

Maldon Public Meeting

Wednesday June 24th

Maldon local authority forms part of the North Local Policing Area (LPA), which is the largest of three LPAs into which Essex is divided. Chelmsford and Maldon are a shared District Policing Area (DPA) and have a shared manager and structure which allows flexibility to target emerging crime trends.

The principal towns are Maldon, Heybridge and Burnham-on-Crouch. The area has 60 miles of coastline stretching from the Burnham-on-Crouch estuary, round the Dengie peninsula up to Bradwell on the River Blackwater.

The population of the Maldon district in 2014 was recorded as being 62,400.

From November 2013 to January 2014, 4.5% of Maldon's young people were not in employment, education or training (NEET), which is however lower than the national average (5.3%).

In 2013-14 the unemployment rate for over 16 year olds was estimated to be 5.2%. This compares to 8% in Tendring and 3% in Uttlesford.

Overview of all crime

At the meeting on June 24 2015, there will be detailed discussion about the crime trends and facts which lie underneath the statistics.

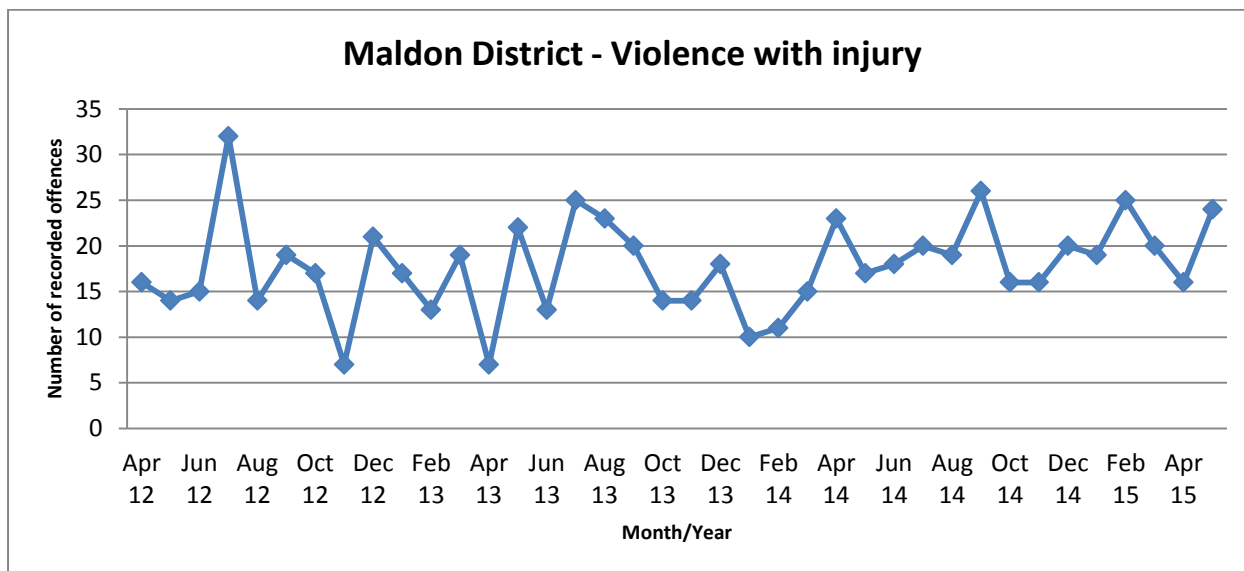
The table below sets out the crime figures for Maldon, comparing reports for May 1 2014 to April 30 2015 with May 1 2013 to April 30 2014.

Areas of note include:

- All Crime has increased by 8.2% (175 more offences);
- Burglary in a Dwelling has decreased by 23.4% (22 fewer offences);
- Other Theft has decreased by 14.2% (55 fewer offences);
- Criminal Damage has decreased by 9.0% (31 fewer offences);
- Anti-Social Behaviour has decreased by 2.8% (34 fewer incidents);
- Violence with Injury has increased by 12.6% (26 more offences);
- Violence without Injury has increased by 39.3% (84 more offences);
- Sexual Offences have increased by 72.7% (24 more offences).

Violent Crime

Figures show that, between May 2014 and April 2015 and the same period the previous year, offences of violence with injury have increased by 12.6% or 26 more offences. During the same period the offence of violence without injury has increased by 39.3% or 84 more offences.



Maldon does not have an active night-time economy and, according to Essex Police, most of the violent crimes which occur in the district therefore relate to offences of domestic abuse or other localised incidents. Dealing with incidents of Domestic Abuse is a key priority for Essex Police and all medium and high risk cases are now dealt with by specialist teams, known as Operation Juno teams. These teams are dedicated to investigating domestic abuse related offences and offenders.

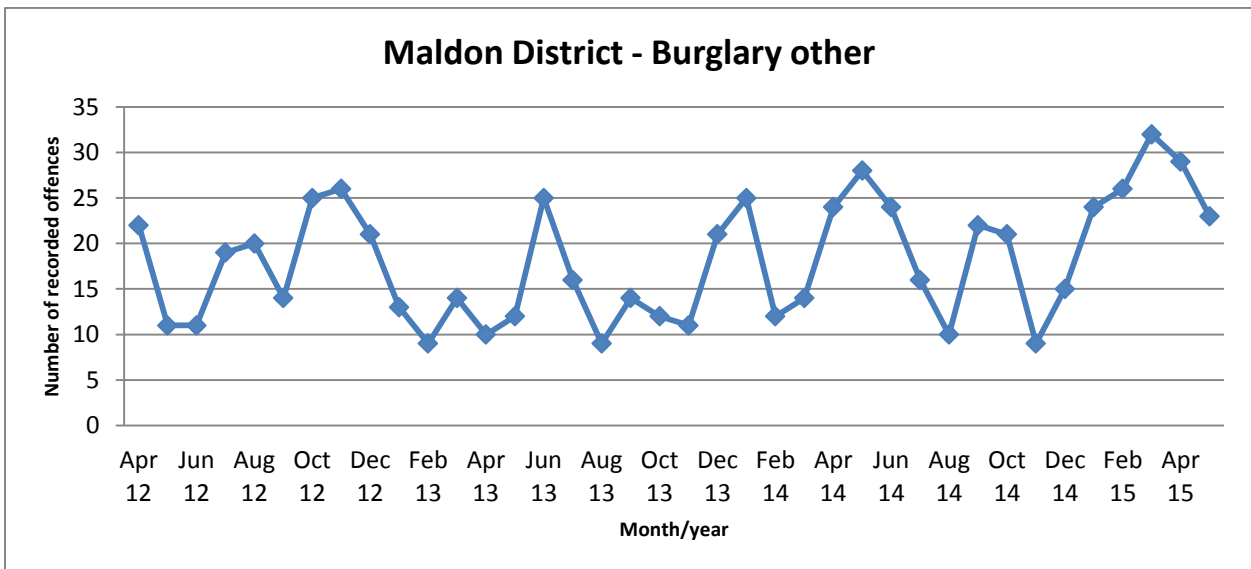
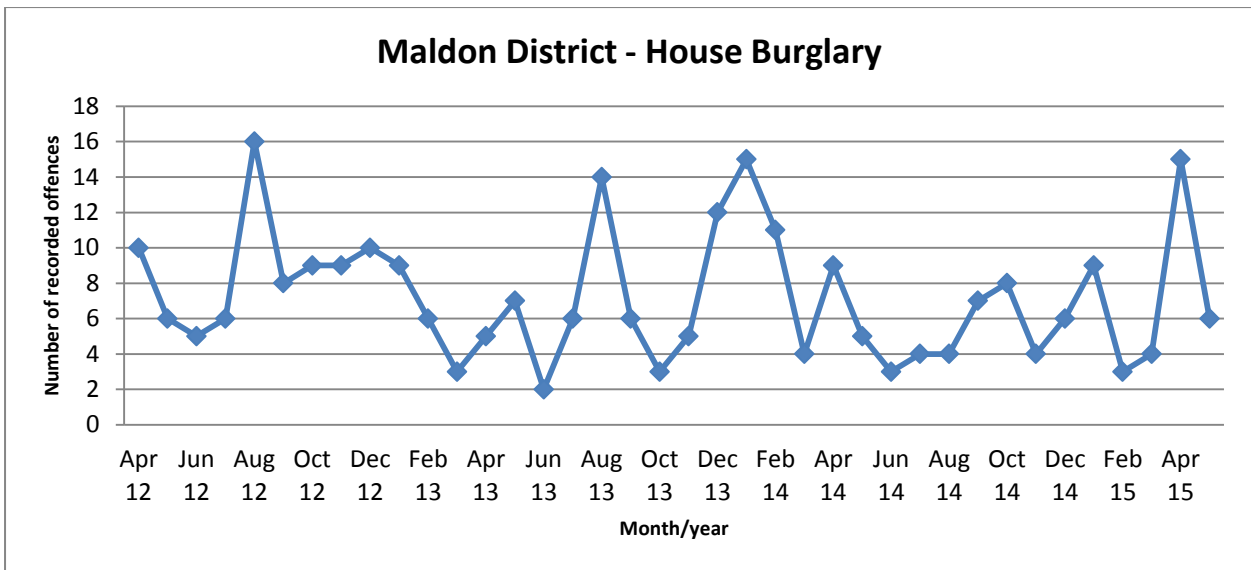
Sexual Offences

The Maldon district has also seen a 72.7% increase in sexual offences, or 24 more offences, when compared with the same period the previous year. In total, there were 57 sexual offences in the district during the reporting period. This increase is in line with trends seen across Essex and nationally and is in part attributable to the publicity around high profile cases such as those involving Jimmy Savile and others. The increase is also partly attributable to victims having increased confidence to come forward and report incidents to police.

All offences reported to Essex Police are dealt with by specialist trained officers from the Sexual Offences Investigation Team (SOIT). In January 2015, a stranger rape took place in Maldon town, which understandably impacted the local community. Although a number of suspects were arrested, they were all released without charge.

Burglary

During the reporting period, there was a 23.4% decrease in house burglary, or 22 fewer offences, when compared with the same period the previous year. Offences of other types of burglary (non-dwelling) increased by 31.1%, or 61 more offences, when compared with the same period the previous year.



Tackling house burglary remains a priority for both Essex Police and the district. Operation Insight, which is the force-wide predictive policing operation to tackle burglary, is routinely employed in Maldon. As part of this operation officers visit burglary victims and patrols are 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.

In Essex, all burglaries are investigated by detectives from CID. The offence of burglary other remains a local priority and the local Community Safety Partnership (CSP) recently ran a 'Left on the Latch' campaign to help reduce the number of offences.

Policing Structure and Visibility

Chelmsford and Maldon are part of a shared District Policing Area (DPA) and share a manager and structure. It is part of the wider North Local Policing Area.

In Maldon there are five Local Policing Teams (LPT) based at Maldon Police Station and work shifts to cover the district 24 hours a day, seven days a week. Each team is

supervised by an Inspector based at Chelmsford and they deal with a range of policing duties, including incident demand, appointments and missing persons. The Maldon based teams are often supplemented by additional resources being moved across from Chelmsford during periods of high demand.

A Neighbourhood Policing Team, made up of a Sergeant, neighbourhood Constables (including a Youth Officer) and Police Community Support Officers (PCSOs), is based at Maldon. The team is supervised by an Inspector, who is based at Chelmsford, and is responsible for community policing, engagement and problem solving in their designated areas.

The district also has the support of three CID teams of detectives, which are based at Chelmsford and are led by a Detective Inspector. CID investigates the more serious crimes such as robbery, grievous bodily harm and dwelling burglary.

All high-risk domestic abuse investigations are led by the Operation Juno team, also based at Chelmsford.

Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB)

During the reporting period, there was a 2.8% decrease in reported incidents of anti-social behaviour, or 34 fewer incidents, compared with the same period the previous year. According to Essex Police, while no specific anti-social behaviour issues have been highlighted over the past 12 months the district does have a number of on-going situations involving specific individuals. These cases have been reviewed through the local Community Safety Partnership victims sub-group, but continue to be of concern. Because of the ongoing nature of both of these cases and repeated police involvement, they also have the potential to have a disproportionate impact on these figures.

The Community Safety Partnership uses a range of measures for dealing with anti-social behaviour, including Acceptable Behaviour Contracts. Liaison also takes place between schools and housing associations to ensure these measures are complied with. In addition, Maldon District Park Rangers provide support in dealing with area based problems. Maldon has been pro-active in the introduction of using new legislation under the Crime and Policing Act 2014, and has provided training for a number of staff in this area.

Rural Crime

Dealing with rural crime issues remains a challenge, but due to changes to the Essex Police shift pattern which will take effect in September 2015, the number of staff at Maldon will increase. The district has ones of the lowest crime rates when compared with other districts in Essex.

An active Farm Watch scheme remains in place in the district, which enables those in rural areas to receive and pass on useful information regarding crime affecting them. Neighbourhood Watch schemes also continue to promote crime reduction initiatives.

Hare coursing is an issue of concern for the community. Incidents are reported and dealt with on a case by case basis. The hare coursing season is now approaching, which may result in an increase in offences. However officers in Maldon are able to work alongside Essex Police's specialist Wildlife Liaison Officer around this issue.

Speeding

Speeding in Maldon is repeatedly highlighted as a concern by residents.

Community Speed Watch schemes exist within the district and additional enforcement activity is undertaken by the Casualty Reduction Section as issues are identified. There is a very active Community Speed Watch scheme in Burnham. Training is delivered by the Casualty Reduction Team.

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.