

NORTHUMBRIA POLICE AND CRIME PANEL AGENDA

Tuesday, 16 March 2021 at 2.00 pm

Meeting to be held virtually

From the Clerk, Sheena Ramsey

Item	Business
1.	Apologies
2.	Minutes <ul style="list-style-type: none">(i) The Panel is asked to approve the minutes of the last meeting held on 2 February 2021 (attached).(ii) Minutes of the Appointment Panel for the Independent Members of the Panel held on 9 March 2021 (attached).
3.	Feedback from National and Regional Events <p>Members are asked to give feedback on issues relevant to the Panel.</p>
4.	Themed Report - Communications Department - Call Handling <p>Presentation by Assistant Chief Constable Scott Young</p>
5.	Complaints Against the Police and Crime Commissioner <p>Report of the Chief of Staff and Monitoring Officer (attached).</p>
6.	Delivery of the Police and Crime Plan - Quarterly Performance Report - October - December 2020 <p>Report of the PCC (attached).</p>
7.	Police and Crime Commissioner Update Report <p>Report of the PCC (attached)</p>

8. **Schedule of Meetings 2021/22**

Tuesday, 1 June 2021 at 2.00pm
Tuesday, 27 July 2021 at 2.00pm
Tuesday, 19 October 2021 at 2.00pm
Tuesday, 7 December 2021 at 2.00pm
Tuesday, 1 February 2022 at 2.00pm
Tuesday, 15 March 2022 at 2.00pm

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NORTHUMBRIA POLICE AND CRIME PANEL

Virtual Meeting held on 2 February 2021

PRESENT:

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

ALSO IN ATTENDANCE:

Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner for Northumbria

K McGuinness	- Police and Crime Commissioner for Northumbria
R Durham	- Chief of Staff and Monitoring Officer
M Tait	- Chief Finance Officer
A Pearson	- Director of Planning and Delivery

Gateshead Council

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

APOLOGY: Councillor J Riddle (Northumberland County Council)

36. MINUTES

RESOLVED - That the minutes of the last meeting held on 8 December 2020 be approved as a correct record.

37. FEEDBACK FROM NATIONAL AND REGIONAL EVENTS

Councillor Welsh gave an update on the National Association of Police Fire and Crime Panels.

RESOLVED – That the information be noted.

38. COMPLAINTS PROTOCOL

In accordance with the Elected Local Policing Bodies (Complaints and Misconduct) Regulations 2012 and accompanying Home Office Guidance, the Panel is responsible for handling non-criminal complaints against the Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC) and criminal complaints and conduct matters referred back to it by the Independent Office for Police Conduct. The only complaints that fall within the remit of the Panel are those which involve the personal conduct of the PCC.

The Panel has delegated part of its duties and powers under the Regulations to the PCC's Chief of Staff and Monitoring Officer. The Panel continue to have overall responsibility for complaints against the PCC and the Chief of Staff is required to report to the Panel on the use of the delegation.

Whilst the process has generally worked well and is regularly monitored by the Panel, it is recommended that the Panel agree a protocol on the management of unreasonable complainant behaviour as outlined.

The Panel raised the following issue:-

The proposed protocol was welcomed and it will be very useful for the Panel and the Chief of Staff when dealing with unreasonable complaint behaviour.

- RESOLVED -
- (i) That the unreasonable complainant behaviour protocol as outlined be agreed.
 - (ii) That the delegation to the Chief of Staff include the application of the unreasonable complainant behaviour protocol.

39. DRAFT POLICE AND CRIME PLAN 2021-25

The PCC's draft Police and Crime Plan 2021- 2025, which included the statutory requirements outlined in the Police and Reform and Social Responsibility Act 2011, chapter 3, section 7, was submitted.

The Panel's role is to review the draft Police and Crime Plan and make a report and recommendations to the PCC.

The Police and Crime Plan must include:

- The PCC's police and crime objectives
- The policing the Chief Constable is to provide
- The financial and other resources the PCC will make available to the Chief Constable to provide policing
- How the Chief Constable will report to the PCC about policing
- How the Chief Constable's performance will be measured
- Information about any crime and disorder reduction grants to be made by the PCC and any conditions made.

Public consultation has been undertaken through a variety of methods to allow for maximum inclusion despite the Covid-19 pandemic's social distancing restrictions

and lockdown rules. The views of nearly 6,000 individuals and organisations were collected by virtual means including survey, telephone consultation, social media campaign, focus groups, online question and answer panels and partner meetings. This was supported by extensive news media press releases and qualitative research via online engagement. Information on Open Labs work with the PCC will be presented to a future Panel meeting. In order to involve those without access to the internet, the PCC wrote to 100,000 households explaining how to take part in the survey, including by phone.

The localised data profiles will allow the PCC to ensure a more targeted and evidence-based approach to focus work in the areas with most need.

Over 1,600 young people were involved with the PCC's youth specific survey and the data will help deliver impactful interventions to the most in need communities.

Partner organisations completed the initial public survey and 135 written responses were provided by key organisations on their more detailed thoughts on policing. All key organisations were supportive of the draft Police and Crime Plan and its priorities, with some raising issues to be added.

Community Safety Partnerships, the PCC Advisory Groups and Victims Panel and the Police and Crime Panel have all been involved in the consultation process as outlined.

The Police and Crime Plan's links with the Northumbria Police performance framework, Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary and Fire and Rescue Services inspection findings, Northumbria Police Strategic Assessment/Force Management Statement, National Policing Vision and Strategic Policing Requirement and Victim services funding priorities were outlined.

The proposed Police and Crime Plan Priorities included in the draft plan were supported by the findings of the consultation exercise. This included support for a renewed emphasis on targeting criminals and those who commit anti-social behaviour, a preventative approach to crime fighting and for a continued focus on tackling domestic abuse and supporting victims of sexual violence.

The Panel raised the following issues:-

The draft Police and Crime Plan was an excellent detailed plan that covered a lot of areas. A good consultation exercise had been undertaken and the emphasis on anti-social behaviour and supporting victims was welcomed. The PCC confirmed that those affected by anti-social behaviour would be part of the wider work and support for victims.

The comprehensive plan covered a number of important areas including anti-social behaviour, and roads policing and speeding which were becoming increasing problems in Council estates. The PCC replied that this was a deliberate focus on preventative work to address particular issues.

The fluid plan was a good basis for the future which was not known. The focus on fighting and preventing crime was welcomed. It was suggested that political bias and comments against the Government should be left out of the agreed Police and Crime Plan and only relevant information and points included. Two Members replied

that because of the Government's policy on the funding of policing, it was difficult for this not to be a political issue and the effects of the force's budget cuts on its workforce, buildings, etc were outlined. The PCC stated that the plan was a forward-facing document for the future, the £140m cut in funding could not be overlooked and the Panel was considering the final draft of the Plan.

- RESOLVED -
- (i) That a report be issued by the Panel to the PCC that it has noted and commented upon the contents of the plan and supported its objectives.
 - (ii) That the Panel will give support to the PCC and the Chief Constable to deliver the plan over the next four years.
 - (iii) That information on Open Labs work with the PCC be presented at a future Panel meeting.

40. PROPOSED PRECEPT FOR 2021/22

In accordance with the Police and Crime Panels (Precepts and Chief Constable Appointments) Regulations 2012, the PCC notified the Panel of the proposed 2021/22 Council Tax precept.

The proposed 2021/22 revenue budget and capital programme and a review of the 2020/21 budget position were submitted.

The Government will allow PCCs to increase precepts by a maximum of £15 per household, equivalent to 10.95% in Northumbria in 2021/22. However, the PCC is mindful of the financial challenge for many households in the last year. The PCC's proposal for 2021/22 is, therefore, to increase the precept by 4.99% (which equates to £6.84 per year for a Band D property). This will allow for an additional and recurring £2.708m to resources.

In order to address the increase in demand and complexity of investigations and to improve the quality of investigations, the Council Tax precept will be used to deliver an additional 60 police officer investigator posts in 2021/22, over and above existing recruitment plans and the uplift target set by the Government.

The PCC reported on the consultation on the proposed precept for 2021/22 that had been undertaken and 76% of respondents agreed they would support a 4.99% increase to the Council Tax precept.

The Panel raised the following issues:-

It was considered that funding the police service on a year to year basis was not adequate. The provision of funding on a longer term basis was required to enable future planning and funding arrangements for the police to tackle and prevent crime to be made.

Northumbria is the sixth largest force but has the lowest precept in the country. Whilst the PPC's proposed 4.99% increase in the 2021/22 precept was supported, Northumbria should not fall further behind other areas and consideration should be given to moving from the lowest precept in the future.

The PCC was making the best choice she could to increase the 2021/22 precept by 4.99%. The Government should be increasing police funding and not making the local communities have to pay more.

RESOLVED - That a report be issued by the Panel to the PCC that it accepts the PCC's proposed 4.99% precept increase which equates to £6.84 per year for a band D property.

41. DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING

Tuesday, 16 March 2021 at 2.00pm

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NORTHUMBRIA POLICE AND CRIME PANEL

APPOINTMENT PANEL

9 MARCH 2021

PRESENT: Councillor A Douglas (Chair)
Councillors C Penny-Evans and P Stewart

ALSO IN ATTENDANCE:

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

**1. APPOINTMENT OF INDEPENDENT MEMBERS OF THE NORTHUMBRIA
POLICE AND CRIME PANEL**

In accordance with the appointment process previously agreed by the Panel, four applicants for the Independent Member positions were interviewed by the Appointment Panel on 9 March 2021.

RESOLVED - That the Police and Crime Panel be recommended to confirm the appointment of Jonathan Klajn and Andrew Shepherd as Independent Members of the Panel from 1 April 2021.

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REPORT TO THE POLICE AND CRIME PANEL

16th MARCH 2021

REPORT OF THE CHIEF OF STAFF AND MONITORING OFFICER

COMPLAINTS AGAINST THE POLICE AND CRIME COMMISSIONER – DECEMBER 2020 to MARCH 2021

1. Purpose of the Report

- 1.1 To provide the Police and Crime Panel with a report about the complaints and purported complaints received and every conduct matter recorded by the Monitoring Officer between December 2020 and March 2021

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.
- 2.5 There were four complaints received between December 2020 and March 2021 and the report provides an update on complaint previously reported to the Panel.

Received	Nature of Complaint	Recorded / Action Taken
<p>12th November 2020 (previously reported to panel 8.12.20)</p> <p>Also 5th February 2021</p>	<p>Made Criminal allegations that the OPCC had not dealt with their subject access request properly.</p> <p>Made Criminal allegations against the Police and Crime Commissioner following the outcome of a review decision (the statutory appeal mechanism for people dissatisfied with the way a complaint has been handled by a Police Force)</p>	<p>Referred to IOPC. The IOPC have responded and are satisfied that the complainant had been provided with an explanation by the OPCC, who provided justification for any reasonable doubts they had which meant they required identification, which the complainant was informed of, as well as their right to raise a complaint with the ICO.</p> <p>NOT UPHELD</p> <p>The review process is delegated to the PCC's Director for Confidence, Standards and Statutory Reviews. The review decision is final and there is no right of appeal – the only option available is a judicial review.</p> <p>NOT UPHELD</p>
<p>29th November 2020/</p> <p>Also 11th February 2021.</p>	<p>Continuation of previous complaints over a number of years.</p> <p>Continuation of previous complaints over a number of years,</p>	<p>Following dissatisfaction with a response from Northumbria Police Professional Standards Department the complainant aimed to advance their complaint through a different route.</p> <p>Response letter agreed with Gateshead Council NOT UPHELD .</p> <p>Following dissatisfaction with a response to a complaint against the Chief Constable the complainant aimed to advance their complaint through a</p>

Received	Nature of Complaint	Recorded / Action Taken
		different route. NOT UPHELD
12 th February 2021	<p>Complaint that an FOI was not answered properly by the OPCC. The complainant was advised that the OPCC does not hold the information and to contact the Local Authority.</p> <p>Subsequently the complainant responded that the Local Authority had not responded and made a complaint against the PCC.</p>	<p>The complainant was advised of the action to be taken, that the PCC has no remit in respect of FOI requests to local authorities and if they want to report a crime to contact Northumbria Police.</p> <p>NOT UPHELD</p>

3 Recommendation

3.1 Members are asked to note the report.

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POLICE & CRIME PLAN

QUARTERLY PERFORMANCE REPORT

Building safer communities and effective justice

Quarter 3 – October to December 2020

Contents	Pages
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Note on the Operating Environment Q3 2020

Throughout Q3 the COVID-19 pandemic has continued to have an impact. Changes in restrictions during the quarter resulted in changes to demand and the policing response. As with the Q1 and Q2 updates, where applicable, any impacts will be noted under the appropriate sections.

1. Putting Victims First

Contact Management

- 1.1 The total number of 999 and 101 non-emergency calls has reduced by 13% in the period October to December 2020 compared to the same period the previous year (124,326 compared to 143,690).
- 1.2 The number of emergency (999) calls reduced by 13% (52,426 compared to 60,437), with 100% of calls answered and 90% answered within the call handling standards of 10 seconds (compared to 87% in Q3 2019/20).
- 1.3 The number of 101 non-emergency calls reduced by 14% (71,900 compared to 83,253), with 95% of calls answered (compared to 90% in Q3 2019/20). 78% of 101 non-emergency calls were answered within the call handling standards of 60 seconds. 90% of calls were answered within 2 minutes 40 seconds; an improvement from 3 minutes 30 seconds in Q2 when demand was higher, and similar to performance in Q1 (2 minutes 30 seconds).
- 1.4 There have been improvements in all emergency and 101 non-emergency call handling measures across a rolling 12 month period, seen more evidently during periods of lower demand, due to COVID-19 restrictions, in Q1 and Q3. Call demand over the past 12 months has been lower than typical demand, with an overall 17% reduction in all calls received (157,792 fewer contacts 999 and all 101).
- 1.5 Whilst there has been a reduction in call demand, it should be noted that this has not translated into a reduction in incident demand. Grade 1 and 2 incident volumes have increased slightly when comparing Q3 2019/20 to Q3 2020/21 (43,528 and 43,923 respectively).

Table 1 – Call demand

	Q3 2019/20	Q3 2020/21	Variance
Emergency Calls – 999	60,437	52,426	-13% (8,011)
Non-Emergency Calls – 101	83,253	71,900	-14% (11,353)

- 1.6 The Modernising Public Contact Project is considering the future set-up, structure and resourcing for the communications department. The project aims to better service demand, as well as improve customer experience for both Direct and Digital Contact¹. Anticipated outcomes from the project include:
 - Improved alignment of capacity to demand to increase efficiency and reduce overtime.
 - Improved first time call resolution.
 - Introduction of protected learning within Communications.
 - Increase digital engagement.
 - Delivery of social media reporting capability.

¹ Direct Contact includes; Telephone, SMS, Webchat. Digital Contact includes; Social Media, Online Reporting, Email.

- Improved systems capability, including management of SMS, on-line forms and social media reporting.
- 1.7 For the period October to December 2020, approximately 8% of contact was digital i.e. where an individual has used digital means to report an incident or tell us something. The number of digital contacts per day has increased from 62 (2% of contact) prior to COVID-19, to an average of 193 contacts per day in quarter 2 and 167 contacts per day in quarter 3. 92% of people who used the on-line form to make a report were satisfied with using the platform.

Responding to Incidents

- 1.8 The percentage of grade 1 incidents (urban) responded within the threshold reduced from 66% in Q3 2019 to 64% in Q3 2020, whilst the response to grade 1 incidents (rural) reduced from 76% to 73%. Despite this decrease in Q3, performance for the rolling 12 month period has improved, with 68% of grade 1 urban incidents responded to within 10 minutes compared to 65% in the previous 12 months. The response to grade 2 incidents within threshold increased from 68% to 73%.
- 1.9 The 90th percentile response rate for both grade 1(urban) and 2 incidents has improved from 15 minutes 33 seconds to 15 minutes 20 seconds for grade 1 urban and 2 hours 49 minutes to 2 hours 19 minutes for grade 2.
- 1.10 The interim Response Policing Team shift pattern, introduced at the end of March 2020 when COVID-19 lockdown commenced, was reviewed in October 2020 to ensure that it remained appropriate. The review recommended RPT remaining on the interim pattern until September 2021 with small amendments in February 2021 to stagger start times to ensure overlaps at handover times.

Assessing Vulnerability

- 1.11 THRIVE (Threat, Harm, Risk, Investigation, Vulnerability, Engagement) is a process used to assess the threat of any situation to develop a working strategy or develop a desirable solution to the problem. Calls are sampled to assess the application of THRIVE. Results for the period June to August 2020 identified that 89% of calls were correctly assessed for Threat, Harm, Risk and Vulnerability, with rationale recorded. In 97% of calls the contact handler reassured the caller, and in 91% of calls they were allocated the most appropriate response.
- 1.12 A sample of incidents from February 2020 was reviewed to assess how risk is managed from initial call through to allocation for investigation. The assessment identified some areas for improvement and a series of actions were implemented as a result. A further sample from September 2020 has been reviewed to assess progress. The assessment identified that, whilst the footprint on logs had increased, a number still did not demonstrate sufficient rationale and risk management.
- 1.13 A number of activities have been implemented in response, including:
- A working group established to deliver THRIVE action plan.
 - Introduction of an Interim Risk Management Desk to ensure vulnerable grade 2 callers are subject to frequent risk review.
 - Ongoing development of the THRIVE tracker to allow for regular performance management.

- A further THRIVE review to commence at the end of February 2021.

Victim Satisfaction

1.14 There has been a moderate improvement in whole experience satisfaction during 2020, although the increase is not statistically significant. Satisfaction with the policing response for initial contact and treatment remains high, and is meeting the thresholds of 95% and 90%, respectively. Satisfaction with response times is also meeting the threshold, with victims reporting that they are satisfied with response times and the time within which an officer was able to deal with their incident. There has also been a small improvement with satisfaction for action taken; however, satisfaction remains below the threshold of 85%. Satisfaction with follow-up remains well below the 85% threshold, with 66% of volume crime victims feeling satisfied with how they were kept updated by police. The Force is developing a means of automating updates and reminders for officers to raise the standard of follow-up communication with victims in line with the VCOP.

Table 2 – Percentage of crime victims satisfied with the policing response provided

Satisfaction	12 months to December 2019	12 months to December 2020
Initial Contact	96%	95%
Response Time	88%	90%
Action Taken	79%	81%
Follow-up	66%	66%
Treatment	93%	93%

2. Reducing Anti-Social Behaviour

Anti-Social Behaviour Incidents

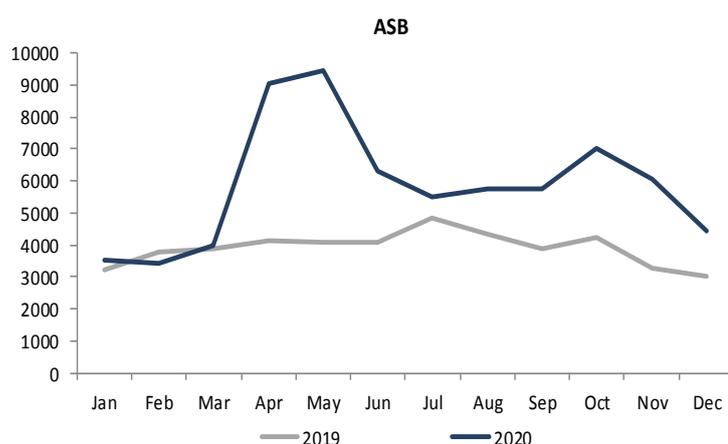
- 2.1 The number of anti-social behaviour (ASB) incidents has increased by 66% for the period October to December 2020 compared to the previous year (+6,924 incidents), primarily due to the National Police Chiefs' Council's direction in April 2020 to all forces to record all COVID-19 related incidents as ASB. There is a further anticipated increase in ASB incidents as a result of the most recent national lockdown.
- 2.2 There has been an 11% increase in ASB (excluding COVID-19 incidents) in the period October to December 2020 compared to the same period the previous year (from 10,552 to 11,671 incidents). National restrictions are likely to have had an effect on this, with the majority of these incidents being in relation to neighbourhood/noise issues. It should be noted that this looks particularly stark when comparing this quarter to the same period in the previous year, as there is generally a seasonal reduction in ASB incidents in Q3 and whilst the overall volume is up the trend has followed the usual seasonal downturn (see graph below).

Table 3 – Total ASB incident and COVID-19 related ASB

	Q3 2019/20	Q3 2020/21	Variance
Total anti-social behaviour incidents	10,552	17,476	+66% (3,660)
(Of which) COVID –19 related ASB	n/a	5,805	

Table 3a – ASB incidents by Youth and Non-Youth

	Q3 2019/20	Q3 2020/21	Variance
Youth anti-social behaviour incidents	2,441	2,875	+18% (434)
Non-youth anti-social behaviour incidents	8,111	14,601	+80% (6,490)



Perceptions of ASB

- 2.3 In the 12 months to December, 22% of people felt that ASB was a very or fairly big problem in their neighbourhood. This a small increase on the previous period, although the change is not

statistically significant. Free text comments indicate youth ASB, trouble with neighbours and motorbikes (mini-motors/off-road bikes) are common concerns.

Victim Satisfaction

- 2.4 The percentage of ASB victims satisfied with the service as a whole remains stable at 79%. Satisfaction with initial contact has increased significantly and exceeded the threshold. There have been improvements in response time, action taken and follow-up satisfaction, although these changes are not statically significant. These improvements have brought satisfaction for response time and action taken in-line with the thresholds; however, follow-up performance remains an area for improvement. Satisfaction with treatment remains high and above the threshold. Notably, over 90% of survey participants felt their ASB report had been taken seriously. The percentage of ASB victims who are confident to report further incidents to the police has stayed consistent (81%). However, the percentage of long term ASB victims who experienced no further incidents since their report has declined and is below the threshold of 50%.

Table 4 – Percentage of ASB victims satisfied with the policing response provided

Satisfaction	12 months to December 2019	12 months to December 2020
Initial Contact	92%	94%
Response Time	87%	90%
Action Taken	80%	84%
Follow-up	64%	69%
Treatment	94%	96%

Problem Solving

- 2.5 There is continued focus on problem solving in communities and ensuring that problem solving is part of officer training. A review is to be undertaken to assess officers’ knowledge of problem solving; this work will also consider the POP plan process and staff and officers’ use of them. Early analysis has shown that the quality of POP plans has improved. An NPT problem solving training package will commence in January 2021 and will run until the end of April 2021.

3 Cutting Crime

Recorded Crime

- 3.1 Total recorded crime has reduced by 11% in the 12 months to December 2020; equivalent to 17,091 fewer crimes recorded compared to the previous 12 month period (132,693 compared to 149,784). Over the same period, volume crime has reduced by 12% (-16,801 crimes); major crime has increased by 31% (+98 crimes) and serious crime has reduced by 6% (-397 crimes). Total recorded crime has reduced in all six local authority areas.
- 3.2 The majority of crime categories have reduced for the 12 months to December 2020 compared to the previous year, with the exception of miscellaneous crimes (+17%, 319 crimes) and drug crime (+7%, 209 crimes). There are reductions in crime for many other crime categories at a local authority level. Examples of miscellaneous crimes include; taking indecent pictures, blackmail, dangerous driving, intimidating witnesses).
- 3.3 During October to December 2020 the crime picture is significantly different in many crime categories compared to the same period last year, primarily driven by the impact of COVID-19. There has been a reduction in total recorded crime, with 11% fewer crimes (-4,077 crimes) compared to the same period last year (see Table 5 – Changes in recorded crime). In particular, theft and handling reduced by 34% (-2,594 crimes), burglary fell by 17% (-329 crimes) and vehicle crime reduced by 14% (-283 crimes).
- 3.4 During Q3, crime in the night time economy (NTE) reduced by 72% (-935 crimes), when compared to the same period from the previous year. Throughout 2020 crime associated to the NTE fluctuated greatly depending on the COVID restrictions in place, with levels going from 4 per day in Q1, to 8 per day in Q2, and back to 4 per day in Q3. This compares to typical demand of approximately 14 crimes per day. It is anticipated that levels will increase again when current restrictions are eased. The force is developing a plan to address this. It has recently been announced by the government that there will be a new tranche of COVID surge funding for police. This will be used to support engagement and enforcement of COVID regulations, including working with partners to ensure the NTE operates in accordance with the regulations in place.

Table 5 – Changes in recorded crime

Crime Category	Q3 2019/20	Q3 2020/21	Percentage change
Total recorded crime	36,187	32,110	-11%
Crimes in the NTE	1,306	371	-72%
Violence against person	11,938	11,662	-2%
Sexual offences	1,070	1,012	-5%
Burglary	1,932	1,603	-17%
Theft and handling	7,738	5,144	-34%
Vehicle crime	1,956	1,673	-14%
Criminal damage	5,659	5,273	-7%
Other (including drugs, public	5,894	5,743	-3%

disorder and miscellaneous)			
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Resolved Rate

3.5 The resolved rate for total recorded crime remains at 16%; this is consistent with the previous year. For the 12 months to December 2020 the resolved rate for serious crime has improved by 2 percentage points to 20% and for sexual offences it has improved by 4 percentage points to 16%. Data to October 2020, the most recently available data for national comparison, where a suspect is identified, 30% of crimes result in a positive outcome, which is in-line with the national average of 30%.

Hate Crime

3.6 Hate crime has reduced over the past quarter, following a spike over the summer period. Recorded levels of hate crime have increased by 12% in the 12 months to December 2020 compared to the previous period (3,209 crimes compared to 2,864 crimes). A hate crime training package was rolled out in September 2020 to all front line officers with the aim to improve officers’ awareness of hate crime and the impact that this type of crime has on victims.

Victim Satisfaction – Hate Crime

3.7 Satisfaction with the whole experience for victims of hate crime remains stable at 83%. None of the changes in hate crime satisfaction are statistically significant. Follow-up and action taken performance continue to be areas for improvement; these aspects of performance fall below the threshold. Communication is a key component of satisfaction for action taken and follow-up. Respondents satisfied with the action taken recalled receiving thorough explanations, being listened to and feeling supported by officers. Hate crime victims that were satisfied with follow-up commented that they had regular communication with police, received updates in the form of texts and telephone calls and were kept informed throughout their report. 91% of hate crime victims have the confidence to report further incidents to police.

Table 6 – Percentage of hate crime victims satisfied with the policing response provided

Satisfaction	12 months to December 2019	12 months to December 2020
Initial Contact	95%	96%
Response Time	88%	87%
Action Taken	81%	79%
Follow-up	72%	70%
Treatment	93%	93%

4 Domestic and Sexual Abuse

Sexual Offences and Domestic Abuse

- 4.1 Sexual offences have reduced by 12.2% (-558 crimes) for the 12 months to December 2020, compared to the previous year. Similarly, but at a lesser rate, in the last quarter sexual offences have reduced by 4.6% (-48 crimes) compared to the same period the previous year, indicating that offending is returning to pre COVID-19 levels.
- 4.2 Domestic abuse incidents have increased by 4.6% (+1,725 incidents) for the 12 months to December 2020. There has been a 1% reduction (-101 incidents) in the last quarter compared to the same period the previous year. The overall increase in incidents of domestic abuse, which began in May, continued during the summer followed by a reducing trend from August to November. In December 2020, the number of domestic abuse incidents increased, which reflects historical increases at this time of year. The number of incidents in December 2020 is lower than previous years. Domestic abuse remains a key focus for the Force.

Table 7 – Recorded sexual offences and domestic abuse incidents

	Q3 2019/20	Q3 2020/21
Sexual Offences	1,069	1,005
Domestic Abuse Incidents	9,305	9,204

Victim Satisfaction

- 4.3 Satisfaction levels for domestic abuse victims remain high. There has been a statistically significant increase in satisfaction with response time. There are no other statically significant changes to satisfaction. Follow-up and action taken continue to be areas for improvement as performance in these areas are below threshold. Satisfaction with treatment remains at the threshold and 95% of domestic abuse victims feel confident to report again.

Table 8 – Percentage of domestic abuse victims satisfied with the policing response provided

Satisfaction	12 months to December 2019	12 months to December 2020
Initial Contact	99%	97%
Response Time	90%	94%
Action Taken	87%	84%
Follow-up	86%	85%
Treatment	95%	95%

- 4.4 There are a number of activities being delivered to improve performance:

Domestic Abuse

- Police and the CPS work together to improve Criminal Justice Outcomes for Domestic Abuse, this includes reviewing the effectiveness of body worn video (BWW) to support and improve all investigations and the ability to proceed with evidence led prosecutions. A recent joint review of investigations involving body worn video

was conducted which provided learning opportunities to improve outcomes for Domestic Abuse victims.

- The Joint Domestic Abuse Safeguarding and Area Command performance plan has led to:
 - Learning Panels introduced across Area Commands focused on BWV.
 - External scrutiny panels in each Area Command.

Sexual Offences

- A problem solving approach to rape repeat victimisation incorporates risk assessments and collaboration with other agencies continues. This has resulted in some positive improvements in individual circumstances.
- Training and monitoring on file quality and common errors in file submission continues with training for new sergeants joining Safeguarding teams.
- Acquittal and trial reports continue to be completed to identify any issues with adverse outcomes throughout the criminal justice process; this work will increase when trials become more prevalent and learning found will be explored further.
- Northumbria Police is to adopt responsibility for cope and recovery support agreed in principle and a consultation with Victims First Northumbria (VFN) staff/ transfer plan in place with a target completion date of 1st April. In the first instance this will be a transfer of VFN as an 'as is' model with an opportunity to increase the volume of referrals by removing the barrier of consent. This will be followed by the results of a wider service review that will introduce a new operating model encompassing improved cope and recovery, compliance with VCOP and increased support across the Criminal Justice system.
- Specific actions have been introduced to improve the level of victim contact and additional processes to maintain contact and engagement with victims as a result of additional delays in the case being heard as a result of COVID-19.

5. Effective Criminal Justice

Rape Offences

- 5.1 Whilst the rape charge rate reduced in quarter 3 the rolling 12 month position has been maintained for the last two quarters and remains at 10% for 12 months to December 2020. The Force's charge rate continues to be above the national average of 5.3% and the Force was ranked 3rd for the 12 months to November 2020.
- 5.2 The rape conviction rate has continued to improve during the 12 months to December 2020 to 73% and is now above the national average of 72%. The Force was placed 22nd nationally for the period 12 months to December 2020.
- 5.3 Overall, the Force is meeting the thresholds for all three aspects: charge, conviction and report to conviction, with charge and report to conviction rates (7.1%) above the national average (3.8%).

Domestic Abuse

- 5.4 The domestic abuse charge rate has reduced slightly from 11.6% to 11.3%, however is above the national average of 9% (2019/20). The conviction rate has improved from 73% to 74%, this compares to a national average of 79%. During the latest quarter (Q3) the force was placed 41st nationally.

Criminal Justice System

- 5.5 COVID-19 has reduced the court capacity both in the Magistrates' Court and Crown Court, with significant delays, with the volume of live cases increasing by 48% (1,475 more live cases). This is estimated to be 698 (38%) cases in the Magistrate's Court and 777 (63% in Crown Court). Whilst the back log remains high, cases are being finalised at a higher rate than incoming cases, the net effect being that some progress is being made in reducing the volume of outstanding cases. There has been a reversal with cases rising slightly over the Christmas period due to reduced court activity; however, this is expected to return to the previous pattern moving forward. Newcastle Crown Court recommenced trials in September at a lower capacity than would normally be possible; however, in recent weeks the number of outstanding Crown Court trials has started to reduce.
- 5.6 The case file failure rate continues to be lower than the national rate and work is ongoing to improve it further along with the use of Victims' Code of Practice to reduce attrition.
- 5.7 Data has been published by Ministry of Justice on First Time Entrants following a publication delay due to COVID-19; however, this latest data is only to December 2019. This shows a period on period reduction in first time entrants in the rolling 12 month periods since December 2018 (2,840 to 2,589).

Victims' Code of Practice

- 5.8 There is an ongoing focus on improving compliance with the Victims' Code of Practice and as a result, improvements have been made in some of the key measures during quarter 3. The percentage of victims informed when the suspect is arrested, charged or bailed has shown

sustained increase towards the threshold. The percentage of victims informed when the suspect was assessed for no investigation has decreased to 85%.

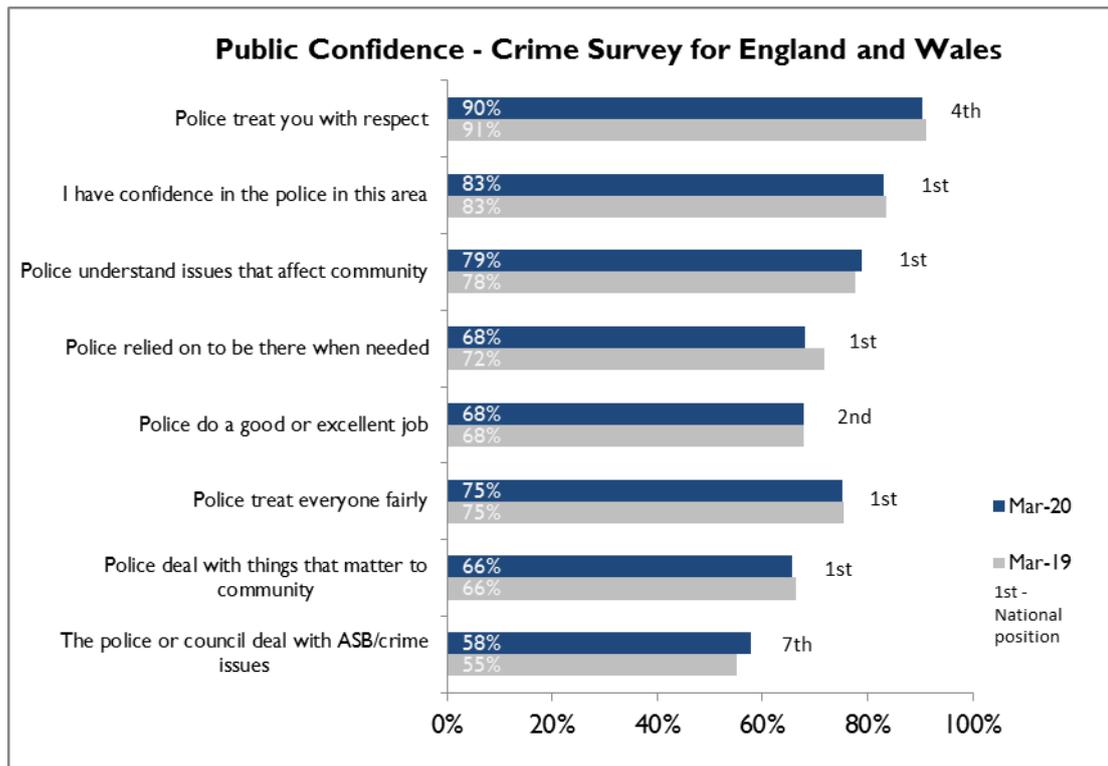
Table 9 – Victims’ Code of Practice Compliance

Percentage of victims informed when suspect is -	Rolling 12 months baseline	Q3 2020/21
Arrested	49%	74%
Charged	52%	75%
Bailed	64%	85%
Assessed for no investigation	88%	85%

6 Community Confidence

Confidence and Public Perceptions

- 6.1 The most recent data from the Crime Survey for England and Wales (CSEW) places the force first nationally for many of the confidence and public perception measures. As a result of COVID-19, the CSEW has since moved to a telephone survey and force level data is not currently available.



Complaints

- 6.2 In February 2021, Phase 3 of Police Integrity Reforms will have been in place for one year. The reforms changed how complaints are categorised; new complaints are provided a category and sub-category along with national and local factors which provides additional context. The new categories did not comfortably map across from the previous complaint categories; which made comparison of pre and post reform data complex and less meaningful. Going forward having a clear year with the new categories will enable us to provide a more meaningful comparison.
- 6.3 COVID-19 has impacted on complaints demand with over 300 complaints in relation to the policing of Coronavirus legislation; this also includes allegations of officers not adhering to social distancing and use of PPE. Policing demand has changed significantly during the lockdown periods and this continues to impact on the nature of complaints received.
- 6.4 A second public confidence survey on COVID-19 in November 2020 found that:
- 46% of respondents fully supported the approach of Northumbria Police during lockdown.

- 33% felt Northumbria Police should take tougher action to ensure public compliance and a further 5% of respondents supported the approach taken, but in some cases thought police were going too far.
- 89% fully supported the police issuing fines to those breaching COVID-19 restrictions
- 23% said they are more likely to report an incident compared to this time last year.

6.5 Comparative force data collated by the Independent Office for Police Conduct (IOPC) has been delayed until February 2021 and will need to be treated with caution.

Table 10 – Number of complaints and allegations

	Q3 2019/20	Q3 2020/21
Complaints	448	738
Allegations	642	1210

The above totals combine all complaints received, whether resolved by triage without recording or recorded on Centurion (the Force's complaints system). This can be broken down further into complaints recorded of the Force's complaints system and those resolved by triage. (See table 11).

6.6 The complaint triage process continues to resolve over half of all new complaints (54% YTD).

Table 11 – Number of complaints and allegations recorded by type

		Q3 2019/20	Q3 2020/21	% change
Recorded on Centurion	Complaints	197	311	58%
	Allegations	364	721	98%
Resolved by Triage	Complaints	251	427	70%
	Allegations	278	489	76%

6.7 The increase in complaints recorded is being reflected across the region and nationally and is a direct result of the new legislation.

6.8 Year to date total complaints have increased by 64% (+902), recorded complaints have increased by 51% (+327) and triage complaints have increased by 75% (+575).

6.9 Comparing Q3 complaints for 2020 against Q3 2019, total complaints have increased by 65% (+290), recorded complaints have increased by 58% (+114) and triage complaints have increased by 70% (+176).

6.10 Overall, the significant majority of the increase in complaints and allegations are as a result of the new Police Integrity Reforms. Previously, many of these complaints would have been dealt with through the service satisfaction procedures in place. The percentage of complaints upheld year to date is 8%; the upheld rate for Q3 alone is 8.6%.

6.11 Ongoing improvement work includes the development of organisational learning and the introduction of a new force publication to influence organisational behaviour, drive standards and help avoid complaints / conduct matters.

Forcewide	12 months to Dec-19	12 months to Dec-20	Change		Comparison with most similar Force		
					Per 1,000 population	MSG (Force) average	Rank 1 = fewest crimes 8 = most crimes
Total crime	149,784	132,693	-17,091	- 11%	89.9	101.9	3
Violence against the person	48,498	47,188	-1,310	- 3%	31.9	39.2	1
Violence against the person - With injury	13,964	12,831	-1,133	- 8%	8.7	10.2	2
Violence against the person - Without injury	34,534	34,357	- 177	- 1%	23.2	29.0	1
Other violence	2,317	2,404	+ 87	+ 4%	1.6	1.8	5
Harassment & assault	32,157	31,879	- 278	- 1%	21.5	27.2	1
Modern day slavery	60	74	+ 14	+ 23%	0.0	0.1	1
Robbery	812	680	- 132	- 16%	0.5	0.8	2
Sexual offences	4,569	4,011	- 558	- 12%	2.7	3.1	4
Rape	1,629	1,418	- 211	- 13%	1.0	1.1	4
Other serious sexual offences	2,068	1,798	- 270	- 13%	1.2	1.3	4
Other sexual offences	872	795	- 77	- 9%	0.5	0.7	2
Vehicle crime	8,455	7,123	-1,332	- 16%	4.8	5.7	4
Criminal damage	22,609	21,294	-1,315	- 6%	14.5	14.0	6
Burgary	7,939	6,590	-1,349	- 17%	4.3	6.4	1
Theft and handling	31,293	22,138	-9,155	- 29%	15.0	14.9	6
Shoplifting	13,407	8,456	-4,951	- 37%	5.7	5.9	5
Theft from the person	1,454	921	- 533	- 37%	0.6	0.6	6
Theft of a pedal cycle	1,597	1,862	+ 265	+ 17%	1.3	1.1	6
Other theft and handling	14,835	10,899	-3,936	- 27%	7.4	7.3	5
Drug crime	3,209	3,418	+ 209	+ 7%	2.3	3.5	3
Fraud and forgery	235	126	- 109	- 46%	0.1	0.1	4
Public disorder	20,337	17,978	-2,359	- 12%	12.2	12.4	4
Miscellaneous crime	1,828	2,147	+ 319	+ 17%	1.5	1.8	3

Hate Crime	Total			Race			Faith			Homophobic			Transphobic			Disability		
	Dec-19	Dec-20	Change	Dec-19	Dec-20	Change	Dec-19	Dec-20	Change	Dec-19	Dec-20	Change	Dec-19	Dec-20	Change	Dec-19	Dec-20	Change
	2843	3175	+332 +12%	1758	1951	+193 +11%	238	238	0 0%	419	551	+132 +32%	70	47	-23 -33%	358	388	+30 +8%

Sunderland	12 months to Dec-19	12 months to Dec-20	Change		Comparison with most similar CSP		
					Per 1,000 population	MSG (CSP) average	Rank 1 = fewest crimes 15 = most crimes
Total crime	31,415	28,837	-2,578	- 8%	102.7	108.8	7
Violence against the person	9,822	9,930	+ 108	+ 1%	35.3	44.2	4
Violence against the person - With injury	2,736	2,771	+ 35	+ 1%	9.9	11.6	4
Violence against the person - Without injury	7,086	7,159	+ 73	+ 1%	25.4	32.6	4
Other violence	422	445	+ 23	+ 5%	1.6	2.6	3
Harassment & assault	6,653	6,696	+ 43	+ 1%	23.8	30.0	5
Modern day slavery	11	18	+ 7	+ 64%	0.1	0.2	3
Robbery	169	144	- 25	- 15%	0.5	1.1	3
Sexual offences	827	782	- 45	- 5%	2.8	3.3	4
Rape	290	280	- 10	- 3%	1.0	1.2	6
Other serious sexual offences	375	338	- 37	- 10%	1.2	1.3	3
Other sexual offences	162	164	+ 2	+ 1%	0.6	0.8	3
Vehicle crime	1,720	1,575	- 145	- 8%	5.6	6.6	6
Criminal damage	5,138	5,390	+ 252	+ 5%	19.3	14.5	14
Burglary	1,742	1,590	- 152	- 9%	5.4	6.6	7
Theft and handling	6,501	4,642	-1,859	- 29%	16.6	15.1	9
Shoplifting	2,881	1,946	- 935	- 32%	6.9	5.8	11
Theft from the person	173	132	- 41	- 24%	0.5	0.7	5
Theft of a pedal cycle	261	280	+ 19	+ 7%	1.0	0.9	9
Other theft and handling	3,186	2,284	- 902	- 28%	8.2	7.8	10
Drug crime	538	515	- 23	- 4%	1.8	3.1	3
Fraud and forgery	36	31	- 5	- 14%	0.1	0.1	12
Public disorder	4,545	3,812	- 733	- 16%	13.7	12.3	11
Miscellaneous crime	377	426	+ 49	+ 13%	1.5	1.8	6

Hate Crime	Total			Race			Faith			Homophobic			Transphobic			Disability		
	Dec-19	Dec-20	Change	Dec-19	Dec-20	Change	Dec-19	Dec-20	Change	Dec-19	Dec-20	Change	Dec-19	Dec-20	Change	Dec-19	Dec-20	Change
	429	496	+67 +16%	272	316	+44 +16%	24	22	-2 -8%	66	86	+20 +30%	7	6	-1 -14%	60	66	+6 +10%

South Tyneside	12 months to Dec-19	12 months to Dec-20	Change		Comparison with most similar CSP		
					Per 1,000 population	MSG (CSP) average	Rank 1 = fewest crimes 15 = most crimes
Total crime	15,625	13,042	-2,583	- 17%	86.6	108.3	1
Violence against the person	5,675	5,136	- 539	- 9%	34.0	43.9	1
Violence against the person - With injury	1,504	1,313	- 191	- 13%	8.7	11.2	1
Violence against the person - Without injury	4,171	3,823	- 348	- 8%	25.3	32.7	2
Other violence	264	231	- 33	- 13%	1.5	2.7	2
Harassment & assault	3,900	3,587	- 313	- 8%	1.5	2.7	2
Modern day slavery	7	5	- 2	- 29%	0.0	0.2	1
Robbery	72	67	- 5	- 7%	0.4	1.3	1
Sexual offences	489	419	- 70	- 14%	2.8	3.2	5
Rape	194	146	- 48	- 25%	1.0	1.2	3
Other serious sexual offences	190	184	- 6	- 3%	1.2	1.3	7
Other sexual offences	105	89	- 16	- 15%	0.6	0.7	6
Vehicle crime	711	523	- 188	- 26%	3.5	6.9	1
Criminal damage	2,601	2,254	- 347	- 13%	15.0	14.1	10
Burgary	646	473	- 173	- 27%	3.1	6.7	1
Theft and handling	2,701	1,755	- 946	- 35%	11.7	14.5	5
Shoplifting	1,111	573	- 538	- 48%	3.8	5.6	3
Theft from the person	60	51	- 9	- 15%	0.4	0.6	3
Theft of a pedal cycle	157	137	- 20	- 13%	0.9	0.8	9
Other theft and handling	1,373	994	- 379	- 28%	6.6	7.5	6
Drug crime	263	349	+ 86	+ 33%	2.3	3.4	8
Fraud and forgery	28	9	- 19	- 68%	0.1	0.1	9
Public disorder	2,247	1,853	- 394	- 18%	12.3	12.2	8
Miscellaneous crime	192	204	+ 12	+ 6%	1.4	1.7	6

Hate Crime	Total			Race			Faith			Homophobic			Transphobic			Disability		
	Dec-19	Dec-20	Change	Dec-19	Dec-20	Change	Dec-19	Dec-20	Change	Dec-19	Dec-20	Change	Dec-19	Dec-20	Change	Dec-19	Dec-20	Change
	221	257	+36 +16%	140	143	+3 +2%	18	21	+3 +17%	16	50	+34 +213%	3	4	+1 +33%	44	39	-5 -11%

Gateshead	12 months to Dec-19	12 months to Dec-20	Change		Comparison with most similar CSP		
					Per 1,000 population	MSG (CSP) average	Rank 1 = fewest crimes 15 = most crimes
Total crime	20,259	18,573	-1,686	- 8%	91.3	104.8	3
Violence against the person	6,466	6,621	+ 155	+ 2%	32.5	41.7	2
Violence against the person - With injury	1,781	1,819	+ 38	+ 2%	9.0	10.4	4
Violence against the person - Without injury	4,685	4,802	+ 117	+ 2%	23.5	31.3	3
Other violence	334	399	+ 65	+ 19%	2.0	2.1	8
Harassment & assault	4,340	4,389	+ 49	+ 1%	21.5	29.2	3
Modern day slavery	11	14	+ 3	+ 27%	0.1	0.1	3
Robbery	89	99	+ 10	+ 11%	0.5	0.9	2
Sexual offences	700	556	- 144	- 21%	2.8	3.2	2
Rape	260	195	- 65	- 25%	1.0	1.1	5
Other serious sexual offences	302	249	- 53	- 18%	1.2	1.3	6
Other sexual offences	138	112	- 26	- 19%	0.6	0.7	2
Vehicle crime	1,490	1,337	- 153	- 10%	6.6	6.0	12
Criminal damage	3,072	2,847	- 225	- 7%	14.0	14.4	8
Burglary	1,106	1,070	- 36	- 3%	5.1	6.4	5
Theft and handling	4,163	2,965	-1,198	- 29%	14.6	14.6	7
Shoplifting	1,845	1,088	- 757	- 41%	5.3	5.9	6
Theft from the person	143	118	- 25	- 17%	0.6	0.6	10
Theft of a pedal cycle	155	189	+ 34	+ 22%	0.9	0.9	8
Other theft and handling	2,020	1,570	- 450	- 22%	7.7	7.3	9
Drug crime	417	424	+ 7	+ 2%	2.1	3.1	4
Fraud and forgery	39	20	- 19	- 49%	0.1	0.1	8
Public disorder	2,449	2,307	- 142	- 6%	11.4	12.4	7
Miscellaneous crime	268	327	+ 59	+ 22%	1.6	1.8	7

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Hate Crime	Total			Race			Faith			Homophobic			Transphobic			Disability		
	Dec-19	Dec-20	Change	Dec-19	Dec-20	Change	Dec-19	Dec-20	Change	Dec-19	Dec-20	Change	Dec-19	Dec-20	Change	Dec-19	Dec-20	Change
	445	477	+32 +7%	247	263	+16 +6%	86	94	+8 +9%	43	56	+13 +30%	11	6	-5 -45%	58	58	0 0%

North Tyneside	12 months to Dec-19	12 months to Dec-20	Change		Comparison with most similar CSP		
					Per 1,000 population	MSG (CSP) average	Rank 1 = fewest crimes 15 = most crimes
Total crime	19,824	17,916	-1,908	- 10%	87.3	91.3	6
Violence against the person	6,629	6,361	- 268	- 4%	30.9	36.4	4
Violence against the person - With injury	1,783	1,572	- 211	- 12%	7.6	9.5	1
Violence against the person - Without injury	4,846	4,789	- 57	- 1%	23.3	26.9	6
Other violence	339	315	- 24	- 7%	1.5	2.0	6
Harassment & assault	4,501	4,468	- 33	- 1%	21.7	24.9	7
Modern day slavery	6	6	+ 0	+ 0%	0.0	0.1	2
Robbery	98	77	- 21	- 21%	0.4	0.9	1
Sexual offences	530	529	- 1	- 0%	2.6	3.0	4
Rape	185	181	- 4	- 2%	0.9	1.1	6
Other serious sexual offences	228	233	+ 5	+ 2%	1.1	1.3	5
Other sexual offences	117	115	- 2	- 2%	0.6	0.6	7
Vehicle crime	1,238	1,220	- 18	- 1%	5.9	5.4	11
Criminal damage	2,834	2,753	- 81	- 3%	13.5	11.6	12
Burglary	998	720	- 278	- 28%	3.4	4.9	3
Theft and handling	3,893	2,907	- 986	- 25%	14.2	13.6	9
Shoplifting	1,856	1,204	- 652	- 35%	5.9	5.5	12
Theft from the person	116	91	- 25	- 22%	0.5	0.6	3
Theft of a pedal cycle	224	235	+ 11	+ 5%	1.2	1.2	11
Other theft and handling	1,697	1,377	- 320	- 19%	6.7	6.3	9
Drug crime	309	399	+ 90	+ 29%	2.0	3.8	2
Fraud and forgery	32	11	- 21	- 66%	0.1	0.1	8
Public disorder	3,021	2,673	- 348	- 12%	13.1	10.2	15
Miscellaneous crime	242	266	+ 24	+ 10%	1.3	1.5	5

Hate Crime	Total			Race			Faith			Homophobic			Transphobic			Disability		
	Dec-19	Dec-20	Change	Dec-19	Dec-20	Change	Dec-19	Dec-20	Change	Dec-19	Dec-20	Change	Dec-19	Dec-20	Change	Dec-19	Dec-20	Change
	364	389	+25 +7%	234	247	+13 +6%	16	19	+3 +19%	49	60	+11 +22%	9	3	-6 -67%	56	60	+4 +7%

Newcastle	12 months to Dec-19	12 months to Dec-20	Change		Comparison with most similar CSP		
					Per 1,000 population	MSG (CSP) average	Rank 1 = fewest crimes 15 = most crimes
Total crime	38,193	31,582	-6,611	- 17%	105.7	111.0	5
Violence against the person	11,398	10,416	- 982	- 9%	34.7	40.7	3
Violence against the person - With injury	3,793	3,032	- 761	- 20%	10.2	11.1	6
Violence against the person - Without injury	7,605	7,384	- 221	- 3%	24.6	29.5	3
Other violence	609	651	+ 42	+ 7%	2.2	2.7	6
Harassment & assault	6,977	6,711	- 266	- 4%	22.4	26.9	4
Modern day slavery	19	22	+ 3	+ 16%	0.1	0.2	3
Robbery	306	232	- 74	- 24%	0.8	1.5	1
Sexual offences	1,262	982	- 280	- 22%	3.3	3.7	7
Rape	453	374	- 79	- 17%	1.2	1.4	7
Other serious sexual offences	612	445	- 167	- 27%	1.5	1.6	8
Other sexual offences	197	163	- 34	- 17%	0.6	0.7	2
Vehicle crime	2,164	1,609	- 555	- 26%	5.4	7.1	6
Criminal damage	5,144	4,337	- 807	- 16%	14.5	12.6	13
Burglary	1,893	1,571	- 322	- 17%	5.1	6.4	3
Theft and handling	9,399	6,557	-2,842	- 30%	22.0	19.6	11
Shoplifting	3,664	2,339	-1,325	- 36%	7.8	7.4	10
Theft from the person	834	440	- 394	- 47%	1.5	1.8	11
Theft of a pedal cycle	659	878	+ 219	+ 33%	2.9	2.4	11
Other theft and handling	4,242	2,900	-1,342	- 32%	9.7	8.1	13
Drug crime	1,310	1,219	- 91	- 7%	4.1	4.5	6
Fraud and forgery	52	30	- 22	- 42%	0.1	0.1	9
Public disorder	4,865	4,130	- 735	- 15%	13.9	12.7	9
Miscellaneous crime	400	499	+ 99	+ 25%	1.7	1.9	6

Hate Crime	Total				Race				Faith				Homophobic				Transphobic				Disability			
	Dec-19	Dec-20	Change		Dec-19	Dec-20	Change		Dec-19	Dec-20	Change		Dec-19	Dec-20	Change		Dec-19	Dec-20	Change		Dec-19	Dec-20	Change	
	1049	1141	+92	+9%	682	777	+95	+14%	83	66	-17	-20%	164	182	+18	+11%	26	17	-9	-35%	94	99	+5	+5%

Northumberland	12 months to Dec-19	12 months to Dec-20	Change		Comparison with most similar CSP		
					Per 1,000 population	MSG (CSP) average	Rank 1 = fewest crimes 15 = most crimes
Total crime	24,468	22,743	-1,725	- 7%	71.5	68.7	11
Violence against the person	8,508	8,724	+ 216	+ 3%	27.4	29.0	5
Violence against the person - With injury	2,367	2,324	- 43	- 2%	7.3	7.7	6
Violence against the person - Without injury	6,141	6,400	+ 259	+ 4%	20.1	21.4	5
Other violence	349	363	+ 14	+ 4%	1.2	1.6	4
Harassment & assault	5,786	6,028	+ 242	+ 4%	18.9	1.2	7
Modern day slavery	6	9	+ 3	+ 50%	0.0	0.0	4
Robbery	78	61	- 17	- 22%	0.2	0.3	5
Sexual offences	761	743	- 18	- 2%	2.4	2.6	7
Rape	247	242	- 5	- 2%	0.8	0.9	7
Other serious sexual offences	361	349	- 12	- 3%	1.1	1.1	11
Other sexual offences	153	152	- 1	- 1%	0.5	0.6	3
Vehicle crime	1,132	859	- 273	- 24%	2.7	2.9	9
Criminal damage	3,820	3,713	- 107	- 3%	11.7	9.5	15
Burglary	1,554	1,166	- 388	- 25%	3.6	3.3	11
Theft and handling	4,636	3,312	-1,324	- 29%	10.4	9.9	11
Shoplifting	2,050	1,306	- 744	- 36%	4.1	4.1	11
Theft from the person	128	89	- 39	- 30%	0.3	0.3	10
Theft of a pedal cycle	141	143	+ 2	+ 1%	0.4	0.6	8
Other theft and handling	2,317	1,774	- 543	- 23%	5.6	4.9	11
Drug crime	372	512	+ 140	+ 38%	1.6	2.6	2
Fraud and forgery	48	25	- 23	- 48%	0.1	0.1	11
Public disorder	3,210	3,203	- 7	- 0%	10.1	7.2	14
Miscellaneous crime	349	425	+ 76	+ 22%	1.3	1.4	8

Hate Crime	Total			Race			Faith			Homophobic			Transphobic			Disability		
	Dec-19	Dec-20	Change	Dec-19	Dec-20	Change	Dec-19	Dec-20	Change	Dec-19	Dec-20	Change	Dec-19	Dec-20	Change	Dec-19	Dec-20	Change
Hate Crime	335	415	+80 +24%	183	205	+22 +12%	11	16	+5 +45%	81	117	+36 +44%	14	11	-3 -21%	46	66	+20 +43%



POLICE AND CRIME PANEL

16th MARCH 2021

POLICE AND CRIME COMMISSIONER REPORT

MARCH 2021

Policing continues to be impacted on by the Coronavirus pandemic, but as you will hear at panel today, Northumbria Police continues to respond well both in terms of enforcing the restrictions which slow the spread of the virus, but also in terms of proactive policing elsewhere.

The work to halt the spread of the virus continues, and while the relaxing of restrictions is in sight, we cannot afford to rush this.

I was disappointed to learn that the Government has refused to prioritise the vaccine for frontline workers, after the elderly and vulnerable. Police officers are a vital part of our frontline response to the pandemic, and they and our staff and volunteers have kept us safe in the face of great risk. That's a risk that they share with the family for as long as the Coronavirus is spreading through our communities. I have spoken personally to the policing minister, and with others, to point out this injustice. Those who protect us should be protected.

1) Fighting Crime

Recruitment

Last month I launched my new Police and Crime Plan, turning the needs of people across our region in to priorities for Northumbria Police. Key to that is a proactive approach to fighting crime.

That's why I was proud last month to announce that alongside the hundreds of new front line police officers joining our ranks, the force will be creating 60 new detective posts. One key use for these officers will be the fight against organised crime, but I think it's important to stress here the "whole force" approach taken in Northumbria. Organised crime is disrupted at every level, including by our excellent neighbourhood policing teams. When we're recruiting officers across the force, we're adding to the work already done at every level.

Funding your police

It is vital that Northumbria Police have the resources they need to keep us safe, and as part of that responsibility I am today setting out the latest Medium Term Financial Strategy governing investment in our force. A presentation on this will be made to the panel, setting out how the MTFS will support delivery of the Police and Crime Plan.

It is worth remembering here that since 2010, the Government's austerity drive saw unprecedented cuts to the funding provided to policing, with Northumbria being the hardest hit of any force in England and Wales.

Central Government's formula funding for policing in Northumbria was reduced by more than 31% in real terms between 2010/11 and 2018/19, as confirmed independently by the National Audit Office. By March 2020 Northumbria had made £144.3m of cuts and efficiencies to manage the reductions imposed by government.



While recent investment has increased, it is still on a one-off basis, and we have no form idea of what the next financial settlement will look like.

Despite these challenges, I want to invest in the force. For example, in the last MTFS I made funding available to ensure that, where the chief constable thinks it is needed, every police officer in the force has access to taser training. This year, alongside other decisions, I will be ensuring funds are in place to replace all body armour worn by our police officers.

But as well as investment in new officers and equipment to support them, I also want to back our communities. As such, I have started exploring what we can do to increase investment in the fight against anti-social behaviour.

Reducing crime

Overall, crime is down in Northumbria. Clearly, the impact of lockdown is the driving force here, but I think it would be wrong to overlook the work of our dedicated force.

Panel will see more localised data elsewhere in this meeting, but to add to that is the latest data from the Office of National Statistics which showed a 13% reduction in total recorded crime. These latest ONS crime figures show a continued fall over the 12 month reporting period from June 2019 to June 2020. Along with a fall in overall crime, Northumbria saw knife crime, drug offences and violence against the person all fall.

While it is understandable that certain crimes have fallen during this period, this cannot just be attributed to Covid. For example, knife crime had been on the decrease since before the lockdown measures and now, as of June 2020 has fallen by 17% – a reflection on the work we are doing to fight crime. While one knife is still too many on our streets, it is extremely pleasing to see the impact we've made and this work will continue.

One area I'm keen to focus on as a result of the new police and crime plan is anti-social behaviour. It was clear from my policing survey that residents want to see more done to tackle ASB. However, often ASB has no easy policing solution. While the force do have a role to play here, there is also work to be done by local authorities, housing associations, schools and others.

In the coming months I will be reporting back to panel on progress here, but my intention is to get these organisations back around the table together, and to be funding interventions designed to stop ASB locally.

County lines

While that planning work begins, the fight against crime continues and I was pleased to note recently a Northumbria Police operation to extinguish County Lines from Berwick had been recognised as the top investigation of the year by a national policing awards body.

The annual Tilley Awards celebrate problem-oriented projects that have achieved measurable success in resolving issues faced by the police, partners and the community.

This year, the Force's Operations Eclipse and Antumbra scooped the award in the investigation category.

The police operations were created to target drug dealers from the Liverpool area who had embedded themselves in the community in order to supply Class A drugs such as heroin and crack cocaine.



They exploited members of the community, including those with mental health concerns or addiction problems, into aiding the supply of drugs by taking control of their mobile phones and contact lists.

The suspects were also identified as using Berwick homes as bases or even forcing locals into dealing to pay-off escalating drug debts – this form of supply, exploitation and control is commonly referred to as County Lines.

The arrival of County Lines saw a 25 per cent increase in reports of crime and a 75 per cent increase in reports of shoplifting.

The operations saw Northumbria Police join forces with colleagues at the North East Regional Special Operations Unit and Merseyside Police and work closely with Northumberland County Council, Northumberland Recovery Partnership and the Berwick Trust who run the local food bank.

In January 2020, a series of warrants were executed across Berwick and Liverpool and arrests secured, ultimately leading to 15 suspects being charged with a variety of offences. At the time of writing, several more remain under investigation.

To date, those sentenced have accrued more than 20 years of custodial sentences.

2) Preventing Crime

Violence Reduction Unit

Since the last meeting of the panel it has been confirmed that my Violence Reduction Unit will go in to its third year with £1.6m of funding support.

Keeping young people away from crime and intervening in violent lives will remain a priority in the region and the Violence Reduction Unit will be continuing its preventative work, including supporting those on the edge of criminality and working with those individuals and their families.

The third year of the programme will see extra support for the likes of our YOLO programme, delivered alongside Newcastle United Foundation and Sunderland's Foundation of Light. The successful community hub and link worker approach will also be expanded over the next 12 months – re-investing in neighbourhoods hit by ten years of austerity.

However, the current Government policy of only providing funding for one year at a time risks undoing the impactful results delivered to date. Tackling serious violence requires a long term approach and funding – the life changing work being delivered is not a quick fix or solution.

Year on year short term funding doesn't provide the commitment, clarity or confidence to allow our projects to deliver at the high standards they are known for. To properly tackle serious violence and deliver substantial results, we need a long term settlement and support from the Government.

Community support and education

We see the benefits of the VRU in knife crime education work. Despite lockdown the team have continued to deliver knife crime and domestic abuse sessions in January and February.



Six sessions were given in January to 73 young people, and we have requests in from the scouts and Newcastle and Gateshead colleges to bring the education work to them. A knife crime awareness package has been developed for practitioners and is being piloted now.

Elsewhere the three Link Workers in Ashington, North Tyneside and Gateshead are working well and now all have active caseloads.

The Gateshead Community Link Worker has had over 50 people referred from various partnership organisations including housing, Northumbria Police, Gateshead Community Hubs, Job Centre Plus. In Ashington the primary focus of this work is to support young people, finding out what matters to them and helping them to achieve their goals. The council are keen to hear the views of the young people and if there are issues, or where services don't exist, they want to address those and really recognise the voice of the young people in future commissioning.

Operation Payback

I'm pleased to confirm that the first awards from Operation Payback have been made. This is a new fund in which money recovered from drug dealers and other criminals is used to fund youth services, residents associations and other local services.

Many local projects and community groups that strive to improve lives in their area are set to receive a support to help keep making a positive difference in their neighbourhood often repairing the harm caused by crime. A total of 23 groups are set to benefit from the £350,000 pot, including South Shields FC, Dunston Community Centre and YMCA Northumberland.

There are some terrific groups who've taken it upon themselves to really turn things around in the area where they live. They've taken responsibility and they're making a huge difference. I absolutely want to support them in doing this so we're turning bad money into good. I want Payback to empower them further and bring their bright ideas to life.

In the years to come the fund will be topped up with some of the money seized from criminal activity under the Proceeds of Crime Act, with some recovered funds also going to Northumbria Police to help them target more criminals.

For more information about Operation Payback and to view the full list of beneficiaries visit www.northumbria-pcc.gov.uk.

Domestic abuse perpetrators

I'm pleased that recent campaigning for a perpetrator strategy has paid off and the Home Office is starting to take this seriously by promising it will form part of the new Domestic Abuse strategy. We need long term solutions to prevent the crime that is domestic abuse and hopefully a step in the right direction is coming.

This is a huge achievement and credit to the work that many people have done to raise the profile and importance of this issue. I know so many have been active on social media about this as well as putting in lots of behind-the-scenes work.

One key feature of this success has been the Drive partnership, which advocates for systems change around work with perpetrators. To end domestic abuse, we must address those causing the problem, and that means changing the narrative and ensuring perpetrators are held to account.



In 2020, the Drive partnership led a 'call for action', lobbying government to create a national perpetrator strategy. This case for change was created with input from 125 statutory and voluntary service providers, academics and commissioners across the country. The OPCC was one of these 125 organisations who has been calling for this change. The call for action document outlines principles that support a more coherent and joined up approach to perpetrators wherever they live.

We need to keep to pressure on government to ensure this meets the requirements in the call for action and is ambitious in ending domestic abuse”

3) Improving lives

Domestic abuse workplace champions

I'm pleased to say that many local organisations are training up Domestic Abuse Workplace Champions ahead of the region's return to the office thanks to a virtual roll-out of this key awareness scheme.

During the pandemic, many frontline and specialist domestic abuse services experienced a rise in demand as stay at home orders trapped survivors in the house, with their abuser.

As of February the scheme, which raises awareness of domestic abuse and guides people towards specialist services, has switched to digital delivery. So far, 140 people have signed up and the course is now fully subscribed until the end of May, with further dates to be scheduled.

Previously the scheme has engaged with more than 300 businesses from throughout the North East, and trained up more than 1,500 champions.

To ensure the training reaches as many people as possible, my office has partnered with the Better Health at Work Award, coordinated by the Northern TUC, to offer the specialist training to the hundreds of employers who are committed to the health and wellbeing of their workforce, including making domestic abuse their business. Companies who have had representatives take part in the online training so far come from a range of sectors including childcare, engineering and across the public sector.

Victim services funding

Since my last report to panel a new one-off pot of money totalling £354,000 has been introduced to back services who support survivors of domestic abuse and sexual violence.

Organisations which may be eligible for this Ministry of Justice funding are those which provide support services which have the purpose of helping victims (adults and/or children) of sexual violence or domestic abuse cope with the impacts of crime, and, as far as possible, recover from the harm they have experienced.

Helping victims in court

I'm proud to say that my office has funded new state-of-the-art technology is set to make it easier for vulnerable victims and witnesses to give evidence in court.

A number of new mobile screens have been introduced at Newcastle Crown Court to respond to the needs of some victims or witnesses who can be anxious when giving



evidence remotely knowing their image will be beamed into the court room – and will be seen by the defendant and those sat in the public gallery.

For victims or witnesses revisiting extremely stressful experiences, such as domestic abuse or sexual violence, this could act as a barrier from them ever completing the criminal justice process.

In response, local criminal justice partners including the police, Crown Prosecution Service and Her Majesty's Courts & Tribunal Service teamed together and agreed to introduce smaller, movable screens for appropriate cases at Newcastle Crown Court.

Crucially, these new screens will only be seen by the Judge, jury and counsel when an intimidated victim or witness is giving evidence via TV link or from a remote evidence suite.

Everyone else in the court room, including the defendant and the public, will be able to hear the individual giving evidence but not see them.

Giving evidence can be intimidating, it can be daunting and so wherever possible we want to be making things that bit easier. These mobile court screens are designed to make victims and witnesses feel more comfortable as they go through the process of seeking justice.