

# Priorities and Targets

This plan is presented in sections which are used to measure and compare police performance nationally (the Policing Performance Assessment Framework). You can monitor our progress during the year by visiting the force website and viewing Gateshead Area Command at [www.northumbria.police.uk](http://www.northumbria.police.uk)

These targets reflect the top ten policing priorities in Gateshead Area Command for 2005-06 identified by residents responding to a questionnaire sent to all households and businesses in autumn 2004.

## Gateshead Area Command Plan 2005/2006

### Area Commander's Introduction



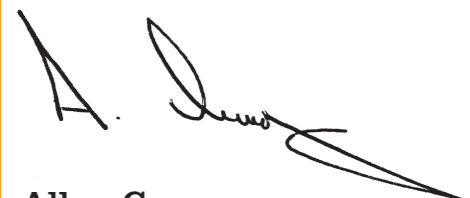
Following restructuring within Northumbria Police, my staff and I have spent a great deal of time and effort during the previous year ensuring the new Gateshead Area Command would be in a position to address any issues affecting residents in the borough during 2005/2006. This work is now complete.

In line with the priorities and targets of the National Policing Plan and the Gateshead Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnership, we will continue driving down levels of criminality and anti-social behaviour within the borough. The good news, supporting our planned objectives, is that crime continued to fall in Gateshead during 2004/2005, with more than 3,000 fewer crimes.

These reductions are as a result of maximizing our excellent multi-agency partnerships, as well as listening to communities, so we target policing activity where it will be most effective.

We have now introduced Community Inspectors, responsible for a team of officers, within each of the Gateshead Neighbourhood Management Areas and I'm looking forward to the impact they will have on key issues affecting the residents of Gateshead.

As always our intention is to improve the quality of life, creating secure and stronger communities where residents can live and work in a safer, fear free and tolerant Gateshead.

  
Allan Curry  
Chief Superintendent

<p><b>CITIZEN FOCUS</b></p> <p>Satisfaction of victims of burglary, violent crime, vehicle crime and road traffic collisions with respect to the overall service provided</p>	<p><b>TARGET</b></p> <p>To improve satisfaction levels with the overall service provided</p>
<p><b>REDUCING CRIME</b></p> <p>Total crime</p> <p>Violent crime</p> <p>Burglary to homes</p> <p>Vehicle crime</p>	<p><b>We aim to REDUCE OFFENCES by</b></p> <p>2% (To 97.6 offences per 1,000 population)</p> <p>4% (To 17.5 offences per 1,000 population)</p> <p>2% (To 11.6 offences per 1,000 households)</p> <p>2% (To 12.7 offences per 1,000 population)</p>
<p><b>INVESTIGATING CRIME</b></p> <p>Overall detections</p> <p>Violent crime</p> <p>Burglary to homes</p> <p>Vehicle crime</p>	<p><b>We aim to INCREASE THE DETECTION RATE to</b></p> <p>28.3%</p> <p>53.2%</p> <p>15.7%</p> <p>11.9%</p>
<p><b>PROMOTING PUBLIC SAFETY</b></p> <p>Criminal damage</p> <p>Road safety</p> <p>People killed or seriously injured in road traffic collisions</p>	<p><b>TARGET</b></p> <p>Reduce offences by 7.5% (To 25.7 offences per 1,000 population)</p> <p>We aim to make roads safer and reduce the number of casualties by 2%</p>



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## Citizen Focus

We will build upon strong community links by developing our community policing teams. In addition, through the wider use of Police Community Support Officers and by working with the Local Authority Warden Service, we aim to increase public confidence. We will respond to individual needs with fairness and equality, particularly in minority ethnic communities and vulnerable groups. In addition, we will pursue the aims of the Gateshead Community Safety Strategy (Safer and Stronger Gateshead 2005/2008), as an active member of the Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnership.

**“ We aim to improve victim and witness care and, working with partners in the criminal justice system, will support initiatives to increase the number of offenders brought to justice. ”**

Our success and the quality of service provided will be measured through user satisfaction surveys.

## Reducing Crime

Preventing and reducing crime is our primary aim. Last year, crime fell by

14.7 per cent in Gateshead, that is 3274 fewer offences. We aim to continue that success and drive overall crime down even further.

**“ Our strategies are to tackle those crimes of greatest concern to the public by targeting offenders through intelligence-led operations and initiatives to prevent crime, protect vulnerable potential victims, and support witnesses and victims through the judicial process. ”**

We are committed to reducing burglary to homes in the area. In Gateshead last year, we achieved an overall reduction in burglary to homes of 42.5 per cent and we aim to build on that success. We shall target persistent burglars bringing them to justice and work with other judicial agencies to discourage re-offending. Working through the Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnership, initiatives will be introduced to prevent crime and protect communities.

Whilst the number of offences of violent crimes recorded has decreased and many are minor assaults where the victim knows the offender, violent behaviour is

unacceptable. We want to reduce the number of victims and the conditions in which violence is used. Action will be taken against offenders and care and support given to victims and witnesses. Working with partners, we will aim to make improvements to the environment to increase safety within our communities.

In Gateshead, we have been successful in reducing the total number of victims of vehicle crime. Last year, thefts from vehicles and thefts of cars fell by 14.9 per cent. By analysing patterns and identifying the main offenders, resources will be directed to targeting areas and individuals offending, as well as those supporting the trade in stolen cars and items.

## Investigating Crime

Solving crime and bringing offenders to justice is a priority. Last year 26.3 per cent of crimes committed in Gateshead were detected; even in times of falling crime, we want to improve detections and are taking positive steps to do so.

Using the National Intelligence Model, forensic science and new technology, we aim to apprehend more offenders and prepare quality

prosecution files. We will concentrate on those offences deemed a priority by the public: burglary to homes, violent crime and vehicle crime.

**“ We will continue to develop close links with partner agencies representing victims of domestic violence, hate crime and vulnerable groups to raise awareness and improve support. ”**

Officers in the area command will be working to support national and force initiatives to narrow the justice gap by increasing the number of offences brought to justice, concentrating on those offenders committing most crime and improving further the quality of investigations and prosecution files. In addition, by improving the quality of services to victims and witnesses, we aim to raise public confidence in the criminal justice system by working more closely with the Crown Prosecution Service, courts, the Probation Service and prisons to bring offenders to justice quickly and to divert them from re-offending.

## Promoting Public Safety

Police activity also aims to reduce the fear of crime, promote public safety and reduce anti-social behaviour, in

conjunction with the aims and objectives of the 'Safer and Stronger Gateshead 2005-2008' plan.

Together with partners, we will build on the current problem solving groups established within each Neighbourhood Management Area. In the problem solving approach we address problems within communities, which are having an adverse effect on the quality of life and require a multi-agency response to finding sustainable solutions.

Anti-social behaviour in the widest possible sense has the potential to destroy lives and shatter communities, leading to a decline within neighbourhoods. The quality of life experienced by communities can be seriously damaged by the fear of crime with many people experiencing the long-term effects of victimisation.

**“ Reducing anti-social behaviour and dealing with offenders increases reassurance and makes communities feel safer. ”**

The reduction of offences of criminal damage remains a priority; we will look to continue the downward trend by more information sharing with partners and maximising the problem solving approach.

The supply and misuse of drugs drives acquisitive and violent crime affecting communities and damaging individuals. Targeting suppliers through intelligence-led operations is a priority in Gateshead Area Command, alongside effective intervention and support to divert people away from drug abuse.

Too many people are killed and injured on our roads. Many collisions are preventable and we will continue to target behaviour which leads to collisions and work with partners to improve traffic flow, reducing death and serious injury. In addition, we will detect and disrupt criminals who use the roads and highways to commit crime at various locations throughout the borough.

We will continue to measure and monitor the fear of crime through public perception surveys.

## Providing Assistance

The police respond to general requests for assistance and support from the public and many other agencies. For example, co-operating with other forces and law enforcement agencies to tackle organised crime, especially drug dealing.

## Resource Use

Improving the management of police resources by reducing bureaucracy and improving policing maximises the time officers are visible and able to address aspects of criminality and anti-social behaviour as well as providing public reassurance.

In 2004, the force underwent large-scale restructuring to improve policing services at local level. During 2005-06 residents in Gateshead Area Command will benefit from the increased policing presence as a result of the restructure which include:

- Additional officers – 95 per cent of area command police officers are in front-line duties.
- The area command now has specialist officers dedicated to policing Gateshead, these include motor patrols, dog section and child protection officers.
- Structured, multi-agency problem solving groups in place across all five Neighbourhood Management Areas.
- A co-ordinated criminal justice approach to anti-social behaviour.



## Find Out

- more about your area command
- more about your Community Beat Manager
- how you can monitor progress against targets during the year

by visiting the force website and viewing Gateshead Area Command at [www.northumbria.police.uk](http://www.northumbria.police.uk)

You can contact your local police by telephoning **0191 454 7555** or writing to the:

**Area Commander  
Gateshead Area Command  
Gateshead Police Station  
High West Street  
Gateshead  
NE8 1BN**

The information in this plan can be requested in alternative languages and large print.