



2021-2025  
**NORTHUMBRIA  
POLICE & CRIME  
PLAN**

**FIGHTING CRIME**

**PREVENTING CRIME**

**IMPROVING LIVES**

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**NORTHUMBRIA  
POLICE & CRIME  
COMMISSIONER**

**violence  
reduction  
unit**

*Improving lives to prevent crime*





# FROM THE PCC

Putting your priorities at the heart of Northumbria Police is the focus of my job as your Police and Crime Commissioner.

The way I do that is by producing a Police and Crime Plan, a draft of which is produced below. This plan sets out the priorities for your police force over the next four years. It makes clear how I will hold the force to account for meeting those aims. And it covers how I will report back to you on the performance of Northumbria Police.

I have put this draft together after listening to the feedback from thousands of residents, businesses, community groups, charities and public safety organisations as part of a wide-ranging crime and policing survey.

This draft plan turns the results of that survey in to actions for the force. The next step now is for you to give your feedback on the plan.

Is there more you want to see done in key areas? Are there focus points you want to see added?

It's important that this plan for Fighting Crime and Preventing Crime is a shared one.

That's why I want to hear your views on this document. To do so, please email my office at [enquiries@northumbria-pcc.gov.uk](mailto:enquiries@northumbria-pcc.gov.uk) with your detailed feedback.

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

# YOUR PRIORITIES

## 1) FIGHTING CRIME



## 2) PREVENTING CRIME



## 3) IMPROVING LIVES





# 1) FIGHTING CRIME



The North East is one of the safest places in the country and my job is to ensure Northumbria Police maintain their great record here. That's why my number one priority is fighting crime in our region.

## GIVING THE FORCE THE TOOLS TO DO THE JOB

From anti-social behaviour to serious and organised crime, we need to make sure the force has the resources it needs to keep our neighbourhoods safe.

I will continue to ensure Northumbria Police has a solid financial footing from which to plan and respond to public safety demands. After ten years of austerity, police forces now urgently need long-term funding certainty from Central Government, and I will continue to lobby for this for our region.

As Police Commissioner I have backed the force with the frontline resources needed to fight crime. As part of this, I have authorised budgets which will ensure that over the course of this plan **every police officer will have access to taser training if required**, ensuring those who protect us are kept safe and those who threaten our safety face well-equipped officers.

I have also committed to reversing the impacts of austerity when it comes to officer numbers. Since 2010 Northumbria Police has lost some 1,100 officers and £140m from its budget. The Government has so far offered to replace around a tenth of those, a figure which doesn't go far enough. In response to public demands for a strong police force **I have committed to going above and beyond Government recruitment targets**, including for example replacing departing and retiring officers.

Alongside this, **I will oversee the multi-million pound refresh of force infrastructure**, especially digital infrastructure, ensuring Northumbria Police is equipped to deal with emerging crime trends.

By giving Northumbria Police these resources I can ensure that the force is ready to deliver on your priorities.

# 1) FIGHTING CRIME



## TACKLING CRIME

Whether it is a small number of people making a neighbourhood unhappy with anti-social behaviour or the organised crime gangs that infuriate our sense of justice, crime has no place in our region.

This Police and Crime Plan commits the police to tackling crime, using all available resource to reduce crime and to stand by our communities for the greater good.

## THE ILLEGAL DRUGS TRADE

Drug addiction destroys lives, spreads crime and fear and puts money in the hands of organised criminals; **Northumbria Police will target and disrupt the illegal drugs trade at all levels** and I will ensure they deliver on this commitment. Part of the answer to the drugs misery we see on our streets is direct police action, investigating drug dealers, arresting them and taking them to court. But part of the response has to be about supporting those with addictions, those people who often turn to crime to fund their addiction, and **I will work with others to try and rebuild drug treatment programmes lost to austerity.**

A new threat that has grown since the last police and crime plan is the emergence of County Lines. These are drugs networks in which organised crime groups and professional criminals from elsewhere exploit vulnerable people in rural locations, towns and smaller cities to sell drugs, often forcing people in to committing criminal acts based on violence, debt, addiction and lies. For the people at the top of these networks this is a business and it can be a sophisticated operation. For the victims that are sucked in this ruins lives and blights communities.

Part of the solution to this will be **ensuring Northumbria Police use the full enforcement options available to break up County Lines gangs,** and punish those responsible. But part of the solution will involve finding those at risk and getting them out of a life of crime.

# 1) FIGHTING CRIME



## SERIOUS AND ORGANISED CRIME

Organised crime often operates at an international level, but its impact can be seen on our streets. Every part of the force has a role to play in tackling this, especially neighbourhood policing, and I will continue to ensure Northumbria Police has the resources it needs to contribute at every level.

We know, for example, that criminals involved in serious and organised crime frequently commit 'low level' crimes in their local area, sometimes creating a climate of fear. **I will back Northumbria Police to disrupt organised crime at every level**, ensuring the public can see that those who try to profit from crime are targeted and inappropriate role models are stopped in their tracks.

I will ensure your police continue targeting the organised crime groups behind the illegal drugs trade, ensuring those who seek to profit from the misery of addiction are in our sights and brought to justice.

Northumbria Police works regionally with Durham and Cleveland to tackle SOC as well as with the National Crime Agency, the Regional and Organised Crime Unit, comprises operational teams, Regional Asset Recovery Team, Regional Intelligence Unit, Regional Cyber Unit and other functions.

## REDUCING BURGLARY

Burglary is a crime that often feels deeply personal, and many people taking part in my police and crime plan survey said they wanted to see those who commit this crime brought to justice. I'm proud to be Police Commissioner for a force that has a strong track record in tackling burglary, and I **commit to regularly publishing burglary data** so the public can see that Northumbria continues to have a strong record on tackling **burglary**. I'll also back home safety measures in the most at risk areas to help people feel more secure in their own home.



# 1) FIGHTING CRIME



## ONLINE CRIME

Cyber-crime, including online fraud, is a growing threat both regionally, nationally and internationally.

The type, frequency and sophistication of cyber-enabled crime are continually increasing. This ranges from organised crime groups involved in cyber-enabled crime to individuals targeting victims via social media.

I'll commit to raising awareness of cyber-crime and fraud and enhance the force's investigation of these cases. I'll explore with the force the potential for **more dedicated cyber fraud campaigns, and back the cyber volunteers who bring even more expertise to Northumbria Police**. Many cyber-enabled crimes lead to complex investigations, and I'm committed to ensuring the force has the resources to carry these out. But we must recognise that online crime ignores all borders, and it's clear our response has to be part of a co-ordinated national approach.

Northumbria Police also need to be backed to tackle other online crimes, including abuse and exploitation. I'll work with the force to ensure those grooming children online or those who download or share images of abuse are found and those at risk are helped. I will continue to ensure early identification of child and adult sexual exploitation cases and provision of long-term support for victims to assist their recovery. We will raise both public and professional awareness of this issue so no case goes uncovered.

## RURAL CRIME

Rural crime can have a devastating impact on our more isolated communities, of which there are many within our vast region. So, it's important to me that these communities feel heard, well-connected and supported by their police force. Recent reports have found that Northumbria continues to be amongst those least affected by rural crime but it is happening and while the figures represent lots of hard work, the fight against rural crime is still as important as ever.

# 1) FIGHTING CRIME



## RURAL CRIME

Stolen farm equipment, livestock thefts and sheep worrying are all typical crimes known to impact those living in rural areas but I want to make sure issues like domestic abuse and violence aren't hidden crimes that get forgotten about in the remote parts of our region too. To make sure of this, I'm determined to keep supporting rural policing. Over the past year I have allocated funds for investment in the police vehicle fleet, as well as tools for rural policing and **I want to keep investing further to help fight and prevent all crimes that take place in the countryside.**

I understand the negative impact rural crime can have on remote communities, but there is a real positive in the way that volunteers and local partners come together to keep neighbourhoods safe and I'm proud of this. **We will remain proactive in policing rural crime to ensure communities are protected.** In recent years we've seen FarmWatch and Operation Checkpoint, our network of rural crime volunteers, go from strength to strength and we need to build on this. With such a vast, largely isolated landscape, every bit of intelligence gathered and every report of suspicious activity can make a difference, and it does.

## BUSINESS CRIME

In the North East we boast a strong, vibrant business community and it's vital we do all we can to protect it. The impact of business crime can be very damaging, particularly to small or medium sized enterprises - losses can ruin them. I'm pleased with how local business owners recognise the importance of working closely with our officers sharing intelligence and making sure they're taking the right steps to prevent them from being targeted by criminals. I will make sure Northumbria Police keeps building on its focus on preventing and fighting business crimes such as theft, cyber-crime and fraud.

I will also continue to give my full support to schemes and initiatives that help raise awareness and tackle issues in the workplace too, from the continued roll-out of our nationally acclaimed hate crime champions to lending my support to the Co-op's Respect for Shopworkers campaign.



# 1) FIGHTING CRIME

## BUSINESS CRIME

Looking ahead, we'll keep building on a better understanding of the crimes faced by businesses and ensure they get the support they need to keep themselves and their customers safe.

## RESPONDING TO YOUR NEEDS

In order to fight crime, people need to have the confidence that the force will respond when they are needed. We know that satisfaction is linked to the experience at the first point of contact with the police and in keeping the caller updated. I will ensure that when you call the police there is an appropriate response. Emergency calls to the police need an emergency response, and I will ensure the force continue to focus on response times. As part of this commitment I will publish regular information setting out call handling and response time data.





## 2) PREVENTING CRIME

I will continue to fight for a well-resourced police force to ensure public safety, but we cannot simply arrest our way out of crime. As your Police Commissioner I have worked with the Chief Constable to ensure we are intervening to stop crime in its tracks.

One key tool in that mission has been the Violence Reduction Unit. I established this team with the belief that if we improve lives we can prevent crime, especially violent crime.

I am committed to **using a public health approach to reducing violence**. That means treating violence the same way we would a disease, recognising the symptoms, understanding the causes and then stopping its transmission, helping people to avoid it and giving people the tools they need to tackle it.

There is a strong commitment across Northumbria to tackle the root causes of violent crime and in the years ahead the prevention element of the region's violence reduction efforts will focus on a package of measures to reduce crime.

This will include taking a direct approach to intervening with those who are showing signs of vulnerability or are on the fringes of criminal/anti-social activity. This will take the form of **direct intervention with young people, working with those who could become the biggest problem**, alongside other services and organisations to address wider needs of other family members such as siblings.

I will **back continued funding for the life-changing youth workers at the You Only Live Once project. This scheme involves matching young people to footballing and other mentors** from the Foundation of Light and the Newcastle United Foundation and has had many success stories to date.



## 2) PREVENTING CRIME

Working with 8-14 year olds, the scheme supports those who are at risk of slipping into a life of crime. It's about showing young, often vulnerable people, that there is another way – anti-social behaviour, knife crime, violence don't have to be a part of your life, it's not too late.

Alongside this, it is clear that after ten years of Government austerity we need to **increase the provision of family support within areas of most need**. This approach has two elements: the promotion of universal services to all and the targeting of specific services to those who need them at the earliest opportunity.

One way I will help keep people, especially young people, out of crime is **support for youth services**. Effective youth diversion can reduce crime and create better outcomes for young people. But after a decade of austerity youth services are already cut back. There is strong evidence that early involvement in the criminal justice system significantly increases the likelihood of young people reoffending, but there is also evidence that effective youth diversion is better for young people than getting stuck in the criminal justice system. I will work with others to ensure young people have the option of doing more than just hanging around on street corners and getting enticed in to anti-social behaviour and other crimes.

We see the benefits of youth diversionary work when we look at the criminal gangs that young people could otherwise be involved with, and this is especially true of the emerging County Lines style drugs trade.



# 2) PREVENTING CRIME

In order to prevent vulnerable people being coerced into gangs or exploited through the people behind County Lines drugs dealing operations, **I will ensure young people are aware of the dangers and risks involved in criminal gangs.**

We will continue to do this through education and intervention – both in school and colleges, and community settings. Through our School Liaison Officers we are able to engage thousands of young people a month in a safe and trusted setting. Then to complement that, our intervention partners can engage with a different audience in the community and work with young people to direct them away from criminality, and address any needs identified.

We live in a safe region, and part of the reason for that is across many different sectors there are people dedicated to keeping the North East safe. As your Police and Crime Commissioner I will **coordinate this early intervention and prevention approach** and **implement a serious violence and criminal exploitation strategy** to ensure we are all working together to prevent crime.

## REDUCING REOFFENDING

In some cases, the police and other criminal justice organisations are dealing with people for who criminality is already a way of life. A small number of repeat offenders are responsible for a significant proportion of all crime. As is the case nationally, evidence shows that short-term custodial sentences are ineffective in terms of rehabilitation and desistance from crime. 64.5% of prisoners released from sentences of less than 12 months reoffend within one year. This is much higher than the 38% who reoffend after serving a community-based sentence. For dangerous criminals, prison should always be an option, but we need to explore out of court action for others where swift justice can benefit everyone.



# 2) PREVENTING CRIME

## REDUCE REOFFENDING

There is local evidence to suggest that most victims are happy with the outcome of a conditional caution which requires the offender to engage in a rehabilitative intervention and making sure the offender faces up to the impact they have had on the victim.

I will work with probation and other services to **promote changes which are known to reduce reoffending such as opportunities around employment, training, and education.** We will seek to engage at the earliest opportunity and support and guide individuals to access services to address their issues.

Access to employment and training is widely recognised as a significant factor in relation to offending and successful rehabilitation. By providing additional support to address the need we are increasing the likelihood of individuals maintaining engagement with support services and reducing offending behaviour.

**I will develop and implement a strategy on reducing reoffending which understands and addresses factors which can lead to criminal behaviour including mental health and substance misuse.**

## ROADS POLICING

Many of you have expressed your concerns at people driving too fast and not paying attention to the roads in your neighbourhood. Every year too many lives are lost on our region's roads due to reckless, dangerous or criminal motorists. So, our objective is clear - **reduce harm on the roads and promote safer driving.**

I will work with the Chief Constable to enhance our road safety initiatives throughout both our rural and urban areas. Together **we will develop fresh educational campaigns and carry out targeted enforcement.** While we continue to focus on education, cameras are another tactic to help tackle those unwilling to follow the rules. **Speed camera vans will be out in the areas where local residents have asked for them and there is intelligence to suggest they will make a difference.** We will do all we can to keep neighbourhoods safe.





# 2) PREVENTING CRIME

## ROADS POLICING

Road safety doesn't just concern those behind the wheel either, and from what you've told me we need to **keep promoting the message that roads are a shared space for all users**. As well as working with others to offering advice to vulnerable road users, helping them to rides safely and responsibly, **we need to ensure action will be taken against those who endanger other road users and pedestrians**.

## OPERATION DRAGOON

Many of you have shared concerns about the minority of dangerous drivers who blight our region's roads and I will make sure Northumbria Police's long-standing commitment to road safety through Operation Dragoon continues to address your concerns. We'll keep building on work to clampdown on those who drive while on their phones, under the influence of drugs, or outside schools ignoring the speed limits that are there to keep everyone safe. As well as targeted work to catch dangerous drivers in action and remove them from our roads, I believe in the importance of our ongoing programme of education and engagement work with schools and youth offending teams to help deter young people from driving recklessly and this will continue to be a key area of work for our police force.





# 3) IMPROVING LIVES

Crime, and the fear of crime, can cause far reaching damage both to individuals and local communities. I want to make sure no one suffers alone, and that there is always support available for victims of crime or parts of our region that have been hit by crime.

As part of this commitment, I have reformed how victim services are delivered, to ensure that if a crime has left someone feeling vulnerable there is a support team there to help.

I have also committed to **taking money illegally earned by criminals and giving it back to local communities**. I set up a community fund that used money recovered from criminals to benefit grass root projects, and over the course of this Police and Crime Plan I will top up that fund with money recovered through the proceeds of crime act.

## SUPPORTING PEOPLE THROUGH THE JUSTICE SYSTEM

Whether you are a victim of crime or a witness I understand that navigating the criminal justice system can be daunting, and as your Police and Crime Commissioner I want to put victims and witnesses at the heart of the criminal justice system. I will work with partners to ensure a **fair, just and effective progression of cases**. In particular work will continue to **improve the timeliness and effectiveness of domestic abuse trials within Northumbria Magistrates Courts**.

The Victims Code of Practice sets out a service level that victims should receive from the criminal justice system. As PCC I will **monitor Northumbria Police performance against the code** and ensuring that they comply with the things that you said were most important to you including:



# 3) IMPROVING LIVES

## SUPPORTING PEOPLE THROUGH THE JUSTICE SYSTEM

- written acknowledgement that a crime has been committed;
- an assessment of the support needs as a victim of crime;
- opportunity to make a Victim Personal Statement telling us how the crime has affected you;
- feedback on the progression and outcome of your case;
- a Victim Contact Scheme that, if needed, provides advance notification of a prisoner's release.

At present a priority for us all remains the impact that Covid 19 has had on the progression of cases through the Criminal Justice System. Locally I have commissioned a Recovery Group where the police, CPS and courts are working together to reduce delays and **provide opportunities for victims and witnesses to give evidence remotely** saving, work includes development of options for remote evidence giving which can prevent the need to travel to court and allow for those shielding to give evidence.

I'm also committed to influencing, where I can, the bigger picture. By changing the whole system nationally we can improve the experience of everyone seeking justice. This is why I have, and will continue to, lobby Government to roll-out an innovative Northumbria pilot scheme, which has seen the success of offering free and independent legal advocacy to complainants of sexual violence and abuse.

As was evidenced in a report by Loughborough University, it would cost the Government just £3.9 million annually to get legal help to victims in need, in England and Wales. We've seen how doing this has improved best practice in police and CPS responses, and improved the overall victim experience. Committing funding to this would be a small price to pay to help improve conviction rates, keep our streets safe and treat victims with the respect they deserve. I will do all I can to continue speaking out for victims so we can improve lives and prevent further crime.



# 3) IMPROVING LIVES

## STALKING AND HARRASSMENT

I am pleased that Northumbria Police have pioneered new ways of investigating stalking, harassment and coercive control using a range of advanced technologies. Welcome improvements have also been made to the risk assessment process.

Stalking, whether in person or online, is a distressing and potentially life threatening crime and must be taken very seriously. **I will work with Northumbria Police to ensure that relevant legislation and powers are effectively adhered to, and measured in my scrutiny process.** I know that many victims of stalking want to see concerning behaviours result in immediate action – to protect the victim and effectively deal the perpetrator. With thorough training, **officers will be able to intervene and take action at the earliest opportunity.**

## HATE CRIME

Tackling hate is an area in which we are leading the way - with a nationally acclaimed hate crime champions' scheme. This programme helps people explore the impact of hate on victims and the wider community, the barriers to reporting and the best ways to seek help.

While I am proud to be Police and Crime Commissioner of such a welcoming region, there are always people who spoil things and incite hatred and that's completely unacceptable. I want all victims to feel listened to, whoever you are, whatever your background. I want you to know that Northumbria Police are there for you and **we are committed to ensuring that all victims get the right support to overcome their experience.**

I recognise the importance of reaching out to those communities who are perhaps uncomfortable contacting the police. **We will do all we can to strengthen relationships with all communities and we will continue striving to recruit from a diverse range of backgrounds** to better reflect the communities we serve.



# 3) IMPROVING LIVES

## MENTAL HEALTH

After a decade of austerity and cuts to public services, mental health concerns are a regular feature of day to day policing. Like other forces, Northumbria is now routinely dealing with the consequences of reduced availability of mental health services. Northumbria Police have been responding to an increase in complex cases in which their front-line officers are acting as the first point of contact to people with mental health needs that are in crisis.

Alongside this pressure, our victim support services report that mental health is the main support need being presented by victims and referrals to specialist mental health services remain high.

Northumbria Police will continue to promote mental health awareness and **work with other emergency services to make sure that people facing mental health crisis get the appropriate support**. But this will not in itself solve the problems we face. I will continue to lobby for better resourced mental health services.

## COMPLAINTS

I take complaints about Northumbria Police very seriously and want to make sure that the service provided to communities is professional, effective and efficient.

It is important your complaints are listened to and that you receive a timely response from Northumbria Police. Often complaints can identify areas where service delivery can be improved and I receive regular reports from Northumbria Police that tell me how many complaints have been received. These can identify any trends in complaints, disparity between different communities or geographical areas within Northumbria and most importantly any learning that Northumbria Police have identified from analysis of their complaints process.



# 3) IMPROVING LIVES

## USE OF FORCE STOP AND SEARCH

Use of Force and Stop and Search I know that for the public to have confidence in the police there needs to be trust that the police will treat them with respect, make fair decisions and take time to engage and explain their actions.

Some areas of business cause concerns for communities and can impact on confidence and trust in a significant way. We all know that for the police, the power to stop and search people who they suspect of being involved in crime is an important crime-fighting tactic. As part of my scrutiny programme I will **ensure that Stop and Search is only used when police have sufficient grounds to act** thereby protecting communities. Where there is disparity between different racial groups the police will work to reduce this rate.

When fighting crime there will sometimes need to be a use of force, such as handcuffs. On your behalf **I will monitor the use of force by Northumbria Police**. I want to know that they understand where and how these tactics are used, any disparity in their use and that ongoing internal and external scrutiny can see that force, when used, is applied lawfully and proportionately.





# OUR COMMITMENTS

## ANTI-SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR

Anti-social behaviour is an issue in many parts of our region, and in many cases it's about something other than laws being broken and low-level criminality. After ten years of austerity local services, especially youth services, have been slashed back. I'm committed to hiring more police officers and supporting youth services to help your neighbourhood.

But in many cases, anti-social behaviour needs more than just a police response. Housing providers, councils, schools and others all have a role to play in moving individuals away from the sort of low level crime that can too often become a regular problem. I will ensure the police support others to reduce anti-social behaviour, including education providers, local councils and housing organisations.

We saw the benefits of a strong partnership approach during the Covid-19 pandemic, when reports of anti-social behaviour increased. The police supported local authorities with dedicated task force partnerships to help address ASB concerns.

### **I WILL IMPROVE THIS BY:**

Explore with local authorities how to build on joint ASB operations, ensuring every local organisation plays their part in joint ASB task forces.

Hold the police to account on your behalf and ensure your ASB concerns are brought directly to senior police officers, local council staff and others who all have a role to play.

I will review how the police and councils take ownership of ASB reports, so people asking for help are not passed from organisation to organisation.

Invest in youth services to give young people a better chance to make something of themselves.

### **I WILL PUBLISH REGULAR CRIME AND POLICING DATA TO SHOW YOU:**

Every three months I will tell the public exactly how many incidents of ASB the police have dealt with, whether this has gone up or down and what is being done to keep crime down.



# OUR COMMITMENTS - FIGHTING CRIME

## REDUCING CRIME

At the core of my work for the public is a simple aim; I am elected to ensure the police fight crime and keep you safe. And whether that is alcohol-fuelled incidents in our city centres on a night time or theft in our rural and farming communities, your priorities must be translated into policing targets and outcomes. After a decade of austerity and cuts to the force worth £140m, the police have never been under greater pressure in their work to reduce crime. But I am proud that Northumbria Police has maintained our region's reputation as one of the safest places to live. Crime and anti-social behaviour can damage and destroy lives, and the public want to see crime reduced. The consequences of even a single offence can be devastating and widespread; going beyond the immediate victim to impact on the lives of wider family, friends and communities. Myself and the Chief Constable will continue to work together to reduce these crimes.

### **I WILL ENSURE THE FORCE CONTINUES TO FIGHT CRIME BY:**

Ensuring the force reduces the volume of crimes committed and that Northumbria continues to have a lower recorded crime rate compared to other similar forces.

Monitoring levels of crimes being committed and ensure the police and others are tackling them.

Prioritising crimes which present the greatest risk of harm to vulnerable people.

Ensuring the force has the technology and training needed to keep our streets safe while maintaining a focus on serious and organised criminals.

### **I WILL PUBLISH REGULAR CRIME AND POLICING DATA TO SHOW YOU:**

How many crimes are being committed in different parts of the Northumbria force area.



# OUR COMMITMENTS - PREVENTING CRIME

## PREVENTING VIOLENT CRIME

Getting more police officers on our streets and in our neighbourhoods is one way a great way to tackle violent crime, but it is only one part of the solution. We need a plan to prevent people, particularly young people, getting into a life of violent crime. If we offer people an alternative, alongside a targeted focus on those already routinely turning to violence, we can make a real difference. That's why I set up a Violence Reduction Unit to ensure the police are not alone in standing up to violent crime and I am committed to its long-term success.

### **I WILL IMPROVE THIS BY:**

I will ensure there is clear plan to reduce serious and violent crime in the Northumbria force area.

Lobbying Government for more funding to ensure the Violence Reduction Unit can continue to make a difference.

Ensure the force targets the illegal drugs trade and the crime that follows this.

Support organisations seeking to help people out of gangs and the cycle of crime.

### **I WILL PUBLISH REGULAR CRIME AND POLICING DATA TO SHOW YOU:**

The number of crimes involving serious violence with a knife.

The number of hospital admissions for knife related serious violence.



# OUR COMMITMENTS - PREVENTING CRIME

## **NEIGHBOURHOOD POLICING**

Early intervention keeps crime down, and the best way to achieve this is with trusted neighbourhood police officers and staff. The Chief Constable and I have agreed that neighbourhood policing is a top priority, alongside working with other organisations such as local councils to help keep our streets safe and intervene in anti-social behaviour.

But after ten years of Government austerity and spending cuts, maintaining a local neighbourhood police service has not been easy. The force has had to make some difficult decisions in order to prioritise use of officers and staff out in our communities. I stand by these choices, and, for example, when it comes to deciding between having a police station open at 3am or having officers out in your local community, I back a visible police presence.

Whether it's in a rural village or a city estate, Neighbourhood policing is the key to safer streets. I will ensure it is easy for people to find out who the officers and PCSOs are in their area. Different neighbourhoods will often have different needs and by having a local policing team that understands the area we can tackle local problems at the source. The force will continue to focus on problem solving with our partners in our communities.

### **I WILL IMPROVE THIS BY:**

Protecting frontline policing and giving the force the resources to deter, detect and deal with criminals.

Committing to investing in and supporting neighbourhood policing teams.

Engage with communities to build relationships and to provide safety advice, education and guidance in particular to young people, vulnerable people and marginalised communities.

### **I WILL PUBLISH REGULAR CRIME AND POLICING DATA TO SHOW YOU:**

How you feel about the police – including the results of regular satisfaction surveys including public confidence data and police insights report. If satisfaction levels fall, I'll ask the force to explain why and what it will do to rebuild that relationship.

# OUR COMMITMENTS - IMPROVING LIVES



## SUPPORT FOR VICTIMS

Being a victim of crime can undermine a person's confidence and make them unhappy or frightened. It can affect a person's outlook on life, that's why it is so important that we put victims at the heart of policing. We absolutely have to put victims first and make sure we are doing things right by them. I plan to further enhance the delivery of victim support services across Northumbria, by streamlining the whole process, making things simpler and doing everything we can to ensure that all victims receive the help they need. In doing this we will deliver genuine end to end support for those pursuing a route through the criminal justice system, resulting in an improved offer to victims and witnesses across the Northumbria Police area. Everyone involved in the criminal justice system wants the best for victims. By making changes through this Police and Crime Plan it's a real opportunity to build on the great work happening everyday throughout our region and will allow us to help even more victims cope, recover and move forward with their lives. Protecting vulnerable victims is absolutely the number one priority for Northumbria Police and I will continue to make sure this focus remains clear.

### **I WILL IMPROVE THIS BY:**

Introducing a new co-ordinated and streamlined approach to supporting victims of crime from report to court, ensuring consistent professional input and effective communication with victims.

Investing in victim services to give people a greater chance of coping with the impact of crime and recovering from their experience.

Encouraging the police and criminal justice system to develop trauma informed practice so the support options made available to victims best meet their needs.

Asking the police to effectively cooperate with our communities so information about crime within neighbourhoods can be shared but also to build trust and confidence for victims to report crime and be assured of Northumbria Police's ability to protect them and their local values.

Supporting the introduction of multi-agency victim hubs, set up to support our most vulnerable and exploited victims.



# OUR COMMITMENTS - IMPROVING LIVES

## **I WILL PUBLISH REGULAR CRIME AND POLICING DATA TO SHOW YOU:**

Every three months I will tell the public exactly how many victims of crime have been supported, how many are satisfied with their service from Northumbria Police and how we are meeting obligations in the Victims Code of Practice.



# OUR COMMITMENTS - IMPROVING LIVES

## **TACKLING DOMESTIC ABUSE AND SEXUAL VIOLENCE**

Violence and abuse can blight communities and lead to devastating consequences. It has devastating, traumatic and long-lasting impact on victims, families and wider communities. Domestic abuse is one of the biggest contributors to violent crime locally and nationally and PCCs have a hugely important lead role in tackling this. Domestic abuse and sexual violence can affect anybody – regardless of age, gender, ethnicity, sexuality or disability. I will make it my business to encourage people to come forward and report it, support them through their experience when they do, and oversee Northumbria Police's role in bringing those responsible to justice. Children must not be the forgotten victims of abuse and the right support is crucial and must be there at an early stage to help avoid trauma in later life.

### **I WILL IMPROVE THIS BY:**

Continuing to develop my Domestic Abuse Workplace Champions, so more than ever, workplaces can recognise abuse and offer support to their staff, building on the important role that friends, families and communities can play in connecting loved ones to the right help and support as early as possible.

Working with partners to focus on perpetrators of abuse, providing behaviour change and stabilisation work to the highest harm/high risk domestic abuse perpetrators. By its very nature, this will result in improved safety and feelings of safety for survivors and their children.

Enhancing the role of the VRU's Education Team who have a key role to work with schools and communities around healthy relationships, and other issues such as knife crime awareness.

Continue to build on the work of the Violence Against Women and Girls strategy to bring together in one place our vision, ambition and actions to tackle violence against women and girls, strengthening our work to change attitudes, improve prevention and where possible rehabilitate offenders.

Introducing focussed and regular challenge sessions with the Chief Constable and his team where we explore together what has been achieved and what more needs to be done to best support victims and improve criminal justice outcomes.



# OUR COMMITMENTS - IMPROVING LIVES

## **I WILL PUBLISH REGULAR CRIME AND POLICING DATA TO SHOW YOU:**

Every three months I will tell the public exactly how many victims have reported these crimes, how many of these are repeat incidents and how many victims are satisfied with their service from Northumbria Police. I will also focus on criminal justice outcomes and will tell you how we are performing as a criminal justice system to bring crimes to justice.





NORTHUMBRIA  
**POLICE & CRIME  
COMMISSIONER**

**violence  
reduction  
unit**

*Improving lives to prevent crime*

2021-2025  
**NORTHUMBRIA  
POLICE & CRIME  
PLAN**

