

## **Briefing for Police and Crime Commissioner**

**Topic:** Road Safety

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### **Purpose of briefing**

To brief the PCC on road safety issues, which is listed as a priority in the Police and Crime Plan.

### **Background**

Core national policy on road safety is predominantly from the Department of Transport's Strategic Framework for Road Safety. This provides an overarching direction for road safety, which involves; a cohesive multi-organisational approach committed to road safety, acknowledgment of the importance of education and targeted enforcement and sanctions.

As of 2021 Durham County Council has developed a new Road Safety Strategy, this takes the "4 E's" approach. These are; Education, Engineering, Enforcement and Evaluation.

In the OPCVC's work with the Force we have a Strategic Road Safety Partnership and a subsidiary working group. On these sit a wide variety of partners, including; Public Health England, the Fire and Rescue Service, DCC, Educational services and Durham Constabulary.

Durham Constabulary have recently set up a Road Safety Bureau which has a Camera Safety Unit. This will comprise of three speed camera vans, all of which are mobile. These vans visit identified locations where speeding is an issue.

### Victims

#### **Post collision response (including victim care)**

Victim Care and Support Services (VCAS) which operates across Durham and Cleveland force areas respectively, offer support to victims of road traffic collisions (RTCs) which have happened as a result of a crime. This is offered to families of, and witnesses to, RTCs, usually coming under the category of killed or seriously injured (KSI) (but not exclusively). If it is later affirmed that a crime was not the cause of the RTC, and support is being given by VCAS in the interim, this support will be judged on a case-by-case basis and the service will still be given regardless in the event of it having already being offered. This service has been fully ratified in VCAS' service plan.

However, there are still issues with victims of road crime who do not reside in the areas covered by VCAS. Neighbouring forces do not always offer the same level, or any, support to this victim cohort. A more standardised, cross-agency approach, would be hugely beneficial to these victims who are being deprived of a proportionate victim care due to their postcode. We contribute towards funding for BRAKE where we do refer people to when required but it is appropriate to pursue a more joined-up approach to victims of road crime.

### **Current issues**

The Strategic group is in its very early stages and has yet to deliver any solid outcomes. Both Road Safety groups have been postponed over the COVID-19 period which has hampered progress.

Road safety data during the COVID-19 period is incomparable to other years due to the unprecedented drop in road traffic flow.

### **Decisions needed**

No decisions at present.

### **Partnership involvement**

Partnership involvement is crucial for effective road safety delivery. The response must be coherent and wide ranging. The OOPCVC's main partners in road safety are DCC and the force.

There are no fundamental differences between partner views although there is a general (but not exclusive) separation of the force on enforcement and DCC on the "hearts and minds" educational approach.

The PCC is likely to engage on a medium level simply due to the amount of requests that come through the office in relation to meetings with members of the public and community groups.

### **Police involvement**

The OPCVC focuses upon supporting educational and victim's services approaches to road safety. While privately the OPCVC does lend support to the force on enforcement matters but does not interfere with enforcement activities which maintain operational independence. Publically, the OPCVC will support initiatives within their remit, although this is not the case with enforcement due to the operational nature of road safety enforcement.

### **People to meet**

OPCVC: James Atkinson, Pat Hancock

Durham Constabulary: Chief Inspector Graham Milne