



# NORTHUMBRIA VIOLENCE REDUCTION UNIT

AN EDUCATIONAL SUPPORT  
PACKAGE IN RESPONSE TO  
COVID-19 & LOCKDOWN



**NORTHUMBRIA  
POLICE & CRIME  
COMMISSIONER**

**violence  
reduction  
unit**

*Improving lives to prevent crime*



# We are here to help.

Lockdown changed how we view day to day life, but one thing it did not change was the incredible dedication & support of the wonderful education sector across Northumbria, and beyond.

As more students start returning to school we are available to help and support through any challenges you may face as a result of lockdown. As lockdown continues, the factors that often lead to crime, increase daily.

For some children, being at home for over 2 months will not have been a pleasant or healthy experience, and integrating them back into 'normality' will be a challenge.

We can support with virtual sessions, drop in sessions, referral pathways and support programmes through the extensive network across Northumbria. By working directly with Northumbria Police, the Local Authorities, statutory services and the Community & Voluntary Sector, we have access to a range of interventions and resources to help individual needs.

You have been there for our key workers and our children, and now we are there for you.

*Kim McGuinness*  
*Northumbria Police & Crime Commissioner*



# Supporting young people.



As a Unit, we commission a range of services that support young people and adults across Northumbria, as well having an in house team of professionals with experience in public health, community safety, mental health, drug & alcohol misuse, youth engagement & more. Since September 2019 we have provided life changing intervention pathways to over 4,000 young people.

We understand the challenges that young people will have faced during lockdown, and are leading the regional response to ensure that the services, funding and support they require post-lockdown are available to them.

To allow this, we would like your support in gathering as much feedback and insight from young people as possible. We have developed the attached survey for students aged 14+, and would appreciate your support in helping us reach as many individuals as possible. By sharing the attached document with the relevant students, we can build a responsive and localised solution to the emerging issues.

We will act on the insight gathered and provide a local response to the issues caused by lockdown, and keep in regular contact with yourselves to react to any emerging or identified trends. Data will be shared with schools ahead of the September return.

# Supporting you.

As more students return, there may be the need for extra support around some topics and discussion points, or thinking ahead to September, you might want to plan some lessons based on certain topics.

Our team of School Liaison Officers can support with the planning and delivery of these lessons and are available to support you.

They can help by:

- Providing pre-recorded lessons on a range of topics from communication & social media, to joint enterprise, knife crime, exploitation or domestic abuse
- Delivering virtual 'drop in' sessions for students and/or parents
- Delivering live sessions to small groups on your required topic
- Planning for the September return and booking in sessions for the 2020/2021 academic year.

All the above will be delivered by our team of School Liaison Officers who delivered this to over 74,500 students across 98% of schools in the Northumbria force area during the 2019/20 academic year.

If there are other areas that you feel your students would benefit from, such as county lines, child sexual exploitation or other areas, please get in touch and we facilitate this through our network where possible.



**“One in five children are affected by or exposed to domestic abuse – to these children what they see at home is just normal behaviour, but it’s not.**

**“It’s so important that we acknowledge that these children are just as much the victims too and, sadly, without the right support they can become trapped in a life-long cycle of abuse.**

**This work is about breaking that cycle and helping young people to shape their own healthy relationships in the future. Prevention starts with education and that’s a real focus us for us here in Northumbria.”**

**KIM MCGUINNESS,  
NORTHUMBRIA POLICE & CRIME COMMISSIONER**





# Testimonials

"The programme is easy to follow and for busy teachers it's great that the resources are prepared and easy to put the activities into place with the children. The response from the children has been excellent."

"All pupils could relate to the context, and were immersed in the teaching and learning experience. They gained knowledge, skills and positive attitudes, and had a voice. Classes taught a year ago, still remember her sessions, can talk about the main points, and the learning outcomes are plain to see."

"Their problem solving approach puts children at the heart of the learning process in real-life situations. They learn to question their actions and that of others in a range of scenarios involving domestic abuse, bullying and other social situations. It's a must have for any primary school."

# Work with us

For more information, or to book your school onto one of our programmes, please contact us via:

Email - [VRU@northumbria-pcc.gov.uk](mailto:VRU@northumbria-pcc.gov.uk)





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# Follow our work

