

ENVIRONMENT SCRUTINY PANEL

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| Date: Monday 4th March, 2024 |
| Time: 10.00 am |
| Venue: Mandela Room, Town Hall |

AGENDA

1. Apologies for Absence
2. Declarations of Interest
3. Minutes of the Previous Meeting of the Environment Scrutiny Panel held on 5 February 2024 3 - 6
4. Annual Updates - Community Safety Partnership; Prevent and Chanel 7 - 32

The Head of Stronger Communities, Community Safety Manager and Community Safety Partnership Officer will be in attendance to provide the Panel with statutory annual updates on:-

- Community Safety Partnership
- Prevent and Chanel

5. Update - Crustacean Deaths Collaborative Working Group

The Vice Chair will provide a verbal update in relation to the Crustacean Deaths Collaborative Working Group.

6. Overview and Scrutiny Board - Update

The Chair will provide a verbal update in relation to business conducted at the Overview and Scrutiny Board meetings held on 7 and 28 February 2024.

7. Waste Management - Update

An update will be provided in relation to the Panel's current review.

8. Any other urgent items which in the opinion of the Chair, may be considered.
9. Date and Time of Next Meeting - 2 April 2024

Charlotte Benjamin
Director of Legal and Governance Services

Town Hall
Middlesbrough
Friday 23 February 2024

MEMBERSHIP

Councillors J Ryles (Chair), D Branson (Vice-Chair), J Banks, J Ewan, TA Grainge, L Mason, I Morrish, M Nugent and S Platt

Assistance in accessing information

Should you have any queries on accessing the Agenda and associated information please contact Joanne Dixon, 01642 729713, joanne_dixon@middlesbrough.gov.uk

ENVIRONMENT SCRUTINY PANEL

A meeting of the Environment Scrutiny Panel was held on 5 February 2024.

PRESENT: Councillors: Branson (Vice Chair in the Chair), Ewan, Grainge, Morrish, Nugent and S Platt.

OFFICERS: J Dixon and L Hamer.

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE were submitted on behalf of Councillors Banks and Ryles.

**** DECLARATIONS OF MEMBERS' INTERESTS**

There were no Declarations of Interest made by Members at this point in the meeting.

MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING OF THE ENVIRONMENT SCRUTINY PANEL HELD ON 15 JANUARY 2024

The minutes of the previous meeting of the Environment Scrutiny Panel held on 15 January 2024 were submitted and approved as a correct record, subject to the figures on pages 3/4 being amended to 'millions'.

UPDATE ON THE USE OF THE SURVEILLANCE POLICY 2023/24 (RIPA)

L Hamer, Governance and Information Manager, was in attendance at the meeting to provide the Panel with an update in relation to the Council processes in place to ensure compliance with the Statutory Codes of Practice applying to the Regulation of Investigatory Powers Act 2000 (RIPA).

The Panel was advised that the Council's Surveillance Policy had recently been refreshed and approved by the Executive Member for Finance and Governance in December 2023.

It was explained that RIPA was the law governing the use of surveillance techniques by public authorities, including local authorities, and must only be used to obtain private information about someone where surveillance was necessary, proportionate and compatible with human rights. It was typically used in cases of suspected criminal activity that were likely to result in a custodial sentence of six months or more.

Where covert surveillance was needed to gather sufficient evidence to secure a prosecution, approval was required from a Magistrate.

Since 2019 (the previous refresh of the Policy), the Council had exercised these powers on two occasions – both in 2023 – in relation to the following suspected offences:-

- Underage tobacco sales
- Illicit tobacco sales

Paragraph 5) of the report contained charts showing RIPA activity undertaken by the Council between 2015 and 2023, including the nature of the surveillance and reasons it was undertaken. Activity remained low as the Council would always try to avoid using covert surveillance wherever possible. It was highlighted that between 2020 and 2022 RIPA powers had not been used at all due to Covid.

Furthermore, the Council also had a process, as set out within the Surveillance Policy, for surveillance on non-RIPA grounds. This process tended to be used to investigate issues such as data protection investigation; audit; disciplinary; system audit and inappropriate use of social media, with Council staff or Council contractors.

In 2023, six instances of non-RIPA surveillance were undertaken in relation to staffing matters. Each matter was centrally logged and approved by HR to ensure the use of this power was minimised and that there was a legitimate basis for use which must be identified prior to approval.

Details of the Council's Surveillance Policy were contained within the report and a copy of the Policy was attached for information.

It was highlighted that the use of RIPA was also reported to Corporate Affairs and Audit Committee on an annual basis as part of the Senior Information Responsible Officer (SIRO) report.

A discussion ensued and the following issues were raised:-

- In response to a query it was confirmed that the figures on when and how the powers had been used was looked at annually and the Policy was refreshed every three years.
- A Panel Member made reference to page 27, paragraph 8) of the report, which stated "... Members will have no direct involvement in surveillance operations or in making decisions on specific authorisations." It was queried why this was the case. The Panel was advised that surveillance operations would not be something that Councillors would normally be involved in, particularly if it was a covert operation. Examples were provided such as a Councillor becoming involved in a noise complaint or gathering evidence in relation to an individual fly-tipping, etc and it was confirmed that this would be outside of the Policy and that Members should seek advice from the appropriate service area in such instances to ensure correct procedures were being followed and also for personal safety reasons.
- Reference was made to separate procedures in place for RIPA and non-RIPA surveillance. It was clarified that RIPA surveillance required Magistrates approval if it was considered to meet the threshold for criminal investigation and that non-RIPA surveillance was logged centrally and approved by the relevant Head of Service and HR and that this mainly related to staff matters. Examples of when this might be used included inappropriate use of social media which may bring the Council's reputation into disrepute or benefit fraud.
- It was queried whether non-RIPA investigations could progress to RIPA surveillance and it was confirmed that this could happen on occasion.
- In terms of inappropriate use of social media, Members were informed that the Council had a Social Media Policy which covered staff and Elected Members but not members of the public.
- Reference was made to page 35 paragraph 61 of the Policy which stated "... from time to time the Council will provide grants for equipment ..." and it was queried what this was for. The Panel was advised that, on occasion, grants might be provided for equipment such as cameras/CCTV equipment to help capture instances of crime and anti-social behaviour for example, that could be used as evidence.
- Panel Members held a discussion regarding the current approval pathways for sanctioning non-RIPA surveillance and suggested that this could potentially be strengthened by including approval from the Monitoring Officer (Director of Legal and Governance Services), as well as notifying the Chief Executive, for non-RIPA cases. Members felt that this would ensure that the process was more robust and independent for non-RIPA investigations which tended to relate to staffing matters.

AGREED as follows:-

1. That the update provided in relation to the Council's Surveillance Policy and RIPA powers be noted.
2. That the Panel's suggestion to introduce involvement/approval of the Chief Executive and Monitoring Officer, for non-RIPA investigations, be fed in to the appropriate route when next

reviewing the Council's Surveillance Policy.

OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY BOARD UPDATE

The Democratic Services Officer provided a verbal update in relation to the business conducted at the Overview and Scrutiny Board meeting held on 18 January 2024, namely:

- Executive Forward Work Programme
- Budget Consultation – Scrutiny Feedback
- Local Government Boundary Review – Phase Two
- Next meeting of OSB – Wednesday, 7th February 2024, 4.30pm.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Waste Management – Current Scrutiny Topic

During a discussion in relation to the Panel's current scrutiny investigation into Waste Management, Members requested further information in relation to Middlesbrough's CIPFA nearest neighbours with regards to waste and recycling with potential to contact one or two of those authorities to find out about their recycling systems and associated information.

NOTED

Crustacean Deaths Collaborative Working Group - Update

The Chair advised that the draft report following the one-year investigation by the above group had been circulated to Panel Members for comment and was in the process of being finalised.

Details were provided in relation to the large scale demise of crustaceans that had first occurred in October 2021. It was a major problem in the North East resulting in an 80% decline in catches for local fishermen. As the investigation had progressed it appeared that there were several causal factors and that mass die-offs could not be attributed to one single cause.

In response to a question, the Chair confirmed that it was a widespread problem ranging from Blyth to beyond Scarborough.

NOTED

DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the Environment Scrutiny Panel was scheduled to take place on Monday, 4 March 2024 at 10.00am.

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Environment Scrutiny Panel 4/3/24

Community Safety Partnership (CSP) annual update

Prevent/Channel annual update

Marion Walker – Head of Stronger Communities

Jane Hill – Community Safety Manager

Andy Shippey – CSP Officer

CSP Overview / Responsibilities

Terms of reference

The Community Safety Partnership (CSP) is a statutory partnership made up of key 'Responsible Authorities' who have equal responsibility for reducing crime and antisocial behaviour under the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 (As amended by the Antisocial Behaviour Act 2014 and the Policing and Crime Act 2017)

Page

8 The Responsible Authorities include Police, Local Authority, Fire and Rescue Authority, Health, Probation and YOS (now known as YJS). They work in collaboration with other statutory / voluntary services and local people to reduce crime and make people feel safer by dealing with issues such as antisocial behaviour, drug and alcohol misuse, re-offending and serious violence.

Functions

To deliver the statutory requirements of the Community Safety Partnership e.g.

- Produce a strategic intelligence assessment that informs a community safety plan. This plan should set out what the priorities are and how they will be addressed (reviewed every 2 years)
- Consult and engage with the community
- Formulate and implement a strategy to reduce re-offending by both adult and young offenders (Section 108 of the Policing and Crime Act 2009)
- Prepare an information sharing protocol which must be signed by all responsible authorities to disclose certain sets of depersonalised data at least quarterly
- Ensure that it has a committee with power to review or scrutinise decisions made; or other action taken and to make reports or recommendations (Section 19 - 21 of the Police and Justice Act 2006)
- Establish Domestic Homicide Reviews (DHR), as appropriate, (Section 9 of the Domestic Violence and Crimes Act 2004)
- Prevent violent extremism (Counter-Terrorism and Security Act 2015)
- Prevent and reduce serious violence (Police, Crime, Sentencing and Courts Act 2022)

Governance

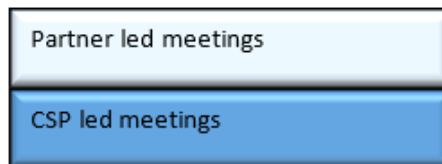
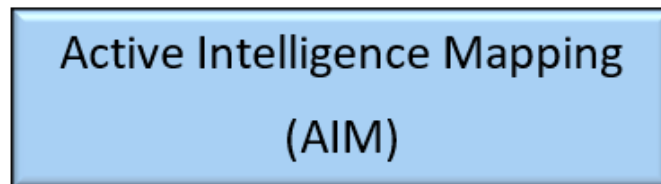
The business of the CSP is open to scrutiny by all agencies and in particular the Overview and Scrutiny function of the Council. The working practices of the Partnership should enable Overview and Scrutiny to make early, constructive, contributions to policy as well as supporting scrutiny of decisions made, monitor outcomes and targets achieved and review of practice and progress.

Page 10 The Active Intelligence Mapping (AIM) group monitors patterns and trends in multi-agency data and partnership resources are deployed to address emerging issues on a monthly basis. The AIM chair will report to the CSP.

Multi agency thematic groups are already in place, and task and finish groups are established as and when needed. They also link in with the 4 Neighbourhood Action Partnership meetings (NAP)

Set out on next slide

Governance



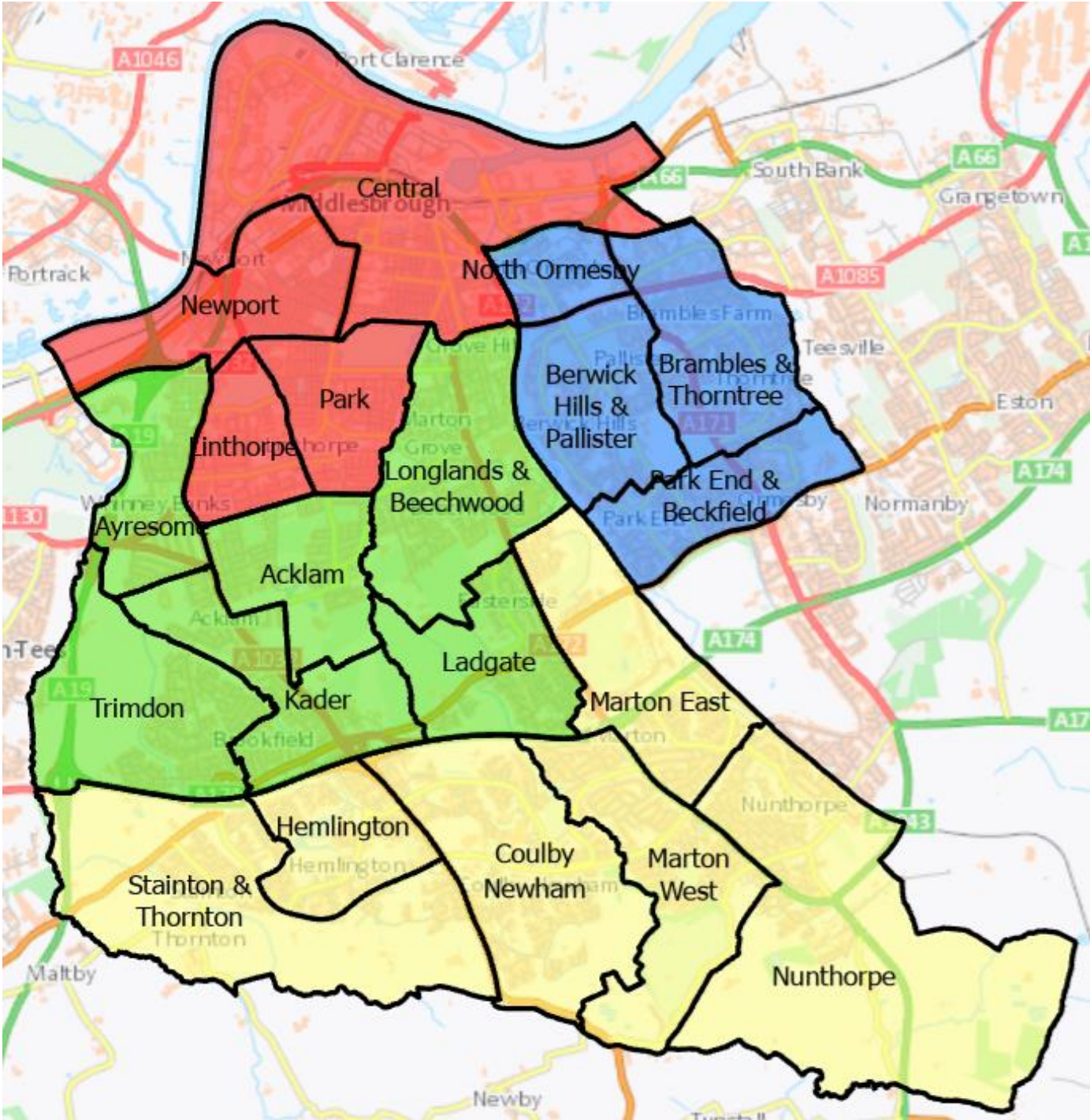
Operating Areas

North

East

South

West



Strategic Intelligence Assessment

Cleveland Police Crime Statistics

1. Crime for all of Middlesbrough had been increasing over the last four financial years. In 2019 the total number of crimes recorded was 23069 with an average of 1922 crimes per month, this decreased slightly during the covid financial year and FY2021-22 completed with 24951 recorded crimes – 2079 on average per month. ***In financial year 2022-23 crime has continued to remain high and ended with a total of 26450 crimes recorded equating to an average of 2204 crimes per month (an increase of 6%).***

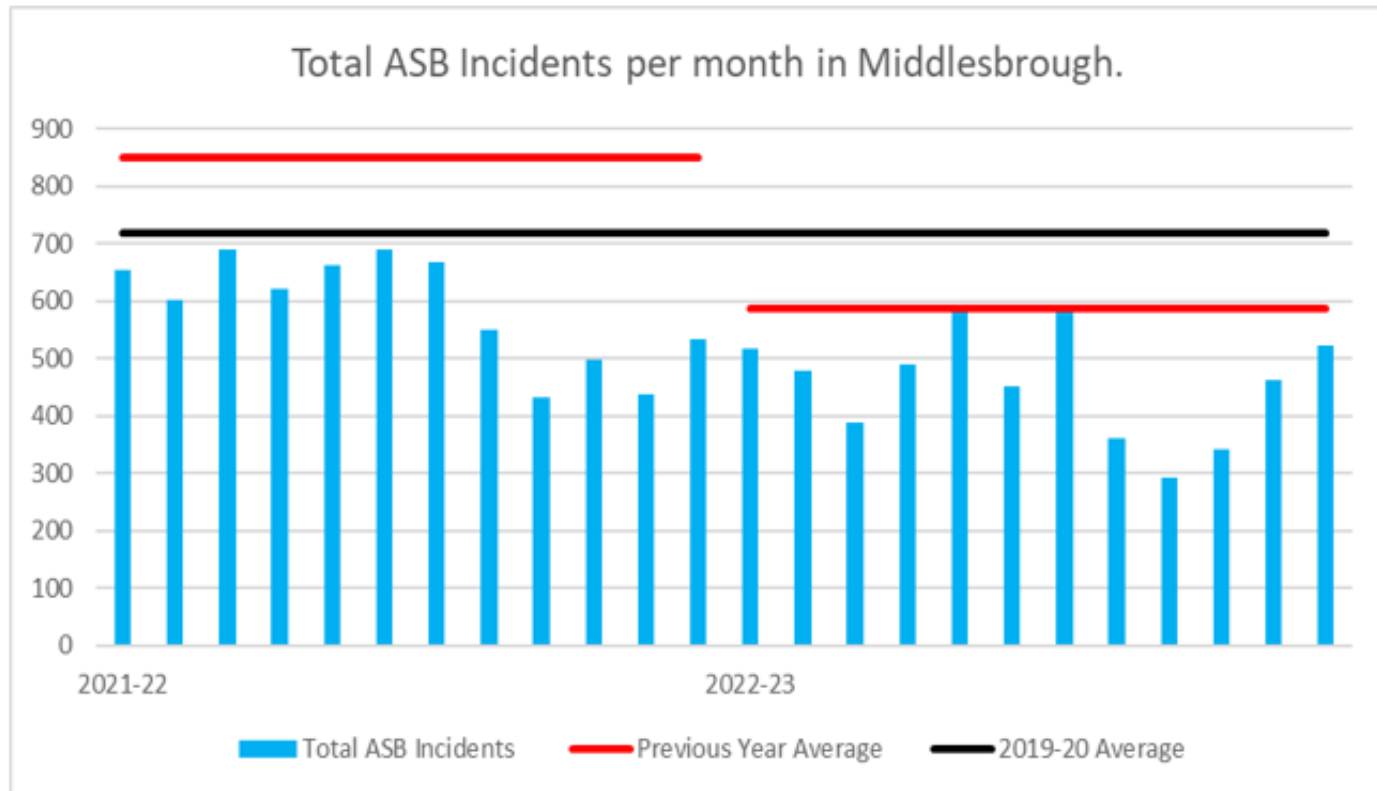
However, whilst there has been an increase in crime overall, the recorded levels in the later half of the year started to show continued signs of decline with levels lowering than the FY2019, and FY2021 averages.



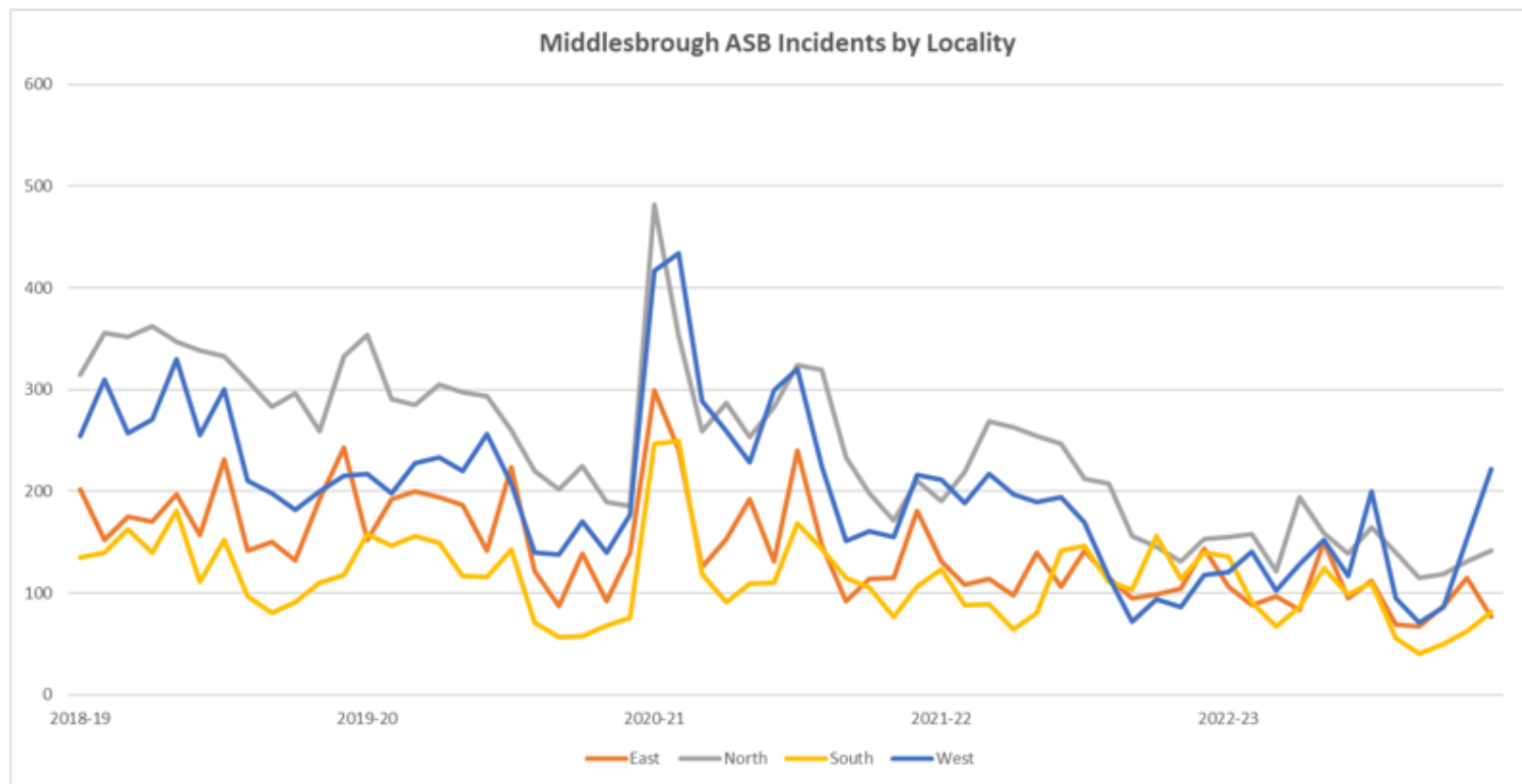
Strategic Intelligence Assessment

Antisocial Behaviour

1. ASB in FY2021-22 had remained significantly lower than observed in previous financial years and the area recorded some of the lowest levels per month the observed in the last 4 financial years, resulting in FY21-22 ending with an average of 587 incidents per month. **Further decreases have been observed overall in financial year 2022-23. The total incidents at year end were 5475, this equates to 456 on average per month. In comparison to FY21-22 the levels have declined by 1575 incidents overall (22.3%), again likewise with crime seeing the levels per month being significantly lower the FY19-20 and 20-21 averages.**



Strategic Intelligence Assessment

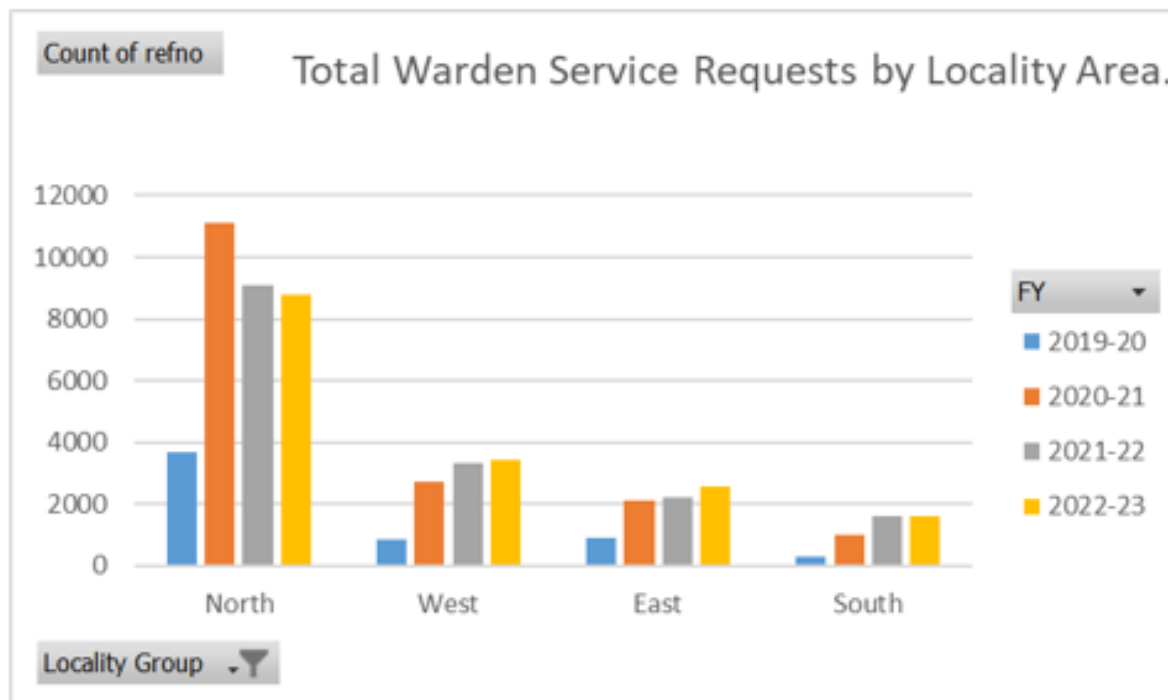


3. It was reported that all wards within Middlesbrough at the end of FY21-22 were showing decreases in comparison with FY20-21, and 19-20 – except Hemlington which was higher. **As of the end of financial year 2022-23 the levels of ASB in Hemlington have decreased from the previous year by 34.7% seeing levels in the ward now lower than in FY2021-22 and 19-20. All other wards have also decreased in FY22-23 from 21-22 except; Ayresome which has increased by 44%, and Trimdon which increased by 42%.**



Strategic Intelligence Assessment

Drilling down to the 4 locality areas (North, East, South, West), most reports to the warden service remain in North Middlesbrough. However, it is interesting to note that over the last 4 years the reports in North Middlesbrough have been decreasing with the other 3 locality areas increasing.



Cleveland Fire Brigade – Deliberate Fires

1. Deliberate fires across Middlesbrough had been increasing since FY18-19 and as of FY21-22 reports were higher than in the previous year by 42%, and higher than in the pre-covid FY by 24.6%. ***In financial year 2022-23 the levels of Deliberate fires have remained the same as in FY21-22, only seeing an increase of 7 reports (0.42%).***
2. In the previous needs assessment, the concern around deliberate fires focused on an increase in F1 fires (FY21-22 ending higher than previously seen in the last 4 year), and F3 fires increasing significantly (27.9% higher in FY21-22 than in FY19-20). ***In financial year 2022-23 F3 deliberate fires have declined slightly by 0.66%, however F1 fires have continued to increase in reports (an additional 11.7% than in FY21-22).***

Serious and Violent Crime Data

1. It was previously reported that serious violence in Middlesbrough had increased in FY21-22 in comparison to 19-20 by 24% and from 20-21 by 32%. ***Total reports in financial year 2022-23 increased from the previous FY by 12.25% with the total of 724 incidents being the highest in the last 5 years and being 51.93% higher than in FY 2018-19.***

Priority 1—Perceptions and Feeling Safe

Objectives

- Reducing crime and anti-social behavior
- Improving community cohesion and res
- Delivering the prevent agenda

Priority 2 - Tackling the Root Causes

Adverse Experiences

Objectives

- Improve mental health
- Reduce child exploitation (Inc. CSE)
- Reduce substance misuse
- Reduce domestic violence
- Reducing serious violence

Priority 3 - Locality Working, Inc. Town Centre

Reconfigure relationships between statutory organisations and the community. Encouraging and supporting a collaborative approach and building capacity within the community.

Objectives

- Working with communities (doing 'with' not 'to')
- Improving environmental cleanliness
- Protecting Children from harm and exploitation
- Addressing underlying community issues
- Reducing Violence, business crime and acquisitive crime
- Reducing re-offending
- Reduce Begging

**CSP Priorities
are underlined**

Prevent & Channel update

Andy Shippey
CSP Officer

What is Prevent?

- The purpose of Prevent is to safeguard people who are at risk of radicalisation and to stop them from being exploited by people who would want them to support terrorism.
- The Prevent programme uses early intervention to protect individuals and communities from the harms of terrorism.
- Channel Intervention support for individuals is both confidential and voluntary.
- Prevent is delivered through a wide network of partners within communities, civil society organisations and public-sector institutions

**PREVENT
RADICALISATION**

Did you know these key facts about Prevent?

Prevent is about **intervening early and safeguarding people**



Prevent intervenes as early as possible to support people at risk of radicalisation, before a crime is committed.

Get help if you're worried about someone being radicalised, visit [GOV.UK/PREVENT](https://www.gov.uk/prevent)

**PREVENT
RADICALISATION**

Did you know these key facts about Prevent?

Prevent isn't a **punishment**



Getting support through Prevent won't go on someone's criminal record – it's about connecting them to the support they need to get their lives back on track.

Get help if you're worried about someone being radicalised, visit [GOV.UK/PREVENT](https://www.gov.uk/prevent)

Local Authority Response

- Middlesbrough Operational Prevent Group leading on action plans designed to reduce the risk by increasing communities' resilience and awareness
- Training and awareness raising
- Promotion of the safeguarding nature of Prevent

Middlesbrough Operational Group

- Multi-agency group combining local authority departments working with vulnerable services including YJ, children's social care, adult social care and external organisations including educators such as Middlesbrough college working together to deliver a partnership approach of Prevent
- The group develop and lead on action plans each year designed to promote risk awareness to professionals and others who support/care for those vulnerable in our communities whilst promoting the safeguarding nature of Prevent.
- In addition to Scrutiny the work and actions of Prevent are also overseen by:
 - ✓ Ofsted
 - ✓ Office of the Policing Crime Commissioner
 - ✓ Community Safety Partnership
 - ✓ Peer observation
 - ✓ Regional Home Office Prevent Advisor Assessment
 - ✓ Regional Contest Board

Revised Prevent Duty Guidance

With the introduction of the revised Prevent Duty guidance (Sept 2023) the Operational Group have been developing processes in the following areas to ensure compliance including:

- Reinforcing the training provision
- Reinforcing the referral pathway
- Updating the training provision in advance of the new product launches (expected 2024)
- Formalising engagement process
- Incorporation of the Security Threat Check Process requirement

Recent Sample Actions

- Safer giving campaign
 - Hosted Professionals half day CPD event for Prevent with speakers from CTP, Community Security Trust and Islamic Diversity Centre
 - Promotion of the Act early campaign and new Home Office Prevent promotional products and updated eLearning packages internally and to external partners/stakeholders
 - Support third sector providing referral pathways, Home Office eLearning and team briefings on prevent and promotional material for Act early and IREPORTit
- Page 24
- Joint Social Media campaign with Redcar & Cleveland Council promoting the CTIRU and Prevent
- Successful Prevent/Protect awareness week November 2023
- Prevent roadshows promoting digital resilience and awareness of Prevent held throughout 2023 in Multimedia exchange, Acklam Library, Hemlington Hub, Newport Hub & Streets Ahead
- Contributing to local Newsletters with Prevent themed articles
 - Supporting School designated safeguarding leads in respect to Prevent and other safeguarding concerns through awareness raising
 - Annual Christmas digital resilience campaigns
 - Numerous Prevent awareness sessions for professionals
 - Held further Prevent roundtable events by sector including a Cleveland wide roundtable for youth
 - Joint social media campaign to promote prevent, holiday safety and online resilience with Wakefield Council

Recent Project-Joint Friends and family campaign with Parents Zone Local

To coincide with the launch of the new Home Office Promotion material and the joint project with The Parents Zone Parent zone Local offer secured for Middlesbrough a twin track campaign was provided.

Parents zone Local ambassador appointed to Middlesbrough provided various in person and virtual sessions for parents/carers/community groups and professionals in a variety of settings focusing on media literacy and digital resilience

In addition to this Parent zone provided a library for access to all for awareness of apps and platforms with safety advice.

To run along side this the operational Prevent group provided promotion of a refreshed friends and family campaign promoting both physical and online media through a variety of locations and platforms including GP surgeries, local hospitals, community hubs, third sector, retail partners and professionals.

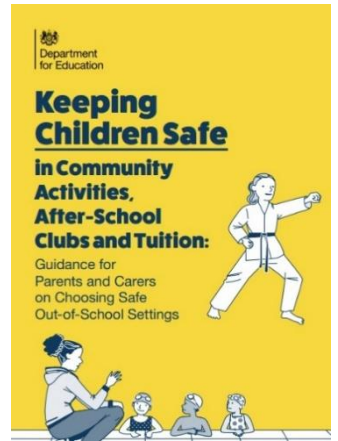
Concurrent social media promotion of Act Early, Parentzone local digital webinars/resources and Home Office Prevent resources continued.



Contribution to a Cleveland Approach

Middlesbrough continues to contribute to the Cleveland Prevent leads group which is a quarterly group seeking to promote prevent in a uniformed approach across the Cleveland area. Middlesbrough has continued to support the leads group with the following actions in 2023:

- Facilitated a Cleveland wide youth roundtable event on Prevent
- Co delivered a South Tees Prevent awareness session to South Tees third sector organisations
- Developed and promoted an out of school settings awareness campaign for parents/carers to support the DFES
- Provision of the Educate against hate Going too far resource to all secondary schools
- Provision of anti-bullying campaign resource material to all schools in readiness of anti-bullying week
- Provision of a 4-week campaign for awareness around digital resilience and online safety for professionals working in edge of care settings to help keep young people safe.



Training & Support

The Prevent lead provides training and support to internal departments on their statutory duty, commissioned services and the third sector on a variety of aspects including:

- Communication of new and emerging concerns and vulnerabilities
- Delivery of face-to-face training and guidance
- Advice on appropriateness of referrals
- Support on embedding processes for Prevent/Channel
- Provision and support of delivery of Home office e learning products relating to both Prevent and Channel

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The Prevent lead supports all schools in Middlesbrough providing:

- WRAP 3 training (minimum 1 DSL per school)-this is to be replaced with the new face to face product
- Provision of all suitable and relevant products for Prevent and associated products such as Digital resilience products to increase young person's safety and media literacy online
- Provision of guidance for schools related to safeguarding concerns regarding Prevent provided in partnership by the DFES
- Provision of face to face and virtual Prevent Awareness sessions and guidance for school governors
- Advice and guidance to schools in partnership with MBC safeguarding lead & DFES Regional Prevent lead to schools on Prevent related issues

Awareness raising

- Awareness raising of the safeguarding process of Prevent continues with professionals both within the authority and with external partners and third sector to further promote the referral pathway to safeguard someone at risk of radicalisation.
- Interventions include awareness sessions with schools, community groups, commissioned services, third sector training, social media campaigns on debunking myths and misinformation around the agenda and promotion of its safeguarding ethos.
- Roadshows in the community also further increased awareness and help demystify any confusion around the nature of Prevent with successful roadshows and roundtables held throughout 2022 and 2023 with more planned for 2024.
- Working with schools we have been also able to work with parents around themes which relate to Prevent to increase resilience which include online risk, isolation and feelings of disempowerment which are aspects those who promote narratives encouraging people towards terrorism would seek to target to exploit in others.

National Figures-Prevent

6,817 referrals to Prevent were made in the year ending on 31st March 2023. This is an increase of 6.4% compared to the year ending March 2022 (6,406).

Of those in custody for terrorism connected offences in Great Britain as of 30th June 2023, 65% were categorised as holding Islamist-extremist views, 27% were categorised as holding Extreme Right-Wing ideologies, and the remaining 8% were categorised as holding beliefs related to other ideologies. These figures include both those that had been convicted and those being held on remand (that is, held in custody until a later date when a trial or sentencing hearing will take place).

Of all the Prevent referrals in 2021/2022:

- 37% were related to individuals with a vulnerability present but no ideology or CT risk
- 19% to Extreme Right-Wing
- 11% regarding Islamist radicalisation
- 2% to concerns regarding school massacres,
- 1% of concerns were incel-related.

Source [Prevent and Channel factsheet - 2023 - Home Office in the media \(blog.gov.uk\)](#) sampled 23.1.24

Channel

- Channel across Cleveland is a bespoke provision as our regional figures are low in comparison to other areas.
- The Channel panel is a safeguarding meeting of multi-disciplinary professionals whom all work towards assisting the individual at risk build their resilience against the radicalising narrative whilst addressing any susceptibilities or vulnerabilities they may have
- Channel operates on a consensual basis and consent must be sought from the individual
- The type of support available through Channel is wide-ranging, and can include help with education or careers advice, dealing with mental or emotional health issues, or digital safety training for parents; it all depends on the individual's needs.
- There were 645 referrals adopted as a Channel case in the year ending March 2022. 9% of referrals to Prevent were adopted as a Channel case.

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Prevent addresses all forms of terrorism. Of all the Channel cases adopted in 2022/2023:

- 46% were related to extreme right-wing radicalisation (296)
- 18% were linked to Islamist radicalisation (115)
- 16% related to individuals with conflicted concerns (103)
- 3% for school massacre concerns (18)
- 2% for incel related concerns (13)

Individuals aged 15 to 20 accounted for the largest proportion (32%) referrals, with individuals aged 14 and under accounting for 31%, followed by individuals aged between 21 and 30 (14%).

Source [Prevent and Channel factsheet - 2023 - Home Office in the media \(blog.gov.uk\)](#) sampled 23.1.24

Q&A

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