

Shropshire Community Safety Partnership

Strategic Assessment Analysis of Performance 2016



November 2016

1 Introduction

The Community Safety Partnership (CSP)¹ is a statutory partnership and it is responsible for the development and co-ordination of community safety and crime prevention programmes in Shropshire.

Crime and disorder and the perception of crime are key factors in influencing the health and quality of life of the residents of Shropshire. Each year the Community Safety Partnership is required to undertake an assessment of its performance by analysing data that describes the number and types of crimes that have been committed in Shropshire during the previous 12 months. This data is then used to clarify the future priorities for the CSP to tackle. Achieving successful results should mean that people feel safer.

The CSP in Shropshire does not tackle crime and community safety alone. There are many other agencies represented on the CSP and all are required to work in partnership with a range of local public, private, community and voluntary groups, and with the community itself in order to deliver the priorities for action agreed at the Partnership. This approach recognises that the interventions required to deliver a safe and secure community lies with a range of organisations, groups and individuals and not just one.

The Partners on the CSP include:

- Shropshire Council
- The Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC)
- Shropshire Clinical Commissioning Group
- Shropshire Fire and Rescue Service
- West Mercia Police Force West Mercia Youth Offending Service
- The National Probation Service
- The Community Rehabilitation Company

2. Summary

2.1 Our population

- The population of Shropshire is changing. It is expected that our population will increase in size by approximately 8% by the year 2032 and the structure of our population will change as a result. The proportion of our population aged 65+ will increase at a rate greater than the National trend.
- In comparison to other parts of England, Shropshire is not particularly deprived. However, as with all other regions, when compared to the County as a whole, there are certain small areas of Shropshire that are deprived.

2.2 Our strategic objectives

- The re-offending rate for adults in Shropshire has fallen in recent years and the most recently validated figures (for the year 2013-14) suggest that the rate is now 19%.
- It is encouraging to note that current figures from the National Drug Treatment Monitoring Service (NDTMS) for Shropshire indicate that 94% of all opiate, non-opiate and alcohol dependent clients are engaged in effective treatment. However, violence against the person where alcohol is a marker will continue to be a significant challenge to manage.
- The referrals into alcohol treatment by the A&E services in Shropshire is relatively high but this may, in part, be due to the provision of a alcohol liaison service being based at the A&E Department.

¹ <https://www.shropshire.gov.uk/crime-and-criminal-justice/safer-stronger-communities-partnership/>

- The number and rate of reports of domestic abuse has increased over the last three years.
- Reports of Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB) declined by 44% between 2010 and 2014. Reports are concentrated within the major towns of the County – predominantly in Shrewsbury town centre.
- Between April 2015 and March 2016 there were approximately 200 incidents of hate crime reported to the Police. This is a crude rate of 0.59 incidents/1,000 residents and this is the lowest rate of recorded hate crime in the West Mercia Force area. The majority of these reports are concentrated in Shrewsbury town.

2.3 Trends in crime 2015-16

- Over the last 12-24 months, domestic burglary, criminal damage and arson, sexual offences, rape, violence against the person with injury and violence against the person without injury and domestic abuse have all increased in Shropshire. The number and rate of some of these crimes have increased significantly¹. Nevertheless:
 - Shropshire records the lowest crude rate of reported crimes in West Mercia for: criminal damage and arson, sexual offences, rape and violence against the person with injury
 - The rate of recorded crime by young people in Shropshire is also relatively low. The majority of these crimes concern violence against the person and theft and are committed by young people between the ages of 15 and 17
 - The crude rate of crimes of violence with injury where alcohol is involved is increasing in Shropshire.
 - In the last three years (to March 2016), the crude rate of ‘violence against the person with injury’ has almost doubled and the rate of ‘violence against the person without injury’ has almost tripled². This places a significant burden upon the services required to provide care and assistance.
 - The majority of attendances at A&E services for the treatment of violent injuries and trauma are made by men aged between 16 and 24 years
 - There is often a dislocation between the incidence of crime and the perception people have about the risk of crime. Often peoples fear of crime is operating at a higher level than the actual risk of crime occurring.

² This is in the context of the integrity of the statistics

3. Emerging issues and continuing priorities

The Partnership will continue to focus upon a number of existing priorities. Additionally, the Partnership will consider how it should address priorities that have emerged over the last 12-24 months simply because certain crimes have seen a significant increase in their rate of reporting. In brief, these continuing and emerging priorities are:

- Sexual violence and rape
- Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE)
- Managing persistent and prolific offenders
- Alcohol related violence and Anti-Social Behaviour
- Domestic violence and partner abuse
- Hate crime
- Rural crime
- Mitigating the perception and fear of crime
- Novel Psychoactive Substances (legal highs). The production and sale of these substances is now illegal. It may be the case that the risk of these substances being produced and sold illegally will need to be monitored
- Cyber-crime and on-line fraud

4. Data Sources

This report describes the different types of recorded crime in Shropshire for the year ending March 2016.

A number of sources of data have been used to produce this report, including:

- The West Mercia Police Service
- The Police and Crime Commissioner
- Public Health England
- A selection of data produced by the Shropshire Council
- The Office for National Statistics (ONS)
- West Mercia youth offending service

When describing the incidence of crime, this report often refers to “Super-Output Areas” (SOAs). These SOAs are small geographical areas that contain between 1500 to 2000 people.

5. Overview of crime data³

The most recent mid-year population estimates have been used (2014) to calculate the crude rates per 1,000 residents referred to in the charts and text.

In the 12 months from April 2015 to the end of March 2016 Shropshire had recorded approximately 14,000 crimes – a crude rate 46.03 crimes per 1000 people. Amongst the authorities within the West Mercia Police Force, Shropshire had the lowest recorded rate of all crimes per 1,000 of the population. However, caution must be exercised when considering this data, due to changes in the recording of reported crime (see 1.3, below).

³ These data are from the West Mercia Police Performance Unit

6. The integrity of crime statistics

In January 2014, the UK Statistics Authority withdrew the gold-standard status of “national statistics” from police crime data. This was due to concerns about the reliability of the methodology used for collecting and recording crime.

In its 2013-14 inspection programme, Her Majesty’s Inspectorate of Constabulary (HMIC) carried out an inspection into the way the 43 police forces in England and Wales record crime data. As a part of this process, HMIC reviewed over 10,000 crime records. This inspection, carried out between February and August 2014, was the most extensive of its kind that HMIC has undertaken into crime data integrity.

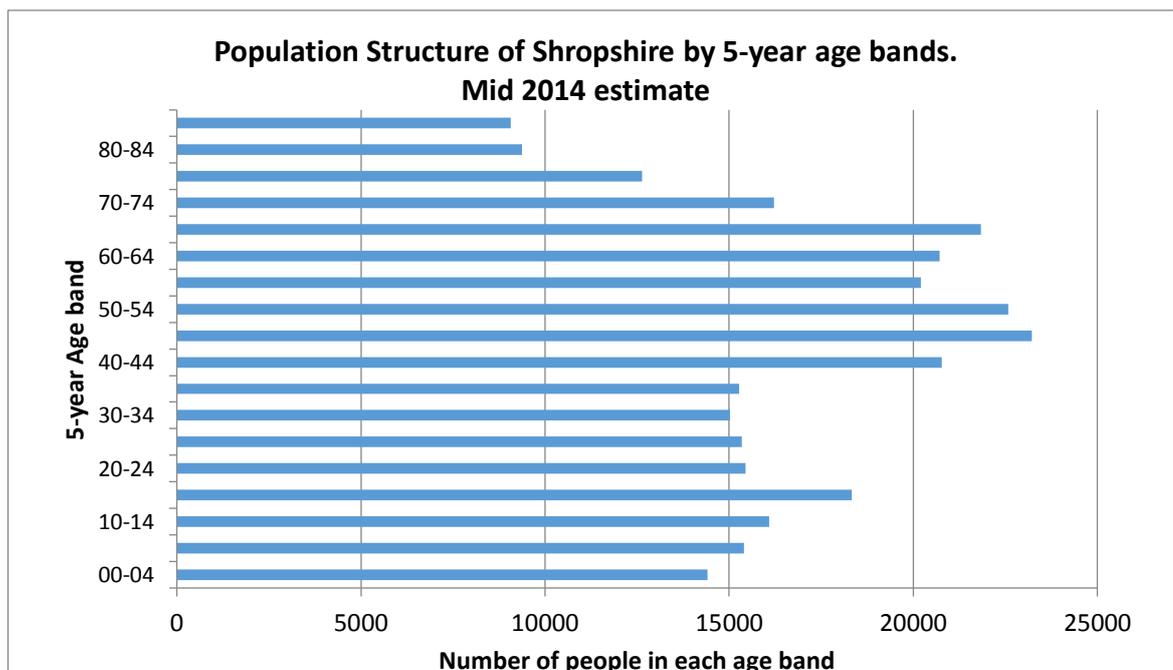
The final overview report “Crime-recording: making the victim count” was published in November 2014⁴. The key finding across all forces was that an estimated 19% of crime went unrecorded.

In this context, when examining this report, it is important to note that where an increase in crime overall or an increase in a particular crime is described, this is likely to be affected, to some degree, by a change in the method used to record reported crimes.

7. The demography of Shropshire

The total resident population of Shropshire, according to the mid-2014 estimate by the Office for National Statistics (ONS), was approximately 310,100. Our population has gradually increased over recent years. The age structure of the population is described in the chart, below.

7.1 The age structure of the population of Shropshire



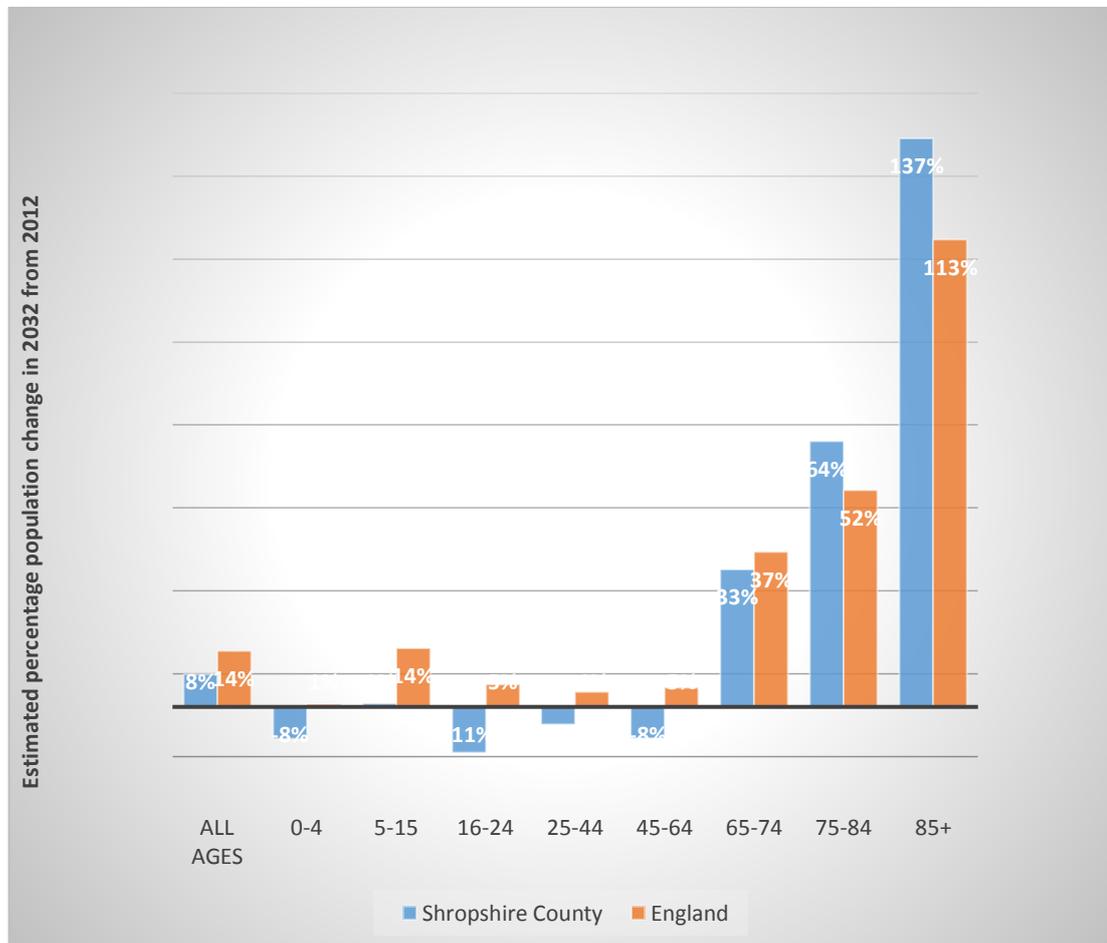
Source: ONS mid-2014 estimate

⁴ <https://www.justiceinspectors.gov.uk/hmic/wp-content/uploads/crime-recording-making-the-victim-count.pdf>

The population of Shropshire is expected to continue to increase over the next 16 years and the increase in population will be concentrated within certain age bands and offset by reductions in other age bands. This is described in the chart below:

7.2 The estimated percentage population change between 2012 and 2032.

We can see from the chart below that the population across all ages is expected to increase by 8% (compared to 14% for the rest of the England) but, considering the age bands, the growth in the population will be concentrated in the population aged 65+.



Source: ONS mid-2014 estimate

8. Deprivation in Shropshire

In comparison to other counties in England and Wales, Shropshire is not particularly deprived – though there are small areas where the level of deprivation is high.

When using the Index of Multiple Deprivation (described below) to compare levels of deprivation, it is important to remember that the more deprived an area, the higher the deprivation score but the lower the rank.

8.1 The Index of Multiple Local Deprivation – the overall score

Shropshire's score is 16.689, which means it is ranked number 41 out of All English unitary authorities (there are a total of 56) and number 185 out of all 326 authorities in England.

9. Shropshire Community Safety Partnership: Strategic Priorities:

The Shropshire Community Safety Partnership has identified three key, overarching priorities as part of the Crime Reduction, Community Safety and Drug and Alcohol Strategy 2014-17. These priorities are outlined below:

Reducing Offending & Re-offending

- Alcohol and Substance Misuse
- Domestic Abuse
- Arson

Supporting Vulnerable People

- Anti-Social Behaviour
- Hate Crime

Public Reassurance and Community Engagement

- Tackling Crime
- Increasing Public Confidence

We will examine each priority in turn.

9.1 Reducing Offending and Re-offending:

Reducing re-offending is a statutory priority placed upon Community Safety Partnerships. The 'Integrated Offender Management' (IOM) service operates three key strands:

- Prevention – identifying and engaging with those not subject to statutory supervision but at risk of re-offending.
- Promote compliance and reduce re-offending – identifying and targeting those offenders who cause the most harm within local communities and identifying those at highest risk of re-offending.
- Enforcement – where support fails to reduce an individual's offending/re-offending enforcement action is swiftly taken to protect the public.

The Ministry of Justice receives offending and re-offending data from the Community Rehabilitation Company (CRC) and from the National Probation Service (NPS) and undertakes a validation process in order to determine a precise re-offending and re-conviction rate.

Conventionally, this process of validation takes 18 months to complete. Set out below are the most recently validated re-offending statistics for Shropshire⁵

Shropshire County: Adult re-offending rates	July 2013 to June 2014
Offenders	1,579
Re-offenders	300
Re-offences	939
Offenders per 1000 Residents	5.1
% who Reoffend	19.0%
Re-offences per Reoffender	3.1

⁵ Data source: iQuanta, June 2016 – data restrictions apply.

9.2 Alcohol and Substance Misuse: Substance Misuse:

Engaging problem drug users in effective treatment has a number of benefits for the individual, their families and the wider community. Drug misusing offenders in treatment use less illegal drugs, commit less crime, and generally improve their health and well-being.

Preventing early drop out and keeping people in treatment long enough to benefit contributes to these improved outcomes. The information below shows the proportion of adults in Shropshire in 2014-15 who have been in treatment for three months or more – a measure for effective treatment engagement.

Adults engaged in treatment in 2014-15

	Shropshire number	% of group in effective treatment	National number	% of National group in effective treatment
Opiate	649	96	145875	95
Non-opiate	108	89	21857	87
Non-opiate and alcohol	137	90	24686	88
All	894	94	192418	93

9.3 Alcohol use

Alcohol is one of the biggest risk factors for disease and premature death in the UK. It has a range of impacts upon individuals, families and communities across Shropshire including economic performance, unemployment, health inequalities, poor outcomes for children and families, reduced quality of life, anti-social behaviour and, of course, crime.

9.4 Headline treatment figures

The national average age of clients in alcohol treatment is 43 years and although there are more men than women in treatment, the age distribution for both genders is very similar. The table below shows information about people who were in alcohol treatment in 2014 to 2015.

	Shropshire number	% Male	% Female
Number and proportion of adults in treatment 2014-15	753	63	37
Starting in treatment			
Number and proportion in treatment 2014-15	557	76	70
Age and gender of adults in treatment			
18-29	81	10	12
30-39	141	18	20
40-49	189	25	25
50-59	198	27	25
60-69	105	14	13
70-79	31	4	4
80+	8	1	1

9.5 Domestic Abuse

Domestic abuse is a problem that occurs, predominantly, within the home, often without witnesses. It is a crime that has tremendous costs to the victim, to the family and friends of the victim and upon the community as a whole. Importantly, domestic abuse and partner abuse can affect men and women.

9.6 The picture of domestic abuse and violence in Shropshire

The number of reported incidents of domestic abuse within Shropshire has increased over the three year period 2013 to 2015. These data do not yet differentiate between men and women victims and survivors and we do not yet have data concerning perpetrators. Hence the data is often referred to as being 'crude data'.

Year	Number of reports	Rate per 1,000 residents
2013	2720	8.88
2014	3100	10.12
2015	3200	10.45

9.7 Arson

Arson is the primary cause of un-managed fires in Shropshire. Deliberate fires can be started for a number of reasons, including the intention to conceal another crime or where the perpetrator of the fire stands to gain financially, such as cases of insurance fraud.

Set out below are data from the Shropshire Fire and Rescue Service outlining the number of deliberate fires started in Shropshire between 2012-13 and 2016-17 (to June 2016).

Arson fires recorded over the last 5 years

Year	Number of fires recorded
2012/2013	501
2013/2014	520
2014/2015	452
2015/2016	423
2016/2017 (April to June)	61

9.8 Supporting Vulnerable People: Anti- Social Behaviour:

The term 'anti-social behaviour' acts as an umbrella description of a variety of disruptive and unacceptable behaviour that can have a detrimental impact on the quality of life within communities. The Crime and Disorder Act 1998 definition is:

“Acting in a manner that causes or is likely to cause harassment, alarm or distress to one or more persons not of the same household as himself”

9.9 Data definitions concerning anti-social behaviour

The definitions used to collate this data are:

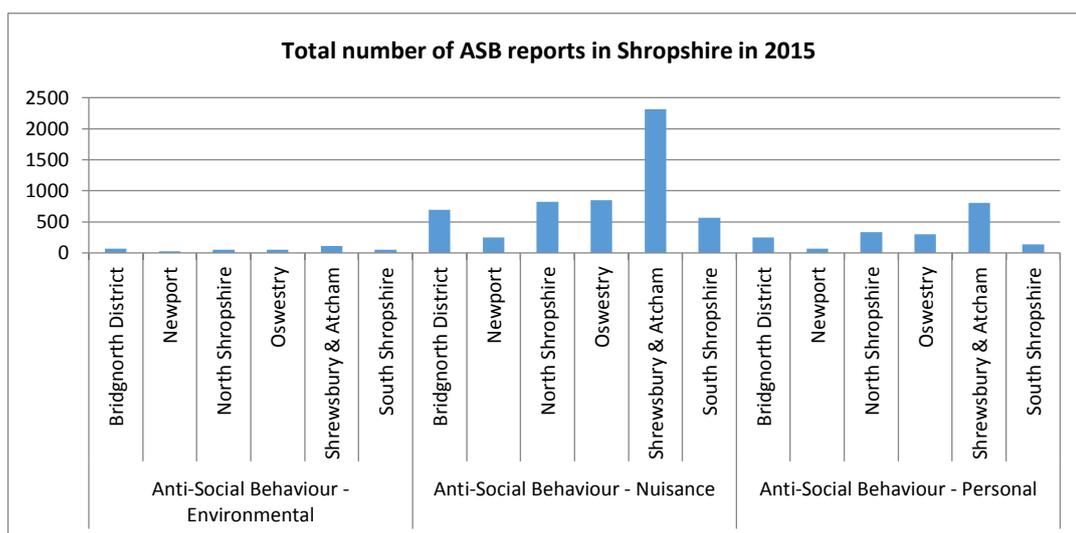
- 'Nuisance' – an act, condition, thing or person causing trouble, annoyance, irritation, inconvenience, offence or suffering to the local community in general rather than to individual victims;
- 'Personal' – incidents that are perceived as either deliberately targeted at an individual or group, or have an impact on an individual or group rather than the community at large; and
- 'Environmental' – incidents where individuals and groups have an impact on their surroundings, including natural, built and social environments.

9.10 The pattern of Anti-Social Behaviour reports

According to the available data, between 2010 and 2014, reports of anti-social behaviour in Shropshire decreased by 44% (though caution has to be applied to take account of a change in the legal definition in 2012). Between 2013 and 2015, approximately 70% of anti-social behaviour incidents were classified as nuisance and in the same period, the level of anti-social behaviour associated with young people fell by 41%.

Typically, the data shows that anti-social behaviour is concentrated within certain areas of the county.

9.11 Anti-social behaviour in 2015 in Shropshire



Row Labels	Count of reports
ASB - Environmental	406
ASB - Nuisance	6352
ASB - Personal	2215
Grand Total	8973

9.11 Hate Crime

Hate crime is commonly associated with prejudice against particular individuals. An accurate definition of hate crime is any crime where prejudice against an identifiable group is a factor in determining who is victimised. Additionally, some forms of bullying are illegal and should be reported to the police. These include:

- Violence or assault
- Theft
- Repeated harassment or intimidation, for example: name calling, threats and abusive phone calls, emails or text messages

9.12 Hate crime in Shropshire

Set out below is a table describing the number of hate crimes and ‘crimed’* incidents reported to the Police over the four years 2012 to 2016.

	2012-13	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16
Hate crime reports	188	186	175	267
‘Crimed’ incidents*	42	62	50	27
Total	230	248	225	294

*These are incidents of hate that have been reported to the Police but, following investigation, no law has been broken

9.13 The strategic response to hate crime

The Counter Terrorism and Security Act received Royal assent in 2015. The Act set out a duty to be placed upon local authorities and their partners to develop local panels to provide support for vulnerable people who might be at risk of being radicalised, or drawn into terrorism.

One strand of the Counter Terrorism Strategy established by the Home Office is known as “Prevent”. The aim of ‘Prevent’ is to have clear and open communication with colleagues in other organisations to share information and intelligence and to use professional judgement to decide when and where to intervene. The lead for ‘Prevent’ sits with the Shropshire Community Safety Partnership. Shropshire is an area of relatively low risk. Nevertheless, Shropshire is vulnerable to:

- a. Lone Actors (individuals undertaking activity on their own)
- b. Community tensions resulting in isolation of either individuals or groups;
- c. Public order incidents/community tensions resulting from domestic extremism.

9.14 Public Reassurance and Community Engagement – Tackling Crime and increasing public confidence

The ONS publish figures on the levels and trends of crime in England and Wales and they publish these figures based, primarily, on two sets of crime statistics: the Crime Survey for England and Wales (CSEW) and police recorded crime data. Each source has different strengths and limitations but together they provide a more comprehensive picture of crime than could be obtained from either series alone.

The total number of recorded crimes in Shropshire, between April 2015 and March 2016, was 14,276. Over the last 12-24 months, domestic burglary, criminal damage

and arson, sexual offences, rape, violence against the person with injury and violence against the person without injury and domestic abuse have all increased in Shropshire. The rate of some of these crimes have increased significantly. Nevertheless, Shropshire records the lowest rate in West Mercia for criminal damage and arson, sexual offences, rape and violence against the person with injury.

National research undertaken by Ipsos Mori and the British Crime Survey recorded a number of misconceptions about crime held by the British public. One being that, even when crime rates are falling, people do not believe they are falling. In the national and regional context, despite recorded crime increasing in recent years, Shropshire is still one of the safest places to live, work and visit.

A key challenge for the Partnership is to ensure that where and when reductions are seen in crime and disorder, these are translated into feelings of safety and confidence in towns, villages and communities across the County. The Shropshire Community Safety Partnership recognises that there is a need to tell local communities what is happening and what is being done and why.

10. Comparison of recorded crimes and crime rates within West Mercia Police Service area

Set out below is a comparison of the number of recorded crimes and the rates of these crimes in the year April 2015 to March 2016 in Shropshire, Telford and Wrekin, Hereford and West Mercia (as comparators).

Crime recorded	Telford & Wrekin	Shropshire	Hereford	West Mercia Force
	Number (Rate/1000)	Number (Rate/1000)	Number (Rate/1000)	Number (Rate/1000)
Total recorded crime (excluding fraud)	13118 (77)	14250 (46)	9878 (53)	72637 (58)
Violence against the person	4503 (27)	4631 (15)	3097 (17)	22932 (18)
Violence with injury	1945 (11)	1969 (6)	1312 (7)	9658 (8)
Violence without injury	2558 (15)	2660 (9)	1783 (10)	13264 (11)
Sexual offences	606 (4)	557 (2)	440 (2)	2789 (2)
Theft offences	4770 (28)	5857 (19)	3736 (20)	29169 (23)
Burglary	1321 (8)	1654 (5)	995 (5)	7683 (6)
Domestic burglary	669 (4)	547 (2)	315 (2)	2916 (2)
Non-domestic burglary	652 (4)	1107 (4)	680 (4)	4747 (4)
Vehicle offences	686 (4)	864 (3)	520 (3)	5430 (4)
Theft from the person	65 (0.38)	122 (0.39)	86 (0.45)	581 (0.46)
Bicycle theft	176 (1)	228 (1)	217 (1)	1120 (1)
Shoplifting	1234 (7)	1212 (4)	700 (4)	6391 (5)

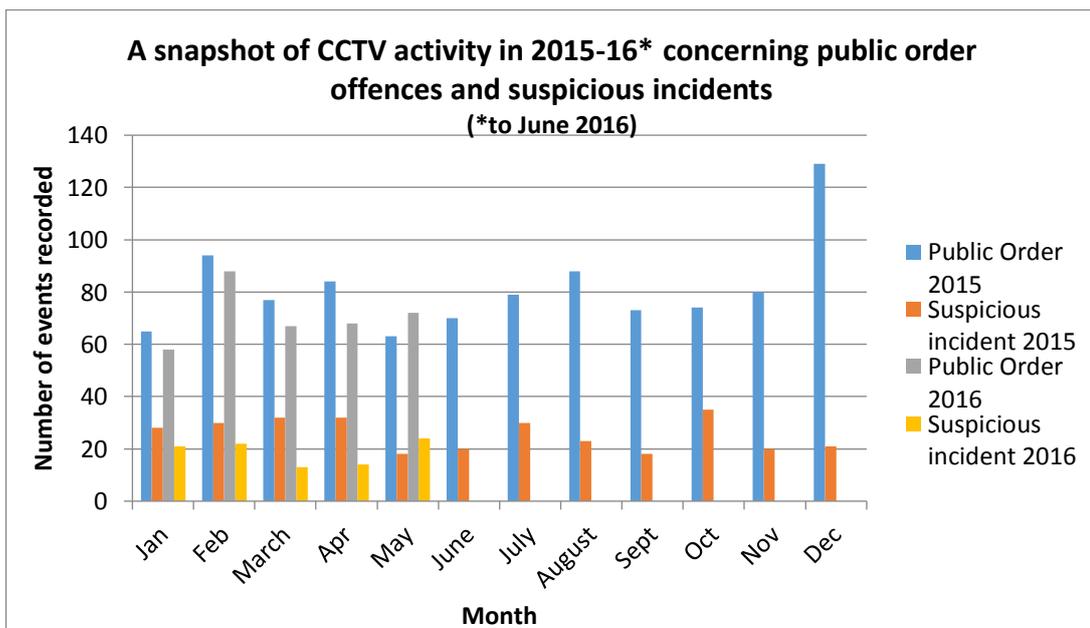
All other theft offences	1288 (8)	1777 (6)	1218 (7)	7984 (6)
Criminal damage and arson	1885 (11)	1851 (6)	1294 (7)	9620 (8)
Drug offences	368 (2)	432 (1)	505 (3)	2758 (2)
Possession of weapons offences	92 (1)	90 (0.29)	79 (0.42)	509 (0.40)
Public order offences	544 (3)	499 (2)	470 (3)	3030 (2)
Miscellaneous crimes against society	229 (1)	263 (1)	217 (1)	1343 (1)

11. Young peoples' offending in Shropshire – January 2013 to January 2016

The rate of recorded crime by young people in Shropshire (at approximately 4.5 crimes per 1,000 young people aged 11-17) is also relatively low. Approximately 110 offences have been reported and recorded each year over the last three years. The majority of these crimes are categorised as violence against the person and theft and are committed by young people from the age of 15 to 17.

12. CCTV

If we examine the data gathered by the CCTV service that operates within the town centre of Shrewsbury and consider in particular the recording of public order offences and suspicious incidents, we can provide more context to the data concerning violence and the burden placed upon the victims and the services that respond to these events.



When we consider the CCTV data in a little more detail, we can also see that the greatest concentration of incidents recorded occur on a Friday, Saturday and Sunday.

13. Rural crime

Shropshire is a large rural county with many small and isolated communities. In September 2015 the National Rural Crime Network (NRCN) published its survey into crime and the cost of crime to people who live and run businesses in the rural areas of England, Wales and Northern Ireland. The survey illustrated a number of key issues, including:

- The financial impact of crime on rural economy is significant
- The fear of crime is relatively high and increasing
- The survey suggested that 39% of rural people are very or fairly worried about becoming a victim of crime, compared to 19% nationally.
- There appears to be low satisfaction rates of police performance in rural areas
- The survey suggested that crime is under reported in rural areas (including civil offences such as fly-tipping)
- The survey indicated that there were two issues of great concern to the rural community and these issues were not solely, if at all, police matters. One was road safety (63%), which the police play a crucial part in, but which they cannot resolve without working with partners, and the other was fly-tipping, which is now a civil offence (61%).

According to the data from the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner, Rural crime equated to 14% of the total recorded crime rate in Shropshire in 2014, compared to 23% across West Mercia as a whole. Rural crime decreased by 13% in the period between 2010 and 2014. However, there is a 25% increase when comparing 2014 and 2015 on a year to date basis.