

POLICE AND CRIME COMMISSIONER FOR CLEVELAND

Annual Report
2023/24





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Introduction from Chief Executive Lisa Oldroyd

It has been another busy 12 months for us in the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner (OPCC) and the team have continued to work hard to deliver against the objectives in the 2021-2024 Police and Crime Plan.



These objectives are:

- Bringing offenders to justice
- Getting tough on drugs and gangs
- Tackling anti-social behaviour head-on
- Helping to provide an effective police and criminal justice system
- Preventing, reducing and tackling serious violence
- Putting more police on the streets
- Tackling violence against women and girls
- Building confidence in Cleveland's communities
- Providing effective, quality support for victims and witnesses
- Using technology to combat crime

My highlight was seeing Cleveland Police exit the 'Engage' process – otherwise known as 'special measures' - with Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary and Fire and Rescue Services (HMICFRS). This is the culmination of hard work and determination by officers, staff and volunteers within Cleveland Police, supported by the OPCC.

Our work to reduce crime through preventative and diversionary programmes continue to support people to make the right choices in their lives – and when things go wrong, the high-quality victim services we commission are on hand to help.

This report is a snapshot of the work the OPCC team has been doing over the last year and I couldn't be prouder of them. We look forward to working with Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC) Matt Storey, as he sets the strategic policing and crime programme for the next four years.

A word from PCC Matt Storey

This report makes for fantastic reading and highlights the breadth of work the OPCC has completed over the past year.

Every person in the team should feel incredibly proud of the role they've played. It gives me confidence as I prepare to draft the 2024-2028 Police and Crime Plan, that we are on a good course to make Cleveland a safer, stronger and confident place for all.



Key Achievements

September 2023

Cleveland Police out of special measures for the first time in four years



April 2023

Over 1,000 people complete award-winning custody diversion programme Divert

November 2023

UK-first drug drive educational scheme launched



November 2023

First police complaints team to receive a customer service excellence award

February 2024

Over £110,000 invested in activities to reduce antisocial behaviour



March 2024

Highest police officer numbers since 2011

Over the last 12 months:

Overall crime has reduced by over 8%, representing a reduction of 7,500 fewer crimes

Bringing offenders to justice

Our aim: Increasing opportunities for offenders to be held accountable for their behaviour with a focus on preventing re-offending.



Driven down re-offending rates with diversionary programmes

Divert

Cleveland Divert aims to steer first time and low-level offenders away from the criminal justice system and instead address the underlying problems which have led to offending.

This support – or pathways – includes help with mental health problems, substance misuse, education, or housing. In return, they won't attend court or receive a criminal record for their offence.

How successful has it been?

Over 1,000 people have completed the programme since Divert launched five years ago.



During 2023-24, Divert worked with almost 250 offenders.

The most common offences related to:



Most recent data from the Ministry of Justice shows that Cleveland has an adult reoffending rate of 32.1%. Out of the participants who successfully completed Divert between April and September 2023, only **2.9% went onto re-offend**.

Youth Triage

Youth Triage takes place at the point that a young person comes to the attention of police. Young people are rapidly assessed to ensure that they are kept out of the criminal justice system and dealt with swiftly and effectively.

Bespoke intervention packages are tailored to meet the needs of the young person, to challenge the offending behaviour whilst providing victim awareness and where needed, other support services (for example, substance misuses and mental health).

During 2023-24, Cleveland's three Youth Offending Service's Triage projects saw 217 referrals opened. The most common offences related to:



This led to more than 630 bespoke interventions being made for under 18s. The most common interventions included:



Re-offending rates for young people who have been through Youth Triage are less than 20% - the average Cleveland juvenile re-offending rate is 35.6%.



Supported the introduction of Teesside Intensive Supervision Court

In June 2023, Teesside became one of just three places in England to try an innovative new approach to justice for low-level offences.

Intensive Supervision Courts (ISCs) were introduced at Teesside Court for people whose offending is driven by substance or alcohol misuse.

Rather than a traditional sentence, offenders will be issued a strict community order in which they are required to attend drug or alcohol treatment services. They'll also be closely monitored by the Probation Service, including being subject to random drug tests.

Failure to engage, continued substance misuse or refusal to attend follow-on meetings with a judge could mean increased drug testing or jail time for those on the new order.

13 people have been referred to the court so far, with nine people currently engaging with the programme.



Successful Appropriate Adult Service continues

Appropriate Adults (AAs) are volunteers who work with vulnerable people in police custody, to safeguard their rights, interests and welfare.

Detainees may have mental health problems, learning difficulties or substance misuse issues.

As well as supporting the welfare of detainees, they also make sure they are able to take part effectively in police procedures around their detention, interview and ongoing police investigations.

***AAs were called out on over 3,200 separate occasions in the last 12 months.
That's an increase of almost 17% on the previous year!***



Getting tough on drugs and gangs

Our aim: Introducing a holistic approach to drugs and gangs including prevention, early intervention and targeted intervention.



Increased number of stop and searches conducted by police officers

The number of stop and searches conducted by police in Cleveland that resulted in illegal items being found has **increased by a quarter in the last 12 months**.

Data to March 2024 shows Cleveland Police officers conducted 7,136 searches between April 2023 and March 2024 – an increase of 26% from the 12 months prior.

A total of 24.6% of all searches resulted in an item being found, whether it was the original item officers were looking for, or another illegal item.

	April 2022 - March 2023	April 2023 - March 2024	% Change to previous 12 months
Number of Stop and Search carried out	7,137	8,993	+26.0%
Number of Stop and Search resulting in a positive outcome	1,787	2,251	+26.0%
Number of Stop and Search resulting in a linked outcome	1,364	1,699	+24.6%

"Stop and search removes the threat from the streets of Teesside, by catching criminals carrying knives or going equipped to steal."

- Superintendent Marc Anderson, Cleveland Police's lead on stop and search



Launched a 10-year plan for reducing the harm of drugs on Teesside

Cleveland's Combating Drugs Partnership developed and launched a strategy to reduce the harm caused by drugs in Cleveland over the next decade.

The Combating Drugs Partnership is a multiagency group made up of representatives from the PCC's office, the police, public health teams, drug treatment agencies and more.

The newly published strategy has three priority areas:



Preventing those at most risk from falling into substance misuse while reducing the harm caused to those who do use.



Delivering world class treatment and recovery services across Cleveland.



Reducing drug supply and drug-related crime.



Continued success of targeted drugs project

Project ADDER, (Addiction, Diversion, Disruption, Enforcement, Recovery), is funded by the Home Office and the Police and Crime Commissioner.

It aims to reduce drug deaths whilst also tackling the harm illicit drugs cause communities including disrupting Organised Crime Group activity (OCG).

Running in Middlesbrough since 2021, the project co-ordinates law enforcement activity and enhances diversionary programmes.

This year, the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner invested £125,000 in Project ADDER to ensure the police enforcement element continues.

Over the last 12 months, Project ADDER resulted in:



Launch of the UK's first educational course for drug drivers

The Cleveland area is leading a pioneering trial to offer drug drivers an educational course to address their drug-taking habit.

The project aims to tackle drug-related harm through proactive enforcement and enhanced treatment options.

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

During 2023-24, a total of 1,316 arrests were made in Cleveland relating to driving under the influence of alcohol and drugs.



Tackling antisocial behaviour head-on

Our aim: Taking a strong stance on antisocial behaviour (ASB) through partnership working and youth engagement.



Over 2,700 additional ASB patrols conducted across Cleveland

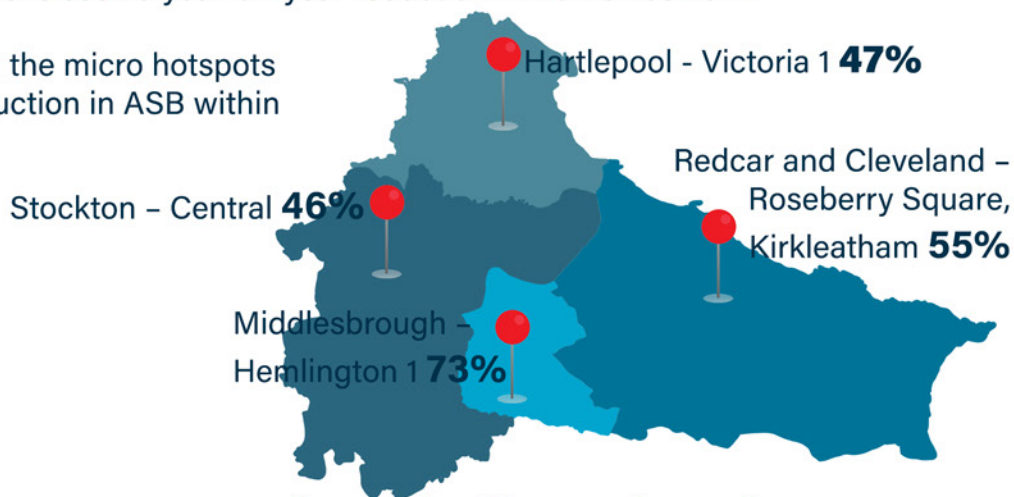
Cleveland was one of the first places in England and Wales to secure Home Office funding to run additional proactive patrols to clamp down on antisocial behaviour (ASB) in identified hotspots.

A total of 19 micro hotspots were targeted with highly visible, uniformed patrols conducted by civil enforcement officers or street wardens. The £1m investment allowed us to increase the number of wardens across the Cleveland area, to assist with the additional patrols.

Since August 2023, a total of 2,765 additional ASB patrols have been carried out across Cleveland's four council areas - resulting in 323 enforcement actions.

12 of the 19 hotspot areas have seen a year-on-year reduction in ASB since 2021.

In the two years since 2021 the micro hotspots which saw the biggest reduction in ASB within each borough were:



More than 15,000 young people reached by youth services

In the last 12 months, Premier League Kicks, delivered by Middlesbrough Football Club Foundation, have had over 4,000 interactions with young people.

Kicks is funded by the OPCC to offer free football sessions in local communities, particularly those where there are high levels of ASB.

Targeted Youth Outreach Services in each of Cleveland's four boroughs have also been funded by the OPCC. Services aim to curb antisocial behaviour (ASB) in some of the area's worst trouble spots.

By encouraging young people to explore positive interests including music, dance and sport, youth workers aim to divert them from becoming involved in the risky behaviours, which lead to ASB and crime.

During 2023-24, over 11,000 interactions were made with young people across Cleveland.



More than 50 people take part in Immediate Justice projects

Cleveland Police force area was chosen as one of the first in the country to introduce Immediate Justice.

This means those found committing anti-social behaviour can be made to repair the damage they inflicted on victims and communities. This could see them being made to pick up litter, remove graffiti or carry out other work to make environmental improvements in anti-social hotspots.

A total of 54 adults and young people have been referred to the Immediate Justice programme across Cleveland since it commenced in September 2023.



IMMEDIATE JUSTICE



Almost £1m secured to deliver fifth Safer Streets project

With support from our partners, we secured almost £1 million from the Home Office to roll out the fifth round of the Safer Streets Fund.

Having proven success in other areas of Cleveland, this project aims to tackle crime, antisocial behaviour and violence against women and girls in areas of Hartlepool, Stockton and Middlesbrough.

Safer Streets is a partnership between the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner, Cleveland Police, local authorities, other public services, housing providers and charity and community organisations.

The results so far:



VICTORIA, HARTLEPOOL

- Recruitment of Safer Streets Team.
- Eight crime prevention packs distributed.
- 26 alley gate restorations.
- Six street lighting columns installed.



STOCKTON TOWN CENTRE

- 42 crime prevention packs distributed.
- New kick-rails installed and painted in target areas.
- Female empowerment programme launched.
- Improved engagement with vulnerable women.



CENTRAL MIDDLESBROUGH & LONGLANDS

- Safer Streets Officer issued 15 enforcement actions and made 25 support referrals.
- Three community skip days to improve environment.
- Rails and 'lego blocks' installed in target areas.

Effective policing and criminal justice system

Our aim: Collaborate with and hold to account Cleveland Police and wider criminal justice agencies to increase public confidence.



Cleveland Police out of special measures for the first time since 2019

In September 2023, Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary and Fire and Rescue Services (HMICFRS), announced that Cleveland Police had exited "special measures".

The force had been under the oversight of HMICFRS for over four years, during which they underwent a number of inspections and re-inspections – and have seen improvements driven by Chief Constable Mark Webster.

The force's current grading is:

Outstanding	Good	Adequate	Requires improvement	Inadequate
	Recording data about crime	Treatment of the public	Investigating crime	Preventing crime
		Responding to the public	Protecting vulnerable people	Good use of resources
		Disrupting serious organised crime	Developing a positive workplace	
		Managing offenders		

We recognise that there is still progress to made in ensuring Cleveland Police receives at least an adequate grade against all areas of inspection. We continue to monitor the force's performance through our scrutiny programme and through analysis of force performance data.



Reduction in total recorded crime, including theft and burglary

The latest crime figures show that over the last 12 months, overall police recorded crime has decreased by over 8%, representing a reduction of 7,500 fewer crimes. There have also been significant reductions in robbery, theft and residential burglary.



More police on our streets

Our aim: Investing in frontline community response.



Highest police officer numbers since 2011

Supported by the Government's police officer uplift scheme, Cleveland Police has recruited an additional 300 police officers since March 2019.

Standing at 1,495 as of September 2023, this brings the number of police officers in Cleveland to the highest levels since 2011. An additional 48 officers are expected to be recruited during 2024-25 financial year.

	March 2019	September 2023	Total uplift
Number of police officers	1,198	1,495	+297



No cuts to policing services and PCSO role retained

Many public sector organisations have recently found themselves facing financial issues and uncertainty, as a result of ongoing economical challenges facing the country.

Cleveland Police will not face any cuts to their current services and unlike other police forces around the country, they will retain valuable neighbourhood Police Community Support Officers (PCSOs).

The strong financial plans that are in place have been made possible thanks to the support from the communities of Cleveland, following an increase to the policing precept over the next 12 months.

Prevent, reduce and tackle serious violence

Our aim: Development of a Cleveland-wide serious violence strategy in collaboration with Cleveland Police and Community Safety Partnership.



Reduction in violent crime, including youth knife crime

CURV – Cleveland’s violence reduction partnership - was established in 2022 to explore innovative solutions to prevent and divert people at risk of becoming involved in violent crime.

CURV also supports statutory partners to identify long-term, sustainable interventions and strategies to reduce violence over the long-term.



Supported by dedicated police patrols in violence hotspots, efforts towards violence reduction since 2022 are having a positive impact on crime figures.

	April 2022 - March 2023	April 2023 - March 2024	% change	Direction of travel
Hospital admissions for knife related injuries	85	75	-11.8%	↓
Hospital admissions for knife related injuries (U25)	25	15	-40.0%	↓
Police recorded serious violence offences	1,953	1,826	-6.5%	↓
Police recorded youth related serious violence	647	553	-14.5%	↓



Introduced navigators to support people involved in violence

Navigators in custody

Four custody navigators were funded by CURV to reach out to people involved in – or at risk of – serious violence detained in police custody, who have already entered the criminal justice system.

604 young offenders were supported during the first six months of custody navigators' programme when it launched at Cleveland Police's custody suite in August 2023.

John Holden, Head of CURV, describes the point at which young people are detained in police custody as a “reachable, teachable moment.”





Reduction in violent crime, including youth knife crime

Hospital navigators

South Tees Hospitals
NHS Foundation Trust

The James Cook University Hospital

Two A&E navigators were also introduced at Middlesbrough's James Cook Hospital to work with children and young people who attend A&E with a violence-related injury.

They develop trusting relationships and provide informal mentoring to help them access services.



£1.4m invested in anti-violence projects and interventions



During 2023-24, CURV invested over £1.4m in anti-violence projects and interventions, whether through the commissioning of services or providing grants to community organisations. This included four community-led interventions:

1. Public space safety - Corner House Youth Project
2. Targeted primary intervention - A Way Out, Kalma Life
3. Sport-based intervention - Youth Focus North East
4. Focused deterrence - Project Connect



Held first business networking event

A networking breakfast hosted by CURV at the Riverside Stadium in March brought together a diverse array of individuals and organisations with a shared passion for making Cleveland a safer place to live.

Attendees from the public, private and community sectors had the opportunity to collaborate on initiatives with hopes of reducing serious violence and building safer communities.

Tackling violence against women and girls

Our aim: Working in partnership with local services to ensure women feel safe and supported in our area.



Major investment in support for victims of stalking

Sadly, the number of reported stalking offences in Cleveland has increased by over 44% over the last three years – with over 2,500 incidents reported in the last year alone.

We recognised the need for specialist support for victims of stalking, due to the huge impact it can have on the lives of people it affects.

Supporting victims

We partnered with the Suzy Lamplugh Trust – a national stalking charity – to introduce Cleveland's first Independent Stalking Advocate Caseworkers (ISACs).

The two ISACs work closely with police, victims' services and partners to support Stalking Protection Order applications and make sure appropriate advocacy support is provided for victims.

In just six months since the service launched, **18 victims** have received advocacy support from an ISAC.



Improving our response to stalking

We invested around £80,000 into stalking training to ensure all police officers and relevant partner agencies could better identify stalking and ensure specialist support for victims at the earliest opportunity. Training of police officers investigating stalking and applying for stalking protection orders (SPOs) has supported better protection for victims and ensures perpetrators are held to account.



Continued specialist support for victims of domestic abuse

We continue to commission various domestic abuse agencies across Cleveland, to ensure victims have access to the support, guidance and counselling they need to recover from abuse.

Funding is provided to Harbour, My Sister's Place, EVA Women's Aid and the Halo Project, who work with victims of domestic abuse, coercive controlling behaviour and illegal cultural harms.





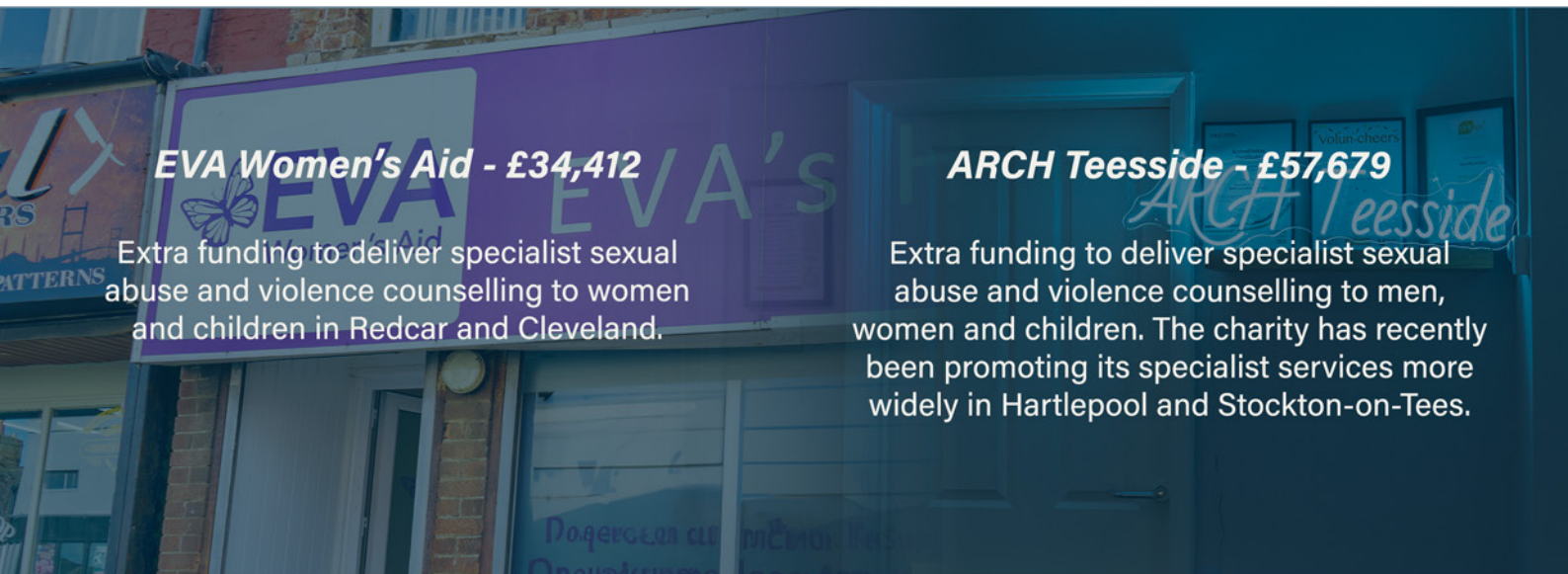
Funds allocated to cut counselling waiting lists for sexual abuse victims

Agencies in Cleveland who support victims of sexual abuse have reported that demands for their sexual violence counselling services have increased by around **20%** in the last year.

Our commissioned services Arch Teesside and EVA Women's Aid **supported 2,760 new or existing victims of sexual violence** between 1 April 2023 and 31 March 2024.

We applied for a one-off grant from NHS England to provide additional counselling services across Cleveland, in a bid to reduce waiting lists for vulnerable victims of abuse.

This £92,092 investment was invested as below:



EVA Women's Aid - £34,412

Extra funding to deliver specialist sexual abuse and violence counselling to women and children in Redcar and Cleveland.

ARCH Teesside - £57,679

Extra funding to deliver specialist sexual abuse and violence counselling to men, women and children. The charity has recently been promoting its specialist services more widely in Hartlepool and Stockton-on-Tees.



Proven success in new approach to reaching black and minoritised ethnic (BME) victims

Our research found that less than 1% of domestic abuse reported to Cleveland Police is identified outside of White British ethnicities – and just 3% of victims accessing domestic abuse support in Cleveland are from black and minoritised ethnic (BME) communities.

We partnered with Catalyst Stockton, a voluntary and community sector organisation (VCO), to release a £30,000 fund for grass-roots organisations already working with BME groups.

The aim of the project was to raise awareness of domestic abuse, better understand the needs of BME communities, and to build a bridge between BME groups and domestic abuse agencies.

We funded seven local organisations, who delivered these results:



Building confidence in our communities

Our aim: Ensuring a high-quality service is delivered by Cleveland Police, building pride and support for police across our local area.



First police complaints team to receive a customer service award

In January 2022, Cleveland became one of the first OPCCs in the country to take on the greatest level of responsibility for handling police complaints.

This resulted in the creation of a new, independent team of advisers to resolve public complaints and queries at the earliest possible stage.

The Resolution Team use a customer-service focused approach to address concerns in a timely and effective manner.

Now in their second year, the team contact police complainants six times faster than the average police complaints team.

	Total complaints logged	Reviews received	Complaint satisfaction rate
2023 - 24	1,993	71	96%

CUSTOMER SERVICE EXCELLENCE: A first for police complaints teams

In November 2023 Cleveland's Resolution Team secured the 'Customer Service Excellence Award' from the Centre of Public Excellence.

They are the only police complaints team in the country to receive this national, independent accreditation.



RETAIL CRIME: A case study

During the summer of 2023, the Commissioner's office noted an increase in correspondence and complaints from retailers, concerned about ongoing issues with theft, antisocial behaviour and violence against shopworkers.

What we did:

- Hosted an event for retailers to engage directly with the OPCC.
- Held a specific scrutiny session with Cleveland Police's senior leaders.
- Identified organisational learning for Cleveland Police.



Over £110,000 granted to community organisations and charities

Over the last year, the OPCC released two funds to reduce the impact of antisocial behaviour on communities during peak periods, including Halloween, Bonfire Night and school holidays.



Giving young people a voice on their future

Cleveland Youth Advisory Group

Cleveland Youth Advisory Group (YAG) was established in 2022 to develop a sustainable, structured system for young people aged 14-25 to influence decisions about policing and crime in Cleveland.

In the last 12 months, the YAG have received an input and had their say on a range of topics, including:



Stop and Search



Police Custody



Violence Against Women and Girls



Use of Force

Teesside Hope Hack 2024

In February 2024, almost 100 young people from the Cleveland area attended a youth event at the Riverside Stadium, to share their views on what will make a better world for the next generation.

Known as a 'Hope Hack', the event encouraged young people to consider issues that affect them, identify the main concerns and identify solutions to solve them.

Hope Hacks were established by the Hope Collective – a legacy project in memory of Damilola Taylor, who was tragically killed in 2000 when he was just 10-years-old.

Attendees from youth groups, schools and pupil referral units delivered presentations on how issues such as health, poverty, community safety and the environment could be improved for young people.



Effective quality support for victims and witnesses

Our aim: Ensuring high quality support is available to victims and witnesses of crime and antisocial behaviour through commissioning specialist support services.



Specialist support for 1,437 victims of crime or antisocial behaviour

The Victim Care and Advice Service – known as VCAS – provide advice and guidance to anyone affected by crime or antisocial behaviour, who feel they need additional support.



Their free, confidential service – delivered by Safer Communities – is independent of the police. Expert victim care officers tailor support to the needs or circumstances of the individual, helping them come to terms with the incident and assisting in their journey of recovery.

Launched in 2016, the service has been commissioned by Cleveland OPCC ever since.

Of the 1,437 people supported over the last 12 months, the most common crimes they have experienced are:



Fraud



Antisocial Behaviour



Violence

"If my Victim Care Officer said she was going to do things, she did them and I appreciated how kind she was and her sense of humour. If I rang and was upset she allowed me to see the light at the end of the tunnel.

Just thank you for all of the life-changing work that you do, it is appreciated."

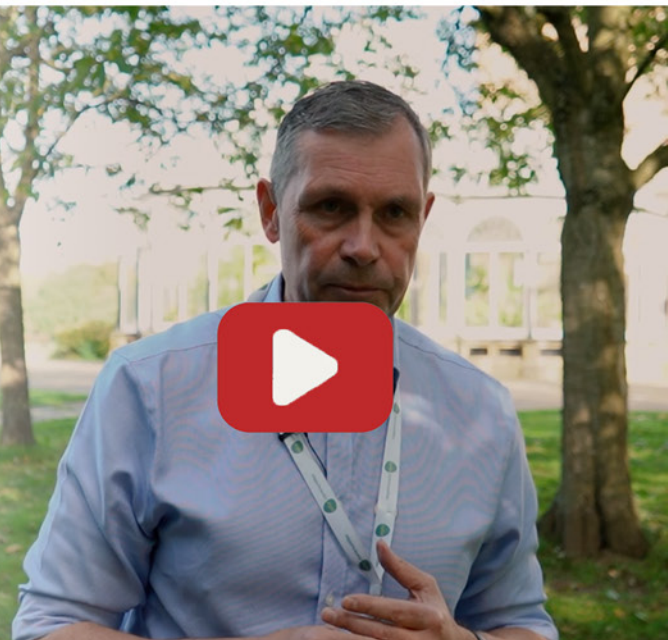
"I can live again because of what you did".

- Victim of a violent crime

Highlighting eight successful years of VCAS!

In January 2024, the OPCC supported VCAS in a 're-launch' event; showcasing the service's incredible work over the last eight years and featured a short film about the VCAS team.

Click to watch the film here ->
or scan the QR code below





More than 300 restorative justice interventions delivered



restorative
cleveland

Restorative Cleveland is a restorative justice service operating across Cleveland. It offers victims the opportunity to have their voice heard after a crime, through some form of engagement with the offender who caused them harm.

A restorative justice (RJ) intervention could be an indirect message, a written letter or a face-to-face meeting. All are delivered by trained facilitators.

Restorative justice is widely seen as a powerful tool that helps the victim communicate their experience and seek answers to questions, to help them move forward after a crime.

Some offenders also find the experience powerful, causing them to question their involvement in criminal behaviour in the future.

In the last 12 months, the service has:

Worked on
more than
80
cases

provided
300
individual RJ
interventions

Delivered
over **70**
training sessions
on RJ to partner
agencies

Achieved
100%
satisfaction rates for
both victims and
offenders



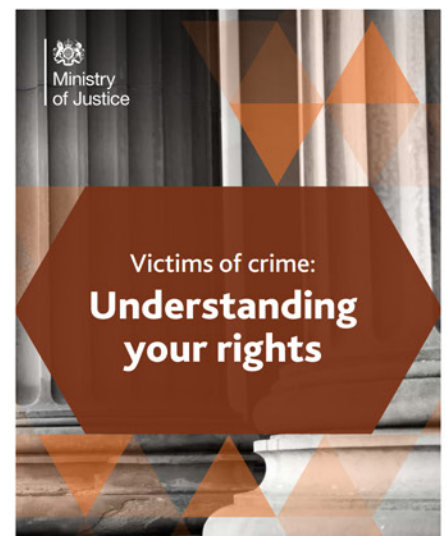
New Victims' Code of Practice promoted among services

In early 2024, the Government announced it would be launching a refreshed version of the Victims' Code of practice from 1 April 2024.

The Victims' Code sets out the minimum level of service victims can expect from criminal justice agencies such as police and courts – whether they choose to report the crime or not.

Updates in the new version of the Code include giving victims an automatic right to be updated when their perpetrator leaves prison.

The OPCC provided updated resources on the Code to our victim services, published them on our website and ensured we had printed materials to give out to the public at engagement events. We will be following how agencies meet the updates in the code through our scrutiny programme.



Use technology to combat crime

Our aim: Using technology to increase operational capability and efficiencies, keep track of offenders and engage with communities.



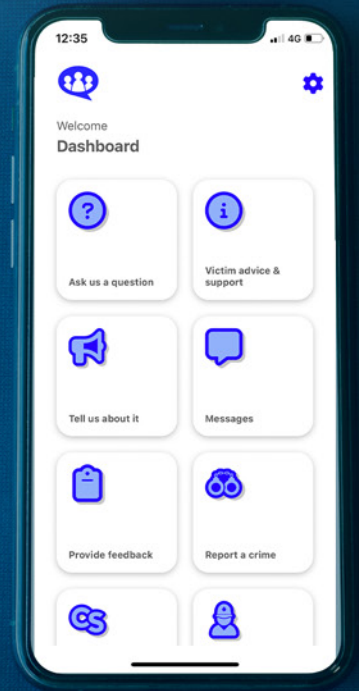
Over 10,000 downloads for the UK's first reporting app

Cleveland Online Policing App – or COPA – was launched in September 2022 as one of the first apps of its kind in the UK.

It gives Cleveland residents the opportunity to report crime, provide feedback to police and seek assistance from partner agencies for common non-policing issues.

The two main aims of the app were:

- To reduce the demand on Cleveland Police's call-handlers, specifically for non-emergency or non-policing matters.
- To improve accessibility and ease of reporting for Cleveland's communities.



Since it was launched in 2022, there has been:

10,000

downloads

4,300

reports

990

onward
visits to local council
websites

863

visits
to Cleveland Police
careers page

649

access
to victim support
information

3.9%

reduction
in 101 calls to
police control
room

The most common issues reported are:



Antisocial behaviour



Vehicle-related antisocial behaviour



Drugs



Increase in police drone deployments – for the third year running

Drones are an important technological advancement that allow police to track criminals, locate vulnerable people and monitor large crowd situations.

In Cleveland, the investment in pilots and equipment has allowed their use to become mainstream across the force.

	April 2022 - March 2023	April 2023 - March 2024	% change	Direction of Travel
Number of drone deployments	1,049	1,486	+41.6%	↑
Number of drone pilots	26	41	+57.6%	↑



Strategic Policing Requirement

In addition to the public priorities captured in the PCC's Police and Crime Plan, the Government also recognise that there are aspects of policing where a cross-boundary response is required respond to national threats. The Strategic Policing Requirement (SPR) supports Chief Constables and PCCs to plan, prepare, and respond to national threats, and ensure that the forces' national responsibilities are fulfilled.

The seven threats identified by the Home Secretary are:

- Violence against Women and Girls (VAWG)
- Terrorism
- Serious and Organised Crime
- A National Cyber Incident
- Child Sexual Abuse
- Public Disorder
- Civil Emergencies

We considered the SPR in development of the Police and Crime Plan. The Chief Constable is responsible for having due regard to both the Police and Crime Plan and the SPR when exercising their functions, and the PCC holds the Chief Constable accountable for doing so through our scrutiny and assurance framework.

Assurances against the seven threats

VAWG

The addition of VAWG was a welcome recognition of the severity of this threat to our society. Cleveland Police support the national focus in this area and pledged to use legislative orders to protect the vulnerable in their 'Policing Cleveland Together' – Strategic Plan.

In January 2024, the PCC undertook an in-depth scrutiny into the Force's long-term plans for addressing stalking and harassment, seeking assurance on when the Force anticipated a reduction in the number of offences and how they were using legislative orders, such as Stalking Protection Orders, to protect people.

Serious and organised crime

Cleveland Police continue to work with partners to improve the multi-agency approach to tackling serious violence. This includes work to enhance the understanding of the problem, undertaking early intervention and prevention activity, targeting offenders and safeguarding vulnerable people.

Processes are in place to identify and target those causing the most harm in the community by using information and intelligence to target specific individuals, to recover firearms in circulation and to prosecute the offenders. Cleveland Police has been allocated additional funding by the Home Office, which is being used to enhance hot spot policing and stop and search in high-violence areas.

Cybercrime

The Cleveland Police Cyber Crime Unit (CCCU) was set up as part of a National Programme to ensure all forces had a dedicated Cyber Crime Unit. Part funded by the Government, the CCCU forms part of 'Team Cyber UK'. This is an extended network of capabilities that encompass resources at national, regional and force levels.

Cleveland is also supported by the Regional Cyber Crime Unit (RCCU), part of the North East Regional Organised Crime Unit (NEROCU). Using the principles of 'Pursue', 'Protect', 'Prevent' and 'Prepare', the team are actively involved in all referrals made to Action Fraud, providing investigative support and advice to victims in order to prevent repeat victimisation. Using powers granted by the Proceeds of Crime Act, they have recently made their first seizure of crypto currency worth £10,000.

Scrutiny and holding to account

The OPCC supported the PCC in holding police and local community safety partners to account for their efforts in protecting and serving the residents of Cleveland.

Central to this is a detailed programme of scrutiny, looking at the way Cleveland Police handle issues we believe are of concern to Cleveland's communities.

During 2023-24, we supported the PCC in scrutinising the below topics:

Meeting Date	Topic	Assurance
April 2023	PEEL Inspection Update What progress has been made since the inspection by HMICFRS and what are the timescales for improvement?	Assured
May Quarterly Performance	Police provided performance data in the following areas: ▪ Neighbourhood crime	Partially Assured
June 2023	Off Road Bikes (ORB) How many deployments made for ORBs this year? How is the force measuring success in tackling the issue?	Assured
July 2023	Public Confidence Have national events and debated affected public confidence in policing in Cleveland? What work is taking place to improve public confidence?	Partially Assured
September Quarterly Performance	Police provided performance data in the following areas: ▪ Public confidence ▪ Violent crime ▪ Knife crime	Partially Assured
October 2023	Citizens in Policing What is the force's ambition for Citizens in Policing and what will success look like?	Partially Assured
November 2023	Retail Crime How are the force working to tackle retail crime?	Assured
	Rural Crime Has the proactive approach to rural crime been maintained?	
	Body Worn Video (BWV) Does the force maintain oversight of the use of BWV, including any issues of misuse?	
November 2023	Right Care Right Person What are the plans and challenges around implementing the Right Care Right Person project?	Assured
January 2024	VAWG - Stalking and Harassment What are the force's long-term plans for tackling stalking and harassment?	Partially Assured
February 2024	Force Governance Structure - Update Have benefits been realised from changes to the force's structure?	Assured
March 2024	Public Confidence How are the force working to build public confidence?	Partially Assured

Independent Custody Visitors

Independent Custody Visitors (ICVs) are members of the local community who visit police stations unannounced to check on the treatment of detainees, the conditions in which they are being held and that their rights and entitlements are being observed.

Despite being a small pool of volunteers, during the 2023-24 financial year, they checked on the welfare of almost a fifth of detainees in custody at the time of their visit.



17,032

detainees processed in
Cleveland Police's custody
suites in 2023

578

detainees in custody
at the time of random
custody visits

101

detainees visited
by Cleveland's
custody visitors

Seven new visitors joined the Cleveland team this year, so we have additional capacity to increase the number of detainees checked on during the current financial year.



Silver award for custody visitor scheme

The Quality Assurance Framework (or QAF) is a tool that outlines what quality independent custody visiting schemes should look like. It assesses areas such as recruitment, training, transparency and communications.

Cleveland's scheme received a Silver award in Birmingham, meaning our custody visiting scheme is graded as 'good'.





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