

Basildon district Public Meeting

18th February 2014

Overview of policing teams

The following policing model operates within the Basildon area. The district comprises two Neighbourhood Policing Teams (NPTs) and 16 wards (including one additional officer for Crays Hill and the Dale Farm area) split into two areas: east and west, with a Neighbourhood Inspector in charge of each team for each area.

Neighbourhood Sergeants supervise Neighbourhood Constables, Police Community Support Officers and Customer Contact Administrators.

Responsibility for the 16 wards is split between ten Neighbourhood Constables and a number of Police Community Support Officers. 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 that are open to the public (Basildon, Pitsea and Billericay). Basildon has opening hours between 0800 and midnight seven days per week, whilst Pitsea and Billericay are open between 1200 and 1800 Monday to Saturday. Wickford and Laindon Police Stations have NPT officers working from them to ensure appropriate geographic focus; however, they are not open to the public.

The Neighbourhood Policing Team for Basildon 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.

Basildon also has three teams of CID (Criminal Investigation Department) officers who investigate more serious crimes such as high risk domestic abuse incidents, GBH and burglary.

In addition, five teams of Response and Patrol officers operate in Basildon district, attending incidents on a 24/7 basis.

There is also a specialist Retail Crime Unit which deals with retail crime and offences of 'Making off Without Payment' (fuel related crimes) in the entire district. The unit's original remit only covered the Basildon town centre area. However, in February 2013 this expanded to incorporate the whole district.

Crime Data for Basildon district

Crime figures for Basildon district show that there have been 148 fewer offences, a reduction of 1.2 per cent, comparing the period of 1 January 2013 to 31 December 2013 with the same period in 2012.

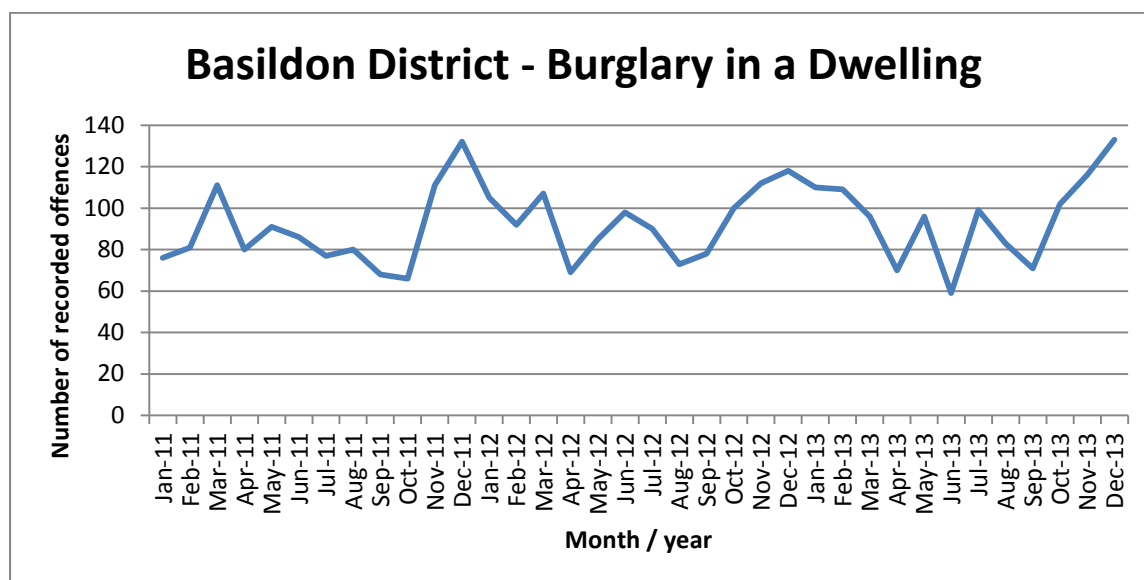
Comparing the same time periods, areas of note include:

- Burglary Other (which includes burglaries of sheds, garages and commercial premises) has decreased by 32.7% (223 fewer offences);
- House (Dwelling) Burglary has increased by 1.2% (14 more offences)
- Theft from Vehicles has decreased by 13.6% (188 fewer offences)
- Theft and Taking of Vehicles has decreased by 4% (15 fewer offences)
- Other Theft and Handling has decreased by 7.4% (97 fewer offences);
- Anti-Social Behaviour has increased by 5.8% (353 more incidents);
- Shoplifting has increased by 18.0% (205 more offences);
- Robbery has decreased by 10.8% (15 fewer offences)
- Theft of pedal cycles has decreased by 13.8% (30 fewer offences)
- Other Violence Against the Person has increased by 8.8% (196 more offences);
- Serious Violent Crime has increased by 20.6% (21 more offences).
- Assault with Less Serious Injury has decreased by 2.4% (23 fewer offences)
- Serious Sexual Crime has increased by 25.7% (29 more offences).
- Anti-Social Behaviour has increased by 5.8% (353 more incidents)

All Crime overview

The graphs showing specific crime trends in the document below provide data back to 2011.

House burglary



Basildon has experienced a small increase in dwelling burglary offences, which equates to 14 more offences compared with the previous year.

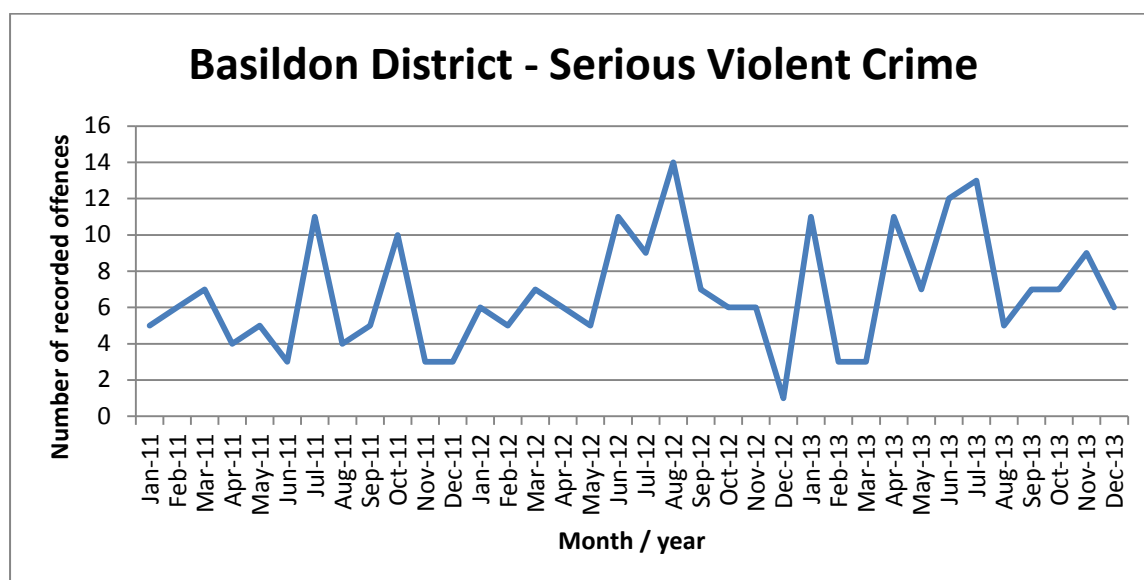
Essex Police is running Operation Insight to tackle burglary across the county. This consists of a new system of analysis and deployment of resources into 'hot spots'

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.

Burglary offences are monitored on a daily basis and police are now using advanced analytical techniques to inform patrols with a view to preventing further crimes being committed. On-going activity to tackle burglary includes proactive policing operations, the monitoring and targeting of prolific offenders using Integrated Offender Management techniques, developing and acting upon community intelligence and collaborative work with our many partners.

Violent crime:

Police analysis of the violent crime incidents within Basildon district has not revealed any specific emerging trends or locations. Some violent crime is the result of domestic abuse. Essex Police and the Community Safety Partnership work closely together with partner agencies and the voluntary sector to provide support and early intervention with victims of domestic abuse.



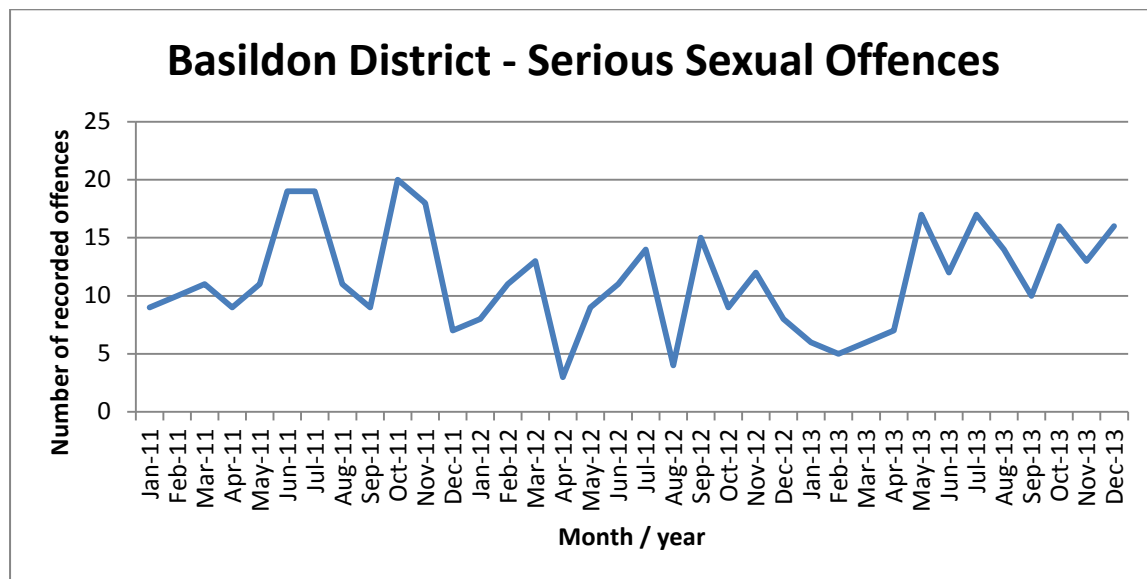
There is a district Hate Crime Officer who attends a hate crime panel where incidents are discussed with voluntary and statutory agencies. In addition, there are Hate Incident Reporting Centres.

There is also extensive partnership work to keep Basildon's vibrant night life safe and enjoyable. Examples of night-time economy initiatives at the Festival Leisure Park include funding of the SOS bus, provision of taxi marshals and specific police operational deployments around the High Street locations which provide transport to the Park.

Serious sexual crime:

There was a 25.7% increase in reported offences of serious sexual crime (29 more offences) comparing 2013 with 2012.

Random attacks on strangers are extremely rare. Many reported offences involve a known or sometimes named suspect, and some are domestic related where offenders and victims have been in an intimate relationship with one another.

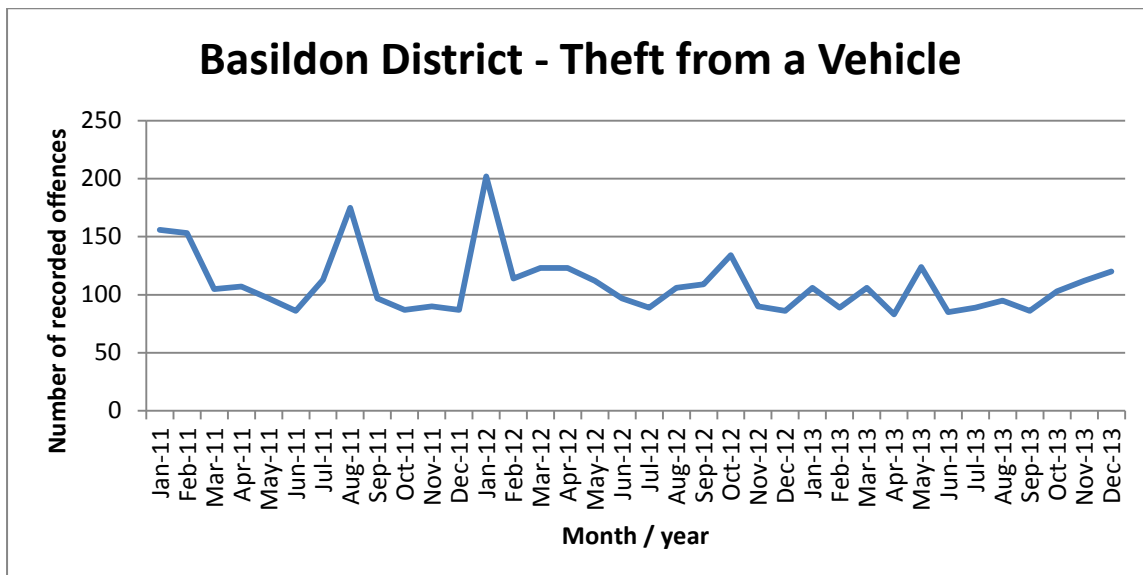


Essex Police’s creation of Sexual Offences Investigation Teams and the reporting of high profile cases, sometimes referred to as the “Savile effect”, may have increased the confidence of victims in reporting serious sexual crime to the police. There has been a positive response from social care and the staff at the Sexual Assault Referral Centre in relation to the provision of services for rape victims. Victims of rape that have completed questionnaires have provided positive feedback in relation to the service they have received.

There is ongoing partnership work with the voluntary sector through the Multi-Agency Risk Assessment Conferences (MARAC) and the Sexual Assault Referral Centre (SARC) and this incorporates Women’s Aid, Rape Crisis and Victim Support. The local Neighbourhood Policing Team has a single point of contact for women’s refuges and work is in place to strengthen links with Women’s Aid, Rape Crisis and neighbourhood teams.

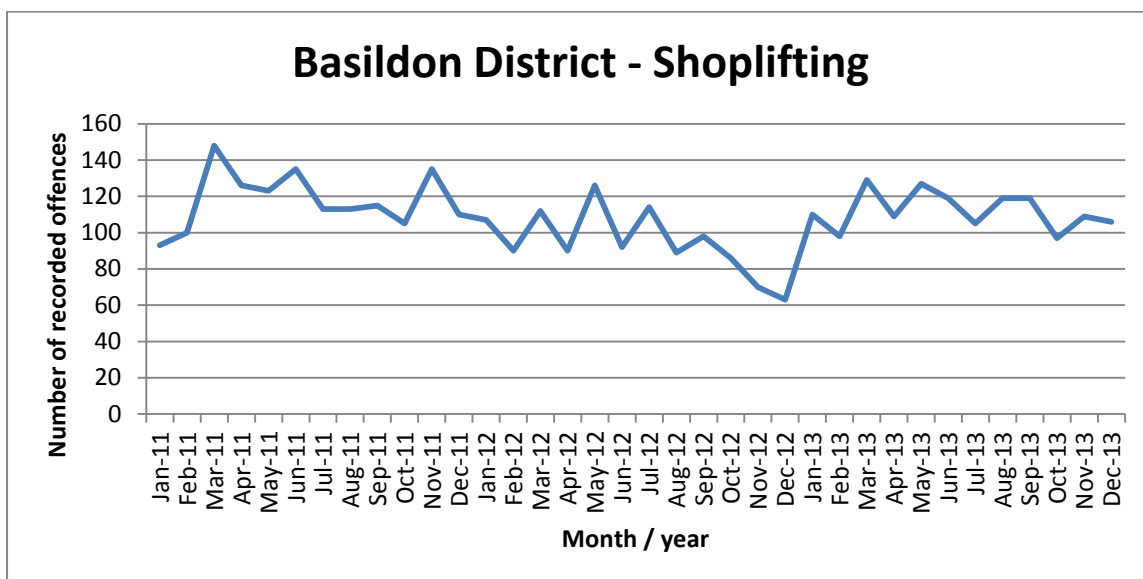
Vehicle crime

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. The figures show a significant decrease in this crime in Basildon district, but please always lock your car and don’t leave valuables visible through the windows.



Shoplifting

There has been an 18% increase in reported shoplifting offences comparing 2013 with 2012. The Retail Crime Unit has expanded its remit to cover the entire district and has launched a Business Watch scheme. The unit has worked hard to build good relationships with staff at the local stores. .



The primary focus of the Retail Crime Unit is the investigation of crimes against businesses, such as theft, and the provision of visible policing to reassure the public, reduce crime and make proactive arrests where required. It operates the town link radio system ensuring retailers can be in contact with officers on patrol.

The policing of social media

The rise in reported Anti-Social Behaviour incidents in Basildon district includes an increase in nuisance communications of 172 reported incidents. This category includes silent calls and social media comments such as Twitter or Facebook messages and text messaging. Other categories of ASB such as nuisance noise have decreased by 134 offences.

At the public meeting on 18 February, there will be a discussion of social media and how it is policed.

The Basildon Community Safety Partnership is working to deliver a cohesive approach to ASB in order to effectively decrease the number of incidents that occur. This approach involves partners working together to understand the local problems and the types of anti-social behaviour being experienced; it enables partners to create joint plans to tackle the issues and ensure that the appropriate agencies are involved.

The Basildon Community Safety Partnership (CSP)

Basildon Community Safety Partnership has existed since 1990 and is jointly led by the Council and Essex Police with other responsible authority group members including Essex County Council, Essex Probation, Essex County Fire and Rescue Service and Clinical Commissioning Groups.

The CSP has over the years delivered many successful projects and initiatives, aiming to provide reassurance to our local community that we are working together to make Basildon a safer place. The CSP uses various methods of engagement with the communities of Basildon, such as public events, roadshows, consultation surveys and through the development of an annual communications strategy.

The CSP remains committed to keeping the local community at the heart of all its work, responding to people's needs and concerns and reducing their fears of becoming a victim of crime.

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.