



NORTHUMBRIA POLICE AND CRIME COMMISSIONER NEWSLETTER

Dear Friend,

Northumbria Police continues to go from strength to strength. The force is seen as a leader –

- It has the highest victim satisfaction level in the country – 92%
- Northumbria is graded 'outstanding' in delivering Anti-Social Behaviour initiatives
- Northumbria is only one of 6 forces dealing with domestic abuse well
- Graded 'Good' for dealing with vulnerability
- Police & domestic abuse outreach workers respond together to domestic abuse calls, getting support to victims at first opportunity.
- Just opened one of the first remote evidence centres in the country so vulnerable witnesses can give evidence feeling secure.

As your Police & Crime Commissioner, I will continue to work with the Chief Constable to ensure we continue to deliver for cities, towns and villages across Northumbria force area. It's always great to hear from local residents, my email is enquires@northumbria-pcc.gov.uk

Best wishes,

Vera

Victims' Service Funding

Towards the end of January, I publically urged the government to inform Police & Crime Commissioners how much funding we are to receive to provide vital victims services to those who need them. In 2015/2016, the government grant to PCCs for these services was £63 million. Any delay in funding would have meant that many organisations that provide support would also face uncertainty and may have to start redundancy processes for their staff, risking a lack of specialist help and support for vulnerable people.

On the day that I welcomed Victims Commissioner Baroness Helen Newlove to our region, the government announced the figures. Thanks to consistent lobbying from PCCs and those who provide services our grant here in Northumbria was only slightly reduced. The biggest disappointment was that we can't forward plan because the government has only given 12 months funding and would not announce a three year funding commitment.

However, I am now able to commission services that help victims of crime to cope and recover until March 2017. Looking at the statistics from Victims First Northumbria, I have seen the difference made to victims of crime. We don't just help for the first few days after the crime, we are with them every step of the way, until they have fully recovered. I was pleased that Helen was able to meet some of the team from Victims First Northumbria.



**Vera Baird with
Baroness Newlove**





With North Tyneside Mayor, Norma Redfearn, opening a time capsule in Wallsend which was buried by police 25 years ago.



Working with colleagues in the fire service to provide shared premises to serve our communities.



Joining forces with the High Sheriff of Northumberland to support community groups.

**Vera Baird
Working for Northumbria**

2nd Anniversary - VAWG

The second anniversary of the Regional Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG) strategy was held on December 4th.

The strategy sets out a number of actions which agencies across the region are carrying out to tackle a range of issues around violence and abuse affecting women and girls. We also fully appreciate that some men face this abuse and have made help available to them also.

When we launched the strategy our goal was to make help more available so that whenever or wherever a victim or survivor feels able to seek help, there is someone in the immediate surroundings, fully trained to handle the disclosure and assist her route to safety. We are now more than two years on and we are well and truly on the track and making a difference. Our initiatives such as the workplace policy, rape scrutiny panels and multi-agency safe-guarding hub, we're step by step realising the priorities we set out to achieve.

Leading The Way

Northumbria Police has been judged as one of the top performing forces in England and Wales when it comes to supporting vulnerable people, according to the HMIC in their latest effectiveness inspection programme.

Out of the 43 forces in England and Wales only 12 were judged as being 'good'.

The report highlights that the Northumbria has made protecting vulnerable people from harm a high priority for officers and staff and that both the Police and Crime Commissioner and the Chief Constable have a strong commitment to improving the services they provide.

It also mentioned how the force is good at identifying those who are vulnerable and assessing the risk that they face and what is needed to keep them safe.

It praises the force's clear and consistently applied processes in place to identify repeat and vulnerable victims.

We are determined to keep leading the way in protecting vulnerable people.