

8 March 2017

REPORT OF NORTHUMBRIA POLICE

1 Purpose of Report

- 1.1 The following report provides data in respect of Crime and Disorder for Coalfield covering 1st December to 27th February 2017. For comparison purposes the report also provides data for the same period last year.

2 Background

- 2.1 Area Committee agreed that regular updates on Crime and Community Safety would be presented to each Committee meeting.

3. Northumbria Police

- 3.1 As a Force we have been very honest about our change in crime recording practices over the last year that has resulted in us being more transparent and open in terms of recording crime. After previous concerns nationally around the way crime was recorded we now record all crime as soon as a victim makes an allegation that THEY feel they are a victim of crime.
- 3.2 In addition to that we have made great advances in terms of our Domestic Violence policies and Sexual Assaults Investigation that mean we have gained trust and confidence with the public and other agencies due to how we now approach and investigate those very important crimes and in turn victims feel more able to approach us and report those types of crime. These crimes are also often historic in nature sometimes even from decades earlier – also encouraged by the Saville effect and recent high profile media cases. As an example previously police may have attended a report of a fight and upon arrival no one would tell us what had happened and the parties would leave the scene. Last year in the main no crime would be recorded but now that would be recorded as public order offence or assault if there was any evidence to us of anyone having an injury. Despite the outcome being the same. For that reason public order related crime has risen significantly and in fact accounts for a large proportion of the increase in A7 as a whole but that is only due to an administrative process and is NOT a reflection of the level of crime actually occurring haven risen. To the contrary ASB calls from the public are actually hugely down on last year.
- 3.3 Northumbria Police as a whole reported an increase in crime from April 2015- March 2016 by 29% in light of the above. The present year is currently standing at around an 18% increase as we start to stabilise. We do not believe that in real terms crime has gone up just that recording practices are now much more robust in line with HMIC advice and national policies. A recent HMIC report confirmed we had risen from a National Crime Recording Standard (NCRS) compliance rate of 72% 2 years ago up to around 93% which puts us ahead of the game nationally. This financial year will be used as a yardstick for future rises/falls after last year's changes.
- 3.4 In addition to these administrative changes social media type fallout have become a very prevalent issue in terms of parties falling out over social media and then looking to involve police to resolve them where previously advice would have been given we now would record a crime such as malicious communications.
- 3.5 To concur the concerns in the TWFB report with regards Arson to MV I can confirm that we have recorded a large increase in such offences in the same period to last year. Suffice to say at this stage the concern does not just affect Hetton and Houghton from

what I hear across the Area Command but I have tasked out some research in light of the TWFB report. I will contact Steve Burdis and arrange to do some joint work alongside the ASB patrols I am already putting in place to address the concerns.

Crime / Disorder	1 December 2015 – 27th February 2016	1 December 2016 – 27th February 2017	+ / -
ASB Reports	361	372	Up 11
Burglary OTD	25	52 ** a large number are to insecure premises	Up 27
Burglary Dwelling	38	33	Down 5
Rape	5	11 * not stranger incidents. Improved trust and confidence	Up 6
Serious Sex Assaults	9	14 * not stranger incidents	Up 5
Damage to Motor Vehicle	68	61	Down 7
Theft from Motor Vehicle	40	32	Down 8
Arson to MV	4	12	Up 8
Total Crime	757	925	Up 22% (168)

- 3.6 The main concerns for Coalfield Area continue to be youth disorder in Hetton and motorbike disorder. We are aware of majority of the ASB being mainly now centred around Tesco and we are working with staff to address the issues. A number of dispersal notices have been put in place, directed patrols (both overt and covert) have been carried out particularly during the evenings and officers and staff have been working with the Council and Gentoo to deal with the youths when they are identified. We have now identified a number of youths and we continue to liaise with the school to address the impact of ASB. It is worthy of note that some of these youths recently reported and stayed with a young missing child until he could be reached by police showing that at heart they are civically minded and not hardened criminals.

4. Recommendations

- 4.1 Note the content of the report.

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