

Braintree Public Meeting

19th May 2014

District Profile

Braintree district is one of England's largest districts, covering 236 square miles (612 square km). The district comprises three growing market towns at Braintree, Witham and Halstead and the surrounding rural areas. The population of Braintree is increasing and is currently estimated to comprise 142,742 residents and over 62,000 households.

Braintree district presents a challenging mix of urban and rural policing. Stretching from the middle of the county to the border with Suffolk it is split into 73 rural parishes with 52 parish councils and two town councils. There are no motorways within the district, but there are two main roads into Braintree – the A130/A131 from the south (fed by the A12) and the A120 which enters from the west, from the M11.

Braintree district has rail links to London Liverpool Street via Witham. At the end of the A120 are London Stansted Airport and the M11 motorway. The rail and road links to London allow a high proportion of the population to commute for work.

Policing Structure and Resources

Braintree and Uttlesford District Policing Area (DPA) is part of the North Local Policing Area (LPA) of Essex Police (along with Colchester, Chelmsford and Maldon and Tendring DPAs).

Braintree and Uttlesford have separate district councils and Community Safety Partnerships, but there is an overlap of policing staff and five separate operating bases located at Braintree, Halstead, Witham, Dunmow and Saffron Walden.

The DPA is run by one District Commander, Chief Inspector Richard Melton, and two district Inspectors – for Braintree, Insp Mick Couldridge, and for Uttlesford, Insp Colin Cox. The Braintree Inspector manages the Neighbourhood Policing Team and the Neighbourhood Crime Team.

Neighbourhood Policing

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. There are two neighbourhood Sergeants managing the team of Constables and PCSOs. The

neighbourhood team work with the community and our community safety partners to seek long-term solutions to local problems and provide reassurance. They target persistent offenders for both crime and anti-social behaviour (ASB). They manage public engagement events such as Neighbourhood Action Panel meetings. Each of the officers and PCSOs are responsible for a number of wards.

Three police stations within the 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). The police station front offices are staffed by a number of Customer Care Assistants.

Neighbourhood Crime Teams

The Neighbourhood Crime Team (NCT) provides 24/7 cover for the district. These teams are located at Braintree police station. Each team is led by a Sergeant. The NCT has a wide range of duties, including incident management, crime investigation, missing person enquiries and policing the night-time economy.

The DPA is supported by a licensing team, an Anti-Social Behaviour Officer, an Essex Watch Co-ordinator, a Crime Prevention Tactical Advisor and the following co-located teams:

Criminal Investigation Department (CID)

The CID teams based at Braintree police station are led by a Detective Inspector. They investigate serious crimes such as dwelling burglary and serious assaults.

Response and Patrol

The Response and Patrol officers based at Braintree police station provide a 24/7 response cover.

Crime Data for Braintree district

At the meeting on May 19, 2014, there will be detailed discussion about the crime trends and the facts which lie underneath the statistics.

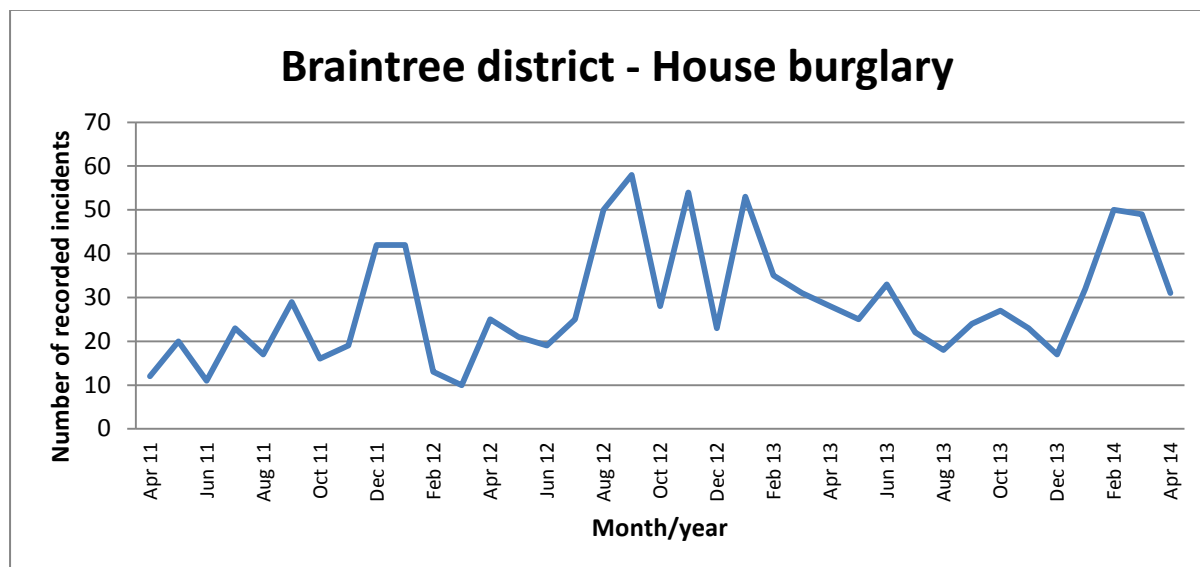
The headline figure is that all crime in Braintree district has decreased significantly, by 5.6%, equating to 335 less offences.

Comparing reports for 1st April 2013 to 31st March 2014 with 1st April 2012 to 31st March 2013, areas of note include:

- All Crime has decreased by 5.6% (335 less offences);
- Burglary in a Dwelling has decreased by 17.5% (74 less offences);
- Theft from Motor Vehicles has decreased by 7.6% (46 less offences);
- Criminal Damage has decreased by 14.9% (148 less offences);
- Anti-Social Behaviour has decreased by 5.9% (238 less incidents);
- Shoplifting has increased by 10.5% (43 more offences);
- Serious Violent Crime has increased by 40.0% (12 more offences);
- Serious Sexual Crime has increased by 37.9% (25 more offences).

The graphs below showing specific crime trends provide data back to April 2011.

House burglary



In recent months, Essex Police has been running a predictive policing operation which identifies burglary 'hot spots' and focuses community safety resources on these locations.

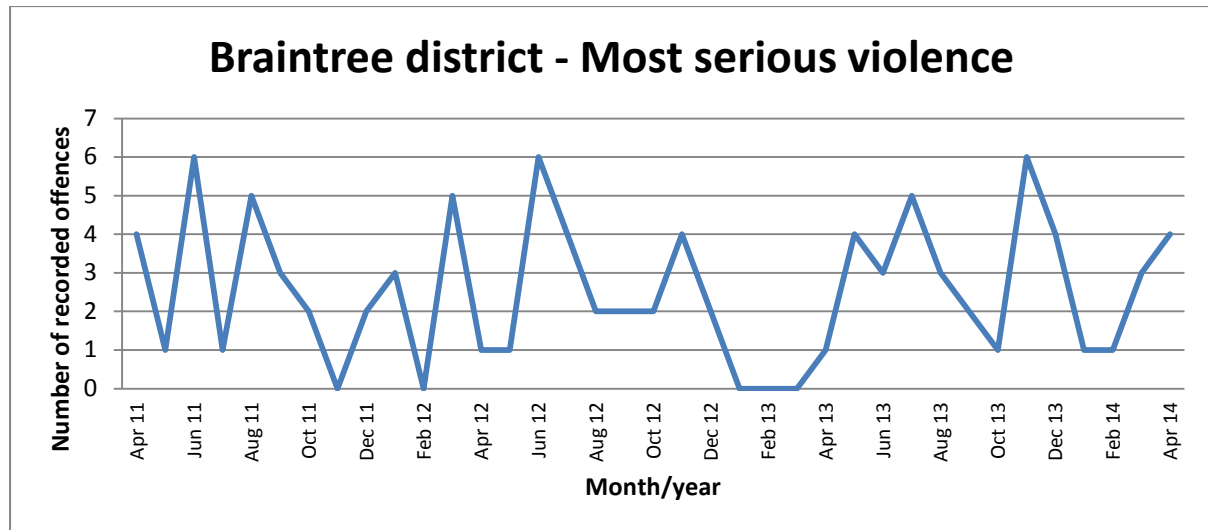
Comparing the period from 1st April 2013 to 31st March 2014 with 1st April 2012 to 31st March 2013, there has been a decrease in house burglary of 17.5%, with 348 burglaries or attempted burglaries being recorded as opposed to 422 in the previous time period.

Local neighbourhood officers have visited all victims of house burglary and patrols have been undertaken to complete risk assessments on properties in the surrounding area. The risk assessments aim to identify vulnerable properties, people and vehicles, and officers provide crime prevention advice to owners of such properties. Officers have engaged with local partners, housing associations and district, town and parish councils, and have liaised closely with the local neighbourhood watch. The local Crime Reduction Officer has carried out a number of crime prevention visits.

Neighbourhood officers continue to work closely with colleagues in the CID (Criminal Investigation Department) who lead on burglary investigations.

Serious Violent Crime

The crime figures for serious violent crime dating back to April 2011 reveal that the number of incidents recorded on a monthly basis fluctuate significantly.



Comparing the full year period from 1st April 2013 to 31st March 2014 with 1st April 2012 to 31st March 2013, serious violent crime increased by 40.0% (12 more offences). There was an overall decrease in the number of assaults that occurred in the district (namely, in the crime categories of Assault With Less Serious Injury and Other Violence Against the Person). However, there were 12 more instances than last year where a violent assault caused a serious injury.

About a third of these offences of serious violent crime (14 out of 42) related to what is known as the night-time economy (NTE). These crimes occurred in Braintree, Witham and Halstead town centres.

The majority of these offences of serious violence occurred either in people's homes and/or between people who know each other. However, robust intervention and investigation has resulted in an offender being charged to appear at court for 20 of these 42 cases. Further cases are still being investigated by CID.

The Braintree District Community Safety Partnership

The Braintree District Community Safety Partnership (CSP) is a statutory group represented by Braintree District Council, Essex Police, Essex County Fire and Rescue Service, Mid Essex Clinical Commissioning Group (Health), Essex Probation, Greenfields Community Housing, ECC Education, BDVSA (Braintree District Voluntary Services Association) and Family Solutions.

The priorities of the Braintree CSP for 2014/15 are:

- Domestic Abuse
- Sexual Violence
- Drugs Offences
- Acquisitive Crime

These have been determined from the completion of an annual strategic assessment which collates data from a variety of sources, including crime data, drugs and alcohol data, and victims' services.

An annual action plan has been agreed by the CSP and the projects and initiatives identified within it are currently being developed by Task & Finish Groups. These include:

- Working with partners to fund a full time outreach worker specifically working with victims of Domestic Abuse.
- Raise the awareness amongst parents and carers of drugs paraphernalia and legal highs.
- Deliver awareness training to staff in educational settings in relation to Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence.
- Raise awareness of Crime Stoppers encouraging residents to report incidences 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.