



NORTHUMBRIA PCC RESPONSE TO HMICFRS INSPECTIONS OF NORTHUMBRIA POLICE

Inspection title	An inspection of how well the police tackle serious youth violence
Type of inspection	<input type="checkbox"/> Northumbria-specific <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> National Thematic
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Deadline for PCC response (56 days)	3 rd May 2023
Recommendations	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> National <input type="checkbox"/> Local

NORTHUMBRIA PCC RESPONSE TO HMICFRS

I welcome the report on how well the police tackle serious youth violence. Northumbria was one of the twelve forces that was inspected and is one of the ten forces inspected with a Violence Reduction Unit (VRU) in place.

It is really positive that there is early evidence that points to VRUs reducing violent crime. Strong partnerships, effective information sharing and adopting a public health approach are vital to ensuring that VRUs work and Northumbria's VRU will continue to work to these principles. I'm pleased that the YOLO project commissioned by Northumbria's VRU is recognised in the report – this project works with young people aged 8 to 14 years who are at risk of being drawn into knife crime or violent crime.

The Chief Constable has provided me with a position statement in respect of Northumbria Police (NP) against the two recommendations that are specifically for Chief Constable.

Recommendation 3: *By 31 March 2024, chief constables should make sure their officers are trained in the use of Home Office crime outcome 22.*

- The force's TREAD (Transformation/Resolution/Education and Adult Diversion) Team provide inputs to student officers, CID and RPT Teams during protected learning time to raise their knowledge and awareness of Outcome 22. There is also a training package on Kallidus LEARN which is referred to as 'Adult Divert From Charge', however this is not a current mandatory package. Within Northumbria, Outcome 22 is referred to as part of the Divert from Charge process, this outcome is only applied if the offender admits guilt; this local practice is not in line with national guidance.

Recommendation 4: *By 31 March 2024, chief constables should make sure their forces, through data collection and analysis, understand the levels of racial disproportionality in serious youth violence in their force areas.*

- There are improvements being made to the force's data-led approach to understanding serious violence. This will be achieved through the investment and development of a serious violence dashboard.
- The force has established a number of youth scrutiny groups for stop and search and a youth independent advisory group (YIAG). Some members of these groups



will have lived experience of youth serious violence and the next YIAG conference in April 2023 will focus on the impact of such violence.

- Outcomes related to youth serious violence as well as any disproportionate application or impact will be a key focus for the force-wide Serious Youth Violence Suppression Group.

I will monitor progress where further action is required to ensure that NP are compliant through my regular HMICFRS Scrutiny process.

Yours sincerely,

Kim McGuinness

PCC for Northumbria