



Report of the Cleveland Police and Crime Panel to the Police and Crime Commissioner for Cleveland on the Commissioner's Annual Report 2022/23

At its meeting on Tuesday 11 July 2023, the Cleveland Police and Crime Panel considered the Police and Crime Commissioner's Annual Report 2022/23

In introducing his report, the Commissioner recognised the huge effort of OPCC team to deliver against the objectives of the Police and Crime Plan and stated his pride that this report reflected a full year of delivery under his leadership.

He acknowledged that the report had taken a long time to produce and had not been available to Panel Members in the timeframes he would have wished for them to be able to review and digest the detail it contained. He outlined each of the sections of the report and offered to respond to any further questions from Panel Member following the meeting.

The Commissioner emphasised the most notable achievements during the year including:

- Exceeding national targets having recruited 267 additional officers up to March 2023;
- The successful launch and implementation of the COPA app, Cleveland's first policing app;
- Securing funding for the continuation of CURV (Cleveland Unit for the Reduction of Violence) with a particular focus on preventing vulnerable children from becoming involved in violent offences;
- Securing investment of more than £1.12m into services to combat violence against women and girls and support victims of domestic abuse and sexual violence;
- The noticeable improvement in the performance of Cleveland Police since the appointment of the new Chief Constable, acknowledged in the most recent report published by HMICFRA in March 2023;
- An increase in the use of technology to fight crime with drone deployments having risen by more than 40% and the number of drone pilots by 44%.

The report set out clearly the actions that had been taken to achieve each of the Commissioner's pledges and Panel Members welcomed the opportunity to discuss these with the Commissioner. Questions and Comments from Panel members included the following:

- Statistics showed there was a 24% reduction in Anti-social behaviour although it didn't necessarily feel that way. Off road bikes remained the biggest issue;
- Although there was some improvement with communication and feedback between police officers and local Councillors or members of the public reporting crimes, it was felt there was still more that could be done;
- Violent crime appeared to be increasing and becoming a significant problem in the Cleveland area. In part, this might be attributed an increase in reporting as some violent

offences that might previously have gone unreported were now being reported, such as violence against young men;

- The growing use of the COPA app for reporting crime enabled incidents and evidence to be connected together increasing the chances of criminals being brought to justice;
- There was a view that nationally routes into policing could be improved to maintain/increase the number of police officers and ensure robust vetting procedures;
- The role of special constables was valuable and the Panel welcomed the fact that there was now a volunteer co-ordinator in post;
- It would be beneficial for Panel Members to promote the use of the COPA app within their own communities. Support was available via the Commissioner's office for any Panel Members that required assistance with downloading and using the app.

The Panel felt that the report was clear and well presented and RESOLVED to note the Annual Report.