

National Crime Measures:

Upcoming action

December 2021

1) Reduce homicides

The number of homicides is low, and therefore determining any trend is difficult. There have been 13 homicides in the 12 months to December 2021, compared to 18 for the 12 months to June 2019. The majority of homicides in the force area are drug or alcohol related.

Regular media and engagement messaging is published to discourage the use and supply of controlled drugs by highlighting the harm caused by drugs and the consequences of dealing in drugs.

The Force is supporting the Violence Reduction Unit (VRU) in working with and expanding a network of link workers to engage and work with those vulnerable to drugs and alcohol.

Drug testing upon arrest is being developed across the Force and forms part of the work under Project Adder.

2) Reduce Serious Violence

Northumbria Police has been allocated £906k by the Home Office as part of the GRIP Programme to tackle knife crime and serious violence. The focus of GRIP is to deliver hotspot policing in local settings using a refined data-led approach. The aim is to immediately suppress and reduce serious violence, to take control of serious violence in key locations, the streets and the neighbourhoods that are most affected by these crimes.

A firearms threat desk and monthly firearms threat group has been introduced to enhance the force's understanding of current and emerging threat around the criminal use of firearms and improve the targeted action against the highest harm individuals involved in the criminal use of firearms.

3) Disrupt drugs supply and county lines

The emerging threat posed by County line activity is very much recognised by Northumbria Police actively seeking to reduce the risk posed to some of our most vulnerable groups. The force is raising awareness and educating the workforce to better understand County Line methodology and working with partners to develop a vulnerability tracker to identify and safeguard vulnerable victims. Processes have been implemented to identify and manage risk around County lines, a threat desk has been established with the alignment of an analyst and researcher to capture relevant intelligence which is uploaded onto the Police National Database (PND) and shared with regional and national forces ensuring a joined up approach in-line with the National SOC Strategy.



4) Reduce neighbourhood crime

A new Neighbourhood Policing Strategy and role profile has been developed which places crime and ASB prevention at the centre of neighbourhood policing activity and focus. The Force has also recently introduced a new Harm Reduction and Communities Team which will ensure best practice is shared across the organisation.

5) Improving victim satisfaction

Overall, domestic abuse victims report a high level of satisfaction with the service. Victims left positive feedback about the treatment they received from officers dealing with their report. A minority of respondents felt that police could have been more diligent in their actions.

Volume crime victims report a high level of satisfaction with their initial contact, response time and treatment. However, follow-up performance shows scope for improvement. Service users expressed dissatisfaction with a lack of updates about their report.

6) Tackling cyber crime

Cyber-crime is a real and growing threat which is recognised across policing and the government. A partnership approach is vital be it individuals, businesses or organisations across the cyber sector and law enforcement. Nationally last year there were 24% more convictions and 95% more disruptions and this trend was reflected within Northumbria. However we know cyber- crime is widely under reported and we encourage victims to report to allow us to see the whole picture and pursue criminals, and enable partners and ourselves to give quick time advice to victims to reduce the impact of an attack.

The Force, together with regional dedicated protect officers, continues to offer vulnerability assessments to businesses who have been victim to cyber breaches, and also offer the service of 'cyber alarm' which provides network monitoring to identify suspicious traffic.