

A Decade of Progress

1. Analysis has been undertaken of the changes in local and national crime figures between 1998/99, the year in which the Partnership was established, and 2008/09. During that period the population of Stockton-on-Tees grew by 6.7% and the population of England and Wales grew by 5.3%.
2. Over the same period, the reduction for overall crime rates were as follows:

Stockton – REDUCED by 22.8%
England & Wales – REDUCED by 12.6%

(Members of the Partnership may be aware that crime figures both locally and nationally increased in the middle of the period, due to changes in the counting rules which had the effect of inflating numbers).

3. The full results, showing crime analysed into ten broad categories, and showing both actual numbers and rates, are attached as Appendix A. It is generally accepted that rates are used as the basis for inter-area comparisons. On this basis, Stockton out-performed England and Wales as above in six of the ten categories, as follows (to nearest whole percentage)

	Stockton Reduction	England & Wales Reduction
Dwelling Burglary	71%	45%
Other Burglary	59%	41%
Theft from Vehicle / Interference	77%	43%
Other Theft	19%	4%
Forgery & Fraud	64%	45%
Drugs	134% increase	70% increase

Note It is generally accepted that an increase in recorded drug offences is a good thing, because it reflects effectiveness of enforcement activity, given that drugs offences are almost never recorded except on detection.

4. The four exceptions were:-

- (a) Theft of Motor Vehicles – where the national and local results were about identical; and

**Stockton
Change**

**England & Wales
Change**

- (b) Violent Crime + 189% +62%
Stockton has moved from a position of just less than half the national average rate to only 17% less than the national average rate.

- (c) Criminal Damage +35% +1%
This has taken Stockton from below the national average to above the national average. However, as demonstrated on an earlier agenda item, this reflects a much higher level of reporting of criminal damage in Stockton from the national average, which in turn reflects confidence in policing.

- (d) Other Crime +71% +6%
This is by far the smallest crime category, and Stockton is still below the national average. This category includes breach of ASBO, among other crimes.