



October 2024



Hello from your PCC

Welcome to the latest VRU newsletter, highlighting the significant steps we are taking to address serious violence and knife crime, and I'm delighted that we are starting to see some reductions.

Read about the inspiring efforts of young people securing funding for their innovative projects, and our ongoing support for local communities.

Whether it's launching new educational resources or working with partners to deliver targeted interventions, we are ensuring your voice is at the heart of everything we do, as lasting change is only possible when we work together.

I'm proud of the progress we're making, and I'm confident that together, we will create safer, stronger communities.

Susan Dungworth
Northumbria Police & Crime Commissioner

TACKLING SERIOUS VIOLENCE TOGETHER

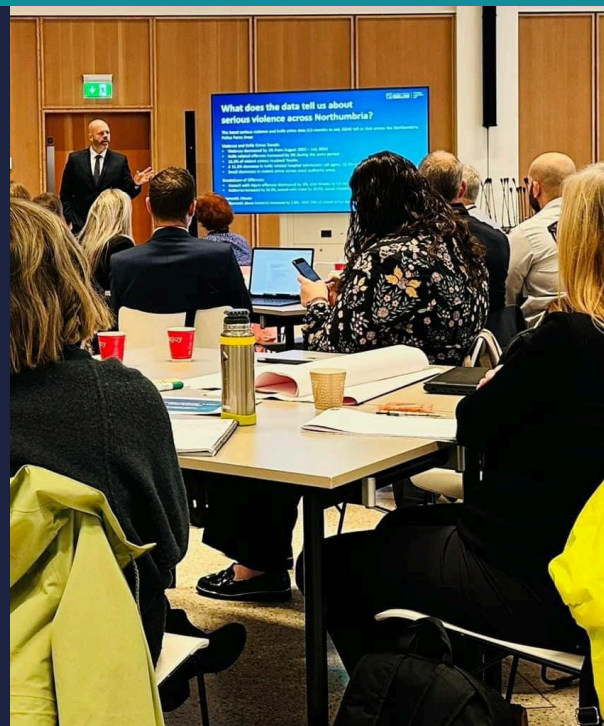
Serious violence can deeply impact local communities, especially our most vulnerable individuals and families.

Addressing it requires more than one solution – it takes a united approach.

Leaders from Northumbria Police, local councils, youth and adult services and more, came together to discuss powerful strategies to prevent and reduce violent crime.

By collaborating and sharing ideas, we are ensuring every intervention is meaningful, with local communities at the centre of all decision-making.

Together, we can make a real difference.



85% offending reduction for those in our Focused Deterrence programme in Sunderland.

223 individuals received specialist support from our Employability Programme, helping them build brighter futures.

250 schools have signed up to deliver new Pol-Ed educational resources.

34,350 students have participated in violence reduction awareness sessions.

YOUR VOICE MATTERS

Listening to local communities is key to understanding the challenges they may face and exploring their innovative ideas for change.

We have held inspiring sessions where we have discussed safety in local areas, importance of community cohesion, and the need for more education on the impact and consequences of violent crime.

A big thank you to everyone who has contributed to these important conversations.

Your insights are shaping the future, and together, we are building safer, stronger communities.



Pol-Ed

A positive force in education

www.pol-ed.co.uk

POL-ED LAUNCHES IN 250 SCHOOLS

More than 200 schools have signed up to deliver Pol-Ed, an innovative programme designed to empower students with the knowledge to build healthy relationships, stay safe, and understand the law.

With a strong focus on prevention, we've teamed up with Northumbria Police to bring Pol-Ed to both primary and secondary schools, positively impacting thousands of students.

Created by teachers for teachers, this initiative is part of our commitment to preventing anti-social behaviour, crime and violence through early intervention.

Find out more about Pol-Ed [here](#).

LOCAL YOUTH FUND WINNERS

Young people across the Northumbria force area have secured nearly £16,000 to launch innovative projects tackling knife crime and anti-social behaviour.

From football and boxing sessions to film-making and photography, the 9 youth-led initiatives aim to create safe spaces and drive real change locally.

Police and Crime Commissioner, Susan Dungworth, said: "It's truly inspiring to see young people taking the lead in building safer, stronger communities. I can't wait to see these projects in action."

Read more about these exciting initiatives [here](#).





KEEPING YOU SAFE

We recently launched powerful awareness sessions, aimed at educating young people on the risks of violent disorder, rioting and joint enterprise – reaching them with the right information at the earliest point.

Developed in partnership with Northumbria Police, these sessions target young people aged 9 to 18 years, highlighting the consequences of violent behaviour and equipping them with the knowledge to stay safe and make informed choices.

Schools and organisations working with young people are encouraged to take part. Read more [here](#).

SUPPORTING COMMUNITIES

The Findaway Project offers crucial advocacy support for anyone concerned someone may be experiencing abuse.

In the last year, 59 people reached out to the Findaway Helpline, with 88% better equipped to support the person they were worried about after receiving advocates help.

Findaway also educates communities on the signs of domestic abuse and coercive control, leading to 226 people in the last year now understanding how to respond and offer meaningful support to loved ones.

Explore the 'How Can I help?' toolkit [here](#).



SPOTTING SIGNS OF VULNERABILITY

We teamed up with Northumbria Police to deliver essential vulnerability awareness training to staff from businesses across Newcastle and Gateshead.

The interactive session helped staff spot signs of vulnerability and take action to protect those at risk.

Participants left able to identify vulnerable individuals, intervene safely, and offer the right support – all crucial steps in preventing crime before it happens.

Could this training benefit you? Reserve your spot [here](#).



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