



**Community
Foundation**
Tyne & Wear and Northumberland



County Durham and Darlington's Vital Issues 2017

Safety

Safety

1.1 Overview

The theme of safety covers crime and anti-social behaviour, and includes both the actual levels of these, and how they are perceived by local communities. In many cases the actual levels of crime can be higher than the official statistics suggest, simply because much of it is not reported. Similarly, the perception of crime levels can be higher or lower than the recorded level depending on the experiences of individuals and communities, and the extent to which they are influenced by newspapers and other media.

1.2 Recorded crime

As Table 18, below, shows, recorded crime in County Durham is lower than the North East average, at 55 crimes per 1,000 population in 2016, compared to 68 for the region. However, in Darlington the rate was 75 crimes per 1,000 population.

Table 18 - Recorded crime rate per 1,000 population, headline offences, 2016ⁱ

	County Durham	Darlington	North East
Total recorded crime	54.97	74.74	68.16
Victim-based crime			
Violence against the person	14.57	18.35	16.08
Homicide	-	-	0.01
Violence with injury	6.40	8.25	7.64
Violence without injury	8.17	10.10	8.43
Sexual offences	1.73	2.16	2.00
Robbery	0.17	0.35	0.39
Theft offences	21.88	35.81	29.48
Burglary	6.72	8.63	6.92
Domestic burglary	2.31	3.09	2.72
Non-domestic burglary	4.41	6.98	4.51
Vehicle offences	3.78	6.35	0.58
Theft from the person	0.22	0.79	1.22
Bicycle theft	0.47	2.03	7.94
Shoplifting	4.80	9.50	8.30
All other theft offences	5.90	8.51	13.01
Criminal damage and arson	11.31	11.36	-
Other crimes against society			
Drug offences	1.85	2.23	0.52
Possession of weapons offences	0.31	0.47	3.26
Public order offences	2.18	2.79	1.17
Miscellaneous crimes ag. society	0.99	1.21	-

Darlington has higher than the regional average rates of violence against the person, sexual offences, drug offences and public order offences, all of which could be related to its status as a nightlife destination, attracting a lot of younger people from County Durham.

Table 19 - Analysis of crime in County Durham and Darlington by area, 2016-17ⁱⁱ

		ALL Crime	VICTIM-BASED CRIME					ALL Incidents	SELECTED INCIDENT TYPES			
			Violence against the person	Sexual offences	Robbery	Theft Offences	Criminal damage		alcohol-related incidents	domestic abuse incidents	alcohol-related anti-social behav'r	youth-related anti-social behav'r
DARLINGTON	Mar-17	7,929	1,959	227	37	3,790	1,204	35,286	3,829	2,929	577	1,682
	Mar-16	10,189	2,912	259	54	4,191	1,708	36,030	4,629	2,893	662	1,867
	% change	-22%	-33%	-12%	-31%	-10%	-30%	-2%	-17%	1%	-13%	-10%
SOUTH												
Barnard	Mar-17	636	143	23	-	320	96	3,914	246	157	38	105
Castle	Mar-16	742	161	31	2	355	119	3,691	276	139	44	115
	% change	-14%	-11%	-26%	-100%	-10%	-19%	6%	-11%	13%	-14%	-9%
Bishop Auckland	Mar-17	3,197	772	62	6	1,258	723	14,675	1,521	1,065	280	1,070
	Mar-16	3,752	1,087	87	15	1,369	688	14,380	1,754	1,126	271	793
	% change	-15%	-29%	-29%	-60%	-8%	5%	2%	-13%	-5%	3%	35%
Crook	Mar-17	1,623	473	76	5	543	384	8,480	967	740	154	479
	Mar-16	2,001	657	79	4	629	380	7,803	997	735	125	329
	% change	-19%	-28%	-4%	25%	-14%	1%	9%	-3%	1%	23%	46%
Newton Aycliffe	Mar-17	2,888	799	90	4	1,114	591	14,554	1,312	1,402	208	832
	Mar-16	3,702	1,301	115	10	1,139	675	14,455	1,592	1,427	203	703
	% change	-22%	-39%	-22%	-60%	-2%	-12%	1%	-18%	-2%	2%	18%
Spenny-moor	Mar-17	2,089	631	52	4	703	458	11,125	1,337	1,130	288	555
	Mar-16	2,877	959	111	10	790	595	11,532	1,606	1,104	238	676
	% change	-27%	-34%	-53%	-60%	-11%	-23%	-4%	-17%	2%	21%	-18%
ALL SOUTH	Mar-17	10,433	2,818	303	19	3,938	2,252	52,748	5,383	4,494	968	3,041
	Mar-16	13,074	4,165	423	41	4,282	2,457	51,861	6,225	4,531	881	2,616
	% change	-20%	-32%	-28%	-54%	-8%	-8%	2%	-14%	-1%	10%	16%
EAST												
Durham	Mar-17	4,803	1,173	160	20	2,039	808	23,262	2,735	1,541	463	772
	Mar-16	5,893	1,790	175	19	2,306	903	23,716	3,279	1,648	551	709
	% change	-18%	-34%	-9%	5%	-12%	-11%	-2%	-17%	-6%	-16%	9%
Peterlee	Mar-17	4,025	842	113	14	1,853	882	18,299	1,799	1,652	263	984
	Mar-16	5,448	1,458	105	26	2,060	1,243	19,069	2,203	1,741	319	969
	% change	-26%	-42%	8%	-46%	-10%	-29%	-4%	-18%	-5%	-18%	2%
Seaham	Mar-17	2,337	568	59	7	1,055	486	12,176	1,346	1,087	233	568
	Mar-16	3,339	1,030	100	6	1,298	552	12,399	1,572	1,166	252	493
	% change	-30%	-45%	-41%	17%	-19%	-12%	-2%	-14%	-7%	-8%	15%
ALL EAST	Mar-17	11,165	2,583	332	41	4,947	2,176	53,737	5,880	4,280	959	2,324
	Mar-16	14,680	4,278	380	51	5,664	2,698	55,184	7,054	4,555	1,122	2,171
	% change	-24%	-40%	-13%	-20%	-13%	-19%	-3%	-17%	-6%	-15%	7%
WEST												
Chester-le-Street	Mar-17	2,495	752	60	16	921	552	13,025	1,521	1,193	218	751
	Mar-16	3,180	1,141	92	15	988	570	12,651	1,729	1,168	256	657
	% change	-22%	-34%	-35%	7%	-7%	-3%	3%	-12%	2%	-15%	14%
Stanley	Mar-17	2,284	652	56	10	886	508	11,275	1,437	1,122	206	587
	Mar-16	2,781	1,013	86	6	817	509	10,394	1,532	1,226	216	473
	% change	-18%	-36%	-35%	67%	8%	0%	8%	-6%	-8%	-5%	24%
Consett	Mar-17	2,178	778	124	3	662	393	10,823	1,277	999	158	471
	Mar-16	2,860	1,095	115	7	781	538	11,174	1,420	1,100	221	421
	% change	-24%	-29%	8%	-57%	-15%	-27%	-3%	-10%	-9%	-29%	12%
ALL WEST	Mar-17	6,957	2,182	240	29	2,469	1,453	35,123	4,235	3,314	582	1,809
	Mar-16	8,821	3,249	293	28	2,586	1,617	34,219	4,681	3,494	693	1,551
	% change	-21%	-33%	-18%	4%	-5%	-10%	3%	-10%	-5%	-16%	17%
ALL	Mar-17	36,484	9,542	1,102	126	15,144	7,085	176,894	19,327	15,017	3,086	8,856
	Mar-16	46,764	14,604	1,355	174	16,723	8,480	177,294	22,589	15,473	3,358	8,205
	% change	-22%	-35%	-19%	-28%	-9%	-16%	0%	-14%	-3%	-8%	8%

County Durham has higher than average rates of vehicle offences, drug offences and public order offences. However, the county-wide figures disguise some big differences between neighbourhoods. Table 19, above, gives a breakdown by area.

Shaded cells indicate high rates of change against the general pattern, and suggest that:

- Recorded sexual violence is increasing in Peterlee and Consett
- Robbery is up in Durham, Seaham, Chester-le-Street and Stanley
- Domestic abuse is increasing in Darlington, Barnard Castle, Crook, Spennymoor and Chester-le-Street
- Alcohol-related anti-social behaviour is increasing in Crook and Spennymoor
- Youth-related anti-social behaviour is increasing in many areas.

This suggests that there may be particular issues in specific localities which could helpfully be addressed by targeted interventions supported through philanthropy.

The rates of different common crimes can be combined to create a crime score for an area, and these are given in Table 20 below.

Table 20 - Combined crime score by area, 2016ⁱⁱⁱ

Area Name	Crime: score (2016)	Offences: Burglaries (per 1,000 pop) (2016)	Offences: total (per 1,000 pop) (2016)	Offences: total change (LT) (2003 - 2016)	Offences: total change (ST) (2015-2016)	Offences: violent crimes (per 1,000 pop) (2016)
County Durham	88.21	2.3	54.77	57.39	-41.34	14.52
Darlington	120.34	3.09	74.72	-33.86	-42.65	18.34
North East	109.9	2.72	68.01	-35.45	-39.08	16.05
England & Wales	100	3.22	62.89	-43.57	-39.27	16.08

This confirms that crime is lower in County Durham than other parts of the region and the UK. However, the number of crimes is increasing, with a 57% increase between 2003-16, although the year-on-year figures give a reduction, suggesting the growth might have halted. Darlington, on the other hand, has a much higher than average crime score, with above average rates of burglary and violent crimes, but the total number of crimes has dropped 34% since 2003.

1.3 Anti-social behaviour

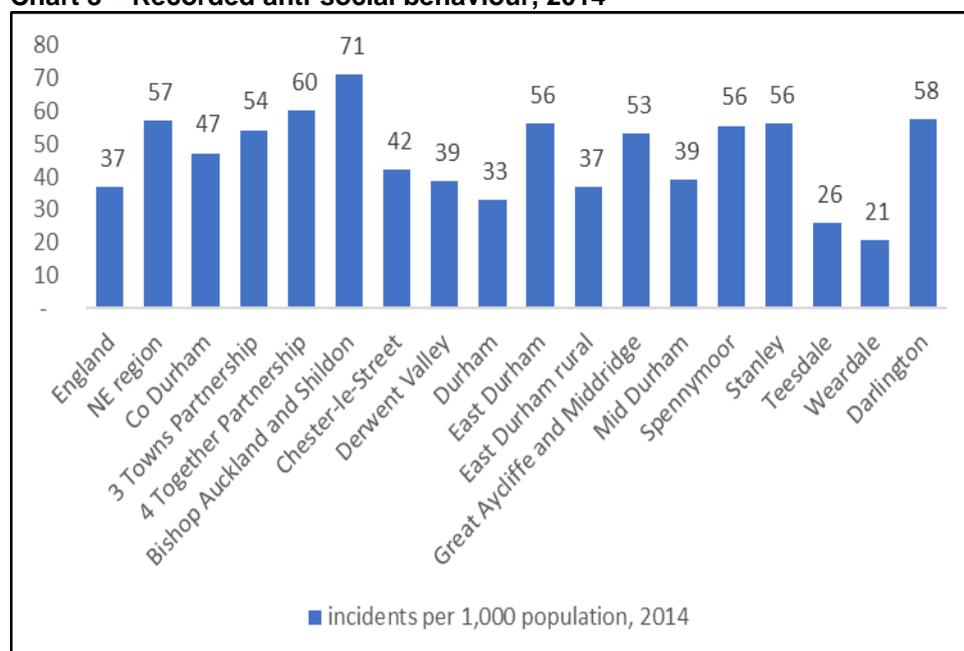
Anti-social behaviour is defined in The Crime and Disorder Act 1998 as acting in a manner that has "caused or was likely to cause harassment, alarm or distress to one or more persons not of the same household as the perpetrator". Anti-social behaviour is very worrying for local people, and can often result in the perceived level of crime being higher than the actual level of crime recorded, because people are aware of troubling activities in their neighbourhood.

Anti-social behaviour is not recorded as a crime, but is recorded and reported by each police force at a neighbourhood level. The levels for County Durham and Darlington are shown in Chart 3 below.

This chart indicates that there are wide disparities in the levels of anti-social behaviour between different areas. The NE regional average of 57 incidents per 1,000 population is significantly higher than the national average of 37, and the County Durham average of 47 sits in the middle. Only Durham City, Teesdale and Weardale have rates below the national average. The highest rates recorded are in Bishop Auckland and Shildon, which at 71 incidents per 1,000 population is significantly higher than anywhere else in County Durham.

This suggests there is an issue with anti-social behaviour in the area, but it could be that the local police were cracking down on anti-social behaviour in this period, so encouraged people to report it, and then recorded it more rigorously than elsewhere. It would be worthwhile looking into this to see whether there is a local anti-social behaviour issue that needs to be addressed or not.

Chart 3 – Recorded anti-social behaviour, 2014^{iv}



1.4 Reoffending rates

The likelihood of an offender reoffending is influenced by a wide variety of factors including the availability and quality of employment, housing, healthcare, drugs and alcohol, as well as support from friends and family. Providing support for offenders, both before they are released from prison and once they are back in the community, can be beneficial in helping them to stay clear of crime.

This is an area where the third sector has a long history of effective working, and increased support could be made available in those areas where reoffending is highest.

Table 21, below, shows how reoffending rates in County Durham and the Tees Valley have changed in the last decade. In County Durham, there has been a reduction of 2%, or 2,451 in the number of offenders who go on to reoffend. A similar reduction has been achieved in Darlington, reducing the number of reoffenders by 698, though the reoffending rate there is still higher than in County

Durham and in the NE region. In all areas, the average number of previous offences per offender has gone up, as has the reoffences per reoffender.

Table 21 - Reoffending rates, 2006-15^v

Area	Period	Proportion of offenders who reoffend (%)	Average number of reoffences per reoffender	Number of reoffences	Number of reoffenders	Average number of previous offences per offender
County Durham	2006	30	3	18507	6489	9
	2015	28	3	13638	4038	15
	diff	-2	1	-4869	-2451	6
Darlington	2006	34	3	6079	1860	11
	2015	31	4	4536	1162	20
	diff	-2	1	-1543	-698	9
North East	2006	31	3	46391	15089	11
	2015	30	4	30547	8461	18
	diff	-1	1	-15844	-6628	8

1.5 Perceptions of crime

The Crime Survey 2015^{vi} asked people about whether they thought crime in their own area was higher than the national average, about the same, or lower. The survey found that people living in the most deprived communities are more likely to think that crime levels in their community are higher (21%) or above average (53%), compared to 8% and 41% for those in the midrange for deprivation. This suggests that because County Durham and Darlington are among the more deprived areas in the country, people living here are more likely to over-estimate the level of crime in their own neighbourhoods.

The same survey found that people who had been victims of crime in their local area were twice as likely (19%) to perceive crime as being higher than average than those who had not been a victim of crime (8%).

Given that the actual crime rates in Darlington are higher than average, this means that perceptions are likely to be of even higher crime levels here, which will create fear and worry, particularly among those who have been a victim of crime. Further questions in the survey reveal that 33% of people who perceive there to have been a rise in local crime worry that they are fairly or very likely to become a victim of crime.

Those who have been a victim of crime are likely to score less well on the personal well-being ratings of happiness, satisfaction, and worthwhileness and to record higher levels of anxiety, particularly younger people aged 16-24 (see section 5 – healthy living). This is particularly true of those who are victims of violent offences, and especially domestic violence.

It is therefore essential that the police can increase public confidence, particularly in areas of high deprivation and high crime such as Darlington.

In its annual police efficiency, effectiveness and legitimacy (PEEL) assessment for 2017, Durham Constabulary was rated outstanding for efficiency and effectiveness

and good for legitimacy for the past two years, and the inspector noted that “*It recognises the importance of enhancing public confidence and has established ways of engaging with those with less trust and confidence in the police to understand their perception of fair and respectful treatment.*”^{vii}

This is a very positive assessment, and suggests that good relations should exist between the police and the community in County Durham and Darlington, which may help to mitigate raised perceptions of crime.

Potential roles for philanthropy

Although recorded crime is lower in County Durham than the regional and national average, there are some communities where robbery, sexual violence, domestic abuse or anti-social behaviour appear to be an issue, so:

- actions to investigate the reasons for pockets of increased crime, and then to address them would be welcome.

Our analysis suggests that the incidence rates and reoffending is higher in Darlington, so measures that would be helpful include:

- supporting work with people of all ages, and particularly young people to discourage them from moving into crime by offering viable alternatives (e.g. securing education, training, employment opportunities, raising their aspirations).
- working with offenders before and after release into the community to support them not to return to crime.
- supporting victims of crime to help them overcome anxiety about becoming the victim of crime again and restore their trust and confidence in the community.

References

ⁱ **Office of National Statistics (2017)** *Crime in England & Wales, year ending March 2016* - CSP tables, downloaded from: www.ons.gov.uk 21/6/17 10:03

ⁱⁱ **Durham Police (2017)** *Local Performance*, downloaded from: <https://www.durham.police.uk/About-Us/Our%20performance/Pages/Local-Performance.aspx>, 13/6/17 11:10

ⁱⁱⁱ **Grant Thornton Analytics (2017)** *Crime*, created and downloaded at: [http://gt-placeanalytics.org/placeanalytics/\(S\(evylqt4540vmzrfqueuupwqh\)\)/paweb/ShowAllIndicators.aspx?spatialLevel=18&indicators=904,145,463,1430,927,7885](http://gt-placeanalytics.org/placeanalytics/(S(evylqt4540vmzrfqueuupwqh))/paweb/ShowAllIndicators.aspx?spatialLevel=18&indicators=904,145,463,1430,927,7885), 27/6/17 17:59

^{iv} **Durham County Council (2016)** AAP area profiles, downloaded from: <http://www.durham.gov.uk/AAPs> 1/6/17 07:00

v **Ministry of Justice (2016)** *Proven Re-offending Statistics, 2006-15*, Office of National Statistics, downloaded from: www.ons.gov.uk 19/5/17. 14:04

vi **Office of National Statistics (2014)** *Crime Statistics, Focus on Public Perceptions of Crime and the Police, and the Personal Well-being of Victims*, downloaded from: <https://www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/crimeandjustice/compendium/crimestatisticsfocusonpublicperceptionsofcrimeandthepoliceandthepersonalwellbeingofvictims/2015-03-26/crimestatisticsfocusonpublicperceptionsofcrimeandthepoliceandthepersonalwellbeingofvictims2013to2014referencetables> 20/6/17 13:22

vii **HMIC (2017)** *PEEL assessments*, accessed at: <https://www.justiceinspectorates.gov.uk/hmic/peel-assessments/peel-2016/cleveland/>? 4/6/17 12:30