



June 2026



Hello from your PCC

I am pleased to share that the Northumbria Violence Reduction Unit has received Home Office approval for its programme of activity for the year ahead.

The plan sets out how we will continue to build on the positive work taking place to reduce and prevent serious violence.

It reinforces our commitment to taking a public health approach, recognising that violence is preventable and requires coordinated action, alongside our partners, to address both the risk factors and underlying causes of violent crime.

This includes reaching young people early through education and awareness, and intervening with those who are showing signs of vulnerability, or who are on the fringes of criminal and anti-social activity, and addressing the behaviour of those causing the most harm in communities.

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

TACKLING SERIOUS VIOLENCE

12.7% reduction in
personal robberies

81% reduction in missing episodes
through the Safe Return project

13% reduction in
homicides

These are just some of the fantastic results discussed at the recent Violence Reduction Board, bringing together our partners from policing, health, fire, housing and more.

Together, we explored the progress we're making in tackling violent crime, as well as looking at emerging trends and new initiatives to deliver even greater impact, including plans to support the Government's mission to halve knife crime.

PCC Susan Dungworth said: "This isn't just about preventing violent crime - it's about changing lives for the better. Together, we're building safer streets, and stronger communities for everyone."



TACKLING KNIFE CRIME

Sceptre, the national week of action tackling knife crime, builds on the work taking place in communities all year round, and reflects our strong partnership approach to preventing violence, educating and supporting young and vulnerable people, and tackling offending.

These are just some of the great results from the latest Sceptre week:

333 knives handed into police surrender bins.

106 arrests made.

62 practitioners received knife crime awareness training.

584 young people educated.

PCC Susan Dungworth said: "Knife crime can have a devastating and lasting impact on individuals, families and communities, which is why preventing violence and keeping people safe remains a key priority. We all have a role to play, whether as parents, friends, teachers, youth workers, or police officers – and that means starting conversations early and offering support when it matters most."



THE LAUNCH OF PROJECT GUARDIAN

Project Guardian patrols are now underway, building on the extensive work in our communities to prevent serious violence, reduce knife crime and help keep people safe.

By using intelligence and local insight, we can ensure resources are in places where they will have the greatest impact – not only through Northumbria Police patrols and enforcement activity, but meaningful engagement with communities.

Alongside patrols, the project will continue partnership working with councils, youth services and community organisations on early intervention, safeguarding and problem-solving activity, designed to address the causes of serious violence and support long-term prevention.

PCC Susan Dungworth said: "As we head into the busy summer period, I want people to feel safe when they are out enjoying everything our towns and cities have to offer – and these patrols will provide a visible and reassuring presence."



GOOD VIBES IN GATESHEAD

The Good Vibes music project at Gateshead Interchange is providing meaningful alternatives to crime and anti-social behaviour, helping to steer young people away from harm, and supporting our efforts to reducing violence.

Developed by Gateshead Football Club Foundation and delivered by Northern Pulse, the workshops are creating a safe environment to take part in positive activities that interest young people, including developing DJ and MC skills and building a sense of purpose through music.

This project is already making a real difference to the lives of young people... and now it's received national recognition in the 'Outstanding Partnership' category at the Town and City Management Industry Awards.



PROJECTS BY YOUNG PEOPLE

Great to see so many young people getting involved in a new outdoor gym project at Howdon Hub, helping them build confidence, develop new skills, and make healthier choices in a fun and supportive environment.

Developed by members of the Family Gateway Youth Board, this fantastic initiative is creating a safe and positive space where young people can stay active, spend time with friends, and take part in activities designed by, and for young people.

Funded through our Local Youth Fund, these gym sessions are a brilliant example of what can be achieved when we listen to young people. Well done to everyone involved.

HEALTHY RELATIONSHIPS

Everyone has the right to safe and healthy relationships, and it's vital we help young people recognise when something doesn't feel right.

Thanks to Hollys Hope for joining a recent education session, where Micala bravely spoke about the tragic loss of her daughter, Holly. Her input was incredibly powerful and thought-provoking, helping students understand the 'red flags' in relationships and the devastating impact they can have.

Sessions like these give young people the space to talk openly and honestly, ask questions, and reflect on what relationships mean to them in a safe and supportive environment. And these conversations really do matter.



• ARE YOU AGED 18-25? •

HELP US FIGHT SPIKING

Do you visit **bars, clubs or venues** in Newcastle city centre?

PROJECT ALLIANCE SURVEY

Project Alliance is working with students across Newcastle's universities and colleges to better understand experiences, awareness and support needs around spiking.

By completing this short anonymous survey, (approx. 10 minutes of your time) your feedback will help shape future spiking prevention and support across the region.

JOIN OUR VPA NETWORK

Our Violence Prevention Ambassadors programme encompasses a series of e-learning modules to increase awareness, and is part of a wider effort to tackle violent crime.

By offering the training, we are providing a comprehensive insight to engage young people at risk and prevent violent behaviour before it escalates.

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



DOMESTIC ABUSE WORKPLACE CHAMPIONS



DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

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.

Thursday 10th December: Enhanced Training for Domestic Abuse Champions to help deepen their knowledge of victim support and the role they can play in ensuring needs are met. It provides additional awareness of issues faced.



CONTACT US

Email: vru@northumbria-pcc.gov.uk

Website: www.northumbria-pcc.gov.uk