

**Meeting: EXECUTIVE**

**Agenda Item:**

**10**

Portfolio Area: Safer Communities and Equalities

**Date: 16 FEBRUARY 2016**

## **CRIME REPORTING AND PERFORMANCE**

### **NON-KEY DECISION**

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#### **1 PURPOSE**

- 1.1 To highlight national changes made to the crime recording process, which have affected levels of recorded crime in Stevenage and across Hertfordshire.
- 1.2 To provide analysis in relation to the three Community Safety related Balanced Score Card measures – antisocial behaviour (ASB), violence against the person, and criminal damage.

#### **2 RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 2.1 That a further report be brought to the Executive in April, after the SoSafe Community Safety Partnership (CSP) has completed a more detailed analysis of crime trend data; which will be considered by the Responsible Authorities Group (RAG) in order to inform future priorities.

#### **3 BACKGROUND**

- 3.1 At the Executive meeting on Tuesday 15 December 2015, Members expressed concern that the three community safety Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) were red for the second consecutive quarter:
  - ASB per 1000 head of population
  - violence against the person per 1000 head of population
  - criminal damage per 1000 head of population.
- 3.2 The measures rely solely on police provided quarterly data for recorded crime counts during each period.
- 3.3 Given that community safety and the fear of crime had been identified as priorities by residents through the 2015 residents' survey and at Stevenage

Day, the Executive requested that officers in conjunction with the Police, present a report to them in early 2016.

3.4 For the purposes of this report and in order to demonstrate the wider impact of recording practices on crime data, crimes other than those covered by the balanced scorecard have also been considered. Please note, alcohol related crime has not been included in this report for the following reasons:

- when crimes are flagged as alcohol related, a subjective decision is made by the arresting or reporting officer which may not be consistent across the constabulary
- when the new crime recording system, 'Solomon' was implemented in 2013, it did not initially have an alcohol related flag which meant that qualifying crimes were not always identified correctly – therefore it is not possible to compare data between 2012 and 2014.

3.5 Hertfordshire Constabulary has stated that an increase in various crime types across the county follows a national trend; and that a contributing factor for this increase is the change in recording practices implemented by the Home Office during 2014/2015. Countywide crime increases and decreases are reported by the Constabulary to the Police and Crime Commissioner's (PCC) quarterly community safety board, through the production of a crime 'dashboard'. The dashboard also measures the Constabulary against most similar Forces in England, of which Hertfordshire Constabulary is in the top position with the lowest overall crime rate. The latest available dashboard (December 2015) can be viewed in **Appendix A**. It shows an increase across all crime types year on year, in particular violent crimes, domestic abuse, serious sexual offences and public disorder. However, since the previous Community Safety Board meeting (Sept 2015), the direction of travel for some crime types have started to reverse (e.g. recorded crime rates for assaults, serious sexual offences and public disorder have decreased, when compared to the previous quarter).

### 3.6 Changes to national crime recording standards

3.6.1 A 2014 inquiry by the Public Administration Select Committee (PASC) into crime statistics,<sup>1</sup> sought to address allegations of under-recording of crime by the police. As a result, during 2014, Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary (HMIC) carried out a national inspection of crime data integrity. The final report *Crime-recording: making the victim count*,<sup>2</sup> was published on 18 November 2014.

3.6.2 Based on an audit of a large sample of records (from November 2012 – October 2013), HMIC concluded that, across England and Wales as a whole, an estimated one in five offences (19%) that should have been recorded as crimes were not; the greatest levels of under-recording were seen for violence

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<sup>1</sup>[https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/329819/41437\\_Cm\\_8910\\_web\\_accessible.pdf](https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/329819/41437_Cm_8910_web_accessible.pdf)

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.justiceinspectorates.gov.uk/hmic/wp-content/uploads/crime-recording-making-the-victim-count.pdf>

against the person offences (33%) and sexual offences (26%); however there was considerable variation in the level of under-recording across the different offence types investigated (for example, burglary 11%).<sup>3</sup>

3.6.3 The HMIC report for Hertfordshire Constabulary<sup>4</sup> found that some of the sample incidents were not recorded (51 out of 181) and that a small proportion was recorded incorrectly (4 out of 130). Nine crimes that came into the police via other systems were not recorded, but the Constabulary had a 100% record for logging directly reported crimes. HMIC assessed 75 incidents recorded as 'no crimes', and judged four of those to be incorrect. Chief Constable Andy Bliss stated publicly in November 2014 that all incidents would be recorded correctly, even if that meant increases to the recorded crime rate<sup>5</sup>. Hertfordshire's PCC, David Lloyd, reiterated the need for accurate reporting.<sup>6</sup>

3.6.4 In April 2015, the Home Office revised the Crime Recording General Rules<sup>7</sup> for all police forces across England and Wales. The revisions were fully implemented from June 2015 and included the following:

- When an incident is reported, a balance of probabilities test is applied (i.e. 'is the incident more likely than not the result of a criminal act') – first point of contact reporting is usually sufficient to meet the balance of probabilities decision making process (i.e. all incidents are recorded as a crime).
- Where there are grounds to suspect that a 'victim related' crime has taken place, but no victim can be immediately identified, a crime must still be recorded.
- Where a victim declines to support an investigation or prosecution, a crime must still be recorded.
- A third party report should be recorded as a crime, regardless of whether or not the victim has given permission for the reporting individual to speak to the police.
- Once recorded, a crime will remain recorded unless additional verifiable information is found and documented, which determines that no notifiable crime has occurred.

3.6.5 An Office for National Statistics (ONS) statement in October 2015<sup>8</sup> made reference to the impact of improved crime recording on certain crime data. Their statement said:

- There was a 5% national increase in police recorded crime compared with the previous year. A large part of this rise is thought to be due to

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<sup>3</sup> Ibid.

<sup>4</sup> *Crime data integrity – inspection of Hertfordshire Constabulary*, published by HMIC, August 2014.

<sup>5</sup> [http://www.stalbansreview.co.uk/news/11612294.Hertfordshire\\_\\_\\_s\\_top\\_policeman\\_\\_Incidents\\_will\\_be\\_recorded\\_correctly\\_\\_\\_even\\_if\\_it\\_means\\_higher\\_crime\\_rate/](http://www.stalbansreview.co.uk/news/11612294.Hertfordshire___s_top_policeman__Incidents_will_be_recorded_correctly___even_if_it_means_higher_crime_rate/)

<sup>6</sup> <http://www.hertscommissioner.org/2014-05-commissioner-comments-on-hmic-report>

<sup>7</sup> [https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/489732/count-general-january-2016.pdf](https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/489732/count-general-january-2016.pdf)

<sup>8</sup> <http://www.ons.gov.uk/ons/rel/crime-stats/crime-statistics/year-ending-june-2015/index.html>

improved compliance with national recording standards by police forces.

- The *Crime Survey for England & Wales (CSEW)*<sup>9</sup> estimate for violent crime showed no significant change compared with the previous year's survey. Conversely, there was a rise in violence against the person offences recorded by the police (up by 25%). This was driven by increases within the violence without injury sub-group which was up by 33%. Such offences are thought to be prone to increase due to changes in recording practice.
- There were increases in the more serious categories of police recorded violence including a 16% rise in violence with injury. Possession of a knife or sharp instrument increased by 9% whilst other selected offences involving knives and sharp instruments increased by 4%. This rise may represent a real change in the downward trend seen in recent years and more proactive police response. It is possible that improvements to the recording of violent offences is also a contributing factor.
- Sexual offences recorded by the police continued to rise with the latest figures up 41% on the previous year. The numbers of rapes and other sexual offences are at the highest level since the introduction of the National Crime Recording Standard (NCRS) in 2002/03. As well as improvements in recording, this is also thought to reflect a greater willingness of victims to come forward to report such crimes.

3.6.6 It should also be noted that the reporting of historical sexual crimes has increased as a result of Operation Yew Tree (since 2012) and the 'Jimmy Saville effect.' In June 2015, the ONS<sup>10</sup> reported the highest level of sexual offences recorded, and the largest annual percentage increase since the introduction of the National Crime Recording Standard in April 2002. Both current and historical offences (those that took place over 12 months before being reported) continued to rise in the year ending June 2015 compared with the previous year<sup>11</sup>.

3.6.7 A December 2015 HMIC progress report into the police response to domestic abuse<sup>12</sup> (DA) found that 'there has been a 31% increase in the number of DA related crimes recorded in England and Wales since March 2014. The ONS suggests that this is due in part to police forces improving their recording of DA incidents as crimes. Forces have also been actively encouraging victims to come forward.'

#### **4 REASONS FOR RECOMMENDED COURSE OF ACTION AND OTHER OPTIONS**

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<sup>9</sup> CSEW results reflect public perceptions, experiences and opinions, not rates of crime.

<sup>10</sup> <http://www.ons.gov.uk/ons/rel/crime-stats/crime-statistics/year-ending-june-2015/stb-crime--ye-june-2015.html#tab-Sexual-offences>

<sup>11</sup> <http://www.ons.gov.uk/ons/rel/crime-stats/crime-statistics/year-ending-june-2015/stb-crime--ye-june-2015.html#tab-Sexual-offences>

<sup>12</sup> *Increasingly everyone's business: A progress report on the police response to domestic abuse*, published by HMIC, December 2015

## 4.1 County trend data

4.1.1 In October 2015, Scott Crudgington, the Chair of SoSafe's Responsible Authorities Group (RAG) requested that a piece of work be undertaken, to analyse longer term county wide trends in terms of Community Safety Partnership (CSP) performance, against various crime types and most similar groups. This work is being progressed and will be presented to RAG in April 2016. However, the following can be ascertained from the emerging findings<sup>13</sup>:

- all districts had an increase in recorded violent crime between August 2013 and July 2015
- all districts had steadily increasing recorded DA crimes since August 2013, with no obvious peak
- recorded crime rates for most crime types have fluctuated at a similar rate across all ten districts during the last two years
- all districts (except Broxbourne) had increased rates of ASB between August 2013 and July 2015
- seven districts had increased rates of serious acquisitive crime between August 2013 and July 2015 – Stevenage recorded a decrease and the lowest rate in the county as of July 2015.

4.1.2 This initial trend analysis seems to demonstrate a direct correlation between the timeline of system changes, the HMIC review and revisions to crime recording standards. This is most noticeable during 2013 (around the time that the recording system changed to 'Solomon'), summer 2014 (while the HMIC review was ongoing) and post April 2015 (when new crime recording standards were implemented). It is possible that increases are also caused by a greater public awareness of certain issues and how to report them following a heightened media response.

4.1.3 The tables below demonstrate the initial findings of trend data relating to six years of recorded crime for Hertfordshire<sup>14</sup>.

## 4.2 ASB

Figure 1a (below) provides a count of all ASB incidents recorded by the Constabulary in each district for six consecutive years (August 2009 to July 2015). The data tells us that there was a 5.8% increase in ASB for the whole of Hertfordshire between August 2013 and July 2015 (1412 recorded incidents). The increase for Stevenage during that period was 12.9% (288 recorded incidents). Figure 1b shows the trend patterns for each district during the six year period. Stevenage CSP is signified by a black line and was positioned fifth in the county rankings as of July 2015. Three Rivers is in first

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<sup>13</sup> Data has been captured from previous strategic assessment analysis, Instant Atlas and quarterly RAG reports.

<sup>14</sup> Please note: the data provided is taken from the Annual strategic assessment, which is produced at the end of each calendar year. Recorded crime is counted between 1 August and 31 July each year for the purposes of the strategic assessment report. **Data for 1 August 2014 – 31 July 2015 has not been formally verified or published at the time of writing this report.**

place (first recording the lowest number of crimes, ten recording the highest number of crimes).

Figure 1a

ASB - count							
	Aug09-Jul10	Aug10-Jul11	Aug11-Jul12	Aug12-Jul13	Aug13-Jul14	Aug14-Jul15	Percentage Difference between Year 5 and 6
Broxbourne	6651	5530	4642	3393	2541	2500	1.64%
Dacorum	8708	7155	5690	3917	2821	3017	6.94%
East Hertfordshire	6838	5629	4397	2841	2284	2573	12.65%
Hertsmere	5577	4591	3884	2735	2192	2329	6.25%
North Hertfordshire	5932	4983	3782	2677	2134	2227	4.36%
St. Albans	7241	5515	4167	3065	2467	2602	5.47%
Stevenage	6903	5651	4335	3056	2231	2519	12.90%
Three Rivers	4488	3148	2627	1998	1488	1543	3.69%
Watford	7659	6013	4993	3346	2795	2838	1.54%
Welwyn Hatfield	8071	6378	5135	3610	3198	3415	6.79%

Fig 1a – count of Hertfordshire ASB incidents from Aug 09-Jul 15

Figure 1b

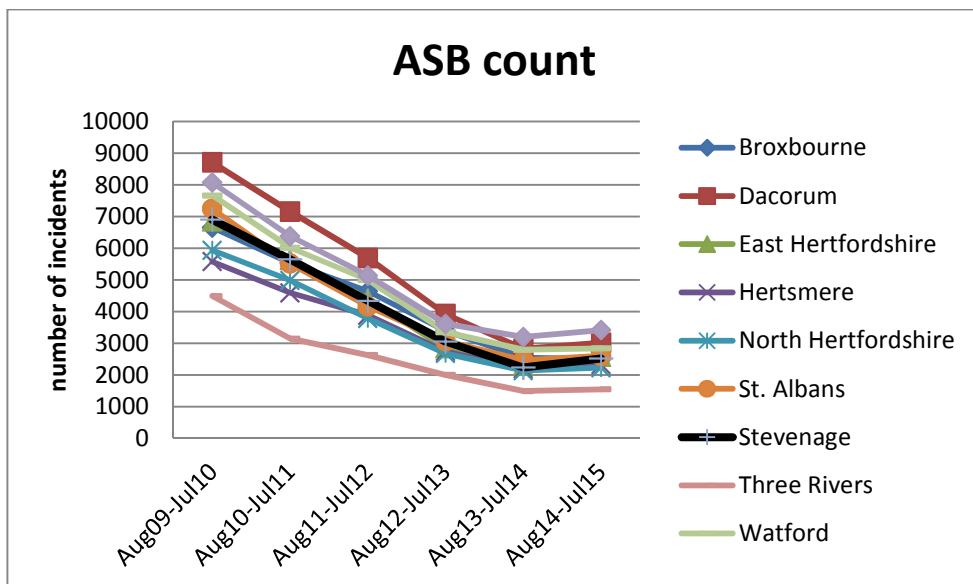


Fig 1 - Trend patterns showing increase in ASB since 2013/14, following a step decline.

### 4.3 Criminal damage

Figure 2a (below) provides a count of all criminal damage incidents recorded by the Constabulary in each district for three consecutive years (August 2012 to July 2015). The data tells us that there was a 10.8% increase in criminal damage for the whole of Hertfordshire between year two and three (663 recorded incidents). The increase for Stevenage during that period was 14.4% (90 recorded incidents). Figure 2b shows the trend patterns for each district during the three year period. Stevenage is signified by a black line and was

positioned eighth in the county rankings as of July 2015. Three Rivers is in first place.

Figure 2a

Criminal damage count				
	Aug12-Jul13	Aug13-Jul14	Aug14-Jul15	Percentage Difference between Year 2 and 3
Broxbourne	605	594	664	11.78%
Dacorum	946	934	984	5.35%
East Hertfordshire	656	607	654	7.74%
Hertsmere	579	495	596	20.40%
North Hertfordshire	634	649	668	2.93%
St. Albans	621	584	612	4.79%
Stevenage	680	623	713	14.45%
Three Rivers	334	361	423	17.17%
Watford	713	630	691	9.68%
Welwyn Hatfield	632	614	749	21.99%

Fig 2a - count of Hertfordshire criminal damage incidents from Aug 09-Jul 15

Figure 2b

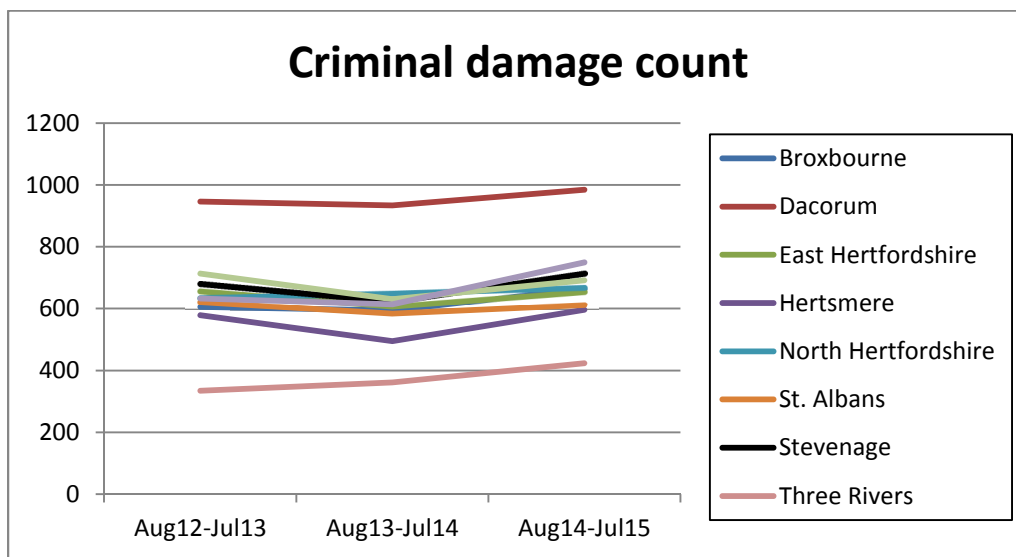


Fig 2b - Trend patterns showing increase criminal damage across Herts since Aug 2013/14

#### 4.4 Violent crime

Figure 3a provides a count of all violent crime incidents recorded by the Constabulary in each district for six consecutive years (August 2009 to July 2015). The data tells us that there was a 29.1% increase in violent crime for the whole of Hertfordshire between year five and six (3589 recorded incidents). The increase for Stevenage during that period was 19.9% (320

recorded incidents). Figure 3b shows the trend patterns for each district during the six year period. Stevenage is signified by a black line and is positioned ninth in the county rankings as of July 2015. Three Rivers is in first place.

Figure 3a

Violent crime count							
	Aug09-Jul10	Aug10-Jul11	Aug11-Jul12	Aug12-Jul13	Aug13-Jul14	Aug14-Jul15	Percentage Difference between Year 5 and 6
Broxbourne	1249	1218	1201	1060	1221	1539	26.04%
Dacorum	1522	1380	1309	1223	1418	1915	35.05%
East Hertfordshire	1376	1278	1166	1018	1180	1471	24.66%
Hertsmere	976	872	936	791	955	1351	41.47%
North Hertfordshire	1207	1236	1226	1112	1153	1476	28.01%
St. Albans	1236	1106	1083	976	1267	1555	22.73%
Stevenage	1658	1550	1524	1568	1603	1923	19.96%
Three Rivers	549	467	510	468	573	805	40.49%
Watford	1592	1374	1533	1529	1622	1999	23.24%
Welwyn Hatfield	1361	1374	1309	1141	1340	1887	40.82%

Fig 3a - Violent crime - number of recorded incidents for Herts districts Aug 09-Jul 15

Figure 3b

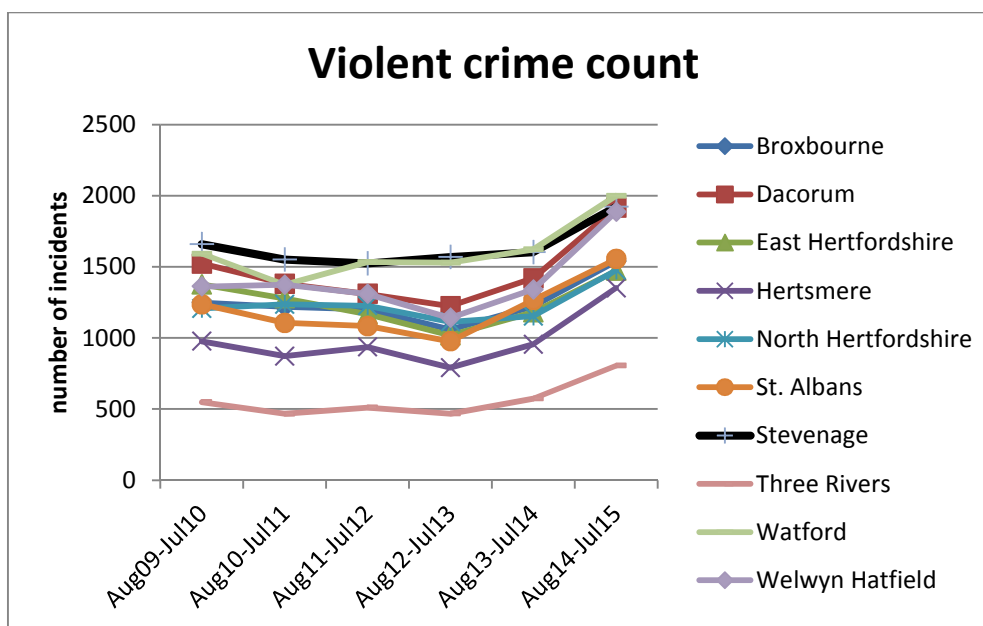


Fig 3b - Trend patterns showing violent crime increase since 2012/13, following a steady decline.

#### 4.5 Serious Acquisitive crime<sup>15</sup>

<sup>15</sup> Serious acquisitive crime - domestic burglary (residence), theft of a motor vehicle, theft from a motor vehicle and robbery (people and business).



Figure 4a provides a count of all serious acquisitive crime incidents recorded by the Constabulary in each district for six consecutive years (August 2009 to July 2015). The data tells us that there was a 4.3% increase in serious acquisitive crime for the whole of Hertfordshire between year five and six (367 recorded incidents). Stevenage saw a decrease during that period of 22.5% (- 147 recorded incidents). Stevenage CSP currently has the lowest rate in the county for this crime type. Figure 4b shows the trend patterns for each district during the six year period. Stevenage is signified by a black line and is positioned first in the county rankings as of July 2015.

Figure 4a

SAC - count							
	Aug09-Jul10	Aug10-Jul11	Aug11-Jul12	Aug12-Jul13	Aug13-Jul14	Aug14-Jul15	Percentage Difference between Year 5 and 6
Broxbourne	1631	1333	1210	1036	1051	1092	3.90%
Dacorum	1753	1556	1429	1220	1223	1163	5.16%
East Hertfordshire	1206	1164	900	907	891	943	5.83%
Hertsmere	1271	1377	1087	990	845	1077	27.46%
North Hertfordshire	1145	956	800	790	750	671	11.77%
St. Albans	1633	1180	1115	1013	917	993	8.29%
<b>Stevenage</b>	<b>835</b>	<b>873</b>	<b>637</b>	<b>563</b>	<b>652</b>	<b>505</b>	<b>29.10%</b>
Three Rivers	902	772	740	546	554	564	1.80%
Watford	1247	1185	994	799	757	872	15.19%
Welwyn Hatfield	1282	1035	829	808	869	996	14.61%

Fig 4a - Serious acquisitive crime - number of recorded incidents for Herts districts Aug 09-Jul 15

Figure 4b

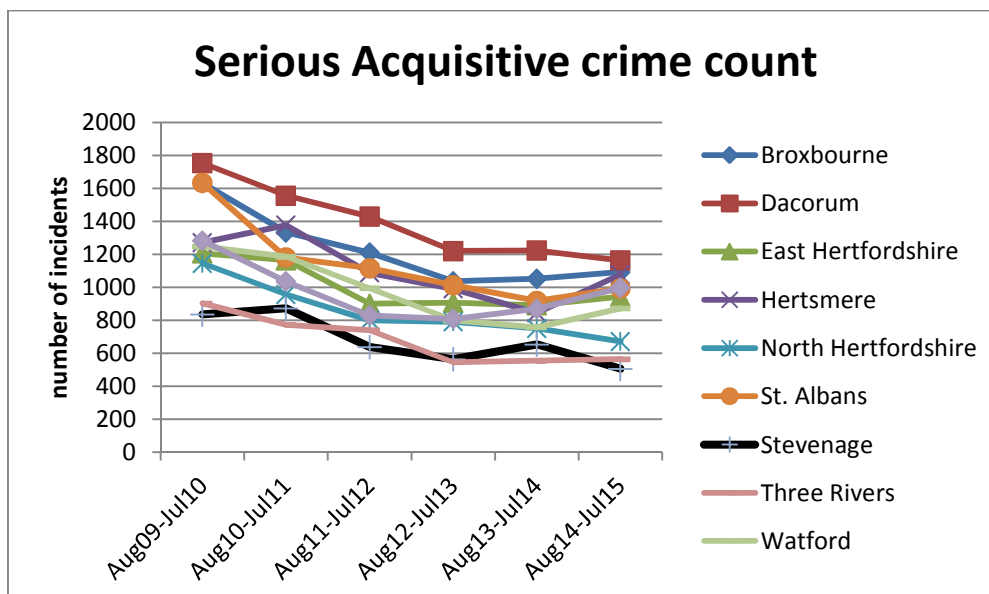


Fig 4b - Trend patterns showing increase for most districts since 2013/14 with a decrease for Stevenage.

## 4.6 Domestic abuse

Figure 5a provides a count of all domestic abuse crime incidents recorded by the Constabulary in each district for three consecutive years (August 2012 to July 2015). The data tells us that there was a 17.8% increase in domestic abuse crime for the whole of Hertfordshire between year two and three (2469 recorded incidents). The increase for Stevenage during that period was 17.8% (286 recorded incidents). Figure 5b shows the trend patterns for each district during the three year period. Stevenage is signified by a black line and is positioned eighth in the county rankings at July 2015. Three Rivers is first.

Figure 5a

Domestic abuse count				
	Aug12- Jul13	Aug13- Jul14	Aug14- Jul15	Percentage Difference between Year 2 and 3
Broxbourne	1238	1375	1642	19.42%
Dacorum	1498	1697	2170	27.87%
East Hertfordshire	1054	1142	1335	16.90%
Hertsmere	1291	1439	1539	6.95%
North Hertfordshire	1213	1372	1647	20.04%
St. Albans	1061	1220	1427	16.97%
Stevenage	1494	1605	1891	17.82%
Three Rivers	816	928	1053	13.47%
Watford	1345	1445	1667	15.36%
Welwyn Hatfield	1622	1621	1942	19.80%

Fig 5a - Domestic abuse - number of recorded incidents for Herts districts Aug 12-Jul 15

Figure 5b

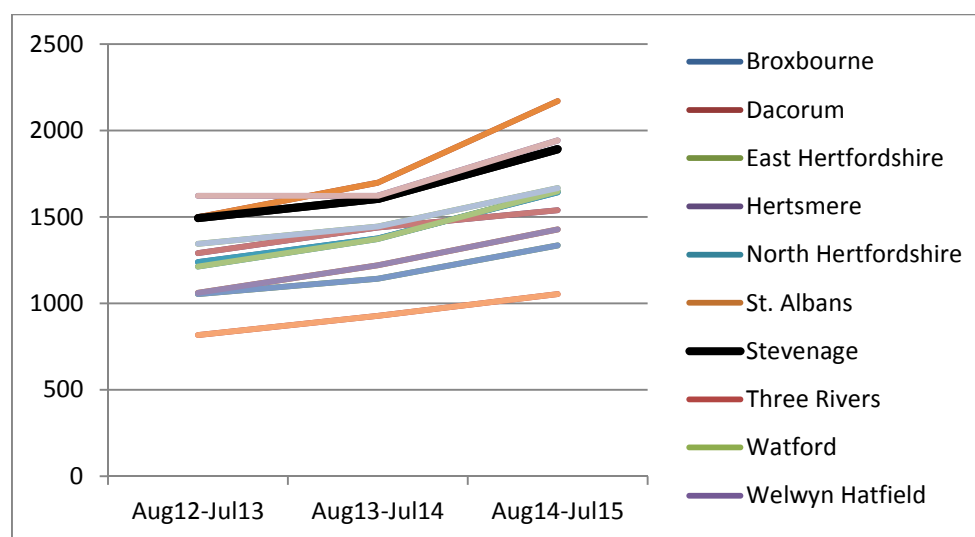


Fig 5b – DA trend patterns showing increase for all districts since 2013/14.

## **4.7 Local issues and mitigation activities**

### **4.8 Antisocial behaviour**

4.8.2 Local issues have been a contributing factor to an increase in ASB and criminal damage over the last year. Members will be aware that there have been particular problems with youth ASB (and associated criminal damage / deliberate fire incidents) in Shephall, mainly around the Hyde neighbourhood centre, which has led to an increase in ASB for at least 18 months. Shephall has become a primary hotspot for ASB as a result, joining the consistent hotspots of Old Town and Bedwell.

4.8.3 SoSafe has been seeking to mitigate this issue since the first serious spike in ASB incidents occurred during quarter two 2014 (an increase of 14.7% or 97 recorded incidents). Another spike followed in quarter three (an increase of 34.4% or 146 recorded incidents).

4.8.4 Mitigating actions taken include:

- increased police and partnership patrols in the areas
- use of community protection notice warnings issued to parents in regards to their child's behaviour
- development of sporting and other diversionary activities in partnership with Child UK, Youth Connexions, YMCA and Pod 53
- development of a mentoring programme involving youth workers targeting the most hard to reach young people
- increased communication with residents and shop keepers
- targeting issues at hot times and days
- plans for 15 The Hyde to become a youth hub for use by children, young people and partner agencies.

4.8.5 As a result of these mitigating factors, RAG has started to observe decreasing antisocial behaviour in hotspot areas such as Bedwell and the Old Town. During quarter three 2015/16, the year on year comparisons showed a decrease in Bedwell of -16.9% (87 crimes); and a decrease in the Old Town of -14.1% (28 crimes). There was a slight increase in Shephall (+2.8% or 7 crimes), but this is a major improvement on the high increases noted in the previous three quarters. RAG expects this improvement to continue into 2016/17.

4.8.6 Proposals for a Public Spaces Protection Order (PSPO) have recently been open to public consultation, the results of which will be presented to the Executive in March. If agreed, this Order will provide the Council and partners with another tool to deter and reduce wider ASB issues in hot spot locations.

### **4.9 Criminal damage**

4.9.2 Criminal damage and deliberate fire incidents have also been concentrated, disproportionately to the rest of the borough, around the Hyde and nearby

parks / open spaces. During quarter one 2015, criminal damage increased by 67 recorded incidents (up 35%). Of those incidents, 13 were linked to youth ASB in Shephall (which equated to a 65% increase in criminal damage incidents in that ward). A high proportion of criminal damage during this time period was recorded in April during the school Easter holidays.

4.9.3 During quarter four 2014, Stevenage experienced 16 deliberate fires, with 15 of those occurring in Shephall (mainly in open spaces and parks). These fires were attributed to the increase in youth ASB and criminal damage in the area, and the pattern repeated itself during the following quarter.

4.9.4 The interrelation between criminal damage and ASB was more pronounced during 2015 than at any other time in the last five years. Relevant sections of the RAG reports from 2014 and 2015, in relation to ASB, criminal damage and deliberate fire, are attached in Appendix B for information.

4.9.5 In order to mitigate against criminal damage and deliberate fires, in addition to the actions noted above, partner agencies:

- led by Herts Fire and Rescue Service (HFRS) undertook partnership high visibility patrols in the parks and open spaces around Shephall, in order to deter crime and engage with young people
- provided outreach services and sporting activities by directly engaging with young people in parks and open spaces
- undertook a period of sporting activities using Barnwell School facilities.

4.9.6 Although there was an increase in criminal damage in Shephall during quarter three 2015/16 (+25%), the position has improved considerably in comparison to previous quarters mirroring the pattern seen in relation to ASB. Likewise, the rate of deliberate fires has decreased considerably during the last two quarters, with two deliberate fires being recorded in Shephall (vehicle fires not linked to the ASB demonstrated in the preceding months).

4.9.7 It is clear that many factors contribute to an increase or decrease in crime. Sometimes an increase in recorded crime may not necessarily be considered as negative; for example in the case of domestic abuse, whereby increased reports could signify better reporting methods, better agency contact and greater public awareness. Increased reporting should be encouraged and celebrated in these cases.

#### **4.10 Domestic abuse**

4.10.2 A steady increase in domestic abuse cases has been recorded for a long period of time. Although some of this can be attributed to improved recording standards over the last 18 months, the slower rate of ascent in comparison to other districts suggests that reporting may not be due to an actual increase in crime, but potentially because the borough is doing something right in terms of encouraging reporting and protecting victims; potentially due to high profile

activity brought forward by the Stevenage Against Domestic Abuse steering group. This something which the RAG will explore more fully during 2016/17.

4.10.3 The increase in recorded crime due to improved recording standards has skewed the data somewhat. Therefore it is difficult to ascertain the level and severity of crimes within each recording category (e.g. how much of the violent crime data relates to minor injury or serious injury / assault). Hertfordshire Constabulary is confident that a clearer picture will emerge after at least one year's worth of the revised recording data has been collated and analysed.

#### **4.11 Future RAG activity**

4.11.2 In consultation with Stevenage police, it has been recognised that the annual strategic assessment and Hertfordshire 'dashboard' do not provide a detailed enough examination of crime patterns in Stevenage. With police and Council resources continuing to be under pressure, it is imperative that the CSP takes a targeted approach to crime in Stevenage, by identifying offenders, victims and locations against each crime type. This can only be done through strategic analysis, allowing for a thorough understanding of the issues faced by the council and its partners. A report will be presented to RAG in April 2016, which will provide a detailed analysis of various crime types, with comparators against other Hertfordshire districts and the CSP's most similar groups. This will provide the CSP with the information it needs to take a more focussed and targeted approach to prevent and reduce crime in Stevenage. Results of this analysis will be reported to the Executive as early as possible post the April RAG meeting.

## **5 IMPLICATIONS**

### **5.1 Financial Implications**

5.1.1 Community safety in Stevenage is supported through the following funding:

- Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC) community safety grant (£19,900pa)
- the Council funds three additional Police Community Support Officers (PCSO's) under a SLA with Herts Constabulary, who match fund a further three PCSOs (£85,500pa provided by the Council)
- ASB enforcement is undertaken by the Council's ASB team (4 full time staff and related ongoing costs)
- strategic ASB is supported by one officer funded through the Council's New Homes Bonus scheme (for two years from the 2015/16 allocation)
- DA is supported by two officers funded through the Council's New Homes Bonus scheme (for two years) 2015/16 allocation.
- the community safety partnership is supported through existing resources within the Council's policy team (0.5 FTE staff and related ongoing costs).

5.1.2 The PCC recently advised Hertfordshire CSPs that a new funding model for allocation of community safety grants will start in 2017/18. It will be based on a bidding process and granted to CSPs against local and shared community safety priorities.

## **5.2 Legal Implications**

The *Crime and Disorder Act 1998*<sup>16</sup> made it a statutory requirement for a number of public sector organisations (Responsible Authorities), including local authorities, to work together in partnership to tackle crime, drugs and anti-social behaviour.

## **5.3 Equalities and Diversity Implications**

There are no new equality and diversity implications associated with this report.

## **5.4 Risk Implications**

There is a risk that without further analysis or resourcing, a lack of strategic insight could hinder the CSP and its ability to target resources appropriately and effectively.

## **5.5 Community Safety Implications**

The recommended approach will allow the community safety partnership to better identify key risks and challenges.

## **6. PUBLIC INTEREST TEST**

The information within the report is subject to test 7A – *Information which is subject to any obligation of confidentiality.*

Some of the more recent data provided has not yet been verified through official crime counting channels. The community safety annual strategic assessment for 2016/17 will not be published until April 2016 when all data has been checked and verified. Some of the data has been provided by external organisations for CSP information only and may not be in the public domain.

## **BACKGROUND PAPERS**

None

## **APPENDICES**

Appendix A – Hertfordshire Community Safety Dashboard

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<sup>16</sup> *Crime and Disorder Act 1998* found at: <http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/1998/37/contents>

Appendix B - Responsible Authorities Group (RAG) reports and data  
Appendix C – Table of Stevenage’s ranking for crime types as of July 2015  
Appendix D – Glossary of acronyms