

# Scrutiny Review of Welcoming and Safe Town Centres

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for Cleveland



# Tackling Shoplifting

- Scrutiny Meeting focusing on retail crime - November 2023 - PCC assured
- Retail Crime Summit - October 2023 - 35 attendees, follow up planned
- Key areas of concern - communication, sentencing, difficulties in passing evidence to police, wider issues such as ASB / addiction
- Scrutiny meeting planned October 2024
- Bi-monthly Police retail crime meeting - attended by OPCC
- Cross Cleveland retail crime action plan developed - identified SPOC in each LA area, PowerBi dashboard showing shops with 6 or more offences, problem solving plans in place for top 5 shops in each LA area, developing use on PNC facial recognition checks

# Safer Streets Funding (Round 5)

- £331k funding over 18 months - Home Office and OPCC
- Focus on Stockton Town Centre (Portrack and Tilery area) and Ropner
- Tackling ASB, Neighbourhood Crime and VAWG
- Portrack & Tilery deliverables:
  - 100 target hardening packs distributed to vulnerable residents and repeat victims
  - Kicks rails installed to prevent antisocial use of motorcycles
  - 9 integrated CCTV/lighting columns installed
  - Power of Women project - secondary school, primary schools and mums group - focusing on developing skills, confidence and empowerment
- Ropner - Operation Nightfall - A Way Out and Cleveland Police



# ASB Hotspots

- The ASB Hotspot work includes locations in Stockton Town Centre, Billingham Town Centre and Thornaby Town Centre. Funding was made available from the Home Office to pilot an ASB Hotspots program in Cleveland. This was allocated to the four district councils in Cleveland after agreeing a delivery model.
- In Stockton, a total of £135,633 was spent from October 2023 - March 2024 in setting up the scheme and delivering the patrols. An additional £263,000 has been allocated from April 2024 - March 2025.
- The funding has been used to employ an additional 6 Enforcement Officers within Stockton Council for the duration of the project.
- As part of the ASB Hotspots project we are collecting information on engagement and other activity carried out within the hotspots.

# ASB Hotspots details

- The purpose of the patrols is to act provide a uniformed presence in the hotspot areas to act as a deterrent to those who may engage in acts of ASB or crime and to provide reassurance to members of the public using these public spaces.
- Summary of hotspot patrols in town centres between August 2023 and June 2024

Hotspot location	Patrol Hours	Number of Patrols	Resident Engagement	Buisness Engagement	Examples of activities
Billingham Central	373:26:00	408	141	399	Information Sharing with partners
Thornaby Town Centre	359:34:00	356	109	325	ASB warning letters issued
Stockton Town Centre	327:26:00	302	178	89	PSPO Enforcement ASB intervention
Totals	1060:26:00	1066	428	813	

# ASB Hotspots Outcomes

- Changes in ASB incident reports in the hotspots between July 2022 - June 2023 compared to July 2023 - June 2024 (*Police data only*)

Hotspot location	Police % change
Stockton Town Centre	-22%
Thornaby Town Centre	-45%
Billingham Central	-37%

# Overall Outcomes in the hotspot and Safer Streets LSOA

Figures taken from Police.UK dataset from July 2022 and June 2024, this is publicly available data.

Location	Crime / Incident Type	Number of incidents / crimes		Difference	% increase/ decrease	% inc / dec for all stockton
		Jul 22 - Jun 23	Jul 23 - Jun 24			
<b>Billingham Town Centre</b>						
(LSOA 002E)	Antisocial behaviour	134	119	-15	-11%	-3%
	Criminal damage and arson	89	53	-36	-40%	-14%
	Public Order	71	37	-34	-48%	-32%
	Violence and sexual offences	175	117	-58	-33%	-15%
	Burglary	47	9	-38	-81%	-14%
	Shoplifting	111	71	-40	-36%	-5%
	Drugs	9	5	-4	-44%	-3%
	Robbery	7	12	5	71%	-22%
<b>Thornaby Town Centre</b>						
(LSOA 020C)	Antisocial behaviour	211	96	-115	-55%	-3%
	Criminal damage and arson	94	36	-58	-62%	-14%
	Public Order	61	51	-10	-16%	-32%
	Violence and sexual offences	134	126	-8	-6%	-15%
	Burglary	44	13	-31	-70%	-14%
	Shoplifting	72	104	32	44%	-5%
	Drugs	2	9	7	350%	-3%
	Robbery	6	4	-2	-33%	-22%
<b>Stockton Town Centre</b>						
LSOA(025A, 025B, 025C,	Antisocial behaviour	709	629	-80	-11%	-3%
025D, 026A)	Criminal damage and arson	331	361	30	9%	-14%
Old LSOA (014E, 014F, 014G)	Public Order	565	392	-173	-31%	-32%
	Violence and sexual offences	1626	1466	-160	-10%	-15%
	Burglary	212	186	-26	-12%	-14%
	Shoplifting	372	411	39	10%	-5%
	Drugs	196	184	-12	-6%	-3%
	Robbery	70	63	-7	-10%	-22%



# NTE Action Plan

- NTE Funding 2022-23 - Stockton awarded over £40,000 to fund:
  - Ask for Angela Training, metal detector wands, bleed kits and anti-spiking resources for licensed premises.
  - Additional CCTV operator for peak NTE times to improve incident detection and management.
- Serious Violence Duty- NTE Action Plan was coproduced with partners from across Cleveland. Stockton allocated over £20,000 to fund:
  - Distribution of bleed cabinets across the three district areas.
  - Set up of Stockton Street Angels.
  - CSE Training to hotel staff.
  - Scannet.
  - Radios to licensed premises.

# Next Steps

- Expansion of radio systems to increase coverage in Yarm.
- Training in use of bleed kits/cabinets.
- Media Campaign focused on perpetrator behaviour.

# Areas of concern

- Sustainability of NTE resources. Lack of clarity around the future of violence reduction units and whether serious violence duty will be continued.
- Reliance on licensed premises committing to maintain.

# How can OPCC and partners address negative perceptions of town centre spaces?

- Promote success around joint operations – work with the local media for positive stories.
- Effective use of enforcement tools, such as Public Space Protection Orders. (ASB Summit in November will cover enforcement powers and who can use them).
- Identify public perception of what makes them feel unsafe – e.g. the Safety of Women and Girls survey identified areas that people perceived to be unsafe but showed very few incidents in the crime data.

# Questions