



# **Serious Violent Crime**

## **SCANNING DOCUMENT**

April 2011 – January 2012

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### **Most Serious Violent Crime – February 2012**

Serious Violent Crime (SVC) has increased by 37% for the period April 2011 to the end of January 2012 compared to the previous year; from 65 offences to 89. During the same period all violence against the person offences have reduced by 2% (-33 offences) meaning that a greater proportion of assaults are now within the most serious crime groups.

The majority of the increase is in relation to wounding offences (+15). The table below shows a breakdown of offences categories and the change over the last year.

<b>HO Group</b>	<b>2011/ 12</b>	<b>2010/ 11</b>	<b>Change</b>	<b>% Change</b>
1 - Murder	0	1	-1	-100%
2 - Attempted Murder	1	0	1	100%
4/4 - Causing Death by Dangerous Driving	2	0	2	200%
5A - Wounding or Carrying out an Act Endangering Life	41	26	15	58%
8F - Inflicting Grievous Bodily Harm Without Intent	45	38	7	18%
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>89</b>	<b>65</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>37%</b>

At the time of writing 30 of the offences had been detected; 27 resulted in a Charge and three offences were detected by means of Caution, Final Warning or Reprimand. This is an overall detection rate of 30.3%.

The majority of SVCs were not domestic; of the 89 offences only 17 were flagged as domestic violence (19%), which is much less than the proportion of all violence against the person that is domestic related which currently stands at 33%, but slightly higher than last year where 17% of SVCs were domestic. Furthermore, the domestic offences do not necessarily relate to people within a current / previous romantic relationship; many of these offences relate to siblings and other family members as well as circumstances that may not be domestic at all such as someone's current partner's previous partner.

The relationship between offender and victim is evenly divided between those known to the victim (49%) and those unknown (51%). This is similar to the previous year; 54% offender known to victim and 42% stranger (4% relationship unknown). The table below provides a full breakdown for this year.

<b>MO Relationship</b>	<b>Non-Domestic</b>	<b>Domestic Violence</b>	<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>%</b>
Stranger	41		41	46%
Acquaintance	23	3	26	29%
Other family member	1	5	6	7%
Spouse/defacto		3	3	3%
Boyfriend/girlfriend		2	2	2%
Ex partner		2	2	2%
Neighbour	2		2	2%
Not seen	2		2	2%
Fatal RTC	2		2	2%
Other	1		1	1%
Parent of offender		1	1	1%
Sibling of offender		1	1	1%
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>72</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>89</b>	<b>100%</b>

In total 38% of SVCs were recorded as being committed under the influence of alcohol and / or drugs, however this rose to 47% of domestic related SVCs. This is a reduction on 2010/11 where 45% of all SVCs were flagged as committed under the influence and 55% of DV SVCs. The table below provides a full breakdown for this year to date.

Committed Under Influence?	Non-Domestic	Domestic Violence	Grand Total	%
Unknown	32	7	39	44%
Yes	26	8	34	38%
No	14	2	16	18%
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>72</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>89</b>	<b>100%</b>

In relation to weapons, the majority of SVCs were committed using bodily force, most often punching and kicking. There were 17 offences where the victim had been stabbed with a knife or other sharp implement (19%), compared to 13 (20%) last year. The table below provides a breakdown of offences by weapon type. Of note, none of the offences involved a firearm.

Weapon	Total	%
Bodily force	58	65%
Knife / stabbed	17	19%
Other implement	7	8%
Glass	3	3%
Unknown	2	2%
Vehicle	2	2%
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>89</b>	<b>100%</b>

\* e.g. fence posts, metal pipe, ashtray

In total three wards accounted for just over half of all SVCs: Stockton Town Centre, Newtown and Mandale and Victoria. The table below provides a full breakdown of offences by ward, as well the number of SVCs that were committed under the influence and those that were DV.

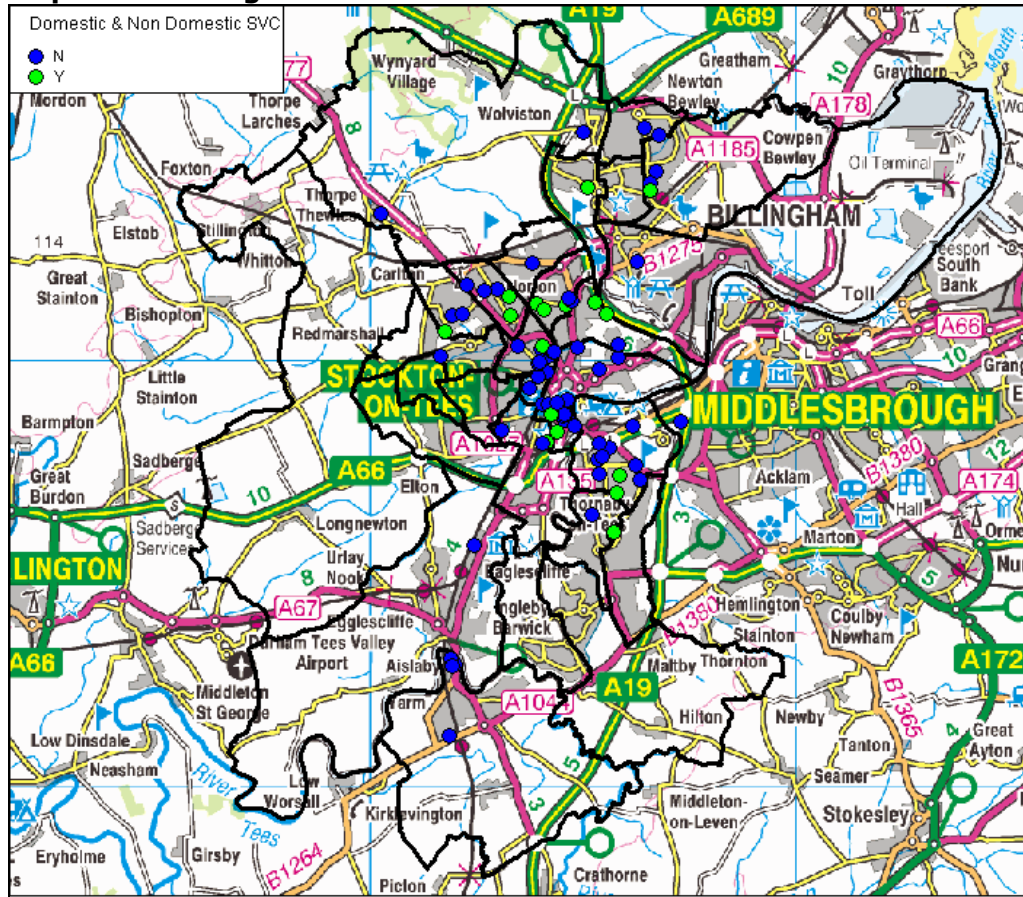
Ward	Grand Total	% total	Committed under Infl	% u. infl	Domestic Violence	% DV
Stockton Town Centre	25	28%	13	52%	2	12%
Newtown	12	14%	5	42%	1	6%
Mandale & Victoria	10	11%	2	20%	1	6%
Yarm	6	7%	4	67%	0	0%
Norton North	5	6%	0	0%	3	18%
Roseworth	5	6%	3	60%	2	12%
Norton South	4	5%	1	25%	2	12%
Billingham East	3	3%	0	0%	1	6%
Hardwick	3	3%	2	67%	1	6%
Parkfield & Oxbridge	3	3%	0	0%	1	6%
Billingham North	2	2%	1	50%	0	0%
Northern Parishes	2	2%	0	0%	0	0%
Village	2	2%	2	100%	1	6%
Billingham South	1	1%	0	0%	0	0%
Billingham West	1	1%	0	0%	1	6%
Bishopsgarth & Elm Tree	1	1%	0	0%	0	0%
Eaglescliffe	1	1%	0	0%	0	0%
Norton West	1	1%	0	0%	0	0%
Stainsby Hill	1	1%	1	100%	1	6%
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>88*</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>34</b>	<b>39%</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>100%</b>

\*Of note, one of the offences occurred at Gala Casino Teesside Park which is actually within Ayresome ward Middlesbrough but falls within a Stockton beat so it is recorded as a Stockton Crime.

Data from the same period in 2010/11 shows that Stockton Town Centre ward had most offences (18) followed by Newtown and Parkfield and Oxbridge both with six. Both Mandale and Victoria and Yarm wards had three offences in 2010/11.

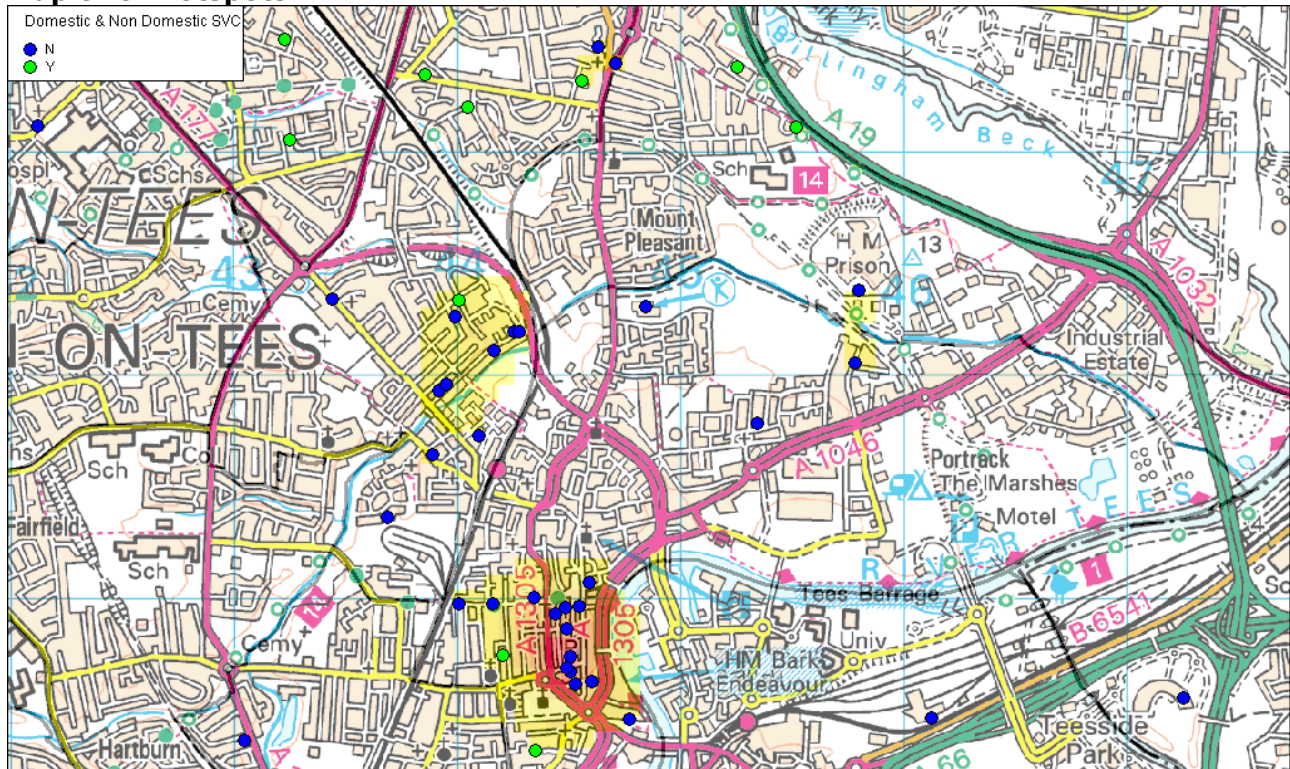
The map below shows an overview of all offences in the Borough, colour coded to show whether or not they were domestic related.

**Map one: Borough overview**



The following map shows an overview of the main hotspots of SVCs. In addition to the locations shown below Yarm High Street also features as a secondary hotspot location.

**Map two: Hotspots**



The main hotspot of Stockton High Street and surrounding area, and also Yarm High Street to a lesser degree would be expected to feature due to the close association with the night-time economy and shops. Within Stockton Town Centre ward just over half of all SVCs were committed with hours associated with the night-time economy<sup>1</sup> (56%, 14). Furthermore 52% (13) were committed under the influence of alcohol and / or drugs and 48% (12) were recorded as being committed in a licensed premise.

There were two repeat locations within Stockton Town Centre ward; four offences occurred inside Glam nightclub and three offences occurred at Jockers PH although only one was committed inside the premise. All of those offences were committed using bodily force and the offender was a stranger to the victim. Of note, none of the offences at Glam were flagged as being committed under the influence (three unknown and one not under influence) which suggests that this indicator is not necessarily being used reliably.

Newtown features as the second busiest ward and a main hotspot features around Dundas Street, with five offences recorded as occurring on Dundas Street. Only one out of 12 offences was domestic, five were committed under the influence and three of the SVCs involved a knife / sharp implement as a weapon. There was no particular peak day / time of offending with only a slight peak over the weekend.

There was no particular hotspot within Mandale and Victoria as the offences were spread throughout the ward. The two Causing Death by Dangerous Driving offences occurred within this ward (on the A66) as did the Attempted Murder whereby a 21 year old male was stabbed three times with a kitchen knife by another male unknown to him on Cobden Street / Mansfield Avenue.

## **Victims**

The majority of victims were young males aged between 18 – 34 years (88% male, 57% 18-34 yrs). However, for DV related SVCs the gender divide was much more even with 9 female and 8 male victims and the age groups were slightly older with 24 – 44 years accounting for 65% overall. The table below shows the relationship between victim and offender of domestic SVCs- those in a traditional DV relationship have been highlighted.

<b>MO Relationship</b>	<b>Female</b>	<b>Male</b>	<b>Grand Total</b>
Other family member	3	2	5
Acquaintance	1	2	3
<b>Spouse/defacto</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>Boyfriend/girlfriend</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>Ex partner</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>
Parent of offender	1		1
Sibling of offender		1	1
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>17</b>

## **Offenders**

Offenders were also mainly young males. In total there were 97 suspects connected to the 89 SVCs of which 85% were male and 43% were aged between 18 – 24 years. However, only 40 suspects had actually been charged or cautioned of which all but one were male and 45% were aged 18 – 24 years.

<sup>1</sup> Night-time economy hours are 7pm Friday / Saturday evening until 4am Saturday / Sunday morning

## **Summary**

SVCs are mainly linked to young males, often under the influence of alcohol. Some of these offences are linked to the night-time economy in Stockton Town Centre and Yarm, but most of the offences have occurred in residential neighbourhoods across the Borough. Very few offences are related to domestic violence and it is difficult to establish any real patterns to offending with most being committed by means of bodily force, usually punching and kicking.

The true extent to which alcohol plays a role in SVCs is unclear due to lack of accurate data recording and the over-use of the 'unknown' category. It is recommended that offences within the SVC categories are scrutinised more thoroughly to ensure that details such as alcohol and DV are recorded correctly.

The data does not provide sufficient detail to be able to establish a motive for offending. If SVC continues to be a problem it might be worth commissioning some research to uncover offending motivations, which could lead to more effective intervention strategies. This research could possibly be carried out by a University dissertation student and by gaining additional data from probation in relation to SVC offenders.