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**POLICE & CRIME
COMMISSIONER**

Delivery of The Police & Crime Plan:

**Priority 3: Serious Violence
And Organised Crime**

February 2026

Police and Crime Plan commitment: To work with partners to deliver the Northumbria Serious Violence Response Strategy, our joint plan to tackle the causes and impact of serious violence.

Question 1

Following the success of Project Shield, how would Northumbria Police look to sustain reductions in Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB) and serious violence in hotspot areas and embed positive learning from the project should Home Office Response funding cease in 26/27?

Over the past two years, Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB) and serious violence have fallen steadily across the force, including the significant reductions in Project Shield hotspot areas. This combined with the success of the multi-Agency Hubs approach has provided an evidence base to inform the future adoption of localised hotspot policing methodology.

- The funding provided to Project Shield through the Home Office Hotspot Response fund has enabled partners to invest more into resourcing and problem solving and has supported Northumbria Police to deploy additional resources into Hotspot areas at times of greatest need. Whilst at a force level the reductions in Serious Violence have levelled out, this is not the case in the Project Shield areas, lending additional support to the value of the Project Shield investment.
- Whilst the reductions in ASB and serious violence in the Project Shield areas cannot be attributed exclusively to any single strand of the approach, the progress made provides a strong indication that the additional focus from Neighbourhood Policing Teams (NPTs) and the Serious Violence Disruption Unit (SVDU), supported by the joint hotspot patrols with local partners, with both informed by consistent hotspot analysis and a problem solving mindset, has significantly contributed to the reductions of harm experienced.
- The force is committed to maintaining the momentum of progress in reducing serious violence and ASB. The force will continue to use the hotspot analysis and deployment methodology to identify areas for serious violence and will sustain, wherever possible, the visible patrols. Going forward, without additional investment, serious violence hotspot patrols will be coordinated and tasked through local tasking and

coordination meetings (TTCG). The TTCG process will assign resources and agree deployments against prioritised threats.

- Some of the learning from the Project Shield has been incorporated into the force's tactical approach to reducing ASB. The force ASB lead is leading work to create a new ASB hotspot dashboard that will be used by the Neighbourhood Inspectors to identify and prioritise ASB hotspots and allow for a more effective tasking and deployment process.
- Partnership patrols are likely to cease. Many Local Authority partners have already indicated that they would not be able to sustain hotspot patrols without the funding from Project Shield. In addition to this, problem-solving activity will be limited and may lack creativity without available funding.

In summary, the removal of Home Office Hotspot Response funding for Project Shield will not see the end of the force efforts to use hotspot methodology to tackle serious violence and ASB. The enhanced activity, previously supported by Project Shield funding, will need to be consumed into business as usual and will be prioritised through local Tasking and Coordination Groups.

I am pleased to see the commitment from Northumbria Police to continuing the use of the hotspot analysis and deployment methodology. I am keen to explore the partnership approach post funding, and my office will be hosting a Project Shield workshop for partners and the force to discuss this further.



Police and Crime Plan commitment: Carry out robust enforcement action, targeting offenders and locations to disrupt criminal activity

Question 2

Are you confident that robust processes are in place between Police and Probation to monitor violent offenders and share information about breaches/ changes in licensing conditions is effective?

Northumbria Police and Probation both have active roles in chairing the Multi-Agency Public Protection Arrangements (MAPPAs) meetings, this manages the most convicted violent offenders. The effectiveness of the MAPPA meetings and attendance are monitored through the Strategic MAPPA Board.

- Both Northumbria Police, Probation and the Management of Sexual Offenders and Violent Offenders (MOSOVO) manage nominals, who are assessed as requiring level 2 or 3 multi-agency intervention, through the Violent and Sex Offender Register (VISOR) IT system. This system is used as a single multi-agency view of activities to manage offenders.
- The VISOR platform facilitates effecting sharing of information between agencies, for those requiring management at level 2 or level 3, a nominated officer in the Violent and Sexual Suppression Team is allocated which ensures any relevant Police gathered information is shared with Probation and identifies opportunities to progress any identified breaches of orders or conditions.
- MAPPA Coordinators have completed joint training with Probation, which reinforced the importance of effective information sharing between agencies.
- Outside of statutory MAPPA, for non-convicted violent offenders, local partnership processes exist that seek to reduce the harm caused by those involved in violence. Each Area Command has established a multi-agency approach to managing those involved in violence who are associated to organised crime. This is managed through Operation Sentinel, of which Probation is a key partner, with information sharing regularly leading to the identification of disruption opportunities for the Local Responsible Officer (LRO).
- Area commands also have local governance arrangements in place for broader offender management. This is managed through the Neighbourhood Priorities Meetings, where high harm nominals are discussed, and probation are involved to support risk management plans.

Overall, I am confident that Northumbria Police have robust processes in place between Police and Probation to monitor violent offenders and share information about breaches or changes in licensing conditions.



Police and Crime Plan commitment: Work with regional and national partners to protect our communities and tackle serious and organised crime.

Question 3

How effective is the information sharing between police force regional and national boundaries when tackling or developing responses to organised crime?

Northumbria Police have an effective and well-developed serious organised crime system that connects local to national and regional networks.

- The force manages serious and organised crime locally through Operational Sentinel, which is a multi-agency approach to tackling serious and organised crime within communities. Operational activity is driven at a force level through open and closed tasking and coordination processes. The North East Regional Organised Crime Unit (NEROCU) is represented within the closed meetings whereby closed tasking reports are submitted to the NEROCU, these are critical in developing intelligence cases and responses to serious and organised crime, locally, regionally and nationally.
- The serious and organised crime tasking provides a regionally coordinated response to serious and organised crime identifying the greatest threat, harm and risk and prioritises intelligence development and operational activity accordingly.
- There are bi-monthly serious and organised crime governance meetings, which are multi-agency forums where local authorities and NEROCU are represented. These forums provide continued focus on cross partnership delivery of serious and organised crime.

- Serious and organised crime has a regional governance structure covering the following themes:
 - Drugs
 - County Lines
 - Firearms
 - Serious organised acquisitive crime
 - Economic
 - Cyber
 - Child sexual exploitation and abuse
 - Modern Slavery Human Trafficking
 - Organised immigration crime
- The serious and organised crime is measured and monitored across this governance structure using a national recognised monitoring process called APMIS, which measures disruptions across the four P's; prepare, protect, pursue and prevent.
- These structures are further supported by the monthly serious and organised crime community meetings, which provide a forum for the Head of NEROCU, with the Heads of Crime from the three regional forces to ensure there is a clear understanding of threat, harm and risk across the region and appropriate tactics and activity is ongoing.

I am pleased to see that Northumbria Police's serious organised crime system is competent across the three levels of local, regional and national, and have assured the Chief Constable that this level of competence needs to remain.



Police and Crime Plan commitment: Continue to implement the public health approach to serious violence prevention, providing early opportunities to divert people of all ages from serious violence.

Question 4

What provision is in place to reduce serious violence linked to substance misuse amongst neighbourhood offenders that do not meet statutory requirements?

Substance misuse may exacerbate behavioural risk and is associated with an increased likelihood of serious violent offending. Access to and engagement with a recovery service mitigates that risk by addressing the underlying substance misuse thereby reducing behavioural instability and the likelihood of escalation to serious violence.

- Northumbria Police have a drug testing on arrests provision within their custody suites; this has been enhanced due to the delivery of a new force wide model. The model consistently delivers drug testing on arrests across each of the custody suites. In partnership with the Violence Reduction Unit and Public Health, the model sees staff from 'Way Through', which is a drug recovery service, providing immediate support to those who have provided a positive test.
- The data from the drug testing on arrests shows that 182 out of 292 tested positive and received a harm minimisation intervention.
- Northumbria Police are supporting a Newcastle Night-Time Economy (NTE) Experiences Social Research Project, with Newcastle City Council Public Health and Newcastle University, to improve the understanding of the city's NTE, with a particular focus on alcohol and drug use. This research will result in the creation of a Newcastle city-wide alcohol and drug harm reduction campaign, with the aim to reduce serious violence by lowering levels of acute intoxication, promoting early intervention and addressing substance misuse as a key driver of behavioural risk and vulnerability.

- There are now Neighbourhood Prevention meetings in place across all six of the Local Authority areas which look to identify high harm offenders, victims, and locations across each area, including crime offenders who fall outside of statutory requirements. Activity and response from this will be directed to those who are perpetrating harm, much of which will be aimed at reducing the harm through enforcement or diversionary responses with support of partners, where appropriate.

I am pleased to see the partnership work that Northumbria Police are doing and commencing in this area and I am keen to get further updates on how the various projects and prevention meetings that have been put in place are providing the best response and showing consistency in their approach across all Local Authority areas.

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**SAFER STREETS
STRONGER COMMUNITIES**



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