



A WELCOME FROM THE PCC...

Violence is unacceptable at any time of the year, and now that summer has arrived, we all want to enjoy everything our region has to offer – especially now we are seeing some normality back in our lives.

But, it's so important to me that everyone feels safe and that support is readily available to those who need it.

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.

It's been a busy few months for the Violence Reduction Unit, and you can read more about some of its work in this newsletter.

Kim McGuinness, Northumbria Police & Crime Commissioner

OVER THE LAST 3 MONTHS...

5,556

YOUNG PEOPLE EDUCATED THROUGH THE VRU EDUCATION TEAM

246

SESSIONS DELIVERED TO YOUNG PEOPLE COVERING A RANGE OF VIOLENCE REDUCTION THEMES

65%

OF THOSE REFERRED TO ONE OF THE OUT OF COURT DISPOSAL PATHWAYS HAVE NOT RETURNED TO CUSTODY OR OFFENDED SINCE ENGAGING.

114

YOUNG PEOPLE APPROACHED IN CUSTODY THROUGH OUR TEACHABLE MOMENTS PROJECT

69

YOUNG PEOPLE WITH A REDUCED RISK OF COMMITTING SERIOUS VIOLENCE THANKS TO YOLO.

INDIVIDUALS TELL US THAT THEY'RE FAMILY RELATIONSHIPS HAVE IMPROVED AND THEY HAVE INCREASED SELF-ESTEEM AFTER ENGAGING WITH OUR INTERVENTIONS.

INVESTMENTS IN THE VRU & POLICE SURGE FUND SHOW SAVINGS OF

£7.5 MILLION PER YEAR

TO THE PUBLIC PURSE, WIDER CRIMINAL JUSTICE SYSTEM & NHS

INCREASED PATROLS, MORE YOUTH WORK AND EXTRA ACTIVITIES

Through working closely with the Community Safety Partnerships in Northumberland, Tyne and Wear, we have invested over **£100,000** in local communities to fund additional officers, youth work and activities, to reduce serious violence over the summer period.

With the warmer weather to enjoy and having successfully piloted more activity over the Jubilee weekend and at iconic events such as The Hopping's, we have made summer plans a key focus in the weeks ahead.

Read more about our summer plans [here](#).



VULNERABILITY AWARENESS FOR STAFF IN THE NIGHT TIME ECONOMY

Our team have been out speaking with bar staff across the region to increase their awareness of vulnerability as well as delivering training sessions in person and online.

The training provides staff with an understanding of vulnerability, top tips for spotting the signs and what they can do in their roles to support a vulnerable person.

To join a training session, book your place [here](#).



20,715 YOUNG PEOPLE EDUCATED IN 858 KNIFE CRIME SESSIONS

"One life lost to knife crime is one too many, so we are doing all we can to prevent that from happening. This starts with educating young people about the dangers, and how they can protect themselves and their peers" says PCC Kim McGuinness

Our knife crime awareness session addresses why young people may carry knives, the law around knives and offensive weapons, the impact of knife crime, how young people can keep themselves safe and report a crime as well as the help and support available to them.

For more about our education team, email vru@northumbria-pcc.gov.uk



JOIN OUR WORKPLACE DOMESTIC ABUSE CHAMPIONS NETWORK

The workplace can be one of the few areas where victims of domestic abuse feel safe to speak out about what they are going through.

That's why it's so important to have Trained Domestic Abuse Champions in your workplace, who can provide help and support to colleagues whenever it's needed.

We are now calling for more businesses to get involved, so we can continue to grow this fantastic network.



We met with **Dan from Eldon Square**, who is one of over 1800 Domestic Abuse Champions active in workplaces throughout Northumberland, Tyne and Wear.

Why did you join our Workplace Domestic Abuse Champions Network?

I first heard about the scheme when I was introduced to it by Rachel from the Violence Reduction Unit. It quickly became apparent that our current employee support structure did not account for Domestic Abuse and this was a huge opportunity to assist my colleagues.

How do you promote your role as a Domestic Abuse Champion in your workplace?

We have 100 staff directly employed by Eldon Square, 5 of which are trained Domestic Abuse Champions. To promote the role, we have posters around the site and team members know who is trained up so staff know who they can talk to. The trained staff are a mix of management and shop floor teams to ensure that everyone has access to someone they feel comfortable speaking to.

Have you put any of the training into practice in your workplace? If so, how has it helped?

Fortunately, we have not been in a situation that we have had to use the training so far, although it has heightened my awareness and enabled me to be constantly on the lookout for any signs.

What are the top 3 things that you took away from the training?

It was so beneficial to identify the signs of Domestic Abuse that a colleague may be encountering, where to go for help and what ongoing support there is as an employer to guide that person through the process.

What would you say to someone who is considering joining the Champions Network?

This scheme is a fantastic one to be part of. You feel fully equipped to deal with a potential Domestic Abuse situation and most importantly, how to help that person out. You are kept up to date regularly by the team with any changes or additional information you need. It is a free service and one that when the time comes, you will be very grateful that you are part of.

Anything else you would like to tell us about?

I genuinely cannot recommend the scheme enough.

Book your place on a training session [here](#).

For more about our Workplace Domestic Abuse Champions Network email champions@northumbria-pcc.gov.uk



THE IMPACT OF OUR LOCAL YOUTH FUND

"The funding gave me the opportunity to learn new skills. It stopped me from going to juvenile prison and I am really grateful that people believed in me."

Having faced very difficult challenges in her young life, Tegan has remained set on her dream of one day having her own beauty business, and she's heading in the right direction.

Our Local Youth Fund helped Tegan to re-engage with education and she has just become **YOUNG STUDENT OF THE YEAR** in a special event held by her training academy.

We will soon be announcing a further round of our Local Youth Fund so keep a look out!



DRUGS & ALCOHOL AWARENESS

"Proud to be involved, learnt so much"

Just some of the fantastic feedback from the young people who helped co-produce our new drugs and alcohol awareness session, which addresses:

- Laws and myths around drugs & alcohol.
- Young people feel pressured to experiment.
- The impact it can have on their health.
- How to keep themselves safe.

[Email](#) us for more about this work.

COOP COACHING PROGRAMME

We have teamed up with the Co-op in a new project that provides coaching to help get individuals back into work, rather than turning to crime.

Our new programme will see a business coach working with individuals to:

- Address barriers to employment,
- Offer support to re-build confidence,
- Explore new skills.

Read more about this work [here](#).



**FIGHTING
CRIME**

**PREVENTING
CRIME**

**IMPROVING
LIVES**

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