



A WELCOME FROM THE PCC

I hope everyone is keeping well as we move into the next stage of recovery after a very challenging few months. I am delighted at how the region has come to support each other during these tough times, and it is that community resilience which is key to supporting the regions recovery.

My VRU have been working incredibly hard over the past 10 months and the results are showing - a reduction in overall crime, violence against the person & serious violent crime.

This is just the beginning though, and together, we will continue to improve lives to prevent crime. I look forward to getting back out and seeing all your fantastic work in person once again.

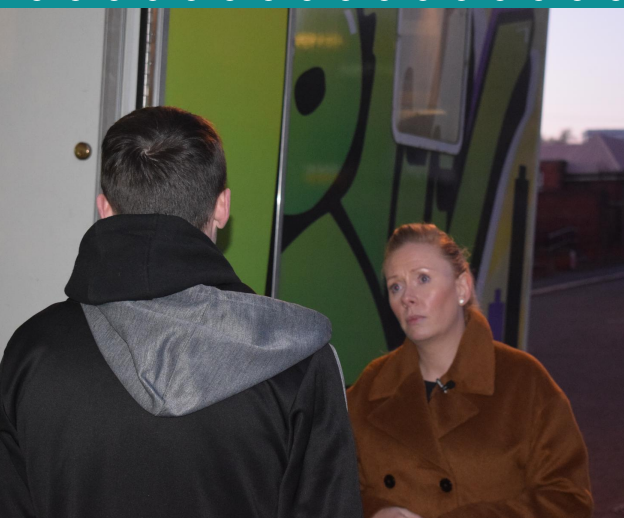
Kim McGuinness, Northumbria Police & Crime Commissioner

NORTHUMBRIA VRU OVERVIEW

Serious violence has no place in any community, and we are working to identify the root causes of crime and prevent them across Northumbria.

Through our four key themes, we work with partners to deliver life changing interventions that aim to support the vulnerable and promote positive life choices.

No one is born a criminal, and with the right support at the right time, we can prevent crime taking place. This will take time, and a culture change across the region, but we making progress, one community at a time.



THE TEAM

STEVEN HUME, Head of Northumbria VRU
MARK JOYCE, Senior VRU Co-ordinator
KAREN MURRAY, Chief Inspector
NICOLA JOHNSON, VRU Co-ordinator
TRACY McCANN, VRU Co-ordinator
REBECCA BROWN, VRU Co-ordinator
JULIE SMITH, Domestic Abuse Specialist
NEIL WARDINGHAM, Partnership Analyst
BEN CUTHBERTSON, Communication & Engagement Officer
LAUREN BEVERIDGE, Project Support Officer

**18%
REDUCTION**

**IN KNIFE
CRIME**

**£1.9 MILLION
INVESTED**

**INTO
INTERVENTIONS**

**OVER
12,000**

**YOUNG PEOPLE
EDUCATED**

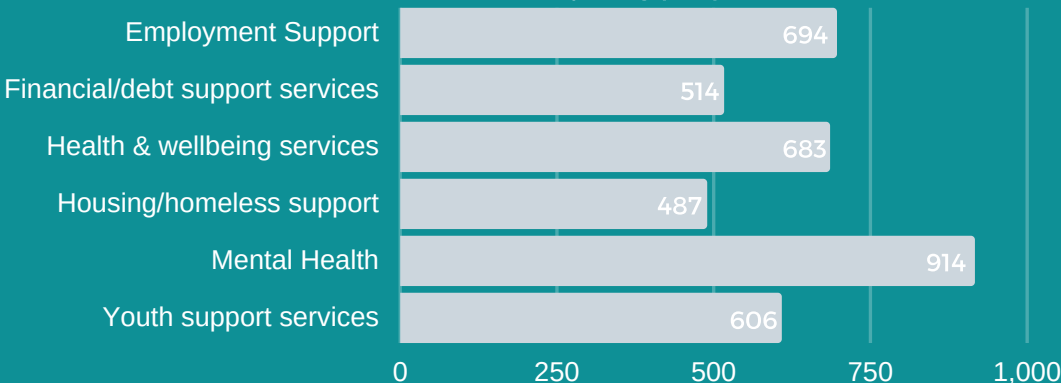
IMPACT OF LOCKDOWN SURVEY



**NORTHUMBRIA
POLICE & CRIME
COMMISSIONER**

violence
reduction
unit

In the post lockdown period, what support would you like to see available for young people?



Following a fantastic 1374 responses from young people (14-25yrs old) across the region, we are now working with youth groups & services to implement the findings from our impact of lockdown consultation.

We will shortly be publishing a full report & recommendations on this consultation - watch this space!



SLO'S GO VIRTUAL

As we adapt to the current restrictions and support organisations where we can, our School Liaison Officers have gone virtual and been delivering their workshops to a range of schools and youth organisations via pre-recorded sessions and virtual sessions.

Feedback from some students on sessions delivered this month in North Tyneside:

- "I watched the attached video and found it interesting. I think that once the officers can come into school it will make a good impact and make people think"
- "I have looked through the powerpoint sent and it looks really good."
- "I watched the powerpoint and it was really helpful. I learned that if someone sends a horrible message it can effect their future."

If you have summer activity planned and would like support or input from our SLOs, drop us an email on the address below.

TRAUMA INFORMED TRAINING IS A SUCCESS

Over 100 frontline professionals were upskilled in July through an excellent interactive session delivered by Trauma Informed Schools UK titled 'Supporting children and young people in Community Organisations'. The session focused on a trauma informed approach to supporting children & young people back into youth groups, school and sports clubs following a very challenging few months in lockdown.

Those who joined rated the session 9/10 for how beneficial it was, and left praise like:

- "Extremely interesting, inciteful and educational. The training was so enjoyable."
- "I was absolutely blown away by this training. It was so varied and informative and the trainer was very confident"

If you'd like to take part in future training and networking events - drop us an email - details at bottom of the page.

FAMILY GATEWAY MAKE THE HEADLINES

The response to lockdown and the changing needs of our communities challenged all services, but VRU Phase 2 partner, Family Gateway, led the way in North Tyneside from their Community Hub in Wallsend.

Picking up on their fantastic work, The Guardian featured the charity in one of their lockdown interviews and showcased the challenges faced by the organisation and their service users. The interview can be viewed [here](#).



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[@PCC_Kim_McGuinness](#)

L-R: Joanne O'Connor (Junction 42), Tex (J42), Mark Joyce (VRU), Steven Hume (VRU), Claran Grant (J42) & PCC Kim McGuinness.



Kim McGuinness- Northumbria PCC, said: "This is all part of their prison skills work aimed at supporting prisoners through rehabilitation and to prevent them from reoffending on release."

Steven Hume, Head of Northumbria VRU, added: "The approach J42 have taken will have had a profound impact across our communities - by supporting the most vulnerable in times of need like this, we are intervening early & improving their quality of life. This is crucial to preventing any vulnerability, and in turn, preventing crime."

PREVENTING ISOLATION WITH JUNCTION 42

We had the pleasure of visiting the fantastic Junction 42 to see the incredible work they are doing to support communities during these challenging times, and tackle loneliness. After completely restructuring their operating model, J42 have continued with door step visits & welfare checks, engaging with the communities most vulnerable and supporting with food & hygiene packs. In addition, they've turned their base at Brunswick Methodist Church into an activity pack production centre, preparing over 50,000 packs for 135 prisons. These packs, which include kinaesthetic activities, will be provided to prisoners across the country as lockdown impacts visiting & socialising schedules.

EDGE NE MOBILE STUDIO HITS THE ROAD



The EDGE North East youth lorry, originally funded by the VRU in Phase 1, has now been converted into a mobile music studio - complete with recording equipment, DJ decks, microphones and more.

The lorry will be out in Byker & Newcastle City Centre on set nights and times - follow the lorry, and it's locations [here](#). For more info, and to enquire about use, contact Collette via edgenortheast@outlook.com

NO FOOTBALL? NO PROBLEM



Lockdown may have meant that face to face activity had to cease at Foundation of Light & Newcastle United Foundation, but participants on VRU funded Kicks & YOLO programmes still received vitally important interventions, albeit in a different format,



Both Foundations maintained contact via virtual sessions & hosted a range of activities throughout lockdown including; cooking challenges, FIFA competitions, skill drills, activity packs, food parcel deliveries & educational workshops.

STRENGTHENING PARTNERSHIPS

We cannot achieve our aim of improving lives to prevent crime without the help of several partners, services & organisations spanning the length & breadth of the region. To ensure that each Local Authority is able to support their communities during these challenging times, we are delighted to announce that £381,219.50 has been allocated to the 6 Local Authorities for projects that contributed to the VRUs 4 key themes.

This funding will enable the LAs to deliver a range of projects, including work on Child to Parent Violence, Criminal Exploitation & Prevention work in the Youth Justice Service.

A full list of projects and funded amounts can be viewed [here](#).

To assist with the development of strengthening partnerships, and to ensure that each Local Authority is maximising the support available via the VRU, we have dedicated Single Points of Contact within each LA:

Gateshead - Gerald Tompkins
Newcastle - Christine Knox
North Tyneside - Heidi Douglas
Northumberland - Philip Soderquest
South Tyneside - Andrew Whittaker
Sunderland - Stuart Douglass



For more info, speak to the above or email us at: VRU@northumbria-pcc.gov.uk



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