



## WHAT WOULD YOUR POLICING PRIORITIES BE?

Since my last newsletter in August, I had hoped we had got through the worst of this virus and that I would have been able to resume getting out, seeing your great work in action, and launching my Police & Crime Plan consultation in person.

Unfortunately, as we continue to tackle this virus and make personal sacrifices, the last month has not looked as I had hoped. However, once again, the North East spirit has shone through and we have continued to support the vulnerable, take care of one another and deliver some amazing outcomes.

Whilst I would much rather have spent this month touring the region and hearing your priorities to ensure my Police & Crime Plan delivers for you, I have been delighted at the response to our online consultation, and I am confident this plan will support all our communities.

If you have not yet completed and given your views, please do so [here](#), and share with friends, family and your network - it is vital that we hear from all communities and set the priorities that will fight crime, prevent crime & improve lives.

**Kim McGuinness, Northumbria Police & Crime Commissioner**

## FIGHTING CRIME

September saw a week of action taken against criminals linked to County Lines across the region as we once again reaffirmed our zero tolerance stance on this insidious crime.

We are doing everything we can to ensure that vulnerable people do not fall into this trap and become victims, and will continue to take a preventative approach, but for those that prey on these individuals - enforcement will follow.

- Septembers week of action recorded:
- 18 arrests
  - £16,000 cash seized
  - 4 police forces working together
  - 100+ officers deployed

Northumbria is a safe place - and we will ensure this continues by targeting these networks, breaking them up and protecting victims.



**SINCE AUGUST  
WE HAVE  
INVESTED A  
FURTHER**

**£135,612**

**TO ENSURE  
YOUTH WORK &  
ACTIVITIES CAN  
RETURN SAFELY**





The best way for us to reduce crime, is for us to prevent it in the first place - and this includes upskilling frontline professionals and ensuring those working in the sector have the knowledge to support those identified as vulnerable.

Along with Northumbria Police, Newcastle Council & Edge North East, we hosted a Criminal Exploitation and Serious Violence webinar that was joined by 200 professionals from across the region.

The session included first person experiences of County Lines & exploitation, case studies from those with lived experiences, and some excellent inputs from our colleagues about the signs & indicators we should be looking out for.

For anyone who was unable to attend but would like the information covered, please contact [VRU@northumbria-pcc.gov.uk](mailto:VRU@northumbria-pcc.gov.uk)

Whilst we've certainly not been able to visit as many funded interventions as we wish, we've still managed to get out to some inspiring projects, including Jobs Boxing Gym.

Funded through the VRU Micro-Charities fund to increase the number of sessions available during the week, Matt & his team have brought the community together, helped reduce local ASB and provide opportunities to young people through coaching qualifications and apprenticeships.

The extremely well attended sessions provide the perfect environment for young people to learn new skills, socialise in a safe space and develop important life skills. You can check more of their work out on their Facebook page [here](#).

## IMPROVING LIVES



## WHAT ARE YOUNG PEOPLE'S POLICING PRIORITIES?

As we seek the views of all communities across the region to ensure that our Police & Crime Plan is reflective of those we serve, we hosted an engaging and insightful Q&A session with River Tyne Academy Gateshead as they got the opportunity to quiz the Commissioner on issues important to them, and what they think should be included in our plans going forward.

Some excellent questions asked, and some great insight provided into what young people think our force priorities should be going forward. Work with Under 16s? Get them to have their say [here](#)!



## CONNECT WITH US



# SLO'S RETURN TO THE CLASSROOM

Despite the challenges faced, our SLOs continue to engage, educate and support schools and students across the region.

When lockdown led to school closures and restrictions limiting their delivery, they quickly adapted and ensured we could deliver all of our usual content by virtual means - ensuring no school or student missed out on our workshops.

Throughout the summer they supported a range of community based programmes - engaging over 360 children and young people - and delivering workshops ranging from freindships & relationships.

When schools returned in September, we knew that our School Liaison Officers would be able to support teachers around some of the issues they were seeing across their different year groups. Our team has been in schools since they returned, provided extremely valuable workshops and inputs and supporting schools wellbeing and PSHE agendas. Despite having to adapt delivery slightly to ensure social distancing and covid guidelines are followed, the team continue to overcome challenges and ensure the welfare and education of young people remain their top priority.

## EDGE NE PRAISED IN PARLIAMENT



Edge NE received high praise from Shadow Home Office Minister, Bambos Charalambous MP, during a recent Westminster debate on gang associated girls. The charity who

- We know the
- impact that
- we can make
- when we
- come
- together as a
- community,
- strengthen
- local
- partnerships
- and provide
- an easy to
- access

provide 1:1 mentoring as well as diversionary activities via their mobile music studio were referenced as one of several 'organisations doing exceptional work in these areas'. The full debate can be read [here](#).

## RAISING ASPIRATIONS IN SOUTHWICK



- support network. And that is exactly the approach we are
- taking in Southwick through the SARA project. Through this
- work, we will make services easier to access for local
- residents and provide opportunities that raise aspirations,
- reduce ASB & address the communities concerns.

## HOW CAN WE HELP YOU?

In addition to the Police & Crime Plan consultation, we are also asking partners two questions that will help ensure the future priorities developed best support our communities. With your expert knowledge, we can set a plan that supports all.

Please consider and answer the following:

1. What does your organisation, or the people you work with, need from Northumbria Police and the Criminal Justice System to help achieve the themes of fighting crime, preventing crime and improving lives?
2. What specific issues your users need addressing by the police, and victims and witnesses need through the Criminal Justice System?

- 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](mailto:VRU@northumbria-pcc.gov.uk)

Email your views to [VRU@northumbria-pcc.gov.uk](mailto:VRU@northumbria-pcc.gov.uk)



**NORTHUMBRIA  
POLICE & CRIME  
COMMISSIONER**

**violence  
reduction  
unit**

*Improving lives to prevent crime*





**COMMUNICATIONS & ENGAGEMENT  
OFFICER**

We are delighted to announce a new, temporary vacancy within our team - we are seeking a dynamic Communications & Engagement Officer to join the VRU on secondment or a temporary basis until March 2021.

For more info and details, please check out the post on [Connected Voice](#).

Please share within your networks and encourage any suitable staff to apply.

## MAKING A DIFFERENCE

Our aim is simple, to improve lives to prevent crime. This is not a short term fix, but a long term approach - building support networks, changing behaviours, strengthening communities and providing opportunities for all.

To date, we have seen this approach have positive results across the force area - driving down crime, providing thousands of opportunities for vulnerable young people and adults, and connecting organisations to deliver better outcomes for our communities.

The latest data from the Office of National Statistics show the impact we have contributed to across Northumbria in the past 12 months:

**TOTAL RECORDED CRIME**



**-13%**

**BURGLARY**



**-20%**

**OFFENCES INVOLVING A  
KNIFE**



**-17%**

**VIOLENCE AGAINST THE  
PERSON**



**-6%**

**DRUG OFFENCES**



**-1%**

**FIGHTING  
CRIME**



**PREVENTING  
CRIME**



**IMPROVING  
LIVES**