

Crime figures down overall across Teesside

by Naomi Corrigan, Evening Gazette
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CRIME has fallen overall across Teesside over the last year, reveal the latest figures published by Cleveland Police.

But the force has seen a worrying rise in robbery, burglary and theft over the past three months.

The results, published by Cleveland Police today, show that in the past three months incidents of robbery rose force-wide by almost 15% and there were 145 more incidents of burglary.

Acquisitive crime in Middlesbrough rose by more than 27% between January and March compared to the same three months in 2010. And over the same periods there were 17 more robberies.

Over the past year, however, overall crime fell by 9%. Stockton revealed that over the past seven years recorded crime has almost halved.

Drug crime across the force is down by 13.6% and there have also been significant drops in violent crime, motor vehicle theft and criminal damage of 6%, 25% and 18% respectively.

In Stockton, the district commander, Superintendent Darren Best, said crimes across Stockton have fallen from 20,534 in the year 2003/04 to 10,832 in 2010/11, the year just closed.

"That's a reduction of 9,732, or 47%, in the number of crimes and crime victims each year," he said.

Comments (18)

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"When you take into account the fact that the population of Stockton has grown from 186,000 to more than 192,000 over the same period, the rate of crime per person is now down by 49%."

Geoff Lee, chairman of the Safer Stockton Partnership, welcomed the results.

"From systematic public opinion surveys carried out by Stockton Council over the years, we know that Stockton residents consistently report crime at levels much higher than the national averages," he said.

"We also know there have been stunning reductions in some of the most commonly reported types of crime, such as dwelling burglary, down by 76% over the last seven years, and vehicle theft, down by 80%.

"We also know we have outperformed the averages both for the North-east and for the country – across England and Wales the crime rate was down by 31% over six years to 2010."

Mike Batty, Stockton Council's head of community protection, added: "It's easy to forget how many services and organisations play a part in reducing crime levels.

"These results show just what strong partnership working can achieve, with the police council, probation service, fire brigade, Primary Care Trust, Youth Offending Service, Tristar Homes and others all key to this success."

:: For a full list of the figures visit www.cleveland.police.uk.