

PCC Barry Coppinger with newly trained
VCAS Community Champions.

Community Champion Briefing

10th February 2017



BARRY COPPINGER

**Police & Crime Commissioner
for Cleveland**

February 2017 Newsletter

WHAT'S NEW THIS MONTH

- ⇒ Commissioner's February Update
- ⇒ PCC Calls for Responsible Alcohol Pricing
- ⇒ Cameras and Signs to Crack Down on Fly-Tipping
- ⇒ Police Partner with Care Homes to Safeguard People with Dementia
- ⇒ Holocaust Memorial Day
- ⇒ Sexual Violence Awareness Week
- ⇒ Call on Jeremy Hunt to "Scrap the Fee" for Domestic Violence Doctor's Note
- ⇒ Make Yourself Scam Aware at Special Training
- ⇒ Police Officer Recruitment

Commissioner's February Update

“Protecting the most vulnerable people in our communities is a key priority of my Police and Crime Plan and is at the very heart of neighbourhood policing. This month I met women mutilated by **Female Genital Mutilation (FGM)** and they bravely discussed how services like the Halo Project, based in Middlesbrough, helped to turn their lives around. Ensuring victims get the right support is crucial; which is why I joined 16 other PCCs in calling for the **scrapping of a fee** for domestic abuse victims.

People living with dementia can occasionally go missing and it's important Cleveland Police are properly equipped to help them. We have linked up with **three local care homes** in the Cleveland area, where missing people can be cared for while officers work to reunite them with their families. This month, I also took part in the **Friends Against Scams** training led by National Trading Standards, to ensure I know more about the costly scams often targeted at the most vulnerable.

A ground-breaking event was held this month, organised by my office and partners, in support of **Sexual Abuse and Sexual Violence Awareness Week**. ‘Breaking the Silence’ was attended by over 100 professionals from the Cleveland area, who shared their expertise in working with victims of sexual abuse. We're hopeful the event could be repeated in the future.

As Chair of the Tees Rural Crime Forum, I know the impact **fly-tipping** can have on rural communities. I'm pleased I was able to support Redcar and Cleveland Council with the production of **new signage**, to put off potential dumpers and bring offenders to justice.

I'm delighted that local people will soon be able to apply to become **Police Officers** with Cleveland Police. At community meetings, the number of officers is always high on the agenda, so it's promising that we're in a position to recruit more. If you're a dynamic and talented individual, who wants a challenging yet rewarding career, I urge you to apply.

Sam Copsey



'YOUR FORCE YOUR VOICE' MEETING SCHEDULE

Where You Can Meet Barry in the Coming Weeks

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:



- **Hemlington Community Council**
Tuesday 7th March, 6:00pm, Hemlington Library
- **Stainton Parish Council**
Tuesday 14th March, 7:15pm, Stainton Memorial Hall

PCC Barry Copping, Acting
Detective Inspector Pete
Littlewood and Halo Project
Director Yasmin Khan speak with
FGM victims in Middlesbrough



Criminal Justice partners and voluntary sector support services are encouraging victims of Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) in the region to come forward as part of International Day of Zero Tolerance (6 Feb).

The call comes amid concerns that many in the region may have been affected by FGM, but that the true scale of the issue is being obscured because of the barriers preventing victims from reporting it.

FGM refers to a range of procedures which involve partial or total removal of the external female genitalia for non-medical reasons. It is sometimes referred to as female circumcision or cutting.

Female Genital Mutilation has been a criminal offence since 1985. The current legislation is the Female Genital Mutilation Act 2003, which replaced the Female Circumcision Act of 1985. The 2003 Act makes it an offence to:

- **Perform FGM**
- **Assist or encourage another person to perform FGM**
- **Assist or encourage the performance of FGM outside the UK**

Barry Copping, Police and Crime Commissioner for Cleveland said: “FGM is an abhorrent crime and by raising awareness among key agencies, professionals and the community we can ensure that women and girls are protected from harm.

“FGM features in the regional Violence against Women and Girls Strategy and I am working closely with my regional partners to further tackle the issue.

“Multi-agency guidance has been developed to help professionals and those with safeguarding responsibilities to identify and assess the risks of FGM, and protect and support children and adults.

“This guidance will go a long way in informing professionals who may have concerns about someone and will give victims the confidence to come forward and report, knowing that their case will be handled appropriately.”

PCC Encourages North East FGM Victims to Come Forward

PCC Backs Health Campaigners in Call for Responsible Alcohol Pricing



Police and Crime Commissioner for Cleveland, Barry Coppinger, has supported North East health campaigners Balance in their calls for an increase in duty on strong white cider.

The PCC believes the targeted approach will protect young people and the vulnerable without impacting on the local licensed trade.

Mr Coppinger has written to Chancellor Philip Hammond and Jane Ellison, the Financial Secretary to the Treasury, ahead of the government's budget announcement in March. The Commissioner points out that three years of cuts and freezes in alcohol duty mean three litres of white cider, containing the equivalent of 22 shots of vodka, can currently cost as little as £3.50.

Strong white ciders tend to be the drink of choice for street drinkers, heavy drinkers and those underage, who often end up needing to use treatment services.

Police and Crime Commissioner, Barry Coppinger said: "Very cheap and very strong cider is damaging the health of vulnerable people in our communities.

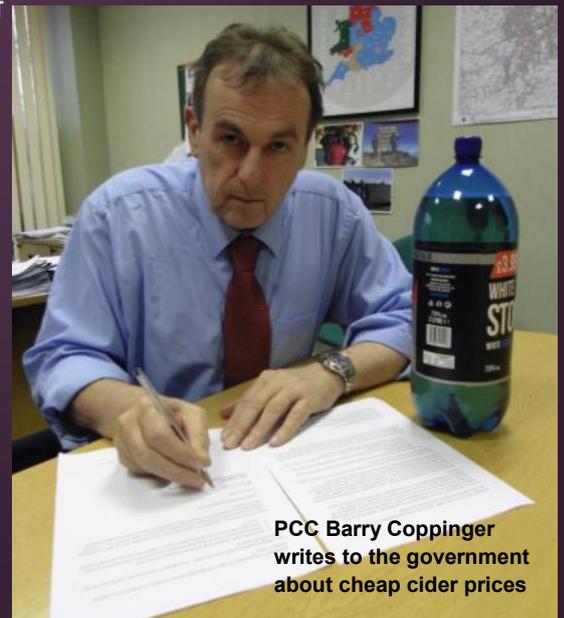
"Calling for responsible taxation is not being a spoilsport or killjoy and is not intended to threaten the licensed trade. It is aimed at encouraging responsible social drinking, not that which damages people or communities. I support the campaign work of Balance and our local alcohol partnerships and these measures will mean further progress if adopted."

Colin Shevils, Director of Balance North East, said: "It's clear that cheap alcohol is doing damage to some of the most vulnerable groups in our communities – and the biggest culprit is cheap white cider.

"Brands such as Frosty Jack's are one of the drinks of choice for children who end up needing specialist alcohol treatment.

"It's available for under £4 yet contains the equivalent of 22 shots of vodka.

"We urge the Government to protect our children and others by increasing duty on strong white cider in the March budget."



PCC Barry Coppinger writes to the government about cheap cider prices

You can read the PCC's full letter to the Government at www.cleveland.pcc.police.uk

Cameras have been installed at a fly-tipping hotspot as part of a crackdown on persistent offenders.

The cameras, along with warning signs featuring reflective eyes, have been moved to Wilton Lane, the road connecting Wilton and Guisborough and the council is working with Cleveland Police to target the fly-tippers.

Offenders have been warned they could face unlimited fines and up to five years in prison if they are caught.

The signs, which feature reflective eyes to make it look like a person is being watched, are being installed in the entrances to farms and other pull-ins along Wilton Lane which have been used to dump rubbish in the past.

It is hoped that by using the signs, which will be placed so they will be eye-level when driving, as well as the cameras, fly-tippers will be deterred from leaving their rubbish knowing that there is a real threat they will be prosecuted if they are caught.

As well as causing annoyance for local landowners, who have been working closely with the council to try and combat this nuisance, fly-tipping poses a danger to livestock and wildlife with often dangerous waste dumped in fields.

Installing the signs is the culmination of hard work from local councillors and staff from the council's Neighbourhoods Team as well as staff from the Tees Valley Rural Forum and Cleveland Police. It is also a key part of the council's 'Love It' campaign, encouraging residents to love their borough and do their bit to keep it clean and tidy.

Police and Crime Commissioner for Cleveland, Barry Copping, said: "As Chair of the Tees Rural Crime Forum, residents often tell me about the impact persistent fly-tipping can have in rural areas.

"I'm pleased to support the work of Redcar and Cleveland Council to show perpetrators their actions will not be tolerated and to allow rural residents to once again enjoy the beauty of their surroundings."

It is hoped that if these measures prove to be a success on Wilton Lane, they could be rolled out to other areas of Redcar and Cleveland also suffering from fly-tipping.

Cameras and Signs to Crack Down on Fly-Tipping



Guisborough Ward Councillor Shelagh Holyoake with the PCC, Guisborough Ward Councillors Dennis Teasdale and Bill Clarke, and PCSO Paul Payne.

Superintendent Dave Sutherland, T/Inspector Phil Spencer, Alishia Calvert, PCSO Jane Gibson, Hayley Rowland, Andrew Ball, Julie Peyton, Alison Corner, PCC Barry Coppinger and Liz Whalen



Police Partner

with Care Homes to Safeguard People with Dementia

Cleveland Police has teamed up with local care homes to provide a safe haven for missing people with dementia.

Reuben Manor nursing home in Eaglescliffe, Willow View Residential Care Centre in Stockton and Roseberry Court in Redcar are now registered with Cleveland Police as a place of safety for those living with dementia.

This is in addition to the Forces' Herbert Protocol, which encourages carers, families, friends and neighbours of those with dementia to hold information about the person with dementia which could help the police find them if they go missing.

There are currently more than 34,000 people across the North East living with dementia and over recent months work has been ongoing to highlight dementia awareness across the Force.

Temporary Inspector Phil Spencer said: "We recognise that taking someone with dementia to a care home is much better than being taken into a police station.

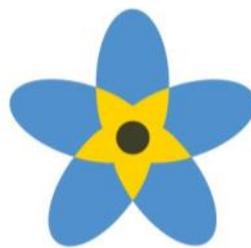
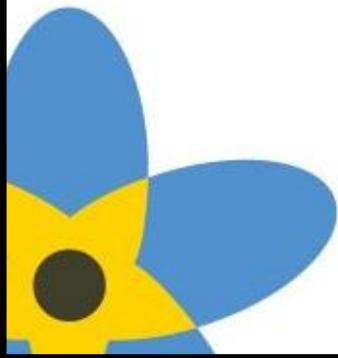
"This is a wonderful partnership which will help us to protect vulnerable people living with dementia. This scheme will allow officers to make essential enquiries to find out who a person is or where they are missing from, safe in the knowledge that they are in the best place possible being looked after by care home staff."

Police and Crime Commissioner for Cleveland, Barry Coppinger, said: "A lot of excellent dementia friendly work has already been done within the PCC office and Cleveland Police since we joined the Dementia Action Alliance last year.

"This scheme will allow police to work with specialist carers in the community to help reduce trauma for the person with dementia and to ensure thorough investigations take place in order to reunite them with their family."

Become a Dementia Friend

dementiafriends.org.uk



**Dementia
Friends**

An Alzheimer's Society initiative

PCC Marks Holocaust Memorial Day

PCC Barry Coppinger marked Holocaust Memorial Day 2017 by speaking at an event at Teesside University, coinciding with the anniversary of the liberation of Auschwitz-Birkenau.

Hundreds of people attended the event, set up to remember the millions of people murdered or who have had their lives changed beyond recognition during the Holocaust, with the aim of reminding us all to use the lessons of the past to inform our lives today.

22 university students recently returned from a four-day study trip to Krakow in Poland, where they visited the Auschwitz-Birkenau Museum with Senior Lecturer Mark Handscomb.



PCC Barry Coppinger speaks to Teesside University students following their trip to Auschwitz-Birkenau.

He said: 'We organised this study trip as it offers a unique learning experience for the students. By that I don't mean by visiting Auschwitz or Schindler's Museum, I mean by creating unique opportunities for the students to meet Holocaust survivors who offered the students private access to a unique city.'

'It is an extraordinary time, as Europe is facing a lot of change and the value of this trip is that it introduces students to a completely different culture and the chance to experience one of Europe's most beautiful cities.'

PCC Supports Sexual Violence Awareness Week

Police and Crime Commissioner for Cleveland, Barry Coppinger, is urging victims of sexual violence to come forward in a bid to end the circle of silence around abuse.

The PCC is supporting the second National Sexual Abuse and Sexual Violence Awareness Week, which takes place from the 6th-12th February.

The week aims to generate discussion among the general public, statutory bodies and third sector organisations about how best to tackle sexual violence, as well as empowering victims and sending out a clear message that the UK collectively will be saying 'It's Not Ok'.

On Tuesday 7th February, the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner for Cleveland and partners held an event called 'Breaking the Silence on Sexual Violence' to coincide with the week of action.

Over 140 local professionals from the NHS, councils, police officers and not-for-profit organisations learned how to spot the signs of sexual abuse and how to effectively support, safeguard and protect victims across Cleveland.

Police and Crime Commissioner for Cleveland, Barry Coppinger, said: "It's important victims of sexual abuse or sexual violence know they are not alone and understand that we are committed to bringing perpetrators to justice.

"In Cleveland, we are lucky to have access to a wide range of specialist services to support and protect victims of abuse. We must work hard to ensure victims know these services are available and ensure they have the confidence to come forward.

"Perpetrators need to hear our message - their actions are totally unacceptable and will not be tolerated."



Specialist Sexual Violence Support Services in Cleveland

#ITSNOTOK

Arch North East

- Phone: 01642 822335

Sexual Assault Referral Centre (SARC)

- Phone: 01642 516888

EVA Women's Aid

- Phone: 01642 490677

Harbour

- Phone: 03000 202 525

Halo Project

- Phone: 01642 683 045

Barnardos

- Phone: 01642 819743

PCC Barry Coppinger speaking at a domestic violence event at Teesside University.



Police and Crime Commissioner for Cleveland, Barry Coppinger, has joined police and crime commissioners across the country calling on Health Minister Jeremy Hunt to scrap the fee charged to domestic abuse victims seeking legal aid.

Due to recent legislation changes, domestic abuse victims now have to apply for legal aid. However to qualify for support they need to provide specific evidence to prove that they have been subjected to such abuse. One of the accepted forms of evidence is a letter from a GP – a letter that some GPs are charging fees to provide.

The concerns raised by MP Tom Watson's "scrap the fee" campaign have been echoed by Greater Manchester Mayor and Police and Crime Commissioner Tony Lloyd who called on the support of his fellow PCCs to demand a fair process for abuse victims.

Tony said: "That victims of domestic abuse are even being asked to prove they are victims before they can access legal aid is insulting, insensitive and wholly unhelpful.

"It should not be a privilege for victims of domestic abuse to gain legal aid. There should be no further burden on victims to chase a letter to verify their claim. The government needs to scrap this fee by bringing the service under NHS funding or – better still – scrap the need for the letter entirely."

"I have requested an urgent meeting with Ministers to put an end to this practice. The government should scrap this unfair, immoral fee now. It has to stop."

16 PCCs, including Barry Coppinger have added their name to the letter to Jeremy Hunt, and Justice Secretary Liz Truss is also being urged to scrap the need for the letter all together.

Mr Coppinger said: "Entering the legal system as a domestic violence victim is already an incredibly brave thing to do and the last thing they need is to face financial difficulty in order to access legal aid.

"I fully support Mr Watson's campaign and I have contacted my partners in the Cleveland area who have advised that this is a common experience for many victims in our region.

"Victims suffer enough and GPs simply should not be allowed to charge them for access to the justice system."

Not all GPs apply these charges, and the amounts being charged vary. But to ensure that victims receive a consistent, equitable, and fair service across the UK, the campaign is calling for the service to be provided under the NHS so the fees are abolished.

**PCCs Call on
Jeremy Hunt to
"Scrap the Fee"
for Domestic
Violence
Doctor's Note**

Make Yourself Scam Aware at Special Training

Vulnerable members of the community and their families are being asked to get involved in a training session to help them spot the signs of costly scams.

National Trading Standards have developed the 'Friends Against Scams' campaign to prevent people being ripped off.

As part of the campaign, members of the public are invited to attend a training session at Cleveland Police Headquarters in Middlesbrough on Tuesday 28th February.

The session, delivered by Victim Care and Advice Service (VCAS), will identify the different types of scams, how to spot them and where to seek help if a scam takes place.

Participants will also receive an information pack, developed by home care service Home Instead, and a 'No Cold Caller' sticker for their front door.

PCC Barry Coppinger became a SCAMChampion after taking part in the same training earlier this month.

Police and Crime Commissioner for Cleveland, Barry Coppinger said: "The sophisticated and clever methods of modern scams means even the most clued-up people can be caught out.

"That's why it is so important we all have a greater understanding of how to spot the signs, which is why I took part in the training myself, so I too can spread the word about these costly crimes.

"I'm delighted VCAS are rolling this vital scheme out to vulnerable people in our community and look forward to meeting those who attend."

People interested in registering for the event can email pcc@cleveland.pnn.police.uk

If you're unable to attend the event and would prefer a one-to-one training session, this can also be arranged.





The Search is on for Cleveland's Next Cohort of Rookies!

Cleveland Police is looking for dynamic men and women to join the Force as new recruits.

Applicants from all backgrounds and ethnic groups are encouraged to apply, and are not limited to any particular age group. In fact, we welcome those who are looking for a career change.

Last year's cohort came from a wide variety of backgrounds, including former Special Constables and PCSOs, graduates, a former SSI steelworker, an electrician, a tennis coach and a lifeguard, people who worked in security and sales, a complaints manager, a chef and a factory worker.

The minimum age to apply is 18, and there is no upper age limit, though you should bear in mind that the normal retirement age for police constables and sergeants is 60. You should also be aware that all new recruits, whatever their age, are required to undertake a two-year probationary period.

The application process opens at 11.30am on Wednesday 8th March, and will remain open for three weeks or until 400 applications have been received – whichever comes first.

There are three events that prospective candidates can attend to get more information and ask any questions. These events will be held at Teesside University's Centurion building:

- **March 1st 6-8pm Room H0.01([Link](#))**
- **March 2nd 6-8pm Room H0.01 ([Link](#))**
- **March 3rd 6-8pm Room H01.01([Link](#))**

Police and Crime Commissioner Barry Copping added: "The issue of police officer numbers is always high on the agenda whenever I attend community meetings, so it is always great news when we are in a position to take on more officers.

"I am thrilled that these employment opportunities are open to local people, and I am sure that there are many talented people out there destined to be great officers."



Barry Coppinger

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