

**NORTHUMBRIA
POLICE & CRIME
COMMISSIONER**

Improving lives to prevent crime

violence
reduction
unit

KIM MCGUINNESS

NEWSLETTER

WELCOME TO MY NEWSLETTER



And 1st place goes to... Northumbria Police

I'm very pleased to report that Northumbria Police has ranked number one in the Crime Survey for England and Wales in a range of categories and I couldn't be prouder. Our force took the top slot for:

Number 1 - I have confidence in the police in my area

Number 1 - Police understand issues that effect the community

Number 1 - Police treat everyone fairly

Number 1 - Police relied upon to be there when needed

1
NUMBER

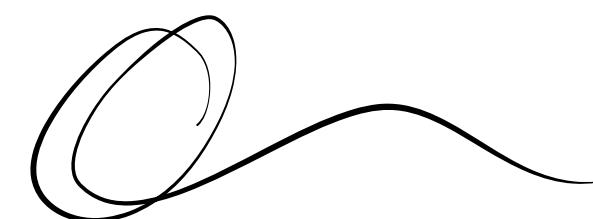
I'm writing this newsletter having just returned from welcoming 80 new officers to Northumbria Police - our first class of 2021.

Meeting all our new faces on Day 1 of their learning journey is always a diary highlight for me. This latest, and very welcome, boost to officer numbers means that from April 2020 to March 2021 the Force has taken on a record total of 459 new officers. These replace those retiring and increase existing officer numbers as well.

I have spoken to so many local people who have made it very clear that they want more police and we are making this happen. We are not only smashing Government targets for 2020/21 but we're exceeding them, which is brilliant.

It takes so much hard work and dedication to become a police officer and it's particularly challenging with a pandemic going on. That said, the recruits I met today were all taking it in their stride. Today's students were from a range of backgrounds and bring with them some fresh new skills which will really strengthen the workforce as a whole. I want to take this opportunity to wish them every success in their chosen career and I know local people will look forward to seeing them patrolling the streets near them one day soon.

Best wishes



Kim McGuinness
Northumbria Police and Crime Commissioner

Watch my video for more on this here

FIGHTING CRIME



COUNTY LINES CRACKDOWN

It was welcome news from Northumbria Police the other week when three suspected County Lines drug dealers caught with a quantity of cocaine in their car were charged following the swift action of officers in the Shipley Avenue area of Newcastle.

Officers from Op Benelli, our High Impact Crime Team and the Neighbourhood Support Team, came together and responded within minutes to reports of a suspicious looking vehicle. This resulted in the arrest of three suspected drug dealers who have been taken off our streets.

It's important to share successes like this as there is a lot of good work happening to fight this crime and put the drug dealers who are the top of the chain, masterminding the exploitation, firmly behind bars.

Vulnerable young people getting drawn into the world of County Lines is a great concern of mine as well and my Violence Reduction Unit is committed to helping those who are at risk of being exploited too. We'll keep doing everything we can to prevent this from happening.

ACTION AGAINST RECKLESS RIDERS

I'm hearing from residents that reckless riding is happening far too often and it's happening in our parks and residential streets the very places where people are enjoying walks and families are playing.

These are things people should be able to do safely - they shouldn't have to worry about off-road bikes speeding by and ramping up pavements.

I'm working closely with the Chief Constable and local councils to tackle residents' concerns of bike-related antisocial behaviour and this will remain a top priority for the Force. I am also going to be urging Policing Minister Kit Malthouse to give the green light to allow for tracker devices to be fitted to all motorbikes so their whereabouts and speed can be monitored. Along with many officers I have been in discussion with, I believe such trackers would be an impactful tool in the fight against bike crime, would prevent thefts and anti-social behaviour and in turn improve the lives of local people.

A tough range of policing measures are already underway though. Tactics include hotspot patrols, garage checks, underage petrol test purchases and educational campaigns and there is plenty more of this to come as we head into the summer months.



PREVENTING CRIME



SURVEY, SPECIALS AND THE SARA PROJECT IN SOUTHWICK

We've recently ran a local survey inviting Southwick residents to have their say on how they feel policing resources could be best used in the area.

As lockdown eases, there are going to be challenges for all of us – this is where local, easy to access services are crucial – and we've already started doing this through the SARA project, which receives funding through my VRU. Communities are at the heart of everything we do and we will keep listening.

I also joined our Special Constables Brook and Richardson in the area to find out more about their experiences and their wonderful dedication and commitment volunteering for our force – it was a pleasure to meet them. All our Specials are a credit to Northumbria Police and I for one can't thank them enough.



KNIFE ANGEL – A YEAR ON

A lot has happened this past year, and I was reminded again of that when recently catching up with Samantha's Legacy – it has been a whole year since the Knife Angel came to the region. We marked this occasion with a Facebook Live discussion about how we are tackling knife crime, and our plans looking ahead.

Despite the challenges, my education engagement team within the VRU has adapted fantastically – moving delivery online, and continuing to engage schools and community groups. As restrictions ease, we have new educational knife crime programmes ready to be delivered – both to young people, and those who work with them.

We will keep working to ensure no other family has to suffer the heartbreak and grief that the Madgins experienced, and continue to do so.

IMPROVING LIVES



OPERATION PAYBACK – RE-INVESTING CASH RECOVERED FROM CRIME

I've got some great funding news to update you on. You may remember last month we launched Operation Payback – a funding scheme to reinvest cash recovered from crime and put it back right where you want it – doing good in our local communities.

I'm delighted to say that a football club, a community centre and a youth group are just some of the 24 groups and grass root initiatives that celebrated news this month that they will receive a share of the £350,000 pot of funding.

There really are some terrific groups who've taken it upon themselves to turn things around in the area where they live. They've taken responsibility and they're making a huge difference. I want this money to support them in doing this. I can't wait to visit the initiatives as soon as it's safe to do so and I'll update you on the good work that's happening.



South Shields FC Foundation will work with the Police and Youth Justice Service to run a project for young people at risk of offending or re-offending.

Steve Camm, manager at the Foundation, said: "This is a really exciting project and we can't wait to get started. We'll be working closely with the Police and Youth Justice Service to identify and engage young people at risk and provide them with positive preventative activities, including football and boxing, with the aim of reducing crime and the impact of crime in our community."

[Click here to watch video.](#)

[Watch my video for more on this here](#)



Dunston Community Centre will be supporting young adults who have been excluded from school, expelled or served community sentences, helping them to become mentors and encourage others to take responsibility for their actions.

Brenda Clelland from the community centre, said: "This funding will help us to really tackle the youth-related anti-social behaviour and petty crime which plagues our neighbourhood by directly addressing the underlying issues, helping the young people to make positive changes and choices which benefit, not damage, our local community."



NORTHUMBRIA WELCOMES MOBILE COURT SCREENS TO IMPROVE THE VICTIM EXPERIENCE

Giving evidence can be intimidating, it can be daunting and so wherever possible we want to be making things that bit easier.

That's why my office has funded new state-of-the-art technology to make things easier for vulnerable victims and witnesses to give evidence in court. I hope this will help bring more criminals to justice as a result.

A number of new mobile screens have been introduced at Newcastle Crown Court helping those who are anxious when giving evidence remotely, to know their image won't be beamed into the court room for all to see, including the defendant.

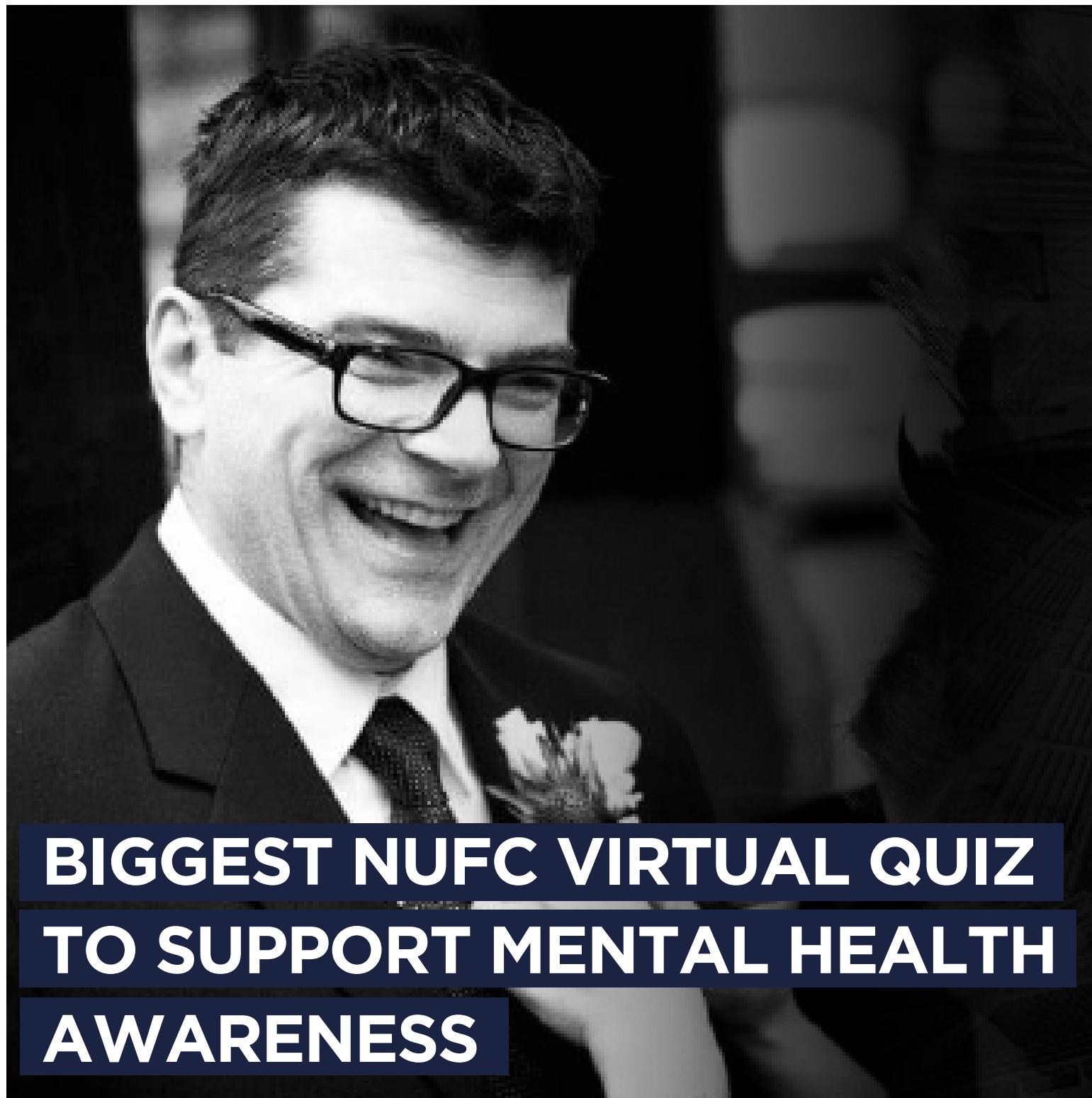
This is about treating victims with dignity and respect. It's a really positive step we are pleased to have taken in Newcastle and this will hopefully go a long way to make the court experience more witness friendly.

AND ANOTHER THING...



LAPTOPS FOR KIDS

As an organisation, Northumbria Police always wants to help where it can and I was pleased the Force was able to donate 78 devices to the Laptops for Kids campaign – finding unused computers and giving them to families most in need in our region. Let's hope they will help boost learning and future prospects of local school children who need our support.



BIGGEST NUFC VIRTUAL QUIZ TO SUPPORT MENTAL HEALTH AWARENESS



The biggest ever Newcastle United quiz will take place on March 27 in memory of club supporter Martin Lorimer who died in a suspected suicide last year.

This is such a great idea to bring fans together to enjoy some football trivia and raise awareness of the help that is out there for anyone struggling with their mental health. Anyone wishing to join in the fun can catch the quiz live streamed from 7pm on Saturday, March 27, on the Newcastle Fans TV YouTube channel. Special thanks to all the organisers and good luck to everyone testing out their Toon trivia!



THE SEARCH IS ON FOR VOLUNTEERS... CAN YOU HELP?

We are looking for volunteers for a new Dog Welfare Scheme to ensure Northumbria Police and Tyne and Wear Fire and Rescue Service dogs are being treated correctly.

Sound like this could be a canine calling for you? Email enquiries@northumbria-pcc.gov.uk for further information.

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](#)