

Youth Consultation 2020

# IMPACT OF LOCKDOWN



**NORTHUMBRIA  
POLICE & CRIME  
COMMISSIONER**

**violence  
reduction  
unit**

*Improving lives to prevent crime*

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# FOREWORD

The last few months have brought challenges to our society that we never expected to be faced with – but when faced with adversity, our incredible charities, local services and organisations supporting the vulnerable responded valiantly.

We have all had to change our ways of working, adapting to the current situation and responding to different needs of those we support. I am delighted with the way the region has come together to support one another, and the work delivered by my office & Violence Reduction Unit, Northumbria Police and all of our partners within our support network.

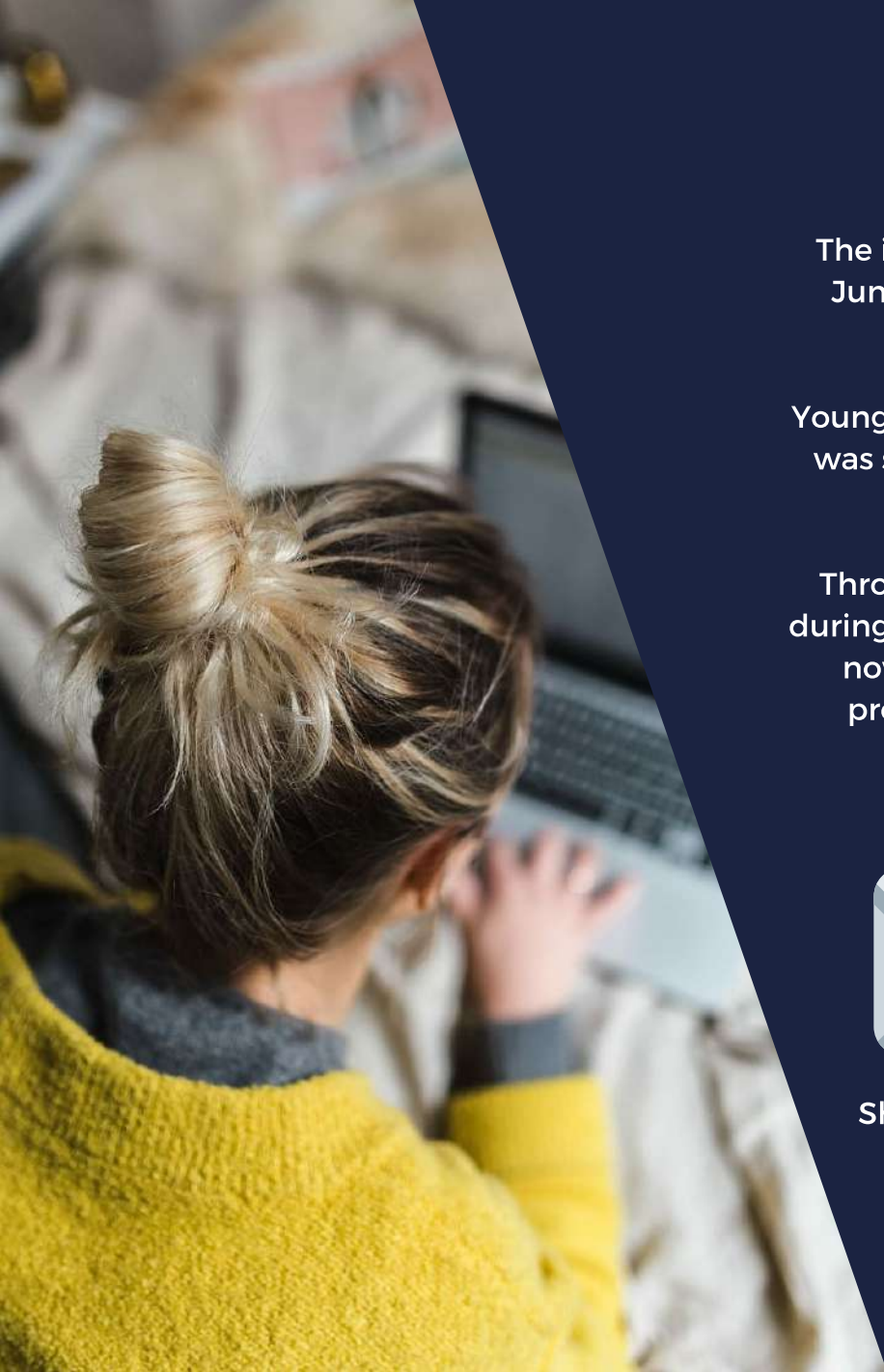
As we start to recover, and lockdown eases across the Country, we are well prepared to meet the new needs of our communities, and continue to support those we work with to deliver our objective of ‘improving lives to prevent crime’.

Young people have been hit hard by this pandemic, and missed out on several significant moments in their childhood & school life. Students & educational establishments are going to require additional support come September, and we will ensure they get it.

There are many a challenge to come, but I am confident that we can support the region through these tough times and ensure we bounce back positively, and deter any rise in crime or vulnerability.

**Kim McGuinness**  
**Northumbria Police & Crime Commissioner**





# OVERVIEW

The impact of lockdown across Northumbria survey was launched on Thursday 18th June and was open for responses until Wednesday 22nd July – there were a total of 1374 responses during this time.

Young people from across Northumbria were invited to complete the survey, and this was supported by communications from educational establishments, youth groups, third sector organisations and local authorities.

Through the survey we intended to understand the challenges facing young people during lockdown, and what support they may require once restrictions eased. We will now work with the education sector, along with the third sector to ensure that we provide interventions and services that meet the needs of these young people and aids the transition back to school or beyond from September.



Shared via schools,  
colleges  
& Universities



Youth groups engaged  
throughout the  
process for feedback

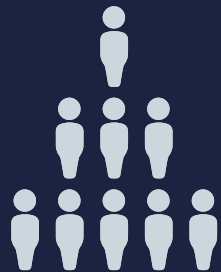


Completed online via a  
confidential survey link



# RESPONSES

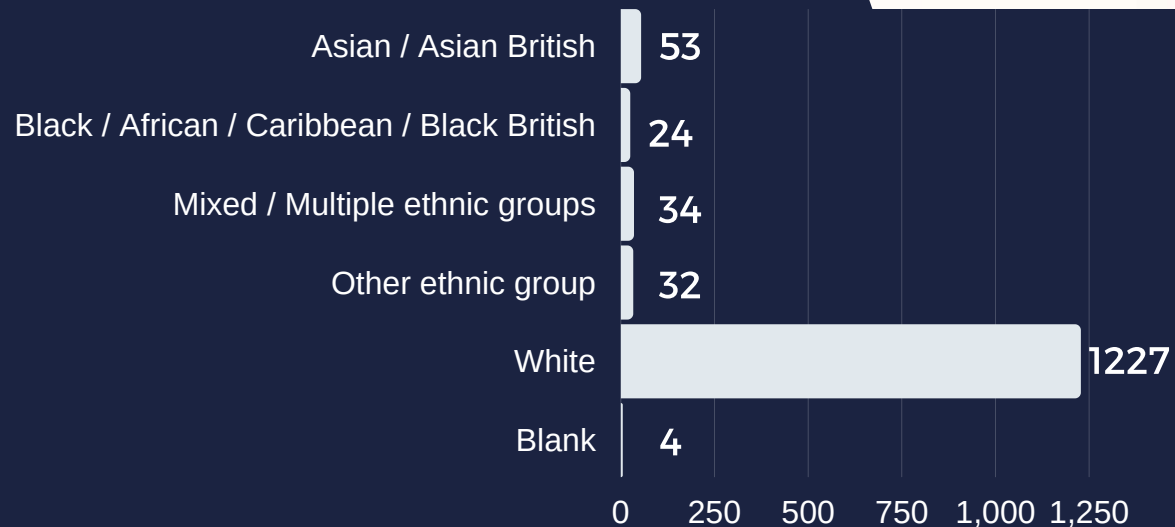
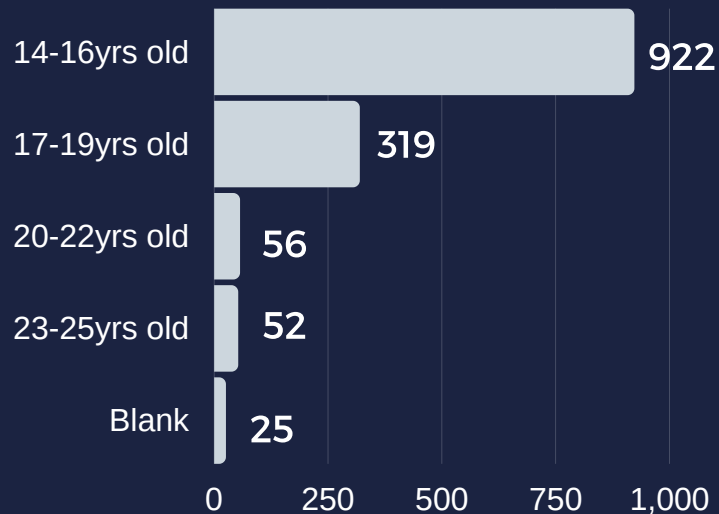
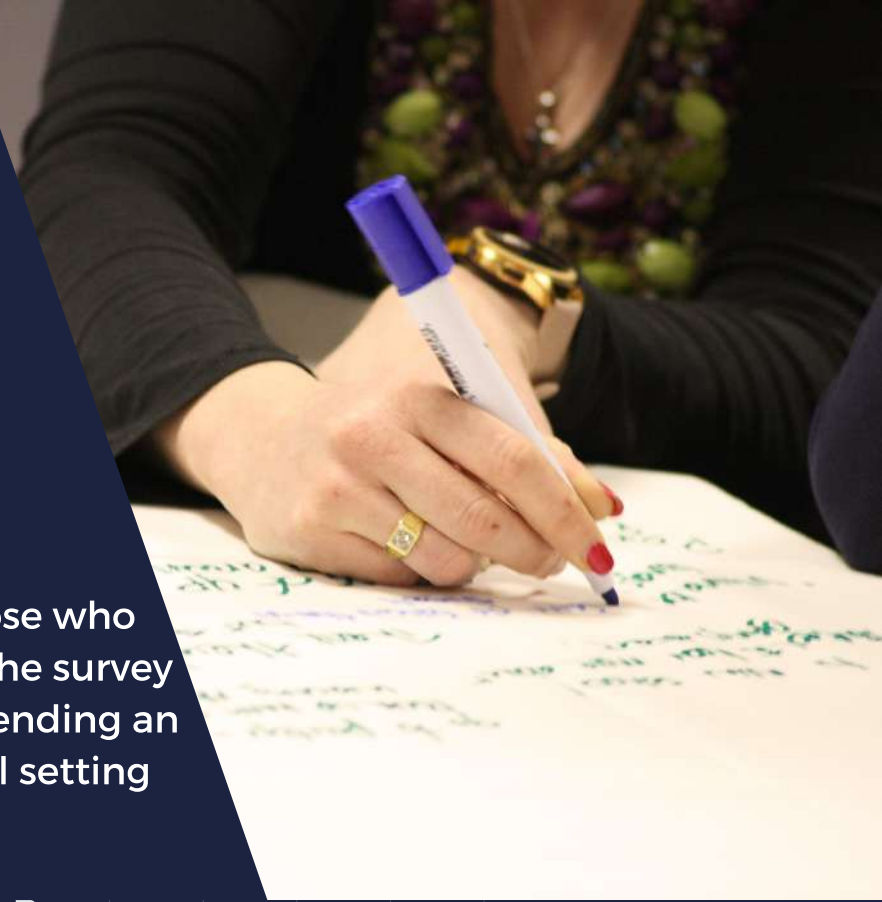
# 1374 RESPONSES



58% Female  
40% Male  
2% Other



92% of those who completed the survey were still attending an educational setting



# THE IMPACT OF LOCKDOWN



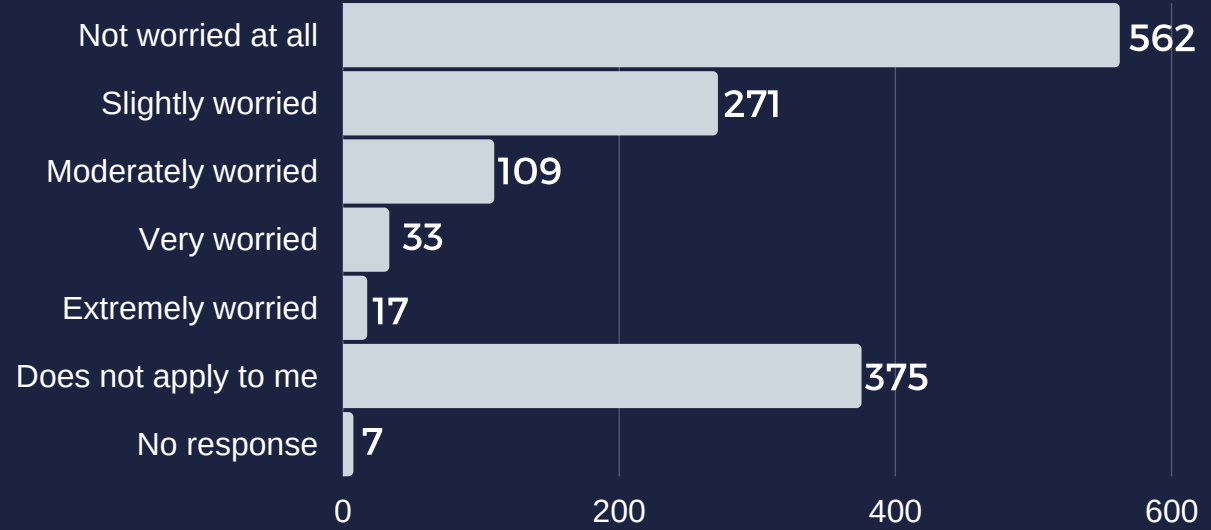
"I've always struggled with my mental health but lockdown has made it significantly worse as I can't see the people who support me and when I'm on my own it's worse anyway."

"My life has been more relaxed as I can complete schoolwork in my own time and no stress of getting up in the morning to go to school."

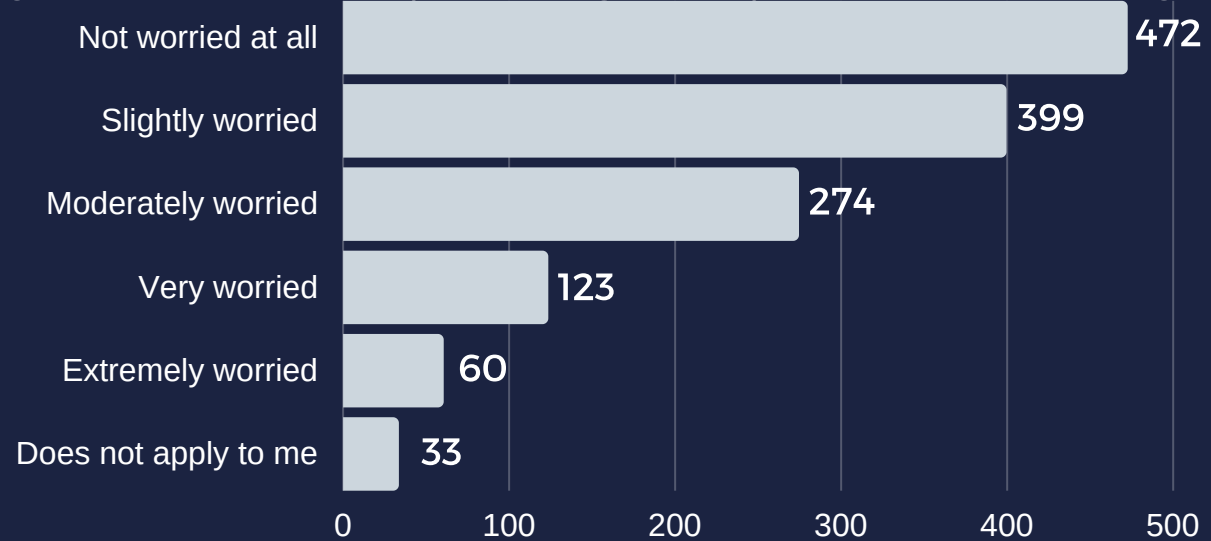
"Finances have taken a tumble, but was fortunate to get a new job whilst in lockdown. That has also brought its own stresses though."

"The lockdown has benefited me because I was struggling socially before the start and I now feel much better socially after having time to myself."

During lockdown, how are you feeling about your financial situation?

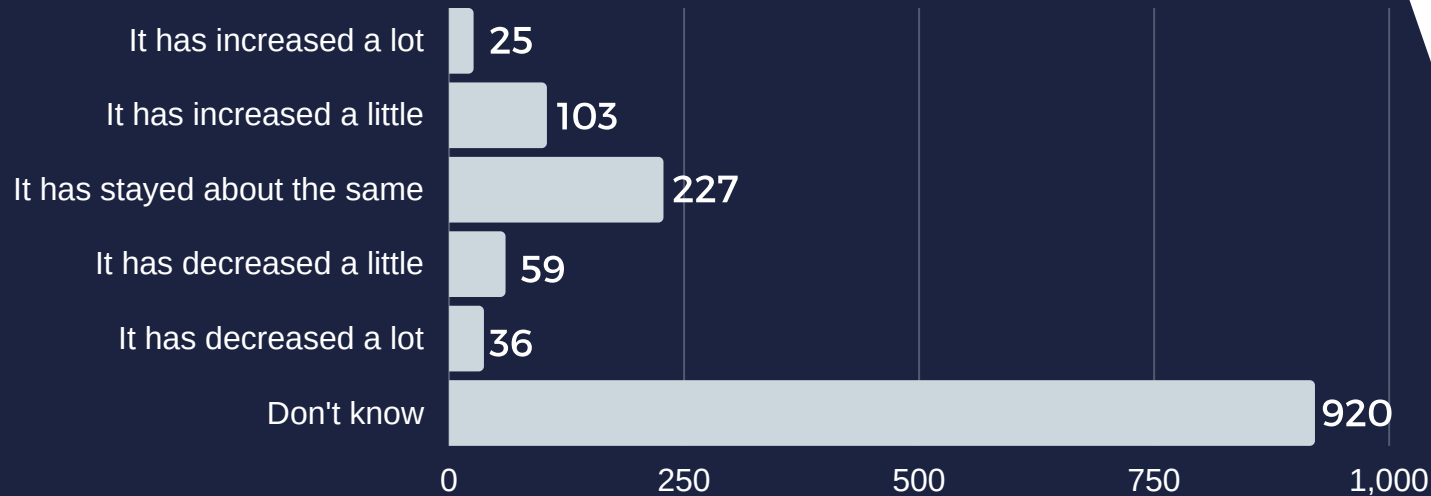


During lockdown, how are you feeling about your mental wellbeing?

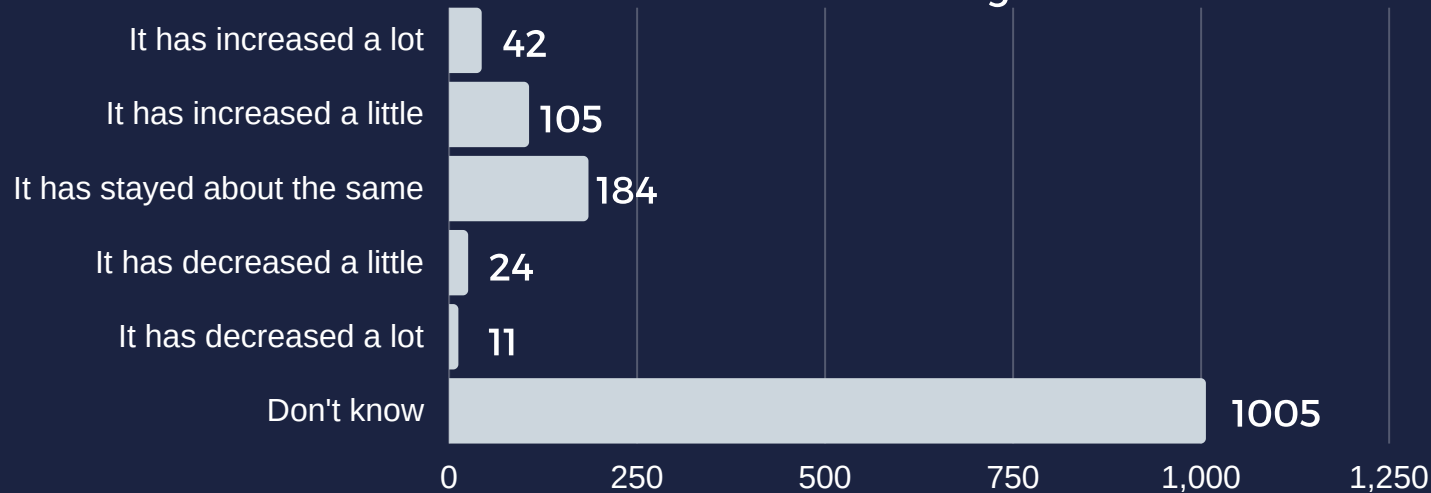


# CRIME DURING LOCKDOWN

Have you noticed a change in the level of violent crime in your local area since lockdown began? This includes knife crime.



Have you noticed a change in the level of drug related crime in your local area since the lockdown began?



"A lot of people my age have been asking for drugs or vape ext on social media."

"There never has been much crime in my area, especially not violent crime.

However I have heard of no new crimes of any type in my area since lockdown was proposed. Drunk people sometimes would wander into my area and may have caused small crimes."

"Black lives matter protests caused some more violence from some people."

"The only time there's been any dangers regarding knives it's usually just threats made by kids that come into my street before lockdown."



# COVID-19 & YOUR FUTURE



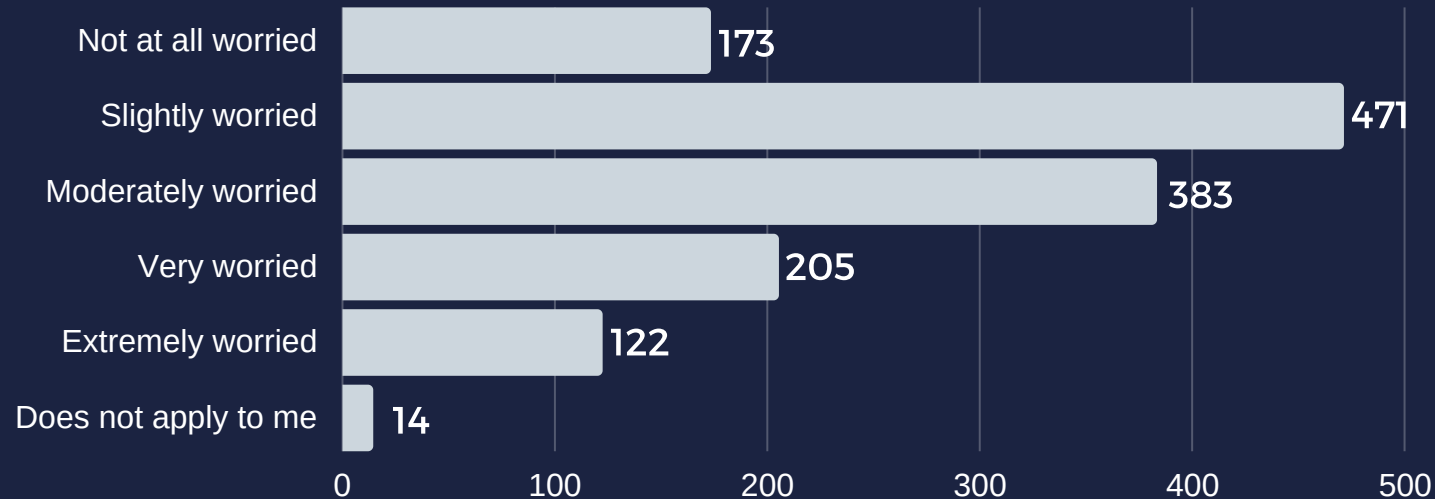
"Fewer opportunities for younger people to get into the workplaces they want to be in."

"I am worried about the financial effect of the lockdown on my future as the economy has decreased and therefore there may be more taxes ect. in the future."

"I'm supposed to be going to university in September and I'm terrified that it's going to be online as I don't have the facilities to do that which will completely ruin my plans for the future. "

"Yes, I am worried it will effect my a level results, my ability to get a job and my application to university."

How worried are you about the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic on your future?



As the lockdown eases, do you have any worries or concerns about the future?

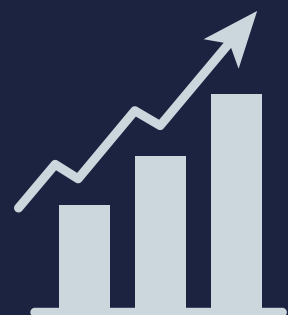
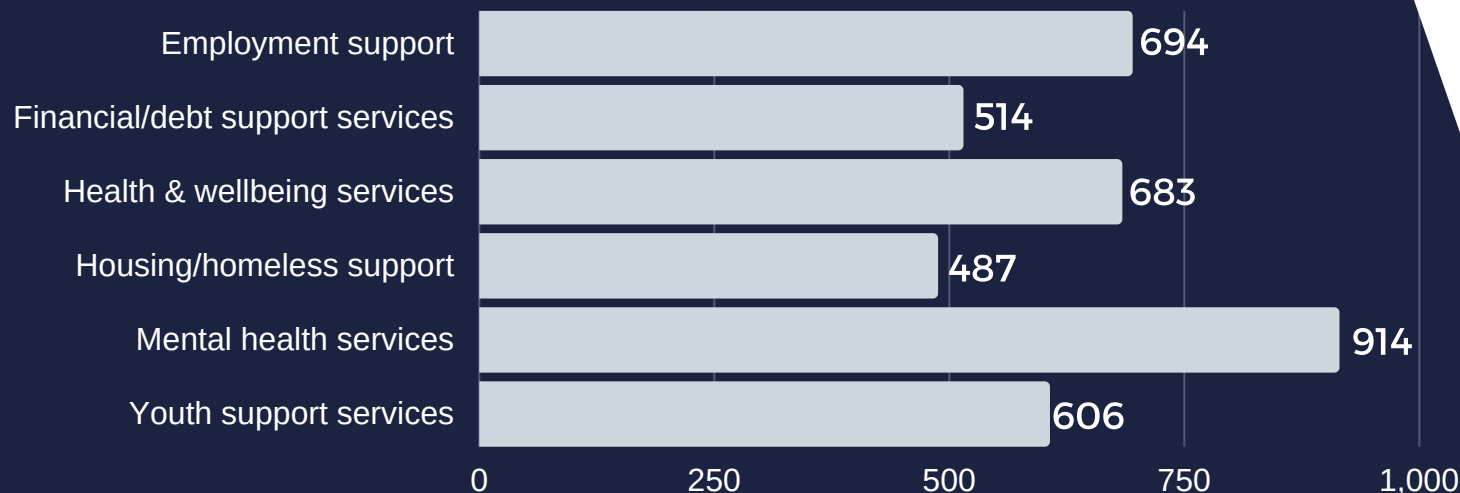
"Yes, in terms of getting on the property ladder but in terms of job and mental health, no."

"I am struggling to find a finance apprenticeship which is what I was wanting to do after my GCSE's."



# SUPPORT POST LOCKDOWN

In the post lockdown period, what support would you like to see available for young people?



Mental health services, employment support and health & wellbeing services were the three most popular services across every age range.

- Educational support, additional/free tutors and sport & leisure activities were the most popular responses in the 'other' option.

"Family support and being able to meet up with your worker socially distanced."

"Domestic abuse support, and support for people who have been psychologically abused in lockdown."

"LGBTQ+ support services."

"More education on human sexuality other than LGBT, showcasing other and more marginalised sexualities such as asexuality and pan sexuality."

"Additional tutoring to help catch up on Schoolwork."

"Work experience and placement opportunities."



# RECOMMENDATIONS

1) VRU to work with Local Authorities to ensure that there is a coordinated response to Adversity Aware practice, ensuring that all staff, especially frontline staff who have daily contact with the public, are trained in identifying the signs and indicators of exploitation.

2) The VRU to work with education providers to increase awareness & knowledge of the referral pathways available for vulnerable young people and those who require support. This will include statutory services, commissioned partners & wider support providers.

3) To develop a comprehensive network of providers and services that can support young people access employability support services, training and personal development programmes that support young people into employment.

4) Ensure youth representation is involved in all future strategic planning and decisions - consulting with, and taking feedback from young people on our decisions, vision and areas of work.

5) Supporting Local Authorities with their delivery of the Wellbeing for Education Return programme via our insight & data, along with network of commissioned services.



"I have been unmotivated and feel worse than ever about my a levels and my mental health."

"It has had a negative effect on my mental health as I prefer to be at school."

"My mental health is at a quite low point so I'm worried I won't be able to bounce back from this like I have with things in the past."

"My concerns are in relation to my future job opportunities and the things available to me. My worries also lie mostly with other people not following guidelines properly as opposed to things I can do myself."

"Yes, I am worried that it has affected my job prospects and the opportunities that are available for me."



# RESPONSE

Throughout lockdown we have changed our way of working to be able to respond and support organisations with the challenges lockdown, social distancing and isolation brought.

In total, since the start of the pandemic, we have supported the regions charities, services and organisations with over £1 million worth of funding to deliver vital services to the vulnerable and victims of crime.

We asked, and you responded - over £135,000 was invested specifically into our Vulnerable Children's Charities Fund, allowing some of the regions smaller organisations to increase their capacity and return to day to day services.

Full details of the funds made available during this period, and the services supported, can be viewed via the below links:

1. [Ministry of Justice Covid-19 Extraordinary Funding](#) - £499,687.68
2. [Coronavirus Response Fund](#) - £323,425
3. [Children Affected by Domestic Abuse Response Fund](#) - £120,000
4. [Vulnerable Children's Charities Funding](#) - £135,612

**Total = £1,078,724.68**

"Without the grant we may well have never re-opened again and that would be a huge tragedy for those young people we serve."

"Each session has been tailored to the individual need of the young person and so far has included; supporting with emotional well-being, offering support to parents to encourage positive behaviours within the community and ensuring young people are safe."

"This money will help us equip disadvantaged young people with a range of tools and resources to ensure they stay safe, connected and look after themselves whilst in isolation."



# CONTACT DETAILS

Working together to support young people, the vulnerable, and our communities, has never been so important.

If your service or organisation can help us improve lives to prevent crime, through one of our four strands:

1. Connecting Communities
2. Reducing Offending
3. Working with Families
4. Youth Diversion

Then please contact us to discuss how we can ensure the return to education is a successful transition, and that young people are supported following a period of anxiety, potential trauma and unexpected stress.

To contact the VRU, please email: [VRU@northumbria-pcc.gov.uk](mailto:VRU@northumbria-pcc.gov.uk)

Should you wish to learn more about the incredible work we are already delivering with our partners, please follow the below links:



[Website](#)



[PCC Facebook](#)



[VRU Facebook](#)



[Twitter](#)



[Instagram](#)





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