SUSAN DUNGWORTH
NORTHUMBRIA
POLICE & CRIME
COMMISSIONER





Annual Report 2025/26



A few words from the PCC

My firm commitment to working with police and partners across Northumberland, Tyne and Wear to deliver safer streets and stronger communities is evident in this – my second annual report as your Police and Crime Commissioner.

It has been a year of real progress and improvements – anti-social behaviour reductions across all area commands being one - and our police officer numbers have been significantly boosted through the Neighbourhood Policing Guarantee. Our government's commitment to visible neighbourhood policing to deter, prevent and respond to crime in the local area supports my priority of ensuring we have an engaged and responsive police force.

It's also been a year where we have learned of big Government ambitions and impending changes – notably with the announcement that the role of PCC is to come to and in May 2028. As is evident from this report, until then nothing changes in the work my office is delivering - providing an important link between communities and policing. I will be working closely with Government and local partners to help shape what comes next, ensuring strong local scrutiny, accountability and continued support for victims.

This year alone we have been able to fund more specialist support for victims and have rolled out a range of initiatives to evaluate need, increase awareness and ensure support is accessible. There has been a real focus around education and prevention too with the number of violence prevention ambassadors trained up through the Violence Reduction Unit now totalling 303.



Another key highlight has been the continued success of Project Shield which has made a real difference tacking ASB and serious violence in targeted communities and across the transport network. Through Project Shield there has been additional resource to provide high visibility parter patrols, community engagement and problem-solving activities. Although the ASB Hotspot fund which financed the project was only short-term, I'm pleased to have drawn on other funding pots and negotiated contributions from all partnership members so our successful joint efforts can continue into the next year.

Finally, I want to thank everyone who has worked on this project and any of our other collaborations and initiatives this year – from supporting community safety and cohesion to tackling Violence Against Women and Girls – much work of which is detailed in this report. The impact of our efforts has been significant, and I look forward to building on this further to keep delivering safer streets and stronger communities for local people.

Susan Dungworth,
Northumbria Police and Crime Commissioner for Northumbria

Funding your Force

My role, as PCC, is to allocate finances to the Chief Constable to fund policing and support work to deliver my Police and Crime Plan.

For 2025-2026 the force received £401 million to fund crime fighting and public safety. We also secured an extra £1.9m for Northumbria through the Hotspot Action Fund allowing Project Shield to continue as well as a further £2.5m for Northumbria's Violence Reduction Unit, as part of Government's Safer Streets Mission. Although these additional funding pots are welcome, it continues to be a challenge to keep the force appropriately resourced, meet budgetary pressures and allow for some investment due to financial uncertainties.

At the start of the year, the precept decision raised an additional £5.925m of funding for policing in our area, helping us to invest in areas including ASB prevention, tackling fraud and online crimes, targeting offenders and preventing Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE), as well as increasing resourcing to help bring offenders to justice. Taxpayers in the Northumbria force area continue to pay considerably less towards policing than those elsewhere in the country. We will continue to work hard to balance the books to ensure our police force is both efficient and effective as we look ahead, as detailed in the Medium-Term Financial Strategy (MTFS).

2025-2026 budget spending:

Policing Services	Resource Allocation
Local Policing	42.5%
Investigations	12.4%
Dealing with the Public	10.6%
Public Protection	10.5%
Criminal Justice Arrangements	7.6%
Intelligence	6.8%
Operational Support	4.2%
Investigative Support	2.8%
Roads Policing	2.1%
Police and Crime Commissioner	0.5%
	100.0%

Strategic Policing requirement

As PCC, part of my role is aligning local policing efforts with the national agenda set by the Strategic Policing Requirements (SPR). Locally, we have continued to make sure we are prepared and adequately resourced to work collaboratively to tackle threats to national security and risks that need to be countered by countrywide policing capabilities.

The Home Office set Strategic Policing Requirement sets out current national threats as violence against women and girls (VAWG); terrorism; serious and organised crime (SOC); a national cyber incident; child sexual abuse (CSA); public disorder; and civil emergencies. As PCC I am responsible for holding the Chief Constable accountable for the force's response to the SPR ad ensuring it is effective and proportionate.

As part of my scrutiny process, I regularly receive reports that outline Northumbria's position in respect in respect of these national threats and I work closely with the Chief Constable to ensure we are using technology and data effectively, ensuring police have the right skills, and working with other organizations to solve problems, and ultimately keep people safe. Where challenges are identified the Chief Constable provides an overview of action to be taken by Northumbria Police to ensure the appropriate response.





Priority:

Engaged and Responsive Police Force

KEY ACHIEVEMENTS

Women in Policing

To help drive improvements in career progression, retention and resignation, the OPCC funded a Women in Policing Research Project and insights have been presented to the PCC and Senior Leadership Team to take forward.

Officer Numbers

In the year 2025/26, Northumbria Police reached a headcount of 3959 officers, with additional PCSOs and special constables bolstering the Force. In comparison to 2019, where police officer numbers in Northumbria dropped to 3129, the PCC has supported the significant increase in police visibility.

NOTABLE UPDATES

Specialised Neighbourhood Roles

In response to the Government's Neighbourhood Policing Guarantee, new recruits now have the unique option to specialise in neighbourhood policing when they enrol on the two-year training programme. The PCC is committed to developing the specialist skills needed for the community policing role.

Rural Crime

The PCC welcomed an £800,000 funding boost for the National Rural Crime Unit and the National Wildlife Crime Unit to enhance cross-force collaboration, bolster the use of technology and data, and improve the ability to target organised crime groups involved in these illegal activities.

SCRUTINY AND ACCOUNTABILITY

Training Priorities

Northumbria Police have implemented training to focus on service improvement, with the PCC monitoring impact. Current training priorities include raising investigation standards, violence against women and girls, operational systems and leadership development, public and personal safety training, and public order training. Diversity, Equality and Inclusion training remains a priority, with a full day's training in the initial student officer course and mandatory training packages for all in the organisation.

Community Engagement

During the disorder in 2024, the Force identified gaps in understanding the needs of some communities. A HMICFRS report identified that there was insufficient understanding of tension within communities nationally. The PCC has been updated on Northumbria Police's progress in this area and is confident the updated Engagement Strategy and Delivery Plan will provide improved confidence, community engagement and understanding.

Priority:
Crime and Anti-Social Behaviour

KEY ACHIEVEMENTS

ASB Case Reviews
These involve reassessing repeated ASB complaints to ensure appropriate action has been taken. The reviews cover behaviours causing or likely to cause nuisance, annoyance, harassment, alarm or distress. This year, the OPCC has brought a range of agencies together to find resolutions for 58 ASB victims who met the threshold for an ASB Case Review. The most common learning opportunities were around victim impact, where the cumulative impact had not been recognised prior.

Project Shield
Through Project Shield, the OPCC provided strategic governance, oversight and coordination of an impactful force-wide project, helping deliver significant ASB reductions in hotspot areas during 2025. The project benefited from high visibility patrols and a well-recognised brand identity. It also delivered Problem Oriented Partnership (POP) training described as 'transformational' in how partners work together to address local issues.

NOTABLE UPDATES

Continuation of Project Shield
Determined to build on the success of Project Shield, despite the ASB Hotspot funding coming to an end, the PCC used other funding pots and negotiated contributions from all partnership members to allow the initiative to continue in a restructured way using the same joint efforts and targeted approach.

Coastal Crime Crackdown
As part of the Safer Street's Summer Initiative, Operation Coastwatch was rolled out in North Tyneside. The dedicated police and partner operation delivered a 47% fall in ASB in its first 3 months (May - July), compared with the previous year and incidents on the Metro transport network dropped by 74%.

SCRUTINY AND ACCOUNTABILITY

Retail Crime
Following a series of retail roundtables hosted by the PCC, she sought an update from Northumbria Police about the work being done to improve retail crime reporting and investigations. The force has developed a 4P (Prepare, Prevent, Protect and Pursue) plan to improve investigations, purchased new software to support large file transfers, and launched a new crime initiative as part of the Winter of Action. This involved fast-tracking shoplifting cases to court quicker thanks to a streamlined reporting and prosecution tool under the name of Operation Canvas.

Safer Streets Summer Initiative (SSSI)
Northumbria Police launched an SSSI plan around keeping 17 key locations in town centres and hotspots safe. These were based on local demand and intelligence, tackling key local issues such as anti-social behaviour, shop theft and vandalism and giving enhanced visibility. Collaborative efforts included the OPCC's Project Shield funding a Trojan Bus initiative where plain clothed officers were deployed on public transport. Focussed deterrence workers were also funded through the Violence Reduction Unit to provide diversionary activities for those involved in serious violence and ASB.

Priority:
Serious Violence and Organised Crime

KEY ACHIEVEMENTS

Violence Prevention Ambassadors
303 participants have joined the growing network of Violence Prevention Ambassadors, who have completed modules on knife crime, joint enterprise, youth violence, and hidden harms. The initiative is building a strong network of frontline staff, youth workers, and community leaders equipped with the knowledge and tools to intervene early and prevent violence before it escalates.

Local Youth Fund
Through the VRU's Local Youth Fund, £14,000 was distributed to fund projects led by young people, from support groups to an outdoor gym. The projects aimed to prevent serious violence, promote positive choices, and improve local areas, all while showcasing the drive and creativity of young people determined to make a lasting difference in their communities.

NOTABLE UPDATES

Vulnerability Training
The Violence Reduction Unit launched a programme of activity over the winter months, including vulnerability training to empower those working on the frontline of the night-time economy to recognise vulnerabilities and step in to offer support. Bringing together police, schools, businesses, youth services, and community groups, planned activities have focused on tackling the root causes of violence and preventing harm through partnership working.

County Lines and Exploitation
Developed by the Violence Reduction Unit, a free course was launched to give youth workers, community organisations, and frontline staff, the knowledge and confidence to identify when children and vulnerable adults may be being exploited. The course is a powerful example of how we can support partners to take a proactive and informed approach to tackle the root causes of serious violence.

SCRUTINY AND ACCOUNTABILITY

Child Sexual Exploitation
Northumbria Police acknowledge the findings of the Baroness Casey audit on child sexual exploitation, which emphasises the need for honesty, transparency, and prioritising children's safety. The PCC has been updated on the various recommendations that are being implemented swiftly, such as investing and developing specialist resources in coordination with partners including the recruitment of a new team which has an authorised establishment of 35 officers. The PCC is satisfied that the additional funding is being utilised effectively to fund additional interventions, enhance resources, and improve outcomes.

Fraud
The PCC regularly meets with partners at the North East Regional Organised Crime Unit (NEROCU) to keep updated on developments in fighting serious and organised crime. Through Operation Henhouse, partner agencies took part in a coordinated campaign of fraud enforcement activity, resulting in more than 550 arrests and £18 million in cash and assets seized across the country.

Priority:
Violence Against Women and Girls

KEY ACHIEVEMENTS

Transport Safety
This year, the Safer Transport Northumbria initiative, set up by the OPCC, established a VAWG on public transport working group which brings together Northumbria Police, British Transport Police, North East Strategic Mayoral Authority, Nexus, Northern Rail, Stagecoach, Go North East and Arriva together. Together partners are working to take a joined up approach to tackle VAWG.

Training
Training and prevention have remained a key focus over the last year. Through the Northumbria OPCC's Active Bystander Training, delivered with partners, 180 people have been trained across 15 courses. The programme helps participants recognise and safely challenge inappropriate behaviour, supporting wider efforts to prevent violence against women and girls.

NOTABLE UPDATES

Dogs Trust Appeal Support
The PCC supported the Dogs Trust with a festive publicity campaign to promote the Freedom Project, which helps people escaping abuse find safe temporary homes for their dogs – they received 71 volunteer applications in just two months.

Project Vigilant
Project Vigilant a joint effort by the North East Regional Organised Crime Unit (NEROCU) and all three North East Police force and Police and Crime Commissioners and has achieved a series of successes in its first year. The initiative is aimed at targeting perpetrator behaviours in the night-time economy, which are often displayed before a sexual offence, spiking or theft takes place. A total of 42% of the individuals identified and stopped by officers during the most recent deployment had previous links to offences of violence against women and girls.

SCRUTINY AND ACCOUNATBILITY

Safe Haven Van
Several nighttime economy focussed activities and operations exist with the overarching aim of reducing harm to women and girls and safer spaces. The Community Safety and Engagement Van, widely known as the Safe Haven, had a welcome refurbishment thanks to £20K in funding made by the PCC. Monthly and annual analysis is undertaken in relation to the users of the Safe Haven Van so mechanisms and tools of support and signposting can be adjusted accordingly.

Northumbria Stalking Interventions Programme (NSIP)
The Northumbria Stalking Interventions Programme (NSIP) is a multi-agency project involving collaboration between police and partners. It raises awareness of stalking within the region, upskills staff, addresses victim support and responses to stalking and ensures an enhanced multi-agency response to the highest risk stalking perpetrators. Having a specialist stalking service in our region puts us ahead of the curve compared to many other areas in the country. Funding for the NSIP trial has been extended for a further year which will provide improved evaluation of delivery, benefits and outcomes.

Priority:
Hate Crime and Community Cohesion

KEY ACHIEVEMENTS

Anti-Racism Campaign
The PCC is one of a handful of early adopters for the North East Anti-Racism Coalition campaign committed to challenging racism through practical actions and to encourage community cohesion, all to work towards a more inclusive, safer community for all.

Hate Crime Awareness Week
For Hate Crime Awareness Week, the PCC funded a report from Out North East that highlights the real experiences of LGBTQ+ people across the region. The PCC continues to strengthen links with organisations like Out North East - investing in education and awareness, and improving reporting pathways and training across policing and beyond.

NOTABLE UPDATES

Migrant Myth Busters
In collaboration with the PCCs for Durham, Cleveland, and Northumbria, a powerful new online resource was launched to challenge misinformation and promote understanding about migration. The launch aimed to dispel harmful myths, challenge division, and reduce community tensions following rising reports of hate crime across the region.

Commissioner's Community Fund
Through the Commissioner's Community Fund, a share of £114,820 was awarded to 27 community groups from across Northumbria to develop and deliver projects that leave a positive impact on the local community. Some of the money used within this fund has been recovered by Northumbria Police under the Proceeds of Crime Act, ensuring that money taken from criminals is reinvested into the communities it once harmed.

SCRUTINY AND ACCOUNATBILITY

Hate Crime
The OPCC continues to be represented on the Community Tension Monitoring Groups for each local authority to strengthen the response to hate crime. New training is being developed to address Hate Crimes committed within Mental Health Hospitals, to support police officers and key partners such as hospital staff and the Crown Prosecution Service.

Enhanced Reporting Centres
In Northumbria, 40 Safe Reporting Centres have been established, included an enhanced reporting centre which the PCC launched in Gateshead. The first in the region, the pilot service provides a private, supportive environment for victims to report hate crime and receive tailored assistance throughout the criminal justice process.



Priority:
Victims and Justice

KEY ACHIEVEMENTS

Student Engagement
The OPCC has developed and is delivering on a student engagement plan for the 2025/26 academic year to ensure student experiences inform the OPCC's approach to tackling crimes that affect and worry them including VAWG, theft, fraud, and digital abuse. Collaboration has taken place on a number of engagement events including Freshers 2025, Reclaim the Night, Newcastle SU 'Bring Your Own Boundaries' and Russell Group Student Union Residential Weekend in addition to multi-agency meetings to address NTE crime reporting pathways for students.

Victims Survey
A region wide victim needs assessment was completed to help identify demands, needs, and trends – with a particular focus on ensuring we captured the voices of the victim. Some of the key findings from the victim needs assessment identified the region's Black and Minority Ethnic communities were the least well-served in terms of available provisions and that there was a gap in the available support for teenage victims of domestic abuse. This data and information helped shape the Supporting Victims Programme funding priorities for the year ahead and has enabled the commissioning of culturally specific services and services who have reduced their age limits to support those young people suffering teenage relationship abuse.

NOTABLE UPDATES

Video Resource to Support Victims
The office produced a new video resource launched by the Local Criminal Justice Board to support domestic abuse victims through the criminal justice system. The video is a response to feedback from victims who have said they want more information to better understand the process and support available.

Victims Services Directory
Victims in the Northumbria Police force area can now search for specialist support at the click of a button through a new search tool built into the PCC's website. This was part of the PCC's commitment to improving awareness of the support available for adult and child victims and ensuring it is easily accessible.

Supporting Victims Programme
The PCC launched a new Supporting Victims Programme offering funding to help boost support for victims of crime across the Force area. It's hoped the fund, which will run from 2026 to 2029, will give local services the stability they need to plan ahead and provide quicker, better support for victims.

SCRUTINY AND ACCOUNTABILITY

Victims' Code of Practice
The last PEEL inspection identified that although the force closely monitors adherence to the Victims' Code, it needed to improve its' compliance, and the recording of victims' wishes and so the PCC has sought regular updates to ensure progress. Northumbria Victim and Witness Service (NVWS) has made improvements in accessibility and victim support, notably through enhancements to the Victim Needs Assessment (VNA). There have been significantly improved referral rates to NVWS from 13% to a steady 25%.

Supporting Children and Young People

Support pathways for children and young people who are victims of crime need to be clear and used effectively. In 2025, the Northumbria Police force area received an additional £178,976.94 of Government funding to deliver support locally to children and young people affected by domestic abuse - a 25% increase compared to the previous year's funding helping fund a range of local services. The Office also funds initiatives through the VRU such as the 'Safe Return, Sunderland' scheme that identifies children who are at the start of their 'missing' journey and intervention is given as early as possible, with a view to diverting them from harm.





Holding to account

On behalf of communities, the PCC regularly meets with the Chief Constable and her senior team to examine and challenge the performance of Northumbria Police in delivering the PCC's Police and Crime Plan.

To ensure that communities are updated on what the OPCC and Northumbria Police are doing on their behalf, the PCC publishes performance information quarterly.

Scrutiny

The PCC has continued to strengthen scrutiny over the past year, ensuring robust and transparent oversight of the Chief Constable.

A key development has been the enhanced role of community engagement in shaping this work, with feedback from residents and stakeholders directly informing the questions put to the Chief Constable. It is an absolute priority for the PCC that scrutiny remains grounded in the concerns and priorities of the public.

These insights have informed a refreshed scrutiny process, to enable more focused, evidence-led discussions and strengthened the PCC's ability to hold the Chief Constable to account effectively.

Volunteers

There are a variety of volunteers who undertake work on behalf of the Commissioner. They make a valuable contribution to the PCC's role in scrutinising the Chief Constable by providing their expertise, support and advice.





CASE STUDY:
Independent Custody Visitors

Independent Custody Visitors are members of the local community that visit police stations unannounced to check on the treatment of detainees, the conditions in which they are being held, and ensure that their rights and entitlements are being observed.

In 2025/26, 92 visits to Custody were undertaken with 313 detainees visited.

The Independent Custody Visitor Association runs a Quality Assurance Framework (QAF) which is a set of criteria designed to help schemes benchmark their work and strive for excellence. This was the third time that Northumbria has taken part in the QAF, and the PCC is pleased once again to receive the Gold award which is a credit to the hard work of our ICVs.

CASE STUDY:
Dog Welfare Visitors

Independent Dog Welfare Visitors are members of the public who observe, comment and report on the condition of the police dogs, including their means of transportation whilst on duty.

In 2025/26, 20 visits were undertaken to see 114 police dogs in both kennels, training venues, and at local stations to provide independent external scrutiny of the care and treatment of police dogs in the Northumbria force area. On behalf of the PCC, volunteers ensured that procedures and the care provided is ethical, humane and transparent in accordance with the Animal Welfare Act 2006.

Dog Welfare Visitors have supported consultation on plans for a new Northumbria Police kennel facility that is currently in the planning stages.

Dog Welfare Visitors have worked with the Dogs Trust to shape the questions that are used during their visits.

HMICFRS

Since 2018, His Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabularies and Fire & Rescue Service (HMICFRS), have issued a single report to forces with gradings in the areas inspected. The inspection programme looks at evidence from its inspection, and is used to assess the effectiveness, efficiency, and legitimacy of the police.

When a report has been published, the Chief Constable advises the PCC on what actions will be taken following the report recommendations.

All reports and responses to the PEEL (Police Effectiveness, Efficiency and Legitimacy) Inspections are uploaded to the PCC's **website**.

Listening to You

The PCC is committed to listening to communities, to understand their issues and champion their voices. These insights were valuable in shaping the PCC's Police and Crime Plan, and regular engagement continues to inform the ongoing work and priorities of the OPCC.

It remains an absolute priority for the PCC to get out in the community, listen to victims, speak to officers, and ensure residents feel heard.

External Advisory Panels

The PCC hosted External Advisory Panels to capture lived experience through partner organisations and victims' voices. The Panels aim to improve transparency, accountability and community relations through opening police practices to communities for closer examination. It is a priority for the PCC that communities have the opportunity to provide constructive oversight and challenge, this is then used to improve service delivery.

For 25/26, the panels focused on reviewing a range of case studies, such as:

- Tech-enabled Violence Against Women and Girls (covering the sharing of intimate photos without consent)
- Reviewed Body Worn Footage for both stop and search and use of force
- Reviewed dip sample cases for use of force and restraint in custody

Consultations

The PCC regularly seeks the views of residents, including when setting the force budget on behalf of communities to ensure police officers and staff have what they need to keep us safe.

In 25/26, the PCC launched a public consultation, both online and through telephone asking residents whether they would support an increase to their police precept contribution. This sought resident's feedback on a range of proposals, including an increase to the precept or to maintain the current contribution.

Surveys

The PCC conducts surveys to not only understand people's views and experiences, but to identify where existing services are effective and accessible, as well as highlighting areas for improvement by identifying any unmet or emerging needs.

The PCC launched a survey to understand the impact that anti-social behaviour is having on victims in Northumbria, to ensure that the right level of support, protection, and action is accessible to residents.

The PCC also launched the Northumbria Victims of Crime Survey to hear the views of adults and young people affected by crime, as well as the service providers and professionals who help victims and survivors cope and recover from their experience. The insights helped shape future support services in the local area and ensure those at the greatest risk of harm receive the support that works best for them.



Working with Partners

CASE STUDY:
Local Criminal Justice Board – the Domestic Abuse Retention Plan

It's important that victims and witnesses feel fully supported during their criminal justice journey and stay engaged with the process until justice is delivered.

The Northumbria Local Criminal Justice Board (LCJB), chaired by the PCC, was concerned by the number of victims, particularly of domestic abuse, choosing not to progress through the criminal justice system. To address this, the Board produced a Domestic Abuse Retention Plan. The strategic aim for the group is to resolve the issues and barriers such that victims experience, helping reduce the number of victims who withdraw from the criminal justice process, thereby increasing confidence and delivering better justice outcomes.

Consultation work identified the need for the following: improved timescales, better criminal justice outcomes, positive awareness raising around available support, trauma informed empathetic responses and better clarity and communications for victims. Partners all recognised the need to operate as 'one' criminal justice system – streamlining the victim experience.

As part of the plan, various improvements are under way. One such improvement has been the development of a court sitting policy that prioritises taking into account victim and witness needs around employment, childcare and sharing a property with an offender. Provisions have also been made so there are separate court entrances for victims/witnesses and offenders, and that these are clearly explained to the victim, in operation and used.

Another key area of work has been the development of new video resource, produced by the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner, to highlight the positive ways that partners across the criminal justice system can support the victim. Professionals including Northumbria Victim and Witness Service, CPS, Northumbria Police and Court IDVAs shared useful supportive information to help reassure victims about the experience that lies ahead. The video was designed as a resource for DA support workers and IDVAS to use and was also promoted to the public in the media and across social channels.

"The very idea of going to court can feel scary, but it doesn't have to be a total unknown. Knowing what to expect will help victims feel calmer, more confident, and in control – and that's what we all want. People who feel supported are far more likely to stay engaged with the process."

– PCC Susan Dungworth

CASE STUDY:
Local Criminal Justice Board – the Domestic Abuse Retention Plan

Project Shield was launched by PCC Susan Dungworth in 2024 to bring police and partners together to tackle crime and ASB in hotspot areas. The project has gone from strength to strength helping to keep town centres across the force area safe using high visibility patrols, collaborative problem solving and innovative policing tactics.

One such tactic, regularly rolled out in 2025, has been the Trojan Bus. The bus features plain clothed officers on board what appears to be a regular bus service, but it is in fact a staged service on route to pick up ASB offenders at bus stops and stations - helping officers make any necessary arrests.

As well as the decoy bus, the project involves proactive policing and community engagement to improve feelings of safety and reduce crime.

The decoy bus has been rolled out multiple times in partnership with Stagecoach and has been a key activity during the Force's Winter of Action and Safer Streets Summer Initiative.

The destination of the bus has been varied, as it is dispatched as a direct response following complaints from local residents or public transport users. Recent deployments have covered Gateshead, South Shields, Sunderland, and Alnwick.

Early 2026 data shows that across all the hotspot areas ASB has fallen by an impressive 24% thanks to high visibility patrols and strong partnership work driven through Project Shield.

In March 2026, the operation was extended to the Metro with plain clothes police deployed on the system aimed at bringing down acts of crime and ASB.

During the first Trojan Metro operation, 1,000 people passed through knife arches at stations, while police engaged with over 200 people and businesses about the operation. Officers made six arrests of individuals on suspicion of being drunk and disorderly, breach of bail and failing to appear before court. Investigations are ongoing around other recorded crimes for public order offences, assault and possession of cannabis. Feedback from the public on the night was overwhelming positive and the operation received widespread media coverage.

"The Trojan tactic is one of many strategies being used by officers to tackle crime and ASB. It shows we are listening and trying a range of methods to catch those responsible and put a stop to behaviours that people understandably have had enough of in their area."

– PCC Susan Dungworth

Working with Partners

Advisory Panels and Stakeholder Engagement

The office continues to hold advisory panel including those focused on victims and survivors, equality and inclusion and young people. Panels have met regularly helping inform priorities, commissioning decisions, victim services and police performance.

Over the last year the PCC has also convened in-person round tables covering topics such as VAWG and retail crime. There have also been regular stakeholder forums and boards with partners from policing, local authorities, criminal justice agencies and the voluntary sector to support collaborative problem-solving on complex and emerging issues.

The PCC has continued to engage proactively with councillors and MPs through attendance at full council meetings, written briefings and updates as required, and timely responses to enquiries - ensuring transparency and collaboration on local policing priorities.

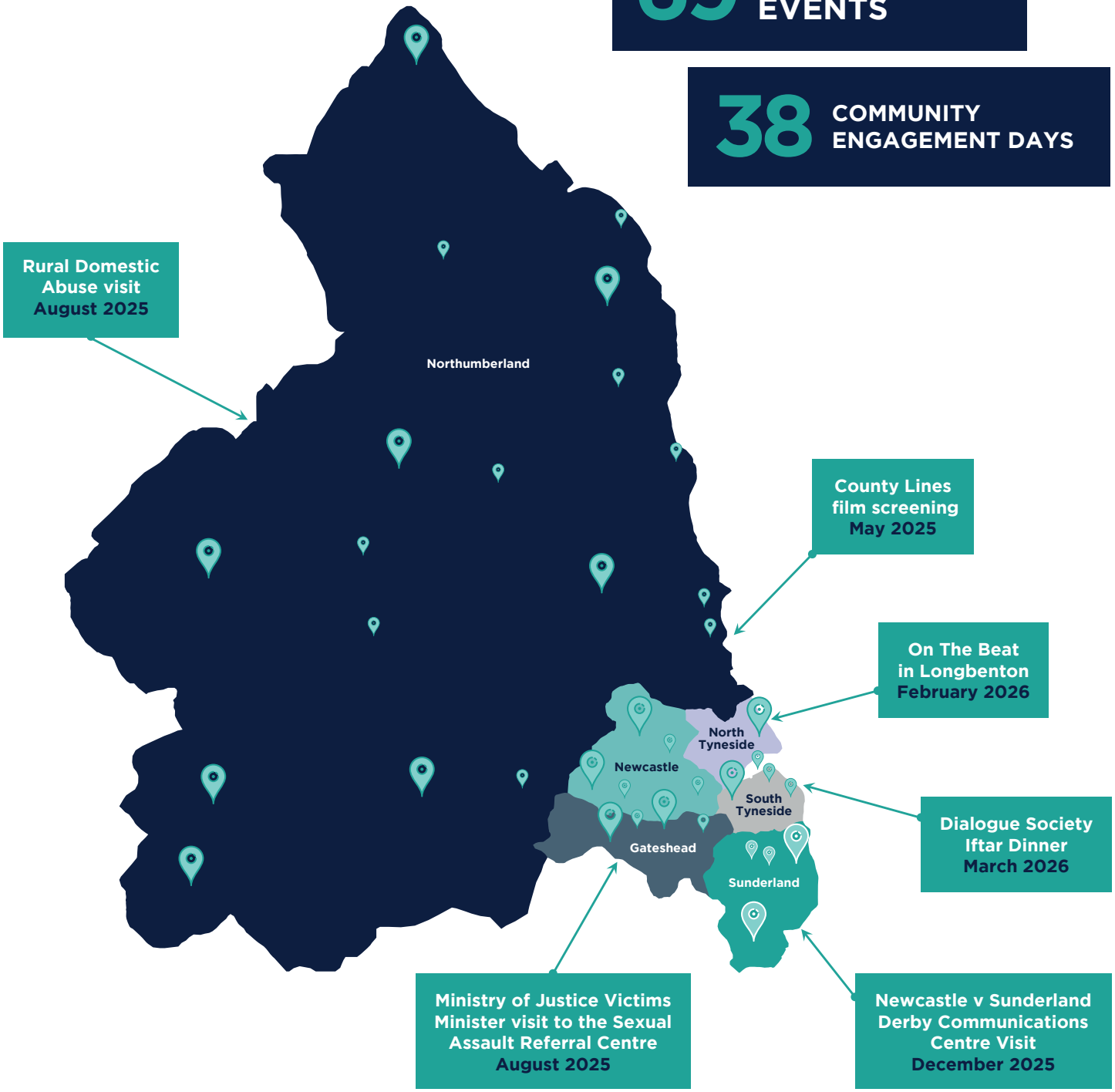


Delivering for everybody

154 VISITS

69 PARTNERSHIP EVENTS

38 COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT DAYS



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