



SUSAN DUNGWORTH
NORTHUMBRIA
**POLICE & CRIME
COMMISSIONER**

Delivery of The Police & Crime Plan:

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

October 2026

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

Question 1:

We welcome the Knife Crime Consultation Funds (KCCF) targeted additional resources in specific areas, are Northumbria Police confident that they can respond to any displacement this causes?

Following the statement from the KCCF and POP Plan guidance, there is a requirement to monitor knife crime levels in adjacent wards as part of the Key Performance Indicators, I wanted assurance that Northumbria Police are confident that any displacement is identified, monitored and responded to effectively.

Northumbria Police's KCCF programme incorporates a robust evaluation framework that monitors geographical, temporal and target displacement through the use of crime displacement zones surrounding treatment areas, alongside comparison with control locations.

There is currently no evidence to indicate that enforcement activity within hotspot locations, based on our regions town and city centres including South Shields town centre, Sunderland City Centre and Newcastle City Centre, has led to the displacement of crime into neighbouring areas and current performance data similarly does not indicate any emerging hotspots attributable to displacement from existing hotspot patrol locations and the evidence suggests that the surrounding areas are likely to benefit from the increased visibility, guardianship and problem-solving activity associated with hotspot deployments, with several locations experiencing reductions in crime alongside the hotspot location itself.

Northumbria Police will continue to monitor displacement indicators throughout the life of the project, and should any evidence of displacement emerge, it would be identified through the established performance and evaluation framework, enabling a timely review and adjustment of interventions to ensure resources remain targeted where they are most effective.

It is positive to see that there is no displacement and that surrounding areas are seeing reductions. I am satisfied that Northumbria Police will continue to monitor this and I look forward to hearing the progression of the programme

Susan Dungworth

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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 2:

Can the Chief Constable confirm that Northumbria Police have a good understanding of how the Child Criminal Exploitation (CCE) works in practice, delivering child centred policing and have any foreseen challenges been identified?

The new Child Criminal Exploitation (CCE) offence was created to close a legislative gap, hold adult exploiters directly accountable, recognise exploited children as victims, and provide police and courts with clearer powers to prevent and prosecute child criminal exploitation. I wanted assurance that Northumbria Police has a good understanding of how this new legislation works in practice.

Northumbria Police is confident that they have a strong understanding of the Child Criminal Exploitation (CCE). The introduction of the CCE as a standalone offence within the Crime and Policing Act 2026 strengthens the existing approach already taken by the force, which is based on safeguarding, early identification, disruption of offenders and partnership intervention.

Northumbria Police are supporting implementation of the new legislation through a comprehensive programme of training and awareness activity across the force. An internal “Aware” campaign has been launched to increase understanding of the different forms of exploitation, helping officers and staff to recognise the signs, understand vulnerability and identify opportunities for safeguarding and intervention.

In addition, dedicated Protected Learning Time (PLT) will be utilised to raise awareness of the new Child Criminal Exploitation legislation, ensuring officers and staff understand the new offence, the associated investigative opportunities and the

importance of identifying and targeting adult exploiters while safeguarding children who may be victims of exploitation. The training will reinforce the legislative intent of focusing enforcement activity on those who groom, coerce and direct children into criminality.

Whilst Northumbria Police is well placed to respond to the legislative changes, several challenges have been identified. These include ensuring consistent understanding of the new offence across all operational teams, maintaining effective information sharing across partners, identifying hidden or emerging forms of exploitation facilitated through digital platforms, and balancing enforcement action against offenders with appropriate safeguarding responses for exploited children. There is also a need to ensure sufficient analytical and investigative capacity to manage increased reporting and identify complex exploitation networks that may not fit traditional county lines models.

The force will continue to develop training, operational guidance and partnership frameworks to ensure that the introduction of the new offence enhances opportunities to protect vulnerable children, pursue exploiters and deliver effective, child-centred policing across Northumbria.

I am satisfied that Northumbria Police are in a well-placed position with the new legislation changes

Susan Dungworth



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

Question 3:

Following phase 1 of the Southport Inquiry, how will the Chief Constable ensure that recommendations are understood by Northumbria Police and communicated across relevant safeguarding, public protection, neighbourhood policing and operational leads?

Recommendation 57 on the Phase 1 Southport Inquiry considers insights from schools when assessing risk posed by children. I wanted assurance from Northumbria Police that they understand the importance of ensuring that information and advice from schools and education colleagues is given appropriate weight in decision-making.

Northumbria Police are currently leading on a multi-agency audit to test the response to children who pose a risk of serious harm. This audit will test the forces local responses against the Southport recommendations and involves Youth Justice, Children Social Care, Police, Health and Education.

The findings from this audit are due to be presented to a multi-agency “halving knife crime” workshop being led by the Violence Reduction Unit. Education leads from across the region have been invited to this workshop which is an opportunity to review and strengthen the collective information sharing responsibilities.

The recommendations from Southport Inquiry are currently being considered across the six Children’s Safeguarding Partnerships. Within MASH arrangements there is an education specific point of contact whose role is to collate information from schools when relevant to a child at risk of significant harm.

I am pleased that the importance of education becoming a statutory partner has been highlighted and I look forward to hearing the results of the audit that Northumbria Police are leading.

Susan Dungworth





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