



Police & Crime Commissioner for Cleveland
c/o Steria Shared Service Centre
Ash House
III Acres
Princeton Drive
Thornaby
Stockton-On-Tees
TS17 6AJ

Email: pcc@cleveland.pnn.police.uk
Website: <http://www.cleveland.pcc.police.uk>

Police and Crime Commissioner:
Chief Executive & Monitoring Officer:

Barry Coppinger
Simon Dennis BA, Solicitor

Tel: 01642 301861
Tel: 01642 301861

Rt Hon Priti Patel MP
Direct Communications Unit
2 Marsham Street
London
SW1P 4DF

16 January, 2020

Dear Home Secretary,

Tackling Serious Violence in Cleveland

It has been a very challenging festive period for officers, staff and volunteers serving the Cleveland Police area. 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 theft offences, 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. Following our last letter dated August 2019, I am disappointed that the Home Office has once again allocated £35m to just 18 out of the 43 police services in England and Wales, on top of the £35m they were awarded last year.



The Police & Crime Commissioner for Cleveland is an accredited Living Wage Employer with the Living Wage Foundation.

With knife crime figures 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.

I continue to worry about the use of overall hospital admission figures as a single means of determining the extent of serious violence in an area.

While our hospital admissions are low, largely due to our small population size, Cleveland Police's figures show that violent crime in the county has increased by 15% between December 2018 and December 2019. Cleveland now accounts for the third highest level of violent crime in the country.

The time is right for the Government to make an investment in Cleveland. Following a successful bid to the Early Intervention Youth Fund in 2018, in conjunction with a range of local partners and agencies, my office has implemented a range of schemes and initiatives to break the cycle of violent offending across the county.

- We have doubled our investment in youth outreach for 2019-20, ensuring our four local authorities have additional resources to engage with young people at risk of offending or committing antisocial behaviour, in the areas most at risk.
- Over 500 professionals across Cleveland have taken part in training on County Lines and Adverse Childhood Experiences, to better help those working with young people to identify vulnerabilities and to encourage them to look beyond them to a more positive future.
- Young offenders have had increased opportunities to turn away from crime through diversion schemes and have had access to specialist counselling through Youth Offending Services, to help them to rebuild their damaged relationships with family and friends.
- I continue to invest in crime prevention and early intervention provision within Cleveland Police, funding School Liaison Officers and Early Intervention Co-ordinators to encourage good citizenship at the earliest possible stage and to address initial signs of criminal behaviour.
- In August last year, my office secured a visit from the Knife Angel sculpture and in partnership with local knife crime campaigner Theresa Cave, hundreds of young people were educated about the dangers of knife crime and an estimated 30,000 witnessed the Angel first-hand.

We are at a crucial turning point in our work against serious violence. In a matter of months, this Home Office funding will cease and we are faced with difficult decisions about what work we are able to continue.

On Friday 14th February, my office is holding a Tees Serious Violence Summit in Hartlepool, to report on work undertaken so far and to explore how agencies can work together to tackle the challenge we face. I would like to extend an invitation to you as Home Secretary and Home Office officials, to allow you to see how the Early Intervention Fund has been put to use in our area and our future plans.

I once again urge you to reconsider the current funding system for tackling serious violence, to ensure areas like Cleveland – and dozens of other high crime areas across the country – have access to vital funding to help keep our streets safe and prevent further loss of life. I would be happy to discuss with you or your officials how we could proceed further.

I am also circulating this letter to local MPs and members of our Local Criminal Justice Board.

Yours sincerely



Barry Copping
Police and Crime Commissioner for Cleveland

Cc: Mike Hill MP
Alex Cunningham MP
Matthew Vickers MP
Andy McDonald MP
Simon Clarke MP
Jacob Young MP
Kit Malthouse MP