



## **Dorset Police and Crime Panel**

### **Police and Crime Plan Progress against Plan and Priorities**

#### **Quarter 1 Report 2017-18**

**Date of Panel: September 2017**

**WORKING TOGETHER TO  
KEEP DORSET SAFE**

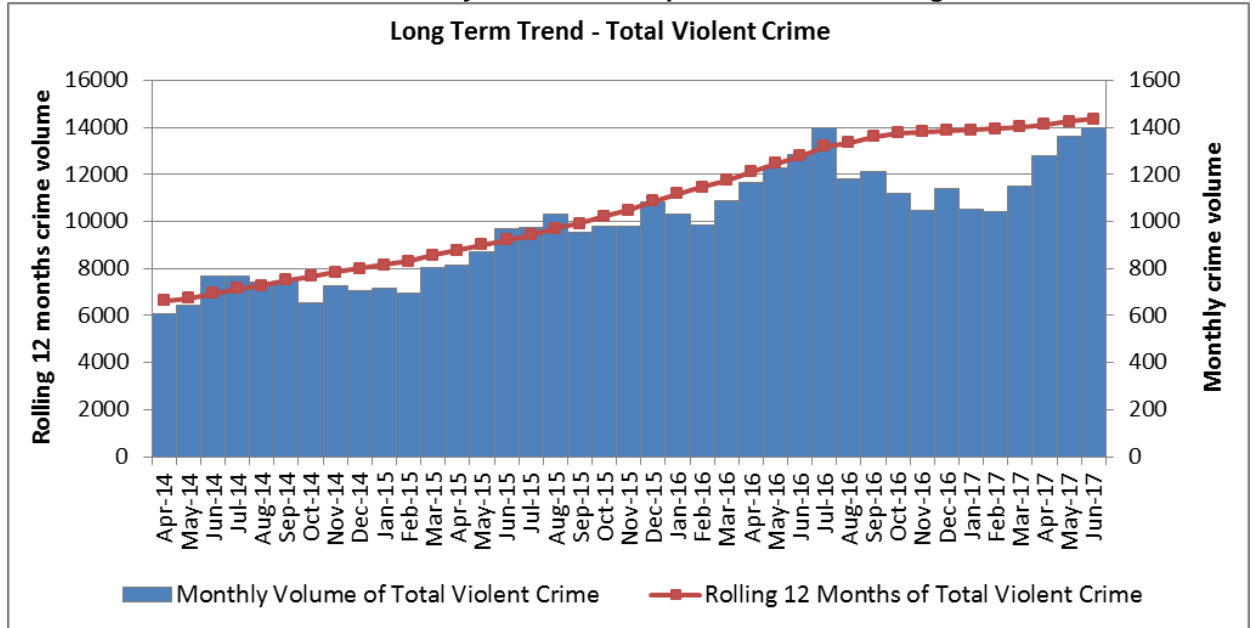
# 1. Protecting People at risk of harm

## National Position

- 1.1 For the 12 months to March 2017, which is the latest national data available, Dorset is recorded as having the 12<sup>th</sup> lowest violence against the person crime rate. This position improves to 10<sup>th</sup> lowest nationally when sexual offences are considered.
- 1.2 In April, HMIC published its PEEL (Police Effectiveness, Efficiency and Legitimacy) report. The report described Dorset Police as having a good understanding of the problems affecting the people of Dorset, and working well with other public service organisations to prevent crime and reduce anti-social behaviour. It was also referenced that there is a clear priority within the force to reduce harm and protect the most vulnerable people across the county.

## Long Term trends

Chart 1: Total violent crime - Monthly breakdown of performance and longer term trend

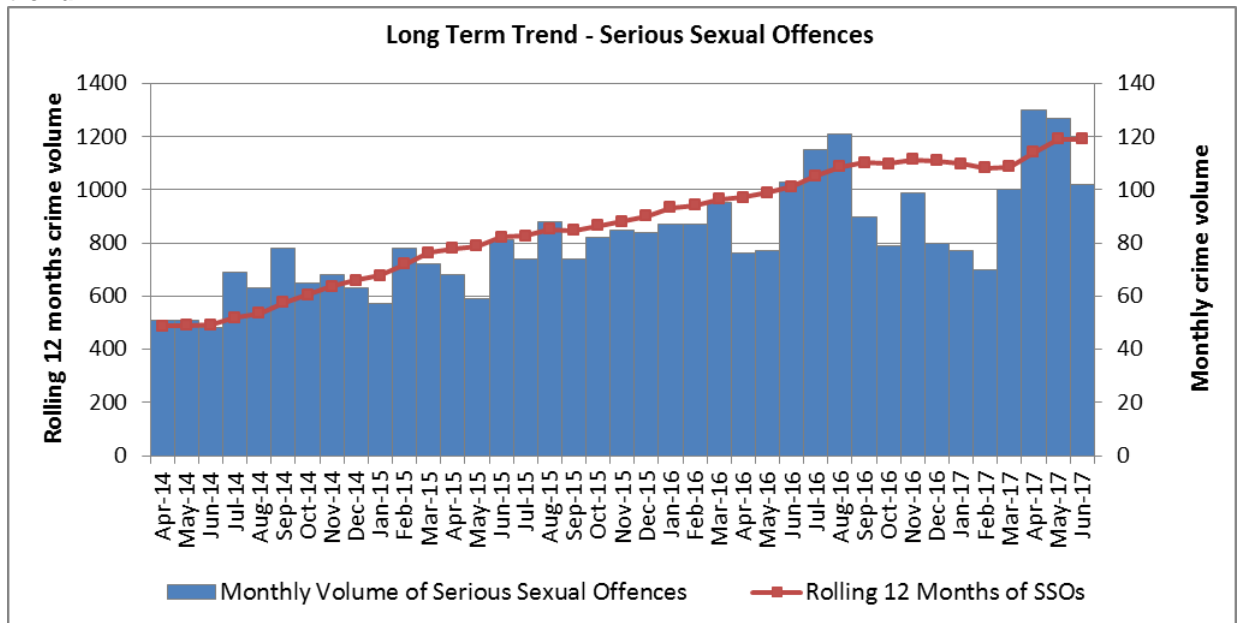


## Commentary on Performance

- 1.3 **Violent crime** – The rising trend in violent crime since 2013/14 has been well documented in previous reports, referencing work carried out by the National Police Chiefs Council (NPCC) which demonstrated that the country had not become more violent, but that the increasing national trend could be attributed to a change in reporting and recording practices for these crimes.
- 1.4 In the year to date, the Force is continuing to record an increasing trend in violent crime (including sexual offences), but the rate of increase is smaller than at the start of 2016/17. The increase is primarily in relation to common assault – non-injury assaults – as well as around a third of the increase in violent crime relating to a rise in sexual offences.

- 1.5 For 2016/17, a newly refined measure of public place violence was introduced in Force which helped to focus more specifically on the trends in relation to non-domestic assaults taking place in Dorset rather than blurring the picture through the inclusion of crimes of harassment and dog bites which have traditionally been included within the public place violence category.
- 1.6 Comparable data is now available for this new definition of public place violence and shows an increasing trend during 2017/18, again, primarily within the category of non-domestic common assaults. Part of this increase may be attributable to the Force's increased focus on crime recording compliance.
- 1.7 The Force has increased its focus on Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE) in recent years, with specialist teams established to deal with these investigations and recent increases in the resources made available to these teams.
- 1.8 During the first quarter of 2017/18, a total of 59 CSE investigations were recorded within Dorset, which is a reduction from 87 investigations over the same period in the previous year. Of the 59 investigations, just under half were related to a crime, with the crime volume being comparable with the previous year. A number of children have been safeguarded as a direct result of police operations targeting high risk offenders in this area.

**Chart 2: Serious Sexual Offences - Monthly breakdown of performance and longer term trend**



- 1.9 **Serious Sexual Offences** – the upward trend in recorded serious sexual offences has continued during the 2017/18 year to date and analysis has been commissioned in-house to further the Force's understanding of the increase. It should be noted however, that at the end of March 2017, Dorset had the 10<sup>th</sup> lowest sexual offence crime rate nationally, so the current increase is not limited to Dorset.
- 1.10 **Hate Crime** – The rise in hate crime in 2016/17 which was partly caused by the EU referendum in June 2016 has now reduced, with only a moderate

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increase being recorded in the year to date, mainly in relation to verbal abuse and non-injury assaults. It is of note that over the same period, the number of people being charged with these crimes has increased, indicating that the Force takes reports of hate crime seriously and in addition to taking action to safeguard the victim, will also seek to deal with the offender in an appropriate manner. A survey among hate crime victims shows a high level of satisfaction with how they were treated by staff.

- 1.11 **Mental Health** – Dorset Police has continued to reduce the use of custody for people detained under the Mental Health Act, with just one such detention during 2017/18 to date. The Force is continuing to work with partners to ensure more appropriate facilities are available.
- 1.12 Samaritans' volunteers have also begun working in Bournemouth custody to provide a confidential and impartial support service to enhance the well-being of those people being detained. Detainees are offered the opportunity to speak face-to-face or over the phone with a Samaritans volunteer following their police interview. The support of the Samaritans is an additional service to that already provided by Independent Custody Visitors, who conduct independent, random checks on the welfare of people detained in custody.
- 1.13 **Modern Slavery** – Another area of concern is modern slavery. The Force has developed a Modern Slavery Action Plan in line with regional and national requirements, with the development of Force knowledge around this area of crime, drawing on intelligence received from both within the Police and partner agencies. Between 1 April and 30 June 2017, eight crimes relating to human trafficking and modern slavery have been recorded within Dorset.
- 1.14 Human trafficking especially of children is causing concern across agencies, particularly in the light of a discovery in June of seven children among 18 illegal immigrants discovered hidden in a lorry at Poole port. Dorset is supporting the national Operation Aidant, the theme of which in October is child trafficking.

## 2. Working with our Communities

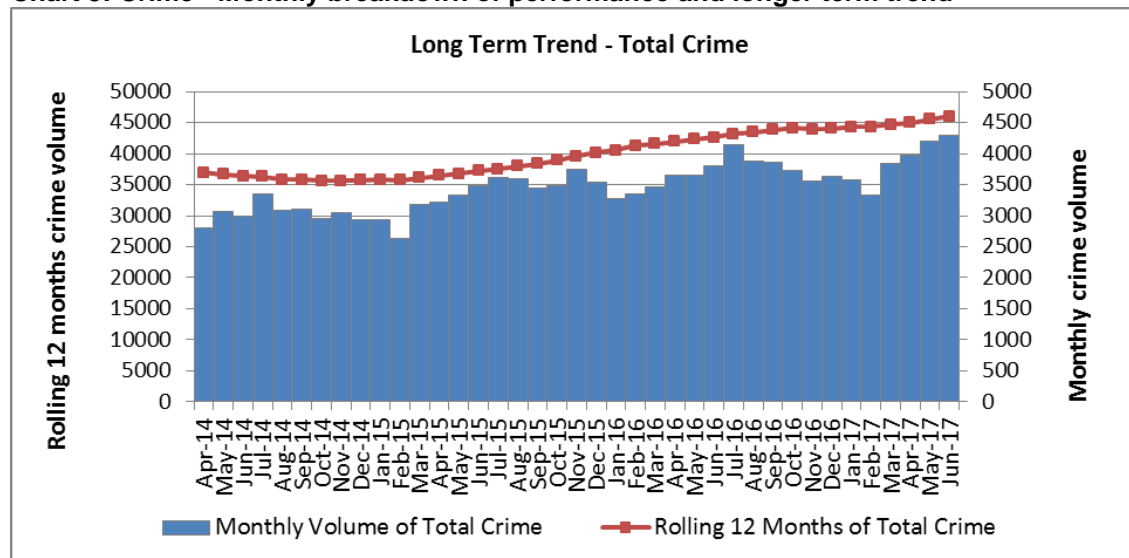
### National position

- 2.1 For the 12 months to March 2017, which is the latest national data available, Dorset is recorded as having the 10<sup>th</sup> lowest total crime rate nationally. In terms of dwelling burglary its position is even better, having the 8<sup>th</sup> lowest dwelling burglary crime rate nationally.
- 2.2 Dorset is 12<sup>th</sup> nationally for 'understanding community issues' and 9<sup>th</sup> for 'dealing with the things that matter to people' (Crime Survey for England & Wales – year to March 17).

### Long term trends

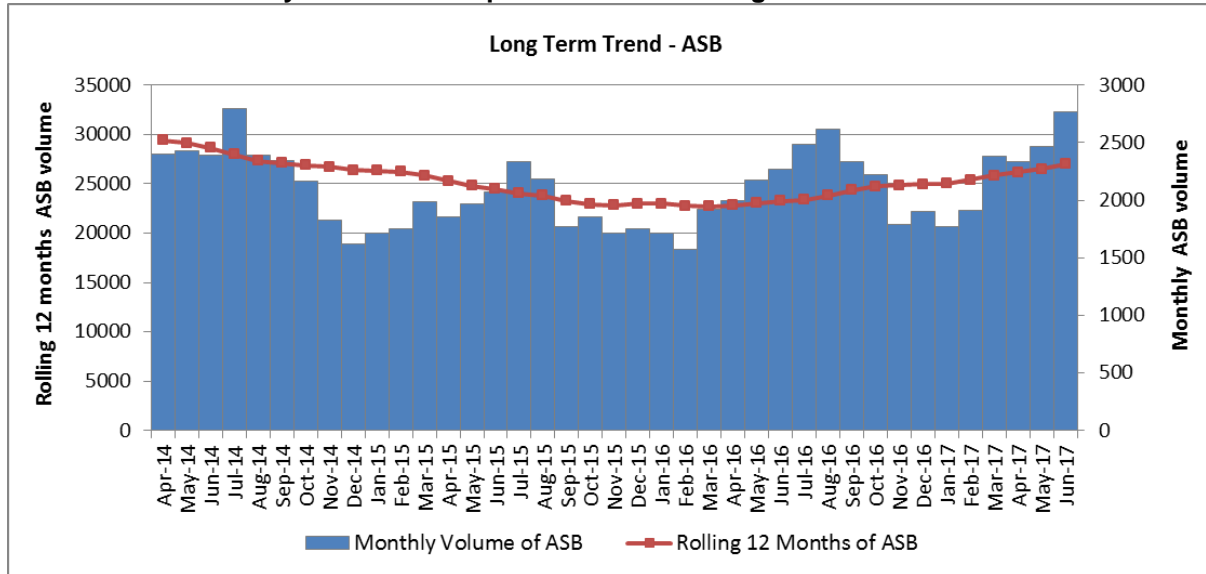
- 2.3 Figures in Chart 3, below, show the monthly breakdown (use right hand axis) and the longer term trends in crime and anti-social behaviour (use left hand axis) volumes.

**Chart 3: Crime - Monthly breakdown of performance and longer term trend**



- 2.4 As the graph above shows, the long term trend in relation to total crime volumes within Dorset is one of moderate increase, predominantly driven by an increasing volume of lower level crimes including theft and non-injury violence. With the Force’s drive to improve crime recording compliance in order to ensure that victims are receiving the service they are entitled to, a further rise in crime is anticipated, but the fact that Dorset remains 10<sup>th</sup> nationally in relation to its crime rate indicates that there is a national picture of crime increase.
- 2.5 Between April and June 2017, the Force has recorded a positive outcome rate of 19%. Whilst charge volumes have reduced in the year to date, all other positive outcome types have increased in volume, particularly in relation to community resolutions which have experienced a 38% increase.

Chart 4: ASB - Monthly breakdown of performance and longer term trend



- 2.6 The graph above shows that ASB volumes are continuing to increase during the 2017/18 year to date with the usual seasonal spike in summer experienced slightly earlier this year in June, which can probably be attributed to the warm weather at that time. Whilst Personal ASB volumes have increased in the year to date, the greatest volume increase relates to nuisance ASB which may require partnership involvement due to the nature of the incidents concerned which are often civil rather than criminal matters.
- 2.7 From April 2017, the Home Office classification of dwelling burglary as it will be reported nationally changed. The main change is that sheds and garages within the boundary of a residential dwelling will now be recorded as a dwelling burglary whereas previously they would have been counted as a non-dwelling burglary. The result of this change in definition will be an apparent increase in dwelling burglary volumes reported nationally although local monitoring separates out the residential outbuilding crimes from those relating to burglary of the main dwelling itself in order to provide comparisons with previous years.
- 2.8 A notable reduction in dwelling burglary was recorded in the first quarter of 2016/17 which is at least partially responsible for the current year to date increase being recorded. As the months progress, the increase is expected to reduce as the difference becomes less affected by below average volumes of dwelling burglaries recorded the previous year.
- 2.9 It is positive that over 96% of burglary dwelling victims surveyed reported being satisfied with how they were treated by Officers and staff.
- 2.10 **Road safety** – Road safety is also a consideration underneath this priority, and it is positive that the rolling annual figure for those killed or seriously injured on Dorset’s roads has been decreasing month on month for the last year.
- 2.11 The Force continues to target high risk road users in order to improve road safety within Dorset. In June 2017, one such motorist who had been the subject of focus by the Police was sentenced to 26 weeks in prison,

suspended for 24 months, with a requirement to carry out 100 hours of unpaid work as well as a rehabilitation activity requirement and programme requirement. He was also disqualified from having a driving licence for 12 months. In addition, as part of the Summer drink drive campaign during June 2017, a total of 33 people were charged. As in previous campaigns, anyone charged with a drink or drug driving-related offence during the campaign had their name and court appearance details released to the media.

- 2.12 **Organised crime** – Project Spotlight is the partnership approach to tackling organised crime within Dorset. Each of the Force's partners shares best practice in the coordination of action taken to tackle organised crime locally through Project Spotlight. The Force continues to tackle the threat from out of county drug dealers, with dangerous drugs network (DDN) activity linked to a rise in knife crime. Positively, in their inspection, HMIC acknowledged that Dorset has an effective system for assessing the risk posed by DDNs under Operation Voltage.
- 2.13 According to the latest Community Safety Survey, 33% of residents surveyed are worried about drugs/drug dealing; an increase on the 28% concerned the previous year.
- 2.14 **Counter Terrorism** – Dorset Police's Counter Terrorism capability comes under the remit of the South West Counter Terrorism Intelligence Unit (SWCTIU). The drive from the SWCTIU and National tasking is risk-based and as a result resources and funding are directed at ports based on risk in terms of Counter Terrorism. Continued terrorist attacks both within the UK and Abroad have highlighted the very real threat of terrorism with the threat level shifting between Severe and Critical. The intelligence picture being kept under constant monitoring and review to ensure the appropriate security is in place. Although there is no intelligence or information at this time that suggests a specific risk to Dorset, nationally there continues to be a risk posed by returning fighters from Syria.
- 2.15 **Fraud and Cyber-crime** – Fraud including cyber is the biggest worry among Dorset residents surveyed through the Community Safety Survey currently, with 55% worried about it – rising from 51% last year.
- 2.16 A project is ongoing within Dorset Police to quantify the extent of fraud that is committed against Dorset victims, as there are a number of different routes through which fraud allegations can be received, including members of the public reporting directly to Action Fraud. As part of this work, there is a focus on identifying vulnerable victims of fraud through the implementation of a risk assessment process in order to establish appropriate preventative and safeguarding measures.
- 2.17 Tackling cyber-crime remains a key priority for Dorset Police. In partnership with Get Safe Online, Dorset Police hosted a cyber security event in Poole in June, giving advice and information to help keep members of the public and their data safe online.
- 2.18 Online safety advice about shopping, finance, social media, running a business, keeping family safe online and protecting devices were all available at the event. Members of the public were able to take their devices along and discuss online safety and security with experts from Get Safe Online and

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other partners including banking experts, Action Fraud and Dorset Police cyber-crime unit.

- 2.19 **Rural Crime** – Dorset Police’s Rural Crime Team works proactively alongside colleagues, partners and volunteers to increase engagement with rural communities, target criminals who offend in our rural areas and provide bespoke crime prevention advice. In May, a training course was provided to a small team of Dorset officers, educating them in the legislation concerning the protection of badgers, and the various forms of persecution of the species. In June, the Force launched a new tractor loaned to them as part of its efforts to engage with rural communities and support crime prevention activities.
- 2.20 Rural crime is defined as crime which happened within one of the 5 main rural sections of Dorset; Bridport, Dorchester, East Dorset, Purbeck and North Dorset. Overall crime within the five rural sections has increased in the first quarter of 2017/18 by 14%, which is just slightly higher than the Force overall. A large proportion of the increase relates to a rise in theft offences which is being recorded Forcewide but potentially has a greater impact within rural communities due to the value placed on some of the agricultural items being stolen. It is possible that some of this increase has also resulted from the establishment of the Rural Crime Team who have been engaging with the rural community and encouraging them to report crimes to the police.
- 2.21 During Neighbourhood Watch Week in June, Dorset Police celebrated local groups with a series of events led by local Neighbourhood and Home Watch groups. Although Neighbourhood Watch groups are independent, they work closely with partners, including the police, fire service, local authorities and local organisations, to bring people together to improve their communities.



### 3. Supporting victims, witnesses and reducing reoffending

- 3.1 **Victims & Witnesses** – As of 1 April 2017, Forces are no longer mandated by the Home Office to conduct the surveys of victims. However, the Force recognises the value of receiving feedback from victims of crime and so is continuing to survey victims of dwelling burglary, hate crime, violence and domestic abuse in order to gauge their views on the service they have received, with a focus on higher risk crime types.
- 3.2 In 2017/18, the Force appointed a new Victims' Champion for Dorset, whose role ensures that Dorset Police is providing victims with the appropriate support and information they need on their journey through the criminal justice system.
- 3.3 **Reoffending** – Dorset Police has had multiple successes from its voluntary tagging scheme where offenders voluntarily wear tags in a bid to stop re-offending. The tagging scheme provides offenders with the opportunity to be fitted with a GPS tag for an agreed period while they are on probation or following their release from prison. The tagging initiative is generally provided to offenders who have a disproportionately negative impact on communities from committing crimes such as theft and burglary. As well as deterring offending, in a few cases where bail conditions have been breached, evidence from the tags can help in court, saving the criminal justice system time and money.
- 3.4 Reoffending rates among those tagged have been relatively low and where the person has reoffended, the tag has been known to be used as evidence to secure a conviction.
- 3.5 Data relating to the Force's Prolific & Priority Offender (PPO) cohort – covering arrests of these nominals and crimes where a PPO is recorded as a suspect – began to be collected from April 2016. The data helps to track any reoffending behaviour amongst this group of offenders. During the first quarter of 2017/18, 10 PPOs have been arrested at least once with a total of 51 crimes linked to a PPO as the named suspect.
- 3.6 HMIC have encouraged both Alliance forces to broaden the range of offences managed offenders to include violence and domestic abuse as well as drug motivated acquisitive criminals.

#### **4. Transforming for the future**

- 4.1 A separate update on the Police Response Investigation and Safeguarding Model (PRISM) and associated Transformation Programme is listed on the agenda for the meeting which will address this theme in more detail.