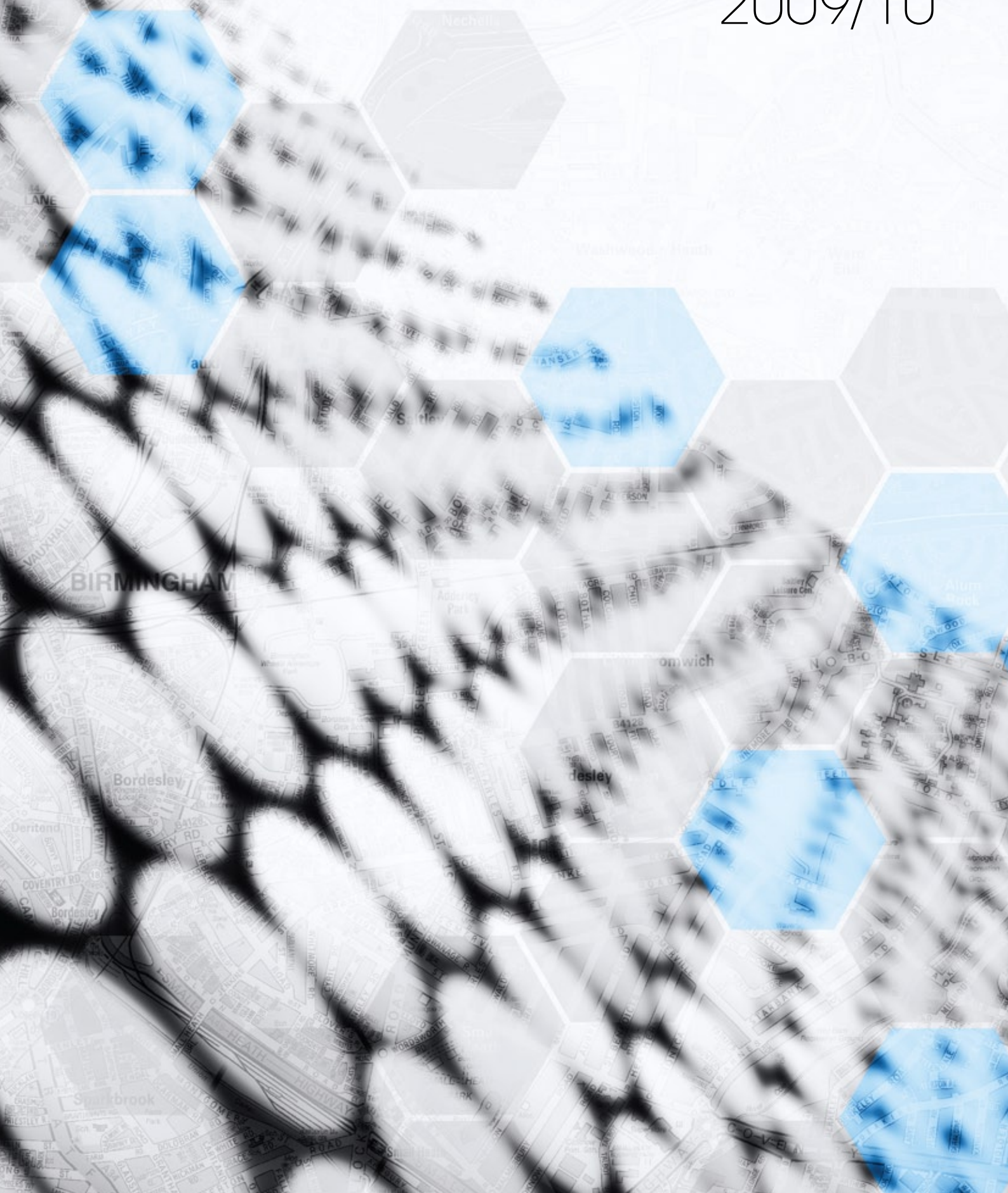


Safer Birmingham Partnership

Strategic Assessment

2009/10





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1. Executive Summary

The 2009/10 Safer Birmingham Partnership Strategic Assessment marks a departure from the process employed during previous assessments. Following advice from Government Office West Midlands, the Safer Birmingham Partnership's Information and Intelligence Team developed a risk assessment process from the West Midlands Police Strategic Threat and Risk Assessment Index in order to identify priority threats.

Over forty potential threats were evaluated via the strategic risk assessment, of which five were identified for further analysis via this Strategic Assessment process. One additional area of analysis (young people) was also included as it transcends all of the prioritised threats. Ten further threats have been identified for inclusion within the Safer Birmingham Partnership Control Strategy.

In a further change to previous processes, each area of analysis has undergone a full crime pattern analysis or problem profile before being subjected to strategic analysis. This document only includes key findings from previous work where relevant but a copy can be obtained on request.

A number of key themes were highlighted throughout the analysis in addition to the individual key findings listed below. It was found that domestic violence, hate crime and serious sexual crimes are largely under-reported and that efforts to increase reporting via third party reporting centres will only be successful if a robust referral mechanism to West Midlands Police is incorporated. It was also found that there are some discrepancies in crime recording standards, detection rates, and victim satisfaction across a number of crime types.

When looking at Be Birmingham's priority neighbourhoods, it was found that a considerable number record a lower crime rate per 1000 population compared to Birmingham as a whole. This isn't to say that they do not have community safety issues as most priority neighbourhoods record higher rates of hate crime, serious violent crime, serious sexual crime and a greater fear of crime, although these typically involve the neighbourhoods adjacent to the city centre.

Perhaps the most easily identifiable theme is the need to engage hard to reach groups more effectively, whether this is in an effort to better understand the reasons locally for not reporting crime or to better communicate the dangers of alcohol, drugs or gang affiliation to young people. A number of communication methods are proposed based on organisational behavioural dynamics which utilise the benefits of social media. It is therefore recommended that Digital Birmingham should act in a consultative capacity to the Safer Birmingham Partnership in a review of its communication and/or engagement strategy. It is also noted that the Safer Birmingham Partnership is well placed to manage many of these issues. The Birmingham Hate Crime Strategy will have a significant impact on current monitoring and victim service quality when implemented and the Safer Birmingham Partnership is currently planning to review the use of social media in conjunction with Digital Birmingham and other partner organisations.

Serious Violent Crime (SVC)

SVC areas of concern consist of domestic violence, alcohol related violence and gang violence. Domestic violence is considerably under-reported throughout Birmingham. Alcohol related violence, whilst recently reducing significantly within the city centre due to fewer social visitors, is recording a net increase across the local authority area. Although gang violence remains topical, only a small proportion of SVC comprises of gang violence. There is evidence to suggest gang violence is increasing in some areas and therefore this relative knowledge gap requires addressing by the Safer Birmingham Partnership's Information and Intelligence Team (I&I Team).

Hate Crime

There are significant differences in the standards of reporting, recording and detecting different types of hate crime. Racist hate crime is well managed throughout Birmingham and as a result has recorded recent reductions. Currently homophobic, faith hate, transphobic and disability related hate crime are considerably under-reported due to a lack of knowledge and access to victim support, the normalisation of offending, and a lack of confidence that the crime can be detected. The Hate Crime Strategy Implementation Plan leaves Safer Birmingham Partnership well placed to successfully manage these issues but it is important to recognise that increased reporting of hate crime must be in line with the Safer Birmingham Partnership directed activity. Any recorded increases, such as recent

recorded homophobic hate crime increases, are therefore considered reflective of an actual increase in committed crime.

The Fear of Crime

The in-depth and innovative analysis of West Midlands Police public perception data has enabled the identification of who within Birmingham is significantly affected by the fear of crime and also offers insight into how this fear has developed. Crucially though, it has enabled the comparison to both a regional and national perspective on the nature of the fear of crime. Work status, gender, religion and disability have all been identified as features that influence a Birmingham resident's fear of crime. Anti-social behaviour, community harmoniousness, and local drug dealing, all impact on a local community's fear of crime. Further more, young people consider crime issues just as important as older people but are generally less fearful than those older than them. Finally, it is found that the fear levels in Birmingham are more pronounced than for regional averages, as are the proportion of residents that consider crime to be increasing.

The Effect of the Recession on Community Safety

Following media speculation that the current recession will increase the number of acquisitive crime offenders, it is found more plausible (through analysis) that Birmingham's local community will instead be more 'accepting' of low level acquisitive crimes such as theft. This is, in the main, due to a desire for cheaper goods and the willingness to buy stolen items. It is also suggested that gang violence will continue to increase due to a lack of legitimate opportunities to achieve socially promoted goals within disadvantaged areas. This is further facilitated by the current economic down-turn and an increase in gang glamorisation through social media. Further predictions include:

- Increased prostitution;
- Increased shop lifting by known offenders;
- Increased fly-tipping;
- Increased arson related property fires resulting in serious harm or death; and
- Increased illegal money lending and its movement into more affluent areas.

Whilst it is found that crime levels and the economy do have a relationship, it is also acknowledged that such a relationship is complex and open to interruption from additional variables such as the weather, efforts to reduce false reporting and the use of intelligence led policing.

Serious Sexual Crime (SSC)

SSC, which has recently recorded an increased level of offending, comprises of domestic sexual violence, alcohol related sexual crime and paedophilic child abuse. Domestic sexual violence has much in common with domestic violence and is therefore addressed accordingly. Alcohol related sexual crime only contributes a small proportion of SSC but is the most consistently reported of the three offence types. It represents the most appropriate area for the Safer Birmingham Partnership involvement due to its more 'visible' nature, but also contains challenges such as a low detection rate due to the infrequency that the offender is known to the victim. There is a considerable Safer Birmingham Partnership knowledge gap around child abuse as it currently falls outside of the Partnership's area of responsibility; however, a media focus on any related local issue may have the potential for concern to the Safer Birmingham Partnership following its endeavour for a stronger identity. Finally, it is noted that very few, if any, SSCs in Birmingham relate to a predatory male offending against unknown victims, as is the type of offence typically highlighted by national media.

Youth Crime

Although this area did not score within the top five priority threats, it warranted inclusion as it transcends all of the areas above. As such, this is perhaps the most comprehensive area of analysis and as a result many key findings have been highlighted. Interestingly it has been found that drug related offending by young people isn't driven by financial necessity but more by a chaotic lifestyle. Therefore, drug related offences more often revolve around violent crimes and criminal damage, compared to the acquisitive crime aspect of adult drug related offending. Knives, or the perception someone has a knife, instils fear into the minds of many young people which is itself perpetuating the incidence of carrying a knife. And finally, evidence does not support the notion that groups of young people should be seen as a threat, particularly by the elderly. Indeed the rate of child victimisation is believed to be twice that of adult victimisation.

It is the intention that this year's Strategic Assessment process is reviewed prior to the commencement of the next Strategic Assessment. It is also intended that provision be made here for threats that could not be involved in this process such as violent extremism and re-offending rates.



2. Introduction

Birmingham local authority area has changed much over recent years and recorded many considerable successes. The percentage of the working population without a qualification dropped to 19% in 2007 from 26% in 2001/02. Birmingham city centre is also changing considerably with re-generation and development of both business and residential premises. In 2006 it was announced that Birmingham was to expect £1.86 Billion worth of investment¹. The percentage of unemployed people has also dropped to 9% in 2007/08 from 10% in 1999/2000 and during the same period the median gross weekly income has increased by over 30%.

However challenges remain. Unemployment has begun to increase significantly as the UK recession takes effect and although the average gross weekly income has increased, so has the gap between Birmingham's average income and the national average income.

Since 2001 it has been estimated that Birmingham's population has increased by nearly 3%. This is not significant in itself until it is noted that Birmingham's population aged 15 – 25 has increased by 15% during the same period and the population aged 85+ has increased by over 10%. This has implications for the Safer Birmingham Partnership due to the established links between young people and vulnerability to crime, as well as the recognised fear of crime amongst older residents. It is likely that this issue will continue as residents aged under 10 are one of the fastest growing age ranges.

Birmingham local authority area has also had recent success with specific community safety issues. In April 2008 the Safer Birmingham Partnership achieved the PSA1 target for crime reduction in addition to other notable successes that included a 37% reduction of personal robbery, a 37% reduction in domestic burglary and a 51% reduction in theft of a motor vehicle compared to 2003/04.

Indicator	Baseline (Apr 03 - Mar 04)	Target	Target %	Last 12 Months (Apr 07 - Mar 08)	% Var to Baseline
Overall Crime Reduction (PSA 1)	87,572	70,054	-20%	63,744	-27.20%
Domestic Burglary	12,170	9,493	-22%	7,703	-36.70%
Theft from Motor Vehicle	13,949	10,880	-22%	9,966	-28.60%
Theft of Motor Vehicle	9,811	7,653	-22%	4,832	-50.70%
Vehicle Interference	2,223	1,734	-22%	1,036	-53.40%
Criminal Damage	23,423	18,738	-20%	17,878	-23.70%
Common Assault	1,622	1,298	-20%	2,001	23.40%
Wounding	14,924	12,238	-18%	14,205	-4.80%
Theft/Taking of Pedal Cycle	1,165	932	-20%	1,150	-1.30%
Theft from Person	2,594	2,023	-22%	1,392	-46.30%
Personal Robbery	5,691	5,065	-11%	3,581	-37.10%

Table 1. Birmingham PSA 1 target results April 2008 (Safer Birmingham Partnership)

Other notable successes included an 18% reduction in alcohol related violence, a 27% reduction in anti-social behaviour (ASB) on public transport, and a 23% reduction in the number of young victims of crime. As of February 2009 these reductions appear to have been sustained: total recorded crime is down 6% year to date versus the same period last year and serious acquisitive crime, which includes burglary, robbery and motor vehicle crime, is down 5%.

Although these reductions have been widespread across Birmingham, areas of concern remain regarding community safety issues. Figure 1 highlights Birmingham's priority neighbourhoods as defined by Be Birmingham. Attwood Green (PN2) for example, records a rate of crime (per 1000 population) seven times greater than that for the whole of Birmingham and records a rate of serious violent crime which is over nine times greater.

It should be recognised though that these priority neighbourhoods will all be affected by different issues; in fact 11 of the neighbourhood's record lower crime rates than the rest of Birmingham. As a consequence of the methodology used to identify the priority neighbourhoods the area that records the most crime, Birmingham City Centre, is not included. Issues that are of concern within all

of the priority neighbourhoods include GCSE attainment, general health and the standard of living environment². Where issues appropriate to the Safer Birmingham Partnership are relevant to these priority neighbourhoods they will be addressed within this Strategic Assessment accordingly.

Priority Neighbourhoods	
PN 1	Aston Pride
PN 2	Attwood Green
PN 3	Balsall Heath
PN 4	Birchfield
PN 5	Bordesley Green
PN 6	Firs and Bromford
PN 7	North Yardley
PN 8	Farm Park and Sparkbrook North
PN 9	Glebe Farm and Lea Village
PN 10	Handsworth
PN 11	Newtown, Hockley and St. Georges
PN 12	Kings Norton Three Estates; Pool Farm, Primrose and Hawkesley
PN 13	Kingstanding Central
PN 14	Lozells
PN 15	North Nechells, Bloomsbury and Duddeston
PN 16	Richmond and Birtton Road
PN 17	Saltley and Washwood Heath
PN 18	Small Heath
PN 19	Small Heath and Bordesley
PN 20	Soho Finger and Gib Heath
PN 21	Sparkhill North and Central
PN 22	Highgate, Digbeth and St. Andrews
PN 23	Summerfield and Central Ladywood
PN 24	Ward End and Pelham
PN 25	Winson Green, Brookfields and West Summerfield

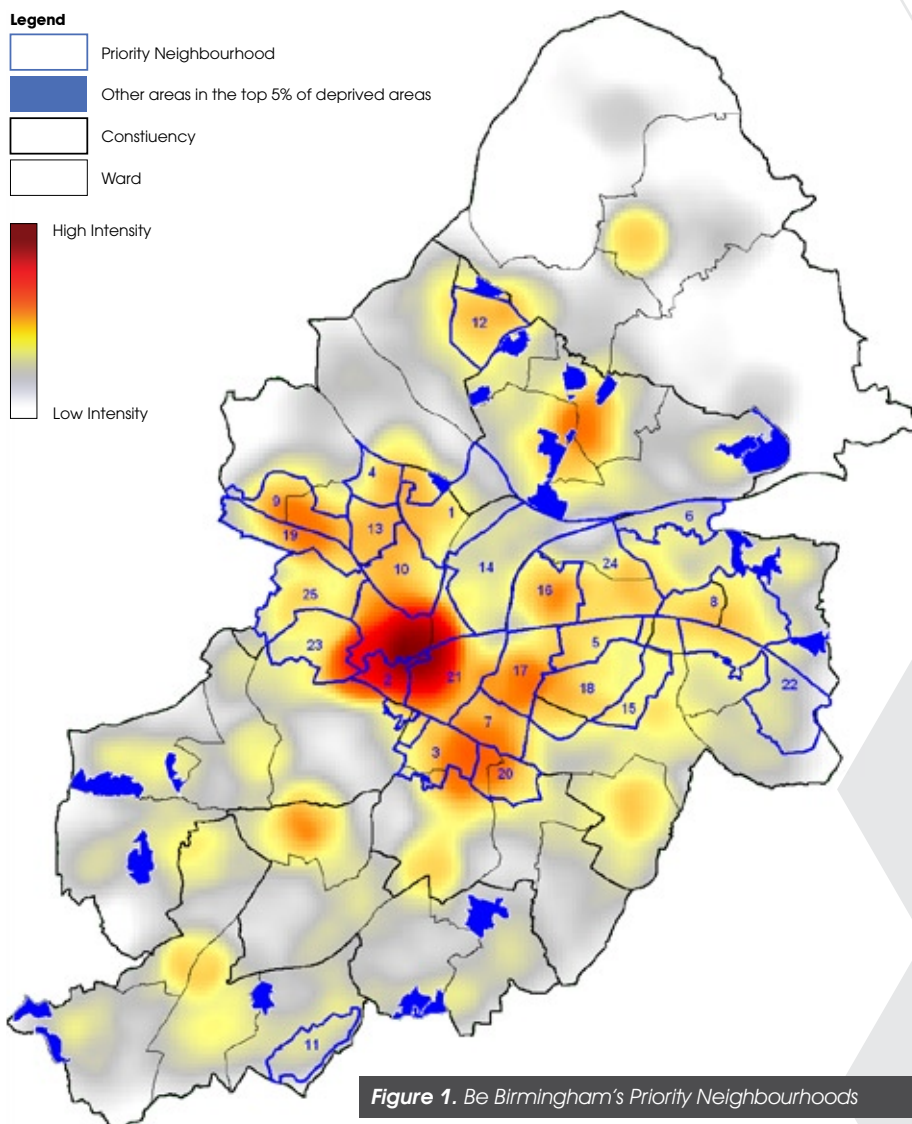


Figure 1 also shows the areas of highest intensity crime recorded in Birmingham during 2008. A further breakdown using our priority crimes is shown in Appendix 7.

Figure 1. Be Birmingham's Priority Neighbourhoods

In addition to issues presented by Birmingham's transforming population and the national economy there are also threats posed by technological developments. It is now reported that the majority of robberies and thefts from cars involve CRAVED³ items such as mp3 music players, satellite navigation systems and mobile phones. Recent technological advancements have resulted in devices that incorporate all of these functions and it is unclear how this will influence the criminal market place and the vulnerability of visible users such as young people.

It is the purpose of this assessment to consider such issues that may be relevant to the Safer Birmingham Partnership. Following a scoping exercise a number of potential threats were subjected to a comprehensive risk assessment (see section 13). As a consequence of this process, the below threats have been identified as priorities to the Safer Birmingham Partnership 2009/10 and are now contained within the Partnership's Control Strategy. This Control Strategy should not be regarded as static, and is considered flexible for development throughout the following 12 months.

Serious Acquisitive Crime	Serious Violent Crime	Serious Sexual Crime
Robbery	Murder/Manslaughter Wounding/ABH	Rape Indecent/Sexual Assault
Reduce Victimisation	Public Protection	Community Cohesion
Gun Crime Business Crime Young People	Abuse of Responsibility (Child Abuse etc) Knife Crime Alcohol Involved Crime Road Traffic Collisions Fire Related Deaths & Serious Injury	Anti-Social Behaviour Drug Use

Table 2. Safer Birmingham Partnership Control Strategy



3. Aim

This Strategic Assessment intends to identify and explore the current and future gaps and risks relevant to the Birmingham Local Authority Area. It will then offer the Safer Birmingham Partnership options for action applicable to enforcement, intervention, prevention and reassurance.



4. Purpose

This document will provide strategic guidance to the Safer Birmingham Partnership, Local Delivery Groups and partner agencies via a crime pattern analysis reference tool.

Each priority threat identified has been subject to a full crime pattern analysis (CPA) which is available upon request. This document builds upon the CPA using strategic analytical techniques to explore areas relevant to the Safer Birmingham Partnership.



5. Commissioning of Document

This document has been commissioned by the Safer Birmingham Partnership.



6. Terminology

Comprehensive analysis is set out through **INFERENCES** formed from **KEY FINDINGS** and resulting in **RECOMMENDATIONS**.

YTD refers to the financial year to date unless stated otherwise.

Detection rates used here differ to West Midlands Police's (WMP) definition of a hate crime sanction detection rate where clear up code 18 - *local resolution* is omitted.



7. Data Sources

- West Midlands Police Crimes and Oasis data
- West Midlands Police Feel The Difference Survey Waves 16-19 (2008).
- West Midlands Fire Service
- The Anti-Social Behaviour Helpline
- Birmingham City Council Waste Management Services
- Violent Crime Reduction Accident and Emergency data (Linxs)
- Census 2001
- Office of National Statistics (License Number: C2009000397)
- Birmingham Schools Exclusion Team
- Be Birmingham
- Birmingham City Council Empty Properties Team

8. Analysis

Each Safer Birmingham Partnership priority, as identified by the Strategic Risk Assessment, is analysed further below. Please refer to Section 14 for the full methodology or section 15 of this document for further information on each Crime Pattern Analysis that supports this Strategic Assessment.

8.1 Serious Violent Crime

Serious Violence Crime (SVC), as defined by NI15, includes murder, manslaughter, infanticide, child destruction, attempted murder, wounding or other act endangering life, grievous bodily harm, causing death by a number of driving offences. There were 1439 most serious violence offences during 2008.

SVC has been recorded in its current form since April 2008. The base line data for NI15 (April 2007 – March 2008) was re-categorised by WMP's Performance Review to reflect the current definition. An increase in serious violent crime since March 2008 has been identified but is most likely due to a more robust recording process in line with the new PSA23 targets. For this reason it is sometimes more appropriate to compare trends identified with SVC.

The city centre has recorded a large reduction in both most serious violence and all violent crime compared to last year. The biggest increases for most serious violence have been seen in King's Norton, Aston, the boundary of Washwood Heath and Hodge Hill, and South Yardley wards. The area recording the largest increase in all violence against the person is Kingstanding.

Although Birmingham tends to record a higher level of SVC during summer months, the level of SVC varied considerably throughout 2008. This may be due to the relatively low number of offences, and also means that it is temporally unpredictable.

Despite recording significant reductions within the city centre, and its temporally unpredictable nature, the city centre remains the hotspot for SVC and is likely to continue to do so. This is a direct consequence of the influence of alcohol related violence. Other 'types' of SVC that have been identified within the SVC CPA include domestic violence (SDVC) and gang related violence (SGRV).

All are addressed separately overleaf.

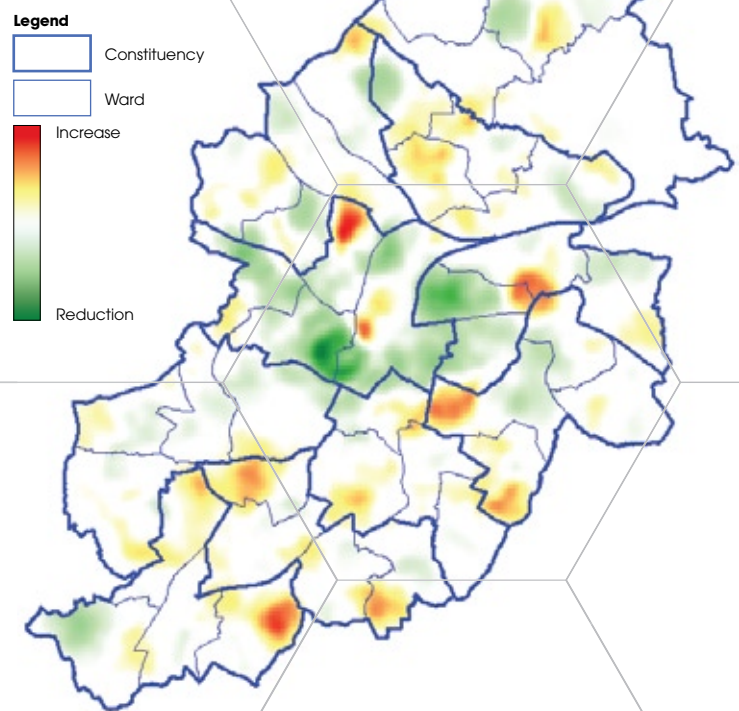


Figure 2. Areas of changes in SVC YTD compared to the same period last year (WMP Crimes).

Alcohol Involved Serious Violent Crime

45% of the city's most serious violence takes place within the night time economy⁴. Alcohol is recorded as involved⁵ in 52% of offences that took place within the night time economy throughout the city, although it is thought that this figure may be greater. 74% of offences occurred in public and 19% occurred within licensed premises. As a result the most frequent location description was road with 27% of all offences.

Figure 3 shows the hours of the day when most SVC occurred within Birmingham during 2008. The involvement of the night time economy is clearly evident with most offences occurring in the evening and at night, particularly between 2300 and 0300 at weekends. It should also be noted here that SVC increases on all days from 1500 onwards. Young people were involved in 26% of offences that took place between 1500 and 1800; this is in comparison to young people being involved in 14.8% of all SVC, indicating that young people are more vulnerable when travelling from school.

Legend
Daytime Analysis
Most Serious Violence

- 26 to 38
- 16 to 25
- 6 to 15
- 0 to 5

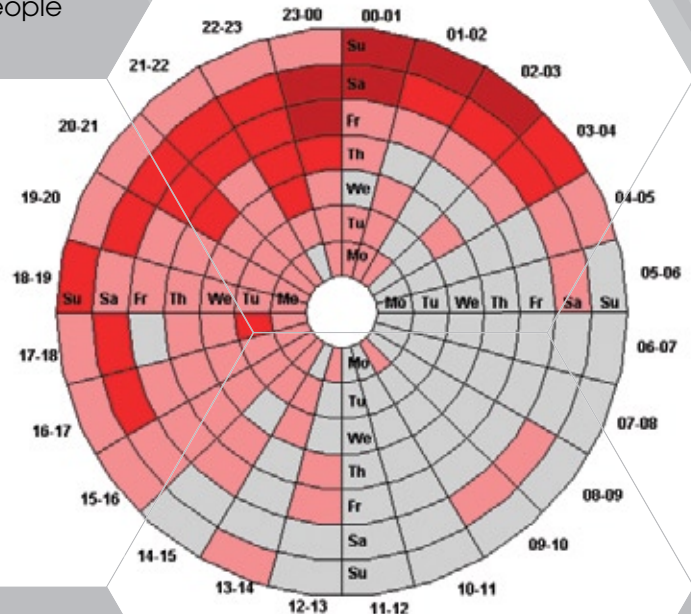


Figure 3. Temporal analysis of most serious violence offences in Birmingham 2008 (WMP Crimes)

Table 3 shows where most serious violence that took place within the night time economy occurred across the city. Whilst offences appear evenly distributed throughout Birmingham's Constituencies, it is clear that it is the number of offences within the night time economy that contribute most to the Birmingham hotspot.

70% of the offences in the city hotspot occurred within the night time economy. 35% took place at licensed premises and 72% had the alcohol involved special interest marker. 94.71% took place in public. Repeat licensed locations include Rococo (6 offences), Bar Risa (5) and Kerryman Public House (5).

Although Sutton Coldfield Constituency is placed 9th for SVC, the clear majority of offences followed the Birmingham City Centre trend of alcohol related public place violence.

SVC Night Time Economy 2008

Constituency	Rank	No.	%
Edgbaston	7	43	6.71%
Erdington	3	47	7.33%
Hall Green	10	31	4.84%
Hodge Hill	4	46	7.18%
Ladywood	1	248	38.69%
Northfield	7	43	6.71%
Perry Barr	6	44	6.86%
Selly Oak	2	56	8.74%
Sutton Coldfield	9	37	5.77%
Yardley	4	46	7.18%
Total	-	641	100%

Table 3. Rankings by Operational Command Unit for most serious violence during the night time economy in 2008

Domestic Violence

There were 182 SVCs during 2008 that related to domestic violence, which equates to 12.6% of all SVC. Figure 4 shows how much domestic violence occurred in each of the city's wards in addition to the location of SDVC.

The Ladywood and Soho wards recorded the highest volume of domestic violence per 1000 population. This was also the case after domestic violence occurring in public within the night time economy was removed. Ladywood and Hodge Hill constituencies recorded the highest level of domestic violence and serious domestic violence.

11.7% of SVCs that took place within the night time economy were domestic violence. 59% of these had the alcohol involved special interest marker; this is a slightly higher percentage of alcohol involvement than for all most serious violence within the night time economy. 9% of the domestic violence offences took place in public and 48% took place within a dwelling.

Research⁶ shows that early intervention in abusive relationships could prevent domestic violence incidents escalating to the level of most serious violence, especially as 54% of serious domestic violence offenders during 2008 had previous charges relating to domestic violence. In 97% of cases the level of previous violence was lower. At the time of writing the Home Office had launched its consultation on the Together We Can End Violence Against Women And Girls Strategy. This consultation looks at helping friends, family, employers and public services to identify early signs of violence so that something can be done about it, as well as ensuring that men who have attacked or abused women already, do not continue to do so. There are proposals for a register for abusive partners to warn potential victims of their partner's history and giving powers to the Police to ban offenders from the family home for a fortnight⁷.

However, it should be taken into consideration that according to the government National Delivery Plan, less than 24% of domestic violence crime is reported to the police⁸. Also, victims of domestic abuse are likely to experience repeated attacks before they report the abuse to anyone and it is estimated that, on average, 35 assaults happen before the police are called⁹.

The under reporting of domestic violence is also supported by accident and emergency alcohol related assault data¹⁰, which showed that 112 people were treated for injuries between 19/02/08 and 31/12/08 where the 'assailant relationship' was either 'relative' or 'partner/ex partner'. Out of the 112 incidents the patient said they had reported the incident to the police on only 67 occasions (60%).

There were four attempted murders and five domestic violence murders during 2008. Four of the victims were men and the remaining five were women. In all but one incident the victim was stabbed with a knife or sharp instrument. There were no records of any previous domestic violence between the partners/ex partners in any of the murder cases, although three of the defendants had been arrested for domestic violence in relation to previous partners. As it can be assumed that these were not the first crimes of this nature against the victims, it highlights the importance of increasing reporting of domestic violence and early intervention.

A related domestic violence issue regards the use of Special Interest Markers (SIMs) used to flag crimes of interest. Whilst crime scanners are adept at identifying discrepancies, over 50% of domestic

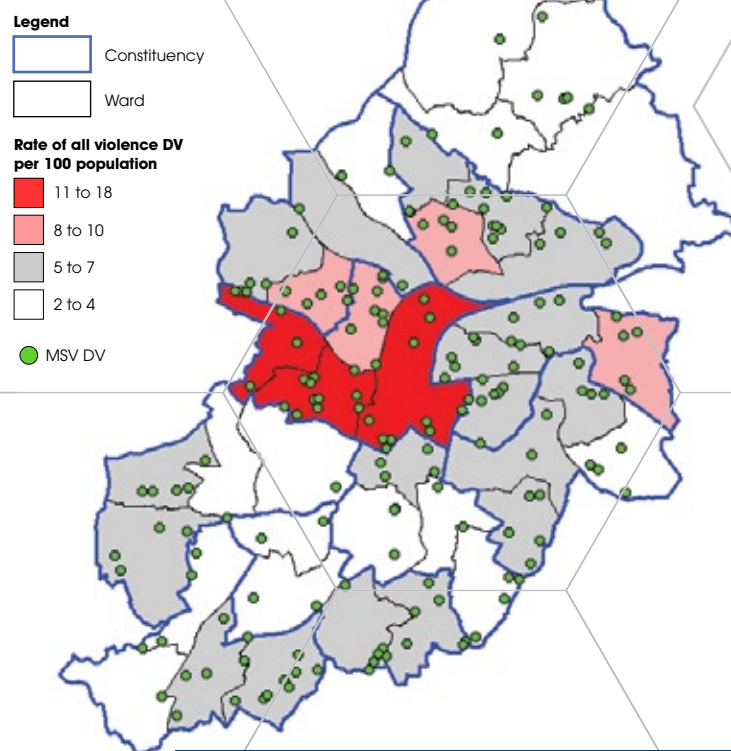


Figure 4. Domestic Violence per rate of 1000 population by Ward

violence crimes were not correctly marked by police officers and crime scanners do not check whether these offences are passed to the vulnerable persons officer as a result. This is of significant concern and may mean that victims do not receive the full level of support available.

Gang Related Violence

The D1, which recorded the second highest volume of SVC for the city also contains the hotspot in figure 5. 10% of SVC recorded in the D1 during 2008 was linked to urban street gangs (USG) or organised crime groups (OCG). Attempted Murders or GBH offences comprised the majority of these crimes. Weapons were used in all except one of the offences with firearms and knives featuring in equal proportions.

Specifically within the Aston hotspot there were 40 SVCs during 2008, of which 70% were GBH. 65% of the offences took place in public, with 11 of the SVCs involving individuals known to each other. Weapons were used in 28 offences (70%) – knives were used in seven offences, and firearms in three offences. SVC levels increased in the latter part of the day, with peaks at 1800 - 1900 and 2100 - 2200.

For this hotspot the majority of offenders were in their early 20s (20-26yrs), Asian and male. The same trend is true for victims and is consistent with the local demographic profile.

Although the main focus here is gang related SVC, it should be noted that the majority of the offences in this area were spontaneous and unrelated to USG / OCG activity. However, the elevated levels of USG related SVC within some neighbourhoods is consistent with areas where there is a concentration of known gang members residing. It is therefore inferred that in 2008 USG SVC continues to be related to ongoing 'turf' / territorial issues between rival gangs¹¹. In addition, the F3 reported in their Strategic Assessment (October 2008) that there has been an increase in the trend of gun crime levels during their strategic assessment period due to increased levels of shootings linked to inter-rivalries between USGs.

Within the F3, analysis indicates that African-Caribbean males in their late teens/twenties are the most likely group to be involved in gun crime as an offender¹². African Caribbean males in their late teens/twenties are also the most likely demographic to be victims of gun crime. The overrepresentation of persons from an African-Caribbean background also most likely reflects the involvement of these defendants in established Urban Street Gangs and also more newly formed USGs whose membership is predominantly African-Caribbean.

The F3 has also highlighted an emerging trend in the use of the internet by USGs to promote them selves on sites such as Myspace & Youtube. It is feared that the glamorisation of criminal gang culture upon the Internet is impacting on young teenagers' aspirations by suggesting that gang culture is a desirable lifestyle in comparison to conventional employment.

Within the 25 neighbourhoods identified to the Safer Birmingham Partnership as priority areas by Be Birmingham, 9 record fewer SVCs per 1000 population compared to the Birmingham average (1.5 SVCs). Understandably, PN 2 – Attwood Green and PN 22 – Highgate and Digbeth recorded significantly higher rates of SVC due to their city centre locations and small resident populations (14.4 and 7.3 respectively). Other areas recording high SVC rates are PN 17 – Saltley and Washwood Heath (2.5), PN 14 – Lozells (2.8) and PN 23 – Summerfield and Central Ladywood (3.1).



Figure 5. A SGRV hotspot

Key Findings

Large reductions in SVC have been recorded within the city centre but a net increase has been recorded across Birmingham.

The city centre remains the Birmingham local authority area hotspot. 45% of the City's SVC takes place within the night time economy. At least 52% of this crime involved alcohol and the majority occurred in public. The majority of offences committed within Sutton Coldfield followed the city centre alcohol related violence trends.

A greater percentage of SVC offences involve young people between 1500 and 1800 compared to other times.

Ladywood records the greatest rate of domestic violence even when offences related to the night time economy have been removed.

Early intervention in abusive relationships can prevent incidents escalating to SDVC.

54% of SDVC offenders had previous charges relating to domestic violence.

Less than 24% of domestic violence is reported.

Over 50% of domestic violence crimes were not appropriately marked by the investigating police officer.

The majority of reported gang related violence involves the use of a weapon.

Investigation into the relationship between crime and the economy has highlighted some research that offers insight into the attraction of gang culture (see section 8.4). Robert Merton's strain theory refers to 'anomie'. Essentially, anomie represents the contradiction where society promotes goals such as wealth, power and material gains but fails to provide the opportunities to attain them. A strain then forms between the 'haves' and the 'have nots' which often manifests itself as violence.

Although this seminal work addressed crime in the US it has obvious applications in the UK regarding gang culture. More specifically it goes some way to explaining the attraction of gang affiliation when income is typically below minimum wage and there is a high risk of serious injury. Gang leaders reportedly have the respect, relative wealth and power not available – or at least attainable – via mainstream education within the community. In this instance the aforementioned glamorisation of gang culture is more akin to advertising and shows the benefits of gang affiliation in what is essentially a vacuum of real opportunity.

Inferences

Gang on gang violence, and gang affiliation, will continue to increase throughout Birmingham.

Should alcohol prices remain stable within areas of Birmingham's night time economy, alcohol related SVC will remain at reduced levels. However, the anticipation that students in particular will continue to consume socially the drink and drugs that increase vulnerability to SVC will maintain the city centre as Birmingham's hotspot location. In addition, the city centre level of violence will increase to pre-recession levels in line with a strengthening economy.

Not all domestic violence victims that report abuse are provided with the full available support.

Recommendations

Change in recording practice of A&E assault data so the patient is asked whether they believe their assailant had been drinking or was on drugs.

Further work to be conducted to determine whether victims of domestic violence receiving treatment in A&E are being sign-posted to domestic violence support services.

Activity directed to increase the reporting of domestic violence to be implemented following a procedural review of the use of domestic violence SIMs. Directed activity should be aligned to efforts to increase reporting of hate crime and serious sexual crime (see sections 11.2 & 11.5).

Further work to be conducted by Safer Birmingham Partnership's Information and Intelligence Team on factors that influence under-reporting of domestic violence.

The glamorisation of gangs local to Birmingham via social media to be managed as a priority.

Use of new legislation (see section 11.6) to prevent gang affiliates from also entering the 'territory' of other gangs in an effort to reduce gang-on-gang violence.

The Information and Intelligence Team to review the effectiveness of the Alcohol Referral Scheme via a Results Analysis product.



8.2 Hate Crime

A hate crime is any criminal offence which is perceived, by the victim or any other person, to be motivated by hostility or prejudice based on a person's race, religion, sexual orientation, disability or gender.

Hate crime in Birmingham, as recorded by West Midlands Police, represents between 3% and 5% of nationally recorded hate crime¹³. Since April 2007 Birmingham recorded 2999 racially motivated hate crimes yet only recorded 106 faith hate crimes, 185 homophobic hate crimes, 7 transphobic hate crimes and 39 disability related hate crimes. Although it is widely acknowledged that all crime is under-reported (although to differing extents dependent on the type of crime), it appears hate crime is significantly under-reported. It is estimated that in 2008 Birmingham only recorded about 1.5 - 3% of actual homophobic hate crime and less than 1% of actual disability related hate crime¹⁴.

In October 2007 Birmingham started recording a significantly lower number of racist hate crimes. The hotspot for racist hate crime is the city centre and more offences tend to be committed on Fridays and Saturdays, which reflects the involvement of the night time economy on recorded hate crime. However, the peak times for offending are 1500hrs – 1600hrs and as 47% of known offenders are aged under 25 years old, it can be inferred that offences involving young people travelling home from school or college via city centre bus connections are also particularly vulnerable to hate crime. Both offences committed after school and within the night time economy are highly visible and this may go some way to explaining the greater numbers of recorded racist hate crime compared to the other offence types.

The majority of race hate offenders are White males but Black offenders are the only ethnic group that are over-represented compared to the Birmingham demographic profile. Asian victims are the most targeted but both Asian and Black victims are over-represented 2-1.

The same area of the city centre is also the hotspot for faith hate crime; however, there is a much greater pronounced 1500hrs – 1600hrs peak suggesting a much greater vulnerability to young people. Despite this, places of worship are the most common offence location for faith hate crimes. The greatest represented religion of both faith hate victims and offenders is Islam although it should be noted that a considerable percentage of victims and offenders did not state their religion.

Although the city centre is the hotspot for the above hate crime types, both the D1 and D3 Operational Command Units (OCUs) record more crimes, offenders, and victims compared to any other OCU. Although these OCUs only contribute slightly more offences, offenders, and victims, the D1 is also the joint second top OCU for residents that believe racial attacks are a problem within their neighbourhood. This OCU is also sixth (of nine) for the percentage of residents that believe their neighbourhood is a harmonious place to live. The D3, on the other hand, is placed seventh and first respectively.

Unlike racist hate crime, recorded homophobic hate crime has increased during the last two years with significant increases since January 2008. Recorded homophobic hate crime is also driven much more by the night time economy with the peaks in offences occurring Friday night / Saturday morning and Saturday night / Sunday morning, with the hotspot centred on Birmingham's 'Gay Village'.

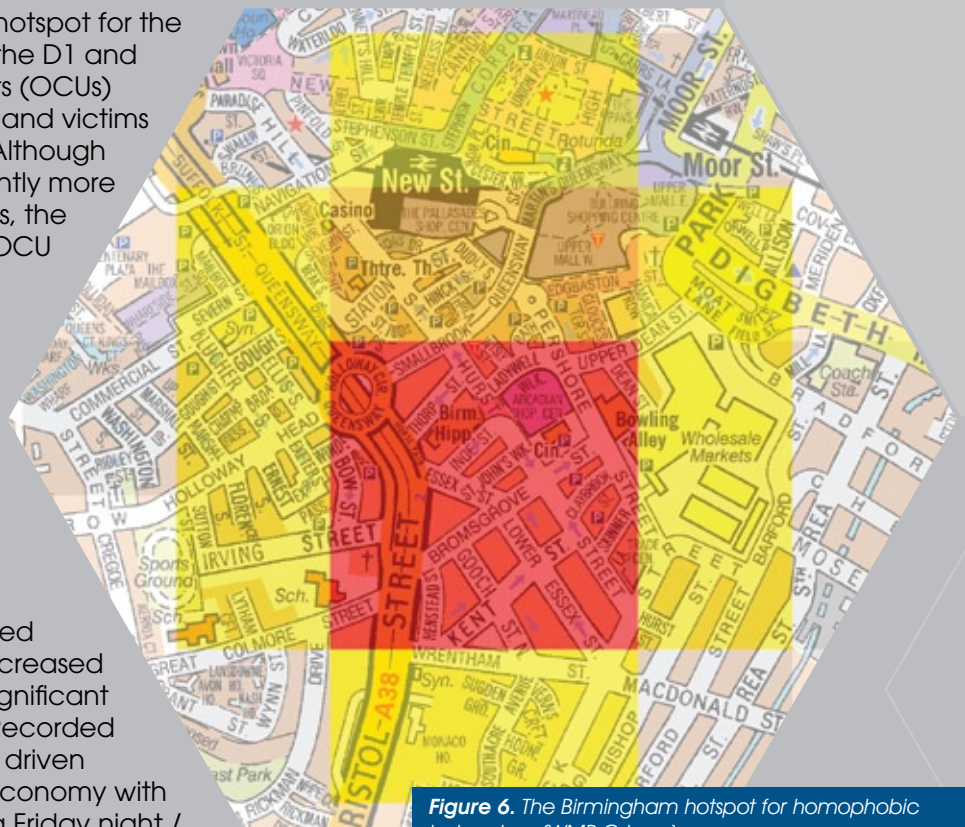


Figure 6. The Birmingham hotspot for homophobic hate crime (WMP Crimes)

In fact 42% of all recorded homophobic hate crime occurred within the F1 Operational Command Unit. Although, like racist hate crime, road is the top offence location for homophobic hate crime, the other top offence locations revolve around residential properties. In addition, 23% of all homophobic hate crime occurred within a dwelling whereas 6% and 3% occurred within pubs and clubs respectively.

The majority of homophobic offenders are white males aged 14-25. Most offenders live outside of the city centre and 28% live outside of Birmingham. All BME victims of homophobic hate crime were considerably under-represented and although offenders and victims residences were pretty evenly distributed throughout Birmingham, more of both were recorded residing on the E1 than any other OCU.

Of all homophobic and transphobic offences only one was regarded as domestic violence, as is only 10% of disability related hate crime, yet research suggests domestic violence is much more common than this¹⁵. An additional area of disparity

includes detection rates: where as 28% of racist hate crime was successfully detected; only 20% of homophobic offences and 0% of transphobic offences were detected. This issue is also an area of concern for disability related hate crime where only 10% of offences were detected. There is also, curiously, a greater percentage of racist hate crime successfully detected when the offender is not known to the victim compared to when the offender is known.

Within the 25 neighbourhoods identified to the Safer Birmingham Partnership as priority areas by Be Birmingham, 11 record fewer hate crimes per 1000 population compared to the Birmingham average (1.8). Understandably, PN 2 – Attwood Green and PN 22 – Highgate and Digbeth recorded significantly higher rates of hate crime due to their city centre locations and small resident populations (12.2 and 6.7 respectively). Other areas recording high Hate Crime rates are PN 17 – Saltley and Washwood Heath (3.8), PN 15 – North Nechells (4) and PN 21 – Sparkhill North and Central (4.2).

Key Findings

In October 2007 Birmingham started recording a significantly lower number of racist hate crimes but soon started recording a greater number of homophobic hate crimes.

The hotspot for all reported hate crime, with the exception of disability related hate crime, is Birmingham City Centre.

Black racist offenders are the only ethnic group that are over-represented compared to the Birmingham demographic profile. Asian victims of racist hate crime are the most targeted but both Asian and Black victims are over-represented 2-1.

The greatest represented religion of both faith hate victims and offenders is Islam although it should be noted that a considerable percentage of victims and offenders did not state their religion.

The majority of homophobic offenders are white males aged 14-25.

Detection rates are considerably lower for non-racist hate crime.

Discrepancies with hate crime recording have been identified.

There are no recent hate crime surveys applicable to Birmingham.

Due to the low numbers of both transphobic and disability related hate crime it is difficult to identify any trends other than under-reporting; however, there also appears to be a problem with regards to the quality of such data. A review of 50 random victim statements involving violent crime within the 'Gay Village' was conducted and it was found that two additional offences fell within the definitional of homophobic hate crime. In addition, all of the disability hate crime witness statements were reviewed and it was found that over 50% failed to fall within the definition of hate crime. Further more, it was concluded that in some cases disability hate crimes were being marked as such simply because the crime involved a person with a disability, even if this person was the offender. There are additional examples highlighted within the Hate Crime CPA.

There have been no recent surveys of LGBT or disabled communities specific to Birmingham and hate crime. It is therefore difficult to identify the reasons for under-reporting. National surveys of victims of homophobic hate crime suggest that crimes aren't reported because they are not considered serious enough or because it is believed the police can't or won't do anything about it. Some of the most cited reasons for under-reporting within the disabled community regard difficulty accessing services,

Inferences

Homophobic, transphobic and disability related hate crime is significantly under-reported in Birmingham.

The two biggest barriers to reporting homophobic, transphobic and disability related hate crime is the perception that hate crime is 'normal' within these communities and the perception that West Midlands Police provide an inadequate quality of service.

There is a gap in the standard of crime recording between racist hate crime and all other types of hate crime.

There is also a gap in the standard of detection between racist hate crime and all other types of hate crime.

Hate crime victims are less likely to press charges if the offender is known to them.

Recorded racist and faith hate crime is significantly influenced by offending within the night time economy and offending that involves Birmingham's young people travelling home from school or college. Recorded homophobic and transphobic hate crime is significantly driven by the night time economy, where as recorded disability hate crime has no identifiable trends.

the insensitivity of the police or the absence of confidence in the police. It is also often reported that some disabled victims fail to recognize the seriousness of the offence¹⁷.

It is therefore concluded that the three largest threats to hate crime in Birmingham are inconsistencies in detection rates, mis-recording and under-reporting. It is also concluded, due to the differing trends associated with the different types of hate crime, that offenders and victims of hate crime should not be treated as a single homogenous group.

It is important that the reasons for under-reporting all types of hate crime within Birmingham are confirmed in order to concentrate efforts to resolve the issue. As victim perceptions of West Midlands Police have been suggested as reasons for under-reporting it is also necessary to better understand the victim experience of West Midlands Police. Approximately 10% of all victims of crime within Birmingham are surveyed and it has been found that victims of hate crime perceive a lower quality of service compared to non-hate crime victims. This opinion is consistent across all aspects of the West Midlands Police service; crucially though, 19% of all surveyed hate crime victims were dissatisfied with the service provided by West Midlands Police compared to 9% of non-hate crime victims. Furthermore, 14% were left with a worse opinion of West Midlands Police as a result of this contact compared to 6% of non-hate crime victims. It is clear that this is an area that requires immediate attention to successfully address under-reporting.

One often proposed solution involves the use of third-party reporting centres which allows the victims of crime that may feel uncomfortable going to the police to access specialised support. Although Birmingham has not established a third-party reporting network, there are to date twenty nine such third-party reporting centres within Coventry and nine within Dudley. Coventry's Anti-Harassment Reporting Centre also provides a multi-agency case review function.

Whilst these efforts undoubtedly provide support for victims, it remains unclear how third-party reporting centres are successfully increasing the ratio of homophobic and disability related hate crime reported to West Midlands Police. Table 4 shows the rate of hate crime recorded in Birmingham, Dudley and Coventry.

Although Birmingham records a higher rate of race hate crime, this isn't surprising due to the larger proportion of BME communities within the local authority area. However, it would be expected that a local authority containing third-party reporting centres with the aim of increasing the proportion of recorded hate crime would record a higher rate of homophobic and disability related hate crime. This only appears to be the case for disability related hate crime and only within Coventry.

HATE CRIME	LOCAL AUTHORITY AREA		
Type	Birmingham	Dudley	Coventry
RACE	1.20	0.42	1.07
FAITH	0.05	0.01	0.07
HOMOPHOBIC	0.09	0.04	0.07
TRANSPHOBIC	0.00	0.00	0.00
DISABILITY	0.01	0.00	0.03

Table 4. The rate per 1000 population of hate crime Apr08 – Dec08 (WMP Crimes)

As the volume of reported hate crime to the police, by which ever means, is essential in order to increase the quality of victim support, and the potential number of successful prosecutions, then the referral mechanism of third-party reporting centres must be robust and directly involve West Midlands Police in some capacity.

Training for crime inputers and front-line officers when taking statements is an obvious suggestion to resolve the highlighted crime recording issue. However, a force wide hate crime protocol may require development to ensure standards are consistent across the West Midlands. The increase in reporting standards will also provide the benefit of further analysis.

Scope argue that CDRP's such as the Safer Birmingham Partnership could play a valuable role in identifying hotspots for hate crime and in conducting intelligence-led work that could help police identify repeat hate crime perpetrators¹⁸. Although much of this work is already completed by Safer Birmingham Partnership in relation to other crime types, it may be that a localized response by a level one resource is more appropriate to address both hate crime and community re-assurance. Examples of when a level one resource has been successfully used to this effect should therefore be identified by the Safer Birmingham Partnership.

Scope also argues that the effectiveness of such partnerships is dependent on fully involving disabled people and their organisations in co-producing responses to hate crime. It's further suggested that police forces, housing officers and social care professionals work closer via a safer estates/ neighbourhoods model within this intelligence led approach, as is proving effective within the Metropolitan Police¹⁹.

It must be noted that many of these suggestions are contained within the Birmingham Hate Crime Strategy launched in March 2009. A plan is under development to implement these recommendations and even at such an early stage it appears appropriate attention is being applied to the issues of concern highlighted here. Furthermore, it can be inferred that successful implementation of the Hate Crime Strategy will have a significant benefit to the above issues regarding hate crime, which will ultimately lead to more successful prosecutions of hate crime offenders by the Crown Prosecution Service.

Currently there is little data available to establish the extent of hate crime reported to other organisations. Even where this information is recorded it is usually restricted to racist incident recording. For example, Birmingham Schools Exclusion data restricts its recording of hate involved exclusions to racism. As racist hate incidents are recorded by schools, it can be inferred that homophobic and disability related hate crime is also present. In recent years, technology has given children a new means of bullying each other. Cyber bullying, which is sometimes referred to as online social cruelty or electronic bullying, involves use of the Internet or other digital social media to cause harassment. With reports of increases in cyber bullying²⁰ and more than 23,000 young people nationally seeking advice within a three week period²¹, it appears that the absence of hate crime data in this area is a significant knowledge gap for the Safer Birmingham Partnership.

It also appears that there are emergent race hate issues that may be relevant in Birmingham involving the current economic downturn. A popular theory regarding race hate crime revolves around the frustration-aggression hypothesis. In its most simplified form, the theory suggests that hate crime, displayed as aggression towards a local minority population, is born from frustration within the local community. The current economic downturn and consequent recession has led to frustration within some communities due to the lack of employment opportunities. Frustration is further facilitated by the perception that legal economic migrants are offered the jobs that remain.

In fact, statistics show that 13% of jobs nationally now go to workers born outside of the UK, compared to 7.5% in 1997²². This suggests considerable potential for future employment frustration within local communities. This was certainly the case recently when wildcat strikes were held at the Lindsey Oil Refinery in North Lincolnshire. Perhaps most significant is the opportunity presented to manipulate this frustration by some political organisations²³. Most worryingly of all, it may not be just political parties that take advantage of such a situation but extremist religious organisations or serious organized crime groups. In these instances it may be important to learn from terrorist recruitment processes and to engage with the worklessness agenda to address gang affiliation. Areas with a high rate of non-UK born employees have been highlighted in appendix 4.

Current Strategic Activity

The Safer Birmingham Partnership launched Birmingham's 2008 – 2011 Hate Crime Strategy in March 2009²⁴. The Strategy's agreed Implementation Plan sets out milestones for all partners with the following aims:

- To reduce the number of hate incidents;
- To increase the level of hate crime reporting;
- To increase hate crime convictions;
- To improve hate crime victim satisfaction; and
- To support cases where it is considered that civil proceedings are appropriate.

The F1 OCU has recognized that disability access to buildings and car parking is a concern and that this may impact on the reporting of crime. In order to fully understand the magnitude of these issues the OCU is completing an audit of what the issues are in relation to disability access to its buildings.

Recommendations

Racist, homophobic and disability offenders/victims should not be treated as a homogenous group. In addition, the Safer Birmingham Partnership's partner data should be amended to reflect the type of hate crime and not just to address racist hate crime.

The re-design of West Midlands Police Contact Counts questionnaire to be investigated in line with the above recommendation as it currently only addresses 'racist incidents'. However, it should be noted that this survey is designed around Home Office requirements and therefore this may not be possible. In this instance the Safer Birmingham Partnership should initiate and liaise with the Home Office for advice on this matter.

The immediate development of a hate crime protocol that transcends all agencies and third-party reporting centres with responsibility for addressing hate crime. In conjunction with this, training should be delivered to crime inputers and front line officers to establish standardised hate crime recording via Special Interest Markers.

A 'victim of hate crime' quality monitoring framework to be established using West Midlands Police's Contact Counts surveys with the aim of supporting the Birmingham Hate Crime Strategy.

A Birmingham wide survey should be conducted to address knowledge gaps, establish the extent of under-reporting, and to confirm the perception of the Safer Birmingham Partnership and its partners within specific sections of the local community. Focus groups involving victims of hate crime should also be established in order to identify specific areas of improvement within service delivery.

Analysis to be conducted on bullying, including variants such as cyber-bullying, to link in with ongoing hate crime work. It may be that this forms the basis of a communication/education strategy with the local education authority which also addresses the identified vulnerability to pupils from hate crime when travelling home from school.

Focused Intelligence gathering and community support within local communities recording a high percentage of non-UK born employees (see appendix 4).

Safer Birmingham Partnership to specifically address the under-reporting of disability and homophobic hate crime within the Communication Strategy.



8.3 The Fear of Crime

Measures of peoples' perceptions and feelings of safety regarding crime and disorder are of great importance from both a crime and well-being perspective. Nationally, according to the surveys, we have seen reductions in recorded crime but conversely there has been no match in citizens' feelings regarding their safety. In broad terms, it can be inferred why people fear crime. These include:

- aspects of both reality and perception;
- being a victim of crime;
- being poorly informed, feeling powerless and isolated;
- being subject to persistent anti-social behaviour;
- living in an area that is seen to be experiencing economic / environmental decline; and
- feeling not enough is being done to reduce crime and Anti Social Behaviour (ASB) in the area.

Previous assessments have found that Birmingham and the wider West Midlands is no exception to this reassurance gap - where residents' fears are out of line with their objective risk of victimisation, with some particular segments of the population feeling less safe than others. The mission statement of West Midlands Police (WMP) is 'To reduce crime and disorder and make our communities feel safer'. Therefore it is important to identify which individuals' quality of life is being most affected by fear and what common characteristics any of these individuals might possess. This approach then allows us to make the most useful targeted interventions to improve perceptions of safety in Birmingham.

Concerns over safety are important to Birmingham City Council (BCC) as well as WMP. As part of the Performance Plan 2007-10, BCC has targets regarding the perception of safety during the day. BCC state "We will work with police and other partners to co-ordinate our resources to help reduce crime and the fear of crime", with an operational outcome to measure this²⁵. The data used for this perceptions based assessment is taken from waves 16-19 inclusive, calendar year 2008, of the WMP 'Feel the Difference Survey'. Sorting the data for Birmingham based residents only allows a sample size of 8,994, so first there is a regional analysis with a more robust sample size of 21,015. This allows us to more confidently identify the features of the West Midlands population that fear more greatly for their safety and then drill down on a more spatial basis for the constituencies and priority neighbourhoods in Birmingham²⁶.

NATIONAL & BRITISH CRIME SURVEY RESEARCH

In past research those that have been identified as potentially having higher levels of worry / concern / fear can be broken down into some generalised categories. This list is not exhaustive but includes some of the key findings over the last twenty years of academic research:

Gender

Almost universally, surveys have found that women report higher fear of crime than men, although recently there has been some discussion that there is the possibility of socially desirable reporting amongst males (Farrall & Sutton, 2004). As the data we have available can not disentangle this, it is something worth noting when conducting the analysis by gender. According to research, there is now a need to interpret findings very cautiously and also need to take macho concealment of fear into consideration.

Age

There is much research that shows the elderly have a high fear of crime despite being the least likely to become a victim (due to being less exposed, less close to illegal activities, the type of belongings they own etc.). It is noted that this may be the case as those living alone are more likely to be afraid and feel vulnerable, and a decline in physical strength and agility makes it reasonable to assume fear level is a function of the individual's personal vulnerability. It is also the impact of victimisation that is important since fear may be proportionate to their subjective assessment of the effect of the impact of being a victim. This shows there is also a distinction between the perceptions of the likelihood of victimisation and perceptions of the consequences, which may also not be accounted for in the data (as there is nothing to determine the type of crime committed against those marking themselves as a victim).

Ethnicity

Based on the 2005/06 and 2006/07 British Crime Survey (BCS), Jansson and Budd (2006) state that people from White ethnic backgrounds were less likely to perceive high levels of ASB in their local area compared to people from other ethnic groups; however, this is likely to reflect factors which can be independently associated with perceptions of ASB such as differences in the age profiles and the types

of areas where the groups live. Ethnicity was also independently associated with high levels of worry about crime in general. People from Asian and Black ethnic backgrounds showed the highest levels of worry about burglary, car crime and violence whilst consistently those from White ethnic backgrounds had the lowest levels of worry. Feeling the Difference does not capture worry about specific crime types although it does ask respondents to rank their top five biggest crime concerns from a list.

Victims

Lovbakke and Moley (2006) find that "...being a victim of crime was found to be strongly associated with negative perceptions". Fear might be best seen as a risk management strategy and natural defence against crime, rather than any sort of damaging and timorous retreat from society. This is difficult to discern on self-reporting scales. How can the Safer Birmingham Partnership know what level of fear is justified or appropriate, a level that motivates precaution and does not erode well-being and is 'rational' in some way? When this idea of an appropriate level of fear is applied to fear of crime is the concept of rationality sound? We know that fear is not simply a function of perceived risk, fear depends on the perceived seriousness of crimes, which in turn depends on the value that individuals' place on persons and property. In general, people tend to judge the seriousness of crimes in a similar fashion but this isn't always the case. "Research suggests that the most reliable predictor of future victimisation is past victimisation. Victims of crime are therefore more vulnerable to subsequent crime, meaning their fear of crime is rational" (Home Office). This area therefore warrants further investigation.

Educational Attainment

There is now research (Walker, Kershaw & Nicholas, 2006) to suggest peoples' perceptions of the crime rate vary according to educational level. They found that 38 % of people who had no educational qualifications thought that crime in the country had risen, compared with only 21% of people whose highest qualification was a degree or diploma. Feel the Difference does not ask about highest educational qualification and this is a gap in the Safer Birmingham Partnership's knowledge.

FINDINGS FOR WEST MIDLANDS REGION

From the Feeling the Difference Survey, those individuals that feel 'chronically worried' (2.2%) are those that felt fairly unsafe or worse (very unsafe, completely unsafe) both during the day and night (the lowest 9 categories). Those that we consider to be enduring a 'significant impact' on their quality of life as a result of crime or fear of crime are those that have marked, on a scale of one to ten, themselves as 7 or above (5%). The main desire from conducting this assessment was to find the characteristics of the 'chronically worried / significantly affected' - to identify what isn't known about them.

Worried After Dark

The question that asks about feeling safe in you neighbourhood after dark is asking about 'formless fear' (as there is no reference to a specific crime as is the case with 'concrete fear'). There are some general criticisms of this question type, as they can only tap into fears about types of crime that would be committed in these environments (i.e. there is nothing about crimes committed like burglary, domestic violence etc.). Also, this question fails to mention crime, refers to an imprecise geographical area, asks about an activity that people may not actually engage in and the terms of reference may mean different things to different people (Farrall & Ditton, 1999).

In the West Midlands, nearly one quarter of people (24%) mark feeling fairly, very or completely unsafe at night. Females immediately show a higher proportion in this category (32.2% compared to 15.4% male). Further to this, of the 1299 females that class themselves as disabled, there are more than 40% in this fearful after dark category. Those that do not mark themselves as disabled AND have lived in their neighbourhood for over 21 years, also mark a higher fear at 34.5%, compared to being resident up to one year (22.3%). It seems that having lived in a neighbourhood for a prolonged period of time actually leads to a higher fear of being out alone at night for females. Why might these women feel more unsafe in a neighbourhood they have lived in for a long time? It is possible that to some extent this measure is capturing an increased age profile or that perhaps, with the increased prevalence of ASB, they perceive a wider "social breakdown"?

Interestingly, of the male population that complain of feeling fairly, very or completely unsafe, it is the long-term sick that show an above average fear after dark (28.2%). Of the long term sick that class themselves as disabled this is higher at 32.2%. It seems also that religious belief can explain something for those males that are in paid work (PT&FT), or are a student, self employed, out of work not claiming benefits- those that are Muslim / Hindu / Other, (19.4%) express strong fear compared to other religion categories (Christian / Sikh / Buddhist / Jewish / Missing, 10.4%).

Worried During the Day

Those that mark themselves as fairly, very, completely unsafe in the daytime consist of 2.3% of respondents. This is ten times lower than those that are worried at night, showing a significant issue for West Midlands' residents who wish to remain active outside the home in night time hours. As this survey has been taken quarterly, results should not be skewed to the issues of seasonality, where in the dark winter months it is possible people feel much more vulnerable. Again females (6.8%) feel more vulnerable in the day times, compared to males (3.7%). Of the males out of work, claiming benefit or long term sick this is even higher at 7.8% and again there are some indications that those of Muslim faith are expressing more concern. Ethnicity in any analysis did not come out as a significant factor.

Chronically Worried

On average, of the West Midlands population 2.2% are chronically worried, for the disabled population this was higher at 5%. Further to this, female and disabled stood at 6.4% and those males that are out of work / claiming unemployment benefit JSA or on long-term sick; 7.5% were chronically worried. The key factors identified as being important for these chronic worriers and also those marking a significant impact on quality of life are tabled (overleaf). The key demographic components include work status, gender, and disability and also in some instances having a child in the household, religion and occupational status. All of these areas warrant further intelligence-led investigation. In terms of questioning peoples' attitudes, those areas that are significant contributors in both categories include the Authority's responses to crime and anti-social behaviour, believing those from different backgrounds can get along, fearful of becoming a victim in last year and people dealing or using drugs in their neighbourhood.

Victimisation

The question on victimisation is a multiple response question as people can fall into more than one category of being a victim, a witness or having close friends or family that have been a victim or a witness. Of the chronically worried that answered the questions on being a victim or witness, 25.3% had been a victim and 12.2% had a friend that had been a victim. This means that being a victim is a significant contributor to fear but also that there are other things that matter in this complex relationship and West Midlands' residents fear crime even if they haven't recently experienced it.

Odds ratios allow for comparisons of groups of samples that are of differing size. Having being a victim of crime in the last twelve months increases the odds of being 'chronically worried' by a factor of three, compared to none victims. When broken down into the day and night groups, having being a victim of crime in the last twelve months increases the odds of feeling unsafe during the day by a factor of three and the night by factor two. Having being a victim of crime also increases the odds of affecting quality of life (marked seven or above) by over 300%. This is a similar impact as being a witness; however, it may be the case that a certain type of crime being committed has more of an effect than others (but we do not have the data).

Age

As a core standalone priority for the Safer Birmingham Partnership, there is special interest to be taken of the age category of 16-17 (2.8% of the West Midlands sample). From the 2006/07 Strategic Assessment, it was also commented that it is vital there is a better understanding of the issues for both 'complainants and accused' with regard to troublesome teenagers, children and vandalism and graffiti. It appears there are no major differences between those aged 16-17 and the 18+ demographic, although the 16-17 age group is the smallest age group of all categories and results are inferences only. The 16-17 age group perceive young people hanging around on the streets equally an issue for themselves as adults. 75% of young people ranked a low crime rate and 57% ranked feeling safe as the top five in an ideal neighbourhood, and therefore crime issues are just as important to them. Respondents were also asked if they were 'fearful of becoming a victim of crime in the last twelve months'. Of the 18+ category this stood at 15.7% (3210), compared to 16/17 which was just 7.5% (45). When looking at the 'chronic worriers' group there were just 13 individuals, or 2.2%, of the 16/17 age population. This is probably too small a sample to draw any truly robust conclusions from and needs to be supplemented with intelligence from other sources. Those stating that crime or fear of crime was affecting their quality of life were also smaller, at a total of 2% (12), compared to the adult population which is 5% (1032). This was despite 11.2% and 2.2% being a victim and witness respectively compared to 9.5% to 2.1%. The age group also know more friends or family that were victims 7.7% compared to 4.8%. Young people see graffiti and mugging as bigger problems than adults in their neighbourhoods and burglaries and traffic offences as less important. Otherwise the proportions across crime types were similar to adults.

Feeling the Difference survey

	Chronically Worried	Significantly Affected (Quality of Life)
N=	435	1044
Significant Demographic Characteristics		
Present Work Status	•	•
Gender	•	•
Do you have any disability that affects your daily life?	•	•
Children in household		•
Religion	•	
Occupational Status	•	
Significant Attitudes and Perceptions Towards Area		
How satisfied or dissatisfied are you with the neighbourhood as a place to live?	•	
To what extent do you think the level of crime in your neighbourhood has changed over the last 12 months?	•	
To what extent do you think the level of ASB in your neighbourhood has changed over the last 12 months?		•
How much do you agree or disagree that the police & local councils are dealing with crime & ASB in your neighbourhood?	•	•
Respondant was a victim	•	
To what extent do you agree or disagree that your neighbourhood is a place where people from different backgrounds and communities can live together harmoniously?	•	•
How safe or unsafe do you feel when outside in your neighbourhood after dark?		•
In the last 12 months, have you felt fearful of becoming a victim of crime?	•	•
How much is your quality of life affected by crime or fear of crime?	•	N/A
Options that are true of neighbourhood		
Peaceful Area (Yes/No)		•
Range and quality of shops (Yes/No)	•	•
Access to Health Centres and Chemists (Yes/No)		•
Biggest Social Issues in Neighbourhood		
Lack of local amenities	•	
Drug misuse	•	
Other Social Issues		•
Biggest Crime or ASB problems in Neighbourhood		
Theft from vehicles	•	
Theft of vehicles		•
Mugging	•	
People using / dealing drugs	•	•

Relevant responses for: 'There are many things that make any neighbourhood a good place to live. Can you please look at this list and tell me...which of these things would you say are true of your neighbourhood at the moment? (Q3)

Relevant responses for: 'Can you please look at this list and tell me which five things, if any, are the biggest problems to you in your neighbourhood at the moment? (Q4)

Relevant responses for 'Can you please look at this list and tell me which (crime and anti-social behaviour) are a problem for you in this neighbourhood? (Q10)

When looking at the West Midlands day and night statistics by age group; broadly, those proportions marking themselves completely, very or fairly unsafe during the day are the same, although the 65+ category is the second highest at 2.9%, (2.3% is the average and 16-17 is the largest at 3% but there are no completely unsafe respondents and the sample size is much smaller for this demographic). For the night, the proportions of worriers in the age categories do get progressively higher showing a linear relationship with age. The 65+ category contains the highest proportion of people feeling unsafe above the 24% average:

Age Range	16-17	18-24	25-34	35-44	45-54	55-64	65+
Proportion Feeling Unsafe (%)	17.7%	18.5%	21.7%	23.2%	23.3%	27%	29.4%

Table 6. Chronically Worried at night by age group (Feeling the Difference survey)

At night, it is therefore also the case that those aged 65+ are the lowest proportion of feeling fairly, very or completely safe at just 49.2%. This is compared to the 16-17 year olds at 74.7% and 18-24 year olds 73.8%. When looking at the affect on quality of life however, the proportion of people feeling significantly affected are highest for those aged between 45-54 and 55-64 at 5.9%. At 65+ it is 5.3%. The under 18 category is just 2%. The most interesting finding that corroborates the research picture - that some of the recorded survey responses may be capturing some inner feelings of vulnerability²⁷ - rather than the crime picture, is that this oldest age group are the least likely to believe that crime is increasing a little or a lot more in their neighbourhood (11.5% compared to the 45-54 age group 15.8%). This is also the case with ASB, and the proportion of victims and witnesses is also the lowest. We can infer there are particularly personal elements adding to their feelings of safety in their neighbourhood rather than just their perceptions of the crime and ASB levels, although it may be that these respondents think that crime is already high (and has not changed in last year).

Findings for Birmingham

Furthering the analysis to a Birmingham level, there are 8994 respondents (accounting for 43% of the West Midlands sample population, approximately 1000 per OCU). Of these there are 3.2% (290 individuals) that are 'chronic worriers' which is proportionally higher than the 2.2% West Midlands statistic. The fear levels in Birmingham appear to be more pronounced than the regional averages.

The breakdown between day and night is more significant than the regional average, with 3.6% (2.3% WM) feeling completely, very or fairly unsafe during the day and 28.5% (25.3% WM) after dark also expressing concern. Tackling the fear of crime at night is explicitly noted in the Council Plan and these findings add weight to this concern (although there is no operational outcome in the performance plan for night). The proportion claiming their quality of life is affected is 5.8%, which is marginally higher than the 5% regionally. However, the gap is less marked when asked about being fearful of becoming a victim in the last 12 months at 16.1% to 15.5%; the proportions of victims / witness / friends and family that were victims / witnesses are widely the same.

A higher proportion of Birmingham residents are dissatisfied, fairly dissatisfied or completely dissatisfied with their neighbourhoods (8.6% compared to 7.0%) and 49.0% of Birmingham residents think that a low crime rate is true in their area compared to 51.7%

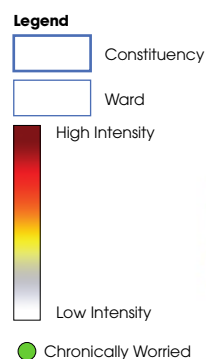


Figure 7. Chronic Worriers and Significantly Affected in Birmingham

regionally. The types of crime and anti-social behaviour issues that are biggest in the respondents' neighbourhood are largely the same. 'Teenagers hanging around' comes highest on the list at nearly 40%, far greater than those that follow it. This is also with significantly higher proportions of people stating that this is a big, fairly big or very big problem for them. Second to teenagers are traffic offences, rubbish and litter lying around, and people using and dealing drugs. Birmingham respondents rank Burglary fifth and drunk and rowdy behaviour sixth and vice versa for the whole region. Birmingham residents also perceive a higher proportion of a little or large increase in crime (14.3% to 13.6%) and little or large increase in ASB (16.7% to 15.9%). Those that think people from different backgrounds can live harmoniously together that disagree to some extent, largely or completely disagree is 4.8% compared to 3.9% across the West Midlands.

Mapping and Matching With Priority Neighbourhoods

Mapping has pulled out intensity areas to show where those people who mark their quality of life as 'significantly affected' by crime or fear of crime are located. There are several hotspot areas:

- **Digbeth** and **Bordesley** area (PN22 Highgate, Digbeth and St Andrews);
- A small area close to **Shenley Fields** (Bartley Green);
- **Castle Vale** and **Minworth**;
- Areas of Sutton Coldfield more specifically **Sutton Trinity**;
- A small shading exists over **Shard End**, **Tile Cross** and also **Small Heath**;
- **Bournville** / **Brandwood** area of Selly Oak; and
- **Stockland Green** / **Tyseley** / **Erdington** border.

Clusters of chronic worriers include:

- **Aston** / **Lozells** and **Springfield** (PN11 Newtown, Hockley and St Georges & PN1 Aston Pride);
- The area where **Quinton** meets **Harborne**;
- **Acocks Green**;
- Specifically **Highgate** (PN22); and
- More broadly across **Handsworth Wood**.

Super Output Areas (SOA) that are the 5% most deprived in the UK and that are not covered in priority neighbourhoods are mapped in the introduction (section 4). Edgbaston constituency has a grouping of chronic worriers in the Quinton vicinity and also parts of Bartley Green / Weoley Castle. Large parts of the Bartley Green and Quinton area are showing at least some level of intensity as affecting quality of life. Northfield constituency correlates quite closely, particularly included in that is PN12 Kings Norton 3 Estates, which has both medium intensity and a small cluster of chronic worriers and the edge of the Birmingham boundary at Rubery. Selly Oak constituency correlates in a way that suggests it is those areas next to rather than contained in the most deprived SOA, such as Billesley and Cotteridge, that are more concerned about crime. This effect also seems apparent in the D3 OCU, covering Hodge Hill and Yardley constituency, with Tile Cross, Hodge Hill and Shard End. In Erdington, the intensity of significantly affected overlaps with some of the Tyburn SOA but spills into the Castle Vale area too. More research needs to be conducted to look at these areas of intensity in addition to whether the respondents living here fear the neighbourhood areas that surround them which they may potentially perceive to be on the decline or a high crime spot, rather than their immediate street / neighbourhood. Those areas that are showing low intensity responses include Edgbaston, Selly Oak, Moseley & Kings Heath and the majority of Harborne and Oscott.

Key Findings

Ten times as many West Midlands inhabitants are more fearful at night than during the day.

Work status, gender, religion and disability all influence a resident's fear of crime.

Anti-social behaviour, harmonious communities and local drug dealing all impact on a local community's fear of crime.

Having been a victim within the last 12 months increases the odds of feeling unsafe during the day by a factor of 3 and during the night by a factor of 2. Victimisation also increases the odds of affecting the quality of life.

Young people consider crime issues just as important as older people but are generally less fearful than those older than them.

The fear levels in Birmingham are more pronounced than for regional averages, as are the proportion of residents that consider crime to be increasing.

Current Activity to Address Threats

Issues regarding the fear of crime are being addressed on many levels within the Safer Birmingham Partnership. The Safer Birmingham Partnership has recently seconded a Project Officer to address the issues of perception in community safety and to begin to assess successful interventions. West Midlands Police now have to uphold the Policing Pledge to ensure "that communities will have a stronger voice in telling the police what they think is most important and what they are most worried about". Actions by the City Council Environmental Crime Unit are being employed to target empty units and signal crimes. With theft of and from vehicles being raised as the top issues for crime and ASB in areas that makes people fearful, this adds weight to Operation 'Payslip' in F1 OCU and the car park ticket advertising they will be using in response to the theft from motor vehicle issues there. Also personal attack alarm availability has been increased throughout the city.

Inferences

Females consistently report higher levels of worry although masculine concealment of fear in survey responses must not be forgotten.

The issues found as significant in peoples' neighbourhoods for adult population are broadly the same for those aged 16-17.

Worry levels may increase if there are no replacement 'good news' stories to fill the gap from the PSA1 and United Streets of Birmingham successes.

Mapping suggests that fear levels are not necessarily correlated with the Safer Birmingham Partnership priority neighbourhoods or pockets of deprivation and that it is the areas surrounding these that can be more fearful- there are clusters of areas that instantly register as showing high levels of worry.

Victims require a more holistic follow up service to reduce their fear, sensitive to not increasing their objective risk unnecessarily.

On a West Midlands basis we have identified the key factors that make people chronic worriers or significantly affected by crime or fear of crime. This work has not looked at actual crime levels but perceptions and has found that ethnicity is not an issue according to the sample size we have, nor are there distinct differences between the feelings of those aged 16/17 and the rest of the sample. It is also important to remember the data we are handling may be capturing information based on wider social issues than crime per se. However, there are a proportion of people in the West Midlands and Birmingham that find that crime, and fear of crime, significantly affect their quality of life and feel some considerable level of worry both day and night. Of this, the number of people afraid after dark is substantially higher although victims of crime find this affects their daytime fear levels more than the night. Females, and specifically the disabled community, all report increased levels of worry, plus those that have lived in their neighbourhood for longer. For males, those that are disabled, long term sick or part of the Muslim faith, show increased reporting of vulnerability.

Across Birmingham we have found that there is a slightly higher proportion of 'chronic worriers' than the regional average and as part of this they are more fearful at night. Looking on a spatial basis has found that these individuals do not all necessarily reside in priority neighbourhoods but potentially those that surround the neighbourhoods that the Safer Birmingham Partnership has identified, as well as some areas not identified.

Recommendations

Additional analysis expanded across further survey waves to identify characteristics of those within the community that do feel very safe to see what initiatives they may have come into contact with to improve knowledge of good practice.

Conduct similar analysis for the Place Survey of the demographics and location of the 'chronically worried' to see whether completing this survey with a police and council perspective has any affect on responses.

Cross reference findings with the Brighter Futures survey to increase the comparison section on young people, as there were no significantly differing issues pulled out from this survey sample at this small size.

All of the key findings to be considered in the Safer Birmingham Partnership Communication Strategy. Following the identification of 'hard to reach' groups as particularly susceptible to the fear of crime, alternative means of communicating messages and engaging communities should be sought or developed.

That any future strategy also requires involvement with the worklessness agenda, due to links identified with the long-term sick.

Interventions should be identified via best practice to reduce the 'significant night time worriers' in Birmingham. This process must involve a robust results analysis (evaluation) and be adaptable to further findings from the additional analysis that has been recommended above.



8.4 The Effect of the Recession on Community Safety

On the 23rd January 2009 it was announced that the UK had officially entered a recession. This announcement was no surprise. In late 2007 / early 2008 UK banks became reluctant to lend to each other following uncertainty over debts accumulated by the slump in the US housing market. This resulted in, amongst other things, restrictions on credit availability, higher interest rates and growing unemployment, leading some to speculate that a consequence of the 'credit crunch' would be a UK recession.

As a result, UK unemployment currently stands at 2.03 million²⁸, the highest level since 1997, and this is projected to worsen further with the Bank of England forecasting that the economy will shrink by a further 4% by mid-2009²⁹. An additional consequence of the current recession, as predicted by some, is an influence on acquisitive and violent crime.

Home Office research has previously linked crime rates with economic downturn. In 1990 a study by Simon Field, former Head of Economics at the Home Office, proposed that economic trends and levels of acquisitive crime operated in an inverse relationship. In a further study Field argued that the crime/economy relationship determines the 'equilibrium' level of crime³⁰. Specifically that stock availability (ie, iPods and sat navs etc) and demographic changes, such as the proportion of young people, influence the levels of acquisitive crime.

In what is basically an application of Rational Choice Theory, it is proposed that people make decisions by comparing the costs and benefits (or pros and cons) of different courses of action. During periods of economic depression fewer people could acquire goods legitimately and therefore – assuming the gains outweighed the risk – more people would be likely to resort to illegitimate means to acquire the goods.

The Number of Birmingham Resident Job Seeker's Allowance Claimants

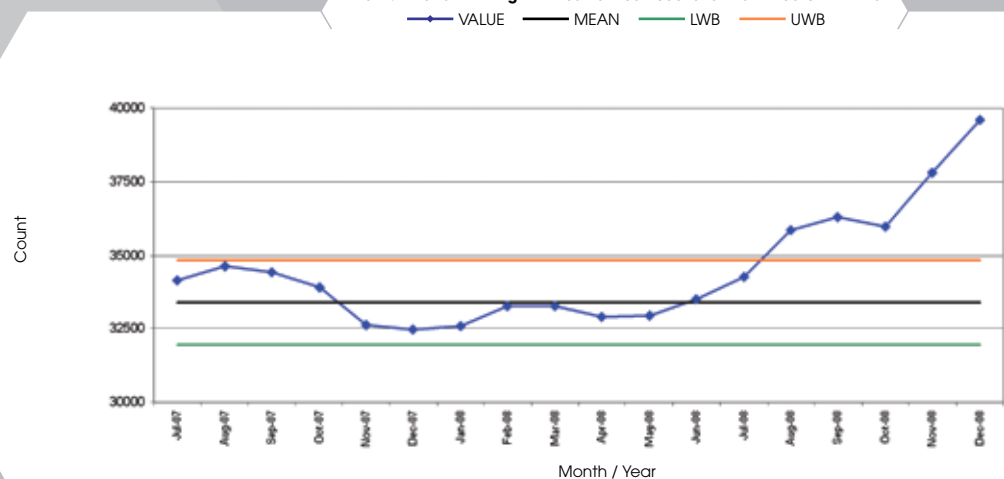


Figure 8. JSA Claimants in Birmingham (Office of National Statistics)

Although it is recognised that this is a considerably over-simplistic view of the motivations for committing crime within Birmingham, it does offer an insight with some corroborative statistics. Figure 9 shows total recorded crime for WMP and highlights the month of 'Black Wednesday' in red. As would be expected, the months preceding and following the collapse of the economy show elevated recorded crime (a). The chart also shows the effects of the changes in the National Crime Recording Standards followed by the continued reduction of recorded crime (b).

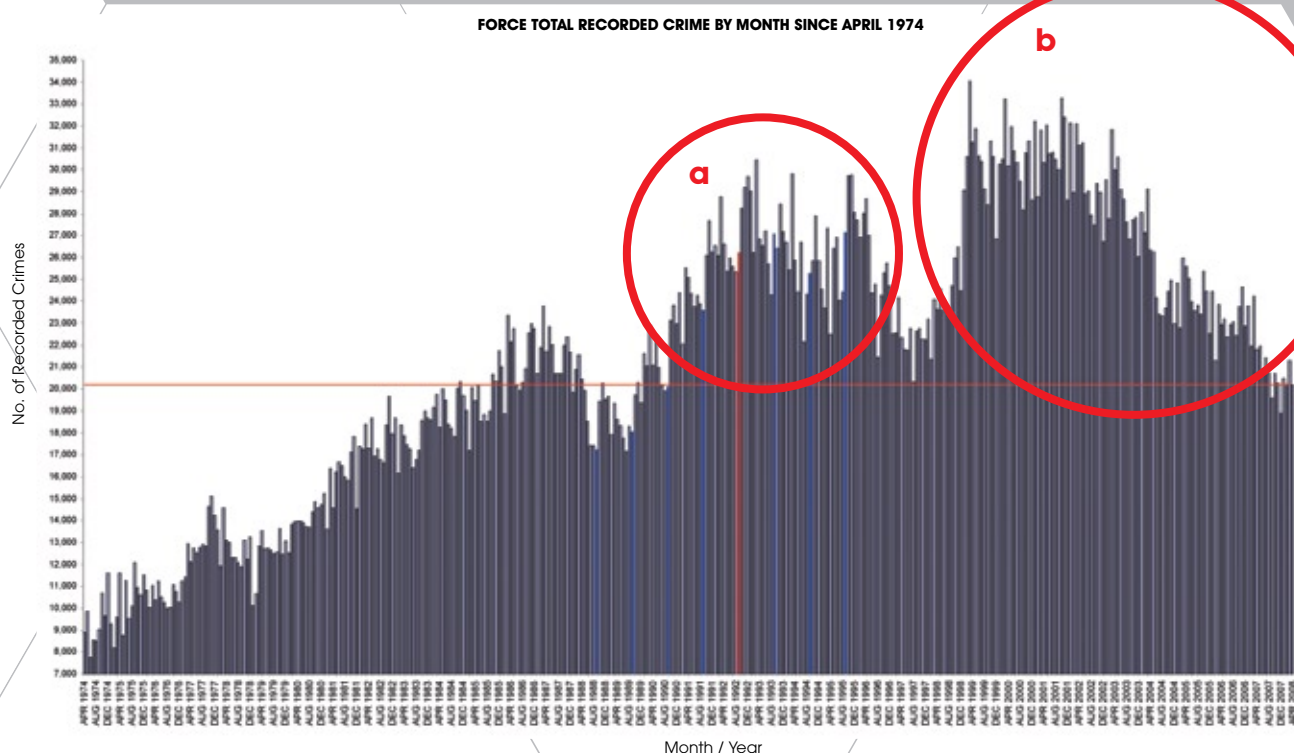


Figure 9. West Midlands Police Total Recorded Crime (WMP Crimes)

Should Field be correct then both the economy and the level of crime have been returning to their equilibrium in recent years. It follows then that a consecutive period of economic depression and increased acquisitive crime is to be expected. Currently though, this does not appear to be the case. As of June 2008 Birmingham has been recording a significantly lower volume of total committed crime and as of February 2008 Birmingham has been recording significantly fewer serious acquisitive crimes. Although serious violent crime has increased since March 2008 this is most likely due to a more robust recording process in line with the new PSA23 targets.

Some criminologists offer an alternative explanation whereby they agree that property crime will increase during financial difficulties but attribute this increase more to market demand rather than on an initial increase in supply. In this regard, a recession leads to more acquisitive crime "not because more everyday citizens turn to stealing but because they are more likely to buy stolen goods"³¹. As such it is the general public that become offenders by purchasing such goods. Furthermore, this behaviour may not even be considered as criminal due to the majority acceptance within the local community.

It follows from this theory then that current offenders will increase their activity in areas of traditionally high acquisitive crime rather than acquisitive crime increasing throughout Birmingham and moving into more affluent areas, as suggested by rational choice theory. This appears to be the case. As figure 10 shows serious acquisitive crime has been increasing around the city centre year to date (YTD) compared to the same period last year and all of the other areas of increase have been outside of the most affluent areas. This would seem to suggest that the increase in acquisitive crime is influenced by an increase in demand for cheaper goods rather than an increased victimisation of Birmingham's better off residents.

Perhaps the biggest criticism of Field's theory is its failure to recognise the wider influence of the political economy. Elliott Currie, for example, relates market societies specifically to violent crime arguing that, amongst other things, they destroy livelihoods and jobs, erode informal networks of support and promote brutal competition³²: "There is evidence that the gap between the risks faced by the most disadvantaged and the rest of society is growing and that violent crime is becoming more concentrated among young people"³³. Merton proposed a strain theory that is applicable here in which he developed Emile Durkheim's term 'anomie'³⁴. Very simply speaking, anomie represents the contradiction where society promotes goals such as wealth, power and material gains but fails to provide the opportunities to attain them. A strain forms in society between the 'haves' and the 'have nots' whereby those not presented with the legitimate means to acquire these cultural goals resort to illegitimate means to empower themselves, potentially manifesting itself as violence in the community.

There has been much expansion on Merton's theories since the 1950's but if the basic premise is correct then a period of national economic downturn will result in a variety of deviant reactions further facilitated by the socio-economic polarisation of the last decade. The implication for Birmingham in this situation is that areas of deprivation and worklessness will begin to generate more crime. In particular this theory offers insight into the causes of reported increases in gang affiliation and gang-on-gang violence (see section 10.1).

Again, there appears to be some corroborative statistics. As figure 11 shows, SVC within the city centre has reduced YTD compared to the same period last year as fewer people can afford to socialise regularly within the night time economy. Interestingly though,

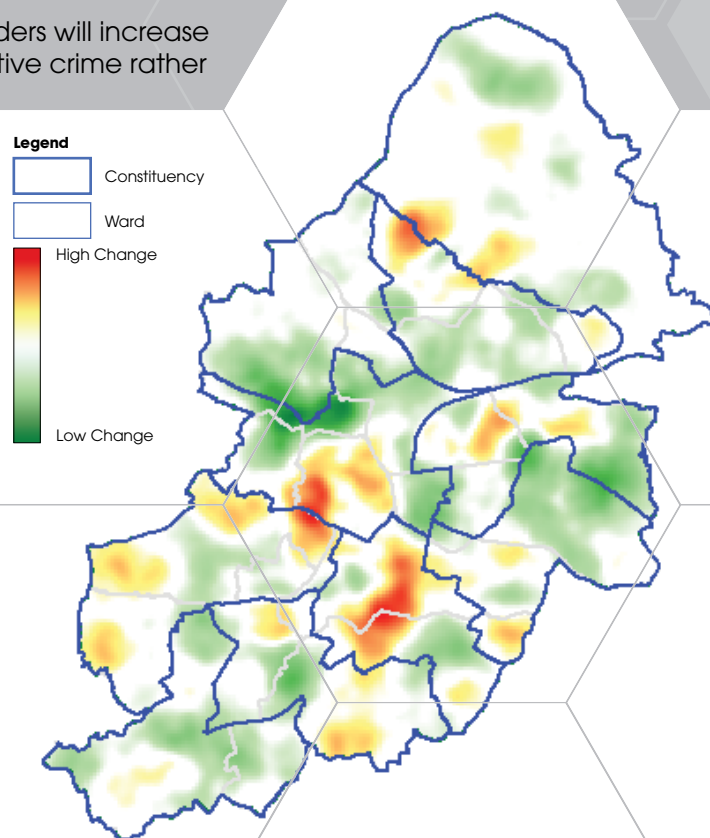


Figure 10. A map highlighting areas of change in Serious Acquisitive Crime (WMP Crimes)

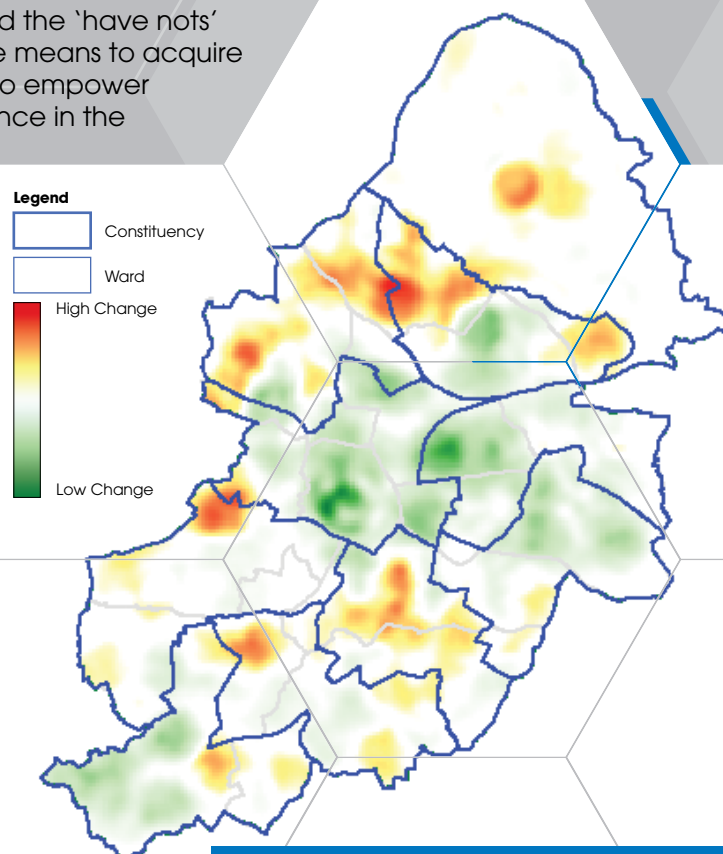


Figure 11. A map highlighting areas of change in violence against the person (WMP Crimes)

as SVC has reduced here it has increased across the city by 11% YTD; and as total violence has reduced by 5% it can be concluded that offences are becoming more serious in nature. Further more this violence is increasingly involving alcohol with a 5% increase YTD and affecting some of the most disadvantaged areas (appendix 3).

There is further work that indicates a relationship between the economy and crime; Machin and Meghir (2004) found that declining wages for unskilled workers were associated with increasing property crime, and Hansen and Machin (2003) found that crime decreased in areas benefiting most from the introduction of the national minimum wage³⁵.

In addition, anecdotal evidence often points to unemployment as a motivation for turning to drink and drugs, which would then require funding through acquisitive crimes. In this respect employment can also act as a type of 'capable guardian' for offenders. It limits the opportunity and temptation to commit 'blue-collar' offences and also facilitates important control measures such as effective education and marriage³⁶.

Economic difficulties don't just affect commodities but also increase the opportunities for other services. Women outside of the labour market may resort to entering the sex market in an attempt to provide for themselves and families in the absence of any alternatives. In fact recorded prostitution has increased 10% YTD compared to the same period last year and reports in the media suggest that this is the result of more women entering the trade³⁷. In addition, prices have lowered due to market saturation which in turn increases the vulnerability of sex workers that have to increase their exposure to generate an equivalent income.

New markets may also emerge, such as fly-tipping in order to reduce company over-heads and loan-sharking to take advantage of credit restrictions. Birmingham is regarded as one of the most vulnerable areas to loan-sharking³⁸ – the practice whereby money is lent illegally, often with the threat of violence and exorbitant interest rates. The distribution of illegal lending follows patterns of home credit exclusion and is thus correlated to areas of deprivation. Although the UK has a much lower incidence of illegal money lending compared to other EU countries, it is thought that this is a consequence of more legal credit options for high risk borrowers.

This poses a significant problem. Due to the global 'credit crunch' the level of illegal borrowing is likely to increase within those areas least likely to be able to pay it back; yet by increasing availability of such legal products within the market place, financial institutions will be subjected to the level of risk that was the precursor for the slump in the US housing market and subsequent global recession. It can therefore be concluded that in the absence of social lending initiatives, the Safer Birmingham Partnership and Trading Standards activity should focus on detection and enforcement, and future long-term strategies should involve 'savings' schemes. This activity may also need to be widened throughout Birmingham as investigators from London's Illegal Money Lending Team suggest that more victims are emerging from more affluent areas that have had previous access to credit but now due to multiple legal debt issues have turned to alternative means of acquiring finance³⁹.

Another related issue involves the current high rate of home repossessions. This leads to more empty properties within Birmingham and presents more opportunities for residential metal theft as well as opportunities for squatters and recreational drug taking. Areas containing a high number of empty properties as of February 2008 have been highlighted in appendix 5 and include areas with ongoing community safety issues such as the Hagley Road, Erdington, Birchfield and Bromford. This may also be of interest for partners involved in fire related safety as injury and death related fires have shown clear peaks during previous recessions that are possibly linked to insurance fraud.

The same motives for committing crime can also influence victims to report crime. Victims of theft or robbery whose goods are not insured at an added expense are much less likely to report a crime as there is no financial benefit to do so. An acquisitive crime issue also arises with regards to the influence of retail security unemployment and its effect on theft detection rates. With fewer private police to refer 'actual' crime, fewer crimes would be expected to be reported and therefore recorded by the police.

This doesn't appear to be the case. The Independent newspaper states that Tesco, Iceland and Marks & Spencer have all reported rises in theft in their stores this year⁴⁰. The problem has apparently become so acute in some areas that retailers have experimented with the electronic tagging of expensive cuts of meat. "Retailers believe there has been an increase in theft as a result of the downturn and are tightening their security. More security staff are being taken on and the tagging of items is becoming more widespread" said a Spokesman for the British Retail Consortium.

There are also potential issues involving security at entertainment areas. Often a company's first response to cut costs during a time of economic difficulty is to reduce the number of staff. Should this include security staff, then an increase in violence within licensed premises can be expected. In addition, cuts to bar staff could cause frustrations amongst patrons waiting to be served. An interesting anecdote worthy of note has suggested that alcohol related offending, although reducing on the whole, may now peak at the end of the month when most people are paid. Currently there is no evidence to support this.

The economy is also likely to have effects on issues such as hate crime and community tension which are addressed in section 8.2.

There are also economic considerations indirectly related to crime. Due to the current economic down-turn and the significant spending of public money centrally, it is unclear how funding will be effected locally. As the F1 Strategic Assessment (09/10) notes this: "will mean the OCU will have to explore alternative remedies to achieve any future targets. Such remedies will need to include greater partnership work and smarter use of OCU resources overall".

Inferences

Lower wages and higher unemployment facilitated by the recent economic downturn will result in further increases in anti-social behaviour, prostitution and fly-tipping.

Acquisitive crime will increase throughout the city as influenced by increased market demand. This is less likely to occur within affluent areas and will probably involve low level offences such as theft.

Birmingham will also record an increase in bilking (making off without payment of petrol), property fires and metal theft. The latter two are further facilitated by the increasing numbers of empty residential properties.

Illegal money lending will increase throughout the city but will be more concentrated within disadvantaged neighbourhoods.

Should all other factors remain stable then further economic difficulties will lead to fewer people visiting areas of the night time economy and thus reduce the number of potential victims of violence. However, this will coincide with increases in violence - particularly domestic violence facilitated by home drinking – within disadvantaged areas.

There are many issues relevant to the Safer Birmingham Partnership that are influenced by the economy on any number of levels: from the price of alcohol on Broad Street compared to a supermarket, which determines where the weekend's socialising will be located; to the ill feeling felt by the surplus labour market to legal migration issues. The Information and Intelligence Team is constantly in demand to test theories regarding the recession's effect on crime and as a result only a few key observations have been highlighted here. Readers are therefore advised to request the most current recession CPA.

Economic theory has much to offer the Safer Birmingham Partnership during the UK's recovery from recession. Its usefulness must however be considered alongside the potential influence of further variables that have been shown to influence the levels of crime in Birmingham. These variables include: the weather, televised international sporting events (e.g., Euro 2008), increases in visible intelligence led police patrols, the implementation of Neighbourhood Policing and even changes in national recording practices.

This problem is nowhere more evident than when predicting the implication of the recession on the night time economy. Violent crime has been predicted to reduce, yet this assumes licensees do not significantly reduce the cost of alcohol. It should also be recognised that the local student population is no more likely to be worse off as a result of the recession and may therefore continue to socialise within the City Centre. In fact, if alcohol is reduced in price to meet a reduction in demand then the vulnerability of students increases in line with the availability of cheaper alcohol.

It therefore has to be recognised that although the inferences drawn above present a real challenge to the Safer Birmingham Partnership, it is a combination of these variables which will determine Birmingham's performance during the following 12 months.

Current Strategic Activity

Building Watch runs until April 2009 and offers a range of interventions to clean up, clear sites and secure void buildings. Upon a successful evaluation of this project, funding should be sought for a continuation of the scheme whilst repossessions remain high.

Recommendations

Areas to be identified via the Composite index of Community Safety and the Index of Multiple deprivation for the monitoring of relative increases in serious violence. These areas are likely to be outside of the F1 and may focus within the F3 and D3.

Target hardening in areas of traditionally high acquisitive crime, such as supermarkets to be prioritised. Support should be offered to those areas and businesses that have made security staff cuts.

A United Streets of Birmingham campaign concentrating on acquisitive crime with a much wider focus than previous campaigns. For example links have been established between acquisitive crime and vulnerable youths with CRAVED⁴¹ goods. The campaign may wish to target potential victims and/or offenders within schools with safety information as well as property marking schemes.

The investigation of joined up working with the Birmingham Economic and Enterprise Partnership to combat worklessness in Birmingham.

Additional resources should be allocated to promote alternative opportunities and support for women at risk of entering the illegal sex industry.



8.5 Serious Sexual Crime

Although all sexual offences must be regarded as serious in nature, serious sexual crime (SSC) comprises of the most serious of sexual offences and is comparable with serious violent crime in its significance to both the victim and the local community. SSC includes:

- Indecent/Sexual Assault;
- Rape;
- Causing a person under 13 years old to engage in sex;
- Arranging Child Sex;
- Paying for sex with a female under the age of 18 years old;
- Causing, Inciting or controlling child prostitution/pornography; and
- Trafficking for the purpose of sexual exploitation.

Although sexual crimes are committed at a relatively low rate within Birmingham there were still around 700 SSCs recorded in 2008. The level of crime has also recently increased following a significant reduction in December 2007. At the end of 2008, Birmingham was recording 63 SSCs on average a month, up from 54 offences on average at the beginning of 2008. SSC also appears to have a seasonal trend with more offences recorded between May and September as well as a peak in January.

SSC accounted for over 50% of all sexual crime in 2008. Sexual assault is the most common sexual offence and constitutes 28% of all sexual offences and 50% of all SSCs. With 175 offences in 2008, rape is the second most common sexual offence. This means the most common sexual offences are also the most serious.

It appears that there are three clear distinctions between serious sexual crimes. Each recorded crime tends to reflect either domestic sexual violence, alcohol related sexual offending or paedophilic child abuse. Each of these types of SSC involves different types of offenders, victims and motives. As a result each shall be examined separately below. It is also important to note here that little evidence has been found to suggest rape and other SSCs typically involve serial predatory offenders operating in public spaces. This misconception of SSC mainly involving predatory offending is frequently disproved via national and international research which shows that in the vast majority of offences the offender is known to the victim⁴².

Alcohol Involved SSC

As figure 12 shows, the city centre is the hotspot for sexual offences within Birmingham. Sutton Coldfield Town Centre is the only area of medium intensity offending.

This area of the city centre is also Birmingham's hotspot for SSC. Despite the obvious link to the night-time economy only 20% of recorded offences in Ladywood involved alcohol, although this is a greater percentage than any other constituency. Not surprisingly, because it contains the city centre, Ladywood also records the greatest volume of sexual

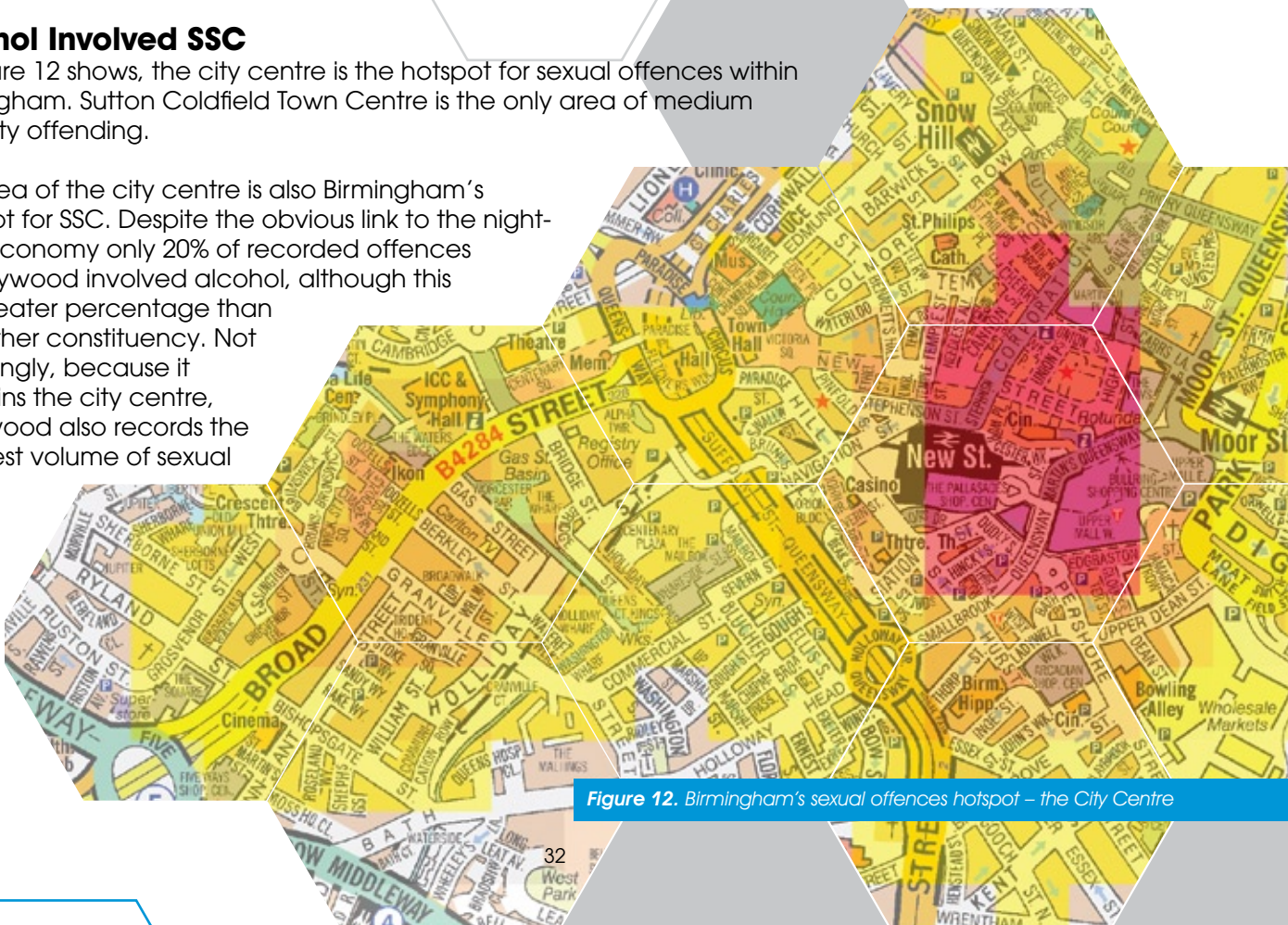


Figure 12. Birmingham's sexual offences hotspot – the City Centre

offences with three times as many compared to any other constituency.

16% of SSC is marked as involving alcohol, as is 8% of all sexual crime. Over 30% of alcohol related serious sexual offences occurred within a dwelling, 30% occurred in public (i.e., footpath, park, alleyway etc), and 18% occurred within licensed premises. The peak day for offending is a Saturday. Interestingly, as figure 13 demonstrates below, the clear majority of sexual offences between 2200 and 0800 are SSCs. During this period, 69% of all alcohol involved offences are committed.

Of all alcohol related SSC, the percentage that occur within a dwelling increases after midnight until 0600. A greater number of offences occur within licensed premises between 2100 and 0200 and after this the greatest number of offences occurs in public (road, alley etc). The majority of alcohol related offences throughout the day are Sexual Assault but there are almost twice the number of rapes between 2200 and 0400 compared to the rest of the day.

Figure 14 shows the number of known sex offenders and their victims by age. In addition the chart also includes the number of all victims of sexual offences by age. Perhaps the most notable point is the clear peak in victims aged 14-22 which is also apparent, to a lesser extent, for the known victim's offenders.

However, as there is such a significant difference in the proportion of all victims aged 14-22 compared to known offenders victims, this indicates that a larger proportion of young victims' crimes go un-detected. In fact, for victims of a sexual crime aged either under 15 or aged over 25 the detection rate is 25% or above, yet the detection rate for victims aged 15-25 is only 18%. This coincides with a reduction in the percentage of offenders known to victims for this age group (see appendix 2). The same trend is evident for SSC.

As the peak age for known offenders is in the late 20's, this also suggests that young female victims are targeted by older heterosexual males. Furthermore the age range and location of offences as noted above, in addition to the involvement of alcohol, indicates that the female student population of Birmingham is particularly at risk of victimisation.

Although domestic sexual offending is predominantly intra-ethnic (see below), the same doesn't appear to be the case for alcohol involved sexual offending. The majority of offenders are from a BME background, with Black offenders significantly over-represented compared to the Birmingham demographic profile (25%). The vast majority of victims are White (81%) and this is explained by a significantly large proportion of offending against White victims by BME offenders; 43% of offences against White victims

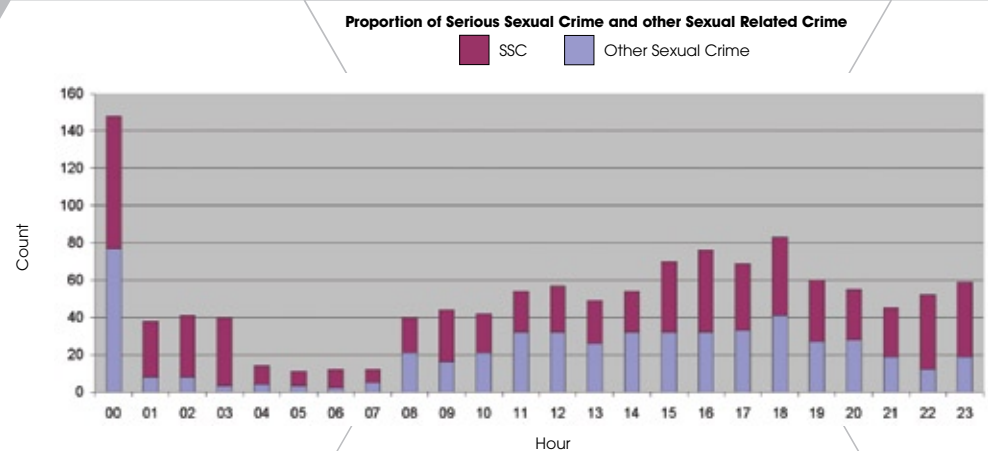


Figure 13. Sexual offences committed by hour of the day

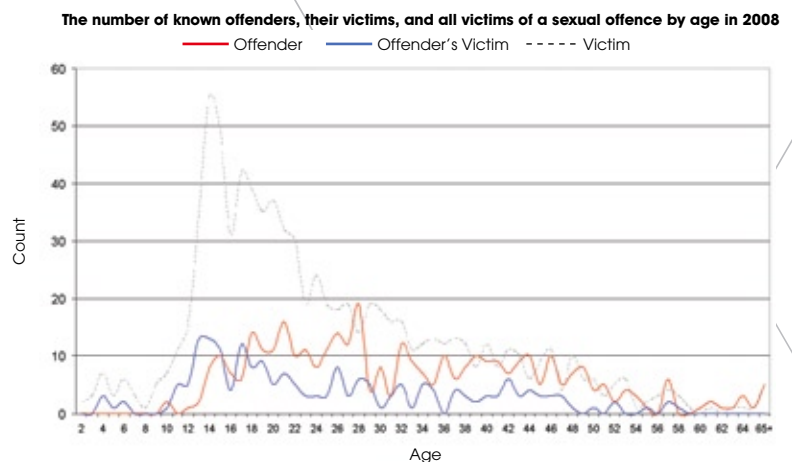


Figure 14. The age of known sex offenders, their victims, and all victims

involve an offender from a BME group. However, White offenders remain most likely to target white victims (94%), followed by Asian offenders (71%), and Black offenders (57%).

It is important to note here that it is unlikely that an individual who otherwise would not commit a sexual assault would do so as a direct result of excessive drinking. Research via victim surveys indicates that 30% of reported rapes and sexual assaults involve alcohol use by the offender⁴³. It can therefore be inferred that, at worst, alcohol facilitates initiation of the act only by someone predisposed to commit a sexual assault. The focus then on alcohol related SSC should be the vulnerability of the potential victim.

Despite public opinion to the contrary, it appears that sex offenders of this type (excludes paedophiles) have the lowest repeat offending rate of any crime group⁴⁴.

There are also wider community safety concerns regarding alcohol. Although alcohol involved sexual offences reduced for the first time in 2007/08 following year on year increases, figure 15 shows that the number of alcohol attributable hospital admissions has continued to increase⁴⁵. Furthermore Birmingham is ranked 52 of all England's local authority areas for alcohol involved sexual offences. Of the core cities; Bristol (28th), Manchester (8th), and Nottingham (5th) are ranked higher.

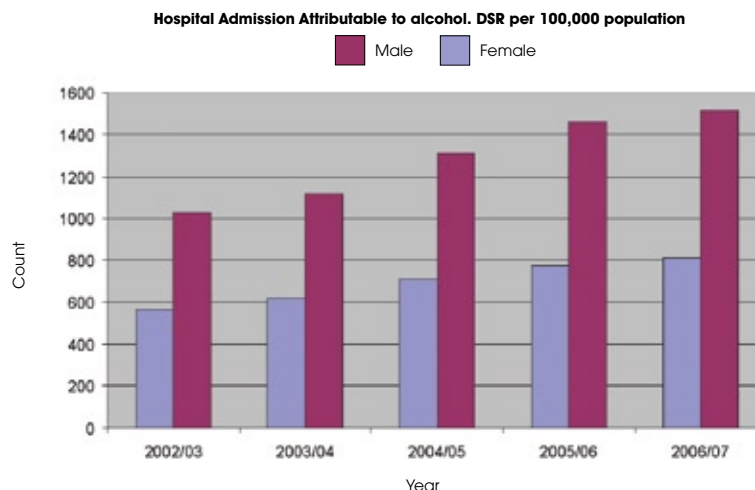


Figure 15. Hospital Admissions per year by sex (North West Public Health Observatory)

Although it is important to acknowledge this type of sexual offending it must also be acknowledged that most of SSC involves domestic sexual violence and child abuse.

Domestic SSC

Much research suggests that domestic SSC typically involves the male offender exercising his 'right' of sexual domination upon his partner⁴⁶. As a consequence it is also reasonable to assume that the victim will also be subject to other forms of violence. Therefore, domestic SSC shall be referred to as serious domestic sexual violence (SDSV) within this document.

A larger percentage of all SSC involved SDSV (13% compared to 5%) than for all other sexual crime. Every SDSV offence recorded by WMP in 2008 was committed by a male. Two known offenders were under the age 25; otherwise, most offenders were aged 28-30. In most cases the victims' age was similar to that of the offenders and in all but two offences the victim and the known offender were of the same ethnicity. However, both BME known offenders and all BME victims of a domestic sexually violent offence are over-represented.

Over 90% of all SDSV offences occurred within a dwelling and the peak times in 2008 were 23:00 – 01:00. The peak day for offending is Sunday. It could be inferred that offences occur upon the offender returning from licensed premises after the traditional closing time, although many of these offences are not marked as involving alcohol.

SDSV is almost exclusively restricted to rape offences throughout all times of the day. It is unlikely that rape is the first offence subjected to the victim on all occasions and this may therefore indicate that SDSV committed at home is only reported when it has escalated to rape or when the victim has chosen to report it following previous victimisation. In either case it is not known if the failure to report any previous offence is a consequence of normalisation to offending, lack of knowledge on support, or fear of reprisal.

Victim surveys suggest low reporting rates for domestic sexual violence offences. In 2004, a Home Office survey⁴⁷ found that 5% of women surveyed had been raped and most rapists were found to be intimates of the victim with 45% being husbands or partners and 9% former partners. A further 29% were known to the woman and only 17% were strangers. As only 37% of rapes in Birmingham during 2008 are recorded

as 'partner on partner', and a further 7% are recorded as 'victim known to offender', it suggests that a large number of such offences simply aren't reported. There are also crime recording issues. A Safer Birmingham Partnership domestic violence CPA found that a large number of offences involving a former partner were not marked as domestic violence (see section 10.1).

Child Abuse

The peak time for all offences not marked as domestic violence or alcohol involved remains 0000 – 0100 but this is mainly made up of offences committed within residential properties, otherwise offending is highest between 1500-1900. 43% of these offences involve young people and this begins to increase at 1500, peaking at 2000 where 72% of offences involve young people. 78% of all young people involved are victims.

25% of all recorded sexual crime and SSC involves a victim under the age of 16. Research estimates that between 60% - 80% of sexual offences against young people involve offenders known to the victim, or the victims' family⁴⁸, and, although 50% of SSC offences involving young people are marked as 'offender known to victim', only 18% are recorded as detected.

65% of recorded SSC involving a child was a sexual assault and 24% involved rape. All but one of the known offenders was male and the majority were aged over 25 years old (51%). It is important to note though that 26% of known offenders were aged 10-16. Victims of known offenders are 'normally' represented by ethnicity compared to the Birmingham demographic profile; however, Black known African offenders are significantly over-represented (28%) and Asian known offenders are slightly over-represented (21%). When analysing the ethnicity of all such victims, regardless of whether the offender is known, White victims are slightly over-represented at the expense of Black victims.

Although it cannot be tested within Birmingham presently it is thought that repeat offending rates for paedophiles are the highest of any crime group⁴⁹. Although paedophilic child abuse and domestic sexual violence have obvious parallels (a home setting, family involvement etc) there is arguably one clear distinction: paedophilic practices revolve completely around sexual gratification of the offender, although some offenders do seek sexual gratification from the act, domestic sexual violence will often involve power, control, and anger as primary motivators⁵⁰. It is not possible for the Safer Birmingham Partnership to test this theory and little research addresses it but it should be considered none-the-less when formulating strategy in this area.

Key Findings

The level of SSC has increased during 2008 after recording a significant reduction in December 2007.

The most common sexual offences are also the most serious.

There are three clear distinctions between serious sexual crimes: domestic sexual violence, alcohol related sexual crime and paedophilic child abuse. There is little evidence to suggest rape and other SSCs typically involve serial predatory offenders operating in public spaces.

The city centre and Sutton Coldfield Town Centre are the SSC hotspots.

For victims of a sexual crime aged either under 15 or aged over 25 the detection rate is 25% or above, yet the detection rate for victims aged 15-25 is only 18%. This coincides with a reduction in the percentage of offenders known to victims for this age group. The same trend is evident for SSC.

Black offenders of alcohol related sexual crimes significantly over-represented compared to the Birmingham demographic profile (25%). The vast majority of victims are White (81%).

Alcohol related sex offenders have the lowest repeat offending rate of any crime group.

A larger percentage of all SSC involved domestic violence (13% compared to 5%) than for all other sexual crime.

Over 90% of all domestic serious sexual offences occurred within a dwelling and the peak times in 2008 were 23:00 – 01:00. SSC involving domestic violence is almost exclusively restricted to rape offences throughout all times of the day.

25% of all recorded sexual crime and SSC involves a victim under the age of 16. Although 50% of SSC offences involving young people are marked as 'offender known to victim', only 18% are recorded as detected.

Within the 25 neighbourhoods identified to the Safer Birmingham Partnership as priority areas by Be Birmingham, only one records fewer sexual crimes per 1000 population compared to the Birmingham average (0.6). Understandably PN 2 – Attwood Green and PN 22 – Highgate and Digbeth recorded significantly higher rates of sexual crime due to their city centre locations and small resident populations (19.7 and 7.1 respectively). Other areas recording high sexual crime rates are PN 21 – Sparkhill North and Central (4.2), PN 10 – Handsworth (3.7) and PN 15 – North Nechells (3.5).

It was highlighted that domestic sexual violence is under-reported, and as victims are most likely to report being sexually assaulted when the assailant is a stranger, when the victim is physically injured during the assault, or when a weapon is involved in the commission of the crime⁵¹, we can infer that the same is probably true for offences against children.

In the aforementioned Home Office survey it was estimated that 0.5% of women are subjected to a SSC within a 12 month period. Based on this and the 2007 mid-year population estimate, Birmingham local authority area should have recorded around 2570 SSCs. It can therefore be inferred that only 48% of SSCs are reported to West Midlands Police and that this percentage is likely to reduce further for less serious sexual offences.

Perhaps most significantly, of the women surveyed by the Home Office that had been subjected to rape as per the legal definition, 67% did not define the act as rape. This suggests the 'normalisation' of offending following prolonged exposure and is perhaps most relevant to domestic sexual violence and child abuse. This could arguably be the largest obstacle to increasing reporting of this type.

Other explanations for under-reporting that are frequently cited include unsympathetic treatment of the victim, trauma of trial, low prosecution rate, shame of embarrassment (physical examination), and inversion of guilt⁵². Many feminist commentators go so far as to attack what is described as a patriarchal police structure as counter productive to the reporting and investigation of SSCs (ibid). Unfortunately, it is not possible to analyse the perception of West Midlands Police held by victims of SSC either pre or post offence as it is with other crimes. Contact Counts, the force victim satisfaction survey, only includes subjects involved in burglary, vehicle crime, racist crime and violent crime.

In fact it is very difficult to assess the public's perception or fear of SSC as it is not addressed by WMP's Feeling the Difference survey. It is thought, however, that local communities often form their opinions on sex offenders with information on paedophiles disseminated by the media, thus over-estimating recidivism rates etc⁵³.

There is currently an ongoing discussion to implement third-party reporting centres within Birmingham in an effort increase the reporting of hate crime (see section 10.2). Although these centres have had only a limited success within neighbouring local authority areas, it is thought that via a robust referral mechanism involving WMP it will significantly reduce under-reporting. These centres may also promote the reporting of sexual crimes and thus facilitate the process outside of what some may consider a patriarchal police structure.

Finally, as domestic sexual violence falls within the remit of domestic violence it may be most effective if activity is formulated and directed via the Safer Birmingham Partnership Domestic Violence Coordinator. As the Safer Birmingham Partnership currently do not have the expertise or capacity to address paedophilic child abuse it may be that the most efficacious use of Safer Birmingham Partnership resources involves addressing alcohol related sexual offending and in addressing the under-reporting of all sexual offending.

Inferences

All SSC is under-reported compared to other types of crime.

Consuming alcohol increases both the likelihood of being involved in a serious sexual crime and also the severity of the serious sexual crime. Students, due in part to their lifestyle, are of an increased risk of victimisation. Alcohol facilitates initiation of the act only by someone predisposed to commit a sexual assault

Third-party reporting centres operating with a robust referral mechanism involving WMP may reduce under-recording.

Current Strategic Activity

Due to the link between some (alcohol involved) SSC and the night-time economy it may be possible to direct activity parallel to that which targets alcohol related violence. A number of operations have sought to manage alcohol related violence within Birmingham City Centre and Sutton Coldfield Town

Centre. The F1 Strategic Assessment suggests that Operation Day Safe (visible intelligence led patrols) should also incorporate various partnership agencies including the Safer Travel Team and Birmingham City Council's Children and Young People Directorate in particular. It may be that this agenda is widened to include alcohol related sexual offending and that the partnership moves to include student bodies.

There is further potential for involvement in other operations. To complement 'B Safe', additional resources have been employed on peak nights through partnership funding, the Joint Licensing Task Force has been utilised on several occasions, action plans have been enforced by the F1 licensing team, and marketing and enforcement campaigns outlining the detrimental impact of excessive alcohol consumption have also been implemented. Additionally Operation Gorland, which utilises Safer Birmingham Partnership funding, has been in place in the Southside entertainment area. The operation has involved high visibility patrols in the area to counter issues during week nights and student nights in particular.

An alcohol referral scheme currently operates across the E1 and E2 OCUs and this could be expanded to include the less serious sexual offences, especially as the proposal includes domestic violence teams.

Recommendations

Domestic sexual violence to be dealt with exclusively via the Safer Birmingham Partnership Domestic Violence Lead and additional resources to be sourced as required.

Safer Birmingham Partnership to scope the potential for involvement in strategies designed to address paedophilic child abuse. It is important that any activity involves the consultation with the Child Exploitation and Online Protection Centre (CEOP) following issues of relevance highlighted within the PESTELOM section.

A strategy to be developed that aims to identify the views and opinions from both the local community and victims of sexual offences regarding the service of West Midlands Police and its partner agencies in this area.

The Birmingham Drug and Alcohol Action Team and West Midlands Police, in conjunction with the Safer Birmingham Partnership, to address the links between alcohol and sexual offending in all future documents and strategies when appropriate.

Campaigns aimed at women aged 16-25, with particular attention applied to students, to address the vulnerability of women to sexual offences when under the influence of alcohol. Campaigns should also be designed to target local BME communities regarding the consequences of sexual offending.

The development, and subsequent management, of third-party reporting centres to consider the possible future inclusion of sexual offence reporting.



8.6 Young People

Whilst the vast majority of young people grow up happily and successfully, there is a small minority for whom the consequences of crime and anti-social behaviour whether as a witness, victim or perpetrator of crime, can have lasting impacts. Particularly in the case of young people who are perpetrators of crime and anti-social behaviour, the long term consequences can include social exclusion, with the risk factors for youth offending and substance misuse overlapping to a very large degree with those for educational underachievement, young parenthood, and adolescent mental health problems.

Victim – Defendant Relationship

Young people, i.e. those under the age of 18, can be both the victims and perpetrators of crime. In 2008, 6.8% of victims of crime were under the age of 18, as were 17.7% of defendants. As figure 16 highlights, young people tend to offend, but not exclusively against others of a similar age.

Consideration both from the perspective of young victims and known young defendants suggests that in roughly two-thirds of instances where the gender is known of both parties, the victim and defendant were of the same sex.

However, there is a gender imbalance – 36.3% of young female victims were offended against by another female whilst 86.5% of offences against young male victims were committed by males. The balance shifts for different crime types notably robbery and violent offences.

Where details of the defendant's ethnicity are known in instances where the victim is under 18, 58.9% were from the same ethnic group, with two-thirds of young White victims being victimised by a White defendant; seven out of ten young Blacks were victimised by a Black defendant whilst 71.1% of Asian victims under 18 were victimised by an Asian defendant.

Victims

Research by Victim Support⁵⁴, in particular, highlights that often young people are the forgotten victims of crime, especially as the public's perception of crime against children and young people tends to be centred on child abuse and bullying. However, based on literature reviews and interviews with young people, Victim Support has found evidence that the rate of child victimisation is twice that of adult victimisation. Indeed analysis of the Crime and Justice Survey 2003 found that young people are more likely to be the victims of personal crimes (assault, robbery, theft from the person, and other personal theft) than those in older age groups. Certainly research by the Design Council on behalf of the Home Office published in May 2008⁵⁵ found that one in eight 11-16 year olds (12%) have been the victim of 'hot product' theft – gadgets such as mobile phones and MP3 players, in the last three years and one in three (31%) victims were listening to music on headphones, talking or texting on a phone or playing on a games console when their item was stolen.

Nationally, it is hoped that a more comprehensive picture of young people as victims will be captured once the British Crime Survey is extended to under 16s (likely to be spring 2010).

Consideration of the profile of young victims who were victimised within Birmingham suggests:

- Victims under five represent 2.6% of all young victims; those aged five-ten, i.e. primary school age, account for 8.4%; those aged eleven-fifteen years, i.e. secondary school age, account for half (50.4%) of all young victims whilst those aged sixteen-eighteen account for the remaining 38.6%.
- Gender differences exist in relation to different crime types – males are more likely to be a victim of

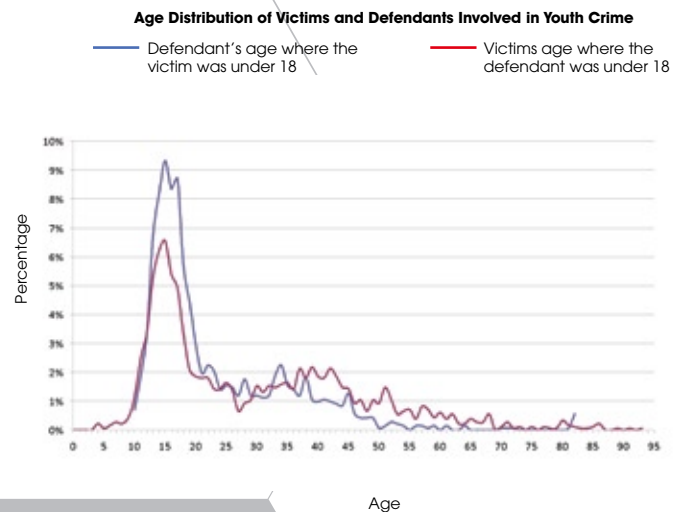


Figure 16. Age of Victims and Offenders (CRIMES)

robbery whilst females are more likely to be a victim of a sexual offence.

- Based on analysis of those for whom an ethnicity is recorded, it suggests that Asians are under-represented whilst Whites are over-represented, particularly in older age groups. However 16.8% do not have an ethnicity recorded against them.
- Within youth crime, young victims are drawn from particular areas for different crime types, with Lozells – Newtown being the home location for the highest intensity of victims of violent crime and also dominating mapping of all crimes in which young people were the victim during 2008.

Violent offences make up more than half (52.6%) of offences committed against those under the age of 18 followed by robbery of personal property (22.3%). One in nine of the offences in which a young person was a victim fall under the other crime code which includes theft other and theft of a pedal cycle. One in twenty (5.5%) had sexual offences committed against them. Young people who have had items taken from the person account for 3.8% of all victims under the age of 18. Due to a combination of the minimum driving age and the statutory school leaving age, young people tend not to be victims of motor vehicle, property or business crime.

The city centre is a high intensity hotspot for offences committed against under 18s during 2008. It is a focal point for shopping and is also a transport hub. As such there is a significant footfall through the area by people of all ages. Further analysis suggests:

- 57.2% (2,792 out of 4,880) crimes committed against young victims occurred in public with 46% of offences including road, alley or footpath in the location description. The proportion increases for violent offences where 62.1% occurred in public places. Just under 9% included references to occurring in parks, on wasteland, woodlands or a cemetery, dropping to 5% for violent offences
- Two-thirds of robberies occurred on public rights of way whilst 18% occurred in or around entertainment venues including public houses and nightclubs.
- The majority of other offences including theft other and theft of pedal cycles occurred either on public rights of way or from residential properties, the garden or the driveway.
 - 22.3% of crimes occurred within residential properties, with a further 25 offences occurring in Children's Homes. Almost a third of violent offences occurred within or in the immediate area around the home e.g. gardens or driveways.
- Overall, 10.9% of incidents carried a public transport special interest marker, with 18% of robberies and 23% of thefts from person including specific reference to either a bus or bus stop.
- Offences with a reference to educational premises included within the location description account for 4.7% of all crimes committed against under 18s. Just under one in five other offences were recorded as having occurred on school / college premises.

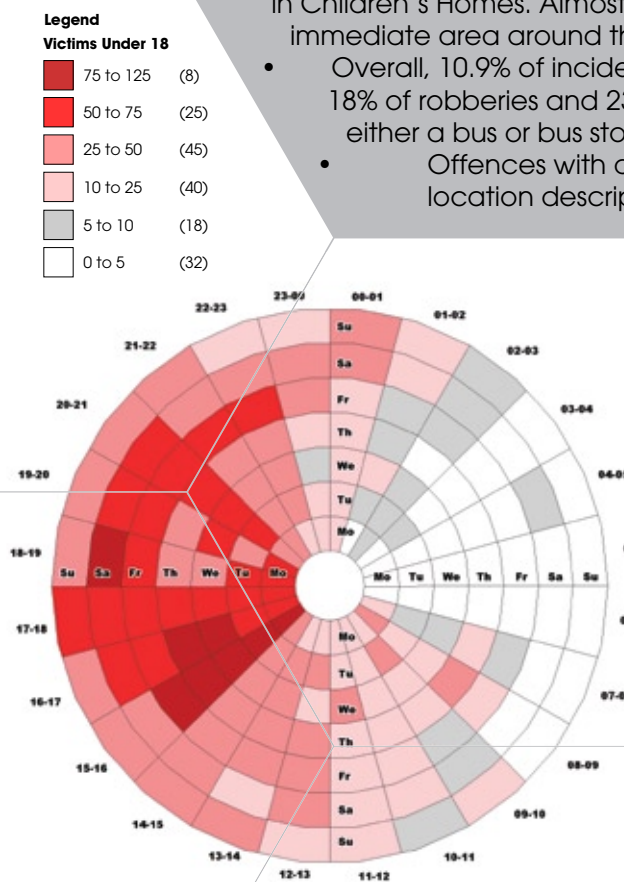


Figure 17. Distribution of Crimes Against Under 18s by Hour and Day, 2008

The peak times at which offences are committed against under 18s is Monday to Friday, 1500-1600 corresponding to the end of the school day. The highest proportion of offences is committed from this time until around 2100, the exception being Friday night when a high proportion of offences are committed up to 2300. Over the weekend, there are also high levels of offending against under 18s between 1600 and 2100 on a Saturday, with the number increasing significantly between 1800-1900. The proportion of offences committed on a Sunday is lower although there is a peak 1700-1800. As would be expected the number of offences against under 18s overnight is very low with few offences occurring during the mornings.

During 2008, there was an average of 407 offences committed per month against under 18s. However, they are not evenly distributed throughout the year. Notably there were peaks in May, June and July when the monthly number of offences increased to 510, 541 and 562 respectively. The number of offences per month

gradually declined from July onwards, with a slight peak occurring in September (401 offences). The lowest number of offences against young people occurred in November (169) and December 2008 (138 offences).

Young victims reported weapon use in 18.8% (918 out of 4,880) of the crimes committed against them, with 32.5% of robberies involving a weapon and one in five violent offences. In total 411 (8.4%) young victims reported that a knife was involved in the offence whilst 56 reported that a gun was involved (1.1%).

In the case of knife involved offences, the knife was used as a threat in almost half the incidents (47.9%) and used to injure in one in five offences (20.7%). However, in 24.3% (100 out of 411) of knife involved offences the victim believed that there was a knife but had not seen it.

Young victims of robbery were the most likely to report the involvement of a knife (24.1%); followed by victims of violent offences (5.2%), with these two crime types accounting for 96.4% of knife involved crime. Notably, the way in which the knife was used in crimes where the victim was under 18 differed:

Weapon Use	Overall		Personal Robbery		Violent Offences	
Used as a threat	197	47.9%	149	56.7%	44	32.8%
Believed, Not Seen	100	24.3%	88	33.5%	6	4.5%
Used, Causing Injury	85	20.7%	12	4.6%	73	54.5%
Carried, Not Used	16	3.9%	9	3.4%	7	5.2%
Used, Causing Property Damage	5	1.2%	2	0.8%		
Other Use	4	1.0%	1	0.4%	2	1.5%
Used, No Injury or Damage	4	1.0%	2	0.8%	2	1.5%
Total	411	100.0%	263	100.0%	134	100.0%

Table 7. Weapon use by Young People (CRIMES)

In more than half the violent incidents involving a knife, the knife was used to cause injury (54.5% - 73 out of 134); in a further third of knife involved violent offences, the knife was used as a threat (32.8% - 44 offences). In the case of robbery offences, knives were used to cause injury in just 12 offences (4.6%). Where utilised, they were predominately used as a threat (56.7% - 149 out of 263 knife involved robberies) and in a third of cases, it was believed that the offender had a knife, but it had not been seen.

Of the 2,314 knife involved incidents during 2008, victims under 18 were involved in 17.7%. However, if analysis is undertaken as to how the weapon was used, it suggests that young people are over-represented in cases where it is believed that there is a knife but it wasn't seen and under-represented in instances where the knife was used to injure (victims under 18 made up 44.8% and 13.3% respectively of all those victims of offences during which the knife was used in this way).

Recent research by the Youth Justice Board asserts that children carrying knives do so primarily out of fear of bullying or attack, the perception being that all their peers carry knives, or to gain "street cred". The national findings suggest that 17% of 11-16 year olds reported carrying a pen knife and 15% said they had carried a ball-bearing gun in the last year. One in twenty boasted of having carried a flick knife. Almost half of the boys and one in six girls admitted carrying a knife or gun. One in twenty said they had carried an airgun; 3% had carried a "real" gun. However, the survey found that significantly fewer young people were carrying weapons compared with 2005⁵⁶.

Locally, young people (under the age of 16) are not surveyed as part of 'Contact Counts' – the WMP survey following up on the quality of service received by victims of domestic violence; violent crime; vehicle crime; racist incidents and RTCs. Nor do they participate in Feeling the Difference (see section 10.3) which would enable analysis to be undertaken into the factors which make them feel unsafe or have a fear of crime. Given the scant information available, it is necessary to rely on surveys such as 'TellUs' to ascertain how safe from being hurt by other people young people feel in a number of different settings.

The most recent survey – 'TellUs3' conducted amongst Y6, Y8 and Y10 pupils in Birmingham Schools, highlights that young people feel less safe when on public transport and around the local area.

Just over 1 in 4 (26%) were worried about being bullied whilst 28% indicated that what worried them the most was getting into trouble. 30% worried about crime compared to 27% nationally.

Although 60% reported having never been bullied in school, 14% had experienced bullying at school within the last four weeks including 6% who were bullied most days. Reported levels of bullying elsewhere including whilst travelling to or from school are lower. However, 6% had experienced bullying within the last four weeks including 3% who are bullied most days.

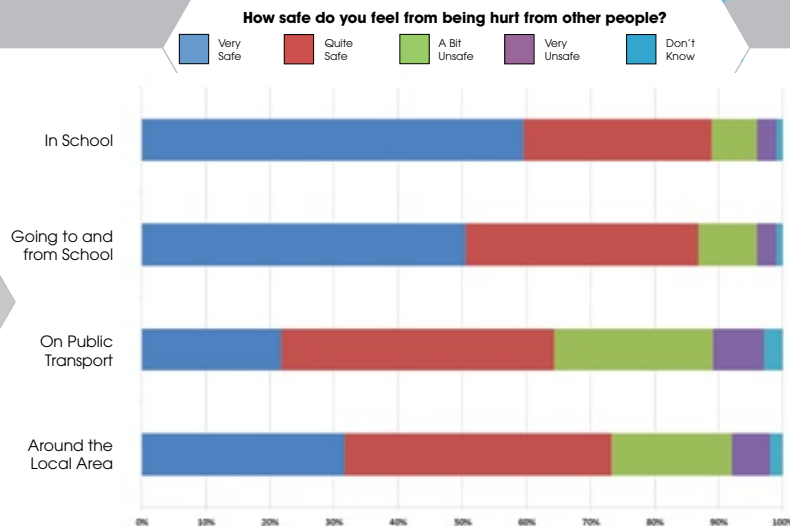


Figure 18. Source: TellUs3, Ofsted, September 2008

45% felt that in order to make the area in which they live a better place, they would like for it to be safer / have less crime - significantly higher than the national average of 39%.

Given the significant proportion of time that children and young people spend in school, it is reassuring that 88% of those involved in 'TellUs3' indicated that they felt very or quite safe within school. However, analysis of crimes data suggests that one in twenty (4.7%) of offences against young people were described as having occurred on educational premises and during the 2007/08 academic year there were 569 offences recorded as having occurred on the premises of Birmingham's 75 secondary schools. Not all of these occurred during school hours nor were they necessarily committed by pupils from that school.

The majority of these offences were Theft Other (203 out of 569) with a further nine robberies or attempted robberies of personal property and ten thefts of pedal cycles. One in four (24.3%) were violent offences including 18 which involved having a weapon. Criminal damage accounted for 13.9% of offences largely to other buildings whilst there were two arson offences. There were also 93 burglaries or attempted burglaries of other buildings.

Within the school context disruptive, anti-social and criminal activities by pupils are typically dealt with through fixed-term and permanent exclusions. During the 2007/08 academic year there were 260 permanent exclusions from Birmingham schools and 10,637 fixed term exclusions with the majority of these were issued to males in Years 8, 9 or 10. However, a small number were issued to primary age pupils, the youngest being in reception. The behaviour exhibited by pupils is often the reason for their exclusion and can include being disruptive, threatening behaviour towards others ranging from bullying to verbal abuse through to physical assault or carrying a weapon, theft, and involvement in criminal and anti-social behaviour, including drug and alcohol related activities.

Bullying, both within the school and during the journey to and from school is of particular concern with schools being required to put in place effective systems to deal with prejudice-related bullying. Anti-bullying policies and procedure are recommended to include specific reference to prejudice-related bullying in all its forms, including bullying on the grounds of body image/size/obesity, homophobic bullying, racist bullying, faith-based bullying, ageist bullying, disability bullying and sexist bullying. Work by the NASUWT⁵⁷ highlights the emerging issue of cyber bullying and cyber threats as a key challenge facing practitioners.

There is also concern around the additional vulnerability associated with under-age binge drinking. In it's systematic review of published work around the impact of alcohol consumption⁵⁸, the DCSF highlight that amongst the adverse consequences of drinking alcohol in children and young people is an increased vulnerability to being the victim of crime and they are more likely to sustain an injury, often as a result of an assault. It also notes that alcohol may make some young people more likely to display aggressive behaviour, although it is likely that other factors such as their personality and family life will play a role. 5.1% of offences where the victim was under the age of 18 involved alcohol, with the proportion rising to 14.9% when just violent offences are considered. Indeed, of the 249 offences involving a young victim that involved alcohol, 85.1% were violent crimes.

From the defendant perspective, 9.9% of all defendants were responsible for crimes where alcohol was involved. Amongst young defendants the proportion was 3.7% (172 out of 4,670). Of the 2,646 defendants of alcohol related crime 6.5% were under the age of 18. Amongst those young defendants who committed violent crimes, 7.8% involved alcohol. If this is compared to all defendants, 18.8% of their violent offences involved alcohol. Given that the legal age for the purchase of alcohol is 18 with police having the right to confiscate alcohol from under 18s if they are consuming it on the streets, adds to concern about the consequences of underage drinking.

Defendants

17.7% of defendants were found to be under the age of 18 with the youngest being 10 reflecting the current age limit for criminal culpability in England and Wales⁵⁹. In a small number of cases, young defendants committed offences in the company of one or more offenders over the age of 18.

Consideration of the profile of young defendants suggests:

- 47.6% of young defendants i.e. those under the age of 18 were aged 11-15 whilst 51.2% were aged 16-17. 10 year olds represent 1.2% of the 4,670 young defendants.
- For each of the main crime types for which under 18s have been found to be involved, the age profile is similar with the proportion of offences committed increasing with age. The exception to this is drug offences, where 51.2% of defendants were aged 17 compared to an average of 28.8% for all crimes known to have been committed by under 18s.
- Roughly one in five young defendants is female. However, the gender balance shifts depends on the crime type – in the case of thefts from shops and stalls there is an almost equal split between males and females whilst three out of four young defendants for violent offences were found to be male. Roughly one in eight (12.6%) of those responsible for criminal damage was female whilst just one in twenty (5.4%) of those involved in drug offences was female. In terms of serious acquisitive crime, nine out of ten (89.8%) were male.
- The largest group of young defendants described themselves as being White (53.2%); 18.2% were Asian; 14.7% of young defendants were Black; 5.5% were of dual heritage (255 out of 4670) whilst less than 1% were Other. No ethnicity has been recorded for 7.6% of defendants under the age of 18.
- The different ethnic groups have different profiles of offending – amongst those young defendants responsible for violent offences, the ethnicity profile is not that dissimilar to that for all young defendants whilst for criminal damage, 64.7% of defendants were White. Black young defendants accounted for 9.0%. In the case of those responsible for drugs offences, Asian youths are over-represented, accounting for 24.3% of defendants whilst Black youths are over-represented in relation to SAC.
- Significant proportions of young defendants do not have religion and / or language recorded – 90.6% and 69.5% respectively.

Violent offences made up 30.4% of offences committed by under 18s whilst criminal damage including that to a vehicle, dwellings, other building and other properties accounts for 15.9% of offences. Theft from shops or stalls represent 13.4% of offences committed by young defendants. Other offences such as affray, theft other, theft dwelling not machine / meter, breach of ASBOs and receiving stolen goods make up 10.9% whilst drug offences account for 9.1%.

One in six offences (16.7%) committed by under 18s is serious acquisitive crime, with under 18s representing 28.8% (780 out of 2,709) known offenders for SAC. However, it is notable that the breakdown of offence types is quite different amongst under 18 with the perpetrators of robbery offences accounting for 50.4% of young SAC defendants, those committing motor vehicle crimes representing 31.4% and those committing burglary dwellings making up the remaining 18.2%. This compares to the breakdown for all defendants which are robbery 31.8%, burglary 27.0% and motor vehicle crime 41.2%. This profile is in part attributable to the minimum age for holding a driving licence being 17.

Under 18s are under-represented with respect to drug offences accounting for 9.5% of all defendants compared to 17.7% across all crime types. The profile of drug offences is also quite different amongst young defendants with the proportion involving Class A being 3.0% compared to 14.2% for all defendants. Additionally under 18s represent just 4.7% of those arrested for drug trafficking offences (18 out of 387) – equivalent to 4.2% of young defendants.

DIP testing is not carried out amongst offenders under the age of 18 and it is therefore not possible to ascertain the proportion of young defendants who are using and misusing Class A substances in the same way as it is for adults. Evidence from Birmingham DAAT's Children and

Young People Substance Misuse Needs Assessment, along with national research, suggests that substance use and misuse amongst under 18s tends to be more focused on cannabis and alcohol. This finding is also supported by analysis of treatment data for this age group. However, there are issues around the disclosure of the use of controlled substances which is acknowledged to impact on these findings.

The most comprehensive picture of substance use and misuse amongst young people is available through the Asset Core Profile compiled with young offenders. Through detailed analysis of the Birmingham YOS dataset, it has been possible to identify a cumulative model, whereby the more vulnerabilities a young person is exposed to, whether it be experience of the care system; living in unsuitable / unstable accommodation; poor attendance at school due to truancy or exclusion or having recent contact with a family / carer with substance misuse problems, the higher the likelihood of the young person having a substance misuse problem. This information has been utilised, along with estimates of the prevalence of substance use and misuse amongst other vulnerable cohorts, to provide a robust evidence base for the DAAT's commissioning of both universal and targeted activities for young people in general.

Whilst it should be acknowledged that under 18s are using illegal substances and consuming alcohol, (acts which are against the law) the National Drug Treatment for Substance Misuse⁶⁰ asserts that there are no clear links between substance misuse among young people and acquisitive crime, largely because young people are unlikely to be dependent on heroin and crack, and their lives are not as chaotic as those of adult offenders. However, substance misuse and intoxication are linked to ASB, committing violence, becoming victims of violence, other offending, and risky sexual behaviour.

Research by the Youth Justice Board and others, suggests that there is no single factor that can be specified as the cause of anti-social or criminal behaviour, rather there are clusters of factors that act both as risk and protective factors that have a cumulative effect on the likelihood of engaging in offending behaviour. These can occur simultaneously over long and short periods, and include:

- Aggressive behaviour including bullying;
- Lack of commitment to school including truancy;
- Low achievement beginning in primary school;
- Friends involved in problem behaviour;
- Family history of problem behaviour;
- Availability of drugs;
- Alienation and lack of social commitment;
- Early involvement in problem behaviour;
- Peer attitudes condoning problem behaviour;
- Community disorganisation;
- Parents condoning problem behaviour;
- Poor parental supervision and discipline;
- Family conflict;
- School disorganisation;
- Family Conflict; and
- School disorganisation.

Programmes aimed at preventing youth crime can contribute to the reduction of these harmful phenomena that, taken together, underpin social exclusion. There is therefore a need for a multi-agency approach to build resilience in a holistic way and thus ensure positive outcomes for youth people.

Current Activities

There are a number of interventions supported by the Safer Birmingham Partnership including a Junior Youth Inclusion Project which has sought to engage with the top 40 most at risk young people in five geographical areas of the city. The project seeks to provide diversionary activities in order to encourage the identified young people back into school attendance; reduce risk of exclusion; and tackle causes of offending and anti-social behaviour. It has been put forward as an example of good practice at a national level.

The FIRE project run by West Midlands Fire Service, with funding from the Safer Birmingham Partnership, Birmingham Fire Reduction Partnership and Positive Activities for Young People, has been delivering courses since January 2007 aimed specifically at those who are excluded from school or those who are already engaged with the criminal justice system. The intensive five day course is designed to develop key skills through teamwork, good communication and promotion of acceptable behaviour.

Attendance is on a voluntary basis with a positive outcome being acknowledged by an accredited qualification.

WMP's Children & Young Person's Strategy reflects the ACPO strategy for young people and sets out how the Force and partners will continue to engage with educational establishments, providing a proportionate response across six key themes. These include engaging with children and young people; children and young people as victims and witnesses; those at risk of offending; those who offend in terms of pre-court intervention and serious and persistent young offenders; and Cross-cutting strands. The Safer School Partnership is a key vehicle for this activity.

Key Findings

Those under 18 being more likely to be the victims of personal crimes (assault, robbery, theft from the person, and other person theft), with more than half the offences committed against young people being violent crimes.

Victims under five represent 2.6% of all young victims; those of primary school age account for 8.4%; those aged 11-15 account for 50.4% whilst those aged 16-17 account for the remaining 38.6%.

Those under the age of 18 represent 17.7% of all defendants during 2008, with more than half of these being aged 16-17. However, 10 year olds – the minimum age for criminal culpability – were found to be responsible for 1.2% of detected offences.

Gender differences exist both in relation to victims and defendants, for different crime types - Females make up roughly one in five defendants.

The peak times at which offences are committed against under 18s is Monday to Friday 1500-1600, corresponding to the end of the school day. The city centre has the highest intensity of crimes committed against young people, reflecting the fact that it is a transport hub and a focal point for shopping / leisure activities.

Young victims reported weapon use in 18.8% of crimes committed against them, with 32.5% of robberies and one in five violent offences involving a weapon.

8.4% reported that a knife was involved, predominately as a threat. In one in four (100 out of the 411 knife involved crimes), the victim believed that there was a knife but had not seen it.

There is no clear link between substance misuse among young people and acquisitive crime. But substance use and intoxication are linked to committing violence and becoming the victim of violence. The profile of drug offences is significantly different for under 18, with more emphasis on cannabis and alcohol and very little Class A use.

Where details are known about both the victim and the defendant, it suggests that young people tend to offend, but not exclusively against others of a similar age. In roughly two-thirds of instances the young victim and the defendant were of the same sex.

Inferences

The end of the school day, particularly whilst travelling home is a time when young people are particularly vulnerable due to the absence of a capable guardian.

Knives or the perception that the defendant has a knife instils fear into the minds of many young people which is itself perpetuating the incidence of carrying a knife.

Evidence does not support the notion that groups of young people should be seen as a threat, particularly by the elderly. Indeed the rate of child victimisation is believed to be twice that of adult victimisation.

Among adults, there is a clear relationship between heroin and crack dependency and acquisitive crime. Adult addicts frequently commit crime to raise the money they need to continue their dependency. For young people, there is little evidence of such a link, largely because they are unlikely to be dependent on Class A drugs, and their lives are not as chaotic as those of adult addicts. However, young people's drug and alcohol use does have consequences with the adverse impacts including increased vulnerability.

Recommendations

There is a need for a coherent, multi-agency approach which supports universal and targeted interventions to build resilience to the risk factors associated with substance misuse and offending. Such activity should complement the local Every Child Matters Agenda, proposals put forward in the Youth Crime Action Plan and WMP's Children & Young Person's Strategy.

Further work to enhance levels of understanding about the consequences of being a direct or indirect victim, or witness to crime and / or anti-social behaviour, and the longer term impacts that this has on young people achieving their full potential.

Earlier recognition that support is required for those at risk of offending or already within the criminal justice system, and their families to minimize the risk of social exclusion. This needs to be tailored to the individual needs of the young person and their circumstances.





8.7 PESTELOM

Implication	Issue	Details	Source
Political	Stronger power to tackle gangs	A new power to prevent gang-related violence will be introduced in the Policing and Crime Bill. The proposed new injunction would enable a court to impose a range of restrictions or requirements on an individual such as not entering a specified place; not being with named members of a gang; not using or threatening to use violence; not using the internet to encourage or facilitate violence; and not wearing particular items of clothing such as gang colours or balaclavas which prevent identification. Alongside this, the Government is proposing that the court should have the power to require those given an injunction to take part in positive activities such as community outreach programmes or mediation sessions between rival gangs to ensure that they are provided with alternatives to their gang lifestyle.	Home Office
	New support for victims of domestic violence	"A new guide aimed at helping victims of domestic violence has been launched at a helpline for sufferers of domestic abuse, alongside new funding for support services. The purse-sized guide shows how friends and family-members can recognise if someone is suffering from domestic violence and sets out what practical support is available. Victims can also open a new bank account giving just a PO box as their new address - thus protecting them and their independence."	Home Office
	Police Targets Change	Jaqui Smith has stated that Government is demonstrating its commitment in the Green Paper to "neither set nor maintain" top down numerical targets for individual police forces with the exception of one—to raise public confidence that their local crime and antisocial behaviour priorities are being addressed	Home Office
	Drinkers could lose their benefits and be made to take alcohol tests	New powers will allow for individuals who apply for jobseeker's allowance to be forced to take compulsory alcohol tests if officials do not believe what they say about their drinking habits. Those who refuse to cooperate could be deprived of the benefit for six months. Officials will also be able to check the truth of applicants' answers through other agencies, such as the police. The proposals are part of the government's welfare reform bill.	The Times 15/02/2009
	Call to scrap illegal databases	A quarter of all government databases are illegal and should be scrapped or redesigned, a report by the Joseph Rowntree Reform Trust claimed. Databases criticised include the National DNA database, communications database, and ONSET; all of which have community safety applications	Joseph Rowntree Reform Trust
	Data sharing concerns	As currently drafted within the Coroners and Justice Bill, ministers would be able to apply for orders to remove data protection restrictions preventing the use of information for secondary purposes in certain circumstances.	BBCNEWS: 24/02/2009
Environment	Passengers and economy to benefit from biggest investment in trains for a generation	Agility Trains has been selected as the preferred bidder for a £7.5bn contract to build and maintain a fleet of new Super Express trains for the Great Western and East Coast main lines. These will replace existing high speed trains which are 20-30 years old.	Department for Transport
Social	Government signs up to the optional protocol to the un convention on rights of disabled people	Disabled people will have the opportunity to take their case to the UN if they feel their rights have been breached following the UK's commitment to signing the Optional Protocol	Department for Work and Pensions
	Government outlines new plans for achieving race equality in the UK	The third and final report on the Government's race equality strategy, Improving Opportunity, Strengthening Society shows that further progress depends on recognising that different ethnic groups are experiencing disadvantage in different ways. The Government is consulting on how best to move away from a "one size fits all" approach to targeted help addressing the different needs of particular groups.	Department for Communities and Local Government

Implication	Issue	Details	Source
Technological	Sex offenders removed from Social Media	Social networking site MySpace has deleted the accounts of 90,000 users it has identified as sex offenders. The site was responding to a call from state attorneys general in the US to provide a list of offenders on its roster. MySpace and rival site Facebook have committed to making their sites safer for the growing number of young users.	BBC NEWS:04/02/2009
	Teens targeted in net safety push	An MSN survey suggests that half of Europe's teenagers browse the web with no parental oversight or supervision. The research into the web habits of 20,000 14 to 19-year-olds across Europe found that 51% enjoy unfettered access to any and every website. The research also found that 29% of the teenagers it quizzed have suffered bullying while using the web.	BBC NEWS:10/02/2009
	Malicious insider attacks to rise	Microsoft and Symantec have warned companies to expect an increase in "insider" security attacks by disgruntled, laid-off workers. Microsoft said so-called "malicious insider" breaches are on the rise and will worsen during the recession.	BBC NEWS:11/02/2009
	Online child abuse images warning	The government had asked all internet service providers (ISPs) to block illegal websites by the end of 2007. But firms providing 5% of broadband connections have still failed to act.	BBC NEWS:23/02/2009
Economic	Local councils in the West Midlands to receive more than £11million to help communities through the credit crunch	Birmingham is to receive £3,008,663.36 from the Local Authority Business Growth Incentives Scheme to help the Council respond flexibly to the impact of the economic downturn.	Department of Communities and Local Government
	Unemployment continues to rise	During the three months to January 2009, the number of people unemployed totalled 2.03 million, up by 165,000, said the Office for National Statistics (ONS).	BBC NEWS:18/03/2009
	Repossessions and House Prices	The number of people falling behind with their mortgages is expected to jump in 2009, with the Council of Mortgage Lenders estimating that over 500,000 will fall at least three months behind in their payments - double the number in 2008. This would represent 4% of all households with mortgages. The number of court orders for possession, one of the first steps in repossessing a property, is also rising sharply.	BBC NEWS:06/02/2009
Legal	Improved care for young, vulnerable witnesses	Plans to give young, vulnerable witnesses better support and encourage more witnesses to come forward with evidence of crimes have been published by Justice Minister Maria Eagle. These will enhance measures designed to make it less daunting for children to give evidence, and come alongside wider proposals in the Coroners and Justice Bill to put the needs of victims and witnesses at the forefront of the criminal justice system, and so aid the Government's drive crackdown on crime. They also encourage a better and more consistent support to young and vulnerable witness, as well as individually tailor the processes in place.	Ministry of Justice
Organisational	'Common sense' policing	Home Secretary Jacqui Smith has announced the next step in common sense policing: scrapping a police timesheet freeing up an estimated 260,000 police hours. This announcement is the latest in a series of cuts to red tape and builds on actions already underway including: axing the foot-long stop and account form earlier than promised - saving 690,000 hours per year; reducing by 80 per cent the amount of form-filling police must do when recording 80 per cent of crimes; 10,000 extra hand-held devices are now available with further investment made to deliver 30,000 devices by March 2010. This £80m investment in mobile data devices will save officers up to 30 minutes per shift as they send and receive information while on the beat.	Home Office
Media	Chief constables fear crime wave as recession bites	Large numbers of police forces are planning to cut thousands of officers despite the threat of a recession-driven surge in crime and disorder. Representatives from dozens of police forces contacted by The Times last night gave a grim picture of falling numbers and "significant and painful" cuts.	The Times 24/02/2009
	Recession 'fuels' business crime	A fifth of businesses in London fell victim to some sort of crime during the last year, a survey suggests. The report by the London Chamber of Commerce and Industry and consultancy firm ComRes blamed the "economic downturn and rising unemployment".	BBC NEWS 13/03/2009



9. Conclusion

Before the key findings are discussed it is important to note the knowledge gaps that have been highlighted, as well as any related implications. Areas of particular media interest such as paedophilic child abuse and neglect have been highlighted that do not currently fall within Safer Birmingham Partnership core business. This may be a concern as the partnership moves to strengthen its public identity. There is also a knowledge gap related to urban street gangs that, despite being relevant via drugs and youth business, is typically seen as outside the purview of the Information and Intelligence Team.

Although victim support is discussed further below there is also a considerable knowledge gap for the Safer Birmingham Partnership on the customer satisfaction perceived from partner agencies. Data is available from West Midlands Police to monitor customer satisfaction but there is currently not the possibility to monitor the performance of other agencies with responsibilities in this area such as Waste Management Services, BCC Housing or the Crown Prosecution Service. These knowledge gaps should be managed before the next Strategic Assessment process and are included below within the key recommendations accordingly.

There are a number of themes that run throughout this strategic analysis. Firstly there is the issue of crime recording that was highlighted both within S10.1 and S10.2. Such issues prevent the identification of crimes and thus hinder both performance monitoring and further analysis. Perhaps the greatest concern is that the small numbers of victims that do report an offence are not provided with the support that is available, as is the case with domestic violence. Such issues are easily remedied through training and procedural refreshers, as is currently being demonstrated via the Hate Crime Reduction Strategy Implementation Plan.

The second theme relates to under-reporting and is best highlighted via domestic violence as it transcends a number of sections within this document. third-party reporting centres are being investigated as a method to increase reporting via the same logic often used to explain the increase in reporting of SSCs via rape suites during the late 1980's. This analysis has identified that for third-party reporting centres to be successful in their goal to increase reporting, a robust referral mechanism to West Midlands Police must be in place. Although more victim support can undoubtedly be provided via such a strategy it is crucial for the long-term success of bringing more offenders to justice that reporting is increased.

It is also essential that reporting of hate crime, domestic violence and serious sexual crime be a direct result of activity directed by the Safer Birmingham Partnership. Any increase in offences reported to West Midlands Police, such as the recent recorded homophobic hate crime increase, which is not in line with Safer Birmingham Partnership directed activity must be considered an increase in actual committed crime rather than an increase in reported crime. It is therefore important that strategies to increase reporting of crime involve a performance monitoring frame work and commissioned results analysis, in line with the National Intelligence Model, as is currently being exemplified by the Hate Crime Reduction Strategy Implementation Plan. This will also facilitate an intelligence-led allocation of resources to manage any increase in reporting; assuming clear lines of communication with West Midlands Police are established and maintained. It may be that the role of the Birmingham Tasking and Coordination Group is expanded to include responsibility for this following successful implementation by the Hate Crime Strategy Implementation Team.

The third theme evident throughout this document is a compilation of trends identified within each section of analysis. In addition to under-reporting, there are frequent references to the increased vulnerability of young people, poor perceptions of local responsible organisations, an unreasonable fear of crime, the normalisation of victimisation, and lack of knowledge and access to available support. The management of all of these issues clearly involves community engagement and as such the key theme should be prioritised by the Safer Birmingham Partnership. Quite often, as is also highlighted, it is in the hard to reach sections of the community where the need for community engagement is greatest. It can therefore be inferred that traditional methods of communication may no longer be adequate and alternative methods have to be investigated.

Social media enable an alternative method of communication and it refers to activities that integrate current technology, communication and social interaction. Such media include social networking sites, blogging and micro-blogging, instant updating (twitter) and on-demand TV amongst many more. Social

media is the fastest growing and reportedly the most influential brand marketing tool. It is often reported that consumers are now much more resistant to traditional advertising and that social media is seen as a necessary additional, or in some cases an alternative, strategy to be employed due to its more easily accessible and usable features to both distributors and consumers of information.

These advantages enable the real-time dissemination of information to hard to reach groups (e.g., via mobile phone or micro-blogging etc). Services provided by organisations such as Bzzagents word of mouth strategy use a form of social media to promote a brand. The strategy behind the communication of a message is based on organisational behavioural dynamics.

Work by Dr Everett Rogers proposes that adopters of any new innovation or idea can be categorised as innovators, early adopters, the early majority, the late majority or laggards. Crucially, early adopters are more easily influenced through direct communication and via logical arguments. As the early and late majority are more sceptical and resistant to change, but more open to influence from peers, it follows that in this model it is the early adopters that need to be engaged. They represent the well respected opinion leaders and they will provide the powerful social influence that will overcome barriers to progress. It is via social media that communication to early adopters is arguably most efficacious.



Figure 19. The Diffusion of Innovations Curve

Such a theory has numerous potential applications within the public sector, and thus the community safety agenda. Potential applications may include closing the gap between the fear of crime and recorded crime, or trying to influence young people away from gang affiliation. Social media, as recognised by Digital Birmingham, affords the Safer Birmingham Partnership the opportunity to both identify and engage the early adopters in order to influence change. However many of the possible associated strategies for community engagement can also be used for other means: to survey community perceptions, identify local priorities or promote awareness on appropriate issues.

For example: the Safer Birmingham Partnership could fully re-design its website and incorporate a third-party crime reporting function; sections of the community could be approached via social networking sites to survey or perhaps to work in an informal consultative capacity in order to better understand the fear of crime; visitors parking around motor vehicle hotspots could have information 'pushed' onto their mobile phone with target hardening advice. Methods of communication can also be more subtle when required; for example, using face recognition technology it is possible that visitors to a GP surgery can have information on support pushed on to their phone when having glanced at a poster regarding domestic violence.

The use of social media also tends to acknowledge a fundamental factor in communicating a message to significantly large numbers of people: it acknowledges that the numbers of people that eventually get to hear a message are far more dependent of the 'spread factor' of that message than the number of people initially exposed to it. This is why an entertaining viral advert sent to one classroom could ultimately have 100's of millions more consumers than a Home Office Press release to all national media groups.

From virtual private spaces where advice on sexual abuse can be sought anonymously to viral adverts educating viewers on the risks of alcohol related violence, the opportunities presented for engagement via new social media are countless. However, many of these methods of communication and engagement are unproven within the public sector, if indeed proven any where, and therefore a robust results analysis process is required. What is clear is that the Safer Birmingham Partnership currently does not extend its communication outside of traditional means and there is therefore huge potential for development in this area.

Digital Birmingham has been consulted regarding the use of social media and as many of the other issues are being addressed via appropriate strategies it can be concluded that the Safer Birmingham Partnership is very well placed to address all three themes.





10. Key Recommendations

A review of crime recording procedures to be conducted with training refreshers where required. Training for recording hate crime and use of the Special Interest Markers should be implemented as a priority.

Due to the success of 'rape suites' with managing under reporting, third-party reporting centres for sensitive crimes (hate crime, domestic violence and sexual crime) should be established throughout Birmingham; however, a robust referral mechanism to West Midlands Police is essential and should be established early. The Safer Birmingham Partnership should direct the roll out of any such scheme via an intelligence led approach involving systematic results analysis.

Efforts to increase the reporting of hate crime and sexual crime to be immediately communicated to the senior management teams of all partner agencies due to the implications for total recorded crime.

The Safer Birmingham Partnership to expand activity designed to address violent crime within the city centre and other areas of the night time economy to disadvantaged areas, and the glamorisation of gangs local to Birmingham via social media to be managed as a priority.

Use of new legislation (see section 10.6) to prevent gang affiliates from also entering the 'territory' of other gangs in an effort to reduce gang-on-gang violence.

Detection and enforcement of illegal money lending practices should also be focused within disadvantaged areas. Social lending initiatives with public money should be avoided in the short-term and a regulatory strategy designed to maximise the availability of regulated credit to high risk borrowers should be permanently avoided in light of the current financial crisis.

The Safer Birmingham Partnership to engage partners with responsibility for worklessness to develop a cross-agenda strategy. This should then be assimilated into Safer Birmingham Partnership core business.

All of the key findings from the Feeling the Difference analysis (s10.3) be considered in the Safer Birmingham Partnership Communication. Following the identification of 'hard to reach' groups as particularly susceptible to the fear of crime, alternative means of communicating messages and engaging communities should be sought.

Interventions should be identified via best practice to reduce the significant night time worriers in Birmingham. This process must involve a robust results analysis (evaluation) and be adaptable to further findings from the additional analysis that has been recommended above.

Knowledge gaps, such as those relating to urban street gangs to be addressed with regards to drugs and youth crime issues. Knowledge gaps relating to child abuse/neglect to be scoped to establish the level of the Safer Birmingham Partnership's responsibility.

The Safer Birmingham Partnership to restrict activity regarding serious sexual crime to addressing alcohol related sexual offending and addressing under-reporting, until the capacity for managing child abuse is established.

There is a need for a coherent, multi-agency approach which supports universal and targeted interventions to build resilience to the risk factors associated with substance misuse and offending. Such activity should complement the local Every Child Matters Agenda, proposals put forward in the Youth Crime Action Plan and WMP's Children & Young Person's Strategy

West Midlands Ambulance Service Data and Children Services data to be requested from the appropriate agencies in line with the 'duty to share information'.

Customer satisfaction data to be sourced and analysed from all agencies with a responsibility for managing crime or Anti-Social Behaviour.

Safer Birmingham Partnership to consult with Digital Birmingham regarding innovative methods of community engagement. This may form part of a wider engagement or communication strategy but should address reasons for under-reporting highlighted within this assessment.

The Strategic Assessment 2010/11 to address violent extremism, vulnerable children, vulnerable older people, prolific priority offenders, and re-offending rates within the initial risk assessment process but to have the capability to provide full analytical support if required.

The Information and Intelligence Team to review the risk assessment process in line with amendments planned for the West Midlands Police Strategic and Risk Assessment Index in 2010/11. Further areas for improvement include the involvement of partners external to the immediate Safer Birmingham Partnership team in design and implementation, in addition to a more open recommendation formulation process.



Methodology

The threats analysed within this document were selected from over 40 areas of interest identified via a scanning exercise. Colleagues from throughout the Safer Birmingham Partnership were invited to suggest further areas of interest that were then subjected to statistical, analytical, and subjective assessment.

Specific areas of the assessment include trend identification and impact on the local community, the level of knowledge regarding the subject held by the Safer Birmingham Partnership, the cost to both the Criminal Justice System and the local community, the community perception of the issue, and the potential for successful activity directed towards it. To ensure the reliability of the assessment, colleagues and experts with responsibility for these areas were invited to validate the subjective elements.

Threats were then selected from the areas of interest via a risk assessment tool. This risk assessment was developed for use by the Safer Birmingham Partnership from the West Midlands Police Strategic Threat and Risk Assessment Index.

This process has been developed from the West Midlands Police Strategic Threat and Risk Assessment Index by the Safer Birmingham Partnership.

STRAT*i*

Strategic Threat and Risk Assessment Index



Organisation	Safer Birmingham Partnership
Date	Version 1
Risk Assessor(s)	Michael Mitchell

INDICATORS		Vulnerability			Risk Assessment			Individual Score (100)	Target Adjustment (1)	Final Score (100)
Tier 1	Tier 2	Control	Knowledge	Impact	Protecting Public (5)	Community Stability & Reassurance (5)	Reduce Victimisation (5)			
VIOLENT CRIME										
SERIOUS VIOLENT CRIME		3	3	5	5	3	2	49	1	49
MURDER/ATTEMPTED MANSLAUGHTER		3	5	5	5	3	2	47	0.8	38
VIOLENCE		2	3	5	4	3	3	46	0.8	37
OTHER VIOLENCE		3	3	4	2	2	3	36	0.5	18
KNIFE CRIME		4	3	4	4	3	3	49	0.8	39
GUN CRIME		1	3	2	2	5	5	34	0.8	27
DOMESTIC VIOLENCE		2	3	5	4	1	3	36	1	36

Figure 20. The Risk Assessment tool used for threat identification

The risk assessment ranks threats by the sum of scores allocated at the assessment stage. This final score is then subjected to weighting by its relevance to the Safer Birmingham Partnership. The weighting reflects whether the threat is a current target for the Safer Birmingham Partnership or its partner organisations; forms part of a target or is a previous target (and thus previously influenced activity in this area), or does not form part of a target.

The final weighted score is then used to identify priority threats that are to be subjected to strategic analysis. Any threat recording a weighted score above 40 was automatically selected for strategic analysis. In addition, one further area was identified for particular consideration within the Strategic Assessment due to findings from the initial three stages. Any threat not identified for further analysis but scoring within the top tier (4/5) of one of the risk assessment strands has been included within the Safer Birmingham Partnership Control Strategy.

Each priority threat was then subjected to a full crime pattern analysis (or problem profile where appropriate) in order to inform the strategic assessment. The strategic assessment is then designed to draw on the key findings of each crime pattern analysis (CPA) to provide a forum for discussion regarding strategic threats and recommendations. Each CPA is available to partners on request although it should be noted that these documents may have to be presented in a sanitised format in line with the Government Protective Marking Scheme.

It is intended that the methodology used here will be subject to its own assessment during the 2010/11 strategic assessment process. The score for each threat can be found in the appendix and the full Risk Assessment is available on request.

Although every effort was made to assess every area of interest there was a small number where it is not currently possible to apply the risk assessment. It is the intention that these areas of interest are scoped further before provision is made to fully assess them in the 2010/11 Strategic Assessment.

These areas of interest are:

- Violent Extremism;
- Vulnerable Children;
- Vulnerable Older People;
- Prolific Priority Offenders; and
- Re-offending rates (Adults/Young People/Sex Offenders).

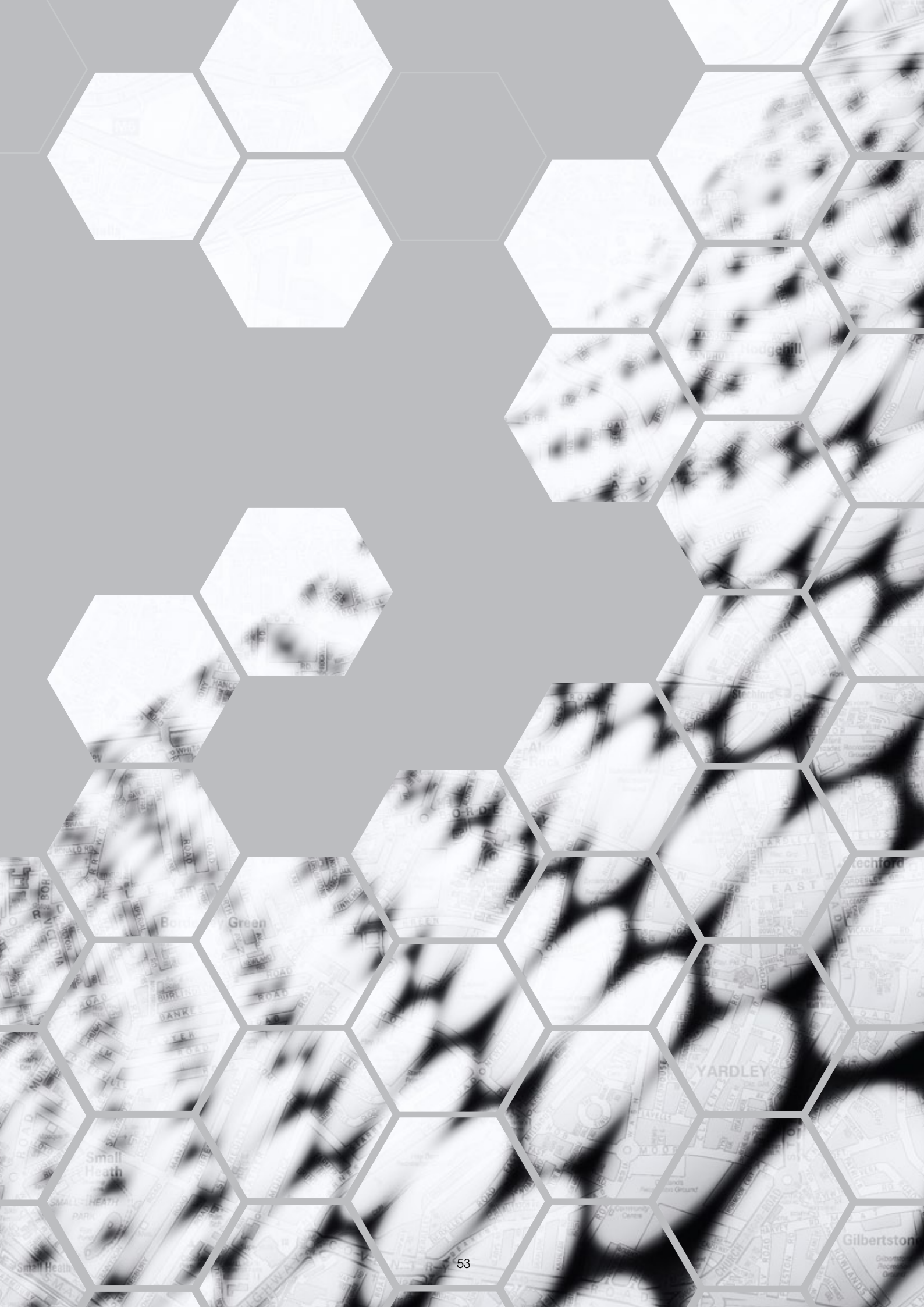
12. References

Threat	Document	Location	GPMS	Author	Date
Hate crime	Hate Crime CPA	W:\F_Drive 9516\ Projects \ RE992_Hate Crime	Confidential	Michael Mitchell	February 2009
Recession	The Influence of the UK Economy on Crime in Birmingham	W:\F Drive 9516 \Projects \ RE906_Economy Vs Crime Trends	Restricted	Michael Mitchell	May 2008
Serious Sexual Crime	Serious Sexual Crime CPA	W:\F Drive 9516\Projects\ RE950_SA0809\SSC	Restricted	Michael Mitchell	February 2009
Fear of Crime	Perceptions of Crime and Safety- The National, Regional and Birmingham Picture	W:\F Drive 9516 \Projects \ RE950_SA0809 \Analysis \ FearofCrime	Not Protectively Marked	Caroline Davis	April 2009
Serious Violent Crime	Serious Violent Crime CPA	W:\F Drive 9516 \Projects \ RE950_SA0809 \Analysis \MSV	Confidential	Susan Webb	February 2009
Domestic Violence	Domestic Violence and it's impact on Most Serious Violence	W:\F Drive 9516 \Projects \ RE974_DomesticViolence \ Project 3 - PROBLEM PROFILE	Restricted	Susan Webb	December 2008
Young People	Youth Crime	W:\F Drive 9516 \Projects \ RE950_SA0809 \Analysis \ YoungPeople	Restricted	Helen Hodges	March 2009

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- Andrew Blythe (Youth Offending Service);
- Steve Parton (BCC Exclusions Team);
- Natasha Bhandal (Safer Birmingham Partnership Communications Officer); and
- Daniel Silverstone (Design and Communications Assistant).





13. Appendix



Appendix 1 - Strategic Risk Assessment Tool

This process has been developed from the West Midlands Police Strategic Threat and Risk Assessment Index by the Safer Birmingham Partnership.

STRAT_i
Strategic Threat and Risk Assessment Index



Organisation	Safer Birmingham Partnership
Date	Version 1
Risk Assessor(s)	Michael Mitchell

This process has been developed from the West Midlands Police Strategic Threat and Risk Assessment Index by the Safer Birmingham Partnership.

STRAT*i*

Strategic Threat and Risk Assessment Index



INDICATORS

Vulnerability

Control

Knowledge

Impact

Risk Assessment

Protecting Public (5)

Community Stability & Reassurance (5)

Reduce Victimisation (5)

Individual Score (100)

Target Adjustment (1)

Final Score (100)

VIOLENT CRIME

SERIOUS VIOLENT CRIME

MURDER/ATTEMPTED MANSLAUGHTER

VIOLENCE

OTHER VIOLENCE

KNIFE CRIME

GUN CRIME

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

3

3

5

5

3

2

49

1

49

3

5

5

5

3

2

47

0.8

38

2

3

5

4

3

3

46

0.8

37

3

3

4

2

2

3

36

0.5

18

4

3

4

4

3

3

49

0.8

39

1

3

2

2

5

5

34

0.8

27

2

3

5

4

1

3

36

1

36

ACQUISITIVE CRIME

SERIOUS ACQUISITIVE CRIME

BURGLARY

ROBBERY

MOTOR VEHICLE CRIME

THEFT

BURGLARY OTHER BUILDING

FINANCIAL CRIME

1

2

4

3

3

4

32

1

32

2

2

4

4

3

3

33

0.8

27

3

2

4

4

4

3

42

0.8

34

2

2

3

2

3

3

24

0.8

20

2

3

2

1

3

3

27

0.5

14

1

3

1

1

1

2

12

0.5

6

2

5

4

1

1

3

27

0.5

13

ANTI-SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR

3

2

3

2

4

5

39

0.5

20

SEXUAL CRIME

SERIOUS SEXUAL CRIME

OTHER SEXUAL CRIME

ABUSE OF RESPONSIBILITY

3

4

5

5

2

2

40

1

40

3

4

5

3

2

3

45

0.8

36

4

5

3

5

1

2

38

0.5

19

VULNERABLE COMMUNITIES

PROSTITUTION

HATE CRIME

4

3

1

4

3

2

29

0.5

15

3

4

3

4

4

2

42

1

42

CRIME INVOLVING SUBSTANCE USE

DRUG RELATED CRIME

ALCOHOL INVOLVED CRIME

2

3

3

3

4

3

32

1

32

3

2

4

4

3

2

33

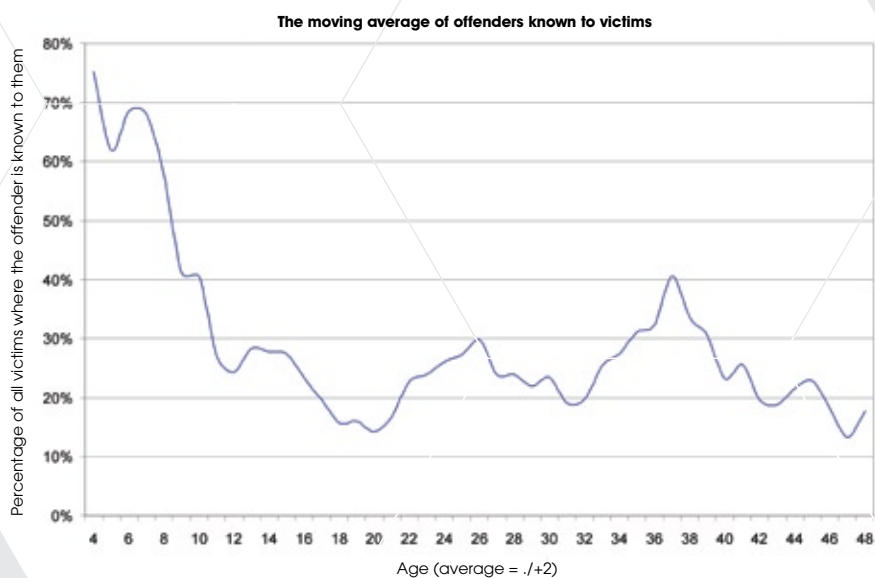
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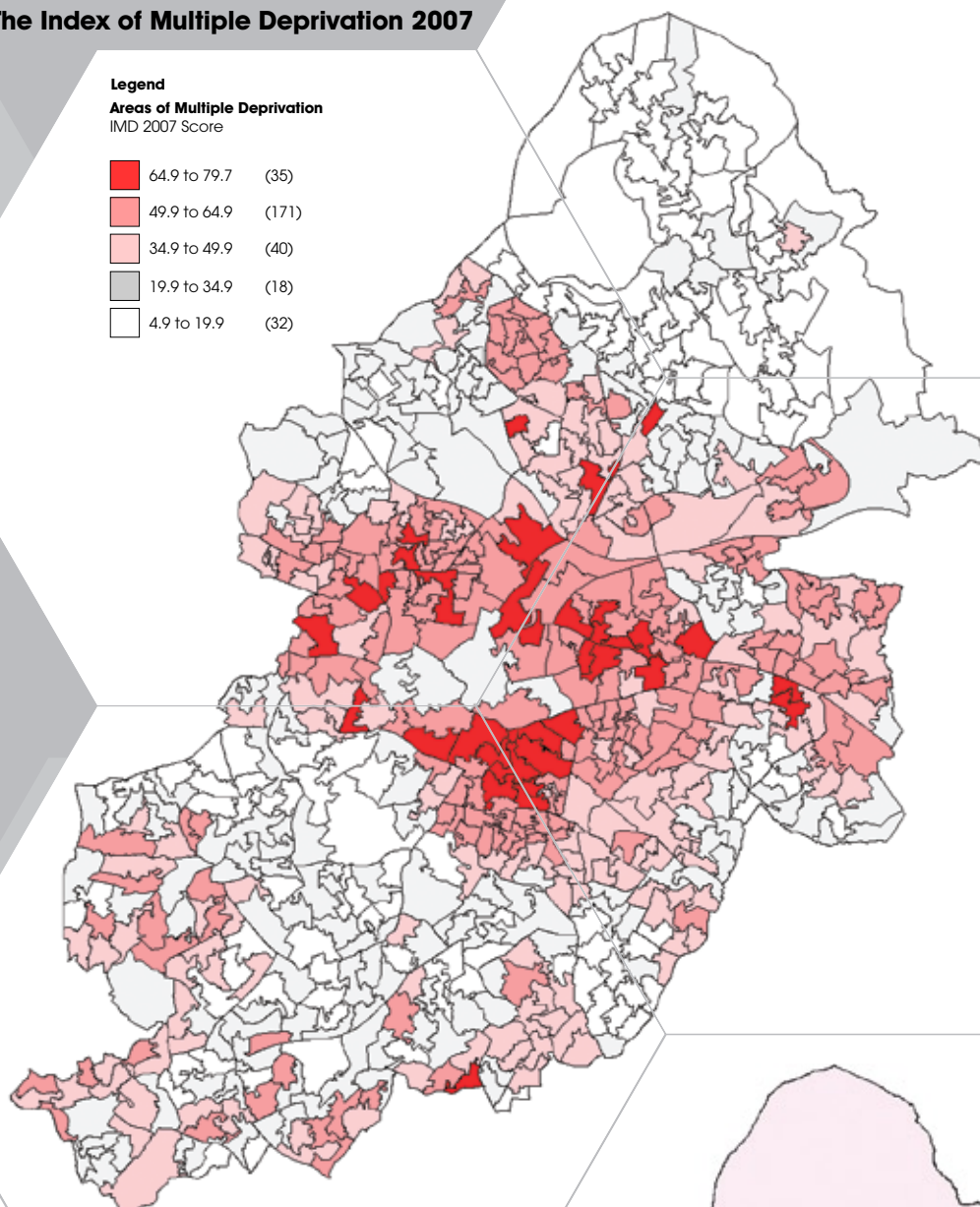
33

INDICATORS	Vulnerability			Risk Assessment			Individual Score (100)	Target Adjustment (1)	Final Score (100)
	Control	Knowledge	Impact	Protecting Public (5)	Community Stability & Reassurance (5)	Reduce Victimization (5)			
CRIME INVOLVING YOUNG PEOPLE	3	2	4	2	4	5	44	0.8	35
CRIMINAL DAMAGE	1	3	3	1	3	4	26	0.5	13
ROBBERY	3	2	4	4	4	3	42	0.8	34
BUSINESS CRIME									
CRIMES AGAINST BUSINESSES	2	4	3	3	0	5	40	0.5	20
CORPORATE CRIME	2	5	2	2	0	1	13	0.5	7
TERRORISM	2	5	5	3	3	0	22	0.8	18
CRIMES AGAINST THE CRIMINAL JUSTICE SYSTEM	1	4	2	1	2	1	12	0.5	6
FEAR OF CRIME	3	4	3	2	3	4	44	1	44
RECESSION	4	3	4	2	4	5	60	0.8	48
HIGHWAYS									
ROAD TRAFFIC COLLISIONS	3	1	2	4	3	2	22	1	22
CRIMES ON PUBLIC TRANSPORT	4	2	3	2	3	3	30	0.8	24
ARSON	3	3	2	3	2	1	18	0.5	9
PRIMARY FIRES	3	2	3	3	2	2	24	1	24
FIRE RELATED DEATHS AND SERIOUS INJURY	3	2	4	5	2	1	25	1	25

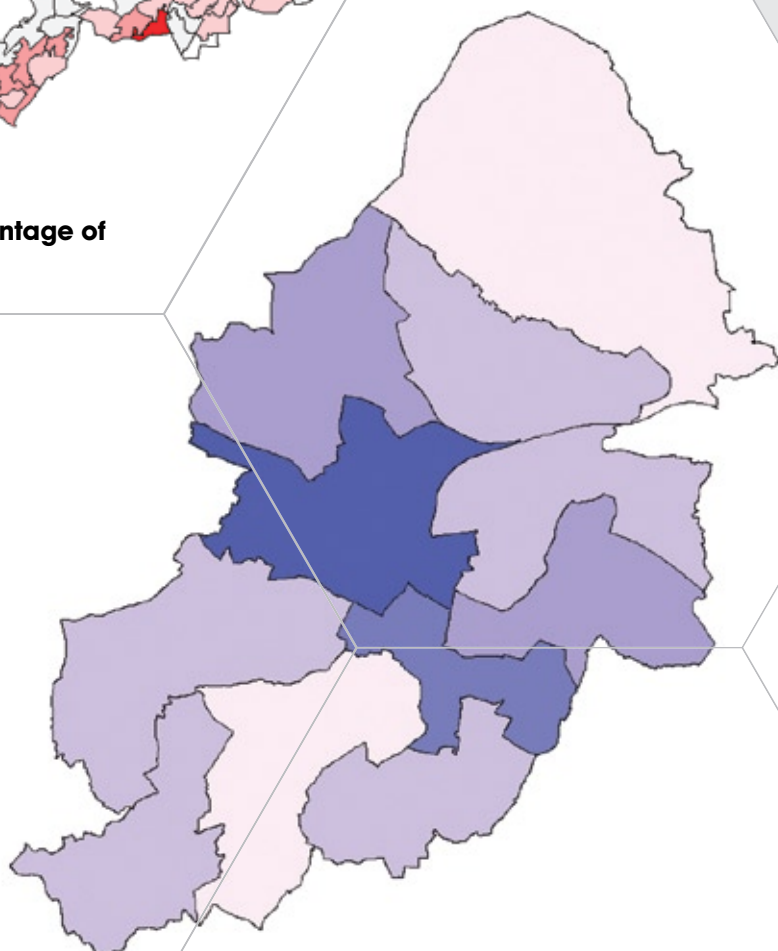
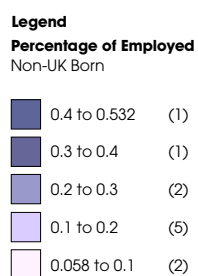


Appendix 2 - Offenders known to victims



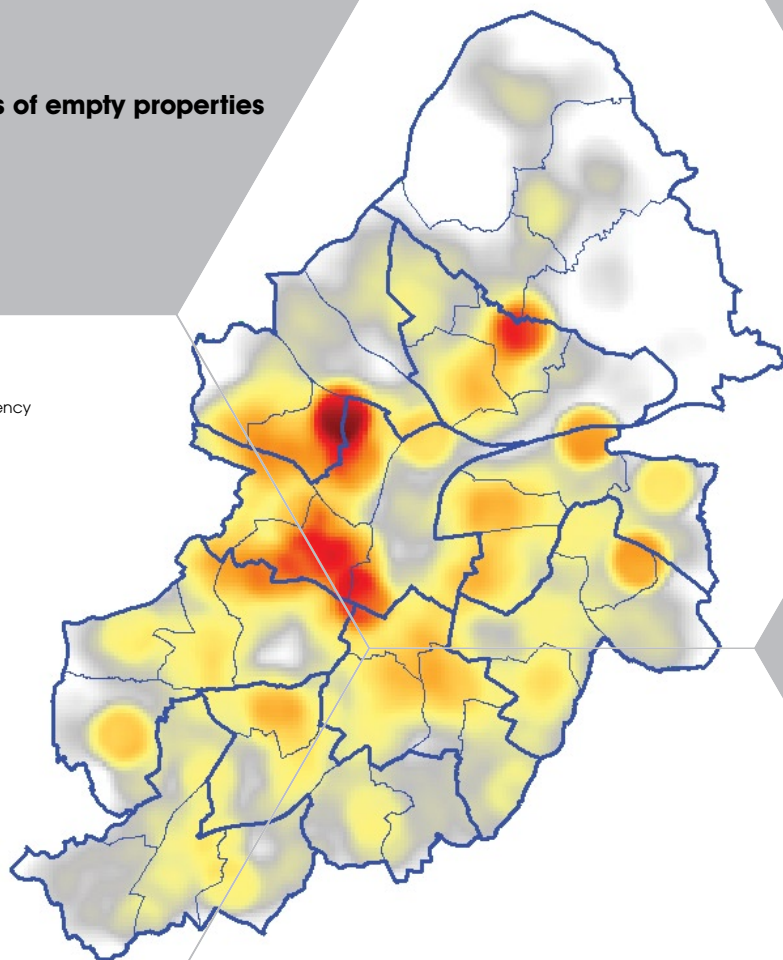
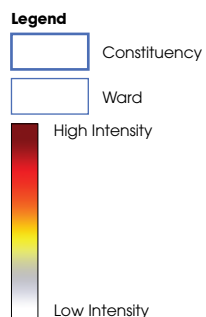


 Appendix 4 - Areas where a high percentage of employed non-UK born persons reside





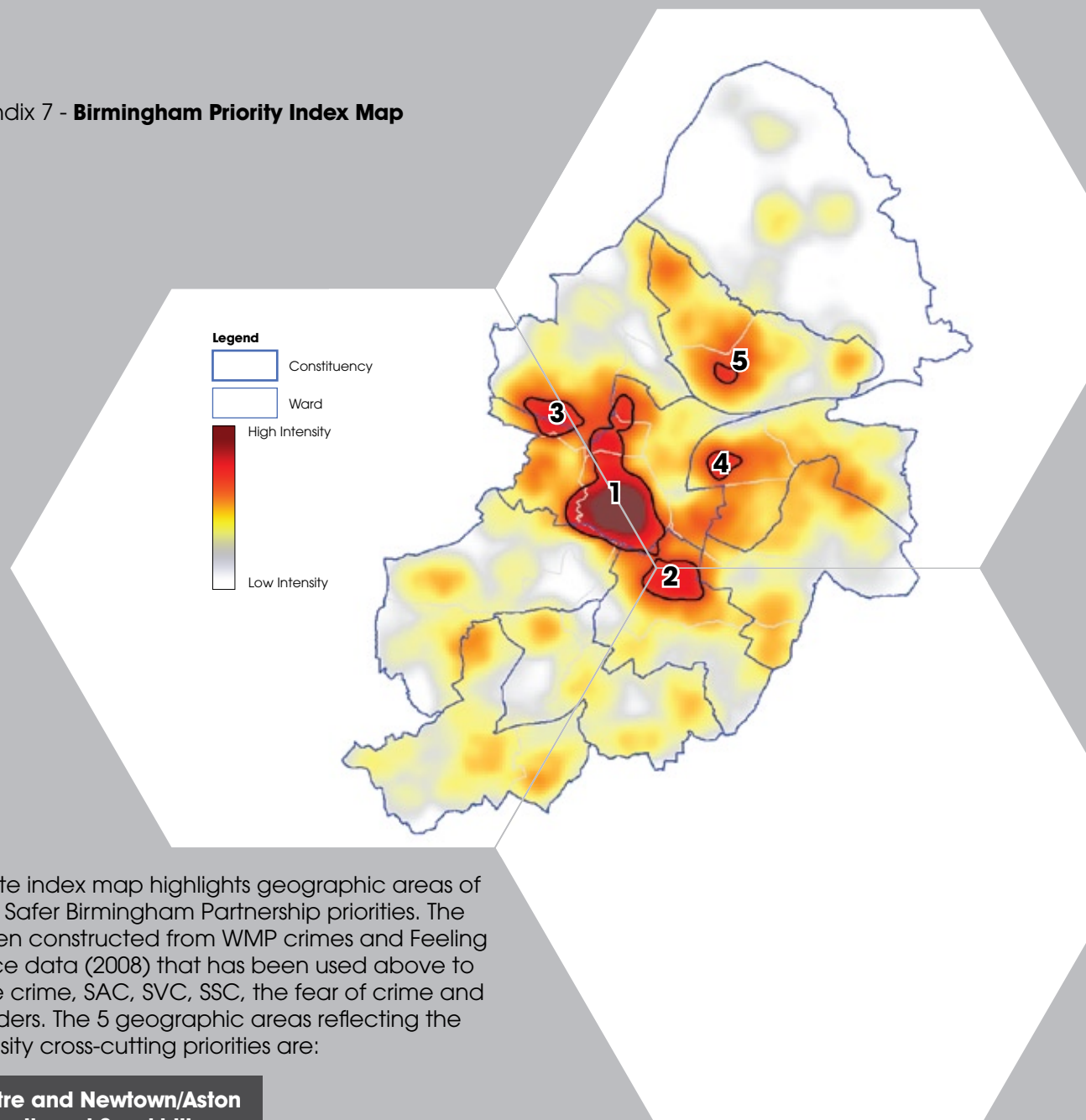
Appendix 5 - Areas with high intensities of empty properties



Appendix 6 - Birmingham Seasonality Profile

Seasonality Profile	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
Total Recorded Crime												
Serious Acquisitive Crime												
Burglary - Dwelling												
Motor Vehicle Crime												
Personal Robbery												
Theft												
Burglary - Other Building												
Financial Crime												
Violence												
Murder												
Domestic Violence												
Public Order & Harassment												
Sexual Crime												
Serious Sexual Crime												
Hate Crime												
Drug Offences												
Criminal Damage												
Arson												
Corporate Crime												
Crime Against Business												
Crimes Against Business												
Crimes Against the CJ System												
Gun Crime												
Knife Crime												





This composite index map highlights geographic areas of cross cutting Safer Birmingham Partnership priorities. The map has been constructed from WMP crimes and Feeling the Difference data (2008) that has been used above to analyse hate crime, SAC, SVC, SSC, the fear of crime and young offenders. The 5 geographic areas reflecting the highest intensity cross-cutting priorities are:

1. **City Centre and Newtown/Aston**
2. **Balsall Heath and Sparkhill**
3. **Soho Road, Handsworth**
4. **Salfley, Washwood Heath**
5. **Gravelly Hill, Erdington.**

End Notes

- ¹ BCC press release Business leaders focus on South Birmingham investment opportunities (March 2006).
- ² Please refer to the Be Birmingham Strategic Assessment/s for the identification of the priority crimes within the priority neighbourhoods, where such an issue is applicable.
- ³ <http://www.crimereduction.homeoffice.gov.uk/learningzone/hotproducts.htm>
- ⁴ RE974A Domestic Violence and its impact on Most Serious Violence, Safer Birmingham Partnership, January 2009
- ⁵ <http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/about-us/news/speaking-out-against-violence>
- ⁶ Walby, S. and Allen, J. (2004) Domestic Violence, Sexual Assault and Stalking: findings from the British Crime Survey, Home office Research Study No. 276, Home Office: London.
- ⁷ <http://www.womensaid.org.uk/domestic-violence-articles.asp?section=00010001002200360002&itemid=1403&itemTitle=Domestic+violence%2D+a+hidden+crime>
- ⁸ Voluntary data collected from the following hospitals between 19/02/08 – 31/12/08 as at 12th January 2009; City Hospital, Heartlands, Selly Oak and Good Hope
- ⁹ Taken from D1 OCU MSV CPA January 2009
- ¹⁰ F3 Gun Crimes CPA July 08
- ¹¹ Hate Crime CPA.
- ¹² Hate Crime CPA. Please also note that consequently trends identified for homophobic hate crime have a confidence interval of 9% with a 95% confidence level. Any trends that are identified for faith, disability or transphobic hate crime cannot be stated with confidence and are purely inferential at best.
- ¹³ See for example Pink Shield (2002) A Matter of Trust, Birmingham Police Forum for the Gay Community; and Hague, G., Thiera, R. and McGowan, P. (2007), Making the Links: Disabled Women and Domestic Violence, published at www.womensaid.org.uk, and also at: www.bris.ac.uk/vawrg and www.warwick.ac.uk/shss/swell
- ¹⁴ See for example Dick, S. (2008) Homophobic hate crime: The Gay British Crime Survey 2008, Stonewall.
- ¹⁵ See for example Mind (2007) Another Assault, www.mind.org.uk; or Scope (2008) Getting Away With Murder, www.scope.org.uk.
- ¹⁶ Scope (2008) Getting Away With Murder, www.scope.org.uk.
- ¹⁷ See, 'Improved Access' (July 2008), The Job, Metropolitan Police and Seven Squared Ltd.
- ¹⁸ <http://www.stopcyberbullying.org/index2.html>
- ¹⁹ <http://www.beatbullying.org/home.html>
- ²⁰ Foreign workers double to 3.8m under Labour (Mail Online – www.dailymail.co.uk)
- ²¹ http://www.bbc.co.uk/blogs/newsnight/fromthewebteam/2009/02/monday_2_february_2009.html
- ²² The Hate Crime Reduction Strategy is available from the Safer Birmingham Partnership upon request.
- ²³ Operational Outcome is that 'Fear of crime will be reduced' - percentage of Birmingham residents surveyed who say they feel safe during the day. Target 2007/08 = 95% Target 2012/13 = 97%. This will be measured by the Place Survey and not Feel the Difference.
- ²⁴ Analysis for the Feeling the Difference survey is not wholly representative of a Birmingham or West Midlands level as the OCU sampling is not weighted to represent the relative populations across the region and City, it is simply aggregated for a generalised picture. Although appropriate for our purposes here it does highlight the difficulties should this data be used for performance monitoring.
- ²⁵ Note that a significantly higher proportion of those reporting themselves as disabled fall into the higher age categories.
- ²⁶ Office for National Statistics
- ²⁷ <http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/business/7883255.stm>
- ²⁸ Field, S. (1999) Trends in Crime Revisited, London: Home Office
- ²⁹ See the always useful Bent Society blog for further discussion on this theory (<http://bentsocietyblog.blogspot.com>)
- ³⁰ See Currie, E. (1997) 'Market, Crime and Community' Theoretical Criminology, Oxford University Press.
- ³¹ By Currie, E. (2008) 'Pulling apart: notes on the widening gap in the risks of violence', Criminal Justice Matters No. 70 2007/08.
- ³² For definitions and background to anomie and strain theory please refer in particular to The Oxford Handbook of Criminology 4th Edition, Oxford University Press.
- ³³ See Machin, S. and Meghir, C. (2004) 'Crime and Economic Incentives', Journal of Human Resources, 39 and Hansen, K. and Machin, S. (2003) 'Spatial Crime Patterns and the Introduction of the Minimum Wage', Oxford Bulletin of Economics and Statistics, 64.
- ³⁴ See again the Oxford Handbook of Criminology for much more discussion on facilitators of crime, particularly relevant here is the section 'Political economy, crime, and criminal justice' by Robert Reiner.
- ³⁵ 'Credit Crunch Prostitutes' Sunday Mercury 28/02/2009
- ³⁶ Illegal Lending in the UK, Research Report November 2006, Personal Finance Research Centre.
- ³⁷ <http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/programmes/newsnight/7920239.stm>
- ³⁸ 'Meat tagged to thwart shoplifters' The Independent UK (2009), <http://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/crime/meat-tagged-to-thwart-shoplifters-1221109.html>
- ³⁹ See for example <http://www.crimereduction.homeoffice.gov.uk/domesticviolence/domesticviolence42.htm>
- ⁴⁰ 'Meat tagged to thwart shoplifters' The Independent UK (2009), <http://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/crime/meat-tagged-to-thwart-shoplifters-1221109.html>
- ⁴¹ <http://www.crimereduction.homeoffice.gov.uk/learningzone/hotproducts.htm>
- ⁴² See for example <http://www.crimereduction.homeoffice.gov.uk/domesticviolence/domesticviolence42.htm>
- ⁴³ Selfe, D and Burke, V. Perspectives on Sex, Crime and Society 2nd Ed (2001)
- ⁴⁴ <http://www.crimereduction.homeoffice.gov.uk/domesticviolence/domesticviolence42.htm>
- ⁴⁵ Lieb, R., Quinsey, V., and Berliner, L., "Sexual Predators and Social Policy," in M. Tonry (Ed.), Crime and Justice (University of Chicago, 1998): 43-114
- ⁴⁶ Hood, R., Shute, S., Feilzer, M. and Wilcox, A. (2002) Reconviction Rates of Serious Sex Offenders and Assessment of their Risk (Home Office Findings 164), London: Home Office.
- ⁴⁷ California Attorney General's Office-<http://meganslaw.ca.gov/facts.htm>
- ⁴⁸ The Center for Sex Offender Management, U.S. Department of Justice.
- ⁴⁹ See for example Selfe, D and Burke, V. Perspectives on Sex, Crime and Society 2nd Ed (2001)
- ⁵⁰ Brown, S., Deakin, J. and Spencer, J. (2008) 'What People Think About the Management of Sex Offenders in the Community' in The Howard Journal v47 No 3, pp. 259-274
- ⁵¹ The Support Needs of Young Victims of Crime: A Research Report: Executive Summary, City College Norwich on behalf of Victim Support Norfolk, May 2007.
- ⁵² Headline findings were included in the Home Office Press Release 'British Crime Survey Extended to Under 16s as Design Experts Meet to Tackle Youth Crime' (14/5/08)
- ⁵³ Findings from the Mori Youth Survey, 2008 as published in The Independent article 'One Third of Children Admit to Carrying a Gun or Knife' (6/3/09).
- ⁵⁴ Tackling Prejudice-Related Bullying, NASUWT, 2007
- ⁵⁵ Impact of Alcohol Consumption on Young People: A Systematic Review of Published Reviews. DCSF-RB067, January 2009.
- ⁵⁶ Last Year the United Nations Committee on the Rights of the Child recommended raising the age of criminal culpability.
- ⁵⁷ Getting to Grips with Substance Misuse Among Young People, NTA January 2009
- ⁵⁸ Role of Risk and Protective Factors, YJB 2005
- ⁵⁹ From Bzzagencf.co.uk.
- ⁶⁰ Rogers, E. M. (2003). Diffusion of innovations (5th Eds.). New York: Free Press.



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