11. Community Safety

70% of hate crime in West Sussex relates to race

Domestic violence incidents in 2013/15: 531

1,162 incidents dealt with in 2013/14 through Community Resolution

1,991 fires in West Sussex in 2013/14

38,606 recorded crimes in West Sussex in 2013/14

Click here for a video summary

All crime incidents in West Sussex during 2013/14:

- Theft & Handling: 39%
- Violent Crime: 25%
- Criminal Damage: 16%
- Burglary: 11%
- Drug Offences: 5%
- Fraud & Forgery: 2%
- Other Crimes: 2%
Community Safety

Recorded Crime

Department. Performance plan years run from 1st April to 31st March the following year. Offences recorded at Gatwick Airport are included in all West Sussex totals, and within figures quoted for Crawley where district/borough details are given. There are six main crime groups under which offences are counted:

- Theft and handling (includes theft of or from vehicles, shoplifting and theft of cycles)
- Violent crime (includes sexual offences, robberies and all domestic or non-domestic violence, including threats of violence and verbal assault)
- Burglary
- Fraud and forgery
- Criminal damage
- Drug offences

Performance

During the 2013/14 performance plan year there were a total of 38,606 crimes recorded in West Sussex, representing a decrease of 9.3% from 2012/13. With the exception of a 1.4% increase in total crime from 2010/11 to 2011/12, there has been a continual decrease in total crime year-on-year since 2006/07 in West Sussex.

Table 11.1: Recorded crime types in West Sussex, 2012/13 and 2013/14

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Crime Group</th>
<th>2012/13</th>
<th>2013/14</th>
<th>% Change 2012/13 to 2013/14</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Number of offences</td>
<td>As % of total</td>
<td>Number of offences</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Theft &amp; handling</td>
<td>16,978</td>
<td>39.9%</td>
<td>15,168</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Violent crime</td>
<td>9,327</td>
<td>21.9%</td>
<td>9,601</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Criminal damage</td>
<td>6,846</td>
<td>16.1%</td>
<td>6,260</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Burglary</td>
<td>4,762</td>
<td>11.2%</td>
<td>4,283</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Drug offences</td>
<td>2,273</td>
<td>5.3%</td>
<td>2,021</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fraud &amp; forgery</td>
<td>1,725</td>
<td>4.1%</td>
<td>626</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other offences</td>
<td>634</td>
<td>1.5%</td>
<td>647</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Crime</td>
<td>42,545</td>
<td>100%</td>
<td>38,606</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: Sussex Police Performance Information Reports
Theft & handling accounted for the greatest proportion of crime during 2013/14 with 39.3% of the total, followed by violent crime with 24.9% of the total and criminal damage with 16.2% of the total. Every crime group showed a decrease from 2012/13 to 2013/14, with the exception of violent crime, which increased by 1.6%. Fraud and forgery saw the largest decrease of 48.4%. This large decrease is in large part due to some fraud figures now being reported nationally rather than at the local level.

Prevalence of crime incidents in West Sussex varied across the 7 districts. Of the 38,606 crime incidents in West Sussex in 2013/14, Crawley (including Gatwick) accounted for the greatest proportion of crime, with 21.7% of the total, followed by Arun which accounted for 18.9% of the total. Adur accounted for the smaller percentage of crimes, having 8% of total crimes.

Figure 11.2: Total crime in West Sussex, by District

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>District</th>
<th>Total Crimes</th>
<th>% of Total 2013/14</th>
<th>% of Total 2012/13</th>
<th>Change 2012/13</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Adur</td>
<td>2,974</td>
<td>8%</td>
<td>5%</td>
<td>increase</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Arun</td>
<td>7,312</td>
<td>19%</td>
<td>11%</td>
<td>decrease</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chichester</td>
<td>4,551</td>
<td>12%</td>
<td>16%</td>
<td>decrease</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Crawley</td>
<td>8,401</td>
<td>22%</td>
<td>10%</td>
<td>decrease</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Horsham</td>
<td>4,308</td>
<td>11%</td>
<td>4%</td>
<td>decrease</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mid Sussex</td>
<td>4,913</td>
<td>13%</td>
<td>7%</td>
<td>decrease</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Worthing</td>
<td>6,327</td>
<td>16%</td>
<td>9%</td>
<td>decrease</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>West Sussex</td>
<td>38,786</td>
<td>less crimes than 2012/13</td>
<td>9% decrease from 2012/13</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
West Sussex has a lower rate of crimes per 1,000 people than the South East region or England

Crawley also has the highest crime rate in 2013/14, with 77.1 crimes per 1,000 people, while Horsham has the lowest crime rate with 32.4 crimes per 1,000 people. Overall the crime rate in West Sussex during 2013/14 was 47.0 offences per 1,000 people, which is lower than the average for both the South East and for England as whole.

Adur was the only district to show an increase in recorded crime from 2012/13 to 2013/14, up by 5.1%, or 144 offences. All other districts showed a decrease, with the largest decrease of 16.4% in Chichester, equating to 894 fewer crimes in 2013/14 compared to the previous year. Over the last three years, Arun, Chichester, Crawley, Horsham and Worthing have all shown continual decreases in total crime year-on-year. This is consistent with the overall downward trend in crime incidents.

While crime rates varied across districts, West Sussex maintained lower rates than both the South East region and England, with 53.7 crimes per 1,000 and 61.0 crimes per 1,000 respectively.
Generally most crime types saw a decrease in West Sussex from 2012/13 to 2013/14 but there was some variation amongst districts.

By crime type, fraud and forgery showed large decreases across all districts however this is in large part due to a new way of reporting where the local police no longer have the responsibility of reporting on all types of fraud and forgery.

Theft and handling, burglary, drug offences, and criminal damage all decreased across districts, with the exception of one district in each case. Adur had an increase in theft and handling. Crawley showed an increase in burglary, while Mid Sussex had more drug offences and criminal damage than the previous performance year.

Violent crime was the only crime type to increase across most districts with only Crawley experiencing a slight decrease as compared to the 2012/13 performance year.

**Figure 11.5: Change in crime incidents from 2012/13 to 2013/14, by district and type**

---

**Theft & Handling**

- **AD**: 12.5%
  - **AR**: -9.9%
  - **CR**: -12.8%
  - **MS**: -10.0%
  - **WO**: -14.6%

- **HO**: 0.7%

**Violent Crime**

- **AD**: 13.9%
  - **AR**: 0.6%
  - **CH**: 6.6%
  - **HO**: 11.0%
  - **MS**: 4.8%
  - **WO**: 3.6%

- **CR**: -1.1%

**Criminal Damage**

- **AD**: -24.5%
  - **AR**: -12.1%
  - **CH**: -14.4%
  - **CR**: -9.2%
  - **HO**: -2.0%
  - **MS**: 5.7%
  - **WO**: -3.2%

**Burglary**

- **AD**: -13.1%
  - **AR**: -13.6%
  - **CR**: 10.0%
  - **HO**: -1.9%
  - **MS**: -17.7%
  - **WO**: 0.6%

**Drug Offences**

- **AD**: -1.6%
  - **CH**: -1.2%
  - **CR**: -4.8%
  - **HO**: -7.4%

**Fraud & Forgery**

- **AD**: -68.4%
  - **AR**: -66.8%
  - **CH**: -55.3%
  - **CR**: -57.3%
  - **HO**: -63.8%
  - **MS**: -75.3%
  - **WO**: -75.3%

---

Source: Sussex Police Performance Information Reports

insight.team@westsussex.gov.uk
Anti-Social Behaviour

Description

The term ‘Anti-Social Behaviour’ (ASB), covers a wide range of behaviour that has a negative impact on other people. The current legal definition describes ASB as ‘acting in a manner that has caused or is likely to cause alarm, harassment or distress to one or more persons not of the same household as the perpetrator’. Examples include nuisance or noisy neighbours, vandalism, graffiti, drug use, littering and drunken or rowdy behaviour in public, but there are many more types of behaviour that can be considered anti-social.

ASB incidents are recorded by Sussex Police when members of the public call in incidents of the type described above on either of the 101 or 999 numbers, report incidents online, in person at a police station, or report incidents through alternative contact methods such as email or by text message. Although crime often involves anti-social behaviour, the two are counted separately by police; if an incident that is initially recorded as ASB is subsequently recorded as a crime, then it is no longer counted as an ASB incident.

District and Borough Councils also have specialised ASB teams undertaking staged interventions through both formal and informal mechanisms via warning letters, meetings, Acceptable Behaviour Contracts (ABCs) and for the more serious and persistent offenders of ASB civil action can be taken through Anti-Social Behaviour Orders (ASBOs). Many of these mechanisms are set to be replaced in 2013/14 as part of the new Anti-Social Behaviour Bill.

Performance

In 2013/14 there were a total of 24,395 ASB incidents recorded in West Sussex, representing a decrease of 10.2% from 2012/13. Every district showed a decrease in ASB incidents from 2012/13 to 2013/14. The largest percentage decrease occurred in Crawley, down 19.1% from the previous year, while the smallest decrease of 4.1% occurred in Arun. All ASB figures for West Sussex, and specifically Crawley Borough, include Gatwick Airport.

Seasonal patterns in levels of anti-social behaviour over the last two years have been less prominent than in previous years, largely due to the more obvious decreasing trend in the total number of ASB incidents. However, there are still some seasonal variations, with higher levels generally recorded in the summer months, particularly July and August. Arun, Worthing and Mid Sussex showed the greatest variation, with peaks in August 2012 and 2013 in particular. Since August 2013, levels of ASB have decreased across every district, remaining low over the winter months.
Community Resolution

Description

Community Resolution provides victims with an opportunity to confront those who have caused them harm by allowing them to explain to the offender the impact it had on them as a victim. It also allows them to hear from the offender why they committed the offence, and why they may have been targeted as a victim. Community Resolution places the victim at the centre of the process and allows them to propose the outcomes to put right the harm caused by the offender. This helps to provide answers and justice for victims, and offers a second chance to offenders for a one-off minor breach of the law.

Performance

The scheme was introduced throughout West Sussex in January 2011. During 2013/14, there were a total of 1,165 incidents dealt with by way of Community Resolution in West Sussex, representing a decrease of 23.1% from the previous year. Crawley (including Gatwick) had the most Community Resolutions in 2013/14 with 307, accounting for just over a quarter of the total in West Sussex. Every district showed a decrease in the number of offences dealt with in this way compared to 2012/13 with the exception of Mid Sussex which showed a slight (1.0%) increase.

Table 11.2: Community Resolutions by District

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>District</th>
<th>2012/13 Community Resolutions</th>
<th>2012/13 As % of total</th>
<th>2013/14 Community Resolutions</th>
<th>2013/14 As % of total</th>
<th>% change 2012/13 to 2013/14</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Adur &amp; Worthing</td>
<td>316</td>
<td>20.9%</td>
<td>184</td>
<td>15.8%</td>
<td>-41.8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Arun</td>
<td>219</td>
<td>14.5%</td>
<td>154</td>
<td>13.2%</td>
<td>-29.7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chichester</td>
<td>170</td>
<td>11.2%</td>
<td>146</td>
<td>12.5%</td>
<td>-14.1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Crawley</td>
<td>403</td>
<td>26.6%</td>
<td>307</td>
<td>26.4%</td>
<td>-23.8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Horsham</td>
<td>201</td>
<td>13.3%</td>
<td>166</td>
<td>14.2%</td>
<td>-17.4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mid Sussex</td>
<td>206</td>
<td>13.6%</td>
<td>208</td>
<td>17.9%</td>
<td>1.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>West Sussex</td>
<td>1,515</td>
<td>100%</td>
<td>1,165</td>
<td>100%</td>
<td>-23.1%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: Sussex Police Performance Information Reports

insight.team@westsussex.gov.uk

West Sussex County Council

West Sussex Life 2014
Domestic Violence

Description

In March 2013 the cross-government definition of domestic violence and domestic abuse changed to encompass controlling and coercive abusive behaviour and to lower the age from 18 to 16 years.

The new definition indicates that domestic abuse is any incident or pattern of incidents of controlling, coercive, threatening behaviour, violence or abuse between those aged 16 or over who are, or have been, intimate partners or family members regardless of gender or sexuality. The abuse can encompass, but is not limited to:

- psychological
- physical
- sexual
- financial
- emotional

Controlling behaviour is a range of acts designed to make a person subordinate and/or dependent by isolating them from sources of support, exploiting their resources and capacities for personal gain, depriving them of the means needed for independence, resistance and escape and regulating their everyday behaviour. Coercive behaviour is an act or a pattern of acts of assault, threats, humiliation and intimidation or other abuse that is used to harm, punish, or frighten their victim.

This definition includes ‘honour’ based violence, female genital mutilation (FGM) and forced marriage, and is clear that victims are not confined to one gender or ethnic group. While the re-definition is not a legislative change, it has been designed to send a clear message to victims about what does constitute domestic violence and abuse.

National research has shown that sexual and domestic violence offences have disproportionately high levels of repeat victimisation and are often associated with other factors such as drug or alcohol dependence. They are high risk offences where the potential for harm to the victim is significant. Analysis of the 2009/10 British Crime Survey (BCS) showed that only 11% of victims of serious sexual assault reported to the police, with levels even lower when focussing specifically on domestic violence. Rates of repeat victimisation were high, attributable to almost three-quarters (73%) of all incidents of domestic violence.

Increases in recorded domestic abuse crime do not necessarily mean that the actual amount of domestic abuse occurring in West Sussex has increased, only that the number of offences reported to police has increased. Increased reporting of domestic abuse is encouraged, with police targets focussing on the number of domestic abuse crimes that are solved rather than a target based on reducing the number of offences that take place.

West Sussex offers a range of services and initiatives aimed at responding to domestic and sexual violence. These include WORTH services, who provide support to victims of domestic abuse through hospitals in West Sussex, Multi-Agency Risk Assessment Conferences (MARAC) which bring together responsible agencies in West Sussex to discuss those cases with the highest risk of harm, and the Sexual Assault Referral Centre (SARC) which provides support for victims of sexual violence.

Performance

During the 2013/14 performance year there were a total of 3,498 domestic abuse crimes recorded by police in West Sussex (including Gatwick), representing 9.1% of total crime for this period. The majority of these crimes were domestic violence offences, although any crime type can be marked as domestic abuse by police. Domestic abuse crime increased by 2.8% from 2012/13 to 2013/14. Arun, Crawley, Horsham and Mid Sussex showed decreases in domestic abuse crime compared to the previous performance year, while all other districts showed increases. In particular, there was a 25.9% increase recorded in Adur and an 11.6% increase in Crawley.
Domestic Violence - Worth Services

Description

Worth Services is the West Sussex county-wide accredited Independent Domestic Violence Advisor (IDVA) Service which aims to identify, assess and assist victims of domestic abuse.

The main purpose of independent domestic violence advisors (IDVA) is to address the safety of victims at high risk of harm from intimate partners, ex-partners or family members to secure their safety and the safety of their children. Serving as a victim’s primary point of contact, IDVAs normally work with their clients from the point of crisis to assess the level of risk, discuss the range of suitable options and develop safety plans.

IDVAs are pro-active in implementing the safety plans, which address immediate safety, including practical steps to enable clients to protect themselves and their children, as well as longer-term solutions. These plans will include actions from the Multi Agency Risk Assessment Conference (MARAC) as well as sanctions and remedies available through the criminal and civil courts, housing options and services available through other organisations. IDVAs support and work over the short- to medium-term to put clients on the path to long-term safety. IDVAs are most effective within a multi-agency framework. The IDVA’s role in all multi-agency settings is to keep the client’s perspective and safety at the centre of proceedings.

The advice provided by the IDVA is based on a thorough understanding and assessment of risk and risk management, the work of an IDVA has measurable outcomes in terms of increased safety both in the short and long term. The role of the IDVA is to advocate for the client (victim of domestic abuse) they are supporting. This would include exploring what other agencies may be able to assist the client and to link them in to those services. Worth IDVA Service also operates within the Criminal Justice System.

Anyone can make a referral to the service. Victims of domestic abuse can self-refer and referrals can be made in person, by telephone, or by other electronic means. No person will be deemed inappropriate for the service based on his or her ethnicity, religion, disability, sexuality, gender or immigration status. All referred victims aged 16+ are eligible for the service.

Table 11.3: WORTH clients by primary referral route

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Referral Source</th>
<th>Number of Referrals</th>
<th>As % of Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Self referral</td>
<td>195</td>
<td>28.6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sussex Police</td>
<td>180</td>
<td>26.4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>All other sources</td>
<td>91</td>
<td>13.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Children &amp; Young People’s Service</td>
<td>81</td>
<td>11.9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Health</td>
<td>47</td>
<td>6.9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other domestic/sexual violence service</td>
<td>43</td>
<td>6.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MARAC</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>3.1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Housing association</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>1.9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Specialist service</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>1.8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>683</strong></td>
<td><strong>100%</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: Worth Services, 2014

Performance

WORTH Independent Domestic Violence Adviser (IDVA) Services engaged with a total of 683 new clients during 2013/14, operating out of A&E and maternity units in West Sussex hospitals. Client referrals to WORTH Services came from a wide variety of sources during 2013/14, the most frequent being self-referrals, accounting for 28.6% of all clients engaged. This was followed by referrals from Sussex Police, which accounted for 26.4% of clients.

In addition to new clients engaged during 2013/14, a number of clients were worked with throughout the year who were engaged prior to April 2012. Also, some individuals who were referred to WORTH Services declined to work with an IDVA; these are not counted as ‘engaged’.
Domestic Violence - Worth Services

24% of clients were experiencing abuse perpetrated by a current partner. 64% of clients were experiencing abuse from an ex-partner. There were multiple perpetrators for 6% of clients. 3% of clients reported being at risk of honour-based violence and less than 1% reported being at risk of forced marriage.

The most prevalent abuse type experienced by clients was jealous and controlling behaviour, which was reported by 81% of clients. 68% of clients reported physical abuse, 58% of clients reported harassment and stalking, and 22% of clients reported sexual abuse.

At the point of exit from the service, 79% of clients were not living with the perpetrator. 56% of these clients reported no ongoing contact. 71% of clients reported a complete cessation of all types of abuse at exit from the Service. The largest reduction was in jealous and controlling behaviours (59% reduction in the proportion of clients experiencing this form of abuse).

Stonham Outreach Service works collaboratively with WORTH IDVA Services to provide seamless support to people affected by domestic abuse and to identify the most appropriate level of support.

They work to:
- support clients to move on with their life;
- help them to overcome and understand what has happened;
- enable them and their family to stay safe; and
- enable them to achieve their goals.

The Service provides different levels of support depending on the client's needs and aspirations.

The majority of Worth IDVA service users are between the ages of 21 and 50, with 79% of clients between these ages. 13% were 20 or younger and 8% were 51 years and older. Almost all clients were female (96%) and heterosexual (98%). The ethnicity of the clients were varied with 83% being of White British origin.

Clients reported a number of complex needs, of which mental health problems were the most prevalent. 39% had mental health problems. 31% of clients reported that they had or foresaw financial problems. 21% had previously threatened or attempted suicide and 17% had self-harmed. 7% of clients reported alcohol misuse and 4% reported drugs misuse.

Stonham Outreach Service works collaboratively with WORTH IDVA Services to provide seamless support to people affected by domestic abuse and to identify the most appropriate level of support.
Description

A Multi-Agency Risk Assessment Conference (MARAC) is a single meeting that combines up to date risk information with a timely assessment of a victim's needs and links those directly to the provision of appropriate services for all those involved in a domestic violence case: victim, children and perpetrator.

The aims of a MARAC are:

1. To share information to increase the safety, health and wellbeing of victims – adults and their children,
2. To determine whether the perpetrator poses a significant risk to any particular individual or to the general community,
3. To construct jointly and implement a risk management plan that provides professional support to all those at risk and that reduces the risk of harm/death
   - To reduce repeat victimisation,
   - To improve agency accountability; and
   - Improve support for staff involved in high-risk DV cases.

The role of the MARAC is to facilitate, monitor and evaluate effective information sharing to enable appropriate actions to be taken to increase public safety.

Performance

During 2013/14 there were a total of 54 MARACS held in West Sussex. There were monthly meetings in each of the four areas, as well as emergency meetings when required. A total of 658 high-risk domestic violence cases were discussed, representing a decrease of 0.6% from the number of cases discussed during 2012/13. Of the cases discussed during 2013/14, 164 (25%) were repeat victimisation cases which had been discussed previously at a MARAC within the past 12 months. Repeat victim cases represented 26.9% of total cases in 2013/14, up from 21.4% during 2011/12. At the time each referral was made, a total of 819 children were involved in the various cases discussed at MARAC meetings in 2013/14.

Many agencies made referrals into the MARACs in West Sussex throughout 2013/14. Worth Services was the main referrer having referred 47% of the cases, while Sussex Police referred 36% of the cases. Referrals from other agencies remain low at just 17%, however this may be due to having such a well-established IDVA service – therefore referrals are made directly to Worth Services, who then assess the risk and refer to MARAC accordingly.

Table 11.4: MARAC meetings, 2013/14

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>MARAC meetings held</th>
<th>Cases discussed</th>
<th>Repeat cases</th>
<th>Repeat cases as % of all cases</th>
<th>Number of children involved at time of referral</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Chichester/Arun</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>224</td>
<td>59</td>
<td>26.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Crawley</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>148</td>
<td>35</td>
<td>23.6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Horsham/Mid-Sussex</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>118</td>
<td>31</td>
<td>26.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Worthing/Adur</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>168</td>
<td>39</td>
<td>23.2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>West Sussex</td>
<td>54</td>
<td>658</td>
<td>164</td>
<td>24.9%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: West Sussex County Council, Community Safety

The MARAC plus meeting involves agencies working together with critical domestic abuse cases, to increase safety for victims and their children, and to reduce the risk posed by perpetrators. MARAC plus is attended by Senior Management, and sits above the other MARAC meetings in West Sussex. Cases stay within the MARAC plus process on an ongoing basis until the Chairs and other attendees agree that the risk has been reduced and the case can be discharged.

MARAC plus is co-chaired by Sussex Police and Surrey & Sussex Probation, and regular attendees include Children's Services and Worth Services. Other agencies are also invited along to the meeting if they are needed to provide an input to any of the cases being discussed. To be eligible for MARAC plus, a case must:

1. require on-going multi-agency management;
2. have at least 3 MARAC attendances in 12 months prior to consideration for referral to MARAC+;
3. be deemed High Risk & appropriate for MARAC+ as per Senior Probation Officer decision; and
4. have a perpetrator considered to pose high risk of harm by two or more agencies.

MARAC plus

The purpose of MARAC plus is to manage, on an on-going basis, the highest risk domestic abuse cases in a multi-agency forum, represented by senior members of those agencies attending the meeting.
During the 2013/14 performance year there were a total of 699 sexual offences recorded by Police in West Sussex (including Gatwick), representing an increase of 6.9% from the previous performance year. Arun was the only district to show a decrease in sexual offences compared to the previous performance year, down 13.1% from 2011/12, while Crawley had the same number of offences as the previous year. All other districts showed an increase in sexual offences from the previous year, including a 73.0% increase in Adur. Similar to domestic abuse, police targets relating to sexual violence focus on the number of serious sexual offences (such as rape or serious sexual assault).

If a client is referred to the service through reporting to the Police they will be accompanied to the SARC by a Sexual Offence Liaison Officer (SOLO). Once at the SARC the client will be introduced to the dedicated Crisis Support Worker who will act as a chaperone to support the client and be present during any forensic medical examination. A Sexual Offence Examiner (SOE) will be present at the SARC to explain the forensic medical examination to the client, conduct the examination and to provide advice on any immediate and follow up medical care. The police referral service is available 24 hours a day.
Substance Misuse

Description

The National Drug Strategy, published in December 2010, sought to change the direction of the drug treatment system by reducing demand, restricting supply, and focusing on recovery. As of 1st April 2013, monitoring and performance reporting on substance misuse is the responsibility of Public Health England.

In West Sussex, the Drug and Alcohol Action Team (DAAT) commissions agencies to provide specialist treatment and targeted prevention work for substance misuse clients. Locally, the adult drug treatment system has been through a recent period of restructuring, which has resulted in the delivery of integrated drug and alcohol treatment services from two main service providers, CRI and Addaction. Adult treatment services are provided through a number of hubs, including Bognor Regis, Chichester, Crawley, Haywards Heath, and Worthing. In addition to these hubs a number of satellite services operate from other sites across the county including rural parts of Chichester and Horsham districts, as well as Littlehampton.

According to the Home Office, around 23,000 alcohol-related incidents such as street fights, pub brawls, breaches of the peace and drunk and disorderly conduct take place in the UK every week.

Performance

Sussex Police recorded a total of 2,021 drugs offences during 2013/14, a decrease of 10.3% from 2012/13. The majority of drugs offences recorded during 2013/14 were possession of cannabis, accounting for 69.2% of total drugs offences. Possession of drugs other than cannabis accounted for 19.5% of offences, and the remaining 11.3% were drug trafficking, supply or other drugs offences.

Table 11.6: Drug offence incidents in 2013/14, by district

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>District</th>
<th>2013/14</th>
<th>As % of total</th>
<th>% change 2012/13 to 2013/14</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Adur</td>
<td>122</td>
<td>6.0%</td>
<td>-1.6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Arun</td>
<td>384</td>
<td>19.0%</td>
<td>-28.2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chichester</td>
<td>256</td>
<td>12.7%</td>
<td>-1.2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Crawley</td>
<td>513</td>
<td>25.4%</td>
<td>-4.8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Horsham</td>
<td>148</td>
<td>7.3%</td>
<td>-31.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mid Sussex</td>
<td>272</td>
<td>13.5%</td>
<td>18.8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Worthing</td>
<td>326</td>
<td>16.1%</td>
<td>-7.4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>West Sussex</td>
<td>2,021</td>
<td>100%</td>
<td>-10.3%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: Sussex Police Performance Information Reports

Figure 11.11: Class A drug possession offences in West Sussex, 2013/14

- Cocaine: 66%
- Heroin: 19%
- MDMA: 7%
- Crack: 5%
- Other: 3%

Source: Sussex Police Performance Information Reports

Crawley had the most drugs offences during 2013/14 with 513 offences, accounting for just over a quarter (25.4%) of the total in West Sussex, followed by Arun with 384 (19.0%). Horsham had a 31.5% decrease in offences from 2012/13 to 2013/14, while Mid Sussex saw a 18.8% increase since the last performance period.

Of the total drug offences, there were 783 Class A drug possessions in West Sussex in 2013/14. Of these 66% were for cocaine followed by 19% for heroin and 7% for MDMA.

In addition to drugs offences, if other offences reported to the police are deemed to be influenced by alcohol they are marked on the police system with an alcohol 'flag'. During the 2013/14 performance year there were a total of 531 alcohol-related crimes recorded by police in West Sussex. Crawley had the highest number of alcohol-related incidents while Chichester had the least.
Hate Crime

Description

Vulnerability has become a politically sensitive subject following the serious case review of the deaths of Fiona Pilkington and her disabled daughter. The family had suffered over 10 years of anti-social behaviour and harassment from local gangs and residents. Many of the incidents were reported to police and social services, but were not linked to acknowledge the true level of vulnerability the family faced. The review concluded that serious failings in a number of public bodies led directly to the deaths.

Since the Pilkington case and several similar cases the government has shifted its focus to the early identification of vulnerable victims by the police and other agencies, and the impact on individuals and communities of anti-social behaviour, harassment and hate crime.

A hate incident/hate crime is any incident where the victim or another person believes that they, the victim, have been targeted because of their perceived race, religion, sexual orientation, disability or gender identity. Many victims of a hate crime experience repeat incidents, sometimes over a long period of time.

West Sussex County Council commissions Victim Support to operate the Hate Incident Support Service (HISS) in West Sussex, in line with recommendations arising from the Macpherson inquiry into the death of Stephen Lawrence. Agencies and individuals across the county can report any incident they become aware of which they believe to be motivated by prejudice as outlined above. The service offered is to all victims, whether they have suffered a long history of incidents, or have experienced a hate crime for the first time. A dedicated full-time caseworker is employed to provide free, confidential emotional and practical support. This may include advocating on the victim’s behalf during criminal proceedings, liaising with other agencies to set up a support plan, or maintaining regular contact with a victim to provide reassurance.

Sussex Police records hate crime under the five monitored strands of racism; sexual orientation (homophobic); religion or faith; gender identity (transgender) and disability. An allegation from any party is sufficient for a hate incident to be recorded by police; no evidence of an offence is required. Such incidents are only subsequently recorded as a crime where there is evidence that an offence has been committed or attempted in accordance with Home Office counting rules.

Performance

During 2013/14 there were a total of 499 hate crimes recorded by police in West Sussex (including Gatwick) under the five monitored strands, representing an increase of 53.1% from the previous year. Hate crime accounted for 0.7% of

| Source: Sussex Police Performance Information Reports |
total crime in the county in the 2013/14 period.

During 2013/14, offences motivated by the victim’s race accounted for 70.9% of total hate crime recorded in West Sussex, followed by 10.0% motivated by the victim’s sexual orientation. Estimates from the 2010/11 British Crime Survey suggest that 52.3% of hate crimes are motivated by race, 25% by disability, 19.2% by sexual orientation and 15.0% by religion (percentages do not sum since offences may be motivated by more than one factor).

Crawley (including Gatwick) recorded the most racist crimes during 2013/14 with 130, accounting for 37% of the total for West Sussex and an increase of 31 offences from the previous year. Crawley also had the most homophobic crimes accounting for 38.0% of the county total, followed by Arun with 24.0% of the total; both of these districts showed increases from the previous year.

**Hate Crime**

**West Sussex race crime incidents in 2013/14**

Figure 11.12: West Sussex HISS Referrals by motivation and referral type, 2013/14

![Motivation](chart)

- Race: 78%
- Sexual Orientation: 10%
- Disability: 6%
- Religion/Faith: 4%
- Other: 2%

![Referral Source](chart)

- Sussex Police: 80%
- Schools/Colleges: 16%
- Self-referral: 3%
- Other: 1%

**Crawley** 37%

**Worthing** 17%

**Arun** 16%

**Mid Sussex** 9%

**Chichester** 8%

**Horsham** 8%

**Adur** 5%

Most hate incidents referred to the HISS involved verbal abuse or abusive gestures, with 85.5% of total incidents involving this type of abuse. The proportion of hate incidents involving physical violence was low at 9.3% of total incidents referred. The most common location for incidents to occur was in the street, followed by incidents that occurred at home and those in educational establishments.

Victims of hate incidents referred to the HISS during 2013/14 were 60.6% male, 33.8% female, 0.2% transgender and 5.4% with no gender information provided. By age, victims peaked in the 0-15 year age range, mainly due to the number of incidents reported by schools in West Sussex, but there were also high numbers of victims between the ages of 26 and 45 years.

**Hate Incident Support Service**

Between April 2013 and March 2014 there were 679 referrals to the Hate Incident Support Service (HISS) in West Sussex. This represents an increase of 120 referrals, or 21.5%, from 2012/13. The majority of HISS referrals during 2013/14 were based on racist incidents, accounting for 78.4% of total referrals. This was followed by referrals based on sexual orientation with 10.4% of the total and referrals based on disability with 5.7% of the total.
Fire & Rescue

Description

West Sussex Fire & Rescue Service provides prevention, protection and intervention services to the communities of West Sussex. It delivers these services from twenty five operational fire stations and support departments. West Sussex Fire and Rescue Service (WSFRS) operational areas are managed as three groups – Western (Chichester and Arun Districts), Central (Worthing Borough, Adur and Horsham Districts) and Eastern (Crawley Borough and Mid Sussex District).

The West Sussex Fire and Rescue service responds to both primary and secondary fires across the county. Primary fires include all fires in buildings, vehicles and outdoor structures or any fire involving casualties, rescues, or fires attended by five or more appliances. Secondary fires account for the majority of outdoor fires including grassland and refuse fires unless they involve casualties or rescues, property loss or five or more appliances. They include fires in single derelict buildings. Fires are categorised as: accidental, deliberate or unknown, according to the probable cause, as observed at the scene. Those recorded as ‘unknown’ are grouped together with ‘accidental’ for all outputs.

Accidental fires make up the majority of fires in buildings, while deliberate fires make up the majority of fires in road vehicles in recent years.

Performance

Over the past ten years, the total number of fires in West Sussex has been in steady decline, with the exception of 2011/12, which saw a slight increase. In performance year 2013/14, there were 1,991 recorded fires, which is slightly under half the number recorded ten years ago. WSFRS continues to promote education and prevention measures, which work to tackle preventable fires in households and businesses throughout West Sussex.
The majority of fires in West Sussex were secondary, accounting for 53% of all fires in 2013/14. Primary fires accounted for 39% of all fires. These fires led to 7 fatal casualties and 131 non-fatal casualties. WSFRS responded to 4,680 false alarms throughout the year.

Deliberate fires have also seen decreases in recent years. The WSFRS Fire Investigation team have had success in securing convictions for deliberate fires – including convictions for murder, attempted murder, and arson. These were significant events, all committed by adults.

Fire services do not measure arson in the same way as crime statistics, not having the burden of proof, and whether a fire is classed as deliberate or not will include an element of judgement and probability based on the circumstances.

In West Sussex, there were 445 deliberate secondary and 214 deliberate primary fires. Deliberate fires appear to be generally in decline, though there was a peak in deliberate secondary fires in 2011/12. Since then the number of deliberate fires has continued to decrease. Since the last performance year, secondary deliberate fires have decreased by 13% in West Sussex, while primary deliberate fires decreased by 28%. West Sussex saw larger decreases in deliberate fires over this period than the average for England, as a whole, which saw a 9% decrease in primary and a 1% increase in secondary fires over the past 12 months.
To access other chapters and data from West Sussex Life
www.westsussex.gov.uk/westsussexlife2014

Sussex Police
www.sussex.police.uk

Anti-social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Bill
http://services.parliament.uk/bills/2013-14/antisocialbehaviourcrimeandpolicingbill.html

West Sussex Strategic Community Safety Partnership
http://www.westsussex.gov.uk/living/being_safe_and_secure/community_safety/west_sussex_strategic.aspx

Sussex Police and Crime Commissioner
http://www.sussex-pcc.gov.uk

Community Payback
http://www.surrey sussexprobation.gov.uk/what_we_do/community_payback/

WORTH Services
http://www.worthservices.org/

Multi-Agency Risk Assessment Conferences (MARACs)
http://www.caada.org.uk/marac/information_about_MARACs.html

The Saturn Centre – Sexual Assault Referral Centre (SARC)
http://www.saturncentre.org/

Drug Interventions Programme
http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/crime/reducing-reoffending/dip/

Reporting Hate Crime

Community Safety Consultation
http://www.westsussex.gov.uk/your_council/Have_your_say.aspx