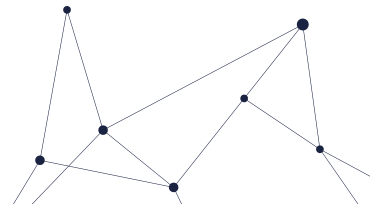




KIM MCGUINNESS  
NORTHUMBRIA  
**POLICE & CRIME  
COMMISSIONER**

# Fighting Crime, Preventing Crime

Share your views by completing this  
survey - <http://bit.ly/PCPCon2020>



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## Hello, and welcome to this first step in making our region even safer

Over the coming months I want to work with you to set new priorities for Northumbria Police.

As your Police and Crime Commissioner, I hold the force to account for delivering your priorities. To do that, I produce with you, the public, a police and crime plan. In the following pages you'll learn more about the big issues facing us, and have your say on how to respond.

Our region has just come through a decade in which policing suffered the impact of austerity and has gone straight from this into the challenges involved in preventing the spread of a deadly pandemic.

Those ten years of spending cuts and savings saw the force lose £14m – a budget reduction of 30% that meant 1,100 fewer officers.

And when our force sought to recover from the impact of that and start to proactively recruit officers, the Coronavirus emerged to challenge the relationship between the people and the police in a way we've never seen before.

I'm incredibly proud of how Northumbria Police responded to the new laws and regulations of lockdown, and I think now is the time to look again at how our force works together with our communities.

That's why this upcoming police and crime plan is so important. Despite the challenges we have faced, we have brought crime down in this region, both before and during the coronavirus crisis. But, we know that as we enter recession and pressures mount, crime could again rise. We need to be ready for that.

What really matters here is that you have your say. If it's reducing anti-social behaviour in your neighbourhood, reducing violence in our region, getting more police on our streets or creating a future for our young people, this is the time to make it happen.

So I hope you will share with me your honest views, to ensure we continue to fight crime, prevent crime and improve lives in our region.

Kim

# About this consultation



As your police commissioner, my job is to hold the force to account on your behalf. With your input I set the force's priorities for the next four years and make sure they deliver on those commitments.

The document I use as part of this is called the police and crime plan, and this consultation will be used to create it.

To help with that I have produced a crime survey that I'm asking you to complete. The next few pages will set out the challenges we face as a region and what you might expect of your force.

The full survey can be found at <http://bit.ly/PCPCon2020>

It has 6 questions and I think it will take 3 minutes. There's also a section to give us your wider feedback, in case you think there's an area we've missed.

This consultation runs until the end of November. As well as this online survey, I'll be touring our region, collecting views. In January I'll come back to you for your thoughts on a draft police and crime plan that I hope will ensure our region remains one of the safest in the UK.

# Fighting Crime

Crime is continually changing and evolving and we need a modern police force that is equipped to deal with all the challenges we face as a region. What do you think are the challenges we will face in the years ahead, and what should your force be doing about them?

## Cutting local crime

Violent crime, burglary and theft are things that concern us all. Northumbria Police has a good track record of focusing on these, and we're a safe region as result. What are the next steps? We know neighbourhood policing is vital but what should they prioritise? What does the force need to do to make rural households feel safe?

## Anti-social behaviour

Northumbria Police has done a lot to tackle ASB, but this type of crime still accounts for too many calls to the police. What's the situation like where you live? Do youth services and alcohol and addiction treatment centres have a role to play in this?

## Serious organised crime

For some, crime is a profession, and we have to make sure those responsible face justice. In Northumbria, recently we've seen some high profile successes on this. I want to know if you feel enough is being done to target drugs dealers, cyber fraudsters and others who profit by criminalising children and young people into county lines and make the lives of others a misery. Do you want to see a greater focus on tackling serious organised crime? Or is local crime a bigger priority for you? Does more need to be done to raise awareness of scams and frauds?

## Recruitment

Northumbria Police lost around 1,100 officers as a result of ten-years of austerity. We need to reverse that, with new recruits alongside replacements for departing officers. What should be their focus in the years to come?

<http://bit.ly/PCPCon2020>

# Preventing Crime

We can't simply arrest our way out of crime. If we want to see crime come down and stay down the first principle must be to prevent it. What are the early steps we could be taking to do this? What are the youth services that could support your police force and make a difference?

## Violence Reduction

I set up a Violence Reduction Unit to monitor and intervene in the lives of the most high risk offenders, but also to give young people an alternative to a life of crime. In the years ahead, how should we focus the energy of this unit and the work of your force alongside it? Are there local areas where these efforts are required the most?

## Alcohol and drug addiction

The harm caused by addiction impacts on more than just the user. Where should the balance be between targeting drug dealers and supporting those who commit crimes to fund their addictions?

## Online crime, fraud and abuse

The internet can be an overwhelming experience, and the risk of fraud is immense. But where should the balance be for your police force and policing at a national level? We also know that technology poses risks to users in terms of harassment, stalking, bullying and hate crime. Do we need to see more education and advice around the risks to our young people when using social media, or is that a role for parents and schools?

<http://bit.ly/PCPCon2020>



# Improving lives



Many crimes don't end with a simple arrest or even prosecution, and some victims need support for longer. If we are to create a region where everyone gets the help they need, we need to look beyond simply measuring crime rates. What are the services that should be supported to help people escape a difficult life, and what can we do as a region to ensure everyone feels safe?

## Domestic and sexual abuse

Some crimes thrive on secrecy, and the abuse that takes place behind closed doors destroys too many lives. Over the last few years we've made big improvements in raising public and professional awareness of domestic abuse and sexual violence, but more needs to be done. Victims are continually failed by the system. Is there enough personalised support for victims of domestic abuse or rape? Would you feel confident reporting these crimes to the police?

## Hate Crime

Who you are is not a crime, and people across the North East should be free to go about their daily lives without harassment, whether that be in how they identify or how they worship. Do you have confidence in the way hate crimes are investigated? Should more be done to educate our young people about the harm of hate speech?

## Victims Services

If you are a victim of crime, justice is vitally important to you but sometimes you also need to know there is a support network there for you. Victim services are commissioned by my office, and now we need to know how big a priority they should be in the years ahead. What level of support should you have a right to after being a victim of crime?

<http://bit.ly/PCPCon2020>

# Have your say

It is vital that you the public set your police force's priorities. I believe that those of us living in our region know the situation on the ground better than the Home Office do. My job is to hold the police to account for delivering on your requests as identified in this survey.

As part of that, I'll be asking you for some contact details, if you're happy to share them, in order to keep you up to date on progress towards fighting crime and preventing crime in your area.

This survey runs through October and November. In January I'll issue a draft version of the police and crime plan, and after hearing back from you I'll sign it off in February.

The final document will govern how your force is held to account for the next four years.

But it's crucially important that you feel an ongoing relationship with the police, so I'm committing to an annual refresh of the plan, and hope to keep in touch and hear more about your concerns and ideas in the years ahead.

Thanks again



Kim

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# Let's Talk...

#### Follow me

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



@NorthumbriaPCC



@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](https://www.facebook.com/NorthumbriaVRU)