

# Ashington Town Council Update

## General Overview

Demand wise this year has been fairly consistent month on month between 800 – 900 incidents each month.

ASB again fairly consistent but obviously rises throughout the summer and is dropping off but on average between 80-90 ASB jobs per month.

## Neighbourhood Priorities

### **ASB**

In most cases we have seen reductions in ASB month on month in comparison to last year.

Motorcycle disorder, which was significant last year has reduced for example, in Aug 2023 we had 56 reports but this August only 16. Credit to the OP Capio Team who are regularly in the area, targeting offenders and have uplifted a number of vehicles. We also carry out a lot of call backs which has increased our community intelligence.

Throughout the summer holidays we didn't see an increase in ASB until the last week of the school holidays. Likewise for Halloween and bonfire night. – example of good working with Asset watch and Community Safety Team to deal with a number of youths who came into the Town Centre to cause disorder. Using the CCTV we were able to identify a number of the youths which resulted in home visits being carried out and ASB warning letters issued.

### **ASB Week**

Last week there was a lot of partnership activity going in in Northumberland with some engagement and raising awareness.

### **Retail Crime**

Theft is one of our highest reported crime types which literally goes up and down depending on when people are in and out of prison.

With regards to my teams specifically we have the responsibility to target our most prolific shoplifters and those who threaten violence. We have dealt with 253 shoplifting crimes and have a positive outcome rate of 84%. To put that into perspective our top 10 offenders for the Ashington sector have committed 246 crimes between them this year.

Shoplifting is a real challenge for us, in particular early releases from prison and we find them re-offending quite quickly often because of the lack of support when they are released. We are currently working on an outreach group with partner agencies to reduce the risk of re-offending.

### **Drugs / Operation Stoke**

Across the Ashington sector we have taken out 15 cannabis farms.

Last week I ran Operation Stoke and executed 3 drugs warrants which led to 3 persons being arrested in concern in drug supply with a quantity and drugs and cash being recovered.

**Asset Watch**

The cameras have been a great investment and the set up they have is brilliant. I will ensure that any good news stories involving the CCTV cameras will be shared as and when I can.

Consideration for investment in the future for crawler cameras so they can be moved around the town as and when needed.

**Project Shield / Community Safety Team**

Ashington is a Project Shield Area – extra investment from the PCC to tackle serious violence and ASB. Extra patrols and funding opportunities such as Op Stoke.

Partnership working is the best it's been, we have fortnightly meetings with NCC, fire service, adolescent services and the VRU to share information and work together to tackle issues in the area. Example – summer holiday taskings.

Community Safety Team – great working as highlighted during their presentation at last meeting.