



VERA BAIRD^{QC}
POLICE & CRIME COMMISSIONER

Northumbria Police & Crime Panel Report

April 2017

1 How is the PCC making commissioning decisions, and what are her future intentions?

1.1 Commissioning Intentions 2017-18

From the 1st April 2015 Police and Crime Commissioners became responsible for providing key emotional and practical support services for victims of crime in their locality. Crime can leave victims feeling upset, scared and intimidated and it was felt by the Government that PCCs with their local knowledge are best placed to target funding where it is most needed in their local communities.

Funding is provided on an annual basis by the Ministry of Justice (MoJ) to support work with victims of crime and their families. PCCs receive this allocation based on a population formula which in Northumbria means a grant of £1,685,018 – we received notification of this on 12th January 2017 with the expectation that services would be provided from 1st April and all spend complete by 31st March 2018.

In addition to the MoJ funding allocation specifically for victims of crime, PCCs can make grants as outlined in the Police Reform and Social Responsibility Act 2012 to contribute to securing crime and disorder reduction in their area. The savings the PCC has realised in office costs has meant that she can make available a small sum of grant funding to support projects that deliver against the wider Police and Crime Plan and in some cases, where need is greatest, supplement the funding provided from the MoJ.

The main focus of the PCCs grants programme 2017-18 is to support the Police and Crime Plan objectives 'putting victims first', 'reducing ASB' and 'building community confidence'.

Victims First Northumbria - £798,402 has been awarded to the charity Victims First, completely revitalising the victim referral process and service for victims of crime in Northumbria. Victims First Northumbria enable victims of crime and their family to cope and recover from the impact of crime.

The support provided to all victims, both who report to the police and those who do not will be offered support that generally falls into four broad categories;

- Initial emotional and practical support including signposting
- More detailed/longer term emotional and practical support including restorative justice and support through-out a court process
- Support and referral to existing specialist services that can help a victim cope and recover
- Referrals to victim services commissioned by the Police and Crime Commissioner.

Strengthening Specialist Victim Services - The PCCs Supporting Victims Fund was launched in 2015-16 to strengthen the overall offer of support to victims in Northumbria and improves and widens the services available to our most vulnerable and priority victims. Priority victims are those that are entitled to an enhanced support service

under the Victims Code of Practice, Victims Charter and the EU Directive for Victims of Crime.

Our assessment for the 2017-18 year builds on our understanding of services, demand and need in years 1 and 2 and is based upon Northumbria wide and local strategic assessments identifying levels of crime and any new and emerging crimes and issues facing our area where victim needs may arise and also local research and consultation with victims groups and service providers.

The four key priority victims groups remain the same this year but key areas that we are seeking to support have been updated in line with the changing needs of victims and our understanding of local service provision:

Domestic abuse and sexual violence – 50% of our most vulnerable victims have needs relating to domestic abuse and sexual violence. Taking into consideration what we know about local services and issues facing victims we particularly supported projects that help to strengthen support in the following areas:

- Specialist support and counselling for male and female victims of domestic and sexual abuse and violence
- Enhanced outreach provision for minority ethnic victims including support for honour based violence and FGM victims
- Specialist support for male and female adults and young victims who have experienced child sexual abuse
- Support for children of domestic abuse victims - breaking the generational cycle of abuse
- Emotional and practical support for victims of stalking and harassment
- Specialist support for victims of modern slavery and exploitation
- Support for isolated/marginalised victims of domestic abuse for example victims 55+, rural victims and those with a disability
- Emotional and practical support for parents who are subject to domestic abuse by their adolescent children

Victims under 18 – 36% of our most vulnerable victims are under 18. Taking into consideration what we know about local services and issues facing victims we particularly supported projects that help to strengthen support in the following areas:

- Direct emotional support for young people following a crime - to include specific support for victims of violent crimes
- School based support and guidance
- Support for young victims of domestic and sexual abuse
- Breaking the cycle of victim to offender
- Emotional and practical support for young victims who experience cyber related crime, exploitation and harassment

Victims of hate crime - 7% of our most vulnerable victims have needs relating to hate crime. Taking into consideration what we know about local services and issues facing

victims we particularly supported projects that help to strengthen support in the following areas:

- Personal emotional support for victims and repeat victims of all hate crime
- Building trust and confidence in public authorities
- Building community cohesion and support for victims of race hate crime
- Peer based support to assist victims cope and recover

Victims with mental health needs and those who are vulnerable due to risk of abuse/harm -7% of the most vulnerable victims in Northumbria have concerns relating to mental health needs and vulnerability. Taking into consideration what we know about local services and issues facing victims we particularly supported projects that help to strengthen support in the following areas:

- Specialist support for those victims of crime who are vulnerable due to a mental health need
- Tailored support for individuals who may have additional language or communication needs
- Support for victims of cyber-crime including those at risk of exploitation
- Specialist support and practical guidance for victims of crime with regards to criminal injuries compensation and understanding the criminal justice system

Grants are available to cover any innovative costs relating to work which builds the capacity and maximises the potential of organisations working to support victims of crime. This could include but is not limited to:

- Widening geographical coverage
- Enhanced provision through the increase in training
- Strengthening operating procedures and referral routes to maximise victim engagement
- Recruitment and training of volunteers
- Changes to operating procedures to meet victim demand
- New and innovative approaches and techniques

A range of grant awards have been made as part of the PCCs Supporting Victims Fund, which was an extremely competitive process. Supported projects are listed below under priority victim groups.

Victims of domestic abuse and sexual violence

Organisation	Project/service	Award
Hope Consortium, Wearside Women in Need, Impact Family Services, Harbour, NDAS	Domestic Violence Support and Advice (DVSA) car in all local authority areas - strengthening support at the point of crisis and beyond.	£250,000 (indicative)
Health Domestic Abuse Advocates	Health based early identification, intervention and support for victims of domestic abuse.	£100,000 (indicative)

Organisation	Project/service	Award
Rape Crisis	Increased capacity with new outreach centres for specialist sexual violence support.	£99,085
The Angelou Centre	Specialist support across Northumbria for BME and refugee women, children (5-16 years) and young victims (under 5's). Forced marriage, honour based violence, domestic slavery, sexual exploitation, trafficking and FGM.	£76,390
Northumberland Domestic Abuse Service	Holistic support for female and male victims of domestic abuse.	£64,500
Barnardo's Circles 2	Wrap around support for women and their children experiencing domestic abuse.	£60,000
West End Women and Girls	Peer led support for young adults experiencing domestic abuse.	£54,647
Oasis Aquila Housing	Domestic abuse and sexual violence support service for male and females victims aged 18+. Offering 1 to 1 support and group work.	£50,548
Women's Health in South Tyneside	Supporting female victims of domestic abuse to flee violence through delivering of the 'Freedom Programme' and other counselling and support.	£40,000
Sunderland Counselling Service	Male and female victims of sexual violence	£35,000
Cygnus Support	Empowering DV victims to break the cycle of abuse, supporting female and male victims and young people (+14). Service targets older clients (+55) in isolated and rural communities.	£30,919
Northumberland Youth Offending Team	Adolescent to parent abuse - support for parents who are experiencing abuse by their child and support for the young person offender.	£25,000
Safe Newcastle	Adolescent to parent abuse - support for parents who are experiencing abuse by their child and support for the young person offender.	£25,000
Gateshead Youth Offending Team	Adolescent to parent abuse - support for parents who are experiencing abuse by their child and support for the young person offender.	£25,000
Tyneside Women's	1 to 1 and group work support for women	£22,052

Organisation	Project/service	Award
Health	who have experienced domestic abuse. Delivering 'Undergoing the Danger of Domestic Abuse' course to help women understand the impact of domestic abuse on their mental health.	
Community Counselling Co-operative	Counselling for male victims of domestic abuse and sexual violence.	£19,415

Victims under 18

Organisation	Project/service	Award
Children North East	Specialist emotional and practical support for young victims of crime.	£55,268
West End Women and Girls	Teenage Domestic Abuse Peer Educators – specialist tailored support for young victims (11-25yrs).	£49,780
Someone Cares	Supporting both male and female young victims of crime primarily victims of abuse.	£44,077
Children's Society	Supporting the emotional wellbeing needs of children (male and female) victims of child sexual abuse and exploitation through one to one mentoring.	£39,995
Streetwise North	Offering counselling support to young victims of domestic abuse, sexual violence or assault.	£36,540
Bright Futures	Supporting young women and children who have been sexually exploited or who are at risk in Newcastle.	£9,749

Victims of hate crime

Organisation	Project/service	Award
Advocacy Centre North	Rights based advocacy support and emotional support to both repeat and new victims of all hate crime. Open to all age groups.	£45,000
Newcastle United Foundation	Football 4 All - increase local communities understanding and awareness of those around them who are often classed as being 'different' due to a disability or other issues and help integrate able bodied people into activities with disabled people to increase	£20,003

	tolerance towards others.	
Be:Trans Support and Development	Specialist counselling support for gender diverse victims of crime. Specific Safe Space Hate Crime Reporting Centre for Trans people.	£15,000
Sunderland Royal Society for the Blind	Safeguarding and supporting visually impaired adults against abuse and disability hate crime.	£7,280
Newcastle Society for Blind People	Safeguarding and supporting visually impaired adults against abuse and disability hate crime.	£7,179
Investing in People and Culture	The development of community 'hate crime champions' in Newcastle.	£1,854
Rainbow Foundation Sunderland	Network providing advice and support to members of the LGBT community over the age of 18 who have been a victim of hate crime.	£340

Victims with mental health needs and those who are vulnerable due to risk of abuse/harm

Organisation	Project/service	Award
Tyneside and Northumberland MIND	Specialist emotional and practical support for victims and witnesses of crime with complex mental health needs.	£79,700
Newcastle Safe Haven	To support the delivery of the Safe Haven that provides a safe place for vulnerable people in the city centre on a weekend.	£60,000
Newcastle Law Centre	Legal advice and guidance for vulnerable victims of crime working with Victims First Northumbria.	£43,350
North Tyneside Council	Work to raise awareness of Safe Places that help people with learning disabilities if they feel scared or at risk while they are out and about in the community and need support.	£3,000

Anti-Social Behaviour Volunteer Network - In 2014-15 North Tyneside Council was financially supported to launch their 'volunteer victim support group' to support victims of anti-social behaviour to cope and recover following an incident or sustained attacks. The project proved successful with a high demand for the service and 16 ASB Volunteers fully trained to support those in need. In 2015-16 I supported all areas to introduce similar schemes to strengthen the support available for victims of ASB and as last year, to ensure that this support continues at a local level, a grant of £5,000 has been awarded to each local authority.

Domestic Violence Support and Advice (DVSA) Car - In 2013 a pilot scheme in Sunderland was developed in conjunction with the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner, in which experienced workers from Wearside Women in Need (WWIN) go out on duty with police at peak times in response to calls about domestic abuse. While the police engage with the perpetrator, the WWIN worker will talk to the woman and offer advice and support, providing early intervention for the victim. This project was then established in Newcastle and both projects have been successful seeing more women access support at the point of crisis. In 2016-17 projects in all other local authority areas in Northumbria were established and will continue to be supported in 2017-18. The importance of early intervention and also secondary learning for local police officers is invaluable to support the Police and Crime Plan Priority 'tackling domestic and sexual abuse'.

Health Domestic Abuse Advocates - The Themis Report 2016 calculated that individual victims of domestic abuse cost the health service an average of £4,500 each in terms of hospital, community and health resources; costs which can be significantly reduced when specialist domestic abuse support services are co-located with health workers in hospital settings or where domestic abuse specialists are able to train, support and offer onwards referral to local GP services.

We are working with each of the 6 Domestic Violence Partnership Boards in the Northumbria area to develop an approach that provides this health based support within the boundaries of local health structures. £100,000 will be made available in 2017-18 to help accelerate and support this work across Northumbria.

The health based specialist Domestic Abuse Advocate will:

- provide health staff with expert training on domestic violence and abuse
- provide short-term support, information and advice (especially safety planning) to victims presenting at hospital services/referred by GPs and other primary care staff
- link victims and their families to longer-term community-based support.

Where possible, these advocates will be located in local health safeguarding teams, but employed and supervised by a local specialist domestic abuse provider. They will provide individual feedback to GPs and anonymised data to hospital services to secure ongoing support from health bodies.

Monitoring and Evaluation - All grants have been provided with the agreement that output and outcome monitoring information will be provided quarterly with regular 'grant surgeries' to discuss performance and practical delivery to ensure the work delivered through the grant meets expectations. A summary impact of the OPCC grants programme will be reported in the Commissioners Annual Report 2017-18.

Future Funding - We will continue to provide funding in this way whilst we receive year on year funding from the Ministry of Justice. This approach makes it difficult to move forward and plan over the longer term therefore we are pressing the government via the

Association of Police and Crime Commissioners for a more sustainable solution to victims funding.

1.2 Commissioners Community Fund 2017-18

The Commissioners Community Fund provides funding for local groups to develop solutions to local policing and community safety issues in their local area. Grants of up to £2,000 are made available to charities, voluntary groups, community groups and social enterprises that can clearly demonstrate how their local intervention would help to tackle ASB, build community confidence or prevent crime.

The fund was launched on 4th April 2017 and closes on 30th April. Community Safety Partnerships (CSPs) are assisting us with the assessment process for applications relevant to their local area, as CSPs are well placed in their locality to understand the grass root projects and concerns that neighbourhoods face. Local Neighbourhood Inspectors will also provide an assessment of the projects to help ensure supported projects maximise delivery of the Police and Crime Plan 2017-21.

The work that the successful groups do in the Northumbria communities to support the priorities in the Police and Crime Plan is invaluable. The plan followed extensive consultation with the communities and neighbourhoods in the force area therefore local communities are involved in helping to design solutions to tackle the local issues that they have raised as important to them.

Previously we have been impressed by the creativity and appetite from local communities who want to work to deliver change for the good in their local area, which in previous years has meant that approximately 70% of the groups that apply for funding receive some level of award. By helping these groups and projects it further supports the Police and Crime Plan providing crucial assistance to the work being carried out by Northumbria Police.

Further information about successful applications are available on the PCC website – www.northumbria-pcc.gov.uk.

Section 2 - How is the PCC building effective partnerships?

2.1 Visit by Dr. Philip Lee MP - Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for Victims, Youth and Family Justice

In March, the Chief Constable and I welcomed Dr Phillip Lee MP to Newcastle to hear about the good work taking place to help and support victims of crime across Northumbria.

Dr Lee paid a visit to the region as part of his role as Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for Victims, Youth and Family Justice. The role sees him responsible for a range

of areas including victims and witnesses policy, chairing the national Victims Panel and Restorative Justice (RJ).

He began his visit in Newcastle's Big Market to view the Safe Haven— a joint venture that helps people who are on a night who become vulnerable, this is a partnership between the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner, Northumbria Police, Street Pastors, St Johns Ambulance and North East Ambulance Service.

It is always pleasing to welcome Ministers to Northumbria, as it is an excellent opportunity for them to see how we are putting victims first in our region and to see the services we provide. We have some impressive schemes in place to support victims and keep local residents safe from crime and introducing them to a visitor makes you realise how much great work is being done, and not by Northumbria Police alone, but through some fantastic local partnerships too.

As part of the visit he also met with a range of representatives from local support services including Wearside Women in Need, West End Women and Girls and Victims First Northumbria (VFN) – a service commissioned by the OPCC to provide a wraparound service offering practical and emotional support for all victims of crime.

Other partnership initiatives supporting victims that he was introduced to included:

- Domestic Violence Champions Network – which now consists of more than 650 workplace champions who provide support to colleagues suffering domestic abuse.
- Domestic Violence Support Advisors (DVSA) scheme – where advisors accompany police officers on patrol to ensure that appropriate support is given to domestic abuse victims at the earliest opportunity.
- Peer educators – an initiative which involves young people aged around 20 working with 16 – 18 year olds in schools to educate them on safeguarding and ensuring healthy relationships.

2.2 Out Of Court Disposals (OOC) Project.

In 2016, Northumbria Police commissioned an internal review of their use of OOC. The aim was to establish a) if there was scope to extend their use and b) to further support implementation of Northumbria Police and Crime Commissioner's Community Remedy which requires the police to take the victim's views into account when dealing with low level offending.

The emerging national context is also an important driver for change. The current adult OOC framework is widely considered confusing and, following national pilots, a new simplified two tier framework is proposed. This would dispense with four of the current six disposal outcomes (eg, simple caution) and retain only conditional caution and community resolution outcomes, both of which support the Community Remedy by including meaningful conditions, either rehabilitative or restorative, which the offender must comply with.

Emphasis should be placed on addressing the reasons why offending has taken place and encouraging, through educationally based interventions, changes in behaviour to reduce the likelihood of further offending. Northumbria Police has one of the highest charge rates in the country and makes less use of conditional caution and community resolution options than some forces. We have therefore agreed a two stage approach to change. Firstly we aim to divert appropriate less serious offenders/offences from prosecution to a conditional caution to provide a swift, robust and effective response to low level crime, giving victims a voice in this process. Once this approach is established, we will move to the two tier framework which retains the conditional caution and community resolution disposals only. Training is scheduled to commence in the autumn 2017.

Policing can appropriately deal with lower level offences/offenders in a similar way to the courts and, in such cases, can require the offender to comply with rehabilitative and/or restorative interventions which may not be available to them, on the grounds that their offending is less serious, via the court.

To support this change, Northumbria Police have agreed, with partner organisations, the following interventions to address behaviour to be used with a conditional caution;

- Unpaid Work – Northumbria Community Rehabilitation Company (CRC) will supervise offenders completing seven hours of unpaid work in their local community.
- Assessment of substance misuse and alcohol brief intervention – Public Health partners will undertake this for referred cases in each Local Authority Area. On-going treatment will be voluntary.
- Women’s Pathway – Changing Lives will undertake an assessment of offending related needs and deliver a motivational intervention at the hubs in each Local Authority area run by Northumbria CRC. On-going contact will be voluntary.
- Veteran’s Pathway – NOVA will undertake an assessment of offending related needs and offer voluntary support to the offender for up to twelve months.
- Alcohol Behaviour Change Programme – Health partners will run this 3.5 hour educational intervention. The intervention is currently available as Penalty Notice for Disorder (PND).
- Victim AWAREness Programme - Victims First Northumbria will run this 3.5 hour educational intervention.

We are in early discussions with local universities to consider research opportunities to ensure the above are effective in achieving change.

2.3 Workplace Champions and Domestic Abuse Workplace Policy

On March 23rd, I was honoured to receive an award on behalf of all our 653 domestic violence workplace champions supporting colleagues in 260 areas of business. We have 83 people on waiting lists to be trained in April and May.

The Suzy Lamplugh National Trust Safer Workplace Award was presented in recognition of our commitment to improve how workplace's support employees suffering domestic abuse. The Personal Safety Awards recognise people or groups who have promoted personal safety in an exceptional way across a range of sectors.

Our scheme was praised for making personal safety a key part of our Violence against Women and Girls strategy. Part of this strategy involved taking the lead in developing a Domestic Abuse Workplace Policy, setting out clear tools and guidance to help shape workplace safety and the development of our Domestic Violence Champions scheme.

Now, three years since the launch of the scheme there is now a network of 650 champions throughout Northumbria. Each champion is fully trained and supported by the office. They are on hand to help anyone being abused, whether they are being abused at work or work is their place of sanctuary. The Suzy Lamplugh Trust was set up in memory of a 25 year old estate agent who disappeared in 1986 after she went to meet an unknown client. She was presumed murdered and legally declared dead. Her parents set up the trust to raise awareness of the dangers and risks people can face in society.

Over the last few months my office has been working with the TUC and other unions to involve their representatives in the network. We have trained 65 union representatives from a range of organisations, including; Department of Work and Pensions, National Probation Service, North East Ambulance Service, Royal College of Midwives together with 20 staff in Her Majesty's Revenue and Customs. All are now part of our champion's network.

12 more staff from 'Intu' Eldon Square, a supporter of the Champions Network, have been trained and they are helping us roll out the Network to the stores who are based within the centre particularly focusing on the new Grey's Quarter where there are a number of food and drink outlets. The manager of INTU Eldon Square has also asked that when we complete our work within his centre we take a similar approach to engaging stores in Metro Centre and The Bridges-Sunderland. In addition we are working with armed forces and reservist organisations and now have champions at Albemarle Barracks, HMS Calliope and RAF Boulmer.

Section 3 - How is the PCC scrutinising the force's performance against the police and crime objectives of the plan?

3.1 Police & Crime Plan

Since the last panel meeting when I updated you about the refresh of the Police & Crime plan, we are now in the process of arranging a launch, to let local residents know that the plan has been refreshed, and that I have listened to what they want their police force to do. I am confident that the ambitions of our communities are reflected in the plan. I am also working with my disability Advisory Group to develop an 'easy read'

version of the plan which will be easier to read and understand for people with learning disabilities.

The Chief Constable and his team are currently working on a delivery strategy to ensure that we meet the priorities in the plan and embed it into operational policing in Northumbria. I will, of course, keep panel members updated about how the plan is being delivered against target.

3.2 HMIC – PEEL Inspections 2016 – Effectiveness

In the last report I provided an overview of the findings of HMIC in their PEEL assessment of Northumbria in respect of the Efficiency, Legitimacy and Leadership pillars of the assessment. We have now received the Effectiveness report.

Throughout 2016, HMIC assessed the extent to which police forces are effective in keeping people safe and reducing crime.

The effectiveness of police forces was assessed against how well they:

- Prevent crime, tackle anti-social behaviour (ASB) and keep people safe;
- Investigate crime and reduce re-offending;
- Protect those who are vulnerable from harm, and support victims;
- Tackle serious and organised crime; and
- Provide specialist capabilities.

All forces have been graded against the overarching question 'How effective is the force at keeping people safe and reducing crime?' - The overall judgment for Northumbria Police is '**GOOD**'.

The report states that the force is effective at keeping people safe and reducing crime. Elements of outstanding practice are evident in the way that support is provided to vulnerable victims. However, certain areas of the Force's work require improvement, particularly the investigation of crime and reducing re-offending.

1. How effective is the force at preventing crime, tackling ASB and keeping people safe? **GOOD**

Northumbria Police is good at preventing crime, tackling ASB and keeping people safe. The Force is aware of the threats it faces and works with other public service organisations to understand the nature of these threats.

The force should review and improve the range of methods it uses to communicate with new and emerging communities, and with some existing communities which may not, in the past, have been willing to take part in traditional forms of engagement.

One area for improvement has been identified:

- The Force should evaluate and share effective practice routinely, both internally and with partners, to continually improve its approach to the prevention of crime and ASB.

Whilst HMIC recognises Northumbria's commitment to providing Neighbourhood policing, nationally they found that this continues to be eroded.

2. How effective is the Force at investigating crime and reducing re-offending? REQUIRES IMPROVEMENT

Northumbria Police requires improvement in their approach to investigating crime and reducing re-offending. Whilst the Force is recognised as investigating crimes involving vulnerable victims to a high standard, and working well with other public services to provide effective safeguarding support, a cause of concern has been identified regarding the Force's ability to examine digital devices and a recommendation has been made to:

- assess and understand the risk associated with devices currently awaiting examination;
- reduce the number of devices awaiting examination, and the time taken to examine each device; and
- create an effective and sustainable system to ensure that new devices are prioritised and examined quickly so that the timeliness and quality of investigations are not compromised.

One area for improvement has also been identified:

- The Force should widen its approach to integrated offender management to maximise its impact on reducing threat, harm and risk. Clear measures of success should be in place to enable the Force to evaluate how effectively it is protecting the public from prolific and harmful offenders.

HMIC recognises that Northumbria actively seeks and arrests wanted suspects in a timely manner, and has good governance arrangements in place for monitoring these outstanding and wanted suspects. Nationally, however, they found a material lack of focus, grip and effective activity directed to apprehending wanted suspects and recommend that with immediate effect, all forces review their current procedures (including the number of wanted suspects on the Police National Computer (PNC)).

3. How effective is the Force at protecting those who are vulnerable from harm, and supporting victims? GOOD

Northumbria Police is good at identifying vulnerability at the first point of contact and then mitigating risks. The Force has continued to improve its service to victims and all officers/ staff understand their role in investigating crimes and supporting victims and do so to a consistently high standard.

The Force works well with other public services and provides effective safeguarding support through the use of restrictive orders, and is particularly effective at arresting domestic abuse perpetrators.

However, the Force has a backlog of outstanding digital evidence and HMIC is concerned that there might be unidentified victims, as well as suspects who have not yet been identified. Despite the good work to support vulnerable victims, this problem has affected overall effectiveness in this area.

4. How effective is the force at tackling serious and organised crime? GOOD

Northumbria Police has a good understanding of the risk and threat posed by serious and organised crime, and actively disrupts the activities of organised crime groups (OCGs).

However, the Force needs to improve the way it works with other public services when sharing information and coordinating activity around the disruption of OCGs.

Three areas for improvement have been identified:

- The Force should further develop its serious and organised crime local profile in conjunction with other interested parties to enhance its understanding of the threat and inform joint activity aimed at reducing this threat.
- The Force should engage routinely with partner agencies at a senior level to enhance intelligence sharing and promote an effective, multi-agency response to serious and organised crime.
- The Force should take steps to identify those at risk of being drawn into serious and organised crime, and ensure that preventative initiatives are put in place with partner organisations to deter them from offending.

HMIC acknowledges Northumbria's good understanding of the threat posed by serious and organised crime and the steps being taken to understand emerging threats. Nationally, HMIC found that the current approach to mapping organised crime groups (OCGs) is applied by forces in an unacceptably inconsistent way, providing an incomplete and inaccurate picture of the national threat.

Immediately, the responsibility for mapping OCGs should be transferred from individual police forces to regional organised crime units, and this transfer should be completed no later than September 2017. The National Crime Agency should lead a comprehensive review of the suitability of the current OCG mapping approach and, if necessary, issue guidance on a revised national approach as soon as practicable.

5. How effective are the force's specialist capabilities?

This question encompasses the Strategic Policing Requirement (SPR) and the initial response to a firearms incident and is subject to a narrative judgment rather than a graded judgment. Summary findings indicate that the Force has adequate plans in place to mobilise resources in response to the threats set out in the SPR.

3.3 Monitoring action plans in response to PEEL 2016

At the Joint Business meeting I receive quarterly reports that provide the current position and the action to be taken in response to the areas for improvement and national recommendations identified by HMIC in the PEEL Efficiency, Legitimacy and Effectiveness reports for 2016.

Section 4 - How is the PCC improving communication/consultation with the public?

4.1 – Launch of Northumbria’s Mini Police Programme

The Chief Constable and I recently launched Northumbria’s Mini Police programme, which is an engagement scheme designed to improve citizenship within our communities and give young children the opportunity to learn about their safety, their role within their community and how the police work within the community to keep us safe.

The aim of the programme is to improve the relationship between the police and the communities they serve and give young people a voice to say what matters to them and to influence people around them in a positive way. Most of the aspects of the programme are delivered by our talented Volunteer Police Cadets. They are ideally placed to deliver lessons to our Mini Police because they are closer in age, more aware of issues affecting our young people and are fantastic ambassadors for community spirit within the peer group of the Mini Police.

Cadets are supported by neighbourhood officers when they deliver lessons and go out into the community with the Mini Police ensuring that each group focuses on issues that really matter to the school's local area and the people that work and live close by.

Although the work in the community may be different, each Mini Police group will receive lessons that focus on the same themes - healthy relationships, keeping safe, responsible behaviour, water safety and how to keep safe online and when using social media. Lessons will be tailored to each audience and are designed so that we can keep children safe and reduce crime and disorder in our communities; providing our Mini Police with speaking and listening skills, increased confidence, team building skills and the chance to really make a difference to their community.

Each term the Mini Police will be part of a session where they receive some teaching on a topic before they go out into the community to put their new skills into practise. As a thank you to the Mini Police for their hard work, the police will take them to visit a department within the force or visit places such as Safetyworks.

Ten primary schools are taking part in the launch and each school will pick ten pupils to take part. Each mini police will be provided with an ID badge and a uniform. This is an

excellent initiative to increase community confidence and I look forward to seeing how the scheme develops in the months and years ahead. We have recently seen cadets becoming police officers, we may even have a Chief Constable of the future joining the mini police.

Section 5 - How is the PCC improving confidence in the Police across the area?

I recently chaired a national Local Alcohol Partnerships conference. The conference was arranged to support the second round of Local Alcohol Action Areas (LAAAs) which was announced by the Home Office at the end of January 2017.

The Local Alcohol Partnerships Group (LAPG) enables collaboration between a range of industry partnership schemes to maximise their impact on reducing alcohol related harm in local communities and diversifying the night time economy. LAPG also provide support for Local Alcohol Action Areas (LAAAs) that present the opportunity to support local communities in reducing alcohol-related harm and creating safe and thriving night time economies. The conference explored a range of issues including:

- Reducing alcohol related health harms
- Local Alcohol Action Area updates – including a presentation by a representative from Northumberland CSP, one of 33 new LAAAs announced earlier this year.
- Effective data sharing and analyses
- A focus on vulnerability
- Reducing alcohol related ASB
- Support for frontline staff

6.2 Paying the Price for Strong White Cider

Working together with the PCCs from Durham and Cleveland, and colleagues at Balance, the North East Alcohol Office, and the Alcohol Health Alliance, we wrote the following letter to the Chancellor of the Exchequer calling on the Government to increase duty on strong white cider in the March 2017 budget.

“I am writing to you in relation to your budget on 8 March when I believe you have the opportunity to help protect some of the most vulnerable members of society by increasing the duty on cheap, strong cider which is almost exclusively consumed by children and heavy drinkers.

The facts speak for themselves:

- *Strong white cider, specifically Frosty Jack’s, is a drink of choice for children requiring specialist alcohol treatment*
- *A study in Scotland showed that one in four adults in treatment drink white cider – with the vast majority choosing it because of the price*
- *Strong cider attracts the lowest duty per unit of any alcohol product, meaning it is possible to buy three litres of strong cider – containing the equivalent of 22 shots of vodka – for less than £4*

As I'm sure you know, dealing with alcohol related crime and disorder is a significant drain on police resources. A survey of frontline police officers in the North East revealed that the majority of them estimate that alcohol related crime and disorder makes up at least half of their workload and only 14 per cent of them have never been assaulted by someone who has been drinking.

Tackling cheap alcohol would help reduce some of these pressures and a first step would be to increase duty on these strong ciders. In 2011 the introduction of a new, higher duty band for super-strength beer saw the market fall by 23 per cent in two years. It would work in the same way for strong cider while leaving 80 per cent of all cider sales unaffected.

I urge you to help protect children and vulnerable adults by introducing this highly targeted measure in your March budget.

I await your response with interest."

Following the budget we received an update from colleagues at Balance confirming that although it was not actually announced in the budget statement itself a close look at the budget papers made it clear that the Government would hold a consultation on introducing a new duty band for still cider to just below 7.5 abv to target white ciders.

The government have subsequently launched the 'Alcohol Structures Consultation' which will close on 12th June 2017. I will be responding to this consultation to support the call for the Treasury to address outstanding anomalies and amend the system so that duty rates better correspond to alcoholic strength. I would seek support from partners to also respond. As always Balance North East will be able to support organisations with research and information to inform their response.

6.3 Sex and relationships education in schools.

In early March, I was delighted to welcome the 'long-overdue' plans for sex and relationships education (SRE) to be made compulsory in all schools. I have campaigned on this issue for years, along with many others, calling on the government to make age-appropriate SRE compulsory in order to help tackle child sexual exploitation (CSE) by educating young people on the illegality of abuse and instilling them with the confidence to report it.

Recently, the government commissioned the Women and Equalities Committee to conduct a review of Sexual Harassment & Sexual Violence in Schools and the guidance and statutory measures currently in place to tackle it. This review found that almost a third of girls aged 16-18 said that they had been groped at school. Three fifths of young women had experienced some form of sexual harassment. Following this, the committee called on the government to make SRE compulsory in schools.

In March, the Education Secretary announced that the issue will now be a priority for the education department. For a long time I have said that SRE is vital for the safety and well-being of every child in the country. The government had been missing an obvious

opportunity to protect children for a long time and I am delighted they have now rectified this.

The government now needs to ensure that sex education and relationships education are well implemented, everywhere, and cover the full spectrum of issues including consent, sexual health and the difference between acceptable and abusive behaviour.

Unfortunately sexting and sexual bullying have been on the rise for some time now and we need clear messages for young people – what is acceptable and what is not. This is about helping them make informed choices and learning to respect themselves as well as others. Educating young people about these issues will no longer be left to chance but will become a firm part of the school curriculum”

Section 7 - Lobbying and shaping the national agenda - Update

<p>APCC – Consultation to inform the work of the APCC portfolio areas.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Alun Michael, Police and Crime Commissioner for South Wales consulted all PCCs as portfolio lead for the Association of Police and Crime Commissioners about the local use of Citizens in Police (Volunteering) to inform priorities for the portfolio. • Martyn Underhill, Police and Crime Commissioner for Dorset undertook consultation around the recently about the use of spit hoods by Police Forces in Custody environments.
<p>National College of Mediation</p>	<p>The college sought information from PCCs to inform their review of the provisions community mediation across the UK.</p>
<p>Home Office – Consultation on changes to chief constable appointments and the police pay machinery.</p>	<p>A response was provided to this consultation from the Home office that sought views on two legislative proposals designed to :</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> i. Widen the pool of eligible candidates for appointment as chief constable ii. Further streamline the police pay machinery
<p>NCA Annual Plan</p>	<p>PCCs views were sought from the National Crime Agency on their Annual Plan for 17/18</p>