

# CRIME FIGURES

Your Plymouth Scrutiny Panel – 4 November 2013



## INTRODUCTION

This report provides the Your Plymouth panel with an overview of performance against crime reduction targets and levels of overall crime in Plymouth.

## BACKGROUND

In liaison with Plymouth's Community Safety Partnership, the council monitors performance against five key areas of crime. In line with our values – in particular 'Responsible and Fair' – these represent crimes which are high harm/vulnerability with a focus on victims: serious acquisitive crime, violence with injury, domestic abuse, anti-social behaviour and the gap in levels of crime between neighbourhoods.

For four out of these five crimes we are on target with reductions, and the other is slightly off-target. However for overall crime ie including crime types outside these priorities – we are seeing a rise compared to last year.

Each area is explored in more detail below.

### REDUCE SERIOUS ACQUISITIVE CRIME:

**ON TARGET** - (2013/14 target of not more than 2,216 crimes)

1089 crimes were reported between April and September 2013 which represents a decrease of 5.4% (62 fewer crimes) compared to April - September 2012 (1151). This year's target is a 1.8% reduction in the rate per 1000 population.

### REDUCE VIOLENCE WITH INJURY (EXCLUDING DOMESTIC ABUSE):

**ON TARGET** - (2013/14 target of not more than 1,764 crimes)

878 crimes were reported between April and September 2013 which represents a decrease of 4.4% (40 fewer crimes) compared to April to September 2012 (918). This year's target is a 1.6% reduction in the rate per 1000 population. (This measure previously included domestic violence but this is now considered separately).

The Police have a 2013/14 target to reduce Violence Against the Person (excluding domestic abuse) by 3%. This is a wider crime group than the partnership target and also includes both Violence with Injury and Violence without Injury. Performance against this target for April to September 2013 shows an increase of 3.4% compared to the same period last year.

### INCREASE REPORTING OF DOMESTIC ABUSE:

**ON TARGET** - (2013/14 target of more than 6,435 reports)

3588 domestic violence related incidents and crimes were reported between April to September 2013 which represents an increase of 17.4% (532 more incidents/crimes) compared with April to September 2012 (3056). This year's target is to increase the number of crimes/incidents recorded by 6%, reflecting our wish to ensure we get a true picture of the situation and address it.

## REDUCE ANTI-SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR:

**ON TARGET** - (2013/14 target of not more than 10,044 incidents)

5643 incidents of anti-social behaviour were recorded between April and September 2013 which represents a decrease of -1.9% (112 fewer incidents) compared to April to September 2012 (5755). This year's target is a reduction of 2.6% in the rate of ASB incidents.

## CLOSING THE GAP IN CRIME BETWEEN NEIGHBOURHOODS:

**OFF TARGET** – (2013/14 target to achieve a 2% reduction in the gap (expressed as a rate per 1000 population between the ten worst neighbourhoods and the city as a whole – not more than 73.5 crimes per 1000 population)).

At the end of 2012/13 the gap between the combined rate across the ten worst neighbourhoods (147.8/1000) and that of the city as a whole (72.8/1000) was 75.

Between April and September 2013 there have been increases across a number of crime types, and particularly in some of the 10 priority neighbourhoods. To be on target, the gap at the end of September would have needed to be at 36.6/1000, currently the gap is 39.5/1000 meaning we are just off target.

Between April and September 2013, 58% of all recorded crime occurred within the 10 priority neighbourhoods. Table I below shows the ten priority neighbourhoods with the numbers of crimes recorded in each between April and September 2013, and have been compared with the same period last year. Neighbourhoods are also ranked by percentage change in crime volumes;

**Table I**

Neighbourhood	Crime 2013/14	Crime 2012/13	Change in Crime numbers	% change in crime
Stoke	517	337	180	53%
Devonport	487	346	141	41%
East End	423	359	64	18%
Mutley	376	319	57	18%
Plymouth City Centre	1540	1491	49	3%
Barne Barton	320	316	4	1%
Stonehouse	966	995	-29	-3%
Honicknowle	349	389	-40	-10%
Greenbank & University	515	580	-65	-11%
Whitleigh	252	318	-66	-21%

Four neighbourhoods have seen significant increases between April and August 2013 when compared to the same period last year.

**Stoke** has recorded an increase of 180 crimes (+53%) including increases in Shoplifting (+60), Burglary Dwelling (+19), Other Theft (see note at end of report) (+24) and Criminal Damage (+17).

**Devonport** has seen an increase of 141 crimes (+41%) including increases in Other Theft (+41), Violence without Injury (+28), Violence with Injury (+25), Public Order offences (+13) and Burglary Dwelling (+17).

**East End** has seen an increase of 64 crimes (+18%) including increases in Criminal Damage (+36), Other Theft (+17) and Public Order offences (+13).

**Mutley** has seen a rise of 57 crimes (+18%) including increases in vehicle offences (+28) and Criminal Damage (+13).

The rises in crime in these neighbourhoods broadly reflects the city-wide position (Table 2) with these priority neighbourhoods performing slightly worse, hence the target not being met.

## OVERALL CRIME

During April to September 2013 there has been an overall increase of 528 crimes (+5.7%) including increases in, for example, Dwelling Burglary (+12/+2.9%), an increase in Shoplifting (+173/+22.3%), Other Theft (+210/+15.4%), Violence without Injury' (+200/+21.3%) and Public Order offences (+210/29.5%):

**Table 2**

	<b>Apr-Sep 12/13</b>	<b>Apr-Sep 13/14</b>	<b>Number change</b>	<b>% change</b>
City Total*	9325	9853	+528	+5.7%
Worst neighbourhoods**	5745	5450	+295	+5%

\*from Devon and Cornwall Police

\*\*from Universal Data Set provided by Police

This illustrates that the overall rise in crime – whilst unwelcome – has not impacted on our priority crimes except for the “closing the gap” target which can in part at least, be attributed to this overall rise.

The Police have a 2013/14 target to reduce ‘total crime’ by 2%. Performance for April to September 2013 shows an increase of 5.7% compared to the same period in 2012.

## WHAT WE'RE DOING

Working with our partners, we continue to undertake a wide range of crime reduction work. This consists of a mixture of initiatives to keep momentum on the targets whilst maintaining an overview on emerging crimes. For example we are currently investigating the causes/drivers for an increase in shoplifting.

Other recent examples of activity include:-

- Launch of the “Community Action Against Crime” small grant fund which provides £5,900 in each of the top ten neighbourhoods to tackle the top three crimes.
- Support for a community safety radio campaign in the run up to Christmas including information on illegal money lending.
- Supporting some police covert and overt operations to tackle burglary.
- A Focus Day/Week in Stoke.
- City-wide roll out of the DASH (domestic abuse) training.
- On-going victim champion work.
- Targeted interventions in Evening Night Time Economy ‘hotspots’
- Support for Street Safe’s treatment centre that operates on a Saturday evening to reduce the number of unnecessary ambulance call outs and hospital admissions).
- Championing the Best Bar None Group to create safer drinking environments.

- Promoting 'Top Night' personal safety campaign that reminds young people to have fun safely and know their limits.
- Ensuring CCTV operation has the necessary staffing to cope with increased demand in the "breakfast economy" (5am – 9am Fri, Sat, Sun).
- Barbican road closures on Bank Holiday weekends.
- Promoting personal safety messages at events eg – Freshers, Universities of Plymouth & Marjon, and City College.
- Production of ICE (In Case of Emergency Cards)
- Implementation of the 'Night Net' radio system.
- Designated Driver Campaign.
- Support the Information brief advice Alcohol project at the Magistrates Court to help reduce re-offending.

## CONCLUSION

Overall we are performing well with most of our crime reduction targets, thereby maintaining a focus on high harm/vulnerability. The increase in overall crime can be attributed to crimes outside this eg 'other theft', shoplifting, criminal damage, and violence without injury. This has also adversely impacted on the one target which we are not performing well on – "closing the gap". We are 5th best out of 15 similar cities for overall crime.

We continue to undertake a wide ranging programme of community safety work in partnership with the police and others.

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Note - "Other theft" consists of the following (in rank order by typical number of incidents per year):-

Theft - non specific  
 Theft - steal in dwelling not auto machine/meter  
 Theft - of pedal cycle  
 Make off without payment  
 Theft - by employee  
 Theft from automatic machine or meter  
 Theft of conveyance other than motor vehicle or pedal cycle  
 Take or ride pedal cycle without consent  
 Take conveyance other than motor vehicle or pedal cycle  
 Theft of mail bag or postal packet  
 Blackmail  
 Abstract electricity