

Safer Oxfordshire Partnership

Strategic Intelligence Assessment 2020

SUMMARY REPORT

April 2020

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The Strategic Intelligence Assessment (SIA) provides information about crime and community safety in Oxfordshire on behalf of the [Safer Oxfordshire Partnership](#).

This 2020 report uses data from:

- Office for National Statistics: police recorded crime for year ending September 2019 (published January 2020)
- Thames Valley Police: incidents, crimes and victims for January to December 2019
- Ministry of Justice (published via LG Inform): re-offending
- Public Health England: alcohol and drug use
- Oxfordshire County Council: doorstep crime, road casualties.

The [current and previous Strategic Intelligence Assessments for Oxfordshire](#) are available on Oxfordshire Insight.

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.

1. Trends

National crime trends

- The national Crime Survey data (year ending September 2019) shows:
 - No significant change in overall levels of crime;
 - Continued rises in overall fraud, with a 9% increase in the year ending September 2019, driven by a rise in “bank and credit account fraud”.
 - All other main crime types measured by the CSEW showed no change, including lower-harm violent offences (for example, violence without injury and assault with minor injury).

Oxfordshire crime trends and comparisons

- Between (year ending September) 2018 and 2019, police recorded crime in Oxfordshire increased by 3.7%. By district the change was Cherwell -5.2%; Oxford +5.2%; South Oxfordshire +7.2%; Vale of White Horse +2.9% and West Oxfordshire +15.8%.
- The crime severity score has increased nationally. In Oxfordshire the crime severity score remained similar in Cherwell, Oxford and South Oxfordshire and increased (from a lower base) in Vale of White Horse and West Oxfordshire.
- *Bicycle theft* in Oxfordshire has remained above (worse than) the national average. *Shoplifting* in Oxfordshire is now below average. Other crime categories remain below average.
- Between (year ending September) 2018 and 2019, there were increases in police recorded crimes of violence, stalking and harassment, sexual offences, vehicle offences, and other crimes against society including drugs, weapons and public order offences in Oxfordshire. Some of these increases will be due to changes in recording of crimes.
- For year ending June 2019, a comparison of Oxfordshire’s districts each within their most similar group of 15 areas (with 1 = highest crime rate area) shows:
 - Cherwell ranked 8th
 - Oxford ranked 7th
 - South Oxfordshire ranked 12th
 - Vale of White Horse ranked 15th
 - West Oxfordshire ranked 14th
- Crime types that were above average (compared with similar areas) AND increasing (trend July-June 2018 to July-June 2019) were: Drugs offences and “Other crime”, each in Cherwell district.
- According to the Crime domain of the IMD 2019, Oxfordshire had 6 areas (out of 407 in the county) ranked within the 10% most deprived nationally of which 5 areas have become relatively more crime-deprived since the 2015 IMD.

Victims of abuse and exploitation

- Between (Jan-Dec) 2018 and 2019 there were increases in the number of police recorded victims of abuse and exploitation in Oxfordshire for...
 - Domestic abuse victims - increased by 2% to 11,779;
 - Hate crime victims - increased by 6% to 934;
 - Modern slavery victims - increased by 17% to 168 (mainly as a result of changes in recording practice);
 - Honour-based violence – increased by 29% to 44 recorded victims.
- The number of younger and older victims have each increased.
 - Child victims of crime (aged 0-17) – increased by 12% to 3,939;
 - Older victims of violence (aged 65+) - increased by 2% to 377.
- Between 2018 and 2019, there were increases in racist crimes and occurrences, homophobic crimes and occurrences in Oxfordshire and transphobic occurrences.
- Oxford City had the greatest number of hate crimes in each category and accounted for most of the increase in racist crimes and occurrences.
- Over half of victims of domestic abuse in Oxfordshire in 2019 were subject to repeat occurrences in the year and over a quarter of victims of Rape, Modern Slavery, CSE and Honour-based violence.

Offending and re-offending

- In 2019/20 there was a total of 3 young people in Oxfordshire given a custodial sentence, below each of the previous years (11 in 2018/19 and 9 in 2017/18).
- As of 2018/19, the rate (per population aged 10-17) of first-time entrants to the Youth Justice System in Oxfordshire was below previous years and slightly above the average for English County Local Authorities.
- Between 2017/18 and 2018/19, the number of juvenile offenders and re-offenders had each gone down in Oxfordshire, the re-offending rate per population has stayed similar.
 - In Cherwell and Vale of White Horse district, the juvenile re-offending rate was above the Oxfordshire average, however, similar to the England & Wales averages.
 - Note that, although the rate of juvenile offenders and re-offenders has declined, those who are in the Youth Justice System (YJS) are more complex than before.
- The adult re-offending rate in Oxfordshire was below the previous year and similar to the national rate. Rates in Cherwell and Oxford City were each above the Oxfordshire and England & Wales averages.

Fraud and cyber-related crime

- There has been a fall in the number of recorded victims of doorstep crime in Oxfordshire.
- The number of fraud offences passed to Thames Valley Police by Action Fraud has increased significantly in Oxfordshire, just below the increase across Thames Valley.
- The number of cyber-related offences has fallen - the previous year's count was inflated by the activities of a single person in South Oxfordshire.

Mental health, alcohol and drugs

- Between 2018 and 2019, there was significant increase in mental health (section 136) detentions in Oxfordshire.
- According to the 2018 Health survey for England, alcohol consumption by children (nationally) has continued to decline.
- The rate of hospital admissions for alcohol-specific conditions in females under 18 in Oxfordshire has remained above the England average. The rate for males in Oxfordshire has remained similar to average.
- Drug arrests of under 18s has declined.
- Compared with England, in 2018/19 hospital admissions for alcohol-related conditions (all people, all ages) were better than average in Oxfordshire and each of Oxfordshire's districts.
- The rate of drugs-related deaths (2016 to 2018) in Oxfordshire remains significantly lower than England and the South East.
- The number of police-recorded crimes related to alcohol in Oxfordshire has remained at a similar level in 2019, following a doubling of the number in the previous year. The rate per population in 2019 was highest in Oxford City.

Knife crime

- Between 2018 and 2019 there was an increase in the number of crimes related to the possession of a knife in Oxfordshire, just above the increase across the Thames Valley region.
- The 167 possession of knife crimes in Oxfordshire in 2019 involved 137 recorded offenders, 37 of whom were aged under 18 and 27 victims (3 were aged under 18).
- In 2019 there were 335 violent, sexual and robbery offences recorded in Oxfordshire where a sharp or bladed implement was linked to the offence as a weapon. This was 7% above the number in 2018 (312). The increase across Thames Valley was +6%.

Road casualties

- Between 2018 and 2019, the total number of police-reported road traffic casualties in Oxfordshire declined by 8.5%. The number of child casualties also declined (from 115 in 2018 to 98 in 2019).
- The age group with the highest number of road accident casualties in Oxfordshire in 2019 for both males and females was aged 25-34.
- In the last five-year period 2015 to 2019 there was 237 road traffic accidents in Oxfordshire where at least one driver either failed an alcohol breath test or refused to provide a sample when requested.
- This latest data puts Oxfordshire above the national average on the crude rate of alcohol-related road traffic accidents (per 1,000 accidents), although both follow a similar trend pattern up to 2018 (latest available national data) and compare similarly to Oxfordshire's statistical neighbours.

Rural crime

- Oxfordshire is the most rural county in the South East.
- Between 2018 and 2019 there was a decline in the number of rural crimes (offences meeting the rural definition) in Oxfordshire from 169 in 2018 to 127 in 2019 (-25%).

2. In numbers

All recorded crime in Oxfordshire

Oct 2018 to Sept 2019

Total 43,469



By major crime type

Theft, 19,478

Violence, 12,551

Criminal damage & arson, 4,735

Other, 4,800

Sexual, 1,596

Robbery, 309

Recorded victims

| | |
|----------------------------|--------|
| Domestic Abuse | 11,779 |
| Hate crime | 934 |
| Rape | 698 |
| Modern slavery | 168 |
| Child Sexual Exploitation | 78 |
| Honour-based violence | 44 |
| Female Genital Mutilation | 2 |
| Child victims of crime | 3,939 |
| Older victims of violence | 377 |
| Victims of doorstep crime* | 277 |

Selected offences and arrests

| | |
|--------------------------------------|-------|
| Alcohol-related crimes | 2,221 |
| Cyber-related offences | 727 |
| Action fraud offences | 670 |
| Section 136 mental health detentions | 426 |
| Knife crimes | 335 |
| Rural crimes | 127 |
| Under 18s arrests for drug offences | 115 |
| Road casualties# (2018) | 1,513 |

Jan to Dec 2019

Source: Thames Valley Police Crime Recording System - Niche RMS *Oxfordshire County Council 2018-19; #Oxfordshire County Council

3. Severity of crime

The [crime severity score](#) uses (latest 5 years of) sentencing data – custodial sentences, community orders and fines - from the Ministry of Justice as the primary source for calculating offence weights. Once the weights have been calculated for each individual offence, these are multiplied by the number of incidents recorded by the police. For each year this is then summed and divided by the mid-year population estimate, to give the Crime Severity Score.

Applying the crime severity score upweights violence against the person, sexual offences and robbery and downweights theft, criminal damage & arson and other crimes against society.

The crime severity score has increased nationally. In Oxfordshire the crime severity score remained similar in Cherwell, Oxford and South Oxfordshire and increased (from a lower base) in Vale of White Horse and West Oxfordshire.

Figure 1 Trend in crime rates per 1,000 population and crime severity score - Oxfordshire's districts (to year ending March)



Source: ONS ((released October 2019, next release April 2020); The [Crime Severity Score](#) published by ONS gives more severe offence categories a higher weight than less severe ones. [Please note different axes]

4. Comparisons with Similar Areas

The following table summarises the police recorded crime rate comparison and trend for all districts.

Crime types that were above average (compared with similar areas) AND increasing (trend between 12 months to June 2018 and June 2019) were:

- Drugs offences and “Other crime” in Cherwell

Table 1 Oxfordshire districts - recorded crime rate comparison (12 months to June 2019) and trend 12 months to June 2018 and June 2019

| | Cherwell | | Oxford | | South Oxfordshire | | Vale of White Horse | | West Oxfordshire | |
|-------------------------|----------|---|---------|---|-------------------|---|---------------------|---|------------------|---|
| All crime | Average | ↓ | Average | ↑ | Below | ↓ | Below | ↑ | Below | ↑ |
| Bicycle theft | Average | ↓ | Above | ↓ | Average | ↓ | Average | ↓ | Average | ↓ |
| Burglary | Below | ↓ | Average | ↓ | Below | ↓ | Below | ↓ | Below | ↓ |
| Criminal damage & arson | Average | ↓ | Average | ↓ | Average | ↓ | Below | ↓ | Below | ↓ |
| Drugs | Above | ↑ | Average | ↓ | Below | ↑ | Average | ↑ | Average | ↑ |
| Other crime | Above | ↑ | Average | ↑ | Below | ↓ | Below | ↑ | Below | ↑ |
| Other theft | Above | ↓ | Above | ↓ | Average | ↓ | Below | ↓ | Below | ↓ |
| Possession of weapons | Average | ↓ | Average | ↑ | Below | ↑ | Below | ↑ | Below | ↑ |
| Public order | Below | ↑ | Below | ↑ | Below | ↑ | Below | ↑ | Below | ↑ |
| Robbery | Average | ↓ | Average | ↑ | Below | ↔ | Below | ↓ | Below | ↓ |
| Shoplifting | Above | ↓ | Average | ↓ | Average | ↓ | Below | ↓ | Below | ↓ |
| Theft from the person | Above | ↓ | Above | ↓ | Average | ↓ | Average | ↓ | Above | ↑ |
| Vehicle crime | Average | ↓ | Average | ↑ | Average | ↓ | Below | ↑ | Below | ↑ |
| Violence & sexual | Average | ↑ | Average | ↑ | Below | ↑ | Below | ↑ | Below | ↑ |

Source: HMICFRS (September 2019 data release), rate calculated using ONS 2018 mid-year population estimate. NOTE: crime rate comparison is for 12 months to June 2019, trend is for 12 months to June 18 and 12 months to June 2019.

For the comparison with most similar local authorities:¹

- “**Above**” means that the crime rate was within the highest 25% for the corresponding “similar areas group”
- “**Average**” means that the crime rate was within the middle 50% for the corresponding “similar areas group”
- “**Below**” means that the crime rate was within the lowest 25% for the corresponding “similar areas group”

For each district authority the change in crime rate:

- “**↑**” means that for the 12 months ending 30th June 2019, the crime rate was **up** compared with the 12 months ending 30th June 2018.
- “**↔**” means that in 12 months ending 30th June 2019, the crime rate was **the same** (to one decimal place) compared with the 12 months ending 30th June 2018
- “**↓**” means that in the 12 months ending 30th June 2019, the crime rate was **down** compared with the 12 months ending 30th June 2018

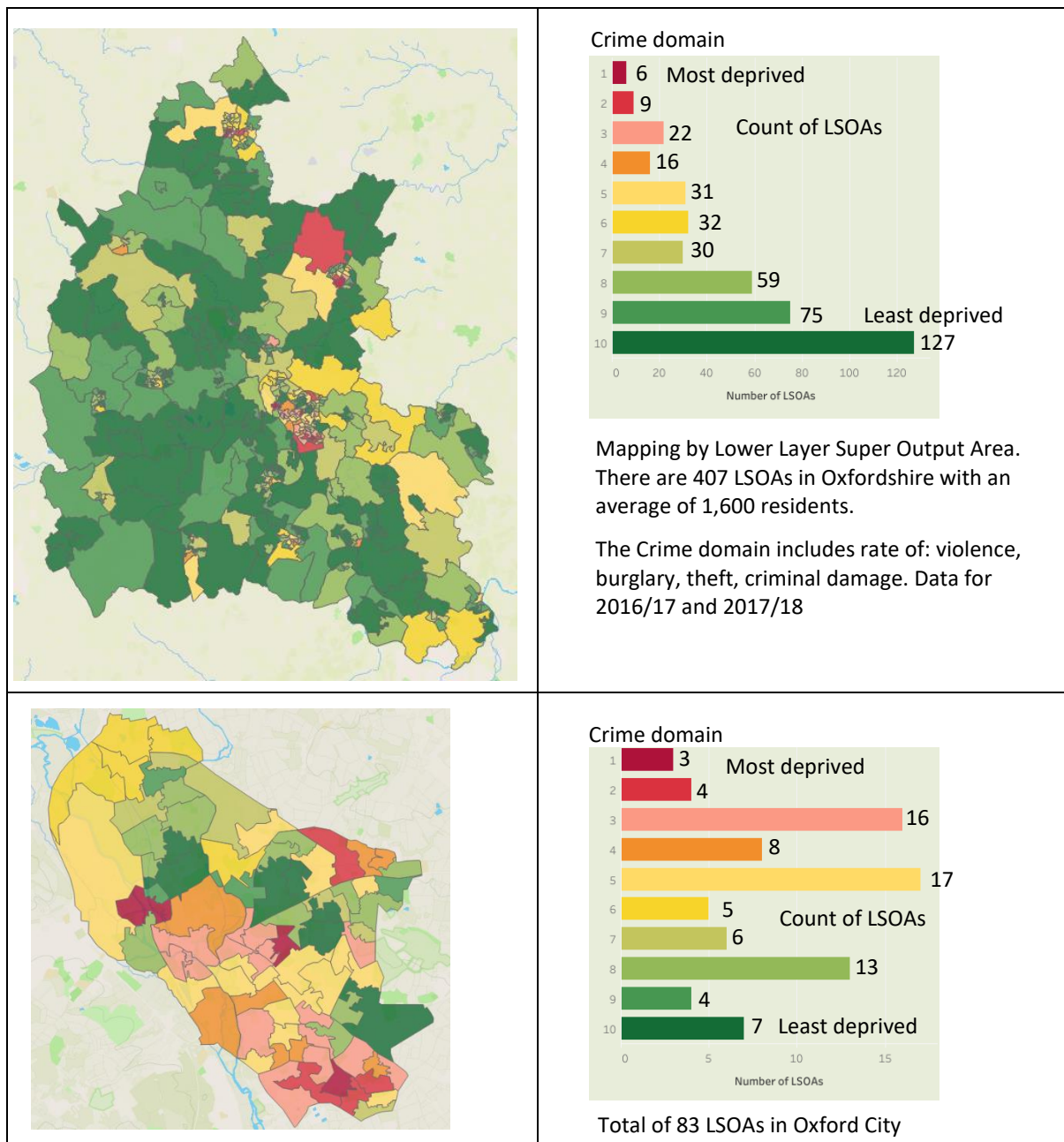
¹ A detailed methodology and statistical differences are explained in the compare your area user guide: http://policeuk.s3.amazonaws.com/iquanta/Compare_Your_Area-User_Guide.pdf

5. Indices of Deprivation 2019, crime domain

According to the most recent release of the Indices of Deprivation, Oxfordshire has 6 areas (out of 407) ranked in the most deprived 10% nationally on the crime domain and a further 9 areas within the most deprived 10% to 20%.

The 10% most deprived areas on crime include two areas of Banbury Ruscote, part of Bicester South and three areas in Oxford City (part of Jericho and Osney ward, part of St Clements and part of Northfield Brook).

Figure 2 Indices of Deprivation 2019 Crime Domain – Oxfordshire and Oxford City



Source: DCLG IMD 2019, maps from [Oxfordshire Insight Tableau dashboard](#)