

To: Chair and Members of the Operational Policing Panel
Date: 24th November 2011

Executive & Presenting Officer: Mrs Sarah Wilson, Consultation & Performance Officer

Status : For information

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 activity with primary school pupils undertaken by Cleveland Police Authority at the Hartlepool Crucial Crew event.

2. Recommendations

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

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, anti-social behaviour and confidence in policing.

- 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 had slots on the Middlesbrough and Redcar and Cleveland events due to the popularity of the event with other agencies. This is the first time that the Authority has had a slot at the Hartlepool event.

4. Key Findings

- 4.1 Overall 64% of the children felt that the police and council do a good job in dealing with crime and anti-social behaviour. This is higher than the confidence levels shown by children at Crucial Crews in Middlesbrough and Redcar and Cleveland, but still falls below results obtained from adults through the Local Public Confidence Survey, which showed 73% confidence levels Force wide and 72.2% in Hartlepool.
- 4.2 It was felt that the police and council could do a better job by having more visible police patrols, quicker response times, dealing more proactively with incidents as they occur and providing better feedback on actions taken. The children also felt that punishments for offenders should be harsher and that restorative justice was an effective deterrent for offenders.
- 4.3 Overall the top three crime concerns were drug dealing, violence and house burglary. These concerns are similar to those expressed by children in Middlesbrough and Redcar and Cleveland. For the special needs children the top concerns were house burglary, drug dealing and bullying.
- 4.4 Although racist incidents were not one of the top concerns raised through the IML voting, many of the children mentioned witnessing or experiencing racism as part of the discussions held around the questions. Most seemed unaware that they could report incidents of this nature to the police.
- 4.5 Show Racism the Red Card is a national campaign that uses top footballers to educate against racism. The campaign is planning to visit schools within Hartlepool, and Hartlepool's Community Cohesion Officer has passed the results of this consultation to the organisation to assist in identifying schools and areas where pupils consider racism to be a particular concern.
- 4.6 Overall the top three anti-social behaviour concerns were teenagers hanging around, noisy neighbours and vandalism/graffiti/criminal damage. These concerns are very similar to those expressed by children in Middlesbrough and Redcar and Cleveland. For special needs children the top concerns were teenagers hanging around, people being drunk and noisy and people taking drugs.

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 the consultation are outlined at Appendix A. It is recommended that members take into account these consultation findings when setting and approving the local policing priorities for 2012-2013.

Jeremy Holderness
Acting Chief Executive