



A WELCOME FROM THE PCC...

It's the fifth year of the Violence Reduction Unit and we've set out a detailed response plan to deal with violent crime. There's a lot of hard work going on behind the scenes, and we know there have been some worrying incidents recently, but we are seeing real progress and we'll continue to work with others on making our region safer for all.

We are educating young people, we are working closely with high risk individuals and we are doing our bit to rebuild those neighbourhood services lost to austerity. Nowhere is this approach more obvious, and more rewarding, than in our youth diversion efforts.

It is vital that our young people have access to positive opportunities where they can feel inspired and motivated. This helps steer them away from crime, and supports them in making better decisions for the future.

I want to see an end to serious violence and to do this we need to understand the causes of it – that's why we have a range of interventions to identify those causing the most harm in our communities and working with them to change their behaviour.

With the Serious Violence Duty now in place, the Violence Reduction Unit is playing its part in bringing together key services and organisations, with the shared goal of tackling violent crime.

Kim McGuinness
Northumbria Police & Crime Commissioner

THE SERIOUS VIOLENCE LEGAL DUTY

The Serious Violence Legal Duty places an expectation on specified authorities to work together in tackling serious violence and coordinating action in local areas.

We are in the process of implementing arrangements for the Duty, and as part of this, we have developed a consultation document to seek your views and local priorities in relation to serious violence.

To take part in the consultation, please provide a response to the survey before it closes on 31st July:

[The Serious Violence Legal Duty Consultation](#)

Thanks for taking part - Together we can make a significant impact in our efforts to reduce violent crime and make our communities safer.

If you have any questions or would like to discuss this further, please email vru@northumbria-pcc.gov.uk

A NEW DIVERSION SERVICE

- A&E Navigators in hospitals
- Dedicated staff in local communities
- Support available to young people and families

These are all key areas of a new service we are rolling out across the region to tackle violent crime, by identifying young people who have come into hospital with injuries or concerns linked to serious violence.

Dedicated staff will be on hand to work with young people and their families to ensure full support and tailored interventions are available to deter them from crime.

"We need to reach young people to understand what has led them to that moment in hospital, and prevent it from happening time and time again, with the support of dedicated staff" says PCC Kim McGuinness.



THE SEASONAL VIOLENCE FUND

Through working together with the Community Safety Partnerships and other key services across the region, we have invested over £100,000 in local communities, to deliver a range of targeted actions to prevent spikes in violent crime, including:

- Increased police patrols
- More youth workers
- A key focus on popular events
- Positive activities for young people

We know that this approach works, and following the positive results last summer where violence dropped by 12.2%, it is now a crucial part of our strategy for driving down violent crime across Northumbria.

We want to make sure everyone feels safe when heading out to enjoy everything our region has to offer, and that's where this increased action steps in to provide real change in local communities. Read more [here](#).

THE POWER OF SPORT

We popped along to some of the sports sessions available to young people in South Tyneside, where they have been sharing their experiences of taking part:

“These sessions have really helped me, every young person should have a chance to take part.”

“I don't stay in my room as much, my mental health has improved, and thanks to coming here I now want to do something around fitness in the future.”



YOLO: DIVERSION FROM KNIFE CRIME

“To prevent knife crime, our goal has to be reaching more young people with life-changing schemes like YOLO” says PCC Kim McGuinness.

This fantastic programme has already supported hundreds of young people, with sport playing a vital role in diverting those identified as carrying a knife or weapon in recent months.

By working with a range of partners, we are able to offer positive opportunities and tailored interventions to support young people in improving their behaviour.

Read more [here](#).

CLAMPING DOWN ON VIOLENT CRIME

- Diverting young people from crime
- Targeting known offenders
- Improving feelings of safety

Our diversion project in Sunderland City Centre, acting as a last chance for known offenders to bring an end to their violent crime, has been gathering pace.

Following the success seen in Sunderland, work is ongoing to replicate this programme in Newcastle, with the aim of identifying violent crime offenders and addressing their behaviour.

Read more [here](#).



KNIFE CRIME AWARENESS PROJECTS

With the support of our Education Team, young people from schools across the region have taken part in awareness sessions to better understand the dangers of knife crime.

Taking their learning a step further, students have been developing pieces of artwork to display in their schools to inform their peers of important information they feel they should know.



THE LOCAL YOUTH FUND

We have now invested over £27,000 to fund a range of projects developed by young people on how they think violent crime can be prevented.

More than 4,600 young people have directly benefited from our Local Youth Fund, which provides them with an opportunity to tell us what matters to them in their local area.

In the latest round, young people were tasked with coming up with ideas on preventing knife crime, and we have seen various sports activities, such as a knives down football league and wearing white to spark conversation.

Another round of this exciting fund is coming soon, so keep an eye out for more information.



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.

Book your place using the link below:

[STAGE ONE - ONLINE TRAINING](#)

VULNERABILITY AWARENESS TRAINING

Another 19 businesses have taken part in our Vulnerability Awareness Training with a range of staff from bars, hotels, security firms and more.

We provide staff with an understanding of vulnerability, the signs to look out for and what support they could offer to keep people safe.

Does this sound like something for you? Sign up using the link below:

[VULNERABILITY TRAINING - ONLINE](#)



**FIGHTING
CRIME**

**PREVENTING
CRIME**

**IMPROVING
LIVES**

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