



Rural Policing Task Force

Dedicated to serving rural communities

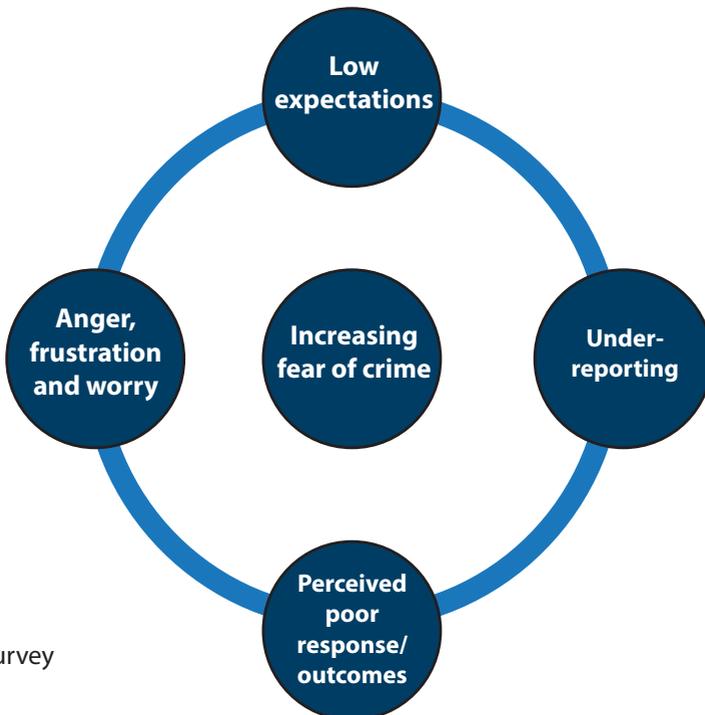


Introduction

Rural communities face a number of specific issues when it comes to crime (for example: theft and damage in connection with farms, livestock, wildlife, isolated properties, road safety and cross-border crime). Tackling these issues is important; yet in 2015, the National Rural Crime Survey discovered that rural communities find themselves in a negative cycle when it comes to reporting and response to criminal behaviour.

North Yorkshire Police has developed a Rural Policing Strategy in order to break this negative cycle, and work with local people and agencies to address the particular needs of rural communities.

A key element of the strategy is the establishment of a Rural Policing Task Force, and the purpose of this leaflet is to set out more detail on the structure and responsibilities of the Task Force, and how it will link with other parts of the service.



Source:
NRCN survey

Task Force structure

The Rural Task Force will comprise an Inspector, Sergeant, seven PCs and seven PCSOs.

There will also be a Rural Policing Coordinator and an Intelligence Analyst attached to the team.

The Task Force is to operate in a “Hub and Spoke” Model with the Inspector, Sergeant, Analyst, and Coordinator located centrally. The PCs and PCSOs will be based across the districts of the North Yorkshire Police area, with Special Constables and Volunteers to be identified to work alongside them.

These Special Constables and Volunteers will be sought from within the specific districts, to give them credibility with, and knowledge of, the policing patch.

This will allow them to provide excellent assistance by sharing the roles and responsibilities of the PCs and PCSOs, but also by being a direct link to the communities we serve.

This model will allow the PCs and PCSOs on their districts to be a single point of contact, improving engagement with the rural communities and the investigation into rural crime, whilst providing bespoke crime prevention advice to those at risk of criminality.

The central base signifies that the team will regularly be used as a single unit to deal proactively with specific issues identified through intelligence and analysis.



Roles and responsibilities

The Sergeant and Inspector

The Sergeant and Inspector within the Rural Task Force will be responsible for implementing the Rural Crime Strategy, and ensuring the Task Force delivers on its objectives, to improve engagement and reduce crime. They will report to the Detective Superintendent, Crime at North Yorkshire Police.

The Intelligence Analyst

The Intelligence Analyst will be assigned completely to the Task Force and will be line managed by the Senior Analyst in the Force Intelligence Bureau.

They will be responsible for identifying current intelligence gaps and generating intelligence products, including an up-to-date “problem profile” for rural crime, and predictive analyses of crime patterns and trends.

The Rural Crime Coordinator

The Rural Crime Coordinator will work closely alongside the Intelligence Analyst. Their role will encompass the gathering and development of intelligence, planning operations, identifying best practices, as well as communicating with communities and colleagues.

The Coordinator will also foster relationships with relevant partners, including (amongst others) farmers’ unions, the Environment Agency, and the Forestry Commission.

They will identify gaps in crime prevention literature that is bespoke to the rural community, and work with the Communications team at North Yorkshire Police to fulfil requirements.

Police Constables and Police Community Support Officers

Police Constables and Police Community Support Officers will have two key roles to play within the Rural Task Force, as outlined on the following page.

Engagement

PCs and PCSOs will engage with the rural community in order to understand their concerns, gather and share information, and provide reassurance through a visible presence in rural areas. They will do this by:

- Meeting the community, in the community, for example: by attending farmers' markets, auctions, and other rural events
- Working with partners and actively engaging with groups within the rural community, such as Young Farmers and farming unions and associations
- Using both traditional and social media (including modern messaging systems) to alert communities to local issues, promote rural crime prevention messages, publish appeals for information and highlight policing successes
- Promoting and supporting Rural/Farm Watch and other appropriate schemes
- Publishing direct contact details, so that communities have a clear point of contact at the police in addition to the standard 101 and 999 numbers

Crime reduction

PCs and PCSOs will be responsible for investigating and reducing rural crime by:

- Providing bespoke crime prevention advice to the rural community
- Increasing the visibility of the police in rural locations to deter criminals
- Working effectively with neighbouring police forces and partner agencies to increase our intelligence flow in rural areas, and enhance our intelligence-led approach to targeting rural crime
- Working with partners to tackle issues such as environmental crime, fly-tipping and road safety, which affect quality of life in the rural community
- Proactively identifying and targeting those who commit rural crime - including individuals and groups who cause the most harm - using specialist force resources and technologies
- Developing a clear investigative strategy and joined-up approach to acquisitive and wildlife crime, which affects rural residents and businesses
- Encourage the reporting of incidents and crimes to North Yorkshire Police
- Learning from best practices to become experts in the field, and sharing that knowledge with colleagues across the service

Links with colleagues

North Yorkshire Police has an existing number of colleagues, including Wildlife Officers, Beat Managers and Neighbourhood Sergeants, who have expertise and knowledge when it comes to tackling rural crime.

The Rural Task Force will work alongside these colleagues to adopt best practice across North Yorkshire, and ensure that an NYP-wide approach is taken during crime series investigations. The role of the Rural Task Force will be to engage and communicate more thoroughly with the rural communities, as this will be their specific role.

It is expected that colleagues from Neighbourhood Teams will be able to use the Task Force to tackle identified issues within their area, and that close working relationships will be developed.

Investigation Hubs and Serious Crime Teams will support the Task Force and their relevant expertise will be used in investigations.

Close links will be forged between the Task Force and Specialist Operations teams, such as the Road Crime Team, who will support the Task Force in proactive intelligence-led police work.



Logistics

The central hub for the Rural Task Force will be at Vale House, Thirsk. This is a central location with an easily accessible road network to enable county-wide travel, and will also provide good internal links to specialist operations colleagues.

PCs and PCSOs on the Rural Task Force will be based in their district, however the central hub for the Task Force will enable the development of a team ethic, and ensure the team can be brought together for proactive operations. The advent of mobile working will ensure that officers on the Task Force are able to work from most rural locations and will be able to work predominantly from their vehicle. Officers on the Task Force will have access to specialist equipment, such as chemicals used for disinfecting when visiting farms, which will allow them to carry out their role.

Task Force colleagues will wear uniform to ensure they are visible within the community.

Credibility with the rural community will be paramount, and members of the Task Force will be developed through practical training with support from agricultural colleges and working farms.

Review

The Task Force will be committed to listening to the rural communities we serve, to recognise and improve on the response to current issues, which can directly influence the deployment of force resources through the National Intelligence Model.

To confirm we are meeting the challenges we have set ourselves, and that the approach we have taken is legitimate, it is our intention to use a group of key stakeholders across the rural community to scrutinise the results of the Task Force.

This group of critical friends will develop measures to ensure that not only has the Task Force encouraged a truer picture of crime in rural areas to emerge, but that engagement with the community has built trust and confidence. This, along with internal reviews, will make sure the Task Force is delivering on its aims.





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