

# VERA BAIRD QC



Your Police & Crime  
Commissioner  
Vera Baird QC

## BRILLIANT BELLINGHAM

## NORTHUMBERLAND

**New Meeting Place for Bellingham Youth Groups.** Bellingham youth groups have found a new place to meet thanks to partnership work. Following the decision to relocate Bellingham Police Station, an ideal opportunity came about to provide a new home for the youth groups, offering modern facilities and technology.

Working together the Partnership and the Police & Crime Commissioner looked at suitable venues and found Reed Hall, a former school which is now run by a group of local trustees. Vera Baird QC said "We were not going to let relocating the police station mean the end of youth activity in Bellingham. I'm delighted we've been able to help these vital groups remain in this community. Reed Hall will be cheaper to run, has an outdoor play area and was under-used and so we are literally in a situation which is better for everyone. "We guaranteed no police service would be re-located until suitable and accessible bases for them were found and we've applied this equally here to Bellingham".

Mrs Christine Bragg, a Trustee of the Local Community Partnership who has helped negotiate and arrange the changes, explained: "Bellingham has a population of 1,200 people and as the nearest towns Hexham and Rothbury are 17 miles away, facilities like this are vitally important not only for the village but surrounding area."

The new meeting place now has new equipment, a multi-use cover for the pool table, new sofas and ipads.

It is clear from the reaction of the young people that they like their new club. The Police & Crime Commissioner and Chief Constable, Sue Sim, visited the club to present the new ipads and to meet members and volunteers.



*Young people from Bellingham Youth Club try the new ipads provided by Northumbria Police*

## Shadow Policing Minister Visits South Tyneside

Vera Baird said “Part of my role is to ensure that those who make decisions in Parliament know what local residents are thinking. I was therefore delighted to welcome Shadow Policing Minister, Jack Dromey MP, to Northumbria when he visited South Shields to attend a breakfast meeting.

With representatives from local authorities, business, schools, churches and the voluntary sector it was recognised that we in Northumbria are doing an excellent job in keeping officers on the beat, despite the financial pressures imposed on us by central government.

Jack then heard about other schemes which the Office of the Police & Crime Commissioner have supported such as the partnership working with Newcastle and Sunderland Football clubs (see next page) and the great work Carillion are doing to help young people.

We also discussed the new police complaints system which I introduced, which has resulted in people getting a much quicker service from us. Jack was also keen to hear about our region wide Violence against Women and Girls Strategy.



**SOUTH TYNESIDE**

### Contacting your Police & Crime Commissioner –



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## Tackling Anti- Social Behaviour Through Football



### Sunderland and Newcastle

#### A NEW scheme has brought Sunderland and Newcastle together ... to help young people.

Northumbria Police and Crime Commissioner Vera Baird QC has invested £20,000 in an initiative aimed at young people, which showed youngsters why anti-social behaviour is wrong. The project has seen young people from both Sunderland AFC and Newcastle United's foundations come together.

Both clubs described the funding as "fantastic" Youngsters from both clubs' 'Kicks' projects worked together during workshops and other activities, aimed at exploring disorder and bad behaviour and the rivalries between the two clubs.

The activities have included visits to both the Stadium of Light and St James' Park and a series of classroom based activities. Those taking part will also be playing in showcase matches and taking part in a series of play day events. **Northumbria Police and Crime Commissioner Vera Baird QC** said: "We know people in the North East are passionate about their football and this starts at an early age. This valuable project gives youngsters the opportunity to meet others who support a different local team. Through workshops and activities they will explore and discuss anti-social behaviour - what it is, the impact it has on them, their families and their communities and the consequences of violent or anti-social behaviour.

"Using football to get this message across means they engage better and learn more". Both clubs were delighted to join up with the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner.



*Talented young players at SAFC and NUFC "Kicks" programme*



## Other News

### ***Northumbria Police & OPCC are Living Wage Employers.***

Northumbria Police and Crime Commissioner Vera Baird has announced her delight that the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner and Northumbria Police are now accredited Living Wage employers.

Vera Baird said: "Although the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner and Northumbria Police's pay structures already meet the Living Wage criteria, there were staff employed by an external contractor who were not receiving the Living Wage, and I didn't believe it was right to call the OPCC and the Force Living Wage employers if those staff were not being paid the Living Wage."

The main beneficiaries of this announcement will be a number of cleaning staff who are now in the process of being transferred from their current employer to Northumbria Police as the force brings its building cleaning service in-house. They were not being paid the Living Wage by their employer, but will receive the Living Wage once their employment transfers to Northumbria Police.

Contracts for non-police related services provided by external contractors, such as waste disposal, are awarded by the Police and Crime Commissioner. In future it will be a requirement through the competitive tendering process for contractors to pay the Living Wage to those staff working on contracts awarded by the PCC.



### ***Supporting Families of victims of murder or manslaughter.***

Vera has led a successful campaign to urge the government to reconsider their stance on funding support for families of victims of murder or manslaughter.

The Government had decided that they were not prepared to fund support for families who lost a loved one before 2010. If you lost a loved one in such tragic circumstances in 2010 you would feel the same emotions, upset and shock as someone in 2011. Vera made clear to Damian Green MP, that the government must continue support for those bereaved before 2010.

The 41 PCCs are likely to have a small number of families in need of this support in their area, so each region is unlikely to gain the experience or develop the expertise to put in place a support scheme that would meet the needs of families when needed.

Vera was pleased to receive a letter from the Minister, informing her that the funding will now continue for another year.

The Commissioner said "The Ministry of Justice has made the right decision to continue supporting families in a way that will offer them comfort and guidance when they most need it".



**NORTH TYNESIDE**

Northumbria Police and Crime Commissioner Vera Baird and Shadow Justice Minister Dan Jarvis saw first hand the excellent work that is being carried out by a North Tyneside charity.

The Commissioner was made aware of the excellent work undertaken at P.R.O.P.S by local MPs Alan Campbell and Mary Glindon.

P.R.O.P.S supports families with relatives who are dependent on alcohol or drugs, the staff and volunteers give advice when it is needed. During the visit, two of the young people spoke about their life stories and experiences.

Vera said, "I was really impressed by the dedication and commitment of the team at P.R.O.P.S, it is clear that they are helping to make a difference. Drugs and alcohol addiction affects family members as well as the addict. It's important that services such as this are there to offer support in what are sometimes very worrying situations.

Vera Baird was recently asked by Lord John Stevens to become involved in the **Northumbria Youth Action (NYA)** programme in North Shields.

NYA delivers training programmes to young people, learners are trained by highly skilled staff using modern equipment. When the Commissioner visited the programme, she saw apprentices working on cars, others working in the office and a computer skills course was also being delivered.

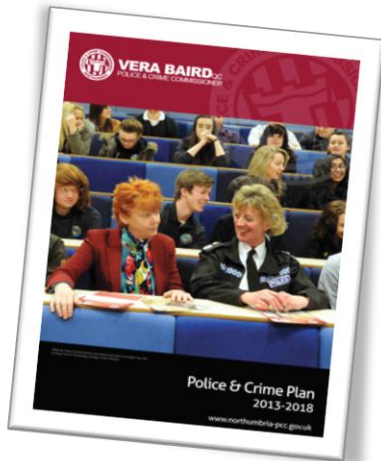
Vera said "NYA is the jewel in the crown of enhancing skills for young people, I'm delighted to have been asked by Lord Stevens to become involved in the programme".



Visiting NYA with Ed Miliband, Norma Redfearn.

<b>Useful Numbers</b>		<b>Local Authorities</b>	
<b>Police 101 or in an emergency 999</b>		South Tyneside:	0191 427 1717
<b>Crimestoppers</b>	0800 555 111	NorthTyneside:	0345 200 1010
<b>Action Fraud</b>	0845 303 0900	Newcastle:	0191 278 78 78
<b>Domestic Violence</b>	0844 8044 999	Sunderland:	0191 520 55 55
<b>REACH (Sexual Assault)</b>	0191 221 9222	Gateshead:	0191 433 30 00
<b>Childline</b>	0800 11 11	Northumberland:	0845 600 6400
<b>Rape Crisis</b>	0800 035 2794		
<b>Angelou Centre</b>	0191 226 0394		

## GATESHEAD



### *Sage Gateshead – a Jewel in Gateshead's Crown.*

The Sage Gateshead are renowned for their work in the local community and the Commissioner was delighted to meet them to hear about their offer to put on workshops to address issues such as anti-social behaviour, bullying and respect.

They visited schools all over the region and held a celebration event at the Old Town Hall in Gateshead to showcase the work that they had been doing. Music and acting were the order of the day and Gateshead Town Hall came alive with the enthusiasm of young people and their passion to improve life.

Vera Baird said “The Police alone cannot tackle all issues, it is about working in partnership to educate people that they can change the direction of their community for the better. The young people had clearly put a lot of hard work and effort in to their performances and I am confident that they will remember what they have learnt for many years to come”



*Vera Baird* – On your side.