



NORTHUMBRIA  
**POLICE & CRIME  
COMMISSIONER**

violence  
reduction  
unit

*Improving lives to prevent crime*

KIM MCGUINNESS

**NEWSLETTER**



# WELCOME TO MY NEWSLETTER

**‘How can we make the North East safer?’** That’s the question I asked as part of a major survey which ran throughout June and I am so thankful to each and every one of you who took the time to respond and share your experiences with me.

As your Police and Crime Commissioner, I have been invited to apply for Home Office Funding to help put measures in place to make people feel safe in their daily lives and I want to do all I can to achieve this.

Yes, Northumbria is one of the safest regions but I want you to feel safer. I am determined to make some real improvements.

These are just some of the concerns shared. These are concerns people should not be having:

- “I would never visit my local park at night alone.”
- “I don’t feel safe on public transport.”
- “I have experienced unwanted attention as acceptable behaviour in so many bars in town.”

Responses like this are of great concern to me so thank you for sharing them. I will take them forward and we will work up a strong case for funding so we can address the issues that matter to you and make everyone feel safer in our region. I look forward to keeping you updated on this.

Best wishes,

**Kim McGuinness**  
Northumbria Police and Crime Commissioner

# FIGHTING CRIME



## 533 NEW RECRUITS SINCE MARCH 2020

Our mission to smash Government recruitment targets has continued as we welcomed 62 new police officers this month - bringing the total of new recruits, since March 2020, to an impressive 533.

People tell me they want more police to be fighting crime in their area and we are delivering on this.

And it's not all about numbers. We're fortunate to have so many high calibre candidates, from a range of backgrounds, who are coming through what is a very competitive recruitment process.

So, congratulations to all the new starters and thank you on behalf of the public for choosing a career dedicated to keeping our communities safe.

[Watch video here](#)

# TACKLING ASB IN SUNDERLAND



A problem address that became a hub for anti-social behaviour and drug-use in Ashbrooke, Sunderland has been shut down and the tenants evicted thanks to joint action from Northumbria Police and Sunderland City Council.

Tough, effective action like this has to be taken when it comes to tenants like this, and I am so pleased for the local people who have clearly had to put up with a lot. Anti-social behaviour can really be very damaging to a neighbourhood and I fully support our police officers and the council in using every tactic available in fighting this crime - it won't be tolerated..

# PREVENTING CRIME



## CHANGING 103 LIVES FOR GOOD

Two years have gone by since my Violence Reduction Unit launched the YOLO (You Only Live Once) project with our friends at Newcastle United Foundation - and what a two years it has been.

I know the Foundation really well and they totally get it - if we are truly going to fight crime, we need to get ahead of it, and prevent it from happening in the first place - and this is what YOLO is all about.

The Foundation has successfully provided direct mentorship, support and positive interventions for 103 young people in the past year through more than 500 hours of face-to-face delivery during the pandemic.

Grassroots projects like this can, and do, make a real difference to young lives.

## VRU: ALMOST 3500 YOUNG PEOPLE EDUCATED ON THE DANGERS OF KNIFE CRIME



Another success story in preventing crime comes from my Violence Reduction Unit. Despite the lockdown, the Education Team has worked with almost 3,500 children and young people to raise awareness of knife crime and the impact of carrying a knife.

And this type of education has never been more important. Although our region is very safe there is always a possibility that crime could increase, especially as we come out of lockdown.

We must engage young people now to ensure they are diverted from crime by having the right support and opportunities available to them. My Violence Reduction Unit is here to ensure that Northumbria Police is not alone in standing up to violent crime.

# IMPROVING LIVES



Did you know over 2 million adults experience domestic abuse each year?

[Watch video here](#)

## PERPETRATOR INTERVENTIONS

What's Anita up to busily loading her car in the rain? Well, she is delivering a range of security packs to help support survivors of domestic abuse.

Now they've agreed. Perpetrator interventions are an absolute must and save lives. I'm proud to be working with the Drive Project delivering this important work across the Northumbria area.

Helen's Story shows why it's so important we fight this hidden crime and increase safety for all victim survivors.

## MALE RAPE SUPPORT SERVICES FUND

ALL survivors of sexual violence and abuse deserve specialist support.

So, this month I was pleased to announce funding for specialist services supporting male victim-survivors of sexual violence. I look forward to updating you on the successful bids in due course.





## NORTHUMBRIA PILOT SCHEME INFLUENCING RAPE REFORM

My office has repeatedly raised concerns about the handling of rape and other sexual offences, so the reform announced by the Government this month has certainly been long overdue.

Many victims don't report rape because the failings in our system which are well known. In particular, how intrusive it can be – the culture of putting victims on trial has to end.

I'm pleased to see that the scheme offering legal support to victims that we piloted right here in Northumbria has played such a key part in influencing expected changes. We now need to see the promises backed up with actions and importantly, funding.

# 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](#)