Review scheme, a process which enables victims to demand answers for ongoing ASB problems from the agencies responsible for dealing with issues.

A new era now beckons, and I will shortly be unveiling my fresh Police and Crime Plan 2024-29 following a period of consultation with our residents. My priorities will continue to be informed by the issues and crimes that concern you the most and will determine how and where we will invest public funding to keep you safe.

Prevention will remain an overarching priority, and I will continue to work with partners to stop harm before it happens and avoid unnecessary trauma to victims. This means helping people before they commit their first offence and those already caught within the revolving door of offending. It also means offering more effective support for those who turn to crime through their addictions whether to alcohol, drugs or gambling.

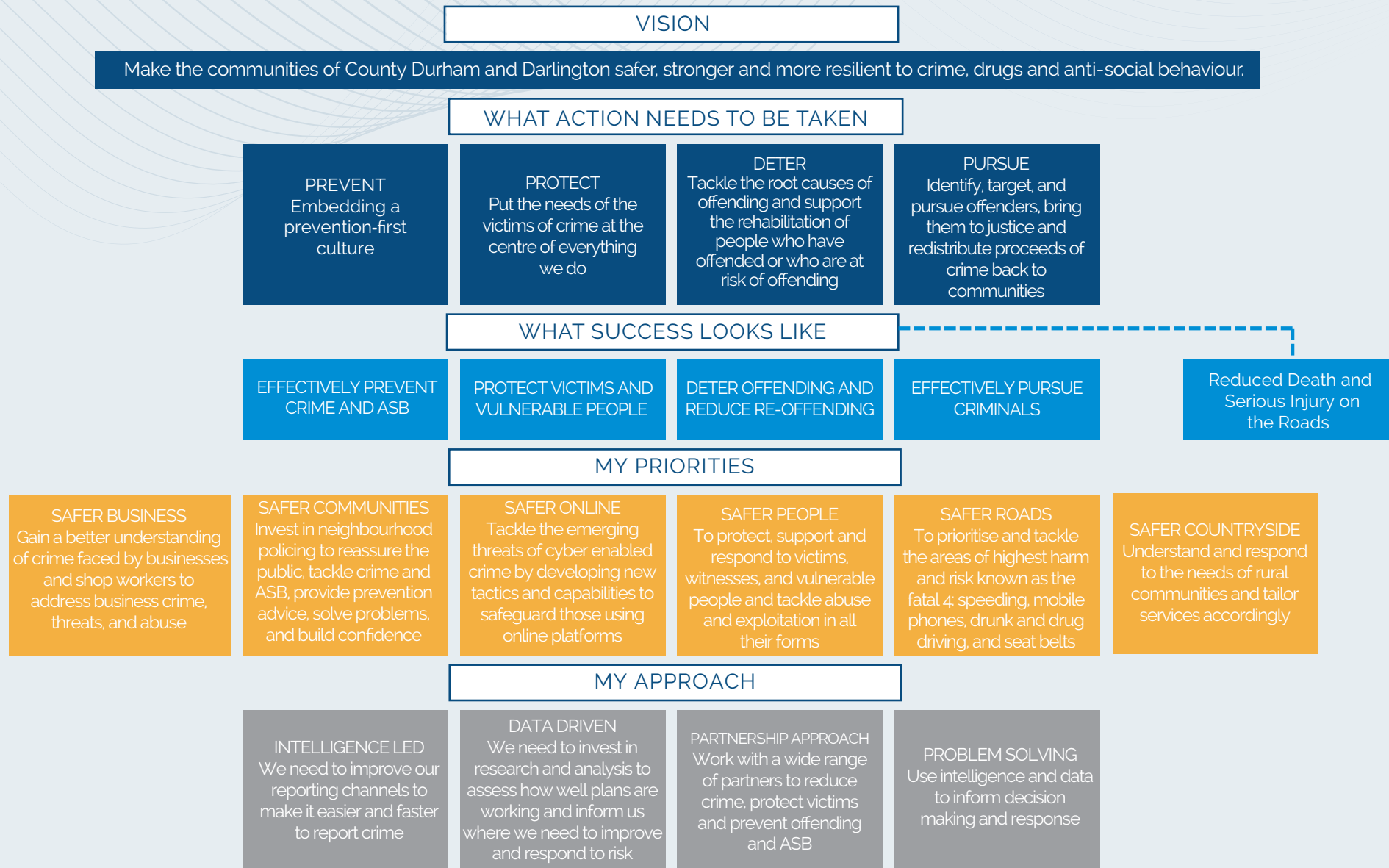
We will also continue to take every opportunity to drive home the safety responsibilities of those who drive or ride on our roads. Between Q1 and Q4 2023/24, there was a 10.9% reduction in all casualties in the force area, highlighting the importance of investing in awareness campaigns and tough enforcement. Most road collisions are preventable and if we can avert one serious injury or fatality, then we will have made a difference. As the Association of Police and Crime Commissioner's (APCC) Joint Lead on Roads Policing, I will continue to push nationally for tougher sentencing for those who use our roads recklessly including drug and drink drivers, as well as those who use mobile phones at the wheel.

Durham is a high-achieving force, but we know we could do so much more with extra funding. Every penny is precious, and in my role as Joint Lead of the APCC Finance portfolio, I will continue to press for a funding formula that is fit for purpose, particularly for forces with a low tax base, to secure Durham the funding and resources necessary to protect our communities from threats to safety – now and in the future.

**Joy Allen**

**County Durham and Darlington Police and Crime Commissioner**

# THE PUBLIC'S POLICE AND CRIME PRIORITIES - PLAN ON A PAGE



# DELIVERING THE PUBLIC'S POLICE AND CRIME PRIORITIES

Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary and the Fire and Rescue Services (HMICFRS) Peel 2021/22 Police Effectiveness, Efficiency and Legitimacy inspection made the following observations

## PREVENT

- The Force has a clear focus on preventing crime.
- The Force prioritises preventing crime, anti-social behaviour and vulnerability.

## PROTECT

- The Force is good at protecting vulnerable people.
- The Force works well to safeguard those who are vulnerable.
- Officers look for signs of vulnerability when attending incidents.
- The Force provides quality service to victims of crime.

## DETER

- The Force has a clear focus of preventing people being drawn into committing crime.
- The Force has an effective approach to offender management, including Checkpoint, an innovative scheme to reduce re-offending.
- The Force is good at managing offenders and suspects.
- The Force prevents people from engaging or re-engaging in organised crime.
- The Community Peer Mentor Scheme has demonstrated success in cutting offending. The unique approach has seen an 81% reduction in contact with public services, reduced offending and hospital admissions.

## PURSUE

- The Force is effective in apprehending and managing suspects and offenders to protect the public from harm.
- The Force is outstanding at managing serious and organised crime.
- The Force proactively pursues illicit finances. It has been recognised nationally for its analytical exploitation of suspicious activity reports to identify links to organised crime groups.
- The Force works hard to recover money from Organised Crime Groups through confiscation orders.

## INTELLIGENCE LED

- The Force is good at using all available intelligence to identify, understand and prioritise serious and organised crime.
- Digital Intelligence Unit, the dedicated surveillance team and other specialist units allow the Force to identify the demand and react accordingly.
- Intelligence is shared allowing an effective approach to managing serious and organised crime and focus on prevention and deterrence.
- The Force Intelligence Unit researches incidents involving vulnerability to provide officers with as much information as possible.

## DATA DRIVEN

- The Force's investment in digital intelligence and forensics has been recognised nationally for its analytical exploitation.

## PARTNERSHIP APPROACH

- The Force works well with other organisations to keep vulnerable people safe.
- The Force works with organisations and local communities to reduce tolerance to organised crime.

## PROBLEM SOLVING

- The Force uses problem solving and works in partnership to prevent crime, anti-social behaviour and vulnerability.
- Excellent examples of problem solving and working with other partner agencies to prevent crime and anti-social behaviour are well established throughout the organisation.

# SAFER COMMUNITIES – ANTI-SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR






When I meet residents, they consistently raise anti-social behaviour as their number one priority and so this issue was my first priority in my Police and Crime Plan.

## Key achievements in addition to those detailed in the plan include:








- ✓ Investing in neighbourhood policing to better tackle these problems
- ✓ Giving victims a voice through my Anti-Social Behaviour Champion
- ✓ Community Peer Mentors offering invaluable support to victims of ASB
- ✓ Securing £1.5m through Safer Streets in 2022/23 to crackdown on anti-social behaviour, neighbourhood crime and women's safety
- ✓ Securing £4m of Trailblazer funding to tackle anti-social behaviour hotspots across the force area and deliver the Immediate Justice programme for those engaged in ASB.
- ✓ Implementing ASB Case Review to try and resolve ongoing and enduring anti-social behaviour working with all relevant partners.
- ✓ Investing significantly into Operation Endurance helping to crackdown on nuisance riders and motorists.

## I set out below the actions I committed to in my plan and whether they have been achieved.

Whilst anti-social behaviour is reducing, there is still more to do. Therefore, throughout my next term of office, I will be relentless in tackling anti-social behaviour to ensure people across the county feel safe in their own neighbourhoods and can have pride in where they live.

Appoint an Anti-Social Behaviour Champion to spearhead multi-agency action to address persistent anti-social behaviour and chair Community Trigger (now known as ASB case review) resolution meetings.	
Tackle quality of life issues that matter most to residents such as anti-social behaviour, fly tipping, vandalism and dog fouling.	
Ensure signposting is reinforced with a clear distinction of who to direct ASB related issues to.	
Lobby the Home Office to consider replicating legal powers currently available to police in Scotland to enable our officers to serve warnings, fines and seize equipment from noisy, inconsiderate neighbours.	
Ensure the availability of a trauma informed approach to support victims of persistent, unresolved anti-social behaviour.	



Display guidelines on how to enact the ASB Community Trigger (now known as ASB case review) prominently on websites, notice boards and publications to enable all victims of anti-social behaviour to seek redress.	
Address student related ASB problems, working alongside Durham University and the local authority	
Encourage victims to submit a written account of the impact of ASB and be entitled to read it or have it read out on their behalf at the Community Trigger (now known as ASB case review) Meeting.	
Review how the Police, Darlington Borough Council and Durham County Council take ownership of ASB reports to ensure people get the right support at the right time by the right organisation.	
Use the full suite of criminal and civic tools and powers to address anti-social behaviour effectively.	
Enable victims of ASB to attend a resolution meeting to explain the impact the ASB behaviour is having on them.	
Provide ongoing communication on what is being done locally to tackle ASB across media platforms	

## BY THE NUMBERS:

### In 2023/24:

- ASB reports - nuisance – reduced from 8405 in 2022/23 to 7462 in 2023/24
- ABS reports - youth related ASB – reduced from 964 in 2022/23 to 4167 in 2023/24
- ASB reports - alcohol related ASB – reduced from 1606 in 2022/23 to 1371 in 2023/24
- ASB report - drug related – reduced from 175 in 2022/23 to 141 in 2023/24
- Victims of ASB supported by Community Peer Mentors increased from 599 in 2022/23 to 747 in 2023/24

### Hotspot Patrols

Partners have undertaken around 13,000 hours of patrols across all hotspot areas between July 2023 and March 2024

- As a result of these patrols there were:
- 96 arrests
- 122 stop and searches
- 124 informal warnings
- 10 Community Protection Warnings
- 7 Community Protection Notice
- 4 Dispersal Notices
- 47 lots of enforcement actions due to PSPO
- 38 Fixed Penalty Notices

# SAFER COMMUNITIES – NEIGHBOURHOOD CRIME







Durham's Neighbourhood Policing Teams are the face of the force and work side by side with our community partners to provide residents with the help they deserve. This is why I value them so highly and why neighbourhood crime has been a priority within my Police and Crime Plan.

## Key achievements in addition to those detailed in the plan include:

- ✓ Investing significantly in neighbourhood policing to better tackle localised crime and ASB
- ✓ Actively recruiting new police officers, PCSOs and Special Constables
- ✓ Securing funding from Safer Streets 4 and 5 to crackdown on neighbourhood crime
- ✓ Funding research to understand the "lived experience" of victims to address barriers to reporting crime
- ✓ Utilising multi-agency partnerships to deliver on diverting people from crime through education, employment, leisure and training provision

## I set out the actions I committed to in my plan and whether they have been achieved.

The public have made it clear to me that neighbourhood policing is a top priority, so I have made it mine, as has the Chief Constable.

Enhance area based multi-agency hubs that support collaborative problem-solving approaches to reduce crime, anti-social behaviour and victimisation	
Ensure Police Teams are more visible and accessible and there is a nominated and visible local officer or PCSO in every neighbourhood	
Put more Police Officers back on our streets	
Explore the feasibility of establishing a Community Oriented Policing (COP) bank similar to the NHS nursing banks to address demand pressures and provide additional capacity to respond to localised problem-solving solutions	
Set up Community Safety Volunteer, Employment and Training (VET) Agency to support, promote careers and volunteering opportunities in the criminal justice sector	
Involve people with lived experience when working with victims of crime, anti-social behaviour, addictions and abuse	

To ensure the public knows where to report issues and access the right services, at the right time from the right agency	
Promote and support a multi-agency problem-solving strategy to prevent neighbourhood crime (burglary, robbery, theft from the person and vehicle crime)	
Ensure an effective Integrated Offender Management (IOM) scheme for identifying neighbourhood crime offenders and intervening to prevent reoffending	
Promote and increase the take up of 'Keep in the Know', a free messaging service to keep local communities informed on what the local neighbourhood police and partners are doing ( <a href="http://www.keepintheknow.co.uk">www.keepintheknow.co.uk</a> )	
Encourage residents to report crime and anti-social behaviour to enable positive action.	

There is one action above identified as Amber. I explored with partners the feasibility of setting up a Community Safety Volunteer, Employment and Training (VET) Agency, however it was felt that there are numerous services across Durham and Darlington that support volunteering opportunities, which also support access to training and the transitions to employment, that this would be a duplication of efforts. To that end, I financially support the voluntary and community sector to develop such opportunities.

## BY THE NUMBERS:

### In 2023/24:

- Recorded Neighbourhood Crime – increased from 4870 in 2022/23 to 5798 in 2023/24
- Residential burglaries increased from 2016 in 2022/23 to 2288 in 2023/24
- Vehicle offences – increased from 2529 in 2022/23 to 3157 in 2023/24
- Theft from motor vehicles – increased from 1053 in 2022/23 to 1287 in 2023/24
- Robbery – increased from 200 in 2022/23 to 235 in 2023/24

# SAFER COMMUNITIES – SERIOUS AND ORGANISED CRIME







During my initial term in office, Durham Constabulary was rated as “outstanding” for its work at managing and disrupting serious and organised crime across the force area whilst also being praised by Inspectorates for its innovative work tackling Organised Criminal Groups (OCGs).

## Key achievements in addition to those detailed in the plan include:

- ✓ Cohesively working with partners to develop a serious violence strategy and deliver on the Duty
- ✓ Investing in the Violence Prevention Fund providing greater support to those at risk, already involved or affected by serious violence
- ✓ Progressing the work of the Anti-Slavery Network through a joined-up partnership which has increased understanding and awareness of the nature and scale of the issue across County Durham and Darlington

## I set out below the actions I committed to in my plan and whether they have been achieved.

Whilst a lot of work has been undertaken in relation to serious and organised crime, I want to continue to ensure County Durham and Darlington is a hard place for criminal and organised groups to operate.

Ensure the Force has the necessary resources to respond to serious organised crime threats (firearms, drugs, child criminal exploitation, fraud, economic crime, cyber, modern slavery, human trafficking)	
Deliver on the strategic policing requirement	
Tackle and disrupt organised crime groups behind drug activity	
Recognise the exploitation of children and young people and continue to identify and safeguard those at risk	
Support the coordination of the local, regional and national response to modern slavery through the National Anti-Trafficking and Modern Slavery Network	
Develop a public health approach to shape the partnership work to prevent and reduce serious violence	



## BY THE NUMBERS:

During 2023/24

North East Regional Organised Crime Unit (NEROCU) had the following impact in Durham:

- Total number of disruptions - 783
- Number of NEROCU led operations - 150
- Number safeguarded - 81 adults & 21 children
- Number of arrests - 106
- Number of seizures - 40 disruptions where drugs were seized
- 19 disruptions where cash was seized
- 12 disruptions where weapons were seized
- 5 disruptions where firearms were seized



## SAFER BUSINESS

Over recent years businesses and shop workers have witnessed a scourge in crime, whether this is through verbal or physical abuse or through an increase in shoplifting. As such this featured as one of my main priorities in my Police and Crime Plan






### Key achievements in addition to those detailed in the plan include:

- ✓ Funding for new technology, resources, and training to better equip officers in tackling business crime
- ✓ Supporting the expansion of voluntary networks including ShopWatch to help keep businesses alert to current threats
- ✓ Supporting the roll-out of SentrySIS across the force area enabling businesses and retailers to share real-time information with Durham Constabulary
- ✓ Attending quarterly meetings with the National Federation of Independent Retailers to develop a stronger understanding of trends and identifying solutions
- ✓ Conducting consultations to understand the issues that impact the safety of retail employees and the prevalence of abuse on shopworkers, the prevalence of shoplifting and the prevalence of ASB
- ✓ Developing a strategic Safer Business Group to share best practice, emerging threats and learning from others

## I set out below the actions I committed to in my plan and whether they have been achieved.

I know the incidents of abuse and shoplifting are just the tip of the iceberg, and that many are not reported. This is an issue I am determined to change, and I will continue to work closely with business and retail representatives to increase confidence and trust across the sector as no one should feel unsafe going into work. feel safe in their own neighbourhoods and can have pride in where they live.

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Strengthen engagement with local businesses by providing targeted crime prevention advice, to protect them and retail workers	
Gain a better understanding of the crimes faced by businesses and ensure they get the support they need to keep themselves and customers safe	
Take steps to tackle violence against shop workers and support the Co-op's Respect for Shop Workers and the Union of Shop, Distributive, and Allied Workers campaign	
Promote the use of SentrySIS as an online tool for business crime recording	
Support the roll out and development of shop/retail watch schemes and supportive partnerships that address business/retail crime	

## BY THE NUMBERS:

### In 2023/24:

- Recorded Shoplifting Offences – increased from 4835 in 2022/23 to 7103 in 2023/24. This is the equivalent to 11.1 shoplifting offences for every 1000 of the population.
- Recorded Burglary Business and Community Offences – decreased from 947 in 2022/23 to 890 in 2023/24.

# SAFER ONLINE





We live in a world where cybercrime is much more prevalent and where the repercussions of a security breach can have devastating consequences, that is why I have prioritised safer online in my Police and Crime Plan.

## Key achievements in addition to those detailed in the plan include:

- ✓ Working in collaboration with North East Business Resilience Centre (NEBRC) promoting awareness and training around cybercrime, phishing, password security and mobile working.
- ✓ Rolling-out the Commissioner's Challenge programme across primary schools county-wide, a part of which was designed around the theme of cyber-safety
- ✓ Empowering young people to become effective leaders by playing an active role in making their communities and the world around them safer, stronger, and more resilient to cybercrime
- ✓ Supporting the training of cadets introduced as part of Durham Agency Against Crime (DAAC) to deliver additional cyber prevention advice
- ✓ Stronger and effective partnership working helping businesses protect themselves from the threat of online fraud
- ✓ Dedicated targeting of online sextortion offences
- ✓ Digital ASB training package funded by Safer Streets, upskilling safety professionals including fire service and local authority civil enforcement personnel
- ✓ Funding two projects working with NEBRC to provide cyber resilience testing
- ✓ Further investing in "Keep in the Know" ensuring communities are kept up to date with ongoing police work and news stories which matter to them





## I set out below the actions I committed to in my plan and whether they have been achieved.

The ongoing threat of staying safe online is a constant battle and one which I want to assist in helping with as everyone should feel safe online.

Fund and promote cyber fraud awareness campaigns	
Support the roll out of Cyber-Crime Prevention Volunteers who educate the public on how to protect themselves from cyber-enabled crime	
Introduce specialise Cyber Prevention Officers	
Invest in digital investigation and intelligence to improve understanding of the digital footprint to combat internal cyber-enabled and cyber-dependent criminality	





Pursue and bring to justice those who groom children online or those who download or share images of abuse and protect those at risk	
Raise awareness of how children and adults can stay safe online, how to recognise online grooming, exploitation and radicalisation	
Support vulnerable people to be safe online through educational programmes	
Contribute to national policy discussions to support local practice	

## BY THE NUMBERS:

In 2023/24:

- Cyber and Fraud Recorded by Action Fraud increased to 2566 in 23/24 from 2413 in 22/23.
- Support offered to victims of fraud by VCAS - 1021

# SAFER PEOPLE – VICTIMS OF CRIME AND ASB

Victims of crime and anti-social behaviour are at the heart of everything I do, and I am determined to make it easier for people to reach out for the help they need. I will ensure the residents of County Durham and Darlington continue to receive a quality police service and victims of crime and ASB continue to receive first class support, tailored to their needs.












## Key achievements in addition to those detailed in the plan include:

- ✓ Developing a “single front door” to support victims of crime and ASB as well as other vulnerable and isolated members of our community.
- ✓ Bringing the Victim Care and Advice Service in-house enabling better oversight of the system and delivering a smoother referral process.
- ✓ Preparing a Victims Champion Annual Report which sets out the work of the Victims Champions including findings of lived experience surveys
- ✓ Development of Root Cause Analysis, a multi-agency process which allows agencies to learn lessons on victims' experiences
- ✓ Providing the award-winning Community Peer Mentor Scheme supporting vulnerable and isolated people affected by significant life-changing events such as crime, ASB and neighbour disputes.
- ✓ Investing in the development of two online platforms which simplify the process for victim referrals into support services
- ✓ Obtaining national recognition for best practice for advocating for victims, developing innovative services for victims and funding quality services for victims
- ✓ Securing multi-year funding to enable services to address increasing demand for specialist support for survivors of domestic abuse and sexual violence and offer staff longer-term contract to provide workforce stability.

## I set out below the actions I committed to in my plan and whether they have been achieved.

Protecting victims of crime and ASB will continue to be one of my top priorities and I am determined to build trust and confidence in the support services we provide so we can continue to make a positive impact on people's lives and encourage other victims to come forward in the future.

Help to keep people safe in their homes by working with the Local Authorities, Health and the Fire and Rescue Service to provide Total Home Safety advice	
Appoint a Victim's Champion to ensure the voice of the victim is at the centre of everything we do	
Ensure delivery of seamless high-quality support for victims that enables them to cope with, and recover from, their experience	
Ensure victims feel empowered and confident in reporting crime to the police, reassuring them of the journey through partner services	
Ensure compliance with the Code of Practice for Victims of Crime so that victims are aware of and can access their rights	
Commission high quality services so that victims have access to a range of specialist support services for them and their families at any point and whether they report to the police or not	
Ensure victims are read their rights at the point of report or as soon after as possible as with offenders	
Improve safeguarding for vulnerable adults and children	
Continuously review and seek to improve those services we commission and co-commission to support victims of crime	

# SAFER PEOPLE – HATE CRIME





Too many hate-related incidents remain unreported, and I am determined to change this by ensuring the public understands how seriously these crimes are taken by the police and the extensive support available for those victims who do come forward. I will work with the force and partners to eradicate the hate that can drive a wedge between our communities and leave people living in fear.

**Key achievements in addition to those detailed in the plan include:**

- ✓ Welcoming the launch of national anti-corruption and abuse reporting service enabling the public to report anonymously and confidentially those within policing who engage in racist, homophobic, misogynistic, or disablist conduct, on or off duty, in person or online
- ✓ Endorsing the Neighbourhood Watch national “are you okay” campaign to tackle street harassment and hate crime
- ✓ Working in partnership to raise awareness around the Hate Hurts campaign as part of the National Hate Crime Awareness Week
- ✓ Funding a wealth of specialist support services to support victims of hate crime as they recover from their experiences.
- ✓ Raising public awareness of what constitutes a hate crime and how to report it to keep communities safe
- ✓ Supporting the further development of a multi-agency Hate Crime Action Group bringing partners together to identify ways to reduce hate crime across County Durham and Darlington
- ✓ Supporting and providing funding for key events such as Durham Pride and Darlington Pride .

**I set out below the actions I committed to in my plan and whether they have been achieved.**

There is absolutely no room for prejudice or hostility in County Durham and Darlington and I want to ensure that victims of hate crimes are supported so they can feel safe in their own neighbourhoods. Going forward, my office will play an instrumental role in tackling hate crime as active partners of the local Community Safety Partnerships..

Promote hate crime prevention initiatives and encourage and facilitate the reporting in all forms of hate crime	
Introduce voluntary recording of misogyny as a hate crime indicator and lobby for misogyny/misandry to become an official hate crime category and support educational campaigns to tackle the issues	

There is one action above identified as Amber. The previous government felt that there was existing legislation that dealt with misogyny/misandry and that this did not need additional or amended legislation. However, we do continue to monitor and respond to local and national conversations in relation to hate crime through the Hate Crime Action Group as part of the local Community Safety Partnerships.

# SAFER PEOPLE – MENTAL HEALTH







It is important that people who have complex mental health needs receive the appropriate care and support, especially when in crisis. Responding to those people who are in mental health crisis may be appropriate for the police when there is risk to life and community safety issues. This is why this became a priority in my Police and Crime Plan.

**Key achievements in addition to those detailed in the plan include:**

- ✓ Ensuring specialist mental health workers are based within the Force Control Room to advise police officers on the most appropriate care for individuals in crisis
- ✓ Securing funding for Community Peer Mentors to provide continuity of support to victims and offenders identified with mental health issues linked to alcohol and substance misuse
- ✓ Endorsing the Right Care Right Person initiative
- ✓ Working in partnership to ensure potential offenders get access to the appropriate support they require for an identified mental health need

**I set out below the actions I committed to in my plan and whether they have been achieved.**

I welcome the publication of new guidance later this year and will be working closely with the Chief Constable and local health partners to see how the new approach can be best implemented across County Durham and Darlington.

Ensure that the police are the service of last resort and not the service of the first resort for people suffering a mental health crisis, working closely with Community Mental Health Trusts	
Liaise with Public Health, Housing, Employment and Mental Health services to ensure that potential offenders get access to the support that they need	
Maintain a multi-agency approach to enable an appropriate response to support people with mental health needs who come in contact with the police and criminal justice system	
Ensure that mental health concerns are addressed for those identified as missing from home, working with the force to promote and develop their links with services such as missing people, the Samaritans, familiar faces and street triage	

# SAFER PEOPLE – YOUNG PEOPLE





It is essential that we equip the young people of County Durham and Darlington with the knowledge and skills they need to make safe choices both now and in the future, that is why under my Safer People priority I prioritised young people in my Police and Crime Plan.

## Key achievements in addition to those detailed in the plan include:

- ✓ Developing in partnership the Serious Violence Response Strategy 2024 which focuses on supporting young people aged 18 and under involved in or at risk of being drawn into serious violence
- ✓ Funding two new guides to improve support for young people who come into police custody enabling them to feel safe
- ✓ Providing crime prevention activities through the Commissioner's Challenge which is an interactive educational project for Primary School children to boost awareness of safety risks facing young people
- ✓ Funding provided to YMCA North Tyneside to run safe spaces for young people at the YMCA in Cockfield and youth sessions in Barnard Castle to provide diversionary and positive activities to reduce ASB
- ✓ Providing funding to Youth Justice Services in Durham and Darlington to support operational delivery and to ensure enhanced support for all young victims of crime
- ✓ Investing £0.5m of trailblazer funding to develop restorative and preventative work via our youth justice services – these include a whole family approach and additional mental health support
- ✓ Investing a further £300,000 in youth provision through problem solving plans and specific commissioned services to deter young people engaging in anti-social behaviour

## I set out below the actions I committed to in my plan and whether they have been achieved.

It is important to give young people the right tools early enough in their development so they can be resilient when the need arises and equipping them with strategies that will keep them out of harm's way in the future – this is important for the communities within County Durham and Darlington.

Support the work with schools to reduce school exclusions and off rolling so that we keep children in school education	
Ensure policies about young people will be made after engaging and involving young people	
Keep care-experienced young people out of the criminal justice system	
Divert young people from becoming involved in crime and anti-social behaviour through a range of education, employment, leisure, and training activities	





# SAFER PEOPLE – DOMESTIC ABUSE AND SEXUAL VIOLENCE










Survivors of domestic abuse and sexual violence deserve high-quality, specialist care and support with a trauma informed approach and this should be available at any stage of the recovery journey and in any setting, bespoke to the needs of the victim. This is why domestic abuse and sexual violence was one of my priorities in my Police and Crime Plan.

## Key achievements in addition to those detailed in the plan include:

- ✓ Funding to support By-Stander training which supports the safety of women and girls on nights out in Durham City
- ✓ Promoting and supporting the White Ribbon Day campaign asking communities, workplaces and schools to come together to say no to violence against women and girls
- ✓ Funding in partnership with Durham County Council and Darlington Borough Council to deliver support to victims of domestic abuse, including specific provision tailored for children and young people, as well as robust intervention for offenders who cause harm.
- ✓ Funding and delivery of a public health response to addressing child to parent adolescent violence, piloting the first train the trainer model to ensure sustainable quality response and support for affected families.
- ✓ Funding additional responses to increase the Force capacity to utilise civil orders, including non-molestation orders, stalking protection orders and sexual harm orders with the aim of preventing and deterring further harm to victims
- ✓ Funding a new Engagement Independent Sexual Violence Adviser (ISVA) improving the experience of victims of sexual violence and collaborative working of through the criminal justice agencies.
- ✓ Funding long term the Rape and Sexual Offence First Contact Navigators to triage support for victim and ensure they receive a holistic and timely response.
- ✓ Funding a new counselling service for female prisoners at HMP Low Newton who have experienced sexual violence and abuse as adults or children.
- ✓ Funding an independent evaluation into the current delivery of therapeutic interventions for victim of sexual violence with a view to implementing the recommendations with the aim of improving response and reducing the current delays.
- ✓ Funding the Alice Ruggles Trust to deliver preventative assemblies to school age children and young people aimed at recognising what stalking is and learning where to go for support.
- ✓ Funding Paladin to develop a Champion model to enhance training and understanding of stalking across the Force area.

## I set out below the actions I committed to in my plan and whether they have been achieved.

Even though I have put in place lots of support to help victims of both domestic abuse and sexual violence, I still want to be driving action at a local level to ensure that more victims feel safe coming forward to report domestic abuse and sexual violence and feel confident they will be listened to and they will be given the support they need to seek justice..

Support the use of robust domestic violence perpetrator interventions to prevent domestic violence and abuse happening in the future	
Prioritise developing a violence against women and girls' strategy aimed at changing attitudes and improving our knowledge of and response to the crimes that predominantly affect women and girls so that no woman needs to live in fear and girls grow up knowing they are safe	
Ensure the full powers included in the Domestic Abuse Act are used to protect and support victims and result in meaningful consequences for perpetrators including the effective use of domestic abuse protection notices, domestic abuse protection orders and restraining orders	
Deliver on the recommendations included in the national End to End Rape Review	
Develop and maintain a high-quality Sexual Assault Referral Centre service that meets local needs and national standards	
Deliver high quality support for victims of rape and sexual violence and their families where appropriate	
Monitor and promote the use of stalking legislation and powers to measure effectiveness	
Ensure the police force works in partnership with probation to manage High Risk Offenders through Multi-Agency Public Protection Arrangements (MAPPA), Sexual Offender and Foreign National Offenders initiatives	
Support the appointment of a Domestic Abuse Victims Voice Worker to ensure the voice of victims is at the centre of everything we do	

One action above is marked as Red. The Force, and other agencies, have strategies in relation to Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG). This is a key priority for partners and lots of good work has already been undertaken to combat violence against women and girls, both within the OPCC and in partnership through the Domestic

## BY THE NUMBERS:

### In 2023/24:

- Number of reported hate crime incidents – reduced from 852 in 2022/23 to 808 in 2023/24
- Number of mental health incidents resulting in a crime – reduced from 3683 in 2022/23 to 2922 in 2023/24
- Mental Health Related Incidents – reduced from 15048 in 2022/23 to 13,046 in 2023/24
- Number of recorded domestic abuse incidents – reduced from 17,792 in 2022/23 to 17,218 in 2023/24

Abuse and Sexual Violence Executive Group. Throughout my next term of office I will continue to build on this work and will prioritise developing a partnership VAWG Strategy so there is a whole-system approach across the whole of the Force area.

# SAFER PEOPLE – DRUG, ALCOHOL AND GAMBLING HARM
















From work in local communities, I know what a big concern drugs are to the public and how badly neighbourhoods are affected by the crime and anti-social behaviour associated with drug and alcohol misuse. This is why drug, alcohol and gambling harm featured heavily in my Police and Crime Plan. I also took on the lead portfolio nationally through the Association of Police and Crime Commissioners so also have a prominent countrywide role to drive actions to reduce substance misuse harms.





## Key achievements in addition to those detailed in the plan include:

- ✓ Successfully lobbied the government to ban nitrous oxide as a Category C drug.
- ✓ Working collaboratively through the Combatting Drugs and Alcohol Strategic Partnership to implement the national From Harm to Hope strategy locally and to reduce drug and alcohol-related harm in County Durham and Darlington
- ✓ Supporting the implementation of drug testing on arrest for acquisitive crime and domestic abuse providing a direct referral to support services for those who test positive for drugs
- ✓ Worked with Durham University to implement LSAVI (Licensing Security and Vulnerability Initiative) a national accreditation scheme demonstrating high standards of security and safety in establishments. Fourteen out of the sixteen student bars at the University have now received endorsement.
- ✓ Supported Operation Limit, the national drink/drug driving campaign over the festive season. 128 people were arrested in the Force area linked to this operation.
- ✓ Invested in drug testing equipment for the Force to speed up the testing of drugs seized by police to enable quicker convictions
- ✓ Supported Operation Nightstar in Darlington and the east coast of Durham, to identify, disrupt and prosecute shops involved in the illegal selling of vapes and tobacco by exploiting children and vulnerable people.
- ✓ Spearheading the force to become the first police force in the country to sign-up to the Gambling Charter setting out its commitment to work collaboratively to tackle gambling harm in the workplace and wider community
- ✓ Campaigning for tougher regulations of the sector to make a difference to gambling laws
- ✓ Supporting the force in pioneering new approaches ensuring offenders get the help they need early and recognising gambling harm as one of the drivers of crime.

## I set out below the actions I committed to in my plan and whether they have been achieved.

Even though a lot of work has been undertaken under the addictions portfolio there is still more work to be done, as we know many offenders commit crime to support their additions. I will continue to fight very hard to ensure the criminal justice system offers these offenders professional support and help to address their dependencies and stop offending and combatting drugs and alcohol will underpin all activity in my next Police and Crime Plan.

Divert those suffering with chronic addiction away from the criminal justice	
Support the recommendations made in the review of drug use by Dame Carol Black, contributing to and encouraging a partnership approach	
Support the ongoing use of Naloxone to prevent deaths from drug use	
Develop multi-agency strategies and fund initiatives to reduce the harm	
Commission research into the cost of alcohol harm to Durham Constabulary	
Lobby for Minimum Unit Pricing, working with Balance North East	
Promote the voluntary use of sobriety tags and alcohol interlocks	
Promote awareness of the dangers of excessive alcohol consumption through engagement with charities such as 'One Punch North East'	
Prevent and manage violent incidents by continuing to promote the use of the 'Cardiff model' combining data from the force and local hospitals to highlight areas where violence is more prevalent	
Support the introduction of alcohol harm reduction partnership to tackle underage drinking and related anti-social behaviour	
Support the work of the licensing unit to reduce the harm caused by alcohol and gambling in the community	
Commission research into gambling related harm (GRH) and gambling disorder	
Consider gambling related harm when investigating crimes	
Encourage those presenting with GRH to be referred to appropriate support to prevent further harm and crime	
Add additional questions to ask victims of domestic assault to specifically include gambling (in addition to drugs/alcohol)	

Advocate introducing a gambling treatment requirement as part of a community sentences at court	
Support the force to train police officers and PCSOs to identify gambling addiction and to understand the links between suicide, mental health, homelessness, domestic abuse, child neglect and gambling	
Press for the Gambling Commission to thoroughly investigate operator's code of conduct to identify negligent behaviour before charging and sentencing	
Introduce mandatory screening questions around gambling at the point of arrest in custody	

## BY THE NUMBERS:

### In 2023/24:

- Alcohol-Related Incidents – reduced from 29,213 in 2022/23 to 27,693 in 2023/24
- Drug-Related Incidents – reduced from 5003 in 2022/23 to 4480 in 2023/24
- Drug-Related Offences – reduced from 1483 in 2022/23 to 1380 in 2023/24

# SAFER ROADS


















During my initial term in office, I have relentlessly prioritised safer roads in County Durham and Darlington, pledging to crackdown on the fatal four – mobile phones, drink/drug driving, speeding and seatbelts. This is what residents tell me is important to them.

## Key achievements in addition to those detailed in the plan include:

- ✓ Investing in Faraday pouches to help prevent mobile phone distraction whilst driving
- ✓ Empowering the public to report dangerous driving through Operation SNAP
- ✓ Proactively collaborating with partners in launching ParkSafe which is a new initiative allowing the public to send video footage of illegal parkers in and around schools direct to the police
- ✓ Providing funding for a new specialist worker enhancing support for victims and witnesses of road tragedies
- ✓ Continuing to push for tougher sentences for those who drive dangerously
- ✓ Promoting safe road practices across County Durham and Darlington through the road safety roadshow educating and raising awareness of the #LifelsPrecious campaign

## I set out below the actions I committed to in my plan and whether they have been achieved.

Making roads safer remains a core focus of my work and as joint lead for Roads Policing and Transport I will continue to push for roads policing to be given the high priority it deserves nationally with the funding and resources needed to make our roads safer for all.

Invest in analytical capability necessary to identify risks and threats on the road network	
Support social media strategies that promote safer driving	
Improve signposting to enable parishes, towns, schools, individuals and communities to share their concerns about road safety issues in their locality	
Work with the community and local elected members of all parties to tackle road safety concerns in our communities	
Adopt a Vision Zero approach to reduce deaths and serious injuries from our roads	
Encourage, develop and support volunteer action to improve road safety such as community speed watch and junior road safety	
Enhance support for victims of road traffic accidents and families	
Take enforcement action and educate those who endanger the lives of road users and pedestrians and support tougher sentences for dangerous driving	
Lobby for educational programmes to be used alongside enforcement/criminal prosecution for more serious categories of road traffic offences	
Ensure resources allocated to policing the strategic roads network are sufficient and be satisfied that effective partnership arrangements are in place	
Lobby the government to ensure a more effective, efficient, and sustainable forensic collision capability	
Campaign for the government to allow local retention of income from enforcement to be directed towards local road safety initiatives	
Work with the Chief Constable to introduce as soon as practicable Operation Snap and encourage drivers to purchase dash cams. This initiative uses video footage from road users to pursue dangerous drivers	
Continue to invest in Operation Endurance to tackle the menace of off-road bikes and take enforcement against illegal e-scooters	
Work with the local authorities on road safety improvements that would reduce speeding	

## BY THE NUMBERS:

### In 2023/24:

- All Road Casualties – reduced from 814 in 2022/23 to 737 in 2023/34
- Fatal Road Casualties – Increased from 20 in 2022/23 to 25 in 2023/24
- Serious Road Casualties – Reduced from 234 in 2022/23 to 222 in 2023/24
- Slight Road Casualties – reduced from 560 in 2022/23 to 490 in 2023/34

# SAFER COUNTRYSIDE

Those who live in rural communities are often blighted by crime and ASB incidents and I have listened carefully to rural residents and businesses to understand how crime impacts their lives and livelihoods. I have been determined to offer more help which is why I have included tackling rural crime as a key priority in my Police and Crime Plan.

## Key achievements in addition to those detailed in the plan include:

- ✓ Grant funding towards purchasing automatic number plate recognition (ANPR) cameras to track the movement of offenders and stolen machinery
- ✓ Jointly funding two new Community SpeedWatch vans for rural areas
- ✓ Expanding and increasing sign-up to proactive crime prevention scheme RuralWatch
- ✓ Launching WhatsApp groups to enable the sharing of intelligence and prevention advice across rural areas
- ✓ Funding to support 22 organisations from my Community Safety Fund to reduce rural crime and increase diversionary activities
- ✓ Launching of a new initiative Rurali, and investing £205,000 to enhance the safety and security of rural and urban fringe communities
- ✓ Recruiting two new dedicated RuralWatch coordinators reinforcing my commitment to prevent rural crime and combat criminal targeting homes, businesses, vehicles, and farm machinery in remote areas
- ✓ Funding to provide a dedicated intelligence officer who captures and develops the intelligence gleaned from the RuralWatch WhatsApp group

## I set out below the actions I committed to in my plan and whether they have been achieved.

A lot of work and investment has taken place during my term in office to make our rural communities safer, I will continue to do everything possible to ensure our rural police officers and communities have the resources and tools they need to keep crime out of our countryside.

Tackle fly-tipping in rural areas and invest in and support rural policing to prevent crime	
Support the force and rural communities in their use of new technologies to keep our communities safe	
Strengthen and support Rural Watch	
Support by the Royal Society for the Prevention of Accidents (ROSPA) campaign targeting rural motorcyclists	
Expand the community safety responder programme in rural areas	
Work with the Home Office, Ministry of Justice and Police and Crime Commissioners to facilitate a co-ordinated approach to rural crime	
Ensure rural police teams are more visible and accessible and there are nominated and visible local officers or PCSOs	
Increase confidence of rural communities in policing by improving community safety through a Rural Safety Plan, to be developed in consultation with the rural community (via bespoke surveys) and Durham Constabulary	
Encourage effective cross-border collaboration on rural crime and affairs	
Work with partner organisations to identify ways to make it easier and quicker to make safety improvements on country roads to address rural speeding and undertake targeted rural safety enforcement	
Ensure reports of crime in rural areas are investigated in a timely manner	





## BY THE NUMBERS:

### In 2023/24:

- The NFU Mutual Rural Crime Report for 2024 showed that the cost of rural crime in the UK was £52.8m in 2023, and increase of 4.3% on the previous year.
- In the north east, which includes Durham and Darlington, the cost of rural crime was £8.6m and increase of 7.3% on the previous year.
- Locally, on the impact of positive action to keep our rural communities safe from crime, members of the community have told us:

*"The WhatsApp group really is working. It's producing results. It's making policing easier for the police and it's making better use of resources in general. I think we all feel more confident about our security and safety and we generally have a better relationship with police on the ground."*

*Speaking about an incident to retrieve a stolen quadbike, former Insp Ed Turner said "We could have had 50 officers trying to look out for that with helicopters and drones, but without instant messaging we'd have never got those results," he said. "The use of WhatsApp messaging worked brilliantly that day. It's a cracking example of how the community is helping us help them. It's not seen as a reporting tool."*

# YOUR POLICE FORCE

## Police Force Numbers

People have told me how important it is they see police officers out on the streets and in their communities and one of my key priorities as Police and Crime Commissioner has been to increase the number of officers on our streets and I am proud to have delivered on that pledge.

Despite the increased headcount, Durham remains one of 9 police forces across England and Wales which still has less officers than in 2010, unlike other areas which have seen record levels of new officers. We still have 128 less officers than we did in 2010\*. Further recruitment will take place until March 2025 to close the gap.

	2010 baseline	2019 baseline	Q1 end (30/06/2023)	Q2 end (30/09/2023)	Q3 end (31/12/2023)	Q4 end (31/03/2024)	Direction of travel (from 2010 baseline)
Police Officers	1557	1141	1366	1384	1339	1378	↓
Police Staff	1016	988	1073	1076	1079	1077	↑
PCSOs	176	152	124	119	133	117	↓
Specials	131	76	22	22	34	32	↓
Totals	2880	2357	2585	2601	2585	2603	↓

\* Please note the figures in the table do not correlate with the figures quoted in the text. This is due to timing differences in relation to vacancies and recruitment.

Our position is made worse by a less than adequate central grant in December 2022, with minimal additional money to offset the impact of inflation or rising costs and no capital grant, piling further pressure on our revenue budgets. Unlike other forces, we can't 'plug the gap' with Council Tax revenue alone because a higher proportion of our households fall in the lower category, Council Tax Band A. I regularly raise this with our local MPs and have raised it nationally, as this is simply unfair. Despite these financial challenges the Force continues to outperform many of its peers, operating with fewer resources and less money and experiencing higher demand for service, and this is likely to get more and more challenging with less and less money. I am determined to do everything in my power to protect our position and secure the funding needed to maintain our reputation as a pioneering and innovative force nationally.

## Public Contact Methods

In keeping with my promise to improve your initial contact with the police, I have supported the recruitment of new staff to the Force's call handling team to respond to the increased 101 and 999 calls. I agreed to substantial investment into the force control room to aid with

recruitment and technology investment. Since January 2024 the force has recruited 20 call handlers with a further two recruitment drives planned after the summer 2024.

The table below displays the overarching key performance indicators used for 999 and 101 call data:

Call Data	Q1-Q4 2022/23 baseline	Q1 2023/24	Q2 2023/24	Q3 2023/24	Q4 2023/24	Q1-Q4 2023/24 total	% change (baseline to 23/24)	Direction of travel (from baseline)
999 calls	107042	31539	30694	26284	23937	112454	5.1%	↓
101 calls	258128	70929	62937	58859	56332	249057	-3.5%	↔
Totals	365170	102468	93631	85143	80269	361511	-1.0%	↔

Public Access to Services	Q1-Q4 2022/23 baseline	Q1 2023/24	Q2 2023/24	Q3 2023/24	Q4 2023/24	Q1-Q4 2023/24 total	% change (baseline to 23/24)	Direction of travel (from baseline)
Number of 999 answered within 10 seconds	85922	24732	25801	23601	22586	96720	12.6%	↓
Average answer time for 999 calls (seconds)	18.7	18.8	16.0	12.6	10.3	14.4	-23.0%	↔
101 calls abandoned	52171	14408	8316	5913	4542	33179	-36.4%	↔

# HOLDING THE FORCE TO ACCOUNT

Over the past 12 months, I have continued to scrutinise the Force's progress against the six Safer Themes in my Police and Crime Plan, focussing on:

- ✓ enhancing public contact processes
- ✓ investing in prevention and early intervention provisions around serious violence
- ✓ supporting the enforcement and educational campaigns around driver safety
- ✓ consideration of His Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary and Fire & Rescue Services (HMICFRS) recent PEEL inspection findings
- ✓ supporting the force in the roll-out of Right Care Right Person to enhance the care of vulnerable people and improve capacity for the force to respond to crime.

Through Executive Boards, I have held the Chief Constable to account. Executive Boards have focussed on victims and vulnerable people, force performance, managing and pursuing offenders, neighbourhood crime, and safer roads. These are available on my website.

Independent scrutiny panels under my responsibility met to consider issues such as best use of stop and search, domestic abuse, rape, hate crime, ethical issues, complaints and out of court disposals.

The Force was rated as "Outstanding" in its work to tackle serious and organised crime by HMICFRS and "Good" at preventing and deterring crime as well as in its crime recording practices.

In November 2023, I welcomed Rachel Bacon as the new Chief Constable for Durham Constabulary and have agreed a Holding to Account Framework and Objectives linked to my Police and Crime Plan, which includes:

- ✓ Weekly meetings with the Chief Constable
- ✓ Formal monthly Executive Board meetings

- ✓ Quarterly updates by Force on progress around the delivery of all the priorities in the Police and Crime Plan
- ✓ The continuation of Public Accountability Meetings which allow members of the public to submit questions in advance to the OPCC about what policing issues matter to them the most. These meetings are recorded and downloaded on to YouTube for public viewing
- ✓ OPCC attendance at strategic and operational force meetings.

The Chief Constable has developed a delivery plan so that there is direct correlation to the priorities in my Police and Crime Plan, providing that golden thread which then goes through to individual PDRs.

I have the full backing of the Force to deliver my Police and Crime Plan and achieve my vision. We do this in partnership and that, simply, is the Durham Difference.



# ENGAGING WITH COMMUNITIES

It is exceptionally important to me to engage with communities, understand what concerns them most and act on this by holding the Force to account and working in partnership with other agencies, such as the local authorities and criminal justice system partners to improve the services they provide to residents.

## Engagement activities:

- ✓ I regularly take my engagement van across the county to speak with community groups, residents, schools, retailers, youth groups and many others
- ✓ Throughout the year I have visited county shows and community events, such as Pride, across County Durham and Darlington with our engagement van, to meet with members of the public and consult on topical issues
- ✓ Your Police, Your Say sessions – engagement with councillors across Durham and Darlington to understand concerns they hear from residents in their areas and act on this
- ✓ In September, I worked with the Durham City response team to ask the public on their feelings towards begging and rough sleeping in the city centre, to inform the progression of a Public Space Protection Order.
- ✓ In October/November, we carried out a consultation to find out preferences of Newton Aycliffe residents for the future of their police station, following the lease on the current premises coming to an end.
- ✓ During 2023, my office carried out a series of online surveys including retail crime and adults and young peoples' opinions on serious violence to inform future commissioning of services and plans for the office.

# STRATEGIC POLICING REQUIREMENT

The Strategic Policing Requirement (SPR) sets out those threats which, in the Home Secretary's view, are the biggest threats to public safety and must be given due regard by PCCs when issuing or varying Police and Crime Plans. It supports PCCs as well as Chief Constables to plan, prepare and respond to these threats by clearly linking the local response to the national, highlighting the capabilities and partnerships that policing needs to ensure it can fulfil its national responsibilities.

A revised version of the SPR was published in February 2023 which provided strengthened detail around the action required from policing at the local and regional level to the critical national threats.

The 2023 SPR sets out seven identified national threats. These are as follows:

- ✓ Serious and Organised Crime (SOC)
- ✓ Terrorism
- ✓ Cyber
- ✓ Child Sexual Abuse
- ✓ Public Disorder
- ✓ Civil Emergencies.
- ✓ Violence Against Women and Girls

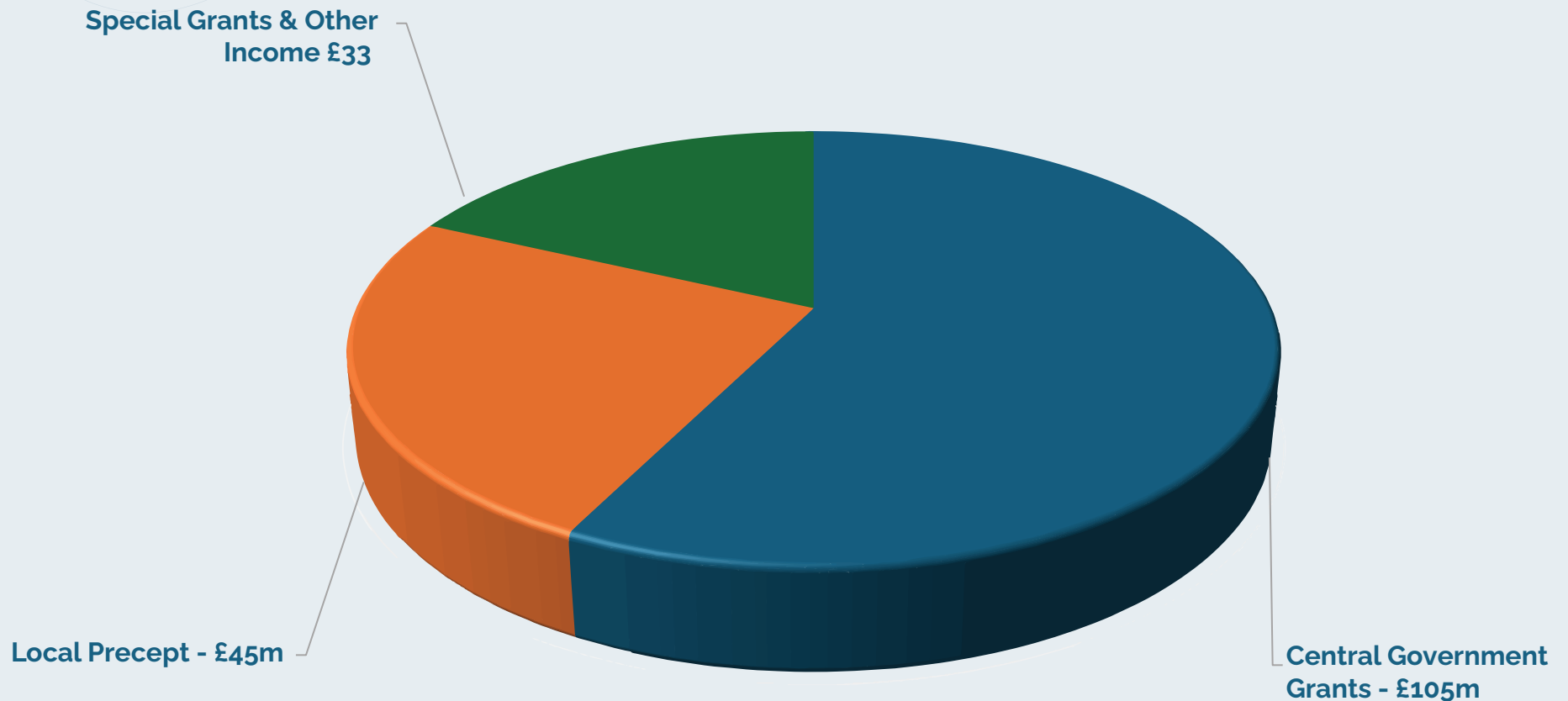
As Police and Crime Commissioner, I am confident I have given due regard to the seven threat areas identified in the SPR in my Police and Crime Plan and in my role holding my Chief Constable to account. VAWG, while not previously contained in the SPR, nonetheless is a key and pressing issue and one which I will give priority to in my Police and Crime Plan for 2024-29.

# POLICING BUDGET AND PRECEPT

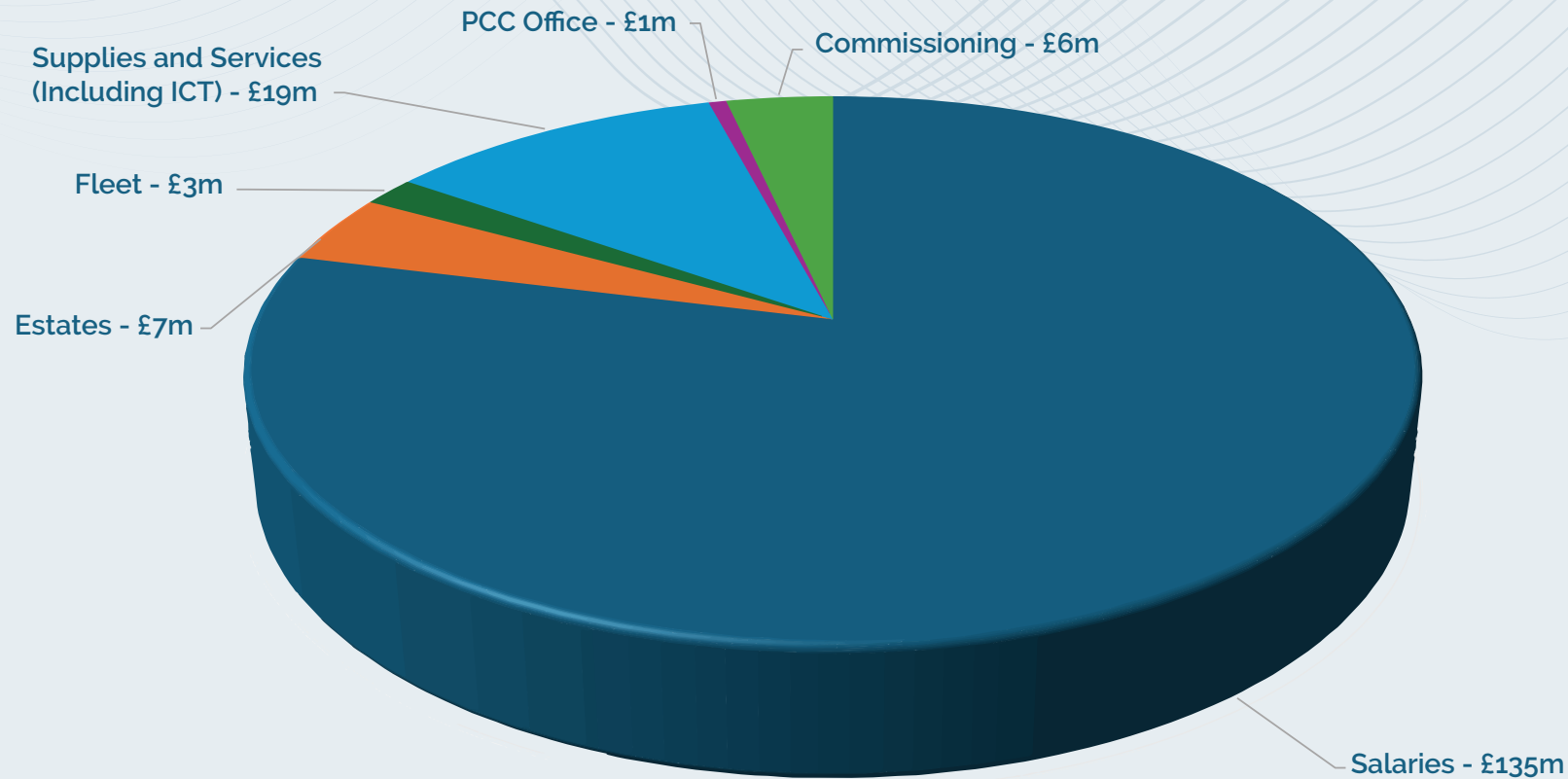
For 2023/24 I received a budget of £150m to funding policing services across Durham and Darlington. This was made up of £105m from government central grant and £45m raised through precept.

I pass on the majority of this funding to the Force, keeping a small proportion of that funding for operating costs for my office. The graphs below demonstrate how this funding is allocated.

## POLICING BUDGET (£M)



# POLICING BUDGET (£M)



Current central government funding for police is flawed. It does not go to where it is needed most and there is an increasing reliance on local areas to raise money through council tax precept to boost funding and deliver effective services. This leaves Durham and Darlington at a distinct disadvantage compared to some other areas, such as, for example, North Yorkshire, because of the high number of Band A and Band B properties in our area.

Durham Force is already having to make some very tough decisions based on funding against a backdrop of rising crime levels. Despite this we are still a high performing force that does everything in its power to tackle crime in our area.

Since being elected in 2021, I have relentlessly lobbied for a change in the current formula to recognise the higher rate of crime in the Durham force area, its unique social-economic problems and the difficulties it faces in raising revenue through the precept due to a higher proportion of Band A properties. The construction of a new formula is now urgent. We are seeing large increases in our base costs, due to rising energy and fuel prices, ICT and other material costs. These increases are not reflected in our grant levels, nor can they be fully funded from precept flexibility, given other service-led pressures. Any new funding formula should include provision for the fact that policing deals with high harm as well as volume crime and that policing is required in the first instance, to prevent crime where possible. A great deal of policing work is taken up with non-crime related demand issues.





# HERE TO HELP

## Police :

Call: 101 for non emergencies | 101 online chat [durham.police.uk](https://durham.police.uk) | Call: 999 for emergencies

## Crimestoppers :

Call: 0800 555 111 | [crimestoppers-uk.org](https://crimestoppers-uk.org)

## Fraud :

Call: 0300 123 2040 action fraud | [actionfraud.police.uk](https://actionfraud.police.uk) | [friendsagainstscams.org.uk](https://friendsagainstscams.org.uk)  
[nebrcentre.co.uk](https://nebrcentre.co.uk) | [enquiries@nebrcentre.co.uk](mailto:enquiries@nebrcentre.co.uk)

## Durham County Council :

Call: 03000 260 000 | [doitonline.durham.gov.uk](https://doitonline.durham.gov.uk)

## Darlington Borough Council :

Call: 01325 406 999 | [customerservices@darlington.gov.uk](mailto:customerservices@darlington.gov.uk)

## Addiction services :

Call: 03000 266 666 | [codurhamdrugalcoholrecovery.co.uk](https://codurhamdrugalcoholrecovery.co.uk)  
Call: 01325 809 810 | [withyou.darlington@nhs.net](mailto:withyou.darlington@nhs.net)

## Victims support :

Call: 0800 138 2020 | [victimcare@durham-pcc.gov.uk](mailto:victimcare@durham-pcc.gov.uk)



**JOY ALLEN**  
DURHAM POLICE AND  
CRIME COMMISSIONER

**GET IN TOUCH**



Durham Police and Crime Commissioner's Office  
Police Headquarters, Aykley Heads  
Durham DH1 5TT

Call: 0191 375 2001  
Email: [general.enquiries@durham-pcc.gov.uk](mailto:general.enquiries@durham-pcc.gov.uk)

   @durhampcc  Durham Police and Crime Commissioner

**2023/24**