Northumbria Violence Reduction Unit

NEWSLETTER

NORTHUMBRIA POLICE & CRIME COMMISSIONER | violence reduction unit

October 2026



Hello from your PCC

From increased support for young people, to the positive impact of our interventions, I'm pleased to share updates on the work taking place across our region to tackle serious violence.

Violent crime can have a devastating impact on victims, families and communities and while enforcement is vital, prevention is just as important. That's why through our Violence Reduction Unit and partners, we remain committed addressing the causes of violence and keeping people safe.

Our work includes targeting those responsible for violence, removing dangerous weapons from our streets, providing early support to those at risk of becoming involved in crime, and educating young people to help them make informed choices.

Together, we will continue working towards safer streets and stronger communities for everyone.

Susan Dungworth
Northumbria Police & Crime Commissioner

778 hours of targeted Project Guardian patrols

1,300+ young people received knife crime education

4,000+ young people engaged in positive activities

45 young people matched with mentor to address needs

14 people supported into employment via the DWP and VRU employability programme

117 young people received tailored intervention through the focused deterrence model

This is just some of the activity underway to tackle serious violence in recent months, with thousands of young people reached through knife crime education, mentoring and positive activities, while hundreds of additional hours of visible policing patrols through Project Guardian have been delivered as part of ongoing efforts to prevent violent crime.

PCC Susan Dungworth said: "Thankfully we have very small numbers here in Northumbria, but any incident of violent crime is one too many – so I want to be clear when I say that we are taking every possible action to keep our communities safe."







TACKLING SERIOUS VIOLENCE

Taking a public health approach to addressing the underlying causes of violent crime.



Our recent workshop brought together partners from a range of backgrounds to review and strengthen our approach to **managing Violence Fixated Individuals**.

Providing an opportunity to share learning, identify good practice and help shape Northumbria's response to the National Halving Knife Crime Action Plan, it highlighted the strength of our partnerships locally and the shared commitment to reducing violence and keeping communities safe.

Project Horizon is helping our most vulnerable people in Northumberland to rebuild their lives through early intervention and practical support, therefore reducing reoffending and making our communities safer.

By building trust and working alongside partners, we are helping individuals make positive, lasting changes to create better futures for themselves.

Watch this **video** to see the impact of the project.





From powerful lived experience to shared learning and honest conversations, we were proud to attend the **Findaway Conference** alongside so many inspiring and courageous people who are making a difference.

A key theme was the importance of supporting family and friends, who often play a vital role in helping victims and survivors access support.

Having supported Findaway since it began, and as a founding steering group member, it was fantastic to see the impact the service continues to have.

Ensuring young people have access to the services and support they need is vital, so we welcome the Government's announcement that 3 of the 42 new **Young Futures Hubs** will be opening in Newcastle, Northumberland and South Tyneside.

By bringing together mental health support, training and employment opportunities, alongside a range of activities, the hubs will help young people build confidence, develop new skills, and make positive choices for their future.



ENGAGING YOUNG PEOPLE

Working with young people to develop solutions in tackling serious violence.



Throughout the summer, our team has been speaking with young people across the region, helping them understand how they can stay safe, and make positive choices.

Events such as **NE Youth's Community Day** in Throckley provided valuable opportunities to engage with children, young people and families, giving them a platform to share their experiences, concerns and ideas for creating safer communities.

Great to join recent **University Freshers Fairs** where students were able to share their views on safety, crime and the support available, as well as an opportunity to help them understand where to turn to for support if they ever need it.

By listening to students it helps ensure that our approach and resources, including dedicated Project Guardian patrols and prevention activity, is targeted to where it can have the greatest impact.





Recently recognised with an Excellence in Collaboration Award, Trainee Detective Week has engaged over 180 students in exploring the devastating impact and consequences of knife crime, while providing a safe space to ask questions, share views and discuss issues affecting young people.

Working with Northumbria Police, medical professionals, the Connor Brown Trust and our Education Team, students investigated the real-life murder of Connor Brown, gathered evidence, learned first-aid and built their case.

Over **400 Newcastle College students** are taking part in a new project exploring our Violence Reduction Unit's role in preventing serious violence.

Through our Violence Prevention Ambassadors Programme, students will complete the learning modules as well as carrying out their own research.

Working with our team and partners, they will develop skills, explore career opportunities and showcase learning at an exhibition later this year.



RAISING AWARENESS

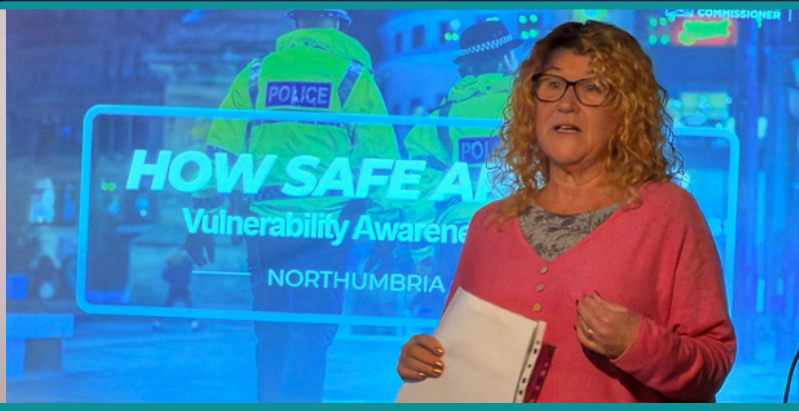
Register your interest using this form and we will contact you with future session dates.



Our **Violence Prevention Ambassadors programme** encompasses a series of e-learning modules to increase awareness, as part of wider efforts to tackle violent crime.

Become an Ambassador in your local area by completing the modules to gain insight into engaging young people at risk.





Care in the Chair awareness sessions recognise the very trusted relationships between hair and beauty professionals and clients, and how these connections can help people experiencing domestic abuse find the support they need.

Our **How Safe Are We? awareness sessions** help bar staff, security teams, and venue managers recognise signs of vulnerability, assess situations safely and appropriately and step in to support someone when they need it most.





Workplace Domestic Abuse Champion Training helps you to support your colleagues as 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.

Active Bystander Training helps you safely respond to harmful situations, including sexual harassment, and by intervening effectively, we encourage action, drive change, and help create safer environments for women and girls.

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