

20th March 2019

REPORT OF NORTHUMBRIA POLICE

Houghton Crime and Disorder Report

Please find below some data in respect of Crime and Disorder for Houghton comparing Year to date figures with the preceding year. For comparison purposes I have also provided the data for the same period last year.

Overall I am fairly pleased with the progress we have made this year making reductions in crime statistics in many of the areas. Violent crime and burglary has reduced and essentially the Coalfields area is a safe place to live.

There is a notable 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. That said I have noticed an increase in calls in Airedale Gardens, Elemore Lane and Moorsley Road and we are addressing it with our neighbourhood team and partners. The TWFB organised a site visit and walkabout as we had experienced an increase in arsons to wheelie bins and abandoned rubbish. We have had a spike in motorcycle disorder in Burn Park Road and Church Street which we have tried to patrol more effectively and in the hope that we are informed which houses the bikes are being stored in. Unfortunately I predict that this will become a bigger issue in the next few months as historically this is what the previous years have shown us. I do hope for a more successful campaign in tracing the offenders.

Our priority in recent months has been to combat burglaries to both dwellings and Commercial premises alike. Although the figures show a dramatic fall in dwelling house burglaries for the year which I am extremely pleased with. It has been achieved by intelligence driven patrols and being in the right place at the right time. We have recently charged and remanded four burglars from the area.

Much of our work was centred on the Racecourse estate which has improved but we have had recent spikes in Hetton and Easington Lane. Commercial Premises in Hetton and some in Houghton have been targeted but in the main vacant premises are being burgled for their boilers and scrap. We have found an increase in shed and garage break-ins targeting bikes and gardening equipment. There have been two arrests for this and both are out on bail awaiting further enquiries.

Violent crime is down over the course of the year and I hope I can attribute some of this to the work we did with pubs and off licenses as well as the positive position we take on any reports of domestic violence. There is a set domestic violence protocol to assist victims who reach out and report matters to police, this will remain a priority for the 24/7 response teams as the NPT deal with much of the safeguarding to prevent and protect victims from offending. Overall violent crime remained fairly constant and very few of the offences involve persons whom are not known to the victim.

We have had a recent upturn in theft from motor vehicles across the whole of the sector. The methods used have changed from last year where windows were being broken and skeleton keys used to opportunists roaming the streets overnight looking for unlocked doors.

We have a summer packed with events ranging from music festivals to sporting events, I will try and support as many of these as possible but often resources and incidents make this very difficult.

My teams are developing a rolling programme of school inputs on items such as internet safety, knife crime, violence and Sexual offending to bring closer links with the Communities and assist the schools in dealing with absence and bullying.

I did discover that in the aftermath of the fatal fire in Easington Lane in November that there was a distinct lack of engagement in that area and adjoining Hetton Town Centre. As a result I have moved more officers into those areas and have set up an action group utilising partners to see how to best serve the people living in those estates. It is still early days but my intentions are to focus my resources into that area to try and alleviate some of the issues and try to build confidence in the police and partners.

Crime / Disorder	15th March 2017 – 15th March 2018	15th March 2018 – 15th March 2019	+ / -
ASB Reports	1549	1234	Down 315
Youth ASB	470	294	Down 176
Burglary Dwelling	283	264	Down 19
Burglary Other than Dwelling	78	139	Up 61
Violence against the Person	358	341	Down 17
Serious Injury	21	30	Up 9
Damage to Motor Vehicle	236	292	Up 56
Theft from Motor Vehicle	169	210	Up 41
Total Crime	4324	4455	Up 13 (3% increase)