



Annual Report 2023/4

Foreword

This is my first annual report as your Police and Crime Commissioner after being elected to the role in May 2024. I take on the role from my predecessor, Kim McGuinness, with gratitude for all her efforts fighting and preventing crime over the last five years.

As you'll see from this report, working with Northumbria Police, her and the team have undertaken a huge amount of work delivering on the policing priorities that matter most to you - as outlined in the Police and Crime Plan. In the coming months I look forward to building on the successes that are detailed, tackling new challenges, and consulting with residents and partners across the force area. At the end of the year, I will present a new plan that will set out focus areas and commitments to help create safer streets and stronger communities for everyone.

Over the course of the year, we've seen some great success here in Northumbria such as a 17.8% fall in Anti-Social Behaviour (ABS) and a 6.7% fall in serious violence. We've also seen the successful roll-out of new projects dedicated to key areas such as rural crime and stalking and harassment as well as the introduction of a new unit to tackle motorbike disorder. 30,000 victims have been supported through our commissioned services too. I am thankful to everyone who has played a part in these achievements.

In Northumbria, we have also surpassed the target set by Government for officer recruitment. This means we now have 134 additional officers in training, on the streets or investigating crime, and I recognise the need to keep pushing for more, which I shall.

As your Police and Crime Commissioner you have my word - I will listen, invest and support our Chief Constable to help our police be the best they can be in serving you - the people of Northumbria.

Keep in touch

Susan

Susan Dungworth

Police and Crime Commissioner for Northumbria

- Priorities and Pillars page

Pillar 1: Fighting Crime

PRIORITY 1: Reducing Crime

Giving the force the tools to do the job

It is essential our police force has the resources available to support our communities. Over the last year, the push to grow Northumbria's officer headcount, despite funding challenges, has continued. The past year has seen 134 new officers recruited bringing workforce totals to 3798, but this compares to pre-2010 levels of 4231.

As well as officers, for a force to deliver efficient and effective policing, many other roles, technologies and specialist departments require investment.



A slight precept rise, supported by the majority of residents through a public consultation, has allowed for key investment to help tackle resident priorities. Examples include the role out of the force-wide motorbike ASB unit and the appointment of 30 new investigators, including digital forensic specialists.

Early intervention and reducing reoffending

Over the course of the year, early intervention work has continued to show impact and successes within our communities, delivering support and mentorship to those vulnerable individuals within Northumbria.

Now in its 5th Year, the Violence Reduction Unit continues to support the police and communities through a range of education and intensive development programmes designed to help vulnerable individuals and those around them to become more resilient.

We've reached thousands of young people with prevention work and tailored support. For example:

- 454 have received knife crime awareness sessions
- 13,441 have been engaged with in school and community settings
- 35,196 individuals have received violence reduction themed learning from our education team
- 268 – students have been supported by our Student Support Champions
- 114 – young people received tailored intensive support

This has all helped contribute towards a 15% reduction in ASB, and a 6.7% fall in serious violence.

During the last twelve months, projects have focused on key events, increased police patrols, more youth workers and diversionary activities for young people, all across targeted areas in Northumbria.

Below are some examples of the impact work has had in local areas between January and March this year (2024):

- ASB reduced by 15.4% across **Gateshead**, with a 9.8% reduction in violence. Incidents of ASB also decreased by 19.4% in Gateshead Town Centre.
- There were reductions in ASB and violence in **Newcastle**, decreasing by 6% and 1.2% respectively. Reductions of violence were also seen in the City Centre, reducing by 1.2%.
- Levels of serious violence reduced by 9.2% across **North Tyneside**. In Wallsend, ASB decreased by 3.7%, with levels of violence remaining the same.
- In **Northumberland**, a reduction of 6.6% in ASB was seen during this period, with reductions in Cramlington (25%) and Bedlington (11.8%). Violence also decreased in Bedlington, reducing by 28.6%.
- Levels of both ASB and violence reduced in **South Tyneside** 16.5% and 5% respectively. In the targeted areas in South Tyneside there were reductions of serious violence in Beacon & Bents (15.7%), Temple Park (38%), and Simonside (5.8%). These three areas also saw reductions in ASB - Beacon & Bents (4%), Temple Park (22.6%), and Simonside (29.2%).
- In **Sunderland**, the targeting of ASB has resulted in an overall reduction of 18.4%, with serious violence seeing a small increase (6%).

Example project:



Focused deterrence offers tailored intensive support, targeted interventions and swift enforcement for individuals causing the most serious violence in our communities. Sunderland City Centre became the first area to benefit from this new intervention. The SAIL (Sunderland Altogether Improving Lives) Team brings together dedicated violence reduction staff, officers from Northumbria Police, Sunderland City Council ASB officers, neighbourhood wardens and key specialists, to deter individuals from crime and provide some much-needed respite for the city. The approach has also been adopted in Newcastle City Centre, with plans to expand to South Tyneside.

The illegal drugs trade

Between August 2023 and February 2024, the force arrested 660 wanted suspects. Through focused operations, the force has continued to target both drug dealers and manufacturers. In May 2024, a total of 14 criminals were sentenced as a result of a major two-year police operation launched by the North East Regional Organised Crime Unit (NEROCU). Another notable success is that millions of pounds of illegal drugs have been seized and more people are getting treatment and support in Newcastle since the launch of Project Adder.

Rural crime

Northumberland Partnership Against Rural Crime (NPARC), was funded through the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner (OPCC)'s bid to the Home Office Safer Streets Fund, making Northumbria the only force to prioritise our rural communities as well as urban areas with this funding.

The project has been going from strength to strength and now extends to over 20 rural partners, all of whom have a vested interest in tackling rural crime, environmental ASB and working with our rural communities.

Following the Safer Streets funding coming to an end in September 2023, Northumberland Council have stepped in and offered to take over the ownership of the group to ensure the good work continues.

What the NPARC project has delivered so far:

- *Automatic Number Plate Recognition* (ANPR) – 10 mobile ANPR units have been purchased for response vehicles in Berwick, Alnwick and Hexham Hubs, with the final ANPR unit installed in the Rural Crime Team vehicle.
- *Thermal Technology* - thermal imaging sets have been purchased and operators have been trained. These units are being used for wildlife crime, missing persons, road traffic collisions and searching for criminals committing neighbourhood crime. The use of the thermal technology has considerably reduced the time spent conducting enquiries and responding to incidents.
- *Crime Prevention* – tracking devices and forensic marking kits have been purchased and offered to recent victims of crime. Engagement days and forensic property marking has been rolled out in rural areas to help residents protect agricultural equipment.

A positive outcome of this work has been that, in Northumberland, comparing 2022 and 2023 figures, there has been a 20% reduction in Quad-bike thefts – a trend it is hoped will continue as the above activity progresses further.

Responding to the needs of the public



Improving call response times has been a focus area for the force to deliver on. As demand has increased, there has been a need to get more call handlers trained to answer the phones, and so 17 new call handlers have been welcomed to the workforce.

For the 12 months to April 2024, the number of 101 non-emergency calls has remained consistent in comparison to the previous 12 months, from 240,377 to 239,701. 101 non-emergency call volumes in 2023 were 33% lower than they were in 2019 and decreased year on year until 2023.

The percentage of 101 calls abandoned after 1 minute for the 12 months to April 2024 is 8%; this compares to 17% for the 12 months to April 2023. The average answer time for 101 non-emergency calls for the 12 months to April 2024 was 1 minute and 35 seconds, compared to 3 minutes and 11 seconds for the 12 months to April 2023.

Online Crime

Online crime covers a wide range of offences, with fraud being just one of them. Northumbria officers are part of the North East Regional Organised Crime Unit (NEROCU), which continues to pursue fraudsters and bring them to justice. Throughout the last year, there has also been determined efforts to make sure the public feel confident and capable of recognising scams and reporting them before becoming a victim. Officers recently rolled out communications warning of a new scam surfacing on apps and sites like Vinted. Following this, nine victims from the North East came forward – with a total loss of £2,600 so far.

Serious and Organised crime

NEROCU is dedicated to activity against Serious Organised Crime (SOC) threats.

As of April 2023, Organised Crime Group members and Priority Individuals have been linked to fewer crimes (as suspects) over the last 12 months, compared to the previous 12 months.

However, the number of crimes involving Urban Street Gangs and Peer Crime Groups has increased over the last 12 months compared to the previous 12 months.

NEROCU has supported a wide range of Northumbria Police activity over the past year. A recent success being in March when a co-ordinated organised crime crackdown on cross-border drug dealing resulted in more than 150 arrests and almost £53,000 worth of suspected criminal cash seized along with quantities of Class A drugs and weapons.

PRIORITY 2: Anti-social behaviour

Commitment to ASB

Motorbike disorder and ASB on the transport network continue to be key areas of focus. The force has launched Operation Capio to target motorbike and electric bike enabled crime and ASB and the OPCC has funded campaign work through Crimestoppers to encourage anonymous reporting to help catch those responsible.

Partnership operations such as Op Impact and Neighbourhood Week of Action have been utilised to tackle the issue with a view to reducing incidents and increasing public confidence. A new unit dedicated to tackling motorbike related disorder has also been set up. The force



has also invested in drone and stinger capability which will increase proactive options to tackle offences.

Strategic ASB Board and the Registered Social Landlord (RSL) Forum:

Strategic leaders across Local Authorities, Fire Services, RSLs, transport providers and other key agencies have been brought together by the OPCC to work cross boundary with a shared vision of 'creating safe, strong and resilient communities across Northumberland, Tyne and Wear through prevention, enhanced responses and better support for victims'.

There are a range of achievements we are proud of:

ASB Case Review (formerly Community Trigger):

The ASB Case Review is proving an important safety net for victims and communities experiencing ASB to request a review of their case and bring agencies together to find a solution. Between April 2023 and March 2024, 106 applications to activate an ASB Case Review were processed, 77 of which met the threshold and 80% of these have recommendations for further partnership work.

ASB funding:

£30,000 in ASB victims funding has been distributed throughout the force area to help meet victim demand and needs ranging from mediation sessions to victim support services.

OPCC ASB Champion:

The Champion continues to promote our commitment to supporting victims of ASB, making sure the voices of residents in Northumberland, Tyne and Wear are heard.

The role has also delivered training to support services along with advice and guidance.

ASB Hotspot Response

The Home Office funding secured by the office was able to deliver 27,072 hours and 23 minutes of patrols across all community and transport hotspots.

Example successes:

Cramlington reported a decrease in the number of dispersal orders that were granted in the final quarter of the year. This tactic has been used to disperse large groups of young persons. There were only 5 granted which was reported as a significant decrease.

Another deployment of the Trojan Bus took place. The bus was provided by Stagecoach bus company and was driven by the Transport Safety Officer who is funded by the project. Officers travelled on the bus to transport hubs deploying from the bus with the element of surprise to tackle offenders. Several deployments of the Trojan Bus operation have occurred since it's successful induction, including one occasion of media coverage from BBC News.

ASB Police and Partner training

Working closely with Northumbria Police, the OPCC has funded and are co-delivering bespoke local training for up to 1000 ASB practitioners across the region, made up of:

- our now increased neighbourhood policing teams,
- Local Authority and Housing ASB officers
- Transport providers



- Environment Agency staff
- Fire and Rescue staff
- Social Services staff.

Immediate Justice

The Immediate Justice scheme is about providing swift and visible reparation for the year 2023-2024 year nearly 70 per cent of those who participated said they learnt something through this scheme and 92% said they were unlikely to reoffend.

Operation Payback Round 5:

Operation Payback uses money recovered by the police from criminal activity, under the Proceeds of Crime Act (POCA) as well as the PCC's discretionary funding. The fifth round of Operation Payback was launched in June 2023 and invited grass root groups to bid for funding to assist local communities affected by high and sustained levels of crime and ASB. This latest round of funding saw £167,000 awarded to 62 groups from across all local authority areas assisting a wide range of people and communities including young people, veterans, disabled charities and black and minority ethnic communities. A snapshot of some of the groups funded include:

Love Dunston: Funding to continue two youth groups which operate two evenings per week. The young people that attend this group are generally not in education, training or employment and are at risk of petty crime, drug and alcohol misuse and were involved in ASB. The funding funds two youth workers and two support workers and has helped to develop and expand the work they are doing in offering positive activities and involvement in meaningful projects as alternatives to ASB and petty crime.

People and Drugs Ltd (Six Teen Bar): Funding to contribute towards detached youth workers, who have worked across known hotspot areas in Blyth, providing local youths with diversionary activities, interventions, guidance, advice and support.

Across all five rounds of Operation Payback 300 groups have benefited from over £1m worth of funding.

Pillar 2: Preventing crime

PRIORITY 3: preventing violent crime

Prevention, utilising a public health approach

There is growing evidence that violence is preventable and by having a greater understanding of the risk factors that may make individuals, families, and communities vulnerable to violence, we can put measures in place to prevent it.

This year the Violence Reduction Unit commissioned several projects to maximise primary prevention across all six local authority areas with notable impacts. These included the Seasonal Violence Fund, the Student Support Champions, and the Youth Fund.

In order to reach young people at the earliest opportunity, our dedicated education team have also been delivering informative, interactive and impactful sessions, covering a range of violence reduction topics, in schools and community settings.



Reducing offending

Throughout Year 4 the VRU funded interventions continued to show impact and successes within our communities, delivering support and mentorship to those vulnerable individuals within Northumbria.

340 knife crime awareness sessions have been delivered to 9135 young people in school and community settings.

71% of those who compiled with an out of court disposal pathway have not reoffended

Our Student Support Champions have supported 100 students, from school years 7-11, for a number of referral reasons, including carrying weapons in school.

Roads policing

Northumbria Police works in partnership with others to help reduce harm to all road users and prevent criminality on road networks. This year has seen the force featured in a new series of 'Motorway Cops: catching Britain's speeders' which followed patrol officers as they respond to calls on the region's roads. This produced great coverage to highlight the work that goes on and also convey vital road safety messaging to the public.

The force has also welcomed bringing back its motorcycle unit for the first time in 15 years - to help tackle crime, ASB and keep roads safe. Six bikes are now on hand to help improve visibility and accessibility, resulting with officers covering more of their patch and policing more efficiently.

PRIORITY 4: Neighbourhood Policing

Neighbourhood Policing

Neighbourhood policing is a top priority, alongside working with other organisations such as local authorities to help keep our streets safe.

Over the course of the year, 134 new officers have been deployed to significantly strengthen the current neighbourhood policing teams already in place - allowing greater capability and resources to respond to emerging issues

The new neighbourhood policing model was supported by the Police and Crime Commissioner, and it is hoped it will help the force's ability to cut crime and ASB.

Structural changes have also been made increasing the number of area commands from three to six to align with local authority areas. This move was made to recognise that communities have their own identities and issues, and the new structure is helping officers best respond to residents' needs and strengthen existing local partnerships.

Pillar 3: Improving Lives

PRIORITY 5: Support for victims

Supporting people through the justice system

Victim's Champion



Recognising the need to engage with victims to understand their experience of the Criminal Justice System, as well as supporting them through it, led to the development of a new role within the office, the Victims' Champion.

Keen to strengthen our commitment to listening we have introduced a Victims Voice Report within our Local Criminal Justice Board (LCJB), which enables the office to capture and share with criminal justice partners some of the key issues our victims and commissioned services are experiencing. This provides the opportunity to review specific cases to identify areas for improvement. The report has been well received by our criminal justice partners and will provide great assistance in improving the Criminal Justice System for victims and witnesses.

Northumbria Victim and Witness Service:

The OPCC's Supporting Victims Programme has enabled the commissioning of a variety of specialist support services and our core victim referral and assessment service Northumbria Victim and Witness Service (NVWS) - strengthening the overall offer of support to victims across Northumbria. During the 2023-2024 financial year, a total of 30,546 victims were referred to NVWS, with 80% contacted within 5 working days. Of the victims who received cope and recovery support many cited improved health and wellbeing (95%) and increased feeling of safety (92%).

Victim and Witness External Advisory Panel

The Victim and Witness External Advisory Panel have focused on various topics including Restorative Justice and the Victims Right to Review Scheme, as well as receiving inputs from the Victim Liaison Unit and the Findaway Service. Feedback throughout these meetings have helped shape our Victims Voice Report to improve victims experience of the criminal justice system.

Stalking and harassment

The OPCC has been part of a working group that helped shape the Northumbria Stalking Intervention Programme (NSIP) which launched in December. NSIP is an intervention programme designed to address stalking risk and deliver opportunities for behaviour change for identified high harm perpetrators, whilst providing enhanced support to stalking victims. As part of the NSIP model, approximately 200 partners (including Northumbria Police) received additional training in awareness of stalking and harassment.

Also, the OPCC has commissioned the national specialist service, Paladin, to provide practical, emotional and advocacy support to victims of stalking and harassment via their Independent Stalking Advocacy Caseworker (ISAC). Since April 2023, Paladin have delivered specialist cope and recovery support to **59** high-risk victims of stalking and harassment across Northumbria.

Hate Crime

Hate crime victim satisfaction has increased to 76% in 2024, arise on the previous year suggesting a step in the right direction.

The Local Criminal Justice Board's Victims & Witnesses subgroup have been exploring business hate crime and victim and witness attrition and how referrals through to court can be increased. In November 2023, the OPCC consulted small businesses including taxi drivers, small convenience stores and take aways to better understand barriers to reporting hate crime and how engagement with the Criminal Justice System can be improved.



The OPCC is represented on Northumbria Police's Hate Crime Panel, along with the Crown Prosecution Service (CPS) to review hate crime cases, with a particular focus on looking at first response of the police, use of language and the investigation journey. The police also have introduced special point of contacts for hate crime at senior management levels in area commands, control room, Telephone Investigation Units and custody, with responsibility for improving performance and the CPS, with the support of the OPCC, is exploring effective routes of communicating and tailoring their information on how victims can be supported through the Criminal Justice System

Community cohesion and extremism

The PCC has committed to supporting all efforts to work with communities and partners to strengthen relations, understand issues and improve cohesion. As well as actively tackling extremism, the PCC is also committed to ensuring the force continues to build on collective efforts to prevent vulnerable people from being drawn into extremist activity. An example of our cohesion work is set out below:

Skills 4 Work in Birtley received Operation Payback funding to deliver an intergenerational project to repair the harm caused by ASB and to keep people safe. Young people connected with the charity invited a series of guest speakers to address concerns that were raised about fears and anxiety regarding ASB, the findings which were forwarded to the local councillors for action. This project helped break down barriers between the generations as the young people had taken a lead in delivering a project for the benefit of all the community.

Mental Health

Northumbria's core victim service, NVWS, continues to report that mental health is the main category of support need being presented by victims. During 2023-2024 NVWS referred 230 victims to our specialist commissioned mental health service, Tyneside and Northumberland Mind.

Tyneside and Northumberland Mind have been providing this specialist service for almost 10 years. Support includes specialist emotional and practical support as well as counselling.

Right Care Right Person (RCRP):

Northumbria Police has been working with the health system in the North East to ensure that mental health call-outs are directed to the best possible support. The Right Care Right Person approach has been adopted nationally meaning police no longer routinely attend mental health call-outs where there is not a risk to life or of a crime being committed. This is very much still an evolving work area with more work to be done to get this approach right. The OPCC and Integrated Care Board have co-funded a pilot introducing specialist mental health workers into the police control room, helping to provide support for those who do not need a full mental health response but are experiencing a life crisis.

Complaints

At times, the service from Northumbria Police may not meet normal high standards. When Northumbria Police get it wrong, the Police and Crime Commissioner wants to make sure all is done to restore confidence in the service. To achieve this, since February 2020, the OPCC in Northumbria has been responsible for certain reviews following a complaint that has been dealt with by Northumbria Police Professional Standards Department (PSD).



The review system is firmly embedded at the OPCC and takes a robust stance in ensuring the service from Northumbria Police remains focused on the needs of residents and our communities. The office also maintains good relationships with the Independent Office for Police Complaints (IOPC) to ensure positive learning from partners and to share good practice from Northumbria.

Use of force stop and search

The use of stop and search plays a key role in the prevention and detection of crime to keep communities safe. However, careful balance needs to be struck to ensure that the power is used fairly and proportionately for transparency, and to support legitimacy.

To assist the PCC in scrutinising the police use of powers, the Police Powers External Advisory Panel has been established and provides constructive oversight, discussion and challenge on the use of force and stop and search. The panel, which was set up by the OPCC in 2022, comprises people with lived experience and members from key diverse communities across Northumbria including those representing people who are neurodivergent or may have poor mental health.

The work of the panel between April 2023 and March 2024 has improved police practice and highlighted areas for development. The force has increased the use of Body worn video (BWV) from 73% to 84%, improved reasonable grounds for stop and search checks and reduced the disparity ratio for force used on black subjects.

PRIORITY 6: Tackling domestic abuse and sexual violence

Tackling domestic abuse and sexual violence

This year, the OPCC has distributed over £4 million in grant funding from sources including the Ministry of Justice and Home Office. The above combined funding enabled **29,512** victims of various crimes to be supported.

The OPCC funding priorities remained the same this year and have included specialist support for women, men, ethnic minority victims and isolated/marginalised victims.

Since 2021, we have been successful in bidding to four rounds of Ministry of Justice national funding for the provision of more Independent Sexual Violence Advisors (ISVAs) & Independent Domestic Violence Advisors (IDVAs). IDVAs and ISVAs are crucial supporters for victim-survivors of domestic abuse and sexual violence particularly those going through the Criminal Justice System, as these roles are able to support at court, as well as providing practical and emotional support. Research has found that victims with an IDVA/ISVA are less likely to drop out of the Criminal Justice System

Active Bystander training:

Since the commencement of OPCC Active Bystander Training in 2023, 10 courses have been delivered in 2023- 2024 to 180 Active Bystanders. The past year has also seen 70 professional trainers from organisations across all sectors complete the Lead the Change (train the trainer programme). Trainers come from organisations including Foundation of Light, Together for Children, Newcastle United Foundation, Bright Futures, Wearside Women in Need, all 6 local authorities and NHS Business and People Services Directorate. Project evaluation has found delegates were far more confident that they could get someone out of a situation where they



are being sexually harassed amongst other positive measures that indicate the efficacy of the training as a valuable tool for primary prevention work.

Safer Streets:

Since April 2023 Safer Streets Round 4 and 5 funding has seen proactive operations delivered by police and on foot patrols by local authority staff, deployed to protect women's safety in public places including the night time economy, parks, local neighbourhoods and high streets across the region:

Operation Cloak was praised in parliament, as this year has seen the force continue to lead the way with efforts to keep people safe when enjoying a night out in Newcastle. The Operation has supported 356 women to safety and made 92 arrests across 187 deployments.

Women's Safety in Public Places (WSiPP) Wardens are a local authority led intervention where 'Active Bystander' trained staff undertake foot patrols in public places where people have told the OPCC, they feel unsafe. During Safer Streets 44: staff made 1002 deployments, supported 6068 women and 1917 children, five of which were safeguarded.

Funding your force

For 2023-2024 the force received £347.528 million to fund crime fighting and public safety.

The PCC agreed a budget and Medium-Term Financial Strategy that continued to deliver and build upon the investment in policing for Northumbria residents approved in 2022-2023.

To support delivery of the Strategy the PCC allocated £6.100? million of new funding raised through the Council Tax Precept in 2023-2024 to:

- Deliver a restructure of neighbourhood policing, allocating 134 new officers into specialist frontline roles to take on the fight against crime, and
- Help protect the force from the impact of significant budget pressures and spiralling inflation.

In addition, the budget set by the PCC for 2023-2024 ensured that Northumbria Police were able to successfully maintain, and exceed, the much-needed increase in police officer numbers against the national uplift target set by government.

The table below sets out spending based on the 2023-2024 budget:

Policing Services	Resource Allocation
Local Policing	40.7%
Investigations	17.3%
Dealing with the Public	10.7%
Public Protection	8.7%
Criminal justice Arrangements	6.9%
Intelligence	5.4%



Operational Support	5.0%
Investigative Support	2.6%
Roads Policing	2.2%
Police and Crime Commissioner	0.5%

How your money will be spent in the coming years

The latest force budget and the PCCs Medium-Term Financial Strategy (MTFS) 2024-2025 to 2027-2028 will ensure that the force continues to review and transform policing services; maintain the much-needed increase in police officer numbers delivered through the national police officer uplift programme; and allow Northumbria Police to invest in the right resources to protect the vulnerable, tackle crime and keep our communities safe.

The PCC has agreed a capital programme which will ensure continued investment in estates, IT and digital infrastructure, vehicles and operational equipment over the term of the MTFS. The force will continue to drive change and efficiency through transformation which includes significant investment in digital policing, leading edge technology and digital infrastructure to aid the detection and investigation of crimes, ensuring that Northumbria is a force fit for the future.

The Strategy is set against a financial backdrop of significant economic uncertainty, government austerity, rising pay bills, worldwide supply chain shortage and extraordinary levels of inflation across fuel, energy, goods and services, digital policing and most major contracts. The financial climate is more challenging than ever and with limited additional support from government and no information on future funding provided by the Home Office beyond the 2024-2025 financial year the force is planning to use reserves and targeted efficiencies alongside the vital increase in Council Tax income from local residents to balance the books each year.

The Strategy aims to deliver the PCCs Police and Crime Plan, to support the purpose, vision and objectives of the Northumbria Police Force Strategy and meet the requirements of the National Strategic Policing Requirement.

Strategic Policing Requirement

The Strategic Policing Requirement (SPR) sets out those threats which, in the Home Secretary's view, are the biggest threat to public safety and must be given due regard by PCCs when issuing or varying Police and Crime Plans. It supports PCCs as well as Chief Constables to plan, prepare and respond to these threats by clearly linking the local response to the national, highlighting the capabilities and partnerships that policing needs to ensure it can fulfil its national responsibilities.

A revised version of the SPR was published in February 2023 which provided strengthened detail around the action required from policing at the local and regional level to the critical national threats. The 2023 SPR sets out seven identified national threats.

These are as follows:

- Serious and Organised Crime;
- Terrorism;



NORTHUMBRIA
**POLICE & CRIME
COMMISSIONER**

violence
reduction
unit

- Cyber;
- Child Sexual Abuse;
- Public Disorder;
- Civil Emergencies; and
- Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG).

Both the former and the current Police and Crime Commissioners have given due regard to the threat areas identified in the SPR in the Police and Crime Plan and in their role holding the Chief Constable to account. The PCC regularly receives reports through the scrutiny process that outlines the current position in respect of Northumbria Police's position in respect of these national threats.

Contact Details

Email – enquiries@northumbria-pcc.gov.uk

Telephone – 0191 221 9800

X: @NorthumbriaPCC

F: @NorthumbriaOPCC

I: @NorthumbriaOPCC