

Durham Police & Crime Plan 2021/24



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DURHAM POLICE AND
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Contents

Section		Page
1	Foreword from the Police & Crime Commissioner	3
2	Meet the Chief Constable	6
3	Force Area	7
4	The Public's Police and Crime Priorities	9
4.1	Safer Communities	12
4.2	Safer Business	15
4.3	Safer Online	16
4.4	Safer People	17
4.5	Safer Roads	20
4.6	Safer Countryside	22
5	Measuring Progress against the Public's Police and Crime Priorities	24
6	Relationship of the Police & Crime Plan to Community Safety Plans of Partners	26
7	Strategic Policing and National Policing Strategies	27
8	Collaboration	30
9	Policing Budget and Precept	33
10	Services for Victims and Grant Funding	35
11	Roles and Responsibilities	37



1. Foreword

from the Police & Crime Commissioner

Prior to my election as Durham's Police and Crime Commissioner I reached out the people of County Durham and Darlington to ask them what my police and crime priorities should be. They told me very clearly that anti-social behaviour, drug use and drug dealing, fly tipping, speeding and vandalism were their main areas of concern.

They also shared their experiences of crime and the fear of crime in their communities and told me what they would like to see improved. I hope my vision to make the communities of County Durham and Darlington safer, stronger and more resilient to crime and anti-social behaviour will deliver what matters most to them.

Achieving this vision is important because resilient and cohesive communities are more likely to engage with services, report crime and anti-social behaviour and get involved in making their areas safer, cleaner and greener.

To reduce crime and anti-social behaviour we need to get better at targeting police and partner resources efficiently and effectively. This can only be done if residents report all crime and anti-social behaviour to the relevant agencies. Unfortunately, this is often not the case. In fact, 34% of people responding to my Police and Crime Survey who had been a victim of crime did not report it which could be explained by the fact that 68% found it difficult to report issues.

Policing should be intelligence led and data driven so I intend to make it easier, faster and more convenient to report crime and anti-social behaviour and give residents the confidence and reassurance they need to report issues in.

Good local intelligence enables analysts to provide our neighbourhood and specialist teams with timely and accurate information that identifies hot spots and facilitates

effective multi agency problem solving partnership approaches which develop local solutions to local problems.



As your Police and Crime Commissioner my first priority will be to do all I can to prevent crime occurring in the first place. I was shocked to learn that only 6% of residents in my survey agreed they received regular crime prevention advice. So I am determined to embed a prevention first culture to reduce crime, victimisation, offending and the number of people killed and seriously injured on our roads.

I will work with the Chief Constable to ensure we do all we can to protect victims of crime and anti-social behaviour and deter offending and re-offending by recognising the symptoms of crime, understanding the causes and intervening early to stop offending behaviour.

We will endeavour to disrupt crime at every level and reassure the public confidence that the Police will relentlessly pursue those who

profit from crime and ensure they are brought to justice.

This is my first plan that has been and will continue to be informed by local residents, partners, businesses and I look forward to working everyone over the coming 3 years to deliver safer, stronger and more resilient, towns, villages and City.



Vision

My vision for County Durham and Darlington is that people will feel safe and secure in their own homes and in their communities.

From my Police and Crime Survey, I know residents in County Durham and Darlington are concerned about the crime and disorder they see in their neighbourhoods, such as anti-social behaviour, drug use and drug dealing, fly tipping, speeding and vandalism.

My top priority is to get more funding for Durham and Darlington and to enable the police and PCSOs to spend more time on our streets.

Policing alone cannot tackle crime and disorder – help us needed from our

communities to provide better intelligence to help us prevent crime, protect individuals, deter offending and reoffending, and pursue offenders.

Resilient and confident communities are more likely to report crime, environmental crime and anti-social behaviour, and they are also more likely to work with other to prevent crime and disorder.

I want to make our communities feel safe and have confidence in working together. By coming together, we will make our communities safer, stronger and more resilient to crime and anti-social behaviour.



2. Meet the Chief Constable



Jo joined Durham Constabulary in November 2016 as Deputy Chief Constable and has contributed to the force's continued outstanding performance. She was appointed Chief Constable of Durham in June 2019, becoming the first woman to hold the post in the force's 180-year history, and has steered the force through the challenges generated by the Covid-19 pandemic.

As Chief Constable, Jo has made it her top priority to tackle high harm crime, with a fresh

focus on those offences which have the greatest impact on victims and communities.

During her leadership, Jo has overseen additional resources allocated to Safeguarding teams and an emphasis on delivering justice for survivors of rape, through improved investigations and better ties to the CPS, which has led to Durham having one of the highest charging rates for rape of any force in the UK.

Jo is a powerful and visible advocate of equal rights for all and has championed the cause of inclusion at every level of the force, adding the principle to Durham's core values and making a public commitment through the force's new Inclusivity Charter, a 10-point pledge to address equality of opportunity at every level of policing.

She has adopted a problem-solving approach to policing, applying original and progressive thinking to some of the most intransigent issues facing policing, such as Durham's world-leading Checkpoint programme which aims to address the revolving door of reoffending by tackling the underlying causes of criminal behaviour. And she has placed a very public

emphasis on the wellbeing of her officers and staff: including an early commitment to equip and train all frontline officers with Taser and her pioneering use of victim impact statements in court to support officers who have been assaulted in the line of duty. On a national level, Jo works on behalf of the National Police Chiefs Council in the areas of Information Management and Criminal Justice Case Progression.

Jo is looking forward to working with Joy on her Police and Crime Plan and to deliver the priorities in partnership across the county and borough.

3. Force area

Durham Constabulary provides policing services to the areas of County Durham and Darlington, covering 936 square miles with approximately 15 miles of coastline in the North East of England. It serves a residential population of around 0.6 million. The population is increased by University students and the large numbers who visit or travel through the area each year. Durham has many areas of outstanding natural beauty and is home to Durham Cathedral, a world heritage site attracting many visitors. Demographics are varied with both urban and rural communities, some affluent, others with significant poverty and deprivation. Four prisons operate in the area, one being a reception prison servicing Durham, Newcastle and Teesside.

Our population of the area is predominantly White British but we do have pockets of diverse cultures and populations, in Durham City, Darlington, and some of our larger towns. It is vital that we understand the needs of



people with protected characteristics, and work closely with them.

The force area is also economically diverse. It is experiencing a significant direct investment in jobs and infrastructure, most visibly in

Durham City and Darlington, and economic growth will help contribute to our communities being safe and strong, and places where people want to live, work and spend the leisure time. However, many people in our area live in very difficult financial circumstances. Many of the towns and villages, particularly in the east, have challenges resulting from industrial decline, with high degrees of unemployment.

In our villages, and in the rural areas to the west of the area, we also see problems associated with social isolation. These different challenges require different responses, and it is incumbent that we work with all partners in all sectors and particularly communities themselves to tackle and resolve these problems.

There is a strong history of partnership working across County Durham and Darlington. We work proactively and determinedly to build productive relationships with agencies, to achieve our common aim of keeping our communities safe and enabling our people to thrive. Both Local Authority Areas within the Constabulary area have an

overall partnership which is underpinned by a series of thematic partnerships including, Community Safety Partnerships (The Safe Durham Partnership and Darlington Community Safety Partnership). Effective partnership working has led to positive outcomes for the communities of County Durham and Darlington as these areas

continue to be among the safest places to live and work in the UK.

We work closely with Durham County Council, Darlington Borough Council, local NHS Clinical Commissioning Groups, NHS England, National Probation Service, Durham Tees Valley Community Rehabilitation Company,

North East Prisons, the Crown Prosecution Service, HM Courts and Tribunal Service, County Durham and Darlington Fire and Rescue Service, Home Office, Ministry of Justice, Association of Police and Crime Commissioners, Association of Police Officers, and a wide range of voluntary and community sector partners.



4. The Public's Police & Crime Priorities – Plan on a Page

What I Want to Achieve

My vision is to make the communities of County Durham and Darlington safer, stronger and more resilient to crime and anti-social behaviour.

My Approach

Intelligence

We need to improve our communication to make it easier and faster to report crime

Data Driven

We need to invest in research to assess how well plans are working and inform us where we need to improve

Problem Solving

Use intelligence and data to advise decision making and response

Partnership Approach

Work with a wide range of partners to reduce crime, protect victims and prevent offending and anti-social behaviour

My Priorities

Safer Communities

Invest in neighbourhood policing to reassure public, tackle crime and ASB, provide prevention advice, solve problems, and build confidence

Safer Business

Gain a better understanding of the crime faced by businesses and shop workers to address business crime, threats and abuse

Safer Online

Tackle the emerging threats of cyber enabled crime by developing new tactics and capabilities to safeguard those using online platforms

Safer People

To protect, support and respond to victims, witnesses and vulnerable people and tackle abuse and exploitation in all their forms

Safer Roads

To prioritise and tackle the areas of highest harm and risk known as the fatal 4: speeding, mobile phones, drunk and drug driving, and seat belts

Safer Countryside

Understand and respond to the needs of rural communities and tailor services accordingly

What Action Needs to be Taken

PREVENT

Embedding a prevention-first culture

PROTECT

We need to put the needs of the victims of crime at the centre of everything we do

DETER

Tackle the root causes of offending and support the rehabilitation of people who have offended or who are at risk of offending

PURSUE

Identify, target, and pursue offenders, bring them to justice and redistribute proceeds of crime back

What Success Looks Like

REDUCED CRIME AND ANTI-SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR

REDUCED VICTIMISATION

REDUCED DEATHS AND SERIOUS INJURY ON THE ROADS

REDUCED FEAR OF CRIME

Strategic Priorities



My Plan is centred on achieving four key strategic priorities: **Prevent, Protect, Deter and Pursue**

PREVENT: We will embed a prevention-first culture and promote public health approach in our work and that of our partners.

I will:

- Ensure those working on the front line are increasingly focused on preventing crime – as opposed to reacting to crime.
- Train all staff working in a public contact role in preventative policing to a nationally agreed standard.
- Provide our people with the technology, skills, capacity and personal support to prevent crime and reduce demand.
- Introduce specialist Cyber Prevention Officers and expand Cyber Volunteering opportunities to prevent cyber-crime and victimisation.

PROTECT: We will put the needs of victims of crime at the centre of everything we do.

I will:

- Protect frontline policing to keep our communities safer, stronger and more secure.
- Review services with the Chief Constable to ensure that victims of crime are given full support.

DETER: We will tackle the root causes of offending and support rehabilitation of people who offend or who are at risk of offending.

I will:



• Develop solutions that address repeat offending and break patterns of reoffending.

- Support local criminal justice partners and ensure that the Police, Youth Offending Services, Crown Prosecution Service, Courts, Community Rehabilitation Company, National Probation Service and Prisons work together to support victims.

- Liaise with Public Health, Housing, Employment and Mental Health services to ensure that potential offenders get access to the support that they need.

- Adopt a public health approach to reducing crime. Recognising the symptoms of drug use, alcoholism, gambling, mental health etc, by understanding the causes and intervening early to stop the escalation of symptoms to help reduce criminal and anti-social behaviour.

- Develop an improved understanding of the needs profile of females who offend.

- Support the development and use of the Restorative Justice.

PURSUE: We will identify, target, and pursue offenders to bring them to justice.

I will:

- Use proceeds of crime to help the recovery of victims and the restoration of our communities.

- Disrupt organised crime at every level ensuring the public can see those who try to profit from crime are pursued and brought to justice.

- Ensure the Police and partners use the full range of enforcement legislation available to them.

- Take enforcement action against those who endanger the lives of road users and pedestrians.

The Public's Police & Crime Priorities

4.1 Safer Communities

The main objective is to engage and empower communities to play an active role in crime prevention and resolving local issues. I will work with the Chief Constable and partners to:

Anti-social Behaviour

- Appoint an Anti-Social Behaviour Champion to spearhead multi-agency action to address persistent anti-social behaviour and chair Community Trigger resolution meetings.
- Tackle quality of life issues that matter most to residents such as anti-social behaviour, fly tipping, vandalism and dog fouling.
- Lobby the Home Office to consider replicating legal powers currently available to police in Scotland to enable our officers to serve warnings, fines and seize noisy equipment.
- Ensure victims of persistent, unresolved anti-social behaviour are able to access to support as do victims of crime.
- Display guidelines on how to enact the (ASB) Community Trigger prominently on websites, notice boards and publications to enable all victims of anti-social behaviour to seek redress.
- Encourage victims to submit a written account of the effects of the ASB and be entitled to read it or have it read out on their behalf at the Community Trigger Meeting.
- Review how the Police, Darlington Borough Council and Durham County Council take ownership of ASB reports to ensure people get the right support at the right time by the right organisation.
- Use the full suite of criminal and civic tools and powers to address anti-social behaviour effectively.
- Enable victims of ASB to attend a resolution meeting to explain the impact the ASB behaviour is having on them.

Neighbourhood Crime

- Work with partners to establish area based multi-agency hubs to support collaborative problem-solving approaches to reduce crime, anti-social behaviour and victimisation.
- Ensure Police teams are more visible and accountable – and there is a nominated and visible local officer or PSCO in every neighbourhood.
- Put more Police Officers back on our streets.
- Explore the feasibility of establishing a Community Orientated Policing (COP) bank similar to the NHS nursing banks to address demand pressures and provide additional capacity to respond to localised problem-solving solutions.
- Set up Community Safety Volunteer, Employment and Training (VET) Academy to support, promote careers and volunteering opportunities in the criminal justice sector.

- Engage with and empower communities to enable them to play an active role in crime prevention and resolve local issues.
- Involve people with lived experience when working with victims of crime, anti-social behaviour, addictions, and abuse.
- Work with partners to ensure the public know where to report issues and access the right services, at the right time from the right agency.
- Promote a multi-agency problem-solving strategy to prevent neighbourhood crime (burglary, robbery, theft from the person and vehicle crime).
- Ensure an effective integrated offender management scheme for identifying neighbourhood crime offenders and intervening to prevent reoffending.

Serious and Organised Crime

- Ensure the police force has the necessary resources to respond to serious and

organised crime threats (firearms, drugs, child criminal exploitation, fraud, economic crime, cyber, modern slavery, human trafficking).

- Deliver on the strategic policing requirement.
- Tackle and disrupt organised crime groups behind drug activity.
- Recognise the exploitation of children and young people and continue to identify and safeguard those most at risk.
- Continue to work with law enforcement agencies; local authorities; non-governmental organisations and charities to coordinate the local, regional and national response to modern slavery through the National Anti-Trafficking and Modern Slavery Network.
- Develop a public health approach to shape the partnership work to prevent and reduce Serious Violence.



“I will ensure the police force has the necessary resources to respond to serious and organised crime threats (firearms, drugs, child criminal exploitation, fraud, economic crime, cyber, modern slavery, human trafficking)”.

4.2 Safer Business

To increase our understanding of the crime, threats and abuse faced by businesses and shopworkers.

- Strengthen engagement with local businesses to prevent crime and protect themselves and retail workers.
- Gain a better understanding of the crimes faced by business and ensure they get the support they need to keep themselves and customers safe.
- Take steps to tackle violence against shop workers and support to the Co-op's Respect for Shop Workers and USDAW campaigns.
- Work with businesses to help them prevent and reduce business crime such as theft, cyber-crime, cyber-attacks, and fraud.



4.3 Safer Online

Tackle the emerging threats of cyber enabled crime by developing new tactics and capabilities to safeguard those using online platforms.

- Fund cyber fraud awareness campaigns.
- Support the roll out of cyber-crime prevention volunteers who educate the public on how to protect themselves from cyber enabled crime.
- Introduce specialist Cyber Prevention Officers and expand Cyber. Volunteering opportunities to prevent cyber-crime and victimisation.
- Invest in digital investigation and intelligence to improve understanding of the digital footprint to combat internet cyber enabled and cyber dependent criminality.
- Pursue and bring to justice those who groom children online or those who download or share images of abuse and protect those at risk.
- Support vulnerable people to be safe online through educational programmes.

4.4 Safer People

The main objective is to invest in neighbourhood policing to reassure the public, provide prevention advice, solve problems, protect the vulnerable, and build confidence. I will work with the Chief Constable and partners to:

Victims

- Help keep people safe in their homes by working with the local authorities, Health and the Fire and Rescue Service to provide Total Home Safety advice.
- Appoint a Victims Champion to ensure the voice of victims is that the centre of everything we do.
- Work with partners to ensure delivery of seamless high-quality support for victims that enables them to cope with, and recover from, their experience.
- Ensure compliance with the Code of Practice for Victims of Crime so that victims are aware of and can access their rights.
- Commission high quality services so that victims have access to a range of specialist support services for them and their families

at any point and whether they report to the police or not.

- Ensure victims are read their rights at the point of report or as soon after as possible as with offenders.

Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence

- Support the use of robust domestic violence perpetrator programmes so as to prevent domestic violence and abuse happening in the future.
- Develop a violence against women and girls' strategy aimed at changing attitudes and improving our knowledge of and response to the crimes that predominantly affect women and girls so that no woman needs to live in fear and girls grow up knowing they are safe.

- Ensure the full powers included in the DA Act are used to protect and support victims and result in meaningful consequences for perpetrators including the effective use of domestic abuse protection notices, domestic abuse protection orders and restraining orders.
- Deliver on the recommendations included in the national End to End Rape Review.
- Work with partners to develop and maintain a high-quality Sexual Assault Referral Centre service that meets local needs and national standards.
- Ensure that stalking legislation and powers are effectively adhered to and measured.

- Ensure the police force works in partnership with probation to manage High Risk Offenders through Multi-Agency Public Protection Arrangements (MAPPA), Sexual Offender, Domestic Abuse Perpetrator initiatives and Foreign National Offenders initiatives.

Hate Crime

- Promote hate crime prevention initiatives and encourage and facilitate the reporting in all forms of hate crime.
- Introduce voluntarily recording of misogyny as a hate crime indicator.



Young People

- Support and work with schools to reduce school exclusions and off rolling so that we keep children in school education.
- Ensure policies about young people will be made after engaging and involving young people.
- Work with partners agencies to keep care-experienced young people out of the criminal justice system.
- Divert young people from becoming involved in crime and anti-social behaviour through a range of education, employment, leisure, and training activities.

Mental Health

- Work with Community Mental Health Trusts to ensure that the police are the service of last resort and not the service of first resort for people suffering a mental health crisis.
- Liaise with Public Health, Housing, Employment and Mental Health services to ensure that potential offenders get access to the support that they need.
- Maintain a multi-agency approach to enable an appropriate response to support people with mental health needs who come in contact with the police and criminal justice system.



Drug, Alcohol and Gambling Harm



- Divert those suffering with chronic addiction away from the criminal justice system towards treatment and harm prevention.
- Commission research into the cost of alcohol harm to Durham Constabulary.
- Commission research into gambling related harm (GRH) and gambling disorder
- Consider gambling related harm when investigating crimes
- Encourage those presenting with GRH to be referred to appropriate support to prevent further harm and crime
- Add additional question to ask victims of domestic assault to specifically include gambling (in addition to drugs/alcohol)
- Advocate introducing a gambling treatment requirement as part of community sentences at court
- Train police, PCSOs to identify gambling addiction and to understand

the links between suicide, mental health, homelessness, domestic abuse, child neglect and gambling

- Press for the Gambling Commission to thoroughly investigate operator's code of conduct to identify negligent behaviour before charging and sentencing
- Introduce mandatory screening questions around gambling at the point of arrest in custody
- Develop multi-agency strategies and fund initiatives to reduce the harm caused by drugs in the community.
- Support the work of the licensing unit to reduce the harm caused by alcohol and gambling in the community
- Develop partnership work to reduce substance, alcohol and gambling misuse which are closely linked to crime and reoffending.

4.5 Safer Roads

Prioritise and tackle the areas of highest harm and risk: speeding, mobile phones drunk and drug driving and seat belts

- Invest in analytical capability necessary to identify risks and threats on the road network.
- Develop a social media strategy to promote safer roads.
- Improve signposting to enable parishes, towns, schools, individuals, and communities to share their concerns about road safety issues in their locality.
- Work with the community and local elected members of all parties to tackle road safety concerns in our communities.
- Encourage and develop volunteer action to improve road safety such as community speed watch and junior road safety.
- Improve road safety and support for victims of road traffic accidents and families.
- Take enforcement action against those who endanger the lives of road users and pedestrians.
- Ensure resources allocated to policing the strategic roads network are sufficient and be satisfied that effective partnership arrangements are in place.
- Support Durham Constabulary to deliver on co collision capability and efficiency. / or Lobby the government to ensure a more effective, efficient, and sustainable forensic collision capability.
- Campaign for the government to allow local retention of income from enforcement to be directed towards local road safety initiatives.
- Introduce as soon as practicable Operation Snap. This initiative uses video footage from road users to pursue dangerous drivers.
- Continue to invest in Operation Endurance to tackle the menace of off-road bikes.





“I will ensure resources allocated to policing the strategic roads network are sufficient and be satisfied that effective partnership arrangements are in place”.

4.6 Safer Countryside

Understand and respond to the needs of rural communities and tailor services accordingly

- Invest and support rural policing to prevent crime.
- Support the force and rural communities in their use of new technologies to keep our communities safe.
- Strengthen and support Rural Watch.
- Introduce a Rural Road Users Advisory Panel and bring local authorities, elected members, rural business, farmers, horse riders, cyclists, and ramblers to address and respond to dangerous road users and accident black spots.
- Support ROSPA campaign targeting rural motorcyclists.
- Increase levels of crime reporting in rural communities
 - Expand the community safety responder programme in the rural area.
 - Work with the Home Office, Ministry of Justice and Police and Crime

Commissioners to facilitate a co-ordinated approach to rural crime.

- Ensure rural police teams are more visible and accessible – and there are nominated and visible local officers or PSCO.
- Increase confidence of rural communities in policing by improving community safety: generate a Rural Safety Plan, in consultation with, the rural community.
- Include rural crime as a strategic objective and ensure effective cross boarder policing.
- Work with partner organisations to identify ways to make it easier and quicker to make safety improvements on country roads to address rural speeding and undertake targeted rural safety enforcement.

- Invest and support rural policing to fight and prevent crime.

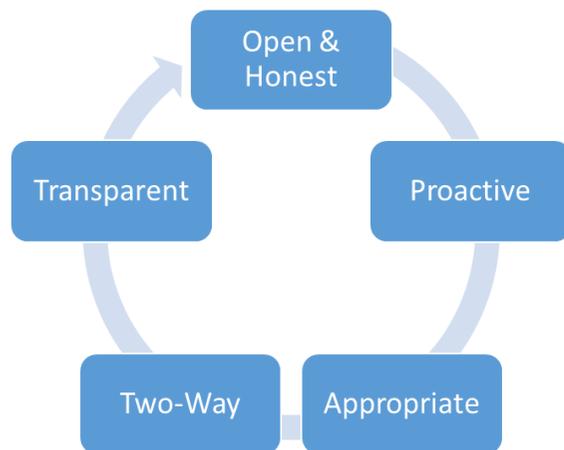


“I will increase confidence of rural communities in policing by improving community safety, generate a Rural Safety Plan, in consultation with, the rural community”.



5. Measuring Progress against the Public's Police and Crime Priorities

As Police and Crime Commissioner, I am committed to being the voice of the people on policing, victims, and community safety matters. I am here to ensure that community needs are met as effectively as possible, and to improve local relationships by building confidence and restoring trust. Community engagement is one of central responsibilities of my role. I will work hard to be visible in our communities during my time in office. My approach to communicating and engaging with you is illustrated here:



There are four main types of communication which I will be using to achieve effective and efficient communication with you as residents.

EDUCATE: We will proactively educate local communities on the work of my Office and continue to grow awareness of the work we do with local partners and organisations.

INVOLVE: We will involve our partners in joint releases and campaigns where possible. This will build establish relationships and amplify the key messages we need to deliver.

INFORM: We will be open and honest, and keep you informed on the activities of the Office, community safety, victims and criminal justice issues.

CONSULT: This allows informed strategic planning and decision making, such as consultation on a proposed increase to the precept. My media team will support with engagement with press and getting my messages out there. Analysis of results would be presented, and I will make an informed decision based upon the consultation results.

I will do this through the following routes:

- One to one private appointments
- Drop-in surgeries
- Consultations and surveys
- Social media

- Independent Custody Visitors
- Independent Scrutiny Panels (BUS- BAME arrests, Use of Force, Stop and Search), Domestic Abuse, Rape, Out of Court Disposals, Ethics Committee and Complaints.

- Press and transparency
- Website
- Community meetings- For example, Police and Communities Together-PACT and Area Action Partnerships- AAP
- Community events

All the above provide a wealth of feedback by which services can be improved and the police held to account.



6. Relationship of the Police & Crime Plan to Community Safety Plans of Partners

Keeping vulnerable children and adults safe is a key priority for me and it is important there are close links with the Safe Durham Partnership, the Darlington Community Safety Partnership, and the Local Criminal Justice Partnership. The Police & Crime Plan has been developed in close collaboration, drawing on a clear body of evidence and understanding of the needs of communities in County Durham and Darlington. The priorities which each plan sets are therefore aligned, and the partners work closely to ensure they are delivered to meet the needs of our local communities. Please refer to the table below to see how the Police and Crime Plan aligns to other plans.

PCC Plan	Safe Durham Partnership Plan	Darlington Community Safety Plan	LCJP Plan
Safer Communities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Promote being safe and feeling safe in your community Reduce Reoffending 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Promoting Safer Places Building Strong and Cohesive Communities 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> An end-to-end system for supporting victims and witnesses An end-to-end system for rehabilitating offenders and reducing offending Efficient and integrated criminal justice system
Safer People	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Support victims and protect vulnerable people from harm Alcohol and substance misuse reduction 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Protecting and Supporting Vulnerable People Violent Crime and Domestic Abuse 	
Safer Business	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Tackle and prevent cyber enabled crime 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Promote Safer Places 	
Safer Online	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Tackle and prevent cyber enabled crime 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Protecting and Supporting Vulnerable People 	
Safer Roads	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Promote being safe and feeling safe in your community 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Promoting Safer Places 	
Safer Countryside	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Promote being safe and feeling safe in your community 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Building Strong and Cohesive Communities 	

7. Strategic Policing and National Policing Strategies



Strategic Policing Requirements (SPRs)

SPRs support me and Chief Constable to ensure we fulfil forces' national responsibilities. It enables us to plan effectively together for challenges that go beyond force boundaries. The SPRs also support my ability, and statutory obligation, to hold the Chief Constable to account for the ability to deliver these functions:

- Contribute to the Counter Terrorism Strategy to Pursue, Prevent, Protect, and Prepare;
- Contribute to the Serious and Organised crime Strategy to Pursue, Prevent, Protect, and Prepare;
- Respond adequately to a national cyber security incident;
- Ensure the ability to keep the peace by preventing and managing public disorder;
- Respond adequately to civil emergencies which require a national response; and,
- Respond adequately to reports of Child Sexual Abuse.

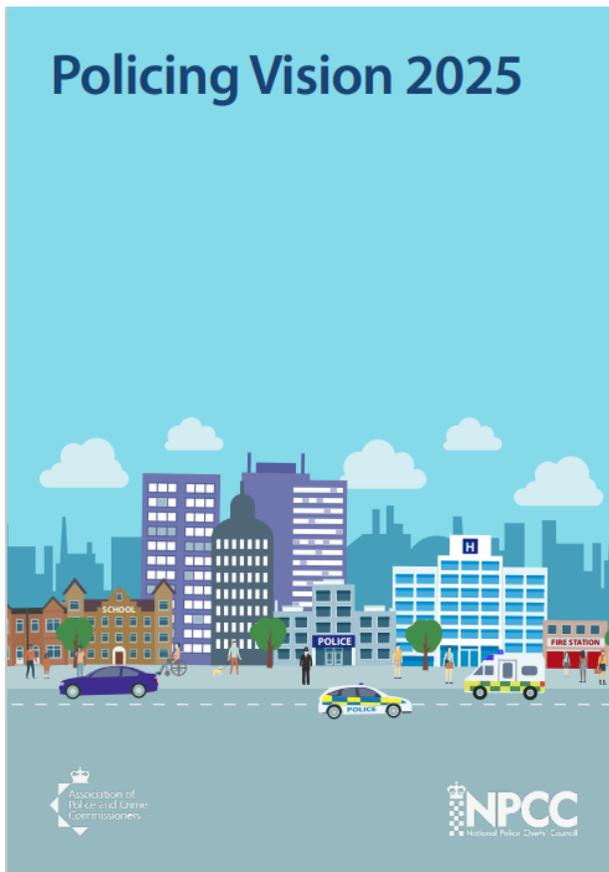
Policing Measures 2021

The National Crime and Policing measures are set by the Home Office and are intended to lay out the Government's key national priorities on crime. It will be important for me to inform the public on how Durham Constabulary is performing against these measures and contribute to setting of local priorities where appropriate.

- Reduce Murder and other homicides;
- Reduce serious violence;
- Disrupt drugs and County Lines;
- Reduce Neighbourhood Crime;
- Tackle Cyber Crime;
- Improve satisfaction amongst victims – focusing on Domestic Abuse

Policing Vision

The Policing Vision 2025 can only be delivered by the whole of policing working together collaboratively in the public interest. Along with the Chief Constable, I will work with national bodies like the College of Policing, National Crime Agency and staff associations, our officers, staff and volunteers at every level and our many partners across the public sector – we all have a vital role to play in delivering these reforms. The Police Reform and Transformation Board, with membership from across policing, will oversee and support the changes.



Fair Funding

Fair funding is essential if policing is to deal effectively with the rising complexity in its demand. A new funding formula should include provision for the fact that policing deals with harm as well as volume, and that policing is required, in the first instance, to prevent crime where possible. A great deal of policing work is taken up with non-crime related demand issues. Additionally, evidence shows that crime volume is not a sound methodology for calculating the demands placed upon primary and secondary investigation officers. This is further compounded by complex and non-crime cases. Crime volumes itself do not account for pressures placed on police due to other public sector services retrenching, or where they reprioritise their response and service focus. County Durham and Darlington have a combination of urban and rural areas, affluence and deprivation which presents substantial challenges to providing an effective and efficient policing response. Further research needs to be conducted to ensure the needs of police forces across the country get a fair deal in any revised funding formula.

Council tax funding is also an important aspect of local funding which needs to be taken into account when considering fair funding.

The Police Uplift Programme

The Police Uplift Programme (PUP) aims to recruit 20,000 new officers by March 2023. Durham's share of this is 226 additional officers. This does not include the officers who will retire and be replaced as part of normal business. It is essential that the Force supports those younger in-service officers or there are likely to be risks retention and therefore efficient & effective recruitment.

Our police officers provide an outstanding public service in keeping the Queen's Peace, and I am committed to ensuring their bravery, sacrifice and dedication is recognised. They protect the public from criminality, they protect the public and particularly the vulnerable, they deter offending and reoffending through their neighbourhood presence and proactive working, and they pursue criminal justice through their response and investigation work.



8. Collaboration

Examples of collaboration with partners include:

- **Evolve Legal Services** - This is a three-way collaboration with Durham Constabulary, Cleveland Police and North Yorkshire Police. Through the programme, each of the police services explore ways to work together across organisational boundaries, to increase operational resilience, improve services for communities and achieve financial savings.
- **NERSOU** (North East Regional Special Operations Unit) - This was established in October 2013 and is the North East Regional Organised

Crime Unit, a collaboration between Northumbria, Cleveland and Durham Constabulary. The unit creates additional specialist capacity and capability through effective partnership working and collaboration to deliver an increased response to tackling serious and organised crime that transcends force borders in the region.

- **ICT development** - Digital technology collaborative arrangements in place between Durham Constabulary and Cumbria Police.
- **Fire Collaboration** - The Constabulary share buildings with Fire & Rescue, located in Barnard Castle and Newton Aycliffe. This works well in terms of sharing costs and engaging team working and sharing knowledge.



Partnership Working

We need to work with a wide range of partners to reduce crime, victimisation, offending and anti-social behaviour.

I will:

- Involve key stakeholders and partners at all levels (nationally, regionally and locally) to address crime trends, root causes and break inter-generational cycles of harm.
- Support the roll out of multi-agency Problem Orientated Partnership (POP) hubs to help build cohesive and resilient communities.

The overall approach to tackling crime and anti-social behaviour requires effective partnerships with the police – in collaboration with local residents and representatives from the public, private and voluntary sector. This approach is the foundation of my vision.

Intelligence led

I will improve our communication channels to make it easier and faster to report crime and anti-social behaviour (ASB) to the Police and appropriate agencies.

Residents have told me that it is not easy to report crime, and that just over a third of them did not report it to the police. The College of Policing estimates that for any given force, between 60-80% of demand on police time comes from non-crime related incidents. Residents are often confused about where to report issues, be it the Police, Council, Fire & Rescue, or health services. Because of this, the Force experiences significant and increasing demand for non-crime incidents, which are often linked to issue of vulnerability, public protection and safeguarding.

I will:

- Procure technological solutions to enable officers to gather information about victims, offenders and location to enable them to target resources efficiently and effectively.
- Encourage the public to report issues to the appropriate agencies.
- Lobby to improve responsiveness of 101 service.



Data Driven

We need to invest in research, evaluation of initiatives and analytical capability to provide timely and accurate information of what works and facilitate evidence led practice.

I will:

- Use data to inform decision making, target resources to areas of high demand and risk, to tackle crime and protect victims.
- Provide suitable resources for collecting, compiling, analysing and disseminating data.
- Improve data and intelligence sharing between agencies.

Problem Solving

We will use intelligence and data to inform our local decision making and response.

I will:

- Invest in analytical capacity for the development of thematic and geographic problem solving.

- Champion the adoption of problem-solving approaches between partners.
- Invest in appropriate architectural liaison capacity to design out crime in housing estates, town centres, car parks, children's homes, housing estates etc.



9. Policing Budget and Precept

Budget

I have a net budget of £135.8m for 2021/22. Of the net revenue budget £133.4 is delegated to the Chief Constable to fund the operational policing service. The balance of £2.4m is held by me to fund the office budget, audit and governance, community safety and victim services.

The cost of my office budget, audit and governance services is £1.1m. I will spend £2.6m on community safety, reducing reoffending and victims' services activities. I will contribute directly £1.3m from my funding to these activities, with the balance coming from government grants.

I will work with partners where shared needs and priorities exist to problem solve and support the joint resourcing necessary to implement the agreed solutions. The resourcing can be in the form of matched

funding, specialist expertise or use of assets. I will participate in collaborative funding and resource bids to maximise the benefits for the communities of County Durham and Darlington. I recognise the community must be at the heart of the conversations leading to solutions that are delivered in partnership within the community.

I have also set a capital budget of £13.2m which includes investment in buildings, fleet, technology, and equipment. This is funded from a combination of government grant, council tax and the proceeds from the sale of assets.

Precept

The precept was increased by £15 for 2021/22. This has increased the precept to £230.24 per household for a Band D property in County Durham and Darlington. This is around £11 below the national average. This

will enable the Constabulary to maintain officer and PCSO numbers and invest in technology. Most of the properties liable for council tax are in the lowest band, Band A, which has a police precept of £153.49.

Maximising Funding Opportunities

I will encourage the continuation of partnership funding bids such as the Safer Streets which has successfully secured substantial sums for improvements in community safety in parts of County Durham and Darlington.

Social Value

I will include social value principles in all the Durham PCC Office and Constabulary procurement policies and processes and encourage the awarding of contracts for goods and services to organisations based in County Durham and Darlington. Social value criteria will form 10% (or more) of scoring for

the award of high value contracts. I will ensure that we get maximum social value benefits from any high value procurement projects.

Sustainable Policing

The pandemic has changed the way we operate, and I will actively support the use of policies and technology that improve the delivery of policing services and reduce the carbon footprint of my office and the Constabulary. The Constabulary take every opportunity to be energy efficient in the use of our buildings and fleet. The use of technology has enabled the sharing of information to officers and staff while working in your communities, increasing effective mobile working.

Social Capital / Civil Society

The Constabulary has worked with communities through a process called 'mutual gain' where local organisations and members of the community invested their time and energy to achieve beneficial results for the community. I will work with partners and communities to facilitate and enable opportunities to involve members of communities in the delivery of activities that lead to outcomes defined by the community.



10. Services for Victims and Grant Funding

Commissioning Strategy

My Commissioning Strategy sets out how I will commission services to support the delivery of the Police & Crime Plan.

There are three groups of local services which need to be in place to deliver my Vision: the Police Service, Local Criminal Justice Services, and community-based services to support those who have been victims of crime cope and recover, prevent crime and anti-social behaviour and keep communities safe.

Commissioning forms a crucial part of establishing, maintaining, and improving these local services, and ensuring that they are producing the outcomes that communities need. Commissioning involves understanding where gaps exist and what services are necessary, working in partnership to ensure they are delivered well, and evaluating their effectiveness.

My preferred approach is to co-commission services and that has been achieved with a shared service provider which supports victims of domestic abuse and the overarching service that assesses the needs of victims of crime and refers them to support organisations.

Commissioning Principles

My commissioning principles are grounded in the need to spend public money wisely, transparently, and in line with the objectives in the Police & Crime Plan.

I will:

- Work with other commissioners in the private, public, and voluntary centre to meet local need and achieve best value, by developing priorities that are jointly owned and solutions that facilitate the pooling of local skills, expertise, and assets,

- Include your views and your communities' views to ensure the services commissioned will improve confidence and address specific needs,
- Ensure robust contractual and financial arrangements are in place to review service delivery and make timely adjustments as needed,
- Embrace the principle of equal opportunities, by encouraging equity, equality and recognition of diversity by providing services that respond to the different needs and service requirements of people regardless of gender, race, disability, age, religious belief, marital status, ethnic origin, sexual orientation or gender identity,
- Be open and transparent about processes and decisions,
- Make decisions based on evidence of need.

Victims Services

Police & Crime Commissioners are responsible for commissioning local services to support victims of crime. To help with this, I receive an annual grant from the Ministry of Justice. I currently commission several specialist services to support young victims of crime, victims of domestic abuse and sexual violence as well as an overarching service that any victim of crime can receive support from. Support from these services is available even if a victim chooses not to report the crime to the police. Details of these services are available on my website.

All commissioned services are subject to initial quality assurance processes and ongoing performance management arrangements to ensure they are fit for the purpose of delivering support that meets the needs of our County Durham and Darlington communities. In 2021/22, I have allocated £592,000 to support victims of domestic abuse, £327,000 to support victims of sexual violence and £351,000 to support the overarching service that assesses the needs of

victims of crime and refers them to support organisations that help them cope with the impact of crimes committed against them. This funding will help the delivery of my Safer People strategic priority and my Protect strategic aim.

The domestic abuse and sexual violence support uplift funding has enabled money to be targeted at specialist services providing tailored support to communities that have not accessed these services previously. The funding has enabled an increase in capacity to take extra referrals, reduce waiting lists and increase the equality of access to these much-needed services.



Anti-Social Behaviour

Police & Crime Commissioners are responsible with agencies from the community safety partnerships to provide support to the victims, survivors, and alleged perpetrators of anti-social behaviour. I have committed £207,000 for our nationally recognised and award-winning community peer mentor service, which has problem solved many cases referred to the police, helped socially isolated and vulnerable individuals in our communities and reduced demand on the policing service. I have committed just over £1,000,000 to support the delivery of my Safer Communities strategic priority and my Prevent and Deter strategic aims.

My Office, in collaboration with the police and two local authorities applied for and succeeded in achieving substantial sums of money to improve the community safety infrastructure and target home security activities in both County Durham and Darlington.

11. Roles and Responsibilities

The Police Reform and Social Responsibility Act	Role	Responsibilities
<p>(2011) established the role of Police & Crime Commissioner. The Act set provisions for the replacement of the police authorities with directly elected Police & Crime Commissioners aiming to improve police accountability by ‘reconnecting’ the public with policing.</p>	<p>Police & Crime Commissioner</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Setting the strategic direction for policing in County Durham and Darlington • Publishing a Police & Crime Plan • Setting the budget and precept for policing in County Durham and Darlington • Commissioning of victims’ support services • Holding the Chief Constable to account for delivering policing that is efficient, effective, and responsive to the needs of the public as set out in the Police & Crime Plan • Appointing, and if necessary, dismissing the Chief Constable of Durham Constabulary
	<p>Chief Constable</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Keeping the communities of County Durham and Darlington safe and secure • Delivering an efficient and effective policing service which responds to the needs of the public • Manage the resources and budgets of the Constabulary
	<p>Police & Crime Panel</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reviewing, reporting, and making recommendations on the Police & Crime Plan and the policing precept • Scrutinising key strategic decisions and documents • Making recommendations to the Police & Crime Commissioner on the discharge of their functions • Holding confirmation hearings for the proposed appointments of Chief Constable, Chief Executive and Chief Finance Officer • Power to suspend the Police & Crime Commissioner if charged with an imprisonable offence or appoint an acting Police and Crime Commissioner where the incumbent is incapacitated, resigns or is disqualified

Role	General	Complaints
Police & Crime Commissioner	<p>The PCC is elected every four years and is the chair of the corporation sole.</p> <p>Further statutory duties and powers are set out within the Act.</p>	<p>Local oversight of the complaint handling by Durham Constabulary.</p> <p>Independent Review Body for certain complaints made through the formal complaints system within Durham Constabulary and dealing with complaints made against the Chief Constable.</p>
Chief Constable	<p>The Act protects the operational independence of the police by making it clear that the Chief Constable retains direction and control of all officers and staff.</p>	<p>Consider and investigate any complaints or conduct matters against police officers and staff.</p>
Police & Crime Panel	<p>Scrutinise the decisions of the Police and Crime Commissioner.</p> <p>Membership contains of a maximum of 10 local councillors from each of the local authorities in County Durham and Darlington, plus two independent members.</p> <p>There is a requirement for political and geographical balance amongst the elected members of the Panel.</p>	<p>Consider any complaints or conduct matters against the Police & Crime Commissioner.</p>

Get in Touch

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