

Police and Crime Panel

January 2019

Quarterly Performance Report

Office of the Durham Police, Crime and Victims' Commissioner



Purpose

1. To update the Panel and the public on performance against the Police, Crime and Victims' Plan 2018-2021.

Background

2. The Police, Crime and Victims' Plan sets out my vision for County Durham and Darlington, the outcomes I seek, and the Key Performance Questions (KPQs) which will help determine whether those outcomes are being achieved.
3. My last public performance report looked at KPQs 1-4, considering questions of how safe our communities are, crime levels, and support for victims and the vulnerable. I will be revisiting these questions again in the report following this one.
4. This report considers KPQs 5-6, looking at questions of reoffending, rehabilitation, and confidence.

Communities are safe and crime is reduced	Victims and the vulnerable feel supported	Reoffending is reduced and rehabilitation is improved	People have confidence in the police and the criminal justice system
KPQ1: How safe are our communities?	KPQ3: How well are victims supported to cope and recover, and engage in criminal justice processes?	KPQ5: How well are we reducing reoffending?	KPQ7: How confident are people in the Criminal Justice System?
KPQ2: How well are we preventing and reducing crime?	KPQ4: How well are vulnerable people supported?	KPQ6: How well are we rehabilitating people who have offended?	KPQ8: How confident are people in the police?

Figure 1: Police Crime and Victims' Plan Outcomes and KPQs

Outcome 3 – Reoffending is Reduced and Rehabilitation is Improved

KPQ5: How well are we reducing reoffending?

- Offending and reoffending rates both nationally and locally have remained stubbornly high. In Durham and Darlington around a third of people who offend reoffend within 12 months. There are also many examples of inter-generational reoffending, where members of the same families are locked into a pattern of criminal activity. I am committed to reducing this.

Ministry of Justice Reoffending Rates

- These measures are limited in how helpful they are because the data released is always a couple of years old. There are two measures, one – the percentage of offenders who reoffended in twelve months, and two – the average number of re-offences per reoffender.

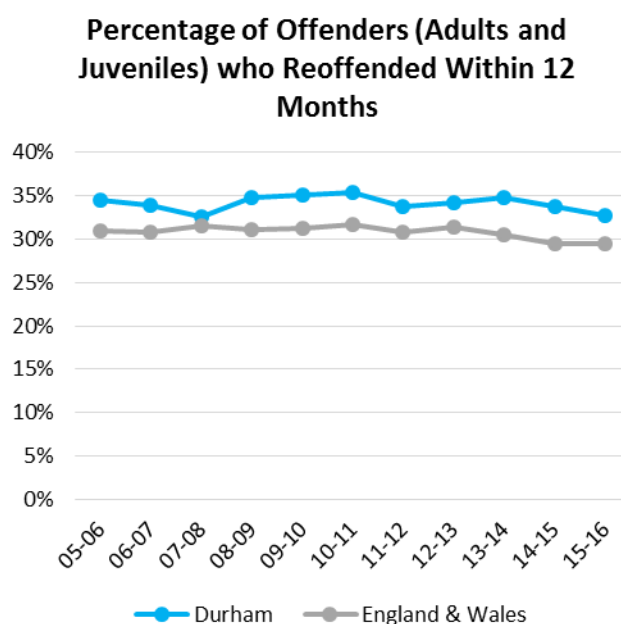


Figure 2: Percentage of offenders who reoffend in twelve months

- Looking at the first, the rate has remained stable over the past decade – both nationally, and for Durham’s force area – and is higher for Durham than the England and Wales average. The second has been increasing for Durham and nationally over last several years of available data.

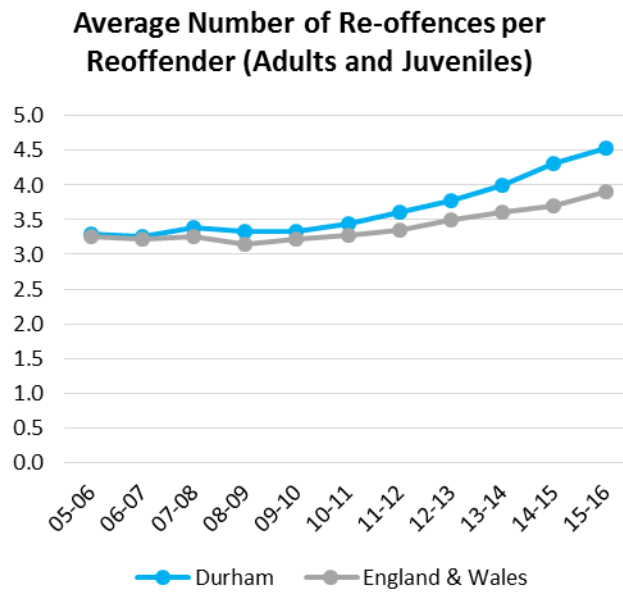


Figure 3: Average number of re-offences per reoffender

Checkpoint

8. The Checkpoint programme, launched in April 2015, aims to reduce the number of victims of crime by reducing reoffending and improving life chances. The programme offers eligible offenders a four month long contract to engage with services as an alternative to prosecution and offers interventions to address the underlying reasons why they committed the crime to prevent them from doing it again. Re-arrest and reoffending rates are continuing to be monitored for those who have received intervention via Checkpoint to understand long-term outcomes.
9. Early results are promising, with current evaluation showing a widening gap around reduced re-arrest and reoffending for those on Checkpoint and those not on Checkpoint.

County Durham and Darlington Reducing Reoffending Group – Local Criminal Justice Partnership (LCJP)

10. The LCJP for Cleveland and Durham brings together agencies with responsibility for delivering criminal justice services.
11. Under the LCJP, the reducing reoffending work-stream – which is comprised of two groups, one for County Durham and Darlington, and another for Cleveland – looks to reduce offending and reoffending by

ensuring that adults and young people who offend are challenged and supported to desist from crime. The group has objectives relating to prevention and early intervention – and, recognising that both the Community Safety Partnerships (CSPs) for Durham and for Darlington have reducing reoffending within their own priorities, works in partnership with both CSPs, with local authorities, and with criminal justice agencies.

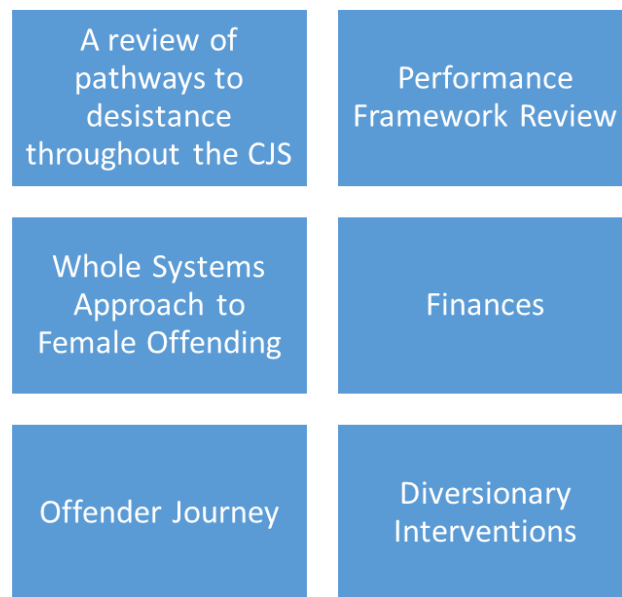


Figure 4: Reducing reoffending group priority work-streams

KPQ6: How well are we rehabilitating people who have offended?

12. In order to prevent crime and stop people who have offended from committing further crimes, partners need to work together to implement effective measures to ensure adults and young people who offend are challenged and supported to desist from crime. The Local Criminal Justice Partnership (LCJP) is the main vehicle to deliver an end-to-end system for rehabilitating offenders and reducing reoffending.

County Durham and Darlington Reducing Reoffending Group – Local Criminal Justice Partnership (LCJP)

13. One of the objectives of this work-stream is of targeted intervention, part of which includes looking at effective pathways to support desistance; these pathways include: thinking and behaviour; accommodation; employment; family and relationships; emotional and physical health; substance misuse; and finance.

The Restorative Justice (RJ) Hub

14. The Restorative Hub is an organisation that works with victims and offenders through restorative justice.
15. The Hub employs staff and delivers specialist training to volunteers. It supports victims by giving them the chance to communicate with the offender (and with a facilitator present) in the aftermath of a crime. This allows victims to have a voice in the criminal justice process and offers them a chance to get the answers or explanation they deserve.
16. It can also have a profound impact on offenders. To be eligible to take part offenders must accept responsibility for their actions and demonstrate a genuine willingness to communicate meaningfully. The offender has the opportunity to listen to the person they have harmed, and can answer any questions that the victim might have. It offers offenders the chance to explain their actions and understand the implications of their behaviour and, where possible and acceptable to the victim, to make some amends. Careful preparations are made to ensure that the meeting has positive value for all who attend.

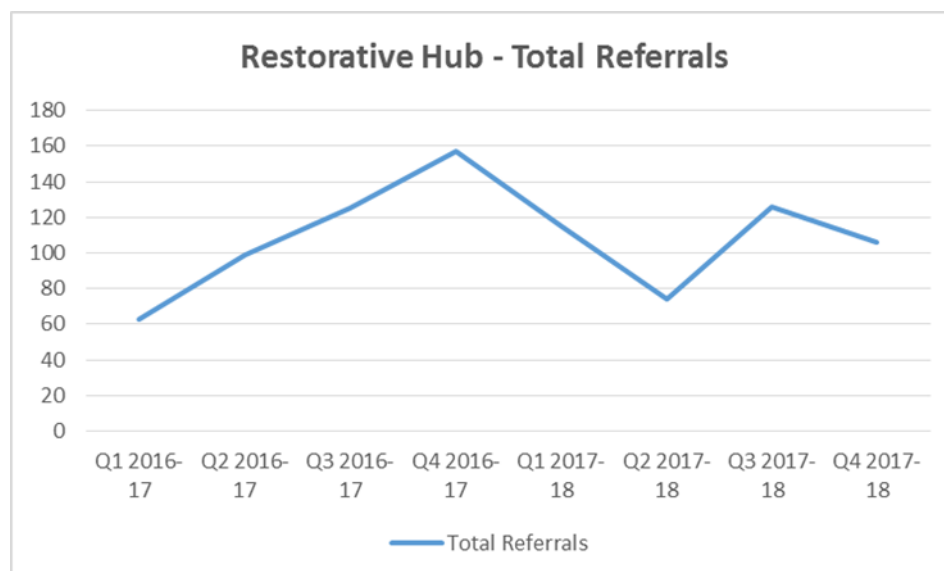


Figure 5: RJ Hub referrals

Checkpoint

17. Offenders who take part in the Checkpoint programme are supported through the process by a specialist 'navigator' who completes a detailed

needs assessment and creates a tailored contract which includes interventions around any of the issues the offender may have.

18. Navigators identify 'critical pathways,' which may include: mental health, accommodation, finances, substance misuse, and family/relationships.
19. Aside from 'Consequential Thinking' – which will always feature prominently because it is a default pathway as part of the Checkpoint contract – two of the significant pathways which stand out in the below chart are 'Alcohol' and 'Mental Health'.
20. What remains important to highlight, however, is that – of course – those on contracts will have more than one 'critical pathway'. Accordingly, understanding how pathways 'bundle' – that is, understanding in a general way the types of pathways which might be associated with each other – would undoubtedly be helpful in better tailoring interventions.

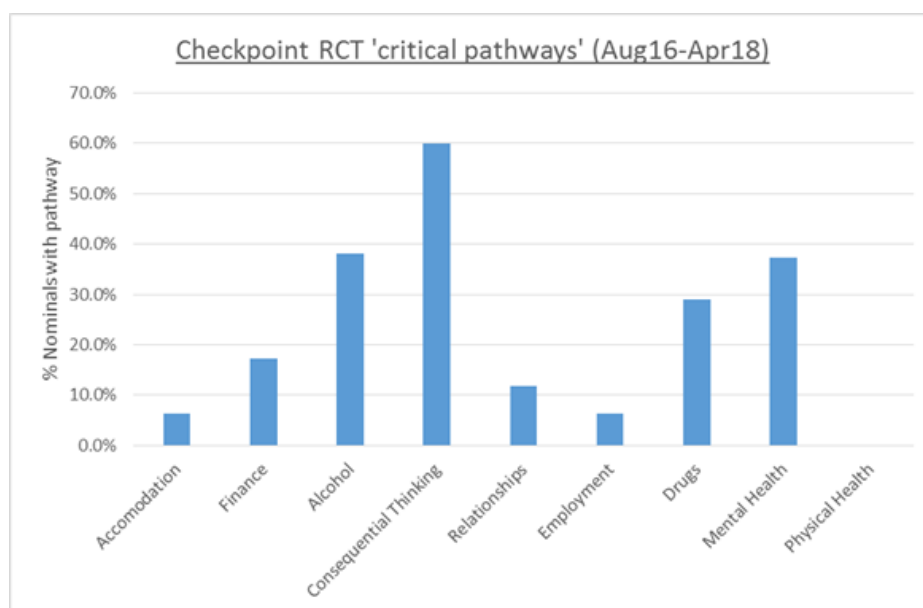


Figure 6: Checkpoint Randomised Control Trial 'Critical Pathways' Offender Management Unit (OMU)

21. The Offender Management Unit offer offenders priority access to a support network of many agencies in order to address their criminogenic needs linked to their offending behaviour. This can include support to access drug treatment, housing or mentoring. The below chart shows those 'critical pathways' for an OMU cohort.

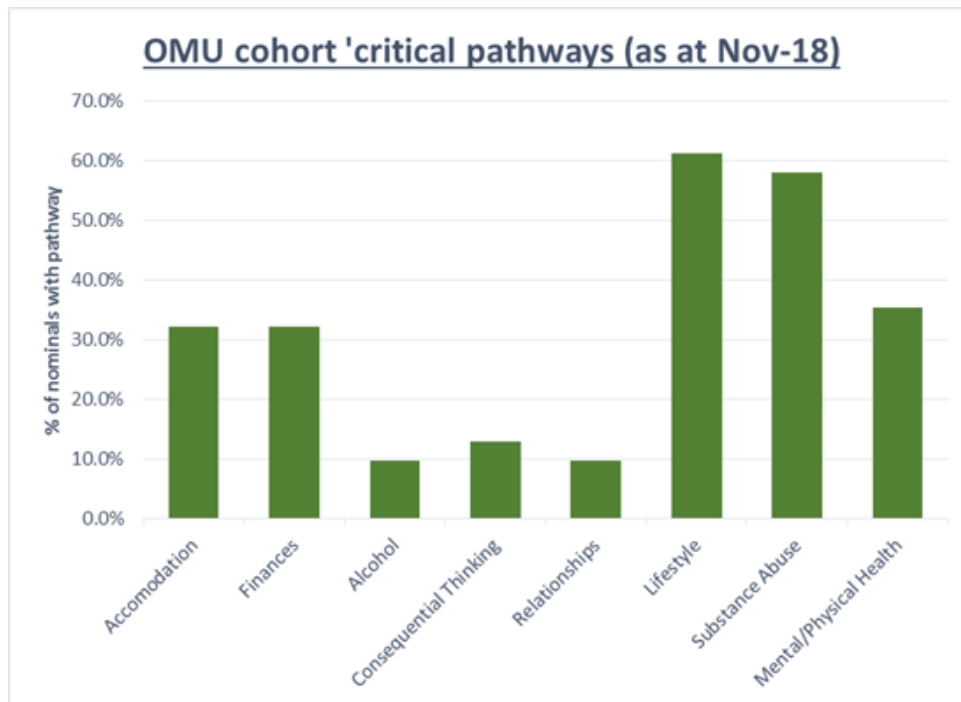


Figure 7: Offender Management Unit 'Critical Pathways'

Outcome 4: People have confidence in the Police and the Criminal Justice System

KPQ7: How confident are people in the Criminal Justice System?

22. I also want people to have confidence in the criminal justice system which serves their community. Over the next couple of years, I will be working with partners, building on progress achieved so far, to improve the local system so that it improves outcomes for victims, communities, and people who have offended. People need to know that, if they are a victim of crime, not only will the police treat them with respect and dignity – and support them to recover – but the system as a whole will support them as well.

Public Confidence in the Criminal Justice System (CJS)¹

23. Analysis by the Ministry of Justice suggests that a broad range of factors impact on public confidence in the Criminal Justice System. These include whether or not people have experienced crime or anti-social behaviour

¹ 'Analytical Summary: Public confidence in the Criminal Justice System', *Ministry of Justice*, <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/public-confidence-in-the-criminal-justice-system>, 2015 (accessed: November 2018).

(ASB); the extent to which people feel informed about – and that they have an influence on – issues associated with criminal justice in their local area; and positive engagement with local police.

24. Indeed, this work suggests that one of the strongest indicators as to public confidence in the Criminal Justice system is contact with the police and satisfaction with that contact.

25. While this may well be the case, asking whether people know what the ‘Criminal Justice System’ *is*, is one fundamental thing to establish, before asking the extent to which people across County Durham and Darlington are confident in it.

26. At the same time, there is work being progressed through the LCJP where a difference might be made – and where an eventual outcome of increased confidence in the Criminal Justice System could be met.

County Durham, Darlington and Cleveland Effectiveness and Efficiency Sub-Group – Local Criminal Justice Partnership (LCJP)

27. Under the LCJP, the effectiveness and efficiency work-stream looks to ensure that there is end-to-end coordination across all statutory criminal justice agencies. Through its work, then, one of the work-stream’s outcomes is “Increased Public Confidence in the CJS”.

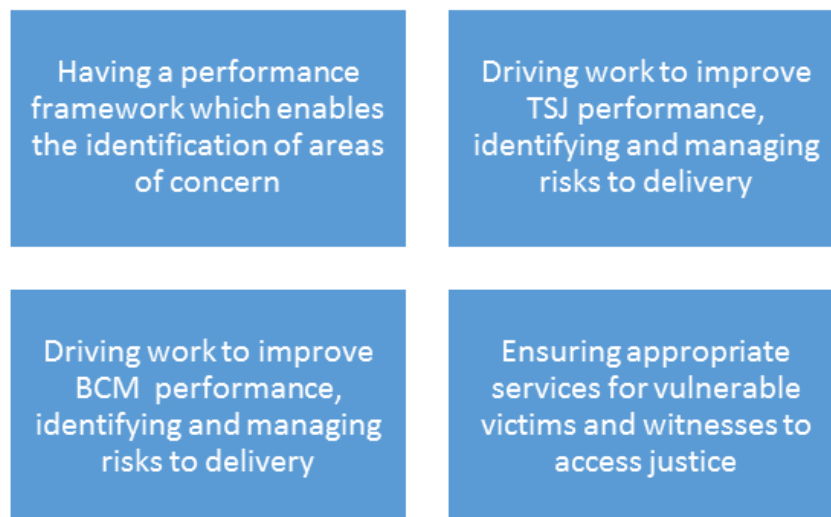


Figure 8: Effectiveness and Efficiency group priority work-streams

KPQ8: How confident are people in the Police?

28. Communities who feel confident in their local Police are also more likely to feel safe, report crimes, and provide information and intelligence about offenders or crimes. That’s why I have maintained my commitment to having neighbourhood police teams in place, across the area, despite the heavy cuts to the Police budgets since 2010.

Crime Survey for England and Wales (CSEW) – June 2018

29. The Crime Survey is a large, representative, survey of households in England and Wales. People surveyed are asked how much they agree or disagree with statements about their local police. And respondents do not have to have had any contact with the police to answer questions.

30. The table shows Durham’s result and the quartile the force falls into nationally (1st quartile = top ten, 2nd quartile = next eleven, 3rd quartile = next eleven, 4th quartile = bottom ten).

	% Agree	Quartile
“Taking everything into account I have confidence in the police in this area”	80.0%	1 st
“They are (the police in this area) dealing with things that matter to people in this community”	61.5%	2 nd
“They (the police in this area) understand the issues that affect this community”	76.9%	1 st
“How much would you agree or disagree that the police and local council are dealing with the anti-social behaviour and crime issues that matter in this area”	52.8%	3 rd
“Taking everything into account, how good a job do you think the police in this area are doing?”	66.6% (good or excellent)	1 st
“The police in this area treat everyone fairly regardless of who they are”	70.5%	2 nd

Figure 9: CSEW – June 2018

Police and Communities Together (PACT)

31. PACT meetings allow a forum to identify and discuss local problems – and to agree neighbourhood priorities. These agreed priorities can be viewed on the Constabulary website, and by clicking through to a neighbourhood

section. PACT, however, is only one element of community engagement of which there are many others. Indeed, social media and ‘Keep in the Know’ are just a couple of useful additional tools the Constabulary uses to engage with communities.



Figure 10: Durham Constabulary social media followers

Independent Custody Visitors (ICVs)

32. Independent Custody Visiting is a well-established system whereby trained volunteers attend police stations to check on the welfare and treatment of detainees and to ensure that their rights and entitlements are being correctly observed. It offers protection to both detainees and the police, and reassurance to the community.

33. There are currently 23 Independent Custody Visitors appointed to the Durham scheme. Visitors can only make a custody visit when accompanied by another accredited Independent Custody Visitor. They are expected to make a minimum of six visits per year and no more than on average 4 per month. The Independent Custody Visiting Panel meets four times a year to discuss visits made. These are also attended by an Inspector from Custody Management.

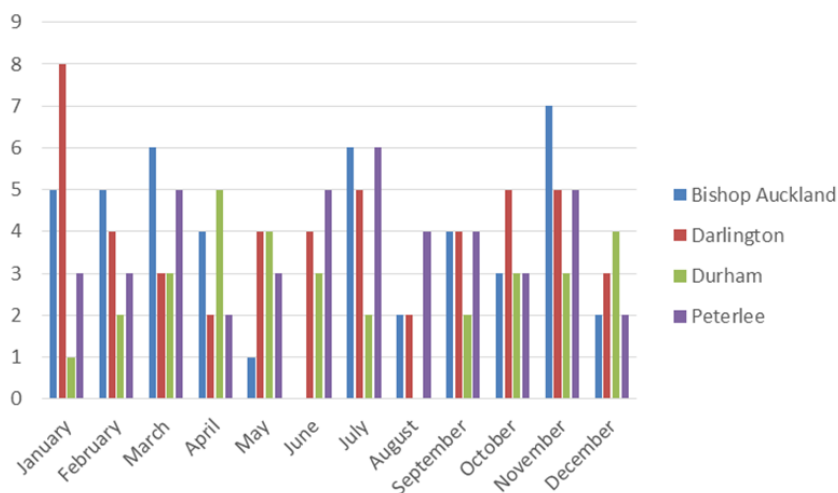


Figure 11: ICV visits – 2017

Recommendation

34. That the Panel note the contents of the report and seek any relevant points of clarification.

Ron Hogg

Police, Crime and Victims' Commissioner

Appendix: Risks and Implications

Finance

N/A

Staffing

N/A

Equality and Diversity

N/A

Accommodation

N/A

Crime and Disorder

N/A

Children's Act 2004

N/A

Stakeholder/Community Engagement

N/A

Environment

N/A

Collaboration and Partnerships

N/A

Value for Money and Productivity

N/A

Potential Impact on Police, Crime and Victims' Plan Priorities

Highlights performance in relation to the Police, Crime and Victims' Plan.

Commissioning

N/A

Other Risks

N/A

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