

**Report to Community Safety Forum – 9 June 2014****Subject: Crime trends and performance in  
Brighton & Hove: Position up to March 2014**

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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 for key crime groups for 2013/14, ie. April 2013 to March 2014.
- 1.2 Graphs showing monthly crime data from April 2009 to April 2014 are also provided. These set recent data in the context of both longer term trends and also seasonal crime cycles (where applicable).

**2. RECOMMENDATIONS:**

- (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 After seeing a long term decline, the trend in total crimes recorded by the police levelled out in 2012/13. However a downward trend is again in evidence in 2013/14 with a further 8% decline in total crimes compared with 2012/13<sup>1</sup>. After showing an

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<sup>1</sup> During 2012/13 national changes to the reporting of fraud and forgery meant that from Oct 2012 a large proportion of these offences were no longer reportable to the police. Omitting fraud and forgery offences to make a better comparison, total crimes have reduced by 6.7% in 2013/14 compared with 2012/13.

increase in 2012/13, theft and handling offences decreased by 5% in 2013/14 and this will have influenced the positive trend in total crimes since they make up about half of total crime.

### **Neighbourhoods and quality of life**

- 3.2 Following a year on year decline in the number of criminal damage offences recorded by the police up to 2012/13, numbers have continued to drop in 2013/14, falling by a further 9%. Following the 'spike' in offences in November related to damage against vehicles and against dwellings noted in the previous report, numbers in the subsequent months up to March were lower than any monthly numbers for some years, although rose again in April.
- 3.3 In 2013/14 there has been an increase of 7% in the number of non-accidental fires recorded by the fire service compared with 2012/13. However, this needs to be seen in the context of particularly low numbers recorded in 2012/13. Relative to last year less serious non-accidental fires have increased in number, but more serious fires (which are fewer than less serious fires) have declined.
- 3.4 A review of Local Action Teams (LATs) has been undertaken and is near to completion. The Community Safety Projects Team has attended over 20 meetings to gain an overview of the network and common issues which they share. By working with nine LATs, different forms of online engagement have been tested to inform the review and recommend strategies. Work has taken place with five LATs on publicity materials – poster, leaflet and newsletter promotion for these groups to raise the profile of LATs locally. There have also been direct interventions with six LATs aimed at supporting them through difficulties which might have otherwise necessitated the closure of the LAT. This has given valuable insight into the dynamics and challenges in running a LAT and will inform the recommendations of the review.

### **Drugs Misuse**

- 3.5 The nationally published figure for drug related deaths in 2012 was 22, up from 20 in 2011, but well below our target of 38 per year between 2012 and 2014. However, the DAAT local audit of the coroner's inquest files indicates a total for 2013 of between 32 and 35 deaths. Although above the national figures for 2011 and 2012, this is still below the locally agreed rolling average target for 2013 of not more than 38 drug related deaths.
- 3.6 Following the publication by the Home Office of guidance to local authorities and the police on the legal options for dealing with retail outlets that sell new psychoactive substances and drugs paraphernalia, police and trading standards have undertaken test purchasing at all of Brighton & Hove's 'head shops'. A New Psychoactive Substances Outreach Worker has been recruited and is working in a range of settings including the universities, colleges, the A&E department, young people's services, hostels and the night time economy (via Safe Space). This has contributed to the numbers entering structured treatment.
- 3.7 The Recovery Community, following the 4<sup>th</sup> UK Recovery Walk in Brighton and Hove in 2012, acquired charitable status and has made a successful bid to Public Health England for capital funding to support premises acquired in the London Road area for a peer-led recovery café/centre.
- 3.8 The Invitation to Tender for the new drugs and alcohol recovery service was published in March. The closing day for bids is 20<sup>th</sup> May and the new contract will start in April 2015.

### **Reducing Offending**

- 3.9 Following a rise in the total number of acquisitive crimes (incl. theft/handling, burglary and robbery) over the last two years, 2013/14 showed a decrease of 4.5% compared with 2012/13. The number of domestic burglaries have shown considerable variation over the last two or three years, being at a low level during the summer/autumn of 2011, rising steadily over the next year to a peak in the winter of 2012, and broadly speaking dropping again during 2013/14 when a total of 892 were recorded.
- 3.10 There has been a long term decreasing trend in vehicle crime which was interrupted by a significant spike between Oct and Dec 2013. Numbers have since dropped again to encouragingly low levels resulting in a year end position of a 19% increase (8% increase in thefts of a vehicle and 23% increase in thefts from a vehicle), but a much improved position from earlier in the year.
- 3.11 There are significant ongoing changes to the way in which offender services are being managed within Brighton & Hove, as nationally, in response to the government's Transforming Rehabilitation programme. Surrey and Sussex Probation Trust will close on 31<sup>st</sup> May 2014 and from the 1<sup>st</sup> June will be replaced by two organisations – the National Probation Service, and the Kent, Surrey and Sussex Community Rehabilitation Company (CRC). Both will remain in public ownership until the KSSCRC is subject to share sale. This is likely to happen in the autumn or winter of 2014. The CRC will manage the bulk of offender services including those in the Integrated Offender Management scheme, and will be open to competitive tender in late 2014. A further example of services being provided on a wider geographical basis is the Inspire service for women offenders which, from April 2014 was extended to include East and West Sussex.
- 3.12 Partnership work aimed at stopping reoffending and tackling the underlying reasons behind offending is ongoing. Sussex was selected as one of 10 national sites for the expansion of these Liaison and Diversion services. As a consequence the hours of operation of its service in police custody suites has been increased, the service is open to clients attending voluntarily and there are support workers to help enable clients to access the services they need to help address offending.

### **Alcohol Misuse and Alcohol-related Disorder**

- 3.13 Alcohol-related hospital admissions were on an upward trend from the beginning of 2010 until October 2011, but this trend has reversed since then. Numbers recorded in 2012/13 were 9% lower than in 2011/12 and show a further decline of 10% in the first eleven months of 2013/14 compared with 2012/13.
- 3.14 There were 1,458 police recorded crimes of injury violence in 2013/14, 8% below 2012/13. This is a good result, following a slight increase in these crimes which occurred in the year 2012/13 compared with 2011/12.
- 3.15 A subgroup of the Alcohol Programme Board is meeting to review funding of measures to address the impact of alcohol in the night time economy. Subjects under discussion will include taxi marshals, late night levy for licensed premises, the provision of the 'Safe Space' service, etc. Alcohol-related problems in the nighttime economy are exacerbated by 'preloading' on cheaper alcohol prior to heading into the centre of town. This is having the effect of spreading alcohol-related problems both over a wider time period and location. Alcohol issues relating to students have been reported by the University of Sussex to the Alcohol Programme Board. The Board has representation from a wide number of agencies, enabling good partnership responses to manage problems such as these.

- 3.16 Health Visitors from the Sure Start Children's Centres undertake an initial family health assessment which routinely involves questions around alcohol consumption. This assessment is currently offered antenatally and from 2014 all families will be offered a further full family health assessment when the baby is one year old with routinely asked questions about alcohol use.

### **Anti-Social Behaviour**

- 3.17 In 2013/14 there were 13,592 incidents of anti-social behaviour recorded by the police, 11% fewer than in 2012/13.
- 3.18 The dedicated duty line for reporting anti-social behaviour and hate incidents/crimes has been running since May 2012 (01273 292735 or [communitysafety.casework@brighton-hove.gov.uk](mailto:communitysafety.casework@brighton-hove.gov.uk)). In 2013/14 there were 635 calls to the duty line; 434 of those related to ASB, 66 to race, 16 to disability, 26 to sexual orientation, 5 to religion, 2 to gender identity and 86 others. Over this same period there were 169 new cases for the Casework Team.
- 3.19 An emerging focal point for anti-social behaviour has been around commercial premises being used by squatters where there have been problems of noise, other anti-social behaviour and criminality. Guidance has been drafted with relevant stakeholders to ensure work is undertaken collaboratively and problems are addressed at an early stage.
- 3.20 There have also been anti-social behaviour issues associated with communal areas in council housing which have tended to be perpetrated by non-residents. The council housing team is working together with the police and the Community Safety Team to find a way to manage these problems and the expectations of local communities. The risk that displaced squatters may become members of the street community also needs to be managed.

### **Children, Young People and Families**

- 3.21 Police-recorded crimes against young people aged under 18 have reduced year on year for the last three years with 2013/14 showing a further reduction of 13% compared with 2012/13.
- 3.22 The number of young people aged 10-17 entering the criminal justice system for the first time decreased from 92 in 2011/12 to 81 in 2012/13 (national published data). Local responses to new legislation at the beginning of 2013/14 are thought to have contributed to an increase seen in interim local data in the first half of 2013/14, but it seems that numbers have stabilised during the second half of the year.
- 3.23 There has been an upward trend in the percentage of young offenders who reoffend in Brighton & Hove (latest data for the 2011 cohort of young offenders). Two initiatives (the 'Do Something Different', and 'Leap' programmes), which seek to involve the young people in address problem issues and promote behavioural change, are being piloted over the next few months.
- 3.24 The Youth Early Help pathway continues to provide a joined up process to ensure that all relevant agencies are involved at the earliest stage to identify and reduce risk factors for young people. The Youth Service has worked with 2,177 young people aged 13-19 who have engaged 4 or more times in 2013/14, most of whom have been referred via the Early Help pathway. Young people's progress on 'soft skills' during the course of their engagement with the Youth Service is measured and in 2013/14 92% showed an improvement.

### **Domestic Violence and Abuse**

- 3.25 In 2013/14 there were 3,668 domestic violence crimes and incidents (1,075 of which were crimes and 2,593 were incidents) recorded on the police crime database, which compares to 3,525 in 2012/13. The national and local definition of domestic violence was amended in April 2013 to include 16 and 17 year olds. While the number of domestic violence incidents has shown a 13% increase during 2013/14, the number of crimes has actually dropped by the same percentage. Across Sussex the process around the conversion of domestic violence reports to the police into recorded crimes (where applicable) is being examined. Work is currently ongoing to look at cases where domestic crimes have not resulted in a criminal justice outcome, and to remedy any shortcomings.
- 3.26 However, the numbers of finalised prosecutions for domestic violence, as well as those resulting in a conviction, have increased in 2013/14 compared with 2012/13 and the success rate of 73% is roughly in line with the national average. Where court outcomes have been unsuccessful, the most common reason is 'discontinuance' or 'offer no evidence', and is often related to victim's participation and support for the prosecution process. We need to take advantage of critical opportunities for interventions to support victims' continued engagement.

### **Sexual Violence and Abuse**

- 3.27 The number of police recorded sexual offences in 2013/14 was 382, and this compares with 366 recorded in 2012/13, with serious sexual offences increasing more than less serious offences. The increase should be seen in a positive light since sexual offences are an under-recorded crime and by reporting incidents victims have access to services which can support them and offenders can be deterred.
- 3.28 Partnership work is being taken forward to look at the circumstances and risks associated with young people going missing. The aim is to circumvent the potential for child sexual exploitation and other such risks.

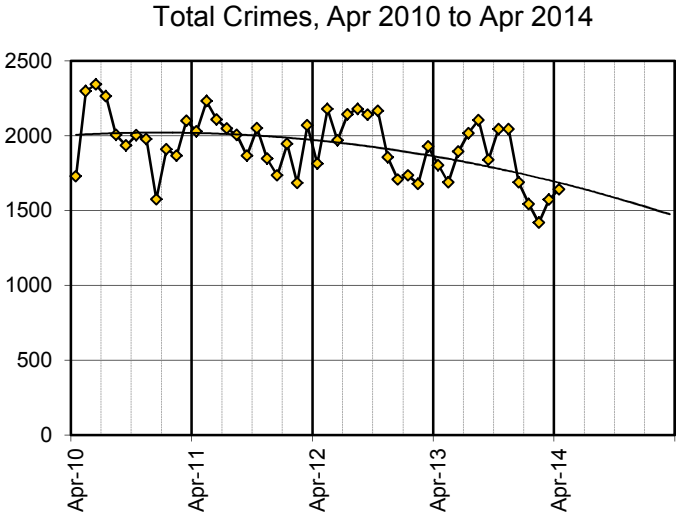
### **Hate Incidents and Crimes**

- 3.29 Sussex Police have been undertaking staff training and other work to improve procedures for recording hate crimes and incidents on their crime/incident recording system. The police recorded 188 racist and religiously motivated incidents and crimes in 2013/14 compared with 164 in 2012/13. The respective figures for homophobic incidents and crimes recorded by the police were 85 in 2013/14 compared with 65 in 2012/13. The number of police recorded hate crimes and incidents motivated by gender identity (transphobic) have risen from 3 in 2012/13 to 13 in 2013/14. These increases are likely to have been influenced by improved police recording procedures and administrative changes.
- 3.30 In response to community concerns around the March for England, briefing meetings were held with BME, faith, refugee, LGBT communities to inform them of the policing plan for the day and address their safety concerns. Police teams worked with businesses that were likely to be affected by the route of the march and the licensing team worked with licensed venues to improve safety and reduce the likely impact. Taking on board feedback from meetings with communities, information was produced about the event in advance and was widely disseminated. Community members were also invited to observe the policing on the day of the march.
- 3.31 Although the number of racist or religiously motivated incidents recorded by the police has increased, the number of incidents reported to the Community Safety Casework Team has dropped off recently. To address this and to overall improve reporting of RRMI, the Team are planning to work with BME, faith and refugee communities and organisations to increase awareness, trust and confidence. This

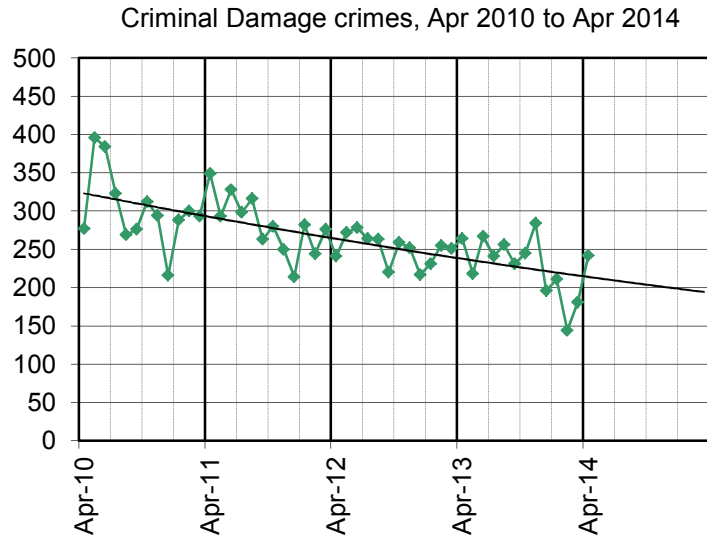
will hopefully improve reporting from marginalised groups including travellers with whom work has already begun and improve access to casework and other services.

- 3.32 Opportunities to engage, for example through the International Day Against Homophobia, Biphobia and Transphobia (IDAHOBIT), with LGBT community groups have been taken to address safety needs and to improve trust and confidence and encourage reporting.
- 3.33 A 'feedback and update event' being undertaken by the Trans Alliance Group is being supported so that developments and information resulting from the Trans Scrutiny work can be shared.
- 3.34 The police have recorded 15 disability hate crimes and incidents in 2013/14; this compares with 12 recorded in 2012/13, but the number reported to the Community Safety Casework Team in 2013/14 has dropped. A successful partnership campaign to raise awareness, improve confidence and reporting of disability hate incidents, increase access to service, and overall safety of people with learning disabilities has been running during 2013/14. Easy read information and publicity about the unacceptability of hate incidents and encouraging reporting from disabled people and carers have been promoted through a variety of mediums across the city. Although the campaign has been successful in raising awareness much work still needs to be done to improve reporting. The Disability Hate Incident Steering Group will look at the impact of the campaign with a view to make adjustments and implement feedback provided by disabled people, their families, carers and other professionals.

# Crime trends up to April 2014 (monthly data)<sup>2</sup>



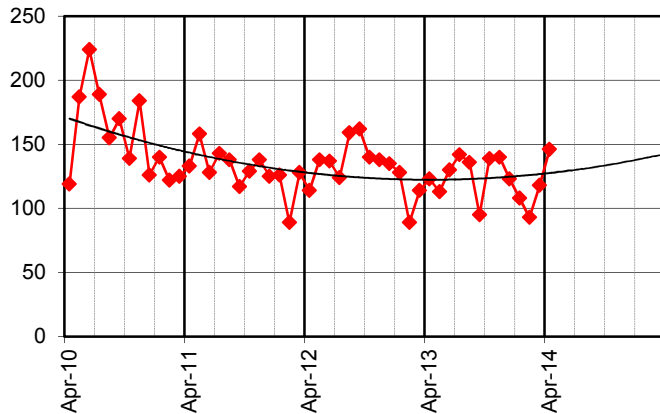
3.35 The number of crimes recorded by the police has continued to demonstrate a seasonal pattern with higher numbers the summer than the winter months. In general numbers in 2013/14 have been lower than in 2012/13, with numbers in the winter months reaching particularly low levels in comparison with previous years.



3.36 The long term downward trend in criminal damage continues. Feb and Mar 2014 experienced particularly low numbers.

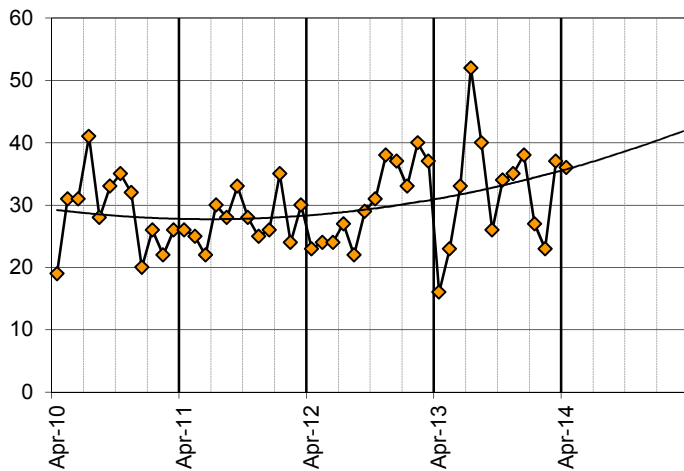
<sup>2</sup> Trend lines are based on the best fitting 2<sup>nd</sup> order polynomial curve

All Injury Violence  
Apr 2010 to Apr 2014



3.37 The overall trend in injury violence continues to fall slightly, although the number in Apr 2014 has risen again, perhaps in line with seasonal expectations.

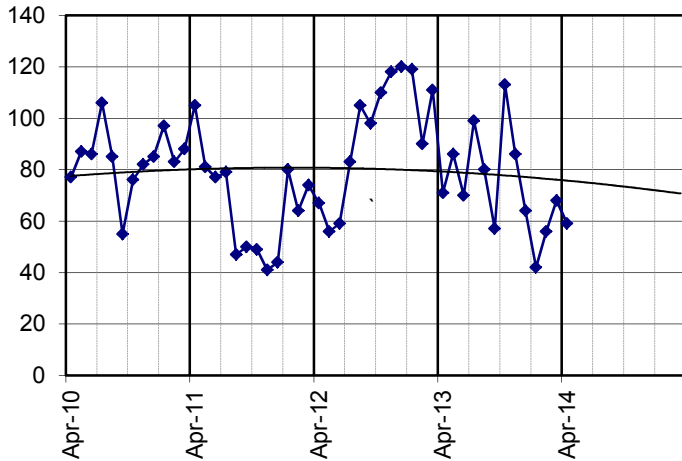
Sexual Offences Apr 2010 - Apr 2014



3.38 The sexual offences data in the first half of 2013/14, show considerable fluctuation which is likely to be a result of delayed data entry linked to the implementation of the new police crime management system. Numbers since then seem to have stabilised between about 25 to 35 per month.

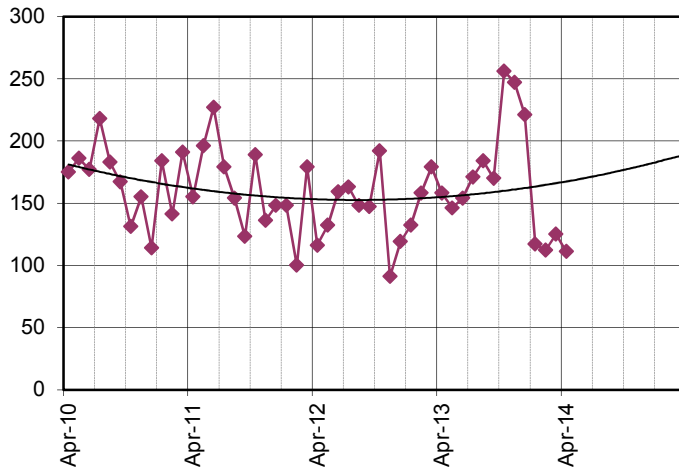


Domestic Burglary, Apr 2010 to Apr 2014



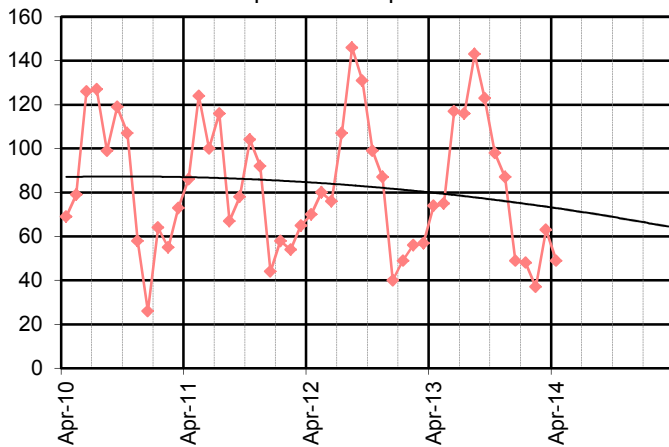
3.39 Broadly speaking the number of domestic burglaries per month showed a declining trend during 2013/14 from a peak observed at around the end of 2012. The average number (about 60 per month) in the most recent few months are on average about half of the number experienced 12 months before (about 120)

Vehicle Crime, Apr 2010 to Apr 2014



3.40 The number of vehicle crimes have been on a long term decline. However, particularly high numbers between Oct and Dec were observed, reflecting a sharp rise in thefts from motor vehicles, although numbers in the last four months have resumed a relatively low level.

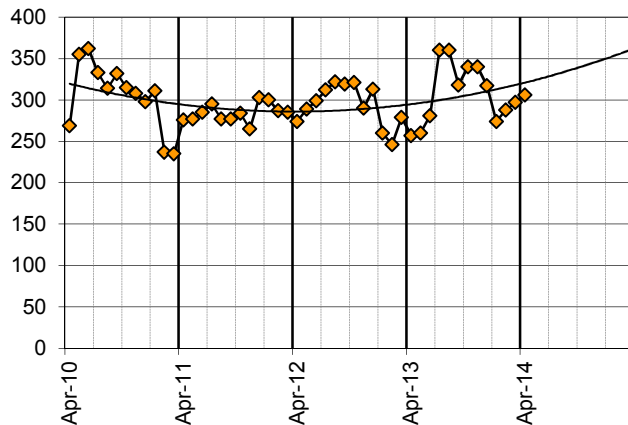
Theft of a Pedal Cycle, Apr 2010 to Apr 2014



3.41 A strong seasonal pattern in cycle thefts continues and is linked to those months when more people tend to cycle. The trend in 2013/14 is broadly similar to that in 2012/13.

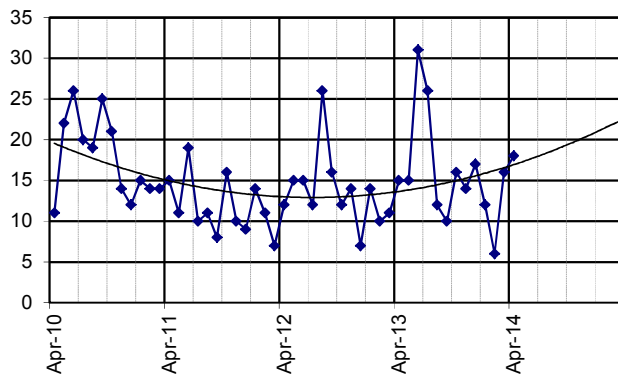
Police crime data presented in this report only reflect those crimes which are reported and recorded. There is likely to be a level of underreporting in many crime types. However, domestic violence and the hate crimes on this page may be particularly liable to underreporting.

Domestic Violence Crimes and Incidents  
Apr 2010 - Apr 2014



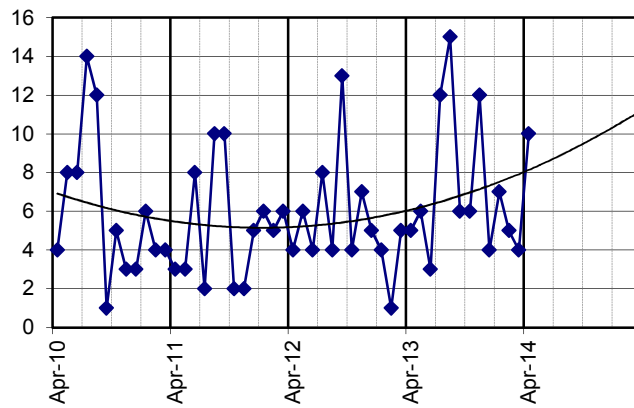
3.42 The number of police recorded domestic violence incidents and crimes between Jul and Dec 2013 were heightened compare to the preceding three years. There may have been some delayed data entry for incidents which occurred during May and June. The trend in the number of crimes has tended towards a slight decline over the last year.

Racist Crimes and Incidents (police crime database),  
Apr 2010 to Apr 2014



3.43 After a rise in the number of racist crimes and incidents in June and July 2013, numbers in the most recent five months have returned to a level more typically observed over the last two years.

Homophobic crimes and crime-related  
Incidents (police crime database),  
Apr 2010 to Apr 2014



3.44 The number of police-recorded homophobic crimes and incidents rose in 2012/13 and compared with 2011/12. There was a particular increase in July and Aug 2013, but numbers have shown a downwards trend since then.

## Crime statistics 2013/14: position at end March 2014

	number of crimes Apr 12-Mar 13	number of crimes Apr 13-Mar 14	rank within 15 bench-marked CSPs <sup>3</sup>
<b>Police recorded crimes</b>			
Total Crimes	23541	21616	7
Criminal Damage	3004	2735	9
Injury Violence	1581	1458	3
Sexual Offences	366	382	n/a <sup>4</sup>
Domestic Burglary	1136	892	3
Theft from/of a Motor Vehicle	1738	2059	4
Theft and handling (excl. motor vehicle theft)	11549	10920	10
Pedal Cycle Theft	999	1028	9
<b>Police recorded crimes and crime-related incidents</b>			
Domestic Violence Crimes and Incidents <sup>5</sup>	3525	3668	n/a
Racist Crimes and Incidents	164	188	n/a
Homophobic Crimes and Incidents	65	85	n/a
Transphobic Crimes and Incidents	3	13	n/a
Disability Hate Crimes and Incidents	12	15	n/a

<sup>3</sup> 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 reflect the ranking for the most recent three month period.

<sup>4</sup> 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.

<sup>5</sup> 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.