

14th March 2018

REPORT OF NORTHUMBRIA POLICE

Houghton Crime and Disorder 30th November 2017 to 2nd March 2018

Please find below some data in respect of Crime and Disorder for Houghton covering 30th November 2017 to the 2nd of March 2018. For comparison purposes I have also provided the data for the same period last year.

As a Force we have been very honest about our change in crime recording practices over the last year that has resulted in us being more transparent and open in terms of recording crime. After previous concerns nationally around the way crime was recorded we now record all crime as soon as a victim makes an allegation that THEY feel they are a victim of crime. In addition to that we have made great advances in terms of our Domestic Violence policies and Sexual Assaults Investigation that mean we have gained trust and confidence with the public and other agencies due to how we now approach and investigate those very important crimes and in turn victims feel more able to approach us and report those types of crime.

As stated previously, our National Crime Recording Standard (NCRS) compliance rate has drastically improved and we have now introduced a new method of recording crime in order to further capture the required data.

May I start by introducing myself as the new Neighbourhood Inspector for Houghton, Hetton and Easington Lane. I took up the post in mid-January and although I have worked in Sunderland the Coalfields is an area that is fairly new to me.

There is a noted decrease in Anti- Social Behaviour. This may be as a result of the ongoing work of the police and partners in Houghton and Hetton to address the issue of youth disorder in the Towns at night. However in the periods before Christmas Houghton was experiencing an overwhelming increase in ASB which would have taken us way beyond those of the previous year. I hope to continue this throughout the year.

That said, we are still experiencing a number of calls regarding the misuse of motorcycles and quad-bikes in Hetton and Houghton. This is something we are looking at as this will only get worse when the weather improves. I will be prioritising this in the summer months.

Our priority in recent months has been to combat burglaries to both dwellings and Commercial premises alike. In February alone we had 38 dwelling house burglaries on the area; the vast majority have been during the mornings and afternoons to the estates that border Gillas Lane Estate. We have committed significant time and effort to apprehending the offenders and as such we have made nine arrests with seven being charged.

Other than Dwellings; This is also significantly up from last year, the main offending has been occurring in the same area as the dwellings, sheds and garages are being targeted and in contrast to dwellings this is occurring overnight. 12 of those have occurred in the main street of Houghton.

As you may note I have added stalking to the figures, this is at present a force wide focus and a crime that is becoming more prevalent between ex-partners. It goes hand-in-hand with our campaign to positively deal with domestic violence and an area that initially manifests itself on social media.

As you will also note given that there was not a single recorded crime in the initial period there has been significant under recording of offences that sometimes were held under the lesser crimes of harassment.

Crime / Disorder	1st Dec 2016 – 2nd March 2017	1st Dec 2017 – 2nd March 2018	+ / -
ASB Reports	401	341	Down 60
Burglary OTD	56	92	Up 36
Burglary Dwelling	33	56	Up 23
Rape	9	3	Down 6
Serious Sex Assaults	10	5	Down 5
Damage to Motor Vehicle	64	56	Down 8
Theft from Motor Vehicle	34	56	Up 22
Stalking	0	10	Up 3
Total Crime	1158	1398	Up 18.2% (240 crimes)

Resourcing

Apart from myself there have been no new additions to the Houghton team, discussions are in the latter stages to creating a second team to work out of the office on an opposite shift pattern. I hope to have positive news about this in the future. Whilst that is ongoing I have moved officers from Washington temporarily to fill the gaps and provide additional cover where the numbers are the highest.