POLICE AND CRIME COMMISSIONER FOR CLEVELAND

CLEVELAND POLICE

Rural Policing Strategy 2018-2021

FOREWORD

Mike Veale
Chief Constable

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Police & Crime Commissioner

The Cleveland Police area is diverse with a rich landscape of industrial sites, areas of outstanding scenery and those of special scientific interest. The area borders the picturesque North Yorkshire Moors and we have one of the largest coastlines with some of the highest cliffs in the UK.

Policing such a diverse area presents unique challenges and tackling crime in our rural areas can require different solutions. Rural crime is not trivial and includes:

"Any crime and anti-social behaviour that takes place in a rural location, or as identified by the victim".

Rural communities by their very geography can feel isolated and vulnerable to crime and where it does occur, it can have a significant impact on the people living and working there. This is why tackling rural crime and anti-social behaviour is a priority.

This strategy recognises the challenges faced by our rural communities. It sets out how we will work together with our communities and partners to acheive the key objectives outlined in the plan, through our priorities of prevention, intervention and protection. Our approach is clear, we are committed to tackling rural crime and anti-social behaviour, thereby making our communities safer and helping them to be stronger.

THE CONTEXT

Key challenges include:

Farm & Agricultural Crime
Acquisitive and opportunist crimes continue to pose a threat to rural communities.

Road Safety
Reducing road casualties and disrupting criminality are priorities.

Serious & Organised Crime
Remote and isolated areas can be attractive to organised crime groups.

Rural Isolation & Vulnerability
Offences against the vulnerable are often under reported and hidden by the isolation and remoteness of rural areas.

Wildlife Crime
The illegal taking, disturbance, trade or movement of animals or birds can affect
the overall environment for future generations.

Heritage Crime
The preservation of our heritage sites is vital for our future generations to connect with the past..

THE STRATEGY

We recognise that the impact of crime and incidents can be greater in rural communities and that people may feel particularly vulnerable, due to social or physical isolation and a lack of support and services. The focus of this strategy is to protect our rural communities through prevention, intervention and protection and it is based upon our policing priorities:

Prevent and reduce crime, antisocial behaviour and the wider demand

Protect the most vulnerable in society

Put victims, witnesses and communities at the heart of all we do

Secure a trusted, quality and efficient police service

OUR PRIORITIES

Prevention - We will:

- Provide preventative visible policing in response to issues of concern
- Train staff with enhanced rural specialist training and knowledge
- Increase the number of Special Constables and Volunteers working in rural areas and ensure their work supports this strategy
- Make advice and guidance on crime prevention readily available to our rural communities
- Work with partners and communities to target harden the rural environment
- Work with community safety partnerships to engage rural communities and promote crime reduction
- Ensure officers are appropriately equipped to deal with rural issues
- Engage with and support rural watch schemes, volunteers and community groups
- Improve information sharing with other forces and organisations to understand and identify those responsible for cross border criminality
- Look at new ways to improve the flow of information to police from communities about those committing rural crime

OUR PRIORITIES

Intervention – We will:

- Work in partnership with local authorities and other agencies to run joint rural crime and anti-social behaviour operations, including our regional rural crime initiative (Operation Checkpoint)

- Develop stronger relationships with neighbouring forces to understand and combat cross border criminality

- Actively disrupt Organised Crime Groups operating or residing in rural areas

- Utilise the Automatic Number Plate Recognition infrastructure to disrupt travelling criminals, based on current intelligence

- Identify those individuals and groups who cause the most harm to rural communities and ensure an effective response is delivered to tackling and deterring their activities

- Implementing standards of investigation for dealing with rural crime and anti-social behaviour to ensure that the best evidence is secured

OUR PRIORITIES

Protection – We will:

- Provide an excellent service at the first point of contact by ensuring staff are familiar with policy and procedure, and understand the impact of rural crime on communities

- Improve communication with rural communities to inform and update on current trends, activity and performance

- Explore means of improving the way our rural communities can contact us

- Conduct regular engagement activity at neighbourhood level to identify and address local rural policing priorities

- Actively work with the Tees Rural Crime Forum

- Develop key individual networks in rural locations that reflect the diversity of our rural communities

- Actively seek feedback from rural communities on our performance in delivering this strategy

- Safeguard victims and ensure that we respond appropriately to their needs through partnership working

MEASURING OUR ACTIVITIES AGAINST THE PLAN

We will review our progress against the plan through:

Prevention

We want our rural communities to feel confident that we understand their concerns.

- Rural Crime Watch membership numbers.
- Rural Crime Forum membership numbers.
- Number of Cleveland Connected members.
- Neighbourhood Team Facebook page followers and comments.
- The number of public consultations we carry out including crime prevention road show and pop-ups carried out by our Communities and Partnerships team.

Intervention

We want our rural communities to see the police tackling their concerns effectively.

- Reviewing crime and anti-social behaviour data to identify emerging trends, working with our partners to tackle these and then reviewing good practice and areas of improvement.
- Carrying out and reviewing the effectiveness of Rural Crime Operations including operation Checkpoint.
- Addressing feedback through partners from our rural community members

Protection

We want our rural community members to report that they feel safe.

- Reviewing the number of reported incidents in our rural communities and recontacting or revisiting victims where appropriate.
- The number of crime prevention visits and pop-ups in rural communities.
- Regular reviews of vulnerable and repeat victim cases in our rural communities and identifying and specific issues pertinent to those cases.
- Assess the effectiveness of police campaigns carried out in the community through feedback and reporting.
- Assess and respond to feedback from community meetings.

USEFUL CONTACTS & INFORMATION

Find out more:

Call Cleveland Police on 101
In an emergency always call 999
Visit www.cleveland.police.uk

Twitter @ClevelandPolice
Find us on Facebook

Twitter @Cleveland_PCC
Facebook
Telephone: 01642 301623 or 01642 301653
Email: pcc@cleveland.pnn.police.uk
Visit: www.cleveland.pcc.police.uk

There are a number of officers who are able to provide support and advice in relation to Wildlife & Rural Crime, and have a personal interest in this type of work. They can be contacted on e-mail address: ruralcrime.webmail@cleveland.pnn.police.uk

Paul Payne – Rural Crime Prevention Officer

Karel Simpson – Rural Volunteer Co-ordinator

Wildlife Crime Officers:
PC Lisa Kennerley
PC Carla Sheldon
PC Joanne Ward