



Brighton & Hove
City Council

Community Safety Forum

Title:	Community Safety Forum
Date:	14 March 2011
Time:	4.00pm
Venue	Council Chamber, Hove Town Hall
Members:	Councillors: Simson (Chairman), Barnett, Carden, Deane, Hyde, Janio, Morgan (Opposition Spokesperson), Phillips, Watkins and Young, Representatives from Communities of Interest
Contact:	Penny Jennings Democratic Services Officer 01273 291065 penny.jennings@brighton-hove.gov.uk



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COMMUNITY SAFETY FORUM

The following are requested to attend the meeting:

Representatives from Communities of Interest:

Age Concern
Area Housing Panels
Brighton & Hove Business Crime Reduction Partnership
Brighton & Hove Community & Voluntary Sector Forum
Brighton & Hove Federation of Disabled People
Brighton & Hove City Primary Care Trust
Independent Advisory Group Sussex Police
Brighton & Hove Mediation Service
British Transport Police
Coalition for Youth
Domestic Violence Forum
East Sussex Fire & Rescue Service
Hangleton & Knoll Project
Hove YMCA
Local Action Team Representatives
Neighbourhood Watch
Older People's Council
Racial Harassment Forum
St James's Street Community Safety Group
Spectrum
Sussex Probation
Victim Support
Whitehawk Community Safety Development Project
Women's Refuge Project
Youth Offending Team.

AGENDA

37. PROCEDURAL BUSINESS

- (a) Declaration of Substitutes - Where Councillors are unable to attend a meeting, a substitute Member from the same Political Group may attend, speak and vote in their place for that meeting.
- (b) Declarations of Interest by all Members present of any personal interests in matters on the agenda, the nature of any interest and whether the Members regard the interest as prejudicial under the terms of the Code of Conduct.
- (c) Exclusion of Press and Public - To consider whether, in view of the nature of the business to be transacted, or the nature of the proceedings, the press and public should be excluded from the meeting when any of the following items are under consideration.

NOTE: Any item appearing in Part 2 of the Agenda states in its heading either that it is confidential or the category under which the information disclosed in the report is exempt from disclosure and therefore not available to the public.

A list and description of the categories of exempt information is available for public inspection at Brighton and Hove Town Halls.

38. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

1 - 10

Minutes of the meeting held on 18 January 2011 (copy attached)

39. CHAIRMAN'S COMMUNICATIONS

40. PUBLIC QUESTIONS

(The closing date for receipt of public questions is 12 noon on 4 March 2011)

No public questions received by date of publication.

41. MEMBER QUESTIONS

None received as at date of publication.

42. THE COMMUNITY SAFETY PARTNERSHIP : NOW AND POSSIBILITIES FOR THE FUTURE

Report by the Strategic Director of Communities.
Ward Affected: All Wards

COMMUNITY SAFETY FORUM

43. COMMUNITY SAFETY ISSUES RAISED BY MEMBERS AND COMMUNITY REPRESENTATIVES

44. CRIME TRENDS AND PERFORMANCE FIGURES : POSITION AT END JANUARY 2011 11 - 32

Report of the Lead Commissioner, Community Safety (copies attached)

Note: There will be presentations in relation safety issues in relation to the following :

- (a) gender of victims (background information paper attached);and
- (b) older people (background information paper attached)

Contact Officer: Ruth Condon
Ward Affected: All Wards

Tel: 29-1103

45. NATIONAL CRIME STATISTICS WEBSITE

Oral report by Sergeant Peter Castleton.

46. COMMUNITY AND VOLUNTARY SECTOR FORUM : COMMUNITY SAFETY PRIORITIES

Presentation by Representatives of the Community and Voluntary Sector Forum.

47. DEFINITIONS OF "TRAFFICKING" AND OTHER ISSUES RELATING TO CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE ARISING FROM BARNADO'S REPORT

Presentation by Lead Commissioner Community Safety and Representative from Hove YMCA detailing joint working carried out.

Following the presentation there will be the opportunity for questions (Approximate timing 15 minutes in total)

Contact Officer: Linda Beanlands
Ward Affected: All Wards

Tel: 29-1115

48. EAST SUSSEX POLICE AUTHORITY: MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON

Minutes of the meeting held on 10 February 2011 (to follow)

49. EAST SUSSEX FIRE AUTHORITY: MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 33 - 34

Minutes of the meeting held on 3 February 2011 (copy attached)

COMMUNITY SAFETY FORUM

The City Council actively welcomes members of the public and the press to attend its meetings and holds as many of its meetings as possible in public. Provision is also made on the agendas for public questions to committees and details of how questions can be raised can be found on the website and/or on agendas for the meetings.

The closing date for receipt of public questions and deputations for the next meeting is 12 noon on the fifth working day before the meeting.

Agendas and minutes are published on the council's website www.brighton-hove.gov.uk. Agendas are available to view five working days prior to the meeting date.

Meeting papers can be provided, on request, in large print, in Braille, on audio tape or on disc, or translated into any other language as requested.

For further details and general enquiries about this meeting contact Penny Jennings, (01273 291065), email penny.jennings@brighton-hove.gov.uk or email democratic.services@brighton-hove.gov.uk

Date of Publication - Friday, 4 March 2011

BRIGHTON & HOVE CITY COUNCIL

COMMUNITY SAFETY FORUM

4.00pm 18 JANUARY 2011

COUNCIL CHAMBER, HOVE TOWN HALL

MINUTES

Present: Councillor Simson (Chairman); Barnett, Carden, Deane, Hyde, Janio, Morgan (Opposition Spokesperson), Phillips, Watkins and Young

Sussex Police: Chief Superintendent Bartlett and Sergeant Castleton

Communities of Interest: Gail Grey RISE; Jess Tylor RISE; Francis Tonkls, Older People's Council; Bernard Copelin, Patcham LAT; Councillor Mo Marsh, Coombe Road LAT; Roy Pennington, Craven Vale LAT; Faith Matyzak MBE, Whitehawk Crime Prevention Forum and Racial Harassment Mediation Forum, Philip Wells, London Road Area LAT; Bill Ganley, Bevendean LAT; Sylvia Howell, Bevendean LAT; John Mc Phillips, Turner LAT; Ted Harman SCLAT; Eileen Oliver, Moulsecomb LAT and Chris Cooke, Kemptown LAT

Officers: Linda Beanlands, Lead Commissioner Community Safety; Matthew Easteal, Public Safety Team; Jenny Wright, Community Safety Team; Simon Court, Lawyer and Penny Jennings, Democratic Services Officer

PART ONE

24. PROCEDURAL BUSINESS

24a Declaration of Substitutes

24.1 There were none.

24b Declarations of Interest

24.2 There were none.

24c Exclusion of the Press and Public

24.3 In accordance with section 100A of the Local Government Act 1972 ('the Act'), the Community Safety Forum considered whether the press and public should be excluded

from the meeting during an item of business on the grounds that it was likely, in view of the nature of the business to be transacted or the nature of the proceedings, that if members of the press or public were present during that item, there would be disclosure to them of confidential information (as defined in section 100A(3) of the Act) or exempt information (as defined in section 100I of the Act).

- 24.4 **RESOLVED** - That the press and public be not excluded from the meeting during consideration of any items on the agenda.

25. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

- 25.1 Councillor Watkins referred to paragraph 16.6 (Hate Crime Vigil on 23 October 2010). It was an excellent night and was extremely well attended.
- 25.2 **RESOLVED** – That the minutes of the Community Safety Forum meeting held on 18 October 2010 be agreed and signed as a correct record.

26. CHAIRMAN'S COMMUNICATIONS

- 26.1 The Chairman welcomed Councillor Deane to her first meeting of the Community Safety Forum. She had replaced Councillor Duncan. This would mean that there would be no representative of the Sussex Police Authority on the Forum. The Democratic Services Officer had written to Councillor Duncan to regarding this matter. He had written back to say that if invited he would make an effort to attend.
- 26.2 The Chairman welcomed Eileen Oliver to the Forum. She would be representing Moulscroomb LAT.
- 26.3 The Chairman welcomed a representative of the Noise Abatement Society to the meeting. They would be giving a presentation on late night on-street noise disturbance later on the agenda.

27. PETITIONS:SAVE OUR FRONTLINE POLICING

- 27.1 The Forum considered a report of the Director of Strategy and Governance detailing joint paper and petitions which had been submitted via the council's website and had previously been presented, noted and received at a meeting of the Full Council of 21 October 2010.
- 27.2 Mr C Cooke, the Lead petitioner presented his petition.
- 27.3 The Chairman Councillor Simson referred to a recent letter received from the Home Office by the Chief Executive in response to a Notice of Motion which had been considered at Full Council, copies of this were circulated to those present and it was agreed that it would also be appended to the minutes of that afternoon's meeting and would be included with the subsequent response to the petitioner. The letter received from John Bowland dated 7 January 2001 stated as follows:

“Dear Mr Barradell

I have been asked to thank you for your letter of 1 November to the Home Secretary, about Neighbourhood Policing and the work of Police Community Support Officers (PCSOs), and to reply. I am sorry that you have had to wait so long for this reply.

In recognition of the essential role of the PCSOs play in delivering visible and available policing for communities, the Neighbourhood Policing Fund (as announced to Parliament on 16 December) will be maintained over the next two financial years (to 31 March 2013) before being devolved to directly elected Police and Crime Commissioners.

Though the Home Office provides, in the Neighbourhood Policing Fund, a substantial part of the salary costs of PCSOs, there is no intention that central government should be the only source of funds for this purpose. Police authority revenue from local taxation and partnership funding by local authorities are also important means of providing these salary costs. The Government is clear that forces should be focusing on finding efficiencies in back-office and support functions to protect frontline policing.”

- 27.4 Councillor Morgan (OS) stated that he was very concerned that whilst indicating that the work of the Police Community Support Officers (PCSO's) was considered to be valuable, no commitment had been given to seek to protect their role in future years.”
- 27.4 Councillor Marsh, (Coombe Road LAT) stated initially she had been cynical that PCSO's were intended to “provide policing on the cheap”, however she freely acknowledged that that they had been very successful and were valued within their individual local communities where they provided a “bridge” between the Police and the communities they served. These Officers were visible, approachable and provided reassurance; their role should be protected.
- 27.5 Chief Superintendent Bartlett, noted all that had been said and in responding agreed that the role of PCSO's was valuable and confirmed that it was fully recognised. Whilst undoubtedly there would be rigorous constraints and cuts in spending over future years, it was not intended there would be any cuts to this area of the Police's service without serious prior consideration of other available options.
- 27.6 **RESOLVED** – That the content of the petitions be received and the responses given noted.

28. PUBLIC QUESTIONS

- 28.1 There were none.

29. MEMBERS QUESTIONS

- 29.1 The Forum considered a report of the Strategic Director of Resources setting out a question received from Councillor Lizzie Deane who was a Member of the Forum.
- 29.2 The Lead Commissioner for Community Safety responded to Councillor Deane's questions on the Chairman's behalf. The questions put by Councillor Deane and the Lead Commissioner's responses them are set out below for ease of reference.

29.3 How widespread is this issue (confirmed and estimated cases)?

Over the last four years we have had three confirmed cases of trafficked women in Brighton and Hove and no cases involving children. Those three cases involved complex and protracted investigations involving potential victims from Sierra Leone, Hungary and Romania.

29.4 Is there a dedicated team assigned to finding/tackling trafficking criminals?

Within Brighton and Hove we have staff whose role specifically includes dealing with trafficking. These include a Detective Inspector who operates as a Senior Investigating Officer when we have potential trafficking offences and a Police Constable who works within our intelligence unit as an Intelligence Development Officer. Within Neighbourhood Policing Teams we have two PCSO's whose area includes established premises used for selling sex. Part of their role is to visit and monitor these premises. Other staff will be used as necessary in the investigation and development of intelligence regarding trafficking.

Using the latest information and intelligence the police regularly visit premises in Brighton and Hove where sex is being sold. These visits are made together with City Light, an agency specializing in providing support to trafficked women and who can make referrals into the appropriate national services. These visits are part of what is known as Operation Thames. Six operations were conducted last year. Trafficked women are also assisted by the Sex Worker Outreach Project at OASIS.

The council, the police and partner agencies (including those named above) meet regularly as the Sex Workers Steering Group to ensure that we work together to ensure that sex workers remain safe and to support sex workers to exit the industry, if this is what they want.

29.5 How many prosecutions have there been?

Of the three complex investigations we have had recently one resulted in successful prosecution of traffickers. The offenders were given 7 year sentences.

29.6 What support is available for victims from the time they seek help and being officially determined as a victim?

The police work closely with OASIS and City Lights who support women in the sex industry and will offer them routes out.

Where sexual offences are disclosed the police have specially trained Sexual Offences Liaison Officers who work with the victim to secure the best evidence. Brighton and Hove uses the Sexual Assault Referral Clinic in Crawley to support this work. Victims will be given strong support from specialist Independent Sexual Violence Advisers.

The council also has a specialist Young People's Asylum Service which has social work expertise in working with vulnerable young people who enter the country without a parent or carer if they present in the city. This team liaises with the police when

necessary. Some of these young people could be described as “trafficked” in that their arrival to the UK is facilitated but then they present to social services for support.

29.7 What support is available for child victims during court proceedings?

There have been no cases reported to the police in Brighton and Hove of trafficked children. If there were, special measures would be considered at court as necessary.

29.8 The Chairman asked Councillor Deane whether she had a supplementary question and she sought detailed information regarding the case where a successful prosecution had been obtained and in relation to the two where it had not. Sergeant Castleton responded stating that although he did not have that information available at the meeting it would be provided to Councillor Deane. He stressed that these cases had been very complex and had involved a number of agencies and collaborative working with Police forces in other countries including visits by officers to Eastern Europe.

29.9 Councillor Watkins referred to the report which had been published by “Barnardo’s” that week. Among other a number of issues relating to vulnerable children it included definitions of “trafficking” and also contained recommendations in relation to tackling sexual abuse of children and young people.

29.10 The Lead Commissioner explained that the Community Safety were aware of the report and its content and that it would form the subject of a special inter agency meeting in order to discuss its implications. It was suggested that this could form the subject of a further report to the Forum and Members agreed this would be appropriate.

29.11 **RESOLVED** – That the response to the question be noted and that a further report on this matter detailing how the implications of the Barnardo’s report would be carried forward will form the subject of a report to a future meeting of the Forum.

30. COMMUNITY SAFETY ISSUES RAISED BY MEMBERS AND COMMUNITY REPRESENTATIVES

30.1 Councillor Morgan (OS) stated that he had been informed that there were plans to remove the traffic base from the Hove Police Station which was located in Holland Road, he enquired regarding the current status of such plans.

30.2 Chief Superintendent Bartlett responded that no definitive decision had assessed in relation to the its need to access the strategic road network. Teams responded to incidents from where they were booked on, not in relation to where they needed to respond to. In view of the savings that needed to be made, the police were looking carefully at their estate and, how it could be most efficiently utilized. Hove Police Station was being assessed as a site and a consultation exercise was being carried out, the Council was included in that process. The issue of whether neighbourhood policing could be delivered more effectively from the site was being examined.

30.3 Superintendent Bartlett stressed that any move from the site by any part of its policing operations would not occur until or unless a robust and workable solutions were found.

- 30.4 Councillor Watkins stated that Councillors/Members of the Forum had been unaware of this situation, and as such communications needed to be improved, this was an issue on which the Council's Police Authority representative needed to be informed and one on which he needed to ensure that other members were informed.
- 30.5 Councillor Janio referred to the fact that Councillor Duncan appeared to no longer be a member of the Forum, there had been a number of items on that afternoon's agenda on which his input would have been helpful to the Forum. This was also likely to be the case in relation to future meetings. The Democratic Services Officer explained that she had contacted Councillor Duncan at the Chairman's behest indicating that his presence at meetings of the Forum in his capacity as the council's representative on the Police Authority would be welcomed. Councillor Duncan had been unable to attend that afternoon's meeting but had indicated his intention to attend future meetings. Arrangements had been made for copies of all papers to be sent to him.
- 30.6 **RESOLVED** – That the position be noted.

31. DEALING WITH ANTISOCIAL BEHAVIOUR

- 31.1 The council's "Anti-social Behaviour Co-ordinator" gave a presentation detailing the collaborative inter agency approach adopted by the Community Safety Partnership in order to tackle anti-social behaviour in the city. It was explained that the PCST Anti Social Behaviour Team included police and officers of the council and worked with Sussex Police, the Council Housing Management/Anti Social Behaviour Team, Registered Social Landlords and the Targeted Youth Support Service.
- 31.2 Details were given regarding how complaints of ant-social behaviour were dealt with and progressed and how the team worked with the police by:
- Sharing information on perpetrators and victims;
 - Referrals from Sussex Police officers to the ASB casework;
 - Referrals from the ASB Team to PCSO's who act as the point of contact for victims of anti-social behaviour, undertaking regular patrols and home visits;
 - Regular meetings to agree actions to deal with perpetrators and support victims;
 - Joint analysis of police and council data to identify hotpots and emerging issues;
 - Joint evidence gathering and legal action to tackle perpetrators.
- 31.3 Details of three anonymised case studies were given in order to illustrate the different types of problems the team dealt with and how by working with the relevant parties they were able to find solutions to those problems.
- 31.4 Councillor Morgan (OS) stated that he had attended a tenants meeting the previous week at which there had been discussion regarding the fact that problem tenants could be evicted. Whilst supportive of this work he considered that those who caused problems because they were vulnerable often needed additional support and that it was important to ensure you didn't port "problems" from one part of the city to another. The Legal Adviser to the Forum responded stating that it was a question of balance, sometimes of a number of conflicting responsibilities.

- 31.5 Councillor Watkins referred to the case had been reported in the “Argus” newspaper where legal action had been taken, after a mature student had been forced from their home by noisy fellow student neighbours.
- 31.6 The Chairman, Councillor Simson stated that there were a number of measures open to LAT’s in dealing with anti-social behaviour and that the team gave inter-agency support in order to secure successful outcomes.
- 31.7 Councillor Janio was pleased to note that effective measures had reduced the incidence of anti-social behaviour he was of the view that as well as respecting the human rights of perpetrators it was important to respect the rights of neighbours too, otherwise there was a danger of vigilantism.
- 31.8 **RESOLVED** – That the report be noted.

32. CRIME TRENDS AND PERFORMANCE FIGURES

- 32.1 The Forum considered a report of the Lead Commissioner of Community Safety setting out crime trends in Brighton and Hove to the end of October 2010.
- 32.2 Sergeant Castleton explained that during the first seven months of 2010.11, there had been an overall reduction in crime of 3.8% compared to the same period | 2009/10; this had exceeded the 3% target which had been set. This had continued the long term downward trend experienced over the last ten years.
- 32.3 Councillor Janio referred to these consistent reductions and wondered whether it that was sustainable. Sergeant Castleton stated that no one was resting on their laurels and targeted initiatives were continuing in relation to areas identified. For instance in seeking to encourage the reporting of incidence of domestic violence.
- 32.3 Councillor Phillips stated that care should be taken when referring to the relatively low figures for sexual violence as such statements could be misleading.
- 32.4 Ted Harman (SCLAT), referred to crimes against the elderly and how those were recorded. The Lead Commissioner Community Safety referred to the Scrutiny into elderly/hate crime which had indicated that this group were actually less likely to be victims of crime, although perceived fear of crime could not be understated and initiatives needed to be put into place to address that. The Lead Commissioner undertook to see whether it would be possible to break down domestic violence and other types of crime by age/gender (i.e.”older people”) in future reports. She agreed that she would also see whether it would be appropriate to re-examine any of the recommendations arising from the scrutiny report.
- 32.4 **RESOLVED** - That the contents of the report be noted.

33. LATE NIGHT ON-STREET NOISE DISTURBANCE

- 33.1 The Chairman, Councillor Simson introduced Gloria Elliott and Lisa Lavia of the noise abatement society who were present to detail the initiative that they would be engaging in with the council in order to seek to address late night on street noise. The Chairman explained that the presentation would mirror that which had been given at a recent LAT Chair's meeting.
- 33.2 Gloria Elliott introduced herself as the Chief Executive of the Noise Abatement Society and gave an overview of the work of the society and the issues on which they gave advice and input. Lisa Lavia was then introduced and explained the ethos behind recent initiatives in greater detail the methodology that would be used in the pilot scheme across Brighton and Hove. Ms Lavia stated that this was the first pilot that they had undertaken with a local authority and that the opportunity to work in such close co-operation with a local authority was welcomed.
- 33.3 Ms Lavia explained that the emphasis was on a pragmatic approach as understood by those in the area and was in the context of its surrounding. It was about impact, tolerance levels and areas where change was possible and how you designed out the possibility of noise nuisance as far as possible. It was not about legislation. The purpose of the exercise was to map the city and to obtain a picture of the qualitative impact of noise across the city. It was explained that a presentation would be given to members of the Council setting out the pilot in detail.
- 33.4 The Chairman and Forum welcomed the presentation and stated they looked forward to receiving the presentation.
- 33.5 **RESOLVED** – That the report be noted.

34. COMMUNITY RESOLUTION AND RESTORATIVE JUSTICE

- 34.1 Sergeant Castleton gave a presentation explaining how a Community Resolution system would be introduced across Sussex. It gave police officers and police community support officers the option of dealing with some types of incidents, usually low level ones, without having to go through the Criminal Justice System. This would only be done when it was in the best interests of the victim, where they chose to take part in Community Resolution and if it was the most effective way of dealing with the incident given all the circumstances.
- 34.2 Sergeant Castleton explained that Community Resolution could be applied to a wide range of offences but it was most likely to be used to deal with lower level crime and anti-social behaviour. Evidence indicated that such behavior could have a significant impact on people's quality of life. Often the criminal justice process was not the most appropriate tool for dealing with such situations. The use of Community Resolution and bringing together all parties involved to talk through a problem could help both sides to find a long-term solution.
- 34.3 The Chairman and Members thanked Sergeant Castleton for his informative presentation.
- 34.4 **RESOLVED** – That the contents of the presentation be noted.

35. EAST SUSSEX POLICE AUTHORITY: MINUTES

35.1 **RESOLVED** – That the contents of the minutes be noted.

36. EAST SUSSEX FIRE AUTHORITY: MINUTES

36.1 **RESOLVED** – That the contents of the minutes be noted.

The meeting concluded at 5.55pm

Signed

Chairman

Dated this

day of

Report to Community Safety Forum – 14th March 2011

Subject: Crime trends and performance in Brighton & Hove: Position at end January 2011

Contact Officer: Name: *Ruth Condon* Tel: 29-1103

E-mail: ruth.condon@brighton-hove.gov.uk

Wards Affected: All

1. SUMMARY AND POLICY CONTEXT:

- 1.1 This report is intended to report on recent developments relating to priority areas in the [Brighton & Hove Community Safety, Crime Reduction and Drugs Strategy, 2008-11](#). It describes some recent activities and also provides statistical police data on key crime types up to the end of January 2011 and progress against targets.
- 1.2 Graphs with monthly data going back to April 2006 are also provided. This enables recent data to be interpreted in the context of both longer term trends and also seasonal crime cycles (where appropriate).

2. RECOMMENDATIONS:

- (1) The Community Safety Forum notes the information provided in this report and invited to:
 - i) comment on any developments they may be aware of from their own or their organisation's experience which may help to understand and interpret the police crime data contained in this report.
 - ii) consider the potential for supporting crime reduction and community safety when their organisations develop and take forward projects.

3. INFORMATION:

Total Police Recorded Crime

- 3.1 After the first ten months of 2010/11 (to end of January) there was a reduction in overall crime of 2.1% compared to the same months of 2009/10 and this falls just short of our 3% reduction target. Numbers of total crimes were particularly low in December, but rose again during January. The December dip was common to different sorts of crime, including criminal damage, vehicle theft and other types of theft and handling and violence against the person.

Criminal Damage

- 3.2 Criminal damage offences during the first ten months of 2010/11 were 13% fewer than in the same months in 2009/10. Over the past 18 months the Environment Improvement Team in partnership with Sussex Probation have delivered works to improve public spaces through Community Payback valued at £711,000.
- 3.3 Environment audits involving the police, residents and others in the city centre and on estates have taken place to identify issues and concerns and then work has been undertaken to rectify them. An example of neighbourhood partnership work involving residents is a targeted poster campaign aimed at perpetrators in East Brighton in parallel with focussed activity by the neighbourhood policing team. This was successful in tackling an ongoing spate of vandalism to residents' property and cars.
- 3.4 The number of fire service recorded arson incidents over the last few months remains much lower than in the same months in previous years, continuing the long term decline. Quick interventions and increased patrols in known problem areas are limiting the opportunity for fire setting.

Violent Crime

- 3.5 The number of violent offences involving injury (including both serious and other injury) has reduced in the first ten months of 2010/11 by 6% compared with the same months in 2009/10, which is better than the 3% reduction target.
- 3.6 The main focus of work to tackle violent crime continues to be around problematic alcohol use. Action plans looking at the four key themes of prevention, availability, night time economy and treatment which are pertinent to alcohol misuse have been drafted and will provide the structure of forthcoming work across both the health and crime/disorder agendas.
- 3.7 The Alcohol Brief Intervention Service undertook nearly 3,500 interventions in the period from October to December. This ongoing project works with people with alcohol issues who come into contact with services in a range of medical contexts and other scenarios. It seeks to help them think about their use of alcohol and improve their skills in drinking safely, as well as referring high risk drinkers to other specialist services. Recent developments have been to increase coverage of the programme across GP surgeries.

Sexual Offences

- 3.8 In the first ten months of 2010/11 there have been 238 sexual offences reported to the police, 7% more than in the same months of 2009/10. Arrangements between the Sexual Assault Referral Centre and our local rape crisis, ISVA (Independent Sexual Violence Advisor) and counselling services continue to support local victims. Funding bids have been made to secure the continuation of these services into the next financial year.

Acquisitive Crimes

- 3.9 The number of **domestic burglaries** in the first ten months of 2010/11 is 18% fewer than in 2009/10, continuing a longer term decline since 2008/9. There have been fewer series of linked offences recently, but when local domestic burglary activity has emerged showing a pattern, steps have been taken to successfully identify those responsible. Work to improve the security of the homes of repeat burglary victims or others who might be particularly vulnerable is ongoing.

- 3.10 The number of **vehicle thefts** during 2010/11 to date have decreased by 11% compared with 2009/10. This decrease applies both to thefts of and thefts from motor vehicles. Performance in both vehicle theft and domestic burglary remains very strong and we rank nearly at the top of our benchmarking comparator authorities in both of these crime areas.
- 3.11 Since drugs misuse is an important motivator for acquisitive crimes, work to prevent problematic use developing and to help users address their problematic drugs use remains key to removing an important 'driver' for these types of crime. The Partnership continues to achieve improvement targets around getting drug misusers into effective treatment. A particular focus to increase the effectiveness of this work has been to reduce the number of people who drop out of treatment in an unplanned way.
- 3.12 During the first ten months of 2010/11 police recorded **cycle thefts** increased by 12% compared with last year. Despite the usual seasonal drop in the number of thefts during the winter, the data tell us that there is a persistent cycle theft problem in the city. However, compared with benchmarked local authority areas, we are currently performing slightly better than the average of our group. The council is continuing to increase the number of cycle parking stands in the city by at least 80 per year to assist people to lock their bike securely, as well as providing publicity on the best way to lock their bike.

Domestic Violence

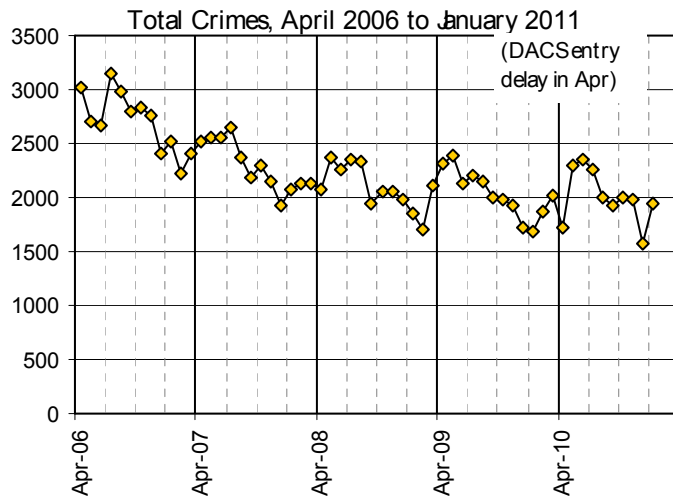
- 3.13 Numbers of domestic violence crimes and crime-related incidents reported to the police remain high, with numbers since May mostly above 300 per month. Over half of reports are against repeat victims. During the first ten months of 2010/11 numbers are 3% higher than in the same months last year. While seeking to decrease the incidence of DV, there is also ongoing work to increase reporting. The percentage of finalised court cases which have successful outcomes remains at 67%. Funding bids have been made to support the continuation of the Multi-Agency Risk Assessment Conference (MARAC) and part funding the Independent Domestic Violence Advisor (IDVA) service into the next financial year. To coincide with LGBT history month a series of five domestic violence resources have been developed. They give in-depth information on domestic violence to Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender people and were developed through consultation with people from these 'communities'. Go to www.safeinthecity.info for further information. The domestic violence 'intelligent commissioning' process has identified key commissioning outcomes for the future.

Hate Incidents and Crimes

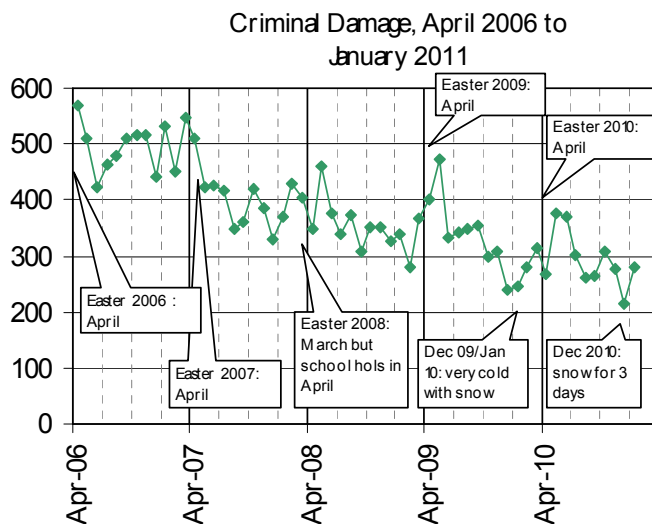
- 3.14 Data up to the end of December show that the number of racist and religiously motivated incidents (RRMI) recorded on the police crime database continues to decline. However, the number recorded through the multi-agency Hate Incident Report Form remains relatively stable and there were a total of 445 reports between April and December 2010. There has been ongoing outreach work to encourage reporting of incidents, including holding stalls at community events and training to staff. The under-reporting of hate incidents by health agencies had previously been identified and positive steps have now been taken to increase reporting and information sharing through the use of the Hate Incident Report Form. The 'See It, Say It, Report It' DVD and resource pack for secondary schools and young people settings has now been launched and has received good feedback from young people.

- 3.15 Police recorded LGBT-motivated hate crimes and incidents also continue to fall. Recent work by the police to engage with the LGBT community has included a 'meet and greet' night at Revenge club and attendance at a Pubwatch meeting in Kemptown where LGBT venue managers were invited to take part. With support from the NHS, safety information has been included in the GPs' newsletter and a flyer distributed to GP surgeries in the city. Events run in conjunction with LGBT history month in February provides an opportunity for police and partners to engage with local people and encourage reporting of incidents through an exhibition at the Jubilee Library, LGBTQ events at Sussex University, and Brighton & Sussex University Hospitals LGBT Forum. There will be a regular monthly drop-in in the Kemptown Crypt being run by the police from February onwards (7pm on the last Wednesday), with associated publicity and distribution of posters by PCSOs to promote it. Also new social media are being used as an additional way for the police to engage with the community.
- 3.16 There were 25 disability hate incidents reported to the Partnership Community Safety Team between April and December 2010. Training to further embed reporting of disability hate incidents across voluntary and statutory agencies to increase access to support services is an important focus of current work. The planned launch of the 'True Vision' easy read self reporting forms and headline messages to raise the profile of disability of hate incidents in December was cancelled due to snow, but is to be rescheduled.

Crime trends up to January 2011



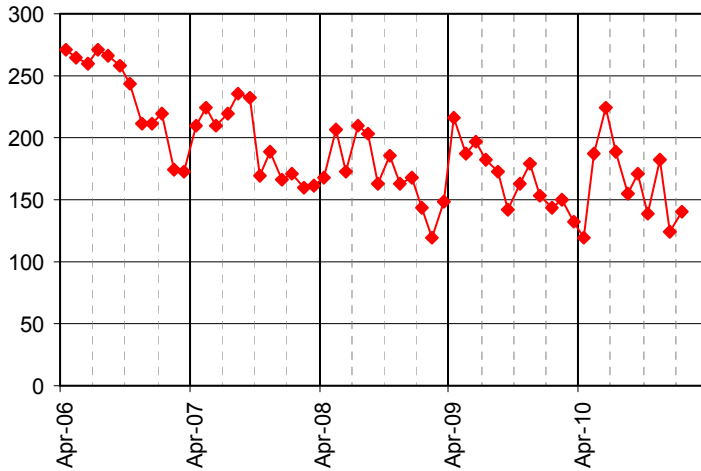
3.17 The numbers of total crimes in December were the lowest monthly figure in more than eight of years at below 1,600. However, the number of crimes jumped up again to nearly 2,000 in the month of January. Overall, the downward trend long term downward trend with seasonal variations continues¹.



3.18 Recent months have continued to record relatively low levels of criminal damage compared with previous years, especially in the month of December.

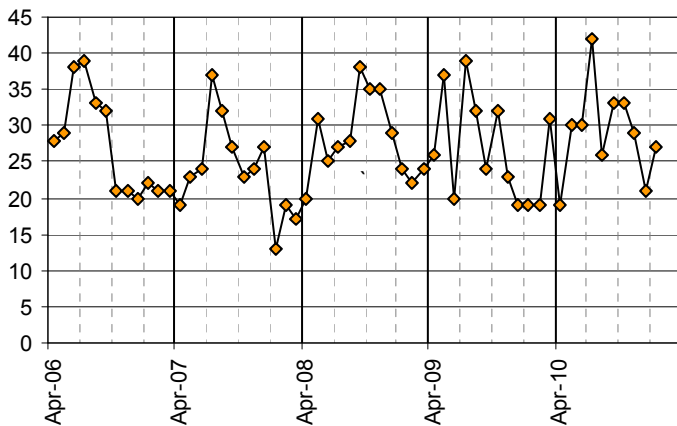
¹ There was a delay in entering crimes into the police data recording system in April 2010, so numbers are showing fewer in that month, and numbers in the following two months are correspondingly enhanced. This effect is seen in a number of the crime types shown in this document.

All Injury Violence
April 2006 to January 2011



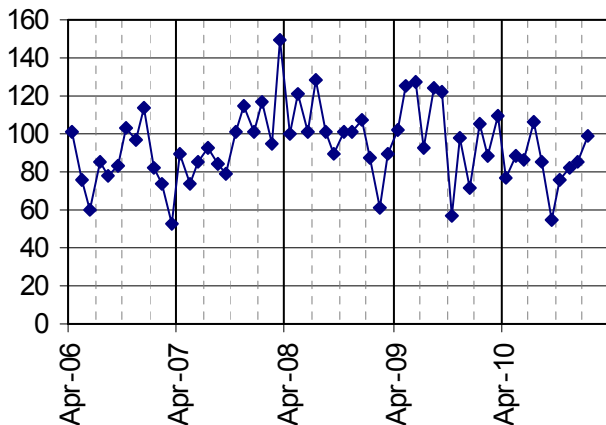
3.19 There is a clear seasonal pattern in injury violence. Monthly numbers have shown a significant drop since the peak in June and have remained relatively low over the Christmas/New Year period.

Sexual Offences
April 2006 - January 2011

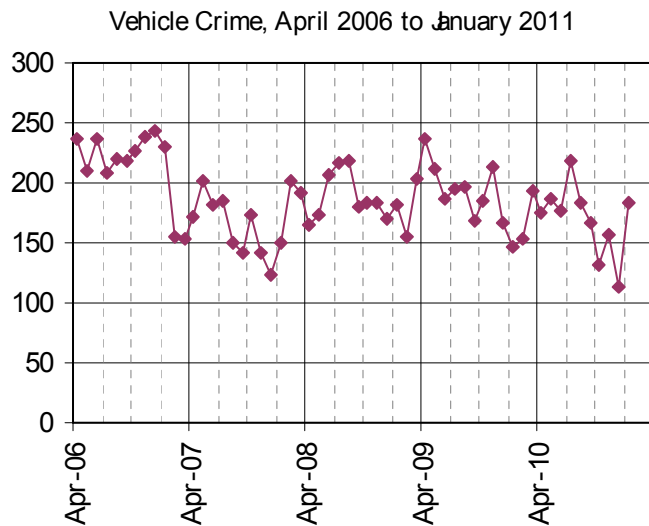


3.20 Number of sexual offences tend to fluctuate from month to month and it is difficult to be certain about trends. In the first ten months of 2010/11 numbers are a little higher than in the same months in 2009/10.

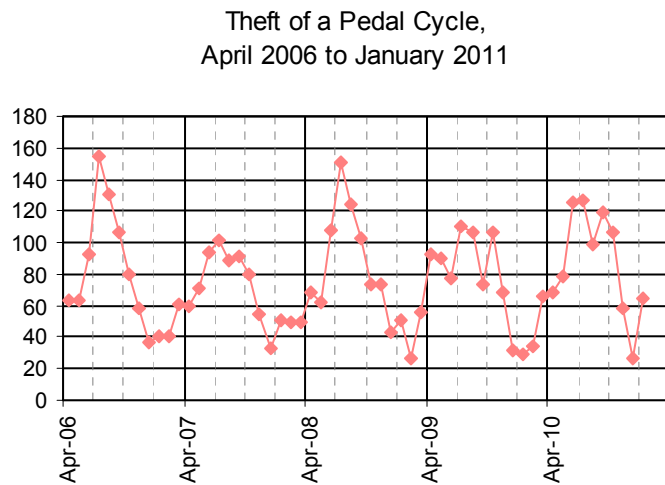
Domestic Burglary, April 2006 to January 2011



3.21 The number of domestic burglaries dropped to a particularly low level in September and have steadily climbed up in subsequent months, but overall, numbers in 2010/11 remain much lower than the previous year.



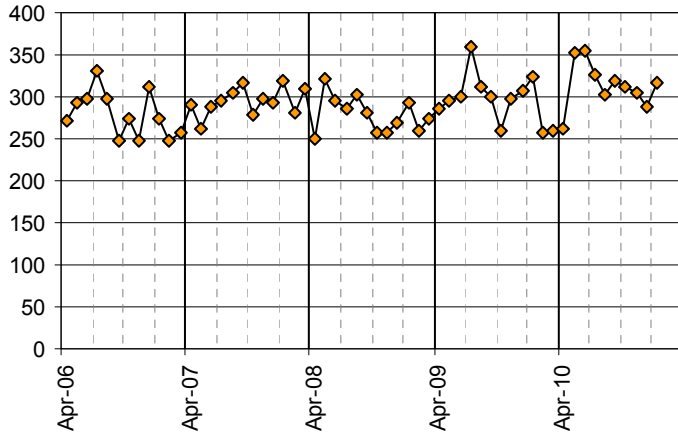
3.22 Vehicle crimes in the month of December dropped to the lowest monthly number (114 crimes) for at least 8 years, although they rose steeply again in January when 184 were recorded.



3.23 There has been the usual seasonal drop in the number of thefts, especially in December (which coincided with particularly poor weather for cycling) but numbers in January rose to over 60 thefts higher than the number in that month during previous years.

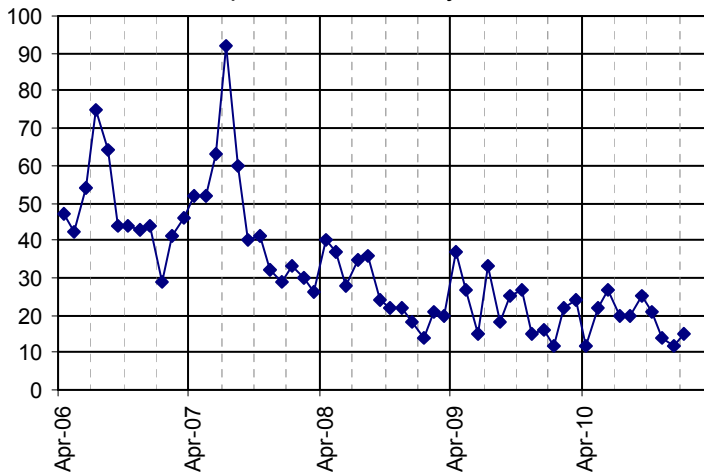
3.24 Police crime data presented in this report only reflect those crimes which are reported and recorded. There is likely to be a level of underreporting in many crime types. However, domestic violence and the hate crimes on this page are likely to be particularly liable to underreporting.

Domestic Violence Crimes and Incidents,
April 2006 - January 2011



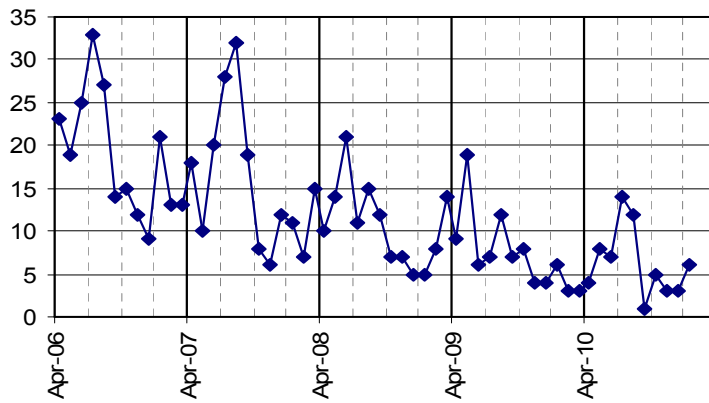
3.25 The number of domestic violence crimes and crime-related incidents have mostly remained at over 300 per month since April, generally higher than previous years.

Racist and Religiously Motivated Crimes and Incidents (police crime database),
April 2006 to January 2011



3.26 The declining trend in racist and religiously motivated incidents and crimes appears to be continuing with between 10 and 15 recorded per month over the last three months.

LGBT Hate Crimes and crime-related Incidents
(police crime database), Apr 2006 to Jan 2011



3.27 The number of police-recorded LGBT hate crimes and crime-related incidents continue to show a seasonal pattern overlaying a long term reduction in the number of reports.

Performance data for key crime types, 2010/11

Police recorded crimes April to January (inclusive)	number of crimes Apr 09- Jan 10	number of crimes Apr 10- Jan 11	reduction target (from 2009/10 baseline)	performance against target to date		rank within 15 bench- marked CSPs
Total Crimes	20503	20080	-3%		not on target	7
Criminal Damage	3338	2920	-5%	on target		11
Injury Violence ²	1737	1632	-3%	on target		7 ³
Sexual Offences	271	290	-	-		9
Domestic Burglary	1025	839	-	-		2
Theft from/of a Motor Vehicle	1907	1691	-	-		2
Pedal Cycle Theft	785	875	-	-		7
Domestic Violence Crimes and Incidents	3041	3137	-	-		n/a ⁴
Racist/Rel. Crimes and Incidents	239	188	-	-		n/a
LGBT Hate Crimes and Incidents	82	63	-	-		n/a

² As defined by Sussex Police

³ iQuanta category 'wounding (serious and other)'

⁴ Because DV and hate crimes are locally 'flagged' crimes and do not have nationally defined classification codes, comparative/benchmarking data are not available. Also, because DV, hate crimes and sexual offences 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 CSPs based on the number of police recorded crimes.

Appendix.

Note on how Brighton & Hove's performance is compared with other Community Safety Partnerships

For the purposes of assessing the relative performance of the Brighton & Hove Community Safety Partnership (CSP) in reducing crime, our performance is compared (benchmarked) with the performance of 14 other 'Most Similar' CSPs. The Home Office have created these groupings to help provide information on how CSPs, police forces, etc. are performing.

CSPs within a 'Most Similar' grouping have been assessed as having similar characteristics in terms of 24 socio-demographic and geographic variables which are strongly linked to increased levels of crime, fear of crime, or incidents.

We are able to compare our crime trends and current performance with our Most Similar CSPs. The data presented on page 1 of this report (see right-most column of the table) shows our ranked position within this group of 15 CSPs. For example, a ranking of 1 indicates that a CSP is performing best within the group, and a ranking of 8 shows that the CSP is in the middle ranked position.

Other Members of Brighton & Hove's Most Similar CSP Group (from Apr 2010) are as follows:

LB Barnet
Bournemouth
Cheltenham
LB Croydon
Eastbourne
LB Hackney
LB Hammersmith & Fulham
LB Kensington & Chelsea
LB Lambeth
Reading
LB Southwark
LB Wandsworth
Windsor and Maidenhead
Wycombe

Community Safety and Gender¹

Summary:

- Victimization rates for total crime are higher amongst men than women, both nationally and locally.
- Women are also more likely to experience domestic and sexual violence, both of which are typically under-reported to the police.
- Women are more likely to think that crime has increased in the last year.
- Women feel less safe in their neighbourhoods after dark than men, although this difference is not evident in the city centre.

Police recorded crime data

Total crime

Figure 1

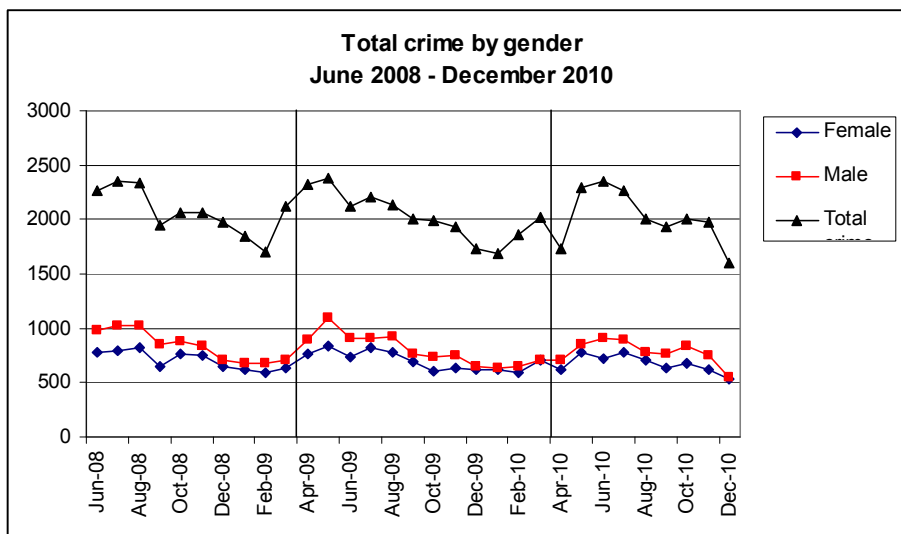


Figure 1 shows both total crime², and crime against men and women separately. Both the number, and rate, of crimes committed against men are higher than those committed against women. The 2009 mid-year population estimates show that 51% of Brighton and Hove

¹ Data used in this report is downloaded from the live system at Sussex Police each month. This data has not been audited or verified by statisticians at Police HQ, therefore it represents a reflection of crime and disorder in the area, rather than the authorised and fully verified 'performance data'.

² Please note that not all crimes have the gender of the victim recorded, or indeed are against an individual victim. Some crimes will be committed against businesses, for example, and when 'total crime' is referred to, this includes all offences.

Safe in the city

Brighton & Hove Community Safety Partnership

residents are female and 49% are male. With a greater number of females compared to males, one might expect to see a slightly higher number of crimes with female victims, yet in 2010, of those crimes where the victim was an individual, 53% were committed against men, compared with 47% against women. Nationally, victimisation for women of any crime is also lower than that for males; the 2009/10 British Crime Survey showed that 23% of men had been victims of any crime in the last year, compared with 20% of women. However, crimes relating to domestic and sexual violence are disproportionately experienced by women, and also tend to have a high proportion of offences which go unreported to the police, so this may influence the overall gender balance of the statistics presented.

Crime type breakdown by gender

Figure 2

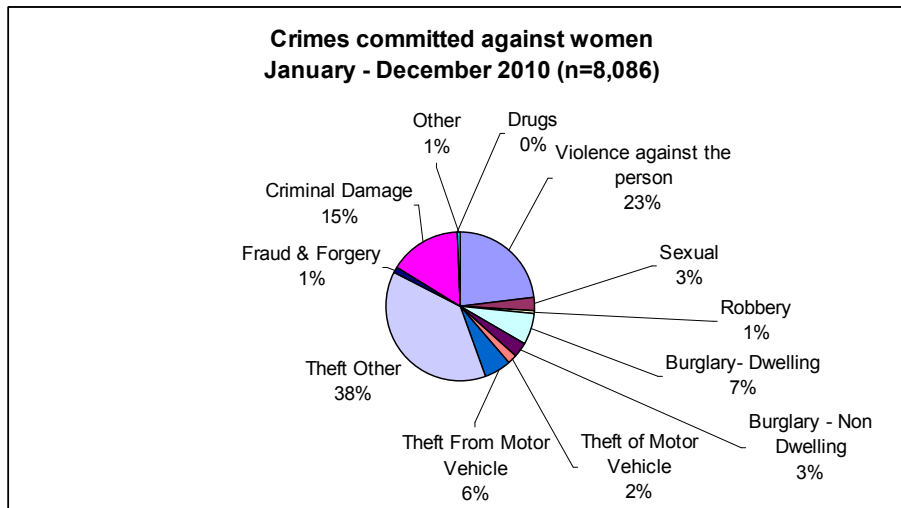
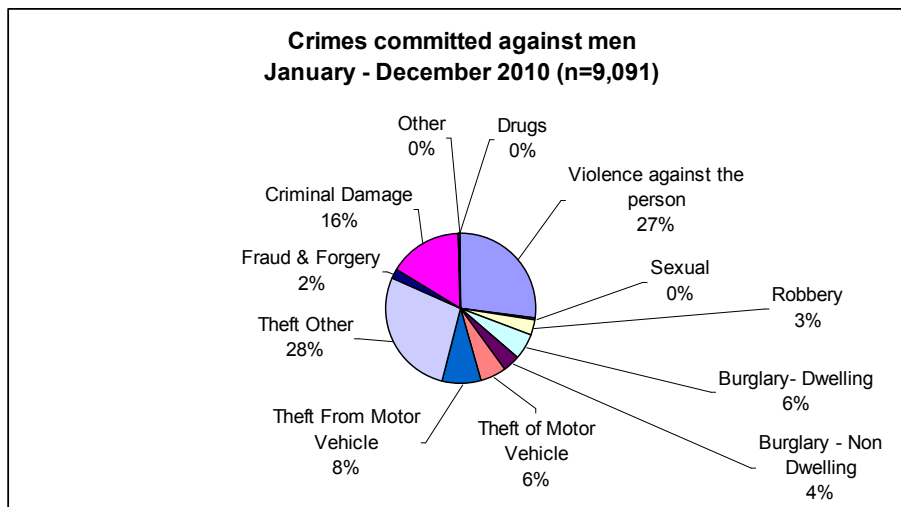


Figure 3



Safe in the city

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Figures 2 and 3 show the proportion of all offences committed against men and women, broken down by crime type.

Figure 2 shows that the largest proportion of offences committed against women are theft other offences (38%). These make up a higher proportion of offences than seen in figure 3, in offences committed against men. This is likely to be due to women carrying handbags etc. which can be targeted in theft, and theft from person offences.

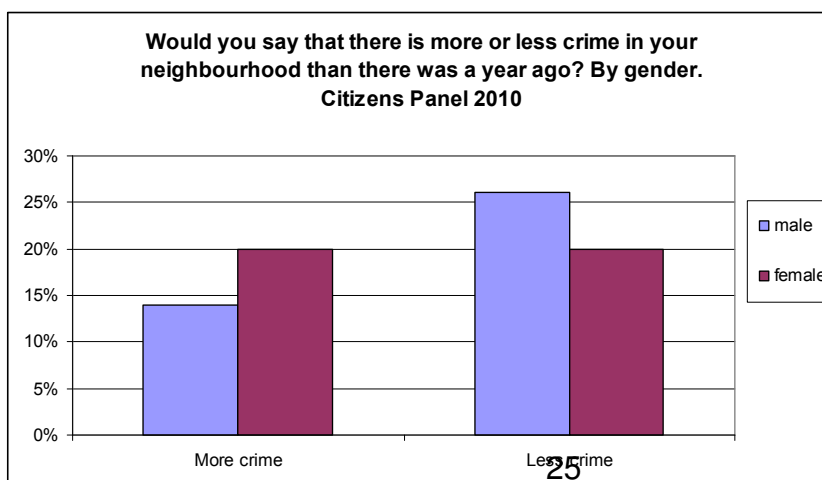
Violence against the person offences account for 23% of offences committed against women in this time period, compared with 27% of offences committed against men.

Although the proportion of violence against the person offences for both men and women are similar, the types of offences which are committed vary with gender. For example, men are more likely than women to become a victim of public place, or stranger violence, whilst women are disproportionately victims of domestic violence³, which has a high rate of repeat victimisation. As this data records the number of crimes with a male or female victim, rather than the number of individual male and female victims, women's increased likelihood of being a repeat victim of violent crime is likely to affect local statistics.

Figures 2 and 3 show that sexual offences account for 3% of police recorded offences committed against women, and 0.3% of offence committed against men. However, many sexual offences go unreported to the police.

There are further complexities in analysing crime types by victim gender. For example, crimes such as burglary may be committed against multiple people in the same household; however, as only one crime is recorded per household, the gender of the victim is presumably determined by who reports the crime to the police. This also affects crimes such as theft of and from motor vehicles. The gender breakdown of victims of these crimes will also be affected by differences in ownership rates by men and women. Figures 2 and 3 show that in offences committed against men, for example, theft of a motor vehicle offences account for 6% of all offences committed against men, compared with 2% of offences committed against women.

Figure 4



Citizens Panel survey

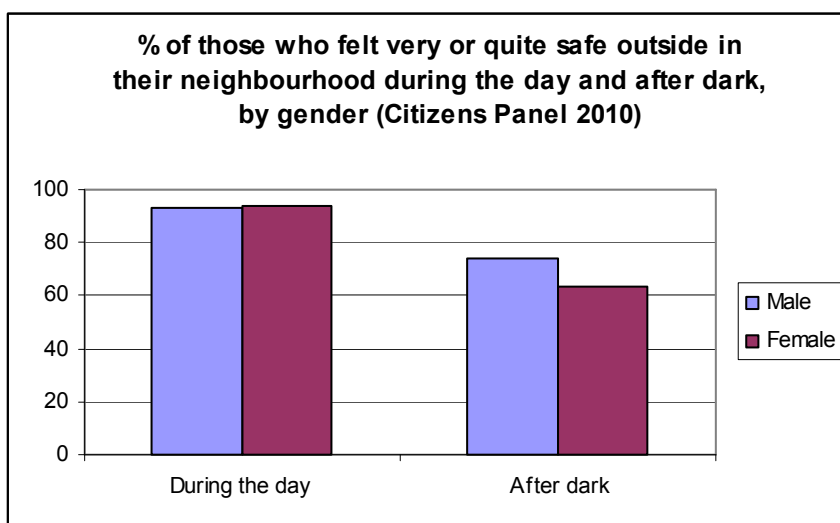
person offences.
offences, criminal

The Citizens Panel 2010 asked respondents if they thought that there was more or less crime in their neighbourhood than there was a year ago. This showed that women were more likely than men to think that crime had increased, and less likely to think that crime had decreased in the last year. 14% of male respondents thought that crime had increased in the past year, compared with 20% of female respondents. 26% of male respondents thought that crime had decreased in the past year, compared to 20% of female respondents.

The Citizens Panel survey also asked respondents how safe they felt both during the day and after dark in both their local neighbourhood and in the city centre. The results, broken down by gender, are available below.

Feelings of safety in local neighbourhoods

Figure 5



Safe in the city

Brighton & Hove Community Safety Partnership

There is very little difference in feelings of safety amongst men and women when asked how safe they feel outside in their local neighbourhood during the day. However, a gender difference can be seen between men and women in their feelings of safety at night, where 74% of men felt very or quite safe outside in their neighbourhood at night, compared with 63% of women.

Feelings of safety in the city centre

Figure 6

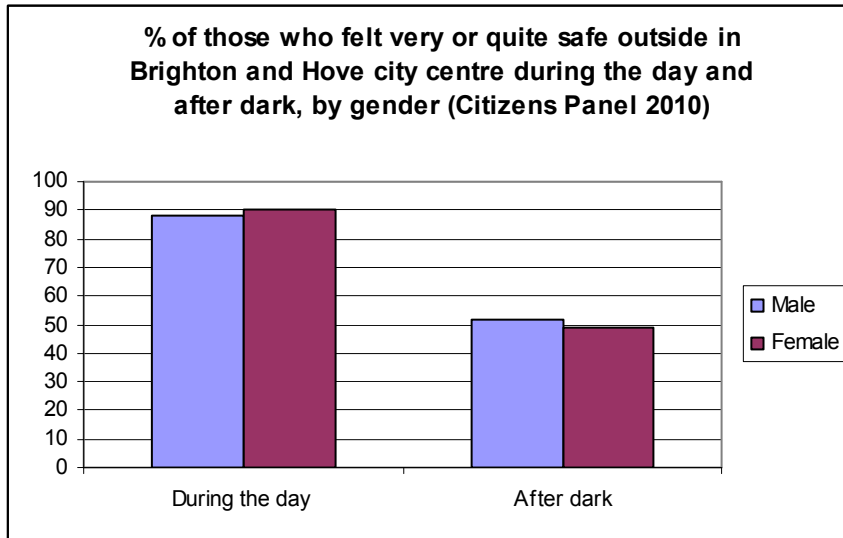


Figure 6 shows that there are only slight differences between men and women's feelings of safety in the city centre, both during the day and at night. During the day, 90% of women feel very or fairly safe in the city centre, compared with 88% of men. After dark, 52% of men feel very or fairly safe in the city centre, compared with 49% of women.

Agenda Item 44b

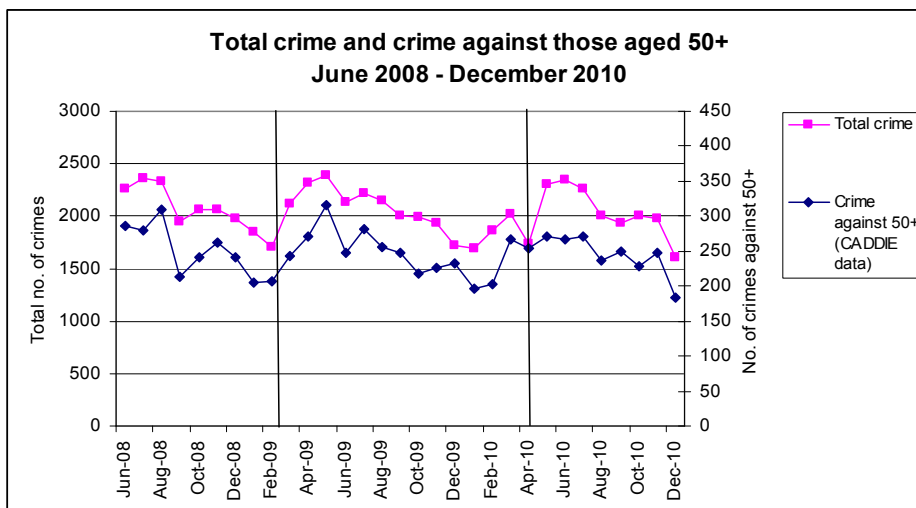
Community Safety and Older People¹

Summary:

- Both Citizens Panel and police recorded crime data show that older people² are at less risk of victimisation for almost all crime types.
- Crimes against older people show similar seasonal patterns to total crime.
- For both male and females in older age groups, there is a pattern of declining victimisation with age. Men in all older age groups are more likely to be a victim of crime than women in older age groups.
- The highest proportion of offences committed against older people are theft other offences, followed by criminal damage offences.
- Domestic violence accounted for 3.8% of all crime against older people in 2010.

Police recorded total crime against older people

Figure 1



¹ Data used in this report is downloaded from the live system at Sussex Police each month. This data has not been audited or verified by statisticians at Police HQ, therefore it represents a reflection of crime and disorder in the area, rather than the authorised and fully verified 'performance data'.

² For the purposes of this report, older people have been defined as those aged 50 and above, except for when using Citizens Panel data, where older people are those aged 55 and above.

Safe in the city

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Figure 1 shows total crime against all age groups (left hand axis) compared with crime against those aged 50+ (right hand axis). It shows that crimes against older people show very similar patterns to total crime in the city, with an evident seasonal pattern, and increase in offences over the summer months.

Figure 2

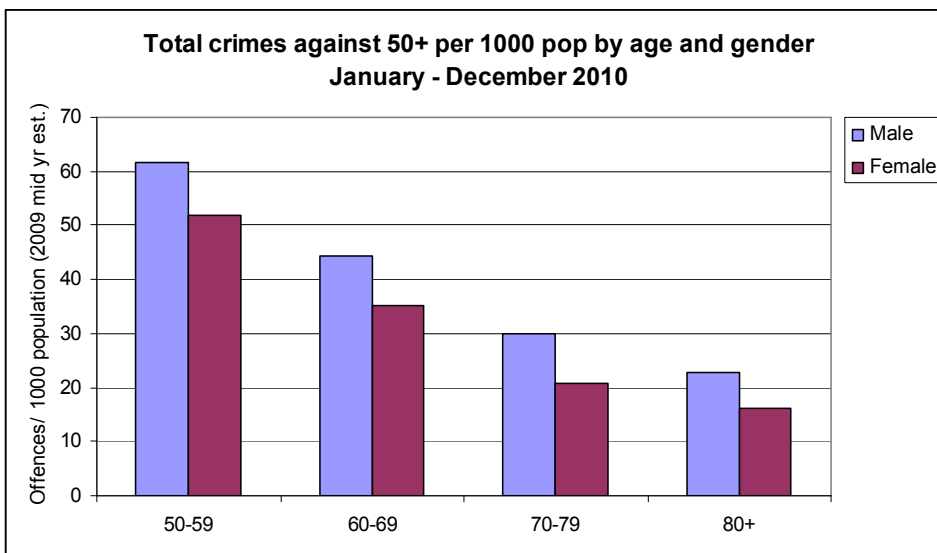
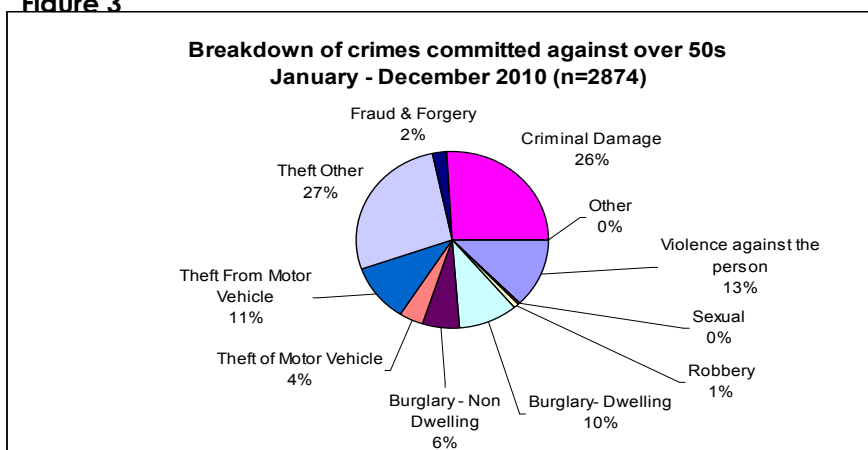


Figure 2 shows the total crime rate per 1,000 population for older people by age group and gender. For both men and women, there is a pattern of declining victimisation with age. Men in all age groups are more likely to be a victim of crime than women.

Figure 3



The highest proportion of crimes against older people are theft other offences (27%). Over half of these offences were theft offences where belongings had been left unattended. Criminal damage offences account for 26% of offences against older people. Over half of these offences were criminal damage to vehicle offences (53%).

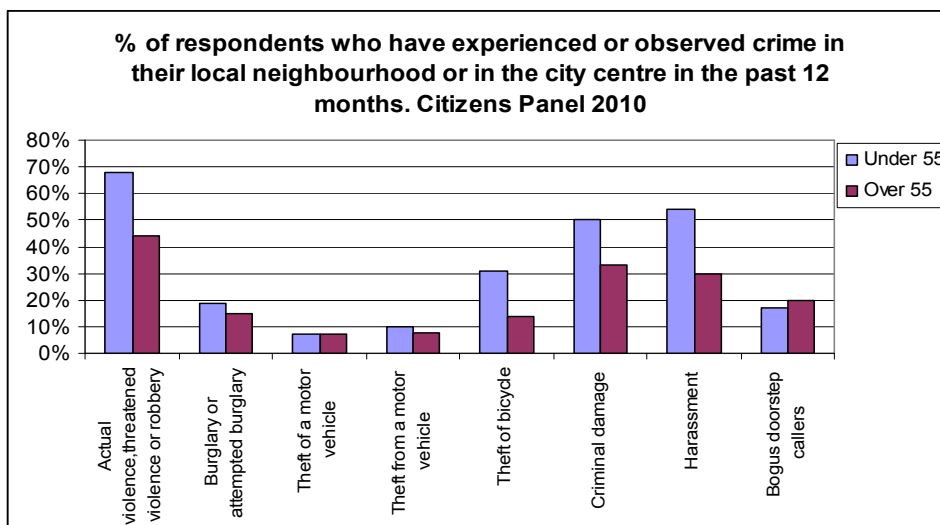
However, offence type breakdowns differ according to the age and gender of older victims. For example, violence against the person offences account for 7% of offences against those aged 65+, compared with 15% of those aged 55-65. Burglary dwelling offences, however, show the opposite effect, making up 8% of offences committed against 55-65 year olds, and 14% of offences against those aged over 65. A disproportionate number of women aged 80+ are victims of burglary, particularly distraction burglaries, as well as theft offences.

Domestic violence

Between January and December 2010, 3.8% of crimes against older people were flagged as domestic violence. 85% of suspects/ offenders of domestic violence perpetrated against older people were male, 15% were female. 71% of older victims of domestic violence were aged 50-59, and as with all crime against older people, there was a declining pattern of victimisation with age. Domestic violence offences against older people were predominantly violence against the person offences (82%).

Citizens Panel survey

Figure 4



Safe in the city

Brighton & Hove Community Safety Partnership

Figure 4 shows the percentage of respondents in the Citizen Panel 2010 who reported that they had witnessed or experienced crime within the last 12 months, by those aged under, and over 55. In this survey, we can see that those aged 55+ have much lower levels for each type of crime than those aged under 55, except for experiences or observations of bogus doorstep callers. Actual violence, threatened violence or robbery features as the most common experienced or observed crime in this survey for older people, as well as those aged under 55, followed by criminal damage and harassment.

East Sussex Fire Authority**Report of a meeting of the East Sussex Fire Authority held at Fire & Rescue Service Headquarters at 10.00 hours on Thursday 3 February 2011.**

Present: Councillors Carden, Fawthrop, Freebody, Harmer-Strange, Healy, Heaps, Howson, Kemble (Chairman), Kenward, Livings, Marsh, Ost, Pidgeon, Scott, Sparks, Thomas and Waite.

1. FIRE AUTHORITY SERVICE PLANNING PROCESSES FOR 2011/12 AND BEYOND

- 1.1 The Fire Authority has considered joint reports of the Chief Fire Officer & Chief Executive and the Treasurer concerning the draft Fire Authority Service Planning and Revenue Budget processes for 2011/12 and beyond.
- 1.2 The Deputy Treasurer reported that both he and the Treasurer had been satisfied that the estimates used for the purposes of calculating the Budget had been produced in a robust and transparent way and the proposed financial reserves were prudent, necessary and in line with Fire Authority policy.
- 1.3 Members recalled that the 2011/12 Committed Budget of £39.328m and related detailed provisions, fees and charges, etc and the 2011/12 to 2015/16 Capital Programme had been previously approved and that prior consideration had been given to Service Investment Proposals.
- 1.4 Members noted final figures for the formula grant would enable a Revenue Budget to be set at £39.203m. Council Tax Band D could be kept to £81.86, the same level as for 2010/11 on the basis that the Authority would receive an additional grant equivalent to a 2.5% increase in Council Tax from central government. Final figures for the Council Tax Base and Collection Fund Surplus enabled further flexibility of £210,000 in 2011/12, of which £77,000 was one-off, which would be used to fund transitional costs in line with the existing service investment proposals.
- 1.5 The Deputy Treasurer noted that whilst the reductions in grant funding for 2011/12 and 2012/13 were lower than had been anticipated at 5%, the Authority should still plan for reductions of a further 20% in the last two years of the CSR period. Current modelling assumptions would require additional savings close to £2.5m over the period 2012/13 – 2014/15.
- 1.6 The Fire Authority has approved the necessary detailed budget and service planning decisions including:
 - (i) approving its budget requirement for 2011/12 as £39.203m; a reduction of 0.28% on the 2010/11 base budget of £39.314m;

- (ii) approving a council tax precept (Band D property) for the year 2011/12 of £81.86 (based on final tax base figures), a nil increase on the 2010/11 figure of £81.86; and
- (iii) agreeing that Brighton & Hove City Council and the borough and district councils (the billing authorities) be advised by the Treasurer of the relevant amounts payable and the council tax in the other bands.

2. **LOCALISM BILL**

- 2.1 Members noted an update on the Localism Bill and the principal provisions affecting Fire & Rescue Authorities. The legislation aimed to deliver more freedom and flexibility to local authorities and the power would be given to stand alone Fire Authorities to do anything it considered:
- (a) appropriate for the fulfilling of its statutory responsibilities;
 - (b) appropriate for purposes incidental to its statutory responsibilities; as well as
 - (c) to be indirectly connected with (a) or (b).
- The Bill also set out what Authorities could not do.

3. **MEMBER ALLOWANCES – ANNUAL REVIEW**

- 3.1 The Fire Authority has reviewed the Members' Allowance Scheme and has agreed a nil increase for 2011/12.

COUNCILLOR TED KEMBLE
CHAIRMAN OF EAST SUSSEX FIRE AUTHORITY
7 February 2010