

**Report of the Chief Executive to the Chair and Members
of the Operational Policing Panel
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Status: For noting

Crucial Crew Results

1. Purpose of the report

- 1.1 Engaging with the public and seeking the views of our communities remains a key activity for Cleveland Police Authority. This report presents the findings of consultation activities with primary school pupils undertaken by Cleveland Police Authority at Middlesbrough and Redcar and Cleveland's Crucial Crew events.

2. Recommendations

- 2.1 It is recommended that members take note of the consultation findings outlined at Appendix A and Appendix B.

3. Reasons

- 3.1 The Police Act 1996 clearly sets out the statutory duty placed upon police authorities to 'consult with those in that policing area, about the policing of that area.' The Policing and Crime Act 2009 and Community Engagement and Membership Regulations 2010 adds the requirement to 'have regard to the views of people in the authority's area about policing in that area.'
- 3.2 Crucial Crew is an annual multi agency event aimed at Year 6 pupils (10 and 11 year olds), where the children participate in a variety of scenarios which aim to give them the chance to learn how to cope with a wide range of safety issues. The Cleveland Police Authority session involves using the interactive

IML software to ask the children a variety of questions covering crime and anti-social behaviour.

- 3.3 Crucial Crew events are run in each of the four Cleveland areas. Cleveland Police run a session at all four events, but historically Cleveland Police Authority have only attended Redcar and Cleveland and Middlesbrough as the Stockton and Hartlepool events are fully subscribed. This year the Authority will have a session at Hartlepool's event for the first time, but as this takes place in October 2011 the results will be brought to Members in a later report.

4. Key Findings

- 4.1 Over the course of the two events 1812 children were consulted, 1090 in Middlesbrough and 722 in Redcar and Cleveland. Due to the length of the sessions and the sizes of the groups, more questions were covered in Middlesbrough than in Redcar and Cleveland.
- 4.2 Overall 55% of the children in Redcar and Cleveland felt that the police and council do a good job in dealing with crime and anti-social behaviour compared to 56% in Middlesbrough. Confidence levels in Redcar and Cleveland had fallen slightly from 2010, whilst those in Middlesbrough had risen slightly.
- 4.3 Confidence levels in the children questioned fell well below results obtained from adults through the Local Public Confidence Survey, however the methodology used for the two consultations is different and the children were also considerably less sure of the roles of the police and council than adults, with a relatively high proportion of 'don't know' answers.
- 4.4 The children felt that the police and council could do a better job by having more visible police and street warden patrols, quicker response times, dealing more proactively with incidents as they occur and providing better feedback on actions taken. These reasons are broadly similar to those mentioned by adults who have been surveyed.
- 4.5 The top three crime concerns were violence, drug dealing and criminal damage in Redcar and Cleveland and house burglary, violence and drug dealing in Middlesbrough. Although crime levels have continued to fall in this financial year there have been slight increases in house burglary, and several of the children at Middlesbrough Crucial Crew reported having experienced burglary themselves recently.
- 4.6 The top anti-social behaviour concerns in both Redcar and Cleveland and Middlesbrough were teenagers hanging around, noisy neighbours, vandalism/graffiti/criminal damage and litter. The anti-social behaviour concerns expressed were broadly similar to those expressed by adults through the ward priority plans.

- 4.7 Although television was an influence on the children's views of crime and anti-social behaviour, their views were predominantly based on personal experience, either through seeing incidents, knowing a victim or being a victim themselves.
- 4.8 36% of the children at Middlesbrough Crucial Crew stated that they had been victims of crime or anti-social behaviour in the last year.
- 4.9 The most popular methods chosen by the Middlesbrough children for reducing crime and anti-social behaviour were more activities for young people, more work between the police and young people and help for those committing crime to stop them re-offending. CCTV was seen as a good method of improving feelings of safety.

5. Implications

5.1 Finance

There are no financial implications arising from this report.

5.2 Diversity/Equal Opportunities

Cleveland Police Authority has built targeting of hard to engage groups into its consultation strategy and plans.

5.3 Human Rights Act Implications

There are no human rights act implications arising from this report.

5.4 Sustainability

There are no sustainability issues arising from this report.

5.5 Risk

Failure to take account of consultation findings could result in reduced public confidence in the Force and the Authority and therefore lead to a reduction in engagement with communities. Crucial Crew consultation forms a large part of the Authority's engagement and consultation work with children.

6. Conclusion

- 6.1 The full results of these consultations are outlined at Appendix A (Redcar and Cleveland Crucial Crew) and Appendix B (Middlesbrough Crucial Crew). It is recommended that members take into account these consultation findings when setting and approving the local policing priorities for 2012-2013.

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