



**Council**

**Thursday 28 September 2023**

**Confirmation of Cabinet and Committee Recommendations and relevant  
Originating Background Papers**

<b>Item on Summons</b>	<b>Cabinet / Committee Recommendation</b>	<b>Originating Report</b>
	Recommendation I: Cabinet (29 June 2023)	
8.	Community Safety Strategy 2023 - 2026	Report of the Interim Assistant Director of Strategy and Partnerships (Pages 3 - 98)
	Recommendation I: Pension Board (12 July 2023)	
9.	Pension Board Annual Report 2022-23	Report of the Director of Finance and Assurance (Pages 99 - 106)

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**Report for: Cabinet**

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<b>Date of Meeting:</b>	29 June 2023
<b>Subject:</b>	Community Safety Strategy 2023-2026
<b>Key Decision:</b>	Yes - it affects the whole Borough
<b>Responsible Officer:</b>	Shumaila Dar - Interim Assistant Director of Strategy and Partnerships
<b>Portfolio Holder:</b>	Cllr Anjana Patel - Portfolio Holder for Environment and Community Safety
<b>Exempt:</b>	No
<b>Decision subject to Call-in:</b>	Yes
<b>Wards affected:</b>	All
<b>Enclosures:</b>	Appendix 1 Community Safety Strategy Appendix 2 Community Safety Dataset Appendix 3 Reference from the Overview and Scrutiny Committee (6 June 2023)

## **Section 1 – Summary and Recommendations**

This report sets out six key priorities for community safety in Harrow, informed by data analysis and consultation, which will contribute to the Council priority of a place that is clean and safe.

### **Recommendations:**

Cabinet is requested to:

1. To consider the new Community Safety Strategy and recommend to Council for approval;
2. To authorise the Interim Assistant Director of Strategy & Partnerships following consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Environment & Community Safety, to make any minor amendments to the strategy as necessary prior to the matter going to Council.

### **Reason (for recommendations):**

The strategy is a statutory requirement of the Safer Harrow Partnership.

## **Section 2 – Report**

### **Introductory paragraph**

Harrow Council is committed to restoring pride in Harrow by prioritising putting residents first, working to create a clean and safe borough and supporting those in need. We will deliver on the flagship action of a borough that is clean and safe, ensuring that residents and visitors to Harrow are and feel safe. Harrow is one of the safest boroughs in London and we will strive to maintain this position while reducing the fear of crime.

The three-year strategy set out in this report provides a clear vision and comprehensive delivery plan for how the Safer Harrow Partnership will deliver our community safety priorities, how each priority will be measured, and progress monitored. Working with our statutory and VCS partners as well as residents, communities, local businesses and all our stakeholders will be instrumental in keeping the people of Harrow safe from crime and repeat victimisation and help us achieve our outcomes.

The Council vision is: Restoring Pride in Harrow.

The three Council priorities are:

- A council that puts residents first
- A borough that is clean and safe
- A place where those in need are supported

## **Options considered**

### 1. Approve the Community Safety Strategy

This is the preferred option.

### 2. Do not produce a Community Safety Strategy

This option was rejected because the strategy is a requirement under *The Crime and Disorder Act 1998*.

## **Background**

Producing a Community Safety Strategy is a legal requirement and it is important it remains current and reflects the changes in the borough. In addition, this updated strategy will allow the new Administration to set out its priorities for community safety in Harrow. The three-year strategy set out in Appendix 1 to this report provides a clear vision for how the Council and its partners will deliver this overarching priority of a safe borough, aligned to the flagship action of a borough that is clean and safe.

The Safer Harrow Partnership is responsible for this strategy through a multi-agency approach and is accountable for its effective implementation. In order to ensure that the priorities in this strategy are implemented, a number of workstreams will be established which will report back to the main group. All progress under each workstream will be monitored through quarterly reporting to the Safer Harrow Partnership in order to achieve the best possible outcomes.

The strategy outlines six community safety priorities for Harrow, and how each of these priorities will be measured, and progress monitored. These priorities were identified through the analysis of Harrow-specific data and trends, and were proposed by statutory and non-statutory partners at consultation workshops, and as such they are based on insight and evidence.

The six priorities for Community Safety in Harrow are:

- Tackling and reducing Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG)
- Reducing incidents of burglary / motor vehicle crime / robbery
- Reducing the number of violent incidents in the borough
- Tackling and reducing offences and harm caused by drugs
- Tackling Hate Crime
- Perception of crime

### **Tackling and reducing Violence Against Women and Girls**

The Safer Harrow Partnership is dedicated to tackling all forms of VAWG as part of our commitments to make Harrow a clean and safe borough, and to support the most vulnerable. This will also impact feelings of safety for women and girls in Harrow.

The Safer Harrow Partnership will work collaboratively to prevent and reduce incidents of violence against women and girls including domestic abuse, and continue to work to pursue perpetrators utilising all available legal tools. We will also enable survivors of domestic abuse to access support services which provide the required help. We continue to engage with women and girls to identify locations where they feel safe or at risk and increase the number of safe spaces in Harrow.

### **Reducing incidents of burglary / motor vehicle crime / robbery**

These high-volume crimes are visible and decrease feelings of safety for residents and as such, it is a focus of this strategy to implement initiatives that will reduce these crimes and increase feelings of safety in Harrow.

We will continue to collaborate as a partnership to share information and data to identify hotspot locations and oversee continued partnership working between the police and relevant council teams to support targeted initiatives.

### **Reducing the number of violent incidents in the borough**

To deliver a Harrow that is clean and safe, it is essential to address the issue of violence in the borough. This includes knife crime, which encompasses all criminal offences committed using a knife or a bladed article as a weapon.

The Safer Harrow Partnership will maintain close working relationships between the council, police and voluntary sector partners in order to raise awareness of violence and address this issue. This will see a robust strategic partnership approach to adolescent safeguarding, and the delivery of early intervention programmes aimed at reducing violence, gang-related activity and exploitation.

### **Tackling and reducing offences and harm caused by drugs**

The intent to supply, possession and use of illegal drugs in Harrow has implications for community safety as well as public health in the borough. This issue is closely linked to other criminal activities including burglary and robbery, gang-related activity, and violence. In addition, where it is clear that the use of drugs is taking place, it can decrease feelings of safety. Therefore, this is an issue we are prioritising and are committed to tackling through undertaking the following actions.

We will increase the number of people that are supported in Harrow with substance misuse issues through our providers. We will tackle the exploitation of young people by working with partners to create diversionary activities and opportunities to reduce the number of young people being drawn into crime, and will target known hotspot locations where drugs are used and / or distributed.

## **Tackling Hate Crime**

Community cohesion and resilience in Harrow has been strong, however, racist and religious hate crime is an area of concern for our diverse community and is a problem that has a great impact on feelings of safety in our borough.

Therefore, we will continue to work with our communities and local partners towards a goal of increased community cohesion. To do this we will promote hate crime reporting through a variety of diverse communication channels (including different languages and media) and provide robust support for victims of hate crime through better police support.

## **Perception of crime**

One of our priorities is to increase feelings of safety in Harrow for all residents and visitors. Current data demonstrates that Harrow remains one of the safest boroughs in London, but at times this may not align with perceptions of crime and feelings of safety in Harrow. However, we need to ensure that residents and visitors are not only safe, but also *feel* safe.

We will work with our partners on targeted initiatives to increase feelings of safety and reassurance.

## **Ward Councillors' comments**

Not applicable.

## **Performance Issues**

Performance will be tracked through the Community Safety Strategy Delivery Plan and quarterly reporting on the priority areas to the Safer Harrow Partnership.

## **Environmental Implications**

The creation of a new Community Safety Strategy within this report is an important aspect of delivering one of the priorities for Harrow over the next decade: A borough that is clean and safe.

## **Data Protection Implications**

Harrow Council is bound by a Data Sharing Agreement with its partners. This provides a commitment by the Parties to ensure that their contractors, managers and staff involved in the sharing of information ensure that it is shared safely and securely and shared in a way which respects an individual's right to privacy and in compliance with all applicable legislation, including the GDPR.

## **Risk Management Implications**

Risks included on corporate or directorate risk register? **Yes**

Separate risk register in place? **No**

The relevant risks contained in the register are attached/summarised below.  
**No**

The following key risks should be taken into account when agreeing the recommendations in this report:

Risk Description	Mitigations	RAG Status
<p>The Council fails to meet the legal requirement of producing a Community Safety Strategy</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Producing a Community Safety Strategy is a legal requirement under <i>The Crime and Disorder Act 1998</i> for all Community Safety Partnerships. This risk can be mitigated by approving the strategy, as per the above recommendation.</li> </ul>	<p><b>Green</b></p>
<p>There has been insufficient consultation and engagement with stakeholders on the strategy</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ The actions in the strategy were identified and formulated through consultation with the appropriate Portfolio Holder and relevant council officers and stakeholders including an assessment of financial viability and timescales for deliverability.</li> <li>▪ There has also been engagement with a range of stakeholders, including undertaking two consultation workshops, one for Members and another for VCS and statutory partners where follow-on/additional feedback was also sought and incorporated on an initial draft.</li> <li>▪ The Portfolio Holder has additionally been kept updated with progress and the timeline throughout the consultation process.</li> </ul>	<p><b>Green</b></p>

Risk Description	Mitigations	RAG Status
<p>The resources required to deliver the strategy are not specified, and/or, subsequently become insufficient to deliver it</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ The strategy is based on existing resources and will be reviewed and monitored to mitigate any changes.</li> <li>▪ The actions in the strategy were identified and formulated through consultation with the appropriate Portfolio Holder and relevant council officers and stakeholders including an assessment of financial viability including resources. Resources will be continually reviewed to ensure it is adequate to achieve the deliverables.</li> </ul>	<p><b>Green</b></p>
<p>Levels/sources of external funding also prove to be insufficient to deliver the strategy</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ The strategy is based on existing resources and will be reviewed and monitored to mitigate any changes.</li> <li>▪ The actions in the strategy were identified and formulated through consultation with the appropriate Portfolio Holder and relevant council officers and stakeholders including an assessment of financial viability including resources. Resources will be continually reviewed to ensure it is adequate to achieve the deliverables.</li> </ul>	<p><b>Green</b></p>
<p>The progress and success of the strategy cannot be quantified or measured and is not monitored or reported in a timely way</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ The Strategy has an operational delivery plan setting out the outcomes, the lead responsible agency and the measures that will be reported on.</li> <li>▪ Delivery against the Community Safety Strategy will be routinely reviewed, and progress reported quarterly,</li> </ul>	<p><b>Green</b></p>

Risk Description	Mitigations	RAG Status
	enabling adjustments or remedial action to be taken.	
The strategy lacks flexibility and cannot adapt to changing circumstances	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Delivery against the Community Safety Strategy will be routinely reviewed, and progress reported quarterly, enabling adjustments or remedial action to be taken.</li> </ul>	<b>Green</b>

## Procurement Implications

There are no direct procurement implications arising from the recommendations set out in this report. However, any procurement that is required to deliver the actions detailed in the Community Safety Strategy will be conducted consistent with the Public Contract Regulations 2015 and the Contract Procedure Rules and will be supported by the Corporate Procurement Team.

## Legal Implications

Article 3 of the Council’s Constitution sets out the policy framework of the Council. The Community Safety Strategy is a requirement under *The Crime and Disorder Act 1998*. The strategy should therefore be approved by Council.

## Financial Implications

The Community Safety Strategy is funded within the existing 2023/24 budget and Medium-Term Financial Strategy (MTFS). Some of the community safety priorities may be enhanced where it is possible to apply for external funding which will be at no further cost to the Council.

## Equalities implications / Public Sector Equality Duty

Decision makers should have due regard to the public sector equality duty in making their decisions. The equalities duties are continuing duties they are not duties to secure a particular outcome. The equalities impact will be revisited on each of the proposals as they are developed. Consideration of the duties should precede the decision. It is important that Cabinet has regard to the statutory grounds in the light of all available material such as consultation responses. The statutory grounds of the public sector equality duty are found at section 149 of the Equality Act 2010 and are as follows:

*A public authority must, in the exercise of its functions, have due regard to the need to:*

- (a) *eliminate discrimination, harassment, victimisation and any other conduct that is prohibited by or under this Act;*
- (b) *advance equality of opportunity between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it;*
- (c) *Foster good relations between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it.*  
*Having due regard to the need to advance equality of opportunity between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it involves having due regard, in particular, to the need to:*
- (a) *remove or minimise disadvantages suffered by persons who share a relevant protected characteristic that are connected to that characteristic;*
- (b) *take steps to meet the needs of persons who share a relevant protected characteristic that are different from the needs of persons who do not share it;*
- (c) *Encourage persons who share a relevant protected characteristic to participate in public life or in any other activity in which participation by such persons is disproportionately low.*  
*The steps involved in meeting the needs of disabled persons that are different from the needs of persons who are not disabled include, in particular, steps to take account of disabled persons' disabilities.*  
*Having due regard to the need to foster good relations between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it involves having due regard, in particular, to the need to:*
- (a) *Tackle prejudice, and*
- (b) *Promote understanding.*  
*Compliance with the duties in this section may involve treating some persons more favourably than others; but that is not to be taken as permitting conduct that would otherwise be prohibited by or under this Act.*

*The relevant protected characteristics are:*

- *Age*
- *Disability*
- *Gender reassignment*
- *Pregnancy and maternity*
- *Race*
- *Religion or belief*
- *Sex*
- *Sexual orientation*
- *Marriage and Civil partnership*

The development of a new Community Safety Strategy will support delivery of our equalities duties across the borough. Key priorities of the strategy include tackling hate crime and having a borough that is a place where those in need are supported. In order to achieve this, multiple datasets support identification of those groups who are not experiencing the same level of outcomes as others, enabling specific and targeted plans to be developed over the 3-year delivery window to improve outcomes.

## **Council Priorities**

While the Community Safety Strategy touches on the three council priorities identified in the Corporate Plan, the strategy is most closely aligned with priority two – a borough that is clean and safe.

1. **A council that puts residents first**
2. **A borough that is clean and safe**
3. **A place where those in need are supported**

## **Section 3 - Statutory Officer Clearance**

### **Statutory Officer: Sharon Daniels**

Signed on behalf of the Chief Financial Officer

**Date:** 26/05/2023

### **Statutory Officer: Isha Prince**

Signed on behalf of the Monitoring Officer

**Date:** 25/05/2023

### **Chief Officer: Alex Dewsnap**

Signed by the Managing Director

**Date:** 26/05/2023

### **Head of Procurement: Nimesh Mehta**

Signed by the Head of Procurement

**Date:** 25/05/2023

### **Head of Internal Audit: Neale Burns**

Signed on behalf of the Head of Internal Audit

**Date:** 08/06/2023

**Has the Portfolio Holder(s) been consulted?** Yes

## **Mandatory Checks**

**Ward Councillors notified:** NO, as it impacts on all Wards

**EqIA carried out:** YES

**EqIA cleared by:** Jennifer Rock

## **Section 4 - Contact Details and Background Papers**

**Contact:** Glenn Palmer, Policy Officer, 07926 072880,  
[Glenn.Palmer@harrow.gov.uk](mailto:Glenn.Palmer@harrow.gov.uk)

**Background Papers:** None

**Call-in waived by the Chair of Overview and Scrutiny Committee - NO**

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**DRAFT**

**Community Safety Strategy**

**2023 - 2026**

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## 1. Foreword from Portfolio Holder

Harrow is a vibrant and diverse borough - and we are one of the safest boroughs in London. While we take pride in this, we know we can do more to keep Harrow safe for our residents and visitors.

In our first year in office, we have listened to what Harrow people want. Our residents want to feel safe - and while we are a safe borough, we know it is not always how people feel.

With this in mind our Community Safety Strategy outlines our targets for a safer borough for 2023-2026. It looks at how we will work with our partners - including the police and the voluntary sector - to put our residents first and deliver a Borough that is clean and safe.

There are a number of things we are already doing to achieve this, like the launch of the Harrow Safer Spaces survey to identify where women, young girls and others feel unsafe in the borough. We will use feedback to identify where we can make improvements to our public spaces and have discussions with the community and partners such as the Police.

We know cleanliness has an impact on how safe residents feel and so we have taken a number of steps to improve the appearance of our borough. We continue to act against those who blight our borough by illegally dumping rubbish; rogue landlords who let dangerous and sub-standard private rented accommodation; and traders who operate illegally and with disregard for others.

We also work jointly with our partners when dealing with anti-social behaviour and crime. Over the last year a number of properties have been served closure notices – banning them from use, and in doing so restoring peace, law and order in our neighbourhoods.

While a lot of work is already taking place, there is more that we can do. This strategy outlines how we will help to reduce Violence against Women and Girls; incidents of burglary, motor crime and robbery; violent incidents; drug use; hate crime and the perception of crime in Harrow.

Our new Corporate Plan sets out our vision for the borough - restoring pride in Harrow. This sits at the heart of everything we do to ensure our borough is a great place to live, learn, work and visit.

Three core priorities fall under this which will help us drive decisions and the services we deliver for our residents. These are:

- a council that put residents first;
- a borough that is clean and safe, and
- a place that supports those in need.

As a resident and Harrow Council's Cabinet Member for Environment and Community Safety, I want Harrow to be a place where people feel proud to call home, and where they feel safe, supported, and have the opportunity to flourish.

It gives me great pleasure to introduce this Community Safety Strategy. By working together, we will create a borough that is clean and safe and where everyone genuinely feels safe.

### **Signature**

Anjana Patel  
Portfolio Holder for Community Safety and Environments

## 2. Introduction to the Community Safety Strategy

Under The Crime and Disorder Act 1998 each statutory Community Safety Partnership<sup>1</sup> is required to produce a Community Safety Strategy. This strategy outlines Safer Harrow Partnership's three-year plan on how we will work to create a Harrow that is safe and clean, ensuring Harrow remains one of the safest boroughs in London.

The priorities in this strategy set out below, have been identified through the analysis of crime trends and data, which have been considered with our statutory and non-statutory partners through a range of consultations. This engagement provided an opportunity to share what partners were seeing, hearing, and experiencing in Harrow and to contribute to the development of a clear picture of the key areas of community safety to prioritise.

<b>Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG)</b>
<b>Burglary &amp; Motor Vehicle Crime</b>
<b>Violence and violent incidents</b>
<b>Drugs<sup>2</sup></b>
<b>Hate Crime<sup>3</sup></b>
<b>Perception of Crime and Anti-Social Behaviour</b>

Work on each of these priorities will be considered alongside the Harrow Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy and the Adolescent Safeguarding Strategy, including a clear focus on mental health to support those most in need.

### Harrow Borough Context

Harlow is a diverse borough and includes:

- Harrow has 261,300 residents
- 51% of our population are female, with 49% being male
- 64% of our population come from a Black, Asian and Multi-ethnic background
- Average age of Harrow residents is 38 years

<sup>1</sup> The Safer Harrow Partnership includes representatives from the Council, the Metropolitan Police Service, Public Health, the Probation Service and Voluntary and Community Sector (VCS) organisations.

<sup>2</sup> While acknowledging that substance misuse is a broader issue that can include alcohol, this strategy is prioritising the reduction of offences and harm related to illegal drugs.

<sup>3</sup> A hate crime is defined as 'any criminal offence which is perceived by the victim or any other person, to be motivated by hostility or prejudice based on a person's race or perceived race; religion or perceived religion; sexual orientation or perceived sexual orientation; disability or perceived disability and any crime motivated by hostility or prejudice against a person who is transgender or perceived to be transgender.

*Harrow is the second safest borough (excluding the City of London) with only Richmond upon Thames having a lower number of notifiable offences per 1,000 people in 2022*

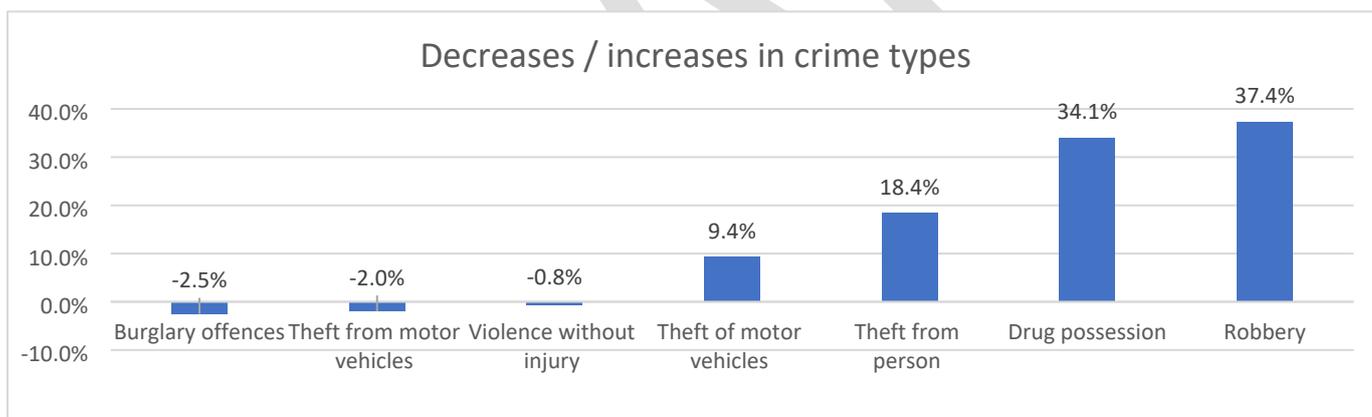
*Our objective is to ensure that Harrow remains one of the safest boroughs in London.*

From December 2021 to December 2022, the number of notifiable offences in Harrow increased by 2.6% compared to the previous twelve months and a further breakdown is outlined below. However, this was a smaller increase compared to the London-wide average, with Harrow having one of the lowest crime rate increases in London. During this period across London there was an average increase of 9.1% in notifiable offences.

The following figures highlight the levels of high harm and high-volume crimes in Harrow over the twelve months from December 2021 to December 2022 in comparison to the previous twelve-month period.

### High Volume Crime

- Violence without injury decreased by 0.8%
- Burglary offences decreased by 3.5%
- Theft from motor vehicles decreased by 2%
- Theft of motor vehicles increased by 9.4%
- Drug possession decreased by 34.1%
- Robbery increased by 37.4%
- Total theft from the person increased by 18.4%



**Figure 1:** High harm and high-volume crimes in Harrow over the twelve months from December 2021 to December 2022

### High Harm Crime

- Violence with injury increased by 13.9%
- Sexual offences decreased by 2.8%
- Knife crime increased by 24.1%
- Knife crime with injury decreased by 3.3%
- Domestic violence increased by 0.1%
- Domestic violence with injury increased 5.7%
- Intent to supply drugs increased by 33.9%
- Racist, religious hate crime increased 6.2%

### **3. A Clean and Safe Borough – Harrow’s Community Safety Priorities**

During our work to identify the community safety priorities for 2023 – 2026, the consultations highlighted the importance of a partnership approach to tackle community safety issues in the borough.

The Safer Harrow Partnership is responsible for this strategy through a multi-agency approach and is accountable for its effective implementation. To ensure that the priorities in this strategy are implemented, several workstreams will be established which will report back to the main group. All progress under each workstream will be monitored through quarterly reporting at Safer Harrow to deliver the best possible outcomes for our residents. Our partnership model cuts across all our community safety priorities and will range from working together on targeted initiatives and days of action, to information sharing between partners.

Working with our residents, communities, local businesses and all our stakeholders will be instrumental in keeping the people of Harrow safe from crime and repeat victimisation.

A key challenge as we undertake this work will be to build and increase public confidence in the organisations and bodies who are working to make Harrow safer while adopting a victim focused approach. The recent Baroness Casey’s report (published in March 2023) investigated the standards of behaviour and internal culture of the Metropolitan Police Service (“the Casey Review Report”). This highlighted along with other findings, that public confidence in the Metropolitan Police Service to do a good job locally has fallen from high points of 70% in 2016 and 2017 to a low of 45% in March 2022.

The Metropolitan Police Service (MPS) is currently reviewing its Turnaround Plan 2023-25 following the findings from Baroness Casey’s report, however, has committed to and begun delivering on investing in the strongest ever Neighbourhood Policing and Public Protection. There is still much work to be undertaken by the MPS and we will continue to engage with our local police force in Harrow to identify and understand their response to the report, and its implications for creating a safer Harrow and this will be built into our delivery action plan.

To increase public confidence locally in Harrow and to be transparent, the Safer Harrow Partnership will publish an annual report on each of its priorities, providing an overview of the work being undertaken across the partnership to reduce crime and deliver positive outcomes for residents.

Finally, the Safer Harrow Partnership has a new Serious Violence Duty, introduced by the Police Crime Sentencing and Courts Act 2022. The Duty requires specified authorities to work together to prevent and reduce serious violence, including identifying the kinds of serious violence that occur in the area, the causes of that violence, which will encompass several other key priorities such as Drugs and Violence against Women and Girls. The partnership will need to prepare and implement a strategy for preventing and reducing serious violence, and publish this by 31<sup>st</sup> January 2024.

#### **4. Our Priority - Tackling and Reducing Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG)**

The Safer Harrow Partnership is dedicated to tackling all forms of VAWG as part of our shared commitment to making Harrow a [clean and] safe borough and supporting the most vulnerable.

A higher proportion of violence against women and girls is domestic abuse (DA) where the violence occurs within the context of an established relationship and the perpetrator is known. However, there is an increase in reported incidents where violence against women and girls is perpetrated by strangers where there is no history of a previous relationship.

Over the twelve months ending December 2022, the number of sexual offences in Harrow dropped by 2.8%, domestic violence rose by 0.1% and domestic violence with injury rose by 5.7%. These are crimes that disproportionately impact women and girls.

A common theme that emerged from the consultation workshop was to prioritise the safety of women and girls and it was widely felt that building confidence in the response of the police and Council was a priority. This is echoed in the findings of the Casey Review Report which concluded amongst its findings that the MPS needs a dedicated women's protection service and a more victim-centred approach to dealing with VAWG and we welcome any developments to offer more specialised support to victims of VAWG.

The Safer Harrow Partnership will work across the partnership to pursue perpetrators of VAWG and to provide the help that victims and survivors need, ensuring there is a wide public awareness of these services and how to access these, and to promote confidence in these services. Work will also address areas and concerns that cause women and girls to feel unsafe in our borough including a range contributing environmental factors. This will be expanded further in a dedicated VAWG action plan.

##### **Outcomes:**

- Reduction in VAWG and DA incidents across the borough.
- Increase in women and girls reporting feeling safe in the borough, currently measured through a council led survey on safe spaces
- Increase our awareness of risks to safety by collaborating with partners to share information and data, with the Community Safety unit acting as the central hub
- Positively change male attitudes towards VAWG through education, awareness raising and communication programmes.

##### **Over the next three years, we will:**

- Collaborate as a partnership to increase the number of safe spaces in Harrow to support victims of VAWG and Domestic Abuse.
- Work to address perpetrators through the Criminal Justice System or other preventative initiatives.
- Continue engaging with the women and girls of Harrow to identify locations where they feel at risk and / or unsafe
- Enable victims / survivors to access support services to receive the required help

## 5. Our Priority – Reducing Burglary / Motor Vehicle related theft / Robbery

Theft, robbery, burglary, and motor vehicle crime (including the theft of and from motor vehicles) incorporates issues that are visible and decrease feelings of safety for residents.

Burglary is one of the predominant crimes in Harrow in terms of volume, and includes the theft, or attempted theft, from a building or premises or damage to a building or premises that appears to have been caused by a person attempting to enter to commit a burglary. Theft of a motor vehicle relates to the theft or attempted theft of a vehicle, driving without consent of the owner, or as a passenger of a stolen vehicle.

Incidents of burglary have reduced by 3.5% over the twelve months ending in December 2022 but are still higher in the autumn and winter months, which sees a police response through targeted operations. Robbery has increased by more than a third in the twelve months to December 2022. Theft of catalytic converters has fallen by more than a third between April 2022 and December 2022

Burglary, theft, and motor vehicle crime were raised during consultation workshops and there was consensus that these collective crimes need to remain a priority in the Community Safety Strategy. As these are very visual criminal acts, they have the potential to impact perceptions of crime in the borough and prioritising these issues are key to ensuring the borough is safe and feels safe for residents and visitors. Perceptions will also be impacted by the current lack of public confidence in police, and this further supports the need for the Safer Harrow Partnership to monitor, publicise an overview of the work and outcomes for each priority area.

### Outcomes:

- Reduce the number of catalytic converter thefts measured through police data
- Reduce thefts from a motor vehicle measured through police data
- Reduce the number of thefts of a motor vehicle measured through police data
- Reduce burglary measured through police data
- Reduce incidents of robbery measured through police data

### Over the next three years, we will:

- Collaborate as a partnership to share information and data to identify hotspot locations
- Increase partnership working between the police and relevant council teams to support targeted initiatives, including Days of Action and Nights of Action
- Use the partnership to deliver key messages and alerts to the local community in a timely manner to reduce and prevent crimes.

## **6. Our Priority - Reducing the number of violent incidents in the borough**

To deliver a Harrow that is clean and safe, it is essential to address the issue of violence in the borough. This includes knife crime, which encompasses all criminal offences committed using a knife or a bladed article as a weapon and can often be linked with other issues such as drugs, gang involvement, organised crime, exploitation and county lines.

Violence against the person is greater within the Greenhill ward, which includes the town centre and transport hubs, with a rate of 51 incidents per 1,000 residents in this ward. The borough average was 21 incidents per 1,000. Weapon enabled crime remains relatively low in Harrow and we continue to have the lowest number of weapon possession offences in comparison to our neighbouring boroughs.

Possession of weapons in Harrow in the twelve months ending December 2022 has decreased by 5.3%; and we have seen an average of three gun-crime offences per month.

Street violence and knife crime were raised as concerns during the consultation process. It was acknowledged that along with gang-related activity, these are high profile crimes and therefore have a significant impact on fear and people's perception of safety in Harrow. This is heightened by a perceived lack of police visibility and slow responses, issues identified within the Casey Review Report. The MPS has committed to delivering investment into Neighbourhood Policing which will be key to address violence and violent incidents in the borough.

### **Outcomes:**

- Reduce incidents of violence (with or without injury)
- Reduce all incidents of knife crime including possession and incidents of knife crime with or without injury
- Reduce the risk of exploitation of young people and adults in Harrow

### **Over the next three years, we will:**

- Reduce incidents of violence (with or without injury) measured by police data
- Reduce all incidents of knife crime including possession and incidents of knife crime with or without injury
- Deter and reduce young person at risk from becoming involved in activities that may lead to their involvement in violence or to carry knives through access to more relevant programmes and monitoring of programme outcomes
- Reduce the risk of exploitation of young people and adults in Harrow

## **7. Our Priority – Tackling and reducing offences and harm caused by drugs**

The possession of illegal drugs, their use, and intent to supply have implications for community safety and public health in Harrow. This issue is closely linked to other criminal activities including burglary and robbery, gang-related activity, violence, exploitation and organised crime. In addition, where the use of drugs is taking place, it can decrease feelings of safety.

The Combating Drugs Partnership (CDP) continue to work to develop and agree system-wide priorities that are focused on breaking drug supply chains and delivering a world class treatment and recovery system while achieving a generational shift in demand for drugs. The Adolescent Safeguarding Strategy will also outline actions across the Safer Harrow Partnership, to prevent and reduce the criminal exploitation of children which can lead to gang affiliation, drug possession and other forms of criminality. These actions will focus on Prevention, Targeted Intervention, Engagement and co-creation and using effective partnerships including with our voluntary sector partners.

While offences for drug possession are decreasing, intent to supply drugs has risen by over a third in 2022 in Harrow and is on the rise across London as a whole, and 20% of young people sentenced to a Youth Justice Order or Pre-court Disposal were for drug offences.

During the consultations, concerns were widely shared around the intent to supply and the use of drugs in Harrow and the impact this has on community safety. From an enforcement perspective, it was suggested that there needs to be greater visible consequences, an effective deterrent for drug dealing, and a better follow-up when drug dealing in properties is reported. The Safer Harrow Partnership, in its annual report, will share information on the work undertaken to tackle this issue and the outcomes achieved.

From a safeguarding perspective, it was felt that more needs to be done to protect young people from exploitation by criminal gangs and prevent them from being drawn into these types of activities. The Casey Review Report highlighted the need for children to be seen as children who need protection from harm and not just as threats or perpetrators of crime.

### **Outcomes:**

- Reduce the incidents of intent to supply drugs in Harrow
- Ensure people are getting the right treatment and advice
- Reduce the number of young persons being exploited and drawn into drug activity
- Break drugs supply chain
- Deliver a world-class treatment and recovery system
- Achieve a generational shift in the demand for drugs

### **Over the next three years we will:**

- Invest in treatment and recovery pathways to increase the number of people that are supported in Harrow with substance misuse issues through our providers
- Tackle the exploitation of young people by working with partners to create diversionary activities and opportunities to reduce the number of young people being drawn into crime
- Target known hotspot locations where drugs are used and / or distributed

## **8. Our Priority – Tackling Hate Crime**

Community cohesion and resilience in Harrow is strong, however, racist, and religious hate crime can be an area of concern for our diverse community having increased 6.2% in 12 months (from Dec 2021 to Dec 2022). This is an issue that people can face in public, at work or even at home through online hate crime and consequently it can have a great impact on feelings of safety in our borough.

The three headline data types (racist, religious, hate) will need breaking down further and we need a wider campaign aimed at community level / societal level change addressing historically encouraged and entrenched, cultural and institutional forms of discrimination. So there needs to be a public health/campaigning style of action against this type of crime.

Reported incidents of hate crime have remained steady over the last three years with an average of 420 incidents per year. However, while this is the third lowest rate in London, with 1.7 incidents per 1,000 people, we are aware that racist, religious, disability and LGBTQ+ hate crimes remain unreported in Harrow.

While recognising that Harrow is diverse, and the positive outcomes this has for the borough, it was noted consistently during the consultation workshops, that hate crime, including the targeting of religious groups and disabled people, were rising. In addition, it was noted that many incidents of hate crimes (including disability) may not be reported, and this underreporting needs to be addressed.

### **Outcomes:**

- An increase in residents who agree that people from different backgrounds get on well together in their local area
- An increase in people who are confident that reporting an issue will lead to a positive outcome
- An increase in hate crime reporting directly to the police and third parties, measured through police data and Stop Hate UK data
- Decrease in number of actual hate crime incidents based on any of the 9 protected characteristics

### **Over the next three years, we will:**

- Promote hate crime reporting through a variety of diverse communication channels (including different languages, media and through the use of advocates where necessary)
- Provide robust support for victims of hate crime through enhanced police support
- Celebrate diversity positively and provide greater support for marginalised and vulnerable communities in the borough.
- Recognise the impact of historically entrenched institutional, cultural and societal level forms of discrimination, through public communications, campaigning and establishing safe talking spaces for such expression and support

## 9. Our Priority – Perception of Crime and Anti-Social Behaviour

Current data demonstrates that Harrow remains one of the safest boroughs in London, but this does not align with perceptions of crime and feelings of safety in the borough. One of our priorities is to ensure that residents and visitors are not only safe, but also *feel* safe. This will require addressing anti-social behaviour and environmental elements (such as fly tipping, nuisance) that can contribute to an atmosphere of increased crime and has the potential to encourage more serious crimes while negatively impacting perceptions of safety. Consideration will also be given to how we communicate and engage with the public so as not to increase fear unnecessarily.

According to the How Are You (HAY) Harrow Survey 2021, four in ten young people said there are areas of Harrow where they feel unsafe; this was higher in young persons who identify as having additional or special needs. This perception is not limited to our young residents. In the Harrow Safer Spaces Survey 2022, 77.6% of the women and girls who responded to a question about feeling safe said they feel unsafe or mostly unsafe in the borough. Further highlighting the fear of crime, 79% of residents were concerned that knife crime is a problem in their area and 44% of residents were concerned that gun crime is a problem in their area.

The fear of crime remains a real issue and to deliver a Harrow where people are and feel safe, this is an area that needs to be tackled. Perception of crime is often inflated by social media and to address this problem we need to consider how we communicate with residents so as not to increase fears. It is also important that partners respond adequately to reports of anti-social behaviour and environmental issues which can lead to increased feeling of being unsafe when left unaddressed or repeat incidents give a perception of a lack of action.

Police presence and visibility, particularly at night, would also contribute to allaying fears of crime and increasing feelings of safety. The MPS has committed in its Turnaround Plan 2023-25, to delivering its strongest ever Neighbourhood Policing and increasing trust and confidence. These steps are further conclusions in the Casey Review report which highlight the MPS's need to secure and maintain the public's respect and approval, to rebuild consent, particularly with communities where this is most at risk.

### Outcomes:

- Reduction in high volume crime /high harm crime
- Reduction in anti-social behaviour and environmental offences that increase feelings of unsafe
- An increase in residents reporting feeling safe in the borough

### Over the next three years, we will:

- Implement targeted Days of Action to increase resident reassurance and gain better intelligence around local hotspots
- Increase police presence in our neighbourhoods through the Met Police's new Turnaround Plan to restore public trust and confidence
- Increase awareness of police or other operations to residents
- Work with school related partnerships including schools, school councils, schools' police, social workers in schools and Early Support workers in schools, to support pupils feeling safe following their being witness or social media witnesses to violence in or near to schools
- Development and promote awareness of reporting pathways for both residents and front-line staff who are often the "eyes and ears" across the borough.

## 10. Next Steps

As the overarching body which has the statutory responsibility to produce a Community Safety Strategy, the SHP will oversee this work. Being a strategic Board, the partnership will delegate the operational aspects of this strategy to sub-groups who will implement the work and report back to the partnership quarterly. This falls under the remit of the SHP with the Board's Terms of Reference already allowing for the establishment of thematic sub-groups and setting out how they report to the SHP.

There will be six thematic sub-groups which reflect the six priorities in the Community Safety Strategy. To avoid duplication, any forums that currently exist will report to the SHG on a quarterly basis.

The Strategy will cover the period 2023 to 2026 and will be reviewed annually by Safer Harrow.

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## Appendix 2: Community Safety data pack (2022)

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Business Intelligence Unit

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## Crime Overview

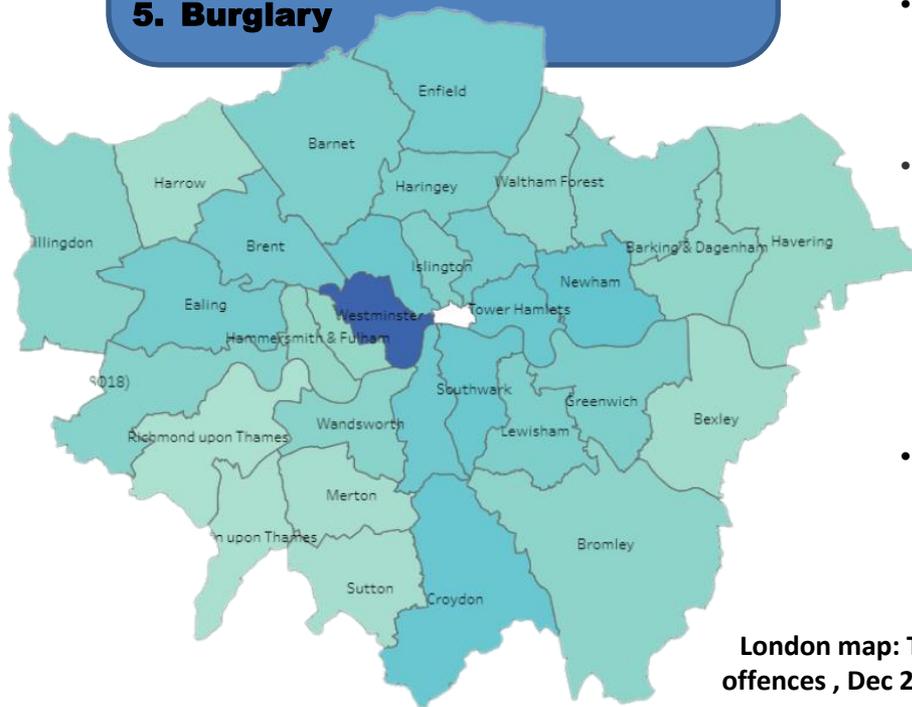
# Crime in London

Graph: Rate increase London (Dec 21-Dec 22, RY), Source data: Met Police



Top five TNOs crime categories London Dec 2022 (RY)

- 1. Violence –without injury**
- 2. ‘Other’ theft**
- 3. Violence - with injury**
- 4. Theft from a motor vehicle**
- 5. Burglary**

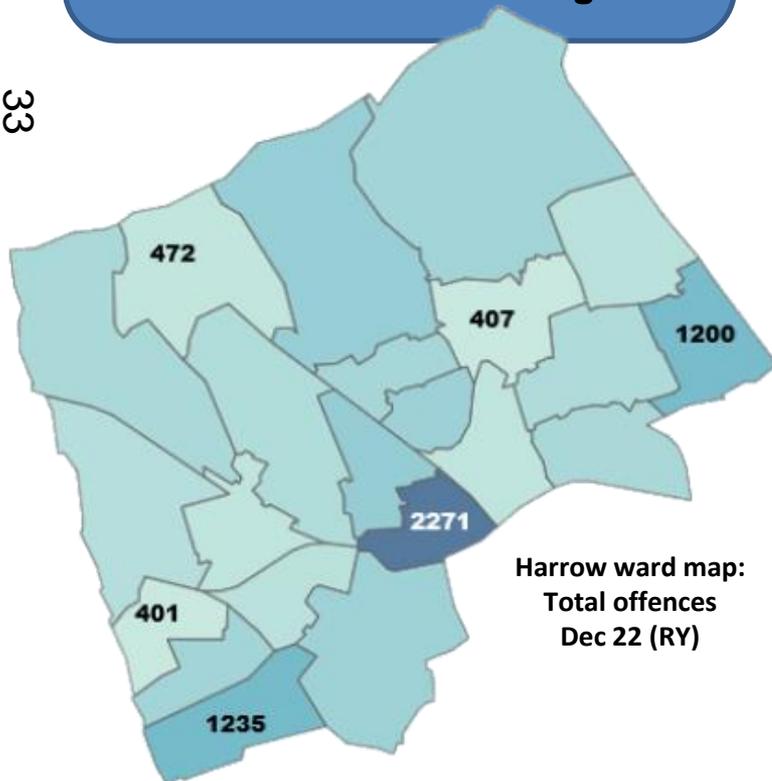


- The total number of recorded offences for the 12 months up to December 2022, for Greater London, was **970,834 (867,925 TNOs and 102,905 Non-notifiable)**. The total of recorded offences the 12 months up to December 2021, for Greater London, was 902,100 (795,667 TNOs and 106, 423 Non-notifiable).
- This represents a **9.1% increase** or 68,734 more notifiable offences.
- **Harrow ranks 2 out of 32 in All London Boroughs** (excl City). Richmond upon Thames had the lowest number of TNOs 58.4 per 1000 people in this quarter with Westminster having the largest number at 283.3 TNOs per 1000 people offences
- Graph shows Harrow **one of the lowest rate increases in London** (Dec 21- Dec 22 RY)

## Top five notifiable crimes Harrow Dec 2022 (RY)

1. **Violence –without injury**
2. **‘Other’ theft**
3. **Theft from a motor vehicle**
4. **Violence - with injury**
5. **Arson & Criminal damage**

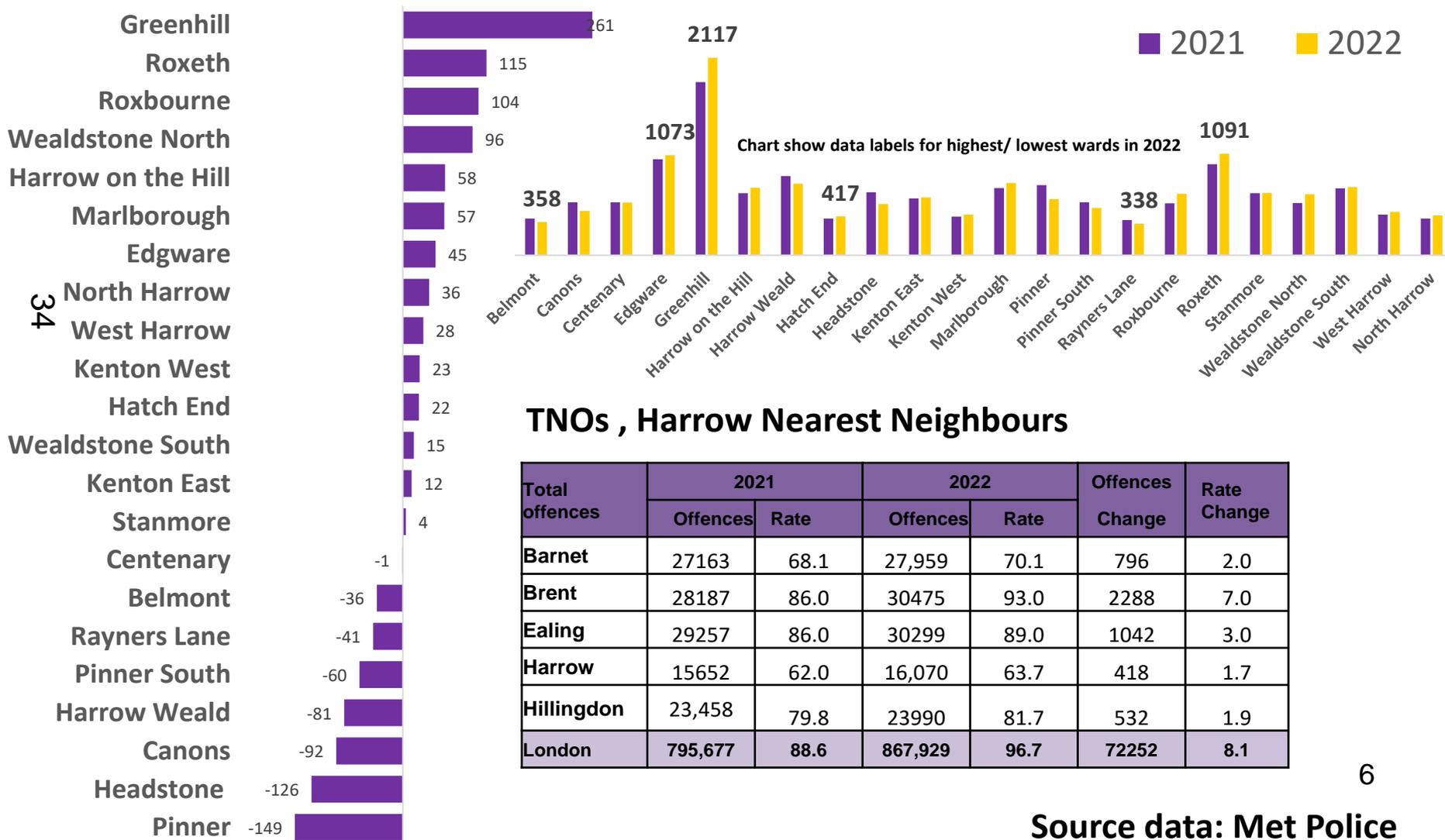
33



- The total **notifiable** offences (TNOs) for the 12 months up to December 2022, for Harrow was **16,070** or **63.7 per 1000 people** . The total of recorded offences the 12 months up to December 2021, for Harrow, was **15,652**.
- This represents a **2.6% increase** or 418 more notifiable offences.
- In 2022 there were 2,254 non-notifiable offences recorded in Harrow
- **Total offence levels highest:** Greenhill, Roxeth, Edgware
- **Total offence levels lowest:** Rayners Lane, Belmont, Hatch End
- During 2022 greatest higher than the average number of offences (1527) were recorded in **October** (1703), **November** (1667), **July** (1571).

# Crime in Harrow

Graph: change in number of TNOs by ward (2021 -2022, RY)



## TNOs , Harrow Nearest Neighbours

Total offences	2021		2022		Offences Change	Rate Change
	Offences	Rate	Offences	Rate		
Barnet	27163	68.1	27,959	70.1	796	2.0
Brent	28187	86.0	30475	93.0	2288	7.0
Ealing	29257	86.0	30299	89.0	1042	3.0
Harrow	15652	62.0	16,070	63.7	418	1.7
Hillingdon	23,458	79.8	23990	81.7	532	1.9
London	795,677	88.6	867,929	96.7	72252	8.1

# Initial headlines- High Vol - trend comparisons

High volume:	Dec 20 – Dec21 2021		Dec 21 - Dec 22 2022		Pre Vs Post intro of C19 measures	Dec 19 – Dec 22		
	trend	% change from last equiv period	No. offs	trend		% change from last equiv period	No. offs	trend
Violence without injury	▲	7.7%	3725	▼	-0.8%	3696	▲	18.4%
Theft from MV	▼	-16%	1628	▼	-2%	1596	▼	-14.3%
Total Burglary Offs	▼	-19.7%	1093	▼	-3.5%	1059	▼	-48.3%
Drug possession	▼	-17.2%	845	▼	-34.1%	557	▼	-25.7%
Theft Taking of MV Offs	▲	13.4%	562	▲	9.4%	615	▲	17.8%
Total Theft Person	▲	75.6%	511	▲	18.4%	605	▲	3.24%
Robbery	▼	-37.8%	321	▲	37.4%	411	▼	-35.6%

# Initial headlines- High Harm - trend comparisons

High Harm:	Dec 20 – Dec21 2021			Dec 21 - Dec 22 2022			Pre Vs Post intro of C19 measures	Dec 19 – Dec 22	
	trend	% change from last equiv period	No. offs	trend	% change from last equiv period	No. offs		trend	% change from last equiv period
Violence with injury	▲	7.8%	1343	▲	13.9%	1530	▼	-2.5%	
Knife Crime	▼	-24.4%	170	▲	24.1%	211	▼	-18.2%	
<sup>36</sup> Knife crime with injury	▲	32.6%	61	▼	-3.3%	59	▼	-21.3%	
Drug trafficking	▲	23.7%	115	▲	33.9%	154	▲	144%	
Sexual offences	▲	36.6%	537	▼	-2.8%	522	▲	15.0%	
Domestic Violence	▲	6.7%	2229	▲	0.1%	2231	▲	11.5%	
Domestic Violence with injury	▼	-4.1%	471	▲	5.7%	498	▼	-7.6%	
Racist & Religious Hate Crime	▼	8.7%	386	▲	6.2%	410	▲	21.3%	

## High volume: Burglary

# High volume crime – Burglary, Harrow

## Definition of Burglary:

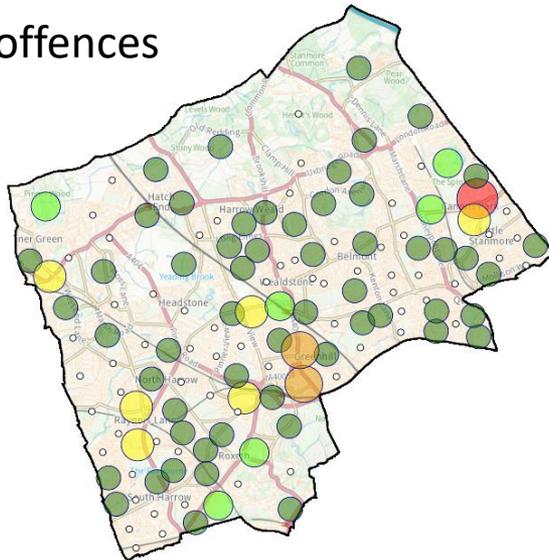
Burglary is the theft, or attempted theft, from a premises where access is not authorised.

Damage to a premises that appears to have been caused by a person attempting to enter to commit a burglary, is also counted as burglary.

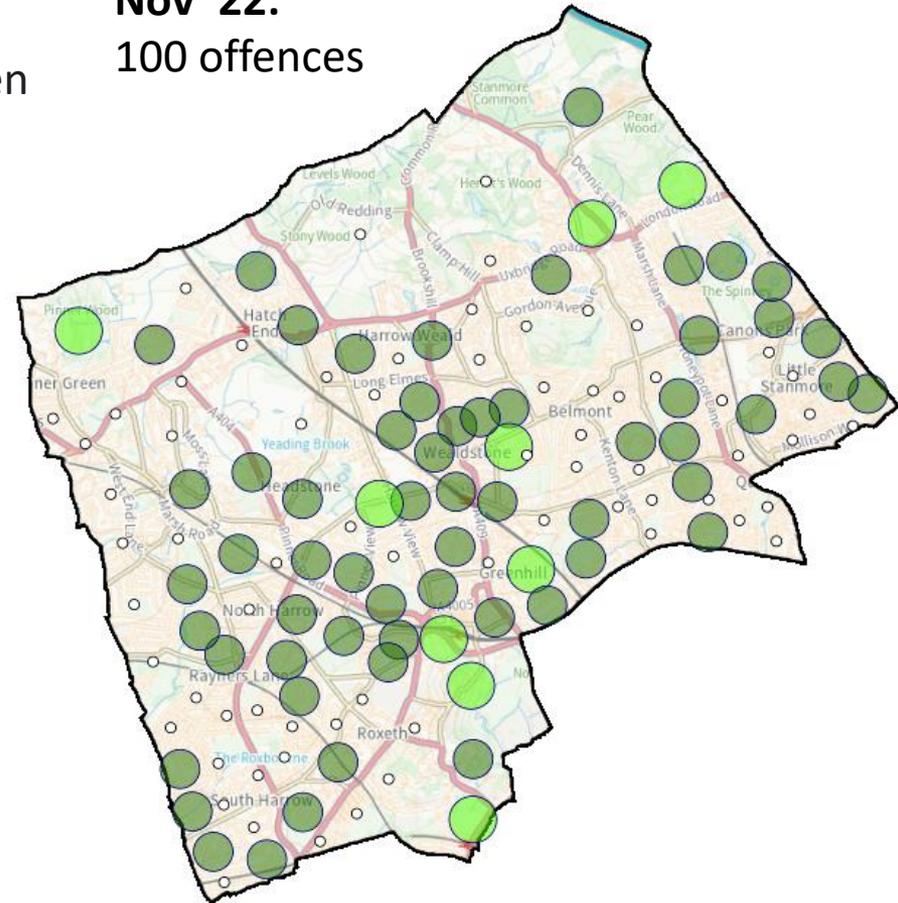
Residential and commercial burglaries are distinguished by the function of the building.

38

**Nov '21:**  
138 offences

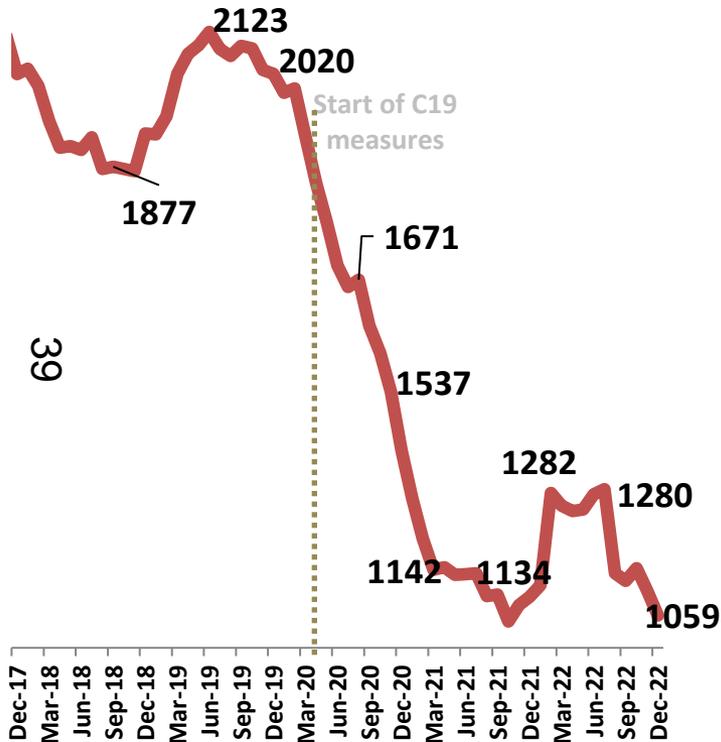


**Nov '22:**  
100 offences

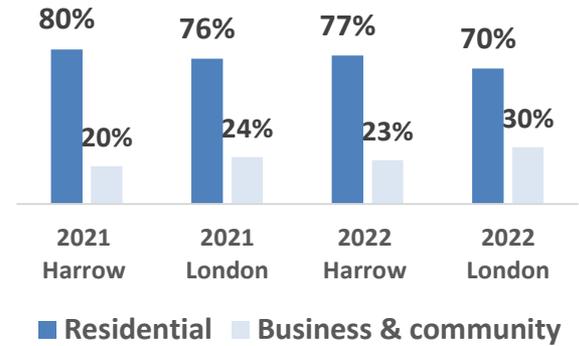
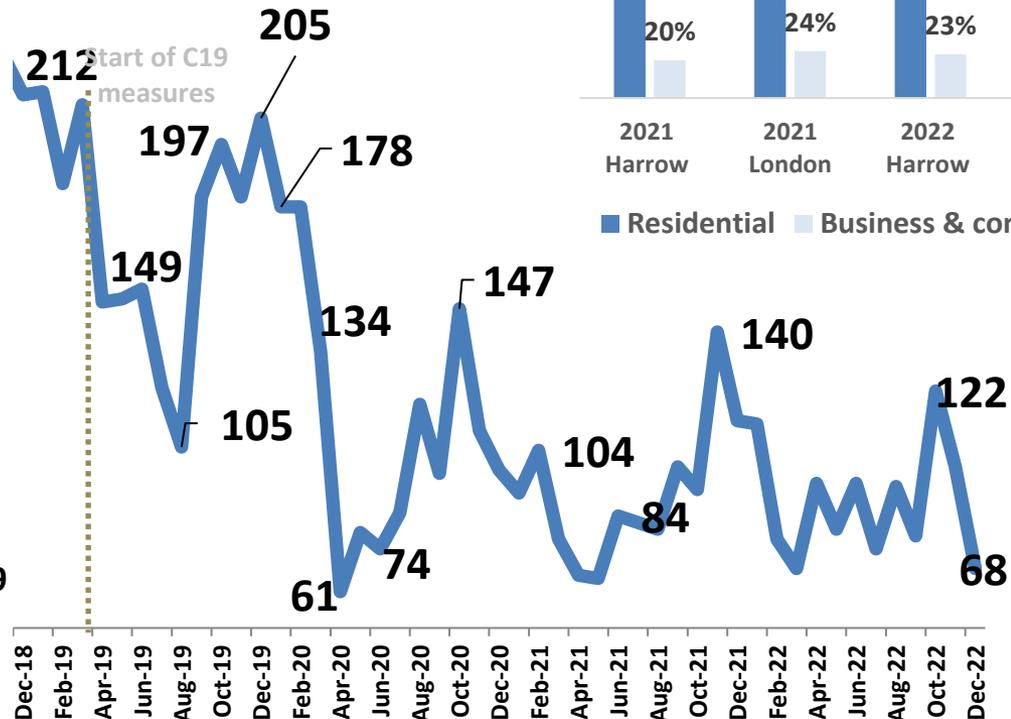


# High volume crime – Burglary, Harrow

## Harrow: Total burglary



## Monthly count



- The impact of C19 measures shows significant reduction in levels of total burglary (RY), with rolling year rates beginning to reduce before since Oct 19 (2020).
- Upward trend began again in Sep 21 and rising to 1282 in Feb 22. This trend has now begun to reduce again with lower monthly levels throughout 2022, but with a peak in Oct 22 ( 122)
- In 2022 proportion of Burglary that was residential (77%), continued to be higher than the London average (70%)

## Burglary , Harrow wards

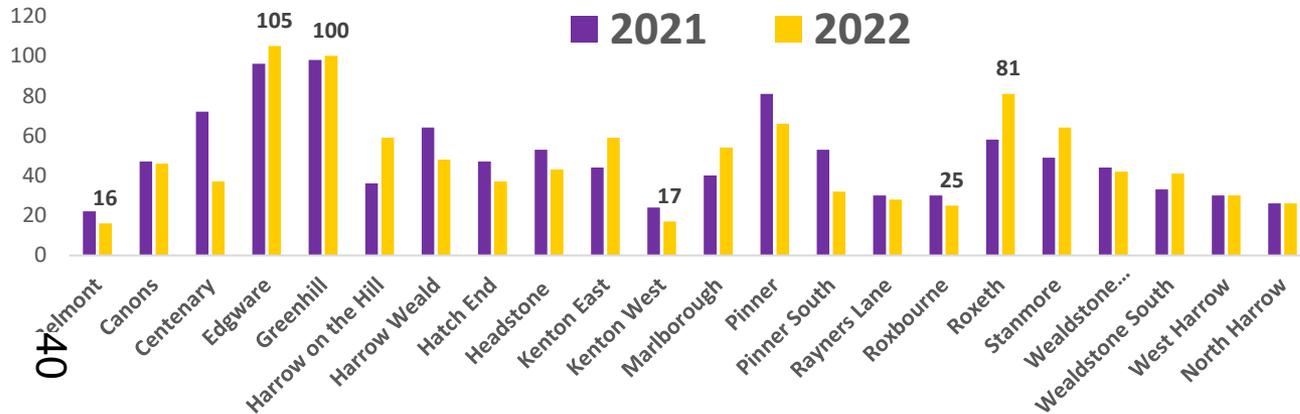
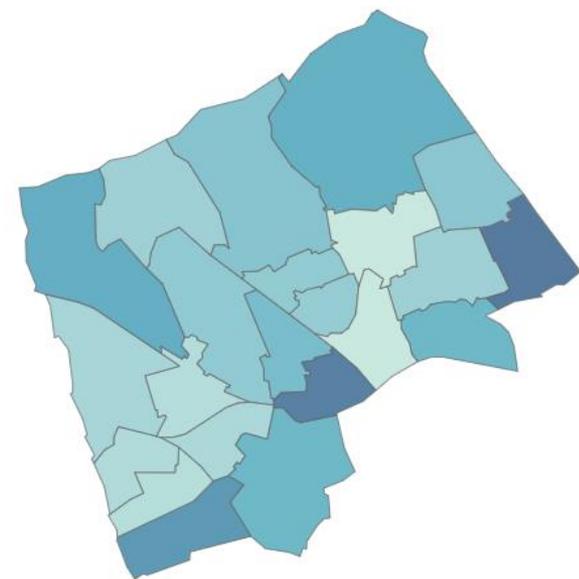


Chart show data labels for highest/ lowest wards in 2022

## Heat Map Burglary, 2022 (yr) Harrow wards



## Burglary , Harrow Nearest Neighbours

Total offences	2021		2022		Offences Change	Rate Change
	Offences	Rate	Offences	Rate		
Barnet	2391	6.0	1582	6.5	-809	0.5
Brent	1836	5.6	1970	6.0	134	0.4
Ealing	1875	5.5	1945	5.7	70	0.2
Harrow	1093	4.3	1059	4.2	-34	-0.1
Hillingdon	1,341	4.6	1375	4.7	34	0.1
London	53,538	6.0	53,597	6.0	59	0.0

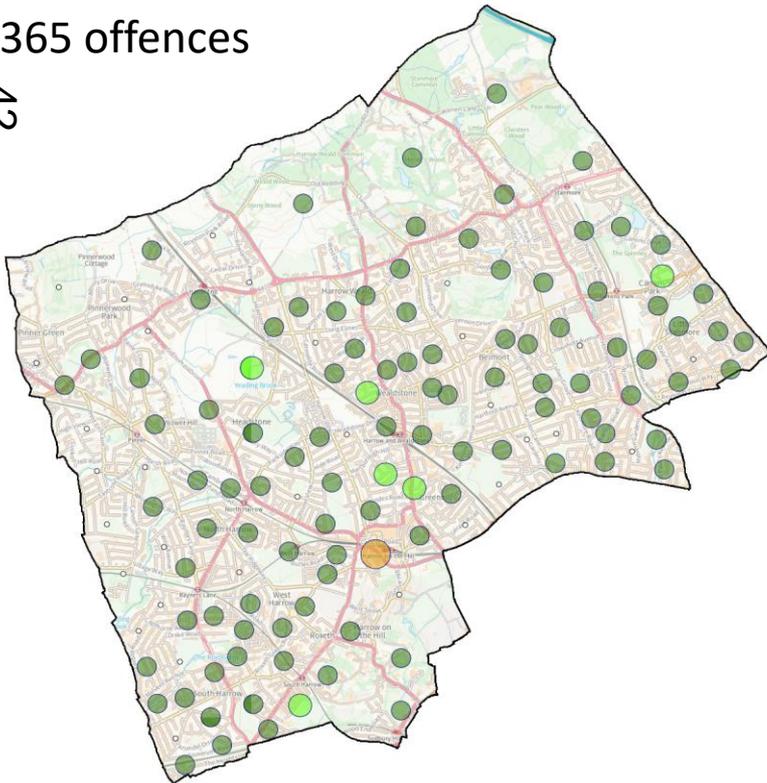
# High Volume Crime Anti Social Behaviour

# Anti-Social Behaviour

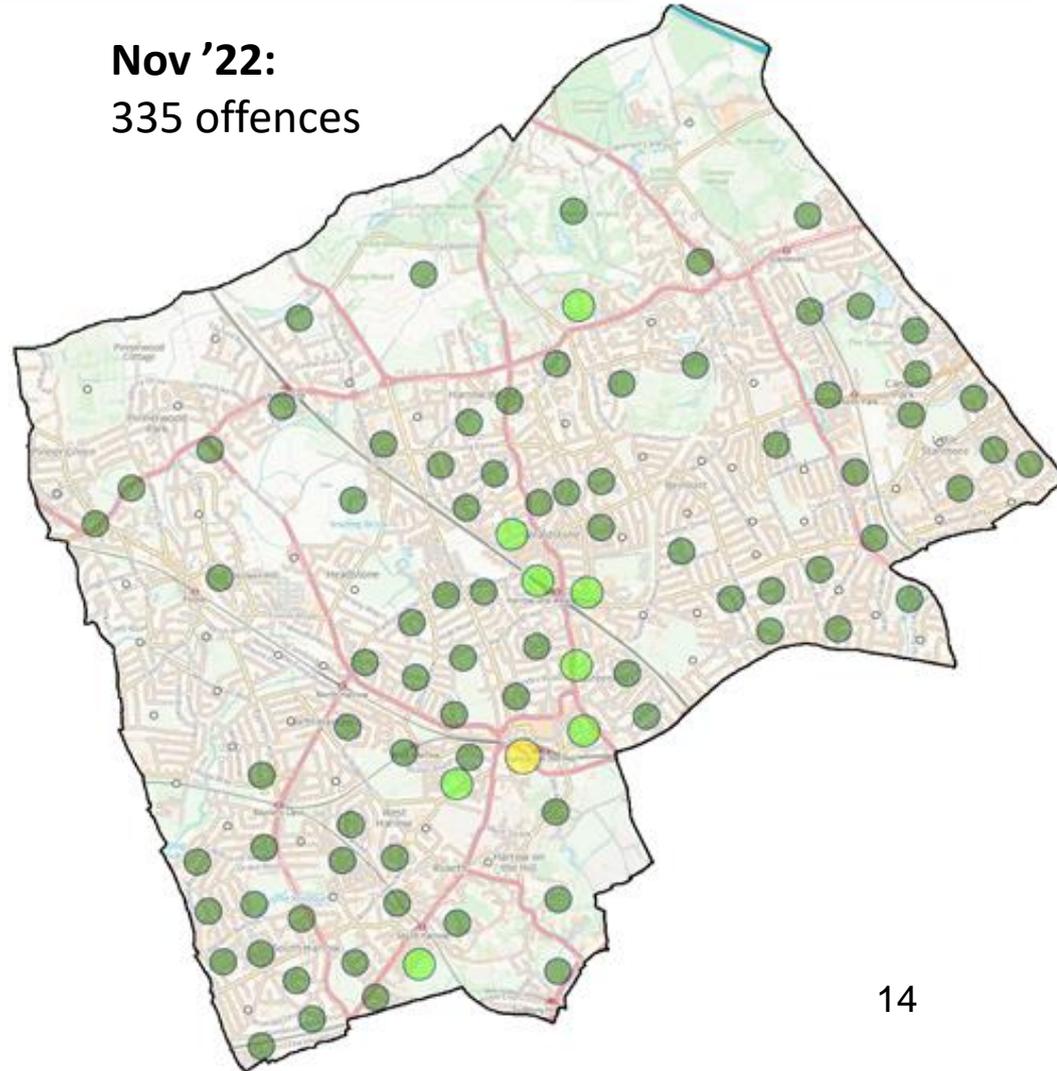
**Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB):**  
Police call outs .

**Nov '21:**  
365 offences

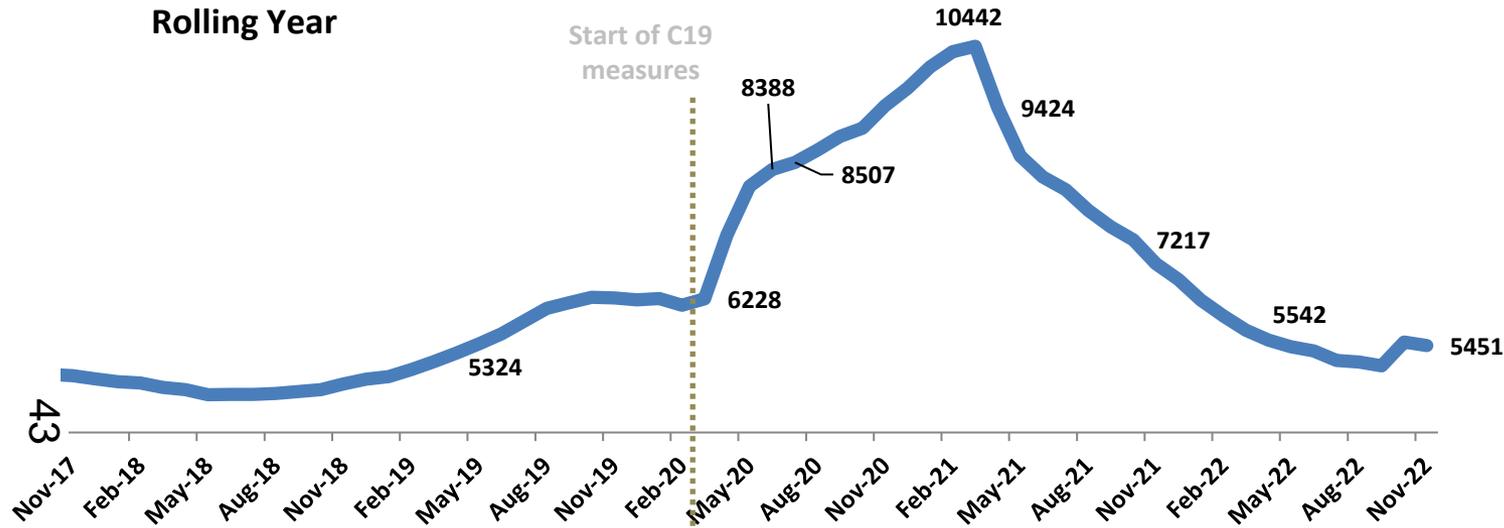
42



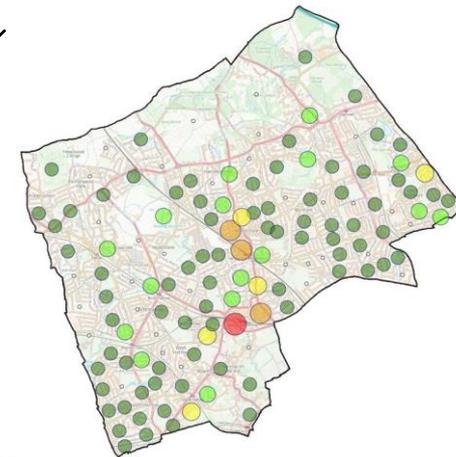
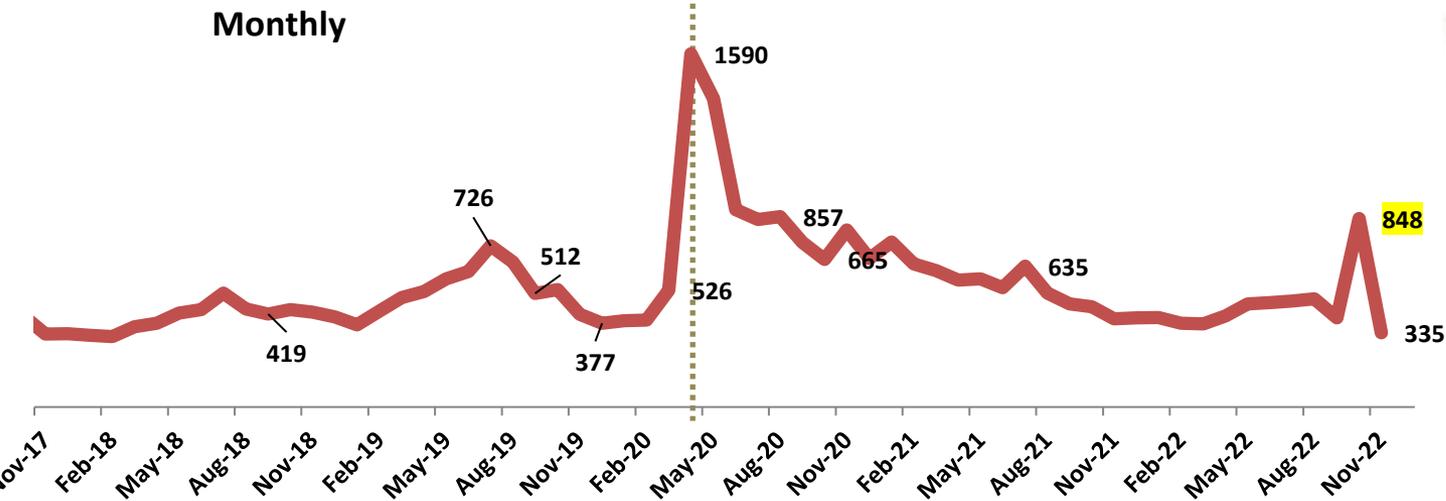
**Nov '22:**  
335 offences



# High volume Crime – ASB (Police) call outs



**Map: Oct '22:**  
Peak in ASB call outs (848)



# High volume Crime – ASB (Harrow Community Safety data)

## ASB , Harrow wards

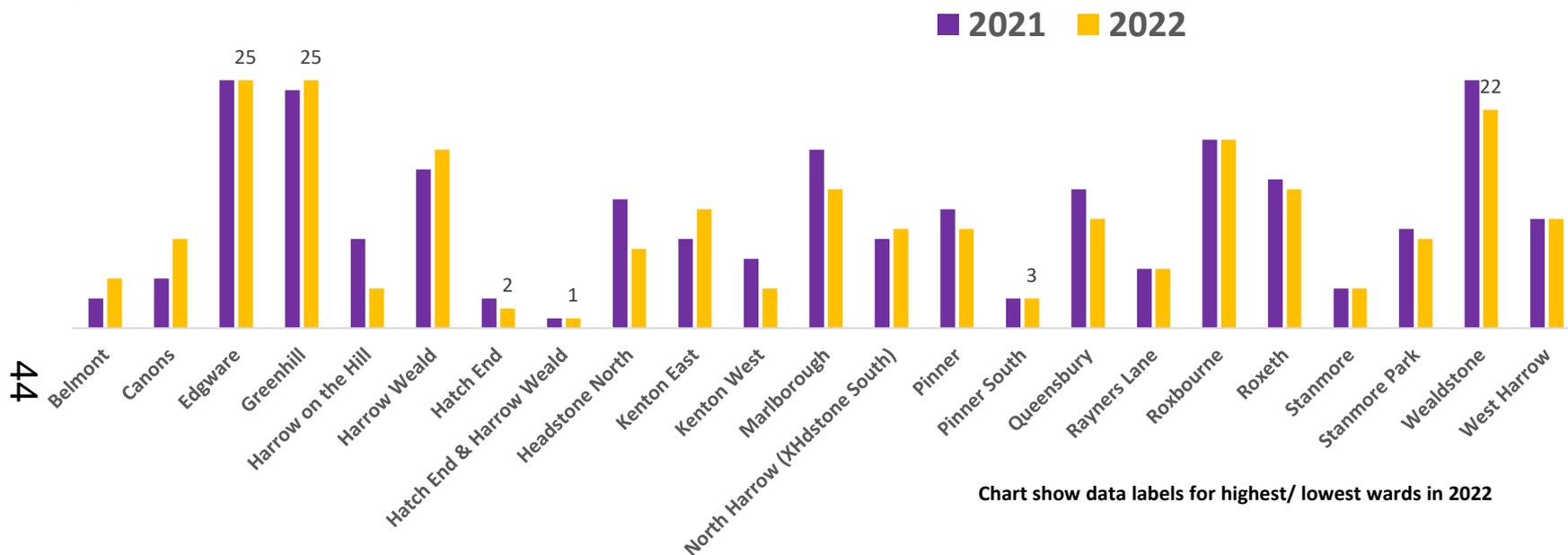


Chart show data labels for highest/ lowest wards in 2022

### Top 5 reasons for ASB 2021

Nuisance behaviour	40.12%
Drug substance misuse dealing	14.45%
Intimidation or harassment	7.37%
Rowdy behaviour	6.19%
Serious Violence	6.19%

### Top 5 reasons for ASB 2022

Nuisance behaviour	43.60%
Drug substance misuse dealing	9.88%
Intimidation or harassment	9.30%
Rowdy behaviour	6.40%
Vehicle noise or use	5.23%

## Robbery

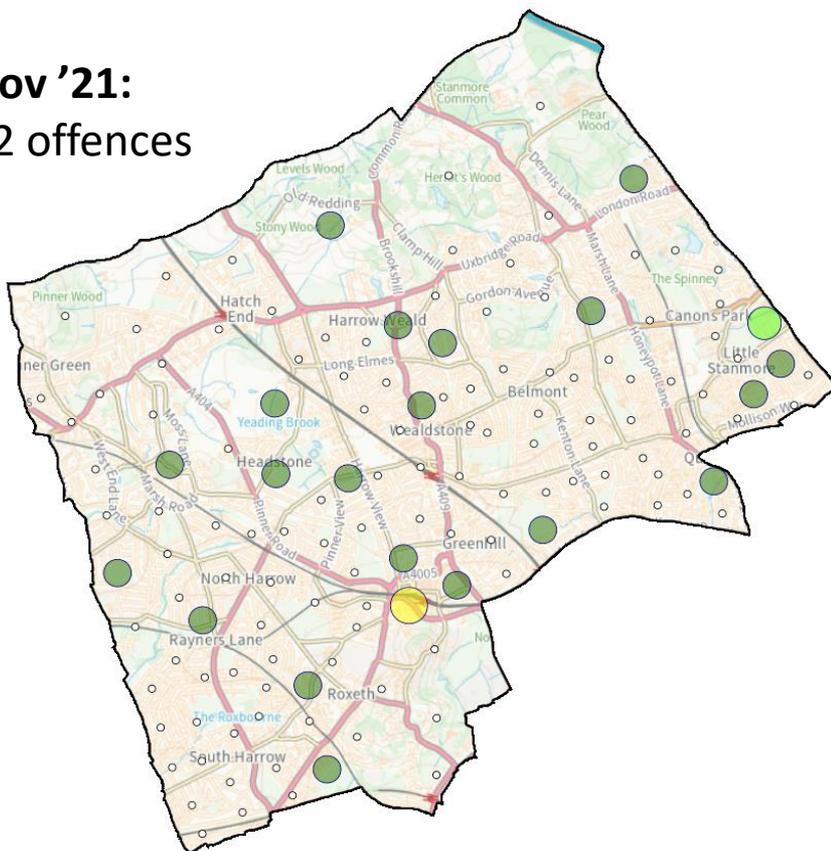
# Robbery

## Definition of Robbery:

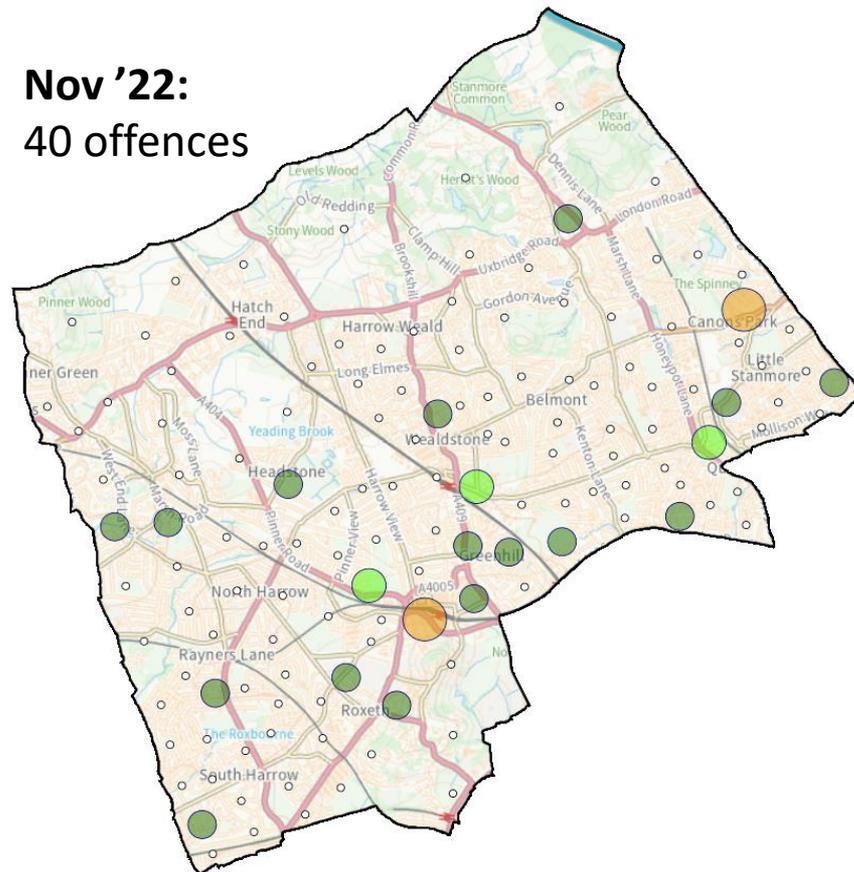
Theft with the use of force or a threat of force. Both personal and commercial robbery are included. Snatch theft is not included.

Nov '21:  
32 offences

46

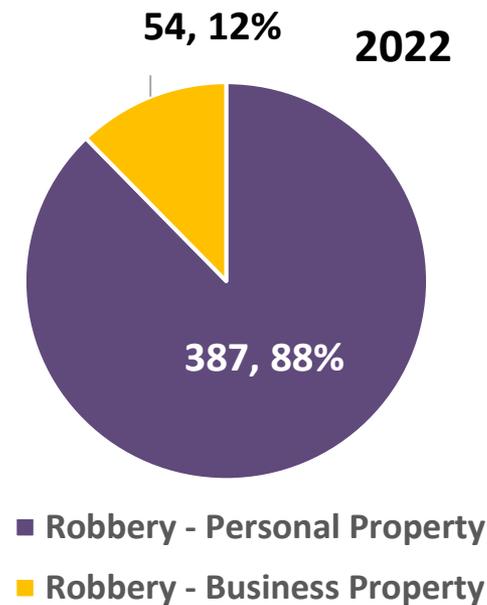
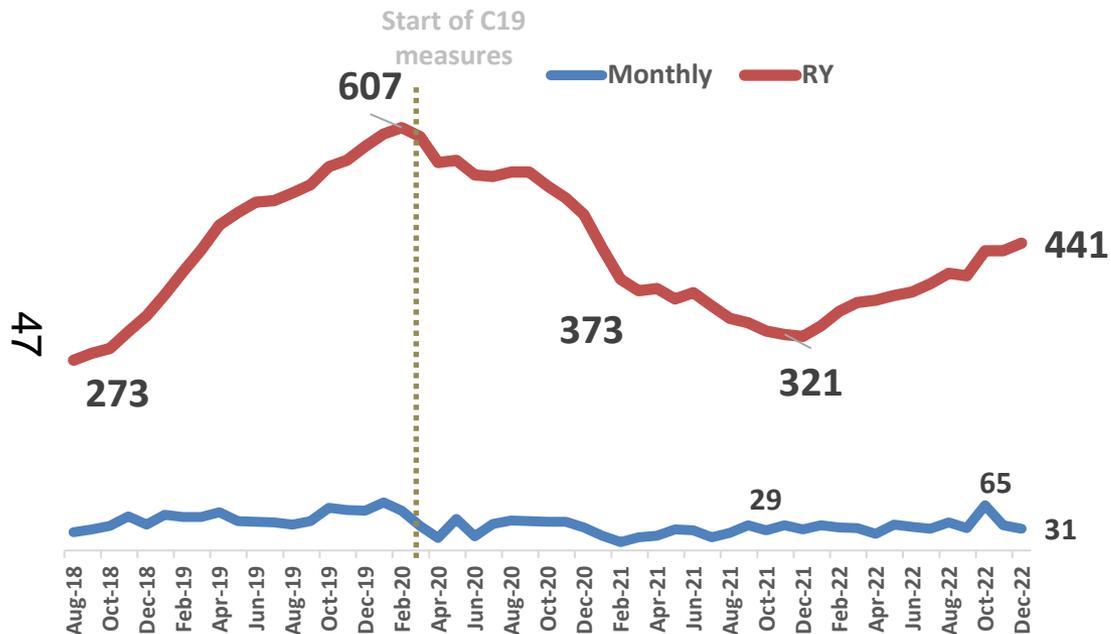


Nov '22:  
40 offences



# High volume watch list – Robbery (personal property)

Number Robbery (personal property) offences – Harrow



- After a two year reduction in the level of robbery offences Oct 2021 (321) saw and the beginning of an upward trend , that has continued in recent months to 441. (Dec22' RY).
- Monthly peak in Oct 22 to 65.
- In November (RY 2022) 88% of robbery was of personal property.

# Robbery crime – by Ward

## Robbery , Harrow wards

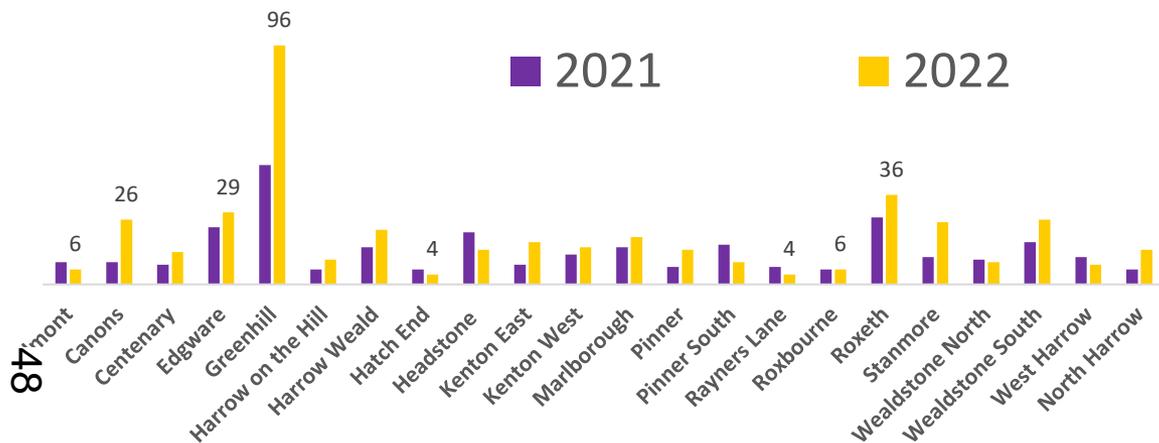
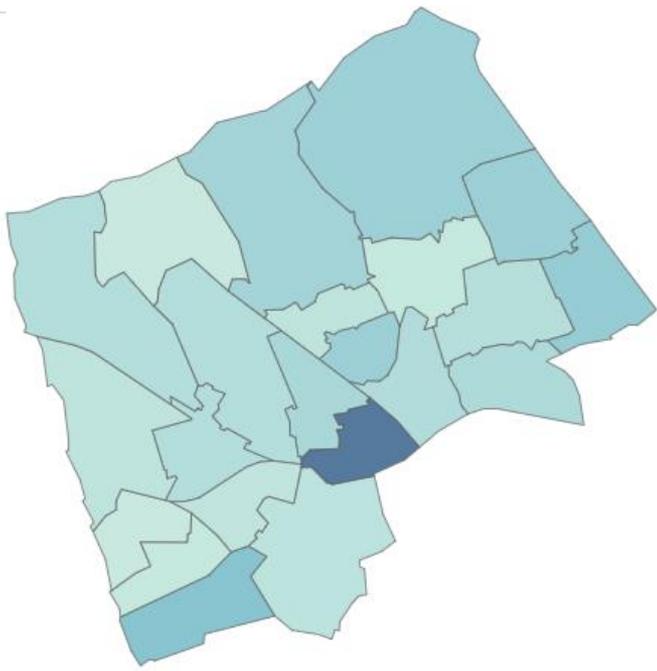


Chart show data labels for highest/ lowest wards in 2022

## Heat Map Robbery, 2022 Harrow wards



## Robbery , Harrow Nearest Neighbours

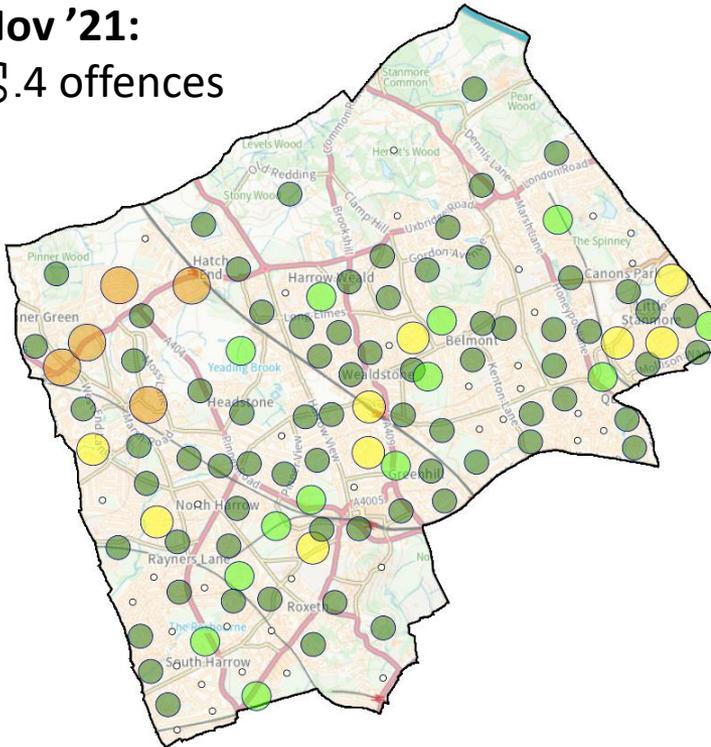
Total offences	2021		2022		Offences Change	Rate Change
	Offences	Rate	Offences	Rate		
Barnet	616	1.5	731	1.8	115	0.3
Brent	750	2.3	944	2.9	194	0.6
Ealing	639	1.9	705	2.1	66	0.2
Harrow	321	1.3	441	1.7	120	0.4
Hillingdon	412	1.4	448	1.5	36	0.1
London	22,796	2.5	27,606	3.1	4810	0.6

## High Volume Crime Theft of or from a vehicle

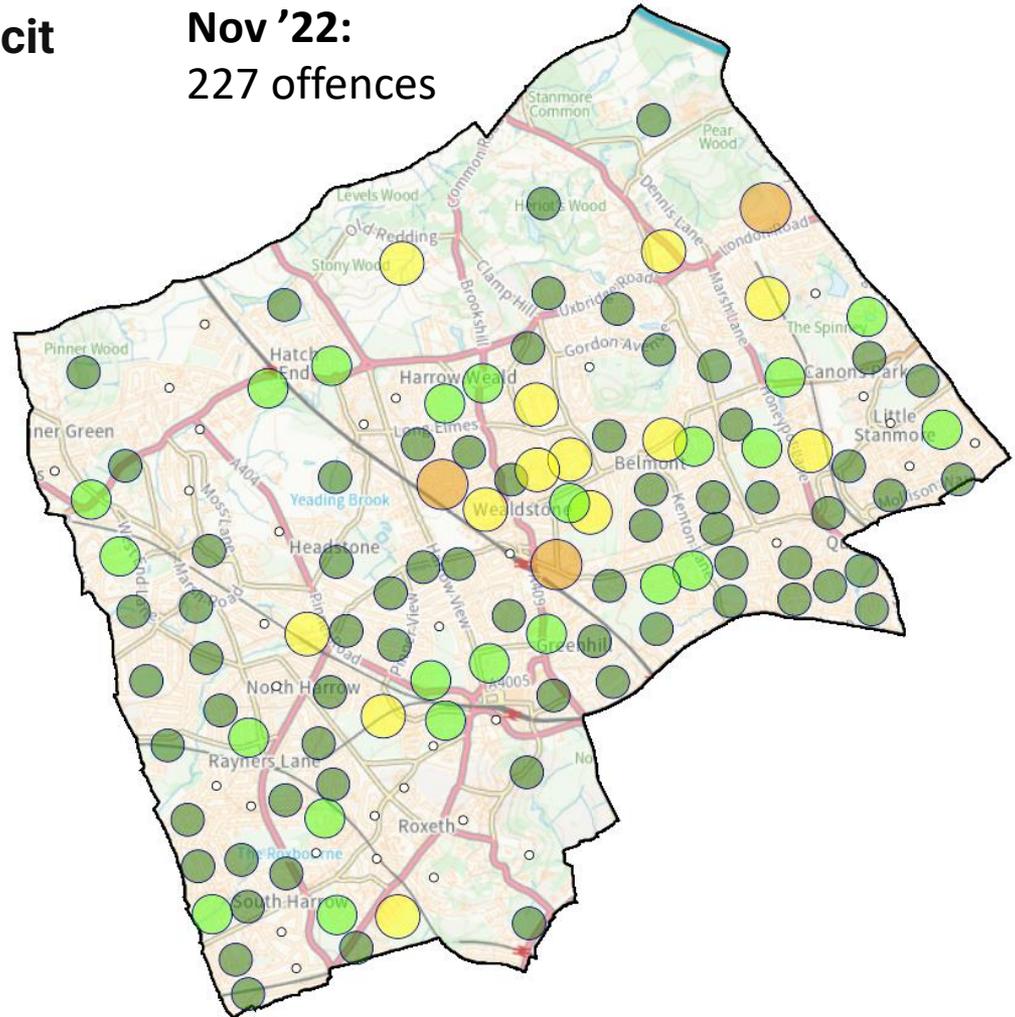
# Vehicle crime

The term 'vehicle crime' refers to the **theft and trafficking of vehicles and the illicit trade in spare parts.**

**Nov '21:**  
5.4 offences

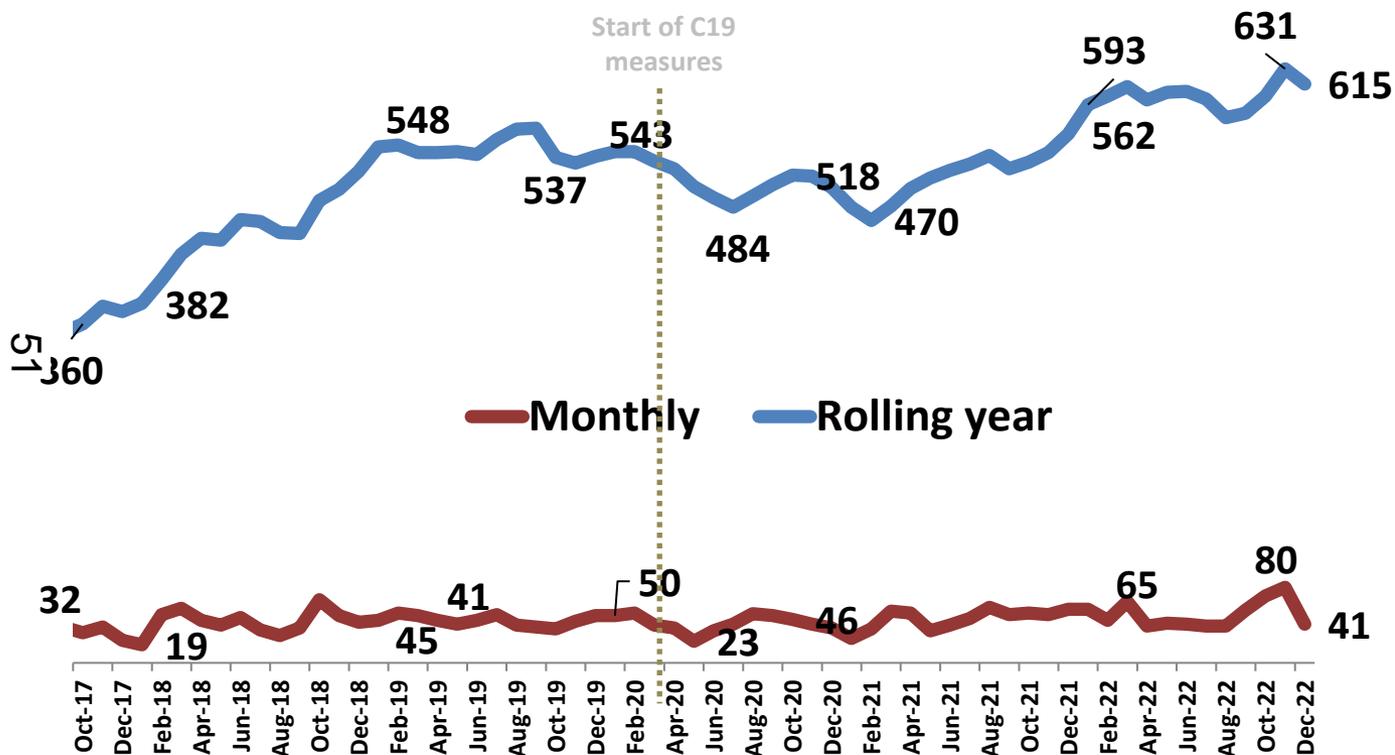


**Nov '22:**  
227 offences

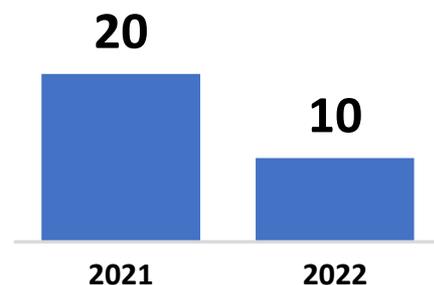


# High volume Crime – Theft or taking OF a vehicle

Number of Thefts OF a motor vehicle offences – Harrow



Aggravated vehicle taking, Harrow



- Upward trend in the level of theft OF a vehicle since Feb 21 (470) to Dec 2022 (615).
- Peak in recent monthly trend to 80 (Nov, 22) - highest monthly count recorded in Harrow to date.

# High volume Crime – Theft or taking OF a vehicle

## Theft/taking of a MV, Harrow wards

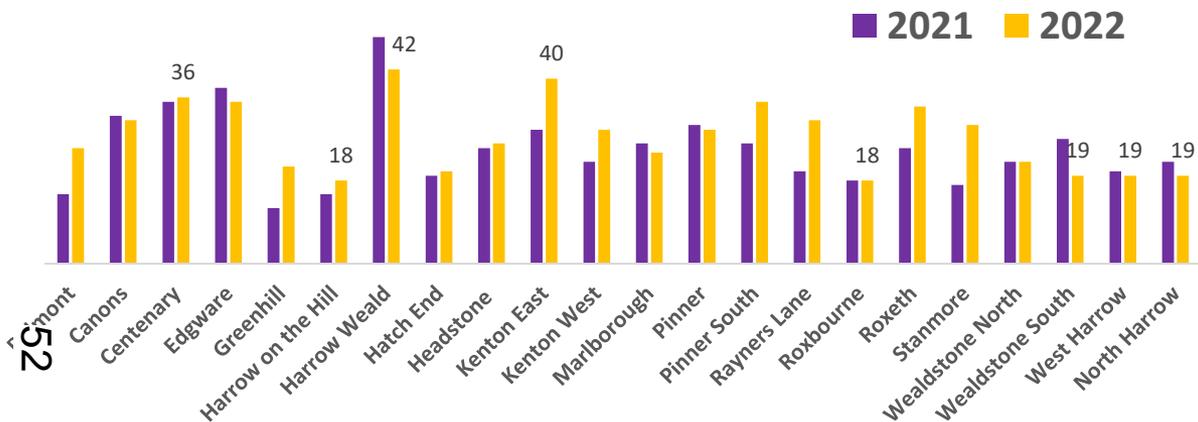
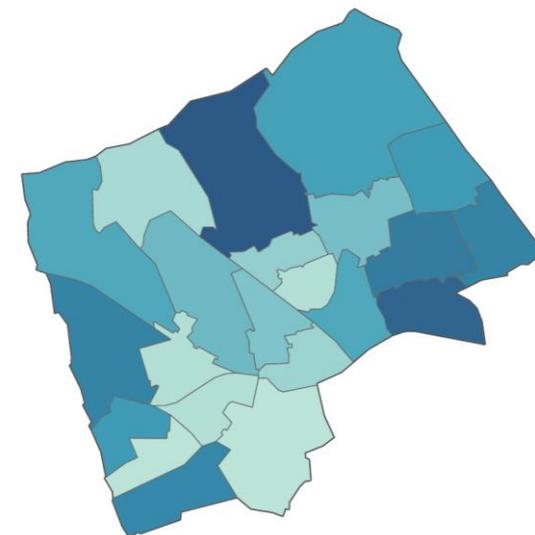


Chart show data labels for highest/ lowest wards in 2022

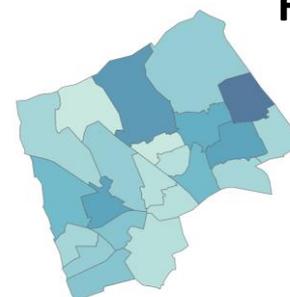
## Heat Map Theft/taking of a MV, 2022 Harrow wards



## Theft/taking of a MV, Harrow Nearest Neighbours

Total offences	2021		2022		Offences Change	Rate Change
	Offences	Rate	Offences	Rate		
Barnet	1292	3.2	1600	4.0	308	0.8
Brent	982	3.0	1175	3.6	193	0.6
Ealing	938	2.8	964	2.8	26	0.0
Harrow	562	2.2	615	2.4	53	0.2
Hillingdon	885	3.0	941	3.2	56	0.2
London	27,584	3.1	32,082	3.6	4498	0.5

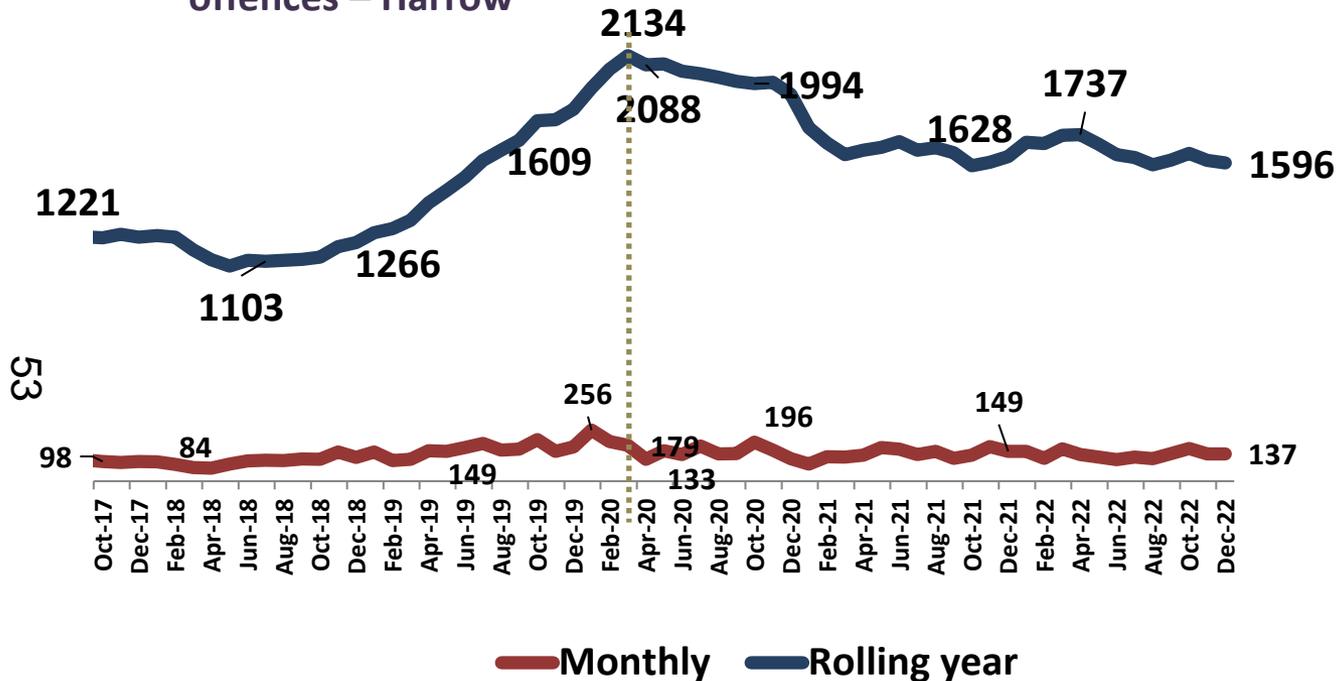
## Heat map, Nov 2022 (month only): 80 offences



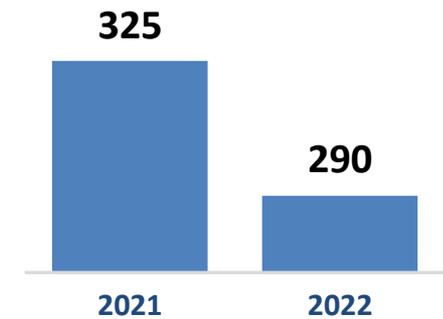
# Motor Vehicle crime

## Theft FROM a motor vehicle

Number of theft FROM a motor vehicle offences – Harrow



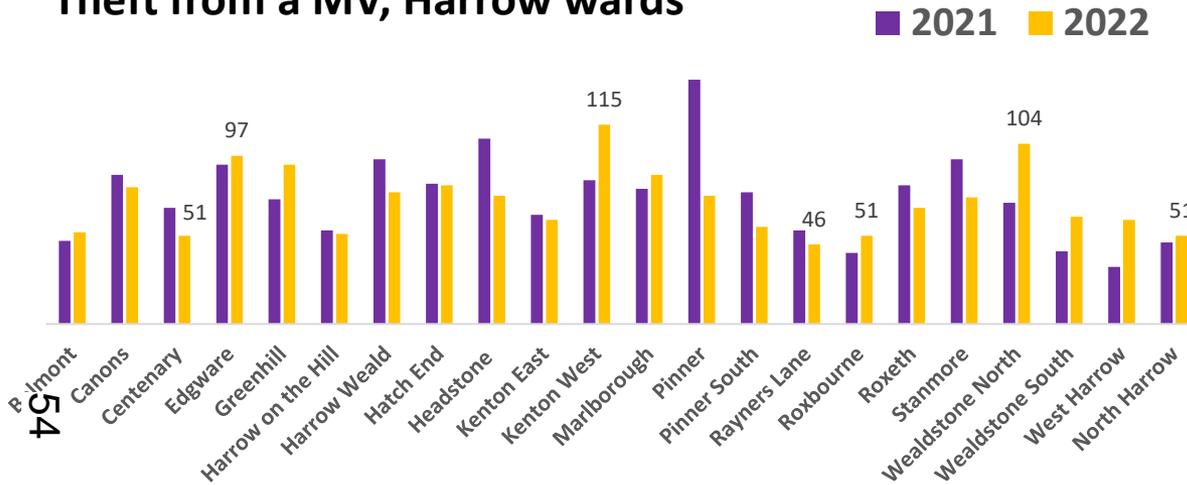
Interfering with a MV, Harrow



- Reduction in the level of offences since C19 measures were introduced.
- Lower levels in Dec 2022 of 1596 - after an increase in April 22 (rolling year) to 1737 and compared with the to previous period (Dec 21, 1628)

# High volume Crime – Theft FROM a vehicle

## Theft from a MV, Harrow wards



## Heat Map Theft from a MV, 2022 Harrow wards

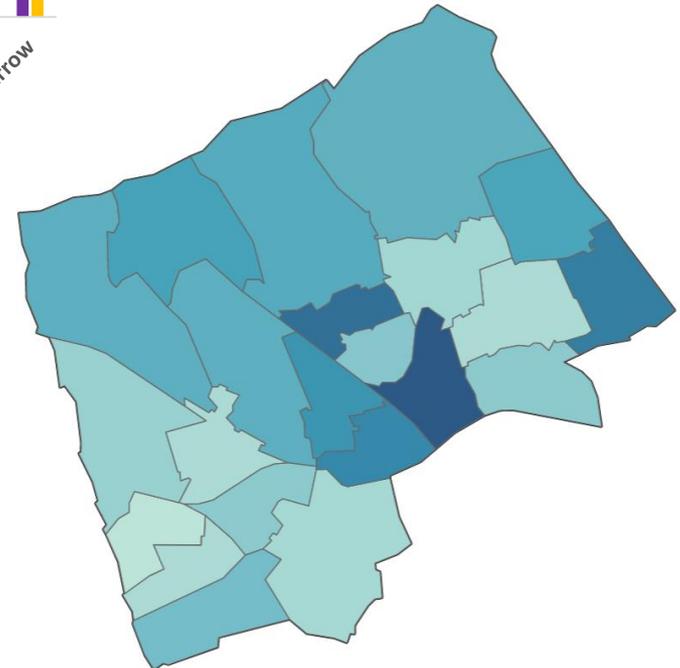


Chart show data labels for highest/ lowest wards in 2022

## Theft from a MV, Harrow Nearest Neighbours

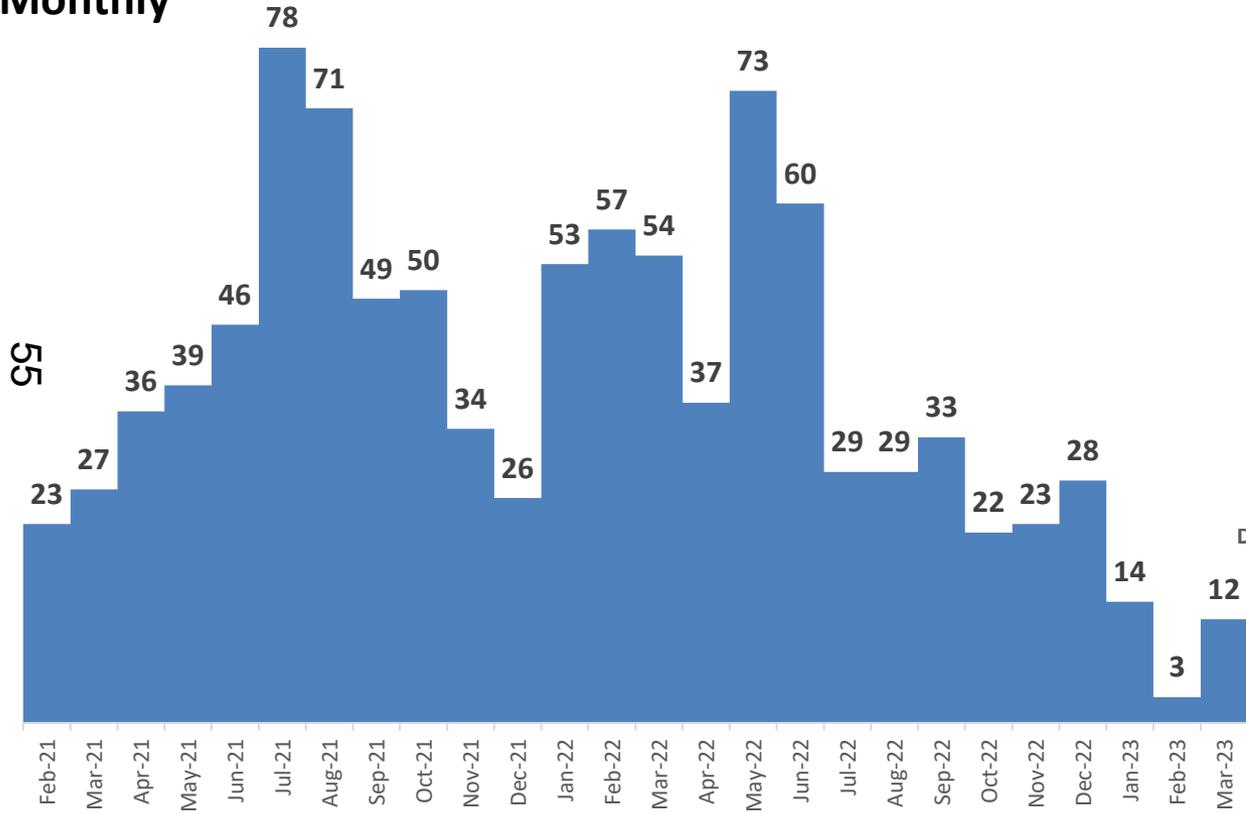
Total offences	2021		2022		Offences Change	Rate Change
	Offences	Rate	Offences	Rate		
Barnet	3132	7.8	2991	7.3	-141	-0.5
Brent	2234	6.8	2220	6.8	-14	0.0
Ealing	3046	9.0	3072	9.0	26	0.0
Harrow	1628	6.5	1596	6.3	-32	-0.2
Hillingdon	2,275	7.7	2361	8.0	86	0.3
London	61,445	6.8	64,992	7.2	3547	0.4

# Catalytic Converter Theft - Harrow -

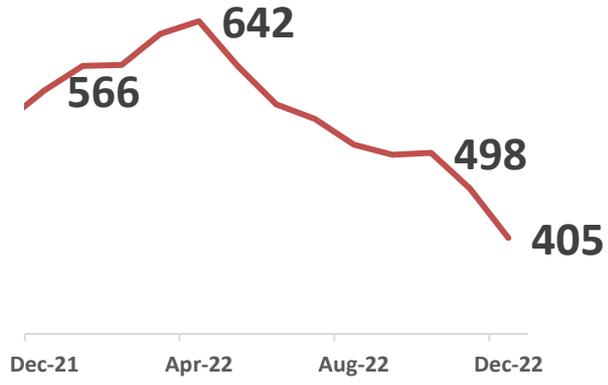
(source: Harrow Police)



## CC Theft; Harrow Monthly



## CC Theft rolling year



- Sharp decline in rolling year trend after and upward trend in the level of CC thefts earlier. From 642 (April 22) down to 405 ( December 22).
- Lowest monthly level recorded in Dec 2022 with 3 CC thefts, highest level was recorded in May 2021 ( 78 CC thefts)

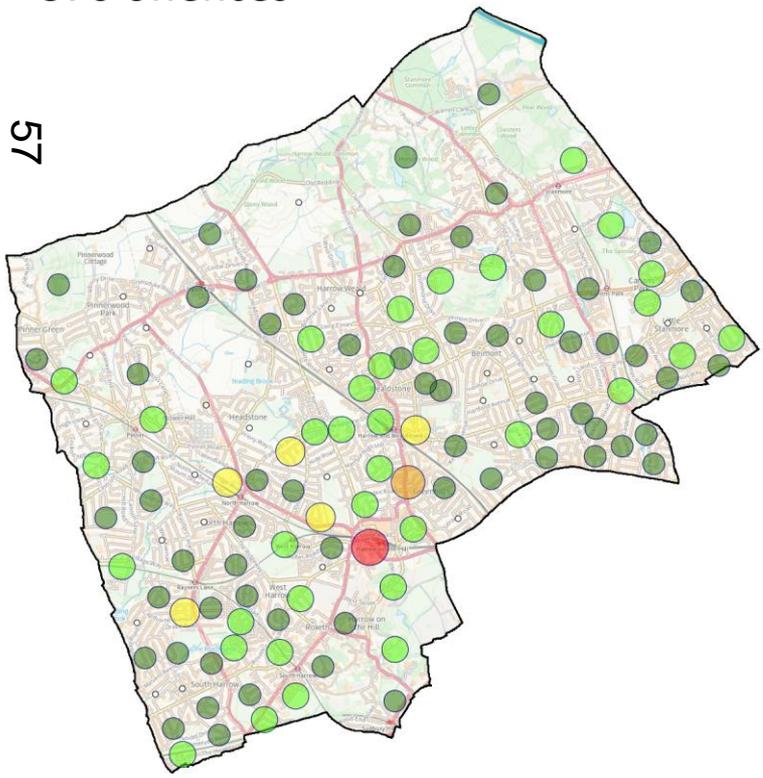
56

## High Volume & High Harm Crime – Violence Against the Person

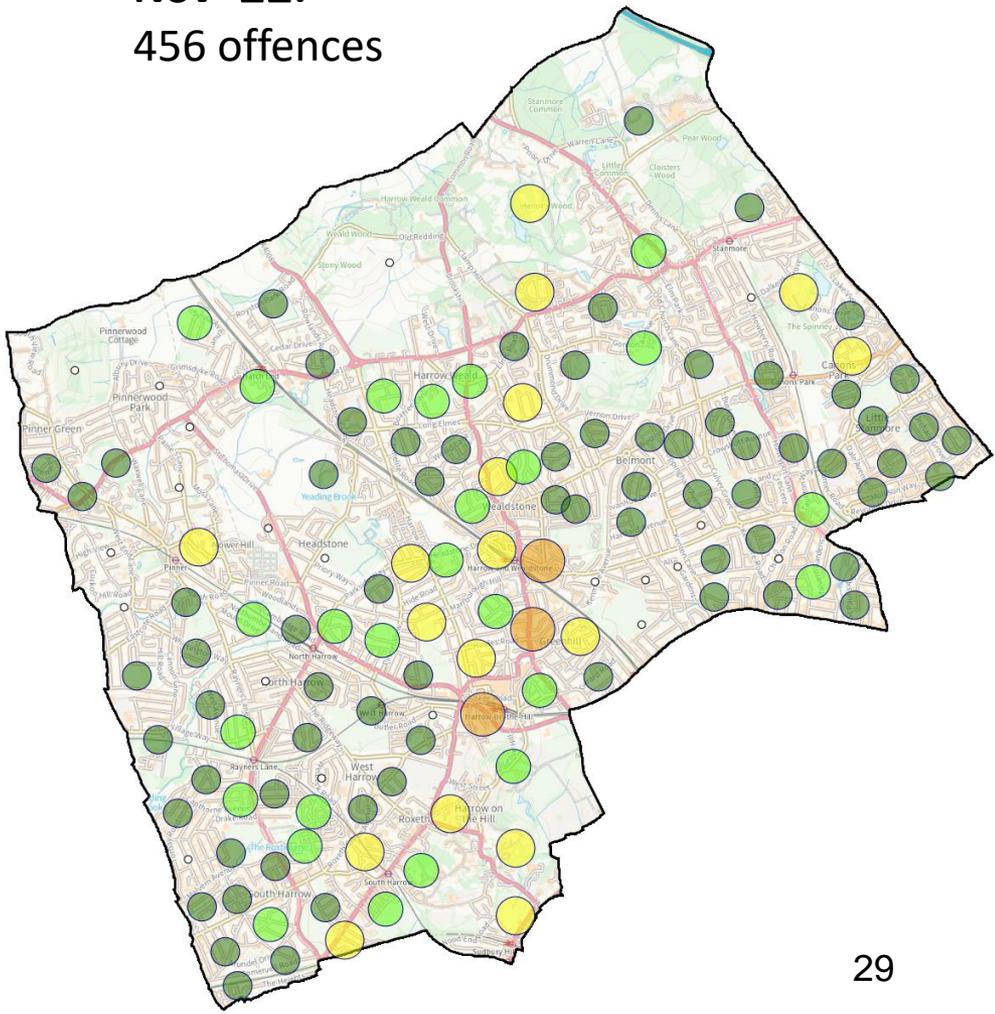
# Violence & sexual offences - Harrow

**Nov '21:**  
370 offences

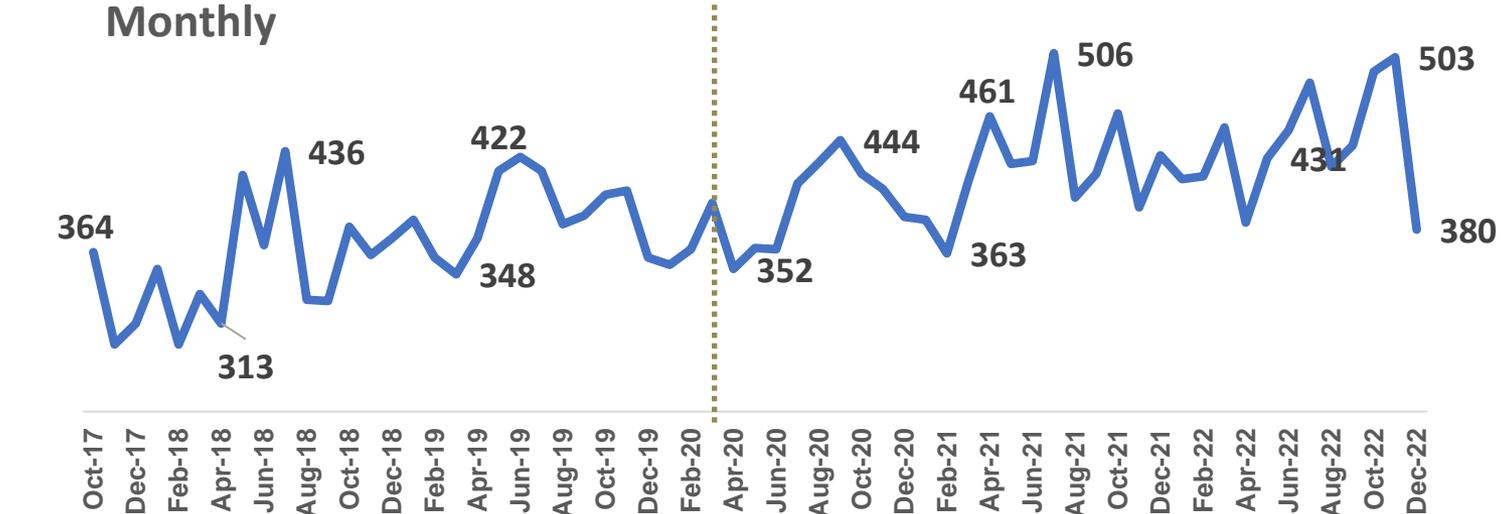
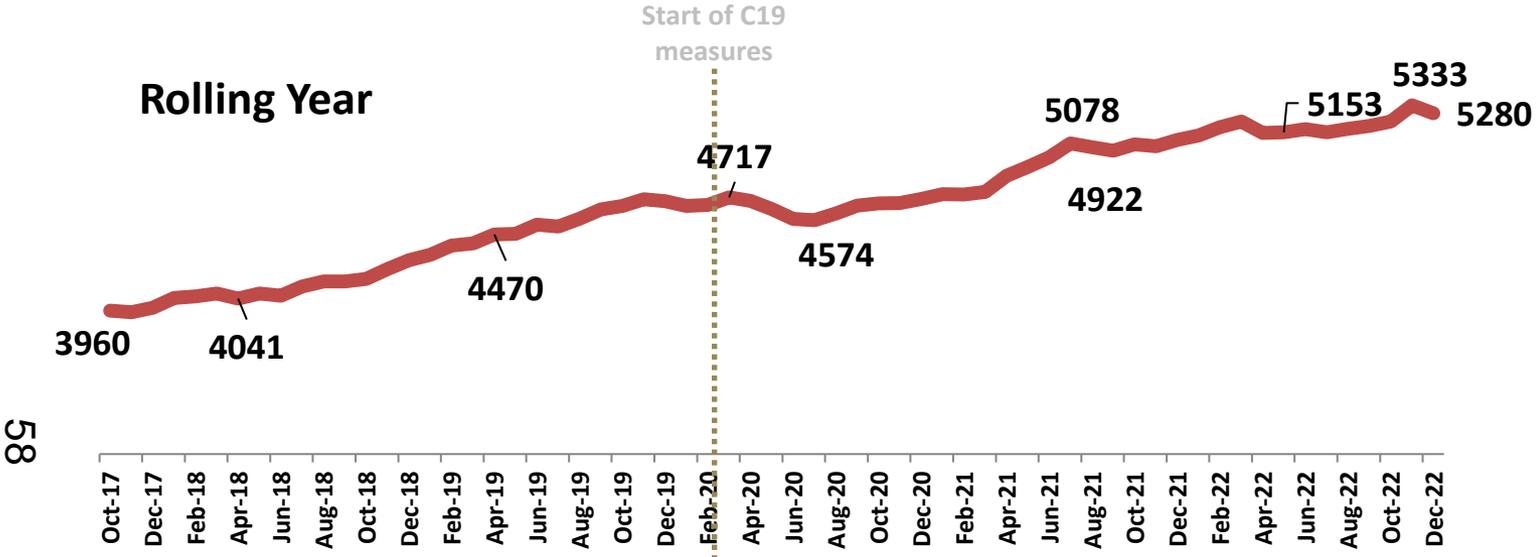
57



**Nov '22:**  
456 offences



# High volume Crime – Violence against the person



# Violence without injury

## Violence without injury, Harrow wards

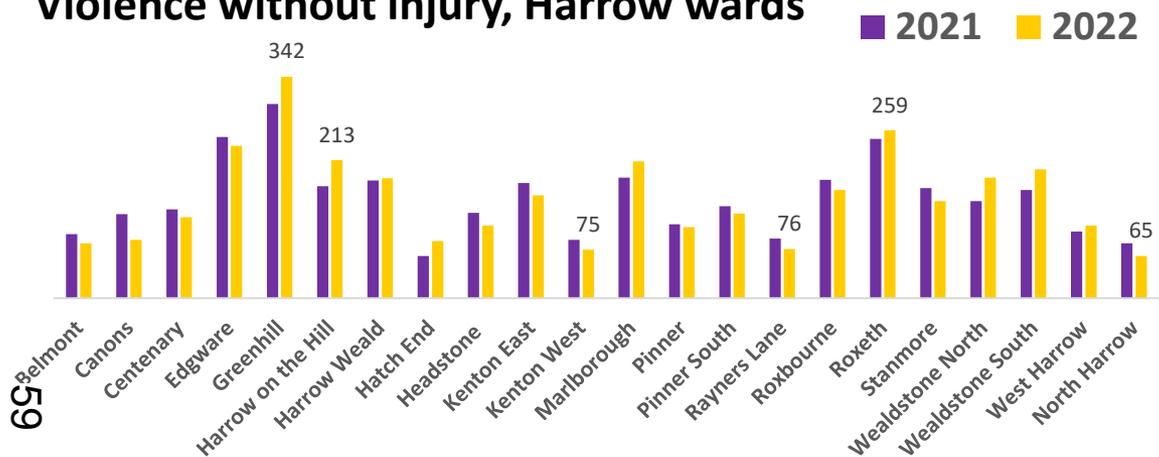
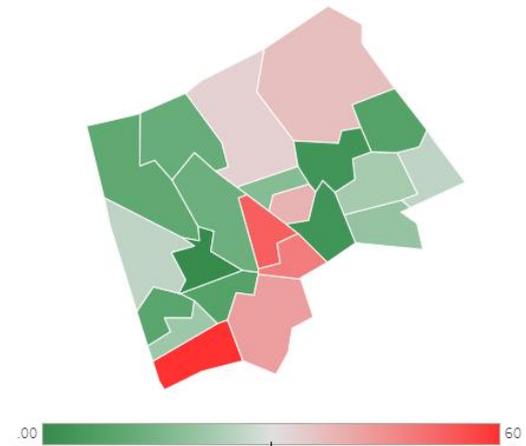


Chart show data labels for highest/ lowest wards in 2022

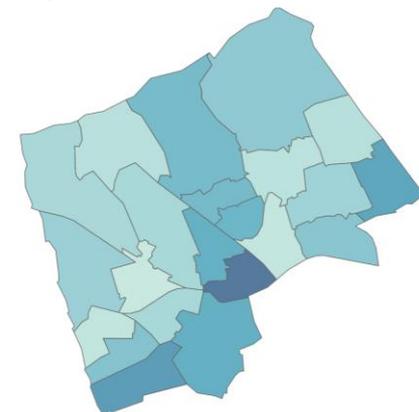
Heat Map Violence WITHOUT injury, Oct-Dec 2022 Harrow wards



## Violence without injury, Harrow Nearest Neighbours

Total offences	2021		2022		Offences Change	Rate Change
	Offences	Rate	Offences	Rate		
Barnet	5672	14.2	5465	13.7	-207	-0.5
Brent	6227	19.0	6680	20.4	453	1.4
Ealing	6871	20.2	7124	20.9	253	0.7
Harrow	3725	14.8	3596	14.6	-129	-0.2
Hillingdon	5,457	18.6	5436	18.5	-21	-0.1
London	161,989	18.0	163,439	18.2	1450	0.2

Heat Map Violence without injury, 2022 Harrow wards



# High Harm Crime: Violence with injury

## Violence with injury, Harrow wards

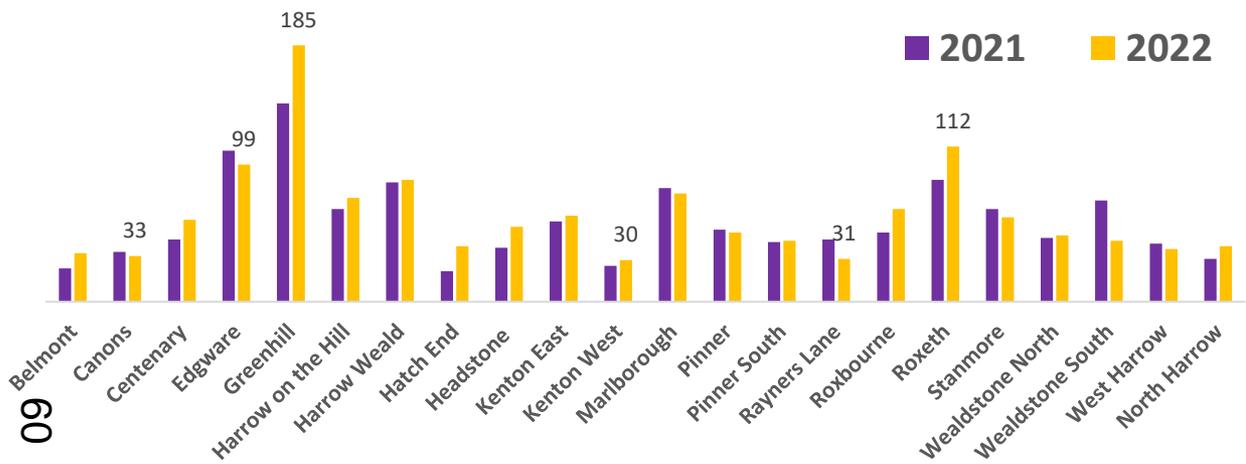
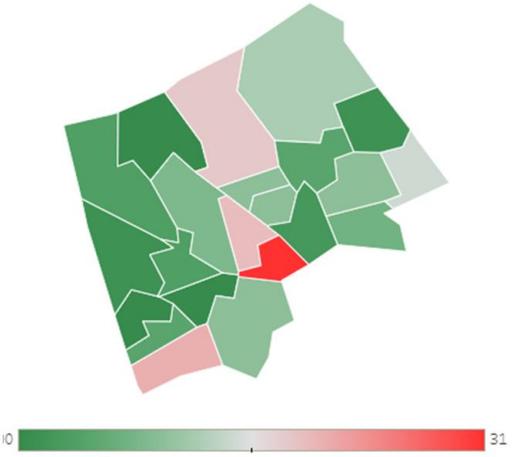


Chart show data labels for highest/ lowest wards in 2022

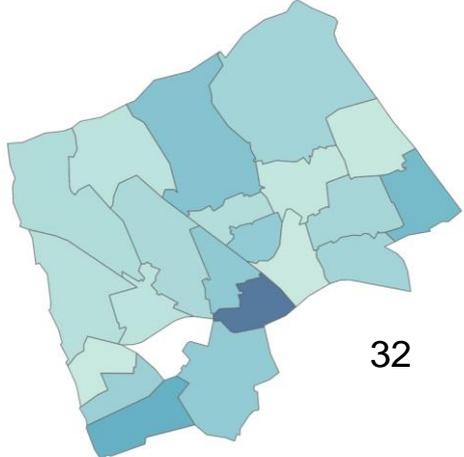
Heat Map Violence WITH injury , Oct – Dec 2022 Harrow wards



## Violence with injury, Harrow Nearest Neighbours

Total offences	2021		2022		Offences Change	Rate Change
	Offences	Rate	Offences	Rate		
Barnet	2199	5.5	2320	5.8	121	0.3
Brent	2855	8.7	3135	9.6	280	0.9
Ealing	2767	8.1	2895	8.5	128	0.4
Harrow	1343	5.3	1530	6.1	187	0.8
Hillingdon	2,253	7.7	2367	8.1	114	0.4
London	71,953	8.0	77,776	8.7	5823	0.7

Heat Map Violence with injury, 2022 Harrow wards

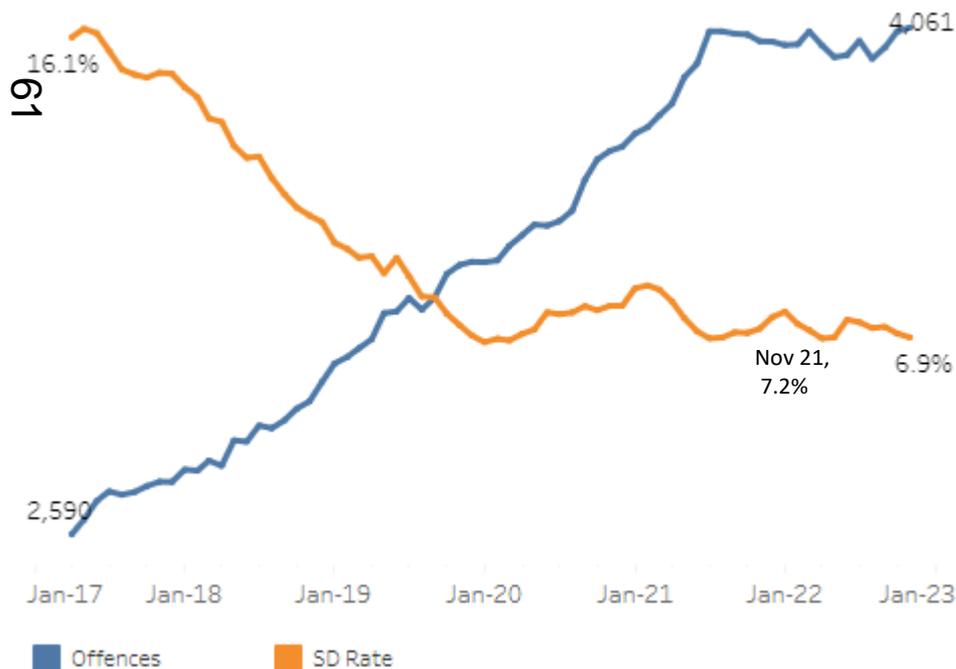


32

# Violence WITHOUT injury - Sanction detections

Sanction detections are when offences have been resolved through a formal sanction, including being charged or receiving a caution.

## Violence without injury offences- Sanction detections rate, Harrow (RY)



The current level of violence without injury sanction detections is 6.9% (Nov 2022).

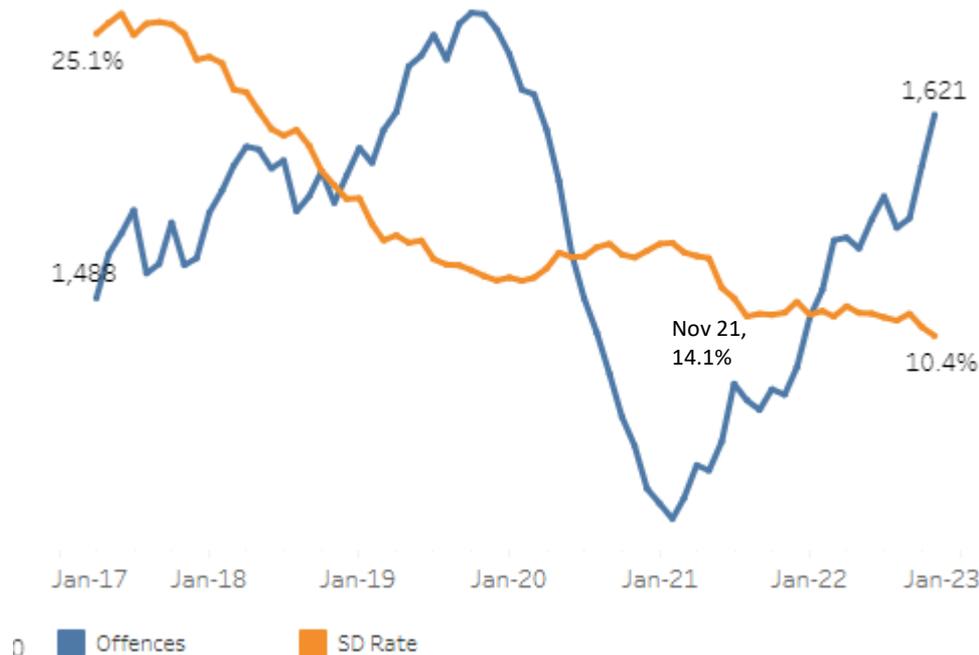
- ▼ 0.1 percentage points lower than the London average (7.2% % Nov 22)
- ▼ 0.3 percentage points lower same period last year (Nov 21)

# Violence WITH injury - Sanction detections

Sanction detections are when offences have been resolved through a formal sanction, including being charged or receiving a caution.

### Violence WITH injury offences- Sanction detections rate, Harrow (RY)

62



The current level of VWI sanction detections is 10.4% (Nov 2022).

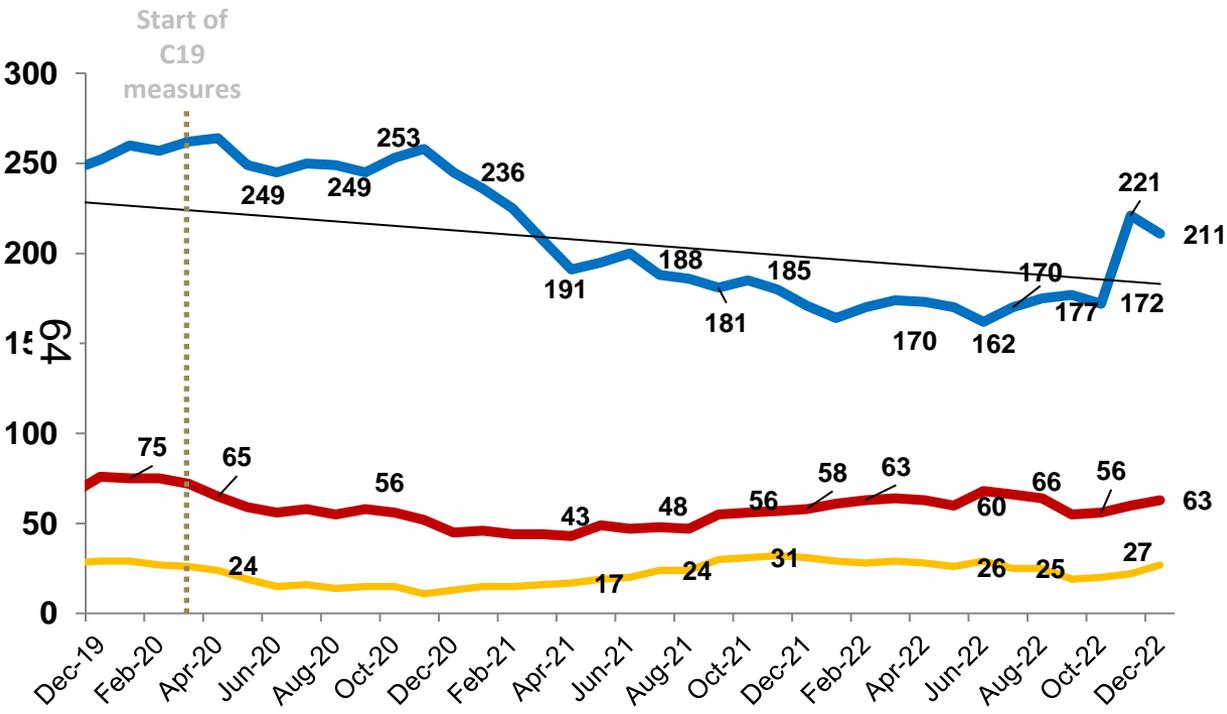
- ▼ 1.3 percentage points lower than the London average (11.7 % Nov 22)
- ▼ 3.7 percentage points lower same period last year (Nov 21)

63

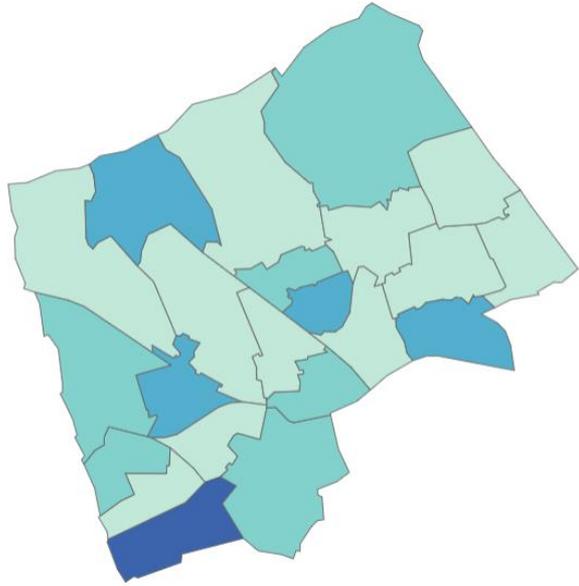
## High Harm Crime – Weapon Enabled Crime

# High harm crime – Weapon enabled crime

## Knife crime & knife crime with injury, Harrow (RY)



Harrow wards Heat map:  
knife crime with injury victims  
under 25 yrs (not flagged as  
Domestic)  
Nov 2022 (RY)

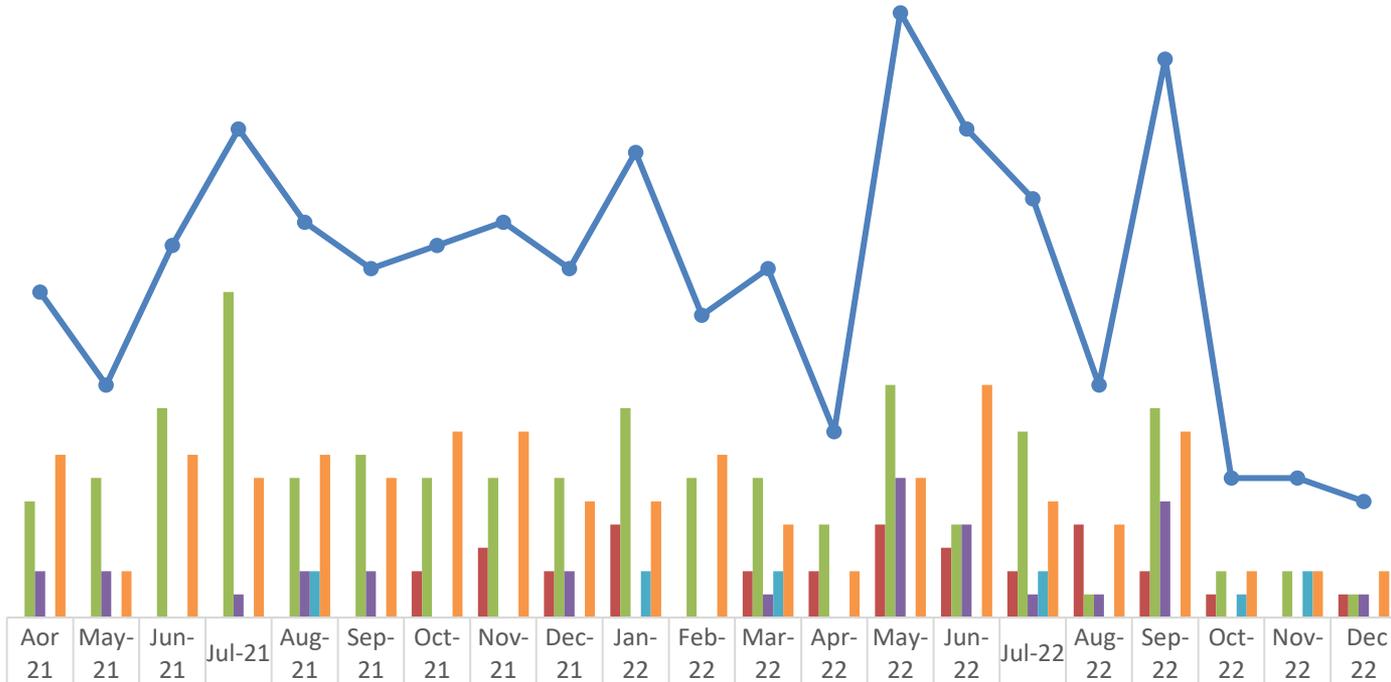


- Recent increase– from 162 ( Jun 22) to 221 in (Nov 22) after downward trend since C-19 measures were introduced and more sharply since Oct 20.

# Monthly possession of weapons – Harrow (safe stats)

## Monthly possession of weapons – Harrow

65

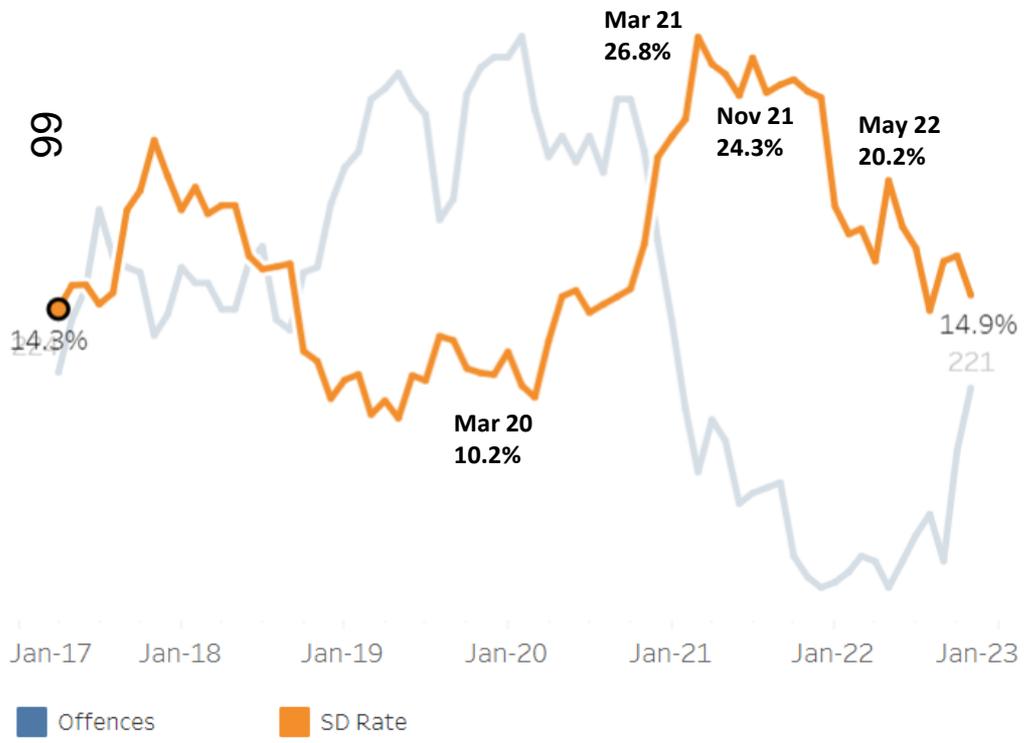


	Aor-21	May-21	Jun-21	Jul-21	Aug-21	Sep-21	Oct-21	Nov-21	Dec-21	Jan-22	Feb-22	Mar-22	Apr-22	May-22	Jun-22	Jul-22	Aug-22	Sep-22	Oct-22	Nov-22	Dec-22
Other Firearm Offences	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	3	2	4	0	2	2	4	3	2	4	2	1	0	1
Possession of Article with Blade or Point	5	6	9	14	6	7	6	6	6	9	6	6	4	10	4	8	1	9	2	2	1
Possession of Firearm with Intent	2	2	0	1	2	2	0	0	2	0	0	1	0	6	4	1	1	5	0	0	1
Possession of Firearms Offences	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	2	0	2	0	0	0	2	0	0	1	2	0
Possession of Other Weapon	7	2	7	6	7	6	8	8	5	5	7	4	2	6	10	5	4	8	2	2	2
Possession of Weapons	14	10	16	21	17	15	16	17	15	20	13	15	8	26	21	18	10	24	6	6	5

# Knife crime - Sanction detections

Sanction detections are when offences have been resolved through a formal sanction, including being charged or receiving a caution.

**Knife crime offences-  
Sanction detections rate, Harrow (RY)**

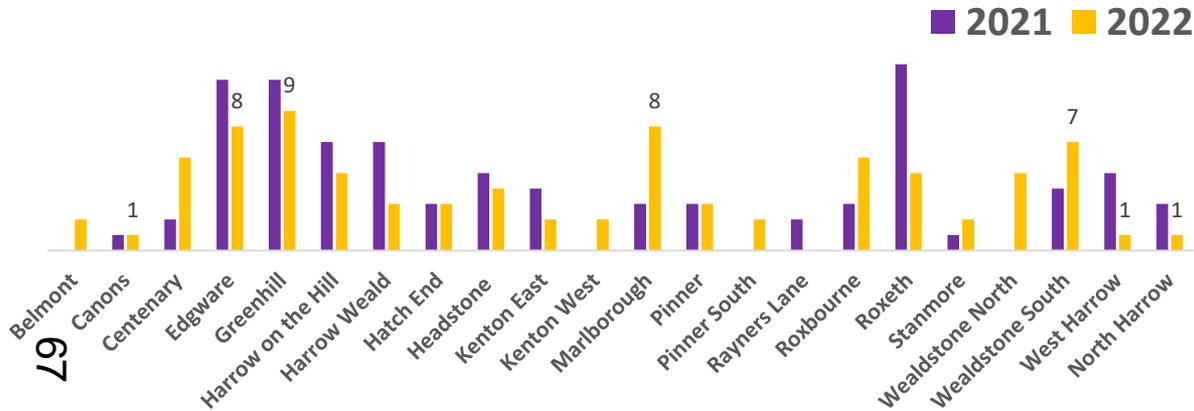


The current level of Knife Crime sanction detections is 14.9% (Nov 2022).

- ▼ 1.4 percentage points lower than the London average (16.3 % Nov 22)
- ▼ 9.4 percentage points lower same period last year (Nov 21)

# Possession of weapons

## Possession of weapons, Harrow wards



## Heat Map: Possession of weapons, 2022, Harrow wards

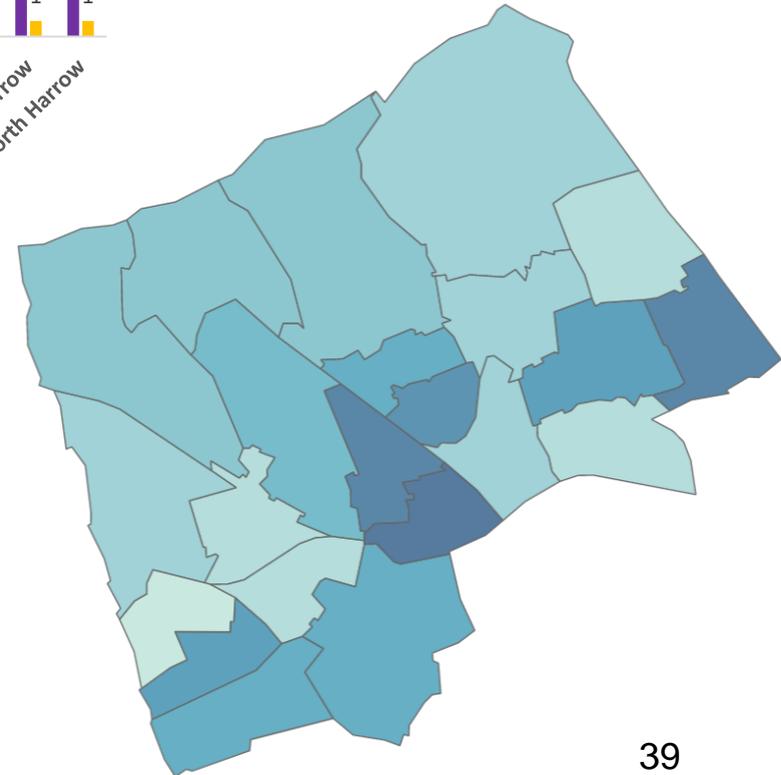


Chart show data labels for highest/ lowest wards in 2022

## Possession of weapons, Harrow Nearest Neighbours

Total offences	2021		2022		Offences Change	Rate Change
	Offences	Rate	Offences	Rate		
Barnet	148	0.4	159	0.4	11	0.0
Brent	243	0.7	229	0.7	-14	0.0
Ealing	182	0.5	183	0.5	1	0.0
Harrow	94	0.4	89	0.4	-5	0.0
Hillingdon	171	0.6	121	0.4	-50	-0.2
London	6,139	0.7	6,114	0.7	-25	0.0

## Drug Crime

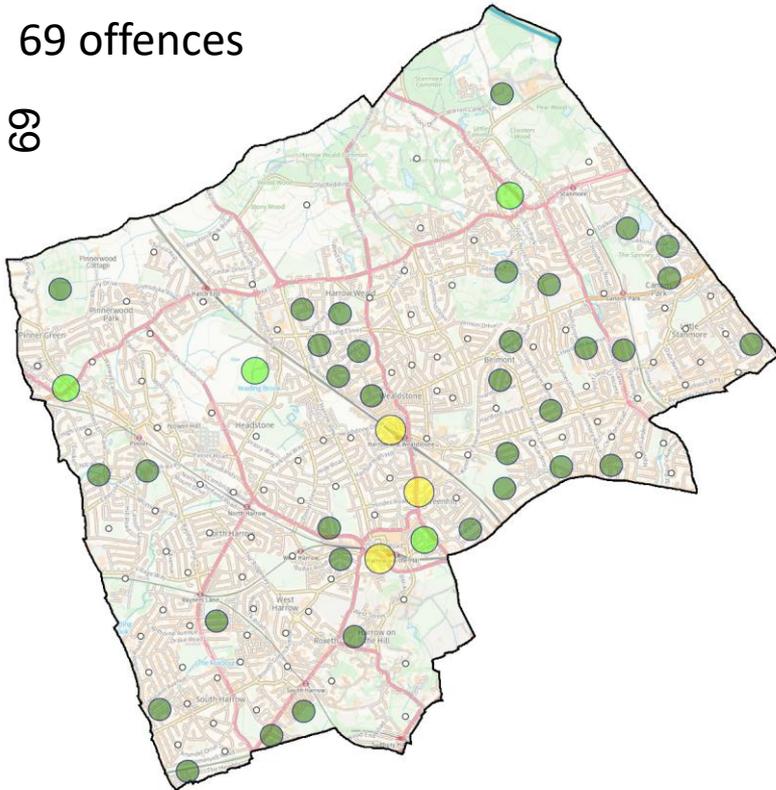
**Definition of Drug Trafficking:** this includes transporting, selling, making, importing and exporting illegal or controlled drugs.

# Drug offences

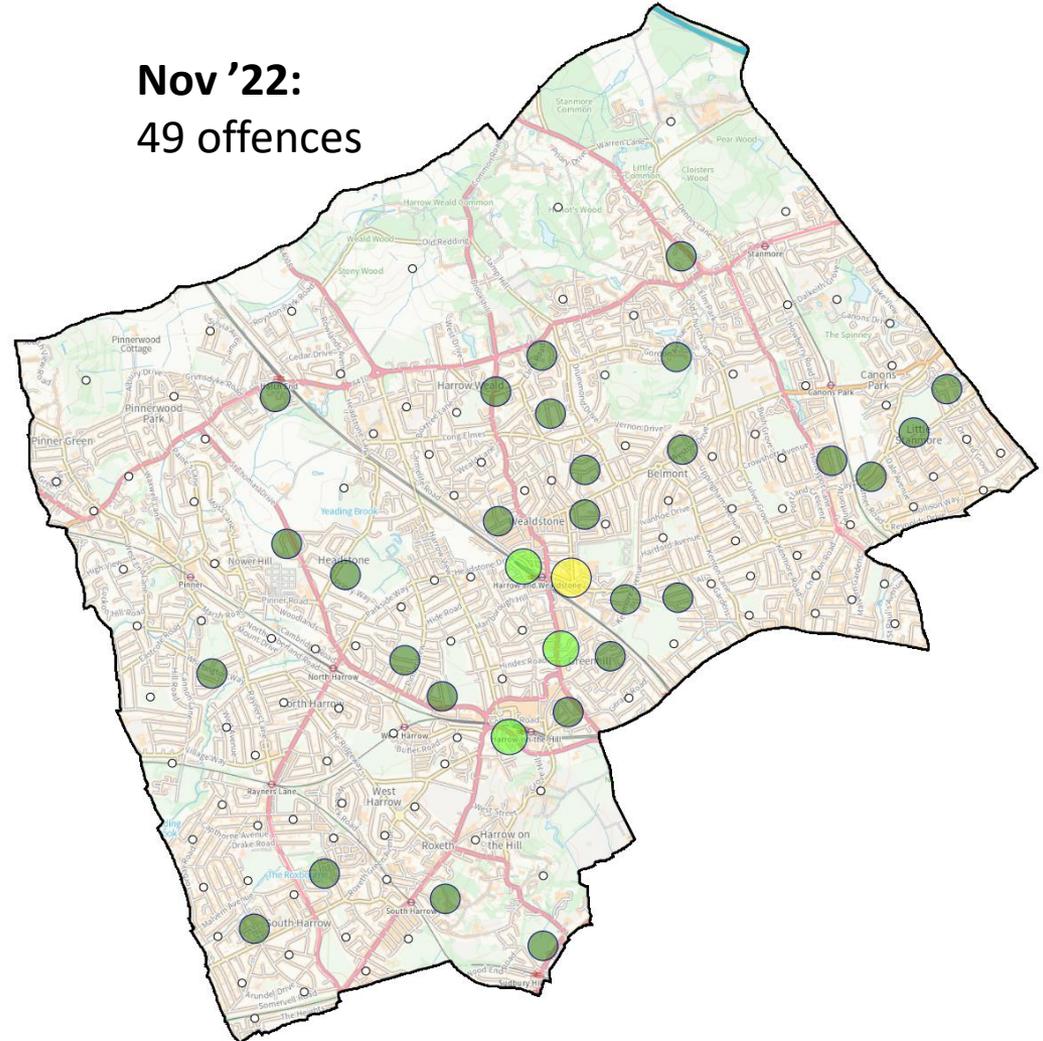
## Drug offences Harrow mapped.

Oct '22:  
69 offences

69

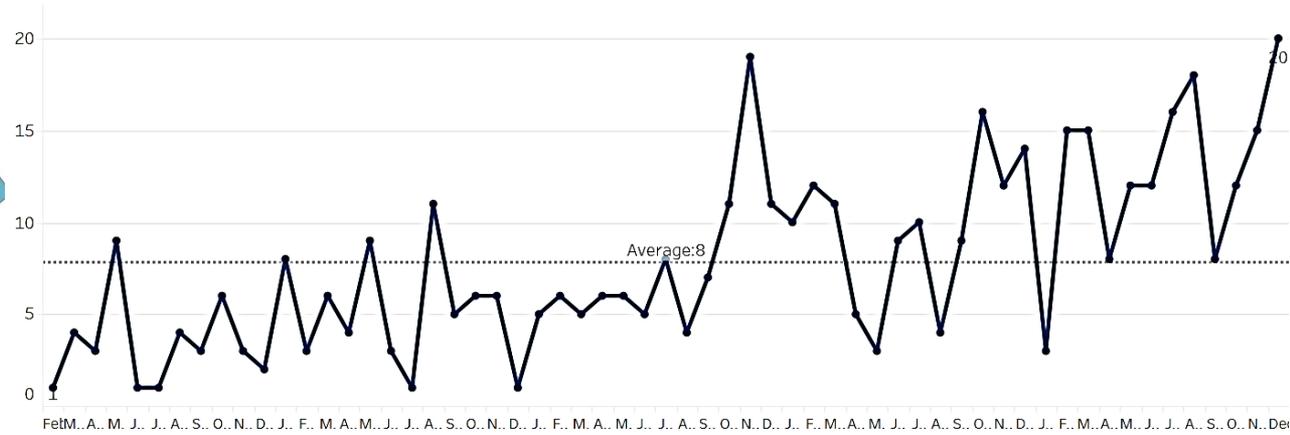
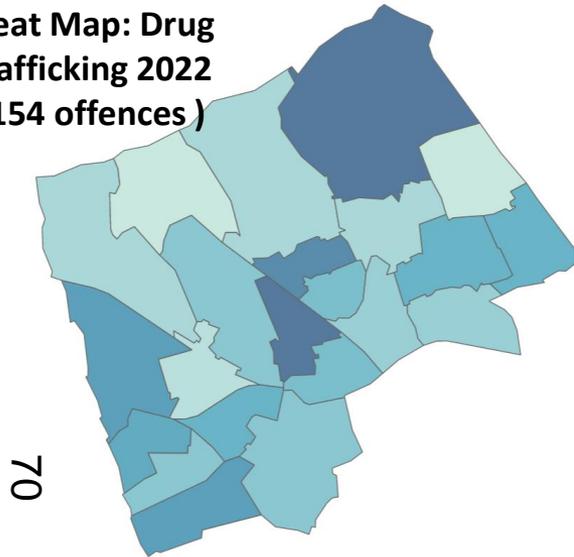


Nov '22:  
49 offences

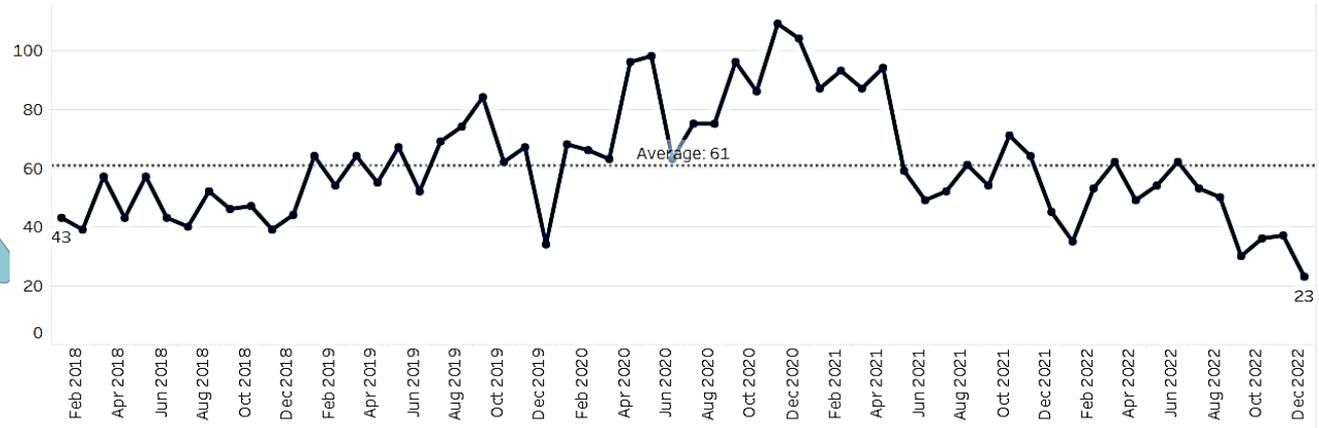
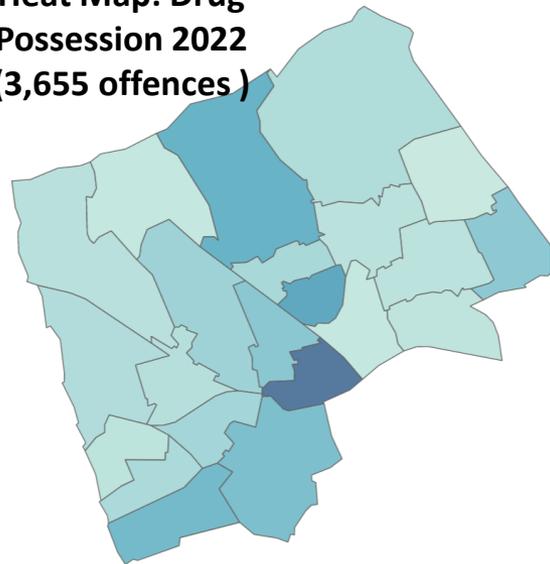


# Drug offences: Harrow Monthly trends

**Heat Map: Drug trafficking 2022 (154 offences)**

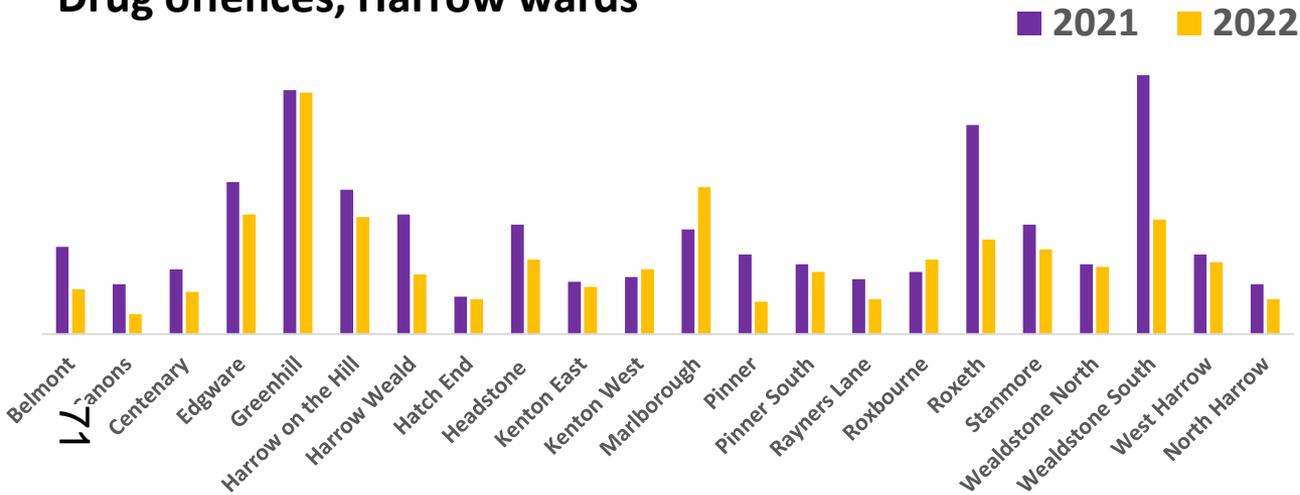


**Heat Map: Drug Possession 2022 (3,655 offences)**



# Drug offences

## Drug offences, Harrow wards



## Heat Map Drug offences, 2022 Harrow wards

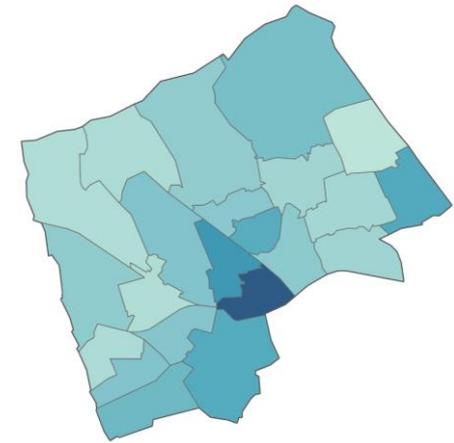


Chart show data labels for highest/ lowest wards in 2022

## Drug offences, Harrow Nearest Neighbours

### Drug trafficking

Total offences	2021		2022		Offences Change	Rate Change
	Offences	Rate	Offences	Rate		
Barnet	167	0.4	308	0.8	141	0.4
Brent	194	0.6	359	1.1	165	0.5
Ealing	201	0.6	319	0.9	118	0.3
Harrow	115	0.5	154	0.6	39	0.1
Hillingdon	182	0.6	220	0.7	38	0.1
London	4,897	0.5	7,935	0.7	3038	0.2

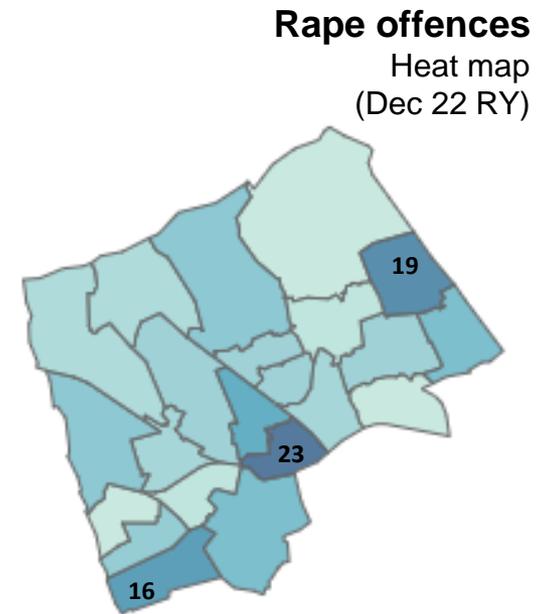
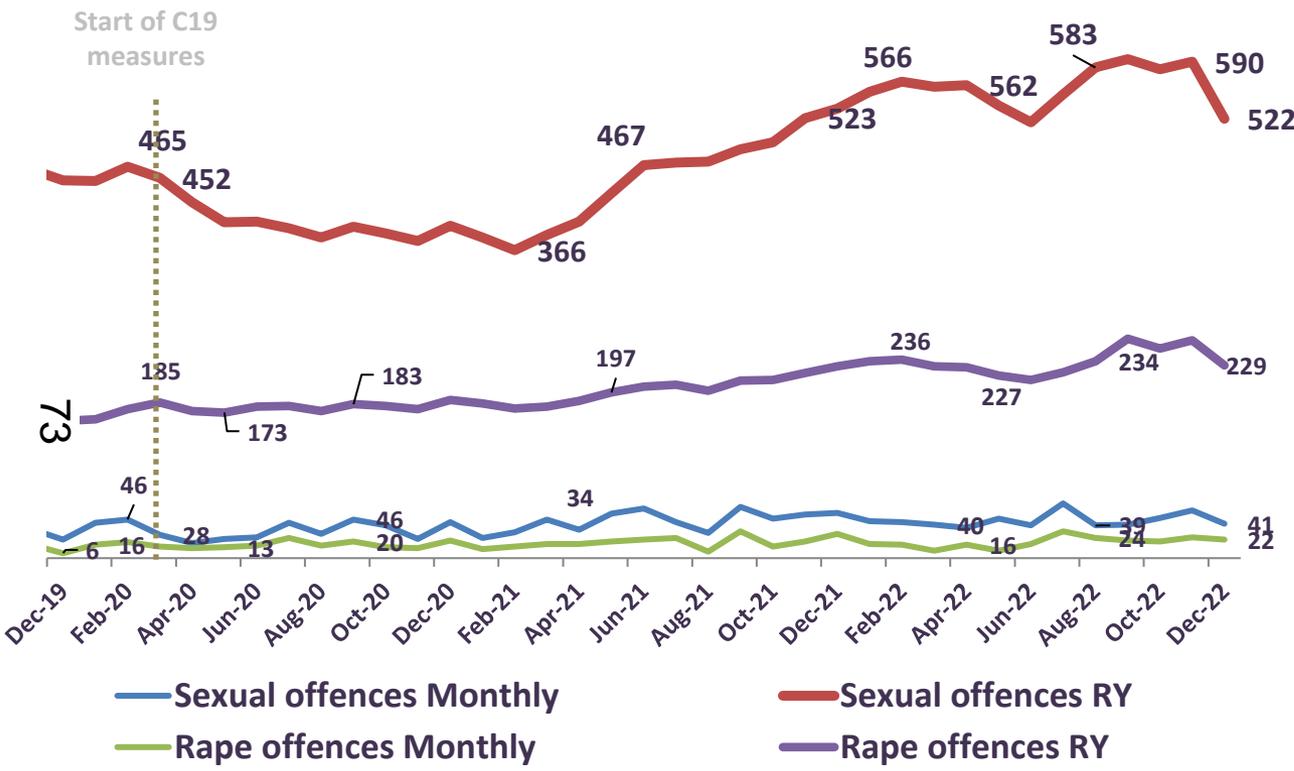
### Drug possession

Total offences	2021		2022		Offences Change	Rate Change
	Offences	Rate	Offences	Rate		
Barnet	946	2.4	698	1.7	-248	-0.7
Brent	1808	5.5	1426	4.4	-382	-1.1
Ealing	1479	4.3	1086	3.2	-393	-1.1
Harrow	845	3.3	527	2.2	-318	-1.1
Hillingdon	1347	4.6	863	2.9	-484	-1.7
London	41,982	4.7	36,087	4.0	-5895	-0.7

## High Harm Crime – Sexual Offences

72

# High harm crime – Sexual offences - Harrow

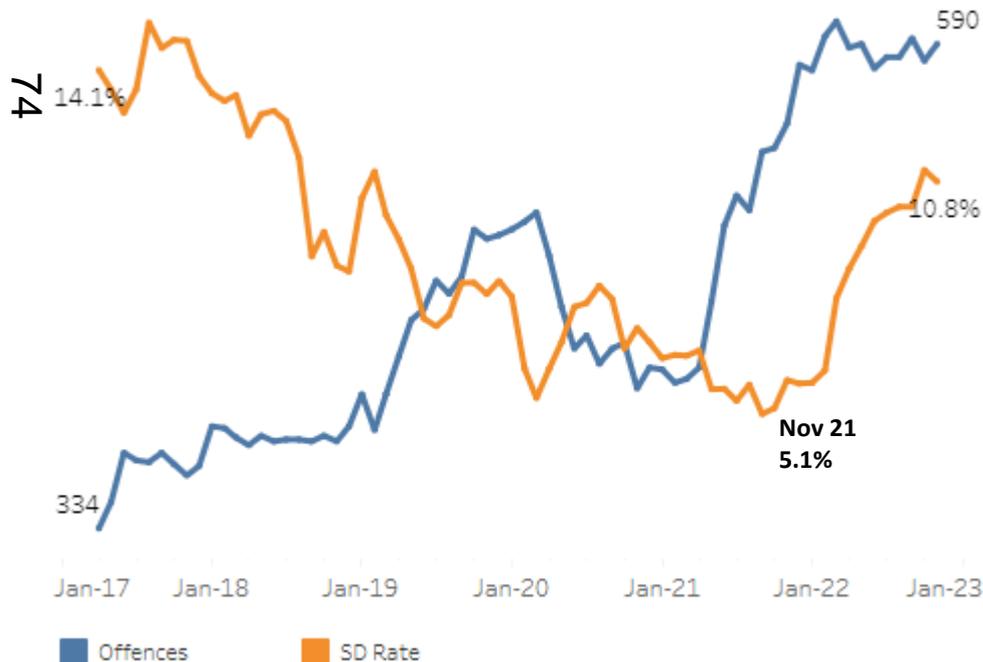


Source Met Crime dashboard

- Sharp decline to 522 in December 2022, since previous month (590, Nov 22).
- Downward trend in the number of sexual offences since Sep 19 (RY) continued during C-19 measures with a sharp increase since the beginning of 2021 from 366 (Jan 21) to 566 (Feb 22) and 590 (Nov 22, RY).
- Upward trend in recorded rape offences continued through C-19 measures, with a slight reduction in early 2022 and an increase in recent months. In Dec 22 54% (22) of sexual offences were recorded as rape offences

Sanction detections are when offences have been resolved through a formal sanction, including being charged or receiving a caution.

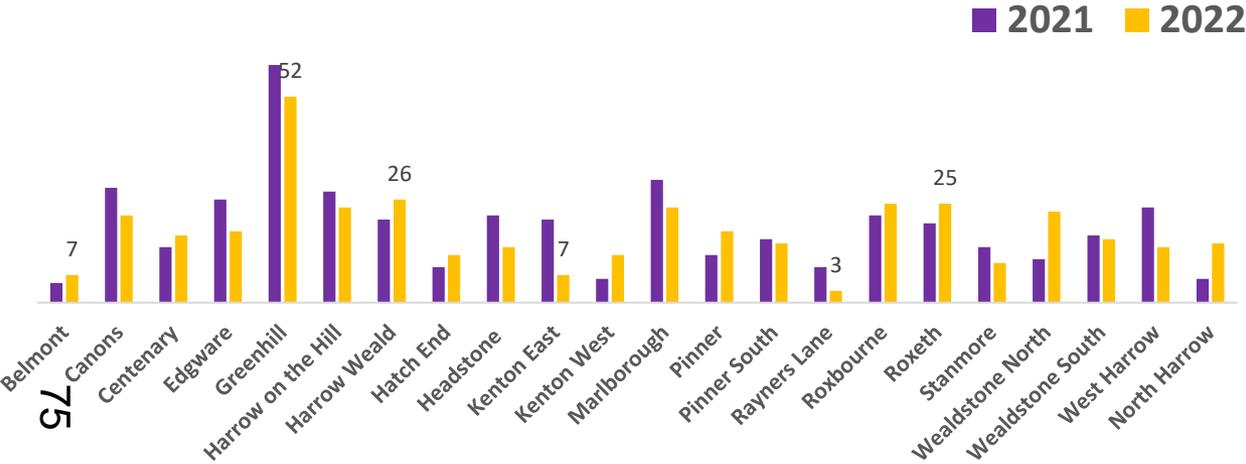
**Sexual offences crime offences-  
Sanction detections rate, Harrow (RY)**



The current level of Sexual offences sanction detections is 10.8% (Nov 2022).

- ▲ 2 percentage points higher than the London average (8.8% Nov 22)
- ▲ 5.7 percentage points higher same period last year (Nov 21)

## Sexual offences , Harrow wards



## Heat Map Sexual offences, 2022 Harrow wards

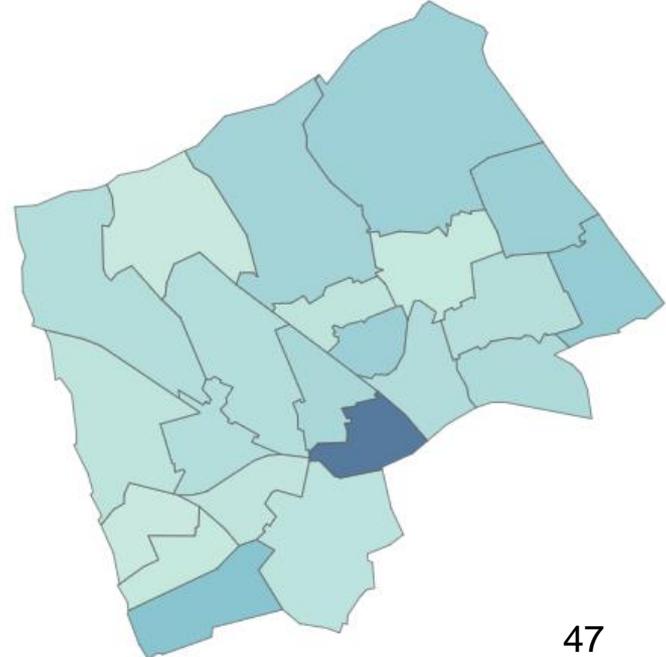


Chart show data labels for highest/ lowest wards in 2022

## Sexual offences , Harrow Nearest Neighbours

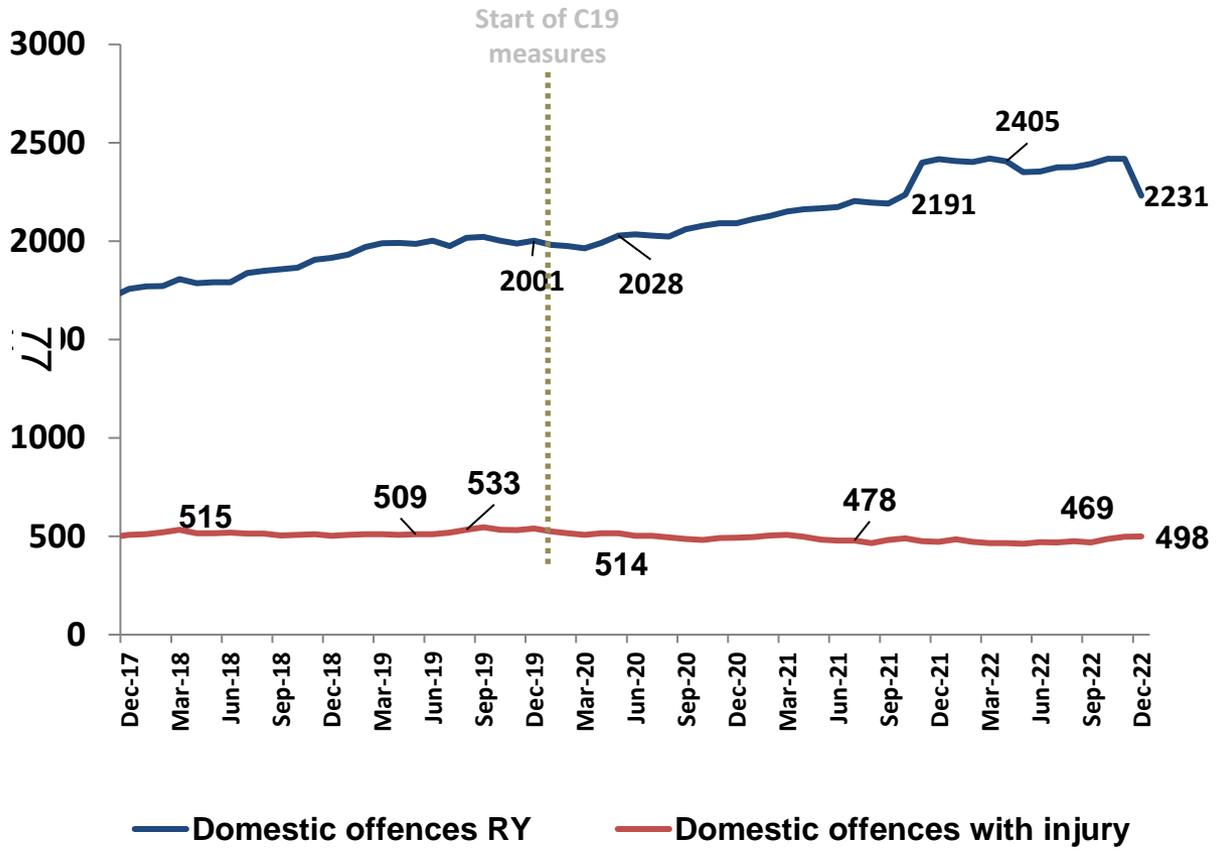
Total offences	2021		2022		Offences Change	Rate Change
	Offences	Rate	Offences	Rate		
Barnet	616	1.5	731	1.8	115	0.3
Brent	750	2.3	944	2.9	194	0.6
Ealing	639	1.9	705	2.1	66	0.2
Harrow	321	1.3	441	1.7	120	0.4
Hillingdon	412	1.4	448	1.5	36	0.1
London	22,796	2.5	27,606	3.1	4810	0.6

## High Harm Crime – Domestic Abuse

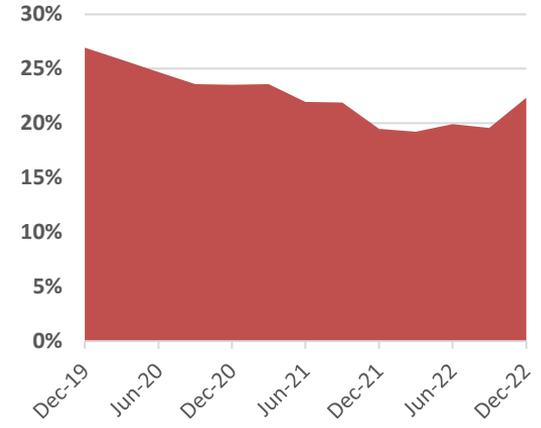
76

# High harm crime – Domestic abuse

Number of Domestic abuse offences, Harrow (RY)



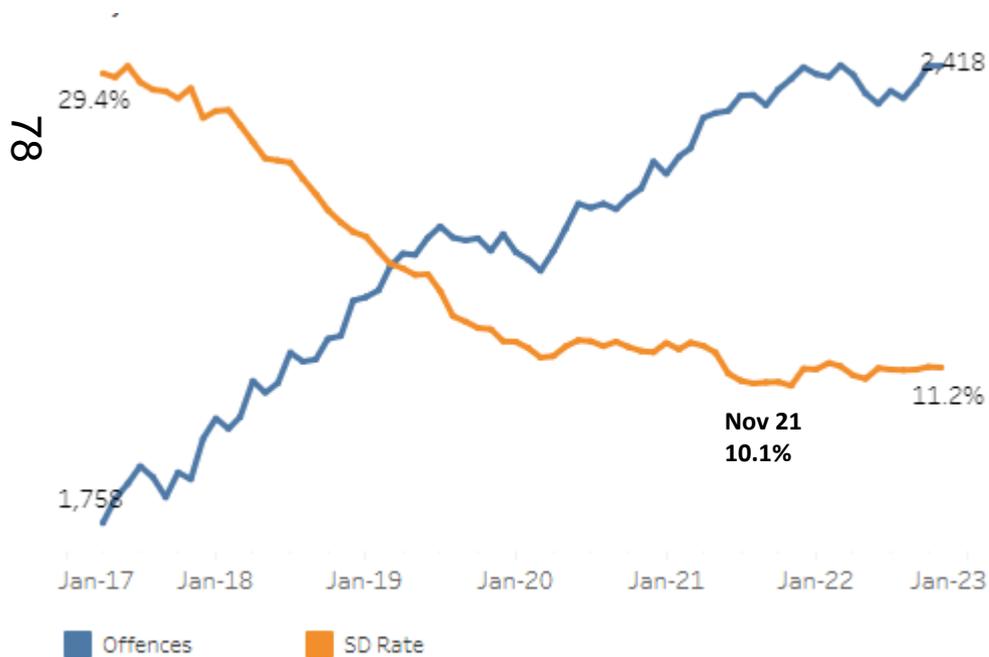
% of Domestic Abuse that results in injury



# Domestic Abuse - Sanction detections

Sanction detections are when offences have been resolved through a formal sanction, including being charged or receiving a caution.

### Domestic Abuse offences- Sanction detections rate, Harrow (RY)

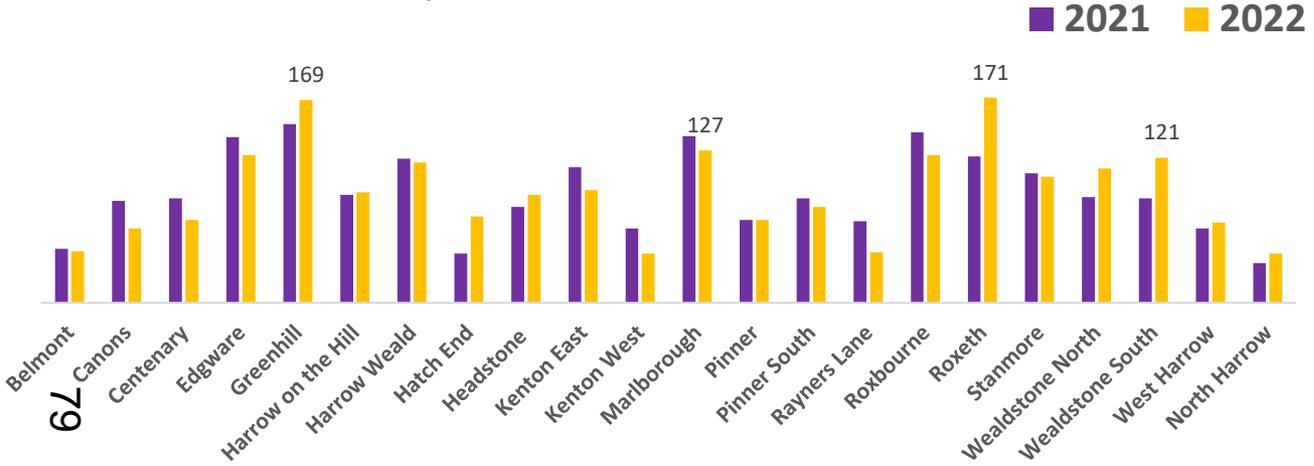


The current level of Domestic Abuse sanction detections is 11.2% (Nov 2022).

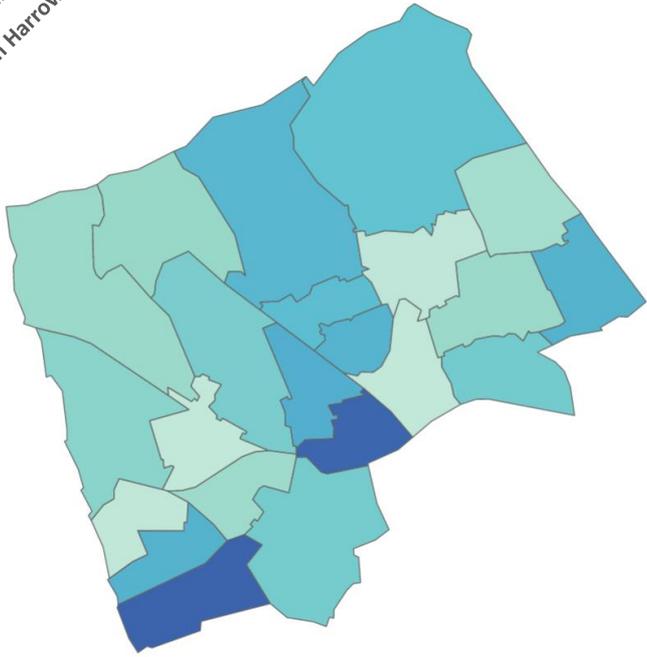
- ▲ 0.2 percentage points lower than the London average (11% Nov 22)
- ▲ 1.1 percentage points higher same period last year (Nov 21)

# Domestic offences – by Ward

## Domestic offences , Harrow wards



## Heat Map Domestic, 2022 Harrow wards



## Domestic offences , Harrow Nearest Neighbours

Total offences	2021		2022		Offences Change	Rate Change
	Offences	Rate	Offences	Rate		
Barnet	3254	8.2	3109	7.8	-145	-0.4
Brent	3509	10.9	3722	11.4	213	0.5
Ealing	3923	115.0	4091	12.0	168	-103.0
Harrow	2229	8.8	2231	8.8	2	0.0
Hillingdon	3,201	10.9	3168	10.8	-33	-0.1
London	99,445	10.6	96,002	10.7	-3443	0.1

# Domestic offences with injury – by Ward

## Domestic offences with injury, Harrow wards

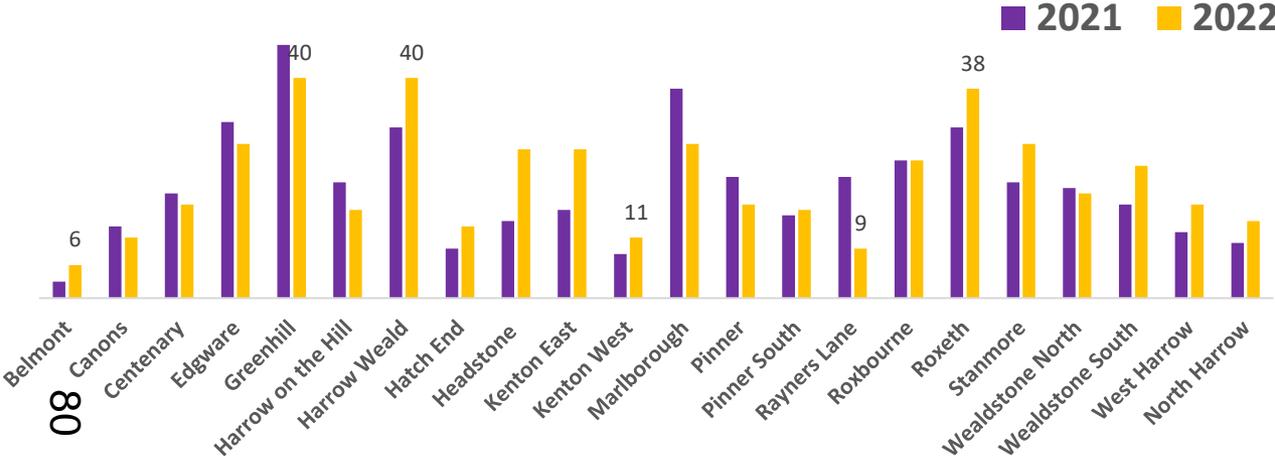
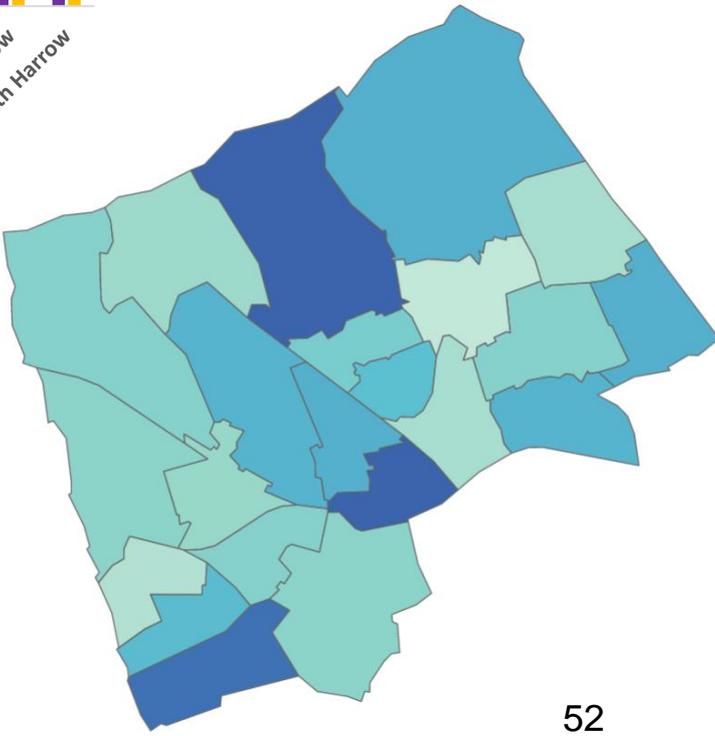


Chart show data labels for highest/ lowest wards in 2022

## Domestic Abuse with injury offences , Harrow Nearest Neighbours

Total offences	2021		2022		Offences Change	Rate Change
	Offences	Rate	Offences	Rate		
Barnet	742	1.9	728	1.8	-14	-0.1
Brent	849	2.6	903	2.8	54	0.2
Ealing	894	2.6	892	2.6	-2	0.0
Harrow	471	1.9	498	2.0	27	0.1
Hillingdon	701	2.4	681	2.3	-20	-0.1
London	22,689	2.5	22,860	2.5	171	0.0

## Heat Map Domestic Abuse with injury, 2022 Harrow wards

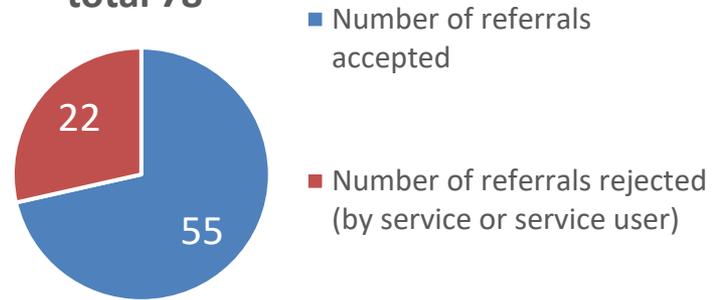


# HESTIA Referral data

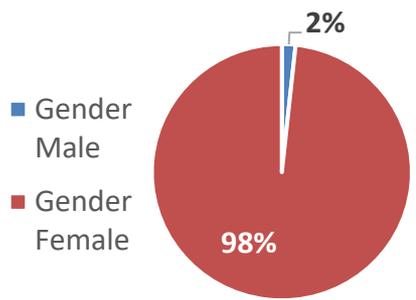
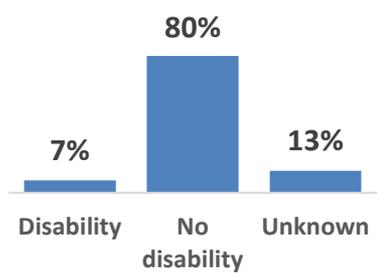
(Hestia provides domestic abuse support services in Harrow)



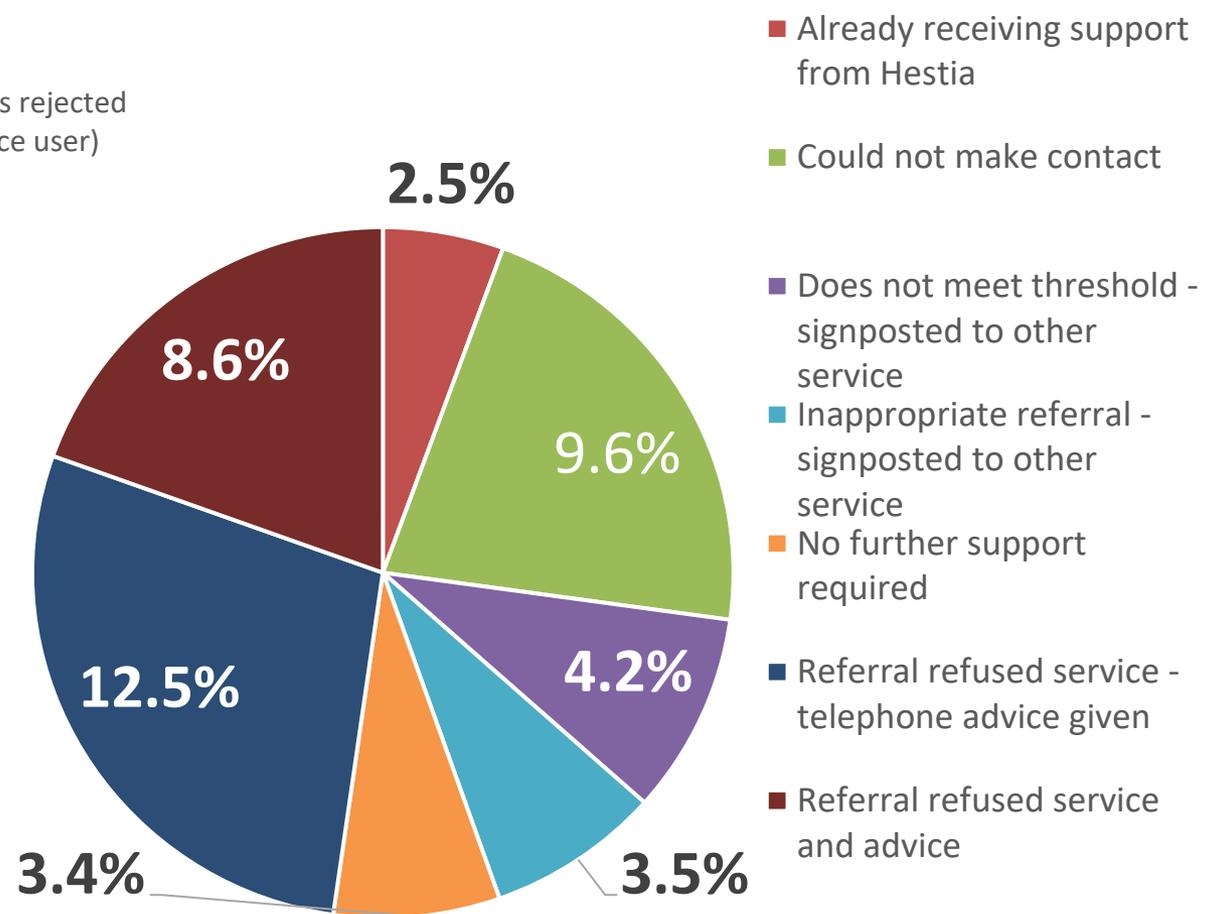
## No. Referrals 2022; total 78



81



## Reasons for non- engagement



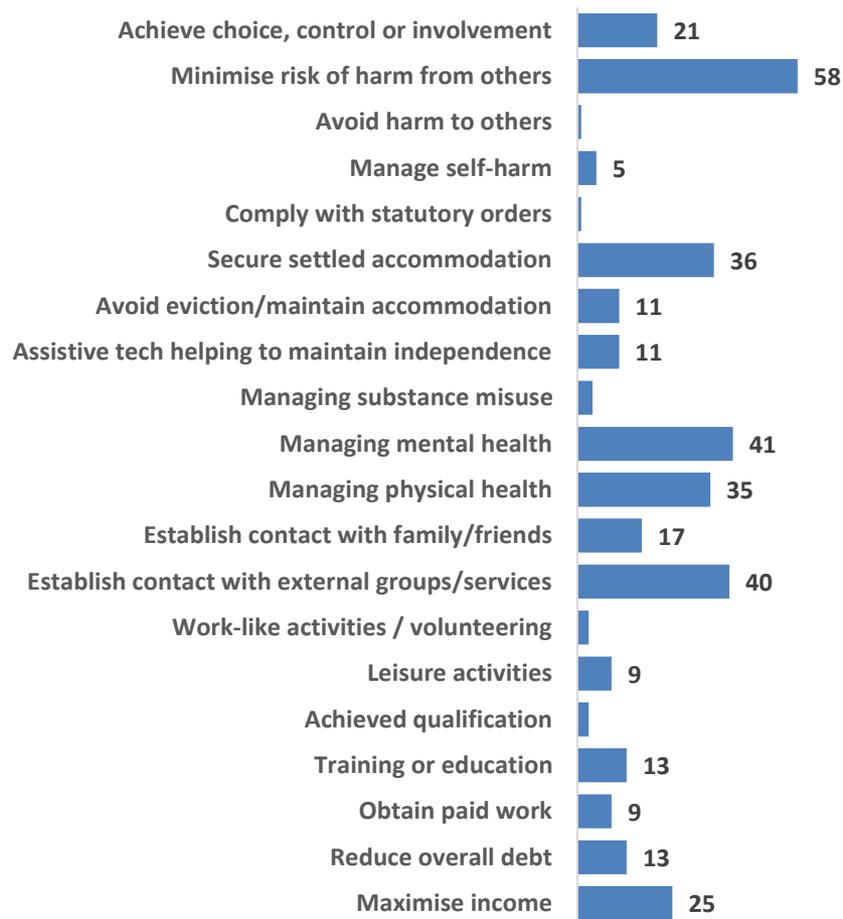
The data on this page indicates the most prevalent types of abuse.

Referrals can present having experienced multiple categories of abuse and needs

82

Type of abuse	% of referrals	Number of referrals
Psychological and/or emotional abuse	57%	16
Physical or sexual abuse	43%	30
Coercive control	30%	23
Financial abuse	25%	13
Harassment and stalking	23%	12
Online or digital abuse	2%	<10

## Level of needs by type (2022) (Total 356)



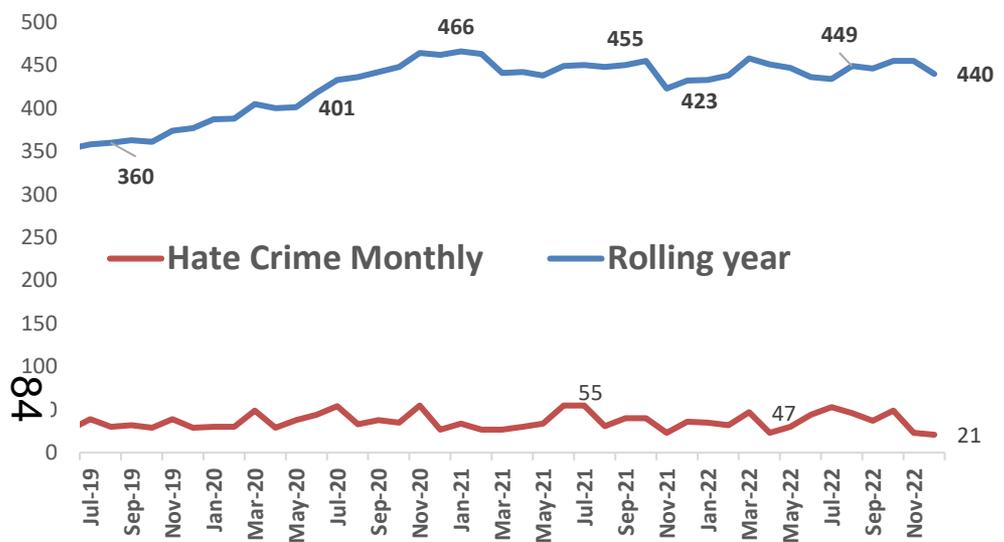
## High harm crime – Hate crime

83

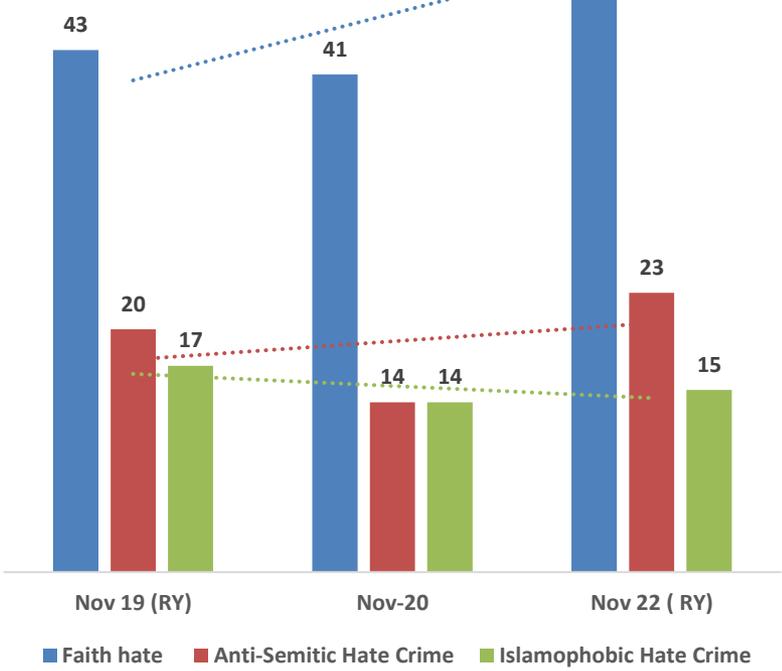
**Definition of Hate Crime:** A hate crime is defined as 'Any criminal offence which is perceived by the victim or any other person, to be motivated by hostility or prejudice based on a person's race or perceived race; religion or perceived religion; sexual orientation or perceived sexual orientation; disability or perceived disability and any crime motivated by hostility or prejudice against a person who is transgender or perceived to be transgender.'

# High harm crime – Hate crime

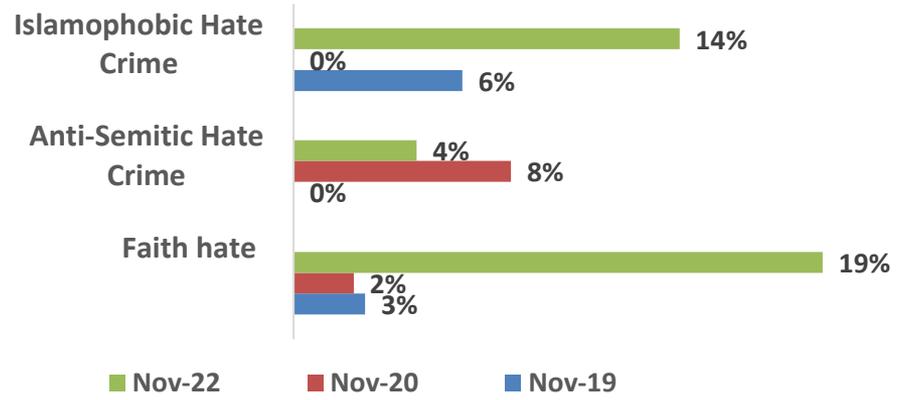
### Number of Hate Crime offences Harrow



### Faith Hate offences, Harrow (RY)



### Faith Hate Sanction detections rate, Harrow (RY)

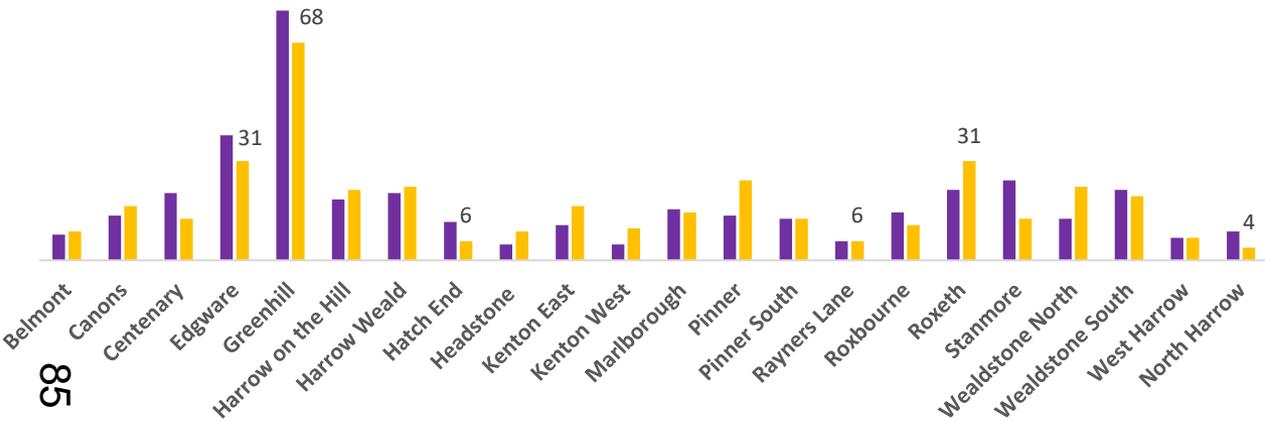


**Note:** Anti-Semitic and Islamophobic hate crime are subsets of Faith Hate. **Faith Hate includes** : criminal offences perceived by the victim or any other person, to be motivated by hostility or prejudice based on a person's religion or perceived religion or non religious belief.

# Domestic offences with injury – by Ward

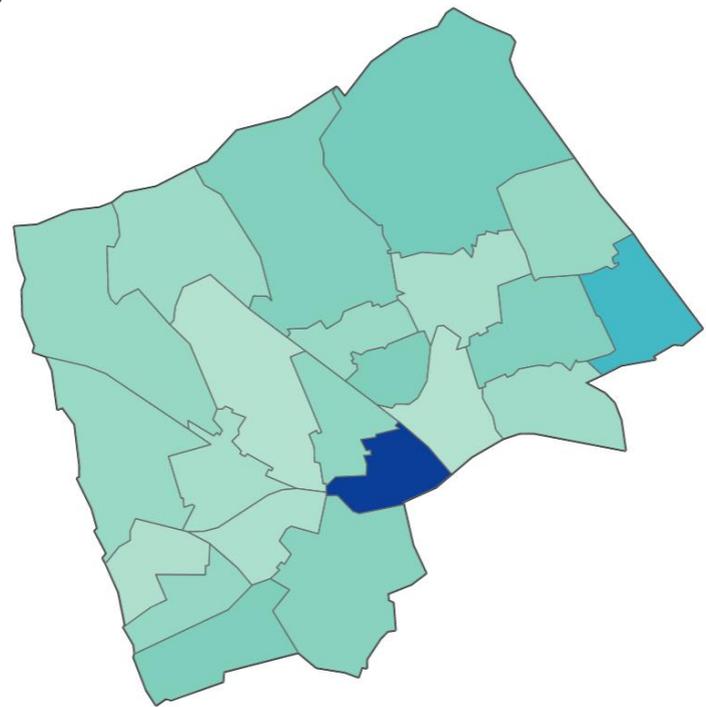
## Hate Crime offences , Harrow wards

■ 2021 ■ 2022



85

## Heat Map Hate Crime, 2022 Harrow wards



## Hate Crime offences , Harrow Nearest Neighbours

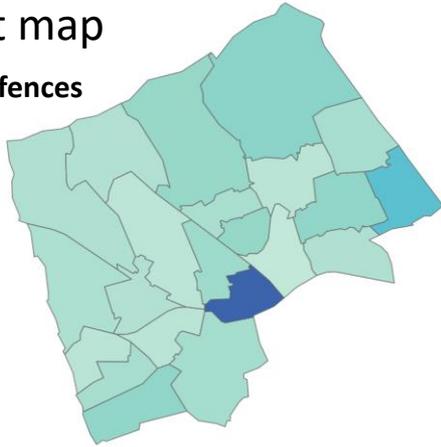
Total offences	2021		2022		Offences Change	Rate Change
	Offences	Rate	Offences	Rate		
Barnet	905	2.3	823	1.7	-82	-0.6
Brent	873	2.7	944	2.9	71	0.2
Ealing	984	2.9	920	2.7	-64	-0.2
Harrow	432	1.7	440	1.7	8	0.0
Hillingdon	712	2.4	743	2.5	31	0.1
London	26,146	2.9	24,841	2.8	-1305	-0.1

# High harm crime – Hate crime – wards

## Race Hate crime Heat map

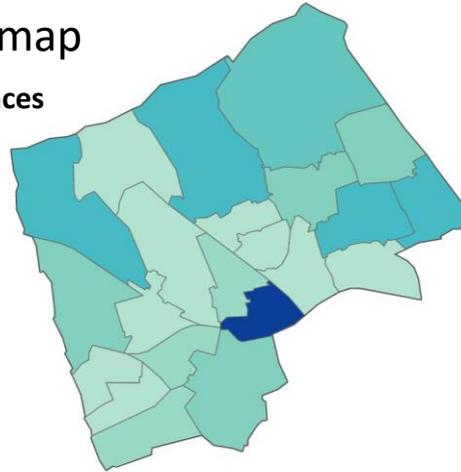
353 offences

98



## Faith Hate crime Heat map

54 offences

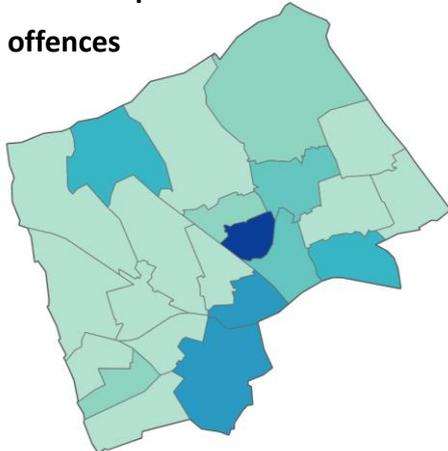


All maps show Hate flagged offences carried out in **2022**

The heat maps show that patterns of Hate crime differ depending on the protected characteristic – but occur more commonly in Greenhill and Canons.

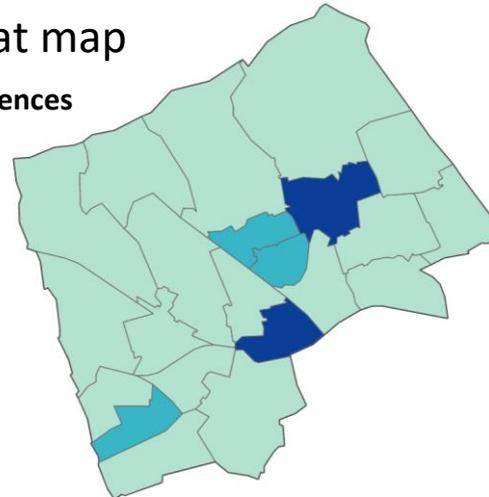
## Homophobic crime Heat map

27 offences



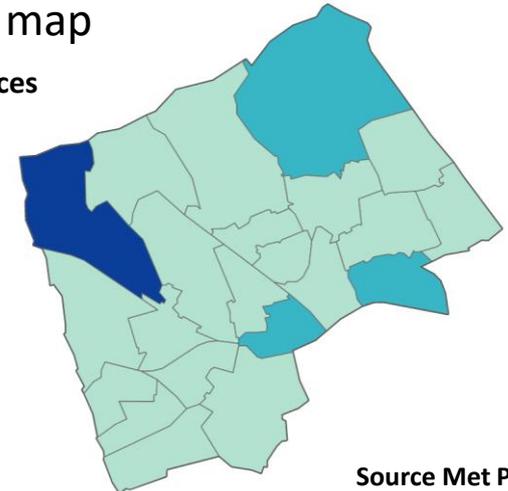
## Trans Hate crime Heat map

5 offences



## Disability Hate crime Heat map

5 offences



## Youth Offending



The data above shows the main offence for young people sentenced to a YJ Order or Pre-court Disposal over the past 3 years. The 22/23 figure is a year to date figure (April to December) and figures are expected to increase by the end of the year.

Overall for 22/23 Harrow's most common offence types are Violence against the person, 29% (18 offences), offensive weapons 24% (15 offences), drug possession - class B 8% (5 offences), Theft and handling 8% (5 offences)

68

There have been some significant changes in the types of offending since 20/21. Robbery/Attempted Robbery was the highest offence type in 20/21 making up 24% (24 offences), in 22/23 this has decreased to 6% (4 offences).

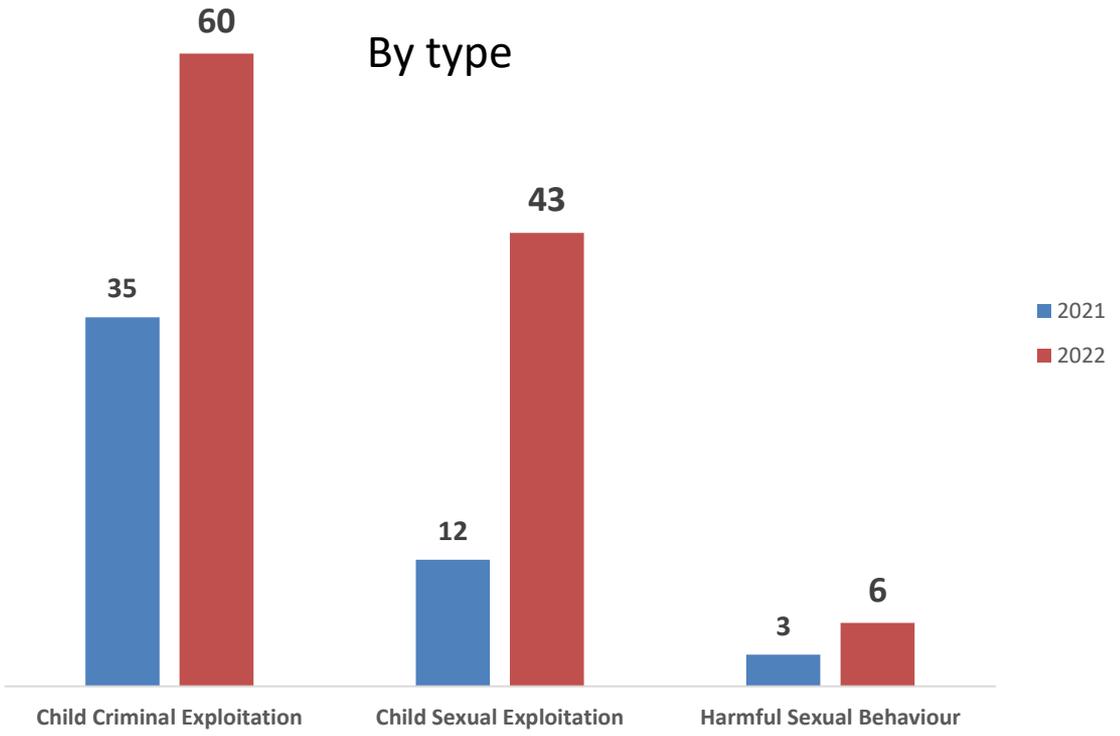
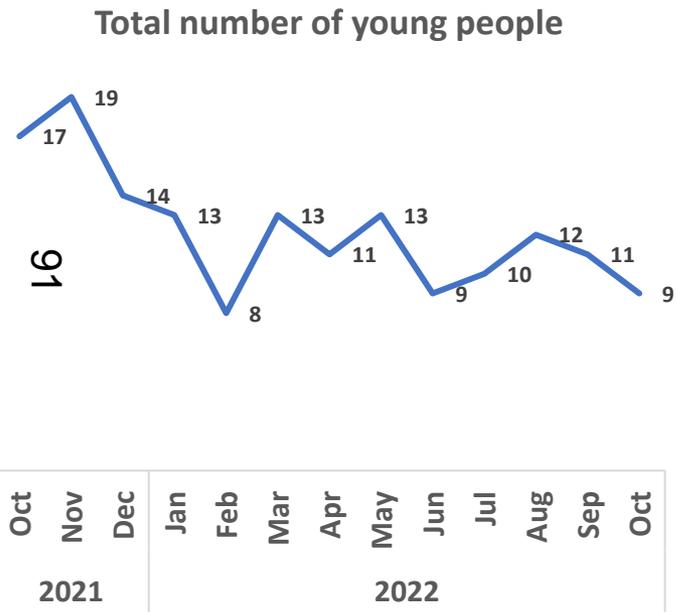
Drug offences have also seen a reduction since 20/21, with 21% (21 offences) being sentenced for Drug possession - class B, down to only 8% (5 offences) in 22/23. All drug possession in 22/23 was for Cannabis.

Violence against the person offences have been variable over the past 3 years. The number of offences fell during 21/22 down to only 7% (6 offences) but have increased again in 22/23 to 29% (18 offences), making violence against the person Harrow's most common type of offence.

Harrow's second most common offence type is offensive weapons possession. This has seen a steady increase since 20/21 from 10% (10 offences) to 24% (15 offences) in 22/23.

There is no data identifying hotspots as the geographical data collected related to the home address of the offender, as opposed to where the offence occurred. 61

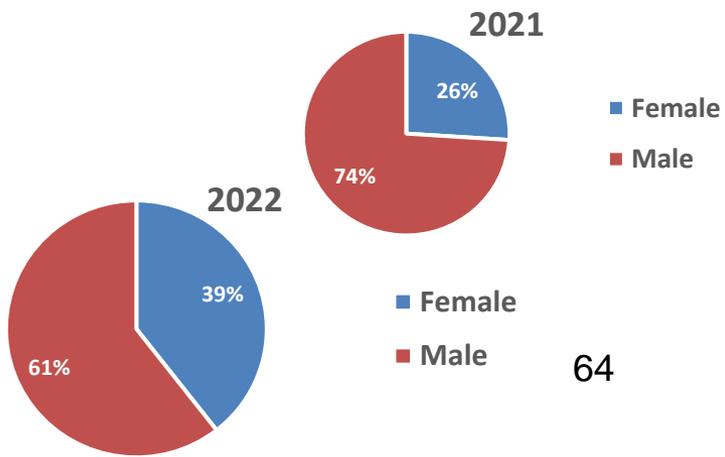
<b>DA</b>	Domestic Abuse
<b>ASB</b>	Anti-social behaviour is defined as behaviour by a person which causes, or is likely to cause, harassment, alarm or distress to persons not of the same household as the person’.
<b>TNOs – Total Notifiable Offences</b>	A notifiable offence is any offence where the police must inform the Home Office, who use the report to compile crime statistics.
<b>Non-notifiable offences</b> (also known as ‘Other Accepted Offences’)	‘Non-notifiable’ offences include incidents considered to be anti-social behaviour, but that may also be crimes in law (including by-laws) such as littering, begging and drunkenness. Other non-notifiable offences include driving under the influence of alcohol, parking offences and TV licence evasion. Non-notifiable offences are offences dealt with exclusively by magistrates' courts or by the police issuing a Penalty Notice for Disorder or a Fixed Penalty Notice.
<b>RY</b>	Rolling Year (12 months up to date)
<b>yoy</b>	Year on year



Ethnic Group	2021	2022
Asian or Asian British / Afghan	8%	0%
Asian or Asian British / Any other Asian background	6%	5%
Asian or Asian British / Pakistani	6%	6%
Black or Black British / African	2%	3%
Black or Black British / Any other Black background	6%	5%
Black or Black British / Caribbean	6%	2%
Black or Black British / Somali	0%	6%
Mixed background / Any other mixed background	10%	9%
Mixed background / White and Black African	8%	1%
Mixed background / White and Black Caribbean	10%	9%
Other Ethnic background / Any other ethnic group	10%	12%
Other Ethnic background / Arab	4%	4%
White or White British / Any other White background	2%	8%
White or White British / English	6%	23%
White or White British / Irish	6%	6%
White or White British / Romanian	10%	3%

92

Commentary here.....



# Overview and Scrutiny Committee

## Minutes

### 6 June 2023

**Present:**

**Chair:** Councillor Amir Moshenson

**Councillors:** June Baxter  
Govind Bharadia  
Graham Henson  
Maxine Henson  
Vipin Mithani  
Samir Sumaria

**In attendance (Councillors):** Councillor Ajana Patel For Minute 48

**Apologies received:** Councillor Dan Anderson  
Councillor Rashmi Ali  
Councillor Eden Kulig

**Absent:** Harrow Youth Parliament  
Representative  
Reverend P Reece  
Ms M Trivedi

**48. Community Safety Strategy 2023-26**

Members received an introduction to the report from Councillor Anjana Patel, the Portfolio Holder for Environment and Community Safety. The report set out the rationale for the updated Community Safety Strategy which was aligned to the new Corporate Plan.

The Portfolio holder, Superintendent Matt Cray and Assistant Director for Strategy and Partnerships supported by other officers, took Members through the report and draft strategy and highlighted the following:

- The three-year strategy set out a clear vision and comprehensive delivery plan for how the Safer Harrow Partnership would deliver community safety priorities, how each priority would be measured, and progress monitored. Working with Harrow's statutory and VCS partners as well as residents, communities, local businesses and stakeholders would be instrumental in keeping the residents of Harrow safe from crime and repeat victimisation and help achieve desired outcomes.
- The strategy outlined six community safety priorities for Harrow, and how each of these priorities would be measured and progress monitored. These priorities were identified through the analysis of Harrow-specific data and trends and were proposed by statutory and non-statutory partners at consultation workshops, and as such they were based on insight and evidence. The six priorities for Community Safety in Harrow were:
  - Tackling and reducing Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG)
  - Reducing incidents of burglary / motor vehicle crime / robbery
  - Reducing the number of violent incidents in the borough
  - Tackling and reducing offences and harm caused by drugs
  - Tackling Hate Crime
  - Perception of crime
- As the overarching body which had the statutory responsibility to produce a Community Safety Strategy, the SHP would oversee this work. Being a strategic Board, the partnership would delegate the operational aspects of this strategy to sub-groups who would implement the work and report back to the partnership quarterly. This would be under the remit of the SHP with the Board's Terms of Reference already allowing for the establishment of thematic sub-groups and setting out how they report to the SHP.

### Next Steps

- There would be six thematic sub-groups which reflect the six priorities in the Community Safety Strategy. To avoid duplication, any forums that currently exist would report to the SHG on a quarterly basis.
- The Strategy would cover the period 2023 to 2026 and would be reviewed annually by Safer Harrow.

### Members asked the following questions

A Member asked about the use of scooters in criminal activities on Harrow roads. Councillor Ajana Patel confirmed that use of scooters was not legally allowed on Harrow roads. Superintendent Matt Cray agreed to investigate it.

Another Member asked about the drop in public perception to 45% and asked for the latest figures. It was explained that the latest figures were not available, and that Harrow was in a fortunate position with strong scores in this area.

Another Member asked how Harrow's figures fared when compared to other boroughs outside London considering what was stated on page 29 of the agenda, that Harrow was the safest borough. The Superintendent explained that recent figures were not available.

The Vice-Chair Councillor Graham Henson, asked about the implementation of the London Police and Crime Plan and clarification on the non-inclusion of sexual exploitation of children. An officer explained that it was referenced on page 33 of the agenda and that the Council was working with children's services and partners to ensure that this remained on the agenda.

A member expressed concern that the team was small and wondered if they were overwhelmed given the increase in number of crimes reported. Councillor Ajana Patel and an officer explained that the current size of the team had not impacted its effectiveness and there had been a deliberate attempt to increase the number of crimes reported by finding new ways of encouraging people to report crime.

A Member questioned about how effective the Harrow safer place work. An officer explained that it was launched for businesses in Harrow in 2021. It had proved difficult getting businesses on board, officers were working hard to get them to engage with the programme. The take up had not been as great as was expected.

The Vice-Chair questioned about mental health crisis and new referral system how it would be tackled in partnership across the council. It was explained that work would be done in partnership to prevent officers being tied up dealing with incidents with mental health issues when it should be the responsibility of another agency. Should be careful to focus on priority.

The Vice-Chair asked how the Council, Police and Partnerships would ensure that people do not fall off the system as this year's budget review of the mental health strategy had brought mental health support staff services back into the Council. Access to these services was now reduced to referral systems. There were reports and concerns that some could not get through the mental health service. The Assistant Director for Strategy and Partnerships explained that the officers were prepared and would use a partnership/public health approach to this. There would be frequent reviews to capture any new issues.

The Vice-Chair proposed that a suitable form of words be added into the strategy to address mental health. Officers and the Portfolio Holder felt that mental health had been captured on page 28 of the agenda and perhaps the best place for the wording was the Delivery Plan to avoid delaying the strategy any further as it had been due to the Baroness Casey Review.

The Chair suggested that a form of words could be added in Section 2, the foreword of the strategy to address mental health and it was agreed by Members.

The Vice-Chair asked why Community cohesion was not mentioned in the strategy. It was explained that it was, under tackling hate crime and at

harmony was high in Harrow and there was focus on tackling hate crime as detailed in the strategy on page 35 of the agenda.

A Member asked why drug offences had increased by 29%. It was explained that more the Council's achieving more conviction around possession with intention to supply. This was due to training and proactive actions around Harrow Town Centre. The Council along with Partners were combating drugs partnership with priorities and a delivery plan to extend early intervention primary schools. In response to a subsequent question on planned intervention for the youth, the officer further explained that the outcome of Baroness Casey's review had been incorporated in the delivery plan and was a big piece of work but would rely on voluntary sector with partnerships that could be mobilised immediately, and capacity built for funding.

A Member questioned if councillors and residents were made aware of residential rehabilitation centres in their ward or communities. Officers explained that could be done but there was the need to maintain confidentiality for those in secure treatment.

A Member questioned about gang related activities what had been done and its connection to knife crimes. The Superintendent explained that in relation to knife crimes and gang activities, Harrow was doing well compared to other boroughs. Officers highlighted the partnership with the Police which was well managed and streamlined to deal with priorities.

A Member asked about if planned "Days of action" would be effectively promoted to ensure good attendance. The Portfolio Holder explained that rather than days, "weeks of action" was planned. It would be themed, well actioned, very well advertised, a joint communication plan had been put in place to promote community confidence in the event and location would be based on need and intelligence received.

The Chair commented that he was encouraged to see the attempt to increase police presence and visibility at night and asked for further explanations about the Turn Around Strategy. The Superintendent explained that the new strategy would be launched at the end of June to partners and wider communities and would be about delivering better policing through community crime fighting, service through stronger neighbourhoods, protection of the public from harm, crime reduction and the best outcomes for victim. It would also focus on policing by consent, inclusion and diversity and development of a strong organisational core.

The Chair asked about increased police presence and the Superintendent informed the chair that there was a planned recruitment campaign for the 500 PCSO's this year and a further 1600 in the next three years to address that.

The Vice-Chair asked for an update on the Harris Safer Neighbourhood Board, and it was explained that there were only five members of the board but there were plans to recruit more members to increase the ability of the board to link in more effectively with their communities and the ward panels.

The Superintendent of Police confirmed his availability and willingness to attend ward panels.

The Chair asked a question relating to the Metropolitan Police's continued policy on zero tolerance for hate crimes and Superintendent Matt Cray confirmed that this policy was ongoing that that indeed he would be liaising with Chief Superintendent Ovens to review what could be used from the approach during his time as Borough Commander.

**Resolved to RECOMMEND:** (to Cabinet)

**RESOLVED:** That Cabinet considers including mental health in the third paragraph (below) on page 28 of the agenda.

“The work on each of these priorities will be considered further in specific thematic strategies, including one focusing on VAWG and domestic abuse, and the Adolescent Safeguarding strategy, the latter linking to many of our key priorities in this document.”

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**REPORT FOR: Pension Board**

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**Date of Meeting:**

12th July 2023

**Subject:**

Pension Board Draft Annual Report  
2022-23

**Responsible Officer:**

Dawn Calvert, Director of Finance and  
Assurance

**Exempt:**

No

**Wards affected:**

Not applicable

**Enclosures:**

Appendix 1: Pension Board Draft  
Annual Report 2022-23

## **Section 1 – Summary and Recommendations**

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The Pension Board's Terms of Reference require the presentation of an annual report to the Full Council. This report sets out actions taken by Pension Board in the year to 31<sup>st</sup> March 2023 and invites the Board to agree any further comments or changes that it wishes to make to the report.

### **Recommendations:**

The Board is requested to review and comment on the draft annual report and subject to any amendments, to refer the final report to the Council.

## **Section 2 – Report**

1. The Pension Board was set up by 1 April 2015 in accordance with the requirements of the Public Service Pensions Act 2013. Its role is to assist the Council as the administering authority of the Local Government Pension Scheme (LGPS) in relation to the following:
  - securing compliance with the LGPS regulations and other legislation relating to the governance and administration of the LGPS,
  - securing compliance with requirements imposed in relation to the LGPS by the Pensions Regulator; and
  - such other matters as the LGPS regulations may specify
2. The Board's Terms of Reference require it to present a report on its work to Full Council once a year. The draft report, which covers the Board's work in the year to 31 March 2023, the sixth year of its operation, is attached at appendix 1.

## **Legal Implications**

3. There are no direct legal implications arising from this report.
4. The terms of reference for the Board include the Board's role as set out in the following paragraphs.
5. The role of the Board, as defined by sections 5(1) and (2) of the Public Service Pensions Act 2013, is to assist the Administering Authority (London Borough of Harrow) as Scheme Manager in ensuring the effective and efficient governance and administration of the Local Government Pension Scheme (LGPS) including:
  - securing compliance with the LGPS regulations and other legislation relating to the governance and administration of the LGPS;
  - securing compliance with requirements imposed in relation to the LGPS by the Pensions Regulator; and
  - such other matters the LGPS regulations may specify.

6. The Administering Authority retains ultimate responsibility for the administration and governance of the scheme. The role of the Board is to support the Administering Authority to fulfil that responsibility.
7. In its role, The Board will have oversight of the administration of the fund including:
  - a. The effectiveness of the decision-making process
  - b. The direction of the Fund and its overall objectives
  - c. The level of transparency in the conduct of the Fund's activities
  - d. The administration of benefits and contributions
8. The Board will provide the Scheme Manager with such information as it requires to ensure that any Member of the Board or person to be appointed to the Board does not have a conflict of interest.
9. The Board will ensure it effectively and efficiently complies with the Code of Practice on the Governance and Administration of Public Service Pension Schemes issued by the Pensions Regulator. It will help to ensure that the Fund is managed in the same way.
10. The Board shall meet sufficiently regularly to discharge its duties and responsibilities effectively.

## **Financial Implications**

11. All associated costs to work planned are being met by the Pension Fund.

## **Risk Management Implications**

12. The Pension Fund's Risk Register is reviewed regularly by both the Pension Fund Committee and by the Board. The next review will be considered elsewhere on the agenda for this meeting.
13. There are no specific risk management implications arising from this report.

## **Equalities implications / Public Sector Equality Duty**

14. Was an Equality Impact Assessment carried out? No
15. There are no direct equalities implications arising from this report.

## **Council Priorities**

16. The performance of the Pension Fund directly affects the level of employer contribution which then, in turn, affects the resources available for the Council's priorities.

## **Section 3 - Statutory Officer Clearance**

**Statutory Officer: Dawn Calvert**

Signed by the Chief Financial Officer

**Date: 3<sup>rd</sup> July 2023**

**Statutory Officer: Caroline Eccles**

Signed on behalf of the Monitoring Officer

**Date: 30<sup>th</sup> June 2023**

**Chief Officer: Dawn Calvert**

Signed on behalf of the Corporate Director

**Date: 3<sup>rd</sup> July 2023**

## **Mandatory Checks**

**Ward Councillors notified: Not Applicable**

## **Section 4 - Contact Details and Background Papers**

**Contact:** Bola Tobun – Treasury and Pensions Manager

Email: [Bola.Tobun@harrow.gov.uk](mailto:Bola.Tobun@harrow.gov.uk)

Telephone: 020 8420 9264

**Background Papers: None**

# **LONDON BOROUGH OF HARROW PENSION BOARD**

## **2022-23 ANNUAL REPORT**

### **Background**

The Local Pension Board was set up by 1 April 2015 in accordance with the requirements of the Public Service Pensions Act 2013 (The Act).

The Pension Board has responsibility for assisting the Council as the administering authority of the Local Government Pension Scheme (LGPS) in relation to the following:

- securing compliance with the LGPS regulations and other legislation relating to the governance and administration of the LGPS;
- securing compliance with requirements imposed in relation to the LGPS by the Pensions Regulator; and
- such other matters as the LGPS regulations may specify.

The Act provides for the Board membership to be of equal numbers of “employer representatives” and “scheme member representatives”. In addition we have an Independent Member who is currently the Chair of Pension Board.

Harrow Pension Board’s Terms of Reference require the Board to present a report on its work to the Full Council once a year.

This report covers the work of the Pension Board to 31<sup>st</sup> March 2022 – the seventh year of operation of the Harrow Pension Board.

### **Meetings**

Pension Board normally meets quarterly and held its first meeting on 25 June 2015. The current Chair, Richard Harbord and Vice Chair, Gerald Balabanoff were appointed at that meeting and have been re-appointed to those posts annually since that date.

The Board’s Terms of Reference indicate that it will meet at least twice and not more than four times a year. The Pension Regulator’s expectation is that LGPS Pension Boards will meet four times a year.

During 2022-23, the Board met four times.

### **Role and Terms of Reference**

We understand our role and are generally happy with the generic nature of the Terms of Reference, which we reviewed in October 2019. However, our view is that we should meet more than twice a year and that the periods of office of the various members should be staggered to avoid the potential loss of too much experience at one time.

We have requested that the membership of Pension Board is extended to ensure that each meeting is quorate. The current terms of reference make no provision for reserve members.

We have also requested that all reports from Pension Fund Committee, including exempt reports, be made available for review by Pension Board on a timely basis.

### Knowledge and Understanding of the Local Government Pension Scheme

To assist in our understanding and to assist in our scrutiny role, we have been provided with a large amount of information about the Scheme, usually with an officer's commentary, including

- Annual Report and Accounts
- Governance Compliance Statement
- Investment Strategy Statement
- Pension Fund Risk Register
- Policy for Reporting Breaches of Law
- Policy for Avoiding Conflicts of Interest
- Pension Fund Administration Strategy
- Pension Fund Training Policy

### Relationship with Pension Fund Committee

At each meeting, the Board have been advised of the agendas of, and decisions taken by, the Pension Fund Committee at its recent meetings. Our views have, in turn, been reported to the Committee. The Board has also been invited to attend the Committee meetings and the training sessions held prior to each meeting.

A recurring theme throughout the year has been the legal advice that members of the Board are not entitled to remain at the Committee's meetings when exempt papers are discussed even though Board members are expected to abide by the Council's Code of Conduct.

Since 2018-19 the Pension Board has been referring Pension Board minutes and recommendations to Pension Fund Committee. During 2022-23, the Board was again asked to review a number of draft policies before these were submitted to the Pension Fund Committee for final approval. This approach to policy development and review has been helpful, and the Committee intends to continue this approach in future.

### Annual Report and Financial Statements

We were again invited to consider the Annual Report and Financial Statements for the Pension Fund, together with their various attachments and the reports of the Auditor. The areas in which we expressed particular interest have been:

- Actuarial assumptions and actuarial valuation results
- Employer contributions
- The prospect of the funding deficit being recovered in 20 years
- The performance of the Fund and the way it is discussed in reports to facilitate the scrutiny process

- Local Government Pension Scheme Pooling Arrangements through the London Collective Investment Vehicle (LCIV)

We have received reports on the 2022 Triennial valuation, including a presentation from the Fund's actuary, and considered the draft Funding Strategy statement and Investment Strategy Statement arising from the Valuation.

We reviewed the Fund's Risk Register and Governance Compliance Statement, and received a report on the London Collective Investment Pooling arrangements.

### Benchmarking and key performance indicators

We have shown particular interest in benchmarking and key performance indicators.

Traditionally, reliable benchmarking and comparison information covering all administering authorities has not been available. However, recent Government requirements in the context of the pooling arrangements have necessitated the provision of relatively consistent information from all administering authorities.

We have also asked for refinement to pension administration reporting to better understand performance against key performance indicators. KPI's have been considered as a standing item since June 2017. Pension Board receives confirmation of breaches of law and has been assured that annual benefit statements are issued on time.

### Environmental, Social and Governance Issues (ESG)

The Board supports the Committee's stance in expecting fund managers to adopt appropriate codes of practice and that they are required to provide an explanation when they do not. As part of this we reviewed the draft Responsible Investment Policy before it was approved by the Committee and considered a report on proposals for accounting for climate change (TCFD).

## **Training**

Pension Board members are invited to the regular training sessions which take place before pension Fund Committee meetings and Board members have also availed themselves of other relevant training including that offered by CIPFA.

## **Conclusion**

The regulations governing Pension Boards are contained in the Local Government Pension scheme (Amendment) (Governance) 2015 Regulations 2015 (SI2015/57)

The main provisions are:

- “(1) Each administering authority shall no later than 1<sup>st</sup> April 2015 establish a pension board (“a local pension board”) responsible for assisting it –
- (a) to secure compliance with –
- (i) these Regulations,

(ii) any other legislation relating to the governance and administration of the Scheme and any connected scheme, and

(iii) any requirements imposed by the Pensions Regulator in relation to the Scheme and any connected scheme; and

(b) to ensure the effective and efficient governance and administration of the Scheme and any connected scheme.

Essentially the role of the Pension Board is one of Scrutiny and our role is wholly advisory.

The Board looks forward to consolidating performance in the current year and continuing to develop its role as an effective body for scrutiny and improvement.