

## Braintree Public Meeting

14<sup>th</sup> August 2013

### Briefing information

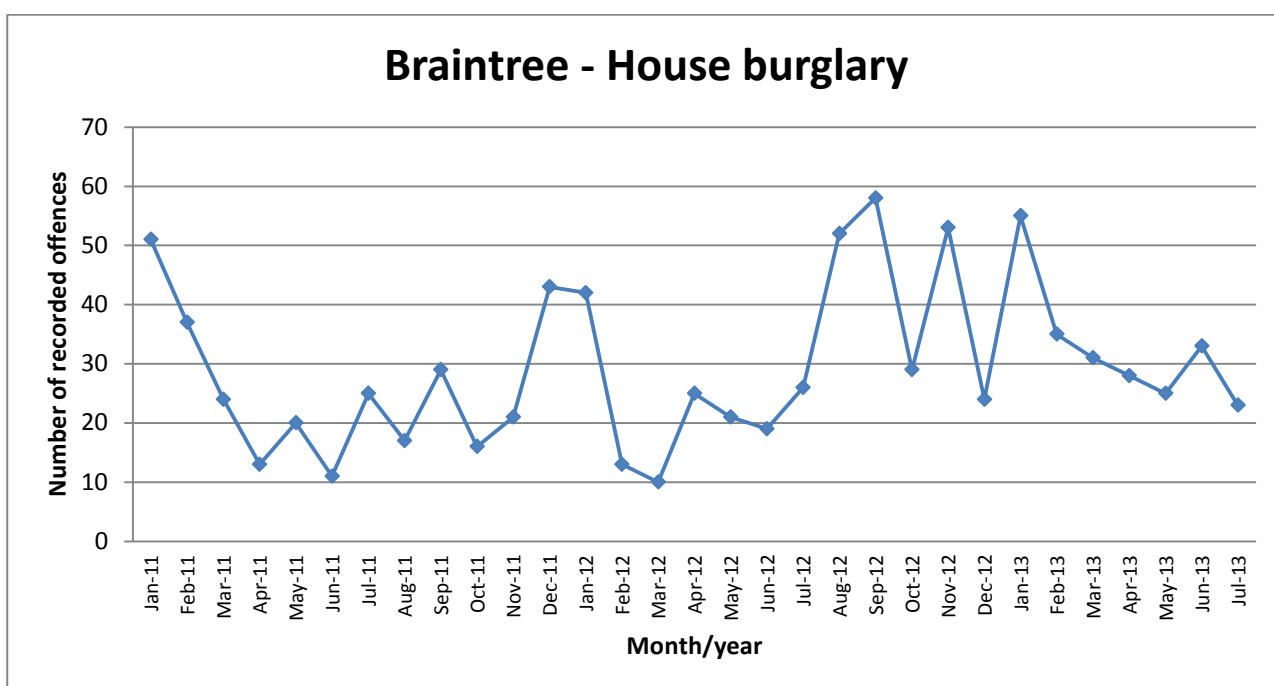
Three police stations within the Braintree district are currently open to the public. Braintree Police Station is open between 0800 hours and midnight, seven days per week. Halstead and Witham police stations are open from 1200 hours to 1800 hours, Monday to Saturday (excluding Bank Holidays).

### Crime Data for Braintree

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

- All Crime has reduced by 0.5% (27 less offences);
- Theft from Vehicles has reduced by 7.9% (50 less offences);
- Shoplifting has reduced by 14.4% (73 less offences);
- Criminal Damage has reduced by 9.7% (103 less offences);
- Anti-Social Behaviour Incidents have reduced by 7.7% (332 less incidents);
- Burglary in a Dwelling has increased by 59.4% (165 more offences);
- Other Violence Against the Person has increased by 5.2% (60 more offences);
- Assault with Less Serious Injury has increased by 7.9% (36 more offences).

#### 1) House burglary



As the chart shows, during the latter part of 2012, there was a large increase in the number of burglaries of people’s homes. A number of police operations, including a joint operation with Suffolk Police, led to arrests and subsequent custodial sentences for the offenders.

Since January 2013, there has been a steady decrease in the number of burglaries of people’s homes, although there was an increase in June. The situation is being closely monitored and burglary remains an area of focus for the district.

We continue to work with our colleagues in CID, the Integrated Offender Management Team and other key partners to deter or divert offenders from further criminal activity and target those who persist in causing harm to our local community.

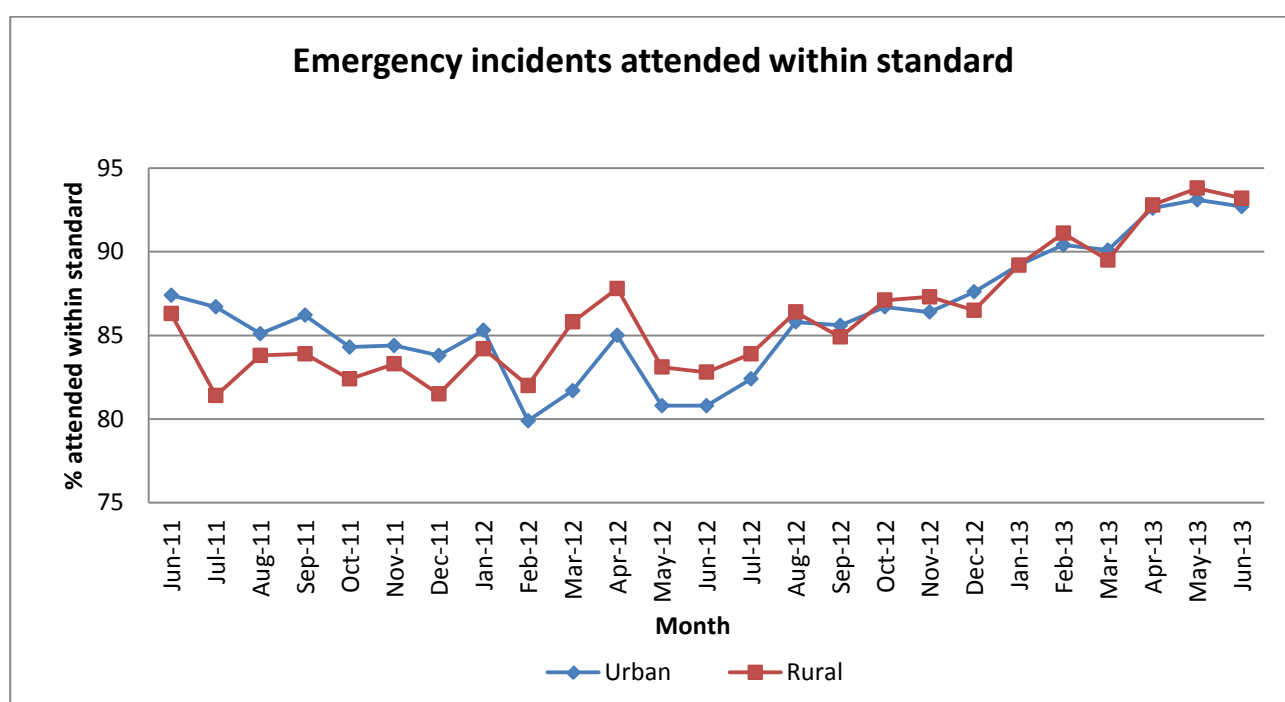
The police undertake regular liaison with Neighbourhood Watch groups and local media to distribute and publish crime reduction information.

## 2) Response and Police Visibility

The Braintree District comprises thirteen wards that are policed by the area Neighbourhood Policing Team (NPT). Five wards are located in Braintree; there are four wards in Witham and four wards in Halstead.

There are neighbourhood officers and PCSOs based at each of the district’s three police stations. Each of the officers and PCSOs are responsible for a number of wards.

Earlier this year, the response and patrol teams for Braintree were moved from Great Dunmow and Stanway to Braintree Police Station in order to provide better coverage for the district. There are five teams of officers based at Braintree Police Station which provide a 24/7 response cover.



Figures for the period 1<sup>st</sup> April to 31<sup>st</sup> July 2013 show that Essex Police achieved the response target for 92.3% of urban emergency calls and achieved the response target for 92.3% of rural emergency calls. This is an improvement on the figures of 82.2% and 84.4% respectively, for the same period the previous year.

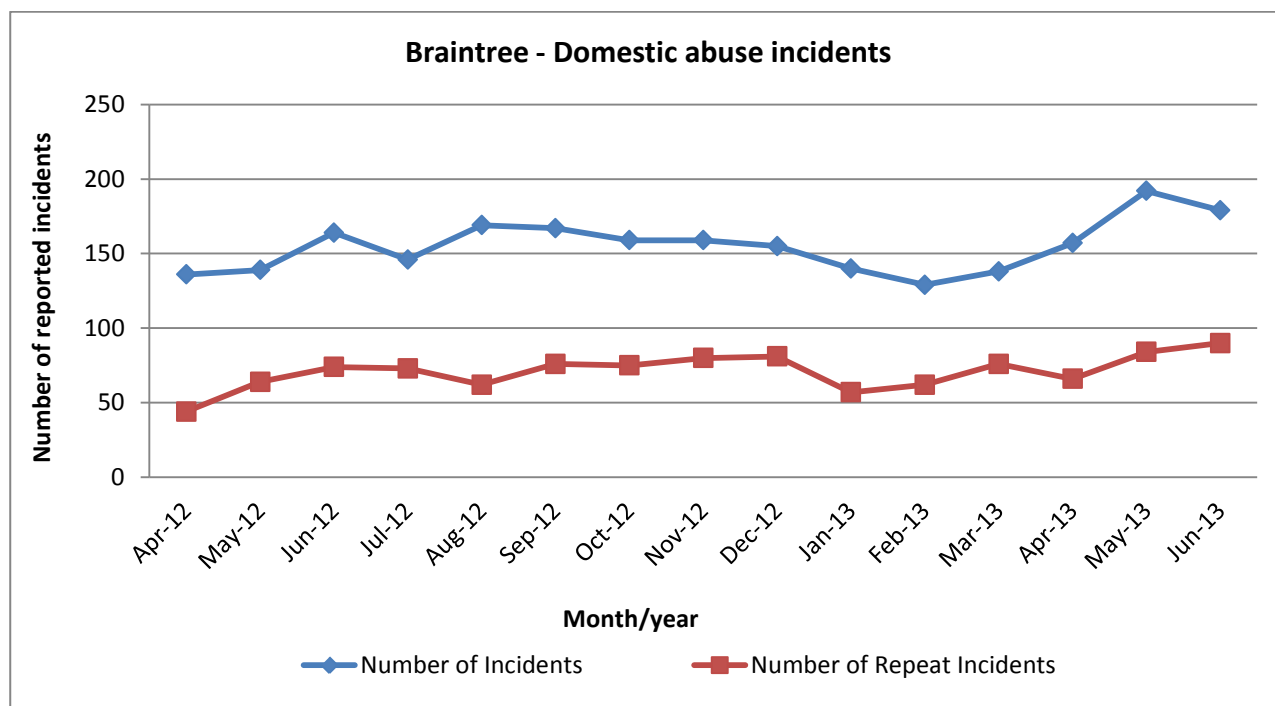
Essex Police aims to attend emergency incidents within standard response targets of 15 minutes for urban locations and within 20 minutes for rural locations.

Essex Police operates a system of deploying the nearest available unit to both emergency and priority incidents. As a consequence, local officers are often in closer proximity to incidents than the response and patrol units. Essex Police constantly monitors and reviews performance in attending emergency response calls, and remains committed to providing the best possible service to our communities.

### 3) Domestic abuse

Comparing reports for 1<sup>st</sup> July 2012 to 30<sup>th</sup> June 2013 with the same period the previous year shows a 5.2% increase in offences of 'Other Violence Against the Person' and a 7.9% increase in offences of 'Assault with Less Serious Injury'. Many of these offences are domestic abuse related.

In Braintree there were 1801 incidents of Domestic Abuse recorded between April 2012 to March 2013. Of these incidents 824 (46%) involved repeat victims, where the same person had reported an incident on one or more occasion over the year.



Tackling domestic abuse is a priority for Essex Police and has a particularly high profile in Braintree following the tragic murder of Christine and Shania Chambers in June 2011.

Greater emphasis is being placed upon a proactive approach to the targeting of high-volume repeat perpetrators. This operates in parallel to multi-agency support services for victims. The repeat perpetrators are proactively targeted by local policing teams who use a range of tactical options to reduce their propensity to commit domestic abuse against their partners. This approach is monitored closely by domestic abuse specialists who will ensure best practice is shared as the scheme develops.

The scheme complements the established multi-agency risk assessment conference (MARAC) meetings which are held monthly in order for partners to share information around the most high risk victims of domestic abuse.

A domestic abuse safeguarding officer (DASO), funded by Braintree District Council, Essex Police and Essex County Council, has been recruited to work within Essex Police's Central Referral Unit with the remit of seeking engagement with high risk victims of domestic abuse who haven't previously engaged with the police or are reluctant to engage with the police, and medium risk victims who consent to be contacted by the DASO. This will ensure that victims who are reluctant to speak to the police will still have a chance to receive support and help in order to safeguard themselves and their family.

The force actively encourages the reporting of domestic abuse – seeking to intervene at the earliest possible stage, supporting the victim and dealing with the offender.

**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](mailto: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](http://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.