

Welcome

At the end of the year we often find ourselves reflecting on the past 12 months and for everyone 2020 has been a year which has profound

I am immensely proud of the way in which your police service has responded to the many challenges it faced in 2020.

The ever-changing rules and regulations have not been easy to keep up with, but the stoicism and adherence shown by you, the communities we serve, has for the most part been exemplary without the need for the strong arm of the law.

We all wish for a better and healthier New Year most years, but this time we really do hope for it. Please continue to stay safe and stick to the rules as we all look forward to better times ahead.



Acting PCVC Steve White



OVERWHELMING MAJORITY SUPPORT GIVEN FOR INCREASE IN POLICE ELEMENT OF COUNCIL TAX

The amount of Council Tax the public pay for the police service, known as the police precept, will increase for 2021-22 by 7% in County Durham and Darlington. This equates to an increase of £15 per year, or 29p a week for a Band D property.

Acting Durham Police, Crime and Victims' Commissioner, Steve White presented his proposal, along with his rationale for the increase, to the Police and Crime Panel, supported by a presentation with key facts and figures on current and future financial pressures for Durham Constabulary.

Following discussion, an overwhelming majority of the Panel voted in support of Mr White's recommendation.

Additional police staff will be employed as result

of the rise, whilst also bringing forward the recruitment of PCSO's by six months to ensure that a local policing presence is maintained.

The recruitment will include additional police staff to assist in helping the most vulnerable in the community, with further support in management of domestic abuse cases as well as those with mental health concerns.

The increase in precept will enable the force to invest in technology infrastructure, increasing the effectiveness and efficiency of police procedures, so that officers can continue to deliver support to communities and businesses.

The force will now be able to continue to invest and educate residents regarding the emerging and growing types of crime, including cyber-crime which is becoming more prevalent.

DURHAM OFFICERS AMONG FIRST TO CARRY LIFE SAVING DRUG

Durham Constabulary trauma trained officers are among the first in the country to carry a life-saving drug which will temporarily overcome the effects of a drug overdose.

More than 40 roads policing officers and other frontline officers, together with officers working in custody suites, have been trained in administering Naloxone – a drug used to fight against overdoses caused by opiates such as methadone, heroin, fentanyl and codeine.

The Naloxone kit, has already been used by selected trained officers across County Durham and Darlington to save lives.

Any potential administration of this drug by officers, does not replace the need for professional medical help, instead, it provides an opportunity to save a life if they find themselves at the scene of someone who has overdosed.

The North-East has the highest drug related deaths rate in the country and two years ago a decision was made to train custody officers in the administration of Naloxone.

Steve White, Acting Police, Crime and Victims' Commissioner said: "This initiative forms part of a wider partnership approach we are taking with public health colleagues to introduce naloxone in County Durham and Darlington to reduce harm and save the lives of people who suffer from problematic drug issues."

"The fundamental role of a police officer is the preservation of life.

"We have already trained our custody staff, and now by equipping select frontline officers for example road policing officers with naloxone, and by offering take-home naloxone upon release from custody, we may be able to prevent further drug-related deaths.

WE ARE RECRUITING FOR A POLICY AND COMMISSIONING ASSISTANT

REF 277/20 (RE-ADVERT)

Location: Police Headquarters

Salary: £21,296 - £22,865 per annum

Hours: 37 Hours per week, flexible working

Job type: Permanent

Closing Date: 12 noon Monday 15th February 2021

[You can find our more information on the role and how to apply here](#)

The ODPCVC is also looking to recruit an Independent Chair of the External Strategic Scrutiny Governance Group.

[You can find our more information on this position and how to apply here](#)

The deadline is Friday 12th February 2021



Preventing burglary
to make your streets safer

The Safer Streets Fund aims to stamp out offences that blight communities and cause misery to victims.

To find out more, and to see whether you're eligible to receive free security measures, visit durham-pcc.gov.uk



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](#)

FURTHER SUPPORT PROVIDED TO VICTIMS THAT ARE EXPERIENCING COURT DELAYS

In January the Victim Care and Advice Service (VCAS) was fortunate enough to have two Restorative Justice Practitioners seconded to their team of Victim Care Officers to enable an improved end-to-end service for victims of crime.

As part of a five month scheme the two new practitioners will work alongside the Criminal Justice Victim Liaison Officer and help to deliver more co-ordinated and seamless support to victims whose cases are going through the criminal justice system.

Following focused work VCAS implemented in Peterlee and Seaham, there has been an increase in referrals as well an improvement to the information supplied to victims. Therefore, VCAS are keen to roll out this approach across the force and establish victim and witness hubs in each locality.

The addition of the Restorative Justice Practitioners will enable this roll out and work in

partnership with VCAS Victim Care Officers in order to signpost to appropriate referral pathways and make sure the support available is maximised.

VCAS is commissioned by the Office of the Durham Police, Crime and Victims' Commissioner to provide free, independent and confidential support for victims and witnesses of any crime, and their families, across County Durham and Darlington.

Mark Warcup, Manager of the Victim Care and Advice Service for Durham and Darlington said "We are delighted that we have been able to strengthen the VCAS team particularly through the support that we are able to provide at a time when many court cases have been unavoidably delayed due to the COVID pandemic.

For further information or if you have been a victim of crime please visit <https://victimcareandadvice.service.uk/> 0303 040 1099 / info@vcas.uk

Remember to maintain social distancing