

# **North East Probation – Northumbria Stalking Intervention Programme**

[keywords: *stalking*]

## **Overview**

Stalking has particular significance in the North West area following the stalking and murder of Alice Ruggles in 2016. After a 3½ year gestation, the Northumbria Stalking Intervention Programme (NSIP) became operational in late 2023. The core team of a Senior Probation Officer, Detective Sergeant and Higher Assistant Psychologist, supported by a specialist consultant psychiatrist, work with probation and partner agency staff to increase awareness and understanding, improve our approaches to assessment and intervention, and support our staff in dealing with what is an often highly challenging and emotionally demanding area of work. They work in close partnership with Paladin National Stalking Advocacy Service (NSAS) - who provide victim support services - and the Alice Ruggles Trust - who help inform the programme's development and operation.

## **Its impact**

Since its launch the NSIP has had a significant impact across the area, Colleagues, both in probation and in partner agencies, have welcomed its introduction and feel more confident, and better supported, in dealing with the issue. And we feel that it has helped us to improve our work in this area.

## **What's special about it**

We believe this is the only probation-led programme of its kind and feel it is an effective way of helping address such an important and complex issue.

## **Wider applicability**

A programme of this kind does require funding, and the support of the local PCC, as well as strong interagency relationships, but with those in place, we believe it could be of benefit across the country.

## **Further information**

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See also: [Paladin - National Stalking Advocacy Service](#); [Alice Ruggles Trust](#)