

Harlow Public Meeting

27th November 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

Crime figures for Harlow show that there have been 482 fewer offences, a reduction of 6.8%, comparing the period of 1st November 2012 to 31st October 2013 with the same period the previous year.

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

- All Crime has decreased by 6.8% (482 less offences)
- Burglary in a Dwelling has decreased by 30.4% (185 less offences);
- Other Theft and Handling has reduced by 1.8% (14 fewer offences)
- Other violence against the person has reduced by 3.4% (52 fewer offences)
- Robbery has decreased by 16.6% (24 fewer offences)
- Burglary in Other than in Dwelling has reduced by 12.2% (44 fewer offences)
- Racially Aggravated Crime has reduced by 13.2% (9 fewer offences)

Anti-social behaviour (ASB) has increased by 2% (81 more 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

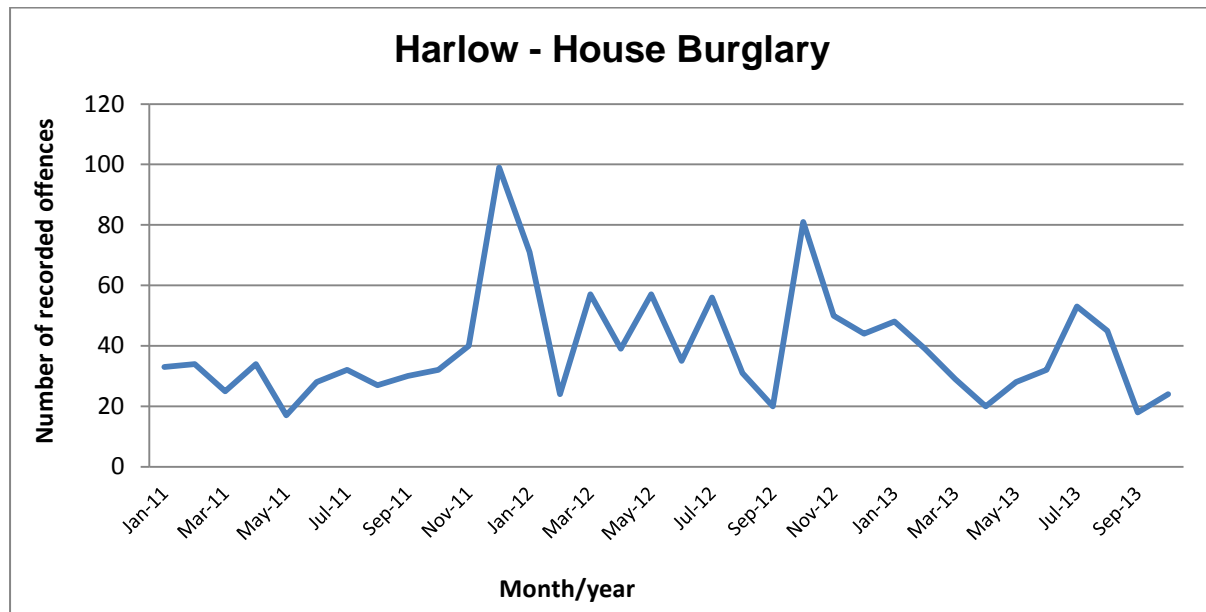
http://www.essex.police.uk/my_neighbourhood/harlow_district.aspx

1) House Burglary

House burglary offences in the Harlow district have decreased by 30.4% (185 fewer offences) when comparing reports between 1st November 2011 to 31st October 2012 against the same period in 2011/12.

A policing operation was launched on 1st October 2013 to tackle burglary, which consists of a new system of analysis and deployment of resources into 'hot spots' likely to suffer burglaries, reducing the chance of them occurring. This is a more efficient use of our resources and maximises the opportunity to prevent crime. Maps are produced weekly to highlight areas for more intensive patrolling based on their vulnerability to offences.

The policing operation also includes ‘cocooning’ which was successful in the pilot of Operation Albatross in Brentwood. This involves crime prevention work being carried out by the Neighbourhood Policing Team to specifically target premises in the immediate vicinity of a burglary, as they are statistically more likely to be the subject of a burglary themselves. Residents are given crime prevention advice to ensure security measures are in place to reduce the risk of them becoming victims.



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.

2) Shoplifting

There has been a 5.3% increase in shoplifting offences in Harlow. The Neighbourhood Policing Team (NPT) works closely with all retailers, but there is a particular focus on those shops which have been affected by a high number of shoplifting offences and a sustained increase in crime.

The NPT are working with the security managers for the stores, to reduce the likelihood of future offences occurring.

3) Hate Crime

Chief Inspector Justin Smith, Harlow District Commander, and his team work very closely with an Independent Advisory Group and the local community to ensure understanding of issues around hate crime and to build confidence in reporting offences to police.

Hate crime is defined as any incident, that may or may not constitute a criminal offence, which is perceived by the victim, or any other person, to be motivated by hostility or prejudice, based on a personal characteristic. There are five strands to the definition:

- Disability;
- Race;
- Religion or belief;
- Sexual orientation;
- Gender identity.

An allegation can be made by anyone, not only the victim, provided it can be clearly established that the incident was motivated by hostility or prejudice against an identifiable group of people with one or more of the protected characteristics listed above.

Hate crime can take several forms, for example:

- Physical attack, such as assault, damage to property and offensive graffiti;
- Threat of attack, including offensive letters, abusive or obscene telephone calls, and unfounded, malicious complaints
- Verbal abuse, insults or harassment, including offensive leaflets and posters, abusive gestures and bullying at school or in the workplace.

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.