

Houghton / Hetton Updates

Anti-Social Behaviour

During the summer months we have seen a significant decrease in reported Anti-Social Behaviour around Hetton Town Centre.

Unfortunately this has coincided with an increase in the Easington Lane area and it appears we have moved the problem from one area to another. As a result of this we are currently working on a full Problem Solving Plan, in conjunction with our partners, to see if we can reduce the issue in the long term. This is still being put in place and site visits are in the process of being conducted.

We are also receiving reports from Go Ahead Northern regarding Youth Disorder on the Broadway, which is causing issues with the buses and Passengers. Over the weekend, we had a dispersal notice in place and a number of youths were dealt with by the Neighbourhood Team. We are looking at various disposals in relation to the Youths, including involvement from the Youth Offending Team to potential prosecution. This issue has only recently come to our notice and we are working with the Bus Company to get as much information as possible.

This will continue until the problem is alleviated.

I would ask that if anybody can provide information regarding ASB that they contact us via 101 so that we can deal with it.

Crime

We have seen some spikes in Burglary over the past few weeks and during August into September there was a spate around Easington Lane area. There have recently been some notable arrests for Burglary within the Houghton, Washington and Sunderland areas. A number of offenders have been remanded in Custody, awaiting trial. As a result we have seen a decrease over recent weeks.

There has been an increase in vehicle related crime in the Fencehouses and Shiney Row areas, compared to the same period last year. This is predominantly theft from motor vehicles.

The public are urged to take belongings out of their cars, remove items from view and also to secure their cars. A recent spate involved youths trying car doors and stealing from those that weren't secure. It is surprising how many cars are left unlocked.

The Neighbourhood Team are currently working an Operation to tackle the issue. This has involved a number of shift changes, where they have been working later shifts.

Resourcing

There have been a lot of issues raised during the past 12 months; following the restructuring of the Neighbourhood Teams. As you are aware, 4 teams have been merged into 3 and this resulted in one of the two teams from Houghton, being redeployed to Washington Police Station. Although, this didn't see a reduction in numbers, it has definitely seen a reduction in visibility as we have not been able to sustain the coverage in the Houghton area from Washington.

I've just completed a review of this and have raised some concerns and recommendations. As a result, we are in the process of moving some Officers back to Houghton. They will work opposite shifts to the current team, which will provide some extra coverage in the busiest areas which are Hetton, Easington Lane and Shiney Row. It may take a little time to get the balance right, but I will continue to monitor.