

STRATEGIC ASSESSMENT 2014/15
BRAINTREE DISTRICT
COMMUNITY SAFETY PARTNERSHIP



Demographic Profile

Braintree is a large, mainly rural district that covers 612 square kilometres in north and mid Essex. The northern part of the district extending to the Suffolk border, the central and southern parts of the district lie in a key location between Stansted Airport, the east coast ports and key rail and road transport routes to London.

The largest town is Braintree, followed by Witham and Halstead.

Braintree District has been one of the fastest growing areas in the country over the past decade. The population of the district currently stands at approximately 149,000.

Introduction

The Crime and Disorder Act 1998 placed a joint responsibility upon specific agencies to work together to protect their local communities from crime and to help people feel safer.

Braintree District Community Safety Partnership is made up of representatives from:

- Braintree District Council
- Essex Police
- Essex Fire & Rescue Service
- Essex Community Rehabilitation Company
- Mid Essex Clinical Commissioning Group
- Greenfields Community Housing
- Family Solutions
- Education
- BDVSA (Braintree District Voluntary Services Association)

The purpose of this document is to inform partners about the scale and scope of crime, disorder and community safety within the Braintree District.

The document should assist the partnership to understand the patterns and trends relating to crime, disorder and community safety as well as setting clear priorities for the year and allocate resources accordingly.

Partnership Activity and Engagement 2014/15

From the priorities identified for 2014/15 Task & Finish Groups were established for Domestic Abuse & Sexual Violence and Drug Offences.

Domestic Abuse & Sexual Violence Task & Finish Group

Cut It Out Campaign

Following the success of the pilot year we have expanded the campaign to include Coggeshall, Halstead and Witham. Training has been delivered to a further 14 salons, 71 staff. The Feathers chain of hair salons have also come on board and training has been delivered to all staff from across the county at their annual event. This has enabled the campaign to expand into Chelmsford and Maldon with the support of the CSP's. Feathers will also be hosting Cut It Out anniversary events at all their salons in February 2015.

Domestic Abuse Awareness Training

Safer Places have delivered two Domestic Abuse Awareness training sessions to 38 education personnel working within either primary or secondary education. The training evaluated extremely well and raised both awareness of the subject and confidence in identifying signs and dealing with young people that may be living with domestic abuse or a victim themselves.

Young Persons Independent Sexual Violence Advisor

Braintree CSP is working in partnership with Epping Forest CSP and Victim Support to fund a 6 month Young Persons Independent Sexual Violence Advisor. This post will carry out targeted work with young people who have been victims of sexual violence, deliver workshops in secondary schools and devise a referral pathway. The

Drugs Offences Task & Finish Group

Legal High Training

EYPDAS provided training to 25 professionals from a variety of agencies to raise their awareness of Legal Highs and understand local issues.

Needle Syringe Provision Leaflets

The leaflets advertising the service available across the district were updated to enable First Stop to widen the promotion of the service to ensure the safe use and disposal of needles to both heroin and steroid users.

Drugs Cultivation Information to Letting Agencies and Private Landlords

Following some successful execution of drug warrants which resulted in the seizure of cannabis worth £27,000 the partnership have produced a 'Guide to Keeping Commercial Cannabis Out of Your Property' for Housing Associations, Private Landlords and Letting Agencies.

Acquisitive Crime

Crimestoppers

A Crimestoppers Ambassadors event was held with 9 partner agencies in attendance, this led to the Crimestoppers co-ordinator attending team meetings, promotional material being placed in supermarkets, children's centres, libraries and housing offices. Adverts were also placed in the Witham Town Council quarterly newsletter and the Higgle, a Halstead Town publication.

Female Mentoring Programme

This pilot project provides volunteer female mentors to work with vulnerable females aged 16 + who have offended or are at risk of offending. The project is delivered in partnership with Essex Offender Services who have recruited and trained three volunteer mentors. The aim of the project is to reduce levels of reoffending amongst females and to provide positive role models for females to encourage them away from an offending lifestyle.

Joint Licensing Group

A World Cup promotional campaign was devised to raise awareness around the issues of domestic abuse and excessive alcohol consumption within a football environment. 15 licensed premises across the Braintree District came on board with the campaign by displaying promotional material and information and encouraging their staff to wear t-shirts highlighting the issues. The feedback was good with staff working within licensed premises stating that their overall awareness of Domestic Abuse had been heightened.

Reducing Reoffending

Integrated Offender Management

IOM (Integrated Offender Management) continues to have a good impact on reducing reoffending by addressing the underlying causes of offending. The size of the IOM cohort across the county has continued to fall with the North LPA having the least number of Priority Red Offenders, (those offenders that are designated as a spotlight nominal and discussed at Essex Police tasking meetings with a view to maximising police activity around an individual).

Community Engagement/Public Perception

Community Insight Survey

The Braintree District Community Safety Partnership undertook a Community Insight survey with 42 young people. As this is only a small percentage of the overall demographics, these figures should only be viewed as possible indicators of public perception.

Respondents identified the following as the top three issues where they lived:

- Anti-Social Behaviour 20%
- Drug Offences 18%
- Misuse of Alcohol 13%

- 59% of respondents or 24 people were not aware of issues with knife crime in their area
- 100% of respondents felt safe during the day
- 74% of respondents felt safe at night
- 100% of respondents felt safe during school
- 95% felt safe after school
- The majority of respondents did not know what support services were provided by their schools.

Essex County Council Tracker Survey

In the Braintree District 473 residents completed the tracker survey where questions were asked relating to public perceptions of Crime and Anti-Social Behaviour. As this is only a small percentage of the overall demographics, these figures should only be viewed as possible indicators of public perception.

- 97% feel very safe/fairly safe outside of their local area during the day
- 65% feel very safe/fairly safe outside of their local area during the night
- 91% do not see noise nuisance as a problem in their area
- 79% do not see youth nuisance as a problem
- 82% do not see vandalism and criminal damage as a problem in the area
- 75% do not see drugs as an issue in their area
- 83% do not see drunken behaviour as a problem in their area

Links to the Essex Police and Crime Commissioner

The Braintree District Community Safety Partnership continued to provide support to the Police & Crime Commissioner for Essex at his public engagement events. These events give local residents the opportunity to raise crime and disorder related issues with the PCC, local Police Officers and representatives of the CSP.

Strategic Assessment

The Strategic Assessment is a statutory requirement for Community Safety Partnerships to complete on an annual basis, as per legislation in the Crime & Disorder Act Revised 2006.

The strategic assessment is the result of a comprehensive analysis of crime, disorder and community safety data for the Braintree District covering the period 1st October 2013 – 30th September, 2014.

The assessment has analysed data from a number of sources including IQuanta, Essex Police Performance Data and CSP partner internal data.

The assessment will identify the priorities and inform the partnerships 2015/16 action plan.

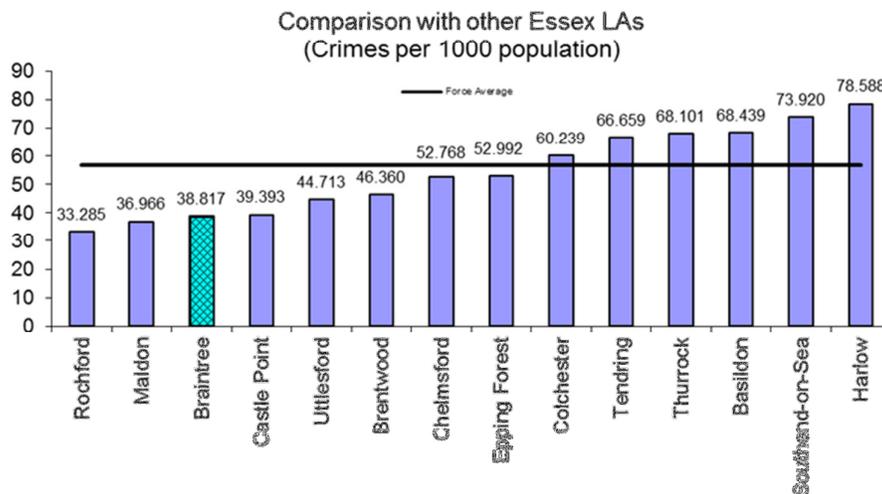
OVERALL CRIME

NUMBER OF INCIDENTS

According to Essex Police there were 5790 recorded crime incidents in the Braintree District from the 1st October 2013 – 30th September 2014.

Data from IQuanta has been used to compare levels of crime in the Braintree District with other District and Boroughs, including the two unitary authorities in Essex.

This data indicates that the Braintree District has an estimated 38.817 crimes per 1000 population. This is the third lowest compared to other Local Authorities in Essex.



Essex Police Performance Data breaks all crimes into 13 separate sub-categories (listed below), however due to the nature of some crimes, one incident may fall into more than one category.

Offences	Oct 2012 – Sept 2013	Oct 2013 – Sept 2014	Rolling 12M # Differenc e	Rolling 12M % Differenc e
All Crime	5725	5790	65	1.1
Domestic Burglary incl. Attempts	374	336	-38	-10.2
Other Burglary incl. Attempts	535	554	19	3.6
Vehicle Crime excl. Inter'ce	647	635	-12	-1.9
Theft from Vehicles	534	499	-35	-6.6
Other Theft & Handling	725	775	50	6.9
Shoplifting	447	435	-12	-2.7
Criminal Damage	894	900	6	0.7
Robbery	31	23	-8	-25.8
Serious Violent Crime	32	44	12	37.5
Serious Sexual Crime	81	91	10	12.3
Assault with Less Serious Injury	448	512	64	14.3
Other Violence Against the Person	1186	1342	156	13.2
Racially-Aggravated Crime	42	24	-18	-42.9

Source: Essex Police

Of the 13 categories above 7 categories have increased compared to the previous year, whilst 6 have decreased.

The top three categories which have seen increases include:

- Serious Violent Crime: +12 incidents, +37.5%
- Assault Less Serious Injury: +64 incidents, +14.3%
- Other Violence Against the Person: +156 incidents, +13.2%

The top three categories which have seen decreases include:

- Racially-Aggravated Crime: -18 incidents, -42.9%
- Robbery: -8 incidents, -25.8%
- Domestic Burglary incl. Attempts – 38%, - 10.2%

SUMMARY OF DATA: OCTOBER 2013 –SEPTEMBER 2014

<p>OVERALL CRIME</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Essex Police recorded 5790 crime incidents in the Braintree District Essex Police estimates that there were 65 more incidents than the previous year. An increase of 1.1% 	 1.1%
<p>ANTI-SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR (ASB)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Essex Police recorded 3579 incidents of ASB. ASB reported to Essex Police fell by 420 incidents or 10.5% compared to the previous year. Greenfields Community Housing recorded 273 incidents of ASB (not incl. Hate Crime and DA) an increase of 37 incidents or 15.7% on the previous year 	 10.5%
<p>ALCOHOL</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> No data is currently available from Essex Police or I-Quanta on Alcohol related crimes Public Health England estimates that 20.3% of adults in the district binge drink. This is the 4th highest rate in Essex Public Health England also estimates that the Hospital Standardised Admission Rates (SAR) for Alcohol Related Harm for the Braintree District is 27.7% below the average for England. 	 More Data Needed
<p>AQUISITIVE CRIME</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> I-Quanta highlights 993 incidents of Serious Acquisitive Crime in the Braintree District This is a reduction 60 incidents or -6% compared to the previous year. 	 6%
<p>CRIMINAL DAMAGE & ARSON</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> I-Quanta highlights that there were 898 incidents of Criminal Damage or Arson in the Braintree District. This is an overall increase of 4 incidents equivalent to an increase of 0.4% Criminal Damage makes up 867 of all crimes within this category, and is a decrease of 5 incidents or 1% on the previous year. Arson makes up 31 crimes within this category and is an increase of 9 incidents or 41% compared to the previous year 	 0.4%
<p>DOMESTIC ABUSE</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Data from Essex Police shows 1114 reported DA incidents, an increase of 111 incidents or 1.01% on the previous year. This is a rate of 9.71incidents per 1000 residents (aged over 16) and is the 5th highest rate in Essex. The Braintree District has the 3rd highest rate of repeat incidents in Essex at 49.95%. 	 1.01%

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 31.2% incidents were handled as crimes by Essex Police. This is an increase of 7.95% on the previous year but the lowest rate in Essex <p>Between 1st October 2013 and 30th September 2014:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 33 women were admitted to the Women's refuge • 146 additional individuals have had contact with Safer Places outreach workers • 142 Victims of Domestic Abuse contacted Victim Support • Greenfields Community Housing recorded 29 incidents, an increase of 7 incidents or 31.8% on the previous year 	
<p>DRUGS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • I-quanta estimated that there were a total of 205 recorded drugs offences in 2013/14 • This is a reduction of 71 incidents or 26% on the previous year. • Possession of Drugs makes up 189 crimes within this category. This is a decrease of 65 incidents or -26% on the previous year. • Data from both Open Road and First Stop indicates that Heroin is the most prevalent drug for which residents are seeking treatment for, followed by Alcohol and Cannabis (Open Road data only). 	 <p>26%</p>
<p>HATE CRIME</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • According to I-Quanta there were 23 Racially or Religiously Aggravated Offences. • This is a reduction of 18 incidents or 44% compared to the previous year. • No data is currently available on Homophobic or Transphobic Incidents 	 <p>44%</p>
<p>SEXUAL OFFENCES</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • I-Quanta data identifies a total of 116 Sexual Offences, an increase of 16 incidents or 16% on the previous year. • 42 incidents of Rape recorded, equivalent to 36.2% of all sexual offences. No change on the previous year. • Other Sexual Offences accounted for 74 incidents or 63.8% of all sexual offences. This is an increase of 16 incidents or 28% compared to the previous year. 	 <p>+16%</p>
<p>VEHICLE CRIME</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • I-quanta data shows that overall there were 688 crimes within this category in the last year. A reduction of 4 incidents or -1% • Theft of a vehicle made up 50 crimes, an increase of 7 incidents or 16% compared to the previous year. • Vehicle Interference made up 19 crimes, an increase of 3 incidents or 19% compared to the previous year. • Theft from a Vehicle, and Vehicle Offences (excl. interference) saw reductions 	 <p>1%</p>

<p>VIOLENT CRIME</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • I-Quanta data shows that Violence Against the person accounted for 1239 crimes, an increase of 195 incidents or 19% compared to the previous year. • Essex Police data shows that 23.18% of all crimes (1342 incidents) involved “Other Violence Against the Person”, an increase of 156 incidents or 13.2% on the previous year. • The District had 1 homicide in the last year. 	 +19%
<p>YOUTH OFFENDING</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 56 individual young people commenced a total of 75 YOT interventions. This is a reduction of one person on the previous year. • The estimated reoffending rate was 17.86% and reduction of 3.2% on the previous year. 	 3.2%

IOM (INTEGRATED OFFENDER MANAGEMENT)

Performance of IOM is measured on the change in the number and value of offences before, during and after IOM. Due to the different timescales between IOM reporting and strategic assessment data collection periods it is not possible to provide a direct comparison.

The most recent IOM data showed that between December 2013 and May 2014 five offenders from the Braintree District were deselected (completed) the IOM programme.

Two offenders committed post IOM offences to the value of £16,452, which was a reduction in 41.09% compared to the value of offending before IOM.

2015/16 Priorities

The strategic assessment process has identified three key priorities based upon consideration of current trends and projections, along with the volume of incidents and partner consultation. These priorities will provide the main focus for the Braintree District Community Safety Partnership over the next 12 months.

The priorities are: Violent Crime, Sexual Offences and Domestic Abuse

VIOLENT CRIME

Data on Violent Crime is available from both Essex Police’s Performance Monitoring Report (including Other violence against the person, Assault with less serious injury, and Serious violent crime) and from I-Quanta’s Violence Against the Person category (including homicide, Violence with injury, and Violence without injury).

I-Quanta Data shows the following:

- Violence Against the Person accounted for 1239 crimes, this is an increase of **19%** or **195** incidents compared to the previous year

Essex Police Data shows the following:

- 342 crimes or 23.18% of crimes involved “Other Violence Against the Person”, an increase of 156 incidents or 13.2% on the previous year.
- 512 crimes were classed as “Assault with Less Serious Injury”, an increase of 64 incidents or 14.3%
- 44 crimes were classed as “Serious Violent Crime” and increase of 12 incidents or 27.5%

This is equivalent to a rate of 8.309 incidents per 1000 residents, which compared to other areas is 5th highest in both our CSP most similar group and other Local Authorities in Essex.

SEXUAL OFFENCES

Data on Sexual Offences is taken from I-Quanta and is composed of incidents of Rape and incidents classed as Other Sexual Offences.

- The total number of incidents between October 2013 and September 2014 was **116**, an increase of 16 incidents or **16%** compared to the previous year.
- This is equivalent to a rate of 0.778 incidents per 1000 residents in the Braintree District.
- There were 42 incidents of Rape recorded, equivalent to 36.2% of all sexual offences. This is the same number as occurred in the previous year.
- Other Sexual Offences accounted for 74 incidents or 63.8% of all crimes within this category. This is an increase of 16 incidents or 28% compared to the previous year.

Anecdotal evidence suggests that the number of sexual offences is under reported particularly in the case of young people and for a variety of reasons.

There is a strong correlation to Child Sexual Exploitation and on-line grooming which will overlap the work of the Community Safety Partnership with the Safeguarding agenda.

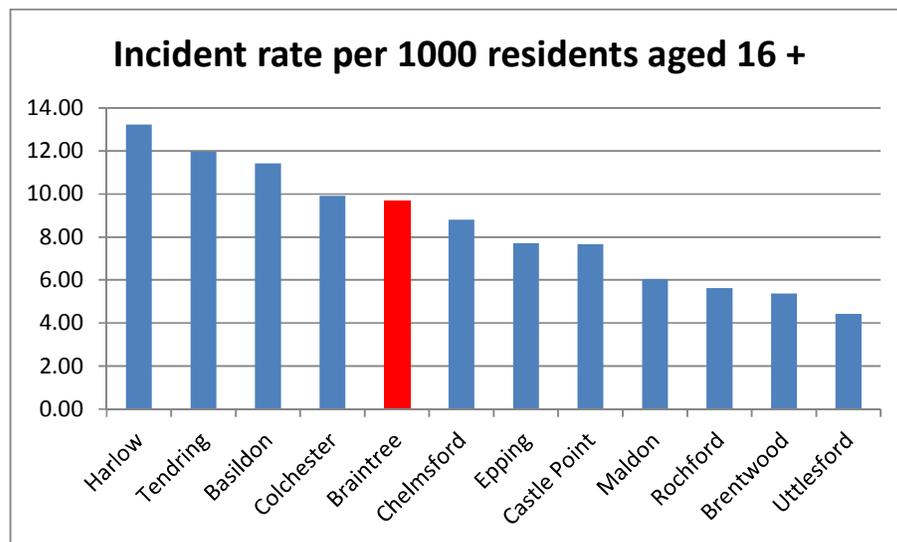
DOMESTIC ABUSE

Data on Domestic Abuse has been taken from Essex Police’s Domestic Abuse Performance Report as well as data from support providers such as Safer Places and Housing Associations.

- There has been a slight increase in the number of reported incidents of 1.01%, however there has been a significant increase in the number of incidents investigated as crimes of 7.95%.

Incident Rate

Data from Essex Police shows that from the 1st October 2013 to the 30th September 2014 there were 1114 reported incidents of Domestic Abuse in the Braintree District during this time period. This is equivalent to a rate of 9.71 incidents per 1000 residents (aged over 16) and is the 5th highest rate in Essex. 49.95% of recorded incidents were repeat incidents, the 3rd highest rate in Essex.



Safer Places indicates that between 1st October 2013 and 30th September 2014:

- 33 women were admitted to the Women's refuge
- 146 additional individuals have had contact with Safer Places outreach workers

During the same period Victim Support received 142 enquiries relating to Domestic Abuse which were passed back to Essex Police for more specialist support.

Greenfields Community Housing recorded 29 incidents, an increase of 7 incidents or 31.8%.

Conclusion

Whilst overall crime incidents in the Braintree District has seen a slight increase the district has the third lowest crime rate compared to other local authorities in Essex for the period of this strategic assessment. The Braintree District Community Safety Partnership will address these priorities through the identification of agencies and resources that are best placed to respond and deliver improvements.

