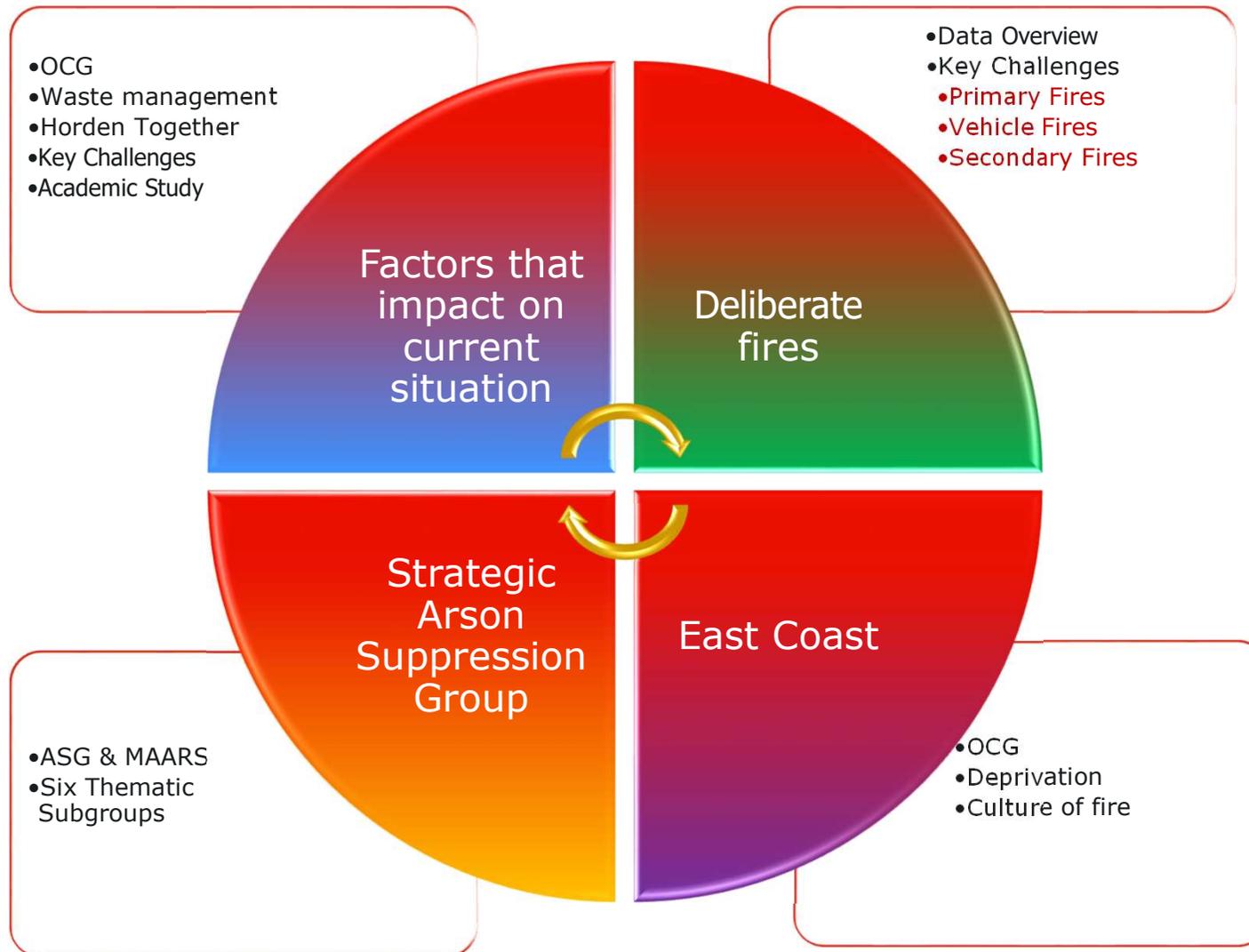


Safer and Stronger Communities Overview & Scrutiny Committee

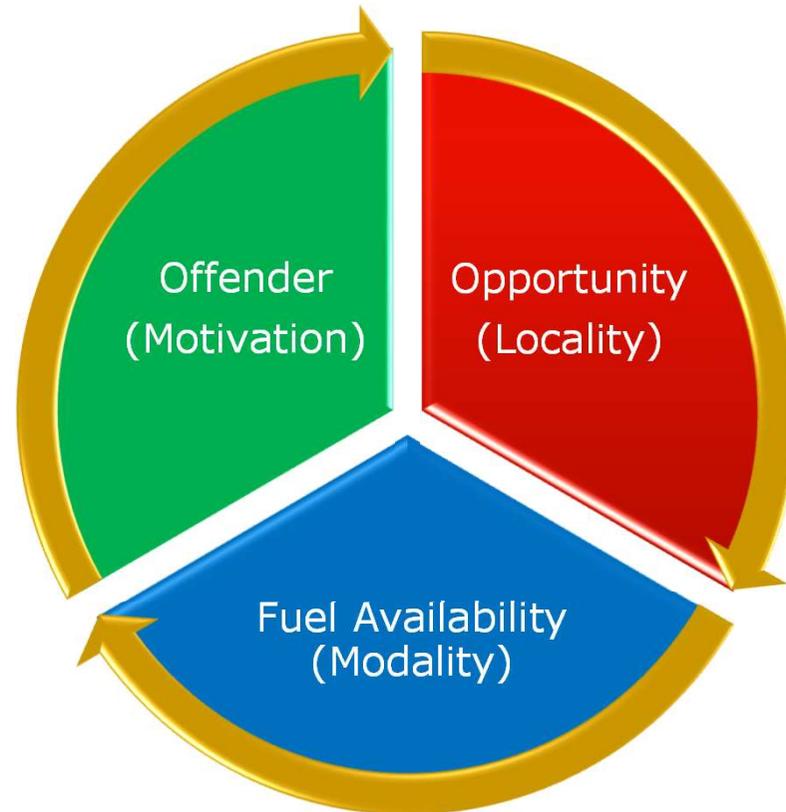
Arson and Deliberate
Firesetting



Aims & Objectives



Arson / Firesetting Cyclic Paradigm



Data overview (North / South Divisions)

North Division

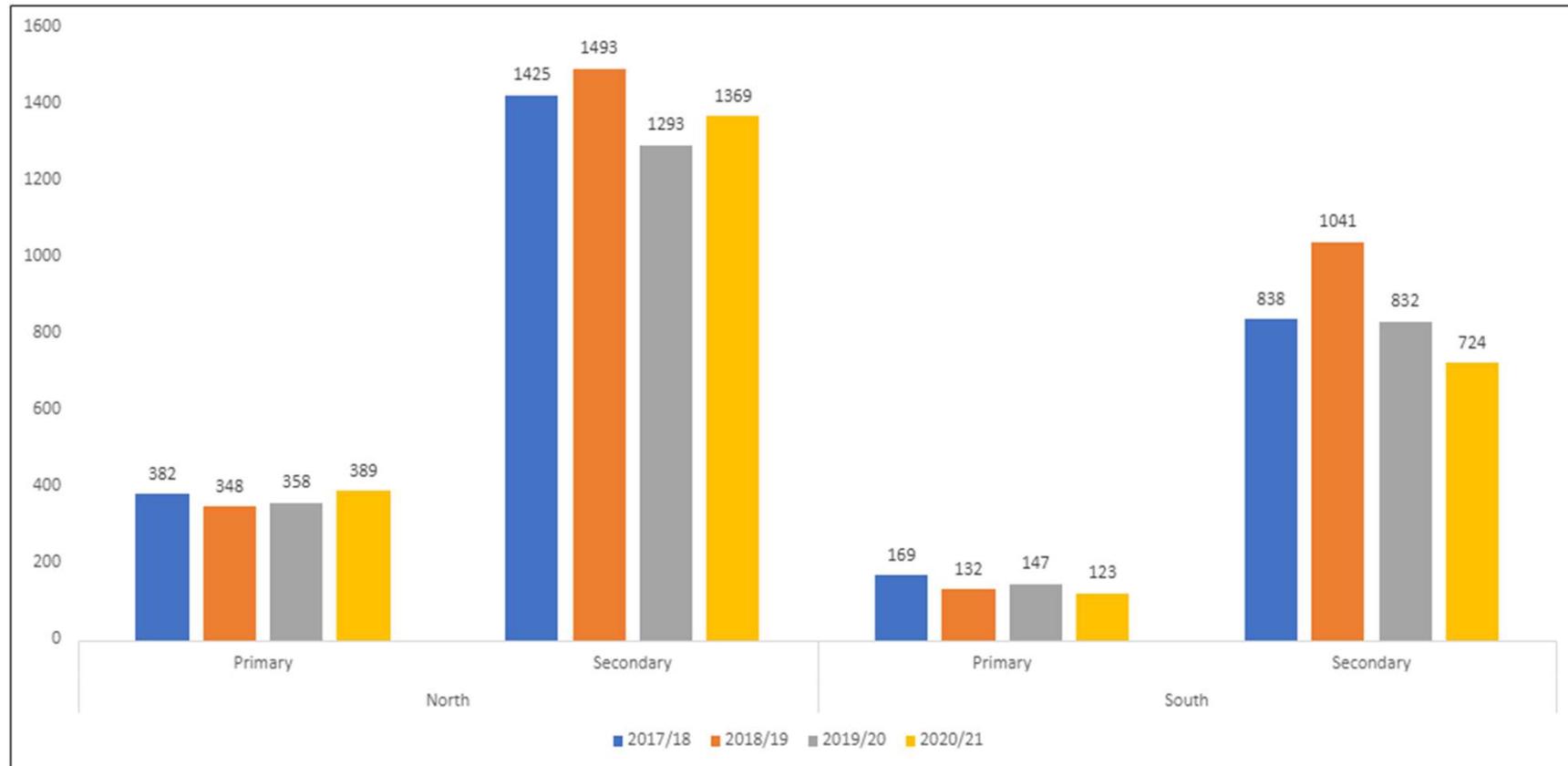
Station	Division	2017/18		2018/19		2019/20		2020/21		% change for 4 years	
		Primary	Secondary	Primary	Secondary	Primary	Secondary	Primary	Secondary	Primary	Secondary
Consett	North	41	158	52	205	35	123	35	114	-14.6%	-27.8%
High Handenhold	North	28	257	34	274	37	196	33	270	17.9%	5.1%
Seaham	North	22	148	25	162	25	158	17	129	-22.7%	-13.8%
Peterlee	North	177	515	139	478	160	469	207	521	16.9%	1.2%
Wheatley Hill	North	59	110	39	79	53	78	43	99	-27.1%	-10.0%
Durham	North	48	178	46	210	28	202	42	163	-12.5%	-8.4%
Stanhope	North	0	6	1	3	1	6	0	9	0.0%	50.0%
Crook	North	7	53	12	82	19	61	12	64	71.4%	20.8%
Total North Division		382	1425	348	1493	358	1293	389	1369	1.8%	-3.9%

South Division

Spennymoor	South	27	88	24	93	26	109	26	97	-3.7%	10.2%
Sedgefield	South	4	4	5	14	6	11	6	21	50.0%	425.0%
Newton Aycliffe	South	28	122	18	174	21	112	18	77	-35.7%	-36.9%
Bishop Auckland	South	44	255	49	325	35	234	29	192	-34.1%	-24.7%
Middleton-in-Tees	South	3	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	-66.7%	0.0%
Barnard Castle	South	6	7	5	7	20	7	1	0	-83.3%	-100.0%
Darlington	South	57	362	31	428	38	359	42	337	-26.3%	-6.9%
Total South Division		169	838	132	1041	147	832	123	724	-27.2%	-13.6%
Less Darlington		112	476	101	613	109	473	81	387		
Total Durham & Darlington		551	2263	480	2534	505	2125	512	2093	-7.1%	-7.5%
			2814		3014		2630		2605		-7.4%



Cultural impact, (Divisional representation)

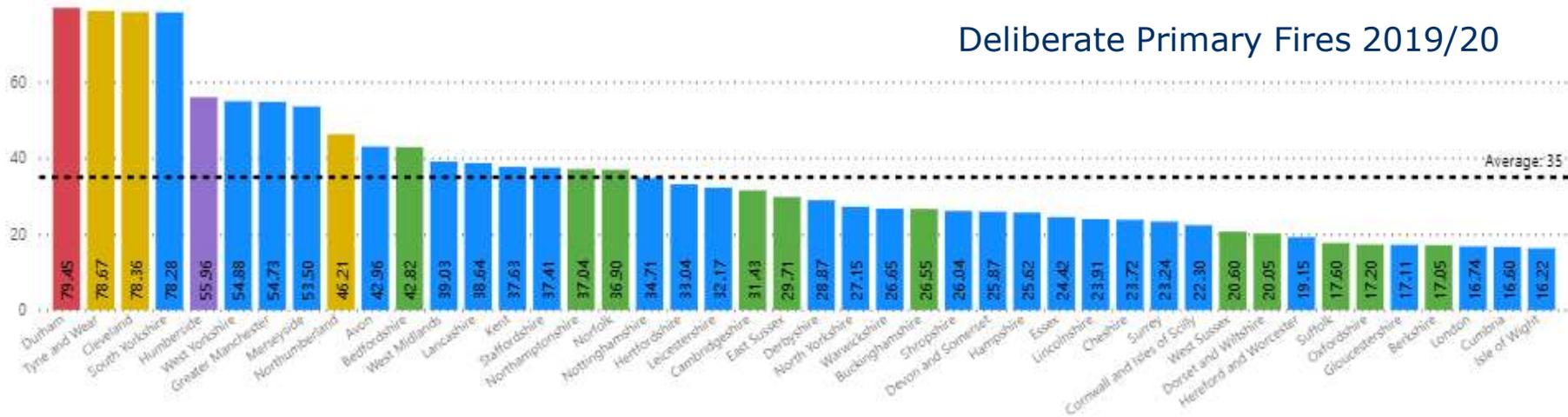


Precipitation: 2019/20 average rainfall 396.7mm
Autumn of 2019/20 was the wettest since 2000
(www.metoffice.gov.uk)

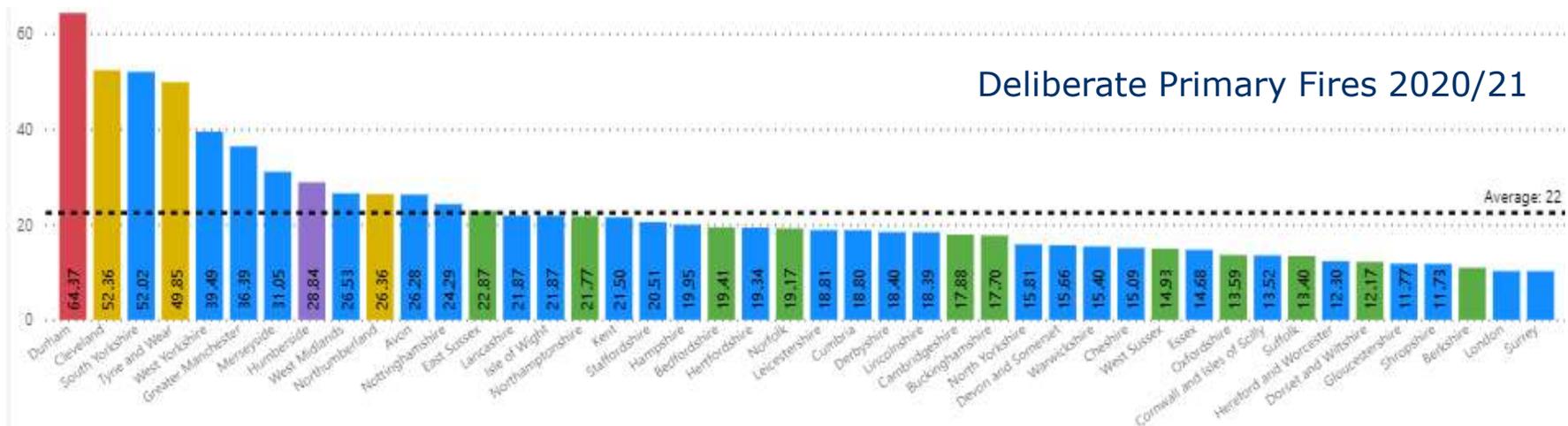


National Benchmarking (Primary fires)

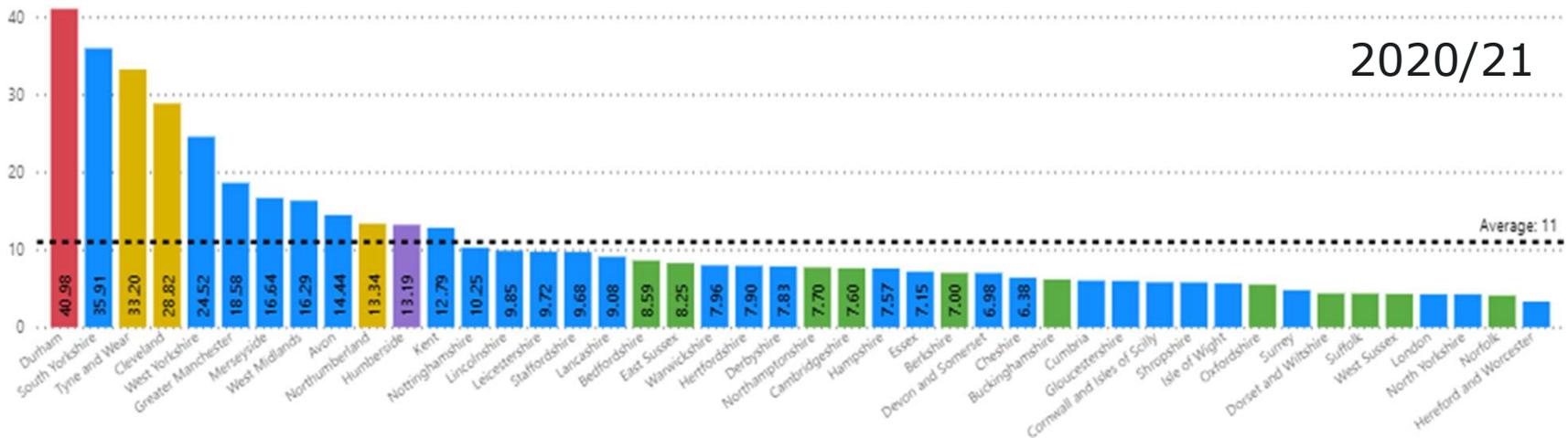
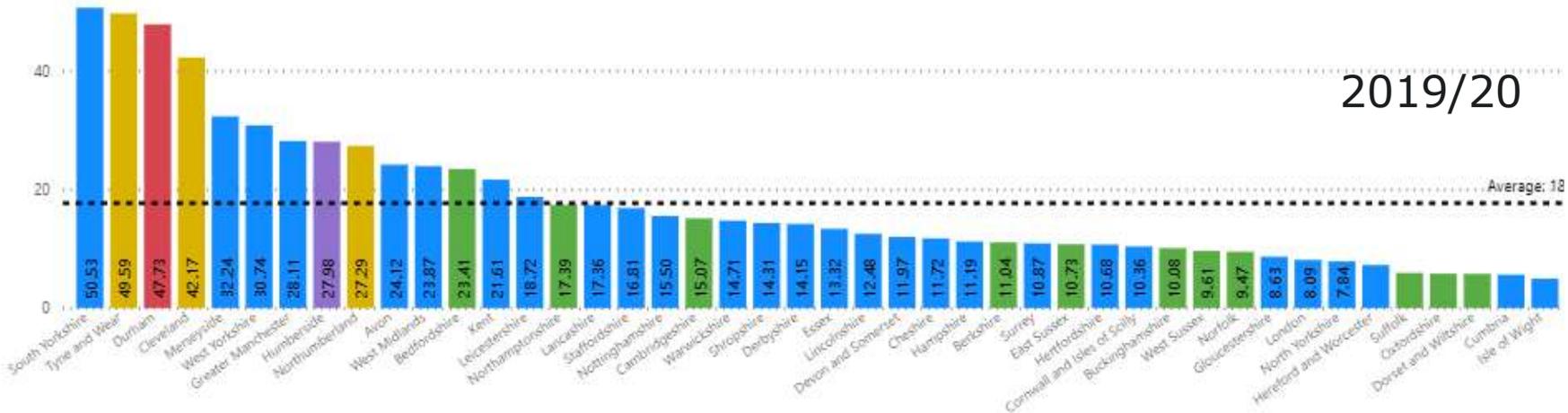
Deliberate Primary Fires 2019/20



Deliberate Primary Fires 2020/21

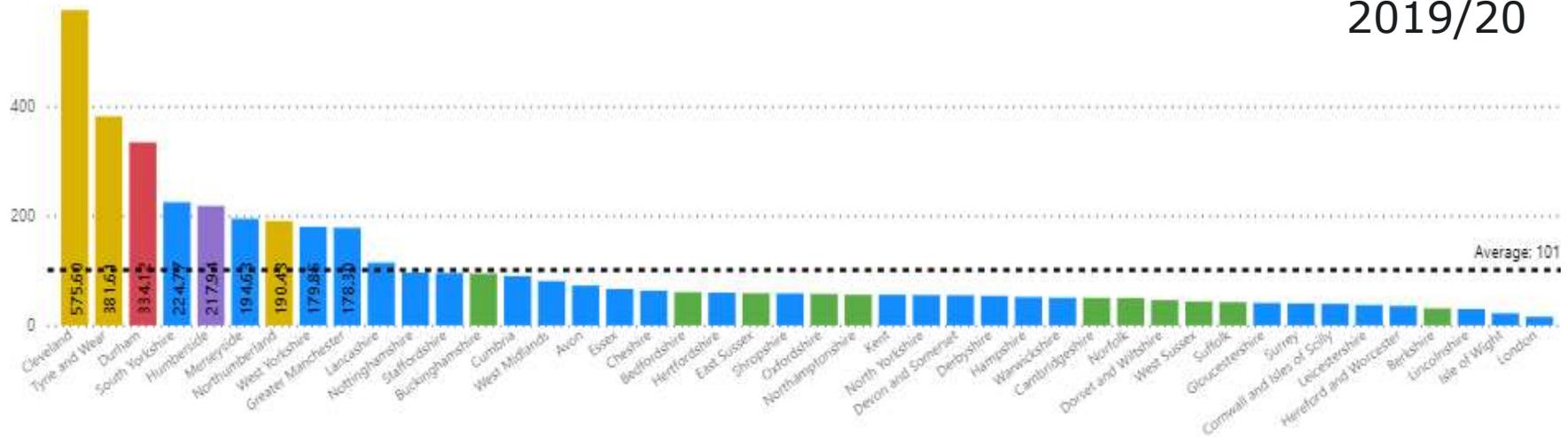


National Benchmarking (Primary Vehicle fires)

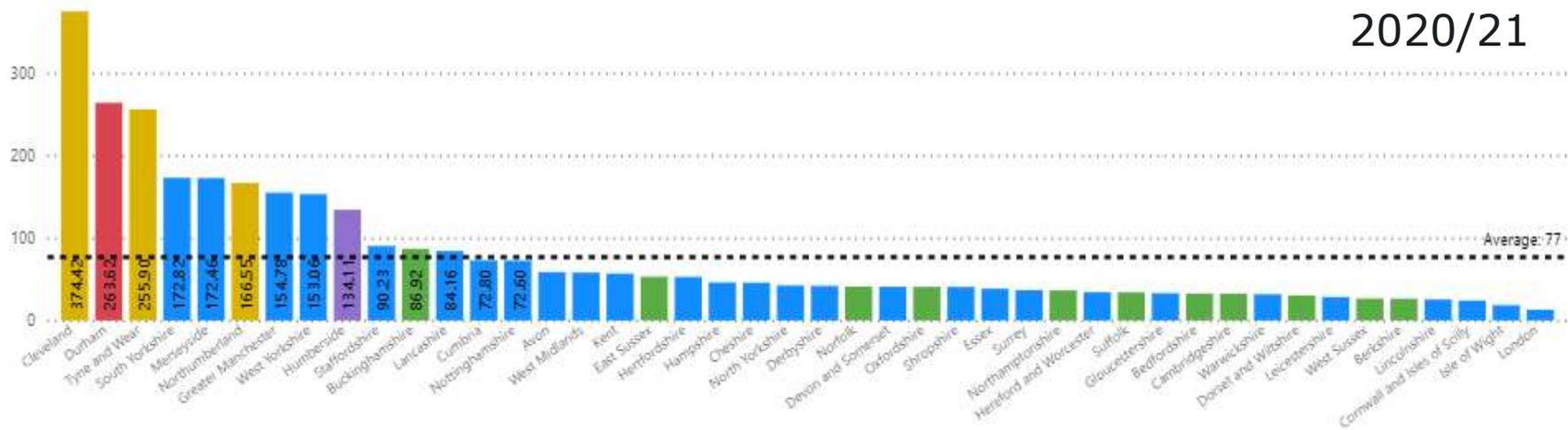


National Benchmarking (Secondary fires)

2019/20



2020/21



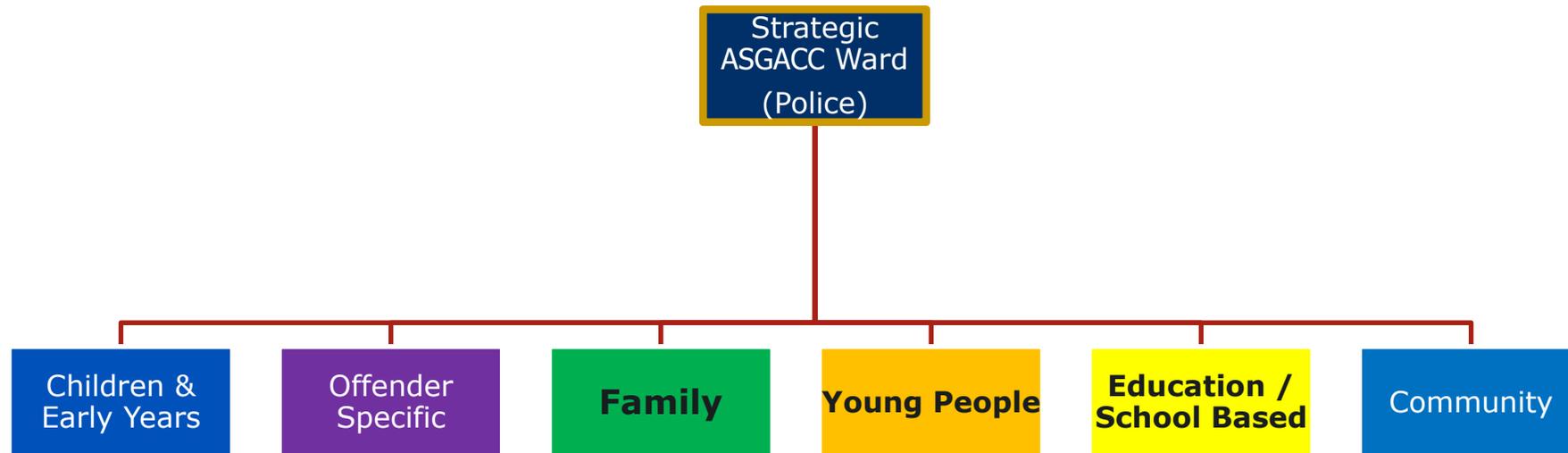
The East Coast

- **OCG:** Police intelligence indicates that OCG activities, (using arson as a tactic), accounts for less than 20% of the fires on the East Coast, however the scope & size of these incidents have a significant community impact. The Strategic ASG is focused on tackling these criminal elements.
- **Horden Together:** This project aims to bring multiple agencies together to improve the social fabric of the Horden village area & the numbered streets. CDDFRS is committed to support this project.
- **Key Challenges:** Education of Children & Young People as to the impact of arson and deliberate fire setting in high risk wards. Reduction of secondary fires & tackling Flytipping as a member of the Fly Tipping Task Force. Providing an avenue for anonymously reporting those responsible for deliberate car fires, (Firestoppers campaign).
- **Academic Study:** Dr Faye Horsley, Newcastle University, (Forensic Psychologist). Conducted an initial study: **Investigating Deliberate Firesetting in the North East of England.**

Getting to the underlying causes is the key for sustained change I would think. That includes examining a whole host of factors from psychological, individual, group, community, political, geographical, economic and even meteorological! (Dr F. Horsley, 14th Oct 2021)



Public Health Approach to Arson Suppression



Factors that impact the current situation on the East Coast

- Social deprivation & low educational attainment.
 - Cultural acceptance of fire.
 - OCG's behaviours within the community.
 - Learned behaviours & 'copy-cat' firesetting.
 - Flytipping & apathetic waste management leaving fuel accessible for Deliberate Secondary fires.
 - Grassland fires
- The Police & FRS are dealing with high profile, problematic, yet peripheral, issues of a cultural & societal discontent.
 - Multiple Agencies are actively delivering services into the East Coast area; but is this approach coordinated enough?
 - Given this context; should the question be:-
"When it comes to arson and fire setting. Are we addressing the problem or the symptom?"



Arson undermines societal cohesion

Research by the Arson Control Forum has shown that arson has a lasting effect on a community, leading to social decline and the loss of community cohesion & social investment. Businesses close, companies relocate, jobs are lost, and the cycle continues in a downward spiral.

Arson and the fire-setting seen on the East coast are symptoms of social decline; a demonstrative act of grievance against the situation & the environment the perpetrator experiences day-to-day.

All agencies need to recognise this, and the collaborative role they can play to tackle the underlying social issues, to come together and tackle the root causes as well as arson and its effects under a Public Health wholistic approach.





Safest People, Safest Places

County Durham and Darlington
Fire and Rescue Service

