

7 June 2023

**REPORT OF THE TYNE AND WEAR FIRE SERVICE****1. Purpose of Report**

- 1.1 The following report gives Performance Monitoring details in relation to the Local Indicators for the Coalfields Committee area from 1<sup>st</sup> April 2023 to 24<sup>th</sup> May 2023 compared to the same period last year in 2022.

**2 Background**

- 2.1 Area Committee agreed that regular updates on Crime and Community Safety would be presented to each Committee meeting.

**3. Tyne and Wear Fire Service Update****3.1 LI 01 & 02 Number of Deaths from all fires**

No deaths were recorded during the reporting period.

**3.2 LI 14 All Deliberate Property Fires excluding Primary road vehicles**

Deliberate property fires, only 2 recorded in Shiney Row Ward (Stables and an outdoor recycling point). This is a 33% improvement from the previous year.

**3.3 LI15 Number of primary road vehicle fires started deliberately**

There were 5 incidents reported during this period compared to 7 for the same period last year. An improvement of 29%. 2 of the fires were in the Houghton ward, a 50% improvement. Copt Hill having 1 incident, a 67% improvement since last year. Hetton having 1 incident, with 0 incidents last year. Shiney Row having 1 incident and 0 incidents last year

Collaborative working with Northumbria Police will continue regarding any further similar incidents to help identify trends and perpetrators. All incidents were reported and investigated by both Police and Fire Investigators to establish any links.

**3.4 LI16 Number of secondary fires not involving property or road vehicles started deliberately**

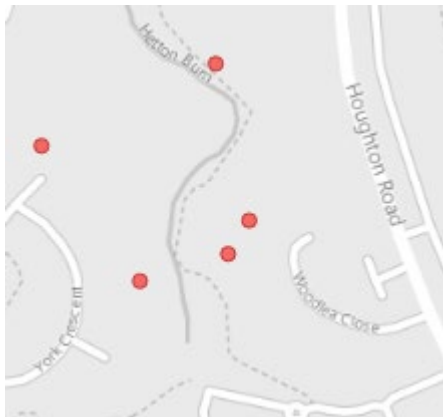
Incidents by Wards		Property Type	
Ward Name	Incident Count	Property Type	Incident Count
Hetton	12	Loose refuse (incl in garden)	18
Houghton	12	Tree scrub (includes single trees not in garden)	5
Copt Hill	10	Grassland, pasture, grazing etc	3
Shiney Row	4		
<b>Total</b>	<b>38</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>38</b>

There has been 38 deliberate secondary fires during the reported period, a decrease of 28% overall from the previous year (53). Hetton and Houghton Wards seen the highest number during this reporting period with Hetton Ward seeing a 52% decrease. Houghton Ward seeing

a 20% decrease, Shiney Row seeing a 43% decrease and Copt Hill Ward seeing a 67% increase.

## Pattern analysis

### Hetton Ward-



Hetton burn, West of Houghton Road – 5 incidents in reported period.

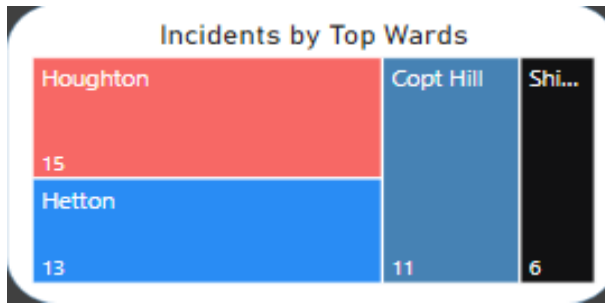
### Copt Hill-



Play area west of Durham Rd and east of A690 – 3 incidents in close proximity.

The Report-It tool for the reporting of fly tipping and loose refuse is used regularly by Watch Commanders conducting area patrols to help support ASB reduction activities in designated Wards. Hetton Ward generally still remains the ward experiencing the greatest number of deliberate secondary fires within the Coalfields area. The multi-agency HALO project, TWFRS new Ignite diversionary activity course along with other collaborative working continues to assist in tackling some of the hot spot areas. LMAPS Partner work groups assist to monitor all wards to prevent, reduce, investigate and help improve the wards regarding deliberate ASB and fire setting.

## 3.5 LI33 All deliberate Fires (combination of LI14, LI15 and LI16)



There were a total of 45 deliberate fires in this reporting period. A **27%** improvement from last year (62). Copt Hill Ward is the only Ward that has not seen a reduction and remains the same as last year's period (10).

TWFRS continue to work closely with Northumbria Police, Sunderland city council, Gentoo and partners carrying out estate and site visits, ASB patrols, reporting of accessible premises, and using the Report-it for removal of loose refuse/fly tipping. We continue to use data to identify patterns and target areas in most need of support to try and reduce ASB and secondary fire incidents. Please encourage members of your local communities to report fly tipping and / or request up lifts and use the Fire Stoppers helpline at the bottom of this report – support during the spring/summer periods is essential.

### **Houghton Ward –**

Has seen a decrease from 19 to 15 incidents over this reporting period, a **21%** improvement. The majority of these incidents were attributed to loose refuse. Fly tipping remains problematic.

Hot spot areas - Foot path on Lambton lane.

### **Hetton Ward –**

Has seen a decrease from 26 to 13 incidents, a **50%** improvement. Deliberate grass fires and loose refuse remain problematic. Hetton ward remains an area of concern.

Hot spots – In and around Hetton Burn.

### **Copt Hill Ward –**

Has seen a **10%** increase from 10 incidents to 11 during this period. Incidents over this period are predominately loose refuse secondary fires with 1 vehicle fire this period. TWFRS will continue to work with Northumbria police to identify any trends/patterns/underlying issues.

Hot spot areas – Grassland / play area West of Durham Rd and East of the A690. Sunderland Street and North of Baker Street on grassed area.

### **Shiney Row Ward –**

Has seen a **14%** decrease in incidents from 7 to 6 over the reporting period. Deliberate grass fires and loose refuse remain problematic.

Hot spots identified have been – Coxgreen Road and around the area of Coxgrieb Gill.

Partnership work continues to monitor and share information to help reduce ASB and improve local areas within all wards. Watch Managers from Rainton Bridge continue to patrol

problematic sites, submit 'Report it' rubbish uplifts and engage with the community within these areas.

### **3.6 Community Involvement**

TWFRS continue to support partners involved in the HALO project, which has given an opportunity to bring partners together to deliver success, empower and improve the local area based on the highly successful SARA project. To build on the success of the Ignite programme TWFRS are in the process of making plans to roll out a Phoenix project with pupils from Hetton Comprehensive School. A Spark programme targeting year 6 in Shiney Row ward and a Spark programme for year 8/9 within the Houghton ward. The Ignite project has been a huge success with many positive feedback comments being received. The service, with help from partners would like to continue to grow our diversionary activities over the coming months and years.

The service continues to review its targeting strategy to deliver safe and well visits to the most vulnerable members of our communities, ensuring they are given home fire safety advice, have working smoke alarms and fitting them free of charge and if necessary referring to partner agencies for further support. By 1<sup>st</sup> April 2024 crews will have delivered a minimum of 600 Safe & well visits to households across the Coalfields area.

All other opportunities where crews are available to support and attend community events they shall continue to do so. Partnership initiatives will be welcomed and fully supported providing there is sufficient FRS resources available on the date of the engagement.

### **3.7 On-going Issues**

Continuing to work with partners being to help reduce incidents in general as highlighted in the report.

Attacks on emergency services continue to cause concerns with 68 across the Tyne and Wear service area during April 22 – April 23. Although improvement in the Coalfields on last year there were still 2 attacks where objects were thrown at crews.

It is essential that any fire related issues are reported to myself, (Scott Wilson, Station Manager) or using Fire Stoppers 0800 169 5558, so I can take the appropriate action without delay. Rainton Bridge watches have been detailed ward areas to create community links (similar to the Police). This is not just about ASB fires but all deliberate fires.

Any questions please do not hesitate to contact me on the details below.

## **4. Recommendations**

- 4.1 Note the content of this report. Promote the Fire Stoppers reporting number in community groups to drive down deliberate fires.

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Shiney Row Ward - Watch Manager Adam Robinson [adam.robinson@twfire.gov.uk](mailto:adam.robinson@twfire.gov.uk)  
Copt Hill Ward - Watch Manager Andrew Lane [andrew.lane@twfire.gov.uk](mailto:andrew.lane@twfire.gov.uk)

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