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DELIVERY OF THE POLICE & CRIME PLAN:

PREVENTING CRIME PANEL REPORT

JUNE 2023



NORTHUMBRIA POLICE & CRIME PANEL

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FROM THE PCC

Fighting crime, preventing crime, improving lives. Those are the priorities which structure my work as your Police and Crime Commissioner and they're the priorities the public repeatedly tell me they want to see delivered.

With that in mind, I'm proud to present this latest Preventing Crime report which shows real progress towards reducing criminality in both the short and long term.

Our region has seen some horrific violent crime in recent months, with too many young men still thinking it is acceptable to pick up a knife when they face a problem in their life. But we are making real progress when it comes to challenging that mindset and enforcing the law among target groups.

My Violence Reduction Unit shows the potential when it comes to deterring criminality and turning lives around, albeit with a reach limited by the available funding.

The team there are currently working on both education and enforcement work which genuinely changes lives. In Sunderland, for example, we have pioneered a focussed deterrent project in which those specific individuals causing the most trouble are targeted with regular interventions. The result is anti-social behaviour fell 22% in the city centre area covered. You can't argue with those results, and I want to roll this out across the region. However, the funds available for this intensive work are limited.

I try to complement this work with my Operation Payback scheme, in which money is taken from drug dealers and other criminals and reinvested in local neighbourhood projects. This investment very deliberately prioritises areas that have suffered the most in the years of austerity because we know that if you are a victim of crime in a low income area it hits harder and also that young people here have less exposure to healthy role models and are more frequently targeted for recruitment by organised crime groups and street gangs. But once again, this funding is limited and even the projects with the highest potential can only access a small amount of the money they need to make the North East safer.

Preventing crime is a long-term mission, but one which in the long-run pays for itself. We cannot arrest our way out of crime, and if we don't effectively prevent crime we as a country will keep paying the cost to fight crime. My message to Government is clear; ministers must take the long-term view and invest in communities now to prevent crime tomorrow.

**Yours,
Kim**



Priority 1: Preventing violent crime

I will continue to fight for a well-resourced police Force to ensure public safety, but we cannot simply arrest our way out of crime. As your Police and Crime Commissioner I have worked with the Chief Constable to ensure we are intervening to stop crime in its tracks. We need to prevent people, particularly young people, getting into a life of violent crime.

In my refreshed Police and Crime Plan (2022-2025) I set out four areas of focus under this priority:

1. Using a public health approach to reducing violence
2. Reducing reoffending
3. Roads policing
4. Public transport

Priority 2: Neighbourhood policing

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 to help keep our streets safe.

A photograph of two police officers walking away from the camera on a residential street. The officer in the foreground is wearing a dark blue uniform and a high-visibility yellow vest with a blue and white checkered pattern and the word 'POLICE' in blue letters. The officer in the background is also wearing a high-visibility vest and has blonde hair tied in a bun. They are walking on a paved path next to a wooden fence, with houses and a clear sky in the background.

PREVENTING CRIME PRIORITY 1: PREVENTING VIOLENT CRIME

1. USING A PUBLIC HEALTH APPROACH TO REDUCE VIOLENCE

I am committed to using a public health approach to reducing violence. That means treating 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.

There is a strong commitment across Northumbria to tackle the root causes of violent crime and in the years ahead the prevention element of the region's violence reduction efforts will focus on a package of measures to reduce crime. This will include 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 will take the form of direct intervention with young people, working with those who could become the biggest risk to others, alongside key services and organisations to address wider needs of other family members such as siblings.

In the Police and Crime Plan I committed to:

1. Ensure the Violence Reduction Unit Response Strategy to reduce serious and violent crime is clear and co-ordinated across the Northumbria force area.
2. Oversee the implementation of the three-year VRU funding settlement across Northumbria.
3. Coordinate an early intervention and prevention approach and implement a serious violence and criminal exploitation strategy to ensure all partners are working together to prevent crime.
4. Continue to work with partners to improve data and intelligence sharing, which will allow for more effective targeting of interventions and resources at those areas most in need.
5. Support organisations seeking to help people out of gangs and the cycle of crime.
6. Back continued funding for the life changing youth workers at the You Only Live Once (YOLO) project.
7. Increase the provision of family support.
8. Support youth services.
9. Continue to support our Custody Diversion project, reducing the risk of young people returning to custody.
10. Ensure young people are aware of the dangers and risks involved in criminal gangs, through education and intervention.
11. Ensure the force targets the illegal drugs trade and the crime that follows this.

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Members of the YOLO Project from Foundation of Light, Northumbria Police & Newcastle United Foundation at the incredible Beacon of Light, Sunderland.

Current force position: Serious violence

The Northumbria VRU aims to reduce the below Key Performance Measures as part of the Home Office Serious Violence Fund.

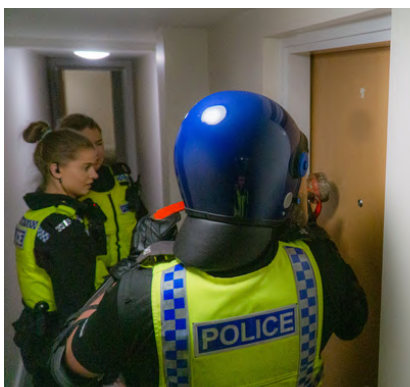
- A reduction in hospital admissions for assaults with knife or sharp object
- A reduction in knife and sharp object enabled serious violence.
- A reduction in homicides recorded.

The VRU Strategic Needs Assessment 2023 found that there has been a positive reduction in Hospital admission for assault with a knife or sharp object for Under 25's across the PFA (138 admissions) which is a 9% reduction since 2021. There has been a 16% increase in domestic and non-domestic homicides which equates to a total of 22 homicides, of which 6 were domestic related. There was a total of 22,889 violent crimes reported to Northumbria Police during 2022. Assault with Injury accounted for almost 70% of all violent crime offences. Findings from the most recent Strategic Needs Assessment showed that 4% of violent crimes reported were knife enabled violence offences.

The table below shows a comparison of Knife Enabled Serious Violence for 2021 and 2022:

	Knife Enabled Serious Violence		
	2021	2022	Variance
Attempt Murder	5	8	+3
Threats to Kill	100	133	+33
Assault with intent to cause serious harm	321	319	-3
Assault with Injury	272	276	+4
Sexual Assault	8	5	-3
Rape	9	13	+13
Robbery	167	227	+60

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Recent proactive operations to tackle knife crime and serious violence across the force area.

Overview: Northumbria Violence Reduction Unit (VRU)

Tackling the Causes of Crime & KPIs

Preventing crime and tackling the impact of poverty go hand in hand. Last year, the North East overtook London to have the highest child poverty rates in the UK at 38%. And at present, 53% of North East children are living in a house without minimum income standards, according to the Joseph Rowntree Foundation. With 1 in 10 people suffering from income deprivation in 80% of Northumbria's harm hotspot areas, it's no coincidence that areas of deprivation see more victims of crime and ASB.

Furthermore, I recently published a report which explores how the cost-of-living crisis is hitting our communities even harder than Covid-19. The report was informed by a survey that was completed by 84 respondents from frontline community organisations across Northumbria. Findings include:

- 95% of the organisations that responded said they have seen their clients struggling due to the cost of living crisis.
- 51% of organisations said they are seeing families and individuals they had not seen before, or people who previously have not needed support, including young people and working families.
- The effect of higher costs has also had a negative effect on local crime, with 56% of organisations reporting more crimes in their area.

One key tool dealing with the effects of poverty is my Violence Reduction Unit (VRU). I established this team with the belief that if we improve lives we can prevent crime, especially violent crime. The VRU works in partnership with the overall aim of reducing:

- Knife enabled serious violence,
- Hospital admissions for knife related serious violence and
- Homicides.

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Launching my Cost of Living Crisis report at Hedworthfield Community Association in Jarow.

VRU Strategic Priorities

The VRU has gone from strength to strength since its inception in 2019. As of April 2023, we are now in year 5 of the VRU. The 3-year funding settlement secured until March 2025 has enabled us to procure longer term contracts for services and build on the positive work that has taken place to date. The VRU has continued to commission evidence-based interventions to prevent crime that have seen success in previous years, as well as commissioning new interventions to respond to need and demand. New interventions include further work for young people in school, such as Student Support Champions and support for the transition from primary to secondary school. More information on preventative interventions commissioned by the VRU will be provided further on in this report.

With the introduction of the Serious Violence Duty^[1] in 2022, our Serious Violence Response Strategy has been refreshed to ensure it brings together the activity of all specified authorities responsible for delivering the duty, including the police, local authorities, Fire and Rescue, health authorities and Probation. This strategy has also been informed by our Strategic Needs Assessment, which provides an evidence-based public health assessment of serious violence across Northumbria. Our strategic priorities for 2023-24 are:

Priority 1: Create stronger systems to address serious violence

- Work with partners including Local Authorities, Police, Probation, Fire and Rescue, Health and Youth Justice to develop a whole systems approach to reduce serious violence
- Co-ordinate the introduction of the Serious Violence Duty on behalf of all specified authorities
- Work with Northumbria Police to develop a Homicide Prevention Strategy
- Facilitate the sharing of Homicide Review learning across boundaries

Priority 2: Data, evidence and evaluation

- Develop a datahub as a response to tackling serious violence
- Develop Standard Operating Procedures with Northumbria Police to share information in relation to Serious Untoward Incidents
- Produce an annual Strategic Needs Assessment
- Gain an understanding of the local drugs market to identify emerging trends
- Conduct annual internal and external project evaluations of identified interventions

Priority 3: Prevention and early intervention

- Improve the offer of primary prevention to prevent violence occurring
- Commission and promote early intervention approaches
- Utilise the multi-year funding settlement to sustain evidence-based interventions

Priority 4: Criminal justice and enforcement

- Develop Tertiary responses to reduce re-offending by implementing a Focused Deterrence Model
- Develop an effective response to high risk, high-harm and serious perpetrators of domestic abuse

Priority 5: Communication, engagement and reassurance

- Develop a communications and engagement plan to raise awareness of the consequences of knife crime and inform the direct responses to tackling serious violence
- Establish a forum for young people to have a voice in relation to their experiences with serious violence

[1] The Serious Violence Duty has been introduced as part of the Police, Crime, Sentencing and Courts Act 2022 (PCSC). The Duty requires specified authorities to work together to formulate an evidence-based analysis of the problems associated with serious violence in a local area, and then produce and implement a strategy detailing how they will respond to those particular issues.

Custody Diversion:

- Improved engagement with protective factors (employment / education / training / positive activities).
- Number of young people reporting improved confidence and making positive choices.
- Number of young people with improved feelings of safety.
- Number of young people demonstrating reduced risk-taking behaviour.
- Number of young people with reduced involvement in the criminal justice system.

Youth Mentoring (YOLO):

- Reduction in young people involved in serious violence.
- Reduction in reported ASB in areas where interventions are taking place.
- Reduction in offending behaviour of young people involved in the project.
- Number of young people engaged with the project.
- The cohort will have improved engagement with protective factors (employment / education / training / positive activities).
- Number of young people with improved feelings of safety.
- Number of young people demonstrating reduced risk-taking behaviour.

Education Engagement Team:

- Number of sessions delivered, per subject.
- Number of participants (young people and adults).
- Number of PRUs/SEND engaged Number of PBL activity.
- Number of times resources downloaded from the website.
- The number of people who reported an increase in understanding in [the subject].
- Number of young people surveyed following an intervention.
- Number of young people involved in shaping delivery model Impact – on the young people, what difference has the session made to their thinking and behaviours

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Education Transitions:

- Reduced number of fixed term and permanent exclusions within the identified school.
- Increased and improved school attendance.
- Increased communication and contact with wider family.
- Reduced risk of young people being involved in associated ASB.

Student Support Champions:

- Number of young people engaged with the School Liaison Officer.
- Increased feelings of safety.
- Increased sharing of local intelligence to reduce the impact of serious organised crime.
- Reduced exclusions for possession of a bladed article.

Update on work undertaken:

Overview of VRU Impact for 2022-23

Throughout Year 4 the VRU funded interventions continued to show impact and successes within our communities, delivering support and mentorship to those vulnerable individuals within Northumbria.

- **340** knife crime awareness sessions have been delivered to...
- **9,135** young people in school and community settings
- **29,126** individuals have received violence reduction themed learning from our Education Team, or have taken part in our training sessions
- **71%** of those who complied with one of the out of court disposal pathways have not re-offended since accessing the interventions
- Our Student Champions have supported **100** students from school years 7-11, for a number of referrals reasons, including carrying weapons in school, anger/violence in school, ASB, and violence in the community
- **56** young people on our YOLO intervention who are at risk of committing serious and violence offending was reduced
- Up to **16.9%** reduction in ASB thanks to targeted activity taking place through our Season Violence Fund

YOLO Project

Established in 2017, the YOLO project works with children and young people aged 8-14 who are, or are likely to become involved in serious violence, gang related offending or knife related crime. The project focusses on early intervention and seeks to use preventative methodology to reduce an escalation in offending and positively influence those on the periphery of more serious offending, prior to them entering the Criminal Justice System. This scheme involves matching young people to footballing and other mentors from the Foundation of Light (FOL) and the Newcastle United Foundation (NUF) and has had many success stories to date.

YOLO has continued to have a positive impact on some of our most vulnerable young people, and there is a commitment to continue and develop this provision to ensure that it is accessible to the most vulnerable young people within the areas of most need. Continuation funding for Year 5 (2023-24) will ensure that this provision continues to be offered and develops further. Work is ongoing to expand the referral process to offer up the provision to more young people and this will be reviewed throughout the year. Tailor-made interventions will be developed with each young person and this will include some agreed outcomes and measures of success. There will be a closer link to all other VRU interventions to ensure that young people and their families have access to the correct level of support.

In year 4 (2022-23), the project had a total of 411 new referrals, with 617 young people engaging in services. At the end of 2022-23, both Newcastle United Foundation and Foundation of Light, along with the VRU and police, held a process mapping meeting to review the referral process which resulted in the assessment and referral process being refined.

CASE STUDY – YOLO (Newcastle United Foundation)

The young person was re-referred into the YOLO programme for a second time, this was through his intensive family support worker. His close friend was a victim to a knife crime incident and unfortunately passed away.

He was referred in due to having alleged intelligence that he is carry a bladed article and suggestions he may be turning towards criminality and knife crime.

He previously engaged with his mentor and has been allocated to the same mentor for his second intervention on YOLO. With this being his second intervention, the programme is much more tailored to his situational needs, whilst it is still aimed to go through mandatory sessions, it was planned that the knife crime intervention could be delivered later on in the weeks due to the young person still grieving from the incident his friend was involved in.

The young person has undergone: Positive choices, anger management, county lines and social media safety so far during his intervention, this has also accompanied some 1:1 mentoring and discussion.

He has developed a great relationship with his mentor, and throughout his interventions to date, he has demonstrated good behaviour and to our knowledge has not offended within the community. We will be looking to work with him to establish and settle him within a school provision, he is currently enrolling at a new school to which his mentor can integrate his intervention sessions within. This would be a fantastic outcome if we can work with him to get him more settled within education as his exit strategy before his intervention closes with us.



The impact of the YOLO programme is not to be understated, there have been a number of life-changing interventions made, and past participant Lee is a perfect example. From YOLO participant to NU Foundation apprentice.

Education team

The VRU Education Engagement team continues to evolve and build a varied range of resources and opportunities for young people. This commitment will continue during Year 5 with a more focused approach within our harm hotspots, targeting schools in areas with peaks in serious violence and wider disorder. We are still committed to the roll out of Adversity Awareness Training to community settings and local partners as well as a commitment to the delivery of a practitioner-based knife crime awareness sessions to support teachers, health professionals and community

leaders. Our project-based learning approach developed significantly during year 4 and we will continue to develop our approach working with a wide range of schools and providing young people with the opportunity to tailor projects to best meet their needs.

An effective Education Engagement Team is key to the continued success of the VRU. The range of interventions on offer to schools and community settings has expanded and will continue to develop. The team will continue to enhance the community offer as well as continue to expand interventions into colleges and universities.

Year 4 2022-23 highlights:

- A total of **29,126** individuals have received violence reduction themed learning or have taken part in training sessions.
- **340** knife crime awareness sessions have been delivered to young people in school and community settings.

Student Support Champions

Our needs assessment shows us that there are areas where young people are involved in, or have an increased risk of becoming involved in, serious violence. Schools have told us that issues linked to these concerns are now presenting in the school environment. A partnership of local schools will work together with the VRU, police, local authority and youth organisations to identify bespoke support for young people at risk. Student Support Champions (SSCs) were embedded into secondary schools in Newcastle on a pilot basis throughout year 4. The SSCs commenced delivery in Q3 of 2022-23, offering one to one support for young people, providing a listening ear and different approach to problem solving. The SSCs act as advocates for young people at various meetings to ensure their voice is heard and their circumstances explained. It is planned that the SSCs will develop a pilot to offer interventions for weapon/knife carrying as opposed to exclusion and be able to deliver education packages around key violence reduction themes.

The aim of this approach is to improve the day-to-day relationship between schools and services as well as enhance intelligence and information sharing, allowing increased opportunities to identify issues at the earliest point. Young people should feel more supported in their school environment, knowing they have a trusted adult they can go to for guidance and support. It is anticipated that this project will increase opportunities for young people to report concerns as well as reduce the risk to young people.

The SSCs are delivering support to students in the following 8 schools:

- St Cuthberts
- Excelsior Academy
- Mary Astell
- Walbottle
- Jesmond Park Academy
- Kenton School
- Gosforth Academy
- Trinity

In total there have been 133 referrals since the SSCs commenced in Q3, and during the quarter they have supported 86 students, from school years 7 – 11. Some of the reasons for referrals is carrying weapons in school, anger/violence in school, ASB, violence in the community, and each student is supported through numerous sessions, including knife crime, county lines, joint enterprise, malicious comms, and Samantha Legacy.

There has been some positive feedback so far from the schools and students involved:

- 'One young person has spoken to his friend about how useful he is finding our 1:1 sessions which has resulted in his friend asking to see me for help with his anger and violent behaviours.'
- 'A young person is being supported in reporting multiple assaults. He has reported a better rapport with the police and is more accepting of confiding in them.'
- 'One young person opened up about his mental health which started off with a conversation around gangs and threatening behaviour. The SSC is liaising with the school with the aim to put in a CYPs referral and supporting him in the meantime with his mood.'



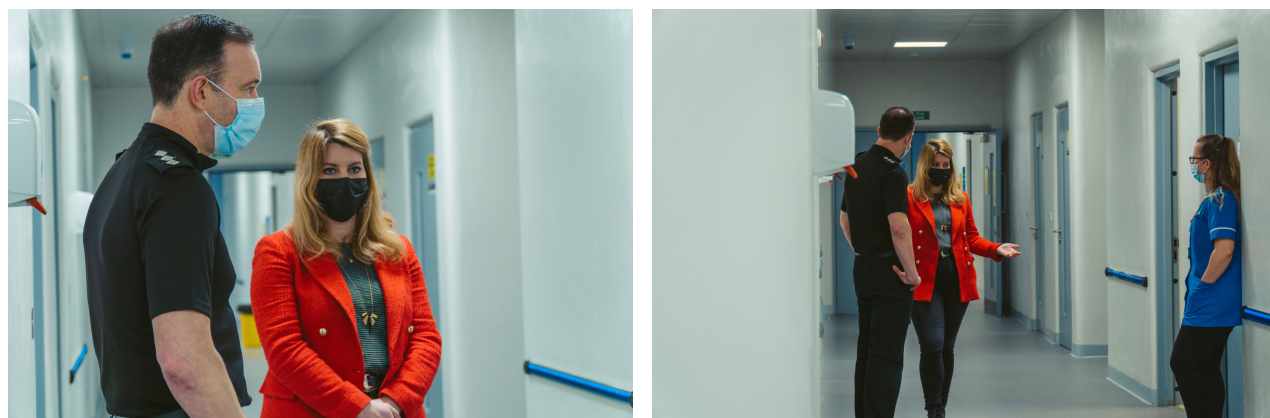
Project Based Learning final project pieces designed and created by the Beacon Centre

Teachable Moments in Custody Diversion

The Custody Diversion intervention was established with the aim to proactively engage 10–17-year-olds, who are being brought into Police custody, to determine the degree in which serious violence, exploitation and vulnerability feature in their lives. A more targeted approach is made for 18–24-year-olds who are known to be involved in serious organised crime and violent offending. This intervention was based in all three custody suites across Northumbria. Young people have been supported into interventions within their community this also included further opportunities to engage with the wider family to address underlying causes.

Custody Diversion provides young people with an opportunity to stop and reflect on what has brought them into Police custody and provides an opportunity to address the issue and look to make a positive choice to reduce their risk of further offending.

In 2022-23, this intervention was remodelled in partnership with all six local authority area's Youth Justice Services (YJS) to further reduce duplication and develop the intervention as part of the 'Turnaround Fund'. The Turnaround funding has been provided to Youth Justice teams by the Ministry of Justice, up until the end of March 2025, with the aim of providing wider support processes to reduce reoffending of young people and improve pathways away from the criminal justice system. The VRU have provided additional funding to each YJS to enhance the offer of Turnaround and work with individuals who are not eligible for that specific programme.



Middle Engine Lane custody suite

CASE STUDY – CUSTODY DIVERSION (TEACHABLE MOMENTS)

The young person had come into custody for criminal damage at the home address – he put a hole in the wall due to a violent outburst. Before his arrest, he was having frequent violent outbursts at home and had been put on a placement at another PRU due to his behaviour at their previous PRU.

The young person has been diagnosed with ADHD and Autism, and not medicated. His first few hours in custody was a challenging time for both him and custody staff. He was very agitated which resulted in them tearing his shirt off, using the stuff in his cell i.e. mattress to make noise and throw within the cell. The custody staff had to remove all items out of the cell.

I approached the cell and introduced myself. The young person was sitting on the raised bed so I knelt on the floor to chat with him. At first, it was difficult to engage as he believed I was a form of authority. However, I sat and chatted with him until I gained his trust. Once the rapport had been built, he then started to disclose things to me, resulting in three safeguarding concerns being raised. These were within the family home, a family member, and in his community. It was apparent that he was at risk of harm in the family home and in the community. By raising these concerns the local authority became involved with the family. School made aware of the concerns, and he was allocated a Teachable Moments (TM) worker.

As a result, the family are receiving support and underwent an assessment by social services. The young person was moved back to the school he was at prior as he wished. The school are closely monitoring his friendships within school. The TM worker has provided the young person with a voice and they have built a trusting relationship (the TM worker is the only individual they will talk to out of the services involved), they have arranged for him to go to RAF cadets 3 times per week which will reduce the amount of time he is on the streets. He feels he can trust the TM worker and is able to talk freely with them which aids the TM worker to keep him safe and reduce any offending.

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Seasonal Violence Fund

The VRU have been working with Community Safety Partnerships (CSPs) in each of the six local authority areas to develop projects with a fund 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, with the VRU teaming up with partners such as Northumbria Police, local councils and youth organisations, in a bid to tackle serious violence together.

Approximately £60,000 was provided to each CSP to carry out activities in summer and winter of 2022-23. In summer, projects focussed on engaging young people during the summer holidays and providing diversionary activities, such as deploying youth workers in areas identified as having a rise in crime. Winter projects focussed on key events over the festive period and activities included increased police patrols, additional youth works and more diversionary activities for young people.

Key highlights for 2022-23:

- Successes seen during summer 2022 included a 12.2% reduction in levels of violence across Northumbria due to the targeted interventions.
- In winter crime fell by 14% in December, with serious violence levels falling to the lowest in 2022 in November and 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.

- Like serious violence, it is evident that levels of overall ASB were lower during winter – December and January had reductions of 3.5% (90 incidents) and 13% (397 incidents) respectively compared to last year. These reductions were seen in all local authority areas in December when compared to November 2022 (Gateshead -32%, Newcastle -8%, North Tyneside -13%, Northumberland -33%, South Tyneside -17%, and Sunderland -13%).

The Summertime Violence and Wintertime Violence Funds will continue in 2023-24 and 2024-25, with each CSP being awarded £60,000 split equally over the two years to spend on plans to mitigate against any potential rises in violence.

Targeting the Illegal Drugs Trade

Northumbria Police continue to make significant efforts to improve strategy, implement preventative measures and disrupt the illegal drugs trade at all levels:

- **Strategy and partnership:**
 - Northumbria have developed a Drugs Strategy that is aligned to the Government's 10-year drugs strategy 'From Harm to Hope' that was published in December 2021. In June 2022, the Government published the Drugs Strategy local guidance which sets out the development of a Combating Drugs Partnerships in each locality to deliver the national strategy. The Northumbria Combatting Drugs Partnership has been established incorporating all six Local Authorities and will drive local delivery of the strategy.
- **Prevention through education:**
 - Northumbria Police have a Prevention Through Education Team (PTET) that ensure a drugs input is included within the package of content delivered to schools. As a result, the package includes content on county lines with Year 8 pupils focussing on drugs and exploitation. This is being delivered to 2,500 at Safety Works (a multi-agency interactive safety centre serving the community of Tyne and Wear).
- **Drug Testing on Arrest (DToA):**
 - Project ADDER is a joint Public Health England/Home Office initiative to reduce drug-related offending, drug deaths, drugs supply (including County Lines) and prevalence of drug use. Newcastle was chosen as one of five 'ADDER' accelerator sites for the project and joined the programme in April 2021. As a result of Project Adder funding, DToA is well established in Central Area Command and the Force is looking to extend this across custody sites in Northern and Southern Area Commands supported through funding from the National DToA. This will be supported by referral pathways provided by partner agencies to assist with harm reduction, recovery from addiction and reducing the demand for drugs.
- **County Lines Intensification Periods:**
 - In response to County Lines, the Force has focused activity in line with the quarterly intensification periods, reporting into the National County Line Coordination Centre. Force performance has continued to improve as awareness is raised within the police and with partners. The intensification periods focus on a 4P approach, and the latest intensification period resulted in 93 arrests, drug seizures of various commodities, £118,539 cash seized along with several weapons. A further intensification period has been planned to take place during the first quarter of 2023.

- **Operation Hightower:**

- Operation Hightower has focussed on train and bus stations and the associated criminality and vulnerability associated to County Lines offending. This has been further built on with joint operations with the British Transport Police to create a hostile environment for the traditional County Lines model. A comprehensive County Lines training schedule has been produced for both police and partners during 2023.

- **Coordinated partnership activity:**

- Since the beginning of Project ADDER (April 2021), Newcastle has seen notable results including improvements in coordinated partnership activity which has been viewed positively by peers and the Home Office Project Team. Further results include the execution of 115 search warrants, 414 arrests, 145 weapons seized, 63 deal line disruptions, drugs seized with an estimated value of £2,815,850, assets seized with an estimated value of £278,700 and £393,349 cash seized. Other outcomes have included a reduction in suspected misadventure drug related deaths and a reduction in drug related offending amongst prolific offenders.



L-R: Operation Hightower at Monument Station, County Lines Intensification Week, Prevention through education

Operation Payback

In December 2022, I ran the 4th round of my Operation Payback Fund, awarding a total of £225,616 to 80 local community organisations across Northumbria. This money has been taken from the proceeds of crime, as well as a small contribution from my office's Discretionary Fund, and given to communities through projects and initiatives that make a difference to the places that need it most.

Operation Payback Round 4 had a focus on reducing anti-social behaviour (ASB) and repairing the harm caused by ASB, and aimed to do this through funding game-changing ideas that give local kids opportunities that would keep them out of trouble both during school holidays and throughout the year. Community centres, sports clubs, youth groups and park projects are among the grass-root causes that benefitted from the funding, returning the cash stripped from criminals to the heart of communities across Northumbria.

An example of some of the projects that were successful in receiving Operation Round 4 funding include:

- Pallion Action Group in Sunderland: Delivery of the 'Care To Achieve Project' to raise the aspirations, skills, knowledge and experience for young people caught up in ASB and/or the criminal justice system.
- Leam Lane Amateur Boxing Club in Gateshead: The running of further "Fit to Fed" sessions during the school summer holidays, with the aim to provide free sessions to the youths of the area followed by a hot meal.

- Hexham Youth Initiative in Northumberland: Funding will be used towards the work of qualified and experienced detached youth workers on the Sele in Hexham. This is a large area of open space in the centre of town which includes play areas, recreation spaces, a bandstand, bowling green and a skate park.
- Fenham Association of Residents in Newcastle: To create a project around safety for young people. They will focus on knife crime by creating a project aimed at talking to young people about community safety and creating a short film, to raise awareness.
- Power Through Sport CIC in North Tyneside: Diversionary activities at the Friday Night Youth Club, which was initially funded by North Tyneside's Community Safety Team as part of their Project VITA campaign.
- Sea Change South Shields CIC in South Tyneside: To host educational workshops to reduce ASB as part of weekly neurodiverse social club. This will prevent ASB, and additionally, educate members if they ever find themselves in a difficult situation.

Looking ahead:

Improving data and intelligence sharing

In the Police and Crime Plan I committed to continue to work with partners to improve data and intelligence sharing, which will allow for more effective targeting of interventions and resources at those areas most in need. My VRU completes an annual Strategic Needs Assessment, outlining our key hot spot areas in Northumbria, which has already been carried out for 2023-24. To supplement the annual Strategic Needs Assessment, we will continue to work with the Public Health Institute at Liverpool John Moores University to develop Information Sharing Protocols between data providers to include within the data dashboard which has been developed. This will be accessible to key stakeholders.

Education Transitions (Primary to Secondary education)

My VRU have recently began delivering their new Education Transitions (Primary to Secondary education) intervention. We know that moving from primary to secondary school is a difficult time for young people, particularly for those who are facing a number of different challenges within the home or in their immediate community. The Education Transition Worker will support young people who require additional support, and increase the chances of them integrating to a secondary environment as well as provide additional support to address identified needs at the earliest opportunity. The aim is to create a positive experience and relationship for both young people and their families and schools.

The Education Transition Worker post commenced at the end of March 2023 and will be joining the South Tyneside Emotional Resilience Team for the next 18 months. The worker will pick up a caseload from Q1 of 2023-24.

Operation Payback Round 5

Round 5 of my Operation Payback Fund is planned to launch at the end of June 2023, in time for local grass-roots projects and organisations to apply for funding to support activities during the darker nights. Micro grants of up to £1,000 and larger grant up to £5,000 will be available to bid for projects focussing on the following key priorities:

- Repair the harm caused by ASB and to keep people safe.
- Prevent/reduce youth or adult ASB.
- Provision of diversionary activities throughout the year including school holidays.

The fund will be promoted via channels such as my social media, website and through the Voluntary Organisations' North East Network (VONNE) to ensure local organisations are aware of the opportunity.

2. REDUCING REOFFENDING

In the Police and Crime Plan I committed to:

- Working with probation and other services to promote changes which are known to reduce reoffending such as opportunities around employment, training and education.
- Develop and implement a strategy on reducing reoffending which understands and addresses factors which can lead to criminal behaviour including mental health and substance misuse.

Update on work undertaken:

The work being undertaken to meet the aim of reducing reoffending straddles two of my portfolios of work: fighting crime and preventing crime. Therefore, I updated on some of the below within my last report on Fighting Crime but discuss further here for completeness.

Integrated Offender Management (IOM)

- Northumbria Police continue to work in partnership with Probation and other partners to provide an Integrated Offender Management (IOM) scheme, which address the offending behaviour and criminogenic needs of those who cause high levels of harm to our communities. The Force have fully adopted the national operating model.
- The IOM cohort are selected based on their primary offending type, and categorised into one of three areas, Fix, Flex or Free. The Fixed cohort carries the highest number of cohort members, with selection based on those who commit neighbourhood crime offences and are deemed to be the highest risk of re-offending. The Flex cohort also looks at neighbourhood crime offenders who may not be classed as high risk but are known to be actively committing crime. The Free cohort carries a small number of offenders whose offending may be based around violent crime, serious organised crime, or shop theft.
- The managed cohort for IOM normally averages around 200 people. IOM officers and Probation work alongside each other daily to jointly manage offenders and seek successful outcomes. IOM performance is now monitored through the IDIOM system (a web-based offender tracking tool), which Northumbria Police has adopted during 2022. Reports are now able to be produced which highlight the offending behaviour and cost of crime for those on the cohort and those who have successfully completed their time in IOM.
- At a strategic level, the IOM Strategic Board meets monthly to deliver improvements and monitor performance. The Police and Probation strategic leads both represent the Team at the Local Criminal Justice Board (LCJB) as well as regional and national meetings and IOM groups.

Performance:

- As shown by the data below, the average cost of crime for IOM cohort members who have been removed from IOM significantly drops, which demonstrates a success for the IOM scheme:

IOM stage	Average cost of crime per IOM member
6 months prior to IOM	£13,200
6 moth period once adopted into IOM	£24,273
Post IOM removal (of 100 people removed)	£4,402

Community Alternative to Short Prison Sentences (CASPS)

This intervention looks to offer a community alternative to short prison sentences to individuals who have committed offences of serious violence and acquisitive crime. The approach provides opportunities for individuals to seek stable and sustainable solutions to reduce their risk of re-offending and to assist with reconnecting with communities and their families.

In 2021-22 the partnership between the VRU and the Probation service developed further on this project. Throughout 2022-23, the VRU continued to build on this and worked in partnership with the Ministry of Justice to continue to support a cohort of individuals into community-based sentence as an alternative to prison. As part of this process, individuals are connected to community-based support as well as having the opportunity to both address their offending behaviour as well as the contributory needs that led to them offending in the first place. This could include support with an undiagnosed need such as substance misuse all mental health as well as addressing some immediate issues such as stable accommodation training and employment. Following review with Probation, it has been agreed that this intervention will be phased out at the end of September 2023 with alternative approaches being explored as part of a review into reducing reoffending approaches in line with the wider work being explored on conditional cautions.

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Out of Court Disposals (V-Aware, Women's Pathway, and Men's Pathway)

Out of Court Disposals (OCD) provides the opportunity to engage people at the earliest opportunity as they enter the criminal justice system with a view to diverting them away from the criminal justice system via a structured intervention designed to reduce the likelihood of reoffending via a Conditional Caution. We commission a V-Aware pathway, a Women's Pathway and a Men's 18-25 Pathway. This approach seeks to increase the opportunities to address offending behaviour, diverting individuals to other avenues of support and reducing the risk of re-offending.

411 new referrals have been made to the OCD pathways in the 2022-23 financial year, with 617 people engaging with the service overall.

The referrals to the Women's Pathway have increasing complexities. The women coming through diversion can access the same support as the women engaged on the CRS contract, this is due to the provision being embedded within the Northumbria hubs. This has enabled women to access face to face support, utilise drop-in session delivered via external services such as domestic abuse providers and housing services and allow opportunity to engage in the group sessions.

Work is ongoing to review the use and wider development of conditional cautions across Northumbria. This will include the continuation of the pathways for 18-25 year olds and the Women's Hub, and we are in the early stages of developing our conditional caution approach from domestic abuse perpetrators.

Domestic Abuse Perpetrators – Hub & Spoke Model

The aim of the Northumbria Hub & Spoke Model is to improve outcomes for high risk, high harm, and serial perpetrators of domestic abuse (DA) with the aim of reducing reoffending and protecting their adult and child victims. The model draws on the Drive pilot that took place between December 2019 and March 2022 and continues to be supported by Drive (Drive offered one to one support and stabilisation work for high risk perpetrators of DA).

A single year of Home Office funding was secured to develop the Hub & Spoke Model between April 2022 and March 2023, meaning that much of this year has been dedicated to securing the match funding needed to place this work on a more secure footing. This meant that one of the six target services was able to commence delivery in quarter 2, two more began at the beginning/end of quarter 3, and two more in quarter 4. The final service is due to join the rest in the Autumn (2023) and new Home Office funding has recently been secured to support the model in 2023-24 and 2024-25.

Building on the recent development of DA perpetrator services in our local authority areas, the Hub & Spoke Model has supported the recruitment and formal training of 18+ High-Risk Practitioners who are able to deliver 1:1 intensive case management interventions for those identified as high risk, high or serial perpetrators of domestic abuse. The model has also supported the formal training of the victim support staff (IDVAs) needed to work alongside these high-risk perpetrators to ensure that adult and child victims are effectively safeguarded.

The 6 MATAC panels that meet monthly in each of our local authority areas lie at the heart (or hub) of the H&S Model. These are attended by each of the 5 (due to be 6) services that represent the individual spokes and which deliver the 1:1 intensive case management work. For these services, the MATAC operates as a primary route for receiving/making case referrals and for information sharing and multi-agency risk management.

The high risk, high harm referrals received by each spoke/service are considered against an agreed set of eligibility criteria and triaged by the receiving service to ensure they are offering the right level/type of intervention at the right time. Such triage activities are informed by a thorough assessment of risks, needs and likely responsivity and, once a referral has been accepted, the allocated high risk practitioner will develop an individual intervention strategy which encompasses abuse disruption, individual stabilisation, and support work, and formal behaviour change interventions.

Overseen by an Operations Group comprising the service managers, the Multi-Agency Tasking and Coordination (MATAC) manager and a senior manager from Drive, the first year's monitoring data has shown a positive trajectory each quarter with 16 referrals in Q4 compared to 8 in Q2 (bringing the annual total to 38). Of these, all 16 were accepted, 14 were contacted and 10 started to receive support during the quarter, bringing the total number of service users engaging with the H&S model to 25. These 16 referrals were linked to 31 adult victims and 38 children (bringing the annual total to 60 and 55 respectively) with child safeguarding interventions in place for 12 of the latter.

Work with this high risk, high harm cohort of domestic abuse perpetrators can last for up to 12 months. Individual work with the first 25 service users has focussed on a range of needs, the most prevalent of which were recorded as mental health (18 service users), substance misuse (19) and child/parenting needs (12).

This has resulted, thus far, in the formal recording of 54 stabilisation and support interventions, alongside 21 disruption interventions and 96 behaviour change interventions. Once fully operational, the target is for each service to support a maximum of 20 high risk, high harm perpetrators per year.

Three cases closed in Q4. These showed an average reduction of 20 on the Iwi Newman Behaviour Inventory Checklist, and an average drop of 10 in their RFGV (Recency, Frequency, Gravity, Victims) algorithm scores. Further work to develop and secure outcomes data for individual perpetrators and their adult and child victims is planned for the coming year.

Looking ahead:

Community Diversion Service

My VRU has co-commissioned a Community Diversion Service with Probation to deliver interventions to the Integrated Offender Management (IOM) cohort and children and young people and families across Northumbria.

The service will use person-centred approaches and thinking tools to give structure to conversations to capture information that improves understanding, communication, and relationships with those we work. Person-centred support planning helps us to support people with complex needs better by:

- Getting to the heart of what really matters to people, and that we use this information creatively to inform the best possible solutions.
- Helping to think through the different options available to them, so that we can be confident that we are using available resource in the best possible way.
- Giving the individual more of say, leading to increased choice and control over how they live their life, which is a fundamental principle of tailoring interventions and services.

Staff working in the service will understand behaviours because of trauma and support individuals to engage, identify and address the complex ways in which trauma manifests to achieve/sustain positive outcomes via:

- Giving a voice: co-developing Support Plans
- Tackling root causes of behaviour (e.g. addictions, mental distress, financial hardship, trauma) and unmet needs, addressing inter-related and mutually reinforcing challenges
- Psychologically trauma-informed delivery, including female/male workers. Trauma informed environments and venues
- Strong, non-judgemental relationships based on trust/respect/compassion, with workers:
 - Focusing on assets/goals
 - Working to understand abilities/strengths/aspirations/motivation
 - Advocating for individual
 - Offering a consistent/persistent approach
 - Preventing re-traumatisation.

Hospital Navigators

Hospital Navigators will work within the emergency departments (ED) of Newcastle's RVI and Sunderland's Royal Hospital, and within community settings to deliver the Hospital Navigation Programme to reduce serious and violent crime.

Navigators will use effective communication skills to build relationships with the individuals and use an informal approach to gain further understanding about the current situation. The needs assessment will determine the level of interventions needed in the short and long term. By

recognising individuals as the expert in their own needs or lived experiences and work collaboratively to understand individual their protective factors, strengths and vulnerabilities including:

- Strengths
- Current/ historical or vulnerability to crime
- Risk-taking behaviours
- Emotional Wellbeing
- Education, Employment and Training
- Physical Health
- Offending
- Safeguarding
- Family/Networks

Diversionary Cautions for Domestic Abuse (Project CARA)

As a result of submitting a successful bid to the Home Office's Domestic Abuse Perpetrator Fund 2023-2025, my office has secured funding to commission Project CARA across Northumbria. This work will include working in partnership to widen out the current interventions offer that cover early responses, behaviour change programmes, and intensive multi-agency case management. The funding will enable Northumbria Police to be able to offer diversionary cautions for domestic abuse, as part of the new 2-tier framework for out of court disposals once they come into effect (expected from December 2023).

At a minimum, the CARA intervention is an awareness raising programme. and whilst it is not a behaviour change programme, it has the potential to motivate offenders to change their patterns of behaviour. Offenders can learn to recognise the build-up to their abusive behaviour and develop/prepare strategies for managing it in the future. It provides information about domestic abuse and motivates perpetrators to consider a behaviour change programme. Referral pathways to behaviour change and victim support are part of Project CARA, so it is therefore classed as early 'awareness raising diversionary' intervention. It will be suitable for standard-risk 'first-time' offenders who have received a Diversionary Caution. The intervention includes engagement with and feedback from victims.

The intended outcomes will include:

- Reduction in reported domestic abuse with repeat offenders for standard risk incidents (recidivism). This will be measured via reoffending data from the police at the 6 and 12 month points post-completion, for offenders who have completed CARA.
- Offenders will have an increased understanding of the impacts their behaviour has on their family and an increased understanding of domestic abuse. This will be measured via self-reporting by offenders responding to question as part of CARA completion questionnaire. Dedicated time at end of second workshop will ensure high level of questionnaire completions.
- Victims will report positive changes. This will be measured via Victim Contact questions which include reports on changes of perpetrator behaviour. Victim contact is offered and completed mid-way between two CARA sessions. Victim engagement is voluntary.

My office chairs a task and finish group with Northumbria Police and the CPS relating to the project and an implementation plan is in place. The next steps include commissioning a provider to deliver the CARA intervention, who will work closely with the Northumbria Police TREAD team. Once procured and mobilised, it is expected CARA delivery will start by the end of 2023.

3. ROADS POLICING

In the Police and Crime Plan I committed to:

- Reduce harm on the roads and promote safer driving.
- Develop fresh educational campaigns and carry out targeted enforcement.
- Send speed camera vans out in the areas where local residents have asked for them; there is intelligence to suggest they will make a difference.
- Keep promoting the message that roads are a shared space for all users
- Ensure action will be taken against those who endanger other road users and pedestrians

Roads Policing: Context

- The impact of road traffic collisions (RTCs) can be devastating to those involved and their families. The force is committed to improving road safety and targeting offenders who drive dangerously or use vehicles to carry out criminal activities. The force continues to adapt to changes of road use and vehicle type, utilising national and locally generated data to influence the deployment of staff.
- Motor Patrols teams provide 24/7 cover across the Force area and undertake the investigation of all fatal and serious injury RTCs. Investigations are carried out under the direction of a specially trained lead investigator, managing a multi skilled team with support from experts within the force's Collision Investigation Unit.
- The Road Safety Unit work alongside LAs to reduce road casualties. This unit has access to five Camera Safety Vans, community speed watch groups, Neighbourhood teams and Special Constables to support their work. In addition, this unit leads the force's response to national road safety campaigns linked to the Fatal 4 offences of drink and drug driving, illegal use of mobile telephones, seat belt offences and speeding. The unit works with multi agency partners to reduce the road related risk and promote better driving. Operation Modero allows for mobile speed camera sites to be nominated by the public. The deployment model improves the force's responsiveness to community intelligence highlighting anti-social driving, particularly in residential areas.
- Operation Dragoon is a proactive specialist Road Policing Unit who target the 'Fatal 4', hotspots, dangerous drivers and use experienced Motor Patrols officers to disrupt OCG activity. The unit is a proactive intelligence-led team who often work with region wide crime units to provide specialist tactical pursuit and containment support while also assisting the Road Safety team to deliver educational events across a wide range of groups. Both functions aim to identify threats and risks to all road users and respond accordingly.

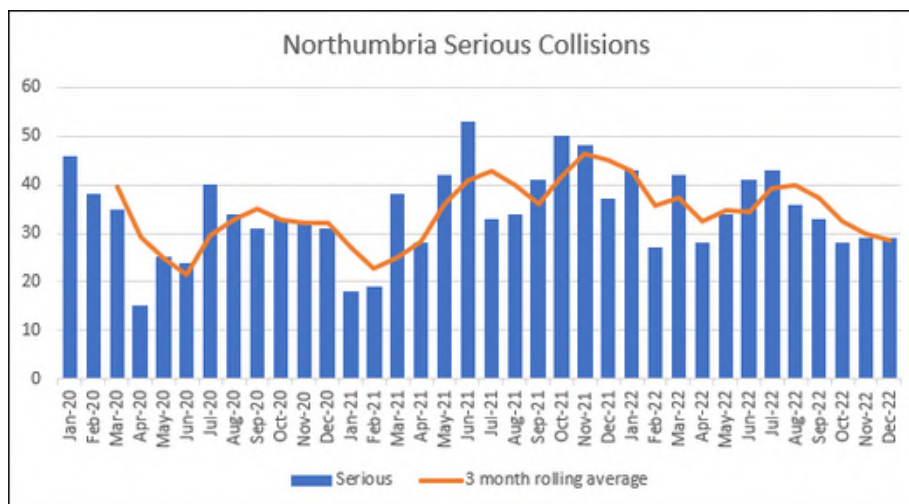
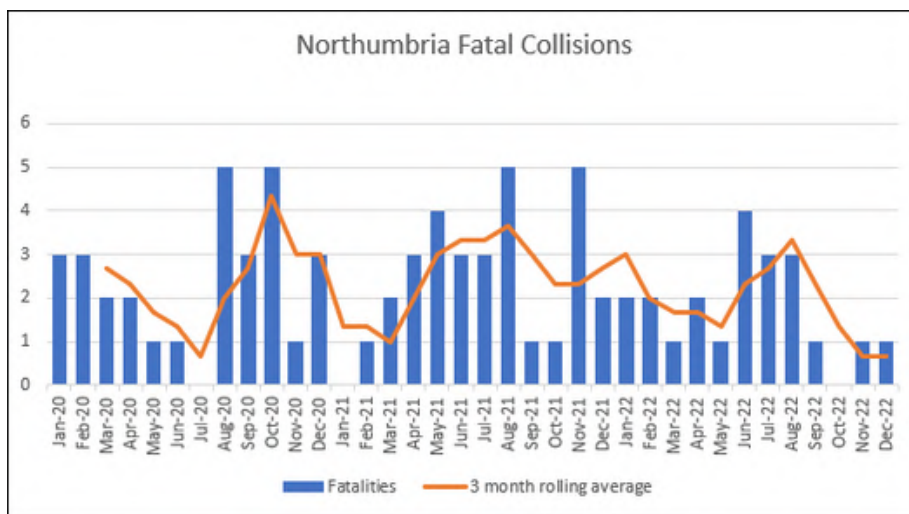
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Current force position:

Fatal & Serious Collisions

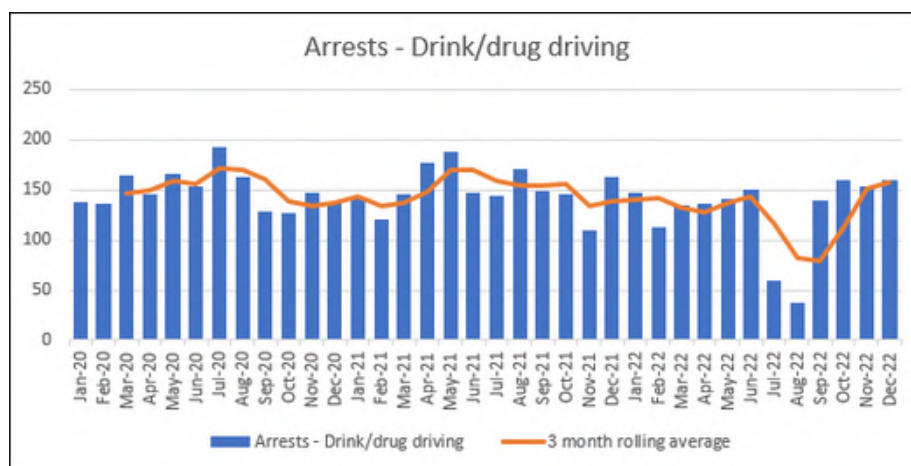
- Nationally, the number of collisions resulting in fatalities has remained broadly stable since 2015 with around 1,600 casualties per year. Nationally, the number of serious injury collisions is broadly increasing.
- In the Northumbria Police area there were 2,178 reported road casualties (includes fatalities and serious / minor injuries) in 2021 and 2,129 in 2020, the lowest total since 2005. Data up to November 2022 highlights there has been 2,073 casualties in the 2022-23 year. It is likely that the year-end total will be comparable to that of 2021.

- The two graphs below demonstrate Northumbria's fatal collisions and serious collisions from January 2020 to December 2022:
 - Fatal collisions – Northumbria Police statistics reflect the national trend in the number of road deaths with a reduction in the number of road deaths between 2019 (39 deaths) and 2021 (30 deaths). This has reduced further in 2022 to 21 deaths, reflecting a 30% decrease.
 - Serious collisions – Northumbria Police statistics reflect the national trend in respect of the number of road users seriously injured increased from 384 in 2020 to 438 in 2021 (an increase of 14%) as the level of road users and associated collisions returned to pre-pandemic numbers. Data for 2022 highlights there were 417 which is a slight reduction in 2021.



Drink/Drug Driving

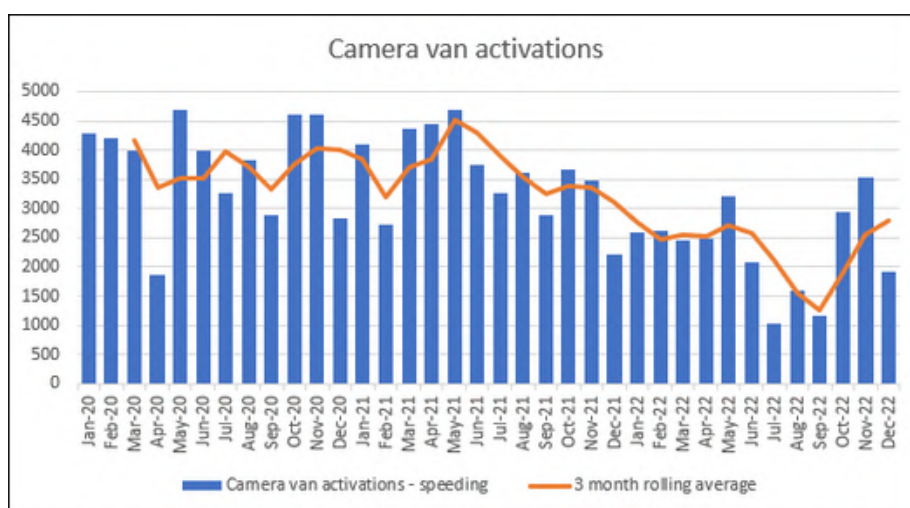
- Drivers can be breath tested following police attendance at any collision or if the officer suspects the driver to be under the influence. A total of 4,473 tests were conducted in 2022 which is an increase on the previous two years when road traffic volumes were suppressed during the COVID-19 pandemic.
- Encouragingly there has been a reduction in arrests for both drink and drug driving despite the higher number of tests conducted which indicates a reducing trend in driving under the influence. In line with national trends, 16% of drivers tested providing a positive result test or failed to provide a sample.



Camera Van Activations

- As shown by the graph below, there was a reduction in camera activations in 2022. This is due to resourcing issues which led to reduced deployment of the camera enforcement vans. Additionally, camera van activations fluctuate depending upon deployment locations, for example, Operation Modero post vans to more urban locations in response to community concerns rather than driven by collision data. These sites often result in positive local feedback, but limited enforcement work due to high levels of speed compliance. Resourcing issues have been addressed and deployments re-focused on areas identified from data as experiencing speeding, resulting in a consequential increase in activations in the latter half of 2022.
- Northumbria Police camera vans can detect offences other than speeding. In 2022, the Force recorded 858 drivers for failing to wear a seatbelt and 20 using their mobile phone whilst driving.

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L-R: Operation Modero in action, Motor Patrols conducting speed checks in Newcastle, Motor Patrols at the Quayside

Update on work undertaken:

- **Strategy & Analysis:** Northumbria Police gains analytical support from the North East Regional Road Safety resource. This is a shared resource with the six Local Authorities. Road traffic Collision (RTC) data is automatically shared into the Traffic and Accident Data Unit for data analysis and interpretation with any identified trends fed to the Road Safety Unit. In addition to this, Analysis is undertaken with partners to improve understanding of road safety risks with a problem-solving approach being embedded within the Force Coordination and Operations Department. Work is ongoing to develop evaluation of the effectiveness of road safety activity.
- **Collaborative partnership working:** Northumbria Police works in partnership with National Highways (formerly Highways England) and the seven-force region to identify common themes and risks which can be better addressed collaboratively. Significant success has been achieved through a coordinated regional approach utilising key skills, specialist equipment and shared resourcing. This is particularly apparent on operations on the region's Strategic Road Network in relation to commercial vehicles.
- **Motorcyclists, cyclists, E-Scooter and E-Bike users:** Following changes to the Highway Code which created a hierarchy of road users based upon their vulnerability, the top four most vulnerable are listed as: pedestrians, cyclists, motorcyclists and horse riders. With a greater use of E-bikes, E-Scooters and cycling since the pandemic, activity has been extended to include this emerging trend, including:
 - Northumbria Cadets are working with Motor Patrols to produce social media content highlighting the dangers of pedestrians being distracted by mobile phones.
 - In 2022, the Force worked with colleagues from Fire and Rescue to promote, support and deliver bespoke first aid courses and rider training for motorcyclists. In 2023 it is planned to expand this package to include cyclists.
- **Commercial vehicles:** During 2022, the Force Coordination and Operations Department has continued to build capability to address the risk posed by commercial vehicles on our road network with trained officers conducting roadside commercial vehicle examinations. This activity contributes to improving the safety of all road users with the aim of preventing serious and fatal RTCs.
- **Operation Snaps:** The increased availability and use of dashcams in vehicles provide an excellent evidential resource to address unsafe driving and other road traffic related offending. Northumbria Police accept and process digital video footage submissions via our web page direct from the public as part of Operation Snaps. This has resulted in 4,587 submissions from the public in 2021 with 64% resulting in a positive disposal. In 2022 this increased to 5,946 submissions with 57% resulting in a positive disposal.
- **Operation Dragoon:** As part of Northumbria Police's drink drive campaign during Christmas, Operation Dragoon officers actively targeted individuals of concern such as disqualified drivers suspected of breaching their disqualification and drink/drug drivers who have failed to appear at court. The Dragoon team also supports the work of regional crime units by providing specialist tactics needed to disrupt the criminal use of our roads.

- **Staff wellbeing:** The force has increased the number of TRiM (Trauma Risk Management) practitioners within the Coordination and Operations Department, due to the high levels of trauma exposure for staff across the department. TRiM is a peer led support programme designed to help those who have experienced a traumatic event in the line of their work to deal with it effectively. TRiM practitioners are colleagues who have undergone specific training allowing them to understand the effect that traumatic events have upon people. They are not counsellors or therapists but understand confidentiality and are able to listen and offer practical advice and assistance. In addition to the increase in the number of TRiM practitioners and compulsory Occupational Health Unit assessments, the force's trauma lead has developed a bespoke presentation for Motor Patrols focussing on trauma and the possible longer-term impact linked to PTSD. The input raises their understanding of this area of risk and the benefits of early support and intervention.
- **Victims of road crime:** My office provides funding towards the National Road Victim Service ran by Brake which provides one to one support to the bereaved or catastrophically injured road victims in Northumbria. Brake also provides bereavement packs and other resources to the Force's Family Liaison Officers to share with victims.

Looking ahead:

- **Improving road safety through partnership working:** The Force is in discussions with the Northumbria Safer Roads Initiative partnership to re-establish effective partnership arrangements with the aim of improving road safety across the Northumbria area. The Force continues to work with our partners to adopt the Safe System for policing the roads, employing a holistic approach to road safety to protect the most vulnerable who use our roads through engagement, education, and enforcement. They work collaboratively to share best practice, encourage compliance, reduce collisions and casualties and to enhance safety for all.
- **Upskilling officers:** The Force Coordination and Operations Department now has twelve officers trained to National Investigators Program (PIP level 2 qualified) and more sitting the National Investigators' Exam (NIE) in 2023. By the end of 2023, all lead investigators will achieve PIP level 2 status with additional representation in all ranks and all teams. The investment in PIP2 accreditation will be provided in addition to the APP Roads Policing course with the intention that it will further enhance investigative capabilities and the service provided to victims and their families.



Commercial vehicle checkpoint operation at Washington Services

4. PUBLIC TRANSPORT

Across our region, people want a public transport system which is reliable, affordable and safe, and I am committed to doing my bit to support that aim. Public transport is vital for our region, whether that is a bus to work or the Metro after a night out. That's why I have launched a public transport safety app, Safer Transport Northumbria. This is a way people can report incidents or anti-social behaviour they see on the network. It is vital we have a true picture of public safety on our buses and Metro. Alongside the app, I am also funding safety volunteers and youth workers on our Metro system. They are there to reassure people feeling vulnerable and talk to the young people whose behaviour can be intimidating.

In my recently refreshed Police and Crime Plan I committed to investing in public transport safety for the duration of the plan (2022-2025), and to work with the force and public transport providers on tackling ASB and crime on the network.

Update on work undertaken

Safer Streets Fund – Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB) on Public Transport

My office was successful in obtaining further funding from the Home Office Safer Streets Fund (Round 4) to continue the work of my Safer Streets Fund Round 3 Transport project. £750,000 has been granted by the Home Office to spend by September 2023. The project aims to make people feel, and be, safer on our public transport networks through understanding ASB issues, promoting safety and encouraging reporting, tackling ASB incidents, and taking a Public Health Approach to attitudinal/behaviour change. My office works closely with a range of key partners to deliver this project including Northumbria Police, British Transport Police, transport providers, all six local authorities, youth work providers and Street Pastors.

The ASB on Public Transport project has delivered the following work between July 2022 and the end of March 2023:

- Continuation of the Safer Transport Northumbria App – the app continues to be used, with 244 new downloads in the period. There has been a total of 2,849 downloads of the app to date.
- Ongoing messaging to promote the app and promote reporting of ASB.
- Youth Provision to provide a flexible resource across the transport network targeted to young people and youth ASB, engaging a total of 3,210 young people across Northumbria.
- Provision of Street Pastors to work specifically on identified high-harm routes/hubs. The Street Pastors carried out 123 patrols and engaged with 4,326 people, with their presence being very well received through offering reassurance to public transport users.
- The Multi-Agency Transport Team (MATT) have engaged with 2,612 people as they continue to focus on being a visible presence on the transport network and hubs where high footfall occurs or where ASB and emerging issues are developing. The MATT have identified a need to carry out a Northumbria-wide review and mapping exercise of local authority processes to safeguard and tackle ASB – this will be carried out through this funding and co-ordinated by Newcastle City Council.
- 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. The training is currently being delivered by provider Resolve, with all partners sending their staff onto the training.

My office was also successful in receiving Safer Streets Fund Round 4 funding for a Rural Crime in Northumberland project and a Women's Safety in Public Spaces (WSiPP) project. These bids were also developed in collaboration with a range of partner agencies who continue to support delivery of the projects. Both projects so far are seeing considerable successes and will be reported on in my Fighting Crime and Improving Lives reports.

VRU Education Team 'Staying Safe in Public Spaces and Public Transport' Learning

The VRU Education Team, in partnership with Children North East, engaged with children and young people (aged 11- to 25-years) from Ashington, Newcastle and Sunderland to co-produce 'Staying Safe in Public Spaces and Public Transport' learning for Key Stage 3 and 4 students. These three 'expert panels' told us that the time of day, street lighting, who they were travelling with, and other passengers using substances informed decisions on staying safe.

Looking ahead:

Continuation of the ASB on Public Transport into 2023-24

My office will continue the delivery of all aspects of the ASB on Public Transport project mentioned above until September 2023. Further activity will include:

- Safer Transport Northumbria app – implementing changes to the app to allow access to better quality data.
- Data analysis – we now have an analyst in post and hope to streamline data capture and improve analysis of the data to make more effective decisions (e.g., resource tasking).
- Days of Action – the MATT will carry out proactive Multi-Agency Days of Action on public transport, responding to reports of ASB and working key dates when there's identified higher footfall on transport and a perceived higher rate of incidents.
- Patrols – £20,000 will be provided to Nexus to enhance their evening security patrols on the Tyne and Wear Metro system.

The Home Office is set to launch Safer Streets Round 5 this year and we plan to bid to sustain the transport work and build on the successes of the project.



Additional funding has been provided to Nexus to increase security patrols on all metros in the evening



PREVENTING CRIME PRIORITY 2: NEIGHBOURHOOD POLICING

After ten years of Government austerity and spending cuts, maintaining a local neighbourhood police service has not been easy. The force has had to make some difficult decisions in order to prioritise use of officers and staff out in our communities. I stand by these choices, and, for example, when it comes to deciding between having a police station open at 3am or having officers out in your local community, I back a visible police presence. Whether it's in a rural village or a city estate, neighbourhood policing is the key to safer streets.

In the Police and Crime Plan I committed to:

- Protecting frontline policing and giving the Force the resources to deter, detect and deal with criminals.
- Committing to investing in and supporting neighbourhood policing teams.
- Engage with communities to build relationships and to provide safety advice, education and guidance in particular to young people, vulnerable people and marginalised communities and I will ensure information is always provided in a way which ensures all can access it.

Current Force Position: Public Perception

In the Police and Crime Plan I committed to publishing regular data to show how local residents feel about the police.

In the 12 months to February 2023, the percentage of people who think the police do a good or excellent job in their neighbourhood fell by 8%, as shown in the below table.

Indicator	12 months to Feb 22	12 months to Feb 23
Percentage of people who think the police do a good or excellent job in their neighbourhood (Panel KPI)	78%	70%

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. Residents often perceived that an increase in funding and police visibility would help to further improve the service.

In contrast, residents that rated the performance of police as fair or poor frequently provided explanations associated with police visibility, unresolved issues in their local area, such as ASB and the perception that police were not adequately resourced in terms of officer numbers and funding. Survey feedback also highlighted that some residents expressed a lack of confidence regarding the ability of police to effectively deal with non-emergency incidents. This was often based on the perception that these types of incidents would not be a priority for police due to staff shortages and levels of demand.

I outline below some of the work being undertaken to address this fall in public confidence in the force.

Update on work undertaken

- **Strategic direction:** The Harm Reduction and Communities Team (HRCT) provide force direction through dedicated Superintendents with strategic responsibility for Neighbourhood Policing, Community Engagement, Hate Crime, Integrated Offender Management, Early Intervention, Prevention and Partnerships, Rural Policing, Offender Management and Citizens in Policing. All of these areas are focused on prevention.

- **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 (HMICFRS).
- **College of Policing Peer Review:** Between October-November 2022, Northumbria was part of the College of Policing (CoP) national neighbourhood policing peer review process and paired with Cheshire Police. The outcome was favourable, highlighting the excellent work around problem solving, community engagement and the passion and knowledge displayed by NPTs throughout the force.
- **Neighbourhood Profiles:** Neighbourhood Policing Teams continue to use neighbourhood profiles which provide a standardised mechanism to identify key issues whilst recording and reviewing activity outcomes. HRCT is reviewing ways to automate some elements of the profile which will improve our understanding of communities.
- **Joined-up working:** The Neighbourhood Delivery Group (NDG) meets 6-weekly with representation from all Area Commands, Force Coordination and Operations Department and Communications and Engagement Department chaired by HRCT Chief Superintendent. The meeting provides an opportunity for NPTs to update on problem solving activity, sharing best practice, and learning (regional and national), with updates provided around community engagement, hate crime and force wide priorities.
- **Offender management:** NPTs focus on offender management through their responsibility for the management and safeguarding of domestic abuse (DA) victims and perpetrators and registered sex offenders (RSOs). Op Aegis is a force wide approach which focuses on a cohort of repeat domestic abuse victims and perpetrators specifically safeguarding the victim while addressing the offending behaviour of the perpetrator. Neighbourhood officers are trained in RSO management, with teams having responsibility for the management of medium and low risk RSOs.
- **ASB performance:** A governance structure is in place which provides oversight and management of performance in regard to ASB. The Northumbria ASB Coordination Group continues to be co-chaired by the HRCT Chief Superintendent and feeds into the Northumbria Strategic ASB Board chaired by the PCC and attended by ACC (Communities) and Chief Superintendent, HRCT.



I always enjoy joining our NPTs for a walkabout and foot patrol to hear about the positive proactive work taking place locally to address concerns

- **Multi-agency policing operations:** Northumbria Police continues to develop and carry out successful multi-agency policing operations to prevent and reduce victims of crime, such as the SARA (Southwick Altogether Raising Aspirations) and Operation Cloak/Redeemer.
 - **SARA:** A multi-agency place-based approach has been applied force wide to tackle high harm areas for crime and ASB. The SARA (Southwick Altogether Raising Aspirations) project in Southwick and HALO project, based in Hetton, provide sustainable interventions for local communities through this partnership approach. On 5th December 2022 Southern Area Command launched the SAIL (Sunderland Altogether Improving Lives) multi agency hub based in the city centre which will focus on a cohort of youth and adult offenders in terms of intervention and disruption initiatives.
 - **Operation Cloak/Redeemer:** Operation Cloak was first established in Newcastle in 2019 and has since been expanded into other key night-time economy areas across the force. The operation deploys plain clothes officers tasked to identify vulnerable persons or predatory offenders and work with uniform colleagues and premises staff to reduce vulnerability. This operation has been identified as good practice by HMICFRS and has been adopted by other forces including the Metropolitan police service and Thames Valley police. Operation Redeemer has been developed and deployed as another arm of Operation Cloak, specifically to tackle an increased identification of sexual assault by men posing as taxi drivers in the Newcastle night-time economy. Operation Redeemer provides targeted activity via ANPR and CCTV control room systems identifying known offenders alongside Operation Cloak officers, it adds capacity and surveillance as well as an additional uniformed policing presence around the perimeters of the city to reach women being targeted in this way. Northumbria Police receive additional funding to enhance Operation Cloak/Redeemer provision through the Home Office's Safer Streets Round 4 funding via the Women's Safety in Public Places (WSiPP) that my office is delivering.

CASE STUDY - OPERATION CLOAK/REDEEMER

Operation Cloak deploys plain clothed officers tasked to identify vulnerable persons or predatory offenders in the night-time economy. Operation Redeemer is another arm of Operation Cloak, specifically to tackle an increased identification of sexual assault by men posing as taxi drivers in the Newcastle night-time economy.



Below are some examples of the interventions made by Operation Cloak/Redeemer officers in 2022-23:

- The subject was observed by officers as operating as an unlicensed taxi and offering three females unknown to him a lift for payment. He had a fake meter in his vehicle. The vehicle was uplifted, the three females safeguarded and statements obtained from them.
- A known subject who was currently under investigation for rape was observed driving around the night-time economy. On being stopped it was established that he was operating as a takeaway delivery driver but he did not have the required insurance thus his vehicle was seized and he was reported for summons. Due to offence under investigation and operating in the night-time economy, he was adopted as a person of concern.
- An officer was notified by a member of the public that a subject had approached and had offered her a lift for a fee. Enquiries revealed that the subject had previously been arrested for rape in 2015 but no further action in that case had taken place. He was a taxi driver at the time but due to that investigation his licence had been revoked. The subject was subsequently interviewed and a prosecution is currently pending court for plying for hire without a licence. He was also adopted and cloak and redeemer subject of concern.
- Concern for female who was observed by officers about to get into a vehicle driven by a male unknown to her. The male had agreed to give her a lift home. Due officers concern around fact female was intoxicated and did not know the male she was taken home by officers. The male was given words of advice on the night and issued with a section 59 warning notice due to manner of driving previously witnessed.
- Arrest after a report that a subject had picked up a female outside of a licensed premises and falsely imprisoned and sexually assaulted her. The subject was bailed however as a result of this incident, he was adopted as a Subject of Concern and added to the ANPR list. His vehicle later activated on the ANPR system and during search a balaclava, knife and drugs were found thus he was arrested and subsequently charged to court. The investigation for sexual assault is still ongoing and he is on conditional bail.

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Looking ahead:

Trailblazing Anti-Social Behaviour Action

As part of the Government's Anti-Social Behaviour Action Plan that was launched in April 2023, Northumbria has been selected by the Government to be one of the ten trailblazer areas to receive funding for the provision of new ASB prevention and enforcement activities. My office will receive £2 million to work with partners such as the police, local authorities, registered social landlords and probation to pilot two strands of new activity that aim to treat ASB with the urgency it deserves:

- Immediate Justice – aimed at delivering swift and visible punishment for ASB, diverting people away from the criminal justice system, and making sure ASB perpetrators undertake practical, reparative activity to make good the loss or damage sustained by victims, and engage with behaviour change educational activities.
- Hotspot Responses – increased presence of police and other uniformed authority figures, such as wardens, in areas where ASB is prevalent.

The project is currently in the planning stages and delivery will begin in the summer. A further update on the project will be provided in the Improving Lives report.



APPENDIX 1: PERFORMANCE DATA

CORE PERFORMANCE DATA

FIGHTING CRIME

RECORDED CRIME

Performance Headlines

► Total crime has increased by 5% for the 12 months to February 2023, with an increase in most crime categories compared to 12 months to February 2022. When compared to the 12 months to June 2019, the nationally agreed baseline for the Government's Beating Crime Plan, crime levels are higher for violent crime, sexual offences, vehicle crime, robbery, cyber-crime and hate crime. All other categories are lower.

Total Recorded Crime (Panel KPI)

Total Recorded Crime



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TOTAL RECORDED CRIME BY LOCAL AUTHORITY

	*12 months to June 2019	12 months to February 2022	12 months to February 2023	% change 22 vs 23	% change 20 vs 23
Total	155,248	134,872	142,132	5%	-5%
Sunderland	32,560	27,691	28,967	5%	-8%
South Tyneside	15,925	13,790	14,611	6%	-6%
Gateshead	20,472	18,358	19,243	5%	-5%
North Tyneside	20,505	17,594	17,978	2%	-9%
Newcastle	40,952	34,910	36,791	5%	-3%
Northumberland	24,834	22,529	24,542	9%	1%

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

ASB INCIDENTS

Performance Headlines

There has been a 16% (-8,103) reduction in ASB related incidents in the 12 months to February 2023 compared to the previous 12-month period. Autumn and Winter plans were developed, where police and partners took a preventative, problem solving approach, focussing on early intervention, diversion and enforcement in hotspot areas. It is expected that the work on seasonal plans will continue to contribute to a reduction of ASB throughout the year with Force wide multi-agency operations planned for the school holidays.

Indicator	*12 months to June 19	12 months to Feb 22	12 months to Feb 23	% change
Anti-social behaviour incidents	47,660	49,918	41,815	-16%

ASB SATISFACTION

Performance Headlines

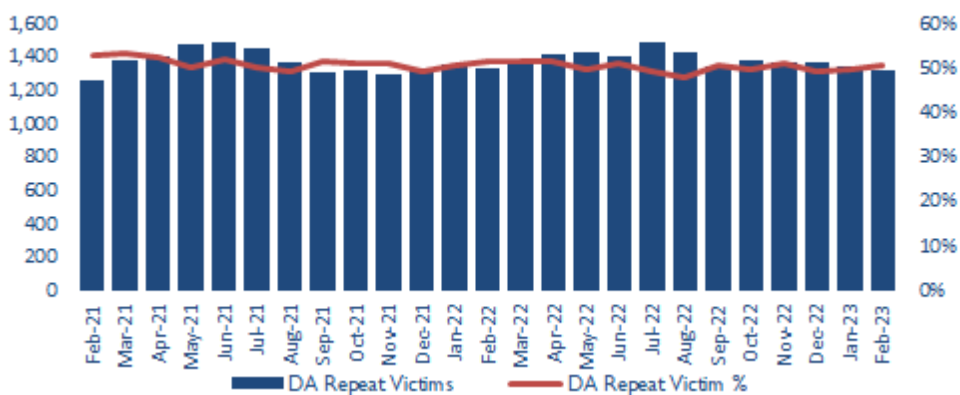
72% of ASB victims feel satisfied with their overall experience of service which is a significant reduction compared to the previous 12 month rolling period.

Indicator	12 months to Feb 22	12 months to Feb 23
Whole Experience	76%	72%

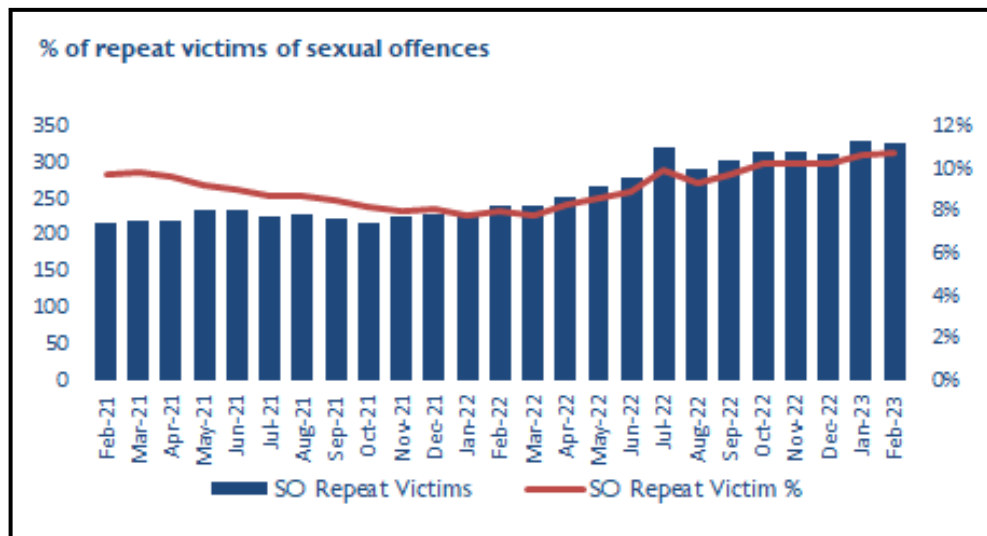
38

REPEAT VICTIMS - DOMESTIC ABUSE

% of repeat victims of domestic abuse



REPEAT VICTIMS - SEXUAL OFFENCES

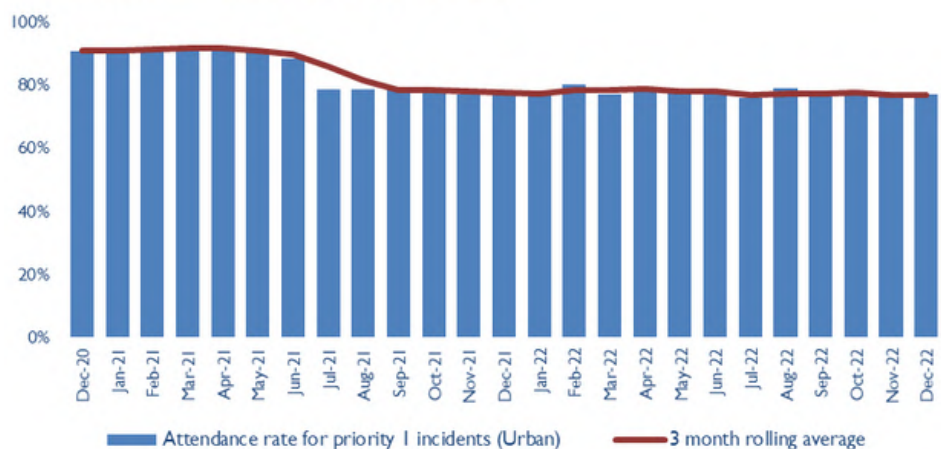


POLICE RESPONSE TIMES - GRADE 1 URBAN

Performance Headlines

Grade 1 incident demand remains high. For the period March 2022 to February 2023, there has been 10% more grade 1 incidents compared to the previous 12-month period. It is acknowledged that during the COVID-19 pandemic incident demand volumes changed; however, when comparing to the 12 months to February 2020 there is a 52% increase.

% Attended within standard - Grade 1 (Urban)

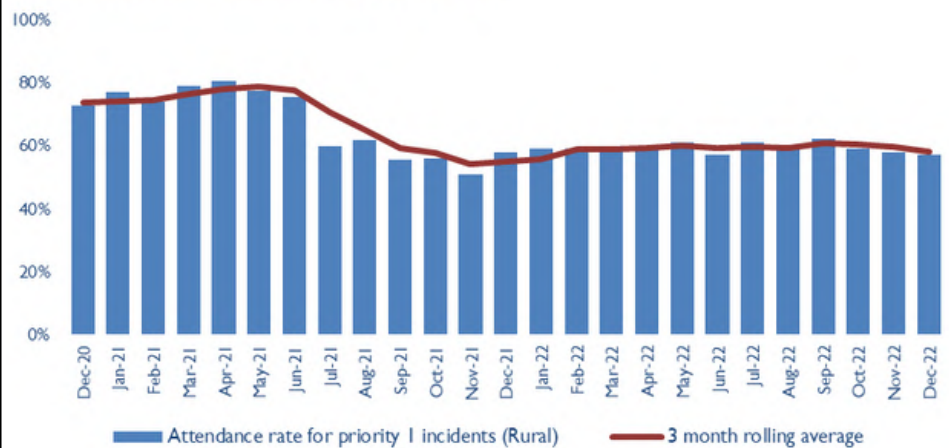


POLICE RESPONSE TIMES - GRADE 1 RURAL

Performance Headlines

The percentage of grade 1 (rural) incidents attended within 20 minutes was 59%, a reduction of 5%pts compared to the 12 months to February 2022. The trend has been relatively consistent since September 2021.

% 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. This improvement has continued in the last quarter, with 88% of 999 calls answered within 10 seconds. This trend is in-line with projected call handling performance and is a result of the improvement plan within the Communications department and investment in Contact Handler resource. For the 12 months to February 2023, 81% of 999 calls were answered within 10 seconds, with a mean answer time of 16 seconds. For the month of February 2023, 90% of 999 calls were answered within 10 seconds with an average answer time of 7 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 February 2023 is 48%; this compares to 41% for the 12 months to February 2022. For the month of February itself, 71% of 101 NE calls were answered within 60 seconds with an average answer time of 1 minute 12 seconds.

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 Sept 2020	12 months to Sept 2021	12 months to Sept 2022
Total	2,056	2,017	2,004
Adults	1,873	1,877	1,854
Juveniles	184	141	151

SERIOUS VIOLENCE OFFENCES

Indicator	*12 months to June '19	12 months to Feb '22	12 months to Feb '23	% change
Serious violence offences	18,282	20,992	23,023	+10%
Knife enabled serious violence	925	899	1,023	+14%
Homicides	17	12	19	+63%
Hospital admissions (under 25s for assault with a sharp object)	35	30 (to Oct 21)	30 (to Oct 22)	-

IMPROVING LIVES

PUBLIC PERCEPTION

Indicator	12 months to February 22	12 months to February 23
Percentage of people who think the police do a good or excellent job in their neighbourhood	78%	70%

Performance Headlines

► There is a significant reduction in the percentage of residents who feel the police do a good or excellent job in their neighbourhood compared to the same period last year. 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. Residents often perceived that an increase in funding and police visibility would help to further improve the service.

OVERALL VICTIM SATISFACTION

Performance Headlines

► 74% of volume crime victims (managed by Area Commands) are satisfied with their overall experience, which is a significant decrease compared to the same period last year – 84%. Although the expectations of victims varied, most dissatisfied victims felt that their response time was longer than was specified by the contact handler and/or was not appropriate to the type of incident they were reporting. Some victims stated that their experience could have been improved if a more accurate time scale had been provided and/or if they had been notified about possible delays.

IMPROVING LIVES

SATISFACTION - HATE CRIME

Indicator	12 months to February 22	12 months to February 23
Whole experience	76%	76%

Performance Headlines

As part of a trial during December 2022/January 2023 Northern Area Command provided call backs for all victims of hate crime (within seven days) They also asked to gather additional information during the call back to see if any evidential opportunities had been missed. The Public Insight Team will identify whether the call backs have influenced levels of victim satisfaction in due course.

SATISFACTION - DOMESTIC ABUSE

Indicator	12 months to Feb 22	12 months to Feb 23
Whole experience	89%	87%

DELIVERY OF THE POLICE & CRIME PLAN

PREVENTING CRIME PANEL REPORT

JUNE 2023



KIM MCGUINNESS
NORTHUMBRIA
**POLICE & CRIME
COMMISSIONER**