

# 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 Newcastle Area Command at [www.northumbria.police.uk](http://www.northumbria.police.uk)

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

## Newcastle Area Command Plan 2005/2006

### Area Commander's Introduction



Welcome to the 2005/2006 plan for Newcastle Area Command which highlights the policing priorities for the next 12 months and how we intend to address them. Over the last twelve months Northumbria Police has undergone a major reform. Up until a year ago the city was policed as four separate areas. Now, for the first time, the police boundaries match those of the local authority. This has allowed us to develop our relationship with partner agencies and give a co-ordinated response to problems that are both local and citywide.

As part of the reform, each part of the city has a dedicated team of Community Beat Managers that is headed by an Inspector. Their aim is to improve the quality of life of residents by working with partner agencies and communities to identify problems and long-term solutions, with particular emphasis on reducing crime and disorder. The community teams supplement the work of operational police officers who still provide a 24-hour service.

Other aspects of policing are not ignored and we will continue to build on the relationship we have with minority groups across the city, as well as addressing the needs of victims and witnesses. Great importance is still attached to the effective investigation and reduction of crime. Through a combination of intelligence-led policing, greater use of forensic techniques and a co-ordinated use of all of our staff, we aim to meet the challenging targets that have been set for the year.

Chris Machell  
Chief Superintendent

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<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>Improve satisfaction levels with the overall service provided</p>								
<p><b>REDUCING CRIME</b></p> <table border="1"> <tr><td>Total crime</td></tr> <tr><td>Violent crime</td></tr> <tr><td>Burglary to homes</td></tr> <tr><td>Vehicle crime</td></tr> </table>	Total crime	Violent crime	Burglary to homes	Vehicle crime	<p><b>We aim to REDUCE OFFENCES by</b></p> <table border="1"> <tr><td>5% (To 136.9 offences per 1,000 population)</td></tr> <tr><td>8% (To 22.1 offences per 1,000 population)</td></tr> <tr><td>8% (To 20.5 offences per 1,000 households)</td></tr> <tr><td>3% (To 16.7 offences per 1,000 population)</td></tr> </table>	5% (To 136.9 offences per 1,000 population)	8% (To 22.1 offences per 1,000 population)	8% (To 20.5 offences per 1,000 households)	3% (To 16.7 offences per 1,000 population)
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<p><b>INVESTIGATING CRIME</b></p> <table border="1"> <tr><td>Overall detections</td></tr> <tr><td>Violent crime</td></tr> <tr><td>Burglary to homes</td></tr> <tr><td>Vehicle crime</td></tr> </table>	Overall detections	Violent crime	Burglary to homes	Vehicle crime	<p><b>We aim to INCREASE THE DETECTION RATE to</b></p> <table border="1"> <tr><td>30%</td></tr> <tr><td>52.1%</td></tr> <tr><td>13.8%</td></tr> <tr><td>12.4%</td></tr> </table>	30%	52.1%	13.8%	12.4%
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<p><b>PROMOTING PUBLIC SAFETY</b></p> <table border="1"> <tr><td>Criminal damage</td></tr> <tr><td>Road safety</td></tr> <tr><td>People killed or seriously injured in road traffic collisions</td></tr> </table>	Criminal damage	Road safety	People killed or seriously injured in road traffic collisions	<p><b>TARGET</b></p> <p>Reduce offences by 10% (To 31.9 offences per 1,000 population)</p> <p>We aim to make roads safer and reduce the number of casualties by 5%</p>					
Criminal damage									
Road safety									
People killed or seriously injured in road traffic collisions									



NORTHUMBRIA POLICE





## Citizen Focus

“The community teams allow us to identify and deal with local concerns. Public contact has been established across the city to improve access to the police.”

Police teams are based in Sceptre Street in Elswick, Gosforth High School and the Thomas Gaughan Centre in Byker. Weekly updates of community officer activity can be found in the Herald and Post free newspaper.

Police Community Support Officers have been deployed on the streets of Newcastle. Their role is to help the community and act as eyes and ears for police officers and they are an integral part of the community teams.

## Reducing Crime

Last year crime fell by 7.9 per cent and we intend to continue this trend this year. The biggest challenge is reducing the amount of criminal damage, as this crime is widespread and often a result of anti-social behaviour. Much of it is mindless

and ranges from graffiti to setting cars on fire.

Two other areas that we will be focusing on are burglaries to homes and violent crime. While we have had a lot of success in reducing the number of burglaries, it is important that we continue our efforts by co-ordinated crime prevention initiatives that involve all relevant partners and the community. Many victims find it a particularly traumatic and intrusive crime.

Some violent crime can be attributed to the vibrant city centre nightlife, as many offences are alcohol related. Work has been undertaken with the licensed retailers to cut alcohol related violence. Our Community Relations Unit has regular contact with vulnerable groups to reduce the likelihood of them becoming victims.

“Each Community Inspector has a sector plan that focuses on reducing the crimes particular to their area; this allows them and their partners to have a structured focus on local concerns.”

Individuals identified as being particularly problematic are referred to the Anti-Social Behaviour Unit (a partnership between the police, local authority and Your Homes Newcastle) that has a range of options that can be used to encourage less disruptive conduct.

## Investigating Crime

A plan has been developed to ensure there is continued improvement in the detection of crime and prosecution of offenders. Improved intelligence gathering has led to the successful targeting of prolific offenders. Greater use is made of forensic techniques by increased use of Scenes of Crime Officers plus the creation of a Forensic Investigation Team.

Following up positive DNA and fingerprint identifications for a variety of offences (including serious assaults, robbery and burglary) led to over 300 offences being detected in the first four months of the initiative and offenders given lengthy custodial sentences. It is expected that this approach will lead to an increase in the number of offences detected this year.

In addition to the use of specialist teams, the detection plan aims to enhance the investigative skills of all officers by ensuring that appropriate guidance and advice is available at every stage of an investigation. This includes scene preservation, enquiries, interview techniques and intelligence assessments.

“As part of the police reform programme, more attention is to be paid to the needs of victims and witnesses by providing updates regarding investigations as well as assisting with the provision of additional support.”

## Promoting Public Safety

“The division of uniformed officers into 24-hour response and community teams allows us to maintain the ability to respond to emergencies and, at the same time, recreate the situation of previous years, where beat officers were familiar with local problems and were known in their

community. This has resulted in a better service being provided to the public.”

As well as reducing and detecting crime, it is important that the people who live and work in Newcastle feel safe.

A Public Protection Unit that works with partner agencies has been created and it focuses upon those who are particularly vulnerable:

- A strategy is in place to help those who are victims of hate crime and ensure that any additional needs can be identified and acted upon.
- Domestic violence is viewed as a serious matter, appropriate support and advice is given to all victims.
- A new, more thorough process of investigating missing persons is being introduced.
- The Community Relations Unit, based at Westgate Road Police Station, won national recognition in 2004 and will continue to work with partners to provide help and support for minority groups.

• Specially trained officers are available to deal with victims of child abuse.

Another area where we are aiming to improve public safety is in the development of a Road Strategy. The aim is, in conjunction with the local authority and Highways Agency, to make the roads safer in Newcastle.

## Providing Assistance

Newcastle Area Command has been working very closely with the emerging combined Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnership and local Drugs Action Team. The enlarged partnership called ‘Safe Newcastle’, launched in April 2005, builds on the well established arrangements which have proven so successful over the years.

## Resource Use

Over 1000 police officers and police staff work in Newcastle. To ensure they are used in the best possible way, an intelligence-led tasking process which determines priorities is used in conjunction with our partners. This ensures all resources are deployed as effectively as possible. This process is reviewed on a regular

basis and supported by an annual activity analysis (a survey of staff to measure labour and other costs involved in providing policing services).

In 2004, the force underwent a large-scale restructuring to improve policing services at local level. Residents in Newcastle Area Command are now seeing the benefits which include:

- Additional officers – 95 per cent of area command police officers are in front-line duties; not only are there more officers, but they also include specialists like motor patrols, dog section and child protection officers.
- Community teams dedicated to policing local areas have been introduced. Led by an Inspector, the teams can consist of police officers and staff, and Police Community Support Officers. They aim to tackle problems of most concern to residents and work in partnership with other agencies to find sustainable solutions to problems.
- The improved area command structure ensures that staff are intelligence-led and that resources are used most effectively to target offenders and problems.

These changes should continue to lead to improvements in policing in Newcastle.

## 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 Newcastle Area Command at [www.northumbria.police.uk](http://www.northumbria.police.uk)

You can contact your local police by telephoning **0191 214 6555** or writing to the:

**Area Commander  
Newcastle Area Command  
Etal Lane Police Station  
Etal Lane  
Westerhope  
Newcastle upon Tyne  
NE5 4AW**

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

