

Police and Crime Panel**22 October 2018****Focused Report on Police, Crime and Victims' Plan Outcomes
Outcome 1: 'Communities are Safe and Crime is Reduced'****Report of the Office of the Police, Crime and Victims' Commissioner****Purpose**

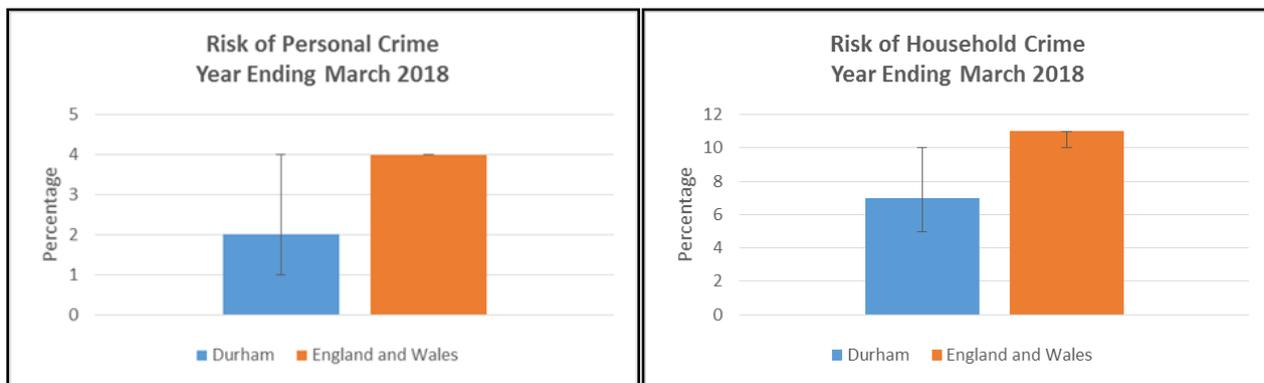
1. To supplement the public performance report with regard to giving an overview of Police, Crime and Victims' Plan Outcome 1 – 'Communities are Safe and Crime is Reduced'.

Background

2. Each meeting of the Police and Crime Panel will receive a focused report on a single outcome from the Police, Crime and Victims' Plan. The Plan can be accessed via the Police, Crime and Victims' Commissioner's website (www.durham-pcc.gov.uk) – and a summary diagram illustrating the relationship between outcomes, key performance questions (KPQs) and priorities can be found in appendix 1 of this document.
3. This report considers Outcome 1 – under which sit the KPQs:
 - How Safe are our Communities? (KPQ1); and
 - How Well are we Preventing and Reducing Crime? (KPQ2)
4. Putting this report into some wider context, in their most recent inspections, Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary and Fire & Rescue Services (HMICFRS) have rated Durham Constabulary as 'Outstanding' for Effectiveness (the only force in 2017), 'Outstanding' for Efficiency (one of two forces in 2017), and 'Good' for Legitimacy (only one force in the country was judged 'Outstanding'). And looking at the Crime Survey for England and Wales (CSEW), Durham is ranked in the top quartile nationally for both Confidence and for Community Understanding.

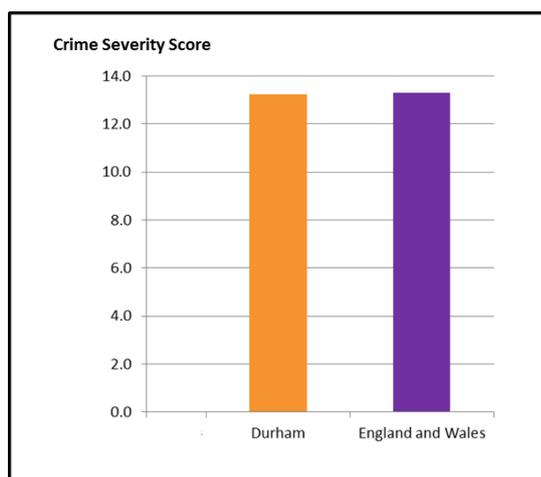
KPQ1: How Safe are our Communities?

5. To begin to answer the question necessitates, firstly, understanding its meaning. 'How safe are our communities?' is, therefore, about the difference that the Office of the Police, Crime and Victims' Commissioner, Durham Constabulary, and partners intend to make in relation both to making communities safe, and to making them feel safe. Considering the question demands examination of incidents that impact on how safe communities are – and also requires taking note of some of the various initiatives aimed at improving community safety.
6. The Crime Survey for England and Wales (CSEW) is a large, representative, survey on experiences of crime. When the survey is run, one of the questions asked concerns risk. Answers to these questions give an estimated percentage of adults who have been a victim either of personal crime – e.g. violence and theft from person offences – or have been resident in a household that has been a victim of crime – e.g. burglary, theft and criminal damage offences.



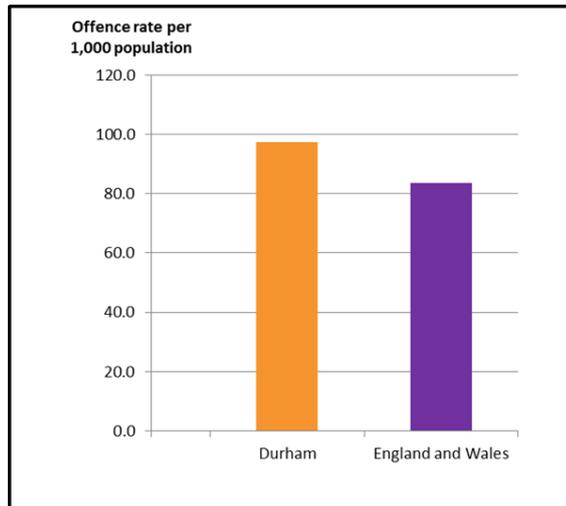
Source: Office for National Statistics, Crime Survey for England and Wales

7. On risk, then, the above charts show that Durham’s position is broadly commensurate with that for England and Wales, once confidence intervals are taken into consideration.
8. Two other indicators which give a top-level view of community safety include the Crime Severity Score and the offence rate per 1000 population.
9. The Crime Severity Score (CSS) is an interesting measure of the severity of offences. It does this through using sentencing information to ‘weight’ the severity of offences. Such a statistic is helpful when changes to recording practices for crime can significantly have an effect upon police recorded offences.



Source: Office for National Statistics, Crime Survey for England and Wales

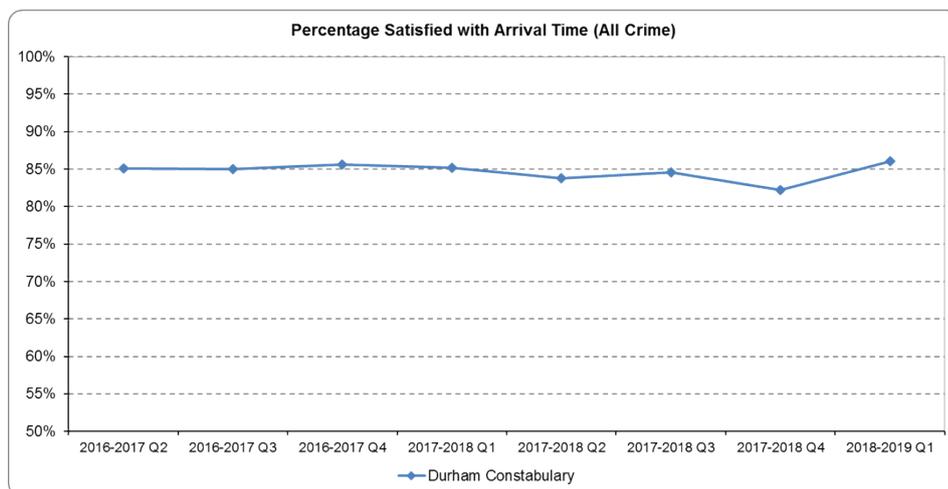
10. This chart shows the CSS for Durham compared with England and Wales to year ending March 2018. It shows the score for Durham about the same level as for England and Wales.
11. The offence rate per 1000 population is a helpful measure because it allows one to compare Durham’s position to that of England and Wales more easily than looking at pure numbers as it accounts for differences in population size.



Source: Office for National Statistics, Crime Survey for England and Wales

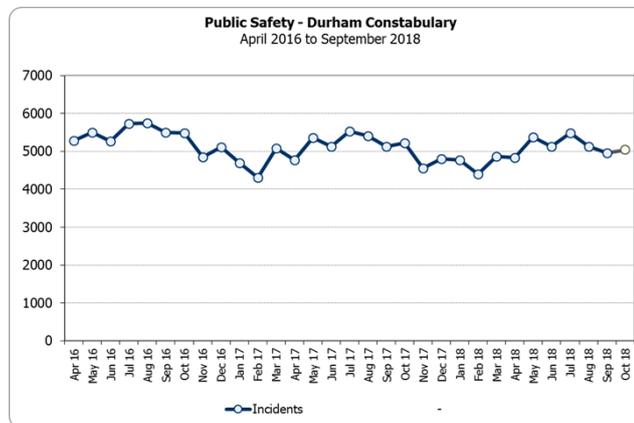
12. The police recorded offence rate for Durham is slightly higher for Durham than it is for England and Wales as an average. This is, substantively, because of two factors – firstly, recording changes have affected police recorded ‘Violence without Injury’ (a crime category that covers offences such as harassment). Indeed, in its last Crime Data Integrity inspection, HMICFRS noted that the Constabulary is “Good” at recording crime properly and accurately. Durham is one of only a handful of forces to be rated “Good”. Secondly, the North East as a whole witnesses higher levels of recorded ‘Criminal Damage and Arson’ and has done so over time. At the same time, looking again at recent HMICFRS inspections, when the Inspectorate last considered Durham’s approach to tackling crime, the culture of problem-solving, its approach to serious and organised crime, and work to prevent crime, were all commended.

13. On response times, it is important that when people require a police response, they are confident that officers will arrive when they need them. For calls into the control room deemed as requiring an immediate response, dispatch is to take place within three minutes, with arrival time targets of up to twenty minutes depending on the location of the incident.



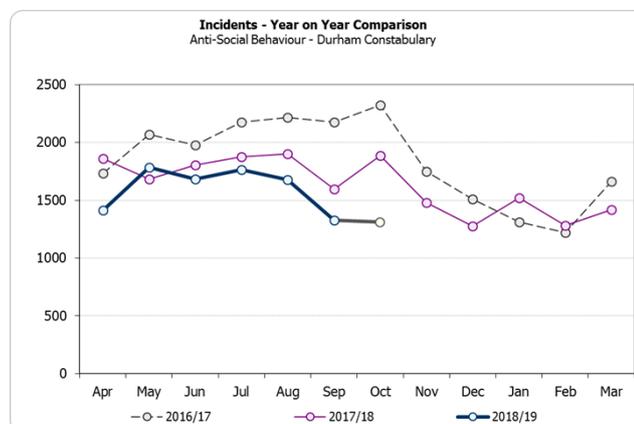
Source: Durham Constabulary Management Information System

14. The graph above shows that the victim satisfaction for police arrival time has remained consistent over a prolonged period of time. HMICFRS talk in their 2017 Efficiency report about how Durham uses THRIVE¹ to prioritise demand efficiently. And at the same time, victim satisfaction with the arrival time of officers has remained consistently between 82 and 85% over 2017-18.
15. Other non-crime demand is important in considering this question on safety as a significant amount of police officer and staff time concerns incidents which may not be criminal. Looking at this involves considering police recorded incidents which are governed by the National Standard for Incident Recording. Examples of such incidents include: anti-social behaviour, suspicious circumstances or insecure premises, domestic incidents, and missing persons. It is also helpful to understand the number of incidents the police face which involve alcohol in one way or another.
16. Police recorded public safety and welfare incidents include suspicious circumstances or insecure premises, domestic incidents, and missing persons. Taken together they make up a large portion of the calls the Force Control Room receives. Innovation and work around these areas by the Constabulary and the PCVC's office has included the Herbert and Philomena protocols, a continued commitment to neighbourhood policing, and working regionally on domestic abuse through the Whole Systems Approach.



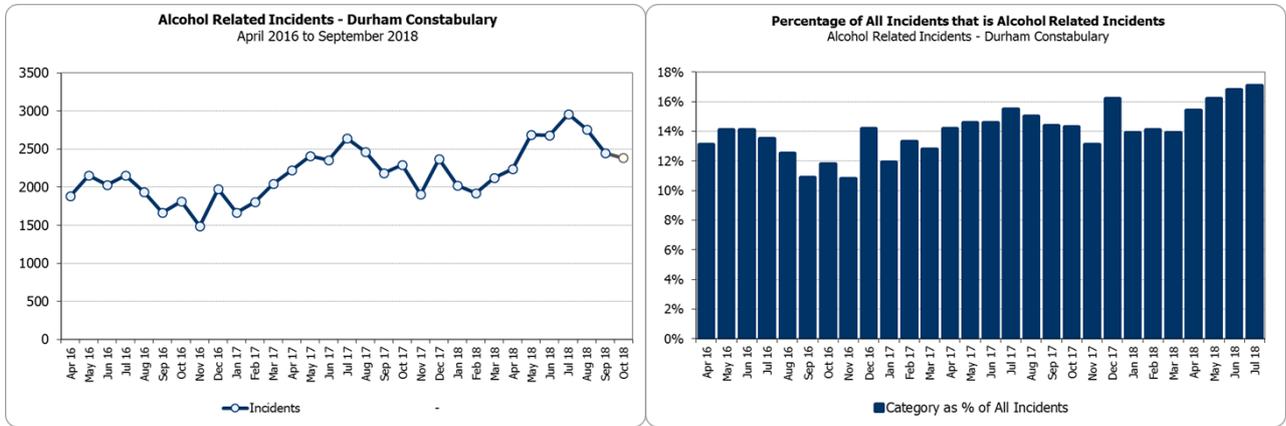
Source: Durham Constabulary Management Information System

17. Police recorded Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB) incidents have fallen year-on-year, as has the proportion of all incidents which are ASB incidents, as can be seen in the graph above. Reasons for this lie in changes to crime recording, where some incidents formerly recorded as an ASB incident now of necessity may be recorded as a crime – for example, harassment.



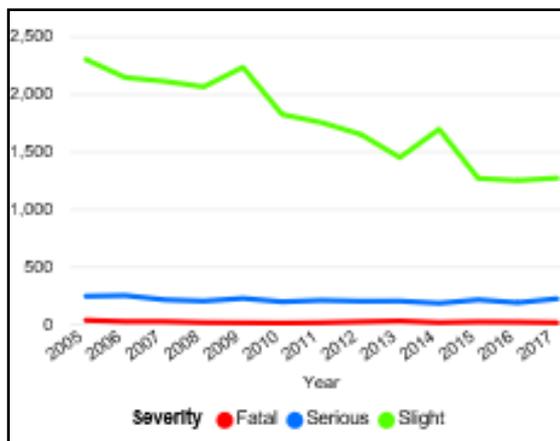
¹ A risk assessment tool which is based on threat, harm, investigative opportunities, vulnerability of those involved, and opportunities to engage.

18. The graph and chart immediately above show police recorded incidents where someone has identified alcohol as playing a part in one way or another. As can be seen from the second image (the chart), recently, about 16% of police recorded incidents have been tagged with an alcohol qualifier. Through a variety of means including working with partners, the Offender Management Unit, the Checkpoint scheme, the Harm Reduction Unit, and demand management, the Constabulary works to reduce the harm caused by alcohol and drugs.



Source: Durham Constabulary Management Information System

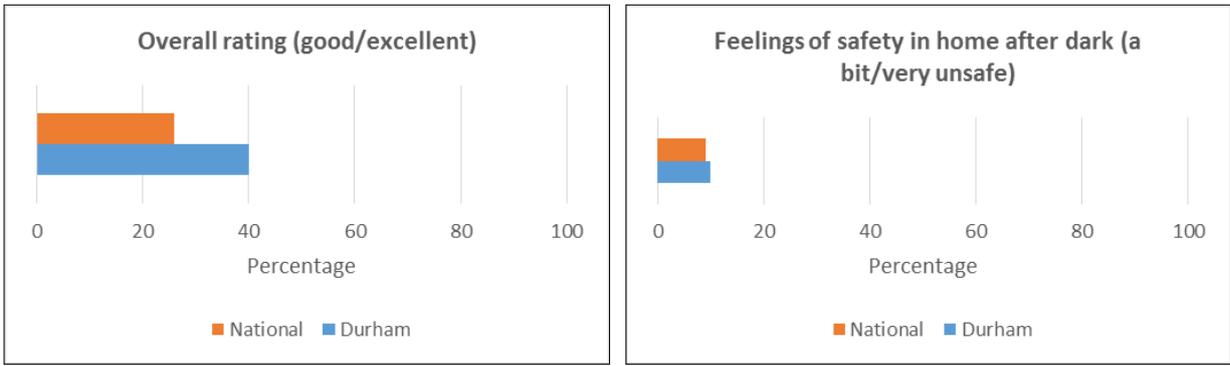
19. Concerning road safety the below graph shows the number of casualties since 2005, and up to 2017, which were slight, serious or fatal.



Source: Gateshead Council Road Safety Resource

20. The above graph shows, then, that the total number of casualties in 2017 in Durham stood at 1526 – slightly higher than was the case for 2016, but lower than the average between 2010 and 2014. Moreover, despite the slight increase, the numbers over the long term are among the lowest since 1979. Putting this into further context, the Roads Policing Unit of Durham Constabulary engages in a calendar of campaigns throughout the year raising awareness and undertaking enforcement around the ‘Fatal Four’ among other things. Community Speed Watch and partnership work through the Road Safety Partnership are two other ways safety on the roads is promoted.

21. The National Rural Crime Survey for 2018 received over 500 responses for Durham’s force area. Some of the questions asked of Durham residents are particularly pertinent to questions of community safety.

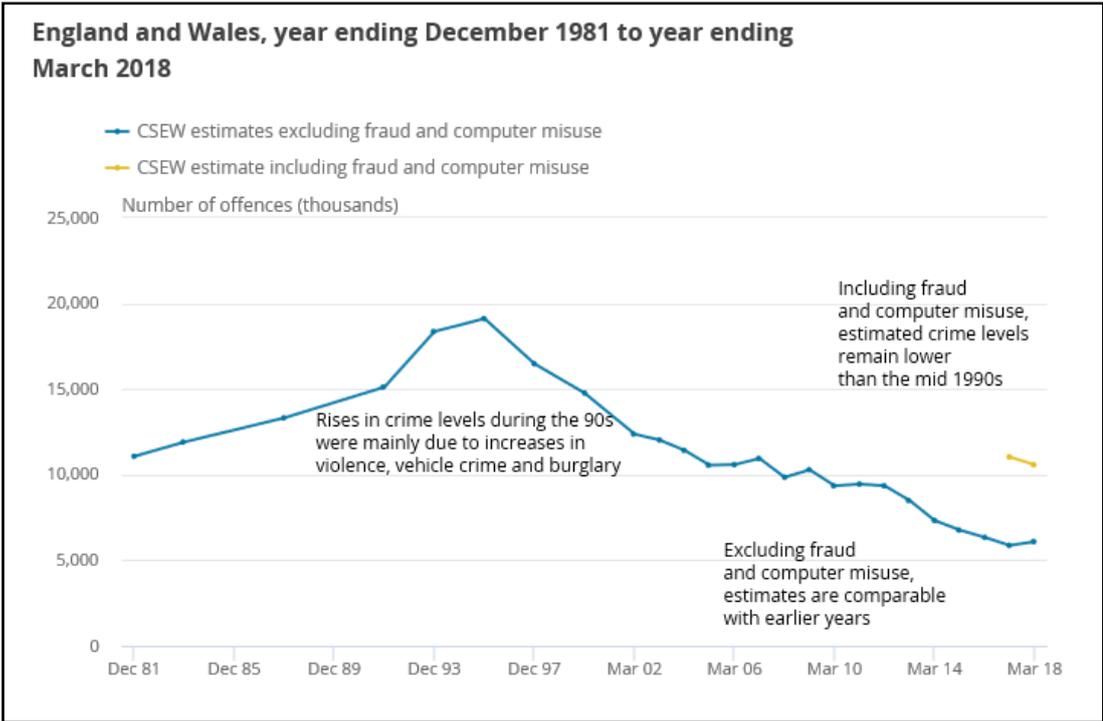


Source: National Rural Crime Survey 2018

22. The two charts above show how respondents to the 2018 survey felt about the kind of job the police do in rural areas, and how safe respondents felt in their homes after dark. On the former, Durham scored better than the national average, and on the latter was broadly in line with what appears to be the case across England and Wales. Significant parts of Durham and Darlington are rural – and the Constabulary and PCVC’s office engages with all communities, including rural ones, through PACT and AAP meetings, attending the rural shows, and Community Speed Watch. Collaboratively working with specific rural business owners through Farmwatch is also another specific example.

KPQ2: How Well are we Preventing and Reducing Crime?

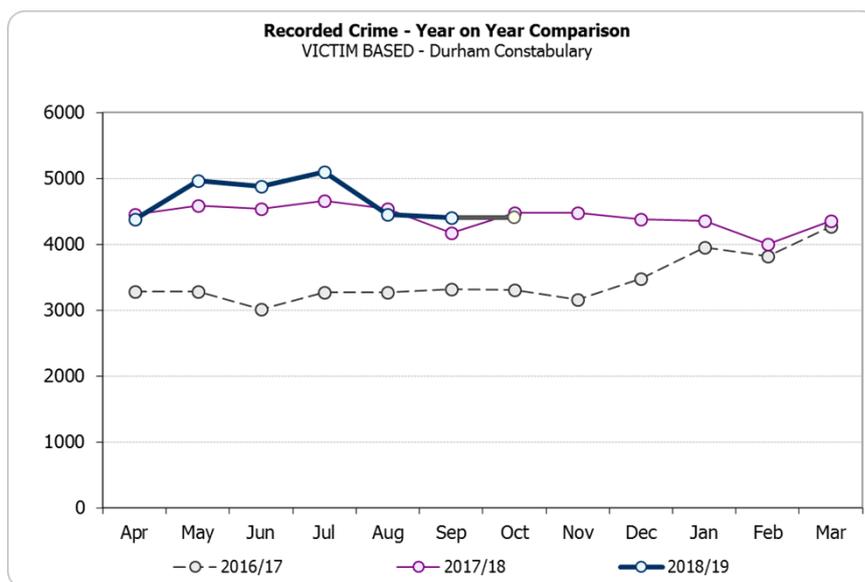
- 23. Answering KPQ2 requires an understanding and appreciation of the two primary sources of crime data – the Crime Survey for England and Wales (CSEW) and police recorded crime. The question also asks of the nature of crime prevention work the police and partners engage in – and how good the Constabulary is at solving crime.
- 24. To begin with, looking at crime over the long term – CSEW shows that, nationally, crime has fallen over the past two decades (NB. CSEW has not traditionally included some crime types, for example, fraud and cybercrime).



Source: Office for National Statistics, Crime Survey for England and Wales
Page 6 of 12

25. Considering CSEW when looking at long term crime data is better than relying on police recorded crimes because of its consistent methodology over time and because it is not affected by changes in police practice of recording crimes. Examining the past couple of years, CSEW data shows that over recent decades there has been a fall in overall levels of crime which now looks to be, generally, stabilising. Police recorded crime data over this period has shown an increase recently, driven by some factors which are explored below.

26. Having looked at the national picture from both the perspective of CSEW and police recorded data, it is appropriate to consider Durham. Police recorded crime in Durham has risen over the past few years in line with the national picture. The reasons for this include changes to National Crime Recording Standards, improved recording, increased confidence in Durham Constabulary leading to more frequent reporting, and increase in some crime types (e.g. acquisitive crime).

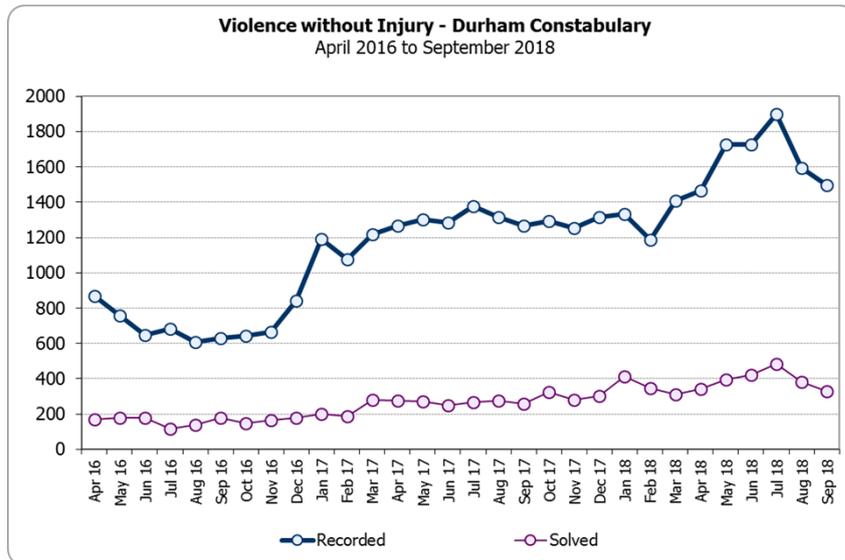


Source: Durham Constabulary Management Information System

27. As stated, one of the major reasons for recorded crime having risen is changes to National Crime Recording Standards – harassment, which is a ‘Victim Based Crime’, and sits under the category of ‘Violence without Injury’, has been subject to changes in recording. This has manifested itself as an increase in the figures relating to violent crime – an increase which many other forces have also seen.

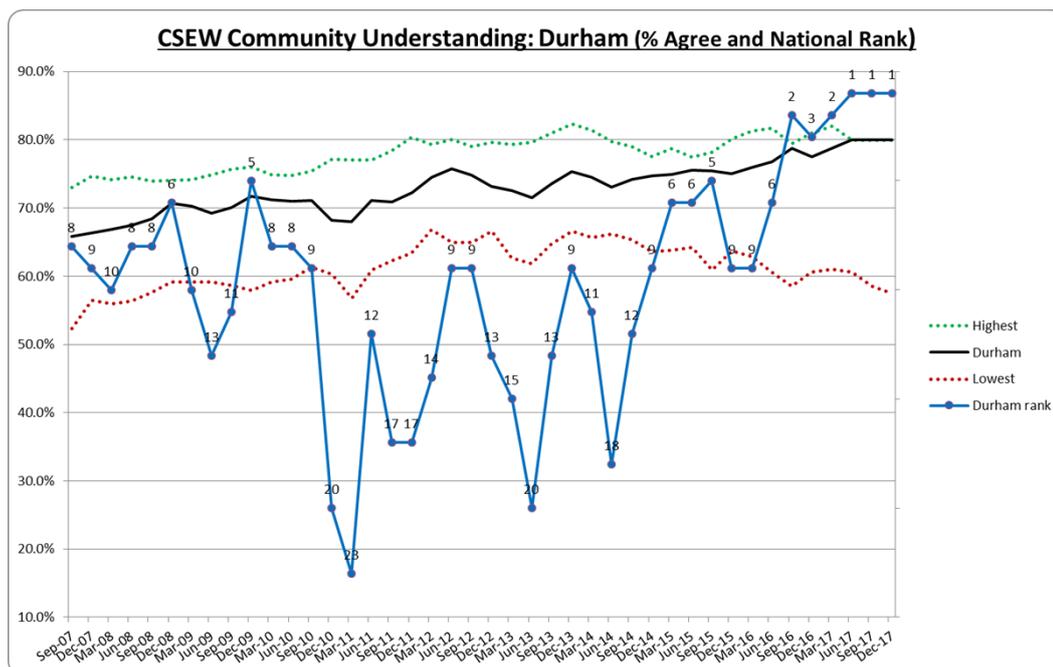
28. As noted in the Crime Survey for England and Wales’s latest release, “For some crimes, police recorded data show an increase in the number of recorded offences, but this is unlikely to indicate a real rise in the amount of crime occurring”.² One of the particular categories highlighted here is the previously mentioned ‘Violence without Injury’.

² ‘Crime in England and Wales: Year Ending March 2018’, *Crime Survey for England and Wales*, <https://www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/crimeandjustice/bulletins/crimeinenglandandwales/yearendingmarc h2018>, July 2018 (accessed: October 2018).



Source: Durham Constabulary Management Information System

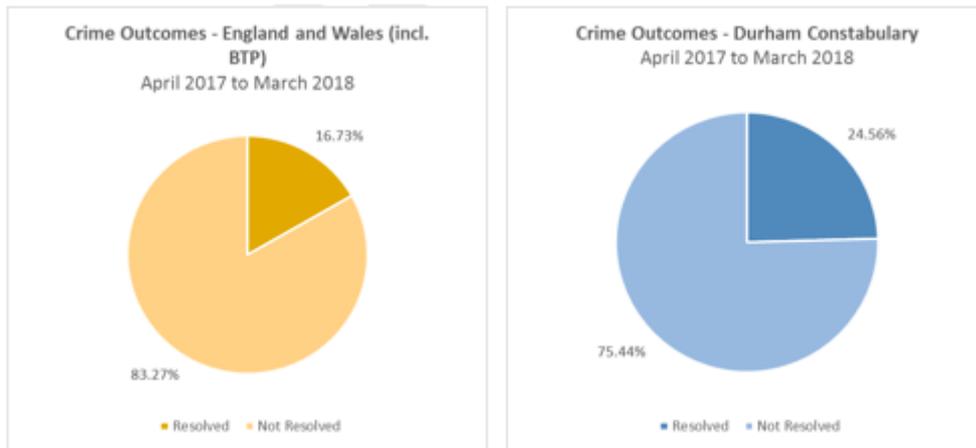
29. The other drivers of increases in recorded crime include increased confidence to report crime. Durham Constabulary has worked consistently to maintain and improve its understanding of community concerns. This is of critical import inasmuch as community understanding contributes significantly to local confidence in policing. Durham has consistently ranked in the top quartile, nationally, for Community Understanding over the past several years.



Source: Office for National Statistics, Crime Survey for England and Wales, and Durham Constabulary Management Information System

30. Where increases in police recorded crime might be reflective of actual increases in crime, particular categories such as arson, vehicle offences, shoplifting, and burglary, can be indicative of this. At the same time, it can be determined through comparisons with the national picture that forces up and down the country also face these challenges – and that Durham Constabulary consistently and effectively plans and responds to changes in crime trends.

31. Durham Constabulary performs significantly better than is the case nationally when it comes to solving crime. Solved outcomes – where a crime has been solved by the police – for all crimes were 25% for the period April 2017 to March 2018 compared with 17% for England and Wales.



Source: Home Office

32. On a wider point around crime prevention, 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 are always out and about in their local areas, helping to promote public safety. 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/).
33. A more specific crime prevention tool at the hands of the Constabulary is the ‘Dot Peen’ Property Marking System. Secured with funding from the PCVC, the device allows the Constabulary to offer a free service for residents to be able to mark tools, machinery and more which can then be more easily reunited with owners should stolen property be recovered by the police.

Conclusions

34. Taking all of the above into consideration, concluding with a reflection on the latest reports published by HMICFRS is helpful. In their 2017 Efficiency inspection, on the question ‘How efficient is the force at keeping people safe and reducing crime?’, the Inspectorate noted:

“Durham Constabulary is judged to be outstanding in the efficiency with which it keeps people safe and reduces crime. Our overall judgment this year is the same as last year. The constabulary is judged to be outstanding in its understanding of demand; its use of resources to manage demand is judged to be outstanding; and its planning for future demand is also assessed to be outstanding.”

35. In 2017 Durham was one of only two forces in the country to be judged overall as ‘Outstanding’ in Efficiency.

Recommendation

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

Ron Hogg

Police, Crime and Victims' Commissioner

Appendix 1: Outcomes, Key Performance Questions, and Priorities

Outcome 1

Outcome 2

Outcome 3

Outcome 4

KPQ1

KPQ2

KPQ3

KPQ4

KPQ5

KPQ6

KPQ7

KPQ8

12 Priorities – Cross Cutting

Appendix 2: Risks and Implications

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

Highlights performance in relation to Outcome 1 of the Police, Crime and Victims' Plan.

Commissioning

N/A

Other Risks

N/A

Contact Officer:	Jacob Cain
Job Title:	Policy and Accountability Officer
Telephone:	0191 375 2164
Email:	jacob.cain@durham.pcc.pnn.gov.uk