

Stockton Crime

Report for Safer Stockton Partnership - 14th February 2012

History

1. Stockton Borough has seen an overall crime reduction of 47.2% between 2003/04 and 2010/11 (rationale for using 2003/04 data is that this was the year that NCRS in its current format was initiated – i.e. comparing ‘apples with apples’. This equates to an actual reduction of 9702 crimes (20534 down to 10832)
2. Over the last four years Stockton has seen the biggest percentage drop in crime of any of the four BCU’s in Cleveland from a total of 17653 crimes in 2007/08 down to 10832 crimes in 2010/11, equivalent to a 38.6% reduction. In the same period M’bro have seen a 34.6% reduction, R&C a 38.4 % reduction and H’pool a 27% reduction.
3. Reductions in crime over the past three years have been significant and dramatic, 17.9% in 2008/09, 18.0% in 2009/10 and 8.9% in 2010/11
4. After the first six months of 2011/12 Stockton was on course to meet the target of having a reduction in crime by the end of the financial year, we were 6 crimes under target, even after 7 months the District was only 27 crimes up when compared to the same period in 2010/11 (i.e. April to October).
5. During 2010/11 and so far in 2011/12 on average Stockton District suffers between 950 and 1050 crimes per month, (for the first seven months of the year Stockton’s monthly out-turn varied between 990 crimes and 1016 crimes i.e. a variance of only 26 crimes) – this left us in the position of having a good chance of showing a crime reduction by the end of the financial year.
6. Prior to December 2010 the lowest ever crime recorded in a month was 817 offences; this was considered as unusual given that it was recorded in December 2009 when the region / country suffered heavy snow falls, other than that one month up until November 2010 Stockton had never recorded crime under a figure of 900 offences.
7. Towards the latter part of November 2010 we suffered a sustained period of snow / ice, on 20th November 2010 Stockton District was projecting a monthly outturn of 973 crimes, by the end of that month we achieved a total of 894 as crime fell dramatically in the last 10 days of the month.

8. In December 2010 the cold period continued and the District recorded 576 offences, December 2010 remains by far the lowest month of crime recorded in Stockton. This trend / anomaly continued into January (797 crimes) and February (817 crimes).
9. March 2011 saw the District return to steady and sustainable levels of decrease (912 crimes were recorded in March 2011, this represented a decrease of 157 crimes on March 2010)

Current Position

10. The beginning of November 2011 saw higher than usual levels of crime in Stockton (particularly offences of criminal damage, theft and burglary) as a result of a number of targeted operations by the end of the month the District started to reduce crime again, however we still recorded a figure of 1100 crimes, this was up by 206 crimes on November 2010.
11. In any other context December 2011 would be seen as a great month for Stockton with a month end figure of 866 crimes (the lowest single month in 2011/12) however as mentioned we had a figure of 576 to beat the previous year and despite our best efforts we didn't achieve it, meaning that we saw a further increase of 289 crimes.
12. At the end of December and as a result of the above we are now showing a FYTD increase of 522 crimes (6.3%)
13. Two thirds of the way through January 2012 we are projecting a figure of 950 crimes, (correct as of 21/1/12 from Solar Daily Crime figures), under normal circumstances this would be an average to good month, however as mentioned above in January 2011 we recorded 797 crimes (the second lowest ever figure for Stockton and apart from December 2010 the only other month the District has recorded under 800 crimes), on that basis it is anticipated that by the end of January 2012 our crime percentage increase will be greater than 6.3%.
14. Stockton remains the safest place to live and work in the Tees Valley, with an average of 16.01 crimes per 1000 population (based on IQuanta data - Sept to Nov 2011); other District figures are M (28.69), H (20.60), R&C (17.03).
15. Stockton District is the only BCU in the Force with crime levels per 1000 population below its Most Similar Force (MSF) average (i.e. 7.4% below the average) – all other Districts show crime levels above their MSF average (by varying degrees).

16. Stockton is on course to meet the 37% detection target set at the beginning of 2011/12 (37% represents a figure 5.7% above our MSF average (based on IQuanta data Sept – Nov 2011) and compares well to any national indicator.
17. Stockton is on course to meet the 5% ASB reduction target set at the beginning of 2011/12.

Activity

18. Our staff are briefed and are aware of the challenge that faces us for the remainder of 2011/12 we aim to have the lowest possible crime increase, however it is apparent that we will see a crime increase in 2011/12 (the first one we have seen since before 2003/04)
19. Our three Priority Crime Teams are focused on theft (particularly metal), burglary and car crime
20. Our Neighbourhood Officers each have an identified problem on their patch that they are working on to reduce crime and anti-social behaviour
21. In December 2010 we began an operation (Diamond) that focuses on the Town Centre Ward. The Town Centre ward suffers about 20% of all crime in Stockton District and as a result we have invested our entire Operational Support Team, as well as the Neighbourhood Team to tackling crime in that area – this will be a long term initiative that we anticipate will deliver results into 2012/13.
22. On 9th January 2012 we went into partnership with Hartlepool District to help tackle overnight crime problems in both Districts under the title of Operation Magpie – essentially this is a team of 2 Sergeants and 11PC's who work a shift pattern to ensure we have 7 day a week cover between 8pm and 4am to tackle overnight crime / criminals. In coming weeks / months we hope to build further on this arrangement.
23. We continue to invest in and work with partner agencies in Stockton to tackle Prolific & Priority Offenders and are engaged in a variety of joint operations (in particular those aimed at tackling theft offences)
24. Our overall direction for the remainder of 2011/12 and into 2012/13 will be towards a heavy focus on the offender side of the Victim, Offender, Location triangle, we are in the process of pulling together a further operation that will focus on National Intelligence Model identified targets – this will be led and directed by a Detective Inspector.

25. The Force Executive recognise the issues Stockton District is currently facing, (of note, at this point in January 2012, the other three Districts are showing a decrease in crime when compared to January 2011). In support of our efforts at Stockton and to help the Force in its overall effort to record a crime reduction in 2011/12, additional staff are being provided from Monday 23rd January 2012 to help us target crime / criminals in Stockton. A plan is in place to ensure those officers are used effectively.

26. In recognition that it is almost certain that Stockton District will see a crime increase in 2011/12, our ambition is to ensure any crime increase is as small as possible and that 2011/12 concludes as our second best ever crime performance, in that respect everything is still to play for.

Superintendent Darren Best
Stockton District Commander

21st January 2012