

In_depth discussion – Criminal Damage and Other Theft

1. Members will recall that we have a Criminal Damage Think Tank and Other Theft group that steers our work on these key priorities in the Community Safety Plan. At our last meeting following discussion about the Partnership Strategic Assessment members confirmed that Other Theft remains as our sixth key priority for the Community Safety Plan for 2009/10. This report is to be used to inform our in depth discussion topic which covers both Criminal Damage and Other Theft.
2. Criminal Damage

Quarter three performance monitoring covered Halloween and Bonfire night however figures showed a 32% reduction for October, 49.8% for November and 33% for December based on the same period last year.

On inclusion of January there is 62% decrease from the same four month period last year.

The most significant decreases are in criminal damage other at 46% and in damage to dwellings at 45% reduction between Nov to January based on the same period last year.

There were 268 suspects linked to 803 offences, of those there is one known repeat offender who has been detected and charged with three offences.

Thursdays, Fridays and Saturdays feature as key days for offences with the peak time of 6pm to 2am.

During January the following hotspots were identified:

- Hardwick – 32 offences
- Stockton Town Centre – 30 offences
- Newtown – 15 offences
- Norton North – 20 offences
- Norton South – 20 offences

There have been two recent arson offences of note both were recorded as deliberate offences by people linked to the properties.

Criminal Damage offences are reviewed each morning for discussion at intelligence meetings and details of clusters are passed to the neighbourhood police teams.

3. Other Theft

Police analysts and a 'Theft Champion' are developing an Other Theft Problem Profile and the recently appointed theft team will scrutinise crimes and investigations for this category.

Shoplifting – Fortnightly meetings are held with staff from shops within Stockton Town Centre but diary sheets are not being received. A number of Prolific and Priority Offenders are known shoplifters and CRASBO packages are prepared for the most prolific ready for their next Court appearance. Thornaby Town Centre is to set up a Safer Shopping scheme and dedicated officers have been appointed to two repeat locations for shoplifters.

Metal thefts – A three month trial has been carried out with builders on new housing developments on the use of anti vandal paint and lead flashing paint
A data-base is being compiled of all vehicles being used by scrap metal dealers

4. Members will recall that in March 2005 we agreed a number of principles that we will use to trigger our in depth discussions:
 - a) What do we know about the issue?
 - b) How reliable/complete is our information base?
 - c) What are we doing about the gaps?
 - d) What more could we do about the gaps?
 - e) Who bears the economic costs and the savings?
 - f) What have we tried so far?
 - g) How much has the intervention cost?
 - h) Do we think that we have been successful?
 - i) Have we been able to evaluate impact?
 - j) What else may be worth trying?
 - k) Can we afford these other possible interventions?

Community Safety Manger
23rd February 2009