

Southend-on-Sea Public Meeting

17th January 2014

Overview of policing teams

The following policing model operates within the Southend District:

The district comprises two Neighbourhood Policing Teams (NPTs) and 17 wards split into two areas: east and west, with a Neighbourhood Inspector in charge of the team for each area. Each of the 17 wards has a dedicated Neighbourhood Constable and Police Community Support Officer, who is a named contact for any community issues. The officers attend Neighbourhood Action Panels and work with the community to seek long-term solutions to local problems.

There are three police stations within the district at Southend Central, Leigh-on-Sea and Shoeburyness. The police station at Southend Central is open between 0800 and midnight seven days per week. Leigh-on-Sea and Shoeburyness police stations are no longer open to the public, but officers are based there as part of the NPT.

The Town Beat Section covers retail crime in the High Street and the increased tourist trade in the spring and autumn along the seafront. It operates the Town Link radio system ensuring retailers can be in contact with officers on patrol. There is a strong town centre partnership group that is attended by the East Neighbourhood Inspector. Last year Southend town centre was one of only nineteen areas in the country to have been awarded Purple Flag status, having demonstrated that Southend has a safe and prosperous night-time economy. The Purple Flag status lasts for 24 months, and is up for reassessment in July 2014. Significant partnership work is already well under way to give Southend the best chance of successfully re-applying for the same status this year.

The Neighbourhood Policing Team for Southend district is supported by Neighbourhood Crime Team officers, who deal with a range of policing duties on a 24/7 basis, including incident demand and appointments, missing persons and the night-time economy.

Southend also has a CID (Criminal Investigation Department) team who investigate more serious crimes such as high risk domestic abuse incidents, GBH and burglary.

In addition, Response and Patrol officers operate in Southend district, attending incidents on a 24/7 basis.

Crime Data for Southend district

Crime figures for Southend district show that there have been 112 more offences, an increase of 0.9 per cent, comparing the period of 1st December 2012 to 30th November 2013 with the same period the previous year.

Comparing the same time periods, areas of note include:

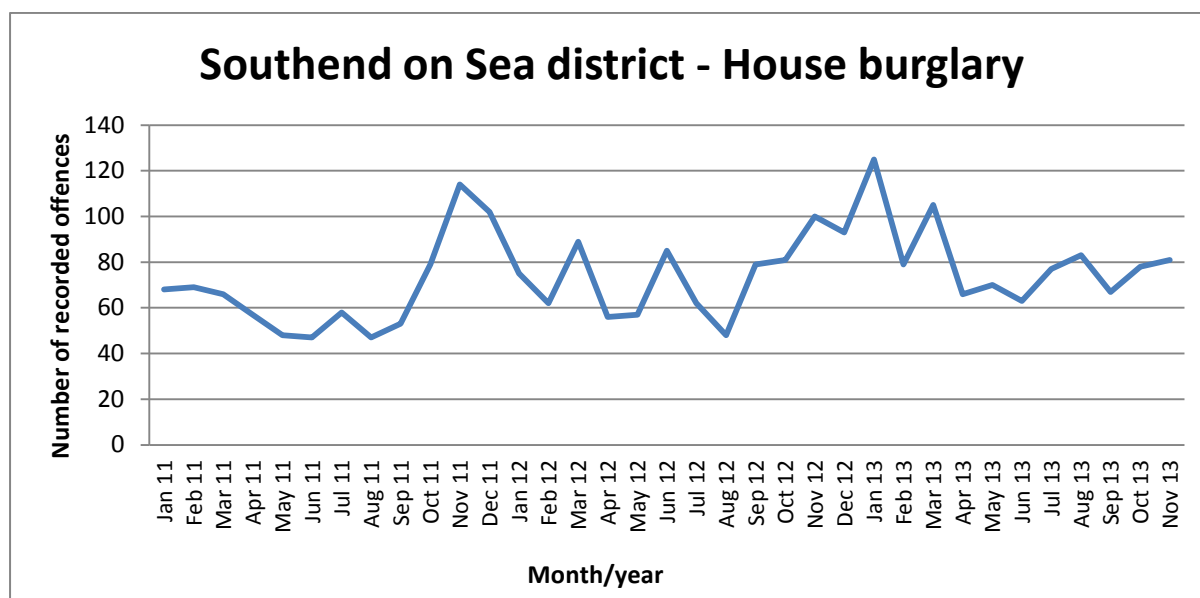
- All Crime has increased by 0.9% (112 more offences);
- Criminal Damage has decreased by 9.5% (190 fewer offences);
- Other Theft and Handling has decreased by 7.7% (108 fewer offences);
- Assault with Less Serious Injury has decreased by 8.4% (101 fewer offences);
- Anti-Social Behaviour has increased by 0.7% (60 more incidents);
- Burglary in a Dwelling has increased by 10.4% (93 more offences);
- Theft from Vehicles has increased by 12.8% (146 more offences);
- Shoplifting has increased by 20.3% (213 more offences).

Acquisitive Crime

Over the past year, there has been an increase in Southend district in certain types of crime where property is stolen, including house burglary (93 more offences, 10.4% increase), theft from vehicles (146 more offences, 12.8% increase), theft of vehicles (26 more offences, 10% increase), shoplifting (213 more offences, 20.3% increase), and robbery (39 more offences, 14.8% increase).

The graphs showing specific crime trends in the document below contain this information, but also provide data back to 2011.

House burglary



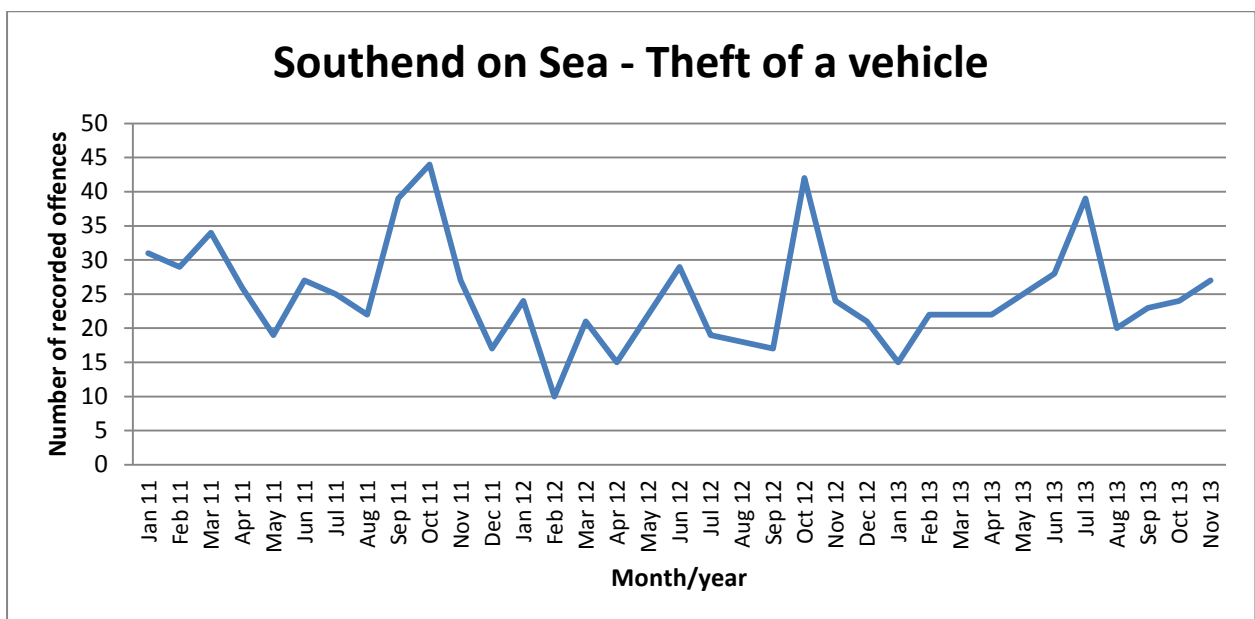
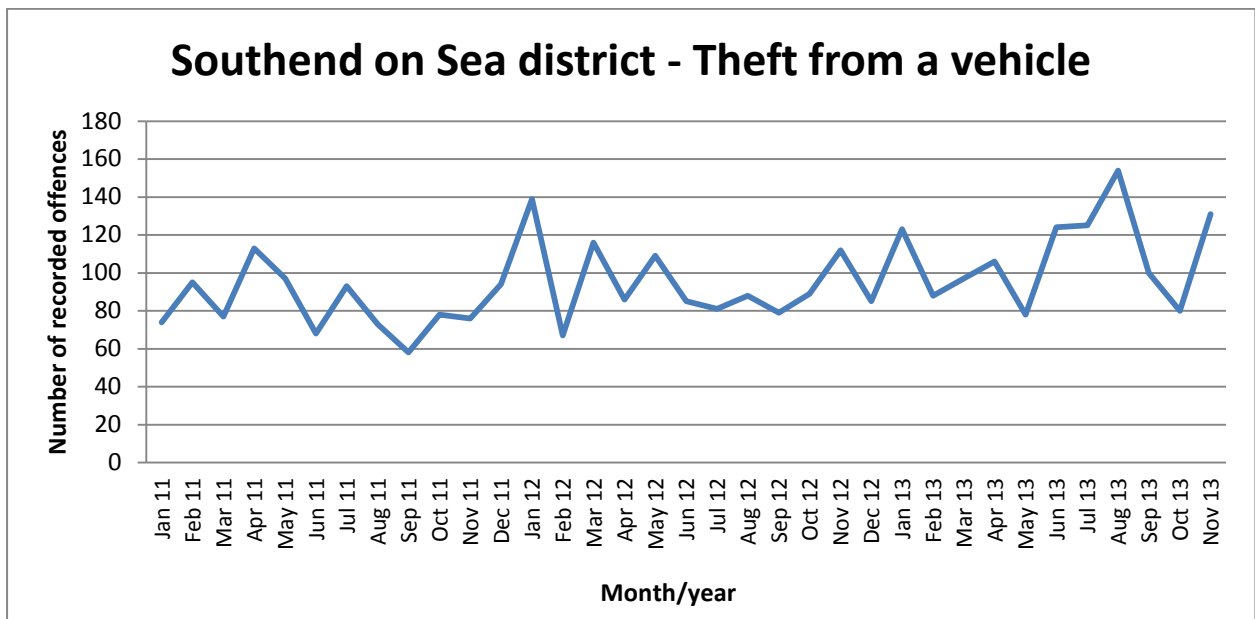
Essex Police is running Operation Insight to tackle burglary across the county. This consists of a new system of analysis and deployment of resources into 'hot spots' likely to suffer burglaries, reducing the chance of them occurring. This is a more efficient use of police resources and maximises the opportunity to prevent crime. Maps are produced weekly to highlight areas for more intensive patrolling based on their vulnerability to offences. Partner agencies are fully involved in this process.

In addition, a local police operation utilises crime reduction officers, Neighbourhood Watch Co-ordinators and PCSOs to deploy the mobile police station to burglary 'hot

spots'. From there, residents are invited to drop in for crime reduction advice, whilst the team patrols the location, identifies potentially vulnerable properties and offers crime prevention advice.

A further operation involves work with the Integrated Offender Management team (a multi-agency team including Probation, the local authority and the police) and CID to target known, active offenders. As a result, a significant number of offenders have recently been charged with burglary, with many more being actively managed. Essex Police continues to work with the prison and probation services to monitor the release of offenders from prison, to reduce the likelihood of them reoffending.

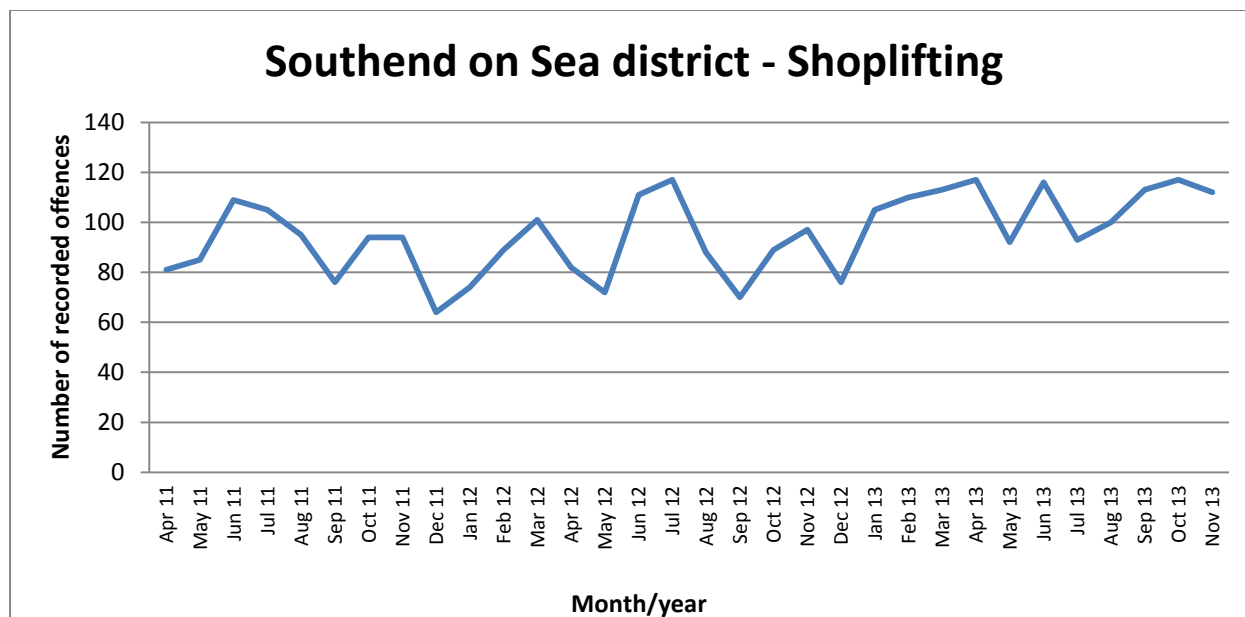
Vehicle crime



Thieves who steal from cars often act quickly and opportunistically, trying multiple door handles to identify an unlocked vehicle, and then stealing items such as cash, sunglasses and CDs. Police have launched numerous operations across the borough to deal with the problem, but this type of offence often ceases abruptly and moves rapidly to another location. Regular briefings are given to the media and public awareness is raised through social media such as Facebook and Twitter. Operations will continue, with most work focusing around car security.

Please always lock your car and don't leave valuables visible through the windows.

Shoplifting

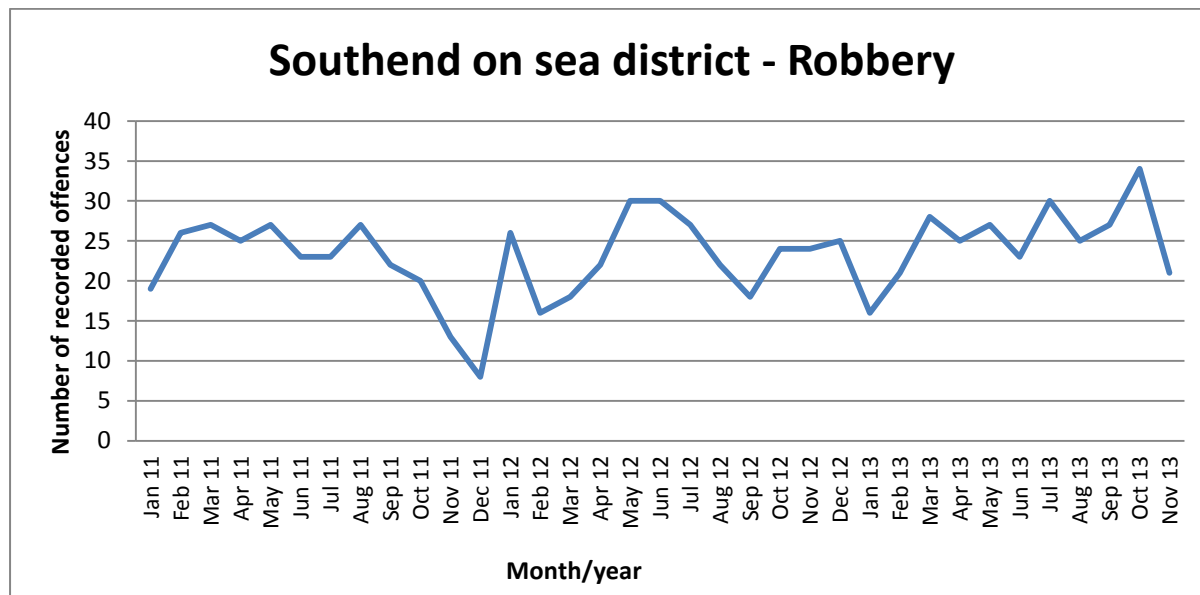


With a 20.3% rise in recorded offences during the reporting period, shoplifting has seen the greatest increase of any crime type in Southend. The following policing activities are currently being undertaken in response to the increased number of shoplifting offences:

- The top ten shoplifting offenders have been identified and are pro-actively policed by Neighbourhood Policing Team officers with advice and support from partner agencies;
- The stores which have been most affected by shoplifting have been identified and coordinated 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 Southend's effective Town Link radio system, which helps stores to inform each other of potential problems in advance;
- Work is being undertaken with Essex Retail Against Crime;
- Specialist officers respond to calls for service wherever possible, ensuring that all incidents are correctly recorded and investigated.

The town centre policing unit, known as the Town Beat Section (TBS) is having a positive effect on both crime reduction and reassurance across the retail community.

Robbery



A violent offender recently received a lengthy prison sentence for a series of vicious offences in Southend, including five robberies and two attempted robberies. Essex Police takes the crime of robbery very seriously, and will always seek to identify perpetrators and bring them to justice. Police welcome any information from the community about perpetrators of robbery, but stress that Southend remains a very safe place in which to live and work, or visit.

Partnership working

Night-Time Economy/Seafront

The night-time economy in the town centre of Southend-on-Sea is arguably the largest and most vibrant within the Essex Police area. Central Southend boasts over 200 licensed premises, over 70 of which are pubs and clubs. The largest venues actively market their premises far afield and the larger clubs/pubs alone have a combined capacity of nearly 10,000 customers. The number of customers combined, taking into account the smaller venues, is well over 20,000. As such, Southend is considered within the licensing trade to be the regional entertainment centre for the south east of England.

The policing response to the night-time economy is known as 'Operation Magpie'. This policing operation is run every Friday and Saturday night between 8pm and 4am. The police have an office along Southend seafont which is used between

April and October. Officers patrol from this location and liaise closely with key local businesses.

Essex Police and the Southend Community Safety Partnership work closely and effectively together, and some examples of initiatives which reduce night-time economy related disorder include:

- 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.

Cycling on Footpaths

The Town Beat Section, which covers the High Street, periodically runs campaigns in addition to their day to day enforcement in an effort to deter such activity.

The Southend Community Safety Partnership is in the process of training three Street Rangers who will patrol the High Street in uniform assisting members of the public. They will be active in reducing cycling offences on the High Street.

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.