

NORTHUMBRIA POLICE AND CRIME PANEL AGENDA

Tuesday, 24 October 2023 at 2.00pm in the Wickham Room, Gateshead Civic Centre

From the Clerk, Sheena Ramsey

Item	Business
1.	<p>Membership of the Northumbria Police and Crime Panel</p> <p>Councillor Peter Lovatt has replaced Councillor Karen Robinson as a representative of Newcastle City Council on the Panel.</p>
2.	<p>Apologies</p>
3.	<p>Minutes (Pages 3 - 6)</p> <p>The Panel is asked to approve the Minutes of the last meeting held on 12 September 2023 (attached).</p>
4.	<p>Feedback from National and Regional Events</p> <p>Members are asked to give feedback on issues relevant to the Panel.</p>
5.	<p>Complaints Against the Police and Crime Commissioner - September 2023 (Pages 7 - 8)</p> <p>Report of the Chief of Staff and Monitoring Officer (attached).</p>
6.	<p>Delivery of the Police and Crime Plan - Fighting Crime (Pages 9 - 54)</p> <p>Report of the PCC (attached).</p>
7.	<p>Police and Crime Commissioner's Annual Report 2022/23 (Pages 55 - 72)</p> <p>Report of the PCC (attached).</p>
8.	<p>Date and Time of the Next Meeting</p> <p>Tuesday, 12 December 2023 at 2.00pm in Gateshead Civic Centre</p>

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NORTHUMBRIA POLICE AND CRIME PANEL

12 September 2023

PRESENT:

Gateshead Council	Councillors A Douglas and P Maughan
Newcastle City Council	Councillor Sathian
North Tyneside Council	Councillor T Mulvenna
Northumberland County Council	Councillors C Horncastle and G Stewart
Sunderland City Council	Councillor P Stewart
Independent Member	Mr J Klajn

ALSO IN ATTENDANCE:

Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner for Northumbria

K McGuinness	- Police and Crime Commissioner for Northumbria (PCC)
R Durham	- Chief of Staff
A Pearson	- Director of Planning and Delivery
R Snaith	- Director of Commissioning and Policy

Gateshead Council

A Simmons-Mather	- Representing the Clerk to the Panel
B Wilson	- Democratic Services

APOLOGIES: Councillors K Robinson (Newcastle City Council), C Burdis (North Tyneside Council), J Foreman and J Welsh (South Tyneside Council), C Rowntree (Sunderland City Council) and Mr Kundi

9. MEMBERSHIP OF THE PANEL

It was clarified that Councillor Foreman remained as a representative of South Tyneside Council on the Panel although Councillor Ellison was currently covering some of his duties.

RESOLVED - That the information be noted.

10. MINUTES

RESOLVED - That the Minutes of the last meeting held on 6 June 2023 be approved as a correct record.

11. FEEDBACK FROM NATIONAL AND REGIONAL EVENTS

There were no national and regional events reported.

RESOLVED – That the information be noted.

12. COMPLAINTS AGAINST THE POLICE AND CRIME COMMISSIONER – APRIL – AUGUST 2023

In accordance with the agreed procedure, an update report about the complaints and purported complaints against the PCC and every conduct matter recorded by the Monitoring Officer between April - August 2023 was submitted.

RESOLVED - That the information be noted.

13. DELIVERY OF THE POLICE AND CRIME PLAN – IMPROVING LIVES

The PCC submitted a thematic report on improving lives setting out the aims to support this core theme and updates on the work being undertaken in regard to the two priorities support for victims and tackling domestic abuse and sexual violence in the Police and Crime Plan. Northumbria Police and Crime Plan core performance data was also provided.

The PCC had written to the Home Secretary after being informed that the Home Office will no longer be funding two existing key projects. The first project Operation Cloak proactively targets men who seek to take advantage of women in vulnerable situations in the Night Time Economy. In the last 12 months, there have been 700 patrols, 821 policing interventions and 62 arrests. The second project saw extra police, security personnel and youth workers deployed across the transport network to tackle rising ASB. Operation Princess has seen falls in theft offences (78%) and public order (68%) on key sections of the Metro network. The PCC should be allowed to invest where there is proven success, based on local needs. There was too much reliance upon one-off funding announcements in which Government ministers decide what is best for people living hundreds of miles away. The Home Secretary was asked to reverse the decision not to fund existing Safer Streets projects.

The cuts in mental health services had impacted on the police as it was tying up a lot of the force's resources. There had been an alarming rise in concerns and incidents and mental health professionals were needed not the police. Specialist 999 contact centre staff were being trained to help alleviate the pressure but this was not a long-term solution.

Rachel Snaith gave a presentation which included: introducing our Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG) Strategy 2023-25, Priority 1: Prioritising Prevention, Priority 2: Supporting Victims-Survivors, Priority 3: Action Against Perpetrators, Priority 4: Creating Stronger Systems.

The Panel raised the following issues:-

It was considered that the Government was being very short sighted in taking away the funding for the very successful women's safety projects. The Panel supported the PCC's request to the Home Secretary to fund the existing Safer Streets projects.

Women and girls should not be subjected to domestic violence and exceptional work was being undertaken as part of the PCC's vital VAWG Strategy.

The rural community was interacting with the Council in Northumberland through family hubs which could be discussed with the PCC. The PCC reported that more long-term funding was required to provide the community support that was needed. The PCC has committed funding to support victim services up to the end of March 2026 to bring much needed stability to a very stretched victims services sector.

It was suggested that all businesses, organisations, schools, universities, etc should be involved. The PCC replied that the Chamber of Commerce network had been very supportive. The opportunities for women in universities, at work, etc needed to be increased. The PCC's critical action plan included, schools, workplace champions, active bystander training in a wide range of organisations, etc. A regional conference to increase the awareness of all the issues discussed for Councillors etc could be considered.

RESOLVED - That the information be noted.

14. DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the Panel will be held on Tuesday, 24 October 2023 at 2.00pm.

15. EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC

RESOLVED - That the press and public be excluded from the meeting during consideration of the following item in accordance with Paragraph 1 of Schedule 12A to the Local Government Act 1972.

16. COMPLAINTS PROTOCOL ON THE MANAGEMENT OF UNREASONABLE COMPLAINTS BEHAVIOUR (Paragraph 1)

RESOLVED - That the second stage of the above Protocol be invoked in regard to the case outlined.

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24th October 2023

**REPORT TO THE POLICE AND CRIME PANEL
REPORT OF THE CHIEF OF STAFF AND MONITORING OFFICER
COMPLAINTS AGAINST THE POLICE AND CRIME COMMISSIONER
QUARTERLY REPORT – SEPTEMBER 2023**

1. Purpose of the Report

- 1.1 To provide the Police and Crime Panel with a report about the complaints and purported complaints received and every conduct matter recorded by the Monitoring Officer in September 2023.

2. Background

- 1.2 The Police and Crime Panel has the statutory role of overseeing all complaints against the PCC and informally resolving non-criminal complaints, as well as criminal complaints or conduct matters that are referred to the Panel by the Independent Office for Police Complaints (IOPC).
- 2.2 The Elected Local Policing Bodies (Complaints and Misconduct) Regulations 2012 (the Regulations) make provision regarding the Panel's powers and duties regarding complaints made about the conduct of the PCC. The aim of the complaints system is to deliver resolution as quickly and effectively as possible for the majority of complainants through local resolution.
- 2.3 In accordance with the Regulations, the Panel is required to maintain suitable arrangements for handling complaints, recording conduct matters where there is an indication that the PCC may have committed a criminal offence and prescribing the manner in which any complaints alleging conduct which constitutes or involves, or appears to constitute or involve, the commission of a criminal offence and conduct matters are handled. A procedure for dealing with complaints against the PCC was approved by panel members in November 2012 appointing the Chief Executive of the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner as the Monitoring Officer.
- 2.4 In respect of record keeping the panel agreed in this procedure that the Monitoring Officer will keep records of: every complaint and purported complaint received, and every conduct matter recorded by the Monitoring Officer. In addition, the Monitoring Officer is to report, on a regular basis, the summary details (such as can be reported in public), on the exercise of any and all of these functions to the Police and Crime Panel for monitoring purposes.
- 2.5 There were no complaints in September 2023.

3 Recommendation

- 3.1 Members are asked to note the report.

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DELIVERY OF THE POLICE & CRIME PLAN: Agenda Item 6

FIGHTING CRIME PANEL REPORT

OCTOBER 2023



CONTENTS

- 03 From the PCC**
- 04 Fighting Crime priorities**
- 05 Priority 1: Reducing crime**
 - 06 Giving the force the tools to do the job**
 - 07 - 10 Tackling crime**
 - 11 - 12 The illegal drugs trade**
 - 12 - 14 Reducing burglary**
 - 15 - 16 Business crime**
 - 17 - 19 Rural crime**
 - 19 - 23 Responding to the needs of the public**
 - 24 - 27 Online crime**
 - 27 - 28 Serious and organised crime**
- 29 - 36 Priority 2: Reducing anti-social behaviour**
- 37 - 44 Appendix 1: Performance Data**





FROM THE PCC

Northumbria Police is dedicated to Fighting Crime across the North East and has a strong track record of keeping us safe.

My role as your Police and Crime Commissioner is twofold; I make sure the police have what they need to do the job, and I scrutinise their work on behalf of the public.

Getting the resources we need to keep us safe is challenging. Northumbria Police lost more than £148m in Government austerity cuts and saw more than 1,100 officers lost as a result. Government promised more recruits but we are still more than 400 officers short of our 2010 level.

Despite this, work continues, and we have seen great progress.

Over the last few months I signed off on a new neighbourhood policing model. We restructured the force and put round 134 officers into our communities, the largest one-off increase in neighbourhood policing in the history of the force.

Elsewhere we've seen more than £1m invested in security and policing for our public transport network, including extra police patrolling the Metro system.

I've also continued rolling out local violent crime task forces as part of the work of my Violence Reduction Unit.

Following the success of a similar model in Sunderland, Newcastle has now seen extra investment. The task force provides a visible presence with staff out meeting hundreds of young people in the city centre, parks and other green spaces, acting as a deterrent to incidents.

To identify and deter those causing the most disruption, the task force brings together a range of services and organisations, including the Northumbria Violence Reduction Unit, Newcastle City Council, Northumbria Police, the Youth Justice Service, Your Homes Newcastle and specialist youth services.

I'm proud to say that Northumbria Police continue to target those who seek to profit from crime, and as a result my office has been able to redistribute £160,000 to local good causes after money was recovered under the Proceeds of Crime Act.

There's a lot of hard work taking place across the Northumbria force area to fight crime. I think we could do much more if the Home Office freed up funds and handed the region back its full allocation of police officers. I'll continue to lobby for that, and Northumbria Police will continue to work hard fighting crime.

**Yours,
Kim**

FIGHTING CRIME PRIORITIES

Priority 1: Reducing crime

At the core of my work for the public is a simple aim; I am elected to ensure the police fight crime and keep the public safe. Crime can damage and destroy lives, and the public want to see crime reduced. I have committed to working with the Chief Constable to reduce crime. In the Police and Crime Plan I set out 9 areas of focus under this priority:

1. Giving the force the tools to do the job
2. Tackling crime
3. The illegal drugs trade
4. Reducing burglary
5. Business crime
6. Rural crime
7. Responding to the needs of the public
8. Online crime
9. Serious and organised crime

Priority 2: Anti-social behaviour

Anti-social behaviour is an issue in many parts of our region, and in many cases it's about something other than laws being broken and criminality. I am committed to reducing anti-social behaviour and will do so through focussing on 4 key areas:

1. Changing behaviours
2. Holding police and partners to account
3. Community trigger
4. Youth services



FIGHTING CRIME PRIORITY 1: REDUCING CRIME

1. GIVING THE FORCE THE TOOLS TO DO THE JOB

In my Police and Crime Plan, I committed to:

- Ensure Northumbria Police has a solid financial footing from which to plan and respond to public safety demands.
- Authorise budgets which will ensure that over the course of this plan every police officer will have access to taser training if required, ensuring those who protect us are kept safe and those who threaten our safety face well-equipped officers.
- Reverse the impacts of austerity when it comes to officer numbers. I am committed to going above and beyond Government recruitment targets, including for example replacing departing and retiring officers.

Update on work undertaken

I've agreed a budget and Medium-Term Financial Strategy and allocated £4 million of new funding raised through the Council Tax Precept in 2022/23 to provide investment in:

- Additional call handlers to improve performance for 999 and 101 services. This means the force has hired a total of 141 new contact handlers in the past 24 months.
- Extra resources to tackle cyber-crime and serious and organised crime, as well as more civilian investigators to support investigations and free up officers.
- Maintaining the much-needed increase in police officer numbers we've delivered through by going above and beyond the national police officer Uplift programme targets. We remain 427 police officers short, compared with pre-2010 levels so there is still a job to do.

Looking ahead, the approved capital programme of over £88 million will ensure continued investment in estates, IT and digital infrastructure, vehicles, and operational equipment.

Investment will also include provision and upgrading of personal issue equipment including taser capability, body-worn video and body-worn armour replacement. Ensuring those who protect us are kept safe, and those who threaten our safety face well-equipped officers.

The Force will continue to drive change and efficiency through transformation which includes significant investment in IT, leading edge technology and digital infrastructure to aid the detection and investigation of crimes, ensuring that Northumbria is a Force fit for the future.



2. TACKLING CRIME

Whether it is a small number of people making a neighbourhood unhappy with anti-social behaviour or the organised crime gangs that infuriate our sense of justice, crime has no place in our region. This Police and Crime Plan commits the police to tackling crime, using all available resource to reduce crime and to stand by our communities for the greater good.

REDUCING SERIOUS VIOLENCE

As part of my commitment to Fighting Crime, the Violence Reduction Unit (VRU) has commissioned a range of interventions aimed at providing intensive engagement and diversion for those involved in serious violence and vulnerable to wider criminality. The approach aims to bring key agencies together to provide an operational and problem-solving response in areas of most need, identifying and working with those who are at risk of causing the most harm to communities.

The work of the VRU is centred on tackling serious violence. The broad measures of impact, on which the Home Office monitors the impact of the VRU, are:

- Reduce knife enabled serious violence
- Reduce hospital admissions for knife related serious violence
- Reduce homicides

Current position:

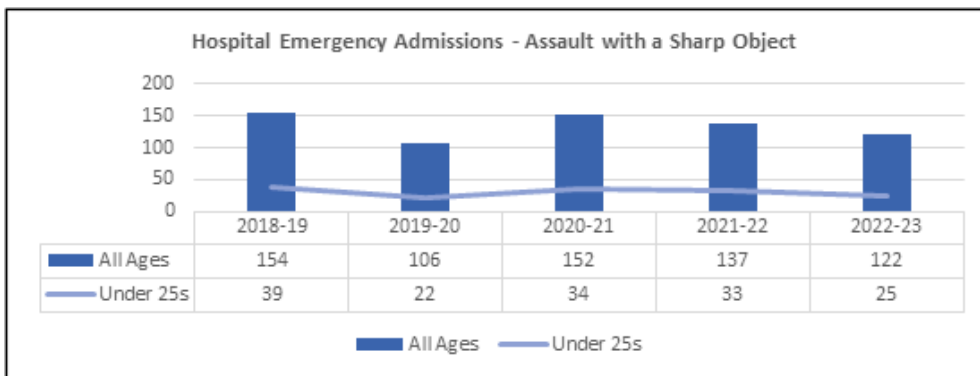
Indicator	12 months to Dec 19	12 months to July 22	12 months to July 23	% change
Serious violence offences	18,709	22,541	23,556	+5%
Knife enabled serious violence	800	976	1,090	+12%
Homicides	12	16	15	-0.06%
Hospital admissions (under 25s for assault with a sharp object)	25	35 (to Mar 22)	25 (to Mar 23)	-29%

In the 12 months to 31st July 2023:

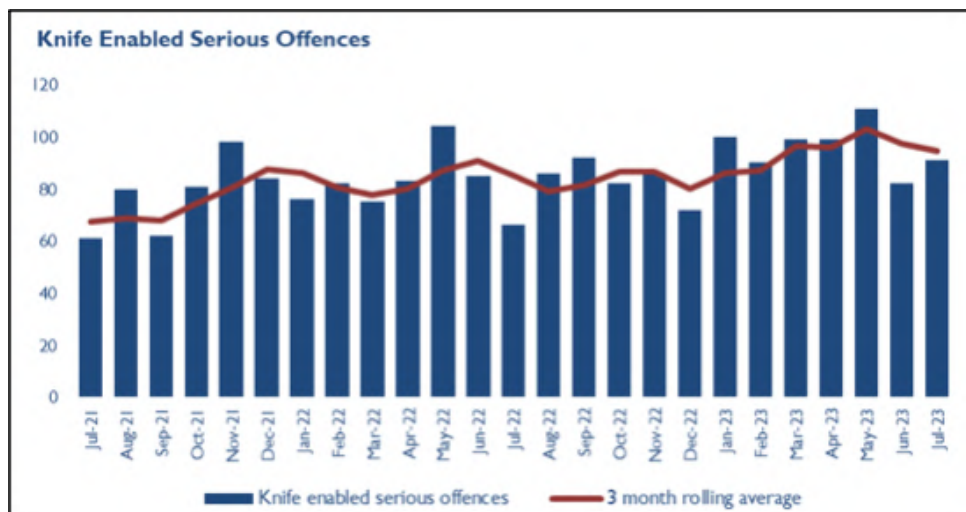
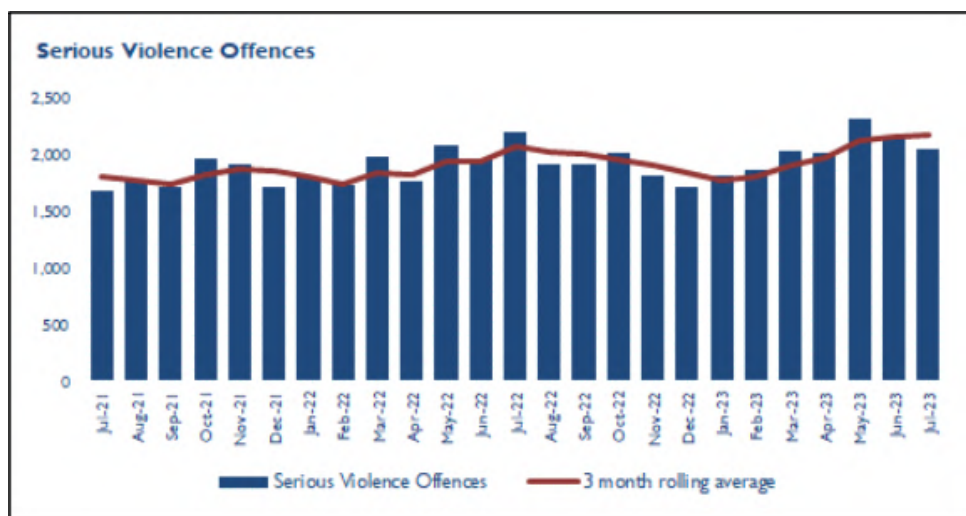
- **Levels of Serious Violence** have increased by 5%. Following reductions in serious violence offences from October to December 2022 (which is consistent with the trend for the same period in 2021), volumes increased from January 2023 to May 2023 and reduced in June and July. For serious violent crime, the Force is placed 35th nationally for the 12 months to May 2023.



- **Knife-enabled serious violence** offences have risen by 12%. Knife enabled serious violence was 4% of the total serious violence offences in the 12 months to July 2023, which is no change on the previous period.
- **Homicides** have decreased by 0.06% (in the 12 months to March 2023).
- **Hospital admissions** for assaults with a sharp object have declined by 29%. There has been a year-on-year reduction in hospital related admission due to an assault with a sharp object for all age groups from 2020 – 2023 as shown by the graph below.



- **The top hotspot areas** are historically the top hotspot areas due links to the night-time economy. Newcastle City Centre continues to feature as the top hotspot area, with four of the top 10 locations for serious violence in Northumbria being here.



08



Update on work undertaken by the force

Strategy:

- The force continues to deliver against its Serious Violence and Homicide Strategy supported by the Violence Reduction Unit (VRU), with internal governance arrangements strengthened through the development of a Serious Violence Suppression Group. This group will drive the operational activity of the strategy and monitor performance, threats and risks, whilst ensuring problem solving and targeted activity is taking place to tackle violent crime.

Funding:

- Funding for the force’s GRIP Hotspot Programme has been confirmed for the next 3 years until end of March 2025 and incorporates visible patrols and problem-solving activity within serious violence hotspots. The force has 24 hotspot areas with an additional two covering Newcastle and Sunderland city centres. There are a number of excellent multi-agency problem solving approaches being adopted to tackle serious violence across these hotspots. Examples include SAIL (Sunderland Altogether Improving Lives) multi-agency team adopting a focussed deterrence approach in the City Centre, Project ASTRA (Ashington Striving Together to Raise Aspirations) a multi-agency hub that adopts a public health approach to problem solving and EPIC (Empowering People in Communities) multi-agency hub in Benwell, which is also going to implement a focused deterrence approach and a cohort of offenders are being identified.

Update on work undertaken by the Violence Reduction Unit (VRU)

09

Community Alternative to Short Prison Sentences (CASPS):

- Of the 48 active cases during Apr to Sept 2023, there was 7 revocations and 3 successful terminations (i.e., suitable for an exit strategy).
- There were 15 referrals which were taken onto the caseload, these referrals came from Newcastle & Tynedale Magistrates Court (1), and from South Tyneside MC (14).
- During the quarter notable outcomes include:
 - 38 individuals accessing service with a tailored support plan.
 - 10 individuals with safer peer networks (lifestyles & self-care).
 - 11 people developing and maintaining skills and resources to support desistance factors.
 - 7 people reporting improved family relationships/community ties/stake in society.
 - 7 people reporting increased confidence in ability to desist from offending.
 - 9 people reporting improved emotional wellbeing.
- Below is a breakdown of those individuals on CASPS:
 - 28 of the 38 on the caseload are male.
 - 31 are aged 25 years and above.
 - 13 reporting needs and risk factors including mental ill-health and drug or alcohol use.



(L-R) SAIL Project in Sunderland, Officers on patrol in a GRIP hotspot, and the HALO project in Hetton.

Case Study: Fighting Crime - CASPS

S has attended a mixture of face to face and telephone appointments with the CASPS Navigator at both the Probation Office and at community locations. S was experiencing domestic abuse and is alcohol dependent. She has been supported to access a range of services, including: NIDAS (Newcastle Integrated Domestic Abuse Service); Changing Lives (a Women's Service); and NTaR (Newcastle Treatment and Recovery). S has engaged well with all her appointments and has been guided in her decision to leave her relationship. Between the CASPS Navigator and the NIDAS Support Worker, S has successfully moved into safe accommodation. She is now accessing the Freedom Programme (a Domestic Abuse Scheme), as well as working towards her rehabilitation by addressing her alcohol dependence. S's confidence to leave her former relationship and reduction in alcohol misuse has meant S now has a better quality of life and improved self-worth, as well as being able to reconnect with positive family members and pro-social friends. With these new skills, confidence, and support networks we have empowered S to reduce her likelihood of reoffending and risk of causing serious harm.

Out of Court Resolutions (Women's Pathway, and 18-25 Men's Pathway):

- The OOCR pathways continue to engage individuals who enter the criminal justice system and divert them away.
- From Apr to Sept 2023 a total of 120 referrals were made. Of those referrals 77 individuals were taken onto the caseload of one of these OOCR pathways. 44 of those did not return to custody/offending since accessing the intervention, demonstrating the immediate impact of these pathways.

Women's Pathway –

- From Apr to Sept 2023 there have been 55 individuals referred to the Women's Pathway, with 26 taken onto the caseload.
- There were 26 assessments during this quarter, ensuring the women involved were diverted away from the criminal justice system and received the support they required. From the assessments carried out, 9 women are still receiving ongoing support from our service.
- Of the caseload, 15 have accessed onward referral for information/advice and guidance including the brief intervention and accessed ongoing services.

18 – 25 male pathway –

- From Apr to Sept 2023, there were 65 referrals with 51 taken onto the caseload and attended their appointments. There were also 51 males exiting the pathway with planning.
- The young people are acknowledging things they have done wrong and by completing the assessment they are understanding that things could have been dealt with differently.

3. THE ILLEGAL DRUGS TRADE

Part of the answer to the drugs misery we see on our streets is direct police action: investigating drug dealers, arresting them and taking them to court. But part of the response has to be about supporting those with addictions - those people who often turn to crime to fund their addiction. In the police and crime plan I committed to:

- Hold Northumbria Police to their commitment to target and disrupt the illegal drugs trade at all levels.
- Work with others to try and rebuild drug treatment programmes lost to austerity – including looking at wider help available to those suffering from substance abuse and mental health concerns.
- Ensure Northumbria Police use the full enforcement options available to break up County Lines, and punish the gangs responsible, whilst also finding those at risk and getting them out of a life of crime.

Current position:

- The North East of England has had the highest rate of drug misuse deaths of any English region for the last nine consecutive years.
- Northumbria is one of the worst affected areas, both within the region and across the UK, in relation to drugs related deaths (DRDs).
- The Tackling illegal drug supply has been continually prioritised by the force; this criminality holds many different forms and can range from organised importation of multi-kilos of Class A drugs, industrial scale cannabis farms operated by OCGs from the UK and abroad, to low level street supply of prescription medication.

Update on work undertaken

The Drugs Threat Desk:

- Implemented during Summer 2021, the Drugs Treat Desk assists in the holistic understanding of the threat, harm and risk posed to our communities. The threat desk continues to perform well, assisting the Force Drugs Lead in ensuring that an effective four P based response (Pursue, Prevent, Protect, Prepare) is delivered against the areas of highest harm. From October 2022, the force produces a weekly intelligence bulletin to support Area Command and departmental managers in understanding drugs issues relevant to their area of business and highlighting potential enforcement opportunities. They continue to produce a weekly DRD update which is shared internally and with Public Health partners to better inform activity.

Operation Venetic:

- Operation Venetic (a national operation to tackle organised crime) continues to facilitate opportunities to fundamentally dismantle dozens of sophisticated OCGs involved in high level organised crime such as supply of firearms and drugs via an encrypted communications platform. This will have a significant impact in the long term upon those OCGs involved in drug supply and the identification of vulnerable individuals in the community. As of June 2023, a total of 127 suspects have been arrested, 44 of whom have been charged. The remaining offenders are on Police bail or released Under Investigation whilst waiting for a charging decision from the Crown Prosecution Service. Of the 44 persons charged, 29 have been convicted and sentenced to a total of 168 years.

Operation Substrate:

- In March 2023, enforcement activity was undertaken on Operation Substrate to disrupt a conspiracy to supply/import 130kg of class A drugs from the Continent. 6 arrests were made including the main protagonists. All have been bailed pending submission of a file of evidence to the CPS. To date 4 offenders have been convicted and sentenced to a total of 39 years.

Project Adder:

- Newcastle has been chosen as one of five Project Adder (Addiction, Diversion, Disruption, Enforcement and Recovery) accelerator sites. Project Adder is a targeted project lead and funded by the Force to reduce drug-related offending, drug deaths, drug supply and prevalence and of drug use. The project will continue to build on existing work and look to expand multi-agency partnership working to drive sustained health and crime related outcomes, taking a whole-system four P approach across enforcement, treatment, and diversion. This will also include work to tackle supply, including county lines and exploitation emanating from this. Activity for the last 12 months has included 64 warrants executed, 190 arrests, £279,023 cash seized and an estimated £1,527,330 of drugs seized.



Northumbria Police carrying out a range of enforcement activity to disrupt criminals and target those involved in the supply of drugs across the force region.

12

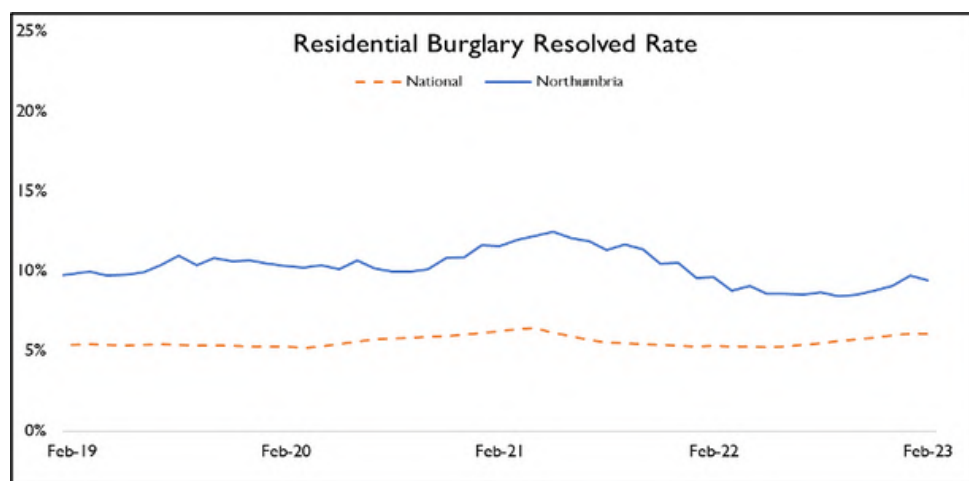
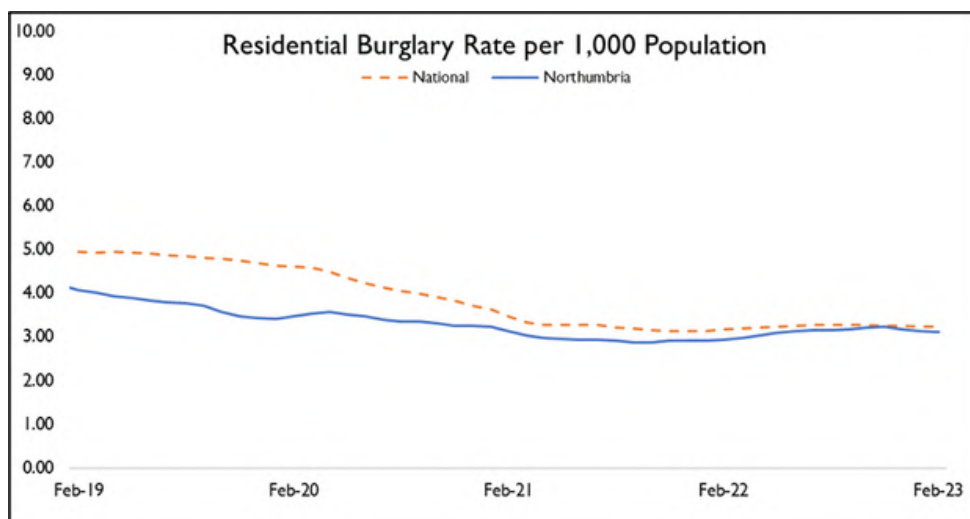
4. REDUCING BURGLARY

Burglary is a crime that often feels deeply personal, and many people taking part in my police and crime plan survey said they wanted to see those who commit this crime brought to justice. I'm proud to be Police Commissioner for a force that has a strong track record in tackling burglary. In the Police & Crime Plan I committed to:

- Regularly publishing burglary data so the public can see that Northumbria continues to have a strong record on tackling burglary.
- Back home safety measures in the most at risk areas to help people feel more secure in their own home.

Current position:

- Northumbria Police has a successful long-term record in tackling burglary. The force recognises the impact that burglary has on victims / public confidence and continue to focus on burglary as a priority crime with a dedicated force lead.
- As shown in the graph below, Northumbria's residential burglary rate per 1,000 of the population historically sat beneath the national average until 2022. As of 2023, all the burglary rate is below the national average per 1,000 population and the Northumbria resolved rate is higher than the national average.



HMICFRS Inspection Report: 'Finding Time for Crime'

- HMICFRS published their report entitled 'Finding Time for Crime' in August 2022. This followed an inspection of the police response to burglary, robbery and other acquisitive crime.
- HM Chief Inspector of Constabulary and Fire and Rescue suggested the current low positive outcome and charge rates for Serious and Acquisitive Crime (SAC) are unacceptable and unsustainable, with a concerted effort and focus now required, otherwise the public is likely to lose confidence in the force's ability to keep them safe.
- Findings further highlighted that some screening models can overlook the complexity and harm caused by SAC and forces often lack capacity to investigate the right crimes. Too often, some forces have inadequate digital forensic capability and on occasion, insufficient supervision and direction of investigations.
- The report advised that a whole-force approach is required and that the focus on SAC needs to be on crime prevention, repeat offending and problem-solving.
- The publication of HMICFRS report was followed by a letter from the Home Secretary to Police Leaders on 24 September 2022. In summary, the letter requested:
 - Police forces should get back to focussing on the fundamentals of our service delivery. This would include attending every burglary, treating victims as they deserve and providing more responsive and visible policing.
 - Some forces are not treating drugs, criminal damage, ASB and vehicle crime seriously enough and for many crimes, an increase in charge rates should be a priority.
- The force have kept me abreast of their plans to improve through my regular Scrutiny process – some of the work undertaken in response to this report is highlighted below.

Update on work undertaken

Strategic planning & oversight:

- Northumbria Police has a 4P plan for burglary. The force takes a proactive response, seeking to identify and target repeat offenders and organised crime groups involved in this offending.
- A lead for SAC has been identified in the Force.
- A SAC Suppression Group has been created which focuses on performance in this area and drives learning from national best practice and its implementation in force, coordinates activity and promotes success with both an internal and external communications strategy. The force tasking and coordination process (open and closed) manages intelligence led operational activity in respect of SAC.

Investigative Standards:

- Raising Investigative Standards is a key component in tackling SAC. Significant improvements have been made in file quality with the introduction of accreditation for supervisors. Key stakeholders throughout Northumbria Police are working together to identify and prioritise investigative skills training and continuous professional development which will be delivered in a range of formats, including face to face at protected learning days, online CPD and via the Northumbria Information and Knowledge (NIK). Maximising investigative opportunities is another key area to improving outcomes and as such forensics preservation is currently being prioritised with development sessions for responders, bespoke training for communications staff and improvements to the management of forensic suspect evidence. See Appendix A, chart 11 - the resolved rate for Northumbria Police against the national average, shows the force trends alongside the national average.

Out of Court Resolutions (OOCR):

- Improving the use of OOCR will improve positive outcomes and satisfaction in this area, whilst also reducing some demands on investigators and the criminal justice partners. In the year to April 2023, 13% of all positive disposals are OOCR, this is consistent with the previous 12 months. The Force Transforming Resolution Education Adult Diversion (TREAD) team have access to 8 pathways, all of which are proven to reduce offending by diversion and appropriate support to offenders, however it is occasionally underutilised. Referrals to TREAD are increasing from 190 in 2020 to 229 in 2021 and 723 in 2022. Combined reoffending rates across the 8 pathways show 97% of people who comply with the pathway do not reoffend within 6 months.



5. BUSINESS CRIME

In the North East we boast a strong, vibrant business community and it's vital we do all we can to protect it. The impact of business crime can be very damaging, particularly to small or medium sized enterprises – losses can ruin them. I'm pleased with how local business owners recognise the importance of working closely with our officers, sharing intelligence and making sure they're taking the right steps to prevent them from being targeted by criminals.

In the Police & Crime Plan I committed to:

- Ensure that Northumbria Police keeps building on its focus on preventing and fighting business crimes such as theft, cybercrime, and fraud.
- Give my full support to schemes and initiatives that help raise awareness and tackle issues in the workplace too, from the continued roll-out of our nationally acclaimed Hate Crime Champions Scheme to lending my support to the Co-op's Respect for Shopworkers campaign.

Update on work undertaken

There have been several initiatives and activities implemented in the recent period to support the force's commitment to reduce crimes against businesses:

Police Cyber Alarm (PCA):

- Since its launch in August 2020, PCA registration has continued to grow. Promotional material is sent out regularly to Local Authorities, Local Resilience Forums (LRFs) and business contacts throughout the region and PCA is continually promoted by North-East Regional Organised Crime Unit (NEROCU) Protect Officers.

Regional Cyber Protect, Prepare and Prevent Website (NEROCU):

- Launched in March 2021, the website has undergone significant improvements over the last year, with the release of v.2 in April 2022. Updates include the addition of regular cyber security developments, a blog section and additional signposting to relevant online resources. Originally designed by regional and local Cyber Protect and Prevent Officers; the website will soon include information and updates from the Regional Economic Crime Coordination Centre (RECCC) which focuses on financial fraud and economic crime in the North East. The North East Regional Cyber Crime unit (NERCCU) website is updated regularly. All victims of Cyber Crime whether business, organisation or individuals are direct to NERCCU website.

Shodan:

- Working in partnership with Internet and Managed Service Providers to proactively inform and raise awareness of cyber security vulnerabilities, Northumbria police are utilising Shodan (a search engine for internet connected devices), to search for IP addresses geo-located within the three North East police force boundaries, that potentially have a specific and identified vulnerability. The people and/or organisation responsible for the IP address are then informed via a notification report and support from Protect Officers is offered. Shodan continues to be used/developed and promoted by Cyber Protect Officers at NEROCU.



Force Training Package:

- During 2022, work began to upskill and educate front line officers and staff about the difference between cyber-dependent and cyber-enabled crimes and how to deal with a report of cyber-dependent crime in line with the national cybercrime and fraud reporting guidelines. A total of nine training sessions have been delivered to Enquiry Office Staff and Officers in the Primary Investigation Unit with plans to deliver the same sessions to the Communication Centre as part of their Protected Learning Days later this year.

PCDA, DHEP & Police Cadets:

- Work continues to deliver awareness sessions to Police Cadets and Student Police Officers studying the PCDA and degree holder entry programme (DHEP) course at Northumbria University.

National Cyber Security Centre:

- The Northeast Cyber Protect Network (NECPN), which includes Northumbria protect officers, provides nationally approved, specialist advice on cyber-crime for businesses, communities, and individuals via a website. All engagement activity is advertised on the website along with the services available to businesses in the Northeast provided by the force's protect officers. The NERCCU website is updated regularly and overseen by Regional Cyber Protect Officers at NEROCU. All victims of Cyber Crime whether business, organisation or individuals are direct to NEROCU website.

Business hate crime:

Hate Crime is a key priority for my Local Criminal Justice Board (LCJB) – we have a subgroup on Recovery and Performance which is looking at business hate crime and victim and witness attrition and how referrals through to court can be increased.

Individuals who are self-employed or employed as taxi drivers, those working in food outlets such as take aways and convenience shops are less likely to appear in court if they are victims of hate crime. This is most likely due to loss of earnings as a result of the time spent attending court and a lack of confidence in the criminal justice system.

We are looking to arrange consultation with those in business, such as taxi drivers, people working in food outlets such as take aways and convenience shops who are directly impacted by hate crime, by engaging with organisations that represent these individuals such as Noda Taxis, Asian Business Connexions and the North East Chinese Association.

The consultation and engagement will be two-fold, focusing on better understanding the barriers people face to reporting hate crime and pursuing cases through the court and raising awareness of the support that is available and how to improve access to this support for victims



I know how devastating shoplifting and business related crime can be, so always take the opportunity to engage with retailers, sellers and stores when on my walkabouts and engagement sessions. The more we know, the more we can do to help them.

6. RURAL CRIME

Rural crime can have a devastating impact on the more isolated communities within our region. It is important to me that these communities feel heard, well-connected, and supported by their police force. Whilst recent reports have found that Northumbria continues to be amongst those least affected by rural crime, stolen farm equipment, livestock thefts and sheep worrying are all typical crimes known to impact those living in rural areas. I am determined to support rural policing and in the Police and Crime Plan I committed to:

- Make sure that issues like domestic abuse aren't hidden crimes that get forgotten about in the remote parts of our region.
- Ensure the force remain proactive in policing rural crime to ensure communities are protected. In recent years we've seen Farm Watch and Operation Checkpoint, our network of rural crime volunteers, go from strength to strength and I am committed to building on this.

Current position:

- The force Rural Crime Policing Team (RCPT) report into the Harm, Reduction and Communities Team Chief Superintendent. The force holds key national roles in this area, with the Deputy Chief Constable holding the role of National Police Chiefs' Council (NPCC) lead for Rural Policing. The force lead for Rural Policing operates as her deputy in delivering this portfolio, working closely with the Home Office and key partners in the agricultural and construction sectors.
- There are six national rural crime priorities within the NPCC's Rural and Wildlife Crime Strategy 2022-23, and of these priorities, Poaching and Plant and Machinery Theft have the most significant impact to the Northumbria area:
 - **Poaching:** Local intelligence suggests that poaching is generally linked to organised crime groups from urban areas. The activities of poachers had a significant impact on the community with damage to crops by vehicles, livestock attacks and escapes by gates being left open. There is a significant financial cost to farmers and local communities to mitigate against poaching activity.
 - **Plant and Machinery Theft:** The worldwide shortage of microchips has seen a rise nationally in the theft of plant and agricultural machines. In Northumbria there was a 30% rise in quad bike thefts in January 2023. Known organised crime groups are believed to be responsible for these offences, with targeted disruption and operations in place, which has seen a reduction in the number of offences from the start of the year. A recent trend has emerged around the theft of GPS domes from tractors. These are essential for the efficient running of an arable farm. They are also extremely expensive and cause significant disruption if stolen. In April, three farms were attacked in Northumberland with over £60,000 of GPS equipment stolen. This is a trend that is also being seen in other parts of the UK.



Update on work undertaken

Partnership working:

- The Rural Crime Team have led nationally in combatting poaching and were instrumental in the setting up of a nine force Community Protection Notice (CPN). This sees anyone stopped or suspected of poaching in one force issued with a Community Protection Warning Notice (CPWN) or CPN which covers the whole of the North of England. The rural crime team have also upskilled response teams with available powers and tactics. The use of these powers has seen regular seizures of vehicles from poaching nominals, convictions and general disruption. Rural crime volunteers also play a pivotal role in reporting poaching offences and building the intelligence picture on those committing this type of crime. The Force have seen a reduction in poaching reports from 612 in 2020, to just over 300 in 2022.
- Northumberland Partnership Against Rural Crime (NPARC): This is the first such partnership in the country, which allows for each partner to lead on one of the priorities contained in the national strategy. Although still in the early stages of development, some successes have already been demonstrated with partners carrying out joint operations, sharing of intelligence and joint investigations for example, into Youtubers who damage farmland while riding off-road motorbikes.

Safer Streets Rural Northumberland:

A successful bid was submitted to the Safer Street Funding (Round Four) by my office. Through this funding, we are able appoint a rural partnership co-ordinator as well as invest in several areas including visitor advice and guidance, Automatic Number Plate Recognition (ANPR), Thermal Imaging Technology and analysis of data and incidents that will shape how we prevent and respond to crime and ASB in rural areas. Key successes so far include:

- ANPR is currently being installed and the new Thermal Imaging Technology is in use by the Rural Crime Team and Response and Neighbourhood Policing Teams. This technology has most recently been used to locate suspected poachers near Belsay.
- An Engagement Event Structure has been developed and used throughout Northumberland at both large agricultural shows and smaller community/farming events. This has been well received and visibly promotes the Northumberland Partnership Against Rural Crime.
- Regarding crime prevention, there have been numerous successful property marking events held with over £300k of equipment marked at these events. Property marking equipment has also been distributed to farms that have been subject to rural crime or those which have reported suspicious activity. Rural Crime Volunteers have been trained in the deployment and are assisting with this initiative. Feedback at property marking events has been well received and those attending are very grateful of the scheme. In addition to this, Vehicle tracking devices have been utilised for victims of crime and those who have had attempted theft of quad bikes.
- In collaboration with Northumberland County Council, a range of signs have been developed concentrating on vehicle ASB, environmental ASB (fire setting) and countryside behaviour. Petrol Stations/Pumps are being used for the vehicle ASB messages and rural areas are being geo-targeted with Blis Mobile Adverts.
- A number of police officers have been trained to use the Can-Am All-Terrain Vehicle which has allowed it to be used on multiple vehicle-ASB operations. Patrols in partnership with Northumberland Partnership Against Rural Crime partners have taken place in the Kielder Forest, following previous enforcement activity. The Can-Am is also being used at community events and agricultural shows for engagement, most recently at West Hartford Fire Station Open Day in September. A number of Police Officers have been trained to use the Can-Am.
- Work is continuing with rural partners for future deployments of the covert CCTV, deployed most recently in Otterburn.

- Mountain Rescue is continuing to promote safety in rural areas through social media. With top social posts including an AdventureSmart Weather Advice post, which reached 15,907 on Facebook. Moving forward, the project has completed the filming of unique short films which will be ready to share on partners' social media platforms starting in October. This will be specifically linked to the next Adventure Smart campaign which will focus on the clocks going back and shorter daylight hours.

7. RESPONDING TO THE NEEDS OF THE PUBLIC

In order to fight crime, the public need to have the confidence that the force will respond when they are called upon. We know that satisfaction is linked to the experience at the first point of contact with the police and in keeping the caller updated.

When incidents come into the force's control room they are assessed using an approach called THRIVE (Threat, Harm, Risk, Investigation opportunities, Vulnerability and Engagement), which is used by policing nationally to determine how best to respond. This assessment allows a judgment to be made about the response required and places the needs of the victim at the centre of that decision.

In the Police and Crime Plan I committed to:

- Ensure that each call to the police is met with an appropriate response.
- Ensure the force continue to focus on response times.
- Publish regular information setting out call handling and response time data

More in-depth data regarding call handling, responses, answer times and satisfaction can be found in the Performance Management Data in Appendix 1, however in summary:

Call handling:

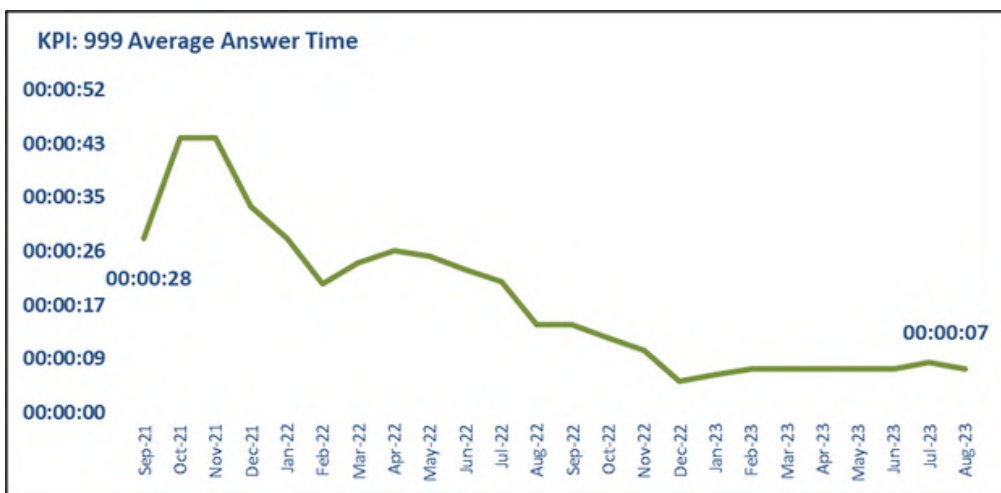
- There have been significant improvements in call handling in the 12 months to August 2023, as shown by the table and graphs below. Key improvements include:
 - 89.83% of 999 calls were answered within the Service Level Agreement of 10 seconds, compared to only 70.5% the year prior. The average answer time for 999 calls has also improved with a drop from 28 seconds to 8 seconds. Improvement in both areas has been sustained since December 2022.
 - 62.59% of 101 non-emergency calls were answered within the Service Level Agreement of 60 seconds, which is a massive reduction compared to the previous year where this figure was 32.61%. The average answer time for 101 emergency calls has dropped to 1 minute 58 seconds compared to 7 minutes 9 seconds.

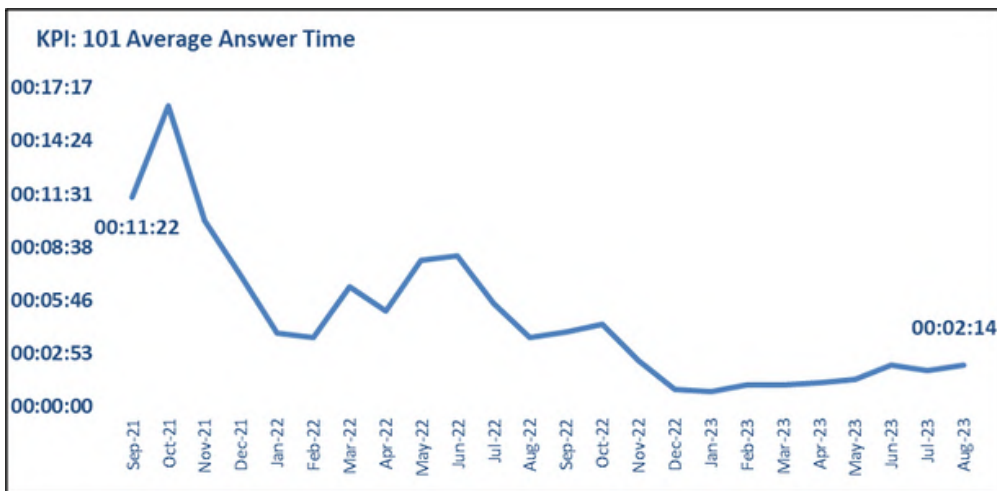


Northern Communications Centre.



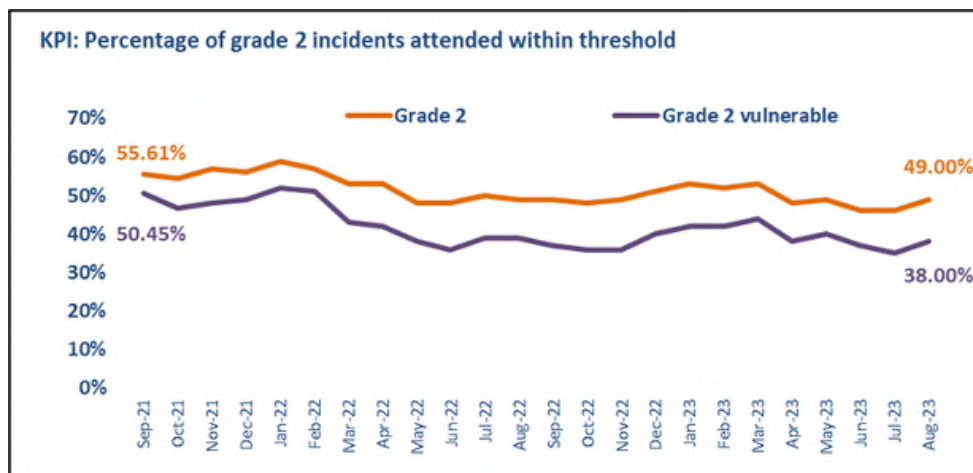
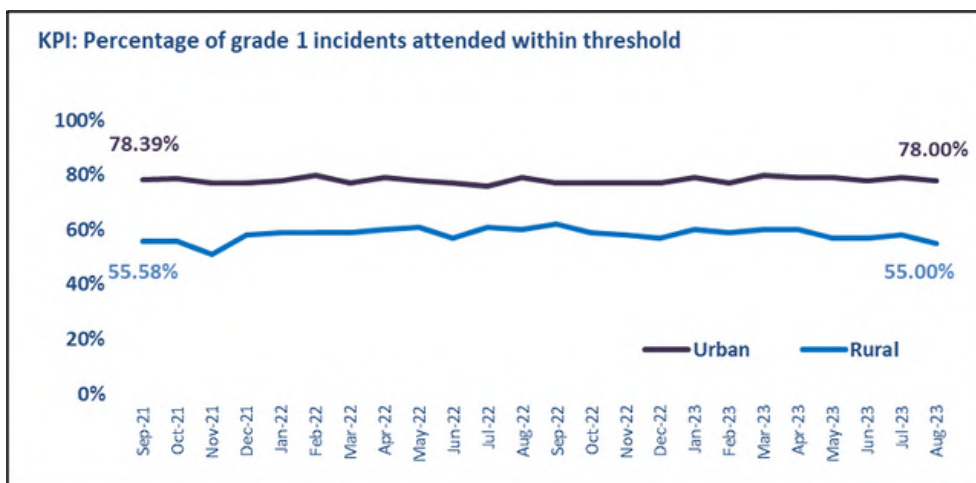
Measure	12 months to August 2022	12 months to August 2023
999 calls received	306,486	305,486
101 NE calls received	240,728	242,155
999 calls answered within standard	70.50%	89.83%
101 NE calls answered within standard	32.61%	62.59%
999 average answer time	00:00:28	00:00:08
101 NE average answer time	00:07:09	00:01:58
999 calls abandoned	1.95%	0.21%
101 NE calls abandoned	34.03%	11.07%
999 longest wait time	00:19:17	00:19:17
Satisfaction – initial contact (% of volume crime victims)	91.08%	91.21%





Response times:

- Performance has remained stable for Grade 1 incidents despite an increase in demand, demonstrating more effective deployment. The percentage of incidents attended within published times for Grade 1 incidents (15 minutes urban and 20 minutes rural) have remained stable for a sustained period at 78% (urban) and 58% (rural) despite the increases in demand.
- The long-term picture in terms of Grade 2 and Grade 2 Vulnerable incidents attended within published time (60 minutes) have been gradually reducing over time from the level they were previously.



Satisfaction:

- Initial contact victim satisfaction remains high and has been relatively stable since July 2022. The rolling 12 months to July 2023 shows the beginnings of improvements in satisfaction levels, across the survey types, for the time taken to answer the phone, with anti-social behaviour, hate crime and volume crime seeing the measures increase from 5% to 10%.
- The successful introduction of an SMS survey to customers who “opt in” launched in August 2023 and has enabled the Force to provide timely and relevant feedback to contact staff. This level of understanding/feedback will continue to support improvement at initial point of contact and the wider customer experience. In the first week on the survey going live, the Force received 132 responses highlighting the following headlines:
 - 95% of respondents said the contact handler they spoke to was polite and professional.
 - 90% said the contact handler explained the response to their incident.
 - 68% rated their experience as excellent or good.
 - 67% said the contact handler provided them with advice.

Area for Improvement (AFIs) identified by HMICFRS:

The Communications Department currently have 4 AFIs identified by HMICFRS:

1. The force should improve the time it takes to answer emergency calls and reduce the number of non-emergency calls that are abandoned.
2. The force needs to make sure that call takers give appropriate advice on the preservation of evidence and crime prevention. The force is poor at recording crime when anti-social behaviour is reported.
3. The force needs to attend calls for service in line with its published attendance times and make sure that when delays do occur, it fully updates victims.

Across each AFI Northumbria Police have generated a response plan, with progress monitored at various points/places across the force governance structure as well as through my regular Scrutiny meetings. Some of the work being undertaken to make the necessary improvements is highlighted below.

Update on work undertaken

Quality action plan:

- The force have developed a quality action plan to improve call handling, which is based around identification, prioritisation, solution focused response, shared learning, and evaluation of effectiveness. This will be delivered and managed through: focused dip sampling, tailored 1-2-1's, increased staff briefings, protected learning days and reporting of performance improvements through Force Governance Structures. There is a reasonable assumption that a renewed and improved focus on quality will impact on average handling times, with the likelihood that any increase in handling times will affect the Force's ability to meet their current SLA.

Digital contact:

- Ongoing work to improve digital contact has begun, as part of preparations to onboard to single online home (SOH) and establish and implement the Digital Desk. The force are working to better understand the expectations and needs of communities from a reporting perspective and will be undertaking a range of community engagement tactics that will inform and improve their strategy. The desire is to create the best user experience through digital reporting to aid behaviour change that will in turn support channel shift.

- This engagement activity is being supported by key stakeholders/experts across the force and the programme aligned to the implementation of all digital platforms. The initial phase of Single Online Home (SOH) successfully went live on the 6th of September, with the full transition due to complete on the 29th of November. In line with the final SOH transition, November will see the launch of the Force’s social media reporting (through the Orlo platform) and new web chat functionality (delivered via SOH). Staff training has been mapped out and will be completed in advance. Demand and service data will be gathered and presented alongside SOH data through a digital performance dashboard, this information will be measured against traditional contact, enabling them to understand and manage any disparity in contact routes.

Abandoned calls:

- The Force continue to work with the College of Policing and the National Contact Lead to explore a more meaningful and consistent measure to manage 101 calls. A recent benchmarking exercise carried out by Northumbria highlighted that all forces use different tactics to channel their calls and a have different measures and targets set against their answer rates. HMICFRS have suggested that abandonment rate should be the area of focus but up to this point have offered nothing to indicate what “good” looks like. The Force continue to focus on understanding, managing and reducing their 101-abandonment rate. The introduction of new front-end technology, improved accessibility/availability of digital channels, focus on demand reduction/prevention to create capacity, improved quality reducing failure demand and the review of key time shift patterns (tailored around current high abandonment periods) will all play a significant role in the long-term reduction of abandoned calls. This work is currently ongoing with the technology aspects all being introduced and embedded throughout Autumn 2023.

23

Call Demand Reduction:

- Between December 2022 and July 2023, non-incident related 101 calls have increased by 48% with the highest increase being for incident update at 81%. The successful implementation introduction of the Northumbria Victim and Witness Service direct line should see this number reduce over time but the benefits of this have not yet been realised. The other area of increase has been 33% for advice/enquiries which the implementation of the new Interactive Voice Recognition should again assist with through correct signposting to partner agencies. The result of this should be reductions in the levels of 101 calls and a higher ratio of calls to incidents as we receive more appropriate calls through to the Communications Centre. Demand reduction continues to remain a priority with Communications Department led bi-weekly internal meetings focussed on repeat contacts from individuals and repeat contacts from partner agencies.



Southern Communication Centre.

8. ONLINE CRIME

Cybercrime, including online fraud, is a growing threat both regionally, nationally and internationally. The type, frequency and sophistication of cyber-enabled crimes are continually increasing, ranging from organised crime groups to individuals targeting victims via social media. Many cyber-enabled crimes lead to complex investigations, and I'm committed to ensuring the force has the resources to carry these out. But we must recognise that online crime ignores all borders, and it's clear our response has to be part of a co-ordinated national approach.

In the Police and Crime Plan I committed to:

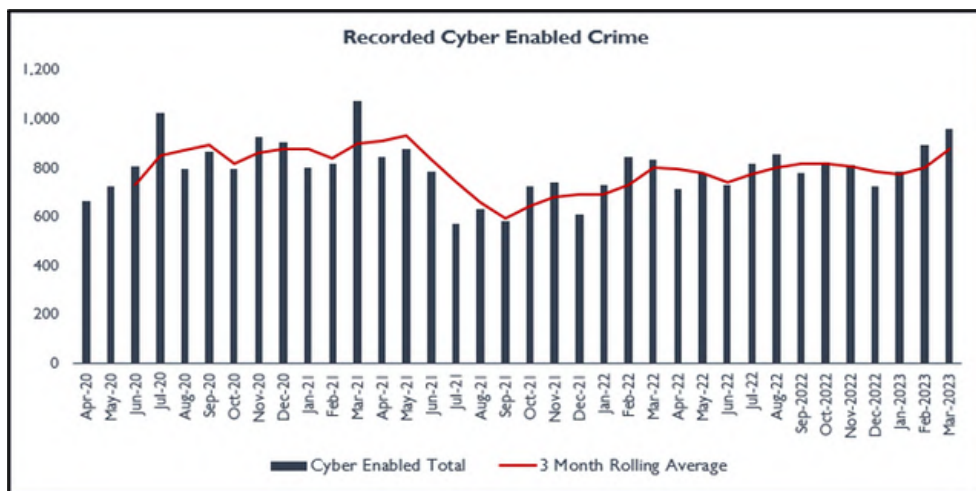
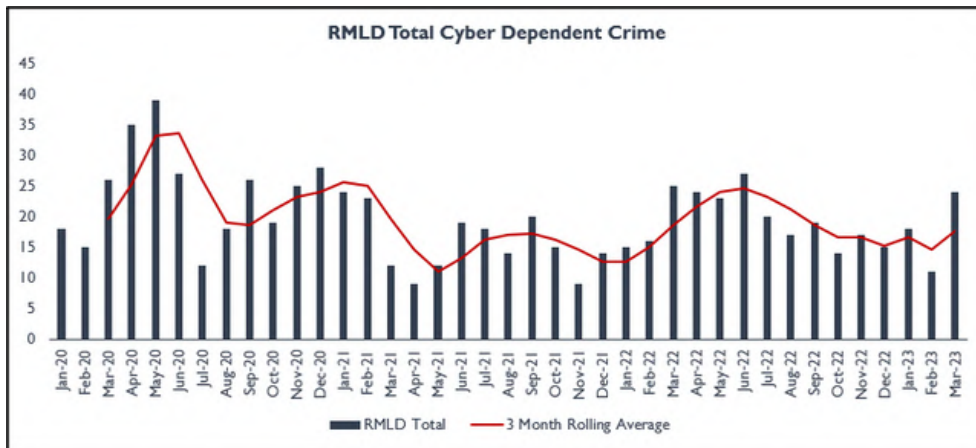
- Raise awareness of cybercrime and fraud and enhancing the force's investigation of these cases. I pledge to explore with the force the potential for more dedicated cyber fraud campaigns, and back the cyber volunteers who bring even more expertise to Northumbria Police.
- Ensure the force has the resources to carry out the complex investigations that many cyber-enabled crimes require.
- Work with the force to ensure those grooming children online and those who download or share images of abuse are found and those at risk are helped; ensuring early identification of child and adult sexual exploitation cases and provision of long-term support for victims to assist their recovery.

Current position:

Northumbria Police has a dedicated, trained, specialist Cyber Crime Unit who carries out all elements of the four Ps (Pursue, Prevent, Protect, Prepare), supported by colleagues within the North East Regional Organised Crime Unit (NEROCU). The Detective Chief Inspector (DCI) led Cyber Crime Unit encompasses various elements of online crime including fraud, financial investigation, cyber dependent crime and indecent images of children (IIOC).

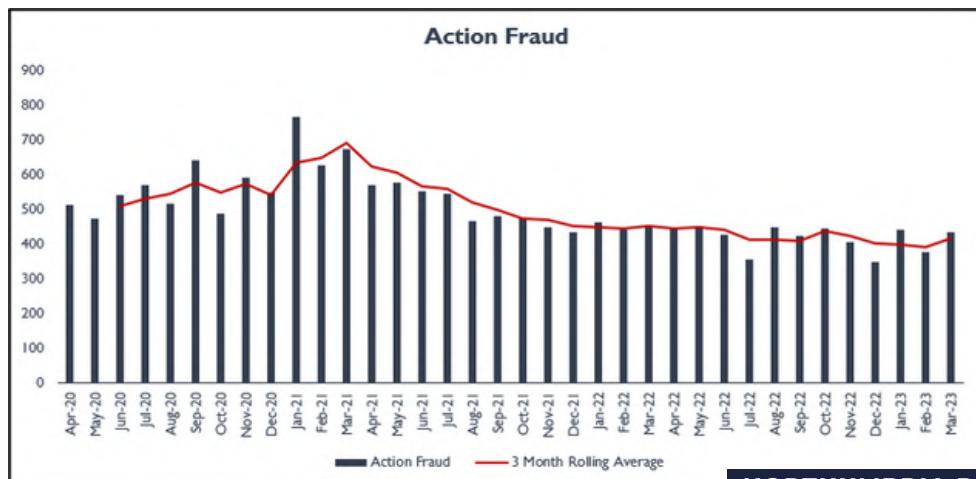
All cyber crime:

- Cyber Crime is recognised by the National Police Chiefs' Council (NPCC) and Association of Police and Crime Commissioners (APCC) as a specialist capability. It is an umbrella term used to describe two closely linked, but distinct, types of criminal activity:
 - Cyber dependant crimes can be committed only through the use of Information and Communication Technology (ICT) where the devices are both the tool and the target for the crime. These crimes often involve hacking to steal, damage or destroy data and network activity.
 - Cyber enabled crimes are traditional crimes such as fraud and theft which can be increased in scale or reach by the use of computers or other forms of ICT.
- Cyber dependant crime and cyber enabled crimes were heightened during the Covid-19 pandemic, as shown by the two graphs below. Cyber dependent crime has lowered but fluctuated since. Cyber enabled crime has undergone a gradual steady increase since September 2021.



Online fraud:

- Reports to Action Fraud have slowly reduced over the past two years as shown by the graph below.
- In the 2021-22 financial year, there were 5906 reports of fraud from Action Fraud, and in 2022-23 this reduced by 15% to 5006. Around 14% of these victims are identified as vulnerable and require intervention by Neighbourhood Policing Teams to deliver Operation Signature. The National Economic Crime Victim Care Unit (NECVCU) support the force to provide protect advice to non-vulnerable victims of Fraud Crime. The NECVCU will expand victim care to more complex cases including the vulnerable in May 2023. The Operation Signature personal visits will still be required to the most vulnerable victims.



Cyber-enabled child abuse:

- Analysis of online referrals from the National Crime Agency (NCA) to Northumbria shows that they increased by 20% from 2020 to 2021 but then fell slightly in average over the first two quarters of 2022. As expected, however, referrals of this nature have continued to rise since October 2022 and are anticipated to grow further.
- Additional investment of resource has been made but dealing with the increased demand has been challenging. A Paedophile Online Investigation Team (POLIT) improvement plan has been developed and is under constant review to impact the backlog and improve the management of risk.

Update on work undertaken

Cease and Desist tool:

- Northumbria Police has adopted the regional 'Cease & Desist' supportive intervention tool, promoting voluntary engagement with subjects that have been identified as involved in or being on the periphery of cyber dependant crime. These cases have usually not met the threshold for prosecution and present an opportunity to prevent possible re-offending or to stop ongoing offending altogether.

Work with young people:

- The Force follows the national 'Cyber Choices' programme. This demonstrates to young people how important it is to use their cyber skills and tech knowledge safely and legally, to ensure they stay out of the world of cyber-crime and work towards more positive pathways. This work is carried out by liaising with colleagues in force, schools, local authorities, Youth Offending Teams and initiatives such as the YOLO Project to identify at the earliest opportunity vulnerable young people who may be prone to becoming involved in cyber dependent crime or be coerced by others into using their tech skills illegally.

Cyber volunteers:

- Opportunities to utilise cyber volunteers on a national scale is progressing. Northumbria has six volunteers, with one individual deployed within NEROCU, in relation to software development and vulnerability testing. A national App is in development and will contain a skills profile of all cyber volunteers across the country, to enable them to nationally assist with investigations where they have specialist knowledge. Volunteers can be tasked locally and regionally, having recently received bespoke training from the force.

Investigations:

- Improving the Force capability and response to cyber investigations is being addressed in a number of ways. This includes the use of media both internally and externally to raise awareness of cybercrime and the Cyber Crime Unit. In addition, there are drop-in advice sessions and contact facilities for officers outside the specialist cyber and fraud teams who require investigative support and ongoing training in the different aspects of cyber and fraud. The Force continues to support all national, regional and local campaigns.

Fraud:

- **Partnership working:** Northumbria Police has a Complex Fraud Team which works closely with the three north east forces and NEROCU via the Fraud Regional Development Officer, as well as enhanced links with the National Lead force, City of London Police. The NEROCU have received additional funding to increase their Fraud Investigation Teams and opportunities are being sought to effectively work together.
- **Improving investigations:** The Complex Fraud Team continue to improve the consistency of fraud investigations across the force, in line with the national Fraud Investigation Model (FIM). The FIM is a problem solving approach and provides investigators with a structure focused on prioritising the prevention and disruption activity, such as asset recovery, to support the victim and prevent further criminality. It was designed to simplify fraud investigation and enable more timely and victim focused outcomes.

Cyber-enabled child abuse:

- **Victim identification:** POLIT have recently expanded their victim identification capability with the recruitment of a further dedicated officer and updated digital equipment. New technology is also being used to identify and safeguard more victims of CSEA and triage devices more effectively and expeditiously.
- **Collaborative working:** POLIT work collaboratively with the Digital Forensics Unit and ROCU Undercover Online (UCOL) teams to deliver against aims of effective justice and raising investigative standards. This interoperability allows the team to bring the most harmful offenders to justice more efficiently. A Memorandum of Understanding is under development with a local North East charity which aims to promote a positive future for people who have been affected by adverse situations in their lives.

27

9. SERIOUS AND ORGANISED CRIME

Organised crime often operates at an international level, but its impact can be seen on our streets. Every part of the force has a role to play in tackling this, especially neighbourhood policing with their close links to the communities we serve. We know, for example, that criminals involved in serious and organised crime frequently commit 'low level' crimes in their local area, sometimes creating a climate of fear.

In the Police and Crime Plan I committed to:

- Back Northumbria Police to disrupt organised crime at every level, ensuring the public can see that those who try to profit from crime are targeted and inappropriate role models are stopped in their tracks.
- Ensure the force continue targeting the organised crime groups behind the illegal drugs trade, ensuring those who seek to profit from the misery of addiction are in our sights and brought to justice.

Current position:

- NEROCU have continued to provide support to ongoing activity against Serious Organised Crime (SOC) threats in Northumbria which could range from being involved in a problem-solving meeting to a full deployment via a gateway request. Over 140 gateway requests were submitted in 2021-22 and a further 126 requests in 2022-23.

- As of April 2023, Organised Crime Group (OCG) members/Priority Individuals (PI) have been linked to fewer crimes as suspects over the last 12 months, compared to the previous 12 months and the 'Crime Severity Score' of those crimes has decreased compared to the previous 12 months (107k compared to 145k). However, the number of crimes that mapped Urban Street Gangs (USG) and Peer Crime Groups (PCG) has increased over the last 12 months compared to the previous 12 months, and the 'Crime Severity Score' of those crimes has almost doubled.

Update on work undertaken to tackle Serious and Organised Crime (SOC)

Understanding organisational risk:

- All mapped OCGs and PIs are currently being scored via the new MoRILE 2020 framework which facilitates common language, consistency, and an understanding of threat harm and risk. Each OCG or PI is then populated onto a SOC master-list, which is central to the National Crime Agency (NCA) SOC system tasking methodology. This system enables a greater understanding of organisational risk from SOC and provides a consistent grading in respect of how effectively each issue is being managed by the owning agency to support efficient tasking and coordination. The intention is that this SOC system tasking will, in time, replace tasking and coordination processes.

Clear-Hold-Build methodology:

- In April 2021, the Home Office released the latest OCG disruption guidance for officers and staff who perform the Lead Responsible Officer (LRO) role (each area command/department has several LROs who are responsible for ensuring resource allocation by harm, threat, and opportunity against the OCGs mapped in their area). This contains specific reference and guidance to 'Clear - Hold - Build' methodology of a holistic approach to tackling SOC within communities to ensure a sustainable geographical approach beyond simplistic 'pursue' and disruption tactics. Northumbria Police have adopted the Clear - Hold - Build methodology within areas of the Force and are working closely with the Regional SOC Community Co-ordinator.

Operation Pecan:

- Operation Pecan is the Northumbria Police response to serious violence and criminality involving groups of young people, known as Urban Street Gangs (USGs). This operation has been introduced following an identified trend of offending in our force area, with the aim of tackling criminality and safeguarding those at risk of exploitation by deterring them from offending and offering alternative diversionary pathways. As of April 2023, Operation Pecan has resulted in 175 arrests, the execution of 46 warrants, 342 stop searches and large numbers of Child Concern Notification submissions.



Northumbria Police operations to tackle serious & organised crime.



FIGHTING CRIME PRIORITY 2: REDUCING ANTI-SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR

Anti-social behaviour is a concern in many parts of our region; it is one of the most frequent issues reported to the police and undoubtedly impacts on the lives of many people. ASB is any behaviour that is capable of causing nuisance and annoyance; is likely to cause harassment, alarm, or distress; creates significant and persistent problems in a neighbourhood and leaves communities intimidated. It can come in variety of forms; from being inconsiderate, reckless, and abusive to committing crimes. It can refer to any situation where someone does something which has a harmful effect on another person or group's quality of life.

Examples of such behaviour would include noise, harassment, criminal damage, graffiti and fly tipping, nuisance neighbours, street drinking, illegal riding of motorbikes, intimidation and hate behaviour that targets members of their identified groups because of their perceived differences.

Northumbria police are committed to addressing anti-social behaviour in both urban and rural settings. We know that to do so effectively requires working with others including local councils, youth services, housing providers, schools and further education providers, businesses, and the voluntary sector to understand the causes and intervene to change behaviour.

We saw the benefits of working together like this during the Covid-19 pandemic, when reports of anti-social behaviour increased. The police deployed dedicated task forces and met weekly with each local authority to discuss the response in that area and coordinate work with businesses, public transport providers, education, and voluntary sector organisations.

That's why in my Police and Crime Plan I commit to improving ASB by:

- Working with your councils to build joint ASB task forces, ensuring every local organisation plays their part in working alongside the police to address concerns about ASB. I committed to support the roll out of this approach to some of our most affected communities.
- Ensuring your ASB concerns are acted on. The police and local authorities, in consultation with my office, have reviewed and re-developed the ASB case review process to ensure repeat incidents of ASB are identified and get a prioritised response. I will ensure these are used to their full effect to support victims of ASB and that you can find out about this easily.
- Continuing to hold senior police and local authority leaders to account for their response to community concerns around ASB. My expectation is that the public will get a prompt and effective response with these organisations jointly taking ownership to address the causes and prevent repeat incidents. I will continue to support investment in youth services and diversion programmes to provide young people with life opportunities.



Current position:

- As the table shows below, there has been a 1% increase in ASB related incidents in the 12 months to July 2023. Despite this slight increase, multi-agency seasonal operations have been successfully undertaken to target hotspot locations, whilst enforcement and diversionary interventions have been effectively utilised to target key offenders.
- There is small but increasing trend in the percentage of people who feel that ASB is a problem in their neighbourhood. Motorbike disorder and ASB on the transport network continue to be a key issue.

Indicator	12 months to December '19*	12 months to July '22	12 months to July '23	% change
Anti-social behaviour incidents	46,762	41,785	42,170	+1%
Percentage of people who feel that ASB is a very or fairly big problem in their neighbourhood	20%	22%	25%	+3%

*nationally agreed baseline for the Government's Beating Crime Plan

- 23% of ASB is youth-related in this 12-month period compared to 22% in the previous period.
- 69% of ASB victims said they were satisfied with their whole experience of service, which is a reduction compared to the same period for the previous year. Dissatisfied victims mainly perceived that police could have been more proactive in response to their report and/or said that the actions taken fell short of their expectations. A review is being undertaken to map an ASB caller's journey through the organisation with a view to identifying opportunities to enhance service delivery. The force does not send an officer to all ASB incidents and utilises a blend of telephone resolution, alongside the neighbourhood policing team diary system.

Update on work undertaken to tackle Serious and Organised Crime (SOC)

Ongoing work carried out by the Force:

- Force wide plans have been instigated to ensure a coordinated partnership approach is adopted across the force, these are managed through the multiagency ASB Coordination Group.
- The Force undertook ASB activity during the national ASB awareness week in July, this included the launch of Operation Cacao to address motorcycle enabled ASB through utilising drones. Results included 12 section 59 notices issued, 8 seizures of off-road motorcycles and 7 arrests with wider prevention and engagement activities undertaken.
- The Force's preventative and proactive approach continues to be underpinned by problem solving, early intervention and partnership working and further supported by the introduction of a new Neighbourhood Policing Model.

- This will allow the force to refocus priorities on; reducing neighbourhood crime and ASB; proactively targeting and disrupting offenders; identifying and protecting vulnerable victims. The first cohort of additional officers to Neighbourhood Teams has been achieved.
- The force continues to identify repeat victims of ASB and seeks to utilise problem solving to tackle causality, with a view to increasing the percentage of victims who experience no further ASB incidents following positive activity. The force is engaged my office's ASB Case Review process (more detail provided below) to support repeat victims who are dissatisfied with the partnership response they have received.
- My office has secured Home Office funding for two ASB pilots relating to Immediate Justice and visible hotspot resourcing, which will see increased police resource deployments into high demand areas across each local authority. More information on these pilots is provided below.

ASB Case Review (formerly known as the Community Trigger)

- The ASB Case Review is an important safety net for victims and communities experiencing ASB to request a review of their ASB case and to bring agencies together to find a solution for the victim(s)
- The revised process was relaunched in Summer 2022 and my office oversees and coordinates all activations in the region and works closely with Community Safety Partnerships throughout the ASB Case Review process.
- In the first 12 months of this process:
 - We processed 130 applications to activate the Community Trigger
 - 102 cases met the threshold to activate the ASB Case Review
 - From the ASB case reviews held, recommendations were made in 84% of cases
 - 88% victims have attended the ASB Case Review panels or provided written impact statements, this shows us that victims of ASB want to have their voices heard and want to be part of the solution.
- Further information on the ASB Case Review, including Statutory Reporting Requirements and information on how to activate the ASB Case Review, can be found on my [website](#).
- My office has commissioned an Independent Review to look at how the Northumbria ASB Case Review (ASB CR) process is operating and its impact after a period of operation. The results confirmed the appropriateness and usefulness of this initiative for victims of persistent ASB and high-risk or vulnerable victims of ASB and key stakeholders, and identifying areas where it needs to adapt to improve results in the future. The final report is due to be discussed at the next Strategic ASB Board, where a plan for implementing agreed recommendations will be confirmed.

Improving the response to ASB

- The work of the regional Strategic ASB Board, which brings together Local Authorities, Fire Services, transport providers and other key agencies is ongoing and continues to work towards the shared priorities, which are:
 - Reporting ASB and the experience of victims throughout ASB processes, this includes looking at how young people experience and report ASB.
 - The way we record and report on ASB and ensuring that there is consistency throughout our region.
 - Early prevention and intervention strategies to reduce ASB.

- Board is currently overseeing the 12-month review of the ASB Case Review process to ensure that it is accessible and to understand how services can be improved for ASB Victims.

ASB Trailblazer Project

Northumbria has been selected as a trailblazer for two ASB pilots, which will both run until March 2025. Through these pilots we have secured over £2 million to tackle ASB until March 2024, further funding has been guaranteed for 2024-25, but the final settlement has not been confirmed at this time. The ASB Trailblazer Project Lead has been recruited and started in post on 7th August 2023.

The first is the **Immediate Justice** pilot which will see ASB Perpetrators repair or make good the damage caused by an offence or undertake up to 20 hours of unpaid work. The pilot went live on 25th September 2023.

- The activities will be, where possible and appropriate, highly visible to the public and will take place in public spaces – such as parks, community spaces such as high streets, rear lanes or green spaces, transport hubs, and private property (including housing association land) with the owner’s consent. Probation will deliver these reparative activities. A menu of reparative activity options has been confirmed following consultation with the public, but and will include:
 - Refuse/waste removal to include litter picking
 - Graffiti removal
 - Area beautification through gardening activities
 - Repairs to property (both public or private with the owners’ consent and can include private resident’s or business properties).
- There will be a work programme for reparative activity established in six pilot areas that experience high levels of ASB, and one geographically defined area in each Local Authority area.
- The pilot will fit into the existing police Out of Court Resolution framework and will be applicable to any volume crime type such as public order and criminal damage, as well as offences under the ASB, Crime and Policing Act 2014 which include breaches of Community Protection Notices, Criminal Behaviour Orders, Premises Closure Orders and Dispersal Notices.
- ASB victims will be consulted on the type of activity they would like to see perpetrators undertake.
- Running alongside the reparative activity, 25% of the service will include an education element to address behaviour change and provide some level of sustainability. Also built into the project will be voluntary Restorative Justice where at the end of the reparative activities, if appropriate, the possibility of Restorative Justice will be explored with the perpetrator, if agreed then the Northumbria Victim and Witness Service will liaise with the victim and seek their views. If both parties are agreeable Northumbria Victim and Witness Service as the Restorative Justice practitioners will arrange and lead this.

The second is the **Hotspot Response** pilot that started in July 2023 and will deliver a stronger, focused approach to deterring and tackling ASB across our transport networks as well as in three communities suffering high levels of ASB:

- Funding will be used to put in place an enhanced presence of police and other relevant agencies in key ASB areas. Both strands of our project (transport and community based) will increase the level of enforcement action taken therefore we are also seeking to expedite enforcement activity through a shared legal resource.
- The overall aim of this project is to deter ASB and intervene early to prevent escalation, identifying offenders and take robust enforcement action where necessary.
- We will work with Nexus, bus operators, and Northumbria Police to enhance the work of the Safer Transport project providing a greater uniformed presence across our public transport network.
- Community based hotspots: In three specific geographic locations where we understand there are high levels of ASB we will deploy co-ordinated multi-agency response teams; these will include police and local authority resource as well as potentially resource from Registered Social Landlords (RSL) (if operating in the chosen hotspot).
- The areas have been identified based on data, insights and intelligence. Northumbria Police have liaised with the Local Authorities to ensure they fit with their local intelligence and insights. The three area commands have identified the following community-based hotspots:
 - Biddick Hall and Whiteleas, South Tyneside, Southern area command
 - West Denton, Newcastle, Central area command
 - Cramlington, Northumberland, Northern area command.



Hotspot Response policing in West Denton (Central Area Command).

Progress made so far regarding the Hotspot Response:

- Regular patrols are being conducted during peak times in the identified hotspot areas of West Denton, Cramlington and Biddick Hall and Whiteleas. Within West Denton there have been joint patrols between Northumbria Police and Newcastle City Council on 8 days, resulting in 16 extra police officers and 15 officers from the local authority. In Cramlington there have been an additional 16 officers over the course of 5 days and an extra 6 officers on 3 days within Biddick Hall. During those patrols:
 - A significant number of young persons were spoken to and provided information on diversionary activities in the local area.
 - Numerous businesses were visited with officers gathering local intelligence and providing reassurance.
 - Members of the public were engaged with promoting community confidence.
 - Officers dealt with ASB incidents which included fly tipping, fire setting, stone throwing from a motorway bridge, motor bike disorder, a pub fight with one person arrested for assault, reports of damage to community flower beds and one vehicle uplifted for no insurance. Young persons were dispersed from all areas with 2 dispersal orders being issued.

- In the next few weeks patrols will commence by staff from South Tyneside Council whilst Northumberland County Council are currently in the process of recruiting wardens. In addition, youth provision will be provided in both Newcastle and South Tyneside.
- During the month of August, there were additional police patrols on a weekend at Gateshead Interchange, South Shields Interchange, Haymarket and Witherwack. The overall number of patrols resulted in an extra 15 officers on patrol. Those officers carried out the following work:
 - Engaged with and provided reassurance to over 13 businesses within the transport hub areas.
 - Dealt with a range of ASB including the riding of bicycles and quad bikes in transport buildings, noise and cones being thrown onto concourse areas, theft from shop where stolen items were recovered and possession of a Class B drug.
 - A missing person was located an officers engaged with 12 young persons who were frequenting the areas.
- British Transport Police provided 10 officers between Pelaw and South Hylton working closely with Nexus staff. Officers spoke to 75 members of the public providing reassurance whilst they travelled.
- Stagecoach have also employed a Transport Security Officer who will be deployed on Stagecoach bus routes across the Newcastle and Sunderland area. Valuable intelligence has already been gathered and body worn camera will be worn to assist in the identification of offenders. Bus drivers are being encouraged to increase reporting with the use of a recently developed incident form.



Various Hotspot Response patrols from across the force area.

Other funding for ASB:

Operation Payback:

- My Operation Payback Fund supports grass-roots community activities across Northumbria to prevent and reduce crime and ASB. The fund is made up of money that has been seized through successful police action across the region, as well as a contribution from my own budget. I opened my 5th round of Operation Payback in the summer and have awarded a total of £169,361 to local community projects ranging from football pitches to new security systems. Through this round of Operation Payback I have been able to provide Gateshead Cleveland Hall, the former club of promising young footballer Tomasz Oleszak who was tragically killed in a knife attack, funding to begin the development of a new 4G football pitch in his memory. Other groups who have received funding to support new facilities, repair CCTV, roll out youth diversionary activities or kick-start community projects include: Ashington Rugby Cricket Club, High Spen Social Action, Sunderland's Halo Project, and Holding Hands North East. A total of £1,141,459 has been spent across all five rounds over the past three years.

ASB Victims Funding:

- I continue to contribute £30,000 per year to support ASB victim support services across the region and through the work of the Strategic ASB Board will continue to work towards understanding how access to support differs across our region and how this can be improved.

Safer Streets Round 4:

- In 2022 my office was successful in bidding for over £2m from the Home Office Safer Streets Fund Round 4, to work on detailed initiatives to make people feel safer. One of these projects focuses on ASB across our transport networks and how we can improve reporting mechanisms, prevent incidents occurring and respond to incidents swiftly and efficiently using our strong multi-agency partnerships.
- Since this project was launched in September 2022 we have achieved:
 - The deployment of the Multi Agency Transport Team (MATT), youth provision and Street Pastors across the Transport Networks.
 - Ongoing work to promote the Northumbria Safer Transport App
 - Development of training to provide consistency of response to all partners working on the project on matters such as dealing with incidents of ASB, engaging service users, reporting/recording information and safeguarding.



(L) Cleveland Hall CA received Operation Payback funding to help start their project that will see a new 4G pitch installed, for club and community use. (R) The MATT deployed at The Hoppings this summer along with Northumbria Police and NE1.



Through the Safer Transport project we funded various policing operations that increased visibility and presence across the network, tackled ASB and provided community reassurance. Pictured: (L) Gateshead & (R) East Boldon.



APPENDIX 1: PERFORMANCE DATA

CORE PERFORMANCE DATA

FIGHTING CRIME

RECORDED CRIME

Performance Headlines

Total crime has increased by 6% for the 12 months to July 2023, with an increase in violence against the person, theft and handling (particularly shoplifting), vehicle crime, robbery, cyber-crime and hate crime compared to 12 months to July 2022. When compared to the 12 months to December 2019, the nationally agreed baseline for the Government's Beating Crime Plan, crime levels are higher for violent crime (VAP, sexual offences and robbery), vehicle crime, cyber-crime and hate crime. All other categories are lower.

Total Recorded Crime (Panel KPI)

Total Recorded Crime



38

TOTAL RECORDED CRIME BY LOCAL AUTHORITY

	*12 months to Dec 2019	12 months to July 2022	12 months to July 2023	% change 22 vs 23	% change 19 vs 23
Total	149,753	137,796	146,305	6%	-2%
Sunderland	31,405	28,248	29,662	5%	-6%
South Tyneside	15,624	13,927	15,706	13%	1%
Gateshead	20,256	18,897	19,663	4%	-3%
North Tyneside	19,821	17,073	18,413	8%	-7%
Newcastle	38,183	36,368	37,918	4%	-1%
Northumberland	24,464	23,283	24,943	7%	2%

* nationally agreed baseline for the Government's Beating Crime Plan

ASB INCIDENTS

Performance Headlines

There has been a 1% (+385) increase in ASB related incidents in the 12 months to July 2023 compared to the previous 12-month period. Motorbike disorder and ASB on the transport network continues to be a key issue, partnership operations are being developed in conjunction with local authorities and transport providers to reduce incidents and increase public confidence. The Force undertook ASB activity during the national ASB awareness week in July, this included the launch of Operation Cacao to address motorcycle enabled ASB utilising drones. Results included 12 section 59 notices issued, 8 seizures of off-road motorcycles and 7 arrests with wider prevention and engagement activities undertaken. In week commencing 10th July the Force conducted Operation Impact which saw heightened visibility and enforcement activity, which included addressing ASB hotspot areas.

Indicator	*12 months to December 2019	12 months to July 2022	12 months to July 2023	% change
Anti-social behaviour incidents	46,763	41,785	42,170	+1%

ASB SATISFACTION

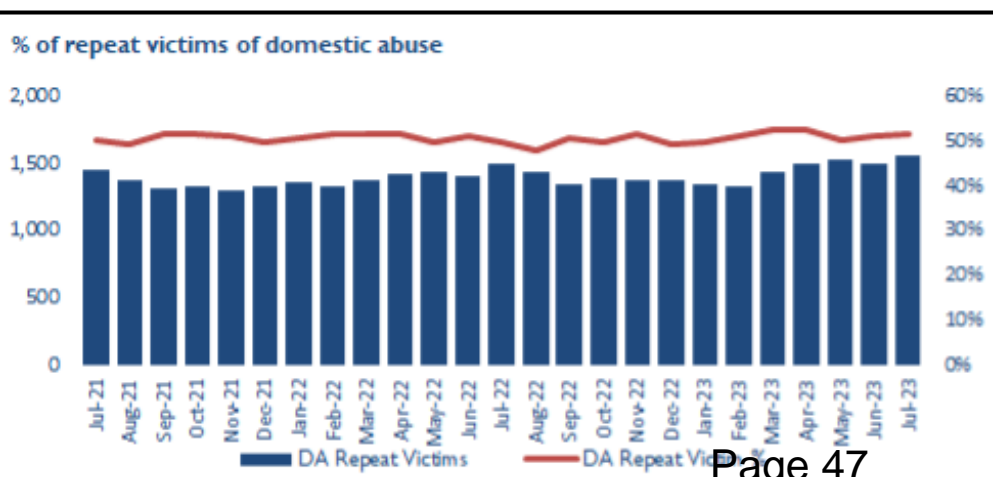
Performance Headlines

Fewer ASB victims were satisfied with the actions taken compared to the 12 months to July 2022. Dissatisfied victims mainly perceived that police could have been more proactive in response to their report and/or said that the actions taken fell short of their expectations. The ASB issue being unresolved, victims not being kept informed and/or knowing the outcome of their report were also drivers of dissatisfaction. Conversely, satisfied victims said that police took robust action and felt that their report was taken seriously. Feeling listened to, supported by officers and police offering to patrol/increase visibility were also mentioned.

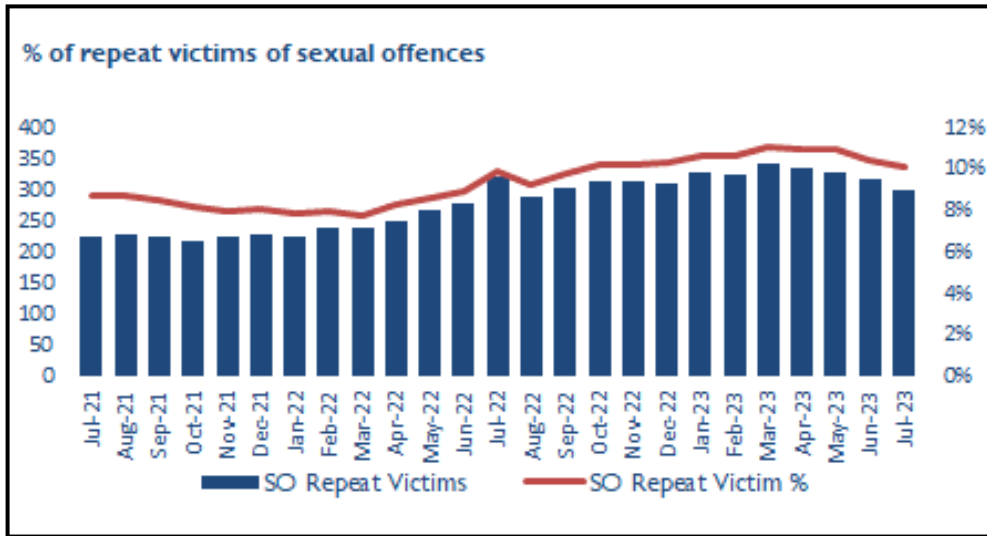
Indicator	12 months to July 2022	12 months to July 2023
Whole Experience	74%	69%

39

REPEAT VICTIMS - DOMESTIC ABUSE



REPEAT VICTIMS - SEXUAL OFFENCES

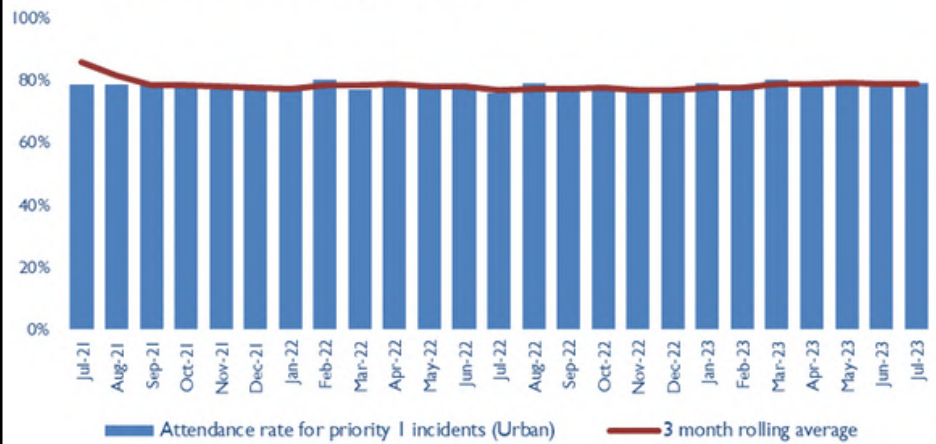


POLICE RESPONSE TIMES - GRADE 1 URBAN

Performance Headlines

Grade 1 incident demand remains high. For the 12 months to July 2023, there have been 5% more grade 1 incidents than the previous 12-month period. Grade 1 demand has been higher than previous historical levels of demand since April 2021.

% Attended within standard - Grade 1 (Urban)

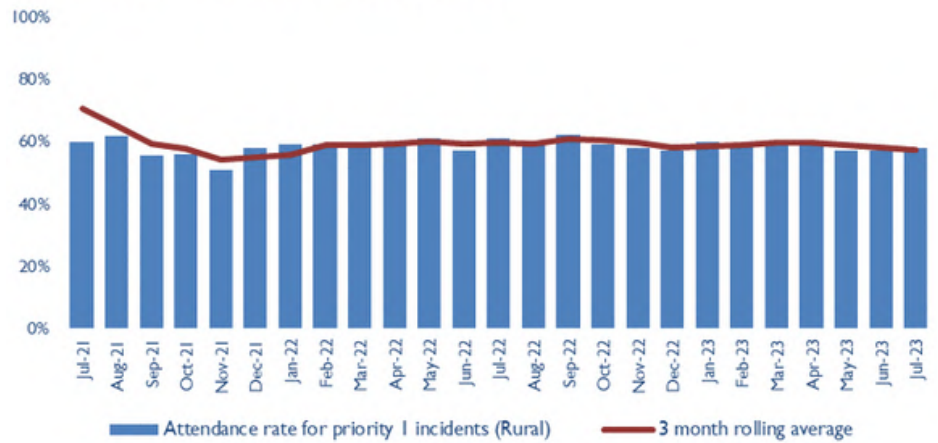


POLICE RESPONSE TIMES - GRADE 1 RURAL

Performance Headlines

The percentage of grade 1 (rural) incidents attended within 20 minutes was 59%, a reduction of 1%pt compared to the 12 months to July 2022.

% Attended within standard - Grade 1 (Rural)



ANSWER TIMES - 999 EMERGENCY CALLS

Performance Headlines

There has been a consistent improvement in the percentage of 999 calls answered within the service level agreement since March 2022.

For the 12 months to July 2023, 88% of 999 calls were answered within 10 seconds, with an average answer time of 9 seconds. For the month of July 2023, 88% of 999 calls were answered within 10 seconds with an average answer time of 8 seconds.

999 Calls answered within standard



ANSWER TIMES - 101 NON-EMERGENCY CALLS

Performance Headlines

The percentage of 101 calls answered within 1 minute for the 12 months to July 2023 is 62%; this compares to 34% for the 12 months to July 2022. The average answer time for 101 non-emergency calls for the 12 months to July 2023 was 2 minutes and 4 seconds, compared to 7 minutes and 28 seconds for the 12 months to July 2022; a reduction of 72%.

101 NE Calls answered within standard



PREVENTING CRIME

FIRST TIME ENTRANTS INTO CRIMINAL JUSTICE SYSTEM

Number of first-time entrants to the criminal justice system	12 months to December 2020	12 months to December 2021	12 months to December 2022
Total	1,966	1,980	2,049
<i>Adults</i>	1,828	1,839	1,891
<i>Juveniles</i>	138	141	158

SERIOUS VIOLENCE OFFENCES

Indicator % change	12 months to December 2019	12 months to July 2022	12 months to July 2023	% change
Serious violence offences	18,709	22,541	23,556	+5%
Knife enabled serious violence	800	976	1,090	+12%
Homicides	12	16	15	-0.06%
Hospital admissions (under 25s for assault with a sharp object)	25	35 (to March 22)	25 (to Mar 23)	-29%

IMPROVING LIVES

PUBLIC PERCEPTION

Indicator	12 months to July 22	12 months to July 23
Percentage of people who think the police do a good or excellent job in their neighbourhood	73%	69%

Performance Headlines

▶ Most residents that rated their local police as good or excellent referred to their own positive experiences with the service and/or expressed the sentiment that the 'police do what they can' despite of stretched resources. Other residents associated the absence of ongoing issues in their local area as evidence of efficient policing.

Less than satisfactory experiences with the service and/or hearing about these experiences from others, lack of police visibility, resourcing concerns and/or the persistence of ongoing local issues not addressed by police, were mentioned by residents that rated their local police as fair or poor.

OVERALL VICTIM SATISFACTION

Performance Headlines

▶ 73% of volume crime victims said they were satisfied with their whole experience of service; a statistically significant reduction compared to the same period last year – 80%.

In response to the decline in victim satisfaction a working group was established which carried out an in-depth analysis of the journey of an ASB incident / volume crime together with an assessment of verbatim comments provided by victims during survey responses, to gain a greater understanding of the factors impacting satisfaction levels. This has allowed identification of wider impacts, with specific reference to ASB regarding concerns actions were not taken.

SATISFACTION - HATE CRIME

Indicator	12 months to July 2022	12 months to July 2023
Whole experience	73%	75%

SATISFACTION - DOMESTIC ABUSE

Indicator	12 months to July 2022	12 months to July 2023
Whole experience	87%	87%

DELIVERY OF THE POLICE & CRIME PLAN

FIGHTING CRIME PANEL REPORT

OCTOBER 2023



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POLICE AND CRIME PANEL

24 October 2023

REPORT OF THE POLICE AND CRIME COMMISSIONER FOR NORTHUMBRIA

DRAFT ANNUAL REPORT 2022-23.

1. Purpose

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to present to panel members the draft Annual Report 2022-23 of the Police and Crime Commissioner for Northumbria. This draft is attached at Appendix A

2. Statutory Context

- 2.1 The Police Reform and Social Responsibility Act 2011 (chapter 3, section 12) specifies that a Police and Crime Commissioner must produce an annual report on the exercise of their functions in each financial year, including the progress made in meeting the priorities as set out in the Police and Crime Plan.
- 2.2 It is the role of the Police and Crime Panel under section 28(4) of the Police Reform and Social Responsibility Act to review the annual report and make a report or recommendations.
- 2.3 The annual report is currently in draft format to enable the panel to make a report and /or recommendations as appropriate. The Commissioner will give a response to any report or recommendations on the annual report and share a final version of the document with members.
- 2.4 The Police and Crime Plan 2021-2025 was launched in 2021 following extensive consultation to ensure that Northumbria Police and the Police and Crime Commissioner's priorities reflect and remain responsive to local needs. Progress towards the current plan are reflected in the Annual Report.

3. Content of the Annual Report 2022-23

- 3.1 The draft of the Annual Report presented here is structured around the priorities addressed in the Police and Crime Plan.
- 3.2 The Police and Crime Plan has been refreshed on an annual basis after a period of public consultation. As part of this refresh the Police and Crime Panel was also consulted.

3.3 This draft Annual Report has been expanded to ensure the public can be informed on both the Police and Crime Plan and emerging issues such as the Violence Reduction Unit.

4. Informing the public and key stakeholders

4.1 After feedback from the panel the draft report will be updated and designed for online distribution.

4.2 The report will be made available on the Commissioner's website – www.northumbria-pcc.gov.uk .

5. Recommendation

5.1 That the draft annual report be reviewed in line with the Panel's duties under section 28(4) of the Police Reform and Social Responsibility Act.



Northumbria Police and Crime Commissioner – Annual Report 2022/23

In my Police and Crime Plan I set out 6 key priorities under 3 core pillars. This year I reviewed my report and refreshed it to ensure it is kept up to date as crime evolves and the needs of our communities change.

In this annual report, I will update you on the progress made on each of these priorities over the year (2022/23).

Priorities:

1. Fighting crime
 - Reducing Crime
 - Anti-social behaviour
2. Preventing crime
 - Preventing violent crime
 - Neighbourhood Policing
3. Improving lives
 - Support for victims
 - Tackling domestic abuse and sexual violence

Pillar 1: Fighting Crime

PRIORITY 1: Reducing Crime

- **Giving the force the tools to do the job**

If we are to prevent and fight crime in the Northumbria Police force area it is essential our force has the resources available to support our communities. Over the last 12 months the impact of historic funding cuts and steep rises in costs have been compounded with increasing demands on our police force.

Over the last four years, Northumbria has increased its officer headcount from 3,129 to 3,744 - not only achieving, but exceeding Government uplift targets. The Chief Constable and I chose to go above and beyond the set targets as uplift funding only allowed for a maximum of 615 additional recruits - 485 short of the number needed to replace those lost since 2010. The months ahead will also see us able to push on with plans to put an extra 134 police officers on the frontline as we go into the next period. Throughout the year I have also rolled out a 'Give us Back Our Cops' campaign in the media and through direct communication to the Home Secretary. I will continue fighting for better funding to build the workforce back up to its former levels.



- **Early intervention and reducing reoffending**

Early intervention keeps crime down, and the best way to achieve this is with trusted neighbourhood police officers and staff. The Chief Constable and I have agreed that neighbourhood policing is a top priority, alongside working with other organisations such as local councils and youth organisations to help keep our streets safe.

Now in its 4th year, my Violence Reduction Unit funded interventions are continuing to make an impact from working intensely with a vulnerable individual to supporting to the wider family to become more resilient.

One example is the Focused Deterrence scheme which offers tailored intensive support, targeted interventions and swift enforcement for individuals causing the most serious violence in our communities. Sunderland City Centre became the first area to benefit from this new intervention. The SAIL (Sunderland Altogether Improving Lives) Team brings together dedicated violence reduction staff, officers from Northumbria Police, Sunderland City Council ASB officers, neighbourhood wardens and key specialists, to deter individuals from crime and provide some much-needed respite for the city.

Education is a massive area of focus for the region too. To reach young people at the earliest opportunity, our dedicated education team also deliver informative, interactive, and impactful sessions. Almost 30,000 young people have received violence education themed learning from our Education Team or have taken part in our training sessions. Our student champions have also offered mentorship to 100 students who have been referred for reasons, including carrying a weapon in school, displaying anger and violence in school or the community. The scheme has received excellent feedback ranging from improved rapport with the local police to individuals now seeking mental health support.

- **The illegal drugs trade**

In my Police and Crime Plan I committed to ensuring the force targets the illegal drugs trade and the crime that follows it. Northumbria Police continues to make significant efforts to improve strategy, implement preventative measures and disrupt dealing in our area.

Op Venetic is a great example of this work and it continues to facilitate opportunities to fundamentally dismantle dozens of sophisticated OCGs involved in high level organised crime. This will have a significant impact in the long term upon those OCGs involved in drug supply and the identification of vulnerable individuals in the community. As of November 2022, a total of 127 suspects have been arrested, 43 of whom have been charged.

Project Adder is another targeted project to reduce drug-related offending, drug deaths, drug supply and prevalence and of drug use. Funding for this project is currently secured until March 2025 and there continues to be good progress. The project builds on existing work and looks to expand multi-agency partnership working to drive sustained health and crime related outcomes taking a whole-system four P approach across enforcement, treatment, and diversion. Activity for the 12 months to November 2022 included 113 warrants executed, 374 arrests, £367,107 cash seized and an estimated £2,730,300 of drugs seized.



- **Rural crime**

Tackling rural crime is a real priority for Northumbria Police. This is demonstrated in how we successfully secured £250,000 in Safer Streets funding, making Northumbria the first force in the country to be awarded this funding specifically to fight rural crime. With the money secured we were able to start 2023 with the launch of Northumberland Partnership Against Rural Crime (NPARC). This initiative brings regional partners' respective expertise together to explore ways of working to support policing efforts in our rural communities.

More than £1 million worth of stolen farming and agricultural equipment has been successfully recovered since Northumbria's rural policing team was formed in 2020 and with the formation of NPARC, the Safer Streets funding and the continued support of Operation Checkpoint volunteers there is a real commitment to building on this success.

- **Responding to the needs of the public**

If we are to prevent and fight crime in the Northumbria Police force area it is essential our force has the resources available to support our communities. The public need to have the confidence that the force will respond when they are called upon. It is also important to note that demand is increasing, while resources remain rationed by the Government and our control rooms are working hard under incredible pressure.

Overall call handling performance continues to improve. 99.9% of 999 calls were answered in December 2022, with 94.2% answered within the Service Level Agreement (SLA) of 10 seconds. The average answer time was 5 seconds. This improvement is above the rates that were previously projected. 101 non-emergency call handling performance has also improved; however, current performance remains below the SLA and previous levels of performance and will continue to be closely monitored with improvement plans.

- **Online Crime**

Cybercrime, including online fraud, is a growing threat both regionally, nationally, and internationally. The type, frequency and sophistication of cyber-enabled crimes are continually increasing, ranging from organised crime groups to individuals targeting victims via social media. Many cyber-enabled crimes lead to complex investigations, and we must recognise that online crime ignores all borders, that's why Northumbria Police has a Complex Fraud Team which works closely with the three north east forces and NEROCU well as enhanced links with the National Lead force, City of London Police. The NEROCU has received additional funding to increase their Fraud Investigation Teams and new opportunities to effectively work together are being explored.

While the volume of cyber dependant crimes has remained broadly consistent over the previous 12 months, the volume of cyber enabled crime has steadily increased since last year. Many of the latter offences include the use of social media by overseas offenders. In the six months to August 2022, reports to Action Fraud within the Northumbria area stabilised at approximately 430 reports each month.

- **Serious and Organised crime**

As mentioned, organised crime often operates at an international level, but its impact can be seen on our streets. Every part of the force plays a part in in tackling this, especially neighbourhood policing with their close links to the communities being served.



Our North East Regional Organised Crime Unit (NEROCU) also exists to protect our communities from serious and organised crime.

PRIORITY 2: Anti-social behaviour

- **Commitment to anti-social behaviour**

Strategic ASB Board:

The beginning of 2023 marked a full year of the region wide Strategic ASB Board which brings together Local Authorities Fire Services, Transport providers and other key agencies. The Board has agreed to run projects based on all 3 Board priorities:

- Reporting ASB and the experience of Victims throughout ASB process, this includes looking at how young people experience and report ASB.
- The way we record and report on ASB and ensuring that there is consistency throughout our region.
- Early prevention and Intervention strategies to reduce ASB.

In addition, Board reps have agreed to fund cross border working on our transport networks and have overseen the relaunch of the new ASB Case Review procedure.

The first Registered Social Landlord ASB Forum took place in April 2023 and was made up of 9 of the main RSLs in our region. RSLs play a huge role in keeping communities safe and therefore are key partners in helping us tackle ASB and this forum will allow the RSLs to directly feed into and influence the work of the Northumbria Strategic ASB Board. Looking ahead, the Forum will be an opportunity to share some of the innovative and successful projects and practices across the region with other RSLs and the Strategic Board.

ASB Case Review:

The ASB Case Review, is an important safety net for victims and communities experiencing ASB to request a review of their ASB case and to bring agencies together to find a solution for the victim(s).

The revised process was relaunched in July 2022 and the OPCC now oversees and coordinates all activations in the region and works closely with Community Safety Partnerships throughout the Community Trigger process.

July 2022 – March 2023 data:

- We processed 85 applications to activate the Community Trigger
- 66 cases met the threshold to activate the ASB Case Review
- From the ASB case reviews held, recommendations have been made in 98% of cases.
- 92% victims have attended the ASB Case Review panels or provided written impact statements, this shows us that victims of ASB want to have their voices heard and want to be part of the solution.
- We have received 3 1st stage appeal requests to local CSP Boards and 1 2nd stage (final stage) appeal to Strategic ASB Board.



In March 2023, our region's ASB Case Review process received national recognition when it was shortlisted for a Resolve ASB best Project Award. We have also commissioned an external agency to undertake a full review of the ASB Case Review Procedure.

[PULL OUT BOX]

One victim who has been through process said:

"After years of having to endure ASB with very little action, the community trigger allowed me to be heard and taken seriously. I finally have received action and I know for a fact that this is only due to the community trigger. There was excellent communication throughout the process, I was offered a sympathetic shoulder and I felt really supported. The trigger made such a big impact in a short amount of time and massively helped me and my family."

Funding:

Safer Streets Round 4:

In 2022 my Office secured £2m from the Home Office Safer Streets Fund Round 4, to work on detailed initiatives to make people feel safer. One of these projects focuses on ASB across our transport networks and how we can improve reporting mechanisms, prevent incidents occurring and respond to incidents swiftly and efficiently using our strong multi-agency partnerships. Since its launch in September 2022 there has been:

- The deployment of the Multi Agency Transport Team (MATT), Youth provision and Street Pastors across the Transport Networks
- Ongoing work to promote the Northumbria Safer Transport App

ASB Victims Funding:

I continue to contribute £30,000 per year to support ASB victim support services across the region and through the work of the Strategic ASB Board will continue to work towards understanding how access to support differs across our region and how this can be improved.

Mental health work in ASB Cases:

This year I provided £19,000 to support a newly designed ASB service Project in Gateshead. The research for this project found that mental ill-health was prevalent in 100% ASB cases audited, and the project aims to incorporate access to mental health advice into daily case management for earlier identification and access to help, support, and signposting.

Operation Payback:

In Summer 2022 my Operation Payback fund awarded over £200,000 to improve local communities. The fund focussed specifically on reducing ASB. The Operation Payback fund is taken directly from money seized from drug dealers, human traffickers and thieves is used to improve lives and benefit grassroots causes. In February 2023 I awarded a further £177,000 worth of funding to grassroots charities to further prevent and deter ASB in our local communities. Funding has been used towards local sporting activities, mental wellbeing services and projects for young people.

Local Youth Fund (Violence Reduction Unit):

This fund empowers young people to bid for projects and activities that they believe will reduce serious violence and vulnerability in their local areas. In the latest round, young people were



encouraged to develop projects themed around preventing knife crime. This resulted in them coming up with ideas including wearing white at community sessions as a conversation starter and holding sports activities such as a 'knives down' football league. This unique fund also provides an opportunity to engage and better understand young people's experiences of vulnerability and violence to help shape our interventions.

Seasonal Violence Fund (VRU):

The VRU has been working with CSPs to use this fund to develop projects aimed at reducing serious violence within communities across Northumbria. The fund is committed to identifying individuals causing significant harm in communities and diverting them from crime. Last winter's projects helped drive crime down 14% in December. In Sunderland City Centre, crime dropped by 37% compared to the previous year, due to the increase in police presence, neighbourhood wardens and more youth and health provision. This follows the success seen during the summer where levels of violence dropped by 12.2% across the region.

Pillar 2: Preventing crime

PRIORITY 3: preventing violent crime

- **Prevention, utilising a public health approach.**

I am committed to using a public health approach to reducing violence. I want us to treat violence the same way we would a disease, recognising the symptoms, understanding the causes, and then stopping its transmission, helping people to avoid it, and giving people the tools, they need to tackle it.

My violence reduction unit is taking a direct approach to intervening with those who are showing signs of vulnerability or are on the fringes of criminal/anti-social activity. This takes the form of direct intervention with young people, working with those who could become the biggest risk to others, alongside key services and organisations who can help address the wider needs of other family members such as siblings too.

Reducing offending

There was a total of 22,889 violent crimes reported to Northumbria Police during 2022. Although this number has risen, the VRU Strategic Needs Assessment 2023 found that there has been a 9% reduction in hospital admissions for assault with a knife or sharp object for Under 25s since 2021 – a much welcome improvement for the region and an endorsement for the intervention and education programmes that have been rolled out across the region.

One such programme is the Student Support Champions available to offer support on local youth violence issues in eight secondary schools in Newcastle. They are the first to benefit from the scheme, and I am eager to roll this out further across the region. Our champions work with young people to



build trusted relationships and encourage them to seek support. They work closely with schools, police, local authorities, and community services to improve school attendance, behaviour, reduce suspensions and exclusions, strengthen community links, and prevent serious youth violence.

Another example of how we are working to reduce offending is our partnership with the regions two football foundations - Newcastle and Sunderland. Through the clubs, our YOLO programme provides mentoring support for young people aged 10 to 16 years identified as being at risk of knife crime. When they start the programme, young people are allocated mentors to work with them on a one-one basis to establish positive relationships and ensure full support is right for them and their needs.

- **Roads policing**

Whether you're a driver, cyclist, motorcyclist, or pedestrian, we all must share the responsibility and do our bit to make our roads safer. To do this, Northumbria Police works in partnership with others to help reduce the of harm to all road users and prevent criminality on the roads network. This includes continued support for national road safety operations which encourage everyone to help improve the safety for riders of bicycles and motorcycles too. The impact of road traffic collisions (RTCs) can be devastating to those involved and their families. In the Northumbria Police area there were 2,178 reported road casualties (includes fatalities and serious / minor injuries) in 2021 and 2,129 in 2020, the lowest total since 2005. The force is committed to improving road safety and targeting offenders who use vehicles to carry out criminal activities or drive dangerously. Those caught putting the safety of others at risk in our region will face action. More than 900 motorists received driving bans or penalty points after being caught using a mobile phone behind the wheel in 2022 alone, which illustrates the determined efforts of our force to make the roads safer.

Roads policing isn't just a matter for our urban areas and the motorways and busy roads that connect them, we also have officers responsible for keeping the region's most rural communities safe and this year, these officers have undergone specialist roads policing training.

PRIORITY 4: Neighbourhood Policing

- **Neighbourhood Policing**

In the 12 months to February 2023, 70 percentage of people surveyed said they thought Northumbria Police did a good or excellent job in their neighbourhood. Although high, this figure does mean an 8 per cent fall when compared to the previous year. Much of the feedback expressed the sentiment that the 'police do what they can' despite of stretched resources, and I fully agree. Residents often perceived that an increase in funding and police visibility would help to further improve the service and I will continue fighting for this.

Our neighbourhood policing teams have been working on delivering many new projects and initiatives that have been having a positive impacts n the communities they serve and are being recognised as best practice. A few examples of good work from this year are noted below.

- **Problem Oriented Policing:** Neighbourhood Policing Teams (NPTs) continue to focus on Problem Orientated Policing (POP). There are two force-wide POP plans in place, with coordinated force-wide activity to address issues relating to off-road motorcycle nuisance and



ASB on the transport network. Oversight is through the ASB Subgroup and ASB Coordination Group. A third Force wide POP plan is currently being developed to address fly tipping which is led by Northumberland Fire and Rescue Service. The Force's problem-solving process has recently received favourable comment from the His Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary and Fire & Rescue Services.

- **Multi-agency policing operations:** Northumbria Police continues to develop and carry out successful multi-agency policing operations to prevent and reduce victims of crime in identified neighbourhoods. SARA (Southwick Altogether Raising Aspirations) is an example of this and is a multi-agency place-based approach has been applied force wide to tackle high harm areas for crime and ASB. Similarly, the HALO project, based in Hetton, provides sustainable interventions for local neighbourhoods and last December the SAIL (Sunderland Altogether Improving Lives) hub based in the city centre was established. This focuses on a cohort of youth and adult offenders in terms of intervention and disruption initiatives.

Pillar 3: Improving Lives

PRIORITY 5: Support for victims

Supporting people through the justice system

Victims' services:

As PCC I am responsible for commissioning the majority of victim services in our areas. This year my team oversaw the distribution of nearly £3.6 million in grant funding across numerous funding streams. In the 2022-23 financial year, my Supporting Victims, Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence Community, Children Affected by Domestic Abuse (CADA), IDVA/ISVA and Male Rape Support Funds enabled 33,404 victims of various crimes to be supported.

ISVA and IDVA commissioning:

Through funding from the Ministry of Justice, I have been able to enhance the provision of Independent Sexual Violence Advisors (ISVAs) and Independent Domestic Violence Advisors (IDVAs). ISVAs and IDVAs provide specialist practical and emotional support for victims of sexual violence and domestic abuse – they can help a victim with everything they need to become safe and rebuild their life, as well as helping a victim navigate the criminal justice system and working with the different statutory agencies to provide wrap-around support. This funding has been awarded from the Ministry of Justice and spans over three years (2022-25). As well as enhancing overall provision, I have ensured Northumbria's ISVA and ISVA provision has specialist ISVAs and/or IDVAs to support children, ethnic minority women, victims with disabilities and LGBTQ+ victims.

NVWS end to end service:

I commissioned Northumbria Police to deliver my new core victims' service in Northumbria, Northumbria Victim and Witness Service (NVWS), which has joined-up and enhanced delivery of the service. NVWS deliver genuine end-to-end support for all victims (whether the victim has reported the crime or not), helping victims to cope and recover from their experiences and providing integrated and co-ordinated support to the victim throughout their experience with the Criminal Justice System.



Victim and Witness Improvement Board:

My Victim and Witness Service Improvement Board, that I established in 2021, continues to assist me in making ongoing improvements to our victim support services to ensure we achieve better outcomes for victims of crime. Membership of this board include service providers and direct victim and witness representatives, who have all offered invaluable insights into my understanding of how we 'get it right' for victims throughout the Criminal Justice System.

Victims' Champion:

I have appointed a Victims' Champion to listen and amplify the voices of victims in our region. By understanding victims' experiences, and engaging with our key partners, our Victims' Champion will be able to use this information to positively influence change across the Criminal Justice System (CJS) and improve victims' journeys through the CJS in Northumbria.

Stalking and harassment

In responding to the increase in stalking and harassment across our region, I am pleased to be commissioning a specialist national stalking service, Paladin, for the next 3 years, ensuring victims of stalking and harassment have access to emotional, practical and advocacy support. Additionally, our local specialist services (including our domestic abuse and IDVA services) will benefit from training delivered by Paladin in recognising and supporting victims of stalking and harassment. In complimenting this work, my office is also part of a regional working group (alongside our police and probation partners) in establishing a Northumbria Stalking Intervention Programme which will focus on the stalking perpetration and the effective management of the risks associated with this crime type.

Hate Crime

In line with the national picture, unfortunately we have seen hate crime rise in recent years. As a result, our fight against hate continues and we are determined to bring about positive change. The PCC scrutinises Northumbria Police's performance data on satisfaction levels of victims of hate crime and the work undertaken by the police to support victims.

In 2022, Northumbria Police recorded 3,655 hate crimes and 1,794 hate incidents, in both sets of data, racially motivated hate crimes and racially motivated incidents are in the majority although there has also been an increase in homophobic and transphobic hate crime. 74% of hate crime victims surveyed by the Public Insight team at Northumbria Police were satisfied with their whole experience of the service.

The OPCC engages with a range of partners who play a crucial role in supporting individuals who experience hate crime. Connected Voice which has received national awards for outstanding service, has been commissioned by the OPCC to deliver a specialist advocacy service focused on providing individual support to victims of hate crime and those at risk of hate crime. Targeted promotion of the service with seldom heard communities has improved access by 70% to help people cope and recover from their experiences.



Northumbria Police's Community Engagement Teams have excellent links and relationships right across our communities and they work closely with community groups, educational services, and businesses to encourage reporting of hate crime and engagement with the police. The OPCC works with Northumbria Police, third sector partners and communities to promote the Hate Crime Champions Scheme, to challenge intolerance and hate, and promote diversity and inclusion. Over 600 champions have been recruited since the introduction of the scheme in 2019, with 72 recruited this year.

Community cohesion and extremism

It is crucial that people get on well together, respect differences and work towards achieving shared goals. Working with communities is at the heart of what Northumbria Police does. In the Police and Crime Plan, I have committed to supporting all efforts to work with partners to strengthen relations, understand issues and improve cohesion. As well as actively tackling extremism, I am also committed to ensuring our force continues to build on collective efforts to prevent vulnerable people from being drawn into extremist activity.

In meeting our requirement around the 'age' protected characteristic we funded Digital Voice, which delivers digital inclusion projects, to work with young people in Chopwell to produce a series of videos to dispel the myths that all young people are troublesome and get involved in ASB, with the aim to help improve community cohesion.

Northern Cultural Project received Operation Payback funding to deliver music- workshops to young people from diverse backgrounds, enabling them to understand each other's cultures, breaking down barriers and helping them to have a sense of belonging and to feel valued.

Northumbria Police works with partners through Hate Crime Tension Monitoring groups, where local issues are identified and partners work together, intervene to prevent, and reduce further incidents and prevent and tackle extremism. The Office of the Police Commissioner (OPCC) is also a member of these groups to make sure that we are up to date with any emerging trends and issues.

Mental Health

Mental health support for victims of crime is crucial in their cope and recovery process. This is why I have committed to funding Tyneside and Northumberland Mind for the next 3 years; to ensure victims with an identified mental health need can continue to access specialist emotional, practical, and therapeutic support. My office is also working with our NHS partners in establishing mental health provisions and pathways for those victims caught up in a major crime incident, such as terrorist attacks; as well as exploring introducing mental health link workers within our forces' control room to provide immediate mental health support and interventions.

Use of force stop and search

To assist the PCC in scrutinising the use of stop and search the OPCC has also established a Police Powers Community Advisory Panel which provides constructive oversight, discussion, and challenge on the use of police powers, namely stop and search and use of force. The OPCC has ensured the panel members are representative of the diverse communities across the force area, including geography. There has been a focus on community groups that work with young black men as this group is disproportionately impacted by stop and search and use of force police powers. The panel also has experts working in the field of mental health and neurodiversity to provide an EDI lens on how police officers effectively engage with people with poor mental health and those who are neurodiverse.



The group provides advice to the PCC to assist her to scrutinise the force; they also provide feedback to the force to help them understand how the use of these police powers can be improved and how disparity can be mitigated. An example of how the panel have done this is when members highlighted the need for effective recording and robust data on stop and search and use of force to get greater understanding in terms of policing powers, work which is being progressed by the police. The panel has also highlighted the good practice regarding the speed with which the force reviews Use of Force, addresses areas of improvement, takes proactive action to share that learning through officer safety training, but still shares footage to allow further independent scrutiny.

Northumbria Police are exploring opportunities for the community representatives to work with the force in helping to deliver training on cultural competency and neurodiversity to enhance police officer's awareness and understanding of these issues.

Complaints

At times, the service from Northumbria Police may not be to the normal high standard. When Northumbria Police get it wrong, I want them to learn from the experience and ensure all is done to restore the confidence of the complainant in Northumbria Police. To achieve this, since February 2020, my office has been responsible for certain reviews following a complaint that has been dealt with by Northumbria Police Professional Standards Department (PSD).

The review system is firmly embedded, and my office takes a robust stance in ensuring the service from Northumbria Police remains focused on local residents and our communities. We take review requests very seriously; it allow me to see where improvements can be made and how local residents are feeling. In the spirit of openness and transparency my office publishes all reviews outcomes on the OPCC website. We will continue to maintain good relationships with the IOPC to ensure positive learning from partners and to share good practice from Northumbria.

PRIORITY 6: Tackling domestic abuse and sexual violence

Tackling domestic abuse and sexual violence

Active Bystander Training:

National figures show 71 per cent of women have experienced harassment in public spaces. We're at a place now in society where most people know when they see something harmful unfolding – but many people say they don't have the confidence and skillset to intervene in ways that are effective. My office has funded active bystander training as part of determined efforts to equip people with the skills and confidence needed to speak up when they notice behaviours that aren't right such as harassment, sexual harassment, or problematic and threatening behaviour. Active bystander interventions are viewed by experts as a way that can be effective in preventing harmful behaviours from escalating. This new training is a powerful tool that takes people through the steps from noticing a problem, having the confidence to act, and determining the best course of safe action to intervene in a harmful situation that can make a positive difference. focusing on the bystander is an effective



strategy because it places responsibility for changing the environment on the whole community as well as offering individuals the skills and understanding to do so.

Findaway:

We know that people who are in controlling, and potentially dangerous relationships usually tell their families and friends before they ask for help from specialist services. Findaway is a support service for anyone who is worried about someone they think is being controlled, scared, or hurt by their partner, ex-partner, or a family member. Findaway recognise that those people who are worried often need support, information, and other tools to effectively help the people they care about. My VRU is part-funding the service which is delivered by Wearside Women in Need. We believe that families, friends, and community members, are best placed to offer support and have an important role to play in helping people subjected to abuse. 80% of people receiving advocacy support reported feeling more confident in supporting the person they are worried about. Findaway has also begun delivery of their introductory domestic abuse workshop for communities (Be the Difference), which aims to increase knowledge and understanding of domestic abuse, some of the signs that people (third parties) might recognise, and how they can respond helpfully.

Control Room Pilot:

Since May 2022, my office has been funding specialist domestic abuse workers from Harbour and Wearside Women in Need to work side by side with police staff in the control room during busy periods. These specialists are on hand to speak to victims/survivors who call the police and can offer the best support and guidance to those suffering from domestic abuse. Between May 2022-March 2023, 354 victims have engaged with the domestic abuse specialist workers in the control room, and for 40% of them, it was the first time they'd spoken to a specialist domestic abuse worker and many these victims consented to being referred into their local domestic abuse service. This is a really great example of how early interventions can work, and how we can look to improve lives of victims and their children.

Perpetrator interventions:

My VRU has successfully bid for funding to increase the range of support available to those who are harming their partners/ex-partners/family members or worried that they might be. The range of interventions cover early intervention, behaviour change and intensive case management. We will be monitoring these interventions, as they develop, to ensure they result in a sustained reduction, frequency, and severity of abuse; reductions in risk posed by the perpetrator; and improved safety, and feelings of safety, for adult and child victim/survivors.

Northumbria VAWG Commissioning Forum:

My office has brought together Strategic Commissioning leads and Domestic Abuse leads from local authorities and ICBs across Northumbria to help improve effective co-ordination and collaboration. It is a network to support development of innovation, improvement, and efficiency in VAWG practice and commissioning. The group has agreed joint commissioning principles and agreed a set of common principles for engaging survivor voices. It is a place where we can collectively consider VAWG funding opportunities and how these might align with and strengthen responses to VAWG.

Strategic Review of Responses to Domestic Abuse Perpetrators:



My Violence Reduction Unit took a public health approach to reviewing and identifying where existing responses to domestic abuse perpetration in Northumbria could be enhanced and where gaps need to be filled. Recommendations from this review are being taken forward by partners including the VRU, Northumbria Police and the 6 Domestic Abuse Partnerships. This will help drive forward improved primary, secondary and tertiary prevention and strengthen our whole systems responses.

Tackling violence against women and girls continues to be a priority within the office, that is why we continue to fund sexual violence services across Northumbria for both adults and children for the next three years, we identified that there was a gap in support provision for children under the age of 11 who have experienced childhood sexual abuse, so through the NHS England Sexual Assault and abuse strategy (SAAS) we were able to secure funding for a therapeutic service for Children North East to extend their existing service to cover victims aged 11 and under.

We also have now appointed our ISVA champion, who will ensure that sexual violence services across Northumbria are coordinated and provide victim-survivors with high quality care and support. She will be looking to build and strengthen relationships with sexual violence services and develop clear pathways and communication across the different services available to victim-survivors in the region.

Renovation work is also still ongoing with the new purpose built SARC, the new site will be known as the Angel Centre and will provide a safe environment for people who have experienced acute serious sexual violence when they require a forensic examination. We will be working in partnership with the Newcastle United Foundation and the Prince's Trust programme to develop the grounds of the site, ensuring the highest of standards, to give victims a supportive, private, and secure outside space during their experience within the SARC.

Funding your force

For 2022/23 the force received £339.332 million to fund crime fighting and public safety.

The Commissioner agreed a budget and Medium-Term Financial Strategy that continued to deliver and build upon the investment in policing for Northumbria residents approved by the Commissioner in 2020/21 and 2021/22.

To support delivery of the Strategy the Commissioner allocated £4.000 million of new funding raised through the Council Tax Precept in 2022/23 to provide investment in:

- Additional call handlers to improve performance for 999 and 101 services.
- Extra resources to tackle cyber-crime and serious and organised crime.
- More civilian investigators to support investigations and free up officers.
- Workforce investment – supporting our officers to keep them on the beat and tackling crime.

In addition, the budget set by the Commissioner for 2022/23 ensured that Northumbria Police were able to successfully deliver, and exceed, the much-needed increase in police officer numbers against the national Uplift target set by government.

The table below sets out spending based on the 2022/23 budget:



Policing Services	Resource Allocation
Local Policing	43.8%
Public Protection	7.8%
Investigations	17.3%
Dealing with the Public	10.0%
Criminal justice Arrangements	6.4%
Intelligence	5.2%
Operational Support	4.6%
Roads Policing	2.0%
Investigative Support	2.4%
Police and Crime Commissioner	0.5%
	100.0%

How your money will be spent in the coming years

The latest force budget and the Commissioner’s Medium-Term Financial Strategy 2023/24 to 2026/27 will ensure that the Force continues to review and transform policing services; maintain the much-needed increase in police officer numbers delivered through the national police officer Uplift programme; and allow Northumbria Police to invest in the right resources to protect the vulnerable, tackle crime and keep our communities safe.

The Strategy is set against a financial backdrop of significant economic uncertainty, government austerity, rising pay bills, worldwide supply chain shortages and extraordinary levels of inflation across fuel, energy, goods and services, digital policing, and most major contracts. The financial climate is more challenging than ever and with no additional support from government the force is planning to use reserves and targeted efficiencies alongside the vital increase in Council Tax income from local residents to balance the books each year.

Strategic Policing Requirement

The Strategic Policing Requirement (SPR) sets out those threats which, in the Home Secretary’s view, are the biggest threat to public safety and must be given due regard by PCCs when issuing or varying Police and Crime Plans. It supports PCCs as well as Chief Constables to plan, prepare and respond to these threats by clearly linking the local response to the national, highlighting the capabilities and partnerships that policing needs to ensure it can fulfil its national responsibilities. A revised version of the SPR was published in February 2023 which provided strengthened detail around the action required from policing at the local and regional level to the critical national threats. The 2023 SPR sets out seven identified national threats.

These are as follows: Serious and Organised Crime (SOC); Terrorism; Cyber; Child Sexual Abuse; Public Disorder and Civil Emergencies. These remain from the 2015 version with the addition in 2023 of Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG), reflecting the threat it presents to public safety and confidence.

As Police and Crime Commissioner I am confident I have given due regard to the six threat areas identified in the previous SPR in my Police and Crime Plan and in my role holding my Chief Constable



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NORTHUMBRIA
POLICE & CRIME
COMMISSIONER

violence
reduction
unit

to account. VAWG, while not previously contained in the SPR, nonetheless is a key and pressing issue on which I update in this report and be prioritised in future iterations.

In Northumbria, I receive a regular report through my scrutiny process that outlines the current position in respect of Northumbria Police's position in respect of these national threats.

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@KiMcGuinness #Northumbria Violence Reduction Unit I now have a dedicated Facebook page on the work of my Northumbria Violence Reduction Unit – you can like it here - @NorthumbriaVRU

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