



A WELCOME FROM THE PCC...

I made a commitment to Fight Poverty, Fight Crime in our region and part of this approach is the work of the Violence Reduction Unit in preventing crime from happening.

The Violence Reduction Unit recently announced that it is investing over £7 million in the next 3 years which will see it:

- Use data and local intelligence to identify areas where action is required and interrupt the transmission of violence.
- Provide diversionary activities to reduce vulnerability and tackle offending in communities.
- Address offending behaviours of those causing the most disruption in communities and work with the whole family to tackle issues.
- Educate young people on the dangers and consequences of violent crime to reduce their risk of becoming involved.

Sadly, we know that large proportions of violence occurs in areas where poverty is most prevalent – but we cannot just arrest our way out the problem. That is why the Violence Reduction Unit will continue its work to divert offenders from crime and improve the lives of those at risk of becoming a victim.

Kim McGuinness, Northumbria Police & Crime Commissioner

OVER THE LAST 12 MONTHS...

17,102

YOUNG PEOPLE EDUCATED THROUGH THE VRU EDUCATION TEAM

68%

OF YOUNG PEOPLE ON THE YOLO PROGRAMME HAVE NOT OFFENDED SINCE ENGAGING.

75%

OF THOSE ENGAGING IN THE CUSTODY DIVERSION PROJECT HAVE REDUCED INVOLVEMENT WITH THE CRIMINAL JUSTICE SYSTEM.

5,622

INDIVIDUALS ACCESSED TRAINING AND EDUCATION VIA THE VRU

517

PEOPLE HAVE ENGAGED WITH LINK WORKERS AND RECEIVED SUPPORT IN THE COMMUNITY

62%

OF THOSE WHO COMPLIED WITH THE EMPLOYMENT AND WOMEN'S PATHWAYS HAVE NOT OFFENDED SINCE EXITING THE INTERVENTION.



FIGHTING CRIME



- Working with key partners on new and emerging issues.
- Targeting offenders causing the most harm in communities.
- Enhancing our work with perpetrators of domestic abuse.
- Upskilling workforces to support victims.
- Developing our response to stalking.
- Developing our response to low-risk perpetrators through conditional cautions across the force area.

PREVENTING CRIME



- Designing and delivering vital violence reduction-themed learning through our Education Team.
- Upskilling practitioners with an understanding of knife crime.
- Consulting with stakeholders to effectively target resources.
- Working with communities through peer-based research.
- Developing a risk matrix for a better understanding of serious and youth violence.

IMPROVING LIVES



- Providing family and youth support in areas of most need.
- Improving access to services that support individuals and families within their local area.
- Utilising the expertise of local practitioner's, with a focus on early intervention.
- Ensuring services are shaped by individuals with 'lived experience'.

FOR EVERY £1 INVESTED IN VIOLENCE REDUCTION UNIT'S, £3 IS SAVED TO THE PUBLIC PURSE.

THE MOST RECENT LOCAL EVALUATION FOUND THAT A COMBINATION OF THE NORTHUMBRIA VRU AND POLICE SURGE ACTIVITY, SHOWED SAVINGS OF

£7.5 MILLION PER YEAR





TURNING LIVES AROUND...

Meet Issy, who is just one example of someone who has turned her life around thanks to Jobs Boxing Gym.

We know that by having access to activities and support, it can really make a difference to someone's life, divert them from crime and prevent vulnerabilities from taking control. That is why we fund organisations like Jobs.

[View the video here](#)

YOUNG PEOPLE TELL US WHAT MATTERS TO THEM...

We are delighted to confirm that we have funded 24 projects from Round 2 of our Local Youth Fund across Northumberland, Tyne and Wear.

Joanne from New Beginnings North tells us what the funding means to the young people she supports.

[Watch the video here](#)



DID YOU KNOW... that short prison sentences of 6 months or less can often lead to higher re-offending rates.

- We are working with repeat offenders who cause disruption in our communities.
- We are working to understand and support offenders with underlying causes of their behaviour.
- We are working to change their behaviours and prevent crime in our communities.

[Read more here](#)

EDUCATION CONFERENCE...

With over 50 people in attendance, we held a conference around the work our Education Team have piloted in pupil referral units.

Project Based Learning is an approach which stimulates curiosity and creativity as students learn to engage with a real-world challenge.

We focussed on the importance between education and violence reduction by equipping young people with the skills to make positive life choices.





VULNERABILITY AWARENESS...

We provide training for staff working in the night time economy to provide knowledge and an understanding of vulnerability as well as information on actions they can take to reduce risks for a vulnerable person.

To join a virtual session click [here](#)

To attend an in person session click [here](#)

UPSKILLING PRACTITIONERS...

If you are a practitioner working with young people, check out our Knife Crime Awareness Training sessions.

By taking part in the training, practitioners tell us they are more confident in their knowledge of knife crime and supporting young people.

To join a virtual session click [here](#)



BECOME A WORKPLACE DOMESTIC ABUSE CHAMPION...

Join one of our information sessions for businesses to better understand the impact Domestic and Sexual Abuse can have on individuals in the workplace.

Trained Domestic Abuse Champions in your workplace can support staff who may be victims and also limit the potential impact on their performance and attendance at work.

To join an information session click [here](#)



BREAKING THE SILENCE ON DOMESTIC ABUSE...

We know that the majority of survivors talk to somebody they know and trust about what is happening to them. That is why, following our Ask Me training, we now have 181 people in our communities, who are able to provide the right response if someone discloses abuse to them.

Ambassadors tell us they have increased confidence and a better understanding to support survivors, which has led to them having conversations, attending events and distributing support information.



**FIGHTING
CRIME**

**PREVENTING
CRIME**

**IMPROVING
LIVES**

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