

Report to Community Safety Forum – 4th July 2011

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

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Wards Affected: All

1. SUMMARY AND POLICY CONTEXT:

- 1.1 This report describes developments relating to priority areas in the [Brighton & Hove Community Safety, Crime Reduction and Drugs Strategy, 2008-11](#). It covers some of the activities carried out in recent months in relation to the Strategy and also provides statistical police data on key crime types up to the end of March 2011.
- 1.2 Graphs with monthly data going back to April 2007 are also provided and these have been extended to May 2011. Although it is too early in the new performance year of 2011/12 to draw conclusions about progress, the graphs enable the most recent data to be considered in terms 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 In 2010/11 total crimes reduced by 1.4% compared to 2009/10, although fell just short of our 3% reduction target. The number of total crimes was particularly low in December and has risen steadily in the months since then, although this is in line with the expected seasonal pattern.

Criminal Damage and Neighbourhoods

- 3.2 Criminal damage offences during 2010/11 were 11% fewer than in 2009/10. Continued work through Local Action Teams, Neighbourhood Policing Teams, and community street audits has identified and delivered actions which address local areas of need and concern. The number of primary and secondary deliberate fire incidents recorded by the fire service reduced by about 20% in 2010/11 compared with 2009/10, better than the target for the year. This result was supported by effective partnership work, both reactive and proactive, throughout the year.
- 3.3 The use of new social media and improved communication within the LAT network is attracting new interest and membership of LATs. This work, and the development of the Safe in the City and Sussex Police websites, will further help local communities to be involved in shaping the delivery of services in the areas where they live.

Violent Crime

- 3.4 The number of police recorded violent offences involving injury in 2010/11 reduced by 7% compared with 2009/10, which is better than the 3% reduction target. However, the number of patients attending A&E as a result of an assault increased slightly (up 1.6% compared with 2009/10).
- 3.5 The main focus of work to tackle violent crime continues to be around problematic alcohol use. 'Pre-loading', ie. drinking prior to going out to night time entertainment venues and the consumption of alcohol in open spaces are still considered to be important aspects of the current alcohol-related harm problem. Crime and nuisance data have been used to inform discussions regarding the limits of the Cumulative Impact Zone and the Special Stress Area, which were on the agenda of the Licensing Committee meeting in June.
- 3.6 Alcohol misuse action plans looking at the four key themes of prevention, availability, night time economy and treatment are in place and being taken forward by steering groups. The Alcohol Brief Intervention Service which seeks to address individuals' misuse of alcohol has sustained the increased number of interventions referred to in the last report. There is a focus on engaging 16-25 year olds, over 55s, perpetrators and survivors of domestic violence, and offenders where alcohol is a factor.

Sexual Offences

- 3.7 In 2010/11 there were 346 sexual offences reported to the police, 8% more than in 2009/10. This increase accords with our objective to address what we know is a high level of under-reporting of sexual crimes and incidents.
- 3.8 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 and funding of these services is now confirmed until March 2012. We are looking in some detail at data from various agencies to find out, on the one hand, the extent to which victims are receiving services and, on the other hand, the extent to which perpetrators are being brought to justice. The aim of this is to ensure referral processes are effective and see how we can reduce the number of offences and improve outcomes for victims.

Acquisitive Crimes

- 3.9 The number of **domestic burglaries** in 2010/11 was 18% fewer than in 2009/10 and the number of **vehicle thefts** decreased by 10%. Comparative data for both domestic burglary and vehicle crime show that Brighton is Hove is performing close to the top of our most similar areas group. Analysis of insecure properties is being undertaken to assist with the targeting of activities to prevent an increase in burglaries during the warmer months.
- 3.10 **Drugs misuse** is an important motivator for acquisitive crimes. Work to prevent problematic use developing and to help users address their problematic drugs use continues to play a key role. The number drug users accessing treatment is higher than the target, although our success on this measure is 5% below the national average. Consequently, a range of measures have been planned to improve treatment access, engagement and outcomes.
- 3.11 During 2010/11 police recorded **cycle thefts** increased by 13% compared with last year. Although cycle thefts would be expected to show a seasonal rise during the fourth quarter, they have remained consistently higher throughout 2010/11 compared with 2009/10. The police have made a number of arrests, including the successful deployment of a 'trap bike'. There has been a multi-agency event to focus on cycle safety and crime prevention and ways of obstructing the selling on of stolen bikes are also being explored.

Domestic Violence

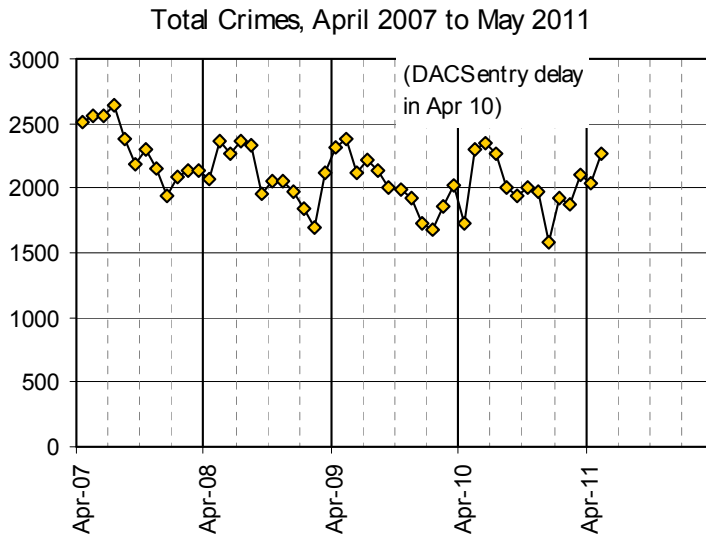
- 3.12 Numbers of domestic violence crimes and crime-related incidents reported to the police in 2010/11 remained above 300 per month until January 2011, but they dropped in February to below 250 and have remained below 300 in subsequent months. The reason for this drop needs to be reviewed, because while the aim is to decrease the incidence of domestic violence, the short term goal is to increase reporting to the police as it remains significantly under-reported. The percentage of finalised court cases which have had successful outcomes dropped to 67% in 2010/11 from 72% in 2009/10.
- 3.13 The Multi-Agency Risk Assessment Conference (MARAC) meets monthly and continues to co-ordinate actions to reduce the risk to those at high-risk of homicide. Victims are supported by the specialist team of independent domestic violence advocates within Rise. Evidence shows that the earlier a victim can access independent advocacy and support after reporting an incident to the police, the more likely they are to be safe in order to support a prosecution. The community perpetrator programme, which operates alongside the probation service programme for convicted perpetrators, has been restructured and integrated into the Family Intervention Project team within the Partnership Community Safety Team.
- 3.14 In Spring 2011, the city's Domestic Violence Needs Assessment was published, which includes the most comprehensive analysis of undertaken locally of domestic violence, the needs of local residents, services and investment mapping across the city. This is available at <http://www.safeinthecity.info/files/Brighton%20&%20Hove%20Domestic%20Violence%20Needs%20Assessment%20070411.pdf>. The outcome sought through future work on domestic violence has been identified as: 'Brighton & Hove residents and communities to be free from domestic violence through an increase in the safety of

survivors; increased perpetrator accountability and reduction in the risk they present; a decrease in social tolerance of domestic violence, and an increase in people's ability to have safe, healthy relationships. This is accompanied by a commissioning plan to achieve these outcomes in the short and longer term.

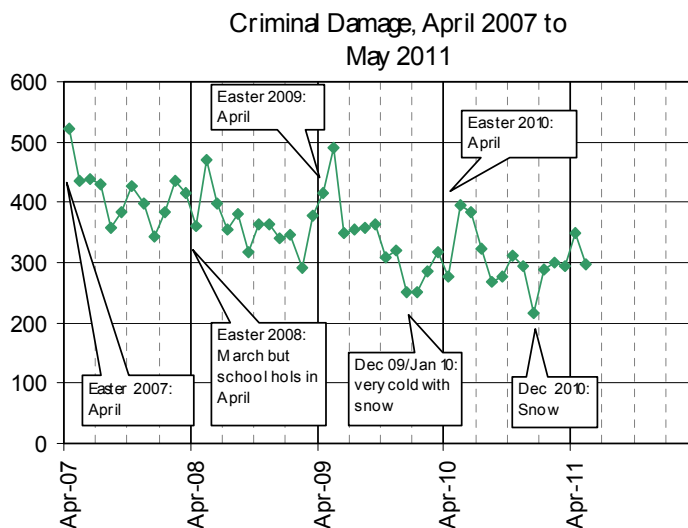
Hate Incidents and Crimes

- 3.15 The number of **racist and religiously motivated incidents** (RRMI) recorded on the police crime database declined by 25% in 2010/11 compared with the previous year. The number of RRMI recorded through the multi-agency Hate Incident Report Form also declined slightly with 576 incidents in 2010/11. 50 of these incidents were religiously motivated. There were 75 incidents against Black and minority ethnic (BME) frontline staff from across the public and private sector who had been targeted while at their place of work. 28 BME businesses had been targeted. Takeaways which tend to open late night were the most targeted kind of BME business. By the nature of their selling takeaway food and their opening hours they are more likely to experience racist/religiously motivated incidents from perpetrators who are under the influence of drugs or alcohol. Criminal justice responses to racist crimes reported to the police have improved over the last three years with the percentage of recorded crimes resulting in a conviction rising from 25% in 2008/9 to 38% in 2010/11.
- 3.16 Police recorded **LGBT-motivated hate crimes and incidents** also continue to fall. In April Operation Reagan recommenced prior to the summer months when there is usually a seasonal increase. This focuses on hate crime and incidents in Kemptown and the city centre, includes targeted visits from LGBT PCs and other partners, and delivers an enhanced intelligence and investigative function to identify perpetrators and bring about swift prosecutions. LGBT History Month helped to raise the profile of LGBT mental health, LGBT Switchboard and the Justin Campaign which campaigns against homophobia in football. The PCT facilitated three exhibitions during the month at prominent city centre venues. Criminal justice responses to LGBT hate crimes reported to the police have improved over the last three years with the percentage of recorded crimes resulting in a conviction rising from 19% in 2008/9 to 29% in 2010/11.
- 3.17 There were 33 **disability hate incidents** reported to the Partnership Community Safety Team during 2010/11, an increase from 19 in 2009/10. Over 70% of disability hate incidents recorded through the Hate Incident Report Form are harassment or verbal abuse, with a minority of incidents relating to physical violence, written/printed abuse, threats or other types of incident. A leaflet and poster campaign is being launched to raise awareness and encourage reporting. All people pictured in the publicity material being used for the campaign are local residents, who each chose the specific strap-line for their poster. The network of reporting centres for disability hate incidents continues to expand, with involvement from the statutory, voluntary and community sectors.

Crime trends up to May 2011



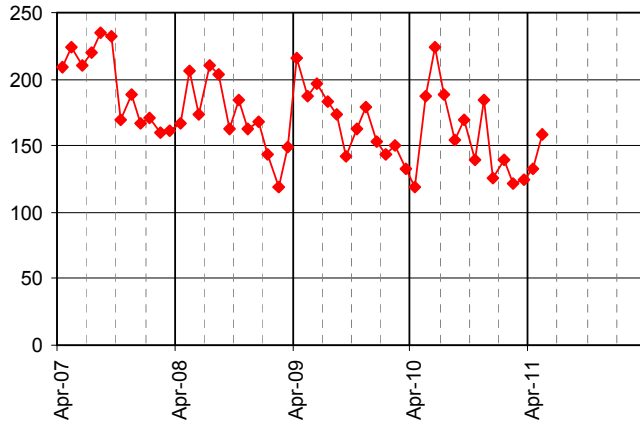
3.18 Numbers of total crimes have risen consistently in months since December when there was a particularly low number recorded. This is showing the usual seasonal pattern that happens each year¹.



3.19 A seasonal rise is observable in criminal damage offences this year, as in previous years. The month of May 2011 has experienced numbers (about 300) that are much lower than the same month in the previous years (about 400 or above).

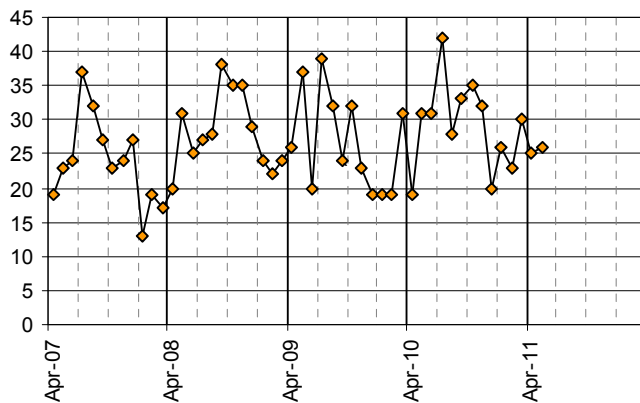
¹ There was a delay in entering crimes into the police data recording system in April 2010, so numbers are showing fewer in that month, and numbers in the following two months are correspondingly enhanced. This effect is seen in a number of the crime types shown in this document.

All Injury Violence
April 2007 to May 2011



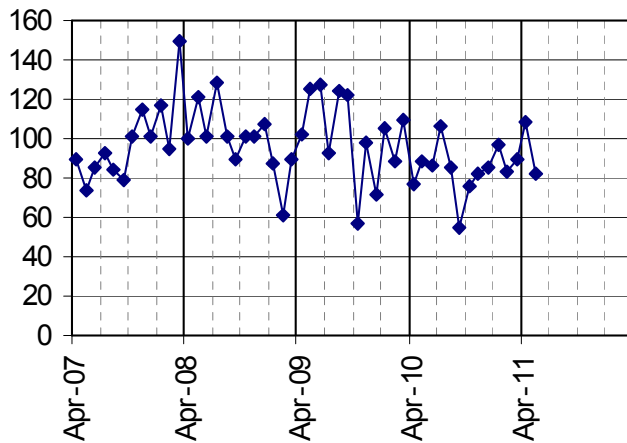
3.20 There is a clear seasonal pattern in injury violence. There are already signs of the predictable summer increase and numbers may be expected to rise further as the summer progresses.

Sexual Offences
April 2007 - May 2011



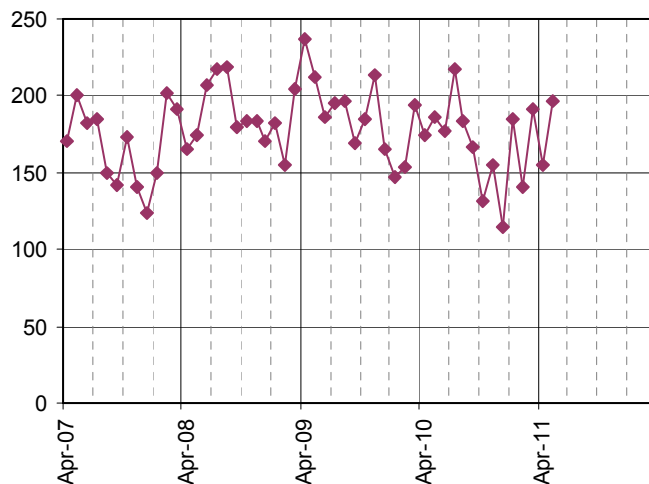
3.21 Number of sexual offences have fluctuated between 20 and 30 per month in the last six months. They also tend to follow a seasonal pattern, so on these grounds, numbers may be expected to be higher in the next three months. These crimes are likely to be highly underreported.

Domestic Burglary, April 2007 to May 2011



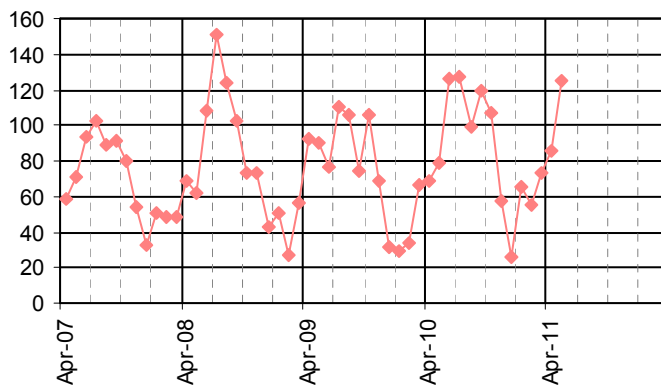
3.22 There has been a long term (since Apr 2008) declining trend in domestic burglaries. There is a suggestion that numbers may be starting to rise, but this will be confirmed in the coming months.

Vehicle Crime, April 2007 to May 2011



3.23 Vehicle crimes in the last 5 months have fluctuated between about 150 and 200 per month, having risen from relatively low levels experienced between Oct and Dec 2010.

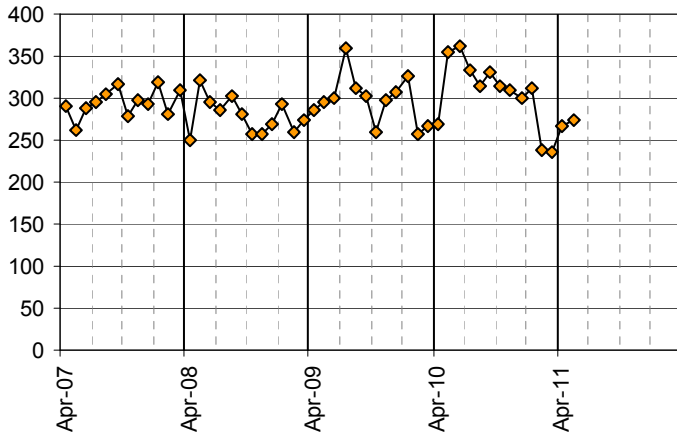
Theft of a Pedal Cycle, April 2007 to May 2011



3.24 Following the usual seasonal drop in the number of cycle thefts (especially low in December which coincided with particularly poor weather for cycling), numbers have risen steeply and there were 125 recorded thefts in May.

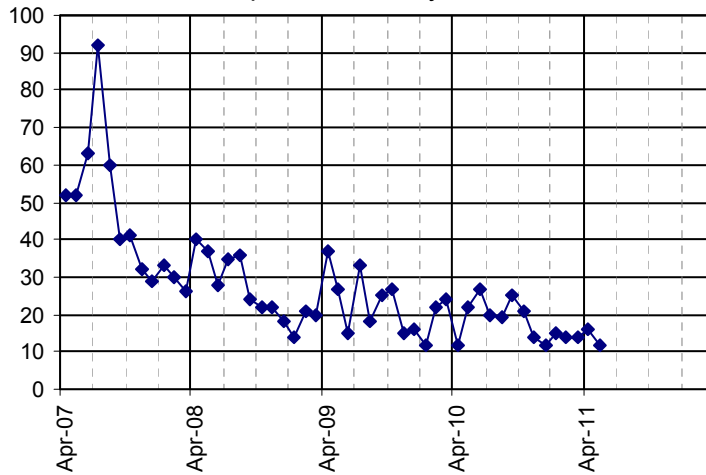
3.25 Police crime data presented in this report only reflect those crimes which are reported and recorded. There is likely to be a level of underreporting in many crime types. However, domestic violence and the hate crimes on this page are particularly liable to underreporting.

Domestic Violence Crimes and Incidents,
April 2007 -May 2011



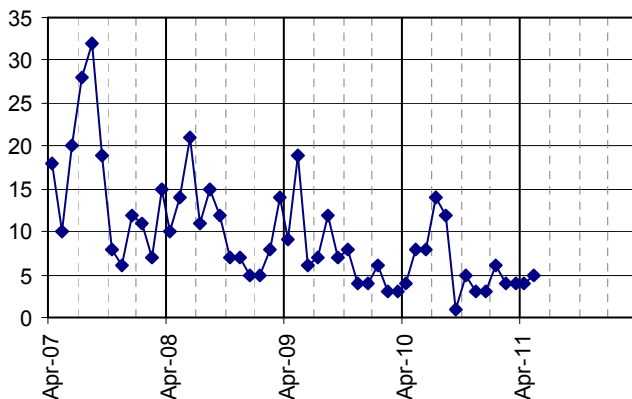
3.26 The number of domestic violence crimes and crime-related incidents in the last four months has been much lower than during most of 2010, and lower than in the same months the previous year.

Racist and Religiously Motivated Crimes and Incidents (police crime database),
April 2007 to May 2011



3.27 The declining trend in racist and religiously motivated incidents and crimes appears to be continuing with between 10 and 16 recorded per month over the last seven months.

LGBT Hate Crimes and crime-related Incidents (police crime database), Apr 2007 to May 2011



3.28 The number of police-recorded LGBT hate crimes and crime-related incidents has been fairly stable over the last 8 months at between 3 and 6 per month.

Performance data for key crime types, 2010/11

Police recorded crimes	number of crimes Apr 09-Mar 10	number of crimes Apr 10-Mar 11	reduction target (from 2009/10 baseline)	performance against target to date		rank within 15 benchmarked CSPs ²
Total Crimes	24384	24052	-3%		not on target	7
Criminal Damage	4064	3629	-5%	on target		12
Injury Violence ³	2019	1880	-3%	on target		5 ⁴
Sexual Offences	321	346	-	-		8
Domestic Burglary	1223	1008	-	-		2
Theft from/of a Motor Vehicle	2255	2022	-	-		2
Pedal Cycle Theft	885	1003	-	-		6
Domestic Violence Crimes and Incidents	3569	3672	-	-		n/a ⁵
Racist/Rel. Crimes and Incidents	271	215	-	-		n/a

² A rank of 1 is the best; 15 is the worst

³ As defined by Sussex Police

⁴ iQuanta category 'wounding (serious and other)'

⁵ 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.

COMMUNITY SAFETY FORUM

Agenda Item 8

Brighton & Hove City Council

LGBT Hate Crimes and Incidents	88	72	-	-	n/a

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

