

Subject:	Community safety and crime in Brighton & Hove: Information update, July 2016		
Date of Meeting:	10 October 2016		
Report of:	Executive Director of Finance and Resources		
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Ward(s) affected:	All		

FOR GENERAL RELEASE

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT AND POLICY CONTEXT

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- 1.1 Under the Crime and Disorder Act 1998, there is a requirement for statutory and other partners to formulate a plan every three years to tackle crime and disorder and monitor progress. This report provides an update on the work undertaken by the Safe in the City Partnership in relation to the Community Safety and Crime Reduction Strategy 2014-17.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS:

- 2.1 The Neighbourhood, Communities and Equalities Committee is invited to note and comment on the information contained in the report which provides an update on work being undertaken by the Safe in the City Partnership in relation to the Community Safety and Crime Reduction Strategy 2014-17.
- 2.2 The Committee is invited to give its support to the partnership work described in the report and commit to work described which is within the council's remit, thereby contributing to the management of crime reduction and community safety priorities for the city.

3. CONTEXT/ BACKGROUND INFORMATION

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Overview of police recorded crime

- 3.1 Total police recorded crime in 2015/16 increased by 4.5% compared with the 2014/15 and has continued to rise with an increase of 11.8% in the first four months of 2016/17 compared with the same months in 2015/16.
- 3.2 Total crime is, broadly speaking, broken down into acquisitive crime¹ (39% of total crime in 2016/17 q1), violent crime (42% of total), criminal damage (12% of total) and other offences (7% of total). A key contributor to the overall increase in total crime is an increase of 31% in violence against the person crimes compared with the first four months of 2015/16. However, other crime types have also

¹ eg. burglary or theft

risen: vehicle crimes up by 12%, burglaries up by 3% and criminal damage up 8% compared with the same months last year. Appendix 2 provides data for key crime types for 2016/17 to date and how this compares to the same months in 2015/16.

- 3.3 The upward trend follows a ten year period when overall recorded crime, both nationally and locally, has shown a sustained decrease. Within overall recorded crime, some crimes types which cause the most harm, including domestic violence, sexual violence, child sexual exploitation and hate crime have been rising. These crime types are now more accurately recorded and this results in better services and outcomes for victims, although it is recognised that further improvements to increase trust and confidence can still be made.
- 3.4 There was an inspection of all police forces carried out by Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary in 2013/14, to audit the crime recording practices. As a consequence, there were improvements made within forces including Sussex Police. This has had an impact on some of the types of crime reported here, including violence against the person, domestic violence and hate crimes, as well contributing to the number of total crimes recorded.

Strengthening local communities

- 3.5 Over the past twelve months Local Action Teams (LATs) working with the community safety team have taken stock of their current positions and shared how they want to develop. The overall aim of this work is to support LATs in the most appropriate and efficient way to enable communities to take a bigger role in progressing local issues and help meet local needs. Early intervention and prevention activity should benefit from this approach. There is now wide recognition that LATs must work collaboratively to address community safety issues in their locality and they may choose to address wider community issues.
- 3.6 The LAT Chairs meeting has developed into the citywide LAT Forum. This is independently chaired and supported by elected members, the police and the council as necessary. In some cases local councillors are helping some LATs around governance and leadership needs.

Action: Following the approval of a report to NCE today on the development of LATs, implement the suggested development programme.

Drugs and alcohol misuse

- 3.7 Police violent crime data have risen steeply since 2014, with the improvement in recording practices following the previously mentioned HMIC data integrity audit contributing to this. However, various measures of police recorded violent crime have continued to rise in the first four months of 2016/17, including violence with and without injury. Attendances at A&E linked to assaults have also increased in this period compared with the same months last year.
- 3.8 A number of services exist to help reduce alcohol or drug-related risk by supporting individuals in the night time economy who may have become vulnerable. Early intervention or support can divert them from requiring A&E or police services. These include Safe Space, taxi marshals, and a beach patrol. How these services will be funded going forward is not yet agreed.
- 3.9 Safe Space has been operating from St Pauls in West Street for a number of years, in 2015/16 741 people used Safe Space, in the first quarter of 2016/17 there were 221 users, 80% were under the influence of alcohol, 51% were female, 38% self-referred, 36% were sent by door staff.

- 3.10 From April 2016 a new contract for inpatient drug and alcohol detoxification service was put in place and the service has shifted from Hove to Cranstoun premises in Islington. Positive feedback has been received from service users and over 80% of people completing the programme have done so successfully. However, some other measures of access to drug and alcohol misuse services and recovery have been showing less positive results and work is being undertaken to understand more about the reasons for this so service adjustments can be put in place.

Action: Commission an analysis of the current state of the night time economy in relation to violent crime. Explore options for supporting effective services which increase safety and reduce crime in relation to the night time economy.

Reducing offending

- 3.11 Resettlement of medium and lower risk offenders is a function for SEETEC (the Kent, Surrey and Sussex Community Rehabilitation Company). Higher risk offenders are managed by the National Probation Service. The work focuses on the delivery of support with substance misuse, accommodation, finance and debt, employment and support for those who have been the victims of domestic and sexual violence and sex workers. Securing accommodation for the most complex and chaotic offenders in the city can be a challenge.
- 3.12 Successful work with offenders depends on partnership working and there is a renewed Integrated Offender Management structure to assist with joint working at an operational level. There has been agreement among police, probation and community safety that strategic oversight for integrated offender management would be beneficial and options on how to achieve this are being considered.
- 3.13 The number of First Time Entrants to the youth justice system continues to decline, but there continues to be a small number of offenders who commit a high proportion of re-offences. Because young people who become prolific offenders tend to have early onset of offending and often present with longstanding multiple risk factors, resources have been targeted towards this young age group. We are now seeing improvements in the number of young people who re-offend and in the successful completion of youth rehabilitation orders and other measures of success.
- 3.14 Progress is being made by the police in being able to monitor reoffending by cohorts of offenders so that more timely data is available. This will be used to ensure accountability from partners and manage performance. The 'time-lagged' reoffending data for young offenders in Brighton & Hove, which has been persistently showing higher levels of reoffending than the national average, was showing an improvement in the previous report and latest available data (cohort Oct 2013 to Sep 2014) and is now showing reoffending levels at roughly the same levels as the national average. This is especially encouraging, given the number of young offenders is also on a downward trend. However, the number of adult offenders is showing an increase and latest data on adult reoffending rates and the average number of re-offences per reoffender remain above the national average.

Anti-social behaviour and hate incidents

- 3.15 ASB incidents recorded by the police continue to decline. National and regional data available up to 2014/15 also show a long term declining trend.
- 3.16 Recent developments include the use of Public Space Protection Orders to address ASB in parks and open spaces being agreed at committee and working

groups are being set up to progress the Rough Sleepers Strategy priority which focuses on people being safe and free from intimidation. However, reduced capacity in all services may lead to reduced service delivery and have an impact on the successful multi-agency approach that has been implemented in the past, especially with regard to ASB associated with the street community.

- 3.17 In the first quarter of 2016/17 there were 11 hate crime prosecutions which were finalised, of which 9 resulted in a conviction. The average number of finalised cases in 2015/16 was much higher (101 in the whole year).
- 3.18 National and international events, including the EU referendum and hate-motivated attacks in Orlando and Mexico, have led to reports of heightened feelings of vulnerability and tension within communities. Work to reassure and inform has been undertaken by the Community Safety Casework Team and the police. With a significant settled EU population in the city, the way in which the 'Brexit' vote is progressed by government has the potential to impact community cohesion. Hate incident data in quarter 1 of 2016/17 did not show any strong evidence of a reaction to the EU referendum, but there was a rise in racist crimes and incidents reported to the police in the month of July².
- 3.19 There have been a further small number of households being accommodated in the city in response to the national Syrian Vulnerable Relocation Scheme. So far they have been well received and there has been no noticeable impact on community cohesion. There appeared to be an anti-refugee protest being planned via social media in June. This did not materialise, although there were some anti-fascist groups mobilised and this resulted in a small number of arrests.
- 3.20 Community Safety services provided a presence at Trans Pride through an awareness-raising workshop and a stall. Further work of this nature to increase trust and confidence within the Trans community is planned.
- 3.21 Stonewall has rated highly the work undertaken in our local schools to tackle homophobia. A needs assessment on bullying and prejudice-based incidents in schools is underway with a view to understand current issues, including identifying ways to improve referral pathways and joint working procedures.

Action: work with CPS to identify why hate crime prosecutions have fallen compared to last year.

Prevent

- 3.22 The terrorism threat level to the UK has been at 'severe' (meaning an attack is highly likely) for the past two years (raised on 29/08/2014). The risk of travel to Syria and Iraq or areas of conflict continues for both men and women and risks from returnees continue. Online influences and social media continue to encourage travel and lone actor attacks.
- 3.23 A number of residents from the city including young people and women were supported to attend workshops to understand the work of the Counter Terrorism Internet Referral Unit (CTIRU) in April 2016. In turn, these community members have promoted the CTIRU work to report online terrorist, extremist and illegal material through meetings (including the One Voice meeting) and social media. This includes the 'Red Button', a tool to report online terrorist material to the CTIRU, which is available on the Safe in the City and Sussex Police websites. This work aims to stop the promotion of hatred and terrorism and deal with some of the 'pull factors' in terms of visual material available online.

² UPDATE: Police-recorded crimes and incidents have remained relatively high in the month of August.

- 3.24 An increase has been noted both in reported hate incidents post referendum and Islamophobia nationally, and locally racist incidents and crimes have increased during the month of July². The result of Britain's referendum on EU membership is believed to have strengthened far-right activism across Europe and the UK. Within this wider political context, continued work to effectively address hate incidents and Islamophobia, and to sustain trust and confidence in the minority, Muslim and refugee communities locally is important.

Violence against women & girls

- 3.25 In 2015/16 the number of domestic violence crimes and incidents, and sexual offences recorded by the police showed a further significant increase on the increase seen in previous years. However, even though the number of recorded domestic violence crimes doubled between 2013/14 and 2015/16, the number of domestic violence crimes solved dropped.
- 3.26 In the first four months of 2016/17 recorded domestic violence crimes and incidents are continuing to rise, while recorded sexual offences are at a similar level to that recorded in the same months of 2015/16. The number of solved domestic violence crimes in the first quarter of 2016/17 has increased proportionately on 2015/16, but the number of sexual offences solved is low at this early stage of the year.
- 3.27 Prosecution rates for domestic violence offences in the first quarter of 2016/17 are relatively high at 79% (66/84) compared with 74% in the whole of 2015/16.
- 3.28 While the increase in these crime types is seen as a positive sign of people's willingness to report, a key issue remains the increasing demand for specialist domestic and sexual abuse services and finding ways to be able to manage demand in the current financial climate.
- 3.29 Specialist domestic and sexual abuse services are delivered through 'the Portal', a single point of access which provides advice and support in Brighton & Hove and East Sussex, with services provided by RISE, CGL and Survivors' Network.
- 3.30 There are plans to launch a 'Champions Network' in Brighton & Hove which will involve the nomination of practitioners to act as a point of contact and be 'in-house' domestic violence and abuse and sexual violence specialists for their service.

Modern slavery

- 3.31 The Modern Slavery Act was passed in March 2015 which brought together a range of legislative responses to deal with those who were perpetrating modern slavery. The main difficulty at present is a low volume of intelligence on which remedial action can be based. It can also be difficult to gain the confidence of victims who are identified.
- 3.32 Modern slavery is characterised by the high mobility of both victims and perpetrators at a national and international level. Better regional and cross border co-ordination is necessary. At a pan-Sussex level, the way forward will be progressed at a senior level, involving Sussex Police Public Protection and the six safeguarding boards (three for children and three for adults) across Sussex.
- 3.33 The necessity to respond to the refugee and migrant crisis and co-ordinate the council's practical, strategic and media response to this has reduced the Community Safety Team's capacity to be proactive with regard to modern slavery.

4. ANALYSIS & CONSIDERATION OF ANY ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS

- 4.1 Since this report is intended to provide an update on current progress on the work carried out as part of the Community Safety and Crime Reduction Strategy, this section is not applicable. Ways of achieving the aims set out in the partnership Strategy are considered based on the annual strategic assessment of crime and community safety.

5. COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT & CONSULTATION

- 5.1 The Strategic Assessment on which the next Strategy will be based is currently in progress. A consultation event on the Strategic Assessment's findings and proposed priorities for 2017-20 is being planned for late November. Invited participants are to include members of the Safe in the City Partnership Board, and community and voluntary sector partners, including representatives of Local Action Teams and communities of interest.

6. CONCLUSION

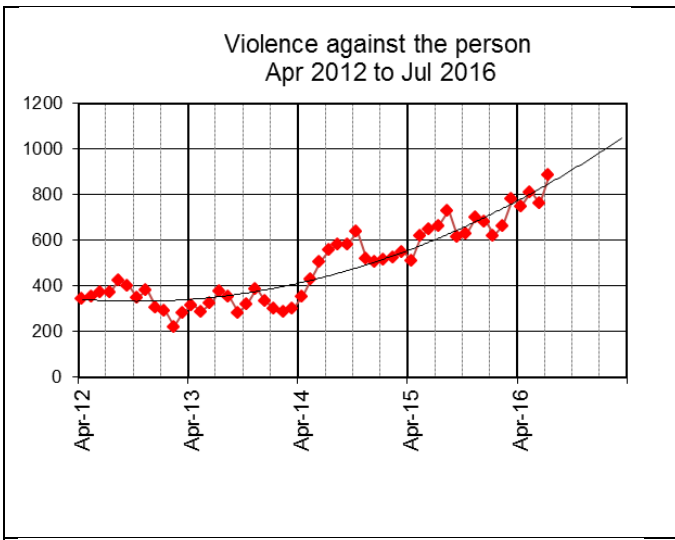
- 6.1 This report is to provide an update of progress on work under the Community Safety and Crime Reduction Strategy and to invite any comment.

Appendix 1:

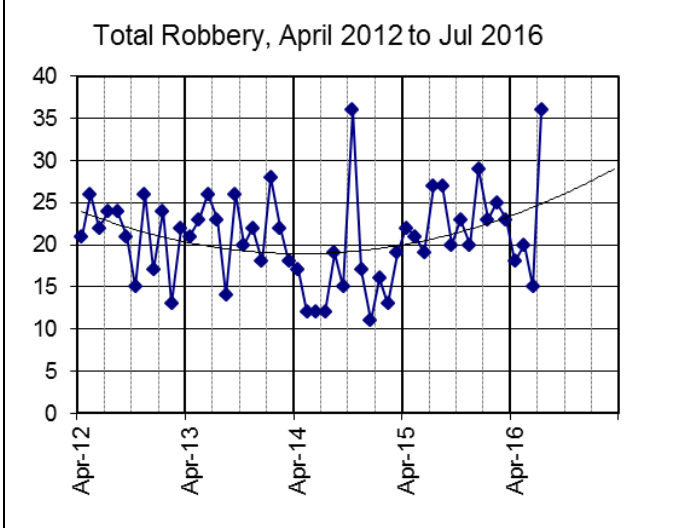
Crime trends up to July 2016 (monthly data)³

<p style="text-align: center;">Total Crimes, Apr 2012 to Jul 2016</p>	<p>8.1 The number of crimes recorded by the police continues to demonstrate a seasonal pattern with higher numbers the summer than the winter months. Since the end of 2013/14 there has been an upwards trend in recorded crimes with changes to police recording practices contributing to this (see below).</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Criminal Damage, Apr 2012 to Jul 2016</p>	<p>8.2 A long term downward trend in criminal damage up to 2013/14 has halted and is actually now showing a slight upward trend.</p>

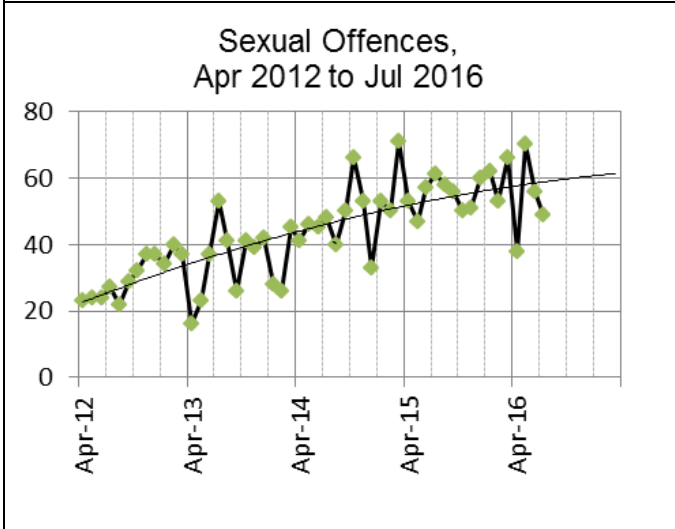
³ Trend lines are based on the best fitting 2nd order polynomial curve



8.3 Police recorded data show a steeply rising trend from 2014/15 onwards, overlaid with a seasonal pattern (higher levels in the summer). The increase in 2014/15 was linked to changes in police recording practice and was observed both nationally and locally. However, the increasing trend continues to date.



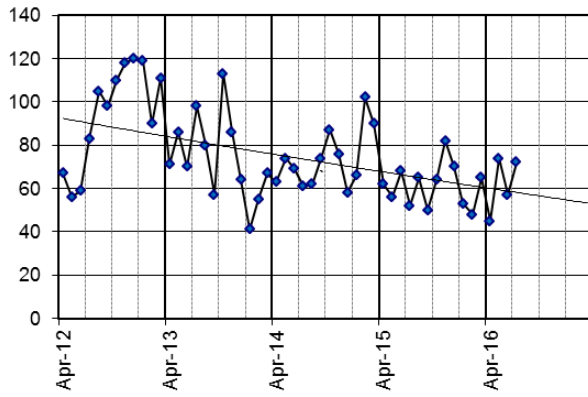
8.4 Robberies in the city tend to fluctuate between 10 and 30 per month although there was a spike in Oct 2014⁴) and recently in July 2016⁵. Most robberies are personal robberies (255 in 2015/16) and a minority are business robberies (24 in 2015/16).



8.5 Police recorded sexual offences are on an upward trend. This is generally regarded as a positive outcome in that victims are feeling more confident in reporting. Changes in police recording at the beginning of 2014/15 (as for violent crimes above) have also had an effect on recorded numbers.

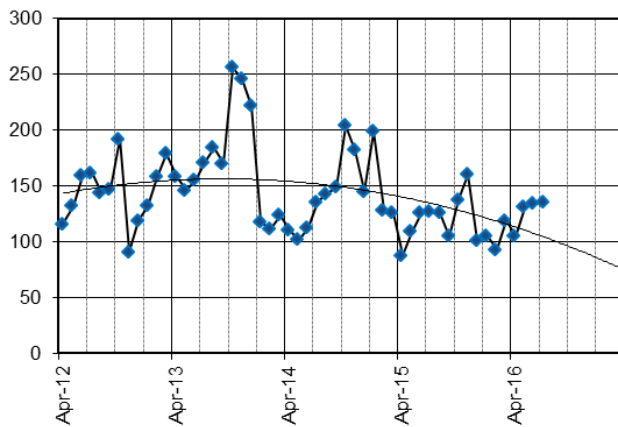
⁴ A robbery with 8 victims and another series of 4 crimes perpetrated by a single offender contributed to the spike seen in Oct 2014
⁵ INSERT info on July spike

Domestic Burglary, Apr 2012 to Jul 2016



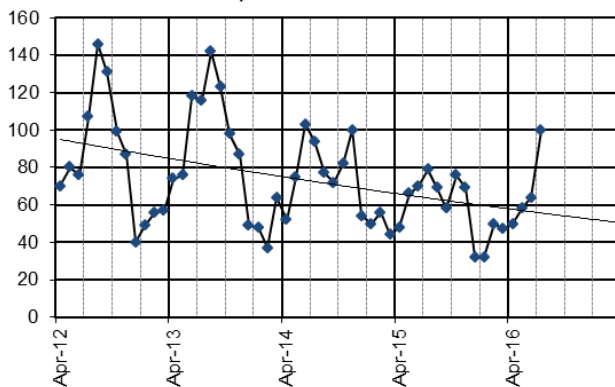
8.6 The number of domestic burglaries has broadly speaking been declining since a peak in the winter of 2012/13. Between roughly 40 and 80 per month have been recorded since April 2015.

Vehicle Crime, Apr 2012 to Jul 2016



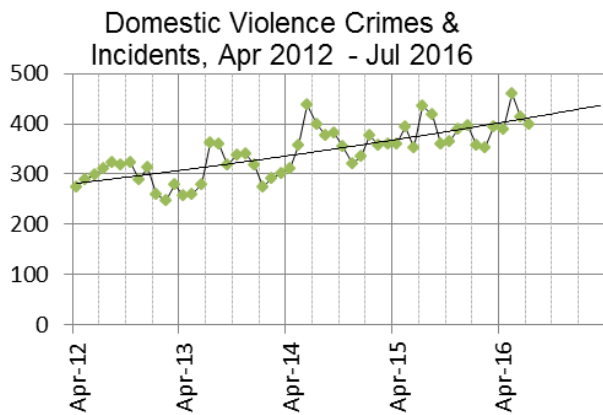
8.7 The number of vehicle crimes have generally been on a long term decline. Following a spate of vehicle crimes in the autumn/winter months of 2013/14 and 2014/15, numbers resumed a relatively low level again.

Theft of a Pedal Cycle, Apr 2012 to Jul 2016



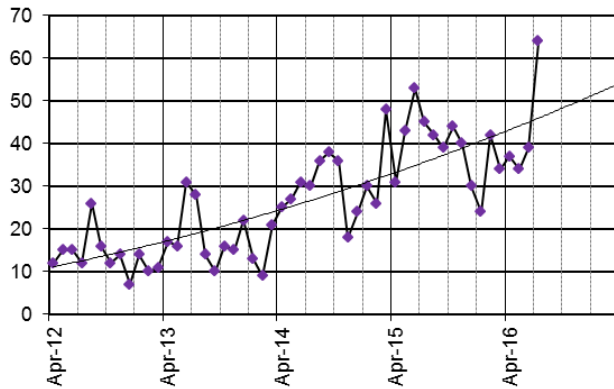
8.8 A seasonal pattern in cycle thefts is normally observed every year and is linked to those months when more people tend to cycle. Cycle thefts rose less in the summer of 2015 than in previous years but the latest month of July 2016 shows a spike at 100 thefts.

Police crime data presented in this report only reflects those crimes which are reported and recorded. There is likely to be a level of underreporting in many crime types. However, domestic violence and the hate crimes on this page may be particularly liable to underreporting.



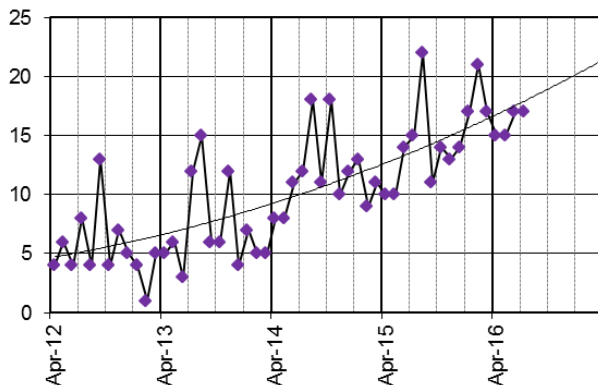
8.9 Point 3.2 and 3.3 earlier in this report explain issues with recording practices and positive work in relation to these crime types which result in more crimes being recorded.

Racist Crimes and Incidents (police data), Apr 2012 to Jul 2016



8.10 There was an upwards trend in racist crimes and incidents in parallel with the recording of other crimes since 2014/15. There is a notable spike in July 2016 coinciding with the month following the EU referendum vote to leave the European Union.

Homophobic Crimes & Incidents (police data), Apr 2012 to Jul 2016



8.11 INSERT

Appendix 2. Crime statistics 2016/17: position at July 2016

	number of crimes Apr – Jul 15	number of crimes Apr – Jul 16	rank within 15 benchmarked CSPs ⁶ .
Police recorded crimes			
Total crimes	7577	8473	10
Criminal damage	936	1009	9
Violence against the person	2452	3216	13
Robbery	89	89	10
Sexual offences	218	213	n/a ⁷
Domestic burglary	238	248	3
Theft from/of a motor vehicle	450	506	5
Theft and handling (excl. motor vehicle theft)	2879	2872	9
Pedal cycle theft	263	272	10
Police recorded crimes and crime-related incidents			
Domestic violence crimes and incidents ⁸	1544	1662	n/a
Racist crimes and incidents	172	174	n/a
Religiously-motivated crimes and incidents	29	37	n/a
Homophobic crimes and incidents	49	64	n/a
Transphobic crimes and incidents	7	13	n/a
Disability hate crimes and incidents	25	17	n/a

⁶ Interim data. Brighton & Hove is matched for comparative purposes with 14 other Community Safety Partnerships (CSPs) according to a range of socio-demographic and geographic variables. A rank of 1 is the best; 15 is the worst; 8 is the middle position. . Data reflects the ranking for the most recent six months. The city is grouped with: Bournemouth, Cambridge, Cheltenham, Eastbourne, Exeter, Hillingdon, Houslow, Oxford, Reading, Southampton, Southend, Trafford, Watford and Worthing.

⁷ In comparison with our benchmarked group, we rank 11 for sexual offences (interim data). However, because sexual offences, DV and hate crimes are subject to under reporting and local work is being undertaken to increase reporting of these crimes, it is not appropriate to judge performance in comparison with other CSPs based on the number of police recorded crimes.

⁸ This includes incidents where the victim is of any age, not just 16 and over as in the national definition, so will be a slight overestimate.

