

**Report to Community Safety Forum – 6<sup>th</sup> October 2014****Subject: Crime trends and performance in  
Brighton & Hove: Position up to August 2014****Contact Officer:** Name: *Ruth Condon* Tel: **29-1103**E-mail: [ruth.condon@brighton-hove.gov.uk](mailto: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 and Crime Reduction Strategy. It also provides statistical updates for key crime groups for 2014/15 to date, ie. the five months from April to August 2014.
- 1.2 Graphs showing monthly crime data from April 2010 to August 2014 are also provided. These set recent data 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 Following an 8% decline in total crimes in 2013/14, the first five months have seen a further small decrease (down 1.1%) in police recorded total crimes compared with the same months in 2013/14.
- 3.2 There have been changes to police recording of violent crimes introduced in 2014/15 so that they are being recorded more extensively. This has had an effect on some of the types of crime reported here, including injury violence, domestic violence and hate crimes, as well contributing to the number of total crimes recorded. An explanatory note from Sussex Police is provided at the end of this report.

### **Neighbourhoods and quality of life**

- 3.3 There has been a long term decline in the number of criminal damage offences recorded by the police and numbers have continued to drop in the first five months of 2014/15, falling by a further 7%.
- 3.4 Following a 7% increase in non-accidental fires recorded by the fire service in 2013/14, the first five months of 2014/15 are showing a 17% decline compared with the same months in 2013/14.
- 3.5 Work has been undertaken at various locations across the city making improvements to neighbourhoods. The Community Safety Projects Team has worked extensively in the retail and residential areas around George Street & Haddington Street in conjunction with local businesses and the residential and faith communities in the area. Physical improvements, funding for resources and equipment and modernising projects have been features of the work in the area. Funding via the EU CAFTA (Communities and Families Tackling Addiction) project means that much of this work is being undertaken at little or no cost to local capital budgets. Shared learning with European partners has helped to involve many local stakeholders in progressing these improvements. Work to improve the physical areas around the recycling centre has already commenced and plans to convert this space into a seating area for local traders are being discussed. A large art mural project is at the design stage. Influenced by the London Road Portas Pilot, as well as by projects undertaken by international partners, this is designed to significantly improve a space long-associated with substance misuse and a lack of feeling safe reported by the community. Another part of this work involves partnership work between the council, the police, Equinox outreach service and the religious organisations in the area at tackling drinking in churchyards. New signage, again funded through the CAFTA project, was made available to assist the police and church staff to police the area authoritatively.

### **Drugs Misuse**

- 3.6 Interim local data on the number of drug-related deaths for 2014 shows that there were 16 deaths between January and July, comparing favourably with the number recorded during 2013.
- 3.7 Test purchasing undertaken across all of the city's 'headshops' did not find any controlled drugs from the 13 substances tested.
- 3.8 A multi-agency drug litter steering group is working on improving the monitoring of, and response to, litter associated with illicit drug use. Examples of initiatives include work with pharmacies on better needle packaging and with cleaners on safety awareness training. The Needle Exchange service at St George's Place has achieved on several occasions its target of receiving back, as used needles, at least 85% of the number of clean needles handed out.

### **Alcohol Misuse and Alcohol-related Disorder**

- 3.9 There has been a downward trend in alcohol-related hospital admissions since October 2011. Numbers recorded in 2013/14 were 8% lower than in 2012/13 and show a further decline of 8% in the first three months of 2014/15 compared with the same months in 2013/14.
- 3.10 Crimes of injury violence in 2013/14 were 8% fewer than in 2012/13. At the beginning of 2014/15 changes to police recording of violent crimes were introduced so that they are now being recorded more extensively (see note at the end of this report for more details). This has had an effect on some of the types of statistics in

this report including injury violence, domestic violence and hate incidents, as well as on total crime. As a consequence, the first five months of 2014/15 has seen a 52% increase in police recorded injury violence crimes compared with the same months of 2013/14.

- 3.11 The Community Safety Projects Teams is piloting a litter pick project aimed at reducing the impact of street drinking on the Pavilion Gardens. This involves outreach workers, council officers, PCSOs and members of the street community (involving those both prior to and already in treatment for substance misuse), providing a visible community service.
- 3.12 The report of the scrutiny panel on alcohol (2014) made a recommendation that events organised by the city council should not be automatically alcohol based and that there should be more consideration given to providing a wider range of non/ low-alcohol drinks to encourage people to explore alternatives to alcohol. This has been taken up by the head of sport and leisure and it has been agreed that this year's sport and physical activity awards will, for the first time, be alcohol-free. Representatives from the alcohol programme board will lead on this work and will identify other events which could follow suit in order to effect a positive culture change.
- 3.13 The University of Brighton have signed up to a new NUS behaviour change initiative aiming to promote a responsible drinking culture on campuses across the UK. They are one of only seven universities to be accepted and if good progress is made, this may lead to an accreditation mark to signal their commitment to responsible drinking.

#### **Anti-Social Behaviour and Hate Incidents**

- 3.14 In 2013/14 there were 11% fewer incidents of anti-social behaviour recorded by the police than in 2012/13 and the number has continued to drop in the first five months of 2014/15.
- 3.15 The dedicated duty line for reporting anti-social behaviour and hate incidents/crimes has been running since May 2012 (01273 292735 or [communitysafety.casework@brighton-hove.gov.uk](mailto:communitysafety.casework@brighton-hove.gov.uk)). In 2013/14 there were 635 calls in total to the duty line. In the first three months of 2014/15 there were 147 contacts: 86 relating to ASB; 19 to race, 4 to disability, 5 to sexual orientation, 0 to religion, 1 to gender identity and 32 others. Over this same period there were 35 new cases for the Casework Team.
- 3.16 Managers responsible for reducing ASB have developed local guidance for the New ASB Act. This is being disseminated and briefed to officers. Briefing is also now available to communities, LATs and interested third parties.
- 3.17 As mentioned earlier and evidenced by the graphs and data table at the back of this report, because a significant proportion of hate incidents and crimes come under the police recording category of violence, the changes to police recording is having the effect of raising the numbers recorded. In the first five months of 2014/15 there were 139 racist, 29 religiously motivated, 59 homophobic, 9 transphobic, and 14 disability-motivated incidents or crimes recorded by the police.
- 3.18 A successful engagement model to manage the March for England event has been built and implemented over the last two years to minimise the impact of the march in the city. This included briefing meetings, information sharing (web and soft copies), messaging, updates on the day of the march and debrief. For the first time three community members attended the police Silver Command Control Room as real time

observers and provided positive feedback on the police operation. This model has been positively evaluated by the communities and partners.

- 3.19 In August the Joint Terrorism Analysis Centre raised the national threat level in the UK to 'severe' (meaning that an attack is likely and ranking 4 on a scale of 5), the level having been 'substantial' (3) since July 2011. The change is mainly due to developments in Syria and Iraq and possible risks posed by UK nationals and European returnees from conflict zones. We are working closely with police Prevent colleagues and the community to reduce risks to individuals and to the city.
- 3.20 Increased concerns around hate incidents (both anti-Muslim and anti-Semitic) and a recurrence of anti-Islamic graffiti have been seen, thought to be a reflection of international conflicts in Syria and now between Israel/Palestine.
- 3.21 The second Trans Pride took place without concern, with the LGBT Officer and ASB Team present and engaging with the large Trans turnout. Increased awareness within the Trans community is leading to higher reporting of transphobic incidents and crimes. The Community Trigger in the new ASB Act is extended to cover Hate Incidents, and this will allow communities to address persistent perpetrator behaviour.
- 3.22 Following the recommendations from the scrutiny on bullying in schools, the anti-bullying and Equality Steering Group has developed an information leaflet for parent and carers that is being launched in the new academic year.

#### **Children, Young People and Families**

- 3.23 There were 84 young people aged 10-17 entering the criminal justice system for the first time in 2013/14. There have been 12 first time entrants in first three months of 2014/15, which represents a good start to the year. Improved links between the police and the youth offending service will enable targeted and diversionary interventions at an earlier stage to prevent the escalation of offending and entering the criminal justice service. Young people who become entrenched offenders tend to start offending at a young age and present with multiple, long standing risk factors. Earlier identification and focusing resources on these young people may improve outcomes for them in the longer term.
- 3.24 The Public Health Schools Programme has begun issuing schools-based health data profiles and seeks to provide interventions via a whole school community approach to health and wellbeing. There are plans for better use to be made of social media.
- 3.25 42.2% of the young people who offended in the 12 months up to Sep 2012 went on to reoffend in the following 12 months, compared with 35.5% nationally. The number of re-offences was also higher. The 'Reaching Your Potential' YMCA project works with young offenders prior to and after their release from secure institutions to address the barriers they face when leaving institutions. The project creates bespoke plans for the individual young people ready for their release in a way that most supports them to get back on their feet. The project has new criteria so that 13-14 year olds can now also be worked with.

### **Reducing Offending**

- 3.26 The 4.5% decrease in acquisitive crimes (incl. theft/handling, burglary and robbery) achieved in 2013/14 has continued into 2014/15 with the first five months of 2014/15 down 17% compared with the same months of 2013/14. The number of domestic burglaries in the first five months of 2014/15 is 19% lower than the number recorded in the same months of 2013/14 and vehicle crimes are 26% lower.
- 3.27 There are significant ongoing changes to the way in which offender services are being managed within Brighton & Hove, as nationally, in response to the government's Transforming Rehabilitation programme. Surrey and Sussex Probation Trust closed on 31<sup>st</sup> May 2014 and from the 1<sup>st</sup> June was replaced by two organisations – the National Probation Service, and the Kent, Surrey and Sussex Community Rehabilitation Company (CRC). Both will remain in public ownership until the KSSCRC is subject to share sale later in the year. The CRC will manage the bulk of offender services including those in the Integrated Offender Management scheme.
- 3.28 An IOM Strategic Plan and an IOM Practitioners Handbook have been signed off by the Sussex Criminal Justice Board and these lay out the structure of the new working arrangements. Governance arrangements for Sussex will sit with the Sussex Criminal Justice Board (Chair: Katy Bourne, Police and Crime Commissioner) and locally with the Brighton and Hove Reducing Offending Board (Chair: Supt Steve Whitton) who will oversee partnership work, manage strategic plans and commissioning, and monitor performance.

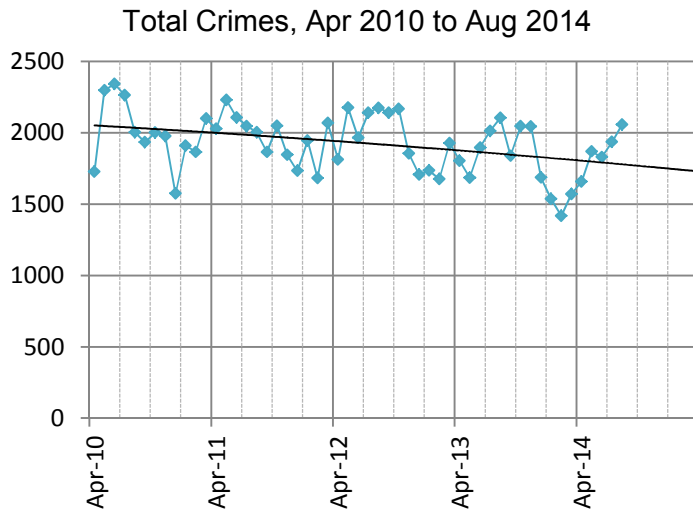
### **Violence against Women & Girls, Exploitation and Modern Slavery**

- 3.29 In 2013/14 there were 3,668 domestic violence crimes and incidents (1,075 of which were crimes and 2,593 were incidents) recorded on the police crime database. Steps to ensure police recording of violent crimes is being done more extensively (referred to earlier in this report) means that numbers recorded in 2014/15 have increased by 23% in the first five months of 2013/14 compared with the same months in 2013/14. In common with the recording of domestic and other violent offences, sexual offences have also increased in the first five months of 2014/15 – up by 25%.
- 3.30 The numbers of finalised prosecutions for domestic violence, as well as those resulting in a conviction, increased in 2013/14 compared with 2012/13 and the success rate of 73% is slightly below the national average. In the first three months of 2014/15 a 72% successful prosecution rate was achieved.
- 3.31 East Sussex and Brighton & Hove have agreed in principle to develop joint commissioning for Violence against Women & Girls specialist services. This would mean that Independent Domestic Violence and Sexual Violence Adviser functions will operate across the two local authority areas. A specification for these services is being developed and it is expected that the newly commissioned services will be in place from October 2015.
- 3.32 Female Genital Mutilation (FGM), as well as other harmful traditional practices, is high on the national agenda. A Brighton & Sussex University Hospitals NHS Trust-led FGM group is leading on updating clinical guidance, which has enabled the identification of a number of immediate issues. This complements the Local Safeguarding Children Board and Violence against Women & Girls Programme Board resource pack developed earlier this year.
- 3.33 There are good partnership systems in place to identify children and young people at risk of child sexual exploitation, share information, and carry out risk assessment. The risks are managed by the Vulnerable Children Liaison Group and social work

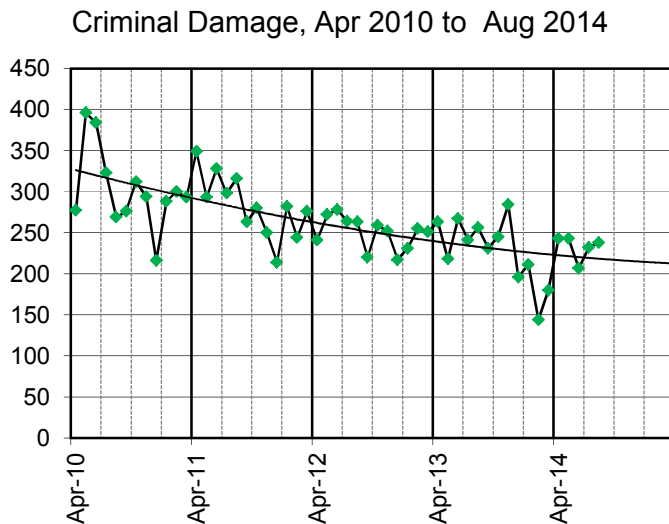
care plans. A further review of these arrangements is being carried out and a full report will be submitted to a future meeting of the Community Safety Forum.

- 3.34 The draft Modern Slavery Bill will be making its way through parliament over the coming months. There will be a renewed focus on victim care. A local partnership of key agencies and council departments is ensuring that our victim care arrangements are improved and that the reporting of the signs of modern slavery is increased.

### Crime trends up to August 2014 (monthly data)<sup>1</sup>



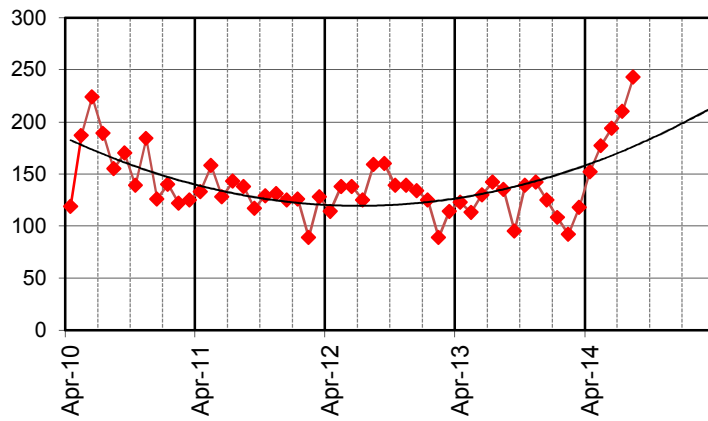
3.34 The number of crimes recorded by the police continues to demonstrate a seasonal pattern with higher numbers the summer than the winter months. Following an exceptionally low number at the end of 2013/14, there has been a steady rise since Apr 2014, although changes to police recording (see below) may be contributing to the extent of the rise.



3.35 The long term downward trend in criminal damage continues. Feb and Mar 2014 experienced particularly low numbers, but since Apr numbers have resumed a more typical level.

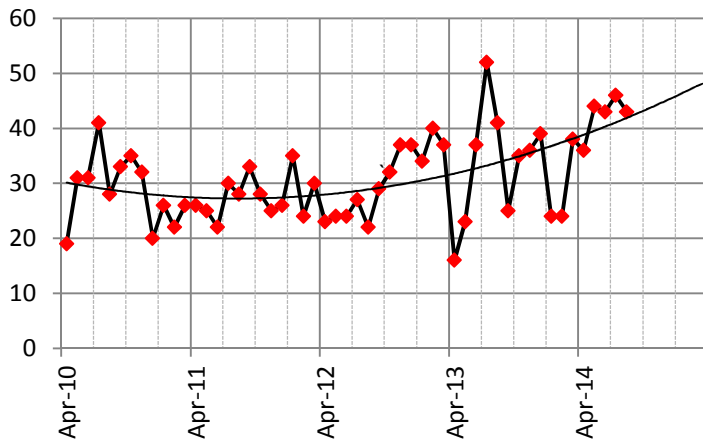
<sup>1</sup> Trend lines are based on the best fitting 2<sup>nd</sup> order polynomial curve

All Injury Violence  
Apr 2010 to Aug 2014



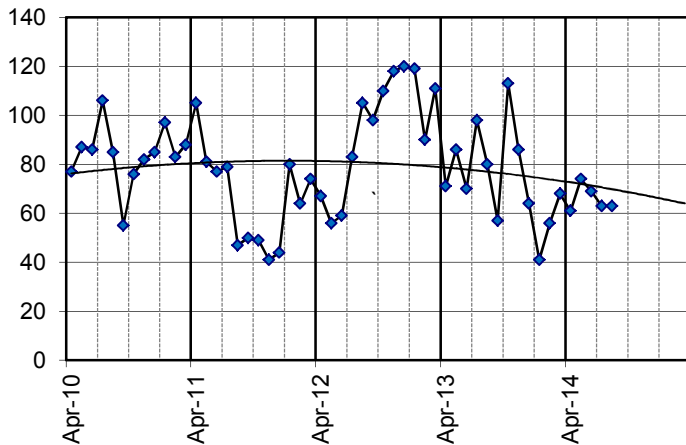
3.36 The long term trend up to the end of Mar 2014 was downwards. Although a seasonal increase would be anticipated in the summer months, there have been changes to police recording since Apr which is resulting in a steep increase in numbers (further information provided at the end of this report).

Sexual Offences,  
Apr 2010 to Aug 2014



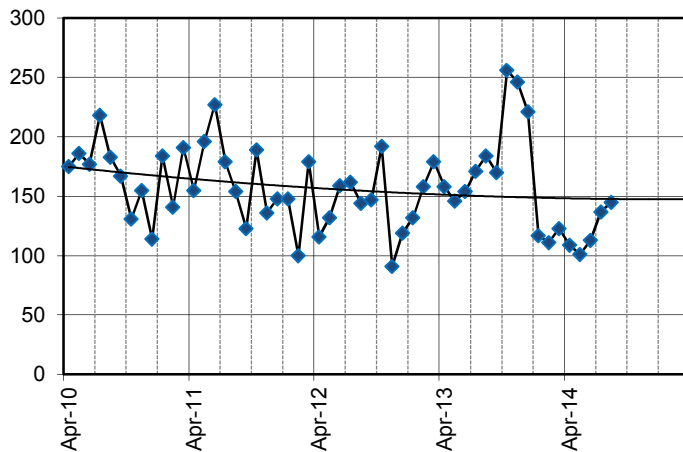
3.37 Delayed data entry at the beginning of 2013/14 and changes in police recording at the beginning of 2014/15 (as for violent crimes above) have meant that trends in the graph do not necessarily reflect the actual occurrence of crimes.

Domestic Burglary, Apr 2010 to Aug 2014



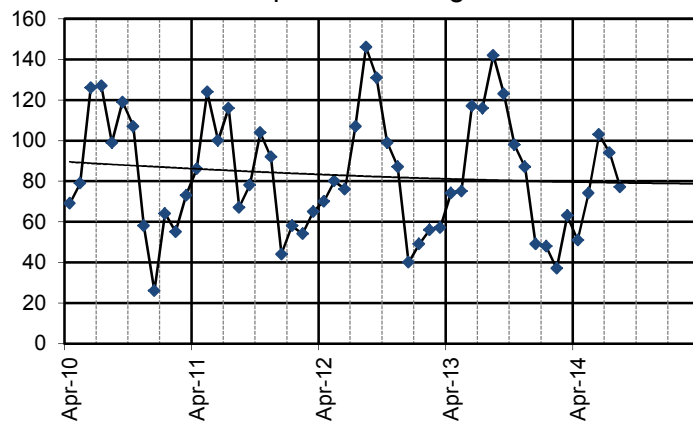
3.38 The number of domestic burglaries has broadly been declining since a peak in the winter of 2012/13 and numbers have been relatively stable since Apr 2014 at between 60 and 80.

Vehicle Crime, Apr 2010 to Aug 2014



3.39 The number of vehicle crimes have generally been on a long term decline. A spike between Oct and Dec 2013 was observed, reflecting a sharp rise in thefts from motor vehicles, but numbers since then have resumed a relatively low level.

Theft of a Pedal Cycle, Apr 2010 to Aug 2014

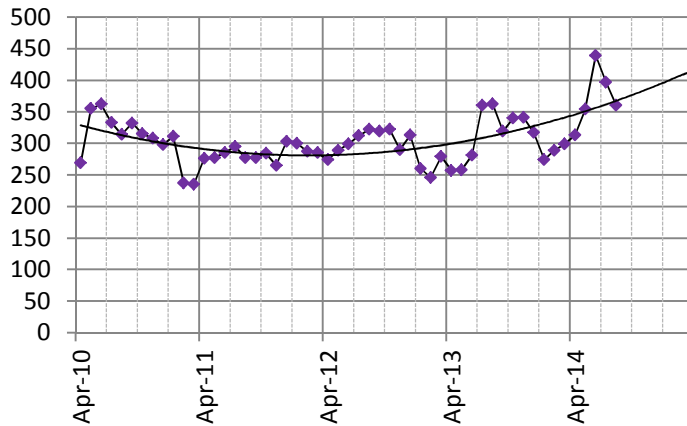


3.40 A strong seasonal pattern in cycle thefts continues and is linked to those months when more people tend to cycle. The rise during the summer of 2014 has been less than in previous years.



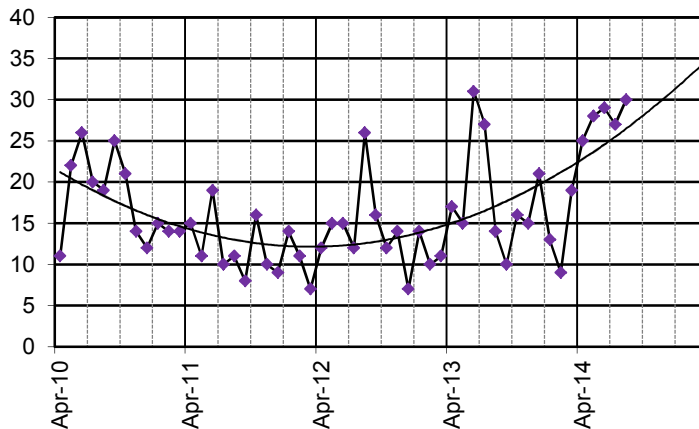
Police crime data presented in this report only reflect those crimes which are reported and recorded. There is likely to be a level of underreporting in many crime types. However, domestic violence and the hate crimes on this page may be particularly liable to underreporting.

Domestic Violence Crimes & Incidents,  
Apr 2010 - Aug 2014



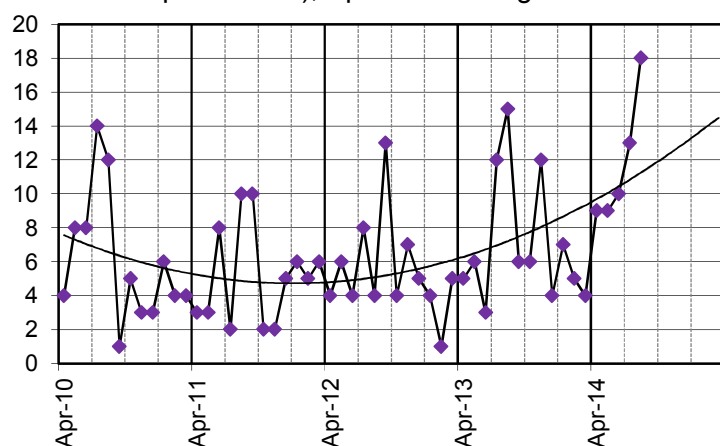
3.41 As mentioned earlier in the report, police recorded violent crimes since Apr have been subject to more robust recording processes and this has affected the recording of domestic violence and hate crimes which are all showing a notable increase in recent months.

Racist Crimes and Incidents  
(police data), Apr 2010 to Aug 2014



See above

Homophobic Crimes & Incidents  
 police data), Apr 2010 to Aug 2014



See above

### Crime statistics 2014/15: position at end August 2014

	number of crimes Apr-Aug 2013	number of crimes Apr-Aug 2014	rank within 15 benchmarked CSPs <sup>2</sup>
<b>Police recorded crimes</b>			
<b>Total Crimes</b>	<b>9501</b>	<b>9349</b>	<b>10</b>
Criminal Damage	1245	1163	12
Injury Violence	643	976	10
Sexual Offences	169	212	n/a <sup>3</sup>
Domestic Burglary	405	330	4
Theft from/of a Motor Vehicle	813	605	4
Theft and handling (excl. motor vehicle theft)	4854	4131	13
Pedal Cycle Theft	524	399	7

<sup>2</sup> 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. Data reflect the ranking for the most recent three month period.

<sup>3</sup> 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.

<b>Police recorded crimes and crime-related incidents</b>			
Domestic Violence Crimes and Incidents <sup>4</sup>	1518	1863	n/a
Racist Crimes and Incidents	104	139	n/a
Religiously-motivated Crimes & Incidents	14	29	
Homophobic Crimes and Incidents	41	59	n/a
Transphobic Crimes and Incidents	8	9	n/a
Disability Hate Crimes and Incidents	11	14	n/a

### **Note from Sussex Police on violent crime data in 2014/15**

Overall we've seen a reduction in the number of violent incidents in the City. However the number of recorded crimes has shown an increase. This is because of work which has been done across Sussex and for all forces nationally to ensure that all crimes are accurately and correctly recorded and that incidents are correctly classified. This is a statistical trend replicated across Sussex and the country.

The City is not becoming a more dangerous place. Compared with the same period last year, we have solved more violent crime within the City – this means we've caught and brought more people to justice. However, percentages show a reduction in our solved rate due to this increased recording of violent crime.

The highest increases in recording have been of minor injury assaults, many of which occur during the night time economy where victims are sometimes reluctant to provide details to the police. These types of incidents are now being accurately recorded.

In addition, the number of calls which we've received in relation to violent crime has shown a significant drop (of approximately 17%). This is a strong indication that the rise is due to better recording and more offenders being brought to justice.

Sussex Police is doing all it can to protect vulnerable victims, bring offenders to justice and keep the public safe. The increase in recorded crimes means that we are able to give victims the support they need, and have trust and confidence in our service when they report a crime to us.

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<sup>4</sup> This includes incidents where the victim is of any age, not just 16 and over as in the national definition, so will be a slight overestimate.