



NORTHUMBRIA
**POLICE & CRIME
COMMISSIONER**

violence
reduction
unit

Improving lives to prevent crime

KIM MCGUINNESS

NEWSLETTER



WELCOME TO MY NEWSLETTER

Farewell to the Knife Angel

After a packed month of awareness raising and intervention work, we've had to bid farewell to the Knife Angel. The much talked about artwork has had a chilling presence on the quayside over recent weeks and has helped educate more than 1300 students on the impact of knife crime.

As part of its month long stay, impactful workshops have been delivered to nearly 50 schools, youth groups and colleges, covering the lasting damage suffered by the Madgin family following the horrific murder of 18-year-old Samantha in 2007.

Samantha's mum Alison said of the sessions "even if we have changed just one person's thoughts on carrying a knife, then it has been a success." And I'm confident it has been.

Metres away from the sculpture, we've also hosted impactful performances from the Saltmine Trust who use drama to bring to life the realities of knife crime. 'Put the knife down, this is not a game' was the take home message from the hard-hitting play, which evidently struck a chord with many young people in the room. And that has been the plan.

Through my Violence Reduction Unit we will keep working hard to ensure that we get in there and prevent crime taking place, giving everyone in the region the best chance in life.





£1M FUNDING BOOST FOR SPECIALIST VICTIM SERVICES

As part of my ongoing commitment to helping victims affected by crime, I was pleased to announce more than £1 million in funding to local, specialist victim services earlier this month.

With access to the right help at the right time, people can feel better, even stronger, but it can take time. Through coping strategies, therapies and opening up conversation, we can help victims and their families to recover and successfully move forward with their lives.

Some of this year's beneficiaries include Sunderland Counselling Services, The Angelou Centre, Tyneside and Northumberland Mind, and Streetwise Young People's Project.

I am committed to doing all I can to provide accessible, high quality services to victims of crime. This is the first round of funding to be announced this year, with more charitable organisations set to benefit in the coming weeks - watch this space.

ON TRACK WITH TACKLING ANTISOCIAL BEHAVIOUR

Those who know me will know I like to get out and about, speaking to people and seeing first-hand our policing in action.

I'm a regular user of our Metro service, and I know how anti-social behaviour can make people feel and the disruption it can cause, so I took the opportunity to join a crackdown operation which took place last week.

Everyone deserves to feel and be safe on the Metro and this activity is about high visibility, reassurance and stopping anti-social behaviour in its tracks - all of which I saw on the night.

This isn't a one off though, there'll be lots more proactive operations especially as we head into the summer months when more young people are out in evenings, heading to the coast and so on.

Kids will be kids and it's only a small number who cause real trouble but those who do need a wake-up call. The plain-clothed operations in particular are having a big impact. Northumbria Police aren't going to sit back and let anti-social behaviour happen, in fact they're going to be sat right next to those responsible and will put a stop to it.



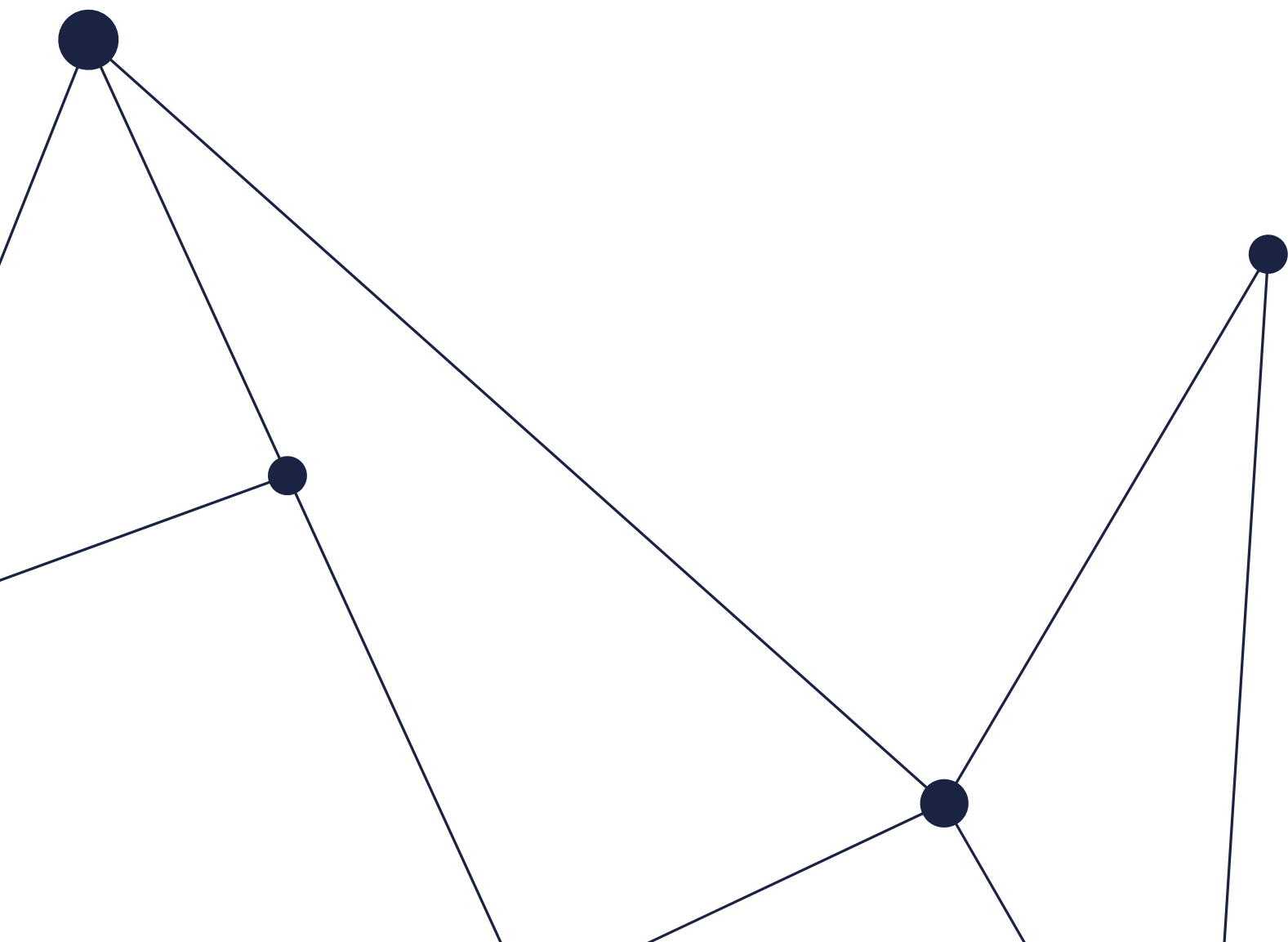
CELEBRATING SUCCESS

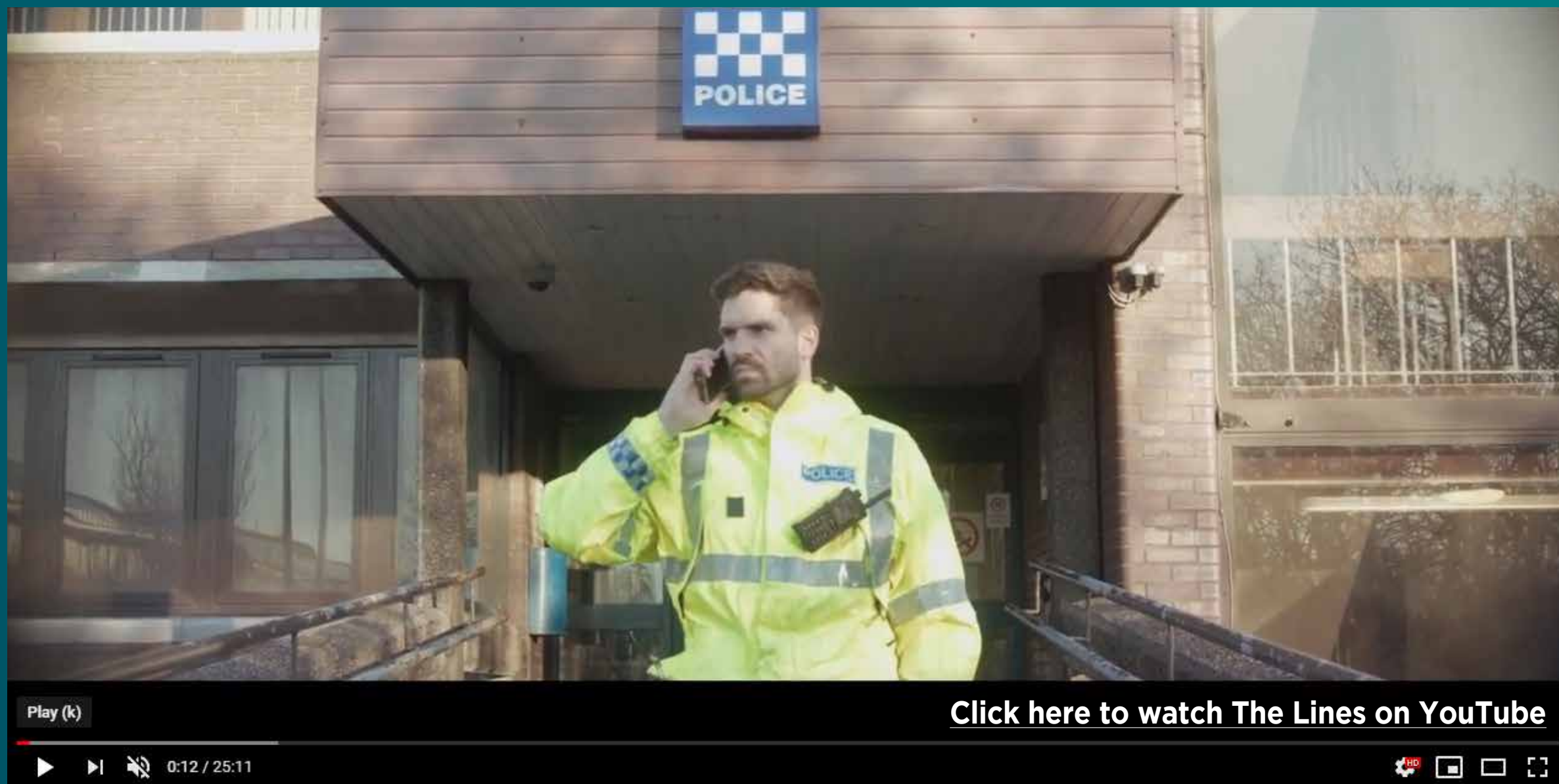
IN THE COMMUNITY

Sunderland Bangladesh International Centre is such a great place doing great things - it's a focal point for the Bangladesh community and, importantly, it is open to everyone.

The centre offers social activities, community outings and training courses, and I was invited to attend one of their celebrations earlier this month. The event was about celebrating the achievements of women in the local community. It was a wonderful occasion and the people were as welcoming as ever.

From the very beginning the centre has supported and developed work that has promoted the integration of all black and minority ethnic communities in Sunderland into the mainstream life of the city. The City of Sunderland is more diverse than ever and centres like this, where people from all over the world can meet and support each other, are invaluable.





[Click here to watch The Lines on YouTube](#)

LINES, CAMERA, ACTION

County lines is a growing problem across the country and in Northumbria we want to get ahead of it.

Education is key to prevention. That's why my office has helped fund the production of five short films, by students at the University of Sunderland, that highlight the impact county lines drug gangs can have on young people in the North East.

The films do a fantastic job at showcasing the warning signs and show the deception, intimidation and violence involved.

Working with the police and other organisations, the students researched, scripted, filmed and edited the pieces themselves. The plan is to use them as a training tool for the police and to help raise awareness of the issue and the help that's available.

If you don't know much about county lines this film is a great place to start.

Thanks to the University of Sunderland, Northumbria Police, SARC - the sexual assault referral centre, EDGE North East and all others involved in informing and making these films.

LISTENING TO YOUNG PEOPLE



By listening carefully to the community we can get a clear understanding of why and how young people can fall into violent crime, and the support these communities want to tackle the problem.

Listening to young people themselves is key. Their insight, opinions and knowledge is invaluable so I was delighted to welcome Youth Parliament and Council members to my office to discuss the work of my Violence Reduction Unit and how we can address concerns.

Engaging with people of all ages and from all walks of life is key to help ensure Northumbria is a safe place to live and gives the best opportunities to all.

Let's Talk...

This month I've held advice surgeries in Gateshead, Byker, South Shields, Hexham and Newcastle. To book onto any upcoming surgeries please phone 0191 221 9800 for details or email enquiries@northumbria-pcc.gov.uk to make an appointment.

Surgeries

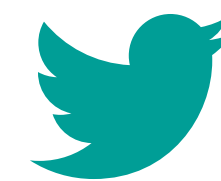
12th March - Alnwick Market Surgery
The White Swan Hotel NE66 1TD - **12.30pm - 2pm**

13th March - Berwick Surgery
The William Elder Building on Castlegate, Berwick TD151JT -
12.15pm - 1.45pm

14th March - Blyth Walkabout Surgery with Ian Levy MP
Percy Arms, Brierley, Blyth - **12.30pm - 1.30 pm**

Follow me

You can follow my work as Police and Crime Commissioner for Northumbria.



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@pcc_kim_mcguinness



@KiMcGuinness

Northumbria Violence Reduction Unit

I now have a dedicated Facebook page on the work of my Northumbria Violence Reduction Unit - you can like it here - @NorthumbriaVRU