

**22 SEPTEMBER 2021****REPORT OF THE NORTHUMBRIA POLICE****1.0 Purpose of Report**

The following report provides a community update and key performance information in relation to Sunderland West area between the following periods (June 2021 - August 2021)

**2.0 Key Updates****2.1 Problem Solving:**

In terms of youth Anti-Social Behaviour – we have seen an overall notable decrease in recent months across all wards although there are still some sections that are experiencing issues.

Work continues at Barnes Park and extension where we are still experiencing youth asb; this has reduced in severity and frequency and a number of youths have been identified with positive action taken. This is a large park and there are many people who use this open space including a number of youths. Numerous options were discussed with partners to address the youth asb matter for which some of the options were long term and taken away by partners to consider and support longer term problem solving. In the meantime we continue our patrols at this location.

Sandhill are experiencing youth asb around Thorndale Rd and park but thankfully it is not on the scale that we have recently tackled in its neighbouring area of Thorney Close. Patrols continue and actions are in place with partners to address the problem. Some of the youths identified are being progressed through our Youth Offending Team and aba's have been served as well as making referrals to mentorship schemes for identified youths involved in repeat ASB. It is hoped that this intervention will correct their behaviours.

Complaints had previously been made by residents to their local councillor, reporting youth asb occurring in the Herrington Park, St Chad's ward. Youths were naturally attracted to the park however the residents were reporting incidents of noise, damage to protective matting and littering. This was underreported to Police and partners. Following this Police have conducted regular patrols on foot and cycle; it is understood that there have been no further concerns raised. If this is a case of underreporting then again it is encouraging residents to report through the current Policing channels and Local Authority ASB team.

Patrols continue in Silksworth but thankfully the youth and motorcycle ASB has seen a decrease in this ward as has the Tunstall Hills location which could see youths move up from the Ryhope area into the Silksworth and Doxford wards.

We are working closely with partners and PAG to address the behaviours of a small cohort of youths who are causing ASB and committing crime across St Anne's - these individuals are going through different stages of criminal justice processes with the aim of taking positive action but trying to divert their behaviours from offending.

**2.2 Community Engagement:**

School education is to commence again now that schools are returning from Summer break and it is hoped that we can engage with youths face to face. We have started with the

'fresher's week' at Bede Campus where advice and guidance is to be provided in key areas e.g., ASB, vulnerability, knife crime, domestic abuse etc.

We are looking at opportunities to secure the Community Engagement Van again however we also need to manage this with other demands that we have. We have been able to support the engagement activities provided for youths and families in Sunderland over the school summer holidays. The team have been involved in virtual meetings and several residential meetings where there has been community concern.

The Hunger Activity Bus was a provision funded and put in place by Together for Children with partner support.

High visibility foot patrols continue to be undertaken across the wards.

### **2.3 Protecting Vulnerable People:**

We continue to work with numerous victims in our area including domestic abuse victims to ensure we can keep victims on board with the criminal justice process.

Burglary victims are provided with follow up check and target hardening/crime prevention packs provided to prevent repeat offences and reassurance.

## **3. Key Crime and Anti-social behaviour Performance**

### **Sunderland South (Silksworth/St Chads) (Includes Doxford ward also)**

Total crime has increased by 4%. Overall ASB has reduced 47% since last reporting period and 55% since the previous year. Whilst schools are just opening their doors, some of the factors to this improvement will be down to the proactive approach taken to address problematic youths and motorcycle disorder and also due to businesses opening their doors creating diversions and activities for people to spend their time. We did see a spike in commercial burglary of approximately 300% in last reporting period however the sizeable increase is actually very small numbers (8) since last reporting period (2). I am confident that this has been taken care of as we have identified the team believed responsible operating in Silksworth. This team have been arrested and are subject to investigation with bail conditions. Thankfully following this the crime has stopped.

### **Sunderland West (Pallion, Barnes, St Anne's and Sandhill)**

Total crime has increased by 9%. Overall ASB has reduced 19% since last reporting period and 17% since the previous year. We did see a spike in Burglary of approximately 15% to schools and residential sheds in the Barnes, Hylton and the Sandhill areas however I am confident this problem has been taken care of as we have identified 4 sets of different burglars operating across these locations. We have thankfully removed all of these offenders from the streets and they are currently remanded in custody or recalled to prison on licence. I am satisfied to date that this problem has stopped.

**REPORT AUTHOR Inspector 7013 Pollock**