

Report to Community Safety Forum – 12th March 2012

Subject: Crime trends and performance in Brighton & Hove, Position up to January 2012

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 describes recent activities and progress relating to priority areas in the [Brighton & Hove Community Safety, Crime Reduction and Drugs Strategy 2011-14](#). It refers to some recent activities and also provides statistical updates relating to the first ten months of 2011/12, ie. April 2011 to January 2012 (or the most recent available).
- 1.2 Graphs showing monthly crime data going back to April 2007 are also provided. These enable recent data to be considered in the context of both longer term trends and also seasonal crime cycles (where applicable).

2. RECOMMENDATIONS:

- (1) The Community Safety Forum notes the information provided in this report and is invited to:
 - i) Feedback on any developments from their community or organisation's experience which may help the understanding and interpretation of the data and trends contained in this report.
 - ii) Consider the potential for supporting crime reduction and community safety priorities within their own organisation or local community.

3. INFORMATION:

Total Police-recorded Crime

- 3.1 Between April 2011 and January 2012 there were a total of 19,925 police recorded crimes, 0.6% fewer than in the same months of 2010/11 but falling short of the 3% reduction target.

Neighbourhoods and Quality of Life

- 3.2 In the first ten months of 2011/12, although seasonal increases are evident, there has been a good reduction in police recorded criminal damage (down 5.2%) compared with the same months in 2010. Numbers of offences in December

reached their lowest monthly number 35 for a number of years. However, fire service recorded total non-accidental fires continue to show an increase (up by 6%) compared with the first nine months of 2010/11. However, beneath this overall figure, the trends for serious and less serious non-accidental fires are different; more serious fires are showing a 22% decrease, while less serious fires show an 18% increase.

- 3.3 Work in ongoing to ensure public safety concerns are considered at the planning stages of developments and redevelopments. Recent examples include key spaces in the city such as Providence Place Gardens / Ann Street / London Road Master Plan / Station Gateway/ the Level and Victoria Gardens. Observations from a trial 'Soundscape' project in one of the streets often associated with public disorder have demonstrated a reduction in anti-social behaviour and reduced need for police resources in the area. Consequently European funding is being sought to extend this approach to other locations.
- 3.4 Numbers of police recorded cycle thefts in the first 10 months of 2011/12 are roughly the same in the same months of 2010/11. This year we experienced relatively low numbers during the summer months of July and August in 2011, but numbers of cycle thefts have been higher in the winter months this year than last, cancelling out the earlier improvement.

Drugs Misuse

- 3.5 "Communities and Families Tackling Addiction" was one of three successful city council bids to the European Interreg Programme, announced in November 2011. This will bring in more than £200K investment over the next three years. The project, in partnership with Calais and Rotterdam, will aim to change the way that families and communities respond to individuals who misuse alcohol and/or drugs, encouraging the recovery not only of the substance misuser, but also of the people around them. It will include community restorative justice and family training and support.
- 3.6 One of the aims of the Health Protection Steering Group's Action Plan to reduce drug related deaths is to increase the availability, and training in the use of, naloxone hydrochloride, which reverses the effect of an opiate overdose. In Brighton & Hove naloxone is now available for administration to a range of vulnerable service users including:
- 100 prisoners leaving HMP Lewes per year are recruited and trained in how to administer naloxone hydrochloride in the event of an overdose.
 - Parents and carers, through the CRI PATCHED service, have been trained to administer naloxone to their significant others (to whom the drug has been prescribed), as evidence indicates that most people who overdose are either with, or discovered by, someone they know.
 - Homeless people living in hostels are now being issued with naloxone. All hostel staff will be trained to recognise the signs of overdose and how to administer naloxone.

Work is in progress to extend the availability of naloxone further.

- 3.7 Brighton & Hove has been selected by the UK Recovery Foundation as the venue for the fourth annual national Recovery Walk (previously in Glasgow, Liverpool and Cardiff) and a planning group is currently negotiating a date and route for a Saturday in August or September for a walk through the city centre, intended to highlight the Recovery Agenda and principles to a wider public. In July, the sixteenth annual local drug and alcohol conference at Hove Town Hall is being planned, also with a focus on the Recovery Agenda, reflecting the Drug Strategy focus on building recovery in communities after leaving treatment.
- 3.8 Many repeat offenders are people who misuse drugs, and a high percentage of the crimes they commit are acquisitive crimes. In the first ten months of 2011/12 all acquisitive crimes (incl. theft/handling, burglary and robbery) increased by 6.6% compared with the same period in 2010/11. For serious acquisitive crimes (burglary, vehicle crime and robbery) there was a decrease of 10.6%, but on the other hand there continue to be substantial increases in 'lower level' thefts, especially in theft from person (up 54%). Shoplifting is also continuing to show a rise (up 9%).

Alcohol Misuse and Alcohol-related Disorder

- 3.9 Alcohol-related hospital admissions have been on an upwards trend since the beginning of 2010. There is also an ongoing rise in the number of alcohol-related attendances at A&E. A work programme is being drawn up by commissioners to undertake focused work to reduce unnecessary A&E attendance and admission rates.
- 3.10 The number of police recorded injury assaults has reduced by 19% in the first ten months of 2011/12 compared with the same months in 2010/11. This represents very good performance against a 3% reduction target.
- 3.11 The city's alcohol misuse action plan is aimed at making improvements in the above measures. It includes a wide range of work related to the four themes of: drinking 'culture'; availability of alcohol; the night time economy; and alcohol treatment. The Big Alcohol Debate took place in the city between October 2011 and the beginning of January 2012 to engage the public on the issue of alcohol. Key themes emerging as issues are: alcohol being too available in the city, price, 'pre-loading' before going out, cheap deals in bars, perception that rules around drinking are not enforced, education needed, avoidance of city centre due to culture of drinking and lack of places to social responsibility. Some of these issues are addressed in work already taking place, eg. the expansion of the cumulative impact zone and Licensing Assessment Matrix to ensure a consistent approach to licensing decisions according to the locality. A full report on the findings of the Big Alcohol Debate will be produced at the end of March.

Anti-Social Behaviour

- 3.12 Between Oct and Dec 21% of the 303 people surveyed believed one or more of 7 types of ASB to be a problem¹. The highest levels of perceived ASB across city as a

¹ There has been a change to the way in which the percentage of people who believe that ASB is a fairly big or very big problem is being measured. From October onwards there has been a change in the way in which the overall measure of public perception of anti-social behaviour is being compiled through the Sussex Police Local Neighbourhood Telephone Survey. A question

whole related to speeding vehicles (about 12% of respondents believing this to be a problem). Drunk or disorderly behaviour was seen as the next most problematic issue in the police central district, while for people in the East district litter or dog fouling was the second most problematic issue.

- 3.13 The ASB and Hate Crime Casework Team are working with colleagues to ensure there is a consistent approach to undertaking vulnerability assessments so that services are able to respond to vulnerable or high risk victims and witnesses and ensure they are protected from further harm.

Domestic Violence

- 3.14 In the first nine months of 2011/12 45% of domestic violence crimes were solved. This is below the result of 49% during 2010/11. 78.5% of DV court cases in the first nine months of 2011/12 resulted in a conviction, compared with the final position of 67% in 2010/11.
- 3.15 Over the Christmas and New Year period the police across Sussex dedicated 'Operation Cranberry' patrols to respond to reports of domestic violence, with officers equipped with body-worn video cameras to help secure evidence. Particular peaks in incidents were seen on Boxing Day and New Year's Day.
- 3.16 The use of community resolution as a means of 'disposing' of a crime by the police was introduced towards the end of 2010/11. To ensure that community resolution is not made inappropriately in cases of domestic violence between partners or ex-partners, all instances where its use is proposed need to be agreed by Anti-Victimisation Unit detective inspector. It is important that community resolution is an effective tool in reducing reoffending and Sussex Police are undertaking a review of its use (as a response to all crimes, not just for domestic violence) in order to confirm its effectiveness.

Sexual Offences

- 3.17 The number of police recorded serious sexual offences in the first ten months of 2011/12 was 237, roughly equal to the number in the same months in 2010/11. Although a reduction in sexual offences is our aim, we are at the same time looking to increase reporting of sexual crimes and incidents when they happen.
- 3.18 As well as increasing reporting, we also aim to increase the chances of the perpetrator being convicted. In the first nine months of 2011/12, 20% of serious sexual offences were detected by the police and 75.5% of finalised court cases which took place during that period for (all) sexual offences resulted in a conviction. This is a slight improvement since the last report and increase on the position in 2010/11. The Independent Sexual Violence Advisor service provided by Survivors Network continues to support victims who report to the police and whose cases proceed through court. Counselling and support continues to be provided by the service to rape and sexual violence victims who do not report to the police but who are seeking access to ongoing support to aid their recovery from the abuse.

about speeding vehicles has now been added to those around drug dealing/use; drunk/rowdy behaviour; vandalism/graffiti; litter/dog fouling; noisy neighbours; and teenagers hanging around.

- 3.19 A meeting of the Sexual Violence Reference Group in December was attended by representatives from Sussex University and Students Against Sexual Harassment. They explained that students experiencing sexual violence and abuse do not know where to get help and report. They were aware that in the autumn term 2011 there were 7 known incidents, at least 5 of which were experienced on campus. Based on national data, this is likely to be a small indication of a much larger problem. A subgroup of the Sexual Violence Reference Group has been set up to take forward proposals for developing partnership working to address sexual violence experienced by students.

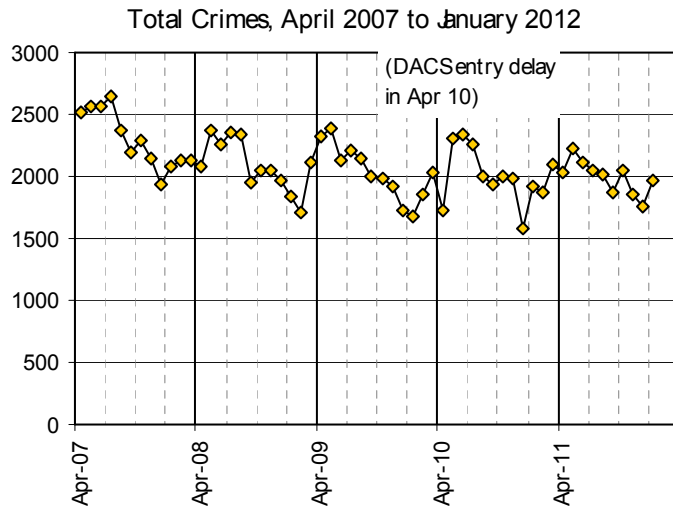
Hate Incidents and Crimes

- 3.20 The number of police-recorded **racist and religiously motivated incidents and crimes** have continued to decline in the first nine months of 2011/12 compared to the same months in 2010/11. The percentage of prosecutions resulting in a conviction continues its year on year rise and was 88% in the first nine months of 2011/12. The Racial Harassment Forum continues to actively monitor data on racist and religiously motivated incidents and concerns around under-recording of hate incidents by the police on their IT and monitoring systems and it is hoped that work undertaken by Sussex Police will result in improvements. There will be a local review of the implementation of the recommendations of the Macpherson Report in Brighton & Hove in light of the Stephen Lawrence verdict in early January 2012.
- 3.21 In the first nine months of 2011/12 there have been 52 **LGBT hate incidents and crimes** recorded by the police, 19% fewer than in the same months in 2010/11. In this same period 21 crimes have been detected and 17 resulted in a charge being made. So far there have been 18 prosecutions finalised at court and 16 of these resulted in a conviction (88%). The police LGBT Liaison Officer has been looking at how training within the police might improve the recording of hate incidents, in particular trans hate incidents. There have been various opportunities taken to engage with marginalised and vulnerable LGBT groups during work in the context of the Hate Crime Vigil, World Aids Day and LGBT History week. For example, Queer Writing South and Allsorts Youth Project developed an exhibition for Holocaust memorial week highlighting younger LGBT people's experience of discrimination & hate crime. The PCST and other partners also put on an innovative event as part of LGBT History Month and Interfaith Week: 'Swords into Ploughshares: Building Bridges between the LGBT and Faith Communities'. The debate centred on faith and sexual orientation in the public arena and has established clear lines of dialogue to be developed further.
- 3.22 There have been 23 **disability hate incidents** reported to the Partnership Community Safety Team Casework Team in the first nine months of 2011/12. However, the police have recorded just one disability hate crime and one crime-related incident on the crime database during the first three months of 2011/12, with none being recorded in the most recent 6 months. Once at court 5 out of the 7 cases which have been concluded in the first nine months of 2011/12 (71%) have resulted in a conviction. Although the number of reports has risen somewhat in the most recent three months, numbers of incidents reported still remain lower than we would wish. There are therefore plans to review the publicity material and its impact with the aim of addressing this problem. There has been some success in securing buy-

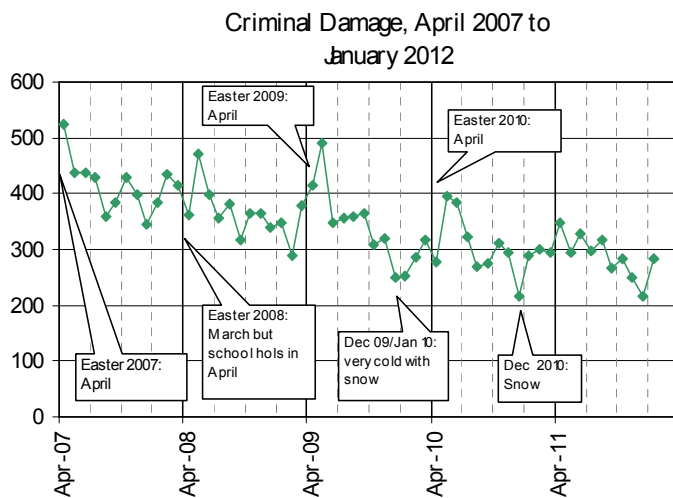
in from a number of partner agencies in support of the work programme in the Disability Hate Incident Action Plan.

- 3.23 Over the past six months Sussex Police has been reviewing its recording and investigation processes in relation to hate crime with the intention of increasing confidence and victim satisfaction and ensuring appropriate sanctions for perpetrators. The review has resulted in a new Hate Crime Policy for the force with clear responsibilities for call handlers, initial responders, secondary investigators and neighbourhood policing teams. The work will be overseen by Hate Crime Co-ordinators, new posts created by the policy. Officers are being trained on the new policy during January and February. At the centre of this is a risk assessment which informs activity to protect victims in addition to work to deal with offenders. This work will have a positive impact across all areas of hate crime and colleagues in the Safe in the City Partnership will be involved in monitoring its implementation.

Crime trends up to January 2012



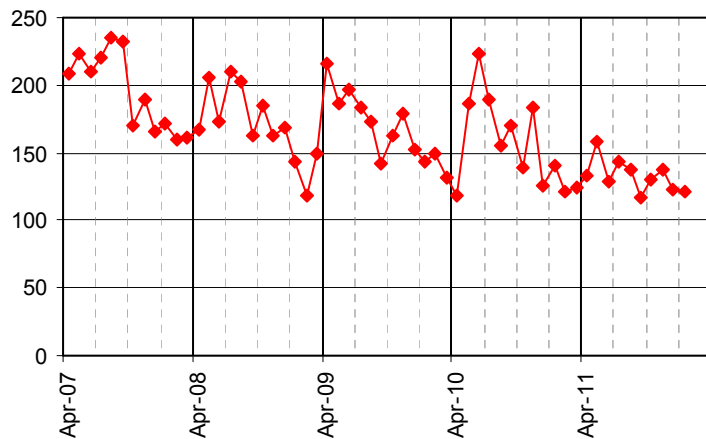
3.24 The number of total crimes has generally been on a declining trend since May 2011². The upturn during January has been influenced by a step up in criminal damage, theft from person offences and domestic burglaries during that month.



3.25 The downward trend in criminal damage continued until December, but the month of January has seen an increase of nearly 70 offences compared to December. Increases were seen in the different types of criminal damage (including vehicles, dwellings, other buildings and other types).

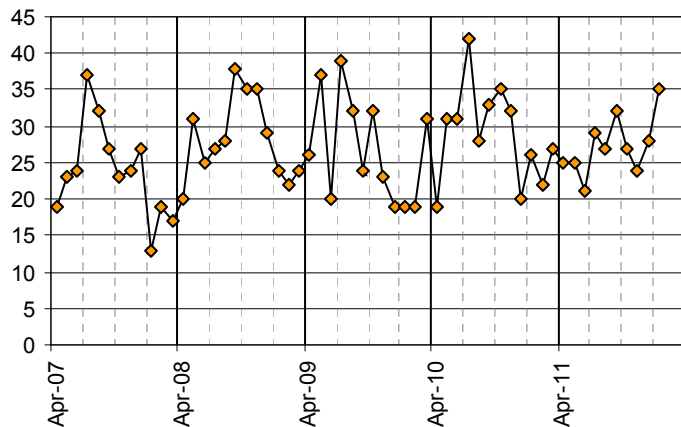
² There was a delay in entering crimes into the police data recording system in April 2010, so numbers are showing fewer in that month, and numbers in the following two months are consequently higher than they would otherwise have been. This effect is seen in a number of the crime types shown in this document.

All Injury Violence
April 2007 to January 2012



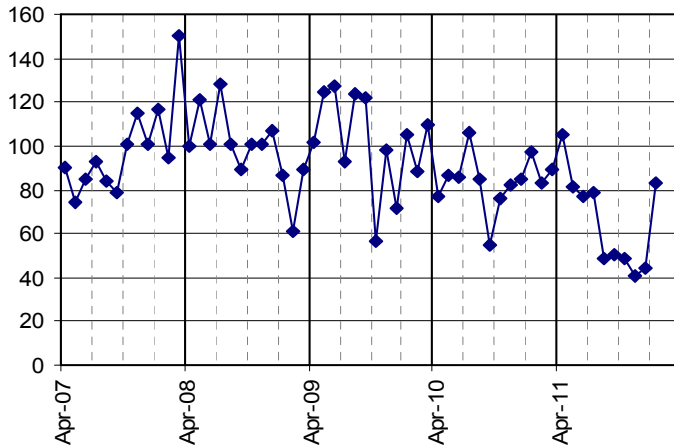
3.26 The declining trend in injury violence continues and levels over Christmas and the New Year period showed no signs of elevation.

Sexual Offences
April 2007 - January 2012



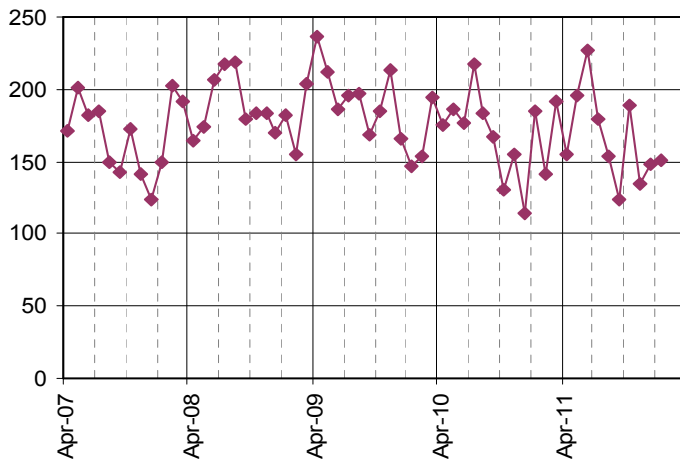
3.27 The summer 2011 did not experience the anticipated seasonal increase. Number of recorded offences in the month of January are higher than in previous years. Sexual offences are likely to be underreported.

Domestic Burglary, Apr 2007 to Jan 2012



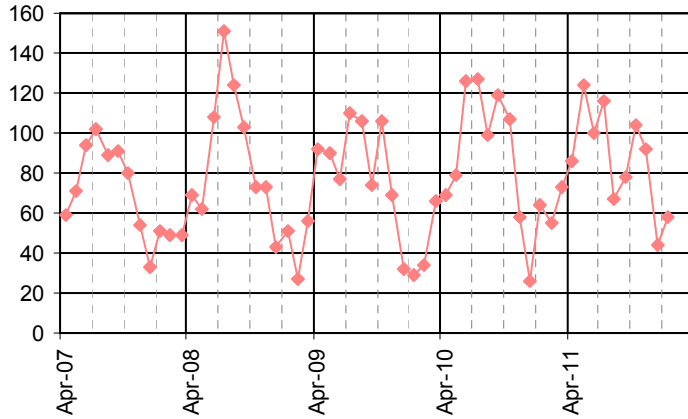
3.28 There has been a long term declining trend in domestic burglaries, with numbers between August and December being particularly low and at about half the number of those experienced on average during 2010/11. January has seen a steep rise to over 80 offences, more in line with the monthly average prior to August.

Vehicle Crime, April 2007 to January 2012



3.29 Vehicle crimes have fluctuated over the past year, but over the last 3 months numbers have been relatively low at 150 or fewer. The number of thefts from vehicles, which outnumber thefts of vehicles by about 3 to 1, are responsible for this fluctuation; the number of thefts of vehicles continues a general downward trend.

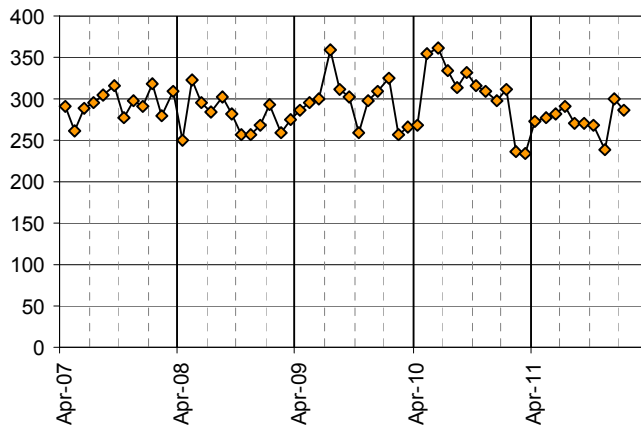
Theft of a Pedal Cycle,
April 2007 to January 2012



3.30 A fairly typical seasonal pattern has been observed over the last year and total numbers between April and January are about the same as in the same months last year.

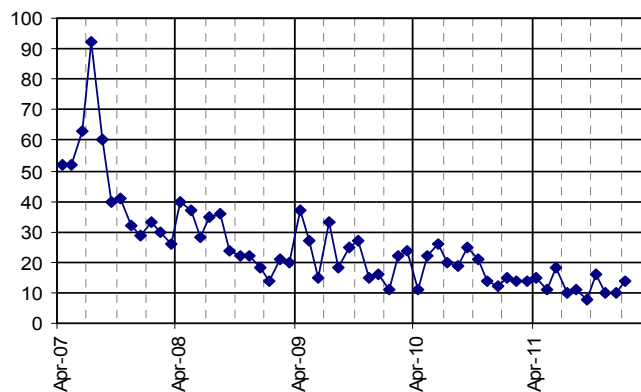
3.34 Police crime data presented in this report only reflect those crimes which are reported and recorded. There is likely to be a level of underreporting in many crime types. However, domestic violence and the hate crimes on this page may be particularly liable to underreporting.

Domestic Violence Crimes and Incidents,
April 2007 - January 2012



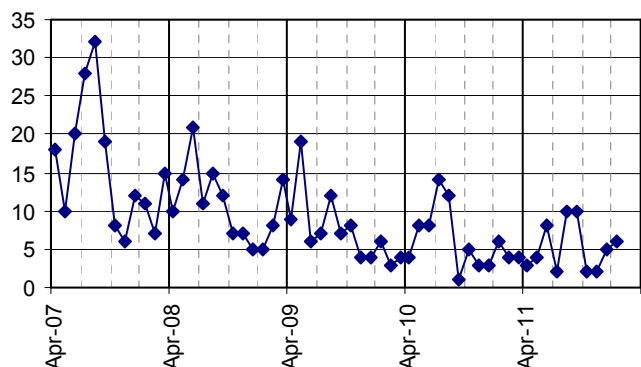
3.31 The number of domestic violence crimes and crime-related incidents recorded in the last twelve months has mainly been much lower the same months the previous year. However, recent data for January and December are only slightly lower than the same months in the previous year.

Racist and Religiously Motivated Crimes and Incidents (police crime database),
April 2007 to January 2012



3.32 The declining trend in racist and religiously motivated incidents and crimes appears to be continuing. Recorded numbers have been roughly between 10 and 20 per month since summer 2010.

LGBT Hate Crimes and crime-related Incidents
(police crime database),
Apr 2007 to January 2012



3.33 The number of police-recorded LGBT hate crimes and crime-related incidents and has remained at ten or below since summer 2010. Aug and Sept saw the highest number (ten) over this period.

Performance data for key crime types, 2011/12

Police recorded crimes	number of crimes Apr 10 – Jan 11	number of crimes Apr 11 – Jan 12	reduction target (from 2010/11 baseline)	performance against target to date		rank within 15 benchmarked CSPs ³
Total Crimes	20049	19925	-3%		not on target	7
Criminal Damage	3035	2878	-5%	on target		12
Injury Violence	1633	1330	-3%	on target		7
Sexual Offences	297	273	-	-		n/a ⁴
Domestic Burglary	836	658	-	-		1
Theft from/of a Motor Vehicle	1691	1658	-	-		4
Pedal Cycle Theft	874	869	-	-		6
Domestic Violence Crimes and Incidents	3197	2756	-	-		n/a
Racist/Religiously motivated Crimes and Incidents	185	123	-	-		n/a
LGBT Hate Crimes and Incidents	64	52	-	-		n/a
Disability Hate Crimes and Incidents	2 (to Dec)	2 (to Dec)	-	-		n/a

³ Brighton & Hove is matched for comparative purposes with 14 other Community Safety Partnerships (CSPs) according to a range of socio-demographic and geographic variables. A rank of 1 is the best; 15 is the worst; 8 is the middle position.

⁴ Because sexual offences, DV and hate crimes are subject to underreporting and local work is being undertaken to increase reporting of these crimes, it is not appropriate to judge performance in comparison with other Community Safety Partnerships based on the number of police recorded crimes.

**COMMUNITY SAFETY
FORUM**

Agenda Item 42b

Brighton & Hove City Council

--	--	--	--	--	--

