

# RESIDENTS' SERVICES SELECT COMMITTEE - SAFER HILLINGDON PARTNERSHIP AND MPS REPORT

<b>Committee name</b>	Residents' Services Select Committee
<b>Officer reporting</b>	Richard Webb, Director of Community Safety and Enforcement
<b>Papers with report</b>	Appendix A – Metropolitan Police Report
<b>Ward</b>	All

## HEADLINES

As part of its statutory responsibility to undertake crime and disorder scrutiny, this report provides the Residents' Services Select Committee with an update regarding crime trends and the work of the Safer Hillingdon Partnership. In addition, the Metropolitan Police Service will provide the Committee with an update on changes and challenges affecting Policing in Hillingdon including progress on the New Met for London Plan launched in July 2023.

## RECOMMENDATION

**That the Residents' Services Select Committee notes the contents of the report and asks questions in order to clarify matters of concern or interest in the Borough.**

## SUPPORTING INFORMATION

The Residents' Services Select Committee acts as a Crime and Disorder Committee as defined in the Crime and Disorder (Overview and Scrutiny) Regulations 2009 and carries out the bi-annual scrutiny of decisions made, or other action taken, in connection with the discharge by the responsible authorities of their crime and disorder functions.

### Witnesses

A representative from the following public organisation has been invited to attend the meeting, which forms part of the Safer Hillingdon Partnership that the Committee may scrutinise:

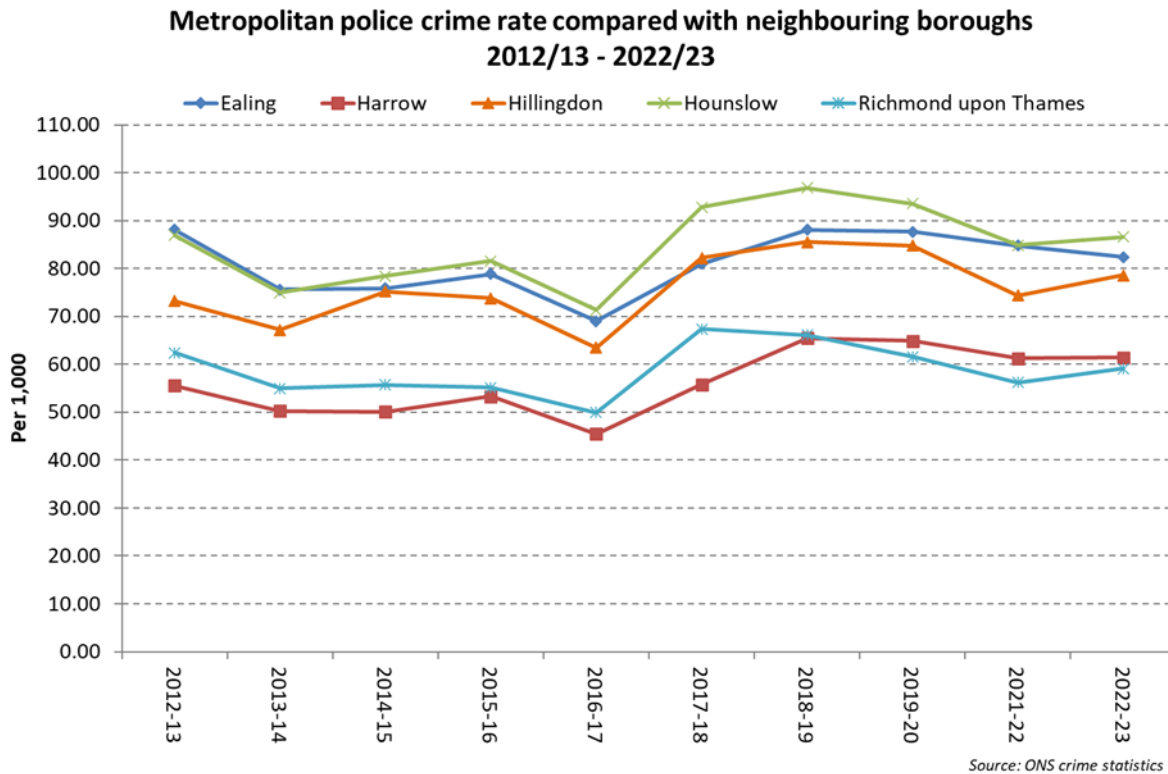
- Superintendent Anthony Bennett – Borough Superintendent (Metropolitan Police Service)

### Supporting information

The last Safer Hillingdon Partnership strategy related to the period 2020/2021 to 2022/2023. This strategy documented the priority themes for the partnership to be: reducing burglary; reducing violence; reducing anti-social behaviour and raising confidence; and tackling and preventing domestic abuse / violence against women and girls. A supporting performance dashboard was used to track progress against a number of indicators relating to these priority themes. A summary of the status of those main indicators follows, using data from the 2023 annual strategic assessment to show trends in the main crime types under these themes.

## General Trends

The chart below shows the recorded crime rate for Hillingdon compared to neighbouring boroughs for the last 10-year period.



### Theme 1 - Burglary

Burglary is entering any residential building as a trespasser with the intent to steal or cause unlawful damage. In Hillingdon, there were 1,376 burglary offences between January and December 2022, an increase of 3% compared with figures from same period the previous year. Hillingdon is ranked in the 2<sup>nd</sup> quartile in terms of burglary offences recorded when compared with all London boroughs (1<sup>st</sup> quartile is highest in number).

The total number of burglary offences (1,376) is broken down into four categories. Residential burglary has the highest number of incidents n=1,059 (77%), compared with Business community, n= 317 (23%).

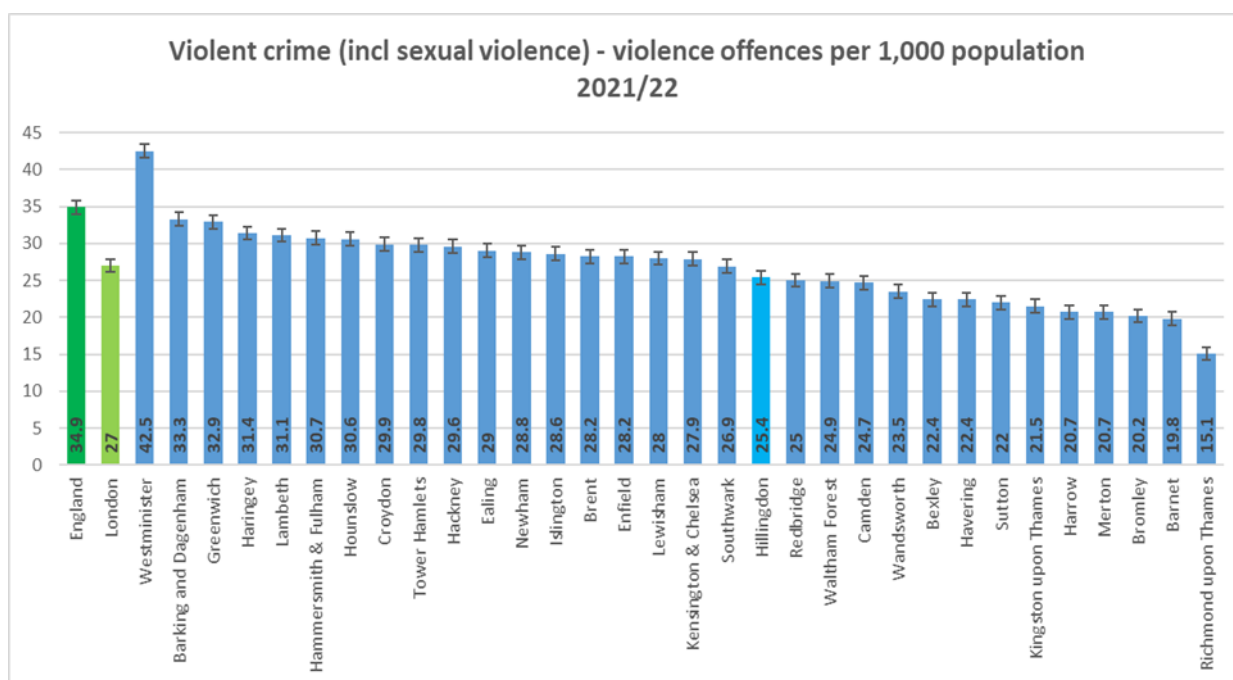
### Theme 2 - Reduce Violence

Violence against the person is a broad array of criminal offences, which usually involve bodily harm, the threat of bodily harm, or other actions committed against the will of an individual. In Hillingdon there were 7,811 recorded incidents in 2022, an increase of 1% compared to the same period in the previous year. Compared to the rest of London, Hillingdon is ranked in the 3<sup>rd</sup> quartile.

Public Health England has a key role in monitoring crime and violence as a major health threat and publishes data relating to violent crimes in England as part of their monitoring work.

- Violent crime (including sexual violence) - hospital admissions for violence - This indicator shows the number of emergency hospital admissions for violent crimes (including sexual

violence). In the period of 2018/19 to 2020/21, Hillingdon had a low admission rate of 41.1 (440 offences) and is performing fairly well (20<sup>th</sup> lowest), when compared with all the London boroughs.



Since 2008, knife crime has been defined as any offence that satisfies both of the following criteria:

- Is classified as an offence of homicide, attempted murder, assault with intent to cause harm, assault with injury, threats to kill, sexual offences (including rape) and robbery; and
- Where a knife or sharp instrument has been used to injure, used as a threat, or the victim was convinced a knife was present during the offence.

In the 12 months to December 2022, over 12,000 knife crime offences were recorded in London. The number in Hillingdon was 265. When compared to our neighbouring boroughs, Hillingdon had the lowest knife crime offences in comparison to Hounslow (296) and Ealing (388). Overall, the recorded 265 knife crime offences in Hillingdon reflects an increase of 23% from the previous year (216 offences). Currently, Hillingdon is in the 3<sup>rd</sup> quartile in London.

Knife crimes where someone is injured as a result of use of a knife are increasing across England and Wales. In London, in the twelve months to December 2020, there were over 3,500 victims injured as a result of knife crime – from slight injuries to serious, life-threatening wounds. This is an increase of over 250 victims compared to the preceding year. For the twelve months up to December 2022, in London there have been 3,573 victims injured as a result of knife crime. This is an 8.9% increase compared with December 2021.

From 2018/19, Hillingdon saw a decrease of knife crime with injury attacks after a high in 2018/19 with 112 incidents. The number of people injured by knife crime offences fell until 2021/22 (76) and then increased in 2022/23 to 93. Between 2018/19 (112) to 2022/23 (93), there has been a 37% decrease.

### *Theme 3 - Reduce ASB and Raise Confidence*

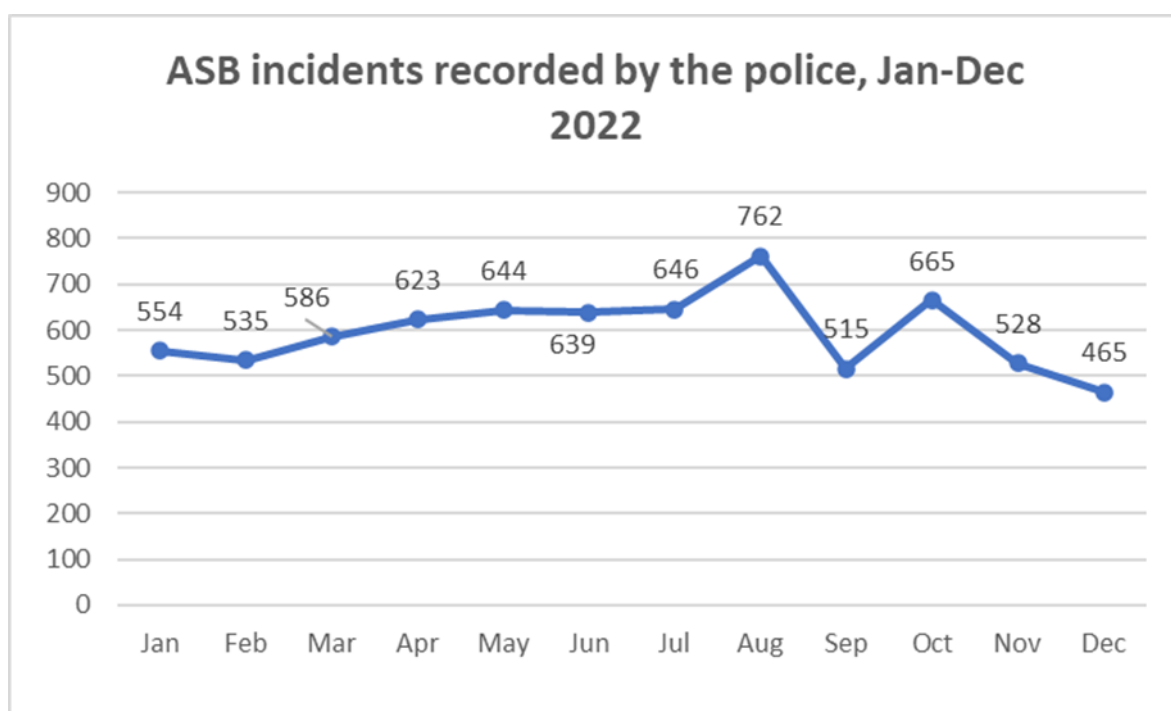
The term ‘anti-social behaviour’ (ASB) was formalised in the late 1990s to describe a wide range of the nuisance, disorder and crime that affect people’s daily lives. ASB is officially defined as “Behaviour by a person, which causes or is likely to cause harassment, alarm or distress to one or

more persons not of the same household as the person”. (Antisocial Behaviour Act 2003 & Police Reform and Social Responsibility Act 2011).

Reports of Anti-Social behaviour in Hillingdon can be made to a range of agencies including the Hillingdon Council’s Anti-Social Behaviour Enforcement Team (ASBET team). Despite the numerous ASB reporting pathways, the police are still the main and often initial point of contact for Hillingdon residents to report ASB.

The Police Anti-Social Behaviour categories include: Animal problems, ASB Environment, ASB Personal, Begging / Vagrancy, Fireworks, Littering / Drugs Paraphernalia, Malicious / Nuisance Communications, Noise, Prostitution Related Activity, Rowdy / Nuisance Neighbours, Rowdy or Inconsiderate Behaviour, Street Drinking, Trespass, Vehicle Abandoned - Not stolen, Vehicle Nuisance / Inappropriate Use.

In the 12 months from 1<sup>st</sup> January to 31<sup>st</sup> December 2022, there were 7,162 ASB incidents reported to the police, a decrease of 30% from the previous year (10,223). The chart below shows the number of ASB incidents recorded each month to the police.

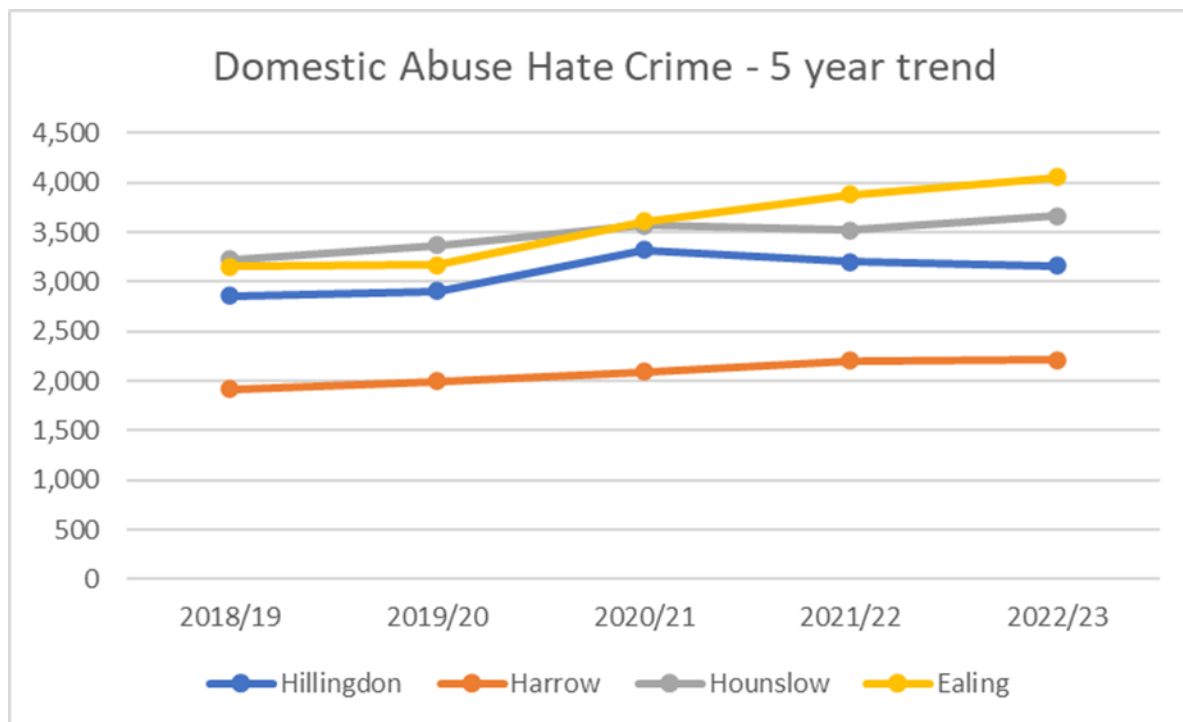


Over the same period, 1,116 incidents of ASB were reported to Hillingdon Council.

In 2022, reports of disability, faith and transphobic hate crimes decreased (from 24 to 18, 46 to 44 and 62 to 61 respectively), whilst race or ethnicity related hate crime incidents increased from 630 to 671.

#### *Theme 4 - Tackle and prevent domestic abuse/ violence against women and girls*

Domestic Violence is any incident of threatening behaviour, violence, or abuse (psychological, physical, sexual, financial or emotional) between adults. In 2018, there were 2,858 incidents recorded in Hillingdon and, in 2022, there were 3,165 incidents recorded, representing an increase of 307 or 11% compared to 2018.



Rape is a type of sexual assault initiated by one or more persons against another person without that person's consent. In Hillingdon, there were 246 recorded incidents of rape which is an increase of 10.8% from the previous year (222). Hillingdon is in 2<sup>nd</sup> quartile when compared to all of London.

Other Sexual Offences is a category of crime encompassing a number of specific offences, including sexual touching, exposure, sexual comments and any other form of unwanted sexual behaviour. In Hillingdon there were 447 recorded incidents, an increase of 6% from the previous year (423 offences). Hillingdon is in the 2<sup>nd</sup> quartile when compared to all of London.

The Safer Hillingdon Partnership met on 5<sup>th</sup> September 2023 and reviewed the 2022 annual strategic assessment. In consideration of the data in that assessment, other strategic factors and contextual information from partnership members, the partnership considered the priorities for the next year. Subject to confirmation at the next Partnership meeting the priorities have been identified as:

- 1) VAWG including domestic abuse
- 2) Combatting drugs (from a community safety perspective)
- 3) ASB
- 4) Other violent crime including serious violence duty and knife crime

A delivery plan will now be prepared documenting the actions that partners are taking to address these priorities. Disproportionality will be a cross-cutting theme in these delivery plans.

Under the Police, Crime, Sentencing and Courts Act 2022 specified public bodies are under a new duty to work together and plan to prevent and reduce serious violence. The bodies to whom the duty applies can determine the most appropriate local structure to use to comply with the new duties. In Hillingdon, in common with most other areas, the community safety partnership (Safer Hillingdon Partnership) has been determined to be the most appropriate governance structure to implement the duties. The duties include undertaking a needs assessment in order to understand the kinds of serious violence that occurs in the area, the causes of that violence and the cohorts of people most

at risk and the preparation and implementation of a strategy to prevent and reduce serious violence in the area.

A serious violence needs assessment is currently being prepared and is scheduled to be completed by the end of October 2023. The new duties require the strategy to be developed and published by the end of January 2024.

The new partnership delivery plan and serious violence strategy will support the Partnership to agree a new set of performance measures for on-going monitoring.

- **Metropolitan Police Service** - Appendix A provides a summary from the MPS of the Policing context for Hillingdon. This report details the policing structure in Hillingdon and how the Police is responding to the findings of the Casey Review, other reports on MPS performance and other changes affecting policing.

### **Financial Implications**

None at this stage.

### **Legal Implications**

None at this stage.

### **Background Document**

None.

## POSSIBLE KEY LINE OF ENQUIRY

1. When will the delivery plan documenting the actions that partners are taking to address the new SHP priorities be available?
2. What is meant by "Disproportionality will be a cross-cutting theme in these delivery plans"?
3. Despite the numerous ASB reporting pathways, the police are still the main and often initial point of contact for Hillingdon residents to report ASB. Is consideration being given to the promotion of alternative reporting pathways?
4. It is recognised that an increase in the reports of domestic abuse, rape and other sexual offences may be as a result of victims being more willing to come forward than they might have been in the past. What action is being taken to educate potential perpetrators and reduce the number of instances of domestic abuse, rape and other sexual offences?
5. With an increase in the number of upskirting incidents, what action is being taken to warn women and girls to be aware of the risk and what action is being taken to deter potential perpetrators?
6. "...the data is stark and the challenge to the MPS and other constabularies to reverse the decline in Sanction Detection rates is significant, and something that requires changes at a legislative level." What legislative changes would be needed to reverse the decline in sanction detection rates?
7. How will the effectiveness of the New Met for London Plan be measured in directly improving public trust and confidence in London policing?
8. Neighbourhood police teams in Hillingdon undertook activity in 2022 to improve safety amongst women and girls, reduce offending and improve outcomes for victims. What initiatives will be / have been undertaken in 2023?
9. What benefits have been gleaned from the appointment of an additional Detective Inspector aligned to Hillingdon in 2022?
10. What impact has the Complaints Resolution Unit had since it was introduced in 2022 to deal with the volume of complaints and misconduct matters in the West Area?
11. When will the general review by the Directorate of Professional Standards (PS) to restructure both themselves and Borough PS Units be completed and will this be available to the public?
12. How will improvements to the standard of case files following the introduction of Connect be measured?