

**Subject:** Community Safety and Crime in Brighton & Hove

**Date of Meeting:** 21 January 2019

**Report of:** Executive Director of Neighbourhoods,  
Communities and Housing

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**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 (formerly known as the Safe in the City 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 support to the partnership work described in the report and commit 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 the first six months of 2018/19 there were 13,887 crimes recorded, a marginal increase (up 0.2%) on the same months in 2017/18 when there were 13,856 recorded.

- 3.2 Total crime is, broadly speaking, broken down into acquisitive crime<sup>1</sup> (38% of total crime in the six months from Apr-Sep 2018), violent crime (45% of total), criminal damage (10% of total) and other offences (7% of total).
- 3.3 In the first six months of 2018/19, while the number of recorded crimes as a whole is roughly the same slightly compared with the same months in 2017/18, the picture in different crime groups differs. Violence against the person crimes rose in the first half of 2018/19 with a 6% increase, continuing the upward trend (up 7%) seen in 2017/18. The city centre has the highest density of violent crimes which 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 are provided below.
- 3.4 Vehicle crimes have risen significantly – up by 32% in the first half of 2018/19. This is on top of a 4% rise in 2017/18. Both theft of a vehicle and theft from a vehicle have increased in the first half of 2018/19. Brighton & Hove is not alone in seeing an increase in vehicle crime which is also evident across Sussex and nationally. Local analysis of recent data show that vehicle crime is spread across the city and 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.
- 3.5 However, other crime groups, which were showing a decrease in 2017/18, are continuing to decrease in the first half of 2018/19: criminal damage offences are down a further 3%, robberies down 7% and burglaries down 15%.
- 3.6 Theft offences (excluding vehicle crimes) which showed no change in 2017/18 are showing a 3% decrease in the first six months of 2018/19. Within this group, cycle thefts which increased by 27% in 2017/18, have dropped back by 27% in the first half of 2018/19.
- 3.7 Domestic violence and sexual violence are both continuing to increase (by 3% in each case in the first six months of 2018/19), while different types of hate crimes are showing different trends. Appendix 1 provides data for key crime types for the first six months of 2018/19 and how this compares with the same months in 2017/18. Longer term trends, with seasonal patterns can be seen in the graphs in Appendix 2.
- 3.8 The upward trend in total crime since 2013/14 follows a long term decline in the preceding years. 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.
- 3.9 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

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<sup>1</sup> eg. burglary or theft

- 3.10 The long term declining trend in the number of police recorded ASB incidents continues with numbers recorded in the first six months of 2018/19 showing a 18% decrease compared with the same months in 2017/18. 'ASB crimes'<sup>2</sup> were increasing in number in the three years up to 2016/17, but data showed a decrease in 2017/18 and continues to decline in the first six months of 2018/19 (down 2%).
- 3.11 Work has begun to allow local housing providers to use Community Protection Notices to address ASB in Brighton & Hove. A separate report to this committee details this further.
- 3.12 A BHCC graffiti strategy has been drafted and a report went to committee in November 2018.
- 3.13 The Racial Harassment Forum (RHF) finalised their report on racially and religiously motivated hate crime, which highlighted incidents targeted at young black males and visibly Muslim females, incidents in schools, and concern regarding the under-reporting of hate crime. Partnership work continues with the RHF, the police and the bus company, to raise awareness around reporting hate incidents and advice for witnesses. A separate report to this committee details more, the work the local authority is doing to address hate incidents and to improve reporting.
- 3.14 The Partnership Tactical Tasking and Co-ordination Group continues to agree and review Community Safety Partnership priorities and ensures that resources are appropriately deployed. This resulted in multi-agency responses to the issues at the Level.
- 3.15 The casework team deal with approximately 150 reports of ASB and hate incidents each quarter. Of these the majority are successfully resolved at the duty stage, with others referred to partner agencies to lead on and approximately 10 become long term cases for the casework team. Multi agency plans are put in place to reduce the harm to the victim whilst ensuring the perpetrator is given opportunities to address their behaviour. Restorative interventions are considered if appropriate.
- 3.16 Since 1<sup>st</sup> April 2018 eight closure orders have been successfully applied for by a variety of agencies and Council departments. Among the issues they have addressed have been drug dealing and cuckooing, anti- social behaviour and noise issues, domestic violence and safeguarding concerns.

#### Safety in the night-time economy

- 3.17 Police recorded violence against the person in the city is continuing to show a rise, as mentioned above. However, just looking at recorded violence against the person (excluding those in a dwelling) crimes the city centre's Controlled Impact Zone and Special Stress Area during the peak night time economy hours of Friday and Saturday nights, a downwards trend is observed. Operation Marble is the targeted policing operation focusing on the night time economy patrolling areas of the city centre based on analysis of previous patterns of criminal or anti-social behaviour.

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

- 3.18 The licensing committee in June 2018 agreed to consultation on changes to the Statement of Licensing Policy. This includes extending the Special Stress Area to central Hove, and amending the café bar criteria within the matrix which guides decision-making around licensing applications. The consultation has been completed and a report outlining the recommendations went to licensing committee in November where the proposals were accepted.
- 3.19 There are now 176 premises that have voluntarily signed up to our Sensible on Strength scheme not to sell beers and ciders over 6%. A further 48 premises have stopped selling strong beers etc without joining the scheme.
- 3.20 Officers have delivered training to 68 premises and 159 staff regarding age restricted products and a test purchase operation conducted with police licensing colleagues to 11 premises resulted in none of them selling to the young person.

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

- 3.21 Police recorded domestic violence crimes and incidents and sexual offences increased by 3% in both cases in the first half of 2018/19 compared with the same period last year. The number of recorded stalking crimes and incidents continues to rise sharply (nearly a four-fold increase in 2017/18 (n=238) compared with 2016/17 (n=60) and a 31% increase (n=148) in the first half of 2018/19 compared with the same period in 2017/18 (n=113)); this is likely to be a response to greater awareness of this crime type.
- 3.22 The ongoing increase in reporting and demand for services is continuing to have a significant impact on the partners, in particular for the providers who deliver 'Portal' (RISE and Survivors' Network) and MARAC services. Partner agencies are working flexibly to respond to need, and are undertaking an urgent review of existing procedures to facilitate risk assessment and resource allocation to those in need.
- 3.23 Incidents of harmful practices (such as Female Genital Mutilation, 'Honour Based' Violence and Forced Marriage) continue to be reported to the police, but the number of reports remains low. Although capacity to progress this work locally is limited, a pan-Sussex meeting is due to pick up on work in this area.
- 3.24 The volume of referrals to the Multi-Agency Risk Assessment Conference (MARAC) continues to increase, with 552 cases referred in 2017/18 and a further 349 in the first half of 2018/19 while the percentage of repeat cases continues to drop (21% in the same period). The MARAC process will be reviewed and redesigned in the context of wider safeguarding structures and multi-agency ownership of risk.
- 3.25 There have been a number of staffing pressures, including a gap in recruiting to the Strategic Commissioner post, and current vacancies related to partnerships officer and MARAC co-ordinator posts. This has delayed progress with the strategic review of service provision across Brighton & Hove and East Sussex.
- 3.26 The future strategy and commissioning plan will focus on: responding to findings from the Business Improvement Review, training and awareness and the growth of cross sector service ambassadors, perpetrator interventions, responding to the needs of specific communities, and on different types of harm, including domestic and sexual violence and abuse, stalking and harassment and harmful practices.

- 3.27 Officers are working on the development of an updated training prospectus for this area of work to be launched in April 2019 offering courses on DV and SV for partners, victims and anyone with an interest.

#### Violence Vulnerability and Exploitation

- 3.28 The VVE Co-ordinator has been appointed started at the beginning of October 2018 and has begun to focus on work in the VVE action plan to address county lines, cuckooing and associated exploitation of vulnerable people.
- 3.29 Home Office funding has been secured by Sussex Police for the appointment of a serious organised crime co-ordinator, the OSPCC has also obtained funding for early intervention work, and the local authority is seeking support for safeguarding work.
- 3.30 On 20th November a workshop was held with partners and stakeholders to look at the outcomes from the Home Office locality review which was carried out in March 2018. A week of Action is being planned following this event and feedback from attendees.
- 3.31 The chairs of the Safeguarding Adults Board, Local Safeguarding Children Board and the Community Safety Partnership Board have agreed that this work will continue to sit under the CSPB but that regular updates are provided to both of the safeguarding boards.
- 3.32 An update report on the work regarding VVE will come to a future NICE committee

#### Community collaboration and resilience

- 3.33 There were 13 crimes related to modern slavery recorded in 2017/18 and 11 recorded in the first half of 2018/19 continuing a rising trend. Nine of the 11 crimes recorded in the last six months relate to 'holding a person in slavery or servitude'. A short term post to strengthen the local authority's response to modern slavery has been agreed. The post-holder will have responsibility for embedding an awareness of modern slavery within existing workforce development structures, safeguarding procedures (for children and adults) and referral processes in Brighton & Hove City Council and its partners.
- 3.34 A report on how the International Migrants Needs Assessment (IMNA) has been shared, used and its 42 recommendations implemented has been presented to the Equalities and Inclusion Partnership. The methodology from the IMNA has been cited as best practice by Public Health England in a recently published Public Health Toolkit.
- 3.35 A new partnership has been formed to deliver the outcomes of the 'ESOL hub', funded by the Controlling Migration Fund, over the next two years. The 'ESOL hub' will provide co-ordination in the city's ESOL sector and provide outreach to some of the most vulnerable migrant communities.
- 3.36 The city council is continuing its participation in the government's refugee resettlement programmes. A further three vulnerable Syrian families arrived in autumn 2018.
- 3.37 The CETS team have been part of discussions, facilitated by the South East Strategic Partnership for Migration, with other local authorities and the Home Office about the process by which EU national residents will apply for settled status once the UK has left the EU. Particular attention is being paid to those

who are at risk of failing to secure settled status and the consequences of having a population of EU nationals without the correct documentation in future.

### Preventing terrorism and extremism

#### Prevent

- 3.38 A project to improve digital resilience of pupils and schools is in progress and two sessions each will be delivered to a number of primary and secondary schools from November 2018 onwards by the national provider 'Parent Zone'. Due to higher demand from schools, the Prevent Education Officer will develop digital resilience resources to share with schools and deliver further sessions in future.
- 3.39 A project to improve communities' and professionals' understanding of the threat from far right and countering the far right narrative is underway and a number of sessions have been delivered.
- 3.40 A new Prevent toolkit for local authorities and other partners was launched this quarter and will be used by all partners to self-assess their compliance with Prevent duty over the year.
- 3.41 Following the review into and learning from Parsons Green Incident (15/09/2018 incident on the tube) work was undertaken in the city to ensure that we continue to meet the best practice, and that key recommendations and actions are progressed locally as relevant.
- 3.42 Two community members were supported and attended the national Counter Terrorism Advisory Group meeting and would be reporting back issues at the next One Voice Partnership meeting.
- 3.43 Work continued to monitor and reduce tensions following a number of key events, such as President Trump's visit to the UK in July, the Westminster Incident in August; political leaders' comments with respect to Muslim women's clothing, etc. which caused concerns in the communities. Community reassurance work is ongoing in response to local, national and international incidents in as much as they impact on our residents and communities.

#### Building Partnerships to Challenge Extremisms

- 3.44 The key concern continues to be hate incidents across all strands, and the underlying extremist sentiment this signifies. The issue of racist incidents in schools has been raised, alongside ongoing concerns around transphobia. Positive work is being undertaken to tackle these issues.
- 3.45 Community groups including The Interfaith Contact Group and Euro-Mediterranean Resource Network were successful in funding bids supported by the Communities Coordinator. This will further develop the positive work in the city to counter hate and extremism.
- 3.46 Positive messaging and engagement took place during both Trans Pride and Brighton Pride to counter the divisive narratives of hate.

### **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 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: 12/12/18*

### 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: 12/12/18*

### 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.

### Sustainability Implications:

- 7.4 None



## Appendix 1. Crime statistics 2018/19: position at end of September

### Performance compared with last year

	number of crimes Apr – Sep 2017 <sup>3</sup>	number of crimes Apr – Sep 2018	rank within 15 bench- marked CSPs <sup>4</sup>
<b>Police recorded crimes</b>			1=best; 15=worst
Total Crimes	13856	13887	8
Criminal Damage (incl. arson)	1402	1361	6
Injury Violence	1583	1546	9
Violence Against the Person	5439	5739	9
Sexual Offences	472	487	7 <sup>5</sup>
Robbery	191	178	6
Burglary	755	641	3
Vehicle Crime	770	1031	6
Theft and handling (excl. motor vehicle theft)	4612	4496	10
Pedal Cycle Theft	659	480	10
<b>Police recorded incidents and crimes</b>			
Domestic Violence Incidents and Crimes	2610	2682	n/a <sup>6</sup>
Racist Incidents and Crimes	280	277	n/a
Religiously-motivated Incidents and Crimes	47	35	n/a
Homophobic Incidents and Crimes	124	119	n/a
Transphobic Incidents and Crimes	24	26	n/a
Disability Hate Incidents and Crimes	36	44	n/a
Anti-Social Behaviour Incidents	5673	4648	n/a

<sup>3</sup> The data in this column reflect those recorded on the police system at the current time and do not necessarily align exactly with those recorded a year ago.

<sup>4</sup> 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.

<sup>5</sup> 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'.

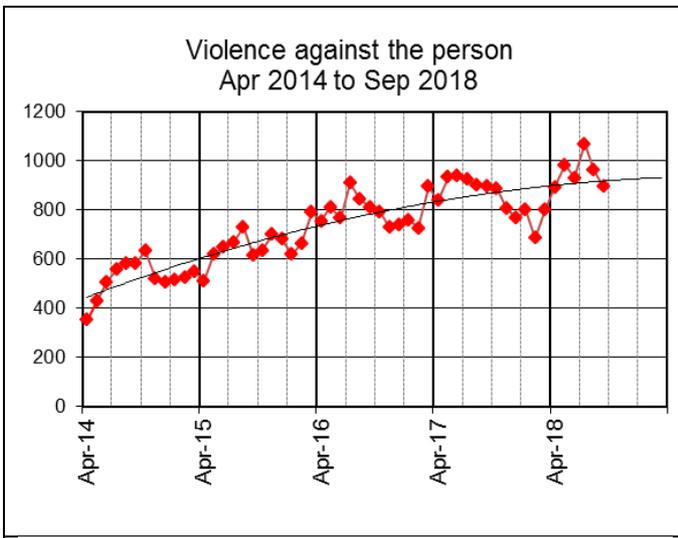
<sup>6</sup> Comparative/benchmarking data are not available.

**Appendix 2:**

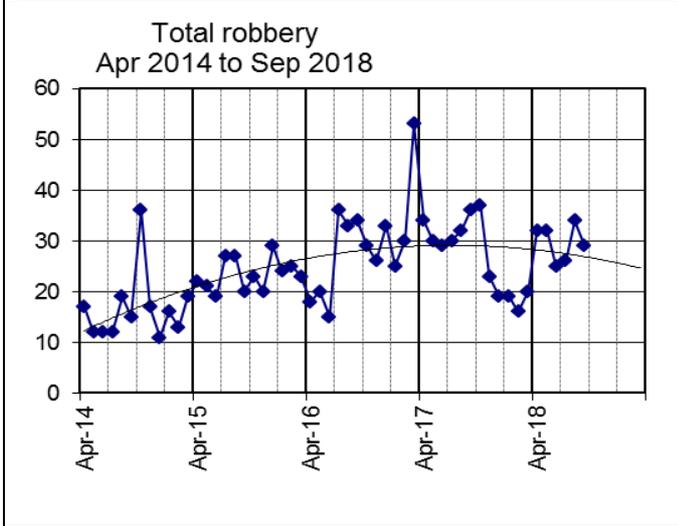
**Crime trends up to September 2018 (monthly data)<sup>7</sup>**

<p><b>Total crime</b> Apr 2014 to Sep 2018</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. From 2014/15 up to 2017/18 there was an upward trend in recorded crimes, with changes to police recording practices contributing to this (see below). However, numbers recorded in the first half of 2018 suggest a possible flattening of this trend.</p>
<p><b>Criminal damage</b> Apr 2014 to Sep 2018</p>	<p>8.2 Trends in criminal damage between 2014/15 and 2016/17 broadly stable, but a downward trend is suggested during 2017/18 and 2018/19 to date.</p>

<sup>7</sup> Trend lines are based on the best fitting 2<sup>nd</sup> order polynomial curve

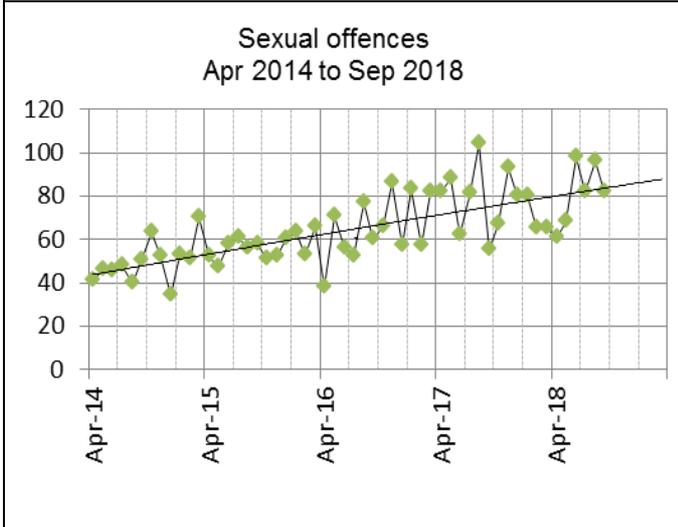


8.3 Police recorded violence against the person data show a steeply rising trend from 2014/15 onwards, overlaid with a seasonal pattern (higher levels in the summer). The increase in 2014/15 was linked to changes in police data recording practice and was observed both nationally and locally. However,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

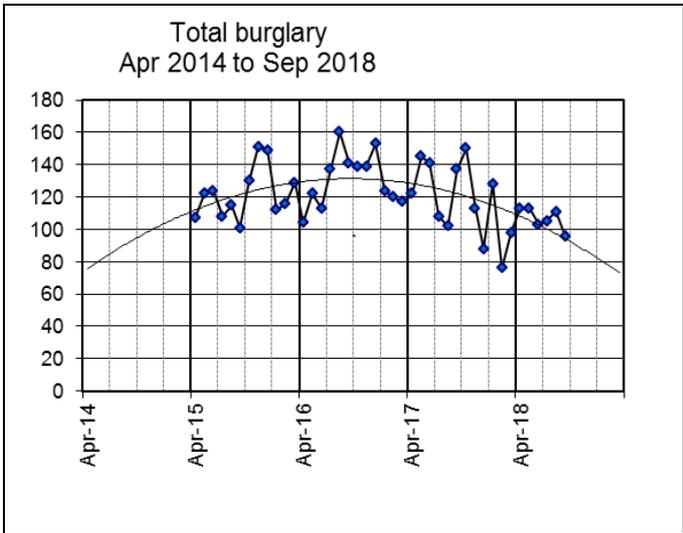


8.4 The number of robberies dropped in the second half of 2017/18 compared with the first half, although they have resumed the higher in the first six months of 2018/19 with numbers recorded being in the region of 30 per month.

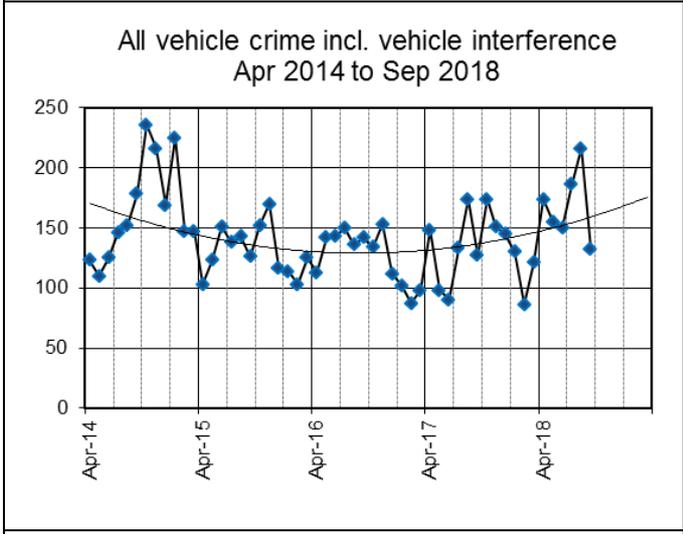
Most robberies are personal robberies (299 in 2017/18) and a minority are business robberies (22 in 2017/18).



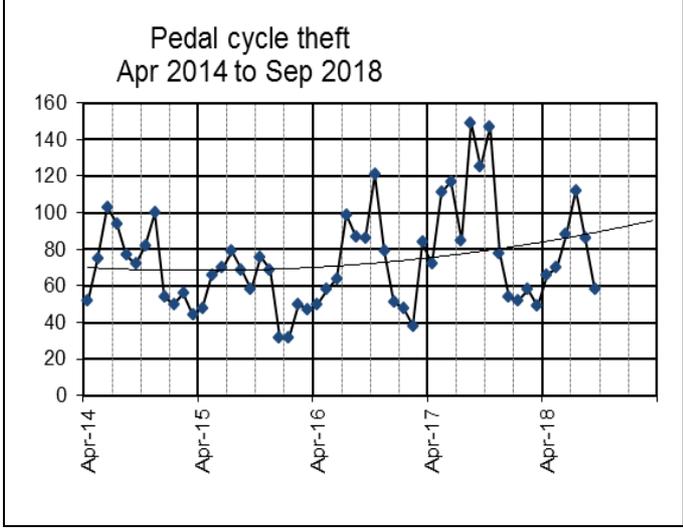
8.5 Police recorded sexual offences are on an upward trend, although numbers have fluctuated somewhat over the last 18 months. More reporting is generally regarded as a positive outcome in that victims are feeling more confident in reporting. Changes in police recording at the beginning of 2014/15 (as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



8.6 While there was an increasing trend between Apr 2015 and Mar 2017, the trend in burglaries in 2017/18 and the first half of 2018/19 has been downward.



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.



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.

<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Domestic violence crime &amp; incidents</b> Apr 2014 to Sep 2018</p>	<p>8.9 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.</p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Racist crimes &amp; incidents (police data)</b> Apr 2014 to Sep 2018</p>	<p>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. Numbers recorded in May and June of 2017 were also high, as have been the months of Jul and Aug of 2018.</p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Homophobic crimes &amp; incidents</b> Apr 2014 to Sep 2018</p>	<p>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 twelve months, ranging between 5 and 26 per month.</p>

