



# RON HOGG

## DURHAM POLICE & CRIME COMMISSIONER

*PCC Newsletter*  
**April 2014**



Ron Hogg

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### Refreshed Police and Crime Plan 2013-17 - Update

I have recently reviewed my Police and Crime Plan and launched the refreshed version this Plan on 1<sup>st</sup> April 2014. I take enormous pride in my role in representing the people of County Durham and Darlington. My first Police and Crime Plan set out the commitments I made in my manifesto.

I have now been in office for over a year and feel that it is time to refresh this Police and Crime Plan and build upon those original commitments. This refreshed plan sets out my vision and commitments and the objectives which I believe will help to achieve this.

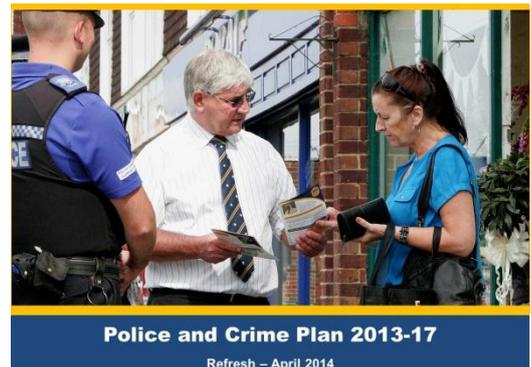
My plan provides strategic direction for the Chief Constable, who has responsibility for day to day operational policing. A key responsibility of my role is to hold the Chief Constable to account for delivery of this plan on behalf of local people.

The Police and Crime Plan 2014-17 is available to view on my website: <http://www.durham-pcc.gov.uk/Your-PCC/Police-and-Crime-Plan/Police-and-Crime-Plan.aspx>

It is also available in large print, as a leaflet for residents and as a video on YouTube. Printed copies can be made available on request by calling 03000 264633.

During my time in office good progress has been made towards the achievement of my priorities and I do not propose to change these for this refreshed plan.

I am thankful for the ongoing commitment of officers, staff and PCSOs alike. However, the police alone cannot fight crime. Therefore I am grateful to our partners and communities across County Durham and Darlington for working together in partnership to achieve our priorities and improve our communities. Together we can make a difference.



## Working to Support Victims

### Commissioning victims' services - progress update

The commissioning of Victims' Services continues to move at pace. I have identified some capacity building projects linked with the 'listening and learning' research which was commissioned by the ministry of justice prior to my election. I am mapping current provision and holding specific focus groups around issues such as being a victim of hate crime or the impact of being a victim as a youth.

I aim to have established a strategic group looking at the needs of victims by the end of May this year and will use the research to help us to shape victim services over the coming year. It is my aim to bring a local victim focus to all areas of Criminal Justice and will work with the OPCC's in Cleveland and Northumbria to ensure the streamlining and efficiency of the referral process.

### Victim-focussed research and training gets underway

Excellent progress is being made with regards to academic research; Durham Constabulary is working together with Durham University under a knowledge transfer partnership.



The aim of the partnership is to conduct research into victims' experiences when reporting incidents of domestic abuse to the police that will improve responses to domestic abuse victims. The research will focus on the voice of the victim and a new interactive training programme will be designed and rolled-out for officers.

This underlines the commitment to the development of an evidence-based strategy for more effective police delivery. It is absolutely vital, in such a difficult and sensitive area of policing, and we are certain that it will lead to a much greater, enhanced service delivery for victims of domestic and sexual abuse.

Domestic abuse is a serious issue, the impact of which cuts across all social, geographical and cultural groups. National research indicates that as many as one in four women and one in six men will be a victim of domestic abuse. Women, men, those in same sex relationships and those in the transgender community experience domestic abuse.

### Victims' Code

A new Government statutory 'code of practice' came into force in December, which covers the support victims should expect at every stage of the process from reporting a crime to post-trial support. Further information is available on my website, including:

- A leaflet guide for adults
- A leaflet guide for young people, and
- A video for under 18's on You Tube

<http://www.durham-pcc.gov.uk/Your-PCC/Working-to-Support-Victims.aspx>

If you know of anyone who has been a victim of crime and could benefit from this information, please feel free to share this with them.

## Supporting our Communities

### Responding to newsletter feedback

During February and March 2014 I asked Community Panel members to provide feedback about the type of information which should be provided in my newsletters, how often and in what format. Your feedback is important therefore thank you to those who took the time to respond.

An excellent suggestion was to expand this newsletter so it is inclusive to everyone, not just Community Panel members, which is what I have done starting from this issue.

Others suggested receiving weekly/fortnightly links to my press releases on my website, so these can be shared more quickly through your own social media sites. To receive frequent email alerts to my news items, please email: [Nyama.Johnson@durham-pcc.gov.uk](mailto:Nyama.Johnson@durham-pcc.gov.uk) in my office.

### Speed laser guns for neighbourhood policing teams

I joined a speed watch session in Middleton St George on Friday 28<sup>th</sup> March, after funding new laser guns for police officers.



The new equipment clocked one driver travelling at 54mph through the village, which reinforces that road safety must remain a high priority for the force. Tackling road safety is a key concern to our communities and is one of the policing priorities I have tasked the Chief Constable to focus on.

The funding of these new laser guns will enable more officers to target speeding hotspots, particularly in residential areas and also reinforces my support for problem solving, casualty reduction and neighbourhood policing.

### Chester-le-Street Police Station Refurbishment Complete

Following extensive refurbishment, I am pleased to announce that the refurbishment of Chester-le-Street Police Station is now complete.



We have spent approximately £750,000 on refurbishing the police station and making it fit for use. It is a clear statement that the station is here to stay to serve the local community. It will house a number of police officers and police staff who together, continue to keep the public safe.

The station will also house a response team, local crime investigation team and intelligence staff as well as the local neighbourhood policing team. There is also a front counter service available from 10.00 a.m. to 5.00 p.m. Monday to Friday where the public can go in and request services, as well as out-of-hours telephone access to the control room.

There was never any intention that the police station was going to close and that the refurbishment we have carried out are part of a wider programme of building improvements which looked to make better use of space and saves money.

## Darlington Skate Park re-visit - Diversionary scheme for young people

On Friday 28 March I returned to the 4 Motion Skate Park in Darlington to see the progress that had been made on the project since its start in November 2013.



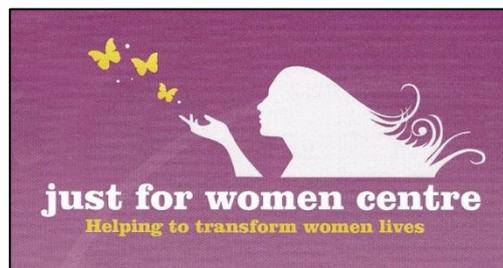
Darlington Gymnastics Club and 4Motion is a group who have teamed up to find a large building on the Faverdale Industrial Estate in Darlington, suitable for the needs of both clubs and that could be transformed into an indoor skate park and gymnastics club.

I was pleased to have been invited back to the indoor skate park to see how it has progressed since my last visit in November. This really is an excellent community facility and a great place for young people to go. The groups involved are doing a fantastic job and they are an example to other community groups across County Durham and Darlington who are trying to achieve similar goals.

Nigel Potter who is leading the Skate Park project said: "It was great to have Ron back and we've really appreciated his support and enthusiasm for the Skate Park. Without the support of the Police Commissioner and many others we wouldn't have been able to achieve so much." The Skate Park opened on Saturday 5th April - more details can be found on their website at: [www.4motiondarlington.org/skatepark](http://www.4motiondarlington.org/skatepark).

## Just for Women's Centre in Stanley

In March I called in for a second visit to staff and volunteers at the Just For Women Centre, during a walkabout in Stanley. The centre is an opportunity for women to 'knit and natter', in a friendly environment, which also provides the opportunity for help and support to those who need it. Run by staff and volunteers, women can often gain new skills, or talk through a range of specific issues, to help get the support they may need.



I provided funding to support the good work of the centre in 2013. They provide excellent support to the victims of domestic and sexual abuse especially in the northwest Durham area. Their services are vital and extremely valued.

Linda Kirk was the original driving force behind the centre which was initially set up at its original premises in an apartment on Station Road Stanley January 2011. Linda said:

"Since that date we have worked with 692 women and become a lifeline for many others. We help to transform the women's lives who have been victims of abuse, have mental health issues, first time offenders and long term unemployed.

"At the centre we use the medium of craft workshops as this has been proved as a highly effective tool for dealing with life and health complexities. It helps women to distract from their worries and it also helps to build communication skills, team building and social interaction among women of all ages and backgrounds."

## Police Performance 'End of year' Update

### County Durham and Darlington remains a safe place to live, work and visit

I would like to provide an update on the performance figures as at the end of March 2014. The following information was issued jointly with Durham Constabulary to the media on 1<sup>st</sup> April 2014:

*Durham Constabulary has seen year-on-year reductions in recorded crime between 2006 and 2013 which resulted in a 44% fall in offences and almost 24,000 fewer crimes. During the past 12 months there has been a 10% increase in crime compared to the previous year, however, crime levels remain similar to the low levels of the early 1980s and Durham Constabulary still has some of the lowest recorded crime rates in England and Wales.*

*Despite this increase in recorded crime, County Durham and Darlington remains one of the safest places in the country to live, work and visit. We have solved more crimes this year and continue to have some of the best performance for this in the country!*

*The types of crime which has caused the increase relate to drug offences, violent crime and sexual offences and theft. We have seen an increase in the number of recorded drug offences. Some of this is due to members of the public being confident to provide us with vital information. 'Operation Sledgehammer' has continued to actively target and remove drug dealers from our streets, reducing the harm that these individuals cause to our communities.*

*The increases in violent crime and sexual offences largely relates to a higher volume of historical incidents that are being reported in response to the Jimmy Saville investigation. Durham Constabulary's investigation of the Medomsley Detention Centre illustrates that victims are now confident to come forward. We will continue to deal with such crimes effectively and sensitively, ensuring that the victim remains at the heart of everything we do.*

*The increase in theft and stealing offences are predominantly in relation to shoplifting where the most commonly stolen items are food, toiletries and clothes. However, people in our communities are now less likely to be victims of household burglary or having items stolen from their vehicles.*

*Discussing the performance figures, Chief Constable Mike Barton, added: "Durham Constabulary continues to put victims first, investigating and solving crime and community problems. This is reflected in the excellent feedback we have received from victims. This shows that 88% are satisfied with the overall service provided by the force when dealing with their crime. Similarly, 89% of victims are satisfied with the action officers take and 96% are satisfied with the treatment they receive.*

*"I am proud of our officers and staff who work hard to protect our neighbourhoods, tackle criminality in all of its forms, listen to our communities and partners to solve problems, ensuring that County Durham and Darlington remains one of the safest places to live and work in the country."*

### Going forward:

I continue to monitor police performance and hold the Chief Constable to account through my monthly meetings with the Force Executive Team. Further detailed performance will be provided in my future newsletters.

## PCC attendance at forthcoming public meetings & events for April & May 2014

Please note: outdoor events may be subject to change, if there is inclement weather:

### April

#### **Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> April**

PACT meeting - Shotton Community Centre, Bridge Road, Shotton Colliery DH6 2PQ  
6.00pm - 7.00pm

#### **Thursday 10<sup>th</sup> April**

Polish PACT meeting for Polish residents, 6.00pm-7.30pm, Central House, Gladstone Street, Darlington

#### **Tuesday 22<sup>nd</sup> April**

Public engagement activity, Asda, Peterlee, 4.00pm - 5.00pm

#### **Wednesday 23<sup>rd</sup> April**

Lingfield Ward PACT meeting, 6.00pm-8.00pm, Heathfield School, The Broadway, Darlington

### May

#### **Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> May**

Online Community Panel event, 6.00pm-7.00pm

#### **Friday 16<sup>th</sup> May**

Public engagement Activity, Darlington (location to be confirmed), 12.30pm-1.30pm

#### **Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> May**

Dog Wise 2014 event, Houghall College, Durham, 10.00am-4.00pm

## Items of Interest from Durham Constabulary

### **Community Engagement Project in Darlington and Seaham**

A community engagement project is being piloted in two areas, Northgate and Seaham. It is a different way of community engagement which builds on existing groups and networks as well as targeting the 'hard to hear' elements of the community.

Building social capital in this way empowers the community and reduces demand on services. The project is led by Inspector Mick Button in Darlington and Inspector Darren Walton in Seaham where a combination of community members, police staff and partner agencies are being trained to deliver this new method of community engagement.

By June 2014 all police staff will have received the training and will be in a position to apply their new found skills to engage with the community.

### **Youth diversionary scheme initiative - Coast Club Night**



Coast Club Night – UV Glow Party for 11 to 17 years, set up by Easington Neighbourhood Policing Team to help combat youth anti-social behaviour in Easington Colliery with the help of multi-agency partners and local Councillors.

We have been running this event which is held at Easington Social Welfare Centre now for the last twelve months in the Easington Colliery area for youths between the ages of 11 to 17 years. It was initially set up to help reduce the number of young people causing anti-social behaviour within the community. The club night enables young people to access a facility without the cost of travelling outside their own area allowing youths to come

together for this event and helping instil a sense of pride in their local community.

Sgt Paul Footes who leads the local neighbourhood team at Easington said:

“This project has been a great success attracting around 60 to 100 youths at each event. From a social aspect this brings youths together and gives them a safe and friendly environment to enjoy themselves. This in turn improves the quality of life for local residents as shown by the reduction in Anti-Social Behaviour of 12% year to date. As well as the dedication of my team we rely on the kind help from local volunteers, youth workers, and County Councillors who all turn up and give their time to this project. This is a great example of partnership working at its best!”



Look out for the next event which will be advertised locally as well as on our Seaham and Easington Neighbourhood Police Facebook page.

## Stolen property in Consett

On the 7th March 2014 police in Consett executed a warrant in the Leadgate area and as a result several items of property believed to be stolen were recovered; including a men's mountain bike and a set of handmade spoon carving knives. As one of the most important values Durham Constabulary officers uphold is to put the victims of crime first. Therefore efforts were promptly made to locate the properties rightful owners.



Due to the distinctive nature of the spoon carving knives, Sgt Willis recalled a case from last summer where items had been stolen from a campsite in the Medomsley area of Consett. After a quick call to the victim of this crime, certain unique identifying features of the knives were described and it was established that these knives were undoubtedly the same ones.

Arrangements were made for Mr Phillips to reclaim his specialist handmade knives from Consett Police Station a week later and had this to say: "I'm very pleased - I didn't think I was going to get them back. The knives are worth around £100 and it's great to have them back. Thank you."

Durham Constabulary endeavour to reunite any recovered property to its rightful owners. And in this case it is pleasing to be able to do so. PCSO Mark Rodgers added: "To make it easier for officers to identify property which may be reported lost or stolen, please make a note of serial numbers and identifiable features. You can log this information via this FREE website: [www.immobilise.com](http://www.immobilise.com)."

## Stanley Area Neighbourhood Watch Association

Tuesday 11th March saw the first official meeting of Stanley Neighbourhood Watch Co-ordinators under the banner of Stanley Area Neighbourhood Watch Association.

The group of 44 Neighbourhood Watch Co-ordinators have been meeting regularly over the last year and as a result formalised the group as an Association who plan to work together to promote, encourage and support good citizenship and greater public awareness of all aspects of Neighbourhood Watch (NHW) in County Durham, in order to increase public participation in the prevention and detection of crime, whilst building an effective liaison

between the police, statutory and voluntary organisations, other agencies and the public of Stanley.



As pictured (left) some of our members, along with Chair Geoff Graham, Secretary Marcelle Graham and Treasurer Ann Bell (seated right to left).

Should you wish to find out more about Neighbourhood Watch contact your Community

Liaison Officer, for the Consett and Stanley areas: PCSO Vikki Ord by calling 101 extension 6642455 or via email: [victoria.ord@durham.pnn.police.uk](mailto:victoria.ord@durham.pnn.police.uk). Alternatively, you can contact the Chair, Geoff Graham, directly by email: [geoff.graham@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:geoff.graham@hotmail.co.uk).

## Community Building Consultation Day - Burnhope

The Burnhope Community Association management group have been working with a variety of agencies to look at the build of a new community centre for the village. Using the views of villagers from previous consultations the Community Association managed to secure funding (as reported in the previous Burnhope Wheel). This has enabled the Association to have some outline drawings and possible costs developed with the support of an experienced local architects firm.

On top of this the Association are also looking to sell off the site of the previous community centre and establish a new management committee for the proposed building.

A consultation and information day has been planned for Thursday 24 April between the hours of 2.30pm and 8.00pm at the Burnhope Primary School.



Potential designs and the potential costs will be on view, as well as: the ability to discuss what you would use the centre for, when the centre should be open, what would you be willing to pay to access facilities/activities, whether you would be willing to help out and become a centre volunteer and whether you would be interested in being part of a new management committee.

These are just a few of the questions we want to ask you and I am sure there are plenty of questions you would want to ask us too. So why not pop along at any point during these hours and find out more.

Your local Neighbourhood Policing Team representatives will also be in attendance to offer Crime Prevention Advice, Operation Spoke Bicycle Marking session (between 4pm & 8pm), provide community PACT updates and sign up new members to Neighbourhood Watch.

For further information please contact: Andy Coulthard – Mid Durham AAP Co-ordinator.  
Email: [andy.coulthard@durham.gov.uk](mailto:andy.coulthard@durham.gov.uk) or PCSO Lisa Jackson:  
[lisa.jackson@durham.pnn.police.uk](mailto:lisa.jackson@durham.pnn.police.uk)

All are welcome, come along and have your say!

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

### Police and Communities Together Meetings (PACT)



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](http://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:** [www.durham.police.uk/Your-Neighbourhood/Barnard-Castle/Pages/default.aspx](http://www.durham.police.uk/Your-Neighbourhood/Barnard-Castle/Pages/default.aspx)
- **Bishop Auckland:** [www.durham.police.uk/Your-Neighbourhood/Bishop-Auckland/Pages/default.aspx](http://www.durham.police.uk/Your-Neighbourhood/Bishop-Auckland/Pages/default.aspx)
- **Chester-le-Street:** [www.durham.police.uk/Your-Neighbourhood/Chester-le-Street/Pages/default.aspx](http://www.durham.police.uk/Your-Neighbourhood/Chester-le-Street/Pages/default.aspx)
- **Consett:** [www.durham.police.uk/Your-Neighbourhood/Consett/Pages/default.aspx](http://www.durham.police.uk/Your-Neighbourhood/Consett/Pages/default.aspx)
- **Crook:** [www.durham.police.uk/Your-Neighbourhood/Crook/Pages/default.aspx](http://www.durham.police.uk/Your-Neighbourhood/Crook/Pages/default.aspx)
- **Darlington:** [www.durham.police.uk/Your-Neighbourhood/Darlington/Pages/default.aspx](http://www.durham.police.uk/Your-Neighbourhood/Darlington/Pages/default.aspx)
- **Durham:** [www.durham.police.uk/Your-Neighbourhood/Durham/Pages/default.aspx](http://www.durham.police.uk/Your-Neighbourhood/Durham/Pages/default.aspx)
- **Newton Aycliffe:** [www.durham.police.uk/Your-Neighbourhood/Newton-Aycliffe/Pages/default.aspx](http://www.durham.police.uk/Your-Neighbourhood/Newton-Aycliffe/Pages/default.aspx)
- **Peterlee:** [www.durham.police.uk/Your-Neighbourhood/Peterlee/Pages/default.aspx](http://www.durham.police.uk/Your-Neighbourhood/Peterlee/Pages/default.aspx)
- **Seaham:** [www.durham.police.uk/Your-Neighbourhood/Seaham/Pages/default.aspx](http://www.durham.police.uk/Your-Neighbourhood/Seaham/Pages/default.aspx)
- **Spennymoor:** [www.durham.police.uk/Your-Neighbourhood/Spennymoor/Pages/default.aspx](http://www.durham.police.uk/Your-Neighbourhood/Spennymoor/Pages/default.aspx)
- **Stanley:** [www.durham.police.uk/Your-Neighbourhood/Stanley/Pages/default.aspx](http://www.durham.police.uk/Your-Neighbourhood/Stanley/Pages/default.aspx)

### Police UK - Local Crime and Policing Information

Visit the website [www.police.uk](http://www.police.uk) 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.

### Further information - Useful Police & Crime Commissioner links:

- **Durham PCC website:** [www.durham-pcc.gov.uk](http://www.durham-pcc.gov.uk)
- **Police and Crime Plan:** [www.durham-pcc.gov.uk/Your-PCC/Police-and-Crime-Plan.aspx](http://www.durham-pcc.gov.uk/Your-PCC/Police-and-Crime-Plan.aspx)
- **Durham PCC on YouTube:** [www.youtube.com/user/DurhamPCC](http://www.youtube.com/user/DurhamPCC)
- **Facebook:** [www.facebook.com/PCC.Durham](http://www.facebook.com/PCC.Durham)
- **Twitter:** <http://twitter.com/DurhamPCC>
- **AudioBoo:** <http://audioboo.fm/DurhamPCC>
- **Flickr:** <http://www.flickr.com/photos/durhampcc/>