



Barry Coppinger

Police & Crime Commissioner for Cleveland

April 2018 Newsletter



PCC welcomes would-be PCSOs on new programme



**Cleveland at the
forefront of tackling
Child Sexual
Exploitation**



**Ground-breaking
Community Safety Hub
due for completion**



**Commissioner calls
for fairer funding for
Cleveland Police**

“I was disappointed earlier this month to hear Home Secretary Amber Rudd claim that the rise in violent crime was not as result of cuts to police budgets.



“In Cleveland, there can be no doubt that the impact of government cuts has left the police facing increasing demand and fewer resources with which to tackle it. The public tell me regularly that they would like to see more officers on the beat, and I wholeheartedly agree.

“That’s why I’ve made yet another public plea to government this month to call for fairer funding for areas like Cleveland, where there are crippling demands on police resources.

“Listening to the public is an important part of my responsibility as PCC, so I’m keen to promote the National Rural Crime Survey. This is a chance for residents to highlight the true impact of crime in rural areas.

“And finally, an opportunity to help me carry out my scrutiny of how police treat detainees in custody. I am looking for new volunteers who can spare time to visit custody suites unannounced and report back on what they find.

“For more details visit my website and search ‘Independent Custody Visitors.’”

Barry Coppinger

Police and Crime Commissioner for Cleveland

WHAT’S NEW THIS MONTH

- ⇒ Commissioner’s May update
- ⇒ PCC calls for fairer funding for Cleveland Police
- ⇒ Cleveland Police rated as Good by HMIC
- ⇒ Cleveland at the forefront of tackling Child Sexual Exploitation
- ⇒ Ground-breaking Community Safety Hub nears completion
- ⇒ PCC and Force support National Stalking Awareness Week
- ⇒ Rural communities urged to complete survey and get their voices heard
- ⇒ PCC welcomes would-be PCSOs on new pre-employment programme
- ⇒ PCC seeks volunteers to assess the welfare of detainees in custody



‘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:



- **Parkfield Residents Group**
Tuesday 8th May, 19:00, Yarm Road, Stockton
- **Greatham Parish Council**
Monday 21st May, 18:30, Greatham Community Centre



Commissioner calls for fairer funding for Cleveland Police to help protect communities

Barry Copping has called on Home Secretary Amber Rudd to reverse the repeated cuts to police funding to allow more officers to be deployed on neighbourhood beats.

Mr Copping has corrected the Home Secretary on her reported suggestion that police cuts have not coincided with rising crime. He said police officers and staff have responded magnificently to the increasing strain they work under but violent crime resulting in injury has risen by one third in Cleveland in recent years and public safety demanded the situation could not continue.

In the past seven years Cleveland Police has seen its funding from central Government fall by 36% - that's £39m in real terms and has resulted in the loss of 500 police posts.

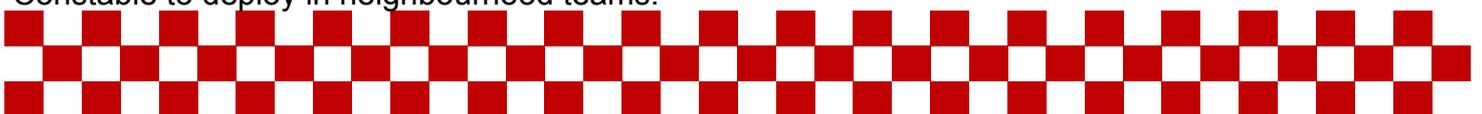
In addition to the cuts, there has been top slicing of the budget to fund national initiatives. This is important work but again reduces the number of officers available to the Chief Constable to deploy in neighbourhood teams.

Police workload has also increased due to the strain caused by cutbacks in other public sector budgets.

Mr Copping said: "Officers and staff at all levels have responded magnificently to meet the extra burden this has resulted in and their performance has been recognised in recent inspections by the police watchdog HMICFRS where our neighbourhood police work has been flagged up as an example of best practice.

"That said, there can be no doubt that the fall in police numbers has coincided with a rise in violent crime in Cleveland. It is simply wrong of the Home Secretary to suggest otherwise.

"Last year I called on anyone in a position of influence to join in calling for fairer funding for Cleveland Police. This campaign is gathering momentum and it is important that pressure is maintained. I am in regular contact with local MPs and councillors of all political parties and I shall continue to urge them to use whatever influence they can to increase police numbers."





Cleveland Police rated as "Good" by independent watchdog for second year

Cleveland Police has been assessed by HMICFRS as being a "Good" Force for the second year running.

Individual inspections in 2017 and early 2018 looked at efficiency, legitimacy and effectiveness; the judgements from each inspection were then brought together with other findings and information to produce a rounded annual assessment of Cleveland Police.

Reporting on Efficiency and Leadership in November last year, Inspectors concluded the Force is "Good" at keeping people safe and has strong and effective leadership.

It highlighted the Force's strength in forward planning, understanding demand, listening to and receiving feedback from its workforce, seeking and implementing new ideas and effective partnership working.

A Legitimacy report published in December 2017 detailed how the Force's officers and staff treat people. While acknowledging that there were some areas for improvement, it stated that Everyone Matters (the Force's organisational development programme delivering on equality, diversity and human rights), and the

Transforming Professional Standards process (which has delivered an innovative, ground breaking Directorate of Standards and Ethics) were having a positive effect.

The Effectiveness inspection focused on areas of policing where risk to the public was most acute, including preventing crime and tackling antisocial behaviour, protecting vulnerable people and specialist capabilities. Inspectors again gave a "Good" ranking for the Force in how it keeps people safe and reduces crime.

PCC Barry Coppinger said: "Today's report makes pleasant reading in the main and it is clear evidence of the excellent progress the Force is making.

"The inspector has recognised the progress we have made in our approach to dealing with people and complaints. This is ongoing work and I know that further improvement is needed.

"I echo the Chief Constable in his desire to see Cleveland Police as an outstanding Force and I firmly believe there is the drive, energy and commitment right across the organisation for this to happen."





Cleveland at the forefront of tackling Child Sexual Exploitation

Criminal justice agencies across Cleveland will be better informed about how to prevent child sexual offences thanks to pioneering research funded by the Police and Crime Commissioner for Cleveland and the Big Lottery.

The research, called *Motivations of Child Sexual Exploitation Offenders: Disrupt, Treat, Manage?*, was completed by Barefoot Research and examines the backgrounds, motivations and approaches of offenders, as well identifying possible points of intervention.

The research has proved so ground breaking that over 200 delegates from across the country attended a conference held in Middlesbrough, during which the findings were shared and discussed.

During this initial study, Dr Christopher Hartworth and his team carried out a series of interviews with local male offenders who have been convicted of child sexual exploitation.

A number of themes emerged through the interviews and it is hoped this information can be used to shape future strategies to reduce offending and improve victim response.

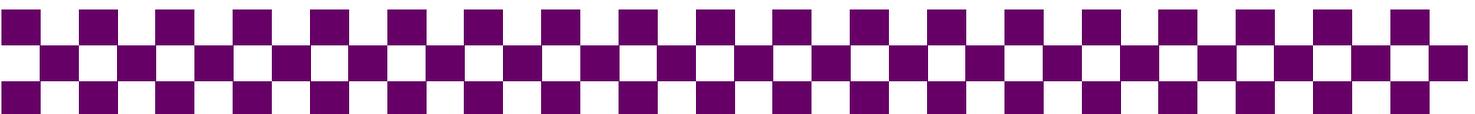
Key findings highlight the need to introduce warnings on online portals such as dating sites to deter potential offenders and offer specialist support for those at risk of offending.

The research developed out of a realisation that little attempt had been made to consult with those who perpetrate exploitation, other than during police interviews, which may be a significant omission in efforts to address the crime and its effects.

Barry Coppinger, Police and Crime Commissioner for Cleveland, said: "Protecting the vulnerable is a central pillar of my Police and Crime Plan and the Force will leave no stone unturned in its determination to bring to justice anyone guilty of child sexual exploitation.

"At the same time it is important that we better understand why people offend in this way and what can be done to protect potential victims, prevent re-offending and deter others from going down this path.

"Already this research has uncovered themes within offending that will prove extremely useful in tackling this issue in Cleveland."





Ground-breaking Community Safety Hub due for completion

The construction of the new Community Safety Hub is nearing completion and is due to house staff this summer.

The building, based in Hemlington in Middlesbrough, will accommodate the Force control room, specialist services, Cleveland Police Executive Team and the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner, as well as having meeting space for the public and partners. Up to 350 people will pass through the building on a daily basis.

The first phase of staff moving into the building is expected in early July, with remaining staff moving in a phased approach throughout July and August.

After consultation with internal and external parties, it was decided that the road leading to the Community Safety Hub will be named Cliffland Way, a symbol of the area's history and heritage. 'Cliffland' is the old Nordic name for Cleveland.

Work is on-going to install state of the art IT and equipment ready for the arrival of the Force control room and other specialist teams, enabling them to manage major incidents and key policing operations.

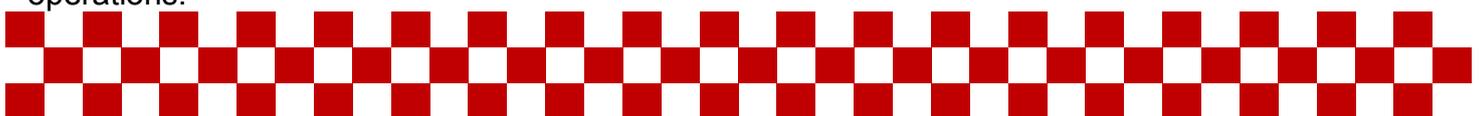
A number of local partners, including Middlesbrough Institute for Modern Art (MIMA), Stockton Riverside College and Kirkclevington Grange Prison, have supported the creation of innovative artwork and furniture to be used in the building.

The public have submitted almost 150 images to the PCC's photography competition to find photographs capturing the spirit and beauty of the Cleveland area, for display in meeting rooms and the public café.

Police and Crime Commissioner for Cleveland, Barry Coppinger, said: "I'm delighted with the progress that is being made with the Community Safety Hub and very much look forward to moving to the new building.

"We have created an inspiring and motivating space for those who work in the building, and there will also be opportunities for the Hub to be used by local people alongside staff, officers and partner agencies."

"The summer will be a busy time as people begin to move into the new building, but it is a challenge that we are looking forward to."



PCC reaffirms commitment to tackling stalking

16-20 April marked National Stalking Awareness Week, which raises awareness about stalking and harassment.



Cleveland Police and the force's Police and Crime Commissioner have reiterated its support for victims of stalking and harassment.

PCC Barry Coppinger has long demonstrated his commitment to raising awareness of stalking and funding practical support to the force.

He has made a commitment to funding stalking provision in his Police and Crime Plan, and stalking and harassment forms part of the

regional PCC's (Cleveland, Durham and Northumbria) Violence against Women and Girls Strategy.

PCC Barry Coppinger said: "Supporting victims of stalking is a priority of mine and anyone affected by stalking and harassment can receive support and advice from the Victim Care and Advice Service, funded by my office and Durham OPCVC.

"It's vital that all our officers understand stalking behaviours, how to identify online and offline risk, and stalking legislation. It is equally vital that people who face stalking and harassment know there is help and support available to them and that they should come forward and report it at the earliest possible stage."

Anyone affected by stalking or harassment can contact Victim Care and Advice Service on 0303 040 1099.

Rural communities - we want to hear from you!

A national survey has been launched to assess the reality of crime and disorder in rural communities.

It's three years since the last National Rural Crime Survey revealed the huge cost of crime to rural communities - both financial, at £800 million per year, and fear, with chronic under-reporting, anger and frustration at the police and government.

The National Rural Crime Network produced a series of recommendations and, as in many areas, the police took steps to improve matters. So, now, we want to know what's changed.

**Do you think crime has gone up or down?
Do you feel safer? What's your view of the police in your community?**

In short, we want to know the true picture of crime and anti-social behaviour in rural



communities across England and Wales - and the impact it has where you live or work.

[Click here to complete the survey](#)

The survey is open for submissions until Sunday 10 June.





Deputy Chief Constable and PCC welcome would-be PCSOs

Cleveland Police's Deputy Chief Constable, Simon Nickless and Police and Crime Commissioner, Barry Coppinger have welcomed and met twelve would-be PCSOs who are currently on a pilot four week pre-employment programme.

Deputy Chief Constable Simon Nickless opened the four week course last week, welcoming those who been successful in their application through their Job Centre Plus.

The innovative scheme, which is in partnership with Equality North East, Gateshead College and Job Centre Plus, means participants learn how PCSOs work within the Force, while also covering topics such as ethics and communication skills.

The programme has already covered areas such as "A day in the life of a PCSO", problem solving and ethics and subjects including communication skills and customer service to follow, meaning participants have a busy couple of weeks ahead.

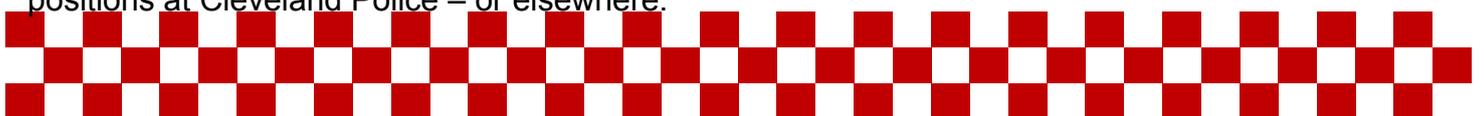
Everyone who is successful in completing the course will then be eligible to apply for PCSO positions at Cleveland Police – or elsewhere.

DCC Simon Nickless said: "I was delighted to welcome everyone to Police Headquarters and enjoyed meeting and speaking to all the pre-employment course attendees. This is a new initiative for the Force and so far feedback from participants has been extremely positive.

"I hope the people on the pre-employment course will be inspired to apply for PCSO positions in the near future!"

PCC Barry Coppinger, added: "The work PCSOs do in our communities is absolutely vital; they build relationships between the Force and residents of all ages and backgrounds and they do an excellent job supporting neighbourhood policing teams. I have recently funded a number of specialist roles, such as Schools Liaison Officers, and they are already making a real difference.

"This new recruitment initiative aims to encourage those who may not have traditionally considered a career in policing. It's vital that our workforce reflects the diverse communities we serve and I hope that future programmes will attract interest from underrepresented groups."





PCC seeks volunteers to check the welfare of people in custody

The Police and Crime Commissioner for Cleveland is looking for volunteers to take part in a vital scheme that gives them behind the scenes access to police custody.

Independent Custody Visitors (ICVs) are members of the local community who make unannounced visits to custody to ensure detainees are being treated fairly and appropriately.

The PCC is seeking new recruits to work in Cleveland Police's custody suites in Middlehaven and Hartlepool.

Visitors will be expected to speak with people detained in custody, check their welfare and the conditions in which they are being held and submit reports on their visits.

They must be over 18 and have no direct involvement in the criminal justice system, for example, serving police officers or special constables. Other people such as solicitors or probation officers may also be excluded.

PCC Barry Coppinger said: "Becoming an

Independent Custody Visitor is a brilliant opportunity for members of the public to provide independent scrutiny to ensure detainees in Cleveland custody suites are being treated fairly.

"Local communities should have confidence in the way the police treat people in custody and it's important to me that I am seen to be holding the Force to account in keeping detainees safe.

"This is an exciting opportunity for the public to have unrestricted access to custody and I would urge anyone with an interest in seeing how it works to consider applying. You will be carrying out a crucial role in protecting the rights and wellbeing of those in custody."

To complete an application form or learn more about becoming an ICV visit: <https://www.cleveland.pcc.police.uk/Take-Part/Independent-Custody-Visiting-Scheme.aspx>

There is no closing date for this opportunity and applications will be assessed monthly.





Barry Coppinger

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