Stockton-on-Tees BOROUGH COUNCIL
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Safer Stockton Partnership

Agenda

Date:
Wednesday 18 November 2026 at 9.30 am

Venue:
Council Chamber, Dunedin House, Columbia Drive, Thornaby TS17 6B

Agenda

1.	**Evacuation Procedure**	
2.	**Apologies for Absence**	
3.	**Declarations of Interest**	
4.	**Minutes**	(Pages 07 - 10)
5.	**Recorded Crime and Disorder Report**	(Pages 11 - 16)
6.	**Bonfire Period Overviews**	(Pages 17 - 26)
7.	**Serious Youth Violence Strategy**	(Pages 27 - 42)
8.	**Op Shield/ PSPO**	
9.	**Town Centre Violence Reduction Plan**	(Pages 43 - 50)
10.	**Crime & Policing Act - Changes**	
11.	**Prevent (CT)**	
12.	**Any Other Business**	
13.	**IQuanta Report**	
14.	**CSP Action Plan**	(Pages 51 - 68)



Jonathan Nertney
Head of Democratic Services

Members of the Public - Rights to Attend Meeting

With the exception of any item identified above as containing exempt or confidential information under the Local Government Act 1972 Section 100A(4), members of the public are entitled to attend this meeting and/or have access to the agenda papers.

Persons wishing to obtain any further information on this meeting, including the opportunities available for any member of the public to speak at the meeting; or for details of access to the meeting for disabled people, please.

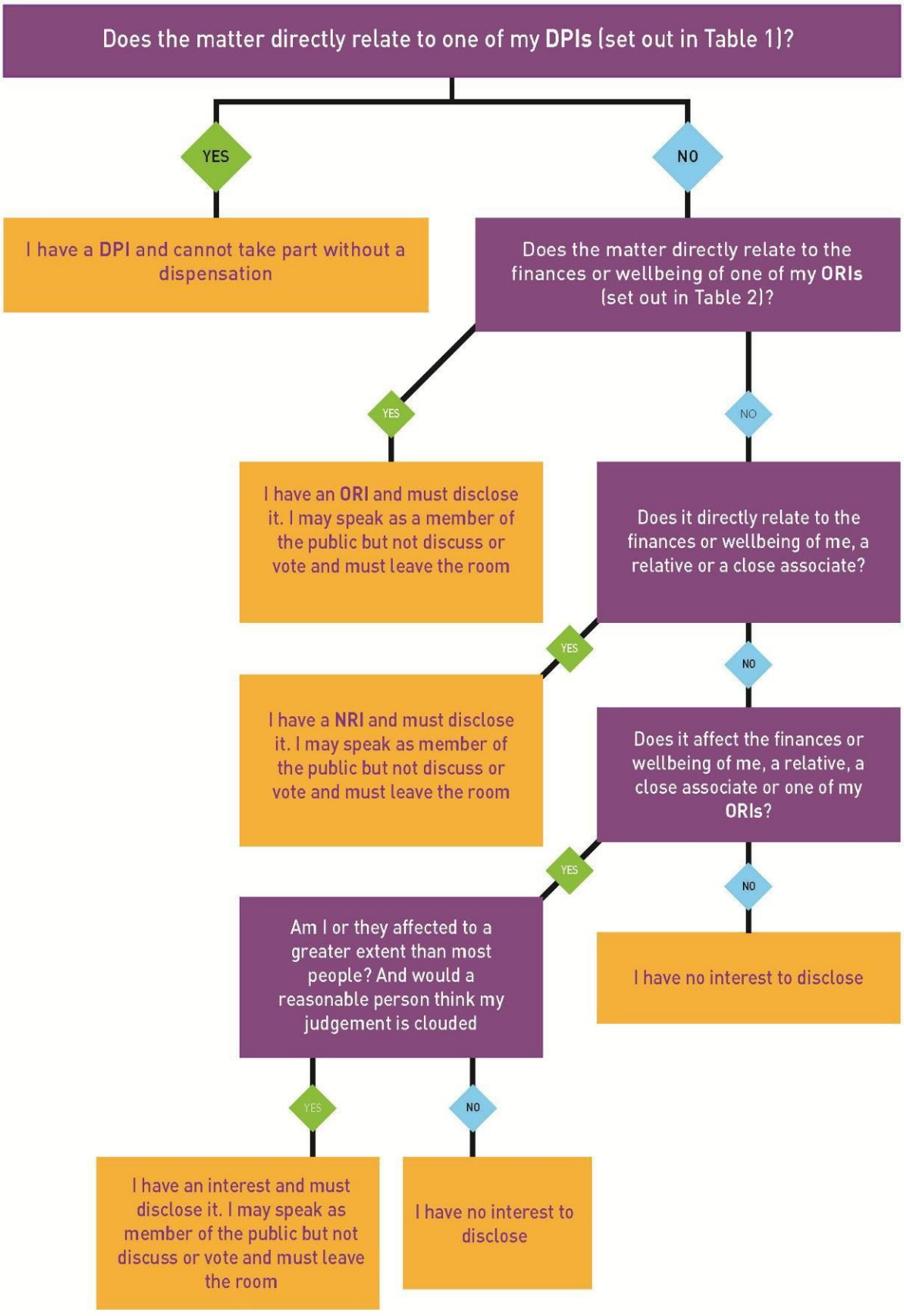
Contact: Democratic Services Support Officer - John Devine on email john.devine@stockton.gov.uk

Stockton-on-Tees BOROUGH COUNCIL

Key – Declarable interests are :-

- Disclosable Pecuniary Interests (DPI's)
- Other Registerable Interests (ORI's)
- Non Registerable Interests (NRI's)

Members – Declaration of Interest Guidance



Stockton-on-Tees
BOROUGH COUNCIL

Table 1 - Disclosable Pecuniary Interests

Subject	Description
Employment, office, trade, profession or vocation	Any employment, office, trade, profession or vocation carried on for profit or gain
Sponsorship	Any payment or provision of any other financial benefit (other than from the council) made to the councillor during the previous 12-month period for expenses incurred by him/her in carrying out his/her duties as a councillor, or towards his/her election expenses. This includes any payment or financial benefit from a trade union within the meaning of the Trade Union and Labour Relations (Consolidation) Act 1992.
Contracts	Any contract made between the councillor or his/her spouse or civil partner or the person with whom the councillor is living as if they were spouses/civil partners (or a firm in which such person is a partner, or an incorporated body of which such person is a director* or a body that such person has a beneficial interest in the securities of*) and the council — (a) under which goods or services are to be provided or works are to be executed; and (b) which has not been fully discharged.
Land and property	Any beneficial interest in land which is within the area of the council. 'Land' excludes an easement, servitude, interest or right in or over land which does not give the councillor or his/her spouse or civil partner or the person with whom the councillor is living as if they were spouses/ civil partners (alone or jointly with another) a right to occupy or to receive income.
Licences	Any licence (alone or jointly with others) to occupy land in the area of the council for a month or longer.
Corporate tenancies	Any tenancy where (to the councillor's knowledge)— (a) the landlord is the council; and (b) the tenant is a body that the councillor, or his/her spouse or civil partner or the person with whom the councillor is living as if they were spouses/ civil partners is a partner of or a director* of or has a beneficial interest in the securities* of.
Securities	Any beneficial interest in securities* of a body where— (a) that body (to the councillor's knowledge) has a place of business or land in the area of the council; and (b) either— (i) the total nominal value of the securities* exceeds £25,000 or one hundredth of the total issued share capital of that body; or (ii) if the share capital of that body is of more than one class, the total nominal value of the shares of any one class in which the councillor, or his/ her spouse or civil partner or the person with whom the councillor is living as if they were spouses/civil partners have a beneficial interest exceeds one hundredth of the total issued share capital of that class.

* 'director' includes a member of the committee of management of an industrial and provident society.

* 'securities' means shares, debentures, debenture stock, loan stock, bonds, units of a collective investment scheme within the meaning of the Financial Services and Markets Act 2000 and other securities of any description, other than money deposited with a building society.

Stockton-on-Tees
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Table 2 – Other Registerable Interest

You must register as an Other Registrable Interest:

a) any unpaid directorships

b) any body of which you are a member or are in a position of general control or management and to which you are nominated or appointed by your authority

c) any body

(i) exercising functions of a public nature

(ii) directed to charitable purposes or

(iii) one of whose principal purposes includes the influence of public opinion or policy (including any political party or trade union) of which you are a member or in a position of general control or management

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Safer Stockton Partnership

A meeting of Safer Stockton Partnership was held on Wednesday 16th September 2026.

Present: Cllr Norma Stephenson OBE (Chair), Cllr Pauline Beall, Cllr Clare Besford, Dawn Tyerman, Marc Stephenson, Alan Turner, Anna Waddington, Leanne Maloney-Kelly, Jamie Bell, Mark Hall, Andrew Stephen, Steven Harris, Adam Bateman, Mandy Mackinnon, Mandy Rowlands, Darren Hope, Sarah Bowman-Abouna.

Officers: **John Devine & Junita Agyapong.**

Also in attendance: NA

Apologies: Alan O'Donoghue (Deputy Chair), Ann Powell, Jen Moore.

SSP/13/26 Evacuation Procedure

The Evacuation Procedure was noted.

SSP/14/26 Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

SSP/15/26 Minutes

The Minutes of the previous meeting held on Wednesday 20 May 2026 were agreed as a true record.

SSP/16/26 Recorded Crime and Disorder Report

Members were presented with the Recorded Crime & Disorder report, the report focused on the recorded crime in the Stockton on Tees Borough over a 12-month period from August 2025 to August 2026

Officers highlighted the following sections of the report to Members:

- Total Crime numbers had risen by 27.5%
- Publicly reported crime & Police generated crime had also risen by 31.5% and 7.9% respectively.
- Increased amount of proactive Policing of historic offences which Officers explained would be partly due to the increases.
- A change had been made to how Robbery was reported which Officers informed members was the reason for the 81.7% increase shown in the report.
- Shoplifting had shown the largest increase of 156.3% which Officers and Members noted was connected to the continued Cost of Living Crisis.
- Drug related offences had seen a decrease of 7.4%.

Officers acknowledged that there were several areas of improvement noted with in the report but were confident that with continued work from their Officers improvements would be made.

Members also discussed the increase in Shoplifting, Officers explained that this was due to increased engagement with retailors and a streamlined reporting process.

Members AGREED to note the report.

SSP/17/26 DASG Annual Report

Members were presented with the annual update report on the Stockton On Tees Borough Council Domestic Abuse Strategy. Officers began by briefly giving an overview of the strategy for newer members of the partnership, before moving onto the three year update.

Officers highlighted the key achievements to members:

- Successful relaunch of the Safe at Home (sanctuary scheme).
- Increase in sanctuary provision.
- Significant growth in domestic abuse workforce training and awareness activities.
- Increased opportunities to identify domestic abuse.
- Improved perpetrator programme completion rates with Harbour.
- Improved data management and monitoring arrangements.
- Improved system collaboration on evidence-based interventions for children and families

The future priorities for the Strategy were also discussed with Members, Officers explained that they had started to explore the provision of female only temporary accommodation. As well as the sustainability of specialist services, support pathways for children and young people, how to respond on other prevalent issues such as child to parent violence and abuse (CAPVA) and responding to recommendations set out in local reviews on domestic abuse and the early years.

Members AGREED to note the report.

SSP/18/26 Fire Prevention Methodology

Officers from Cleveland Fire Brigade presented a report to members on “Tackling Fire Fatalities & Injuries Through Better Targeting”.

The report looked at changes which had been made in the County Durham & Darlington Fire and Rescue Service (CDDFRS) following a decrease in Accidental Dwelling Fires (ADF) but increased fatalities. Officers were keen to share the insights from the report with Members and implement the changes CDDFRS had already made.

Officers explained that ADFs in the CDDFRS area had decreased to an all-time low as of 2023/24 (199 instances), but Fire deaths were at an all time high of 7. A number of post fire reviews were conducted which found that if the 9 fire fatalities review 0 had been in the high or very high-risk rating, but they had all been medium risk of below.

The solution that was found was to enhance the NFCC aligned risk model, so that it incorporated additional information and factors such as Blue Badge holders, assisted bin collections and those receiving single person council tax discount. The CDDFRS reported that the results had been better identification of hidden vulnerabilities, more homes prioritised for Home fire safety visits (HFSV) and this created a clearer operational picture for crews.

Evidence of the success of the new approach was shown in the drastic drop in fatalities from a high of 7 in year to 31 March 2024 to only 1 in the year to 31 March 2026 period. A similar reduction was shown in the number of fire related hospitalisations from 8 severe cases in the year to 31 March 2024 to 1 severe case in the year to 31 March 2026 period.

Officers from Cleveland Fire Brigade stated their aim to implement this new approach from CDDFRS but they would need the help of all partners to make it a success. Partners agreed to work with the Fire Brigade to provide the extra data within the GDPR guidance.

Members AGREED to note the report.

SSP/19/26 Op Shield Update

Members were given an update on Operation Shield by Officers. Officers started the update by giving members a brief recap of Operation Shield, it had been launched in 2025 in partnership with Cleveland Police, Stockton Recovery Services, Stockton BID, Wellington Square, the Crown Prosecution Service as well as other partners.

Officers discussed the public consultation that had been undertaken on the new, expanded and strengthened Public Spaces Protection Oder (PSPO). It was noted that support for the new version of the PSPO had peaked at 97.4%. However there had also been a number of pessimistic comments with members of the public stating “What’s the point in changing the PSPO, if we aren’t going to enforce it?”. That feedback and all other feedback had been brought back to the dedicated Town Centre Officers, which had led to an increase in the level of productivity.

This was evidenced by the increased level of proactive disruption of anti-social behaviour (ASB). Officers showed examples of this by informing members that between April 2025 and August 2025 there had been a recorded 56 uses of the PSPO. But since the new PSPO had come into effect between April 2026 to August 2026 there had been 298 recoded uses of the PSPO.

Officers and Partners agreed that it was important that through visible and proactive prevention of ASB that public confidence in the PSPO would grow.

Members praised Officers and partners for their hard work, commitment and to the joint work being undertaken to deliver the PSPO.

Members AGREED to note the report.

SSP/20/26 Prevent (CT) Update

Following an annual inspection from the Home Office Stockton on Tees Council had passed its assessment. There were no other updates on Local cases to bring to members attention at the time of the meeting.

Members AGREED to note the report.

SSP/21/26 Any Other Business

At the commencement of the meeting Members and Partners observed a moment of silence for PC Tom Clough and PC Matthew Blades who were tragically killed in the line of duty.

SSP/22/26 PSPO

This report was restricted due to the links to Information relating to any action taken or to be taken in connection with the prevention, investigation or prosecution of crime.

AGREED that the report be noted.

SSP/23/26 Project Forge

This report was restricted due to the links to Information relating to any action taken or to be taken in connection with the prevention, investigation or prosecution of crime.

AGREED that the report be noted.

SSP/24/26 IQuanta Report

Members were presented with a restricted report that provided an overview on crime comparisons against other similar CSPs utilising iQuanta.

This report was a restricted document due to the statistical information only made available as an intelligence tool for partnerships until released by the Home Office.

AGREED that the report be noted.

SSP/25/26 CSP Action Plan

Due to the connection to an ongoing Police investigation this Agenda Item was restricted.

AGREED that the report be noted.

Chair: .....

Crime and Disorder Report

Meeting date : 18th November 2026

Data period 01/10/2025 – 31/10/2026

Prepared by – Stockton Borough Council Information and Intelligence Team

This report provides an overview on recorded crime, anti-social behaviour incidents and domestic abuse in the Borough of Stockton-on-Tees for the 12-month period. The bulk of the statistics utilised for this report have been obtained from Cleveland Police crime statistic databases with the figures correct at the time of data extraction. The data is extracted from a 'live' systems and therefore remains the subject of on-going operational activity, audit and scrutiny.

This report will not provide any detailed analysis unless there are any substantial changes to patterns or trends.

Executive Summary

Reporting period: 01/10/2025 – 31/10/2026

Data Extraction Date – 06/11/2026

	General Analysis	Total	Direction	% Diff on Previous yr
	Population The rate per 1,000 population (all ages) for publicly reported crime in Stockton on Tees for current reporting period. *Source: Mid-Year Population Estimates, UK, 2024*	**105.8**		
	Publicly reported offences Included crimes such as drug offences, public disorder and possession on weapons	**22510**	↑	**+35.2%**
	Police generated crime Includes crimes such as drug offences, public disorder and possession of weapons,	**1840**	↑	**+0.4%**
	Total crime recorded	**26189**	↑	**30.2%**
	Publicly reported Anti-Social Behaviour – Police as at 06/11/26	**3863**	↓	**-28.2%**
	Anti-Social Behaviour – Stockton Borough Council Community Safety Including noise and alcohol related issues publicly and officer generated as at 16/11/26	**4472**	↓	**-13.8%**

Crime Overview – Year Comparison

Table 1

Cleveland Police Crime Statistics for Stockton-on-Tees:
October 2025 – October 2026

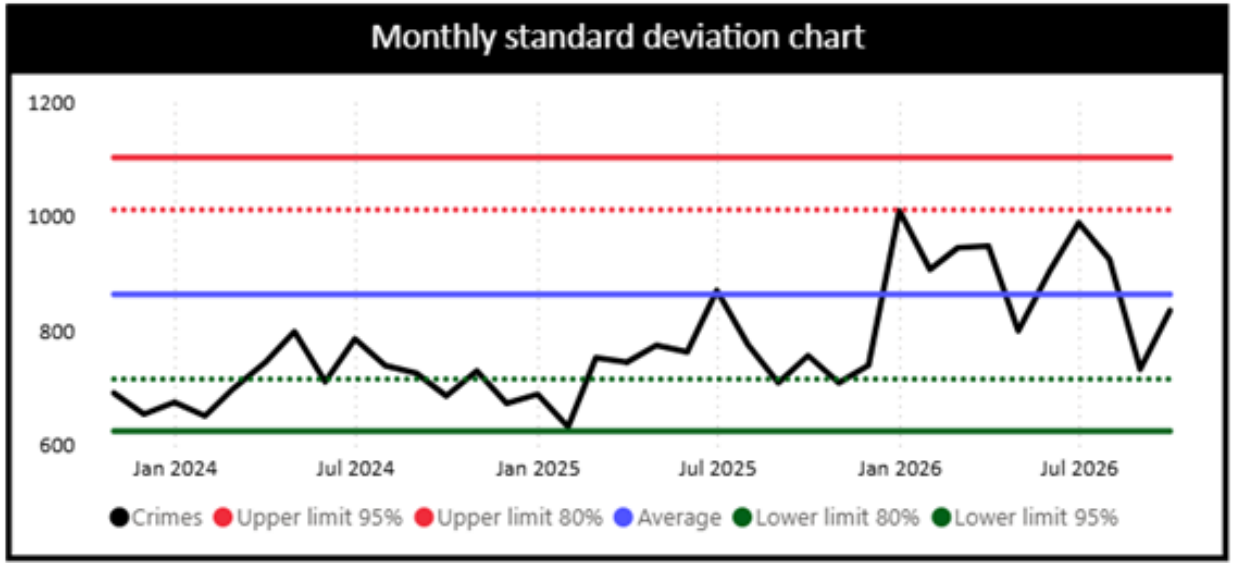
Violence, Sexual Offences and Robbery

SOURCE: Cleveland Police monthly crime statistics database

Publicly reported offences

- **VIOLENCE overall is up 16.3%**
- **STALKING AND HARASSMENT has showed the largest reduction with -1.1%**
- **ROBBERY is showing an increase with 90.7%**

Crime	Selected Month			Last 6 Months			Last 12 Months		
-	Current	Diff	% Diff	Current	Diff	% Diff	Current	Diff	% Diff
Victim Based Crime	**834**	**79**	**10.5%**	**5176**	**536**	**11.6%**	**10427**	**1577**	**17.8%**
Violence	**676**	**42**	**6.6%**	**4363**	**390**	**9.8%**	**8882**	**1247**	**16.3%**
Violence Without Injury	273	25	10.1%	1765	233	15.2%	3616	606	20.1%
Stalking and Harassment	228	1	0.4%	1320	50	3.9%	2522	-27	-1.1%
Violence With Injury	175	17	10.8%	1271	103	8.8%	2733	662	32.0%
Death or serious injury caused by illegal driving				5	5	Infinity	6	4	200.0%
Homicide		-1	-100.0%	2	-1	-33.3%	5	2	66.7%
Sexual Offences	**100**	**2**	**2.0%**	**505**	**5**	**1.0%**	**1009**	**75**	**8.0%**
Other Sexual Offences	71	7	10.9%	330	-1	-0.3%	635	26	4.3%
Rape	29	-5	-14.7%	175	6	3.6%	374	49	15.1%
Robbery	**58**	**35**	**152.2%**	**308**	**141**	**84.4%**	**536**	**255**	**90.7%**
Total	**834**	**79**	**10.5%**	**5176**	**536**	**11.6%**	**10427**	**1577**	**17.8%**



Crime Overview – Year Comparison

Table 2

Cleveland Police Crime Statistics for Stockton-on-Tees:
October 2025 – October 2026

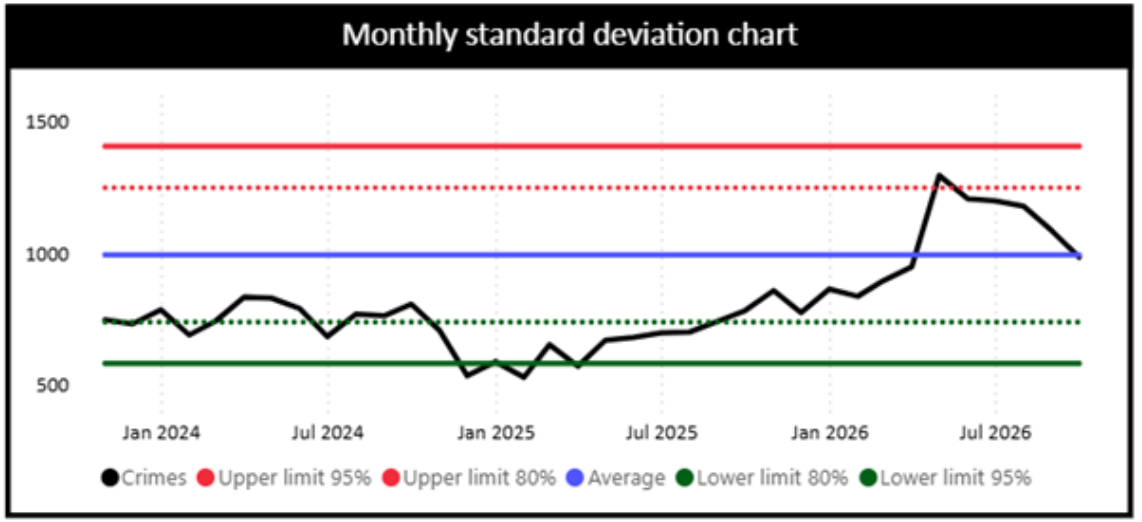
Theft, Criminal Damage and Arson

SOURCE: Cleveland Police monthly crime statistics database

Publicly reported offences

- **THEFT overall is up 75%**
- **ARSON has showed the largest reduction with -11.2%**
- **SHOPLIFTING has shown the largest increase with 168.4%**

Crime	Selected Month			Last 6 Months			Last 12 Months		
-	Current	Diff	% Diff	Current	Diff	% Diff	Current	Diff	% Diff
Victim Based Crime	**981**	**203**	**26.1%**	**6931**	**2686**	**63.3%**	**12083**	**4286**	**55.0%**
Theft Offences	**775**	**201**	**35.0%**	**5662**	**2606**	**85.3%**	**9652**	**4135**	**75.0%**
Shoplifting	388	102	35.7%	3375	2222	192.7%	5445	3416	168.4%
Vehicle Offences	107	33	44.6%	754	234	45.0%	1358	366	36.9%
All Other Theft Offences	114	18	18.8%	719	-1	-0.1%	1384	63	4.8%
Burglary Residential	118	51	76.1%	506	119	30.7%	885	179	25.4%
Burglary Business and Community	21	-13	-38.2%	167	-3	-1.8%	336	72	27.3%
Bicycle Theft	17	1	6.3%	81	12	17.4%	139	8	6.1%
Theft From The Person	10	9	900.0%	60	23	62.2%	105	31	41.9%
Criminal Damage & Arson	**206**	**2**	**1.0%**	**1269**	**80**	**6.7%**	**2431**	**151**	**6.6%**
Criminal Damage	197	3	1.5%	1185	99	9.1%	2280	170	8.1%
Arson	9	-1	-10.0%	84	-19	-18.4%	151	-19	-11.2%
Total	**981**	**203**	**26.1%**	**6931**	**2686**	**63.3%**	**12083**	**4286**	**55.0%**



Crime Overview – Year Comparison

Table 3

Cleveland Police Crime Statistics for Stockton-on-Tees:
October 2025 – October 2026

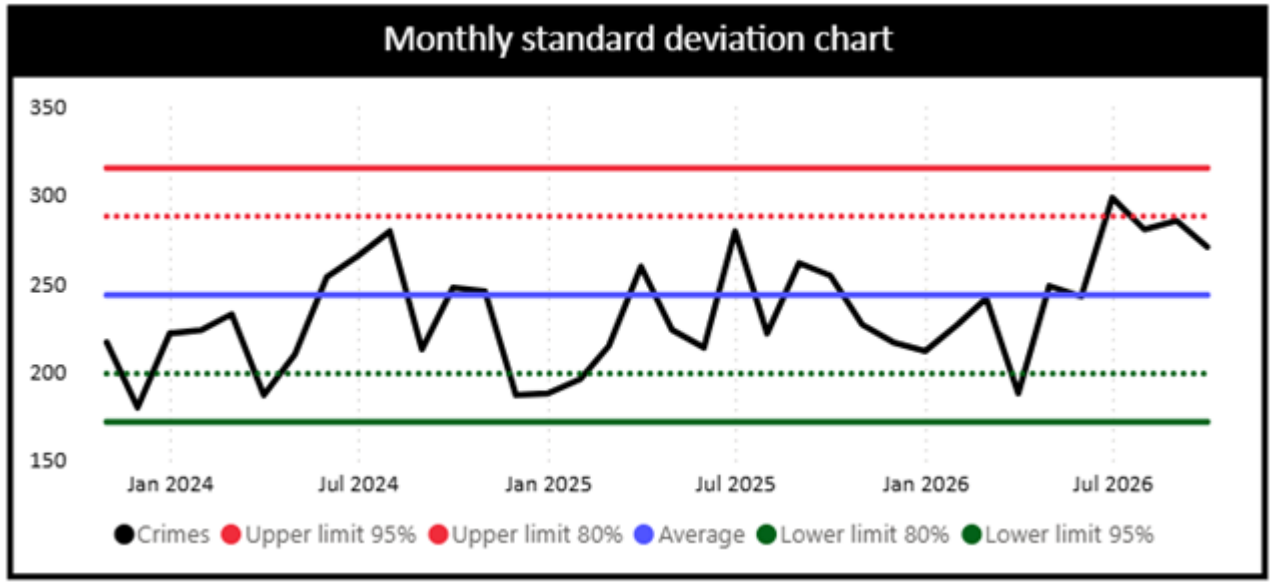
Public Order, Drug Offences and Weapons

SOURCE: Cleveland Police monthly crime statistics database

Publicly reported offences

- **DRUG offences show a decrease of -12.2% overall on the previous 12-month period.**
- **Weapons Offences have increased by 41.1%**

Crime	Selected Month			Last 6 Months			Last 12 Months		
-	Current	Diff	% Diff	Current	Diff	% Diff	Current	Diff	% Diff
Public Order Offences Offences	**161**	**27**	**20.1%**	**1043**	**135**	**14.9%**	**1839**	**203**	**12.4%**
Public Order Offences Offences	**161**	**27**	**20.1%**	**1043**	**135**	**14.9%**	**1839**	**203**	**12.4%**
Public Order Offences Offences	161	27	20.1%	1043	135	14.9%	1839	203	12.4%
Non victim based	**109**	**-11**	**-9.2%**	**580**	**37**	**6.8%**	**1091**	**-10**	**-0.9%**
Drug Offences	**78**	**-19**	**-19.6%**	**397**	**-47**	**-10.6%**	**783**	**-109**	**-12.2%**
Drug Possession	68	21	44.7%	313	42	15.5%	573	63	12.4%
Drug Trafficking	10	-40	-80.0%	84	-89	-51.4%	210	-172	-45.0%
Weapons Possession Offences	**30**	**7**	**30.4%**	**172**	**73**	**73.7%**	**295**	**86**	**41.1%**
Weapons Possession Offences	30	7	30.4%	172	73	73.7%	295	86	41.1%
Public Order Offences	**1**	**1**	**Infinity**	**11**	**11**	**Infinity**	**13**	**13**	**Infinity**
Public Order Offences	1	1	Infinity	11	11	Infinity	13	13	Infinity
Total	**270**	**16**	**6.3%**	**1623**	**172**	**11.9%**	**2930**	**193**	**7.1%**



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Safer Stockton Partnership Group

18 November 2026

Protecting People, Places & Futures

All Fires - 19 October to 08 November

All Fires – Stockton District					
	2026/27	2025/26	5 Year Average	% 5 Year Average	% 25/26
Primary	15	19	14	-7%	-21%
Secondary	110	75	59	+47%	+86%

Stockton District 2025/26	
Top 3 Sub Types (Whole District)	• Refuse (65) • Wheelie bin (13) • Scrub Land (11)
Cause of Fires	• Deliberate (114) • Accidental (11)

Top 5 Wards	All Fires 2025/26	% District
Hardwick & Salters Lane	23	18%
Village	18	14%
Billingham East	11	9%
Billingham Central	11	9%
Stainsby Hill	10	8%

Deliberate Fires - 19 October to 08 November

Deliberate Fires – Stockton District					
	2026/27	2025/26	5 Year Average	% 5 Year Average	% 25/26
Deliberate Primary	6	10	9	-40%	-33%
Deliberate Secondary	108	65	64	+66%	+69%

Stockton District 2025/26	
Top 3 Sub Types (Whole District)	• Refuse (64) • Wheelie bin (13) • Scrub Land (11)
Cause of Fires	• Deliberate (114) • Accidental (11)

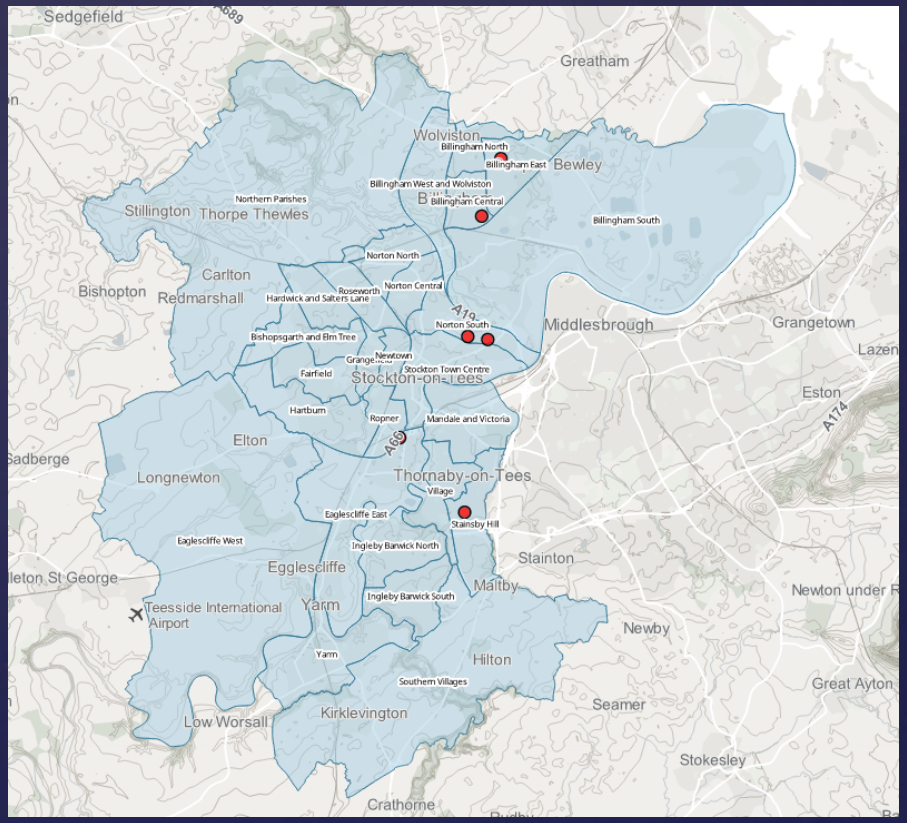
Top 5 Wards	All Fires 2025/26	% District
Hardwick & Salters Lane	23	20%
Village	16	14%
Billingham East	11	10%
Stainsby Hill	9	8%
Billingham South	9	8%
Billingham Central	9	8%

Deliberate Primary Fires – 19 October to 08 November 2026

Deliberate Primary Fires – Stockton District					
	2026/27	2025/26	5 Year Average	% 5 Year Average	% 25/26
Deliberate Primary	6	10	9	-40%	-33%

Stockton District 2025/26	
Sub Types (Whole District)	• Camping Tent • Car • Prison • Dwelling • Caravan • Motorcycle

Stockton District 2025/26	
Wards	• Norton South (2) • Billingham Central (1) • Stainsby Hill (1) • Eaglescliffe East (1) • Billingham East (1)

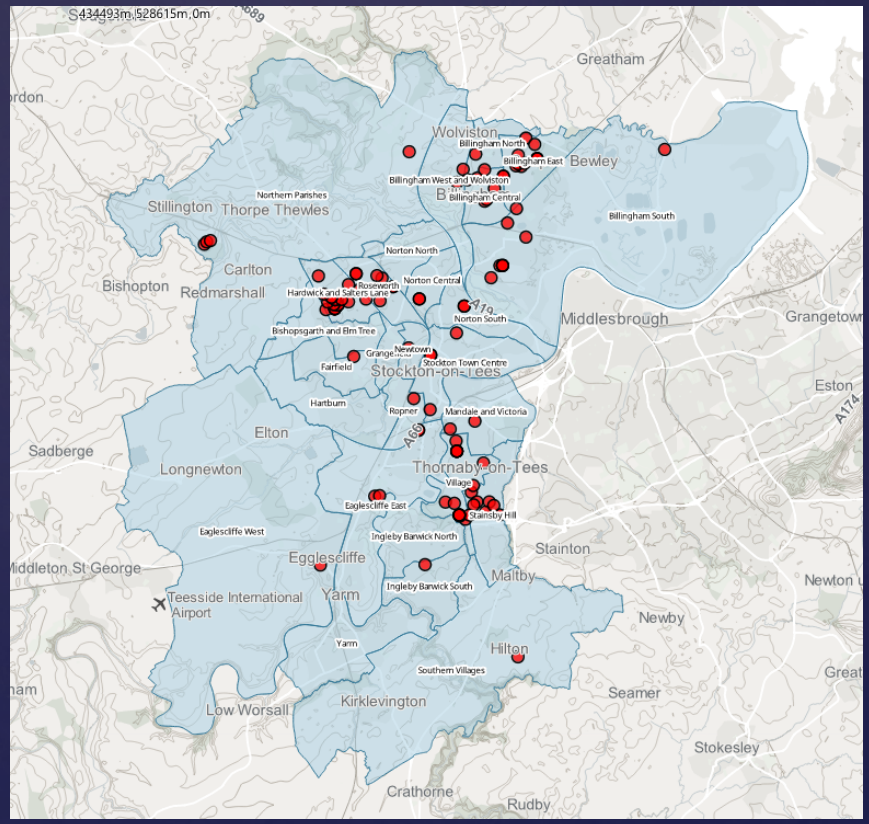


Deliberate Secondary Fires – 19 October to 08 November 2026

Deliberate Secondary Fires – Stockton District					
	2026/27	2025/26	5 Year Average	% 5 Year Average	% 25/26
Deliberate Secondary	108	65	64	+66%	+69%

Stockton District 2025/26	
Top 3 Sub Types (Whole District)	• Refuse (64) • Wheelie bin (13) • Scrub land (11)

Stockton District 2025/26	
Top 3 Wards	• Hardwick & Salters Lane (23) • Village (16) • Billingham East (10)



All Fires Wards - 19 October to 08 November

Wards - 2026	All Fires
Billingham Central	11
Billingham East	11
Billingham North	1
Billingham South	9
Billingham West and Wolviston	3
Eaglescliffe East	5
Eaglescliffe West	1
Fairfield	1
Grangefield	1
Hardwick and Salters Lane	23
Ingleby Barwick South	1
Mandale and Victoria	2
Newtown	1
Northern Parishes	5
Norton Central	3
Norton South	5
Ropner	1
Roseworth	8
Southern Villages	1
Stainsby Hill	10
Stockton Town Centre	4
Village	18
Grand Total	**125**

Wards - 2025	All Fires
Billingham Central	13
Billingham East	10
Billingham North	2
Billingham South	8
Billingham West and Wolviston	3
Bishopsgarth and Elm Tree	1
Eaglescliffe East	2
Eaglescliffe West	1
Hardwick and Salters Lane	16
Ingleby Barwick North	1
Mandale and Victoria	4
Newtown	2
Northern Parishes	1
Norton Central	3
Norton South	10
Roseworth	4
Southern Villages	1
Stainsby Hill	4
Stockton Town Centre	3
Village	4
Yarm	1
Grand Total	**94**

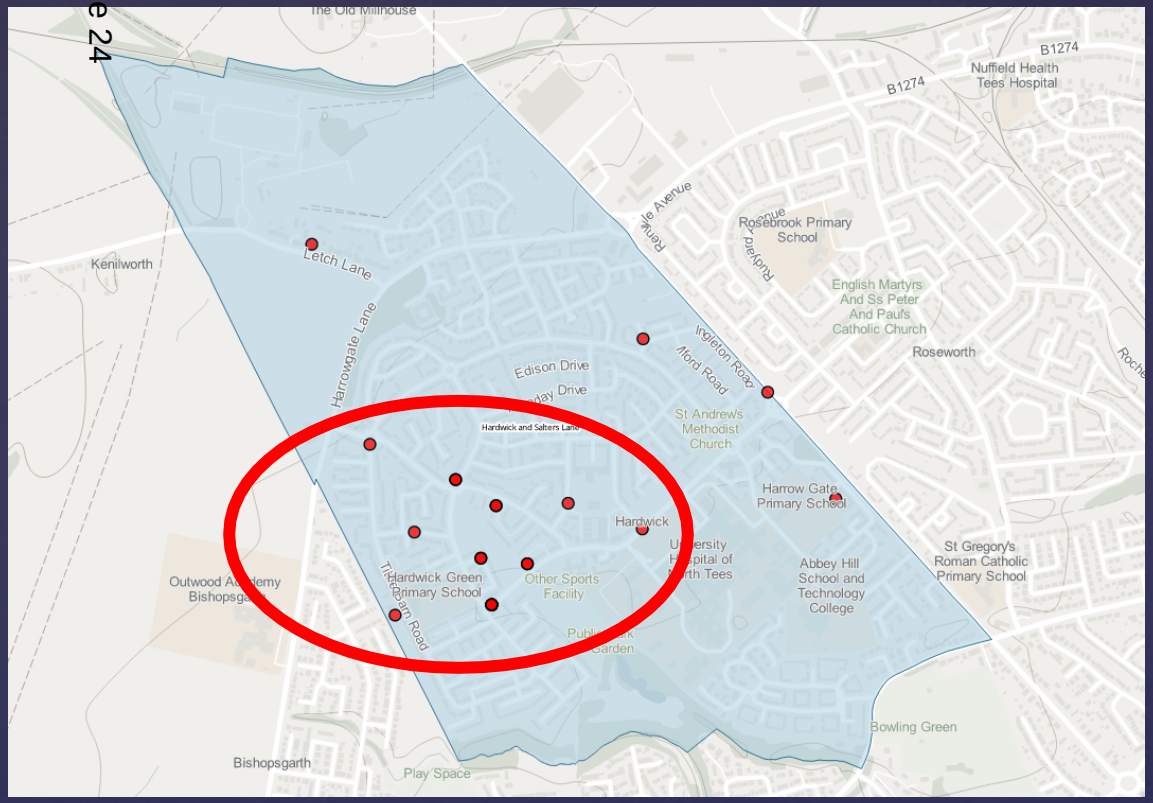
Deliberate Fires Wards - 19 October to 08 November

Wards - 2026	Delibrate Fires
Billingham Central	9
Billingham East	11
Billingham North	1
Billingham South	9
Billingham West and Wolviston	2
Eaglescliffe East	5
Eaglescliffe West	1
Fairfield	1
Hardwick and Salters Lane	23
Ingleby Barwick South	1
Mandale and Victoria	2
Newtown	1
Northern Parishes	4
Norton Central	2
Norton South	4
Ropner	1
Roseworth	7
Southern Villages	1
Stainsby Hill	9
Stockton Town Centre	4
Village	16
Grand Total	**114**

Wards - 2025	Deliberate Fires
Billingham Central	9
Billingham East	7
Billingham North	2
Billingham South	6
Billingham West and Wolviston	2
Bishopsgarth and Elm Tree	1
Eaglescliffe East	2
Eaglescliffe West	1
Hardwick and Salters Lane	15
Ingleby Barwick North	1
Mandale and Victoria	3
Newtown	1
Northern Parishes	1
Norton Central	3
Norton South	7
Roseworth	3
Southern Villages	1
Stainsby Hill	4
Stockton Town Centre	2
Village	3
Yarm	1
Grand Total	**75**

Hotspot Area: Hardwick & Salters Lane - All Fires

19 October to 08 November 2026



Key Findings– 23 Fire Incidents

- During the reporting period there have been 0 primary fires and 23 secondary fires in this area (all were deemed to have deliberate causes), of which, 14 refuse, 3 scrub land, 3 wheelie bin, 1 small refuse container, 1 hedge and 1 grassland.

- 6 incidents occurred on the High Newham Road, of which, 2 wheelie bin, 1 grassland, 1 scrub land, 1 loose refuse and 1 small refuse container. .

- All incidents occurred between the hours of 07:00 and 00:59. 15 incidents occurred between 17:00 and 20:59.

VTS -19 October to 08 November

VTS– Stockton District			
	2026/27	2025/26	% 25/26
VTS	0	4	-100%

Stockton VTS			
Date	Ward	Location	Type of Attack
n/a			

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Stockton-on-Tees Serious Youth Violence Strategy - 2026–2031

Stockton-on-Tees BOROUGH COUNCIL

Probation Service

CLEVELAND POLICE

NHS North East and North Cumbria

POLICE AND CRIME COMMISSIONER FOR CLEVELAND

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Forword



From Majella McCarthy – Director of Children's Services

We are committed to ensuring that all children and young people in Stockton-on-Tees are safe, nurtured and able to thrive. We recognise that serious youth violence is an increasing concern both nationally and locally, and that addressing it requires sustained early intervention, trusted relationships and resilient communities.

This is an ambitious five-year strategy, recognising that preventing and reducing serious youth violence is a long-term endeavour that will require consistent commitment, partnership working and system transformation over time. Meaningful change will not be achieved quickly; it requires a whole-system, public health approach that tackles root causes, strengthens protective factors and embeds prevention at every stage of a child's life.

The strategy sets out how we will work collectively to prevent and reduce serious youth violence through a public health, whole-system approach. It is informed by local evidence and shaped by the voices of children, young people, families and communities. It outlines our shared vision, principles and priorities, the Stockton-on-Tees needs profile, our key actions, and how progress and impact will be measured over time.

Our strong multi-agency partnership has worked collaboratively to target action to disrupt adults and organised crime groups who exploit children. This includes problem-solving approaches with Cleveland Police, Community Safety, Youth Justice, Education and the voluntary sector, with a particular focus on hotspot locations and areas of concern alongside safeguarding-led responses to protect children.

This is a dynamic and ambitious strategy, developed in line with the Serious Violence Duty. It will be underpinned by an annual delivery plan to ensure it remains responsive to emerging risks, learning and evidence. The delivery plan will be regularly reviewed by the Board, to ensure the strategy remains aligned with the Cleveland Violence Reduction Unit's overarching strategy and the wider priorities of Stockton-on-Tees, while maintaining a clear long-term focus on achieving sustained reductions in serious youth violence and improved outcomes for children and young people.

From Councillor – Clare Besford

Every child and young person in Stockton-on-Tees deserves to grow up safe, supported and able to look to the future with confidence. As Cabinet Member for Children and Young People, I welcome this Serious Youth Violence Strategy as an important statement of our shared determination to prevent harm, reduce inequality and ensure that every child has the best possible start in life.

The impact of serious youth violence reaches far beyond individual incidents. It can leave young people feeling unsafe, limit their confidence and opportunities, and place additional pressure on families who are working hard to protect and support their children. It also affects wider communities, creating fear, damaging trust and weakening the sense of belonging that is so important to strong neighbourhoods. Recognising this harm is why our response must be compassionate, urgent and focused on lasting change.

That lasting change starts from the belief that serious youth violence is not inevitable. It is shaped by the circumstances children experience, the opportunities available to them, and the strength of the relationships and communities around them. This is why the strategy rightly focuses on prevention, early help and partnership working. It recognises that fairness means acting early, listening to children and families, and targeting support where it can make the greatest difference.

Our ambition is for Stockton-on-Tees to be a place where background does not limit potential, where children feel safe in their homes, schools and communities, and where young people are supported to learn, thrive and achieve. By working together across education, health, police, youth justice, community safety and the voluntary sector, we can build the conditions that help children make positive choices and raise their aspirations for the future.

Welcome

Our Principles:

Welcome to the *Stockton-on-Tees Serious Youth Violence Strategy 2026–2031*, which sets out how partners across the Borough will work together over the next five years to prevent and reduce serious youth violence and create safer communities for children, young people and families.

This strategy sets out our shared vision, ambitions and priorities for tackling serious youth violence through a whole-system, public health approach. It reflects our collective commitment to strengthening early intervention and prevention, addressing the underlying causes of violence, disrupting activity, supporting vulnerable children and families, and improving outcomes for children and young people across Stockton-on-Tees.

The strategy has been developed through extensive partnership working and co-production with organisations and individuals who share responsibility for safeguarding children and reducing violence. This includes:

- Children, young people and families
- Stockton-on-Tees Borough Council
- Cleveland Police
- Safer Stockton Partnership
- Public Health
- Youth Justice Service
- Education providers, including schools and academies
- Health partners, including North East and North Cumbria Integrated Care Board and NHS providers
- Voluntary, Community and Social Enterprise organisations
- Cleveland Unit for the Reduction of Violence (CURV)

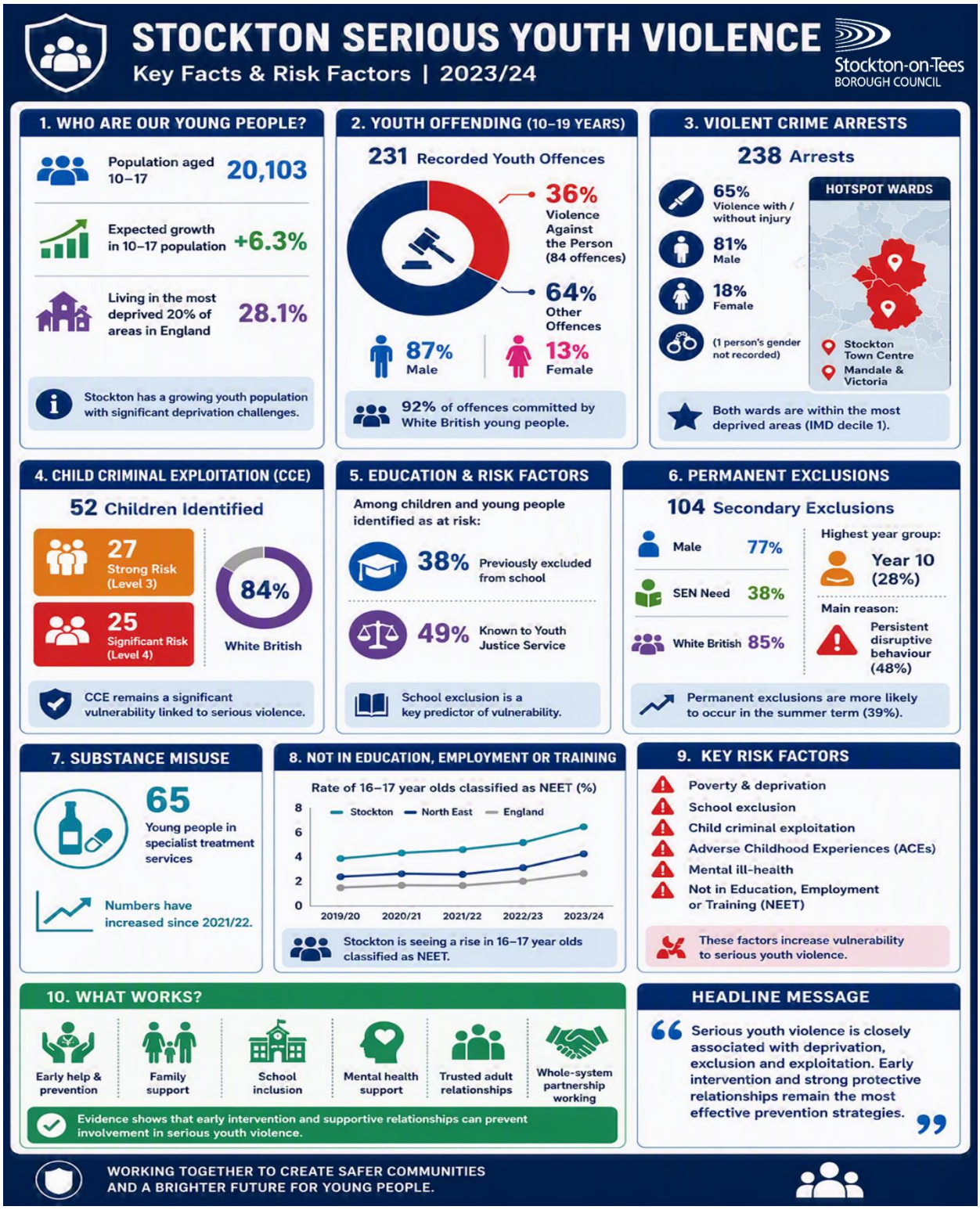
Partnership working and co-production are central to both the development and delivery of this strategy. No single organisation can prevent serious youth violence in isolation and meaningful change will only be achieved through sustained collaboration, shared accountability and a commitment to continuous learning and improvement.

The strategy has been informed by the Stockton-on-Tees Serious Youth Violence Needs Assessment, which brought together local data, intelligence and evidence from across health, education, voluntary services, police, youth justice, community safety and children's services. We also worked closely with partners through a series of multi-agency workshops, strategic development sessions and partnership discussions to identify and refine the priorities contained within this strategy.

The voices of children and young people have been at the heart of this work. More than 100 young people aged 10–18 shared their views, experiences and ideas about serious youth violence, safety and prevention. Their insights have strengthened our understanding of both the factors that contribute to violence and the protective factors that help keep children safe.

Together, this evidence, engagement and partnership collaboration have shaped a strategy that reflects what matters most to children, young people, families and communities whilst setting a clear direction for collective action over the next five years.

Serious Youth Violence – Health Needs Assessment:



Source: Stockton-on-Tees Serious Youth Violence Rapid Health Needs Assessment, May 2025

What our children told us:



The Vision

By 2031, partners across Stockton-on-Tees are collectively committed to making the borough one of the safest places in the North East for children, young people and young adults aged 10–24.

We will achieve this through a shared, whole-system approach that:

- Strengthens the protective conditions that enable children, families and communities to feel safe, supported and able to thrive
- Reduces the number of children and young people who experience or are affected by violence
- Prevents children and young people from entering and re-entering the criminal justice system

This vision has been shaped through partnership collaboration and informed by the voices of children, young people and communities. It reflects a collective commitment to sustained, evidence-informed action that addresses the root causes of harm, not just its consequences.

Our Goals:

- ✓ **Reduce harm from serious youth violence -** *We will reduce the number of children and young people who are victims of, or affected by, serious youth violence by strengthening prevention, identifying risk earlier and targeting support where it is most needed.*

- ✓ **We will strengthen partnership intelligence -** *We will strengthen partnership intelligence and continue to build on our Serious Violence Dashboard to monitor, evaluate and better understand the nature and impact of serious violence across our communities. The Dashboard is an interactive strategic digital tool that provides access to anonymised and restricted police and partnership data relating to the nature, scale and drivers of serious violence across the Cleveland Police Force area. This will enable us to better understand need, identify emerging risks and trends, target resources more effectively, and measure the impact of our interventions. By using high-quality data, research, partnership intelligence and the voices of children, young people and families with lived experience to drive continuous improvement, we will ensure services remain effective, evidence-informed and responsive to local need, leading to improved outcomes for children and young people.*

- ✓ **Prevent entry to and escalation within the justice system -** *We will strengthen early help and universal prevention by ensuring all children and young people understand the risks of violence and have access to timely support before harm occurs. This includes improving pathways into services and embedding prevention across education, youth provision and community settings.*

- ✓ **Strengthen the conditions that prevent harm -** *We will improve the protective factors that underpin positive outcomes, including school attendance, inclusion, attainment, emotional wellbeing and family stability, so that children and young people are supported to thrive.*

- ✓ **Build resilient children, families and communities -** *We will empower children, families and communities to play an active role in preventing violence. This includes building confidence, strengthening relationships, and increasing access to safe spaces, positive activities and trusted support networks.*

Our Priorities:

A substantial programme of work is already underway across the partnership. This strategy brings together existing activity aligned to each priority, alongside new and emerging workstreams to strengthen impact over time.

Our priorities are closely aligned with the Cleveland Unit for the Reduction of Violence (CURV) and the Safer Stockton Partnership and are informed by the Stockton-on-Tees Rapid Needs Assessment. They have been shaped through engagement with the Youth Justice Management Board, partner agencies, practitioners, and the voices of children, young people and local communities.

Central to this approach is our commitment to co-production, ensuring children, parents, carers and communities are actively involved in shaping solutions. This includes recognising the importance of safe spaces, positive activities, meaningful opportunities and clear pathways into education, training and employment, ensuring our work reflects lived experience and delivers sustainable, positive change.

Our Four Priorities

Early Intervention and Prevention:

We will strengthen early, proactive and universal prevention and intervention so that children and young people receive the right support at the right time, before needs escalate and risks increase. This will be delivered through improved early identification, increased capacity across services, a strengthened universal youth offer, and coordinated multi agency action informed by high quality data, evaluation and community insight.

We will achieve this by:

- **Youth Support:** We will continue to provide targeted early help and prevention, offering timely and flexible interventions for children, young people and families experiencing vulnerability, exploitation, missing episodes, anti-social behaviour and emerging risks of harm. Through strong relationship-based practice, targeted early help teams will undertake assessments, coordinate whole-family support, lead multi-agency planning and develop safety plans that strengthen protective factors and reduce risk.

- **Family Hubs:** We will continue to strengthen the Family Hub offer, providing accessible, community-based support for children, young people and families from pregnancy through to adulthood. Delivered in partnership with Stockton-on-Tees Borough Council, health providers and

voluntary sector organisations, Family Hubs will offer a wide range of activities, groups, advice, information and targeted support designed to promote positive family relationships, emotional wellbeing and resilience. By strengthening family stability, reducing isolation and building protective factors, the Family Hub network will play a key role in preventing escalation of need and improving outcomes for children, young people and their families.

- **Holiday Activities Fund:** We will continue to deliver the Holidays Are Fun (HAF) programme, providing enriching activities, healthy meals and positive experiences for children and young people during school holiday periods. Targeted primarily at children eligible for benefits-related Free School Meals, the programme will help reduce inequalities, tackle holiday hunger and increase access to safe, supportive environments. Through a wide range of sport, creative, recreational and educational activities, HAF will promote physical and emotional wellbeing, strengthen social connections, build resilience and provide positive opportunities that help reduce vulnerability to exploitation, anti-social behaviour and serious youth violence.

- **YUSA:** We will continue to support and strengthen the Youth United Stockton Alliance (YUSA), bringing together key partners to deliver sustainable, high-quality open access youth provision across Stockton-on-Tees. Through a coordinated and community-based approach, YUSA will provide safe spaces, trusted relationships, positive activities and early intervention opportunities that build resilience and reduce vulnerability to exploitation, offending and serious youth violence. By aligning resources and delivering targeted support within youth settings, the Alliance will help identify and respond to emerging needs at the earliest opportunity, contributing to better outcomes for children and young people while reducing longer-term demand on public services and strengthening the local youth sector.

Deter, Disrupt and Divert:

We will work with partners to target and disrupt the pathways, behaviours and environments that enable serious youth violence, reducing opportunities for harm while increasing safety for children, young people and communities. This will be achieved through intelligence led, trauma informed and safeguarding focused approaches that identify and respond to emerging risks, exploitation, harmful peer influences and locations associated with violence. Strong multi agency partnership working, effective information sharing and timely intervention will be central to preventing escalation and protecting those most vulnerable to involvement in serious youth violence.

We will achieve this by:

- **Custody Navigators:** We will continue to provide Custody Navigators to ensure children and young people entering custody receive timely, trauma-informed support at a critical point. Navigators will provide emotional and practical assistance, support engagement with services, and work with partner agencies to inform sentence planning and early resettlement, with a focus on continuity

of care, maintaining family links where appropriate, and effective release planning to improve outcomes and reduce reoffending.

- **Youth Justice Turnaround Programme:** We will continue to deliver the Youth Justice Turnaround Programme, providing targeted, voluntary interventions for children arrested but not charged. The programme will offer timely, child-centred support to address the underlying causes of offending, including education, wellbeing, family circumstances and exploitation. Through early intervention, restorative and diversionary approaches, and multi-agency working, the programme aims to prevent escalation into the formal youth justice system and reduce further offending.

- **Youth Justice Team:** We will ensure the Youth Justice Team completes comprehensive, high-quality assessments for all children, including those arrested for knife possession, and deliver timely, mandatory interventions in line with statutory requirements. Interventions will be proportionate and trauma-informed, addressing factors such as exploitation, safeguarding risks, peer influence and unmet needs, with the aim of reducing reoffending and increasing safety for children and communities. Collate and utilise contemporary resources, including virtual-reality headsets, to support intervention work with children and maximise positive outcomes and impact.

Strengthening Family Support:

We will strengthen family support by providing effective, coordinated help to parents and carers facing challenges including mental health needs, substance misuse, poverty and difficult home circumstances, reducing risk and improving outcomes for children. We will also equip parents and carers with the knowledge and confidence to understand the risks of serious youth violence, recognise early warning signs, and play a key role in supporting and safeguarding their children.

We will achieve this by:

- **Family Help Point:** We have recently launched a new integrated Front Door to Children's Services, designed to ensure early identification of families' needs and swift access to the most appropriate support. Through this approach, we will ensure that families' needs are identified quickly and that they are connected to the right help at the earliest opportunity, enabling timely, coordinated intervention and preventing the escalation of need.

- **Providing an established offer of support:** Through our established Early Help services, we will continue to provide practical and emotional support to families. This support will focus on parenting, routines, healthy lifestyles and overall wellbeing, helping families to build resilience, address challenges early and improve outcomes for children.

- **Youth Justice Health Hub:** Through the Youth Justice Health Hub, we will provide timely CAMHS and Speech and Language Therapy screening and support for children working with the Youth Justice Team. This will support early identification of mental health needs and speech, language

and communication difficulties, enabling appropriate intervention, improved engagement and better outcomes for children.

- **Upskill the Workforce:** We will upskill the workforce across Children's Services, education, health, youth justice and partner agencies to strengthen our collective response to serious youth violence. This will include training to improve understanding of contextual safeguarding, exploitation, trauma, adolescent development and the drivers of violence, alongside building confidence in identifying early warning signs and responding effectively. A shared, trauma-informed approach will support practitioners to engage children and families in a consistent, strengths-based way, addressing risk while promoting protective factors. By strengthening skills, knowledge and professional collaboration, we will improve early identification, reduce escalation and deliver more effective, preventative support for children and young people at risk.

Improve Educational Support:

We will work across Children's Services and with our educational partners to reduce exclusions and improve attendance and engagement through strengthened educational support, trauma-informed practice and improved alternative pathways for excluded young people. This will include access to high-quality alternative provision, better system integration, and targeted tutoring and mentoring to ensure children and young people are supported to achieve their full potential.

We will achieve this by:

- **Prevention Panels:** We will introduce Prevention Panels within Stockton, utilising the SBC Education Attendance, Behaviour and Concerns (ABC) model to identify emerging issues early and ensure timely, proportionate intervention. These panels will incorporate cases where there has been no further action from Police and will be integrated within existing educational panels to consider all relevant factors and determine the most appropriate support. Working closely with schools and multi-academy trusts, this approach will reduce exclusions and improve school attendance and engagement through coordinated early help, improved system integration and targeted support for children and young people at risk.

- **Working in partnership and maximising resource:** Working with Cleveland Police Early Intervention Officers, schools and other organisations we will strengthen early identification and support for children at risk of serious youth violence. This will include contextual risk awareness, preventative and proportionate interventions, and the use of Pol-Ed resources to support education on personal safety, the law, healthy relationships and wellbeing, helping to reduce escalation and improve safety and outcomes.

- **Youth Support within Schools:** We will work with partners to develop targeted, age-appropriate emotional and life-skills resources for primary and secondary schools, supporting children and young people to build resilience, manage emotions and make safe, positive choices. Resources will

support emotional regulation, confidence, healthy relationships and decision-making, complement existing PSHE and wellbeing provision, and be informed by trauma-informed practice. Through early intervention, this approach will help prevent escalation of need and improve engagement and long-term outcomes.

- **Community Safety Partnership:** We will strengthen post-16 pathways by increasing access to education, training and employment opportunities for young people, particularly 16–17 year olds already known to services. This will include referrals to the Tees Valley Trailblazer scheme to support engagement in skills development, employment pathways and sustained progression. We will also deliver the *Skills to Success* pilot, providing targeted support to build employability skills, confidence and readiness for learning or work. Through coordinated partnership working, this approach will improve participation, reduce the risk of disengagement, and support positive transitions into adulthood.

We will achieve this by:

What success looks like

How will we measure this?

Success will be demonstrated through a sustained reduction in serious youth violence and improved safety, wellbeing and life chances for children and young people. Progress will be measured through a shared performance framework drawing on data from police, health, education, youth justice, safeguarding and community feedback.

Key measures will include:

- **Police:** A reduction in the number and rate of child and young person victims of violence; fewer knife enabled offences and weapons possession; and positive changes in hotspot and trend data.
- **Health:** Reduced A&E attendances and hospital admissions for assault and knife-related injuries among under-25s.
- **Youth Justice:** Fewer first-time entrants, reduced reoffending rates, appropriate use of out-of-court disposals, reduced custody levels, and improved disproportionality outcomes.
- **Education:** Improved attendance and reduced persistent absence; fewer suspensions and permanent exclusions; improved quality and outcomes within alternative provision; increased use of managed moves; and successful reintegration into mainstream education.
- **Safeguarding:** Reduced HOTH and child criminal exploitation referrals, fewer missing episodes, improved stability for looked-after children, and reduced exposure to domestic abuse.
- **Wellbeing and Perception:** Improved perceptions of safety and trust, measured through youth and parent/carer surveys, alongside positive school climate and wellbeing measures.

- **Participation and Progression:** Increased access to positive activities and improved engagement in education, employment or training, reflected in reduced NEET levels for 16–18 and 16–24 year olds.

This framework will support regular monitoring, learning and accountability, ensuring that our approach remains responsive and focused on achieving meaningful, long-term change.

Governance and Accountability

Strong governance arrangements are essential to ensure that the Serious Youth Violence Strategy is effectively implemented, regularly reviewed and delivers measurable outcomes for children, young people and communities across Stockton-on-Tees.

Overall governance and strategic oversight of this strategy will sit with the Youth Justice Management Board (YJMB), which will act as the lead partnership body responsible for monitoring delivery, scrutinising performance and ensuring partners fulfil their commitments. The YJMB brings together senior representatives from key statutory and voluntary sector agencies and is therefore well placed to provide oversight of the multi-agency response required to prevent and reduce serious youth violence.

The Board will maintain responsibility for:

- Strategic oversight of the Serious Youth Violence Strategy and associated delivery plan.
- Monitoring progress against agreed priorities, objectives and performance measures.
- Reviewing emerging risks, trends and intelligence relating to serious youth violence.
- Ensuring appropriate partnership engagement and accountability across agencies.
- Identifying barriers to delivery and agreeing corrective actions where required.
- Overseeing the use of resources and ensuring activities remain aligned to identified need and evidence-based practice.

Recognising that serious youth violence is a whole-system issue, governance arrangements will be aligned with existing partnership structures to avoid duplication and strengthen accountability. Progress against the strategy will be reported through the Safer Stockton Partnership and the Health and Wellbeing Board, ensuring that community safety, public health, safeguarding and wider wellbeing considerations are fully reflected in implementation. This reporting structure provides assurance that serious youth violence remains a strategic priority across the local partnership landscape.

The Serious Youth Violence Strategy is also reflected within the Youth Justice Plan, ensuring alignment with broader youth justice priorities and providing a clear line of accountability between strategic objectives and operational delivery.

Annual Delivery Plan

Delivery of the strategy will be supported by an Annual Serious Youth Violence Delivery Plan, which will set out the specific actions, milestones, responsibilities and performance measures for the forthcoming year. The annual plan will be reviewed and refreshed each year to ensure it continues to respond to local needs, emerging evidence, changing risk factors and the lived experiences of children and young people.

The annual delivery plan will:

- Identify lead agencies and named officers responsible for each action.
- Include measurable outputs and outcomes linked to the strategic priorities.
- Set clear timescales and milestones for delivery.
- Identify resource requirements and opportunities for joint commissioning.
- Reflect findings from local needs assessments, intelligence and performance data.
- Incorporate feedback from children, young people, families and communities.

CURV Town Centre Violence Reduction Plan

26/27

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CURV Delivery

- Funding remained at the same level as the previous year; all grants combined to our serious violence reduction grant.
- Continual delivery of key interventions such as the navigator programmes.
- KPI's remain as reduction of hospital admissions for assaults with a knife or sharp object, reduction in knife and sharp object enabled serious violence and reduction in homicides.
- Key focus on the under 25 cohort and public space setting.
- Also commissioning of the Knife Crime Concentration Fund.

Town Centre Violence Reduction Plan

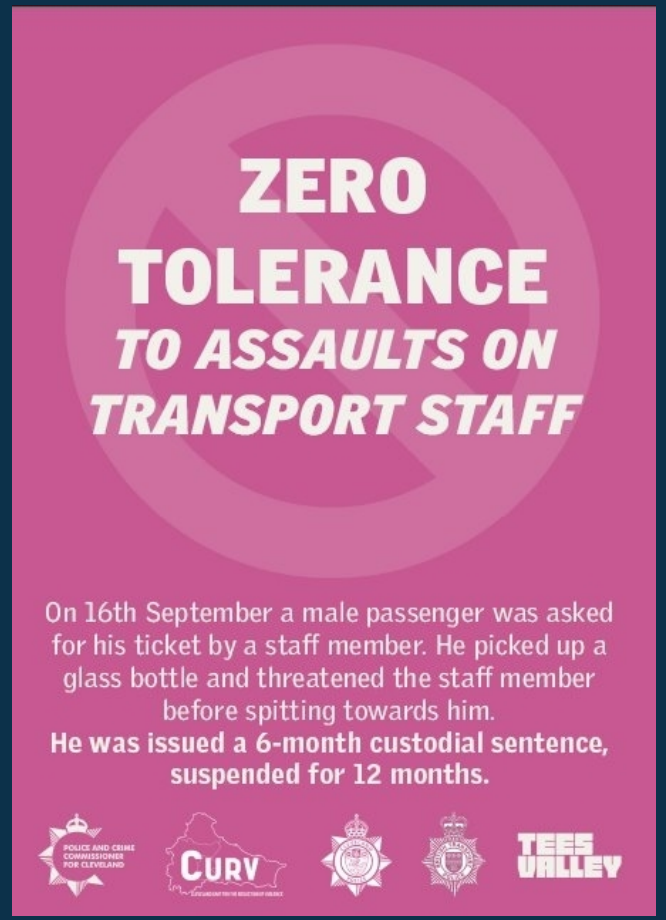
- Deliver improved safety in the defined areas where NTE and DTE merge; recognising the overlap between Day and Night Time Economy and the transferability of safety measures.

- This will support the key priorities of ‘Reducing Crime, ASB and Harm’ and ‘Improving Safety for Women and Girls’ of the Police and Crime Plan 2024-29.

- Cleveland wide initiatives that seek to reduce public space serious violence.

Transport

- Transport Safety and Security Partnership
- Standards of behaviour campaign
- 61016 campaign
- Bleed cabinets
- Transport Safety Survey
- Taxi Licensing



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Night Time Economy

- Ask for Angela expansion
- Test purchasing of licensed premises
- Spiking/Reporting/Op Moss
- Alcohol Campaign



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DTE

- Roll out of Knife bins with the first pilot in Stockton
- Christmas staff safety campaign
- Operation Makesafe



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Cleveland Retail Crime Forum

- Established following the Cleveland Retail and Business Crime Summit
- A forum which brings together retailers, business sector representatives, policing, criminal justice, and community safety partners to collectively identify emerging trends and respond to the challenges of retail crime
- Co-Chaired by the Police and Crime Commissioner and a retail representative to maintain the balance of the business voice, and criminal justice response
- Retailers are actively being encouraged to sign-up and become a member of the group. Please support the work of the forum by extending this offer. Direct retailers to contact ~~PCC.Office@Cleveland.Police.UK~~



Questions

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By virtue of paragraph(s) 7 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A
of the Local Government Act 1972.

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