

**Northumbria Police & Crime
Commissioner Election - May 2024**

**Candidate
Briefing 2024**

**NORTHUMBRIA POLICE & CRIME
COMMISSIONER ELECTION - MAY 2024**

PREPARED BY THE OFFICE OF THE POLICE &
CRIME COMMISSIONER FOR NORTHUMBRIA



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The Role of the Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC)

Introduction

The PCC is responsible for setting the strategic direction and the budget for policing in Northumbria. This involves:

- Holding the police to account through the Chief Constable.
- Being accountable to the electorate.
- Setting the strategic direction and accountability for policing.
- Setting policing priorities in consultation with residents.
- Consulting and involving the public.

Working with partners to prevent and tackle crime and re-offending

- Ensuring that the police respond effectively to public concerns and threats to public safety.
- Promoting and enabling joined up working on community safety and criminal justice.
- Increasing public confidence in how crime is cut and policing delivered.
- Working towards an effective criminal justice system as Chair of the Local Criminal Justice Board.

Involving the voice of the public, the vulnerable and victims

- Ensuring that public priorities are acted upon, victims are consulted and that the most vulnerable individuals are not overlooked.
- Complying with the General Equality Duty under the Equality Act.
- Ensuring that partners comply with the Victims Code of Practice.
- Working with the Chief Constable to ensure complaints are handled effectively and that lessons learnt are cascaded throughout the force.

Contributing to resourcing of policing response to regional and national threats

- Ensuring an effective policing contribution alongside other partners to national arrangements to protect the public from other cross-boundary threats in line with the strategic policing requirement.

Ensuring value for money

- Responsible for the distribution of policing grants from central government and setting the precept raised through council tax.

PCC Functions

Police Reform and Social Responsibility Act 2011 and other legislation

Function	Reference
Secure the maintenance of an efficient and effective police force for that area	s1(6)
To be the Fire and Rescue Authority	S6 P&CA'17
Strategic Planning	
Prepare a draft and issue a police and crime plan	s5 (Regs)
Review the police and crime plan, particularly in the light of (i) any report or recommendations made by the police and crime panel; and (ii) any changes in the strategic policing requirement	s5(9)
Holding to account	
Hold the chief constable to account for:	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> the functions of the chief constable, and of persons under the direction and control of the chief constable. the exercise of the duty to have regard to police and crime plan the exercise of the duty to have regard to strategic policing requirement the exercise of the duty to have regard to codes of practice issued by Secretary of State the effectiveness and efficiency of the chief constable's arrangements for co-operating with other persons. the effectiveness and efficiency of the chief constable's arrangements for engagement with local people the extent to which the chief constable achieves value for money the exercise of duties relating to equality and diversity. the exercise of duties in relation to the safeguarding of children and the promotion of child welfare 	<p>s1(7)</p> <p>s1(8)(a-h)</p>
Partnership working	
To provide or arrange for the provision of—	s143
(a) services to secure crime and disorder reduction;	ASBP&CA'14
(b) services to help victims or witnesses of, or other persons affected by, offences and anti-social behaviour;	
(c) services specified by the Secretary of State	
Have regard to the relevant priorities of each responsible authority	s10(1)

Partnership working

Act in co-operation with responsible authorities	s10(2) (CDA Regs)
Make arrangements with criminal justice agencies for the exercise of functions so as to provide an efficient and effective criminal justice system for the area	s10(3)
Prepare a community remedy document for the area	S101 ASBP&CA'14
Enter into collaboration agreements	s22A PA'96
Keep collaboration agreements under review	s22C PA'96
Provide advice and assistance to a body outside the UK	s26 PA'96
Enter into emergency service collaboration agreements	s1 P&CA'17
Keep considering emergency services collaboration	s1 P&CA'17

People

Appoint, manage complaints regarding, suspend and remove the chief constable	s38 and sch8 (Regs)
Appoint a chief executive and chief finance officer (and may appoint other staff, including a Deputy Police and Crime Commissioner)	sch1 para 6 to 8

Information and Engagement

Publish specified information in the time or manner specified	s11 (Regs)
Produce an annual report	s12
Provide the police and crime panel with any information which the panel may reasonably require	s13
Make arrangements for obtaining	
• the views of people about matters concerning the policing of the area	s96(1) and
• their co-operation with the police in preventing crime and anti-social behaviour in that area;	(2)PA'96
• the views of victims of crime in that area about matters concerning the policing of that area.	(Regs)
• the views of the people in that police area, and the relevant ratepayers' representatives, on the proposals of the police and crime commissioner for expenditure before the first precept for a financial year is issued by the police and crime commissioner	S96(1B) PA'96

Finance

Issue a precept	s39 Local Government Finance Act 1992 (Regs)
Enter into agreements for supply of goods and services	s1 Local Authorities (Goods and Services) Act 1970; s15
Keep the police fund	s21 (Pension Regs)
Receive grants for police purposes – revenue and capital expenditure	s46 PA'96
Receive national security grants	s48 PA'96
Receive grants from local authorities	s92 PA'96
Accept gifts or loans	s93 PA'96
Borrow monies	s94 PA'96
Receive emergency financial assistance	s155 Local Government and Housing Act 1989
Do anything calculated to facilitate the exercise of their functions, including:	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • entering into contracts and other agreements • acquiring and disposing of property (including land) • borrowing money 	sch1 para 14
To assess, decide and pay, any valid claim for compensation in respect of property that has been damaged, destroyed or stolen in the course of a riot	S1, Riot Compensation Act 2016



Police and Crime Plan 2021 – 2025

Northumbria has a [Police and Crime Plan](#) to cover the period 2021-2025.

The plan makes official the public's policing priorities, including boosting officer numbers and tackling serious organised crime.

More than 5,900 residents across the North East responded to surveys, online discussions, and by phone to say what good policing looks like to them and their local communities. Nearly every person surveyed, whether living in urban, rural or coastal areas, placed great importance on neighbourhood policing, and backed plans for visible policing in their area.

The plan includes a commitment to tackling serious and organised crime, with a promise to hire 60 new detectives as part of this; a commitment to working with councils, housing providers and others to build on ASB task forces used during the Covid pandemic; targeted efforts to keep young people out of gangs as part of a Violence Reduction Unit, and a promise to publish upfront regular crime data showing the public how their force is responding to their needs.

The 6 key priorities, identified following the public consultation are:

FIGHTING CRIME

- Tackling anti-social behaviour
- Reducing crime

PREVENTING CRIME

- Preventing violent crime
- Neighbourhood policing

IMPROVING LIVES

- Supporting Victims
- Tackling domestic abuse and sexual violence

Annual Report

The Commissioner publishes an Annual Report that outlines progress that has been made in delivering the Police and Crime Plan each year. These can all be viewed [here](#).

The EDI Annual Report can also be found here - [EDI Annual Report 2022](#)

Northumbria Police

Northumbria Police serves a population of 1.5 million people and covers an area of more than 2,000 square miles in the North East of England, from the Scottish border down to County Durham and from the Pennines across to the North East coast. Northumbria is one of the largest forces in the country and is recognised as one of the top performing in the UK.

Under the leadership of Chief Constable, Vanessa Jardine, Northumbria Police is committed to reducing crime, disorder and building trust and confidence in its communities.

Northumbria Police has 3,845 police officers and 2,157 police staff and 81 Police Community Support Officers (PCSOs), who work together to prevent, detect and reduce crime in the Northumbria area. The force is split into six geographical area commands and is supported by specialist departments. The force website is www.northumbria.police.uk

Chief Constable

The Chief Constable is responsible for maintaining the King's Peace, and has direction and control over the force's officers and staff. The Chief Constable holds office under the Crown, but is appointed by the PCC.

The Chief Constable is accountable to the law for the exercise of police powers, and to the PCC for the delivery of efficient and effective policing, management of resources and expenditure by the police force. At all times the Chief Constable, their constables and staff, remain operationally independent in the service of the communities that they serve.

A complete list of the Chief Constable functions is provided below, with the details of applicable section of the Police Reform and Social Responsibility Act 2011 or other legislation. The structure of the chief officer team is shown on the following page.



Executive Team

Structure / Portfolio Responsibilities:

Chief Constable

Deputy Chief Constable (DCC)

- Professional standards and legal services
- Corporate development department
- Force transformation
- Communications and Engagement

Assistant Chief Constable (ACC)

(Crime & Safeguarding)

- Crime department
- NEROCU
- Safeguarding department
- Forensic Services
- Criminal Justice
- Victim's services
- Custody

Assistant Chief Constable (ACC)

(Force Coordination)

- Communications
- Force Coordination
- Intelligence
- Operations
- Information management

Assistant Chief Constable (ACC)

(Local policing)

- Prevention
- Data programme board
- Volunteering
- Neighbourhood policing

Assistant Chief Officer (ACO)

- People services
- People development
- Business support
- Finance
- Estates
- Fleet
- Procurement



Chief Constable's Role (within the Police Reform and Social Responsibility Act 2011 and other legislation)

Function	Reference
To direct and control the police force and its civilian staff, in such a way as is reasonable to assist the relevant PCC to exercise the PCC's functions	s2(3) and (5)
Operational functions (decisions)	
Not listed here as set out in other legislation	s2(4)
Information and Engagement	
Make arrangements for obtaining the views of people within each neighbourhood about crime and disorder in that neighbourhood	s34
Make arrangements for providing people within each neighbourhood:	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • information about policing there • information about how policing is aimed at reducing crime and disorder • regular meetings 	s34
Give PCC such information the PCC requires, in the form required	s36
Provide the Secretary of State information as required, in the form required	s44 PA'96
Value for money	
Secure good value for money	s35
Partnership working	
Formulate and implement strategies for reducing crime and disorder, etc, with other responsible authorities, having regard to the police and crime plan	s6 CDA'98 (CDA Regs)
Enter into collaboration agreements	s22A PA'96
Keep collaboration agreements under review	s22B PA'96
Provide mutual aid	s24
Provide special police services	s25

People

Appoint, manage complaints regarding, suspend and remove deputy and assistant chief constables	ss39 to40 and sch8 (Regs)
Appoint a chief finance officer (and other staff)	sch2 para 4 to 6
Appoint special constables	s27 PA'96
Appoint police cadets	s28 PA'96

Contractual ability

Do anything calculated to facilitate the exercise of their functions, including:	
• entering into contracts and other agreements with PCCs consent	sch2 para 7(2)
• acquiring and disposing of property (apart from land) with PCCs consent	
Enter into contracts of employment	sch2 para 7(4)
NB A Chief constable may not borrow money except within treasury management	sch2 para 7(3)

Finance and Resources

Budget 2024/25

There is a Revenue budget of £379.464m for policing and crime reduction which reflects the following:

- Continued budget provision to deliver the previously agreed plans for investment in Northumbria that will enable the force to continue delivering on the priorities of communities and provide an excellent standard of policing services.
- Includes the delivery the Northumbria police officer Uplift target of 615, plus an additional 78 officers over Uplift as bid for and agreed by the Home Office.
- Delivering efficiency savings and budget reductions in 2024/25 of £8.500m.
- Approved increase of £13 on the Council Tax Precept for a Band D property, raising an additional £5.400m income.

The Group budget is held by the Police and Crime Commissioner who provides financial resources to the Chief Constable to deliver operational policing. The budget delegated to the Chief Constable for 2024/25 is £362.922m. The OPCC budget of £1.847m covers the running costs of the Commissioner and her office, covering all administration and governance arrangements. The OPCC Supporting Services budget of £1.442m includes the specific budget for the Commissioners Community Fund, premises expenditure, the Police Digital Service contribution, and the Northumbria Sexual Assault Referral Centre (SARC). The Capital Financing budget comprises the revenue provision for repayment of borrowing, interest costs and investment income

Medium Term Financial Strategy 2024/25 to 2027/28

The Medium Term Financial Strategy sets out key financial issues over the period 2024/25 to 2027/28, and provides options for delivering a sustainable budget and capital programme over the medium term including resources for the Chief Constable to deliver the priorities in the Police and Crime Plan.

The Strategy sets out how the Commissioner will provide the Chief Constable with the right resources to deliver on the priorities of Northumbria residents and keep communities safe, ensuring that Northumbria Police have the resources they need, and are efficient and cost-effective in the service they provide. The MTFs has been established to make the best use of the financial settlement 2024/25, whilst making prudent assumptions on future funding levels and expected budget requirements, to ensure that resources remain available to meet operational demand, continue to deliver value for money and are sustainable across the period of the MTFs.

A capital programme has been set which will ensure continued investment in estates, IT and digital infrastructure, vehicles and operational equipment over the term of the MTFs. This will include personal issue equipment such as Taser and Body Worn Video and leading edge technology to aid the detection and investigation of crimes, ensuring that Northumbria is a Force fit for the future.

The MTFs will ensure that in addition to the successful delivery of the Northumbria share of the national Police Uplift Program, the additional resources secured above this level are baselined into operational police officer numbers. As the total cost of policing continues to rise, consideration has been given to all known budget pressures to make sure that the budget meets the challenge of providing Northumbria with the right resources to keep people safe. This includes the replacement of around 220 officer retirements and other leavers in order to maintain the Northumbria police officer Uplift target. Pay progression is included for existing officers and staff along with provision for the 2024 pay award, inflationary increases on injury pensions, rents, and utilities, known contract increases and other non-pay inflation.

However, it must be noted that the balanced sustainable nature of the Strategy is predicated on many key assumptions around resource requirements, future costs and levels of total funding. Given that yet again, we are faced with a one-year settlement which does not provide any certainty beyond March 2025, there remains a level of risk throughout the period of the MTFs and therefore the financial context for Northumbria Police remains extremely challenging.

Audited Statements of Account 2022/23

The Statements of Account 2022/23 present the Commissioner's and Group's (including the Chief Constable) financial performance for the year ended 31 March 2023. The Statements set out the overall financial position at the end of that period and the cost of services provided.

The Statements of Account are statutory documents produced annually. They provide information about the Police and Crime Commissioner and the Chief Constable's financial performance and financial position. The Statements provide an insight into the activities of the Commissioner during the year. The Preface and Narrative Statement provide an overview of the accounting arrangements and a guide to the most significant matters in the financial statements.

The Statements and the Independent Auditors Reports to the Police and Crime Commissioner are available on the Northumbria PCC website.

Estates

The PCC is responsible for the provision of an effective and efficient estate that supports operational policing needs. The current estate includes a mix of freehold and leasehold properties as published in the Property Asset List (September 2023).

Risk Management

The Office of Police and Crime Commissioner (OPCC) and Northumbria Police share a Joint Strategic Risk Register which has been designed to ensure the effective management of strategic risks, whilst reducing the bureaucracy associated with historic practices. Each strategic risk has been assigned Chief Officer and OPCC owners, who have responsibility for the management of existing controls and the implementation of new controls, where necessary.

The Joint Strategic Risk Register is scrutinised at the Strategic Management Board and the Joint Independent Audit Committee on a quarterly basis. The Joint PCC/CC Governance Group provides additional scrutiny and governance.

Joint Independent Audit Committee

The Joint Independent Audit Committee considers the internal and external audit reports of both the Commissioner and the Chief Constable and advises them both according to good governance principles and appropriate risk management arrangements in accordance with proper practices.

The Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner (OPCC)

In order for the PCC to be able to successfully undertake their duties they are supported by a small team of staff known as the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner (OPCC). The OPCC is a non-political, impartial organisation. In Northumbria the OPCC has a number of roles and responsibilities including:

- Supporting the PCC to deliver the Police and Crime Plan
- Delivery of the Violence Reduction Unit
- Commissioning Victims Services
- Governance and Accountability
- Business Management for the Local Criminal Justice Board
- Policy and Planning
- Project Management
- Research and Intelligence
- Community Engagement
- Partnership Working
- Grants Programme Management
- Business Management and Organisational Support
- Communications and Public Relations
- Volunteer Programme Management

Further information is provided in respect of the Victim Services Commissioning Role, the Violence Reduction Unit and the role of the OPCC in Complaints.

The team supports the delivery of the PCC's functions and has no operational policing responsibility a structure chart is available here [Staff Structure](#) The Office is led by the Chief of Staff who holds one of the two statutory positions as Monitoring Officer and is responsible for reporting to the PCC if it appears that any proposal, decision or failure within their organisation constitutes, has given rise to, or is likely to break the law or a code of practice. A full [Job Description](#) is available on the PCC Website.

The other statutory position is held by the Chief Finance Officer who is the Section 151 Officer for the PCC and Northumbria Police. This is a joint appointment and provides financial advice to both the Chief Constable and the Police and Crime Commissioner. The Section 151 responsibilities include responsibilities for value for money to taxpayers, robust financial conduct, management of financial risk, appropriate systems and controls to manage public funds and produce audited annual accounts.

In addition to the support provided by the staff in the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner a [Service Level Agreement](#) with Northumbria Police provides the statement of intent between the Chief Constable and the Police and Crime Commissioner to work in partnership and to define an effective

working relationship. The Service Level Agreement sets out services that Northumbria Police will provide to the Police and Crime Commissioner and these are categorised under a number of functional areas:

Finance	Consultation	Estates & Property
HR	ICT	Legal
Research & Performance Analysis	Strategic Communications	Business Planning/Risk Management

The schedule identifies the agreed service standards and key deliverables.

Where appropriate staff will be located at the Office of the PCC and/or may be required to attend from time to time to ensure effective delivery of services. This requirement will be negotiated between Northumbria Police and the OPCC.

The Service Level Agreement also identifies that on occasion certain elements of service delivery may necessitate a degree of confidentiality and/or could place an individual in a position of a conflict of interests between the PCC and the Chief Constable. It is anticipated these circumstances would be rare, if at all, and would more likely involve senior personnel, typically the service lead. In such circumstances the individual must identify any concerns and bring these to the attention of an Assistant Chief Officer/Chief of Staff or if necessary directly with the PCC and Chief Constable who will provide direction on the matter. In these instances, it may be necessary for the Chief Constable or the Police and Crime Commissioner to obtain independent advice.

The OPCC will continue to collaborate with other police forces to generate further savings ranging from the purchasing of uniforms to the renewal of police cars and will work with the national government funded organisation Bluelight Commercial to strengthen local and national procurement functions.

Gateshead Council deliver the Internal Audit Programme on behalf of the Police and Crime Commissioner and Northumbria Police.

Legal Services for property transactions are provided to the Police and Crime Commissioner by North Tyneside Council.

Violence Reduction Unit

Northumbria is one of 20 Police force areas to receive additional funding to set up a Violence Reduction Unit (VRU). VRU's are tasked with reducing knife crime and wider serious violence across the force area ensuring that all key partners and services are involved. The Home Office wants VRU's to focus activity and intervention predominantly on young people up to the age of 25. The VRU seeks to reduce serious violence and vulnerability by taking a public health approach to tackling the root causes. The Unit receives an annual allocation of funding from the Home Office with the majority of funding being allocated to commissioned services to support wider partnership work to tackle serious violence.

There are three key measures for VRU's that have been defined by the Home Office:

- Reduction in knife enabled serious violence
- Reduction in hospital admissions for knife related serious violence
- Reduction in homicides

The Northumbria Serious Violence Response Strategy 2024-2029 sets out our approach to continuing this work over the next five years. The strategy outlines our five key priorities to take this work forward as well as outlines the challenges we face and the measures we are committed to achieving to meet our aims.

Our vision is that Northumbria is a place where individuals, families and communities thrive, making the most of opportunities to live, learn and work, free from the fear of violence.

This Strategy sets out the 5 priorities to reduce serious violence:

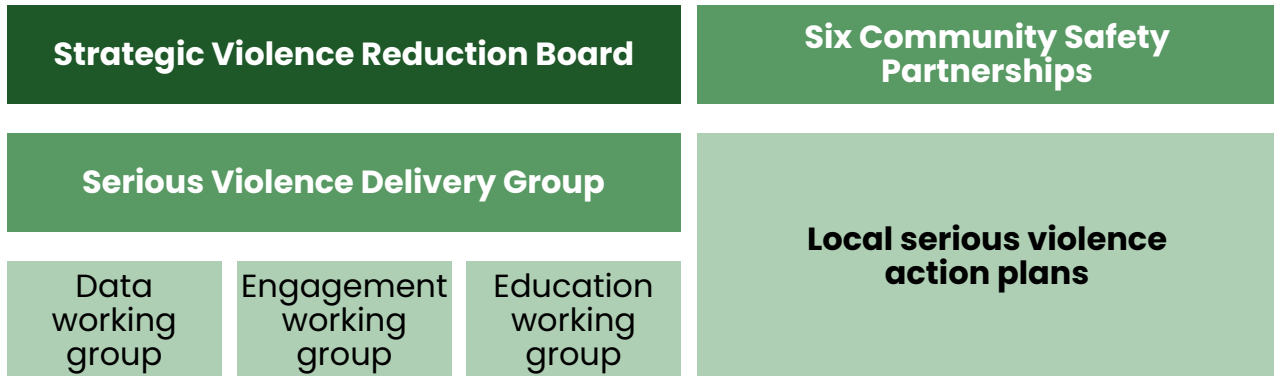
1. Create stronger systems to address serious violence.
2. Data, evidence, information sharing and evaluation.
3. Prevention and Early Intervention
4. Criminal Justice and Enforcement
5. Supporting communities through communication, engagement, and reassurance

The strategy is refreshed annually, and the current version plus more information about the work of the Unit can be found at on the [PCC Website](#).

Progress against all of the agreed measures is reported on a quarterly basis to the Strategic Violence Reduction Board which is made up of senior representatives from Local authorities, Probation, Housing, Public Health, Education and the Voluntary and Community Sector. The Police and Crime Commissioner chairs this meeting.

Detailed below are the current governance arrangements:

Governance Arrangements



In Northumbria, the Serious Violence Delivery Group has been established to provide oversight and governance in delivering the aims and objectives of the Northumbria Serious Violence Response Strategy. This Group supports the implementation of the Serious Violence Duty for specified authorities and will monitor performance of interventions and report to the Strategic Board. This group will contribute to the delivery and implementation of this strategy by capitalising on existing local arrangements to ensure partners work effectively across the system to avoid duplication.

To support our governance arrangements, there are two thematic working groups which will contribute to the success of achieving our identified priorities. Each of the thematic groups have an agreed Terms of Reference and there is representation from each of the specified authorities on the Groups which include:

- **Data and Insights Group** – has led the planning and co-ordination of the Strategic Needs Assessment including information sharing arrangements to obtain relevant datasets from partners.
- **Engagement Group** – has developed an Engagement and Communication Framework to ensure engagement work with individuals, families and communities is co-ordinated across the six local authorities.

The VRU also produces an annual Strategic Needs Assessment and Annual Report which can be found on the [PCC Website](#).

Serious Violence Duty

As part of the Serious Violence Duty the VRU acts as the co-ordinating body for all of the statutory authorities covered by the duty. An overview of the duty can be found online [here](#).



Complaints

In England and Wales, members of the public can make a complaint about the police directly to the police or to the Independent Office for Police Conduct (IOPC). The law requires all complaints to be considered by the 'appropriate authority', which is usually the relevant police force.

Complaints about a Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC), or a Deputy Police and Crime Commissioner will usually be dealt with by the Police and Crime Panel (PCP). Here in Northumbria, the Police and Crime Panel has delegated this responsibility to the OPCC Chief of Staff and Monitoring Officer.

Complaints about Police and Crime Commissioners and their Deputies.

The appropriate authority for complaints made against PCCs and their deputies is the PCP. The PCP will be responsible for the initial recording of complaints and conduct matters and for referring those which allege criminality to the IOPC. Where the complaints are non-criminal, the PCP will be responsible for handling and informally resolving these complaints. As mentioned, here in Northumbria, the PCP have chosen to delegate the initial handling and resolving of complaints to the Chief of Staff and monitoring officer.

Complaints against the police

The OPCC has no role in complaints against the police, they must be referred to the force Professional Standards Department as the Chief Constable is the Appropriate Authority for such matters.

A complaint is defined as any expression of dissatisfaction. If a complaint against the police is recorded, the force has to decide whether the complaint is a matter which must be referred to the IOPC.

Complaints that do not have to be referred to the IOPC are handled by the Professional Standards Department of the force.

The IOPC investigates the most serious complaints and allegations of misconduct against the police in England and Wales. It may also investigate incidents where there has been no public complaint, but where a person has died or received serious injuries in police detention, or where, at or before the time of death/serious injury, a person had contact with the police and there is an indication that the contact may have caused or contributed to the death or serious injury.

Further information on complaints can be found on the IOPC's [website](#).

What is the PCC role in relation to the police complaints system?

The PCC has a duty to monitor all complaints about conduct made against officers and staff, whilst having responsibility for handling complaints against the Chief Constable.

PCCs are responsible for the initial recording of complaints, conduct matters and death or serious injury matters concerning the Chief Constable, and for further handling of the complaint or conduct matter, including, where necessary, taking any disciplinary proceedings against the Chief Constable.

In February 2020, legislative changes resulted in PCCs become responsible for reviews, if the OPCC is deemed as the Relevant Review Body (if it is not the OPCC it will be the IOPC). Previously, reviews were known as appeals and undertaken by the Chief Constable. To prevent the conception of the police 'marking their own homework' the responsibility was transferred to the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner, here in Northumbria we have a dedicated member of staff who is responsible for statutory reviews. The remit of the reviewing officer is to ensure Northumbria Police have dealt with the complaint in a reasonable and proportionate manner – it is not to undertake a reinvestigation of the complaint. In the spirit of openness and transparency, all Northumbria's review outcomes are on the website - [Review Outcomes](#)

Improving Lives

Victim Services Commissioning Programme

From the 1st April 2015 Police and Crime Commissioners were given responsibility for providing key emotional and practical support services for victims of crime in their locality. Funding to support this is provided by the Ministry of Justice through a victim services grant. PCCs receive this allocation based on a population formula which in Northumbria means a grant of £1,75m for the 2023-24 year. Crime can leave victims feeling upset, scared and intimidated and it was felt by the Government that PCCs with their local knowledge are best placed to target funding where the help is most needed in their local communities.

In addition to this PCCs can make grants as outlined in the Police Reform and Social Responsibility Act 2012 to contribute to securing crime and disorder reduction in their area. To supplement the victim services grant the PCC holds an annual grants budget which supports delivery of objectives in the Police and Crime Plan.

Core Victim Service

In 2023-24 the Ministry of Justice provided the OPCC with a further £1.48m to strengthen the services available to support victims of domestic and sexual abuse and increase the number of Independent Sexual Violence Advisors (ISVAs) and Independent Domestic Violence Advisors (IDVAs).

Northumbria Victim and Witness Service (NVWS)

In 2020 the PCC committed to completely revitalising the victim referral process and service for victims of crime in Northumbria, reaching more victims than ever before and providing wrap around support throughout criminal justice proceedings.

NVWS the core victim service enables all victims of crime, direct and indirect such as parents, siblings, children, partners and close friends, to cope and recover from the impact of crime. The support provided to victims, both who report to the police and those who do not generally falls into three broad categories;

- Initial emotional and practical support including signposting
- More detailed/longer term emotional and practical support including restorative justice
- Support and referrals to specialist services, those that are commissioned by the PCC and others that are not, to help a victim cope and recover

Northumbria Police are commissioned by the OPCC to deliver NVWS and robust grant management arrangements are in place to monitor impact and performance. You can read more about the service here [Northumbria Victim and Witness Service | Support For Victims](#)

Strengthening Specialist Victim Services

The PCCs Supporting Victims Programme was launched to strengthen the overall offer of support to victims in Northumbria and improves and widens these service available to our most vulnerable and priority victims. Priority victims are those that are entitled to an enhanced support service under the Victims Code of practice, Victims Charter and the EU Directive for Victims of Crime.

For the 2023/24 year grant awards of over £2.08m have been made as part of the PCCs Supporting Victims Fund. The grants are funded by both the Ministry of Justice victim services grant and the Commissioners own grants budget (brought about through savings in the Commissioners operating budget).

Each year we refresh our assessment of need to understand the demand for victim support services. We consider Northumbria wide and local strategic assessments, levels of crime and any new and emerging crimes and issues facing our area, we also carry out local research and consultation with victims groups and service providers and identify funding priorities. The following areas of need have been identified in the Northumbria area:

- Domestic abuse
- Victims of sexual assault and abuse
- Young people and child victims
- Victims of serious violence
- Victims of hate crime
- Victims with mental health needs
- Victims with other vulnerabilities

Sexual Assault Referral Centre (SARC)

Since 2021 the OPCC has had responsibility for commissioning SARC services across Northumbria and by working closely with colleagues in Durham and Cleveland now oversee a regional SARC service that offers a comprehensive service for adults living in Northumbria, who have experienced sexual violence or sexual abuse. You can access The Northumbria SARC via the Police and other professionals, as well as via the self-referral pathway. At the SARC you will be offered support and guidance, a medical assessment/treatment, a forensic examination, and the opportunity of aftercare referrals for support services. Victims will be offered these services based on their individual needs.



Community Grants

The PCC has access to funds generated from items seized from criminals and criminal activity. In 2020–21 the PCC brought some of this money together with money from the sale of unclaimed property to launch a new funding stream known as Operation Payback.

The fund ran for five cycles and funded just over 290 grass roots organisations, bringing to life new ideas, initiatives and encouraging collaboration. The fund aimed to empower local groups to find solutions to the issues that matter locally, ultimately improving lives and preventing crime.

Monitoring and Evaluation

All grants are provided on the basis that output and outcome monitoring information will be provided on a quarterly basis. Additional scrutiny is undertaken via quarterly grant surgeries and 'check-ins' to ensure that grant recipients are delivering service/projects in line with the PCCs expectations and that opportunities to maximise outcomes are shared.

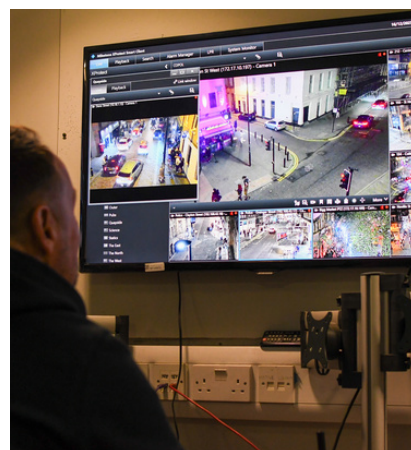
In the case of many larger grants evaluation has been built into the project design and application.

A full list of the organisations that have received grant funding is available on the PCC website [Victim Services 2023/24](#)

Home Office Projects

The OPCC have been successful in securing two key Home Office funding streams to help tackle ASB and make communities safer. Funding is in place until the end of March 2025 to deliver the following projects:

- Safer Streets – improving womens safety in public places
- Safer Streets – tackling transport and motor bike ASB
- Safer Streets – reducing deliberate secondary fires
- ASB Trailblazer (Hotspot Response) – increased uniformed presence to tackle ASB in community and transport settings
- ASB Trailblazer (Immediate Justice) – out of court resolution for perpetrators of ASB using reparative activity and education



Violence against Women and Girls (VAWG) Strategy

In June 2023 the OPCC launched a new VAWG Strategy clearly setting out steps needed to tackle violence against women and girls across Northumbria. There are four key pillars of work focussed around preventing VAWG, support victims, pursuing perpetrators and system change. You can read more about the strategy here [VAWG Strategy – June 2023 \(northumbria-pcc.gov.uk\)](https://northumbria-pcc.gov.uk).

The Northumbria Strategic ASB Board and ASB Case Reviews

The Northumbria Strategic ASB Board oversees and supports the approach to ASB and victims of ASB across the region. The vision of the Board is to 'create safe, strong and resilient communities across Northumberland, Tyne and Wear through prevention, enhanced responses and greater support for victims'. The Board encompasses the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner (Chair), Northumbria Police, the 6 Local Authorities across Northumbria, Registered Social Landlords and transport providers.

The Board has a particular focus on the ASB Case Review which is a statutory duty for responsible bodies (Local Authorities, Northumbria Police, Integrated Care Board and Registered Social Landlords) and offers a 'safety net' for applicants and to help avoid individuals being passed between agencies without resolution, and ensure vulnerable victims are identified early and supported appropriately. The OPCC is responsible for co-ordinating and administering the ASB case review process on behalf of the six Community Safety Partnerships in Northumbria.

External Advisory Panels

The OPCC is responsible for the creation and facilitation of five key External Advisory Panels. The panels help shape the work of Northumbria Police by providing independent and constructive challenge to plans, policies and practices. All panels are made up of a mix of trusted professionals, partners and those with lived experience or those organisations representing lived experience. Our panels cover the thematic areas of:

- VAWG – with a focus on getting the police response right from report to court
- Victims and witnesses – with a focus on the criminal justice system
- Police powers – covering stop and search and use of force
- Custody and detention
- Out of Court Resolutions

Northumbria Police and Crime Panel (PCP)

Overview

Police and Crime Panels were introduced under the Police Reform and Social Responsibility Act 2011 to provide checks and balances in relation to the performance of Police and Crime Commissioners. They are bodies made up of local elected councillors and independent members with the responsibility to scrutinise and support the work of the Police and Crime Commissioner. These Panels are not local government committees, but they are obliged to meet in public, to publish their agendas and minutes, and to fulfil certain key statutory responsibilities.

In Northumbria local councillors from the five Tyne and Wear Councils and Northumberland County Council, along with two independent members, form the Northumbria Police and Crime Panel as required by this act. The Panel scrutinises the work of the Police and Crime Commissioner acting as a critical friend to the Commissioner and so assisting her through independent challenge.

A work programme is agreed with the panel on an annual basis which includes the key functions of the panel.

Roles and Responsibilities

The Panel has a number of powers and responsibilities, including:

- Reviewing the draft Police and Crime Plan to ensure local priorities have been considered
- Scrutinising the Commissioner's Annual Report
- Reviewing and scrutinising decisions and actions of the PCC
- Reviewing, and potentially vetoing, the Commissioner's proposed policing precept (the part of Council Tax collected for policing)
- Holding confirmation hearings for the proposed appointment of a Chief Constable
- Reviewing PCC's proposed appointments of the Chief Executive, Chief Finance Officer, and Deputy Police and Crime Commissioner.

A fuller list of the Panel functions is provided below, with the details of applicable section of the Police Reform and Social Responsibility Act 2011.

The Police and Crime Panel for Northumbria is administered by [Gateshead Council](#) and information including membership of the panel, agendas and papers can be found on their website.

Panel meetings are held in public, with meeting papers published in advance.

Police and Crime Panel Role (within the Police Reform and Social Responsibility Act 2011)

Function	Reference
Review and report on every issue of the PCC's police and crime plan	s28(3)(a) (Regs)
Review and report on the PCC's annual report	s28(4)
Review senior appointments (Deputy PCC, chief executive and chief finance officer)	s28(5), sch1 para9 to 11
Review (and if necessary veto) chief constable appointments	s28(5) and sch8
Review and report on PCC's proposals to remove a chief constable	sch8 para15
Review (and if necessary veto) PCC's level of precept	s28(5) and sch5
Review or scrutinise decisions made and actions taken by the PCC	s28(6)
Publish any reports and recommendations made	s28(7) to (9)
Suspend the PCC on their being charged	s30 (Regs)
Appoint an Acting PCC if necessary	s62
Initial handling and informal resolution of complaints against PCC / DPCC	sch7 para3 (Regs)
These functions must be exercised with a view to supporting the effective exercise of the functions of the PCC	s28(2)
A police and crime panel may not exercise any functions other than those conferred by the PRSRA'11.	sch6 para4(6)

Supporting powers	Reference
Require reasonable information	s13
Require the relevant PCC and their staff to attend to answer questions	s29(1)
Require a response in writing to a report or recommendation	s29(3)
Request the relevant chief constable to attend on the same occasion as the PCC to answer any question	s29(6)

Full details of the roles of the PCC, Chief Constable and Police & Crime Panel are set out in the Policing Protocol Order 2011.

Performance Management

Performance updates are provided to the PCC through the scrutiny programme and also presented to the Police and Crime Panel.

Audit and Inspection

His Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary and Fire and Rescue Services (HMICFRS) carry out PEEL (Police Effectiveness, Efficiency, Legitimacy and Leadership) Assessments of Police Forces in England and Wales. Forces are assessed on their effectiveness, efficiency and legitimacy based on inspection findings, analysis and His Majesty's Inspectors' (HMIs) professional judgment across the year.

Their programme also includes inspection of critical national issues and themes across the Police Service as a whole. HMICFRS aim to inspect, monitor and advise and to promote and advance improvements in the efficiency and effectiveness of policing. They do this independently, professionally and fairly, always championing the public interest

Reports on Northumbria Police are also available on the publications section of the HMICFRS website in the publications section.

National Policing Bodies

Home Office

The Home Office is the lead Government department for immigration and passports, drugs policy, crime, counter-terrorism and police. PCCs liaise regularly with the Home Office on policy matters. PCCs are also required to interface with other parts of Government especially Ministry of Justice, Department of Communities and Local Government and the Department of Health.

Association of Police and Crime Commissioners (APCC)

The APCC is the national body that supports PCCs and other local policing bodies across England and Wales, to provide national leadership and influence change in the policing and criminal justice landscape. PCCs pay an annual subscription for membership.

His Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary Fire and Rescue Services (HMICFRS)

HMICFRS is the independent national inspectorate for police forces and fire services in England, Wales and Northern Ireland. It independently assesses police forces and policing across activity from neighbourhood teams to serious crime and the fight against terrorism. It publishes comparative information about each police force on its website.

Independent Office for Police Complaints Commission (IOPC)

The IOPC oversees the police complaints system in England and Wales and sets the standards by which the police should handle complaints. It is independent, making its decisions independently of the police and government. It is not part of the police.

Police forces deal with the majority of complaints against police officers and police staff. The IOPC considers appeals from people who are dissatisfied with the way a police force has dealt with their complaint. In addition, police forces must refer the most serious cases to the IOPC. The IOPC may decide to investigate such cases independently, manage or supervise the police force's investigation, or return it for local investigation. The IOPC also has a role in relation to more serious complaints against PCCs – less serious complaints about PCCs are dealt with by the Police and Crime Panel, who in Northumbria have delegated it to the Chief of Staff and Monitoring Officer.

National Crime Agency (NCA)

The National Crime Agency leads UK law enforcement's fight to cut serious and organised crime. It has national and international reach and the mandate and powers to work in partnership with other law enforcement organisations including police forces to bring the full weight of the law to bear on serious and organised criminals. The NCA has subsumed the Serious Organised Crime Agency and Child Exploitation and Online Protection agency – as well as elements of Border Security.

National Police ICT Company

The Police ICT Company is a company limited by guarantee of which PCCs nationally are members. It will support and enable policing and other associated bodies make the best use of technology to deliver efficient and effective policing and improve public safety. It supports and complements local activity and helps PCCs and local policing bodies to secure best value for money. The ICT Co has recently carried out work analysing the Police ICT arrangements in the South West region.

National Police Chiefs Council (NPCC)

The NPCC brings together the 43 independently accountable Chief Constables and their Chief Officer teams to co-ordinate national policing. It is the successor body to the Association of Chief Police Officers (ACPO). It helps the police cut crime and keep the public safe by joining up the operational response to the most serious and strategic threats. Focusing on operational delivery and developing national approaches on issues such as finance, technology and human resources, it works closely with the College of Policing, which is responsible for developing professional standards.

College of Policing

The College of Policing is the professional body for those who work in policing in England and Wales. It has a remit to set professional standards in professional development, including codes of practice and regulations, to ensure consistency across the 43 forces in England and Wales. It also has a remit to set standards for the police service on training, development, skills and qualifications.

Northumbria Police & Crime Commissioner Election - May 2024



Candidate Briefing 2024

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PREPARED BY THE OFFICE OF THE POLICE &
CRIME COMMISSIONER FOR NORTHUMBRIA