



North Yorkshire Police

Harrogate District O & S Police Report

November 2019- February 2020

Op Expedite /County Lines

As a direct result of increased criminal activity relating to County Lines and knife crime, in the last couple of months the Operation Expedite team has been increased in size to have a better coverage with officers on duty 7 days a week. This focused direction of police resources has already started to pay dividends with some positive results. We are pleased that disruptive efforts appear to have had a positive impact on County Lines gangs coming from Birmingham and Manchester (with these lines remaining quiet), however the County Lines coming in from Bradford & Leeds continue to have a strong foothold. These gangs continue to exploit young people, coercing them into carrying drugs, weapons and cash to/from the Harrogate District. Notable arrests have included an arrest of a male from Peterborough (at this stage it is unknown if he is working for a new County Line or one already existing). This male was arrested on two separate occasions (once in November and again in Jan). In his first arrest he was found inside an address in Harrogate 'cuckooing' the resident drug user. In his second arrest he was found in possession of a large quantity of individual wraps of heroin & crack cocaine in a vehicle in Ripon. He has subsequently been charged and remanded. He awaits sentence.

Another notable arrest was of a male found inside a block of flats in central Harrogate. He was arrested having been found in possession of a large quantity of individual wraps of heroin/crack, a large amount of cash and a hunting knife. He has also been charged, remanded and is awaiting trial.

The speed with which action is taken in response to intelligence received has been massively improved. On many occasions anonymous intelligence, which falls far short of evidence, has been received and within a very few hours arrests made and imitation firearms and machetes recovered.

The way in which the County Lines gangs operate is continuing to be complex with the tactics they use to exploit vulnerable people ever changing. As a result, Op Expedite are spending a large proportion of their time working with partner agencies including the local drugs rehabilitation centre, The Homeless Project, Housing Officers, Social Services, Crimestoppers and local taxi ranks. In a bid to educate & share knowledge with partner agencies, it is absolutely clear that to disrupt these gangs a partnership approach is paramount.

CSE/CCE- Vulnerability connected to Child Sexual/Criminal exploitation continues to be a focus of the Neighbourhood teams. Due to the demand in this area Harrogate town are dedicating PCSO Nicki Dobson for 3 months purely to focus on CSE/CCE to provide a more consistent approach with partner agencies and to work to reduce risk to some of our most vulnerable young people. PCSO Gary Grieve will replace Nicki on Hookstone ward.

One potential perpetrator has been identified by the Multi Agency Safeguarding Team. There is no evidence to suggest any offences however a Cease and Desist notice has been served on him (himself a juvenile) to prevent any risk behaviour. Frequent visits are made to his address to ensure young people are not present.

Fraud- Harrogate District has now trained most of its PCSOs to be Fraud Ambassadors who have enhanced knowledge and expertise in this area. This is a trial and if successful will be rolled out across the force. They carry out a number of functions in this role which includes;

1) Working with banks to reinforce the banking protocol- Ensuring that victims do not withdraw money and give it to an offender waiting nearby.

2) Fraud presentations. Up to date information about the latest scams and what to do if they get a phone call/email- Please email Harrogate.Town@northyorkshire.pnn.police.uk for any new requests.

3) Revisits to those who have fallen victim of a fraud and provide prevention advice for the future.

Anti-social behaviour –

Saltergate/Jennyfields area –

As a result of robust policing and hot spots patrols there was a reduction in reports of crime and anti-social behaviour. Work with key partners has continued proactively targeting known criminals which has resulted one key nominal being evicted and moved out of the area. Saltergate remains a relatively low crime area with the ward suffering 2% of the Harrogate District crime with 41 crimes over the last 90 days. In the last 90 days there has been only one burglary, three public order offences and six criminal damage offences. There have been 19 arrests on Saltergate in the last 90 days which has resulted 5 charges.

Ripon

Due to the focus of attention being prioritised towards knife crime at Ripon, police activity towards more routine ASB had diminished, leading to a rise in reports of ASB. Recognising this, PCSO patrols have been directed towards a very few number of streets in the City centre, with assistance being provided to Ripon PCSOs by the Harrogate team to ensure daily coverage and enabling staff to work effectively in pairs rather than in isolation.

Crime numbers by ward over the last twelve months

Visual comparator of crimes by ward (total volume)

Low Harrogate 1369	Granby 573	Ripon Minster 446	New Park 407	Woodfield 379	Ribston 302	Rossett 278	Knaresbo... 261	Ripon M... 246	Knaresbo... 246	Bilton 246	Killi... 246	Nid... 246	Claro... 246	Ouse... 246	Mas... 246
	High Harrogate 560	Starbeck 436	Knaresborough K... 394	Hookstone 364	Saltergate 296	Ripon Spa 270	Harlow M... 250	Borough... 229	Pannal 229	Mars... 229	Spof... 229	Low... 229			

Safety Camera Vans

Safety camera Vans lie outside the control and responsibility of Harrogate District Command. A huge amount of information can be found on the NYP website:

<https://northyorkshire.police.uk/news/camera-mythbuster/>

Any concerns you may have about safety Camera Vans should be directed to the office of the Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner.

Speeding concerns should be reported on line by pasting the below link into you browser:

Spehttps://nyp-online.victoriaforms.com/Viewer-VicForms.asp?user=anon&Form=Online Speed Concern Report (1.0).

Force Control Room/101/999

The force control room receives a huge volume of calls. The public very much have confidence in the police and there seems to be no limit to the breadth of issues they believe the police can resolve.

The FCR handles approximately 30,000 101 calls per month with a typical wait time of around 3 minutes, a dramatic improvement over the last year, partly achieved by queued calls being diverted to front office staff, a new initiative.

They handle between six and ten thousand 999 calls per month, (highest in the last twelve months being July), with answer times being between 10 and 20 seconds.

They receive approximately 1500 calls from other public and emergency services every month.

Please advise your constituents that if what they wish to report is important, they should be patient and persistent and the call will be answered.

As with Safety camera Vans, the FCR lies outside the control and responsibility of Harrogate District Command. Any concerns you may have about FCR should be directed to the office of the Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner.

Questions around specific cases

Please note that in most circumstances specific complaints or cases cannot be discussed in the O&S.

1 – The councillor raising the issue often does not have sufficient detail to identify the occurrence

2- The Police Inspector may not have sufficient information to hand to accurately answer the question

3- Rules around Data Protection and Confidentiality may be breached by making public disclosures.

4 –Please can councillors submit any questions for the police in advance of the O&S so a researched and considered answer can be given.