



## **General advice**

Northumbria Police would like to welcome you to the North East of England.

The police are here to help you and, where possible, prevent you from becoming victims of crime or racist abuse.

We have a duty to uphold the law fairly and firmly, prevent crime, bring to justice those who break the law, keep the peace and protect, help and reassure the community.

You have nothing to fear from Northumbria Police. Our officers will perform their duties without fear, favour or prejudice to the rights of others.

## **Contacting the police**

You can contact us in person at any police station or on the telephone 24-hours a day.

If your call is an emergency you should telephone **999** and ask for the police.

If you have difficulty understanding English we can arrange for an interpreter to assist with **any** police matter.

If your call is **not urgent** you should attend the local police station or contact us by telephone on **101** or online at **[www.northumbria.police.uk](http://www.northumbria.police.uk)**

## **Hate incidents**

A hate incident is any incident where someone has done something to you because of your **religion, race, sexuality, gender identity or disability**.

If you have suffered an incident because of who you are we encourage you to report these incidents to the police and we can, with our partner agencies, offer you support and advice.

Northumbria Police recognise the impact these incidents can have on individuals and communities and take them very seriously.

## **Crime**

The North East in general is a safe place to live and work. However if you are the victim of a crime it is important that you report it to the police. Northumbria Police will take your report seriously, investigate the crime and support you



throughout the process. As a victim of crime you are the innocent party and you will be treated as such.

## **Common crime offences**

In Britain it is an offence to:

- Have sex at any time without the other person's consent - this includes unwanted physical contact.
- For a male to have sex with any person under the age of 16 years even if they consent.
- Carry knives, weapons or **any other item** which may be used to injure another person.
- Use or possess illegal drugs, including cannabis.
- Use threatening, abusive or insulting language or behaviour.
- Use any kind of violence against another.
- Drive a vehicle on a public road without a valid driving licence, insurance certificate, excise licence or test certificate.
- Drive or be in charge of a vehicle on a public road or place if you have taken alcohol or drugs.
- Take any property belonging to someone else without their consent

Police officers can stop you in the street and search you if they believe you have any stolen or prohibited articles, or any weapons.

If you are arrested for an offence you will be taken to a police station where you will be entitled to speak to a solicitor and have an interpreter present to assist you if you are unable to understand English.

You can help us reduce crime by:

- Taking reasonable steps to protect yourself, your neighbours and your home.
- Telling us if you witness a crime or see anything you think is suspicious.

**Remember the police in this country are here to help and support you**