



**EVERYTHING WE DO,
IS ABOUT WHAT
MATTERS TO YOU.**

**NORTHUMBRIA
POLICE AND CRIME
COMMISSIONER'S**
ANNUAL REPORT 2017/18

RURAL AND WILDLIFE CRIME

We have recently supported two new strategies launched to help tackle rural and wildlife crime. Here in Northumbria we have a large rural area and it is crucial that we are prepared to deal with crimes and issues that affect those communities.

We will continue to work with local residents to ensure they receive the very best service from Northumbria Police. We will further enhance the way we work through specialist training, innovative policing approaches and by strengthening our relationships with partner organisations. We will continue to take action and show that in Northumbria we tackle rural and wildlife crime head on.



TRAUMA TEDDIES



The Trauma Teddies initiative was first launched in Newcastle as a joint project with Victims First Northumbria in September 2017, and has been growing ever since. Teddy bears are knitted and donated by members of the public to be handed out by officers to children who have been a victim or witness to an incident as a form of comfort.

The initiative has been a huge success with thousands of teddies being donated all across the region. It recognises the effect a traumatic experience can have on a child and such a simple gesture is a step towards making a child's experience less painful. I want to thank everyone who has donated so far and helped this fantastic cause make a difference to children across the region.

WORK IN THE COMMUNITY

Reducing anti-social behaviour (ASB) is a top priority of mine and I work closely in partnership with local councils and organisations to find the best ways to tackle ASB. While ASB may seem like a minor matter it can have an impact on local communities and we have a duty to make sure everyone feels safe and is heard.

In the past I have patrolled the streets in Sunderland with councillors and police officers, to see the issues first hand and help develop a holistic approach to the problem that prevents ASB.



Northumbria Police is your police force and prior to the start of the new financial year, I consulted with local residents about police funding. The Conservative government budget cuts continue to hit Northumbria Police force hard. Over the last 7 years Northumbria has had to make £135.6m of cuts and efficiencies to manage the reductions imposed by government, with further savings of £24.7m planned over the next 4 years, that's £160.3m in total to 2021/22. Tough decisions have been taken, and thanks to prudent financial planning, we have been able to recruit 114 police officers, during 2017/2018, to replace those who have retired.

Of those we contacted as part of a consultation, via email, meetings and online, the majority were content to pay a little more to keep officers on the beat and to pay for the priorities that you set in the Police and Crime Plan. Most households in Northumbria paid an extra 7p per week on their council tax. Every penny received in Northumbria from the police precept is spent on policing and your priorities.



THE MONEY WE RECEIVE AND HOW IT'S SPENT!

| POLICING SERVICES ALLOCATION | RESOURCE |
|---|----------|
| Local Policing | 53.1% |
| Investigations | 7.8% |
| Public Protection | 8.3% |
| Dealing with the Public | 6.9% |
| Criminal Justice Arrangements | 6.6% |
| Intelligence | 5.8% |
| Operational Support | 5.3% |
| Roads Policing | 2.7% |
| Investigative Support | 2.3% |
| Police and Crime Commissioner (includes public insurances etc) | 1.1% |

The Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner also supports many organisations who help deliver the Police and Crime Plan through Ministry of Justice Grants and the Commissioner's Community Fund. You can find out more about this work at www.northumbria-pcc.gov.uk



CONTACT DETAILS

The Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner is your voice within Northumbria Police and we are always happy to hear from you. Your fantastic support has ensured that we continue to listen and deliver for the communities we serve right across Northumbria force area. There are a number of ways to get in touch with us –

Email – enquiries@northumbria-pcc.gov.uk

Phone – 0191 221 9800

Write – Dame Vera Baird QC, Victory House, Balliol Business Park, Benton Lane, Newcastle upon Tyne, NE12 8EW

Twitter – @Northumbriapcc

Facebook – Vera Baird QC

IT'S YOUR POLICE AND CRIME PLAN – HERE'S HOW IT HAS BEEN DELIVERED

Following the 2016 Police and Crime Commissioner election, I refreshed the Police and Crime Plan to ensure it was relevant to you and your family. Our police officers and staff work closely with partners to deliver the six priorities that you set out in the Police and Crime Plan. Much has been achieved, but there is more to do – together we are making a difference, Northumbria is a safe place to live and work.



REDUCING ANTI-SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR

Here in Northumbria we are working hard to tackle anti-social behaviour – recorded levels are down, nearly 80% of ASB victims are confident to report further incidents to the police. We continue to look at innovative ways to tackle ASB, including training for Police Community Support Officers to help in problem solving activity to reduce ASB and ensuring that local knowledge is utilised. I have asked Northumbria Police to improve how they follow up reports and make contact with victims. ASB action plans have been updated to include focus on ensuring high quality follow up. Tackling graffiti remains high on our agenda and we work in partnership with local councils to tackle this issue.

Northumbria Police will continue to make reporting ASB easy and we will work with partners, such as local councils, to address ASB.

“
ANTI-SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR – IT'S YOUR PRIORITY, THAT MAKES IT MINE. FIRM ACTION IS BEING TAKEN ACROSS THE FORCE AREA TO FURTHER REDUCE ASB.
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REDUCING CRIME

Whilst it is important to work with partners to reduce crime, it is also vital that local residents continue to report crime. Every year the government produces a league table of which areas have the highest reported crime – I want local residents to have the confidence to report crime no matter what its type, as this allows Northumbria Police to have an accurate picture of what is happening and can direct resources accordingly.

We have ensured that Northumbria Police continues to be proactive in tackling crime in the Night Time Economy. The Levy I receive from Newcastle City Council is spent on ensuring the safety of those who visit the city for a night out. The Saf haven, Street Pastors, improved CCTV and Taxi Marshals have all made a difference.

Northumbria Police continue to work with all communities and are focusing on newer emerging crimes such as cyber-crime, child sexual exploitation and modern day slavery.

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NORTHUMBRIA POLICE WILL CONTINUE TO WORK HARD TO CUT CRIME, BUT OUR PRIORITY REMAINS TO ENCOURAGE LOCAL RESIDENTS TO REPORT ALL CRIMES.
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“
PUTTING VICTIMS AT THE HEART OF EVERYTHING WE DO WILL ALWAYS BE OUR PRIORITY.
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PUTTING VICTIMS FIRST

Victims remain at the heart of everything we do, and as your Police and Crime Commissioner you have my assurance that will always be the case. Throughout 2017/18, various services were commissioned that respond to the needs of victims. Going forward my office will work closely with the providers of these services to ensure the victim remains our main priority. More than 80% of victims were satisfied with the overall service that they received and I have challenged Northumbria Police to improve on this service to enable us to provide an even better level of care. Our Safeguarding team will continue to deliver services for vulnerable victims.

COMMUNITY CONFIDENCE

Since I was first elected, ensuring neighbourhood policing has been my main priority and that is why I have worked hard to protect this area of policing, despite all the funding challenges in doing so. I am pleased to say that we have more neighbourhood police officers than we did at the start of the year. 86% of local residents (an increase on the previous year) felt that the police do a good or excellent job in their neighbourhood and in the year ahead we will work hard to improve that figure even further. We will achieve this by ensuring high levels of conduct and continuing to work with emergency service

partners to deliver savings to invest back into our own services. Every penny we receive is squeezed to the maximum to ensure value for money and our auditors recognise our efforts to spend our income wisely and to ensure we provide the most we can for local residents.

Of course, when we get things wrong we want to put them right as quickly as possible. Our dedicated complaints team continue to deliver outstanding service and have worked hard to respond to complaints within hours, rather than days.

“
NORTHUMBRIA POLICE IS YOURS – WE ALL WORK TOGETHER TO ENSURE IT IS A SERVICE THAT YOU CAN BE PROUD OF.
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“
WE HAVE MADE SOME EXCELLENT DEVELOPMENTS BUT WE STILL HAVE MORE WORK TO DO TO ENSURE VICTIMS CONTINUE TO RECEIVE THE BEST SERVICE AND SUPPORT POSSIBLE.
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DOMESTIC AND SEXUAL ABUSE

Domestic and sexual abuse is one of six priorities laid out in my Police and Crime Plan. This year I published a report on the Special Domestic Violence Courts (SDVCs) with the help of a team of volunteer court observers, who were trained by the CPS and the Courts Service and observed 223 cases in Northumbria between July and November 2017.

The report is on my website and looks at what needs to change to ensure victims of domestic abuse get the correct support and safeguarding when going through the criminal justice system. I will continue to push for more training and better support for victims in SDVCs so that those who have already been through so much can feel supported and heard while they get the justice they deserve.

Watch out for my new Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG) Strategy in 2018.

EFFECTIVE CRIMINAL JUSTICE SYSTEM

This was a new addition to my Police and Crime Plan. Our criminal justice system is being placed under increasing pressure with growing demand and ever tighter budgets. Despite this, I am dedicated to working closely with the local courts, probation providers, youth offending teams, Victims First Northumbria, prisons and the Crown Prosecution Service and putting victims at the heart of the process.

Work is ongoing in all of these areas, including the development of our Local Criminal Justice Board and the implementation of new policies and priorities around prevention and rehabilitation, public confidence, performance and victims and witnesses.

“
WORKING TOGETHER TO PROVIDE AN EFFICIENT AND EFFECTIVE CRIMINAL JUSTICE SYSTEM REMAINS A KEY PRIORITY.
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