

Washington Updates

There is not a huge amount to report in the Washington area, currently, and the bulk of the demand seems to be sitting with the Houghton and Hetton Neighbourhood Teams.

Anti-Social Behaviour

There are currently no major ASB hotspots across Washington, where significant intervention is required.

The last major issue was Junglerama which was burnt down earlier this year, following a suspected Arson attack. Three Juveniles still remain 'Under Investigation' by the CID having been interviewed on two occasions.

ASB is one of our main priorities and a huge amount of work is currently being undertaken to ensure improved problem solving, partnership work and early intervention. We should start seeing the benefits of this as we move into the New Year.

Any specific disorder issues should be reported to Washington NPT – Sgts 262 Drummond and 2559 Barrow.

Crime

Two main crime issues across the Southern Area Command are Burglary and Vehicle Crime (Theft from Motor Vehicle). There have been a significant number of Commercial type burglaries on the Industrial Estates and spates of Burglary Dwelling across Washington. Over recent weeks there have been some significant arrests and a number of Burglars have been charged and are currently remanded in custody. Since this time, Burglary has been following a downward trend; however, historically in the run-up to Xmas this can pick up.

There has been an increase in vehicle related crime. 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.

At the same time; I have identified a couple of busy areas in Washington and the Houghton team will reciprocate by increasing coverage when they are on duty. It may take a little time to get the balance right, but I will continue to monitor.