



POLICE AND CRIME PANEL

28 MARCH 2022

REPORT OF THE POLICE AND CRIME COMMISSIONER FOR NORTHUMBRIA

**FIGHTING CRIME, FIGHTING POVERTY DRAFT OF THE REFRESHED POLICE
AND CRIME PLAN 2021-2025**

1. Purpose

1.1 The purpose of this report is to present a draft of the Police and Crime Commissioner's refreshed Police and Crime Plan 2021- 2025.

2. Background

2.1 The PCC turns the public's policing priorities in to a strategic plan for the police force by producing a Police and Crime Plan. This statutory duty must be carried out within the financial year in which each ordinary election is held. Due to the postponed of the ordinary election in 2020 the PCC has determined to consult and publish this police and crime plan at this point to prevent further delay to the publication of a new plan that reflects current community priorities and her commitments to local people. The Police and Crime Plan for Northumbria includes statutory requirements as outlined in the Police and Reform and Social Responsibility Act 2011, chapter 3, section 7.

2.2 The role of the Police and Crime Panel is to review the draft Police and Crime Plan and make a report and recommendations for regard by the PCC.

2.3 The Police and Crime Plan must include:

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

2.4 The Police and Crime Panel reviewed the PCC's Police and Crime Plan in February 2021. At the time the PCC said her intention was to refresh the Plan annually.

3. Shaping the Plan

3.1 The draft refreshed Police and Crime Plan builds on the original extensive public consultation in 2021. This saw a wide range of public consultation alongside consultation with key partners and organisations, as documented in the report to panel in 2021.

3.2 Public consultation to refresh the Police and Crime Plan

The PCC's Police and Crime Plan includes a commitment to an annual consultation event with the public to ensure the plan reflects current and emerging public concerns. This is not intended to be a full rethink of the policing priorities for Northumbria Police.

3.2.1 A consultation event was held in Winter 2022 to gather views on crime and policing. In addition the OPCC has engaged in year-round neighbourhood and demographic consultation and engagement events, and these are also factored in to the refresh consultation. Following views of public safety uncovered during the Safer Streets bidding process, a separate survey of passenger safety on public transport was also carried out as part of this refresh.

3.2.2 The plan refresh consultation ran from 31st January – 20th February 2022 and generated 1305 responses in total. There was a further 524 responses to our Transport Consultation which will be incorporated into the plan refresh. The plan was carried out online, using stakeholders and partners to share the message. Additionally, 100,000 households received a leaflet informing them of the consultation. Local advertising was also undertaken reaching a wide audience range.

3.2.3 The OPCC sought to understand if the public still agreed with the six policing and crime priorities which they highlighted 12 months ago, or if priorities had changed. Respondents were clear to highlight that they very much still agreed with the six priorities that we agreed last year and shaped the existing Police and Crime Plan. The top three issues that residents want to see tackled locally also reminded the same from last year, albeit in a slightly changed order.

Feeling of safety amongst respondents was positive, though different fairly significantly depending on with local authority they resided in.

3.2.4 The consultation findings were broadly in line with 2021. The public's first priority remains fighting crime –including serious & organised criminals, online & rural crime. There was more of a focus from respondents this year on tackling domestic abuse & sexual violence and supporting the associated victims. Whilst a lot of local priorities remained the same from last year, there was a significant increase in concerns relating to motorbike related anti-social behaviour.

3.2.5 There was an acknowledgement from the public that there is a need to invest in key areas and sectors to prevent crime.

3.3 Community Safety Partnerships strategic assessments

In 2021 all Community Safety Partnerships shared with us their latest thinking about community safety and policing priorities and we have ensured that the strong messages around domestic abuse, anti-social behaviour and working in partnership remain an unchanged feature of the refreshed plan.

3.4 Police and Crime Panel consultation

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

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

These considerations were taken into account in the development of the draft plan which was then sent to panel members in January 2021. As part of this refresh a consultation event was held with the panel in February 2022. Panel overall agreed with the current direction of plan. It was suggested continued focus be given in particular to ASB and the illegal drugs trade, both of which will remain a key feature of the plan. Further feedback was received urging a more strategic approach to fighting crime, with a wider view than just the public's immediate priorities. The PCC believes the document should reflect local concern, but agrees the need for longer term considerations.

3.5 Northumbria Police performance

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

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

HMICFRS continue to monitor and report on forces policing and efficiency activity. Recommendations and areas identified for service improvement both nationally and local sit alongside recognition of good practice. The information and findings within these reports can shape and improve service delivery. Action following local inspection or contained within a thematic

report will be responded to, as appropriate, by Northumbria Police to support the effective delivery of my Police and Crime Plan.

3.7 Northumbria Police Strategic Assessment/Force Management Statement

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

3.8 National Policing Vision and Strategic Policing Requirement

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

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

4. Police and Crime Plan changes

- 4.1 The 2021 consultation showed clear areas of concern from the public. There was widespread support for a renewed emphasis on targeting criminals and those who commit anti-social behaviour. The public also gave strong backing to a preventative approach to crime fighting, endorsing the PCC's view that diversionary activity and targeted interventions for young people are key to keeping out of crime.

The survey showed that people want to see:

1. Fighting crime:
 - a. ASB & alcohol related crime tackled
 - b. Drug related and Serious and organised crime tackled
2. Preventing crime:

- a. Higher police visibility and better community engagement
- b. Multi agency public health approach to preventing crime

3. Improving lives:

- a. Communities support and lives improved to prevent crime
- b. Hate crime tackled

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

4.2 From the 2021 consultation clear priorities emerged that would underpin the structure and aim of the Police and Crime Plan. These are:

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

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

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

4.3 The 2022 consultation on the refresh endorses this approach. Additionally, there was an acknowledgement from the public that there is a need to invest in key areas and sectors to prevent crime.

4.2 The PCC believes that more focus should be given to the wider factors impacting on crime rates. Deprivation, poverty, unemployment and low income jobs are all deeply linked to the risk of being victim of crime.

4.3 Research from the think tank Civitas showed that everyone benefits from lower crime, but it is those on lower incomes and those who live in deprived areas who would benefit most.

Compared to households on incomes above £50,000, those on incomes below £10,000 are:

- Considerably more likely to be attacked by someone they know and far more likely to be attacked by a stranger;
- Twice as likely to suffer violence with injury;
- Twice as likely to be burgled;
- Three times as likely to be robbed and mugged;

4.4 In order to help articulate the wider aim of tackling the factors contributing to the number victims of crime, the PCC is proposing to rebrand the Police and

Crime Plan as Fighting Poverty, Fighting Crime as the main change to the Plan.

- 4.5 Since 2021 work has also progressed on tackling anti-social behaviour. A strategic board has held its first meeting, and changes to the Community Trigger process designed to empower victims of ASB are being prepared. The language in the Police and Crime Plan concerning ASB has been updated to reflect this.
- 4.6 For the first time, public concerns over the need for safer public transport are also reflected in this plan, with a commitment from the OPCC to maintaining, where resources allow, a package of safety measures.

5. Recommendation

- 5.1 Panel members are asked to:
 - a) review the refreshed draft plan and make a report or recommendations to the PCC; and
 - b) give support to the PCC and Chief Constable to deliver the plan over the next three years.