

HoggWatch

Putting victims first in County Durham and Darlington



RON HOGG

DURHAM POLICE, CRIME
AND VICTIMS' COMMISSIONER

WINTER 2018 MAGAZINE



Our 2018
Local
Superheroes
Celebration

Meet Ellen
the new
Young PCVC

Drug Safety
checking in
Durham

Competition
winners
announced

Your Police, Crime and Victims' Commissioner

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Ron Hogg

Welcome to my Winter 2018 Magazine which features work to stop reoffending in the community, a new campaign in the region to assist in drug safety and a charity event to raise awareness of those vulnerable at this time of year.

I am pleased to introduce our new Young PCVC Ellen Terry. She has a lot of great new ideas and I am looking forward to working with her over the next year.

In October I hosted our my Celebration of Local Superheroes for 2018, the fourth year so far running the event, and once again it was a huge success.

If you would like to receive regular updates from my office you can follow us on social media. Just search for **Durham PCC** on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#), [Instagram](#) or [Youtube](#). Please visit my website for more : www.durham-pcc.gov.uk

Ron Hogg
Police, Crime and Victims' Commissioner
for County Durham and Darlington

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Durham County Council's proposed County-wide licencing scheme for private landlords would reduce crime and anti-social behaviour

Areas of County Durham where a lot of people live in private rented accommodation will be less likely to suffer crime and anti-social behaviour if Durham County Council's business case to introduce County-wide licencing for private landlords is approved by the Government next year.

Commenting on the proposal, Durham's Police, Crime and Victim's Commissioner Ron Hogg said "When Police are carrying out investigations, so much time can be lost trying to identify who owns the property where suspects are living.

A County-wide licencing scheme for private landlords would make a significant difference resolving crimes, and I believe it would also act as a deterrent because offenders would know there would be a greater likelihood of them being caught." Ron said "This is an issue that I promised to campaign on two years ago, and now, with the support of Phil Wilson MP and Durham County Council we are within touching distance of dealing more effectively with rogue landlords."

Front Cover: PCVC Ron Hogg with members of the police cadets

PIONEERING HARM REDUCTION DRUG SAFETY TESTING SERVICE AVAILABLE IN DURHAM

Non profit organisation The Loop provide a service as an extra layer of protection against the potentially devastating effects of drug use this festive season.

Durham became the second UK city to offer The Loop's pioneering Multi Agency Safety Testing (MAST) to the general public this December.

By testing substances of concern it is hoped that potentially dangerous substances could be identified and the public warned. Christmas is the busiest time of the year for drug and alcohol-related hospital admissions.

The Loop, founded in 2013 by co-Director Fiona Measham, a Professor of Criminology at Durham University, has gone on to win 7 awards for welfare, innovation and excellence in the field; most recently DJ Mag's 'Best of British' award for Innovation and Excellence in December 2018.

After a third successful summer at UK festivals, Durham was the second city centre to host MAST, following Bristol which has hosted the service three times this year. Despite the work of Durham

Constabulary to break organised crime groups in the area, it is clear that some people are likely to put themselves at risk by buying and taking illegal drugs. Recently a warning was given by police about a potentially dangerous batch of drugs as three men were taken to hospital over the weekend. The Loop's testing service provides an additional layer of harm reduction for those people by identifying what substances have been bought and providing advice directly to users about the local illegal drug market.

Ron Hogg, the Police, Crime and Victims' Commissioner for Durham said: "I support this approach which reduces harm to drug users in order to keep people safe and prevent drug-related deaths. It gives us an idea of what is in circulation and gets it out of circulation, allowing us a level of regulation of an otherwise unregulated and harmful market."

People could bring just one dose of any substance of concern to the Loop pop-up lab for confidential forensic testing. In the first multi-agency partnership of its kind, trained Loop chemists in partnership

with Durham University Department of Chemistry carried out a range of forensic tests to determine the contents and purity of submitted substances. Results were given to service users during a 15 minute consultation with healthcare staff, taking account of additional risk factors such as medical history and medications, use of alcohol and other substances. The service does not deem any substance to be 'safe', but provides otherwise unavailable information to help people make informed decisions. Warnings about specific dangerous substances will be shared via social media, allowing information from a single test to spread to others in the city and beyond.



Staff Q and A :
Ashleigh White



Q. What do you do?

I started as a Business Admin Apprentice in April. I provided administrative support to the office. Since October I have become the temporary PA for PCVC Ron Hogg as well as the Chief Executive. This is a great opportunity as I receive on the job training and gain a qualification at the same time

Q. What is your favourite part of your job

Working with the incredible team

PCCs Meet in Durham to help reduce re-offending

The good work in Durham and Darlington to reduce re-offending was showcased to the Police and Crime Commissioner for North Wales, Arfon Jones and members of his team in November.

Durham Constabulary's Checkpoint scheme, under which low and medium level offenders are given the opportunity to sign a contract to engage with services and to refrain from criminal behaviour in return for not facing prosecution, is seen as a model of good practice in the UK.

Police, Crime and Victims' Commissioner Ron Hogg, who hosted the visit from North Wales, said "Checkpoint demonstrates that traditional criminal justice sanctions are less effective in reducing reoffending than diversion schemes.

Traditional criminal justice sanctions such as a caution or a fine do nothing to address the reasons why people offend and reduce reoffending. 71% of adult women, and 63% of adult men, who were released from custody between April to June 2016 following a custodial sentence of less than 12 months, reoffended within a year. The national costs to policing of this kind of re-offending amount to around £1billion each year.

Commenting on the visit, Arfon Jones said "It's always helpful for PCCs to share their experiences and expertise, so that the benefits of good practice are realised across the UK. I'm grateful to Ron and his colleagues for the opportunity to see them today, and I look forward to working together in the future".

WHY DRY JANUARY®

- ▶ New year, new you: better sleep, better skin, lose weight
- ▶ More money in your pocket
- ▶ Do your insides a lot of good
- ▶ Join the four million+ people taking up the challenge!

DRYJANUARY.ORG.UK
#DRYJANUARY

One in 10 drinkers in the North East and around 4.2 million people in the UK are planning to ditch alcohol for Dry January 2019, according to a YouGov poll released today

www.dryjanuary.org.uk



PCVC Ron Hogg with Arfon Jones

Meet your Young PCVC for 2018-19, Ellen Terry

Ellen Terry, 16, who is studying at Durham Sixth Form Centre, was elected by Police Cadets to be the third Young Police, Crime and Victims' Commissioner (YPCVC) representing young people in County Durham and Darlington.

Upon taking the role Ellen said: "I have always wanted to help people and I thought that this was a great opportunity to do so. I hope to make a positive impact in Durham and help to raise awareness of different issues within young people's lives."

In her manifesto, Ellen indicated that she would give priority during her year in office to:

- Improving outcomes for victims and perpetrators of crime who suffer from mental health

difficulties

- Improving substance misuse education for young people
- Increasing the perceptions of the police.

When talking about her priorities Ellen said: "I am pleased to see that the Government have appointed a new Minister for Suicide Prevention. When researching for my manifesto I was heartbroken to learn that around 84 men per week commit suicide. I want to make it known to people that help is available to them. It really is ok not to be ok."

Ron Hogg said: "I am pleased that Ellen has been elected as the third YPCVC. I look forward to working with her over the next twelve months as she has lots of great ideas." In November

Ellen participated in a meeting of the County Durham Partnership, chaired by Cllr Simon Henig, Leader of Durham County Council, and attended by the people in charge of NHS bodies, the Fire and Rescue Service, Housing bodies, the County Council and the voluntary sector.

Ellen also met Chief Constable Mike Barton, holding him to account for the delivery of policing services which meet the needs of young people. She asked him about how policing of substance misuse is changing, and about how Police Officers engage with schools and pupils.

On 21st November, Ellen took over the role of Ron Hogg for the day as part of the Children's Commissioner's Takeover Challenge.

Ellen said "I have had a really good day, getting information from people who can help me achieve my aims. I have been able to develop plans to put my priorities into action."

Ron Hogg commented "Take-over Challenge is all about exposing young people to the decision-making process. Ellen has responded to this superbly, and comes from an entirely new perspective. I am really proud of her".



PCVC Ron Hogg with Young PCVC Ellen Terry

Steve White appointed as Ron Hogg's new Chief Executive

The Office of Durham's Police, Crime and Victims' Commissioner (PCVC) will shortly be under new leadership following the appointment of Steve White as Ron Hogg's Chief Executive. Steve was national Chair and Vice Chair

of the Police Federation for five years. For the past year he has been leading a nationwide police transformation project for the Home Office. Ron Hogg said: "Steve has demonstrated outstanding leadership in his career, often working in complex environments, challenging and making the case for change. I am confident that he will make an excellent Chief Executive and look forward to him supporting me to make County Durham and Darlington a safer place to live and work."

Commenting on his new appointment, Steve White said: "The role of Chief Executive is crucial to enabling the PCVC to discharge his responsibilities effectively. I am delighted to be offered the opportunity to support him in making a difference to residents of County Durham and Darlington, and influencing the national agenda. I look forward to working with partners and members of the community to help the PCVC to deliver his priorities." As Chief Executive, Steve White will also perform the statutory function of Monitoring Officer for the Office of the PCVC.



PCVC Ron Hogg with new Chief Executive Steve White

Home Secretary Sajid Javid visits Durham Constabulary to see how the force is tackling a number of key issues

Sajid Javid travelled to the force's HQ where he was met by Deputy Chief Constable Jo Farrell and PCVC Ron Hogg. The Home Secretary was shown how Durham, the top performing force in the country, is preventing cybercrime and tackling serious and organised crime, and met a number of frontline officers.

He was also introduced to officers, navigators and service users on the Checkpoint scheme, which aims to reduce the number of victims of crime by reducing reoffending.



PCVC Ron Hogg said: "I was pleased to welcome the Home Secretary to Durham today, and to talk about the innovative work that is happening to reduce reoffending and support vulnerable people. I also raised concerns about the reduction in resources

in the past few years, and the pressure that this is putting on officers, and I asked for Government departments to work together more closely to make it easier to reduce reoffending."

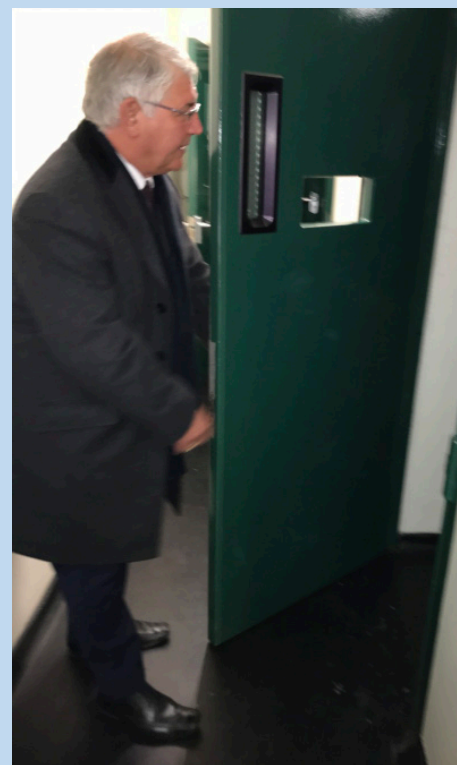
PCVC Ron Hogg meets Home Secretary Sajid Javid

The Night I spent in a cell charity event

On Tuesday 18th of December, Consett Police Station opened its doors for a third year in row in aid of local and national charities. Charity workers were invited to do a sponsored sleep in a cell to increase awareness of the impact of criminalising people in crisis and the need to ensure that vulnerable people are kept safe.

Those in attendance were locked up between 9pm and 7am in their own single cell. Police Crime and Victims' Commissioner Ron Hogg was in

attendance to let people out of their cells and deliver breakfast the following morning. Ron said: "Police custody is not an appropriate environment for people in a mental health crisis. This can worsen their experience and heighten their vulnerability. Therefore we need to ensure that our most vulnerable people have access to appropriate support at the earliest opportunity. I am pleased that this important issue is being highlighted at this time of year."



New action plan launched to tackle hate crime in County Durham and Darlington

A brand new action plan to tackle and reduce hate crime was launched during national Hate Crime Awareness Week by Police, Crime and Victim's Commissioner Ron Hogg.

The new plan has been developed by partners working in the community, organisations

representing people with a full range of protected characteristics, and colleagues from Durham Constabulary, Durham County Council, Darlington Borough Council, Durham University.

The plan was launched at The Hermitage Academy in Chester-Le-Street, in front of pupils

learning about hate crime.

The new Hate Crime Action Plan contains six actions:

- A communications strategy
- A review of reporting mechanisms and pathways
- A review of how organisations share intelligence
- A review of the use of evidence to ensure prosecutions
- Map the support for victims and identify gaps
- Understand the issue of incitement in relation to disability hate crime, and the common connections between disability hate crime and crimes against disabled people



PCVC Ron Hogg with students from Hermitage Academy

PCVC'S CELEBRATION OF LOCAL SUPERHEROES 2018



Thousands attended once again to celebrate the work of their local superheroes at the PCVC's 2018 Celebration of Local Superheroes at Locomotion in Shildon.

The horrible weather did not put people off on the day as members of the County Durham and Darlington Fire and Rescue Service, Durham Constabulary, Weardale and Teesdale Search Mountain Rescue Service and HM Coastguard were some of the 50+ organisations that were represented.

Highlights included a number of police vehicles and a crane to give those attending a great view of the event.

There were numerous events inside away from the cold for people to take part in, including fancy dress competitions for the younger members in attendance. PCVC Ron Hogg was at the event and he said "It has been a fantastic event which has helped us engage with a wide range of people from the community."

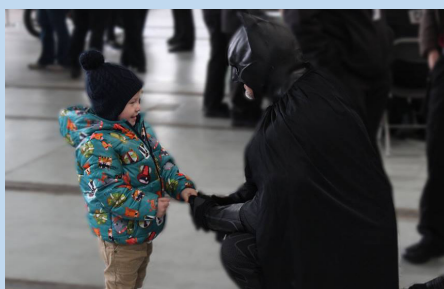
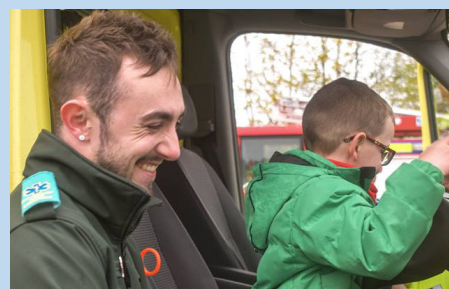


Search for 'Durham PCVC'
On our social media pages to see the full gallery from the PCVC's Celebration of local superheroes

There were a host of events and activities on the day for people to try out

The Cadet challenge included several events, finishing with a huge tug of war in the Locomotion car park

Special Guests were in attendance on the day including Sue Snowdon the Lord Lieutenant



A huge thank you to everyone who attended we will see you next year!

COMPETITION WINNERS!



PCVC Ron Hogg with Christmas Card competition winner Jessica Sweet. Below runners up Emily Long and Millie K-Lee

Above and below the fantastic winners of our fancy dress competitions at our local Superhero event



2018 in Numbers

796k
Impressions on
Twitter

50+
Exhibitions at
local superheroes
event

2000+
Attendees at
local superheroes
event

200
Plus Community
events
attended

2000
People received
Checkpoint
Intervention

500+
Christmas card
competition
entries

4455
Incidents the street
triage team have
been involved in

1276
Victims supported
by VCAS

1800
Mini Police
Officers

12
Neighbourhood
policing teams

6952
Twitter
Followers

4850
Facebook
page likes

Donations to support those vulnerable at Christmas time



Community Peer Mentor coordinators, volunteers, Durham PCVC and police staff have kindly donated toiletries, food and games to help to support vulnerable, lonely and isolated adults and their families in the community at Christmas time.

The Community Peer Mentor project is the initiative of Ron Hogg, PCVC, and since May 2016 has massively reduced the pressure on frontline emergency services, and local councils by engaging with those who made frequent calls and reducing the severity and frequency of the calls.

Dates for your diary

Ron and his team are out and about this spring to various events in towns and villages across County Durham and Darlington.

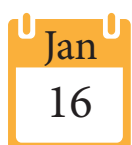
Visit the Events Calender on Ron's Website for details.



Mid Durham



Bishop Auckland



Teesdale



Chester-Le-Street



Three Towns



GAMP



Durham



Derwent Valley

Please get in touch.....

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@durhampcc



Durham PCVC Office

International days



World Braille Day



Holocaust Memorial Day



International Women's Day

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