

Subject: Community Safety and Crime in Brighton & Hove

Date of Meeting: 1 July 2019

Report of: Executive Director of Neighbourhoods,
Communities and Housing

Contact Officer: Name: Jo Player **Tel:** 292488

Email: jo.player@brighton-hove.gov.uk

Ward(s) affected: All

FOR GENERAL RELEASE

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT AND POLICY CONTEXT

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

2. RECOMMENDATIONS:

2.1 The committee is invited to note and comment on the information contained in the report which provides an update on work being undertaken by the Community Safety Team in relation to the Community Safety and Crime Reduction Strategy 2017-20.

2.2 The Committee is invited to give its continued support to the partnership work described in the report and to work described which is within the council's remit, thereby contributing to the management of crime and community safety priorities for the city.

3. CONTEXT/ BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Overview of police recorded crime

3.1 In 2017/18 there were a total of 26,142 crimes recorded by the police in Brighton & Hove, a 1.4% increase compared with 2016/17. In 2018/19 this had risen to 26,940, a 3% increase on 2017/18.

3.2 Broadly speaking, total crime is broken down into violent crime (46% of total), acquisitive crime¹ (37% of total crime in 2018/19), criminal damage (11% of total) and other offences (6% of total).

¹ eg. burglary or theft

- 3.3 In 2018/19, while there was an overall increase in total crime, some crime types increased considerably and some showed a decrease. Violence against the person crimes rose by 8%, continuing the upward trend (up 7%) seen in 2017/18. The city centre, which has the highest density of violent crimes, also has the highest density of pubs and clubs and is the geographical focus of the entertainment and leisure industry. Further information on safety in the night time economy is provided below.
- 3.4 Robberies showed a marked increase in 2018/19 – up from 325 in 2017/18 to 437 in 2018/19 – an increase of 35%. The trend over the course of the last 12 months has been upwards in the city, as it has also in the group of local authorities against which we are benchmarked. Nine out of ten robberies in 2018/19 were ‘personal’ robberies, with the rest being robberies of businesses.
- 3.5 Vehicle crimes have risen significantly – up by 29% in 2018/19. This is on top of a 4% rise in 2017/18. Both theft of a vehicle (up 20%) and theft from a vehicle (up 36%) have increased in 2018/19. Brighton & Hove is not alone in seeing an increase in vehicle crime; this is also evident across Sussex and nationally. Local analysis of 2018 data showed that vehicle crime was spread across the city, with no evidence of a particular geographical focus. Motorists can minimise risk by securing their vehicles and keeping their keys safe, not leave items of value in the vehicle, and so on.
- 3.6 The number of criminal damage offences increased by 2% in 2018/19. 37% of criminal damage offences involved damage to a vehicle and 23% damage to a dwelling.
- 3.7 Besides vehicle crime, other acquisitive crime types ended 2018/19 with a decrease on the year before. Pedal cycle thefts in particular were down by 21%.
- 3.8 Domestic violence offences have continued their steady year on year increase, ending 2018/19 with 5% more recorded crimes than in 2017/18. Sexual offences have also continued their long term upward trend, but in contrast to increases of between 14% and 22% in each of the previous years, this had reduced to an 1.2% increase in 2018/19.
- 3.9 Most hate crime/incident groups in 2018/19 showed an increase compared with 2017/18, with the exception of homophobic crimes and incidents which decreased slightly.
- 3.10 Appendix 1 provides data for key crime types in 2018/19 and shows how this compares with 2017/18. Longer term trends, with seasonal patterns can be seen in the graphs in Appendix 2.
- 3.11 There was an inspection of all police forces carried out by Her Majesty’s Inspectorate of Constabulary (HMIC) in 2013/14, to audit the crime recording practices. As a consequence, there were improvements made within forces, including Sussex Police. This has had an impact on some of the types of crime reported here, particularly violence against the person, as well as contributing to the number of total crimes recorded. While there was an immediate effect seen in 2014, the local response to the HMIC audit has been an ongoing process and has contributed to the ongoing upwards trend in recorded crime.
- 3.12 Domestic violence, sexual violence and hate crime are among those crime types which are now more accurately recorded resulting in better services and outcomes for victims.

Anti-social behaviour and hate incidents/crimes

- 3.13 The long term declining trend in the number of police recorded ASB incidents continues with numbers recorded in 2018/19 showing a 17% decrease compared with 2017/18. 'ASB crimes'² were increasing in number in the three years up to 2016/17, decreased in 2017/18, but have risen again slightly in 2018/19 (up 2%).
- 3.14 The designation of the use of Community Protection Notices to local Registered Social Landlords was agreed at NICE committee in Jan 2019, and two housing providers using this power from April 2019.
- 3.15 The Partnership Tactical Tasking and Co-ordination Group continues to agree and review Community safety Priorities and ensures that resources are appropriately deployed.
- 3.16 BHCC have employed a Modern Slavery Co-ordinator who is working across all council directorates to ensure that BHCC is meeting its statutory under Section 52 of the Modern Slavery act 2015 "to notify Secretary of State about suspected victims of slavery or human trafficking", ensuring that all relevant staff are aware of their responsibilities under the act and know what to do if suspecting modern slavery or human trafficking is taking place.
- 3.16 In 2018/19 recorded homophobic incidents and crimes are showing a decrease (down 5%), while other forms of hate are showing an increase: racist up 2%; religiously motivated up 10%; transphobic up 43%; and disability motivated up 27%, although these increases are based on small numbers. 101 out of the 108 hate crime cases reaching court (94%) resulted in a conviction.
- 3.17 A series of aggravated robberies targeted around LGBT venues and St James St has raised community concerns & tensions. The Rainbow Fund has engaged three security staff to patrol St James St area, called 'Community Guardians' working from 9pm-4am each day, working out of the Rainbow Hub. A volunteer patrol group currently being trained up as community response to increased violent attacks. The situation is being monitored.
- 3.18 Transphobic harassment continues to appear in the press, online and stickers/posters around the city; it is removed as and when reported.
- 3.19 Under-reporting of hate incidents and a lack of trust and confidence in reporting mechanisms and the responses of the authorities continue to be of concern. Council funding has been awarded to the Racial Harassment Forum which has recruited a part time advocacy worker to raise awareness of hate crime reporting mechanisms and to support victim of racist and religiously motivated hate crime.

Safety in the night-time economy

- 3.20 Police recorded violence against the person as a whole rose by 6% in 2017/18 compared with 2016/17, and rose a further 8% in 2018/19 continuing the longer term upward trend. The subgroup of violence with injury decreased slightly in 2017/18 (down 1%), but in 2018/19 showed a 3% increase.
- 3.21 However, violence against the person offences (excluding those in a dwelling) in the city centre Cumulative Impact Zone and Special Stress Areas (2018 boundaries) in 2018/19 were 10% lower than in 2017/18 during peak night time

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

economy hours (Friday and Saturday nights between 10pm and 5am). The Statement of Licensing Policy is due for a refresh in 2020. Consultation will start later in the year to inform that piece of work.

- 3.22 The Tourism Development Committee agreed in March 2019 that the Pride Village party would continue to be held within the current area until at least 2020.
- 3.23 The Licensing Team are continuing test purchase operations, reviews and a stepped and targeted approach to licence premises management and enforcement. 202 staff and 90 premises have received training regarding the sale of age restricted products in 2018/19. During the year there were 27 test purchases made for under-age sales of alcohol, with sales being refused in about four out of five cases.
- 3.24 There are now 178 premises that have voluntarily signed up to our Sensible on Strength scheme not to sell beers and ciders over 6% ABV. A further 48 premises have stopped selling strong beers without joining the scheme.

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

- 3.25 Police recorded domestic violence crimes and incidents increased by 5% in 2018/19 compared with 2017/18. The conviction rate for domestic violence cases finalised at court was 70% in 2018/19.
- 3.26 The number of police recorded sexual offences in 2018/19 showed a slight increase of 1.2%, and the conviction rate for cases finalised at court was 79%. The number of recorded stalking crimes and incidents increased by nearly four-fold from 60 in 2016/17 to 238 in 2017/18 and have risen by a further 45% to 344 in 2018/19. This is likely to be a response to greater awareness of this crime type.
- 3.27 Incidents of harmful practices (including 'Honour Based' Violence and Forced Marriage) continue to be reported to the police, with 6 cases reported in 2017/18 (all HBV), but rising to 14 in 2018/19 (11 HBV and 3 FM). There have yet to be any reported FGM crimes or incidents.
- 3.28 The volume of referrals to the Multi-Agency Risk Assessment Conference (MARAC) for domestic violence continues to increase, with 552 cases referred in 2017/18 and 707 in 2018/19. The percentage which were repeat cases in 2018/19 was 25%, the same as in 2017/18.
- 3.29 The Strategic Framework for Domestic and Sexual Violence and Abuse and VAWG was presented to NICE Committee for approval in March 2019. The framework has been shared with partners for comment and the stakeholder engagement programme is informing the delivery plan for the 6 year strategy.
- 3.30 Planned work includes seeking to align development DVA/SVA work with other commissioned services where possible, and is looking at pathways to improve victim access to services.

Violence Vulnerability and Exploitation (VVE)

- 3.31 The Sussex Police and Crime Commissioner's Officer successfully bid for around £850,000 from the Home Office to improve early youth intervention to tackle serious violence and crime across the county: £575,000 will fund the Sussex early intervention programme which has been awarded, following a tendering process, to local community and voluntary sector groups. £205,000 will fund the early intervention protocol which is to improve how police and health services

identify people at risk and signpost them into the programme; and £96,000 was invested for positive activities in five identified high risk areas across Sussex. This programme will initially run for one year in 2019/20.

- 3.32 Brighton & Hove is developing its own 'spot the signs' exploitation awareness campaign to launch in quarter one of the next financial year. 'Spot the signs' is a common approach undertaken by local authorities and police forces across the country to raise awareness of modern slavery, human trafficking, child criminal exploitation, sexual exploitation and County Lines. This campaign will be complemented over coming months by a more detailed campaign by WiSE (What is Sexual Exploitation) around how violence, vulnerability and exploitation impacts on people's lives.
- 3.33 A VVE communications strategic plan is directed at raising awareness across the city and in a range of ways to a large number of different audiences through the use of community engagement, media campaigns, professional training, etc. One of the first priorities involves a County Lines week of action seeking to raise awareness in all our neighbourhoods and communities of interest.

Community collaboration and resilience

- 3.34 One of the implications of Brexit will be the need for local residents who are EU nationals to apply for Settled Status. The expectation is that this process will be relatively easy for most EU nationals but there will be certain cohorts of the population, including rough sleepers, victims of abuse, exploitation and violence, Looked After Children and other vulnerable groups who may need help to apply, and ways to provide support for immigration in this area are actively being sought.
- 3.35 A new Migrant ESOL Support Hub (MESH) is providing co-ordination in the city's ESOL sector and outreach and support to some of the most vulnerable migrants who have struggled to access services. It is now fully staffed and starting to see clients from marginalised migrant communities. This two year project, is funded by the government's Controlling Migration Fund and Brighton & Hove City Council (the Collaboration Fund)
- 3.36 The city council is continuing its participation in the government's refugee resettlement programmes. Properties are being sought to house a further seven households before the end of the project in March 2020. However, finding affordable and sustainable housing is proving difficult

Preventing terrorism and extremism

Prevent

- 3.36 The legislative Prevent framework has been strengthened through the Counter Terrorism and Border Security Act (granted Royal Assent in February 2019). This updated terrorism offences for the digital age and to reflect current patterns of radicalisation. It also enables local authorities (in addition to the police) to refer individuals at risk of being drawn into terrorism for discussion at a Channel Panel. There will also be a national independent review of Prevent as a result of the legislation.
- 3.37 A vigil held by the One Voice Partnership, took place in response to the Christchurch terrorist incident to reassure communities and offer a clear counter narrative. Both civic and political leaders participated, along with Muslim, Jewish,

Christian, LGBT and other communities. Other community engagement work also took place in response to this and other incidents in the UK (eg criminal damage to mosques in Birmingham and the incident in Stanwell), including positive messaging via social media, and encouraging reporting of hate incidents.

Building Partnerships to Challenge Extremisms

- 3.38 A body of work has been undertaken to circulate messages encouraging hate incident reporting, and promoting positive community events to support cohesion.
- 3.39 A series of Counter-Extremism projects have been launched, including the “ANYone Brighton” social media project bringing together diverse young people, and the projects funded under the Building A Stronger Britain Together funding stream.

4. ANALYSIS & CONSIDERATION OF ANY ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS

- 4.1 This report is intended to provide an update on current progress on the work carried out as part of the Community Safety and Crime Reduction Strategy, this section is not applicable. Ways of achieving the aims set out in the partnership Strategy are considered based on the annual strategic assessment of crime and community safety.

5. COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT & CONSULTATION

- 5.1 The Strategic Assessment on which the current Strategy was carried out in the autumn of 2016, and included a consultation event on the findings and proposed priorities for 2017-20. Invited participants included members of the Safe in the City Partnership Board, and community and voluntary sector partners, including representatives of Local Action Teams and communities of interest.
- 5.2.1 A draft of the Community Safety Strategy was made available for public comment via the consultation portal and in more targeted arenas.

6. CONCLUSION

- 6.1 This report is to provide an update of progress on work under the Community Safety and Crime Reduction Strategy 2017-20 and to invite any comment.

7. FINANCIAL & OTHER IMPLICATIONS:

Financial Implications:

- 7.1 There are no direct financial implications arising from this report, however, any work undertaken by the council as a result of this report will need to be met from current budget resources.

Finance Officer Consulted: Michael Bentley

Date: 03/06/19

Legal Implications:

- 7.2 All work currently being undertaken is within the council's statutory powers. Any new areas of law would either have to be closely aligned to current work or would need specific approval under the scheme of delegation.

Lawyer Consulted: Simon Court

Date: 28/05/19

Equalities Implications:

- 7.3 The Community Safety and Crime Reduction Strategy is subject to an ongoing and embedded equality impact assessment where specific actions and activities are identified and assessed for equality impact. The work around hate crime helps us to address our responsibilities under the Equalities Act.

Sustainability Implications:

- 7.4 None

Appendix 1. Crime statistics 2018/19: position at end of March 2019

Performance compared with last year

	number of crimes Apr 17 – Mar 18	number of crimes Apr 18 – Mar 19	rank within 15 bench- marked CSPs ³
Police recorded crimes			1=best; 15=worst
Total Crimes	26142	26940	9
Criminal Damage (incl. arson)	2682	2739	6
Injury Violence	2868	2950	8
Violence Against the Person	10198	10998	8
Sexual Offences	924	964	11 ⁴
Robbery	321	437	10
Burglary	1410	1349	4
Vehicle Crime	1414	1820	6
Pedal Cycle Theft	1097	864	13
Theft and handling (incl. motor vehicle theft)	8696	8608	10 ⁵
Police recorded incidents and crimes			
Domestic Violence Incidents and Crimes	4976	5253	n/a ⁶
Racist Incidents and Crimes	516	534	n/a
Religiously-motivated Incidents and Crimes	74	81	n/a
Homophobic Incidents and Crimes	214	204	n/a
Gender Identity Hate Incidents and Crimes	35	53	n/a
Disability Hate Incidents and Crimes	62	81	n/a
Anti-Social Behaviour Incidents	9489	7901	n/a

³ Latest available three month period (usually one month lag). Ranking based on crime 'rate' per head of population, or per no. of households in the case of domestic burglary.

⁴ Because there remains an emphasis on encouraging reporting of sexual offences, it does not necessarily follow that a low rank is 'good' and a high rank is 'bad'.

⁵ ONS theft offences group

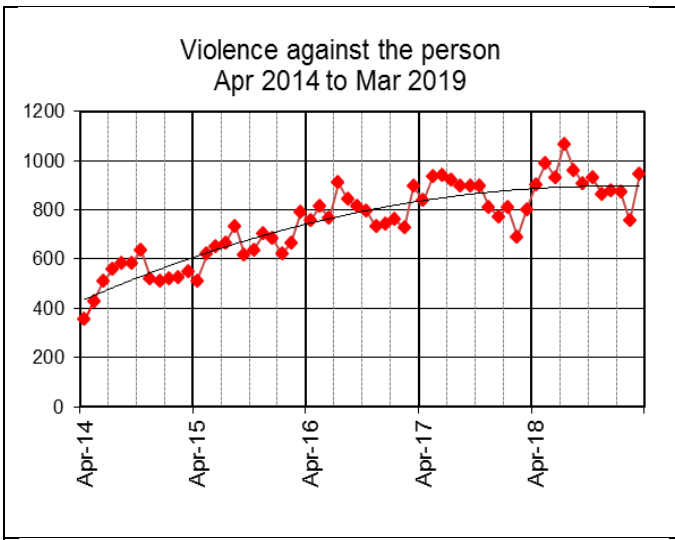
⁶ Comparative/benchmarking data are not available.

Appendix 2:

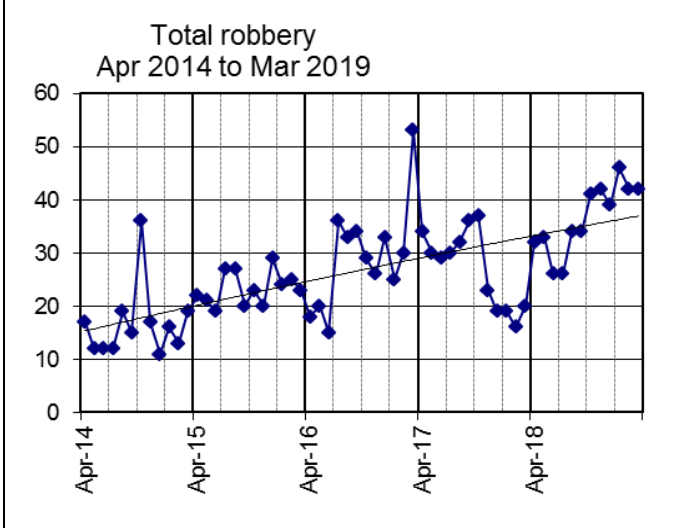
Crime trends up to March 2019 (monthly data)⁷

<p>Total crime Apr 2014 to Mar 2019</p>	<p>8.1 The number of crimes recorded by the police continues to demonstrate a seasonal pattern with higher numbers the summer than the winter months. Since 2014/15 there has been an overall upward trend in recorded crimes, with changes to police recording practices contributing to this, but the rate of increase has slowed over the last 2 years.</p>
<p>Criminal damage Apr 2014 to Mar 2019</p>	<p>8.2 There has been no clear trend in recorded criminal damage over the last five years and a seasonal pattern is not observable. Although a downwards trend was suggested during 2017/18, this did not persist, with a slight upturn evident in 2018/19.</p>

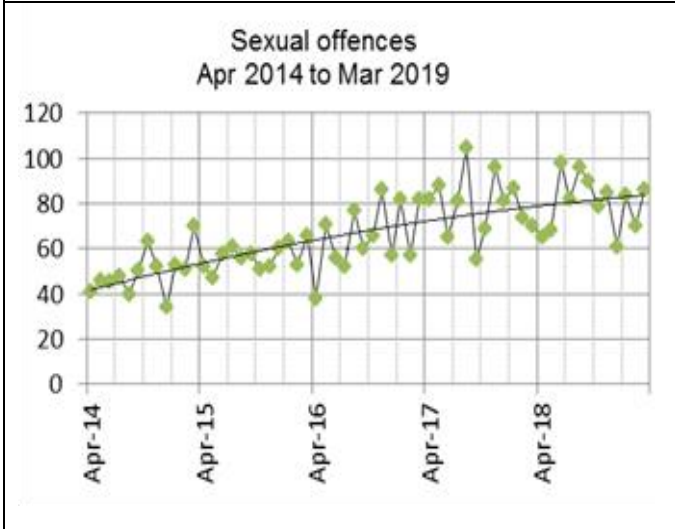
⁷ Trend lines are based on the best fitting 2nd order polynomial curve



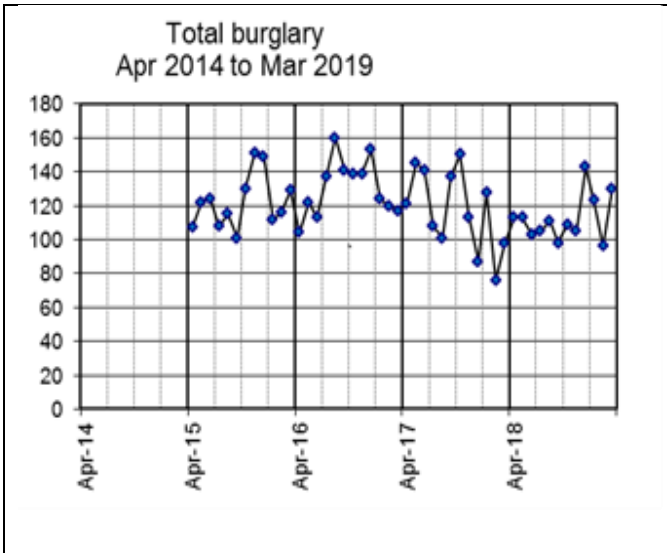
8.3 Police recorded violence against the person data show a steeply rising trend from 2014/15 onwards, overlaid with a seasonal pattern (higher levels in the summer). The increase in 2014/15 was linked to changes in police data recording practice and was observed both nationally and locally. However, latest data continues to show an upward trend.



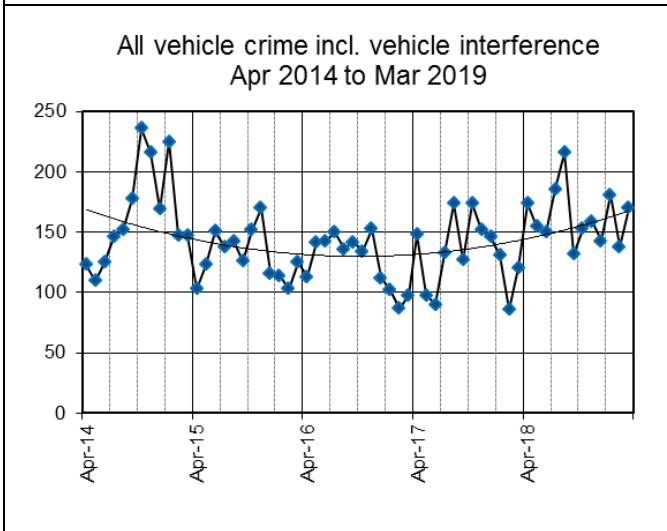
8.4 The number of robberies dropped in the second half of 2017/18 compared with the first half, but have risen consistently over the course of 2018/19. Most robberies are personal robberies (392 in 2018/19) and a minority are business robberies (45 in 2018/19).



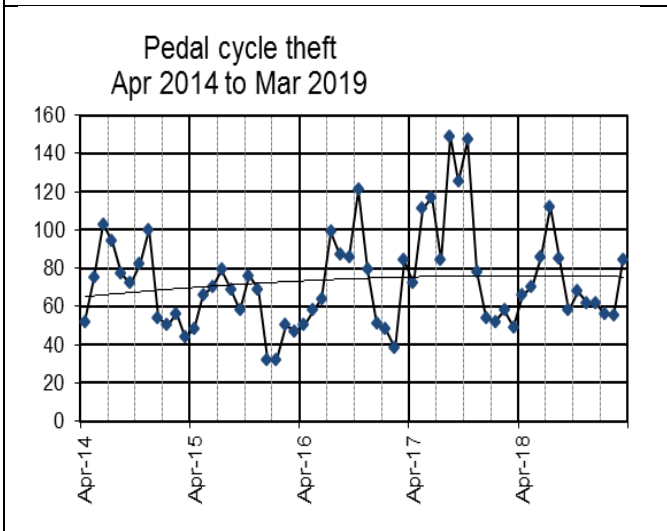
8.5 Police recorded sexual offences are on an upward trend, although numbers have fluctuated somewhat over the last 18 months. More reporting is generally regarded as a positive outcome in that victims are feeling more confident in reporting. Changes in police recording at the beginning of 2014/15 (as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



8.6 Following an upwards trend in 2015/16 and 2016/17, the trend in burglaries in 2017/18 and the first half of 2018/19 was downward. Numbers in the last six months have fluctuated.

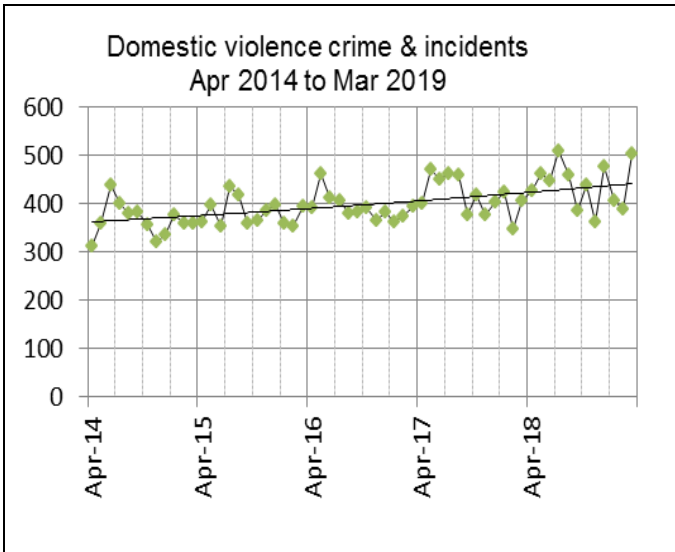


8.7 The number of vehicle crimes were on a long term decline until 2016/17. Numbers in Jul and Aug 2018 have been particularly high and of the same order as the previous peak seen in 2014/15, but have dropped back in recent months.

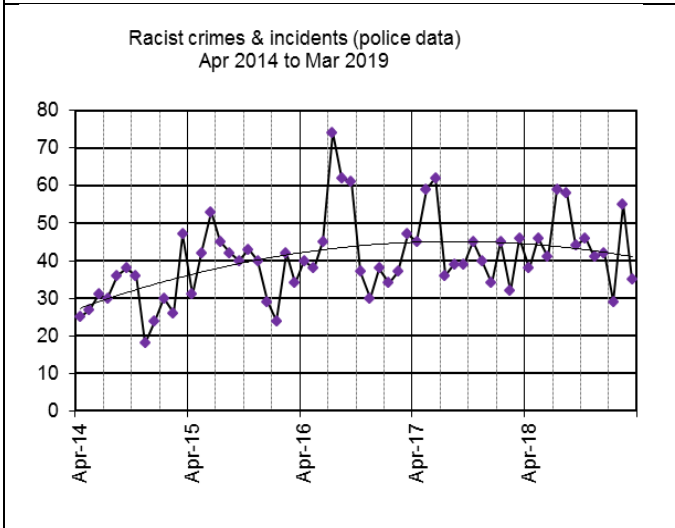


8.8 A seasonal pattern in cycle thefts is normally observed every year and is linked to those months when more people tend to cycle. Cycle thefts rose less in the summer of 2015 than in previous years but enhanced summer peaks have again been observed in over the last three years. Numbers between Aug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

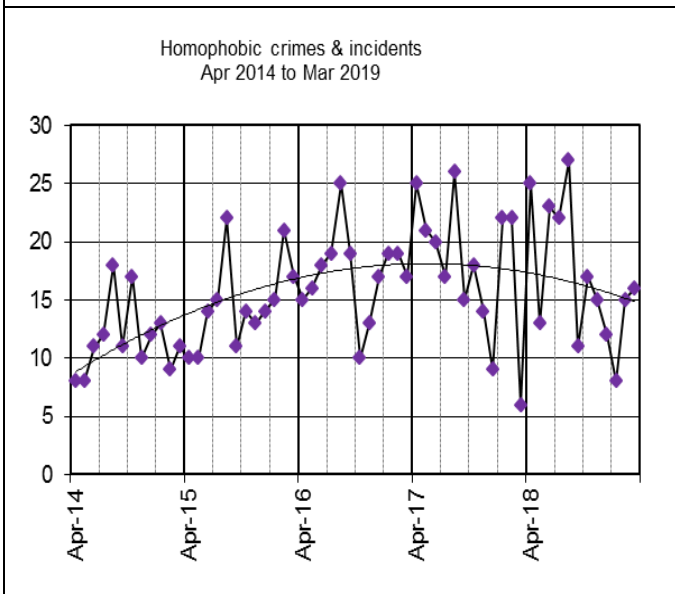
CAVEAT. Police crime data presented in this report only reflects those crimes which are reported and recorded. There is likely to be a level of underreporting in many crime types. However, domestic violence and the hate crimes on this page may be particularly liable to underreporting.



8.9 The gradual upward trend has continued over the last 12 months. Improved recording practices and positive work to encourage the reporting of domestic violence crimes and incidents will impact on the number of crimes being recorded, as described earlier.



8.10 There was an upwards trend in racist crimes and incidents in parallel with the recording of other crimes since 2014/15. A notable spike in the summer of 2016 coinciding with the month following the EU referendum vote to leave the European Union is evident. Since then numbers have fluctuated between about 30 and 50 per month.



8.11 There was a long term rising trend in the number of homophobic crimes recorded by the police up to the summer of 2017. Numbers have fluctuated considerably over the last 18 months, ranging between 5 and 26 per month.

