

Oxfordshire Strategic Intelligence Assessment 2017

INTRODUCTION AND EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

1. Introduction

The Strategic Intelligence Assessment (SIA) provides information about crime and community safety in Oxfordshire. It aids understanding of emerging trends and patterns in crime and disorder, and it explores future threats and opportunities. The SIA is part of the evidence base which supports community safety partners to plan and target their work.

This 2017 SIA updates the versions produced in April 2014, April 2015 and April 2016. The following sources of data have been used:

- Crime data published by the Office for National Statistics in January 2017 (data running to September 2016) which allows for comparisons with national averages and similar areas
- Locally sourced data from Thames Valley Police, running to December 2016
- Other local and national datasets, as referenced throughout the report and in Appendix A

New datasets added since the last version include:

- Victims of abuse and exploitation (in addition to incidents and crimes)
- Victims of violence and sexual offences aged 65 and over
- Cyber related Offences
- Alcohol related crime
- Rural crime

There are important overlaps between the SIA and Oxfordshire's Joint Strategic Needs Assessment (JSNA), which contains information relevant to the health and wellbeing of the county's population. The JSNA is available at the following link: <http://insight.oxfordshire.gov.uk/cms/joint-strategic-needs-assessment>.

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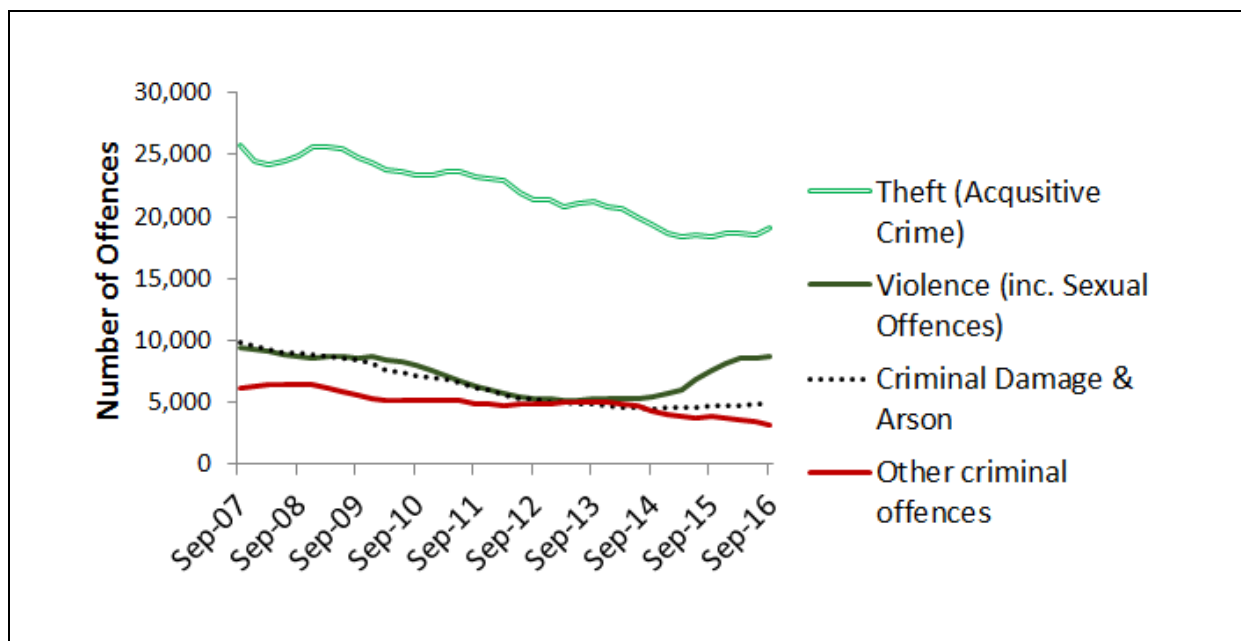
2. Executive Summary

- In the 12 months to the end of September 2016, there was a total of **35,856 police recorded crimes** in Oxfordshire.
- Long-term trends for Oxfordshire show a fall in the number of crimes – by **30%** in the nine years since 2007 and by **1%** in the three years since 2013.
- However, the number of crimes rose between 2015 and 2016 – from 34,516 to 35,856, an increase of 1,340 or **3.9%**. Over the same period, crime in England and Wales increased by 8.8%. The increase in the number of Violence and Sexual Offences is likely to be due, at least in part, to improved compliance by police forces with national recording standards (NCRS). Numbers of crimes in these crime groups have also increased nationally.
- In most cases, Oxfordshire's crime rates per 1,000 people in the population remained below the national average in the 12 months to the end of September 2016.
- Across the county's five districts, Oxford City had the highest rates of most crime types.
- Comparing each district with its set of "most similar areas" shows that the overall crime rate was above average in Cherwell, similar to average in Oxford and South Oxfordshire and below average in Vale of White Horse, and West Oxfordshire.
- Other community safety and crime data shows that:
 - **Anti-social behaviour:** Police data show that there were **9,177 incidents** in the 2016 calendar year, an increase of 1.3% compared with 2015.
 - **Domestic abuse:** There were **3,146 recorded crimes** in the 2016 calendar year, an increase of 0.8% compared with 2015. There were **33,463 non crime occurrences**,¹ an increase of 7.2% compared with 2015
 - **Exploitation:** There is continued focus on issues of child and adult exploitation, including, in particular, child sexual exploitation and modern slavery. In 2016, Thames Valley Police recorded a total of 169 victims of Child Sexual Exploitation in Oxfordshire, a slight increase from 2015 (163).
 - **Hate incidents:** Between 2015 and 2016, in Oxfordshire there was:
 - An **increase** in the number of recorded hate incidents (which were non-crime occurrences) from 296 in 2015 to 470 in 2016 (+59%). This was above the increase across Thames Valley of +55%.
 - A **decrease** in the number of recorded hate crimes from 381 in 2015 to 340 in 2016 (-11%). Across Thames Valley there was an increase of +1.6%.

¹ Non crime occurrences are incidents which have come to the attention of the police, and would normally amount to a notifiable crime, but a resultant crime has not been recorded.

- **Doorstep crime:** Oxfordshire County Council's Trading Standards team recorded a total of **390** doorstep crime incidents in 2015/16, a slight increase (+3%) from the previous year.
- **Mental health detentions:** In 2016 there were **312 detentions** under Section 136 of the Mental Health Act, up from 274 in 2015 (+14%).
- **Re-offending:** the **adult** re-offending rate in Oxfordshire in 2014 was **24.6%**. This was the same as the national rate and the same as the level in Oxfordshire in 2013. **Juvenile** re-offending rates fell – from 31.2% in 2013 to **29.5% in 2014**.
- **Road traffic accidents:** **361 people** were reported to the police as killed and seriously injured on Oxfordshire's roads in 2015. This was a 4% reduction on the number killed or seriously injured in 2014 (378).

Long-term trends in recorded crime in Oxfordshire, broken down by crime category



Source: ONS Police Recorded Crime Statistics (January 2017 data release); for a list of crimes included in each category see the full Strategic Intelligence Assessment 2017 report