



# Barry Coppinger

## Police & Crime Commissioner for Cleveland

September 2017 Newsletter



### Commissioner calls on PM to "think again" over police funding



**New standards to  
protect female  
victims**



**Cleveland Police  
makes progress in  
handling complaints**



**Audit committee  
members wanted**

**“I continue to be encouraged by the progress being made by Cleveland Police in keeping people safe.**



“The Force was found to be improving in a number of reports this month by independent police watchdogs.

“There were improvements in handling complaints in a timely manner and good progress was noted in protecting children.

“However we mustn't be complacent and I will monitor the Force closely to ensure they implement recommendations made in both reports, as part of my on-going scrutiny process.

“I've also written to the Prime Minister this month calling for her to rethink the decision to give a police a bonus from local funds, rather than a central grant from the government.

“To afford this bonus, it is likely to mean a half million pound cut to our available budget over the next year.

“I will continue to pressure the government to prevent any further cuts to our budgets to ensure we can keep people in Cleveland safe.”

**Barry Coppinger**

**Police and Crime Commissioner for Cleveland**

## **WHAT'S NEW THIS MONTH**

- ⇒ Commissioner's September update
- ⇒ Cleveland Police makes progress in handling complaints
- ⇒ Commissioner calls on PM to 'think again' about police funding
- ⇒ Dip your toes into the world of policing
- ⇒ Collaboration discussed at seven force meeting
- ⇒ PCC speaks at new Flatts Lane run
- ⇒ PCC responds to HMIC Child Protection report
- ⇒ PCC unveils artwork at Stockton charity
- ⇒ Normanby allotments protected by padlocks
- ⇒ Applications now open for Cleveland Police Volunteers



## **'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:



- **Coulby Newham Community Council**  
Monday 2nd October, 19:00, Langdon Square Community Centre, Coulby Newham
- **Park End and Beckfield Community Council**  
Tuesday 10th October, 18:00, Southlands Centre



## **Cleveland Police makes progress in handling complaints**

Cleveland Police is making progress in its handling of complaints, according to a national report.

The Independent Police Complaints Commission (IPCC) released its annual complaint statistics relating to all police forces in England and Wales.

The statistics include the overall number of recorded complaints, the number and nature of reported allegations, the number of appeals received and how they were handled and the timeliness of complaint recording and how they were handled.

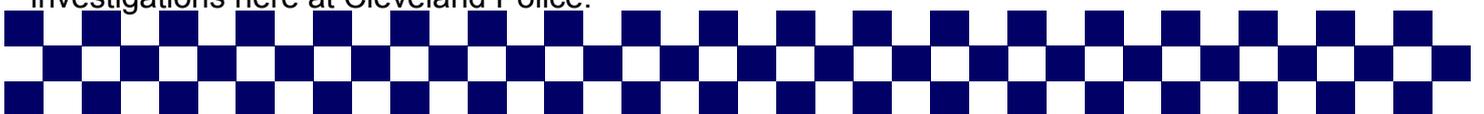
The report shows that Cleveland Police is improving when it comes to handling complaints in a timely manner; however the force is not complacent and is ambitious to continue to make further improvements.

Deputy Chief Constable Simon Nickless said: "This report demonstrates the very positive work that has been undertaken over a number of years to improve the delivery of complaints investigations here at Cleveland Police.

"These results are directly connected to the work of Cleveland Police and the office of the Police and Crime Commissioner to transform the way we look at issues of standards and ethics. We are in the process of establishing a new, modern, framework which further transforms how we deal with complaints and investigations and these results show the progress we are making. We are not complacent and will continue to strive to provide the best possible service to our communities in all areas of our work."

Police and Crime Commissioner for Cleveland, Barry Coppinger, said: "This report, by the independent police standards watchdog, is further evidence of the significant improvements made in recent times by Cleveland Police.

"I applaud the hard work of officers and staff who work hard to address public concerns and complaints as part of our move towards becoming a national beacon of best practice for police standards and ethics."





## **Commissioner calls on PM to "think again" over police funding**

**The PCC has criticised a Government announcement to award police officers with a 1% pay bonus using existing policing budgets.**

Police and Crime Commissioner Barry Copping has criticised the Government for effectively cutting the police budget to fund a one off bonus to officers.

Mr Copping believes police officers and staff should have been awarded a centrally funded pay rise that better reflected the "incredible" job of work they do.

The Government announced yesterday they are to fund a 1% pay rise for police officers with a further one-off bonus payment equivalent to another 1% to come from existing police budgets.

Mr Copping said: "It appears the Government is not providing the funding for this one-off bonus, which in Cleveland is likely to mean a half million pound cut to our available budget over the next year.

"Instead of robbing Peter to pay Paul, the

Government should recognise the incredible job that police officers and police staff do and fund a realistic pay rise."

Mr Copping is writing to Prime Minister Theresa May urging her to reconsider what is in effect a cut to police budgets.

"Despite losing over 400 officer posts and over £30m funding in recent years, Cleveland Police has made tremendous progress which has been recognised by Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary. This includes a financial plan to stabilise officer numbers and ensure the most vulnerable in society are protected" said Mr Copping.

"For the Government to now grab a further £500,000 from our budget is a slap in the face to hard working officers and staff and the public of Cleveland.

"Already we have received feedback from some



officers that they would rather not receive this bonus if it means a reduction in police officer numbers. They are showing more foresight than the Government with regard to the potential impact of this further cut.”

Mr Coppinger and Cleveland Chief Constable Iain Spittal met recently with the Policing and Fire Minister.

“We made very clearly the point that police officers and staff have suffered a real term reduction in pay in recent years and it was now time for the Government to properly recognise the vital and dedicated work that they do with a salary increase that was funded centrally, not

through further cuts to police budgets.

“I was concerned, though not surprised, at the recent Police Federation survey that revealed that low morale amongst officers was, in the main, a result of the way the Government has treated them pay wise. A 1% rise will do little to increase morale and the additional money taken from our budget will bring further pressure upon the police.

“Hopefully the Prime Minister will think again. In the meantime the Chief Constable and I will be doing everything we can to minimise the impact on the public.”

### **READ THE PCC'S LETTER TO THE PRIME MINISTER BELOW:**

Dear Prime Minister

I refer to the Home Secretary's letter of 12 September 2017 addressed to the Chair of the Police Remuneration Review Board (PRRB) in response to the recommendations of the PRRB dated 19 May 2017 in respect of federated and superintending rank police pay.

As Police & Crime Commissioner for Cleveland, I welcome the recognition given in the letter and in the associated announcement to Parliament, of the outstanding contribution made by police officers in keeping our communities safe. I note also the Chief Secretary's expression of support in Parliament for public sector workers, describing them as among the most extraordinarily talented and hardworking people in our society.

Whilst I align myself entirely with those sentiments, I have been struck by the level of concern expressed to me by police officers immediately upon news emerging of the structure of the pay award. Some have even expressed reluctance to accept any element of additional pay which might place local police finance under such pressure as to mean that the maintenance of current levels of police officer and police staff roles could be called into question.

As you will no doubt be aware, I met recently with the Policing Minister, together with the Chief Constable of Cleveland Police Iain Spittal. Alongside an important opportunity to highlight the excellent work of Cleveland Police officers and staff, we were able to convey to the Minister a sense of the significant challenges of policing the area. Amongst those challenges is the financial constraint placed upon police budgets in recent years which mean that Cleveland is policed with some £30m less overall funding and has borne reductions of over 400 police officers.

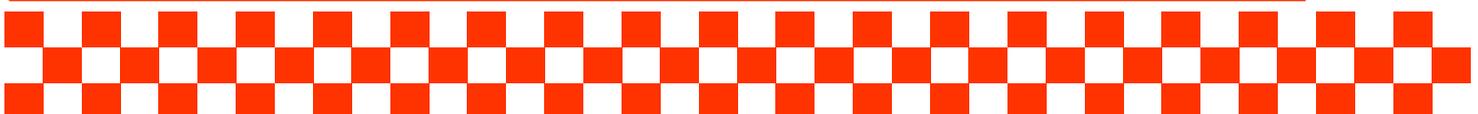
The Government's police pay settlement includes a one-off non-consolidated, non-pensionable allowance which is an additional cost pressure to be met locally and amounts, in practical effect, to a further (and unplanned) cut to police budgets. In Cleveland we have taken pride in planning and managing our finances efficiently and effectively, resulting in a sustainable long term financial plan which reduces our reserves to the minimum prudent level. We will find it very challenging indeed to absorb this additional cost.

I can recall no previous occasion when a Government has structured police officer pay proposals in this way, which simultaneously penalises those forces who manage their constrained finances well and gives officers the impression that they are not properly valued or recognised for their contribution.

In the circumstances, my purpose in writing is to invite you to urgently revisit the decision and to give favourable consideration to an improved pay offer on a fully funded basis.

I look forward to hearing from you.

Yours sincerely,





## **Dip your toes into the world of policing....**

### **Members are being sought for the Joint Independent Audit Committee, who advise the Chief Constable and the PCC.**

Five exceptional individuals are being recruited to put the world of police dogs, firearms, neighbourhood policing and major crime under the microscope as part of an independent audit committee.

The committee looks at all aspects of policing and advises the Police and Crime Commissioner and the Chief Constable of Cleveland Police about governance and risk.

This could be anything from assessing Taser use across the force to ensuring key Financial Controls are in place.

The group of five meets at least four times a year, and the PCC and Chief are seeking to appoint a Chair and four members, including a Vice Chair, for the next four years.

In line with guidance established when the PCC was first elected, the chair will receive an annual allowance of £3,400, the Vice Chair will receive £2,100 and other members receive £1,500.

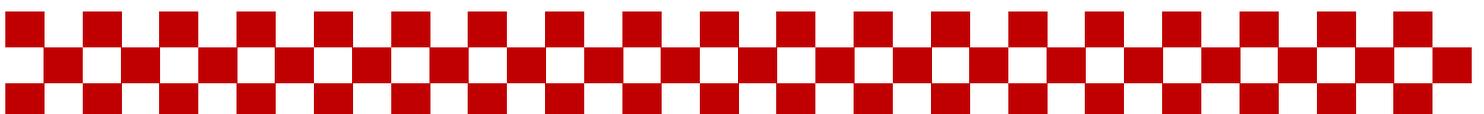
Chief of Staff for the Office of Police and Crime Commissioner, Simon Dennis, said: "This is an integral role at the helm of policing so it's really important that we attract the right people for the job.

"The Audit Committee plays a key role in enhancing public trust and confidence and assisting the Commissioner to hold Cleveland Police to account.

"The successful candidate must be able to demonstrate experience and knowledge of corporate governance issues and will have a passion for providing an excellent service to the people of Cleveland."

Further information on the roles and details on how to apply are available at <http://www.cleveland.pcc.police.uk/Information/Joint-Independent-Audit-Committee-Recruitment.aspx>

**Closing date for applications is 1st October.**



# Collaboration discussed at seven force meeting

**Chief Constables, Chief Executives and PCCs gathered at Cleveland Police HQ for the 'historical' meeting.**



Chief Constables, Chief Executives and PCCs from seven forces across the North of England gathered for a 'historical' meeting in Cleveland this month.

The North East Transformation, Innovation and Collaboration Symposium took place on 6 September 2017, with representatives from Cleveland Police, Northumbria Police, Durham

Constabulary, North Yorkshire Police, South Yorkshire Police, West Yorkshire Police and Humberside Police.

PCCs were also in attendance to discuss possible areas for innovation and collaboration.

PCC Barry Coppinger said: "There were positive discussions today during a historical meeting between PCCs, Chief Constables and Chief Executives of seven Northern forces.

"We agreed to work together to keep people safe, with a particular focus on better understanding and responding to cyber crime.

"The group have committed to further meetings and will develop governance going forward."

# PCC speaks at new Flatts Lane run

**The PCC hopes the new run at Flatts Lane will help the community reclaim the hills from criminals and vandals.**



PCC Barry Coppinger was a guest speaker at the start of the very first Flatts Lane parkrun this month.

The 5k route starts close the Visitors Centre

at Flatts Lane Woodland Country Park, heads along the old railway before returning through the woods back to the Visitor Centre for the start of the second lap.

Police and Crime Commissioner Barry Coppinger said a few words before the run about the multiagency work being done to reclaim the Eston Hills area from vandals and criminals.

Since establishing a special action group to tackle crime and disorder on the hills, dozens of bikes have been seized, burnt out cars have been taken away and action is being taken to install rock armour to prevent illegal road access.





## **PCC responds to HMIC Child Protection report**

**The report said that while Cleveland Police had made encouraging progress in child protection, there were still areas for improvement.**

“This independent report acknowledges the deep commitment to child protection that is evident within Cleveland Police and my own office.

“The headline summary of the report is that the work being done in this area by the force is successfully improving outcomes for vulnerable children and translating into positive action in child protection work.

“This is the latest in a series of independent reports across many areas of force activity which have reached the clear conclusion that Cleveland Police is improving and delivering a better service to local people. It is a clear reflection of the dedicated work of police officers and staff which should be welcomed by all and applauded.

“The report also highlights areas for improvement and I intend to do all I can to ensure that this improvement takes place.

“On behalf of the public of Cleveland I hold the Force to account - I shall be holding a full

scrutiny session in which senior officers will be called to address the areas of concern raised in this report and to outline clear steps that will be taken to tackle these areas – and build upon improvements that have already been made since the HMI inspected the Force. Where child protection is concerned there can be no complacency.

“Let no-one be in any doubt, with more resources we could do more to protect the vulnerable, cuts to funding and officer numbers impact upon our ability to do this.

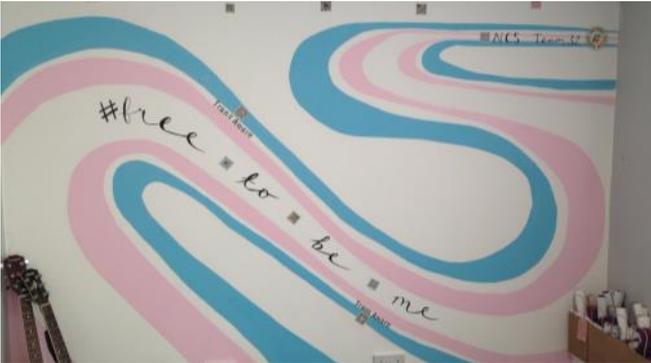
“In the past fortnight central Government has effectively removed £500,000 from our budget in order to fund a bonus to officers. To fund this we will have to take money allocated elsewhere.

“Cleveland Police will do all they can to protect local children. What is also required is for central Government to show that same resolve and I shall again be making clear to the Home Secretary that cuts to the police budget must end if we are to pro-actively protect children and the most vulnerable in society.”



# PCC unveils artwork at Stockton charity

The PCC visited Trans Aware in Stockton to unveil artwork created by North East NCS participants.



Police and Crime Commissioner Barry Copping visited a Stockton charity this month to unveil a piece of art created by young people.

Participants from the National Citizenship Service (NCS) created the mural as part of their social action project.

The PCC has worked closely with Trans Aware, with the organisation regularly delivering Awareness sessions to officers and staff at Cleveland Police.

Mr Copping said: "I was delighted to be able to unveil this artwork at Trans Aware this month and I'm extremely impressed with the dedication displayed by the young people behind the piece.

"The partnership between Trans Aware and the NCS has proven to be fruitful on another occasion, with another group of participants creating a moving video about trans issues.

"You can watch it here: [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NliXT67y\\_8](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NliXT67y_8)"

# Normanby allotments protected by padlocks

The group applied for funding from the PCC after a number of break-ins and thefts from the site in recent months.

A group of allotment holders in Normanby have received new padlocks to keep their property safe from vandals and thieves.

Normanby Allotment Association raised the issue with the PCC at a Neighbourhood Action Partnership meeting, after falling foul to criminals on a number of occasions.

They then applied for a small grant from the PCC's Community Safety Fund - with the aim of purchasing a number of alarmed padlocks to secure their property.

The group were successful with their application and received 46 new locks for the Normanby site and another allotment at Teesville.

PCC Barry Copping said: "I'm pleased allotment holders in Normanby were



successful in applying for a grant from the Community Safety Fund.

"The fund is designed to help small groups make themselves less vulnerable to crime and prevent any crime occurring in the future.

"I'm confident that with these new locks, allotment holders in Normanby and Teesville will reduce their chances of becoming victims of crime."



# New set of standards for victims of abuse

**The standards were launched by Cleveland Women's Network this month and will be used domestic and sexual abuse services.**

Women affected by violence and abuse will benefit from a new set of service standards to ensure all victims across Cleveland receive equal levels of support.

Launched by Cleveland Women's Network this month, Cleveland Minimum Standards will set the benchmark for the type of service that should be made available to all female victims of abuse and violence in Cleveland.

The standards – which a number of service providers will abide by– call for dignified and respectful support and a commitment to ensuring victims receive the help they need as soon as possible and throughout the longer term.

Cleveland Women's Network steering group is a partnership of the key voluntary and community organisations that specialise in helping victims of domestic and sexual violence.



The aim of the Network is to tackle inequalities and violence against women, in an area where collectively they help over 6500 women and girls who suffer domestic violence and abuse each year.



## Victim Care and Advice Service - Cleveland Durham and Darlington

If you are a victim of crime, or are concerned about someone who has been, call us now for help and advice on:

Freephone:

**0303 040 1099**

Email:

**0303 040 1099**

This is a free, independent and confidential service supported by the Cleveland and Durham Police and Crime Commissioners.





## **Applications now open for Cleveland Police Volunteers**

### **Cleveland Police are looking for around 49 people in various roles.**

Applications are now open for police volunteers in a number of exciting roles within Cleveland Police.

The Force is looking to recruit around 49 people in roles such as Community Support Volunteer, Vehicle Checking Volunteer, Duty Support Volunteer and Volunteer Manager.

Cleveland Police currently has 25 volunteers within the Force, who all take an active part in assisting police officers, police staff and the wider community. Volunteering for the police service is a fantastic way to gain new skills, boost confidence and become part of a fun team..

Assistant Chief Constable Jason Harwin said: "Volunteers bring a raft of enthusiasm, talent and local knowledge which helps us to continue to deliver an excellent service to our communities.

"Volunteering within the police service is

extremely rewarding and there are numerous benefits including the ability to gain worthwhile experience and the satisfaction of making a real difference in our communities."

Head of Volunteering, Richard Baldwin, said: "We already have some fantastic volunteers who are doing some worthwhile work for the police and local communities.

"We want to add to our team and would encourage people to apply. It doesn't matter if you haven't been a volunteer before, or can only give a few hours a week as all the opportunities that we have available should prove an interesting challenge.

"We have a number of roles available and are keen to welcome dedicated and passionate people into Cleveland Police."

All roles will be subject to vetting, anyone wanting more information or to apply can visit [www.cleveland.police.uk/careers](http://www.cleveland.police.uk/careers).





**Barry Coppinger**

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