



Partnership & Place Overview & Scrutiny Committee

25 July 2012

Report from the Director of Strategy, Partnership & Improvement

Wards Affected:
ALL

Crime Update Report

1.0 Summary

- 1.1 This report sets out how key crime information for Brent is collected and provides a template for the collection of key statistics to be reported to the committee on a regular basis. It also provides an in-depth report on Burglary in Brent

2.0 Recommendations

- 2.1 That the committee:
- note the report and monitor future developments
 - agree to develop the targets based on quarter one and two data
 - include the report on the next Crime Survey for England and Wales (CSEW) on its work programme

3.0 Background

- 3.1 Members of the committee will recall that we have been working together to identify what data to monitor. For The Partnership and Place Committee the purpose of the crime data report is to enable members to gain a picture of how secure people feel in their homes, the level of violence in the community and any barriers to building a vibrant business community. It is also an indication of the performance of local agencies.
- 3.2 It has been agreed that the template at appendix A, will be updated and circulated prior to each meeting of the Partnership and Place Committee.

There will be brief accompanying report. Should, as in this instance, there be any statistically significant changes an additional section will be added that provides more in depth analyse of the problem or change.

- 3.3 Members of the Committee will note that on this occasion a more in-depth report on burglary has been attached, as Brent has seen a rise in this crime. This is particularly concerning as our group of most similar boroughs have seen a fall in residential burglary.
- 3.4 In addition Brent and Harrow have for the last two years been part of “ethical reporting” project; this meant that the figures for our two boroughs appeared higher. This project has now been put in place in all boroughs across London. Therefore, in this financial year Harrow and Brent’s data should have remained broadly the same while all others boroughs should have seen a dramatic rise.

4.0 Gathering Reliable Evidence

- 4.1 There are two key crime data sources, Police recorded crime and the British Crime Survey for England and Wales now called Crime Survey for England and Wales (CSEW)
- 4.2 Recorded crime gives an accurate picture of crime types that are well reported. Even here there are caveats as many crimes are not reported for a variety of reasons¹.
For example, reliable academic evidence shows people who have no household insurance, under-report burglary. On the other hand, the National Housing Federation in 2009 found that tenants frequently report break-ins or attempted burglary to avoid being asked to pay for criminal damage to their property. The Federation estimated this could account for up to 35% of all burglaries in social and privately rented stock.
- 4.3 Of course these factors are important when looking at the micro details to plan services but they do not account for the percentage increase experienced by the borough.

¹

The Under-Reporting of Property Crime: A Microeconomic Analysis. [MacDonald, Ziggy](#), 1998 University of Leicester

- 4.4 The other main supplier of data is the survey formally known as The British Crime Survey or BCS. In April 2012: the British Crime Survey (BCS) changed its name to the Crime Survey for England and Wales (CSEW)
- 4.5 This is a systematic victim study, currently carried out by BMRB Limited on behalf of the Home Office. The BCS/CSEW seeks to measure the amount of crime in England and Wales by asking around 50,000 people aged 16 and over (as of January 2009), living in private households, about the crimes they have experienced in the last year. From January 2009, 4,000 interviews were also conducted each year with children 10–15 years old, although the resulting statistics remain as an experiment with no substantial data being released.
- 4.6 The CSEW is primarily a 'victimisation' survey, in which respondents are asked about the experiences of property crimes of the household (e.g. burglary) and personal crimes (e.g. theft from the person) which they themselves have experienced. The reference period to which these questions relate is from the first of January in the calendar year preceding the CSEW, up to the date of interview. The reference period and indeed the wording of the series of questions, which are asked to elicit victimisation experiences, have been held constant throughout the series of CSEW surveys.
- 4.7 Because members of the public are asked directly about victimisation, the CSEW provides a record of the experience of crime which is unaffected by variations in the behaviour of victims about reporting the incident to the police and variations over time and between places in the police practices about recording crime.
- 4.8 The scope of the CSEW goes well beyond the counting of criminal incidents, although it is for this estimate that it has become established as a definitive source of information. In order to classify incidents, the CSEW collects extensive information about the victims of crime, the circumstances in which incidents occur and the behaviour of offenders in committing crimes. In this way, the survey provides information to inform crime reduction measures and to gauge their effectiveness.
- 4.9 The CSEW has been successful at developing special measures to estimate the extent of domestic violence, stalking and sexual victimisation, which are probably the least-reported to the police but among the most serious of crimes in their impact on victims.
When the new survey is published a report will be prepared for the members of the Partnership and Place committee.

5 Data Review

- 5.1 The Police data available is calculated on a rolling year to date so there is change that can be noted from the previous quarter. Council data is available and noted in the table.
- 5.2 The number of offences are recorded as is the number of Sanction and Detection and the percentage of clear ups that number represents.
- 5.3 The Committee is keen to look at young people and their involvement with the Criminal Justice System as both victims and perpetrator. The key crime committed by young people is Robbery; hence monitoring this will provide useful insight, unfortunately, the Youth Offending Team are going to provide the data they have not been able to do so for this report, but will be included in the next meeting.

4.4 As this is new template it suggested that the first six months data is reviewed and then the targets are defined by the committee.

6 Next Steps

- 6.1 Prior to the next meeting the youth crime related data will be gathered and put into the next report.

Background Papers

Contact Officers

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