COMMUNITY SAFETY FORUM

Agenda Item 35

Brighton & Hove City Council

Report to Community Safety Forum – 3rd March 2015

Subject: Crime trends and performance in Brighton & Hove: Position up to December 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 and Crime Reduction Strategy. It also provides statistical updates for key crime groups for 2014/15 to date, ie. the nine months from April to December 2014.
- 1.2 Graphs showing monthly crime data from April 2010 to December 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 Following an 8% decline in total crimes in 2013/14, the first nine months of 2014/15 have recorded exactly the same number (17,136) of police recorded total crimes as in the same months in 2013/14.
- 3.2 As reported to the last Forum, there have been changes to police recording of violent crimes introduced in 2014/15 so that they are being recorded more extensively. This has had an effect on some of the types of crime reported here, including injury violence, domestic violence and hate crimes, as well contributing to the number of

total crimes recorded. An explanatory note from Sussex Police is provided at the end of this report.

Neighbourhoods and quality of life

- 3.3 There has been a long term decline in the number of criminal damage offences recorded by the police and numbers have continued to drop in the first nine months of 2014/15, falling by a further 5.5%.
- 3.4 Following a 7% increase in non-accidental fires recorded by the fire service in 2013/14, the first nine months of 2014/15 are showing a 10% decline compared with the same months in 2013/14.
- 3.5 The City Tracker survey in the autumn of 2014 found that 2% of respondents felt unsafe in their **local area** during the day, and 14% felt unsafe after dark. This is similar to the results obtained in 2013, and broadly similar to national levels. However, there is a drop in the percentage of respondents who felt safe (day time: 98% in 2013 and 93% in 2014; after dark: 81% in 2013 and 71% after dark). This brings us into line with national levels for the day time figure, but the result is below that nationally after dark.
- 3.6 When looking at the feeling safe/unsafe data for the **city centre**, overall levels are lower than in people's local area, but the downward trend between 2013 and 2014 is similar. A separate briefing on these data is provided as an appendix with further information and discussion around these perceptions of safety data.
- 3.7 The Community Safety Project Team is involved in the 'Start the Day' initiative, which seeks to reduce the impact of street drinking on the Pavilion Gardens and surrounding area. Working together with community stakeholders including local businesses and the police, the group is made up of community outreach workers and those in various stages of treatment providing important intervention to the street drinking/homeless community. The group regularly sees volunteers from the target communities join in picking litter or provide maintenance support to the gardens in return for some coffee, food and, fundamentally, professional support. The project continues to evolve and adapt in line with the needs of the local community and those whom it seeks to support.

Drugs Misuse

- 3.8 Data from different sources on drug-related deaths have shown an increase in the number recorded in 2013 compared with the previous two years. However, preliminary data for 2014 are suggesting that numbers have dropped back from the level in 2013. The administration of naloxone in cases of opiate overdoses can help to reverse the effects. There has been discussion with St John Ambulance around promoting combined first aid and naloxone training across a range of settings, including emergency call handlers in order to improve the heroin overdose recovery rate.
- 3.9 The Projects Team is also leading, developing and supporting the delivery of a multiagency response to drug and alcohol issues at the Level. This includes environmental and physical changes to the areas affected and engaging users of the area with services. Following reports of increased needle waste at this location, the provision of sharps bins installed in every toilet is being trialled. Early indications are that this has led to a reduction in the amount of drug related litter found in the area.

Alcohol Misuse and Alcohol-related Disorder

3.10 There has been a downward trend in alcohol-related hospital admissions since October 2011. Numbers recorded in 2013/14 were 8% lower than in 2012/13 and

- show a further decline of 12% in the first seven months of 2014/15 compared with the same months in 2013/14.
- 3.11 Crimes of injury violence in 2013/14 were 8% fewer than in 2012/13. As reported for the previous meeting, at the beginning of 2014/15 changes to police recording of violent crimes were introduced so that they are now being recorded more extensively (see note at the end of this report for more details). This has had an effect on some of the types of statistics in this report including injury violence, domestic violence and hate incidents, as well as on total crime. As a consequence, the first nine months of 2014/15 has seen a 57% increase in police recorded injury violence crimes compared with the same months of 2013/14.
- 3.12 There are over one hundred off-licences now signed up to 'Sensible on Strength' and it is reported to be now less common to see a street drinker with a high strength drink as a result it is easier for services to engage with these clients.
- 3.13 Further funding for 2014/15 has enabled 'Safe Space' provision to be enhanced for vulnerable people in relation to the night time economy. There has been medical training provided to first aid staff at ten busy bars and nightclubs in the city. A late night bus was provided during Freshers Week for vulnerable students and addition 'safe spaces' provided in the city centre on New Year's Eve.

Anti-Social Behaviour and Hate Incidents

- 3.14 In 2013/14 there were 11% fewer incidents of anti-social behaviour recorded by the police than in 2012/13 and the number has continued to drop in the first nine months of 2014/15 (down a further 1.4%).
- 3.15 In 2013/14 there were 635 contacts in total to the ASB and Hate Incident duty service. In the first nine months of 2014/15 there were 486 contacts: 313 relating to ASB; 49 to race, 2 to religion, 12 to disability, 13 to sexual orientation, 4 to gender identity and 93 others. Over this same period there were 134 new cases for the Casework Team.
- 3.16 As mentioned earlier and evidenced by the graphs and data table at the back of this report, because a significant proportion of hate incidents and crimes come under the police recording category of violence, the changes to police recording is having the effect of raising the numbers recorded, while at the same time, enabling more victims to receive a service. In the first nine months of 2014/15 there were 262 racist, 50 religiously motivated, 111 homophobic, 15 transphobic, and 22 disability-motivated incidents or crimes recorded by the police.
- 3.17 The new ASB Crime and Policing Act came into force in October 2014. Under this new legislation, we have secured one of the first Criminal Behaviour Orders in the country, protecting victims and the public from racist and abusive behaviour, demonstrating that we are prepared to take swift and robust action using the new legislation. This is a result of close working between the police and the council's community safety team.
- 3.18 A successful racist/religiously motivated case outcome has been showcased to generate publicity and confidence in the community to improve reporting generally and targeted at BME taxi drivers. (The perpetrator was banned from using taxis in the city for racially abusing taxi drivers amongst other offences.)
- 3.19 The RHF and communities continue to be increasingly concerned about prevalence and levels of RRMI, racism and Islamophobia. Additionally, international conflicts

- and the forthcoming elections with anti-migrant/BME political discourse add to the concerns. Monitoring of reported hate incidents, community tensions and reassurance work is prioritised to reduce risks and concerns.
- 3.20 Work is being undertaken with the Terence Higgins Trust to explore potential to use social media apps to obtain wider outreach with the LGBT population.
- 3.21 'Safe Places' exist across the city for people with learning disabilities to be supported if they are targeted, worried or lost. The Safe Places Steering Group continues to recruit shops/organisations/places to act as a 'safe place' and also promote the initiative to people with learning disabilities.
- 3.22 Partnership work to support and to reduce risks of extremist activity is taking place in response to the five young people from the city travelling to Syria and concerns about their peer network in the city. The Home Office has accepted Brighton & Hove as a Prevent 'Supported Area', and this will mean monitoring of the Prevent work by the Home Office. The Home Office will also offer support for activities in the city. The One Voice partnership, chaired by the council's chief executive, has met with good attendance and participation from the communities and partners. 'Faith Matters', a national charity, has been commissioned to collaborate with the partners and communities to address concerns. Working pro-actively with media to manage community tensions, promoting cohesion and the positive profiling of communities have been identified as important priorities to be taken forward. In addition, 24 people from across partners and communities completed a Home Office accredited, three day interactive course 'Being Muslim Being British' designed to support Prevent interventions. Further one-day training is planned to 'train the trainers' to implement further sessions in the city.

Children, Young People and Families

- 3.23 There were 84 young people aged 10-17 entering the criminal justice system for the first time in 2013/14. There have been 40 first time entrants in the first nine months of 2014/15, representing an improvement on the position last year. A proportion of the offences committed by these young people are assault offences. Youth crime prevention work is seeking to identify and work with those young people at risk of committing violent offences. There are also plans to determine whether there are any locations which are more vulnerable to these offences and to work with partners to reduce risks.
- 3.24 The Youth Offending Service is now located within Social Care services in the local authority enabling better collaborative assessment, planning and intervention. The Early Help Hub is helping to get young people referred to YOS Prevention services at an early stage. This includes pathways from schools and colleges to specialist services. Targeted work this year has been extended to young people with special educational needs, who are experiencing domestic violence or who are sexually exploited.
- 3.25 There has been a gradual reduction in the percentage of young offenders in the city who reoffend, although the rate is still above that nationally. The number of reoffences committed by these young people remains higher than the national average, due to a number of prolific offenders being part of those whose offending is being measured.
- 3.26 Local data on the risk of reoffending is now being monitored to supplement the nationally published data on reoffending which is released with a significant time lag.

This relates to the percentage of statutory interventions successfully completed without reoffending. 36% were successfully completed in quarter 2, rising to 60% in quarter 3, although the completion rate tends to be lower as the sentence tariff increases. Young people who become more prolific entrenched offenders tend to have an early onset of offending and are subject to a range of long standing risk factors, so it's important to identify those young people and work with them at an early stage.

3.27 The Youth Offending Service are looking to trial an education programme delivered by the Dogs Trust national charity to reduce risk factors in young people through the medium of dog training.

Reducing Offending

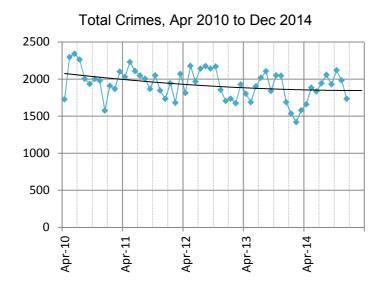
- 3.28 The 4.5% decrease in acquisitive crimes (incl. theft/handling, burglary and robbery) achieved in 2013/14 has continued into 2014/15 with the first nine months of 2014/15 down 17% compared with the same months of 2013/14. The number of domestic burglaries in the first nine months of 2014/15 is 14% lower than the number recorded in the same months of 2013/14 and vehicle crimes are 25% lower.
- 3.29 There have been significant 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. From the 1st February 2015 Kent, Surrey and Sussex (KSS) Community Rehabilitation Company has been owned by SEETEC. The CRC is responsible for the management of offenders who are assessed as posing a medium and low risk of harm to the public, and for a range of interventions designed to reduce offending. The CRC is to be responsible for the supervision of 'short sentenced' prisoners and increased 'through the gate' support for prisoners.

Violence against Women & Girls, Exploitation and Modern Slavery

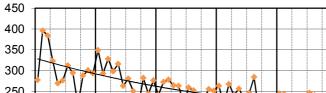
- 3.30 In 2013/14 there were 3,668 domestic violence crimes and incidents (1,075 of which were crimes and 2,593 were incidents) recorded on the police crime database. Numbers of crimes and incidents recorded in the first nine months of 2014/15 have increased by 15% compared with the same months in 2013/14. The steps to ensure police recording of violent crimes is being done more extensively (referred to earlier in this report) will have had a bearing on the increase seen here. In common with the recording of domestic and other violent offences, sexual offences have also increased in the first nine months of 2014/15 up by 33%.
- 3.31 Stalking began to be recorded by the police in April 2014 and between then and December there were 11 such crimes and incidents recorded in Brighton & Hove.
- 3.32 The numbers of finalised prosecutions for domestic violence, as well as those resulting in a conviction, increased in 2013/14 compared with 2012/13 and the success rate of 73% is slightly below the national average. The successful prosecution rate in the first nine months of 2014/15 remains at this same level.
- 3.33 East Sussex and Brighton & Hove are undertaking a joint commissioning process for domestic violence and abuse, rape and sexual violence and abuse specialist services. This would mean that Independent Domestic Violence and Sexual Violence Adviser functions will operate across the two local authority areas. The process is scheduled to conclude with the successful provider/s in place by October 2015.

- 3.34 Female Genital Mutilation (FGM), as well as other harmful traditional practices, is high on the national agenda. A working group is meeting in February 2015 to begin working on this agenda following the completion of scoping work by Public Health in 2014. This will include sustaining specialist capacity to engage with BME communities.
- 3.35 Child Sexual Exploitation continues to be a priority area and there is ongoing work to ensure that there is robust strategic and operational management and, in particular, that good practice responses are in place.
- 3.36 Sussex Police have carried out an intelligence review of modern slavery in Brighton and Hove looking at data over the last year. While information is still sparse, it starts to help the partnership understand the sort of modern slavery incidents which may be taking place in the city. Work to encourage partners to spot possible signs of modern slavery is been carried out, so this should help to increase intelligence reports and enable support and enforcement work to be targeted.

Crime trends up to December 2014 (monthly data)¹



3.37 The number of crimes recorded by the police continues to demonstrate a seasonal pattern with higher numbers the summer than the winter months. Following an exceptionally low number at the end of 2013/14, there has been a steady rise since Apr 2014 in line with season expectations, although changes to police recording (see below) may be contributing to the extent of the rise.



Criminal Damage, Apr 2010 to Dec 2014

250 200 150 100 50 0 Apr-11 Apr-12

3.38 The long term downward trend in criminal damage continues. Feb and Mar 2014 experienced particularly low numbers, but since Apr numbers have resumed a more typical level.

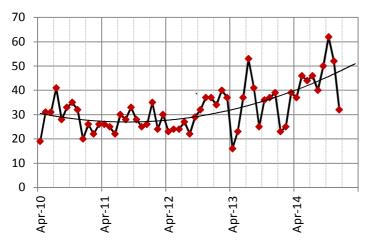
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¹ Trend lines are based on the best fitting 2nd order polynomial curve



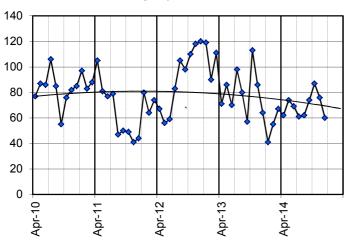
3.39 The long term trend up to the end of Mar 2014 was downwards. Although a seasonal increase would be anticipated in the summer months, there have been changes to police recording since Apr 2014 which is resulting in a steep increase in numbers compared with the previous year (further information provided at the end of this report).



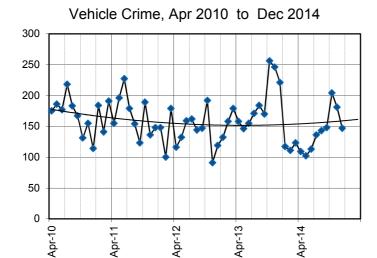


3.40 Delayed data entry at the beginning of 2013/14 and changes in police recording at the beginning of 2014/15 (as for violent crimes above) have meant that trends in the graph do not necessarily reflect the actual occurrence of sexual offences.

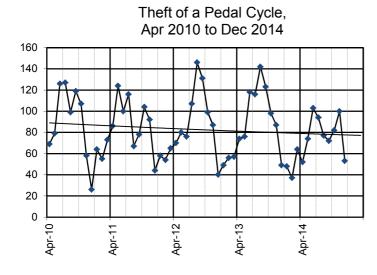




3.41 The number of domestic burglaries has broadly been declining since a peak in the winter of 2012/13. Since Apr 2014 the number of domestic burglaries per month has ranged between 60 and 80 except for October when there were 87 recorded.



3.42 The number of vehicle crimes have generally been on a long term decline. Following a spate of vehicle crime between Oct and Dec 2013, numbers resumed a relatively low level again. A further spike was see in the autumn of 2014, but numbers dropped again in Dec.



3.43 A strong seasonal pattern in cycle thefts is normally observed every year and is linked to those months when more people tend to cycle. However, the rise during the summer of 2014 was less than in previous years.

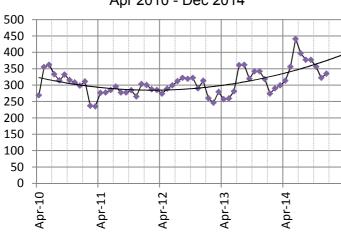
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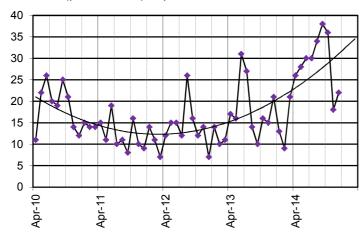
Police crime data presented in this report only reflect those crimes which are reported and recorded. There is likely to be a level of underreporting in many crime types. However, domestic violence and the hate crimes on this page may be particularly liable to underreporting.

Domestic Violence Crimes & Incidents, Apr 2010 - Dec 2014



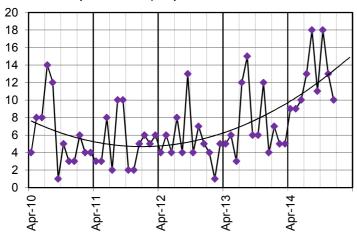
3.44 As mentioned earlier in the report, police recorded violent crimes since Apr have been subject to more robust recording processes and this has affected the recording of domestic violence and hate crimes which are all showing a notable increase in recent months compared with the same months in 2013/14.

Racist Crimes and Incidents (police data), Apr 2010 to Dec 2014



See above

Homophobic Crimes & Incidents police data), Apr 2010 to Dec 2014



See above

Crime statistics 2014/15: position at end December 2014

	number of crimes Apr-Dec 2013	number of crimes Apr-Dec 2014	rank within 15 benchmarked CSPs ²
Police recorded crimes			
Total Crimes	17136	17136	11
Criminal Damage	2201	2080	7
Injury Violence	1146	1798	12
Sexual Offences	307	409	n/a³
Domestic Burglary	725	625	5
Theft from/of a Motor Vehicle	1707	1283	9
Theft and handling (excl. motor vehicle theft)	8767	7463	13
Pedal Cycle Theft	883	707	9
Police recorded crimes and crime- related incidents			
Domestic Violence Crimes and Incidents ⁴	2841	3274	n/a
Racist Crimes and Incidents	167	262	n/a
Religiously-motivated Crimes & Incidents	21	50	n/a
Homophobic Crimes and Incidents	69	111	n/a
Transphobic Crimes and Incidents	13	15	n/a
Disability Hate Crimes and Incidents	15	22	n/a

² 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.

³ In comparison with our benchmarked group, we rank 10 for sexual offences. However, 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.

Community Safety Partnerships based on the number of police recorded crimes.

⁴ 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.

Note from Sussex Police on violent crime data in 2014/15

Overall we've seen a reduction in the number of violent incidents in the City. However the number of recorded crimes has shown an increase. This is because of work which has been done across Sussex and for all forces nationally to ensure that all crimes are accurately and correctly recorded and that incidents are correctly classified. This is a statistical trend replicated across Sussex and the country.

The City is not becoming a more dangerous place. Compared with the same period last year, we have solved more violent crime within the City – this means we've caught and brought more people to justice. However, percentages show a reduction in our solved rate due to this increased recording of violent crime.

The highest increases in recording have been of minor injury assaults, many of which occur during the night time economy where victims are sometimes reluctant to provide details to the police. These types of incidents are now being accurately recorded.

In addition, the number of calls which we've received in relation to violent crime has shown a significant drop (of approximately 17%). This is a strong indication that the rise is due to better recording and more offenders being brought to justice.

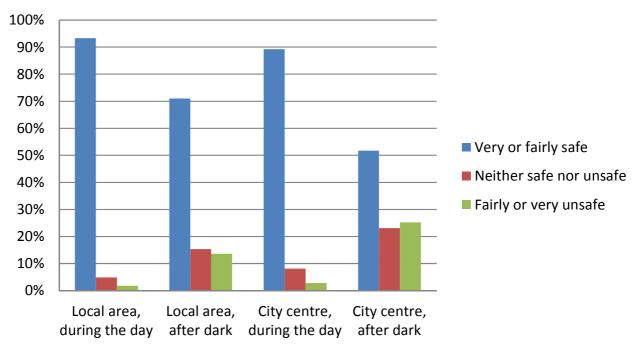
Sussex Police is doing all it can to protect vulnerable victims, bring offenders to justice and keep the public safe. The increase in recorded crimes means that we are able to give victims the support they need, and have trust and confidence in our service when they report a crime to us.

Appendix

City Tracker Survey 2014: Results of 'how safe do you feel...' questions⁵

The City Tracker telephone survey was most recently carried out in September and October, 2014 and results were obtained from just over 1000 respondents. This included some questions about feelings of safety.

Percentage of respondents feeling safe or unsafe when answering 'how safe do you feel...' questions City Tracker, 2014



Key findings from the 2014 survey:

- During the day 93% <u>safe</u> (very or fairly safe) in their local area; slightly fewer (89%) felt safe in the city centre during the day.
- After dark, 71% felt safe in their local area. The percentage was, again lower in the city centre at 52%
- During the day 2% felt <u>unsafe</u> (fairly or very unsafe) in their local area; roughly the same percentage (3%) felt unsafe in the city centre during the day.
- After dark, 14% felt unsafe in their local area. The percentage was, higher in the city centre at 25%

⁵ Results calculated excluding those who respond 'don't know'

After dark, there are some groups of residents who tend to feel less safe than others:

- Female residents (19%) report feeling more unsafe than males (7%) in their local area. Females (32%) also feel more unsafe in the city centre than males (17%)
- People with a limiting long term illness or disability (34%) are more likely to report feeling unsafe in their local area compared with other residents (10%). This effect is also seen in the city centre (48% compared with 22% respectively)
- People in the over 55 years (20%) category are more likely to feel unsafe in their local area than 35-54s (11%) and 18-34s (12%).

Direction of travel:

These questions have been asked as part of the City Tracker survey in each of the last three years, so that information on trends can be obtained. Between 2012 and 2013, broadly speaking the results followed a similar pattern, without any clear trends towards people feeling safer or less safe. However, between 2013 and 2014 some differences are apparent:

- There is a consistent drop in the percentage of people reporting that they feel safe. This is the case whether during the day, or after dark, or in their local area or in the city centre. The drop is between about 4 and 12 percentage points under the different scenarios.
- However, when looking at the percentage of people reporting that they feel unsafe, there is little change between 2013 and 2014. The slight exception to this was after dark in the city centre when the percentage of respondents feeling unsafe dropped slightly (as well as the percentage of those feeling safe also dropping).

Feeling safe in your local area

During the day	2012	2013	2014
Very or fairly safe	98.3%	97.5%	93.3%
Neither safe nor unsafe	1.0%	1.5%	4.9%
Fairly or very unsafe	0.7%	1.0%	1.8%

After dark	2012	2013	2014
Very or fairly safe	80.6%	80.8%	71.0%
Neither safe nor unsafe	7.0%	4.7%	15.4%
Fairly or very unsafe	12.4%	14.5%	13.6%

Feeling safe in the city centre

During the day	2012	2013	2014
Very or fairly safe	96.8%	96.0%	89.2%
Neither safe nor unsafe	1.6%	2.2%	8.1%
Fairly or very unsafe	1.5%	2.0%	2.8%

After dark	2012	2013	2014
Very or fairly safe	60.7%	63.6%	51.7%
Neither safe nor unsafe	10.2%	8.3%	23.1%
Fairly or very unsafe	29.1%	28.1%	25.2%

- These two findings are possible because the proportion of respondents reporting that they felt neither safe nor unsafe has increased quite sharply between the 2013 and 2014 surveys.
- The Local Government Association provide national figures for how safe people feel in their local area during the day and after dark. The corresponding national figures for 2014 surveyed at the same time of year as our local survey, are 95% feeling safe

during the day (compared with 93% locally) and 79% feeling safe after dark (compared with 70% locally).

Why do people feel safe or unsafe?

Information has been collected in the past through the Citizen's Panel on the factors which influence how safe or unsafe people feel. Although this information is now quite old (2004), it may still have some relevance. Reasons for feeling safe or unsafe in Brighton & Hove as reported at that time are summarised in the following table.

Factors contributing to feelings of safety (Citizens Panel, 2004)

Factors contributing to	Feeling safe	Feeling unsafe
In own neighbourhood	• Knowing your neighbours/having good neighbours	Lack of police
		Poor street lighting
	Familiarity with local area	Drunken behaviour/alcohol misuse
	Police presence	
	Good lighting	
In the city centre	Having other well behaved people around	Drunken behaviour/alcohol misuse
	Police presence	Poor street lighting
	Good lighting	Lack of police
	Reliable and frequent public	People begging
transport and taxis	Gangs of youths	
		Traffic or inconsiderate driving

Although information on the factors behind people feeling safe or unsafe was not specifically collected in the 2014 City Tracker survey, some respondents mentioned, street lighting, police presence and drunken behaviour as priorities for attention.

Discussion:

A drop in satisfaction scores was reported across a range of measures from the 2014 City Tracker survey and the drop in the percentage of people feeling safe is in line with the drop across a number of other questions in this survey (eg. people feeling satisfied with their street and their local area as a place to live) compared with the 2013 results.

It is difficult to understand why the proportion of respondents who are responding that they feel neither safe nor unsafe has increased between three- and four-fold between the 2013 and 2014 surveys. It should be noted that there was a similar jump between these two surveys in the size of the neutral group across many of the City Tracker questions (eg. people feeling satisfied with their street and their local area as a place to live).

The methodology and scripts used during the telephone interviews have been kept consistent as far as possible between surveys. However, there have been some 'technical' factors which have the potential to have influenced the findings. These are:

- A change in company contracted to carry out the City Tracker survey between 2013 and 2014
- Small differences in the proportion of respondents contacted by different telephone sampling methods
- Additional face to face surveys carried out in 2013 in order to obtain matched quotas, especially young males and BME participants.
- Differences in the preceding questions between the two surveys, although the 'how safe do you feel' questions were relatively early in the questionnaire for the process of undertaking the questionnaire to have had too much of an effect.

While any of these factors may possibly have had some influence on the results, the reason for the drop in the feeling safe data as well as across other measures is not fully understood.