



Police and Crime Plan Delivery and Performance Update

Quarter 1
April – June 2025

**SAFE
STRONG &
CONFIDENT
COMMUNITIES**

Measures and performance



Priority	Outcome	Measures
 Reduce crime, antisocial behaviour and harm	Cleveland will be a safer place to live, work and visit, with less crime, violence and antisocial behaviour.	• Overall recorded crime • Recorded antisocial behaviour • Recorded violent crime • Public satisfaction and confidence surveys
 Deliver more visible and effective policing	Police understand local concerns and provide a visible and proactive response.	• Public satisfaction and confidence surveys • Number of police officers, staff and volunteers • Public contact performance • Arrest rates and solved crime rates
 Improve safety for women and girls	Women and girls in Cleveland will feel safe and supported. Perpetrators will be held accountable.	• Use of preventative and protective orders • Recorded VAWG offences • Use of disclosure schemes • Arrest rates and positive outcome rates
 Ensure the right support for victims and vulnerable people	Victims and vulnerable people feel supported and listened to, with access to high-quality services at the right time.	• Victim satisfaction surveys • Victims referred and supported • Compliance with the Victims Code of Practice (VCOP) • Feelings of safety
 Build trust and confidence in policing and the criminal justice system	People have more confidence in the police and wider justice system.	• Public satisfaction and confidence surveys • Use of police powers • Timeliness of the local justice system • Police complaints
 Tackle offending and reoffending	There is a reduction in offending in Cleveland. Projects will seek to address the root causes of crime.	• Cleveland reoffending rate • First-time entrants to the criminal justice system • Use of Out of Court disposals • Use of Restorative Justice



Reduce crime, antisocial behaviour and harm

Performance Summary

- Latest national statistics, 12 months up to March 2025, shows total recorded crime in Cleveland continues to follow a decreasing trend, with a 6% reduction recorded in Cleveland, outperforming the national average of a 4% reduction.
- At a national level Cleveland is showing solid progress in reducing crime, particularly in overall violent crime (-9%) and theft-related offences (-7%), yet challenges remain with reducing shoplifting offences (+11%), sexual offences (+10%) and knife related crime, including robbery (+13%).
- In the 12 months up to June 2025, the level of neighbourhood crime has reduced by 19.3% (-1,435 crimes), with vehicle crime and residential burglary reducing by 27.5% (-952 crimes) and 21.5% (-591 crimes) respectively.
- Latest national perception data (March 2025), continues to show that communities remain concerned by anti-social behaviour issues, with 46.9% of people experiencing or witnessing anti-social behaviour in their local area – above the national average of 35.5%. Issues like vandalism, drug dealing and noise nuisance continue to be the main areas of concern.
- In the 12 months ending June 2025 Cleveland Police recorded **22,088** incidents of antisocial behaviour. This was 729 incidents more than year ending June 2024, with the use of off-road motorcycles impacting these figures.



Reduce crime, antisocial behaviour and harm

Secured £1.4 m for targeted patrols in hotspot locations

During this reporting period targeted patrols have continued to be delivered across the Cleveland area.

Cleveland was originally identified as one of 10 pilot areas for additional ASB patrols, the success of which directly led to them being rolled out across the country.

Therefore, I was pleased to have secured a further £1.4m of Home Office funding to enhance our local approach, as part of renewed partnership working between agencies.

The renewed scheme, to be launched in Quarter 2, will bring together two patrol schemes – ASB patrols conducted by local council Enforcement Officers and serious violence patrols conducted by Cleveland Police.

They will focus on small, targeted areas – or micro-sites – in designated wards in Hartlepool, Stockton-on-Tees, Middlesbrough and Redcar and Cleveland.

A total of 36 hotspots will receive additional patrols targeting serious violence and ASB between July 2025 and March 2026.



- ✓ Over 3,000 patrols
- ✓ Over 100 business engagements
- ✓ Over 200 community engagements
- ✓ Over 70 enforcement actions



Reduce crime, antisocial behaviour and harm



89

Bikes and Quads
removed from our
streets

Removing off-road vehicles from our streets

Off-road bikes is a community concern raised with me regularly through my 'Shape your Safety' engagement programme.

As a result, during the Quarter 2 period I plan to launch a campaign to raise awareness of the laws relating to off-road bikes and how concerned members of the public can report.

In addition, I am regularly seeking updates on the number of off-road bikes that are crushed following seizure to provide confidence to the public that positive action is taken when those riding these nuisance vehicles are caught.

In June I joined Cleveland Police's Neighbourhood Team in Hartlepool during Neighbourhood Policing Week, supporting the ongoing crackdown on off-road bikes and quads under Operation Endurance.

I visited a number of petrol stations across the town to speak with staff about off-road bikes, hear concerns, and gather valuable intelligence about where illegal riders are fuelling up.

Op Endurance posters were put up in petrol stations reinforcing the message: "**No Face? No Plates? No Fuel.**" Stopping illegal off-road bikes at the pump is crucial. If they can't get petrol, they can't cause harm on our streets and green spaces.



Reduce crime, antisocial behaviour and harm

Tackling knife crime

In May 2025, I launched a new framework aimed at protecting young people from being drawn into serious violence and knife enabled crime.

The Knife Crime Action Plan sets out how local partners will work together to reduce knife crime and its devastating impact.

The plan was shaped through consultation with organisations across Cleveland, including services currently delivering anti-violence interventions.

The plan identifies four key themes including;

- **Prevention** - Educating and engaging young people early and offering positive alternatives to violence.
- **Early Intervention** – Giving immediate support to young people and adults at key moments to help them avoid involvement in knife crime.
- **Community Action** – Empowering the community to actively participate in reducing knife crime and support a safer Cleveland.
- **Building tomorrow** – providing people with long-term skills and opportunities, while developing sustainable solutions.



Chief Inspector Stuart Hodgson, Cleveland Police's lead on Knife Crime said:

"The Knife Crime Action plan absolutely supports the work Cleveland Police are doing to tackle the issue of knife crime. It's a complex issue requiring a multi-agency approach."

"By working together to create a hostile environment for knife carriers, engaging with our communities and educating youngsters on the dangers of carrying knives, we can make a change and reduce knife crime."



Reduce crime, antisocial behaviour and harm

Tackling knife crime

Linked to the Knife Crime Action Plan, in May I launched the Knife Crime Action Fund to support local charitable and voluntary sector organisations to deliver impactful, community-based interventions aimed at reducing knife crime across Cleveland.

I invited applications for grants ranging from £5,000 to a maximum of £25,000 per project to deliver community-based projects to:

- Raise awareness of the consequences of carrying or using a knife
- Empower young people to make safer, more informed choices
- Equip young people with the knowledge and confidence to act if they know someone is carrying a knife
- Support parents and families to strengthen relationships, improve communication, and increase awareness of the risks associated with knife crime





Deliver more visible and effective policing

Performance Summary

- The latest Cleveland Police workforce position at the end of March 2025, shows that there were 1,520 police officers and 83 Police Community Support Officers. During this reporting period Cleveland Police accounted for the highest increase (20%) in the recruitment of Special Constables in the country, bringing numbers to 54 officers (+9 officers).
- Call handling of both emergency and non-emergency calls for police services remains consistent, with significant improvements recorded from the baseline year June 2023.
- Data shows that call abandonment rates have almost halved with abandonment rates in 2023 standing at 0.4% for 999 calls and 11.0% for 101 calls, with the latest position standing at 0.18% for 999 calls and 5.8% for 101 calls.
- Latest national statistics, 12 months up to March 2025, shows positive outcome rates continue to follow an increasing trend, with 10% of crimes recorded in Cleveland resulting in a charge (7,619 crimes), outperforming the national average of 7.3%. Evidential difficulties where the victim does not support action continues to be a challenge, particularly with violence against the person offences (which includes domestic abuse), with more than 12,000 crimes of this type finalised with this outcome.



Deliver more visible and effective policing

Cleveland Police inspection report

In April 2025 I was pleased to respond to the latest inspection report of Cleveland Police, published by His Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary and Fire & Rescue Services (HMICFRS).

The force has been graded as 'good', in four areas, 'adequate' in two areas and 'requires improvement' in two areas.

For a force previously graded as 'inadequate' in all areas of policing, there now isn't a single 'inadequate' grading in this report – an outstanding achievement for all involved.



Outstanding	Good	Adequate	Requires improvement	Inadequate
	Police powers and treating the public fairly and respectfully	Responding to the public	Investigating crime	Responding to children at risk of harm
	Preventing and deterring crime and antisocial behaviour, and reducing vulnerability	Leadership and force management	Protecting vulnerable people	Investigating child abuse, neglect and exploitation
	Managing offenders and suspects	Working with safeguarding partners	Leadership of child protection arrangements	
	Building, supporting and protecting the workforce	Tackling workforce corruption	Risk assessment and referrals	
		Tackling serious and organised crime		



Deliver more visible and effective policing

Continued campaign for increased police funding

Unfortunately, I was disappointed with the Chancellor's latest Comprehensive Spending Review (CSR), which was announced in June.

It is my view that it did not go far enough in providing the funding the police service desperately needs to recover from chronic underfunding it has experienced over the last 15 years.

This is before thinking about the significant resources and effort needed to meet the Government's various crime and safety objectives.

I'm also concerned that the current settlement carries the expectation that PCCs continue to increase the amount local people pay for policing in their council tax.

Parts of my media statement following the CSR announcement:

"The Government has ambitious plans for reducing crime and improving policing standards across the country, all of which require significant investment to enable PCCs and Chief Constables to improve services locally..."

"Whilst the additional £2bn for policing is welcomed, I have concerns that it does not go far enough to work towards the Safer Streets mission to halve knife crime, reduce violence against women and girls (VAWG) and deliver the neighbourhood policing guarantee."

Cleveland PCC calls for fair funding for Teesside police

Cleveland's police and crime commissioner is calling for Teesside to get its fair share of funding to tackle crime and anti-social behaviour

Chiefs in plea for changes to police funding

'People in Cleveland deserve better': Cross-party dissatisfaction over spending review on policing



Deliver more visible and effective policing

Securing the future leadership of Cleveland Police

During April, I launched my search for the next Chief Constable of Cleveland Police.

Following a rigorous recruitment and selection process, I announced Victoria Fuller as my preferred candidate for appointment to Chief Constable.

I was delighted that the Panel has unanimously supported Victoria as my preferred choice for the role.

I am confident in her ability to build on the foundations laid by outgoing Chief Constable Mark Webster.

She brings stability to Cleveland Police at a time when it is more important than ever to maintain the outstanding progress highlighted during the force's last inspection.

I look forward to working with her to achieve my vision of safe, strong and confident communities, when she takes up role on 28th July 2025.





Deliver more visible and effective policing

Neighbourhood Policing Guarantee will boost visibility across Cleveland

On Wednesday 25 June, myself along with the Temporary Assistant Chief Constable Dave Sutherland launched the Neighbourhood Policing Guarantee. It comes after Cleveland Police received **£2.4m** in Government funding to recruit additional staff for neighbourhood policing, including:

20 police
officers

31
PCSOs

12 special
constables

Nationally-driven investment in Neighbourhood Policing will lead to increased visibility in town centres and **local policing priorities** being agreed with local people. There will be a commitment to **updating the public** with progress against tackling these priorities. There will also be a clear plan to **tackle antisocial behaviour** and **retail crime** in town centres.

The public will also be able to **contact their local neighbourhood team** via the website. They will be able to find out where and when they can meet local officers at meetings and events.

Regular updates will be provided as part of futures reports including performance against delivering requirements, and this will continue to be a key area of focus as part of my scrutiny and accountability programme.



Policing in the heart of your
Neighbourhood



In June, Neighbourhood Policing was the focus of my Force Scrutiny meeting. I was **partly assured** by the update provided by the Force, as I remain concerned regarding the proportion of time the

Neighbourhood Policing Teams (NPTs) spent responding to emergency calls and servicing other reactive demands, particularly for those NPTs that are located at a distance from Response Units.



Deliver more visible and effective policing

Public access to police services

As set out in my plan, the public should be able to contact police with ease.

Therefore, I was pleased to see that Cleveland Police remains one of the top performing forces in the country, with one of the lowest waiting times for non-emergency 101 calls.

In June 2025, the force received 21,643 101 calls with a median average call wait time of zero seconds, placing Cleveland Police tied with three other forces for the best performance.

In the same period, 10,231 999 calls were received with a median average call answer time of 5 seconds.





Improve safety for women and girls

Performance Measures Overview

- VAWG offences account for 22.5% of total recorded crime in Cleveland. During the reporting period there has been a 9.3% reduction (-1,653 offences) in VAWG offences compared to the previous years, with both domestic abuse and sexual violence victimisation continuing to be areas of concern. Across the reporting periods, VAWG arrest rates have remained fairly static, standing at 31.3%.
- Following the launch of the Domestic Abuse Protection Order (DAPO) pilot in March, the Force has secured over 135 DAPOs. Providing enhanced protection for victims through the enforcement of wide-ranging prohibitions, DAPOs have no time restrictions and perpetrators can be arrested if they breach the orders.
- In the 12 months up to June 2025, the Force received more than 2,400 Clare's Laws applications, representing a 13.7% increase in comparison to the previous 12 months. Within the reporting period more than 940 disclosures were made.
- Critical services continue to deliver specialist support to victims and survivors of sexual violence, domestic abuse and stalking. In the 12 months up to March 2025, over:
 - 730 referrals were made to the Independent Sexual Violence Advocate Service (ISVA)
 - 30 referrals were made to the Independent Stalking Advocacy Service (ISAC)
 - 9,100 referrals were made to the Independent Domestic Violence Advisor Service (IDVA)



Improve safety for women and girls

New 10-year strategy launched to end domestic abuse epidemic

In collaboration with partners across Cleveland, my office has co-produced a new strategy to address the behaviour of people who commit violence against women and girls (VAWG).

The Tackling Domestic Abuse Perpetration Strategy 2025-2035 aims to identify perpetrators earlier and address behaviours that enable domestic abuse to happen.

It also reinforces my message that causing harm is wholly the responsibility of the perpetrator – who will be held accountable for their actions.

On 23rd April 2025, I hosted a launch event where partner organisations joined members of my team to co-design a delivery plan for the new strategy.

I was honoured that the launch event was attended by Micala Trussler of charity Holly's Hope. Micala's daughter Holly Newton was murdered by her controlling ex-boyfriend in 2023. She was just 15-years-old.





Improve safety for women and girls

Funding secured to establish Cleveland-wide sexual harms forum

Following discussions with partners last November, it was agreed that the Cleveland area did not have a designated forum to bring together organisations to discuss sexual harms.

To support a more joined up approach, I was able to secure more than £90,000 from NHS England to fund an independent co-ordinator to establish a new Cleveland-wide sexual harms forum.

The co-ordinator will be employed by Middlesbrough Voluntary Development Agency (MVDA) to ensure independence from agencies.

The new network will bring together discussions, activities and future planning around sexual abuse, violence and exploitation across all age groups and genders in Cleveland.

The group will collaborate to increase understanding and support improvements in partners' collective responses.

As a result, the network will also seek to improve victim experience, satisfaction and confidence in the effectiveness of services.



Sarah Pritchard, Development Manager for Cleveland Sexual Harms Network (pictured centre), said:

“Sexual harms are hidden in plain sight, and as a society talking and responding to issues about sex can bring many barriers.

“I am committed to understanding and dismantling those barriers as this type of harm can have such a devastating impact for all”.



Improve safety for women and girls

Promising success rate for 'Ask for Angela' safety scheme in Cleveland

In May 2025, a series of mystery shopper visits carried out across pubs, bars and clubs in Cleveland to test staff knowledge of the 'Ask for Angela' scheme have had a promising result.

Volunteers covertly went to premises across the area's four boroughs and asked for 'Angela.' That was to make sure if a vulnerable person approached a member of staff, the appropriate safeguarding measures would be carried out.

Out of the 28 venues visited across Cleveland, 21 passed the required standards. Those that didn't offer sufficient support during the visit were provided with feedback and advice on things they could improve.

Ask for Angela is an important part of efforts to ensure our night-time economy is a welcoming and safe space for all. It's great to see high numbers of success rates in Cleveland but I would be keen to see more licensed premises take up the 'Ask for Angela' initiative. We want to make sure the scheme is being run effectively at as many locations as possible and to make sure people can have confidence in it. I am pleased to see results are heading in the right direction in Cleveland.



“Hi I’m Angela”

Are you on a date that isn’t working out?

Go to the bar and ask for “Angela” the bar staff will help you get out of the situation quickly and discreetly!

Does it all feel a bit weird?

#askforangela

NATIONAL PUB WATCH

RC

CURV

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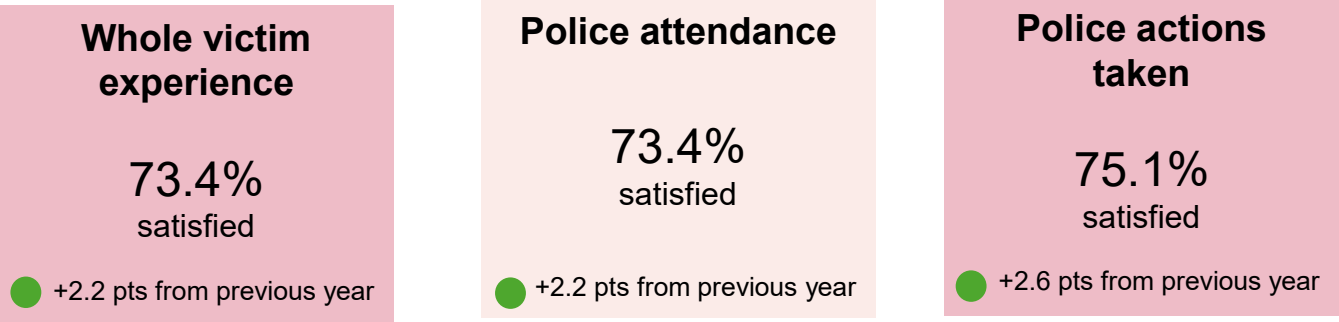


Ensure the right support for victims and vulnerable people

Performance Summary

- Work continues to improve referral pathways into VCAS victim support services, with year-on-year data showing a 37.7% increase—equating to 2,370 additional referrals. This growth reflects the effectiveness of ongoing efforts to enhance access to support.
- The VCAS service outcomes demonstrate strong impact, with 79.1% of victims reporting that they feel safer after receiving support, and 80.0% indicating they are able to return to their previous lifestyle or adapt to change.
- Additionally, 86.4% of victims now have a greater understanding of the criminal justice process.
- Satisfaction with the overall victim experience delivered by Cleveland Police has also improved, rising from 71.2% to 73.4%, alongside increased satisfaction in police attendance, case updates, and actions taken.

Victim Experience Satisfaction Rates in Cleveland March 2025



Victim Care and Advice Service Outcomes March 2025





Ensure the right support for victims and vulnerable people

Additional funding secured for fraud victim advocates

Sadly, victim support services in Cleveland are dealing with a growing number of people affected by fraud and scams.

As a result, my office commissioned a Financial Fraud Advocate service, delivered by local charity Safer Communities.

The service is delivered by fraud specialists who help vulnerable people to recover money lost to scams – particularly when banks fail to offer protection.

To date, the advocates have recouped more than £290,000 for victims of fraud – with an additional £440,000 pending.

The scheme has been such a success, that I've managed to secure match-funding from all four local authority trading standards departments to keep the scheme going until December 2026.



£26,000 returned to vulnerable 86-year-old victim

Among those supported by the service is an 86-year-old, terminally ill woman with memory loss from Stockton-on-Tees, who was able to recover £26,000.

Her savings were stolen by a relative. Her son Ian described the ordeal as “devastating” and said he would never have got the money back without support from the service.

He said: “The staff at bank weren’t interested in helping me get the money back. They were tying me up in knots, making things difficult and implying that it had somehow been our fault for not looking after things better.

“It took four months to sort out. We were back and forth to the bank constantly while trying to look after mum. My dad was in bits emotionally. The betrayal was devastating – that money was set aside for mum’s care.”

Cleveland Police put Ian in touch with Safer Communities – and things changed quickly.

“My advocate and I went down to the bank together and I gave him permission to speak on my behalf. Some of the money started being returned to Mum that day, with the full amount coming the following day. I just couldn’t believe it.” he said.

“Without that support, we’d still be stuck. The advocate brought the legal understanding and authority we needed to push things forward and challenge the bank on protocol and processes. I didn’t even know help like this existed and I can honestly say I don’t think I’d have succeeded without their help – my advocate was brilliant.”



Ensure the right support for victims and vulnerable people



Service user feedback

“Just being there and being supportive, helping me through court and everything. I would like to thank XXX and XXX for everything they have done for me, they went above and beyond. I couldn't have asked for anything more, they were absolutely brilliant”.

(Serious Violence victim)

Service user feedback

Without VCAS, I could not have come as far as I have, and the service is such an irreplaceable treasure. I can never thank them enough for the lengths they have gone to support me, and all those in their care. From emotional support, to liaising with services on my behalf, they have helped take the stress off me many times, helping me to look after myself more. VCAS truly embody the quote “Be a rainbow in someone else’s cloud.”

(ASB Victim)



Ensure the right support for victims and vulnerable people

PCC leads plans for Cleveland-wide ASB victims charter

I am working with organisations across the Cleveland Police force area on a new charter to set minimum standards of service for victims of antisocial behaviour (ASB).

Discussions are underway with local authorities, the police, housing associations and other groups to develop a plan to help victims of ASB to understand the support they are entitled to.

There is currently a Victims Code of Practice, which sets out the rights and entitlements of victims of crime. However, this does not cover victims of ASB, despite the devastating impact ASB can have on residents and communities.

It's important that locally we take a stand to fill this gap and as organisations, let victims of ASB know that we take their reports seriously.



Cleveland ASB Charter

1. The right to be given information in an easy-to-understand way and for you to be provided with help, if necessary, to help organisations understand you.
2. The right to have details of an incident recorded without reasonable delay.
3. The right to be referred to support services – and to have services tailored to your needs.
4. The right to be given information about any investigation or prosecution. Cases will be assessed when received. Cases which carry the greatest risk of harm will be picked up more quickly.
5. The right to make a Victim Impact Statement to explain how incidents have affected you. The Statement will be considered by a judge or magistrates when sentencing. It will also help service providers consider what extra support you may need.
6. The right to be given information about the outcome of the case and any appeals. At the end of the case, you have the right to be told the outcome and given a summary of reasons for the decision, if available.
7. The right to complain if your needs are not being met.
8. The right to ask for an Antisocial Behaviour Case Review. You can do this if you have reported the same ASB issue at least three times within the past six months.



Ensure the right support for victims and vulnerable people

Plans for a 'community guardians' scheme to identify and respond to child exploitation

This year I am investing £70,000 in a new scheme to train community members and local business owners to help identify and support children at risk of criminal exploitation.

The Community Guardians programme will give community members and those in public-facing roles the appropriate tools and training to recognise the exploitation of young people.

The volunteers will play a crucial role in assisting agencies to respond to sexual, criminal and online exploitation by creating safe environments where young people can seek help.

With the support of the Tees Harm Outside the Home (HoTH) partnership, it is hoped the new programme will not only help to tackle all forms of child exploitation, but will address related issues such as youth violence, radicalisation and being missing from home, care or education.



Jane Young, Independent Chair of the Tees Harm Outside the Home (HOTH) Partnership, said:

“Protecting children from harm is everyone’s responsibility. We should all play a part in safeguarding our children from harm, exploitation and abuse.”

“This project will identify and support community members who engage with children to identify potential risks of exploitation and respond appropriately.”



Build trust and confidence in policing and the justice system

Performance Summary

- In the March 2025 Crime Survey for England and Wales, Cleveland showed a marked improvement in public confidence across nearly all policing indicators compared to the previous year. Overall, confidence in local police rose by 4.6 percentage points to 63%, with notable increases in perceptions of reliability (+11.6 pts), fairness (+2.2 pts), and understanding of local concerns (+5.4 pts). Trust in police, a newly introduced measure, locally stands at 70.4%, closely aligning with the national average of 70.7%. These results suggest a positive shift in community sentiment and reflect improved engagement and responsiveness from Cleveland Police.
- Compared to the national picture, Cleveland's criminal justice system continues to outperform in several key areas of timeliness. In the 12 months to March 2025, Cleveland Police charged offenders in victim-based crimes in just 18 days on average, less than half the national average of 41 days. Although Crown Court case completion times in Cleveland rose slightly to 121 days, they still remained over four weeks faster than the national average of 153 days. As Chair of the Criminal Justice Board, I continue to focus on these measures, recognising that timely justice is essential for victims, communities, and public confidence.
- During the 12 months to March 2025, there was a 5.8% increase in police complaints and a 4.0% rise in allegations, closely mirroring the national trend, where overall complaints rose by approximately 5%. Despite this, my Resolution Team significantly outperformed national averages in responsiveness, maintaining an average of just one day to contact complainants and log complaints, compared to nine and seven days nationally. Allegations related to police powers also saw a slight increase, use of force complaints rose by 11.8% but remained proportionally lower than the national figure (4.8% vs. 5.2%), while stop and search complaints held steady at 1.1%, matching the national rate.
- The IOPC's 2024–25 report praised my Resolution Team's excellent complaint handling, highlighting swift contact with complainants, prompt logging, and efficient resolution times, all well above national standards.



Build trust and confidence in policing and the justice system

PCC writes to Justice Secretary about electronic tagging

In May, I wrote a letter to the then-Justice Secretary Shabana Mahmood MP, to raise my concerns around a *Dispatches* investigation into electronic tagging of offenders.

I, along with many other viewers, had concerns about the findings of Channel 4's *Dispatches* report, *Britain's Criminal Tagging Scandal: Undercover*, broadcast on 14th April 2025, which focused heavily on the Cleveland area.

The programme highlighted serious failings in the electronic monitoring of offenders - including operations management, technology reliability equipment backlogs, contract arrangements and lack of response to breach notifications.

I called for urgent reassurance on the following:

- What steps are being taken to address fears in Cleveland and ensure victim-survivor safety following the troubling findings in *Dispatches*?
- How is the Ministry responding to reports of low-quality tags that can be easily removed?
- What assurances can be provided regarding their response to breaches of electronic monitoring conditions?
- When can the public expect a return to standard levels of monitoring without delays?
- What actions are being taken to strengthen contract management and address issues with providers delivering this service?

Excerpts from my letter

"Both in my capacity as the PCC and the Chair of the Local Criminal Justice Board, justifiably this has left me with pressing concerns that I seek urgent assurances from the Ministry of Justice."

"Public confidence in our justice system is built on trust and accountability. When the protection and safety of our communities, including victims and survivors, is compromised that trust is at risk of being severely undermined and eroded."

"Furthermore, the Dispatches investigation underscores broader concerns about the detrimental effects of privatisation in critical public sector services. Time and again, we see high-value contracts awarded to low-cost bidders with histories of underperformance -even fraud - ultimately placing further strain on the very communities these services are meant to protect."

"It is always the most vulnerable who suffer the greatest consequences of these failures, and this must end. I urge Government departments to end the practice of awarding contracts for essential public services to private companies that prioritise profit over the quality of service."

"Instead of continuing down a path of failed privatisation, we must restore accountability and service provision to local public sector, voluntary and community organisations. If contracts are to be awarded externally, they should go only to organisations with proven commitment to public good and social value in keeping our communities safe."

No response from the Ministry of Justice has been received.



Build trust and confidence in policing and the justice system

Scrutiny topics selected for the next financial year

In May, I publicly released the topics I will scrutinise Cleveland Police about between April 2025 and April 2026.

These topics will be covered in detail as part of my monthly scrutiny programme, in which I question the force's senior leaders about their plans and progress on specific areas.

After each meeting, I will assess how assured I am with the force's ability to tackle the issue in question. I will publicly declare whether I am:

- Assured
- Partly assured
- Not assured

Notes from previous scrutiny meetings and my assessment of assurance are published online.

The PCC's scrutiny programme April 2025 – April 2026

April 2025	Child Protection and Child Exploitation
May 2025	2025 PEEL Inspection
June 2025	Neighbourhood Policing
July 2025	Strategic Policing Requirement (inc HR capacity and capability)
September 2025	Tackling offending and reoffending
October 2025	Managing Serious Offenders
November 2025	Serious Violence
December 2025	Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG)
January 2026	Victims
February 2026	Anti-Social Behaviour
March 2026	Public Trust and Confidence
April 2026	Child Protection and Safeguarding



Build trust and confidence in policing and the justice system

Scrutiny during April, May and June 2025

During the reporting period, I formally scrutinised Cleveland Police on the following topics:

- Child Protection and Child Exploitation
- 2025 PEEL Inspection
- Neighbourhood Policing



The PCC's scrutiny programme April 2025 – June 2025

April	Child Protection and Child Exploitation Following the publication of a HMICFRS inspection report on child protection, the force were asked to provide an update on immediate and ongoing actions to address concerns highlighted by inspectors.	Partly assured The PCC commended the force for making immediate and ongoing improvements to safeguard children at risk. The PCC will continue to monitor performance.
May	2025 PEEL Inspection Following receipt of HMICFRS' findings in the latest PEEL Inspection, the force were asked what improvements were immediately put in place. The PCC asked how they are addressing 'areas for improvement' and how ongoing improvement will be maintained.	Assured The PCC noted the force's journey of improvement since the last PEEL inspection. He was assured by its robust governance and assurance processes.
June	Neighbourhood Policing Since the last scrutiny meeting on neighbourhood policing one year prior, the force were asked what it has undertaken to increase resilience of neighbourhood policing teams (NPTs). Questions were also set about how the force planned to implement the new Neighbourhood Policing Guarantee (NPG).	Partly assured The PCC commended the positive work undertaken to reduced crime rates, manage demand and increase resilience of NPTs. The PCC will monitor implementation of the NPG.



Build trust and confidence in policing and the justice system

Welfare scheme launched for Cleveland Police dogs

My office, in partnership with the Dog's Trust, has launched a new scheme to ensure police dogs are treated in an ethical and humane manner.

Volunteers will be used to observe, comment and report on the conditions in which police dogs are housed, trained and transported.

They will make sure procedures are in line with the Animal Welfare Act 2006.

The welfare scheme is part of a national initiative and covers the behaviour of everyone who interacts with the dog, including trainers and handlers. It also covers everywhere police dogs go – including dog units, kennels and police vehicles.

Volunteers will make sure that dogs have:

- A suitable environment
- A suitable diet
- The ability to exhibit normal behaviour patterns
- Housing with – or apart from – other animals
- Protection from pain, suffering, injury and disease



Progress

- ✓ Scheme established in partnership with Dog's Trust
- ✓ Agreement established with the police
- ✓ Volunteers recruited and awaiting training



Build trust and confidence in policing and the justice system

Giving people a voice in policing and crime

One of the most important responsibilities I hold as PCC is to be the voice of the public in policing, by listening and understanding their concerns about community safety.

I have developed a six-strand community engagement programme to ensure I engage, understand and collaborate with as many communities as possible across the Cleveland Police force area.

Shape Your Safety has been designed to do just that – to give residents, businesses and community groups the chance to shape the solutions we develop to reduce crime, protect victims and prevent harm.

I will engage with the identified groups through various community engagement methods, including:

- Meetings
- Engagement stalls
- Events
- Focus groups
- Surveys



Shape Your Safety – the six strands of engagement

Public

I will visit every ward in Cleveland at least once every year to understand the most important issues to that community. This may be through a community meeting, a walkabout, an engagement stall or through an event in that neighbourhood.

Partners and stakeholders

I will consult with organisations across Cleveland on matters of public safety. This includes local authorities, blue light services, the criminal justice system, victim services, elected representatives and the voluntary community sector.

Young people

I will engage and collaborate with young people as we design new services and initiatives. I will visit schools, colleges, universities and youth clubs – as well as alternative educational provisions and youth offending services.

Underrepresented groups

I will ensure I seek to reach people who are often excluded, unable or unwilling to participate in discussions around crime and safety.

Lived experience

I will regularly meet victims – and offenders - of crime to understand the impact of crime on all involved and explore ways to prevent cycles of re-offending.

Police officers, staff and volunteers

I will regularly spend time with Cleveland Police's workforce to understand the successes and challenges facing the force.



Build trust and confidence in policing and the justice system

Public engagement during Q1

Between 1st April and 30th June 2025, I took part in 51 engagement events, visits or community meetings. The photographs on this page capture the breadth of engagement work we undertake across the Cleveland area.



With young people involved in Boro Cereal, a fundraising event for children's social action projects. These children from Beech Grove Primary School created a first aid project called 'Bleeding Hearts'.



On patrol with officers in Hartlepool, as part of the force's off-road bike project, Operation Endurance. We visited petrol stations to put up 'No Face, No Fuel' posters.



Meeting with colleagues from Tees Valley Community Church in Eaglescliffe, Stockton-On-Tees. An interesting discussion on the links between faith, community and community safety.

I attended community meetings in Marske, Dalton Piercy, Loftus and Hart Village. I sit on Eston Hills Task Force and the Tees Rural Crime Forum.

I also have quarterly meetings with MPs, the Tees Valley Mayor and council leaders and chief executives.



Joined by a young volunteer on our stall at Eid Fusion Festival in Ropner Park, Stockton-on-Tees. We encouraged communities to take part in our survey on how confident they are in local police.



I was delighted to be invited to speak at the Deaf Emergency Services Day, hosted by the Deaf Empowering Network. It was great to see the emergency services and Cleveland's deaf community coming together.



A special afternoon of gardening in Redcar with young offenders working with South Tees Youth Justice Service. We donated spare tools from a previous project to help the young people maintain their allotment and stay on the right track.



Tackle offending and reoffending

Performance Measures Overview

- National re-offending data for the 12 months up to September 2023 shows Cleveland experienced a notable rise in re-offending rates, with the overall rate climbing to 40.0%, a 6.8 percentage point increase and significantly above the national average of 27.1%.
- In the 12 months up to March 2025, the number of young people entering the criminal justice system increased by 34.5% (+ 29 young people), reversing the previous year's decline. With Youth Triage referrals recording a slight decrease of 6.3%, indicating areas where further outreach and engagement may be needed.
- Compared to the previous 12-months the use of Out of Court Resolutions has increased increasing by 24.9% (+308) to 1,545 cases. With a marked increase in the delivery of Restorative Justice, with interventions rising by 43.3% compared to the previous year.
- Overall, while challenges remain in reducing re-offending and preventing first-time youth entrants, Cleveland's increased use of alternative justice pathways and restorative practices reflects a proactive approach to rehabilitation and community-based resolution. Tackling offending and reoffending will feature as my scrutiny topic in September 2025.



Tackle offending and reoffending

Restorative justice gives back to the community

Funded by my office, the 18-month Making Good pilot was managed by Hartlepool Borough Council's Youth Justice Team.

Young people in Hartlepool turned the idea of making good into something magical by using artwork to transform one of the town's parks.

The 13 young people who produced the artwork, had all been involved in antisocial behaviour (ASB.)

Working on the restorative justice pilot Making Good allowed them to channel their energies and creativity into a project, which improved the community.

The aim of Making Good was to show that it's more satisfying to make something good and care for the community than to become involved in ASB.



MAKING GOOD.....Jen Armstrong, Hartlepool Youth Offending Service, Cleveland PCC Matt Storey and Coun Rachel Creevy, Chair of Hartlepool Borough Council's Children's Services Committee and Board Member of the Hartlepool Youth Justice Service, with the artwork at Burn Valley Gardens