



The World Class Policing Awards 2019

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*****PRESS RELEASE*****

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Durham Police Highly Commended At World Class Policing Awards For Pioneering Peer Mentors Scheme

Durham Police, Victims and Crime Commissioner working with Durham Police's work in helping the most vulnerable people in its communities has been rewarded with a 'highly commended' recognition in the World Class Policing Awards.

The force's Peer Mentors Scheme saw 450 people supported by mentors with life experience, reducing mental health calls to the police and improving their mental and physical wellbeing.

The project aims to reduce the pressure on frontline emergency services, and local councils by engaging with those who make frequent calls to these services and reducing the severity and frequency of the calls.

The support it provides has been so successful that the force has now provided training programmes to 14 other forces in the UK and two state forces in the USA.

The force beat off competition from 54 finalists, drawn from more than 100 outstanding entries from across the globe, to win a highly commended prize at the new event recognising outstanding police work from across the world.

The unique Peer Mentors Scheme has reduced demand on front line policing while empowering vulnerable and isolated people affected by mental health issues, victims of crime, neighbourly disputes, and anti-social behaviour to not feel let down by society and professional frontline services.

More than 39,000 police staff hours have been saved, resulting in huge savings for the force while there's been a reduction in poor behaviour in communities in the county.

Confidence in the police and other frontline organisations has also been enhanced and maintained.

Judges commented that this programme "demonstrates so many of the characteristics of World Class Policing."

A spokesman added: "It is high impact both in terms of the public and victims, it involves some of the most marginalised people themselves in the delivery of a service that changes lives, it makes a well-argued case for having an impact on staff wellbeing and it is genuinely creative and innovative in its design."



The spokesman continued: “This is an excellent example of a progressive approach to trying to get offenders and potential offenders out of a life of crime by taking time to deal with the issues they are facing, and thereby increasing the confidence in local police and a feeling of safety in the local community.”

The World Class Policing Awards are sponsored by Accenture.

The Awards specifically recognise and celebrate the collaborative nature of policing - whether that is a brilliant investigation, a business change project or a multi-agency partnership - in delivering the most effective and efficient way to protect our communities and keep them safe.

Attendees at the Awards – which took place at the Grosvenor Hotel in Park Lane, London - included Chief Police officers from across the Globe as well as winners, their partners and sponsors. They were presented by experienced broadcaster Jeremy Vine.

Notes to Editors:

- Media enquiries should be directed to [Martis Media](#) via natalie@martismedia.co.uk
- More information about the awards can be found at www.worldclasspolicing.com
- The hashtag for the event was #WorldClassPolicing
- More information about the awards can be found at www.worldclasspolicing.com
- The inaugural World Class Policing Awards took place 14 November, at the Grosvenor Hotel in Park Lane, London. Six winners were announced at the ceremony, one of which was named the overall winner. There were also six commendations.
- The 54 finalists were selected from over 100 entries received from UK and overseas police forces.
- The World Class Policing Awards are led by a Steering Committee experienced in policing and managing projects in the police sector, as well as expertise in running successful police events: Stephen Kavanagh QPM, former Chief Constable of Essex Police and Chair of the World Class Policing Awards Steering Committee, Paul Leeks, MD of Glasgows - the awards and events specialists who have delivered the Bravery Awards for the Police Federation of England and Wales for the past eight years, Allan Fairley, UK Public Safety MD for Accenture and Chair of techUK's Justice & Emergency Services Committee, Ian Barrett - CoPaCC Director and publishing professional in the police sector with experience developing and delivering the Police Review Gala Awards and Bernard Rix, Publisher of Policing Insight.
- The awards are supported by the [National Police Chiefs Council \(NPCC\)](#), the [Police Federation of England & Wales \(PFEW\)](#), the [Police Superintendents Association \(PSA\)](#), the [College of Policing \(CoP\)](#), the [Police ICT Company \(PICTCo\)](#) and [Tech UK](#).
- The Founder Sponsors of the awards are [Accenture](#), [Sopra Steria](#), [Chorus Intelligence](#), [Grant Thornton](#) and [KPMG](#). Dinner is sponsored by [Amazon Web Services](#) and the Drinks Reception by [NICE](#).
- Policing Insight (policinginsight.com) and Police Oracle (policeoracle.com) are the official Media Partners for the World Class Policing Awards 2019.
For information about the awards or the nominations process, contact: wcpa@glasgows.co.uk or call: +44 (0) 1772 767782



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