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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 Northumberland Area Command at **www.northumbria.police.uk**

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

Northumberland Area Command Plan 2005/2006

Area Commander's Introduction

Northumbria Police is committed to its role to prevent, reduce and detect crime, and to making communities safer and secure. As Area Commander for Northumberland, I have established a number of targets and priorities that are outlined in this plan. My staff and I will focus on achieving reductions in crime and disorder throughout the area. We will also concentrate on those offenders whose behaviour affects your quality of life and bring to justice prolific and persistent criminals.

We can only succeed in achieving the targets set out in this plan with the active support of the community. We will therefore continue to build upon the excellent relationship we have with our communities. In Northumberland we have 11 community teams, each led by a Community Inspector. This provides the framework for delivering our service and ensures that there is a clear focus upon providing a service that is tailored to meet the demands of local communities. It also allows us to maintain strong working links with our partner organisations aimed at tackling crime and disorder problems.

Northumberland is a very safe place to live, work and visit and last year we saw another reduction in crime levels. As Area Commander and a resident of Northumberland, I am committed to delivering a police service to the area that is of the highest standard possible. I know that my officers share this commitment and by working with communities we will work hard to reduce crime and disorder even further.

Graham Pears
Chief Superintendent

"My staff and I will focus on achieving reductions in crime and disorder throughout the area."

CITIZEN FOCUS	TARGET
Satisfaction of victims of burglary, violent crime, vehicle crime and road traffic collisions with respect to the overall service provided	Improve satisfaction levels with the overall service provided

REDUCING CRIME	We aim to REDUCE OFFENCES by
Total crime	1% (To 70.1 offences per 1,000 population)
Violent crime	5% (To 12.6 offences per 1,000 population)
Burglary to homes	2% (To 6.3 offences per 1,000 households)
Vehicle crime	2% (To 6.5 offences per 1,000 population)

INVESTIGATING CRIME	We aim to INCREASE THE DETECTION RATE to
Overall detections	32.1%
Violent crime	62.2%
Burglary to homes	21.2%
Vehicle crime	16.7%

PROMOTING PUBLIC SAFETY	TARGET
Criminal damage	Reduce offences by 7% (To 21.5 offences per 1,000 population)
Road safety People killed or seriously injured in road traffic collisions	We aim to make roads safer and reduce the number of casualties by 5%

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Citizen Focus

"Local policing is more effective when the whole community is involved. We aim to continue to build on our excellent community links and provide the highest standards of service."

We engage with a wide range of partners and enjoy the support and guidance of our local Police Authority members. Through this and the activity of the Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnerships across the county, we will respond to individual and community needs. This will be done with fairness and equality. Where additional support is required for minority ethnic groups and for vulnerable groups, then we will endeavour to provide that support. Police in Northumberland will continue to build confidence and trust within our communities and be accountable to local people.

We aim to improve victim and witness care and, working with partners in the criminal justice system, we 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 4.6 per cent in Northumberland, which is 1047 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."

We are committed to reducing burglary to homes in the area.
In Northumberland last year we achieved an overall reduction in burglary to homes of 32.1 per cent and we aim to build on that success.
We will target persistent burglars, bring 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.

While the number of violent crimes has decreased and many are minor assaults where the victim knows the offender, violent behaviour is unacceptable and we aim to continue reducing the number of victims.

Action will be taken against offenders and care and support given to victims and witnesses. Working with partners we aim to make improvements to the environment to increase safety within our communities.

Last year saw a slight increase in the number of vehicle crimes, but alongside this there was an increase in the number of offences detected. We have invested in additional forensic training to build upon our success in detecting these offences. By analysing patterns and identifying the main offenders, resources will be directed to targeting areas and individuals offending.

Investigating Crime

Solving crime and bringing offenders to justice is a priority. Last year 30.1 per cent of crimes committed in Northumberland 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 and police staff working in the area command will be supporting national and force initiatives to narrow the justice gap by increasing the number of criminals brought to justice. They will concentrate on those offenders committing most crime and improve further the quality of investigations and prosecution files. Further improvements in these areas will in turn improve the quality of services to victims and witnesses, and raise public confidence in the criminal justice system. Continued close working relationships with the Crown Prosecution Service, courts, the Probation Service and prisons will bring offenders to justice quickly and divert them from re-offending.

Promoting Public Safety

Police officers and staff also aim to reduce the fear of crime, promote public safety and reduce anti-social behaviour.

"Our aim is to work towards a more citizen-focused approach to engage with communities, particularly through our growing community policing teams."

Together with partners, we aim to develop constructive and lasting engagement with communities allowing quick and effective responses to be made to solve problems and make communities safer. We will enable communities to identify local concerns and then, together with partners, consider a range of solutions.

While crime continues to fall, fear of crime is still a concern and will be measured by public perception surveys. Disorder (often alcohol related), vandalism and graffiti, drug abuse, and danger and nuisance caused by motor vehicles affect the quality of life in communities.

Reducing disorder and dealing with offenders increases reassurance and makes communities feel safer. Reports of criminal damage decreased last year, with most relating to minor damage and graffiti. Through more information sharing with partners we aim to identify and target hotspots. We will continue to work with judicial and local authority sectors, Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnerships, housing organisations and social landlords to discourage anti-social behaviour through court orders, Acceptable Behaviour Agreements and prosecutions. Northumberland Area Command successfully secured 20 Anti-Social Behaviour Orders last year, and we aim to continue to maximise their use to improve the quality of life for residents in Northumberland.

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

Too many people are killed and injured on our roads. We will continue to target behaviour that leads to collisions, working with partners to improve traffic flow to reduce death and serious injury. With the use of advanced technology we aim to detect criminal activity on the roads. High visibility patrols will be used to promote road safety and reduce the fear of crime. The effectiveness of this activity will continue to be monitored 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. How the police deal with incidents involving the public is monitored through satisfaction surveys.

Resource Use

The extent to which we achieve our objectives depends on the level of resources and how they are used. Improving the management of police resources by reducing bureaucracy and improving policing maximises the time officers are visible and accessible.
The command team will work to ensure that staffing and equipment are used effectively and efficiently.

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

- More effective community teams dedicated to policing local areas.

Led by an Inspector, the teams consist of police officers and staff, as well as 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 specialist resources such as motor patrols and dog section are specifically focused on targets and priorities within Northumberland. Staff are intelligence-led and resources are used most effectively to target offenders and problems.

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 Northumberland Area Command at **www.northumbria.police.uk**

You can contact your local police by telephoning **01661 872555** or writing to the:

Area Commander
Northumberland Area Command
Bedlington Police Station
Schalksmuhle Road
Bedlington
NE22 7LA

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