

29 September 2020**REPORT OF NORTHUMBRIA POLICE****Coalfield Crime and Disorder Report**

Please find below some data in respect of Crime and Disorder for Coalfields comparing Year to date figures with the preceding year. For comparison purposes I have also provided the data for the same period last year.

Total recorded youth ASB incidents are the same as this time last year, but this does not capture a great decrease during the C19 lockdown followed by an increase once restrictions were lifted. However the increase in recent months is due to a change in recording processes rather than an increase in ASB, which overall remains lower than last year. Engagement work with schools is still restricted by C19, however outreach youth workers are working in the area alongside our community engagement van when available. An operation providing Washington with neighbourhood officers every evening (utilising overtime) has been expanded to provide the coverage to Houghton and Hetton as well, helping to deter any emerging rises in disorder.

Lockdown restrictions imposed on 18th September immediately led to a return of demand seen in the spring of reports of non-compliance. Consequently recorded adult ASB will continue to increase over the following period alongside increased demand on neighbourhood officers managing the response to reports.

Residential burglaries continue to fall, however there continue to be a large number of burglaries to shed and other outbuildings such as stables and caravans which are in more isolated locations. Offences are mainly clustered around the Penshaw and Hetton areas, occur overnight and are of low value. An increase in overnight thefts from motor vehicles correlates to this same pattern of opportunistic acquisitive theft target vehicles, garages and outbuildings left insecure. One prolific offender was charged with burglary following forensic results and remanded on September 9th, and remains on remand until next month. Additional late evening and overnight resources deployed for ASB and violence are also aware of this issue and will support proactive efforts where possible.

Issues with traveller encampments have eased considerably, though those that remain are now falling foul of having utilised all the grace period allowed by the LA. Police have supported LA officers with site visits and assessment, and serving of abatement notices where necessary. Those at Hetton Lyons Park were served with a notice to quit by September 17th and police ensured they had vacated the site the following day.

Violent crime continues to rise, with a significant number of offences due to a lengthy dispute between families which has recently escalated. Tensions are now easing following police intervention and a number of arrests. A patrol plan and area command operation remain in place, with local officers continuing to be supported by deployment of Operations resources (mounted, traffic, firearms, dogs).

An increase in domestic violence incidents seen nationwide during and following the lockdown period has also contributed to the recorded increase. Preventing domestic violence and ensuring protection of the most vulnerable is a key priority; enhanced oversight of domestic incidents has been implemented to ensure positive outcomes are maximised.

Crime / Disorder	Previous period 2019 1st April to 7th Sept	Current period 2020 1st April to 7th Sept	+ / -
Youth ASB	187	188	Up 1
Residential burglary	144	134	Down 10
Business & community burglary	36	37	Up 1
Violence against the Person	660	681	Up 21
Serious Injury	13	18	Up 5
Theft from Motor Vehicle	63	73	Up 10
Theft and handling	323	237	Down 86
Total Crime	1,980	2,043	Up 63 (3% increase)

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