



# DELIVERY OF THE POLICE & CRIME PLAN:

## PREVENTING CRIME PANEL REPORT

OCTOBER 2022



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# FROM THE PCC

Northumbria Police is a force committed to fighting crime and keeping our region safe. But that job is going to get much harder in the coming years. After 12 years of austerity, out of control inflation and a new cost of living crisis, we run the real risk of seeing increased crime but fewer resources available to the police to deal with this.

There are two ways we can reduce the number of victims of crime. One is more police officers and the other is preventing crime in the first place.

Northumbria Police saw its budget cut by £148m and lost 1,100 officers during austerity. The Government made funds available for only around half of those officers to be replaced, with no guarantee of us ever reaching 2010 staffing levels.

That's why preventing crime in the first place continues to be so important. In this report I want to set out some of the activity taking place in our region, especially that of my Violence Reduction Unit.

I won't hide the fact that some people, especially some young men, feel they have to resort to violence to make their way in life. We're a relatively safe region, but we have areas of concern. My VRU takes a public health approach to violence reduction based on the premise that violence is preventable. Since we set the unit up it has only become more clear that early intervention is the key to driving down crime.

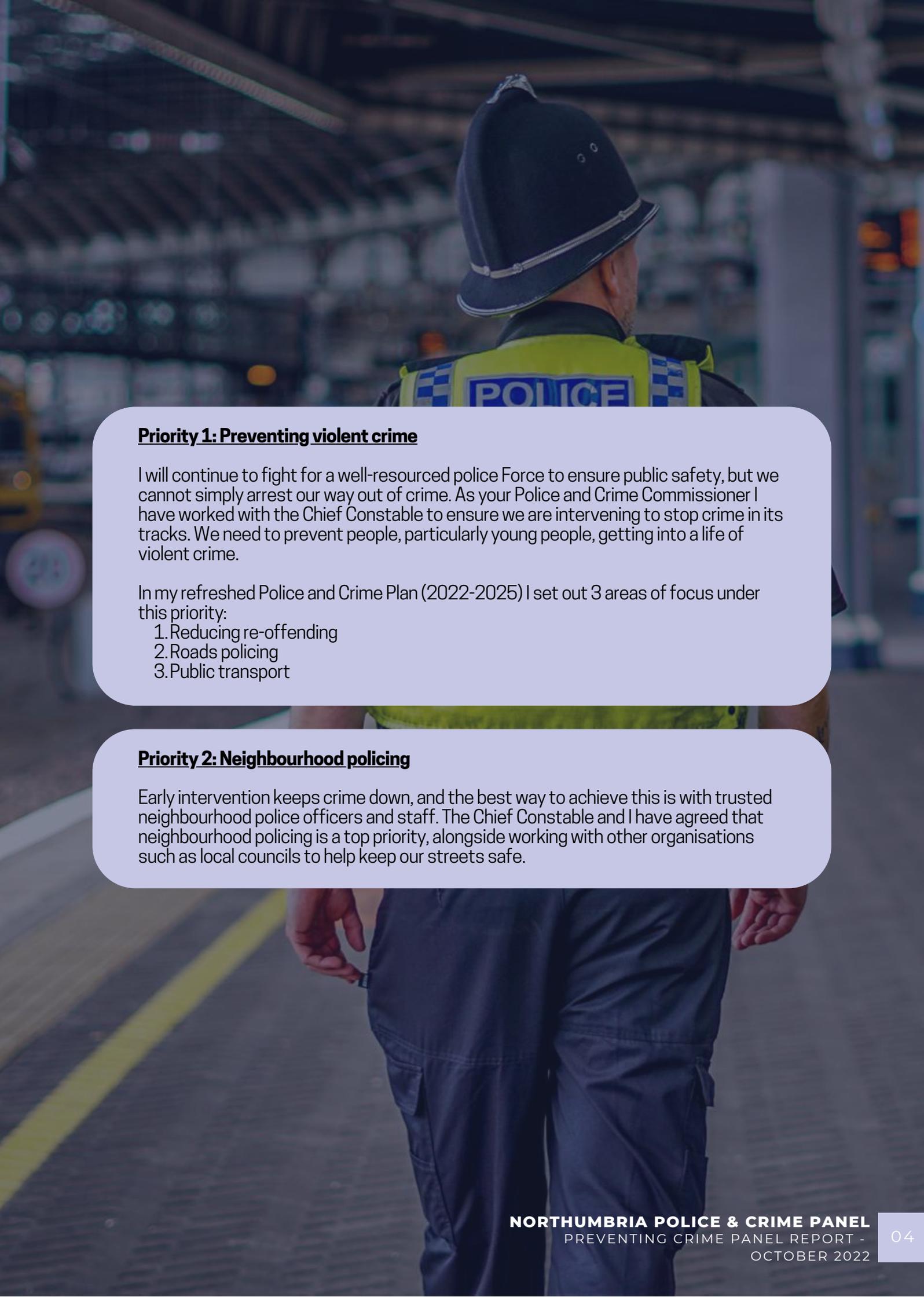
So we're taking a direct approach to intervening with those who are already showing signs of vulnerability or are on the fringes of criminal/anti-social activity.

This will take the form of direct action with young people as well as working with other services and organisations to address wider needs of other family members such as siblings. The overall aim is to reduce crime and instances of violence as well as reduce the risk of vulnerable individuals being exploited by others.

That work to keep young people out of crime is life changing but it takes time, and things won't change overnight.

In this report I'll set out the steps we're taking towards that long term change, and the challenges we will face.

**Yours,  
Kim**



### **Priority 1: Preventing violent crime**

I will continue to fight for a well-resourced police Force to ensure public safety, but we cannot simply arrest our way out of crime. As your Police and Crime Commissioner I have worked with the Chief Constable to ensure we are intervening to stop crime in its tracks. We need to prevent people, particularly young people, getting into a life of violent crime.

In my refreshed Police and Crime Plan (2022-2025) I set out 3 areas of focus under this priority:

- 1.Reducing re-offending
- 2.Roads policing
- 3.Public transport

### **Priority 2: Neighbourhood policing**

Early intervention keeps crime down, and the best way to achieve this is with trusted neighbourhood police officers and staff. The Chief Constable and I have agreed that neighbourhood policing is a top priority, alongside working with other organisations such as local councils to help keep our streets safe.



# PREVENTING CRIME PRIORITY 1: PREVENTING VIOLENT CRIME

# 1. USING A PUBLIC HEALTH APPROACH TO REDUCE VIOLENCE

I am committed to using a public health approach to reducing violence. That means treating violence the same way we would a disease, recognising the symptoms, understanding the causes and then stopping its transmission, helping people to avoid it and giving people the tools they need to tackle it.

There is a strong commitment across Northumbria to tackle the root causes of violent crime and in the years ahead the prevention element of the region's violence reduction efforts will focus on a package of measures to reduce crime. This will include taking a direct approach to intervening with those who are showing signs of vulnerability or are on the fringes of criminal/ anti-social activity. This will take the form of direct intervention with young people, working with those who could become the biggest risk to others, alongside key services and organisations to address wider needs of other family members such as siblings.

In the Police and Crime Plan I committed to:

1. Ensure the Violence Reduction Unit Response Strategy to reduce serious and violent crime is clear and co-ordinated across the Northumbria force area.
2. Oversee the implementation of the three-year VRU funding settlement across Northumbria.
3. Coordinate an early intervention and prevention approach and implement a serious violence and criminal exploitation strategy to ensure all partners are working together to prevent crime.
4. Continue to work with partners to improve data and intelligence sharing, which will allow for more effective targeting of interventions and resources at those areas most in need.
5. Support organisations seeking to help people out of gangs and the cycle of crime.
6. Back continued funding for the life changing youth workers at the You Only Live Once (YOLO) project.
7. Increase the provision of family support.
8. Support youth services.
9. Continue to support our Custody Diversion project, reducing the risk of young people returning to custody.
10. Ensure young people are aware of the dangers and risks involved in criminal gangs, through education and intervention.
11. Ensure the force targets the illegal drugs trade and the crime that follows this.

## Current force position: Serious violence

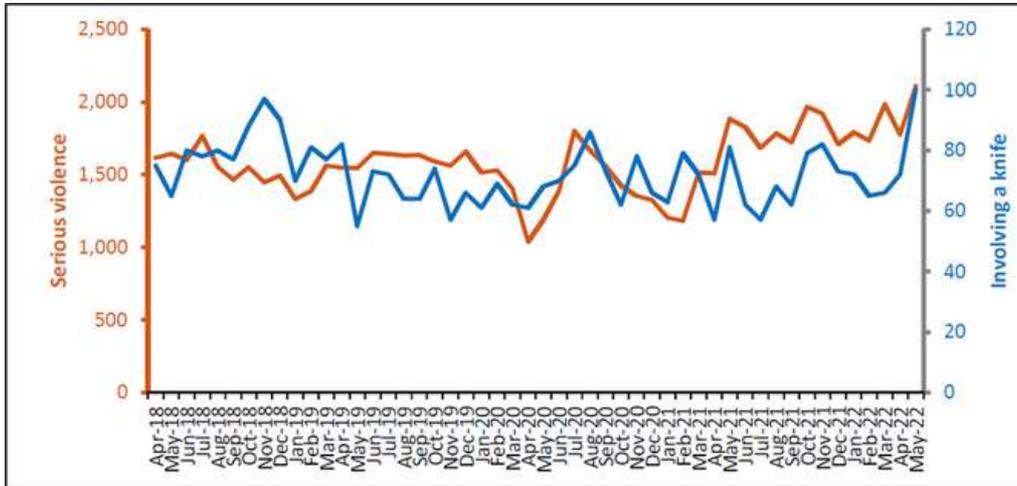
Nationally, Northumbria ranks 24th out of 42 forces for the levels of serious violent knife crime per 1,000 population, below the National average. It has the 2nd fewest crimes per 1,000 population compared to most similar group of Forces (South Wales, Cleveland, Gwent, Humberside, Lancashire, South Yorkshire and West Yorkshire).

The data below relates to April and May 2022 (the most recent reporting period at the time of writing):

### **Serious Violent Crime**

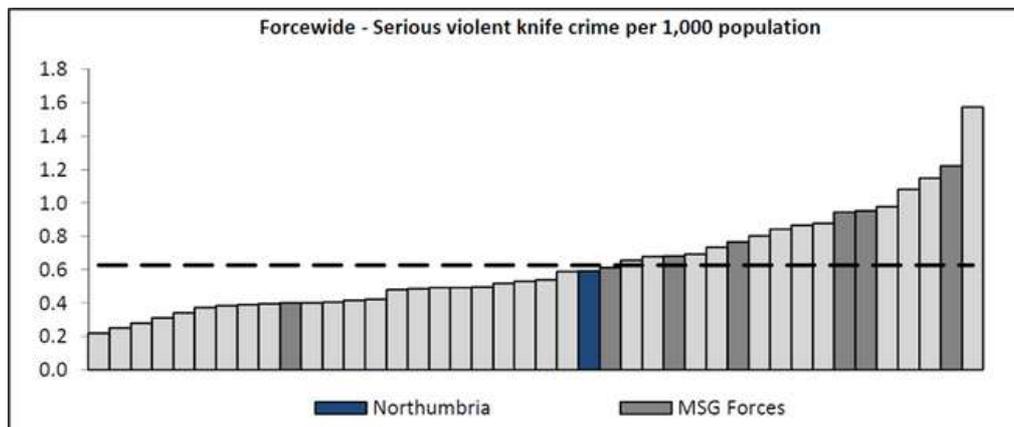
- Levels of serious violent crime have risen since January 2022, with the highest levels recorded in May with **2,111** offences. The increase in May marked an increase of **18.7%** (33 offences) from levels in April. This spring/summer trend is likely due to lighter nights, warmer weather, and bank holidays during the period.

- 29% of all serious violence offences across Northumbria occurred in Newcastle during April and May. Projections for the full quarter show a 2.8% increase in Q1 compared to quarter 4 of 2021/22, with four of the local authorities seeing an increase (Northumberland, Newcastle, Sunderland, and South Tyneside).

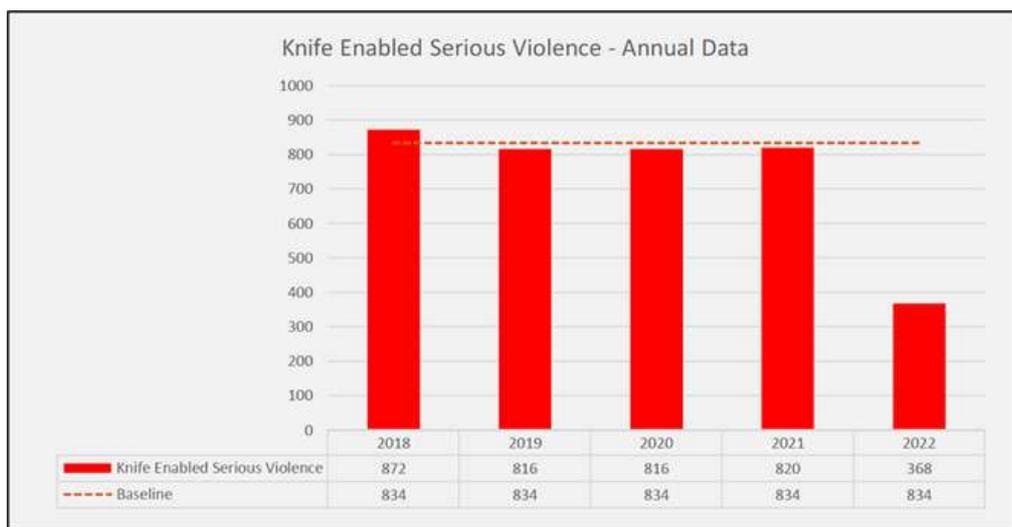


- Serious Violent data by quarter shows that levels in quarter 1 in 2022 are likely to be similar to those high levels seen in 2021 with over 5,000 offences.
- In terms of locations where serious violence is highest, Newcastle again had the highest levels of serious violent offences during quarter 1 with 1,112 offences, in part due to the night time economy (NTE). This is reflected in the top 10 hotspot areas in the quarter with half of the top 10 in Newcastle City Centre, including the top 4.

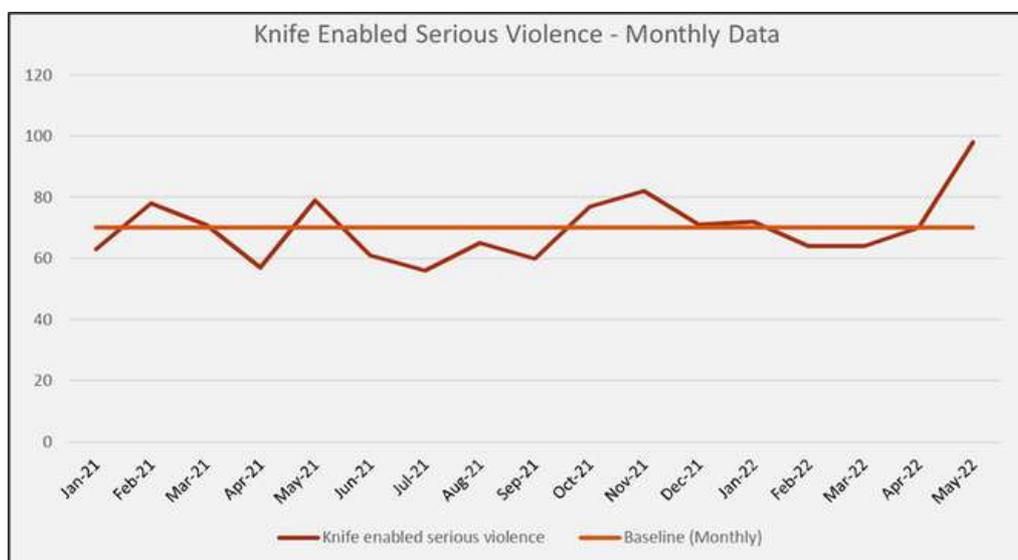
### Knife-Enabled Serious Violence



- Since 2018, levels of knife enabled violence across the Northumbria Police Force Area have remained constant, with levels in 2019 (**816**), 2020 (**816**), and 2021 (**820**) all remaining under the baseline of **834**. Figures thus far in 2022 show there have been **368** offences of knife enabled violence, which is similar to levels in the same 5 months period at the beginning of 2021.



- Of the 2,111 serious violent offences in May 2022, 5% involved a knife - an increase from 4% in April.
- Knife enabled serious violence increased by 28 offences in May in comparison to April, increasing from 70 to 98. This is above the baseline of 70 offences and is the highest monthly levels in in 2021 and 2022.
- This increase in May is due to increases in assault with injury offences and personal robberies, with increases of 75% (16 --> 28 offences) and 250% (4 --> 14 offences) respectively.
- Analysis of the assaults all occur in different sector beats with no particular pattern, with 36% domestic related. The personal robberies all appear to be opportunist in method, using a knife to threaten before taking items of value from the victim.



- These knife-enabled offences are made up of the following type of offences. The table also highlights the percentage of each offence occurring within identified harm hotspot areas:

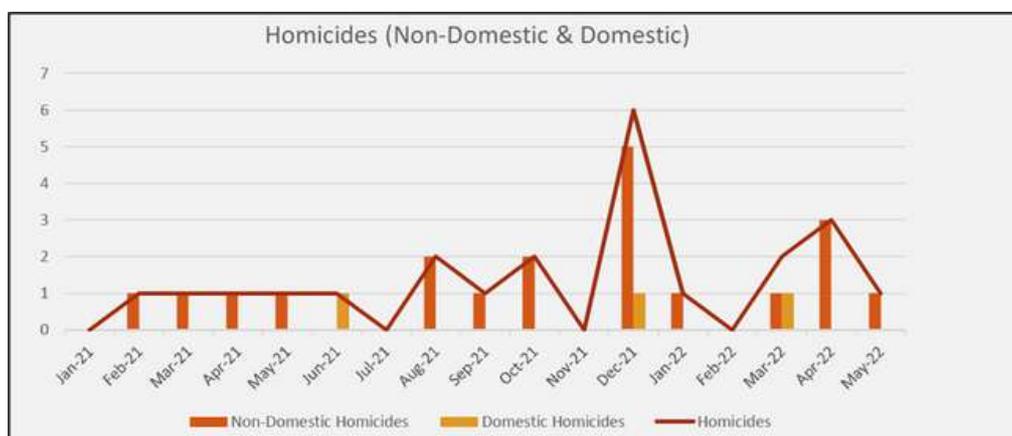
	Offences	% in Harm Hotspot Areas
Attempt Murder	2	50%
Threats to Kill	18	61%
Assault with intent to cause serious harm	68	42%
Assault with injury	44	41%
Racially or Religiously Aggravated Assault with injury	0	-
Sexual Assault	2	50%
Rape	2	50%
Robbery	36	39%
	<b>172</b>	<b>43%</b>

### Serious Violence Suspects

- During April and May there were 3291 victims of a violent crime, with 3250 suspects. 11% of those suspects had a violence-related warning marker, suggesting a repeat suspect of violent offences. A breakdown of suspects can be found below.
- A third of all offences (1,010 offences) in April and May 2022 involved a suspect under the age of 25 – 598 of these young suspects were involved in S47 Assault (Actual Bodily Harm).
- Suspects under 25 further accounted for:
  - 31% of all suspected section 47 assaults.
  - 71% of racial section 47 assaults
  - Almost half of personal robberies (49%)
  - A third of sexual assaults on a female, with 58% of those suspect being under 18.

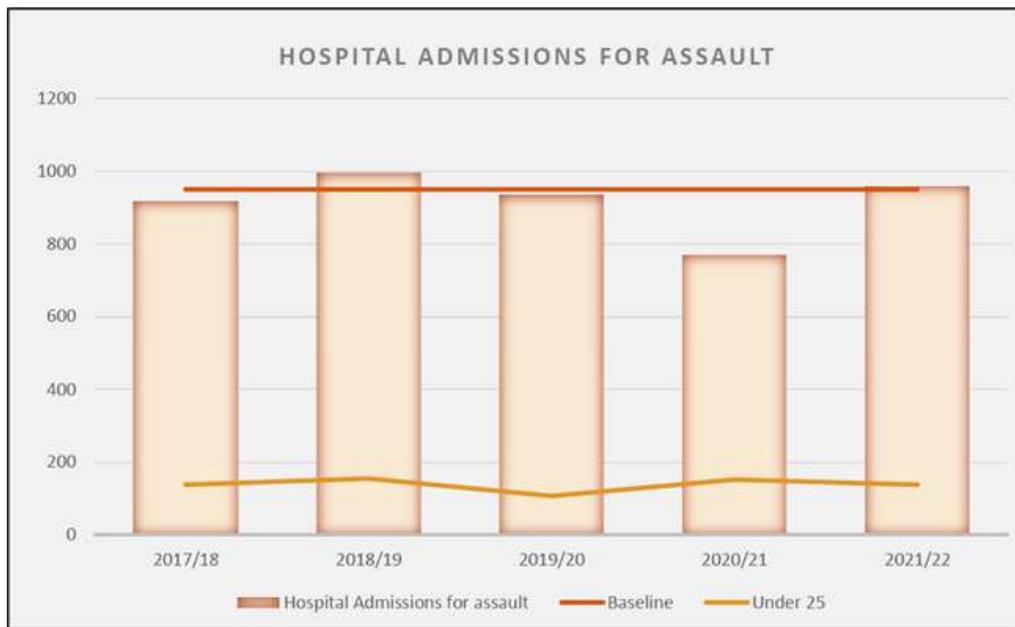
### Homicides

- Following the high levels seen in December homicides have remained low, although in April there were 3 non-domestic homicides.
- However levels reduced in May 2022 with 1 homicide.



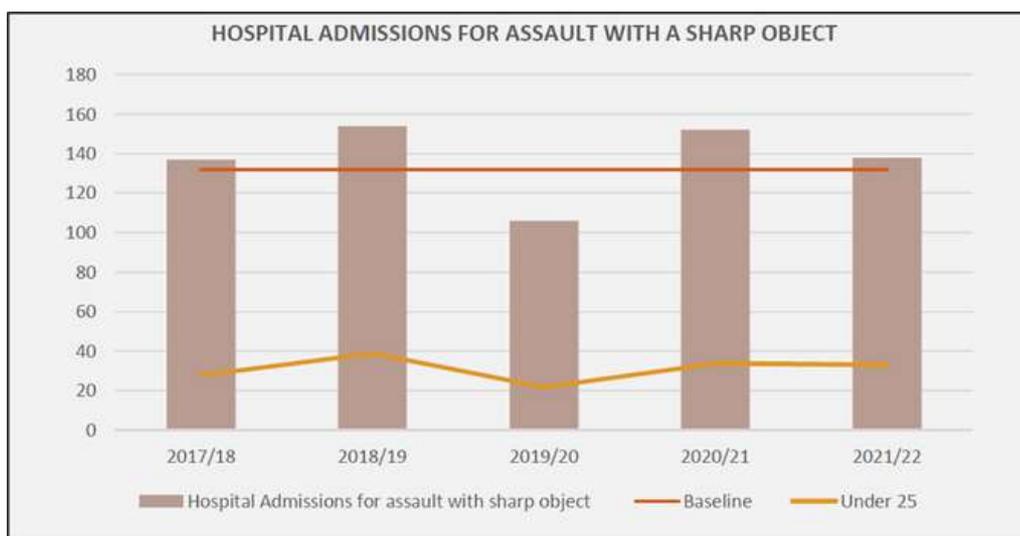
### Hospital Admissions for Assault

- Hospital admissions due to an assault rose by 25% in the 12-months to March 2022 compared to low levels witnessed in 2020/21, as a result of Covid and local restrictions in place.
- In 2021/22 there were **960** admissions This is 10 admissions above the baseline figure of **950** admissions per year.
- All local authority areas showed an increase in 2021/22, however when compared to 2019/20 (pre-Covid) both Newcastle and North Tyneside show reductions of 17% and 4.5% respectively.
- In terms of under 25s, admissions due to an assault reduced by 9% in 2021/22.



### Hospital Admissions for Assault with a Sharp Object

- Admissions as a result of an assault with a sharp object decreased by 14 admissions (**9.2%**) in 2021/22, but remain slightly above the baseline by 6 admissions (138).
- Newcastle, Sunderland, and Northumberland local authorities saw decreases, with minimal increases in North Tyneside and Gateshead. South Tyneside remained at the same levels as 2020/21.
- As with all admissions, levels of assaults with a sharp object committed against under 25s also saw a reduction (**2.9%**).
- Newcastle had the highest number of admissions in 2021/22 with 10.



## Overview: Northumbria Violence Reduction Unit (VRU)

### Tackling the Causes of Crime & KPIs

Preventing crime and tackling the impact of poverty go hand in hand. The Marmot Review – Ten Years On, published in 2020 found that the North-East population experiences higher levels of socio-economic disadvantage than the English Average. It's no coincidence that areas of deprivation see more crime and anti-social behaviour:

- In 80% of our harm hotspot areas in Northumbria, 1 in 10 people suffer from income deprivation.
- In more than half of our harm hotspot areas in Northumbria, 1 in 5 people suffer from income deprivation.
- In 22% of our harm hotspot areas in Northumbria, 1 in 3 people suffer from income deprivation.

One key tool dealing with the effects of poverty is my Violence Reduction Unit (VRU). I established this team with the belief that if we improve lives we can prevent crime, especially violent crime. The VRU works in partnership with the overall aim of reducing:

- knife enabled serious violence,
- hospital admissions for knife related serious violence and
- homicides.

### VRU Strategic Priorities

The VRU has gone from strength to strength since its inception in 2019. We are now in Year 4 of work. We recently secured a further 3-year funding settlement which has enabled us to procure longer term contracts for services and build on the positive work that has taken place to date. In addition, we also published our strategic priorities for 2022-3 in our Serious Violence Response Strategy[1]:

- Procure a provider to develop Information Sharing Protocols, data dashboards and a data hub between key stakeholders and identify appropriate datasets that contribute to the overall picture of violence in the region.
- Develop a risk matrix of to gain a better understanding of the risk associated with serious violence and youth violence.
- Procure High Impact interventions recommended by the Youth Endowment Fund within identified localities to enhance outcomes for people accessing services.
- Work in partnership with key stakeholders, schools and Local Authorities to explore risks for children in care, those who are missing, sexually exploited and trafficked (MSET) and those at risk of exploitation through County Lines.
- Develop a Focused Deterrence model in Sunderland and Newcastle to target offenders causing harm in local communities.
- Extend the role of the VRU Education Team to deliver more educational sessions to raise awareness of the issues of serious violence.
- Increase our capacity to develop the views, experiences and insights of intended beneficiaries and those with lived experience.

Over the coming year we will commission interventions based around the delivery models we have seen previous success with, and seek to develop additional interventions based on the identified gaps linked to increasing need. We will commission our range of evidence-based needs led interventions in 2022-23 across the fighting crime, preventing crime and improving lives themes with further interventions being developed as we progress through the year.

[1] In light of the forthcoming Serious Violence Duty we will be refreshing this Strategy at the end of this year to ensure that it meets the needs of all specified authorities.

In order to prevent crime, my VRU will take a direct approach to intervening with those who are showing signs of vulnerability or are on the fringes of criminal/antisocial activity. This will take the form of direct intervention with young people as well as working with other services and organisations to address wider needs of other family members such as siblings. The overall aim is to reduce crime and instances of violence as well as reduce the risk of vulnerable individuals being exploited by others.

Below is an overview of the planned interventions the VRU will commission as a priority under the preventing crime theme:

P&C Plan Theme / VRU Intervention	Primary Measures of Success
<b>Preventing Crime</b>	
Custody Diversion	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Number of young people who have developed an action/support plan</li> <li>2. Number of young people reporting increased resilience, feelings of safety and ability to cope</li> <li>3. Number of young people demonstrating reduced risk-taking behaviour</li> <li>4. Number of young people with reduced involvement in the criminal justice system</li> </ol>
YOLO	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Reduction in re-offending rates (% of all those accessing YOLO)</li> <li>2. Number with improved school attendance</li> <li>3. Number of YP with reduced risk of committing serious and violent offending</li> <li>4. Number with no further Police involvement/intelligence</li> </ol>
Education Engagement Team	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Number of education sessions delivered in harm hotspots</li> <li>2. Number of participants reporting increased awareness of risk taking behaviour and harm</li> <li>3. Number of participants reporting increased awareness of knife crime</li> <li>4. Number of participants reporting increased awareness of child criminal exploitation</li> </ol>
Safer Routes to School	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Reduced levels of violence and wider disorder within the immediate vicinity of school</li> <li>2. Increased school attendance of young people</li> <li>3. Increased sharing of local intelligence to reduce the impact of serious organised crime</li> <li>4. Increased community confidence and overall feelings of safety</li> </ol>
Primary/Secondary Transition	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Reduced number of fixed term and permanent exclusions within the identified school</li> <li>2. Increased and improved school attendance</li> <li>3. Increased communication and contact with wider family</li> <li>4. Reduced risk of young people being involved in associated ASB</li> </ol>

## Update on work undertaken:

### YOLO Project

Established in 2017, the YOLO project works with children and young people aged 8-14 who are, or are likely to become involved in serious violence, gang related offending or knife related crime. The project focuses on early intervention and seeks to use preventative methodology to reduce an escalation in offending and positively influence those on the periphery of more serious offending, prior to them entering the Criminal Justice System.

This scheme involves matching young people to footballing and other mentors from the Foundation of Light and the Newcastle United Foundation and has had many success stories to date.

YOLO has continued to have a positive impact on some of our most vulnerable young people, and there is a commitment to continue and develop this provision to ensure that it is accessible to the most vulnerable young people within the areas of most need. Continuation funding for Year 4 (2022/23) will ensure that this provision continues to be offered and develops further. Work is ongoing to expand the referral process to offer up the provision to more young people and this will be reviewed throughout the year. Tailor made interventions will be developed with each young person and this will include some agreed outcomes and measures of success. There will be a closer link to all other VRU interventions to ensure that young people and their families have access to the correct level of support.

In year 3 (2021/22) the project had considerable impact:

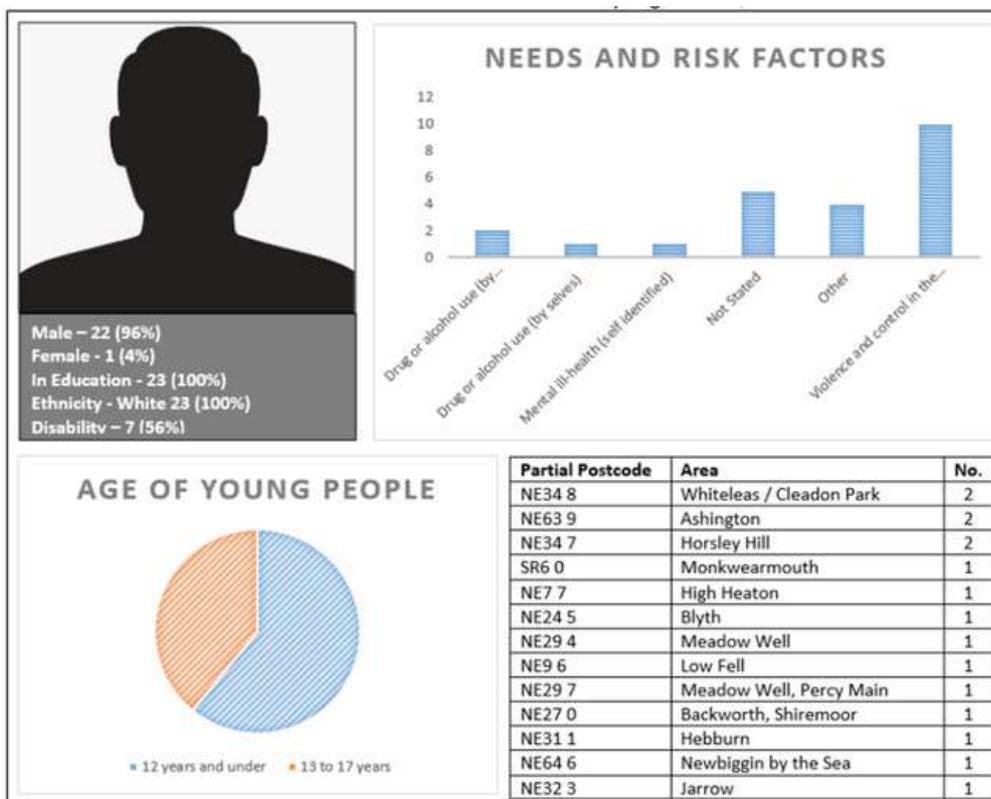
- 163 young people received mentorship, support and interventions through the YOLO project.
  - 48% of the young people's families accessed YOLO support.
  - 34% of young people with reduced risk of committing serious and violent offences.
  - 23% of young people with improved school attendance.

During Q1 of the current year (2022/23) the YOLO programme has received 23 new referrals with all being taken onto the caseload. At the end of the quarter there was an active caseload of 75 young people – 30 with the Foundation of Light and 45 with Newcastle United Foundation.

During the reporting period the most notable outcomes for those 45 young people working with the Newcastle United Foundation include:

- 31 young people have been identified as having a reduced risk of committing serious and violent offences;
- 44 families are accessing YOLO support;
- 21 young people have an improved school attendance;
- 38 young people have had no further police intelligence attributed against them;
- 22 young people have self-reported increased confidence.

Below is a breakdown of those individuals on the YOLO programme:



## **Education team**

The VRU Education Engagement team continues to evolve and build a varied range of resources and opportunities for young people. This commitment will continue during Year 4 with a more focused approach within our harm hotspots, targeting schools in areas with peaks in serious violence and wider disorder. We are still committed to the roll out of Adversity Awareness Training to community settings and local partners as well as a commitment to the delivery of a practitioner-based knife crime awareness sessions to support teachers, health professionals and community leaders. Our project-based learning approach developed significantly during year 3 and we will continue to develop our approach working with a wide range of schools and providing young people with the opportunity to tailor projects to best meet their needs.

An effective Education Engagement Team is key to the continued success of the VRU. The range of interventions on offer to schools and community settings has expanded and will continue to develop. The team will continue to enhance the community offer as well as continue to expand interventions into Colleges and Universities.

Year 3 (2021/22) highlights:

- The Education Team delivered 806 education sessions in 260 hotspots.
- 21,207 students and other young people benefited.
- 224 schools, non-school groups and community organisations engaged.
- 71 Project Based Learning sessions were delivered.
- 44 Knife Crime Practitioner sessions were delivered.
- 1 National Education Network was developed.

Year 4 Q1 progress:

- In quarter 1 the VRU Education team have delivered 270 sessions to 84 schools and organisations on a variety of subjects including knife crime and county lines and exploitation. 303 practitioners took part in the knife crime awareness session while 7732 young people received an educational input.
- The Drug and Alcohol package continues to be trialed. This package was developed using co-creation methods with students in schools and service providers. Focus groups were used to get the thoughts of the young people with the 2 sessions being developed. The Team then went back to show this to the young people to make sure it was what they wanted, resulting in a different end product compared to the initial thoughts about what it would look like. Currently two members of the education team deliver this package but the rest of the team will be given drug and alcohol training and trained up on the package allowing it to be rolled out across Northumbria. The current PBLs will be completed before the summer holidays, with a new PBL starting at the beginning of July with a CVS group. And discussions are underway with schools for September delivery of PBL. 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. During Q1 they have delivered a further 10 sessions to almost 400 staff. In addition the Education Team are looking to develop a session on Malicious Communications.

## Case Study: Trinity Academy Newcastle

At Trinity Academy Newcastle, the Year 10s have been working with the Education Team on Sexual Harassment (Banter and Harassment, Controlling behaviours, Vulnerability, Sexual Harassment online, and inappropriate touching). The picture is of their final pieces. The school found it a valuable way to explore these difficult topics with their students.



## Teachable Moments in Custody Diversion

The Custody Diversion intervention aims to proactively engage 10–17-year-olds, who are being brought into Police custody, to determine the degree in which serious violence, exploitation and vulnerability feature in their lives. In addition, a more targeted approach will be made in Year 4 to 18–24-year-olds who are known to be involved in serious organised crime and violent offending. This intervention will be based in all three custody suites across Northumbria. Young people will be supported into interventions within their community and there will be opportunities to engage with the wider family to address underlying causes.

Custody Diversion provides young people with an opportunity to stop and reflect on what has brought them into Police custody and provides an opportunity to address the issue and look to make a positive choice to reduce their risk of further offending.

### Success in year 3:

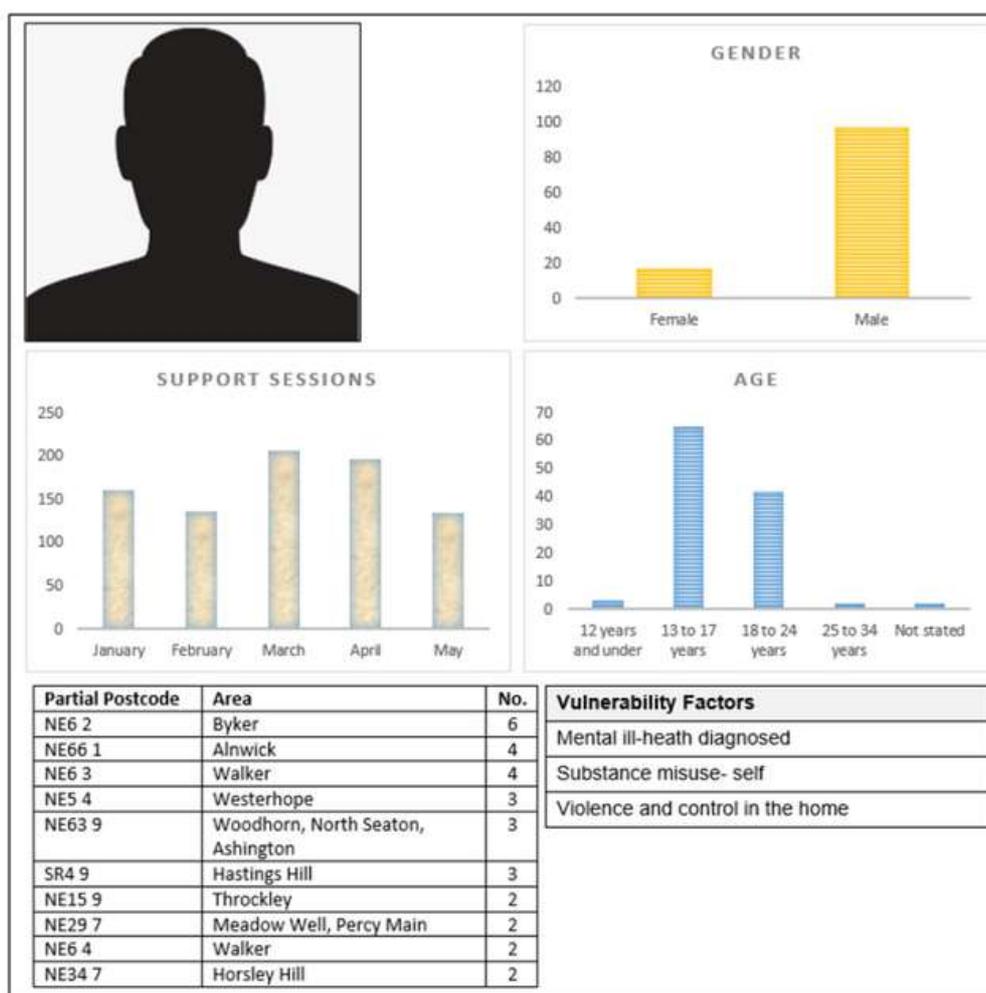
- 66 young people were supported through our custody diversion intervention
- 75% of young people had reduced involvement with the Criminal Justice System and an action plan for the future.

### Year 4 impact to date:

- During quarter 1 the project has made 114 approaches to engage young people in custody across both stations (MEL 45 approaches, Southwick 35 approaches, and Forth Banks 34 approaches).
- Of these 114 approaches, 45 young people were taken onto the caseload and engaged in the community.
- 331 support sessions have been delivered in this quarter, compared to a total of 834 in Year 3.

- Those individuals that have been supported have highlighted the following vulnerability factors:
  1. Mental ill-health diagnosed
  2. Mental ill-health not diagnosed
  3. Caring responsibilities
  4. Substance misuse- self
  5. Substance misuse- parents
  6. Violence and control in the home
- 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. This has led to the following positive outcomes:
  - o 71 CYP have received support to complete an action/support plan
  - o 31 CYP report increased resilience, feeling of safety and an increased ability to cope
  - o 40 CYP report that they feel better able to make informed choices in their lives
  - o 38 CYP have improvements in their ability to have hopes and dreams for the future
  - o 49 CYP have reduced involvement with the CJS
  - o 38 young people demonstrating reduced risk-taking behaviour

Below is a breakdown of those individuals supported through Teachable Moments in Year 4 to date:



## **Summer Violence Fund**

Community Safety Partnership (CSP) Leads in each of the 6 LA areas were invited to submit proposals to the VRU for projects/interventions that would reduce the likelihood of rises in violence over the summer, between June and August. CSP leads have linked in with local Chief Inspectors (neighbourhoods) and other local partners so a coordinated, needs led proposal for each local authority area could be submitted.

The VRU has agreed to invest over £100,000 in local communities to provide additional resource throughout the summer, to engage with individuals at the earliest opportunity and prevent crime before it starts. The funding will provide:

- **Newcastle** with additional staff to engage the public and young people in the City Centre as well as the parks and green spaces.
- **Northumberland** with a team of officers and youth workers deployed in identified areas to disrupt a rise in crime.
- **Gateshead** with a team to engage young people over the summer holidays to prevent increases in anti-social behaviour.
- **North Tyneside** with funding to enable staff to further engage with young people and provide diversionary activities.
- **South Tyneside** with additional resource to identify, engage and support young people in sports activities and educational sessions.
- **Sunderland** with youth outreach work taking place in and around the City Centre, supported by additional wardens and officers.

Intended outcomes for the CSP proposals include:

- Prevention of crime, disorder and ASB
- Identification of young people at risk
- Identification of perpetrators
- Improved community confidence
- Increased support and diversionary activity for young people

## **Operation Payback**

In addition to the Summer Violence Fund, I have also awarded more than £150,000 to fund 60 youth and community summer holiday projects to help keep anti-social behaviour at bay. This follows a recent poll by my office which found more than half (53%) of North-East residents are worried about the financial pressures on families this summer due to the national cost of living crisis. This money has been taken from the proceeds of crime and given back to communities through projects and initiatives that make a difference to the places that need it most.

The successful funding bids all centre around fighting poverty and fighting crime. The chosen projects will support struggling families and help keep kids out of trouble during the holidays. Local groups and youth clubs are offering various solutions to help keep kids busy, from sports tournaments to pizza nights. For example:

- The Beth Jacob Youth club in Gateshead will receive funding for a 3-day activities programme, benefiting close to 900 children. Sessions will be split for different age groups with older children also attending a trip to Whitley Bay Ice Rink.
- Sports for Youth CIC in Newcastle will be able to deliver a multi-sports activity camp during the summer holidays, targeted at vulnerable young people aged 13 to 18 years from low incomes families.

## Looking ahead:

In the Police and Crime Plan I committed to continue to work with partners to improve data and intelligence sharing, which will allow for more effective targeting of interventions and resources at those areas most in need. My VRU has already completed a Serious Violence Needs Assessment this year, outlining our key hot spot areas in Northumbria. Looking forward, the VRU will work with Liverpool John Moores University to develop a data governance dashboard which will enable partners to access operational data at the earliest opportunity.

In addition, in the near future, the VRU will seek to add capacity to our preventing crime activity by developing the following interventions throughout the year:

### ***Education Transitions (Primary to Secondary education)***

- We know that moving from primary to secondary school is a difficult time for young people, particularly for those who are facing a number of different challenges within the home or in their immediate community.
- This can often lead to young people finding it increasingly difficult to adapt and engage in a new school environment. Often this difficulty can manifest itself in problematic behaviour leading to an increased risk of short term and long-term exclusion.
- We know that young people who have reduced attendance at school also have an increased risk of being exploited by others and being drawn into other forms of vulnerability.
- As our education engagement approach has developed, we are committed to working with schools in hotspot areas to explore how we can provide additional support to young people with identified needs to make their transition to secondary school easier.
- By focusing on a number of young people who require additional support we will increase the chances of them integrating it to a secondary environment as well as provide additional support to address identified needs at the earliest opportunity.
- The aim here is to create a positive experience for young people, their families, and schools.
- Measures of success will include:
  - Reduced number of fixed term and permanent exclusions within the identified school
  - Increased and improved school attendance
  - Increased communication and contact with wider family
  - Reduced risk of young people being involved in associated ASB

### ***Safer routes to and from school***

- Our needs assessment shows us that there are certain schools within hotspot areas where young people have an increased risk of becoming involved in serious violence.
- We aim to work with local schools', police youth providers to identify a suitable guardian scheme which will allow young people to travel to and from school safely.
- This approach will also provide opportunities for young people to engage positively with a responsible adult as well as increase wider engagement with the community.
- It is anticipated that this approach will also improve the day-to-day relationship between schools and services as well as enhance intelligence and information sharing, allowing increased opportunities to identify issues at the earliest point.
- This will be a pilot approach throughout year 4, initially working within two areas identified through our needs assessment. These areas are likely to be the West End of Newcastle and Sunderland.
- Increased focus on safe travel to and from school will help build confidence among young people. It is anticipated that this project will increase opportunities for young people to report concerns as well as reduce the risk of young people not attending school.
- This scheme will also increase confidence within the wider community as well as deter and disrupt others from targeting schools to exploit vulnerable young people.

- Measures of success will include:
  - Reduced levels of violence and wider disorder within the immediate vicinity of school
  - Increased school attendance of young people
  - Increased sharing of local intelligence to reduce the impact of serious organised crime
  - Increased community confidence and overall feelings of safety



OPERATION PAYBACK: SPORTS FOR YOUTH



EDUCATION TEAM: KNIFE CRIME SESSION



YOLO: FOUNDATION OF LIGHT



SUMMER VIOLENCE: NEWCASTLE CITY COUNCIL

## 2. REDUCING REOFFENDING

In the Police and Crime Plan I committed to:

- Working with probation and other services to promote changes which are known to reduce reoffending such as opportunities around employment, training and education.
- Develop and implement a strategy on reducing reoffending which understands and addresses factors which can lead to criminal behaviour including mental health and substance misuse.

### Update on work undertaken:

The work being undertaken to meet the aim of reducing reoffending straddles two of my portfolios of work: fighting crime and preventing crime. Therefore, I updated on some of the below within my last report on Fighting Crime but discuss further here for completeness.

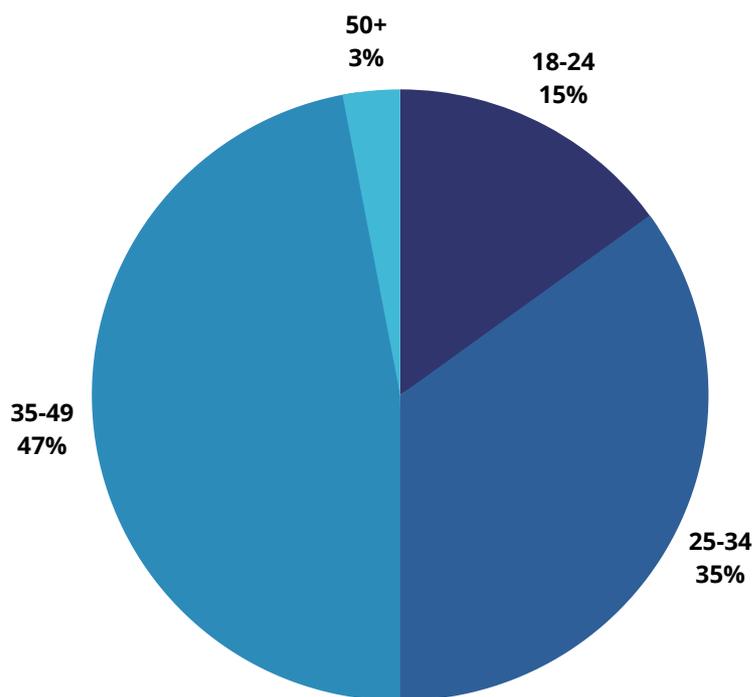
### ***Integrated Offender Management (IOM)***

- Police and Probation Leads continue to work together to improve the consistency of the local IOM operating model. Improvements have been noted in the relationships between Harm Reduction Inspectors and Probation Managers across the Force area, most notably in some locations where relations had not always been productive.
- The IOM Teams are now correctly identifying Cohort members based on the Fix, Flex and Free national model, recording these appropriately on both Police and Probation systems.
- Staffing levels within the Police and Probation IOM Teams remain good, with no significant absences, meaning that they are able to manage a full cohort of IOM Offenders.
- It is anticipated the principles of co-location and assertive outreach will be key elements of the model moving forward. Joint work between Police and Probation Leads will help shape the location and implementation of the dedicated specialist team.
- The next release of the Recency Frequency Gravity matrix is due in August, however talks are currently taking place within the NE region, to consider a more appropriate tool to be used for cohort selection, possibly using Crime Severity Scores (CSS). This is a system that is already used by a number of other Forces and would provide a consistent approach across the North East.
- The current cohort membership across each area Command is:
  - 56 members in North Tyneside and Northumberland (Northern Area Command)
  - 55 members in South Tyneside and Sunderland (Southern Area Command)
  - 91 members in Newcastle and Gateshead (Central Area Command)
- Within the managed cohort, the current numbers presently in Prison are:
  - Northern area - 10
  - Southern area - 14
  - Central area - 39
- Most of the cohort are Neighbourhood Crime Offenders, within the fixed area, which is in line with the national operating model. The Teams are now prioritising the Fixed Cohort when selecting new members.
- The 3 Police Area Command Structure does not fully align with the 4 Probation Delivery Units which comprise of Northumberland and North Tyneside, Newcastle, Gateshead & South Tyneside, Sunderland. The current Probation model differs across the 6 Local Authority areas in the Police Force Area which the proposed dedicated model will seek to address.

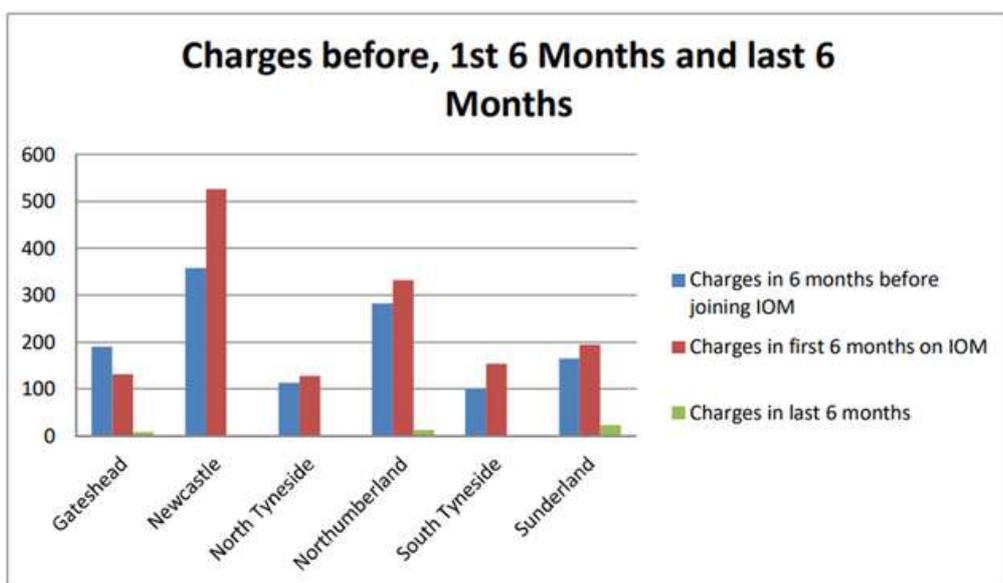
- The national direction for Police Forces is that they should all be moving to use IDIOM to report on performance, which will provide consistency in reporting across Forces. Northumbria Police will continue to use the RFG matrix for cohort selection and performance measurement for the time being, however it may be necessary to consider a move to IDIOM for all performance reporting in the future with a gradual phasing out of the RFG.
- Probation have developed a National IOM Dashboard, which has been adapted Regionally and the central reporting requirements are being agreed. It is likely to include existing Service Level Measures (SLMs) relating to successful completion of sentence, those housed on release from custody, the percentage in settled accommodation and in employment post release.

**Performance:**

- The pie chart on the right shows the age range of the current cohort:



- The table on the right shows the difference in Police charges over three time periods for cohort members:
  - 6 months prior to adoption into IOM.
  - The first 6 months in IOM.
  - The last 6 months following removal from the IOM Cohort. (Note, this data is only for 43 people)



- Although the green columns only capture the data for 43 IOM nominals, the reduction in Police charges should still be recognised as a success.
- The data shows that the majority of IOM cohort members continue to commit offences during the first 6 months following adoption onto the cohort, in most cases the offending rate increases. Although it may be expected that offending would decrease when adopted into IOM, this is not necessarily the case. The data shows that cohort members are being adopted at time when their offending is increasing, having been recognised by IOM Teams.
- The cost of crime for the current IOM Cohort is as follows:
  - £3,935,874 – in the 6 months prior to adoption into IOM.
  - £5,108,540 – in the average 6-month period once adopted into IOM.
- This equates to an average cost of offending per member of:
  - £13,572 – in the 6 months prior to adoption into IOM.
  - £17,616 – in the first 6 months of IOM.
- Of the 43 Cohort members who have since been removed from IOM, their average cost of crime equates to £2,742 per person. A significant reduction compared to the average cost prior and during IOM cohort membership.

### **Community Alternative to Short Prison Sentences (CASPS)**

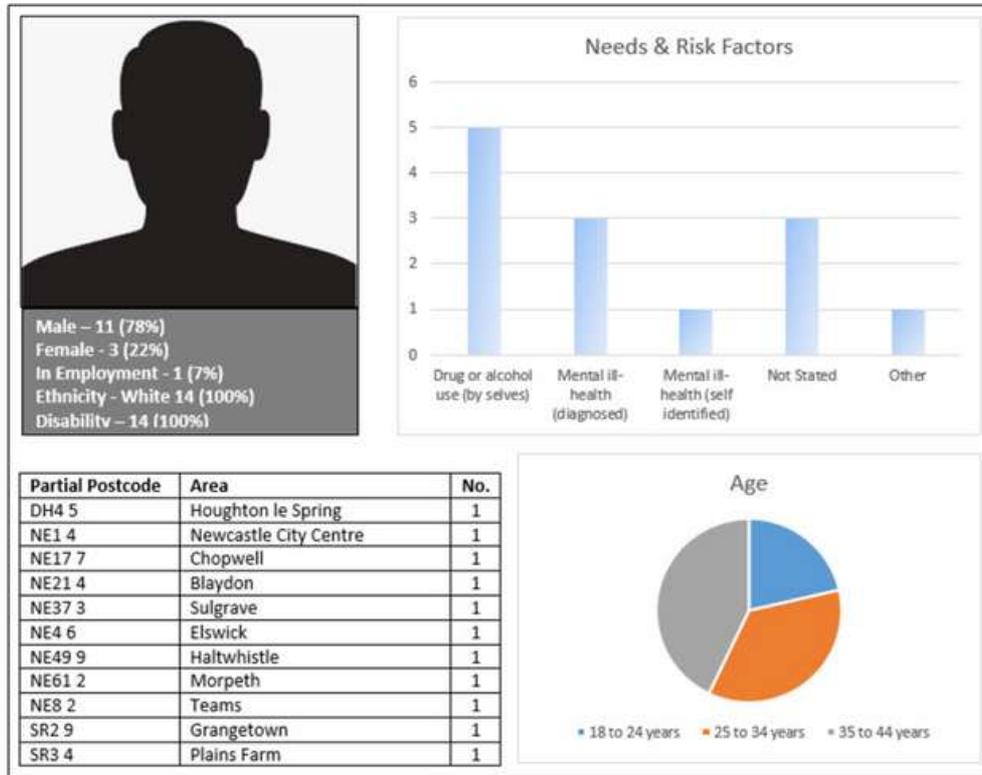
This intervention looks to offer a community alternative to short prison sentences to individuals who have committed offences of serious violence and acquisitive crime. The approach provides opportunities for individuals to seek stable and sustainable solutions to reduce their risk of re-offending and to assist with reconnecting with communities and their families.

In 2021-22 the partnership between the VRU and the Probation service developed further on this project. Throughout 2022-23 we will continue to build on this and we will continue to support a cohort of individuals into community-based sentence as an alternative to prison. As part of this process individuals will be connected to community-based support as well as have the opportunity to both address their offending behaviour as well as the contributory needs that led to them offending in the first place. This could include support with an undiagnosed need such as substance misuse all mental health as well as addressing some immediate issues such as stable accommodation training and employment.

In Q1 of this year probation staff have worked intensively with 14 individuals during April and May to provide practical and mentoring support. Notable outcomes during this period include:

- 1 individual developing and maintaining skills and resources to support desistance factors.
- 2 individuals reporting improved family relationships/community ties/stake in society.
- 1 individual reporting increased self-worth/self-esteem.
- 1 individual reporting improved emotional wellbeing.

Below is a breakdown of those individuals on the CASPS:



### **Out of Court Disposals (V-Aware, Women’s Pathway, and Men’s Pathway)**

The O OCD pathways continue to engage individuals who enter the criminal justice system and divert them away. During quarter 1 of the current financial year a total of 52 individuals were taken onto the caseload of one of the O OCD pathways, with 34 (65%) of those not returning to custody/offending since accessing the intervention demonstrating the immediate impact of these pathways.

Almost half of the cohort are aged between 18-24 years old, with specific needs and risk factors of mental ill-health, and drug & alcohol use.

18- 25 male pathway – There have been 19 referrals to the 18-25 male pathway during quarter 1, with 17 taken onto the caseload and attended their appointments. 41% of those on the caseload have reported drug and/or alcohol use as a need/risk factor.

Women’s Pathway - During Q1 there have been 46 individuals referred to the Women’s Pathway, with 35 taken onto the caseload. Of the caseload, 19 have accessed onward referral for information/advice and guidance including the brief intervention, 11 of which have been accessing ongoing services.

### **Looking ahead:**

### **Reducing Reoffending Strategy**

In the Police and Crime Plan I committed to developing and implementing a strategy on reducing reoffending which understands and addresses factors which can lead to criminal behaviour including mental health and substance misuse. Some of this work will be picked up in my VRU’s Response Strategy and other elements will be picked up via the Local Criminal Justice Board (LCJB) and the emerging Combating Drugs Partnership which is being developed in the coming months.

## 3. ROADS POLICING

In the Police and Crime Plan I committed to:

- Reduce harm on the roads and promote safer driving.
- Develop fresh educational campaigns and carry out targeted enforcement.
- Send speed camera vans out in the areas where local residents have asked for them; there is intelligence to suggest they will make a difference.
- Keep promoting the message that roads are a shared space for all users
- Ensure action will be taken against those who endanger other road users and pedestrians

### **Roads Policing: Context**

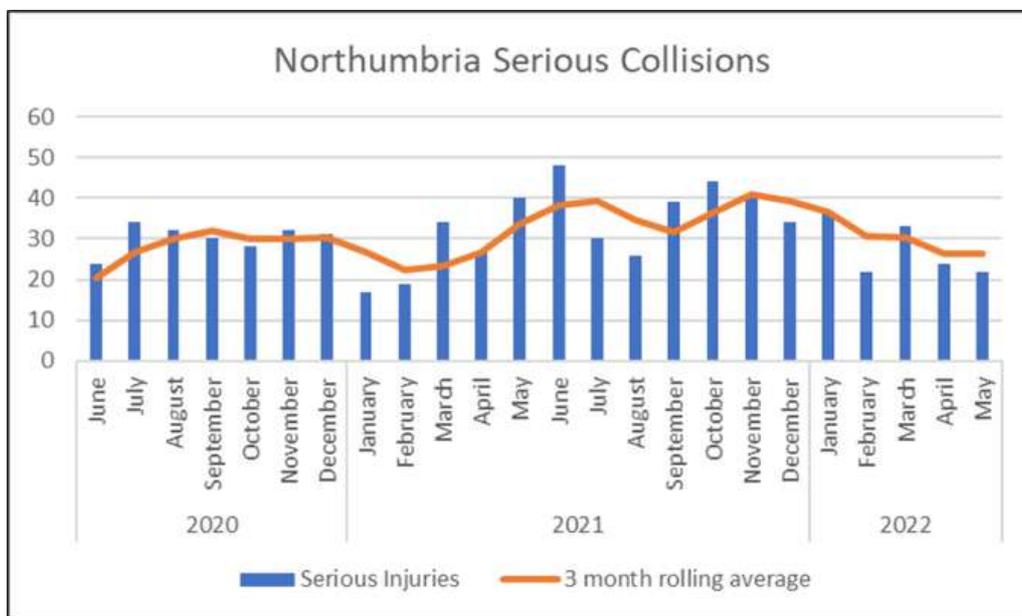
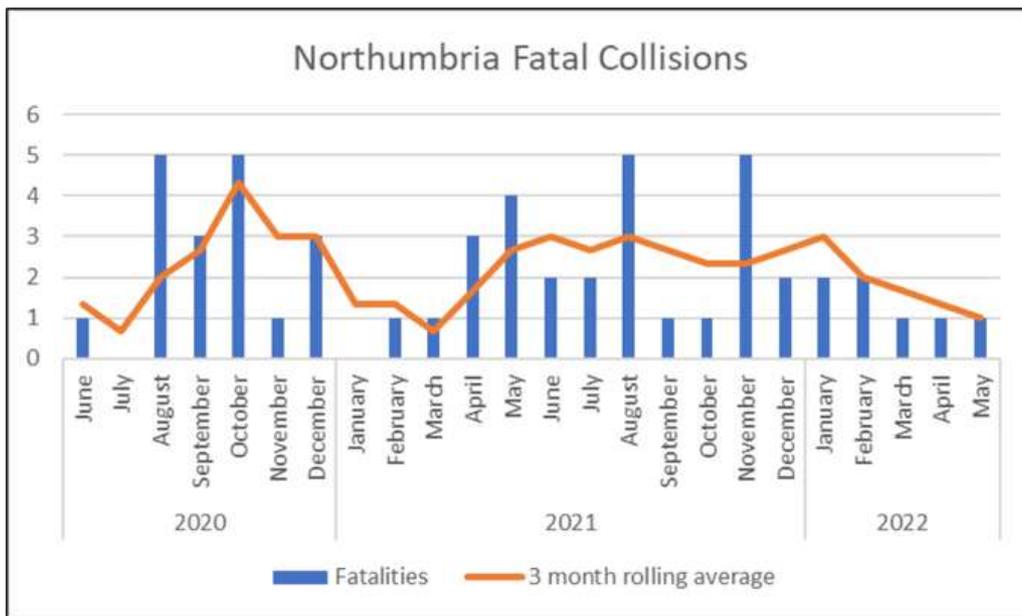
- The impact of road traffic collisions (RTCs) can be devastating to those involved and their families. The force is committed to improving road safety and targeting offenders who drive dangerously or use vehicles to carry out criminal activities. The force continues to adapt to changes of road use and vehicle type, utilising national and locally generated data to influence the deployment of staff.
- Motor Patrols teams provide 24/7 cover across the Force area and undertake the investigation of all fatal and serious injury RTCs. Investigations are carried out under the direction of a specially trained lead investigator, managing a multi skilled team with support from experts within the force's Collision Investigation Unit.
- The Road Safety Unit work alongside LAs to reduce road casualties. This unit has access to five Camera Safety Vans, community speed watch groups, Neighbourhood teams and Special Constables to support their work. In addition, this unit leads the force's response to national road safety campaigns linked to the Fatal 4 offences of drink and drug driving, illegal use of mobile telephones, seat belt offences and speeding. The unit works with multi agency partners to reduce the road related risk and promote better driving. Operation Modero allows for mobile speed camera sites to be nominated by the public. The deployment model improves the force's responsiveness to community intelligence highlighting anti-social driving, particularly in residential areas.
- Operation Dragoon is a proactive specialist Road Policing Unit who target the 'Fatal 4', hotspots, dangerous drivers and use experienced Motor Patrols officers to disrupt OCG activity. The unit is a proactive intelligence-led team who often work with region wide crime units to provide specialist tactical pursuit and containment support while also assisting the Road Safety team to deliver educational events across a wide range of groups. Both functions aim to identify threats and risks to all road users and respond accordingly.

### **Current force position:**

#### **Fatal & Serious Collisions**

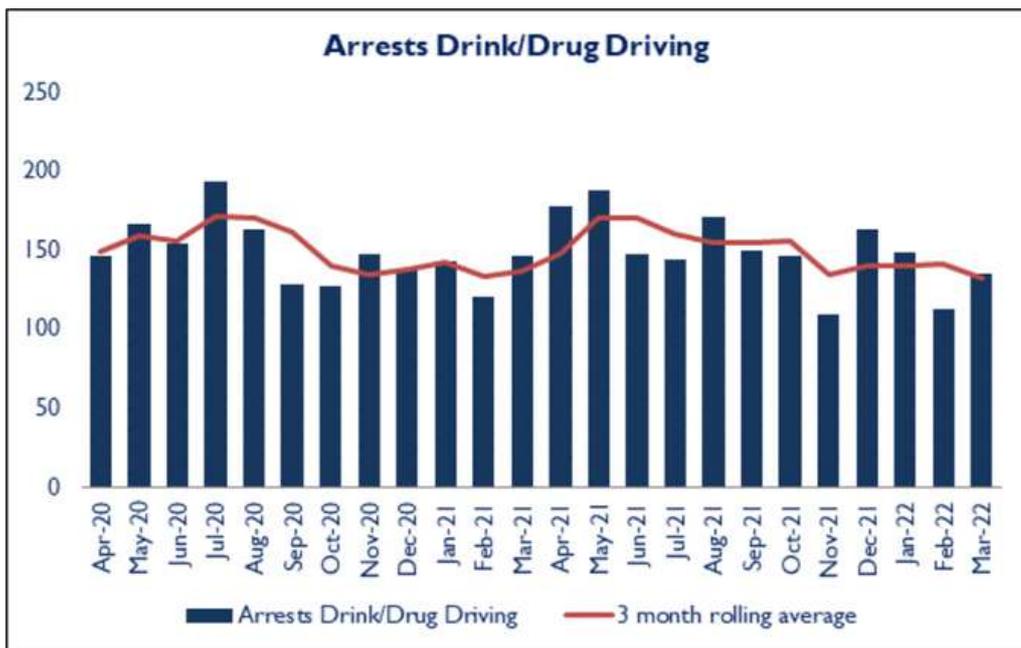
- Nationally, the number of collisions resulting in fatalities has remained broadly stable since 2015 with around 1,600 casualties per year. Nationally, the number of serious injury collisions is broadly increasing.
- Figures from the North East Regional Road Safety Resource highlight there were 2,178 reported road casualties in 2021. Data from 2020 reported 2,129, the lowest ever total since 2005. Reduced use of the road network during COVID-19 'lockdowns' is likely to be a factor in the out of trend reduction in the number of casualties in 2020.

- The Northumbria Police area reflects the national trend for both fatal and serious collisions, as shown in the graphs below.
  - The number of road deaths, which decreased by 26% between 2019 (39) and 2020 (29) remained the same in 2021. When the impact of COVID is discounted the figure has remained broadly stable since 2015.
  - The number of road users seriously injured increased from 384 in 2020 to 438 in 2021 (an increase of 14%) as the level of road users and associated collisions returned to pre-pandemic numbers.



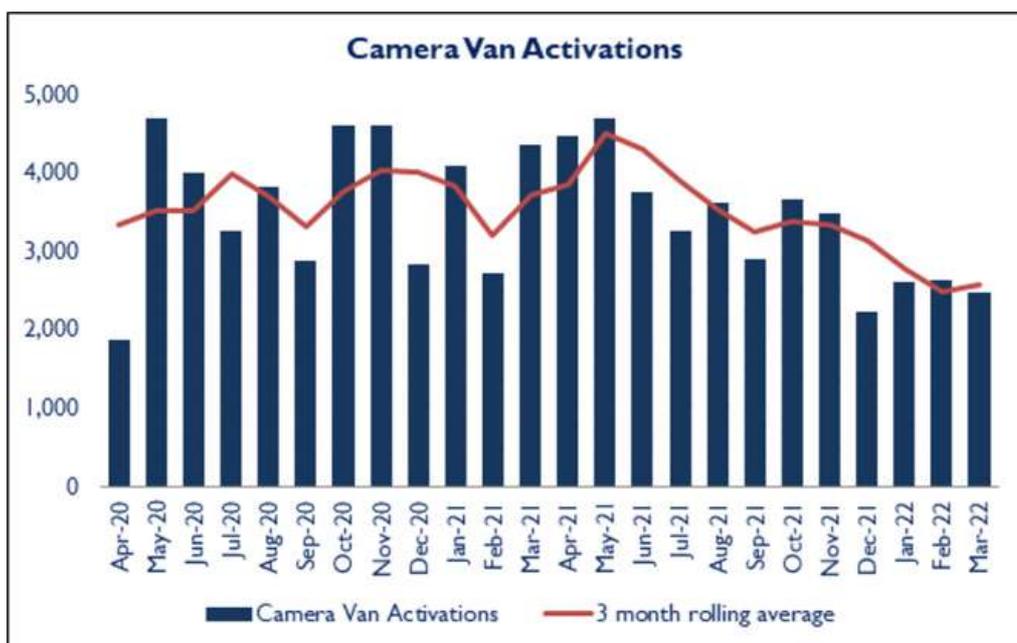
### Drink/Drug Driving

- Drivers are breath tested following police attendance at any collision or if the officer suspects the driver to be under the influence. The numbers completed remain broadly stable with 1,291 in 2020 and 1,341 in 2021. In line with national trends, 17% of drivers tested providing a positive result test or failed to provide a sample.



**Camera Van Activations**

- Northumbria Police camera vans can detect offences other than speeding.
- In 2021 the force recorded 2,395 drivers failing to wear a seatbelt and 69 using their mobile phone whilst driving.
- As seen in the below graph, camera van activations fluctuate depending upon deployment locations. For example, Operation Modero post vans to more urban locations in response to community concerns rather than driven by collision data. These sites often result in positive local feedback, but limited enforcement work due to high levels of speed compliance.



## Update on work undertaken:

- **Strategy & Analysis:** Northumbria Police recently contributed to a national Strategic Threat and Risk Assessment (STRA) and a local STRA has been developed and is in operation. The Force gains analytical support from the North East Regional Road Safety Resource. This is a shared resource with the six Northumbria local authorities (LAs). RTC data is automatically shared into the Traffic and Accident Data Unit for data analysis and interpretation. All national and local initiatives for road safety are mapped out and overseen by the Road Safety Sergeant and Inspector who coordinate investment with partners.
- **Collaborative partnership working:** Closer working partnerships are being developed with National Highways (formerly Highways England) and the seven-force region in order to identify common themes and risks which can be better addressed collaboratively. Significant success was recently achieved through Northumbria Police's use of unmarked vehicles owned by other agencies as well as coordinated region wide road safety operations. For example, Operation Tramline sees police patrolling the A1 between Northumberland and North Yorkshire in a covert HGV, to capture motoring offences. Nationally, this work has so far led to the recording of 26,000 offences, including drivers using phones at the wheel, people not wearing seat belts and speeding.
- **Bicycle, E-Scooter and E-Bike safety:** There has been an increase in the use of bicycles, E-Scooters and E-bikes on our roads. Education and training activity has been extended to include this emerging trend:
  - The force recently launched a digital campaign focussed on the safety of vulnerable road users, as highlighted in the new Highway Code hierarchy.
  - This year the force worked with colleagues from Fire and Rescue to promote, support and deliver bespoke first aid courses and training for motorcycle riders.
  - The force have worked with commercial providers of E-Scooter rental trials within our force area and increased engagement with users and businesses to promote rider safety.
  - The force's Police Cadets designed a social media release to appeal to their peer group, highlighting the dangers of being distracted by mobile phone use when walking near roads.
- **Commercial vehicles:** In the last 12 months the force has increased their capability to address the risk posed by commercial vehicles on our road network. Trained officers conduct roadside commercial vehicle examinations, check driver qualifications and compliance with driver hours, as well as checks on the type and security of loads being carried. In addition, they carry out overt and unmarked patrols on our main road network including using Heavy Goods Vehicles (HGV) vehicles provided by our partners. This allows action to be taken against the users of all vehicle types. Officers are authorised to issue immediate prohibitions for HGVs or commercial vehicles with dangerous defects, making roads safer. Joint operations with other forces including National Highways, DVSA and HMRC increase the capability and effectiveness of enforcement options. This activity contributes to improving the safety of all road users with the aim of preventing serious and fatal RTCs.
- **Operation Snaps:** The increased availability and use of dashcams and in vehicles provide an excellent evidential resource to address unsafe driving and other road traffic related offending. Northumbria Police accept and process digital video footage submissions via their web page direct from the public, as part of Operation Snaps. Resources are provided to support the efficient and effective use of the footage to assess for potential offences such standards of driving (careless or dangerous), mobile phone use, contravening traffic lights and close passes on cyclists. Reports of driving assessed as posing a high risk to the public are allocated to the Operation Dragoon team for immediate action. Operation Snaps resulted in 4,587 submissions from the public in 2021 with 64% resulting in a positive disposal.

- **Family Liaison Officers (FLOs):** FLOs receive specialist training in order to maintain the vital link between bereaved families and the investigation team during a difficult time for those involved. The force has increased the number of FLOs over the last year, ensuring Northumbria is able to meet the requirements of deployment, supporting bereaved families but also have sufficient resource to manage the wellbeing of staff.
- **Staff wellbeing:** The force is committed to ensuring the wellbeing of their staff who are often exposed to traumatic situations on our road network. Various improvements have been made recently:
  - The force has increased the number of TRiM (Trauma Risk Management) practitioners within the Coordination and Operations Department from 5 to 20, due to the high levels of trauma exposure for staff across the department. TRiM is a peer led support programme designed to help those who have experienced a traumatic event in the line of their work to deal with it effectively. TRiM practitioners are colleagues who have undergone specific training allowing them to understand the effect that traumatic events have upon people. They are not counsellors or therapists, but understand confidentiality and are able to listen and offer practical advice and assistance.
  - The Coordination and Operations Department is working towards training all supervisors to become Mental Health first aiders in order to better support staff.
  - Since 2020 all Motor Patrols officers take part in a compulsory Occupational Health Unit (OHU) assessment in order to allow officers to discuss any issues in confidence and provide proactive support.
  - A process has been implemented with the People Services Department to further support the wellbeing of all officers within Motor Patrols. This enables officers to declare themselves temporarily 'unfit' to undertake the range of their duties (including driving advanced vehicles) without any stigma or judgment attached.

### Looking ahead:

- **Understanding and preventing road safety risks:** Analysis is underway to improve our understanding of road safety risks with a problem-solving approach being embedded within the Force Coordination and Operations Department. Work is ongoing to develop evaluation of the effectiveness of road safety activity.
- **Upskilling officers:** The Force Coordination and Operations Department now has eleven officers trained to National Investigators Program (PIP level 2 qualified) and more sitting the National Investigators' Exam (NIE) between June and November 2022. A rolling programme has begun for all lead investigators and investigation managers to achieve PIP level 2. Officers have been selected to ensure representation in all ranks and all teams. The investment in PIP2 accreditation will be provided in addition to the APP Roads Policing course with the intention that it will further enhance officers' investigative capabilities and the service that the force provides to victims or their families.
- **Partnership working:** The Force is in discussions with the NSRI (Northumbria Safer Roads Initiative) partnership to re-establish effective partnership arrangements with the aim of improving road safety across the Northumbria area. These negotiations involve investment in the digitalisation of speed cameras to replace our obsolete static sites. The partnership aims to reduce the number of road deaths and serious injuries through education, engagement, enforcement and environmental change.
- **Further investment** into the Motor Patrols teams and Road Safety Unit is planned to support Force and regional crime and road safety operations.

## 4. PUBLIC TRANSPORT

Across our region, people want a public transport system which is reliable, affordable and safe, and I am committed to doing my bit to support that aim. Public transport is vital for our region, whether that is a bus to work or the Metro after a night out. That's why I have launched a public transport safety app, Safer Transport Northumbria. This is a way people can report incidents or anti-social behaviour they see on the network. It is vital we have a true picture of public safety on our buses and Metro. Alongside the app, I am also funding safety volunteers and youth workers on our Metro system. They are there to reassure people feeling vulnerable and talk to the young people whose behaviour can be intimidating.

In my recently refreshed Police and Crime Plan I committed to investing in public transport safety for the duration of the plan (2022-2025), and to work with the force and public transport providers on tackling ASB and crime on the network.

### Update on work undertaken

#### **Safer Streets Fund Public Transport Work**

My office was successful in gaining £400,000 funding from the Home Office Safer Streets Round 3 Fund last year. This funding was short-term and had to be spent before 31 March 2022, however it was important that this work continued and so I sourced match funding from my own budget and that of local transport providers to ensure it could continue.

The project has been an excellent success already. In just 6 months:

- **A new Safer Transport reporting App** has been designed, developed and rolled out, with almost 2000 downloads and 208 reports received.
- **CCTV and body worn video upgrades:** 61 buses have been upgraded, 50 body worn cameras purchased, which in less than two months assisted in capturing evidence in 4 sexual violence cases and 1 incident of ASB.
- **Street Pastors** have provided patrols region-wide, targeting high-harm routes. Through positive interactions and presence on transport Street Pastors have so far engaged with 1776 people and completed 66 patrols covering 432 hours with 34 interventions.
- **Youth Providers** have been deployed across all 6 LA areas, based on hot spot information/intelligence. During December 2021 – March 2023, 63 sessions were completed and 2185 young people were engaged with, with work undertaken to educate them on perception of behaviours, identifying vulnerability and promoting the app. The feedback about this was overwhelmingly positive:
  - *"I have felt safer with you staying with me on the journey"* [from a young woman who was intoxicated and separated from friends]
  - *"Your team have made the people here feel safer"* [a passenger on the metro where the team dealt with a group of young people engaging in anti-social behaviour]
- **An 'Active Bystander' training video** has been developed and rolled out to transport staff, which in less than two months was used to train 107 staff across main public transport services, to provide a more detailed insight into situational awareness and ways to help/report. This will continue to be used going forward.
- **An education package** has been developed for school children, which has been co-designed and co-developed with a local youth service. This will be delivered by a newly recruited Education Officer alongside a 'Train the Trainer' package for practitioners to cascade the training more widely. During a recent session boys talked about how to make their area a safer place for young people, and what they could do about it. This highlights behaviour/attitude change and positive engagement/led to further development in terms of a community project with the young people.

- **Days of Action:** Between January 2022 and March 2023, several “Days of Action” took place, initially engaging 178 individuals, leading to a dedicated ‘taskforce’ running nightly in Newcastle, from 18th March-31st March, placing LA staff (alongside Northumbria Police Operation Sprinkler team) onto the busiest city-centre streets around main transport hubs. The team actively engaged with 2800+ mainly young people, staff escorted a young female from work to the bus station after she had been approached by an unknown male who made inappropriate comments, details of male passed to Police and CCTV Operative for detection.

The findings in the Safer Streets Closing survey at the end of the Home Office round 3 funding period were:

- 61.4% of people surveyed stated that they felt safer on public transport
- 47.7% of respondents were aware of app the new reporting App
- 45.5% of respondents were aware of the multi-agency ‘Days of Action’
- 84.1% of respondents were aware of Street Pastors and youth service provision available





## Looking ahead:

### **Further funding for public transport**

My office was recently successful in obtaining further funding from the Home Office Safer Streets Fund (Round 4) to continue the work outlined above which is aimed at making people feel, and be, safer on our public transport networks. Work will involve:

- Continuation of the Safer Transport Northumbria App
- Media - Ongoing messaging to promote the app and promote reporting of ASB
- Youth Provision to provide a flexible resource across the transport network targeted to young people and youth ASB.
- Street pastors to work specifically on identified high-harm routes/hubs
- Proactive Multi-agency Days of Action on public transport, responding to reports of ASB and working key dates when there's identified higher footfall on transport and a perceived higher rate of incidents
- Training to provide consistency of response to all partners working on the project.
- Multi Agency Transport Team (MATT) to cover transport/ interchanges/ hubs by using partners data to identify key dates, high-harm routes, hubs and offenders. They will also link in with the Violence Reduction Unit to support and inform their focused deterrents project.

In addition to this funding, I am pleased to say that we were also successful in receiving funding for our other 2 bids to Round 4 of the Home Office Safer Streets fund, which will also contribute to my focus on preventing crime:

Women's Safety in Public Spaces: Our secondary bid centred around women's safety in public places (WSiPP). Our vision is to make public places across our region safer and feel safer for women and girls. Work will include:

- Extend/enhance Northumbria Police's Operation Cloak.
- Street Volunteers who will continue to work across the region
- Safer Underpasses have been identified to undergo changes that will help towards feelings of safety.
- WSiPP Wardens patrolling designated areas based on need/demand, providing a visual/reassuring presence in public places.
- Build on and extend existing Safe Haven provision across the region.
- Early intervention with alleged potential perpetrators identified by Op Cloak Officers.
- Brief Intervention Programme working with individuals (16-35 yrs) identified as exhibiting/using misogynistic/inappropriate behaviour towards women helping them recognise/address their behaviour, reducing the risk to others.
- Disclosure Training manage disclosures of sexual violence, identify signs of exploitation, and be able to understand referral pathways and seek the correct support.
- Awareness Raising continuation and promotion of the Fun without Fear.
- Active Bystander Training will equip people with the skills/knowledge to notice an unsafe situation for women/girls; feel responsible to act.
- Engage with children and young people about their night-time economy and allow them to share this with a range of audiences via various methods.

Preventing crime in rural Northumberland: Our vision is to tackle rural crime and make people feel, and be, safer in Rural Northumberland by:

- Harnessing the potential of our rural communities in a Rural Action Partnership more responsive to the needs of those communities
- Creating a Virtual Hub as a platform for multi-agency data sharing, co-ordination and engagement

- Upskilling our partnership and utilising technology to help them tackle rural crime and ASB more efficiently
- Taking an evidenced led approach to tackling rural crime and improving our understanding of the problem

All three bids were developed in collaboration with some of our partner agencies such as Northumbria Police, all six local authorities, transport providers, VAWG organisations, Transport providers, community volunteers and Northumberland fire service to name but a few.





# PREVENTING CRIME PRIORITY 2: NEIGHBOURHOOD POLICING

After ten years of Government austerity and spending cuts, maintaining a local neighbourhood police service has not been easy. The force has had to make some difficult decisions in order to prioritise use of officers and staff out in our communities. I stand by these choices, and, for example, when it comes to deciding between having a police station open at 3am or having officers out in your local community, I back a visible police presence. Whether it's in a rural village or a city estate, neighbourhood policing is the key to safer streets.

In the Police and Crime Plan I committed to:

- Protecting frontline policing and giving the Force the resources to deter, detect and deal with criminals.
- Committing to investing in and supporting neighbourhood policing teams.
- Engage with communities to build relationships and to provide safety advice, education and guidance in particular to young people, vulnerable people and marginalised communities and I will ensure information is always provided in a way which ensures all can access it.

### Current Force Position: Public Perception

In the Police and Crime Plan I committed to publishing regular data to show how local residents feel about the police.

In the 12 months to May 2022, the percentage of people who think the police do a good or excellent job in their neighbourhood fell by 7%, as shown in the below table.

Indicator	12 months to May 21	12 months to May 22
Percentage of people who think the police do a good or excellent job in their neighbourhood (Panel KPI)	82%	75%

Residents that rated police performance as good or excellent expressed sentiments such as the 'police will be there when you need them' and widely felt that the police performed well despite limited resources. In contrast, residents who rated the performance of police as fair or poor frequently provided explanations related to police visibility. Other explanations included feeling that the police were not adequately resourced and the existence of on-going issues in their local areas, such as ASB.

Survey feedback also highlighted that some residents expressed a lack of confidence regarding the ability of police to effectively deal with non-emergency incidents. This was often based on the personal accounts of residents themselves or their perceptions of budget cuts and staff shortages.

I outline below some of the work being undertaken to address this fall in public confidence in the force.

### Update on work undertaken

- **Strategic direction:** During 2022 the Harm Reduction and Communities Team (HRCT) increased in staffing and strategic responsibility. The HRCT provide force direction through dedicated Superintendents with strategic responsibility for Neighbourhood Policing, Community Engagement, Hate Crime, Integrated Offender Management, Early Intervention, Prevention and Partnerships, Rural Policing, Offender Management and Citizens in Policing. All of these areas are focused on prevention.

- **Neighbourhood Policing Model:** HRCT have further developed a 'Neighbourhood Policing Model' to provide officers and staff working in Neighbourhood teams with clarity on how to deliver across these strategies. The Model is an interactive tool providing clear objectives and tasks around the key themes of prevention of Crime and anti-social behaviour (ASB), Engagement and Safeguarding. In our most recent PEEL (Police Effectiveness, Efficiency and Legitimacy) inspection HMICFRS highlighted the Model as good practice. They found that Neighbourhood teams had a clear understanding of their role and how they were delivering across force strategic priorities.
- **Problem solving:** Problem Solving is now fully embedded within NPTs with all Neighbourhood officers and staff having received Problem Solving Training based on the OSARA (observation, scanning, analysis, response and assessment) model within the past two years. The Force is currently undertaking a joint project with the College of Policing and Merseyside Police to develop a cost-based analysis methodology to enable calculation of time/financial savings associated with problem solving activity. A calculator has been developed which seeks to provide an evidence base to support investment in problem solving activity. This methodology is currently being piloted in force.
- **Neighbourhood Profile:** The HRCT have developed a Neighbourhood Profile process to improve situational awareness of Neighbourhood sectors and provide a standardised mechanism to identify key issues, record and review Neighbourhood team activity. Each Neighbourhood team maintains a Profile report which describes in detail the sector, highlighting key demographics, locations, community contacts, engagement activity, intelligence gaps and operational priorities. The profile links to information about community tensions, engagement and ongoing problem-solving plans. These profiles are subject to regular managerial review and provide information to support preventative activity throughout the force.
- **Data accessibility:** The Force has developed a QlikSense App to enhance the accessibility of data to Neighbourhood teams. The APP provides an easily searchable, real time dataset including sector-based crime, ASB and other incidents data and highlights repeat victims, locations and subjects to inform analysis, tasking and evaluation of activity. The App improves Neighbourhood Supervisors' understanding of local crime/ASB trends and enables identification and tasking to higher risk issues such as repeat victims.
- **Anti-Social Behaviour Subgroup:** A new bi-monthly ASB Subgroup has been established to drive performance in relation to ASB problem solving, early intervention and Community Trigger responses (ASB Review). The latter has been reviewed by Northumbria Police and all six local authorities (LAs) during 2021 to provide a consistent approach to victims of ASB.
- **Multi-agency policing operations:** Northumbria Police continues to develop and carry out successful multi-agency policing operations to prevent and reduce victims of crime, such as Operation Aegis and Operation Cloak.
  - Operation Aegis provides an enhanced level of service to victims of domestic abuse, while trying to address the offending behaviour of perpetrators. This operation was initiated in Blyth, with PCSOs gaining extra training and working closely with the Safety Planning Team, to intervene with DA cases assessed as Medium or Standard risk. The operation has seen a reduction in DA reporting in the area, with Victims and Perpetrators engaging with services who offer support. Operation Aegis has now been implemented across the force area.
  - Operation Cloak was first established in Newcastle in 2019 and has since been expanded into other key night time economy areas across the force. The operation deploys plain clothes officers tasked to identify vulnerable persons or predatory offenders and work

with uniform colleagues and premises staff to reduce vulnerability. This operation has been identified as good practice by HMICFRS and has been adopted by other forces including the Metropolitan police service and Thames Valley police.

### **Case Study: SARA (Southwick Altogether Raising Aspirations) Project**

*A key strand of the Neighbourhood Strategy is to identify high harm areas for crime and ASB and work jointly with Partners to tackle this by understanding and addressing the causes. The implementation and success of the SARA (Southwick Altogether Raising Aspirations) project in Southwick, has now been replicated with the new HALO project, based in Hetton. Using a similar model to SARA, the HALO project will see Northumbria Police collocated with partners in a Community Hub, working together to provide sustainable interventions for local communities. The Force is exploring the opportunity to replicate these successful projects in other high harm areas.*



#### **• External Engagement:**

- External Engagement Strategy: The External Engagement Strategy was launched in 2021, aligning the six strategic Force priorities with our engagement activities within communities. A monthly External Engagement Group meeting led by HRCT reviews the force engagement calendar with planned activity around key events and prevention messages ensuring a collaborative approach across all areas. This meeting also allows for information sharing between the different teams and a directed approach to specific events, including the use of the Force Engagement van.
- Interactive Engagement Alert: Northumbria Police has recently invested in a new interactive engagement and alert product called Northumbria Connected. This system provides people messaging and prevention alerts specific to their local communities or based on their demographic or interests. The system allows for periodic surveying of members and is designed to give access to NPTs in order for them to target specific messages about community issues, prevention and priorities in the areas that they work. Crucially, the system enables members to respond directly to their NPTs, allowing for two-way engagement. The system was trialled in a number of areas at the start of 2022 and was rolled out to the wider Force on 1st May 2022. Northumbria Police continues to encourage our communities to join Northumbria Connected and have so far gathered more new members this year than any of the other Forces who have the product.

## Looking ahead:

- **Recruitment:** Neighbourhood Policing is currently below establishment although there are plans to address this later in 2022 with recruitment to NPTs, attachments of PCDA (Police Constable Degree Apprenticeship) Students and recruitment of new PCSOs. Northumbria Police plan to recruit 30 new PCSOs from September 2022, who will all be given the opportunity to join under the new PCSO accreditation scheme. This qualification will be open to all PCSOs.





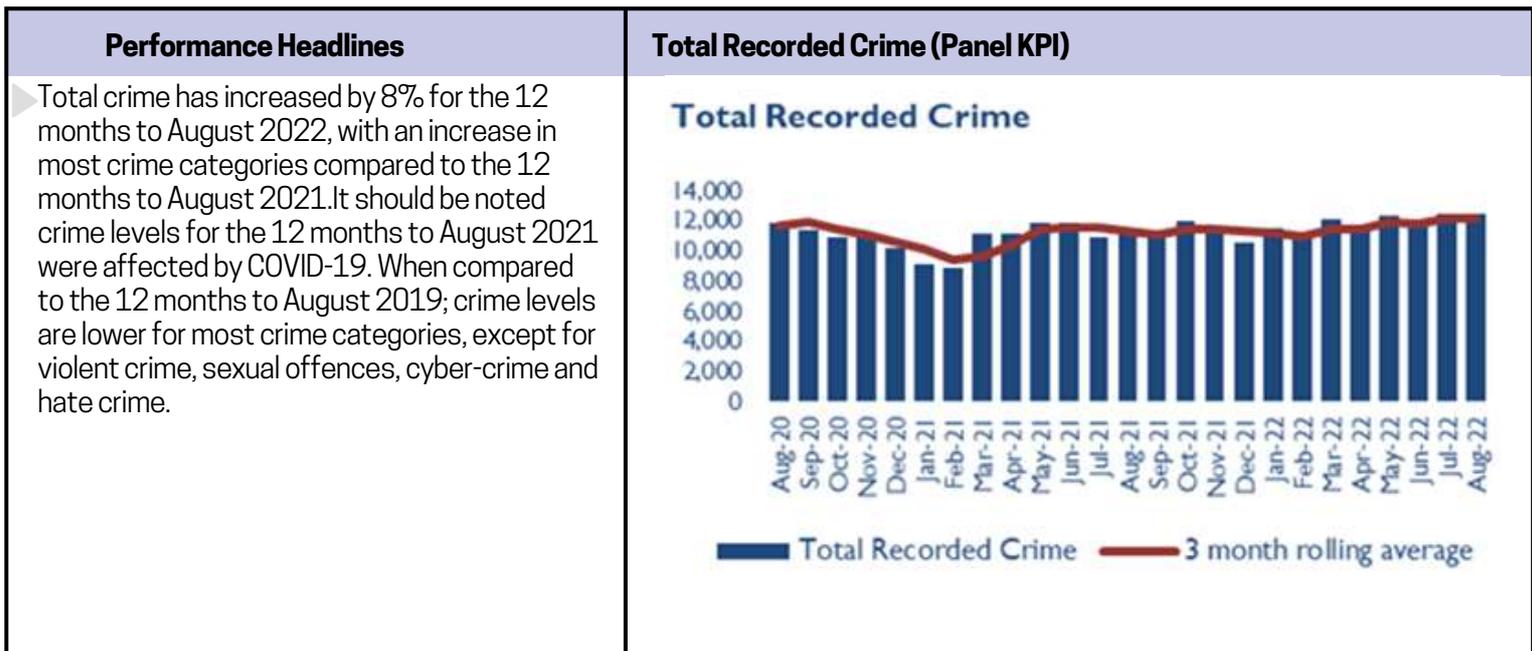
# APPENDIX 1: PERFORMANCE DATA

# CORE PERFORMANCE DATA

## FIGHTING CRIME

Many of the year on year figures shown here include comparisons with pandemic/lockdown crime rates.

### RECORDED CRIME



### TOTAL RECORDED CRIME BY LOCAL AUTHORITY

	12 months to May 2019	12 months to May 2021	12 months to May 2022	% change 21 vs 22	% change 19 vs 22
<b>Total</b>	<b>153,433</b>	<b>129,030</b>	<b>139,242</b>	<b>+ 8%</b>	<b>- 9%</b>
Sunderland	32,270	27,128	28,757	+ 6%	- 11%
South Tyneside	15,825	13,205	13,980	+ 6%	- 12%
Gateshead	20,291	17,990	19,054	+ 6%	- 6%
North Tyneside	20,409	17,429	17,141	- 2%	- 16%
Newcastle	40,070	31,317	36,702	+ 17%	- 8%
Northumberland	24,568	21,961	23,608	+ 7%	- 4%

## ASB INCIDENTS

### Performance Headlines

- ▶ 23% of ASB is youth-related in this 12-month period compared to (17%) in the previous period. This increase is reflective of the changing mix of ASB incidents following the various changes in COVID restrictions and is also referenced in recent feedback from the Safer Communities Survey regarding their perception of ASB in their local neighbourhoods.
- ▶ Total ASB incidents are 12% lower than they were for the 12 months to August 2019.

Indicator	12 months to Aug 19	12 months to Aug 21	12 months to Aug 22	% change 21 vs 22
Anti-social behaviour incidents	47,447	65,936	41,918	-36%

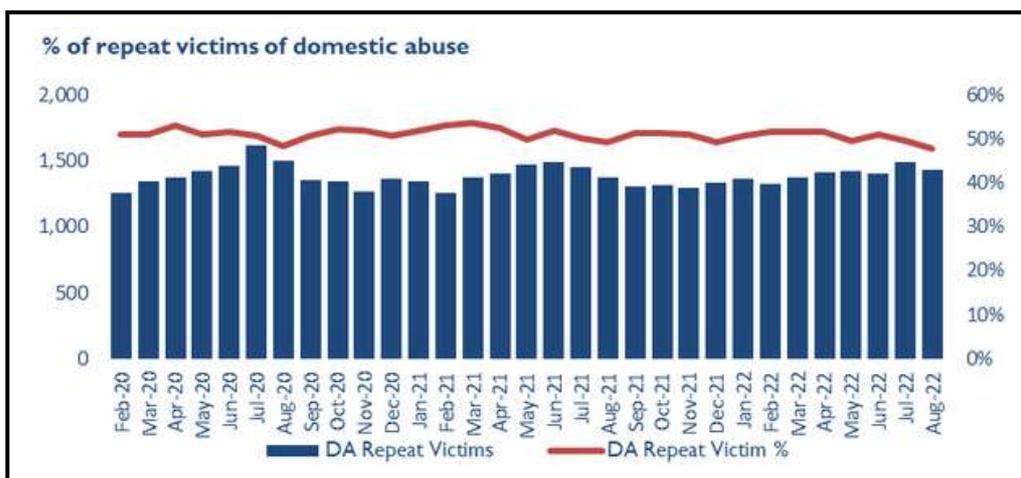
## ASB SATISFACTION

### Performance Headlines

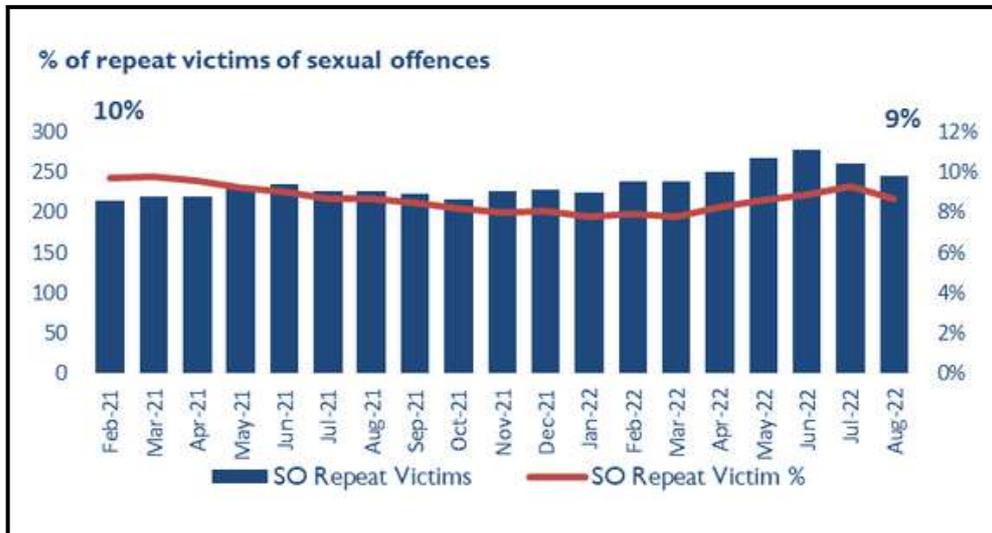
- ▶ Dissatisfied survey participants perceived that there had been a lack of action from police to resolve ongoing ASB issues. Victims not being kept informed regarding the police activity taken in response to their report also negatively impacted satisfaction.

Indicator	12 months to Aug 21	12 months to Aug 22
Whole Experience	78%	74%

## REPEAT VICTIMS - DOMESTIC ABUSE



## REPEAT VICTIMS - SEXUAL OFFENCES

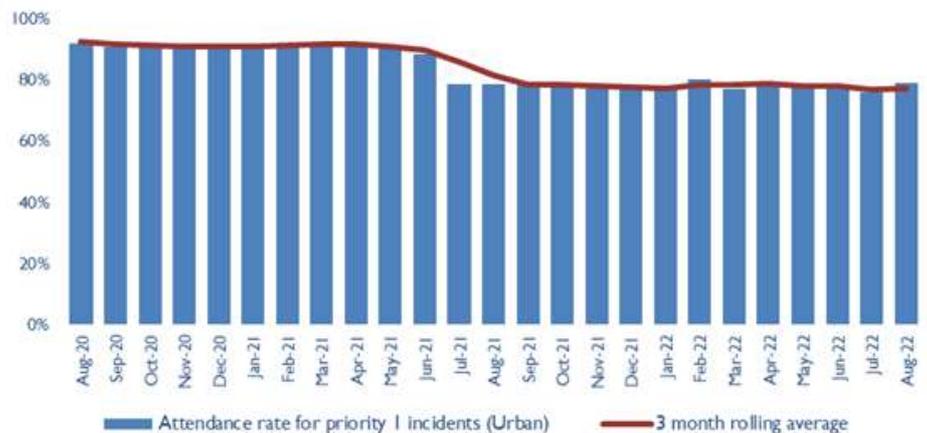


## POLICE RESPONSE TIMES - GRADE 1 URBAN

### Performance Headlines

Grade 1 incident demand remains high following the easing of COVID 19 restrictions. Between June and August 2022 there were 11% more grade 1 incidents compared to the same period in 2021 and 27% more compared to the same period in 2020. It is acknowledged that during the COVID-19 pandemic incident demand volumes changed; however, when comparing to the same period in 2019 there is a 57% increase. Current demand is higher than in the previous six years.

### % Attended within standard - Grade 1 (Urban)



## POLICE RESPONSE TIMES - GRADE 1 RURAL

### Performance Headlines

The percentage of grade 2 incidents within one hour for June to August 2022 was 49%, a reduction of 8% compared to 2021.

% Attended within standard - Grade 1 (Rural)

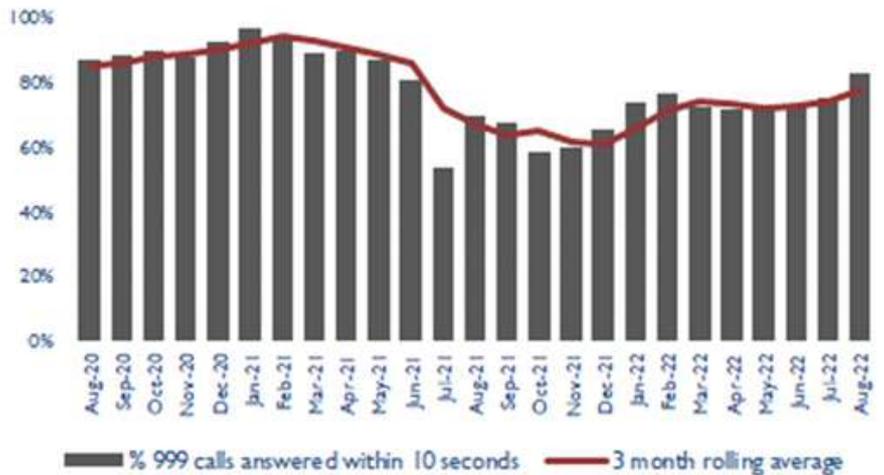


## ANSWER TIMES - 999 EMERGENCY CALLS

### Performance Headlines

For the 12 months to August 2022, the number of 999 calls increased by 29% compared to the previous 12 months, from 237,000 to 306,000. The number of 999 calls remain at an elevated level in the last quarter; with 101 non-emergency calls lower than previous levels. Both 999 calls and 101 non-emergency calls slightly increased over the last few months and decreased in August, in-line with the expected seasonal pattern.

999 Calls answered within standard



## ANSWER TIMES - 101 NON-EMERGENCY CALLS

### Performance Headlines

Due to increases in 999 demand, call handling profiles have been prioritised for emergency 999 calls. Management of the profile (numbers) of call handlers to meet increased 999 calls against 101 is continually monitored and overseen through the Daily Management meeting.

A significant recruitment campaign began in May 2021 and the Force has agreed a further uplift of 32 (Full-Time Employee) contact handlers and recruitment to those posts has already begun with cohort 6 (14 Contact Handlers) now fully operational. Cohort 7 (18 Contact Handlers) began initial training in July. The aim is to recruit 40 further contact handlers in September and October 2022.

101 NE Calls answered within standard



# PREVENTING CRIME

## FIRST TIME ENTRANTS INTO CRIMINAL JUSTICE SYSTEM

Number of first-time entrants to the criminal justice system	12 months to March 2020	12 months to March 2021	12 months to March 2022
<b>Total</b>	<b>2,550</b>	<b>1,814</b>	<b>2,101</b>
<i>Adults</i>	2,175	1,695	1,944
<i>Juveniles</i>	374	119	158

## SERIOUS VIOLENCE OFFENCES

Indicator % change	12 months to August 21	12 months to August 22	% change
Serious violence offences	18,249	22,799	+25%
Knife enabled serious violence	845	949	+12%
Homicides	10	15	+50%
Hospital admissions (under 25s for assault with a sharp object)	150 (to Apr '21)	135 (to Apr '22)	-10%

# IMPROVING LIVES

## PUBLIC PERCEPTION

Indicator	12 months to August 21	12 months to August 22
Percentage of people who think the police do a good or excellent job in their neighbourhood	81%	72%

## OVERALL VICTIM SATISFACTION

Performance Headlines	Indicator	12 months to August 21	12 months to August 22
<p>Victims less than satisfied with this service aspect provided explanations such as, the time taken to answer the phone, the performance of the contact handler and the information provided.</p>	Whole experience	81%	72%

## SATISFACTION - HATE CRIME

Performance Headlines	Indicator	12 months to August 21	12 months to August 22
<p>Victims less than satisfied with this service aspect frequently perceived that a lack of action had been taken by police. Victims also commented on the length of time it had taken for police to act and the lack of communication they had received from police.</p>	Whole experience	81%	74%

## SATISFACTION - DOMESTIC ABUSE

Performance Headlines	Indicator	12 months to May 21	12 months to May 22
<p>Domestic abuse victims continue to report high levels of satisfaction with the service, with 88% of victims feeling satisfied with their overall experience. No changes between the current and previous results are significant.</p>	Whole experience	89%	88%

**DELIVERY OF THE POLICE & CRIME PLAN**

**PREVENTING CRIME PANEL REPORT**

**OCTOBER 2022**



**KIM MCGUINNESS**  
**NORTHUMBRIA**  
**POLICE & CRIME**  
**COMMISSIONER**