



Hello from your PCC

It's very much business as usual for the Northumbria Violence Reduction Unit, as funding has been confirmed for another year.

This continued investment provides vital stability for services we commission, and importantly for those supported by them, ensuring the progress we're making is not only sustained but strengthened.

It also means we can continue to focus on long-term, preventative approaches that address the root causes of serious violence, changing lives for the better.

Quick fixes won't do that. That's why we need solutions that bring lasting change, including working collaboratively with our partners and communities, educating young people, supporting those most at risk through targeted interventions, and creating opportunities to steer individuals away from harm.

Read about some of our recent activity in this newsletter, and together we will keep working towards safer streets and stronger communities for everyone.

Susan Dungworth
Northumbria Police & Crime Commissioner

SIX YEARS OF TACKLING SERIOUS VIOLENCE

Since 2019, we have taken a public health approach to tackling serious violence, and we know that lasting change only happens when we work together. That's why, at our recent board, we met with partners from across the region to discuss emerging trends, new ideas, and explore how existing initiatives could be strengthened to deliver even greater impact – ensuring a joined-up approach in the year ahead.



The board also reflected on the impact of interventions delivered to respond to local needs.

IN THE LAST 12 MONTHS...

9% ↓ reduction in hospital admissions from sharp objects

4.2% ↓ reduction in the possession of a weapon offences

23,298 young people received violence reduction learning

251 professionals received workplace domestic abuse and vulnerability training

800 signed up to the Violence Prevention Ambassadors Programme

300 individuals have joined our growing network of informed ambassadors

TAKING ACTION AGAINST COUNTY LINES

County Lines Intensification Week is a dedicated national initiative to disrupt organised criminal networks. While this work takes place all year round, enforcement, education, and outreach activities are intensified during this focused week of action.



NEW COUNTY LINES RESOURCE

County Lines exploitation destroys lives, drawing young, vulnerable people into danger, violence and crime, and placing them at significant risk of harm.

Our new online awareness course has been designed to help youth workers, community organisations and frontline staff recognise the warning signs of criminal exploitation and support young people.

Developed with specialist staff from policing, education and children's services, the course covers what county lines is, how individuals are recruited, the risks and consequences, and where to find support.

Sign up to our [e-learning programme](#) today.

JOIN OUR NETWORK

Understanding the dangers of county lines was the focus of our first Lunch and Learn event, attended by nearly 80 members of our Violence Prevention Ambassadors Network.

The session provided practical guidance on spotting signs of criminal exploitation, supporting young people, and connecting individuals to support services.

Join our growing network of ambassadors by completing the e-learning modules in our online programme. Sign up [here](#).



AWARENESS FILM

Our powerful County Lines awareness film highlights how young people can be exploited by dangerous criminal networks.

This often involves vulnerable individuals being manipulated, threatened, or controlled, and forced to transport drugs between different areas.

This film is designed to help students, parents, and professionals recognise the warning signs and taking action. Watch the film [here](#).



CELEBRATING 3 YEARS OF SAIL

- ASB down 40% in the city centre
- Alcohol-related ASB down 41%
- All crime down 9%
- Drops in burglary, theft & criminal damage

Three years on, and these are just some of the fantastic results through the SAIL Project as it continues to make an impact in Sunderland City Centre.

Susan Dungworth, Northumbria Police & Crime Commissioner said: "The SAIL project is a powerful example of what can be achieved when partners come together to tackle the issues that matter most to our communities. And the results we're seeing in Sunderland City Centre reflect that – with less violence and anti-social behaviour, more young people diverted from crime, more support being offered when it's needed most, and real improvements in people's lives and local areas."



SHOWCASING PROJECTS BY YOUNG PEOPLE

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

Over the last few weeks, we've been to see some of these fantastic projects in action, from support groups to sports activities, young people are creating safe spaces, offering alternatives to crime, showcasing their drive and creativity, and making a real and lasting difference locally.

This is what happens when we listen to young people... well done to all involved.





YOUTH MATTERS ROADSHOW

We joined colleagues from youth work, education, health, and other sectors at the Youth Matters Roadshow, to explore how we can strengthen support and opportunities for young people.

A clear theme was the importance of youth voice. Young people want to play an active role in decisions that shape their lives and communities, but it must lead to real action and meaningful outcomes.

It was also positive to hear more about the national Youth Matters strategy, developed with direct input from young people. Ensuring their perspectives inform future priorities is essential in order for policies and services to truly work for them.

TRAINEE DETECTIVE WEEK RETURNS

Young people have stepped into the role of detectives as part of an interactive learning programme exploring the reality of knife crime.

Centred on the murder of Sunderland teenager Connor Brown, the initiative helps students understand the consequences of serious violence and the impact it has on individuals, families and communities.

Throughout the week-long programme, the group have received a powerful input from Connor's parents, worked with police staff to review evidence and build their case, and even learned practical, life-saving skills such as managing heavy bleeding, supported by medical professionals.



DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Monday 15th June: Join our **Lunch and Learn** event where Dr Hope Kent will share the latest evidence on brain injury as a consequence of domestic abuse, and explore why recognising this issue matters for how we understand and support women in the justice system.

Friday 16th October: Our **How Safe Are We? Training** gives bar staff and security teams the skills and confidence to recognise signs of vulnerability, assess situations quickly and safely, and step in to support someone when they need it most.

Tuesday 24th November: The workplace can be one of the few areas where victims of domestic abuse feel safe to speak out about what they are going through. Our **Domestic Abuse Champions Training** can help you to support your colleagues.



DOMESTIC ABUSE WORKPLACE CHAMPIONS



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