



North Yorkshire Police

Harrogate District O & S Police Report August 19

Op Expedite /County Lines

County Lines gangs continue to operate in the Harrogate, Ripon and Knaresborough areas with often young 'runner's' coming into the district from outside the area. In the early part of the year, police were continuing to tackle County Lines coming from Manchester (Trafford), Leeds (Seacroft / Swarcliffe), Bradford (West Bowling), and Birmingham (Wolverhampton) areas. Since January, officers have made in the region of 40 arrests directly relating to County Lines with approximately fifteen of those being under the age of 18. These arrests are mainly for drug supply or weapons offences (typically knife crime). Of particular note were two suspects who were arrested in an address in Harrogate having come up from Birmingham and were dealing in the form of County Lines, cuckooing a local individual. One of the suspects was only 16 years old and had been missing from Birmingham for a number of days. In another incident, a 15 year old male, missing from Manchester, was arrested in Harrogate having also been missing for some time and was actively involved in County Lines.

We have had 5 convictions directly related to County Lines, the most notable being a 22 year old male from Bradford, who was sentenced to five years and two months for offences of possession with intent to supply Class A & dangerous driving

In January 2019 in the space of 10 days, this single suspect was arrested on four separate occasions in Harrogate. Intelligence suggested that he was working on behalf of a County Line operating out of Bradford and into Harrogate dealing Heroin and Crack Cocaine. He was taking advantage of local end-users by using their home addresses as a base to deal from and exploiting their local knowledge to benefit & expand the County Line. On one incident with the police he failed to stop to marked police vehicles resulting in a lengthy pursuit putting numerous lives at risk. On the final occasion that he was arrested he was found in possession of a significant quantity of individually wrapped Class A drugs. Due to his relentless offending nature, exposing vulnerable people to significant risk, he was remanded to court and subsequently pleaded guilty.

As of July 2019 we believe we have three current lines going into Harrogate/Knaresborough and one current line going into Ripon.

Beat Officers and PCSOs have been liaising with local schools to identify vulnerable young people and those who are displaying changes in character, which may indicate drug use or exploitation.

Intelligence has been obtained for a number of local and district dealers and warrants have been successfully executed with more planned for the future.

Suspects arrested in previous warrants are still under investigation as we are awaiting results from the forensic laboratories.

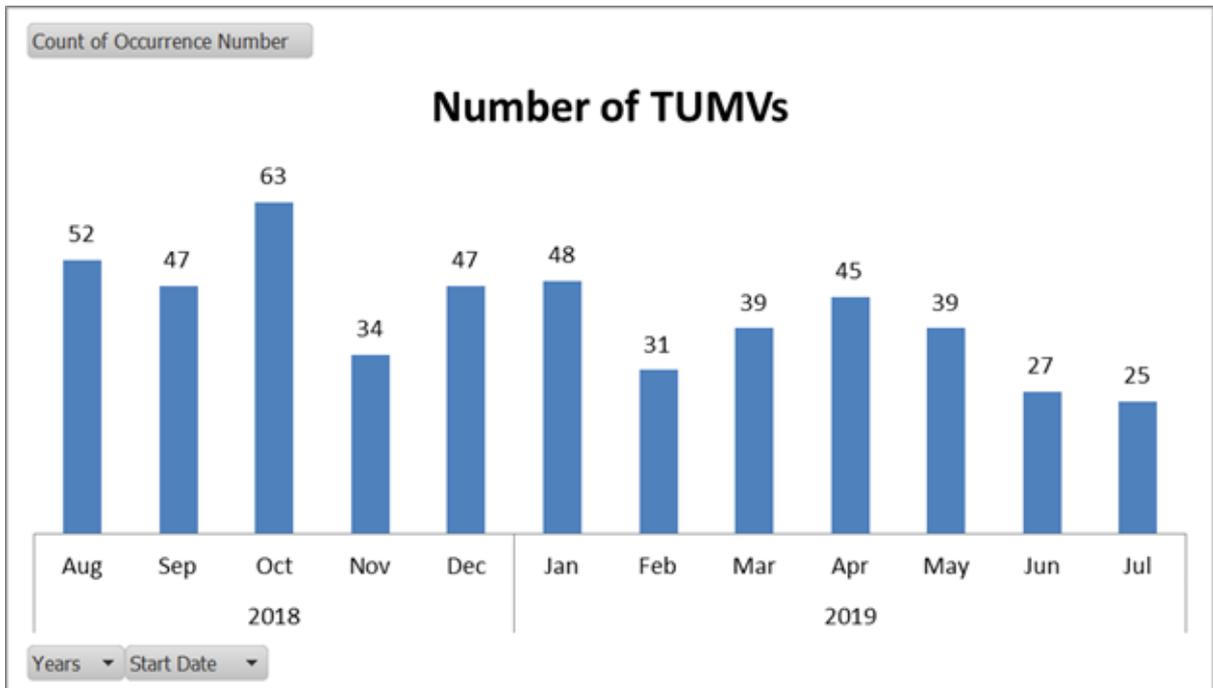
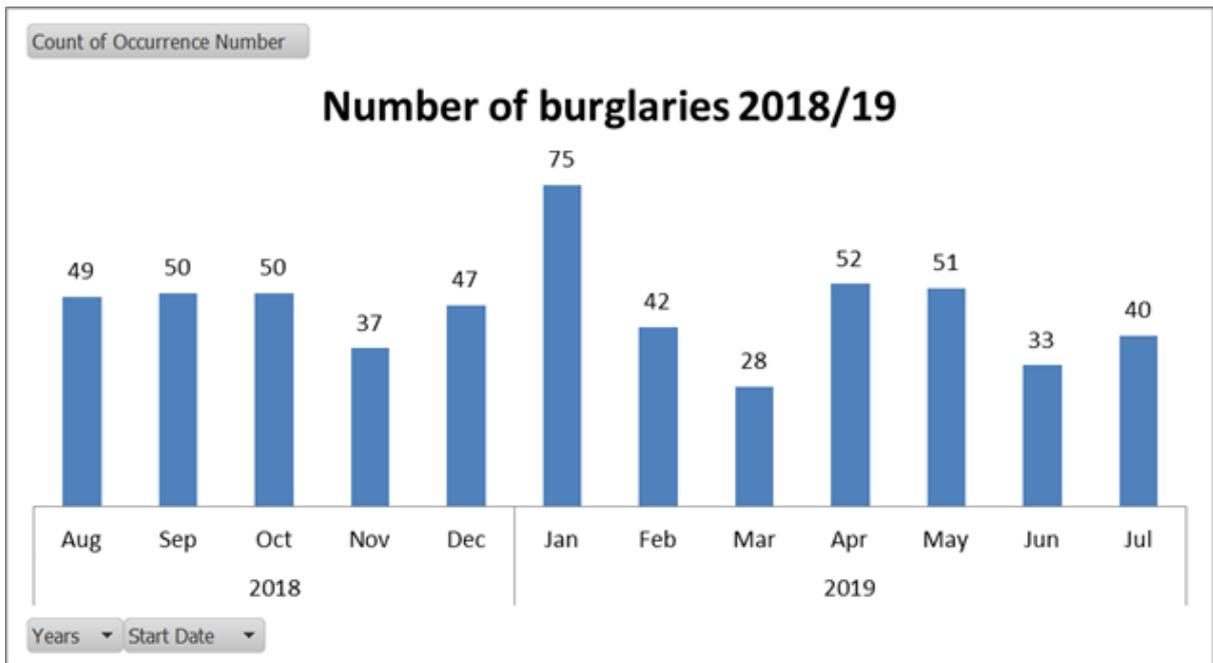
We ask the public is to continue to report suspicious activities involving drug dealing – locations, addresses. Also if they have any concerns about individuals being exploited in the form of ‘cuckooing’, or young people being exploited to deal drugs. We are also keen to direct the public to Crimestoppers campaigns <https://crimestoppers-uk.org/about-the-charity/who-we-work-with/trusts-and-foundations/county-lines> if they would rather report to them than the police direct.

Burglaries /Thefts Of and From Motor Vehicles

There have been spikes in burglary dwelling and TUMV’s over the last year in the District. The most common MO is to target insecure properties and vehicles overnight. There have been a number of arrests as a result of investigations. One suspect is currently on remand and a number have been charged and pending court. NPT teams along with the Community Safety Dept have been carrying our crime prevention via social media, press and hotspots leaflet drops.

The number of reported burglaries and TUMVs has reduced significantly at the time of writing . Knaresborough has been particularly affected by unattended vehicles being entered and items stolen. A large amount of proactive crime prevention work has been done in this area as the incidents appear to be ‘random’ in terms of geographic location.

There seems to be no specific pattern the crimes being opportunistic in nature, and many of the vehicles entered were insecure making them easy targets for opportunistic criminals.



MOTO services

Curtain sider thefts at moto services have reduced dramatically and work is ongoing with site management and the private security company who are engaging with police and looking at night time dog patrols / CCTV and ANPR.

This should reduce the instances of theft still further and assist in the investigation / detection / deterring of human trafficking, immigration issues and CSE / CCE at the motorway service station.

The RTF continues to work closely with Knaresborough NPT and assist greatly with target hardening / security marking of property / CPA at isolated properties and targeting of persistent offenders.

They also have wildlife officers who target offences with the RSPCA and other Countryside organisations in that area of business.

Child Sexual Exploitation/Child Criminal Exploitation

Vulnerability connected to Child Sexual/Criminal exploitation continues to be a major focus. Those deemed at HIGH RISK have single point of contact on the team that work with families and partners to try and reduce the risk.

Neighbourhood officers regularly meet with the VEMT panel (Vulnerable, Exploited, Missing, Trafficked) to agree multi agency approaches to prevent harm surrounding these young people. They generally consider preventative actions around 40 potential victims, ten potential offenders and ten hotspot locations.

A number of young females had been identified as at risk in the Knaresborough Rural / Wetherby area. A cross border operation involving Knaresborough NPT and the WYP safeguarding team have safeguarded these young people and an arrest has been made in the WY area in relation to CSE.

This work continues with partners from child social care and West Yorkshire Police NPT teams.

Events and Engagement-

Independent Living Roadshows Harrogate District- Police ,Fire Community safety HBC , Dementia forward and Homes Instead have all come together to carry out some independent roadshows for those in later years. The aim is to advise and support on fraud, loneliness and isolation. For further information please check www.homeinstead.co.uk for the next roadshow

The local NPT teams have had a busy summer, policing events such as the Knaresborough Bed Race, which this year benefitted from a large number of Special Constables volunteering their time to augment the policing operation, and the Great Yorkshire Show.

Protest activity continues at RAF Menwith Hill, Ministry of defence Police unburden North Yorkshire to a huge degree by taking the lead on this.

Police and PCSOs are in attendance in an engagement capacity at many local events instead of, or to augment, traditional police surgeries. These include Masham Steam Rally, Birstwith Show, the Deershed festival, Lofthouse Summer Fair, Nidderdale Show, St Wilfrid's Day parade and the FEVA festival.

As part of our ongoing commitment to support an engage with our communities the command is experimenting with the concept of Virtual Reality PCSO's, being trialled from Ripon. This involves a number of existing PCSO's having an enhanced level of engagement by utilising online platforms to maximise our contact with our hard to reach groups and those who generally disengage. This has been trialled with success in Scarborough after successes in a similar force.

Neighbourhood Policing Teams will also carry out 'street briefings' which will be published by the local teams. This will provide an opportunity for members of the public to engage with the teams

but also have an overview of what our priorities will be for that day. It will hopefully provoke discussion and broaden the public's understanding of our role.

The biggest sporting event in the UK this year comes to Harrogate in September in the shape of the UCI World Road Racing Championships. Harrogate is a key focus during the event with all races finishing in the town. Due to the increased interest in biking events further bike marking surgeries will be taking place in the lead up to the UCI. Please contact your local community team to find out more.

Ripon will also see a new police officer attached to the Neighbourhood Team from October for an initial tutorship period. This will provide them a better overview of the role but also maximise visibility within the Ripon communities.

Anti-social behaviour

Saltergate/Hydro— Previously there has been a lot of calls for service in this area in particular around the Hydro and nursery. Partnership work and police enforcement has taken place which has led to a significant reduction in calls. Two suspects are currently pending court for public order offences.

The good work at The Hydro has reduced some issues but only displaced others to the Knaresborough area, where officers are continuing to address the issues and the individuals through Community Restorative Disposals, Acceptable behaviour Contracts, Criminal Behaviour Orders and arrest/investigation where appropriate. One of the suspects for the fire at Saltergate School was also arrested for the fire at the former Trellerborg factory in Knaresborough, and remains under investigation.

Harrogate Town Centre— Green Huts/Stray- area of concern highlighted for smoking cannabis. The local team have carried out enforcement work around this area resulted in a number of individuals having cannabis seized and are currently subject to an investigation.

Begging/camp at Primark-This raised increased community concerns at the time. Working with partners to solve this issue those camping left the area. Begging continues in the town and in the short term 3 beggars were reported for the offence and one for public order. Longer term, the police are working with partners to reduce the problem. The introduction of a contactless point (TAP) in the town will hopefully assist with this.

Ripon Street Drinkers

This issue rumbles on with police enforcing a number of dispersal orders. A problem is that while unsightly and upsetting for many residents, no offences are being committed and the police seek greater assistance from the Council in addressing this issue.

Boroughbridge

The team have worked very hard with the school and youth services to get “ahead of curve” with a great deal of success. The main suspects have been targeted with diversion, education and enforcement and in most cases have been helped into employment and other distractions, to the

point that complaints of ASB in Boroughbridge have dropped from several calls a day at the beginning of the year, to virtually zero.

Public safety

A problem solving plan has been developed to manage the unauthorised use of open water by young people in the hot weather. These areas include the River near the Lido and the fishing lakes to the north of Knaresborough.

We are involving Fire and Rescue service with this PSP to give water safety advice.

Water is always going to be an attraction to children in hot weather therefore it is important to make this as safe as possible as they will always find a way to get to the water.

Staffing

The Harrogate town NPT team have 3 new dedicated beat managers who have recently transferred from other force areas. Pc Colin Steele is covering the south area wards, Pc Paul Harwood the North Wards and Pc Joseph Moore the town centre wards. All have settled in well and are keen to integrate into the community. We have 4 new PCSO's coming to Harrogate District and will be in tutorship from mid-August.

Response teams are currently fully staffed following the recent recruitment campaign.

Harrogate outer is losing a number of staff through transfers and resignations, plans are in place to backfill these vacancies by Christmas.

Security In Parks/Open Spaces

Security in parks and open spaces is the responsibility of the landowner. Police will patrol hot spot areas and those that are busy in order to prevent crime and disorder and reassure the community. Due to school holidays there is an increased police presence in the Valley Gardens and on the stray. This has resulted in cannabis being seized and warning given.

At present we don't make any recommendations or requests of HBC regarding their security arrangements and will engage in consultation with the appropriate departments should any issues arise.

Incidents in the Valley Gardens/ Hydro etc that occurred earlier this year are either are CPS for charging decision or still under investigation at the time of writing.

Knife crime –Education to young people –Op Divan.

Op Divan provides support by educating young people at the earliest opportunity in order to reduce the number of young people carrying weapons, raise awareness of the consequences and to reduce the risk of doing so. Op Divan signposts young people to where support is available. This is to assist in keeping young people safe, to help reduce the likelihood of them offending and to reduce the risk of them becoming a victim.

Op Divan has received recognition from the National Police Chiefs Council local awards ceremony.

Ward Boundaries

North Yorkshire Police are currently working to the old council ward boundaries. Insp Taylor has spoken to the digital department regarding changes to the new boundaries. The department are aware and will look to change this however due to resources and competing demands they have no time scales for this work to be completed.

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 reporting everything from a banana skin on the pavement causing danger to pedestrians (this really was reported) to terrorism. 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 12 minutes.

They handle approximately 6,000 999 calls per month, 99% being answered in less than ten seconds.

They receive approximately 200 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.

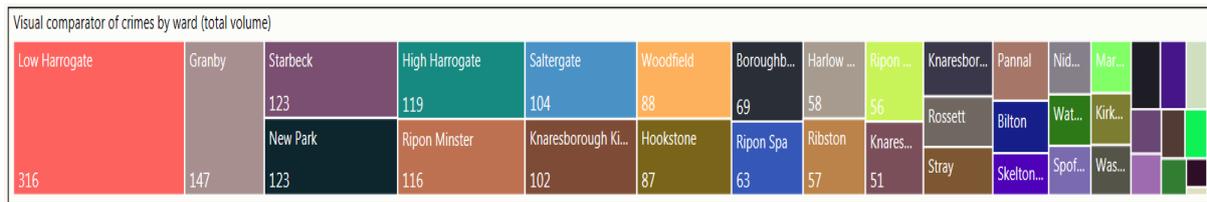
As with Safety camera Vans, the FCR lies outside the control and responsibility of Harrogate District Command. Any concerns you may have about FCR should be directed to the office of the Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner.

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 cannot have sufficient information to hand to accurately answer the question
- 3- Rules around Data protection and Confidentiality may be breached by making public disclosures.

Crime and Incident Statistics



Apr May June 2019 – 2202 crimes of 4520 incidents

Apr May June 2018 – 2114 crimes of 4483 incidents

Apr May June 2017 – 1911 crimes of 3839 incidents.

The experience is of a small and general rise in crime across all crime types.