

Thurrock Public Meeting

Thursday April 9

District Profile

Thurrock district consists of 20 wards which include the areas of Grays, Chafford Hundred, Tilbury, and Corringham.

The district forms part of the West Local Policing Area (LPA) and covers an area of 165 sq. km, 70% of which is green belt land. The south western area of the district has a significant industrial and retail employment. The district is bordered to the south by the River Thames, which gives the district 18 miles of riverfront.

Thurrock has a number of iconic sites and is home to the Lakeside shopping centre. Retail crime is an obvious challenge to the local policing team, however officers have carried out a number of successful crackdowns, such as Operation Presence at Christmas targeting thieves, which have helped minimise crime levels and increased shoppers' confidence that their visit to the centre is safe.

The district also has the QE2 bridge and more recently has seen the opening of the Dubai Ports World, located on the former Shell Haven site. Responsibility for policing the new port will remain with Essex Police.

Crime data for Thurrock

At the meeting on Thursday April 9, there will be a detailed discussion about the crime trends and the facts which underlie the statistics.

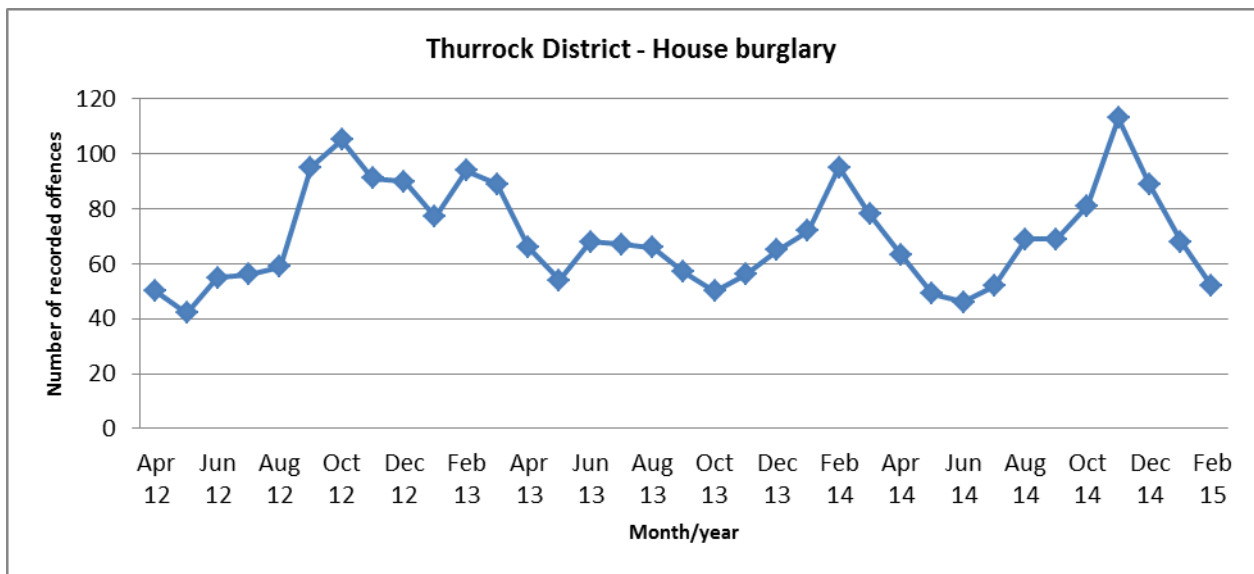
Key areas of note for Thurrock, comparing reports for 1st March 2014 to 28th February 2015 with 1st March 2013 to 28th February 2014, are:

- All Crime has decreased by 1.8% (207 less offences);
- House burglary has increased by 2.9% (23 more offences);
- Burglary in Other Than in a Dwelling has decreased by 19.1% (135 less offences);
- Theft from Vehicles has decreased by 14.8% (181 less offences);
- Theft and Taking Motor Vehicles has decreased by 11.6% (67 less offences);
- Anti-Social Behaviour has increased by 6.3% (350 more incidents);
- Other Violence Against the Person has increased by 15.2% (345 more offences);
- Serious Sexual Crime has increased by 24.3% (36 more offences);
- Assault with Less Serious Injury has increased by 11.6% (97 more offences).

House Burglary

During the above reporting period there was a 2.9% increase in house burglaries, equating to 23 more offences. According to local officers this increase began during one particular

weekend in October 2014, when Thurrock suffered around 30 offences. The offences continued to increase throughout the autumn and winter period.

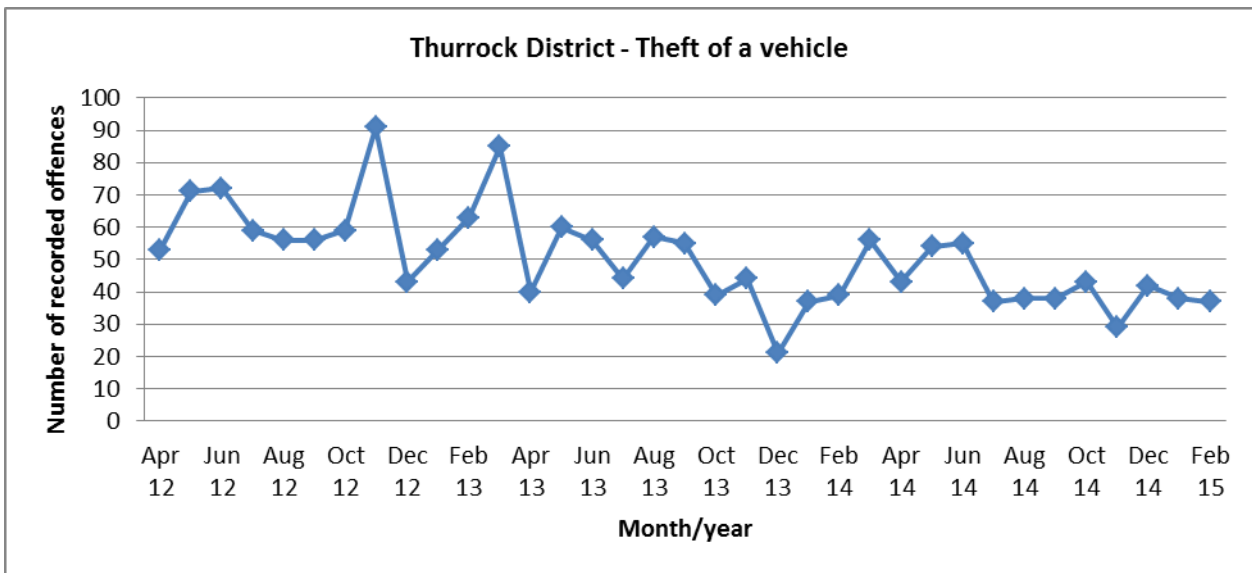
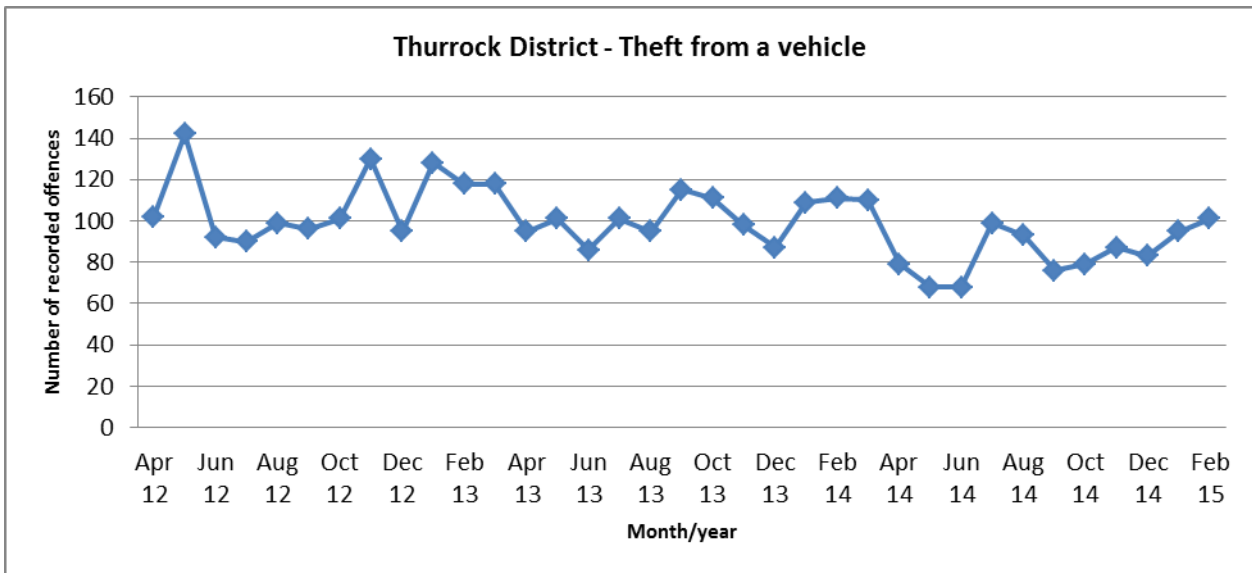


A large number of suspects have recently been arrested for burglary offences. Uniformed officers and detectives have been carrying out good crime prevention. Further crime prevention work has also been carried out through the multi-agency 'days of action'. Police have also increased their use of Essex Community Messaging and social media to promote crime prevention.

Vehicle Crime

Thurrock has historically experienced more vehicle crime than other parts of Essex. Over one million vehicles use the Dartford River Crossing a week; tens of thousands of other vehicles pass through Thurrock every day, and there are tens of thousands of weekly visitors to the Lakeside Shopping Centre. There are also high volumes of heavy goods vehicles due to Thurrock's location near to the A13 and M25, the Dartford River Crossing as well as the district housing the Port of Tilbury and the new London Gateway Port.

During the reporting period, there was a decrease in vehicle crime. Police have carried out several crime prevention activities partnership 'Days of Action', high visibility patrols and partnership work with vehicle manufacturers.

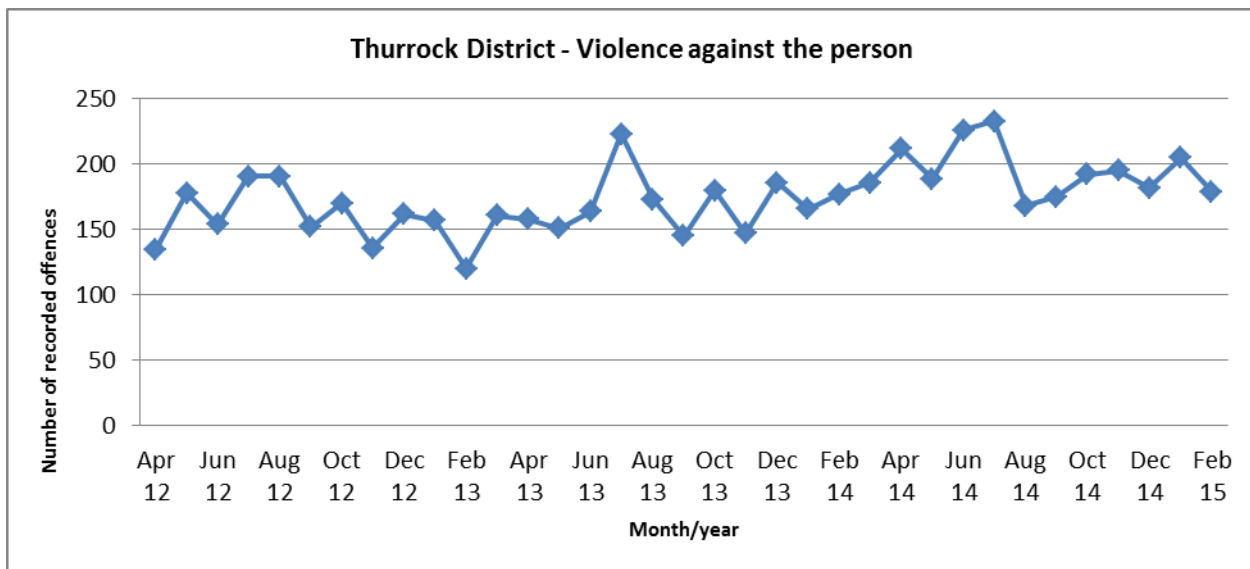


Other Violence Against the Person

During the reporting period, there was a 15.2% increase in reported offences of Other Violence Against the Person (345 more offences).

According to local officers, there are no apparent patterns, crime trends or series of offences in the district. Some of this increase could be attributable to a successful Community Safety Partnership campaign around increasing reporting and awareness of domestic violence and a rise in public confidence in reporting this type of offence.

Violence against the person can encompass a broad range of offence types. Out of a total of 2,622 offences of Other Violence against the Person that occurred during the reporting period, 888 of the offences related to domestic abuse.



As of December 2014, Thurrock is one of five districts in Essex where officers are now using Body Worn Video cameras, individually issued to all response team officers and these will help with the collation of evidence surrounding incidents relating to domestic abuse and other forms of offending.

Thurrock, like other districts in Essex, also benefits from a bespoke team who investigate cases of domestic abuse.

Policing Structure and Resources

Police stations

Thurrock currently has three police stations in the borough. Grays Police Station is open seven days a week, from 8am to midnight. The station houses; 24/7 local policing teams; CID; Juno Domestic Abuse Investigation Team; Prisoner Process Team; Grays Town Policing Team; Custody; Scenes of Crime; and the Local Policing and Partnership Hub which is made up of an Inspector, Sergeant, Crime Reduction Officer, Essex Watch Officer, ASB Officer, Licensing Officer and two Youth Officers.

Tilbury and South Ockendon police stations both have front offices which are open to the public from 12pm to 6pm Monday to Saturday. Both stations house their respective neighbourhood policing teams.

Lakeside has its own policing team, which is part-funded by the shopping centre and work from an office based there.

Corringham no longer has a police station after it closed in 2011. The Thurrock Council Youth Offending Service currently operates out of the building although neighbourhood officers occasionally work from the building when in the Corringham and Stanford-le-Hope areas.

Local Policing Teams

Thurrock has five Local Policing Teams (LPTs) providing 24-hour coverage for the district seven days a week. Each team is managed by an Inspector and two Sergeants who supervise a number of Constables per team. The LPTs have responsibility for attending emergency, priority and routine graded incidents as well as road traffic collisions and other

incidents. They also have responsibility for the investigation of volume crime, crime reduction and general policing duties. In addition, LPT Inspectors manage their respective teams at Brentwood Police Station and cover that geographical district.

There is also a Criminal Investigation Department (CID) which has a reactive and proactive capability and deals with serious and complex investigations and the targeting of known offenders.

Neighbourhood Policing

Thurrock district is split into two neighbourhood policing areas with the East Team based at Tilbury police station and the West Team based at South Ockendon police station. There is one Local Policing and Partnership Inspector who now works out of the Local Policing and Partnership Hub at Grays Police Station. There are three neighbourhood policing Sergeants who manage teams at South Ockendon, Grays and Tilbury Police Stations. They are supported by dedicated Neighbourhood Constables who work with communities and partnership agencies to find solutions to community issues. There are also Police Community Support Officers across the district working with the Neighbourhood Policing Team and numerous other teams from partner agencies and organisations.

Hidden Harm

Hidden harm is, as the term suggests, crimes that are hidden from the public view, such as sexual violence, child sexual exploitation and elder abuse. Many are often not recognised or reported.

Reducing Hidden Harm has now become a new area of focus for the PCC and, as such, has been included within the Police and Crime Plan for Essex for April 2015 onwards. The Police and Crime Plan sets out the PCC's priorities for policing in the county. The aim of bringing this to the forefront of the agenda is work with police and partners to ensure the signs of these hidden harms can be spotted early and therefore help to prevent the escalation of risk.

Some of the types of situations that could be termed 'hidden harm', and some of the people most likely to be victims, include:

- *Modern slavery – slavery, human trafficking, forced labour and domestic servitude.
- *Sexual violence and abuse.
- *Domestic Abuse.
- *'Honour' based violence and abuse.
- *Forced Marriage.
- *Female Genital Mutilation.
- *Abuse of the vulnerable, for example those with physical disabilities or mental health problems.
- *Abuse of children and young people.
- *Fraud and financial abuse targeting the elderly.
- *Hate crime.
- *Online abuse, including grooming and cyber bullying.
- *Stalking and harassment.



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.