

Subject: Community Safety and Crime in Brighton & Hove
Date of Meeting: 16th January 2019
Report of: Interim Director of Housing Neighbourhoods and Communities
Contact Officer: Name: Jo Player **Tel:** 01273 292488
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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 current crime statistics and actions that are being undertaken by the Community Safety Partnership in relation to the Community Safety and Crime Reduction Strategy.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS:

- 2.1 That committee notes the information contained in the report which provides an update on work being undertaken by the Safer Communities team and partners in relation to the Community Safety and Crime Reduction Strategy 2017-20.

3. CONTEXT/ BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Overview of police recorded crime

- 3.1 In respect of the police data which follow, it should be noted that police recorded crime statistics can be impacted by changes in reporting practices, recording practices and policing activity, as well as by the number of crimes actually taking place.
- 3.2 In 2018/19 there were a total of 26,940 crimes recorded by the police in Brighton & Hove, a 3% increase compared with 2017/18. Total crimes have continued on a rising trend in the first six months of 2019/20, recording 11.2% more than in the same period in 2018/19. Nationally, recorded crime has also risen; in England & Wales there were 6% more total police recorded crimes in the year ending Jun 2019 than in the year ending Jun 2018¹.

¹ ONS Crime in England & Wales: Year ending June 2019

<https://www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/crimeandjustice/bulletins/crimeinenglandandwales/yearendi ngjune2019>

- 3.3 Broadly speaking, total crime is broken down into violent crime (44% of total crime in the first six months of 2019/20 in Brighton & Hove), acquisitive crime² (39% of total), criminal damage (10% of total) and other offences (7% of total).
- 3.4 In 2018/19 in Brighton & Hove, while there was an overall increase in total crime, some crime types increased considerably and some showed a decrease compared with 2017/18. However, in the first six months of 2019/20 all main crime groups have shown an increase to a greater or lesser extent compared with the same months of 2018/19.
- 3.5 Violence against the person crimes have increased by 8%, continuing the upward trend seen in 2018/19, although violence with injury has increased by a lesser extent (up 1.4%).
- 3.6 Robberies showed a marked increase in 2018/19 of 35% compared with the previous year and are continuing to show a substantial rise at 20% in the first half of 2019/20. This increase is also seen nationally. 211 out of the 219 robberies in this period were 'personal' robberies, with the rest being robberies of businesses.
- 3.7 Vehicle crimes rose by 29% in 2018/19, and this rising trend has continued at a slower rate in the first half of 2019/20 (up 2%) although theft of a vehicle has increased by 14%, while theft from a vehicle has dropped by 13%. Brighton & Hove is not alone in seeing an increase in vehicle crime; this is also evident across Sussex and nationally.
- 3.8 Having ended 2018/19 with a 21% decrease, numbers of cycle thefts have increased by 59% in the first half of 2019/20.
- 3.9 The number of criminal damage offences increased by 2% in 2018/19 and by a further 9% in the first half of 2019/20. 34% of criminal damage offences involved damage to a vehicle, 23% damage to a dwelling and 16% damage to other buildings.
- 3.10 Domestic violence incidents and crimes showed a year on year increase up to 2018/19 and this increase has continued into the first half of 2019/20 with a 13% increase compared the same period in 2018/19.
- 3.11 Police recorded sexual offences showed a steep year on year increase of between 14% and 22% between 2013/14 and 2017/18. This increase has subsequently slowed down with a smaller increase of 1.2% in 2018/19 and a very small increase of 0.4% in the first six months of 2019/20.
- 3.12 Appendix 1 provides data for key crime types in the first six months of 2019/20 and shows how this compares with the same months in 2018/19. Longer term trends, with seasonal patterns can be seen in the graphs in Appendix 2.

Anti-social behaviour and hate incidents/crimes

- 3.13 The long term declining trend in the number of police recorded ASB incidents continues with numbers recorded in 2018/19 showing a 17% decrease compared

² eg. burglary or theft

with 2017/18 and a further decrease of 12% in the first six months of 2019/20. 'ASB crimes'³ have shown a less consistent picture over the last few years, and in the first six months of 2019/20 there was a small decrease of 1% compared with the same months in 2018/19.

- 3.14 The Partnership Tactical Tasking and Co-ordination Group continues to agree and review Community Safety Priorities and ensures that resources are appropriately deployed.
- 3.15 The new Rough Sleeping Services Co-ordinator has established a system for the central monitoring and review of unauthorised encampments across the city, including weekly meetings with representatives of key teams from within and outside of the council. This is ensuring a joined-up and consistent response to this issue in the city.
- 3.16 In 2018/19 recorded homophobic incidents and crimes are showed a decrease while other forms of hate increased. In the first six months of 2019/20, with the exception of disability hate incidents which have decreased, all other hate crime/incident types have increased in number compared with the same months of 2018/19 although these findings should be viewed with caution on account of relatively low numbers.
- 3.17 Brighton & Hove City Council has been awarded the Gold Children and Young People's Champion Award from Stonewall for LGBTQ+ inclusion work in schools developed in tandem with Allsorts youth project
- 3.18 There have been continued LGBTQ+ community tensions over anti-trans groups and targeted campaigns against trans inclusion and equality both nationally and in the city.
- 3.19 Work with BMECP staff and partners is being planned aimed at increasing awareness of intersectional issues around trans and non-binary communities.

Safety in the night-time economy

- 3.20 Police recorded violence against the person as a whole rose by 8% in 2018/19 and have risen by a further 8% in the first six months of 2019/20, continuing a longer term upward trend. The subgroup of violence with injury increased by 3% in 2018/19 and has risen by a further 1.3% in the first six months of 2019/20.
- 3.21 Violence against the person offences (excluding those in a dwelling) in the city centre Cumulative Impact Zone and Special Stress Areas (2018 boundaries) in 2018/19 were 10% lower than in 2017/18 during peak night time economy hours (Friday and Saturday nights between 10pm and 5am). However, in the first six months of 2019/20 there were 5% more than in the same months of 2018/29. The Statement of Licensing Policy is due for a refresh in 2021. Consultation will start next year to inform that piece of work.
- 3.22 The Licensing Team are continuing test purchase operations, reviews and a stepped and targeted approach to licence premises management and

³ 'ASB crimes' refers to a grouping of police recorded crimes made up of: criminal damage, common assault, harassment, public order and affray

enforcement. 159 staff and 48 premises have received training regarding the sale of age restricted products since 1st April 2019.

- 3.23 There are now 192 premises that have voluntarily signed up to our Sensible on Strength scheme not to sell beers and ciders over 6% ABV. A further 49 premises have stopped selling strong beers without joining the scheme.

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

- 3.24 Police recorded domestic violence crimes and incidents increased by 5% in 2018/19 compared with 2017/18 and have increased further by 13% in the first half of 2019/20 compared with the same period in 2018/19.
- 3.25 The number of police recorded sexual offences in 2018/19 showed a slight increase of 1.2% and in 2019/20 there has been a further small increase of 0.4% in the first half of the year.
- 3.26 Stalking is a relatively new offence. The number of recorded stalking crimes and incidents increased steeply from 60 in 2016/17 to 344 in 2018/19 and a further 221 crimes and incidents have been recorded in the first half of 2019/20. This is likely to be a response to greater awareness of this crime type.
- 3.27 A small number of incidents of harmful practices (including 'Honour Based' Violence and Forced Marriage) are reported to the police, with 6 cases reported in 2017/18 (all HBV), but rising to 14 in 2018/19 (11 HBV and 3 FM). There have yet to be any reported FGM crimes or incidents in 2019/20.
- 3.28 The volume of referrals to the Multi-Agency Risk Assessment Conference (MARAC) for domestic violence continues to increase, with 552 cases referred in 2017/18 and 707 in 2018/19. Numbers continue to rise and in the first six months of 2019/20 there were 354 cases referred.
- 3.29 Work has continued in preparation for the MARAC Hub Pilot which will commence on the 6th January 2020. A robust monitoring and evaluation process has been developed to ensure that progress and outcomes can be recorded.
- 3.30 In the last quarter, work has continued on the review and redesign of service pathways and partnership delivery approach. This will inform the specialist services commission in early 2020 but is also enabling immediate developments with existing partners to respond to service pressures.
- 3.31 The stakeholder engagement work that has been underway for the past year has concluded. The views collated during this process, along with the AVA consultation of 2018, local resource mapping and data and insight information form the evidence base for the strategy delivery plan. The findings will be presented at a Strategy Stakeholder Workshop on the 26th November where stakeholders will have the opportunity to comment on the findings for verification.
- 3.32 Development of the new commission for domestic and sexual violence and abuse and VAWG specialist services continues- with the market place consultation event due to take place on the 26th November. The commission will be launched in February 2020.

Violence Vulnerability and Exploitation (VVE)

- 3.32 Supporting parents to be partners in safeguarding against exploitation is a key national issue currently and as such BHCC is part of the national working group to develop this. Locally, BHCC is working with Sussex Police, Trust for Developing Communities (TDC) and the Office of the Sussex Police & Crime Commissioner (OSPCC) to scope out the current issues and identifying community and voluntary sector organisations to ensure the voices of families / parents help inform what any future parenting / peer support looks like.
- 3.33 There has been an influx of funding opportunities predominantly from the Home Office and / or OSPCC. This has led to a further investment of £20k in youth intervention within the city. Sussex Police was awarded £1.34 million from the Home Office serious violence fund to tackle knife crime which is predominantly being spent on police over-time, although there are funds available for bespoke knife crime interventions and engagement activity. The VVE Coordinator, Serious and Organised Crime Coordinator and the police lead for knife crime are working together to invest this money.
- 3.34 Brighton & Hove Safeguarding Children Partnership has also commissioned WiSE to design and deliver bespoke exploitation awareness training directly to relevant organisations and services. 60% of the city's licenced taxi drivers have already received this training and the remaining 40% will have completed this by national safeguarding week in November 2019. The taxi licencing team is working with the police and WiSE to address some of the issues raised by drivers including clearer reporting mechanisms and improved relationships between drivers and the police.

Community collaboration and resilience

- 3.35 Brighton & Hove has joined eight other UK cities in the Inclusive Cities Project. Inclusive Cities is a knowledge exchange initiative facilitated by the Centre On Migration Policy and Society enabling peer learning. It aims to deliver a step change in the approach to the inclusion of newcomers at the local level. The launch of Phase 2 of this project took place in Cardiff in November 2019 and was attended by an officer from the Communities, Equality and Third Sector Team in the council and the lead elected member for Equalities. There are plans to create a local task force to develop an action plan on inclusion for the city. This will be a subgroup of the Equalities and Inclusion Partnership (EQUIP).

Preventing terrorism and extremism

- 3.36 The Independent Review of 'Prevent' has begun and will focus on impact, ie. if Prevent is achieving its objectives, effectiveness of Prevent delivery and statutory Prevent Duty (both locally and nationally), its interaction with other policy areas and future direction of travel. A call for evidence has been issued on 7th October 2019 and will remain open for 2 months (until 9th December 2019). The review will report to Parliament by August 2020. The Prevent Board will encourage communities and partners to fully engage with the review.
- 3.37 A range of projects are being delivered in the city to mitigate strategic risks. Training to improve communities', young people's and professionals' understanding of the threat from the far right are planned and being delivered. In

the next quarter, cluster of training will be delivered to increase skills and confidence in countering the far right narrative, the champions from communities and professionals thus trained will support this work in the city.

- 3.38 The Prevent Education Officer continues to deliver lessons on Prevent (enabling students to understand what Prevent is, the different types of terrorism and the methods used by online radicalisers) to build resilience amongst young people. 538 students in three secondary schools have had lessons over the 6 months period.
- 3.39 A range of positive events have been participated in including the Mayor's Parlour Faith and LGBTQ Unity event, Disability Pride, Trans Pride and Pride, bringing diverse groups together to build cohesion, and raising awareness of counter-extremism messaging.

4 ANALYSIS & CONSIDERATION OF ANY ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS

- 4.1 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, and so 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 current Strategy was carried out in the autumn of 2016 and included a consultation event on the findings and proposed priorities for 2017-20. Invited participants included 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.
- 5.2 A draft of the Community Safety Strategy was made available for public comment via the consultation portal and in more targeted arenas.

6. CONCLUSION

- 6.1 This report is to provide an update of progress on work under the Community Safety and Crime Reduction Strategy 2017-20 and to invite any comment.

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 within current budget resources.

Finance Officer Consulted: Michael Bentley

Date: 03/12/19

Legal Implications:

- 7.2 All work currently being undertaken is within the council's statutory powers. Any new areas of action 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: 2nd December 2019

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. The work around hate crime helps us to address our responsibilities under the Equalities Act.

Sustainability Implications:

- 7.4 None

SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION

Appendices:

1. Crime statistics 2019/20: position at end of September 2019
2. Crime trends up to September 2019

Background Documents

1. ONS Crime in England & Wales: Year ending June 2019

Appendix 1. Crime statistics 2019/20: position at end of September 2019

Performance compared with last year

	number of crimes Apr 18 – Sep 18	number of crimes Apr 19 – Sep 19	rank within 15 bench- marked CSPs ⁴
Police recorded crimes			1=best; 15=worst
Total Crimes	13916	15480	12
Criminal Damage (incl. arson)	1359	1479	10
Injury Violence	1566	1588	10
Violence Against the Person	5756	6220	11
Sexual Offences	496	498	8 ⁵
Robbery	183	219	8
Burglary	643	917	9
Vehicle Crime	1014	1035	5
Pedal Cycle Theft	477	757	14
Theft and handling (incl. motor vehicle theft)	4495	5053	10 ⁶
Police recorded incidents and crimes			
Domestic Violence Incidents and Crimes	2673	3014	n/a ⁷
Racist Incidents and Crimes	285	293	n/a
Religiously-motivated Incidents and Crimes	36	121	n/a
Homophobic Incidents and Crimes	122	134	n/a
Gender Identity Hate Incidents and Crimes	26	29	n/a
Disability Hate Incidents and Crimes	46	41	n/a
Anti-Social Behaviour Incidents	4668	4100	n/a

⁴ Latest available three month period (usually one month lag). Ranking based on crime 'rate' per head of population, or per no. of households in the case of domestic burglary. CSP= Community Safety Partnership

⁵ 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'.

⁶ ONS theft offences group

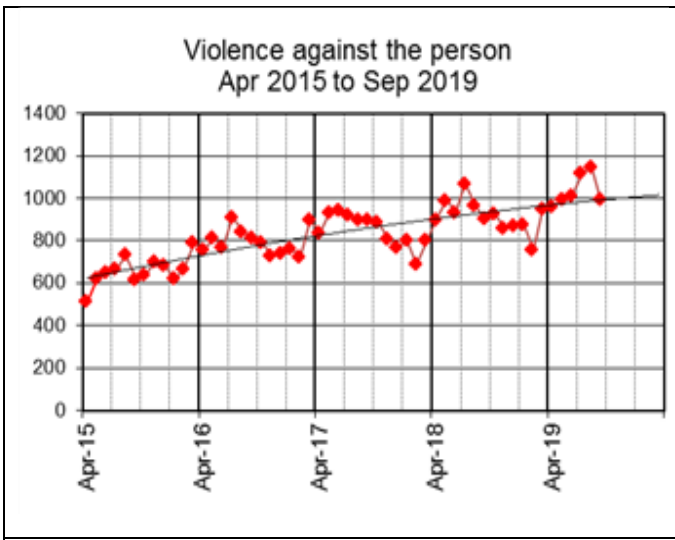
⁷ Comparative/benchmarking data are not available.

Appendix 2:

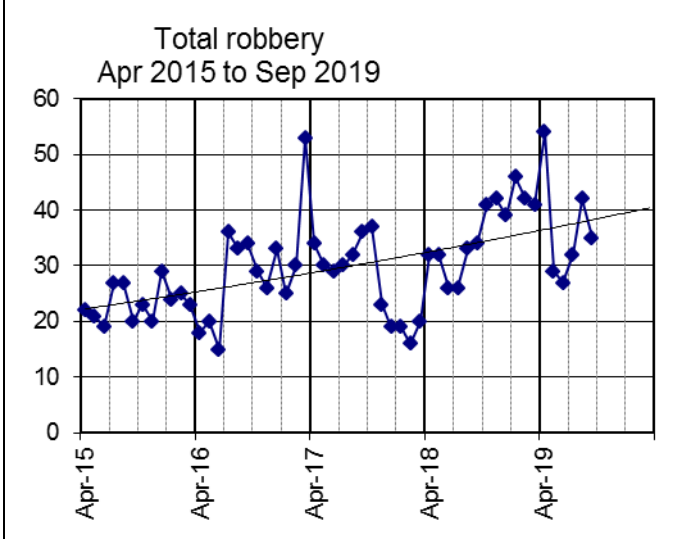
Crime trends up to September 2019 (monthly data)⁸

	<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. However, July and August 2019 showed particularly high numbers. Since 2014/15 there has been an overall upward trend in recorded crimes.</p>
	<p>8.2 There has been no clear trend in recorded criminal damage over the last five years and a seasonal pattern is not observable. Although a downwards trend was suggested during 2017/18, there has been a slight upturn since then.</p>

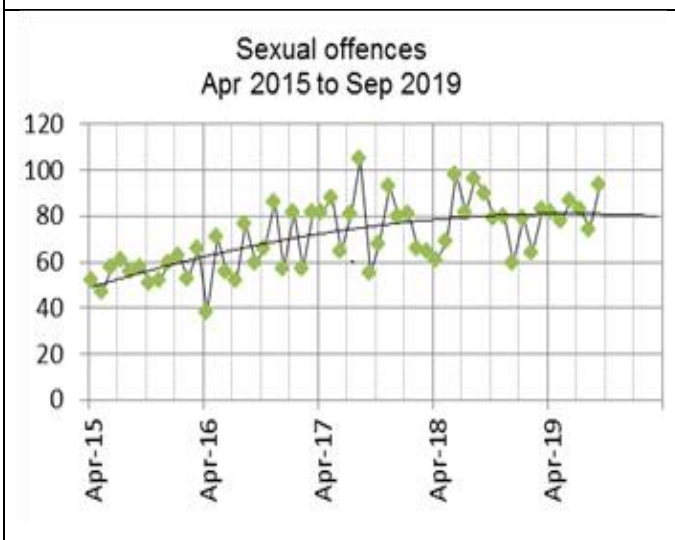
⁸ Trend lines are based on the best fitting 2nd order polynomial curve



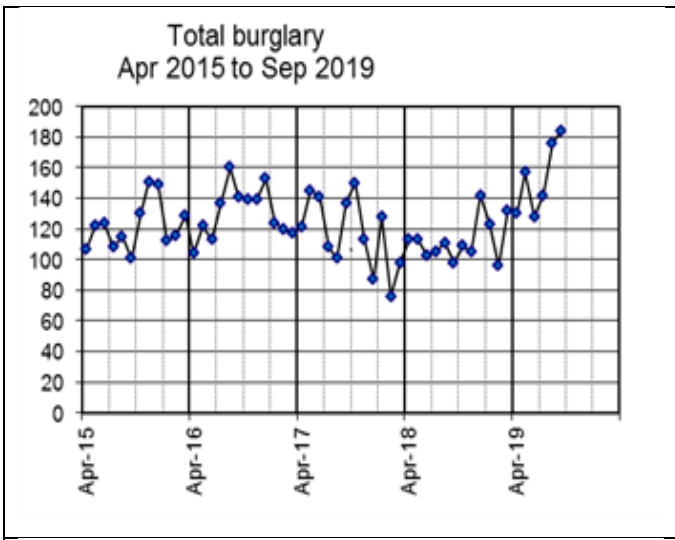
8.3 Police recorded violence against the person data show a steeply rising trend from 2015/16 onwards, overlaid with a seasonal pattern (higher levels in the summer). Some of this increase may have been linked to changes in police data recording practice and was observed both nationally and locally. However, latest data continues to show an upward trend.



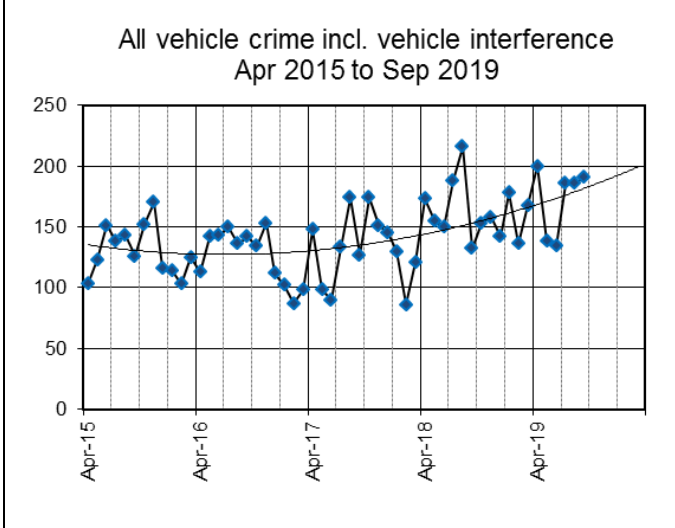
8.4 The number of robberies has overall been on a rising trend since 2015/16, although there has been significant fluctuation over that period. Most robberies are personal robberies (220 in the first 6 months of 2019/20) and a minority are business robberies (8 in the same period).



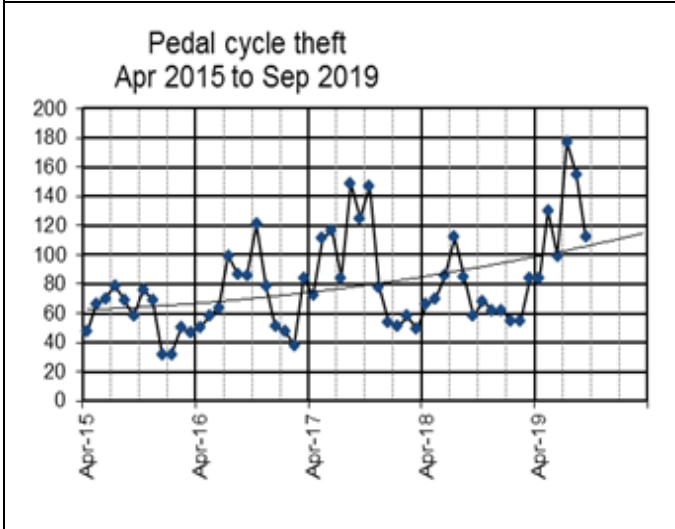
8.5 Police recorded sexual offences have generally been on an upward trend since 2015/16, although there is a suggestion that the trend may have flattened. More reporting of sexual offences is generally regarded as a positive outcome in that victims are feeling more confident in doing so.



8.6 Following an upwards trend in 2015/16 and 2016/17, the trend in burglaries in 2017/18 and 2018/19 was downward. However, there has been a steep rise in burglaries in the first half of 2019/20, peaking at 183 in September 2019, and nearly as high the previous month.

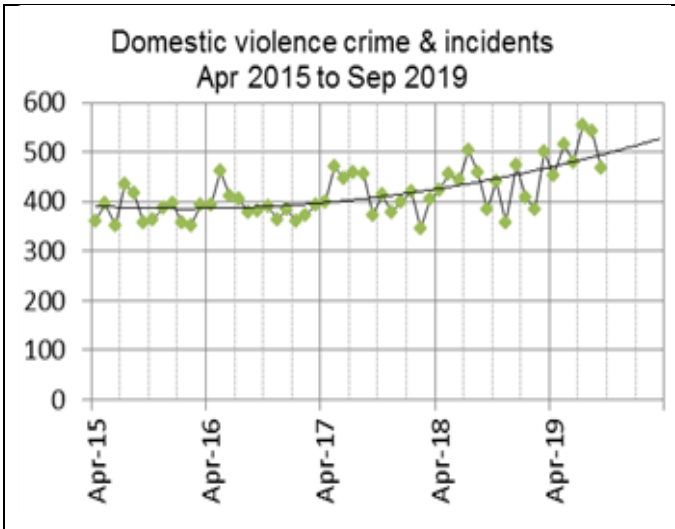


8.7 The number of vehicle crimes were on a long term decline until 2016/17, but since then there has been an increasing trend, albeit with quite a degree of fluctuation from month to month.

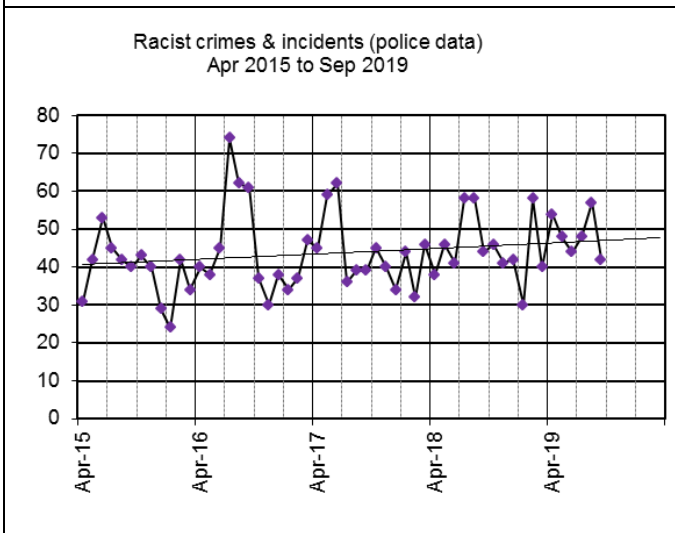


8.8 A seasonal pattern in cycle thefts is normally observed every year and is linked to those months when more people tend to cycle. Enhanced summer peaks have again been observed in each of the last four years. Numbers between July and August 2019 were particularly high, peaking at 177 cycle thefts recorded in July.

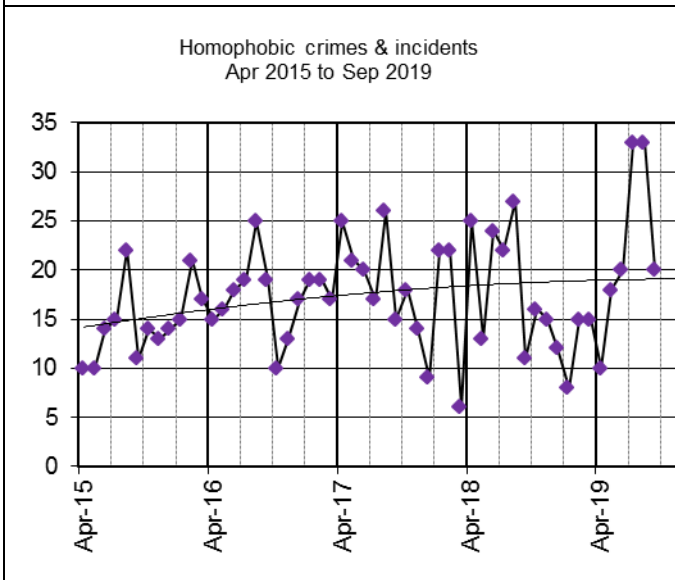
CAVEAT. Police crime data presented in this report only reflects those crimes which are reported and recorded. There is likely to be a level of underreporting in many crime types. However, domestic violence and the hate crimes on this page may be particularly liable to underreporting.



8.9 An upward trend since 2017/18 has continued into 2019/20. Improved recording practices and a greater confidence to report domestic violence crimes and incidents will impact on the number of crimes being recorded.



8.10 A notable spike in racist incident and crimes can be seen in the summer of 2016 shortly after the EU referendum vote to leave the European Union. Since then numbers have fluctuated between about 30 and 50 per month.



8.11 There was a long term rising trend in the number of homophobic crimes recorded by the police up to the summer of 2017. Numbers have fluctuated considerably over the last 18 months, but reached a peak in July and August of 2019 when over 30 were recorded in each of those months.