

**Report of the Chief Constable to the Chair and Members
of the Operational Policing Panel
18th March 2010**

**Executive & Presenting Officer: Mr Sean White, Assistant Chief Constable
(Territorial Operations)**

Status: For information

Neighbourhood Policing Update

1 Purpose

1.1 The purpose of this report is to update Members on the progress of implementation of Neighbourhood Policing.

2 Recommendations

2.1 That Members note the contents of this report.

3 Reasons

3.1 As detailed in the Police Authority paper dated 16th August 2005, the Government announced its proposals for Neighbourhood Policing: to introduce Neighbourhood Policing teams in every area of England and Wales by April 2008.

3.2 The Force's approach to Neighbourhood Policing is based on the Chief Constable's ward based model of a named police constable per neighbourhood. In addition, each neighbourhood has a minimum of one PCSO working alongside the constable.

3.3 In line with the principles of Neighbourhood Policing additional constables and PCSOs have been allocated to wards where demand is greatest.

- 3.4 The principles of Neighbourhood Policing were implemented throughout the Cleveland Police area on 1st April 2007.
- 3.5 The Force has dedicated 11 inspectors, 28 police sergeants, 148 police constables and 197 PCSOs as at 8th February 2010 to Neighbourhood Policing. These resources are further supported by Neighbourhood Support Team Officers, the Special Constabulary and Volunteers, as well as members of the extended police family. PCSO deployment is as follows:

Hartlepool	47
Stockton	52
Middlesbrough	47
Redcar & Cleveland	34
In training (8 Feb 2010)	17
Total	197

- 3.6 As Neighbourhood Policing continues to develop we are seeing more examples of effective community engagement, supported by joint agency problem solving and collaboration. A number of neighbourhood initiatives have featured as 'good news' stories in the local media (eg ASB Zetland West Dyke wards Northern Echo and week of action across the Force).
- 3.7 The value of dedicated neighbourhood officers and the additional investment in PCSOs is evidenced in continued public confidence; the British Crime Survey indicates the Force's position nationally.

Percentage of people who agree that the police and local councils are dealing with anti-social behaviour and crime issues in their area.

		National Position
September 2008	43%	1
December 2008	53.8%	3
March 2009	56.5%	2
June 2009	56.8%	3
September 2009	55.3%	8

- 3.8 However, the recent Neighbourhood survey conducted by the Force between October 2009 and January 2010, using the same BCS question indicated a confidence level of 71.5% across the Force area.
- 3.9 The Force recognises the clear benefits of disseminating good practice across the four policing districts and 88 wards of Cleveland Police in respect of strong and effective neighbourhood and partnership policing. This is achieved in a consistent and coherent way through:
- The role of ACC White as ACPO lead for the Force in respect of neighbourhood & partnership policing and his network into the NPIA good practice briefings and models of effective Neighbourhood Policing (NHP) drawn from other Forces;

- ACC White also disseminates good practise through the monthly MPR meetings that are held with District Management Teams;
- The monthly meetings of the Citizen Focus Project Board which has oversight of the development of NHP at the strategic and operational level, taking account of recognised and emerging best practice;
- The role of the NHP Programme Manager for the Force is to 'scan' the local and wider environment for good practise in respect of NHP and partnership working and disseminate that across the Force;
- Regular meetings of the four NHP Chief Inspectors which involve the NHP Programme Manager and ACC White. Good practice is discussed and disseminated at these meetings.

3.9 The ongoing development of Neighbourhood Policing is considered key in the delivery of core services and improving confidence. The principals of Access, Influence, Intervention and Answers are important in all aspects of policing including, Response, Road Policing and Crime. The Assistant Chief Constable (Territorial Operations) has commissioned an extensive review entitled Neighbourhood Policing Plus. This is being undertaken by the Neighbourhood Policing Programme Manager and a Superintendent from the Operational Performance Team.

3.10 The review is progressing well following an agreed timeline of:

- January to February 2010 – Desk Top Research.
- March to April 2010 – Development of emerging ideas into a draft strategy.
- May 2010 – Consultation with Stakeholders over draft strategy.
- June 2010 – Launch of Neighbourhood Policing Plus Strategy.

3.11 Extensive focus groups are currently being held with operational service units and other stakeholders. On the 22nd of March a major focus group is to take place with partners and key members of the public from all of the Unitary Boroughs. Arrangements are currently being made to consult with the Cleveland Police Authority in early April following this event.

4 Implications

4.1 Finance

The resourcing of additional PCSOs was outlined in the Police Authority paper dated 23rd February 2007. The recruitment of 75 additional PCSOs further enhanced the delivery of Neighbourhood Policing. The Force's long term financial plan outlines the level of PCSO grant for the forthcoming three years as:

- 2009/10 £2,892,000
- 2010/11 £2,967,000
- 2011/12 £2,967,000

4.2 In addition to this settlement the Force's long term financial planning indicates further partnership funding as follows:

- 2009/10 £429,000

- 2010/11 £443,000

4.3 Diversity & Equal Opportunities

The concept of the public influencing policing directly is a key principle of Neighbourhood Policing. The Force, through Neighbourhood Policing has engaged with a wide range of communities to understand their concerns. Their concerns have influenced directly the public priority plans and problem solving activity. Local surveys and consultation with the public indicates continued satisfaction with Cleveland Police.

4.4 Human Rights Act

There are no Human Rights Act implications arising from this report.

4.5 Sustainability

Sustainability is the key to successful delivery. The Force is in a sound position to continue to deliver this style of policing, having used proven methodology to gauge demand and allocate resources.

4.6 The ringfencing of staff into neighbourhoods continues to be critical but offers the opportunity for the Force to build upon crime reduction successes and improved public satisfaction.

4.7 Risk

Police Authority and local authority partners invested in 75 additional PCSOs. Whilst Government and partnership funding arrangements for PCSOs are known, any changes in the arrangements could risk the reputation of the Force if it is unable to deliver the promised benefits of Neighbourhood Policing.

5 **Conclusion**

5.1 The Force continues to build upon the experience and identification of effective practice in embedding Neighbourhood Policing.

5.2 Surveys continue to indicate public support for Neighbourhood Policing and recognise the increase in visible patrols and improved service.

5.3 The Force continues to reduce crime rates whilst embedding Neighbourhood Policing.

Sean Price
Chief Constable