

Kirklees Communities Partnership Strategic Intelligence Assessment Refresh

October 2020



Working together for a
Safer Kirklees

Executive Summary

About the Partnership Strategic Intelligence Assessment (PSIA)

The purpose of the PSIA is to provide an up to date picture of the current issues impacting on Communities in Kirklees in terms of their safety and the environment they live within. This PSIA has a particular focus on the impact of COVID19 on Communities and the disproportionate impact this has had on more deprived communities in the District, a pattern which reflects the national picture.

Reducing Crime

In the 12 months up to September 2020, overall crime has reduced by 10% - whilst it did reduce slightly in the first half of this period, the significant reduction was over the Coronavirus lockdown period.

Trends did vary by offence type with the most significant reductions in areas where opportunities were also reduced (for example shop theft / those associated with the night time economy) and where there was increased informal surveillance by people being at home (burglary). There were however increases in areas such as stalking / harassment and crimes involving online platforms.

The experiences of Kirklees are similar to those in other areas and consequently Kirklees has remained broadly in line with the average levels of recorded crime of other similar areas. Results from the Crime Survey for England and Wales (August 2020) provide an insight into experiences of crime during lockdown show a similar picture for those evident in Kirklees and perceptions of the Police very favourable.

Tackling Anti-Social Behaviour

The lockdown period saw an increase in anti-social behaviour with a 6% increase in **nuisance complaints** particularly relating to off road motor cycles. People being at home for longer periods of time has both improved neighbourliness but also has increased reports of **personal ASB** where there have been ongoing issues. In terms of **environmental ASB**, there has been an increase in fly-tipping – in part to do with new ways of recording but also due to an actual increase – particularly whilst the recycling centres were closed and people were decluttering their houses.

Urban Street Gangs – since the team formed in July 2017, there have been over 240 referrals for individuals (predominantly teenage males) mainly from wards around North Huddersfield.

The number of people killed and seriously injured in **Road Traffic Collisions** in Kirklees continues to reduce – less traffic during lockdown further reduced these figures. Vulnerable road users such as cyclists, pedestrians and children continue to be an area of concern to retain focus on.

Protecting People from Serious Harm

National estimates suggest that **Domestic Abuse** is experienced by around 25% of women and 15% of men. The number of domestic abuse incidents reported to the Police (and DRAMM and MARAC referrals) over lockdown was broadly similar to the levels recorded the previous year – this is probably associated with under reporting and COVID19 related changes in front line working reducing opportunities to spot potential abuse. In contrast, Pennine Domestic Abuse Partnership did see an increase in referrals which at times put some of the strain on accommodation (including refuge spaces and temporary accommodation).

Executive Summary

Protecting People from Serious Harm (Ctd.)

Levels of recorded **Hate Crime** have increased (by 11%) over the lockdown period compared with the previous year. The majority of incidents (76%) related to Race – a recent report from Victim Support highlighted a 62% increase in hate crime referrals nationally. This report concluded that this was in part attributable to more people coming forward as a result of increased awareness following publicity of the Black Lives Matter movement over the summer. In Kirklees, incidents were mainly neighbour related or not involve direct contact such as threats, harassment and malicious communications.

The number of new referrals for children at risk of **Criminal Exploitation** reduced during lockdown primarily due to restricted free movement but also because of the closure of schools and changes in service delivery of some partners meaning that early indicators of risk might not have been picked up / reported. In the case of Child Sexual Exploitation, cases are either historic or current with abuse often co-ordinated through organised groups or grooming on social media platforms such as Facebook.

Cases of **Human Trafficking** and **Modern-Day Slavery** can be both international or within the UK to facilitate a range of offences including forced labour, sexual abuse or criminal exploitation such as transportation of drugs. The number of offences were relatively stable over lockdown although it is recognised that there are significant levels of under reporting.

Prevent – the overall counter terrorism threat rating reduced in the last year to substantial. The main risks currently are from Daesh / Al Qaida inspired groups and the extreme right-wing groups. Threats are seen to be from both organised groups and lone actors using easily accessible objects such as knives / vehicles. Channel referrals have reduced significantly and continue to be evenly distributed between non-ideological, Islamic, extreme right wing and those with no particular ideology.

Improving Place

In response to the need to support vulnerable people with essential supplies during the lockdown period, over 140 community led mutual aid groups and nearly 1,500 volunteers came forward in a massive display of **community mobilisation**. Having said this, Coronavirus has caused worry and some tensions around inconsistent rule following and adherence to social distancing.

Coronavirus has highlighted the significant risks posed to people seeking **asylum and refugees** as particularly vulnerable to issues such as language barriers to understanding restrictions, financial difficulties, digital exclusion, safeguarding issues (such as modern-day slavery and domestic abuse) and lockdown measures restricting the availability of some support services.

The latest **Perceptions** survey took place just before lockdown and showed a slightly improving feelings of safety, satisfaction, and agreement that “people from different backgrounds” get on together. During lockdown, an online “community conversation” showed people were generally “coping well” and a comprehensive survey from KNH found people’s main priorities were good quality housing and environments.

Drugs and Alcohol - The PSIA refresh identifies the 5 most harmful substances as alcohol, heroin, crack cocaine, methamphetamine and cocaine which can impact on individuals, families, and communities in both the immediate and longer term. Lockdown has seen increased levels of substance misuse, with prices of drugs increasing and purity decreasing. Treatment services have adapted to remote working and have contacted more people although the suspension of courts impacted on the use of drugs rehabilitation orders.

Kirklees Partnership Strategic Intelligence Assessment

About the Partnership Strategic Intelligence Assessment (PSIA)

The 1998 Crime and Disorder Act and other subsequent legislation places a statutory duty on Partnerships to develop a strategic Plan every 3 years which addresses quality of life issues identified through a Partnership Strategic Intelligence Assessment (PSIA). This document is an annual refresh of the PSIA and as such gives an assessment of current issues in Kirklees.

The Assessment will pay particular attention to the impact of COVID-19 on Communities and also the extent to which there have been inequalities evident both with the virus and also wider community safety issues.

The PSIA pulls together a wide range of data sources relating to crime, anti-social behaviour, environmental issues, substance misuse and harm alongside perceptions information concerning public confidence and reassurance. The PSIA considers the changing socio-economic and demographic profile of Kirklees to contextualise some of the community safety hotspots in the district.

The PSIA refresh will consider the current intelligence picture for the 4 themes in the Partnership Plan;

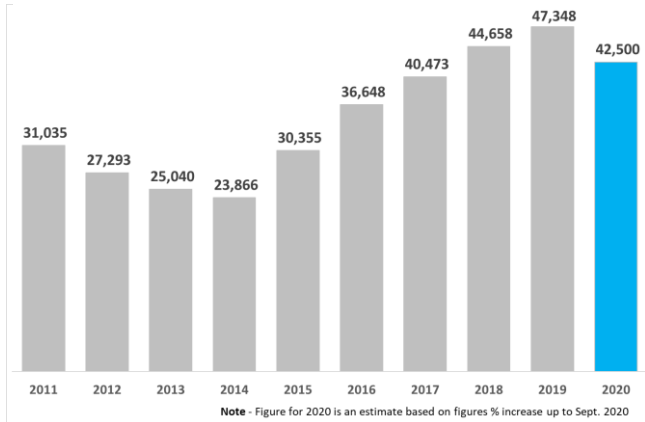
- Reducing Crime
- Tackling Anti-Social Behaviour
- Protecting People from serious harm (e.g. Child Sexual Exploitation, Domestic Abuse, Hate Crime, Human Trafficking and Preventing Violent Extremism)
- Improving Place

The regular assessment provided by the PSIA is one element of the intelligence led approach undertaken by the Communities Partnership through regular tactical products to inform and evaluate the work of multi-agency action theme groups and neighbourhood problem solving approaches.

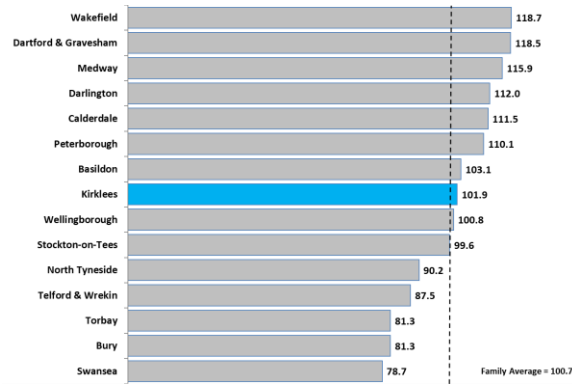
The format of the PSIA will be to initially provide an overview of some of the current contextual information relating to Kirklees, considering the current key intelligence highlights for each of the 4 themes in the Partnership Plan and then considering any refinements to the priorities in the current Partnership Plan.

Total Recorded Crime

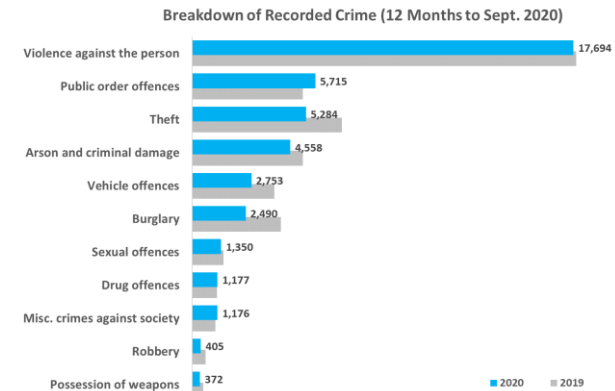
Long Term Trends in Recorded Crime



Kirklees compared with similar areas



Total Crime by Offence Type



Key Points

Total Recorded Crimes refers to crimes reported to the police which appear in the Home Office count of notifiable offences according to strict counting rules concerning what constitutes a crime.

The number of crimes recorded by West Yorkshire Police in the 12 months to the end of September 2020 **reduced by 10% (4,853 offences)** compared with the previous year. The majority of this decrease occurred over the lockdown period – there was a 5% reduction in the first half of the year compared with a 15% between April and September in comparison to the previous year.

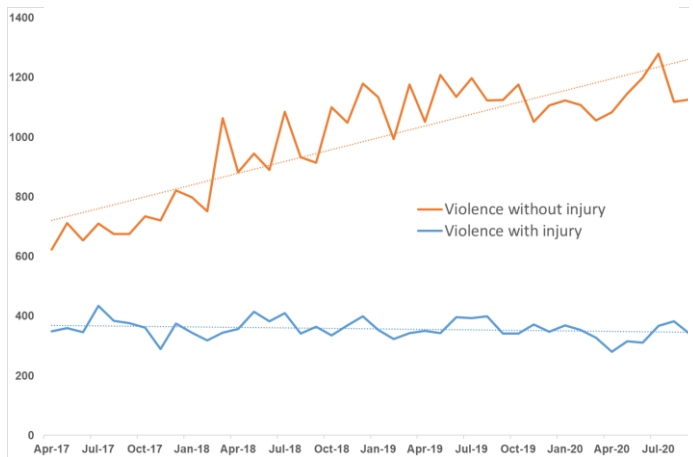
Looking at the breakdown of offences, there were reductions in all types of offence (to a greater or lesser extent) – the only offence to see a noticeable increase were public order offences (up 11%) which include threats, insults and breaches of molestation orders. The most notable decreases were ones where there were fewer opportunities or greater surveillance e.g. shop theft (premises closed) and burglary (increased numbers at home and more noticeable to see people out and about).

In comparison with other similar areas in the IQUANTA family (which compares Kirklees with other similar areas), the level of recorded crime in Kirklees is slightly above average. However, it should be noted that West Yorkshire were recently rated as “Outstanding” for its victim centred approach to recording crimes. This means that it is highly likely that some incidents which are recorded as crimes in West Yorkshire will not be recorded as such in other forces which should be borne in mind when making comparisons between areas.

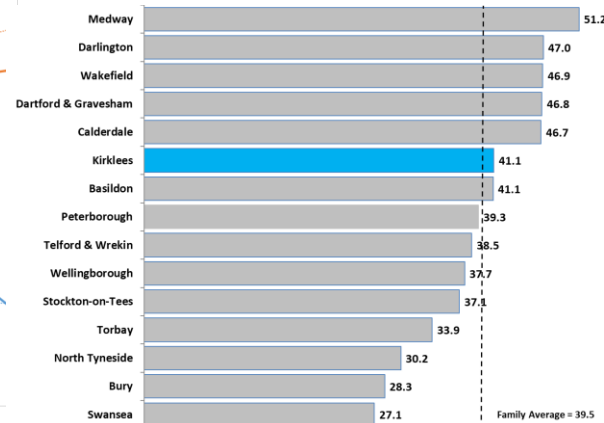
Results from the latest Crime Survey for England and Wales (August 2020) provide an insight into experiences of crime during lockdown restrictions. The report indicates a national crime reduction of 32%. However, this varies by offence type with significant reductions in property crime such as burglary / vehicle crime (due to less opportunities & more informal surveillance) and theft of personal property (less people about in public spaces and closure of night time economy). The report does however indicate increases in fraud and computer misuse and also drugs offences which increased sharply although this is thought to be associated with more proactive policing of these offences.

Violence Against the Person

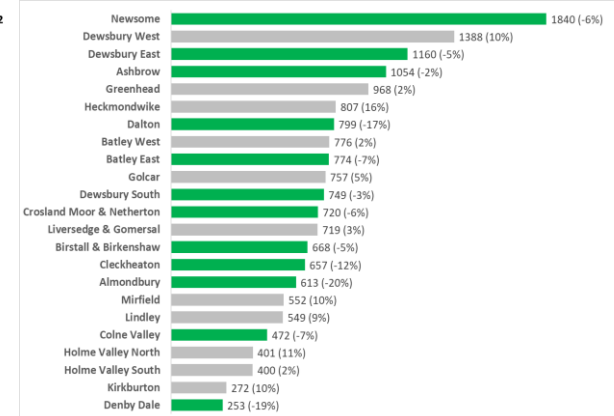
Long Term Trends in Recorded Crime



Kirklees compared with similar areas



Total Crime by Offence Type



Key Points

Despite a 1% reduction (133 offences) in violence against the person, it still accounts for 41% of all recorded crimes.

Violence against the person is made up of 2 categories of offences – **violence with injury** (including homicide) which makes up around 24% and **violence without injury** (such as assaults without injury, harassment and malicious communications) making up 76% of offences.

Over the past few years, violence without injury offences have increased and violence with injury have slightly fallen. In the 12 months to September 2020, violence with injury saw a 5% reduction whereas violence without injury saw a 1% increase. This trend is even more pronounced over the lockdown period compared with the previous year: violence with injury reduced by 10% and violent without injury increased by 2%.

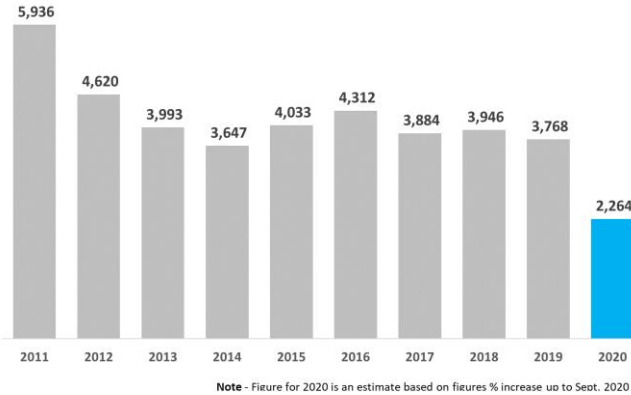
Broken down by offence type, the offences under the “violence against the person” which saw the most notable increases in crimes recorded over lockdown (April – September 2020 compared with previous year) were in the violence without injury category and in particular malicious communications (up 9% / 137 offences) and stalking (up 400% / 332 offences).

The level of violence against the person in Kirklees is slightly above the average for the IQUANTA family of similar areas.

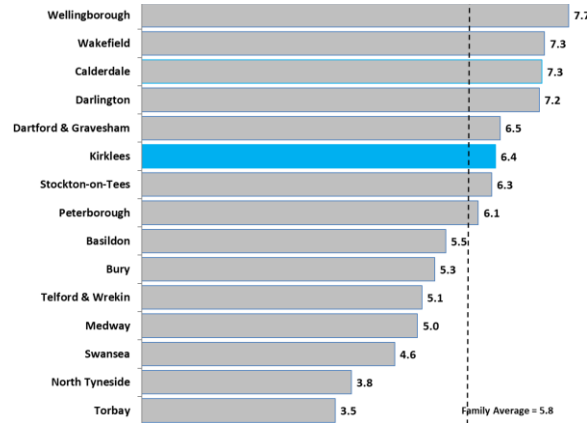
At a ward level, some areas saw reductions in the number of violent offences whilst other areas saw increases – there were however significant reductions in alcohol related violent crime associated with the night time economy as pubs and clubs were shut for large parts of lock down.

Burglary

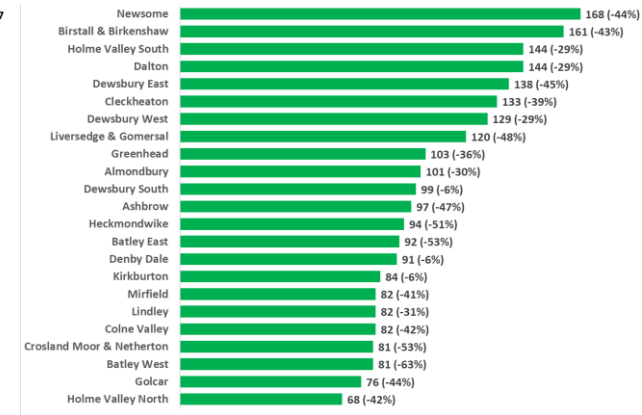
Long Term Trends in Burglary Offences



Kirklees compared with similar areas



Burglary Offences by Ward



Key Points

Burglary offences are either residential (72%) or targeting businesses or community buildings (28%). After a number of years where burglary was relatively stable, based on current figures, it is predicted that there 2020 will see a 40% reduction in burglary compared with the previous year. The fact that more people were at home and people behaving suspiciously were more likely to be spotted, Burglary reduced by 52% over the lockdown period compared with the previous year (42% reduction for Residential, 67% for Business / Community).

Recording rules mean that the count of burglaries includes “attempted burglaries” (around 20%) where the offender failed to enter the property.

Despite the significant reductions in Burglary, the level in Kirklees continues to be higher than other similar areas nationally.

All Wards in Kirklees saw a reduction in the number of recorded burglaries although the level of this reduction did vary between Wards. Since the figures presented combine residential and business / community burglaries, when viewed at a Ward level areas where there are more buildings to burgle such as town centres tend to feature more prominently –lockdown measures in town centres meant this was less evident.

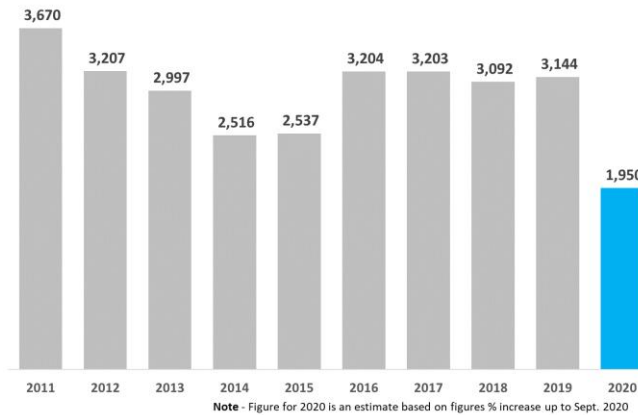
At a sub-ward level, it was possible to identify links with factors such as deprivation – over 50% of residential burglaries occur in top 30% most deprived areas.

The most common items targeted in burglaries are cash / cards, jewellery, electrical items and car keys (often the primary reason for the burglary). In terms of residential burglaries, the primary methods of entry are through doors and windows which are frequently left open / insecure with no obvious signs of home security measures in place.

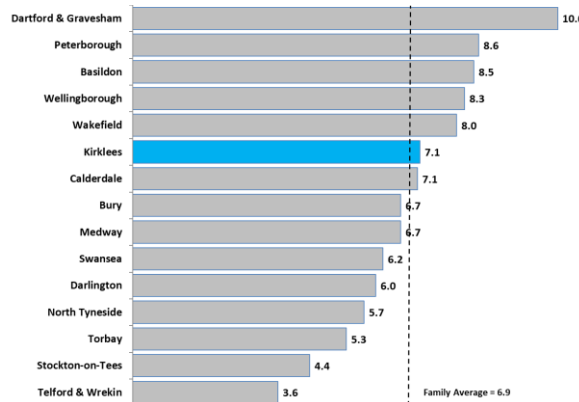
Burglary traditionally has a seasonal dimension (more prevalent in Summer months associated with door / windows left open and in winter when nights are darker) – as reported, there was no peak in the summer but vigilance is still needed for the possible future spikes as economic hardship increases.

Vehicle Crime

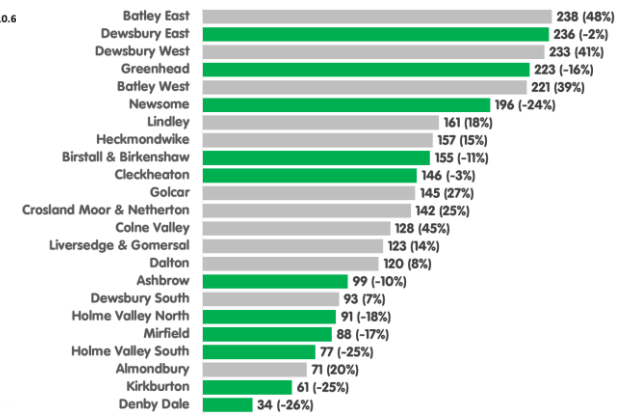
Long Term Trends in Vehicle Crime



Kirklees compared with similar areas



Vehicle Crime by Ward



Key Points

Vehicle crime is a combination of theft from motor vehicles (68%) and theft of motor vehicles (32%). Overall, there has been a 31% reduction in vehicle offences in the 12 months to September 2020. The fact that vehicles were travelling significantly less and not being left for long periods of time (for example whilst at work) meant that the rate of reduction for theft from vehicles (down 35%) was higher than thefts of vehicles (down 20%).

In comparison with other similar areas, the level of vehicle crime in Kirklees is slightly above average for the IQUANTA family.

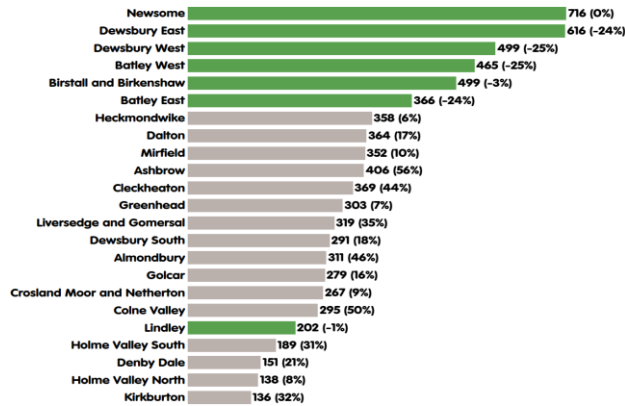
At a Ward level, there was a great deal of variation in the figures for the 12 months to September 2020 compared with the previous year – some of this is explained by the characteristics of the area – for example Wards with a Town Centre or commuter base.

Improved security of vehicles has contributed to the longer term reductions in thefts of vehicle – where they take place, it is more likely to target either older vehicles (with limited security measures such as immobilisers) although it is also the case that certain vehicles are specifically targeted because of their prestige / high value parts (offences often involve the use of the vehicle's own keys).

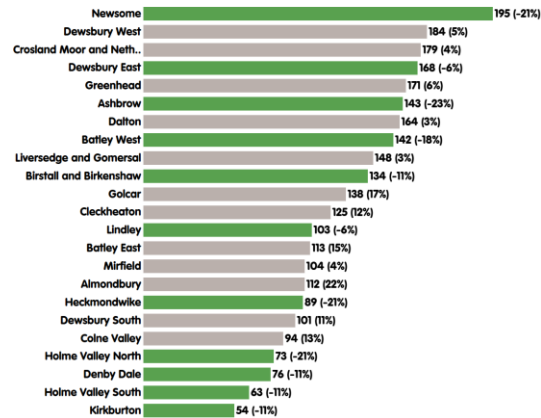
Thefts from vehicles frequently target items (e.g. cash, bags and phones) that have been left on display or to target equipment such as work tools. Having said this, many of the thefts from vehicle offences involve speculative searches of vehicles whose doors have been left unlocked. Since vehicles were used less frequently and to go for specific things such as shopping, thefts from vehicles did reduce significantly over the lockdown period.

Anti-Social Behaviour

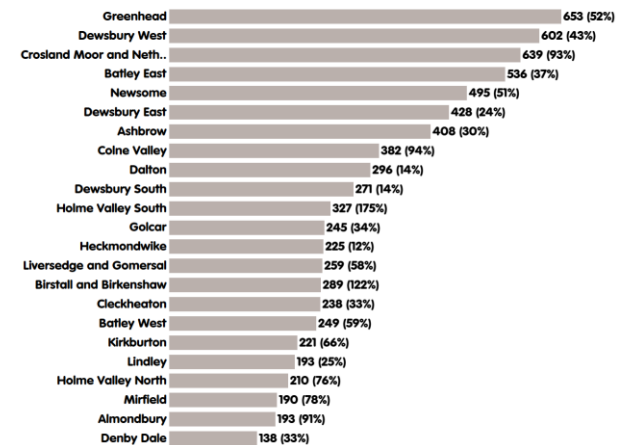
Police ASB



Noise Complaints



Fly-tipping



Key Points

COVID-19 has also had a significant impact, in terms of increasing ASB across Kirklees – both personal and nuisance ASB saw increase reporting over lockdown. This may partly be due to lower thresholds of reporting with citizens reporting breaches of restrictions rules as ASB, and due to the increasing time people have spent at home meaning there is more opportunity for ASB to occur.

Fly-tipping has also seen a significant increase across Kirklees. There was a period during which the tips across Kirklees were closed that contributed to this increase. Fly-tipping has undergone a change in reporting whereby fly-tips not reported to the council and removed are now recorded by staff. The wards with highest levels of fly-tipping are, Greenhead, Crosland Moor, and Dewsbury West.

The issues for each of the 4 Partnership Areas in Kirklees were as follows;

Batley and Spen - Over the past year, the main issues identified were Youth, and Nuisance Motorbikes ASB. Youth ASB occurs in the early throughout the week, Motorbike ASB peaks over the weekend, clustering in the early afternoon.

Huddersfield – the two main issues were fly-tipping particularly in the Greenhead and Crosland Moor Wards (e.g. Birkby and Hillhouse) and ASB in the Town Centre, the ASB level broadly mirrors the levels of restriction the area has been under following COVID-19 especially in Youth ASB

Dewsbury and Mirfield – Incidents of Adult / Youth ASB are evident in open areas in Dewsbury Town Centre during the late afternoon / early evening. The other issue identified relates to Fly-tipping in the Dewsbury West Ward with incidents most noticeable in Ravensthorpe and parts of Dewsbury Moor.

Rural - The main priorities in the area were Youth related ASB, this has seen an increase post March 2020 and COVID-19 restrictions. Youth ASB was higher during the evening in settlements such as Slaithwaite, Linthwaite, Skelmanthorpe, and Milnsbridge.

Anti-Social Behaviour

Key Points

Urban Street Gangs Referrals - In total, there have been 241 referrals received since the process started in July 2017.

The majority of referrals (71%) relate to individuals living in South Kirklees (Dalton and Ashbrow Ward had highest number). In North Kirklees, the only Wards with significant numbers of referrals were Dewsbury South / West. Analysis of home addresses of young people identified as at risk of urban street gangs, there was a concentration in the most deprived 20% areas – in particular the worst 10% (Note – in the previous SIA, it was the 10 – 20% most deprived - the change is because the same areas were rated as more deprived in the 2019 index of multiple deprivation).

The vast majority (93%) of all referrals are males and the peak age is in the mid-teens (peaking at 15). In terms of ethnicity, there are more total referrals (54% of total) for White individuals. However, when the relative population size is factored in, there are proportionately more referrals for black and mixed heritage groups.

Road Safety

The latest long-term trend figures (to March 2020) for Kirklees show a 32% reduction in Killed and Seriously injured casualties (vs 15% for WY) and a 3% reduction in all casualties (vs 12% for WY). These are the lowest numbers recorded in the District.

There is a mixed picture for vulnerable road users with the number of pedestrian casualties KSI in Kirklees reducing by 31% reduction (vs 10% increase for WY) but Kirklees has seen a 50% increase in cyclists KSI which exceeds the figure of 12.5% for WY. The number of child (0 – 15 years of age) casualties show a significant reduction in KSI for Kirklees (40% fewer vs 47% increase for WY).

Travel restrictions due to COVID-19 has significantly reduced the volume of traffic over the lockdown period and consequently resulted in a significant reduction in road traffic casualties although this has started to increase to pre-lockdown levels (still reducing in the longer term).

Road Traffic Collisions continue to happen at peak commuting times during the morning and in particular in the early evening.

Protecting People from Serious Harm

Key Points

Domestic abuse relates to “any incident or pattern of incidents of controlling, coercive, threatening behaviour, violence or abuse between those aged 16 or over who are, or have been, intimate partners or family members, regardless of gender or sexuality”. The Domestic Abuse Strategy highlights the following main categories; psychological and emotional including verbal abuse, physical abuse including violence, Sexual violence and abuse (in a domestic setting), financial abuse and Coercive and controlling behaviour.

Nationally, it is estimated that 26% of women and 15% of men aged 16 to 59 had experienced some form of domestic abuse since the age of 16, equivalent to an estimated 4.3 million female and 2.4 million male victims. The Home Office estimates the economic and social cost of domestic abuse to be in the region of £66 billion to the country – this can relate to physical / mental harm and related costs to health, police and victim services.

In the 12 months to September 2020, there were 5,639 domestic abuse incidents reported to the West Yorkshire Police. This is broadly similar to the levels recorded the previous year = there was no noticeable spike in the lockdown period which is also the case for DRAMM and MARAC referrals.

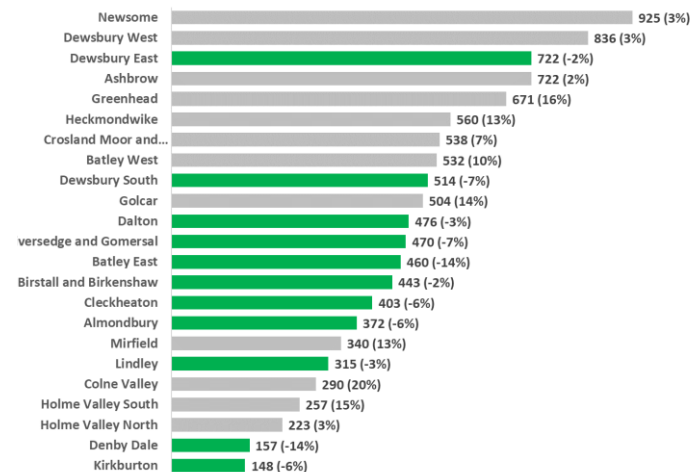
There has been a strong emphasis on communications to reach out to victims and vulnerable people during the lockdown period, this needs to continue to raise awareness of ongoing support available. It is acknowledged that the lack of contact with vulnerable people over the lockdown period does increase the risk of less chance of incidents involving children being picked up and the heightened risks of domestic homicides have been raised.

A summary of some of the key features of incidents reported to the Police are;

- Most common types of incident are violence (56%) and verbal disputes (25%).
- 48% incidents involve repeat victims (48% also involve repeat suspects)
- 24% of incidents attended resulted in arrest
- Children were recorded as being present at 27% of incidents
- Based on their relative population size, Males are over represented as Suspect and Females as victims

Over the Lockdown period, Pennine Domestic Abuse Partnership has continued to see an increase in referrals although this is manageable and as lockdown restrictions are eased, some of the strain on accommodation (including refuge spaces and temporary accommodation) and support has lessened.

Domestic Abuse Incidents by Ward



Protecting People from Serious Harm

Key Points

Hate incidents / crimes relate to 'any incident' which is perceived by the victim or any other person, to be motivated by hostility or prejudice based on personal characteristics disability, gender-identity, race, religion / faith and sexual orientation.

Compared with previous years, the numbers of incidents recorded has increased (11%). The period May to August 2020 has seen consistently higher reports each month compared to the previous year. Compared with other areas in West Yorkshire, Kirklees recorded 16% of incidents (3rd highest) which is slightly lower than might be expected relative to the population size.

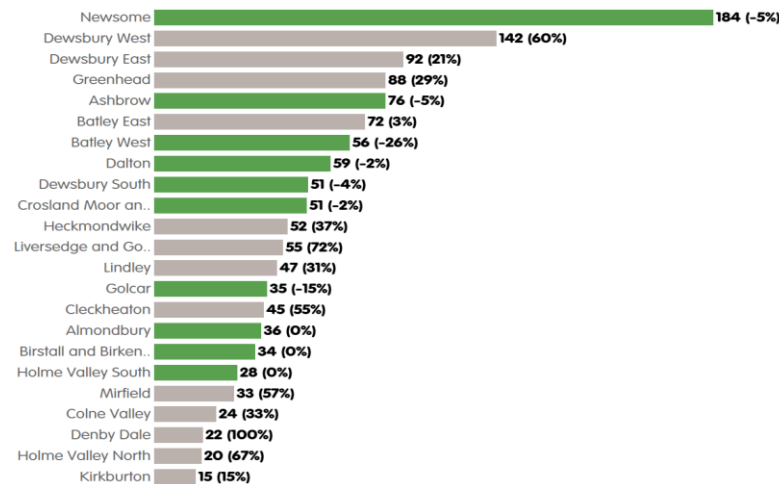
The majority of incidents in Kirklees continue to be racist incidents (76%) which is similar to the picture for West Yorkshire as a whole. In Kirklees, there have been increases in racist incidents and slight increases in hate incidents relating to disability. A recent report from Victim Support highlighted a 62% increase in hate crime referrals nationally. This report concluded that this was in part attributable to more people coming forward as a result of increased awareness following publicity of the Black Lives Matter movement over the summer. In Kirklees, incidents were mainly neighbour related or incidents which did not involve direct contact such as threats, harassment and malicious communications.

Latest figures (12 months to June 2020) suggest the vast majority (89%) of incidents involve violence (which includes "non-injury" incidents such as threats, harassment and malicious communications).

The arrest rate varies across the strands of hate, for race incidents it is around 12% (although this varies on a month by month basis and with cases). Approximately 20% of all incidents involve repeat victims (within the same year) – it should be noted that this does not necessarily indicate an escalation in severity of incidents due to lack of action as it might equally indicated victims keeping agencies informed because they are satisfied with response to date.

Geographically, Newsome and Dewsbury East / West continue to be the Wards with the highest number of recorded incidents. This may be associated with better recording mechanisms in the area as opposed to more incidents taking place. Other geographical features of incidents include approximately 25% taking place in Kirklees Neighbourhood Housing (KNH) areas, 16% could be classed as "neighbour related". This rises to 31% in KNH areas.

Hate Incidents by Ward



Protecting People from Serious Harm

Key points

Children at risk of Exploitation - The rate of new referrals and notifications reduced during the Pandemic lockdown. Some of the reasons for this include; restrictions to free movement in lockdown meaning less people were in public space and the closure of schools / changes in service delivery of some partners meant early indicators of risk might not have been picked up / reported. Of the cases referred to Risk and Vulnerabilities / YES / ESP, the majority related to either criminal or child sexual exploitation. The trends in exploitation to occur through cyber enabled mechanism continued over the lockdown period.

Modern Slavery encompasses human trafficking and slavery, servitude and forced or compulsory labour. **Human Trafficking** is defined as the “movement of a person from one place to another (both cross border and within a country) into conditions of exploitation, using deception, coercion”. Trafficking can be either international, often for the purpose of forced labour (including domestic servitude) or within the UK, usually associated with exploitation such as sexual abuse or trafficking drugs.

Human trafficking and modern day slavery continue to be **significantly under reported** and consequently intelligence gathering remains a priority. In the 12 months to September 2020, the number of MDS recorded offences increased by 26% (22 offences) – in part connected with the front line partnership staff visiting more businesses in connection with COVID19 engagement. The two main types of offence are mainly sexual exploitation (mainly child) and criminal exploitation (forced gang / labour in illegal activities – people at risk of criminal exploitation are typically males aged 10 to 19 whereas females in the same age group are at more risk of sexual exploitation. Broken down by Ward, there continue to be more offences in the North of Kirklees. Although not evident in the recorded figures (due to under reporting), Lockdown did heighten risk of young people in potentially risky situations over the summer and economic hardship heightening risks of criminal exploitation.

PREVENT – The latest threat profile (June 2020), highlights the following as key extremism risks;

National Threat Level lowered from severe to substantial, meaning that a terrorist attack is judged as a strong possibility. The main threats are perceived to be from Daesh / Al Qaida inspired groups although there is an increasing threat from extreme right-wing groups. Threats are both through planned actions and from lone actors using readily available equipment such as bladed instruments and vehicles.

A key area of concern is terrorist threats emerging from online platforms which is likely to have increased over the lockdown period. Some prominent figures have had their main social media accounts shut down and have reopened accounts on alternative platforms. Although not terror related, there has been evidence of an increase in conspiracy theories relating to COVID19 and concerns to do with Black lives matter movement – some of which has a call for social disobedience and anti-police rhetoric.

Within Kirklees, some of the main risks have been associated with far-right stickers being put up in local parks. In Kirklees there has been a 55% reduction in Channel referrals although it should be noted that schools were closed during this period which are one of the main referral points. The main types of referral have been evenly split between Daesh and extreme right wing concerns.

Improving Place

Community Cohesion

In response to the need to support vulnerable people with essential supplies during the lockdown period, over 140 community led mutual aid groups and nearly 1,500 volunteers came forward in a massive display of **community mobilisation**. Having said this, Coronavirus has caused worry and some tensions around inconsistent rule following and adherence to social distancing.

Community Tensions

Ongoing reporting of court cases relating to child sexual exploitation cases and subsequent arrests of predominately Pakistani heritage males. Local and national media covered this story and there was a Yorkshire Patriots demonstration in Dewsbury against grooming gangs. There have been hundreds of comments on social media although locally tensions in the community were low.

There has continued to be a number of gang related knife / shooting incidents ongoing within Huddersfield, mainly in town centre and North Huddersfield, however this has reduced significantly during 2020. There have been several serious Arson attacks in North Kirklees over the past year, targeting cars and property.

A man was murdered in a vicious attack outside a factory in Linthwaite in January 2020. This resulted in daily tensions monitoring and lots of reassurance and support was needed from the partnership as the community were deeply concerned by what had happened.

A racist incident occurred in June 2020 at Holmfirth Cricket Club which was filmed and went viral on social media. This occurred around the same time as the George Floyd murder in the USA, which also raised tensions in Kirklees, especially on social media. A BLM protest took place in Greenhead Park on the 13th of June, which was well attended and peaceful.

Coronavirus is having a significant impact in Kirklees. Many people are worried about what is happening and how this is affecting their daily lives. Daily tensions monitoring has been in place for much of the spring / summer of 2020 to gather feelings and reassure local people.

Possible Future Tensions

COVID19 and associated restrictions on people are highly likely to be a concern for local people with the strong possibility of tensions developing in relation to this.

It is anticipated that developments relating to the Brexit implementation may cause tensions and possible negativity between communities. There has been an increase of far right stickering and graffiti in Kirklees, particularly in places where people gather such as Parks.

Child Sexual Exploitation continues to be an ongoing concern for people in Kirklees. Trials are currently on-going and it is likely that there will be others arrested for historic CSE which is highly likely to result in tensions.

Improving Place

Migration and Refugee Resettlement

People have migrated into Kirklees for a variety of reasons including work, study, to join families and those who have fled for humanitarian protection reasons. Kirklees continues to see the arrival of many vulnerable asylum seekers and refugees and wider migrants, resulting in an increased pressure on services and the voluntary sector.

A migration profile produced in early 2020 considered a range of datasets to provide an insight into migration and the changing nature of the Kirklees population. This analysis highlighted the main migration has been from Romania, Poland, Pakistan and Hungary (based on NINO: National Insurance number information). For those arriving seeking humanitarian protection, the top countries are: Pakistan, Iraq, Iran, Sudan, Afghanistan and Eritrea.

The analysis identified several deprived urban neighbourhoods **in** with higher concentrations of EU Citizens, Refugees and Asylum seekers. These are typically urban areas with high levels of deprivation and often characterised by higher population density / birth rates and English spoken as a second language.

Kirklees is a Home Office designated Asylum Dispersal area. Currently, there are approximately 750 asylum seekers in Kirklees (a significant number are single males). Accommodation has been mainly located in South Kirklees in relatively close proximity to services provided in the vicinity of the town centre although this is expanded to areas in the North of the District.

COVID19 has highlighted the significant risks posed to people seeking asylum and refugees as particularly vulnerable to issues such as language barriers to understanding restrictions, financial difficulties, digital exclusion, safeguarding issues (such as modern-day slavery and domestic abuse) and lockdown measures restricting the availability of some support services. Combined with this is an increase in right wing propaganda and protest in some areas about the presence of asylum seekers.

Perceptions Results – West Yorkshire

Key points

The latest results available from the comprehensive **“Your Views” survey** undertaken by the Office for the Police and Crime Commissioner (OPCC) are for the period ending March 2020 (prior to lockdown). The results from this survey indicate:

- 1% improvement (not statistically significant) in “How safe people feel in their local areas” to 79% (compares with 81% for West Yorkshire).
- 2% improvement (not statistically significant) in “Satisfaction with local area as a place to live” to 74% (compares with 75% for West Yorkshire).
- No change in “Do people from different backgrounds get on well together in your local area” to 55% (compares with 57% for West Yorkshire).
- When asked about particular problems in the local area, when compared with other areas, Kirklees respondents expressed most concerns over violence and Hate Crime – having said this the top concern was dangerous driving (speeding) followed by Drugs.
- Satisfaction with the work of Community Safety Partnerships improved by 3% (not statistically significant) from the previous year although there has been a significant improvement since the previous quarter.
- Stronger perceptions scores in the Rural area and lowest scores in parts of the North of the District – in particular Dewsbury and Mirfield.

In June 2020, the **OPCC held an online “community conversation”** which aimed to establish how communities were feeling during lockdown. At that time, the main consensus from respondents was that of “coping well” (these results were more positive for White compared with BME respondents) during lockdown (80%) and feeling safe in their neighbourhoods (86%).

Nearly half of respondents said there was a “boost to community spirit” although people were concerned about not seeing family and friends. People expressed confusion about social distancing guidelines although this was directed at Government as opposed to Police for supporting adherence to guidelines.

Between June and September 2020, **Kirklees Neighbourhood Housing** undertook an **engagement survey** which invited all its tenants and leaseholders to comment on living in KNH estates. Some of the key issues to emerge included;

- Key priorities for respondents related either to their homes (repairs / improvements) or the Estate (environmental maintenance / tackling anti-social behaviour).
- 65% of respondents reported feeling safe / very safe in their local area. Where they did not feel safe, some of the main concerns were drug dealing, anti-social behaviour and intergenerational concerns.
- 65% of respondents said their home / community met their needs (although slightly more to the generally rather than fully agree) and that the place had “a strong identity and I feel I belong”.

Drugs and Alcohol

Key Points

Substance misuse impacts on **all 4 of the Themes** in the Partnership Plan. According to the latest harm ranking figures, the top 5 most harmful substances for society are (in order) alcohol, heroin, crack cocaine, methamphetamine and Cocaine. The impact of substance misuse on individuals, families and communities can be both **immediate** (e.g. violent crime, drug related deaths) or **longer term** (drug dependent crime, domestic abuse) and show **inter-generational** dimensions.

The assessment of substance misuse risks has been divided into use and supply issues and split by drugs / alcohol;

Drugs	Alcohol
<p>Use – Issues include offending to fund use, pressures on mental and physical health (including fatalities) and social harms to both the families and wider society.</p> <p>Supply – issues include on street dealing (street crime and negative perceptions associated with this), cannabis farms with links to other organised crime and human trafficking.</p>	<p>Use – violent crime (both associated with night time economy and domestic abuse), anti-social behaviour (such as neighbour complaints and rowdy behaviour) and longer term harm to society and health outcomes (liver disease, mental health and cancer).</p> <p>Supply – issues include unrestricted supply to meet demand, challenging underage sales and safe operating practices.</p>

In terms of the impact of COVID19, national research suggests a rise in the consumption of drugs and alcohol purchases increased by over 30% during lockdown. The same research indicates the wholesale prices of heroin and cocaine have increased substantially since lockdown and that quality has reduced, with fentanyl being more available.

Kirklees Adult substance misuse service (known as CHART) have provided remote services / support but also remained open to those service users who could not be managed remotely. All triages and assessments have been carried out remotely via telephone where possible, which has significantly increased engagement levels (from 350 contacts per week in February 2020 to 4,803 in March) and significantly reduced the stigma of attending a drug and alcohol service for the first time for many people.

CHART reported a 43% increase in the number of people accessing Structured Alcohol Treatment support in Q3 2020 compared with the previous year. As a preventative measure against overdoses, CHART has provided 80% of opiate users with Naloxone kits to reduce fatal overdoses.

CHART have supported people with more complex needs through drop in sessions at Homeless Hostels which has included development of a mobile needle exchange, supporting alcohol dependent service users towards abstinence and through close working with Children's Social Care, developed strong multiagency working to keep children safe from the impact of substance misuse.