

COALFIELD AREA COMMITTEE

Dec 2020

REPORT OF NORTHUMBRIA POLICE

Coalfield Crime and Disorder Report

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

There is an increase in Anti- Social Behaviour of 5% which in real terms is 15 reported incidents. Our main area of concern is the recent increase in Hetton Town Centre primarily around the Hetton centre and welfare football ground, as well as Tesco extra. There was an arson last week to the bin shed and the fire appliances that arrived had eggs thrown at them. Officers from my team attended, but the youths had made off prior to their arrival. They are causing issues and jumping over the wall into the welfare ground. We now have a key to get into the ground. It is too easy for the youths to get access into the ground via both an electrical junction box beside the bus station and over the main gate and fence. We need to look at speaking to the owners of the welfare ground to increase fencing to stop access or utilise anti climb paint in key areas.

We have relaunched Operation Avalanche and have been patrolling those areas in a mix of plain clothed and high visibility patrols. We are also getting support from our operations department officers from dogs and horse sections.

Several youths have been stopped and taken home. We have served those responsible with Acceptable Behaviour Agreements and had the councils ASB officer involved in the process.

We have had 48 hour dispersal notices in place in the town centre over the last 2 weeks and this provides us with a power to direct offenders to leave the area if committing ASB or suspected of doing so.

There have been no reported ASB incidents at the Hetton centre since the bin fire on the 4th December.

Our priority in recent months has been to combat burglaries to both dwellings and commercial premises alike. The figures show a decrease in dwelling house burglaries for the year and significant reductions in commercial burglaries. We have Operation Castle running which has increased patrols and officers allocated to patrol burglary Hot Spot areas, which include Hetton, Houghton and Shiney Row. Dedicated resources have also been provided by 24/7 response shifts. Known burglary offenders have been identified and targeted accordingly.

Violent crime with injury is down over the course of the year and we may be able to attribute some of this to the reduction in the night time economy, due to Covid19. We have also continued our work with the pubs and licensees via our pubwatch scheme, as well as the positive position we take on any reports of domestic violence. There is a set domestic violence protocol to assist victims who reach out and report matters to police, this will remain a priority for the 24/7 response teams, as the NPT deal with much of the safeguarding to prevent and protect victims from offending.

There has been an increase of 12% in violence against the person without injury (Which includes Public Order offences).

There has been a decrease in theft from motor vehicles and damage to motor vehicles across the whole of the sector. The neighbourhood teams have focused of letting residents know to lock their vehicles overnight and to remove valuables when unattended, as well an increase in patrols of vehicle crime hot spot areas and targeting known offenders. A dedicated patrol plan has been developed to target acquisitive crime.

The teams have been very busy attending and enforcing reports of Covid19 breaches over the past year and will continue to do so in line with the government's current policy.

Crime / Disorder	Previous period 2019	Current period 2020	+ / -
Youth ASB	313	327	Up 5%
Burglary Dwelling	225	212	Down 6%
Commercial Burglary	10	2	Down 79%
Violence against the Person with injury	281	273	Down 3%
Violence against the Person without injury	668	772	Up 12%
Damage to Motor Vehicle	209	168	Down 11%
Theft from Motor Vehicle	121	111	Down 8%
Total Crime	3314	3168	Down 4%