



**NORTHUMBRIA
POLICE & CRIME
COMMISSIONER**

**violence
reduction
unit**

Improving lives to prevent crime

ANNUAL REPORT 2021/22

Northumbria
Violence
Reduction
Unit



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1.0 INTRODUCTION AND LOCAL CONTEXT

Northumbria Violence Reduction Unit and its strategic partners successfully work to implement and deliver against the milestones identified within the Response Strategy. This annual report shares the vision in creating a cultural change. Working to ensure that “Northumbria is a place where individuals, families and communities thrive, making the most of opportunities to live, learn and work free from the fear of violence.” The five-year strategy established milestones to ensure a Public Health approach is realised in particular to “Make the most of the skills and expertise across Northumbria, to ensure we have strong partnerships in place that work to deliver the Public Health approach”.

In 2018 the government released the Serious Violence Strategy, where it defines serious violence as “specific types of crime such as homicide, knife crime, and gun crime and areas of criminality where serious violence or its threat is inherent, such as in gangs and county lines drug dealing.” Our Violence Reduction Unit continues to work to this definition, and we continue to explore and adapt our ways of working to disrupt and prevent serious violence across Northumbria.

In 2019, the Government published A Whole System Multi-Agency Approach to Serious Violence Prevention; to support implementation of the approach in local areas in accordance with the World Health Organisation (WHO) principles. It will also see introduction of a statutory duty on public sector agencies to both prevent and tackle serious violence. It supported the continuation of Violence Reduction Units, in addition securing the Youth Endowment Fund (£200 million) over the next ten years. It promotes the shift in focus towards treating violence using a public health approach.

To facilitate multi-agency practice the document offers direction using five key components to guide an approach that will address specific community needs that is both with, and for them. One that will reflect changes that are not constrained by organisation or professional boundaries, one that looks to resolve with a focus on long-term as well as short term solutions. Supporting the approach that will be based on data and intelligence, including any identified inequalities. All of which will be rooted in evidence of effectiveness. The 5C's are as follows:-

- Collaboration
- Co-production
- Co-operation including data intelligence sharing
- Counter narrative development
- Community consensus approach

The milestones of the Response Strategy will be developed following this strategic needs assessment to highlight next steps. All of which will be aligned to the principles above to determine priorities, and the key stakeholders required to effectively take this forward.



The Violence Reduction Unit in Northumbria has fully embraced a public health approach to tackling violence across the Force area with a clear focus that plans and uses an evidence-based approach and implements response with strategies that aim to:

- Reduce knife enabled serious violence
- Reduce hospital admissions for knife related serious violence
- Reduce homicides

To achieve this we will continue to embed a local approach that best meets the needs of our communities and address the wider contributory factors that lead to individuals becoming involved in serious violence. The VRU approach for year 4 will continue to be implemented under the following themes that are aligned to the local Police and Crime Plan 2022-2025.

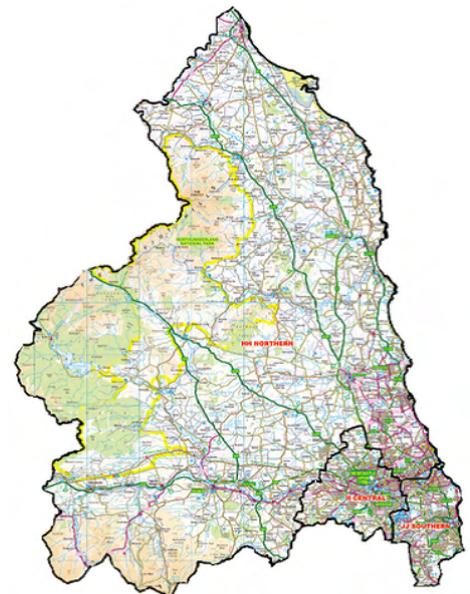
- Fighting crime
- Preventing crime
- Improving lives

Northumbria has a population of 1.5 million people and covers an area of more than 2,000 square miles in the North East of England, from the Scottish border to the north down to County Durham to the south and from the Pennines to the west and across to the North East coast. It includes a wide range of communities including rural areas, towns and two major cities, Sunderland and Newcastle-upon-Tyne, all with very different community, social and policing needs. While the area has seen some high-profile economic successes, bringing prosperity in some parts, there are still many communities with very significant levels of deprivation.

The command area of Northumbria Police covers the counties of Northumberland and Tyne and Wear, with a population in the region of 1.3 million.

Within the two counties there are six Local Authority administrative areas:

- Gateshead Metropolitan Borough Council
- Newcastle upon Tyne City Council
- North Tyneside Metropolitan Borough Council
- Northumberland County Council
- South Tyneside Council Metropolitan Borough Council
- Sunderland City Council



Nature of violent crime in Northumbria

In the Northumbria Police Force Area, in the 12-months to 28th February 2021 levels of serious violence increased by 27% (4,488 offences) across Northumbria. However, levels of serious violence have slowed and have shown a 9% reduction since November.



Whilst levels of serious violence have increased, during the same 12-month period knife enabled offences have decreased by 7% (101 offences) to 816, down to similar levels pre-pandemic. Of the knife enabled offences 29% of victims were under the age of 25, this is an increase from 25% in the previous period.

Levels of homicides reduced by 11% (2 homicides) in 2021, however this reduction would have been down to levels witnessed in 2018 and 2019 but for exceptional levels in December with 6 homicides, the highest monthly levels since reporting in 2018.

Within 2021 there is no particular pattern of offending or offender profile and follows low levels of offending within 2020 as a result of the Pandemic. However, when we compare current levels to 2019 we are showing a 6% increase on pre-Pandemic levels and could be attributed to the lifting of national restrictions.

Since the easing of restrictions and the opening up of the Night Time Economy (NTE) from April 2021 we saw greater footfall in our towns and cities as people looked to return to their normal work and life patterns, this resulted in higher levels of incidents of disorder and violence, consistent in South Shields, and Newcastle and Sunderland City Centres.

We have seen an increase in youth Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB) and disorder in Town and City Centres, and within some of our communities, where youths are congregating and causing disorder. These issues are causing unease with visitors, residents and the business community and can escalate into more serious incidents.

During 2021 levels of hospital admissions due to an assault rose by 10% in 2021 (904 admissions) compared to low levels witnessed in 2020, however admissions as a result of an assault with a sharp object decreased by 11.5% (17 admissions) in 2021.

In terms of Domestic Abuse, during the 12-months to February 2022 there has been a year to date decrease of 1% in all Domestic Abuse incidents (Harm Reduction Notifications) in Northumbria when comparing to previous 12-month period, decreasing from 38,461 incidents to 38,987. This equates to 105 incidents per day, which is a decrease of the previous number of 107 incidents.

We are still understanding the impact of COVID-19 in relation to our data. The above figures show that there is still a great deal of work to do. Tackling serious violence will not happen overnight, this is a long term process that requires commitment from all partners across Northumbria.

2.0 INTRODUCTION AND LOCAL CONTEXT

2.1 Model, Governance and Accountability

The Northumbria VRU is a centrally located team working within the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner and across all six local authority areas within Northumbria. The core VRU team was established in September 2019 and consisted of 9 staff; this has been added to with further posts. The team now consists of the Head of VRU, a Public Health Specialist, a Commissioning & Performance Lead, 3 Project Coordinators, a Domestic Abuse Specialist, a Communications and Engagement Officer, a Partnership Analyst, a Project Support Officer, and the Education Team. The staff within the team have a wealth of partnership experience between them including public health; local authority; teaching; social worker; police; 3rd Sector.

In addition to the core team the VRU appointed Local Authority Single Point of Contacts (SPOC) that will drive and support the local collaboration with our communities and coordinate a diverse range of partner organisations to deliver intervention across four response strategy themes.

The Violence Reduction Unit (VRU) report to an appointed Strategic Board whose core function is to offer leadership and, working with all relevant agencies operating locally, strategic coordination of the local response to serious violence.



**Northumbria is a place where individuals,
families and communities thrive, making the most
of the opportunities to live, learn and work free
from the fear of violence**



Our public health approach to tackling serious violence requires commitment from all partners. This is a long term process and in order to change culture we need to:

- Better understand the problem
- Understand the makeup of our communities
- Highlight what works well
- Adapt and develop existing practice to meet the need

There is a strong commitment across Northumbria to tackle the root causes of violent crime.



Through the VRU we have established the following partnership framework:



The Strategic Violence Reduction Board is made up of partners from across the supporting disciplines and geographical area and includes:

- Police and Crime Commissioner
- Police
- Local Authority; Chief Executive; Cabinet members, Public Health
- Public Health England
- NHS Trust
- Children services/YOT
- Housing provider
- Education
- Tyne and Wear Fire and Rescue Service
- North East Chamber of Commerce
- Voluntary sector agency
- Young people's representative's Public health approach expert

The VRU hold quarterly meetings with the Strategic Board where the progress and performance are monitored. It also allows for emerging issues to be identified and discussed following the production of a Response Strategy Performance Report which is prepared for each meeting.

The meetings are also themed to allow the VRU to provide a greater in-depth update on the progress and impact on elements of the response strategy. These are presented by lead members of the core VRU team.



2.2 Our Public Health Approach

The Northumbria Violence Reduction Units Public Health Approach to violence reduction is based on the premise that violence is preventable and by understanding the risk factors that make individuals, families and communities vulnerable to violence and developing evidence-based interventions and preventative strategies to reduce individuals from committing violent offences. These are determined by a complex interaction between individual, lifestyle and the physical social and economic environment.

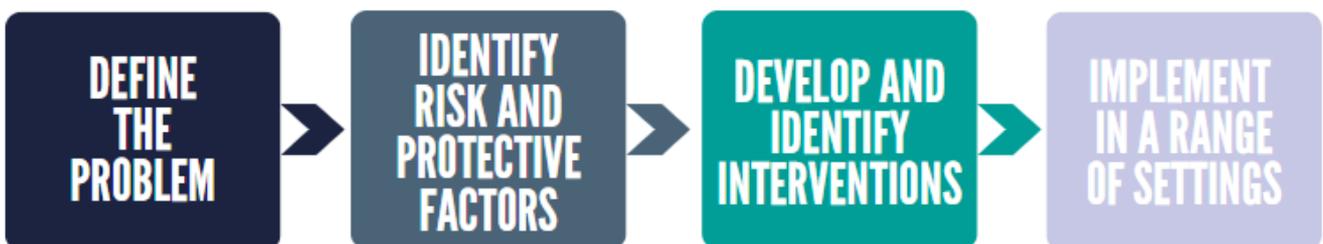
The principles of the Public Health Approach are:

Define the Problem - The collection of data and intelligence allows the identification of individual and community risk levels as well as protective factors and can be used to develop interventions for those at risk and monitor progress.

Determine Risk and Protective Factors - Many risk factors that make individuals, families, and communities vulnerable to violence are changeable, including exposure to Adverse Childhood experiences and the environments in which we live, learn throughout the life course. Understanding the wider determinants of health and protective factors, such as good social networks, access to employment, housing and education can lead to developments in public health approaches to violence.

Develop and Identify Interventions - Throughout the life- course to reduce an individual's chances of becoming involved in violence and lower the chances of those who are at risk of violence by providing evidence-based interventions to support communities, families, and individuals on prevention and early intervention approaches.

Implement Interventions in a Wide Range of Settings - The changing landscape of the NHS and Public Health structures provides an opportunity to co-produce and work collaboratively to develop and evaluate interventions, and lead multi agency plans to support violence prevention across a range of sectors.



2.3 Development of the Strategic Needs Assessment

The Strategic Needs Assessment (SNA) process was introduced to create stronger partnerships between communities, local government and the NHS, providing a firm foundation for commissioning that improves health and social care provision and reduces health inequalities. The SNA process includes identifying needs and assets relevant to health, social care and public health across the full life course, covering children, young people and adults; and involves an analysis of the social determinants of health.



The VRU has developed its third Strategic Needs Assessment into serious violence and vulnerability across Northumbria, providing an understanding of the reality of violence across the Northumbria Police Force Area and the underlying risk factors of violence. During Years 1 and 2, the process for developing the Insights Report has been outsourced to develop and engage with partners, beneficiaries and local communities on behalf of the VRU. In Year 3 the approach was to bring these functions in-house utilising the skills within the team with a focus on evidencing impact, outcomes and return on investment from the work of the VRU and their commissioned interventions. To further support Community Safety Partnerships to undertake SNAs and develop Violence Reduction Strategies, we will support stakeholders to engage in the process locally we will work in partnership with partners to produce SNAs to reduce violent crime.

The work programme was led by the Public Health Specialist with input from all the VRU team and underpinned by a Public Health Action Plan which outlines the key deliverables and timescales. The Public Health Action Plan focuses on the following areas:

- Data and Intelligence
- Literature Review of the Evidence
- Mapping Community Assets
- Engagement, Consultation and Co-Production

Data included in the needs assessment was taken from two main sources, Public Health England (PHE) fingertips database and Police crime statistics. Public Health England fingertips provides a rich data source of data across health and wellbeing indicators, including from Hospital Episode Statistics, Local Authority Datasets and Department of Work and Pensions.

To monitor progress and measure impact against the Home Office Key Performance Indicators, a baseline was established for each indicator based on Home Office Guidance. To further compare performance, we benchmarked against other comparable Police Force Areas and national datasets for violent crime.

We also obtained level 1 and 2 data from North East Ambulance Service, Education and Public Health England. To further access to NHS and Public Health data the Public Health Institute at Liverpool John Moores University have been commissioned to develop Information Sharing Protocols between data providers, develop a data dashboard and a data hub which will be accessible by key stakeholders and identify appropriate datasets that contribute to the overall picture of violence in the region.

Part of the SNA process was also to understand what interventions have the biggest impact on reducing violent crime. To gain further insight into 'what works', an up-to-date literature review will be undertaken to identify new and innovative interventions and best practice across the life course. This will be further categorised into Preventative, Early Intervention and Targeted approaches to violent crime reduction to enable interventions to be delivered to defined 'at risk' populations.



An engagement plan was developed to bring together insights from beneficiaries, partners and local communities to identify needs and assets within local communities through this involvement, beneficiaries, partners and the local community will have the ability to influence and co-produce local services and interventions and have an understanding of what other factors have influenced service provision in their area. This provides an opportunity for greater partnership with local stakeholders and the community, through which local assets and resources can be offered and used as a way to work together to address local needs and tackle violent crime.

3.0 DELIVERY

3.1 Delivery of the Response Strategy (RS) / Interventions

Throughout Year 3 the VRU funded interventions continued to show impact and successes within our communities, delivering support and mentorship to those vulnerable individuals within Northumbria. Notable outcomes;

Fighting Crime

- Our OOCDC continue to support individuals through different pathways (Women's Pathway, Employment Pathway, and the 18-25 Male Pathway). There have been 224 referrals received through the pathways, with 147 people supported through the Employment & Women's Pathways. There is evidence these pathways are working, during January-March 2022 a total of 92 individuals were taken onto the caseload of one of the OOCDC pathways, with 55 (60%) of those not returning to custody/offending since accessing the intervention.
- During the 12-months to 31st March 2022 there has been a decrease of 1.2% in all Domestic Abuse incidents (HRNs) in Northumbria when comparing to the previous 12-month period, decreasing from 38,979 incidents to 38,502. This has resulted in 25,240 crimes during the period to 31st March 2022. During this period there have been a total of 22,053 victims.
 - The two DA programmes continue to show great promise, with over 181 Ask Me Ambassadors recruited and active within our communities. The ambassadors are reporting an increased ability to understand patterns of coercive control and domestic abuse, with 89% reporting an increased awareness of the local charities and services that are available to support survivors of domestic abuse in their area.
 - The Drive Programme have a caseload of 36 high harm high risk serial perpetrators, with 89% aged between 21-39 years old. There are one or more victims associated to the perpetrators, including children.
- Another diversionary programme started in the recent quarter is the CASPS (Community Alternative to Short Prison Sentencers). This intervention, in partnership with the Probation Service, is aimed at making communities safer by breaking the cycle of offending in Northumberland, Tyne and Wear. Since it commenced the Probation Practitioners have started working with 11 individuals.



Preventing Crime

- Throughout the year the Education Team have continued to deliver their packages to schools, colleges and community organisations, including Barnados, QE hospital, Northumberland and North Tyneside Councils, South Tyneside YOT, Princes Trust, Police and Fire Cadets and 6 colleges (Newcastle, Gateshead, Tyne Met, Westgate, Sunderland, South Tyne).
 - Sessions have been delivered to 17,012 students
 - There have been 806 sessions delivered
 - Sessions have been delivered in 260 hotspots (not all different ones)
 - 224 organisations have been engaged
 - 71 Project Based Learning sessions delivered
 - 44 Knife Crime Practitioner sessions delivered
 - 1 National Education Network has been developed
- The Education Team continue to develop and widen the delivery of the Project Based Learning (PBL) approach, with 35 sessions delivered to 235 students in 8 academies, schools and PRUs across 5 local authority areas. The Education Team also hosted a further conference on 24th March to share further knowledge, learning and best practice with our colleagues from Education and other VRU's. This was well attended and generated interest from VRUs and Police Forces looking to adopt the approach.
- Through the knife crime for practitioners training, the team are continuing to upskill those who work with or support young people at risk or involved in knife crime. To date the team have now upskilled almost 900 professionals across Northumbria to increase their awareness about knife crime, and the role they can play in preventing crime. By increasing the number of people who know what to look out for, we can support more young people. The training continues to be promoted through Eventbrite and provides the opportunity for colleagues across the country to join a session.
- The YOLO Programme through both foundations (Newcastle United Foundation and Foundation of Light) have continued to support and mentor a current caseload of 108 young people.
 - A total of 163 young people engaged and mentored.
 - In addition 78 families have accessed YOLO support
 - 56 young people whose risk of committing serious and violent offending was reduced
 - 38 young people with improved school attendance
- The Teachable Moments Interventions service is part of the VRUs partnership approach to tackling serious violence. The point at which a young person comes into police custody is being defined as the 'Teachable Moment' – the point at which the offer of support is more likely to be heard in a positive way. EDGE NE and Family Gateway, working in partnership with Northumbria VRU and Northumbria Police, have started to deliver this pioneering service that aims to support young people away from future involvement in violent crime and the Criminal Justice System.



- During quarter 4 the project had made 185 approaches to engage young people in custody across both stations (MEL 83 referrals and Southwick 102 referrals). Of these 185 approaches, there were 125 engagements in custody and 78 of these young people engaged in the community.
- The data received from the delivery partner highlights that significant work has occurred in both the custody and the community setting that would not have occurred if the Teachable Moments intervention was not available at the initial point of entry into custody. There have also been 503 support sessions delivered in this quarter, this can be face to face, over the phone, video calls etc. This is a productive time when we are working with our young person to resolve the issues they presented. For example, these may relate to family, mental health, or gang activity. Staff aim to engage with young people weekly, though depending on the complexity or urgency of the situation this may be more.
- This approach has led to the following positive outcomes and has proven to be effective and is showing early signs of reducing risks of serious harm and providing significant benefits to the family.
 - 54 CYP have received support to complete an action/support plan;
 - 33 CYP report increased resilience, feeling of safety and an increased ability to cope;
 - 34 CYP report that they feel better able to make informed choices in their lives;
 - 27 CYP have improvements in their ability to have hopes and dreams for the future;
 - 40 CYP have reduced involvement with the CJ- during the operational period;
 - 32 young people demonstrating reduced risk taking behaviour;
 - Established in 2 custody suites;
 - Partnership working with custody staff means referrals have increased over time;
 - Many service users have told their TM community worker they feel the support offered is different from any service they engaged with before;
 - Young people report being more involved within their community joining clubs and groups such as boxing, football, music, basketball which means less time engaging in activities which may see them return to the attention of the police;
 - There are examples of young people supported back into education. For example, one young person had agoraphobia due to bullying in a previous school, which has also seen his other siblings not attend school. The TM community worker found a local project providing support back into education;
 - We helped identify a criminal exploitation case of a young vulnerable couple whose house had been taken over by four well known criminals to grow cannabis. Ongoing support is being provided.
 - Our close partnership working with the police which includes weekly senior updates has enabled any issue to be quickly resolved, and helped us develop good practice in custody work.



Improving Lives

- The Link Workers have continued to offer support across Northumbria to individuals and families, with an increase in referrals and cases. In addition to supporting siblings and the wider family of those referred.
 - 517 people have been engaged
 - 69 young people with an action plan/early intervention plan
 - 44 young people whose risk of committing serious and violent offending was reduced
 - 35 young people demonstrating improved engagement in education and career progression opportunities
 - 40 young people reporting improvements in hopes and dreams
- The Community Hubs have continued to support families and individuals in our communities throughout the year.
 - 40 families and young people engaged
 - 30 young people demonstrating reduced risk to violence and ASB
 - 20 families reporting increased trust and confidence in services
 - 32 young people with an early intervention plan
 - 31 young people demonstrating improved engagement in education and career progression opportunities
- During two rounds of funding, the Youth Fund has received a total of 68 applications from young people in our communities, with 38 applications received during the quarter for round 2 of the funding. The 15 successful applicants from round 1 of the Local Youth Fund, are now putting their projects into motion and have been progressing these.
 - The 24 successful applications in round 2 are from across all six local authority areas and will be looking to mobilise following receipt of funding, they cover a range of topic areas across education, sport and activity and environmental projects, see below. It is estimated that 1,306 young people will directly benefit from these 24 projects.

To further highlight some of the good work being done in our region there are a number of case studies at the end of the report, highlighting successful interventions in the identified harm hotspot areas, following support from the VRU. They highlight areas of encouragement and promising progress with some of the interventions under the themes of Fighting Crime, Preventing Crime, and Improving Lives during 2021/22.

3.2 Community and Youth Engagement

The VRUs presence on social media has increased throughout the year with partners, including those delivering interventions, promoting our work and their part in it through their own social media channels. This has helped maximise the reach of our work. VRU related posts are frequently the top performing posts and most engaging across the PCC social media channels. Engagement through our



place-based work has enabled us to reach into specific hyper local community groups, with numerous surveys and engagements events in some of our harm hotspot areas in 2021 and more planned in 2022. This engagement provides an understanding of the issues affecting our communities and how the VRU and partners can help.

The VRU have supported the development of the consultation process for the next Northumbria Police and Crime plan ensuring the communities that have been identified as being in harm hotspots are able to engage in the process. The comms and engagements activities of both the VRU and the OPCC are closely linked, in the last 12-months there has been the following engagements;

- Place-based – Ashington, Southwick, Hebburn
- Safer Streets Survey
- The Future of Youth Services
- Victims of Crime
- LGBT+
- Ethnic Minority

With the following planned in 2022;

- Safer Transport Bus Consultation
- VAWG
- Place-based – Byker, Deckham, Saltwell, Washington

4.0 IMPACT AND PERFORMANCE

4.1 Local Evaluation

We have commissioned a local research consultancy (ERS) to undertake an evaluation of the Year 3 delivery of its Violence Reduction Unit (VRU). This evaluation builds on the Year 1 and Year 2 evaluations, in particular further exploring some of the specific themes highlighted in the latter, and builds on the work ERS did in producing the evaluation in Year 2.

The aims and objectives is for a process, impact and cost-benefit evaluation which will be used to test and refine the VRU's approach, with the aim of developing an understanding of what works and in what contexts (i.e. the emphasis is more on impact than process). Specifically, it will be used to inform future funding decisions when there is likely to be an even greater need than previously to ensure that investments in interventions are making/have the potential to make significant contributions to reducing violent crime. In short, the evaluation seeks to determine what the VRU have done, in terms of: Fighting Crime; Preventing Crime and Improving Lives.

In addition, ERS is working with the VRU in respect of the further development of its Theory of Change and the development of new Logic Models for specific interventions.

4.2 Theory of Change

We continue to embed Theory of Change (ToC) into our core practice. Theories of Change have improved our operating model as we reflect on what we do, how to best measure success, and consider what works and how. This will enable us to better engage with partners and beneficiaries in co-producing new and refining existing interventions.

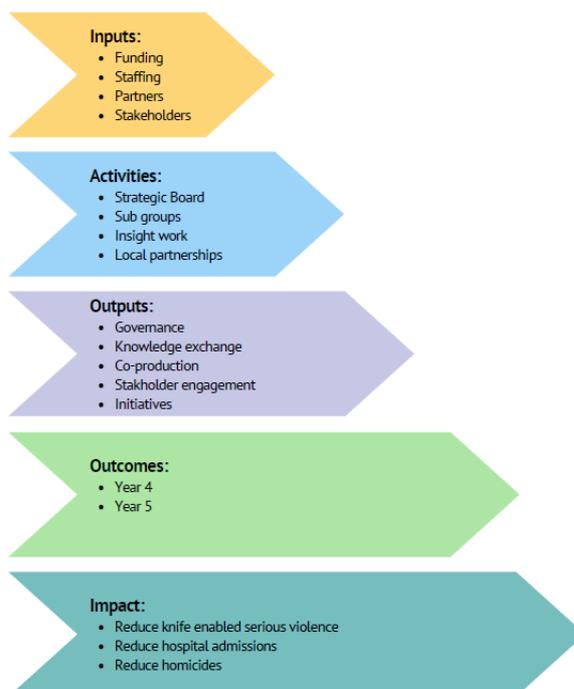
We have also supported our delivery partners in scoping opportunities to develop or refine their offer (as part of VRU-funded activities and for application for other funding). For instance, we facilitated a ToC (Junction 42/ recruitment junction) to strengthen collaboration between VCS and other services (e.g., HM Prisons and Probation, DWP, Housing) to improve the experience for prison leavers. Two focus groups, one for female and one for male prison leavers, identified that the preparation and 'leaving prison' experience was very transactional, with individuals not always seeing the significance of encounters-in-isolation with services. Highlighting the challenges of multi-agency working, the discussion to develop a more person-centred, transformational experience for prison leavers in Northumbria has begun.

Our Theory of Change sets out the activities, anticipated outputs and outcomes and intended impact we will deliver throughout the year. In delivering our Theory of Change we will work collaboratively with partners, stakeholders and intended beneficiaries facilitating a range of activities that includes:

- Strategic Management via the Northumbria Violence Reduction Strategic Board.
- Engagement and consultation with partners, stakeholders, communities and beneficiaries.
- Governance arrangements that support and enable our Insight work, Impact Assessment, Co-Production and the delivery of our violence reduction interventions.
- Evaluation and impact assessment that demonstrates the effectiveness of our work and overall contribution to reducing serious violence and the contribution to the Northumbria Police and Crime Plan.

The short and long term success measures that are linked to our Theory of Change will enable us to track the progress of our activities and impact during the year. These measures will be monitored quarterly and will measure the reduction in;

- Knife enabled serious violence
- Hospital admissions for knife related serious violence
- Homicides
- Anti-social behaviour in intervention areas
- First time entrants into the criminal justice system
- Repeat offending in harm hotspot/intervention areas



4.3 Forward Planning - Year 4 Response Strategy

The VRU will use a five-tiered model of delivery that will mirror the operational police tiered approach to threat, harm and risk. This is based on the national public health primary, secondary and tertiary approach commonly used in relation to harm reduction. The proposed delivery model will include core VRU commissioned Interventions delivered across the three area commands and the development of specialised teams that can be mirrored across all three areas (covering the whole of Northumbria).

We will explore development of response teams as well as the inclusion and regular information sharing with all partners to ensure robust response. All responses will rely on using problem solving approaches that identify both risk and vulnerability that will inform responses via early intervention, offender management and multi-agency working to mitigate risk and harm within our communities across Northumbria.

Primary Prevention

- Education Engagement

Secondary Prevention

- Custody / A&E Diversion
- YOLO
- Community Link Workers
- Employment Pathways
- Out of Court Disposals

Tertiary Prevention

- Focused Deterrence
- Short Sentence Diversion (CASPS)

The model will comprise of two access points in Custody and the Community with integrated care pathways into higher tiers and more intensive behaviour change interventions based on the needs of the individual. Beneficiaries will be able to navigate through the system with escalation and de-escalation support plans based on offending behaviours.

- **Tiers 1-4:** will initially be managed via referrals only – no self-referral with the exception of universal services.
- **Tier 0-2:** seek to identify risk and vulnerability and use problem solving, early intervention, offender management and partnership working in an attempt to mitigate risk and any increasing offending trajectories. Involvement in these tiers will be in the form of advice and guidance and working to create clarity of pathways of escalation / de-escalation.
- **Tier 3:** carries a focus on high harm causers with significant levels of offending. They will also manage/ monitor localised victims on the cusp of moving from medium to high risk of harm in the space before specialist response is required. Monitoring the local management of offenders who pose significant risk to victims or the wider community.
- **Tier 4:** offenders in tier 4 will be managed alongside Specialist Departments/ Agencies for individualised response. Tier 4 predominantly relates to high risk victims and high harm offenders.



Identification and management of threat, harm and risk. Working with external partners to reduce offending. Seeking to adopt an early intervention and problem-solving approach to prevent crime and protect vulnerable people. All responses are aimed at building resilience and changing previous patterns of behaviour.

Tier 0 Universal Offer	Tier 1 Low level criminal offending / ASB	Tier 2 Increasing level of criminal offending – severity and/or frequency	Tier 3 Higher harm causer – significant levels of localised offending.	Tier 4 Police or high harm offender
Tier 0 Primary Prevention	Tier 1 and 2 Secondary Prevention		Tier 3 and 4 Tertiary Prevention	

Our interventions have been developed under the three themes of the Police and Crime Plan. Based on the progress made so far and on the key findings of our needs assessment, the following will be implemented.

Fighting Crime

- Focused Deterrence
- Community alternative to short prison sentences (CASPS)
- Continuation of the Out of Court Disposal pathway

Preventing Crime

- Custody Diversion
- Continuation of YOLO Provision - Effectively diverting our most vulnerable young people
- Education Engagement Team - Working with schools, communities and practitioners
- Supporting the transition of young people from Primary to Secondary education
- Safer routes to and from school for our young people

Improving Lives

- Community Link Workers / Place-based Support via Community Hubs
- The Local Youth Fund
- Domestic Abuse (Findaway Scheme)
- Bystander approaches that tackle the root causes of violence and abuse
- Workforce Development – Domestic Abuse Perpetrators
- Responses to high risk, high harm perpetrators



Monitoring of activity across our VRU interventions will focus on understanding the impact that has been achieved based on the following measures of success. The measures listed represent the primary impact measures and form part of a wider set of impact indicators that are unique to each intervention and are reported on monthly by our intervention delivery partners.

P&C Plan Theme / VRU Intervention	Primary Measures of Success
Fighting Crime	
CASPS	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Reduction in frequency and gravity of offending by cohort 2. Reduction in number of short sentences of cohort 3. Increase in compliance with associated orders/programmes 4. Increase in access and compliance with treatment services 5. Continuation of stable accommodation 6. Increase access to employment, training and education opportunities
Out of Court Disposals	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Reduction in re-offending rates (% of those accepting an OOCD) 2. Number known to be accessing needs specific support post OOCD (% of those accepting an OOCD) 3. Number who enter volunteering/training/employment 4. Increased level of victim satisfaction
Focused Deterrence	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Reduce Serious Violence affecting Young People 2. Reduce fear of crime and increased feelings of safety for all who frequent the City Centre for Work or Leisure 3. Young people identified through Focused Deterrence will be provided with support based on their individual needs 4. Cost benefit saving for statutory agencies 5. Improved life outcome for Individuals within the cohort



**P&C Plan Theme /
VRU Intervention**

Primary Measures of Success

Preventing Crime

Custody Diversion

1. Number of young people who have developed an action/support plan
2. Number of young people reporting increased resilience, feelings of safety and ability to cope
3. Number of young people demonstrating reduced risk-taking behaviour
4. Number of young people with reduced involvement in the criminal justice system

YOLO

1. Reduction in re-offending rates (% of all those accessing YOLO)
2. Number with improved school attendance
3. Number of YP with reduced risk of committing serious and violent offending
4. Number with no further Police involvement/intelligence

**Education
Engagement Team**

1. Number of education sessions delivered in harm hotspots.
2. Number of participants reporting increased awareness of risk taking behaviour and harm
3. Number of participants reporting increased awareness of knife crime
4. Number of participants reporting increased awareness of child criminal exploitation

Safer Routes to School

1. Reduced levels of violence and wider disorder within the immediate vicinity of school
2. Increased school attendance of young people
3. Increased sharing of local intelligence to reduce the impact of serious organised crime
4. Increased community confidence and overall feelings of safety

**Primary/Secondary
Transition**

1. Reduced number of fixed term and permanent exclusions within the identified school
2. Increased and improved school attendance
3. Increased communication and contact with wider family
4. Reduced risk of young people being involved in associated ASB



P&C Plan Theme / Primary Measures of Success
VRU Intervention

Improving Lives

Link Workers / Hubs

1. Number of people engaged
2. No. of young people with an action plan
3. No. of young people demonstrating reduced risk to violence and ASB
4. No. of community activities and services adapting / improving their local offer for the benefit of young people

Local Youth Fund

1. Number of young people involved in the Youth Safety Ambassador forum who develop new skills; promotion of funding, evaluation and planning.
2. Number of youth enterprise organisations that supported the development of a bid.
3. Number of individual young people who participate in developing a Violence Reduction Youth Fund bid.

Domestic Abuse 'Findaway'

1. Number of contacts (Year 1 to act as a baseline) with demographic data agreed once target groups are established
2. Numbers engaged in 'Supportive Persons' training
3. Development of peer support group with numbers engaged in peer support

Workforce development/ perpetrators

1. Number of staff with increased confidence in engaging with domestic abuse perpetrators
2. Number of staff with improved competencies in responding to domestic abuse by giving them the tools, skills, knowledge and strategies to hold perpetrators to account about their behaviour
3. Number of staff with the skills to work with high risk, high harm perpetrators

Response to high risk perpetrators

1. Reductions in the use of abuse and intake and exit points around:
 - a. Physical abuse, sexual abuse, harassment and stalking behaviours, jealous and controlling behaviours.
2. Reduction of risk and changes in domestic abuse behaviours reported by victims-survivors (as reported via their IDVAs / DA workers)
3. Reductions in risk and attitudinal change in perpetrators (as reported by Perpetrator workers)
4. Reported domestic abuse (and other offending) to the police pre and post intervention.

5.0 CONCLUSION

The commitment to multi-year funding will provide that certainty and allow for those future plans to impact in local areas as well as allow the VRU and partners to plan in the long term. There is a commitment to exploring elements of sustainability and transfer of principles into day to day operations, but this will not happen overnight. To fully adopt a public health approach takes time and to achieve wider system change requires a long-term commitment. The foundation of our approach in Northumbria has been established and there is a commitment to build on this in the coming years with more opportunities to add value and make a positive difference to the lives of individuals and families across the whole region.

We are now entering Year 4 of our Response Strategy and we continue to refine and deliver our approach as well as identify new opportunities to reduce serious violence. The high level objectives of our strategy remain the same:

- Reduce knife enabled serious violence
- Reduce hospital admissions for knife related serious violence
- Reduce homicides

However, to achieve this we need to continue to embed a local approach that best meets the needs of our communities and addresses the wider contributory factors that lead to individuals becoming involved in serious violence. The VRU approach for year 4 will continue to be implemented under the following themes:

- Fighting Crime
- Preventing Crime
- Improving Lives

Nationally VRU's have continued to explore and embed 'what works' in relation to tackling serious violence and in particular serious youth violence. In order to further test and embed effective interventions nationally, the Youth Endowment Fund has developed a 'Serious Violence Toolkit' to support VRU's and other organisations. The Toolkit has been developed through findings of previous research projects, identifying 'what works' in tackling serious youth violence. The Toolkit is an online 'live' resource that identifies that the most effective interventions to reduce youth violence centre around the following:

- Cognitive Behaviour Therapy (CBT); therapeutic interventions for young people to address offending behaviour and reduce their vulnerability to violence and wider exploitation.
- Mentoring, education and support; the impact of positive role models as well as peer support, education and awareness and the impact of individuals with 'lived experience'.
- Focused Deterrence; intelligence led identification of individuals who are causing the most harm. The approach seeks to balance support and intervention alongside disruption and enforcement.

Our current approach aligns with elements of the Youth Endowment Fund Toolkit and we will continue to refine, develop and implement our interventions during year 4.



6.0 CASE STUDIES

The following case studies highlight successful interventions in the identified harm hotspot areas, following support from the VRU. They highlight areas of encouragement and promising progress with some of the interventions under the themes of Fighting Crime, Preventing Crime and Improving Lives, during 2021/22.

FIGHTING CRIME

OOCD - Women's Pathway

F was made subject to a conditional caution for section 39 assault. The assessment was completed in September and during the assessment she acknowledged how the offence was wrong however stated "that it had been due to her PTSD and the trauma she has previously faced as well as a build-up of things such as issues regarding her children and their father".

F explained how she had recently had a mental breakdown as she suffered with her mental health but the extra stress of her youngest daughter recently going to live with her father had caused her mental health to dip. She had recently been in hospital having suffered a collapsed lung and whilst she was in hospital her youngest daughter stayed with her father, F explained now she is back at home, her ex-partner will not allow her daughter to come home. She explained the turbulent relationship that she had with her ex-partner and the domestic violence she suffered from him, which she received support on two occasions; from Options and WHIST. She has been diagnosed with PTSD and Anxiety and Depression as a result of the trauma she has experienced. She explained that her ex-partner still tries to control her and manipulate her using the children to do so. She explained how having her daughter helps with her mental health, giving her motivation to 'get up and go'. F stated she was going to get advice from a solicitor with regards to her daughter as she wanted to go through the right processes as she does not want to communicate with her ex-partner.

F explained how her current accommodation is not suitable anymore due to having to pay bedroom tax as she is currently living alone. She also stated she does not feel safe in her accommodation as her ex-partner knows where she lives. F explained how she was struggling to move due to having over £1000 in rent arrears, although she has a payment plan set up, now with added bedroom tax the payments she is making to reduce the arrears were not making a significant reduction in the arrears. F had attempted to get support from Shelter however was told she would need to be referred into the service. It was agreed that the diversion worker will put a referral into Shelter so she can access the support she needs. It was acknowledged that F's mental health was poor and she needed support for it, however, she stated she is in regular contact with her GP, who is familiar with her circumstances and her past trauma.

We have been able to support her to access support with her accommodation, helping F feel safe at home and to address her debts. The diversion worker has arranged to contact F on one more occasion to see if there has been any progress in relation to her housing and having contact with her daughter, however under the new funding arrangements, we will have to cease providing this continuous support and face to face/telephone contact.



Drive

There has been a history of domestic abuse being reported since 2012, in the past 2 years there has been 3 incidents reported by 3rd parties; at time of referral the perpetrator was charged with common assault where the victim had suffered physical abuse and lost consciousness.

The case was referred to the Drive programme in July 2021 from the MATAC panel. Information received was domestic abuse with his now ex-partner had been ongoing for over 9 years. Drive was also made aware that a previous partner has also been subjected to domestic abuse and one of his sons from his first relationship is also on the Drive cohort. Currently the children of the Drive service user and most recent victim/survivor are placed in local authority care due to the severity of the abuse under the category Serious Emotional Harm.

From the needs assessment information obtained identified the following –

- ACES
- Trauma
- Substance misuse – Alcohol and non-prescribed medication
- Emotional dysregulation
- Serial domestic abuse perpetrator
- Seeing private therapist for anxiety and depression
- Concerns re other organised crime activities
- No housing or financial concerns at present

A case manager was assigned to complete the initial assessments. Contact has been made with the service user who has agreed to our involvement. Work started with the service user in September 2021 with a joint meeting with the social worker. Behaviour change work has started, the perpetrator has recognised that he must take responsibility and not blame his victim. Drive has currently completed three sessions which have focused on understanding the background to his abusive behaviour. Drive is still at the early stages of the intervention, but the service user is fully engaged with the current scope of work. He aims to have unsupervised contact with his children again, so this is a motivating factor.

The service user attended court and was sentenced to a 24 Month Community Order, a £1000 fine, and he must complete a Building Better Relationships Programme with probation, including 25 Rehabilitation days (these have been assigned to Drive to continue work on behaviour change). A 2 year Restraining Order in place for victim.

So far the service user is fully engaging with Drive service attending weekly meetings, there is a realisation of past negative behaviours and the effects on others, he is willing to continue developing more positive behaviours to reduce risk of repeat history, and has been signposted to therapist to investigate trauma, ACES.

Engagement will continue, working towards completing Drive intervention. Focus is on increasing emotional regulation and working on identified goals through the needs assessment. These goals include being a better parent to his children.



OOCD – Women’s Pathway

WP1 is 49 years old, and was offered the women’s pathway after being caught stealing from shops in the Metro Centre. WP1 stated that she was stealing items to pay for Christmas presents, and that she cannot afford to live and feels she needed to steal to survive.

The pathway supported WP1 in completing Discretionary Housing Payment forms to support with WP1s shortfall in bedroom tax. A crisis loan was also secured from the council for WP1 which she intended to spend on gas and electric, with the pathway also supporting an application for the Warm Home Discount fund.

WP1 was provided with a Pamper Pack from the women’s hub which contained women’s toiletries, and was also provided with a food parcel from the venue.

Through the support of the women’s pathway it has alleviated the stress/anxiety WP1 was feeling, she is able to have a warm house with electric, and is also able to make a meal due to the food parcel. WP1 is in a better position financially which will allow her to spend the money on other necessary items i.e. food/clothing.

WP1 is also aware of the further support she can get from Changing Lives, and is looking forward to coming back to the women’s hub. Moving forward WP1 will be invited to take part in the group work interventions but also 1-2-1 support.

CASPS

FC1 had a history of convictions between 1998- 2022 and recently received a 24-month community order for having an article with a blade or point in a public place. As a result PC1 was assigned to CASPS. Since being referred FC1 has had 15 appointments and has engaged well during this meetings.

Together the Community Navigator and FC1 completed the CASPS assessment which allows the navigator to examine FC1s background to offending and to identify strengths and areas of development for the Community Navigator and FC1 to focus on. The following issues were discussed;

1. Managing Tenancy and Accommodation
2. Finance Benefit and Debt
3. Dependency and Recovery
4. Physical Health
5. Emotional and Mental Health
6. Motivation and Taking Responsibility
7. Education and Training and Employment (ETE)
8. Offending Behaviour

Whilst at the early stages FC1 has engaged well with the Community Navigator. There are several agreed actions which they will focus upon during the coming weeks including the setting of realistic



goals and targets. The Community Navigator will help to support FC1 to engage in community groups to help to develop positive relationships and build self-esteem.

Some strengths that have already identified with FC1 and they already taking active steps in their life such as engaging with appointments, taking steps to help manage money and attending substance misuse treatment appointments.

Ask Me

The Ask Me programme has allowed 181 individuals within our communities to become ambassadors. The initial training has provided them with an increased ability to recognise the signs of coercive control and domestic abuse and provided them with the skills and abilities to manage and respond to those sharing their personal experiences of domestic abuse in our communities. The below comments from ambassadors demonstrate the impact this programme is having;

One of our participants commented about how pervasive myths about domestic abuse are and how this impacts her ambassador role:

"I regularly have to explain that it is not as simple as just leaving....this notion that is held by many is more ingrained than I thought and it can be really tough to challenge this belief."

One of our participants reflected on her training as an Ask Me Ambassador and how she could use this knowledge and skills in different settings.

"One of our participants who is a 'Forest School' leader, recognised the power of the outdoors for women who have been subjected to trauma. As part of her Ask Me ambassador role, she linked up with a local children's centre to provide an 'Outdoor Group' for women, where they will walk, be in nature, learn how to make campfires and undertake other outdoor activities. Although this is not a specialist service for women who have been subjected to abuse and is open to anyone using the children's centre, the Forest School leader recognised her skills from Ask Me and how this will benefit her, should any of the participants talk about domestic abuse."

PREVENTING CRIME

YOLO (Newcastle United Foundation)

Young Person 1 (YP1) was referred to the programme by their Head of Year at school. They were originally referred for a number of reasons including; exclusions from school for physical assault, frequent episodes of anti-social behaviour, as well as intelligence that he was carrying weapons & engaging with drugs & alcohol.

The programme began working with YP1 at a time when he was out of education awaiting a managed move to a new school provision. He was extremely closed and guarded and it was a struggle to engage with him regularly in the early days of the programme. The family were also undergoing a Child Protection assessment with Children & Social Care.



YP1 completed their mandatory interventions, but concerns were still being raised in relation to frequent missing person episodes, being under the influence of drugs & alcohol and concerns of further anti-social behaviour. Concerns had escalated to a point where professionals submitted an MSET referral for the young person in the hope of getting further support to help the young person. Gradually, YP1 and the mentor formed a good bond, and YP1 was able to open up about issues that were affecting them, things that had happened in their past and how they did have hopes and dreams for the future, and what they wanted this to involve. YP1 started to respond positively to interventions, goal setting and reducing use of drugs and alcohol so that they were not a negative factor on a daily basis.

The mentor also formed a positive relationship with the parents of YP1, providing them with additional support and guidance where necessary. YP1 has now progressed significantly, we have received no new CCNs or intelligence for the last 2 months, the young person has engaged in group activities with other young people over the summer period, and the family have now been stepped down from all statutory social care involvement. Our next aim is to sustain regular school attendance.

YOLO (Newcastle United Foundation)

YP1 was known as a missing person with Police and had an ASB letter sent out previously for throwing stones at windows. Intensive family support referred YP1 due to an increase in concerning behaviour, and associating with new friends from school who were a negative influence. School also raised concerns that YP1s behaviour had deteriorated, being suspended on a regular occurrence and excluded on one occasion for smoking in the toilets. Her family noticed she started hiding knives in her room and it was felt there is a risk that she may start taking these into public places if influenced by new friends. There was a serious risk of being influenced/coaxed into acting recklessly.

It was also identified through conversations with her parents that YP1 also had mental health issues with depression and anxiety, and these were a major barrier in her school attendance. YP1 was also self-harming, and is under CYPS for her ADHD medication.

NUF started to work with YP1, completing sessions on Anger Management, Knife Crime, Laws and Consequences, Resilience, Conflict Management, Positive Relationships and Goals and Future Aspirations, and being someone she could talk openly with about all her issues as often she kept her feelings private as she did not want to worry her parents.

Through conversations it was identified that school was a major factor to YP1s anxiety due to exclusions and Covid, with her missing a full year at school prior to her GCSE year. Despite this YP1 had strong aspirations about her future and the understood the importance of gaining qualifications and how she could achieve this were discussed in almost every session.

YP1 was also in a relationship which impacted her mental health as he also had mental health issues and attempted suicide resulting in him being in a coma after YP1 ended their relationship. A referral was made to CNTW NHS mental health service for YP1 as there was concern this would be a trigger



for her own mental health.

In addition to supporting YP1, NUF developed a great relationship with YP1s parents, and provided resource activity packs for her two younger siblings throughout lockdown which helped Mum and Dad.

Since joining the YOLO programme YP1 has matured greatly over the time she has been engaged with NUF, and no longer associates with the 'friend group' who were involved in ASB and the negative behaviours. She is now back at school full-time and studying hard for her GCSE's. She has recently completed a mock English exam and achieved a grade 6, 3 grades above her last grading, and is happy spending time with her friends and just having some fun and looking to getting her qualifications so she can start her own business in the future.

Although making great progress, mental health remains a concern for YP1. As an exit strategy, YP1 has enrolled onto Newcastle United Foundation 6 week mental health programme which hopefully will continue to help her self-regulate. These sessions are now in progress at school. YP1 has engaged honestly in all sessions and has made great progress. She has not been in any further trouble with the police and has not been reported as a missing person since engaging with YOLO.

YOLO (Foundation of Light)

The FOL held an intervention workshop at the beginning of December 2021 with over 600 young people attending. The event included all YOLO participants, FoL staff and local partners and the participants were given the opportunity to hear Paul Hannaford speak about knife crime, drugs, alcoholism and gang crime. Paul's first hand, lived experiences had all participants fully engaged in the workshop and his invaluable life experiences educated over 600 young people in the local community. This impactful event had a positive effect on YOLO's participants as they learned about the dangers and negative consequences of the involvement in knife crime, drugs, alcoholism and gang crime.

Teachable Moments Custody Diversion

An 11-year-old child (PC3) came into custody following being arrested for a knife incident which occurred in school. PC3 is currently receiving extra support in school at the moment, he is thought to have ADHD/Autism however this is yet to be diagnosed. The incident in school involved playing sword fighting with plastic art equipment used for cutting clay. His friend received a cut to his torso which the teacher treated with paper towels, as there was a little blood. Both children were reprimanded by their teacher. PC3 went home after school as usual but the Police arrived to arrest him for a knife crime incident.

PC3 was temporarily excluded from school for a week while they looked into the incident, and since then he has been excluded permanently. Parents have unsuccessfully appealed this decision. The TM



community worker first contacted the Inclusion Team and explained the situation, they believed PC3 should not be excluded, but despite a meeting between the parents and the head teacher PC3 remained excluded from school.

The TM worker carried out visits at the home to meet PC3 and his family and built a relationship with parents by listening to them, pointing them to other professionals and advising them of processes and how other agencies work. The TM worker is looking into an assessment for learning disability and alternative school provisions for PC3. Parents feel more knowledgeable about services available that can support them through their situation, and PC3 is now in the process of receiving a diagnosis for his disability which will open the doors to extra support.

YOLO (Foundation of Light)

PC2 was referred to the Foundation of Light via Sunderland's Together for Children and Social Worker. PC2 has been responsible for anti-social behaviour in his local community, fighting and in general disruptive behaviour. He had also shown anger at home towards items and possessions, and would intentionally break things when he felt bursts of anger. This put strain on his family as he resides with grandparents, who are not in the best state of health.

Over the course of a few months, several home visits took place to identify how we could support the family and improve PC2s attitudes and behaviours. PC2 was invited to the Beacon of Light on a few occasions, but he declined the offer. Further invites were made to PC2 to attend charity bike rides, rock climbing and dining out, which were accepted. This was a positive step for PC2 and his wider family as he started to engage with Foundation of Light staff through YOLO activities.

Over time, PC2 became more talkative and familiar with the programme's advantageous intentions and Foundation of Light staff. He eventually agreed to attend the Beacon of Light Kicks sessions, engaging with young people of similar ages outside of his usual peer group.

After building positive rapport with PC2s Social Worker, family and School, we found that his attendance in school was poor, with this in mind, we used our facilities and resources as a reward scheme. PC2 would only be allowed to attend sessions if his attitude in the home and school attendance improved. He is now attending school on a reduced timetable and doing very well. In addition to improved school attendance, PC2 now also attends a placement twice a week, volunteering in a community centre kitchen in his local area.

Foundation of Light staff have witnessed vast improvements in PC2s attitudes and outlook on life. Improved school attendance, no anger in the home or reports of fighting in his local community and he is now thinking about progression pathways after school education.



IMPROVING LIVES

Community Hub, North Tyneside

YP3 (12 years old) was referred to the Project via Dad's Specialist Occupational Therapist. They reached out to us for help as part of dad's mental health was stemming from the struggle in the family home and relationships between his son.

From initial visits it was identified that both parents really struggled with the lockdown and the tension in the home was affecting their mental health. During the pandemic the family hadn't been getting out much at all and starting to build up anxiety to do so. YP3 spent the majority of time during lockdown engrossed in his game not listening to parents or doing school work, and he wasn't seeing to his personal care. YP3 was getting very angry and caused a lot of confrontation in the home when parents try to put boundaries in place such as turning the internet off at a certain time or doing home schooling.

He then later at night used to leave the house and get involved in anti-social behaviour hanging around with the wrong crowd and getting into trouble with the police. Dad and son had no relationship and moving forward the worker thought it would be beneficial to get both socialising together with activities and groups to help build a bond.

The hub workers have been working with YP3 and his family, they have visited the hub numerous times, both Dad and Mum are looking to volunteer at the allotment/hub, and YP3 and Dad are excited to start bonding and building things out of wood and scrap. Moving forward the family will continue to visit the hub regularly and receive support.

Community Hub, Newcastle

YP4 was regularly in trouble with the police for anti-social behaviour on the estate. He has issues surrounding drugs and alcohol and mental health issues due to a family bereavement, and has been excluded from several mainstream schools and does not attend school regularly.

By working with the staff from the outreach project we have been able to provide support both on and off the estate, with regular outreach sessions where YP4 can meet staff and participate with sporting activities and group sessions where the group are taken to Foundation Futures base in Pottery Bank to participate in a range of activities such as cooking, gaming, music making, group discussions and external visits such as boxing, nature parks and visiting employers. He has been a core member of this group since March and has attended weekly. He played a key role in the design and planning of our music studio which is with our base in Pottery Bank, this has allowed us to work alongside Gem Arts so the young people can participate in music making, lyric writing and have an opportunity to gain a GCSE equivalent qualification. He has also participated in group discussions with The Lighthouse Project in Byker where they have been doing consultations with the community about St Michael's church being renovated. He has attended 3 meeting with them supported by us



to give his views on what would benefit the community including meeting the architect for the project to look at possible designs for the building

Following the support, YP4 has gained more confidence and more self-awareness, he is now a valued member of the group who is well respected and listened to. He helps with the planning of future activities and encouraging others to participate. He is thinking more positively about what he would like to do when he leaves school and this is something we will continue to support him with. He has opened up to staff and allowed himself to build a positive relationship with them. He has begun to attend school more often than when he first engaged with us.



**NORTHUMBRIA
POLICE & CRIME
COMMISSIONER**

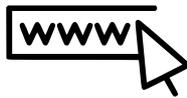
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Improving lives to prevent crime

**NORTHUMBRIA VRU
ANNUAL REPORT 2021/22**



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