

## A WELCOME FROM THE PCC...

Knife crime is a national problem and sadly we are not immune to it. In recent months, our region has experienced the devastating impact of this vile crime, resulting in the tragic loss of several young lives.

I know there is nothing that I can say that will bring them back but through the Violence Reduction Unit and a range of partners, we are committed to doing all we can to prevent further tragedy.

Knives don't belong in our communities and there is never a right time to carry one – that's why the Violence Reduction Unit has scaled up its activity for the months ahead.

It is clear that we need to continue reaching young people at the earliest opportunity so that they have information on what to look out for to keep themselves and others safe – that's why we have an education team to increase their awareness.

However, for those already embroiled in crime, the team are working hard to identify the underlying causes by working with young people to change their behaviour, and support them in making better decisions for the future.

**Kim McGuinness**  
Northumbria Police & Crime Commissioner

## VIOLENT CRIME DOWN 14%

This winter, we invested £100,000 in local communities and teamed up with Northumbria Police, local councils and youth organisations to tackle serious violence.

In December, this resulted in a 14% drop in violent crime thanks to a range of targeted activity including:

- Identifying and working with individuals causing significant harm.
- Engaging young people in positive activities.
- Additional police and community safety patrols.
- A focus on key events throughout the winter period.

This follows success seen during the summer where levels of violence dropped by 12.2%. With that in mind, we have agreed to continue this targeted seasonal approach over the next two years.

Read more [here](#).

## TACKLING VIOLENT CRIME

Sunderland has become the first area to benefit from a new team clamping down on those who are causing significant harm in the city centre.

With the new SAIL Hub based on High Street West, the team are on hand to identify individuals and work with them to change their behaviour and deter them from crime.

After launching in December, the team hit the ground running with crime in the city centre down by a staggering 37% compared to the previous year, due to increased police presence, neighbourhood wardens and more youth and health provision.

This comes as a last chance for violent offenders, where our message to them is clear, engage with our interventions or enforcement action will be taken. Read more [here](#).





# YOUNG PEOPLE HAVE THEIR SAY ON HOW TO END KNIFE CRIME

The latest round of our Local Youth Fund provided young people the chance to have their say on how we should be tackling knife crime, through projects they have developed themselves.

This has resulted in:

- Almost £8,000 being awarded
- Directly benefiting nearly 600 young people
- With 16 projects to prevent knife crime about to get underway.

Some of the ideas that the young people came up with include:

- Wearing white at community sessions to encourage conversation amongst young people.
- Sports activities such as a 'knives down' football league.
- Hearing from specialists on important messages around staying safe.

Congratulations to all the young people involved - we look forward to sharing more about their projects over the coming weeks.

Read more about our latest round of the Local Youth Fund [here](#).



## KNIFE CRIME AWARENESS

Last year, sessions focusing on the laws and impact of knife crime, were delivered to 1005 practitioners in hospitals, schools, youth groups and community organisations, as well as some taking place online.

We deliver these sessions to frontline professionals in our aim to increase the number of people who know what to look out for and support more young people before they are exploited for crime.

This year, we are ramping up our delivery to those working with young people to help them gain a better understanding of the factors that can increase a person's vulnerability to becoming both a perpetrator or victim of knife crime.

## ELIMINATE KNIVES, SAVE LIVES

That was the powerful message from students at Park View School in South Shields as they showcased their hard-hitting and emotive knife crime projects at a special event attended by their parents, peers and school staff.

Following several awareness raising inputs, from both our staff and external guests, the students got the chance to create a range of pieces including graffiti art, music videos, interviews with staff, and more - all capturing their learning in a different way.

Thank you to Park View School and their students for engaging in this project - as one young person said: "Don't carry a knife, it can ruin your life."





# VIOLENCE REDUCTION UNITS - EVALUATION REPORT 2022

Here at the Northumbria Violence Reduction Unit, we want everyone to live, learn and work free from a fear of violence. That's why we take a direct approach when intervening with those showing signs of vulnerability or who are becoming involved in criminal and anti-social activity.

But, we can't do it alone, which is why we work with a range of partners, such as police, councils and youth services, to tackle serious violence in our communities.

In a recent evaluation of 18 Violence Reduction Unit's across the country, it was found that for every £1 of serious violence funding spent, there was a £4.10 return on investment. Read more [here](#).



## DOMESTIC ABUSE CHAMPIONS

We are calling for more businesses to join the fight against domestic abuse – after all, the workplace can often be one of the few places where victims feel safe to speak out about what they are going through.

Our training sessions provide an understanding of domestic abuse, tips on what to look out for, as well as services on hand to offer their support.

We already have over 2000 Workplace Domestic Abuse Champions active in Northumberland, Tyne and Wear – but we want more of you to get involved, so that support is always readily available for those who need it. Read more [here](#).

Book your place using the links below:

[\*\*ONLINE  
TRAINING\*\*](#)

[\*\*IN PERSON  
TRAINING\*\*](#)

## VULNERABILITY AWARENESS TRAINING

Last year we trained almost 300 people connected to our vibrant night time economy.

Why? Because we want to make sure you feel safe when enjoying everything our region has to offer.

Our training sessions help staff to understand and spot the signs of vulnerability as well as knowing what they can do in their role to support a vulnerable person.

We have a range of training dates available throughout the year, so now is your chance to take part.

[\*\*REGISTER YOUR PLACE HERE\*\*](#)



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