



Report of the Cleveland Police and Crime Panel to the Police and Crime Commissioner for Cleveland on the Commissioner's Annual Report 2025/26

At its meeting on Tuesday 14 July 2026, the Cleveland Police and Crime Panel considered the Police and Crime Commissioner's Annual Report 2025/26.

The Commissioner thanked officers for their work in bringing together a comprehensive account of activity undertaken during the year. He advised that the Annual Report demonstrated the breadth of work being delivered across the area and provided an opportunity to reflect on what had been a positive year, with progress being made against the priorities set out in the Police and Crime Plan.

The following achievements were highlighted:

- The Commissioner advised that performance data showed an overall positive direction of travel, with more than 13,000 additional patrol hours delivered across Cleveland and 60% of targeted wards recording reductions in antisocial behaviour. He highlighted sustained improvements in a number of hotspot areas, alongside reductions in residential burglary, vehicle crime and theft. Whilst challenges remained and overall crime had increased slightly during the year, the Commissioner emphasised that targeted interventions were having a positive impact in communities most affected by crime and antisocial behaviour.
- Additional resources were being directed towards the Off-Road Bike Task Force, with the use of drones, stingers and partnership working to support enforcement activity. The Commissioner also referred to the Knife Crime Action Plan, which had reached over 10,000 people across the four boroughs and supported the installation of 45 bleed kits within local communities.
- An investment of £2.4 million in neighbourhood policing would support the allocation of a named Police Community Support Officer for every ward in Cleveland and help to strengthen local responsiveness to community concerns. The PCC also highlighted an increase in arrest rates and criminal justice performance above the national average and advised that the recruitment of a new Chief Constable had brought leadership transition to the Force.
- In relation to 'Improving Safety for Women and Girls', the Commissioner provided details in relation to the ten-year Domestic Abuse Perpetration Strategy and the advised that, since their introduction, more than 530 Domestic Abuse Protection Orders (DAPOs) have been secured by police. The Panel further noted support provided to victims, including the securing of £90,000 in NHS funding for counselling provision, work with partner organisations to tackle sexual violence, and targeted support for vulnerable and marginalised groups, including the allocation of over £182,000 to 13 local organisations to support vulnerable and underrepresented groups. This included work with refugees and asylum seekers, support for neurodiverse people through Daisy Chain, and support for older victims of domestic abuse through Age UK.

- Over £1 million has been recovered for victims of fraud since January 2025, with trained advocates handling over 100 cases including investment fraud, romance fraud and rogue traders. The development of Hate Crime and ASB Charters, and the Community Guardians project were all developed to help communities identify signs of exploitation and provide local intelligence.
- Reference was made to the continued accreditation of the complaints service and the achievement of gold standard status for custody visiting, both of which were described as important mechanisms for ensuring that people were treated fairly. The Commissioner also highlighted the impact of the Divert programme, including its work in reducing reoffending and increasing the use of out of court resolutions, together with custody navigator support and similar interventions in A&E and pupil referral units.
- The Commissioner also referred to visits undertaken to prisons and community payback schemes, including work funded by his office to support prisoners in maintaining relationships with family and staff and preparing for life after prison. Members noted that this activity helped inform his wider work around the local criminal justice system and provided valuable feedback on the role of community payback as an alternative to custody in appropriate cases.

The Panel welcomed the report and in discussing its contents the following issues and comments were raised:

- Whilst Members welcomed the positive direction of travel outlined in the report, some questioned whether improvements were being experienced consistently across all communities and highlighted concerns about ongoing antisocial behaviour, police visibility and partnership working in certain neighbourhoods.
- Members sought greater access to borough and ward-level performance data to better understand local crime trends, assess whether issues were being displaced between areas, and support their scrutiny role within their own communities.
- The continuing importance of neighbourhood policing was emphasised, with Members discussing the visibility of PCSO's, local engagement, and the benefits of having dedicated officers assigned to wards.
- Violence against women and girls remained a significant concern for Members, who sought further information on trends and outcomes, whilst recognising the progress being made through prevention and perpetrator-focused interventions.
- Members welcomed evidence of improved police performance and increasing public confidence but questioned whether improved outcomes strengthened the case for a fairer national police funding settlement for Cleveland.
- Questions were raised regarding the effectiveness of commissioned services and community safety initiatives, with Members seeking assurance that funding decisions aligned with Police and Crime Plan priorities and delivered measurable long-term outcomes.

- Concerns were expressed regarding pressures elsewhere in the criminal justice system, particularly probation services, court capacity and sentencing delays, and the impact these issues could have on police effectiveness and morale.
- Members commended examples of effective partnership working, including domestic abuse services, support for victims, community safety initiatives and work with local businesses to tackle retail crime and antisocial behaviour.
- The Panel discussed support for vulnerable communities, including victims of hate crime, refugees and asylum seekers, and highlighted the importance of community engagement, education and preventative approaches in building community confidence.
- Members also explored the relationship between increased arrest rates and positive criminal justice outcomes and requested additional detail on violent crime trends and performance measures where appropriate.

At the conclusion of the discussion, the Panel **RESOLVED** that the Annual Report be welcomed, and the Panel continues to support the Commissioner's efforts to lobby for a fairer funding formula.