

OPERATION HAWK

INTRODUCTION

Operation Hawk was introduced primarily to tackle the dwelling house burglary problem, but, as is normal with this type of operation, it has been refined to tackle a broader range of criminality.

The Hawk team have four primary objectives:

1. To carry out plain clothes patrols both in unmarked vehicles and on foot to stop and search, where the appropriate grounds exist, persons out and about in highlighted areas at the core times.
2. To provide a lower profile silent response to crimes in progress to increase the chances of arrests at the scene.
3. To visit and gather intelligence in relation to district targets, Operation Shadow subjects and other highlighted offenders, in relation to their night-time activity in order to build a picture of their movements.
4. To make planned arrests of suspects where attempts to locate them during the day have failed.

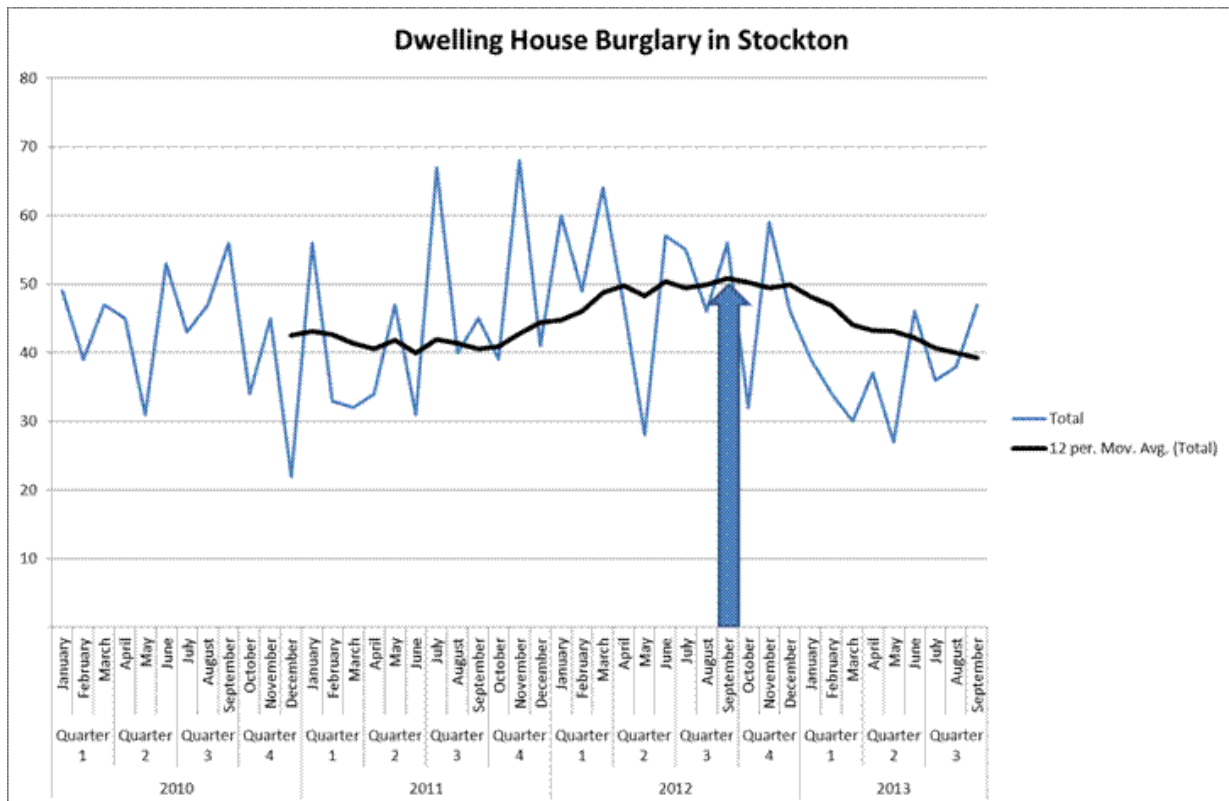
RESOURCES

The Operation Hawk team comprises two teams with four officers in each. They work 7 pm until 7 am on a 4 on 4 off basis.

These officers are from across the district and invariably have a natural enthusiasm for this type of work.

RESULTS

The below graph shows monthly house burglary stats for Stockton, with a 12-month moving average trend line. The arrow indicates the estimated start time for the operation.



EXAMPLES OF ACTIVITY

A number of examples where offenders have been arrested whilst in the act of committing offences, i.e. trying to steal cars, breaking into garages.

Arrests due to patrolling Operation Hawk team being in the right place at the right time.

When carrying out a visit of a target, officers were advised by the family that he was out in the Norton area. The team targeted their patrols accordingly and were on hand to respond quickly to a report of a garage being broken into in that area, arresting the target in a nearby garden.

SUMMARY

Operation Hawk has been constantly reviewed and refined; the last update was in September of this year.

The operation gives a dedicated team, free from any other responsibilities, the opportunity to have a pro-active impact on crime committed during night-time hours.

The impact is significant and at least once each week a really key piece of work is contributed by the team.

The operation will continue to be reviewed but the contribution made to Stockton District makes this a very worthwhile use of resources.