



**NORTHUMBRIA
POLICE & CRIME
COMMISSIONER**



KIM MCGUINNESS

NEWSLETTER

Welcome to my October newsletter.

My first 100 days as Commissioner have been my chance to put your priorities into action, and I'm delighted to update you on what has been a busy time.

From day one, I set out to represent you, to support our communities and to tackle problems that can ultimately lead to crime, and in this short time I've made some important steps to deliver on these. I've established a Violence Reduction Unit to make sure your police force has the resources to not just target violent criminals but, crucially, to stop them and the people they associate with falling back into to a life of violence.

And, as promised, from lobbying Government to kicking off our Northumbria recruitment uplift, I've been doing everything within my power to ensure more officers are

where local people want to see them - on our streets. Over the last few months I've had the pleasure of meeting so many inspiring people both within Northumbria Police and across our local communities. In fact, although policing continues to present growing demands and new challenges, attending the recent Pride in Policing awards was a truly humbling experience recognising the achievements of police officers, staff and volunteers who serve the public day in, day out - despite limited resources and difficult circumstances. I know you'll be as grateful as I am for all their hard-work keeping us safe.

This newsletter will provide an update on lots that's been going on but there is plenty more to do and I am determined to get it done for you.



**GETTING
OFFICERS
BACK ON
THE STREETS**

I'm delighted to report that Northumbria police is recruiting around 300 new police officers between now and March 2021 - this is in addition to the extra numbers from Government. This recruitment is well underway.

Neighbourhood policing is one of my main priorities - this is because you have told me it is one of yours. The Government's short-term headline grabbing recruitment announcements are not the solution and as yet, we still don't have details of what government will fund. I will continue to campaign for a long-term funding plan that will enable the Chief Constable to continue to enhance and deliver effective neighbourhood policing and a service the residents of Northumbria expect and deserve.

For more information about recruitment opportunities visit www.northumbria.police.uk

VIOLENCE REDUCTION UNIT UPDATE

I recently secured £1.6m to deliver a Violence Reduction Unit - a team dedicated to ensuring violent crime doesn't become a way of life in Northumbria. I have been working at pace to bring together different organisations, including the police, local government, health and community leaders to tackle violent crime by understanding its root causes.

I'm pleased to update you that the plan is coming to life. We have recruited some talented individuals to bring knowledge and experience and are working on new initiatives to help identify and prevent issues that can lead to violent crime such as drugs, alcohol and social issues.

I'm confident this unit will deliver benefits to communities and the criminal justice system as a whole. I am up for the challenge of securing lasting change for you.



From visiting local farmers to attending marts - I was busy out and about as part of Rural Crime Week. I saw the impressive activity around Operation Checkpoint - where police officers work with volunteers in our rural communities to track and catch those who are responsible for rural crime.

I learned first-hand how volunteers play a vital role in tackling rural crime, acting as the eyes and ears on the ground in the vast, rural stretches of our force area. These amazing people give their time to help officers disrupt the activities of those stealing livestock and farm equipment and those trespassing and damaging property.

Let's be under no illusion, tackling rural crime is very much a joint effort. I want to see more initiatives like this to tackle the issues that matter. I will continue to speak to local people, businesses and groups and will listen carefully to their concerns.

I recently paid a visit to Pallion Action Group in Sunderland to see this brilliant community initiative in action. Whilst there I met with local neighbourhood officers and Julie Elliot MP to hear about the challenges in the area.

The team at Pallion has a long track record of delivering change through various schemes, including providing important access to advice and support. They've been doing this since 1993 and I was impressed to see first-hand the wonderful community spirit there is within the area.

I'm proud to be the Commissioner for a force that stands by groups like this, they are a vital way of hearing the concerns of local people. We will continue to work with all partners to address specific community issues that have been raised.



**PRIDE IN
NORTHUMBRIA**

As ever, Northern Pride continues to make a difference and I was honoured to speak at an event earlier this month to mark their many achievements.

Northern Pride speaks out loud and clear for the LGBT+ community and this will continue to thrive in 2020 as Northern Pride are the hosts for UK Pride 2020 in Newcastle - I'm delighted about this.

Our region is an inclusive area and this makes me very proud. Northumbria Police will continue to work closely



with Northern Pride to ensure every person, in every community has a voice and that strong support networks are in place.

The same goes for any form of discrimination. In fact, Hate Crime Awareness Week was a huge success this year and saw so many people come together in one loud voice to make it clear hate will not be tolerated here - it's as simple as that.



**YOU SAID:
WE DID**

Over the last few weeks I have been working with Northumbria Police, Newcastle North MP, Catherine McKinnell and partners such as Your Homes Newcastle to tackle the issues that matter to local residents.

We were concerned about the anti-social behaviour in West Denton, Newbiggin Hall and Chapel house in recent weeks. I don't want anyone feeling unsafe in their local community - so I wanted to see action happen to address the inconsiderate behaviour of the minority.

Northumbria Police responded robustly with dispersal notices and high visibility patrols and will continue to do so. It's my job to ensure Northumbria Police are addressing the needs of the local community and build on this. I would urge any resident who has concerns about anti-social behaviour to get in touch with the police - the more information they have, the better.