

COMMUNITY OUTCOMES

TACKLE CRIME AND ASB MEETING

7 March 2017

SUBJECT: SERIOUS ACQUISITIVE CRIME

Report of the Chief Constable attached

PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

1. This report outlines the Force's current position in relation to Serious Acquisitive Crime and Burglary.

RECOMMENDATION

2. That the Police and Crime Commissioner uses this report to scrutinise Force performance in respect of Serious Acquisitive Crime.

POLICE AND CRIME PLAN

- Serious Acquisitive Crime (SAC) is the term used to cover domestic burglary, theft of a motor vehicle, theft from a motor vehicle and robbery. The 2016-21 focusses on Burglary. Being burgled can have a significant impact on your feelings of safety and can leave you feeling vulnerable in your own home. Burglary is often quoted as a key concern by members of the public with 50% of respondents from the "Your Priorities, Your Plan" consultation saying it should be a key priority. We know that those who commit burglaries are often committing other crimes too and therefore have a much bigger effect on our communities. The PCC has said he will continue to improve crime prevention through education, look for innovative solutions to burglary, and will support the police to catch those responsible.
- The most recent Safer Communities Fund grant round was focused on crime prevention across all crime types included Serious Acquisitive Crime and included projects working on early intervention around offenders, target hardening and diversion.
- My "Your Views" survey will be launched in March which specifically asks for public views on levels and experiences of burglary and crime in general. This will be a large- scale survey used to inform the police and partners across West Yorkshire about issues at a local level.
- I have supported a number of campaigns recently which focus on burglary prevention which include social media, events, and promotional materials.
- Members from my office continue to sit on the Crime Data Integrity which has a focus on the compliance rate with the recording of Burglary offences within West Yorkshire. The Home Office are making changes to the way that they categorise and count burglaries going forward which will have an impact on figures. I will continue to work with the Chief Constable to ensure that we can understand what are genuine increases in burglaries and what are due to these changes.
- The PCC funded over £13,000 to 3 projects through the Safer Communities fund grant which put crime prevention at the forefront of efforts to reduce the opportunity for crime, for example acquisitive crime (such as burglary and car crime), violent crime, business crime and anti-social behaviour.

- The PCC's regularly monitors force performance across all crime types
- The PCC has spoken to a number of Neighbourhood Watch meetings and attended annual conferences
- The PCC's office has assisted with the development of an N8 project between the Police and Leeds University focussed on SAC.
- The PCC has previously taken part in a number of web chats on topics relating to SAC including burglary and crime prevention, some are joint with the force crime prevention officer.
- The PCC has also funded OWL which is an advanced solution for police and communities to grow and manage Neighbourhood Watch, Business Watch, Rural Watch and dozens of other schemes. OWL provides watch members with the latest messages and crime alerts sent by email, telephone, SMS or fax.

PARTNERSHIP WORKING

- Leeds CSP have progressed with their burglary reduction programme which includes a review of alley-gates and where they could be of benefit as well as developing burglary profiles for student landlords around the city.
- Neighbourhood Watch is the largest voluntary crime prevention group in the country and has been active in West Yorkshire for over 30 years. In October I was invited to the annual awards night along with the Deputy Chief Constable to show our appreciation for the hard work and efforts to prevent crime and improve feelings of safety across West Yorkshire.
- My office continues to look for opportunities with partners for better joint working around burglary and other serious acquisitive crime. We are in the process of developing a partner Priority Plan for burglary which will be made public at the end of March.

Serious Acquisitive Crime (SAC)

Paper requested by: OPCC for Community Outcomes Meeting February / March 2017

Report on behalf of: - ACC Williams

Report Author – Corrina Abbott-Smith

Date of Report – 9th February 2017.

Summary

The report contained in this paper outlines the current Serious Acquisitive Crime and Burglary statistics and a broad overview of the work undertaken. The report is for the Community Outcomes Meeting February / March 2017.

Report on Serious Acquisitive Crime

1. Serious Acquisitive Crime (SAC) is domestic burglary, theft of a motor vehicle, theft from a motor vehicle and robbery
2. Theft is defined by section 1 of the Theft Act 1968;
 - a. A person is guilty of theft, if he/she dishonestly appropriates property belonging to another with the intention of permanently depriving the other of it
3. Robbery is defined by section 8 of the Theft Act 1968;
 - a. A person is guilty of robbery if he/she steals, and immediately before or at the time of doing so, and in order to do so, he/she uses force on any person or puts or seeks to put any person in fear of being then and there subjected to force.
4. Burglary is defined by section 9 of the Theft Act 1968
 - a. A person is guilty of burglary if—
he/she enters any building or part of a building as a trespasser and with intent to steal, inflict GBH or commit damage; or
having entered any building or part of a building as a trespasser he/she steals or attempts to steal anything in the building or that part of it or inflicts or attempts to inflict on any person therein any grievous bodily harm.

5. Compliance with the National Crime Recording Standard (NCRS) continues to drive improvement in the quality and consistency of crime recording in West Yorkshire. This in turn has led to an increased likelihood of a call for service becoming a recorded crime. The volume of crime recorded increased in West Yorkshire in 2015/16, mirroring the experience nationally with all but one out of 43 Forces reporting increases in the 12 months to December 2016 (Cumbria the only force showing a decrease).
6. Analysis of calls for service and recorded crime identify that the majority of the increase is as a result of efforts to ensure the Force complies with the National Standard for Crime Recording.
7. The Force estimate that, of the 28.5% increase recorded in 2015/16, only a 4% increase can be attributed to increased risk of becoming a victim of crime. The increase in Serious Acquisitive Crime offences can, in part, be also attributed to Force's efforts to comply with NCRS.
8. Domestic Burglary increased in 2016/17 by 10.7% however only 4.0% can be attributed to increased risk of becoming a victim of crime whilst all of the 14.5% increase in personal robbery can be attributed to efforts by the Force to comply with recording standards.
9. Calculations for the full 12 month period of 2016/17 West Yorkshire Police are predicted to record 15,549 thefts from motor vehicles, 5728 thefts of motor vehicles, 2361 robberies and 13,837 domestic burglaries. Figures for the months of April to December 2016, as of the time of writing this report are, 11662 thefts from vehicle, 4296 thefts of vehicle, 1771 robberies and 10378 domestic burglaries.
10. West Yorkshire Police actively promote crime prevention and have an appropriate communication strategy to raise public awareness and encourage the reporting of crime. The Darker Nights campaign runs each year beginning in late October as the nights draw in.
11. A full breakdown of the statistics relating to Serious Acquisitive Crime are attached at appendix A.

Crime Data Integrity

12. As of the 1st April 2015 the Home Office Counting Rules (HOCR) linked to the National Crime Recording Standards, (NCRS) altered and guidance was provided by HMIC to ensure all forces were recording high quality data to establish where, when and how many crimes and incidents of Anti-Social Behaviour(ASB) were occurring. This information is essential for appropriate deployment and tasking, ensuring an accurate picture of crime and ASB and providing vulnerable victims of crime and ASB access to support services.
13. As a result the following policy was introduced requiring crimes to be created;
 - a. Crimes to be recorded within 24 hours of reporting.
 - b. Third Party reported crimes to be recorded if the Third Party was acting in a professional capacity for the victim, whether the victim is aware of the report or not.

- c. Offender under the age of 10 years – proportionate investigation.
 - d. Offender lacks capacity.
 - e. Offences of rape and attempt rape to be recorded at first point of contact, unless the report is by a witness not acting in a professional capacity, a carer or parent or the crime occurred in another Force area.
14. The result of this alteration to West Yorkshire Police’s Crime Recording Policy increased the likelihood of a crime being created when a report is received. This led to increases in recorded crime in all Forces across the country and is not just a West Yorkshire issue.

Victim Satisfaction

15. Satisfaction rates are a measure of a person’s / victim’s view of the police after interaction with a member of West Yorkshire Police.
16. Victims of burglary (domestic and non-domestic) and vehicle crime are surveyed to help the Force understand how it might improve all aspects of service delivery, including the ability of the call taker, ease of contacting the police, speed of arrival, actions taken, treatment and also keeping the victim informed about their crime.
17. Satisfaction levels of burglary victims is high with 91.2% of victims surveyed indicating that they are satisfied with the overall service they received from the Force (October 2015 – September 2016). Over seven out of ten victims of vehicle crime are also satisfied with the service they receive. Compared with other similar Forces Satisfaction levels for Burglary are better than the average but Satisfaction levels for Vehicle offences are below the average. (see Appendix A)

Crime Prevention

18. Each of the five Policing Districts has a Crime Prevention Team and the business area will see additional growth over the coming months. Serious Acquisitive Crime is addressed by District Crime Prevention Officers on a daily basis. The 2016/17 Force Crime Prevention Strategy details the key areas for development during this period, continuing to improve our approach to crime prevention and ensuring that it is everyone’s business, in order to reduce the opportunity for crime to occur in the first place.
19. There is a huge amount of crime prevention work ongoing across West Yorkshire, ranging from dealing with the environmental factors that assist in generating crime to supporting the most vulnerable of victims, and delivering various public awareness campaigns to academic research and engagement with partners to “design out” crime in new developments.
20. Crime prevention is integral to, and at the forefront of, delivering against our joint vision with the Police and Crime Commissioner in keeping communities in West Yorkshire Safer and Feeling Safer.

Robbery

21. Robbery offences were in a plateau in 2014 and began to rise slowly through 2015 reaching a predicted 2361 for 16/17, (comprising of 2108 personal robberies and 253 business robberies) Overall, this is a total increase of 11.3% on the previous year, the vast majority of this increase is attributed to the West Yorkshire Police's compliance with the new crime recording process. The detection rate for 2016/2017 was 15.6%.
22. Offences are fairly evenly spread across all days but are most likely to occur between 4pm and 9pm, with a peak at 8pm.
23. After cash, mobile phones are the most frequently stolen item (in approximately 40% of all Robbery offences).
24. Males aged 16-25 are most likely to be the victims of personal robbery.
25. 28% of Robbery victims are female.
26. Statistics show that in the Kirklees and the Calderdale District robbery figures have increased by 29% comparing the months of April to December 2016 to April December 2015, however this an increase of only 6 offences. All Districts show some increases in domestic burglary and robbery however 4% of the increase in domestic burglary is estimated as the actual risk of becoming a victim whereas all of the increase in personal robbery is attributed to the new crime recording process.

Domestic Burglary

27. West Yorkshire Police has recorded 13.3% more domestic burglaries in April to December 2016 compared to April December 2015. Overall a summer/winter separation was evident, with offences at their lowest level in April, May, and June; from June a steady increase could be observed to a peak November
28. Where an MO was recorded, just under half of offences were classed as 'Forced' entry, 25% Insecure and 17% Euro Profile.
29. Over recent months there has been a greater number of 2 in 1 burglaries where the vehicle is also stolen during the burglary.
30. Combatting these trends, West Yorkshire Police initiated the Darker Nights Operation and the Spring Burglary Campaign, raising public awareness of the need for vigilance with home security.
31. In 2015/2016 there were 12,519 offences recorded with 1187 detections. Between April and December 2016 there has been 10,378 offences recorded with 597 detections.
32. Burglary offences were most prevalent overnight between 01:00-04:00. This overnight peak was most apparent during British Summer Time and most distinct June-August. During the winter months (GMT) the overnight peak was less distinct and with a longer risk period of 19:00-05:00 and a secondary peak around 14:00.

33. Where an entry method is known, approximately 1 in 4 are through an insecure door or window.
34. Approximately 10% of burglaries involve theft of vehicle keys and the taking of the associated vehicle.

Vehicle crime

Theft from vehicle

35. Theft from vehicle offences previously fell through 2014 to a plateau in 2015 and started to rise slightly towards the end of that year. Comparing the months of April to December 2016 and April to December 2015 the number of thefts recorded has increased by 8.7%.
36. 2015/2016 there were 14339 offences recorded with 495 detection of such offences. Between April and December 2016 11,662 offences recorded with 263 detection
37. Offences occur at all times of day with an increase in offending between 21:00 and 05:00 hours. The main property stolen was 'In Vehicle Technology' which included integrated Satellite Navigation Systems.
38. Ford Transit vans are the main vehicle targeted within West Yorkshire, accounting for 5% of all theft from motor vehicle offences.
39. The main profile for offenders linked to theft from motor vehicle offences is white males aged between 12 and 21.

Theft of vehicle

40. Theft of vehicle offences plateaued through 2014 and then steadily increased through 2015 ending with 5014 recorded offences for the year 2015/2016. Comparing the months of April to December 2016 and April to December 2015, with the exception of Bradford all Districts have shown increases in this offence with an overall increase of 14.8%.
41. Recorded thefts of vehicle in the year 2014/2015 was 3608. This increased to 5014 2015/2016 giving an overall increase for the 12 month period of 39%. Over the same period all Districts saw increases; Bradford 42.4%, Calderdale 45.2%, Kirklees 39.7%, Leeds 37.9% and Wakefield 29.2%. As at December 2016 the changes are Bradford -0.5%, Calderdale 1.5%, Kirklees 16.9%, Leeds 29.7% and Wakefield 21.5%
42. In 2015/2016 there were 5014 offences recorded with 511 detection of such offences. Between April to December 2016 there has been 4296 offences recorded with 319 detections.
43. Theft of motor vehicle offences have occurred mainly overnight, peaking around 00:00 hours and being reported around 07:00 – 08:00 hours. Offences are spread across all days of the week with a slight increase between Monday and Wednesday.

44. Cars account for 52% of all vehicles stolen, with Volkswagen Golf and Vauxhall Astra being the most targeted.
45. Motorbikes and Scooters/Mopeds accounted for 28% of theft of motor vehicle offences Force wide. Although vans accounted for only 16% of all theft of motor vehicle offences, Transit vans accounted for the highest proportion of all vehicles stolen at 8%.

Ongoing Work

46. Serious Acquisitive Crime (SAC) is discussed at regular District pacesetter meetings throughout the day ensuring appropriate offenders are prioritised based on threat, risk and victim vulnerability.
47. This featured at the recent Force Accountability Meeting (FAM) in February and the Local Accountability Meetings (LAM) in October 2016 + January 2017.
48. Emerging SAC patterns, series and hotspot locations are identified based on up-to-date information and responsibilities allocated to ensure offences are deterred and investigations are progressed expeditiously in conjunction with the daily business of policing.
49. Integrated Offender Management Teams (IOM) apply interventions to manage offenders in conjunction with partners to reduce re-offending and promote rehabilitation.
50. West Yorkshire Police have worked with Huddersfield University to understand the mind set of domestic burglary offenders. This information is being used to train front line staff around burglary crime prevention and is currently being rolled out.
 - a. The top ten burglary hotspots have been identified using data for the period July-December 2016. A micro profile is currently being created for each of the areas, detailing Geo-Spatial and temporal analysis, as well as point and method of entry data. These profiles will then be used to direct crime prevention activity within each of the areas in an attempt to reduce further opportunities for crime and address environmental factors potentially assisting offenders.

Strategic Risk implications

51. Increases in SAC is a risk to the police. Reducing crime and attacking criminality are part of the Police and Crime Commissioner's Crime and Policing Plan and the West Yorkshire Police Force Policing Strategy.

Supporting Documentation

52. Appendix A – West Yorkshire Police statistics

Serious Acquisitive Crime Performance

Table (1) Trends in Serious Acquisitive Crime – West Yorkshire

	Serious Acquisitive Crime				Change in 2016/17	% Change
	2013/14	2014/15	2015/16	2016/17		
Burglary dwelling	11461	11296	12505	13837	1332	10.7%
Robbery	1833	1866	2121	2361	240	11.3%
<i>Robbery of business property</i>	262	283	280	253	-27	-9.5%
<i>Robbery of personal property</i>	1571	1583	1841	2108	267	14.5%
Theft from vehicle	16448	13807	14339	15549	1210	8.4%
Theft etc. of vehicle	3493	3608	5014	5728	714	14.2%

Trends in District Performance

Table (2a) – Domestic Burglary

	Domestic Burglary				Change in 2016/17	% Change
	2013/14	2014/15	2015/16	2016/17		
Bradford	3195	3003	3776	4005	229	6.1%
Calderdale	988	747	844	1068	224	26.5%
Kirklees	1834	1827	1902	2291	389	20.4%
Leeds	4499	4792	4807	5269	462	9.6%
Wakefield	945	927	1176	1204	28	2.4%
West Yorkshire	11461	11296	12505	13837	1332	10.7%

Domestic Burglary increased by 10.7% in 2016/17. The recent increases are predominantly associated with administrative change in relation to Force crime recording processes which have resulted in an increased likelihood of a crime being recorded following an incident report to the Police. We estimate that an increase of 6.7% is due to increased compliance with National Crime Recording Standards whilst 4.0% is due to an increased risk of becoming a victim of crime.

Table (2b) – Theft of Motor Vehicle

	Theft of Motor Vehicle				Change in 2016/17	% Change
	2013/14	2014/15	2015/16	2016/17		
Bradford	874	998	1421	1461	40	2.8%
Calderdale	392	365	530	533	3	0.6%
Kirklees	622	546	763	868	105	13.8%
Leeds	1139	1210	1668	2075	407	24.4%
Wakefield	466	489	632	791	159	25.1%
West Yorkshire	3493	3608	5014	5728	714	14.2%

Theft of Motor Vehicle increased by 14.2% in 2016/17. We estimate that all the increase of 39% is due to an increased risk of becoming a victim of crime.

Table (2c) – Theft from Motor Vehicle

Theft from Motor Vehicle						
	2013/14	2014/15	2015/16	2016/17	Change in 2016/17	% Change
Bradford	4914	4023	4235	4736	501	11.8%
Calderdale	1511	1146	1091	1387	296	27.1%
Kirklees	2306	1876	2003	2395	392	19.6%
Leeds	5777	5062	5391	5208	-183	-3.4%
Wakefield	1940	1700	1619	1824	205	12.7%
West Yorkshire	16448	13807	14339	15549	1210	8.4%

Theft from Motor Vehicle increased by 8.4% in 2016/17. We estimate that all the increase of 3.9% is due to an increased risk of becoming a victim of crime.

Table (2d) – Business Robbery

Business Robbery						
	2013/14	2014/15	2015/16	2016/17	Change in 2016/17	% Change
Bradford	70	82	55	72	17	30.9%
Calderdale	29	18	13	27	14	105.1%
Kirklees	29	49	42	35	-7	-17.5%
Leeds	114	111	148	97	-51	-34.2%
Wakefield	20	23	22	23	1	3.0%
West Yorkshire	262	283	280	253	-27	-9.5%

Table (2e) – Personal Robbery

Personal Robbery						
	2013/14	2014/15	2015/16	2016/17	Change in 2016/17	% Change
Bradford	432	492	553	605	52	9.5%
Calderdale	62	79	112	132	20	17.9%
Kirklees	221	229	252	345	93	37.0%
Leeds	778	681	794	857	63	8.0%
Wakefield	78	102	130	168	38	29.2%
West Yorkshire	1571	1583	1841	2108	267	14.5%

*Personal Robbery increased by 14.5% in 2016/17. The recent increases are associated with administrative change in relation to Force crime recording processes which have resulted in an increased likelihood of a crime being recorded following an incident report to the Police. **We estimate that all 16.3% is due to increased compliance with National Crime Recording Standards.***

Please note all above figures in “2016 / 17” are expected out turn to the year end.

Crime Comparisons with Most Similar Forces¹ (12 months to December 2016)

Crimes Per 1000 Households					
SAC Offence	Lowest Rate in MSG	Highest Rate in MSG	MSG Average	West Yorkshire	Position in MSG (1 being lowest crime rate, 8 being highest)
Domestic Burglary	5.3	15.0	10.3	14.9	7 th

Crimes Per 1000 Population					
SAC Offence	Lowest Rate in MSG	Highest Rate in MSG	MSG Average	West Yorkshire	Position in MSG (1 being lowest crime rate, 8 being highest)
Theft of Vehicle	0.9	2.5	1.8	2.5	7 th
Theft from Vehicle	3.1	6.7	5.0	6.7	8 th
Business Robbery	0.04	0.22	0.12	0.18	5 th
Personal Robbery	0.22	1.7	0.82	0.90	6 th

Victim Satisfaction Comparisons with Most Similar Forces² (12 months to September 2016)

Victim Satisfaction					
SAC Offence	Lowest Rate in MSG	Highest Rate in MSG	MSG Average	West Yorkshire	Position in MSG (1 being highest satisfaction, 8 being lowest)
Vehicle crime	71.7%	92.8%	78.6%	76.0%	4th
Burglary	77.9%	93.4%	88.7%	91.2%	5th

¹West Yorkshires Most Similar Group of Forces (MSG) includes Greater Manchester (GMP), South Yorkshire, Northumbria, Nottinghamshire, Lancashire, West Midlands and South Wales.

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