

About Northumbria Police Authority

Introduction

You have expressed an interest in becoming more involved in our consultation. The following tells you more about who we are, what we do and why we consult with local people.

Who are we?

Northumbria Police Authority is a statutory body responsible for providing an efficient and effective police force. This means ensuring that local people are served by a high performing police force that has the resources, tools and senior personnel it needs.

The authority is responsible for setting and monitoring an annual police budget of more than £265 million and in deciding how it will be spent as well as monitoring the performance of Northumbria Police.

The authority is made up of 17 members:

- 9 local councillors appointed by the local council;
- 5 independent members selected following local advertisements; and
- 3 magistrates from the local area

Northumbria Police provides the day-to-day operational policing for your area while Northumbria Police Authority oversees the quality of these services.

Why do we consult?

One of the authority's most important responsibilities is to agree Northumbria Police Force's priorities for the year ahead. That means listening very carefully to what people say about the way Northumbria, and their own neighbourhood is policed and the issues that they think local police should be focussing on.

In order to ensure that policing services continually improve and that local people receive a high standard of service, which reflects and responds to their concerns, the authority is currently preparing a programme of future consultation.

How can you get involved?

From time to time we may ask you to:

- **Complete questionnaires** – these may vary in length and will always come with a pre-paid envelope.
- **Take part in focus groups** – these are small, informal discussion groups, (of around 10-12 people) usually held at local authority premises, lasting around 1½ hours. Focus groups are for more detailed discussion of issues, sometimes aimed at a specific group of people, for example those who live in a particular area. In order to give everyone the opportunity to attend these meetings, a choice of dates and times are usually given.

We will also provide:

- Disabled access to all consultation activities;
- Facilities for guide dogs;
- A carers allowance or childcare, if required;
- Signing for consultation activities, if required.

Whatever method of consultation is used, we will ensure that the format, location and time are convenient to you.

All the information you provide will be treated in the strictest confidence and will be used for research purposes only.