



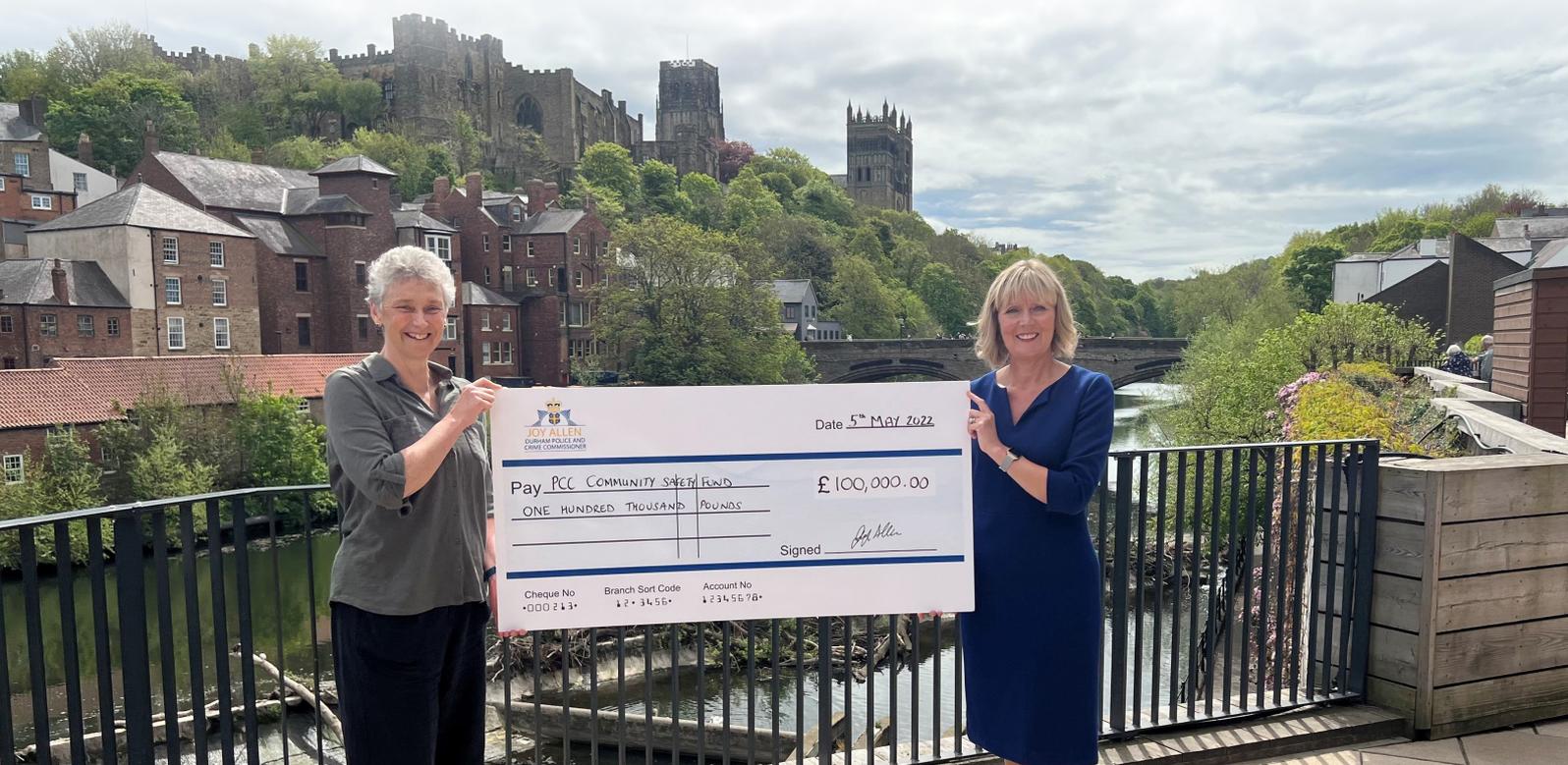
JOY ALLEN
DURHAM POLICE AND
CRIME COMMISSIONER

NEWSLETTER

THE LATEST NEWS FROM THE DURHAM POLICE AND CRIME COMMISSIONER

October - December 2022 | Issue # 1

CHARITIES CELEBRATE £90K FUNDING BOOST **TO PREVENT CRIME**



More than £90,000 has been shared between charities and community organisations across County Durham and Darlington to prevent people from being drawn into crime and anti-social behaviour.

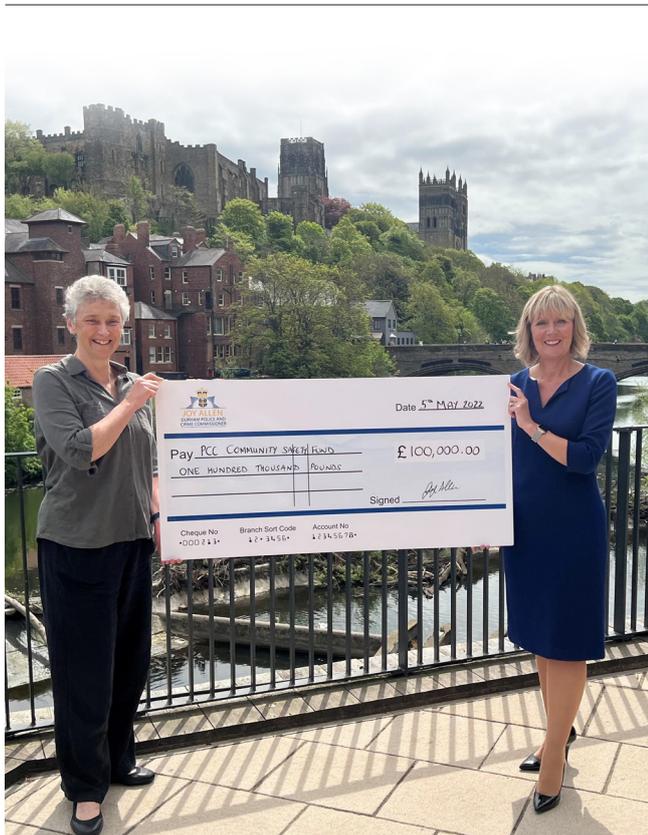
In partnership with County Durham Community Foundation, Police and Crime Commissioner Joy Allen has awarded cash to 22 organisations from her Community Safety Fund to make communities safer, stronger and more resilient to crime.

The grants support work to tackle the issues that matter most to local people and range from funding resources to reduce rural crime to investing in

diversionary activity to deter young people from crime and antisocial behaviour.

Commissioner Allen said: "Our communities are well-placed to support people to change their lifestyles and find the right path and this work is highly valued by my office and the Constabulary.

"I have promised to take a prevention-first approach to crime and this grant scheme is one of the many ways I am increasing resources at a community level to help people thrive and increase the safety of our public spaces.



Charities celebrate £90k funding boost to prevent crime cont.

"I would like to congratulate all those organisations which have been successful in this round of grants. The work they do over the coming months will be vital to reducing demand on our frontline services and ensuring people have the help and support they need to achieve a safer future."

The Commissioner has pledged to divert young people from becoming involved in crime and anti-social behaviour as part of her 'Safer People' Police and Crime Plan priority.

Grants have been allocated to a number of charities providing education, employment support, leisure and training activities for young people as part of that ambition. These include YMCA North Tyneside which successfully bid for £7,000 to run a safe space for young people at the YMCA in Cockfield and fund youth sessions in Barnard Castle to reduce risk-taking behaviour and anti-social behaviour.

In support of other priorities, Wellbeing 4 Men Community Interest Company was awarded £5,340 to deliver a project for men that addresses a range of issues including anger management and poor mental health while Darlington Rural Watch received £7,424 for new CCTV cameras to help deter rural crime and keep local people safe.

For a full list of recipients, please visit the Commissioner's website: durham-pcc.gov.uk



NEW CCTV

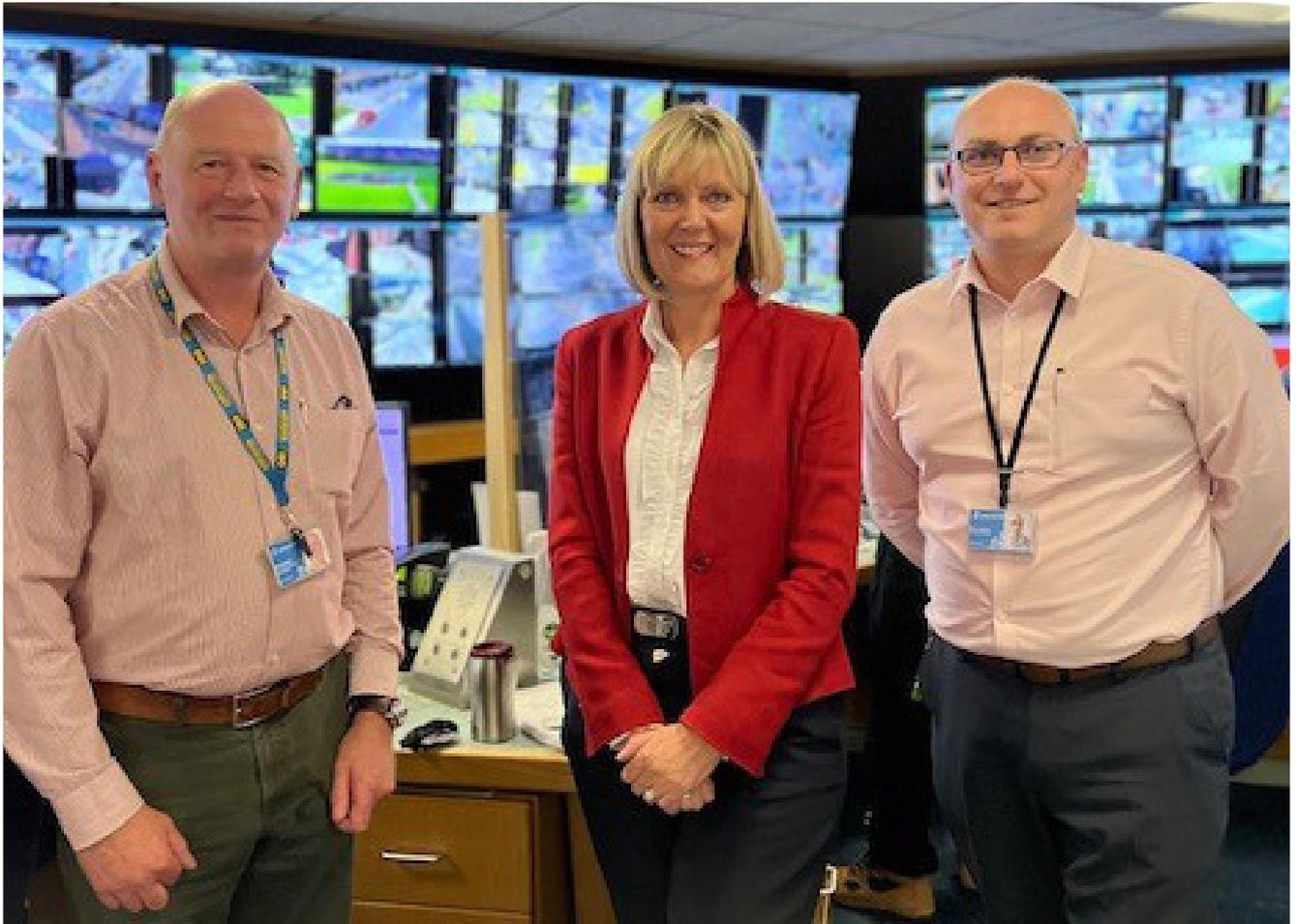
upgrade plans for Darlington backed by Police and Crime Commissioner

Funding has been agreed worth £250k over the next 10 years to support a state-of-the-art upgrade to Darlington's CCTV network.

In a move that will increase public safety and improve the detection of crime, Commissioner Allen has agreed to contribute £25,000 a year over the next decade into Darlington Borough Council's CCTV system to improve its quality and efficiency.

It is part of a £513,500 upgrade undertaken by Darlington Borough Council which involves the replacement of 74 analogue cameras with newer models providing improved images and better outcomes. The Council is also switching to a new wireless network to replace fibre circuits – delivering financial savings to help offset the cost of the upgrade.

Commissioner Allen is committed to increasing the safety of local people and reducing their fear of crime by investing in new technology that not only deters crime but improves the quality of



evidence police and partners are able to retrieve.

Thanks to successful bids to the Home Office's Safer Streets Fund, she has invested more than £1million into safety improvements in the borough including the enhancement of the existing CCTV scheme in the town centre with a £330k funding boost that has already helped locate vulnerable missing people.

Commissioner Allen's recent budget also aims to strengthen local policing with investment in vital resources including the new investigative hub.

"Darlington is already a safe place to live and I am determined to make it even safer with a visible police presence and the very best technology and resources available," she said.

"I am wholeheartedly behind the council's plans to upgrade the CCTV network and give criminals cause to think twice about committing their crimes in our communities. The cameras recently installed through the Safer Streets initiative are already proving their value in helping those in need and I am confident the update planned will further support the police in keeping our residents safe.

"We know CCTV helps to reassure local people and

reduce the fear of crime which is essential to wellbeing. This investment over the next 10 years is part of a long-term, joint effort between safety leads to crack down on anti-social behaviour and crime and give local people the peace and quality of life they deserve."

Originally introduced in the 1990s, the CCTV network has grown from 30 cameras to a network of 122 strategically-placed cameras to help tackle crime and anti-social behaviour. Safer Streets funding brought an additional 17 cameras to the network.

In the last year alone, the council's control room supported 1,345 police requests for recordings or to review footage to aid in the fight against crime and anti-social behaviour.



DARLINGTON
Borough Council

Durham PCC

recognised as first in the country
to use **SOCIAL VALUE TOOLKIT**
for custody provision project

Durham Police and Crime Commissioners Office have been featured in the Association of Police and Crime Commissioners (APCC) latest report, Environmental and Sustainability in Focus. The office has been highlighted as a standout organisation for social value, due to its Investigative Hub project.

The new development, which is taking place in Durham Gate, Thinford, is the largest ever investment undertaken jointly by the Force and Police and Crime Commissioners Office, which will boast a 48-cell facility, state of the art custody suite and new Investigative Hub.

The report outlines how the project has been the first in the country to utilise the Blue Light Commercial Social Value Toolkit. The toolkit can be used as a guide to help future suppliers and forces to make a positive impact on local environment and the economy when developing new projects and services.



Commissioner Joy Allen, who is also APCC Joint Lead for Environment and Sustainability, said "upon my appointment I took the decision to include social value principles in procurement tenders to encourage successful bidders to award goods and service contracts to organisations based in County Durham and Darlington and the North East Region.

"The social value criteria forms over ten percent of scoring for the awarding of high valued contracts and its estimated that this contract alone will deliver £6M in social value.

"Even though the project is still in its early stages we have already added to social value by welcoming two Quantity Surveyor Apprentices onto the building team and we're also working with local charity Changing Lives to provide training for vulnerable people in the area.

"We are delighted that we have been recognised by the APCC in their report as it really reflects the hard work we have been doing to ensure this makes a positive impact for the community. As part of my role as Joint Lead for Environment and Sustainability and as a commissioner, I have a responsibility to ensuring that the forces, commissioned services and offices are employing environmentally friendly and sustainable practices for the future."

Recognition of the project has led to Commissioner Joy Allen being asked to pilot a national project with the Construction Innovation Hub. This will support other business by developing a Construction Value Toolkit that can be used to bid for public contracts and introduce social value initiatives.



NEW Figures

Show high victim confidence in post-crime support services

In new figures from the Victims Care and Advice Service, funded by the OPCC, help for victims of crime is delivering huge improvements to health and wellbeing.

Results from the first three months of this year show free and confidential support provided by the Victim Care and Advice Service (VCAS) is having a marked difference on the confidence and mental health of those who have accessed help.

The service, which helps victims cope with the immediate impact of crime and assists in their subsequent emotional and physical recovery, is available to everyone – regardless of whether a crime is reported to the police or not.

The service was recently brought in-house under the direct management of Commissioner Allen to enable her to provide better oversight of the system and deliver a smoother referral process offering victims a 'single front door' to help.

Between April and June this year, a total of 246 cases were closed after support was provided. As a result of the interventions, 92 per cent of the victims reported feeling safer through the VCAS support. Support offered included providing dummy CCTV, window, door and personal alarms, security lights and crime prevention strategies.

151 victims during this time period reported issues with health and wellbeing, as a result of their experience of crime. However, the service has helped more than 90 per cent of these people with their health and wellbeing, along with 91 per cent reporting an improvement in their lifestyle

including housing, finances and work.

Commissioner Allen said: "These results show very clearly how vital our support services have become in the recovery journey. I am delighted that more than nine in 10 of those whose cases have recently concluded are highly satisfied with the improvements in their lives they have experienced. This is testament to the committed and compassionate professionals working on the ground.

"Protecting victims of crime is a top priority and this feedback shows we are on the right road. I am determined to build trust and confidence in the support services we provide so we can continue to make a positive impact on people's lives and encourage other victims to come forward in future. I will continue to monitor performance and service provision to make sure we maximise the variety and quality of help we offer."



SHINING A LIGHT ON...

The Airgun Awareness Intervention Service

Airgun awareness interventions delivered by the County Durham Youth Offending Service has helped educate 22 young people since its formation in 2014.

The partnership between the Youth Offending service and Durham Constabulary Crime and Forensic Group is responsible for providing interventions for young people who have received an out of court disposal, following being charged with possession of an air weapon in a public place.

The interventions aim to give young people an appreciation of the dangers of mishandling and misusing an airgun and the laws relating to this. The programme teaches the safe handling of air guns by delivering a practical educational course at the appropriate level of the young person attending.

Since it began in 2014 there have been no young people who have gone on to re offend following taking part in the programme. This has helped relieve pressure on other services and protect young people from the dangers of improper airgun use.

Mark Outhwaite, who runs the interventions, said "Our aim is to ensure we keep young people out of youth offending institutions and educate them of the dangers of improper use of airguns. We care about young people and their welfare is what matters most to the project. The education of these matters is something that isn't given enough focus, we only deal with these issues after an incident occurs. We need to make sure that young people have an understanding as to how serious their actions are and how they can affect other people. I feel so proud of the success we've seen over the last 8 years and the progress we've made in ensuring we protect young people and the rest of the community from unlawful use of airguns."

In recognition of the excellent work the team do in quality education and meaningful outcomes for young people, they have been awarded a 'Badge of Excellence' by Open Awards.

The scheme is also supported by the British Association of Shooting and Conservation.



DURHAM Recognised Nationally for Nitrous Oxide prevention work



Recently examples from Durham's work around the effects and prevention of nitrous oxide among young people have been shared across England and Wales, as an example of good practice for the policing sector.

In the last year, nitrous oxide was named as the second most prevalent drug among young adults aged 16 to 24 years, after cannabis, and the third most prevalent for adults aged 16 to 59 years, after cannabis and powder cocaine.

The worrying rise in the use of the drug among young adults has been highlighted due to health concerns and the subsequent antisocial behaviour that often occurs following the use of the drug. There has been an evidenced rise in disturbances in public spaces, littering of empty nitrous oxide canisters and antisocial behaviour incidences in areas which have seen this spike.

Durham Constabulary have ensured that there will be tougher consequences for those using the drug in an effort to curb the increase in usage. This example has been encouraged throughout England and Wales as many areas struggle to keep numbers of young people trying the drug under control.

Commissioner Joy Allen said "I am so pleased that Durham has been highlighted across England and Wales as being a standout organisation for their work around nitrous oxide and its effects. We need to ensure that young people are educated around the long-term effects of the drug and realise how serious it can be. Not only health effects but the rise in antisocial behaviour on our streets as a result of recreational use of nitrous oxide is simply unacceptable."

Nitrous oxide can cause paranoia, hallucination, headaches, freeze burns and dizziness when used in the short term. However, with longer term use can result in suffocation, anxiety and mental health issues and life changing nerve damage.

If you need help for drug and alcohol recovery, please contact:

Humankind on 03000 266 666 or email CDDARSadult@humankindcharity.org.uk

THIS MONTHS

Dates for your diary:

- ✎ Antibullying Week
2022- w/c 14th November
- ✎ UK Disability History Month
- ✎ International Mens Day
19th November
- ✎ Universal Childrens Day
20th November
- ✎ White Ribbon Day
25th November
- ✎ Brake Road Safety Week
14th-20th November
- ✎ International Fraud Awareness Week
w/c 13th November
- ✎ Human Rights Day
10th December
- ✎ Precept consultation
December
- ✎ International Volunteers Day
5th December
- ✎ International Day of the Abolition of Slavery
2nd December
- ✎ Day of Persons with Disability
3rd December



JOY ALLEN
DURHAM POLICE AND
CRIME COMMISSIONER

DURHAM POLICE AND CRIME COMMISSIONER
Police Headquarters, Aykley Heads, Durham DH1 5TT
c: 0191 375 2001 | e: joy.allen@durham-pcc.gov.uk
w: durham-pcc.gov.uk