

Safer Harrow Management Group Strategic Assessment 2009 Executive Summary

Harrow's overall crime performance

- There were 15297 total notifiable offences (TNO) in Harrow in 2009; this represents an approximate increase of 3% - 4% compared to 2008¹
- The most recent TNO figures, for 1st April 2009 – 21st February 2010, show that crime in Harrow increased by 2% compared to the same period in 2008/09.
- For the corresponding periods in London as whole, crime fell by 1%.
- There were substantial increases in several categories of offences:
 - Domestic violence: 13%
 - Residential burglary: 11%
 - Criminal damage: 6%
 - Racist offences: 20%
- There were substantial reductions in the following offences:
 - Theft of vehicle: 31%
 - Robbery of the person and commercial robbery: 18% and 12% respectively
 - Possession of drugs: 13%

Residential burglary

- There were 1738 residential burglaries in Harrow in 2009, an increase of 11% on 2008
- Although residential burglary is less likely than many other crime types to be concentrated in particular areas, the dominant hotspots were:
 - The border of Roxeth and Roxbourne
 - Wealdstone
 - The border of Queensbury and Kenton East
- Approximate 50% of those arrested for burglary were not from Harrow
- Burglaries were spread evenly over days, with 14:00 to 19:00 being the peak time period
- The most common item to be stolen was cash, followed by necklaces and laptops

Domestic violence

- There were 1247 domestic violence offences in 2009, a 13% increase from 2008, which in turn increased by 26% from 2007
- Three quarters of victims were female, with 20-29 the peak age of victim closely followed by 30-39 year olds

¹ Changes in recording of some assault offences means that this comparison is an estimate

- There were relatively few offences reported by victims under 20; this might be due to under-reporting in this age group
- The ethnicities of reported victims were representative of the borough as a whole
- About 90% of suspects were male, with a disproportionately high number of Black suspects

Theft from vehicles

- There were 1623 theft from vehicles in 2009 an increase of 3% from 2008
- There were two main hotspots: Stanmore Park and the south end of Hatch End ward on the border of Wealdstone ward
- Almost 2/3 of theft from vehicles took place on streets, with theft from vehicles on driveways the second highest category
- Number plates were the item most frequently stolen, followed by satellite navigation systems then cash
- Suspects were typically male, under 30 with half of suspects described as White and approximately a quarter each were Black and Asian

Theft of Vehicles

- There were 335 vehicle thefts in 2009 a decrease of 31% from 2008
- In approximately 75% of cases, the vehicles were stolen from the street, compared to 4% from ground level car parks
- One quarter of vehicles were recovered intact and a further 20% recovered in a damaged state

Alcohol related crime and disorder

- During the SA time period there were 660 alcohol related calls to the London Ambulance Service (LAS)
- Alcohol related calls to the LAS have increased markedly in recent years and have also spread geographically from Harrow Town Centre to surrounding areas including the Wealdstone corridor
- Top three incidents requiring assistance in relation to alcohol were: unconscious/fainting, overdose/poisoning and sick person
- Top three wards for alcohol calls were; Greenhill (108 incidents), Harrow Weald (53 Incidents) and Marlborough (51 Incidents)
- It is not possible to say authoritatively what proportion of offences in Harrow are alcohol related, but other national estimates indicate the nearly half of violent offences are alcohol related, with 37% of domestic violence and 58% of stranger violence²

² British Crime Survey

Drug offences and related offending

- There were 838 possess offences in 2009 a 12% decrease from 2008.
- There were 71 supply offences in 2009 compared to 62 in 2008
- Cannabis was by a substantial margin the most commonly detected drug, followed by Cocaine then Heroin
- During the SA time period there were 329 calls for drug related incidents to LAS
- Top three incidents requiring assistance in relation to drugs were: overdose/poisoning, unconscious/fainting and psychological/abnormal behaviour/suicide attempt
- Top three wards for drug calls were: Greenhill (30 incidents), Harrow Weald (30 incidents) and Stanmore Park (29 incidents)

Offending on buses and at bus stations

- Between August 2008 and July 2009 there were 1121 incidents reported on buses or bus stations in Harrow
- The 140 route (222 incidents) and H12 route (199 incidents) were the routes on which the most incidents were recorded
- The top locations of concern were College Road, Northholt Road and Station Road

Hate crime

- There were 279 racist offences in 2009 an increase of 20% on 2008
- Comparatively higher levels of racist offences are recorded in Harrow. Of 15 boroughs which comprise Harrow's Family Group, Harrow recorded the third highest number of racist offences
- Greenhill ward recorded the most racist offences followed by Wealdstone
- Victims of racist offences covered a broad age range from 20 to 49
- Asians and females made up a disproportionate share of victims
- Suspects cover a broad age range
- Over 2/3 of offences committed by White suspects

Offences on trains and train and underground stations

- Between October 2008 and September 2009 there were 788 incidents reported on train and train stations in Harrow
- The top three stations reporting the most crime were Harrow on the Hill (336 incidents), Harrow & Wealdstone (97 incidents) and South Harrow (86 incidents)
- 24% or 189 incidents comprised fraud or fare disputes
- Top three incidents reported were; travel fraud, graffiti and possession of cannabis

Fire Service related reports

- The top three wards with the most calls to the fire brigade were: Greenhill 10.9% (252 incidents), Canons 8.7% (203 incidents) and Stanmore Park 7.6% (177 incidents)
- There were 153 recorded arson offences in 2008/09
- Peak times for the Fire Brigade were typically around 18:00 and 19:00 on Fridays and Saturdays
- Top three calls for the Fire Brigade were; Fire 54% (1250 Incidents), AFA (Automatic Fire Alarm) 13% (301 Incidents) and lift persons shut in 5% (118 Incidents)

Business crime

- 2001 business crimes³ were recorded in Harrow in 2009 a decrease of 1% on 2008. Business offences in London as whole increased by 1% in 2009 compared to 2008
- The number of Harrows' business crimes per 1000 population places it the third lowest in London

Offending by young People

- Harrow has the third lowest violent youth offending of London's 33 boroughs
- 590 young people were arrested in Harrow in 2008/09. This in an 11% increase on 2007/08, but slightly lower than the number of arrests for 2006/07
- There were 183 arrests for first time entrants in 2008/09, compared to 164 in 2007/08 and 145 in 2006/07
- Offences for which young people were disproportionately likely to be suspects include robbery and arson
- Young people were most likely to be arrested for theft and handling offences
- Young people hanging round was most likely to be seen as a problem in Wealdstone ward, where 83% perceived this to be a problem
- Young Black offenders are strongly over-represented and young Asian offenders were strongly under-represented in offending in Harrow

Assault

- There were 1622 assaults between April 2009 and December 2009, an increase of 7% over the same period in 2008. (Counting changes make it difficult to compile reliable figures before this time)

³ This comprises commercial robbery and burglary, fraud and theft from shop offences. Many other offences which impact on businesses such as criminal damage and assault are not included here.

- In ascending order of seriousness there were 669 common assaults, 817 assaults with injury and 196 grievous bodily harm offences (GBH)
- Common assaults increased by 25%, assault with injury fell 4% and GBH increased by 10%
- ABH and common assault take place most frequently in the Town Centre
- Greenhill ward recorded approximately twice as many offences as the ward with the second highest number offences
- Offences often take place in and around public houses. Alcohol is believed to be a factor in most assault cases
- GBH has a more even geographical distribution
- Both suspects and victims have a peak age of 20-29, with males comprising 80% of suspects, but relatively even number of male and female victims
- There was a disproportionately high level of Black suspects and a disproportionately low level of Asian suspects

Robbery of the person & snatch

- There were 404 robberies against the person in 2009 a decrease of 18% on 2008
- Greenhill ward was the dominant hotspot with 17% of all offences, followed by Queensbury and Harrow on the Hill
- The peak victim age group was 10-19 closely followed by 20-29
- Asians were the largest victim groups closely followed by Whites
- Black suspects account for about half of suspects, followed by White suspects.

Anti-social behaviour

There was an increase in the number of recorded incidents of main categories of ASB recorded by the Council: noise, fly tipping, graffiti and abandoned vehicles. A total of 13789 incidents (Last year: 10022) were recorded in Harrow for the Strategic Assessment resulting in an increase of 37.6%. This increase, however, reflects an increase in the proactivity of the Council rather than an increase in reported incidents.

➤ **Vehicle reports**

- 1401 incidents were reported, an increase of 8.6% against the previous 12 months
- Reported hotspots include Kenton East, Edgware and Canons
- 3.6% or 50 vehicles were confirmed as untaxed, nuisance or an abandoned

➤ **Graffiti**

- 2864 incidents were recorded, an increase of 132.2% on the previous 12 months
- The main hotspots include Greenhill, Wealdstone and Harrow Weald
- Only 9% of all graffiti reports were made by the public
- Station Road, Rayners Lane and Cannon Lane were the top three streets for graffiti

➤ **Fly-tipping**

- 7773 incidents were recorded, an increase of 31.1% on the previous 12 months
- Hotspots include Edgware, Canons and Greenhill
- The top three streets were Kenton Lane, High Street, and Kenton Road. These streets account for 8.5% of all incidents reported

➤ **Noise**

- 1751 incidents were reported representing an increase of 19.2% from the previous 12 months
- Almost all noise complaints were made by the public
- The most common complaints were loud music / party, alarms and dog(s) barking
- Hotspots include Greenhill and Edgware

Perceptions of ASB

- Perceptions of ASB improved in all measured areas comparing 2009 with 2006
- Noisy neighbours or loud parties
 - Teenagers hanging around on the streets
 - Rubbish and litter lying around
 - Vandalism, graffiti and other deliberate damage to property or vehicles
 - People using or dealing drugs
 - People being drunk or rowdy in public places
 - Abandoned or burnt out cars

Emerging issues

- Neighbourhood champions. This is a scheme which enables trained residents to report crime and disorder problem in their area. Reports to Harrow Council started in January 2010
- While the recession has technically finished, unemployment and other consequences of the recession are likely to impact on offending in Harrow
- Over the next year Harrow Council is rolling out on an extensive scale a high-tech scheme, Smartwater, designed to reduce burglary and some other offence types