

Public Document Pack



Chairman and Members of the
Community Scrutiny Committee

Your contact: Lorraine
Blackburn

Ext: 2172

Fax: 502019

cc. All other recipients of the
Community Scrutiny Committee
agenda

Our ref:

Date: 21 February
2012

Dear Councillor

COMMUNITY SCRUTINY COMMITTEE - 28 FEBRUARY 2012 SUPPLEMENTARY

Please find attached the following reports which were marked "to follow" on the agenda for the above meeting:

8. Community Safety Review: Report of the Task and Finish Group addressing the issue of reassurance (Pages 3 - 32)

Please bring these papers with you to the meeting next Tuesday

Yours faithfully

Lorraine Blackburn
Democratic Services Officer

Lorraine.blackburn@eastherts.gov.uk

MEETING : COMMUNITY SCRUTINY COMMITTEE
VENUE : COUNCIL CHAMBER, WALLFIELDS, HERTFORD
DATE : TUESDAY 28 FEBRUARY 2012
TIME : 7.00 PM

This page is intentionally left blank

EAST HERTS COUNCIL

COMMUNITY SCRUTINY COMMITTEE – 28 FEBRUARY 2012

COMMUNITY SAFETY – A FOCUSED REVIEW TASK AND FINISH GROUP SECOND REPORT – PUBLIC REASSURANCE

REPORT BY HEAD OF COMMUNITY SAFETY AND HEALTH SERVICES

WARD(S) AFFECTED: ALL

Purpose/Summary of Report

- To inform the Committee of the findings of the Task and Finish group investigation into Public Reassurance.
- To invite the Committee to consider and approve the Task and Finish Group recommendations.

RECOMMENDATION FOR COMMUNITY SCRUTINY COMMITTEE:

| | |
|--|---|
| | That the Committee notes and comments on the three recommendations suggested by the Task and Finish Group that:- |
| | <p>(A) The council and partners work (communication teams of the partners to lead) to design and deliver a common positive marketing campaign message regarding East Herts as being a safe place to live – which can be used by all partners, members and included in all press contact (stories, quotes, press releases).</p> <p>(B) The council and partners work to identify and improve communication with vulnerable target groups to deliver better focussed information and solutions relating to community safety.</p> <p>(C) The council and partners work (including private/commercial concerns where appropriate) continue to deal with graffiti cleaning, litter collection, dog fouling, fly-posting and fly tipping in a timely manner to reduce any possibility of creating an impression of the start of a 'spiral of</p> |

| | |
|--|---|
| | decline' ('Broken Windows' theory 1982 – James Wilson and George Kelling) |
|--|---|

1.0 Background

1.1 The Community Scrutiny Committee set up a Task and Finish group to produce recommendations to present to the Community Safety Partnership Board about two key issues:

- With partnership resources reducing, how should the partnership prioritise the activities it supports? (Including funding CCTV)
- Despite East Herts having low crime levels and ranking so highly in independent quality of life surveys, why do residents appear more fearful of crime than the actual incidents of crime suggest?

1.2 The first report, proposing a financial strategy, was submitted to Community Scrutiny on 22 November 2011 and approved by the Community Safety Partnership Board on 8 December 2011.

1.3 This second and final report concludes the Community Safety review. This report is complete in its own right and deals with the public reassurance element of the investigation.

2.0 Report

2.1 The attached report is presented to the Community Scrutiny Committee for comment and approval. If agreed will be put before the Community Safety Partnership (CSP) Board in March 2012 for consideration.

2.2 If adopted by the CSP board, it will be translated into an action plan which will be monitored by the board.

3.0 Implications/Consultations

3.1 Information on any corporate issues and consultation associated with this report can be found in **Essential Reference Paper A**.

Background Papers

Financial Strategy for the Prioritisation of CSP Activities
Strategic Assessment (abbreviated)
Community Safety Review survey results summary
Extract East Herts Residents' Survey 2011

Contact Member: Cllr D Andrews – Chairman of Task and Finish
Group

Contact Officer: Brian Simmonds – Head of Community Safety and
Health Services – Extn 1498

Report Author: as above

ESSENTIAL REFERENCE PAPER 'A'

| | |
|--|---|
| Contribution to the Council's Corporate Priorities/ Objectives | Promoting prosperity and well-being; providing access and opportunities Enhance the quality of life, health and wellbeing of individuals, families and communities, particularly those who are vulnerable. |
| Consultation: | Community Safety coordinator – Brian Mole. Simon Drinkwater - Director NS Malcolm Alexander – Portfolio holder Cliff Cardoza – Head of Environmental Services |
| Legal: | N/A |
| Financial: | N/A |
| Human Resource: | N/A |
| Risk Management: | Simon Drinkwater Director of NS |
| Report authorised by: | Simon Drinkwater Director of NS |



**East Herts Council
Community Scrutiny Task & Finish Group**

**A report for the
Community Safety Partnership Board
(Part 2 of the Community Safety Review)**

TASK: Despite East Herts having low crime levels and ranking so highly in independent quality of life surveys, why do residents appear more fearful of crime than the actual incidents of crime suggest?

14 February 2012

Introduction

This Task and Finish group was set up by the Community Scrutiny Committee, to review two aspects of Community Safety and pass on their considered views to the Community Safety Partnership Board, a multi agency group made up of senior representatives of various different agencies. The first report dealt with finance, this second report deals with public reassurance.

The Problem

A decrease in funding and subsequent reduction in partnership resources has necessitated a scrutiny of Community Safety. Other agencies are considering how they deliver their services and are likely to concentrate their resources upon their own identified problems.

East Herts enjoys enviably low levels of crime and features very highly in independent 'quality of life surveys', confirmed by our own research (East Herts Strategic Assessment 2012). Consequently the East Herts Community Safety Partnership has previously agreed just one single priority, to ***'Keep crime levels low and improve public confidence through reassurance and crime prevention measures'***.

How are those who live, work and travel in the district to be reassured about crime and disorder when it is likely that headlines are likely to focus upon the effect of the cutbacks?

Current position

As part of the Community Safety Review, the Community Safety Partnership (CSP) board approved a financial strategy proposed by the previous (Part 1) report of the Task and Finish group which dealt with the impact of reduced funding on projects. The CSP board now awaits Community Scrutiny's recommendations about 'Public Reassurance' which is likely to remain a key focus of the Partnership in the future.

The Task and Finish group has taken into account a presentation from a senior police officer, academic commentary, work by other CSPs and feedback received from a number of consultations.

External factors

There are external factors which need consideration.

Media

Any reduction in resources will be highlighted in the press. This will negatively impact upon how safe people feel, irrespective of actual crime and disorder levels. Aggregating these together will compound the matter.

Partnership working

Each partner's finances will be under the microscope with the risk of organisations becoming parochial increasing, at exactly the time that the need for partnership working is greatest. Currently, partnership working between the Police and East Herts Council is paradoxically at its peak, following recent press reports alleging disagreements.

Resources

There has been a dramatic reduction in resources for all the agencies in the Community Safety Partnership which is likely to continue. Examples are the reduction in partnership projects and the introduction of part-night street lighting.

Also non statutory services could be at risk of being reduced. Examples might be CCTV, PCSOs or Taxi Marshals. Each of these is likely to impact upon public reassurance.

The Partnership's Strategic Assessment concludes that East Herts has no overriding crime or disorder issue on which to target resources and so reassurance and confidence should remain the priority in the coming year.

However safe our district remains, the Strategic Assessment does suggest that crimes such as theft from shops, theft of metal and rogue trading are likely to increase in the coming year as a result of the current climate.

It is clear that decisions made now, need to take into account future resource reduction.

Page 10 Investigation

In depth investigations by the Community Safety Task and Finish Group is summarised as follows;

| Topic | Discussion points | Conclusion |
|--|--|--|
| <p>Interpreting people's fears</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What <u>scares</u> people & what is just <u>annoying</u> can be very different • People's fear of intervening in something • In East Herts just one youth kicking a can gets attention • Fear based on a lack of knowledge, e.g. young people seen hanging about • Need to be careful not to stereotype youth in ASB (anti social behaviour). <p>(‘Adult ASB’ = speeding, general traffic issues, night time economy problems, dog fouling and fly tipping.)</p> | <p>Creative options are best for young people. Could more be made of music and musical instruments?</p> <p>We should have a ‘Fresher’s’ day, a 3-day young people celebration.</p> <p>Promotion of www.police.uk website for facts about the number of crimes in an area. Ask people to check on things for themselves</p> <p>Need to work on speeding cars and parking outside schools</p> |
| <p>Friendliness between residents</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Generally speaking, town residents don't know their neighbours. • Neighbourhood Watch & Residents' Associations are beneficial • What would happen if everyone said hello to each other? | <p>CVS could help identify local problems, possible resolution, signposting help and to liaise with and promote residents' groups</p> <p>Send out a reporter to see how many people reply to their ‘hello’ greeting</p> <p>Marketing campaign – ‘Just say hello’</p> <p>St George's Road, Ware mediation process</p> <p>Social media – what can we do with Twitter & Facebook</p> |

| | | |
|--|--|--|
| <p>Influence of location type</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Urban verses rural – Differences in reassurance terms. The sound of sirens are perceived as a police call to a disturbance or an ambulance to an accident dependant upon whether you are in town or in the countryside • Does noise contribute to fear? Sirens are just one aspect, but also shouting, music from cars etc in quite settings creates disproportionate fear. | <p>Note the clear differences</p> <p>There is a difference between what works in urban areas and what works in rural areas.</p> <p>Note that rural areas perceive that resources are always delegated into towns, neglecting those in the countryside</p> |
| <p>Focus of message</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • People do not believe crime statistics • People are not reassured just by being told to be so, tackling reassurance is nigh-on impossible • Making people feel good about where they live impacts upon how safe people feel • Up to those present to push the message, no good waiting for public to come to us • Very important to celebrate what is good, not highlighting what is bad • It's not about promoting the Council, more about 'aren't we lucky to live / work here. • Need to be celebrating the community in its broadest sense • Market the good things in East Herts not spin. • Use the forthcoming Olympics and Diamond Jubilee to market | <p>Promote support for street parties for Olympics & Diamond Jubilee - 'Party packs'?</p> <p>Promote "Our District, our community" and "East Herts, a million miles from London", "The Friendly District", "Neighbourly" and "A good place to come home to"</p> <p>Each partner, Town / Parish Council, organisation, group or business could join in celebrating what is best in East Herts. Same message, same template, different logo.</p> <p>Focus peoples' attention on all the good things about where they live e.g. U3A, Ware In Bloom</p> <p>Question: Given the choice, would you move away from here? Council to celebrate all that is happening in the District</p> |

| | | |
|---|--|--|
| | <p>East Herts</p> | <p>Need marketing (advertising) expertise rather than communications</p> <p>Pre-plan for what to do when something bad does happen</p> <p>Devise some sort of community safety game to hand out</p> |
| <p>Public's awareness of factors</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Impact of factors next year - youth unemployment, reduction in uniform presence, reduction in budgets generally, possible increase in crime • Issues from the recent survey – PCSOs (and uniform presence in general) & CCTV seen as important (but likely to be reduced) and strong support for diversionary activities • The high number of 'don't knows' in answer to the question about whether the council and partners are dealing with crime/nuisance. Is this because no-one told me or I don't care? • Promoting police activity can have a negative effect ie drugs raids | <p>Make use of Members to deliver common positive messages</p> <p>Why PCSOs in pairs?</p> <p>PCSOs could have space in places like the new Sainsbury's in Hertford</p> <p>Re-launch the Community Safety part of the EHDC website</p> <p>Promote police activity but not "drugs" angle</p> |

Consultation

Consultations have taken place with a wide range of groups and individuals. These include attendees to the Parish Council Rural Conference, a 'Conversation Café' event, a Member and a public survey, and presentations to most of the five Town Councils.

Other engagement has been by way of correspondence with a variety of community groups – Housing Associations, Street Pastors, Neighbourhood Watch, taxi drivers, youth groups and minority groups such as Mencap and Future Hope. The letter to each drew their attention to likely resource reduction, invited them to join the Partnership in reassuring the community and asked what community safety problems concerned them most. There have been just four responses to the letters. All offered to become involved, one listed their overall views and one suggested they may be able to help with funding in the short term.

In the Community Safety survey, the public were asked four questions;

1. To prioritise our four community safety projects.

PCSOs comfortably received the highest number of points, followed by CCTV and Diversionary Activities with similar totals. Taxi Marshals received the least.

2. Agree or not that East Herts Council and partners are dealing with crime/nuisances.

The majority 'agreed'. The second largest number of votes was for 'don't know' (They do not know or they have no interest?)

Ranked third and fourth choice were 'neither' and 'disagree'.

3. Decide what makes people feel safer.

PCSOs were first, followed by CCTV and then Diversionary Activities. Publication of good news stories and crime stats were placed fourth and fifth respectively.

4. Identify two community safety problems that cause most concern.

The most common concern was Anti Social Behaviour (ASB), followed by traffic issues (mostly about parking and cyclists) and then drugs and speeding were placed equal third.

2011 Residents' Survey

This has recently been published and has three sections which relate specifically to Community Safety.

The finding that 17% of residents admit to feeling unsafe outside in their local area after dark links to issues highlighted previously such as the reduction in uniform presence and part night street lighting. The Survey also states that identified vulnerable groups are less likely to say they feel safe. The Partnership needs more information about the vulnerable living within the District.

Resident's community safety concerns related to are teenagers hanging around, litter and people being drunk and rowdy in public places. Similarly the CSP review survey highlighted Anti Social Behaviour as the highest concern.

Diversions activities for youngsters were a very successful project last year given the small amount of money required. It is possible that as large partnership projects reduce, the remainder of the funding will benefit youth diversion projects in the coming year.

In respect of litter, greater use could be made of PCSOs and accredited persons to issue fixed penalty notices.

The Partnership has a Night Time Economy Group, one focus of which is addressing drunken behaviour. In the event that uniform presence is reduced and with an uncertain future for Taxi Marshals, the role of the East Herts Licensing Committee and officers may be expected to increase.

Conclusion

Despite East Herts being statistically and anecdotally a pleasant and safe place in which to live, reassuring the public is difficult, if not impossible, to achieve. Rather than trying to reassure people, a similar effect could be realised by producing a 'feel good factor'; by raising the profile of the benefits of living and working in East Herts. Such a development should involve all agencies within the Partnership, and wider, taking advantage of the opportunity offered by the Olympics and Diamond Jubilee. An action plan will be produced from this review and both documents will be set before the CSP Board for consideration.

Recommendations

- For the council to work with partners (communication teams of the partners to lead) to design and deliver a common positive marketing campaign message regarding East Herts as being a safe place to live – which can be used by all partners, members and included in all press contact (stories, quotes, press releases).
- To work with partners to identify and improve communication with vulnerable target groups to deliver better focussed information and solutions relating to community safety
- To work with partner organisations (and private/commercial concerns where appropriate) to deal with graffiti cleaning, litter collection, dog fouling, flyposting and fly tipping in a timely manner to reduce any possibility of creating an impression of a 'spiral of decline' (Broken Windows theory 1982 – James Wilson and George Kelling)

Reference: <http://www.theatlantic.com/magazine/archive/1982/03/broken-windows/4465/>

Essential Reference Papers

- C) Strategic Assessment (abbreviated)
- D) Community Safety Review survey results summary
- E) Extract East Herts Residents' Survey 2011

Suggestions for an action plan –

- Poster campaign
- Improve Community Safety website – e.g. use of multimedia
- Increase involvement of District in targeting Prolific and Persistent Offenders (PPOs)
- Promote success with lower level crime, e.g. litter & graffiti
- Greater emphasis on S 17 the duty for all public bodies to consider to consider crime & disorder in all that they do
- Identify vulnerable members of the community
- Provide In Case of Emergency (ICE) boxes
- Ensure correct messages about PNL are given
- Use of screens in public premises to deliver messages such as crime, public health & seasonal campaigns
- Intergenerational campaigns to break down barriers
- Colour booklet written by CSP to be distributed to voluntary & community groups and to homes of most vulnerable
- Greater use of Community Payback Scheme

This page is intentionally left blank



East Herts
Community Safety Partnership

East Herts Strategic Assessment 2012-13

ABBREVIATED VERSION

Completed February 2012

Executive summary

This is an abbreviated version of the fifth strategic assessment compiled by East Herts Community Safety Partnership (CSP). The assessment aims to establish current and future crime, disorder and substance misuse issues within the district and make comparisons with other areas within the county, region and nationally, where appropriate. It is the evidence base for the 12 month Partnership action plan to run from April 2012 – March 2013. The full assessment is available on the East Herts Internet site (www.eastherts.gov.uk).

Recommendations

The analysis shows that East Herts has no overriding crime or disorder issue which will create challenges in how resources are employed. The continuing and increasing reduction in resources will have a significant influence in the coming year.

With no clearly identified problems to target, given the information available, reassurance and confidence should remain the focus. It is recommended that the Partnership continues with its single priority to 'Keep crime levels low and improve public confidence through reassurance and crime prevention measures.'

Section 1: Introduction

Methodology and data sources

This document has been produced through a risk assessment of countywide data. Where tabulated, 1st position demonstrates the lowest risk and 10th position the highest risk.

The Home Office data source 'iQuanta' produces figures for Community Safety Partnerships in 'most similar groups'. These are determined by considering regional geographic, demographic and socio-economic information to arrive at comparable partnerships. East Herts' group consists of fifteen partnerships; 1st position relates to the top performer of the group and 15th the opposite.

Local knowledge has also been considered in respect of risk levels.

Contextual information

Hertfordshire contains 10 district councils and East Herts is the largest covering approximately 184 square miles. According to the mid 2010 population estimate, the population of East Herts was estimated to be almost 138,500 people in 55,833 households, giving a population density of 2.92 persons per hectare.

Section 2: The analysis

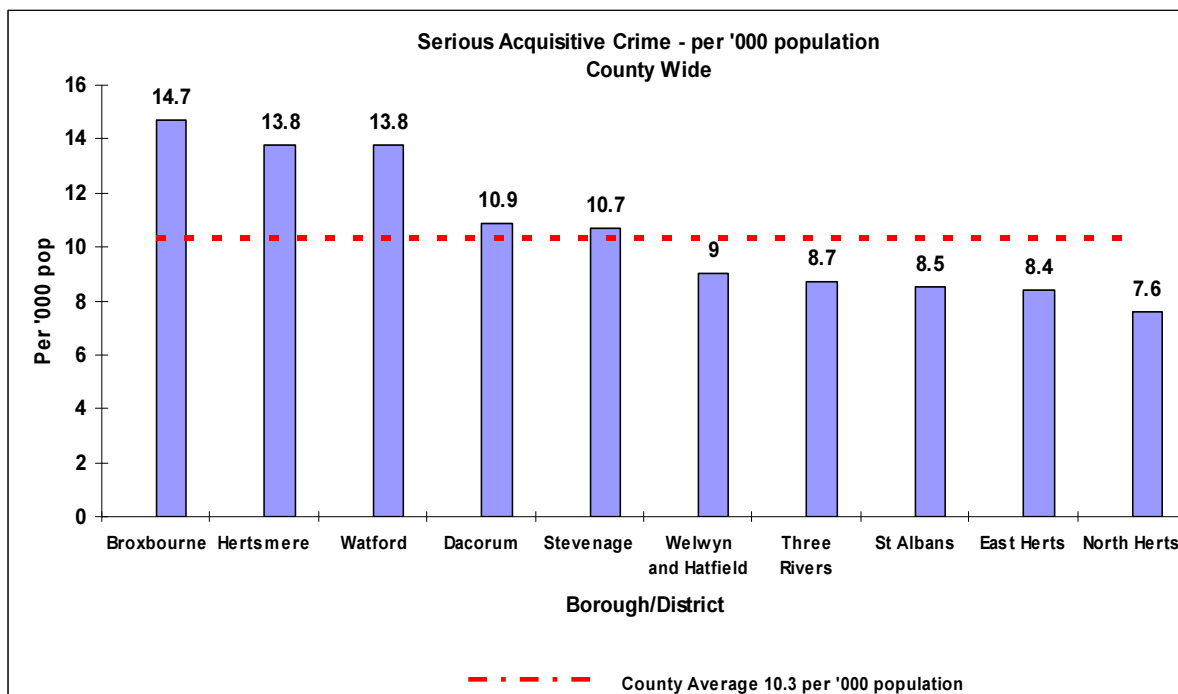
The analysis is divided into six themes; reducing crime, tackling drugs, alcohol misuse, tackling anti-social behaviour (ASB) and criminal damage, reducing reoffending and reassurance and confidence.

2.1 Reducing Crime

Serious Acquisitive Crime

Risk assessment status: Low Risk

Local knowledge status: Low Risk



iQuanta data shows that East Herts has fallen from 8th to 10th position when compared to the most similar group with 8.41 offences per 1000 residents and experiences a slightly above average numbers of serious acquisitive crime offences.

Serious acquisitive crime is broken down under the following crime types:

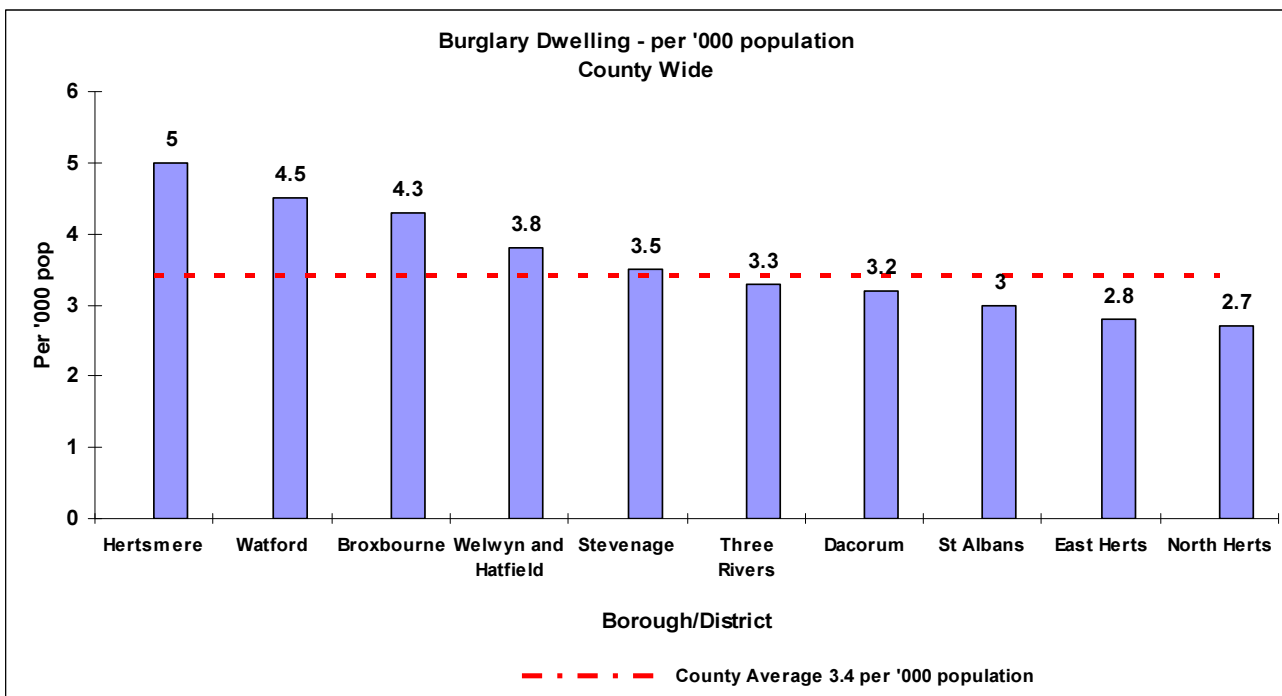
| Crime type | 1 August 2009 – 31 July 2010 | 1 August 2010 – 31 st July 2011 | Change percentage and numerical value compared to same period last year |
|---|------------------------------|--|---|
| Serious Acquisitive Crime | 1206 | 1164 | -3.5% -42 |
| • <i>Dwelling Burglary (including attempts)</i> | 390 | 386 | -1.1% -4 |
| • <i>Vehicle Crime – Theft of Motor Vehicle</i> | 160 | 173 | +7.6% +13 |
| • <i>Vehicle Crime – Theft from a Motor Vehicle</i> | 632 | 569 | -10.0% -68 |
| • <i>Robbery</i> | 24 | 36 | +33.4% +12 |

There were 1164 serious acquisitive crime offences between 1st August 2010 and 31st July 2011, a reduction of 42 (3.5%) from last year. Together dwelling (or residential) burglary offences and vehicle crime accounted for 96.9% of all serious acquisitive crime offences.

Dwelling Burglary

Risk assessment status: Low Risk

Local knowledge status: Low Risk

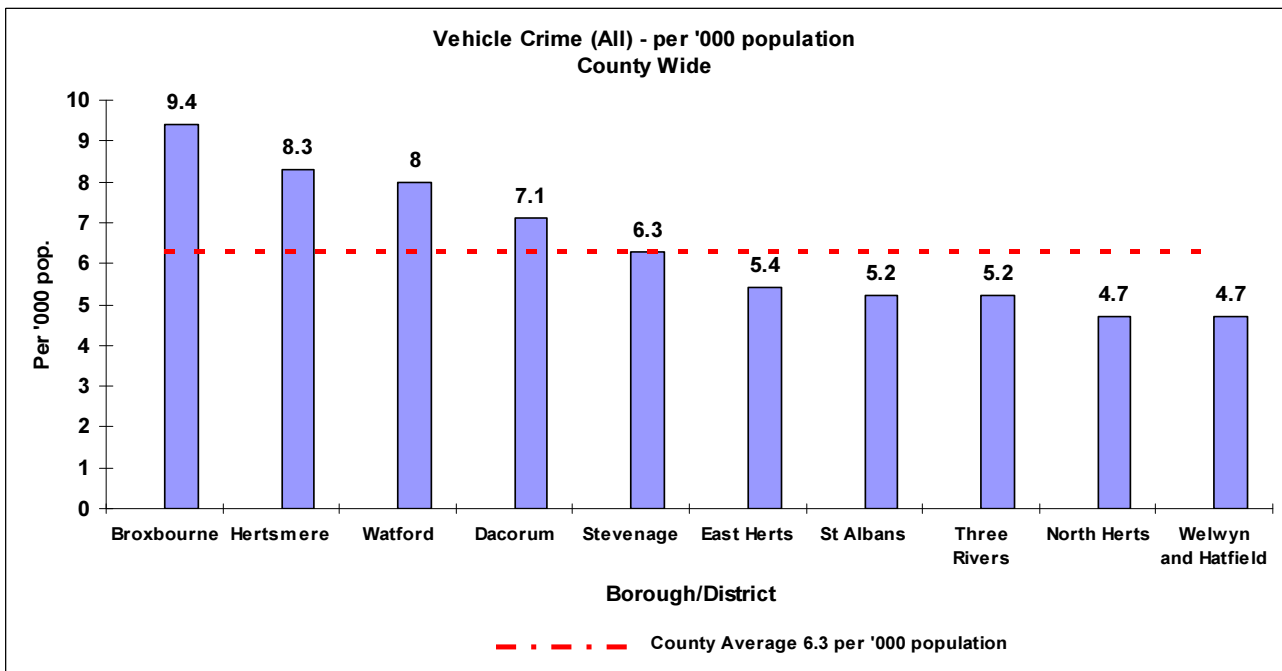


There were a total 386 dwelling burglary offences which included 62 attempts, 7 distraction and 3 aggravated. Distraction burglaries have reduced by 5, however, iQuanta data shows East Herts has fallen from 7th to 10th in the most similar group. No area had more than one distraction burglary during the period.

Vehicle Crime

Risk assessment status: Low Risk

Local knowledge status: Low Risk



There were 742 vehicle crimes reported in the 12 month period, a decrease of 6.4% from 792 in the previous year. For the three months to 31st July 2011, iQuanta shows East Herts in 11th position in the most similar group with 5.358 offences per 1000 residents.

Burglary Other

Risk assessment status: Medium Risk

Local knowledge status: Medium Risk

There were 519 burglary 'other' offences (including attempts) in East Herts over the 12 month period. This is an increase of 16.1% (n72) on the same period last year. East Herts is in 5th place in Hertfordshire with 3.74 offences per 1000 population.

iQuanta data shows East Herts in 8th position in the most similar group with 3.741 offences per 1000 population and therefore experiences a below average number of Burglary Other.

Theft from shop

Risk assessment status: Low risk

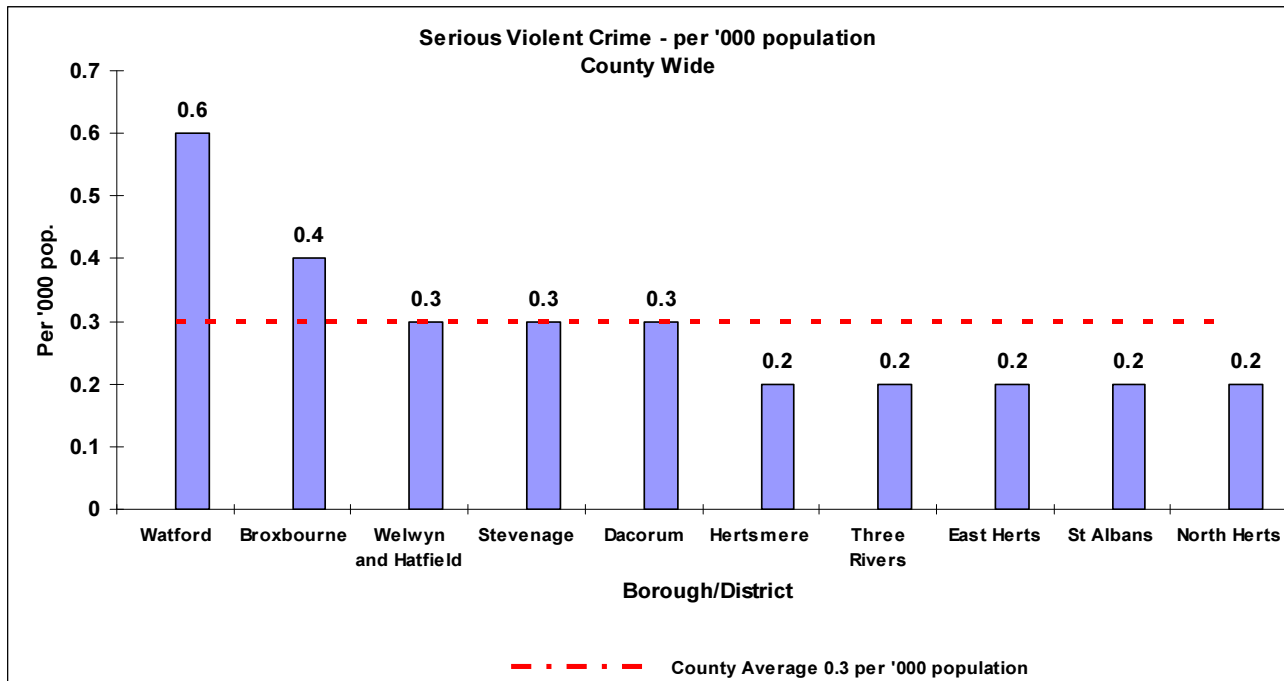
Local knowledge status: Medium Risk

Theft from a shop has increased by 5.6% (n30) compared with the same period the previous year. This positions East Herts as 3rd safest within Hertfordshire with 4.07 offences per 1000 head of population. iQuanta data places East Herts in 8th position in the most similar group, an average number of shoplifting offences.

Serious Violent Crime

Risk assessment status: Low risk

Local knowledge status: Low Risk



There were 26 reports of violent crime committed over the 12 month period, a reduction of 25.7% (n9) offences.

Domestic Violence

Risk assessment status: Low risk

Local knowledge status: Low Risk

There were 310 reports of domestic crime reported during this period which is an 8.3% (n28) decrease compared to the previous year. East Herts remains in 2nd position in the county for number of domestic violence cases recorded by the police - 2.23 offences per 1000 residents.

Reported incidents are on the increase overall, but this can likely be attributed to greater confidence of victims to report because of increased awareness and the structures in place.

Hate Crime

Local knowledge status: Low Risk

There were 44 reports of hate crime committed in the period. This is a decrease from 60 in the previous year. East Herts CSP is 1st in the county reporting just 0.317 offences per 1000 residents. Hate crime is not currently recorded on iQuanta.

Rogue trading

Local knowledge status: Medium risk

From 1st August 2010 to 31st July 2011, 12 incidents of rogue trading were recorded by Trading Standards; an increase of three compared to the previous year. These incidents include cold calling for house maintenance and driveway work. It should be noted that the data reflects recorded incidents

only. Anecdotal indications are that these offences may be more prevalent and further examination is needed to discover the full extent of the problem.

2.2 Tackling Drugs

Risk assessment status: Medium Risk

Local knowledge status: Medium Risk

Drug trafficking and drug trafficking other

These figures are a result of detections and therefore only show the number of offences identified by the police, as a result it should be noted that these figures cannot be used to measure the use of illegal drugs.

| Offence type | No. of offences per 1000 head of population | Number of offences 2009/10 | Number of offences 2010/11 | % change | East Herts Rank |
|----------------------------|---|----------------------------|----------------------------|----------|---------------------------|
| Drug Trafficking – Class A | 0.108 | 65 | 15 | -76.9 | 5 th out of 10 |
| Drug Trafficking – Other | 0.166 | 23 | 23 | 0.0 | 2 nd out of 10 |
| Possession – Class A | 0.931 | 112 | 129 | +15.2 | 9 th out of 10 |
| Possession – Other | 2.534 | 371 | 351 | -5.4 | 3 rd out of 10 |

There was a decrease in Trafficking Class A during the 12 month period. Possession Class A saw the largest increase in offence type, which put East Herts in 9th position in Hertfordshire. This is a result of the police carrying out operations, and can therefore be viewed as a positive.

Structured Treatment

From April 2012, Hertfordshire will have a comprehensive range of drug and alcohol treatment interventions, delivered through a number of locality-based hubs.

Number of clients in structured treatment – over 18

Risk Assessment status: Medium Risk

Local knowledge status: Medium Risk

| Number of clients in structured treatment | | | |
|---|------------|---------------|---------------------------|
| | East Herts | Hertfordshire | East Herts Rank |
| No. of clients in structured treatment | 291 | 2421 | 8 th out of 10 |

East Herts features 8th in the county for the number of clients over 18 in structured treatment during the 12 month period 1st July 2010 to 30th June 2011.

Number of clients in treatment – under 18

Risk Assessment status: Medium Risk

Local knowledge status: Medium Risk

| Number of under 18 clients in treatment | | | |
|---|------------|---------------|----------------------------|
| | East Herts | Hertfordshire | East Herts Rank |
| No. of under 18 clients in treatment | 48 | 201 | 10 th out of 10 |

East Herts features 10th in the county with 48 clients under the age of 18 in treatment between 1st August 2010 and 31st July 2011.

Drug paraphernalia finds

Between 1st August 2010 and 31st July 2011 there were 5 recorded finds of drug paraphernalia in the district - 3 in Hertford, 1 in Buntingford and 1 in Sawbridgeworth. This is a decrease of (16.7%) in recorded finds compared to the previous year.

Needle & Syringe Programme

Needle exchanges are available in four places across the district - two in Hertford, one in Ware and one in Bishop's Stortford.

2.3 Alcohol Misuse

Alcohol Related Crime

Risk assessment status: Low Risk

Local knowledge status: Low Risk

| No. of offences per 1000 head of population | | | |
|---|------------|---------------|---------------------------|
| | East Herts | Hertfordshire | East Herts Rank |
| Alcohol Related Crime | 5.7 | 5.4 | 8 th out of 10 |

There was a 7.8% decrease in alcohol related offences during the period with 790 compared to 856 offences in the previous year. East Herts is currently placed 8th in the county for alcohol related crime, with an average of 5.7 offences per 1000 of the population.

During the 12 month period, 71.2% (n563) of alcohol related offences were deemed violent in nature compared to 69% (n591) the previous year.

Night Time Violent Crime

Risk assessment status: Medium risk

Local knowledge status: Medium Risk

| No. of offences per 1000 head of population | | | |
|---|------------|---------------|---------------------------|
| | East Herts | Hertfordshire | East Herts Rank |
| Night Time Violent Crime | 4.83 | 4.43 | 8 th out of 10 |

There were 670 night time violent crime offences during the 12 month period, which is a 3.2% increase from the previous year (649 offences). East Herts CSP is currently ranked 8th in the county for night-time violent crime, reporting 4.83 crimes per 1000 population. This position has declined from 6th position in the previous year.

The number of licensed premises in East Herts remains unchanged at 573.

Underage sales

Trading Standards conducted 13 test purchases in East Herts between 1st August 2010 and 31st July 2011, which resulted in 4 failures - 2 in Buntingford and 1 each in Hertford and Bishop's Stortford.

Alcohol treatment

During the period of 1st August 2010 to 31st July 2011 there were 6 individuals under the age of 18 receiving treatment for alcohol abuse. This places the CSP in 9th position within the county. The CSP is in 5th place for the number of clients aged over 18 (n149) in alcohol treatment for the period 1st August 2010 – 31st July 2011.

2.4 Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB) and criminal damage

Police Recorded Anti-Social Behaviour

Risk assessment status: Low Risk

Local knowledge status: Low Risk

| No. of incidents per 1000 head of population | | | |
|--|------------|---------------|-----------------|
| | East Herts | Hertfordshire | East Herts Rank |

| | | | |
|--|-------|-------|---------------|
| Police Recorded Anti-Social Behaviour | 40.64 | 49.29 | 4th out of 10 |
|--|-------|-------|---------------|

There were 5629 incidents of anti-social behaviour (ASB) recorded by the police in East Herts. This is a 17.7% (n1209) decrease. East Herts is currently 4th in the county for anti-social behaviour. This is an average of 40.64 incidents per 1000 of the population.

Anti Social Behaviour Orders (ASBOs) and Acceptable Behaviour Contracts (ABCs)

Fourteen ABCs were signed during the period 1st August 2010 – 31st July 2011, with four individuals declining to sign. This is twelve fewer ABCs signed than the previous 12 month period, and 2 fewer refusals to sign. As of 31st July 2011 there were five current ASBOs, a reduction of two from the previous year. During 1st August 2010 – 31st July 2011 4 ASBOs expired and no ASBOs were obtained. To date, the Family Intervention Project (FIP) has worked with 143 individuals (34 families); currently 16 families are engaged.

School exclusions

There were 9 permanent school exclusions in East Herts during the academic year September 2010 to July 2011, placing East Herts in 10th position (down from 6th position last year). East Herts accounts for 30% of the total number of permanent pupil exclusions in the county.

East Herts had 300 pupils with an unauthorised absence of 5% or greater of possible sessions in the academic year September 2010 to July 2011. This places East Herts in 1st (best) position within Hertfordshire up from second last year.

Criminal Damage

Risk assessment status: Low Risk

Local knowledge status: Medium Risk

East Herts is currently 3rd best in the county for criminal damage. According to iQuanta, East Herts is in 6th position when compared to similar CSPs - 8.32 criminal damage offences per 1000 residents. Criminal damage offences have decreased from the previous year of 7.4%.

Deliberate Fire Calls

East Herts leads the county for reducing deliberate fire calls, reporting 1.1 per 1000 population. There were a total of 150 deliberate fire calls in East Herts between 1st August 2010 and 31st July 2011, compared with 229 the previous year (a decrease of 34.5%).

LiFE courses have been very successful with a total of 33 young persons completing the course.

Between April and December 2011, 274 Home Fire Safety checks were completed.

2.5 Managing Offenders

Integrated Offender Management

The adoption of Integrated Offender Management (IOM) included a full review of the Priority Prolific Offender Scheme (PPO); a new scoring matrix was designed to identify the top 200 offenders.

Prolific and Priority Offenders (PPO)

| Number of Prolific and Priority offenders residing in CSP | | | |
|--|-------------------|----------------------|---------------------------|
| | East Herts | Hertfordshire | East Herts Rank |
| No. of PPOs | 8 | 175 | 2 nd out of 10 |

At the end of quarter one (01/04/2011 to 30/06/2011) East Herts CSP had 8 PPOs adopted under the IOM scheme; currently, 2 are imprisoned and 1 is held on remand. The number of detected offences committed by the PPOs has decreased by 9 from 13 to 4. East Herts is ranked in 2nd position.

Youth Offending Team (YOT) Cases

| Number of YOT cases | | | |
|------------------------------|-------------------|----------------------|---------------------------|
| | East Herts | Hertfordshire | East Herts Rank |
| No. of youth offences | 164 | 2183 | 4 th out of 10 |
| No of youth offenders | 133 | 1223 | 7 th out of 10 |

The YOT reports 164 youth offences in the district placing East Herts 4th out of 10. For the number of youth offenders East Herts stands 7th out of 10 with 133 offenders.

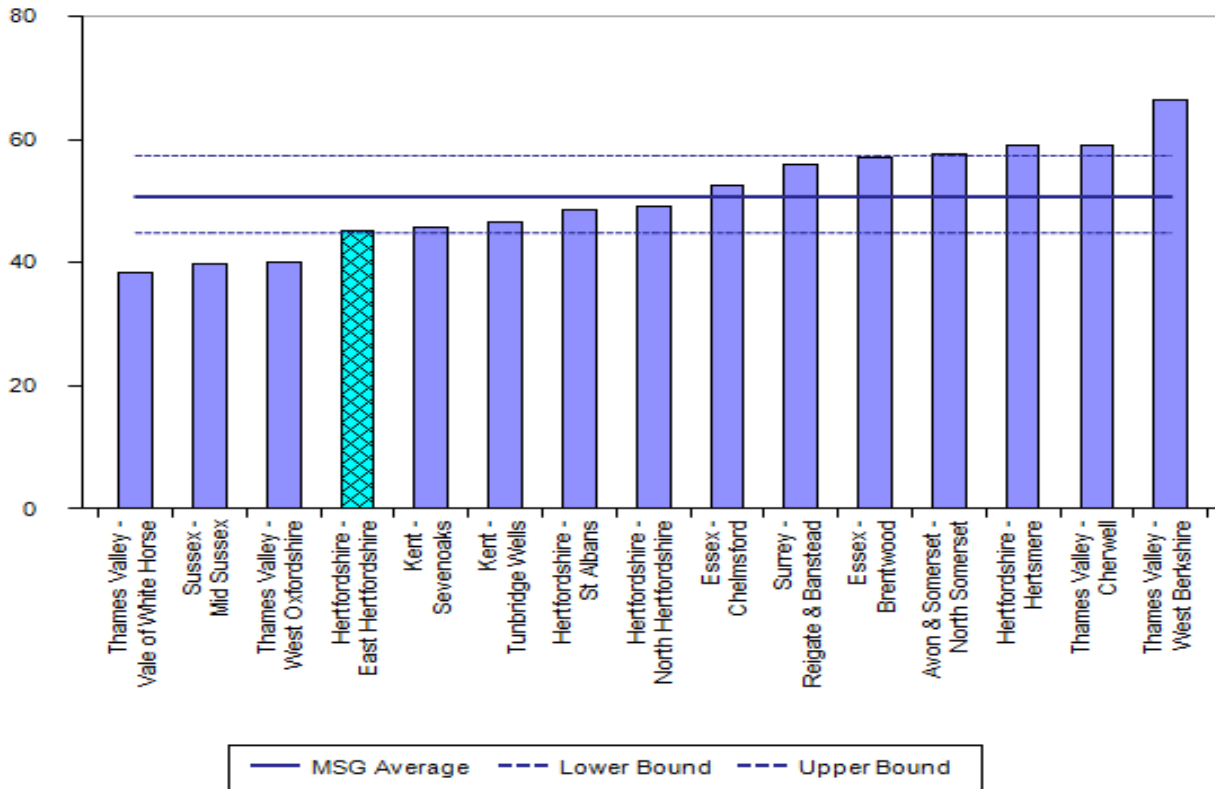
Number of clients taken onto probation caseload

| Number of clients taken onto probation caseload | | | |
|---|------------|---------------|---------------------------|
| | East Herts | Hertfordshire | East Herts Rank |
| No. clients on probation caseload | 227 | 2514 | 3 rd out of 10 |

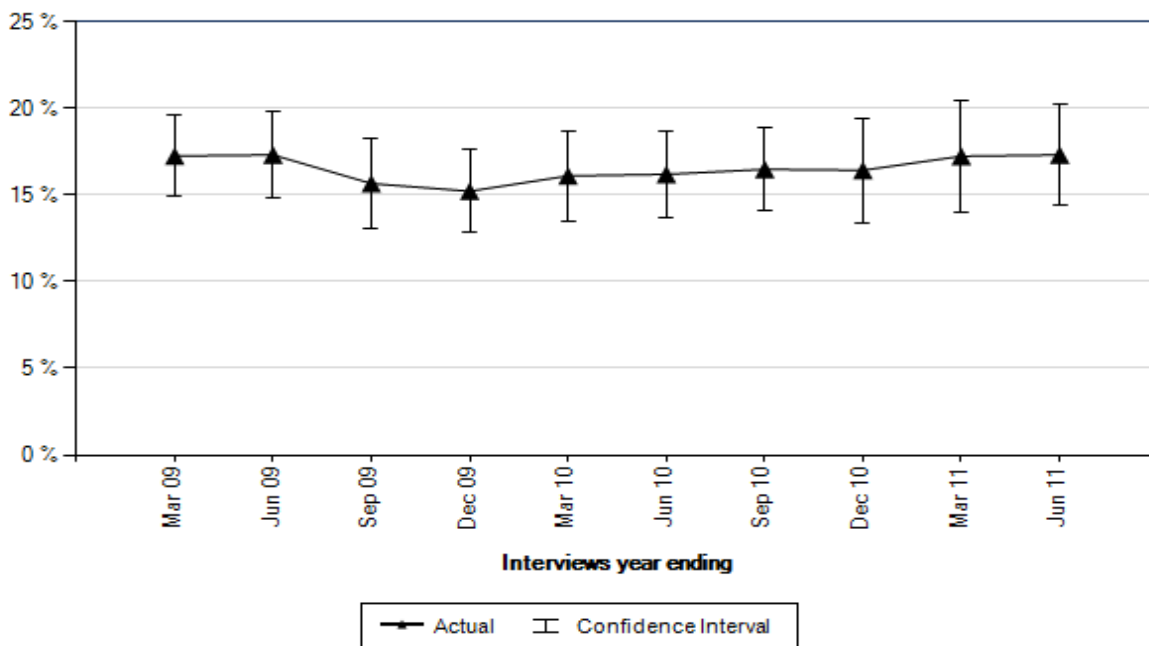
East Herts had 227 unique clients on the probation caseload during the 12 month period ending 31/07/11, placing it 3rd within the county. East Herts currently stands at 4th out of 10 for the number of unique clients taken on to the probation caseload with an unpaid work order.

2.6 Reassurance and Confidence

All Crime per 1000 Residents 1/12/2010 – 30/11/2011 (iQuanta Most Similar CSP)



Comparative Risk - Household Crime Hertfordshire March 2009 – Jun 2011 (BCS – iQuanta)



The two graphs indicate that overall, East Herts is a safe place.

Despite this, the public's perception about crime and ASB appears disproportionately high. This is likely to be exacerbated in the coming year by issues such as potential reductions in visible uniform presence, part-night street lighting and CCTV changes.

Section 3: Community Safety Consultation

Consultation has been completed as part of the Community Safety review through a 'Conversation Café' and survey forms distributed by Councillors. Consultation continues through contact with representative groups such as town councils, housing associations and NHW.

Section 4: Conclusion

In the report, differences between county and iQuanta results can be accounted for by the fact that one measure is between ten local districts and the other between fifteen regional CSPs. Crime and disorder levels across East Herts remain relatively low and overall, the district compares favourably within the county and with other CSPs. For example, whilst there were increases in dwelling burglaries in Sawbridgeworth and Ware Christchurch, these need to be viewed against significant decreases in three other areas. In the same way, whilst there has been an increase in robbery and night time violent crime offences, serious violent crime overall has reduced and there has been a decrease in ASB and criminal damage.

Decisions on local risk levels were reached after discussion with partners; there are concerns that theft from shop, criminal damage and rogue trading could increase. The current economic climate and reduction in resources will have a bearing in the coming year.

The one priority for 2011/2012 was to 'Keep crime levels low and improve public confidence through reassurance and crime prevention measures.' Given the information available, reassurance and confidence should remain the focus for the partnership.

Community Safety Review survey results summary

Results

There were 159 replies.

Q1 Which of the four options is most important to you (allocate 100 points)?

| | |
|--------------------------|------|
| PCSOs | 6040 |
| CCTV | 4659 |
| Diversionsary Activities | 4028 |
| Taxi Marshals | 970 |

[A couple of the figures are not what you might expect, as you'd think people would allocate in fives, but one or two did not; two respondents split theirs 33/33/33]

Q2 Agree or disagree that partners deal with the following.....

There were seventeen categories of crime/nuisance for people to indicate against

Agree – 894 votes Don't know – 778 Neither – 539 Disagree – 385

Agree – almost average throughout. Residential burglary received the most number of 'agrees' (79), followed by ASB (70) & speeding (68).

Clear lowest number of 'agrees' were for fly tipping and dog fouling (coincidentally, the latter is a 'News' item on the EHDC internet site this week).

A concern is that the 'don't know' category received the second highest total of the four. Is this a communication problem or just that people genuinely don't know because it doesn't affect them?

Commercial burglary received the highest number of 'don't knows' (74) of which perhaps more people would not be aware. However, the next highest number of 'don't knows' were arson (69), sexual assault (62), street robbery (55) and theft from outbuildings (54). Speeding (22) & ASB (24) received the fewest 'don't knows'.

Q3 What may help people feel safer?

There were seven options in total, one of which was 'other'.

Most respondents chose more than one.

| | |
|-------------------------------|-----|
| PCSOs | 129 |
| CCTV | 107 |
| Diversionsary activities | 103 |
| Publicising good news stories | 86 |
| Publication of crime stats | 63 |
| Updates via websites | 43 |

21 people indicated 'other' and stated their idea. Clearly the most popular (8) was greater uniform visibility (mostly police, but PCSOs also), the second was N'hood Watch with 3. The rest are a mixture and some were not answering the question 'What my help people feel safer'?

Q4 Two community safety problems that concern you most (and respondent's location).

There were 15 respondents who left this question blank, but included their location. A few people put one concern, most two and one put six (ASB - overnight commercial vehicle parking, speeding, litter, airport parking, late night music noise, cold calling).

It was satisfying to note that 8 people said that they had no concerns.

ESSENTIAL REFERENCE PAPER 'D'

General headings used in totalling the foremost issues identified by this question;

| | |
|--------------------|--------------------------------|
| ASB | 48 |
| Traffic issues | 29 (mostly cyclists & parking) |
| Drugs | 23 |
| Speeding | 23 |
| Alcohol issues | 18 |
| Disorder/vandalism | 16 |

Some quotes from Q4;

'Lack of respect for people and property & anger and greed among younger folk'

'Don't rely on Street Pastors to get problems under control especially when police station is shut & not enough for teenagers to do (questionnaire weighted to what council and police are pushing for)'

'On the whole, Ware feels a very safe place to live. No immediate safety problems'

'ASB - name and shame culprits & substance abuse - name and shame culprits'

3rd Jan. 2012

Extract East Herts Residents' Survey 2011

East Herts Residents' Survey 2011

Community Safety

^{3.17} When asked about their feelings of safety outside in their local area, the vast majority (94%) of residents said that they feel safe during the day (an increase of 1 percentage point since 2009), with almost three fifths of residents (59%) saying that they feel very safe. Only 2% said that they feel unsafe. However, nearly a fifth of residents (17%) admitted that they feel unsafe outside in their local area after dark. Nevertheless, it is encouraging to note that 7 in 10 residents (70%) say that they feel safe outside in their local areas after dark (an increase of 2 percentage points since 2009).

Figure 11
How safe or unsafe do you feel when outside in your local area during the day?
Base: All Respondents (number of respondents shown in brackets)

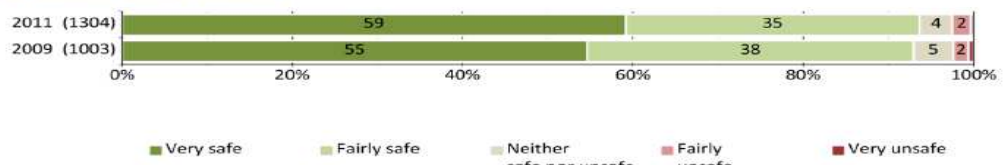
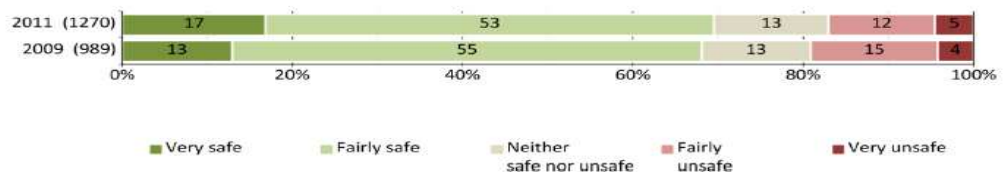


Figure 12
How safe or unsafe do you feel when outside in your local area after dark?
Base: All Respondents (number of respondents shown in brackets)

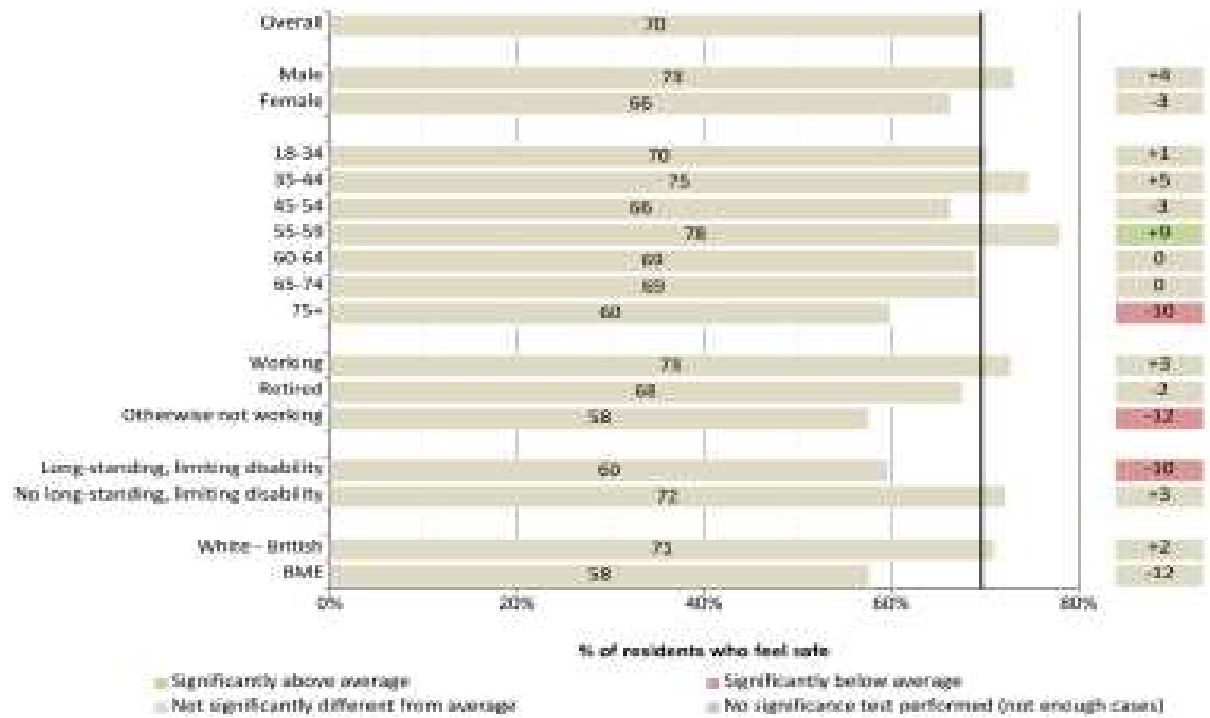


3.18 Residents who are significantly less likely to say that they feel safe after dark are aged 75 and over, otherwise not working and have a longstanding or limiting illness/disability.

Figure 13

How safe or unsafe do you feel when outside in your local area after dark?

Base: Respondents who feel safe (385)

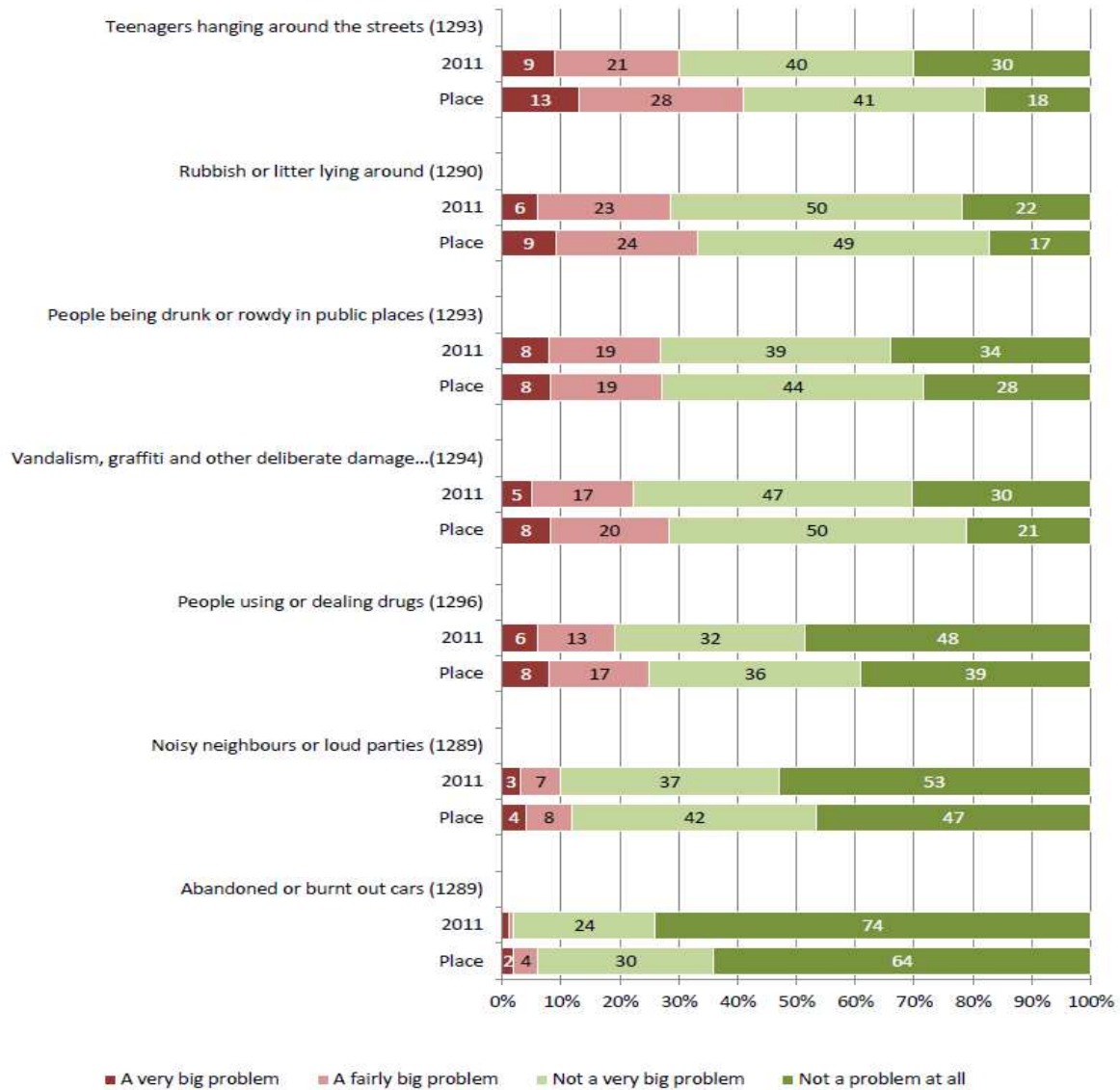


3.19 More than a quarter of residents reported that *teenagers hanging around the streets* (30%), *rubbish or litter lying around* (29%) and *people being drunk or rowdy in public places* (27%) are a big problem. However, 90% or more residents reported *abandoned or burnt out cars* (98%) and *noisy neighbours or loud parties* (90%) as being not a very big problem/not a problem at all.

Figure 14

Thinking about your local area, how much of a problem do you think each of the following are...?

Base: All Respondents (number of 2011 respondents shown in brackets)



This page is intentionally left blank