



**VERA BAIRD**<sup>QC</sup>  
POLICE & CRIME COMMISSIONER

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[www.northumbria-pcc.gov.uk](http://www.northumbria-pcc.gov.uk)



**Police & Crime Plan**  
**2013-2018**

[www.northumbria-pcc.gov.uk](http://www.northumbria-pcc.gov.uk)



# Foreword and Vision

My name is Vera Baird. I am a lawyer and former Minister and last November I was elected to be the Police and Crime Commissioner for Northumbria. My job is to make sure that all the people of Northumbria have the best police service possible and that citizens feel safe both at home and on our streets. Northumbria is vast: from Berwick to Sunderland and across to Haltwhistle. We are fortunate that Northumbria Police is already one of the best police services in the country, with low crime, high detection rates and a very professional but friendly approach to its role.

Crime has fallen by over 10% over the last year and in surveys you are telling us that 63% of you feel confident about how crime and anti-social behaviour are tackled. That is a good platform and we will work to make sure that even more of Northumbria's people start to feel safe and confident too.

How we intend to do that, with the police and the Community Safety Partnerships is contained in this Police and Crime Plan. I have written this Plan with your help. Many of you completed my online survey, talked to me at metro stations or in the supermarkets where we asked you about crime and safety face to face. Some of you have been consulted through Northumbria Police and partners continuous telephone Safer Communities Safety Survey.

I have listened with great care to what you have told me are your crime and disorder priorities:

- Putting Victims First
- Dealing with Anti-Social Behaviour
- Domestic and Sexual Abuse
- Reducing Crime
- Community Confidence

Although the Police and Crime Plan is a five year strategy we will monitor how the police and others deliver it and if we need to make changes we will do so. Let us see how we can work on these priorities together.



Vera Baird QC, Police and Crime Commissioner



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### Glossary

Find out more about some of the terms used in this document



### Want to know more?

If you want to know more about the work I will do to ensure delivery of this plan please visit my website [www.northumbria-pcc.gov.uk](http://www.northumbria-pcc.gov.uk)



# 1. What does the Police and Crime Commissioner do?

Before we move on I need to tell you what a Police and Crime Commissioner does:

A Police and Crime Commissioner's job is to bring the police and the people together by finding out what people want from the police and making sure the Chief Constable delivers it. We are lucky that our police force is recognised for high performance and our Chief Constable is very ready to be held to account for the work they do. I am responsible for the efficiency and effectiveness of Northumbria Police and accordingly I hold the budget on your behalf.

I am proud to have as my Deputy, Mark Dennett. He is a former senior police officer who shares my passion to deliver excellent policing and community safety services to you.

Crime prevention is the way forward and this cannot be achieved without close working with your local councils, Community Safety and Criminal Justice Partnerships. Therefore as Commissioner I am involved in a lot of partnership working with the 6 councils in Northumbria and with many other groups and organisations.

I have a duty to support national requirements such as sending officers to the riots in 2011 and the Olympics; this includes supporting national priorities such as tackling child exploitation and organised crime as outlined in the Strategic Policing Requirement. That is as well as carrying out the local job.

Another thing the Commissioner must do is tell local people about the policing of their area, how well their local force is performing, how to get in touch and how to influence our local priorities. You can find out more information about this at [www.northumbria-pcc.gov.uk](http://www.northumbria-pcc.gov.uk).

You can find out more information about the role of the Commissioner by visiting [www.homeoffice.gov.uk/police/police-crime-commissioners](http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/police/police-crime-commissioners)

PCP

## What is the Police and Crime Plan?

The Commissioner has to write a five year Police and Crime Plan by the end of March 2013.

The police will follow this Plan and I will hold them to account through it. It will be the road map to the best policing in our area.

Many of you have helped me to get priorities right by responding to our survey or in other ways letting me know what you think Northumbria Police do well and where we need to get them to improve.

We won't get everything right at once but I will be keeping in touch with you to make sure that things are getting better and to make changes to the Plan if we need to do.

## The Police and Crime Panel

Two councillors from each of our six local authorities and two independent members make up the Police and Crime Panel whose role is to scrutinise how I do my job but in a way which supports me to work effectively. The Panel meets bi-monthly in public.

You can find out more information about the role of the Police and Crime Panel by visiting [www.homeoffice.gov.uk/police/police-crime-commissioners/partners/police-and-crime-panels](http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/police/police-crime-commissioners/partners/police-and-crime-panels)

If you would like to read about the work of the Northumbria Police and Crime Panel please visit my website for further information [www.northumbria-pcc.gov.uk](http://www.northumbria-pcc.gov.uk) or contact Mike Aynsley: [michaelaynsley@gateshead.gov.uk](mailto:michaelaynsley@gateshead.gov.uk)



## 2. Northumbria at a Glance

### Our wonderful territory!

Northumbria stretches for more than 2,000 square miles, from the Scottish border to County Durham; from the Pennines to the North East coast. It is made up of the boroughs of North and South Tyneside, Sunderland, Newcastle, Gateshead and the County of Northumberland. Northumberland's rural area will need special focus since it has different needs from the urban areas.

There are 663,061 households in Northumbria, 33% of the population is aged 20-44 year old whilst 17% is aged over 65.

29% of families (181,208) have someone with a long term health problem or disability.

Almost 95% of the population is white while 5% (77,106) are from minority ethnic groups, mainly Asian or Asian British (3%).

69% of Northumbria people identified with a recognised religion. 66% said that they were Christian, 2% are Muslim and many other religions were also followed in smaller numbers.

Northumbria has three large shopping centres - the MetroCentre, Eldon Square and The Bridges and has four universities - Northumbria, Newcastle, Sunderland and the Open University in the North.

Police & Crime Plan

Police & Crime Plan

Police & Crime Plan



Northumbria Police is the 6th largest force in the country with six Area Commands, 13 Specialist Departments, 3,760 police officers and 1,400 police staff. There are 297 Special Constables (we need more) and 397 Police Community Support Officers.

In a typical day Northumbria Police:

- Receives 3,395 phone calls;
- Handles 628 "999" calls;
- Deals with 1,539 incidents;
- Investigates 207 crimes;
- Makes 187 arrests;
- Travels 44,000 miles;
- Records 154 sets of fingerprints; and
- Takes 39 DNA samples.

The Office of Police and Crime Commissioner has a relatively small number of staff working with me in my role of making Northumbria Police accountable to you and to help me to work with my statutory and other partners.

Berwick upon Tweed

Northumberland

Alnwick

Blyth

North Tyneside

Newcastle

South Tyneside

Gateshead

Sunderland

Hexham





### 3. Shaping the Plan

A lot of work and consultation has been undertaken with local authorities, professionals and all parts of the community to make sure that this Plan meets the policing needs of people in Northumbria:

**Northumbria Police** - Complete an annual assessment of crime, linked to changes taking place locally and nationally. From this assessment they can forecast the likely levels of crime and disorder the coming year may bring. ✓

**Safer Communities Survey** - Northumbria Police in partnership with the six local councils conduct a continuous telephone survey with the public in Northumbria, speaking to over 15,000 of you each year. This gives a significant indication of your satisfaction with the police and councils response to community safety and what your policing priorities are. ✓

**Community Safety Partnerships** - The Probation Trust, Fire and Rescue Service, local authorities and the Clinical Commissioning Group, together with the Police are the 'Responsible Authorities' that make up Community Safety Partnerships. The partnerships have shared their local priorities with me and I have used those to help shape my Plan. ✓

**Public Consultation Survey** - During January we did a survey seeking your views on what my crime and policing priorities should be. Over 3,500 people completed the survey on-line and I met many more people when I was out and about on the streets of Northumbria. ✓

I also use Twitter and Facebook to connect with you and the feedback and comments I receive helps shape my thinking.

**Advisory Groups** - I have set up Advisory Groups drawn from the communities which are protected by the Equality Act 2010. They consist of Age, Gender, Religion and Belief, Disability, Black Minority Ethnic (BME) and Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender (LGBT). I have also established a Victims Group. All of the groups have met with me at least once and will do so regularly. ✓

Here are some of the issues and themes from that consultation

#### Northumbria Police

"Crime and anti-social behaviour are going down but alcohol related crime and disorder remain a priority."

#### Community Safety Partnerships

"Anti-social behaviour, alcohol and drugs and reducing re-offending are local priorities."

#### Advisory Groups

**Age:** Elderly "have concerns about night-time travelling on the Metro." Youth are "concerned about the poor perception of young people even though they are the most likely to be victims of crime".

**LGBT:** "We find poor communication by Northumbria Police and can find it hard to trust them".

**Gender:** "We are still concerned about levels of violence against women".

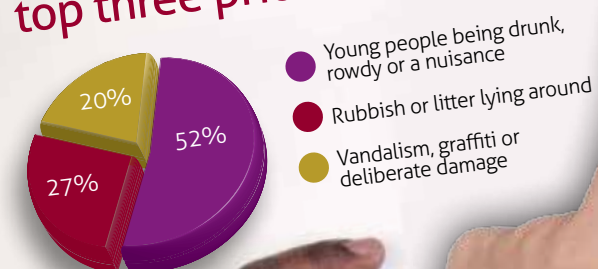
**BME:** "We are very keen to work more closely with the police".

**Victims:** "First response by police can lack sensitivity and the whole court experience can be poor".

**Religion and Belief:** "It would be good if officers were trained in basic cultural issues around non-Christian faith groups".

**Disability:** "Police don't always identify that people have problems such as autism, learning difficulties or mental illness" The wider disabled community would like to stay in touch better with local officers.

#### Safer Communities Survey, top three priorities



#### Public Consultation Survey, top five priorities





## 4. Police and Crime Objectives

My police and crime objectives have been developed to meet what the communities in Northumbria say they need. Northumbria Police has delivered broad and wide-ranging services to an excellent level for many years, and this will continue as before. My particular focus will be in the areas you have told me are your priorities.



### Putting Victims First

#### Why is this important?

A high percentage of victims of crime are satisfied with the service they receive from Northumbria Police and agree that they are taken seriously. Concerns are often around being sympathetic, managing expectation and keeping people updated on the progress of their case. Being a victim of crime can undermine a person's confidence, make people unhappy and in some cases make them frightened. It can therefore colour a person's whole outlook on life.

The importance of the 'first responder' was highlighted by victims groups and how this contact could be improved. It is also the case that whilst victims of crime are satisfied with the service received, victims of anti-social behaviour are less so.

#### How we'll make a difference, our commitment to you:

- Ensure the most vulnerable victims of crime and anti-social behaviour are identified and they are provided with personal support and firm action.

- Involve victims and their views in training and shaping the response of police and community safety partners.
- Ensure victims of crime and anti-social behaviour are kept fully informed on the progress of their investigation.
- Develop a specific tailored approach to victims of personal crimes like burglary, hate crime and anti-social behaviour, including restorative justice.
- Work with the Local Criminal Justice Board to improve how victims and witnesses experience court.

#### What will be achieved?

- Improved victim satisfaction.
- Empowerment of victims and victims groups in shaping training and responses.
- The most vulnerable are recognised and receive an enhanced service.
- Regular feedback and advice to the Commissioner by victims.
- Improved training for police officers and staff.



### Want to know more?

- View the Chief Constable's delivery plan on page 21
- Contact Victim Support North East by phoning 0845 277 0977
- Visit my website to find out about the work of my Advisory Groups and their comment on the victims experience [www.northumbria-pcc.gov.uk](http://www.northumbria-pcc.gov.uk)
- View the Northumbria Police Victim Satisfaction Survey and find out about the questions victims are asked about their experience [www.northumbria.police.uk](http://www.northumbria.police.uk)



### Dealing with Anti-social Behaviour

#### Why is this important?

Anti-social behaviour (ASB) affects anyone and everyone. Things like damage and graffiti or drunken youths in our neighbourhoods seem as if they are only a nuisance at first but if they are not stopped they can have long lasting poor effects on people's quality of life. We have listened to you and understand that this is a very important issue that must be addressed.

Recorded anti-social behaviour has fallen year on year, however; it is still your main priority. It amounts to 20% of all calls to the police and 18% of those incidents are alcohol related. Police and Community Safety Partners are committed to dealing with ASB.

#### How we'll make a difference, our commitment to you:

- Every victim of anti-social behaviour will be contacted personally and their concerns investigated.
- Record every repeat incident of anti-social behaviour and develop a case history so attending officers are fully informed.
- Provide victims of anti-social behaviour who feel targeted and all vulnerable victims with tailor-made support and real understanding.
- Neighbourhood Policing Teams and Community Safety Partnerships will engage with the victim in stopping the problem.

- The Commissioner intends the Chief Constable to use all the powers available to the police to tackle anti-social behaviour and will encourage other local partners to do the same. Where alcohol is an issue we will encourage a positive approach to tackling the problem.

#### What will be achieved?

- Fewer victims of ASB - though we will encourage reporting.
- Improved satisfaction for victims of ASB.
- Those most vulnerable will receive service that better meets their needs.
- Action will be taken against offenders.



### Want to know more?

- View the Chief Constable's delivery plan on page 22
- You can find a link to your local Community Safety Partnership by visiting my website [www.northumbria-pcc.gov.uk](http://www.northumbria-pcc.gov.uk)



## Domestic and Sexual Abuse

### Why is this important?

We have listened to your views that this is a very important issue that must be tackled. There are around 28,000 reports of domestic violence in Northumbria each year, this equates to an average of 2,270 incidents per month and 2,000 victims every month. These are shockingly high figures and it is clear that more must be done to address and prevent this violence. Rape and other serious sexual assaults, often committed by partners or people known to their victims are also high.

### How we'll make a difference, our commitment to you:

- As Northumbria's Commissioner, I will take an active personal lead on this issue.
- Within my first year of office I will develop an integrated strategy on all aspects of violence against women and girls and will also ensure that the minority of victims who are men suffering from these crimes are equally supported.
- Police will do all they can to make reporting of domestic and sexual violence as straightforward as possible. All frontline and specialist officers will have training, led by survivors.
- Police will listen to victims and take action to support them and make them safe even when no crime has been committed or no prosecution is wanted. This will include offering to connect them with a local specialist support group.

- An experienced Independent Domestic/Sexual Violence Advisor will be offered as a supporter and advocate to each high risk complainant.
- All incidents of domestic and sexual abuse and violence will be investigated. Police systems will ensure that repeat victims and perpetrators are identified and response officers are fully informed of the history.
- We will initiate work with the public and other authorities to make early intervention the norm, and to change attitudes and behaviours.
- We will pilot preventative projects to promote active police monitoring of perpetrators.

### What will be achieved?

- A reduction in sexual and domestic abuse.
- An overall better service for victims and those affected by domestic and sexual abuse.
- More confidence in the reporting of domestic and sexual abuse.
- Better trained 'first responders' and specialist police.
- Improved victim experience through the criminal justice process.



### Want to know more?

- View the Chief Constable's delivery plan here on page 23
- Contact the national Domestic Violence helpline by phoning 0808 2000 247
- For independent and confidential advice call Northumbria Domestic Abuse helpline on 0800 066 5555

## Reducing Crime

### Why is this important?

Northumbria has one of the lowest crime rates in the country; crime continues to fall year on year. Last year saw over a 10% reduction (6,700 less crimes). The risk of being a victim of crime in Northumbria is very low. However it is important to continue to seek to reduce crime and some types of crime cause particular concern. Violent crime, house burglary and hate crime have all been raised as crimes which can impact badly, in a personal way, on the victim. Alcohol related crime is a specific issue as alcohol continues to feature in a high percentage of crimes. In the widespread communities of Northumberland there are specifically rural offences which can have a serious impact upon livelihoods and the visibility of policing remains an issue.

### How we'll make a difference, our commitment to you:

- Promote crime prevention to reduce crime and its impact and cost.
- Work with Community Safety Partnerships to cut crime and re-offending and therefore cut the number of victims of crime.
- Bring Community Safety Partnerships closer together across borders to optimise reducing and preventing crime.

- Enhance the investigation of serious violence, burglary, hate crime and rural crime to solve it and deter offenders.
- Boost victim support for these kinds of crime so that victims will feel able to pursue their case to court and obtain satisfaction and justice.
- Target alcohol related crime and disorder because of its prevalence and its impact upon communities.

### What will be achieved?

- Fewer crimes and victims of crime.
- Improved police and partnership response to specific crimes.
- Specific intervention and response to alcohol related crime and disorder.



### Want to know more?

- View the Chief Constable's delivery plan here on page 24
- If you want to find out how you can help keep crime down in your area please visit: [www.northumbria.police.uk/advice\\_and\\_information](http://www.northumbria.police.uk/advice_and_information)





## Community Confidence

### Why is this important?

If the public is not confident in the policing and community safety services they receive, they may suffer unnecessary fear of crime. By speaking to people in communities and promoting the good work being done on their behalf, police and others can provide information and reassurance. This simple engagement can help build relationships, increase communication between police and public and give a positive message to the law abiding majority. We all want to feel safe and supported in our homes and communities.

### How we'll make a difference, our commitment to you:

- The police will engage with communities and build relationships.
- They will be highly visible in communities; contact with the police will be a positive experience for the public.
- The police will address your local road safety concerns.
- We will monitor and improve how complaints against the police are handled, with the availability of independent mediation.
- We will drive the implementation of a Neighbourhood Management Model between police and community partners to boost joint working on anti-social behaviour and reducing re-offending.

- The police will focus relentlessly on those involved in organised crime causing the most harm in our communities, in particular those involved in the supply of drugs.

### What will be achieved?

- A better informed confident community.
- A greater understanding of what the police and Community Safety Partners do about community safety problems.
- Improved satisfaction with the community safety services received.
- Awareness that the Commissioner is always available to hear views and suggestions and will scrutinise fearlessly on the public's behalf.



## Want to know more?

- View the Chief Constable's delivery plan on page 25
- You can find a link to your local Community Safety Partnership by visiting my website [www.northumbria-pcc.gov.uk](http://www.northumbria-pcc.gov.uk)

## 5. Delivering the Plan 'together we can'

I will provide clear, strong leadership to achieve the police and crime objectives outlined in this plan and will work closely with the Chief Constable, the local authorities, the community and voluntary sector and other organisations and partners to ensure we achieve our vision for policing in Northumbria.

Delivering the right services, to the right people at the right time is very important to us. We believe in equality and we know that in our diverse world this means understanding people's different needs and avoiding a one size fits all approach to what we do. We will ask the public themselves to be involved in enhancing the design and delivery of these services, from their own experience where it is right to do so.

### Working with others

One of the most important ways the plan will be delivered is through the work of the Chief Constable and Northumbria Police. This is the Chief Constables commitment to you: **"This plan will allow me to continue to deliver the very best of policing services to you. I fully support the priorities within it."**

We will work with the Community Safety Partnerships and the Local Criminal Justice Board to deliver first class services.

There will be issues on which we can work with other Police and Crime Commissioners in the region and with national crime fighting agencies to help us deliver our police and crime objectives.

### Community Safety

All Home Office grants to Community Safety Partnerships have ceased, and I have a new fund of £2.789m for community safety projects across Northumbria.

From this, for 2013-14 I will fund each of the six Northumbria Youth Offending Teams, who contribute strongly to reducing youth crime, £30,000 each; allocate approximately 80% of last years funding to each of the six Northumbria Community Safety Partnerships, on condition that they will support external monitoring and scrutiny of their work and agree and assist the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner to increase cross-boundary working this year. The remaining £434,620 will fund further cross-Northumbria community safety work linked to my priorities from the voluntary and community sector or the Community Safety Partnerships during the year.





## 6. Monitoring the Plan 'making sure it gets done'

I will monitor and review the work of the Chief Constable on your behalf and will ensure that you receive the service from the police that you have been promised in this plan.

To make sure this plan is delivered I will look at the work of Northumbria Police in a number of ways by:

- Going out and about, talking to local communities about their experiences.
- Discussing with PCC Advisory Groups - covering the characteristics of age, gender, disability, faith, race and Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender (LGBT) and victims.
- Holding two-weekly meetings and quarterly performance meetings with the Chief Constable.
- Attending monthly Northumbria Police Strategic Management Board.
- Working with the Northumbria Police and Crime Panel.
- Looking closely at inspection results from Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary, the Independent Police Complaints Commission and findings from external audits and media coverage.
- Considering what the public are telling us through surveys such as the Safer Communities Survey and User Satisfaction Survey.



### Want to know more?

If you want to know more about the work I will do to ensure delivery of this plan please visit my website [www.northumbria-pcc.gov.uk](http://www.northumbria-pcc.gov.uk)

## 7. Staying in Touch

I want to let you know about our progress to deliver this plan, and I want you to tell me how you think we are doing.

I have set up the following ways to help us do this:

- **Email address:**  
[enquiries@northumbria-pcc.gov.uk](mailto:enquiries@northumbria-pcc.gov.uk)
- **Website:**  
[www.northumbria-pcc.gov.uk](http://www.northumbria-pcc.gov.uk)
- **Twitter account:**  
[www.twitter.com/northumbriapcc](http://www.twitter.com/northumbriapcc)
- **Facebook page:**  
[www.facebook.com/Vera.Baird.QC](http://www.facebook.com/Vera.Baird.QC)

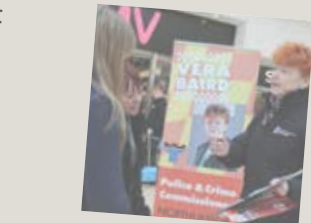
Using these interactive ways, I will keep you up to date with the work I am doing to ensure the very best policing services in Northumbria. I will keep you up to date with key decisions I have made and I will ask you to tell me what you think about certain policing and crime issues.

I will also get out and about and talk to local communities and organisations about our progress to deliver this plan and will talk about how we can best work together to make our communities safer and feel safer.

If you would prefer to write to me, you can write to: Vera Baird QC, Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner, Victory House, Balliol Business Park, Benton Lane, Newcastle upon Tyne, Tyne and Wear NE12 8EW.



**VERA BAIRD** QC  
POLICE & CRIME COMMISSIONER





## 8. Resourcing the Plan 'paying for it'

To read my Medium Term Financial Strategy and budget for 2013-14 visit: [www.northumbria-pcc.gov.uk](http://www.northumbria-pcc.gov.uk)

I will do my best to ensure there are enough resources available to enable all of the commitments in the plan to be delivered to you and your communities.

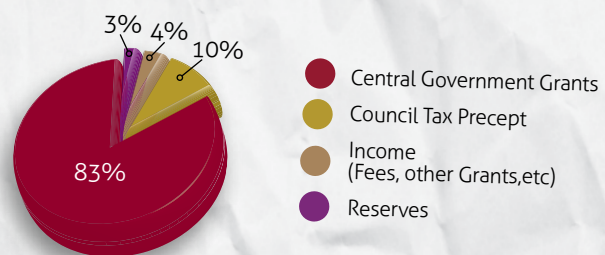
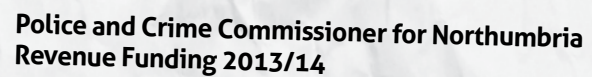
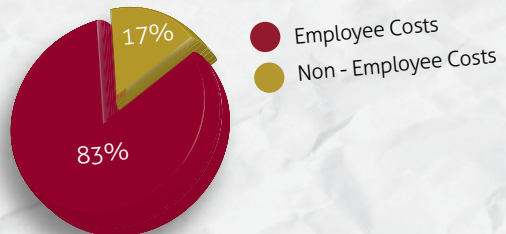
The Plan will be delivered in the most efficient manner possible providing excellent value for money for all the communities of Northumbria.

Northumbria Police receive diverse funding but the two main sources are central Government and the part of Council Tax which is allocated to the police called the 'police precept'.

The precept is set locally and Commissioner's are now responsible for setting the annual budget for their police force area. As I did this year I will always consult you on where to set the precept level, making clear my reasons for the amount of money I need to ask you to pay and responding to what you say. I will ensure that the consultation is open and fair and everyone will have an opportunity to express their views. This year 82% of those who responded agreed that they would pay up to 10 pence more per week for policing and next year we will try hard to increase the number of people who express a view. I increased the precept this year by an average of only six pence per week.

I am committed to making sure your money is spent in the most effective way possible and there are clear processes in place to enable you to monitor this.

The Medium Term Financial Strategy (MTFS) is key to ensuring that all revenue resources are directed towards delivery of the Plan, it describes the financial direction of my office and outlines the financial pressures over a three year period.



Where funding comes from and how it is spent  
1 April 2013 - 31 March 2014

<b>Funding</b>	<b>£'000</b>
Central Government Grants	247,187
Council Tax Precept	30,920
Income (Fees, Other Grants, etc)	13,210
Reserves	9,274

TOTAL FUNDING	300,591
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	£'000
<b>Expenditure</b>	
Employees	205,389
Pensions	44,045
Premises	11,546
Supplies and Services	7,900
Transport	5,494
Establishment Costs	5,062
Agency Services*	4,458
Surgeons and Pathologists Fees	2,790
Community Safety	2,887
Other Operating Expenditure**	3,657
Capital Charges	7,363

TOTAL EXPENDITURE	300,591
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\* forensic sciences, finger printing, radio communications and the police national computer.

\*\* crime management/witness expenses, interpreters fees, public consultation, contributions to partnership work, legal fees, prisoners expenses, vehicle recovery, audit and bank fees.

# The Chief Constable's Delivery Plan



# Putting Victims First

We have one of the highest levels of victim satisfaction of all forces in England and Wales. However, there is always room for improvement in how we deal with victims and we recognise the need to ensure our communities are given a service that meets their individual needs.

## 1. We will further enhance the way we deploy officers, providing the most appropriate response to meet individual needs.

We will measure our success by:

- Maintaining high satisfaction levels with the service we provide to victims, in particular with ease of contact and attendance at incidents.

## 2. We will participate in the Victims' Hub, 'Victims First Northumbria' by:

- Identifying and assessing the specific needs of victims.
- Working closely with partners to ensure a proportionate response, including safeguarding, investigation and coordinating the information flow to victims, in line with our joint obligations under the Victims' Code.
- In partnership, coordinate an integrated victim support service.

We will measure our success by:

- Ensuring a satisfactory needs assessment is completed for 90% of victims.

## 3. We will ensure that crimes are recorded properly and that the matter is dealt with, where appropriate, in line with victims' wishes.

We will measure our success by:

- Achieving high crime recording standards and appropriate decision making of crime outcomes through regular audits.

# Dealing with Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB)

We understand that ASB can have a significant impact on those living in our communities and we therefore remain committed to tackling and preventing ASB. With our partners, we will work to address the underlying causes of ASB, deal appropriately with those responsible and provide support to victims and witnesses.

## 1. We will complete an assessment to determine the most appropriate response to meet the individual needs of victims of ASB.

We will measure our success by:

- Maintaining high levels of satisfaction with the service we provide to victims of ASB, in particular with attendance at incidents.

## 2. We will prevent anti-social behaviour, by working with partners to resolve longer term local issues.

We will measure our success by:

- Re-contacting victims to establish whether the problem has been resolved.

## 3. We will identify vulnerable victims and assess their specific needs, ensuring an appropriate response.

## 4. We will ensure that new ASB powers are embedded and understood and are being used fairly and proportionately.



# Domestic and Sexual Abuse

Domestic and sexual violence and abuse, human trafficking, forced marriage, 'honour' crimes and female genital mutilation have a devastating impact on the lives of both the victim and their families. We will support the delivery of the Police and Crime Commissioners Violence Against Women and Girls Strategy, to improve support and the response to incidents and tackle the culture which makes violence against women and girls acceptable.

We will continue to work with partners and local communities to protect those at risk, to proactively tackle sexual exploitation and abuse.

**1. We will deliver the policing aspects of Violence against Women and Girls Strategy (rape, sexual violence and domestic abuse), and in particular:**

- Encourage an increase in reporting.
- Reduce the attrition from report to conviction.
- Increase the conviction rate.

We will measure our success by:

- Reducing the attrition rate from report to conviction.
- Increasing the conviction rate for domestic abuse to 75% of cases charged.

**2. We will build on the learning from Operation Sanctuary, work with partners to identify individuals at risk of sexual exploitation and abuse, and develop joint safeguarding protocols for those identified.**

We will measure our success by:

- Disrupting and targeting offenders ensuring investigative opportunities are maximised.

**3. We will work with partners managing perpetrators through the criminal justice process, further develop domestic abuse perpetrator programmes, and refer victims to support agencies, as part of the Respect Programme.**

We will measure our success by:

- Monitoring referrals into domestic abuse perpetrator programmes.
- Monitoring the number of victims referred to support agencies.

**4. We will provide a cultural education programme to officers to improve standards and services provided to victims.**

We will measure our success by:

- Developing and piloting a survey for domestic abuse victims to assess quality of service.

# Preventing Crime

By preventing crime and effectively dealing with incidents, we will continue to make the Northumbria Police area one of the safest places to live, work and visit; with high levels of public satisfaction and confidence in policing.

**1. We will prevent crime, through the implementation of a Preventing Crime Strategy, responding to crime trends and actively deploying and tasking resources.**

**2. We will encourage the increased reporting of under reported crimes, such as Female Genital Mutilation, Child Sexual Exploitation, Human Trafficking and Hate Crime.**

**3. We will closely monitor crime trends and patterns and prioritise resources to address those crimes that cause the greatest harm and concern to communities.**

We will measure our success by:

- Reducing the number of burglary dwelling offences.

**4. We will identify repeat victims and reduce the likelihood of further victimisation, focusing on those crimes that have a significant impact on the victim.**

We will measure our success by:

- Reducing the rate of repeat victimisation for:
  - Rape, sexual violence and domestic abuse
  - Burglary dwelling
  - Anti-social behaviour
  - Hate crime
  - Vulnerable individuals

**5. We will tackle offenders, with partners, particularly those who are most prolific and cause the greatest harm to our communities.**

**6. We will work with partners to improve criminal justice related systems to reduce the likelihood of reoffending.**



# Community Confidence

Through neighbourhood policing, we will encourage communities to tell us what concerns them so we can tackle those issues and build public trust and confidence. We will ensure officers and staff provide the service local people tell us they need and want, at locations based in communities that are easily accessible to all.

## 1. We will ensure neighbourhood teams are accessible and based at convenient locations, supported by new technology to increase visibility.

We will measure our success by:

- Increasing the percentage of time neighbourhood officers spend outside a police station in their neighbourhood.

## 2. We will understand and respond to the issues affecting local communities.

## 3. We will reassure communities and address community tensions.

## 4. We will promote opportunities for the public to be involved in local policing through volunteering.

## 5. We will work with partners to improve criminal justice related processes, ensuring a satisfactory outcome for victims of crime and increasing confidence in the criminal justice system.

We will measure our success by:

- Reducing the length of time taken through the criminal justice process, reducing the re-bail rate and the length of time on bail.
- Considering restorative justice for those victims where it is suitable.
- Increasing the conviction rate at Magistrate's Court to 85%.
- Increasing the percentage of guilty pleas at first hearing to 70%.
- Ensuring appropriate decision making of out of court disposals through regular audits, and monitoring the voluntary attenders' scheme.

## 6. We will build on the success of the triage system, by introducing a complaints charter to improve the complaints process, reduce the number of appeals and increase satisfaction with how the complaint has been managed:

- **Work to reduce the number of allegations that relate to incivility, impoliteness or intolerance.**
- **Encourage the reporting of complaints, making it as easy as possible to report a complaint.**
- **Those complainants whose complaint cannot be resolved informally by the triage process will be contacted within 24 hours once a complaint is registered.**
- **Reduce the number of days to finalise a complaint.**
- **Increase the satisfaction of complainants in how their complaint has been managed.**
- **Learn from the lessons from complaints dealt with.**

We will measure our success by:

- Ensuring that in 100% of cases, the Investigating Officer makes contact with the complainant within 24 hours of the registration of a complaint.
- Reducing the number of days to finalise a complaint, with 50% finalised within 50 days (based on complaints made from 1st April 2015 and exclude those sub judice).
- Establishing a baseline of satisfaction of complainants in order to increase the percentage that are satisfied with the way their complaint has been managed.
- Reducing the number of allegations that relate to incivility, impoliteness or intolerance.
- Reducing the percentage of appeals made, and the percentage of those upheld.



# Glossary

Find out more about some of the terms used in this document.

**Community Safety Partnerships**

By law local organisations and agencies must come together to improve community safety and reduce crime and disorder. As a minimum, partnerships should include the local authority, local health service, Probation, Fire and Rescue and the Police; these organisations are called 'responsible authorities'.

**Criminal Justice System**

The system of law enforcement that is involved in apprehending, prosecuting, defending, sentencing, and imprisoning those suspected of committing a crime.

**First Responders**

The first police officer or Community Support Officer who attends the victims address and including police telephone call takers.

**Hate Crime**

A hate crime is any criminal offence that is motivated by hostility or prejudice based upon the victim's personal characteristics such as disability, race, age, gender, religion or belief, sexual orientation or transgender identity.

**Independent Domestic Violence Advisors (IDVAs)**

IDVAs are trained specialists that help keep victims and their families safe from harm from violent partners or family.

**Local Criminal Justice Board (LCJB)**

Criminal justice agencies such as the police, courts, prison service and Probation Trust form the LCJB working together to deliver the different stages of the criminal justice process.

**Rural Crime**

Crime committed in rural communities that causes a significant impact such as theft of livestock, domestic, farm machinery and any other crime which impact upon the livelihood of an individual or community.

**Statutory Responsibilities**

The things the Police and Crime Commissioner is required to do by law.

**Strategic Policing Requirement**

A national policing demand placed on all Police and Crime Commissioners.