





**Brighton & Hove
City Council**

Community Safety Forum

Title:	Community Safety Forum
Date:	14 December 2009
Time:	4.00pm
Venue	Council Chamber, Hove Town Hall
Members:	Councillors: Simson (Chairman), Barnett, Carden (Opposition Spokesperson), Duncan, Hyde, Janio, Kennedy, Morgan Watkins and Young Representatives from Communities of Interest
Contact:	Penny Jennings Democratic Services Officer 01273 291064 penny.jennings@brighton-hove.gov.uk

	The Town Hall has facilities for wheelchair users, including lifts and toilets
	An Induction loop operates to enhance sound for anyone wearing a hearing aid or using a transmitter and infra red hearing aids are available for use during the meeting. If you require any further information or assistance, please contact the receptionist on arrival.
	FIRE / EMERGENCY EVACUATION PROCEDURE If the fire alarm sounds continuously, or if you are instructed to do so, you must leave the building by the nearest available exit. You will be directed to the nearest exit by council staff. It is vital that you follow their instructions: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • You should proceed calmly; do not run and do not use the lifts; • Do not stop to collect personal belongings; • Once you are outside, please do not wait immediately next to the building, but move some distance away and await further instructions; and • Do not re-enter the building until told that it is safe to do so.

COMMUNITY SAFETY FORUM

The following are requested to attend the meeting:

Representatives from Communities of Interest:

Age Concern
Area Housing Panels
Brighton & Hove Business Crime Reduction Partnership
Brighton & Hove Community & Voluntary Sector Forum
Brighton & Hove Federation of Disabled People
Brighton & Hove City Primary Care Trust
Independent Advisory Group Sussex Police
Brighton & Hove Mediation Service
British Transport Police
Coalition for Youth
Domestic Violence Forum
East Sussex Fire & Rescue Service
Hangleton & Knoll Project
Hove YMCA
Local Action Team Representatives
Neighbourhood Watch
Older People's Council
Racial Harassment Forum
St James's Street Community Safety Group
Spectrum
Sussex Probation
Victim Support
Whitehawk Community Safety Development Project
Women's Refuge Project
Youth Offending Team.

AGENDA

24. PROCEDURAL BUSINESS

- (a) Declaration of Substitutes - Where Councillors are unable to attend a meeting, a substitute Member from the same Political Group may attend, speak and vote in their place for that meeting.
- (b) Declarations of Interest by all Members present of any personal interests in matters on the agenda, the nature of any interest and whether the Members regard the interest as prejudicial under the terms of the Code of Conduct.
- (c) Exclusion of Press and Public - To consider whether, in view of the nature of the business to be transacted, or the nature of the proceedings, the press and public should be excluded from the meeting when any of the following items are under consideration.

NOTE: Any item appearing in Part 2 of the Agenda states in its heading either that it is confidential or the category under which the information disclosed in the report is exempt from disclosure and therefore not available to the public.

A list and description of the categories of exempt information is available for public inspection at Brighton and Hove Town Halls.

25. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

1 - 8

Minutes of the meeting held on 19 October 2009 (copy attached)

26. CHAIRMAN'S COMMUNICATIONS

27. PUBLIC QUESTIONS

(The closing date for receipt of public questions is 12 noon on 8 December 2009)

No public questions received by date of publication.

28. COMMUNITY SAFETY ISSUES RAISED BY MEMBERS AND COMMUNITY REPRESENTATIVES

29. CRIME TRENDS AND PERFORMANCE IN BRIGHTON & HOVE

9 - 16

- Report of the Assistant Director of Public Safety (copy attached)

Contact Officer Ruth Condon Tel:29-1103
Wards Affected: All

COMMUNITY SAFETY FORUM

30. SUPPORTING THE NETWORK OF LOCAL ACTION TEAMS

- Report of the Assistant Director of Public Safety (oral update)

Contact Officer: Linda Beanlands Tel:29-1115

Wards Affected: All

31. WORK OF THE FIRE AND RESCUE SERVICE

-Presentation by the Borough Commander or his representative.

32. OPERATION PARK : MANAGING YOUTH DISORDER

- Presentation by Sergeant Peter Castleton.

33. COMMUNITY PAYBACK SCHEMES

- Presentation by Stephen Berry: Sussex Probation.

34. THE PARTNERSHIP RESPONSE TO DEALING WITH SEXUAL VIOLENCE AND ABUSE 17 - 24

- Report of the Assistant Director of Public Safety (copy attached)

Contact Officer:Linda Beanlands Tel:29-1115

Wards Affected All

35. EAST SUSSEX POLICE AUTHORITY: MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 10 SEPTEMBER 2009 25 - 28

(copy attached).

36. EAST SUSSEX FIRE AUTHORITY: MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 15 OCTOBER 2009 29 - 30

(copy attached).

COMMUNITY SAFETY FORUM

The City Council actively welcomes members of the public and the press to attend its meetings and holds as many of its meetings as possible in public. Provision is also made on the agendas for public questions to committees and details of how questions can be raised can be found on the website and/or on agendas for the meetings.

The closing date for receipt of public questions and deputations for the next meeting is 12 noon on the fifth working day before the meeting.

Agendas and minutes are published on the council's website www.brighton-hove.gov.uk. Agendas are available to view five working days prior to the meeting date.

Meeting papers can be provided, on request, in large print, in Braille, on audio tape or on disc, or translated into any other language as requested.

For further details and general enquiries about this meeting contact Penny Jennings (01273 291064, email penny.jennings@brighton-hove.gov.uk or email democratic.services@brighton-hove.gov.uk

Date of Publication - Friday, 4 December 2009

COMMUNITY SAFETY FORUM

Agenda Item 25
Brighton & Hove City Council

BRIGHTON & HOVE CITY COUNCIL

COMMUNITY SAFETY FORUM

4.00pm 19 OCTOBER 2009

COUNCIL CHAMBER, HOVE TOWN HALL

MINUTES

Present: Councillor Simson (Chairman); Barnett, Carden (Opposition Spokesperson), Duncan, Hyde, Kennedy, Oxley, Morgan, Watkins and Young

Sussex Police: Chief Superintendent Bartlett ; Sergeant Castleton

Communities of Interest: T Harman, SCLAT; Mrs S Howell, Bevendean LAT; Councillor Mo Marsh, Bevendean LAT; J Stevens, City Council Tenants Representative; J Mc Phillips, Turner Safety Action Group; Mrs C Summers, London Road LAT; Mrs F Matyzak MBE, Racial Harassment Forum and Whitehawk Community Project; C Cooke, St James Street LAT; C El-Shabba, Whitehawk Crime Prevention Forum; D Murtagh, Moulescoomb LAT; Mrs J Brookes, Portland Road and Clarendon Forum; Mrs P Weller, Community Action, Hangleton & Knoll and B Salter, West Saltdean LAT.

Officers: Linda Beanlands (Head of Community Safety); Ruth Condon (Research and Performance Monitoring Officer); Simon Court (Senior Solicitor) and Penny Jennings (Senior Democratic Services Officer)

PART ONE

13. PROCEDURAL BUSINESS

13A. Declaration of Substitutes

13.1 Councillor Oxley was in attendance in substitution for Councillor Alford.

13B. Declarations of Interest

13.2 Councillors Carden (OS) and Marsh (present in her capacity as Chair of Coombe Road LAT and Scrutiny Chairman) declared a personal interest in Item 22 by virtue of their positions as representatives of the City Council on the East Sussex Fire Authority; this did not constitute a prejudicial interest.

13C. Exclusion of the Press and Public

- 13.3 In accordance with Section 100A of the Local Government Act 1972 ("The Act"), the Community Safety Forum considered whether the press and public should be excluded from the meeting during consideration of any item of business on the grounds that it was likely, in view of the business to be transacted or the nature of the proceedings, that if members of the press or public were present during that item there would be disclosure to them of confidential information (as defined in Section 100(1) of the Act).
- 13.4 **RESOLVED** – That the press and public be not excluded from the meeting.

14. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

- 14.1 **RESOLVED** - That the Chairman be authorised to sign the minutes of the meeting held on 6 July 2009 as a correct record.

15. CHAIRMAN'S COMMUNICATIONS

- 15.1 The Chairman stated that she was glad to have the opportunity to highlight that a number of initiatives had been undertaken to deal with underage drinking and the risks associated with that and to target those adults who purchased alcohol for young people. Money for all of the services referred to below had come from the Home Office and from The Department of Children, Families and Schools.

"Kicks" Project

- 15.2 The Chairman referred to the "Kicks" Project to train staff to recognise the risks associated with young people drinking to excess and to offer advice and support to the young people. She explained that it had been possible to allocate a small amount of money to purchase tee shirts for their "Winter League" which provided a message on their back on where to get advice etc.

"Big Mistake" Poster Campaign

- 15.3 A poster had been produced which gave a clear message that buying alcohol for underage drinkers put them at risk. The poster and accompanying campaign had attracted a great deal of media attention. The poster had been displayed on bus shelters across the City and had been delivered to licensed premises and other appropriate establishments. A series of leaflets had also been produced highlighting that it was an offence for any adult to purchase alcohol for underage drinkers.
- 15.4 In answer to questions By Mr Stevens, the Head of Community Safety explained that any adult purchasing alcohol for those who were underage could be liable to prosecution, not just their parents. Although this represented a difficult and challenging area, a lot of cross cutting inter-agency work had been and was continuing to be undertaken.
- 15.5 In association with the campaign an "enforcement pathway" had been drawn up to ensure that when a young person was picked up by emergency services (one had

been recently and had nearly died), there were systems in place to identify where he/she had obtained the alcohol from and to enable enforcement action to be taken. Money had also been allocated to the Police and Trading Standards for extra hours to do this work.

Safe Space

- 15.6 Additional funding had been put into place to enable the “Safe Space” project to stay open for 9 more weekends in the run up to and after Christmas. This project based in West Street provided a service to those people who could otherwise come to serious harm and supported the work being carried out by Street Pastors. A small amount of money had also been provided to the Taxi Forum to purchase some additional taxi marshals.

Purchase of “Body Worn” Cameras

- 15.6 The Head of Community Safety explained that three body worn cameras had been purchased to help apprehend and detect offenders on the streets on Friday and Saturday nights.
- 15.7 Whilst expressing support for all of these initiatives Councillor Barnett considered that use of such equipment in other more outlying areas of the City would also be welcomed. Chief Superintendent Bartlett explained that “Operation Park” operated citywide at weekends.
- 15.8 Mr Harmon stated that significant problems emanated from two liquor stores located in his area. The Police did not seem to be aware of the problems associated with these establishments as a Police presence was not seen in the vicinity. It was agreed that this matter would be discussed further outside the meeting. Mr Stevens also enquired regarding the Council’s policies when licensing premises.
- 15.9 The Chairman explained that all licensed premises had to meet requirements under their conditions not to sell alcohol to those who were under age. Test purchases could be made and licences could be subject to review if repeated offences were identified. If persistent offences were proven a premises could lose its licence for up to three months. All premises were required to meet clear licensing objectives but applicants’ did have the right of appeal to the Magistrates Court who could overturn a decision of the licensing authority.
- 15.10 **RESOLVED** – That the position be noted.

16. PUBLIC QUESTIONS

- 16.1 There were none.

17. COMMUNITY SAFETY ISSUES RAISED BY MEMBERS AND COMMUNITY REPRESENTATIVES

- 17.1 There were none.

18. CRIME TRENDS AND PERFORMANCE IN BRIGHTON AND HOVE

- 18.1 The Forum considered a report of the Assistant Director, Public Safety describing crime trends since April 2009 (for copy see minute book).
- 18.2 Sergeant Castleton referred to the covering report provided for the first time to this meeting; this provided a commentary to the statistics and would continue to be provided to subsequent meetings. Overall, there had been a reduction in crime of 1.2% compared to the same period the previous year. Although this figure was 3% below target it represented a continuation of a positive trend with total crime reduction being at its lowest for 10 years.
- 18.3 The figures set out for violent crimes overall included a wider number of offences and had reduced considerably over the past four years by 24% with the central area of the City seeing a reduction of 30%. This was directly attributable to inter agency work to manage and support safety around operation of the night time economy. In recognition of this work, the city had gained “beacon” status.
- 18.4 Councillor Morgan welcomed the work that had been achieved as a result of “Operation Marble” and the positive image of the City which had resulted from the “Beach Patrol” programme appearing on Chanel 5. He requested details regarding initiatives to seek to reduce thefts from cars particularly bearing in mind that the City’s car parks were not manned 24hours. Sergeant Castleton explained that although a number of car parks were not in the Council’s ownership strategies had been between the Police and NCP to ensure that adequate signage was provided and that stairwells and other areas were well lit.
- 18.5 Councillor Oxley referred to this area of crime and to the initiatives being carried forward to combat it. Any increases would represent a worrying trend.
- 18.6 Councillor Barnett referred to incidence of domestic violence and mugging of the elderly and it was noted that whilst incidence of such crime was low, fear of crime could be powerful in informing public perceptions.
- 18.7 Councillor Watkins stated that it was important to monitor figures relating to domestic violence and how they were arrived at. Increases in these figures were often not a consequence of greater numbers of crimes being committed but as a result of greater public confidence in reporting such crimes.
- 18.8 Chief Superintendent Bartlett confirmed that whilst reductions were pleasing on-going initiatives were in place to seek to build on the results achieved to date. The Head of Community Safety stated that rigorous structures were in place for inter-agency working between the Police Victimisation Unit, the courts and the Crown Prosecution Service. This was especially strong in relation to child protection and protection of vulnerable individuals. Meetings took place on a monthly basis to consider appropriate actions in relation to those deemed to be most at risk. Whilst figures for reporting of such categories of crime had increased figures for repeat crime(s) had reduced.
- 18.9 **RESOLVED** – That the contents of the report be noted.

19. COMMUNITY SAFETY, CRIME REDUCTION AND DRUGS STRATEGY 2008-2011

- 19.1 The Head of Community Safety referred to the strategy document which had been circulated to Members that afternoon and gave a presentation outlining the key areas and priorities identified within it (for copy of presentation see minute book).
- 19.2 In answer to questions the Head of Community Safety explained that this document represented work in progress which would be updated periodically and then “refreshed” annually. One large area of work being covered was to identify individual priority crime areas and how these were to be addressed by an effective and holistic partnership approach. A key area was to tackle public perceptions and confidence to combat fear of crime.
- 19.3 Councillor Barnett referred to issues relating to drug abuse and enquired whether there was a co-ordinated approach to this work across the city’s schools. The Head of Community Safety stated that she believed that this work was led by the schools team via the Children and Young People’s Trust (CYPT); she undertook to confirm the position and to provide that information to Councillor Barnett and to Forum Members.
- 19.4 Councillor Marsh stated that she believed that this work formed part of the PSE curriculum in schools. She stated that fear of crime particular amongst older and more vulnerable members of society could be powerful. This had been borne out by the work carried out by the Scrutiny Panel on Older People and Community Safety which she had chaired. Although a stronger focus on the needs of the elderly had begun to emerge further work was necessary, for example in relation to the increased vulnerability of those with dementia. Such individuals could be vulnerable to abuse either from family members or those charged with caring for them. Fear by the elderly of crimes committed by young people was disproportionate and also needed to be addressed.
- 19.5 It was noted that the contributions of a number of partners had been omitted, for example the work carried out by the East Sussex Fire and Rescue Service (ESFRS). The Borough Commander, Mr Ring confirmed that the ESFRS played an important role in this programme .As well as giving practical advice via school visits work was also carried out with young offenders.
- 19.6 The Reverend Terry referred to work carried out by the Interfaith Forum suggesting that it could have a valuable role in helping to carry some of this work forward.
- 19.7 Mr Gandey referred to the work of the Bevendean LAT which had evolved over a five year period and to the key role that LAT’s had to play.
- 19.8 Councillors Duncan and Watkins commended the document which contained a lot of information communicated in a way which was accessible and easily understood.
- 19.9 Councillor Simson, the Chairman welcomed all of the comments that had been made and invited Forum members to provided feedback to the Head of Community Safety regarding any omissions/additional information they would like to be incorporated into the document.

- 19.10 **RESOLVED** – That the contents of the circulated strategy document be received and noted.

20. SUPPORTING THE NETWORK OF LOCAL ACTION TEAMS

- 20.1 The Head of Community Safety referred to the “draft” document which had been circulated to Forum members that afternoon. Following the meeting the text would be finalised and copies sent to all LAT’s.
- 20.2 The Chairman welcomed the document and referred to the meeting which had been arranged and to which all LAT Members had been invited. She hoped that as many representatives as possible would be able to attend.
- 20.3 The Head of Community Safety stated that this document was not intended to be prescriptive but to provide a useful framework and guidelines. She explained that the final documents would be “personalised” to each individual LAT.
- 20.4 **RESOLVED** - That the contents of the document be received and noted.

21. SCRUTINY REPORT ON OLDER PEOPLE AND COMMUNITY SAFETY

- 21.1 Councillor Marsh (Chairman of the Panel) presented the report of the Chairman of the Scrutiny Panel on Older People and Community Safety. She explained that the scrutiny review had been set up to investigate how older people viewed community safety, what were the main issues from an older person’s perspective and how older people could be helped to feel safer (for copy see minute book).
- 21.2 The panel had heard evidence from the community safety services and initiatives provided by the Council and partner organisations for all age ranges. Older residents had also given their views. Members had identified a need for well co-ordinated community safety messages, purpose designed for older people and recommended further consultation and engagement, plus support for schemes developing resilience and social inclusion for older people.
- 21.3 Councillor Marsh went through each of the recommendations made by the Panel together with the key issues raised and findings made and proposals to carry this work forward. The Panel had focused primarily on Community Safety issues which were an integral part of the cross-cutting work carried out by the Forum itself.
- 21.4 In answer to questions, Mr Hook, The Head of Overview and Scrutiny explained that having endorsed the ECSOSC panel’s report and reported to the Forum the report would be taken forward to Cabinet for consideration and then to full Council for information. He explained that a framework was in place to revisit the recommendations after a period of 6 months, then after a year and then as part of an on-going process.
- 21.5 Councillor Watkins echoed the points made by Councillor Marsh explaining that in identifying the key areas it had been intended that they would be given greater

prominence and that issues could be addressed which arose as a consequence of the isolated circumstances in which some older people found themselves. This section of the community was growing in number and therefore rigorous structures needed to be put into place for the future.

- 21.6 Councillor Morgan welcomed the report which he also considered represented a valuable tool for future use.
- 21.7 Mr Gandey welcomed the report stating that it was very encouraging when a body such as the Council authorised a piece of work such as this and then carried it forward that represented democracy in action. He considered that it was important now this piece of work had been completed to approach those who had been consulted by the panel determine whether there were areas where they as community partners could also carry this work forward.
- 21.8 Mr Stevens enquired whether there had been any changes to the way in which older people accessed services. The Head of Community Safety explained that how services were accessed depended on the issues involved. The focus was on getting clarity of information into the public domain. Councillor Watkins responded that the panel had picked up on the fact that there appeared to be a number of points of contact for services and that a booklet entitled "Keep it Simple" was being produced in order to address this.
- 21.9 Mr Harmon referred to the need for there to be a neighbourhood police presence in localities across the city and for any apparent gaps to be addressed. Chief Superintendent Bartlett confirmed that each area did have its own dedicated neighbourhood team; these were currently up to strength and were tasked with spending the majority of their time on duty within their designated areas.
- 21.10 **RESOLVED** - That the content of the report of the Older People and Community Safety Panel be received and noted as are the comments raised by the Forum itself.

22. EAST SUSSEX FIRE AUTHORITY: MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 9 JULY 2009

- 22.1 **RESOLVED** – That the content of the minutes be noted.

23. EAST SUSSEX POLICE AUTHORITY: MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 30 JULY 2009

- 23.1 **RESOLVED** - That the content of the minutes be noted.

The meeting concluded at 6.35pm

Signed

Chairman

Community Safety Forum, 14th December 2009

Crime trends and performance in Brighton & Hove

This report describes crime trends up to October 2009 and reports against key crime targets relating to the Community Safety, Crime Reduction and Drugs Strategy, 2008-11.

Total Police Recorded Crime

Since April 2009 there has been a reduction in overall crime of 1.8% compared to the same period last year although this is still below our 3% target. This is a continuation of the long term downward trend experienced in the past ten years.

Criminal Damage

Between 2006/7 and 2008/9 criminal damage dropped by about 30% to about 4,200 crimes. This year we are maintaining this lower level with the level of criminal damage to date showing a similar level compared to that in the same period last year. However, within this overall crime group there are different sub trends; criminal damage against dwellings and other buildings are showing a decrease while damage against vehicles is showing an increase.

Violent Crime

The number of offences of serious violence recorded is extremely small forming less than 1% of total crime. There were 114 offences recorded since the beginning of April; this compares with 112 offences in the same period last year. Offences of actual bodily harm, less serious violent crime, have decreased by 5%. The community Alcohol Brief Interventions Service for harmful and hazardous alcohol users became operational in September. This will target those involved in alcohol-related domestic and public place crimes, as well as those registered with GPs. It aims to reduce levels of harmful and hazardous drinking and reduce the number of hospital admissions.

Sexual Offences

There have been 216 sexual offences recorded up to the end of October. This is an increase of 11% compared with last year and may reflect an increased confidence in women being prepared to come forward to report. Public awareness campaigns to highlight the link between the risk of sexual assault and drinking to excess are being undertaken. In addition to existing referral routes to the Sexual Assault Referral Centre which provides support to women and men who have been victims of sexual assault, the SARC is also now accepting self referrals.

Domestic Burglary

Since April domestic burglary has increased by 4.3% compared to the same period last which is an improved position from earlier in the year. Ongoing work includes increasing the security of windows and doors of vulnerable properties which have been identified by police officers, crime prevention officers, or other partner agencies. Also, local residents are alerted when there have been nearby burglaries so as to encourage them to take appropriate security measures.

Motor Vehicle and Cycle Theft

Between April and October there has been a slight increase of 1% compared to the same months last year. Thefts from motor vehicles (TFMV) are more numerous than thefts of motor

vehicles (TOMV) (accounting for 66% of all vehicle crime), but TFMV are showing a decreasing trend whereas TOMV is showing a rising trend. Awareness raising publicity has been ongoing in various ways: there has been increased security signage across all car parks; notices are now on all pay and display machines in the city; and parking attendants have slipped warning leaflets into vehicles where a window has been left open.

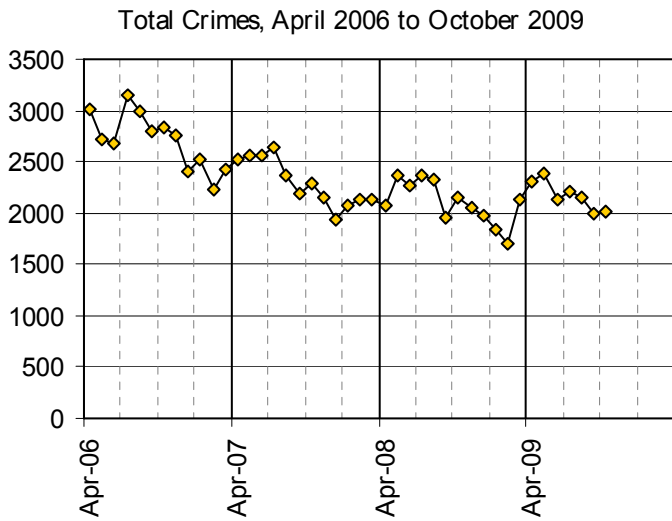
Cycle thefts are showing a 5% decrease compared with last year. A number of partnership initiatives to reduce cycle theft include have taken place in recent months, including police operations and work with cycle shops to deter resale of stolen cycles. After initial trials, there are plans for further provision of on-street cycle parking at 15 sites around the central and seafront areas of the city.

Domestic Violence and Hate Crimes and Incidents

The number of domestic violence incidents reported to the police is 5% higher than last year. While seeking to decrease the incidence of DV, there is also ongoing work to increase reporting. The percentage of prosecutions for DV which have successful outcomes is showing an improving trend and this is likely to both deter offending and increase reporting. Each month the cases of about ten high risk victims of DV are considered in detail at 'Multi Agency Risk Assessment Conferences' and we are meeting our target to reduce repeat victimisation with these clients.

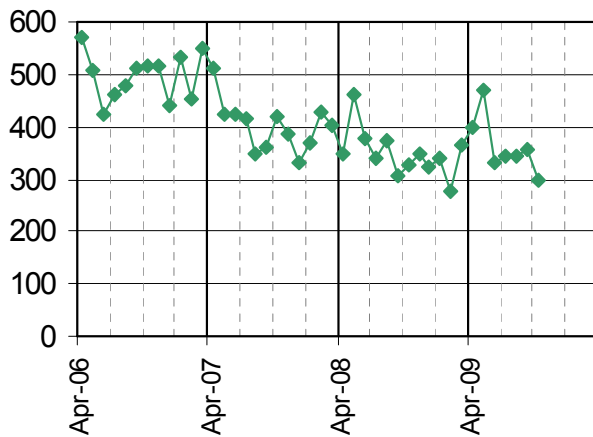
The number of racist and religiously motivated incidents (RRMI) recorded by the police continues to decline. However, there is an increasing level of reporting via other agencies which demonstrates increasing awareness and support of other agencies. A report which looked at older people's experience of RRMI was fed into the council's scrutiny process around older people. Police recorded LGBT-motivated hate crimes and incidents also continue to fall and engagement with different sectors of the LGBT community is ongoing to ensure that awareness of reporting routes confidence to report is built up and maintained.

Crime trends up to October 2009



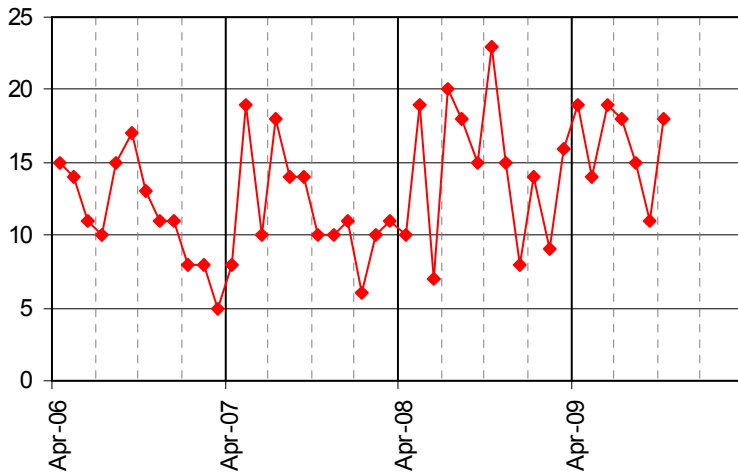
- The number of crimes in the last two months is fewer than in the summer months, reflecting a typical seasonal pattern.

Criminal Damage, April 2006 to Oct 2009



- The performance year began with a steep increase in the number of criminal damage offences, rising to a peak of about 470 in May (linked to the inputting of 60 graffiti offences in that month). Since then numbers have averaged at around 350 per month, except for the most recent month of October when they dropped to 300 crimes.

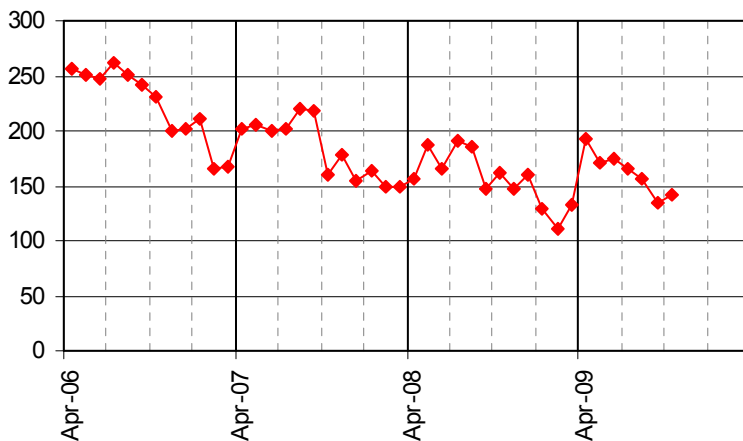
Serious Violence (GBH+)
April 2006 to October 2009



- The number of serious violence offences has averaged between about 10 and 20 per month over the last 8 months. Instability in the data make it difficult to establish a trend.

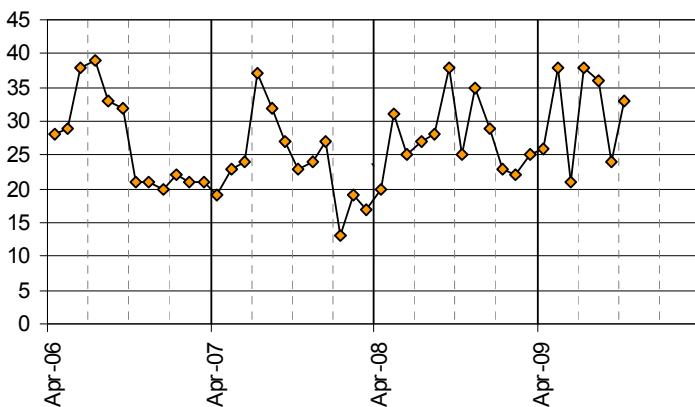
(NB. Categorisation of serious violence crimes was reviewed during 2008 resulting in a slight increase in numbers recorded.)

Assault with Less Serious Injury (ABH)
April 2006 to October 2009



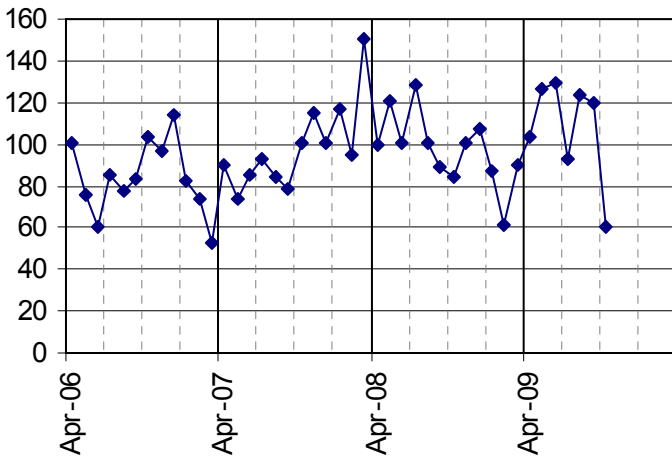
- There has been a downward trend since April, which is contrary to typical seasonal patterns around violent crime. Overall, the number of assaults with less serious injury in the first five months of 2009/10 is about 5% lower than in the same period in 2008/9.

Sexual Offences
April 2006 - October 2009



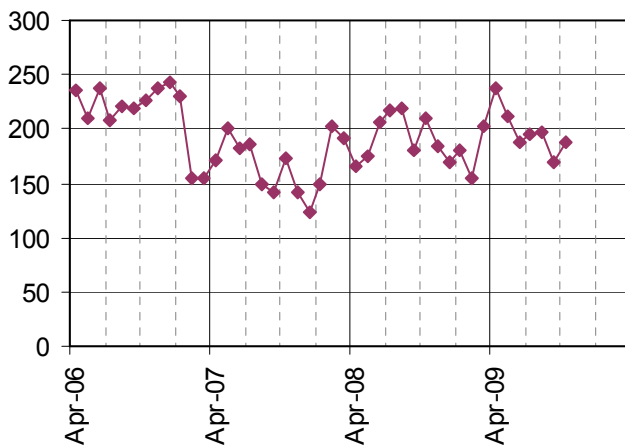
- The Community Safety Forum has requested data on sexual offences. These have numbered between 20 and 40 per month since April 2008 and there tends to be a seasonal pattern with higher levels in the summer (in common with other offences of violence).
- Sexual offences are offences of high impact, yet are under-reported, but there have been recent developments in services which are aimed at increasing reporting and support to victims. Between Apr and Oct 2009 numbers recorded are 11% higher than the same months in 2008.

Domestic Burglary, April 2006 to October 2009



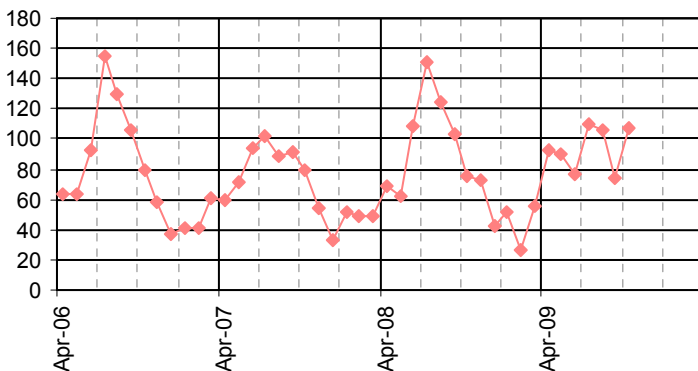
- After the first 6 months of 2009/10 the number of domestic burglaries were 8% higher than in the first half of 2008/9. However there was a steep drop from 120 recorded in September to only 60 in October.

Vehicle Crime, April 2006 to October 2009



- Since a peak in April, the number of vehicles crimes has shown a declining trend. The number of vehicle crimes April to October 2009 is roughly similar to the number last year. However, when examined separately, theft from vehicles is showing a 10% drop while thefts of vehicles (a smaller number than thefts from) is showing a 34% increase.

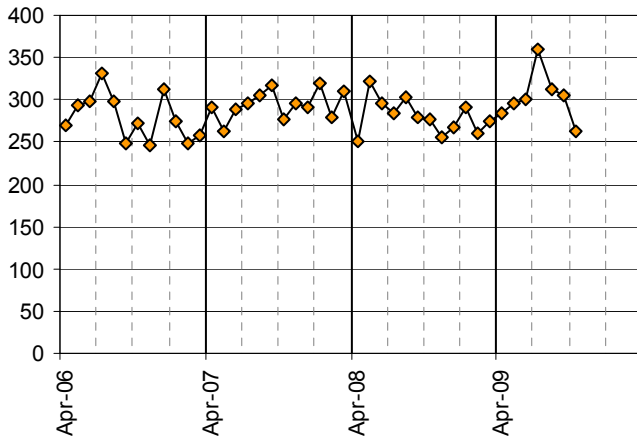
Theft of a Pedal Cycle, April 2006 to October 2009



- Pedal cycle theft shows a strong seasonal effect related to the months when more people cycle. The rise in cycle thefts in October is contrary to this trend, but overall since April 2009 there have been 5% fewer crimes than in 2008.

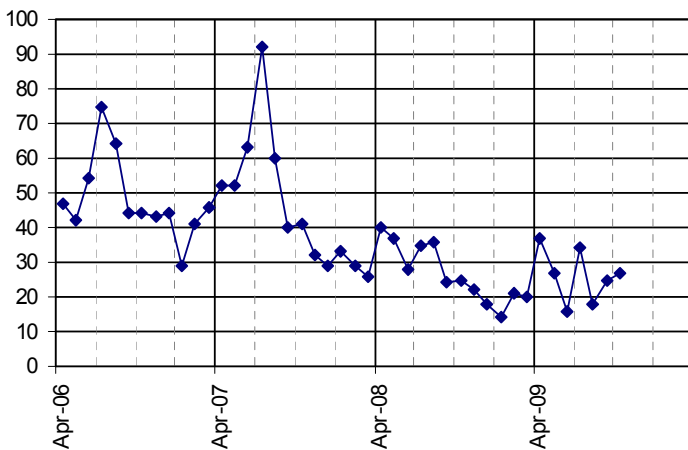
Police crime data presented in this report only reflect those crimes which are reported and recorded. There is likely to be a level of underreporting in many crime types. However, domestic violence and the hate crimes on this page are likely to be particularly liable to underreporting.

Domestic Violence Crimes and Incidents, April 2006 - October 2009



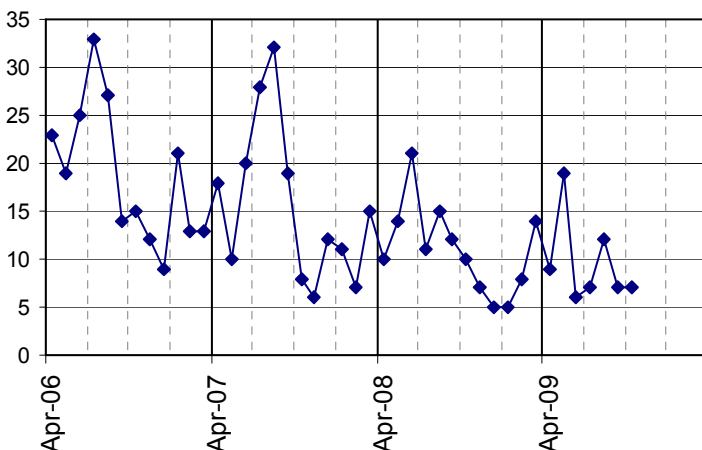
- Over the last 12 months the number of domestic violence crimes and incidents have shown an increase up to July and a decrease again since then.

Racist and Religiously Motivated Crimes and Incidents, April 2006 to October 2009



- The declining trend in racist and religiously motivated crimes and incidents appears to be continuing, although. Over the last few months numbers have shown some variability and the seasonal effect (more incidents in the summer months) has been less clear.

LGBT Hate Crimes and Incidents, April 2006 to October 2009



- Although there are normally higher levels of homophobic, biphobic and transphobic incidents during the summer months, this has been less evident this year with particularly low levels in June and July. The declining long term trend appears to be continuing.

Performance data for Key Crime Types, 2009/10 (to end October)

Police recorded crimes, April to October 2009 (inclusive)	number of crimes Apr 08-Oct 08	number of crimes Apr 09-Oct 09	reduction target (from 2008/09 baseline)	performance against target to date	rank within 15 benchmarked CDRPs ¹ (1=best; 15=worst)
Total Crimes	15,496	15,210	-3%	not on target	7
Criminal Damage	2,530	2,549	-5%	not on target	11
Serious Violence (GBH/more serious violence)	112	114	-5%	not on target	4
Assault: Less Serious Injury (ABH)	1195	1134	-5%	on target	6
Sexual Offences	194	216	no target	-	
Domestic Burglary	724	755	-3%	not on target	4
Theft from/of a Motor Vehicle	1,372	1,385	-3%	not on target	4
Pedal Cycle Theft	693	656	no target	-	6
Domestic Violence Crimes and Incidents	2,013	2,120	no target	-	
Racist/Rel. Crimes and Incidents	237	198	no target	-	
LGBT Hate Crimes and Incidents	93	67	no target	-	

¹ See Appendix for further information around the benchmarking arrangements

Appendix.

A note on how Brighton & Hove's performance is compared with other CDRPs.

For the purposes of assessing the relative performance of Brighton & Hove CDRP (Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnership) in reducing crime, our performance is compared (benchmarked) with the performance of 14 other 'Most Similar' CDRPs. The Home Office have created these groupings to help provide information on how CDRPs, police forces, etc. are performing.

CDRPs within a 'Most Similar' grouping have been assessed as having similar characteristics in terms of 24 socio-demographic and geographic variables which are strongly linked to increased levels of crime, fear of crime, or incidents.

We are able to compare our crime trends and current performance with our Most Similar CDRPs. The data presented on page 1 of this report (see right-most column of the table) shows our ranked position within this group of 15 CDRPs. For example, a ranking of 1 indicates that a CDRP is performing best within the group, and a ranking of 8 shows that the CDRP is in the middle ranked position.

Other Members of Brighton & Hove's Most Similar CDRP Group (from Apr 2008) area as follows:

LB Barnet
Bournemouth
Cheltenham
LB Croydon
LB Ealing
Eastbourne
LB Hackney
LB Hammersmith & Fulham
LB Kensington & Chelsea
LB Lambeth
Reading
LB Southwark
LB Wandsworth
Wycombe

Brighton & Hove City Council

Meeting: Community Safety Forum

Date of meeting: 14th December 2009

Subject: Dealing with Sexual Violence and Abuse.

1.0 Introduction and Purpose of the Report

1.1 Reducing those sexual violence and abuse is a priority within the Community Safety, Crime Reduction and Drugs Strategy 2008 -2011. The section of the Strategy which sets out the outcomes being sought and the actions being taken to achieve those outcomes is appended to this covering report. The purpose of this report is to inform the Forum about the action currently being taken to deal with sexual violence and abuse and to provide an opportunity for questions about this area of work. This priority crime area is to be the subject of Scrutiny in early 2010.

2.0 Information

2.1 As stated, the attached section of the Strategy, describes the work being undertaken to deal with this important priority crime area which ranks within the 'serious crime' category. Sexual violence and abuse can occur in a domestic setting and/or in a public place and with such a broad definition (as set out overleaf) there are clearly many cross cutting issues to be brought into this area of work.

2.2 Partnership work reflects this broad agenda. Leadership in developing a force wide response to rape is by Sussex Police and senior police officers from Brighton & Hove, together with senior officers from the Crown Prosecution, Court and Health services meet regularly to co-ordinate investigative, judicial and preventative work across Sussex. The group also has oversight of service delivery of the Sexual Assault Referral Centre (a service for all of Sussex). The Head of Community Safety represents the local authority and CDRP on this group and one activity that is being taken forward, is ensuring, that Brighton & Hove third sector organisations are supported within the CDRP, to develop local, independent services for women. National and local research tells us that such services can be the catalyst for increasing the confidence of women to come forward and report crimes and

continued support through the criminal justice process increases the rate by which offenders are brought to justice.

2.3 The Brighton & Hove, Senior Officer Strategy Group for Domestic Violence includes within its area of responsibility, developing partnership activities to support the police in their responses to rape and sexual violence in a domestic setting. The Group, led by a senior police officer and supported by the Domestic Violence Co-ordinator in the Partnership Community Safety Team, is also taking the lead on partnership work to respond to forced marriage, honour killings and female genital mutilation. The Group which includes representatives from RISE and the community led Domestic Violence Forum also identifies and gives leadership to, specific activities undertaken by community based organisations which can protect women from these crimes.

2.4 The launch in late November of the governments Violence Against Women and Girls strategy, provides an opportunity for the CDRP to review its approaches and develop a more co-ordinated approach to combating all forms of violence against women. The national Strategy sets out a structure of working across three key areas, those of:

- Prevention – delivering an effective criminal justice system: investigation, prosecution, victim support, protection and perpetrator programmes
- Provision – helping women and girls continue with their lives; effective provision of services, advice and support, emergency and acute services, refuges and safe accommodation
- Prevention – changing attitudes and preventing violence; awareness raising campaigns, safeguarding and educating children and young people, early identification, intervention and training.

2.5 Working with partners in the City, particularly the specialist women's services such as the Women's Centre, RISE, Threshold, Oasis and Survivors Network, the CDRP have begun considering the detailed recommendations of the national strategy and will in the coming months, be making recommendations which take us closer to the development of a more co-ordinated approach to dealing with all forms of violence against women and girls. Other agencies such as Crime Reduction Initiatives and Brighton Housing Trust also have an important role to play in those developments.

Linda Beanlands
Head of Community Safety

Sexual Violence and Abuse

Objective: To prevent sexual violence and abuse, improve acute and ongoing victim care and criminal justice responses

Definition - Central Government confirms the definition as:

- *Sexual violence and abuse which occurs in a domestic setting (includes forced marriage, female genital mutilation and honour killings).*
- *Rape and sexual assault which occurs in a public place or non-domestic setting*
- *Sexual exploitation*

Why is this priority?

Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnerships have been advised that tackling sexual violence is a government priority as set out within the following:

- > Cutting Crime: A New Partnership 2008-11
- > Tackling Sexual Violence: Guidance for Local Partnerships, June 2006
- > Cross Government Action Plan on Sexual Violence and Abuse, April 2007
- > Saving Lives. Reducing Harm. Protecting the Public. Action Plan for Tackling Violence, 2008-11
- > Developing Domestic Violence Strategies: A Guide for Partnerships, 2004
- > Local Area and Public Service Agreements, including Reward Element Guidance
- > Gender Equality Duty, 2007

In summary, the government is seeking to prioritise those crimes which cause the most harm to individuals in society. In relation to sexual violence we are advised that CDRPs have a crucial role to play in the prevention of these serious crimes in providing services to victims and in bringing perpetrators to justice.

Findings from the strategic assessment

Sexual violence and abuse have a devastating impact on victims, their families and friends and wider society. Its impact is likely to affect mental, physical and sexual health. The severity of the impact is reflected in the high cost to the victims and to society. Home Office research published in 2005 estimated that the total cost of sexual offences committed in England & Wales in 2003-04 was nearly £8.5 billion.

The government's guidance confirms that sexual violence and abuse in adulthood are massively under-reported by both male and female victims. The 2001 British Crime Survey Inter-Personal Violence Model found that only 15% of rapes came to

the attention of the police and that 40% of those who had suffered had told no-one about it. Over half had suffered sexual violence perpetrated by a current or former partner. National information confirms that 98% of offenders are male and 82% of victims are female. As expected, those percentages are consistently closely reflected in local data for Sussex for both rape and other serious sexual offences. Women have a greater fear of rape than any other crime.

Nationally, it is well recognised that conviction rates for sexual offences are too low, however it should also be recognised that they are at their highest level seen for 10 years.

Nationally and locally, there is a strong correlation between alcohol and sexual violence. Research indicates that in a significant proportion of rape and sexual assault cases, the victim consumed alcohol prior to the assault. There may be a number of reasons for this association, one of those being that women may be specifically targeted by perpetrators because they are drunk, more vulnerable as a result and less likely to remember details of the attack. The most common age group for victims is 20 years of age and under. Research also indicates that many perpetrators have drunk alcohol immediately prior to the incident or have ongoing alcohol misuse problems.

In Brighton & Hove, the local Strategic Assessment confirmed that there were 1297 serious sexual offence between April 2004 and March 2009 which is the highest number of offences pro rata to the population compared with other Authorities within Sussex. The Sussex Sexual Assault Referral Centre opened in September 2008 and between this date and June 2009 there have been 230 victims of serious sexual offence dealt with at the centre of which 95% of victims were women. 30% (of the 230 total referrals) of those were from Brighton & Hove.

Sex workers are amongst those groups who are a higher risk of being a victim of sexual violence and of being less likely to report incidents. Brighton & Hove does not have 'on street' prostitution activity. However, there are a significant number of prostitutes working from sex parlours and within an 'indoor' sex market. A local survey revealed that of those surveyed in the city, 57.5% of sex workers reported that they had experienced violence or abuse and, of those, only 12.5% had reported those incidents to the police.

Childhood sexual abuse and that experienced by young people is also included within the definition. The Local Safeguarding Children Board commissioned and received a report (2007) on the findings of a 'Joint agency audit into the incidence, recording and outcomes of child sexual abuse investigations in Brighton & Hove'. Its purpose was to ensure that sufficient safeguards are in place to protect children and to ensure that joint working mandated by the Board is effective and efficient. The review looked at ways that child sexual abuse is reported and recorded, the care pathways that are followed and processes of investigation, case management and support. The recommendations which come from the review of 38 cases are helping to inform good practice changes within the health, social care and police sectors.

Research and a report undertaken by Barnardo's (September 2007) and supported by the Children and Young People's Trust has also assisted in providing important information. The 'Pan Sussex study of Young People

Main Partners

Sussex Police
Force Rape and Serious Sexual Assault Steering Group
Local Safeguarding Children Board
'Staying Safe' Group & Children and Young People's Trust
Adult Protection Board
Women's Services Strategic Network
Women's Centre: RISE: Survivors Network: Oasis
Sex Workers Strategy Group
Senior Officer Strategy Group for Domestic Violence
Alcohol Strategy Group

at Risk of Sexual Exploitation and Trafficking' audited 33 case studies from Brighton & Hove (as well as 10 from East and West Sussex). The findings identify reasons and evidence of the underlying causes as to why and how young people are drawn into sexual activity, including the exchange of sexual acts for money, drugs, a bed for the night/accommodation and so on. There is a strong correlation with their living circumstances and their vulnerability to sexual exploitation and with alcohol and drug abuse. The recommendations for action include those to identify and reduce risks as well as interventions to protect young people. In addition the aim is to address the invisibility for sexual exploitation of young people.

Current status of work

Brighton & Hove's CDRP has recognised the high priority that is being given to this work by government and that there compliance with gender equality duties is also required. The CDRP also recognises the cross-cutting nature of the work and that sexual violence can occur in a range of different contexts and circumstances. We plan therefore that actions to combat sexual violence are integrated within action plans and work programmes which are dealing with:

- > Domestic violence
- > Alcohol related violence
- > Violent crime
- > Prostitution & trafficking
- > Safeguarding children
- > Adult protection
- > Fear of crime
- > Gender equality duty
- > Public protection and the management of offenders

Where next?

Brighton & Hove CDRP works within the Force wide Rape and Serious Sexual Assault Steering Group, participating in the development of the Sexual Assault Referral Centre as well as developing interventions which aim to prevent and reduce the risks to young people and adults. Our work will also be informed by the findings of research, the aims of which include identifying the factors that influence reporting and increase our understanding as to why attrition rates are so high. The research (carried out by Sussex and Glasgow Universities) is expected to report in July and October 2010.

In the meantime, we continue to develop local good practice responses for Brighton & Hove ensuring they are co-ordinated with Force wide developments. Developing local services to ensure women and men receive specialist support within Brighton & Hove is a high priority. We recognise that sexual violence is best tackled through a multi-agency approach therefore we are working in partnership recognising the expertise of both the independent and statutory sector agencies as well as supporting the role of specialist voluntary sector services. Implications for sustainability

Preventing sexual violence is also central to meeting targets in relation to public health in communities, the health and wellbeing of individuals and their families and safeguarding children and young people. Women are most likely to be victims of sexual violence and those who are most excluded are more likely to be at risk, therefore preventing and reducing its incidence, is central to the delivery of the Inclusive Council Policy and of the Gender Equality duties.

Parallel plans

- Sussex Police Rape, Sexual Violence and Serious Sexual Offences Strategy and findings of Strategic Assessments
- Brighton & Hove Alcohol Strategy
- Recommendations of 'Tipping The Iceberg' Study of Young People at risk of Sexual Exploitation and Trafficking (Barnardo's: Sept. 2007)
- Sex Workers Strategy
- Recommendations of report to Local Safeguarding Board on Inter-Agency Audit of Sexual Abuse Investigations in Brighton & Hove (March 2008)
- Domestic Violence Strategy
- Strategy and Action Plans of 'Staying Safe' Subgroup and Children and Young People's Trust
- Gender Equality Actions Plans

Performance Indicators

- NI 26: Specialist support to victims of a serious

Sexual Violence, Abuse and Exploitation, Prostitution and Trafficking Action Plan

Outcome Sought 1

Achieve an understanding of the nature and prevalence of sexual violence in Brighton & Hove and of actions that will decrease attrition rates

Actions

1.1 Continue to identify the nature and prevalence of sexual violence in Brighton & Hove, recognising the wide variety of contexts in which it can take place and the different profiles and circumstances of victims and offenders. A summary report and baselines for the CDRP to be prepared based on the Strategic Assessments of Sussex Police and the findings of research (to be completed by Sussex and Glasgow Caledonian Universities in 2010).

1.2 Each Strategy and Working Group to gather information about the nature and prevalence of sexual violence within the domain of their strategy,

1.3 Consider the practicalities of establishing a multi-agency data capture system that includes information from local voluntary agencies as well as police, sexual health and other appropriate services.

1.4. Introduce IT solutions which would enable extraction of information when a victim is 'Under the Influence'

Outcome Sought 2

Prevent sexual violence through increased awareness of its nature and prevalence in all contexts and of the practical measures that can be taken to reduce risks and opportunities

Actions

2.1 Incorporate communications to potential victims about the association between excessive drinking and sexual violence within alcohol prevention publicity and education programmes which proposing safe drinking practices and appropriate personal safety precautions

2.2 Target information towards young women and students in particular, utilising 'student nights; and fresher week events

2.3 All Strategy Groups, including those which are addressing domestic violence, to incorporate information about sexual violence in their publicity

2..4 Incorporate preventative measures within the good practice initiatives which are led by the Licensing Strategy Group and Violent Crime & Alcohol Related Crime and Disorder Groups

Outcome Sought 3

Increase reporting of sexual violence through improved public confidence in the criminal justice system and lower rate of attrition which is well publicised

3.1 Support Sussex Police in the delivery of their Rape, Sexual Violence and Serious Sexual Offences Strategy which aims to improve the investigation, detection and prosecution of cases, identifying appropriate partnership and support action for the CDRP.

3.2 Raise awareness of the role of the police Sexual Offence Liaison Officers

3.3 Consider publicising the hand book: 'From Report to Court : a Handbook for Adult Survivors of Sexual Violence ' which meets the needs of victims and witnesses to a greater extent .

3.4 Target information towards those groups who are most at risk and/or least likely to report, recognising gender, religious and cultural factors

Outcome Sought 4

Improved victim care and support services which also assist police investigations and prosecutions.

4.1 Participate in the Sussex Police led, steering group which is taking forward the development of the Sexual Assault Referral Centre (in Crawley) working towards the establishment of effective arrangements for the care and support for victims in Brighton & Hove. This initiative also provides a link with NHS sexual health strategies and public health delivery plans

4.2 In partnership with the Third Sector organisations, support wherever possible, the provision of local crisis and immediate care provision as well as provision for sustained support and access to services

4.3 Consider the feasibility (develop a Business Case) of establishing Independent Sexual Violence Advisors who provide independent support, risk assessment and safety planning, link with the specialist DV Courts, support clients through statement taking, pre-court visits and trials and who can refer clients to health services and assist with housing and childcare arrangements

4.4 Consider identifying and meeting the training needs of those who may come in to contact with victims, including those who may deal with first disclosures (GPs, A&E providers, Health Visitors, Mental Health providers, youth workers, voluntary sector agencies, community groups and so on)

4.5 Identify appropriate actions which will ensure compliance with Gender Equality duties, particularly those which require the provision of appropriate services for victims of crimes where the majority of victims are women: In addition, consider how services for male victims of sexual crimes can be delivered in an accessible and appropriate environment.

Outcome Sought 5

To support the work programme of the Sex Workers Steering Group which seeks to reduce risks and provide routes out of prostitution and related circumstances.

Actions

5.1 Identify aims, outcomes and actions which are to be delivered by the Steering Group and which together further develop a strategic approach

5.2 Support the police led Operations which seek to identify and deal with trafficked women

5.3 Encourage the active and increased use of the 'Ugly Mugs' or 'Dodgy Punter' schemes and other national good practice initiatives which will increase safety of prostitutes, identify perpetrators and bring them to justice

5.4 Continue to target those most at risk, through maintaining relationships with individual sex workers and their increased access into drug and alcohol services and alternative housing and employment options

Outcome Sought 6

Reduce fear, particularly by women, of rape and sexual assault

Actions

6.1 All work aimed at improving public perceptions of levels of crime and disorder and to reduce fear of crime, to particularly address those crimes of serious sexual offences, sexual assault and rape and others which are of most concern to women

Outcome Sought 7

Safeguard and build the resilience of children and young people to sexual assault and exploitation

Actions

7.1 Continue the delivery of the five outcomes of the Every Child matters Outcomes and in particular, deliver the work programmes of the 'Staying Safe' and 'Be Healthy' work programme which are overseen by the Local Safeguarding Children Board . These programmes include actions to reduce the risks associated with unsupervised internet use by children and young people .

7.2 Education programmes within schools and those targeted towards young people which address alcohol and drug misuse, sex and relationship education, teenage pregnancy and other risks, to include awareness raising of the association with sexual violence and how those risks can be reduced through personal safety measures.

7.3 Implement the findings of the Joint Agency Audit into the Incidence, Recording and Outcomes of Child Sexual Abuse Investigations in Brighton & Hove

7.4 Identify appropriate and effective early interventions for young people who sexually abuse or are at risk of abusing and support the delivery of those interventions

7.5 Implement the findings of 'Tipping The Iceberg' – A Pan-Sussex Study of Young People at Risk of Sexual Exploitation and Trafficking

7.6 Support compliance as appropriate with 'Special Measures' in courts (compliance with 'Speaking Up for Justice' and Youth Justice and Criminal Evidence Act 1999) which offers enhanced protection for child witnesses

Outcome Sought 8

Work towards the development of a holistic strategy for tackling rape and serious sexual offences and violence which accords to national good practice, builds on existing plans and expertise together with a structure which supports multi- agency delivery of an agreed work programme

Actions

8.1 Establish and support a multi-agency Sexual Violence and Abuse Forum which receives reports from and co-ordinates actions being taken forward by the individual working groups that are identified within this Strategy

REPORT OF THE SUSSEX POLICE AUTHORITY

The Sussex Police Authority met at the Conference Centre, Sussex University on 15 October 2009. Attendances:

Dr L Bush (Chairman), Mr L Barnard, Mr P Bratton, Prof G Bull, Ms E Daniel, Mr G Daniel, Mr B Duncan, Mr P Evans, Mr F Faiz, Mr P Jones, Mrs S Knight, Mr A Price JP, Mrs C Shaves MBE JP, Mr A Smith, Mr R Tidy, Mr S Waight (Vice-Chairman) and Dr R Walker.

The Police Authority considered a wide range of policing issues at the meeting including the following matters. The full set of reports to the Police Authority can be accessed on the Authority's website www.sussexpoliceauthority.gov.uk

BUDGET PLANNING

- 1.1 The Authority, like many other public sector bodies, faces significant long term budget financing and spending pressures following on from the effects of the current economic recession. It is, therefore, important that the Authority takes steps now to identify how it can make sustainable savings in the budget for Sussex Police without compromising the high standards of policing in Sussex. In summary, the Authority is planning on the basis of a £35m funding gap to 2015, based on a reduction in income. The Authority anticipates that in 2010-11 it will face a funding gap of around £5m in its £253m annual budget with further projected annual shortfalls of £7.5m a year until 2015. In addition, it is also likely that there will be limited funding for capital investment. The Authority is considering the options which will be available for managing costs and increasing income whilst continuing delivering a Local Policing Plan which meets the needs of Sussex.
- 1.2 Sussex Police has a strong record of making efficiency savings. The culture of efficiency, and more collaboration with partners, will ensure services can better contribute to cash releasing efficiencies and improved use of resources. The cumulative efficiencies made since 2008 amount to £26m and are forecast to increase to £34m in 2011.

ALCOHOL AND CRIME

- 2.1 The cost of alcohol-related crime nationally is estimated to be as much as £7.3 billion per year. Nationally, approximately 1.2 million violent incidents (around half of all violent crimes) and 360,000

incidents of domestic violent are linked to alcohol. Nationally it is estimated that 90% of criminal damage is alcohol related, and 70% of all violent incidents are also alcohol related. In Sussex alcohol plays a part in a very high proportion of rapes, sexual assaults, and violent incidents – particularly on Friday and Saturday nights in town and city centres.

- 2.2 The Sussex Police Licensing and Public Safety Manager has recently worked with the Prime Minister’s Delivery Unit looking at inconsistencies with licensing enforcement across a number of forces and making recommendations on consistency for licensing enforcement across England and Wales. Whilst the report is currently confidential, matters arising from the work are being or have already been implemented across the Sussex Police area. Work has also been undertaken with the Authority to respond to a government consultation on the Alcohol Retailing Code of Practice.
- 2.3 The Authority supports the arrangement within Sussex Police whereby each Division has a dedicated operational plan to tackle crime and disorder associated with the night time economy. Each Policing Division has strong links with its respective local authority licensing departments which has assisted local authorities in gaining both revocation and/or suspension of licences where licensed premises have contributed to crime and disorder. There have been some excellent examples of partnership working in this area. Sussex Police is highly respected nationally for the work being done in the licensing field. Sussex Police has been mentioned at national licensing and alcohol enforcement conferences as being a ‘leader’ in enforcement and this is due in no small part to the support of the Police Authority. Indeed, the Authority’s recommendations in respect of changes to the regulations governing the timescales for the issuing of Temporary Event Notices have been supported nationally. As a result the Department of Culture, Media and Sport is considering amending the time period the police are given to lodge an objection to a Temporary Event Notice from 48 hours to five days.
- 2.4 The Authority has also been advised of the fact that the airside licensed premises at Gatwick Airport are not required to be licensed under the Licensing Act 2003. This issue means that no sanction can be given to a premises/person found to be committing offences under the Licensing Act 2003, as the premises are specifically exempt under the Secretary of State’s direction. The Authority is proposing that airside licensed premises at Gatwick should be brought within the scope of the Licensing Act 2003 is working with Crawley Borough Council to seek this change in the regulations.

POLICING PLEDGE

3. The Policing Pledge nationally aims to provide services and reassurance that will, ultimately, have an impact on public confidence and satisfaction in policing. The Pledge sets out a

number of national standards that constitute a commitment from the police to their local communities. The Policing Pledge is a strong component of the Sussex Police 'Serving Sussex' commitment and complements the Neighbourhood Policing philosophy already introduced by Sussex Police with the support of the Authority. The Authority is working with Sussex Police to ensure that the Pledge is embedded across Sussex. This will involve identifying, developing and implementing ways to meet the Policing Pledge and thereby build on the existing high levels of public confidence in policing in Sussex.

PREVENT

4. The Authority has welcomed the fact that Sussex Police has made significant progress in implementing the Prevent strand of the Government's Contest strategy in tackling terrorism and extremism. Prevent is a long term engagement strategy and is closely aligned to neighbourhood policing. The Authority has proactively supported a number of initiatives by Sussex Police to help deliver the Prevent agenda. As an example the 'On the Edge' drama produced in conjunction with West Sussex Youth Theatre and Sussex Police Youth Academy, involving schools officers, has received excellent feedback from regional and national bodies. A joint partnership agreement has also been concluded with Brighton University to fund a Prevent police officer post, which has been financed by partners and which is the first in the region. This post will cover Brighton, Hastings, Crawley and Eastbourne. With partners, Sussex Police will also look at the benefits of other joint activities relating to Prevent in communities, and establish programmes and systems to identify and change the behaviour of vulnerable people subject to radicalisation.

KILLED AND SERIOUSLY INJURED

5. The number of people killed and seriously injured (KSI) on the roads of Sussex remains a concern to the Authority particularly in relation to children. Total number of KSI for 2009 currently exceeds the Local Policing Plan target for 2009-10. Sussex Police works with the Sussex Safer Roads Partnership on a range of activities aimed at casualty reduction. Operation Crackdown (telephone 01243 642222) which encourages the anonymous reporting of anti-social and dangerous driving behaviour has seen an increase of reporting. Operation Ride is aimed at motorcyclists who account for 29% of the total number of KSI and 31% of the fatal collisions in Sussex to date this year. The importance of preventative work with partners is important, particularly with regard to possible funding pressures as other agency budgets are reduced. The Authority is seeking to be represented on the Sussex Safer Roads Partnership to ensure appropriate engagement with partners to tackle this priority target.

CONFISCATION ORDERS

6. The Authority has welcomed the positive results achieved by Sussex Police in relation to asset confiscation in respect of criminal activity. Confiscation Orders for the first five months of the year have achieved a cumulative value of just over £1m. Sussex Police is, therefore, well placed to achieve the challenging Home Office target of £2m in 2009-10. As a result of the previous year's confiscations, the Authority has received a total of £333,649 from the Recovered Assets Incentivisation Fund. The return has been used to fund the costs of additional Financial Investigators employed on Divisions and, for the first time, £55,000 has been made available to Divisions for local initiatives.

DR LAURIE BUSH
Chairman

October 2009

EAST SUSSEX FIRE AUTHORITY**Report of a meeting of the East Sussex Fire Authority held at Fire & Rescue Service Headquarters at 10.30 hours on Thursday 10 September 2009.**

Members present: Councillors Carden, Fawthrop, Freebody, Harmer-Strange, Healy, Heaps, Howson, Kemble (Chairman), Livings, Marsh, Ost, Pidgeon, Rufus, Scott and Sparks.

1. DRAFT 2010/11 SERVICE PLANNING STRATEGY APPROACHES

- 1.1 The Fire Authority considered a report that sought support for the development of the draft 2010/11 Service Planning and Resource management preparations over the coming months. The report provided an update of the latest position, before the detailed service planning processes commence their annual cycle over the period September to February. The overall aim was to continue to achieve agreed service priorities, deliver the required annual efficiency savings, ensure preparedness for likely reductions in Formula Grant in 2011/12 and beyond, as well as continuing to deliver quality services at a price local council taxpayers are prepared to pay.
- 1.2 Current modelling based on a 'worst case' scenario indicated that savings of £311,000 in 2010/11, £926,000 in 2011/12 and £706,000 in 2012/13 might be required to achieve Council Tax B and D increases of 3.5% and keep below the current 5% capping limit. This assumed no change to Formula Grant currently advised for 2010/11 and a reduction in Formula Grant over the period 2011/12 – 2013/14 of 10% in cash terms.
- 1.3 Members noted the context within which the draft 2010/11 Service Planning and Resource Management preparations must take place over the forthcoming months.

2. 2008/09 PERFORMANCE OUTCOME REPORT

- 2.1 The Fire Authority considered a report that summarised the 2008/09 performance outcomes. The report provided performance outcomes for successes within the organisation, continued development work taking place within community safety, technical fire safety, equality and diversity and health and safety. A summary of 2008/09 performance indicator results, Improvement Planning achievements, partnership performance and an analysis of Incidents by Station and Type was also provided, as well as the detailed performance indicator information for 2008/09. The indicators were also compared with those of previous years, and with the latest figures for the top 25% of Fire & Rescue Services and family group averages.
- 2.2 The report highlighted an overall performance improvement and also demonstrated that the Fire Authority is continuing to build upon investments and achievements made in previous years. In its Performance Assessment Statements for 2006/07, the Audit Commission identified that 86% of the performance indicators for the Fire Authority have improved since 2003/04 making it the sixth most improved authority nationally. For 2007/08, 53% of the BVPI improvement targets were achieved. In 2008/09, 63% had met their improvement targets, with 20% of the remaining indicators being within 10% of the target and only 17% not meeting the targets compared to 25% that didn't meet them last year.

- 2.3 The Chief Fire Officer & Chief Executive stressed the need to brand and market the work of East Sussex Fire & Rescue Service so as to increase the public and other local authorities' awareness of the different roles undertaken.
- 2.4 Members noted the 2008/09 performance results.
3. **FURTHER AMENDMENT TO FIRE AUTHORITY TREASURY MANAGEMENT STRATEGY AND POLICY STATEMENT FOR 2009/10**
- 3.1 The Fire Authority considered a report that sought approval to a further amendment to the Treasury Management Strategy and Policy Statement for 2009/10 that provided for increased flexibility.
- 3.2 It was now considered reasonable to include all UK Institutions eligible for Government Credit Guarantee Scheme (GCGS) which met the Fire Authorities required credit rating for 2 out of 3 of the ratings agencies. This would bring Nationwide, Lloyds/HBOS and NatWest/RBS onto the approved list. Standard Chartered Bank was also eligible for the GCGS but fell below rating criteria on both Fitch and Standards & Poors ratings, so would still remain outside of the approved list of counterparties. It was now considered appropriate to increase the total maximum investment in these institutions from £8m to £11m (with the maximum period of any deal remaining unchanged at 3 months). Any amount over £11m will be invested with the Debt Management and Deposit Facility.
- 3.3 Councillor Sparks expressed concerns that it was too early to expand the list of counterparties as proposed but did support the proposed increase in the total maximum investments to £11m. The Chief Fire Officer & Chief Executive supported the professional advice given by the Treasurer and felt that the Authority continued to maintain a prudent approach to Treasury Management.
- 3.4 Members approved the amendment to the Treasury Management Strategy and Policy Statement for 2009/10, although Councillor Sparks wished it to be recorded that he voted against the proposal.

COUNCILLOR TED KEMBLE
CHAIRMAN OF EAST SUSSEX FIRE AUTHORITY
10 September 2009