



Vera Baird QC



Dear Friend,

I've recently published my Annual report to the Police & Crime Panel, and thought I would take this opportunity to let you know about some of the work I have been doing in the priority areas.

I hope you find the information useful.

It is important that the Police continue working with communities across the force area to implement changes that makes a real difference to the lives of all residents – I'm determined that we continue to deliver this challenge day in day out.

Let me know your thoughts, it's always great to hear from you. My email address is enquires@northumbria-pcc.gov.uk

Best wishes,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'V. Baird'.

VERA BAIRD QC
POLICE & CRIME COMMISSIONER - NORTHUMBRIA



Visiting the fantastic Youth Almighty Project in Sunderland, with local MP, Bridget Phillipson and Cllr Phil Tye.

Follow me!

Check out my new website to keep up to date with my work as Police & Crime Commissioner:

www.northumbria-pcc.gov.uk

Or follow me on Twitter

@northumbriapcc

Anti-Social Behaviour – Taking a tough stance.

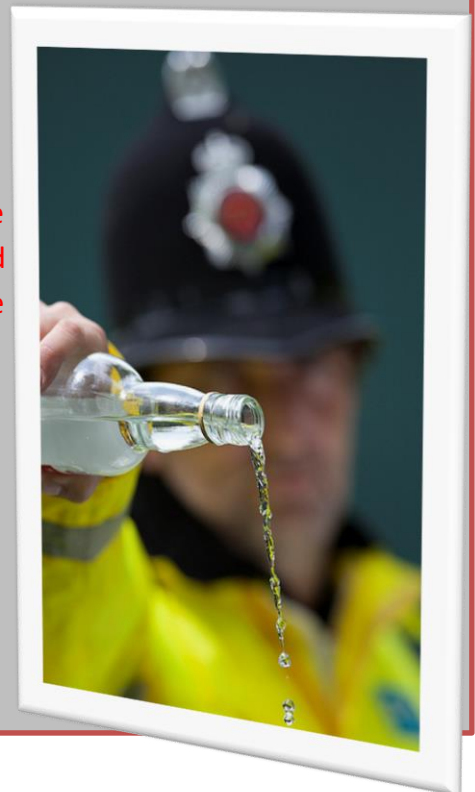
Anti-social behaviour can be committed by anyone and can have a significant impact on the quality of life for victims. I have used some funding to support the bringing together of Newcastle United and Sunderland football clubs to tackle anti-social behaviour following the violent Derby Day conflicts. The 'Tackle it with Kicks: Building Bridges' project has brought young people together, building positive relationships, reducing youth crime, anti-social behaviour and tensions. Over 350 young people have discussed anti-social behaviour – what it is, the impact it has on them, their families and the communities they live in and knowledge of safe choices. We hope that the long-term outcome will reduce the likelihood of young people being involved in crime and anti-social behaviour, especially football related.



Uniting Newcastle and Sunderland

How I will continue to make a difference in 2014-15...

- Ensure all vulnerable victims of ASB are identified and provided with a harm reduction plan for specific needs.
- Develop a Community Remedy for Northumbria providing a menu of local resolutions that victims of ASB could request outside the formal criminal justice route.
- Shape the Community Trigger locally and monitor its up take across Northumbria, responding to community concerns and improving the policing response locally. This will allow some victims of crime to pick the punishment that the offender receives, this process is overseen by a police officer.
- Fund local Community Safety Partnerships.



Working together in Northumbria – Putting Victims First

We want to put victims at the heart of everything we do in policing and criminal justice. I provided funding to three of the Community Safety Partnerships in Northumbria to introduce 'Victims' Champions' as part of their anti-social behaviour teams. During 2013-14 the champions worked with over 200 vulnerable victims. What really makes this a success is that 90% of the victims worked with felt safer after the support, contributing to building community confidence.

How I will continue to make a difference in 2014-15...

- Commission victims' services so the support needs of victims are met in the most effective way and are value for money.
- Hosting focus groups with police officers to understand why victim satisfaction with being kept up to date has fallen.
- Introducing a Quality of Service Commitment for all victims of crime to drive up standards and hold the police to account.
- Working with my Victims' Advisory Group to understand the different kind of specific needs of victims who are vulnerable or have other problems.
- Ensuring Restorative Justice in Northumbria is developed well.

Reducing Crime

We know that Northumbria has one of the lowest crime rates in the country however it is important to continue to seek to reduce crime especially those crimes that impact badly in a personal way.

The Chief Constable and I have been to all six local authority areas to hold a public meeting to hear what local residents – and it is pleasing that so many people are happy with the work our police officers are doing.

These public meetings will be annual events.

However, there is more to be done and in the year ahead I will –

- Ensure all reported crime is tackled, with a particular focus on crimes that have the worst impact on people, such as burglary dwelling and alcohol related violence.
- Encourage victims to report under reported crimes such as domestic abuse, hate crime and sexual offences.
- Promote integrity in crime recording.
- Ensure Northumbria Police identify repeat victims and reduce the likelihood of further crime.
- Work with others to tackle the most prolific offenders of crime.



Attending a public meeting in Berwick upon Tweed.

Community Confidence

If the public are confident it is less likely that they will live in fear of crime or be afraid to report it. Confidence in the police can be influenced by many factors such as the media, as well as first hand experiences of the police.

I keep all residents updated by publishing and delivering a local policing summary for each local authority. There is much more public involvement in scrutiny of police work. I have changed the way Northumbria Police deal with complaints. I meet local people, charities and businesses to ensure the police continues to deliver for all residents of Northumbria.



In 2014-15 I will ...

- Ensure neighbourhood teams are accessible and spend more time in their local neighbourhoods.
- Ensure neighbourhood officers provide a high quality service.
- Work with Northumbria Police on a Volunteers Strategy giving the public more opportunities to be involved with policing.
- Working with key partner agencies to support public confidence.
- Drive up the standards in the police and reconnecting the public to the police through encouraging mutual respect and support for each other's position.

Out and about -



PCCs speaking at a conference fringe event



Some of my Complaints team with former Police Minister Damian Green MP



With Cllr Steve Power of Newcastle City Council.



Addressing a Domestic Abuse in the workplace event in Gateshead Old Town Hall



Discussing easy read Police and Crime Plan with disability forum in North Tyneside



Meeting local Councillors in Killingworth

Violence Against Women and Girls

When I was elected Police & Crime Commissioner back in 2012, I consulted wide and far about what the priorities of Northumbria Police should be – more than 5000 people took part in face to face surveys or on-line surveys. The results showed that tackling Violence Against Women and Girls was something that local residents wanted to see addressed head on, it was Northumbria's most popular priority.

We have established a strategy for employers "Domestic and Sexual Abuse in the Workplace", it ensures anyone affected can seek support and guidance at work. My office has worked hard to promote this policy and we now have over 120 organisations in the private and public sector sign up.

The strategy also encourages organisations to have trained Domestic and Sexual Violence Champions in as many employment, public and private arenas as possible so there is safe access to confidential help and support in a wide range of locations. To date, 165 champions have been trained with a further three training sessions to be delivered before February 2015. The champions will not just be in the workplace, but also in libraries, swimming pools, members clubs and groups of all kinds. They will have an important role in being available for survivors and leading people towards help and guidance, as well as raising awareness in the organisation.

Since January this year our Champions' Networks have been set up across the Northumbria area with the aim of improving community and organisational responses to domestic and sexual violence. These networks are in Newcastle, North Tyneside and Northumberland and are supported by a steering group including the Local Authority Domestic Violence Leads in each area and other relevant partners from both the statutory and voluntary sectors. Gateshead, South Tyneside and Sunderland are currently setting up their networks following the North of Tyne success and hosted their Champion events in October 2014.



Police and Crime Commissioners - Cleveland's Barry Coppinger, Northumbria's Vera Baird and Durham's Ron Hogg at launch of Violence Against Women and Girls Strategy

