



FUTURE LEADERS?,...Young people are our future, according to PCC Barry Copping. The Youth Commission lets them develop leadership skills.

July 2020 NEWSLETTER

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UPDATE FROM BARRY COPPINGER

POLICE AND CRIME COMMISSIONER FOR CLEVELAND

PCC's Welcome

AT this time of year, most of us would normally be thinking of summer holidays.

Perhaps we would be looking forward to a week or two off work in sunnier climes.

However, this summer is proving to be far from normal in a number of ways.

With the fast-evolving COVID-19 situation, we are now moving into the next stage of recovery from the pandemic.

As more businesses are re-opening, we are being urged to go back to work.

While everyday concerns have come flooding back, they are against a backdrop of social distancing and the fear that an upsurge in corona virus

cases may lead to a local lockdown or second wave of infections.

My office is facing similar challenges.

Maintaining business as usual while ensuring staff and public are as safe as possible.



Our work reflects this divide. While we are forging ahead with exciting, new initiatives such as the Youth Commission and Safer Streets' crime prevention, much of our attention is focussed on dealing with the fall-out from COVID-19.

Many commissioned services have seen an upsurge in referrals. We have received some extra funding but it is now my duty to ensure services survive and recover from the pressures put on them.

CLEVELAND YOUTH COMMISSION

YOUNG people in Cleveland will soon have the chance to influence decisions on crime, community safety and policing.

Recruitment for the new Commission, established by the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner, has just been launched.

Cleveland Youth Commission on Police and Crime will give up to 25 young people aged 14 to 25 the chance to support, challenge and inform the work of Police and Crime Commissioner for Cleveland (PCC) Barry Copping.

Meeting every four weeks until March 2021, the Commission will seek the views of other young people on policing and crime, plan events and help to host the first Cleveland Youth Commission Conference. The conference will be attended by senior leaders from the police and other agencies.

All activities are designed to fit around school, work, college or university.

At the end of the project, the young people will publish a report into the policing and community safety priorities of young people in living in Cleveland.

Interested individuals have until 28 August to apply for a role on the Commission and the project will be conducted virtually until it is safe to do so face-to-face.

PCC Barry Copping said: "I am really excited to be launching a



RAISING CONCERNS....Youth Commissioners make their voices heard with community leaders.

Commission for young people interested in influencing how policing and community safety operates in their area.

"This project will allow us to not only seek the views of a group often under-represented in consultations, but also to represent a range of diverse views within that group and create a lasting piece of work which will be considered when new schemes and policies are developed."

Mr Copping has partnered with youth engagement experts Leaders Unlocked to ensure young people

have the chance to make their priorities known.

The organisation has helped to set up 10 youth commissions with PCCs around the UK since 2013, including Cheshire, Cumbria, Hampshire & Isle of Wight, Leicestershire, Nottinghamshire, Norfolk, North Yorkshire, Staffordshire, Sussex and North Wales.

Kaytea Budd-Brophy, Senior Manager at Leaders Unlocked, said: "We are delighted to be working with Police and Crime Commissioner Barry Copping and to launch the Cleveland Youth Commission.



MAKING PLANS....Youth Commissioners put together a plans for tackling their top priorities

YOUTH COMMISSION: YOUR FUTURE, YOUR SAY

"This is an exciting opportunity open to young people 14-25 years old living in Cleveland.

"The Youth Commission enables young people to have a stronger voice on important issues that affect them.

"Young people are our future leaders and the youth commission offers the chance to gain skills, provides a platform to influence decision making on police and crime prevention and make a difference to the community."

Young people interested in joining Cleveland Youth Commission on Police and Crime can find out more and apply by visiting the PCC's website:

<https://www.cleveland.pcc.police.uk/Take-Part/Cleveland-Youth-Commission-on-Police-and-Crime.aspx>

What does it take to be a Youth Commissioner

THE OPCC for Cleveland is looking for young people to join the new Youth Commission.

To be eligible you must:

- Live in Stockton, Hartlepool, Middlesbrough or Redcar and Cleveland;
- Be aged 14-25 years old;
- Commit to the project and willing to take part in all activities;
- Be a team player

To apply: complete a written application form. A short, telephone interview will follow.

Time for action!

Recruitment starts: 22 July 2020

Deadline for Entries: 28 August 2020

Outcome of Shortlisting: 1 September 2020

Youth Commission Launch: 5 September 2020

First Youth Commission Event: 3 October 2020
*4 events on Saturdays during the commission's session.

Launch of the Big Conversation*: 26 October 2020
*Consultation with peer group

Final Report and Conference: 3 March 2021



HALO PROJECT....Breaking the chain of cultural-based violence and abuse

LOCKDOWN MISERY FOR BAME WOMEN

BLACK, Asian and Minority Ethnic women in Cleveland have shared stories of the harrowing abuse they've faced during the Covid-19 lockdown.

The women shared their stories anonymously to mark the National Day of Memory for Victims of Honour Killings. They hoped sharing their experiences would encourage other isolated victims to come forward and seek help - despite the cultural barriers they may face.

All of the victims are currently being supported by the Halo Project, a service commissioned by the Police and Crime Commissioner. Halo delivers support for women experiencing illegal cultural harms, including forced marriage, honour-based violence and female genital mutilation.

Speaking this month, one of the victims said: "I reported a few incidents of violence to the police and never had the courage to actually leave my abusive relationship.

"My partner has gone on holiday to India and whilst he was away, I have built courage to leave.

"I am living in a flat provided by the local authority, however I'm so happy for the support I have received from Halo. I hope to move away from the area before he comes back and to start a new life."

Another victim said: "I was living with my mum during lockdown who was my perpetrator,. The abuse got more difficult to cope with during Covid-19 as I could not go out to college or work.

"I called Halo and got support and left my situation with their help.

"I am in a bed and breakfast now until I get my own place. However, I am so happy to be out of that situation and in my own space abuse-free.

"My Halo worker helped me with the move and emotionally supported me."

The Middlesbrough-based charity has supported clients from more than 30 different Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic backgrounds, including many from Cleveland's large South Asian community.

The service has recently launched a web-chat service, giving victims access to specialist support remotely and safely, at a time when many

HALO OFFERS HELPING HAND TO WOMEN

may still be trapped with their perpetrators.

Halo Project Chief Executive Yasmin Khan said: "Victims should not suffer alone and in silence.

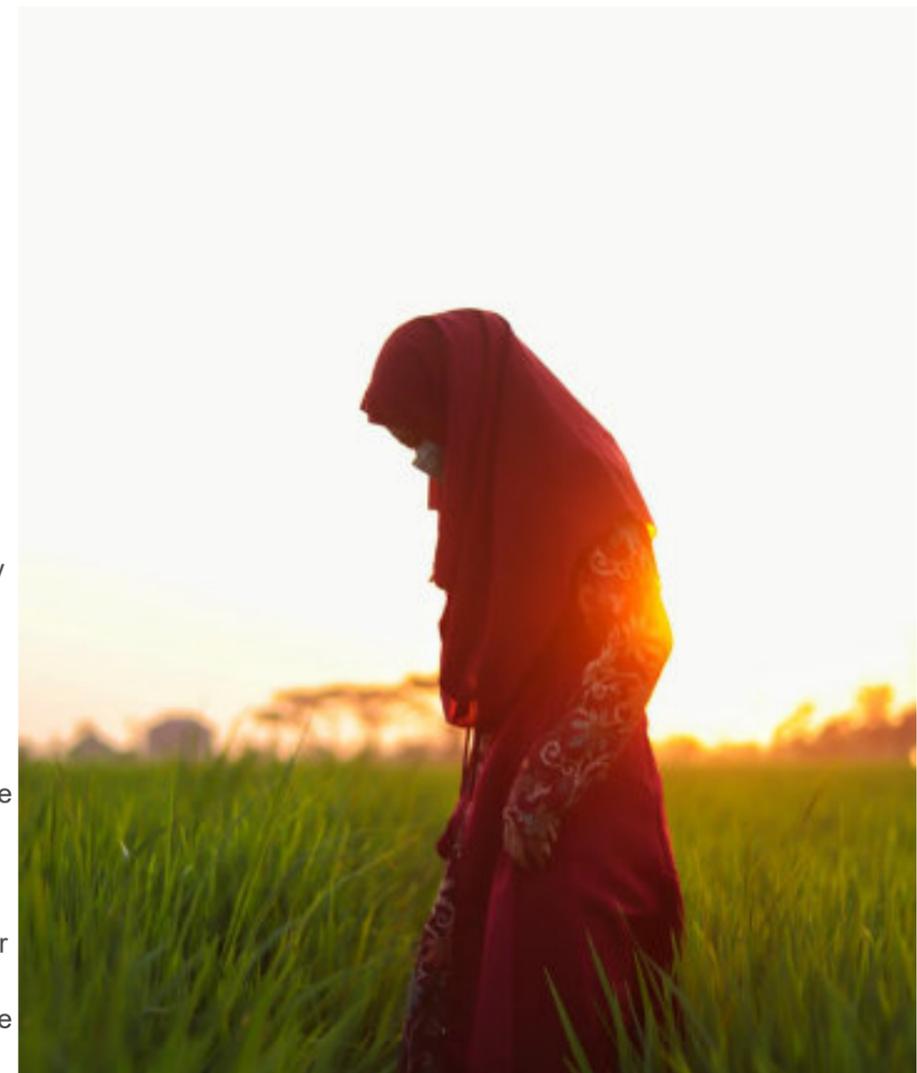
"It is imperative that we keep improving our service to women and girls and that we reach out and offer safe, confidential, and different ways for them to access the vital help they need."

Police and Crime Commissioner Barry Copping recently extended the charity's contract for another 12 months.

He said: "It's difficult to hear about the terrible experiences some victims have faced during the Covid-19 lockdown.

"It is a comfort to hear that these women reached out to Halo Project for support, but there may be so many more women in Cleveland who may be suffering in silence, for fear of cultural or personal repercussions.

"By commissioning a specialist service like the Halo Project, we can ensure victims engage with staff who understand the cultural elements of their story and ensure they get the discreet support and advice they need."



LANGUAGE BARRIER....Many of the women, who HALO helps, do not speak English

YASMIN'S STORY*

"I was separated for over three years.

"However, my husband was living next door to me.

During the COVID-19 lockdown, he became very aggressive towards me and the children.

"He also had his family on his side and I was alone with the kids.

"There was violence from him and his entire family.

"I had to call the police one night

as it became unbearable. I didn't know what else to do as I did not speak English.

"When the police came, I had to get my six-year-old to explain the situation.

"I am so grateful they made a referral to Halo as I got a Halo worker, who speaks my language and understood me."

***Not the victim's real name.**

£1M BOOST TO PROVIDE SAFER STREETS

AREAS most at risk from theft will receive a boost in crime prevention measures, thanks to £1m-plus in Government funding.

Initiatives will include alley gates, increased CCTV and street lighting.

The Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner has secured £1,034,696 from the Home Office's Safer Streets Fund, which aims to prevent acquisitive crimes like theft, robbery and burglary.

The project will target the Newport area of Middlesbrough, Hartlepool's Burn Valley, including Oxford Road and adjacent 'ladder' streets, and South Bank in Redcar and Cleveland. Areas were selected due to relatively high levels of crime.

A range of measures will be brought in to protect communities from crime, including enhanced CCTV coverage, alley gate improvement schemes, metal shutters and improved lighting.

The area's most vulnerable households will receive home security provisions and funding will be provided for Neighbourhood Watch schemes and dedicated Victim Care Officers.

Police and Crime Commissioners (PCCs) were invited to make a maximum of three bids to the fund. Cleveland's bid was led by the Commissioner's Office in partnership with local councils, Cleveland Police, Cleveland Fire Brigade and Victim Care and Advice Service.



SAFER STREETS.....PCC Barry Coppinger backing plans to gate alleys

The project is due to end on 31 March 2021. Its success will be measured by how well the additional provisions reduce levels of theft-related crime.

Police and Crime Commissioner Barry Coppinger said: "I'm delighted that we've successfully worked with our partners to secure this sizeable investment in crime prevention measures for our most at-risk communities.

"To have successfully pulled these bids together as we were coming to terms with a global pandemic is testament to the dedication of those

working to keep our communities safe.

"This project is all about preventing acquisitive crime before it happens. This funding will allow us to refresh existing crime prevention measures and to install new equipment to deter criminals from victimising communities.

"Through Neighbourhood Watch and community cohesion programmes, we want to foster good relationships between neighbours, ensuring residents feel they're part of a safer and stronger community."

BACKING STIFFER SENTENCES



EVERYONE MATTERS IN CLEVELAND

PCC Barry Coppinger has backed plans for tougher sentences for assaults on emergency workers.

The Sentencing Council and Ministry of Justice are currently consulting on increasing the maximum penalty for assaults on police and prison officers, paramedics and firefighters from one to two years in prison.

Mr Coppinger will submit his support to the consultation next week and has written to Cleveland's six MPs asking them to join him in supporting the proposed changes.

To show solidarity with blue light workers, Mr Coppinger has arranged for the emergency services' flag to be flown at the Community Safety Hub during the consultation.

Mr Coppinger said: "Abuse or assault should never be a normal part of the job for emergency workers, who so often put themselves in harm's way to protect our communities."

IN last month's newsletter, we introduced the PCC's new equality, diversity & inclusion (EDI) team Everyone Matters.

Over the past month, the team has started to develop training. It has also had to use new and innovative methods of delivery in response to Covid-19 and social distancing measures.

Training in unconscious bias is already a mandatory part of the Cleveland Force's cultural awareness programme. Up to 70 members of staff attend sessions each month.

As a result of social distancing, use of a digital platform for unconscious bias training will be

piloted in the coming months. Training has been produced by Professor Alexandros Psychogios from Birmingham University.

The Black Lives Matter movement has highlighted the need for action to tackle racism and inequality.

In Cleveland, Everyone Matters is collaborating with Show Racism the Red Card to deliver training to Cleveland Police Incident Response Teams (IRT). Sessions will enhance frontline officers' understanding of the diverse communities, which they serve, and ensure that they are able to act as anti-racist role models.

As Neighbourhood Policing Teams (NPTs) are re-developed and

introduced across the force, Everyone Matters is fully committed to support and re-develop officers' induction training. The team is making sure every officer embarking on a NPT role is supported and joins their team equipped with the knowledge of a wide range of key equality, diversity and inclusion issues.

In the coming months, Everyone Matters will be developing a learning and development programme on faith.

The team will be contacting places of worship to establish, where officers and staff can go to gain a greater understanding of the diverse religions and beliefs practised across Cleveland.

PUBLIC ENGAGEMENTS DURING JULY 2020

THE Police and Crime Commissioner has tried to maintain business as usual during the pandemic. This is a selection of the meetings, which he has attended virtually over the past month:

- 2 July:** Tees Rural Crime Forum
- 3 July:** Middlesbrough Local Outbreak Engagement Board
- 7 July:** Cleveland Police and Crime Panel
- 13 July:** Cleveland Strategic Hate Crime & Incidents Group
- 14 July:** Cleveland Durham Local Criminal Justice Partnership Meeting
- 14 July:** Strategic Independent Advisory Group (IAG)
- 15 July:** Association of Police and Crime Commissioners (APCC) Virtual Annual General Meeting
- 17 July:** Middlesbrough Local Outbreak Engagement Board
- 30 July:** Senior Leaders Breakfast Forum
- 30 July:** APCC Meeting to discuss Local Criminal Justice Board issues around COVID
- 31 July** Middlesbrough Local Outbreak Engagement Board



SERVICE CONSULTATION: BAME COMMUNITY

MEMBERS of the Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic (BAME) community in Cleveland – and the agencies who support them – are being asked for their views on a new service for victims.

A short survey has been developed to help inform the commissioning of a support service for victims of illegal cultural harms, including forced marriage, honour-based violence and female genital mutilation.

An existing service is delivered by Middlesbrough-based charity the Halo Project. The OPCC and Middlesbrough Council are working together to fund a new service from December 2020 and want to hear from the BAME community and agencies who would value support.

To take the survey

Members of the BAME community should go to: <https://bit.ly/2EIUNQT>

People working with members of the BAME community, should go to: <https://bit.ly/30QEQK0>

To invite the PCC to your community meeting or event, please contact Sarah Wilson, Commissioner's Officer for Consultation and Engagement on sarah.wilson@cleveland.pnn.police.uk or 01642 301446.

KEEP IN TOUCH

The PCC's newsletter is distributed every month. For a full range of news about the work of his Office, please visit our website, or follow us on Facebook and Twitter. If you have any feedback or comments about the newsletter, please contact Judith Dunn, Support Worker for Communications, by email to judith.dunn@cleveland.pnn.police.uk

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