

Subject:	Community Safety and Crime in Brighton & Hove		
Date of Meeting:	2nd July 2018		
Report of:	Executive Director of Neighbourhoods, Communities & Housing		
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Ward(s) affected:	All		

FOR GENERAL RELEASE

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT AND POLICY CONTEXT

- 1.1 Under the Crime and Disorder Act 1998, there is a requirement for statutory and other partners to formulate a plan every three years to tackle crime and disorder and monitor progress. This report provides an update on the work undertaken by the Community Safety Partnership (formerly known as the Safe in the City Partnership) in relation to the Community Safety and Crime Reduction Strategy.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS:

- 2.1 The committee is invited to note and comment on the information contained in the report which provides an update on work being undertaken by the Community Safety Team in relation to the Community Safety and Crime Reduction Strategy 2017-20.
- 2.2 The Committee is invited to give its support to the partnership work described in the report and commit to work described which is within the council's remit, thereby contributing to the management of crime and community safety priorities for the city.

3. CONTEXT/ BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Overview of police recorded crime

- 3.1 In 2017/18 there were a total of 26,142 crimes recorded by the police in Brighton & Hove, a 1.4% increase compared with 2016/17. A continuation of a longer term increasing trend in total crime was more clearly evident earlier in the year (eg. there was a 6% increase after six months). While the year still ends with an increase, numbers recorded in the last three months suggest a possible decreasing trend.

- 3.2 Total crime is, broadly speaking, broken down into acquisitive crime¹ (36% of total crime in the three months from Jan – Mar 2018), violent crime (45% of total), criminal damage (10% of total) and other offences (9% of total).
- 3.3 In 2017/18, while recorded crime as a whole has increased slightly, the picture in different crime groups differs. At the end of the performance year, violence against the person crimes, and vehicle crimes have increased by 7% and 3% respectively, while. Criminal damage, robberies and burglaries offences have decreased by 9%. 9% and 10% respectively. Theft offences (excluding vehicle crimes) are showing similar levels to 2016/17, although within this group cycle thefts have increased particularly sharply – up by 27%. Domestic violence and sexual violence have both increased (6% and 18% respectively), while different types of hate crimes are showing different trends. Appendix 1 provides data for key crime types for 2017/18 and how this compares with 2016/17. Longer term trends, with seasonal patterns can be seen in the graphs in Appendix 2.
- 3.4 The upward trend in total crime since 2013/14 follows a long term decline in the preceding years. There was an inspection of all police forces carried out by Her Majesty’s Inspectorate of Constabulary (HMIC) in 2013/14, to audit the crime recording practices. As a consequence, there were improvements made within forces, including Sussex Police. This has had an impact on some of the types of crime reported here, particularly violence against the person, as well as contributing to the number of total crimes recorded. While there was an immediate effect seen in 2014 the local response to the HMIC audit has been an ongoing process, and has contributed to the ongoing upwards trend in recorded crime.
- 3.5 Domestic violence, sexual violence, and hate crime are among those crime types which are now more accurately recorded resulting in better services and outcomes for victims.

Anti-social behaviour and hate incidents/crimes

- 3.6 The long term declining trend in the number of police recorded ASB incidents continued in 2017/18, with numbers recorded in 2017/18 showing a 7% decrease compared with 2016/17. ‘ASB crimes’² were increasing in number in the three years up to 2016/17, but data for 2017/18 show a similar decrease (down 6%) compared with 2016/17.
- 3.7 In 2017/18 racist, religiously-motivated and transphobic crimes and incidents all show a decrease (down 5%, 15% and 44% respectively), while homophobic and disability-motivated crimes and incidents are both showing an increase (up 3% and 19% respectively). The police solved rate for hate crimes has dropped over the last few years, and in 2017/18 it remains roughly at last year’s level. For those cases reaching court, the prosecution rate for hate crimes overall is 85%.
- 3.8 The local authority has started a piece of work to review how the public and partners can report incidents of anti- social behaviour in a more seamless manor. Victims of ASB, staff and partner agencies have been asked to

¹ eg. burglary or theft

² ‘ASB crimes’ refers to a grouping of police recorded crimes made up of: criminal damage, common assault, harassment, public order and affray

participate in workshops to explore improvements to the service provided by the City Council.

- 3.9 The newly formed Partnership Tactical Tasking and Co-ordination Group agrees and reviews Community Safety Partnership priorities and ensures that resources are appropriately deployed.
- 3.10 The casework team deal with approximately 150 reports of ASB and hate crimes each quarter. Of these the majority are successfully resolved at the duty stage, with others referred to partner agencies to lead on and approximately 10 become long term cases for the casework team. Multi agency plans are put in place to reduce the harm to the victim whilst ensuring the perpetrator is given opportunities to address their behaviour. Restorative interventions are considered if appropriate.

Safety in the night-time economy

- 3.11 Police recorded violence against the person is continuing to show a rise with an increase of 7% in 2017/18. This on top of a rising trend over the last three years. However, following an increase in 2016/17, attendances at A&E due to alcohol and/or assault have reduced by 17% in 2017/18 compared with 2016/17.
- 3.12 A reorganisation of policing of the night-time economy (Op Marble) is focusing on patrolling of crime harm spots in order to be most effective with available resources.
- 3.13 In response to potential vulnerabilities of crowded places, additional training around counter-terrorism for patrons and staff in the night time economy has started. This includes training for staff regarding signs of vulnerability in clients. Ask 4 Angela has also been rolled out in venues across the City.
- 3.14 A report requesting a review of the Statement of Licencing Policy to extend the special stress area to central Hove and to review the category of café bars within the policy went to Licensing committee in June 2018.
- 3.15 There are now 163 premises that have voluntarily signed up to our Sensible on Strength scheme not to sell beers and ciders over 6%. A further 39 premises have stopped selling strong beers etc without joining the scheme.

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

- 3.16 Police recorded domestic violence crimes and incidents and particularly sexual offences continue to rise. The number of reported stalking crimes and incidents is also rising sharply this is likely to be a response to publicity around this crime type.
- 3.17 The increased demand for services is continuing to have a significant impact on the partners, in particular the providers who deliver 'The Portal' (RISE and Survivors' Network). Commissioners continue to work with specialist support services to ensure that referral pathways are robust and to enable those at the highest levels of risk and need to access help and support. Options for future commissioning of these services are subject to a separate report to this committee.
- 3.18 The police solved rate for domestic violence offences (17%) remains similar to the previous two years, while the conviction rate for cases finalised at court

remains relatively high at 77%. The solved rate for sexual offences in 2017/18 is marginally lower than in 2016/17, but poorer than in previous years. The conviction rate for sexual offences at court (73%) sits between the results achieved in previous years.

- 3.19 Police recorded crimes of harmful practices (female genital mutilation (FGM), 'honour based' violence (HBV) and forced marriage) remain low – in 2017/18 there were 6 HBV crimes and incidents, but no reports of FGM or forced marriage. Although capacity to progress this work locally is limited, a pan-Sussex meeting is due to pick up on work in this area.
- 3.20 The volume of cases at the Multi-Agency Risk Assessment Conference (MARAC) remains high, and is increasing, with 552 cases referred in 2017/18 while the percentage of repeat cases is 25%. Changes to the MARAC process, have been implemented with meetings now being held weekly rather than fortnightly. A permanent MARAC chair has been appointed and is in post and a MARAC co-ordinator for B&H has started and will facilitate these meetings.
- 3.21 The updated training prospectus for this area of work has also been launched in April 2018 offering courses on DV and SV for partners, victims and anyone with an interest in this area of work.
- 3.22 BHCC have been supporting RISE, Stonewall Housing (London) and the LGBT Foundation (Manchester) to provide refuge facilities for the LGBT community. The projects were due to finish in July, however due to additional funding being sourced by individual projects the timeframes have moved slightly, with RISE's service ending in Q1 of 2019/20. The project has been deemed a huge success. An event will be held during the 16 Days of Action (25th November-10th December) to publicise the findings of the project and highlight next steps.

Violence Vulnerability and Exploitation

- 3.23 A multi-agency working group has been set up to address the increase in instances of "cuckooing", ie. drug dealers take over the property of a vulnerable person, and has finalised a joint working procedure to ensure that the safeguarding of vulnerable people is undertaken alongside any enforcement action. A vulnerable social housing tenant who had been the victim of cuckooing has been moved to appropriate supported accommodation. Part of the working procedure includes the use of Closure Orders which can be used under the ASB and Policing Act 2014 to close problem premises. So far 1 property has been successfully subject to a closure order and a further case where the council has applied for outright possession of a property where the tenant had committed serious and on-going ASB for a number of months and had not engaged with support offered.
- 3.24 We have also disseminated briefings on 'cuckooing' to partner agencies and to landlords so that they can recognise the signs of cuckooing and report these to appropriate services.
- 3.25 The new VVE co-ordinator post has been advertised and recruitment is underway.
- 3.26 The action plan that sits under this part of the community safety strategy is being drafted and worked on with partners. Part of this will involve a

communications plan so that we can work with partners to raise awareness of VVE.

Community collaboration and resilience

- 3.27 There have been 13 crimes related to modern slavery recorded in 2017/18. This is an increase on the 4 recorded in 2016/17 and 2 in 2015/16. All crimes on record to date relate to either 'holding a person in slavery or servitude', 'arranging or facilitating travel of another person with a view to exploitation, or 'requiring a person to perform forced or compulsory labour'.
- 3.28 The low number of cases of modern slavery and human trafficking coming to light could be due to low prevalence in the city or because awareness of the signs and indicators of this hidden crime is still not as good as it could be.
- 3.29 The pan-Sussex Modern Slavery Network is in the process of agreeing a draft action plan, outlining areas of work that could be taken forward across the county and some that are specific to Brighton & Hove. Sussex Police have recruited to a new post of Modern Slavery Delivery Manager to help create a coherent county-wide approach to this work. The Brighton & Hove Modern Slavery Operational Group provides a mechanism for a local partnership approach.
- 3.30 Work on the International Migrants Needs Assessment is complete and recommendations have been accepted by the city's Equality and Inclusion Partnership (EQUIP). Community safety and cohesion are strands within the needs assessment with a number of recommendations weaving the inclusion of migrants into existing community cohesion work in the city. There are also recommendations around the strengthening of trust and confidence amongst migrant communities to encourage reporting of all crimes. A launch event is planned in the spring, giving an opportunity for positive messaging about the city's approach to the integration of migrants in the city.

Preventing terrorism and extremism

- 3.31 In June 2018, the national Counter Terrorism Strategy (CONTEST) was updated and strengthened to respond to the heightened threats and findings from a number of strategic and operational reviews that were carried out following five terrorist incidents in the UK in 2017. The strategic aim of CONTEST and the framework (Prevent, Pursue, Protect, and Prepare as the four work streams) remains albeit with a change in approach within this framework to meet the changing threat. A new Counter Terrorism Bill is expected to enable earlier disruption of the terrorist threats in the UK.
- 3.32 The national threat level remains at 'Severe' meaning an attack is highly likely. The highest threat continues to come from Daesh and Al-Qaida and affiliated or inspired (international) terrorisms, and the threat from the right-wing extremism has increased.
- 3.33 The updated national Prevent Strategy is expected to be released soon and continues with its aim: 'To safeguard and support those vulnerable to radicalisation, to stop them from becoming terrorists or supporting terrorism'. The revised objectives of Prevent strategy are to:
- Tackle the causes of radicalisation and respond to the ideological challenge of terrorism (unchanged).
 - Safeguard and support those most at risk of radicalisation through early intervention, identifying them and offering support (unchanged).

- Enable those who have already engaged in terrorism to disengage and rehabilitate (changed).
- 3.34 Within Prevent, there is an increased emphasis on the third objective, which aims to reduce re-offending and improve the reintegration of those already engaged in terrorism or who support it. Through the piloting of new multi-agency approaches, response to the threat of extremism and radicalisation in prisons, the development of the new Desistance and Disengagement Programme, and work with returners from conflict zones such as Syria and Iraq will help reduce the risk from terrorism through rehabilitation and reintegration.
 - 3.35 Locally, a successful 'Community Roundtable' event provided a forum for local communities to have a dialogue with the senior officials from the Home Office on Prevent. The meeting was attended by 62 people (including 2 Members and over 40 community representatives). The meeting was evaluated positively with uplift in knowledge as well as positive perspective on Prevent at the end of the event.
 - 3.36 A FAST workshop was delivered to Muslim mothers in the City to improve their understanding of vulnerabilities, how individuals may get involved in terrorist activities or supporting terrorism, referral process, and support available within the City.
 - 3.37 The new Prevent Education Officer started in post in March 2018 and is being supported to increase the reach of the team to educational sector including the English language schools.
 - 3.38 We continue to deliver Prevent trainings and briefings across partners. Prevent trainers are supported to deliver WRAP and Far Right Aware training in the City and this quarter good progress has been made in training the Families Children and Learning staff.
 - 3.39 National Channel Data for 2016/17 was released at the end of March 2018. This revealed a decrease in overall referrals as well as in the number of people supported following case discussion at the Channel Panel compared to 2015/16. The majority of referrals as well as those supported were aged 20 years or under, and male. There was a proportional increase in people supported through Channel for extreme right wing related concerns (37%).
 - 3.40 We continue to monitor and work to reduce community tensions. Targeted safety tips, information about reporting of hate incidents and concerns, and reassurance messages were disseminated to Muslim communities and groups in response to particular concerns around Islamophobic letters sent nationally. Communities concerns were heard and addressed through a number of meetings and joint work with police. In partnership with colleagues, a school advisory was developed and disseminated to all schools, colleges and English language schools in the City to ensure appropriate reporting and support to individuals and communities.
 - 3.41 Work has continued to support a range of community groups to apply for funding and develop projects which support the countering extremism objectives.
 - 3.42 Work continues to develop links across groups working with communities of identities to build positive relations, give due consideration to intersectionality, and develop work together around cross-cutting issues such as hate crime.

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, 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 current budget resources.

Finance Officer Consulted: Michael Bentley

Date: 06/05/18

Legal Implications:

- 7.2 All work currently being undertaken is within the council's statutory powers. Any new areas of law 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: 06/06/18

Equalities Implications:

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

Sustainability Implications:

- 7.4 None

Appendix 1. Crime statistics 2017/18: end of year position

Performance compared with last year

	number of crimes Apr 16 – Mar 17 ³	number of crimes Apr 17 – Mar 18	rank within 15 bench- marked CSPs ⁴
Police recorded crimes			1=best; 15=worst
Total Crimes	25787	26142	7
Criminal Damage (incl. arson)	2938	2682	5
Violence Against the Person	9553	10198	10
Sexual Offences	785	924	13 ⁵
Robbery	352	321	5
Burglary	1569	1410	2
Vehicle Crime	1378	1414	4
Theft and handling (excl. motor vehicle theft)	8727	8696	11
Pedal Cycle Theft	865	1097	11
Police recorded incidents and crimes			
Domestic Violence Incidents and Crimes	4696	4976	n/a ⁶
Racist Incidents and Crimes	543	516	n/a
Religiously-motivated Incidents and Crimes	87	74	n/a
Homophobic Incidents and Crimes	207	214	n/a
Transphobic Incidents and Crimes	62	35	n/a
Disability Hate Incidents and Crimes	52	62	n/a
Anti-Social Behaviour Incidents	11431	9489	n/a

³ The data in this column reflect those recorded on the police system at the current time and do not necessarily align exactly with those recorded a year ago.

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.

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'.

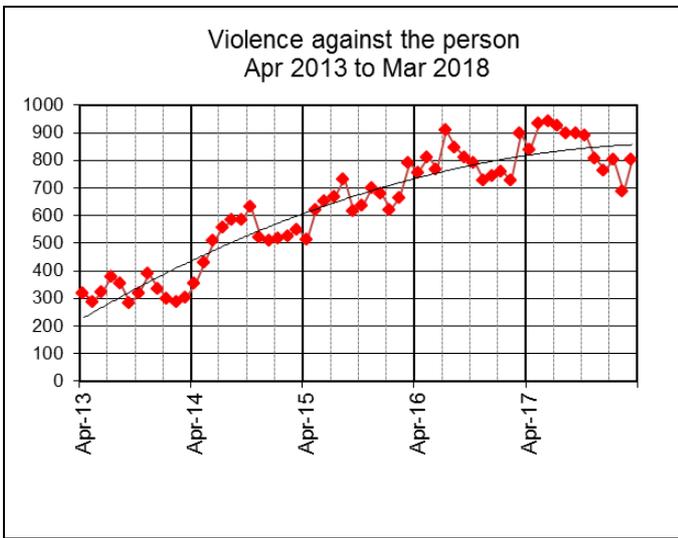
⁶ Comparative/benchmarking data are not available.

Appendix 2:

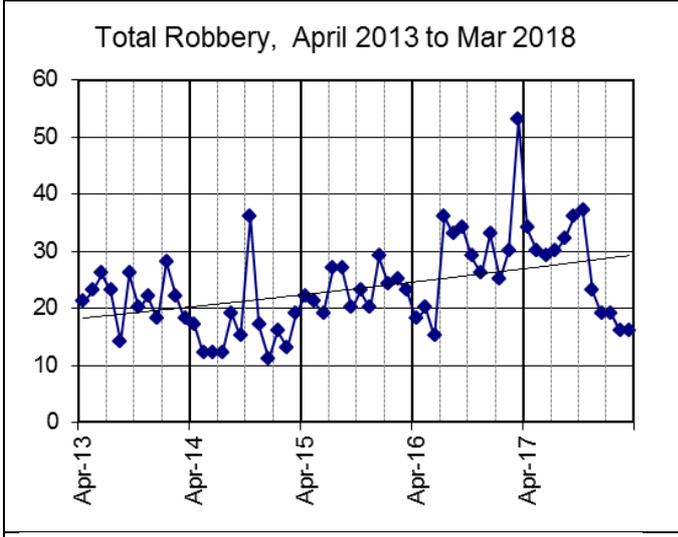
Crime trends up to March 2018 (monthly data)⁷

<p style="text-align: center;">Total Crimes, Apr 2013 to Mar 2018</p>	<p>8.1 The number of crimes recorded by the police continues to demonstrate a seasonal pattern with higher numbers the summer than the winter months. From 2013 up to the middle of 2017 there was an upward trend in recorded crimes, with changes to police recording practices contributing to this (see below). However, numbers recorded in early 2018 do not follow the increasing trend.</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Criminal Damage, Apr 2013 to Mar 2018</p>	<p>8.2 Trends in criminal damage between 2014/15 and 2016/17 broadly stable, but a downward trend is suggested during 2017/18.</p>

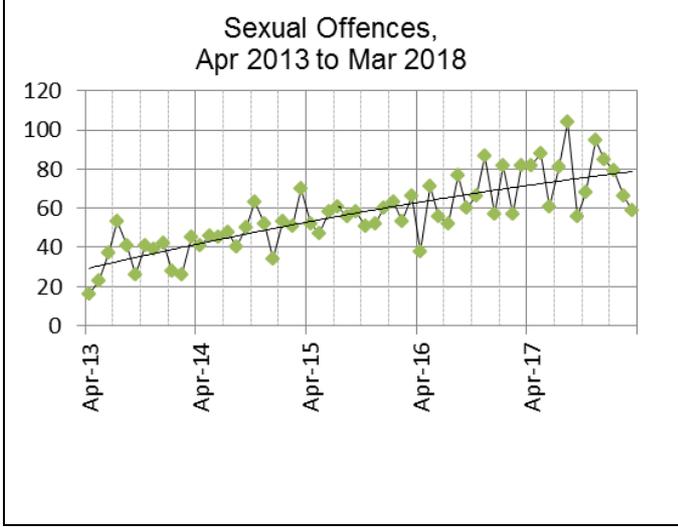
⁷ Trend lines are based on the best fitting 2nd order polynomial curve



8.3 Police recorded data show a steeply rising trend from 2014/15 onwards, overlaid with a seasonal pattern (higher levels in the summer). As discussed earlier, the increase in 2014/15 was linked to changes in police data recording practice and was observed both nationally and locally. The increasing trend continued until summer 2017, but data over the last nine months suggest a possible decline.



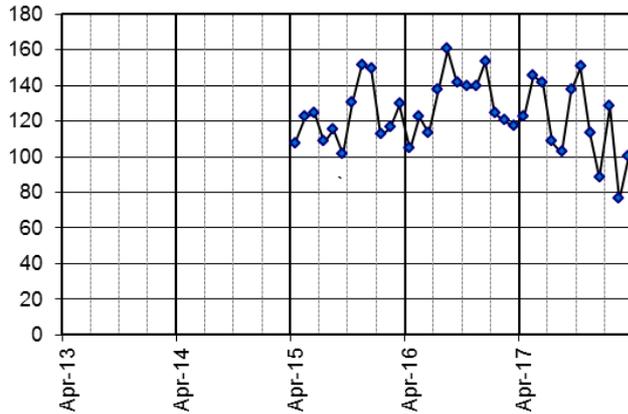
8.4 Until Jun 2016 robberies in the city tended to fluctuate between 10 and 30 per month (although there was a spike in Oct 2014⁸). However, between Jul 2016 and Oct 2017, monthly numbers were consistently above 25, with a spike in Mar 2017 of 49⁹, while numbers have dropped back to below 25 per month over the last 5 months. Most robberies are personal robberies (299 in 2017/18) and a minority are business robberies (22 in 2017/18).



8.5 Police recorded sexual offences are on an upward trend, although numbers have fluctuated somewhat during 2017/18. More reporting is generally regarded as a positive outcome in that victims are feeling more confident in reporting. Changes in police recording at the beginning of 2014/15 (as for violent crimes above) have also had an effect on recorded sexual offences.

⁸ A robbery with 8 victims and another series of 4 crimes perpetrated by a single offender contributed to the spike seen in Oct 2014
⁹ There were 4 robberies with more than one victim in Mar 2017, contributing to the spike that month.

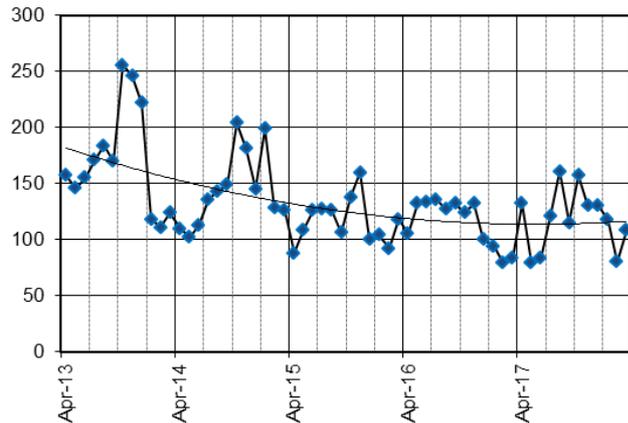
Total Burglary, Apr 2013 to Mar 2018



8.6 While there was an overall increasing trend between Apr 2015 and Mar 2017, the overall trend in burglaries in 2017/18 has been downward.

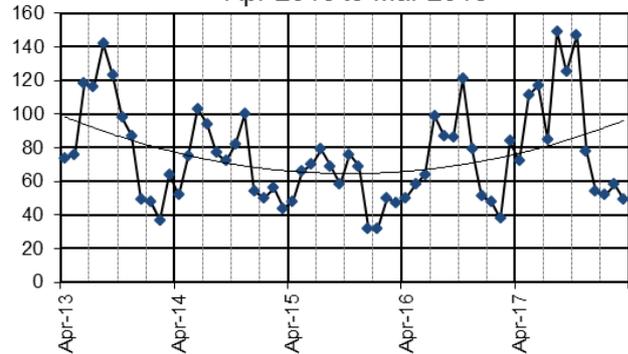
(National changes to the definition of domestic and other burglaries has meant that at the moment it is not possible to pull out domestic burglaries. All burglaries are therefore reported here.)

Vehicle Crime, Apr 2013 to Mar 2018



8.7 The number of vehicle crimes have generally been on a long term decline. Following a spate of vehicle crimes in the autumn/winter months of 2013/14 and 2014/15, numbers resumed a relatively low level, although there were minor peaks in Aug and Oct 2017.

Theft of a Pedal Cycle, Apr 2013 to Mar 2018



8.8 A seasonal pattern in cycle thefts is normally observed every year and is linked to those months when more people tend to cycle. Cycle thefts rose less in the summer of 2015 than in previous years but enhanced summer peaks have again been observed in both 2016 and 2017. Numbers between Aug and Oct 2017 were particularly high, but have dropped in the winter months to typical winter levels.

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.

<p style="text-align: center;">Domestic Violence Crimes & Incidents, Apr 2013 - Mar 2018</p>	<p>8.9 Recording practices and positive work in relation to these crime types which result in more crimes being recorded have been described earlier. There are signs that the increasing trend may be stabilising.</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Racist Crimes and Incidents (police data), Apr 2013 to Mar 2018</p>	<p>8.10 There was an upwards trend in racist crimes and incidents in parallel with the recording of other crimes since 2014/15. There is a notable spike in the summer of 2016 coinciding with the month following the EU referendum vote to leave the European Union. Numbers recorded in May and June of 2017 were also high but have dropped again in the months since then.</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Homophobic Crimes & Incidents (police data), Apr 2013 to Mar 2018</p>	<p>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 six months, ranging between 5 and 22 per month.</p>