

# STRATEGIC PRIORITIES ASSURANCE BOARD

<b>REPORT TITLE</b>	DWELLING BURGLARY OFFENCES IN THE DERBYSHIRE DALES
<b>REPORT BY</b>	CHIEF CONSTABLE
<b>DATE</b>	25 JUNE 2018

## PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

To provide a special report on burglary dwelling in Derbyshire following the publication of the article in the Times on Sunday.

## ATTACHMENTS

1. None

## RECOMMENDATIONS

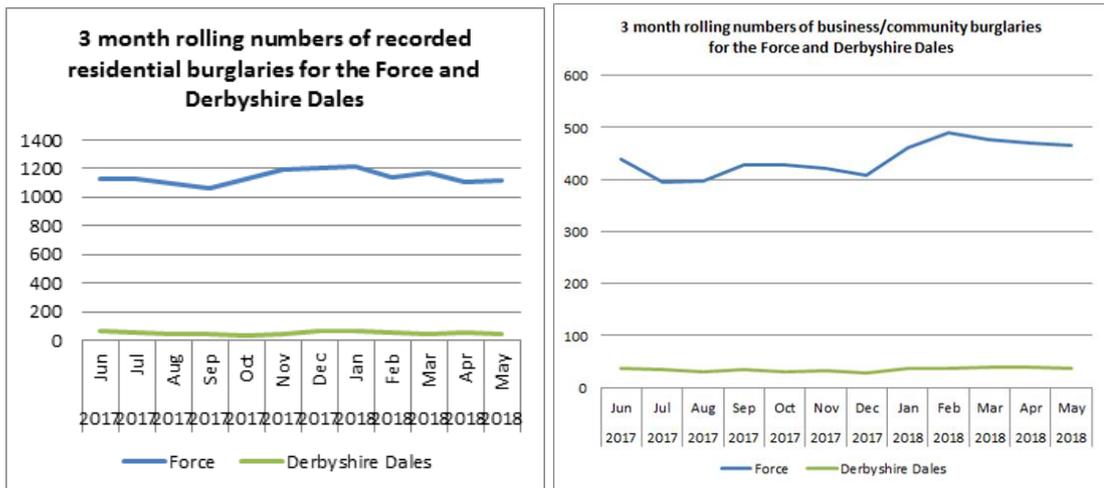
1. To determine if the PCC can gain direct assurance that this area of business is being managed efficiently and effectively

## CONTACT FOR ENQUIRIES

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## **1. OVERVIEW**

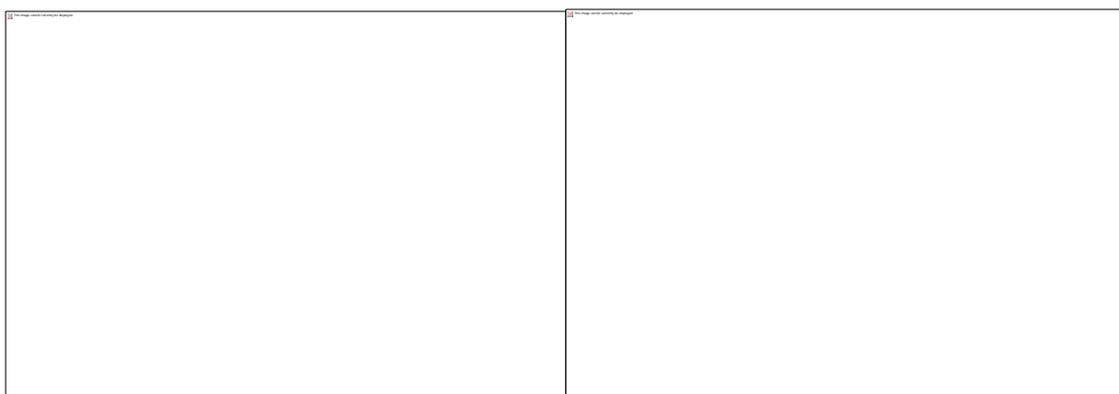
- 1.1 On Friday 15 June 2018 Derbyshire Constabulary received notification from The Sunday Times declaring they intend to run an article regarding dwelling burglary offences in the Derbyshire Dales and the lack of detections. Unfortunately due to the lateness of the correspondence, Derbyshire Constabulary could not respond to question the validity of the data held by The Sunday Times.
- 1.2 The reported data from the media suggested '355 burglaries, not one solved'. Further reports from Radio Derby suggested 371.
- 1.3 The media source of data had been collated from the police.uk website.
- 1.4 The data collected was for a 12 month period which included burglary offences pre April 2017. From this date the classification of burglary offences changed to effectively include non-dwelling burglaries which were located within the grounds of a dwelling as residential burglaries, ie sheds and outhouses.
- 1.5 Therefore, the reporting did not differentiate between dwelling, non-dwelling and the recent changes of residential and business/community. Taking account of all 'burglaries' the reporting on zero detections is inaccurate and furthermore inaccurate to residential burglaries as a whole.
- 1.6 Data Performance**
- 1.7 For comparable data and to represent a true reflection of burglary performance, data from April 2017 can be compared to the latest performance. Pre April 2017 data is incomparable due to the changes in classification. However, for completion the total number of burglaries (dwelling, non-dwelling, residential and business) in the calendar year (2017) for the Dales amounted to 371 with 10 being detected, a detection rate of 2.7%.



1.8 The above charts demonstrate the number of burglary offences during the previous 15 months based on 3 monthly rolling data in the Dales Section along with the Force level. This should provide some reassurance of no sudden increases or crime trends and the low level of residential burglaries in the Derbyshire Dales which covers an approximate 300 square mile area.

1.9 To put this into further context, at a force level the force has recorded 17 fewer residential burglaries (1.7% decrease), although an increase of 25 offences (6.3%) in Business/Community.

1.10 The below charts demonstrate The Dales follow a similar pattern to force wide burglaries.



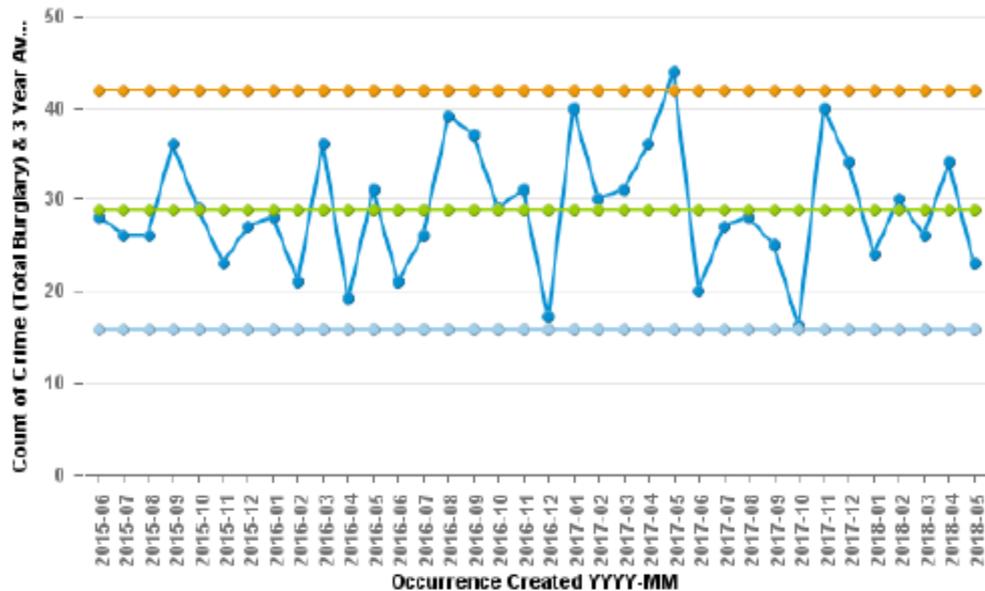
**1.11 Derbyshire Dales to be read off the right axis**

1.12 National data suggests (year ending 2017) Derbyshire have the lowest number of burglaries per 1000 population in the region.

1.13 Specifically for the Dales, the following chart indicates the volume of all burglaries; the latest figures indicate the volume is below the average. Spikes are

common due to the low number of burglaries.

### ND\_Total Burglary

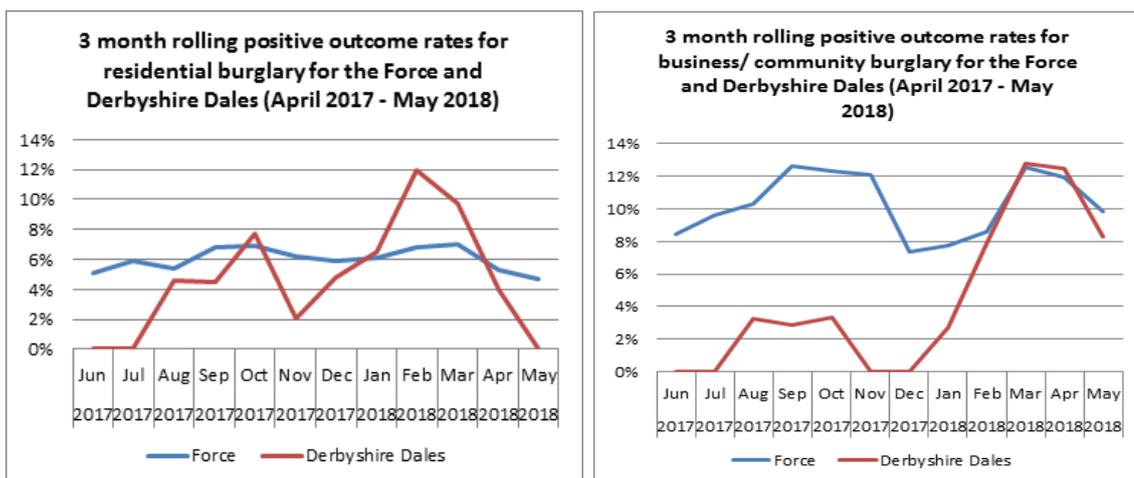


**All Measures**

- Count of Crime (Total Burglary)
- 3 Year Average (Total Burglary)
- Upper Bound - Total Burglary
- Lower Bound - Total Burglary

Occurrence Created YYYY-MM	Count of Crime (Total Burglary)	3 Year Average (Total Burglary)	Upper Bound - Total Burglary	Lower Bound - Total Burglary
2018-04	34	28.5	41.99	15.67
2018-05	23	28.5	41.99	15.67
<b>Sum:</b>	<b>57</b>			

1.14 The detection rate across the force has increased (year to date) from 1.6% to 3.5% for residential burglaries along with business/community burglaries from 1.5% to 10.4%. To quantify this further, a total of 78 burglary offences have been detected (YTD).



### 1.15 Investigative Performance

1.16 Although serious acquisitive crime offences are not featured within the top priority risk areas for the force, all residential (house) burglaries are prioritised for attendance by a police officer to ensure every opportunity is taken to preserve and recover evidence to identify the offender and reassure victims. This factor was quite evident in the Radio Derby interview with a victim of crime who stated:-

**“The police were very good, we arrived home just after 10, the police arrived just after 11...they (forensics) didn’t find any fingerprints, the footprint they couldn’t match”**

1.17 Furthermore, the success of communicating to our communities the importance of aligning officers and police staff to risk areas was also evident:-

**1.18 “The police have probably got an awful lot more priorities in terrorism, child abuse... burglaries take up a lot of time and there’s not much they can do” John and Louise Sykes**

1.19 Mrs Sykes also stated it was unfair to condemn the police without knowing workloads and resources.

1.20 In 2017 a review of burglary investigation was completed to ensure Derbyshire Constabulary was delivering a high quality service to the public. Of note:-

- There was an overall increase in burglary offences at that time.
- In a 3 month period 128 suspects were arrested
- There is a 34% chance of charging a suspect with a burglary offence once identified
- Forensic evidence accounts for a 1 in 3 chance of identifying the suspect.

1.21 From this review a number of recommendations were presented and a Gold Group assembled under the Assistant Chief Constable (ACC).

1.22 The method in which a burglary is now investigated includes:-

- An officer in attendance at the scene to complete fast track enquiries to capture evidence and identify the offender
- Live time intelligence research
- CCTV enquiries
- House to house
- Local Safer Neighbourhood Team liaison
- Stolen property enquiries
- Media/social media appeals
- Allocation to specialised officer for continued investigation
- Suspect priority – 24 hour capability to arrest
- Extending traditional detection methods (Fingerprints, DNA, CCTV) to digital technology
- Investigative focus on the suspect

### **1.23 Reassurance Overview**

1.24 Reassurance is provided through the Serious Acquisitive Crime Lead for the force which sits at a senior level. Increased risk in this area is presented to the Force Tactical Tasking Meeting chaired by the ACC. During this meeting, any increases in risk are discussed to ensure any additional resources, assets or tactics are appropriately and proportionality assigned.

1.25 Divisional tasking at both North and South Division review burglary crime trends and forensic identification for priority investigation.

1.26 As mentioned above, the focus is on the suspect. Whilst traditionally the investigation is levelled at crime type, the force has taken steps to focus on the suspect ensuring a sustained investigative approach to identify offenders and ensure prevention. This is evidenced in a Derbyshire Dales investigation of a male who was suspected of burglary offences. Taking account of the difficulty of detecting a burglary offence in the absence of forensic and CCTV evidence, investigators pursued the offender and ensured he was prosecuted for any criminality which resulted in a custodial sentence. Although not charged with a burglary offence, his criminality was brought to an end and further offending was prevented.

1.27 Not captured within the reporting in the media are the 'other' offences associated with the investigation of burglary offences. These include handling stolen goods, possession of criminal property and conspiracy offences of which there will be a number of positive outcomes.

### **1.28 Summary**

1.29 As mentioned, the force has seen a reduction in burglary offences and year to date an increase in detections. Residential burglaries are acknowledged by the force as being devastating to victims and impact on the wellbeing and quality of life for our communities. As evidenced in this report, the force takes a robust stance to ensure residential burglary offences are investigated and victims feel reassured by the service provided. That said, every opportunity should be taken to maximise detection and prevention and improvements are necessary, recognising detection levels are low. A focus Group has been developed led by the force lead for acquisitive crime and will work to enhance investigative ability and techniques to continue improvements. In addition, arrangements have been made to brief the Derbyshire Dales Local Authority Chief Executive to ensure an accurate picture is understood and a multi-agency approach is adopted.

1.30 It is worthy of note that the media coverage has been generated by the media not the communities of Derbyshire. In fact it would have to be questioned that if accurate information was known on Friday 15 June 2018 by the Sunday Times, whether there was in fact a story at all, considering the Derbyshire burglary picture is not dissimilar to the region or nationally.

1.31 Finally, it has to be documented that Derbyshire Constabulary align their resources to vulnerability, risk and threat. Whilst investigations into burglary offences will continue, other risk crime types and vulnerabilities now expand across all areas of policing impacting on resourcing and prioritisation and detection rates should be weighted against this.