

Report to Community Safety Forum – 8 October 2012

Subject: Crime trends and performance in Brighton & Hove, Position up to August 2012

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Wards Affected: All

1. SUMMARY AND POLICY CONTEXT:

- 1.1 This report describes recent activities and progress relating to priority areas in the [Brighton & Hove Community Safety, Crime Reduction and Drugs Strategy 2011-14](#). It also provides statistical updates relating to the first five months of 2012/13, ie. April to August 2012.
- 1.2 Graphs showing monthly crime data from April 2008 to August 2012 are also provided. These set recent data in the context of both longer term trends and also seasonal crime cycles (where applicable).

2. RECOMMENDATIONS:

- 2.1 The Community Safety Forum notes the information provided in this report and is invited to:
 - i) Feedback on any developments from their community or organisation's experience which may help the understanding and interpretation of the data and trends contained in this report.
 - ii) Consider the potential for supporting crime reduction and community safety priorities within their own organisation or local community.

3. INFORMATION:

Total police recorded crime

- 3.1 Between April and August 2012 there were a total of 10,361 police recorded crimes, 62 crimes fewer than in the same months of 2011/12 (0.6% reduction).

Neighbourhoods and quality of life

- 3.2 In the first five months of 2012/13 (Apr to Aug) the long term downward trend in criminal damage recorded by the police has continued, being 17% lower than in the same months of 2011/12.
- 3.3 The City Tracker survey is due to ask questions to residents in the autumn about how safe people feel in their local area in the day and after dark and the findings from this will help to direct partnership priorities for the Safe in the City Delivery Unit and Local Action Teams.

- 3.4 Work continues on the restructuring of the Safe in the City website with the aim of it becoming more accessible for local residents to find information they may need and to make it easier to find opportunities for them to get involved in partnership working.

Drugs Misuse

- 3.5 The European-funded Communities and Families Tackling Addiction (CAFTA) work programme has included a conference, 'Silent Voices' which was attended by 200 people, including those affected by substance misuse and professionals, with some attending from the project's 'partner' cities of Calais and Rotterdam. Another planned project involves supporting non-substance misusing parents or carers of children affected by parental substance misuse. This is to be delivered by the Brighton Oasis Project.
- 3.6 There is a review being undertaken of current approaches for addressing the problem of drug-related deaths. Recommendations are being developed and will be put to the Police and Crime Commissioner, and the Health and Wellbeing Board as well as to the Safe in the City Partnership Board early in 2013.

Reducing Offending

- 3.7 There is an ongoing increase in all acquisitive crimes (incl. theft/handling, burglary and robbery), with an increase of 6% in the first five months of 2012/13 compared with the same months of 2011/12. This continues the increase seen in 2011/12. However, for serious acquisitive crimes (burglary, vehicle crime and robbery) there continues to be a decrease (15% reduction compared with the first five months of 2011/12), while on the other hand the more numerous 'lower level' thefts, such as theft from person (up 30%) and shoplifting (up 7%) have continued to rise. Thefts from the person which increased very sharply in the three months ending in March 2012 remain high, but have not increased further. Between April and August 2012, seventy percent of victims of these offences were females and over half were aged between 20 and 29 years, with 52% of offences taking place in licensed premises and linked to the night time economy. Police work is focusing on raising awareness of crime prevention among the target group, including female university students, and there has also been further preventative work with licensed premises. Mobile phones were taken in 74% of these thefts. Cycle thefts increased sharply in August and targeted police work in city centre hotspot areas (particularly Regency, St Peter's & North Laine and Queen's Park wards) has been put in place to address this problem.
- 3.8 Integrated Offender Management (IOM) is the term used for the partnership work going on between a wide range of statutory and voluntary agencies who together seek to tackle the underlying reasons behind the offending of the offenders of most concern. There are often a complex range of circumstances which together need to be addressed in order to enable progress to be made. An example of this work is that by the Inspire Women's Partnership whose work includes a presence in police custody suites and courts to make sure that women are offered access to services either on a voluntary basis or as part of a community order.

Alcohol Misuse and Alcohol-related Disorder

- 3.9 Alcohol-related hospital admissions were on an upwards trend from the beginning of 2010 until October 2011, but this trend is showing signs of reversing over the last few months.
- 3.10 The number of police recorded injury assaults has continued to show a reduction (down by 5%) in the first five months of 2012/13 compared with the same months of 2011/12. This is further to the 17% reduction experienced in 2011/12. The city's Big

Alcohol Debate found that there is a demand for alternative social events and leisure activities which are not driven by alcohol. Pride was one occasion when an arts/culture programme of events was put on alongside the more established celebrations. Also, ways of providing alternatives to the White Night, which is not taking place this year, are being planned so they are less alcohol fuelled and more about appreciating the cultural offerings of the city. Other developments include a community pub being opened in Bevendean, including plans to have a café and host community events such as cookery classes, health promotion sessions, and other things that are not alcohol related.

- 3.11 Training continues with health professionals to assist them in identifying and referring to services people who may benefit from brief alcohol interventions so that alcohol misuse problems can be addressed at an early stage.

Anti-Social Behaviour

- 3.12 Between Jul 2011 and Jun 2012 18% of the 1,549 people surveyed believed that one or more of 6 types of ASB (drug dealing/use; drunk/rowdy behaviour; vandalism/graffiti; litter/dog fouling; noisy neighbours; and teenagers hanging around) was a fairly big or very big problem. The most recent quarter (Apr – Jun 2012) has seen higher levels reported than previous quarters. City-wide, out of these six types, litter/dog fouling was of most concern, with people being drunk or rowdy being perceived as the next problematic (especially in the city centre).
- 3.13 The Community Safety Casework Team implemented a 'duty system', ensuring that any person who contacts the team to report ASB or a hate incident has their query answered as soon as possible, with an assurance that a vulnerability assessment will be offered within one working day if required.
- 3.14 The Community Trigger process allows local residents to request a quick time review of anti-social behaviour problems to ensure that all appropriate steps are being taken to address the problem. This has been piloted in the city since May 2012 and regular feedback is being provided to the Home Office in preparation for its introduction nationwide.

Children, Young People and Families

- 3.15 Earlier in the year the Integrated Team around the Family service was formed in response to the government's 'Troubled Families' agenda. Families are being identified through the use of a wide range of selection criteria, including those associated with substance misuse and offending, for support through this work programme.

Domestic Violence

- 3.16 During 2011/12 45% of domestic violence crimes were solved, below the result of 49% during 2010/11, but the first three months of 2012/13 have seen an increase to 52%. However, the first quarter of 2012/13 has seen a decrease in the conviction rate of DV court cases to 59%, down from 78% in 2011/12.
- 3.17 Victims of domestic violence who are assessed as at high risk or serious harm are referred to the MARAC (multi-agency risk assessment conference) in order that input and support from different agencies can be put in place. The resources allocated to managing the MARAC process were increased earlier in the year to make sure that it is effective in safeguarding high risk victims and managing the risks posed by perpetrators.

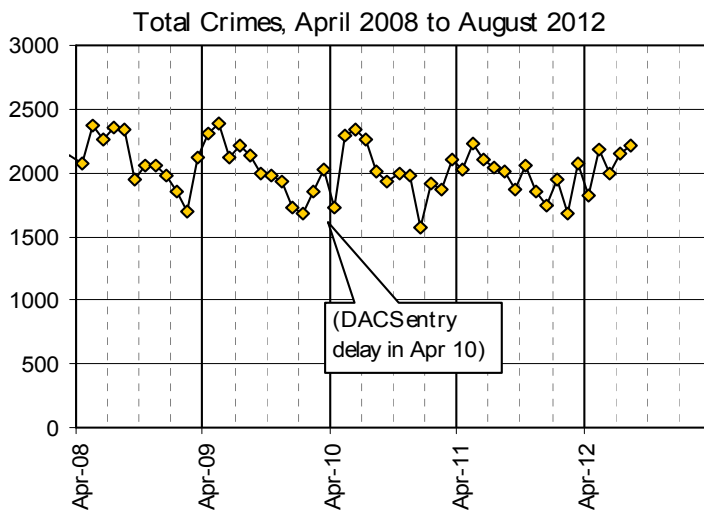
Sexual Offences

- 3.18 The number of police recorded serious sexual offences in the first three months of 2012/13 was 59, and this compares with 64 recorded in the same months in 2011/12, continuing the slight decrease seen last year. A reduction in actual crimes taking place is of course the aim, but with sexual offences often remaining unreported, we would wish to see the number of reports remaining steady or increasing, so these statistics point to the need to maintain proactive work to encourage people to report. In the first three months of 2012/13 16 out of the 17 sexual offences which have reached the court stage have resulted in a successful outcome.
- 3.19 The Sex Worker Outreach Project, which supports women involved in the sex industry with sexual health and safety concerns, has reported that fewer women are making use of established brothels or parlours where overheads are payable and instead are working alone or in pairs in their own premises where they may be exposed to an increased risk of violence or abuse.

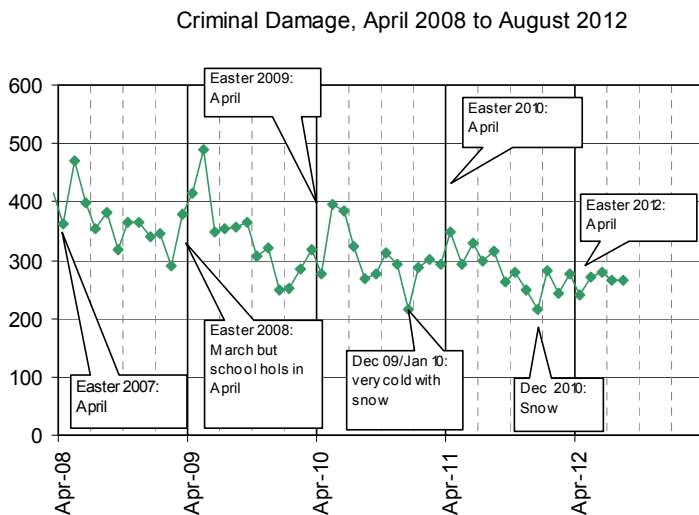
Hate Incidents and Crimes

- 3.20 The number of police-recorded **racist and religiously motivated incidents and crimes** declined in 2011/12 compared to 2010/11, but in the first five months of 2012/13 are showing an increase compared with the same months in 2011/12, mainly on account of reports of 27 crimes (and 1 crime-related incident) in August. One third of these were ABH or common assault offences and two-thirds were harassment, with offences taking place across various age groups, and generally clustered in the city centre. The percentage of prosecutions resulting in a conviction in the first three months of 2012/13 remains relatively high at about 90%.
- 3.21 In the first five months of 2012/13 there have been 28 **LGBT hate incidents and crimes** recorded by the police, compared with 26 in the same months in 2011/12. In the first three months the police detected or solved eight crimes with three of these resulted in a charge being made and eight out of the nine prosecutions finalised at court resulted in a conviction.
- 3.22 Work is being undertaken to make sure that hate crime reporting centres in the city are fully appraised of the service available through the Community Safety Casework Team. Also, work with the LGBT Community Safety Forum is progressing around the carrying out a safety survey of the city's LGBT population.
- 3.23 The police have recorded three **disability hate crimes** and no crime-related incidents on the crime database during the first five months of 2012/13; this is the same number of crimes and incidents recorded in the same months of 2011/12. There has been one finalised case at court and this had a successful outcome. There is an ongoing focus on increasing reports of incidents through the training of staff. In November 2011 disability liaison officer roles were assigned to six PCSOs. They have a role in outreaching to people with disabilities and have the potential to enable and encourage reporting.

Crime trends up to August 2012 (monthly data)

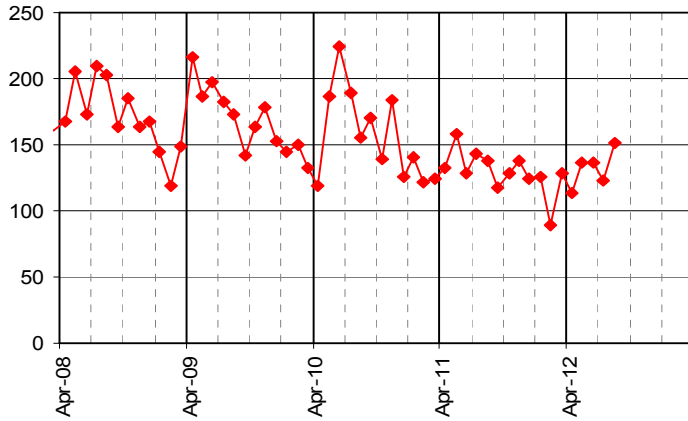


3.24 Total crimes have shown a year on year decline up to the end of 2011/12. The number recorded in the first five months of 2012/13 continues to be lower than in the same months in 2011/12, but the decline is very slight.



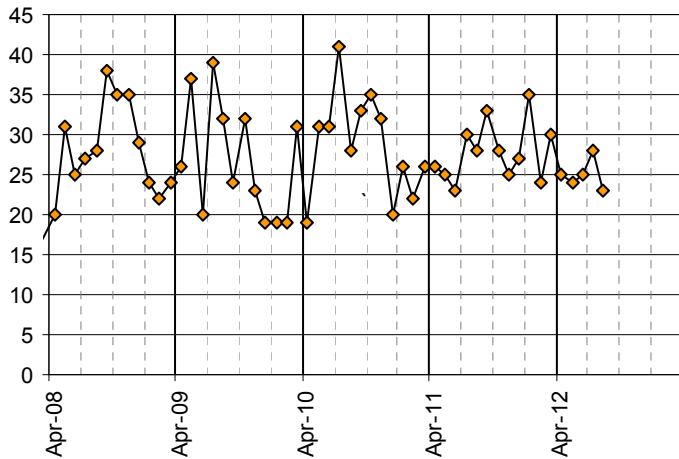
3.25 The long term downward trend in criminal damage continues.

All Injury Violence
April 2008 to August 2012



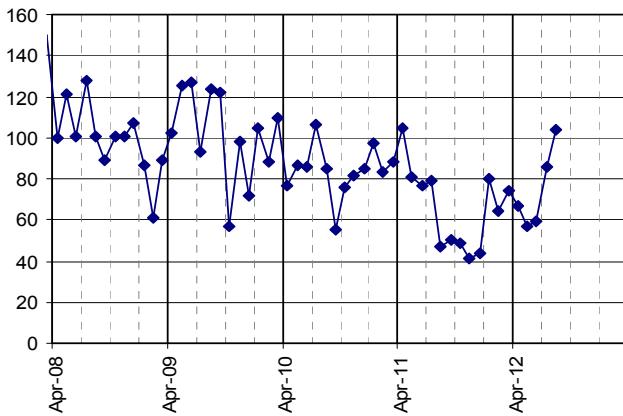
3.26 The number of injury violence crimes dropped below 90 in February 2012, since when the number has climbed again, as the summer months have progressed.

Sexual Offences April 2008 - August 2012



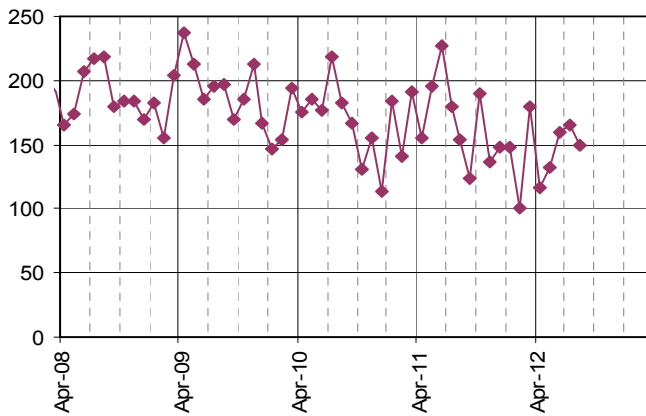
3.27 The number of police recorded sexual offences has remained between 20 and 35 per month over the last two years. Work continues to encourage reporting of incidents.

Domestic Burglary, Apr 2008 to August 2012



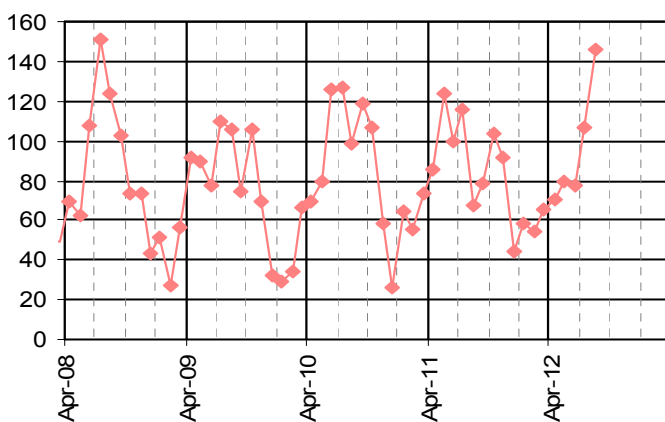
3.28 There has been a long term declining trend in domestic burglaries, with numbers between August and December 2011 being particularly low (40-50 crimes per month). From January onwards the number has risen again with over 100 recorded in the month of August 2012.

Vehicle Crime, April 2008 to August 2012



3.29 Vehicle crimes have fluctuated over the past year, but the general trend is downwards. 100 crimes were recorded in February 2012 which is the lowest monthly number recorded for many years.

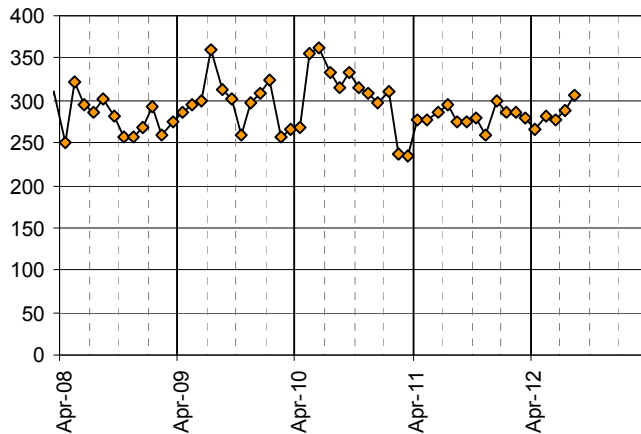
Theft of a Pedal Cycle, April 2008 to August 2012



3.30 A seasonal pattern in cycle thefts continues and numbers rose over the summer months as more people cycle. However, there was a particularly high number of thefts in August.

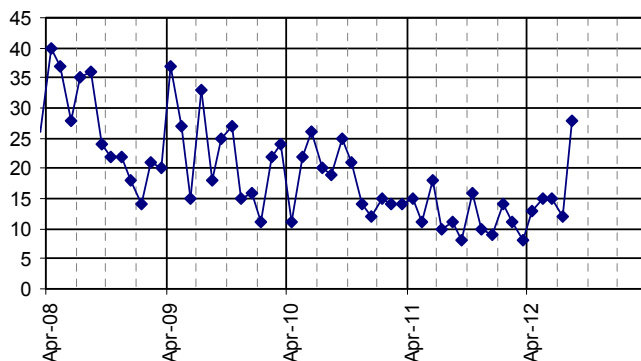
Police crime data presented in this report only reflect those crimes which are reported and recorded. There is likely to be a level of underreporting in many crime types. However, domestic violence and the hate crimes on this page may be particularly liable to underreporting.

Domestic Violence Crimes and Incidents,
April 2008 - August 2012



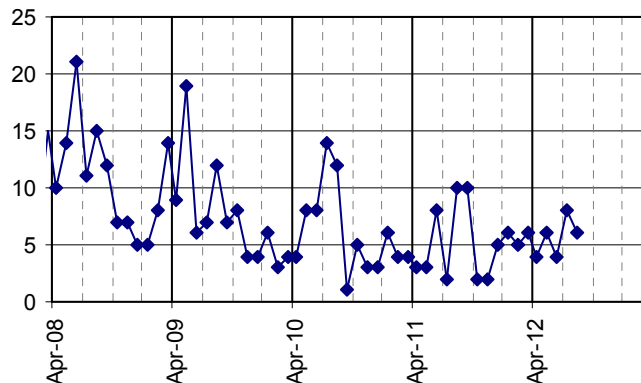
3.31 The number of domestic violence crimes and crime-related incidents recorded during 2011/12 has been between 250 and 300 each month. Monthly numbers have mostly remained within this range during the first 5 months of 2012/13

Racist and Religiously Motivated Crimes and Incidents (police crime database),
April 2008 to August 2012



3.32 The long term declining trend in police recorded racist and religiously motivated incidents and crimes was stabilising at around 10 – 15 incidents per month during 2011/12. However, the most recent month of August has shown a increase to 28 incidents, similar to the levels recorded two or three years ago.

LGBT Hate Crimes and crime-related Incidents
(police crime database),
Apr 2008 to August 2012



3.33 The number of police-recorded LGBT hate crimes and crime-related incidents and has remained at ten or below since summer 2010. Aug and Sept 2011 saw the highest number (ten) over this period.

Performance data for key crime types, position at end August 2012

Police recorded crimes	number of crimes Apr 11 – Aug 11	number of crimes Apr 12 – Aug 12	reduction target (from 2011/12 baseline)	performance against target to date		rank within 15 benchmarked CSPs ¹
Total Crimes	10423	10361	0%	on target		9
Criminal Damage	1584	1320	-			14
Injury Violence	700	662	-3%	on target		6
Sexual Offences	132	125	-	-		n/a ²
Domestic Burglary	389	373	-	-		3
Theft from/of a Motor Vehicle	911	721	-	-		4
Pedal Cycle Theft	493	480	-	-		8
Domestic Violence Crimes and Incidents	1408	1419	-	-		n/a
Racist/Religiously motivated Crimes and Incidents	65	83	-	-		n/a
LGBT Hate Crimes and Incidents	26	28	-	-		n/a
Disability Hate Crimes and Incidents	3	3	-	-		n/a

¹ 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.

² Because sexual offences, DV and hate crimes are subject to underreporting and local work is being undertaken to increase reporting of these crimes, it is not appropriate to judge performance in comparison with other Community Safety Partnerships based on the number of police recorded crimes.

