



## NORTHUMBRIA POLICE AND CRIME PANEL AGENDA

**Tuesday, 11 August 2020 at 2.00 pm**

**The meeting will be held virtually**

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From the Clerk, Sheena Ramsey

Item Business

**1. Apologies**

**2. Minutes** (Pages 3 - 8)

The Panel is asked to approve the minutes of the last meeting held on 9 June 2020 (attached).

**3. Themed Report - Hate Crime** (Pages 9 - 12)

Report of the PCC (attached).

**4. Feedback from National and Regional Events** (Pages 13 - 26)

Members are asked to give feedback on issues relevant to the Panel.

The National Association of Police Fire and Crime Panels' Survey Report is attached.

**5. Police and Crime Commissioner Review** (Pages 27 - 30)

The Government is launching a review of the Police and Crime Commissioner Model. The terms of reference of the review and stakeholder briefing are attached. The Local Government Association is to submit a response to the review and is seeking comments, suggestions and evidence from all Panels on any issues and particularly in regard to:-

- Panel powers
- Complaints role
- Panel membership
- Role of Panel Chair
- Experience of PCC scrutiny in the fire/mayoral context

**6. Complaints Against the Police and Crime Commissioner - April to July 2020**  
(Pages 31 - 32)

Report of the Chief of Staff and Monitoring Officer (attached).

7. **Draft Annual Report 2019-20** (Pages 33 - 44)

Report of PCC (attached).

8. **Police and Crime Commissioner Update Report** (Pages 45 - 50)

Report of the PCC (attached)

9. **Date and Time of the Next Meeting**

Tuesday, 20 October 2020 at 2.00pm

Contact: Brian Wilson, e mail: [brianwilson@gateshead.gov.uk](mailto:brianwilson@gateshead.gov.uk)



## NORTHUMBRIA POLICE AND CRIME PANEL

**Virtual Meeting held on 9 June 2020**

### **PRESENT:**

<b>Gateshead Council</b>	Councillors A Douglas (Chair) and S Hawkins
<b>Newcastle City Council</b>	Councillors C Penny-Evans and K Webster
<b>North Tyneside Council</b>	Councillors J Mole and T Mulvenna
<b>Northumberland County Council</b>	Councillors J Riddle and M Swinburn
<b>South Tyneside Council</b>	Councillor J Welsh
<b>Sunderland City Council</b>	Councillors D MacKnight and M Mordey
<b>Independent Co-opted Member</b>	Mrs J Guy

### **ALSO IN ATTENDANCE:**

#### **Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner for Northumbria**

K McGuinness	- Police and Crime Commissioner for Northumbria (PCC)
R Durham	- Chief of Staff
M Tait	- Chief Finance Officer
P Godden	- Head of Corporate Development, Northumbria Police

#### **Gateshead Council**

G Morton	- Representing the Clerk to the Panel
B Wilson	- Democratic Services

<b>APOLOGY:</b>	Councillor A Strike (South Tyneside Council)
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### **1. MINUTES**

**RESOLVED -** That the minutes of the last meeting held on 4 February 2020 be approved as a correct record.

### **2. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES**

Further to Minute 42, five applications for the Panel's Independent Member' positions have been received. However, due to Government advice and restrictions regarding the coronavirus, the appointment process has been put on hold. Mrs Guy is to continue as an Independent Member of the Panel until further notice.

Further to Minute 43 – the PCC’s briefing note on the reduction in precept income 2013/14 has been provided to Members.

**3. ANNUAL WORK PROGRAMME 2020/21**

The Panel’s draft work programme for 2020/21 was submitted.

RESOLVED - That the work programme for 2020/21 be approved.

**4. COMPLAINTS AGAINST THE POLICE AND CRIME COMMISSIONER – ANNUAL REPORT APRIL 2019 TO MARCH 2020**

In accordance with the agreed procedure, an update report about the complaints and purported complaints against the PCC and every conduct matter recorded by the Monitoring Officer between April 2019 and March 2020 was submitted.

RESOLVED - That the information be noted.

**5. DELIVERY OF THE POLICE AND CRIME PLAN – QUARTERLY PERFORMANCE REPORT JANUARY – MARCH 2020**

The Panel considered the key performance areas and crime tables at force and local authority level relating to the delivery of the Police and Crime Plan for January to March 2020.

The Panel raised the following issues:-

The Members and the PCC congratulated the force on the reduction in recorded crime. There will be a sharp drop in crime during lockdown but the PCC is working with the force to be ready for the social and economic recovery when it is lifted.

Although the force overall crime had reduced, some categories of crime force wide and in some Council areas had increased eg modern day slavery, vehicle crime and drug crime. Hate crime may also increase during the current pandemic. The PCC replied that further information on the issues would be provided. The police had targeted drug crime and she was pleased with the outcome.

Whilst 65% of urban priority 1 incidents were attended within 10 minutes, there was no information provided on how long it took to attend the remaining 35% to assess the service given. The PCC agreed to look at how this information was presented.

47% of victims of longer term anti-social behaviour experienced no further incidents since their report. However, this meant that 53% of victims had further incidents and continued to have problems. The PCC reported that she was working with the force on this issue.

It was reported that 11% of 101 calls were not answered. Also, 28% of 101 calls were not answered within national call handling standards. Details of the volume of calls, the maximum wait for a call to be answered and how many were repeat calls having hung up when not answered and called again were requested. The PCC agreed to look at these issues. Complaints received about the 101 service should be referred to her.

The action taken and follow up by the force had reduced by 3%. The PCC was not satisfied with this and it was included in her scrutiny of the force.

In regard to the code of practice, 48% of victims received notification that their crime had been recorded which means that 52%, received no notification.

It was asked if work had been done into the reasons why victims were not satisfied with the service they had received so that this could be addressed and improvements made. The PCC reported that the police were working on improving victim satisfaction with the service they received and it was suggested that this could be a future thematic topic for the Panel.

It was explained that the thresholds in the report were minimum levels of performance set for the force. The PCC confirmed that everything necessary was being done to address all the issues, meet the set thresholds and to improve the service provided by the force.

The 7% reduction in recorded crime was excellent but the force was only 35<sup>th</sup> nationally for total recorded crime per 1,000 population out of 43 forces. The PCC was pleased that the figures were going in the right direction but it may be difficult to have an accurate picture this year because of the coronavirus.

Whilst there were 2,671 first time entrants to the Criminal Justice System, no details or context in relation to this was given. This was acknowledged by the PCC and it would be looked at but there had been a significant decrease.

The 20.4% increase in recorded complaints was very disappointing because of all the previous work done to reduce these figures. The PCC replied that the complaints system had been significantly changed and there may be issues of multiple reporting and she would provide further details. Identified areas of good practice may be replicated throughout the force.

- RESOLVED -
- (i) That the information be noted.
  - (ii) That the work on improving victim satisfaction with the service they receive be considered as a future thematic topic for the Panel.

## **6. POLICE AND CRIME COMMISSIONER – PROGRESS REPORT AND KEY ISSUES IN THE NEXT QUARTER**

The PCC presented her progress report/key issues in the next quarter to the Panel which covered the following:-

- Coronavirus response plan
- Coronavirus finance monitoring
- Coronavirus intervention
- Recovery planning
- Violence Reduction Unit
- Northumbria Local Criminal Justice Board
- Key issues in the next quarter

The Panel raised the following issues:

The work of the police as key workers had been phenomenal and greatly appreciated in this unprecedented time

Concern was raised about the increased numbers and issues regarding looked after children. The police have been working with these children as an agency of last resort but this had resource implications. The PCC was aware of the increased pressures on families, etc but the police had not raised this as an issue. She was impressed with the way the force had handled the additional pressures.

The Hendon neighbourhood policing team was praised and thanked for its excellent work with the Hendon youth centre which has resulted in a 45% reduction in youth crime in the area. The PCC agreed that this had been an exemplary project.

Concern was raised about the additional financial costs to the force of the Coronavirus. This will have a big impact on the force's reserves if no financial support is given by the Government. The PCC reported that the force was monitoring the budget implications and the Government's response closely.

There had been 4,000 expressions of interest and 1,500 applications during the recent police recruitment. The PCC was committed to recruiting and training the new recruits as quickly as possible. Additional police staff had also been recruited.

**RESOLVED – That the information be noted.**

## **7. THEMED REPORT – RESPONSE TO KNIFE CRIME**

Further to Minute 37 – 2019/20, the PCC submitted an overview of the actions taken to address serious violence across Northumbria, the successes to date and the future steps to embed this work and maintain the reduction in serious violence achieved so far.

At the end of 2019, Northumbria was the third best performing Violence Reduction Unit (VRU) and fourth best nationally in terms of % reduction for violence against the person offences.

The PCC pledged to use the additional resource received from the Home Office Serious Violence Fund to tackle the root causes of crime and the impact of deprivation on crime trends, to reverse the impact of austerity across the region and improve the support network available to the most vulnerable to intervene before an individual turns to a lifestyle of crime. The PCC received £1.6 m to create the VRU, and the force £2.32m for additional 'Surge' operational activity to enable a joint approach to tackle serious violence,

The PCC prioritised 4 key areas; early intervention, youth diversion, mental health and drugs, alcohol and homelessness. To the end of 2019, the force recorded a reduction in total overall crime, drug offences and possession of weapon offences, indicating the early impact of the serious violence strategy.

The VRU compromises professionals from varying backgrounds and a Chief Inspector and Business Analyst have been seconded from Northumbria Police. The VRU Strategic Board, chaired by the PCC, comprising senior partners from the relevant organisations, defined the VRU's priorities, etc.

Phase 1, to be delivered, concluded and evaluated by 31 March 2020, prioritised community-based interventions, strengthening relationships at a community level, engaging and working with young people and establishing a wide support network for the most vulnerable. A Single Point of Contact was designated in each Council to work with the VRU. The reported findings from phase 1 will form the phase 2 work of the VRU. The VRU phase 1 achievements were outlined.

In February 2020, the PCC co-ordinated and hosted the Knife Angel in Gateshead. This involved educational workshops for students of all ages, a sold-out theatrical performance and several engagement workshops. It featured prominently in the media and attracted praise for its approach to tackling the issue of knife crime.

The Northumbria Police 'Surge' activity focussing on the prevention and enforcement in hotspot areas was aimed at young people in schools and youth settings with increased use of digital technology to increase public engagement, patrols, intelligence led stop and search activities, days of action and additional test purchasing activities. The dedicated knife crime analytical team increased intelligence and targeting of individuals and groups to assist operational activity and identify violent offender cohorts for targeted intervention. There was investment in enhanced investigative equipment and technological capability including tasers and knife wands, mobile CCTV, an engagement vehicle, increased ANPR capability, additional police staff investigators and forensic examination equipment and increased education and engagement with young people with an intervention programme with schools and a training package for children and young people.

Between April 2019 - March 2020, knife-enabled serious violence reduced by 18% (794 offences), the number of young victims under the age of 25 by 23% (195 offences) and 6,498 knives were removed from the streets. The force was below the national average for knife enabled serious violent crime per head of population. There was a 56% increase in stop and searches for offensive weapons and a 9% increase in possessions of knife offences. The NHS projected a 36% reduction in hospital emergency admissions for assault with a sharp object with a projected 63% reduction in emergency admissions of young people under 25.

The PCC was committed to the VRU's long-term future and the method for tackling serious violence through the 5-year Serious Violence Response Strategy's four key themes of youth diversion, reduce offending, working with families and connecting communities. This will include continuing the engagement and partnerships with the six Councils, a focus on community engagement and a strong partnership with the force.

The Panel raised the following issues:

The Panel praised the PCC and the force for the good positive work being done to address serious violence.

It was asked if the assessment undertaken was in relation to causation, work done and the reduction rather than the correlation between them. The PCC replied that the direct correlation would be difficult to prove. The focus was on improving the lives of young people and reducing crime and she felt that this had worked.

The knife angel sculpture at the Sage was incredible and was seen by a lot of people. The PCC reported that it was to show and education young people about the consequences of carrying knives and it had a big impact.

It was asked how the number of knives removed from the streets compared with last year and the correlation with the increase in the number of stop and searches. The PCC agreed to look into this.

RESOLVED – That the information be noted.

## **8. THEMED TOPICS**

RESOLVED - That hate crime be agreed as the themed topic for the Panel's meeting on 11 August 2020.

## **9. DATES AND TIMES OF NEXT MEETINGS**

Tuesday, 11 August 2020 at 2.00pm

Tuesday, 20 October 2020 at 2.00pm

Tuesday, 8 December 2020 at 2.00pm

Tuesday, 2 February 2021 at 2.00pm

Tuesday, 16 March 2021 at 2.00pm



violence  
reduction  
unit

POLICE AND CRIME PANEL

11<sup>th</sup> AUGUST 2020

## REPORT OF THE POLICE AND CRIME COMMISSIONER

### Themed report – Hate Crime

#### 1. PURPOSE

- 1.1 To provide an update on Hate Crime performance and highlight areas of good practice to the panel.

#### 2. BACKGROUND

- 2.1 Northumbria Police continually monitor Hate Crime performance and the report will highlight areas of performance for the financial year 2019/20. Areas of good practice will also be identified within the report. The wider work around Hate Crime is monitored via the Hate Crime Action plan by the Force lead Superintendent Karl Wilson.
- 2.2 Hate crime and incidents continue to show a rising trend. This is in line with national figures which show an increase of 9% overall in 2018/19 compared to 2019/20.

Hate Type	2018-19	2019-20	Variance		National Variance 2017-18 - 2018-19
Racial	1,742	1,784	42	2%	11%
Faith	223	235	12	5%	3%
Sexual orientation	371	434	63	17%	25%
Transgender	73	61	-12	-16%	37%
Disability	265	381	116	44%	14%
Gender	2	12	10	500%	-
Age	4	2	-2	-50%	-

- 2.3 The greatest volume increase in 2019-20 has been in Northumberland (76 more offences) followed by North Tyneside and Gateshead with 70 more offences each. Northumberland is showing the largest percentage increase followed by South Tyneside. Newcastle has 47 fewer hate crimes in 2019-20 than 2018-19.

Local Authority/Area Command	2018-19	2019-20	Variance	
North Tyneside	285	355	70	25%
Northumberland	261	337	76	29%
<b>NORTHERN</b>	<b>546</b>	<b>692</b>	<b>146</b>	<b>27%</b>
Gateshead	412	482	70	17%
Newcastle	1114	1067	-47	-4%
<b>CENTRAL</b>	<b>1526</b>	<b>1549</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>2%</b>
South Tyneside	180	228	48	27%
Sunderland	428	440	12	3%
<b>SOUTHERN</b>	<b>608</b>	<b>668</b>	<b>60</b>	<b>10%</b>
<b>Force</b>	<b>2,680</b>	<b>2,909</b>	<b>229</b>	<b>9%</b>

- 2.4 Hate crimes targeted at disability show the largest volume and percentage increase in 2019-20 (+116 offences, 44%). The national picture for 2018-19 shows a 14% increase in offences aimed at disability.
- 2.5 Sexual orientation (+17%), faith motivated hate crime (+5%) and racial offences (+2%) are also showing an increase compared to 2018-19. These increases are in line or below the national picture for 2018-19.
- 2.6 In 2018-19, the Force had the 9<sup>th</sup> (7<sup>th</sup> in 2017-18) highest number of hate crimes per 10,000 populations in England and Wales (18.7 compared to 17 nationally).
- 2.7 The greatest proportion of hate crimes in Northumbria in 2019-20 are related to public disorder (60%), a decrease compared to 2018-19 (65%). This is similar to the national picture in 2018-19 (54%). The proportion related to violence against the person is 16% in 2019-20 and harassment offences account for 14%.
- 2.8 Harassment and public order offences continue to be the main offence types committed online. In 2019-20, 17% of disability hate crimes were committed online. 18% of transphobic and 9% of offences against a person's sexual orientation were committed online. 8% of all hate crime was committed online in 2019-20, compared to 4% in 2018-19. In response Community Engagement Teams are providing crime prevention advice to community groups who are potential victims of online crime.
- 2.9 The positive disposal rate for Hate Crimes has remained at 13% this period. The conviction rate for all Hate Crime is 86% which is above the national picture of 85%.
- 2.10 At force level, hate crime victim satisfaction with the whole experience of service has decreased in the 12 months to February 2020, from **84.9%** to **82.5%**. This performance is monitored at the local policing board and actions are in place under the Hate Crime Action Plan to address performance in this area. Actions are in place to address performance in areas of 'Action Taken' and 'Follow Up' with training planned for all frontline staff.
- 2.11 The Force continue to drive awareness of Hate Crime, ensuring visibility at a large number and diverse range of community events, examples such as Pride and Hate Crime Awareness week.

- 2.12 Community Engagement Teams (CET) continue to work alongside community groups and partners building trust and confidence and addressing any concerns regarding Hate Crime. Significant engagement has been undertaken with the Chinese community throughout the pandemic due to targeting of the community.
- 2.13 The Hate Crime Workplace Champions scheme has now been completed and was in the process of being delivered to private and public sector organisations to increase awareness and understanding of the impacts of Hate Crime prior to Covid 19. This scheme is supported by the OPCC and Home Office and received very positive feedback from agencies involved in the scheme.
- 2.14 Hate Crime Tension monitoring groups are now embedded across six local authorities. This ensures a partnership approach with statutory and third sector agencies to increase intelligence and seek to prevent Hate Crime occurring.
- 2.15 There is ongoing work alongside CPS, VFN and 3<sup>rd</sup> sector agencies to enhance support for victims of Hate Crime and improve satisfaction for victims involved in the Criminal Justice system.

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# Police Fire & Crime Panel Survey Findings

## Executive Summary

In November 2019 the members of the National Association of Police, Fire and Crime Panels (Association) voted to move to a non-subscription membership. In December following elections a full complement of executive members was created with an immediate task to establish how the Association could add value to Panels in England and Wales with minimal operational funding. Any work undertaken by the Association would be based upon what is achievable by employing self-help methods using the efforts, experience and skill sets of the executive committee members.

The executive members objective was to identify the issues and concerns experienced by the majority of Panels and channel work stream efforts into addressing these as a priority. To help achieve this objective, a limited survey questionnaire was produced and sent to all Panel Chairmen and Support Officers. The aim of the survey being to analyse responses to identify common themes or issues experienced by Panels which in turn would be used to prioritise the Associations future work.

The survey consisted of 9 questions with menu driven answers and where appropriate responders were invited to provide textual feedback. Survey responses were analysed by the executive committee members for common themes at its May 2020 meeting.

Five workstreams were identified via the survey which will drive the work of the Associations for the next 18 months. The secondary aim of survey is to evaluate how panels are performing with respect to the challenge and support functions of respective Police (Fire) & Crime Commissioners and encourage the adoption of good practice to help engender quality value add relationships.

The panels role is one of Commissioner “Challenge and Support” in non-operational Policing and where applicable Fire & Rescue. Panels have an important role in challenging the Commissioner’s decisions and the work programmes that are implemented. The Association believes that appropriate challenge of a Commissioner takes the form of establishing, on behalf of the public, that sound logic, reasoning and good practice is apparent in the decisions making process. The “Support” function can only truly exist when the Commissioner / Panel relationship is established on a sound and trusting relationship. Panels should be encouraged, willing and able to be positively engaged in all aspects of the Commissioners work as a “Critical Friend” providing tremendous value to both parties.

The Association should promote Panel good practice working, share positive experiences and encourage cross-sector learning. The results of this survey are the start of this process.

## Background

The Executive Members of the National Association of Police Fire & Crime Panels (NAPFCP) agreed at its April meeting to create a survey questionnaire to be sent to all panel Chairman and Support Officers. The survey aim was to obtain cross panel feedback through the responses received which would be used to shape the direction and hence emphasis of NAPFCP work moving forward.

## NAPFCP Executive Committee

The executive committee consists of 10 volunteer panel members whose appointments are confirmed at the AGM held in November. Approximately 50% of the committee changed last year due to panel changes following the May local elections and some taking retirement from public office.

At the AGM, members voted for a zero-subscription fee to apply and that work undertaken by the executive committee would be on a self-help basis. It is therefore important for the NAPFCP to concentrate on what panels believe are important aspects of panel working, remain independent of constraints imposed by a panel subscription relying solely on the Home Office grant and use the skills and expertise that exist within the volunteer executive committee. The committee is made up of longstanding panel members, some going back to 2012 with some newer members appointed to panels for the first time in 2019. Many are members of their local Community Safety Partnership.

The executive committee consists of

Chairman	John Gili-Ross (Essex PFCP Co-opted member)
Vice Chair	Cllr Stuart Sansome (Vice Chairman South Yorkshire PCP)
Vice Chair	Evan Morris MBE (Chairman Cheshire PCP Co-opted member) ex FRS senior officer
Member	Cllr Barry Young (Lincolnshire PCP)
Member	Cllr Richard Britton (Chairman Wiltshire PCP)
Member	Cllr Mohammed Iqbal (Chairman West Yorkshire PCP)
Member	Chairman Cllr Gill Mercer (Chairman Northants PFCP)
Member	Suma Harding (Nottinghamshire PCP) Serving Magistrate
Member	Cllr Joyce Welsh (Northumbria PCP)
Member	Cllr David Reilly (Chairman Warwickshire PCP)

## The Panel Survey and Questionnaire

The survey consisted of nine questions, reflecting the main issues and concerns raised at regional and national training events, LGA workshops and the AGM. Drop down menu responses as well as free flow textual answers were enabled for certain questions. Individuals were given an opportunity in the last question to add additional points not raised elsewhere.

A total of 38 responses were received from Panels in England and Wales and these analysed to determine common themes or issues to help determine NAPFCP work area priorities.

Twenty panels submitted a response to the survey including:

Bedfordshire  
Cambridgeshire  
Cheshire  
Cleveland  
Dyfed-Powys  
Essex  
Hertfordshire  
Humberside  
Lancashire  
Lincolnshire  
Norfolk  
North Yorkshire

Northampton PFCP

Nottinghamshire

South Yorkshire

Suffolk

Surrey

Thames Valley

West Mercia

West Midlands

West Yorkshire

Wiltshire

In almost all cases the support officer and panel chairman provided a response. In the week prior to closure a reminder was sent to all panel chairman and support officers that had at that time not responded. This was followed up by direct contact being attempted by exec committee members using email and phone calls to chairman and support officers.

Early in the process it was found that some local authority mail servers may have been blocking emails and hence the NAPFCP survey requests. Where this was found to be the case, the survey was resent to the individuals private email addresses.

It appears that a number of panel chairman and support officers appeared unavailable despite attempts using different media which may be due to the pandemic leading to significant changes to work practices.

## **Survey Summary**

The outcome of the survey is displayed pictorially by pie chart percentages using either Yes or No fixed answers or set question menu options taking the following form:

1. The Association should not spend time on this.
2. This would be of some use to my Panel.
3. I don't have a view on whether or not the Association should further this project.
4. My Panel would find this helpful to PCPs and welcomes the Association taking this forward.
5. This is most relevant to Panels and the Association should give this project priority

Using the above format where applicable, the “total in favour values” for each question uses the cumulative percentage figures for menu options 2, 4 and 5 in the pie charge breakdown at the end of the report.

Question 1 asked if panels believed they had sufficient or appropriate powers to carry out effective scrutiny of their Commissioner. There was an equal 50:50 split.

Relatively few text responses were received for this question. Those received suggest there are some underlying trust issues between the Panel and the Commissioner.

Question 2 - asked should the NAPFCP lobby the Home Office, Government, MP's or LGA where deemed appropriate. A total of 89.5% of respondents were in favour.

Question 3 - asked should the NAPFCP work with the APCC to develop working practice models between Panels and Commissioners. A total of 76.3% were in favour.

Question 4 - asked should the NAPFCP undertake a study of the various methods employed between Panels and the Commissioners in the scrutiny of their work, to promote best practice and cross sector development? A total of 78.9% were in favour. 15.8% said the NAPFCP should not spend time on this.

Question 5 - asked would your panel benefit from having greater understanding of relevant central government plans and timelines for large police projects and programmes. A total of 81.6% were in favour.

Question 6 - asked should the NAPFCP develop and publish Position Statements on key issues facing policing. A total of 60% were in favour.

Question 7 - asked should the Association develop a national and local communications strategy to help clarify and promote the role, responsibilities and remit of Panels? A total of 81.6% were in favour of this.

Question 8 - asked would it be helpful for your Panel to know how, and to what extent, other Panels utilise the Home Office grant? A total of 68.4% were in favour of this.

Question 9 - asked if the survey had omitted relevant topics relating to the role of Panels, what was missing and the benefit provided to Panels. 19 text responses were received. All responses appear in the survey analysis at the end of this report.

## Conclusions

A breakdown of survey responses appears at the end of this report. Analysing the results and in particular the text responses, the following topics are recognised as the main source of panel concerns and /or interest and are expected to form the basis of NAPFCP workstreams over the next two years. The form and depth of work undertaken will be agreed by the exec members and a topic lead for each workstream will be assigned.

- Commissioner and Chief Constable senior appointments
- Complaints against the Commissioner, Police and FRS Senior Staff
- Promotion of best practice for Panel activities and scrutiny of the Commissioner
- Panel lack of influence with commissioners -leads to distrust and poor relationship.
- Promote the Panels role within policing (and fire and rescue) to the public

# Appendix A

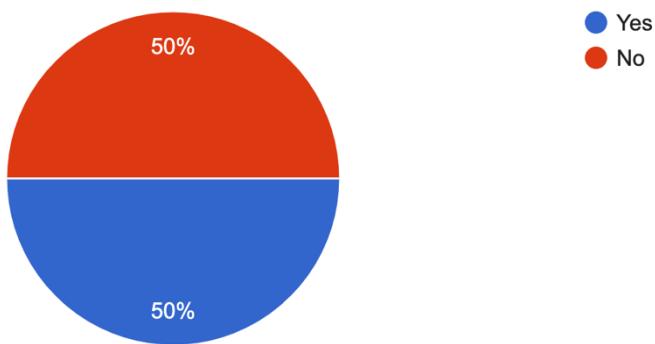
## Full Survey Results and Outcomes

A breakdown of the survey questions and responses are shown below. Some questions have been truncated by the survey tool. To retain clarity and as necessary, the full question has been added before the response.

Text answers that appear for questions 1, 6 and 9 are as received.

Q1 Do you believe that Panels have sufficient and/or appropriate powers to carry out effective scrutiny of a Commissioner?

38 responses



If you answered "No" to the last question, please state up to 3 additional powers you believe Panel should have and why.

### *Commissioner and Chief Constable Senior Appointments*

The power of veto over Deputy PCC appointments would seem to be more appropriate than the power of veto over Chief Constable appointments (considering the latter have already followed out a clear, HR assisted process whereas with the former there is potential for cronyism and a far less transparent approach).

Provide a power to Panels to veto a Deputy Police and Crime Commissioner Appointment

Requirement for Panel to pre-scrutinise more decisions (not just precept, P&C Plan and senior appointments); power to call in any decision; power for a Panel supermajority vote to overrule (not just temporarily veto) a decision.

In terms of confirmation of Chief Constable and precept proposal, we have veto and nothing beyond. After that the Panel has no role. There is a strong case of some form of compulsory mediation in both cases. Secondly, for the appointment of Deputy Chief Constable, the panel should have more involvement than just a confirmation of the appointment weeks after the Chief Constable having taken the position.

I personally think the ability to challenge and to use the power of the press to raise any issues of concern are sufficient. I think some members of my panel would think that there should be additional powers around a second veto for the confirmation hearings and precept.

As often referenced, the Panels need 'more teeth' and additional powers would give them more influence, rather than effectively rubber-stamping decisions, perhaps having the capacity to 'call-in' decisions of a certain nature and to have more of a significant role relating to appointments would be a start.

There is confusion over which PCC support staff appointments should involve the Panel. Inconsistencies around the appointments of Deputy CC's and Deputies for the PCC. These could be better aligned.

Ability for involvement in suspension proceedings as well as appointment of senior officers both in CC office and Chief Constable.

#### *Complaints Related Comments*

The ability to deal with complaints against the Police and Crime Commissioner are completely non-existent, and as they currently stand, "pointless". The Panel should either have powers to effectively investigate complaints and impose sanctions or have "complaints" removed from their remit completely. Strengthen the Police Reform and Social Responsibility Act 2011 to give Panels and sub-groups of Panels the power to call any persons who in their view could assist Panels to give evidence and provide information, to facilitate proper scrutiny of the PCC.

Utilise the professional expertise of HMICFRS and require them (via a request from the Panel) to be involved in the suspension review process providing the PCC, Chief Constable and Police and Crime Panel with a professional view on the suspension of a Chief Constable before and during the suspension period.

Power to do investigations on complaints,

Commissioning of investigation by a third party into complaint matters. Panels would lack the capacity and arguably independence to do justice to this but further to a recent high-profile complaints matter, it is apparent that this element is sorely lacking from Panels' powers and it would lend greater credence to any report or findings. The Home Office has committed to this over the years but no change has yet come about.

Require early intervention following suspension of CC, we don't have that under regs, we play no role until later.

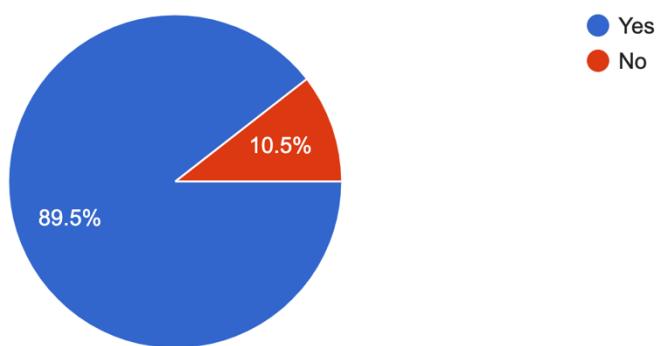
#### *Miscellaneous Comments*

- Members feel that there are very limited powers to influence what the PCC does. Therefore more powers to limit the level of Precept annually; the ability to require HMICFRS to meet with Panel annually to consider the performance of the Force and by association the PCC and require the HMICFRS to consult the PCP as part of the process.

- Strategic decision making by PCC via a statutory forward plan that could be called in prior to some key decisions being made without PCP knowledge or consultation.
- When the Panel is attempting to scrutinise or a Task and Finish group is attempting to scrutinise a particular piece of work that has been headed up by a senior police officer, then the panel or group should have the authority to seek his/her attendance.
- More powers of sanction to make the PCC more dependent upon the support of the Panel. The Power to require the Chief Constable to attend the Panel under specific circumstances in order to avoid having the PCC easily to hide behind "that's operational".
- Include some scrutiny of operational policing quarterly reports on how they are performing isn't enough
- Being a County Councillor & Past member of our Police Authority, there is so much more we can do, and use our local knowledge & expertise more effectively.
- I would like to see powers more in line with the police authority powers

Q2 Do you believe it would be worthwhile and appropriate for the Association to lobby the Home Office, Government, MP's or the LGA where deemed appropriate.

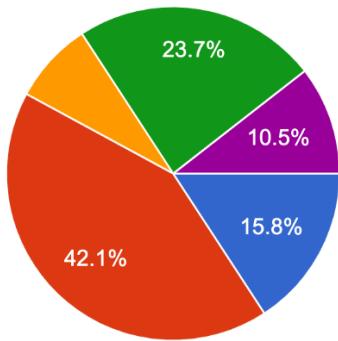
38 responses



**Q3 The relationship between Panels and PCCs can vary widely and different working practices between the two have developed over several years. Do you believe the Association should work with the APCC to develop typical working practice models for possible use by Panels and Commissioners?**

**Q3 The relationship between Panels and PCCs can vary widely and different working practices between the two have developed over several years...Is for possible use by Panels and Commissioners?**

38 responses

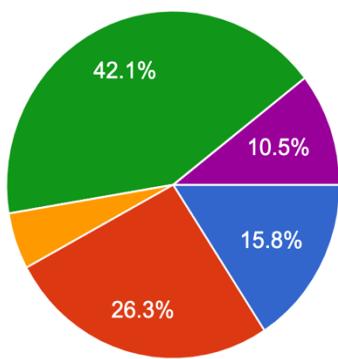


- The Association should not spend time on this.
- This would be of some use to my Panel.
- I don't have a view on whether or not the Association should further this project.
- My Panel would find this helpful to PCPs and welcomes the Association taking this forward.
- This is most relevant to Panels and the Association should give this project pri...

**Q4 PCPs have developed ways to carry out their role to support their Commissioner in the delivery of a Police and Crime Plan or Fire and Rescue Plan. This work often involves sub-committees, Lead Member arrangements, Task and Finish Groups often with the Commissioner's Office. Should the Association undertake a study of the various methods employed, the resulting outcomes and any lessons learnt to promote best practice and cross sector development?**

**Q4 PCPs have developed ways to carry out their role to support their Commissioner in the delivery of a Police and Crime Plan or Fire and R...omote best practice and cross sector development?**

38 responses

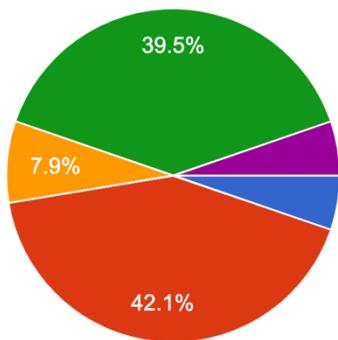


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**Q5 Changes in the provision of fixed and mobile IT services and equipment is leading to significant impact on Commissioner's budgets. Would your panel benefit from having greater understanding of relevant central government plans and timelines for large police projects and programmes?**

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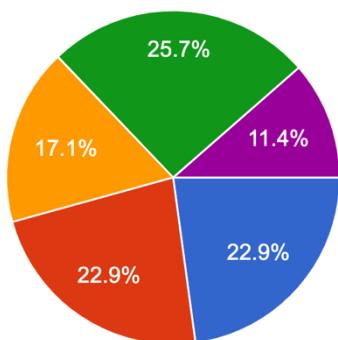


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**Q6 In order to promote the role of Panels should the Association work with its members to develop and publish Position Statements on the key issues facing policing? (e.g. Complaints Handling, Coronavirus ACT, Equitable funding for CSP's).**

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35 responses



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- This would be of some use to my Panel.
- I don't have a view on whether or not the Association should further this project.
- My Panel would find this helpful and welcomes the Association taking this forward.
- This is most relevant to Panels and the Association should give this project pri...

**Q6a If you have indicated your panel would benefit from position statements on key issues facing policing, please state the area of most interest and give reasons why. 20 responses**

- Multi-agency and collaborative working arrangements, responsibilities and accountabilities, including with national policing bodies, such as NCA, BTP, ActionFraud, SFO, Security Services,

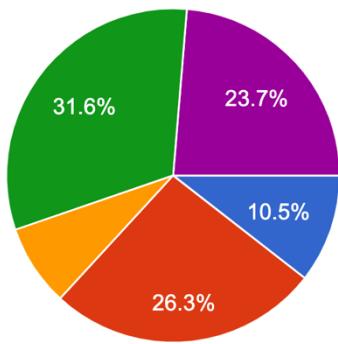
HMICFRS, and collaborative programmes such as Counter Terrorism, Prevent, organised crime (gangs, slavery, people trafficking, child sexual exploitation), etc.

- Statements should focus on the key issues facing PCCs, as a means of challenging & supporting them in their roles - commenting on issues such as the developing role and functions of PCCs (reviewing police complaints, extending their role in the criminal justice system), supporting their calls for more action around victim support, for example. However, care will need to be taken to ensure that statements reflect the collective position of PC(F)Ps, not just those represented on the Executive body.
- Complaints handling
- Effective scrutiny, PCP Plan, PCP internal Budget, use of the HO grant - as well as a range of key issues to promote consistency across PCPs such as Covid-19, Cybercrime etc.
- It would give Panels more of a platform within the public eye, most people do not know the Panels exist, let alone there is also an Association - so to release a statement from the Association on behalf of the Panels would be hugely beneficial
- Positions statements are useful in most cases especially in handling of complaints. This is for fairness for both sides and transparency.
- To be able to show we are being proactive and holding the PCC to account as a critical friend
- complaints handling
- The key issues in Wales differ from those in England, Powers should be devolved to the Welsh Assembly, and we meet the WLGA fairly regularly in Cardiff, yet answer to London!
- Funding. This has just been played with and never addressed the major funding issues and is the largest area of concern we have.
- Community Safety Partnerships - we do not have any contact with them and would be useful to know if others do
- Use of Home Office grants- many panels do not know if or how their grant is being spent and we do not want to lose the grant because panels are not using their grant Allowances for Panel members- wide discrepancy between panels
- To ensure consistency across the country, helps with transparency.
- See requirement for website below, which would also assist with info and sharing best practice and ideas.
- It would give Panels more of a platform within the public eye, most people do not know the Panels exist, let alone there is also an Association - so to release a statement from the Association on behalf of the Panels would be hugely beneficial
- Public order and complaints.
- Budgetary constraints
- IT projects Body Worn Camera Policy Remote Meeting Guidance
- Police resources and day-to-day management thereof in order to maximise police visibility.
- I think it would be helpful to in relation to any new or emerging issues as they are identified
- Broader knowledge of what is expected
- I'm not sure how a collective position statements can be developed given the different areas we work in - a rural area has very different issues, policing priorities to an urban area

**Q7 To the general public, the part played by Panels in respect to Commissioners, Policing and the Fire & Rescue Service is generally unclear. Should the Association develop a national and local communications strategy to help clarify and promote the role, responsibilities and remit of Panels?**

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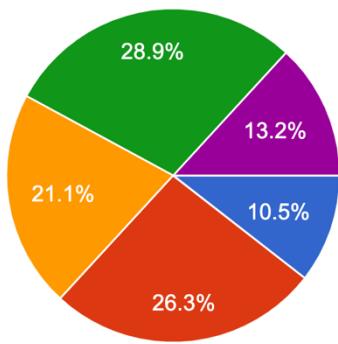
38 responses



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- My Panel would find this helpful and welcomes the Association taking this forward.
- This is most relevant to Panels and the Association should give this project pri...

**Q8 Different Panels have differing approaches to the use of the Home Office grant. Would it be helpful for your Panel to know how, and to what extent, other Panels utilise the grant?**

38 responses



- The Association should not spend time on this.
- This would be of some use to my Panel.
- I don't have a view on whether or not the Association should further this project.
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**Q9 If you feel this survey as written does not cover relevant topics relating to the role of Panels, please provide details of what you believe is missing and in particular the benefit for Panels.** 19 responses

- Analysis of whether more grant funding would be beneficial. To my mind, the amount is generous for basic administration, training, etc, but insufficient to commission in-depth research and analysis, or to commission public surveys or to communicate regularly with the press and councillors. Our panel relies entirely on the OPCC to write our reports; that is vulnerable to manipulation by a Commissioner wishing to suppress or spin a message. Our host authority has neither the resources nor the expertise to conduct research in-house for the Panel, so we would need to commission external consultants, and hence would require a larger budget

than we now have. A grant of more than £60k but less than £100k would enable panels to do significantly more proactive research, analysis and communication.

- I believe that the Association could explore the matter of retention and training of members on panels. While I appreciate the difficulties surrounding elected members, I do feel it would be beneficial to explore any avenues that would assist in permitting consistency of membership which in turn assists decision making processes.
- From my perspective the most problematic part of the remit given to panels is the complaints function. I think there could be a role for the Association in highlighting the scope for improvements to this function as currently organised and/or working with government and other relevant parties to identify practical changes that might be made.
- In relation to Q8 - my Panel fully utilises the full grant and so the only benefit I see for WY from some work on this is that the Home Office may come to a view that full grant allocations are unnecessary if a large percentage are not taken up. I think it would be helpful to have an outline work programme for the NAPFCP. The key lines of enquiry for the COVID-19 were really helpful (although too late for our first Panel meeting). I think an early view of any emerging issues would be very helpful but it would also be helpful to be notified if something is potentially on the horizon if NAPFCP is seen as a first point of contact.
- The Association should act as the voice of Panels on emerging/new legislation with Government and support the development of best practice in these areas - for example the new Remote Meeting regulations and scrutiny impacts of the Coronavirus is a good example of where the Association can make a positive difference. This should be treated as a priority project. Also going forward could the work of the Association look to maximise the use of online technology - this could provide the Association with additional flexibility to engage with its membership on key issues. Please note, this is a combined response from the Lead Support Officer and Chairman of the Panel.
- Q2 - Now that the NAPFCP has moved to a fee-free model, and membership is not determined by a Panel's ability to use the HO grant to pay for an annual subscription, there is nothing to prevent it from lobbying. Representing the collective voices of Panels on relevant issues and being a trusted conduit for consultation is exactly what it should be doing.
- Q3 - The refreshed Panel guidance, recently published by CfPS-LGA, provides examples of good practice. The current Regional and National networking arrangements provide excellent ways of sharing and developing best practice, and Frontline Consulting's help in facilitating these should not be underestimated.
- Q4 - Again, the refreshed Panel guidance by CfPS-LGA provides examples of good practice. Regional networks & national conferences offer ample opportunity to share and develop best practice.
- Q8 - Either a simple survey or asking the Home Office to share an overview would work if there is a desire to do this. More importantly, perhaps, the NAPFCP might encourage all Panels to make use of their grant, given that Home Office officials have warned they are finding it increasingly hard to defend an underspend in this budget.
- Q9 - The points covered at Q6 (albeit v difficult) and Q7 are definitely the sorts of things the NAPFCP should concentrate on: those things where it can add value, rather than repeat or duplicate work that has already been done or is being done elsewhere. It is also essential that Panels are kept well informed about what the NAPFCP is doing.
- Greater clarity on the speed of change to the integration of the Three Blue Light organisations, and suggested models for the appropriate scrutiny forum{s)
- Effective recruitment of Independent Members

- As a support officer I would find a forum most beneficial where I could type a question that all other support officers could answer - for instance, I wanted to know what platform other panels were using for virtual meetings - that would be great to put into a forum. Support officers feel very alone in this job as no-one they work alongside does the same job, it would enable them together somewhere to share their queries and work alongside others doing the same job.
- Producing a standard MOU for PCP and PCPs
- I think it would be useful to have training courses for Panel members, at introductory, intermediate/advanced levels. This should be a paid course to ensure the quality of training would be high. The courses should run at least once/twice a year in different parts of the Country. The National Conference, although very good, doesn't really offer training in the basics for new Panel members. The LGA courses, again are good, but assume a certain amount of knowledge on the part of Panel members.
- I feel that this survey was quite difficult in so much the relationship between all Panels and their Commissioner are so varied. We are most fortunate that we have an excellent relationship with our present Commissioner but this might not be the same if we have a change
- With regard to the issue of lobbying I had understood that the Home Office have already ruled out Panels using their grant to undertake this. I think it would be helpful to move away from that word and try to position the Association as the go-to consultee for the Home Office to discuss proposals etc with. This is similar relationship which the National Association of School Admissions Clerks have tried to develop with the DfE over the years. I think the word lobbying is proving to be unhelpful and a bit inflammatory whereas I think the Association could exert the same levels of influence albeit by not using that term.
- We feel there should be a web site presence for sharing ideas and as a forum for members and officers. Some form of on line training modules would be useful e.g. complaint handling, move to Fire Authority etc. Particularly an issue for large area such as West Mercia where training is a challenge.
- It should be more specific to Wales, e.g. we do not cover the Fire responsibilities, and we require more bilingualism, (Why is this questionnaire in English only ? !!)
- The issue of public involvement in Panel meetings would be worth looking at, particularly in terms of widening the scope for public questions
- My Panel would benefit from a more detailed understanding of the national uplift programme of recruitment, training and induction
- Other studies to get a view on best practice that can be passed on to other panels

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## Review into the role of Police and Crime Commissioners

### Terms of Reference for part-one of the Review

#### Purpose

The purpose of the two-part review, as set out by the Minister for Crime and Policing, is to consider how the role of Police and Crime Commissioners (PCCs) can be sharpened and expanded in line with our overarching ambitions in respect of Mayoral devolution.

#### Objectives

The totality of the review will consider how the PCC role has developed over the past eight years and provide recommendations as to how the existing model may be improved through a future reform programme, which also ensures consistency with the Government's mayoral devolution agenda.

Part-one of the Review will be an internal review considering the following:

- How to reinforce and sharpen the accountability of PCCs to the communities they serve, including how to raise the profile of the PCC model and improve the ease with which the public can access information about their PCC.
- How to ensure that PCCs have sufficient resilience in the event that they cannot undertake their role, by considering existing arrangements for appointing Deputies.
- How to improve the current scrutiny model for PCCs, including the provision of common quality standards and considering the role of Panel chairs.
- How to share and embed best practice among PCCs.
- The effectiveness of the current PCC and Chief Constable oversight dynamic, including consideration of the process for the suspension/dismissal of Chief Constables and reviewing the Policing Protocol.
- Whether any steps are needed to strengthen accountability or clarity of roles within the Mayoral PCC model; reflecting the direction of travel for mayoral devolution.
- How we set out our long-term ambition on fire governance reform ahead of the May 2021 PCC elections.

#### Outputs

The review team will report on part-one by October 2020 which will inform the Government's priorities for pre-May 2021 PCC model reform. The report should provide recommendations on improvements which could be made to the PCC model, including any legislation which may be required to achieve them. Any recommendations should be evidence-based and proportionate, with consideration given to their possible implementation and impact on the model.

## **Scope**

The review should consider the role of PCCs as set out in the Policing and Social Responsibility Act 2011 and will not consider a wholly new governance model for policing (mayoral PCC transfers aside) or territorial structures. The review may consider interdependencies of the model with wider reforms to law enforcement or public services where relevant, although any reforms which cut across ambitions for the transfer of PCC functions to mayors will be out of scope.

## **Governance**

The review team will be accountable to the Head of Unit for Police Strategy and Reform, who will report to the SRO (Policing Director) and provide strategic oversight to the work programme. There will be strong working level links to the Fire Strategy and Reform Team to ensure work complements the fire reform programme. This element of the programme will be led by the Head of Fire Strategy and Reform Unit and report to the Fire and Resilience Director. The Review programme will be ultimately accountable to the Home Secretary.

## **Timing**

The final part-one report, including recommendations, must be submitted to the Secretary of State by October 2020. This will allow Ministers to consider the report's recommendations ahead of the agreed package of reform being brought to the National Policing Board, with a view to final cross-Government agreement being in place so recommendations can be taken forward prior to the pre-election period for PCC elections (end March 2021).

## **Methodology**

A time-limited internal review with rapid evidence gathering (including public polling/focus groups, consultation with key sector stakeholders and other departments (plus a review of existing secondary sources) and development of potential legislative options. The Review Team will also engage with the Advisory Group throughout the review as recommendations are being developed.

## **Stakeholder Engagement**

We will engage a sample of citizens and local/national victims' groups through polling/focus groups, as appropriate, and stakeholders within the sector, during part-one of the Review.

## Police and Crime Commissioner Review

On Wednesday 22 July 2020, the Minister for Crime and Policing laid a Written Ministerial Statement [[Link here](#)] in Parliament launching a review of the Police and Crime Commissioner model.

### Review Timetable

The Review will take place in two parts with the first stage beginning immediately and reporting to Ministers in the Autumn. The Home Secretary will consider the Review's final report before taking recommendations to the National Policing Board. The second part will commence after the May 2021 elections.

### Part-one of the Review

**Part-one** will focus on the changes required to strengthen the model and which can be delivered ahead of the 2021 PCC elections. It will also consider ways to strengthen the accountability of fire and rescue services in line with the Government's long-term ambitions on fire governance reform and will be aligned with the Government's commitment to mayoral devolution. In particular, part-one will look at how to strengthen:

- Accountability and legitimacy; through improving access to information, standards and profile of PCCs.
- Resilience; consider situations where a PCC cannot undertake their duties and the role of Deputy PCCs.
- Scrutiny mechanisms; examine the existing model to drive up standards, to identify and share best practice across the scrutiny body sector.
- The effectiveness of the relationship between PCCs and Chief Constables and the checks and balances currently in place.
- The mayoral PCC model, with the longer-term ambition to increase the number of mayors with PCC functions in mind

### Part-two of the Review

**Part-two** will commence after the 2021 elections and will consider further ways to strengthen and expand the role of PCCs, including the role PCCs play in tackling re-offending to help reduce crime. It will focus on longer-term reforms and the potential for wider efficiencies to be made within the system with a view to implementation ahead of the 2024 elections.

Neither Part-one nor Part-two of the review will consider a wholly new governance model for policing or examine the 43 police force model.

### Engagement

The Senior Responsible Owner for the Review is the Home Office Director of Policing. The Review Team will comprise of civil servants from within the Home Office. The Review Team will gather evidence through direct interviews, engagement with representative bodies and local/national victims' groups, and public polling/surveys.

An Advisory Group will be convened to support Part-one of the review, made up of senior external stakeholders with expertise in the policing and fire sectors. The Review Team will engage with the Advisory Group throughout the review.

## Frequently asked questions

### How will Police and Crime Commissioners and interested parties contribute to the review?

The Review Team will request written submissions as part of its evidence gathering phase and will supplement this with a series of interviews, bilateral meetings, sector engagement and polling. Views can also be submitted to [pccreview@homeoffice.gov.uk](mailto:pccreview@homeoffice.gov.uk).

### Will the Review and its report be published?

The internal review will report to the Home Secretary in the Autumn before being discussed at the National Policing Board.

### Will changes be implemented before close of nominations for the 2021 elections?

Part-one of the Review will report before the elections and give time for candidates and the public to consider the changes and future direction of the PCC model.

### When will we know what the Part-two terms of reference are?

Terms of reference for the second stage of the review will be developed post the elections next May and will, in part, be informed by the evidence gathered during this first phase.

### Will the mandation of fire governance transfers be considered in Part-one?

It would be wrong to second-guess the outcome of the review, however there are early indications of success from the first cycle of fire governance transfers to PCCs. It is right that we use this review to explore whether we can achieve a more robust governance model through PFCCs.

### What is the relationship between the review and the Devolution White Paper?

The review will consider ways in which both the PCC and mayoral PCC models can be strengthened and aligned. We believe mayors of Combined Authorities should be powerful local figures with the ability to drive public safety, as well as economic growth and local recovery. We plan to develop the role of PCCs with that longer-term trajectory in mind, building on the established mayoral models. We plan to publish the Local Recovery and Devolution Paper in the Autumn and will set out our mayoral devolution ambitions including increasing the number of mayors with responsibility for policing.

### Will Recall or the electoral system be considered in Part-one?

Part-one will consider options to strengthen the accountability of PCCs and take account of the Home Affairs Select Committee report on recall. Although not for consideration in part-one of the Review, we will continue to work across government on the Government's wider electoral reform agenda.

#### Contact

If you have any questions or comments on the contents of this note, please contact:  
[pccreview@homeoffice.gov.uk](mailto:pccreview@homeoffice.gov.uk)



**REPORT TO THE POLICE AND CRIME PANEL**

**11<sup>th</sup> August 2020.**

## **REPORT OF THE CHIEF OF STAFF AND MONITORING OFFICER**

### **COMPLAINTS AGAINST THE POLICE AND CRIME COMMISSIONER – APRIL 2020 to JULY 2020**

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#### **1. Purpose of the Report**

- 1.1 To provide the Police and Crime panel with the annual report about the complaints and purported complaints received and every conduct matter recorded by the Monitoring Officer between April 2020 and July 2020.

#### **2. Background**

- 2.1 The Police and Crime Panel has the statutory role of overseeing all complaints against the PCC and informally resolving non-criminal complaints, as well as criminal complaints or conduct matters that are referred back to the Panel by the Independent Office for Police Complaints (IOPC).
- 2.2 The Elected Local Policing Bodies (Complaints and Misconduct) Regulations 2012 (the Regulations) make provision regarding the Panel's powers and duties in regard to complaints made about the conduct of the PCC. The aim of the complaints system is to deliver resolution as quickly and effectively as possible for the majority of complainants through local resolution.
- 2.3 In accordance with the Regulations, the Panel is required to maintain suitable arrangements for handling complaints, recording conduct matters where there is an indication that the PCC may have committed a criminal offence and prescribing the manner in which any complaints alleging conduct which constitutes or involves, or appears to constitute or involve, the commission of a criminal offence and conduct matters are handled. A procedure for dealing with complaints against the PCC was approved by panel members in November 2012 appointing the Chief Executive of the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner as the Monitoring Officer
- 2.4 In respect of record keeping the panel agreed in this procedure that the Monitoring Officer will keep records of: every complaint and purported complaint received and every conduct matter recorded by the Monitoring Officer. In addition the Monitoring Officer is to report, on a regular basis, the summary details (such as can be reported in public), on the exercise of any and all of these functions to the Police and Crime Panel for monitoring purposes. There were two received April 2020 and July 2020 which are reported in this report, neither of the complaints were upheld.

<b>Received</b>	<b>Nature of Complaint</b>	<b>Recorded / Action Taken</b>
14 <sup>th</sup> June 2020	Complainant stated that they did not agree with the PCC comments following a Black Lives Matter demonstration and counter demo.	The response to the complainant clarified that the Commissioner's comments were referencing those whose behaviour disrupted the peaceful protest.  <b>NOT UPHELD</b>
14 <sup>th</sup> June 2020	Complainant stated that they did not agree with the PCC comments following a Black Lives Matter demonstration and counter demo.	The response to the complainant clarified that the Commissioner's comments were referencing those whose behaviour disrupted the peaceful protest.  <b>NOT UPHELD</b>



**POLICE AND CRIME PANEL**

**11 August 2020**

**REPORT OF THE POLICE AND CRIME COMMISSIONER FOR NORTHUMBRIA**

**DRAFT ANNUAL REPORT 2019-20.**

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**1. Purpose**

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to present to panel members the draft Annual Report 2019-20 of the Police and Crime Commissioner for Northumbria. This draft is attached at Appendix A

**2. Statutory Context**

- 2.1 The Police Reform and Social Responsibility Act 2011 (chapter 3, section 12) specifies that a Police and Crime Commissioner must produce an annual report on the exercise of their functions in each financial year, including the progress made in meeting the priorities as set out in the Police and Crime Plan.
- 2.2 It is the role of the Police and Crime Panel under section 28(4) of the Police Reform and Social Responsibility Act to review the annual report and make a report or recommendations.
- 2.3 The annual report is currently in draft format to enable the panel to make a report and /or recommendations as appropriate. The Commissioner will give a response to any report or recommendations on the annual report and share a final version of the document with members.
- 2.4 The Police and Crime Plan 2017-2021 was launched in 2017 following extensive consultation to ensure that Northumbria Police and the Police and Crime Commissioner's priorities reflect and remain responsive to local needs. Progress towards the current plan are reflected in the Annual Report.

**3. Content of the Annual Report 2019-20**

- 3.1 Members will note that this report covers the Police and Crime Plan as produced by the previous Police and Crime Commissioner, Dame Vera Baird QC. The draft of the Annual Report presented here includes progress on that plan, but also on key priority issues since the election of Kim McGuinness as the new PCC in July 2019. This will be the last annual report covering the work of the two PCCs.
- 3.2 A new Police and Crime Plan is expected to be in place by the next annual report, and I will update the panel on progress towards this in due course.

3.3 The style of the report, as developed in 2018, has been expanded to ensure the public can be informed on both the Police and Crime Plan and emerging issues such as the Violence Reduction Unit.

**4. Informing the public and key stakeholders**

- 4.1 After feedback from the panel the draft report will be updated and designed for online distribution.
- 4.2 The report will be made available on the Commissioner's website – [www.northumbria-pcc.gov.uk](http://www.northumbria-pcc.gov.uk) .

**5. Recommendation**

- 5.1 That the draft annual report be reviewed in line with the Panel's duties under section 28(4) of the Police Reform and Social Responsibility Act.

# Annual report 2019/20

## Contents

- Introduction
- The year at a glance
- **Preventing Crime**
- **Fighting Crime**
- **Improving lives**
- Funding your police
- Contact details

## Introduction

### The year at a glance

The last 12 months have seen impressive work from Northumbria Police towards the priorities you set them. Yes, there are challenges and there are areas where improvement is needed, and I will continue to hold the Chief Constable to account for this. But overall our region remains a safe and welcoming one.

The 12 months to March 2020

A new neighbourhood policing model was launched which involves a change in shift pattern for officers and staff. Neighbourhoods will continue to be safer with a dedicated NHP team for all areas, rural and urban and capacity has been maintained

Fewer people suffered as a result of anti-social behaviour with a reduction of 2,648 incidents compared to the previous 12 months.

But we know there is more to - 22% of people surveyed considered that antisocial behaviour is a very or fairly big problem in their neighbourhood. I'm working with the chief constable on bringing this down.

Fewer victims of crime – Overall reported crime fell to 147,491 incidents compared to 158,084 crimes for the previous 12 months.

The majority of crime has reduced by 4% (6,932 fewer crimes), serious crime by 6% (459 fewer crimes) and major crime by 14% (57 fewer crimes), with knife crime offences reducing by 18%. (166 fewer crimes).

Crime was also down for Burglary -12% (1,060 fewer crimes) and theft and handling -10% (3,324 fewer crimes).

Domestic abuse and sexual violence remains a priority for my office and Northumbria Police and the percentage of domestic abuse victims who are confident to report further abuse to the police is at 93%

Communities in the region remain confident in Northumbria Police. The force remains first for all public confidence measures that are surveyed nationally, which includes; public confidence, reliability, respect, fair treatment and community understanding.

The risk of being a victim of crime in Northumbria is the lowest in the country (5.4%). And the risk of household crime in Northumbria is the 5th lowest in the country (6.2%).

## Preventing crime

### Violence Reduction Unit

Ours is a safe region, but if we're going to keep it that way we need to target our resources and make preventing crime as big a priority as fighting crime.

That's why I set up a Violence Reduction Unit based on the belief that if we improve lives we can prevent crime. Yes, a big part of crime reduction involves supporting our police to arrest criminals.

But it's no surprise that after ten years of austerity and the closure of youth centres and community services, crime went up. I've used two instalments of VRU funding totalling £3.2m to ensure we reverse that trend.

I worked with others to create a response strategy which will guide us in making changes in four key areas - youth diversion to give young people an alternative, reducing offending by targeting known repeat offenders, working with families and connecting communities. We've also matched that investment with another £2m in Surge funding designed to let the police respond to violent crime and the results have been impressive.



## Over the last 12 months

There has been an 18% reduction in knife-enabled serious violence across the Northumbria force area, from 964 offences to 794.

The number of young victims of knife-enabled serious violence, under the age of 25, has reduced by 23%, from 254 to 195.

The Police have removed 6,498 knives from Northumbria streets.

The Violence Reduction Unit is backed by a five year plan which, if the Government continues to fund, would support our police force to make real long term change in violent crime levels. If Government matches our crime prevention ambitions we will be able to:

- Provide more opportunities for young people to access activities and services that steer them away from crime.
- Reduce the risk of individuals being drawn into violence and addiction and make it harder for others to take advantage.
- Prevent offenders reoffending.

## Domestic abuse and sexual violence

Domestic abuse continues to be a key priority and I'm pleased that we have seen a 3% increase in victims reporting domestic abuse, reassuring us that people feel more confident in reporting this crime. The commitment to training front line officers to respond to domestic abuse has also seen the successful conviction of domestic abuse perpetrators rise to 73%.

This year we've backed the Domestic Abuse: Whole System Approach next steps project to look at better ways to effectively reach domestic abuse victims. Our findings have been shared nationally and we have had an amazing response from police forces across England who have praised our work and implemented our best practice recommendations.

And working with the NHS we located Domestic Abuse Health Advocates in hospitals and GP surgeries across Northumbria. The success of this role has been described as invaluable and is now a permanent feature within these settings. More than 1000 staff have been trained by the advocates and over 500 champions have been recruited.

As well as awarding funding to local services supporting survivors of sexual violence in 2019/20, my office also took a lead on issues affecting victims nationally – excessive mobile phone and personal data usage in criminal trials, the accessibility of counselling pre-trial, and the need for independent legal representation for sexual violence survivors. In addition, the first pilot of independent legal representation in our jurisdiction was completed in Northumbria in March 2020.

There's been great progress in tackling domestic abuse and sexual violence, but we know there is still much more to be done. My office will continue this hard work and develop this priority further in the next Police and Crime Plan.



## Fighting crime

### Recruitment

Recruiting new police officers is key to tackling crime. While the Government set strict allocations for Northumbria as part of the first wave of its national recruitment drive, it is clear these did not go far enough to offset the more than 1,100 officers lost to the force since 2010. These Government targets also do not account for the natural turnover in officers departing or recruiting from the force.

That’s why I approved a force budget that goes beyond the Government targets and makes sure we are replacing as well as recruiting new officer. That campaign has been a phenomenal success. Since March some 218 new officers are in uniform and dedicating their career to keeping us safe. Myself and the chief constable both agree that keeping our neighbourhoods safe is the first priority when it comes to allocating these new recruits.

Over the last year, we’ve welcomed a fall in anti-social behaviour throughout the region. We’ve seen many successful crackdown operations, which have been well received by residents, businesses and partners.

Neighbourhood police officers in the east end of Newcastle, for example, have been working closely with the Byker Community Trust, as part of a Thriving Byker Strategy designed to steer young people away from crime and disorder. The initiative has resulted in anti-social behaviour plummeting by nearly 80 per cent.

I also secured funding to transform unused space at Wallsend Customer First Centre, to provide a new base for police and youth workers in North Tyneside. This new facility is about supporting the community, helping to improve life chances for young people in the area and tackling ASB.



## Rural crime

In Northumberland and rural parts of the region we have seen some really successful operations cracking down on theft, illegal poaching and wildlife crime. We've also benefited from the support of our excellent rural policing volunteers, who have helped make a real difference.

With things being tough during the Coronavirus pandemic, rural communities were a great concern of mine – they can feel isolated and out of help's reach at the best of times. With this in mind, we actively reached out to struggling rural charities and encouraged them to bid to our Coronavirus Response Fund. We recognised the importance of keeping some of these community lifelines up and running and I was pleased to be able to help. Those benefiting included domestic abuse support services and youth services, important provisions which must not be forgotten about in our rural communities.

Our rural communities need the support of a well-funded dedicated police force, and that's what I will be campaigning for in the year ahead.

## Cyber-Crime

Cyber-crime is a big part of police work and it's growing. It's not the 'behind-the-scenes' anymore, it's very much at the forefront of investigations. An ever-increasing amount of police time and resource is investigating crimes that are happening online – grooming, organised crime, fraud, hacking and so on.

We've set up a dedicated cyber unit to tackle these crimes and earlier this year I set out a multi-million investment plan to make Northumbria Police 'fit for the future'. New equipment, bigger cybercrime teams and more digital investigators are central to this long-term plan, and work is well under-way to bring this to life.

## Anti-Social Behaviour

There were 46,813 recorded anti-social behaviour incidents; a reduction of 2,648 incidents compared to the previous 12 months.

The percentage of ASB victims who would be confident to report further incidents has increased to 82%.

There are, however, some neighbourhoods where there are still concerns and we need to continue focusing our efforts on why this is the case, how we can put a stop to unwanted behaviours and crucially, how we can prevent them from happening again.

Right now we have to keep a watchful eye on our ASB data so that we can fully understand the impact the Coronavirus pandemic has had and how things are taking shape in the months that lie ahead. The changes in people's movements and activities will have undoubtedly impacted the opportunities available for potential offenders to commit some types of anti-social behaviour. The breaching of imposed restrictions and increased time in the home will have led to other figures like nuisance noise growing.

## Improving Lives

Strong communities help police prevent and fight crime, and I'm proud to have continued to support good causes with the Community Fund.

In 2019/20 £100,000 was made available with the focus being tackling hate crime, reducing anti-social behaviour and increasing community confidence. Projects I have backed include:

- Sunderland Bangladesh International Centre offering information, advice and guidance to individuals on issues of crime/reporting alongside community events designed to improve relations with the police
- Killingworth Community Consortium opened a youth café that allows young people a safe place where they can socialise and enjoy structured activities. Within the Youth Café young people are made aware of the impact and effects of anti-social behaviour on the community.
- Whitley Bay and Jesmond Street Pastors were each awarded £1600 to assist them in their work to help and support vulnerable people in the night time economy with increased recruitment of volunteers and extra patrols during key times such as events and bank holidays.

My Supporting Victims Fund continues to strengthen the overall offer of support to victims in Northumbria and improve the scope of specialist services available to our most vulnerable and priority victims.

To ensure that our region's victims access a smooth, efficient and appropriate service, I have continued to commission Victims First Northumbria as the primary victim support service, working closely with Northumbria Police. They are able to identify the needs of victims and refer them into one of the specialist commissioned service to provide the required support.

Overall funding has allowed the commissioning of 35 specialist services to support 17,438 victims here in Northumbria.

Alongside this work, a new neighbourhood policing model has been launched, which changed shift patterns and increased capacity for Neighbourhood Policing Teams. This has allowed officers to be more proactive in how they look after victims and target offenders. It's also led to improved satisfaction, a reduction in incidents and an overall safer feeling within the community.

## Hate Crime

In line with the national picture, we've seen hate crime rise over the last year. Our fight against hate certainly continues and I feel more impassioned than ever to bring about positive change. Building on the over-arching theme of prevention, Northumbria Police has done some good work through the Hate Crime Tension Monitoring group, where local issues are identified and we try to step in with early intervention work to reduce further offending.

Our engagement teams have had a real focus on building their relationships with LGBTQ+, disabled, Eastern European and emerging communities. It's especially important to try and reach out to those who are perhaps uncomfortable contacting the police. This is also where our nationally acclaimed Hate Crime Champions scheme comes in. The scheme, a direct response to concerns about under-reporting, is about raising awareness of how unacceptable hate is and how, together, we can help put a stop to it. Champions are there to make getting help easier and I have ambitions to ensure we have them everywhere. Wherever you were born, whoever you worship, whoever you love – we all belong in Northumbria. I will continue to bang the drum for equality.



## Supporting Victims

Victims of crime need a criminal justice system that works for them, and that's my aim when chairing the Local Criminal Justice Board.

The criminal justice system is complex and involves a number of agencies, none of whom have sole responsibility for the whole system, end to end. Partnership working is therefore key to making a difference and it is the job of the board to bring together key agencies who can work together to improve the whole system.

We don't underestimate the scale of this challenge. All partner agencies continue to operate in a climate of reduced resources but increased demand and during the latter part of this year everyone had to respond to developing COVID-19 pandemic which has had a significant impact on all areas of our lives including the criminal justice system. Partnership working is therefore key to delivering our vision and as a partnership, we fully recognise the need to work collaboratively to achieve the aims of the criminal justice system as a whole.

## Funding your police force

For 2019/20 the force received £280.659 million to fund crime fighting and public safety. The table sets out spending based on 2019/20 budget

<b>Policing Services</b>	<b>Resource Allocation</b>
Local Policing	48.1%
Public Protection	9.3%
Investigations	10.4%
Dealing with the Public	9.3%
Criminal justice Arrangements	6.0%
Intelligence	6.8%
Operational Support	5.0%
Roads Policing	2.3%
Investigative Support	2.3%
Police and Crime Commissioner	0.5%
	<b>100.0%</b>

Last year I agreed a funding plan, the medium term financial strategy, that will ensure the force is fit for the future. I backed the Chief Constable with a raft of investment measures that will see more police on the streets, new equipment for officers and the expansion of cyber-crime teams



## How your money will be spent in the coming years.

Around £4.7m has been allocated to hire additional officers to take the force above the national recruitment targets, ensuring a faster replacement of the 1,100 officers lost to the force as a result of ten years of austerity. This is on top of the £5m earmarked by Government for new Northumbria Police officers.

Additional crime fighting investment will mean the force has additional resources to prevent violent crime, take on organised crime and tackle 'County line' drugs gangs, while making sure anti-social behaviour is tackled head-on in communities.

Alongside the frontline increase comes a major new IT system update. The new technology is seen as essential if the force is to remain up to date and able to respond fast to emerging incidents. Around £3m will be used for more skills training and specialists staff alongside the complete overhaul of the force's outdated IT system.

The latest force budget also includes a £600,000 increase in the cyber-crime and fraud section.

This additional investment package comes on top of the day to day budget funds available to meet policing requirements

I have also agreed a £16m investment package in vehicles and equipment, including body armour, body-worn video and Tasers.

## Contact details

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## **POLICE AND CRIME PANEL**

**11<sup>th</sup> August 2020**

### **POLICE AND CRIME COMMISSIONER REPORT**

#### **AUGUST 2020**

A lot has changed since the last time the panel met, but I want to set out in this report how my office's commitment to fighting and preventing crime has not lessened. We have faced short to medium term challenges of an unprecedented nature, as well as the longer term risk now facing our region. I will go over those in this report, but first I want to put on record my thanks to the police officers and staff who demonstrate on a daily basis their dedication to keeping us safe. They have worked with the public to help reduce the spread of this deadly virus, and my thanks go out to them.

#### **1) Preventing Crime**

##### **Violence Reduction Unit**

The second phase of my Violence Reduction Unit is now underway. Phase 2 of the Northumbria VRU will run until end of March 2021, and my team will focus on four priority areas: connecting communities, reduce offending, working with families and youth diversion.

Even in the short timescale that the unit has been in operation, the landscape has changed drastically and we must respond to that. We are confident that through these four areas, along with our delivery partners, we can support our communities and respond to any spike in crime.

Along with the launch of this phase of work, I am conducting a regional consultation with young people aged 14-25 that is seeking their views on lockdown, the impact of it, and what services may be required to support them as they transition back to school later in the year, I will update the panel on my learning from this at a future meeting.

Serious violent crime is currently at the lowest level across Northumbria since before 2018, and whilst lockdown has clearly contributed to this, it had been reducing prior to the measures being implemented.

My worry now is that young people will suffer the brunt of the economic fallout from the pandemic, and that their long-term opportunities may be impacted on as a result.

Since the last police and crime panel the IPPR think tank has warned that the number of unemployed young people in the UK is set to become the highest on record. Unemployment goes hand in hand with high crime rates, and while organisations regionally need to do everything possible to support young people and ensure they have opportunities, the Government needs to act fast and address the bigger picture as part of its upcoming spending review.

That includes the need for the Government to give VRUs longterm funding certainty. We cannot continue with the ad-hoc funding nature that sees these units handed one-off annual funds on the whim of a minister.

The first quarter of Phase 2 has been a useful reminder of just why we need VRUs.

In youth diversion projects, for example, giving young people at risk of crime an alternative, the team is currently working with 67 young people, despite Covid-19, using one to one mentoring of those who could well be tempted to carry a knife or use violence on others.

Of those 67, the Foundation of Light is helping 21 and the Newcastle United Foundation 46.

Our reducing offending stream is another great example of where work has been ongoing despite the impact of the Coronavirus. Last month I took part in a socially distanced visit to the team at Junction 42, in Newcastle. I'm funding this charity to work with 30 ex-offenders on a 1:1 basis to improve health, well-being, training and employability needs. A good job is the best tool our region has in the fight against crime, and it's great to see work ongoing here.

With many visits to key projects cancelled, I have hosted monthly calls that have brought projects together to understand the new challenges faced, how organisations have redeployed their services to support the changing needs of their communities and how we can work as a region to support one another.

Through these sessions we have been able to engage a large number of partners, speak directly to service users and young people, and help plan our response for the post-lockdown period – it has been fantastic to see the direct impact we have been able to make through our emergency funding in these challenging times.

## **2) Fighting Crime**

### **Recruitment**

I am pleased to say we have more than 200 new officers in uniform since the start of the Coronavirus lockdown.

Last month myself and the Chief Constable welcomed the latest of these, 52 student officers, into the Force. Their arrival means a total of 217 new recruits have joined since lockdown was announced on March 23, as part of the ongoing recruitment campaign to increase the number of officers across the area.

Due to Coronavirus, special measures have been put in place to allow training to go-ahead, with an increased emphasis on digital and virtual learning. The latest recruits have joined the Graduate Initial Police Learning & Development Programme. This is a bespoke two-year programme, open to student officers who already hold a degree and will be focusing their development in an investigative role whilst working towards the Level 3 Policing Diploma.

Our police officer numbers are growing and growing and the more we have in their uniforms out on our streets, the better. This is what people want to see, especially when the Force has been hit hard by a decade of austerity. We are doing everything in our power to invest and build the force back up – to make people feel safe and keep crime down.

### **Tackling burglary**

Northumbria Police has a great track record on tackling burglary and neighbourhood crime, and the force continues to prioritise this. It was disappointing then to see the Home Office refuse to back our crime reduction plans in a recent funding bid. None of the Government's £25m Safer Streets fund was awarded to Northumbria in the recent bidding process. My office worked with the force and Sunderland City Council on a bid for more than £800,000 in burglary prevention funding, including a primary bid to support households in Hendon and a

secondary bid covering the New Town area of Houghton. This funding would have paid for CCTV, anti-burglary kits and lane gates among other preventative measures.

I am awaiting further feedback on the bid from the Home Office but informal feedback so far indicates the Home Office did not wish to support the hiring of a Community Development worker designed to bring about long-term changes in crime rates. I fundamentally disagree with any Government minister who says you can solve crime just with physical infrastructure. Our neighbourhoods need trained professionals supporting them, including police officers, police staff and council officers on the ground helping out.

### **3) Improving Lives**

Over the last few months many visits to partner organisations, support services and community groups, planned prior to Covid-19, have had to be pushed back in accordance with safety regulations. Despite this, the office has continually been in dialogue with these key contacts, providing support where we can. Although the face-to-face meets have been unable to take place, our digital communications have certainly filled the gap.

We've brought organisations together on Zoom calls, for example, we've hosted online meetings with domestic abuse support services from across the region. This was to ensure a collective response to the impact of the virus and pull together a campaign to encourage bystanders of domestic abuse to report concerns. We've also focused our efforts on ensuring local charity organisations have been able to continue their vital work during the pandemic, or if not possible, help make sure they're in a position to safely re-open with the easing of restrictions. Central to this has been our Coronavirus Response Fund. I wanted to set up this fund to allow organisations to increase their capacity during this time of great need, or help them to reach out to people offering support in innovative new ways. Funding has largely helped resource a shift to online chat and support services to allow organisations to keep as connected as possible with those who are isolated and vulnerable. From helping organisations like Streetwise in Newcastle provide PPE to all young people attending their programme of summer activities to supporting the work of Key Project in South Tyneside, which has acquired new properties to help homeless people and families at breaking point, we've been pleased to make a positive difference where we can.

With the easing of restrictions and the gradual return to a new sense of normal, visits where safe to do so are beginning to resume. I'm looking forward to seeing first-hand some of the excellent work that's been happening, the resilience that's been shown throughout our region and discussing plans to see us through this important time of recovery and how my office and the Violence Reduction Unit can help.

### **Protecting Places of Worship**

In June 2020, I responded to a Home Office public consultation to provide insight into key issues affecting faith communities and their places of worship. I encouraged members of my 'faith' advisory panel and local faith groups to respond with their thoughts.

Tackling hate crime is of vital importance so I welcomed the opportunity to examine our current provision across Northumbria, how well it's working and how we can best enhance that protection in the future. I am committed to working with Northumbria Police to make sure faith communities feel heard and have the confidence to report any incidents of hate crime, particularly those that target places of worship.

Over the past five years there has been an increase in religious hate crime in Northumbria, specifically targeting Muslim and Jewish communities and this mirrors the picture nationally. Whilst it is acknowledged that hate crime is often underreported, I believe there has been a significant improvement in how Northumbria Police record hate crime and a better understanding among officers about what constitutes a hate crime and the additional support that can be provided to victims of such crimes.

### **Independent Sexual Violence Advisors**

In January 2020 the Ministry of Justice wrote to Police and Crime Commissioners to inform them that an additional £1 million will be invested in recruiting Independent Sexual Violence Advisors. I'm delighted to say that we received notification in July 2020 that we were successful in our bid for £70,193 to fund a LGBTQ+ specialist advisor until March 2022. This new post will sit within Victims First Northumbria, adding capacity to the existing sexual violence advisors team, as well as taking a lead on supporting LGBTQ+ identifying clients who may face additional barriers to accessing support.

### **Independent Custody Visitors**

Our Independent Custody Visitors play an important role in ensuring that those detained in Northumbria Police custody are well looked after with their rights and entitlements upheld. Detainees are visited in person, and during the ongoing Covid-19 pandemic we have adapted our way of working to ensure monitoring and scrutiny could continue safely.

I want to thank two volunteers who during this time have attended Forth Banks custody suite on a fortnightly basis to undertake custody record checks. These checks are not held face-to-face and take place outside of the custody suite to reduce any virus-related risks.

The custody visitors are provided with a questionnaire produced by the Independent Custody Visiting Association which allows visitors to check on the welfare and rights detainees receive. This includes the provision of PPE, Covid arrangements in custody and access to healthcare. In addition I receive a regular update to my Scrutiny meeting in respect of custody from Northumbria Police.

In a recent visit the custody visitors highlighted the time taken for a local authority to provide an appropriate adult for a youth detained in custody. Northumbria Police has held a meeting with all local authority youth leads to try and address time issues and ensure juvenile detainees are only held in custody for the minimal amount of time. A decision on whether to resume custody visiting in person will be made in the coming weeks to ensure the safety of our volunteers.

## **4) Upcoming issues**

### **Developing the Coronavirus response**

Our region continues to adapt to the changes presented by the pandemic and the return to a "new normal", and I have continued to support those efforts and the work of our police force.

The force continues with its new operating model, and is well positioned to respond to further changes thought the recovery phase. Remote, agile and home-working approaches have been enhanced or introduced where possible for police staff.

Since the last Police and Crime Panel the night-time economy has returned to the north east as bars and pubs reopen, and clearly this will have a gradual impact on crime levels as

people head to city and town centres on an evening. Many other regular features of daily life are returning, albeit in a socially distanced way, and it is clear that the reduction we have seen in some areas will slowly change.

Another aspect of the new normal we need to prepare for is the impact of tourism across our region, especially in Northumberland.

It is likely we will see an increase in domestic tourism over the coming 12 months, with people much more likely to spend their holidays in the UK. The North East has a vast amount to offer tourists, and I suspect we will become even more popular, with some of our Northumberland beaches, the UK's hidden gems in many cases, becoming busier I am confident this will be growth that happens in a responsible fashion, but it is worth mentioning that this will put extra pressure in local resources.

For example, as well as its own unique offering, Northumberland is also a major access route to Scotland, and any increase in tourism either to our region or north of the border will likely lead to significant pressure on the road network, where much of the A1 is a single carriageway.

Again, I do not see this as a major crime issue, we are a region that proudly welcomes tourists, but it will present a resource management issue which I am confident the force will be planning for.

## **Supporting victims of domestic abuse**

The Coronavirus pandemic has had a huge impact on victims across Northumbria, especially victims of domestic abuse. Recognising the need to provide additional support to these victims we successfully secured funding from the Home Office and the Ministry of Justice to commission specialist services to help them cater for increased victim needs.

We successfully bid for and received £120,000 from the Home Office Children Affected by Domestic Abuse fund to help six currently commissioned organisations continue providing vital support for children and young people who have been impacted by domestic abuse during the Covid-19 pandemic. As the pandemic has required organisations to adapt the way they work and has led to an increase in domestic abuse, this fund is about providing organisations with the resources they need to carry out their services in a socially distant way and to ensure they have enough staffing capacity to meet demand.

We successfully bid for and received £499,687 from the MOJ Covid-19 Extraordinary Funding to help 28 new and currently commissioned services that provide vital support to victims and survivors of domestic and sexual violence to continue to ensure that their services are readily available and safely accessible during the current pandemic.

## **Review of PCCs**

Last month the Home Office announced a review into the role of Police and Crime Commissioners. The review does not propose ending the roles or reducing the number of police forces in England and Wales.

The review will be carried out in two parts, before and after next year's PCC elections.

Part one will report to the Home Secretary by October 2020 and will be focussed on changes required to strengthen the model which, where possible, can be delivered ahead of the 2021 PCC elections.

In particular, it will: consider how to strengthen the accountability, resilience, legitimacy and scrutiny mechanisms of the existing model to drive up standards; identify and share best practice across the sector; and examine the effectiveness of the relationship between PCCs and Chief Constables and the checks and balances currently in place.

The Government has said it will also use part one of the review to help us map out our longer-term ambition for the expansion of the PCC role.

In relation to Fire and Rescue Services, the Government has said that further reform of these services is required in order to respond to the recommendations from Phase 1 of the Grenfell Tower Inquiry and to build on the findings from Sir Tom Winsor's State of Fire and Rescue Report. The review will consider further options and opportunities to strengthen fire governance and accountability, drawing on the lessons from the first cycle of fire governance transfers to PCCs. These Fire Authority changes are not proposed by my office, and I personally think the current oversight arrangements in Northumberland and Tyne and Wear are well established and provide a good service. But the Government has clearly indicated it is prepared to make the changes in line with its own priorities.

Part two of the review will commence after the 2021 elections and will allow the Government to consider further ways to strengthen and expand the role of PCCs, including the role PCCs play in tackling re-offending to help reduce crime. It will focus on longer-term reforms and the potential for wider efficiencies to be made within the system with a view to implementation ahead of the 2024 elections.

#### **Keeping in contact:**

I have committed to keeping partners and constituents updated about my work by producing a monthly newsletter. This will be emailed to people and uploaded on my website. It is always good to hear your thoughts at panel meetings, if you would like to contact me between panel meetings, I can be contacted the following ways –

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