Brighton & Hove
Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnership

Strategic Assessment of Crime and Disorder, 2007

Main Report

STRATEGIC ASSESSMENT 2007, BRIGHTON & HOVE CDRP

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1   PURPOSE

This Strategic Assessment is prepared on behalf of the Responsible Authorities within the Brighton & Hove Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnership. Its purposes are:

- To inform the crime and disorder related business cases and discussions taking place within the Local Area Agreement decision making processes, and
- To provide the basis of the Community Safety, Crime Reduction and Drugs Strategy 2008/09 – 2010/11.

The production of this Strategic Assessment is a statutory requirement under the Police and Justice Act 2006. It replaces the previous requirement to carry an audit every three years by the need to be more responsive to changing situations through annual assessments of the direction of strategic work. A three year strategy need to be formulated on the basis of the findings of the Strategic Assessments.

1.2   METHODOLOGY

1.2.1   Scoping

Initial consideration has been given to a wide range of crime and disorder topics, covering both areas receiving attention in the current strategy and as well as new areas, such as those newly emerging from central government policy, eg. violent extremism and sexual violence.

1.2.2   Scanning and Prioritisation Phase

Once the list of topics to be examined had been chosen, the 'scanning' phase followed. The aim was to inform the decision as to whether a topic should be put forward for more detailed attention in the strategic assessment and prioritised in the forthcoming strategy and for resources. The starting point for this has been, where possible, the plotting of monthly indicator data from April 2004[1] (which is the beginning of the baseline year preceding the 2005-08 strategy) to September 2007 in order to see levels, trends and patterns, projection graphs based on recent 3, 6 and 12 month data, and annual and 6 monthly totals and percentage changes since 2004/05. Some of this information is presented in the scanning section of this document (Section 3.5), and the rest is to be found in Appendices.

Decisions on prioritisation were informed by things such as the scale of the issue, whether trends were going up or down, how well we were performing compared with our benchmark authorities, whether an issue was a concern expressed by communities, what the impact of the problem was on communities and individuals, to what extent it supported other areas of crime and disorder work or more broadly other priorities in the Community Strategy, etc.

To assist our thought processes, decision making and recommendations, each scanned area was given consideration against a check list of issues which had some bearing on whether the topic should be prioritised in our future work. Acknowledging that judgments on many of the items in the checklist are subjective, four individuals from the partnership with an overarching role completed this checklist and their judgments were 'averaged' to form a consensus view.

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[1] In Brighton & Hove we have used 2004/05 as the baseline year, rather than 2003/04 which has been used for national targets, for two reasons. Firstly, it provides a better baseline position for the three year strategy on account of it immediately preceding the strategy period, and secondly, there was considerable instability in police recorded data in Brighton & Hove during 2003/04 on account of adjustments being made around recording standards and practice.

1.2.3   Assessment Phase

The purpose of the assessment phase was to carry out a stock take on the current position in each area under review and to use the findings to direct future work. A template was produced as a framework within which to carry out the full strategic assessment for each topic. This covered the interpretation of levels and trends, the effectiveness and impact of previous work, the nature of the problem, findings from community consultation, neighbourhood issues, inequalities, barriers & threats, and recommendations. The results of these full assessments are in the Appendices and key points arising from them are provided in Sections 6, 7 and 8. A more in depth assessment was carried out for those topics where the scanning process revealed that there was a need for work to be prioritised.

1.2.4   Strategy Development and Business Planning

The findings of the Strategic Assessments will be used as a basis for further consultation and the development of the strategy and action plans for 2008/09 to 2010/11. Also, as well as being a tool for justifying which areas should be prioritised for resources, the assessments provide evidence to demonstrate the need for resources in the business cases for funding from the Local Area Agreement.

1.2.5   Data Sources and Issues

A wide range of data sources have been drawn upon, both routinely in monitoring our performance against strategic aims, and for this strategic assessment. These include data from the following local agencies:

- Sussex Police
- British Transport Police
- Drug and Alcohol Action Team
- Youth Offending Team
- Sussex Probation Area
- East Sussex Fire & Rescue Service
- Sussex Ambulance Service
- Brighton & Sussex Universities Hospital NHS Trust
- Brighton and Hove Bus and Coach Company
- Racist Incident Report Form
- Brighton University/Spectrum
- Women's Refuge Project
- B&H CC Housing department
- B&HCC CityClean
- B&HCC Licensing department
- B&HCC Sustainable Transport department
- Children and Young People's Trust
- Others

Data used to inform this document is as recent as has been practicable. Police data is included up to September 2007, but other data sources provide less up to date information. The general principle has been to look in detail at recent data, but to also set it in the context of more historical information. The year 2006/07 has often been used for more in depth analysis. The time period to which data refer should be specified in each instance.

The main qualification necessary, especially around police data, concerns the impact on recorded data of levels of and changes in reporting levels. This is particularly relevant for hate crimes, domestic violence and sexual assault, but also affects many other crime types to varying extents. For example, national[2] data show that in the region of a third of criminal

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[2] Crime in England and Wales 2006/07, Home Office 2007

damage, common assault, cycle thefts and thefts from person were reported to the police, about a half of personal robberies and woundings were reported, but about 80% of burglaries (with loss) and over 90% of theft of motor vehicles were reported.

Changes to policing methods and the availability of fixed penalty notices are also believed to have impacted on recorded crimes, in particular around public place violent crime. Beginning in the last months of 2005, Brighton & Hove police adopted a high profile, early intervention approach to policing in the city centre especially at weekends in an attempt to intervene with early evening boisterous behaviour before it escalated into more serious violence. This proactive style of policing in itself has influenced the rise in recorded violent crimes at around this point, particularly common assault.

1.2.6 The Team

The production of this document and the detailed assessments in the appendices have been carried out by specialist lead officers, analysts/researchers and managers across the partnership. The development of this work has also been carried out with reference to and input from the multi-agency working and strategy groups who oversee and guide the partnership's work.

1.3 STRUCTURE OF THIS REPORT

This document first considers (in Section 2) the demographic make up of the people in Brighton & Hove in as far as it informs the community safety needs of the city. Section 3 takes an overview of crime and disorder, enabling the relative extent of different problems to be visualised.

Section 3.5 is the scanning phase described above. In this section evidence on scale and trend of an issue is presented, together (where possible) with reasons to explain any changes. Also a summary of the value of pursuing work in this area from a number of different aspects is suggested.

Section 5 provides a summary of findings from the prioritisation process. Sections 6 and 7 describe main points from analysis regarding the current position of lower and medium priority areas and recommendations for the direction of future work . Section 8 provides information for high priority areas and describes in more detail the nature of the problem that needs addressing, what work has already been done, community views, what we now need to achieve, what are the barriers and threats to achieving the aims, and a summary of recommendations.

Because of the broad nature of the topics covered, page limits have been applied to the content of Section 3.5 (max 1 page) and Sections 6, 7 and 8 (max 2 pages) in order that the document remains manageable for those with an overarching interest. However, all individual sections have been based on more detailed documents with referenced information sources which are available in Appendices. These Appendices will provide the level of detail necessary to properly direct the work in the action plans which will support the forthcoming strategy. These are available on request.

Appendix 1 provides some information around estimated costs of crime and anti-social behaviour and hence gives some idea of the value for money of investing resources in different areas.

2. LOCAL CONTEXT AND DEMOGRAPHIC PICTURE

Population estimates from the Office of National Statistics (ONS) show the population of Brighton & Hove has increased by 1% (1,500) between 2001 and 2006. The latest estimate is that there are 251,700 people living in the city, of whom 51% are females and 49% are males.

Brighton & Hove has a disproportionately high number of residents aged 20-34 when compared to the South East as a whole, and this proportion has shown an increase over the last five years.

Although estimated to be rising nationally, residents of Brighton & Hove aged over 65 are falling and according to 2006 estimates make up 14.9% of the population compared to 16% nationally.

Using Mosaic profiling, the most common type of person living in Brighton & Hove is Urban Intelligence (30%). Welfare Borderline and Municipal Dependency neighbourhoods are common in the Brighton suburbs and experience a high level of crime and disorder.

Population Profile of Brighton and Hove, 2006 population estimate
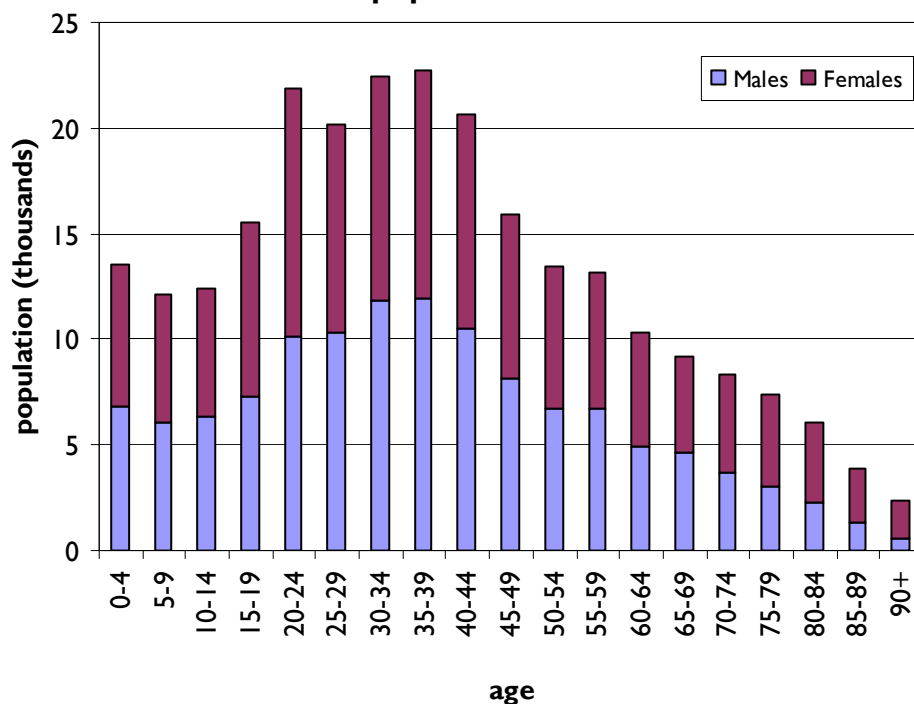
Figures from the Department of Work and Pensions show that Brighton & Hove has had nearly 4,450 applications for national insurance numbers from overseas nationals entering the UK during 2006/07. The most common country of previous residency of applicants was Poland which made up 19% of applicants. National figures show an increase of over 100% of overseas nationals entering the UK (and applying for NIN) from 2002/3 to 2006/7.

Figures provided by the Department of Work and Pensions show an increase of 40% since 2000 of Brighton & Hove residents in receipt of Disability Living Allowance, with the figure for Feb 2007 standing at 11,555.

The Black and minority ethnic population for Brighton & Hove increased by 3.1% from 1999 to 2001 and using projected population figures produced by the ONS is estimated to have grown to 8.1% in 2005. Those of Indian ethnicity make up 17% of the estimated 2005 BME population in the city.

The Brighton & Hove Count Me In Survey in 2001 estimated the total LGBT population at 35,000, which is approximately 14% of the total population of the city.

3. CRIME AND DISORDER OVERVIEW

3.1   HOW IMPORTANT IS CRIME AND DISORDER TO THE PEOPLE OF BRIGHTON & HOVE?

Every three years the residents of Brighton & Hove are asked through a survey to pick five aspects of a local area that make it a good place to live. In 2006 out of 20 choices, 58% of respondents ranked the level of crime in their top 5 aspects which made somewhere a good place to live. Crime was most frequently flagged issue, as it was in 2003. The level of crime ranked joint fifth as being most in need of improvement in Brighton & Hove with 31% of respondents citing this in their top five. In 2003 the level of crime ranked second; other issues which are now seen as more of a priority for improvement are the level of traffic congestion, affordable housing and road and pavement repair, as well as clean streets which ranked top in 2003.

Brighton & Hove Residents' Survey, 2006: perceptions of the importance of different aspects of a local area
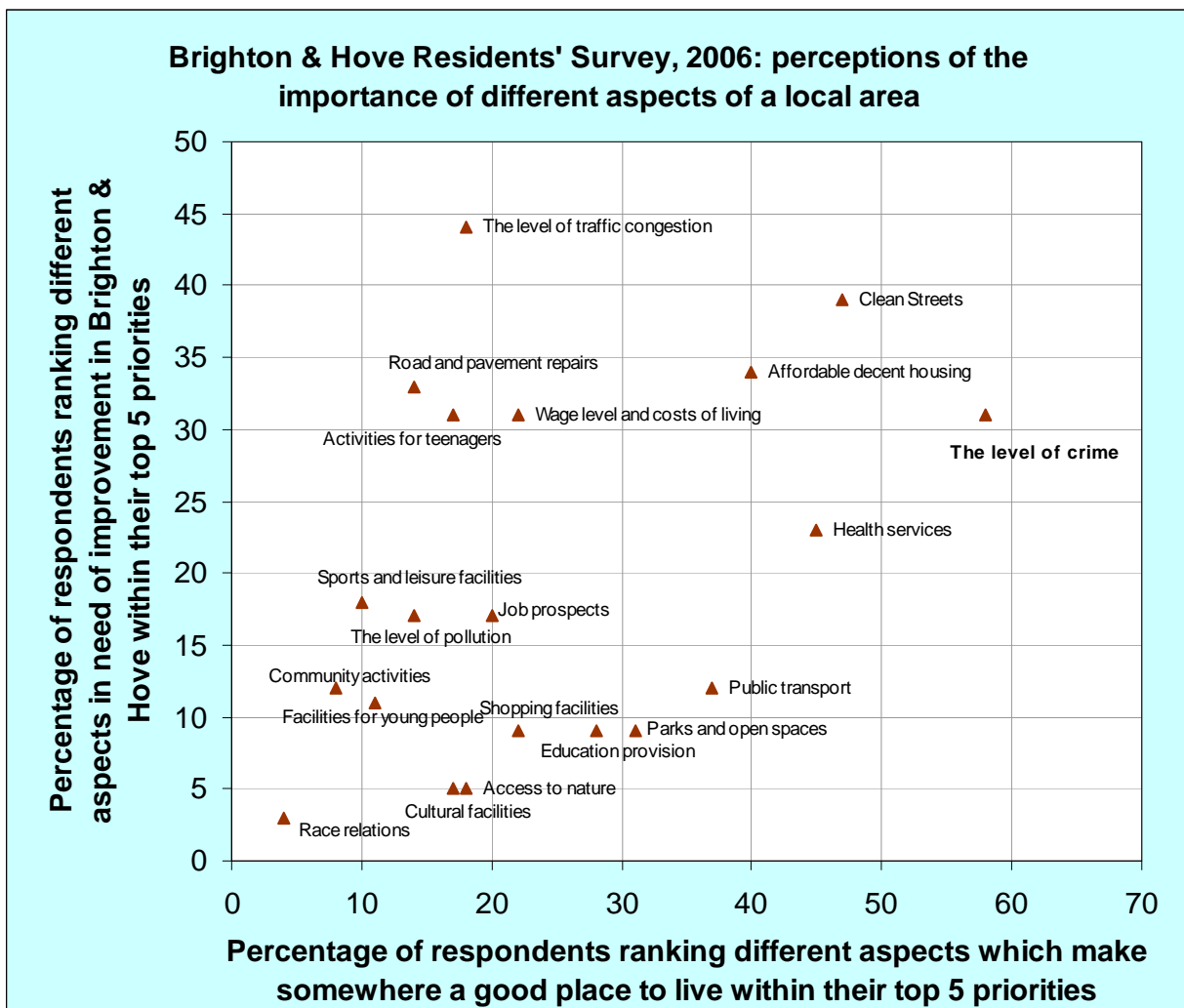
In a recent Citizens Panel survey (2007) people were asked to say to what extent they were worried about being a victims of a range of crime/incident types. The findings, which are reported in the table below, are likely to reflect both the perceived level of risk that the crime/incident will occur as well as the personal impact of it.

Burglary and theft from motor vehicle were of most concern, followed by vandalism, theft of motor vehicle and cycle theft. Although there are relatively low levels of worry in the general population of attack on grounds of skin colour or sexuality, these results are likely to be quite different among minority groups. People worry much less about being physically attacked by a stranger than they do about being attacked by someone they know.

Percentage of respondents fairly worried or very worried about being the victim of a range of crimes/incidents (Citizen's Panel, Summer 2007; n between 600 and 940)
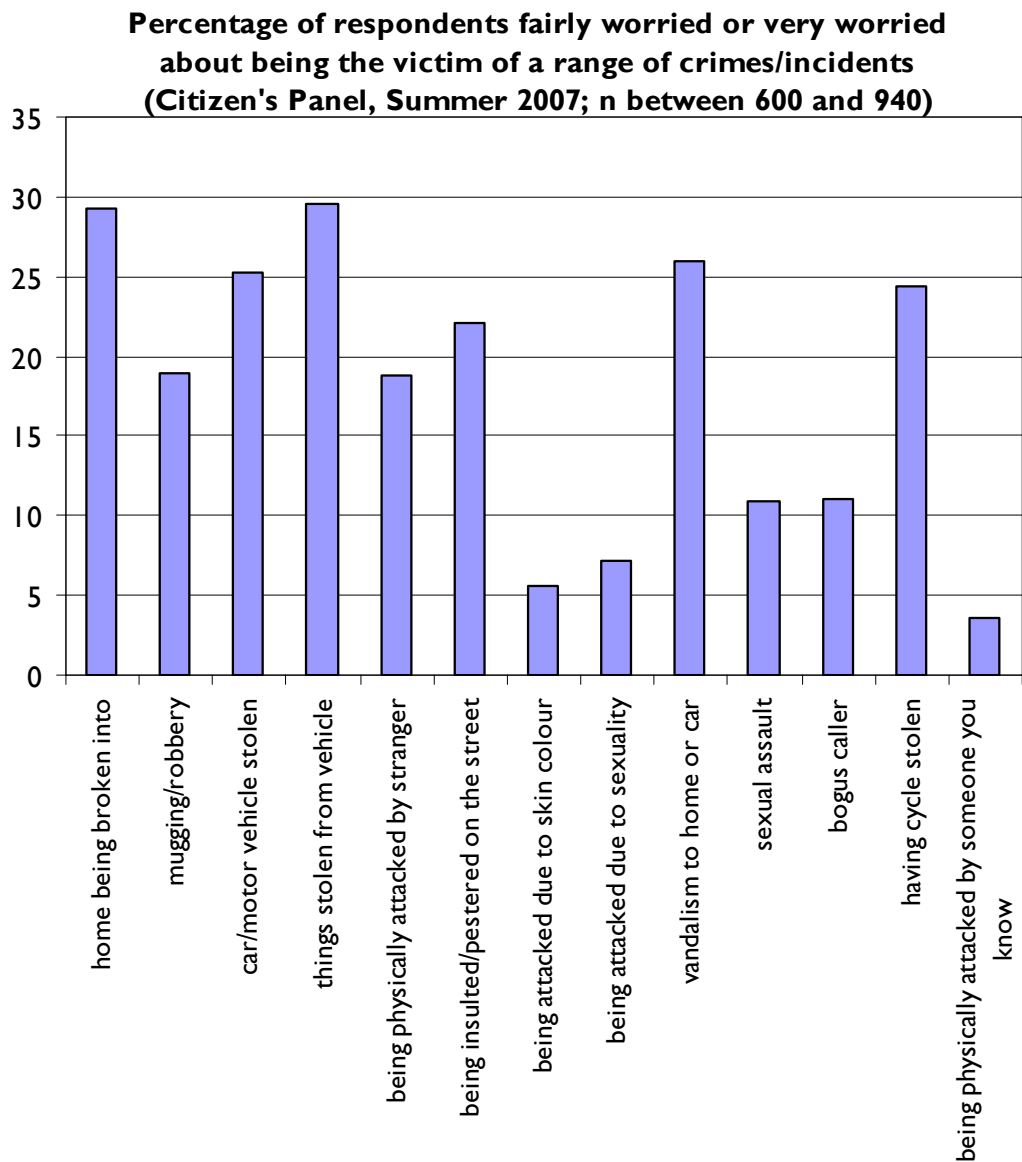
3.2 CRIME TRENDS

3.2.1 Police Recorded Crime

Total Crimes, April 2004 to September 2007
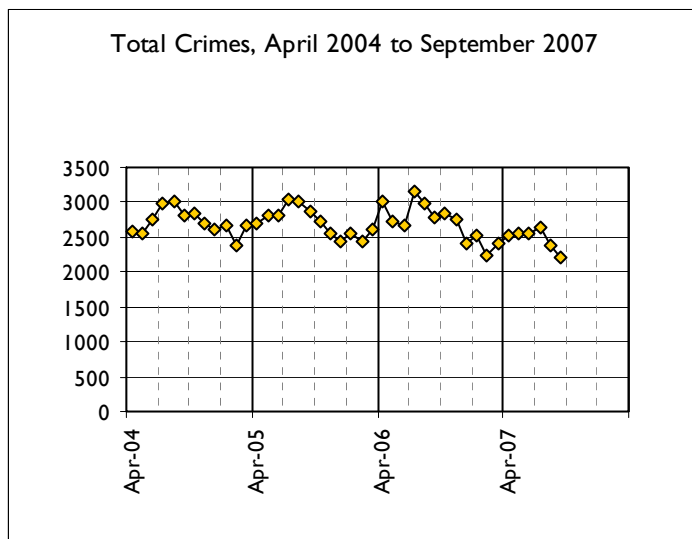
	Total Crimes	% change since previous year
2004/05	32,562	-
2005/06	32,587	+0.07
2006/07	32,495	-0.28
Apr-Sep 07	14,893	-10.8%
Total Crime CDRP family ranking (Jun – Aug 2007) : **8**		

The level of total police recorded crime has remained stable between 2004/05 and 2006/07 at about 32,500 crimes. However, there has been a 10% reduction in the first 6 months of 2007/08 compared with the same months in 2006/07. Looking at monthly data, a clear seasonal effect is noticeable, with July and August peaks. This is probably linked both to the number of people in the city, the length of daylight hours and the proportion of the day spent by people outside. February is consistently the month with the fewest crimes, assisted by the season as well as the fact that it only has 28 or 29 days. December reports slightly fewer crimes than either November and January over this three year period, perhaps influenced by the commercial closures over the holiday period.

Linked to the national Home Office PSA target to reduce total crime as measured by the British Crime Survey (BCS), local Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnerships have been required to set parallel targets locally, as measured by an equivalent set of police recorded crimes known as BCS Comparator Crimes. The local Brighton & Hove target was to reduce BCS CCs by 18.5% from a 2003/04 baseline by 2007/08. This equated to a 22% reduction target from a 2004/05 baseline.

In 2006/07 there were 17,509 BCS CCs, compared with 18,419 in 2004/05. This was only a 4.9% reduction, short of the reduction required to keep on schedule to meet the 22% reduction. This has left a highly challenging 18.7% reduction target to achieve during 2007/08 from 2006/07 figures to meet the 3 year target. However, progress

Percent change in BCS Comparator Crime subparts between 2004/05 to 2006/07

common assault 78.4
personal robbery -14.7
criminal damage 8.1
cycle theft 27.8
theft from a person 3.0
wounding -17.2
vehicle interference -10.1
theft of motor vehicle -32.3
theft from motor vehicle -16.8
domestic burglary -52.6
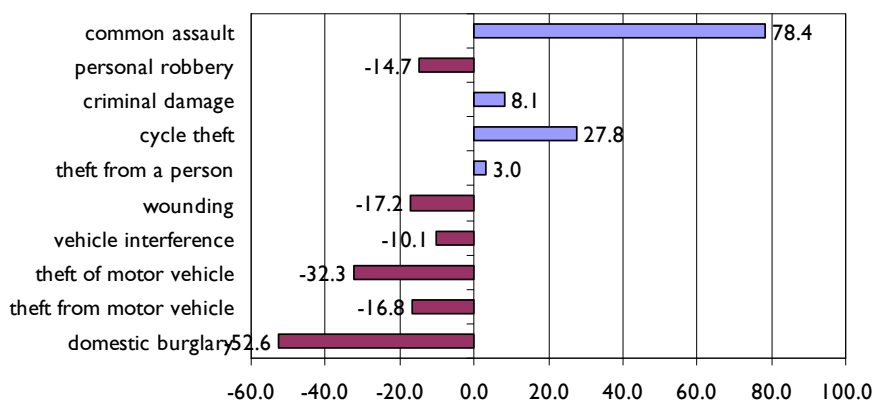
during 2007/08 has been very good, with a 13.1% reduction achieved in the first 6 months, compared with the same period in 2006/07.

The bar chart shows that over the first two years of the strategy period, there have been good reductions in vehicle crimes, domestic burglary, personal robbery and wounding offences, but increases in common assault, cycle theft and criminal damage. These crime areas are discussed in more detail in Section 3.5.

3.2.2   Perceptions of Crime

A survey of residents carried out in 2006/07[3] found that half of respondents felt that crime levels had got worse over the last three years. Only 7% thought that levels of crime had improved, while the remainder felt that there had been no change. While residents therefore continue to hold a pessimistic view about changes in crime levels, this is a slight improvement compared with the previous survey in 2003/04.

Residents' perception of levels of crime in Brighton & Hove	2003/04 outturn (BVPI survey)	2006/07 outturn (BVPI survey)
% of people who think the level of crime has got better over the last 3 years	5%	7%
% of people who think the level of crime has got worse over the last 3 years	60%	50%
% of people who think the level of crime has stayed the same over the last 3 years	35%	43%

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[3] Local Government Users Satisfaction Survey (BVPI Survey), Brighton & Hove, 2006/07

3.3   BREAKDOWN OF POLICE RECORDED CRIME

Crime breakdown, July 2006 - June 2007
(n=31,740)
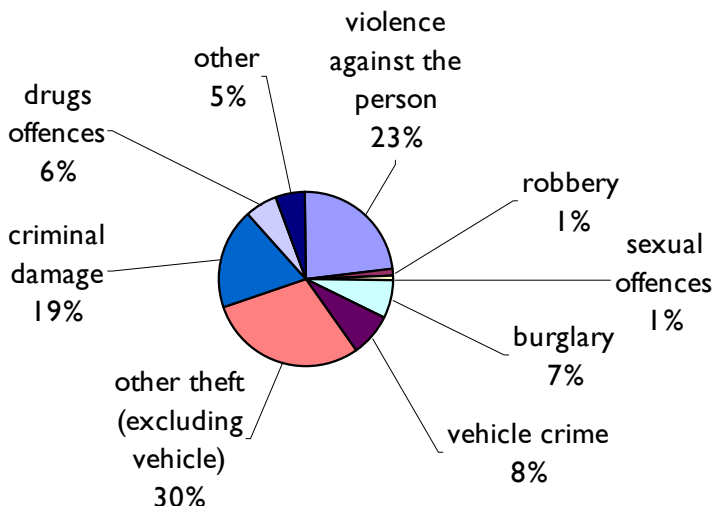
The pie chart shows a breakdown of total crime in Brighton & Hove in the 12 months up to June 2007. Nearly 30% is theft (excluding theft of or from vehicles). Violent crime makes up 23% of the total and criminal damage comprises 19%.

The table below provides further breakdowns of crimes within these overall headings for the period July 2006 to June 2007.

Violence against the person	n	%		Burglary	n	%
Wounding	2,661	35.8		Burglary Dwelling	1,017	46.1
Common Assault	2,202	29.7		Burglary Non-Dwelling	1,187	53.9
Harassment	2,268	30.5				
Other violence against the person	295	4.0				
total	*7,426*	*100.0*		*total*	*2,204*	*100.0*

Vehicle Crime		%		Theft (excl. vehicle)	n	%
Theft of Vehicle	737	30.0		Theft from Person	1,252	13.4
Theft from Vehicle	1,714	70.0		Theft from Shop	2,132	22.9
				Other Theft (excluding vehicle)	5,934	63.7
total	*2,451*	*100.0*		*total*	*9,318*	*100.0*

Drugs offences	n	%		Other	n	%
Drug (Possession)	1,598	82.2		Sexual Offences	299	
Drug (Supply)	346	17.8		Robbery	387	
				Criminal Damage	5,992	
				Fraud & Forgery	1,082	
				Other	641	
total	*1,944*	*100.0*		*total*	*2,409*	

3.4   NATURE AND SCALE OF ANTI-SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR

It is difficult to find a way to provide a comprehensive statistical picture of the nature and scale of anti-social behaviour. However, two data sources – the police incident database and survey data – help in providing some insight.

The police incident database groups non-crime reports which record calls to the Sussex Police switchboard under four headings, as shown in the adjacent table. The category 'social disorder' contains by far the greatest number of entries, of which just under a third are specifically linked to children or young people.

Local surveys also provide an indication of the level of concern around particular types of anti-social behaviour. The Local Government Users Satisfaction Survey in 2006 found that out of a list of 7 types of anti-social behaviour, those which were regarded as being the greatest problems in Brighton & Hove were, in order: rubbish/litter; people using or dealing drugs; vandalism/graffiti; people being drunk/disorderly; and teenagers hanging around. Further information on this survey is found in Section 4.2.

Police Recorded Incidents	2006/7
Physical Disorder (Includes abandoned vehicles and criminal damage incidents)	1023
Significant Events (includes non-crime hate (race, religion, sexual orientation, disability and age), robbery and sexual offences	760
Street Nuisance (Includes street drinking, begging, prostitution related activity, and vehicle related nuisance)	2564
Social Disorder (Includes public place violent crime and rowdy nuisance behaviour)	15182
TOTAL number of Anti-Social Behaviour Incidents 19529	
Youth Disorder (Social Disorder serials including key words of "kids", "youths" or "teenagers"	4938

When provided with a wider list of options, and asked to list problem issues in their local neighbourhood, Citizens Panel respondents listed types of environmental issues, such as parking/traffic/litter issues as the greatest local problems. Young people hanging around, dogs, drunk/disorderly people, vandalism and street drinking were reported as the next most problematic. (See bar chart.)

Percentage of Citizen Panel respondents who feel various issues are a very big or fairly big problem in their neighbourhood, Summer 2007 (n = approx 900)

3.5 ISSUES IN NEIGHBOURHOODS

Most of the information on crime and anti-social behaviour described elsewhere in this document relates to the position in the city as a whole. However, issues in neighbourhoods can, of course, be very different to those of the city as a whole. City-wide surveys are generally inadequate for the purposes of identifying local issues because of insufficient sample sizes at a local neighbourhood level. It is therefore very helpful that we are able to utilise information derived from work carried out in Neighbourhood Renewal and other local areas, including that contained in local Neighbourhood Action Plans (NAPs). The first round of NAPs have recently been replaced by plans to cover the period 2007-10 and so the timing makes them particularly pertinent to this strategic assessment.

The following table shows where issues relating to community safety have been identified in each area and could therefore be seen as a priority in these neighbourhoods. This is acknowledged to be a somewhat simplistic assessment rather than a definitive analysis, but it is intended to provide an overview of the sort of community safety issues that are important for people in neighbourhoods. Individual local neighbourhood consultation exercises and plans provide much a much better source information for individual neighbourhoods.

Issues which are most frequently flagged up at a local level as a priority tend to be issues of environmental issues affecting quality of life, alcohol misuse, illicit drugs misuse, anti-social behaviour, racist/religiously-motivated incidents and road safety/parking. The need for better communications and working structures is also mentioned by a majority of areas.

At-a-glance summary of priorities in neighbourhoods

	Bevendean	Bristol Estate	Eastern Rd	Brunswick & Regency	Hangleton, Knoll, L & M	Hollingdean	Portland Rd. and Clarendon	Portslade	Queen's Park & Craven Vale	Tarner	eb4U	Triangle Community	Coldean
physical infrastructure		○					○	○		○		○	○
quality of life (eg. criminal damage, graffiti, maintenance, litter, etc.)	○	○			○	○		○	○	○		○	○
public place violence										○			
alcohol misuse	○			○	○	○	○		○	○		○	○
illicit drugs misuse	○	○		○	○	○			○	○		○	○
domestic burglary						○				○			
vehicle crime						○				○			
business crime													
pedal cycle theft										○		○	
other theft													
children and young people	○	○			○	○	○	○	○	○			○
anti-social behaviour	○	○		○	○	○	○	○	○	○		○	○
domestic violence				○	○	○				○			
racist and religiously motivated incidents	○			○	○		○	○	○	○			
homophobic, biphobic and transphobic incidents							○			○			
community tension				○						○			
priority and other prolific offenders?						○				○			
road safety/parking		○			○	○	○	○	○			○	○
communication and improved working structures	○	○		○	○	○	○	○	○	○			○

4. SCANNING FOR PRIORITIES

4.1 ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY, DESIGN, CRIMINAL DAMAGE AND FEAR OF CRIME

Criminal Damage, April 2004 to September 2007
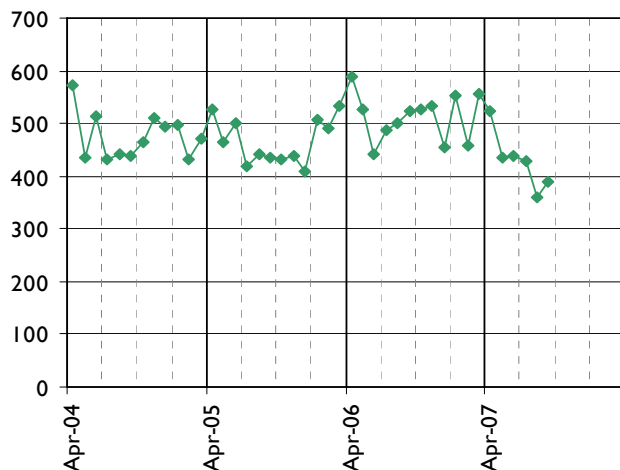
	Criminal Damage offences	% change since previous year
2004/05	5,702	-
2005/06	5,599	-1.8%
2006/07	6,512	+9.8%
Apr-Sep 07	2,574	-16.1%
Criminal Damage CDRP family ranking (Jun – Aug 2007) : **2**		

- Increase in recorded criminal damage during 2006/07, but lower levels during first 6 months of 2007/8. Possible link with poor weather.

- 19% of total police recorded crime is criminal damage. Vehicle damage numerically dominates other sorts of damage, and usually underpins changes in overall levels.

- Fire service recorded non-accidental fires have shown ongoing reductions

- Monthly environmental action days have rotated across city areas, resulting in enforcement action against illegal and abandoned vehicles, obstruction and waste. Community action days have also removed opportunities for criminal damage/arson in areas of risk.

Environmental quality

- In 2006/07 fewer residents (52%) believed that vandalism was a problem than in 2003/04 (63%). Also, fewer people believed that abandoned or burnt out vehicles were a problem (41% in 2003/04 compared with 19% in 2006/07).

- The percentage of streets in the city judged unsatisfactory dropped from 17% in 2005/06 to 13% in 2006/07 for levels of graffiti; from 8% to 5% for flyposting. When assessed for overall condition, 23% of streets were judged unsatisfactory in 2004/05, dropping to 16% in 2006/07.

Feeling safe

- In 2006 85% of residents reported feeling safe in Brighton & Hove during the day and 45% after dark. This is a clear improvement on the position three years before. Some groups and communities feel less safe than others.

- In 2007 94% of Citizens Panel respondents felt safe in their neighbourhood in the day but the figure dropped to 62% at night. 88% felt safe in the city centre in the day; 36% at night.

Main points and recommendations: see Section 8.1.

4.2   ANTI-SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR (ASB)

Percentage of Brighton & Hove residents who perceive various types of ASB are a problem, 2003 and 2006

Percentage of residents who consider various types of ASB are a problem, 2006
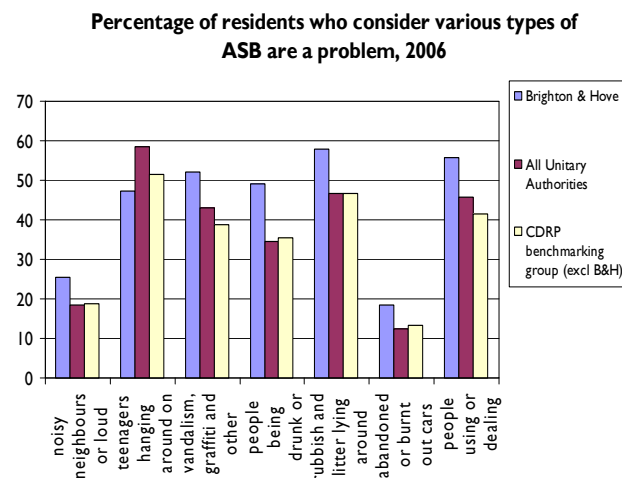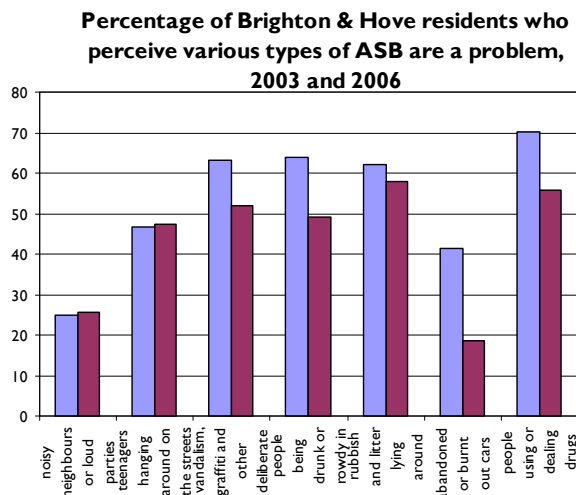
- Local residents have perceived that levels of a range of types of ASB (abandoned vehicles, drunk/rowdy people, rubbish/litter, vandalism/graffiti), have dropped between 2003 and 2006). Two other measures – noisy neighbours and teenagers hanging around – showed a marginal increase. On an overall measure of perceived ASB there was an improvement from 46% to 36% of people believing that ASB was a problem.

- Brighton & Hove residents perceive all the above measures of ASB, except for teenagers hanging around, more unfavourably than the average of our CDRP benchmarking group.

- There were just over 15,000 incidents of social disorder recorded by the police in 2006/07 and this had risen by 1.5% from the previous year. A third of total social disorder incidents were youth disorder and this rose by 15% in 2006/07 compared to 2005/06.

- Numbers of beggars counted over the last 12 months have been 6 or fewer, except for the most recent count in July when 11 were counted.

- Street drinkers have reduced, but numbers are still considerable with 37 recorded in July 2007 and the target hasn't been achieved.

- In 2006/07 there were 16 ASBOs, 23 ASB injunctions and 62 ABCs issued in the city. ASB casework was carried out on 297 ASB reports in 2006/07.

Further information: see Section 8.3.

4.3   PUBLIC TRANSPORT

Crimes on Buses and in Taxis, April 2003 to June 2007
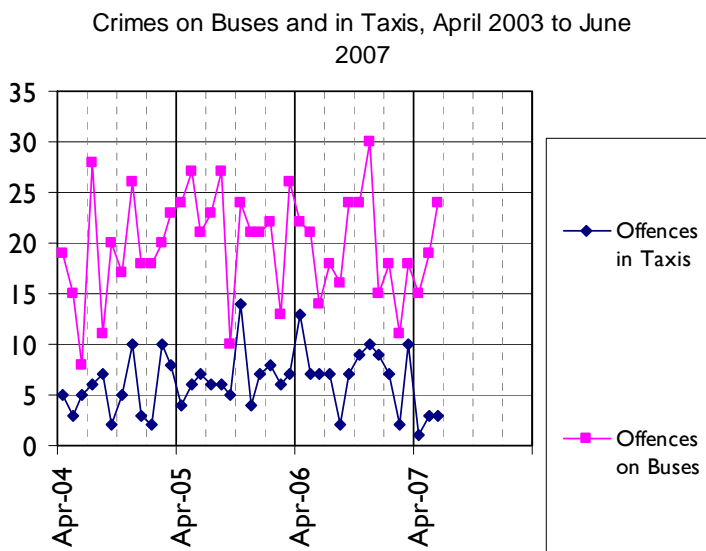
	Crimes on buses	% change since previous year
2004/05	223	-
2005/06	259	+16.1%
2006/07	231	-10.8%
	Crimes in taxis	% change since previous year
2004/05	66	-
2005/06	80	+21.2%
2006/07	90	+12.5%
	Crimes on railway	% change since previous year
2004/05	452	-
2005/06	412	-8.8%
2006/07	455	+10.4%

- Crimes on **buses** number between 10 and 30 per month and are mostly violent crimes or thefts. There is no long term evidence of an upward or downward trend.

- While 90% of people feel safe waiting for a bus during the day, this drops to 41% after dark. A third of people surveyed report being deterred from travelling by bus after dark for reasons of safety.

- The annual number of crimes in **taxis** is low, but rose between 2004/5 and 2006/07. It dropped to less than 5 during each of the first three months of 2007/08.

- On **trains** the annual total crime level has fluctuated over the last three years. Most crime types have also shown no particular trend over this period.

- While 90% of people feel safe waiting for or travelling by train during the day, this drops to 49% after dark. About 29% of people surveyed report being deterred from travelling by train after dark for reasons of safety.

Main points and recommendations: see Section 6.1.

4.4   CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE: PREVENTION AND SUPPORT INTERVENTIONS
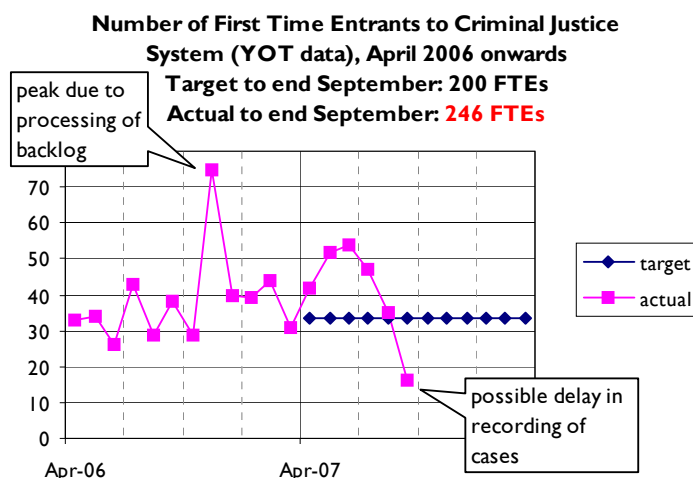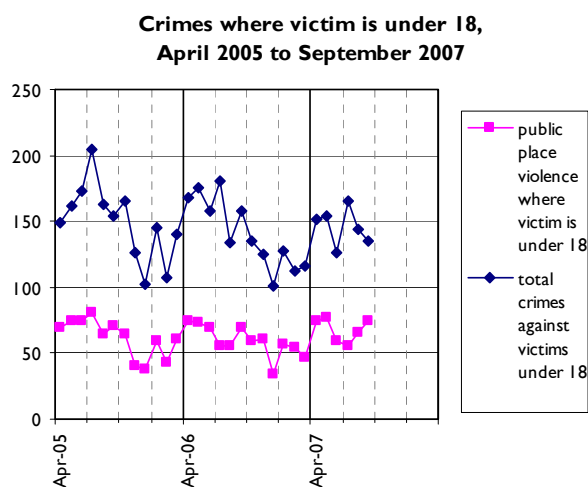
Crimes where victim is under 18, April 2005 to September 2007

legend:
- public place violence where victim is under 18
- total crimes against victims under 18

Number of First Time Entrants to Criminal Justice System (YOT data), April 2006 onwards
Target to end September: 200 FTEs
Actual to end September: 246 FTEs

peak due to processing of backlog

possible delay in recording of cases

legend:
- target
- actual

- There are 52,842 children and young people in the city aged 0 –19 years, of which 20,130 are aged between 10 and 17 years of age.

- There are 2951 children/young people defined as 'in need' and 79 children and young people per 10,000 population are looked after by the local authority which is higher than comparator authorities.

- A number of crime types show a worrying tendency of 13 – 19 year olds being recorded more frequently as victims and offenders.

- The impact of domestic violence on children is significant.

- Sussex Ambulance figures consistently show increases in calls to deal with alcohol related incidents experienced by young people with the age group of those affected becoming younger. In some crime types this may be associated with alcohol as an underlying cause.

- The number of first time entrants to the criminal justice system in 2006/07 was 488; this is a 37% increase on the previous year (356). The need to concentrate efforts on children and young people is further supported by the fact that over half of interventions by the Anti-Social Behaviour Team are directed towards young people.

Further information: see Section 8.4.

4.5   ILLICIT DRUGS MISUSE

Drug-related deaths in Brighton & Hove, 2003 - 2006

- Illicit drugs use remains a very significant issue in Brighton & Hove. Besides the impact on individuals and families, users often commit crimes to pay for drugs.

- The city's residents recorded 38 drug related deaths in 2006 and ranked second per head of population out of 107 areas submitting coroners' information. However, this is a improvement on 2005 when there were 51 cases and the city recorded the highest rate in the country.

- Illicit drugs use among young people in the city remains at a substantial level; about a third of 14-15 year olds surveyed in city schools in 2007 reported having used illicit drugs at some point. This is the same overall level as in 2004, but there was an increase in the use of stimulants (including cocaine) over this period.

- In neighbourhoods where residents had identified drug use in their neighbourhood as a problem and where the Communities Against Drugs team has advanced, there was a 50% improvement in people's perceptions of the level of the problem.

Drug Trafficking/Supply, April 2004 to September 2007

- Police recorded offences of supply of possession with intent to supply have risen each year of the 2005-08 Strategy, as have the number of offenders dealt with for Class A drugs offences. However, there is a direct relation between recorded offences and the level of resources allocated to tackling drug offences. This increase has been supported by the Operation Reduction partnership initiative, now nationally recognised as a best practice approach. This seeks to achieve several aims: to increase access of drug users to treatment, to reduce levels of crime and fear of crime and to increase the number of people convicted of supplying drugs.

- Levels of drug purity, a proxy measure of availability, suggest that Class A drugs have become more scarce compared to the position at the beginning of Operation Reduction.

Further information: see Section 8.6.

4.6   ALCOHOL MISUSE

Crime and disorder issues
- Excessive drinking is a contributory factor in crime, anti-social behaviour, youth disorder, domestic violence, poor parenting and registrations on the child protection register.

- In 2006 there were 4,387 police recorded crimes which where perceived to have been committed while under the influence of alcohol. (This is most likely to be an underestimate since the alcohol flag on police recording systems is not always reliable.) 84% of these were violent crimes.

Young people/students
- In 2007 over half of year 10 pupils surveyed in the city had consumed alcohol in the last week. 13% of boys and 9% of girls said they had consumed more than 14 units in the past week.

- The above figures relating to young people's consumption of alcohol are an increase on comparable data in 2005.

- In 2004 over half of local students surveyed reported binge drinking every week and 15% every day.

Communities
- Despite the city-wide Designated Public Places Order and intensive police and partnership work, there were an average of 26 street drinkers at any one time (ranging between 5 and 54 per month) recorded during monthly counting exercises in 2006/07.

Health issues
- Over 2,000 people a year are admitted to A&E with injuries which are directly attributable to drinking.

- In 2006 there were 83 road crashes in the city where alcohol was a contributory factor. In the first 7 months of 2007 there were 61.

- In 2001-03 Brighton & Hove was the local authority area whose residents suffered the sixth highest alcohol-related death rate in England and Wales. The death rate among male residents of Brighton & Hove ranked second.

Costs
- In terms of the costs alcohol-related crime in Brighton & Hove, this is estimated to be in the region of £35 million per year.

Further information: see Section 8.7.

4.7   DOMESTIC BURGLARY

Domestic Burglary, April 2004 to September 2007
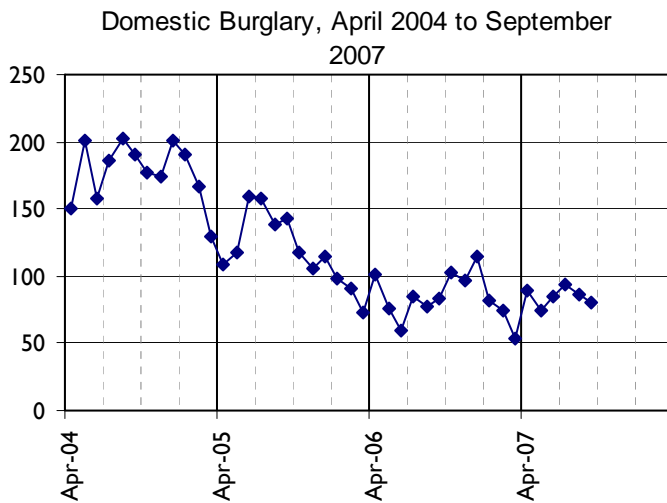
	Domestic Burglaries	% change since previous year
2004/05	2,126	-
2005/06	1,425	-32.97%
2006/07	1,006	-29.40%
Apr-Sep 2007	510	+5.5%
Domestic Burglary CDRP family ranking (Jun – Aug 2007) : **2**		

- Falls from July 2005 may be partly attributable to Operation Reduction and Priority and Prolific Offender targeted activity.
- The trend over the last 18 months has been broadly stable – there is a need to monitor for evidence of any reversal in trend.
- DNA detections and consistent sentencing have contributed to a reduction in the number of burglaries
- Hotspot areas remain in Brunswick & Regency where there are the highest numbers of short tenure HMOs

Main points and recommendations: see Section 7.1

4.8   VEHICLE CRIME

Vehicle Crime, April 2004 to September 2007
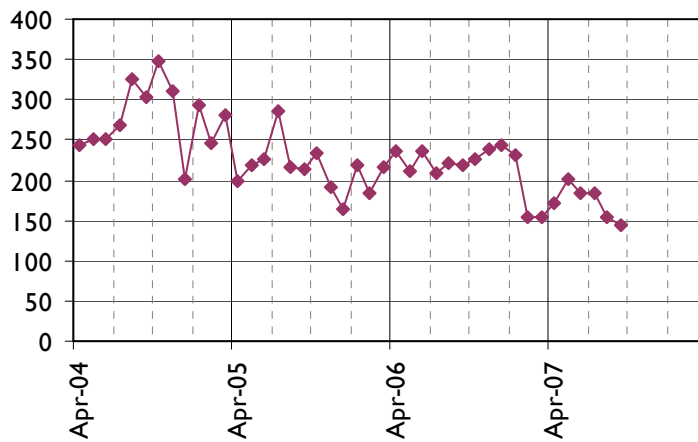
	Vehicle Crimes	% change since previous year
2004/05	3,322	-
2005/06	2,568	-22.69%
2006/07	2,577	+0.35%
Apr-Sep 2007	1,038	-22.0%
Vehicle Crime CDRP family ranking (Jun – Aug 2007) : **2**		

- Ongoing decreases are partly driven by increased standards of vehicle security

- Automatic Number Plate Recognition (ANPR) technology and strict controls over number plates is likely to have led to an increase in number plate theft

- Phones, SatNavs, laptops and MP3s account for the bulk of thefts from vehicles and these risks remain

- There is evidence of high value vehicles taken using keys stolen in burglaries

- Ongoing removal of abandoned vehicles reduces opportunities

Main points and recommendations: see Section 6.1.

4.9   PUBLIC PLACE VIOLENCE
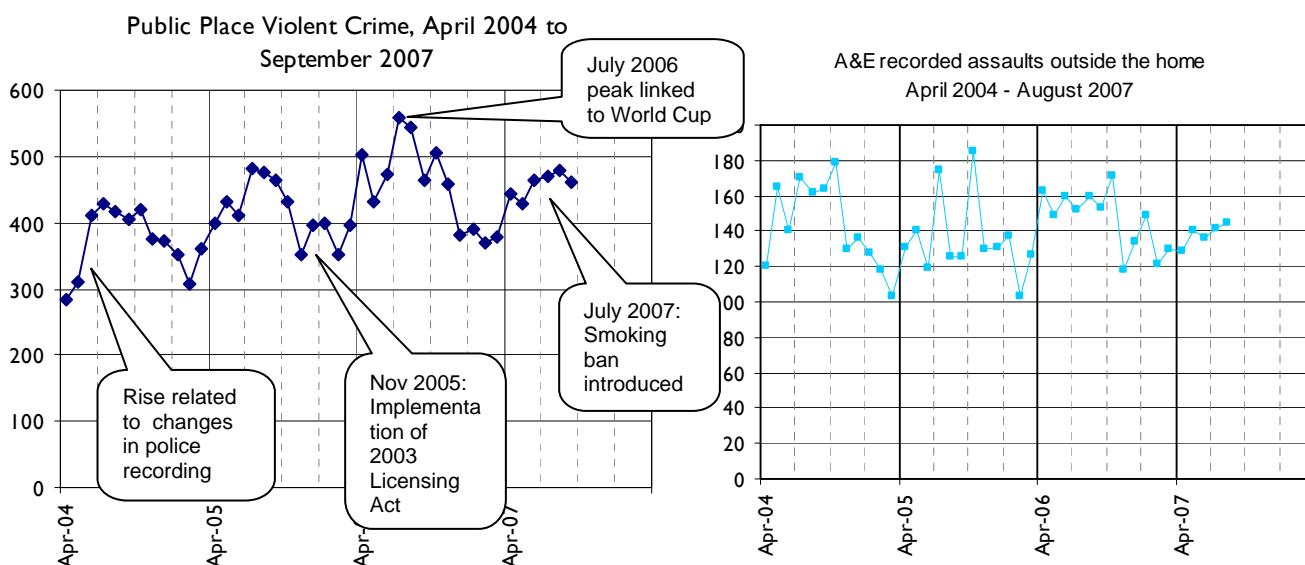
Public Place Violent Crime, April 2004 to September 2007

July 2006 peak linked to World Cup

July 2007: Smoking ban introduced

Rise related to changes in police recording

Nov 2005: Implementation of 2003 Licensing Act

A&E recorded assaults outside the home
April 2004 - August 2007

- Police recorded public place violence data show a year on year increase. A significant proportion of this rise is attributable to an increase in harassment offences (which do not involve direct physical violence).

- Within public place violence, recorded serious woundings have decreased and common assaults have increased. However, there may interacting underlying trends linked to early interventions and changes in recording practices.

	Public Place Violence	% change since previous year	A&E Assaults outside the home	% change since previous year
2004/05	4,440	-	1,715	-
2005/06	4,991	+12.4%	1,631	-4.9%
2006/07	5,450	+9.1%	1,760	**+7.9%**
Apr-Sep 2007	2,747	-7.6%	691 (to Aug)	**-11.9%**
All Violent Crime CDRP family ranking (Jun – Aug 2007) : **9**				

- Over the last 4 years A&E data on patients with assault injuries have remained relatively stable. Although there was an increase between 2005/06 and 2006/07, there has been a decrease in the first 5 months of 2007/08 compared with the same period in 2006/07

- There is an annual peak evident in A&E data in October each year. This coincides with the beginning of the university academic years.

Further information: see Section 8.1.

4.10   OFFENCES INVOLVING WEAPONS

Offences involving Weapons, April 2003 to June 2007

	Offences Involving Weapons	% change since previous year
2004/05	340	-
2005/06	308	-9.41%
2006/07	320	+3.89%
Apr-Jun 2007	24	0%
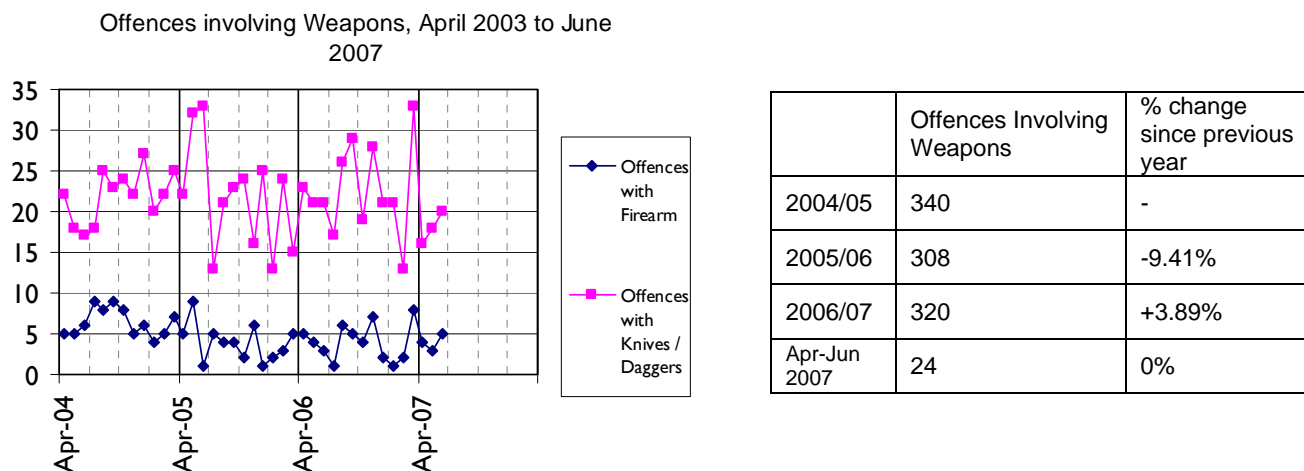
- The number of offences involving a firearm are low (ranging between 1 and 8 per month over the last 2 years).

- Firearms offences dropped between 2004/05 and 2005/06, but remained roughly stable for 2006/07.

- In the last year knife offences mostly ranged between 15 and 30 per month, but there was a sharp peak in offences in month of March 2007 when numbers reached 33.

- The first quarter of 2007/8 showed lower levels of knife crime than in the same quarter for the previous 2 years.

- The suspect age experiencing both the highest volume and rise in the use of a knife in the commission of an offence is youths aged 13 to 19.

- There was a steep increase (from about 80 in 2005/06 to 150 in 2006/07) in the number of knife crime suspects aged between 13 and 19.

- In 2006/07 there were a total of 19 violent offences or robberies involving a firearm, 17 involving possession and 11 others

- **Main points and recommendations**: see Section 6.5.

4.11   ROBBERY

Personal and Business Robberies
April 2004 - Sep 2007
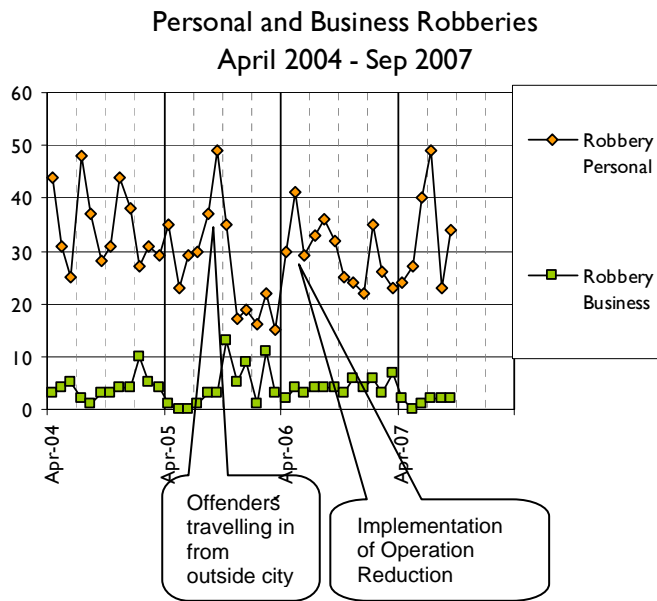
	Total Robbery	% change since previous year
2004/05	461	-
2005/06	377	-18.2%
2006/07	406	+7.7%
Apr-Sep 2007	206	-7.2%
All Robberies: CDRP family ranking (Jun – Aug 2007) : **11**		

- Personal Robbery consistently forms between 86% and 90% of all recorded robbery the remainder being against businesses.

- There is an increase in both the number of young offenders and victims. There is likely to be a link with bullying

- The most prevalent areas across all the years of the last strategy were Regency (forming approximately 25% of the total), St Peter's and North Laine (forming approximately 19%) and Queens Park (forming approximately 14%).

- Use of knives in robberies rose in 2006/07.

- Although numbers are not great, over the last three years there have been about twice as many business robberies between October and March than between April and September.

Main points and recommendations: see Section 7.2.

4.12   THEFT

Theft and Handling, April 2004 to September 2007
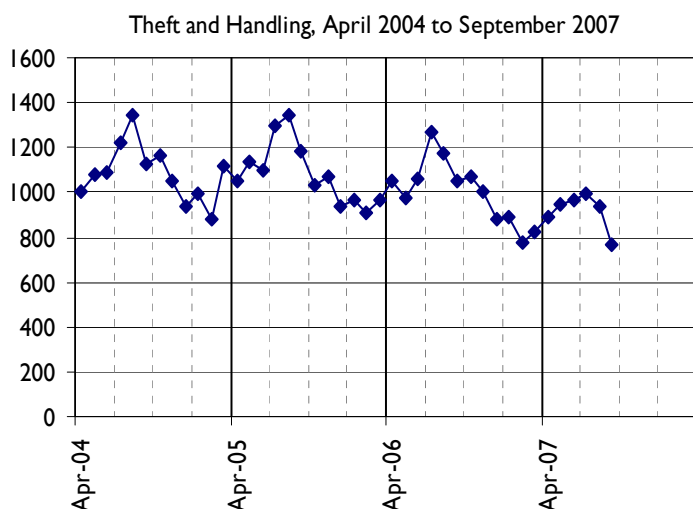
	Theft and handling	% change since previous year
2004/05	13,014	-
2005/06	13,005	-0.06%
2006/07	12,028	-7.51%
Apr-Sep 2007	5,494	-16.5%
Theft and Handling CDRP family ranking (Jun – Aug 2007) : **9**		

- Theft is a high volume crime which includes theft from person, theft from a dwelling, shoplifting, motor vehicle theft, cycle theft, and 'theft other'. Shop theft, vehicle theft and cycle theft are dealt with in other sections in this document.

- All theft and handling (including vehicle crime) accounted for 35.7% of all recorded crime for Brighton and Hove in 2006/7 and without vehicle crime, 27.8%.

- Theft is therefore our greatest volume crime for the city, and whilst this has seen a year on year decrease, any changes will have an impact on our overall performance.

- HO Code 49 category 'Theft Other' forms approximately 35% of all recorded theft each year, and 44% excluding vehicle crime

- The most frequent offence within this category is 'theft other than from the person', with approximately 23% each year occurring in a licensed premises

- Mobile phones account for the largest proportion of articles reported as stolen from licensed premises each year, forming approximately 15% of the total.

Main points and recommendations: see Section 6.3.

4.13 CYCLE THEFT

Theft of a Pedal Cycle,
April 2004 to September 2007

Aug 2006.
Cycle Theft
Steering Group
set up
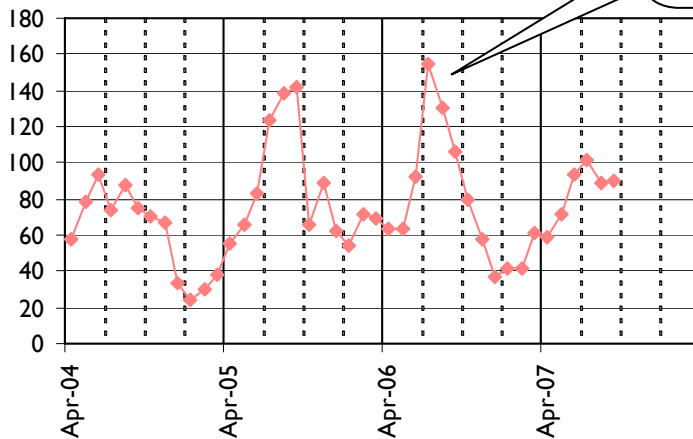
	Cycle Theft	% change since previous year
2004/05	729	-
2005/06	1,018	+39.64%
2006/07	929	-8.74%
Apr-Sep 2007	505	-17.3%
Cycle Theft: CDRP family ranking (Jun – Aug 2007) : **10**		

- Cycling levels correlate to the number of cycles stolen. Cycling levels are linked to the season and the weather, as well as efforts within Brighton & Hove to encourage cycling.

- Clear seasonal effects visible with greater numbers of cycle thefts reported during the summer months.

- A Cycle Theft Steering Group was set up in the autumn of 2006 in response to a very sharp increase in thefts.

- Implementation of cycle theft reduction pilot work is taking place during 2007.

Main points and recommendations: see Section 6.4.

4.14   BUSINESS CRIME

Crimes against Businesses,
(where the aggrieved is recorded as a company)
April 2004 to September 2007
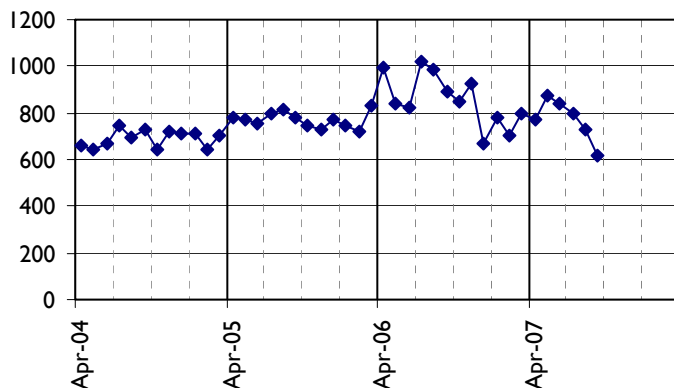
	Crimes against Businesses	% change since previous year
2004/05	8,267	-
2005/06	9,243	+11.80%
2006/07	10,282	+11.24%
Apr-Sep 2007	4,632	-16.7%

- Crime where a business is listed as the aggrieved increased up to the summer of 2006, but has shown a drop since then

- Fraud and forgery has fallen overall since April 2004 from a high of about 200 offences to the May 2007 figure of about 100 offences despite a recent upturn

- Shoplifting has shown an overall increase in offences since April 2004 (130 offences) to May 2007 (175 offences). The presence of security staff in shops tends to correlate with shoplifting offences being reported to the police.

- Robbery against businesses are fortunately rare in Brighton and Hove (see Robbery section).

Main points and recommendations: see Section 7.1.

4.15   DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

Domestic Violence Crimes and Incidents,
April 2004 to September 2007

Oct 2005 onwards: does not include cases against under 18s to comply with Home Office definition
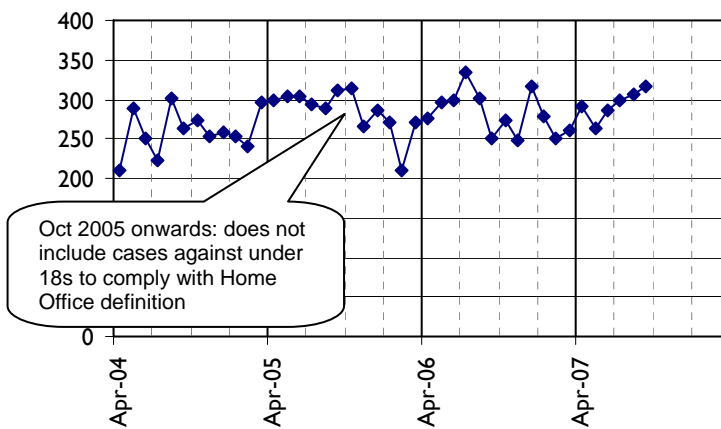
- In 2006/07 there were 3392 crimes and incidents of domestic violence recorded by the police. Nationally only 23% of domestic violence is reported to the police.

- In 2006/07 the Women's Refuge Project received 2,244 referrals of women and children experiencing domestic violence.

- The most serious violent offences include domestic violence and sexual violence. These cause high levels of harm to victims and to society.

- Extrapolating from national data, locally we could expect over 27,000 women residents to be repeat victims of domestic violence at some point. There could be over 8,000 LGBT victims of domestic violence.

- There have been changes in the definition of police recorded domestic violence which makes it difficult to identify longer term trends. There are roughly the same number of recorded crimes and incidents in the first six months of 2007/08 as in 2006/07.

- Domestic violence makes up about 18% of all recorded violent crime.

- There is a strong correlation between domestic violence, mental ill-health, substance misuse and child protection issues. Children and young people face increased risk of abuse, injury or death if they are exposed to domestic violence and it severely affects their safety, health and well-being, achievement and development.

- In 2006/07, of domestic violence crimes and incidents reported to the police, 29% resulted in an arrest, just over a quarter were detected, and 8% resulted in a charge being made. Once at court, only 58% resulted in a conviction.

- Costs to various public services are considerable and extrapolated from national data, in Brighton & Hove this is in excess of £30 million.

Further information: see Section 8.10.

Criminal Justice Processes

In 2006/07 there were:
  3392 crimes & incidents
  1373 crimes
  915 detections
  266 charges
  292 finalised court cases
  170 convictions

4.16   SEXUAL ASSAULT, SEXUAL EXPLOITATION, SEX WORKERS, TRAFFICKING

Sexual Offences, April 2004 to September 2007
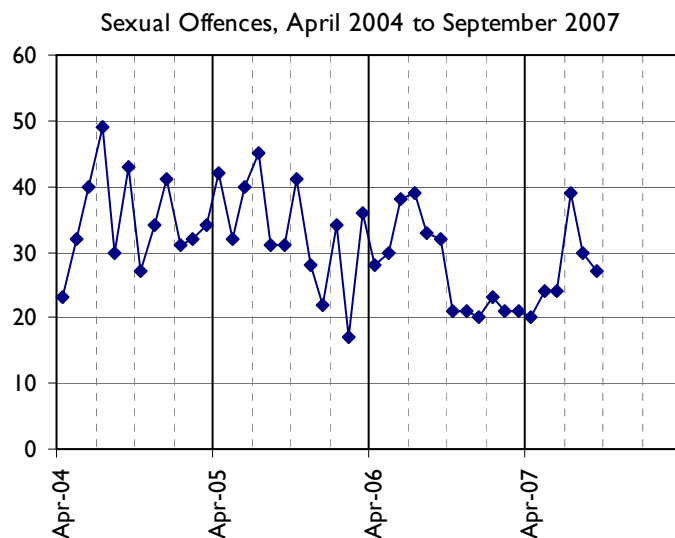
	sexual offences	% change since previous year
2004/05	416	-
2005/06	399	-4.0%
2006/07	327	-18.0%
Apr-Sep 2007	164	-18.0%

- There were 327 sexual offences recorded in 2006/07. This is greatly under-recorded.

- Sexual offences have reduced year on year during this Strategy period, falling by approximately 21% in 2006/7 compared to the baseline year.

- Although there is no on street prostitution there are a significant number of sex workers working from known brothels and flats

- There is anecdotal evidence of trafficked women in the city

- 57.5% of sex workers reported they had experienced violence or abuse, only 12.5% reported those incidents to the police

- Home Office estimates indicate that, on average, sex offences have the highest costs of any type of crime, except that of homicide.

Main points and recommendations: see Section 8.11.

4.17   CRIMES AND INCIDENTS AGAINST LGBT PEOPLE

Brighton & Hove has an estimated LGBT population of 35,000 which is embedded in the social, cultural and economic fabric of the city. In 2006, 847 local LGBT people took part in questionnaires or focus groups as part of the Count Me In Too Project researching the needs, views and experiences of lesbian, gay, bisexual & trans people who live, work, socialise or use services in Brighton & Hove.

*Have you experienced any of the following in the last 5 years that was due to your sexual orientation or gender identity? (814 people answered this question)
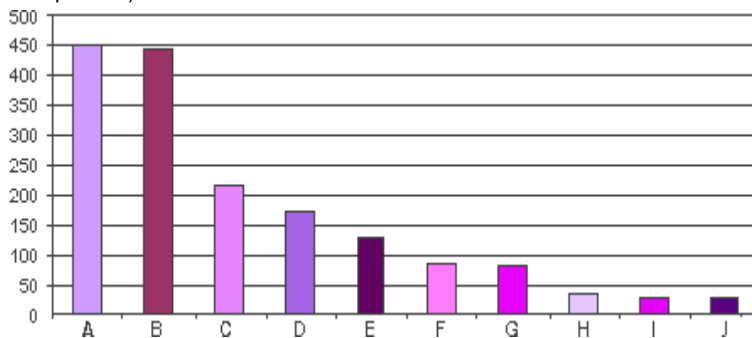
A Negative comments   D Teasing   G Bullying   J Other
B Verbal Abuse   E Harassment   H Criminal Damage
C None   F Physical violence   I Sexual assault

*If you reported the incident, who did you report it to?
Percent

	Percent
The police	14.0
The Community Safety Team	1.7
True Vision	0.3
Other	9.3
Total	25.3
Missing	74.7
Total	100

*Extracts from Count Me In Too Initial Findings Academic Report, Browne K, June 2006. Spectrum & University of Brighton (www.countmein.co.uk)

- 73% of respondents reported that they had experienced at least one of the behaviours shown in the bar chart above in the past five years, because of their sexual or gender identities.

- Of these, 1 in 7 had reported crimes and incidents to the police, with a smaller minority reporting elsewhere.

- In the corresponding five year period, 763 crimes and incidents were reported to the police.

- Extrapolated, this means that the number of crimes and incidents is potentially 5,341 not including cases of repeat victimisation.

- Of the 763 crimes and incidents reported, 599 were recorded crimes of which 150 were detected with 85 charges being laid.

- Over the five years, the number of reported incidents not recorded as crimes is increasing yet no information is available showing the nature of these incidents, service delivered or outcomes achieved in relation to them.

Further information: see Section 8.8.

4.18   RACIST AND RELIGIOUSLY MOTIVATED CRIMES AND INCIDENTS (RRMI); PREVENTING VIOLENT EXTREMISM AND COMMUNITY COHESION AND ENGAGEMENT

Racist and Religiously Motivated Crimes and Incidents, April 2004 to September 2007

Seasonal patterns – regular July peak; more visitors in summer months

July 2005: London bombings

Jan 2007: media coverage related to Big Brother Race Row

	Racist & Religiously Motivated Crimes and Incidents	% change since previous year
2004/05	423	-
2005/06	511	+20.8%
2006/07	570	+11.5%
Apr-Sep 2007	358	+9.8%
Racist/Religious Aggravated Detection Rate CDRP family ranking (Jun – Aug 2007) : **7**		

- Brighton & Hove has a higher than national average, Black and Minority ethnic resident population which includes migrant workers (estimated to be 8,000), asylum seekers, refugees, travellers/gypsies and overseas students. It also attracts many short stay overseas students and other visitors who may be vulnerable as crime targets.

- There are unknown, but undoubtedly significant, levels of under reporting of RRMIs locally.

- There is a year on year increase in the number of reports of RRMIs to the common database and this is projected to continue. National and international incidents serve to raise tensions and have been linked to incidents locally.

- Levels of repeat victimisation appear to be declining.

- The number of crimes reaching the various stages of the criminal justice process in 2006/07 is shown in the box below. The percentage of RRM crimes detected has risen between 2004/05 and 2006/07, but the percentage of detections resulting in charges has dropped. The percentage of finalised cases at court with successful outcomes has increased from 52% to 76% over the same period.

- Policy and practice approaches now include implementing government guidelines on Preventing Violent Extremism, tension monitoring and promoting community cohesion.

Further information: see Section 8.9.

Criminal Justice Processes

In 2006/07 there were:
    567 crimes & incidents
    481 crimes
    183 detections
    99 charges
    72 finalised court cases
    55 convictions

4.19   PROLIFIC AND OTHER PRIORITY OFFENDERS

**LPSA PPO Acquisitive Crimes,
Apr 2004 to September 2007**
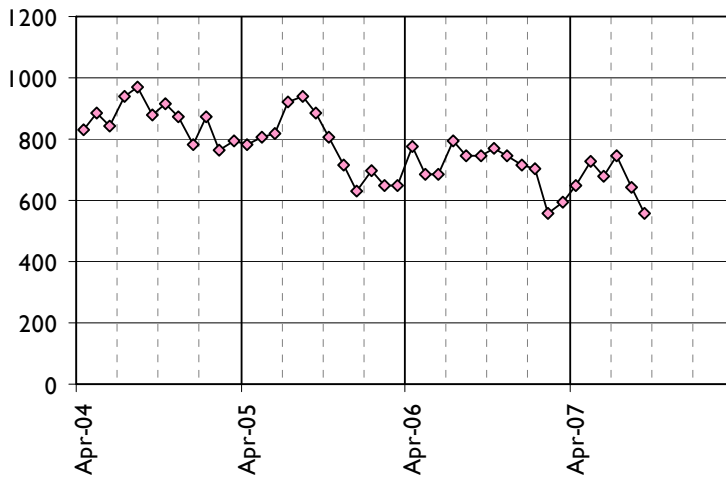
	LPSA PPO Acquisitive Crimes	% change since previous year
2004/05	10,342	-
2005/06	9,297	-10.1%
2006/07	8,517	-8.4%
Apr-Sep 2007	3,998	-9.6%

- Nationally, it is estimated that 50% of crime is committed by 10% of offenders; the most prolific 0.5% commit 10% of crimes.

- The PPO project has been extremely effective in reducing crimes committed by offenders participating in the Intensive Supervision Scheme (BAHPOSS). A total of 98 PPOs have joined the scheme between January 2005 and October 2007.

- Offences brought to justice for the 15 PPOs who have completed 12 months at liberty since joining the scheme in April 2006 have shown a reduction in convictions of 83% compared with the 12 months at liberty before.

- Problematic and chaotic long term opiate/crack cocaine use is an underlying cause of much prolific offending; the city assessed it had 3,400 problematic users of which 1,417 were in treatment in 06/07.

- A majority of crimes committed by PPOs are acquisitive crimes, bearing out the link with drug misuse. An overall measure of acquisitive crime has shown a significant decrease since 2004/05.

Further information: see Section 8.5.

5. CONCLUSIONS AROUND PRIORITISATION

Inevitably, limited resources necessitate prioritisation of those areas of work which are to the subject of future focus. As explained in Section 1.2.2, each topic included in the scanning process was prioritised against a number of criteria. The table below summarises the prioritisation assigned.

Prioritisation assigned to crime and disorder areas			
	Low	**Medium**	**High**
Environmental Quality, Design, Criminal Damage and Fear of Crime			X
Anti-Social Behaviour			X
Public Transport	X		
Children and Young People: Prevention and Support Interventions			X
Misuse of Illicit Drugs			X
Misuse of Alcohol			X
Domestic Burglary		X	
Vehicle Crime	X		
Public Place Violence			X
Offences involving Weapons	X		
Robbery		X	
Theft	X		
Cycle Theft	X		
Business Crime		X	
Domestic Violence			X
Sexual Assault & Exploitation; Sex Workers; Trafficking			X
Racist and Religiously Motivated Crimes and Incidents; Preventing Violent Extremism and Community Cohesion and Engagement			X
Crimes and Incidents against LGBT people			X
Prolific and Other Priority Offenders			X

Those areas which have been assigned as a lower or medium priority are reported in less detail (in Sections 6 and 7 of this document respectively) than those which have been assigned as a high priority (and which are taken forward in Section 8).

6. ASSESSMENT OF LOWER PRIORITIES

6.1 PUBLIC TRANSPORT

6.1.1 main points

Number of crimes on buses, trains and in taxis are relatively low with levels that have fluctuated over the last three years.

Crimes on buses number between 10 and 30 per month and are mostly violent crimes or thefts. Overall there is no evidence that this is going up or down, although there seems to be a slight increase in violent crimes on buses since 2004/05 which parallels a slight rise in the number of assaults against bus staff recorded by the bus company.

Violent crime (ABH and common assault) on trains, in common with the finding on buses, has increased (28 to 51 crimes) over the last three years.

Generally speaking, most people feel safe travelling on and waiting for public transport during the day, but between 40% and 50% feel safe after dark. Roughly 30% are deterred from using public transport at night for reasons of safety.

In response to concern about anti-social behaviour on buses, a text-based reporting system has been devised.

Work to address racist and religiously motivated incidents against taxi drivers is in progress.

6.1.2 recommendations

- The Violent Crime Task Group to hold a special transport themed meeting to which transport operators/ British Transport Police are invited.

- Resources for the implementation of the ASB on buses project and the analysis of data arising from it to be found.

- Meetings of transport providers and the British Transport Police in the city to continue in order to respond to common problems and further develop ways of working together.

More detailed assessment available on request

6.2 VEHICLE CRIME

6.2.1 main points

Successful work on Operation Reduction proves link between substance misuse and acquisitive crime.

Priority and Prolific Offender work has also contributed to vehicle crime reductions, targeting those who are most prolific.

Offenders are sometimes young and linked to ASB.

Targeted initiatives have impacted on specific areas.

6.2.2 recommendations

- Consider extension of Automatic Number Plate Recognition technology to cover a broader area

- Sustain existing resources; any reduction in targeted work likely to lead to increase in offences

- Sustain current levels of investment in Police and ASB team resources

- PPO and Op Reduction work must continue to maintain good performance in this area

- Work through young people prevention strategy, addressing risks which can lead to offending. Link to YOT and ASB team

More detailed assessment available on request

6.3   THEFT (OTHER THAN VEHICLE)

6.3.1   main points

Theft (other than vehicle crime) is made up of a very broad range of offences without a common solution with regard to achieving reductions. The existing strategy did not specifically focus on this area of crime, although work on projects such as Priority and Prolific Offenders and on illicit drugs misuse will have impacted and will carry on doing so with continued work in these areas.

The most frequent offence within the category of 'other theft' is 'theft other than from the person', with approximately 23% each year occurring in a licensed premises. Around 59% of those reported as stolen in licensed premises occur in a public house and 39% in a club.

The most frequently stolen items are mobile phones, handbags, purses and wallets.

Mobile phone theft is clearly an issue for the city in licensed premises, but is a huge problem across all location types.

Whilst theft of mobile phones has fallen in 2006/7 along with all theft, it still forms approximately 25% of recorded theft for the city (minus vehicle crime). The risk of theft of this item is potentially enhanced with the smoking ban in place.

6.3.2   Recommendations

- Business Crime Reduction Partnership and Priority Crime Reduction Officer to continue to deliver targeted initiatives to prevent and reduce theft, for example, with licensed premises.

More detailed assessment available on request

6.4   CYCLE THEFT

6.4.1   main points

Cycle thefts began to increase sharply in 2006 following annual increases in previous years. A Cycle Theft Steering Group was set up in the autumn of 2006.

Research has shown that when cyclists have their bikes stolen, 27% stop cycling and 66% cycle less often. Keeping cycle theft under control is important so that it does not undermine sustainable transport and health policies.

Poor cycle locking practice is widely evident in the city.

A best practice pilot focusing particularly on education and infrastructure is currently being undertaken in a city centre hotspot area.

6.4.2   recommendations

- Roll out best practice established through pilot project, following positive findings from evaluation.

- Educational messages should be delivered through general activities which involve engagement of cyclists and potential cyclists. Eventual aim is to mainstream cycle theft prevention education through general provision.

- In support of efforts to increase the level of cycling, cycle parking infrastructure should be improved, secure on-street parking and residential parking developed, and sponsorship by

key businesses encouraged. (Work should be taken forward through the Local Transport Plan)

- The CDRP to contribute to the development of Supplementary Planning Document on Parking in respect of cycle theft.

- Account for changes in cycling levels in future monitoring for the effectiveness of cycle theft reduction work.

More detailed assessment available on request

6.5   OFFENCES INVOLVING WEAPONS

6.5.1   main points

Numbers of offences remain low. There has been an increase in young offenders with knives.

National reporting on the use of guns and knives in specific metropolitan neighbourhoods linked to gangs impacts on the fear of crime locally.

This area needs to be closely monitored for evidence of substantial or sustained increases.

6.5.2   recommendations

- Public Safety/Trading Standards to continue to prioritise enforcement/advice action in respect of sales of guns and knives

- Police/CDRP preparedness to implement national good practice

- CDRP/CYPT approaches to include measures which discourage/prevent carrying of weapons by young people, eg: schools/education/youth clubs.

- CDRP to be alert to anticipated national good practice and be prepared to implement guidelines.

More detailed assessment available on request

7. ASSESSMENT OF MEDIUM PRIORITIES

7.1 DOMESTIC BURGLARY

7.1.1 main points

Successful work on Operation Reduction emphasises link between substance misuse and acquisitive crime.

Priority and Prolific Offender project work has also contributed to burglary reductions, targeting those who are most prolific.

Intelligence led police work and DNA detections have contributed to reductions.

Initiatives from the priority crime reduction officer have been aimed at target hardening and raising awareness work.

A reduction in activity is any of the above areas is likely to lead to an increase in offences.

Residents tend to overestimate burglaries in their locality.

7.1.2 recommendations

Continue current level of work. Specifically:

- Priority and Prolific Offender and Operation Reduction work must continue to maintain good performance in this area
- Continue intelligence-led policing
- Continue targeted initiatives
- Publicise real levels of burglaries to residents and communities
- Target harden long term hotspots and raise awareness of vulnerable victims.

More detailed assessment available on request

7.2 ROBBERY

7.2.1 main points

The police have implemented a robbery action plan with an investigative focus. This, together with partnership work on Operation Reduction, have had a positive impact on reducing robberies.

7.2.2 recommendations

- Stemming the flow of offenders coming to central Brighton to commit robberies will need to remain a focus for the police both in terms of early intelligence and quality focussed investigations when an offence occurs. Brighton must not be seen as a soft target for committing robberies.
- Offences committed against and by young people need to be monitored more closely. It is likely that a number of these offences are part of wider bullying against the victims where there is a reluctance to report incidents. These offences often involve the theft of phones.
- Children and Young People's Trust support for anti-bullying in schools to encourage reporting and increase protection.
- Police and CDRP targeted operations (Scoop, Prince, Reduction, Reagan and Columbus) are most effective and should continue.

7.3   BUSINESS CRIME

7.3.1   main points

The Business Crime Reduction Partnership (BCRP) are significant partners in this area. The BCRP works with a network of members, including a radio network for communication and information sharing. Membership of the BCRP has steadily increased from 79 in 2001 to 384 in September 2007. This is split between 212 day members and 172 night members.

Crimes where a business is listed as the aggrieved have increased by about 30% in the past three years. Fraud and forgery form a significant number of crimes against businesses and these are dealt with by the police in accordance with national guidelines. A great number of these offences are perpetrated against businesses by offenders who are not local.

Robbery against businesses are fortunately rare in Brighton and Hove.

Shoplifting continues to be a problem in the city. The BCRP seeks to tackle this through its banning scheme. In the few cases where there is ASB involved, action is taken by the ASB team.

Shoplifting is usually only reported when an offence has been seen. Therefore those stores that employ security staff report the most offences. Many larger stores are unwilling or unable to make changes to reduce the likelihood of theft.

7.3.2   recommendations

- Continue to support the BCRP at current level of investment while seeking expanded role within the night-time economy (costs relating to BCRP Nighttime Co-ordinator to be sought within Public Place Violent Crime)

- BCRP to proactively bring in additional resources from local businesses and to follow up bidding opportunities. (Consider service level agreement against agreed targets)

- Recruitment of Special Constables within the business sector

- Further joint working with ASB Team to targeted business crime offenders

- Sustain Persistent Shoplifter Scheme and added value of joint working with target group of Operation Reduction and the Priority and Prolific Offender projects

8. ASSESSMENT OF HIGH PRIORITY AREAS

8.1 ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY, DESIGN, CRIMINAL DAMAGE AND FEAR OF CRIME

8.1.1 levels and trends

- Criminal damage rose during 2006/07, but shows signs of dropping during first half of 2007/08.

- Street appearance measures have shown steady improvements reflecting concerted effort by CityClean, Environment Improvement Team, and others.

- Levels of feeling safe in the city both during the day and after dark have improved over period of the last strategy. The reasons behind this are likely to be very complex – and are not always determined by local action. However, this finding lends credit to the overall success of work in the city to reduce crime and improve community safety.

8.1.2 the nature of the problem we need to address

- There are some groups and communities who feel less safe than others. Older residents and those with limiting long term illness tend to feel less safe.

- Many issues require a resource that can problem solve and coordinate work across many different agencies.

8.1.3 effectiveness of previous work

Outcomes listed in the previous strategy are:

- <u>Increased feelings of safety for residents and visitors to the city</u>. As indicated above, people are feeling safer than before, although there is still improvement needed after dark, particularly in the city centre. Continuation and further improvement around communication across the breadth of the CDRP's work is needed.

- <u>Efficient structure, co-ordination and targeting of resources related to deterrence and enforcement in neighbourhoods and across the city</u>. There has been a considerable shift towards neighbourhood based work by members of the CDRP (including the police through Neighbourhood Policing Teams, the PCST, the EIT and CAD). A partnership structure linking Local Action Teams, district Joint Action Groups, the city-wide Operational CDRP and the strategic RAP/DAAT has supported effective neighbourhood working and working links. Local design improvements have been implemented through closely working with residents in priority neighbourhoods.

- <u>Improve and maintain the quality of the physical environment</u>. Community action days (eg. Whitehawk Challenge) involving agencies and residents working together reduce opportunity for damage, encourage local ownership and a sense of community. A series of monthly multi-agency environmental enforcement activities have been carried out across many areas of the city.

- <u>A reduction in criminal damage and arson</u>. A multi-agency criminal damage working group has been focusing on this area of work and an action plan for tackling the problem has been taken forward. Improved containerisation of waste and focused work with young people have been among the work to tackle arson. A programme of keeping areas of the city graffiti clear has been led by CityClean. Recent improvements in information sharing is providing improved evidence to bring offenders to justice.

- <u>Better networking of agencies and technologies in support of deterrence and detection of crime and anti-social behaviour</u>. Much progress in partnership work in this area has been achieved, and there has been some innovative use of information technology (eg. text - based reporting of anti-social behaviour).

8.1.4   community views

In each project area where improvements have been delivered by the Environment Improvement Team and community views surveyed, over 80% of residents surveyed felt their areas were safer as a direct result of the improvements and work of the team.

8.1.5   what we now need to achieve

- The communication of our CDRP's work does not match up to that achieved by other CDRPs.

- Successful approaches in neighbourhoods need to be adopted more widely

8.1.6   barriers & threats

- The Environment Improvement Team currently fulfils an important role in a number of ways which reduce opportunity for crime and disorder and help people to feel safer. For example, they have secured substantial levels of Section 106 and other national and local funding for community safety-related projects in hotspot and other priority locations. The EIT also carry out local community consultation and support as part of each project. However, the EIT is short term funded and will be unable to continue this work beyond December 2008 without further funding.

- While there is much positive community safety and environmental improvement work going on, it is necessary to ensure this is communicated across all areas of CDRP work to maximise the deterrence and reassurance benefits.

- Considerable resources have supported work to improve environmental quality. Progress achieved to date will be at risk if these are not sustained.

8.1.7   recommendations

- Integration of planning and design skills within the Environment Improvement Team (EIT) to be sustained. EIT to continue to engage with residents and undertake local improvement projects to reduce crime, anti-social behaviour and fear of crime

- Involvement of the EIT and other CDRP partners in closer and more joined up working between community safety and planning processes

- Promote awareness of the extended scope of Section 17 of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 and review compliance

- Continue focused preventative work with children and young people

- Continue to operate and develop the neighbourhood-based working model

- Work around communication and engagement between the CDRP and the public to be developed and co-ordinated through an action plan. To include the rebuilding, development and maintenance of a CDRP website

- Ongoing programmes of work (through enforcement and other means) by CityClean to tackle activities such as graffiti and flytipping that degrade the quality of the street environment

- Continue to support and encourage environmental action days and community action days.

- Achieve a mainstreamed resource for spatial analysis of crime and disorder (including software capability and dedicated CDRP Analyst) to enable work to be accurately and efficiently targeted

- Carry out focused work on tackling criminal damage against vehicles

More detailed assessment available on request

8.2 PUBLIC PLACE VIOLENCE

8.2.1 levels and trends

- Police recorded public place violence data show a year on year increase. A significant proportion of this rise is attributable to an increase in harassment offences (which do not involve direct physical violence).

- Within public place violence, recorded woundings have decreased and common assaults have increased. However, there are interacting influences trends linked to early interventions and changes in recording practices over recent months and years.

- Over the last 4 years A&E data on patients with assault injuries have remained relatively stable. Although there was an increase between 2005/06 and 2006/07, there has been a decrease in the first 5 months of 2007/08 compared with the same period in 2006/07.

- There is an annual peak evident in A&E assault patient data in October each year. This coincides with the beginning of university academic years.

8.2.2 the nature of the problem we need to address

- The night time economy, with its focus on alcohol, continues to grow with limited regulation

- There is an increase in the number of young people becoming offenders and victims and a greater number of women involved

- West Street has become less of a hotspot and there is evidence of people staying later in venues outside the city centre

- The effects of the smoking ban are not fully analysed

8.2.3 effectiveness of previous work

The previous strategy listed six outcome areas.

- <u>Effective enforcement and investigation</u>. Police early intervention and the now common use of police Fixed Penalty Notices has resulted in more low level offences being recorded and detected. These tactics are likely to have prevented more serious assaults taking place later the evening.

- <u>Young perpetrators of violent crime</u>. We've had significant activity around test purchasing operations. Despite this, we have seen an increase in offences with victims and offenders under 18.

- <u>Designing out violent crime</u>. Little progress in this area during the last strategy due to lack of resources, for example for improving street lighting. However, there are some encouraging indications that Section 106 funding may routinely become available for crime reduction in the future.

- <u>Improved design, management and regulation of licensed premises</u>. The introduction of dedicated uniformed licensing officers implementing the new licensing legislation has led to marked reductions in crime levels within licensed premises. These reductions have been overshadowed by a proliferation of new premises in areas such as East St. There is a need for closer working between planning and licensing and for more effective joint working around enforcement activities. The statutory regulation of door supervisors is likely to have reduced offences committed by and against door staff.

- <u>Violent crime against people in the work place</u>. There has been no co-ordinated work in this area

8.2.4 community views

Residents in the city centre feel that the new licensing legislation has led to more disturbances later into the night. Violence is not generally prioritised in neighbourhood action plans.

However, the low levels of people feeling safe after dark (see section 4.1), particular for people living on the outlying areas of the city, may be interpreted as a widespread fear of being a victim of violence.

8.2.5   what we now need to achieve

- Change attitudes towards drinking

- Closer working with businesses in the night-time economy

- Widen the number and range of agencies involved in reducing the impact of the night time economy on individuals and the community

- Seek to reduce resources put into policing the late night economy

- Seek to reduce the number of young people who become offenders and victims

8.2.6   barriers & threats

- Continued proliferation of all licensed premises, especially those promoting adult entertainment.

- Lack of resources to deliver any long term solutions through changes to the built environment

- Any cessation of funding for youth work will have a detrimental effect

- The unabated societal acceptance of drinking and drunkenness

8.2.7   recommendations

- Operation Marble to continue

- Underage test purchasing and noise nuisance operations to continue

- Police youth disorder operations to continue and detached youth work to be developed further and linked with police work

- Prioritise work with the Children and Young People's Trust and the prevention strategy

- Consider piloting assertive outreach which addresses binge drinking

- ASB Team support to enforcement and prevention to continue

- Analyse the link between early evening ASB and later violent crime

- Police and council licensing officers to continue assertive enforcement and encourage best practice within the licensing trade and security industry

- Review potential for closer working between planning and licensing, designing out crime and management of the built environment

- Deliver proven successful targeted interventions, eg. Spiked, Headcams, Safe Space

- Explore increased role of Business Crime Reduction Partnership

- Review with the Public Service Board 'place shaping' and the night time economy/alcohol issues for the city

- Take steps to better integrate A&E partners in work to tackle violence through improved data sharing and participation in CDRP activities.

 More detailed assessment available on request

8.3   ANTI-SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR

8.3.1   levels and trends

- Police recorded 'signal insecurities' provide a useful insight into the amount of ASB that is reported in the city. This dropped by 4% between 2005/06 and 2006/07.

- 78% of signal insecurities are classed as 'social disorder'. Within this, a third relates to youth disorder. Youth disorder incidents have increased by 15% from 2005/6 to 2006/7.

- Begging reduction targets have been achieved. However the 25% reduction target for reducing the number of street drinkers has not been met, with counts recording an average of 26 drinkers in 2006/07 compared with 22 in 2005/06.

- In 2006/07 16 new ASBOs were issued.

8.3.2   the nature of the problem we need to address

The key anti-social behaviour concerns for the city are (in no particular order) public place violent crime and rowdy nuisance behaviour, youth disorder and teenagers hanging around, street-based anti-social behaviour including street drinking and begging, concerns around people using or dealing drugs, public perceptions around the levels of control parents have over their children, concerns about vandalism and concerns about litter. Public place violent crime and rowdy nuisance behaviour is the single largest concern called into the police by the public and accounts for 77% of the 19,529 reports logged.

ASB, crimes and incidents committed by adults and young people in neighbourhoods, public spaces and the city centre. ASB Team activity and output returns highlight a split of 51% priority NRA and 49% non NRA. (This excludes activity in the eb4U communities and Hollingdean.) Differing types and themes of anti-social behaviour take place in different parts of the city. City ASB partners have the ability to identify these and target resources such as caseworkers, multi-agency meetings, raising awareness and reporting lines within communities.

Youth disorder. Youth disorder calls from the public to the police have increased from 4,282 made in 2005/06 to 4,938 calls in 2006/07, an increase of 15%. The ASB team and others undertake preventative work with young people in neighbourhoods Perceptions data on teenagers hanging around being a problem have remained unmoved at 47% when compared 2003 and 2006 (BVPI survey), although this is 10 percentage points better than the national average. Underlying causes of ASB such as this can be addressed by intensive work with targeted families, and work around parenting

Street based anti-social behaviour including begging (particularly that which is intimidating and linked to illicit drug use) and street drinking remains a concern for the city and this accounts for 3,202 calls by members of the public to police in 2006/07, this figure represents 20% reduction on the number of calls in 2006/07 as compared with 2005/06. The number of beggars operating across the city has remained consistently at 13 or below for the past 3 years. The number of street drinkers however is a cause for concern as this is consistently off target and there are a range of reasons and contributory factors as to why this is the case.

There has been no local research carried out on the victims of anti-social behaviour. However, we do have evidence that provides an insight into the perpetrators involved.

8.3.3   effectiveness of previous work

The previous strategy listed five outcome areas.

- <u>Balanced city-wide programme of diversion, intervention, support and enforcement.</u> Such an approach has been adopted, for example through the work of street outreach team with beggars and street drinkers and. through work with young people, eg. Operation Athlete/Quartz/Prince, etc.

- <u>Casework involving intervention, support, prevention and enforcement.</u> Brighton & Hove had above average use of tools and powers in 5 out of 9 categories in regional and national comparisons in 2006/07. ASB Team casework was carried out on 297 ASB reports in the city in 2006/07, including 16 ASBOs, 23 ASB injunctions and 62 ABCs issued.

- <u>Partnership work involving communities, partners and agencies.</u> There are a range of monthly information sharing meetings between partners. In 2006/07 there were 1,500 actions taken by a range of agencies working in partnership to tackle ASB. ASB Team representation takes place regularly at Local Action Teams in neighbourhoods dealing with local issues. 'Face the People' sessions are also taking place on a regular basis in different areas of the city whereby partners are accountable to local people around anti-social behaviour and other community safety issues across the city.

- <u>Consolidation, development and exploration of new approaches.</u> There have been a number of new approaches taken up in the last three years, including the Intensive Family Intervention Project, and parenting interventions. The city's 'Trailblazer' status has been superseded by its becoming a Respect Action Area, committing the city to continue work to high standards and develop best practice.

- <u>Development of partnership work with council housing and RSLs.</u> Work is currently being undertaken to implement the 'Respect Housing Management Standard for Social Housing'.

8.3.4   community views

Section 4.2 provided ASB perception data reported by residents. Further breakdown of these data reveal that different types of ASB are felt to be more problematic in some areas of the city than others. Overall, wards featuring most prominently in this analysis are Queen's Park, Brunswick & Adelaide, Moulsecoomb & Bevendean and East Brighton.

8.3.5   what we now need to achieve

- Continued commitment and delivery of an effective work programme to meet the requirements of a Respect Action Area, especially around parenting and the Intensive Family Intervention Project, integrating this with Children and Young People's Trust work programmes.

- Continued focus on youth disorder, seeking to prevent this from developing into 'gang'-based activity. Delivery of suitable and engaging activities for youths on Friday and Saturday nights.

- Renew and refresh efforts to reduce street drinking numbers.

- Reduce public perceptions of ASB and improve communication of ASB work back to the community.

8.3.6   barriers & threats

- The ending of eb4U funding for ASB in 2008 and the ending of the Hollingdean Programme reduces resources across the city. In addition, there is uncertainty around the future of current funding streams which fund ASB.

8.3.7   recommendations

- Ensure a consistent framework of ASB services and delivery in Brighton & Hove by expanding the central ASB Team's legal work and casework across all areas of the city.

More detailed assessment available on request

8.4   CHILDREN & YOUNG PEOPLE

8.4.1   levels and trends

- There are 52,842 children and young people in the city aged 0 – 19 years, of which 20,130 are aged between 10 and 17 years of age. There are 2951 children/young people defined as 'in need' and 79 children and young people per 10,000 population are looked after by the local authority which is higher than comparator authorities.

- A number of crime types shows a worrying tendency of 13 – 19 year olds being recorded more frequently as victims and offenders.

- Sussex Ambulance figures consistently show increases in calls to deal with alcohol related incidents experienced by young people with the age group of those affected becoming younger. In some crime types this may be associated with alcohol as an underlying cause.

- The number of first time entrants to the criminal justice system in 2006/07 was 488; this is a 37% increase on the previous year (356). The need to concentrate efforts on children and young people is further supported by the fact that over half of interventions by the Anti-Social Behaviour Team are directed towards young people.

8.4.2   the nature of the problem we need to address

Children are more likely to be victims than offenders and that protecting children and young people from harm and from the risks associated with poor parenting, bullying, domestic violence and other risks is fundamental to decreasing the likelihood of those young people becoming perpetrators. A high proportion of young people who get into trouble suffer a number of complex family, health, educational and community problems which need positively addressing if they are to be successfully diverted from offending behaviour.

8.4.3   effectiveness of previous work

The CYPT and CDRP routinely work closely together to develop complementary and multi-disciplinary responses to protecting children and young people, to divert them from offending and to reduce repeat offending. These initiatives include:

- A Prevention Strategy which combines, co-ordinate and signposts for practitioners, all appropriate services in the city

- A Youth Justice Steering Group which provides a place for partnership input into the strategic and operational activities of the Youth Offending Team as well as an opportunity for development of other partnership approaches

- A Child Safety Group which is a subgroup of the Local Safeguarding Board and which is undertaking a range of activities (such as a Safety Equipment Loan scheme to the most vulnerable families)

- Parenting programmes and Triple P training led by the CYPT and which is inclusive of CDRP staff and clients; this area of work is being further extended by a pilot Family Therapy Project

- An Intensive Family Intervention Project within the ASB Team which targets those families most in trouble and which includes family therapy, educational and other support interventions alongside those of enforcement

- A Detached Youth Work Project which is targeting diversionary activities, including towards youth disorder

- A Youth Inclusion Support Projects within Hangleton and Knoll and a YIP in East Brighton. The YISP is jointly managed between the ASB team with the CYPT and delivers against shared objectives

- The inclusion of a support worker in the YOT to assist in the delivery of the Prevent and Deter strand of the Prolific and Priority Offender scheme

8.4.4   community views

The need for activities for teenagers is consistently prioritised by the community as important and in a 2006 city-wide survey it also ranked highly as one of the things that were most in need of improvement in the city.

8.4.5   what we now need to achieve

- There is a service gap around Restorative Justice and a shared commitment to develop this service area.

- A great deal of this work is being carried out within existing capacity. The costs of the support worker to the Prevent and Deter arrangements in the Youth Offending Team are reflected within the budget sought for the Prolific and Priority Offender project. The costs of continuing the Intensive Family Intervention Project are reflected within the budget sought for the Anti-Social Behaviour Team. The Youth Inclusion Support Project is currently being considered by the Children & Young People's Trust as part of wider programme of youth prevention and diversionary activities for the city. The Detached Youth Work project is fully funded by the Council.

8.4.6   recommendations

- Continue to co-ordinate and develop multi-agency work in the programme of activities described above. Resources yet to be identified.

- Support the funding of 'prevent and deter' work with young offenders as described under the Prolific and other Priority Offenders section (see Section 8.5).

- Identify resources for the provision of a restorative justice programme

- Children's Fund money has been received broadly to continue YISP projects for the next three years. However, its allocation will need to be based on considering the needs of the cessation of funds in East Brighton and Hollingdean. The Hangleton & Knoll YISP will not therefore be the only call on the funds available. The CYPT are considering therefore allocating the money more broadly across prevention initiatives.

More detailed assessment available on request

8.5 PROLIFIC AND OTHER PRIORITY OFFENDERS (PPO)

8.5.1 levels and trends

- Between January 2005 and March 2008 it is estimated that 114 PPOs will have joined the Intensive Supervision Scheme.

- Offences brought to justice for the 15 PPOs who have completed 12 months at liberty since joining the scheme in April 2006 have shown a reduction in convictions of 83% compared with the 12 months at liberty before.

- All types of acquisitive crimes committed by PPOs dropped between by between 80% and 90% after joining the Intensive Supervision Scheme.

8.5.2 the nature of the problem we need to address and underlying causes

- Problematic and chaotic long term opiate/crack cocaine use is an underlying cause of much prolific offending.

- The living conditions of PPOs are frequently associated with deprivation and exclusion, with life styles and patterns often repeating in households and families. Other characteristics include lack of any previous treatment history or positive outcomes on previous outcomes, including mental health interventions.

- Nearly half of the 70 PPOs in the 2005 and 2006 cohorts live in private independent housing. A majority of the rest live in a bail/probation hostel and a few live in supported housing. There were only three of no fixed abode. Although there is more of a concentration in the city centre (linked to the location of hostels, etc.), PPOs reside in a broad spread across areas of the city.

8.5.3 effectiveness of previous work

The previous strategy listed five outcome areas:

- Monitoring and prioritisation of PPOs. The Sussex Criminal Justice Board has ratified a Sussex Premium Service Checklist ensuring PPOs are prioritised through all stages of the criminal justice system from arrest to conviction.

- Young people prevented and deterred from offending. The Youth Offending Team offers support via specialist workers, including parenting, health (including mental health) and educational professionals. Referral pathways facilitate support networks outside the home for young people and targeted youth work

- Reduction in offending by young people. Targeting those who are high risk or particularly vulnerable to further offending, the YOT offers support to those who are subject to statutory orders.

- Improved processing of PPOs through the Criminal Justice System. Local PPO figures show average timeliness for offenders from arrest to conviction of 76.5 days; this is 2 days less than the national average. To date 95.8% of completed offences for PPOs were Brought to Justice; this is 10.2% above the national average.

- Improved personal circumstances of PPOs. Work continues by both Probation and partnership agencies to improve the lives of PPOs. Ensuring appropriate accommodation is available, providing substance misuse support and encouraging access to education and training are ways this is progressed.

The current LPSA-funded PPO project, is working to two specific performance targets. One relates to a measure of total acquisitive crime across the city (committed by PPO and other offenders). The first 6 months of 2007/08 are showing a 25% reduction compared with the 2004/05 baseline. The second target was to reduce by 21.2% offending in two cohorts of PPOs

after they joined the Intensive Supervision Scheme (BAHPOSS). Both targets are making very good progress.

Besides consistently exceeding targets for reductions in rates of offending, comprehensive and mature partnership good practice approaches and operational delivery arrangements have been established. This includes significant advances in the monitoring of offenders, which in turn offers enhanced opportunities to address their behaviours, treatment and other needs. These relationships are in place across adult services and with the YOT and young people services.

8.5.4   what we now need to achieve

We firstly need to receive resourcing to continue the PPO project. The current programme is limited to about 30 PPOs per year by capacity of staff. An additional probation and police officer would enable what has proved to be a very effective project to extend to a greater number of PPOs. Capacity would also be increased with the addition of a nurse to undertake prescribing at the Substance Misuse Service to allow faster access to heroin substitute medication and a Prevent and Deter Caseworker in the YOT.

8.5.5   barriers & threats

* A lack of funding is the greatest threat to this area of work.

8.5.6   recommendations

Targeting high risk, prolific offenders is a proven, very effective way of contributing to the reduction of other priority crimes as well as addressing the multiple problems (including drug and alcohol) of those who commit a high proportion of crimes in the city. Recommendations are:

* Continue the current multi-disciplinary PPO project. Current posts considered essential (police & probation officers, a Co-ordinator and Administrator, a DIP Outreach Worker, Youth Worker and with contributions to posts within CRI and across the partnership).

* Increase capacity of the Intensive Supervision Scheme (BAHPOSS)

* Meet service gaps including of those for nursing support, a YOT (Prevent and Deter) worker, and community mentoring

More detailed assessment available on request

8.6 ILLICIT DRUGS

8.6.1 levels and trends

- Drug use among young people, as estimated via the Health Related Behaviour Survey, undertaken in Brighton & Hove secondary schools in 2004 and 2007, has remained at general constant levels, with approximately two thirds of 14–15 year olds reporting no illicit drug use. However, stimulant use, including cocaine, has increased.

- The number of vulnerable young people at risk through substance misuse has been difficult to estimate and there is no reliable trend data. Using the findings of the recently published Home Office Offending, Crime and Justice Survey, approximately 4,688 young people in Brighton & Hove may be vulnerable, of whom between 12% [562] and 30% [1,406] are likely to be frequent drug misusers.

- The number of young people in Brighton & Hove entering specialist treatment has risen from 61 in 2003/04 to 78 in 2006/07.

- Surveys of over 1,300 people in Neighbourhood Renewal Areas (NRAs) showed that 29.5% of residents perceived there was a drug problem compared with 10.2% in non NRAs.

- The estimated number of problem drug users [using opiates and/or crack cocaine] of all ages is 3,380 and of drug injectors, 1,512 [based on 2004–05 data]. An earlier estimate of drug injectors [based on 2001 data] was higher at 2,304.

- Persons charged with Class A drugs supply rose from nine in Quarter 2 of 2005 to 72 in Quarter 1 of 2007, reflecting a national trend.

8.6.2 the nature of the problem we need to address

- Vulnerable young people – those who have ever been in care; those who have ever been homeless; truants; those excluded from school; serious or frequent offenders; and those whose parents or carers are problematic drug users – need to be identified and assessed at an early stage and to receive consistent referrals and interventions across the Children and Young People's Trust.

- Local communities require data, knowledge and expertise in order to address such challenges as prevention, environmental improvements, family support, treatment and neighbourhood policing in an empowering, effective and sustained manner.

- Treatment access, throughput and effectiveness must be maintained via the provision of fit for purpose premises; flexible working hours; appropriately qualified and sufficient numbers of staff; well managed interventions; and effective wraparound services to maximise input and successful outcomes for both criminal justice and public health referrals.

- The increase in charges for supply, and possession with intent to supply, Class A drugs, reflects the level of resources directed at drugs enforcement, largely via Operation Reduction, since October 2005. The maintenance of sufficient resources remains critical to the continuation of Operation Reduction and its positive impact on criminal activity, anti-social behaviour and public health.

8.6.3 effectiveness of previous work

The previous strategy listed five outcome areas.

- **Young people**. There has been improvement in: drugs education via the Healthy Schools Scheme; in the provision of services for families where there are drug misusing parents and carers with vulnerable children; and in the integration of training and services addressing both teenage pregnancy/sexual health and substance misuse.

- **Communities**. Public perception has been enhanced via neighbourhood meetings, wide dissemination of Communities Plans, and most recently a dedicated website. Local action

plans have been produced in each of the ten Neighbourhood Renewal Areas and environmental improvements effected. Other initiatives have included support for a peer monitoring scheme; implementation of a City Council Workplace Drug and Alcohol Policy; promotion of the work of the Patched Family support service; and, in partnership with the business community, the establishment of the Shoplifting Project.

- **Treatment**. Service capacity has been increased through the acquisition of new premises, which opened in 2006, and the commissioning of extra treatment places, with 1,417 people entering treatment in 2006–07, compared with 987 in 2004–05. Retention rates increased from 55% to 74% in the same period. Other targets, including the improvement of measures to control communicable diseases caused by blood borne viruses and to deliver services to patients experiencing both mental health and substance misuse problems, require further development.

- **Supply**. The number of Class A drug offenders brought to justice for supply offences increased by 23.2% in 2005–06 and by 32.8% in 2006–07 compared with the previous year. The introduction of electronic G80 recording has contributed to significant improvements in the production of timely and reliable data in periodic strategic reviews.

- **Workforce**. Substantial improvements have been made in: the recruitment process, including the establishment of a dedicated workforce website; the development of career pathways, particularly for ex service users; and the proportion of staff employed in line with occupational standards and receiving post employment training.

8.6.4   community views

- Through the Communities Against Drugs four stage audit, commissioning and review process, over 1,300 residents have been consulted in both the ten neighbourhood renewal areas and elsewhere in the city.

- The Drugs Intervention Programme incorporates regular service user feedback processes, together with volunteer and peer mentoring support, which further enhances user consultation.

- The appointment of a Service User Involvement worker has promoted a number of initiatives that have improved user consultation, in line with a Partnership Service User Strategy produced in 2007 with the overarching purpose of empowering service users to have an active role in the planning, delivery and evaluation of services.

8.6.5   what we now need to achieve

Young People
- Sustaining a basic level of input into universal [core] interventions in both the school and informal education settings.

- Focussing on targeted [enhanced] interventions with those vulnerable young people who have probably initiated drug use by early adolescence, when more protective factors exist.

- Sustaining the capacity of the specialist [intensive] treatment service to meet local need in line with a national target to provide for at least 14% of the total in treatment population.

Communities
- Maintaining a central communities against drugs team to respond to the needs identified within neighbourhoods and communities of interest.

- Developing a health improvement focus within neighbourhoods through the management and deployment of PCT based health trainers.

- Disseminating the implementation of Workplace Drug and Alcohol Policies, based on the successful BHCC model, in both the statutory and independent sectors, as a contribution to the promotion of a Healthy City.

- Supporting a range of initiatives aimed at successful reintegration of drug users, including effective housing interventions; further employment projects building on the Equal initiatives; and self-esteem enhancement via artistic and/or physical activities.

Treatment
- Sustaining the success of the Drugs Intervention Programme in identifying and engaging with offenders and diverting them into treatment programmes, and in working with drug users to minimize relapse and promote a successful transition from treatment, both in the community and in custody, into stabilised living.

Supply
- Sustaining the resourcing of Operation Reduction at a level commensurate with the continued achievement of successful outcomes that occurred in the first two years of the project.

8.6.6   barriers & threats

- Insufficient mainstream funding to sustain the core, enhanced and intensive work with young people, which has been almost exclusively resourced via Partnership Grant initiative funding.

- Establishing and sustaining screening and referral skills amongst a range of Tier 1 agencies and groups, including health visitors, CYPT social workers and community safety outreach workers, to ensure appropriate linkage with specialist services.

- Within Communities Against Drugs work, there is a paucity of evidence from elsewhere on good practice and hence a limited evidence base from which to identify "promising approaches" in the local audit cycle process.

- The Drugs Intervention Programme has not achieved "intensive status" since the inception of DIP in 2004–05, but would benefit from the local availability of intensive DIP activity, such as Required Assessments and Restriction on Bail, for which the self-funding cost is prohibitive.

8.6.7   recommendations

- Increase the capacity of the young people specialist treatment service, ru-ok?, by two posts [one substance misuse and one specialist alcohol post], in order to contribute towards the successful achievement of national targets for numbers in treatment and speed of service delivery.

- Improve performance in targeting the six categories of vulnerable young substance misusers, relating to truancy, exclusion, accommodation, being looked after, offending, and hidden harm, supported by effective data management systems.

- Maintain the Communities Against Drugs initiative in local communities throughout Brighton & Hove, with a particular emphasis on responding to expressed need, both at street level and across neighbourhoods where appropriate, in respect of all strategic strands of the new Drug Strategy.

- Maintain the Drug Interventions Programme at least at current levels in order to continue diverting offenders, particularly Prolific and other Priority Offenders, into treatment, and to sustain retention in treatment via effective relapse management.

- Extend the scope of Operation Reduction to link more effectively, via the Street Level Up pilot, with Level 2 and higher supply networks, and also to link with communities against drugs activity in specific neighbourhoods in response to audit finding.

More detailed assessment available on request

8.7   ALCOHOL MISUSE

8.7.1   levels and trends

- In 2007 51% of local year 10 pupils said they had consumed at least one alcoholic drink in the past week. 13% of boys and 9% of girls said they had consumed more than 14 units in the past week. These figures are an increase on comparable data in 2005.

- In 2006 there were 4,387 police recorded crimes which where perceived to have been committed while under the influence of alcohol. (This is likely to be an underestimate since the alcohol flag on police recording systems is not always reliable.) 84% of these were violent crimes.

- In 2006 there were 83 road crashes in the city where alcohol was a contributory factor. This is roughly the same level as in 2005, but in the first seven months of 2007 there were 61 – a proportionately higher figure.

- Despite the city-wide Designated Public Places Order and intensive police and partnership work, there were an average of 26 street drinkers at any one time (ranging between 5 and 54 per month) recorded during monthly counting exercises in 2006/07. In October 2007, there were 47 recorded street drinkers

- Over 2,000 people a year are admitted to A&E with injuries which are directly attributable to drinking

- In 2001-03 Brighton & Hove was the local authority area whose residents suffered the sixth highest alcohol-related death rate in England and Wales. The death rate among male residents of Brighton & Hove ranked second.

8.7.2   the nature of the problem we need to address

- In November 2007 the city has 1089 licensed premises. This is an increase from 1,025 in November 2005. This thriving night time economy combines with perceptions and a culture of drinking to excess - in order to 'have a good time'.

- The use of alcohol by young people has increased and excessive drinking is now found to be a focus for youth disorder, anti-social behaviour and related to the problem of increased levels of youth crime noted elsewhere in this Assessment.

- The Alcohol Strategy Group are also concerned about the extent of excessive drinking by other vulnerable groups and negative health impacts, particularly for older people and those vulnerable to mental ill health episodes and those using illicit drugs.

- A lack of investment in alcohol services combined with the cultural factors presents the city with a significant challenge to reduce the harm caused by alcohol misuse.

8.7.3   effectiveness of previous work

The previous strategy listed the following eight outcome areas.

- Increased ability of young people to resist alcohol misuse

- Reduced alcohol induced anti-social behaviour by under 18 year olds by taking appropriate steps to ensure alcohol does not get into the hands of minors and encouraging alternative activities

- Increased ability of young adults to resist harmful levels of drinking including binge drinking

- Improved access to information, advice and routes into treatment services, particularly for those who do not necessarily see themselves as dependent drinkers

- Provision of a range of advice, treatment and relapse prevention services appropriate to the needs of the population, from those who have just identified alcohol use as a problem to dependent drinkers

- Improved ability of hospital services, particularly A&E to treat and refer patients who have been drinking at harmful levels (and/or are intoxicated)

- Creation of care pathways for dependent drinkers who need specialist support, to give them the best chance of accessing treatment and maintaining abstinence or reduced drinking

- Improved access to advice and treatment for those who perpetrate domestic violence, child abuse or neglect and those involved in neighbourhood anti-social behaviour, where alcohol is a significant factor

These areas need further review in the light of the government strategy document 'Safe, Sensible and Social' issued in May 2007.

8.7.4   community views

- Over twice as many residents surveyed in Neighbourhood Renewal Areas perceived that alcohol was a problem compared with those surveyed in other areas of the city.

8.7.5   what we now need to achieve

- Enforcement actions by the police, licensing, trading standards and partnership community safety team are to be sustained. This includes the focus on street outreach to engage street drinkers into services. The development of the new Community Alcohol Team is seeking to improve effective care pathways for all those needing to access treatment services.

- However, new work is urgently needed to increase targeted work towards young people who are caught up in cycles of excessive drinking and youth disorder. Work to deliver harm reduction messages in schools, colleges and to those who enjoy the night time economy is also urgent.

8.7.6   barriers & threats

- The main barrier to progress is the lack of investment in treatment options and in the areas identified above. New investment needs to be sustained.

8.7.7   recommendations

- Alcohol Strategy Group to constantly review the local Action Plan in the context of the National Alcohol Strategy and new guidelines and recommendations and to sustain those enforcement initiatives where most effective

- That resources are identified to enable a specialist young persons worker to be placed in RU OK? and who will target those young people who are particularly caught up in youth disorder and anti-social behaviour

- Deliver a sustained and impactive harm reduction campaign and effective alcohol education and harm reduction message in schools, colleges, pubs and clubs across the city.

  More detailed assessment available on request

8.8   CRIMES AND INCIDENTS AGAINST LGBT PEOPLE

8.8.1   levels and trends

- Evidence shows that a high and sustained level of hate crime occurs in the city, much of it unreported. This has a cumulative and serious impact on the health and quality of life of LGBT people, with consequences for the economy, social cohesion, and equality in the city.

- Data recording mechanisms are insufficient to be able to capture the information required to make in depth and informed analysis. Consequently, it has been difficult to set meaningful benchmarks.

- The attrition level on LGBT related crime is greater than that of other hate crimes.

- Substantial under reporting demonstrates a lack of confidence in the processes of statutory organisations to reduce hate crime and incidents. This is exacerbated by the high criminal justice attrition rate. Both combine to diminish any deterrent effect on offending.

8.8.2   the nature of the problem we need to address

- Widespread prejudice and discrimination which ranges from verbal to physical abuse most of which is going unrecorded and unaddressed.

- People migrate to Brighton from less progressive places believing it to be a safe and tolerant place for LGBT people. Yet they experience a substantial number of crime and incidents.

- Brighton & Hove is presented as a socially inclusive city. This is not borne out by research and hate crime data which has a social and economic dimension.

- LGBT people need to have trust and confidence in hate crime services, and currently do not, as shown by the reporting data. There is more need for appropriate services.

- Research shows a disproportionate impact of hate crime on vulnerable, excluded and marginalised groups.

- Mainstream agencies, including Housing and Health, don't have adequate systems in place to record and respond to hate crime against LGBT people.

8.8.3   effectiveness of previous work

The previous strategy listed eight outcome areas. Progress has been limited by the resources available for development and partnership work.

- Reduce violent crimes in hotspot areas. In the summer of 2007 Operation Reagan specifically focused on dealing with a hotspot area during the summer months.
- Develop and maintain trust and confidence within the LGBT community Improved working structures to take the above themes forward have included the creation of multi-agency LGBT working groups, including a Casework Panel and an LGBT Community Safety Working Group, with standing groups around topics including mental health, housing and domestic violence and abuse.
- Ascertain perceptions of hate crime and agency responses within the LGBT community. Count Me In Too survey carried out in 2006 has collected a great deal of information in this area and focussed analysis on community safety matters is currently being undertaken.
- Service providers and partner agencies to develop Equality Impact Assessments from an LGBT perspective. Input given to agencies when completing E.I.A. to ensure compliance.
- Develop perpetrator support. Limited funding has been an obstacle towards developing work in this area.
- Increase reporting of incidents. Specific initiatives include, True Vision, Blow the Whistle and Where Do You Fit In campaigns
- Address domestic violence within LGBT relationships and families. LGBT DV and Abuse working group established and has had a significant impact.
- Engage transgender community in addressing community safety issues. Weekly trans drop-in sessions have been established, facilitated by a support worker.

8.8.4   community views

- This will be provided during the action planning process from an additional in-depth safety analysis of the Count Me In Too data (to be published: February 2008), other local research and data obtained from THT, Allsorts, Mind Out and Switchboard amongst other LGBT community agencies.

8.8.5   what we now need to achieve

- Reduce hate crime - Make Brighton & Hove a safer place for LGBT people.
- Community Engagement and Community Capacity - Build stronger relationships with and improve the trust and confidence of LGBT people and community agencies. Improve co-ordination and partnership work to implement strategic recommendations.
- Casework services - To support victims and witnesses and respond to the safety needs of multiple marginalised people and develop counselling services for survivors.
- Information recording - To develop systems for recording information and carry out analytical work on data collected across all agencies focussing on areas such as criminal justice and offending patterns.
- Increase reporting - Increase opportunities for third party reporting through a common framework of shared reporting system
- Sustaining Development work - domestic violence, anti bullying and sexual assault.

8.8.6   barriers & threats

- Endemic under-reporting, insufficient data collection, the absence of effective performance indicators, and elementary tracking of outcomes for victims threatens to undermine progress in the prevention and detection of hate crime.
- The potential for multi-agency, inter-sectoral partnership work, community engagement, and development work cannot be realised without investment.
- The city's profile as a safe and inclusive environment will be damaged by any failure to reduce the impact of hate crime on its LGBT citizens particularly for those who are most marginalised or excluded.

8.8.7   recommendations

- Improve community engagement with LGBT groups, services and individuals
- Build and sustain multi-agency and inter-sectoral LGBT community safety-led partnerships
- Understand and respond to the safety needs of marginalized and vulnerable groups with in the LGBT population
- Develop counselling, group work, advice and support for LGBT hate crime survivors
- Review, build on and mainstream learning from research and service data to ensure best practice
- Build capacity and joint-working on LGBT community safety issues among LGBT groups and services
- Mainstream LGBT community safety across all sectors, particularly in relation to hate crime where people live
- Increase reporting opportunities for reporting through third party reporting
- To review policies and practices relating to (repeat) offenders
- Work towards developing programmes and practices to prevent hate crime
- Sustain LGBT anti-bullying partnership and development work
- Sustain LGBT domestic violence partnership and development work
- Understand and respond to the needs of LGBT victims of sexual assault

More detailed assessment available on request

8.9   RACIST AND RELIGIOUSLY-MOTIVATED CRIMES AND INCIDENTS

8.9.1   levels and trends

* The Racist Incident Report Form (RIRF) database had 588 reports in 2006/07. There is a rising trend in reported racist and religiously motivated incidents. A majority of these come via the police, but there is a rising number from other agencies. The numbers of reports will be affected by both actual numbers of reports and the propensity for them to be reported; national data show that police databases record fewer than a fifth of those incidents revealed through survey methods.

* Separate racist and religiously motivated data from the police are not currently available.

8.9.2   the nature of the problem we need to address

* Particular communities at risk include: gypsies and travellers, refugees, migrant workers, overseas students, health service workers and BME businesses (in front line occupations eg. food, retail, and taxi driving industries.)

* The most prevalent types of incident are verbal abuse (37% of reports), harassment (17%), physical violence (15%) and against property (11%).

* The ethnic groupings (by visual classification) of victims most prevalent are Asian (29%) and White (22%) and Black African/Caribbean/other (17%). There have been 71 incidents recorded on the shared database between September 2005 and October 2007 which have been identified as religiously motivated. 54% of these were identified as Islamaphobic and 37% as anti-Semitic. Others were anti-Christian, anti-Hindu and anti-Sikh. Police/CPS records do not currently separate racist from religiously motivated incidents. Perpetrators were 90% White European.

* The gender ratio of victims is about 3 male to 2 female; that of suspects is about 3 male to 1 female. The age profile of reporting victims shows a tendency for more reports from younger age groups, but not markedly so, and numbers remain significant up to about 55 years old. Suspects are more frequently in their teens or twenties, with teenagers showing the most notable rise between 2004/05 and 2006/07.

* Wards with the highest numbers of police recorded racist incidents are (in order) Regency (primary focus for visitors and business) ; Queen's Park, St Peter's & North Laine and East Brighton. Regency also has seen the greatest rise between 2004/05 and 2006/07. 31% of incidents happened in the street and 25% in a home.

8.9.3   effectiveness of previous work

The previous strategy listed eight outcome areas and progress has been made in all areas:

* <u>Adopt best practice and follow the community cohesion agenda to reduce RRMIs</u>. Work included mutual exchange of good practice standards with projects in other areas and local training initiatives involving a variety of statutory, voluntary and community sector agencies.

* <u>Promote anti-racist policies and practices in statutory agencies to raise awareness and increase trust and confidence</u>. Significant community engagement throughout the development of strategic work. Targeted work includes: work in young people settings, English language schools/host families, cultural/religious events, widened accessibility of materials, and engagement with BME businesses

* <u>Increase reporting by widening opportunities and increasing accessibility</u>. Work included wide distribution of reporting packs, online reporting, publicity and work in neighbourhoods

* <u>Provide high standards of support services to victims</u>. Specialist caseworker support to victims, including referrals from any source. Casework Panel to develop multi-agency responses. Particular links with council housing. Client satisfaction questionnaires.

- Provide funding for progressing work in mainstream budgets of statutory agencies. Most hate crime work is funded through initiative funding. Strategic Assessment and Business Case being drawn up to secure continuation of funding from April 2008.

- Increase capacity of Racial Harassment Forum. Independent review carried out of the work of the Racial Harassment Forum, with new working groups and policies/procedures agreed. Membership increased and city-wide consultation framework being developed.

- Increase rates of recording, detection, prosecution and conviction in the criminal justice process. Work to improve the tagging of incidents by the police has taken place. Also the Scrutiny Panel has made recommendations to the CPS and these are being considered. Between 2004/05 and 2006/07 the percentage of crimes detected and the percentage of court cases which are successful have both increased.

- Deal with perpetrators and reduce repeat offending/victimisation. Repeat victimisation cases are considered by the Casework Panel for multi-agency responses.

8.9.4   community views

The Partnership Community Safety Team has worked with the BME community to review the role and governance of the Racial Harassment Forum. New practices have been successfully implemented and the Forum is now a very effective model of a partnership and community led approach to dealing with crimes and incidents and the underlying causes of discrimination and prejudice.

8.9.5   what we now need to achieve

Significant progress has been made and a comprehensive, three year action plan is in place which includes actions to deliver the government's new agenda of preventing violent extremism. Some of those actions to address particular gaps and priorities, to embed good practice and further increase trust and confidence are set out in the recommendations below.

8.9.6   barriers & threats

- While we have systems in place for monitoring tensions and risk assessments and an action plan to prevent violent extremism, international or national events impact locally, heighten tensions and result in increased racist/religiously motivated incidents.

- There has been considerable progress made in the development of a sound partnership between the BME community, statutory and voluntary agencies and in the provision of services. If this work is not pursued or developed further because of a lack of resources, this would present a very significant setback.

8.9.7   recommendations

- Increased reporting of RRMIs by:
  o providing wider and more accessible reporting opportunities and services
  o training, and embedding good practice and policies within service delivery and anti-racist project work
- Provision of excellent services to victims and witnesses
- Effective community consultation and engagement to build up and sustain trust and confidence
- Full operational working and increased capacity of the Racial Harassment Forum
- Increased recording and detection rates by the police and increased prosecution and conviction rates through the courts
- Effective joined up working between agencies to deal with perpetrators and reduce repeat offending and victimisation.

 More detailed assessment available on request

8.10   DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

8.10.1 levels and trends

- There were 3,392 domestic abuse crimes and incidents recorded by the police in 2006/07 of which 82% were violent crimes. Changes to police definitions make it difficult to track trends accurately, but there would not seem to be significant increases or decreases as far as can be ascertained.

- Domestic violence is underreported and under-recorded. Extrapolation from national data indicates that the cost to the public purse in Brighton & Hove exceeds £30 million per annum; over 44,000 adults in Brighton & Hove will experience domestic violence, not to mention the children and young people who will also be affected. Over 27,000 adults locally will suffer four or more repeat incidents and the majority will be women, experiencing an average of 20 incidents. 1 in 4 LGBT people will also experience domestic violence.

8.10.2 the nature of the problem we need to address

- Domestic violence is both a cause and consequence of gender inequality, and the gender of both victim and perpetrator influences behaviour and the severity of the risk. It occurs irrespective of class, age, ability, sexuality, ethnicity and nationality.

- Although two-thirds of domestic violence crimes were detected in 2006/07, the same as the year before, the percentage of detections resulted in a charge was 29%. This dropped for the fourth consecutive year. The percentage of finalised court cases which were successful in 2006/07 was 58%, an increase from 50% the previous year. This level continues into 2007/08, short of the 72% target. National CPS data show that nearly half of unsuccessful prosecutions are because the victim fails to support the prosecution.

- Repeat victimisation as recorded by the police remains high with between 50 and 60 domestic violence incidents per month against a victim who has previously been a victim within the last 12 months.

8.10.3 effectiveness of previous work

If local domestic violence services are not provided within a co-ordinated community framework their effectiveness in reducing and preventing domestic violence is severely weakened. The previous strategy listed six outcome areas.

- <u>Effective solutions to domestic violence progressed through multi-agency working</u>. Local partnership/group membership was reviewed and multi-agency data collection improved.

- <u>Raised awareness and improved access to services</u>. Safe as Houses advocacy model is being rolled out city-wide. The Women's Refuge Project currently brings in more than £330,000 short-term charitable funds into the city to address domestic violence.

- <u>Trust and confidence engendered in those reporting by providing a positive response</u>. Feedback obtained from survivor and young people consultation for informing future delivery of services. Specialist court and Independent Advocacy (IDVA) service introduced.

- <u>Further develop services and support for all victims of domestic violence and their children and provision of specialist services for victims from male, Black and minority ethnic and LGBT communities</u>. The IDVA includes support for straight/gay/bi/trans male victims, and for lesbian/bi/trans women. There is a gap in provision for BMER and disabled survivors.

- <u>Reduce repeat offending</u>. Living Without Violence programme provides community intervention with perpetrators and partners. This is currently being evaluated, but funding expires in 2008.

- <u>Raise awareness of domestic violence issues with young people and diversion of young people from being perpetrators</u>. Women's Refuge Project delivers citywide work in schools.

8.10.4 community views

Consultation with survivors of domestic violence has underlined the need to build in regular consultation and participation from survivors when carrying out/developing policy and practice.

8.10.5 what we now need to achieve

There remains a significant amount of work outstanding if Brighton & Hove is to make an impact on the prevalence of domestic violence locally and also meets national service standards. A citywide 3-year Domestic Violence Strategy and Action Plan has been developed, which aims to increase safety of survivors; hold abusers accountable; raise awareness and reduce social tolerance; and undertake prevention education work with children and young people.

Achieving these aims is dependent on a co-ordinated community response that includes: accessible specialist domestic violence services for survivors and children; multi-agency risk assessment and management system; independent advocacy for medium-high risk cases; early identification of cases by all agencies, and trained and dedicated staff; children and young people's prevention education; improved justice system including fast tracking and clustering court cases; community perpetrator programmes and associated partner support; co-ordinated data collection and monitoring; and measures designed to raise awareness of the community.

8.10.6 barriers & threats

- Achieving these aims will be dependent on effective strategic leadership by the Senior Officers Group and CDRP, which should focus on achieving outcomes; providing direction to lead and manage change; and ensuring political support for this work programme.

- Not investing in implementing effective domestic violence policies and training of key staff, and not undertaking early identification and interventions, results in significant costs to the public purse and to a range of services at a later stage.

- Improved responses will place greater pressure on specialist voluntary sector domestic violence services; which need to be developed in line with national standards.

8.10.7 recommendations

In the next three years, services to be strengthened or developed include:
- The refuge, domestic violence outreach service for women and children; the independent advocacy service, and sexual violence services
- The Specialist Domestic Violence Court programme
- The health sector response and health-based advocates linked to A&E and midwifery
- The CYPT response and community–based DV services for children
- The provision of services for survivors from discriminated against groups and those with complex needs (eg. substance use, mental ill-health, those subject to immigration rules)
- Safe child contact facilities for families where there is domestic violence
- Response by employers to domestic violence as a workplace issue
- Interventions with perpetrators in the community and through the justice system
- Public awareness and understanding, including work with young people

Processes or structures for developing include:
- Improved survivor consultation and community engagement
- Improved agency response to discriminated against groups (women, BMER, disabled and LGBT survivors)
- Standardised protocols and guidance on routine enquiry and responding effectively
- A multi-agency risk assessment conference (MARAC) system
- Consistent use of the national definition of domestic violence that includes FGM, forced marriage and honour-based violence
- Monitoring systems and compliance mechanisms across agencies
- Development and delivery of high quality domestic violence training.

More detailed assessment available on request

8.11   SEXUAL ASSAULT, SEXUAL EXPLOITATION, SEX WORKERS AND TRAFFICKING

8.11.1 levels and trends

- This is an area of significant national concern, being the subject of a recent cross governmental action plan, and research shows serious sexual assaults to be the most feared crime amongst women. Sexual crimes have a devastating and lasting impact on victims, their families, and those around them.

- Many people choose not to report offences to authorities with only 15% of rape victims reporting the crime to the police nationally. Therefore, the scale of the problem is much greater than available statistics show it to be.

- There were 266 sexual offences recorded in Brighton & Hove in 2006/07 by the police. 57.5% of prostitutes locally, reported they had experienced violence or abuse and only 12.5% reported those incidents to the police

- Sexual offences linked to alcohol are prevalent but drink spiking, for example, is very difficult to prove. The true extent of alcohol induced criminality and victimisation locally is not known.

- There are very high costs associated with sexual offences, with costs to the city in 2006/07 estimated at £57 million.

8.11.2 the nature of the problem we need to address

From police data:

- Within sexual assault the highest number of offences are recorded as sexual assault of a female, female rape and indecent exposure
- 98% of offenders are male, 82% of victims are female
- 45% of sexual offences across the Strategy period take place in a public place with the most common location type being described as the street
- 51% of offences occur between 2200 and 0200 with Saturday being the day when most offences occur
- Teenagers are the age group most likely to be a victim, with suspects being slightly older.
- 55% of offences do not occur in public places.
- 48% of offenders are known to the victim.

- Over a third of prostitutes are drugs users and there is a link between homelessness and prostitution.

- Women involved in prostitution are especially vulnerable to sexual crime given the risky situations inherent in their daily lives.

- Research suggests that children are generally sexually abused by people known to them

- Of those cases investigated there is a significant attrition rate with under 6% nationally ending in a perpetrator being convicted.

8.11.3 effectiveness of previous work

- Sexual offences more generally were not specifically prioritised in the last strategy and as such, our work in this area is under developed and in need of addressing new national requirements.

- Drink spiking was tackled through publicity to raise awareness via the violent crime and drugs action plans.

- There is a new Sexual Assault Referral Centre for Sussex based at Crawley. There is currently neither a service of this nature, nor a Rape Crisis Centre, located in Brighton & Hove.

- The need to explore issues for prostitutes was flagged up under the drugs section of the last strategy. The Sex Workers Strategy Group, with the involvement of Oasis who have good links with those working in the sex industry, has taken work forward.

8.11.4 community views

Local information is not available, but national research has shown that women are more worried about rape than about any other crime.

8.11.5 what we now need to achieve

- The opening of three new lap dancing premises in the city has lead to increased competitiveness and marketing. This increases the likelihood of the city being seen as a sex tourist destination.

- Those working in the sex industry may fear that their allegations will not be taken seriously or that an investigation into their lifestyle may follow.

8.11.6 barriers & threats

- There has been recent growth of lap dance clubs in the city with associated publicity of a sexual nature.

- Prostitutes who have been coerced or trafficked into the industry are likely to accept or expect offences to be committed against them. Those who know or fear that their right to remain in this country may be in jeopardy are unlikely to report offences.

- Sexual offences may not be reported where the victim is not confident of a discrete investigation or where the victim fears that an investigation may be clouded by the apparent actions of the victim. Male or female victims may be fearful of the forensic process, they may feel that the police will judge them as victims.

- Without action, the number of victims of sexual violence and abuse may go up and the number of trafficked women and debt-bonded prostitutes may increase.

8.11.7 recommendations

- A sexual violence strategy should be created to include three key strands, prevention, victim care and criminal justice.

- The CDRP should support the development of new Sexual Assault Referral Centre in Brighton & Hove and consider supporting a local voluntary and community sector Rape Crisis Centre. These will lead to enhanced forensic evidence and better victim care.

- The CDRP should continue to support the work of Oasis to allow the partnership to better understand the sex industry and work to increase the safety of those working within it.

- The police and the CDRP should work to develop intelligence regarding coercion and trafficking and support those wishing to leave sex work.

- Enforcement should be managed to prevent establishments going underground and becoming uncooperative.

- Work to minimise the community impact and crime and disorder implications of new sex industry establishments opening in the city

- Work to prevent the city being regarded as a sex tourist destination

- The CDRP should consider and respond to issues raised in the Barnardos report on child abuse published in November 2007.
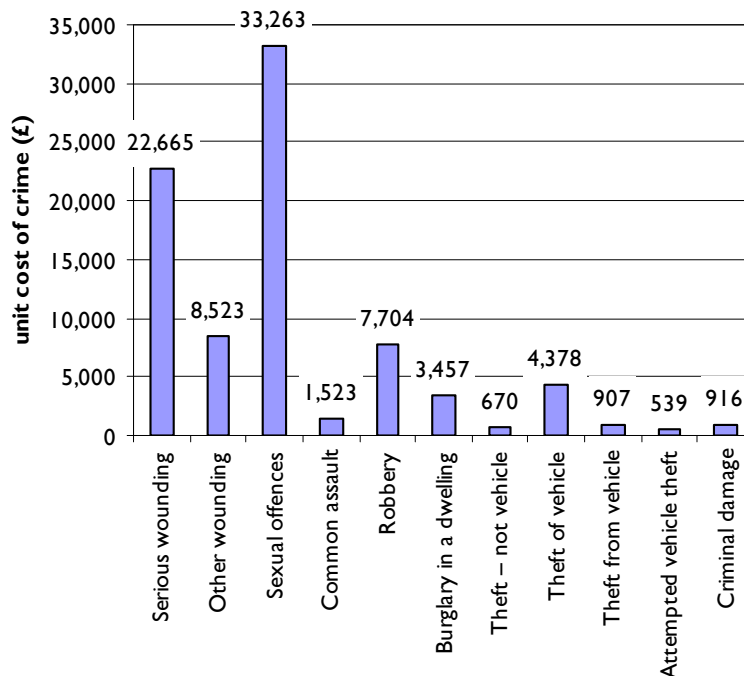
9. APPENDIX 1: COST OF CRIME

The Home Office provides estimated costs of various types of crime[4]. These take into consideration costs in anticipation of crime, eg. insurance and preventative measures, and costs as a consequence of crime, eg. physical/emotional impact on victims, damage, stolen items, victim services, lost output, health services and criminal justice services. The bar chart presents the Home Office unit costs of various types of crime, marked up to 2006/07 for inflation.

It can be seen from the bar chart that the most costly type of crimes are sexual offences (particularly costly to the victim) and offences with serious wounding (particularly costly to the criminal justice system). The impact of other crime types are also considerable.

Estimated unit costs of crime, 2006/07

It has been possible to roughly estimate the cost in Brighton & Hove for some types of crime. Rather than basing costs on actual police recorded data, 'multipliers' have been used to adjust police recorded statistics for under reporting. Where this analysis possible, sexual offences, although relatively low in number even accounting for underreporting, have the highest cost to the city at £57 million, and criminal damage has then next highest cost at £24 million.

Calculations for wounding (serious and other) are not available, but these would be very high considering the high unit cost, the high number reported to the police and also the significant number which are believed to remain unreported.

Estimated cost of selected offences in Brighton & Hove, 2006/07

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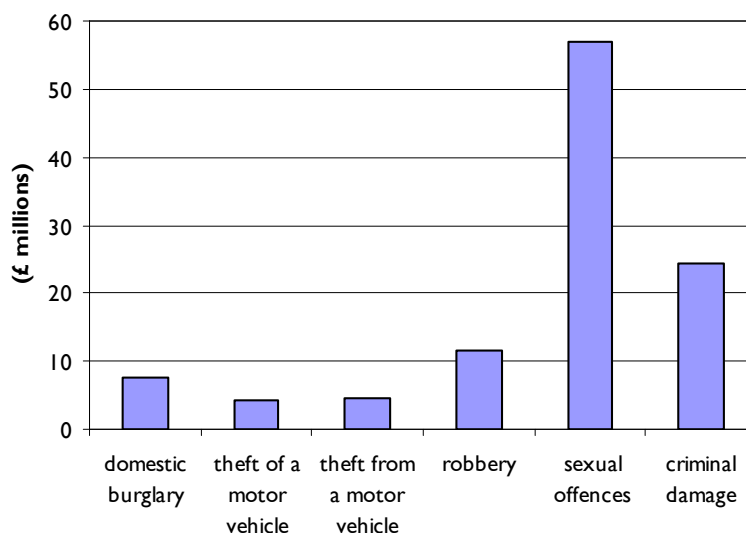
[4] Dubourg R and Hamed J, *'The Economic and Social Costs of Crime against Individuals and Households, 2003/04',* Home Office On Line Report 30/05, 2005