

TORBAY

Community **Safety** Partnership



Strategic Assessment 2016/17

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Version: Draft 16.11.16

Introduction

Safer Communities Torbay is the name given to Torbay's Community Safety Partnership. Community Safety Partnerships (CSPs) exist by law and their job is to bring agencies and people together to reduce crime and disorder, and make areas safer.

Every year CSPs produce a document called a Strategic Assessment. The Assessment is written for the Partnership Board (Stronger Communities Board) and the aim is to identify priorities for the Partnership in its next plan.

A lot of the document is based on statistical information which helps agencies to understand crime and disorder in Torbay. It also includes an overview of community safety issues, contextual information about Torbay, the delivery landscape and our priority areas.

Community Safety priorities

The Community Safety Strategic Priority for Torbay in 2015 was

“Protecting the most vulnerable individuals and communities from crime and disorder “

Some people and areas are, due to their circumstances, more vulnerable to serious harm from crime and disorder than others. With less money and resources the partnership will focus on its statutory duties and on protecting those of greatest vulnerability. Vulnerability is a wide ranging term and could vary depending on the situation.

The priorities for 2015 represented a change for the partnership in moving away from traditional core volume crimes to focusing on those more “hidden” crimes which often go unreported but have a huge impact on vulnerable victims and lead to long term health and well-being concerns and ultimately can result in safeguarding procedures.

Traditionally CSPs have been excellent at responding to public concerns relating to visible crime and nuisance (which whilst irritating isn't necessarily damaging) but that capacity within agencies and the partnership as a whole is significantly reduced and under threat in some areas. A single priority reflects that but the Partnership is going to have to change how it communicates with the public to ensure that expectations are managed and that mature and honest public debate can be encouraged about what are very complex and challenging issues.

This one overarching priority at the start of the year includes a number of key areas

- Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence
- Alcohol and the Night Time Economy
- Re-offending
- Cyber Crime

Through the year the following areas were added to the priorities:

- Child Sexual Exploitation
- Modern Slavery
- Hate Crime
- Prevent strand of counter terrorism

The Police and Crime Commissioner's five priorities

The Police and Crime Commissioner for Devon and Cornwall and the Isles of Scilly is Alison Hernandez.

Alison's Police and Crime Plan aims to develop Safe, Resilient and Connected Communities.

All of the community safety priorities are aligned to the Police and Crime Commissioners priorities which are:

- Connecting our communities and the police – through a new Local Policing Promise to ensure policing in the local area is 'Accessible, Responsive, Informative and Supportive'
- Preventing and deterring crime – so we can stop people becoming victims of crime and move people
- Protecting people at risk of abuse and those who are vulnerable – safeguarding the vulnerable and keeping them safe from harm
- Providing high quality and timely support to victims of crime to help them recover and helping them to get justice by improving the criminal justice system
- Getting the best out of the police – making best use of our resources, supporting and developing our workforce and working well in partnership with others

Community Safety overview

This section looks at the level of recorded crime in Torbay and compares this to previous year's performance and also to similar CSP's, usually referred to as "family" or "most similar group" MSG. In addition comparisons are also made with other CSP's in the Devon & Cornwall force area.

This data should be examined against the context of recorded crime nationally continues to reduce over the longer term.

The majority of the long term reduction in crime relates to criminal damage, vehicle offences and other types of thefts. Violence, particularly violence without injury, and sexual offences has seen the most significant increases. Over the same time period, the level of domestic abuse crimes reported has also steadily increased.

An important implication of this changing picture is that we are increasingly dealing with a lower volume of crime, but one which is much more complex in nature and impacts on the most vulnerable in our communities.

Cybercrime is an area of criminality where we are developing our knowledge, both locally and nationally. We are anticipating significant increases in this type of crime as we improve means of identification and recording.

The issues that present the greatest threat and risk to our communities can be described collectively under two key thematic headings:

Domestic abuse and sexual violence

These presents the highest risk of harm and, at its extreme, it carries risks of domestic homicide and suicide. It has a devastating impact on the lives of victims, can increase vulnerability to victimisation or offending for future generations and results in massive costs to society. Child sexual abuse and sexual exploitation is included under this thematic heading.

Problematic use of alcohol

This continues to present a high risk of harm to communities across Torbay and the Peninsula. The impact of alcohol cuts across all aspects of partnership delivery and represents a significant challenge in tackling violent crime and anti-social behaviour. Problematic alcohol use is also frequently highlighted as a barrier that prevents services from helping individuals and their families with other issues, such as finding employment and addressing domestic and family abuse.

Recorded crime

Recorded crime fell by 4.5% in 2015/16. In recent years there has been no clear trend with a succession of rises and falls between the range of 8000 and 10000 crimes per year.

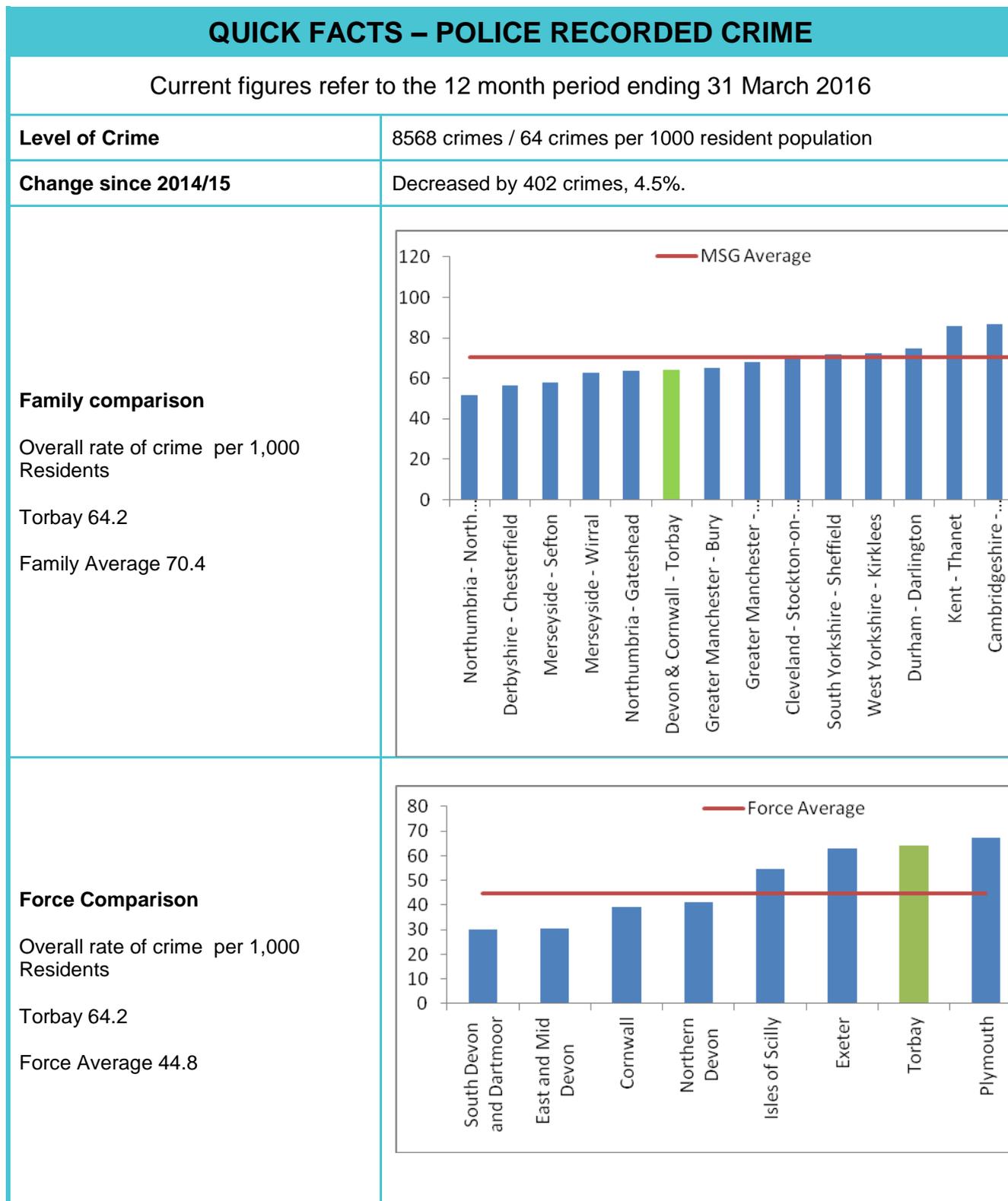
The table below also includes non crime incidents with regard to Domestic Abuse and ASB both of which have shown decreases in the past year.

The last two columns show how Torbay's rate of offending per 1,000 residents compares to our Family, which is a group of national CSP's that have a similar profile to Torbay, and to the Devon & Cornwall Police Force Area.

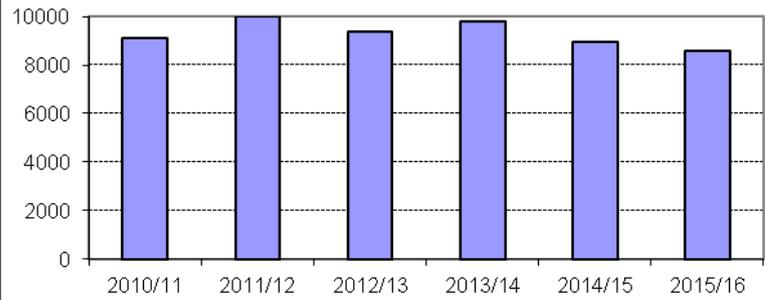
Crime / incident type	2015/16	2014/15	Change	Trend	Family per 1,000	Force per 1,000
All Crime	8568	8970	-4.5%	▼	Below average	Above average
All Domestic Abuse	3413	3474	-1.8%	▼		
All ASB	4926	5095	-3.3%	▼		
Violent Crime						
Violence with injury	1399	1271	10.1%	▲	Above average	Above average
Violence with no injury	1489	1364	9.2%	▲	Above average	Above average
Homicide	2	0	N/A			
Domestic abuse and sexual offences						
Domestic abuse Incidents	2112	2243	-5.8%	▼		
Domestic Abuse Crime Related	1301	1231	5.7%	▲		
Other sexual offences	175	199	-12.1%	▼	Above average	Above average
Rape	96	96	0.0%	=	Above average	Above average
Acquisitive Crime						
Domestic Burglary	280	337	-16.9%	▼	Below average	Above average
Non domestic burglary	310	339	-8.6%	▼	Below average	Above average
Shoplifting	770	881	-12.6%	▼	Below average	Above average
Other theft	1111	1312	-15.3%	▼		
Vehicle Crime	517	576	-10.2%	▼	Below average	Above average
Robbery	60	54	11.1%	▲	Below average	Above average
Drug offences						
Drug trafficking	61	111	-45.0%	▼	Below average	Above average
Possession of drugs	320	314	1.9%	▲	Above average	Above average
Criminal Damage and ASB						
Criminal Damage & arson	1296	1405	-7.8%	▼	Below average	Above average
Public Order	462	562	-17.8%	▼	Above average	Above average
Possession of Weapons	69	59	16.9%	▲	Above average	Above average
ASB Incidents	4926	5095	-3.3%	▼		

As can be seen from the above table our overall fall in crime compares favourably with our family group but is above the force average.

In comparison to our “Families” performance Torbay performance is better in some areas and worse in others but against the “Force” average we have more crimes per 1,000 residents for all types of crime.



General trend



Breakdown of crime types



*includes violence against the person, sexual offences and robbery

Number of offences by Neighbourhood.

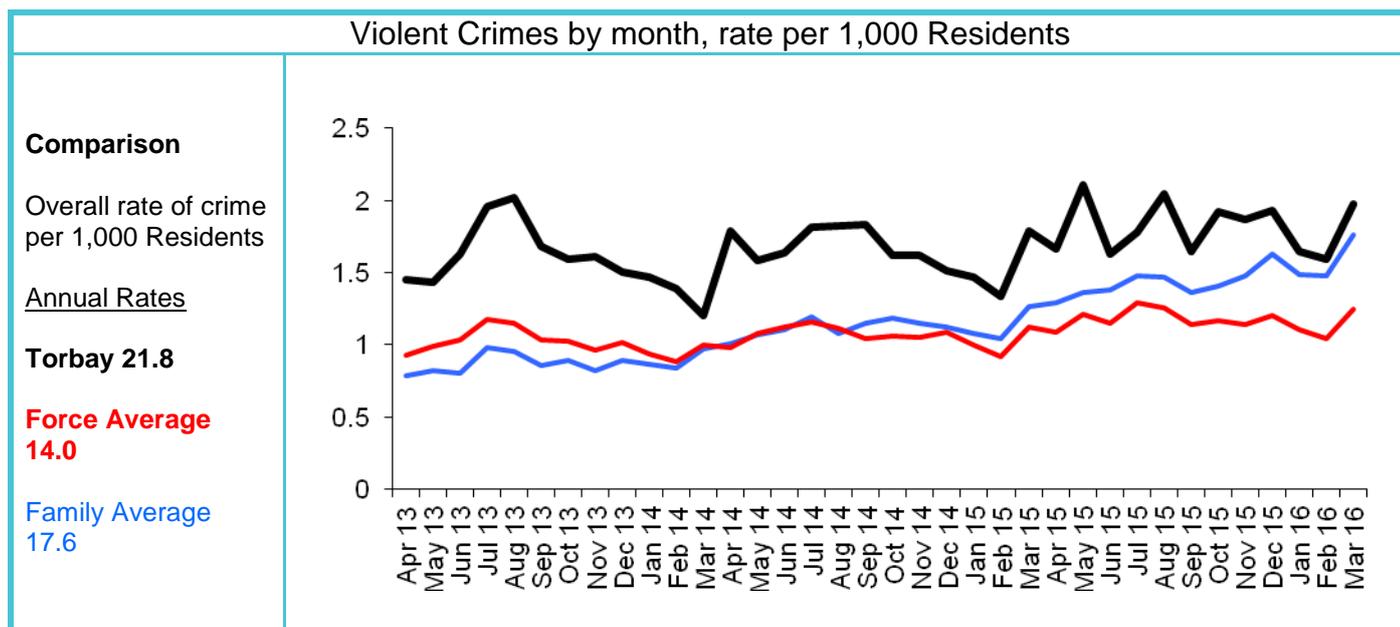
Neighbourhood	Number of Offences
Berry Head-with-Furzeham	463
Blatchcombe	573
Churston-with-Galmpton	127
Clifton-with-Maidenway	214
Cockington-with-Chelston	447
Ellacombe	526
Goodrington-with-Roselands	259
Hele	468
Preston	318
Roundham-with-Hyde	983
Shiphay-with-the-Willows	453
St Marychurch	684
St Marys-with-Summercombe	246
Torquay Town Centre	1242
Torre & Upton	770
Watcombe	258
Wellwood	520

Violent crime

Over the past five years violent crime has increased year on year and in 2015/16 violent crime continued to rise in Torbay, with violence with injury rising by 10% and violence without injury rising by 9%.

In the past year there have been 2890 Violent Crimes compared to 2,521 two years ago representing a rise of 15%.

Compared to similar CSP areas and those within Devon & Cornwall Torbay was above average for violence against the person, violence with injury and violence without injury.



Domestic Abuse and Sexual Offences

It should be taken into account that figures only relate to those crimes and incidents that are reported. Most domestic abuse (DA) incidents are unreported.

The Crime Survey for England and Wales reported national figures (for adults aged 16-59) which indicate that 7.1% of women and 4.4% of men experienced DA in the past year, this would equate to 2459 women and 1471 men in Torbay.

Data from the previous survey year showed that women, and especially younger women, were more likely to be victims of domestic abuse than other demographic groups (for example, 12.6% of women aged 16 to 19 were victims in the last year).

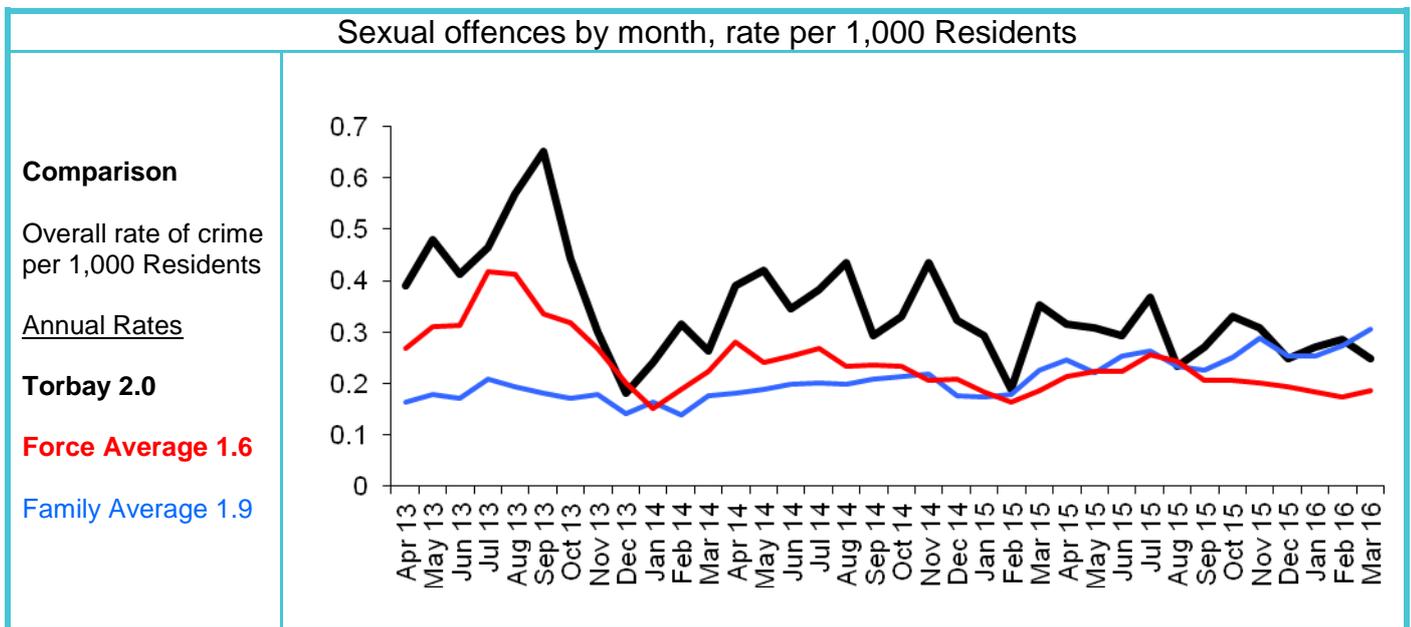
In Torbay the number of reported domestic abuse incidents fell by 5.8% but the number of crimes involving domestic abuse rose by 5.7%.

Police recording of domestic abuse data has significantly improved over recent years and below is a breakdown from police data outlining the number of arrests and other factors applicable to the crime/incident.

Domestic Abuse Crimes and Non Crime Incidents - 01/04/2015 to 31/03/2016						
	Number	% Change	% Arrests	% Children Present	% Drugs or Alcohol	% Repeat Victims
Paignton & Brixham Sector	1387	-6.0%	24.1%	35.6%	40.1%	30.9%
Torquay Sector	2085	0.6%	26.2%	33.9%	40.1%	33.9%

There were 271 reported sexual offences in 2015/16 compared to 295 the previous year a fall of 8%.

Even though the annual trend is downwards compared to similar CSP areas and those within Devon & Cornwall Torbay was above the average rate.



Because there is always likely to be underreporting, it is difficult, as with domestic abuse, to know whether there has been a real decrease in offending.

Acquisitive crime

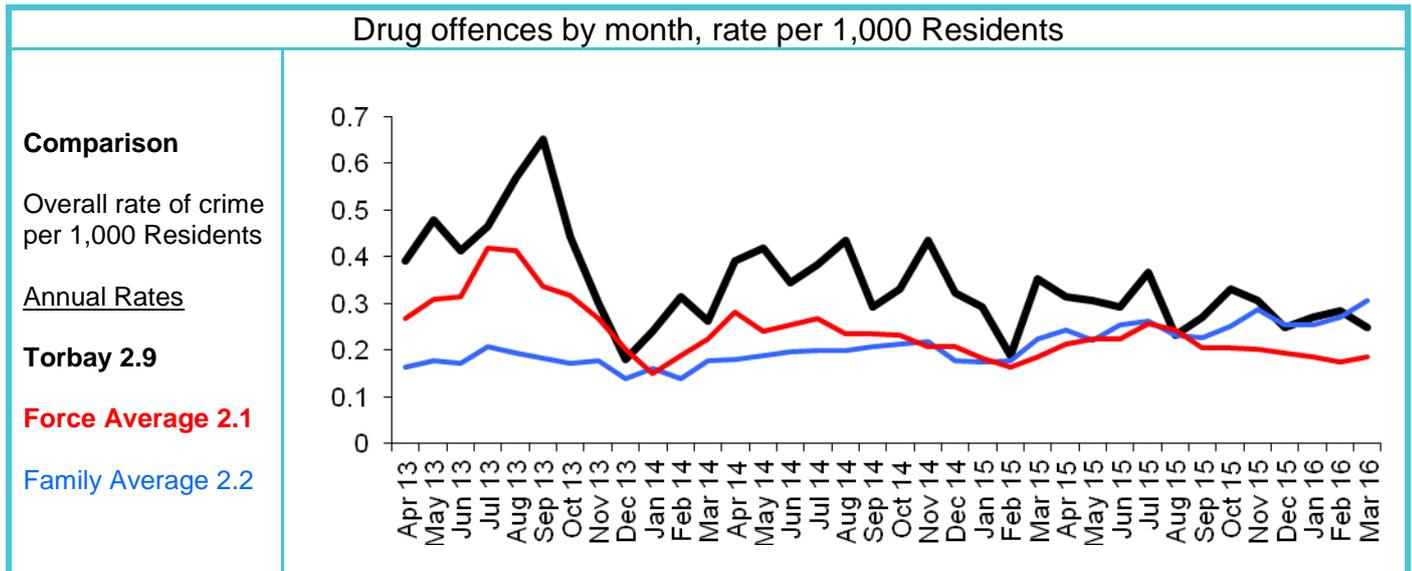
Torbay had a fall across all acquisitive crime types in 2015/16 with the exception of robbery which rose by 11% from 54 offences to 60.

In total all acquisitive crime has fallen 12.9% in the past year and by 26.5% over the past two years.

Drugs Offences

There was a decrease in drug trafficking offences by 45% but an increase in possession of drugs of 1.9% from 314 offences to 320.

Overall Torbay was above average compared to other similar CSP areas and compared to Devon & Cornwall CSP's.



Criminal Damage and ASB

Criminal damage and arson crimes and public order offences fell by 7.8% and 17.8% respectively but possession of weapons increased by 16.9%.

Both public order and possession of weapons rates of offending were above the family and force averages.

Torbay has experienced a decrease of 3.3%, from 5095 to 4926, in police reported ASB in 2015/16.

Reducing Reoffending

Reducing reoffending is fundamental to reducing crime and as of April 2010 this became a statutory responsibility of Community Safety Partnerships.

There is a wealth of research that shows that adults and young people that offend are amongst the most socially excluded in society and the majority often have complex and deep-rooted health and social problems, such as substance misuse, mental health, homelessness, and debt and financial problems.

Tackling these issues in a holistic and co-ordinated way is important to provide “pathways out of offending” and to break the inter-generational cycle of offending and associated family breakdown. Prison is not a cost effective solution and does not deliver sustainable benefits in terms of reduced harm to the community.

This approach underpins the development of Integrated Offender Management (IOM) which is a single coherent structure for the management of repeat offenders, from prevention to conviction to rehabilitation and resettlement, with the aim of delivering long-term, sustainable benefits to the community.

Overall - adult and juvenile offenders

Trends in re-offending are measured by the frequency of re-offending and the proportion of offenders who re-offend, Annual cohorts are tracked over 12 months to see if they reoffend and how many reoffences they commit. There is always a delay in reporting on a cohort as there is a 6 month waiting period added to the one year follow up period to allow offences to receive an outcome e.g. court sentencing. The most recent available cohort is October 2013 to September 2014.

In Torbay between October 2013 to September 2014 1,183 adult and juvenile offenders were cautioned, received a non-custodial conviction at court or released from custody, 275 of these offenders committed a proven reoffence within a year.

This gives an overall proven reoffending rate of 23.2% which is a decrease of 2.7% percentage points compared to the previous 12 months. This is below the national rate which is 25.7%

Over the one year follow-up period 842 proven reoffences were committed, with those that reoffended committing, on average, 3.06 reoffences each compared to a rate of 2.94 in the previous 12 months. The national rate is 3.16.

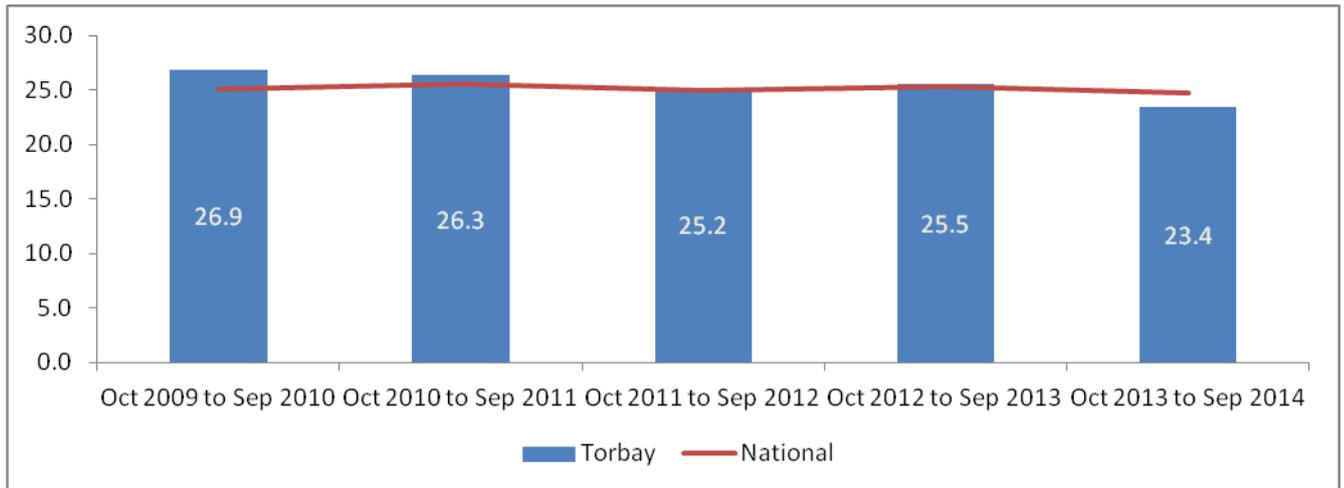
The highest reoffending rate by age group is 34.5%, for offenders aged 35 to 39, with aged 10 to 14 the second highest, at 28.0%.

Adult Offenders

Adult offenders represent 92% of the offending cohort and had a proven reoffending rate of 23.4%, representing a decrease of 2.1 percentage points compared to the previous 12 months, this rate has been fairly flat since 2006 fluctuating between 23.4% and 26.8%. The national rate is 24.7%.

776 proven reoffences were committed by adults over the one year follow-up period and those that reoffended committed on average 3.06 reoffences each.

Adult reoffending rate

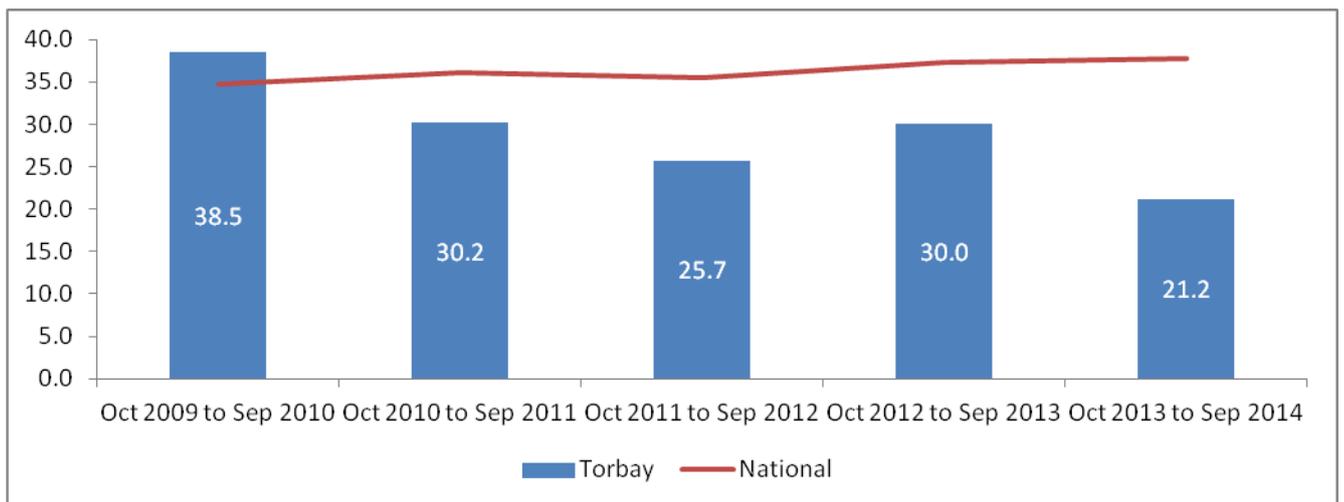


Juvenile Offenders

Juvenile offenders only represent 8% of the offending cohort and had a proven reoffending rate of 21.2%, down 8.8 percentage points from the previous 12 months and well below the national rate of 37.8%; the size of cohort has fallen from a peak of 525 in 2007 to 99 this year a decrease of 81%.

66 proven reoffences were committed by juveniles over the one year follow-up period and those that reoffended committed on average 3.14 reoffences each.

Juvenile reoffending rate



Torbay Context

Whilst crime data is very important this section considers other contextual information applicable for Torbay.

The Joint Strategic Needs Assessment

This provides context for Torbay in terms of demographic and other factors and to avoid duplication is not included in detail in this report.

Key issues highlighted for Torbay are:

- Crime and in particular violent crime above the national average.
- Higher levels of alcohol related admissions to hospital.
- High levels of 'children looked after' (CLA), child poverty and childhood obesity.
- Housing availability, quality, condition and suitability.
- There is an aging population and many households are occupied by someone over 65 living alone. These people could potentially be more vulnerable.

Public Health Outcomes Framework

The recently established Public Health Outcomes Framework includes a number of community safety indicators in its 'Wider determinants of health'.

Latest data reported that Torbay was higher than the English average for a number of indicators including the following:

- First time entrants to youth justice system
- Hospital admissions caused by unintentional and deliberate injuries
- Violent Crime
- Alcohol related hospital admissions
- Self reported well being
- Male Suicides

Indices of Multiple Deprivation 2015

The recently published Indices of Multiple Deprivation (IMD) reported that Torbay has become relatively more deprived since the previous IMD was released and Torbay was the 46th most deprived local authority area out of 326 and in the 20% most deprived authorities in England.

Place

Crime and disorder isn't always just about an 'issue', it can also be about a 'place'. From our data we know that there are certain areas in Torbay where the issues above will be more common. These areas can usually be described as more 'deprived' which means that they experience challenges like greater unemployment or health problems when compared with other areas. Based on the facts for this year, the Council wards which are creating higher demands on services in terms of crime and community safety are:

- Tormohun Torquay
- Ellacombe Torquay
- Watcombe Torquay
- Blatchcombe Paignton
- Roundham with Hyde Paignton

There are some specific areas that are vulnerable to crime and disorder such as the Harbourside area in Torquay which is vulnerable to night time economy related issues.

It should be noted that crime and disorder analysis is based on police neighbourhoods which have the same boundaries as community partnerships. In most cases these match ward boundaries. The only exception is in the centre of Torquay where the Tormohun ward was split into 3 partnerships, one of which, Hele includes parts of Watcombe and Shiphay with the Willows.

The delivery landscape

There are many factors that have affected the work of Safer Communities Torbay in recent years and they are likely to continue to do so in the next year:

- The introduction of the role of the Police and Crime Commissioner and the planning, commissioning and performance framework that has developed.
- Development of Government policy in a variety of key areas such as health, sentencing, probation, alcohol, welfare reform, troubled families and ASB.
- A challenging economic climate driving up demand for services against a backdrop of cuts to budgets and resources.
- Increasing complexity of cases due to less preventative services and people seeking help when they reach statutory thresholds or when crisis reached.
- Widespread restructuring and change across the public sector often resulting in less staff and cuts to services.
- Effectiveness and value for money of services under increasing scrutiny.
- Devolution of accountability to local councils, empowerment of communities to influence and change service delivery with a strong drive for local solutions to local problems.
- More integrated working across agencies and the Peninsula; increased reliance on strong and effective partnerships.

Effective partnership working

Torbay has effective partnership working models and processes in place. There are a number of long standing effective partnership working examples including: MARAC, MAPPA, IOM, YOT, Partnership Tasking.

The Community Safety Directorate of Torbay Council where CSP staff are based also houses police staff, fire officer, immigration officer, ASB staff, licensing staff, housing standards, and Vulnerability and Complex Needs Officer on secondment from Devon Partnership Trust. This aids effective communication and coordination of activity to tackle ASB and other community safety issues.

Vulnerability

The President of the Police Superintendents' Association of England and Wales recently stated the following as part of a conference speech:

“Vulnerability is one of the new volume demands that will define our service and what we do for years to come.”

“There is no standard definition that all public services are working to. It cannot be right that a missing person in one area might not be defined as a missing person in another area.”

“Policing, education, health, social care, probation and the charity and voluntary sectors must work to the same understanding, the same criteria and the same standard.”

“The public have a right to expect this and I would struggle to explain why it is not the case.”

It is important that the CSP address the issues highlighted above regarding definition and a common understanding of vulnerability because without this it will be difficult to achieve the CSP priority which is:

“Protecting the most vulnerable individuals and communities from crime and disorder “

Vulnerability through the years.

Individual's vulnerabilities will change throughout their lifetime and to assist understanding of these issues analysis of crime and incident data has been analysed across the following age groups:

- 0 to 9 years old
- 10 to 17 years old
- 18 to 26 years old
- 27 to 46 years old
- 47 to 66 years old
- 66 years +

Each age group will be covered separately and the intention is to enhance this data over the coming year as more data becomes available particularly as we get a better understanding of cyber crime, modern slavery, child sexual exploitation and prevent.

This data once completed will be published.

Contact

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