



A WELCOME FROM THE PCC...

Over the last couple of months, our region has experienced the devastating effects of serious violence, and in particular, knife crime, after the tragic loss of two 14 year olds.

Serious violence and knives will never have a place in our communities, that's why we will continue to do all we can to prevent it from happening - and we know that targeted action does work, we seen the positive results over the summer, but we can't stop there.

It's so important to me that everyone feels safe and that support is readily available to those who need it. That's why, through the Violence Reduction Unit, we will continue to divert offenders from crime and improve the lives of those at risk of becoming a victim.

You can read more about the work taking place in this newsletter.

Kim McGuinness, Northumbria Police & Crime Commissioner

OVER THE LAST 3 MONTHS...

12.2%

**DROP IN SERIOUS VIOLENCE
OVER THE SUMMER THANKS
TO TARGETED ACTION.**

3,793

**STUDENTS TOOK PART IN
SESSIONS DELIVERED BY OUR
DEDICATED EDUCATION TEAM.**

170

**EDUCATION SESSIONS WERE DELIVERED COVERING A
RANGE OF VIOLENCE REDUCTION TOPICS SUCH AS KNIFE
CRIME AWARENESS, EXPLOITATION AND ONLINE SAFETY.**

86

**YOUNG PEOPLE APPROACHED IN
CUSTODY THROUGH OUR
TEACHABLE MOMENTS PROJECT.**

50

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

63%

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

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

FURTHER INVESTMENT TO PREVENT VIOLENT CRIME

Although serious violence has been on the rise this year, levels dropped by 12.2% in August thanks to targeted interventions, more youth workers and diversionary activities for young people, reinforcing our approach of working closely with partners such as Police, local councils and youth organisations, to prevent crime.

That's why, this winter, we have invested a further £220,000 to reduce violence and keep you safe. Our programme of activity includes working with those causing significant harm in communities, engaging with young people, more patrols and focusing on key winter events.

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



NEW STUDENT CHAMPIONS

As part of our plans to prevent crime, eight secondary schools in Newcastle will now benefit from having student champions on hand to support on youth violence issues.

The champions will focus on small groups and individuals, including those believed to be at risk or involved in violent crime, to encourage young people to seek support.

With the overall aim of preventing serious youth violence, the champions will work with students to improve school attendance and behaviour, reduce suspensions or exclusions and strengthen community links.

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

KNIFE CRIME AWARENESS

Our Education Team have been ramping up activity to educate more young people on the dangers of carrying and using a knife and the devastating impact it can have.

During Op Sceptre, a national week of action to crackdown on knife crime, **1421** young people received this vital awareness.

These sessions address 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.

[Contact us](#) for more about our sessions.



FINDAWAY - A NEW PROJECT THAT RECOGNISES WE CAN ALL HELP STOP DOMESTIC ABUSE



We caught up with Emma, a Findaway Development Officer, to tell you more about this project and how we can all help support those we care about.

Tell us about Findaway...

Findaway is a new project that recognises families, friends and community members are usually the first to know about domestic abuse and best placed to offer support. That's why we want to equip them with the knowledge, understanding and skills they need to help the people they care about. Anyone aged 16 or over, who is worried about someone else's relationship, can call our anonymous phonenumber for practical information and signposting from our trained advisors.

How did it come about?

We were aware that many victims were reaching our support services at crisis point, when the abuse had escalated and the perpetrator's behaviour had become very dangerous. We also know from research and our own experiences that families and friends are usually the first to know about the abuse, but there is limited support and information out there for them. That's why it was important to create something that would support the people around the victim and the perpetrator, and hopefully reach those impacted earlier.

What would you say to someone thinking of using the service?

We are anonymous and confidential! If you ring our phonenumber, we ask you not to reveal any identifying information about the person you are worried about. We know that people are often worried about contacting services in case there are repercussions which could make things worse – we want to reassure everyone that this is an anonymous service and we won't press you for any identifying information. Our trained advocates are there to listen to you, and to provide you with information, understanding and options, so you can decide how best to support the person you're worried about.

What response has there been to the service so far?

The response from the phonenumber has been fantastic. It allows for those who are often in really difficult positions, to open up about the challenges, emotional impact and understand how they can help. We want to thank them for the amazing work they are already doing.

Spreading the word is so incredibly important, so we would like to thank all those who have put a leaflet in their shop window, allowed us to join an event with a pop up stand, shared posts on social media - it all makes a difference.

Is there anything else you would like to tell us?

Just to say that domestic abuse isn't just something that happens to other people, we believe we all know someone affected by it - and most importantly that we can all help tackle domestic abuse together!



Findaway Phonenumber: 0300 140 0061

To speak to a trained advisor, use the Findaway Phonenumber.

Open Monday to Friday, 9am-5pm

or leave a message for an out of hours call back.

LOCAL YOUTH FUND ROUND 4 OPENS IN 2 WEEKS

We know how important it is to hear from young people on what matters to them. That's why we have our Local Youth Fund, providing an opportunity to bid for activities or projects that have a benefit to them and the communities they live in.

In the latest round, over 1,980 young people were involved in developing projects including youth forums, sports activities and learning life skills, with some youth organisations telling us:

"The more we put in to our community, the more we get back out, and thanks to this funding, we are seeing our young people turning into strong independent individuals."

KEEP AN EYE OUT FOR MORE INFORMATION ON ROUND 4 COMING SOON.



UPSKILLING PRACTITIONERS

Thanks to our vital knife crime awareness training, we have upskilled more than 1500 practitioners across the region, who now have the knowledge and tools to start conversations with young people on the dangers of carrying and using a knife.

By increasing the number of people who know what to look out for, we can support more young people before they are exploited or get involved in crime.

Get in touch if you would like to take part.

THE YOUTH JUSTICE SPORT FUND

A new funding opportunity is available from The Ministry of Justice to invest in sports programmes across England and Wales, and enhancing positive outcomes for vulnerable young people.

The £5 million fund will enable voluntary and community sports organisations to carry out targeted work in supporting children and young people at risk of entering the criminal justice system.

Read more [here](#).



**FIGHTING
CRIME**

**PREVENTING
CRIME**

**IMPROVING
LIVES**

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