

July 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.

There is a notable decrease in youth Anti- Social Behaviour. As much as I would like to take credit for this it is in the main down to Covid 19 lockdown and the lack of any persons on the street. That said we have revamped Op Avalanche and will be focusing back on Hetton, Easington Lane and East Rainton. We have noticed a distinct increase since the easing of restrictions and groups of youths in much larger numbers than ever before. We have seen this particularly in Hetton Lyons Park and the Houghtonside areas. It is a trying time as we usually work closer with the schools to address this but since the prospects of schools reopening fully are still eight weeks off we are approaching youth centres and detached outreach workers (provided by the LA) to make some inroads. We are also going to deploy the force's new engagement van in the hot spot areas.

Adult ASB recording has gone through the roof in this period largely since every breach of Covid 19 regulations has been classified in this way and it will take until next year before we can make any sense of the data as it has been such an unprecedented period. The Local neighbourhood Team have worked tirelessly to attend as many of these reported breaches as possible and hundreds of warning letters have been handed out as well as Community Protection Warnings for persistent offenders. Gentoo have worked with us and we have two cases whereby this has constituted a breach of tenancy and they are seeking to recover the property.

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. More recently this has centred on four areas; Shiney Row, Peshaw and parts of Hetton and Easington Lane. Rather than traditional house burglaries we are finding that sheds, allotments and stand-alone garages have been targeted very often where entry has been gained to unlocked premises but nothing of any real value taken.

I expect an increase in offending on vacant houses whereby entry is gained to remove the boiler and piping from the premises. This varies from daytime to early evening offending. To try and address these issues we have been running joint operations with Environmental Health, VOSA and the DSS stopping 'scrap vans' examining their contents and their drivers. 28 vehicles (of all descriptions) have been uplifted in Hetton and Houghton since the turn of the year and we will continue to do so now that our partners are hopefully returning back to work. The LA environmental enforcement team have been proactive in targeting fly-tippers which we have been more than happy to assist them with.

In more positive news lead thefts throughout the area have all but disappeared in this period but again this may well be down to the fact that people have remained in their homes the last three months.

There have also been issues with unauthorised encampments in Hetton Lyons Park and Houghton. It has been a difficult task during the lockdown and limited court time but we have supported the Local Authority during this time as they took the lead with notices to leave their land. It was more frequent this year due to the cancellation of Appleby fair but I do believe that there is a review of actions looking ahead to next year.

Violent crime is slightly up in comparison to last year and this is in the main assaults in the home by persons known to them. Domestic violence is still a priority for the force and we spend a lot of our time prosecuting offenders and working hard to safeguard the victims. I am making the assumption that this has risen based on the fact that families were spending significantly more time together during lockdown.

We have had a recent increase in theft from motor vehicles across the whole of the sector. The main areas affected are Shiney Row/New Herrington and Fencehouses/Chilton Moor. These are overnight crimes invariably when vehicles left unlocked. We have had some successes in arresting a male who has been charged with 8 offences and three burglaries and is now remanded to prison. He is a 'three striker' so hopefully he will be given a significant sentence.

It is worth noting that the Neighbourhood Team have spent a lot of time in East Rainton in the last few months and in particular premises in School Road. We have had almost a constant presence in the area. This has included utilising our Operations department (traffic, dogs and Firearms) tasked to the area due to several issues of crime and disorder. I can assure you that this is one of the area priorities and we are working with partners to solve the problems whilst keeping the rest of the community safe. We have made four arrests in the area two of whom we believe are responsible for the theft of vehicles in Hetton and burglaries to garages. They are currently on bail for enquiries to be conducted.

Crime / Disorder	Previous period 2019 1st April to 5th July	Current period 2020 1st April to 5th July	+ / -
Youth ASB	95	57	Down 38
Burglary Dwelling	102	117	Down 15
Commercial Burglary	24	24	Same
Violence against the Person	321	330	Up 9
Serious Injury			

	6	11	Up 5
Theft from Motor Vehicle	27	48	Up 21
Theft and handling	146	90	Down 56
Total Crime	1160	1112	Down 48 (4% decrease)