

Recorded Crime – Long Term Performance

1. The publication of national recorded crime data in July provides the opportunity to compare our performance with national averages.
2. Appendix A attached shows both crime figures and crime rates (per thousand population) to compare Stockton, Cleveland and England & Wales.
3. Appendix B also shows a set of figures for 'rest of Cleveland' (i.e. Hartlepool plus Middlesbrough plus Redcar & Cleveland).
4. Headlines are that the reductions in crime rates (the best base for inter-area comparison) over the last six years are as follows:

England & Wales	– 31%
Rest of Cleveland	– 36%
North East Region	– 38%
Stockton-on-Tees	– 46%

i.e. we have significantly out-performed the national, regional and Force averages.

5. More detailed explanation of the 13 broad crime categories show that the crime rates for Stockton for 2009/10 are below the national rates for 12 of the 13 categories, and dramatically lower (by more than half) for robbery, theft from motor vehicle, and fraud and forgery.
6. The exception is criminal damage, where the Stockton rate (14.8) is marginally above the national average (14.7). On the face of it, this is a puzzle: why should Stockton's level of vandalism be higher than the national average, albeit only slightly, when we are significantly below for all the other categories.
7. Part of the answer lies in the reporting rates: comparison between Stockton's MORI survey and the British Crime Survey shows the following levels of reporting:

	National	Stockton
Vandalism to vehicles	31%	50%
Vandalism to home	40%	73%

8. It may be the case that it is precisely because more serious crime has been reduced so significantly, and confidence in Cleveland Police is much higher than the national average, that more people in our area take the trouble to report criminal damage.

9. Also attached, as Appendix B, is a graph showing crime rates by Ward for 2009/10 plotted against national and Borough averages. This shows that 21 Wards had a crime rate lower than the national average, the five exceptions being
Stockton Town Centre
Hardwick
Mandale & Victoria
Newtown
Parkfield & Oxbridge.
10. Finally, Appendix C shows the level of crime by month for 2008/09 and 2009/10. This graph shows the impact of the severe weather in December and, to a lesser extent, January, where a rough estimate suggests that the winter effects reduced the annual total by about 150 crimes (about 100 in December and about 50 in January).