

## Welcome

You will hopefully be aware that rules have been tightened in relation to how many people can meet and mix both inside and outside in a bid to stem the rising tide of Covid infections.

Durham Constabulary will respond appropriately and proportionately to help enforce the new rules but first and foremost the responsibility rests with us all to keep to the rules in order to defeat this pandemic. The prevention of crime is the first order of a police force, not dealing with it when it has happened. The rule of six is there to prevent infection, not to increase the number of fines that can be handed out.

If you have any concerns you can contact me via email on [general.enquiries@durham.pcc.pnn.gov.uk](mailto:general.enquiries@durham.pcc.pnn.gov.uk) as well as on Twitter and Facebook.



Acting PCVC Steve White



## SUCCESS FOR COUNTY DURHAM AND DARLINGTON AS THEY WIN FUNDING FROM THE £25 MILLION SAFER STREETS FUND

Areas of Darlington and County Durham are set to receive specialist interventions to help cut crime and improve community safety after securing funding from the Home Office Safer Streets Fund.

Earlier this year, the Office of the Durham Police, Crime and Victims Commissioner, submitted two bids to the £25 Million Home Office Safer Streets Fund, in partnership with Durham County Council, Darlington Borough Council and the Constabulary. In August it was announced that both bids, totalling almost £800,000 had been successful.

The funding which is designed to support interventions in areas which suffer acquisitive crime has been welcomed by the Acting Durham Police, Crime and Victims Commissioner Steve White: "It is fantastic that we have been

successful in our bids for both County Durham and Darlington. It will help to make a real difference as we work with our partners to address acquisitive crime in key hotspot areas in County Durham and Darlington. If we work together with our local communities to prevent crime from happening in the first place, we can help to reduce demand on our front line services, reduce the number of victims and make our communities safer."



**SAFER STREETS**

## TWO MEMBERS OF THE COMMUNITY SOUGHT TO PARTICIPATE IN NEW BAME, USE OF FORCE AND STOP AND SEARCH PANEL (BUS PANEL)

The PCVC is responsible for holding the force to account, which is done in a number of different ways. One of these is our PCVC owned external scrutiny panels, whose membership is made up of members of the public. Through this we are able to offer a transparent process which gives a direct link between the public voice and police accountability.

Our most recently created scrutiny panel focuses upon; BAME, Use of Force and Stop and Search Panel.

This group will test the proportionality,

legitimacy and necessity of the application of these police powers. These issues are pertinent and the development of this panel is both timely and significant.

Consequently, the Office of the Police, Crime, and Victims' Commissioner is seeking two individuals who would be interested in being members of the BUS panel. Please contact [general.enquiries@durham.pcc.pnn.gov.uk](mailto:general.enquiries@durham.pcc.pnn.gov.uk) if you are interested in being considered for a place on the panel.

The deadline for applications is 12th October.



### Support During Covid-19

We continue to work closely with our support services for victims' throughout County Durham & Darlington during these challenging times. All support services are open and available to provide help, support and advice should you need it, you can contact them by clicking on the links below.

[VCAS](#) - Support Victims of Crime

[Mental Health and Emotional Support](#)

[Harbour](#) - Supports victims of domestic abuse

[Action Fraud](#) - Support victims of fraud and cyber crime

[Halo](#) - Support victims of forced marriage and honour based violence

[The Rape and Sexual Assault Counselling Centre](#)



Remember the guidance on face coverings



[The Latest Government COVID -19 Guidelines](#)

## COMMUNITY SAFETY FUND LAUNCHED

Steve White, Acting Durham Police, Crime and Victims' Commissioner (PCVC), continues the partnership with local grant-making charity County Durham Community Foundation. Under this partnership, the PCVC contributes £100,000 to the fund and a further £50,000 comes from grant funds managed by the Foundation. The closing date for applications for the fund is 12pm on 11th October 2020.

Funding is available for projects and initiatives, which help to keep communities safe and contribute towards inspiring public confidence.

Steve White said: "I am so pleased to be able to announce that once again we are able to support local community groups and help to make a difference to so many.

"This is a crucial fund for empowering our communities to lead the change that's right for their postcode.

"We are particularly interested in applications from grassroots groups in Durham and Darlington that focus on a specific area or neighbourhood."

Preference will be given to projects that can show they are embedded in a community, and focus on a specific locality, as opposed to projects with a wider but lighter touch approach. An example would be creating activities for young people in a specific community as opposed to a county wide publicity campaign for public safety.

More details about the community safety fund, including how to apply, can be found at <http://www.cdcf.org.uk/apply-for-a-grant/grants-for-groups/county-durham-and-darlington-community-safety-fund>

You can also contact County Durham Community Foundation on 0191 3786340

**Remember to maintain social distancing**

## LOCAL CRIMINAL JUSTICE PARTNERSHIP UPDATE

The Criminal Justice partners across Durham and Cleveland meet regularly in order to ensure that the system works as effectively and efficiently as possible; seeking the best outcomes for victims and reducing both offending and reoffending.

Contact has increased to fortnightly board meetings during COVID19, which has enabled the partners to work together in order to understand the implications of courts having to close. This included the development of a local data pack identifying current need, recovery patterns and areas of greatest concern. Whilst the backlog of cases in the courts remain high the partnership continue to work together to do all they can to reduce this and ensure that all court users and especially victims and witnesses receive a speedy resolution and ongoing support where needed.

The partnership have been able to give a local response to nationally posed questions regarding our priority areas for concern, this

extends to our collective learning from this period and the ways in which this can be developed to improve the Criminal Justice System in the future. For example the partnership has monitored and supported the increased use of video enabled technology into the court room from within police stations and prisons and the OPCVC has been able to direct some of the additional funding made available to us from the Ministry of Justice to purchase further video equipment to support the special measures available to vulnerable victims.

As the victims commissioner the PCVC, along with the partners has sought to influence national thinking in relation to support required for all victims and witnesses and with the support of other colleagues has collectively distributed and is monitoring additional Ministry of Justice funding to increase capacity for the support of vulnerable victims as well as improve communication methods through increased use of technology.