



# NEWSLETTER

November 2025



## Hello from your PCC

The Policing Minister's recent announcement confirmed that the role of the Police and Crime Commissioner will come to an end after the 2028 elections.

I have always believed in the role, a vital link between communities and policing, making sure your voice is heard and doing the important job of holding our police to account.

But while this change brings uncertainty, it also brings opportunity. I'll be working closely with Government and local partners to help shape what comes next, ensuring strong local accountability, continued support for victims, and a clear focus on preventing violence and reducing harm.

In the meantime, nothing will change. We will keep building on the progress we're making, including through the Violence Reduction Unit which is delivering long term approaches to tackling the root causes of violence.

Together, we will keep working towards safer streets and stronger communities for the people of Northumberland, Tyne and Wear.

**Susan Dungworth**  
Northumbria Police & Crime Commissioner

## TACKLING SERIOUS VIOLENCE TOGETHER

Reducing serious violence isn't something any one organisation can do alone — lasting change only happens when we work together. That's why, at our recent board, we met with partners from across the region to reflect on what's working, and where we go next.

We're already seeing real progress, which means fewer families affected by violence, and fewer lives turned upside down. One way we're making that happen is through our new Young Futures Prevention Panel in Gateshead — providing the right support at the right time for young people who need it most. As this approach develops, we're looking forward to seeing it rolled out in other areas.

We'll keep listening to what matters most to you — and together, we can build safer streets and stronger communities for everyone.



## IN THE LAST 12 MONTHS...

**3.5%** reduction in assault with injury offences

**3.3%** reduction in assault with intent offences

**20.7%** reduction in robberies of a person offences

**34%** reduction in hospital admissions from assaults with a sharp object



## FROM IDEAS TO ACTION

Our Local Youth Fund has helped young people secure more than £14,000 to lead a series of innovative projects designed to prevent serious violence and promote positive choices.

From support groups to sports activities, 8 projects are underway to create safe spaces, offering alternatives to crime, and showcasing the drive and creativity of young people in making a real and lasting difference locally.

Huge congratulations to everyone involved.

Stay tuned for more updates as the projects get underway. Read more [here](#).

## HOW SAFE ARE WE?

We've started our winter safety campaign with the launch of 'How Safe Are We?', a new vulnerability awareness training designed to help more people spot the signs, reduce risks, and keep others safe.

The practical sessions equip bar staff, door supervisors and club managers with the confidence and skills to:

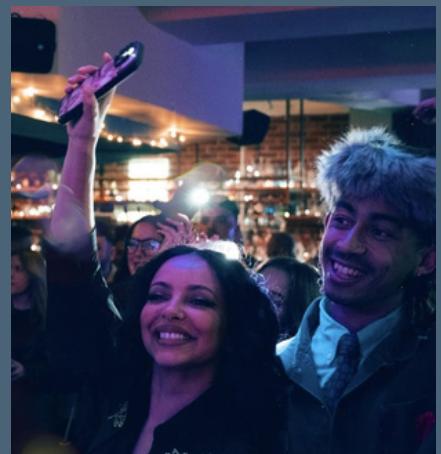
- Recognise signs of vulnerability,
- Assess situations quickly and safely
- Step in and support someone when they need it most.

**A special thank you to popstar Jade Thirlwall for backing the training, with her staff from Arbeia Bar in South Shields among the first to take part.**

They were joined by teams from around 20 nearby pubs, clubs and food outlets, to make the town centre safer for everyone.

This training is part of a programme of activity over the winter months including extra patrols, youth diversionary activities, educational inputs, and delivering targeted interventions.

Read more [here](#).



# THE RETURN OF SCEPTRE

We are proud to support Sceptre, the national week of action focused on tackling knife crime and keeping our communities safe.

Throughout the week - and all year round - our teams have been visiting schools, youth groups, and community organisations to speak directly with young people about the dangers and consequences of carrying knives, and the devastating impact knife crime can have on individuals, families, and communities.

Working alongside our partners, we are delivering targeted interventions where they are needed most, helping to prevent harm before it happens.

**Remember, knives impact everyone.**



## YOUNG PEOPLE TAKE A STAND AGAINST KNIFE CRIME

Young people have sent a powerful message during Sceptre, unveiling a striking new bench at The Pavilion in Blyth, crafted from confiscated and donated blunted knives.

The bench now stands as a place for reflection, and a permanent reminder of the real consequences of carrying knives, encouraging people to stop, think, and make positive choices.

Students worked closely with our education officers throughout the project, taking part in knife crime awareness inputs, interactive sessions using our virtual reality headsets, and hearing directly from Samantha's Legacy about the devastating impact knife crime has on families and communities.

Their work sends a clear message: there is no place for knife crime, and together, we will keep doing all we can to deliver safer streets and stronger communities.

Read more [here](#).

# KNIFE CRIME: MYTH OR FACT

There are many myths surrounding knife crime, but knowing the facts can make a real difference.

Fearless, the anonymous crime reporting platform for young people, has been highlighting some of the most common misconceptions, and the reality behind them.

**MYTH:** Carrying a knife protects you.

**FACT:** If you carry a knife, you're more likely to get hurt - sometimes by your own knife.

If you know or suspect someone is carrying a knife, you can speak up safely and anonymously. Reports can be made at [Fearless.org](http://Fearless.org) or by calling Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111.



**MYTH**

## MYTH

Everyone's carrying knives.

**FACT**

## TRUTH

99% of young people DON'T carry knives.

It might feel different online or in the news, but most young people stay safe.



**MYTH**

## MYTH

There are "safe" places to stab someone.

**FACT**

## TRUTH

There aren't. Major arteries run all over your body - a single stab can be fatal within minutes.

Be safe. Be Fearless.



**MYTH**

## MYTH

You can carry other sharp objects for protection.

**FACT**

## TRUTH

Any sharp object intended to threaten or harm can be classed as a weapon.



## 16 DAYS OF ACTIVISM TO END GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE

As the 16 Days of Activism continues, efforts across the region are highlighting our shared commitment to ending violence against women and girls. That's why we must continue to raise awareness, and ensure support is there when it's needed most.

And while this campaign lasts 16 days, our commitment to ending abuse must continue every day of the year - working with all our brilliant partners to drive meaningful, lasting change.

Together, we will continue to support survivors, prioritise prevention initiatives, take action against perpetrators, and strengthen the systems that keep people safe.

**BECOME A VIOLENCE PREVENTION AMBASSADOR...** Our online training gives youth workers, practitioners & community leaders the tools to tackle knife crime, gangs, hidden harms & more - building safer, stronger communities. Sign up [here](#).



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