



Ideas for your PCC election manifesto

The co-operative movement is already providing campaigning and practical solutions to the problems we face. Labour & Co-operative Police

and crime Commissioners can build on this work and have the opportunity to shape local policing around our values of equality, equity, self-help and self-responsibility.

1. Visible, Accountable Policing

The loss of neighbourhood policing has been felt by our residents; no longer able to name their 'bobby on the beat' and feeling they are left on their own. Police and Crime Commissioners can reinvest in community policing as well as looking at ways to ensure residents have a more of a say, and providing a vital link to intelligence in the community.

- Establishing safer neighbourhood panels, and other forums can help get local intelligence and identify priorities. Drop-ins like 'Cuppa with a Copper' also provide opportunities to break down barriers.
- Establishing youth forums and panels can also make sure young people's voice are heard.
- Pooled budgets for community safety can help support initiatives such as Neighbourhood Watch Schemes and community speed watches.

2. Not Part of the Job

Retail crime is a crime against people not business. Every day 250 retail workers are the victims of a violent incident. It's not just shopworkers that are affected but families and the wider public too, as these should be safe spaces in our communities. The Co-op

Party, the Co-op Group and USDAW are all campaigning to raise this issue and push for government action.

- Support our campaign – Not part of the job – to secure stronger protections for shop workers selling age-restricted products, and tougher penalties against those who assault or threaten them.
- Police and Crime Commissioners can look to work in partnership with retailers and make it easier for retail businesses to report violent incidents. By accurately recording the problem, partners can then look to address the issue in an informed way.
- Police and Crime Commissioners can add crime against shopworkers as a local priority. Currently 63% of police and crime plans make no reference to this crime.

3. Breaking the Cycle

Nearly half of people with past convictions in England and Wales reoffend within twelve months. With community involvement and partnership working, interventions can be made to break the cycle of crime and reduce reoffending. The Co-op in Central England has taken the unusual step of funding drug treatment for its most prolific shoplifters. The cost of funding

this programme is small compared to the amount of stock lost over time. It has brought financial benefits as well as finding a long-term outcome for known local offenders.

- Communities should have a say in community payback, and some areas have developed community panels or embedded it in neighbourhood working so that residents and offenders can both see the benefits.
- Rhubarb Farm in Derbyshire is an example of a Police and Crime Commissioner supporting work placements, training and volunteering for ex-offenders. Abroad, some of these organisations are run as co-operatives, with multiple stakeholders including offenders and the community guiding the direction of the project.
- The re-organisation of probation could give an opportunity for communities to have more of a say in how offenders are managed in their area.

4. Investing in Young People

Though youth crime is falling, an increasing number of young people are involved in crimes involving knives or offensive weapons.

A decade of austerity, has seen the average council reduce it's spending on services such as social clubs and youth workers by 40%, and some places have seen funding drop by 91% in three years. Analysis by the All-Party Parliamentary Group (APPG) on Knife Crime found that the areas suffering the largest cuts to youth spending have seen bigger increases in knife crime.

- In the East of England, the Co-operative stores have partnered with the local police to focus not just on funding security guards but providing diversionary activity for young people. The Chantry Football project saw up to 40 young people play football over their six-week

school holiday with police and security officers to reduce anti-social behaviour in stores and break down misconceptions.

- The Co-op Group has developed several initiatives, not only addressing the safety of staff in stores, but also looking at partnerships that tackle the causes of crime. They have a partnership with Steel Warriors that will install 20 free community gyms across the country and with the Damilola Taylor Trust in East London to prevent young people from falling into crime through a career and skills development programme.

5. Putting People First

By handing over power to the communities we serve, we can empower them to play a part in policing and community safety. There are various ways Police and Crime Commissioners can work with stakeholders to shape their plans and priorities.

- Community forums for residents where people come together and set the priorities for Police and Crime Commissioners and Councils with a community safety role. These are being piloted in Newham, to allow local ownership of priorities and build accountability for delivery from Councillors.
- Stevenage Against Domestic Abuse has developed a co-operative service that puts the victim and their family at the heart of the support and involves them in the decision making.
- The Mayor of London has created a Victims' Commissioner to amplify victims voice and promote their interests and experiences.