Crime Stats data will be provided by the Nexus team direct to O&S.

Op Expedite /County Lines

Since January 2019 to present date, the Harrogate County Lines team have continued to be proactive within the District. On a daily basis there is intelligence gathering, stop/searches, visits to ‘cuckooed’ victims, arrests of suspects and regular engaging with partner agencies. At present it is suspected that there are currently 5 County Lines operating in Harrogate coming from Leeds, Bradford and Birmingham. In January/February officers were away of a County Line coming in from Manchester as well but due to some proactive work including arrests, this particular line appears to have been displaced.

In the last 3 months there have been approximately 30 additional arrests, including 3 nominals arrested from Birmingham who had been found in an address in Harrogate, cuckooing individuals at the address. One of these males was 16 years old and had been missing for some time. Of the 30 arrests, the majority have been for drugs supply offences (with several of the arrests including seizures in excess of 30 wraps of heroin/crack cocaine), but some have also included being arrested for being in possession of bladed weapons. Additional weapons including tasers have also been recovered.

Drugs Warrants have been executed in Knaresborough where intelligence of known County Lines nominals has been obtained. Again a number of arrests have been made and Cocaine and a taser have been located and seized. The same nominals have been targeted by police in joint cross borderer operations and a number have been arrested in stolen vehicles in the West Yorkshire Police area.

There have been five additional addresses in Harrogate identified as being ‘cuckooed’ and officers are working with the residents to support & educate them about how to keep themselves safe going forward.

Similar to other parts of the country, particularly rural & coastal towns, Harrogate police continue to face significant challenges brought through the issue of County Lines. Unfortunately, the gangs operating in this form are continuing to make significant amounts of money (up to £5k a day in Harrogate alone), so despite the disruption taken by officers, the gangs continue to operate. The greatest concern is the violence often associated with the County Lines gangs. The gangs will often carry knives and look to impose their respective authority over other County Lines and local ‘cuckoo’ victims. We are also finding that the children getting exploited into dealing heroin/crack cocaine are getting younger – the biggest challenge for the police is therefore providing education to these young people who are vulnerable to being exploited. This is something Harrogate officers continue to do when working with partner agencies.
**Fraud Work**. Number of PCSO’s on all teams are now enhanced trained and are fraud ambassadors. Example of work being carried out:

1) Visit banks to reinforce the banking protocol. Barclays Bank kindly provide their premises for police and partner agencies to hold fraud awareness surgeries.

2) Fraud talks to vulnerable audience – old people’s homes, churches and groups such as WI’s etc.

3) Action Fraud visits to those that have fallen victim.

4) Use of Community Messenger promoting prevention advice to the community.

5) Trained fraud ambassadors visit potential victims in our area who have been identified through the ‘Scammers’ list provided by Trading Standards colleagues.

6) Use of Social Media (Facebook and Twitter) to circulated the most recent Fraud and scam trends as we are made aware of them.

Any community groups wanting an input are encouraged to email Harrogate Town/Outer NPT teams via the website and this can be arranged.

**Burglaries** - There has been an increase in burglary dwellings this year.

There has been a range of MO’s identified and Harrogate Town / Knaresborough have been hotspots. Burglary other than residential peak area is Hookstone. The NPT’s teams have been activity carrying out prevention work on those areas which includes community messaging, press releases and surgeries (2 x Morrisons 1 X Co-op St Winifreds). In relation to 2 in 1 burglaries which involved the targeting of performance vehicles there has been engagement and prevention packs posted to specific addresses throughout the area by police volunteers. Proactive policing resources have carried out proactive work on the border of West Yorkshire and NPT/Response teams proactively target hot spot areas.

As result arrests have been made.

Knaresborough has been particularly affected by two Burglary crime trends.

1) 2 in 1 Dwelling Burglaries where high powered vehicles have been targeted.

These have mainly been Audi RS3 model which intelligence suggests are being stolen to order and also being used as the preferred vehicle in ATM attacks in North West and South Yorkshire, Nottinghamshire and Cleveland areas.

The Harrogate District as a whole is an affluent area and many of these vehicles are owned by residents.
Knaresborough and Boroughbridge NPT have visited owners of such vehicles and given bespoke security advice and also held high profile police mobile surgeries in the residential areas affected such as the Appleby Estate and Aspin Estates in Knaresborough.

2) Burglary of unoccupied static homes on the Lido in Knaresborough.

Due to the provisions of Council Tax to be reduced if the static home is unoccupied for several weeks a year all of the homes on the LIDO are unoccupied Jan / Feb.

This year this had obviously been researched by a criminal / criminal gang and a large number were burgled.

A full investigation including forensic examinations of every home was completed. No time scale was known other than from when the site closed to when the burglary was discovered by the resident returning.

A full review of the security of the private site has been instigated by the owners with advice from the police suggesting CCTV coverage and mobile private security during the closed season.

**CSE/CCE**: Vulnerability connected to Child Sexual/Criminal exploitation continues to be a focus of NPT teams. 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.

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. Preventive work this nature remains a significant focus and commitment of police time and resources.

**Op Extricate** in Ripon has been instigated to target a specific ringleader in an organised crime group involved in 2 in 1 burglaries and drugs trafficking. This individual was recently charged and remanded to prison pending trial, work is now ongoing to bring as many charges as possible against him and to keep him in prison for as long as possible.

**Events**- Since the uplift on policing events a couple of years ago NPT’S in both Harrogate Town and Outer continue to work on events in order to ensure public safety, reduce the risk of potential terrorism and also engage with the community.

Harrogate District NPT have just successfully policed Harrogate Christmas Market- Op Glitter and several Harrogate Town Football matches with little incident to report.

Other events in the District that require significant police support include the GYS, Knaresborough Bed Race and Knaresborough Christmas Market Weekend.

There are also several large Military Parades in Harrogate, Ripon and Boroughbridge throughout the year.
The Tour de Yorkshire is been held partly in Harrogate in May and the UCI championships are taking place in September 2019.

The UCI is the biggest sporting event in the UK this year. Harrogate is a key focus during the event with all race’s finishing in the town. Insp Taylor and Insp Breen are fully involved with the planning of police business as usual ensuring that there is minimal disruption to service. This is a substantial undertaking.

**Staffing** - The NPT teams have been suffering from PC and PCSO abstractions on the teams and the closure of 2 Police Stations in Boroughbridge and Ripon. These areas now have a joint smaller office at the local Fire Stations. Engagement via social media has been increased in these locations which has largely been well received, however people will always want to see a bobby on the beat, which cannot be provided the same way as it was in recent decades.

Transferee PC’s are due to come on the teams to fill the vacancies in May.

There will also be a PCSO intake in May which will hopefully improve service and visibility.