



# Barry Coppinger

## Police & Crime Commissioner for Cleveland

August 2017 Newsletter



# CLEVELAND POLICE

## Police chiefs call for more money for policing



**Eston Hills action  
group report  
success**



**Over £3000 raised  
during Blue Light  
torch relay**



**PCC calls for end to  
'out-of-date' rules  
affecting victims**

**“It’s crucial that police officers and staff feel valued and supported in the challenging work they do.**



“I wasn’t surprised by the results of the Police Federation’s annual pay and morale survey, which found that the majority of the 37% of Cleveland police officers who responded had low morale and felt financially worse off than five years ago.

“Demand on the police force has dramatically increased, despite the loss of 450 officers and 50 PCSOs since 2010. That’s why the Chief Constable and I are continuing to lobby the government for increased funding, so we can provide the service Cleveland deserves and ensure officers and staff receive the support they need.

“1 in 4 of us will have mental health problems at some point in our lives. This includes police officers and staff, who are often subjected to horrific sights and experiences as part of the job.

“I’m pleased I could support Our Blue Light torch relay in Cleveland this month, to raise over £3,000 for mental health charities and to help remove the stigma of mental illness among emergency service workers.”

**Barry Coppinger**

**Police and Crime Commissioner for Cleveland**

## WHAT’S NEW THIS MONTH

- ⇒ Commissioner’s August update
- ⇒ Police chiefs call for more money for policing
- ⇒ Eston Hills action group report success
- ⇒ PCC calls for end to ‘out-of-date’ rules affecting victims
- ⇒ Businesses asked their opinion on employing people who have offended
- ⇒ Still time to nominate community safety superheroes
- ⇒ Over £3,000 raised for mental health charities following relay



## ‘YOUR FORCE YOUR VOICE’ MEETING SCHEDULE

Meet Your PCC

**Your Force Your Voice** represents the Commissioner’s personal pledge to attend at least one community meeting in every Cleveland ward each year. Here is a list of upcoming meetings where you can meet and speak to Barry about local community safety:



- **St Aidan’s Residents Meeting**  
Friday 1st September, 13:00, St Aidan’s Meeting Room, TS1 5RT
- **Hemlington Community Council**  
Tuesday 5th September, 18:00, Hemlington Community Hub



## **Cleveland Police Chief Constable and PCC call for more money for policing**

More money must be made available for policing as a survey points to continuing low morale and financial concerns amongst police officers.

The annual pay and morale survey undertaken by the Police Federation of England and Wales (PFEW) was completed by 37% of officers at Cleveland Police. Of those who responded, 65% said that their morale was low and 73.7% highlighted that they felt they were financially worse off than they were five years ago.

Chief Constable Iain Spittal said: "Police officers are dedicated public servants, my last four years working alongside officers and staff here at Cleveland Police has resulted in me seeing the absolute determination of our officers to protect the communities they serve from harm.

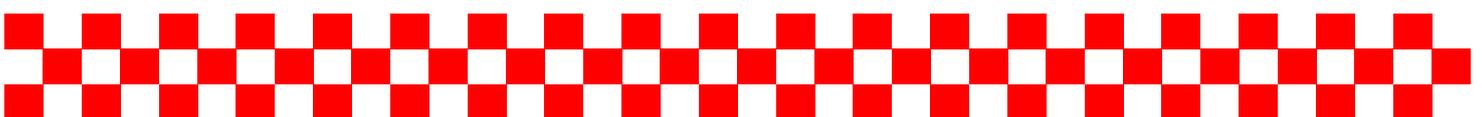
"In July the Police and Crime Commissioner and I met with the Police and Fire Minister. We stressed the point that we felt that police

officers pay and conditions and those of police staff have been frozen to the extent that they have all experienced real terms reductions in their salaries over the past seven years."

Cleveland Police has undertaken a number of pieces of work in recent years to improve conditions for officers. These include restructuring shift patterns; investing in locations for refreshment and recovery across the Force estate, and; working with officers to improve the Force's fleet of vehicles.

Police and Crime Commissioner Barry Copping said: "In my role as a representative for the people of Cleveland I have attended hundreds of public meetings and so know at first hand the very high regard in which people hold our dedicated front line police officers.

"It is right that both myself and the Chief Constable continue to work with the Government and the Police Federation to make sure that officer's voices are heard."





## **Eston Hills group report success in tackling crime and antisocial behaviour**

Eston Hills action group, formed after a public meeting called by local MP Anna Turley to start a joined up approach to tackling vandalism, has been working to reduce crime and make the hills safer.

Residents raised concerns about illegal off-roading, fires, abandoned vehicles, and environmental damage to the hills and wildlife.

The group working together to tackle these issues includes Cleveland Police & Crime Commissioner Barry Copping; local councillors; and representatives from Cleveland Fire Brigade, Cleveland Police, Redcar & Cleveland Council, Friends of Eston Hills, and the Ice and Fire archaeology project.

Another residents' meeting was called to allow the group to report back to residents. Progress so far includes:

An increase in police patrols, including by the off road section, has seen more than a dozen bikes seized in the past 2 months

- Section 59 warning signs have been

purchased and are now being installed – they are a first warning allowing offending bikes and motorcycles to then be seized

- Existing fences and gates have been assessed with vulnerabilities addressed with landowners

- Arson incidents have dropped after the Easter peak and the fire service are conducting more patrols, checking access gates are secured, and monitoring fly tipping

- Redcar & Cleveland council have removed 8 burnt out vehicles and are working to remove a further 6.

- Rock armour has been purchased by the council and a soil bund is being constructed to prevent illegal off road vehicle access through woodland on Flatts Lane. The main gate at the NHS site will also be replaced.

The group are urging residents to anonymously report any information, especially photographic or video evidence, to the police so the perpetrators can be caught.





## **PCC calls for end to 'out of date' rules affecting sexual violence victims**

**The current rules in the Criminal Injuries Compensation Authority (CICA) leave many victims unable to claim compensation.**

Cleveland Police and Crime Commissioner Barry Copping has joined calls for a review of the Criminal Injuries Compensation Scheme (CICA) and the way it treats victims of sexual abuse.

The current system has been called into question by Victims Portfolio Lead at the Association of Police and Crime Commissioners Dame Vera Baird, in an open letter to Justice Secretary David Lidington.

As it stands, the CICA scheme refuses applications where the victim/survivor was groomed - essentially aligning grooming with 'consent' - despite the law stating that there is no issue of consent when a person is under 16.

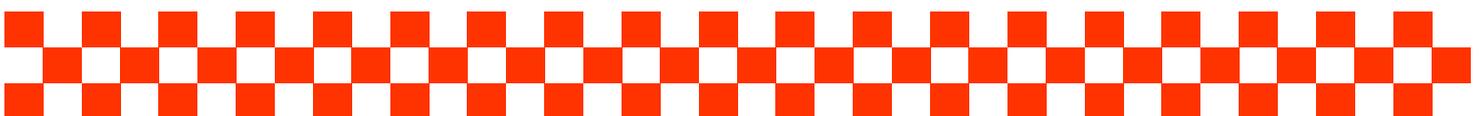
Mr Copping is particularly concerned by the 1979 'same roof rule', which prevents a victim/survivor from claiming compensation if they lived with their abuser as a member of the same

family, if the offence took place before 1 October 1979.

Similarly, Mr Copping feels that the rule that an application should be received within two years of the incident doesn't take account of the reality of the criminal justice process or the victim/survivor experience.

PCC Barry Copping said: "It's become quite clear that these particular rules under the Criminal Injuries Compensation Scheme are letting victims of sexual abuse down and failing to compensate them following the most horrific of crimes.

"Partner agencies have informed me about cases where victims here in Cleveland have fallen foul of these out-of-date rules and the Ministry of Justice must urgently look at them to ensure victims are fairly compensated."





## **Local businesses to be surveyed about employing people who have offended**

**Cleveland and Durham PCCs and criminal justice agencies want to hear what businesses think about recruiting those who have offended**

Employers across Cleveland, County Durham and Darlington are being asked to share their thoughts about recruiting people who have previously committed crime.

A survey has been launched by Cleveland Police and Crime Commissioner Barry Coppinger, Durham Police, Crime and Victims' Commissioner Ron Hogg and local prison, probation and rehabilitation services, to consult with local businesses and organisations.

Criminal justice agencies want to gain a greater understanding of employer's attitudes to employing people who have previously offended and to find out how they may encourage them to consider it in the future.

Gaining employment plays a crucial role in preventing people from committing further crimes, however prisons report that just over 26% of prisoners enter employment on release.

Cleveland PCC Barry Coppinger said: "One of my key commitments is to reduce the cycle of re-offending in Cleveland and employment can be a useful way for offenders to make positive changes in their lives.

"I would encourage you to fill out this short survey so we can better understand the views of businesses and organisations in our region."

Durham PCVC Ron Hogg said: "I believe most people who have offended hope for the chance to make a fresh start and contribute to society. Whilst this isn't the case for everyone, the responses to this survey will help us to better understand the concerns, or barriers, local organisations may have in offering opportunities to people who have offended."

Employers are encouraged to take part in the short survey at the following link: <https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/V2S8HYC>



# Over £3,000 raised following torch relay

The 'Our Blue Light' relay is designed to remove stigma about mental illness among emergency service staff



Over £3,000 has been raised for mental health charities after a national torch relay visited Cleveland.

Our Blue Light Mental Health Relay took place across the North of England, with emergency services taking turns to parade the torch around their area.

The torch arrived in Cleveland on Sunday 6th August, before being transported around the region by staff from Cleveland Police and Cleveland Fire Brigade.

The week culminated in staff, including PCC Barry Coppinger, taking the torch on the Lyke Wake Walk, a 40-mile trek to raise funds for Heads Together and Mind.

Cleveland Police Inspector, Phil Spencer, coordinated the torch tour in Cleveland and said: "Emergency service workers deal with horrific tragedies and incidents as part of their job, incidents that most people do not even witness in a lifetime.

"We're still not talking about mental health enough in the emergency services, and it's only when we do begin raising awareness that people realise how common it is to experience mental ill health."

PCC Barry Coppinger received a letter from the organisers thanking him for supporting the relay, which raised over £3000 for the selected charities.

## There's still time to nominate your community safety superheroes

**Nominations for the 2017 Cleveland Community Safety Awards are open until Friday 29th September**



**2016 winners North Ormesby Residents Against Crime with PCC Barry Coppinger**

There's four weeks to go to get your nominations in for the 2017 Cleveland Community Safety Awards.

The awards, now in their fifth year, acknowledge excellent examples of community safety initiatives and actions.

There are 14 awards up for grabs, including Community Minded Business, Outstanding Support to a Victim and Community Volunteer Champion.

[Click here for a full list of categories and to make a nomination.](#)





**Barry Coppinger**

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