

Braintree public meeting

Thursday 9th July

Braintree district is one part of the Uttlesford and Braintree District Policing Area (DPA) which comprises two of England's largest districts, covering 484 square miles. The DPA is made up of Braintree, Witham, Halstead, Saffron Walden and Great Dunmow and surrounding rural areas.

The DPA presents a challenging mix of urban and rural policing. Stretching from the middle of the county to the borders with Suffolk, Cambridgeshire and Hertfordshire, it is split into 124 parishes with 107 parish councils and four town councils. The M11, A120, A12, A130 and A131 also run through the area.

The rail and road links to London allow a high proportion of the population to commute to work but also make cross-border travelling more viable for criminals.

Braintree district covers 236 square miles. The population of the town is increasing and is currently estimated to comprise over 149,000 residents and over 62,000 households.

Crime and Anti-Social Behaviour Data

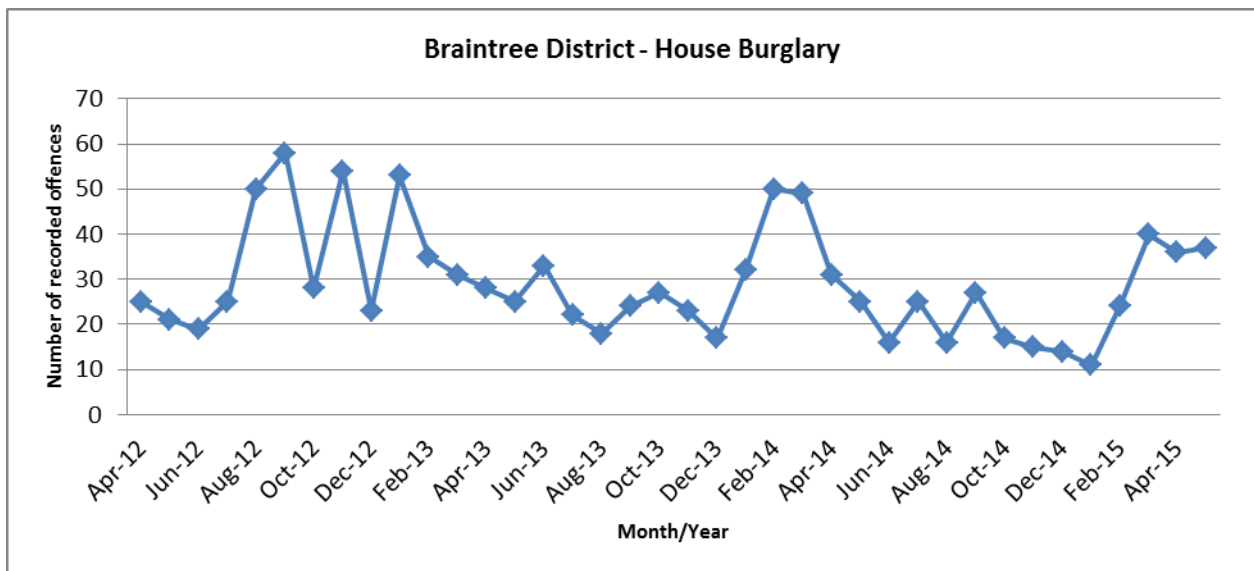
At the meeting on July 9 2015, there will be detailed discussion about the crime trends and facts which lie underneath the statistics.

The table below sets out the crime figures for Braintree, comparing reports for 1st June 2014 to 31st May 2015 with 1st June 2013 to 31st May 2014.

Areas of note:

- All Crime has increased by 3.6% (205 more offences);
- House burglary has decreased by 20.5% (72 fewer offences);
- Theft of Motor Vehicle has decreased by 29.7% (41 fewer offences);
- Theft from the Person has decreased by 28.2% (24 fewer offences);
- Anti-Social Behaviour has increased by 3.3% (124 more incidents);
- Violence with Injury has increased by 25.7% (128 more offences);
- Violence without Injury has increased by 22.8% (146 more offences);
- Sexual Offences have increased by 57.9% (62 more offences).

The figures demonstrate that all crime in the Braintree district has increased by 3.6 per cent during the period, an increase of 205 more offences. However, according to the figures, some other crime types have seen a noticeable reduction, including: house burglary, vehicle theft and theft from the person.



Targeted operations and activity against known criminals who are resident within the community, coupled with joint working with neighbouring forces, have led to a significant reduction in many types of acquisitive crime in particular, burglary and theft. A number of criminals have been identified and arrested or displaced. According to police in Braintree, this significant improvement has been achieved by the targeted deployment of officers within the DPA, with a small number of officers set aside for intelligence gathering and disruption activity.

Braintree District Community Safety Partnership

Police in Braintree work closely with their partners in the Braintree District Community Safety Partnership (CSP). For 2015/16 the CSP has three priorities which are: reducing domestic abuse; reducing sexual offences; and reducing violent crime. Significant work has been done in each of these areas.

Domestic Abuse key areas of work:

- *Work is continuing to expand the “Cut it Out” awareness campaign for hairdressers and beauty salons to rural communities. The programme aims to train salon staff to look out for key signs of domestic abuse to enable them to support victims.
- *Support for male and elder victims of abuse.
- *Home security information for low and medium risk victims of abuse.

Sexual Offences key areas of work:

- *Funding a Young Person’s Independent Sexual Violence Advisor (YPISVA) post.
- *Safeguarding Vulnerable Passengers training for taxi drivers.
- *Child Sexual Exploitation & online grooming awareness and information for parents.

Violent Crime key areas of work:

- *Reducing instances of night-time economy related crime.
- *Targeted drugs operations in Braintree Town Centre.
- *Implementation of CCTV in licensed vehicles.

Policing Structure and Visibility

The Uttlesford and Braintree District Policing Area forms part of the wider North Local Policing Area (LPA).

Braintree and Uttlesford have separate District Councils and Community Safety Partnerships but there is an overlap of policing staff and five separate police stations located at Braintree, Halstead, Witham, Dunmow and Saffron Walden.

The DPA is run by one District Commander and has one Local Policing and Partnerships Inspector.

There is one Neighbourhood Policing Team (NPT) Sergeant for Braintree district and one NPT Sergeant for Uttlesford district.

The DPA is covered 24 hours a day, seven days a week, by the Local Policing Teams (LPT) operating from Braintree and Saffron Walden Police Stations.

The Criminal Investigation Department (CID), Operation Juno (Domestic Abuse Investigation) and Custody are all based at Braintree Police Station.

District policing is also supported by the policing hub officers working from Braintree Police Station, including the Licensing Officer and the Crime Prevention Tactical Adviser.

Five police stations within the DPA are currently open to the public. Braintree Police Station is open between 8am and midnight, seven days per week. Halstead, Witham, Saffron Walden and Great Dunmow police stations are open from 12 noon to 6pm, Monday to Saturday (excluding Bank Holidays). There have been no recent closures of police stations within the DPA.

According to Essex Police, although they work hard with Community Safety partners to keep Braintree a low crime area, parts of the community have expressed concern about the visibility of officers and police attendance at town and parish council meetings

Local officers continue to hold Local Community Meetings and Street Meets where local residents can raise any crime-related concerns.

The DPA also benefits from a Rural Crime Team made up of volunteer Special Constables who engage with those in rural areas.

In Braintree, officers have been carrying out a number of activities targeting offenders behind acquisitive crime, such as theft and burglary. This has contributed to a significant fall in both of these crime types however this activity has only been visible to those offenders in question, not the wider public.

Anti-Social Behaviour

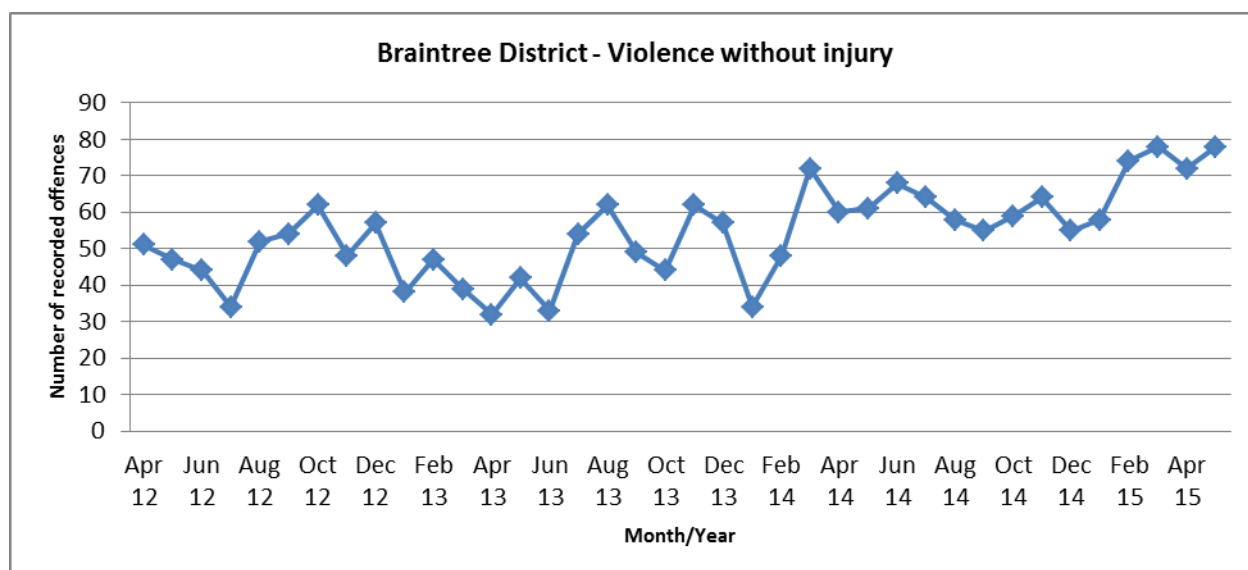
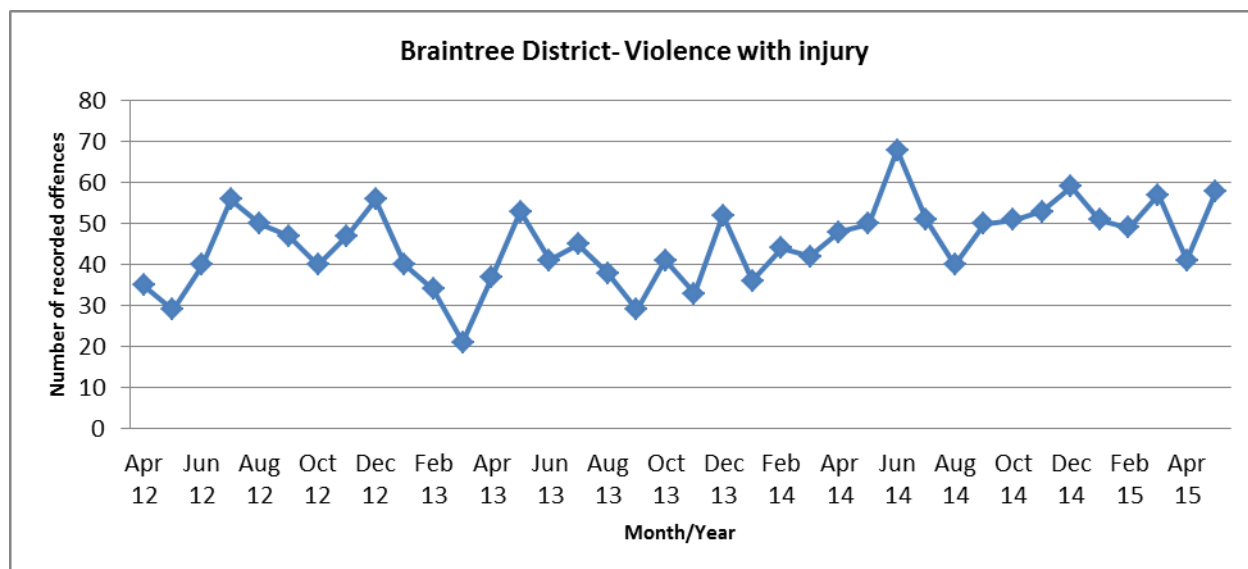
Figures show that, between 1st June 2014 to 31st May 2015 and 1st June 2013 to 31st May 2014, there was a 3.3% increase in incidents of anti-social behaviour during the reporting period (124 more incidents). Criminal damage increased by 6.6% (58 more offences). These increases are largely attributable to isolated cases. According to Essex Police, the number of on-going long-term anti-social behaviour problems continues to reduce and the

police work closely with Community Safety Partners to identify hotspots and resolve incidents effectively.

Violent Crime

During the above reporting period, offences of violence with injury increased by 25.7% (128 more offences), offences of violence without injury increased by 22.8% (146 more offences) and sexual offences increased by 57.9% (62 more offences). The increase in violent and sexual crime in Braintree district follows a similar pattern to the majority of other districts across the force area and is largely attributable to an increased reporting and recording of domestic abuse. Approximately 40% of violent and sexual offences were related to domestic abuse. Few of the serious offences occurred in public between strangers.

Essex Police has created dedicated teams to tackle domestic abuse, they are known as Operation Juno teams. Since 1st September 2014, each area has a team of officers dedicated to investigating domestic abuse related offences and offenders. Since it was created the Operation Juno team have dealt with over 400 domestic related offences in the Uttlesford and Braintree DPA, and have solved approximately half of them.



Braintree district does not have a significant night-time economy (NTE), but the DPA continues to drive NTE initiatives such as supporting the Community Safety Partnership delivered Pub Link radio system and the trialling of door staff using Body Worn Cameras.

Also within the policing hub, the DPA receives support from its licensing staff. So far, under the Pubwatch scheme, over 100 offenders have been banned from licensed premises.

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.