



NORTHUMBRIA
**POLICE & CRIME
COMMISSIONER**

violence
reduction
unit

Improving lives to prevent crime

KIM MCGUINNESS

NEWSLETTER

WELCOME TO MY NEWSLETTER

Well, July has been a month of highs and lows. The bitter mixed in with the sweet. We didn't bring football home but Euro 2020 certainly brought our nation together.

We've also seen more restrictions lifted - we can finally do far more of the things we love, but as infection rates are on the rise, particularly here in the North East, many fear the consequences of returning to normal just yet.

So many of us, myself included, have been isolating as required, to help stop the spread of the virus. In fact, many of the region's children have started the school holidays earlier than planned as a result of isolating. There will be plenty of families worried it's going to be a long few months ahead as the juggle of work, childcare and financial pressures continues throughout the holidays.

It's a known fact that there are often increases in youth ASB over the summer months too. It's all too easy for kids on their holidays to get bored. This year will be no exception either and our police have plenty of operational activity lined up to deal with this.

Of course, our police are there to fight crime but we also have to focus on preventing it from happening. In fact I was delighted to welcome Shadow Home Secretary Nick Thomas-Symonds MP to our region this month to talk about the excellent work that's been happening in our area to do just that.

Despite devastating Government funding cuts in youth services over the years and only a short term funding approach from the Home Office to tackling serious violence, we have some amazing organisations supporting the region's most vulnerable young people. I know the summer holidays can be a busy time for these organisations and I want to thank all of those who work the holidays to support and bring opportunities to our young people - it can, and does, make a difference to many lives.

Wishing you a safe and happy summer,

Best wishes,



Kim McGuinness
Northumbria Police and Crime Commissioner



FIGHTING CRIME



FARM THEFTS FALL

I'm pleased to report that farms across the Northumbria Police force area have seen a fall in thefts during lockdown and so the plan is to keep driving the numbers down.

Although they reflect an unusual lockdown period they still represent lots of hard work by Northumbria Police fighting rural crime. I hope this shows that our force area is not an easy target for criminals.

Over the last 12 months, data shows rural crime data shows:

- **All burglary is down 47%**
- **All vehicle crime is down 35%**

FIGHTING ORGANISED CRIME



There were some strong and welcome results from Northumbria Police this month from Operation Venetic – showing that the fight against serious and organised crime is very much on.

The arrests, the drugs off our streets, the number of people locked up – this is all thanks to a great deal of commitment and determination from our officers, NERSOU and those working behind the scenes to make our region safer. This tough action will not stop.

Operation Venetic results:

- **117 arrested**
- **33 charged**
- **Nine jailed for almost 45 years -**
- **Cash seizures of nearly £2 MILLION**

LATEST RECRUITS



Regular readers of my newsletter will know I like to give an update on how our recruitment figures are smashing Government targets but this month I couldn't resist introducing you to two of our latest recruits, eight-weeks-old Ned and Nixon – they'll be fighting crime in no time.

PREVENTING CRIME



VRU GOES VIRTUAL

There's been more excellent work improving lives to prevent crime from my VRU this month.

Using Virtual Reality is a great way for young people to understand the potential consequences of their actions, and provides an opportunity to educate them on the right and wrong choices in those situations. I've been hearing such great feedback about the sessions and hope they will help prevent crime, and keep our regions young people safe.

TRAINING DOCTORS, NURSES AND TEACHERS TO PREVENT KNIFE CRIME



Preventing crime often involves engaging with vulnerable young people at a critical moment - whether that be in school, a custody suite or even potentially an A&E department.

That's why we've been working with staff from the RVI and The Great North Children's Hospital to upskill professionals and ensure that frontline staff have the skills and knowledge to best support these individuals and guide them onto the right path.



NORTHUMBRIA POLICE LAUNCHES CRAMLINGTON YOUTH PANEL

Dedicated Neighbourhood Sergeant Dave Turner has launched the Cramlington Youth Panel to provide children in the town with opportunities that will steer them away from crime and anti-social behaviour.

He's brought together politicians, charities and emergency services to try and ensure vulnerable children in the community are aware of the opportunities on offer.

Effectively engaging with our young people is a top priority in fighting crime. Along with my Northumbria Violence Reduction Unit, we'll do all we can to support Northumbria Police in bringing youth services together in Cramlington.

IMPROVING LIVES



CALLS FOR GOVERNMENT TO FUND SAFER STREETS SOLUTIONS IN NORTHUMBRIA

41 % of you said you felt unsafe using public transport at night in our region, according to my Safe Streets Survey.

We need to do something about it. That's why I have sent these findings to Government with a very clear message that ministers must back these concerns with funds that allow us to do something about it.

Safety isn't just about police – now is an opportunity to rethink public safety whether it's practical solutions like CCTV and improved lighting or greater education around respect for women and behaviours that are just unacceptable.

We need real solutions to make our region safer for everyone.



LISTENING TO OUR LGBTQ+ COMMUNITY

It's my role to ensure that all communities are being listened to and represented within the force's priorities and that is why I teamed up with Northern Pride - to give people the opportunity to have their say on policing and crime and help ensure the force is doing the best job they can to fight crime, prevent crime, and improve lives.

Early findings suggest there is still a job to do to encourage victims to come forward and report hate crimes, with many believing an incident is 'not serious enough to report'. I'll be sharing all findings with Northumbria Police and together we will work with Northern Pride to further grow confidence in reporting and raise awareness of the support services that are available.

COMING UP NEXT MONTH

We will focus on preventing crime and bring you updates from the world of policing and my Violence Reduction Unit.

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