

Safer Stockton Partnership Report

11th September 2018

AGENDA ITEM: 12

REPORT OF: CFYA Operations Manager

Operation Trojan Briefing

1.0 Summary

- 1.1 The purpose of this briefing paper is to provide an overview surrounding the seasonal demand on services during the end of October and beginning of November leading up to bonfire night. Historically the partnership have previously experienced seasonal crime and disorder mainly amongst youths within our communities and town centre areas. This paper is presented on behalf of the wider Safer Stockton Partnership, who come together during this period in order to work toward and achieve a collective set of objectives, aimed at ensuring our communities remain safe from crime and disorder.

2.0 Information

- 2.1 Mischief Night in its modern day format is an Americanism, a day which is considered an informal holiday during which youths have historically engaged in tricks and low level anti-social behaviour. Here in Stockton on Tees, Mischief Night falls on the day prior to Halloween and this year falls on Tuesday 30th October 2018. For the past several years, Mischief Night has brought about a sharp increase in anti-social behaviour, criminal damage and disorder which is perpetrated by youths from the third week in October, until Bonfire Night on the 5th November.
- 2.2 In previous years, the Safer Stockton Partnership have jointly worked together in a combined approach under the banner of the Bonfire Strategy, also known as Operation Trojan. This joint strategy is centred on a program of targeted interventions on the lead up to this period, with a focus on education and diversionary activities aimed at problem areas across Stockton on Tees.
- 2.3 This cumulates in a dedicated response by all partners to crime and disorder, which historically has spiked on Mischief Night, Halloween and Bonfire Night. This year, the strategy will commence on Monday 22nd October 2018 until Tuesday 6th

November 2018. Preparatory work around planning, education and diversionary activity is already on-going having started in September.

3.0 **Statistics**

- 3.1 In planning for this year's strategy, the statistics from the last bonfire period have been considered alongside intelligence relating to our current hotspot areas which continue to cause problems for the partnership. An intelligence report relating to the same period in 2017 can be found at appendix 1.
- 3.2 During 2017, the wards with the highest levels of criminal damage and arson offences between the periods 24th October to 6th November 2017 where Stockton Town Centre (25), Billingham East (12) and Newtown (11). It should be noted that both Mandale / Victoria and the Village ward of Thornaby also featured prominently (10).
- 3.3 In considering the same strategy period last year, with levels of reported anti-social behaviour, both the Police and Stockton Borough Council data confirm again that the main areas of concern are Stockton Town Centre and Mandale / Victoria which had over double the amount of average incidents across all areas. That said, in comparing 2016 and 2017 periods, a reduction of 10% on ASB incidents was achieved (206 less offences). A summary report of last year's strategy can be found at appendix 2.
- 3.4 In line with the operational response in previous years, the combined resources of Stockton Borough Council, Cleveland Police, Cleveland Fire Brigade and Thirteen Housing Group will be co-ordinated together under Operation Trojan. It should be noted that Operation Trojan will be the local Stockton response to this period of demand however Cleveland Police also have a force wide strategy under Operation Autumnus.

4.0 **Response**

- 4.1 Running from the 22nd October until 6th November, Operation Trojan will be the pivotal in ensuring the collective resource of all agencies is utilised in an effective and efficient manner, to ensure that the key objectives of ensuring Stockton on Tees remains a safe place for both our residents and businesses. In order to achieve this, the operational response has been split into three key elements;
- 4.2 From September onwards, engagement with key schools and educational establishments within the previously identified areas has been taking place. This work, undertaken by School Liaison Officers from both Cleveland Police and Stockton Borough Council, has been aimed at ensuring that key messages surrounding the effects of ASB, deliberate fire setting and criminal damage are communicated including the consequences

of such acts. A comprehensive program of engagement will continue, right up to Bonfire Night in which it is envisioned that all schools and establishments will receive at least one visit during this period.

Further secondary education work has also begun, led by the Civic Enforcement Service, aimed at reducing the availability of combustible materials used in deliberate fire setting (also known as F4 fires). This approach, supported by both Cleveland Fire Brigade and Thirteen Group uses the latest fire setting intelligence to target key areas which arson and deliberate fire setting is of concern. The education work is based around ensuring residents and businesses are aware of the correct channels to dispose of waste, working with Care for your Area, whilst also making clear the potential consequences of failing in their duty of care including tenancy enforcement action.

- 4.3 Part two of the strategy aims at ensuring that suitable diversionary activity is in place to ensure that our known problem causes are effectively managed, especially on Mischief Night. Stockton Borough Councils Youth Direction and Preventions Team will be running a number of activities aimed at ensuring those youths who make up open and active cases, do not get involved in anti-social behaviour. Furthermore, the team is also taking referrals from the Safe Stockton Partnership as a whole, of youths who may be sitting on the boundary of offending during this period.

More specifically, a number of pre-planned events are currently being considered which includes differing levels of intervention. Youth clubs will be running as normal during this period with special consideration given to the key dates. Furthermore the voluntary sector have also been engaged to ensure as many facilities are open as possible to promote diversionary activity and for front line staff to sign post youths to these events.

- 4.4 The final element of this seasonal strategy surrounds the deployment of resources for the purpose of deterring, detecting and dealing with ASB, crime and disorder during the strategy period. Over the two-week period, thousands of staffing hours will be allocated across all partner organisations.

Effective from the 22nd October 2018, a deployment plan for Civic Enforcement Officers will come into effect. This plan co-ordinates extra resources into geographical areas, that have previously been identified as having the potential to cause further concern throughout this period. Until the 6th November 2018, all annual leave at peak times has been reduced and staffing hours have been altered in both Civic Enforcement and Surveillance to ensure the sufficient resources are available to deal with any eventuality. Whilst a structured method of deployment to key areas utilising existing intelligence has been devised, teams will retain the ability to react to unexpected events within a set of flexible parameters.

- 4.5 This year, resources within Care for you Area will be included within the deployment plan right up to 5th November. From the 23rd October onwards, staff from Care for your Area will be available up to 2200hours (1700hours on Bonfire Night) for the collective partnership to report waste that can be used as missiles and combustible materials used in fire setting for immediate collection. A single number for logging such requests has been arranged to ensure a timely flow of information.
- 4.6 During the same period, Cleveland Police will also have a similar deployment plan in place for Police Officers as part of Operation Autumnus. In order to better co-ordinate resources in Stockton on Tees, a closer level of harmonisation surrounding information sharing through the likes of joint briefings has also been arranged. This will be further supplemented by initiatives such as Police Officers working from the Stockton CCTV Control Room to ensure seamless joint working and the logging of incidents for any potential future investigations.
- 4.7 Finally, Cleveland Fire Brigade will contribute to the wider seasonal approach by focusing resources on ensuring the deliberate fire setting and the factors, which contribute to this such as poor waste presentation, and dumped vehicles are reported following a special reporting arrangement. Alongside this contribution to the overall intelligence picture, Cleveland Fire Brigade will have dedicated resources deployed to areas that have already been identified as having the potential to suffer from increased crime and disorder. This includes patrols by both fire crews and the introduction of small fire units which will allow flexible response to incidents within communities as they are identified.

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