

Cleveland Police and Crime Commissioner Priorities for Tackling VAWG



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Middlesbrough VAWG Enquiry

- The PCC' strategic priorities for tackling VAWG across Cleveland, including how Middlesbrough fits within the wider regional picture.
- Performance and assurance information, including your assessment of Cleveland's Police Progress and remaining challenges in responding to VAWG and domestic abuse.
- Commissioned victim support services, including any pressures, gaps, or emerging needs the PCC is seeing through its work with providers.
- Partnership working, especially where collaboration between agencies is working well and where it could be strengthened.
- Expectations from local authorities, including any areas where you feel Middlesbrough Council could support or add value to the wider VAWG agenda.

Police and Crime Plan Priorities and Measures



Priority	Outcome	Measures
 Reduce crime, antisocial behaviour and harm	Cleveland will be a safer place to live, work and visit, with less crime, violence and antisocial behaviour.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Overall recorded crime • Recorded antisocial behaviour • Recorded violent crime • Public satisfaction and confidence surveys
 Deliver more visible and effective policing	Police understand local concerns and provide a visible and proactive response.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Public satisfaction and confidence surveys • Number of police officers, staff and volunteers • Public contact performance • Arrest rates and solved crime rates
 Improve safety for women and girls	Women and girls in Cleveland will feel safe and supported. Perpetrators will be held accountable.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Use of preventative and protective orders • Recorded VAWG offences • Use of disclosure schemes • Arrest rates and positive outcome rates
 Ensure the right support for victims and vulnerable people	Victims and vulnerable people feel supported and listened to, with access to high-quality services at the right time.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Victim satisfaction surveys • Victims referred and supported • Compliance with the Victims Code of Practice (VCOP) • Feelings of safety
 Build trust and confidence in policing and the criminal justice system	People have more confidence in the police and wider justice system.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Public satisfaction and confidence surveys • Use of police powers • Timeliness of the local justice system • Police complaints
 Tackle offending and reoffending	There is a reduction in offending in Cleveland. Projects will seek to address the root causes of crime.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cleveland reoffending rate • First-time entrants to the criminal justice system • Use of Out of Court disposals • Use of Restorative Justice



Improve safety for women and girls

Performance Measures Overview to 30th September 2025

- VAWG offences account for 22.5% of total recorded crime in Cleveland (12 months to September 2025). This is a 8.16% reduction (-1,402 offences) compared to the previous year.
- During the reporting period the number of VAWG crimes relating to Domestic Abuse reduced by 4.47% (-403 crimes), whilst the number of VAWG crimes relating to Sexual Violence seen a 16.22% (+282 crimes) increase.
- VAWG arrest rates have seen small increases year on year between September 2023 to September 2025 with a 2.0pts increase during the last 12 months (to September 2025).
- In the 12 months up to September 2025, the force received 2,566 Clare's Law applications which represented a 12% increase to the previous 12 months. The applications resulted in a disclosure rate of 35.5%.
- The Voluntary Community Sector continue to deliver high quality specialist services to VAWG victims. Despite significant demands placed upon them and the increase in case complexity, services continued to handle the below referrals (12 months ending September 2025):
 - 723 referrals to the Independent Sexual Violence Advisor Service (5.5% increase on the previous year)
 - 8,518 referrals to the Independent Domestic Violence Advocate Service (0.2% increase on the previous year)
 - 34 referrals to the Independent Stalking Advocacy Service (3% increase on the previous year)



Police and Crime Plan Priority: Improve safety for women and girls

Strategic Outcome: Women and girls in Cleveland will feel safe and supported. Perpetrators will be held accountable.

Strategic Deliverables:

- Commissioning and co-commissioning of services to support victims
- Improving reach and voice of underrepresented victims to improve engagement with police and victim support services to increase confidence, reporting and recovery
- Improve safety for women and girls
- Focus on prevention through education and earlier interventions
- Whole system approach to tackling and holding perpetrators to account
- Ensuring an effective and efficient criminal justice system response to VAWG via LCJB arrangements
- Partnership and collaborative approach to understanding and tackling VAWG through synergy between other strategy's, and multi-agency partnerships, where VAWG intersects



Police and Crime Plan Priority: Improve safety for women and girls

Key Activities: Commissioning

Middlesbrough:

- My Sister's Place – Domestic Abuse Advocacy and Groupwork inc. male victims IDVA and children's IDVA

Cleveland Wide, includes Middlesbrough:

- Mountain Healthcare – SARC
- Arch – ISVA Service
- My Sister's Place – FCR IDVA
- Harbour – Court IDVA, Hospital IDVAs
- The Suzy Lamplugh Trust - Stalking Advocacy
- Halo – Illegal Cultural Harms
- A Way Out - Sexual Harms Transitions Work (14-26 yrs)
- Barnardo's - Youth Worker co-located with Cleveland Police to support young people involved in complex exploitation
- The Ivison Trust – Community Guardians are local volunteers able to raise concerns where young people are at risk of exploitation

Stockton, Hartlepool, Redcar and Cleveland

- Harbour -Domestic abuse advocacy and group work, Hospital IDVA, Mental Health IDVA, Adolescent Relationships IDVA

Redcar



Police and Crime Plan Priority: Improve safety for women and girls

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Redcar



Ensure the right support for victims and vulnerable people

Protect and support fund

Protect and Support Fund aims to:

- Enhance support and protection for vulnerable victims
- Seek to reach and support underrepresented groups

The PCC wants to make sure that every victim in Cleveland has access to the right support at the right time to help them recover, become more resilient and give them the confidence to live their lives in the fullest way possible.

Funding for this opportunity came from the Police Property Act Fund and was open to registered charities.





Ensure the right support for victims and vulnerable people

Protect and support funding for Middlesbrough:

- My Sister's Place – Online multi-lingual chat service for DA victims
- Arch – Survivor support navigation
- Age UK – Befriending Pathway supporting older victims of DA
- Halo – Crisis Intervention Project supporting victims of illegal cultural harms
- Creative Minds – Support for Black and Global Majority Women





Improve safety for women and girls - Challenges

Independent Sexual Violence Advisor (ISVA) Support Provision

Sexual Violence has seen a 16.22% increase based on the previous 12-month period. This correlates with the increased demand we have seen on our local ISVA Service delivered by Arch Teesside - and commissioned by my office - who have reported an increase in referrals of 5.5% during the same period.

Whilst Arch continue to provide a fantastic service to victims (as reported by victims) - increased demand and complexity of cases is a growing challenge. This evidences why the PCC's fairer funding campaign is essential to ensure our local services are sufficiently resourced to deal with the demands facing them on a daily basis.

I don't really know where to begin but thank you for everything doesn't seem enough. You have been there for all the times I have needed you. All your patience, listening to me rant and rave lol. You are a calm and reassuring person (the ISVA) who is amazing at her job. Once again THANKS YOU for everything it has meant the world to me.

Arch Teesside Service User Feedback

arch
Sexual Violence Services in Teesside



Improve safety for women and girls - Opportunities

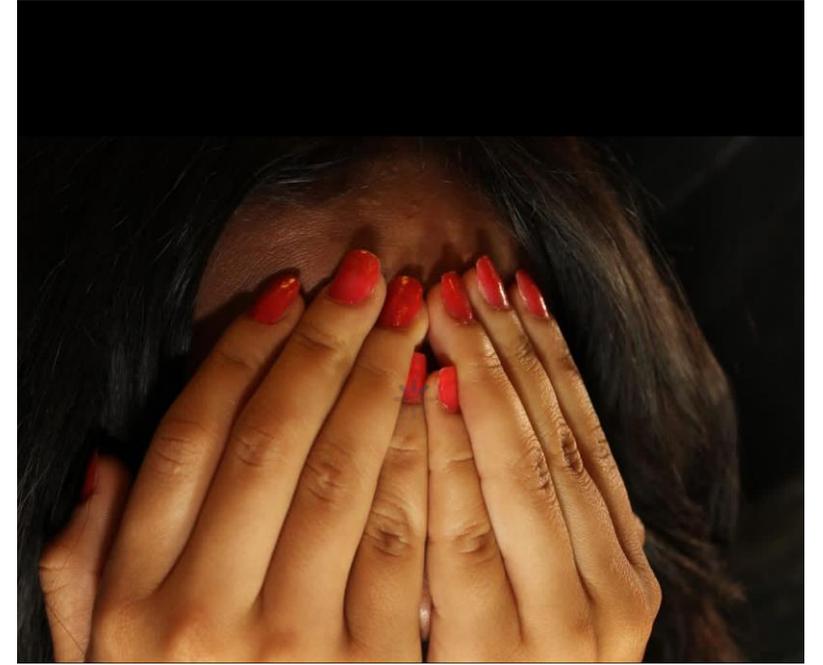
New Measures to tackle Honour-based abuse

The PCC welcomed new measures to protect vulnerable groups from honour-based abuse.

New government guidance will help to define honour-based abuse. The term includes a wide range of domestic abuse, which is carried out because the abuser feels some-one has brought – or could bring – dishonour on themselves, their family and community.

New statutory guidance and a legal definition of so called honour-based abuse will help police, social workers and other professionals to spot potential cases and better support victims. In addition, the government have committed to a community awareness campaign to encourage potential victims to come forward and seek support.

As this guidance is implemented, the PCC will continue to work with The Halo Project to ensure victims can access specialist support to meet their needs. Year to date (April – September 2025), Halo have received **39 new referrals** into their support worker funded by the OPCC.



HALO PROJECT
Break the Silence



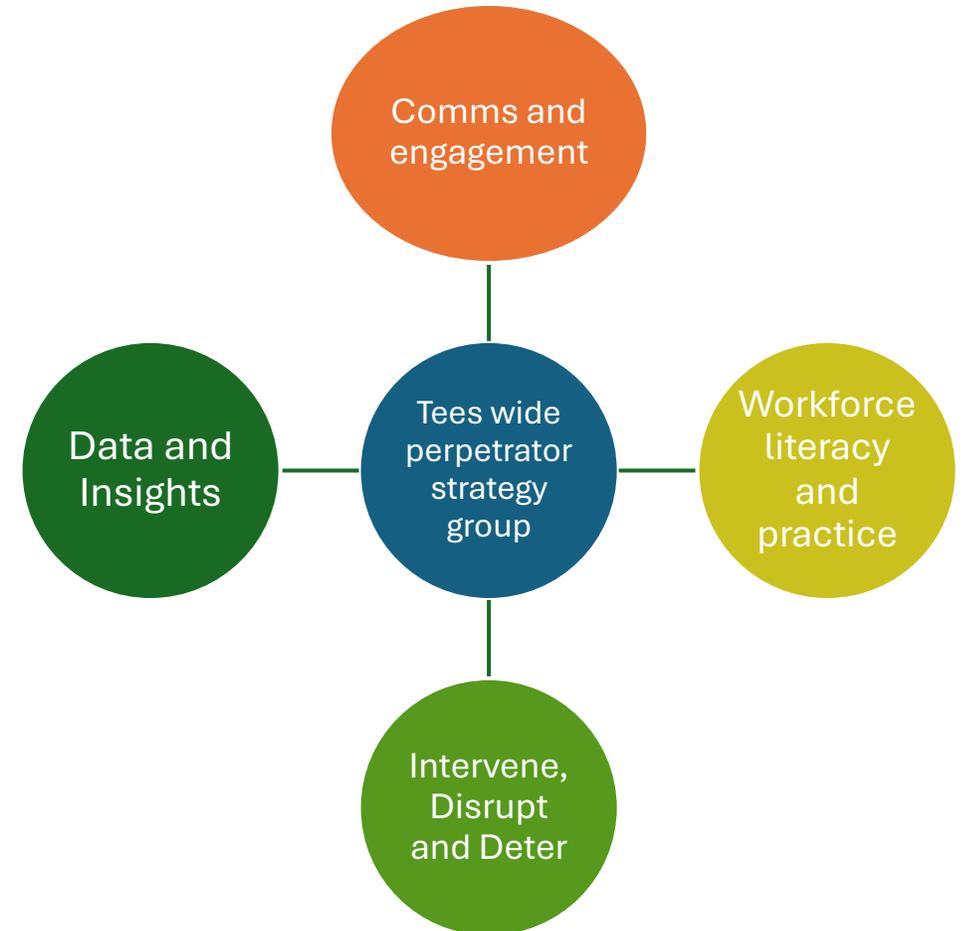
Improve safety for women and girls – Tackling Perpetrators

Tees-wide Multi-agency Tackling Domestic Abuse Perpetration Strategy – 2025 – 2035

10-year strategy to address the behaviours of people who commit violence and abuse against women and girls (VAWG), and tackle the enablers of domestic abuse work has progressed to create a delivery and governance structure to oversee the work and impact of the strategy – providing support, accountability and challenge.

This has resulted in the creation of four key workstreams which includes;

- Data and Insights
- Communications and engagement
- Workforce literacy and practice
- Intervene, Disrupt and Deter





Deliver more visible and effective policing

Letter to Treasury to mark launch of fairer funding campaign

During the reporting period the PCC launched a campaign for fairer police and victim support funding.

Backed by local victim services and members of parliament, Matt Storey's **Fairer Funding, Safer Cleveland** campaign highlights disparities between demand and the outdated funding formula used to set levels of police funding in England and Wales.

The PCC penned a letter, calling for the Chancellor to allocate a fairer share of funding in Cleveland.

Funding provided by the Ministry of Justice for victim support is calculated on the population of the police force area, not on crime rates or demand on victim services.

This has led to the situation where the five forces in England and Wales with the lowest crime rates receive around **£19 per crime** for victim support services. Cleveland, with the highest crime rate in the country, receives **just £7 per crime**.





Ensure the right support for victims and vulnerable people



I welcome the opportunity to have more dialogue with partners about pressures in the criminal justice system, including how we can improve the victim experience and ensure justice is served efficiently and effectively.

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Independent Review of Criminal Courts

In July 2025, I responded to the Government's Independent Review of Criminal Courts – which has made 45 recommendations to make the justice system more effective and improve victim experiences.

Through the Local Criminal Justice Board – of which I chair – I have discussed the recommendations and we look forward for further information and progress being made in due course.

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Synergy through Partnership Working

- Safer Cleveland Board
- TSAB and Children's Safeguarding Partnerships
- LCJB
- Youth Justice Boards
- Domestic abuse partnerships
- Strategic MARAC
- Sexual Harms Network
- Anti Slavery Network
- Tees Tackling DA Perpetration Partnership Board
- Adult Exploitation and Harm Outside the Home

Key Activities in Development

- Multi Agency Stalking Intervention Approach
- DRIVE (high risk, high harm and persistent repeat DA perpetrators case management approach)
- Lived Experience under-represented victim-survivor panel
- Child and Adolescent to Parent Violence and Abuse (CAPVA) T&F
- Counter-allegations (primary perpetrator/primary victim identification) in domestic abuse T&F

PCC Scrutiny and Assurance (Policing)

Management of Sexual or Violent Offenders (MOSOVO)

PCC Scrutiny Panel 22 October 2025

- What governance structures, operational frameworks and oversight and accountability arrangements are currently in place within the Force to ensure the effective identification, assessment, and management of risks posed by sexual offenders, violent offenders, and PDPs living within Cleveland's communities?
- What range of proactive measures does the Force have in place to protect, safeguard, and support victims and potential victims of sexual harms?
- What innovative solutions has the Force considered and/or implemented to reduce reoffending among RSOs and enhance public protection?

PCC Scrutiny and Assurance (Policing)

Management of Sexual or Violent Offenders (MOSOVO)

PCC Scrutiny Panel 22 October 2025

- In light of the increasing number of RSOs within the community (both nationally and locally), what specific measures is the Force implementing to ensure that the MOSOVO unit is sufficiently resourced, and that staff workloads remain both manageable and sustainable?
- In relation to any overdue visits, what governance arrangements and operational measures does the Force have in place to ensure that visits to very high, high, and medium-risk offenders are consistently conducted within mandated timeframes, and that any potential delays are proactively identified, mitigated, and avoided?
- What progress has the Force made in implementing the recommendations outlined by Mick Creedon QPM, and what specific measures have been taken to address each recommendation?
- **ASSURED**

PCC Scrutiny and Assurance (Policing)

Policing of Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG) PCC Scrutiny Panel 24 November 2025

Part 1 – Violence Against Women and Girls

- Data overview including force comparison
- Actions taken since last scrutiny panel (25 Jan 2025)
- Partnership working and collaboration
- Training provision and evaluation
- Victim satisfaction and confidence
- 16 Days of Activism Campaign
- Op Unified update

- **ASSURED**

PCC Scrutiny and Assurance (Policing)

Policing of Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG)

PCC Scrutiny Panel 24 November 2025

Part 2 – Angiolini Enquiry and Vetting Reforms

- Update on recommendations
- Misconduct and Vetting regulations
- Reassuring the public (Panorama)
- Organisational Learning (Panorama)

- **ASSURED**

VAWG will be embedded in the CURV Response Strategy



Vision

“The Serious Violence Prevention partnership’s vision is for Cleveland to be a safe space for everyone to live, learn and work free from the fear, effects and consequences of violence”

Partnership’s Strategic Objectives

Improve data sharing

Improve multi-agency working

Improve co-commissioning

Improve sustainability

Primary Priorities

Cohort identification

Youth Violence ‘Prevention’

18-25s ‘Support’

32-45 year olds ‘Support’

Violence in defined public spaces

Priority Wards

Actions

- Access the appropriate data from partners
- Agree a common recognised picture across the partnership.
- Develop modelling tools to identify high-risk individuals.
- Use data to improve commissioning.

- Identify children at most risk of offending and target support appropriately.
- Expand and scale the Prevention Partnership pilot
- Broaden the navigator programme into schools.
- Include the voice of young people in decision making
- Support education on VAWG and county lines/OCC

- Identify individuals at most risk of offending and re-offending, and target support appropriately.
- Enable access to EET.
- Challenge misogyny at source to improve safety for women and girls

- Identify repeat offenders & work with partners to prevent re-offending.
- Enable access to EET.
- Improve awareness of available support.
- Prioritise efforts to reduce VAWG
- Identify lived experience
- Isolate belligerents

- Understand how economic areas create risk.
- Develop collaborative partnerships.
- Create safe environments in town centre and economic spaces.
- Support safe travel.
- Improve the feeling of safety
- Listen to affected stakeholders

- Understand drivers of serious violence in priority wards.
- Develop collaborative partnerships to tackle the challenges.
- Listen to the affected communities.
- Build sustainable solutions

Night Time Economy Action Plan



- Objective to deliver Cleveland wide initiatives that seek to reduce serious violence in the defined public space of the NTE.
- Radios supplied to licensed premises and street angel groups to safeguard vulnerable customers and identify risks quickly.
- Ask for Angela Training for licensed premises. Mystery Shopping exercise carried out by the Professional Witness Service to support.
- ARCH funded to deliver sessions in colleges around the social norms of the NTE, specifically around consent.
- Barnardo's funded to deliver Child Exploitation training to hotels, in support of Operation Makesafe.
- NTE Safety campaign in collaboration with Middlesbrough Council.

Town Centre Violence Reduction Plan



- Extension of the Night Time Economy Action Plan, objective of improving safety in the defined areas where NTE and DTE merge with the goal of reducing public space serious violence.
- Launch of the Business Against Abuse scheme – training of businesses across VAWG, CSE and bleed control.
- Funding allocated to support the Business Crime Reduction Partnership.
- Drug Safes to be distributed to licensed premises.
- Funding provided to support the launch of the Night Clinic and Street Marshalls Grip Bid.
- Transport Survey recommendations to be delivered through the Transport Safety and Security Partnership.
- OPCC/CURV funding of the community Guardian scheme

Middlesbrough Council

Expectations from local authorities, including any areas where you feel Middlesbrough Council could support or add value to the wider VAWG agenda?

- Collaborative discussions regarding national policy drivers, horizon scanning and local planning
- Joined up commissioning approach
- Continued engagement in strategic partnerships at a Tees-wide level