

Southend-on-Sea Public Meeting

15th July 2013

Briefing information

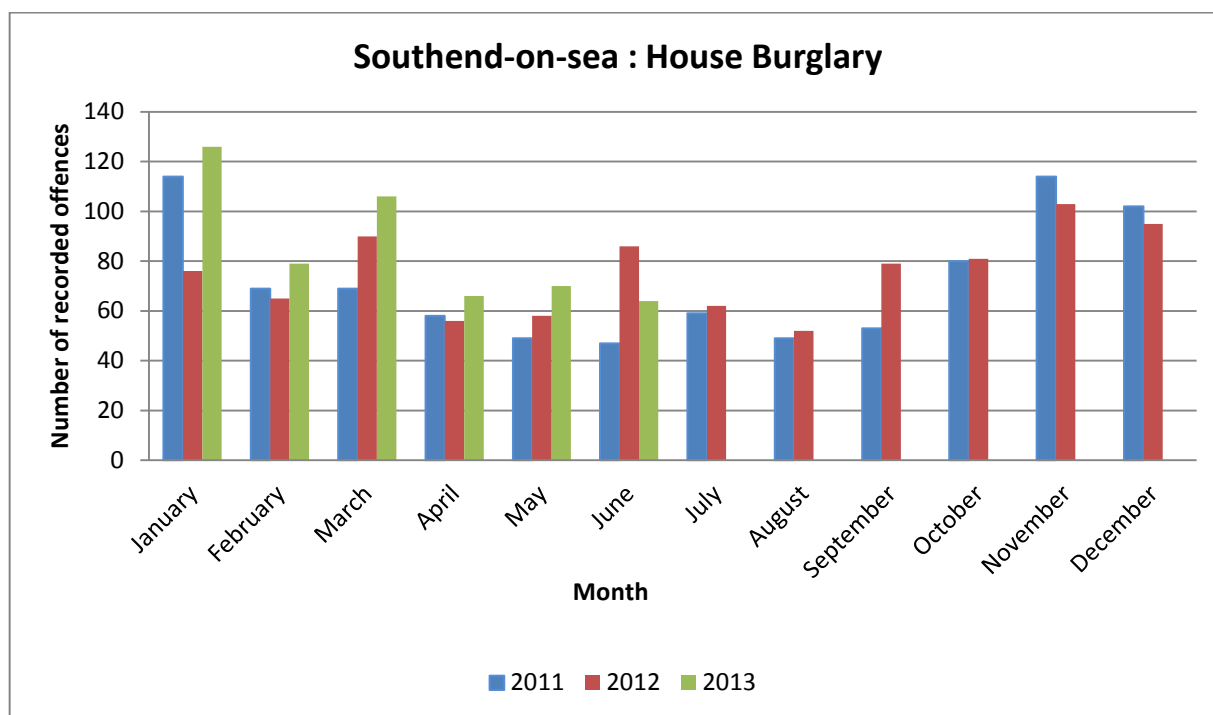
Southend Police Station is open to the public every day from 08:00hrs to 00:00. Each of the seventeen wards has a dedicated Neighbourhood Constable and Police Community Support Officer (PCSO).

Crime Data for Southend district

Comparing reports for 1st June 2012 to 31st May 2013 with those from 1st June 2011 to 31st May 2012 the areas of note are as follows:

- 'All crime' has reduced by 3.1% (403 fewer offences)
- Criminal damage has reduced by 10.2% (216 fewer offences)
- Other Violence Against the Person has reduced by 10.5% (310 fewer offences);
- Assault with Less Serious Injury has reduced by 8.1% (97 fewer offences);
- Anti-Social Behaviour Incidents have reduced by 1.9% (157 fewer Incidents);
- Burglary in a Dwelling has increased by 18.6% (156 more offences);
- Theft from Vehicles has increased by 5.0% (53 more offences);
- Shoplifting has increased by 15.4% (158 more offences).

1) Crime trends in Southend district



Although house burglary offences increased 18.6% against the same period (June to May) the previous year, the more recent trend (1st April to 30th June 2013) shows an increase of four offences (2.1%).

Strong partnership working and co-operation within policing functions is having a significant effect on the number of incidents, this includes:

- Operation Bisley which brings together crime reduction officers, Neighbourhood Watch Co-ordinators and PCSOs who deploy the mobile police station to burglary 'hot spots'. From there, residents are invited to drop in for crime reduction advice, whilst staff patrol the location, identifying potentially vulnerable properties and to offer crime prevention advice.
- Operation Penrith, whereby officers work with the Integrated Offender Management team (a multi-agency team including probation, the local authority and the police) and Pro-Active Criminal Investigation Department (CID) to target known, active offenders.

The offence of theft from vehicles has proved particularly challenging to reduce due to the opportunistic nature of the crime. Theft from vehicles has increased by 5.0% (53 more offences) for 1st June 2012 to 31st May 2013 compared to figures for the same period the previous year.

Many offences of theft from motor vehicle could be avoided by simply securing vehicles and removing valuable items or items of temptation. A number of police and media operations have focused on raising public awareness of this issue as well as targeting offenders.

There has been a 15.4% rise in recorded offences of shoplifting during the period June 2012 to May 2013 when compared with June 2011 to May 2012, and a 23.1% rise during the period 1st April to 30th June 2013. The following policing activities are currently being undertaken in response to the increase:

- Prolific shoplifting offenders have been identified and are pro-actively policed by NPT officers with IOM advice and support;
- The stores which have been most affected by shoplifting have been identified and action plans have been developed (these include a crime prevention officer visit/advice on how to manage potential offenders prior to police arrival);
- Increasing awareness of the benefits of effective town link radio use, thereby helping stores to inform each other of potential problems in advance;
- Essex Retail Against Crime (ERAC) folders have been updated. Work is underway to make this more effective.
- There are specialist officers responding to calls for service wherever possible under Operation Julep, ensuring that all incidents are correctly recorded and investigated.

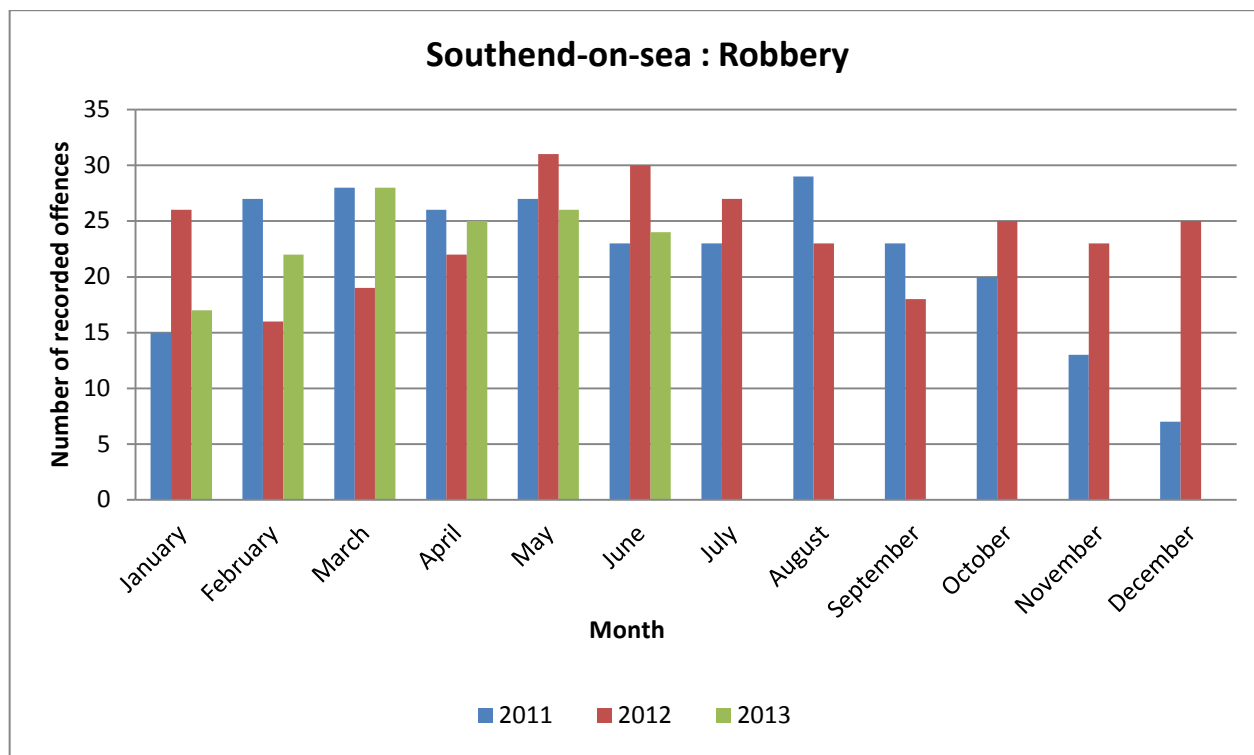
2) Robbery

Robbery offences have increased by 16.2% (40 more offences) comparing figures for 1st June 2012 to 31st May 2013 against the same period the previous year.

The data for 2012 – 2013 includes a period in the summer of 2012 when the Southend district was subjected to a series of street robberies.

It was established that many were the actions of a known local gang, with links to drug dealing.

Police action in response to these offences, and other drug dealing activities in and around the town centre, resulted in 27 arrests and a number of persons being imprisoned.



Since the success of this targeted operation street robbery offences have decreased. Current personal robbery numbers are lower than this time last year, with the number of incidents reduced against the peak offending levels seen last summer.

3) The policing of Southend's busy night life

Serious violent crime in the town centre fell during the period June 2012 to May 2013 compared with the same period the previous year. The crime and ASB figures for this 2012-13 period demonstrate a fall in all forms of violent crime and criminal damage across the district. The reduction of night-time economy related crime and incidents has had a significant impact on this figure.

There has been a transformation in partnership working over the last decade to make Southend's nightlife as safe as possible. Some examples of the effective work with partners to reduce night-time economy related disorder includes:

- Behave or Be Banned (BOBB);
- Door Staff Accreditation;
- SOS bus – recently awarded the prestigious Queen's Award for Voluntary Services;
- Street Pastors;
- All plastic drinking vessel clubs;
- Operation Magpie police patrols.

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.