

**Police Area Committee Report**

**By Inspector Steve Passey**

**Overview**

Since the last Area Committee we have seen an increase in overall crime figures by 3% which in real terms only 7 additional crimes reported during this period. We have seen significant increase in Drug Crime (73%). However, I attribute the rise in drug crime due to the good proactive work the Police have done targeting drug misuse, as the vast majority of drug crimes are only recorded following Police involvement.

**Burglary**

Houghton currently has the highest burglary rate in the Sunderland City region. However, the burglary rate has remained constant and has not increased as the figures are exactly identical for the last 2 reporting periods. The Houghton Neighbourhood has recently launched a new problem-solving approach to tackle this issue and is working in collaboration with internal and external partners. We are already starting to see resulted as at the beginning of March we managed to arrest our number 1 burglary target.

**Criminal Damage**

Criminal Damage has fallen by 16% over the latest period with the hotspots mainly concentrated around our ASB hotspot locations. However, compared to other areas within Sunderland the amount of criminal damage crimes being recorded is moderate.

**Anti-Social Behaviour**

The Coalfields Area is performing very well in terms of ASB. Since the last Area Committee ASB has fallen by 11% and this is a 51% decrease when compared to last year. This is attributed to the hard work partners and the Neighbourhood Team done to positively impact on ASB within the area. The ASB hotspots continue to be Houghton and Easington Lane with the latter due to receive visits from the Wear Here For You Bus in the near future.

**Motorcycle Disorder**

Incidents of motorcycle disorder are extremely low. This is to be expected due to the cold and wet weather. It is envisaged that such incidents will return in the near future as Spring approaches. The Neighbourhood Team have pre-empted this seasonal rise and are looking to implement a new problem-solving approach that will proactively target and disrupt those engaged in motorcycle disorder.