



# Delivery of the Police and Crime Plan

Covering the period up end of December 2023

## Introduction from the Police and Crime Commissioner

I am pleased to share this report with you which provides a snapshot of progress made against the delivery of my Police and Crime Plan up to the end of December 2023.

Where possible, this report provides an overview in relation to local performance set against national and Most Similar Force Group performance.

Overall, 2023 has been an extremely busy year where we have achieved so much to address crime, anti-social behaviour, and community safety issues in Cleveland. The trajectory of improvement is positive – and I am delighted that we are starting to see the reduction of crime across Cleveland.

I continue to be immensely proud of the work my team does against delivery of my Police and Crime Plan. Additionally, without the support from our key partners across the area our successes would not be as positive.

Many thanks for reading.

*Steve*



# Bringing Offenders to Justice



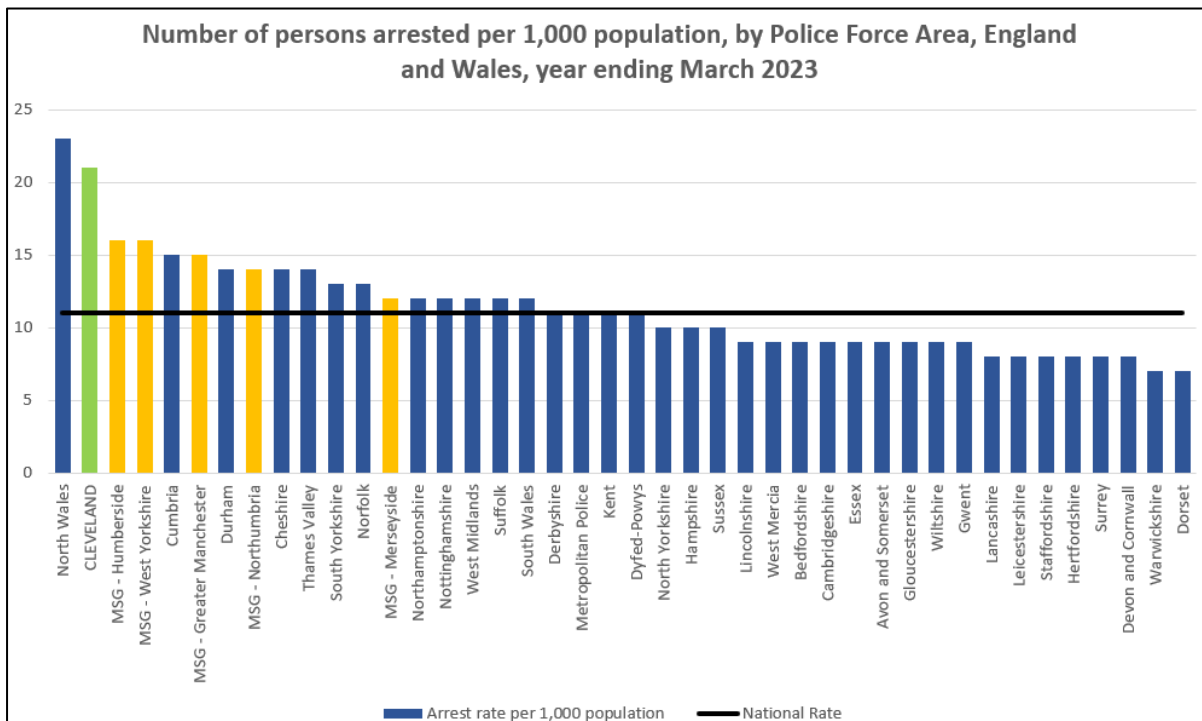
**Links to Strategic Outcome:** *‘To build confidence and put the pride back into Cleveland Police’ and ‘to work collectively with partners to reduce crime, specifically serious violence’.*

Bringing offenders to justice continues to be one of my key areas of concern. Therefore, understanding Cleveland Police’s arrest and crime outcome performance within both a national context and against Most Similar Force Groups (MSG) is a key performance indicator to monitor successful delivery against this strategic priority.

## Arrest rates in Cleveland are the highest in England

From the latest data available from the Office of National Statistics, I am very pleased to see that Cleveland Police has the second highest arrest rate, at 21 per 1,000 population, in the country which stands at almost double the national average of 11 per 1,000 population and is also higher than our Most Similar Groups (highlighted in yellow).

This clearly demonstrates the robust and proactive response the Force are taking in apprehending offenders who cause harm in our communities.



## Solving crime in Cleveland

Positive outcomes for crimes include a range of actions including charging offenders to court, providing diversionary, education or intervention activity, and the delivery of out-of-court disposals. As at the end of September 2023 the **positive outcome rate for all crime stood at 10%**.

Further analysis of Office of National Statistics **charging outcome data** for the last 12-months up-to September 2023 shows that Cleveland Police's performance sits amongst **the best in the country** with charging rates broadly higher than national and Most Similar Group averages.

<b>Crime Category</b>	<b>Cleveland Charge Rate</b>	<b>National Charge Rate</b>	<b>Most Similar Group Charge Rate</b>
All Crime	7.4%	5.9%	6.3%
Domestic burglary	5.1%	3.9%	4.7%
Violence against the Person	5.6%	5.3%	5.2%
Robbery	14.3%	6.3%	8.1%
Shoplifting	22.6%	14.5%	17.1%
Sexual Offences	3.7%	3.9%	3.7%
Possession of Weapons	32.8%	27.2%	28.3%

## Getting Tough on Drugs and Gangs

*Links to Strategic Outcome: 'To build confidence and put the pride back into Cleveland Police' and 'to work collectively with partners to reduce crime, specifically serious violence'.*



Throughout my consultation and engagement work, drug dealing in communities continues to be a primary concern which requires a multi-agency response to ensure we effectively connect people to treatment services, protect vulnerable people from harm and stem the supply of drugs on our streets.

As the Chair of the Combatting Drugs Partnership, I have led the development of a multi-agency strategy which sets out three key strategic priorities:

- Prevention, Early Intervention and Harm Reduction
- Strengthening Treatment and Recovery
- Reducing Supply and Drug Related Crimes

To deliver better results for individuals, families and communities affected by substance misuse, the implementation of the strategy will act as the catalyst to strengthen the co-ordination of partnership activity across Tees.

### Removing drugs from our streets

As highlighted in my previous performance report, during 2023-24 I have committed to Project ADDER through match funding – worth up to £125,000 to ensure robust enforcement activity to disrupt the supply of drugs in our most affect communities. As part of this project, Cleveland Police have:



- Arrested **552** people.
- Disrupted **76** organised crime groups.
- Secured **1,613 drug seizures** including crack and heroin.
- Secured prison sentences **44 years** and 11 months, with a further 19 people awaiting custody.

In addition, latest Home Office figures for the year ending in March 2023, show that **3,668 drug seizures** were made by authorities; including the Police and Border Force in Cleveland. This figure represents a **17% increase** compared to the same time period in the previous year.

## First of its kind drug-driving intervention programme piloted in Cleveland



Individuals convicted of drug-driving will be among the **first in the country** to be offered an educational course in an aim to address their drug-taking habits. Current UK legislation offers educational courses for drink-driving and for driving without due care attention.

Starting in early 2024 the course will signpost offenders to local services that offer support to aid recovery from drug-taking habits.

Participation in the scheme is not mandatory. However, an agreement has been reached with major insurance companies that should course attendees go on to regain their driving license, they may be offered a reduction in their renewal premium.

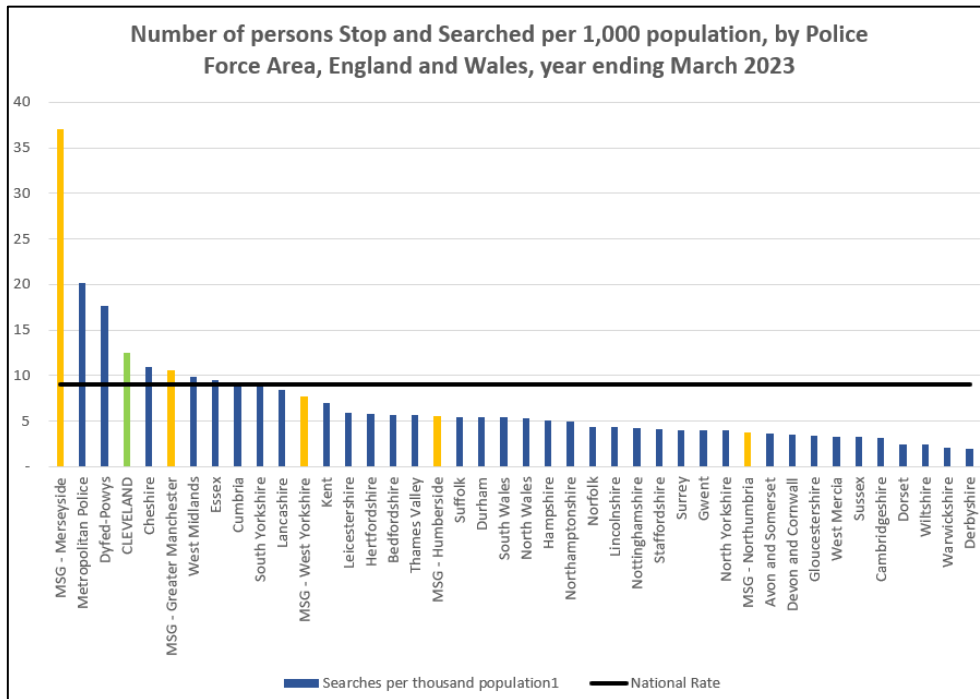
It's hoped the courses will reduce drug-driving offences and lessen the burden of drug offences on local services, including health and police.

Once the pilot has been completed it will be academically reviewed and evaluated. This evidence will feed into a DfT consultation, which could lead to a legislative change to roll-out drug-driving education courses nationwide.



## Stop and Search levels in Cleveland

From the latest data available from the Office of National Statistics, I note that Cleveland Police has the **fourth highest stop and search rate in the country**, at 13 per 1,000 population. In comparison, the current National rate is 9 stops per 1000 population and the MSG rate is at 12.8. The current stop rate is 13.3 per 1000 population.



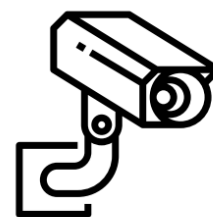
In terms of positive outcomes, one in four stop and search encounters result in a positive outcome which can include an arrest. As detailed in the table below, positive outcome rates in Cleveland are slightly below the national average but higher than the Most Similar Group rate.

Stop Rates	Search	Positive Outcome Rate	Linked Outcome Rate	Positive Outcome Rate
Cleveland		25.0%		19.1%
National		26.5%		21.2%
MSG		24.6%		18.6%

In the 12-months up to November 2023, Cleveland Police has conducted **8,723** stop searches. This figure represents a **31.5% increase** compared to the previous 12-months. The outcome rate over the 12 months has remained fairly static and currently stands at 26.0%.

## Tackling Anti-Social Behaviour Head on

Links to Strategic Outcome: 'To build confidence and put the pride back into Cleveland Police' and 'to provide high quality support to victims and the most vulnerable that effectively meets their needs'.



### More than 1,000 additional patrols to tackle anti-social behaviour

As previously reported, I secured £1m in Government funding to support the delivery of high visibility, uniformed patrols in areas that have been identified as having high levels of antisocial behaviour.

Between August and December 2023, more than **1,200 dedicated patrols** have taken place across 15 council wards in Hartlepool, Middlesbrough, Stockton and Redcar. During these patrols more than **1,000 community and business** engagements have taken place.

Early results of these patrols are promising, with over **100 enforcement** activities implemented, including the issuance of Fixed Penalty Notices and Section 4 Warning Notices.

These patrols play a vital role in effectively addressing anti-social behaviour alongside other partnership activities, with year-on-year data showing a **43% reduction in anti-social behaviour** in 11 out of the 19 targeted micro-hotspot locations.

Despite these reductions, as detailed below, during the most recent reporting period anti-social behaviour incidents have **increased by 4.6%** (+781 incidents) in comparison with the previous twelve months. However, a notable **reduction of 22.8%** has been recorded when compared with baseline year with incident levels following an **overall decreasing trend**.

Performance Measure	12 months Jan 2020 – Dec 2021	12 months Jan 2021 – Dec 2022	Current 12 months Jan 2022 – Dec 2023	% Change to Previous 12 months	Direction of Travel (to Previous 12 months)	% Change over the three year period	Direction of Travel (over the three year period)
Antisocial Behaviour (ASB) Incidents	23,234	17,152	17,933	4.6%	↔	-22.8%	↓



## Investing in positive activities to divert people away from anti-social behaviour

Based on the success of previous seasonal funding initiatives, in December 2023 I launched a spring activity fund to fund positive activities for young people during February's half-term and the later Easter holidays.



Aiming to provide young people with a range of activities at a time of year when traditionally money is tight and fewer, organised activities take place, the funding opportunity attracted more than **25 applications** from across Cleveland, with 22 successful applicants receiving a share of just over **sixty-five thousand pounds** to support their charities activities.

## Environmental design helps combat anti-social behaviour issues

Designing out crime is an evidence-based approach that has been academically proven to reduce crime and disorder issues.



As part of my Safer Streets investment, I was fully supportive of partnership action to close problem footpaths in Hemlington.

As part of a package of Safer Streets interventions in Hemlington, this has directly contributed to incredible reductions in crime and anti-social behaviour (ASB), including:



# Effective Policing and Criminal Justice System

**Links to Strategic Outcome:** ‘To build confidence and put the pride back into Cleveland Police’, ‘to provide high quality support to victims and the most vulnerable that effectively meets their needs’ and ‘to work collectively with partners to reduce crime, specifically serious violence’



## Access to Police Services

At a national level Cleveland Police continue to have strong and consistent performance in relation to 999 call answer times.

As detailed below, over the last 12 months ending December 2023, Cleveland Police have seen a **5.5% increase** in the number of 999 calls received (6,253 additional calls on the previous year). Despite this increase, the percentage of 999 calls answered within 10 seconds has seen a slight **increase of 0.6 percentage points**.

In relation to non 999 calls, over the last 12 months Cleveland Police have seen a **2.1% reduction** in the number of calls which equates to **4,723 fewer calls**. This follows a national trend which is believed could be linked to the increased offer of digital reporting through Single Online Home and in Cleveland - COPA. When looking at this data over a three-year period, non 999 calls have seen a **reduction of 5.7%**.

Performance Measures	12 months Jan 2020 - Dec 2021	12 months Jan 2021 - Dec 2022	Current 12 months Jan 2022 - Dec 2023	Volume Change on previous twelve-month period	% Change to Previous 12 months	Direction of Travel (12 months)	% Change over the three year period	Direction of Travel (over the three year period)
Number of 999 calls received	99,321	114,617	120,870	6,253	5.5%	↑	21.7%	↑
% 999 calls answered within 10 seconds	81.6%	87.1%	87.7%		+0.6pts	↑	6.1pts	↑
Average call wait time for a 999 calls (seconds)	6.5	4.5	4.2		-0.3 secs	↓	-2.3 secs	↓
Number of non 999 calls received	231,994	223,382	218,659	4,723	-2.1%	↓	-5.7%	↓
% of non 999 calls answered within 2 minutes	64.8	66.4	70.4		4.0 pts	↑	5.6 pts	↑
Average call wait time for a non 999 call (seconds)	120.7	119.8	103.6		-16.2 secs	↓	-17.1 secs	↓

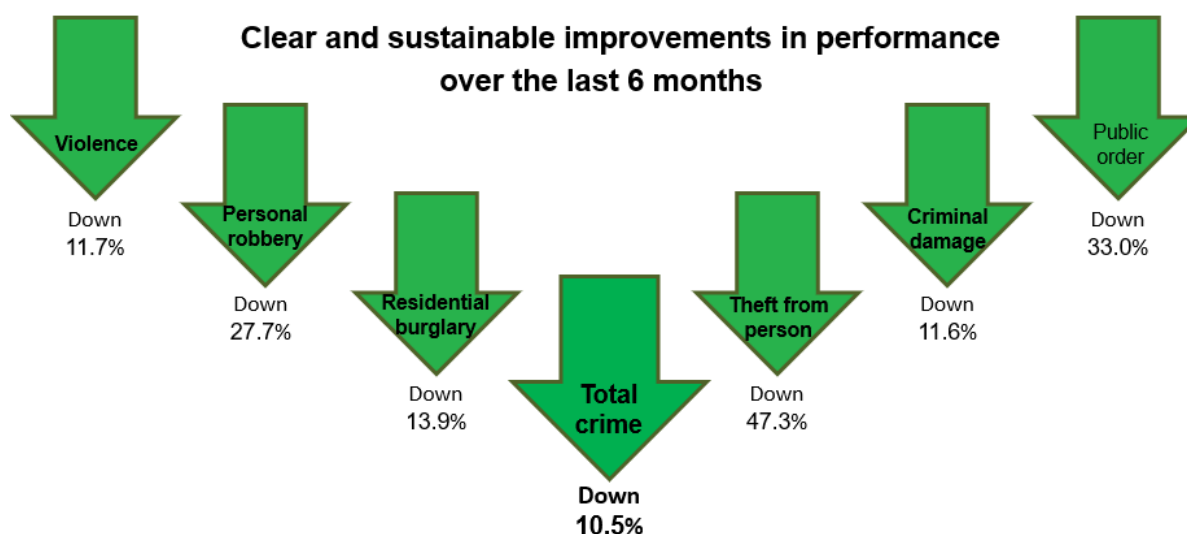
## Neighbourhood Crime

During this reporting period I note that there has been an **2.8% reduction** in total recorded crime however this has been accompanied by an **increase of 1.7%** in neighbourhood crime year-on-year

Performance Measures	12 months Jan 2020 -Dec 2021 *COVID*	12 months Jan 2021 – Dec 2022	Current 12 months Jan 2022 – Dec 2023	Volume Change on previous twelve-month period	% Change to Previous 12 months	Direction of Travel (12 months)	% Change over the three year period	Direction of Travel (over the three year period)
Total Recorded Crime	70,225	81,673	79,354	-2,319	-2.8%	↓	12.9%	↑
Theft from person	340	564	389	-175	-31.0%	↓	14.4%	↑
Robbery	680	888	817	-71	-8.0%	↓	20.1%	↑
Residential burglary	2,991	3,764	3,845	+81	2.2%	↔	28.5%	↑
Vehicle Crime	2,987	4,241	4,566	+325	7.7%	↑	52.8%	↑
Neighbourhood Crime Total	6,998	9,457	9,617	+160	1.7%	↔	37.4%	↑

\* Please note comparisons to the baseline period incorporate a peak time period of the Covid pandemic and should be considered in this context and do not provide for an accurate time comparator given the social restrictions that were still in place.

As previously reported, Neighbourhood Crime has been and will continue to be a feature on my scrutiny programme to ensure performance continues to improve and neighbourhoods feel safer. Therefore, for my forthcoming scrutiny session, on behalf of the communities of Cleveland, I was very pleased to receive the following performance figures from the Force demonstrating positive performance for the latest six-month period.



## Prevent, Reduce and Tackle Serious Violence



*Links to Strategic Outcome: 'To build confidence and put the pride back into Cleveland Police' and 'to work collectively with partners to reduce crime, specifically serious violence'*

### Investing in prevention and early interventions to tackle serious violence

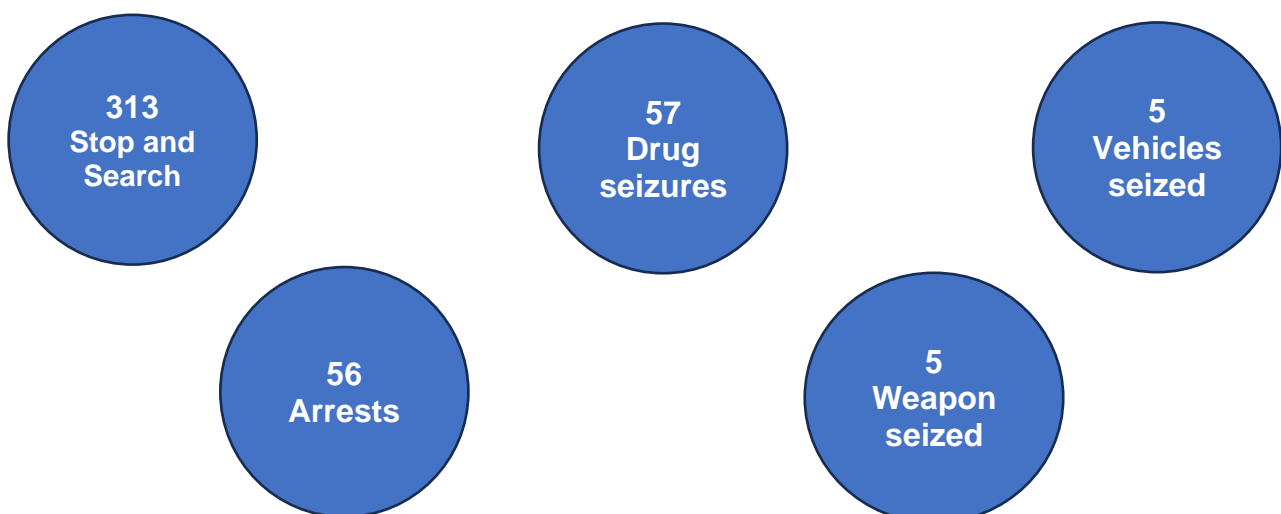
As part of my long-term strategy to reduce serious violence in our communities, I have invested more than **£1.2 million** in a wide-range of prevention and early intervention schemes to address and divert young people away from violence. Reaching more than **25,000 young people**, this work is vital in securing positive and safe futures for our young people and communities.

As previously reported, working with our Youth Justice Partners, I launched the Custody Navigator Scheme in our police custody suite. This is the only service in the country to offer 'reachable and teachable' support to young people in police custody.

During this reporting period the service has engaged with more than **200 young people** in custody, with **72.8% of young people** engaging in further support in the community.

Alongside this prevention work, the Force continue to undertake dedicated high visibility GRIP patrols in hotspot locations as part of GRIP to suppress violence rates, provide community reassurance, as well as delivering problem-oriented policing.

In the 12 months up to December 2023, there have been **4,780 additional patrols** in micro-hotspot locations which have resulted in:



## Serious Violence

During this reporting decreases have been recorded across all serious violence performance indicators, with **significant reductions in hospital admissions (-17.6%)** and **youth related serious violence (-14.9%)**.

Performance Measures	12 months Jan 2020 - Dec 2021 *COVID*	12 months Jan 2021 - Dec 2022	Current 12 months Jan 2022 - Dec 2023	Volume Change on previous twelve-month period	% Change to Previous 12 months	Direction of Travel (12 months)	% Change over the three year period
Homicides	8	11	10	-0.9%	↓	25%	↑
NHS Sharps Admissions (total) (from DCP)**	60	85	70	-17.6%	↓	16.6%	↑
NHS Sharps Admissions (U25) (from DCP)**	20	30	20	-33.3%	↓	0%	→
Police recorded serious violence offences, all ages	1,581	1,929	1,800	-6.7%	↓	13.8%	↑
Police recorded youth related serious violence	551	648	552	-14.8%	↓	0.1%	→
Police recorded knife/sharps enabled serious violence offences	683	866	785	-9.3%	↓	14.9%	↑
Police recorded knife/sharps youth related	260	334	284	-14.9%	↓	9.2%	↑

\*NHS sharps admissions data available only to end of September 2023 and both are from the Digital Crime Performance Pack

\*\* Please note comparisons to the baseline period incorporate a peak time period of the Covid pandemic and should be considered in this context and do not provide for an accurate time comparator given the social restrictions that were still in place.

## More Police on our Streets

*Links to Strategic Outcome: 'To build confidence and put the pride back into Cleveland Police'.*



The newest national dataset has not been published since the last Police and Crime Panel meeting in July 2023. As a result, the information available in the below table is the most up to date and available in the public domain.

### Policing Resources in Cleveland (Headcount)

Performance Measures	12 months ending March 2021	12 months ending March 2022	12 months ending March 2023	% Change to Previous 12 months	Direction of Travel (12 months)	% Change over the three year period	Direction of Travel (over the three year period)
Number of Police Officers	1,431	1,450	1,493	3.0%	↑	4.3%	↑
Number of Police Community Support Officers	100	106	90	-15.1%	↓	-10.0%	↓
Number of Special Constabulary Officers	69	54	50	-7.4%	↓	-27.5%	↓

# Tackling Violence Against Women and Girls



*Links to Strategic Outcome 4: 'To provide high quality services to victims and the most vulnerable that effectively meets their needs'.*

## Helping girls to stay safe online

Research shows that 88 per cent of girls see unsolicited pictures and videos online, which they'd rather not view.

Unsolicited messages, comments and pictures have become normalised and now seem to be an accepted part of the online world, which children and young people navigate every day.



Therefore, I was keen to support the development of age-appropriate resources to promote online safety to protect girls from offensive online content.

Working with the Cleveland charity **Rubies** and **Wander films**, a new video – Ruby's Story - shows girls that online exploitation is a real issue in their own communities and urges them to stay safe and protect their online accounts.

## Providing additional support for victims of stalking

As part of my commitment to tackle violence against women and girls, I have funded **two Independent Stalking Advocates (ISAs.)** Forming part of a service operated by national stalking and personal safety charity the **Suzy Lamplugh Trust**, the ISAs will work closely with Cleveland Police, victims' services and partners – in particular those specialising in domestic abuse and sexual violence.

The new service will pick up referrals from the police and make sure appropriate support is in place. Support will focus on victim safety and meeting their needs. In addition, training will also be rolled out to frontline officer and partners to increase awareness and help with the earlier identification of stalking victims.

## Domestic Abuse

The below highlights key performance measures in relation to Domestic Abuse (DA). The 12 months ending December 2023 shows a **2.7% increase** in the number of DA recorded crimes. The arrest rate for the same period was 43.7%, representing a slight increase compared to the previous year.

Performance Measures	12 months Jan 2020 - Dec 2021 *COVID*	12 months Jan 2021 - Dec 2022	Current 12 months Jan 2022 - Dec 2023	Volume Change on previous twelve-month period	% Change to Previous 12 months	Direction of Travel (12 months)	% Change over the three year period
Number of Domestic Abuse Crimes	12,836	13,639	14,008	2.7%	→	9.1%	↑
Arrest rate	43.9%	43.1%	43.7%	0.6 pts	↑	-0.2pts	→
Repeat incident rate	40.3%	38.4%	41.2%	2.8 pts	→	-0.9 pts	→

## Sexual Violence

The table below shows the number of reported sexual offences and rape during the current reporting period, where during within the 12 months up to December 2023 there has been a slight **1.6% increase** in the number of sexual offences compared to the previous year. Conversely, this is accompanied by a **5.1% reduction** in recorded rape offences.

Performance Measures	12 months Jan 2020 - Dec 2021 *COVID*	12 months Jan 2021 - Dec 2022	Current 12 months Jan 2022 - Dec 2023	Volume Change on previous twelve-month period	% Change to Previous 12 months	Direction of Travel (12 months)	% Change over the three year period
Number of reported sexual offences	2,352	2,590	2,631	1.6%	→	11.9%	↑
Number of reported rapes	884	1,018	966	-5.1%	↓	9.2%	↑



## Building Confidence in our Communities



**Links to Strategic Outcome: 'To build confidence and put the pride back into Cleveland Police'**

### Victim Satisfaction

Victim satisfaction over the whole experience has seen a slight reduction of **-0.9 percentage point** over the last 12 months. When breaking this down to specific elements of the service initial contact and victim treatment has seen a **0.7 and 3.8 percentage point increases**. However, victim follow ups and actions have seen recorded reductions.

As part of my scrutiny and accountability programme, accompanied by the effective use of public complaints data I will continue to monitor the quality of service Cleveland Police provides to our victims and ensure continuous improvements are made.

Performance Measures	12 months Jan 2022 – Dec 2022	12 months Jan 2023 – Dec 2023	Direction of Travel (12 months)	% Point Change over previous 12 months
Victims satisfied with the whole experience	71.8%	70.9%	→	-0.9pts
Victims satisfied with initial contact	88.7%	89.4%	↑	0.7pts
Victims satisfied with actions	73.0%	71.6%	→	-1.4pts
Victims satisfied with follow-up	64.0%	61.6%	→	-2.4 pts
Victims satisfied with treatment	88.1%	91.9%	↓	3.8%

## Effective, quality support for victims and witness of crime



*Links to Strategic Outcome: 'To provide high quality support to victims and the most vulnerable that effectively meets their needs'.*

### Delivering support to victims of crime

The Victim Care and Advice Service – known as VCAS - provides support to anyone affected by crime or antisocial behaviour in the Cleveland area who feel they would benefit from some additional support. VCAS staff provide a free, independent and confidential service that responds to individual circumstances helping people to cope with the initial impact, to support them through the Criminal Justice System and to assist in their journey to recovery. Since the introduction of this service in 2016, VCAS have supported over **15,000** victims of crime and anti-social behaviour.



During this reporting period the VCAS service has begun supporting victims of crime to appeal lenient sentences, with a success rate of more than **50 per cent**.

Through my engagement work I am well aware of the frustrations many members of the public have when they see what they consider to be lenient sentences handed out to some criminals.

Therefore, as the local victims' champion for Cleveland, it is my duty to ensure that I do everything I possibly can to ensure high quality support is available for victims to get the best possible outcome for themselves and their families.

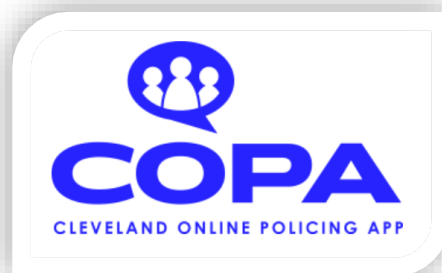
## Use of technology to combat crime

*Links to Strategic Outcome: 'To make greater use of technology that creates efficiencies and supports productivity'.*

### Cleveland Online Policing App (COPA)

COPA was launched in September 2022 and this since this time the app has been download more than **8,500 occasions** as at the end of December 2023.

This has resulted in the submission of more than **350** questions which have been responded to appropriately by the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner team and over **3,500** 'tell us about' submissions which in 99% of cases were directed to the Cleveland Police Control Room for appropriate review, logging and response.



Performance Measures	From launch to end of December 2023
Number of downloads	8,867
Number of questions submitted	369
Number of 'tell us about' submissions	3,608

I am really pleased to see that the COPA app is been used to connect members of the public with other partner agencies for help and support, since its implementation there have been:

- 940 connects to Local Authority websites.
- 98 untaxed vehicle reports to the DVLA.
- 627 connects to victim support websites and resources.
- 904 connects to the Crimestoppers website.