

Harlow Public Meeting

5th June 2013

Overview of police and crime issues

Harlow Police Station is open to the public every day from 08:00hrs to midnight. The station houses the Neighbourhood Policing Team (NPT), the Neighbourhood Crime Team (NCT) and the Response and Patrol (R&P) Team, as well as Custody, Scenes of Crime and CID staff.

Crime Data for Harlow

Over the past two years crime has fallen with 2012/2013 showing a 9.2% reduction (676 offences) for the period of 1st May 2012 to 30th April 2013 when compared to the same period the previous year. The 2011/12 figure of 7342 offences also represented a decrease (3.8%) over the previous year.

Comparing reports for 1st May 2012 to 30th April 2013 with those from 1st May 2011 to 30th April 2012 the areas of note are as follows:

- Other Theft and Handling has increased by 5.9% (42 more offences)
- Other violence against the person has reduced by 12.3% (204 fewer offences)
- Robbery has increased by 12.7% (16 more offences)
- Burglary in Other than in Dwelling has reduced by 33.0% (141 fewer offences)
- Racially Aggravated Crime has increased by 28.0% (14 more offences)

Furthermore anti-social behaviour (ASB) has reduced by 3.8% (157 fewer incidents) over the same period.

Information regarding your Neighbourhood policing team, local priorities and crime statistics can be found on the Essex police website at

http://www.essex.police.uk/my_neighbourhood/harlow_district.aspx

1) Domestic Abuse

Reducing domestic abuse is a key area of focus in the PCC's Police and Crime Plan for Essex 2013-14.

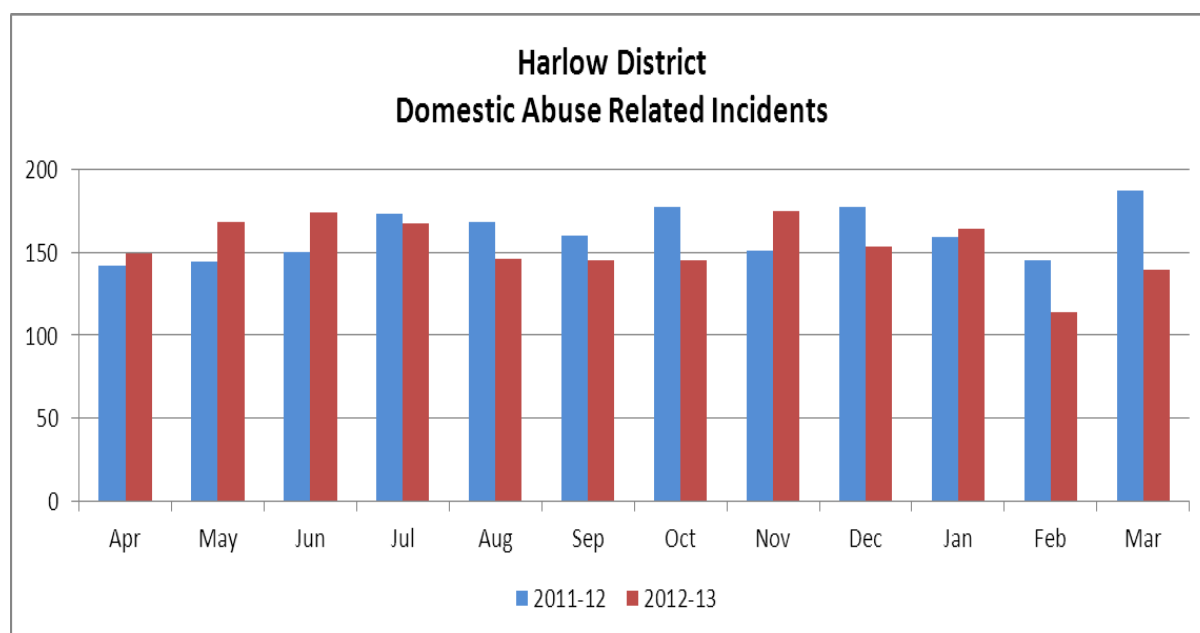
Essex Police takes the subject of domestic abuse extremely seriously. Across the force there were over 29,000 incidents recorded in 2012 each of which was attended by police who completed a comprehensive risk assessment and sought to ensure the safety of the victim and other vulnerable people in the household.

Each incident is assessed for the risk posed to the victim and the wider public by the perpetrator. The level of services and contact with the individuals involved will be dependent in part on that assessment and any offences which may have been committed. Victims and perpetrators considered to be at high risk are referred to a range of agencies and their case is considered within a Multi-Agency Risk Assessment Conference (MARAC) where professionals and voluntary agencies will share information and consider what support can be offered to the individual.

In Harlow there were 1839 incidents of Domestic Abuse recorded between April 2012 to March 2013. Of these incidents 965 (52%) involved repeat victims, where the same person had reported an incident on one or more occasion over the year.

Robust processes have been put in place to assure partners and the public that the force is effectively considering the risk posed by perpetrators, recording incidents accurately and investigating identified crimes in accordance with national standards

Essex Police also works closely with partner organisations, including Harlow Community Safety Partnership (CSP) to protect vulnerable people, which includes victims of domestic abuse.



2) House Burglary / Street Robbery

House burglary offences in the Harlow district showed a very slight increase of 0.6% (3 more offences) when comparing reports between 1st May 2012 to 30th April 2013, against the same period in 2011/12.

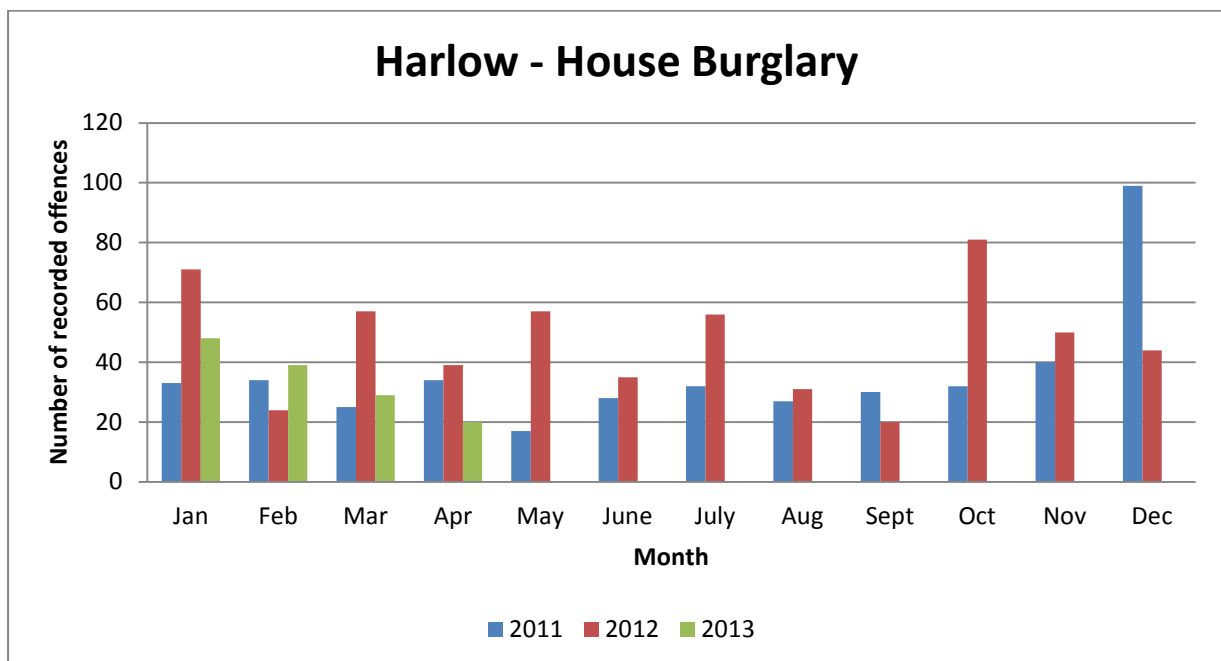
There were 99 reported Street robberies in the district between 1st May 2012 and 30th April 2013. Phone handsets and cash were the top items of property stolen. 80% of victims were male and the largest proportion of victims (37%) were in the 15-19 age range.

Robbery and dwelling burglary are amongst the six action plans Essex Police has developed with the Safer Harlow Partnership



Where crime patterns are identified specific policing operations are put in place concentrating on prevention, intelligence and enforcement.

Harlow has a pro-active CID team, which targets key offenders engaged in burglary and robbery. Local known repeat offenders are tracked by a police officer who will keep abreast of the individual's activity and bring to bear available resources to curb their behaviour to reduce offending. This has worked particularly well in partnership with the Investigative Command around some key offenders involved in burglary, who until recently were causing harm to the community



Partners' activity to address these types of crime includes a broad range of actions from engagement in schools to working with people at a very early age to establish a relationship with the local neighbourhood teams, to the routine deployment of the mobile police station to create new opportunities for interaction.

3) Dangerous dogs

Essex Police's current response to reports of dangerous dogs (including dog on dog attacks) is in accordance with The Dangerous Dogs Act of 1991.

Legislation

Under the Dangerous Dogs Act of 1991 there are two notifiable offences where a crime report must be completed:

Dangerous Dogs Act 1991 Sec 3(1) Owner or person in charge allowing dog to be dangerously out of control in a public place injuring any person and

Dangerous Dogs Act 1991 Sec 3(3). Owner or person in charge allowing a dog to enter a private place and injure any person.

The offences of dangerously out of control in a public or private place with no injuries to any person are not notifiable and no crime report is required although they are still offences.

Dogs Act 1871

This legislation provides a civil remedy to which the civil standard of proof applies, proceedings can be taken even when a criminal offence has not been committed. Thus it provides a remedy in a wide range of circumstances for dangerous dogs. A particular advantage of the Act is that it applies everywhere, even in and around a private dwelling, which is why it is currently especially appropriate for action on behalf of people like postmen and women who are regularly at risk from dogs in front gardens.

As well as tougher sentencing and increased powers for the courts, parliament is now looking to increase the scope of the act. The Draft Dangerous Dogs (Amendment) Bill currently going before the House of Commons as part of proposed changes to the Dangerous Dogs Act, seeks to include householders and offences on private property

Harlow District - Recorded Offences of Allowing a Dog To Be Dangerously Out of Control and Injuring Any Person

	2011-12	2012-13
Recorded Crime	7	12
Detected crime	7	5

Currently, Essex Police work closely with partner agencies where dogs are concerned, notably the council run dog wardens in 14 areas including Harlow.

Your feedback is most welcome.

Should you wish to contact the PCC about this meeting or any other matter please e-mail:

pcc@essex.pnn.police.uk

or write to:

Police and Crime Commissioner for Essex
3 Hoffmanns Way
Chelmsford, CM1 1GU

News alerts will usually be tweeted via the Essex PCC Twitter account:

<https://twitter.com/essexpcc>

You can learn more about the PCC's work at:

www.essex.pcc.police.uk

The neighbourhood policing teams will always act on intelligence received from the community. If you have information regarding any criminal activity please either call your local team or contact Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111. Crimestoppers is an anonymous line where you can report any criminal activity.