SUSAN DUNGWORTH
NORTHUMBRIA
POLICE & CRIME
COMMISSIONER

Northumbria Police & Crime Plan

Refresh
2026-29





Safer Streets: Stronger Communities











Contents

04 Foreword
05 Commissioner's Community Catch Up
06 Your Refreshed Priorities
07 My Role and Commitment
08 Message from the Chief Constable
09 Delivering the Plan for You
12 Day in the Life of Northumbria Police

My six priorities:

14 Engaged and Responsive Police Force
17 Crime and Anti-Social Behaviour
20 Serious Violence and Organised Crime
22 Violence Against Women and Girls
24 Hate Crime and Community Cohesion
26 Victims and Justice

28 Flagship Programmes
31 How I Hold Northumbria Police to Account
32 Measuring Progress
34 How We Spend Your Money

Foreword

As I introduce this refreshed Police and Crime Plan, I'm proud of the achievements we've made so far and all the good work we are keen to build on.

We've seen real progress, from reducing anti-social behaviour and increasing neighbourhood policing, to investing in victim support, prevention, and early intervention.

My ambition remains simple: safer communities, fewer victims, more offenders brought to justice, and better support for those affected by crime.

This isn't a new Plan, it's a refreshed one. It's been shaped by thousands of conversations through my Commissioner's Community Catch-Up consultation. Residents and partners have told us we're focused on the right priorities, while also highlighting emerging challenges as communities, crime, and policing continues to change.

And so, you'll notice we've updated the priorities, introduced new flagship programmes, and reflected the views of young people throughout.

While the role of the Police and Crime Commissioner will transition to a new body in 2028, my commitment to local communities remains unchanged. I am determined to make the most of the time ahead and ensure the progress we're making continues long into the future.



I'd like to thank Northumbria Police, our partners, my team, and everyone who took the time to share their views to help deliver safer streets and stronger communities for Northumbria.

S. E. D—

Susan Dungworth
Northumbria Police and Crime Commissioner

What's New?

Updated Priorities ✔

Flagship Programmes ✔

Young People's Input ✔

Commissioner's Community Catch Up

Since my election, I have prioritised getting out in the community, listening to victims, speaking to officers, and ensuring residents feel heard.

The Safer Streets and Stronger Communities Plan was developed when I took office in 2024 using feedback from residents and partners.

This continues to guide policing and community safety work across Northumberland, Tyne and Wear; however, it is important that I regularly review the priorities to ensure they still reflect the issues that matter most to our communities.

In June 2026, I launched my 'Commissioner's Community Catch Up' to shape the refresh of my Police and Crime Plan by capturing the feelings of communities across the region and to identify any new or emerging priorities. I have undertaken a variety of engagement opportunities including:

- Roundtables, including with multifaith and rural communities;
- Police engagement van days across the six local authorities;
- Surveys, events and meetings with residents including young people's workshops';
- A survey for partners in multi-agency forums.



Your Refreshed Priorities

Residents told me their priorities and what makes them feel safe, and this insight has identified emerging trends and new areas of concerns, ensuring the refreshed Police and Crime Plan has new focuses whilst retaining the ongoing priorities of the original Police and Crime Plan:

- **Engaged and Responsive Police Force –** With a new focus on neighbourhood policing, victim contact, and officer wellbeing.
- **Crime and Anti-Social Behaviour –** tackling electric motor bikes and scooters, safety on public transport, and adults taking/dealing drugs and drinking in public places
- **Serious Violence and Organised Crime –** With a new focus on working with partners to tackle illicit trade on our high streets.
- **Violence Against Women and Girls –** With a new focus on online crimes and behavioural change programmes to reduce harm to women and girls.
- **Hate Crime and Community Cohesion –** With a new focus on supporting our communities at times of heightened national tensions.
- **Victims and Justice** – With a new focus on perpetrators, reducing reoffending and diverting from custody.

Many residents and partners embedded support for young people in their responses, including providing preventative and diversionary services, as well as increasing deterrence to committing crimes. Throughout the priorities, I have included a 'Youth Focus' ensuring that young people are actively at the centre of conversations around community safety, and that Northumbria Police are proactive, rather than reactive, in supporting young people.

I am committed to working with the Chief Constable, and other partners, to focus on the priority areas outlined in this Plan and will regularly update you on the progress being made.



My Role and Commitment as PCC

I was elected by you, the public, to hold the Chief Constable and Northumbria Police to account. I am a voice for residents, making Northumbria Police answerable to the communities they serve.

I will make sure that Northumbria Police delivers on its commitment to keeping you, your family, and your community safe. This is also my priority, and this will be reflected in my responsibilities in hiring a Chief Constable, setting the Force's budget and strategic priorities, overseeing other areas of the local criminal justice system, and providing victim support services.

It continues to be my priority to also look ahead and support future generations, including preventing crime in young people through the important work delivered by my Violence Reduction Unit.

As your Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC), I commit to:

- **Listen to understand your issues and share information with you about the delivery of this plan.**
- **Hold the Chief Constable to account for the performance of Northumbria Police and making best use of resources.**
- **Be a visible Police and Crime Commissioner and stand up for people across Northumbria on local and national issues.**
- **Be open and transparent about the Forces' plans, performance and how money is spent.**
- **Lobby for the best funding for Northumbria Police.**





Message from the Chief Constable

I am incredibly proud to serve as Chief Constable of Northumbria Police and to lead the dedicated officers, staff and volunteers who work tirelessly every day to keep people safe and fight crime across our region.

Northumbria is home to strong, diverse and resilient communities, and it is a privilege to serve everyone who lives, works and visits here. Our commitment is clear: to provide the best possible service to the public and ensure our communities feel safe, supported and protected.

This refreshed Police and Crime Plan reflects the priorities and concerns raised by residents, young people, communities and partners from across Northumbria. Developed by the Police and Crime Commissioner, it provides a clear focus for our shared efforts to keep people safe, prevent harm and build stronger communities.

As Chief Constable, I am committed to leading Northumbria Police in delivering against these priorities and ensuring we provide the high-quality service the public rightly expect. Together, the six priorities set out in this Plan will support our work as we continue tackling crime and anti-social behaviour, preventing violence, supporting victims and maintaining public confidence in policing.

These priorities closely reflect the challenges our communities face and the work our officers, staff and volunteers undertake every day. We will continue to focus on preventing crime and harm, responding effectively when the public need us, supporting victims and pursuing those who cause harm.

To strengthen local policing, our neighbourhood commands are aligned with



local authority boundaries, helping to ensure policing is rooted in the communities we serve. This supports closer working with partners, a better understanding of local concerns and responses tailored to the different needs of our communities.

Effective policing is about more than responding to incidents. It is about building trust and confidence, preventing harm, supporting victims and working with others to address the underlying causes of crime and anti-social behaviour. We cannot achieve this alone. By working alongside the Commissioner, our partners and our communities, we can make a lasting difference.

I welcome the Commissioner's refreshed Plan and share her ambition for safer streets and stronger communities. As Chief Constable, I am committed to ensuring Northumbria Police supports the delivery of these priorities, while remaining responsive to emerging threats and fulfilling our wider local, regional and national policing responsibilities.

Together, we will continue working to provide a policing service that listens, responds and delivers for the people of Northumbria.

Vanessa Jardine
Chief Constable, Northumbria Police

Delivering the Plan for You

Working in Partnership

Partners bring their specialist skills to ensure the safety of communities. To prevent and reduce crime and anti-social behaviour, I will work with partners to respond to your priorities.

I will work with the community sector, local elected leaders, Community Safety Partners, criminal justice partners, the Local Resilience Forum, and other services including fire, ambulance and health to understand and respond to the causes of crime, Violence Against Women And Girls (VAWG), and anti-social behaviour to then ensure community concerns are met with a greater resource.

I value the support of a range of volunteer schemes across all areas of crime and justice, and I will work closely with the Northumbria Police and Crime Panel, welcoming their scrutiny.

Supporting the Delivery of National Policing Priorities

The Government's Safer Streets mission underpins the priorities of this plan.

Integral to this mission is an ambition to halve knife crime and halve violence against women and girls within a decade, and rebuild public confidence in policing by getting police back 'on the beat'.

Resources are set to receive a boost as Central Government funding for policing will increase, with additional funding for neighbourhood policing to help the delivery of our local plans. I support the Home Office's announcement of a new performance unit to help drive up performance and standards and welcome the role that PCCs will play in supporting the development of this framework.

A new 'National Centre of Policing' will help free up more time for officers and support them to get back out on the frontline raising standards and improving efficiencies.



Victims Commissioning and Grants

An important part of my role is to commission initiatives and services that prevent crime and disorder and help victims of crime in Northumbria.

To support victims of crime to recover from their experience, I will ensure that services are in place to meet their needs.

Looking forward, I will collaborate with our local authorities and health partners with a view to improve the co-ordination of commissioned services for victims of sexual violence, domestic abuse, and serious violence.

I have introduced my Commissioner's Community Fund, which takes money recovered from criminals and reinvests it into our neighbourhoods to create safer and stronger communities.

I will use this fund to provide small grants to support local voluntary and community groups that are working to improve the lives of people living in Northumberland, Tyne and Wear and contribute to delivering my Police and Crime Plan priorities.

Further details of my commissioning and grant funding can be found on my website.

Making the Best Use of Resources

I will ensure that Northumbria taxpayers money is well spent giving you the best value for money. On your behalf, I will monitor financial arrangements and receive quarterly budget monitoring information.

Working with the Chief Constable, I will ensure that suitable opportunities are identified for joint procurement exercises to save money where we can. I will also focus on ensuring that Northumbria Police have a well-managed sustainable estate and vehicles that enable them to deliver policing effectively.

I have the support of the Joint Independent Audit Committee and external and internal audit providers to ensure good financial and organisational governance of Northumbria Police and the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner. People are a resource too, and I will ensure that the Chief Constable invests in the psychological and physical wellbeing of officers, staff and volunteers so they are well trained and feel safe to work in challenging and demanding circumstances.

Opportunities will also be taken to further improve service delivery using better technological innovations and learning from best practice. Where possible, I will secure additional funding and continue to seek the best financial settlement from the government for policing in Northumbria.



Strategic Policing Requirement

All police force areas in England and Wales must demonstrate that they have the plans and capability to respond to seven national priorities, as currently identified by the Government. These priorities, contained within the Strategic Policing Requirement (SPR), are:

- Terrorism;
- Public disorder;
- Serious and organised crime;
- Child sexual abuse;
- Violence against women and girls;
- Civil emergencies;
- And national cyber security incidents.

As part of the SPR, Northumbria Police must show evidence of preparedness in the areas of capacity; capability; connectivity; consistency; and contribution. The Chief Constable and I must pay "due regard" to the SPR and ensure that Northumbria Police is ready to respond, in addition to normal business, if required to do so.

I must also ensure that sufficient funds are available for this to be achieved. I will hold the Chief Constable to account for Northumbria Police's ability to respond to these national priorities and meet the needs of the SPR. His Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary and Fire & Rescue Services will also continue to inspect the force's work in this area.

Day in the Life of Northumbria Police

1,509,800
People in Northumbria

645,414
Households in Northumbria

784
999 Calls

557
101 Calls

1,025
Digital Contacts

3,932
Police Officers

2,035
Police Staff

1,004
Incidents

373
Crimes

214
Volunteers

112
PCSOs

99
Specials

28,303
Miles Driven

























Northumberland
North Tyneside
Newcastle
South Tyneside
Gateshead
Sunderland

Priority:

Engaged and Responsive Police Force

Building Greater Trust and Confidence in Northumbria Police

I want Northumbria Police to:

- Engage with local communities to understand their needs so that everyone feels confident to report crime and share concerns.
- Respond to crimes such as domestic abuse, hate crime by listening to service experts and seldom heard voices.
- Have a well-trained and diverse workforce that is reflective of local communities.
- Ensure that all officers act in an ethical and professional manner, and are fair, impartial, and trusted by all.
- Make sure that communities know who their neighbourhood team is and are kept updated about work in their local area.
- Remain transparent with the public by ensuring crime data is accessible.
- Promote the wellbeing of police officers and staff to ensure they are supported serving our communities.

Responding to Your Concerns

I want Northumbria Police to:

- Answer and respond to 999 and 101 calls as effectively as possible ensuring that threat, harm and risk informs prioritisation.
- Tell you how to get in touch to report crimes and how you can share information by telephone and online options, including social media.
- Deploy officers and respond to you in the best way with response and investigations being a mix of face to face, video, and telephone conversations.
- Carry out investigations with a focus on victim care and safeguarding, and keeping victims informed in a timely way.
- Make sure you know how to complain if you are dissatisfied with the service you have received.
- Adopt a place-based focus when responding to concerns as areas possess their own unique challenges.
- Ensure victims receive follow-up and communication throughout their case, even if there are no updates.

What Young People Want:

- More opportunities to build positive relationships with local neighbourhood police officers based on trust, communication and mutual respect.
- Positive engagement so they don't feel judged or feel they have done something wrong, when appropriate.
- To be involved in finding solutions to problems in their area.





You said:

Policing where officers get to know their neighbourhoods and communities increases trust and confidence with the public.

Male, 65+, South Tyneside



You said:

The illegal and anti-social use of electric bikes and scooters is a rising problem.

Female, 35-44, Northumberland

Priority:

Crime and Anti-Social Behaviour

Anti-Social Behaviour

Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB)

I want Northumbria Police to:

- Respond to ASB as a priority and work with partners to prevent ASB in your community to make sure you feel safe and supported in public places.
- Ensure neighbourhood officers are equipped with the skills and tools to tackle ASB and crime, find solutions and provide support for vulnerable victims.
- Keep building on structured seasonal operations supporting coastal communities and city centres during busy periods.
- Work with partners to support people through substance abuse and homelessness that makes them vulnerable to committing or becoming a victim of crime.

Transport

I want Northumbria Police to:

- Work with public transport providers to tackle ASB and crime on the networks.
- Work with partners to ensure all frontline staff are fully trained to support and reassure passengers and are equipped with the tools, powers and support to do so.
- Engage with young people and vulnerable groups to improve feelings of safety and confidence in reporting concerns.

Motorbike-Related Crime and ASB

I want Northumbria Police to:

- Work with partners to identify where e-bike/motorbike disorder hotspots are and tackle ASB related issues together.
- Support the work of my office to ensure we are educating young people in schools, the Youth Justice System, parents and carers around e-bikes and motorbike misuse - covering the dangers and the law.
- Support me in lobbying the government for stronger legislation around the sale, supply and modification of motorbikes and e-bikes including action against retailers and online sites that sell non-compliant bikes and conversion kits.
- Continue to invest in drone technology to proactively tackle and track motorbike-related ASB and other criminal activity.

What Young People Want:

- Stronger action around people drinking alcohol or taking substances in public spaces, which makes them feel unsafe.
- More accessible and consistent youth provisions and opportunities - not just offered one day a week.



Crime

Rural Crime

I want Northumbria Police to:

- Ensure those living in rural areas know how to report to the police and feel supported when they do so.
- Talk to rural communities to understand and tackle theft, wildlife, and poaching offences.
- Develop innovative crime prevention tactics suitable for use in rural areas such as rural crime volunteers who encourage communities to report to the police.
- Share intelligence across borders to fight organised crime and prevent criminals from other areas targeting our countryside and work with the National Rural Crime Network.
- Work to reach isolated communities to raise awareness of victim support services.
- Commit to tackling waste crime and associated organised crime helping protect our communities and environment.

Roads Policing

I want Northumbria Police to:

- Promote safety and awareness around the fatal four - speeding, drink or drug driving, not wearing a seatbelt and using a mobile phone (including the filming of dangerous driving for sharing on social media platforms).
- Ensure that any new road safety issues are dealt with robustly to keep our roads safe.
- Work with local authorities and other partners to reduce harm on our roads caused by anti-social driving.
- Support efforts to lobby the government to increase investment in dangerous roads and junctions.
- Tackle uninsured and unlicensed driving through targeted enforcement, intelligence and vehicle seizures to make our roads safer.

Retail and Business Crime

I want Northumbria Police to:

- Make it easier to report incidents of business and retail crime.
- Support local businesses by responding to shop theft, assaults on retail workers, targeting repeat offenders, and carrying out effective investigations.
- Continue to engage with the retail sector to understand first hand experiences.
- Explore and develop the use of Restorative Justice in preventing shoplifting and supporting victims to recover from their experience.
- Build on the success of Operation Canvas and roll it out force-wide to improve reporting, intelligence sharing and help lead to faster prosecutions.

Online Fraud

I want Northumbria Police to:

- Work with partners to target those engaged in online crime, making arrests and recovering assets held by those criminals.
- Educate and promote awareness of the dangers of online fraud to reduce the risk of being a victim of this crime.
- Work with communities, businesses, and partners to provide a cyber protect service to educate and reduce the risk of harm.

Burglary and Other Acquisitive Crime

I want Northumbria Police to:

- Reduce the level of residential burglary in Northumbria.
- Reduce robbery and theft of motor vehicles and bikes by targeting repeat offenders and organised crime groups involved in this offending.
- Provide support for victims of crimes against property and land particularly those who are vulnerable and prevent them from being re-targeted.


Welcome
POLICE

Priority:

Serious Violence and Organised Crime

Serious Violence and Knife Crime

I want Northumbria Police and the Northumbria Violence Reduction Unit to:

- Work across borders to tackle drug related crime and exploitation, including county lines.
- Work collaboratively with partners to deter young and vulnerable people from being drawn into county lines and drug gangs.
- Continue raising awareness on how to spot the signs of county lines and build community resilience against the harm they cause.
- Continue using data and intelligence to respond to emerging drug trends such as synthetic opioids, to reduce harm to the public and support a regional, joined-up approach to substance misuse.

Serious and Organised Crime

I want Northumbria Police to:

- Work with regional and national partners to protect our communities and tackle serious and organised crime.
- Work with my office and partners to provide an Anti-Slavery Partnership to prevent modern slavery and human trafficking, including support for victims.
- Protect children from child sexual abuse and child sexual exploitation by raising awareness, increasing reporting, targeting perpetrators, and providing trauma informed support.
- Invest in technology to proactively manage risk related to online child abuse.
- Protect communities from economic crime, tackle fraud, illicit trade, and money laundering, and target criminals' assets.
- Work with partners to disrupt the sale of illegal tobacco, vapes, and counterfeit goods on our high streets.
- Work with partners to tackle the causes and impact of serious violence.
- Carry out robust enforcement action, targeting offenders and locations to disrupt criminal activity.
- Continue to work with the Violence Reduction Unit and partners to implement the public health approach, providing early opportunities to divert people of all ages from serious violence.

I want the Northumbria Violence Reduction Unit to:

- Convene the Serious Violence Duty and continue working with partners to deliver the Northumbria Serious Response Violence Strategy.
- Continue to deliver the public health approach to improve our shared response to tackling serious violence.
- Work collaboratively with partners to achieve the Government's mission in halving knife crime.
- Continue to provide interventions to divert, disrupt and support individuals involved, or at risk of being involved, in serious violence.
- Explore ways to offer young people pathways out of violence through training and employment opportunities.
- Support agencies working with young people to deliver prevention work in education and youth settings.



You said:

County lines is something happening around the streets where I live and I know that people who are vulnerable can be roped into county lines. I am worried for the safety of other people my age who maybe aren't aware of the consequences.

Female, Under 18, Gateshead

What Young People Want:

- Raised awareness of the causes and consequences of serious violence through education and impactful real-life case studies, helping young people make informed choices.
- Better education around vaping and how illegal and counterfeit products can connect to criminality.



Priority:

Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG)

Prioritise Prevention

I want Northumbria Police to:

- Work with partners to make sure women and girls are safe and feel safe from sexual violence and harassment in public places including transport systems and in the night-time economy.
- Work with partners to increase confidence to report VAWG crimes to the police through campaigns and awareness raising.
- Support my office in promoting work to tackle misogyny and sexism which are some of the root causes of VAWG.
- Ensure effective use of all available protection and prevention orders to safeguard victims of domestic abuse, sexual offences and stalking and harassment.
- Promote the Right to Ask and Right to Know about a current or ex-partner and whether they have a previous history of violence and abuse.
- Support my office and the Violence Reduction Unit working with those at risk of offending to help prevention and develop training resources to work with men and boys to build on male allyship.

Support Victim Survivors

I want Northumbria Police to:

- Treat victim survivors of rape, serious sexual assaults, domestic abuse and stalking with empathy ensuring access to the best support to meet their needs from the services commissioned by my office or others.
- Continue to explore options to provide support and to engage victims at the earliest opportunity, for example building on the success of domestic abuse specialists in the police control room.
- Support victims with the best protection and safeguarding throughout investigations in a timely manner.
- Ensure that Northumbria Victim and Witness Service (NVWS) is responsive to the needs of victim-survivors helping to maintain victim engagement through any criminal or court proceedings.

NORTHUMBRIA VICTIM & WITNESS SERVICE

What Young People Want:

- Stronger action to challenge misogyny, sexist comments and sexual harassment in schools, sports clubs and other places where young people spend their time.
- Help young people understand the impacts and consequences of online harassment, sexual messages, unwanted images and AI-generated deepfakes.
- Make public transport feel safer for young people, especially for those who are worried about travelling alone or at night.





You said:

Online sexual abuse is an emerging issue affecting young people. Activity should focus on those already displaying predatory behaviour.

Female, 45-54, Newcastle

Action Against Perpetrators

I want Northumbria Police to:

- Continue to strengthen investigations involving rape, serious sexual offences, and domestic abuse, ensuring more offenders are brought to justice.
- Support my office around the delivery of behavioural change programmes engaging men and boys to reduce harm to women and girls. As well as education and awareness around the risks of the manosphere and incel culture.
- Work with partners to provide the best response to stalking and harassment ensuring that alongside support for survivors; we are also targeting priority perpetrators causing the most harm.
- Increase usage of Stalking Protection Orders (SPOs) to better protect our stalking victims.

Creating Stronger Systems to Address VAWG

I want Northumbria Police to:

- Continue to listen to victim survivors to understand barriers to reporting or accessing support and ensure information is widely available.
- Support the work of my VAWG External Advisory Panel, responding to the voices of victim survivors and specialist VAWG organisations.
- Help shape my commissioning intentions to ensure a broad range of services and clear support pathways are in place for adult and child victim survivors.
- Drive the work with partners to improve the victim journey through the criminal justice system.
- Support the government's ambition to halve the number of victims of VAWG by focusing on reducing the number of repeat victims and prolific perpetrators.

Online VAWG

I want Northumbria Police to:

- Tackle online VAWG crimes and behaviours committed using technology such as apps and artificial intelligence (AI).
- Support my work lobbying Government and online platforms to tackle radicalisation and extreme misogyny online particularly around how young men and boys are being targeted with extreme harmful content.
- Support the work of my office to help young men recognise manipulation and harmful content online.

Priority:

Hate Crime and Community Cohesion

Preventing Hate and Providing Support for Victims

I want Northumbria Police to:

- Prioritise prevention through education and awareness campaigns around the causes and consequences of all hate crimes.
- Further develop their Hate Crime Champions scheme to strengthen communities in the fight against hate, giving victims another route to the right help and support.
- Identify hate at the earliest opportunity, and in cases where it overlaps with anti-social behaviour or other crimes, working with partners to understand and address community concerns.
- Undertake effective investigations to identify and bring offenders of hate crime to justice.
- Identify when misinformation and disinformation has been spread, and take action against anyone found to be responsible.
- Ensure officers and staff are trained to communicate empathetically with victims of hate crime and where needed connect them with victim support services.
- Provide reassurance to affected community groups in response to national hate-related incidents.

Community Engagement and Cohesion

I want Northumbria Police to:

- Work with more communities and partners to improve understand and encourage reporting of hate crime and make it easier and safe to do so.
- Engage and respond to communities to understand and identify community tensions at the earliest opportunity, ensuring that policing feels part of those communities, rather than something that is happening to them.
- Work with partners to protect people with protected characteristics from a range of harms, including hate crime, intolerance and extremism.
- Make communities and individuals active partners by building trust and listening to voices such as the Police Powers External Advisory Panel, the Independent Scrutiny and Oversight Board and the Hate Crime External Advisory Panel.

What Young People Want:

- Work to increase awareness of bullying and prejudice so young people have the understanding and confidence to challenge this safely.
- Education around hate crime and other forms of abuse on social media to help young people recognise misinformation and harmful language.





You said:

There needs to be more of an understanding on the definition of a hate crime so victims feel more confident to file a report and access support.

Male, 25-34, North Tyneside

Priority:

Victims and Justice

Victims First

Working with Northumbria Police and other victim services we will:

- Improve awareness of the support available for adult and child victims through the Northumbria Victim and Witness Service, and ensure it is easily accessible.
- Help shape my commissioning of specialist victim services so those at the greatest risk of harm receive the support that works best for them.
- Identify repeat victims and put in place safeguarding measures to protect them.
- Understand and respond appropriately to vulnerable victims of crime and missing people while being aware of neurodivergent or mental health needs.
- Ensure the voice of the victim is at the centre of service design and improvement.
- Closely monitor victim satisfaction rates and ensure victims are provided with regular updates in relation to their cases.
- Provide the opportunity for victims to explore restorative justice options that might help gain closure and lead to offenders understanding the impact of their actions.
- Work to increase restorative outcomes by using and investing in more restorative justice.

Criminal Justice System

As Chair of the Northumbria Criminal Justice Board, I work with criminal justice agencies to deliver system wide improvements and will:

- Work towards speedier justice for victims, identifying and resolving blockages where they exist making the process quicker in Northumbria.
- Promote the Victims Code of Practice and uphold victims' rights and entitlements.
- Reduce the number of victims who drop out during the criminal justice process by making it easier for them to give evidence in a way that suits their needs.
- Explore opportunities to increase the use of out of court resolutions to divert offenders away from the criminal justice system and prevent re-offending.
- Improve public awareness about the work of the criminal justice system to build trust and confidence.
- Work with perpetrators to address the causes of offending, reduce reoffending and prevent repeat harm.

What Young People Want:

- To feel more confident to report a crime as they feel nothing will be done and need reassurance about reprisals or being labelled a "grass".
- Mental health support to be readily available for young victims of crime affected by crime, trauma or victimisation.
- Services designed with young people, not just for them, so that support is accessible, relevant and responsive to their needs.





You said:

Out of court interventions can be more effective in preventing further offending and also providing quicker justice for the victim.

65+, Sunderland

Flagship Programmes

Introducing My New Flagship Programmes

Alongside our core priorities, I have identified three flagship priorities which are areas where I want to make a distinctive and lasting difference. They provide an opportunity for visible leadership, joined up efforts to tackle the root causes of harm and focus on prevention, while helping to change attitudes, behaviours and culture.

These are areas where I want to deliver tangible, measurable outcomes, bring partners together and use my influence and resources to create meaningful change — ultimately establishing a lasting legacy delivering achievements the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner can be known for.

Flagship: Hate and Cohesion



Recognising how hate crime has a significant impact on victims and families, this programme is designed to build trust, increase confidence in reporting, increase resilience and cohesion in communities and support victims, whilst enforcing consequences for those who commit hate crime.

Its core principles are:

- **Collaboration** - strengthening partnership working through established strategic forums and networks to deliver a partnership strategy for tackling hate crime and building cohesion.
- **Community Resilience** – use a bespoke Community Bridge Builder framework and events to strengthen local connections and upskill people within communities to create space to have difficult conversations in a healthy way that challenges hate and promotes cohesion and resilience.
- **Community Engagement and Perception** - delivering targeted campaigns that raise defining and raising awareness of hate crime, encouraging reporting and highlighting local specialist support for victims. The introduction of a new Hate Crime External Advisory Panel will mean those with lived experience and representatives can constructively challenge Northumbria Police's handling of hate crime cases.
- **Reporting and Enforcement** - we will improve reporting rates and justice outcomes through piloting an independent reporting pathway for victims of hate crime, promoting the existing Safe Reporting Centres and collaborating with Northumbria Police and partners to enhance publicity around positive enforcement outcomes.



Flagship: Women's Diversion From Custody (Prison)

Women make up a minority of those in the criminal justice system, yet many have experienced trauma, abuse, and multiple disadvantages that contribute to offending and reoffending. Many are also primary carers, meaning criminal justice involvement can have a significant impact on children and families.

Through my Women's Flagship Programme, I have taken a whole-system approach to identify opportunities for gender-responsive, trauma-informed interventions that can prevent women from progressing further through the criminal justice system and into custody.

This includes the Women's Conditional Caution pathway, which helps women address the underlying causes of their offending, and Northumbria's successful bid to establish a Women's Intensive Supervision Court. Providing an alternative to short custodial sentences, the court combines support, accountability and partnership working to reduce reoffending and improve outcomes for women while maintaining public safety.

Alongside colleagues in Durham and Cleveland, I have also continued funding for Nepacs' Early Days in Custody programme at HMP Low Newton, supporting women and their families during the critical first weeks in prison.

Looking ahead, my focus is on improving access to stable accommodation for women on release from prison and timely, trauma-informed support, recognising that housing is one of the most important factors in reducing reoffending. Ultimately, my aim is to reduce the number of women entering custody and help more women break the cycle of offending.

Flagship: Women's Safety In Public Places

Over 740,000 women and girls live in Northumbria, and many have told me they do not always feel safe in public spaces, including on public transport, in their local communities, online and within the night-time economy. In response, partners across policing, local authorities, transport providers and the voluntary sector have worked together to improve safety and tackle violence against women and girls (VAWG).

Our approach includes supporting Reclaim the Night activities, developing awareness campaigns and training, investing in Safe Havens and frontline support in the night time economy, improving understanding of VAWG in public spaces, tackling online misogyny, engaging young people and students, and bringing partners together through a shared Women's Safety Charter.

Our vision is for public spaces across Northumbria to be safe, inclusive and free from violence, harassment and fear for all women, girls and marginalised communities.

To achieve this, we will:

- Strengthen partnership working to improve safety and confidence.
- Prevent VAWG through early intervention, education and community engagement.
- Develop and promote effective approaches to tackling VAWG in public spaces.
- Increase awareness of the behaviours and attitudes that contribute to VAWG.
- Promote a public health approach that helps reduce harm and drives long-term change.

We want to see stronger prevention, improved reporting, better-informed responses from partners, and communities that understand VAWG and play an active role in challenging it. Ultimately, success will mean women and girls feel and are safer in public spaces, survivors have confidence to report incidents and access support, and public confidence in policing and partner responses continues to grow.



How I Hold Northumbria Police to Account

On your behalf, I regularly meet with the Chief Constable and her senior team as part of my scrutiny programme. These meetings examine and challenge the performance of Northumbria Police in delivering the priorities of my Plan. I also look at inspection findings to ensure that recommendations are implemented.

In 2025, I developed a new approach to scrutiny to hold Northumbria Police to account on behalf of communities as your Police and Crime Commissioner. This improved model is also informed by the findings of my External Advisory Panels, made up of community members and service professionals. This is channelled through my Accountability and Scrutiny Board which helps me ensure I am asking the Force the right questions about the most relevant issues.

Across the course of the year, each of my six priorities will be scrutinised twice with opportunities to revisit previous themes or to focus on other areas. This fluid approach allows me to direct my scrutiny to the areas of most importance and gives me flexibility to respond to emerging issues most important to you.

Each scrutiny report is presented at the Police and Crime Panel (available on my **website**), where members support and challenge my actions and decisions as Police and Crime Commissioner.

The Police and Crime Panel for Northumbria is administered by Gateshead Council. All information relating to the Panel can be found **here**.



Measuring Progress

A further element of the scrutiny programme is reviewing Northumbria Police's performance data. The Key Performance Indicators are set to align with both national requirements and the priorities of my Police and Crime Plan where my office review each measure within Northumbria Police:

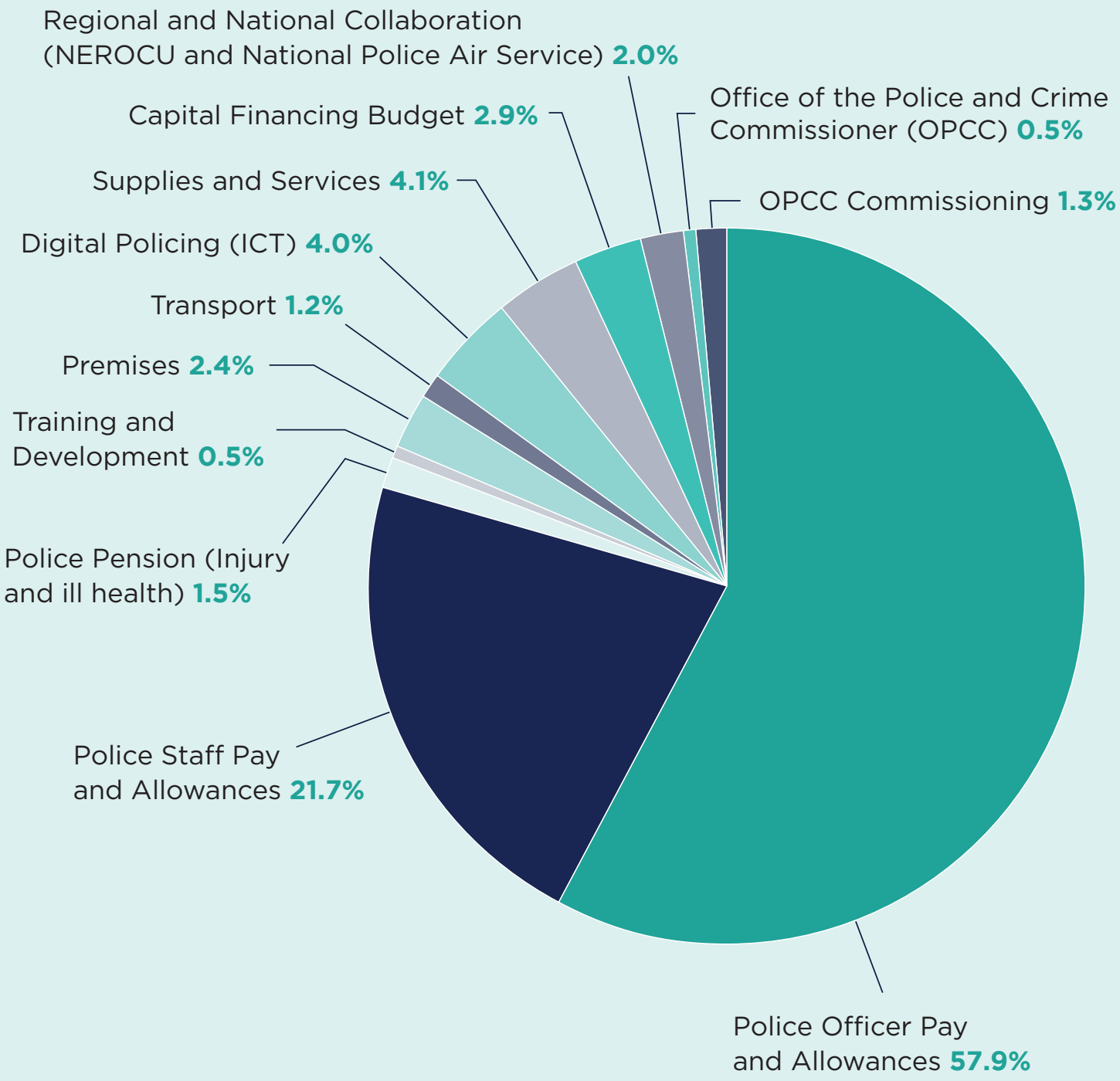
Measurement	Police and Crime Plan Priority
• Call handling • Response • Use of police powers • Public perception	Priority: Engaged and Responsive Police Force
• Total recorded crime and anti-social behaviour • Positive outcome rate • Victim satisfaction with services provided by Northumbria Police • Repeat victims and offenders	Priority: Crime and Anti-Social Behaviour
• Serious violence offences (including homicide) • Knife-enabled serious violence and hospital admissions	Priority: Serious Violence and Organised Crime
• Number of VAWG offences • Satisfaction with services provided to victim survivors of VAWG	Priority: Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG)
• Hate crime offences • Satisfaction with services provided to victims of hate crime	Priority: Hate Crime and Community Cohesion
• Victim satisfaction with services provided by Northumbria Police • Compliance with the Victims' Code of Practice	Priority: Victims and Justice






NORTHUMBRIA
POLICE

How We Spend Your Money



Our police need the right resources to deliver on your priorities and keep you and your community safe.

I will do all I can to make sure Northumbria Police has the resources it needs.

Northumbria Police receive two main sources of funding; grant income from central Government, and the part of Council Tax which is allocated to the police called the 'police precept'. Additional funding is sometimes made available by the Government to help encourage new ways of working.

We are always eager to explore innovation to deliver better services and to save public money and for this reason we are keen to bid for some of these extra resources. Funding we have received in response to bidding exercises has been used previously to deliver projects ranging from early youth intervention, reduction of ASB, and reducing reoffending.

Considering specific grants and income, the net revenue budget for Northumbria Police is £438 million. This pie chart shows the percentage allocation of gross expenditure across policing.

My Medium Term Financial Strategy describes the financial direction of my office and the force over a four year period. The strategy demonstrates an affordable position, balancing costs with available resources and provides an overarching framework for police budgets over the medium term and it can be found on my **website**.







SUSAN DUNGWORTH
NORTHUMBRIA
POLICE & CRIME
COMMISSIONER





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