

Durham Police & Crime Commissioner's COMMUNITY PANELS

Community Panel News – Issue 6 - November 2013



Hello and welcome to my newsletter reporting on activity undertaken since the last publication. This issue includes an overview of the many activities in which I have been involved in, events attended, Force Performance to the end of October 2013 and notice of upcoming Panel Member Meetings.

'Year 1' as Durham's first Police and Crime Commissioner

Friday 15th November marked 'one year' since I was elected the first ever Police and Crime commissioner (PCC) for Durham.

PCCs aim to cut crime and deliver an efficient and effective police service within their force area. In order to provide stronger and more transparent accountability of the police, I was elected to hold the Chief Constable to account, oversee the force budget and improve local relationships to ensure community needs are met.

With all of the past experience I have gained I really felt that I had a lot I could give back to the community and welcomed the opportunity to work with residents, putting their safety and policing needs first. Giving residents a voice in how their policing service is delivered is a key priority for me, which is why I introduced the seven Community Panels across the force area.

I have kept Panel members up to date with activities on a monthly basis through these newsletters; however as a quick summary, here are some of the key achievements to date:

- Developing my policing priorities, in particular the work around tackling Domestic Abuse, Hate Crime and road safety related issues
- A new police station in Newton Aycliffe
- Working with partners (including Probation, councils, Fire and Rescue and other forces) to reduce costs by sharing resources (e.g. buildings and staff)
- Currently identifying savings on budgets such as estates (e.g. new police HQ will save approximately £0.65m per year) and other savings such as energy and IT costs
- Ensuring value for money by challenging the force to save £5m over the next two financial years due to Government cuts
- Committed the force to maintain good performance, below average crime and high detection rates, all for below average Council Tax

Update cont.....

Showing Racism the Red Card



On Tuesday 5th November 2013 I was delighted to be involved in a Show Racism the Red Card event at St James' Park, to help teach young people the dangers of racism.

Pupils from Catchgate Primary School in Stanley, Co Durham and Canning Street Primary in Newcastle also attended to take part in a range of anti-racism workshops as well as watching a screening of a Show Racism the Red Card film.

The pupils also had the chance to question a panel which included Mr Hogg and Newcastle United players Gael Bigirimana and James Tavernier as well as former Newcastle United players Olivier Bernard, John Anderson, Steve Howey and Richard Offiong.

The aims of these events are to familiarise young people with the causes and consequences of racism and enable them to develop good relationships and respect the differences between people regardless of ethnicity.

This was a fantastic event and I would like to say well done to all of the young people who attended the workshops. They participated well and they were able to gain a better understanding of the effects of racism. I believe it will help young people prepare to play an active role as good citizens in a growing multi-racial and multi-cultural society.



Hate Crime Volunteers – Working Group Update

Following my seminar towards tackling Hate Crime which I held earlier this year, there have been a lot of developments recently, particularly around the actions raised from the seminar and positive changes which had been identified.

A joint 'multi-agency' Hate Crime Working Group has been successfully established and some of the volunteers from my seminar are involved in driving this forward. A number of work streams are being identified to take these actions forward. These include:

- Police recording of hate incidents
- Re-establishing 'safe place' network across the force area
- Developing a 'support services' network
- Implementing a communication strategy and increase publicity

I will keep you up to date with developments as work progresses over the next few months.

Update cont.....

Educating young people about the dangers of Cyber Bullying

Monday 18th November saw the beginning of National Anti-Bullying week. Bullying, and cyber bullying, are identified as anti-social behaviour, which is one of the policing priorities I have been asked to tackle by communities.

Local safety carousels (Tuesday 19th November):

Year 6 pupils from County Durham and Darlington joined Durham Constabulary and many more partner agencies in the annual safety carousel this month.

Pupils had the opportunity to learn how to stay safe in 6 fun interactive workshops, which included home fire safety, arson awareness, electricity safety, water safety, first aid and cyber bullying.



Durham Constabulary delivered an interactive session on cyber bullying to teach children how to keep safe online, where to go for help and to ensure the cyber world is fun but a safe place for them to visit. I joined the safety carousel to experience the different safety messages children in his community are receiving. I attended the safety carousel myself to see first-hand some of the sessions delivered by partners. The whole day was about educating our children to be safer in many different situations.

The cyber bullying session was particularly important and was well received by all the children who now have a clearer idea of what cyber bullying is all about. This was a fantastic example of partners working together and helping to make our children safer.

Cyber bullying engagement with pupils at Etherley Lane Primary School (Wednesday 20th November):



Year 5 and 6 pupils at Etherley Lane Primary school were involved in interactive cyber bullying workshops, followed by a school assembly which I led, to address the whole school about the effects of cyber bullying.

I want to discourage cyber bullying and help young people recognise it so they know what to do about it. This was a really productive visit to the Etherley Lane Primary School. The young people asked me interesting questions during assembly and were really engaging.

I have asked Year 5 and 6 pupils to design a logo for my campaign against cyber bullying and I am looking forward to judging the entries.

Head teacher Karen Bennett said: "Through a range of activities we are empowering our pupils to take a lead on creating a future without bullying, using technology to promote positive communication."

Update cont.....

Darlington resident 'an inspiration' to his community

During the last couple of weeks I was delighted to meet local resident Jim Allen, who has worked tirelessly for his community, particularly in his involvement with Neighbourhood Watch over the last 25 years.



More recently Mr Allen has chaired the Neighbourhood Watch Association for the Darlington area, driving forward the Neighbourhood Watch brand and

encouraging new members of the community to become involved.

It is individuals like Mr Allen that remind us it is not just the police and councils who help to make our neighbourhoods safe, it is also our residents looking out for each other, which is what Neighbourhood Watch is all about. With his proven track record I have no doubt he has been an inspiration to others to join, or start, a Neighbourhood Watch group in their local area.

If any Community Panel Members would like to find out more about Neighbourhood Watch, contact Susie Blake at Durham Constabulary, by calling 101, ext: 661 2660, or alternatively by email at: Susie.blake@durham.pnn.police.uk.

International White Ribbon Day

Domestic and Sexual Abuse Network (DASAN) part of Safer Darlington, was set up to provide a co-ordinated response to Domestic Abuse and Sexual Abuse.

An event was held at the Dolphin Centre, Darlington on Monday 25th November 2013. Network agencies displayed various literature and promotional items and gave information to the public about the support services for men and women available in Darlington.



I attended the event to pledge my support, especially as one of my personal priorities is to reduce the impact of Domestic Abuse, particularly violence against women and girls.

Council Leader, Bill Dixon said: "In Darlington a great deal of progress has been made in recent years in raising awareness about what domestic abuse is and the impact that it has upon victims and children.

There are excellent services in the town, working together has resulted in an increase in the number of victims having the confidence to report the abuse, ongoing dissemination of literature is promoting information pathways to agencies who can offer help and support to victims."

Community Panel Member Meetings & Website News

Forthcoming meetings for Panel Members

Many thanks to those of you who have responded to your preferred options for attending the upcoming meetings dedicated for Panel Members in January. These meetings are important and will focus on new areas of involvement for members as we move forward into 2014.

We are in the process of securing a venue at a time that suits the majority of members in each of the 7 Panel areas. You will receive confirmation of the meeting dates and times within the next couple of weeks.

Dedicated website area for Community Panel members

Also in January, I am pleased to announce that in addition to the upcoming meetings mentioned above, a new area of my website will be made available for all Panel members who use the internet.



You will be able to access a dedicated area, just for Panel members, which you can log in to. The purpose of the secure website area is to bring together all of the information for Panel members into one place, which you can access at any time.



Some of the information available will include:

- Role and purpose of the Panels, which will expand following the meetings held in January
- Access to previous newsletters
- Online forms dedicated to feedback, ideas or any issues you may have
- Localised links to neighbourhood information for your Panel area
- Forward calendar of public events I am attending in your Panel area, which you can also come along to
- Plus other new developments during 2014, as new features become available on my website

I would like to re-iterate that all Panel members will continue to be notified of the same upcoming events and information that you receive currently, whether or not you have access to the internet.

I will provide you with a username and password in January, including details of how you can log in, once the work on this new website area is complete.

Performance Information to end October 2013

In the rolling 12 months to the end of October, Durham has reported reductions in all the main crime types when compared with the 12 months to the end of October, 2012 (with the exception of sexual offences). This equates to 422 fewer victims of crime. However for the period April-October 2013 we are seeing an increase of 6.4%, other forces are also seeing increases.

Crime type	12 mths to end of October, 2012	12 mths to end of October, 2013	Diff.	% diff.
All crime	32,032	31,216	-816	-2.5%
Victim based crime	28,261	27,839	-422	-1.5%
Violence against the person	4,670	4,496	-174	-3.7%
Sexual offences	374	620	246	65.8%
Burglary	4,405	4,163	-242	-5.5%
Vehicle crime	3,467	3,461	-6	-0.2%
Criminal damage	7,335	6,842	-493	-6.7%
Metal theft	1,847	1,351	-496	-26.9%

However, these reductions are falling each month due to year-to-date increases in 2013/14. Crime has been increasing through 2013 and many crime categories have experienced relatively higher levels in recent months including sexual offences, VAP, stealing, and criminal damage & arson.

The large increase in the number of sexual offences is predominantly due to a rise in the reporting of historical offences this year.

Outcome rates are generally slightly below those for 2012/13.

In the 12 months to the end of October, Durham reported a 6.7% reduction in the number of anti-social behaviour (ASB) incidents against the same period in October, 2012. After a long term downward trend, the volume of ASB incidents is now showing more signs of stability with the normal seasonal variations in the monthly numbers.

The current forecast is for Durham to report a slight reduction in ASB incidents in 2013/14 against the previous year.

Performance Information to end October 2013 cont.

Currently, the force is reporting an 8.8% increase in alcohol related incidents in the 12 months to the end of October. This can possibly be explained by the improved recording of such incidents and the good weather.

Incidents	12 mths to end of October, 2012	12 mths to end of October, 2013	Diff.	% diff.
Anti-social behaviour	32,935	30,732	-2,203	-6.7%
Alcohol related incidents	18,704	20,351	1,647	8.8%
Alcohol related antisocial behaviour	4,816	4,657	-159	-3.3%

Durham continues to report high levels of satisfaction with at least 8 out of 10 victims being satisfied with the service they have received at each stage.

The current national rankings (rolling 12 months) are as follows:

Ease of contact	2 nd
Actions	4 th
Follow up	5 th
Treatment	4 th
Whole experience	3 rd

Staffing levels remain above 90% of budgeted posts however the Special Constabulary continues to have a large number of vacancies. With this in mind, a recruitment drive is underway to increase the number of Specials.

Availability of police officers and police staff remains above 70%.

Performance Information to end October 2013 cont.

My vision: To achieve excellence in local policing and the highest levels of public confidence by working alongside communities and partners to address matters locally

INSPIRING CONFIDENCE			DELIVERING HIGH SATISFACTION		
'Taking everything into account, I have confidence in the police' (CSEW)	72.6%	↔	Victim satisfaction with WHOLE EXPERIENCE	89.0%	↔
'Taking everything into account, I have confidence in the police (Local)	71.3%		Victim satisfaction with EASE OF CONTACT	96.0%	↔
% of people who agree that 'the police do a good job' (CSEW)	59.9%	↔	Victim satisfaction with ARRIVAL TIME	89.0%	↔
% of people who agree that 'the police do a good job' (Local)	53.0%		Victim satisfaction with ACTIONS TAKEN	89.0%	↑
% of people who are aware that the police hold regular, public meetings (called PACT meetings) to discuss with members of the public the issues the police should be dealing with (Local)	61.1%		Victim satisfaction with FOLLOW UP	84.0%	↑
% of people who agree that they are fairly or very well informed about what the police have been doing in the last 12 month (Local)	35.5%		Victim satisfaction with TREATMENT	97.0%	↑
PRIORITIES					
Anti-social behaviour (ASB) incidents - % change	-6.7%	↔	Alcohol Related Incidents - % change	8.8%	
% of people who agree that 'the police and local council are dealing with the ASB and crime issues that matter in this community' (CSEW)	56.7%	↓	% of people who think people drinking and causing nuisance in public places is a problem (Local)	55.0%	
% of people who agree that 'the police and local council are dealing with the ASB and crime issues that matter in this community' (Local)	64.4%		Criminal damage & arson - % change	-6.7%	↓
% of people who think that parking is a problem (Local)	46.2%		% of people who perceive that vandalism and graffiti and other deliberate damage to properties, vehicles and other buildings as a problem (Local)	41.6%	
No. of road traffic collisions where person(s) killed or seriously injured (and as a percentage of all casualties of road traffic collisions)	214 (19%)		% of people who agree that 'the police can be relied upon to deal with minor crimes' (Local)	60.3%	
No. of people killed or seriously injured (and as a percentage of all casualties of road traffic collisions)	234 (14%)		Domestic abuse incidents - % change	4.6%	
% of people who think that dangerous driving is a problem (Local)	59.4%		% of repeat incidents of domestic violence cases reviewed at MARAC	12.5%	↔
% of people who think that speeding vehicles is a problem (Local)	75.9%		Hate incidents - % change	0.3%	
HIGH QUALITY POLICING					
All crime - % change	-2.5%	↓	Burglary - % change	-5.5%	↔
All crime - outcome rate	36.3%		Burglary - outcome rate	13.9%	
Victim based crime - % change	-1.5%	↓	Vehicle crime - % change	-0.2%	↔
Victim based crime - outcome rate	29.6%		Vehicle crime - outcome rate	17.5%	
Violence against the person - % change	-3.7%	↓	Public order offences - % change	-4.6%	↓
Violence against the person - outcome rate	61.1%		Public order offences - outcome rate	85.9%	
Sexual offences - % change	65.8%	↓	Drug offences - % change	2.6%	
Sexual offences - outcome rate	26.8%	↓	Drug offences - outcome rate	96.6%	

Note: The key to the performance information and direction of travel, plus additional information, is provided on the following page.

Performance Information to end October 2013 cont.

VALUE FOR MONEY	Budgeted	Strength	%
Police officer budgeted / actual posts	1338.2	1324.0	98.9%
Police staff budgeted / actual posts (incl. PCSO)	985.7	914.7	92.8%
Special Constabulary budgeted / actual posts	200	76	38.0%
No. of active volunteers		186	
No. of Neighbourhood Watch schemes / households covered by schemes		3,281	87,246
% of households covered by Neighbourhood Watch schemes		32.4%	↑

All staff sickness (hours per person)	55.9%	↔
Police officer sickness (hours per person)	66.3%	↔
Police staff sickness (hours per person)	40.3%	↔
All staff overtime (hours per person)	63.7%	↔
Police officer overtime (hours per person)	104.1%	↔
Police staff overtime (hours per person)	2.8%	↔
All staff availability (% of working hours available)	74.1%	↔
Police officer availability (% of working hours available)	71.0%	↔
Police staff availability (% of working hours available)	78.7%	↔

KEY TO PERFORMANCE AND DIRECTION OF TRAVEL	
↑	Overall the direction of travel is IMPROVING
↔	Overall the performance is STATIC
↓	Overall the direction of travel is DETERIORATING
None	Direction of travel is AMBIGUOUS

Additional information:

All data shown is for a rolling twelve month period up to :

- > Crime, incident, response and MARAC - October 2013;
- > Victim satisfaction - Rolling 12 months to September 2013;
- > **Local Confidence - Rolling 5 months to August 2013 except red cells which are single month (August 2013) due to scale changes within questions;**
- > CSEW (Crime Survey of England and Wales) - Rolling 12 months to June 2013;
- > Sickness, overtime and availability - October 2013;
- > Budgeted post data - at 31st October 2013;
- > Neighbourhood Watch coverage - August 2013;
- > Volunteer data as at 18th June, 2013
- > Road Traffic Collisions- September 2013

Items of Interest from Durham Constabulary

Farmwatch Operation – Wednesday 6th November 2013

Durham Constabulary and their colleagues from Durham County Council, Northumbria, North Yorkshire and Cumbria, joined the Farm Watch operation which covered a large part of the North East and North West of England on Wednesday 6th November. This is the fourth major operation of the year.



Nearly 130 volunteers took part, supported by over 100 Police Officers and PCSO's from across the four force areas. Also taking part in the operation were representatives from Trading Standards, the Forestry

Commission, the Environment Agency and Officers from Fire and Rescue.

During the Operation there were a large amount of vehicles stopped and a number of individuals were spoken to and searched. The four Forces taking part in the operation reported that their areas had been quiet.

The local CO-OP store in the Wooler area of Northumbria was burgled and due to the Farm watch operation the area was locked down resulting in a vehicle being stopped and three people were arrested for the Burglary. In the Durham area a vehicle was stopped and searched, fuel drums and a hose were found by officers and the driver was arrested for Going Equipped for Theft.

Farm Watch began in the Durham force area over 20 years ago and continues to go from strength to strength. As well as Police Officers and members of staff turning out on the nights of action the amount of volunteers taking part continues to increase. We regularly have a number of other agencies participating including Officers from Trading Standards, the Environment Agency and the Forestry Commission.

Supt Smith from Durham Constabulary said: "The operation was another great success with over 230 Officers and volunteers taking part. Durham Constabulary is committed to working with all our volunteers and partners to make sure that rural areas remain a safe place to live and are not seen as a soft touch by travelling criminals".

If you would like to take a more active role in the Farmwatch scheme or sign up to be part of it, please contact your Community Liaison Officer Vikki Ord (Consett & Stanley) by calling 0191 3752455 or via email: Victoria.ord@durham.pnn.police.uk.

Panel members outside of Consett and Stanley can call the non-emergency number 101 for more information about the Farmwatch scheme in their local area.

Items of Interest from Durham Constabulary contd...

PCSO Craine builds bridges with local scout group, Leadgate



It was highlighted to PCSO Michael Craine (Leadgate beat PCSO) that the rear disabled ramp of Leadgate Community Centre was in a poor state of repair.

PCSO Craine who was previously a bricklayer, with the help of 1st Leadgate Scouts rebuilt the brick wall this month which provides the essential access to the community hub building.

The work the scouts completed contributed to their Community Challenge badge which is something PCSO Craine and Consett NPT will be more actively involved in assisting with in the future.

Children in Need – Sponsored Walk Villa Real School, Consett

PCSO Michael Craine and PCSO Marie Garfoot assisted students from Villa Real School on their sponsored walk which took place on Friday 15th November.

Officers assisted with traffic management so that safe crossings were made by some of the students who needed assistance across the main road by the school. Great fun had by all.



Items of Interest from Durham Constabulary contd...

Pumpkin PACT community event, Stanley



This community event was organised by PCSO John Bastow and PCSO Lyndsey Hindson. They approached their local County Councillor Carole Hampson for £150 of funding to purchase 120 Pumpkins from their local Asda store in Stanley.

Three local schools were contacted; Greenland's, Bloemfontein and St. Marys as well as a toddler group located at Craghead Village Hall with the idea to take 30-40 Pumpkins into each school and to carve them out with the children.



As well as the donation of £150 from Carole, Marsha (Community Liaison) from Asda donated ten extra Pumpkins as well as £20 worth of Pumpkin carving kits.

The event took place over three days with the children thoroughly enjoying themselves and lots of positive feedback coming from the schools, and parents, once the photos had been posted on Facebook. An article and photo were also published in the Evening Chronicle.



Items of Interest from Durham Constabulary contd...

Beat Team Bags, Stanley (also provided by PCSO John Bastow)

As well as the Pumpkin Pact mentioned on the previous page, PCSO John Bastow has recently purchased 350 re-usable shopping bags. He came up with the idea as a way to promote his Neighbourhood Policing Team within the community and to pass the bags out to local groups and elderly persons' homes for the residents to use.

The bags have a large Durham Constabulary logo on one side with the other having contact details of all the South Moor beat team members. They also carry Durham Police Website, Facebook and Twitter links on them.

The bags have been funded by the Police and Crime Commissioner Ron Hogg at a cost of £550. The ladies (pictured in the photo below) attend the Craghead Village Hall every Thursday evening to have a cuppa and play bingo.

Here is a picture of them receiving their local neighbourhood beat bags:



Keeping Updated on Policing News

How you can keep up to date with policing news for your area:

Police and Communities Together Meetings (PACT)

If you are not already aware Durham Constabulary run PACT meetings across the Force area, to find out the date of the next meeting in your area visit www.durham.police.uk and use the Neighbourhood tab to see what is happening in your local area. Each of the following neighbourhood areas has its own newsletter a link to which can be found on the home page for that neighbourhood:

Barnard Castle: <https://www.durham.police.uk/Your-Neighbourhood/Barnard-Castle/Pages/default.aspx>

Bishop Auckland: <https://www.durham.police.uk/Your-Neighbourhood/Bishop-Auckland/Pages/default.aspx>

Chester-le-Street: <https://www.durham.police.uk/Your-Neighbourhood/Chester-le-Street/Pages/default.aspx>

Consett: <https://www.durham.police.uk/Your-Neighbourhood/Consett/Pages/default.aspx>

Crook: <https://www.durham.police.uk/Your-Neighbourhood/Crook/Pages/default.aspx>

Darlington: <https://www.durham.police.uk/Your-Neighbourhood/Darlington/Pages/default.aspx>

Durham: <https://www.durham.police.uk/Your-Neighbourhood/Durham/Pages/default.aspx>

Newton Aycliffe: <https://www.durham.police.uk/Your-Neighbourhood/Newton-Aycliffe/Pages/default.aspx>

Peterlee: <https://www.durham.police.uk/Your-Neighbourhood/Peterlee/Pages/default.aspx>

Seaham: <https://www.durham.police.uk/Your-Neighbourhood/Seaham/Pages/default.aspx>

Spennymoor: <https://www.durham.police.uk/Your-Neighbourhood/Spennymoor/Pages/default.aspx>

Stanley: <https://www.durham.police.uk/Your-Neighbourhood/Stanley/Pages/default.aspx>

Police UK - Local Crime and Policing Information

Visit the website below for details of local crime and policing in your area:

Enter your postcode, town or street name to get street-level maps and data about policing, and details of your local policing team and beat meetings. <http://www.police.uk/>

Further information - Police & Crime Commissioner links:

Durham PCC website: <http://www.durham-pcc.gov.uk>

Police and Crime Plan: <http://www.durham-pcc.gov.uk/Your-PCC/Police-and-Crime-Plan.aspx>

Police and Crime Plan video on YouTube: <http://www.youtube.com/user/DurhamPCC> 

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/PCC.Durham> 

Twitter: <http://twitter.com/DurhamPCC> 