



POLICE AND CRIME PANEL

2 FEBRUARY 2021

REPORT OF THE POLICE AND CRIME COMMISSIONER FOR NORTHUMBRIA

DRAFT POLICE AND CRIME PLAN 2021-2025

1. Purpose

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to present to the Police and Crime Commissioners (PCCs) draft Police and Crime Plan 2021- 2025.

2. Background

- 2.1 The PCC turns the public's policing priorities in to a strategic plan for the police force by producing a Police and Crime Plan. This statutory duty must be carried out within the financial year in which each ordinary election is held. Due to the postponed of the ordinary election in 2020 the PCC has determined to consult and publish this police and crime plan at this point to prevent further delay to the publication of a new plan that reflects current community priorities and her commitments to local people. The Police and Crime Plan for Northumbria includes statutory requirements as outlined in the Police and Reform and Social Responsibility Act 2011, chapter 3, section 7.
- 2.2 The role of the Police and Crime Panel is to review the draft Police and Crime Plan and make a report and recommendations for regard by the PCC.
- 2.3 The Police and Crime Plan must include:
- The PCC's police and crime objectives
 - The policing the Chief Constable is to provide
 - The financial and other resources the PCC will make available to the Chief Constable to provide policing
 - How the Chief Constable will report to the PCC about policing
 - How the Chief Constable's performance will be measured
 - Information about any crime and disorder reduction grants to be made by the PCC and any conditions made.

3. Shaping the Plan

- 3.1 The draft Police and Crime Plan has been shaped by a wide range of public consultation alongside consultation with key partners and organisations.

3.2 **Public consultation**

Following my election in a 2019 by-election, work began on setting out a consultation exercise to ensure the public's views were built in to a new Police and Crime Plan.

I committed to ensuring the plan reflected the priorities of our communities, and delivered on their needs – placing them firmly at the heart of the plan and the work we do. To enable the plan to be as representative as possible, and to understand the policing and crime needs of our communities, we engaged with residents via a variety of methods to allow for maximum inclusion. Despite the challenges faced by the Covid-19 pandemic, social distancing restrictions and lockdown rules, the OPCC was still able to collect the views of nearly 6,000 individuals and organisations. Given the inability to deliver any face to face engagement, our consultation was done entirely by virtual means, including; survey, telephone consultation, social media campaign, focus groups, online Q&A panels and partner meetings.

In doing the consultation completely digitally, whilst missing out on that face to face engagement element, the OPCC was able to speak to more groups and engage with a wider audience involving fewer logistical challenges. Ultimately, allowing more people to have their voices heard and reflected in the proposed Police and Crime Plan.

Consultation on the plan was supported by extensive news media press releases. The plan was also advertised on online social media and news media channels from local news organisations, with 600,000 page impressions. My team also worked with Newcastle University's Open Labs team to carry out qualitative research via online engagement. These findings have fed in to the drafting process of this plan, but we also intend to bring more detailed research from Open Labs on public perceptions of crime and their needs of the police to a future meeting of the Police and Crime Panel.

In previous consultations public events would be held to ensure those without access to the internet have a chance to have their views heard. These public facing events capture in a very limited way the views of those who might not normally come in to contact with the OPCC. In order to replicate this involvement during the pandemic, the OPCC wrote to 100,000 households, using a delivery list based on all six local authority areas, explaining how to take part in the survey, including by phone.

By capturing the data in the methods we did, we have now been able to build localised data profiles that will allow us to ensure a more targeted and evidence based approach to our work in the year ahead, and focus our work in the areas with most need. Alongside our partners and local authorities, we now have a better understanding of the challenges faced by communities, and will in turn be able to provide more localised and impactful solutions.

As well as being able to engage a larger number of individuals through a digital consultation, we were also able to reach a younger demographic from those previously engaged in these consultations. Through our youth specific

survey we will be able to speak to over 1600 young people and understand their local problems and preferred solutions. The Northumbria Violence Reduction Unit, along with their commissioned partners, will now use this data and insight to help deliver impactful interventions to the most in need communities.

Following our first round of consultation, we sought the views of communities and partners once again on the contents of the newly drafted Police and Crime Plan 2021-2025. The OPCC engaged with local authorities, communities, educational establishments and key delivery partners that will ultimately help deliver the plan and bring the commitments to life.

We are now confident that the plan has been endorsed by those it will impact, and those that will support the delivery of it – enabling us to fight crime, prevent crime, and improve lives to the best of our ability across Northumbria.

3.3 Consultation meetings with key strategic partners

Consultation with partner organisations was carried out in two forms. Organisations and individuals were asked to complete the initial public survey, while at the same time key organisations were asked to provide written feedback detailing their more detailed thoughts on policing. The OPCC received 135 written responses. These were used to help steer the draft of the Police and Crime Plan. I also held online discussions with some key organisations regarding the plan. The draft of the statutory plan was then emailed to all key organisations as part of the second round consultation. Responses to this were all supportive of the draft and its priorities, with some raising issues to be added at this stage.

3.4 Community Safety Partnerships strategic assessments

All Community Safety Partnerships have shared with us their latest thinking about community safety and policing priorities and we have ensured that the strong messages around domestic abuse, anti-social behaviour and working in partnership have been incorporated into the draft plan.

3.5 PCC Advisory Groups and Victims Panel

The PCC has well-established advisory groups that are drawn from the communities which are protected by the Equality Act 2010 and that help shape the PCCs thinking about a wide range of policing and community safety issues. All of the groups including the Victims Panel have been consulted about the priorities they feel are important for the next few years and all groups were clear that more of a focus should be given to building an effective and efficient criminal justice system that not only supports victims to recover from their experience of crime but also rehabilitates offenders to stop crime from happening in the first place.

3.6 Police and Crime Panel consultation

In December 2020 the PCC held outline discussions with the Police and Crime Panel were consulted about their priorities for the Police and Crime Plan. Among the feedback at this stage was:

- The local authority community safety partnership should be included to help get a strategic overview. Domestic abuse and the perpetrators' programme were a priority to stop this escalating.
- Anti-social behaviour and young people required resources to tackle it. The PCC referred to the Violence Reduction Unit and its work with young people.
- It was suggested that the work done by the police to identify and address anti-social behaviour should be highlighted to make the communities more aware of what was being done. Local Councils and Councillors could help with this in a pro-active approach.

These considerations were taken into account in the development of the draft plan which was then sent to panel members in January 2021.

3.7 Northumbria Police performance

Northumbria Police have a clear framework in which they report performance of their work to deliver the Police and Crime Plan to myself. Following the publication of the plan I will work with the Chief Constable to ensure that the performance management framework and reporting to myself enables me to scrutinise delivery of the plan and ensure that I meet my commitment in the plan to share the information with the public on a regular basis.

3.8 Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary and Fire and Rescue Services (HMICFRS) inspection findings

HMICFRS continue to monitor and report on forces policing and efficiency activity. Recommendations and areas identified for service improvement both nationally and local sit alongside recognition of good practice. The information and findings within these reports can shape and improve service delivery. Action following local inspection or contained within a thematic report will be responded to, as appropriate, by Northumbria Police to support the effective delivery of my Police and Crime Plan.

3.9 Northumbria Police Strategic Assessment/Force Management Statement

The Annual Strategic Assessment gives an overview of the current and long-term issues affecting or likely to affect Northumbria Police and is used to inform future policing strategy around prevention, intelligence, enforcement and reassurance priorities. The Force Management Statement is self-assessment that chief constables prepare annually to identify and explain the demand the force expects to face in the next four years and the impact this will have on resources, both financial and in respect of the workforce.

3.10 National Policing Vision and Strategic Policing Requirement

In November 2016 Police and Crime Commissioners and Police Chief Constables launched a vision for policing in 2025 that makes far better use of digital technology, is integrated with other agencies to focus on preventing crime and delivering effective services to provide best value for money for the public. The Police and Crime Commissioner is focused on ensuring that transformational change in policing is delivered, with local policing and accountability to the public very much at the core.

The Strategic Policing Requirement sets out the threats that require a national policing capability to ensure they are tackled effectively. This requirement is placed on all police forces across the country and we must ensure that here in Northumbria we give the right level of acknowledgement to these demands and prepare accordingly to ensure the safety of the public. Key threats in the most recent SPR include terrorism, serious and organised crime, cyber crime, and child sexual abuse as well as a range of other issues of national importance. Many of these challenges can only be tackled by collaborating with other forces and for this reason as well as others collaboration runs as a theme throughout the draft plan.

3.11 Victim services funding priorities

We engage with partners and our commissioned service providers to understand the victim services landscape in Northumbria and ensure that the services provided to victims reflect their needs and are a high quality. This understanding and insight into the needs of the most vulnerable victims of crime in Northumbria has been used to shape priorities and aims in relation to victims and most specifically the need for Northumbria Police to continue to provide timely and comprehensive information to victims about their individual cases and to enhance safeguarding and protection of vulnerable people.

4. Proposed Police and Crime Plan Priorities

4.1 The initial first phase consultation, supported by the findings of the second round, showed clear areas of concern from the public. There was widespread support for a renewed emphasis on targeting criminals and those who commit anti-social behaviour. The public also gave strong backing to a preventative approach to crime fighting, endorsing the PCC's view that diversionary activity and targeted interventions for young people are key to keeping out of crime. The survey showed that people want to see:

1. Fighting crime:
 - a. ASB & alcohol related crime tackled
 - b. Drug related and Serious and organised crime tackled
2. Preventing crime:
 - a. Higher police visibility and better community engagement
 - b. Multi agency public health approach to preventing crime
3. Improving lives:
 - a. Communities support and lives improved to prevent crime
 - b. Hate crime tackled

Alongside this, there was wide-spread support from partner organisations for a continued focus on tackling domestic abuse and supporting victims of sexual violence.

From this consultation clear priorities emerged that would underpin the structure and aim of the Police and Crime Plan. These are:

Fighting Crime: Ensuring the police are backed to deal with existing and emerging crime trends in the Northumbria, including efforts to deal with ASB and reduce crime.

Preventing Crime: A commitment to preventing crime before it is able to manifest itself in our communities, including a promise to preserve visible neighbourhood policing and change lives with a successful Violence Reduction Unit.

Improving Lives: Ensuring victims of crime and local communities get the best possible support and they are put at the heart of the criminal justice system, including improved support for victims of crime and continued backing for those working to tackle domestic abuse and sexual violence.

5. Recommendation

5.1 Panel members are asked to:

a) review the draft plan and make a report or recommendations on the draft plan to the PCC; and

b) give support to the PCC and Chief Constable to deliver the plan over the next four years.