



## **Report of the Police & Crime Commissioner to the Chair and Members of the Cleveland Police and Crime Panel**

**12<sup>th</sup> November 2024**

### **Draft Police and Crime Plan 2024 – 2029**

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

1.1 To present to the Police and Crime Panel the draft Police and Crime Plan 2024-2029, as attached at Appendix A, for review and comment.

#### **2. Background**

2.1 The Police Reform and Social Responsibility Act 2011, sets out the responsibilities of Police and Crime Commissioners (PCC) in relation to the development and issuing of a new Police and Crime plan.

2.2 Before issuing a new Police and Crime Plan, the PCC must—

- a. Prepare a draft of the plan or variation,
- b. Consult the relevant chief constable in preparing the draft plan or variation,
- c. Send the draft plan or variation to the relevant police and crime panel,
- d. Have regard to any report or recommendations made by the panel in relation to the draft plan or variation,
- e. Give the panel a response to any such report or recommendations, and
- f. Publish any such response.

2.3 The Police and Crime Plan is the primary document through which the PCC sets out the strategic vision and objectives for policing and community safety in the local policing area.

2.4 A PCC must produce a Police and Crime Plan within the financial year of their election, which must have regard to the Strategic Policing Requirement (SPR) set by the Home Secretary.

2.5 To inform the development of the Plan the PCC is required to draw upon a wide range of information from police, community safety and criminal justice partners to ensure it reflects the police and crime issues which are affecting the area.

2.6 PCCs are also required to seek the views of the public on the draft plan through a public consultation, and to obtain the views of victims of crime in the area about matters concerning policing.

2.7 The PCC has the statutory duty to hold the Chief Constable to account for the overall performance of the Force including against the priorities agreed within the Plan.

### **3. Development of the Draft Police and Crime Plan 2024-2029**

3.1 The draft Police and Crime Plan is based on the manifesto commitments highlighted during the PCC's election campaign in 2024.

3.2 The development of the Plan has also been informed by a wide range of local data, strategies and national priorities including:

- Local police performance data, including national comparator datasets and national crime and policing measures.
- Community Safety Partnership Plans.
- Local Criminal Justice Board priorities.
- The Strategic Policing Requirement published in February 2023.
- HMICFRS State of Policing Report 2023 published in July 2024.
- Policing Productivity Review published in November 2023.
- Emerging Government commitments, policy and legislative changes.

3.3 On the 2<sup>nd</sup> July 2024, the PCC held a Police and Crime Plan Development Session with the Chief Constable and the wider Chief Officer Team, with ongoing consultation continuing throughout the development of the draft plan.

3.4 On the 15<sup>th</sup> July 2024, the PCC launched an extensive consultation programme on the draft Police and Crime Plan, setting out the below six objectives to achieve the strategic vision of making Safe, Strong and Confident Communities.

- Deliver more visible and effective policing
- Reduce crime, antisocial behaviour and harm
- Improve safety for women and girls
- Build trust and confidence in policing and the criminal justice system
- Ensure the right support for victims and vulnerable people
- Tackle offending and re-offending

3.5 As detailed in the Consultation Report, attached at Appendix B, the consultation programme was initially planned for six-weeks, comprising of five main strands of engagement activity:

- An online survey - community members were asked to rank the PCC's main six priorities and provide feedback on how these objectives may be achieved.
- Engagement stalls – residents are asked to rank the PCC's six priorities at a range of community events and on stalls in local supermarkets.

- Briefings and meetings – the PCC presented his draft plan to a range of stakeholders within the criminal justice and community safety landscape.
- Victim/survivor focus groups – the PCC is required by law to engage with people affected by crime and focus groups were held to seek their views.
- Workshops with diverse groups – the PCC visited young people, older people, people with learning disabilities and the hearing-impaired community, and ethnically diverse communities.

3.6 The consultation was promoted via the OPCC’s social media channels and through press releases, together with raising awareness of the consultation with elected members, stakeholders, partners and organisations including the voluntary sector agencies.

3.7 In light of the violence and disorder that took place in Cleveland during the summer, the PCC and his team reprioritised engagement activity to focus on recovery in affected wards in Hartlepool and Middlesbrough.

3.8 As a result, the Police and Crime Plan consultation was extended for a further four weeks until 30<sup>th</sup> September 2024.

#### **4. Consultation Results Summary**

4.1 The aim of the consultation was to gather rich, descriptive feedback on the PCC’s six draft priorities. As such, greater efforts were made to conduct meaningful discussions involving the PCC, as well as traditional survey and engagement methods.

4.2 As detailed in the Consultation Report, attached at Appendix B, more than 1,500 people participated in the consultation of the draft Police and Crime Plan, this is broken down as follows:

- 163 people from stakeholders, partners, and organisations engaged with online stakeholder briefings and partnership meetings.
- 588 people participated in the online survey which was open to the public within Cleveland.
- 510 people across Cleveland participated in the consultation on engagement stalls roadshows at family events, libraries, supermarkets, and shopping centres.
- 20 victims and survivors of crime participated in the focus groups.
- 242 people from diverse groups attended workshops on the Plan.

4.2 From the demographic and characteristic information collected from the on-line survey almost one third of respondents had been a victim of crime in the last 12 months. Of those victims of crime, over two-thirds were victims of antisocial behaviour.

- 4.5 From the consultation several key themes were picked up throughout the consultation including:
- More police officers, with support for more visible policing, with dedicated neighbourhood teams for each area who were given the time to effectively engage and build relationships with local communities.
  - Public expectation that the police should respond quickly to contact methods, investigate crime, tackle issues of public concern and bring perpetrators to justice.
  - Recognition of funding challenges affecting Cleveland.
  - Support for increased operational policing activity, tougher sentences and justice being delivered in a visible way.
  - Police to focus on crime and not wider vulnerabilities like mental health, drugs/substance misuse or homelessness.
  - Frustration with the wider criminal justice system and the feeling that sentences are too lenient and not acting as a meaningful deterrent.
  - Education and training around knife crime, violence against women and girls and in efforts to prevent offending.
  - Recognition that reducing crime would improve confidence and trust in police.
- 4.13 The PCC's principles were well received during the stakeholder briefings with a welcomed recognition and willingness to strengthening partnership across statutory partners and VCS.
- 4.14 In the additional engagement post-disorder, there was an increased request for a strategic group on hate crime to be chaired by the PCC. To look at ways of educating on anti-racism to dispel the misconceptions.
- 4.15 Combining quantitative feedback from the online and face-to-face ranking exercises, respondents ranked the PCC's Police and Crime Plan objectives , in order of importance/priority objectives as follows:
- Reduce crime, antisocial behaviour and harm
  - Deliver more visible and effective policing
  - Improve safety for women and girls
  - Ensure the right support for victims and vulnerable people
  - Build trust and confidence in policing and the criminal justice system
  - Tackle offending and re-offending
- 4.16 To reflect the concerns and priorities of the public, the PCC's six objectives will be presented in the Police and Crime Plan as above. In addition the development of the underpinning delivery plan will also prioritise the issues of most importance to the public.

4.17 Overall, the feedback from the consultation has been reviewed and informed the development of the draft Police and Crime Plan attached at Appendix A.

## **5. Equality Considerations**

5.1 As a public sector body, the PCC must meet the requirements of the Equality Act 2010 which brings together all previous equality legislation and includes a new public sector equality duty.

5.2 From the outset of the development of the Police and Crime Plan it has been imperative that people from all communities across Cleveland were able to engage and participate in the consultation process.

5.3 As detailed at Appendix C, a series of workshops and focus groups were held with diverse groups, along with both online, in-person and via community organisations to facilitate ease of access for consultation participants.

5.4 As an integral part of the Police and Crime Plan development process, a full Equality Impact Assessment (EIA), attached at Appendix D, has been undertaken to ensure that the PCC meets statutory obligations and delivers Safe, Strong and Confident Communities for all.

5.5 The Plan will be made available in formats that are accessible to all people in Cleveland, including young people and easy read versions, along with priorities of the plan translated into key local languages based-on Census data, which will be available digitally and in hardcopy within targeted community locations.

## **6. Recommendation**

6.1 That Police and Crime Panel note the report and review the draft Police and Crime Plan 2024-2029.