



**VERA BAIRD**<sub>QC</sub>  
POLICE & CRIME COMMISSIONER

### **Working together to reduce Domestic and Sexual Abuse in Northumbria**

We know the vast majority of domestic and sexual violence victims cannot speak out so we need to go to them. We need to locate victims out in their communities and offer support at an early stage.

The Commissioner's crime and disorder reduction grant has been provided to all local authority areas to pilot a 'Domestic and Sexual Violence Champions Network'. The Champions Network aims to improve community and organisational responses to domestic violence and to provide training and assistance to enable front line staff to support the standard and medium risk cases not picked up by specialist services. Through the project we now have over 170 champions trained across the public, private and community and voluntary sectors providing support where it is needed; we have champions in places such as local councils, the police, health centres, solicitors and department stores.