

Subject:	Community Safety and Crime in Brighton & Hove: Information Update		
Date of Meeting:	9th October 2017		
Report of:	Executive Director of Neighbourhoods, Communities and Housing		
Contact Officer:	Name:	Peter Castleton	Tel: 292607
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Ward(s) affected:	All		

FOR GENERAL RELEASE

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT AND POLICY CONTEXT

- 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 focussing on performance in the first quarter of 2017/18.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS:

- 2.1 The 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 2017-20.
- 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 and community safety priorities for the city.

3. CONTEXT/ BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Overview of police recorded crime

- 3.1 Total police recorded crime in 2016/17 increased by 9.2% compared with the 2015/16 and has continued to rise with an increase of 9.9% in the first three months of 2017/18 compared with the same months in 2016/17.
- 3.2 Total crime is, broadly speaking, broken down into acquisitive crime ¹ (39% of total crime in q1), violent crime (40% of total), criminal damage (10% of total) and other offences (11% of total).

¹ eg. burglary or theft

- 3.3 At this early stage in the year, there has been an increase in recorded crime across a number of crime groups in 2017/18 compared with 2016/17. Violent crimes have increased by 18%, and most acquisitive crime types have increased, except for vehicle crime which is showing a 20% drop. Criminal damage offences have dropped by 6%. Domestic violence, sexual violence and all types of hate crimes have all increased. Appendix 1 provides data for key crime types for the first quarter of 2017/18 (April-June) and how this compares to the same months in 2016/17.
- 3.4 The upward trend in total crime over the last three years follows a long term decline in the preceding years. 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. While there was an immediate effect seen from 2014 in recorded crimes, we understand that the local response to the HMIC Audit has been an ongoing process, and has contributed to at least some of the ongoing increasing trend in recorded crime, especially in respect of violent crimes.
- 3.5 Within overall recorded crime, some crimes types which cause the most harm, including domestic violence, sexual violence, 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.

Anti-social behaviour and hate incidents and crimes

- 3.6 Following a long term declining trend in the number of police recorded ASB incidents, the number in the first quarter has increased by 4.6% compared with the same quarter in 2016/17. 'ASB crime' types have been increasing in number for three years and there is a 2% increase in the first quarter of 2017/18 compared with 2016/17.
- 3.7 The number of police-recorded racist/religiously and LGBT motivated hate crimes and incidents continue to show an increasing trend, while the percentage solved by the police drops. The conviction rate for racist and religiously motivated crimes at court in the first quarter was good (93%; 25 convictions out of 27 finalised cases), but there was only one finalised homophobic case to date.
- 3.8 A multi-agency working group has been set up to address the increase in instances of "cuckooing" ie. drug dealers take over the property of a vulnerable person, and is finalising a joint working procedure incorporating our procedures for using Closure Orders.
- 3.9 The Racial Harassment Forum (RHF) has held its first Annual General Meeting as an independent body and recruited more members to its committee. The local authority has provided some funding through the Communities Fund for consultation with RHF members to inform ongoing work with communities who may be vulnerable to racist and religiously motivated hate crime.

Safety in the night time economy

- 3.10 Police recorded violence against the person is continuing to show a significant rise (16% and 19% respectively) on top of the rising trend over the last three years. Following an increase in 2016/17, attendances at A&E due to alcohol or assault have reduced by 9% in the first three months of 2017/18 compared with the same period in 2016/17. Work is being undertaken to obtain performance measures which are more targeted on the night time economy, rather than the current measures which cover the whole city at all times of day.
- 3.11 Policing of the night time economy (Operation Marble) has been reviewed by police and has been assessed as fit for purpose. The council and police Licensing Teams are continuing test purchase operations. Where there are concerns regarding licensed premises licensing reviews are sought with the Licensing Committee.

Domestic violence and abuse, sexual violence and violence against women & girls

- 3.12 Police recorded domestic violence crimes and incidents and particularly sexual offences continue to rise. This is putting commissioned support services under considerable service pressure. The number of stalking crimes and incidents is also rising sharply, likely to be a response to publicity around this crime type.
- 3.13 Even though the number of recorded domestic violence crimes has shown a long term increasing trend, the number solved cases was falling until 2015/16. It seems that the number solved cases is now rising, although the percentage of domestic violence crimes solved continues to drop. At this early point in the year conviction rates for domestic violence and sexual offences have improved compared with the same period in 2016/17, with 79% and 66% conviction rates respectively.
- 3.14 Incidents of harmful practices (such as Female Genital Mutilation, 'Honour Based' Violence and Forced Marriage) continue to be reported, although numbers of reports remain low with only one case officially reported in the first quarter of 2017/18. Locally there remain challenges in securing capacity to progress this work from either the council or the police.
- 3.15 The findings from the Pan Sussex Multi Agency Risk Assessment Conference (MARAC) Review have been considered locally by the Violence Against Women and Girls Commissioner and an action plan has been developed. Subject to multi-agency agreement this will take forward a number of changes to the structure and function of the MARAC in Brighton and Hove and East Sussex and an independent MARAC Chair is being recruited.

Reducing offending

- 3.16 Acquisitive crimes, often committed by repeat offenders, are showing an 11% increase in this early part of the year. 29% of adult offenders and 47% of young offenders in the city who offended between Oct 2014 and Sep 2015 went on to reoffend in the following 12 months. This is a slightly poorer result for both adults and young offenders than for England and Wales as a whole (24% and 38% respectively).

- 3.17 Partnership work with adult offenders needs to be taken forward at a county and regional level as issues facing community safety partnerships in engaging with key stakeholders in the criminal justice system are common across the county across the region. A county-wide seminar is planned on the 4th October 2017 at the Amex stadium to take this work forward.
- 3.18 The number of first time entrants to the youth justice system remains low in Brighton and Hove and the main focus of work with young offenders continues to be about keeping them out of the youth justice system through pre-court disposals. Currently this cannot be done in the case of motoring offences, but the possibility of changing the pathway for dealing with young offenders carrying our vehicle crimes is being explored.
- 3.19 In April a new national framework for youth offending teams was introduced and we have made changes to the local team in response. This includes a greater focus on evidence based practices and greater involvement of young people in understanding the purpose of the orders imposed by the courts and what they must to do comply.

Community collaboration and resilience

- 3.20 There have been three crimes reported relating to modern slavery in the first three months of 2017/18, in addition to a further three in the previous quarter. Before this, there were only three previously reported crimes between Apr 2015 and Dec 2016, indicating an increase in the reporting and recording of these crimes. The number of cases of modern slavery and human trafficking coming to light remains low. We do not know whether this is due to low prevalence in the city or because awareness of the signs and indicators of this hidden crime is still low amongst those who might be in a position to identify and report such crimes.
- 3.21 All crimes on record relate to either 'holding a person in slavery or servitude' or 'arranging or facilitating travel of another person with a view to exploitation'.
- 3.22 A pan Sussex Modern Slavery Network has been formed of Community Safety Partnerships across Brighton & Hove, East and West Sussex including the Local Safeguarding Children's Boards and Safeguarding Adult Boards across the County. The Network has a draft action plan, outlining areas of work that will be taken forward across the County. . In Brighton & Hove we continue to have a local Modern Slavery Operational Group which meets quarterly to promote and enable the partnership work that can support the police as they address this area of crime.
- 3.23 Work on the International Migrants Needs Assessment is approaching its conclusion. Around twenty peer researchers were recruited from migrant communities to carry out research within their own communities and they have agreed to be a resource for future projects where there is a need to consult with migrant populations. The findings of the assessment will be reported to the NICE committee in due course. and assuming the recommendation are approved implementation will follow.
- 3.24 A Communities Co-ordinator has been recruited, based in the Community Safety Team but working across and with many other council services, to work with communities to build resilience against all forms of extremism. The post has been funded by the Home Office for 12 months as part of delivering the national Counter-Extremism strategy.

Preventing terrorism

- 3.25 Prevent Awareness training sessions and consequently the number of individuals trained will increase as the Prevent trainers start to deliver sessions in their own services supported by the Prevent Co-ordinator. Referrals to Channel, where interventions can be made to divert individuals from radicalisation, remain low compared to other pilot areas and the region, but are higher compared to 2016/17.
- 3.26 The national threat level was raised to 'Critical' following the Manchester Arena incident and remained at the highest level for four days (23rd – 26th May 2017). It is now reduced to 'Severe' meaning an attack is highly likely.
- 3.27 Following three terrorist incidents nationally, there was both intensive and extensive engagement with local communities, faith groups, and partners. The city's links to the Westminster and Manchester investigations necessitated sensitive engagement with communities to ensure public and community safety. Communications and messaging to manage potential community impact and to minimise consequences and build community resilience were effectively carried out. Following each incident, joint statements between the One Voice Partnership and leaders of all three political groups were issued and disseminated widely to promote messages of unity against terrorist action dividing communities.
- 3.28 Communities continue to express concerns about increased Islamophobic and anti-Muslim (including anti-migrant) rhetoric in public and right-wing discourse (as well as activities) through national incidents. Significant energy was directed towards monitoring community tensions, increased engagement to reassure communities, and to minimise the impact on community cohesion.
- 3.29 We continue to successfully deliver the Channel Pilot in the city to identify and support individuals vulnerable to being drawn into terrorism. Following an evaluation, the Home Office rolled out the pilot nationally in July 2017. There will be a shift in responsibility from the police to the local authority for this work and we continue to have funding for this financial year from the Home Office for the post of Channel Coordinator in the city whose role will take up this work.

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 Strategy are considered based on the annual strategic assessment of crime and community safety.

5. COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT & CONSULTATION

- 5.1 The Strategic Assessment which informs the current Strategy was carried out in autumn 2016. There was also a consultation event on the findings of the assessment and proposed priorities for the strategy. Invited participants included members of the Safe in the City Partnership Board, community and voluntary sector partners, representatives of Local Action Teams and of communities of interest.

- 5.2 A draft of the Community Safety Strategy was made available for public comment via the consultation portal and directly with some community groups and with the NICE Committee.

6. CONCLUSION

- 6.1 This report is to provide committee and the public with an update of progress on work under the Community Safety and Crime Reduction Strategy 2017-20 and to invite comment from the committee.
- 6.2 The Safe in the City Partnership reviews progress annually and adapts the work programme appropriately.

7. FINANCIAL & OTHER IMPLICATIONS:

Financial Implications:

- 7.1 There are no direct financial implications arising from this report, however, any work undertaken by the council as a result of this report will need to be met from current budget resources.

Finance Officer Consulted: Monica Brooks

Date: 01/09/17

Legal Implications:

- 7.2 All work currently being undertaken is within the councils statutory powers. Any new areas of law that we might be requested to undertake would either have to be closely aligned to current work or would need specific approval under the scheme of delegation.

Lawyer Consulted: Simon Court

Date: 01/09/17

Equalities Implications:

- 7.3 The Community Safety and Crime Reduction Strategy is subject to an ongoing and embedded equality impact assessment where specific actions and activities are identified and assessed for equality impact.

Sustainability Implications:

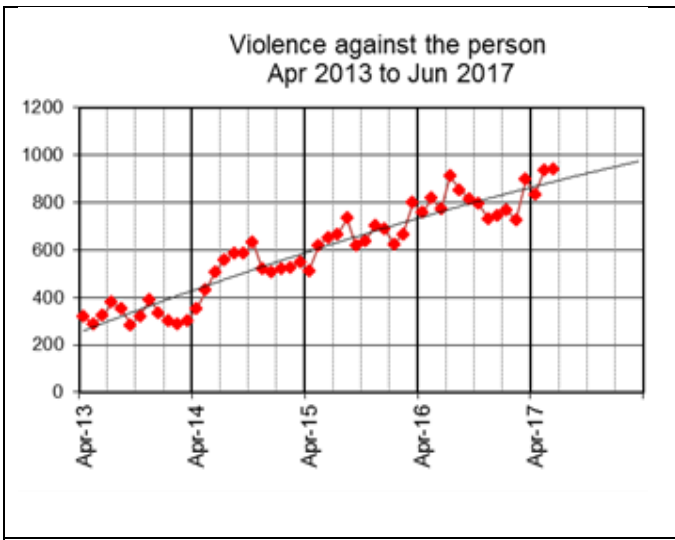
- 7.4 None

Appendix 1:

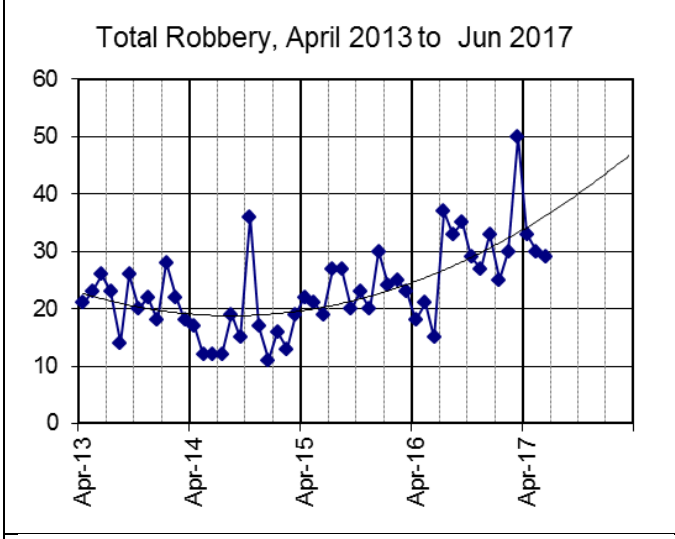
Crime trends up to June 2017 (monthly data)²

<p style="text-align: center;">Total Crimes, Apr 2013 to Jun 2017</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 2013 to Jun 2017</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>

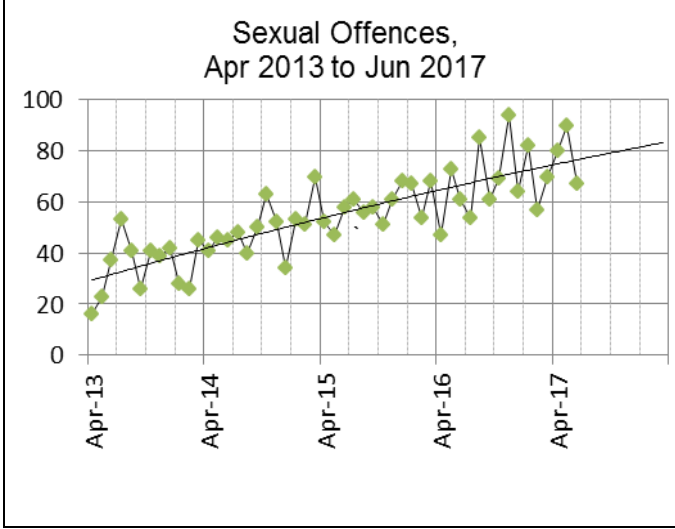
² Trend lines are based on the best fitting 2nd order polynomial curve



8.3 Police recorded data show a steeply rising trend from 2014/15 onwards, overlaid with a seasonal pattern (higher levels in the summer). As discussed earlier, 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.



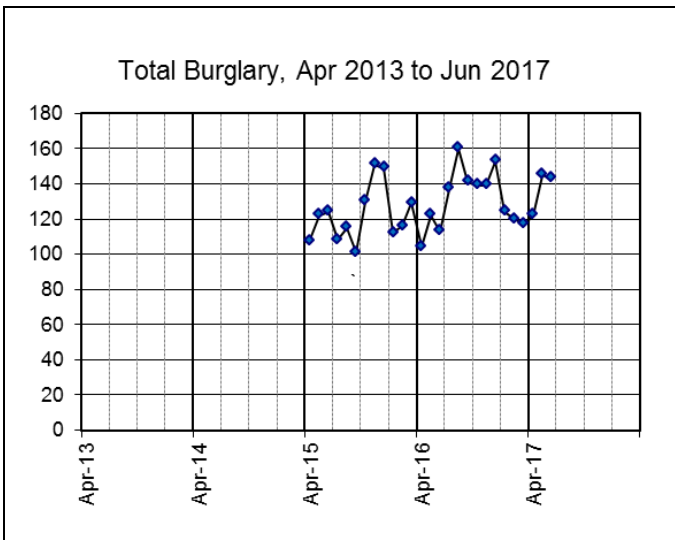
8.4 Until Jun 2016 robberies in the city tended to fluctuate between 10 and 30 per month (although there was a spike in Oct 2014³). However, since Jul 2016 monthly numbers have consistently been above 25 each month, with a spike in Mar 2017 of 49⁴. Most robberies are personal robberies (328 in 2016/17) and a minority are business robberies (24 in 2016/17).



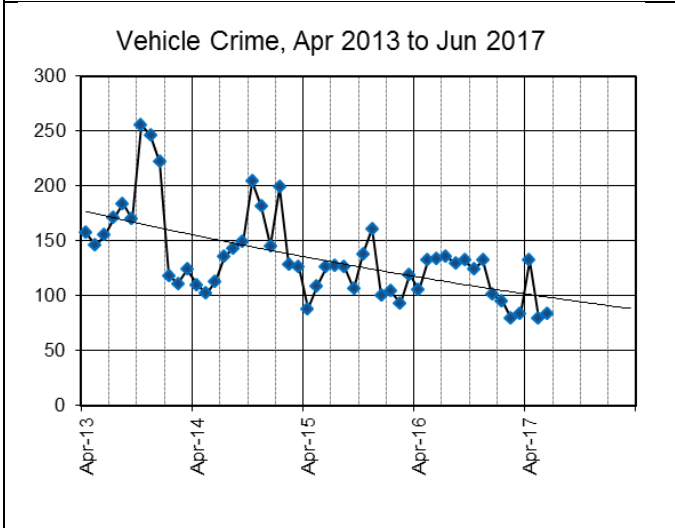
8.5 Police recorded sexual offences are on an upward trend. This is generally regarded as a positive outcome in that victims are feeling more confident in reporting. Changes in police recording at the beginning of 2014/15 (as for violent crimes above) have also had an effect on recorded numbers.

³ A robbery with 8 victims and another series of 4 crimes perpetrated by a single offender contributed to the spike seen in Oct 2014

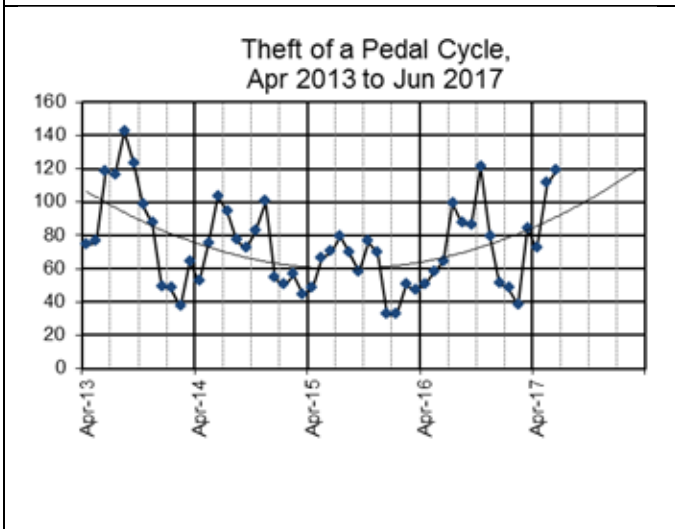
⁴ There were 4 robberies with more than one victim in Mar 2017, contributing to the spike that month.



8.6 National changes to the definition of domestic and other burglaries has meant that at the moment it is not possible to pull out domestic burglaries. All burglaries are therefore reported here. A seasonal pattern is observable in the data over the last year.



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. While the Brighton & Hove trend is downwards, our benchmarking group are showing an upward trend over the last 18 months.



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 enhanced summer peaks have again been observed in both 2016 and 2017. Numbers in the winter months have remained relatively constant.

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.

<p style="text-align: center;">Domestic Violence Crimes & Incidents, Apr 2013 - Jun 2017</p>	<p>8.9 Recording practices and positive work in relation to these crime types which result in more crimes being recorded have been described earlier.</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Racist Crimes and Incidents (police data), Apr 2013 to Jun 2017</p>	<p>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 the summer of 2016 coinciding with the month following the EU referendum vote to leave the European Union. Numbers in the May and June of 2017 are also high.</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Homophobic Crimes & Incidents (police data), Apr 2013 to Jun 2017</p>	<p>8.11 There is an overall rising trend in the number of homophobic crimes recorded by the police, although numbers are relatively low and show some variation from month to month.</p>

Appendix 2. Crime statistics 2017/18: position at June 2017

Performance compared with last year (NB. last year data indicative only ERROR! BOOKMARK NOT DEFINED.)

	number of crimes Apr 16 - Jun 16 ⁵	number of crimes Apr 17 – Jun 17	rank within 15 bench-marked CSPs ⁶
Police recorded crimes			1=best; 15=worst
Total crimes	6185	6760	10
Criminal damage	733	691	10
Violence against the person	2344	2710	13
Sexual offences	181	237	10 ⁷
Robbery	54	88	9
Burglary	339	407	4
Theft of/ from a motor vehicle	371	297	4
Theft and handling (excl. motor vehicle theft)	2093	2197	11
Pedal cycle theft	172	302	11
Police recorded crimes and crime-related incidents			
Domestic violence incidents and crimes	1276	1319	n/a ⁸
Racist incidents and crimes	123	156	n/a
Religiously-motivated incidents and crimes	29	32	n/a
Homophobic incidents and crimes	49	65	n/a
Transphobic incidents and crimes	8	9	n/a
Disability hate incidents and crimes	10	21	n/a
Anti-social behaviour incidents	2776	2882	n/a

⁵ The data in this column reflect those recorded on the police system at the current time and do not necessarily align exactly with those recorded a year ago.

⁶ Interim data – indicative only. 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 and is based on crime 'rate' per head of population, or per no. of households in the case of domestic burglary. Data reflects the ranking for the most recent six months.

⁷ Because there remains an emphasis on encouraging reporting of sexual offences, it does not necessarily follow that a low rank is 'good' and a high rank is 'bad'.

⁸ Comparative/benchmarking data are not available.

