

National Roads Policing Strategy

2022 – 2025

NPCC Roads Policing Portfolio

April 2022



I am pleased to introduce the NPCC National Roads Policing Strategy for 2022-2025. After extensive consultation I am confident that together we have developed a strategy that all stakeholders who have a role within roads safety or roads policing can align to, that will make our roads safer for everyone and can help reduce death and serious injury on our roads.

‘Policing Our Roads Together’ is built around four key pillars of activity:

- Preventing harm and saving lives
- Tackling crime
- Driving technology and innovation
- Changing minds.

These are underpinned by a series of ‘E’ enablers, shown around the four pillars, which describe the core principles of our approach.

The UK has historically had some of the safest roads in the world and yet we still see more than five deaths and many more serious injuries on our roads every day. These tragic and often avoidable events always have a significant and life-long impact on the families affected, and on the individuals who have to live with their injuries. That is simply not good enough and every one of us must share the responsibility to influence the way in which our roads are respected and used.

Furthermore, our road networks are regularly exploited for criminal gain, and it is imperative the way in which we police our roads also tackles and disrupts this criminality. It is also true that anything which prevents the safe, lawful and fluid way in which people can travel causes significant economic loss and disruption. It is critical therefore that we all work together to reduce criminal activity, network disruption and, most importantly, save lives. Effective policing of our roads is an essential means to achieving this.

In support of the aims of the NPCC Strategic Plan (2021 -2025) the NPCC Roads Policing Strategy provides coordination of this critical area of business for national policing. As part of the UK policing system, on behalf of the NPCC, we collaborate with a range of strategic policing partners who share a common goal of making our roads safer, as well as tackling crime and reducing network disruption and economic loss.

The NPCC Roads Policing portfolio provides national, regional and local leadership and direction through our working groups who offer advice, best practice and, where appropriate, set national standards on a wide range of roads policing activity from police pursuits to vehicle recovery, from national operations to police driver training.

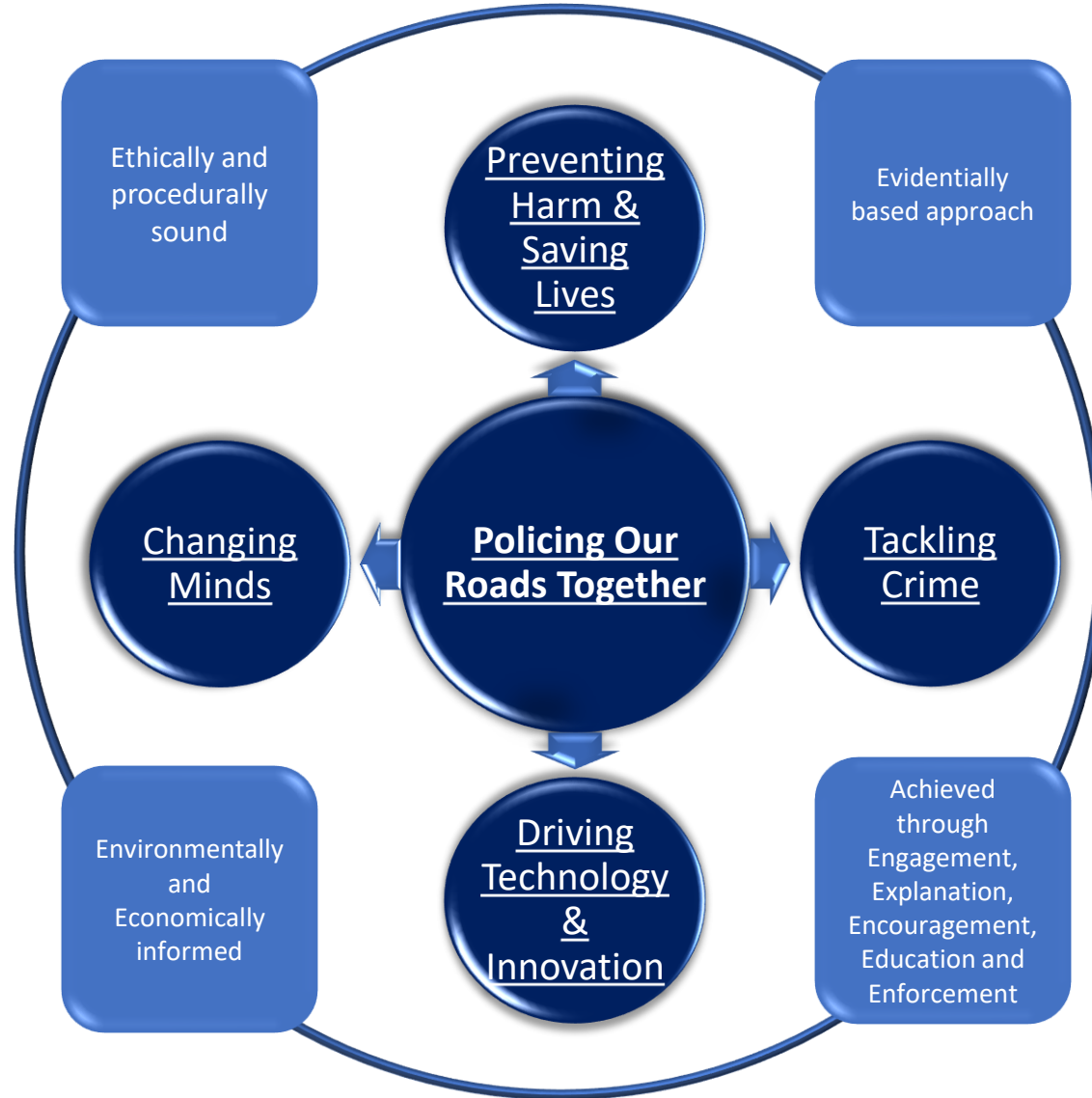
Whatever role you play in policing our roads, I hope you find something within our National Roads Policing Strategy that adds support to your own efforts.



Chief Constable Jo Shiner

National Roads Policing Strategy 2022-2025

Click on
each pillar
to find out
more



Preventing Harm and Saving Lives

On average five people are killed on our roads every day. Many more suffer life changing injuries. The fatality figure has remained stubbornly high for a decade. We think this should no longer be tolerated by anyone: the police and our partners, the public, business, the media and policy makers.

Traumatic, unexpected and often preventable deaths on our roads devastate victims, their families and our communities. Our service to those involved in, and bereaved by, serious and fatal collisions will be driven by empathy and professionalism. Our full support to those in the frontline dealing with these tragic incidents will also be a priority.

Preventing harm and saving lives is a core mission of policing. We will work with our partners across a range of agencies and organisations to achieve it. Policing our roads together can prevent both social and economic harm to our society from a range of threats and criminal activity. Preventing harm includes preventing offending, we will work together to find ways to reduce and prevent offending in the first place.

Everyone should be able to use our roads in a safe and healthy way. We will educate where appropriate to prevent re-offending and explain where there's an opportunity to encourage safer use of our roads. We will also use our enforcement powers to prosecute in accordance with the law where necessary, in order to prevent harm and save lives.

“The memory of the deeply horrific events that happened on the day our loved one was killed in a road collision will remain with my family forever. Our lives were irreversibly changed by an avoidable act which, in one single moment meant that their hopes and dreams were gone, there are no more tomorrows only our yesterdays.

We cannot begin to explain how this feels, and the deep trauma that we have been, and will continue to go through for the rest of our lives. Too many people live with the shadow of grief from road collisions daily, and many more live with the consequences of life changing injuries. We must work together to do more to save lives, to reduce injuries and to end tragedy and suffering.

Let's strive towards everyone having their tomorrows.”

The words of a bereaved loved one.

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Tackling Crime

Policing our roads plays a major part in disrupting criminals who abuse our road network for criminal gain. Differentiating between 'traffic' offences and other crime risks undervaluing the contribution that policing our roads together makes in tackling crime in our communities.

It is entirely appropriate, legitimate and necessary that policing our roads means tackling drivers who break the law by engaging in behaviours that cause harm. This means addressing those crimes that cause death and serious injury on our roads - offences that range from speeding to failing to wear a seatbelt, from distracted driving to impaired driving, from careless to dangerous driving, and any other behaviour that causes harm on our roads.

By targeting those causing the most harm on our roads, there will be opportunities to enable the detection and prosecution of the most serious crime. This will involve the use of technology, such as ANPR, or intelligence from our partners and the public and the regulatory and coercive powers of other agencies.

Working with our partners, we will tackle crime and the enablers of crime and take every opportunity to intelligently target those who create the most harm in our communities using our enforcement powers, proportionately, robustly and ethically.

“Criminals use the road network to facilitate the planning and commission of their crimes. They do not recognise force borders. We must continue to deter and disrupt criminality on our roads.

The National Roads Policing Strategy sets out why and how, by working together with our partners and the public, we can make our roads a hostile place for those intent on causing harm to our communities and therefore a safer place for all of us”

*Chief Constable Alan Pughsley QPM.
Chair, NPCC Crime Operations
Coordination Committee.*

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Driving Technology and Innovation

New technology presents us with policing challenges such as dealing with electric vehicles and alternative mobility (e-scooters, e-bikes), but also opportunities to prevent death and injury on our roads.

Vehicles that can be limited to certain speeds, or that can communicate with each other in order to avoid collisions, or reduce congestion, are becoming increasingly common on our road network, along with vehicles and technologies that limit their impact on the environment. We also face a future where vehicles offer to do more for us as we use them on our road network and in our shared spaces.

We will work with local and strategic partners to understand these challenges and to ensure we maximize the benefit of new technological opportunities to prevent harm to all road users. We will work to positively influence or prevent technological developments that may undermine safety or promote offending.

We will continue to draw on academic insight and work in ways that are informed by the best available evidence, seeking out new and innovative opportunities to police our roads together and save lives. We will use research to drive our activity and we will learn, from every opportunity, what works to promote safe and healthy roads for everyone to use.

“Innovation is central to our delivery because new technologies can improve driver safety, support victims, and enable efficiencies. We know that we cannot innovate alone.

This Strategy sees Roads Policing at the forefront of policing’s efforts to build valuable partnerships, evolving the right science and technology to deliver safer roads now and in the future.”

*Professor Paul Taylor,
National Policing Chief Scientific Adviser.*

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Changing Minds

Personal responsibility is the starting point for safer roads. Abiding by the laws of the road, which are designed first and foremost to protect life, reduces the chances of being killed or seriously injured in a collision or causing a fatal or serious collision.

The way in which we use our roads and public space is changing. Active travel is welcome and necessary and it will mean that we must become used to sharing space with other travel modes and become more tolerant and more understanding through respecting the needs of others with whom we share space.

We invite all those who use roads and public spaces to consider how they will contribute to the policing of our roads to save lives. This includes employers and others with a duty of care towards those using our roads for commercial activity.

We will be consistent and resolute, leading by example, to challenge some long-held problematic beliefs and behaviours in our society, for example around the acceptability of speeding. We want to encourage everyone to play their part in saving lives by behaving in a way which keeps everyone safe.

Unlike any other crime, road users are both potential victims and potential offenders every day. We will continue to try and change minds and in doing so, positively change and save lives.

“We know that illegal and dangerous behaviours costs lives every day on our roads.

We also know that the organisations that police the roads cannot be everywhere, all the time. Recruiting the public to our cause, and persuading road users that they should drive safely because it’s the right thing to do – and not just because they might get caught – is therefore an essential part of the roads policing mission.”

*Dr Helen Wells,
Senior Lecturer in Criminology, Keele
University.
Director of the Roads Policing Academic
Network (RPAN).*

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Policing Our Roads Together

The public are our most influential partner. We know there is an appetite from the public to help police our roads, whether that is by submitting dashcam footage, being part of a local community speed watch scheme, or most importantly, using our roads and shared spaces responsibly and abiding by the laws of the road.

The NPCC Roads Policing Portfolio works with a wide range of key strategic partners every day to keep our roads safe. No single organisation can reduce collisions alone, we must work together for the public good.

Of course, there are many others, including camera or roads safety partnerships, 3rd party agencies and volunteers who contribute to policing our roads in its widest sense.

The new NPCC Roads Policing Strategy 2022/25 invites everyone to contribute in their own way. We hope you can support this strategy and see opportunities to align your own work to it, in whatever role you play, so we can truly 'police our roads together'.

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