



Durham Police and Crime Commissioner's **ANNUAL REPORT**

2022/23

Making the communities of County Durham and Darlington safer, stronger and more resilient to crime, drugs and anti-social behaviour



Zero Tolerance to Anti-Social Behaviour!



MAKING DARLINGTON SAFER



JOY ALLEN
DURHAM POLICE AND
CRIME COMMISSIONER

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Strategic Policing Requirement

The Strategic Policing Requirement (SPR) sets out those threats which, in the Home Secretary's view, are the biggest threats to public safety and must be given due regard by PCCs when issuing or varying Police and Crime Plans. It supports PCCs as well as Chief Constables to plan, prepare and respond to these threats by clearly linking the local response to the national, highlighting the capabilities and partnerships that policing needs to ensure it can fulfil its national responsibilities.

A revised version of the SPR was published in February 2023 which provided strengthened detail around the action required from policing at the local and regional level to the critical national threats. The 2023 SPR sets out six identified national threats. These are as follows: Serious and Organised Crime (SOC); Terrorism; Cyber; Child Sexual Abuse; Public Disorder and Civil Emergencies. These remain from the 2015 version with the addition in 2023 of Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG), reflecting the threat it presents to public safety and confidence.

Given this annual report is for the year April 2022 to March 2023, it will not respond in detail to the revised SPR due to the timing of its publication. However, as Police and Crime Commissioner, I am confident I have given due regard to the six threat areas identified in the previous SPR in my Police and Crime Plan and in my role holding my Chief Constable to account. VAWG, while not previously contained in the SPR, nonetheless is a key and pressing issue on which I update in this report and be prioritised in future iterations.



JOY ALLEN FROM THE POLICE AND CRIME COMMISSIONER

DURHAM POLICE AND
CRIME COMMISSIONER



Joy Allen

Durham Police and
Crime Commissioner

Durham Constabulary has a reputation for innovation and excellence. When I was elected two years ago, I made a personal commitment to drive forward even further reforms, building a police force that would fill local people with pride and become the envy of the country. There have been many great achievements since then. These changes have increased public confidence in what the police do and have also left the service well-placed to confront the challenges of the future. This is important because policing remains under real strain with rising crime and demand that is increasingly more complex.

We have felt those pressures acutely in the past 12 months. Durham is consistently in the top three nationally for the volume of 101 calls received per 1,000 population. This is placing unprecedented strain on our call handlers and impacting public satisfaction.

Back in 2021, I promised the public I would improve call-answering times. I now regularly hold the Chief Constable and her senior leadership team to account on this progress. Despite the absence of a capital grant from the government, I have invested funds raised by the precept in the design of a radical new software solution to modernise future calls to service. I have also funded a huge uplift in control room call handlers and have expanded our switchboard opening times as well as our Live Chat capability to 24-7. It takes time to procure new technology and train new staff, who all need to be vetted before starting work. This limits the pace of improvement which is frustrating but already we are seeing the benefits of our new operational resilience with reduced call waiting times.



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It is not easy to evolve in the way we should without any extra money to do so. Almost all PCCs have had no option but to raise the precept or else face painful cuts to the front-line. The government bases all its assumptions on the premise that every force will raise council tax to the maximum level, leaving no room for manoeuvre. In Durham, more than half of residents supported paying an extra £15 this year to maintain police officer and Police and Community Support Officer (PCSO) numbers at existing levels and address the issues that concern them most. While I am hugely grateful for this local support, burdening taxpayers with higher tax bills to fill the gaps is not a model any PCC would endorse. This is why I am campaigning nationally for change, demanding that forces are funded fairly on their actual needs and not as the government's outdated funding formula imagines them to be.

Durham is one of 15 forces still short of 2010 officer levels unlike Yorkshire whose headcount has grown by 158. We are also further penalised in the way council tax revenue is generated, with areas like North Yorkshire able to raise twice as much as Durham because of a larger quota of higher band properties. These inconsistencies are widening the gulf between the richest and poorest forces with those grappling with higher demand and deprivation paying the price for a broken and unworkable system.

I have lobbied the government to return the £1m capital grant I believe is crucial for upgrading our IT, fleet and estates and protecting our future resilience. We cannot afford to sit still while the criminals around us are becoming ever more sophisticated and prolific. But while I am always keen to exploit opportunities to drive up the value of our assets, I have

absolutely no plans to close any police stations. Accessible and visible policing is the golden thread running throughout my Police and Crime Plan and I know how important it is to the public that our officers are based in the communities they serve.

Over the past 12 months, I have supported investment in several areas to expand our capabilities. January saw the launch of Operation Snap, giving motorists and other road users the ability to upload dashcam footage to bring more dangerous drivers to justice. I also supported £10k of investment in new cameras, virtual reality headsets, banners and Section 59 Notices to boost Operation Endurance, our targeted crackdown on nuisance riders and motorists. This proactive approach has brought dividends, with an 8.2 per cent reduction in all road traffic collisions in 2022-23 and an 8.2 per cent reduction in the number of people killed or seriously injured.

In other progress, Durham has been at the forefront of positive change to maximise the reach and potential of public service contracts. With my support, the Force became the first in the UK to utilise the Blue Light Commercial Social Value Toolkit to help police force suppliers develop action plans to make a positive impact on the local environment and the economy. I have put this toolkit into practice with our state-of-the-art investigative hub which is likely to see £7.7m spent with small to medium enterprises and at least £1.9m in the local supply chain. At a time when many suppliers and contractors have gone out of business due to ongoing pressures on budgets brought by the war in the Ukraine, we are proudly weathering the storm.



This shows the diverse role and responsibilities of PCCs in their communities who not only reduce crime and reoffending in their communities and hold partners to account, but also influence much wider change for society. One of their greatest strengths is securing vital extra funding to support their safety goals and improve the health and wellbeing of local people. For the majority of PCCs, this extra funding far exceeds the costs of providing office.

In Durham, the costs of operating my office are still lower than the police authority. I have a relatively small team in comparison to most administrations our size, with essential roles to oversee the significant sums of money received from Government grants and to ensure money goes to where it is needed most. This year, in addition to the annual Ministry of Justice (MoJ) Victims Grant, my team secured an extra £413,000 from the MoJ for additional Independent Sexual Violence Advisors (ISVAs) and Independent Domestic Violence Advisors (IDVAs). In the past year, I have continued to oversee the delivery of £795k of Safer Streets funding to improve community safety and proactively address ASB.

Attracting external investment ensures the Force has the resources and technology it needs to tackle the public's top priorities and make progress possible. There have been many notable achievements throughout the year including a 30 per cent reduction in ASB incidents, sustained decline in burglaries, increased numbers of children and adults safeguarded from serious and organised crime, fewer road traffic collisions and consistently high charge and resolved rates for rape and sexual offences. We have simplified access to support through the 'Front Door' initiative to give victims the help they need quickly and improved signposting to help the public direct their ASB related issue to the right organisation. This includes implementing a new victim-centred case review process, providing victims with the opportunity of holding to account agencies responsible for solving their ASB problems.

Rural crime rates in County Durham and Darlington, meanwhile, continue to buck the national trend and remain the lowest in the country.

Efforts to increase sign up rates to Rural Watch have been successful with a 33.8 per cent increase in new registrations.

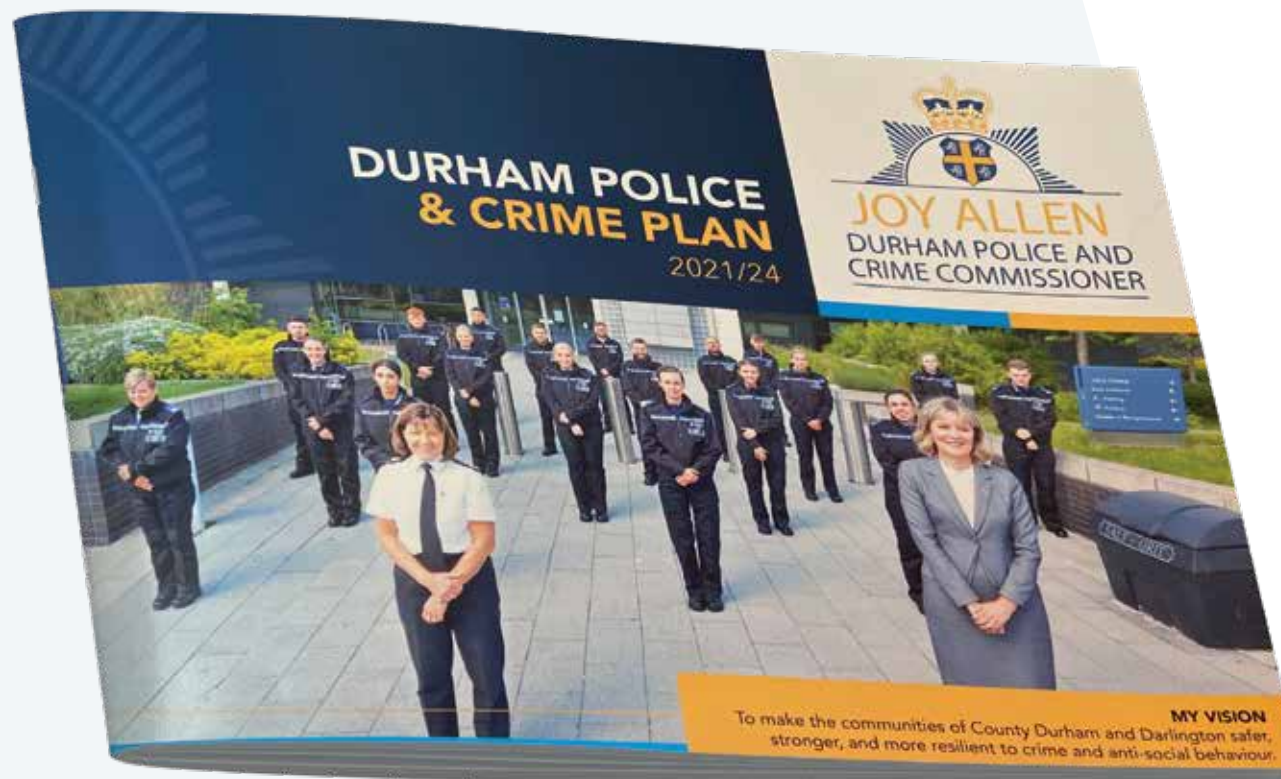
Nationally, I have worked at the heart of government to deliver far-reaching reform. As the Association of Police and Crime Commissioners' (APCC) Joint National Lead on Addictions and Substance Misuse, I successfully lobbied the government over a ban on nitrous oxide. Durham Constabulary also became the first force in the country to sign up to the Workplace Charter to Reduce Gambling Related Harms. I am now working with the National Police Chiefs' Council's lead on addiction to roll this out across the remaining 42 forces. I am also a lead delivery partner on the government's Harm to Hope drug strategy, sitting on a national ministerial board to help drive the delivery of drugs reform over the next 10 years. Locally, this has driven my expansion of the overdose prevention drug naloxone. More than 200 officers now carry one of the kits in their pocket, bag or body armour and we are also training our Community Peer Mentors (CPMs) to administer the life-saving medication.

There are many more milestones, most of which are covered in this report. I remain on track to deliver the full plan within a shorter, three-year term than my predecessors due to the impact of Covid-19 on PCC elections. Future priorities will continue to be informed by the precept consultation and ongoing engagement events. I am here to serve the public and listening and acting on their views will always steer my decisions. In a changing world, I am proud of everything that has already been achieved and look forward to further success over the coming year.

Joy Allen

Durham Police and Crime Commissioner





VISION

My vision is to make our communities safer, stronger, and more resilient to crime and ASB. I want people in County Durham and Darlington to feel safe and secure in their own homes and in their communities.

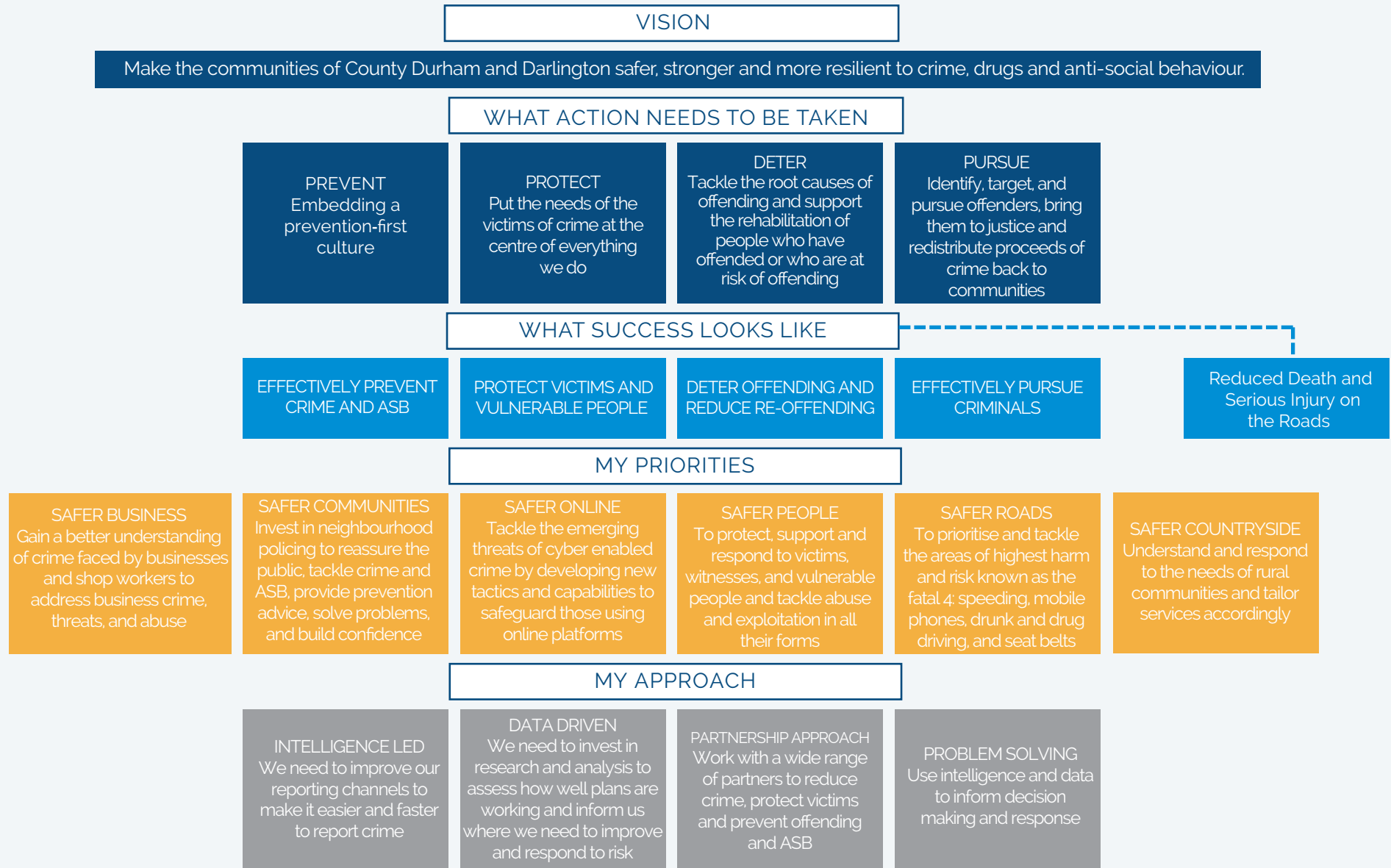
From my Police and Crime Surveys, I know residents in County Durham and Darlington are concerned about the crime and disorder they see in their neighbourhoods, such as anti-social behaviour, drug use and drug dealing, fly tipping, speeding, and vandalism and seeing more Police Officers put back on our streets.

I will work with the Chief Constable and local partners to get more funding for County Durham and Darlington and enable Police Officers and Police and Community Support Officers (PCSO's) to spend more time on our streets.

Police alone cannot tackle crime and disorder – we need our communities' help to provide us with better intelligence so we can prevent more crime, protect more individuals, deter more offending and reoffending, and pursue more offenders.

Resilient and confident communities are more likely to report crime and anti-social behaviour (ASB), and they are also more likely to work with others to prevent crime and disorder. I want to make our communities feel safe and give them confidence to report crime to help make the communities of County Durham and Darlington safer, stronger and more resilient to crime, drugs and ASB.

THE PUBLIC'S POLICE AND CRIME PRIORITIES - PLAN ON A PAGE



DELIVERING THE PUBLIC'S POLICE AND CRIME PRIORITIES

Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary and the Fire and Rescue Services (HMICFRS) Peel 2021/22 Police Effectiveness, Efficiency and Legitimacy inspection made the following observations

PREVENT

- The Force has a clear focus on preventing crime.
- The Force prioritises preventing crime, anti-social behaviour and vulnerability.

PROTECT

- The Force is good at protecting vulnerable people.
- The Force works well to safeguard those who are vulnerable.
- Officers look for signs of vulnerability when attending incidents.
- The Force provides quality service to victims of crime.

DETER

- The Force has a clear focus of preventing people being drawn into committing crime.
- The Force has an effective approach to offender management, including Checkpoint, an innovative scheme to reduce re-offending.
- The Force is good at managing offenders and suspects.
- The Force prevents people from engaging or re-engaging in organised crime.
- The Community Peer Mentor Scheme has demonstrated success in cutting offending. The unique approach has seen an 81% reduction in contact with public services, reduced offending and hospital admissions.

PURSUE

- The Force is effective in apprehending and managing suspects and offenders to protect the public from harm.
- The Force is outstanding at managing serious and organised crime.
- The Force proactively pursues illicit finances. It has been recognised nationally for its analytical exploitation of suspicious activity reports to identify links to organised crime groups.
- The Force works hard to recover money from Organised Crime Groups through confiscation orders.

INTELLIGENCE LED

- The Force is good at using all available intelligence to identify, understand and prioritise serious and organised crime.
- Digital Intelligence Unit, the dedicated surveillance team and other specialist units allow the Force to identify the demand and react accordingly.
- Intelligence is shared allowing an effective approach to managing serious and organised crime and focus on prevention and deterrence.
- The Force Intelligence Unit researches incidents involving vulnerability to provide officers with as much information as possible.

DATA DRIVEN

- The Force's investment in digital intelligence and forensics has been recognised nationally for its analytical exploitation.

PARTNERSHIP APPROACH

- The Force works well with other organisations to keep vulnerable people safe.
- The Force works with organisations and local communities to reduce tolerance to organised crime.

PROBLEM SOLVING

- The Force uses problem solving and works in partnership to prevent crime, anti-social behaviour and vulnerability.
- Excellent examples of problem solving and working with other partner agencies to prevent crime and anti-social behaviour are well established throughout the organisation.



PROBLEM SOLVING

Durham Constabulary Problem Solving Conference 2022



Understanding where and why crime happens is vital for creating the safe communities we all envisage. It is wholly unrealistic to expect police forces to arrest their way out of any given problem. Organisations must collaborate and act earlier to mitigate risk and pre-empt criminal behaviour in the first place. Only then will we increase safety and resilience in our communities in the long-term.

Fortunately, Durham Constabulary has been successfully working with partners to address the root causes of crime and prevent harm for some time. This innovative work is already well-embedded across the Force and has earned praise nationally from Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary and Fire & Rescue Services (HMICFRS). Among many performance highlights, HMICFRS said the Force has a clear focus on preventing crime and prioritises the prevention of crime, anti-social behaviour and vulnerability as well as being good at using available intelligence to identify, understand and prioritise serious and organised crime. Importantly, it can show many excellent examples of problem-solving and working with other partner agencies on the prevention agenda.

As Police and Crime Commissioner, I want to do all I can to build on this approach and direct investment into multi-agency initiatives that tackle the precursors to crime and the known risks of offending or reoffending whether past trauma, social or economic disadvantage or lack of opportunity. Along with the Chief Constable, I am also determined to embed a prevention-first culture to reduce the impact of crime and anti-social behaviour on our communities, on victims and the public purse.

We need to get better at identifying vulnerable people through the thousands of interactions that take place between officers, their communities and partners every day. It is important all staff working in a public contact role are trained in preventative policing techniques to a nationally-agreed standard and recognise risk factors and vulnerability earlier. Additionally, they must be provided with the technological skills, capacity and personal support needed to help them prevent crime and reduce demand.

For too long, our frontline officers have been expected to shoulder responsibility for a whole raft of complex demands that are better dealt with by a more appropriate agency. With greater resources and a heightened focus on problem-solving at an early stage, these crisis calls will not be necessary.

There is a strong commitment from the Force to build on its excellent track record and further ingrain the problem-solving approach. As Commissioner, I will continue to support the Chief Constable in every way possible, investing in and procuring the technological solutions needed to help officers gather information about victims, offenders and locations and to secure intelligence and data that allows them to target resources to optimum impact.

Prevention is not the ideal – it should be the reality. Together, we will make our communities better places to live and work.



CHIEF CONSTABLE'S REPORT



Jo Farrell

Chief Constable
Durham Constabulary

As I prepare to leave Durham Constabulary to start a new role as Chief Constable at Police Scotland, I remain incredibly proud of the Force and everything we have achieved over recent years.

Durham Constabulary has a reputation as one of the best police forces in the country, and that is because of its hardworking, dedicated officers, staff and volunteers who are deeply proud of what they do. At the heart of everything is a real desire to do the right thing and to do it well.

Over the past year, we have continued to make good progress in delivering the PCC's Police and Crime Plan. This has included undertaking extensive work to tackle violence against women and girls, as well as addressing anti-social behaviour in all localities, investing in roads policing, strengthening our response to cyber and digital demands and tackling serious and organised crime.

Work is also continuing on our state-of-the-art custody facility which will centralise Custody, Property Management and CSI services in one building, with more efficient processing and better investigative processes.

However, policing faces challenges:

- National cases of misconduct undermines confidence in local forces.
- We are picking up partner demand which places a significant burden on our own stretched resources.
- We are financially in an outdated funding regime which favours wealthier areas.

The impact of technology continues to both challenge us and offer us opportunity. The sustainability agenda will be a challenge for us, and in 2024 there will be a new government which will continue to change how the police operates, is held to account and how it is funded.



These issues will test our individual and collective leadership, management and operational abilities, but I remain convinced that we will meet these challenges to a high standard due to the commitment, work ethic, professional curiosity and creativity of our people.

The government is clear that there is no bottomless pit of money for policing. They have given us more than 200 extra police officers that we did not have three years ago, and they and I expect efficiency and productivity to increase. The antecedents of this are: high recruitment standards, effective vetting, wellbeing and supportive leadership, all of which will endure this year and beyond.

The supportive leadership approach adopted by the Force, alongside the talent of our officers and staff, who work with and reflect our communities, is clear to see and has led to national and international recognition for problem solving and innovation.

People who interact with our officers and staff and come to work or visit here, leave knowing exactly what the Durham Difference is. It is that what makes us one of the top performing forces in the country, with a clear vision, the right values and the right people who will continue to make a difference, inspiring confidence, protecting neighbourhoods, tackling criminals and solving problems around the clock.

Jo Farrell

Chief Constable Durham Constabulary



MY PRIORITIES

SAFER COMMUNITIES

ENGAGE AND EMPOWER COMMUNITIES TO PLAY AN ACTIVE ROLE IN CRIME PREVENTION AND RESOLVING LOCAL ISSUES

ANTI-SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR

Appoint an Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB) Champion to spearhead multi-agency action to address persistent anti-social behaviour and chair Community Trigger Resolution Meetings:

- ✓ My ASB Champion, appointed in December 2021, has worked with over 800 victims in that time to capture lived experience.
- ✓ Victims' voices have helped shape local and national strategy on tackling anti-social behaviour and hold partners to account.
- ✓ A new ASB Strategy has been developed and agreed across County Durham and Darlington in March 2023.
- ✓ Community Resolution Meetings are chaired by the ASB Champion.

Tackle quality of life issues that matter most to residents such as anti-social behaviour, fly-tipping, vandalism and dog fouling, we have:

- ✓ Implemented a simpler process for reporting anti-social behaviour which holds partners to account for a response.
- ✓ Secured £795,569 through Round 4 of the Safer Streets Fund to tackle ASB.
- ✓ Appointed a Community Safety Coordinator to tackle the public's top five priorities, which are: anti-social behaviour; drug use/drug dealing; fly-tipping; speeding; and vandalism.
- ✓ Committed £250,000 for the Darlington CCTV camera network to reduce ASB in the town centre and surrounding areas.
- ✓ Devolved £120,000 to the Neighbourhood Policing Teams to tackle anti-social behaviour. This has attracted a further £29,000 matched contributions from partner organisations to support several projects

including inviting residents to identify their top anti-social behaviour priorities during council tax precept consultation.

The top three priorities were:

- groups of people in public spaces
- drugs and alcohol
- environmental crime.
- ✓ Allocated £180,000 to enable partners from public and voluntary and community sector organisations to help deliver the Police and Crime Plan priorities. This attracted a further £103,000 in partner contributions.
- ✓ Secured £4.4m from the Home Office to tackle ASB.
- ✓ Allocated Durham County Council £20,000 to fund state-of-the-art covert CCTV cameras as part of a tough action plan to tackle fly-tipping.
- ✓ Provided £100,000 to grant fund 22 organisations to increase diversionary activities and reduce crime and anti-social behaviour across County Durham and Darlington. County Durham Community Foundation provided an additional £50,000 to support this.

Ensure signposting is reinforced with a clear distinction of who to direct ASB related issues to and how to get help, we can confirm:

- ✓ Partner websites were updated to include the new interactive signposting tool and information pages for victims to report anti-social behaviour.
- ✓ A new ASB Strategy was agreed which simplifies and clarifies partner responsibilities in relation to ASB.



Lobby the Home Office to consider replicating legal powers currently available to police in Scotland to enable officers to serve warnings, fines and seize equipment from noisy, inconsiderate neighbours:

- ✓ Proposals to give police new noise powers are contained in the Levelling Up and Regeneration Bill.

To ensure the availability of a trauma informed approach to support victims of persistent, unresolved anti-social behaviour, we have:

- ✓ Simplified access to victims' support, to ensure victims get the help they need via the single 'Front Door' initiative.
- ✓ Brought the Community Peer Mentors and the Victim Care and Advice Service (VCAS) in house.
- ✓ Provided training in trauma informed approaches to all the Office of Police and Crime Commissioner (OPCC) Victims' Services staff.
- ✓ Ensured that all officers are trained to refer victims to appropriate support through Operation Crystal.
- ✓ Invested £493,000 from PCC budgets in 2022/23 to reduce ASB.

To display guidelines on how to enact the ASB Case Review (formerly Community Trigger) prominently on websites, notice boards and publications to enable all victims of anti-social behaviour to seek redress, we have:

- ✓ Developed a new interactive signposting tool and information pages for victims which is live on the PCC's and partners' websites.

- ✓ Agreed a process for ASB Case Reviews (formerly Community Trigger) and published this on relevant websites including OPCC, Durham Constabulary local authorities and housing.

To address student related anti-social behaviour problems, working alongside Durham University and the Local Authority, we have:

- ✓ Introduced Operation Lentil with support from Durham Parish Council to increase police visibility and deter anti-social behaviour whilst providing proactive safeguarding for residents, visitors and students.
- ✓ Provided breathalysers to pubs and nightclubs to promote safer drinking habits.
- ✓ Launched "Too much alcohol changes things" campaign.
- ✓ Introduced Street Friends initiative to support people from all communities within Durham City's night time economy.
- ✓ Supported the introduction of Public Space Protection Orders in both Durham City and Darlington to prohibit street drinking, with the exception of dedicated licensed areas.
- ✓ Supported Operation Lester to address increased reports of spiking.
- ✓ Deployed dedicated police officers during term time, to the multi-agency Night Hub, to promote safety within the midweek night time economy.
- ✓ Agreed funding for a Community Safety Engagement Officer to promote positive relationships between students and local residents whilst helping to prevent crime and address ASB.





To encourage victims to submit a written account of the effects of anti-social behaviour and be entitled to read it or have it read out on their behalf at the Case Review meetings (formerly Community Trigger Meetings), we have:

- ✓ Implemented a new victim centred case review process which provides victims with the opportunity to attend case reviews and provide victim impact statements.
- ✓ Appointed an Independent Chair to oversee all reviews to guarantee impartiality, and an appeals process has been implemented; we believe we are the only area in the country to offer this process.

To review how the Police, Darlington Borough Council and Durham County Council take ownership of anti-social behaviour reports to ensure people get the right support at the right time by the right organisation, we have:

- ✓ Agreed with partners a process to ensure members of the public know how to report ASB, so they can get the right support at the right time by the right organisation.

To use the full suite of criminal and civic tools and powers to address anti-social behaviour effectively, we have:

- ✓ Agreed a new ASB Strategy, which sets out how criminal and civic tools and powers will be used.

To provide ongoing communication on what is being done locally to tackle anti-social behaviour across a variety of media platforms, including social media, website, local press and community visits, we have:

- ✓ Ensured the public are kept up to date about what is happening to tackle ASB utilising Neighbourhood Policing Teams and the Roads and Armed Policing Unit social media accounts.
- ✓ Produced quarterly newsletters providing updates.
- ✓ Published all OPCC press releases on our website.
- ✓ Attended numerous community events and ASB 'hotspot' areas across County Durham and Darlington to update residents on what is happening to tackle anti-social behaviour.
- ✓ Held two Safer Streets Awareness Sessions in Ferryhill and Peterlee to build relationships with these communities and deliver crime prevention and community safety advice.

BY THE NUMBERS:

- 13,490 ASB incidents were recorded in 2022/23 compared to 19,261 in 2021/22, which represents a decrease of approximately 30%.
- Of the ASB recorded incidents, 81% (10,993) were in County Durham and 19% (2,497) in Darlington.
- The highest ASB category reported was ASB nuisance which accounted for 8,387 (62%) of all ASB incidents. This was reduced from 11,738 in 2021/22.
- Youth related ASB accounted for 37% (4,964) of all ASB incidents, reduced from 5,451 in the previous year.
- The main demands from ASB are off road bikes, youth nuisance and alcohol related ASB.
- There has been a reduction in alcohol related ASB incidents from 2,553 in 2021/22 to 1,606 in 2022/23: a decrease of 37.1%. Alcohol-related ASB accounted for 12% of all ASB incidents in 2022/23.
- There has been a significant decrease in drug related ASB incidents from 302 in 2020/21 to 175 in 2022/23: a reduction of approximately 42.1%
- In the first year of delivery, between 1 April 2022 and 31 March 2023 the Community Peer Mentors supported 1,235 people, of which 519 (42%) were identified as being negatively affected by ASB.

Please Note:

All statistical data presented in this report was accurate at the time of writing and all comparison data compares the financial year 2021/22 with the financial year 2022/23.





NEIGHBOURHOOD CRIME

To enhance area based multi-agency hubs that support collaborative problem-solving approaches to reduce crime, anti-social behaviour and victimisation, we have:

- ✓ Continued to support multi agency hubs in Darlington and Horden.
- ✓ Introduced a Prevention and Problem Solving Team in January 2023, to include dedicated PCSOs and a problem solving hub.

To ensure Police Teams are more visible and accessible and there is a nominated and visible local officer or PCSO in every neighbourhood, we confirm that:

- ✓ The Force's website and www.police.uk contains details of all the Neighbourhood Policing Teams (NPT).
- ✓ All victims of crime are given the contact details of their local PCSO and/or NPT Beat Officer.
- ✓ 'Keep in the Know' is used by the NPT to keep local residents informed and updated on crime trends in the area and share timely crime prevention advice. Membership to the site is continually growing rising from 9,092 in March 2022 to 10,216 in March 2023. This is an increase of 12.4%.
- ✓ New members of the Neighbourhood Policing Teams are always introduced to the public via NPT Facebook pages.
- ✓ New shift patterns are now embedded and have enabled more officers to be on duty during peak demand times – late evenings and night time in the city/town centres.

To put more Police Officers back on our streets, we confirm that:

- ✓ From April 2022 to March 2023 Durham Constabulary recruited 184 Police Officers, 29 PCSOs and 13 call handlers.





To explore the feasibility of establishing a Community Orientated Policing (COP) bank similar to the NHS nursing banks to address demand pressures and provide additional capacity to respond to localised problem-solving solutions. We confirm that:

- ✓ The Commissioner has met with Bluelight Commercial to explore the feasibility of retiring officers being allowed to keep their warrant card.
- ✓ Via Safer Streets funding officers were invited to apply for overtime to provide additional capacity in response to pressures resulting from the night time economy.
- ✓ The City of Durham Parish Council, via its precept raising powers, set aside a dedicated budget to pay for additional policing in the city via overtime payments.

To set up Community Safety Volunteer, Employment and Training (VET) Agency to support, promote careers and volunteering opportunities in the criminal justice sector, we confirm that:

- ✓ The PCC provided funding to Durham Community Action to:
- ✓ Facilitate meetings of representatives from VCS organisations to collaborate and share opportunities for criminal justice volunteering.
- ✓ Support volunteer led groups and planning for managing community safety activities.
- ✓ Provide on-line training for volunteers (and groups about supporting their volunteers).
- ✓ Build capacity and best practice to enable organisations offering volunteering opportunities to understand their responsibilities and operate effectively.
- ✓ Support community resilience planning activities.
- ✓ Deliver NAVCA accredited cyber security training.
- ✓ Response Officers hold a 'Uniformed Services Night Shift' to support uniformed services courses at local colleges. The students take part in standardised fitness test, take statements from victims and witnesses of crime and disorder and are faced with making various decisions such as powers to force entry to properties and the challenge of how to do it.



- ✓ There are 47 individuals registered as volunteers. During 2022/23 the volunteers contributed 2,106 hours (£0.03m equivalent).
- ✓ The Special Constabulary contributed 5,591 operational hours during 2022/23. The greatest number of hours were allocated to Roads Policing (52%) Response (24%) and rural duty/planned events (9%).
- ✓ There are 180 Speed Watch volunteers who are managed by the NPTs. Some are vetted so they can drive the Speed Watch van.

To involve people with lived experience when working with victims of crime, anti-social behaviour, addictions and abuse, we have:

- ✓ A group of nine Community Peer Mentors with lived experience of many of the issues experienced by victims.
- ✓ Three officers who work with victims of crime, anti-social behaviour and domestic abuse. These champions have worked with over 800 victims, ensuring their voice is used to improve and inform services.
- ✓ The Free Programme, which is a peer-led programme, meaning people with experience of the criminal justice system and drug and alcohol addictions support each other in their recovery journey.
- ✓ The internationally recognised, award winning 'Checkpoint' programme, which includes a team of navigators, some of whom have lived experience.
- ✓ Recruited volunteers from the local community to share their experience and help develop and inform policy, commission relevant services and lobby for change.
- ✓ Ensured the PCC meets with victims and others involved in the criminal justice system, to listen to their experiences and share learning to improve services and inform policy.

To ensure the public knows where to report issues and access the right services, at the right time from the right agency:

- ✓ A simpler process for reporting anti-social behaviour has been implemented.





To promote and support a multi-agency problem-solving strategy to prevent neighbourhood crime (burglary, robbery, theft from the person and vehicle crime), we have:

- ✓ Created 183 Problem Solving Plans utilising the problem solving hub.
- ✓ Secured £470,321 Safer Streets Funding to tackle ASB, reduce neighbourhood crime and the fear of crime, of which £122,628 was awarded to Darlington and £347,693 to County Durham.

To ensure an effective Integrated Offender Management (IOM) scheme for identifying neighbourhood crime offenders and intervening to prevent reoffending, we have:

- ✓ Employed an additional four PCs in the IOM Team.
- ✓ Adopted new approaches to engage with female offenders and those transitioning from youth to adult provision to deter them from further offending.
- ✓ Worked closely with partners to signpost offenders towards support and education to prevent further offending.
- ✓ Achieved a 76.5% Desistance Rate in County Durham and 67% in Darlington, reducing the likelihood of IOM cohorts committing further crimes.

To promote and increase the take up of 'Keep in the Know', a free messaging service to keep local communities informed on what the local neighbourhood police and partners are doing (www.keepintheknow.co.uk), we can confirm that:

- ✓ The PCC and Neighbourhood Policing Teams promote sign up to Keep in the Know at public and community meetings and engagement events across County Durham and Darlington and via their social media accounts.
- ✓ Membership to Keep In The Know is continually growing rising from 9,092 in March 2022 to 10,216 in March 2023. This is an increase of 12.4%.
- ✓ The PCCs Commissioner's Challenge encourages Year 6 pupils to ask three family members to sign up to Keep in the Know.

BY THE NUMBERS:

- 2,016 residential burglary crimes were recorded during 2022/23, in comparison to the same period from the previous year, in which there were 2,084 recorded a reduction of 3.3%.
- 2,527 vehicle offences were recorded during 2022/23 in comparison to the same period from the previous year, in which there were 2,327; an increase of 8.6%. Keyless entry accounted for the majority of theft of motor vehicles.
- 1,054 Theft from Motor Vehicles recorded during 2022/23 which is a decrease of 6.3% from 2021/22 figures.
- Whilst volume Robbery remains fairly low, crimes increased by 8.1%, from 185 in 2021/22 to 200 in 2022/23.



SERIOUS AND ORGANISED CRIME

To ensure the Force has the necessary resources to respond to serious organised crime threats (firearms, drugs, child criminal exploitation, fraud, economic crime, cyber, modern slavery, human trafficking):

- ✓ In the October 2021 HMICFRS PEEL Inspection report, Durham Constabulary was assessed as 'Outstanding' for their work on 'Disrupting Serious Organised Crime'.
- ✓ The Major Crime Team has an exceptional outcome rate for homicide investigations.

Tackle and disrupt organised crime groups behind drug activity, we can report that:

- ✓ Durham Constabulary remains at the forefront nationally for identifying new trends, raising awareness and pushing for legislative changes nationally where legal loopholes enable criminality.
- ✓ Durham has continued to increase the number of asset confiscations through all legislative opportunities to disrupt drug SOC offenders.
- ✓ Home Office funding of £90,000 was secured in 2022/23 for County Lines disruption.
- ✓ The Force has the highest resolution rate in England and Wales for the investigation of robbery, commercial burglary and theft from a motor vehicle and exceeds the national average in all but one of the 22 crime types.
- ✓ This performance led to the Force receiving high praise in a recent report by Her Majesty's Chief Inspector of Constabulary and Fire & Rescue Services (HMICFRS) Andy Cooke who highlighted Durham as one of just two forces nationally that are performing "very well" in its response to serious acquisitive crimes including burglary, robbery and theft.

To recognise the exploitation of children and young people and continue to identify and safeguard those at risk, we have:

- ✓ Introduced a multi-agency process which continues to underpin the work to identify and support those children most at risk of child exploitation.
- ✓ Trained Neighbourhood Policing Teams to proactively recognise signs of Child Sexual Exploitation, County Lines, Modern Slavery and Organised Crime involvement.
- ✓ Delivered County Lines Intensification Weeks throughout the year, including in February 2023, which led to: 19 arrests; 11 children being safeguarded; two section 1 firearms (1 active), 2kg+ of cocaine and 1kg+ cannabis and £46,000 in cash being seized; 18 licensed premises visited with drugs dog; two premises closure orders granted for 3 months where the premises were involved in the supply of illegal cigarettes and vapes.
- ✓ Refreshed Operation Makesafe; awareness raising with taxi drivers, hoteliers, takeaways etc. to assist in their knowledge to identify potential exploitation/safeguarding of children/young people.
- ✓ Referred children at greatest risk to a monthly child exploitation meeting where consideration is given as to how risks to the child may be reduced.
- ✓ Continuing Professional Development and education packages have been delivered to schools and other partners.

To support the coordination of the local, regional and national response to modern slavery through the National Anti-Trafficking and Modern Slavery Network, we have:

- ✓ Granted £5,000 to develop the County Durham Anti-Slavery





Network and a further £22,500 to provide coordination of this network across County Durham and Darlington.

- ✓ Funded the first County Durham Anti-Slavery Network Conference in October 2022, which was attended by 80 professionals.
- ✓ Introduced Operation TrafficJam to understand the online set up of adult sex work in County Durham and Darlington.
- ✓ We have established a Partnership Forum to professionalise the response by agencies in tackling Modern Slavery, Human Trafficking and Organised Immigration Crime.

Develop a public health approach to shape the partnership work to prevent and reduce serious violence, we have:

- ✓ Been involved in two research programmes within the last 12 months to share best practice
- ✓ Established a regional Serious and Organised Crime (SOC) quarterly meeting with CPS and other partner agencies to share best practice around prosecutions relating to SOC offences.

BY THE NUMBERS:

- In 2022/23 there were:
- 410 arrests (including Voluntary Attenders).
- 108 charges (including cautions).
- 523 years sentenced.
- 198 adults safeguarded.
- 92 children safeguarded.
- 285.89kg of drugs seized and 5,003 Cannabis plants recovered
- 7 firearms seized (including guns & other).
- 21 rounds of ammunition seized.
- £1,093,945 cash seized.
- £5,000 crypto currency seized.
- £3,351,004 Confiscation Orders granted.



SAFER BUSINESS



TO INCREASE OUR UNDERSTANDING OF THE CRIME, THREATS AND ABUSE FACED BY BUSINESSES AND SHOPWORKERS

To strengthen engagement with local businesses by providing targeted crime prevention advice, to protect them and retail workers, we have:

- ✓ Seconded an Inspector to the NE Resilience sector providing crime prevention advice to SMEs.
- ✓ Taken an active problem-solving approach to tackle specific issues or hot spot areas for retail related crime and anti-social/abusive behaviour with a number of problem solving plans in place to reduce business related crime.
- ✓ Supported the work of the Association of Police and Crime Commissioners (APCC) and through their business crime portfolio, shared best practice and raised awareness of the issues locally to prevent crime, protect staff and retail workers.
- ✓ Supported over 100 retail workers or others within business settings following a crime linked to their place of work.

To gain a better understanding of the crimes faced by businesses and ensure they get the support they need to keep themselves and customers safe, we can confirm that:

- ✓ The PCC continues to have quarterly meetings with the National Federation of Independent Retailers in order to get a better understanding of business crime and offer support.
- ✓ The North-East Retail Crime Partnership (NERCP) monthly letters are shared with the PCC's office.
- ✓ The PCC visits and engages with retailers in various towns and villages throughout County Durham and Darlington during engagement visits to hear first hand about their experiences of business crime and ASB.





To take steps to tackle violence against shop workers and support the Co-op's Respect for Shop Workers and USDAW campaigns.

We can confirm that:

- ✓ The Police Crime, Sentencing and Courts Act 2022 received Royal Assent on 28 June 2022. Within the Act is a provision for consideration of aggravating factors of assault on a public service workers (which applied to all retail workers in connection with the public) and empowers courts to treat that fact as an aggravating factor.
- ✓ VCAS has supported over 100 retail workers who have been victims of crime in the workplace.

To promote the use of SentrySis as an online tool for business, we have

- ✓ Promoted the use of SentrySis and the benefits this tool brings to business, including through PCSOs and a national publication for independent retailers.
- ✓ Received 1,040 business crime reports via SentrySis during this period.
- ✓ Saved 1496 days of officer time as a result of businesses using SentrySis.

To support the roll-out and development of shop/retail watch schemes and supportive partnerships that address business/retail crime, we can confirm that:

- ✓ PCSOs work with businesses to develop schemes such as Shop Watch in local areas.
- ✓ There are now 14 areas across County Durham and Darlington operating Shop Watch.



BY THE NUMBERS:

- 4,835 shoplifting offences were recorded during 2022/23 in comparison to the same period from the previous year, in which there were 3,542 recorded. This is an increase of 36.5%.
- 947 Commercial Burglaries were recorded during 2022/23 in comparison to the same period from the previous year in which there were 863 recorded. This is an increase of 9.7%.



SAFER ONLINE



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Making the communities of County Durham and Darlington safer, stronger and more resilient to crime, drugs and anti-social behaviour.

TACKLE THE EMERGING THREATS OF CYBER-ENABLED AND DEPENDENT CRIME BY DEVELOPING NEW TACTICS AND CAPABILITIES TO SAFEGUARD THOSE USING ONLINE PLATFORMS.

To fund and promote cyber fraud awareness campaigns, we can confirm that:

- ✓ Durham supports the national project Police CyberAlarm, which is a free tool for businesses to help monitor and report suspicious cyber activity.
- ✓ The North East Cyber Protect was the first in the country to use this data to not only help businesses, but also to identify home users with compromised devices being used as part of a bot network.
- ✓ The North East Cyber Protect Network:
 - delivers workshops and events to raise awareness of the cyber threats and has established partnerships with local and regional business clusters and support groups.
 - delivers cyber crime awareness inputs to Durham University students as part of the yearly curriculum.
 - uses open source data and other intelligence to proactively find vulnerabilities in the businesses within the region/force area to help businesses defend themselves. This data is monitored daily and disseminated by working in partnership with internet service providers (ISPs).
- ✓ The PCC Office helps promote cyber fraud awareness via social media channels and newsletters, such as Take 5, NFIB and Action Fraud.
- ✓ We work closely with the Regional Economic Crime Coordination Centre (RECCC) to amplify our reach and extend our messaging into fraud and scams.

- ✓ The PCC funded a Cyber Club for young people in County Durham and Darlington which offers a safe place for young people to learn cyber skills, coding and promote Cyber Choices.
- ✓ £3,375 was provided to fund Cyber Ethical Hacking with colleges and schools in the local area.

To support the roll-out of cyber-crime prevention volunteers to educate the public on how to protect themselves from cyber enabled crime, we have:

- ✓ Developed a model for the training and use of cyber crime prevention volunteers.
- ✓ Trained Durham Agency Against Crime (DAAC) Cadets to deliver cyber prevention advice.
- ✓ Worked with Barclays Bank and their free Digital Wings initiative to develop a targeted digital champions approach within County Durham and Darlington.
- ✓ Engaged with businesses and communities and provide training to increase cyber resilience and reduce the likelihood of becoming a victim of cyber crime. Neighbourhood Policing Teams delivered interactive workshops to help businesses understand cyber security, key controls and develop response plans.



To introduce specialist Cyber Prevention Officers, we can confirm that:

- ✓ The Force has a dedicated Cyber Crime Team spread across two commands: A Pursue Team to pursue those who commit cyber crime and a Protect, Prepare and Prevent Team, working with local authorities, the university, youth provision and community groups to educate against and prevent cyber crime.
- ✓ Specialist Regional Cyber Protect Officers at North East Regional Organised Crime Unit work closely with Force Cyber Protect Officers and form the North East Cyber Protect Network, to protect businesses and individuals from cyber crime.

To invest in digital investigation and intelligence to improve understanding of the digital footprint to combat internet cyber enabled and cyber dependent criminality, we have:



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- ✓ Provided financial resources to the Force to maximise their use of technology. This includes money to invest in a new telephony system within the Force Control Room.
- ✓ Appointed additional staff and officers to increase the digital investigation team.
- ✓ Introduced mobile phone kiosks which allow for almost all mobile devices and portable storage media to be examined. Around 600 police officers and staff are trained to undertake these examinations.
- ✓ A dedicated cyber analyst function within the Regional Cyber Crime Unit who focuses specifically on cyber threats affecting multiple sectors across the North East.
- ✓ Upskilled front line officers in everyday digital policing techniques following academic scoping work under Op Soteria/Bluestone.

To raise awareness of how children and adults can stay safe online, how to recognise online grooming, exploitation and radicalisation, we have:

- ✓ Trained Neighbourhood Policing Teams (NPTs) to give advice around scams, bogus officials and online safety.
- ✓ Trained NPTs to proactively look for and recognise child sexual exploitation, county lines, modern day slavery and organised crime involvement.
- ✓ Dedicated Child Exploitation and Online Protection Command ambassadors.

To support vulnerable people to be safe online through educational programmes, we can confirm that:

- ✓ VCAS works with Action Fraud to identify victims of fraud and cyber risk, assess vulnerability and offer appropriate support including referral to support agencies who provide prevent and protect advice to avoid vulnerable people falling victim to cyber crime.
- ✓ The Community Ambassador Project, delivered by Approach Too, worked with Barclays Digital Eagles to deliver cyber awareness sessions for all year 5 pupils in Ferryhill, to help them to stay safe online.
- ✓ The PCC provided £3,204 for a youth club cyber project in Pelton to educate young people about online and Internet safety.



PCC helps college staff switch on to the threat of cyber attacks.

BY THE NUMBERS:

- Fraud has become the most commonly experienced crime in England and Wales, now accounting for more than 40% of all recorded crime.
- The Crime Survey for England and Wales (CSEW), estimates that there were 3.5 million incidents of Fraud last year.
- Office of National Statistics (ONS) estimates that approximately 53% of all fraud is now online enabled.
- In 2021/22 there were 2,589 reports recorded by Action Fraud for-warded to Durham Constabulary to offer support. In 2022/23 the respective figure was 2,413- decrease of 6.7%.
- During the past 12 months VCAS have offered over 1,300 victims of Fraud support.



SAFER PEOPLE

INVEST IN NEIGHBOURHOOD POLICING TO REASSURE THE PUBLIC, PROVIDE PREVENTION ADVICE, SOLVE PROBLEMS, PROTECT THE VULNERABLE AND BUILD CONFIDENCE.



VICTIMS OF CRIME AND ANTI-SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR

To help keep people safe in their homes by working with the local authorities, health and the Fire and Rescue Service to provide Total Home Safety advice, we can confirm that:

- ✓ County Durham and Darlington Fire and Rescue Service (CDDFRS) delivered a total of 18,382 Home Fire Safety Visits to households, providing advice to make people safer in their homes.
- ✓ Home safety advice is also provided by VCAS, who work with the Fire Service and other local organisations – over 400 pieces of safety equipment have been distributed by VCAS and over 50 home security surveys have been completed, enabling victims to make their homes more secure and feel safer.

To appoint a Victims' Champion to ensure the voice of victims is at the centre of everything we do, we can confirm that:

- ✓ A Victim's Champion was appointed in December 2021. Victims' voices have helped us to understand their lived experience and use this to improve policy, planning and commissioned services.

To ensure delivery of seamless high-quality support for victims that enables them to cope with and recover from their experiences, we can confirm that:

- ✓ The PCC brought the Community Peer Mentors (CPM) and the Victim Care and Advice Service (VCAS) in house; these are now at the heart of the PCCs work.
- ✓ In 2022/23, CPM offered support to 1,025 people and VCAS supported 3,828 victims.

- ✓ A new 'Front Door' initiative was introduced, making the process easier for victims to access support.
- ✓ We lobbied local MPs in relation to criminal justice shortcomings around court listing policies and the impact this has on victims, financial inequalities of those in the criminal justice system, reform of harassment legislation and Victim Impact Assessments.

To ensure victims feel empowered and confident in reporting crime to the police, reassuring them of the journey through partner services, we have:

- ✓ Funded Durham Pride to continue delivering their helpline for victims of crime with the aim of supporting victims from the LGBTQ+ community to feel more empowered and confident in reporting crime to the police.
- ✓ Ensured all staff completed Understanding Domestic Abuse training.
- ✓ Held a Victims Conference - 'Through the eyes of a victim' in March 2023, which focused on placing the victim at the centre of the criminal justice system.

To ensure compliance with the Code of Practice for Victims (VCoP) so that victims are aware of and can access their rights, we have:

- ✓ Introduced Operation Crystal to improve support for victims. The OPCC was instrumental in developing the victim care aspects of Operation Crystal to ensure compliance with the Code of Practice and to ensure victims were offered support at every point of contact.
- ✓ Developed a Victim Impact Assessment which the PCC and the Force have signed up to, and encouraged partner agencies to adopt.



To commission high quality services so that victims have access to a range of specialist services for them and their families at any point and whether they report to the police or not, we can confirm that:

- ✓ In 2022/23 the PCC allocated £489,000 to support victims of domestic abuse, £736,000 to support victims of sexual violence and £367,000 to support all other victims of crime.
- ✓ Many of the victims who have spoken to the PCC Victim's Champions have praised the services delivered by these community-based projects and their ability to provide wrap around support to those who access their services, including victims of domestic abuse and sexual violence.

To ensure victims are read their rights at the point of report, or as soon after as possible, as with offenders, we can confirm that:

- ✓ Victims are given a Victim of Crime leaflet which refers to their rights under the Victims Code of Practice.
- ✓ Operation Crystal is in place which helps ensure victims are offered support at every point of contact.

Improve safeguarding for vulnerable adults and children.

We can confirm that:

- ✓ On average there were 111 children per month identified as being connected to Multi Agency Risk Assessment Conference (MARAC) cases. Children affected by domestic abuse are a key consideration.

To continuously review and seek to improve those services we commission and co-commission to support victims of crime, we have:

- ✓ Completed a health check to ensure our commissioning processes support securing high quality support for victims now and in the future.
- ✓ Commissioned an external procurement service to ensure funding opportunities for smaller organisations are accessible.
- ✓ Committed to multi-year funding for providers, to encourage stability in the sector; all our ministry of justice funded contracts received 3 year funding.





HATE CRIME



To promote hate crime prevention initiatives and encourage and facilitate the reporting in all forms of hate crime, we confirm that:

- ✓ We participated in Hate Crime Awareness Week, producing videos, undertaking interviews and promoting information on social media to raise awareness of hate crimes.
- ✓ We facilitate a multi-agency Hate Crime Action Group, bringing partners together to identify ways to reduce hate crimes across Durham and Darlington.
- ✓ Hate Crime Scrutiny Panel meets quarterly to focus on investigation quality and identifies any improvements which could have increased the likelihood of positive outcome.
- ✓ The PCC provided £20,000 funding to deliver Show Racism the Red Card activities in schools.

To introduce voluntary recording of misogyny/misandry to become an official hate crime category and support educational campaigns to tackle the issue:

- ✓ At the present time the Government is against creating a new legislation for offences of sexual harassment believing that this can be dealt with by existing laws. This follows the law commission's conclusion that making misogyny a hate crime may be more harmful than helpful, both to victims of violence against women and girls and also to efforts to tackle hate crime more broadly.



MENTAL HEALTH

To ensure that the Police are the service of last resort and not the service of first resort for people suffering a mental health crisis, working closely with Community Mental Health Trusts, we can confirm that:

- ✓ Specialist NHS mental health workers are based in the Force Control Room to advise police officers on the most appropriate care for individuals in crisis.

To liaise with Public Health, Housing, Employment and Mental Health services to ensure that potential offenders get access to the support that they need, we can confirm that:

- ✓ The Liaison and Diversion Service, delivered by the NHS, supports vulnerable people in custody.
- ✓ The new Investigative Hub will provide further opportunities in the next financial year to ensure a more robust and 24/7 healthcare offer is available.

To maintain a multi-agency approach to enable an appropriate response to support people with mental health needs who come in contact with the police and criminal justice system, we can confirm that:

- ✓ Two year joint funding of £87,000 was provided from the PCC and TEWV, for Community Peer Mentors to provide continuity of support to victims and offenders who are identified with mental health issues linked to alcohol and substance misuse.
- ✓ Community Peer Mentors supported 843 people with mental health issues during 2022/23.
- ✓ Familiar Faces was recognised as a finalist at the international Goldstein Problem Solving Awards. Familiar Faces is a unique partnership between the Force and the NHS. It has helped vulnerable people access early mental health support, has reduced the number of repeat caller incidents to the police by almost 70%, reduced people being detained under the Mental Health Act by 50% and reduced police time by 73.7%.



YOUNG PEOPLE

To ensure policies about young people will be made after engaging and involving young people, we can confirm that:

- ✓ Police Cadets were involved in setting up a Scrutiny Panel which provided feedback on how police carried out stop and search and the impact on young people.

To keep care-experienced young people out of the criminal justice system, we can confirm that:

- ✓ Over representation of young people in care entering the criminal justice system was a concern noted across the youth justice service in Durham and the youth justice and engagement service in Darlington. Both are currently reviewing their local protocols around support available and multi-agency working groups are supporting them with this.



To divert young people from becoming involved in crime and anti-social behaviour through a range of education, employment, leisure and training activities, we can confirm that:

- ✓ Community Peer Mentors have worked directly with 17 young people identified as being at risk to radicalisation by multi-agency Channel Panel.
- ✓ A joint project with Durham County Council, through Safer Streets, was initiated to prevent young people entering the criminal justice system by providing an alternative support package of mentoring.
- ✓ Durham Agency Against Crime (DAAC) supports young people with diversionary activities, working with schools to identify young people at risk of being involved in crime and anti-social behaviour.
- ✓ 48 young people participated in Outdoor Based Skills Programme learning key life skills.
- ✓ There are currently 120 Cadets – 60 junior cadets and 60 senior cadets.
- ✓ DAAC runs an Apprentice Youth Work Programme, where young people 16-21 are employed by the Force to work with DAAC on its youth development programmes, predominantly as role models for the Mini Police programme.
- ✓ The PCC provided £24,000 contribution towards the running costs of Mini Police programme. This programme achieved direct engagement with 1,400 children and indirect engagement with over 12,000 children through primary schools.
- ✓ Fearless worker has reached a total of 5,799 young people and 352 professionals. Fearless aims to ensure children and young people are confident to speak up about crime and report it and they are more informed to make positive choices about crime and criminality.
- ✓ Darlington's Young People's Engagement & Justice Service is working with Fire and Rescue to deliver the Developing Resilience

programme to intervene early and support vulnerable young people to be more resilient, achieve positive outcomes and a Level 1 Prince's Trust qualification. The programme engaged four young people in Spring 2023 and is due to engage a further eight young people in the Autumn.

- ✓ The service also provides the Duke of Edinburgh Awards Programme and since 2018 the service has facilitated 50 young people achieving their Bronze Award. In 2023, those working towards DoE include young victims, young people subject to youth justice outcomes and young people with refugee experience.
- ✓ Darlington's school prevention programme delivers sessions to targeted groups of young people covering emotional management, developing resilience, knife crime and criminal exploitation awareness.
- ✓ In addition, Darlington's ASB Pathway has been bolstered by the introduction of the Turnaround Programme, taking a whole family approach to working with young people at risk of offending.



DOMESTIC ABUSE AND SEXUAL VIOLENCE

To support the use of robust domestic violence perpetrator programmes to prevent domestic violence and abuse happening in the future, we have:

- ✓ Jointly funded domestic abuse perpetrator programs delivered in County Durham and Darlington.
- ✓ Supported perpetrators of domestic abuse and sexual violence who have been stepped down from perpetrator programmes.
- ✓ Been awarded £271,947 from the Home Office Domestic Abuse Prevention Fund to deliver initiatives addressing child and adolescent to parent violence and abuse (CAPVA).

To prioritise developing a Violence Against Women and Girls' Strategy aimed at changing attitudes and improving our knowledge of and response to the crimes that predominantly affect women and girls so that no woman needs to live in fear and girls grow up knowing they are safe, we can confirm that:

- ✓ The Force has a Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG) Strategy and action plan.
- ✓ The PCC secured £632,720 from the Home Office to improve the safety of women and girls by reducing the opportunity of violence and street harassment and increasing women's confidence when using public places in Durham City and Darlington.
- ✓ One of the initiatives, Number Forty, in Darlington, was shortlisted for a Chartered Institute of Public Relations (CIPR) North East Pride award.

To ensure the full powers included in the Domestic Abuse Act are used to protect and support victims and result in meaningful consequences for perpetrators including the effective use of domestic abuse protection notices, domestic abuse protection orders and restraining orders, we can confirm that:

- ✓ In 2022, 48 Domestic Violence Protection Notices were issued and 40 Domestic Violence Protection Orders, providing a conversion rate of 83.3%.

- ✓ 1200 staff across the Force received Domestic Abuse training to reinforce the importance of taking positive action in all domestic abuse incidents and to ensure officers are aware of the full range of protective orders that can be utilised to support and protect victims.
- ✓ By the end of March 2023, Darlington had in place a process to enable victims of domestic abuse to provide evidence to court remotely.
- ✓ Operation Chandler was implemented to enhance the Force's use of VAWG civil orders. The governance group uses national and local performance data to understand VAWG performance to ensure they are being utilised and managed robustly.

To deliver on the recommendations included in the national End to End Rape Review, we can confirm that:

- ✓ The Force has continued to work with the Operation Soteria Bluestone Team to improve outcomes for victims of rape and sexual offences and implement the learning from the Year One report.
- ✓ Compared to other forces, Durham continues to have a consistently high charge rate nationally for rape and sexual offences. The Rape resolved rate in Durham is 10.1%, compared to 7.2% nationally.
- ✓ In May 2022, County Durham and Darlington Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence Executive Group (DASVEG), agreed to a Sexual Violence Task & Finish group, aimed at better understanding the services and pathways currently in place for victims of sexual violence. The findings were used to develop the 2023/24 strategy.

To develop and maintain a high-quality Sexual Assault Referral Centre (SARC) service that meets local needs and national standards, we can confirm that:

- ✓ From 1st April 2023, Cleveland, Northumbria, and Durham PCCs jointly commissioned the regional SARC for both adults and children



- ✓ PPCs are working in partnership to comply with new legislation relating to SARCs.

To deliver high quality support for victims of rape and sexual violence and their families where appropriate, we can confirm that:

- ✓ In 2022/23, Durham was awarded funding from Ministry of Justice of £308,582 per annum for three years for Domestic Abuse/Sexual Violence victim support services. This included:
 - Rape and Serious Sexual Offence First Contact Navigators, who offer practical information and advice to victims, helping them to get the right support as early as possible.
 - increased capacity for HALO to provide specialist support for victims of honour based abuse.
- ✓ An additional £64,355 was provided to fund core victim services for Durham. As part of this:
 - Darlington & County Durham Rape and Sexual Abuse Counselling Centre (RSACC) was funded to develop a method of engaging with and supporting parents/carers of children who had experienced sexual abuse.
 - RSACC were commissioned to deliver counselling support for children and adults through a team of Independent Sexual Violence Advisers (ISVAs) including specialisms in working with older people, LGBT people, those with learning disabilities and male victims.
 - Changing Lives and RSACC received NHS England Sexual Assault and Abuse Strategy Funding, to provide counselling and trauma focused services for victims of rape and other sexual offences in Low Newton Prison and upon release.





To monitor and promote the use of stalking legislation and powers to measure effectiveness, we can confirm that:

- ✓ We continue to monitor the prevalence of Harassment and Stalking and support Durham Constabulary in their work to promote the use of stalking legislation to prevent further harms.
- ✓ We continue to be reassured that student officers are trained in early signs of Stalking and Harassment, and that 'to think stalking first' is revisited at later stages of training.
- ✓ Stalking Advocates support victims to secure protection using stalking legislation and powers; we can confirm this support has been available from the VCAS team.

To ensure the Force works in partnership with Probation to manage High Risk Offenders through Multi-Agency Public Protection Arrangements (MAPPA), Sexual Offender, Domestic Abuse Perpetrator initiatives and Foreign National Offenders initiatives, we can confirm that:

- ✓ Durham Constabulary and other key stakeholders have focused upon the use of MAPPA to manage high harm domestic abuse perpetrators; this approach has increased the number of violent MAPPA nominals.
- ✓ We have supported Durham Constabulary, Durham County Council and Probation to continue their contribution toward partnership Domestic Abuse Perpetrator initiatives like MATAAC.

To support the appointment of a Domestic Abuse Victims Voice Worker to ensure the voice of victims is at the centre of everything we do, we can confirm that:

- ✓ We continue to employ a Domestic Abuse Champion, who works independently seeking the views and lived experiences of victims/survivors of domestic abuse and ensure their voice is used to improve policy and service delivery.



BY THE NUMBERS:

HATE CRIME

- In 2022/23 there were 929 hate crimes which is a reduction of 4% compared to the previous year.
- 83% of hate crime victims were satisfied with their whole experience compared to 73% in 2021/22.

MENTAL HEALTH

- During 2022/23, 27.8% of mental health incidents resulted in a crime (4,536) accounting for 7.1% of all crime.

YOUNG PEOPLE

- 471 outcomes (cautions and court sentences) were imposed on 382 young people across County Durham
- 145 outcomes were imposed on 123 young people in Darlington
- After a period of low numbers, the numbers of young people receiving such outcomes have returned to pre-pandemic levels in both areas.

DOMESTIC ABUSE

- In 2022/23 there were 17,397 domestic abuse incidents recorded which is a 2.2% decrease from the previous year.



DRUG, ALCOHOL AND GAMBLING HARM

Develop partnership work to reduce substance, alcohol and gambling misuse which are closely linked to crime and reoffending:

- ✓ The PCC is joint national lead on addiction and substance misuse and works with partners nationally and locally to raise awareness and tackle the issues cause by alcohol, substance misuse and gambling harms.
- ✓ Locally, the PCC is the Senior Responsible Officer and chairs the multi-agency Strategic Combatting Drugs and Alcohol Partnership.
- ✓ The PCC is a member of the Ministerial Drugs Forum Chaired by the Policing and Fire Minister Chris Philp.
- ✓ The PCC is a member of ARCH (Alcohol Related Crime and Homicide) group.

To divert those suffering with chronic addiction away from the criminal justice system towards treatment and harm prevention, we can confirm that:

- ✓ The Force's Diversion and Rehabilitation Team (DART), which includes Checkpoint, continues to provide a diversion scheme to address individuals' needs linked to their addictions and offending, to divert them away from the criminal justice system.
- ✓ The drug testing on arrest programme for acquisitive crime offenders has been implemented. This provides a direct referral to support services for those who test positive for drugs.
- ✓ The Association of Directors of Public Health for the North East have successfully bid for £0.75 from the Gambling Commission Regulatory Settlements fund to develop a 3 year pilot programme to reduce the harm caused by gambling.

To support the recommendations made in the review of drug use by Dame Carol Black, contributing to and encouraging a partnership approach to address issues more efficiently, we can confirm that:

- ✓ The Force has implemented a Drug and Alcohol Harm Reduction

Strategy which outlines the strategic intention of the Force and the key workstreams required to deliver its objectives, in line with the National Drugs Strategy 'From Harm to Hope.'

- ✓ The PCC chairs a multi-agency Combatting Drugs and Alcohol Partnership across the Force area to implement the recommendations against the 10-year Drugs Strategy

To support the ongoing use of Naloxone to prevent deaths from drug use, we can confirm that:

- ✓ We have expanded the availability of Naloxone to police custody staff, police officers on the street and to those who are released from police custody.
- ✓ During 2022/23, 180 police staff were trained in the use of Naloxone.
- ✓ Community Peer Mentors and volunteers also trained in the use of Naloxone.
- ✓ During 2022 Naloxone was used on 14 occasions to save a life.

To develop multi-agency strategies and fund initiatives to reduce the harm caused by drugs in the community, we can confirm that:

- ✓ Joint funding from PCC and TEWV has enabled the recruitment and training of people with lived experience to become Recovery Coaches and support people in the community with addictions.
- ✓ The Force has employed an Alcohol and Drug worker to raise awareness of the harms of drugs and alcohol in various community settings.
- ✓ Additional support for addiction is provided for female offenders through the FREE programme, which is funded by the PCC.





South College



To promote the voluntary use of sobriety tags and alcohol interlocks, we can confirm that:

- ✓ There is a national policy that sobriety tags are now used as part of community sentences issued by courts.

To promote awareness of the dangers of excessive alcohol consumption through engagement with charities such as 'One Punch North- East', we can confirm that:

- ✓ The PCC has pledged her support to One Punch Awareness Week and fully supports the One Punch campaign, helping to raise awareness of the consequences that one punch can have on someone's life.

To prevent and manage violent incidents by continuing to promote the use of the 'Cardiff model' combining data from the Force and local hospitals to highlight areas where violence is more prevalent, we can confirm that:

- ✓ The Licensed Economy Team continues to robustly target licensed premises and licensees who show disregard to the licensing objectives (prevention of crime and disorder, prevention of public nuisance, public safety and protection of children from harm).
- ✓ The Combatting Drugs and Alcohol Partnership and the Serious Violence Duty Partnership will continue to identify ways of improving data sharing.

To support the work of the licensing unit to reduce the harm caused by alcohol and gambling in the community, we can confirm that:

- ✓ Safer Streets funding was secured to support the Licensing Teams across the two local authorities to develop initiatives aimed at reducing vulnerability in the night time economies.
- ✓ This included vulnerability training to staff working in the night time economy and the introduction of two Night Safety Hubs which provide safe spaces for those who are vulnerable to seek advice, engage with support services, report incidents, wait for a family/ friend or access information about safer transport.
- ✓ The fund enabled the introduction of volunteer 'street friends',

volunteer paramedics, welfare officers, taxi marshals, and a rapid police response team to ensure that a coordinated partnership approach is taken to reduce vulnerabilities





BY THE NUMBERS:

ALCOHOL

- The North East continues to flag as an outlier in England for alcohol related deaths and consumption, and has had the highest rate for alcohol specific deaths for the eighth consecutive year.
- There has been a decrease in alcohol related incidents from 31,733 in 2021/22 to 29,174 in 2022/23; a reduction of 8.1%.
- There has been a 1.4% increase in the number of alcohol related crimes recorded; up from 13,767 in 2021/22 to 13,953 in 2022/23.

DRUGS

- The North East also recorded the highest rate of drug misuse deaths of any English region for the ninth consecutive year.
- During 2022/23 180 Police Staff were trained in the use of Naloxone.
- During 2022 Naloxone was used on 14 occasions to save a life.
- Drug related incidents decreased by 5.3%, from 5,280 recorded in 2021/22 down to 5,000 in 2022/23.
- Drug related offences have increased from 1,377 in 2021/22 to 1,483 in 2022/23- an increase of 7.7%.



GAMBLING



To consider gambling related harm when investigating crimes, we can confirm that:

- ✓ The PCC supported Durham Constabulary in becoming the first police force in the country to sign up to the Gambling Workplace Charter.
- ✓ PCC provided funding for effective screening in custody, enhanced training relating to gambling related harm and the production of early interventions leaflets to signpost individuals who show the signs of gambling addiction.

To encourage those presenting with gambling related harm to be referred to appropriate support to prevent further harm and crime, we can confirm:

- ✓ Recovery Coaches actively support people with gambling addictions and their families.
- ✓ Gambling Anonymous runs sessions from the Reconnect Service in Durham City.

To add additional question to ask victims of domestic assault to specifically include gambling (in addition to drugs/alcohol), we can confirm that:

- ✓ VCAS carries out a comprehensive needs assessment, now specifically including questions on harm caused by gambling, allowing the PCC to add to this evidence base and ensure the provision of appropriate support.

Support the Force to train police officers and PCSOs to identify gambling addiction and to understand the links between suicide, mental health, homelessness, domestic abuse, child neglect and gambling:

- ✓ The PCC, alongside a number of police staff, have received awareness training called 'Bet You Can Help', to better understand how gambling addiction can be a driver of crime, in connection with other harms.

To introduce mandatory screening questions around gambling at the point of arrest in custody, we can confirm that:

- ✓ Custody officers now ask individuals about harmful gambling habits on presentation to custody so they can be signposted to the most appropriate services.

BY THE NUMBERS:

- The PCC and the Force have signed up to the Gambling Charter, which has 7 key principles to support gambling related harms, with a view to influencing national change led by the PCC.
- Public Health England published evidence showing criminal activity linked to gambling is worth £162m per year.
- Evidence has shown that the North East has higher gambling related harms than any other region.
- During 2022/23 (April 2022 – January 2023) there were 80 referrals into NECA from the County Durham and Darlington area.



SAFER ROADS

PRIORITISE AND TACKLE THE AREAS OF HIGHEST HARM AND RISK: SPEEDING, MOBILE PHONES, DRUNK AND DRUG DRIVING AND SEAT BELTS.



To invest in analytical capability necessary to identify risks and threats on the road network, we can confirm that:

- ✓ The Force contributes to an analyst employed by Gateshead Council to produce monthly reports and statistics which are distributed to partners.
- ✓ £21,000 was provided towards Speed Watch, Automatic Number Plate Recognition (ANPR) and a speed camera and van in Newton Aycliffe.
- ✓ We have welcomed use of the Sensor Test Vehicle and promoted the benefits of its ability to tackle mobile phone usage and wearing of seatbelts.

To support media strategies that support safer driving, we can confirm that:

- ✓ The Force has produced some hard-hitting videos of real life road related incidents to raise awareness of the 'Fatal 4' (seatbelts, mobile phones, drink/drug driving and speeding).
- ✓ PCC allocated £5,700 for the road policing unit to install LED message/matrix boards in the rear of all police traffic and driver training cars to reduce risk and provide messaging on the 'Fatal 4'.
- ✓ We have taken part in social media and engagement campaigns during Brake Road Safety Week, Project EDWARD and national Using a Mobile Phone Whilst Driving operation to raise awareness around safer road practices and prevention messaging.
- ✓ We have worked with the partners to raise awareness of road related incidents such as Christmas time, national sporting events, etc.

To improve signposting to enable parishes, towns, schools, individuals, and communities to share their concerns about road safety issues in their locality, we can confirm that:

- ✓ Signposting is carried out through the County Durham and Darlington Road Safety Strategic Partnership Group.

To work with the community and local elected members of all parties to tackle road safety concerns in our communities, we can confirm that:

- ✓ PCC meets regularly with residents and councillors to discuss road safety issues and identify solutions to make roads safer.

To encourage and develop volunteer action to improve road safety such as community Speed Watch and junior road safety, we can confirm that:

- ✓ PCC allocated funding to Speed Watch initiatives, such as Speed Watch vans and equipment, to support volunteer led road safety activity.

To enhance support for victims of road traffic accidents and families, we can confirm that:

- ✓ VCAS continues to provide support to victims and families of road traffic crimes. During the past 12 months, VCAS has supported 42 families following fatal road traffic collisions.
- ✓ Community Peer Mentors offer additional and ongoing support to those affected, beyond VCAS involvement.
- ✓ The PCC contributed £2,000 to the national BRAKE project to support victim's families from fatal car accidents.



Work with the Chief Constable to introduce as soon as practicable Operation Snap and encourage drivers to purchase dashcams. This initiative uses video footage from road users to pursue dangerous drivers, we can confirm that:

- ✓ Operation Snap went live January 2023 and boasts a 90% positive outcome rate following the public submitting footage.
- ✓ Operation Snap has been advertised on our vehicles, throughout social media, on our publications and during our engagement events.

Continue to invest in Operation Endurance to tackle the menace of off-road bikes and take enforcement action against illegal e-scooters, we have:

- ✓ Invested £10,000 in cameras, virtual reality headsets, banners and Section 59 Notices for Operation Endurance (police crackdown on nuisance riders and motorists).
- ✓ Provided a further £600 for the deployment of Section 59 signs to deal with the nuisance of off-road bikes.
- ✓ Signed up all fuel stations across Durham and Darlington to Garage Watch to restrict fuel sales to anyone hiding their identity.
- ✓ Displayed Operation Endurance posters in all fuel stations.
- ✓ Made effective use of drones and long range lens cameras, to enable the Neighbourhood Policing Teams to gather evidence in relation to off-road bike nuisance.



BY THE NUMBERS:

- On average 5 people are killed on our roads every day with many more suffering life-changing injuries.
- 16-25 year olds remain the highest category for killed or seriously injured (KSI) casualties accounting for 26% in 2022.
- There was a reduction of 8.2% in the total volume of all road traffic collisions from 660 in 2021/22 down to 606 in 2022/23.
- The number of people killed or seriously injured in road traffic collisions has decreased by 8.2%, down from 257 in 2021/22 to 236 in 2022/23.
- In 2022/23 there were 560 slight, 234 serious and 20 fatal injuries caused by road traffic collisions.
- County Durham saw one of the highest proportions of total injuries related to drink driving across the North East.

To take enforcement action and educate those who endanger the lives of road users and pedestrians and support tougher sentences for dangerous driving, we can confirm that:

- The total number of breath tests carried out in 2021/22 was 4,075.
- The number of positive tests for 2022/23 was 599.
- There were 593 arrests made for drink driving during 2022/23; an 11.1% reduction compared to 2021/22.
- There were 375 arrests made for drug driving during 2022/23; a 35.3% decrease compared to the previous year.
- 1,203 uninsured vehicles were seized off our streets.
- The Speed Camera Unit had 27,350 positive speeding detections.
- Through Community Speed Watch

3,605 warning letters were issued to drivers in 2022/23 compared to 5,095 in 2021/22.

- In 2022/23, the total number of seatbelt offences was 485, a decrease from 983 in the previous year.
- In 2022/23, the total number of offences relating to using a mobile phone whilst driving was 642, an increase from 283 in the previous year.
- The total of motorbikes / quads recovered under Section 59 for 2022/23 was 23 vehicles.

Please Note:

that the data for 2023 (January, February, March 2023) is currently provisional and is subject to change when they are signed off in 2024.



SAFER COUNTRYSIDE

UNDERSTAND AND RESPOND TO THE NEEDS OF RURAL COMMUNITIES AND TAILOR SERVICES ACCORDINGLY.



To tackle fly-tipping in rural areas and invest in and support rural policing to prevent crime, we can confirm that:

- ✓ The PCC provided funding to Sedgefield NPT providing property marking 'Dot Peen' equipment.

To support the Force and rural communities in their use of new technologies to keep our communities safe, we can confirm that:

- ✓ The Head of National Rural Crime Unit, Superintendent Andrew Huddleston believes that Durham demonstrates best practice for effective use of messaging services and empowering rural volunteers.
- ✓ Seven vehicles, with 4x4 capability and search lights, have been provided to help reduce crime.
- ✓ Drones are also to be considered to collect intelligence and help keep rural communities safe.
- ✓ The NFU is installing every new replacement quad bike with a tracker. This complements Operation Lyric locally where the AAP's across Weardale and Teesdale are funding and supporting trackers on quad bikes where there is a hot spot or repeat victims of crime.
- ✓ The PCC invested £3,000 to improve CCTV system and reduce anti-social behaviour/criminal damage in Trimdon.
- ✓ The PCC also invested £4,500 in new equipment, such as Rural Watch signage and cameras to help tackle rural crime.
- ✓ £7,424 was provided to Darlington Rural Watch for new CCTV cameras to deter rural crime.

To strengthen and support Rural Watch, we can confirm that:

- ✓ Rural Watch across the force area continues to thrive and grow. Learning from the successes of Rural Watch has been used to expand further across the county, the region and has been promoted nationally.
- ✓ Quarterly regional Checkpoint operations continue – these are evening operations with Rural Watch volunteers working with police to target suspicious activities.
- ✓ WhatsApp groups across the force area are established with overlaps to bordering forces. All Neighbourhood Policing Teams and the Real Time Intelligence Team monitor messages and use these for engagement and intelligence.
- ✓ 1187 active Rural Watch WhatsApp users, over ten different WhatsApp groups, share information across Durham and Darlington and its borders.

To support ROSPA campaign targeting rural motorcyclists, we can confirm that:

- ✓ The Force links with ROSPA to run courses along the Force's Road Policing Unit with the help of funds from the National Driver Offending Retraining Scheme (NDORS) budget.



To increase levels of crime reporting in rural communities, we can confirm that:

- ✓ In addition to the well-established Whatsapp groups, rural residents are encouraged to sign up to 'Keep in the Know' so Neighbourhood Policing Teams can update them about the latest news and security advice.
- ✓ The Force works in close partnership with Crimestoppers and Fearless, to prevent crime and bring offenders to justice.
- ✓ The Neighbourhood Policing Teams are proactive on their local social media pages, encouraging reporting and raising awareness of rural issues.

To work with the Home Office, Ministry of Justice and Police and Crime Commissioners to facilitate a co-ordinated approach to rural crime, we can confirm that:

- ✓ The National Police Chief's Council Rural and Wildlife Strategy was published in April 2022. Our local strategy reflects national policy.
- ✓ The PCC is Deputy Roads Policing Lead and has regular meetings with Ministers and Civil Servants to influence road safety and policing.

To ensure rural police teams are more visible and accessible and there are nominated and visible local officers or PCSOs, we can confirm that:

- ✓ Neighbourhood Policing Teams hold Police And Communities Together (PACT) meetings to enable residents to discuss community issues.
- ✓ Social media pages provide people with information about their NPT. Details can be found at www.police.uk.

To encourage effective cross-border collaboration on rural crime and affairs, we can confirm that:

- ✓ Operation Hawkeye continues to provide a cross-border collaborative response to rural crimes through the sharing of intelligence linked with the use of community protection warnings and notices to deter organised crime groups and those who travel across the region to commit crime.





To work with partner organisations to identify ways to make it easier and quicker to make safety improvements on country roads to address rural speeding and undertake targeted rural safety enforcement, we can confirm that:

- ✓ Two Speed Watch vans are routinely deployed across the Durham Dales; these vans are also used in engagement activities/agricultural shows to promote and encourage community involvement.

BY THE NUMBERS:

The Dales, which accounts for the majority of the Force's rural beat area, remains one of the safest areas to live and work in County Durham and Darlington

- The PCC has allocated funds to support a Rural Watch coordinator to assist in targeting and tackling rural crime issues.
- The annual NFU Rural Crime Report 2023 estimates the cost of rural theft in the UK was £49.5m in 2022 which is an increase of 22.1% on the previous year.
- Specific to the North East the cost of rural crime has increased by 23.7% up from £6.7m in 2021 to £8.3m in 2022.
- The report also showed the cost of rural crime in County Durham fell by almost 30 per cent in 2021 to £260k.
- As was the case in 2021, County Durham remains one of few forces nationally to see a reduction in rural crime claims of agricultural vehicles machinery and livestock thefts.
- Between 2021/22 and 2022/23 there was a 33.8% increase in people signing up to Rural Watch: from 887 to 1187.
- 297 rural residents signed up and are active on a WhatsApp group sharing intelligence and prevention measures across 10 different groups.



MEASURING PROGRESS AGAINST THE PUBLIC'S POLICE AND CRIME PRIORITIES

As Police and Crime Commissioner, I am committed to enabling local communities to have a voice on policing, victims and community safety matters. I am here to ensure that the community's needs are met as effectively as possible and to improve local relationships by building confidence and restoring trust.

Community engagement is one of the central responsibilities of my role and one I take very seriously. During the last year I have worked hard to be visible and accessible to the communities I serve.

There are four main types of communication which I use to achieve effective and efficient communications with you as residents, businesses and stakeholders.

EDUCATE

Proactively educate local communities on the work of my office and continue to grow awareness of the work we do with local partners and organisations.

- One-to-one private appointments
- Consultations and surveys
- Social media
- Independent Scrutiny Panels
- Press releases
- Website updates
- Community meetings
- Community events
- Consultation with those who have lived experience
- Public Accountability Meetings.



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INVOLVE

Involving our partners in joint releases and campaigns where possible to build relationships and amplify the key messages we need to deliver.

INFORM

I aim to be open and honest and keep you informed on the activities of my Office, community safety, victims and criminal justice issues.

CONSULT

To allow informed strategic planning and decision making, such as consultation, on a proposed increase to the precept, my Communications Team has engaged with the press and media outlets to publicise our work as widely as possible. Analysis of results have been presented and shared and I have made informed decisions based upon the consultation outcomes. I have done this through the following routes:

Public Accountability Meetings

Previously these meetings (where the PCC holds the Chief Constable and the Force to account for policing in the area) were not open to the public or recorded. As PCC I wanted to address this by being more open, accountable and transparent in the delivery of my duties.

During the last two years I have actively encouraged residents of County Durham and Darlington to submit their questions ahead of the Public Accountability Meetings where I hold the Chief Constable and her Executive Team to account for policing in the force area.

These meetings are recorded to enable residents to see and hear how the accountability process works and the role the PCC plays in delivering an efficient and effective police service. This progressive approach enables me to give residents the opportunity to raise what matters most to them, so I can hold the Chief Constable to account on their behalf and make County Durham and Darlington stronger, safer and more resilient to crime, drugs and anti-social behaviour.

Public Accountability Meetings held:

- 26th May- Crime Reporting Methods
- 28th July- Alcohol Related ASB
- 22nd September 2022- Safer Business Crime
- 17th November 2022- Drink/drug driving (Safer Roads)
- 30th March 2023- Stop and Search

A full recording of these meetings, including all questions and answers are uploaded on YouTube and made available to the public and can be found here: [youtube.com/user/DurhamPCC](https://www.youtube.com/user/DurhamPCC)



POLICING BUDGET AND PRECEPT

Budget

- I had a budget of £146.8 million for 2022/23. Of the revenue budget £142.7 million was delegated to the Chief Constable to fund the operational policing service. The balance of £4.1 million was held by me to commission services for victims and fund activities to prevent crime, protect individuals and communities, deter offending and reoffending and pursue offenders and manage the administration of my office.
- The cost of my office budget, audit and governance is £1.2 million. I also received a government grant of £2.9 million to commission services for victims of crime.
- I set a capital budget of £27.9 million which included investment in buildings, fleet, technology and equipment. This was funded from a combination of government grant, council tax and the proceeds from the sale of assets.



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Precept

- Durham currently receives 71% of its funding from government, and 29% from precept. The ability to raise funding through the local precept is limited by the high proportion of households in the force area that fall into the Council Tax Band A category.
- This means that a 1% rise in precept does not have the same impact as our neighbouring Force in North Yorkshire and the likes of Surrey (which raises the highest percentage of total funding through local precept).
- The ability to raise local precept at a consistent rate across the county is a major factor when considering the overall funding distribution of police grants nationally. This underpins the need for a fair funding formula and adequate overall level of grant.
- As your PCC, I will continue to push for a fair settlement to help the local police service address the rising costs of energy and fuel costs, ICT costs and other service led pressures due to inflation and most importantly enable us to put more police back on the streets.
- Following public consultation, the precept was increased by £15 for 2023/24. This increased the precept to £255.24 for a Band D property in County Durham and Darlington. This is near the national average; almost all the other 42 Police and Crime Commissioners raised the precept by £15.

The precept levels for a Band D property for local Police & Crime Commissioner areas are:

- National Average £262
- Northumbria £168
- Cumbria £297
- North Yorkshire £295
- Cleveland £291

POLICE FUNDING 2021/2022

Police Force	Gov't Funding £m	Precept £m	Total £m	Govt Funding %	Precept %	£ raised per 1% Precept £m
Durham	102.9	42.2	145.1	70.9	29.1	0.422
Northumbria	273.4	62.5	335.9	81.4	18.6	0.625
Cleveland	110.5	43.4	153.9	71.8	28.2	0.434
North Yorkshire	91.4	86.8	178.2	51.3	48.7	0.868
Surrey	120.7	151.3	272.0	44.4	55.6	1.51



FAIR FUNDING

The review of the funding formula has never been more imperative. In the face of rapidly escalating inflationary pressures, forces disadvantaged by the current formula are already having to make some very tough decisions.

The existing formula does not allocate grant to areas of greatest need. This view is shared by many fellow PCCs who are also seeking reassurance that any new formula will be an improvement on the existing one.

Given that funding formula reviews occur infrequently, it is vital that there is proper and meaningful consultation on its principles and that it is implemented in a way which PCCs and forces support.

The construction of a new formula is now urgent. We are seeing large increases in our base costs, due to rising energy and fuel prices, ICT and other material costs. These increases are not reflected in our grant levels, nor can they be fully funded from precept flexibility, given other service-led pressures.

Any new funding formula should include provision for the fact that policing deals with harm as well as volume, and that policing is required, in the first instance, to prevent crime where possible. A great deal of policing work is taken up with non-crime related demand issues.

THE POLICE UPLIFT PROGRAMME

184 Police Officers, 29 PCSOs and 13 call handlers were added to the Force by March 2022.

As part of the Government's Uplift Programme, the Force has recruited an extra 242 police officers since 2019 – against a target of 226. Although the uplift in headcount is welcome, ours is one of 15 across England and Wales which still has less officers than they did in 2010.

One of the key priorities in my Police and Crime Plan is to increase the number of officers on our streets - people have told me how important it is they see police officers out on the streets and in their communities and I am proud to have delivered on that pledge. Since I became Commissioner, there has been a steady increase in the numbers of new officers recruited and they are already making a difference across the county.

These 242 officers are additional and have not simply replaced the officers who have retired or left. However, the increased headcount is not nearly enough. Unlike other areas which have seen record levels of new officers, we still have 144 less officers than we did 13 years ago, despite having high crime demand, which is deeply concerning. This is in stark contrast to the net winners of this scheme like North Yorkshire and Surrey, who have an extra 363 officers than they did in 2010.

Our position is made worse by a less than adequate central grant in October, with no additional money to offset the impact of inflation or rising costs and no capital grant, piling further pressure on our revenue budgets. Unlike other forces, we can't 'plug the gap' with Council Tax revenue alone because a higher proportion of our households fall in the lower category, Council Tax Band A.

I regularly raise this with our local MPs and have raised it nationally, as this is simply unfair.

Despite these financial challenges the Force continues to outperform many of its peers, operating with fewer resources and less money and experiencing higher demand for service, and this is likely to get more

and more challenging with less and less money. I am determined to do everything in my power to protect our position and secure the funding needed to maintain our reputation as a pioneering and innovative force nationally.



SERVICES FOR VICTIMS AND GRANT FUNDING

Durham was highlighted as an example of best practice by the Association of Police and Crime Commissioners in their 'In Focus' report into Victims Services in three key areas; advocating for victims, developing innovative services for victims and using multi-year funding to fund quality services for victims.

The report featured my decision to appoint three new Victims Champions covering Crime, Domestic Abuse and Anti-Social Behaviour to increase the voice of victims to help me learn from their lived experiences to improve future services and inform policy and commissioning decisions.

Research undertaken by the Victims Champions has already highlighted the challenges of progressing through the criminal justice system for victims with a cognitive impairment and the difficulties faced by some victims to get to court including transport, childcare and up-front financial costs.

It also acknowledged our implementation of a single 'Front Door' approach to receiving and triaging referrals for victims and others through the Victim Care and Advice Service (VCAS).

This approach has ensured the needs of victims are assessed centrally and in a timely manner to avoid individuals contacting multiple services. It has also enabled me to make a proactive offer of support to victims and witnesses of crime following a charging decision, and utilises Rape and Serious Sexual Offence Navigators, who work closely with local sexual violence support services to reduce the need for victims and survivors to have to retell their stories unnecessarily.

The report also featured our work to provide a multi-year funding deal to the Rape and Sexual Abuse Counselling Centre (RSACC) to deliver specialist counselling for victims of sexual violence. The long-term funding commitment enables the service to address the increasing

demand for specialist support for survivors of sexual violence and offer staff longer-term contracts to provide workforce stability.

I am really proud of all the improvements we've implemented over the last year and the good work taking place on the ground to protect and support those who have suffered through crime.

Victims of crime are at the heart of everything I do, and I am determined to make it easier for people to reach out for the help they need. The criminal justice system can be a daunting experience and the changes we've made, and continue to make, will increase trust and confidence in our services to encourage more victims to come forward in future.

Maximising Funding Opportunities

This year, in addition to the annual Ministry of Justice (MoJ) Victims Grant, my team secured an extra £413,000 from the MoJ for additional Independent Sexual Violence Advisors (ISVAs) and Independent Domestic Violence Advisors (IDVAs).

My team also secured £271,000 to develop a package of resources and to support staff in schools to manage conflict in a range of situations and relationships, in addition to identifying Child and Adolescent to Parent Violence Abuse (CAPVA) at the earliest opportunity, and to support parents and young people to change this behaviour.





Safer Streets Fund

Last year I secured funding worth almost £1.5million to crackdown on anti-social behaviour and neighbourhood crime and boost women's safety.

My team submitted four successful bids to the fourth round of the Home Office's Safer Streets Fund, developed in partnership with Darlington Borough Council and Durham County Council, to invest in safety improvements and crime prevention programmes across County Durham and Darlington over the next two years.

The funding has been spent on a mixture of practical interventions, including free home security, CCTV cameras, upgraded street lighting, additional policing resources and diversionary schemes that provide young people with meaningful activities to alleviate boredom and develop their interests and skills to prevent further problems.

Investment was concentrated on three key themes: reducing and preventing anti-social behaviour in Darlington East and North Road; reducing and preventing neighbourhood crime in Stanley, Ferryhill and Peterlee; and reducing and preventing violence against women and girls in Durham City Centre and Darlington Town Centre.

Primarily, the focus was on reducing anti-social behaviour and neighbourhood crimes, including burglary, to support my plan to protect hardworking residents by tackling the issues that impact their lives the most.

In Durham City Centre and Darlington Town Centre, funding was used to improve the safety of women and girls, reducing the opportunity of violence and street harassment and increasing women's confidence when using public places.

Tackling anti-social behaviour and neighbourhood crime are key priorities in my Police and Crime Plan and I was delighted to secure this substantial funding boost to increase our efforts to protect people and property across the force area. The funding has helped my team and our partners address the root causes of nuisance behaviour and has provided young people with a range of positive and diversionary activities.

Location	Purpose of Funding	Safer Street
Darlington and Durham	Design and deliver a local prevention plan with the outcome of reducing and preventing Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG).	£325,248
Darlington	Design and deliver a local prevention plan with the outcome of reducing and preventing anti-social behaviour (ASB) in public spaces, and to increase feelings of safety.	£122,628
Peterlee, Ferryhill and Stanley	Design and deliver local crime prevention plans with the outcome of reducing and preventing neighbourhood crime, and to increase feelings of safety.	£347,693



Commissioning Strategy

My commissioning strategy sets out how I commission services to support the delivery of the Police and Crime Plan. Commissioning forms a crucial part of establishing, maintaining and improving services to help victims of crime cope and recover, prevent crime and anti-social behaviour and keep communities safe.

Commissioning involves understanding where gaps exist and what services are necessary, working in partnership to ensure they are delivered well and evaluating their effectiveness. My preferred approach is to co-commission services with a shared service provider which supports victims of domestic abuse and includes an overarching service that assesses the needs of victims of crime and refers them to support agencies.

PCCs are responsible for commissioning local services to support victims of crime. To help with this I receive an annual grant from the Ministry of Justice. I currently commission several specialist services to support young victims of crime, victims of domestic abuse and sexual violence as well as an overarching service that any victim of crime can receive support from. Support from these services is available even if a victim chooses not to report the crime to the police.

In 2022/23, I allocated £489,000 to support victims of domestic abuse, £736,000 to support victims of sexual violence and £367,000 to support overarching services that assess the needs of victims of crime.

The Victim Care & Advice Service and Community Peer Mentor Service have been in house for one year. This change has improved outcomes for the people the services support, particularly victims of crime and ASB, whilst improving efficiency, effectiveness and value for money.





ENVIRONMENT AND SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY

Social Value

I was the first PCC in the country to utilise the Blue Light Commercial Social Value Toolkit when the Durham Investigative Hub was tendered for in 2021. The Hub will eventually provide more than 6,600m² of up-to-date accommodation including 48 modern cells.

The toolkit is designed to help current and future suppliers of police forces across the country to develop their own social value action plans. The tool also helps suppliers understand what social value means, identify their existing social value activity and explore potential new opportunities.

I set an ambitious goal to generate £6m in social value through the scheme, by securing local contracts, creating new jobs and increasing opportunities for people to obtain and develop new skills. Long before the project's completion date, the development surpassed that target, with more than £10m spent with local businesses in the force area including MGL Group based in Durham, Aspect Facades in Shildon and SCH Site Services in Newton Aycliffe. On top of this, the project generated new employment and work experience placements while the team volunteered more than 150 hours with local charities including housing charity DASH and St Cuthbert's Hospice.



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As the Association of Police and Crime Commissioner's (APCC) Joint Lead for Environment and Sustainability, I took the decision to include social value principles in procurement tenders to encourage contracts being awarded to organisations based in County Durham and Darlington and the North East region. I am really proud of the outstanding work that has been taking place to draw out the full potential of this development and leave a positive legacy across our communities.

This is an example of partnership working at its best and shows what can be achieved when public organisations work in tandem with the community and businesses to make their limited resources go even further.

Emergency Services Environment and Sustainability Group

My Office is a member of The Emergency Services Environment and Sustainability Group (EESG) which includes members from UK Police Forces, Fire and Rescue Services, Ambulance Services and other emergency services. These partners meet to share best practice, discuss emerging technologies, government policy and legislative requirements. They have developed a Sustainability Charter to enable members to pledge their support to work toward a set of common goals and aspirations, embed sustainability within their own organisations and achieve national and international sustainability objectives.

It will also help identify positive effects on sustainability within communities and manage any negative effects and risks. By signing this Charter, I recognised that the Force, as an emergency service, has the potential to affect the local and global environment, society and the wider economy, and that climate change and global trends will continue to have an impact on the demands placed upon our emergency services, with the community and businesses to make their limited resources go even further.



Making the communities of County Durham and Darlington safer, stronger and more resilient to crime, drugs and anti-social behaviour.



Fleet

Today 1.7% of the UK police fleet is fully electric. To achieve 80% electrification by 2030, 4,000 vehicles per year will have to be transitioned to zero emission from 2024.

By 2035 the purchase of new hybrid vehicles will also be banned and many auto manufacturers have announced plans to conclude internal combustion engine vehicle production by 2025.

Fleet decarbonisation will happen and will have a significant operational impact over the next 3-4 years. Failing to address this change in a coordinated way will leave Force operations at risk.

I am a board member of Blue Light Commercial which is developing a Fleet and Transport Strategy to look at the options available for decarbonisation of the fleet. These include:

- Electrification
- Hydrogen
- Sustainable fuels
- Hybrid.

Each of the above has challenges and considerations, however the journey to Net Zero may require all options to be deployed depending on role of the vehicle concerned.

The Force understands that it needs to move away from internal combustion engine vehicles but recognises the limited suitability of electric vehicles for operational policing (due to demands of police driving).

The development of a local infrastructure for charging requires substantial investment and is something I have been encouraging in my national role as an APCC Environment and Sustainability lead.



Estate

From April 2022 I ceased to receive grant funding towards capital investment, upkeep of buildings, technology and fleet. This means that any money I choose to spend on assets needs to be funded from Council Tax and prioritised against all other competing demands for money.

Pre-austerity in 2010, the level of capital grant received was approx. £1.3m per year. The removal of this grant places a significant pressure on existing police budgets.

Making the communities of County Durham and Darlington safer, stronger and more resilient to crime, drugs and anti-social behaviour.



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HERE TO HELP

Police :

Call: 101 for non emergencies | 101 online chat durham.police.uk | Call: 999 for emergencies

Crimestoppers :

Call: 0800 555 111 | crimestoppers-uk.org

Fraud :

Call: 0300 123 2040 action fraud | actionfraud.police.uk | friendsagainstscams.org.uk
nebrcentre.co.uk | enquiries@nebrcentre.co.uk

Durham County Council :

Call: 03000 260 000 | doitonline.durham.gov.uk

Darlington Borough Council :

Call: 01325 406 999 | customerservices@darlington.gov.uk

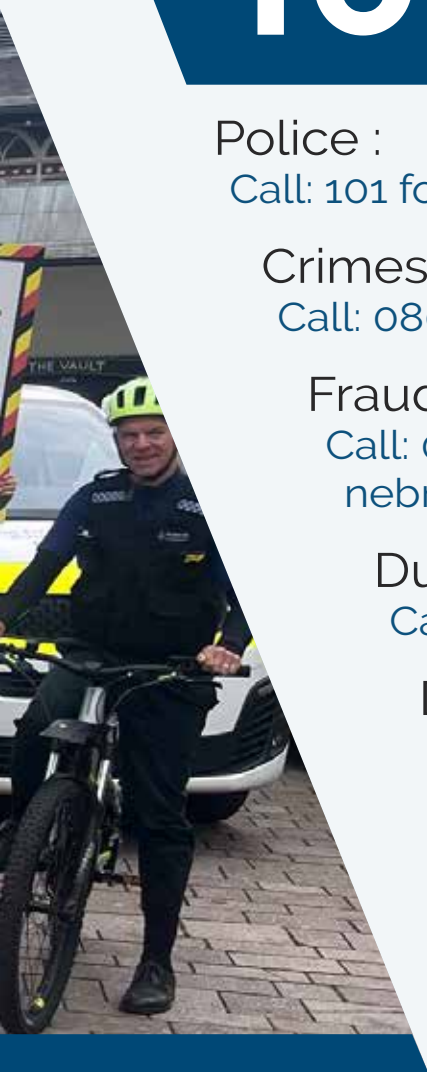
Addiction services :

Call: 03000 266 666 | codurhamdrugalcoholrecovery.co.uk

Call: 01325 809 810 | withyou.darlington@nhs.net

Victims support :

Call: 0800 138 2020 | victimcare@durham-pcc.gov.uk





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DURHAM POLICE AND
CRIME COMMISSIONER

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