

16 MARCH 2021**REPORT OF 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 period (Dec 2020 - Feb 2021)

2.0 Key Updates**Problem Solving:****2.1 Targeted Offender Management:**

We have been actively targeting offenders for different crime types and we are thankfully not seeing an overall increase in crime. An example of this is our partnership working with housing enforcement addressing problematic tenants including the Barnes and Thorney Close areas. We have served a number of community protection notices upon tenants and the housing partners are seeking possession in some of those cases. I hope that the tenants remedy their behaviours or we will progress to the next stage so it is hoped we will see an improvement to residents quality of life.

We have also followed up on your concerns around road use and fed this into Operation Modero to see if there is any further work that can be considered.

Patrols continue across the Wards and there is a spike in vehicle ASB across the West in general however the main spikes are running through East Herrington, Doxford, Silksworth and Tunstall. There are larger spikes in the Sunderland North and Sunderland City locations so I have tasked my team to join up with the Hendon/Ryhope teams to improve deployment to key sites. My concern being that it is likely to be the same offenders and to prevent displacement. We have had several successes of late with persons arrested/ identified and motorbikes/quad bikes seized in the Herrington, Silksworth, Tunstall Hills locations as well as Thorney Close. We are using all means possible to identify offenders and take positive action.

Additionally we are using the covid enforcement when breaches are found. This could be in response to incidents reported to ourselves however we are also proactively identifying opportunities. A recent example of this is the issuing of fines whilst on ASB patrols in South Hylton riverside – this was to persons who had attended the area in company with others that put them in breach because they simply had no good reason for being there. Another example being the stopping of a vehicle whilst patrolling Pallion whereby three persons were issued with fines and following the search of the vehicle an offensive weapon was located, this led to positive action being taken against the offender, the weapon being recovered along with their vehicle being seized also.

We actively work alongside our high impact crime team to actively gather intelligence and pursue burglary offenders. We have had some very good successes in the Sunderland West area taking a number of active burglars off the streets particularly around the Silksworth and Farringdon area and the Hylton-Barnes-Pallion corridor. In addition any burglary victim is provided with support from Sunderland West Neighbourhood Team; the aim being to target

harden their properties, provide reassurance to burglary victims and to prevent repeat offences where possible.

We have had some good results with drug offences of late with some proactive stops of vehicles in Silksworth leading to arrests of persons and recoveries of drugs. This has led to positive action being taken against the offenders and the vehicle being seized also. A very successful result of drug production in that location also with a significant recovery made – removing 1000's of pills that would have effectively been planned for distribution across our streets. In addition we have identified and disrupted several cannabis farms in the West with some good recoveries and some arrests also.

2.2 Community Engagement:

Again due to the current climate it has not been business as usual where we are afforded the opportunity to become involved in direct community engagement initiatives. We have been active in all Wards across Sunderland West and continue to engage with and support victims together with targeting offenders, making efforts to reduce crime and disorder.

We have arranged for the presence of the Community Engagement Van to be deployed across all wards. The deployment has already occurred in Pennywell, Thorney Close and Grindon. It is also booked in for Barnes ward and we are firming up dates for the remaining wards hopefully for March 2021. This facility cannot be utilised to its full capability and needs to be used in a covid compliant manner. Therefore we will be a visible presence in the community at locations where members of the public can access ourselves should they wish to seek advice in a covid compliant way.

High visibility foot patrols continue to be undertaken across the wards and we have also built in some covert patrols in areas suffering from ASB spikes. Numerous youths have been identified across Farringdon, Thorney Close, Grindon and Pennywell

Although we are placing updates on social media we are working on improving our visibility and engagement in this area of business. This should hopefully assist in providing reassurance to residents by highlighting some of our work in our communities.

Police virtual ward meetings have been held across all Wards in January and February. All Ward Councillors were invited to their respective ward meeting. A meet and greet with the new Police Sergeants took place along with a discussion around Neighbourhood Police Team changes, a review of key community hubs/locations; the purpose being to improve greater visibility and engagement when lockdown eases. Crime and ASB across Sunderland West was also discussed along with any current issues.

2.3 Protecting Vulnerable People:

We continue to prioritise the safety of our most vulnerable people within the community and Sunderland West team will continue to safeguard the vulnerable in a variety of ways.

An example being the youth ASB matters around the Thorney Close estate. A significant amount of work has been undertaken and continues as we try to stop this problem. Numerous youths have been identified and visits to parents conducted. Some of the key offenders have been interviewed and are awaiting outcome along with Community Protection Warnings issued to their parents. Some parents have been very supportive and others require more intervention. We are working with partners to not only take positive action from a Police perspective but from a housing enforcement and education/diversionary perspective

also. This approach seems to be going in the right direction as there is less reporting and from engaging with the identified victims they are seeing great improvement and matters seem to be heading in the right direction in terms of improving their quality of life.

Likewise in South Hylton we have increased visibility to this location in response to youth ASB concerns. We have high visibility patrols in this location to identify problems, persons involved and to hopefully resolve this at the earliest opportunity.

With regard to more serious incidents across the wards but particularly Thorney Close, Grindon and St Anne's we have a number of harm plans in place. The purpose being to work with and support identified victims and protect them from harm. This includes visible patrols at key areas and safeguarding/target hardening having been addressed. Targeted disruption of identified suspects is also part of the response.

We have also issued a warning to a tenant at a property in Pallion whereby youths were frequenting. This is to deter youths from frequenting and congregating at this location.

3. Key Crime and Anti-social behaviour Performance:

Sunderland West(Sandhill/St Annes/Pallion/Barnes/Silksworth/St Chads)

Total Crime – Decreased by 5%

Youth ASB has decreased slightly however overall ASB has increased. Again a significant part of this increase is due to the behavioural and environmental changes during lockdown and covid related incidents being recorded as ASB. The ASB is sporadic however there are smaller concentrations that we have needed to focus upon on the Pennywell & South Hylton estate, Thorney Close estate and in the vicinity of Silksworth Ski Slope Sporting complex. This includes a mixture of covid related reports and typical youth ASB, vehicle ASB and neighbour disputes and noise related incidents.

A more detailed overview was provided to Sunderland West councillors during the virtual ward catch up sessions.

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