

PARTNERSHIP STRATEGIC ASSESSMENT JANUARY 2008

Introduction

The Safer Stockton Partnership is a multi-agency group dedicated to reducing crime and disorder in the Borough of Stockton-on-Tees. This is the first Strategic Assessment that the Partnership has produced and it will inform the fourth Community Safety Plan that will be published in April 2008. The assessment should be read in conjunction with the Tackling Crime and Disorder Audit magazine

Our third Community Safety Plan, covering the period April 2005 to March 2008, was based on six key issues; Total crime, Dwelling Burglary, Anti Social Behaviour, Drugs, Violent Crime and Deliberate Fires. There are a total of 48 targets in this plan and at the end of 2006/07 40 of the targets were fully achieved (green), one was partly achieved (amber) and four were not achieved (red). The remaining three targets were reset and the baseline was being established this year. We had particular successes in Dwelling Burglary, Violent Crime and Deliberate Fires. For the strategic period of April to September 2007 30 of the targets are on target to achieve (green), nine are slightly below expected performance to achieve (amber) and six are not likely to be achieved (red). For further details, please see our website: www.saferstockton.com.

CONSULTATION

In the summer of 2007 we carried out a comprehensive consultation exercise that is being used to inform this Strategic Assessment. We produced the Tackling Crime and Disorder magazine and it was delivered to every door in the Borough. We asked residents to tell us which types of crime and anti social behaviour we should prioritise in the coming three years. More than 4,000 residents responded. One of our targets was to achieve at least 1% of the population; we achieved this in 22 of the 26 wards with three of the four below target wards missing by only three or four responses.

Five key priorities were clearly identified:

1. Anti Social Behaviour
2. Drug related crime
3. Violent Crime
4. Criminal Damage
5. Diverting Young People from Offending

The sixth priority selected was Robbery and Mugging. This crime type is very low in our Borough with only 131 incidents in 2006/07 and 87 to the end of December 2007 and it is part of Violent Crime.

Domestic Violence was another category that was discussed to determine whether it should be a separate priority. Respondents from the BME community ranked this as third with two wards, Ingleby Barwick West and Mandale and Victoria also placing it in the top six. We know that this is a crime that is under reported so we have decided to consider this within the Violent Crime priority.

Alcohol misuse also featured as a priority for some residents so we will be including this in both the Violent Crime and Anti Social Behaviour priorities.

We know from analysis of crime statistics that Other Theft is our most serious problem in terms of sheer numbers at the moment. The Safer Stockton Partnership decided that the sixth priority will be Emerging Issues, in 2008/09 this will be Other Theft. By having this open priority we will be able to change this should crime patterns alter.

We also asked which types of anti social behaviour should be prioritised and the result is:

1. People using/dealing drugs
2. Alcohol misuse/street drinking
3. Diverting young people from offending

4. Vandalism
5. Poor parental responsibility
6. People being drunk and rowdy

The Anti Social Behaviour Strategy will be produced in May 2008 and this will provide the detail of how we will tackle these priorities and other anti social behaviour issues.

We analysed responses over a range of categories and found very little variation in priority choice. Some headline findings are:

- Under 16s and the Village ward felt that Drug Related Crime should be the top priority. (A Police Authority survey with young people identified this as the third priority after Robbery/Mugging and Criminal Damage)
- Norton West identified Violence as the second priority
- Mixed race respondents felt less well informed on what we are doing to tackle crime and anti social behaviour
- Ingleby Barwick West had the highest level of responses and felt less well informed than other wards
- Disabled respondents ranked Lack of Respect for Others as their third ASB priority.
- Billingham Central respondents had the highest rate of feeling safer after they had read the magazine.

OTHER SOURCES OF INFORMATION

Neighbourhood Policing priorities and the Police Strategic Assessment produced in November 2007 have also informed this document. The current Control Strategy examines:

- Class A Drugs
- Burglary Dwelling
- Vehicle Crime
- Violence
- Anti Social Behaviour
- Criminal Damage
- Other Burglary
- Terrorism

Headline findings are:

Drugs

Heroin continues to be the main illegal drug used by offenders in Stockton with Stockton Town Centre showing the highest level of activity. We know that the drugs market is controlled by a small number of individuals and that some licensed premises are also involved.

Burglary Dwelling

In at least 40% of dwelling burglaries entry was gained due to insecurity. Whilst Distraction Burglaries have reduced they are still higher in Stockton than in our Most Similar BCUs. This may be a recording issue in other forces. It seems unlikely but we really have one of the lowest dwelling burglary rates, but also have one of the highest distraction rates.

Vehicle Crime

Items left on view continue to be a problem. Car stereos are the most common type of property stolen.

Violence

Domestic Violence represents at least 20% of all recorded violence. Alcohol is a factor in 30% of recorded violence. Racially aggravated violence represents 3% of all violent crime. 2% involve the use of a bladed weapon and 1% a blunt instrument.

Anti Social Behaviour

Rowdy and inconsiderate behaviour is the highest category. Use of off road motorbikes has increased. 10 wards have the highest level of reported incidents to both the Police and the Council

Criminal Damage

Damage to dwellings is the main category of damage reported. Stockton Town Centre ward has the highest number of incidents. Males aged between 11-20 are the most common offenders.

Other Burglary

Most offences occur around commercial areas. The top wards for these offences are: Hardwick; Billingham East; Billingham South; Grangefield and Mandale & Victoria.

Terrorism

There were no incidents of Domestic Extremism in Stockton. Counter Terrorism is embedded into day to day policing activity.

ANTI SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR

There were 1,061 incidents reported to the Anti Social Behaviour (ASB) team between April and September 2007. The coding system changed from May 2007 meaning that comparisons with previous years are not possible. Of the 1,061 incidents 351 (33%) were alcohol related, but only 14 (1%) were related to substance misuse. The next most popular categories are verbal abuse, games in inappropriate areas and throwing missiles.

During the same period there were 10,959 actions carried out by the ASB team (e.g. telephone calls made, letters sent etc) as a result of complaints made. The vast majority of ASB can be stopped with low-level interventions and although 1,223 initial warning letters were sent out, only six Anti Social Behaviour Orders (ASBOs) were appointed.

Looking at Police recorded ASB for the same period there were 10,432 incidents recorded. This is an increase of 14% on the previous six-month period and an increase of 3% on the same period the previous year. This would suggest that ASB is seasonally higher over the summer months.

Victim profile

The clients of the ASB team have been summarised under the victim profile, but it is important to consider this does not always provide a true picture. It is very dependent upon who makes the initial telephone call. You could have a married couple with two children living at an address all suffering from anti social behaviour. Depending on who makes contact with the ASB team the client could be captured as a 45 year old female, a 48 year old male, a 20 year old female, or a 18 year old male.

There were 197 clients (complainants) with active ASB cases in the strategic period. Half of all the clients were female (98), with 70 (35%) being male. The remaining 29 (15%) clients were actually organisations such as a shop, a doctor's surgery or a library. There were no clients under the age of 18, although the age could not be identified for 36% of clients so age breakdown is not very meaningful.

Billingham East, Stockton Town Centre and Mandale & Victoria were the top three wards for clients accounting for 37%, and the only wards with over 20 clients in each.

Offender Profile

There were 1,302 perpetrators of ASB who received an intervention from the ASB team for the reporting period. Youths, or under 18's accounted for 75% of all perpetrators (981) and adults accounted for 18% (230), with the age of the remaining 7% (91) perpetrators unknown.

Males are much more likely to be a perpetrator of ASB and also to go on to more serious enforcement interventions and 14 – 15 yrs is the commencement age to become involved in ASB. Of the 1,302 total perpetrators 933 (72%) were male and 369 (28%) were female, with 48% (625) overall being males between the ages of 12 – 17 yrs.

The ward of the home address of the perpetrators has been examined and Stockton Town Centre and Newtown wards both had a high proportion of perpetrators with over 100 living in each. Mandale and Victoria and Norton North also represented a large number of perpetrators home addresses, and these four wards in total account for 31% of all perpetrators.

During the strategic period there were 17 new Acceptable Behaviour Contracts (ABC's) signed and six new Anti Social Behaviour Orders (ASBO's) granted. There are a total of 17 live ABCs and 42 live ASBOs as of the end of the period (30/09/07). Males account for 83% of ASBOs and 82% of ABCs, and females for 17% ASBOs and 18% ABCs. These percentages are greater than those of all perpetrators possibly suggesting that lower level interventions such as warning letters have a greater effect on females than males. The ward of the home address for those on ASBOs and

ABCs did not follow the same pattern as all perpetrators, as these individuals were much more spread out across the Borough. The table below shows a breakdown by age and gender of those with live ASBOs and ABCs.

Table 1 – Breakdown of ABC & ASBOs by age and gender

Age at signing	Female ASBOs	Female ABCs	Male ASBOs	Male ABCs	ASBO Total	ABC Total
12 - 13 yrs	0	0	1	2	1	2
14 - 15 yrs	2	2	4	5	6	7
16 - 17 yrs	1	1	5	5	6	6
18 - 25 yrs	2	0	9	1	11	1
26 - 35 yrs	2	0	11	0	13	0
36 - 45 yrs	0	0	4	1	4	1
46 - 55 yrs	0	0	1	0	1	0
Grand Total	7	3	35	14	42	17

Location Profile

Not surprisingly Stockton Town centre ward features as the top ward for ASB when looking at all data sources. It accounts for 15% of ASB team data, 14% of Police data and 17% of Enforcement data. However, when we look at each data source and rank the demand by ward the remaining wards do not feature in the same order. In particular Hardwick and Billingham East wards seem to report more ASB to the police than ASB team, and to a lesser degree the Enforcement team. The table below has been colour coded by the rank of the ward to show the different demands on services.

Table 2 – ASB incidents by ward and service area

	ASB Team Incidents	Police ASB Incidents	Enforcement Team data
Stockton Town Centre	1	1	1
Mandale and Victoria	2	2	3
Stainsby Hill	3	7	11
Billingham Central	4	9	10
Parkfield and Oxbridge	5	6	2
Billingham South	6	10	8
Newtown	7	5	4
Norton North	8	8	6
Norton South	9	11	5
Billingham East	10	4	7
Grangefield	11	18	14
Bishopsgarth and Elm Tree	12	14	21
Hardwick	13	3	9
Village	14	13	22
Fairfield	15	20	19
Ingleby Barwick East	16	22	13
Billingham West	17	21	20
Ingleby Barwick West	18	19	18
Billingham North	19	17	17
Roseworth	20	12	12
Norton West	21	24	23
Yarm	22	16	16
Eaglescliffe	23	15	15
Northern Parishes	24	25	25
Hartburn	25	23	24
Western Parishes	26	26	26

Stockton Town Centre and Mandale and Victoria are the main locations for alcohol related ASB (classified as street drinking, drunken behaviour or alcohol confiscations) especially around the High Street and Riverside Road and also Mansfield Avenue. It is important to note that these locations are very dependent up on where operations and patrols are carried out and are subject to the Town Centre effect. The Police figures also show an increase in Off-road motorcycle incidents,

especially in Billingham East and South wards as well as Bishopsgarth and Hardwick. This trend is not replicated in the ASB team data with only 25 incidents recorded in six months.

DRUG RELATED OFFENDING

Drugs related offending encompasses both offences specifically relating to possession and supply of drugs and so called acquisitive crimes, which are crimes that are often committed to fund a substance misuse problem.

There have been 262 drug offences in the strategic period, of which 108 are for possession of cannabis (41%), 68 for possession of other drugs (26%) and 86 are for drug trafficking offences (33%). Of the 86 drug trafficking offences (supply offences) 45 (52%) were for heroin and crack.

Intelligence submissions illustrates that heroin is the preferred choice of drug for both users and dealers in Stockton, followed by crack cocaine. Both users and dealers are operating on a daily basis and many of the low level dealers are choosing to deal drugs to make money rather than commit acquisitive crime.

BCS Acquisitive crime is made up of domestic burglary, vehicle crimes, theft of a pedal cycle, theft from a person and personal robbery. In the strategic period there have been 1,419 acquisitive crimes. This is a reduction of 22% on the 1,729 crimes recorded in the previous six months and 16% reduction on the 1,702 crimes for the same period last year.

There have also been 177 discarded needles recovered by Care for Your Area and Neighbourhood Enforcement Officers.

User profile

This section is extremely limited as the Drugs Action Team has embargoed their data and did not supply any treatment information for inclusion of this assessment.

Offender Profile

There were 1,004 mandatory drugs tests for 726 people arrested for a trigger offence in the reporting period. Of these 726 people, 15 had been arrested and tested more than five times, with four people tested more than ten times. The gender breakdown is 570 (79%) male and 156 (21%) female and the average age is 28 years. Males aged between 18 – 34years accounted for 63% of all persons arrested for trigger offences. A breakdown of the test results is shown below.

Test result Positive for drugs – 451 (45%)
 Test result Negative for drugs – 531 (53%)
 Test aborted or refused – 22 (2%)

The 451 positive tests relate to 273 individuals, of which 128 (47%) are males aged between 25 – 34 years. 92% of all the 451 positive tests are made up of arrests for just five crime types, and Theft accounts for 57% of all trigger offences where the drug test is positive. The table below details to the top five crime types.

Table 1 – Trigger offence type for positive drugs tests

Crime Type	Positive tests	% of total positive tests	% of net crime type
Theft	255	56.5	11.0
Burglary	76	16.9	8.4
Possession of specified Class A	32	7.1	78.0
Possession with intent to supply Class A	28	6.2	90.3
Robbery	25	5.5	39.1

It would be very useful to establish the cross over between drug users and dealers, however it was not possible to get this information for this assessment. This would require full research to identify drug dealers and then to cross check these individuals with police intelligence and clinical treatment data to establish any current or historic drug use.

There were 260 arrests made in the strategic period for drug offences. These 260 arrests were made to 191 individuals, of which 149 (78%) were male and 39 (20%) were female – the remaining three (2%) did not have their gender recorded. Males aged between 18 – 24 years was the category with the most offenders accounting for 29% overall.

Of the 191 offenders four had been arrested more than four times. Two people were arrested 19 times, one person was arrested 12 times and one person arrested four times. All of these multiple arrests were made as a result of Operation Baildon carried out by Stockton Drugs Unit.

Location Profile

Stockton town centre (54 offences) is the location where the most drug offences were recorded, followed by Mandale and Victoria (38) and then Parkfield and Oxbridge (35), Newtown (25) and Norton South (21). Of the offences that occurred in Norton South, 15 were at Holme House prison and mainly in relation to visitors attempting to smuggle drugs into the prison. The wards with the highest number of offences are often linked to locations where operations or warrants have been carried out, thus resulting in a higher number of arrests. There were also offences in 21 other wards although only in small numbers. Drugs are being dealt both on the street and from houses and this is being carried out all times of the day, although not often overnight.

Table 2 – Drugs offences by ward

Ward	Drugs offences	Rate per 1000 population	% of total drugs
<i>Stockton Town Centre</i>	54	8.3	20.7
<i>Parkfield and Oxbridge</i>	35	5.0	13.4
<i>Mandale and Victoria</i>	38	3.7	14.6
<i>Newtown</i>	25	3.4	9.6
<i>Norton South</i>	21	2.8	8.0
<i>Northern Parishes</i>	7	2.2	2.7
<i>Stainsby Hill</i>	13	1.9	5.0
Village	9	1.4	3.4
Billingham East	7	1.0	2.7
Billingham South	6	0.9	2.3
Norton North	6	0.9	2.3
Yarm	8	0.8	3.1
Total	262	1.4	100.0

All wards have been examined by rates per 1000 population and seven wards are above the Borough average of 1.4. These wards have been highlighted in italics in the table opposite. The rates have also been shaded to show greater variation from the Borough average; red is more than twice the Borough average, amber is between half above and twice above the Borough average.

Wards with less than 5 crimes have been excluded from the table to avoid possible identification.

The location of the discarded needles has been analysed and Stockton Town Centre accounted for a third of all sharps finds with 58. Two more wards had more than 10 needle recoveries; these are Parkfield and Oxbridge with 37 (21%) and Newtown with 17 (10%).

VIOLENT CRIME (INCLUDING DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AND ROBBERY)

There were 1,795 offences of violence against the person recorded in the strategic period. This was an increase of 11% when compared with the previous 6 months of 1,622 offences, but exactly the same as the same period last year. This confirms the seasonal pattern whereby violence is higher in the summer months.

Of the 1,795 offences only 38 of these were classed as serious violent crime, as per the new PSA measure which includes acts that result in death or endanger life. 93% of all offences are made up of three categories: Wounding (41%), Common Assault (27%) and Harassment (25%). Analysis of Common Assault offences shows seasonal peaks in June and July, followed by a reduction until the end of the year. However, an increase in figures this year shows an upward trend in the long term. Wounding offences have remained steady with a long-term downward trend. Offences of harassment have increased over recent years. This is likely to be due to the push of increased detections.

The Domestic Violence flag was present on 365 offences, with a further 36 offences identified as domestic after examining the relationship between victim and offender. This means that 22% of violence is domestic related. This figure is still questionable as prior to the introduction of the IRIS computer system to record crime, domestic violence accounted for 25% of all violence. Of the domestic offences 275 (69%) were committed in a dwelling and 92 (23%) in a public place (the remainder of locations were unknown) and 342 (85%) were either assault occasioning actual bodily harm (a type of wounding) or common assault.

The Police Domestic Violence team produce their own statistics based on the incidents they deal with. Some of these are only minor incidents such as verbal arguments or breach of the peace, and so these numbers will be much higher than those for crimes of Violence flagged as domestic. The table below shows the number of incidents, arrests and repeat victims for the strategic period. Not all incidents had the power of arrest and the offender may not have been present to arrest which is why the arrest figures may seem low. Interestingly there were only six incidents relating to same sex couples, and one couple was a repeat with five incidents.

Table 1- Domestic Violence incidents

	No of Incidents	No of Arrests	Arrests as % of incidents	No of Repeat Victims
April	255	78	31%	69
May	246	84	34%	105
June	212	78	37%	90
July	241	81	34%	98
August	254	68	27%	133
September	214	71	33%	90
TOTAL	1,422	460	32%	585

There were 64 offences of Robbery recorded between April and September 2007, which is a reduction of five offences (7%) on the previous 6 months and an increase of two offences (3%) on the same period last year.

Victim profile

There were 1,198 unique victims attached to a violent crime recorded on Police system (with DOB recorded). Of these 542 (45%) were female and 655 (55%) were male. Young males under 25 years account for over a quarter of all violence victims (27%). For females the age group with the most victims was 25 – 34 years (11%), and females aged 18 – 34 years accounted for 20% of all victims. 254 of all female victims were victim of domestic violence (47%) and 69 of all males were victim of domestic violence (11%). The most common group of domestic violence victims is females between 25 – 34 years accounting for almost a quarter (24%) overall. The ethnicity was unknown for half of all victims so this could not be analysed. The area or location of the victim could not be investigated, as the home address is not present on the crime report.

There were 100 repeat victims of violence. 88 people had been a victim twice, 10 had been a victim three times and two had been a victim four times. 12 of the repeat victims were constables and each had been a victim twice. Females accounted for 58% of all repeat victims and Males 42%. Of the 58 female repeat victims over half (32) were victim of domestic violence. However, only five of the 42 male repeat victims were subject to domestic violence. The most common age range for repeat victims was 18 – 24 years and females between 18 – 34 years accounted for 37% of all repeat victims.

For Robbery offences there were 63 victims, of which five were commercial premises. There were no repeat victims of robbery. Young males accounted for the vast majority of victims; males under 18 accounted for 18% of all victims and a further 16% were males aged between 18 - 24 years.

Offender Profile

There were 1,079 suspects added to a violent crime report on Police system (not including those eliminated and/or without date of birth). Of these only 263 (25%) were female and 814 (75%) were male. Males aged between 18 – 24 years was the highest category of suspects with 261 (24%) of the overall total. Once again ethnicity and home address could not be analysed due to missing data.

Numerous suspects have been added to more than one crime report. These were not all separate incidents; rather many were where various offences had occurred from a single incident. For example a repeat suspect could cause harassment to one person, assault another and then also assault a constable whilst being arrested. All the offences occurred at the same date and time but have different victims. In total there were 185 repeat suspects, although only 18 of these had been added to four or more crimes. One suspect was named on seven crime reports, two suspects named on six crimes, four suspects added to five crimes and 11 suspects added to four crimes. Many of these repeats related to a single incident, and those who did not are being investigated for possible ASBO / CRASBOs under the volume crime initiative.

There were 41 suspects added to robbery offences, of which 88% were male and only 12% female. The most common age group for suspects was 18 – 24 yrs accounting for 37%, closely followed by under 18's accounting for a further 26% of the total suspects.

Location Profile

Stockton town centre ward continues to record the most violent crime in the district with 25% of all violence occurring in this ward. The next busiest ward was Mandale and Victoria with 9%, followed by Newtown with 6.5% and Norton North, Parkfield and Oxbridge, Norton South and Hardwick and each with 5% of the crimes. For the more serious violent offences (i.e. less common assault and harassment), the Town Centre area is still the top ward but with only 20% of the overall.

When the main locations for violence have been examined, the top area is the Stockton High Street and Yarm Lane. Other areas of significance include Norton Road, Station Road in Billingham and the Tall Trees nightclub Yarm.

All wards have also been examined by rates per 1000 population and nine wards are above the Borough average of 9.6. These wards have been highlighted in italics in the table below. The rates have also been shaded to show greater variation from the Borough average; red is more than twice the Borough average, amber is between half above and twice above the Borough average and green is half the Borough average or less.

Table 2- Violent offences by Ward.

Ward	Violent offences	Rate per 1000 population	% of total violence
<i>Stockton Town Centre</i>	<i>451</i>	<i>69.1</i>	<i>25.1</i>
<i>Newtown</i>	<i>117</i>	<i>16.1</i>	<i>6.5</i>
<i>Mandale and Victoria</i>	<i>167</i>	<i>16.1</i>	<i>9.3</i>
<i>Norton North</i>	<i>95</i>	<i>14.3</i>	<i>5.3</i>
<i>Parkfield and Oxbridge</i>	93	13.3	5.2
<i>Hardwick</i>	90	13.2	5.0
<i>Billingham East</i>	83	12.2	4.6
<i>Norton South</i>	91	12.0	5.1
<i>Billingham Central</i>	73	10.7	4.1
<i>Billingham South</i>	60	9.0	3.3
<i>Roseworth</i>	62	8.6	3.5
<i>Stainsby Hill</i>	49	7.3	2.7
<i>Village</i>	45	7.1	2.5
<i>Yarm</i>	64	6.7	3.6
<i>Western Parishes</i>	16	5.0	0.9
<i>Bishopsgarth and Elm Tree</i>	28	4.3	1.6
<i>Northern Parishes</i>	12	3.7	0.7
<i>Billingham North</i>	33	3.5	1.8
<i>Billingham West</i>	18	3.0	1.0
<i>Grangefield</i>	20	3.0	1.1
<i>Fairfield</i>	18	2.9	1.0
<i>Ingleby Barwick East</i>	26	2.8	1.4
<i>Eaglescliffe</i>	29	2.7	1.6
<i>Norton West</i>	15	2.4	0.8
<i>Ingleby Barwick West</i>	25	2.4	1.4
<i>Hartburn</i>	11	1.6	0.6
<i>Unknown</i>	4	n/a	0.2
Grand Total	1795	9.6	100.0

Stockton Town Centre ward also recorded the most robbery offences with 15 offences, followed by Parkfield and Oxbridge ward with seven offences and Mandale & Victoria with five offences.

CRIMINAL DAMAGE

There were 2,448 offences of criminal damage within the strategic period. This is a reduction of 9% when compared with the previous six months of 2,702 offences, and a reduction of 3% compared to the 2,535 offences for the same period last year. This confirms the seasonal trend that levels of criminal damage fall over the summer months. However, the reductions have carried on until September where in previous years September has seen an increase in crimes. Also of note, there are currently eight registered POPs for Criminal Damage across the Borough. A POP (Problem Oriented Policing) is a method of problem solving involving specific process and multi agency approach.

Damage to dwellings represents the highest proportion of criminal damage with 929 offences accounting for 38% overall. Criminal damage to vehicles accounts for the next highest damage offence type, with 763 (31%). The proportion of both damage to dwellings and vehicles has remained in line with previous assessments. Arson accounts for 107 offences (4%), which is a reduction, compared to the last assessment (126) but an increase compared to the same period the previous year (81).

Attempts to analyse the damage offences has proved difficult, as many reports are incomplete. There was no MO key wording captured on (1525) 62% of damage offences. However, from the available data, the most common items used to cause damage were stones/bricks followed by bodily force. For damage to motor vehicles, bodily force is most common.

Deliberate fires recorded by the Fire Service are categorised as either Primary fires (something of value such as a building or property) and Secondary fires (refuse, derelict buildings, grassland etc). Secondary fires are generally classed as Anti Social Behaviour rather than damage and there were 753 recorded in the strategic period. This is exactly the same number as the previous six months and a reduction of 189 fires (20%) on the same period last year. For Primary deliberate fires there were 127 in total, including 13 fires to dwellings and 68 fires to vehicles. This is an overall reduction of 17 fires (12%) compared to the previous six months and a reduction of nine fires (7%) on the same period last year. Vehicle fires have increased to 68 from 65 in the previous six months and from 61 for the same period last year. Dwelling fires have reduced to 13 from 16 in the previous six months and from 21 for the same period last year.

Victim profile

There are 2248 victims linked to the crime reports, which are broken down into domestic victims (1899, 84%) and commercial victims (349, 16%). Commercial victims represent the highest proportion of repeat victims; Stockton Borough Council (31), Tristar Homes (20), Adshel (17), Clear Channel UK (13), Stagecoach (10) and Cleveland Police (7). Further analysis shows that seven of the reports from Stockton Borough Council are for Princess Avenue Children's Home, the remainder relate to other Council owned buildings (schools, community centres etc). The reports for Adshel and Clear Channel UK are all for damaged bus shelters, and the Stagecoach reports are damaged buses. For Cleveland Police the damage occurred to Police vehicles and for Tristar the reports relate to Tristar owned properties and communal areas of flats. The victim is only recorded as Tristar if a member of staff and not a tenant reported the offence.

The age group of domestic victims with the most offences were 35 – 44 years with 450, which equates to 24% of damage offences. Gender breakdown of victims was almost even (males 48%, female 52%). The youngest victim was 16 yrs old (reported a damaged rear yard gate at home address) and the oldest victim was 94 yrs old (dining room window smashed).

There were 32 repeat domestic victims of damage with four or more offences and one of these was victim to damage offences eight times within the strategic period. Three of the repeat victims are currently subject of a POP.

Offender Profile

There are 300 persons linked to damage offences (excluding those eliminated and/or without dates of birth). Of the 300 offenders, only 44 are female (15%). Males aged between 18 – 24 years was the highest category of offenders with 115 (38%) of the overall total, closely followed by under 18s who accounted for 104 offences (35%). Males under the age of 24 account for 64% of all offenders. The youngest offender was 10 yrs old and the oldest offender 88 yrs old. The ethnicity and home address of the offenders could not be analysed due to missing data.

In total there were 28 repeat offenders, although only 15 of these had been added to three or more crimes. Two persons were detected to five offences, five people were detected to four offences, and eight people were detected to two offences. Only one of these offenders is female and 87% are males under 21 years.

Location Profile

Stockton Town Centre ward has the most offences with 275, representing 11% of all offences; this is an increase of 19 offences on the previous six months (256 offences, 9%). In total, 18 of the 26 wards are showing decreases from the previous six months; Norton North recorded the greatest decrease of 79 offences (33%) followed by Roseworth with 57 offences (37%). Parkfield and Oxbridge has seen the greatest increase with 33 more offences this assessment compared to the last; this ward showed a reduction of 40 offences at the last assessment.

There are three main hotspots for criminal damage which are; Stockton Town Centre around the High Street, Norton North around Norton Grange / Norton Hill area, and Hardwick near Scurfield Rd / Whessoe Rd / High Newham Rd. All of these locations are subject to at least one POP.

Table 1- Criminal Damage offences by Ward

Ward	Damage offences	Rate per 1000 population	% of total Damage
<i>Stockton_Town_Centre</i>	275	42.1	11.2
<i>Hardwick</i>	216	31.7	8.8
<i>Newtown</i>	179	24.7	7.3
<i>Norton_North</i>	158	23.7	6.5
<i>Billingham_East</i>	151	22.2	6.2
<i>Stainsby_Hill</i>	148	22.0	6.0
Mandale_and_Victoria	201	19.4	8.2
Parkfield_and_Oxbridge	134	19.1	5.5
Norton_South	123	16.2	5.0
Village	95	15.0	3.9
Billingham_Central	100	14.7	4.1
Billingham_South	97	14.6	4.0
Roseworth	99	13.7	4.0
Bishopsgarth_and_Elm_Tree	77	11.8	3.1
Northern_Parishes	22	6.8	0.9
Billingham_West	38	6.4	1.6
Grangefield	42	6.4	1.7
Fairfield	38	6.2	1.6
Yarm	54	5.7	2.2
Billingham_North	46	4.8	1.9
Norton_West	28	4.4	1.1
Eaglescliffe	43	4.1	1.8
Ingleby_Barwick_East	28	3.0	1.1
Hartburn	18	2.7	0.7
Ingleby_Barwick_West	24	2.3	1.0
Western_Parishes	7	2.2	0.3
Unknown	7	n/a	0.3
Grand Total	2448	13.1	100.0

All wards have also been examined by rates per 1000 population and 13 wards are above the Borough average of 13.1. These wards have been highlighted in italics in the table to the left. The rates have also been shaded to show greater variation from the Borough average; red is more than twice the Borough average, amber is between half above and twice above the Borough average and green is half the Borough average or less.

DIVERTING YOUNG PEOPLE FROM OFFENDING

Offender profile

Youth Offending Service data

The Youth Offending Service (YOS) dealt with 467 youths between April – September 2007. Of these, three had mental health concerns and 18 had substance misuse issues. The 467 youths were dealt with in the following ways; 251 received a reprimand (54%), 84 received a final warning (18%), 50 received a referral order (11%), 71 received a community order (15%) and 11 received a custodial sentence (2%). A total of 352 (75%) were male and 117 (25%) were female. No females received custodial sentences and males aged 15 – 16 years accounted for 33% of all YOS clients. The ethnicity of most of the young people was white accounting for 455 of the total 467, which is 97%.

From the total 467 youths, 246 were first time entrants (FTE) to the YOS, which equates to 53% overall. Males accounted for 174 (71%) of all FTE, and females 72 (29%). Males aged between 14 – 15 years accounted for 72 (29%) of all FTE to YOS.

The 264 FTE committed a total of 271 offences between them. Three offences types accounted for 73% of all crimes; Violence against the person, 72 (27%), Theft and Handling Stolen Goods, 70 (26%) and Criminal Damage, 53 (20%).

The outcome for the vast majority of FTE is a reprimand (221, 90%). There were also 12 young people (5%) who received a final warning and nine (4%) who received a referral order. In addition to these one person received a fine, one received a community order, one received a conditional discharge, and one received a detention and training order.

The preventions team is based within the YOS and within the strategic period they offered support to 227 young people, of which 56 then accessed a service. Of the 56, 41 (73%) were male and 15 (27%) were female. For both males and females age 14 is most common, and males aged 14-15 years accounted for 23 clients overall which is 41%.

The area where the young people engaged with the Preventions team live has been recorded and Billingham had the most referrals with 12, closely followed by Norton with 10. Central Stockton was the address of eight young people, Hardwick seven young people, Thornaby for five young people and Newtown for four.

Recorded crime data

There have been 591 crimes detected to a person under the age of 18 in the strategic period. The detection status of these crimes is detailed below.

Table 1 – detection status of crimes

Detection Status	Total
Charge	239
Caution, Final Warning, Reprimand	263
TIC (Previously Recorded)	24
TIC (Not Previously Recorded)	12
Fixed Penalty Notice - Disorder	53
Grand Total	591

There were 397 youths attached to these crimes, of which 305 (77%) were male and 91 (23%) were female. Over half (52%) of all the offenders were male aged 15 – 17 years. A total of 38 youths were detected to 3 or more crimes; 13 were linked to three crimes, seven linked to four crimes, ten linked to five crimes, one linked to six crimes, six linked to seven crimes and one person was linked to 14 crimes. This main repeat offender was a female aged 17 who was charged with three counts of burglary with all other offences Taken Into Consideration (TIC).

A breakdown of the category of crime types committed by these Young offenders is detailed below. More than half of the violent offences were more minor crimes of harassment, alarm and distress or common assault.

Table 2 – Crime category for young offenders

HO Category	Total	% of total
01 - Violence against the Person	212	35.9
05 - Theft and Handling Stolen Goods	158	26.7
07 - Criminal Damage	107	18.1
03 - Burglary	52	8.8
08 - Drug Offences	22	3.7
09 - Other Offences	17	2.9
04 - Robbery	11	1.9
02 - Sexual Offences	6	1.0
06 - Fraud and Forgery	6	1.0
Grand Total	591	100.0

Location Profile

All wards have been examined by rates per 1000 population and 10 wards are above the Borough average of 3.2 for all offences committed by a young person. These wards have been highlighted in italics in the table below. The rates have also been shaded to show greater variation from the Borough average; red is more than twice the Borough average, amber is between half above and twice above the Borough average and green is half the Borough average or less. Wards with less than 5 crimes have been excluded from the table to avoid possible identification.

Table 3 – Young person offences by Ward

Ward	Offences detected to YP	Rate per 1000 population	% of total offences
<i>Stockton_Town_Centre</i>	114	16.8	19.3
<i>Mandale_and_Victoria</i>	49	7.2	8.3
<i>Newtown</i>	38	5.6	6.4
<i>Billingham_Central</i>	33	5.6	5.6
<i>Hardwick</i>	35	5.3	5.9
<i>Stainsby_Hill</i>	30	4.9	5.1
<i>Parkfield_and_Oxbridge</i>	31	4.8	5.2
Roseworth	34	3.6	5.8
Billingham_East	24	3.5	4.1
Norton_North	33	3.5	5.6
Ingleby_Barwick_West	10	3.1	1.7
Norton_South	30	2.8	5.1
Billingham_South	15	2.3	2.5
Grangefield	16	2.2	2.7
Village	21	2.0	3.6
Ingleby_Barwick_East	13	2.0	2.2
Billingham_North	9	1.4	1.5
Bishopsgarth_and_Elm_Tree	13	1.3	2.2
Norton_West	9	1.2	1.5
Yarm	7	1.0	1.2
Billingham_West	7	1.0	1.2
Eaglescliffe	6	0.9	1.0
Grand Total	591	3.2	100.0

EMERGING ISSUES – OTHER THEFT

Other theft is an area of crime that has been on the increase since about February 2007. For the reporting period there have been 2,316 offences of Other Theft. This is an increase of 18% against the preceding six month period of 1,955 offences, an increase of 29% against the same six months last year with 1,798 offences, and increases of 18% for the last 12 months compared to the preceding 12 month period.

The overall category of Other Theft includes a range of offences, however, there are two HO groups which represent the majority of offences; these are shoplifting and theft not classified elsewhere. Between them, they represent almost 80% of the offences in the Other Theft category, and are responsible for the majority of the increase. For this reason, this section will focus upon these two offence types.

The biggest issue influencing the increases in theft not classified elsewhere at present is the current trend for the theft of metal, and this has accounted for 35% in the reporting period. It has been established that worldwide demand has pushed up the prices of metal and this has led to local scrap dealers paying high prices for scrap metal. Local criminals are taking advantage of this situation and are stealing a range of metals and exchanging these for cash via the scrap yard or a middle dealer. The most common form of this is the theft of lead flashing which represents a quarter of all other theft offences. Other items of metal such as door furniture, outside taps and hinges, industrial components and scrap have also been reported stolen. It is likely that this type of theft would continue if left unchecked as the metal prices continue to increase. 49% of metals have been stolen from domestic premises, far more than any other single location types, although in terms of volume, some non-domestic premises are losing large quantities.

The next biggest property type accounting for 12% of all theft not classified elsewhere is garden items such as garden furniture, plants, hanging baskets, solar lights, etc. This is not a new trend with such thefts having occurred regularly over the years. Although it is difficult to confirm with the data we have, it is anticipated that this type of theft will reduce over winter months due to the reduced availability of items left outdoors and also reduced demand for such items during this time of year.

The last significant property type for theft not classified elsewhere is mobile telephones accounting for 11% overall. These items are stolen from a wide range of locations with licensed premises being the most common, followed by other commercial premises and dwellings. In many cases, the phone theft is coincidental with the theft of hand luggage or items of clothing.

Data quality issues have severely impeded the analysis of shoplifting offences. There are inaccurate usage of MO Keywords and the nature of some of the retail businesses make categorisation by type difficult due to their diverse ranges of stock. Property recording is also very poor with identical items described in many different ways, so no meaningful analysis has been possible with the data available.

Victim profile

There are 903 victims of other theft overall. Organisations and businesses account for 494 offences, which is 55% of all victims. For the 409 domestic victims, age and gender was evenly spread with no peak for any category. There were 49 commercial victims with four or more offences at the premises. Those with over 10 offences at the premises are detailed in the table below.

Table 1 –Commercial locations with 10 or more other theft offences

Location Name	Premise Type	Ward	Property Stolen	Total offences
TALL TREES HOTEL- YARM	LICENSED PREMISE	YARM	HANDBAG / WALLET ETC	19
CO-OPERATIVE RETAIL SERVICES LTD- REDHILL ROAD	SUPERMARKET	ROSEWORTH	SHOPLIFTING	14
ZANZIBAR NIGHTCLUB	LICENSED PREMISE	STOCKTON TOWN CENTRE	HANDBAG / WALLET ETC	14
ASDA STORES LTD- PORTRACK	SUPERMARKET	STOCKTON TOWN CENTRE	SHOPLIFTING	13
NEW CROSS KEYS- YARM	LICENSED PREMISE	YARM	HANDBAG / WALLET ETC	11
TESCO EXPRESS - NORTON	SUPERMARKET	NORTON NORTH	SHOPLIFTING	11
MARKS & SPENCER PLC - GOODWARD SQUARE	SUPERMARKET / CLOTHES STORE	MANDALE & VICTORIA	SHOPLIFTING	10

Offender Profile

There are 745 suspects linked to other theft offences (excluding those eliminated and/or without dates of birth); 117 are female (24%) and 568 are male (76%). Half of all suspects are Males aged between 18 – 34 years.

There are 29 suspects linked to more than four offences. One individual was linked to 28 offences and another person linked to 21 offences. Both of these are currently PPOs (Persistent and Prolific Offenders) and serving a custodial sentence. Another two of the remaining repeat suspects are also PPOs on community orders. Only three of the repeat suspects are female, and 20 (69%) are males between 18 – 34 years.

Location Profile

Stockton Town Centre is the top ward for other theft overall accounting for 25% of all offences. Not surprisingly this ward is also the top ward for shoplifting offences on their own accounting for 40% of these offences.

All wards have been examined by rates per 1000 population and seven wards are above the Borough average of 12.3. These wards have been highlighted in italics in the table below. The rates have also been shaded to show greater variation from the Borough average; red is more than twice the Borough average, amber is between half above and twice above the Borough average and green is half the Borough average or less.

Street location has also been examined and those of particular note are; Meridian Way in Grangefield with 12 offences, 10 of which were for theft of lead from new housing development building site. Durham Road in Newtown had 10 offences, two were at Tesco Supermarket, two were theft from cemetery and the remainder were theft of lead from dwelling roofs. Hampden Way in Stainsby Hill had nine offences, which were all varied and The Green in Norton North had seven offences, five were theft of lead from St Mary's church and two were theft of lead from Redhouse School.

Table 2 – Other theft offences by Ward

Ward	Total Other Theft	Rate per 1000 population	% of total Other Theft
<i>Stockton_Town_Centre</i>	<i>577</i>	<i>88.4</i>	<i>25.1</i>
<i>Norton_North</i>	<i>176</i>	<i>26.4</i>	<i>7.7</i>
<i>Mandale_and_Victoria</i>	<i>199</i>	<i>19.2</i>	<i>8.7</i>
<i>Parkfield_and_Oxbridge</i>	<i>118</i>	<i>16.8</i>	<i>5.1</i>
<i>Newtown</i>	<i>112</i>	<i>15.4</i>	<i>4.9</i>
<i>Hardwick</i>	<i>94</i>	<i>13.8</i>	<i>4.1</i>
<i>Yarm</i>	<i>126</i>	<i>13.2</i>	<i>5.5</i>
<i>Billingham_Central</i>	<i>80</i>	<i>11.8</i>	<i>3.5</i>
<i>Bishopsgarth_and_Elm_Tree</i>	<i>74</i>	<i>11.3</i>	<i>3.2</i>
<i>Stainsby_Hill</i>	<i>73</i>	<i>10.9</i>	<i>3.2</i>
<i>Roseworth</i>	<i>78</i>	<i>10.8</i>	<i>3.4</i>
<i>Billingham_East</i>	<i>72</i>	<i>10.6</i>	<i>3.1</i>
<i>Billingham_South</i>	<i>67</i>	<i>10.1</i>	<i>2.9</i>
<i>Village</i>	<i>59</i>	<i>9.3</i>	<i>2.6</i>
<i>Norton_South</i>	<i>69</i>	<i>9.1</i>	<i>3.0</i>
<i>Grangefield</i>	<i>58</i>	<i>8.8</i>	<i>2.5</i>
<i>Western_Parishes</i>	<i>20</i>	<i>6.2</i>	<i>0.9</i>
<i>Eaglescliffe</i>	<i>58</i>	<i>5.5</i>	<i>2.5</i>
<i>Northern_Parishes</i>	<i>14</i>	<i>4.3</i>	<i>0.6</i>
<i>Norton_West</i>	<i>27</i>	<i>4.3</i>	<i>1.2</i>
<i>Hartburn</i>	<i>26</i>	<i>3.8</i>	<i>1.1</i>
<i>Fairfield</i>	<i>23</i>	<i>3.7</i>	<i>1.0</i>
<i>Ingleby_Barwick_East</i>	<i>31</i>	<i>3.3</i>	<i>1.3</i>
<i>Billingham_West</i>	<i>14</i>	<i>2.4</i>	<i>0.6</i>
<i>Ingleby_Barwick_West</i>	<i>24</i>	<i>2.3</i>	<i>1.0</i>
<i>Billingham_North</i>	<i>16</i>	<i>1.7</i>	<i>0.7</i>
<i>Unknown</i>	<i>14</i>	<i>n/a</i>	<i>0.6</i>
Grand Total	2299	12.3	100.0

SUMMARY AND RECOMMENDATIONS

There are a number of data gaps that have impeded full analysis in this report. These are listed below:

ASB

- For juvenile ASB perpetrators their school is listed on Flare yet this was not populated enough to perform any meaningful analysis. The recording of the school of perpetrators should be addressed for preventative work.
- There was no analysis into the prevalence of gangs. There are some known gangs and data in relation to the gangs should be considered in future.

Drugs

- There was no treatment data provided by the DAT. This is a crucial flaw and should be addressed in the next assessment
- The crossover between drug users and dealers has not been established and future reports should aim to investigate this link.
- It was not possible to look at where offenders live due to issues with the recording system so no analysis could be completed on their home address.

Violence

- More Domestic Violence data needs to be sorted for inclusion in the report. In particular data from DV support agencies. The Police DV team have been recording more detailed information since July 2007 so there will be more data for inclusion in future assessments.
- The DV flag on recorded crimes is not accurate and therefore the true proportion of violence that is domestic is not being captured. This is a serious flaw and is impacting on the full understanding of DV in Stockton.
- The lack of information on home address of offenders and victims limited the analysis of locations.
- There has been no data provided by health authorities, which could help improve the picture of violence in the Borough, especially that which is not reported to the police. Work to secure A&E and ambulance pick up data for assault injuries should be a priority for the next assessment.

Criminal Damage

- The failure to properly key word the MO field has impaired the analysis of the nature of criminal damage. This needs to be addressed as damage continues to be a large problem and it is not possible to glean a full understanding of the nature of the problem.
- It would be interesting to know the tenure of damaged dwellings and this should be considered for future assessments.
- Once again the lack of information on home address of offenders and victims limited the analysis of locations.

Diverting Young People from Offending

- This section is not as straightforward as the other crime type based priorities so data was slightly limited. There was no attempt to look at where youth provision and youth work is currently located in the Borough and this could be useful for future work.

Other Theft

- Data quality issues impeded the analysis of shoplifting offences. Given that theft is currently the biggest problem in the Borough careful crime recording of all theft offences is crucial.
- Once again the lack of information on home address of offenders and victims limited the analysis of locations.