



Police and Crime Commissioner for Cleveland

# Annual Report 2020

# Key events



**April 2019**  
**Arrival of Chief Constable Richard Lewis**



**May 2019**  
**Commissioner publishes his latest Police and Crime Plan**



**June 2019**  
**Strategic direction issued by PCC to dramatically improve Cleveland Police and deepen police scrutiny**



**August 2019**  
**Knife Angel arrives for four-week stay in Middlesbrough**



**October 2019**  
**Heroin Assisted Treatment Scheme launched**



**January 2020**  
**Cleveland Police drone unit launched**



**February 2020**  
**Regional Serious Violence Summit held in Hartlepool**



**March 2020**  
**Chief Constable's contract extended to maximum term**



**March 2020**  
**Police officers return to neighbourhood policing**



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## Foreword

by Police and Crime Commissioner  
**Barry Coppinger**

It is with considerable pride I submit what would have been the final annual report of my term of office as Police and Crime Commissioner for Cleveland. You will be aware 2019/20 was another eventful year, culminating in a national lockdown in March to respond to the Coronavirus pandemic. The Government took the decision to postpone local elections until May 2021, allowing sitting PCCs to focus further on local needs during this challenging time.

This report reflects a cross-section of the work I have undertaken to implement my 71 point Police and Crime Plan. I am grateful for the commitment and dedication of the staff in my office; our Chief Constable Richard Lewis and all at Cleveland Police; our statutory partners and local agencies; many residents and community groups; and all those who work so hard in our communities, as organised groups, or as individuals, to keep our communities safe.

During my term of office I have attended over 700 community meetings to hear first-hand of the needs and challenges in our communities which I have either taken up directly or have reflected in the policies, programmes and initiatives we have developed.

There has been no shortage of challenges in 2019/20. Following an inspection, Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary and Fire & Rescue Services (HMICFRS) found the Force inadequate in its performance. I am pleased my appointment of Chief Constable Richard Lewis in April 2019 is showing progress. I can see evidence of improvement in several areas, reinforced by the positive attitude within the Force and the feedback I receive from our communities, but I recognise there is still much for Cleveland Police to do. I will continue to encourage and support this progress, and monitor on behalf of residents of Cleveland through my wide-ranging scrutiny programme.

Ten years of Government austerity has also taken its toll across all of our public services. Cleveland Police saw its budget cut by £40m resulting in a reduction of 500 officers. I campaigned for a reversal of these cut and was pleased when the Prime Minister agreed they were unacceptable and finally signalled a reversal. The extra resources were distributed nationally in the autumn of last year, which have worked through in the spring of this year to extra officers on our streets. However, this must be retained year on year. We must have the real time growth in spending, which this area needs and deserves. Pressure must be maintained to ensure investment continues and the Force is properly funded in future.

Supportively holding the Force to account is only part of the role of the PCC. As important are the wide ranging activities undertaken to get a better deal for victims of crime; to help prevent offending and reoffending behaviour; to collaborate with public and third sector organisations; and to build stronger communities.

The Coronavirus pandemic posed a unique challenge for the country and for public services. I am proud to say that my office has, as far as has been possible, maintained a business as usual attitude, finding innovative ways to ensure we continue to help the most vulnerable in our communities. This leaves me confident that we are well placed to move on post-Covid and hopefully return to normality.

I hope you enjoy reading this report and can support the work undertaken and join us on the journey to build a better future for our area and its communities.

**Barry Coppinger**  
Police and Crime Commissioner for Cleveland



## Introduction

by Chief Executive of the Office  
of the Police and Crime Commissioner,  
**Simon Dennis**

This report reflects an immense amount of hard work and dedication by the staff working in the Commissioner's Office. We are a small and committed team working with the PCC, on behalf of the public, to deliver the objectives of his Police and Crime Plan and hold Cleveland Police supportively to account on its journey towards improvement.

As evidenced throughout this report, partnership and multi-agency working is a particular strength in Cleveland. Agencies share a commitment to our communities and we continue to work positively alongside the Commissioner, Cleveland Police, our commissioned services and our partners across all sectors to deliver the PCC's priorities for the public of Cleveland. All members of our team who engage with these partners are well regarded and respected in their fields.

We have achieved huge progress in making Cleveland's OPCC a centre of best practice in good governance and transparency, to make sure residents in Cleveland have access to - and confidence in - the way in which policing and crime services operate on their behalf. Key decisions made by the PCC, how the OPCC invests public funds and all of our policies and procedures are readily accessible at the click of a mouse. We were recognised for this commitment with an independent Transparency Quality Mark, awarded to us by the PCC watchdog for the fifth year running.

Development continues within the organisation to further strengthen and enhance our decision-making and governance arrangements. Our scrutiny processes have been deepened and amplified following the issuing of the PCC's strategic direction last summer and in response to the Force's rating by HMICFRS. Our team has strengthened relationships with the Inspectorate so that our scrutiny and assurance processes complement each other more closely.

Throughout the 2020 Coronavirus public health and civil emergency, the team have continued to work with the Commissioner on behalf of residents of Cleveland, ensuring victim services supported the most vulnerable, remaining engaged with the wider criminal justice system and delivering key messages to our communities about policing and community safety during the pandemic.

As ways of working become increasingly flexible and agile, so do the required skills and experience required by our staff. We have invested in training and development to upskill and strengthen the team, to ensure the Commissioner has access to a team of multi-disciplined experts in fields ranging from victims, community engagement, complaints, scrutiny, finance, governance and communications.

Many of the challenges the PCC aims to transform and improve are long-standing and entrenched - for example, tackling drug misuse or disrupting the cycle of repeat offending by individuals. Our response has required innovation and 'out of the box' thinking to get to the root causes of why people offend, or become victims. Schemes such as Heroin Assisted Treatment and Cleveland Divert are born out of our desire to look at new solutions and maximise on strong partnership arrangements.

We have developed excellent relationships of cooperation and collaboration locally and regionally with our OPCC and OPFCC colleagues, including unique shared senior officer arrangements. Through those arrangements, we share expertise and best practice for the benefit of Cleveland and beyond.

We look forward to working with the Commissioner in delivering the objectives of his new 12-month Police and Crime Plan and reporting back to you about our progress.

**Simon Dennis**  
Chief Executive & Monitoring Officer

# Police scrutiny and accountability



Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary and Fire & Rescue Services (HMICFRS) carry out annual inspections of Cleveland Police and produce reports so the public know how well the police are performing.

Their PEEL assessments examine the Force in three areas: efficiency, effectiveness and legitimacy. Additional specialist inspections look at a particular aspect of policing on a national level and make recommendations for improvements.

## Cleveland Police's current inspection rating

**Efficiency:**  
Inadequate

**Effectiveness:**  
Inadequate

**Legitimacy:**  
Inadequate

## 2019-20 Inspection Timeline



## What is a strategic direction?

A strategic direction is a document which sets out the strategic requirements the Chief Constable and his team must deliver, in this case including an up-to-date and thorough assessment of the Force's operational and organisational progress.

The strategic direction sets out how the PCC will further amplify and deepen approaches to scrutiny and holding the Force to account. It includes an increase in the use of independent scrutiny approaches and a clear expectation for the Chief Constable to confirm what will change and by when. The strategic direction has three parts:

### 1. The Chief Constable's assessment of the Force

The Chief Constable is required to produce an assessment of how the Force is performing in all areas, set out what is needed to improve and establish a plan of short, medium and long-term improvement measures.

### 2. A joint commitment to drive improvements

There must be a refreshed commitment to openness and transparency between Cleveland Police and the PCC's office. This includes joint approaches to improving equality, diversity and the upholding of standards.

### 3. A deepened and amplified scrutiny process

Senior leaders of both organisations will meet regularly to set priorities, make key decisions and identify risk. The PCC will deepen and amplify his scrutiny of the Chief Constable against the strategic direction and his Police and Crime Plan.

## How has the PCC monitored progress made?

The PCC monitors Cleveland Police's performance in a number of ways:

- **Weekly accountability meetings with the Chief Constable**
- **Monthly scrutiny meetings with the Force and partners**
- **Monitoring the force control room log and the serious incidents log on a daily basis**
- **Attendance at the Force Performance Group meeting**
- **Attending at least one local meeting in each of Cleveland's neighbourhood police team areas every year.**

The PCC has attended the Police Performance and Oversight Group (PPOG) with the Chief Constable and has been provided, on a regular basis, with comprehensive updates on the Service Improvement Programme as part of the scrutiny process.

The PCC is supportive of the decision to maintain, where at all possible, the resources and skills in the Service Improvement Team during the operational response to Covid-19. In lieu of the sitting of PPOG, the Chief Constable is providing a full update on the progress being made under the Service Improvement programme.

## Cleveland Independent Custody Visitor Scheme

The Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner runs the Cleveland Independent Custody Visitor scheme, which ensures detainees in police custody are treated with dignity and respect.

Volunteers make regular unannounced visits to police custody to make a number of checks:

- **Assessing the wellbeing of detainees**
- **Ensuring the custody suite is equipped with essential supplies**
- **Checking the general condition of the suite**
- **Observing staff to ensure they adhere to professional standards.**

The scheme ensures the public can have confidence that the needs of people detained by Cleveland Police are met - particularly those with vulnerabilities and medical requirements.



## In 2019/20:

- **15 dedicated volunteers made 32 unannounced visits to the custody suite at Middlesbrough Police station**
- **Of the 219 detainees offered a visit, 135 were questioned about their wellbeing and a further 61 were observed from a safe distance.**

## Empowered to raise concerns & instigate change

The OPCC has a responsibility to ensure that detainees are able to speak to independent custody visitors openly. To ensure this ethos was captured formally, a reprisals policy was introduced in December 2019.

Custody visitors are empowered to raise any concerns directly with the custody manager at the time of their visit. All comments are also documented and are presented to the monthly custody management meeting - allowing senior police leaders and partner organisations to take any further action necessary.



# Objective 1: Investing in our Police

## ✓ New Chief Constable arrived in Cleveland and established new senior team

Richard Lewis took up his post as Chief Constable of Cleveland Police in April 2019, joining the Force following a challenging recruitment process, designed in conjunction with the College of Policing. Richard quickly set about establishing a new senior leadership team, recruiting a range of diverse skills and experience.

Richard has focussed on delivering the objectives set by the PCC's strategic direction issued in June 2019 and established the Towards 2025 programme, to drive forward service delivery improvements over the next five years.

### Securing long-term and stable leadership

To secure the consistent and stable leadership Cleveland Police needs to improve, PCC Barry Copping announced in March 2020 that he would extend the Chief Constable's contract to the maximum term of eight years. This secures Mr Lewis' tenure at the Force until at least 2027.

## ✓ Reinvigoration of the Equality, Diversity and Inclusion agenda

The Everyone Matters programme has been driving cultural and organisational change within Cleveland Police since its creation in 2016 – following a strategic direction issued by the PCC to improve the way Cleveland Police understands communities and treats its workforce.



In the last twelve months, the OPCC has taken a lead role in reinvigorating the Equality, Diversity and Inclusion agenda. A team of five experts has been recruited to work seamlessly across both Cleveland Police and the OPCC. They have been drawing up a new Equality Diversity and Inclusion Strategy, due to be published later this year.

Achievements include:

- 252 people have attended cultural awareness sessions to gain a greater knowledge of topics such as autism, Islam, gender variance, refugee & asylum seekers and unconscious bias
- 16 people are currently on the Inspire Development Programme, designed to allow staff and officers to grow capability, confidence and skills
- Cleveland Police jointly hosted a Blue Light Mental Health conference with Cleveland Fire Brigade, one of the biggest mental health awareness conferences in the history of the Force. Over 100 officers and staff have received specialist training to become Blue Light mental health champions.

## ✓ Accelerated recruitment of additional police officers

An accelerated recruitment drive supported by the PCC meant more than 70 additional officers hit the streets of Cleveland months earlier than expected. The PCC gave the go ahead in December 2019 to fund additional frontline officers ahead of schedule, ensuring they were operational early in 2020.

Cleveland Police recruited almost 200 officers in total during 2019/20 - creating an additional 72 police officer roles on top of current levels.



## ✓ Taken a greater role in police complaints

The PCC has a small Complaints Service Team who work closely with Cleveland Police's Directorate of Standards and Ethics to efficiently resolve low-level complaints. In the last financial year, this team has handled 1,343 expressions of dissatisfaction – 61% of all correspondence of this kind received by Cleveland Police.

In February 2020, the PCC announced that he would be taking responsibility for handling reviews (or appeals) against complaints investigated by Cleveland Police – a role previously carried out by the Force. The OPCC has received four reviews to date.

## ✓ Worked with police to develop a local drone capability

Transforming the use of technology to disrupt and detect crime has been a longstanding commitment in the PCC's Police and Crime Plan. He made a specific commitment in his 2019-2020 Plan to work with Cleveland Police to develop a new drone capability.

In January 2020, Cleveland Police launched its first drone unit comprising three drones and nine pilots, trained to industry standards.

The devices can be used for specialist policing operations, to find missing people and help look at crowd dynamics during large events. There are live feeds into control room to allow senior police officers to see and manage incidents in real time.



## ✓ Listened to communities to achieve additional funding for Taser

In March 2020, police forces across the country were given the opportunity to bid for funding from the Home Office to increase Taser capability. The decision to increase the use of Taser among officers in Cleveland is made by the Chief Constable, but the PCC was supportive of seeking additional funding.

### Listening to communities

The PCC launched a public consultation on police use of Taser. The survey revealed that almost two thirds of respondents were in favour of increasing the use of Taser. More than 67% said they would feel safer if every officer carried Taser and around 88% said they trusted Cleveland Police to use Taser responsibly.

Following a successful bid supported by the consultation findings, Cleveland Police was granted £39,600 by the Home Office, the equivalent of 48 additional Tasers for the Force.



# Objective 2: A better deal for victims and witnesses

## ✔ Victim referral service innovates and adapts to victim feedback

Victim Care and Advice Service provide free, independent and confidential support for victims of crime and antisocial behaviour in Cleveland. Support can also be provided to the families of victims or those who witness crime. The service is managed on behalf of the PCC by Safer Communities a local charity with over 20 years experience in promoting community safety.



### 2019-20 data for Victim Care and Advice Service:

<b>Total number of vulnerable victims identified from analysis of police systems</b>	Number of victims added to VCAS Case Management System for further assessment	Number of victims who completed their support plan following assessment	Number of victims who received advice over the telephone (no need for assessment)
<b>5,005</b>	1,418	821	832

### Providing support from the very first opportunity

Following feedback from victims, a VCAS Support Officer working in Force Control Room can now take calls directly from Force Contact Officers (FCOs) for victims requiring immediate emotional and practical support. Between November 2019 and March 2020 the control room worker received 547 referrals from FCOs, which resulted in 240 victims receiving telephone information, advice and/or onward referral to a relevant service and 130 victims who accepted support and were added to the VCAS case management system for a full needs assessment.

## ✔ Over 1,000 referrals to support services for victims of sexual violence

Teesside Sexual Assault Referral Centre (SARC) provide a sensitive and dedicated service to anyone who has experienced rape and sexual assault, whether they want to report to the police or not. SARC provide advice, specialist forensic or medical examinations, support with police processes, referral to counselling support and risk assessments.

### During 2019-20:

<b>Total number of victims referred to Teesside SARC</b>	Acute cases (occurred in previous seven days)	Recent cases (occurred in previous four weeks)	Historic cases (less than 6 months)	Historic cases (less than 12 months)	Historic cases (over 12 months)	Unknown time since offence
<b>592</b>	196 (33%)	60 (10.1%)	61 (10.3%)	32 (5.4%)	225 (38%)	18 (3%)

Cleveland's Independent Sexual Violence Advisor (ISVA) service is sub-contracted to local sexual violence service ARCH North East. An ISVA is a dedicated support worker. Their main role is to support victims through the criminal justice process.

<b>Total number of victims referred to ISVA Service</b>	Sessions of support delivered to victims	Victim assessments completed by ISVAs	Contacts with family members, police or other agencies	Young people supported (up to 17)	Adults supported
<b>429</b>	5,712	467	11,872	133 (31%)	296 (69%)

## ✔ Over 100 restorative interventions delivered across Cleveland

Restorative Cleveland is the PCC's nationally-accredited commissioned service for restorative justice in Cleveland. Restorative justice brings those harmed by crime or conflict and those responsible for the harm into communication, enabling everyone affected to play a part in repairing the harm and finding a positive way forward.

During 2019-20 Restorative Cleveland delivered 119 restorative interventions, including:

<b>Face-to-face interventions (victim and offender meet in person)</b>	Letters of explanation	Reparations	Shuttle conferences (indirect liaison between victim and offender)
<b>24</b>	47	5	46

## ✔ National endorsement for Cleveland approach to slavery and trafficking

Cleveland Anti-Slavery Network was set up to tackle modern slavery and human trafficking - one of the only groups of its kind established by a PCC. Its members are experts from local authority safeguarding and community safety, health, criminal justice agencies and the voluntary community sector.

In November 2019, the UK Independent Anti-Slavery Commissioner attended a meeting of the Network during a visit to Cleveland.

**"I was particularly interested in the Network's Victim Care Pathway, and I look forward to working closely with the PCC's Office in future to learn from and share such examples of best practice."**

**Dame Sara Thornton - UK Independent Anti-Slavery Commissioner**

The Victim Pathway was finalised in October 2019 and ensures victims are found emergency accommodation and seen by health and social care professionals within hours of their rescue. It has already been used to safeguard vulnerable people in Cleveland.





# Objective 3: Tackling offending and re-offending

## ✓ UK's first Heroin Assisted Treatment scheme launched in Middlesbrough

Heroin Assisted Treatment (HAT) is a medical treatment for people with a long-term dependency on heroin, who have failed to respond to traditional drug treatments such as methadone. The individuals considered for this treatment tend to place a disproportionate strain on health, criminal justice and other public services – at significant cost to the public purse.



### What does Heroin Assisted Treatment involve?

Under the programme, participants visit a clinical facility twice a day, where diamorphine (medical grade heroin) is self-administered under supervision.

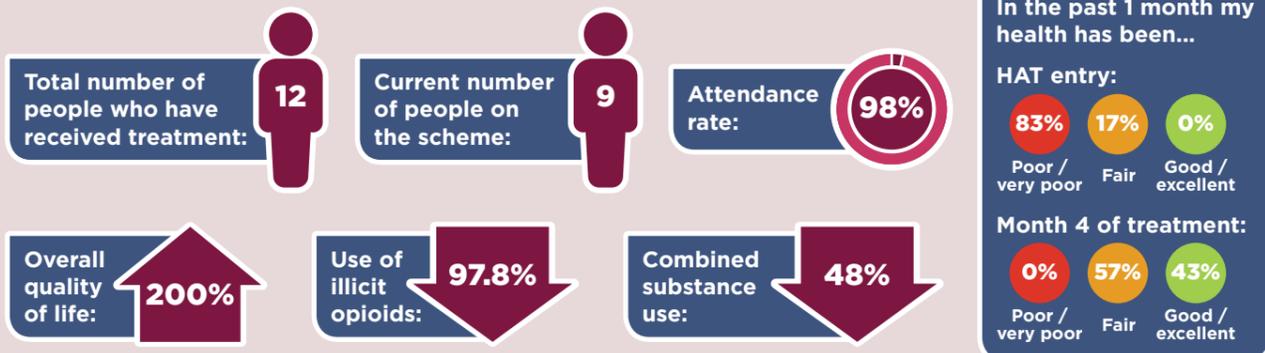
With the need to constantly fund street heroin removed, individuals can then engage on a one-to-one basis at the clinic with various agencies including health, housing and welfare to get their lives back on track and return to mainstream society.

The aim of the scheme is to:

- Reduce the number of deaths caused by heroin addiction
- Promote independence, long-term recovery and desistance from offending behaviour
- Provide respite for local residents and businesses, so often the victims of crime to fund addiction;
- Remove the health risks associated with street heroin and drug litter
- Free up substantial public resources, including health and police, currently dealing with the problem
- Cut off the funding stream to drugs gangs.

Working with partners in public health, prison, probation, police and drug treatment services, the OPCC launched Middlesbrough's HAT programme in October 2019, with four individuals starting on the scheme immediately.

### Early findings from the treatment:



### James' story:

"I want to be totally abstinent of everything and then help other people do it. I've been through it and I know what the problems are. This scheme might not work for everyone but it's worked for me and it's worked for the other people that I'm on the programme with. There's not many of us on it and we've been given the chance of a lifetime and you can see the difference in everyone."



## ✓ Reoffending rates three times lower for offenders who complete diversion scheme

Divert is Cleveland's Custody Diversion Scheme for adults, designed to steer first-time and low-level offenders away from the criminal justice system by addressing the issues in their lives that caused them to offend. Launched in January 2019, the scheme is delivered in partnership with Cleveland Police and Durham Tees Valley Community Rehabilitation Company.

In exchange for avoiding a criminal record, offenders are paired with a support worker who identifies a pathway in which the offender may need support, including thinking and behaviour, substance use and accommodation.

In March 2020, the PCC funded Heroin Assisted Treatment scheme and Cleveland Divert Scheme were recognised by Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Probation as innovative ways to tackle crime, address substance misuse and prevent re-offending behaviour.

### Figures since Divert launched in January 2019:

Total cases opened on the Divert scheme	Number of men who have completed the scheme	Number of women who have completed the scheme	Cleveland re-offending rate	Re-offending rate for those who declined Divert	Re-offending rate for Divert participants
372	145	73	39.1%	13.3%	4.5%

### Most common offences referred to Divert

- Drunk & Disorderly
- Possession of Drugs
- Violence Offences

### Most common pathways addressed by Divert

- Thinking, Behaviour & Attitudes
- Mental Health
- Alcohol

## ✓ Enhanced support for female offenders and women at risk of offending

In line with national strategy, the PCC is committed to using early intervention to reduce the number of women entering the justice system and ensuring women are given specialist support to address their offending behaviour in community settings – rather than in custody. Through £203,500 funding secured from the Ministry of Justice Female Offender Community Investment Fund, the PCC has enhanced the provision of specialist support and interventions for females who are at risk of offending and/or have offended.

From April to December 2019 (inclusive,) there have been 235 referrals into the scheme with 81.5% engaging with support services:

- A Way Out has delivered 25 assertive outreach sessions to women, who are at risk of offending or have offended
- 11 women in Low Newton prison have been supported in preparing for release, including development of resettlement plans and trauma support
- In partnership with My Sister's Place, A Way Out has delivered drop-in sessions engaging 12 women in safety planning and the provision of emergency food parcels and items of clothing
- Delivery of clinics within Middlesbrough Police custody suite – to help women entering custody address the underlying issues behind their offending behaviour and provide critical tailored bespoke support at a crisis point.



## Objective 4: Working together to make Cleveland safer

### Leading a public health approach to tackle serious violence in Cleveland

#### The fight for funding

Unlike 18 other police areas across England and Wales, Cleveland has not received any of the £100m of funding ring-fenced by the Government to tackle serious violence. This is despite the area having some of the highest levels of violent crime in the country – what many could consider a public health emergency.

“In just five days between Christmas and the New Year, our area of less than 600,000 residents experienced four alleged homicides and 13 incidents involving violence serious enough to be brought to the attention of the Force’s senior leaders.

“Occurring in a timeframe of just over 100 hours, these incidents included two aggravated thefts, three firearm offences and five stabbings. This does not account for the four people who tragically lost their lives during a period in which most families are enjoying festive time together in peace.

“Despite these high profile crimes, the Government still fails to acknowledge that Cleveland has a problem with serious violence.”

PCC Barry Copping in a letter to Home Secretary Priti Patel, 16 January 2020

Should Cleveland be successful in acquiring additional funding, the OPCC would lead in establishing a Violence Reduction Unit, bringing partners together to develop multi-agency and long-lasting public health solutions for violence reduction.

#### Serious Violence Summit, February 2020

Following a number of serious incidents over the Christmas and New Year period, the OPCC called an emergency summit in Hartlepool on serious violence. Representatives from organisations across Cleveland attended.

Discussions from the day will be used to inform a Cleveland-wide Serious Violence Prevention Strategy, which is currently being developed to compliment ongoing work by Cleveland Police.



#### Survey of young people

The OPCC undertook a survey with young people living in Cleveland to get their views on violence in their area. 354 children responded with the following headline results:

- 59% stated they saw violence on the social media they they viewed. This left them upset, shocked, angry and sad
- Nearly 60% saw violence as an issue in the area where they lived and 57% thought the issues were increasing
- The main solutions suggested were increased police numbers and better education.

### Increased engagement with rural communities in Cleveland

The PCC chairs the Tees Rural Crime Forum which brings together rural community members with the key agencies providing community safety support. The Forum exists to enable rural community members to raise their concerns regarding crime and antisocial behaviour in their local areas, and for partners to establish multi-agency plans to tackle these concerns.

Key activities in the last year have included:

- Multi-agency rural crime operations on speeding, off-road bikes and wildlife crime
- Expansion of the Rural Watch community safety information network
- Targeted crime prevention visits to rural community members
- A domestic abuse awareness event, following national research into the additional vulnerability of rural communities in relation to domestic abuse
- Establishment of Coast Watch community safety network for coastal areas.



### A continued leadership role in multi-agency working to tackle hate crime

The PCC chairs the Cleveland Strategic Hate Crime Group which brings together partners from across Cleveland, who work to a multi-agency action plan to tackle hate crime and raise awareness in communities.

Key activities in the last year have included:

- Development of rebranded materials for Third Party Reporting Centres for hate crime - to be launched post COVID-19
- Development of training for hate crime reporting centres and schools - to be rolled out post COVID-19
- Introduction of Cleveland Police Community Engagement Team, including two Community and Diversity Officers funded by the OPCC.



### Better information sharing between agencies involved in tackling crime

Ensuring staff from different agencies can all access the same information about an individual or a family is crucial to preventing crime, safeguarding vulnerable people and reducing offending effectively. The OPCC and partners continue to invest in E-CINS – an information sharing system designed to make it easy for different agencies to add, update and remove case information.

The system is currently used by 16 agencies across Cleveland for:

- Reducing offending and reoffending
- Supporting troubled families
- Tackling antisocial behaviour
- Identifying vulnerability.

During 2019/20,  
**795** cases were handled on the system, with 209 cases open today.



# Objective 5: Securing the future of our communities

## Continued commitment to community engagement continues

During 2019/20, the PCC continued to dedicate considerable time to his Your Force Your Voice programme of community engagement. He attended over 80 face-to-face meetings with communities from across Cleveland, to better understand their community safety needs, and to ensure that the strategic delivery of local policing and community safety services reflects these needs.

How the OPCC has worked with partners to develop solutions to community concerns:

- **Concerns about speeding in areas of Skelton**  
Localised speeding operation conducted by Cleveland Police Special Constabulary
- **Motorbike nuisance in Billingham**  
Partnership working with neighbourhood policing teams to tackle the issue
- **Problems with crime and fly-tipping in rural areas of Cleveland**  
PCC funded Rural Watch signage to go in hotspot locations
- **Widespread reports of youth antisocial behaviour in Thornaby**  
PCC scrutiny of partnership working to re-examine effectiveness



## £120,000 granted to community groups committed to PCC's objectives

### Community Safety Fund

The Community Safety Fund provides small grants to community groups for projects that align to the PCC's objectives of preventing and reducing crime, tackling substance and alcohol misuse and supporting vulnerable victims.



Over the past 12 months, the Community Safety Fund has provided just under £100,000 to 15 community groups across the four Cleveland boroughs.

### Case study: Element 1 CIC

Element 1 CIC is a social enterprise based in Stockton-on-Tees, aiming to improve the quality of life of the people of Cleveland through community activities based around culture, creativity and food.

Element 1 recorded and produced a CD of the song One More Light, in a bid to raise awareness about male suicide. The song was a cover of a Linkin Park track, whose lead singer took his own life in 2017. The choir used for the track was made up of residents from all backgrounds including prisoners, ex-service personnel and refugees.



### The Police Property Act Fund

The Police Property Act Fund was created from the sale of recovered stolen goods or property where the owners are not known or cannot be traced. The PCC provide grants to local voluntary and community groups who are working to improve the lives of people in the Cleveland Police area.

Ten local projects received a share of £23,616 from the Police Property Act Fund during 2019-20.

### Case Study: Trans Aware

Charity Trans Aware provides training sessions and workshops to organisations, community and faith groups to raise awareness and understanding of Transgender and Non-Binary people.

The PCC provided £5,000 in funding to deliver 40 awareness sessions to young people aged 16-17 during their National Citizen Service in July and August 2019.



## Fund schemes to support young people to make positive life choices

The PCC is committed to investing in a range of services to help young people in Cleveland make positive life choices and avoid becoming involved in crime and antisocial behaviour. Below are just two examples of the range of scheme funded to keep young people safe.

### Cleveland Police Cadets

Established in 2009, Cleveland Police Cadet programme is commissioned by the OPCC to provide long-term, structured development for young people aged 13 to 17. It aims to promote safer communities by encouraging young cadets from diverse backgrounds to develop social responsibility for their communities.

The Cadets were a daily presence at the visit of the Knife Angel in Middlesbrough in August 2019 and led a procession at the Victims' Vigil on the final night.



### Show Racism the Red Card

Working closely with the region's football clubs, Show Racism the Red Card delivers anti-racism workshops to children in primary and secondary schools. The charity explores the causes and consequences of racist behaviour through the lens of football - hearing testimonies from players who have been abused on and off the pitch.

During 2019/20, Show Racism the Red Card delivered:

- **Anti-racism education workshops in 23 schools across Cleveland reaching 1943 pupils**
- **Anti-racism education workshops in three youth club settings**
- **Two events with Middlesbrough FC.**

**"Great variety of activities to suit the age group. Good resources and pace throughout the day. Both facilitators spoke clearly and frankly to the children, so the meaning and seriousness of the issue was obvious"**

Teacher, Green Gates Primary, Redcar

# Turning the tide on serious violence in Cleveland

Cleveland has the third worst record of violence per 1,000 head of population of any police force area in England. With knife crime levels surpassing those of huge metropolitan centres like Merseyside and Greater Manchester, Cleveland has a real need for significant investment to prevent and intervene in serious violence.

## How we invested in the Early Intervention Youth Fund

The OPCC secured £546,000 from the Home Office's Early Intervention Youth Fund (EIYF) to deliver services to deter young people in Cleveland from crime. It was delivered across four key areas: prevention, early intervention, targeted intervention and diversion.



### Prevention Investment: £30,000

#### More than 200 front line practitioners trained in Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs)

Research shows that if a young person has more than six ACE indicators, they are more likely to come into contact with the criminal justice system. ACEs can include factors such as domestic violence, family splits and mental health issues within the home. If practitioners know about these experiences, they can work to overcome them - or even work around them.

#### More than 300 frontline staff attended County Lines training by Barnardos

County Lines activity has been linked to child criminal exploitation and child sexual exploitation. More than 300 frontline staff have been trained in spotting the signs with more than 200 more waiting for training when the Covid-19 lockdown has passed.

### Early Intervention Investment: £250,000

#### More than 11,000 young people contacted and supported by services

#### A 15% reduction in anti-social behaviour by young people in areas where outreach work has been undertaken

The additional funding allowed the OPCC to double investment in youth outreach across Cleveland during 2019-20. Investment strengthened existing youth outreach work already funded via four local authorities and community safety partnerships.

### Targeted Intervention Investment: £170,000

#### More than 1,300 sessions delivered to young people around emotional distress and well being

#### More than 700 sessions delivered to young people in speech and language therapy

To enhance support already delivered to young people, the PCC agreed jointly with each service to a targeted approach to deliver coaching, counselling and restorative services to under-18s and their families.

Targeted services offered include:

- Speech and language therapy
- Counselling
- Life coaching skills.

### Diversion Investment: £37,000

#### Low re-offending rates among 18-to-24 year-olds provided with specialist support via the Divert scheme. (-3% compared to 12-13% nationally)

Cleveland Divert is an adult deferred prosecution scheme. During the 2019-20, it supported 99 young adults, aged 18 to 24. The additional funding paid for a specialist case worker and support package for young adults identified as at risk of becoming involved in serious or violent crime.

## Tackling knife crime through education and awareness

### Knife Angel

The Knife Angel is a powerful sculpture created by The British Ironwork Centre and made from over 100,000 discarded knives and confiscated weapons from police forces across the country.

Part-funded by the OPCC and sponsorship from local companies, Middlesbrough was the first place in the North East to welcome the 27ft Knife Angel and Middlesbrough Council kindly agreed to host the sculpture in Centre Square for four weeks in August 2019.

Campaigner Theresa Cave, of the Chris Cave Foundation, worked closely with Police and Crime Commissioner Barry Copping to bring the Knife Angel to Cleveland. The Chris Cave Foundation delivered anti-knife crime workshops to a range of youth groups and organisations, including:

- South Tees Youth Offending Service
- Hartlepool Youth Offending Service
- Corner House Project
- NACRO
- Newton Aycliffe Parish Youth
- Linx
- Barnardo's
- Bright Minds Big Futures
- Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services (CAHMS).

A range of activities took place in Centre Square during the Angel's visit, including a visit from Middlesbrough FC footballer Dael Fry, a graffiti workshop by the renowned Graffiti Kings and a cartoon-drawing session with Teesside University illustrator Julian Lawrence. Mr Lawrence went on to develop the brilliant Knife Angel Comic.

It's estimated that more than 30,000 people visited the sculpture during its four-week stay in Centre Square. The Victims' Vigil - held on the Angel's final night in Middlesbrough - was attended by more than 300 people.

### Knife bins

To join an existing bin in Middlesbrough Police Station, Cleveland Police marked the Knife Angel's visit by also installing knife bins in the main police stations in Hartlepool, Stockton and Middlesbrough. These bins allow people to surrender and dispose of any knives or weapons safely and without question.

Students from Stockton Riverside College will be designing and creating their own piece of artwork with the knives that have been handed in, in partnership with NETA Training.

### Stab packs

The OPCC funded 500 'stab packs' produced by the Chris Cave Foundation, which will be used as a first-line treatment if someone is injured by a bladed weapon. The stab packs will be distributed to police community support officer (PCSOs), street angels and door staff, among others. They contain emergency first aid equipment for dealing with severe blood loss, including gloves, a tampon, and a bandage.





**Barry Coppinger**

 c/o Steria Shared Service Centre, Ash House, III Acres, Princeton Drive, Thornaby, Stockton-On-Tees, TS17 6AJ

 [pcc@cleveland.pnn.police.uk](mailto:pcc@cleveland.pnn.police.uk)

 [@Cleveland\\_PCC](https://twitter.com/Cleveland_PCC)

 01642 301861

 search PCC Cleveland

[cleveland.pcc.police.uk](http://cleveland.pcc.police.uk)