



## **Annual Report 2020 – 2021**

The purpose of this report is to inform Cleveland Police and Crime Panel, our key stakeholders and the residents of Cleveland about the achievements of the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner (OPCC) over the last financial year.

It will be formally presented to the Police and Crime Panel for their consideration in July 2021, before being published on the Police and Crime Commissioner's website.

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# Introduction

This report comes in the wake of an incredibly challenging 16 months, in which the world sadly lost millions of lives to Coronavirus and we experienced restrictions on our daily lives and the way services were delivered. The scope of this report covers the very height of the pandemic in April 2020 and takes us through two further lockdowns across England and Wales.

Our priority during the crisis was protecting the wellbeing and health of our team. Having practiced agile working since 2016, staff adapted to permanent home working exceptionally well and without delay. Despite additional challenges of home schooling and caring for vulnerable relatives, the team stepped up to the mark and ensured there was no break in the service we provided to the public of Cleveland.

Like many organisations, we adapted our working practices by the use of digital technology and innovative practices. All core areas of OPCC business continued to operate during the pandemic, including scrutiny of the Chief Constable, community engagement, support for our criminal justice colleagues and the support of vulnerable victims.

We're delighted to say that throughout the crisis, Cleveland's victim services have displayed a resilience and determination to provide life-changing care to those in need. All of them utilised digital technology to reach those, who could no longer access support in person. Many faced increased demand as lockdowns increased the vulnerability of certain groups. I'm pleased we were able to assist services supporting victims of domestic abuse and sexual violence with an additional £690,000 to meet demand and help to adapt their services.

Our work to reduce offending has also continued despite the challenges of the last 12 months. Our Divert scheme continued to provide first-time or low-level offenders the opportunity to address the underlying issues in their lives, which have caused them to offend.

We were successful in securing £1m from the Home Office's Safer Streets fund to make three of Cleveland's theft-hit neighbourhoods more secure from crime. Newport, South Bank and Burn Valley all benefitted from the investment, which saw significant increases in CCTV coverage, improved street lighting and the refurbishment of alley gates. This investment has already resulted in reductions in acquisitive crime and theft in the three areas. We look forward to monitoring the long-term success of the new crime prevention measures.

The work doesn't stop there. We've recently secured a second grant of £366,000 from the Safer Streets Fund to conduct similar work in Stockton Town Centre. In addition, we're already looking ahead to the third round of funding, which will support us to make public spaces safer for women and girls.

As the world returns to a sense of normality, we are looking forward to working with Cleveland's new PCC Steve Turner to develop his Police and Crime Plan. Work is already underway on his objectives with his overarching objective of putting the pride back into Cleveland Police.

**Lisa Oldroyd**  
**Acting Chief Executive & Monitoring Officer**

# Key Achievements at a Glance

## Objective 1: Investing in Police

- ✓ Continued scrutiny of Cleveland Police's journey of improvement
- ✓ More officers return to neighbourhood policing
- ✓ Significant steps forward in equality, diversity and inclusion
- ✓ Continued scrutiny of Cleveland Police control room
- ✓ Independent Ethics Committee strengthened

## Objective 2: A Better Deal for Victims

- ✓ Victim support agencies continue to deliver during COVID-19
- ✓ Tees-wide Independent Sexual Violence Advisor (ISVA) service commissioned
- ✓ Support secured for victims of domestic or sexual violence
- ✓ Transformation underway of the support for victims of child sex abuse
- ✓ Boost in funding to prevent child criminal exploitation

## Objective 3: Tackling Offending & Re-offending

- ✓ £1m invested in three theft-hit neighbourhoods and crime reduced
- ✓ Promising results for Heroin Assisted Treatment scheme in evaluation
- ✓ Young people given a chance through sport and activity
- ✓ Middlesbrough chosen for system-wide approach to tackling drugs

## Objective 4: Working Together to Make a Safer Cleveland

- ✓ Partnered with Teesside University to measure perceptions of policing during COVID-19
- ✓ Rural communities protected and consulted during the pandemic
- ✓ Continued leadership role in multi-agency working to tackle hate crime
- ✓ Better information sharing between agencies involved in tackling crime

## **Key Achievements at a Glance (Continued)**

### **Objective 5: Securing the Future of Our Communities**

- ✓ Youth Commission launched to gather views of Cleveland's young people
- ✓ Football diversion project helps tackle Mischief Night and Halloween
- ✓ Anti-racism work adapted during the pandemic to train police officers
- ✓ Youth outreach services engage with nearly 5,000 young people

# Police Scrutiny and Accountability

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

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

## **Cleveland Police's current inspection rating (2019)**

**Efficiency:** Inadequate

**Effectiveness:** Inadequate

**Legitimacy:** Inadequate

## **Holding Cleveland Police to Account**

To address areas of improvement identified by HMICFRS, Cleveland Police created a new strategic plan-on-a-page. It outlines the force's vision, priorities and enablers around how it will do its best to improve and:

- Protect the vulnerable;
- Prevent and detect crime;
- Provide a public service;
- Provide support for our people and be proud of what we do.

Cleveland Police's improvement work was a key feature of the OPCC's Scrutiny and Accountability Work Programme during 2020/21. Monthly progress updates scrutinised the review of programme control document and outcomes were tracked against the programme stage plan. In addition, assurances were sought from internal and external sources, including HMICFRS, to evidence programme delivery and the impact of the Service Improvement Programme.

## **Scrutiny of Policing during the Pandemic**

In order to ensure effective oversight and scrutiny of the force's preparedness and handling of the COVID-19 pandemic, the OPCC utilised the available technology to maintain scrutiny processes as normal, as well as providing a number of additional levels of scrutiny, including:

- Weekly Scrutiny and Accountability meetings with the Chief Constable;
- Daily briefings from the Strategic Command Group;
- Daily briefings from the Tactical Command Group.

As an extra layer of scrutiny, the PCC asked members of the public for questions for Chief Constable Richard Lewis. Over 25 questions submitted by the public were put directly to Mr Lewis and his senior team. Topics ranged from police powers to travel for exercise, social distancing and queries about MOT tests.

As a result, key questions from the public were collected regularly and put to Mr Lewis in recorded virtual meetings. These were uploaded on the OPCC website. This meant the public could hear key messages about Coronavirus from the force and OPCC.

## **Cleveland Independent Custody Visitor Scheme**

COVID-19 lockdowns and subsequent restrictions prevented Independent Custody Visitors from undertaking face-to-face visits in Cleveland Police's custody suite. However, oversight and scrutiny of custody arrangements and treatment of detainees has been maintained.

This was achieved through dip sampling of police custody records. Results of this were fed into the national data set collated by the Independent Custody Visiting Association (ICVA.) They were shared with the Police Custody Management Team to support continuous improvement. Face-to-face visits will return in June 2021.

## **Complaints**

On 1 February 2021, national changes to the way police complaints are handled were introduced. As such, the OPCC is now responsible for undertaking independent reviews of complaints dealt with by the force.

When a member of the public now makes a complaint to Cleveland Police, they have a right to ask for their complaint to be reviewed if they are dissatisfied with the outcome.

## **Complaints reviews handled by the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner**

From February 2020 - 31 March 2021:

<b>Total reviews completed</b>	68
<b>Upheld</b>	13
<b>Not upheld</b>	53
<b>No further action</b>	2

The PCC's Complaints Service Team has maintained business as usual throughout the pandemic. Staff members have responded to numerous concerns and complaints linked to COVID-19, providing advice and assistance and resolving issues for the public.

# Objective 1. Investing in Police

## ✓ Continued Scrutiny of Cleveland Police’s Journey of Improvement

In early 2020, Cleveland Police started its Towards 2025 - Road to Improvement programme, noting the significant progress already made to stabilise operational activity.

Despite the additional policing challenges brought about by COVID-19, the Chief Constable confirmed that the Service Improvement Programme (SIP) would continue throughout the pandemic. During this time, progress has been made on the programme in relation to governance, leadership, planning and delivery with key appointments made by the force to lead the Service Improvement Team.

Work during 2020-21 focused on a combination of review and implementation of change summarised in the table below:

Organisational Reviews	Implementation Work
✓ End to end domestic abuse mapping	✓ Progression of the Vulnerability Desk
✓ Equality, Diversity & Inclusion Assessment	✓ Development of Neighbourhood Policing
✓ Community safety	✓ Problem Solving, prevention and tasking
✓ Internal business processes such as recruitment, promotion, grievance	✓ Development of Ethics and EDI including increasing champions
✓ Demand management – duties, events, civil contingencies and critical incidents	✓ Philomena Protocol
✓ Multi-agency and child safeguarding	✓ Senior Leadership Coaching
✓ Clarification of investigation demand	✓ Development of the Victims Code of Practice
✓ Leadership training needs assessment	✓ Complaints legislation
✓ Longer term approaches to the regional murder investigation team	✓ Crime Assessment & Allocation Framework
	✓ Raising Investigative Standards Development Programme

In November 2020, HMICFRS returned to review the force’s progress in responding to the recommendations from all three inspections that specifically relate to **how the force protects vulnerable people**. The report provided an accurate reflection of the force’s position. There was a requirement for further improvements to be made.



## ✓ **More Officers return to Neighbourhood Policing**

More local, visible and accessible policing is always a theme when engaging with communities. As a result, the OPCC is closely monitoring the re-introduction of neighbourhood policing teams across the area.

In May 2020, as part of Cleveland Police's service improvement work and the PCC's commitment to strengthen neighbourhood policing, an additional 28 police officers joined neighbourhood policing teams across Cleveland. They provide a greater focus on prevention and problem-solving activity.

## ✓ **Significant Steps Forward in Equality, Diversity and Inclusion**

The five-strong Equality, Diversity and Inclusion (EDI) team has continued to embed best practice within Cleveland Police. In terms of policy development, the force's Equality Impact Assessment (EIA) process was re-designed and launched in September 2020. The team also implemented a new Staff Network Policy to strengthen the force's existing eight networks.

The team continues to provide advice and co-ordination of positive action in the force's recruitment activities and encourages under-represented groups to apply for policing. During 2020-21, campaigns included recruitment for police officers, PCSOs and force contact officers.

Training has continued to be an important part of the EDI team's work. Ninety force leaders received input on inclusive behaviour. Sixty two officers in neighbourhood policing were trained in community engagement. Force contact officers and police staff now receive a briefing on EDI as part of their induction.

## ✓ **Continued Scrutiny of Cleveland Police Control Room**

The OPCC deepened its scrutiny of force control room performance. This followed concerns regarding the high number of calls being abandoned.

A new control room shift pattern was introduced on 25th January 2021. It ensured staff were on shift at points of highest demand. The impact of this change will continue to be monitored through the monthly scrutiny programme. Further assurances will be required in relation to the provision of a responsive, sustainable and high-quality service.

## ✓ **Independent Ethics Committee strengthened**

Following a successful recruitment campaign in November 2020, five people were appointed to the Independent Ethics Committee. The Committee plays a key role in scrutinising and advising on a wide range of the ethical dilemmas faced by Cleveland Police. The new recruits will ensure there is a more diverse and representative panel, enabling a wide level of challenge and debate.

## Objective 2: A Better Deal for Victims

### ✓ Victim Support Agencies continue to deliver during COVID-19

At the outset of the COVID-19 pandemic, the OPCC recognised the priority of ensuring that vulnerable people and victims of crime had access to the vital services they need, many of which are commissioned by the OPCC.

Throughout the pandemic, all OPCC, locally commissioned services including the Victim Care and Advice Service (VCAS), domestic abuse support services, sexual violence support services and Restorative Cleveland adapted their delivery models. This was to meet Government social distancing guidelines. As a result, all continued to accept new referrals, engage and offer support to individuals.

The Victim Care and Advice Service is a free, independent and confidential support service for victims of crime and their families. The service delivered by Safer Communities enables victims to cope with the immediate impact of crime and help them in their subsequent recovery.

During the period 1 April 2020 to 31 March 2021, VCAS supported 2,250 individuals. They ranged from victims of violent crime, criminal damage, burglary and fraud.

### **Quarter of a million pounds secured to support services during COVID-19**

The OPCC were successful in securing £571,000 from the Ministry of Justice to support domestic abuse and sexual violence services to address the costs associated with the pandemic. Costs included short term disruption to income, essential costs of sustaining current activities or addressing increases in demand. This funding has been a substantial help to specialist services locally, who have been able to retain additional staff with the appropriate skills and knowledge to continue providing high quality support.

### ✓ Tees-wide Independent Sexual Violence Advisor (ISVA) Service commissioned

Following a recent procurement process, the OPCC has appointed Arch Teesside to deliver a Tees-wide Independent Sexual Violence Advisor Service (ISVA).

The role of an ISVA is crucial in providing tailored support to victims and survivors of sexual violence. This includes emotional and practical support before, during and after the court process. An ISVA will also provide support regardless of whether the victim wishes to report an incident to the police.

The OPCC along with Arch Teesside further promoted the role of an ISVA during Sexual Violence Awareness Week in February 2021. Support such as this is even more important given anticipated delays in court dates as a result of the pandemic.

## ✓ **£477,000 secured to support Victims of Domestic or Sexual Violence**

Through the development of successful funding applications, the OPCC secured £477,000 from the Ministry of Justice. Funding was designed to support vulnerable people, children and families affected by domestic abuse and sexual violence. Supporting nine organisations across Cleveland including; A Way Out, Eva, Arch, Safer Communities, Nacro – SWITCH Project, My Sister's Place, Harbour, Foundation and Halo, the funding was used to:

- Buy digital equipment and provide technical support to allow staff to support vulnerable people remotely;
- Provide welfare supplies for vulnerable victims including groceries, household goods and mobile phones to ease isolation;
- Support additional provision or staff to deal with an increase in demand or to replace work normally carried out by volunteers;
- Provide additional support for young people affected by domestic abuse, including support workers and specialist counselling.

## ✓ **Transformation of Support for Victims of Child Sex Abuse Underway**

The OPCC working with a range of voluntary and statutory agencies submitted a bid to the Home Office Child Sexual Abuse Transformation Fund. The bid was to strengthen and enhance support for children and young people, who have experienced sexual abuse. This bid was successful and £232,027 was secured for 2020-2022 to deliver:

- A transformational partnership which will bring together key stakeholders, including commissioners and service providers;
- Development of a specialist pathway for BAME and male victims;
- A whole family approach to support. It will provide tailored support to parents to help them improve their understanding of sexual abuse and increase their confidence to safeguard their children. This approach will be supported by the development of resources.
- A co-located children & young person specialist worker in the Police Complex Exploitation Team.
- A transitions worker, who will bridge the gap and provide continuity of support from childhood to adulthood. This will reduce the risk of further exploitation.

## ✓ **Funding Boost to prevent Child Criminal Exploitation**

In December 2020, the OPCC was successful in securing £3,000 from the Modern Slavery Organised Immigration Crime Programme (MSOICP).

The funding strengthened and enhanced the OPCC' approach to supporting and increasing awareness of modern slavery for families, children, children's services staff and other young people, who are linked to modern slavery. It focusses particularly on young people linked to modern slavery via the typology of child criminal exploitation. Working with specialist service providers including Barnardos with support from Cleveland Police, a series of seminars for parents, carers and professionals were held. In order to reach as many people as possible, webinars were recorded and shared with schools across Cleveland.

## Objective 3: Tackling Offending and Re-Offending

### ✓ £1m invested in three Theft-hit Neighbourhoods with Crime reduced

The Government's £25m Safer Streets Fund 1 aimed to reduce the impact of theft and burglary in some of the country's most vulnerable communities. The Home Office invited Police and Crime Commissioners (PCCs) to make up to three bids to support neighbourhoods disproportionately affected by theft-related crime.

The OPCC worked in partnership with Cleveland Police, Middlesbrough, Hartlepool and Redcar and Cleveland Councils to develop three bids. All were successful, securing over £1m in funding for three at-risk areas of Cleveland. They were:

- Burn Valley and Oxford Road ladder (Hartlepool) – £444,608
- Newport (Middlesbrough) – £479,838
- South Bank (Redcar and Cleveland) – £110,250

Over the past 10 months, the PCC's office has worked with partners to deliver:

- 78 additional CCTV cameras;
- 249 updated lighting columns;
- Improvements to 330 alley gate locks;
- 1,500 at home crime prevention packs;
- Securing 59 void, nuisance properties;
- Support to 200 victims of crime.

#### Has the project worked?

From April 2020 to April 2021, acquisitive crime in Newport dropped by 22 per cent compared to the previous 12 months. Burn Valley and South Bank have seen reductions in burglaries of 40 per cent and 49 per cent respectively. The area will continue to be monitored to see the long-term benefits of the investment.

### ✓ Promising Early Results in the Evaluation of Heroin Assisted Treatment

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

#### Early findings from the treatment.

- A total of 12 people have received treatment;
- Currently, nine people are on the scheme;
- Treatment has an attendance rate of 98%;
- Changes between month one and month three of treatment include:
  - A 200% increase in the overall quality of life score
  - A 97.8% reduction in the use of illicit opioids
  - A 48% drop in the use of combined substances.

Evaluation showed promising early results in the treatment population. Results will be used to inform future funding options with partners.

## ✓ **Giving Young People a Chance through Sport and Activity**

The OPCC has committed to part-funding the Chances programme, together with Cleveland's four local authorities. It is delivered by Middlesbrough FC Foundation. The Chances programme is an evidence-based sport and activity programme. It is delivered through the use of Social Impact Bonds (SIB). SIB's are intended to improve the social outcomes of publicly-funded services by making funding conditional on achieving results. In this instance, the social investor is Big Issue Invest. It pays for the project at the start, and then receive payments based on results. Ultimately. It gets funding back **IF** all outcomes are met.

Planned outcomes include:

- Improved physical literacy;
- Improved school attendance;
- A reduction in the number of young people Not in Education, Employment or Training (NEET;)
- Reductions in offending and re-offending, which will be directly linked to OPCC funding

## ✓ **Middlesbrough chosen for System-wide Approach to tackling Drugs**

Middlesbrough Council area has been chosen by the Home Office and Public Health England to pilot a new system-wide approach to tackling drugs.

Project ADDER (Addiction, Diversion, Enforcement and Recovery) will see police, council and health services come together. They will work in partnership to address the root causes of drugs misuse and breaking down supply chains. The Project will run for three years and bring Home Office investment of £1.325 million.

Project outcomes include:

- A reduction in the rate of drug-related deaths;
- A reduction in the prevalence of drug use;
- A reduction in drug-related offending;
- A reduction in re-offending by prolific offenders, who are motivated by drugs;
- An increase in the number of drug users engaging in and getting benefit from treatment and recovery support as well as an increase in the numbers of people completing treatment;
- A reduction in drug supply to local areas.

## Objective 4: Working Together to Make a Safer Cleveland

### ✓ Partnered with Teesside University to measure Perceptions of Policing during COVID-19

To deepen scrutiny of Cleveland Police during the pandemic, the OPCC formed a unique partnership with Teesside University to undertake independent research to understand:

- **Community perceptions regarding Cleveland Police's implementation of the Coronavirus Act powers.** The University was an independent player. It acted to advise the PCC on public perceptions regarding Cleveland Police's use of COVID-19 powers. It wanted to ascertain whether the community, and in particular 'at risk' groups, felt that the new powers were being used appropriately. The desired focus was on engagement, education and encouragement before resorting to enforcement.
- **How the community would like the PCC and Cleveland Police to engage with them during a period of social distancing when traditional face-to-face engagement mechanisms are not appropriate.** This included recommendations on the future of engagement so it better reflects the diverse range of platforms available. This will potentially have longer term implications for the format of community engagement, going beyond the pandemic.

The results of the research in general provided robust support for Cleveland Police and lockdown measures introduced by the Government. It was clear that members of the public want community engagement to not be solely driven by public health concerns during lockdowns.

### ✓ Rural Communities protected and consulted during the Pandemic

The OPCC continues to chair the Tees Rural Crime Forum. A multi-agency action plan has been developed focusing on:

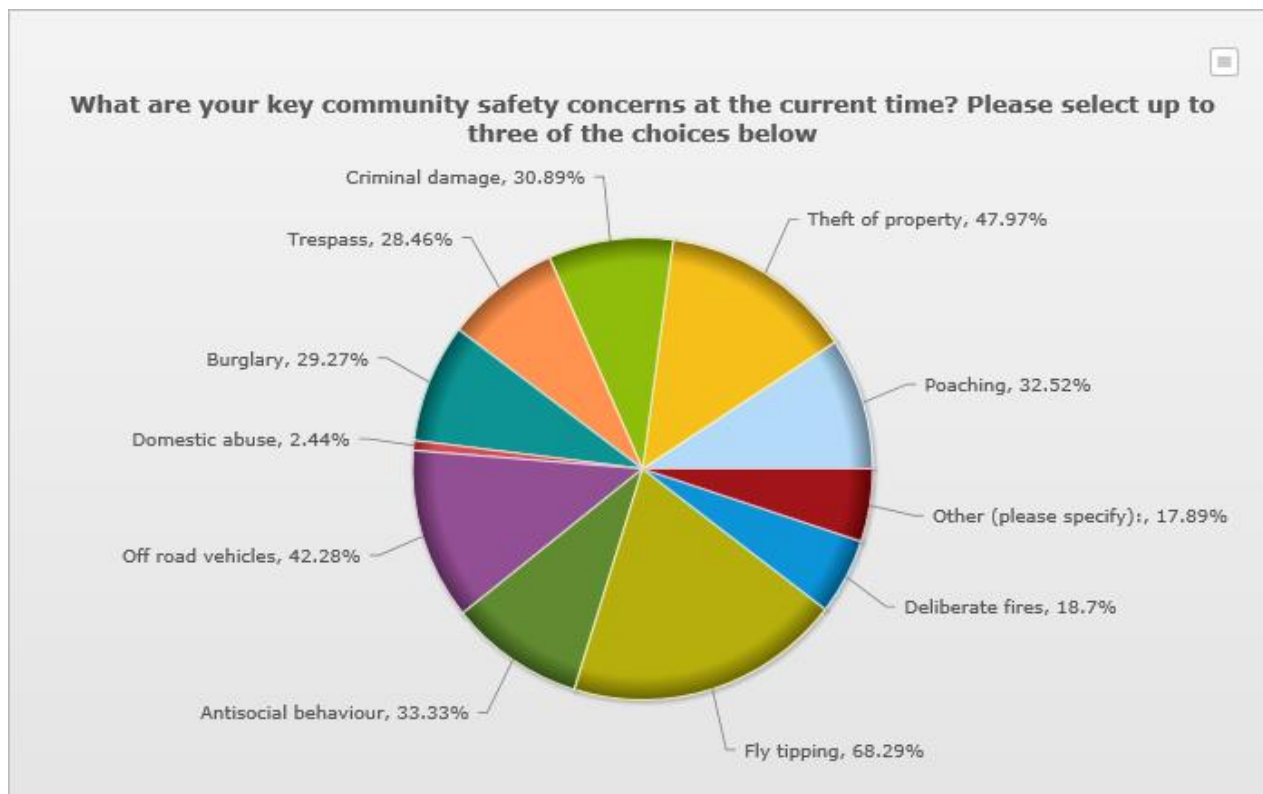
- Improving public confidence in rural communities
- Better understanding of rural communities
- Improving awareness in the wider workforce of rural crime
- Disrupting criminal activity in rural areas
- Developing best practice on rural crime.

Early in the COVID-19 pandemic, concerns were raised both locally and nationally that rural communities were particularly impacted by the social distancing measures. The PCC launched a Rural Crime Survey to better understand how the pandemic was impacting rural communities and their experiences of crime and anti-social behaviour.

The top five community safety concerns raised by respondents were:

- Fly tipping (68%)
- Theft (48%)
- Off road vehicles (42%)
- Anti-social behaviour (33%)
- Poaching (32.5%)

The chart below shows the full range of responses:



Speeding and inconsiderate or illegal parking were the main concerns mentioned in the Other section of this question.

In response to the concerns, the PCC has convened monthly virtual meetings of a Tees Rural Crime Task Force. It brings together police, special constables, rural volunteers, fire fighters, local authorities and the Environment Agency. In advance of meetings, members of the Tees Rural Crime Forum are asked to feed in local concerns from the wider community to ensure that they are reflected in discussions. Action taken following the Task Force's first meeting includes:

- Additional patrols of rural areas using special constables and Neighbourhood Teams
- Drone patrols of Eston Hills and Guisborough Woods - two sites that have had ongoing issues with fire setting during the pandemic
- Increased promotion of the partnership work through social media to provide public re-assurance
- Engagement with local MPs to ensure partnership linkages

### ✓ Continued Leadership in Multi-agency Working to tackle Hate Crime

Monthly virtual meetings of the Cleveland Strategic Hate Crime and Incidents Group were convened.

The group is chaired by the PCC and includes representatives from a wide range of community safety and criminal justice organisations including the police, local authorities, Youth Offending, housing, and VCAS.

A key element of the meeting is monitoring community tensions. Some of the key outcomes have been:

- An application to the Faith, Race and Hate Crime grant scheme
- Plans for a Cleveland Police Cadets hate crime awareness campaign on social media with risk assessments currently being undertaken

## ✓ **Better information sharing between Agencies involved in tackling Crime**

Ensuring staff from different agencies can all access the same information about an individual or family is a key feature in preventing crime, safeguarding vulnerable people and reducing offending.

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 with the result that:

- A total of **537** cases were created on ECINS between April 2020 and March 2021. Of these, 115 cases are currently open and 422 have been archived;
- Of the 422 archived cases, 77% have been archived as resolved or needs met;
- Cases relate primarily to the Divert programme, victims, anti-social behaviour, integrated offender management and problem-solving
- Organisations using ECINS include teams from Cleveland Police, local authorities, housing associations, Cleveland Fire and Rescue Service and Safer Communities.



## Objective 5: Securing the Future of our Communities

### ✓ Youth Commission launched to gather Views of Young People

In 2020, the OPCC commissioned social enterprise Leaders Unlocked to develop a Youth Commission (YC) model for Cleveland. It is a mechanism for engaging young people aged 14 to 25 on policing and community safety.

Twenty seven young people were recruited with a range of diverse backgrounds and **life** experiences. They decided on the following as young people's key priorities:

- Young people and their relationship with the police
- Hate and online crime
- Mental health awareness
- Drug and alcohol abuse
- Youth activities and preventing re-offending

The YC engaged with over 1,200 young people across Cleveland through the Big Conversation. It established a wider picture of young people's priorities and views in the five key areas identified. A report with recommendations was produced and presented to the OPCC, Cleveland Police and other local leaders in an online conference.

The event was very well received by local services who attended, with one stating:

*"I have been involved in numerous initiatives where young people have been consulted on numerous issues.*

*"What struck me about the Youth Commission presentation was that it was very different. It was clear that the process had empowered young people.*

*"They presented in a manner that showed they had taken ownership of the research; were very articulate in what they had found out; had obviously explored underneath the issues that are affecting young people and crucially identified solutions. The evening very definitely demonstrated that Leaders were being unlocked."*

The project has been re-commissioned for another year. Key activities planned are:

- Working with the OPCC, police and partners to implement the recommendations in the Big Conversation report;
- Scrutiny of Stop and Search;
- Scrutiny of police ethics;
- Development of a Youth Independent Advisory Group (YIAG) model;
- The Tree of Life mental health project.

### **World Children's Day 2020**

On Friday 20 November, the PCC and Chief Constable took part in World Children's Day by allowing a young person to take over their role for the day. Young people were appointed from the Youth Commission following a process, during which 11 applications were received.

The youth PCC had a busy day with meetings to chair and attend in relation to serious violence, Stop and Search and Restorative Justice.

The nine candidates, who were unsuccessful in the takeover application process, still played a vital role on the day by engaging in workshops. They looked at real community projects and helped the youth PCC to decide how to award £1,000-worth of funding.

## ✓ Youth Outreach Services reach nearly 5,000 Young People

The OPCC funds each local authority to commission a Targeted Youth Outreach Service. It delivers an assertive street-based programme of early intervention and diversionary and positive activities. The service engages with young people, who are involved in, or at risk of becoming involved in, anti-social behaviour and crime.

During 2020/21, social distancing restrictions meant that services had to be paused intermittently. However, over the course of the year, services were able to engage with nearly 5,000 young people through street-based activity.

The focus of outreach changed to engaging with young people and encouraging them to follow social distancing restrictions. During the pandemic, the majority of young people across Cleveland have been compliant with the Covid measures. Services have targeted hotspots, such as parks, where young people were congregating. Services have built relationships with young people and gained their trust. At a time when most youth services were closed and potentially vulnerable young people had restrictions in the positive interactions in their lives, the Youth Outreach Service were able to provide a valuable link to services.

## ✓ Football Diversion Project helps tackle Mischief Night and Halloween

MFC Foundation Kicks provides free of charge sporting activities to young people in deprived areas across Cleveland. It uses the power of the MFC brand to engage with potentially vulnerable young people and divert them from potential offending behaviour.

Like other youth services, MFC Foundation activity has been restricted due to social distancing restrictions. However, activity has been undertaken in nine centres across Cleveland engaging with over 800 young people.

The project supported Operation Autumnus to divert young people from offending over the Halloween and Bonfire Night period.

Over 100 young people attended sessions during this time. The positive impact of the sessions was noted by Cleveland Police.

Daryll Thomlinson, Cleveland Police Chief Inspector, said:

*“The Neighbourhood Police Teams in Middlesbrough continue to support the community sessions where possible and have seen first-hand the value the sessions bring.*

*“We have witnessed the diversity in the sessions and how the coaches are able to build trust and confidence and engage with them.*

*“During the session, it is clear that the activity is pivotal in diverting them from walking the streets and potential crime and anti-social behaviour”.*

## ✓ **Anti-Racism Work adapted during the Pandemic to train Police Officers**

Show Racism the Red Card (SRTRC) is a charity, which provides anti-racism training and awareness raising.

During 2020/21, SRTRC received OPCC funding to deliver awareness-raising sessions in schools across Cleveland.

With schools closed due to the pandemic, funding was diverted into training for front line police officers on racism and unconscious bias.

Eight sessions were delivered to over 300 front line staff as part of the Equality, Diversity and Inclusion programme running within Cleveland Police.

A Train the Trainer session was delivered to OPCC and Cleveland Police staff to ensure sustainability of the training package so it could be rolled out internally in future.