

18 MARCH 2020**REPORT OF THE NORTHUMBRIA POLICE – SUNDERLAND WEST****1. Purpose of Report**

- 1.1 The following report provides a community update and key performance information in relation to the Sunderland West Committee area from 18th December to 6th March 2020

2. Background

- 2.1 Providing a report has been agreed by key leaders submitted ahead of any committee meetings. The report is in line with the Neighbourhood and Policing Priorities

3. Key Updates**3.1 Problem Solving:**

Motor cycle disorder continues to be high on our list of priorities and we will continue to work closely with partners. Community intelligence is also vitally important to identify and take positive action against those responsible. Following recent community meetings and social media updates we are starting to see an increase in reporting regarding motorcycle disorder. A motorcycle ASB operation is in place across Sunderland West with numerous tactics included to try and address this problem. Please be mindful that Sunderland West has very large open spaces around existing residential estates and work is being undertaken at identified hotspots.

We have recently undertaken partnership walkabouts in South Hylton and Pallion where issues identified are being considered or acted upon between the relevant agencies.

We are working with schools in preparation for the school holidays for which regular engagement and education inputs are provided around subjects such as youth ASB, drugs, knife crime and vulnerability. In addition to support this Dispersal Notices are regularly issued to help officers on patrol address and reduce youth ASB. Positive action is taken where any offences/nuisances are identified including any potential intervention work for youths and their families to deter offending and escalation in behaviour.

Test purchasing operations have been undertaken together with Trading Standards at retail premises regarding alcohol and tobacco matters. It was reassuring that the majority of stores were found to be compliant. There was one Licensee found to be committing offences in Silksworth who has since had their license revoked for several shops including the Silksworth stores. This sends a very real and positive message to store owners on their responsibilities.

3.2 Targeted Offender Management:

We have and continue to work alongside Sunderland Local Authority ASB Unit, Gentoo and Homegroup to address crime and disorder using housing enforcement as a method to tackle problem tenants. Working alongside partners helps us to put longer term plans in place bringing solutions in relation to enforcement, management of offenders and reducing the crime and ASB incidents in the areas of concern. We take this proactive approach across the whole of Sunderland West where required.

We did see an increase in arson offences particularly around the end of 2019; in the main these were occurring around the Thorney Close, Hylton and Pallion estates. Northumbria Police and TWFS worked together on the arson investigations. It is reassuring to know that these crime types have reduced significantly following the apprehension of a number of offenders whereby significant disruption was undertaken and prosecutions for other crime types secured.

We have prepared and executed several Community Protection Notices and Domestic Violence Protection Notices across the West to proactively target and curb crime and disorder involving specific individuals. The offenders are subject to management by us and it is pleasing to report there has been very little increase in further offending. For the incidents that have been further reported, these are in the minority; offenders for which have been further apprehended and placed before the courts with some convictions brought.

3.3 Community Engagement:

The teams regularly attend meetings when available and look for other ways to make themselves visible and accessible to their wider community. Some of the meetings across the West have generated partnership work to address matters raised.

Alongside ASB work undertaken across the West, we are trying to encourage youths to engage and visit the new football hub situated in Ford Estate. We are also trying to explore youth provision opportunities for Thorney Close/ Grindon.

In December Insp Pollock provided an update to Councillors of Sunderland West and East areas. This included an in depth look into what police visibility means and how Police are visible in different ways.

3.4 Protecting Vulnerable People:

Priorities remain around our most vulnerable persons within the community and the teams focus will continue to safeguard the vulnerable and prosecute offenders.

Insp Pollock chairs a five weekly partnership meeting to identify youths who have been subject to an ASB stop by Police or are referred in by partners. The purpose being to identify opportunities for early intervention. This can include preparing harm reduction plans and intervention or enforcement by one or more partners.

Orders and positive action taken upon offenders and outlined in 3.2 affords protection to our vulnerable. In addition victims are visited and offered support in a range of ways to help them stay safe.

4. Key Crime and Anti-social behaviour Performance

A3 – Sunderland South (St Chads/Silksworth/Doxford/Moorside/Tunstall/Ryhope)

Total Crime – reduced by 5.2%
Youth ASB – reduced by 3.7%

A4 – Sunderland West - (Sandhill/St Annes/Pallion/Barnes)

Total Crime – reduced by 5.5%
Youth ASB reduced by 12.2%

Although Sunderland West/South crime and ASB figures appear to be healthy in comparison to other areas. We have seen some small peaks in different crime types in specific areas – some have been sporadic and more difficult to combat whereas some have been concentrated to a specific location which has enabled us to target appropriately. The investigations undertaken have helped identify some of our own local criminals and others from outside of our area for which they are either subject to investigation, remanded awaiting trial and with some having received custodial sentences.

4. Recommendations

4.1 Note the content of the report.

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