

16 JUNE 2021

**REPORT OF REPORT OF THE NORTHUMBRIA POLICE****1.0 Purpose of Report**

The following report provides a community update and key performance information in relation to Sunderland West area between the following periods (March 2021 - May 2021)

**2.0 Key Updates****2.1 Problem Solving:**

We have been actively targeting offenders for different crime types and we are thankfully not seeing an overall increase in crime. We have seen an increase in criminal damage and youth ASB which is my area of focus at this time. There has been an overall decrease in motorcycle ASB which is pleasing although I note we are still experiencing pockets of this particularly in South Hylton. We have saw some further success in Herrington where a quad bike was used and positive action is being taken against the offender. Likewise two bikes were seized in South Hylton following public cooperation and one in Grindon where patrols have picked up the bikes, detained the riders and are taking positive action with them also. We aim in the near future do work with my colleagues in Washington as they are experiencing an increase across the border and it may be that we have some displacement from the Hylton/Herrington location. Operation Headlight continues in efforts to tackle this type of anti-social behaviour.

In terms of youth Anti-Social Behaviour – we have seen a notable increase over the last month. There are many actions in progress to address this escalation and Sunderland Neighbourhood Team are working intrusively in terms of investigating the crimes that have occurred, identifying the youths responsible and taking action to stop the behaviour. It appears that some youths have taken a trend in using catapults and bb guns to cause damage. Whilst we have not identified all youths, we have encountered many youths across Sunderland West that we have stopped and engaged with. Majority of the youths are behaving decently however we appear to have identified a key group that are transient and associate together and are believed to be involved in this type of ASB. We have arrested one youth and are to interview another youth in relation to catapults that we have seized and a BB gun. This matter is continuously under review and my officers are on dedicated patrols to tackle this. In addition, to help support this and balance enforcement with diversion we are working with partners to help address this issue.

We have made a number of arrests re burglary across the Sunderland West again, thankfully the incidents are very small numbers. Some offenders have been removed from the streets and are detained with others subject to investigation. We continue to visit burglary victims who are reassured and target hardened with the aim of preventing repeat offences.

In relation to drug offending we are conducting stop and search of youths where grounds exist in response to concerns raised by partners regarding youth ASB. In addition we have recently acted on information provided to us by the community. This led to my team discovering a cannabis farm in Pallion and a male offender being arrested and detained.

## **2.2 Community Engagement:**

Face to Face engagement opportunities are now starting to open up as we come out of lockdown. Whilst we have made good progress virtually and I think this definitely has its place in the future, face to face engagement is an excellent opportunity to try and make a difference be it reassurance, enforcement or education and diversion. We are now in the process of arranging school visits to educate and interact with our school community on several subjects including ASB, vulnerability, violent/knife crime, bullying and domestic abuse to name a few. We have been utilising the community engagement van and the last opportunity we had we placed it in Barnes Park due to the ASB reports. This was very well received and once we get the opportunity to secure the van we will get this out into the wards again.

High visibility foot patrols continue to be undertaken across the wards and we have also built in some covert patrols in areas suffering from ASB spikes. Numerous youths have been identified across Farringdon, Thorney Close, Grindon, Pennywell and Hylton/Barnes estates.

I have seen signs of improvement with our social media updates to show presence in the area. More work is required here but it is going in the right direction. I hope this reassures residents when we are highlighting our work and presence in our communities.

Further Police virtual ward meetings are being planned with Sunderland West Sgt's and Sunderland West ward councillors.

## **2.3 Protecting Vulnerable People:**

It is pleasing to report back in relation to the Sandhill ward of our targeted work around personal ASB. We have been able to put plans in place and over time the harm plans have reduced to where we are now working with and supporting one family regarding personal ASB. However, complacency does not feature and there is still work to be done in this area around problematic youths/families (e.g., enforcement, disruption and diversion). A number of tactical options have been used and some are continuing including visible patrols.

We are taking positive action with problematic tenants for which we have pursued civil injunctions for two individuals one of which used to reside in Silksworth/Farringdon. They were relocated however they have on several occasions gravitated back to which we have submitted civil injunctions to our Legal Dept. for both persons. It is hoped they will be secured in the near future and prohibitions placed upon them to prevent any further crime/community disruption.

We have also issued Community Protection Warnings to problem tenants and are working with Gentoo and Local Authority ASB team for housing enforcement consideration. This relates to properties in the Farringdon and Grindon estates. The aim being to protect victims from harm and address offender behaviour.

## **3. Key Crime and Anti-social behaviour Performance:**

### **Sunderland West (Sandhill/St Annes/Pallion/Barnes/**

Total crime has increased 4% whilst not ideal it was to be expected with the lockdown restrictions easing. ASB has increase by 4% however this is small numbers and I am confident this is attributed to the current ASB problem which I have outlined in my report. Burglary has remained similar levels to last year and I have outlined the work above that we undertake to address this. Violent crime with injury is thankfully reduced to -2% compared to last year which is pleasing. We have experienced an increase in criminal damage up by 17% to that of last year.

**Sunderland South (Silksworth/St Chads) (Includes Doxford ward also)**

Total crime has increased by 8% ,this is small numbers. Overall ASB has reduced by 28%, this will be in part the pleasing decline in motorcycle ASB and youth disorder across Silksworth, Tunstall and Doxford Ward. Operation Headlight was utilised along with joint working with our Hendon Neighbourhood Team. Criminal damage also increased by 15% again very small numbers. Burglary is thankfully down by 4% also and violent offending has reduced by 1%.

**REPORT AUTHOR Inspector 7013 Pollock**