

AGENDA 7, Enc ii) Neighbourhood Policing Report – Inspector Wane Daniels

Report Summary

- The document is an email from Inspector Wayne Daniels providing an update on policing in Ashington and surrounding areas.
- There are currently 2 sergeants and 15 PCs/PCSOs covering the areas, many new officers still learning.
- New Chief Constable has made changes including removing sex offender management from NPTs. This should allow more proactive neighbourhood policing.
- Crime figures for 2023 show an increase in total incidents compared to 2022. Main crimes are violence against the person (often domestic violence) and shoplifting.
- Dealing with top shoplifting offenders has resulted in 252 weeks of custodial sentences. Work continues with retailers on prevention.
- Increase in ASB motorcycle disorder partly due to availability of illegal electric off-road bikes. Planning operations using drones to tackle issue.
- Hirst area a priority, working on projects to engage the community and invest in the area.
- Priorities for 2024 are tackling drugs, ASB/motorcycles/speeding, and retail crime.
- With more officers now hopes to allow more proactive policing, operations, warrants etc.
- Invites any concerns or issues to be raised directly with Inspector Daniels.

My Teams working out of Ashington:

Sgt 8142 Kath Smith, 8 x PC's and 1 x PCSO (currently on maternity)

A/Sgt 2410 Ross Mckenzie, 6 x PC's and 1 x PCSO

In early summer there were low numbers of officers on the NPT but these numbers are now much higher, as indicated above. The majority of officers are still in their student phase of employment so they are still learning the general role of a police officer in addition to the extra knowledge of what is required to work in NPT, so please bear with us as I support them while they get up to speed which will take a little bit of time.

You will also be aware that the new Chief Constable was appointed last year, and she is already making some significant changes to the force. A lot of things are currently being reviewed including the force operating model which will likely see some changes to other departments such as Response and CID. Neighbourhoods already had their review and changes were made which saw us get an uplift of staff and we no longer manage the sex offenders. The changes to the other departments will have a positive impact on us which will hopefully reduce the amount of times we are abstracted allowing us to get on with Neighbourhood policing. I will give an update later in the year when these changes happen which will probably take effect in a couple of months.

I have put together some brief figures for the year for your info (below). I have grouped the areas together based on how we allocate our foot beats to make it easier relating to the areas I am responsible for. A more detailed update will be provided.

Figures for the areas of Ashington, Newbiggin, Lynemouth, Ellington, Linton:

Number of incidents reported during 2023: 13,6999 which has increased by 1,470 from the previous year.

6,107 of these incidents refer to public safety type incidents

4,838 in relation to crime related incidents

1,497 in relation to ASB type incidents

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Figures for the areas of Bedlington, Guidepost, Stakeford, Choppington, Sleekburn and Cambois:

Number of incidents reported during 2023: 7,233 which has increased by 497 from the previous year.

3,266 of these incidents refer to public safety type incidents

2,355 in relation to crime related incidents

845 in relation to ASB type incidents

Across all of the areas, the highest crime reported was in relation to violence against the person (none injury), the majority of this is down to **Domestic Violence** related incidents and this type of crime includes threats of violence, stalking and harassment, etc.

Shoplifting is another crime which is regularly reported in all areas. We have been working with the shops and ensure that we deal with all prolific shoplifters and those who threaten violence. To give a snapshot looking at our top 15 shoplifting offenders across all areas; they have committed 387 crimes between them during 2023. My teams have dealt with the majority of these offences and most of them have served a prison sentence during the year. In total, they have been sentenced to 252 weeks in prison between them. Some of this time has been on a suspended sentence and several of the offenders have been given community orders and exclusion orders. Currently, one of them is wanted, 2 are remanded in custody awaiting sentencing and one is on bail awaiting sentencing.

We are doing as much as we can but there is still room for improvement. I will look to speak to the retailers again soon to see what else can be done and offer crime prevention advice. We will also continue to look at the civil orders which will include exclusions and positive requirements such as drug rehabilitation. I will also be speaking to other partners to see what else can be done to prevent them re-offending in the first place, which in the majority of cases is to fund their drug habits.

The next highest increase of **ASB** reports is in relation to **motorcycle disorder**, there have been more reports this year across most of Northumberland in comparison to previous years. I think part of this is down to more people using electric off road motorbikes that are readily available and parents continue to buy them for their kids despite being told they are illegal to use. We launched OP Ironwood just before I went off and this work will continue. I am currently putting a plan together with the other NPT's in Northumberland to tackle this issue and we have other tactics that are now available such as the use of drones. The drone unit services the whole force so I need to request their support and we already have some dates planned in to run some operations. I have said this many times before, this is a difficult issue to tackle with many areas across the country having the same difficulties. It's a shame there wasn't a dedicated site in Northumberland where they could go.

The Hirst is my highest harm area, over the last 18 months I have been working closely with the Communities Together Team on our Hirst Project where we managed to secure joint funding with the VRU to provide a local coordinator who works out of the Hirst Welfare. The Welfare has hosted a number of events last year and have more regular activities taking place there now. Some good news is that the Newcastle United Foundation have now confirmed that the Hirst Welfare will be one of their strategic sites for 2024-2027. This will mean that the Foundation will bring their community support, physical activities and employment and support programmes to Ashington. Clearly this will impact the wider

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community of Ashington and not just the Hirst, it will also bring some additional investment to the area too.

My Priorities for the coming year, which has been taken from our survey's:

Drugs and Drug Dealing

I am already working with our intelligence department to see what warrants we can progress.

ASB – which also includes motorcycles and speeding vehicles

As I said earlier in the e-mail, I am currently working on a plan to deal with this more effectively. Trends show that we start to see an increase from April which runs through until the end of September so I want things put in place as soon as possible. I will get my new officers trained to use the speed guns and also the speed vans so we can deploy more often throughout the year when demand allows and during operations. We have 2 x drone operations planned for later this month.

Retail and business crime

We will continue to target our most prolific offenders and use a more problem-solving approach looking at civil orders as I already mentioned.

Now that have more staff on my teams, I will hopefully be able to do what I was brought in to do by allowing my officers to be more proactive, be more visible, run more operations and execute more drugs warrants. Last year was extremely frustrating for me so I'm optimistic that this year will be better and the new changes coming will have a positive impact.

If anyone has any concerns or issues then please have a discussion with me, I am more than happy to speak to you in person or on the phone (my work number is below). I normally get around 40+ e-mails a day so I will reply when I can.