

Washington Area Committee

March 17th 2022

Police Area Committee Report

By Inspector Steve Passey

Overview

Since the last Area Committee, we have seen a reduction in all crime types except drug crime and criminal damage. There is been a 2% decrease overall with the biggest reductions coming from Vehicle Crime (33%), Burglary (23%) and Theft (12%). Drug Crime has increased by 44%. However, this only equates to 9 more drug crimes reported during this period. I attribute the rise in drug crime due to the good proactive work the Police have done targeting drug misuse, as the majority of the drug crimes are only recorded following Police involvement.

Burglary

Washington has one of the lowest burglary rates in the Sunderland City region and the rates continue to fall with a 23% reduction during this period. The highest proportion of the few burglaries that occur in Washington are mainly around the Sulgrave area.

Criminal Damage

Criminal Damage has increased by 9% over the latest period and is up 23% on last year. However, when compared to other areas within Sunderland the amount of criminal damage crimes being recorded is moderate. There are hotspots for damage in the area of the Galleries, Oxclose and Sulgrave which is attributed to the levels of anti-social behaviour those areas suffer.

Anti-Social Behaviour

Washington is second only to Sunderland City Centre for levels of anti-social behaviour. However, during the latest period anti-social behaviour has fallen by 3% and this is 42% reduction when compared to last year. The Washington Neighbourhood Team have worked tirelessly in collaboration with partners to proactively target and disrupt those youths who are causing the majority of the issues within our community. Over the latest period the Washington area was visited by the "Wear Here For You Bus" which was a success, and I have no doubt has contributed significantly to the reduction in anti-social behaviour we are continuing to see. The hotspot areas for anti-social behaviour currently are The Galleries, Oxclose and Albany.

Motorcycle Disorder

Incidents of motorcycle disorder are extremely low. This is to be expected due to the cold and wet weather. It is envisaged that such incidents will return in the near future, as Spring approaches. The Neighbourhood Team have pre-empted this seasonal rise and are looking to implement a new problem-solving approach that will proactively target and disrupt those engaged in motorcycle disorder.