

Thurrock

STRATEGIC ASSESSMENT

2023/24



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Version Executive Summary

A more detailed breakdown of all crime types is available on request from: Safer.thurrock@thurrock.gov.uk

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1. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

1.1. Aim & Purpose

Every Community Safety Partnership (CSP) is required by the Crime & Disorder Act 1998 (Statutory Instrument 1830) to prepare an annual Strategic Assessment, in order to assist them in revising its partnership plan.

The strategic assessment should include:

- Analysis of the levels and patterns of crime and disorder and substance misuse in Thurrock.
- Analysis of the changes in those levels and patterns since the previous Strategic Assessment.
- Analysis of why those changes have occurred.
- The matters which the responsible authorities should prioritise when each are exercising their functions to reduce crime and disorder and to combat substance misuse in Thurrock.
- The matters which the persons living and working in the Thurrock area consider the responsible authorities should prioritise when each are exercising their functions to reduce crime and disorder and to combat substance misuse.
- An assessment of the extent to which the Partnership Plan for the previous year has been implemented.
- Details of those matters that the strategy group considers should be brought to the attention of the county strategy group to assist it in exercising its functions under these Regulations.

In order to inform the Strategic Intelligence Assessment and Partnership Plan, the Strategy Group is expected to obtain the views of those who live or work in Thurrock about:

- The levels and patterns of crime and disorder and substance misuse.
- The matters which the responsible authorities should prioritise when each are exercising their functions to reduce crime and disorder and to combat substance misuse.

As part of this process, the Strategy Group should hold one or more public meetings during the year, to be attended by those in a senior position within each of the responsible authority.

1.2. Data Parameters

Unless otherwise stated all data will be from 01 October 2022 to 30 September 2023.

Data sources are referenced at the start of each section.

1.3. Key Findings

From analysis of the partnership data contained within this assessment, the key findings are:

1. When asked to prioritise certain crime and ASB types for action by Thurrock Community Safety Partnership, residents ranked People Using or Dealing Drugs highest (78. %) followed by knife crime (67.9%) and Gangs/County Lines (66.7%)
2. Year on year we have seen a decrease in the percentage of residents who have confidence in police in Thurrock and think that they're doing a good job however positively the percentage of residents who think crime and anti-social behaviour has become more of a problem has also reduced
3. Thurrock has seen a decrease in all crime offences of -747 (-4.4%), which is slightly lower than across Essex, who had a -6.8% decrease. Notably decreases were seen in offences of violence against the person (-10.6%), burglary (-1.2%), domestic abuse (-11.2%), hate crime (11.9%) and robbery (3%) Increases were seen in reports of vehicle crime (10.89%) and theft offences (7.3%)

4. There has been a 12% decrease in crimes recorded by British Transport Police at our railway stations, including a 58% decrease at Chafford Hundred.
5. Across Essex, there was a decrease in incidents of ASB reported to Essex Police of -8,732 (-55.3%), compared to Thurrock who had a decrease of -831 (-32.7%) of which 57% were nuisance related. The wards of West Thurrock/ Purfleet & Lakeside, Tilbury and Grays Central accounted for 45% of reported ASB.
6. Thurrock ranked 13th highest of all 14 Districts for fire incidents attended by ECFRS, an increase of 39% (613) of which 80 were Accidental Dwelling Fires. Of the Home Safety Visits carried out in Essex, 6.5% were in Thurrock, ranked 7th.
7. Domestic Abuse decreased across all harm levels, with an overall reduction of 11.2 %.
8. Sexual Offences increased (3.8%) mainly in the category of 'other sexual offences'
9. Hate crime in Thurrock remains high with 2.66 offences per 1,000 population compared to 2.07 offences /1,000 in Essex, however we have seen a 11.9% decrease but this is less than that seen across Essex (14.6%) We have seen a 5.7% improvement in solved rates to 13%. Whilst decreases in reporting were seen in racial and disability reports all other strands increased but this is a crime which often goes unreported. West Thurrock/Purfleet and Grays Riverside were the top 2 wards. 42% of offences were violence against the person, followed by public order offences (33%), non-crime (13%) and damage/arson offences (7%)
10. There was a decrease of 32% (16) of reported Modern Slavery & Human Trafficking Offences on the previous 12 months
11. There are no known county lines operating currently in Thurrock and 3 drugs lines
12. Thurrock has seen a decrease of 24 (-18.8%) Serious Violence Offences and ranks 4th in Essex. 2 wards accounted for 45% of all the offences: West Thurrock and South Stifford (25) and Grays Riverside (22).
13. Thurrock has the third highest cohort of number of offenders open to probation in Essex of which 32% are in relation to violent crime. At the time of sentencing by the local court 5.6% (36) of Thurrock cohort were homeless , 10% were female and 90% male. Ethnicity (by group, where recorded) 5.8% Asian, 12.5% Black or Black British, 3.8% Mixed, 1.4% Other, and 70.7% White. Thurrock has a lower % of offenders assessed as Very High risk and Low risk compared to Essex but greater % assessed and High and Medium risk of reoffending. 18% were offenders of domestic abuse and 48% were aged over 35. The Integrated Offender Management scheme manage 26 prolific offenders currently.
14. Our Youth Justice Service continue to see a decline in young people accessing their services due to offences of possession of bladed articles and in relation to drug supply offences committed by children resident in Thurrock.

1.4. Strategic Priorities

To ensure that all partnership data is managed in a consistent way, and that the right priorities are identified, a Risk Matrix is carried out before the Strategic Assessment is written. Using this process ensures that partnership issues can be compared against each other in an intelligent and structured way. Thurrock's risk matrix for 2023 is at Section 11 *Appendix 1*.

The findings of this assessment have informed the decision to select the CSP Priorities for Thurrock which will be:

1. **Breaking the cycle of Domestic Abuse:** in line with the Domestic Abuse Duty and needs assessment
2. **Reduce harm to and safeguard victims from Hate Crime**
3. **Engaging with residents to Tackle Community based Anti-social Behaviour and Safeguard victims**
4. **Preventing Serious Violence:** Tackling the causes of drug driven violent crime in our communities (including robbery) through driving down gang related activity including offensive weapons
5. **Tackling disproportionality in relation to Violence Against Women and Girls** – including sexual offences, stalking and rape, whilst recognising that men and boys can also be victims

In addition to the above priorities the CSP will ensure that plans and appropriate governance is in place to deliver our duties in relation to:

- Prevent Duty Revised 2023
- Reduce Reoffending

And that we will commit to deliver on year 3 of our action plan to address Human Trafficking and Modern Slavery.

1.5. Matters for the Attention of Safer Essex

Through the analysis contained within this assessment the Thurrock partnership would like to draw the attention of Safer Essex to the following:

1. The reduction in serious violence that we have seen in Thurrock could not have been achieved and will not be sustained without the continued support of funding allocated through the Violence and Vulnerability Unit
2. Schools are supportive of and welcome OP Encompass, however, still feel that there are gaps in the information being shared in a timely manner and would appreciate a further review and discussion. They would also like to be included in MARACs, where their pupils are being discussed
3. We would support further collaboration with initiatives led by Safer Essex such as Op Dial and particularly ensuring this is inclusive of specialist resources e.g. business crime team and road policing
4. We have data gaps from Police within the assessment in relation to local data on Female Genital Mutilation and Honour Based Abuse related crimes.
5. We would welcome the Safer Essex approach to the community safety survey again in 2024
6. Safer Essex to consider data exploration in regard to the numbers of reported rapes and sexual offences in hospital settings following concerns raised Nationally

2. BACKGROUND INFORMATION

2.1. The Partnership

In addition to the statutory partners of Thurrock Council, Essex Police, Essex County Fire and Rescue Service (ECFRS), the National Probation Service and Mid and South Essex Integrated Care Board the Partnership maintains links to the voluntary sector, business partners and our communities through the CVS and Independent Advisory Group to Essex Police.

2.2. Horizon Scan

The partnership should be aware of the following policy activity at a national or local level:

- **Review of Community Safety Partnerships:** Consultation on Phase 1 of the review (those requiring legislative changes) was carried out in May 2023, focusing on aligning the work of CSPs and PCCs more closely. Further details from this have yet to be announced. The timescales for announcements on Phase 2, which will look more at guidance for how CSPs are run, are not yet known but a working group has been set up by Government. This will be a key area of focus for Safer Essex when announced.
- **Revised Prevent Duty Guidance:** The revised guidance was released in September 2023, with an implementation date of 31 December 2023. The guidance reflects the changes in risks outlined in the revised CONTEST Strategy 2023. The guidance strengthens the expectation on authorities around leadership, partnership working, understanding and managing risk (with a focus on training) and reducing permissive environments. The Prevent Delivery Group will lead on this work and will report regularly to Safer Essex.
- **Devolution:** Essex County Council, Southend-on-Sea City Council and Thurrock Council (known collectively as Greater Essex) have been discussing devolution with the government. The Essex Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner (PFCC) have been involved in these discussions. The councils have confirmed Greater Essex will work towards a Level 2 devolution deal. A Level 2 devolution deal would create a new single body, the Greater Essex Combined Authority. The three councils and the PFCC would take collective decisions on the devolved powers and budgets. A Combined Authority would not be a merger between Essex County Council, Southend-on-Sea City Council and Thurrock Council. Each authority would remain independent. The deal would also see Essex city, district and borough councils have prominent roles within the Combined council.
- **Serious Violence Duty:** The Duty requires local authorities, the police, fire and rescue authorities, specified criminal justice agencies and health authorities to work together to formulate an evidence based analysis of the problems associated with serious violence in a local area, and then produce and implement a strategy detailing how they will respond to those particular issues. The Strategy for Essex is being developed by the Violence & Vulnerability Unit in line with the requirements of the duty. Regular updates are provided to Safer Essex.
- **Victims & Prisoners Bill:** The Bill includes enshrining the Victims Code in law, improving performance and accountability of criminal justice agencies and placing Independent Sexual Violence Advisors (ISVAs) and Independent Domestic Violence Advocates (IDVAs) on a statutory footing. It also places a duty on relevant local bodies to collaborate when commissioning support services for victims of domestic abuse, sexual abuse and serious violence, as well as to prepare, publish and implement a joint local strategy to set out the aims and approach for commissioning relevant services from each agency and an explanation of how the duty requirements have been met. Safer Essex will act as a supporting for the Criminal Justice Board in implementing any subsequent legislation locally.
- **Offensive Weapons Homicide Reviews:** Pilots of these reviews have been established under the Police, Crime, Sentencing and Courts Act 2022, ending in September 2024. Essex

will look to build on the learnings from the pilot site in its preparations for expected implementation in 2025 and governance arrangements will be established prior to this.

- **Online Safety Act 2023** takes a zero-tolerance approach to protecting children from online harm, while empowering adults with more choices over what they see online.

National Threat

The 2023 Strategic Policing Requirement (SPR)¹ sets out the Home Secretary’s view of what the current national threats are, and the national policing capabilities needed to counter them.

The national threats set out in the latest SPR are:

- Violence against women and girls
- Terrorism
- Serious and organised crime
- A national cyber incident
- Child sexual abuse
- Public order
- Civil emergencies.

Local Risks

The following have been identified within Thurrock’s risk log as of December 2023:

Political	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Threat level in relation to Counter Terrorism remains substantial -meaning attack likely. There is no current specific threat to Thurrock, however we recognise the current global tensions 2. Elections in May 2023: both locally and PFCC with potential for General Election in the year. Risk of change to national, regional and local priorities. 3. Essex County Council, Southend-on-Sea City Council and Thurrock Council (known collectively as Greater Essex) have been discussing devolution with the government
Environmental	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 4. Thurrock has 3 ports and borders National Road network and has been identified as a hot spot for Organised Immigration Crime 5. Residents of West Thurrock continue to be adversely impacted by the car cruisers as the PSPO is flouted and risk to all in relation to road safety 6. Lower Thames Crossing implications as yet unknown for Community Safety
Social	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 7. Areas of the borough are seeing an increased issue of ASB and racism requiring multi-agency responses through additional operations and having an impact on wider members of the community 8. Contextual safeguarding risks: An increasing no of young people are being exposed to risky behaviour particularly in regard to vaping, nitrous oxide and edible cannabis. 9. The National issue of gang related violence continues to be a risk to the communities of Thurrock and whilst positive activity to address there is an ongoing risk in relation to emergence of gangs to fill any vacuum. 10. The inclusion of violence against women and girls within the national threat level highlights the importance of recognising this crime as a risk to society and ensuring a robust response. OP Brave is highlighting the concerns of women in areas of our community.
Technological	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 11. Online risk to exploitation remains including in relation to radicalisation and concerns over Tik Tok and suicide ideation 12. Online scams continue to increase including romance and investment scams 13. There is a risk to all public sector bodies in relation to cyber-attacks.

¹ www.gov.uk/government/publications/strategic-policing-requirement-2023

Economic	<p>14. S114 notice served on Thurrock Council limiting spend of Council and resources means the CSP should focus on High Harm High Risk priorities</p> <p>15. Cost of living crisis and risks to number of areas across community safety as outlined in LGA cost of living briefing</p>
Legislative	<p>16. Serious Violence Duty – Essex Violence and vulnerability unit are developing the Essex Strategy; we will require a local plan to respond</p> <p>17. Victims and Prisoners Bill – placing IDVAs and ISVAs on a statutory footing</p> <p>18. Revised Prevent Duty Guidance - strengthens the expectation on authorities around leadership, partnership working, understanding and managing risk, and reducing permissive environments</p> <p>19. Review of Community Safety Partnerships- phase 1 completed with recommendations on better alignment between PFCC and CSPs. Phase 2 will look at guidance for running CSPs.</p> <p>20. Online Safety Act 2023 takes a zero-tolerance approach to protecting children from online harm, while empowering adults with more choices over what they see online.</p>
Organisation	<p>21. Impact of financial situation in Thurrock Council leading to an ongoing restructure of the organisation affecting Leadership, including CSP chairing arrangements</p> <p>22. Drug and Alcohol Services: Currently tendering for a single service covering all ages.</p> <p>23. Integrated Care Board will have a new structure from 1/1/24 and involves changes in Thurrock</p>

2.3. Police Fire & Crime Commissioner

The priorities set out in the Police & Crime Plan 2021-2024 are as follows:

- Further investment in crime prevention
- Reducing drug driven violence
- Protecting vulnerable people and breaking the cycle of domestic abuse
- Reducing violence against women and girls
- Improving support for victims of crime
- Protecting rural and isolated Districts
- Preventing dog theft
- Preventing business crime, fraud and cyber crime
- Improving safety on our roads
- Encouraging volunteers and community support
- Supporting our officers and staff
- Increasing collaboration

2.4. Essex Police

The Crime Prevention Strategy 2021-2025 has five strategic aims (or “assets”):

- i. We will promote safer communities
- ii. We will cut crime and criminality
- iii. We will evolve our workforce, culture and infrastructure
- iv. We will support Safer Essex to realise partnership capabilities and capacity
- v. We will support ECVS to unlock community potential, develop and deliver community led solutions.

Across the five strategic aims, the Crime Prevention Strategy covers 14 priority Areas organised into four categories:

- Serious Violence
 - Knife crime
 - Rape
 - Night-time economy
- Organised Crime
 - County lines / exploitation
 - Serious organised crime
 - Cybercrime and fraud
- Complex Needs
 - Child abuse / child sexual exploitation
 - Domestic abuse
 - Drugs and alcohol
 - Mental health
- Vulnerabilities
 - Places
 - Dwelling burglary and street robbery
 - Prevent
 - Hate crime

2.5. Essex County Fire & Rescue Service

The Essex County Fire & Rescue Plan 2019-2024 sets out the following priorities:

- Protection and response
- Improve safety on our roads
- Help the vulnerable to stay safe
- Promote positive culture in the workplace
- Develop and broaden the roles and ranges of activities undertaken by the service
- Be transparent, open and accessible
- Collaborate with our partners
- Make the best of our resources

2.6. Safer Essex

Safer Essex has the strategic lead for co-ordinating the partnership response to community safety issues and initiatives across Essex, Southend and Thurrock. Safer Essex acts as the county-wide Strategy Group for community safety.

Safer Essex brings together key partner organisations / stakeholders to work jointly and effectively to facilitate a collaborative approach between agencies and partnerships in delivering the following community safety outcomes:

- i. Prevent crime and anti-social behaviour
- ii. Prevent fires from happening
- iii. Understand and tackle hate crime
- iv. Understand and tackle violence, including violence against women and girls
- v. Improve community confidence in the multi-agency response to community safety issues
- vi. Continue to deliver effective Community Safety Hubs across Greater Essex.

2.7. Thurrock Council

Thurrock's Community Safety Partnership (CSP) supports the ambitions of Thurrock Council as set out in the **Vision and Priorities for Thurrock** agreed in January 2018²

Vision: "An ambitious and collaborative community which is proud of its heritage and excited by its diverse opportunities and future."

² www.thurrock.gov.uk/our-vision-and-priorities/vision-and-priorities-for-thurrock

Through the priorities of:

People – a borough where people of all ages are proud to work and play, live, and stay.

This means:

- high quality, consistent and accessible public services which are right first time.
- build on our partnerships with statutory, community, voluntary and faith groups to work together to improve health and wellbeing
- communities are empowered to make choices and be safer and stronger together.

Place – a heritage-rich borough which is ambitious for its future.

This means:

- roads, houses, and public spaces that connect people and places.
- clean environments that everyone has reason to take pride in
- fewer public buildings with better services

Prosperity – a borough which enables everyone to achieve their aspirations.

This means:

- attractive opportunities for businesses and investors to enhance the local economy.
- vocational and academic education, skills, and job opportunities for all
- commercial, entrepreneurial, and connected public services

The focus for Thurrock's Health and Wellbeing Strategy 2022/26³ is: "**Levelling the Playing Field**".

The Community Safety Partnership has responsibility to deliver on Domain 6 of the strategy: '**Community Safety**'.

The aims and ambitions of Domain 6 are:

- **Thurrock is a place where people feel and are safe to live, socialise, work and visit.**
- **We will also ensure that victims/survivors of crime are able to access support to cope and recover from their experiences, should they need it.**

We want Thurrock to be a place where people feel and are safe, whether this is in the community, schools, workplaces or within homes. We want to prevent and safeguard the most vulnerable in our society from being victims of crime, abuse, and exploitation. In the tragic instances where this does occur, we want to ensure that victims/survivors are able to access appropriate support to cope and recover from their experiences.

In addition, the CSP supports delivery of the following:

- Thurrock's Housing Strategy 22-27⁴ including providing safe accommodation for those fleeing domestic and sexual abuse
- Youth Justice Plan 21/24 in relation to priority 1 violence and vulnerability

³ www.thurrock.gov.uk/health-and-well-being-strategy/health-and-well-being-strategy-2022-20

⁴ www.thurrock.gov.uk/housing-strategies/housing-strategy-2022-202

3. POPULATION

3.1. Borough Profile

Data Source: Thurrock Council

Thurrock is situated on the north bank of the River Thames and borders Essex, East London and Kent, and has over 18 miles of riverfront, scenic countryside and a rich cultural heritage. Grays, Tilbury, Purfleet-on-Thames, Corringham and Stanford-le-Hope are the main towns in the borough. Rural, picturesque villages and market towns are set into the 70% of the borough which is green belt. Nature reserves, heritage locations and sites of special scientific interest abound.

- Thurrock's population increased by 11.6% from 157,700 in 2011 to 176,000 in 2021.
- 69,535 dwellings recorded as of April 2022 including a stock of 10,000 council houses of which 1,200 are sheltered and extra care homes.
- 35 minutes by train to the City of London
- Leading centre in ports & logistics, retail and creative industries and is the location of one of 8 Freeports – Thames Freeport
- Thurrock Council is one of the largest local employers with over 2,500 staff – 67% of whom are residents
- Overall levels of deprivation in Thurrock are lower than the national average, but some areas of Thurrock are among the 20% most deprived in England.
- Thurrock has a young population compared with the rest of England.
- 7.7% of the population is 0 to 4 years-old, whilst 27.1% is 0 to 19 years-old. The number of 0 to 19 year-olds in Thurrock is expected to pass 50,500 by 2037
- The proportion of 16 to 19 year-olds who are not in education, employment or training (NEET) has decreased to 4.8% in recent years, but this is still higher than the national average
- Council has 49 councillors covering 20 wards: Conservative: 25 seats, Labour: 18 seats, Independents: 5 seats, Other: 1 seat.
- From 2025 all Councillor posts will be up for election at the same time.
- The Borough has two parliamentary constituencies: Thurrock (Jackie Doyle-Price MP) and South Basildon and East Thurrock (Stephen Metcalfe MP)
- Thurrock Council served a Section 114 notice in December 2022 due to being unable to balance their budgets. There is an Enhanced Improvement and Recovery Plan in place focusing on 3 priorities: i) improving leadership to increase the rate of change ii) improving governance and controls and iii) improving financial sustainability

3.2. Population Profile

Data Source: The Office of National Statistics (ONS) is responsible for [Census 2021 data](#) and publishes regular updates.

Summary of population of Thurrock is below:

Thurrock has a diverse population that is increasing by over 10% every decade and is becoming more and more diverse with 66.2% of residents identifying as White British in 2021 compared to 80.91% in 2011.

In 2001, our population was 143,300, and by the time of the Census in 2011 it had risen to 157,700. Since then it has increased by 11.6%, with the Census of 2021 reporting the population to be 176,000.

- 51% of our population are female and 49% male
- 21% are aged 0-14, 11% aged 15 -24 and 14% are 65 years or older

Figure 1: Population Identity:

<u>Ethnic group - Census Maps, ONS.</u>	Thurrock	Region	England
White: British	66.20%	78.49%	73.54%
White: Irish	0.60%	0.91%	0.87%
White: Gypsy or Irish Traveller	0.20%	0.14%	0.11%
White: Roma	0.20%	0.15%	0.18%
White: Other White	9.60%	6.78%	6.35%
Total: White	76.80%	86.48%	81.05%
Black: African	9.20%	1.87%	2.6%
Black: Caribbean	1.20%	0.66%	1.1%
Black: Other Black	1.40%	0.38%	0.52%
Total: Black, Black British, Black Welsh, Caribbean or African	11.80%	2.92%	4.22%
Asian: Bangladeshi	1.40%	0.8%	1.11%
Asian: Chinese	0.60%	0.61%	0.76%
Asian: Indian	2.30%	2.16%	3.26%
Asian: Pakistani	1.20%	1.57%	2.78%
Asian: Other Asian	1.50%	1.27%	1.69%
Total: Asian, Asian British, or Asian Welsh	7.00%	6.41%	9.61%
Total: All Mixed or Multiple ethnic Groups	3.00%	2.84%	2.96%
Total: All Other ethnic group	1.50%	1.36%	2.18%
<u>Religion - Census Maps, ONS</u>	Thurrock	Region	England
Christian	51.70%	46.70%	46.2%
No religion	34.70%	40.2%	37.2%
Did not answer	5.20%	6.10%	6%
Muslim	4.90%	3.7%	6.5%
Hindu	1.4%	1.4%	1.8%
Sikh	1.2%	0.4%	0.9%
<u>Main language - Census Maps, ONS</u>	Thurrock	Region	England
English	88.69%	89.61%	87.9
Romanian	2.90%	0.98	0.82
Polish	1.51%	1.06	1.05
Lithuanian	1.44%	0.48	0.21

3.3. Health Profile

Data Source: Thurrock Health and Well Being Strategy

www.thurrock.gov.uk/sites/default/files/assets/documents/hwb-strategy-2022-v01.pdf

The Health and Well Being Strategy details Thurrock compared with England and the east across a range of health indicators (appendix 1 within link above). Notably for this partnership at 35.5 violent offences per 100,000 population we are considerably worse than East of England at 28.8 and England at 29.5

The strategy highlights that the playing field is not level in many key areas that impact each one of the council's priorities of People, Place and Prosperity.

- Smoking and obesity are key drivers of unequal health outcomes. Both smoking and obesity are significantly worse in Thurrock than across England and drive premature deaths from health conditions such as heart disease.
- Around two thirds of people with long term health conditions such as high blood pressure and mental ill health are not diagnosed and not receiving support. We know that certain communities have higher rates of these conditions including people living in less affluent areas, men, people with learning disability, young people and older adults, unpaid carers, certain minority ethnic groups, LGBTQ+ people
- People who felt most lonely and disconnected from their local community prior to COVID-19 in the UK now have even higher levels of loneliness. This includes young people, people living alone, those on low incomes, those out of work, or those living with a mental health condition and/or learning disability.
- Residents are concerned about the ease of seeing a GP, and we know that access and capacity in primary care differs across the borough, and sometimes within the same Ward. Quality of care also varies for both physical and mental health conditions.
- Educational attainment is generally good across Thurrock, but children who are NEET, have SEND, are Children Looked After or In Need, and from some minority ethnic groups do not achieve the same levels as their peers. While overall, 61% of GCSE pupils in Thurrock achieved 9-4 in 2019, only 10% of pupils with three disadvantages did.
- The proportion of adults in employment, the claimant count and the impact of economic growth varies between communities in Thurrock. Groups that experience inequality in employment include 18 to 24 year-olds, those living with a physical or learning disability and those with chronic diseases such as serious mental illness and musculoskeletal conditions.
- Housing affordability is a major challenge in Thurrock, with over half of households not being able to purchase a home in the borough. The fear and risk of crime continues to be a challenge for many community groups.
- The rates of recorded violent crimes are higher in Thurrock compared to England and have risen sharply since 2013. The Thurrock Youth Offending Service are seeing young people with a more entrenched pattern of offending and a greater degree of complexity and risk. National data indicates that 1 in 5 working-age women have experienced sexual violence

4. ASSESSMENT OF PARTNERSHIP PLAN 2023/24

4.1. 2023/24 Community Safety Plan Priorities

Thurrock partnership set the following priorities within its 2023/24 Community Safety Plan:

1. **Tackling disproportionality in relation to Violence Against Women and Girls** – including sexual offences, stalking and rape, whilst recognising that men and boys can also be victims
2. **Breaking the cycle of Domestic Abuse:** in line with Local Authority duties under the Domestic Abuse Act 2021
3. **Violence and Vulnerability:** Tackling gang related activity and offensive weapons to reduce drug driven violence
4. **Reduce harm to and safeguard victims from Hate Crime**
5. **Tackling Community based Anti-social Behaviour and Safeguarding victims** - including response to car cruising
6. **Counter Extremism and Terrorism:** Preventing Violent Extremism locally
7. **Human Trafficking and Modern-Day Slavery and Organised Immigration Crime**
8. **Safer Streets through Increased Visibility and Community Engagement**
9. **Tackling offending** –reducing offences in relation to theft (predominantly burglary and vehicle crime)

4.2. Implementation of 2023/24 Community Safety Plan

Our annual report summarising delivery against these priorities is at *appendix 2*

5. PUBLIC PERCEPTION

5.1. Safer Essex Community Safety Survey 2023

Data Source: Essex County Council. Data for 2023 survey.

Across Essex, the crime type that most respondents were concerned about was Burglary (82.9%), followed by Theft of/from a car/motorbike (80.6%) and Fraud/Scams (77.4%). In Thurrock the crime type that most respondents were concerned about was burglary followed by Theft of or from car/motorbike

Figure 2: residents who said they were concerned:

Crime Type	#	%	Rank
Burglary	70	87.5%	1
Theft of or from your car/motorbike	69	86.3%	2
Physical assault or robbery	62	79.5%	3
Criminal damage to your home or property	63	78.8%	4
Fraud and/or scams (either online or offline)	59	74.7%	5

Across Essex, the crime type that most respondents said they had been a victim of was Fraud/Scams (10.1%), followed by Criminal Damage (8.9%) and Theft of/from a car/motorbike (6.0%). In Thurrock the crime type that most respondents said they had been a victim of was Theft of or from car/motorbike followed by criminal damage.

Figure 3: residents who said they had been victims:

Crime type	#	%	Rank
Theft of or from your car/motorbike	7	8.8%	1
Criminal damage to your home or property	6	7.5%	2
Hate crime	5	6.3%	3
Fraud and/or scams (either online or offline)	5	6.3%	3
Sexual harassment or assault	4	5.0%	5
Burglary	3	3.8%	6
Physical assault or robbery	3	3.8%	6
Theft of your bicycle or scooter	2	2.5%	8
Theft of your personal belongings	1	1.3%	9
Domestic Abuse	1	1.3%	9

Across Essex, the ASB type that most respondents said they had seen in their area was Fly Tipping (58.3%), followed by Groups hanging around (56.0%) and People using drugs / evidence of drug taking (55.8%). In Thurrock the crime type that most respondents said they had seen in their area was groups hanging around followed by vehicle nuisance: car cruising.

Figure 4: residents who said they had witnessed:

Type of Behaviour	#	%	Rank
Groups Hanging Around	57	71.3%	1
Vehicle Nuisance: Car Cruising	53	66.3%	2
People Using / Evidence of Drugs	52	65.0%	3
Vehicle Nuisance: Off Road Motorbikes	51	63.8%	4

Across Essex, when asked to prioritise certain crime and ASB types for action by CSPs, People Using or Dealing Drugs was ranked highest (71.6%), followed by Knife Crime (63.5%), Gangs/County Lines (63.3%) and Burglary (62.8%). In Thurrock, People Using or Dealing Drugs was ranked highest (78.2%) followed by knife crime (67.9%) and Gangs/County Lines (66.7%)

(Note that respondents were asked to pick 5, though they were able to pick more than 5.)



Figure 5: residents priorities for action:






Priority	Essex			Thurrock		
	#	%	Rank	#	%	Rank
Aggressive Begging	331	25.7%	22	13	16.7%	23
Burglary	808	62.8%	4	40	51.3%	9
Criminal Damage	647	50.3%	8	35	44.9%	13
Domestic Abuse	499	38.8%	13	35	44.9%	13
Drunken Behaviour	471	36.6%	14	28	35.9%	19
Fly Tipping	673	52.3%	6	40	51.3%	9
Fraud and/or Scams	528	41.1%	11	33	42.3%	14
Gangs/County Lines	814	63.3%	3	52	66.7%	3
Graffiti	242	18.8%	23	17	21.8%	22
Groups Hanging Around	596	46.3%	9	43	55.1%	6
Hate Crime	456	35.5%	15	31	39.7%	15
Knife Crime	817	63.5%	2	53	67.9%	2
Modern Slavery	390	30.3%	20	25	32.1%	21
Nuisance Neighbours	340	26.4%	21	28	35.9%	19
People Using or Dealing Drugs	921	71.6%	1	61	78.2%	1
Physical Assault or Robbery	670	52.1%	7	45	57.7%	5
Preventing Terrorism	433	33.7%	16	30	38.5%	16
Sexual Harassment or Assault	562	43.7%	10	37	47.4%	11
Theft of Bicycles or Scooters	429	33.4%	17	29	37.2%	17
Theft Of or From Cars/Motorbikes	673	52.3%	6	46	59.0%	4
Theft of personal belongings (pick pocketing)	414	32.2%	18	25	32.1%	21
Vehicle Nuisance: Off Road Motorbike Nuisance	395	30.7%	19	40	51.3%	9
Vehicle Nuisance: Street Racing / Car Cruising	519	40.4%	12	41	52.6%	7
Other	67	5.2%	24	8	10.3%	24

5.2. Essex Police Public Perception Survey

Data Source: Essex Police. Quarter 2 2023/24 Survey.

Figure 6: Summary of Police Perception Survey

Confidence Measure	Sept 23	Sept 22	% change	Direction of travel
Residents who think local police are doing a good or excellent job	70%	76%	-6%	
Residents who agree they have confidence in the police in this area	60%	68%	-8%	

The proportion of Thurrock residents surveyed who think crime and ASB has become more of a problem	30%	34%	-4%	
Residents who agree EP understand issues affecting their community	52%	52%	0%	
Residents who think a regular uniformed police presence is very important	67%	76%	-9%	
Residents who agree EP are dealing with crime and ASB in their area	42%	48%	-6%	
Residents who are very/fairly confident of receiving a good service if they were to report a crime	69%	72%	-3%	
Residents who feel well informed about what police are doing in their area	43%	42%	+1%	

5.3. Feedback from Thurrock Annual Public Meeting

Data Source: Community Safety Partnership

1. Policing – concerns that the increase in recruitment has only brought us back to 2010 levels, concerns that the 4 Thurrock Council funded posts were cut and lack of visibility due to closure of police stations and not utilising community spaces e.g. Corringham fire station
2. Requesting that Police support an investigation in relation to Thurrock Council finances
3. The positive message in relation to decrease in crime was welcomed with some cynicism that not all anti-social behaviour is reported due to frustrations with 101 and online directs you to report to the Local Authority
4. Tilbury: concerns in relation to joy riders and fireworks in Koala Park
5. Corringham: request for funding of shop safe radios for businesses as per Grays. Positive reflection on visible police patrols
6. Chafford Hundred South: welcomed work around station but concerns in relation to drug dealing
7. Woodside estate: vandalism and ASB in the park and vehicle crime (theft of)
8. Chadwell St Mary: lack of street lighting in Ruskin Road

5.4. Other Local Consultation & Engagement

5.4.1 Member Enquiries:

Data Source: Member Enquiries received by the CSP

Whilst we have seen a reduction in member enquiries in relation to motorbike nuisance in the East of the Borough, we have had an increase in the West and complaints remain static with 14 in the period Oct 22 – Sep 23 compared to 13 in the previous year. Concerns remain in relation to car cruising in West Thurrock.

Members have also brought to our attention concerns in relation to:

- Nitrous oxide across the borough
- Neighbour disputes particularly with regards to parking
- Youth Nuisance – predominantly in Tilbury and Chadwell St Mary
- Street Drinking in Ockendon
- Speeding and youth nuisance in Corringham

5.4.2 Hate Crime Survey:

Data Source: Hate Crime Officer, Essex Police

As part of National Hate Crime Awareness Week Oct 2023, we carried out a short survey both online through hate crime ambassadors (HCA) and in Grays High Street.

Figure 7: response to hate crime survey

Question	Responses	YES	NO	% Yes	Comments
Do you know what Hate Crime is	58	52	6	90%	
Have you ever witnessed or experienced Hate Crime?	58	30	28	52%	Concerns due to dress
Do you know how to report Hate Crime?	58	45	13	78%	
Would you like to become an HCA?	58	19	32	33%	7 people responded that they are already an ambassador.

5.4.3 Thurrock IAG

Thurrock has a strong Independent Advisory Group (IAG) to Essex Police which meets bimonthly and discusses a range of topics. Common concerns raised by members include:

- Road Safety: speeding / motorbikes in Tilbury and E-scooters
- Reports of robberies at Lakeside
- Stop Search and they have set up a panel to review
- Engagement with underrepresented communities

5.4.4 Youth Listening Survey 2022/23

Data Source: Essex Council for Voluntary Youth Services

- Of 100 young people surveyed as part of the listening project in Thurrock their biggest concerns were:
 1. Knife crime
 2. Being out at night/poorly lit areas
 3. Fear of being followed
 4. Getting robbed or jumped
 5. Drugs
 6. Guns and Drugs
 7. Large groups hanging around
 8. Sexual Assault
- 61% said they weren't worried about being exploited by gangs those that were worried (39%) said it's because:
 - it's getting worse round here;
 - it's dangerous and could be life threatening;
 - they could get into trouble and throw their lives away; and
 - gangs are violent.
- 88% said they felt safe when out with friends locally saying they knew the areas that were safe/unsafe and areas to avoid at night
- What helps young people to feel safe?
 - 49% being in a group of friends
 - 11% trusted adults nearby
 - 10% knowing the area
 - 9% well-lit areas
 - 9% self-defence knowledge
 - 4% having an alarm
 - 4% staying at home
 - 4% being in busy public areas

- What makes young people feel unsafe?
 - 34% large groups
 - 13% poorly lit areas
 - 10% roadmen (those with bags believed to be delivering drugs on bikes/scooters)
 - 10% no phone
 - 9% being alone
 - 7% big cars/vans
 - 6% strangers/men
 - 6% gangs
 - 5% unfamiliar areas

- Where are the crime hotspots?
 - Burger King
 - shops on the Garrison
 - vape shops
 - Lakeside
 - the train station
 - the river
 - on the streets

- Is there anything else that would help you feel safer?
 - more police
 - places to charge phones
 - more youth clubs and activities
 - knowing where the safe spaces are
 - better more streetlights
 - CCTV
 - clean up the area

6. CRIME & ANTI SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR DATA

6.1. Factors Impacting On Crime & ASB Data

The following changes to recording/counting should be taken into consideration when reviewing the Police data on Crime & ASB:

- Stalking & Harassment: There was a change in recording processes in July 2022 which will account for some of the reduction in offences during this period.
- Trafficking of Drugs: The increase in offences will be largely as a result of proactive activity to identify and target county/drugs lines.

The following local activity or issues should be taken into consideration when reviewing the data on Crime & ASB:

- Thurrock is home to one of the largest shopping complexes in Europe at Lakeside and several ports of national significance. Lakeside welcomes more than 20 million visitors a year to its shops, restaurants and leisure facilities and brings an increased risk of attracting those determined to commit crime including vehicle crime and robbery. This sits within the ward of West Thurrock and South Stifford
- From the 2021 Census the Office for National Statistics data show 54.3% of households in Thurrock were deprived and therefore above the average across England and Wales, of 51.7%. The five areas with the highest deprivation rates were: Chadwell St Mary, Tilbury, South Ockendon, Stifford Clays and Stanford East

6.2. Crime Data

Data Source: Essex Police. NB Essex totals exclude Stanstead. Data is for October 2022 to September 2023.

In Essex a total of 155,711 offences were recorded by Essex Police during the 12 months to September 2023, of which 16,323 (10.5%) were recorded in Thurrock (the 11th highest of all 14 Districts). This equates to 83.72 offences per 1,000 population across Essex, 92.74 per 1,000 population in Thurrock (the 11th highest of all 14 Districts).

Across Essex, there was a decrease in offences of -11,403 (-6.8%), compared to Thurrock where there was a decrease in offences of -747 (-4.4%).

Figure 8: Offences by District

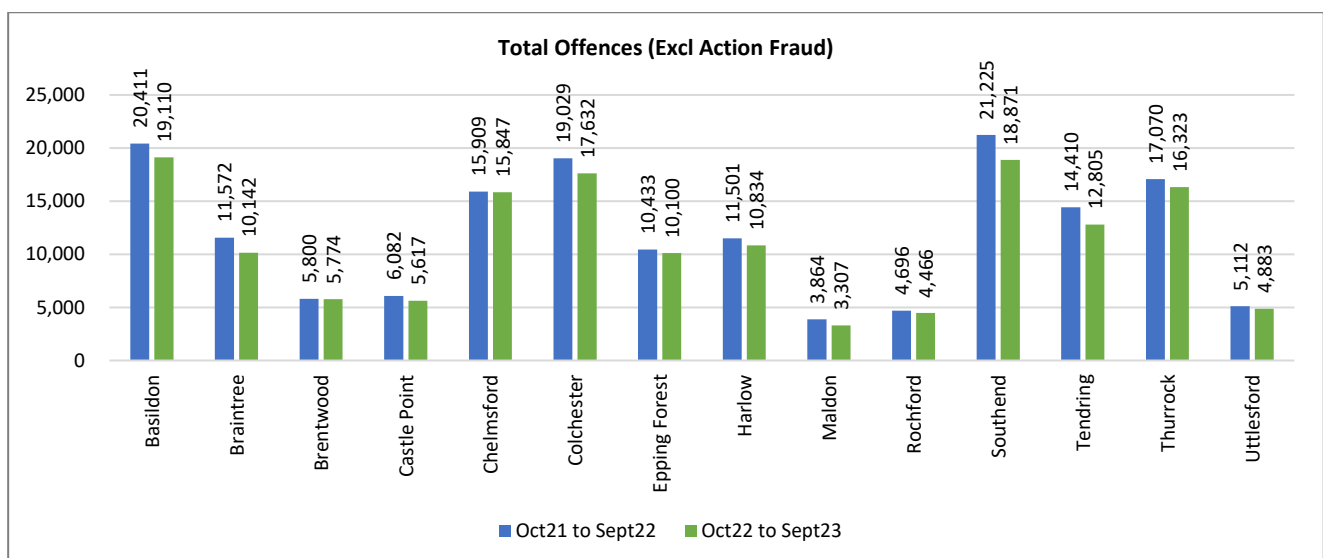


Figure 9: Offences by crime type Thurrock District

Offence	Difference 21/22 to 22/23				Difference 21/22 to 22/23		Offences Per 1,000 Population Oct22 to Sept23	
	Oct21 to Sept22	Oct22 to Sept23	Rank 22/23	% of Essex Total 22/23	# diff.	% diff.	#	Rank
Homicide	2	1	8	5.9%	-1	-50.0%	0.01	7
Violence With Injury	1,410	1,316	9	8.9%	-94	-6.7%	7.48	8
Death Or Serious Injury Caused By Unlawful Driving	1	1	4	2.8%	0	0.0%	0.01	4
Violence Without Injury	2,726	2,597	10	9.3%	-129	-4.7%	14.76	8
Stalking & Harassment	2,296	1,841	10	9.2%	-455	-19.8%	10.46	9
Rape	218	205	9	9.1%	-13	-6.0%	1.16	7
Other Sexual Offences	285	317	10	9.6%	32	11.2%	1.80	9
Robbery - Business	12	13	11	9.8%	1	8.3%	0.07	8
Robbery - Personal	157	151	11	10.8%	-6	-3.8%	0.86	10
Burglary - Residential	482	467	11	9.1%	-15	-3.1%	2.65	7
Burglary - Business & Community	196	203	12	11.1%	7	3.6%	1.15	11
Theft From A Motor Vehicle	987	1,171	14	18.0%	184	18.6%	6.65	14
Theft Of A Motor Vehicle	853	976	14	17.2%	123	14.4%	5.55	13
Vehicle Interference	336	264	14	14.0%	-72	-21.4%	1.50	13
Theft From The Person	121	137	12	12.2%	16	13.2%	0.78	12
Bicycle Theft	104	105	9	6.9%	1	1.0%	0.60	8
Shoplifting	1,235	1,383	12	12.7%	148	12.0%	7.86	12
Other Theft	1,355	1,395	12	10.8%	40	3.0%	7.93	12
Criminal Damage	1,520	1,374	11	10.6%	-146	-9.6%	7.81	9
Arson	176	137	13	14.5%	-39	-22.2%	0.78	13
Domestic Abuse	2,790	2,478	11	9.8%	-312	-11.2%	14.08	9
Trafficking Of Drugs	153	153	10	9.3%	0	0.0%	0.87	9
Possession Of Drugs	307	366	11	9.5%	59	19.2%	2.08	9
Possession Of Weapons Offences	138	135	9	7.9%	-3	-2.2%	0.77	5
Public Order Offences	1,633	1,236	10	8.9%	-397	-24.3%	7.02	8
Hate Crime	531	468	12	12.2%	-63	-11.9%	2.66	13
All Crime	17,070	16,323	11	10.5%	-747	-4.4%	92.74	11

7. Appendices

7.1. Risk Matrix

To ensure partnership data is managed in a consistent way, and that the right priorities are identified, a risk matrix was completed. This process assists the CSP with justification as to why an issue is or is not included as a strategic priority.

The completion of a risk matrix is a method used as part of a risk assessment process to be able to define the level of risk associated to multiple factors, against a range of criteria. It is however recognised that this matrix has limitations in being able to assess all community safety issues and is used only as part of the overall assessment.

The risk matrix for Thurrock is shown on the next page.

Appendix 1: Risk matrix

Offence	Risk Matrix																			Total	Rank
	Volume				Performance				Harm, Risk & Impact					CSP Approach of Benefit	Priorities						
	Oct 2021 to Sept 2022	Oct 2022 to Sept 2023	Score	Essex Ranking * (1=lowest)	# Difference	% Difference	Score	Trend Compared To Essex	Harm to Property	Physical Harm to People	Psychological Harm to People	Risk to Vulnerable Groups	Hidden Crime		PFCC Priority	Police Priority	Local Priority (CSP)	Community Priority (CSP)			
Violence Against The Person	6,435	5,756	2	8	-679	-10.6%	-2	-1	0	2	2	1	1	1	1	0	1	1	17		
Homicide	2	1	1	7	-1	-50.0%	0	-1	0	2	2	1	0	1	1	0	0	1	15		
Violence With Injury	1,410	1,316	1	8	-94	-6.7%	-1	-1	0	2	2	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	18		
Death Or Serious Injury Caused By Unlawful Driving	1	1	1	5	0	0.0%	0	0	0	2	2	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	11		
Violence Without Injury	2,726	2,597	1	8	-129	-4.7%	-1	-1	0	0	2	1	1	1	1	0	1	1	15		
Stalking & Harassment	2,296	1,841	1	9	-455	-19.8%	-2	-1	0	0	2	1	1	2	1	0	1	0	15		
Sexual Offences	503	522	1	8	19	3.8%	0	-2	0	2	2	1	2	2	1	1	1	0	19		
Rape	218	205	1	7	-13	-6.0%	0	-1	0	2	2	1	2	2	1	1	1	0	19		
Other Sexual Offences	285	317	1	9	32	11.2%	0	-2	0	2	2	1	2	2	1	0	1	0	19		
Robbery	169	164	1	10	-5	-3.0%	0	2	2	1	2	1	0	1	0	1	1	1	23		
Robbery - Business	12	13	1	8	1	8.3%	0	1	2	1	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	15		
Robbery - Personal	157	151	1	10	-6	-3.8%	0	2	2	1	2	1	0	1	0	1	1	1	23		
Burglary	678	670	1	7	-8	-1.2%	0	2	2	0	2	1	0	1	0	1	0	0	17		
Burglary - Residential	482	467	1	7	-15	-3.1%	0	2	2	0	2	1	0	1	0	1	0	0	17		
Burglary - Business & Community	196	203	1	11	7	3.6%	0	-2	2	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	14		
Vehicle Offences	2,176	2,411	1	13	235	10.8%	2	1	2	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	21		
Theft From A Motor Vehicle	987	1,171	1	14	184	18.6%	2	1	2	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	22		
Theft Of A Motor Vehicle	853	976	1	13	123	14.4%	2	1	2	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	21		
Vehicle Interference	336	264	1	13	-72	-21.4%	-2	2	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	17		
Theft	2,815	3,020	1	11	205	7.3%	1	1	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	16		
Theft From The Person	121	137	1	12	16	13.2%	0	-2	1	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	14		
Bicycle Theft	104	105	1	8	1	1.0%	0	-2	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	9		
Shoplifting	1,235	1,383	1	12	148	12.0%	2	1	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	18		
Other Theft	1,355	1,395	1	12	40	3.0%	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	16		
Arson & Criminal Damage	1,696	1,511	1	11	-185	-10.9%	-2	-1	2	0	1	1	0	2	0	0	0	0	15		
Criminal Damage	1,520	1,374	1	9	-146	-9.6%	-1	-1	1	0	1	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	12		
Arson	176	137	1	6	-39	-22.2%	0	-1	2	1	1	1	0	2	0	0	0	0	13		
Domestic Abuse	2,790	2,478	1	9	-312	-11.2%	-2	-1	0	2	2	2	2	2	1	1	1	0	20		
High Risk Domestic Abuse	336	290	1	12	-46	-13.7%	0	-1	0	2	2	2	2	2	1	1	1	0	25		
Medium Risk Domestic Abuse	383	344	1	10	-39	-10.2%	0	-1	0	2	2	2	2	2	1	1	1	0	23		
Standard Risk Domestic Abuse	1,974	1,691	1	10	-283	-14.3%	-2	-1	0	1	2	2	2	2	1	1	1	0	20		
Drug Offences	469	519	0	9	50	9.6%	1	1	0	0	0	2	2	1	1	1	0	1	19		
Trafficking Of Drugs	153	153	1	9	-316	-67.4%	-2	2	0	0	0	2	2	1	1	1	0	1	18		
Possession Of Drugs	307	366	1	9	59	19.2%	2	-2	0	0	0	2	1	1	0	1	0	1	16		
Possession Of Weapons Offences	138	135	1	5	-3	-2.2%	0	2	0	0	0	1	1	1	1	0	1	1	14		
Public Order Offences	1,633	1,236	1	8	-397	-24.3%	-2	-1	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	7		
Hate Crime HO Definition	367	379	1	13	12	3.3%	0	-2	0	1	2	2	2	2	0	1	1	0	23		
ASB (Police)	2,543	1,712	1	11	-831	-32.7%	-2	-1	0	0	2	2	1	2	0	0	1	1	18		
Environment	125	74	1	12	-51	-40.8%	-2	-1	1	0	0	1	0	2	0	0	1	1	16		
Nuisance	785	984	1	12	199	25.4%	2	1	0	0	1	1	1	2	0	0	1	1	23		
Personal	1,633	654	1	11	-979	-60.0%	-2	-1	0	0	2	1	1	2	0	0	1	0	16		

*per1,000 residents

