

Subject:	Community Safety and Crime in Brighton & Hove		
Date of Meeting:	22nd January 2018		
Report of:	Executive Director of Neighbourhoods, Communities and Housing		
Contact Officer:	Name:	Peter Castleton	Tel: 292607
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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 Safe in the City Partnership in relation to the current Community Safety and Crime Reduction Strategy.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS:

- 2.1 The Committee is invited to note the information contained in the report which provides an update on work being undertaken by the Safe in the City Partnership in relation to the Community Safety and Crime Reduction Strategy 2017-20.
- 2.2 That the committee requests that officers send a copy of the report and the minutes of the committee meeting to the Sussex Police and Crime Commissioner seeking a response and that officers report back to a future Committee meeting with details of the response..

3. CONTEXT/ BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Overview of police recorded crime

- 3.1 Total police recorded crime in the first eight months of 2017/18 (April – November incl.) increased by 5.8% compared with the 2016/17, continuing the upwards trend seen in previous years.
- 3.2 Total crime is, broadly speaking, broken down into acquisitive crime¹ (40% of total crime in the three months from July to Sep), violent crime (42% of total), criminal damage (10% of total) and other offences (8% of total).
- 3.3 Between April and November 2017, while recorded crime as a whole has increased, the picture in different crime groups differs. Violence against the

¹ eg. burglary or theft

person crimes, and robberies have increased by 11% and 19% respectively. Criminal damage offences have decreased by 5%, while acquisitive crime types are showing a mixed picture with burglaries and vehicle crimes each decreasing by about 4%, but other theft offences have increased by 3%, including cycle thefts which have increased particularly sharply – up by 37%. Domestic violence and sexual violence have both increased, while different types of hate crimes are showing different trends. Appendix 1 provides data for key crime types for the period from April to November 2017 and how this compares with the same months in 2016/17. Longer term trends, with seasonal patterns can be seen in the graphs in Appendix 2.

- 3.4 The upward trend in total crime over the last three years described above 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.
- 3.5 Domestic violence, sexual violence, and hate crime are among those crime types which are now more accurately recorded resulting in better services and outcomes for victims.

Anti-social behaviour and hate incidents/crimes

- 3.6 A long term declining trend in the number of police recorded ASB incidents, is continuing into 2017/18, with numbers recorded from April to November 2017 showing a 3% decrease compared with the same months in 2016/17. 'ASB crimes'² were increasing in number in the three years up to 2016/17, but 2017/18 to date is showing a 2% decrease compared with the same months in 2016/17.
- 3.7 In the first eight months of 2017/18 racist, religiously-motivated and transphobic crimes and incidents all show a decrease (down 6%, 4% and 34% respectively), while homophobic and disability-motivated crimes and incidents are both showing an increase (up 17% and 27% respectively). The police solved rate for hate crimes has dropped over the last few years, and in the first half of 2017/18 it remains roughly at last year's level. For those cases reaching court, the prosecution rate for hate crimes overall is 88%.
- 3.8 A multi-agency working group has been set up to address the increase in instances of "cuckooing", ie. drug dealers take over the property of a vulnerable person, and has finalised a joint working procedure to ensure that the safeguarding of vulnerable people is undertaken alongside any enforcement action. Part of the working procedure includes the use of Closure Orders which can be used under the ASB and Policing Act 2014 to close problem premises.
- 3.9 The local authority provided some funding through the Communities Fund to the Racial Harassment Forum (RHF) for consultation with BME community members to inform their priorities for action in the coming months. The RHF is now based at the BME Community Partnership Centre.

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

Safety in the night-time economy

- 3.10 Police recorded violence against the person is continuing to show a significant rise with an increase of 11% in the year to date. This on top of the rising trend over the last three years. However, following an increase in 2016/17, attendances at A&E due to alcohol and/or assault have reduced by 14% in the first half of 2017/18 compared with the same period in 2016/17.
- 3.11 A reorganisation of policing of the night-time economy (Op Marble) is focusing on patrolling of crime harm spots in order to be most effective with available resources.
- 3.12 In response to potential vulnerabilities of crowded places, additional training around counter-terrorism for patrons and staff in the night time economy is planned.

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

- 3.13 Police recorded domestic violence crimes and incidents and particularly sexual offences continue to rise. The number of reported stalking crimes and incidents is also rising sharply, this is likely to be a response to publicity around this crime type.
- 3.14 The increased demand for services is continuing to have a significant impact on the partners, in particular the providers who deliver 'The Portal' (RISE and Survivors' Network). Commissioners continue to work with specialist support services to ensure that referral pathways are robust and to enable those at the highest levels of risk and need to access help and support.
- 3.15 The police solved rate for domestic violence offences remains similar to the previous two years, while the conviction rate for cases finalised at court remains relatively high at 77%. The solved rate for sexual offences in the first half of 2017/18 is marginally higher than in 2016/17, but poorer than in previous years. The conviction rate for sexual offences at court sits roughly in the middle of the results achieved in previous years.
- 3.16 Police recorded crimes of harmful practices (female genital mutilation (FGM), 'honour based' violence (HBV) and forced marriage) remain low – in the first half of 2017/18 there have been 3 HBV crimes and incidents, but no reports of FGM or forced marriage. Although capacity to progress this work locally is limited, a pan-Sussex meeting is due to pick up on work in this area.
- 3.17 The volume of cases at the Multi-Agency Risk Assessment Conference (MARAC) remains high, and is increasing, with 269 cases referred in the first half of 2017/18 while the percentage of repeat cases is 34.6%. Changes to the MARAC process, including changes to the frequency and structure of meetings are being progressed in response to the level of demand.

Reducing offending

- 3.18 Acquisitive crimes, often committed by repeat offenders, are showing a 4% increase in the first eight months of 2017/18 compared with the same months in 2016/17. 39% of adult offenders and 35% of young offenders in the city who offended between October and December 2015 went on to reoffend in the following 12 months. This is a poorer result for adults offenders than England &

Wales as a whole (E&W: 29%), but a better result for young offenders (E&W: 42%).³

- 3.19 Partnership work at a regional level, led by the police and the Surrey and Sussex Criminal Justice Board, reviewed key issues related to offending across different areas in the region and noted that accommodation and mental health support were particular issues for Brighton & Hove.
- 3.20 There have been 15 first time entrants to the youth justice system in the first half of 2017/18, continuing the downward trend.
- 3.21 An important focus of work with young offenders continues to be about keeping them out of the youth justice system. Partnership work with the police is underway to develop an 'out of court' pathway for working with young motoring offenders. Work is also taking place to reduce entry to the youth justice system following 'no comment' interviews because out of court disposals are not an option in these cases.

Community collaboration and resilience

- 3.22 There have been six crimes related to modern slavery in the first six months of 2017/18. Although this is a low number, it does indicate an increase in the reporting and recording of these crimes which numbered 4 in 2016/17 and 2 in 2015/16. All crimes on record to date relate to either 'holding a person in slavery or servitude' or 'arranging or facilitating travel of another person with a view to exploitation'. The low number of cases of modern slavery and human trafficking coming to light could be due to low prevalence in the city or because awareness of the signs and indicators of this hidden crime is still not as good as it could be.
- 3.23 The pan-Sussex Modern Slavery Network is in the process of agreeing a draft action plan, outlining areas of work that could be taken forward across the county and some that are specific to Brighton & Hove. Sussex Police are recruiting to a new post of Modern Slavery Delivery Manager to help create a coherent county-wide approach to this work. The Brighton & Hove Modern Slavery Operational Group provides a mechanism for a local partnership approach.
- 3.24 Work on the International Migrants Needs Assessment is almost complete and recommendations have been accepted by the city's Equality and Inclusion Partnership (EQUIP). Community safety and cohesion are strands within the needs assessment with a number of recommendations weaving the inclusion of migrants into existing community cohesion work in the city. There are also recommendations around the strengthening of trust and confidence amongst migrant communities to encourage reporting of all crimes. A launch event is planned in the spring, giving an opportunity for positive messaging about the city's approach to the integration of migrants in the city.

Preventing terrorism and extremism

- 3.25 The national threat level was again raised to 'critical' following the Parsons Green Incident and remained at the highest level for two days (15-17th September 2017). It has since been reduced to 'severe' meaning an attack is highly likely.
- 3.26 Two local community members now represent the region on the National Prevent Advisory Board; this will further improve scrutiny and confidence in the Prevent work stream locally.
- 3.27 The serious case review (SCR) into the travel of two siblings to Syria when they were less than 18 years of age and who reportedly died in the conflict when they were

³ The Ministry of Justice has changed the definition of this measure since it was previously reported.

children has been published. This was the first SCR of its kind and had considerable national profile. Local communities have been worried about its impact in the context of three terrorist incidents in the UK in a short span of time. A strategy to carefully manage the impact of the publication of the report on communities involved planning and shared decision-making with faith/multi-faith groups and community leaders. It included encouraging the reporting of hate incidents and tensions, and a multi-agency media strategy.

3.28 Both nationally and locally there is concern regarding right-wing extremist sentiment expressed online in the aftermath of terrorist incidents and in response to news reports on individual cases. There is also concern of the manipulation of narratives around the response to the Rohingya Muslims to further extremist aims.

3.29 A Communities Coordinator has been appointed to continue work with community groups to develop projects countering extremism, including online, and to develop a campaign around shared values and the unacceptability of hate incidents and crimes.

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: Mike Bentley

Date: 5/1/18

Legal Implications:

7.2 There are no legal implications arising from this report..

Lawyer Consulted: Simon Court

Date: 29/12/17

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 2017/18: position at end of November 2017

Performance compared with last year

	number of crimes Apr 16 - Nov 16 ⁴	number of crimes Apr 17 – Nov 17	rank within 15 bench-marked CSPs ⁵
Police recorded crimes			1=best; 15=worst
Total crimes	17368	18373	10
Criminal damage	1943	1848	5
Violence against the person	6427	7119	13
Sexual offences	507	642	11 ⁶
Robbery	211	251	9
Burglary	1055	1018	4
Theft of/ from a motor vehicle	1022	981	4
Theft and handling (excl. motor vehicle theft)	6036	6212	12
Pedal cycle theft	644	884	13
Police recorded crimes and crime-related incidents			
Domestic violence incidents and crimes	3186	3401	n/a ⁷
Racist incidents and crimes	386	362	n/a
Religiously-motivated incidents and crimes	58	56	n/a
Homophobic incidents and crimes	204	238	n/a
Transphobic incidents and crimes	41	27	n/a
Disability hate incidents and crimes	34	43	n/a
Anti-social behaviour incidents	7390	7173	n/a

⁴ 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.

⁵ Interim data – indicative only. Brighton & Hove is matched for comparative purposes with 14 other Community Safety Partnerships (CSPs) according to a range of socio-demographic and geographic variables. A rank of 1 is the best; 15 is the worst; 8 is the middle position and is based on crime 'rate' per head of population, or per no. of households in the case of domestic burglary. Data reflect the ranking for the most recent six months.

⁶ 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'.

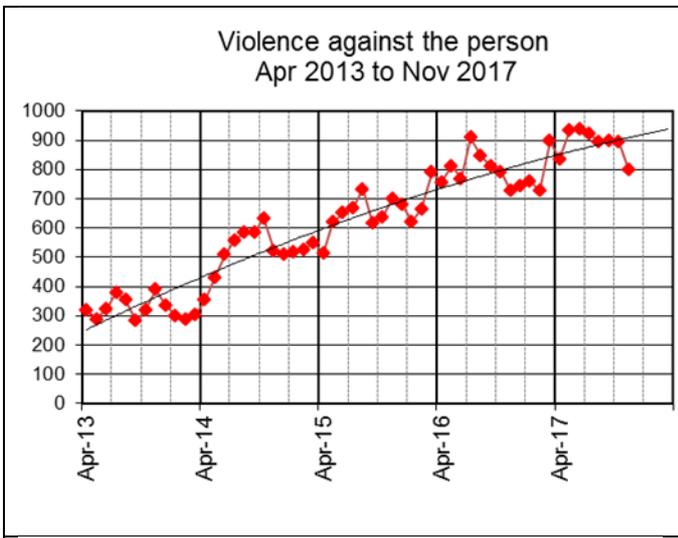
⁷ Comparative/benchmarking data are not available.

Appendix 2:

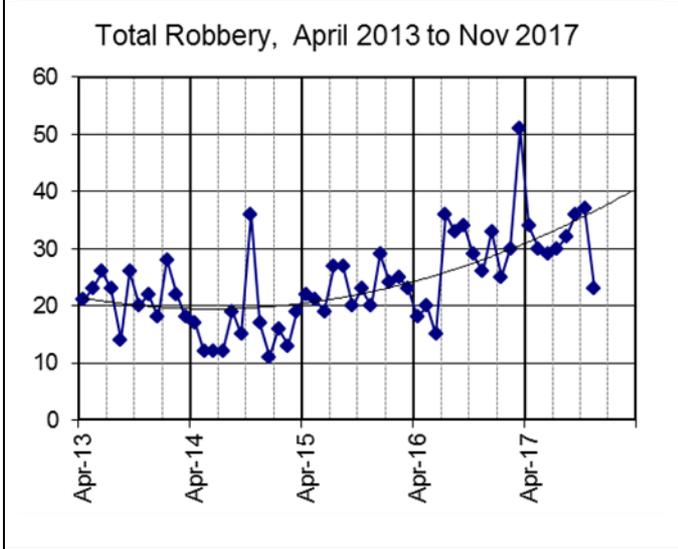
Crime trends up to November 2017 (monthly data)⁸

<p style="text-align: center;">Total Crimes, Apr 2013 to Nov 2017</p>	<p>8.1 The number of crimes recorded by the police continues to demonstrate a seasonal pattern with higher numbers the summer than the winter months. Since the end of 2013/14 there has been a persistent upwards trend in recorded crimes with changes to police recording practices contributing to this (see below).</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Criminal Damage, Apr 2013 to Nov 2017</p>	<p>8.2 Trends in criminal damage over the last three years have been broadly stable, although numbers recorded in Sep and Oct 2017 were relatively low.</p>

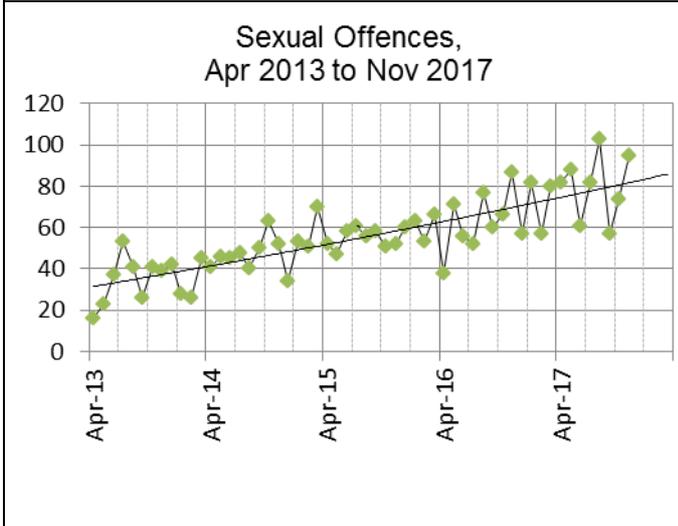
⁸ Trend lines are based on the best fitting 2nd order polynomial curve



8.3 Police recorded data show a steeply rising trend from 2014/15 onwards, overlaid with a seasonal pattern (higher levels in the summer). As discussed earlier, the increase in 2014/15 was linked to changes in police recording practice and was observed both nationally and locally. However, the increasing trend continues to date.



8.4 Until Jun 2016 robberies in the city tended to fluctuate between 10 and 30 per month (although there was a spike in Oct 2014⁹). However, since Jul 2016 monthly, with the exception of the most recent month (Oct 2017) numbers have consistently been above 25 each month, with a spike in Mar 2017 of 49¹⁰. Most robberies are personal robberies (328 in 2016/17) and a minority are business robberies (24 in 2016/17).

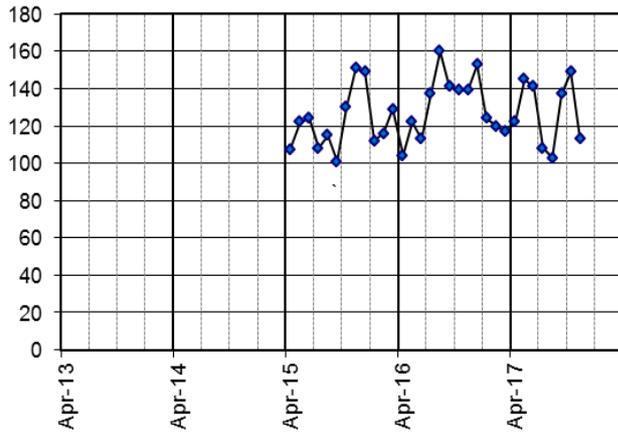


8.5 Police recorded sexual offences are on an upward trend. This is generally regarded as a positive outcome in that victims are feeling more confident in reporting. Changes in police recording at the beginning of 2014/15 (as for violent crimes above) have also had an effect on recorded numbers.

⁹ A robbery with 8 victims and another series of 4 crimes perpetrated by a single offender contributed to the spike seen in Oct 2014

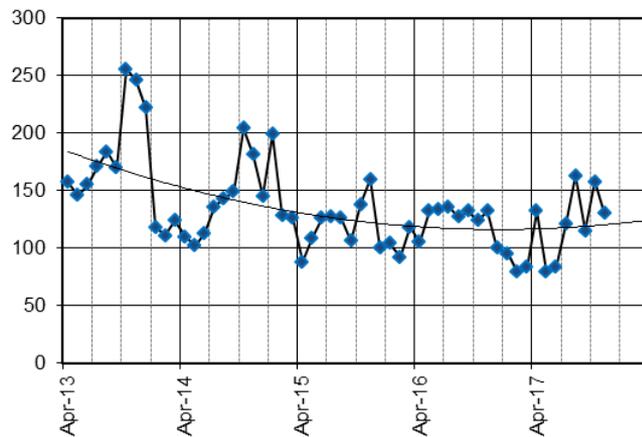
¹⁰ There were 4 robberies with more than one victim in Mar 2017, contributing to the spike that month.

Total Burglary, Apr 2013 to Nov 2017



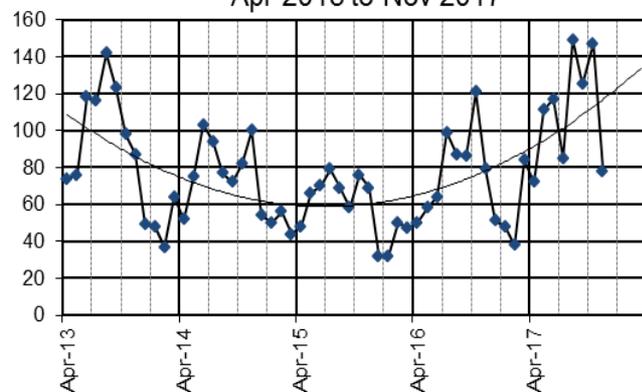
8.6 National changes to the definition of domestic and other burglaries has meant that at the moment it is not possible to pull out domestic burglaries. All burglaries are therefore reported here. Since April 2015 numbers of burglaries have fluctuated between about 100 and 160 per month.

Vehicle Crime, Apr 2013 to Nov 2017



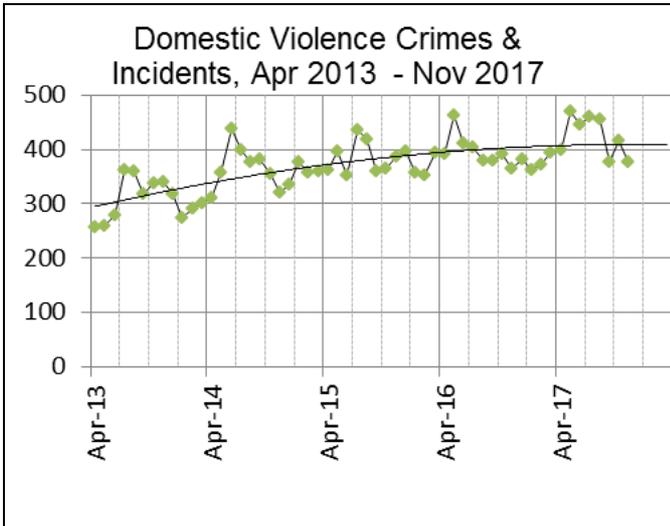
8.7 The number of vehicle crimes have generally been on a long term decline. Following a spate of vehicle crimes in the autumn/winter months of 2013/14 and 2014/15, numbers resumed a relatively low level. However there are signs of an increase again over recent months.

Theft of a Pedal Cycle, Apr 2013 to Nov 2017

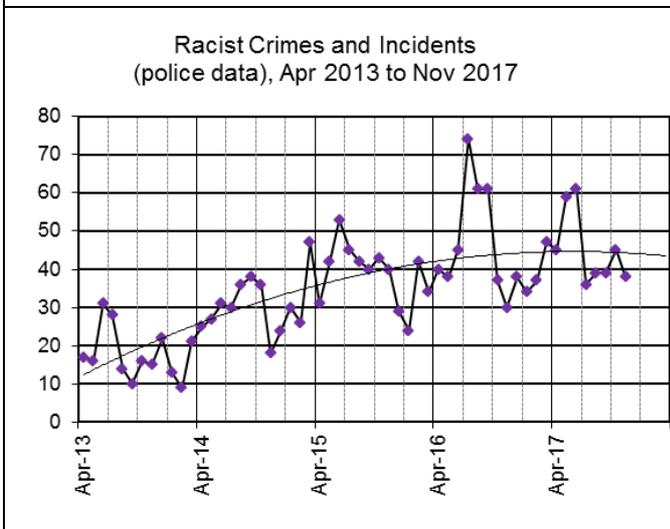


8.8 A seasonal pattern in cycle thefts is normally observed every year and is linked to those months when more people tend to cycle. Cycle thefts rose less in the summer of 2015 than in previous years but enhanced summer peaks have again been observed in both 2016 and 2017. Numbers between Aug and Oct 2017 were particularly high.

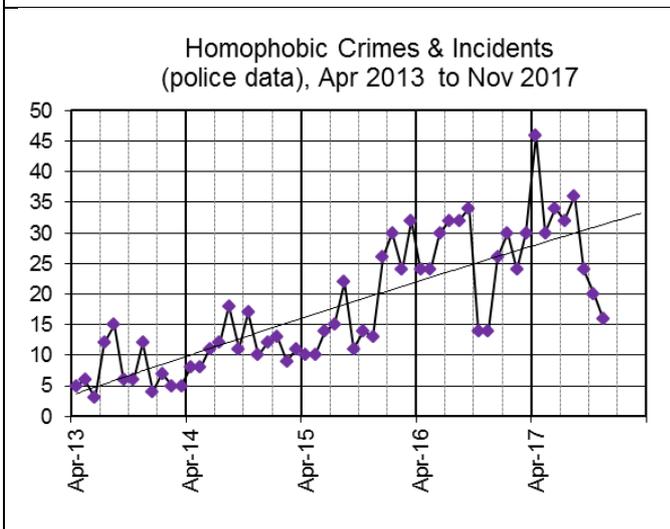
CAVEAT. Police crime data presented in this report only reflects those crimes which are reported and recorded. There is likely to be a level of underreporting in many crime types. However, domestic violence and the hate crimes on this page may be particularly liable to underreporting.



8.9 Recording practices and positive work in relation to these crime types which result in more crimes being recorded have been described earlier.



8.10 There was an upwards trend in racist crimes and incidents in parallel with the recording of other crimes since 2014/15. There is a notable spike in the summer of 2016 coinciding with the month following the EU referendum vote to leave the European Union. Numbers recorded in May and June of 2017 were also high but have dropped again in the months since then.



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, although numbers have dropped in the last three months.

