



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

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

### **Police and Crime Commissioner's Scrutiny Programme Update**

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

- 1.1 To provide members of the Cleveland Police and Crime Panel with an update on the Police and Crime Commissioner's scrutiny programme.

#### **2. Background Information**

- 2.1 The scrutiny of the Force is one of the main responsibilities of the Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC), as set out in the Police and Social Responsibility Act 2011.
- 2.2 Delivered through the PCC's Standards, Scrutiny and Accountability (SSA) Programme, effective checks and balances are undertaken through a schedule of regular meetings and assurance checks.
- 2.3 The SSA Programme enables the PCC and the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner (OPCC) to challenge the Force in an appropriate way and to fulfil the PCC's statutory duty of holding the Force to account. In doing so, the aim of the SSA Programme is to generate discussion and explore issues objectively, which leads to positive organisational learning and change.

#### **3. The Scrutiny Forward Work Programme**

- 3.1 The PCC has a statutory duty and electoral mandate to hold the police to account on behalf of the public. The purpose of the monthly Scrutiny Meetings is to enable the PCC to fulfil that statutory duty.
- 3.2 Scrutiny Meetings provide a platform for the PCC to hold the Chief Constable to account on the running of the Force and scrutinise, support and challenge the performance of the Force. The PCC calls on subject matter experts to inform the key lines of questioning.
- 3.3 Since the last report to the Cleveland Police and Crime Panel, 2 Scrutiny Meetings have taken place:

#### **4. Out of Court Resolutions (OoCR) and Outcome 16 - 16 September 2024**

- 4.1. Given current performance data and the findings and feedback received from both the OoCR Scrutiny Panel and the HMICFRS 2021/22 PEEL inspection, the PCC was looking to:
- hold the Chief Constable to account for the application of OoCRs and Outcome 16;
  - seek assurance that the Force has effective processes in place to ensure OoCRs and Outcome 16 are applied consistently, fairly, appropriately and proportionately; and
  - seek assurance that the Force has measures in place to improve performance in respect of community resolution rates and unsupportive victim rates.
- 4.2. The following questions were asked:
1. What measures does the Force have in place to improve performance in respect of community resolution rates and unsupportive victim rates?
  2. What governance and monitoring processes does the Force have in place to:
    - make sure the right outcome type is assigned;
    - ensure OoCRs and Outcome 16 are being applied consistently, fairly and proportionately; and
    - minimise disparities in police outcomes?
  3. How does the Force ensure the victim's voice is factored into decision-making and their wishes are fully represented and considered?
  4. How does the Force ensure that, when applying Outcome 16, there is an auditable record of the victim's wish to withdraw support?
  5. In terms of preventing further offending and securing positive outcomes for victims, how is the Force performing?
- 4.3. The PCC was **partly assured** by the evidence submitted by the Force. The PCC acknowledged that the Force is currently working hard to develop an organisational culture that promotes the appropriate use of OoCR and Outcome 16 through guidance, training, monitoring and the introduction of the U-Turn Team. In order to be fully assured, an improvement in the rates of OoCRs would be needed. Therefore, an update will be considered in 6 months' time to ascertain what progress has been made in improving performance rates.

## **5. Retail Crime**

- 5.1. Given the recent national increases in retail crime and violence against shopworkers, there is a need to adopt a zero-tolerance approach to retail crime. Therefore, the PCC was looking to:
- gain an awareness and understanding of the scale of retail crimes in Cleveland; and
  - seek assurance that the Force is working proactively with retailers to prevent and respond to retail crime.
- 5.2. The following questions were asked:
1. When making comparisons with the data reported at the Scrutiny Meeting on 2 November 2023, what is the current scale of retail crimes in Cleveland (the types of crimes being committed - including assaults against retail workers, the number of crimes being reported and the number of crimes receiving a police response)?
  2. What work has the Force undertaken to demonstrate its commitment to the Retail Crime Action Plan?

3. What problem-solving work has the Force undertaken with retailers to catch perpetrators, identify repeat offenders and prevent new offences?
4. Since the Scrutiny Meeting held on 2 November and the introduction of Pegasus, are businesses being proactive in investing in crime prevention measures and sharing intelligence with the Force to design out crime?
5. What work has the Force undertaken to identify and tackle organised retail crime gangs operating in Cleveland?
6. What positive outcomes have been achieved by the Force when aiming to prevent crime, safeguard shopworkers and target offenders?

5.3. The PCC was **assured** by the evidence submitted by the Force.

## **6. Finance**

6.1 There are no financial implications arising from this report.

## **7. Risk**

7.1 There are no risk implications arising from this report.

## **8. Diversity and Equal Opportunities**

8.1 There are no diversity or equal opportunities implications arising from this report.

## **9. Recommendation**

9.1 That the content of the report be noted.