

NORTHUMBRIA VIOLENCE REDUCTION UNIT

Education Packages

"It really made me think about things from a different perspective because it was very realistic"

Student, 2022

"The sessions have been incredibly informative and we have had some really positive feedback from students"

Teacher, 2022



**NORTHUMBRIA
POLICE & CRIME
COMMISSIONER**

**violence
reduction
unit**

Improving lives to prevent crime



Foreword

from the Police & Crime Commissioner

I am delighted to introduce our new education brochure - education is such a powerful tool, and it equips young people with the knowledge to make positive life choices.

Our programme of support, for both educational and community groups has evolved over time to be responsive to local needs, and subjects have been developed where a gap in this support has been identified.

We are excited about the range of programmes on offer, and confident that through this approach, we can improve lives to prevent crime.

Please do take a look at what our Violence Reduction Unit can provide, and get in touch to book or with any further questions.

Kim McGuinness

Northumbria Police & Crime Commissioner





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THE NORTHUMBRIA VIOLENCE REDUCTION UNIT EDUCATION TEAM

Our Violence Reduction Liaison Officers can deliver sessions to young people in schools (including Alternative Provision), colleges and in other settings such as youth groups.

The sessions are informative, interactive and impactful with a focus on prevention and general awareness.

Email: vru@northumbria-pcc.gov.uk

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KNIFE CRIME AWARENESS - KS3 & KS4

Students consider the impact and consequences of Knife Crime. The lesson is an interactive discussion on the law, Joint Enterprise and the effect of knife crime on perpetrators, victims, families and communities. Students are encouraged to voice opinion on non-graphic thought provoking video clips, promoting debate and questions. The session offers an opportunity for students to receive information, ask questions and to dispel myths around the subject. Maintaining personal safety is explored, although incidents are rare and students are reassured of this.



KNIFE CRIME AWARENESS - PRACTITIONERS

This session is aimed at professionals who work with young people and would like to know more about the subject.

It covers reasons as to why young people might carry a knife, the consequences of doing so and the law. The session also signposts additional information and support.

"The session has been really useful on a personal as well as a professional level" - Practitioner, 2022

A man with short grey hair, wearing a grey zip-up jacket, is shown from the chest up. He is gesturing with both hands, palms facing outwards, as if explaining something. In the background, a presentation board is visible with some text and a logo. The overall image has a blue tint.

MALICIOUS COMMUNICATIONS - KS3 & KS4

Encourages students to consider the impact and consequences around sending and receiving messages, texts and posts on social media.

Students are encouraged to discuss how unkind, inappropriate or offensive messages can impact both the sender and the recipient.

The session informs students about the laws in relation to online behaviours and looks at some real life examples of where these have been applied.

Students will be made aware of the potential effect a criminal record can have on a person's life and future.

The session also addresses the issue of sexting or intimate image abuse, coercion of young people into the sending or distribution of nude or semi-nude photographs and the laws and potential repercussions of such activity.

The session concludes with information around what to do if a person becomes involved as an unwilling perpetrator or victim and the support available.

The content will be reviewed following the enactment of the online safety bill.

"I really enjoyed the session and feel like I have learnt a lot" - Student, 2022

CHILD CRIMINAL EXPLOITATION - KS3 & KS4

Exploring Child Criminal Exploitation by Organised Crime Groups, including 'county lines'. The session encourages discussion on how young people might be exploited and by using a short film, students will be asked about the characters involved, their different perspectives and how they might be feeling. They will consider the consequences of exploitation, how to recognise the signs and build resilience against becoming a victim. The aim is to empower students to speak out if they suspect exploitation of themselves or someone they know, and where to go for help.



VIRTUAL REALITY - KS3 & KS4

Our Violence Reduction Liaison Officers offer sessions using the latest 'VR' equipment, where students get to learn and discuss subjects whilst being immersed in 'real life' environments. Subjects include:

- Vulnerability in the Night Time Economy
- Coercive Control
- Knife Crime
- Child Sexual Exploitation

DRUGS AND ALCOHOL – KS3 & KS4

This package consists of three specific workshops looking at drugs, alcohol and vulnerability. Co-produced with students and drug and alcohol support services this package provides an interactive learning experience, through discussion, video content, and practical learning activities.

Drugs

- The effects of substance use
- Knowledge of what to consider should a person be considering consuming a substance
- The law around substances/drugs
- Drug safety awareness

Alcohol

- Explore why do young people drink alcohol
- The law regarding alcohol
- The risks of 'binge' drinking

Safety & Vulnerability

- How a person can be vulnerable and where we may see a vulnerable person
- Explore 'risk' behaviours due to drugs & alcohol consumption
- Harm reduction

PROJECT BASED LEARNING

For children and young people who are particularly vulnerable to the consequences of violence, in partnership with Newcastle University, we have developed a Project Based Learning approach for students in Alternative Provision or Pupil Referral Unit settings.

“The Research Centre for Learning and Teaching are delighted to be working in partnership with the Violence Reduction Unit on the use of Project Based Learning in education provision, geared to tackling the issue of violence. Project Based Learning fosters confidence and self-esteem, taking ownership, seeing other points of view and developing deep knowledge of topics. In simple terms this is achieved by meeting people and hearing their stories, going places (even if digitally) to expand horizons and doing and making things to develop natural capabilities as projects are turned by students into visible products, such as films, performances, publications and exhibitions. We look forward to producing a collaborative publication with the Violence Reduction Unit to consolidate and disseminate this important work.”

***David Leat, Professor of Curriculum Innovation
Newcastle University***



PHILOSOPHY FOR CHILDREN – KS2

Philosophy for Children uses enquiry to explore a philosophical question. It allows our Liaison Officers, trained in Philosophy for Children, to address sensitive and challenging themes around vulnerability and violence with younger students.

Philosophy for Children develops reasoning skills, which enables students to think more critically, as part of a Community of Enquiry.

We encourage students to formulate relevant questions allowing them to challenge their own ideas and beliefs, and those of others, in a safe learning environment.

The number of sessions needed will vary depending on the theme and characteristics of the student group, but we would suggest 3-4 sessions per theme.

Sessions will be designed and delivered in collaboration with the school or organisation. This is a flexible approach which can be used to cover any violence reduction theme, such as conflict, relationships, anti-social behaviour, exploitation and bystander interventions.



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WORK WITH US

We are very much looking forward to working with you.

Our sessions can be adapted to meet the needs of groups and we will work with you to ensure everyone gets the best out of our programmes. Although our sessions are targeted at KS3 and KS4 and adults, we may be able to deliver bespoke sessions for KS1 and KS2.

For more information please visit our [website](https://www.northumbria-pcc.gov.uk), or to book sessions, email VRU@northumbria-pcc.gov.uk



The Northumbria Police 'Prevention through Education Team' also have a number of educational offers, which can be accessed [here](#).



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