OFFICIAL

STRATEGIC ASSESSMENT OF CRIME AND DISORDER (2020 DATA)

MARCH 2021

Cheshire Constabulary Corporate Research and Analysis

[Collar No 07$7182 & 07$6393]

Handling Instructions:

This information has been provided for a specific policing purpose: please consider this when making decisions about further dissemination, although details should be suitable for publication.

Standard Caveats:

The data in the following report only includes Niche records that have 'Cheshire Constabulary' recorded as the owning agency.

The data in the following report was run on **01/02/2021** and will therefore be subject to change in line with updates made to the source system.

Recorded crime date period(s) referenced throughout this report is based on the date the occurrence was entered onto Niche (Cheshire Constabulary's record management system).

All data has been run with an ACL (Access Control Level) of 0, therefore any Niche records with a higher ACL applied to them will not appear in the data.

The data in the following report does not include Restricted SAAB Incidents.

There are a number of other caveats specific to this data set. These have been referenced throughout the report where appropriate and should be taken into consideration when reviewing the information presented.

Abbreviations / Definitions

<u>Recorded Crimes:</u>

- Victim Based Crime - Victim Based Offences is a category made up of the following Home Office groups; violence against the person / sexual offences / robbery / theft and criminal damage and arson

- Violence against the Person - Violence against the person is a category made up of the following Home Office groups; homicide / violence with injury and violence without injury

    - Violence with Injury - Violence with injury is a category made up of the following Home Office code descriptions; attempted murder / intentional destruction of a viable unborn child / causing death or serious injury by dangerous driving / causing death by careless driving under the influence of drink or drugs / cause

or allow death or serious physical harm to child or vulnerable person / causing death by careless or inconsiderate driving / causing death or serious injury by driving unlicensed, disqualified or uninsured drivers / assault with intent to cause serious harm / endangering life / assault with injury / racially or religiously aggravated assault with injury / causing death by aggravated vehicle taking

  - Violence without Injury - Violence without injury is a category made up of the following Home Office code descriptions; conspiracy to murder / threats to kill / harassment / racially or religiously aggravated harassment / stalking / cruelty to children, young persons / child abduction / procuring illegal abortion / kidnap / assault without injury on a constable / assault without injury / racially or religiously aggravated assault without injury / modern slavery

- Harassment - Harassment and Racially Aggravated Harassment

- Stalking - Stalking comes under the harassment group of offences

- Malicious Communications - Includes offences of online harassment

- Sexual Offences - Sexual offences is a category made up of the following Home Office groups; rape and other sexual offences

  - Rape Offences - Rape is a category made up of the following Home Office code descriptions; rape of a female aged 16 and over / rape of a female child under 16 / rape of a female child under 13 / rape of a male aged 16 and over / rape of a male child under 16 / rape of a male child under 13

  - Other Sexual Offences - Other sexual offences is a category made up of the following Home Office code descriptions; sexual assault on a male aged 13 and over / sexual assault on a male child under 13 / sexual assault on a female aged 13 and over / sexual assault on a female child under 13 / sexual activity involving a child under 13 / causing sexual activity without consent / sexual activity involving a child under 16 / incest or familial sexual offences / sexual activity etc. with a person with a mental disorder / abuse of children through sexual exploitation / abuse of position of trust of a sexual nature / sexual grooming / other miscellaneous sexual offences / unnatural sexual offences / exposure and voyeurism

- Drug Offences - Drug offences include the trafficking in controlled drugs and the possession of drugs

- Alcohol Related Crime - Alcohol Related Crime is a flag which is added to an occurrence in Niche by the original crime recorder or subsequently by the officer in the case or their supervisor. The flag is added when alcohol can be established as a contributing factor to the crime being committed.

- Domestic Violence - Domestic Violence is a flag which is added to an occurrence in Niche by the original crime recorder or subsequently by the officer in the case or their supervisor. The flag is added if there is any incident or pattern of incidents of

controlling, coercive or threatening behaviour, violence or abuse between those aged 16 or over who are or have been intimate partners or family members regardless of gender or sexuality. This can encompass but is not limited to the following types of abuse: psychological, physical, sexual, financial or emotional.

- Cyber Crime - Cyber-dependent crimes fall broadly into two main categories, illicit intrusions into computer networks, such as hacking; and the disruption or downgrading of computer functionality and network space, such as malware attacks. Cyber-dependent crimes are committed for many different reasons by individuals, groups and even sovereign states.

- Hate Crime - Hate Crime is a flag which is added to an occurrence in Niche by the original crime recorder or subsequently by the officer in the case or their supervisor. The flag is added where either a victim or witness has stated that a crime was motivated by hostility or prejudice towards a person's disability, gender identity, race, religion / beliefs or sexual orientation.

- Robbery - Robbery is a category made up of the following Home Office groups; robbery of personal property and robbery of a business property

    - Robbery of Personal Property - is a category made up of the following Home Office code description; robbery of personal property

    - Robbery of a Business Property - is a category made up of the following Home Office code description; robbery of business property

- Burglary - Burglary is a category made up of the following Home Office code descriptions; burglary in a dwelling / attempted burglary in a dwelling / distraction burglary in a dwelling / attempted distraction burglary in a dwelling / aggravated burglary in a dwelling / burglary in a building other than a dwelling / attempted burglary in a building other than a dwelling / aggravated burglary in a building other than a dwelling

    - Burglary Residential - is a category made up of the following Home Office code descriptions; burglary in a dwelling / attempted burglary in a dwelling / distraction burglary in a dwelling / attempted distraction burglary in a dwelling / aggravated burglary in a dwelling

    - Burglary Business and Community - is a category made up of the following Home Office code descriptions; burglary in a building other than a dwelling / attempted burglary in a building other than a dwelling / aggravated burglary in a building other than a dwelling

- Vehicle Offences - Vehicle offences is a category made up of the following Home Office code descriptions; aggravated vehicle taking / theft of a motor vehicle / theft or unauthorised taking of a motor vehicle / interfering with a motor vehicle

- Shoplifting - Shoplifting is a category made up of the following Home Office code descriptions; shoplifting

- Theft from the Person - Theft from the person is a category made up of the following Home Office code descriptions; theft from the person

- Bicycle Theft - Bicycle theft is a category made up of the following Home Office code descriptions; theft or unauthorised taking of a pedal cycle

- All Other Theft Offences - All other theft offences is a category made up of the following Home Office code descriptions; blackmail / theft in a dwelling other than from an automatic machine or meter / theft by an employee / theft of mail / dishonest use of electricity / theft from an automatic machine or meter / other theft / theft - making off without payment

- Criminal Damage and Arson - Criminal damage is a category made up of the following Home Office code descriptions; criminal damage to a dwelling / criminal damage to a building other than a dwelling / criminal damage to a vehicle / other criminal damage / racially or religiously aggravated criminal damage / arson endangering life and arson not endangering life

Recorded Incidents:

Up until February 2018 incidents in Cheshire were recorded on a system called NSPIS Command and Control. However in March 2018 the recording of incidents changed and are now entered onto a system called Saab Safe. The incidents detailed in this appendix were extracted from Saab using a report designed in Power BI by analysts in the Planning and Performance department.

It should be acknowledged that the relationship between incidents and crimes is not one to one as not all incidents become crimes, and due to crime recording standards it can be one incident to many crimes or several incidents to one crime. Crimes and incidents should not therefore be added together.

- Alcohol is a qualifier (QAL) that can be applied to any type of incident

- Drugs is a qualifier (QDR) that can be applied to any type of incident

- Domestic is a category made up of the following incident types; domestic incidents – between adults

- Anti-social behaviour is a category made up of the following incident types; ASB environmental / ASB nuisance and ASB personal:

    - Anti-social behaviour Environment is a sub category of ASB – an example of this type of incident would be fly-tipping

    - Anti-social behaviour Nuisance is a sub category of ASB – an example of this type of incident would be a group of youths causing a disturbance outside

- Anti-social behaviour Personal is a sub category of ASB – an example of this type of incident would be someone receiving unwanted communication

- Begging is a category made up of the following incident type; in a street in public or vagrancy anywhere

- Hate Incidents is a category made up of the following Incident Type Code; H or QH and/or one of the following Closure Code Sub Codes; QHA, QHD, QHF, QHG, QHH, QHR, QHT, QHO which relate to the following types of Hate; age related, disability related, mental health related, gender related, transgender related, sexual orientation related or race related or other.

- Mental Health is a category made up of all recorded incidents which have the following incident closure sub-codes; QSG or QMH, indicating a mental health related issue.

- Missing Person is a category made up of the following incident types; an absconder from HM prison or truancy unauthorised absence or missing from school or home. Usually sub-categorised as absent or missing and adult or child.

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Executive Summary

The following Strategic Assessment is based on 2020 data for Cheshire West and Chester Local Authority area. The report provides a picture of overall crime broken down into specific crimes, and goes on to addressing incident data across areas such as domestic violence, anti-social behaviour (ASB), begging, hate crime, mental health, and missing persons.

For the first time in the last five years we have seen a decrease in Total Recorded Crime across Cheshire West, this pattern has been followed across Cheshire and can with some degree of certainty be attributed to the Global Pandemic, which saw the opportunity of crime being somewhat removed.
Many offences have seen reductions or slower rates of increase for example Harassment which has increased by 7.5% as opposed to the increase of 60.9% seen within 2019. Robbery Offences reduced by 29.4% which is the first time in 5 years we have seen a decrease, likewise with Theft from the Person, with offences falling by 69.5%. Residential Burglary has continued the pattern of 2019 with a decrease of a further 10.2% and this area has been a key focus for prevention across Cheshire West

Violence Against the Person Offences have however increased by 11.3% across Cheshire West whilst Violence with Injury has decreased by 5.3% which is in line with the decrease seen during 2019.

Of note the offence of Stalking has seen an increase of 298.3% a total of 689 offences as opposed to 173 within 2019, this increase is attributed to a change in the process for recording this crime type. Increased reported crime in areas where there is an element of vulnerability should be viewed positively as this demonstrates trust and confidence to report what previously may have been hidden, exposing vulnerable victims to more harm and/or an increased awareness a recognition of these crime types, with specific reference to the Global Pandemic we anticipated and saw a 17.7% rise in the amount of Domestic Abuse related crime being recorded with a solved rate of these crimes at its lowest rate for the last 5 years,10%. The same is demonstrated within Hate Crime, which saw an 8.0% increase and a solved rate of 13%.

When looking at reported incidents rather than crime the overall picture is stable with a small volume increase of 1.1%, this is against the force trend though, as a force we saw a 1.3% decrease, Those incident types where we have seen increases include drug related, domestic related, anti-social behaviour Environmental, Nuisance and Personal and Mental Health related incidents and although this would normally follow a recommendation for CSP focus and element of caution should be applied for the forthcoming year as we navigate our way out of the response to the global pandemic, particular with regards to Anti-Social Behaviour, which captured a number of incidents relating specifically to the pandemic.

Road collisions have continued to be a priority for the CSP and 2020 data shows volumes of Fatal Collisions have reduced in line with Force reductions whilst the number of collisions resulting in serious injuries have increased.

Introduction

The following Strategic Assessment is based on 2020 data for Cheshire West and Chester. The report provides a picture of overall crime broken down into specific crimes, and goes on to addressing incident data across areas such as domestic violence, anti-social behaviour (ASB), begging, hate crime, mental health, and missing persons.

Since March 2014 onwards, total police recorded crime has increased. It is thought this is principally owing to the renewed focus on the quality of crime recording and is the result of improved recording practices and process improvements, rather than an actual increase in crime coming to police attention.

In November 2015, HMIC also commenced a programme of rolling inspections of crime recording. This led to improved compliance with the National Crime Recording Standard (NCRS), leading to a greater proportion of reported crimes being recorded by the police. Early findings from Inspections across the country suggested that there was generally a failure to make the right crime-recording decision at the first point of contact, be it by attending police officers or call handlers.

In 2017, HMIC visited Cheshire Constabulary and conducted an audit on how crimes are recorded. They made several recommendations, which resulted in changes to several processes which have impacted upon and increased volume in recorded crime. The Constabulary has introduced an Occurrence Management Unit responsible for the recording of crime in Cheshire. This has provided increased rigor to practices and processes associated to crime recording.

It is not, therefore, possible to make true comparisons with previous years' crime figures.

Method

The crimes in Cheshire are recorded on a system called Niche. The crimes detailed in this appendix were extracted from Niche using a reporting software tool called Business Objects. In order to extract the data in Business Objects there have been various parameters applied to a report to ensure that the finished data is as accurate as possible, these are; that the date is taken from the date that the crime was entered onto Niche and that the offence type is taken from the final classification applied to the crime. There are a few caveats to consider when perusing the data, these are; that after the initial investigation of a crime has commenced, occasionally if it doesn't follow Home Office guidelines, it is deemed no longer a crime, at this stage it needs to be flagged as a "no crime" on Niche, this report doesn't contain any "no crimes".

There are occasionally specific crimes which are restricted due to the sensitive nature of the crime. The standard practice in Force is to exclude restricted crimes unless for internal intelligence reporting purposes, therefore this report does not contain any restricted crime figures.

During 2016 there were several boundary changes made within the Force, and since these changes issues have been identified with the process of recording the location of a crime in Niche, there are currently 0.7% crimes recorded in Niche which don't have a specific location attributed to them, but work is continuously being carried out to rectify the accuracy of this data.

Findings

1. Total Crime -Cheshire West and Chester

Total - Recorded Crime				
2016	2017	2018	2019	**2020**
19,575	25,973	28,835	28,735	**27,668**
14.8%	32.7%	11.0%	-0.3%	**-3.7%**

In the last year there has been a decrease of 1,067 offences (3.7%) in total crime in Cheshire West and Chester; this shows a continuation of the reduction seen in 2019 but is likely due, in a large part, to the impact of the national lockdowns during the COVID19 pandemic.

Across the Force area, over the last twelve months there has been a reduction of 4.7% in total crime compared to the 2.2% increase seen last year.

When comparing total crime by local authorities, Cheshire West and Chester has the second smallest percentage decrease, when compared to 2019.

Total - Solved Rate				
2016	2017	2018	2019	**2020**
30%	22%	17%	14%	12%
-2.6	-7.6	-5.1	-2.9	**-2.7**

In the last twelve months there has been a decrease of 2.7 percentage points in the total solved rate in Cheshire West and Chester; this is the smallest decrease seen in the since 2016, and also worth noting, the lowest the solved rate for 2020 (12%) is in the last 5 years.

Across the Force, over the last twelve months there has been a decrease of 1 percentage points in the total solved rate.

When comparing the total solved rate by local authorities, Cheshire West and Chester has the joint highest percentage point decrease, when compared to 2019.

2. Victim Based Crime -Cheshire West and Chester

Victim Based - Recorded Crime				
2016	2017	2018	2019	**2020**
16,084	19,453	21,549	22,032	**21,554**
8.5%	20.9%	10.8%	2.2%	**-2.2%**

In the last year there has been a decrease of 2.2% in victim based crime in Cheshire West and Chester; a decrease in this crime category has not been seen in the review period returning to volumes recorded in 2018.

Across the Force, over the last twelve months there has been a decrease of 3.4% in victim based crime, which means Cheshire West and Chester has experienced a slightly smaller percentage decrease.

When comparing victim based crime by local authorities, Cheshire West and Chester have the smallest percentage decrease, however, one local authority recorded an increase when compared to 2019.

Victim Based - Solved Rate				
2016	2017	2018	2019	**2020**
27%	22%	16%	13%	10%
0.4	-5.8	-5.7	-3.2	**-2.7**

In the last twelve months there has been a decrease of nearly 3 percentage points bringing the solved rate for Victim Based Crime in Cheshire West and Chester to 10% - the lowest seen in the 5-year review period.

Across the Force, over the last twelve months there has been a decrease of 1.1 percentage points in the victim based solved rate, which means Cheshire West and Chester has a higher percentage point decrease.

When comparing the victim based solved rate by local authorities, Cheshire West and Chester has seen the highest percentage point decrease when compared to 2019.

3. Violence against the Person -Cheshire West and Chester

Violence against the Person - Recorded Crime				
2016	2017	2018	2019	**2020**
5,510	7,794	9,895	11,049	**12,302**
31.5%	41.5%	27.0%	11.7%	**11.3%**

In the last twelve months there has been an increase of 11.3% in violence against the person in Cheshire West and Chester, a volume increase of 1,250 crimes.

Across the Force, over the last twelve months there has been an increase of 9.9% (3,688 offences) in violence against the person, which means Cheshire West and Chester have a larger percentage increase.

When comparing violence against the person by local authorities, Cheshire West and Chester have the second largest percentage increase, when compared to 2019.

Violence against the Person - Solved Rate				
2016	2017	2018	2019	**2020**
36%	24%	15%	11%	9%
-3.6	-12.1	-9.0	-3.8	**-2.1**

In the last twelve months there has been a decrease of 2.1 percentage points in the violence against the person solved rate in Cheshire West and Chester; this is the smallest decrease seen across the review period.

Across the Force, over the last twelve months there has been a decrease of just under 1 percentage point in the violence against the person solved rate, which means Cheshire West and Chester has seen a slightly higher decrease to that of the Force.

When comparing the violence against the person solved rate by local authorities, Cheshire West and Chester has a marginally higher percentage point decrease, when compared to 2019.

a. Violence with Injury -Cheshire West and Chester

Violence with Injury - Recorded Crime				
2016	2017	2018	2019	**2020**
2,667	3,093	3,342	3,172	**3,004**
22.6%	16.0%	8.1%	-5.1%	**-5.3%**

In the last twelve months there has been a decrease of 5.3% in violence with injury in Cheshire West and Chester; thus continuing the reductions observed in 2019 and volumes recorded in 2017. This represents 168 fewer crimes year-on-year.

Across the Force, over the last twelve months there has been a decrease of 3.9% in violence with injury, which means Cheshire West and Chester has seen a larger percentage decrease.

When comparing violence with injury by local authorities, Cheshire West and Chester has had the largest percentage decrease, when compared to 2019.

Violence with Injury - Solved Rate				
2016	2017	2018	2019	**2020**
41%	30%	21%	19%	17%
-0.2	-10.5	-8.9	-2.2	**-1.8**

In the last twelve months there has been a decrease of 1.8 percentage points in the violence with injury solved rate in Cheshire West and Chester; this is fairly consistent with the decrease recorded in 2019, however, the solved rate is much lower than in 2016/2017.

Across the Force, over the last twelve months there has been a decrease of just 0.2 percentage points in the violence with injury solved rate, which means Cheshire West and Chester have a higher percentage point decrease and the same solved rate (17%) as CWaC.

When comparing the violence with injury solved rate by local authorities, Cheshire West and Chester has had a slightly higher percentage point decrease, when compared to 2019.

b. Violence without Injury -Cheshire West and Chester

Violence without Injury - Recorded Crime				
2016	2017	2018	2019	**2020**
1,822	2,829	3,791	4,026	**3,968**
10.8%	55.3%	34.0%	6.2%	**-1.4%**

In the last twelve months there has been a decrease of 1.4% (-58) in violence without injury in Cheshire West and Chester; this is the first reduction seen in the past 5 years. The decrease observed in 2020 is likely linked to COVID pandemic lockdowns and restrictions.

Across the Force, over the last twelve months there has been an decrease of 6.2% in violence without injury, which means Cheshire West and Chester have experienced a smaller percentage reduction.

When comparing violence without injury by local authorities, Cheshire West and Chester has had the largest percentage decrease, when compared to 2019.

Violence without Injury - Solved Rate				
2016	2017	2018	2019	**2020**
32%	22%	13%	10%	8%
0.0	-9.3	-9.4	-3.3	**-2.1**

In the last year there has been a decrease of 2.1 percentage points in the violence without injury solved rate in Cheshire West and Chester; over the review period this is the smallest decrease observed, but with a solved rate which is a quarter the rate recorded in 2016.

Across the Force, over the last twelve months there has been a decrease of 0.4 percentage points in the violence without injury solved rate. This means Cheshire West and Chester have a higher percentage point decrease whilst maintaining the same solved rate (8%).

When comparing the violence without injury solved rate by local authorities, Cheshire West and Chester have the highest percentage point decrease, when compared to 2019.

4. Harassment -Cheshire West and Chester

Harassment - Recorded Crime				
2016	2017	2018	2019	**2020**
512	841	1,314	2,114	**2,273**
73.6%	64.3%	56.2%	60.9%	**7.5%**

During the last year there has been an increase of 7.5% (or 159 crime increase) in harassment offences in Cheshire West and Chester, which is the smallest, and first single figure increase seen across the 5-year comparative period.

Across the Force during the same period, there has been an increase of 9% in harassment cases recorded, which means Cheshire West and Chester had a lower percentage increase.

When comparing harassment by local authorities, Cheshire West and Chester had the lowest percentage increase, when compared to 2019.

Harassment - Solved Rate				
2016	2017	2018	2019	**2020**
39%	21%	12%	7%	6%
-19.6	-17.5	-9.1	-5.4	**-0.9**

In the last twelve months there has been a decrease of 0.9 percentage points in the harassment solved rate in Cheshire West and Chester; over the review period this is the smallest decrease observed and now a very low solved rate.

Across the Force, over the last twelve months there has been a decrease of 0.7 percentage points in the harassment solved rate, which means Cheshire West and Chester recorded a slightly higher percentage point decrease.

When comparing the harassment solved rate by local authorities, Cheshire West and Chester have the third highest percentage point decrease, when compared to 2019.

5. Stalking -Cheshire West and Chester

Stalking - Recorded Crime				
2016	2017	2018	2019	**2020**
12	34	74	173	**689**
20.0%	183.3%	117.6%	133.8%	**298.3%**

In the last twelve months there has been an increase of nearly 300% (plus 516 cases) in stalking offences recorded in Cheshire West and Chester; the highest increase seen compared with previous years.

Over the last twelve months across the Force there has been an increase of nearly 330% in stalking, which means Cheshire West and Chester have a lower percentage increase.

When comparing stalking offences by local authorities, Cheshire West and Chester has marginally had the second lowest percentage increase, when compared to 2019.

The National Crime Recording Standards (NCRS) changed in April 2020 resulting in all post-separation course of conduct offences being recorded as stalking by default, rather than harassment. The reflection of this can clearly be seen in CWaC CSP and Cheshire Constabulary's figures. Anecdotally, similar results have also been seen across the country. The National Stalking Lead, DCC Mills and the National Crime Registrar, Steve Bond, have issued some guidance since to help crime recorders make proportionate decisions using the mnemonic FOUR (Fixated, Obsessive, Unwanted, Repeated) as there was concern the Force were recording behaviour that was not stalking as stalking.

Stalking - Solved Rate				
2016	2017	2018	2019	**2020**
67%	29%	19%	10%	6%
16.7	-37.3	-10.5	-9.1	**-3.4**

In the last twelve months there has been a decrease of 3.4 percentage points in the stalking solved rate in Cheshire West and Chester; over the review period this is the smallest decrease observed, with a disappointing solved rate.

Across the Force, over the last twelve months there has been a decrease of 4 percentage points in the stalking solved rate, which means Cheshire West and Chester recorded a slightly lower percentage point decrease and a 1 percentage point lower solved rate.

When comparing the stalking solved rate by local authorities, Cheshire West and Chester have the third highest percentage point decrease, when compared to 2019.

6. Malicious Communications -Cheshire West and Chester

Malicious Communications - Recorded Crime				
2016	2017	2018	2019	**2020**
489	993	1,375	1,605	**1,831**
701.6%	103.1%	38.5%	16.7%	**14.1%**

In the last year there has been an increase of 14.1% (plus 226 crimes) in malicious communications offences recorded in Cheshire West and Chester; however this is the lowest increase recorded across the previous five years.

Across the Force area over the last twelve months there has been an increase of 13.1% in malicious communications, which means Cheshire West and Chester have a 1 percentage point higher increase.

When comparing malicious communications offences by local authorities, Cheshire West and Chester has the second highest percentage increase, when compared to 2019.

Malicious Communications - Solved Rate				
2016	2017	2018	2019	**2020**
23%	11%	7%	4%	3%
No Data	-12.5	-3.8	-3.4	**-0.4**

In the last twelve months there has been a decrease of 0.4 percentage points in the malicious communications solved rate in Cheshire West and Chester; over the review period this is a smallest decrease observed.

Across the Force, over the last twelve months there has been a decrease of 0.7 percentage points in the malicious communications solved rate, which means Cheshire West and Chester recorded a slightly lower percentage point decrease.

When comparing the stalking solved rate by local authorities, Cheshire West and Chester have the lowest percentage point decrease, when compared to 2019.

7. Sexual offences -Cheshire West and Chester

Sexual Offences - Recorded Crime				
2016	2017	2018	2019	**2020**
623	769	900	795	**871**
48.0%	23.4%	17.0%	-11.7%	**9.6%**

During the last twelve months there has been an increase of 9.6% (plus 76 crimes) in sexual offences recorded in Cheshire West and Chester; however this follows a reduction in offences recorded in 2019.

Across the Force area over the last twelve months there has been an increase of 4% in sexual offences, which means Cheshire West and Chester have a higher percentage increase.

When comparing sexual offences by local authorities, Cheshire West and Chester has the second highest percentage increase, when compared to 2019.

Sexual Offences - Solved Rate				
2016	2017	2018	2019	**2020**
30%	22%	15%	12%	8%
-3.4	-8.3	-6.4	-3.0	**-3.8**

In the last twelve months there has been a decrease of 3.8 percentage points in the sexual offences solved rate in Cheshire West and Chester; over the review period this is a slightly higher decrease than in 2019 and similar to previous years under review, although the solved rate has reduced considerably.

Across the Force, over the last twelve months there has been a decrease of 0.5 percentage points in the sexual offence solved rate, which means Cheshire West and Chester recorded a higher percentage point decrease.

When comparing the sexual offence solved rate by local authorities, Cheshire West and Chester have the highest percentage point decrease, when compared to 2019.

a. Rape offences -Cheshire West and Chester

Rape Offences - Recorded Crime				
2016	2017	2018	2019	**2020**
176	260	325	287	**316**
18.1%	47.7%	25.0%	-11.7%	**10.1%**

In the last twelve months there has been an increase of 10.1% (plus 27 offences) in rape offences recorded in Cheshire West and Chester; however this is the lowest increase, apart from 2019 when a decrease was observed, recorded across the previous five years. However, annual volumes have remained fairly consistent across the 5 year period.

Across the Force area over the last twelve months there has been an increase of 8.9% in rape, which means Cheshire West and Chester have a slightly higher percentage increase.

When comparing rape offences by local authorities, Cheshire West and Chester has the second highest percentage increase, when compared to 2019.

Rape Offences - Solved Rate				
2016	2017	2018	2019	**2020**
24%	7%	6%	9%	5%
3.1	-16.6	-1.8	3.9	**-4.3**

In the last twelve months there has been a decrease of 4.3 percentage points in the rape solved rate in Cheshire West and Chester; over the review period this is the second highest decrease when comparing to the previous years under review.

Across the Force, over the last twelve months there has been an increase of 0.8 percentage points in the rape solved rate, which means Cheshire West and Chester recorded a higher percentage decrease.

When comparing the rape solved rate by local authorities, Cheshire West and Chester are the only authority area to record a decrease when compared to 2019.

b. Other Sexual offences -Cheshire West and Chester

Other Sexual Offences - Recorded Crime				
2016	2017	2018	2019	**2020**
447	508	575	503	**547**
64.3%	13.6%	13.2%	-12.5%	**8.7%**

In the last twelve months there has been an increase of 8.7% (plus 44 offences) in other sexual offences recorded in Cheshire West and Chester; however this is the lowest increase recorded across the previous five years, although a decrease was recorded last year (2019), while annual volumes have remained fairly consistent across the 5 year period.

Across the Force area over the last twelve months there has been an increase of 0.4% in other sexual offences, which means Cheshire West and Chester have a higher percentage increase.

When comparing other sexual offences by local authorities, Cheshire West and Chester has the second highest percentage increase, when compared to 2019.

Other Sexual Offences - Solved Rate				
2016	2017	2018	2019	**2020**
32%	29%	21%	14%	10%
-7.9	-3.3	-8.2	-6.8	**-3.5**

In the last twelve months there has been a decrease of 3.5 percentage points in the other sexual offences solved rate in Cheshire West and Chester; over the review period this is the second lowest decrease when comparing to the previous years under review.

Across the Force, over the last twelve months there has been a decrease of 1 percentage points in the other sexual offence solved rate, which means Cheshire West and Chester recorded a higher percentage decrease.

When comparing the other sexual offence solved rate by local authorities, Cheshire West and Chester recorded the highest decrease when compared to 2019.

8. Drug offences -Cheshire West and Chester

Drugs Offences - Recorded Crime				
2016	2017	2018	2019	**2020**
705	851	811	733	**651**
-11.2%	20.7%	-4.7%	-9.6%	**-11.2%**

In the last twelve months there has been a decrease of 11.2% (minus 82 offences) in drug offences recorded in Cheshire West and Chester; this is the equal lowest decrease recorded across the previous five years, although volumes have remained fairly consistent.

Across the Force area over the last twelve months there has been an increase of 1.2% in drug offences, which means Cheshire West and Chester have a higher percentage decrease.

When comparing drug offences by local authorities, Cheshire West and Chester has the highest percentage decrease when compared to 2019.

Drugs Offences - Solved Rate				
2016	2017	2018	2019	**2020**
90%	86%	85%	90%	81%
-6.5	-4.7	-0.8	4.8	**-8.4**

In the last twelve months there has been a decrease of 8.4 percentage points in the drug offence solved rate in Cheshire West and Chester; over the review period this is the second largest decrease when comparing to the previous years under review.

Across the Force, over the last twelve months there has been a decrease of 7.4 percentage points in the drug offence solved rate, which means Cheshire West and Chester recorded a higher percentage decrease.

When comparing the drug offence solved rate by local authorities, Cheshire West and Chester recoded the second highest decrease when compared to 2019.

9. Alcohol related crime -Cheshire West and Chester

Alcohol Related Crime - Recorded Crime				
2016	2017	2018	2019	**2020**
1,908	2,365	2,837	2,753	**2,757**
-8.3%	24.0%	20.0%	-3.0%	**0.1%**

In the last twelve months there has been no change (plus 4 offences) in alcohol-related offences recorded in Cheshire West and Chester; the offence volume has reduced slightly since 2018, although perhaps a larger decrease may have been expected due to the Covid-19 pandemic restrictions.

Across the Force area over the last twelve months there has been a decrease of 3.4% in alcohol-related offences, which means Cheshire West and Chester has a slightly higher percentage increase.

When comparing alcohol-related offences by local authorities, Cheshire West and Chester is the only authority area to record a percentage increase, however very marginal, when compared to 2019.

Alcohol Related Crime Offences - Solved Rate				
2016	2017	2018	2019	**2020**
No Data	No Data	15%	14%	15%
No Data	No Data	No Data	-0.3	**0.8**

In the last twelve months there has been a small increase of 0.8 percentage points in alcohol-related offence solved rate in Cheshire West and Chester.

Across the Force, over the last twelve months there has been an increase of 3.9 percentage points in alcohol-related offence solved rate, which means Cheshire West and Chester recorded a lower percentage point increase.

When comparing the alcohol-related offence solved rate by local authorities, Cheshire West and Chester recorded the lowest increase when compared to 2019.

10. Domestic Abuse -Cheshire West and Chester

Domestic Abuse - Recorded Crime				
2016	2017	2018	2019	**2020**
2,430	2,949	4,823	4,804	**5,653**
15.5%	21.4%	63.5%	-0.4%	**17.7%**

In the last twelve months there has been an increase of 17.7% (plus 849 offences) in domestic abuse offences recorded in Cheshire West and Chester. This is the third highest increase recorded across the previous five year period; however, volumes have now more than doubled since 2016.

Across the Force area over the last twelve months there has been an increase of 14.7% in domestic abuse offences, which means Cheshire West and Chester have recorded a 3 percentage point higher increase.

When comparing domestic abuse offences by local authorities, Cheshire West and Chester has the second highest percentage increase when compared to 2019.

Domestic Abuse Offences - Solved Rate				
2016	2017	2018	2019	**2020**
43%	30%	15%	11%	10%
-4.6	-13.0	-14.8	-4.6	**-1.2**

In the last twelve months there has been a decrease of 1.2 percentage points in domestic abuse offence solved rate in Cheshire West and Chester.

Across the Force, over the last twelve months there has been a small increase of 0.4 percentage points in domestic abuse offence solved rate.

When comparing the domestic abuse offence solved rate by local authorities, two authorities recorded a decrease with Cheshire West and Chester recording the highest decrease when compared to 2019.

11. Cyber crime -Cheshire West and Chester

Cyber Crime - Recorded Crime				
2016	2017	2018	2019	**2020**
212	474	652	1,315	**2,301**
No Data	123.6%	37.6%	101.7%	**75.0%**

During the last twelve months there has been an increase of 75% (plus 986 offences) in recorded cyber-crime in Cheshire West and Chester; this follows the steep upward trend in recorded offences across the previous four year period, but this will largely be due to improved recording processes for these offence types.

Across the Force area over the last twelve months there has been an increase of 86.6% in cyber-crime offences, which means Cheshire West and Chester have recorded a lower increase.

When comparing offences by local authorities, Cheshire West and Chester has the lowest percentage increase when compared to 2019.

Cyber Crime Offences - Solved Rate				
2016	2017	2018	2019	**2020**
No Data	19%	12%	4%	4%
No Data	No Data	-7.4	-7.9	**0.3**

In the last twelve months there has been a slight increase of 0.3 percentage points in cyber-crime offence solved rate in Cheshire West and Chester.

Across the Force, over the last twelve months there has been a small decrease of 0.6 percentage points in cyber-crime offence solved rate, which means Cheshire West and Chester recorded a slightly higher increase.

When comparing the cyber-crime offence solved rate by local authorities, only Cheshire West and Chester recorded an increase when compared to 2019.

12. Hate Crime -Cheshire West and Chester

Hate Crime - Recorded Crime				
2016	2017	2018	2019	**2020**
356	439	492	562	**607**
44.7%	23.3%	12.1%	14.2%	**8.0%**

In the last twelve months there has been an increase of 8% (plus 45 offences) in hate crime offences recorded in Cheshire West and Chester; however, this is the lowest increase recorded across the previous five year review period, all-be-it the highest recorded volume across the period.

Across the Force area over the last twelve months there has been an increase of 19% in hate crime offences, which means Cheshire West and Chester have recorded a much lower increase.

When comparing hate crime offences by local authorities, Cheshire West and Chester has the lowest percentage increase when compared to 2019.

Hate Crime Offences - Solved Rate				
2016	2017	2018	2019	**2020**
45%	27%	25%	17%	13%
6.5	-17.8	-1.9	-7.9	**-4.4**

In the last year there has been a decrease of 4.4 percentage points in hate crime offence solved rate in Cheshire West and Chester which is the lowest across the 5 year period.

Across the Force, over the last twelve months there has been a decrease of 1.3 percentage points in hate crime offence solved rate, which means Cheshire West and Chester recorded a higher percentage point decrease.

When comparing the hate crime offence solved rate by local authorities, Cheshire West and Chester recorded the second highest decrease when compared to 2019.

13. Robbery offences -Cheshire West and Chester

Robbery - Recorded Crime				
2016	2017	2018	2019	**2020**
75	99	111	136	**96**
7.1%	32.0%	12.1%	22.5%	**-29.4%**

During the last twelve months there has been a decrease of 29.4% (minus 40 offences) in robbery offences recorded in Cheshire West and Chester; this is the first decrease recorded across the previous five year review period with volumes returning to those seen in 2017.

Across the Force area over the last twelve months there has been a decrease of 18.7% in robbery offences, which means Cheshire West and Chester has recorded a higher decrease.

When comparing robbery offences by local authorities, Cheshire West and Chester has the lowest percentage decrease when compared to 2019.

Robbery - Solved Rate				
2016	2017	2018	2019	**2020**
21%	27%	19%	13%	20%
-14.4	5.9	-8.4	-5.7	**6.6**

In the last twelve months there has been an increase of 6.6 percentage points in robbery offence solved rate in Cheshire West and Chester.

Across the Force, over the last twelve months there has been an increase of 6.1 percentage points in robbery offence solved rate, which means Cheshire West and Chester recorded a slightly higher percentage increase.

When comparing the robbery offence solved rate by local authorities, Cheshire West and Chester recorded the second highest increase when compared to 2019.

a. Robbery of Personal Property -Cheshire West and Chester

Robbery of Personal Property - Recorded Crime				
2016	2017	2018	2019	**2020**
62	82	85	118	**85**
3.3%	32.3%	3.7%	38.8%	**-28.0%**

During the last twelve months there has been a decrease of 28% (minus 33 offences) in personal robbery offences recorded in Cheshire West and Chester; this is the first decrease recorded across the previous five year review period and returning volumes to those experienced in 2017/18.

Across the Force area over the last twelve months there has been a decrease of 17.6% in personal robbery offences, which means Cheshire West and Chester has recorded a higher decrease.

When comparing personal robbery offences by local authorities, Cheshire West and Chester has the highest percentage decrease when compared to 2019.

Robbery of Personal Property - Solved Rate				
2016	2017	2018	2019	**2020**
16%	24%	14%	11%	18%
-10.5	8.3	-10.3	-3.1	**6.6**

In the last twelve months there has been an increase of 6.6 percentage points in personal robbery offence solved rate in Cheshire West and Chester.

Across the Force, over the last twelve months there has been an increase of 5.1 percentage points in personal robbery offence solved rate, which means Cheshire West and Chester recorded a higher percentage point increase.

When comparing the personal robbery offence solved rate by local authorities, Cheshire West and Chester recorded the second highest increase when compared to 2019.

b. Robbery of Business Property -Cheshire West and Chester

Robbery of Business Property - Recorded Crime				
2016	2017	2018	2019	**2020**
13	17	26	18	**11**
18.2%	30.8%	52.9%	-30.8%	**-38.9%**

During the last twelve months there has been a decrease of nearly 40%, (although very low volumes i.e. minus 9 offences) in business robbery offences recorded in Cheshire West and Chester; this follows on from a reducing trend recorded the previous year (2019). Small volumes and large percentage changes need to be noted.

Across the Force area over the last twelve months there has been a decrease of 25% in business robbery offences, which means Cheshire West and Chester has recorded a higher decrease.

When comparing business robbery offences by local authorities, Cheshire West and Chester has the second highest percentage decrease when compared to 2019.

Robbery of Business Property - Solved Rate				
2016	2017	2018	2019	**2020**
46%	41%	35%	28%	36%
-35.7	-5.0	-6.6	-6.8	**8.6**

In the last twelve months there has been an increase of 8.6 percentage points in business robbery offence solved rate in Cheshire West and Chester, the first recorded increase across the 5 year period.

Across the Force, over the last twelve months there has been an increase of 13.6 percentage points in business robbery offence solved rate, which means Cheshire West and Chester recorded a lower percentage increase.

When comparing the business robbery offence solved rate by local authorities, Cheshire West and Chester recorded the second lowest increase when compared to 2019.

14. Burglary -Cheshire West and Chester

Burglary - Recorded Crime				
2016	2017	2018	2019	**2020**
1,499	1,396	1,426	1,198	**1,035**
-16.7%	-6.9%	2.1%	-16.0%	**-13.6%**

During the last twelve months there has been a decrease of 13.6% (minus 163 offences) in burglary offences recorded in Cheshire West and Chester; this follows on from a reducing trend recorded in the previous year (2019) and the lowest across the 5 year period.

Across the Force area over the last twelve months there has been a decrease of 9.8% in burglary offences, which means Cheshire West and Chester has recorded a higher decrease.

When comparing burglary offences by local authorities, Cheshire West and Chester has the second highest percentage decrease when compared to 2019.

Burglary - Solved Rate				
2016	2017	2018	2019	**2020**
15%	13%	12%	11%	12%
2.8	-1.6	-1.3	-0.6	**1.1**

In the last year there has been an increase of 1.1 percentage points in burglary offence solved rate in Cheshire West and Chester.

Across the Force, over the last twelve months there has been no change in burglary offence solved rate, which means Cheshire West and Chester recorded a slightly higher percentage point increase.

When comparing the burglary offence solved rate by local authorities, Cheshire West and Chester recorded the equal highest increase when compared to 2019.

a. Residential Burglary -Cheshire West and Chester

Burglary Residential - Recorded Crime				
2016	2017	2018	2019	**2020**
592	852	1,039	830	**745**
-6.5%	43.9%	21.9%	-20.1%	**-10.2%**

During the last twelve months there has been a decrease of 10.2% (minus 85 offences) in burglary residential offences recorded in Cheshire West and Chester; this follows on from a reducing trend recorded in the previous year (2019).

Across the Force area over the last twelve months there has been a decrease of 4% in burglary residential offences, which means Cheshire West and Chester has recorded a higher decrease.

When comparing burglary residential offences by local authorities, Cheshire West and Chester was the only authority to record a percentage decrease when compared to 2019.

Burglary Residential - Solved Rate				
2016	2017	2018	2019	**2020**
19%	12%	12%	10%	12%
0.9	-7.0	0.1	-1.4	**1.6**

In the last twelve months there has been an increase of 1.6 percentage points in burglary residential offence solved rate in Cheshire West and Chester.

Across the Force, over the last twelve months there has been no real change in burglary residential offence solved rate at 8%, which means Cheshire West and Chester recorded a higher percentage point increase.

When comparing the burglary residential offence solved rate by local authorities, Cheshire West and Chester recorded the highest increase when compared to 2019.

b. Business and Community Burglary -Cheshire West and Chester

Burglary Business and Community - Recorded Crime				
2016	2017	2018	2019	**2020**
907	544	387	368	**290**
-22.2%	-40.0%	-28.9%	-4.9%	**-21.2%**

During the last twelve months there has been a decrease of 21.2% (minus 78 offences) in business and community burglary offences recorded in Cheshire West and Chester; this follows on from a reducing trend to the lowest volume recorded across the five year review period.

Across the Force area over the last twelve months there has been a decrease of 23.8% in business and community burglary offences, which means Cheshire West and Chester has recorded a lower decrease.

When comparing business and community burglary offences by local authorities, Cheshire West and Chester has the third highest percentage decrease when compared to 2019.

Burglary Business and Community - Solved Rate				
2016	2017	2018	2019	**2020**
12%	15%	11%	13%	12%
3.4	3.1	-3.5	1.1	**-0.1**

In the last twelve months there has been a small decrease of 0.1 percentage points in business and community burglary offence solved rate in Cheshire West and Chester. The solved rate has remained fairly consistent across the 5 year period.

Across the Force, over the last twelve months there has been a 0.6 percentage point increase in business and community burglary offence solved rate, which means Cheshire West and Chester recorded a lower percentage point decrease.

When comparing the business and community burglary offence solved rate by local authorities, Cheshire West and Chester recorded the equal lowest decrease when compared to 2019.

15. Vehicle Crime -Cheshire West and Chester

Vehicle Offences - Recorded Crime				
2016	2017	2018	2019	**2020**
947	1,014	968	853	**634**
-18.4%	7.1%	-4.5%	-11.9%	**-25.7%**

During the last twelve months there has been a decrease of 25.7% (minus 790 offences) in vehicle offences recorded in Cheshire West and Chester; this follows a reducing trend since 2017.

Across the Force area over the last twelve months there has been a decrease of 28.1% in vehicle offences, which means Cheshire West and Chester has recorded a lower decrease.

When comparing vehicle offences by local authorities, Cheshire West and Chester has the highest percentage decrease when compared to 2019.

Vehicle Offences - Solved Rate				
2016	2017	2018	2019	**2020**
10%	8%	11%	9%	9%
1.8	-1.5	2.6	-2.0	**0.3**

In the last twelve months there has been a small increase of 0.3 percentage points in vehicle offence solved rate in Cheshire West and Chester. Across the 5 year period the solved rates have remained fairly consistent.

Across the Force, over the last twelve months there has been a 3.3 percentage point increase in vehicle offence solved rate, which means Cheshire West and Chester recorded a lower percentage increase.

When comparing the vehicle offence solved rate by local authorities, Cheshire West and Chester recorded the lowest increase when compared to 2019.

16. Shoplifting -Cheshire West and Chester

Shoplifting - Recorded Crime				
2016	2017	2018	2019	**2020**
2,101	2,535	2,226	2,083	**1,734**
12.3%	20.7%	-12.2%	-6.4%	**-16.8%**

During the last twelve months there has been a decrease of 16.8% (minus 349 crimes) in shoplifting offences recorded in Cheshire West and Chester; this follows on from a reducing trend since 2018 and will have been affected by the Covid-19 pandemic restrictions this year.

Across the Force area over the last twelve months there has been a decrease of 24.6% in shoplifting offences, which means Cheshire West and Chester has recorded a lower decrease.

When comparing shoplifting offences by local authorities, Cheshire West and Chester has the second lowest percentage decrease when compared to 2019.

Shoplifting - Solved Rate				
2016	2017	2018	2019	**2020**
56%	50%	43%	38%	29%
-2.9	-6.0	-6.5	-5.5	**-8.8**

In the last twelve months there has been a decrease of 8.8 percentage points in shoplifting offence solved rate in Cheshire West and Chester, which follows on from a five year reducing trend despite decreasing volumes reported above.

Across the Force, over the last twelve months there has been a 6.6 percentage point increase in shoplifting offence solved rate, which means Cheshire West and Chester recorded a higher percentage decrease.

When comparing the shoplifting offence solved rate by local authorities, Cheshire West and Chester recorded the second highest decrease when compared to 2019.

17. Theft from the Person -Cheshire West and Chester

Theft from the Person - Recorded Crime				
2016	2017	2018	2019	**2020**
188	171	192	223	**68**
-36.3%	-9.0%	12.3%	16.1%	**-69.5%**

During the last year there has been a decrease of nearly 70% (minus 155 offences) in theft from the person offences recorded in Cheshire West and Chester; this is the highest reduction in the five year review period by a considerable margin, and again, will have been as a result of Covid-19 restrictions.

Across the Force area over the last twelve months there has been a decrease of 65.5% in theft from the person offences, which means Cheshire West and Chester has recorded a higher decrease.

When comparing theft from the person offences by local authorities, Cheshire West and Chester has the second highest percentage decrease when compared to 2019.

Theft from the Person - Solved Rate				
2016	2017	2018	2019	**2020**
11%	4%	5%	7%	12%
-1.6	-7.1	1.2	2.5	**4.6**

In the last twelve months there has been an increase of 4.6 percentage points in theft from the person offence solved rate in Cheshire West and Chester, which follows on from a three year increasing trend since 2017.

Across the Force, over the last twelve months there has been a 3.4 percentage point increase in theft from the person offence solved rate, which means Cheshire West and Chester recorded a higher percentage point increase.

When comparing the theft from the person offence solved rate by local authorities, Cheshire West and Chester recorded the second highest increase when compared to 2019.

18. Bicycle Theft -Cheshire West and Chester

Bicycle Theft - Recorded Crime				
2016	2017	2018	2019	**2020**
421	454	436	314	**338**
-7.1%	7.8%	-4.0%	-28.0%	**7.6%**

During the last year there has been an increase of 7.6% (plus 24 recorded offences) in bicycle theft recorded in Cheshire West and Chester; this is the highest increase since 2017 across the five year review period and follows a large reduction in 2019.

Across the Force area over the last twelve months there has been a decrease of 11.9% in bicycle theft, which means Cheshire West and Chester recorded a higher increase.

When comparing bicycle theft by local authorities, Cheshire West and Chester is the only authority to record an increase compared to 2019.

Bicycle Theft - Solved Rate				
2016	2017	2018	2019	**2020**
7%	7%	6%	4%	4%
-4.3	-0.5	-1.1	-1.6	**-0.3**

In the last twelve months there has been a small decrease of less than 1 percentage point in bicycle theft offence solved rate in Cheshire West and Chester, which follows a reducing trend across the five year review period.

Across the Force, over the last year there has been a 0.6 percentage point increase in bicycle theft offence solved rate, which means Cheshire West and Chester recorded a higher percentage point decrease.

When comparing bicycle theft offence solved rate by local authorities, Cheshire West and Chester was the only authority area to record a small percentage point decrease when compared to 2019.

19. All Other Theft offences -Cheshire West and Chester

All Other Theft Offences - Recorded Crime				
2016	2017	2018	2019	**2020**
1,932	2,258	2,459	2,453	**1,750**
1.1%	16.9%	8.9%	-0.2%	**-28.7%**

During the last twelve months there has been a decrease of 28.7% (minus 703 offences) in other theft recorded in Cheshire West and Chester; this is by far the largest decrease and lowest recorded annual volume across the five year review period.

Across the Force area over the last twelve months there has been a decrease of 21% in other theft, which means Cheshire West and Chester has recorded a higher decrease.

When comparing other theft by local authorities, Cheshire West and Chester has recorded the highest decrease compared to 2019.

All Other Theft Offences - Solved Rate				
2016	2017	2018	2019	**2020**
10%	7%	7%	6%	4%
-0.1	-2.2	0.0	-1.2	**-2.6**

In the last year there has been a decrease of 2.6 percentage points in other theft offence solved rate in Cheshire West and Chester, which follows on from a five year reducing trend across the review period.

Across the Force, over the last twelve months there has been a 1.3 percentage point decrease to 3% in other theft offence solved rate, which means Cheshire West and Chester recorded a higher percentage decrease.

When comparing other theft offence solved rate by local authorities, Cheshire West and Chester recorded the highest decrease when compared to 2019.

20. Criminal Damage and Arson -Cheshire West and Chester

Criminal Damage and Arson - Recorded Crime				
2016	2017	2018	2019	**2020**
2,788	2,963	2,936	2,928	**2,726**
5.1%	6.3%	-0.9%	-0.3%	**-6.9%**

During the last twelve months there has been a decrease of 6.9% (minus 2020 offences) in criminal damage and arson offences recorded in Cheshire West and Chester; this is the highest decrease across the five year review period returning to pre-2016 levels.

Across the Force area over the last twelve months there has been a decrease of 9.8% in criminal damage and arson offences, which means Cheshire West and Chester has recorded a lower decrease.

When comparing criminal damage and arson offences by local authorities, Cheshire West and Chester has recorded the lowest decrease compared to 2019.

Criminal Damage and Arson - Solved Rate				
2016	2017	2018	2019	**2020**
18%	14%	12%	10%	7%
-0.7	-4.1	-2.5	-1.7	**-2.8**

In the last twelve months there has been a decrease of 2.8 percentage points in criminal damage and arson offence solved rate in Cheshire West and Chester, which continues a five year reducing trend across the review period, but to the lowest solved rate.

Across the Force, over the last twelve months there has been a 0.4 percentage point decrease in criminal damage and arson offence solved rate, which means Cheshire West and Chester recorded a higher percentage decrease.

When comparing criminal damage and arson offence solved rate by local authorities, Cheshire West and Chester recorded the highest decrease when compared to 2019.

21. Total Incidents -Cheshire West and Chester

Total - Incidents				
2016	2017	2018	2019	**2020**
74,713	81,991	75,995	77,892	**78,713**
1.4%	9.7%	-7.3%	2.5%	**1.1%**

During the last twelve months there has been a small volume increase of 1.1% (pus 821) in total incidents recorded in Cheshire West and Chester; this being the highest volume recorded since 2017.

Across the Force area over the last twelve months there has been a decrease of 1.3% in total incidents, which means Cheshire West and Chester has recorded an increase rather than a decrease seen at Force level.

When comparing the volume of total incidents by local authorities, Cheshire West and Chester has recorded the second highest increase compared to 2019.

22. Alcohol related Incidents -Cheshire West and Chester

Alcohol - Incidents				
2016	2017	2018	2019	**2020**
4,843	4,507	3,026	2,610	**2,368**
-15.2%	-6.9%	-32.9%	-13.7%	**-9.3%**

During the last twelve months there has been a decrease of 9.3% (minus 242) in alcohol-related incidents recorded in Cheshire West and Chester; although a lower decrease than in some other years this continues a reducing five year trend. As is the case with alcohol-related crime, these figures will have been affected by the Covid-19 restriction, but again, perhaps a larger decrease may have been expected with the periods of closure of licensed premises.

Across the Force area over the last twelve months there has been a decrease of 6.5% in alcohol-related incidents, which means Cheshire West and Chester has recorded a higher decrease.

When comparing the volume of alcohol-related incidents by local authorities, Cheshire West and Chester has recorded the second highest decrease compared to 2019.

23. Drug Incidents -Cheshire West and Chester

Drug - Incidents				
2016	2017	2018	2019	**2020**
2,655	2,699	2,105	1,919	**2,556**
-5.7%	1.7%	-22.0%	-8.8%	**33.2%**

In the last twelve months there has been an increase of 33.2% (plus 637) in drug-related incidents recorded in Cheshire West and Chester; this is the highest increase across the five year review period. These increases may be due to increased Stop-search activity allowing better targeting of smaller numbers of people within town centres.

Across the Force area over the last twelve months there has been an increase of 30.1% in drug-related incidents, which means Cheshire West and Chester has recorded a higher increase.

When comparing the volume of drug-related incidents by local authorities, Cheshire West and Chester has recorded the third highest increase when compared to 2019.

24. Domestic Incidents -Cheshire West and Chester

Domestic - Incidents				
2016	2017	2018	2019	**2020**
3,796	3,858	4,485	5,252	**5,968**
-18.5%	1.6%	16.3%	17.1%	**13.6%**

In the last twelve months there has been an increase of 13.6% (plus 716) in domestic-related incidents recorded in Cheshire West and Chester; this is lower than during the previous two years (2018), but the highest volume across the 5 year period.

Across the Force area over the last twelve months there has been an increase of 13.1% in domestic-related incidents, which means Cheshire West and Chester has recorded a slightly higher increase.

When comparing the volume of domestic-related incidents by local authorities, Cheshire West and Chester has recorded the second highest increase when compared to 2019.

25. Anti-Social Behaviour Incidents -Cheshire West and Chester

Anti-social Behaviour - Incidents				
2016	2017	2018	2019	**2020**
10,431	10,149	7,585	6,554	**9,934**
-3.0%	-2.7%	-25.3%	-13.6%	**51.6%**

During the last twelve months there has been an increase of 51.6% (plus 3380) in anti-social behaviour incidents recorded in Cheshire West and Chester; this is the highest recorded volume during the five year review period; which also this year has been impacted by Covid-19 lockdown breaches adding to reported volumes.

Across the Force area over the last twelve months there has been an increase of 50.2% in anti-social behaviour incidents, which means Cheshire West and Chester has recorded a slightly higher increase.

When comparing the volume of anti-social behaviour incidents by local authorities, Cheshire West and Chester has recorded the highest increase when compared to 2019.

The following table provides a breakdown of Anti-Social Behaviour incidents by category and Beat Team Cluster (BTC). Analysis of incidents by Local Policing Unit indicates that during 2020 46% of all ASB occurred in Chester; 32% in Northwich and 22% in Ellesmere Port. Looking at the volumes table of ASB incidents by BTC this order changes Chester City (15%); Winsford (14%); and Ellesmere Port West & Neston (12%).

Local Policing Unit	Police Team Cluster	Environmental ASB	Nuisance ASB	Personal ASB	Total ASB
Chester	Chester City	111	953	228	**1292**
	Chester North	70	571	176	**817**
	Chester Rural & Frodsham	91	666	229	**986**
	Chester South	64	613	216	**893**
	TOTAL	**336**	**2803**	**849**	**3988**
Ellesmere Port	Ellesmere Port East	72	613	206	**891**
	Ellesmere Port West & Neston	105	699	245	**1049**
	TOTAL	**177**	**1312**	**451**	**1940**
Northwich	Northwich North	73	645	194	**912**
	Northwich South	66	451	146	**663**
	Winsford	103	860	289	**1252**
	TOTAL	**242**	**1956**	**629**	**2827**
CWaC TOTAL		**755**	**6071**	**1929**	**8755**

Identified COVID19 related incidents have accounted for 23% (2,033) of all ASB incidents recorded during 2020 with the highest volumes being seen in April and May 2020 when the first national lockdown was in effect. A similar trend was observed in all Police Beat Team Clusters.

Of the 2,033 COVID19 related incidents 76% related to Nuisance ASB; 13% to Environmental ASB and 11% to Personal ASB.

a. Environmental Anti-Social Behaviour Incidents -Cheshire West and Chester

ASB Environmental - Incidents				
2016	2017	2018	2019	**2020**
742	653	413	318	**903**
1.2%	-12.0%	-36.8%	-23.0%	**184.0%**

In the last twelve months there has been an increase of 184% (plus 585) in environmental anti-social behaviour incidents recorded in Cheshire West and Chester; this is by-and-way the highest volume recorded during the five year review period and may, this year, have been impacted by Covid-19 lockdown breaches.

Across the Force area over the last twelve months there has been an increase of 162.5% in environmental anti-social behaviour incidents, which means Cheshire West and Chester has recorded a highest increase.

When comparing the volume of environmental anti-social behaviour incidents by local authorities, Cheshire West and Chester has recorded the highest increase when compared to 2019.

b. Nuisance Anti-Social Behaviour Incidents -Cheshire West and Chester

ASB Nuisance - Incidents				
2016	2017	2018	2019	**2020**
4,166	4,559	3,920	4,103	**6,823**
-15.6%	9.4%	-14.0%	4.7%	**66.3%**

During the last twelve months there has been an increase of 66.3% (plus 2,720) in nuisance anti-social behaviour incidents recorded in Cheshire West and Chester; this is the highest volume recorded during the five year review period.

This years' figures are impacted by the inclusion of Covid-19 restriction breaches.

Across the Force area over the last twelve months there has been an increase of 56.3% in nuisance anti-social behaviour incidents, which means Cheshire West and Chester has recorded a higher increase.

When comparing the volume of nuisance anti-social behaviour incidents by local authorities, Cheshire West and Chester has recorded the highest increase when compared to 2019.

c. Personal Anti-Social Behaviour Incidents -Cheshire West and Chester

ASB Personal - Incidents				
2016	2017	2018	2019	**2020**
5,456	4,854	3,241	2,133	**2,270**
-11.6%	-11.0%	-33.2%	-34.2%	**6.4%**

In the last twelve months there has been an increase of 6.4% (plus 137) in personal anti-social behaviour incidents recorded in Cheshire West and Chester; this is the first year across the review period to record an annual increase against the previous 12-months. The recording of Covid-19 restriction breaches are included in this years' data.

Across the Force area over the last twelve months there has been an increase of 27.7% in personal anti-social behaviour incidents, which means Cheshire West and Chester has recorded a much smaller percentage increase.

When comparing the volume of personal anti-social behaviour incidents by local authorities, Cheshire West and Chester has recorded the lowest increase by a considerable margin when comparing to 2019.

26. Begging Incidents -Cheshire West and Chester

Begging - Incidents				
2016	2017	2018	2019	**2020**
368	518	263	158	**80**
-13.0%	40.8%	-49.2%	-39.9%	**-49.4%**

During the last twelve months there has been a decrease of 49.4% (minus 78) in begging incidents recorded in Cheshire West and Chester; which extends a continuing downward trend since 2017. This years' figures are likely to have been affected by the reduction in town centre footfall due to Covid019 pandemic restrictions.

Across the Force area over the last twelve months there has been a decrease of 51.2% in begging incidents, which means Cheshire West and Chester has recorded a slightly lower decrease.

Although a considerable decrease, when comparing the volume of begging incidents by local authorities, Cheshire West and Chester has recorded the second lowest decrease when compared to 2019.

27. Hate Incidents -Cheshire West and Chester

Hate - Incidents				
2016	2017	2018	2019	**2020**
275	330	276	317	**334**
29.1%	20.0%	-16.4%	14.9%	**5.4%**

In the last twelve months there has been a year-on-year increase of 5.4% (plus 17) in hate incidents recorded in Cheshire West and Chester; which is lower than the percentage change in 2016, 2017 and 2019. Over the 5 year period volumes are relatively stable.

Across the Force area over the last twelve months there has been an increase of 12.8% in hate incidents, which means Cheshire West and Chester has recorded a lower increase.

When comparing the volume of hate incidents by local authorities, Cheshire West and Chester has recorded the lowest increase when compared to 2019.

28. Mental Health Incidents -Cheshire West and Chester

Mental Health - Incidents				
2016	2017	2018	2019	**2020**
2,387	2,364	1,928	1,736	**2,182**
4.4%	-1.0%	-18.4%	-10.0%	**25.7%**

During the last twelve months there has been a year-on-year increase of 25.7% (plus 446) in mental health incidents recorded in Cheshire West and Chester; which is the first recorded increase since 2016 in the five year review period, and a significant increase compared with the previous year (2019). These increased figures may have been impacted by the effects of the Covid-19 lockdown periods this year.

Across the Force area over the last twelve months there has been an increase of 22.1% in mental health incidents, which means Cheshire West and Chester has recorded a higher increase.

When comparing the volume of mental health incidents by local authorities, Cheshire West and Chester has recorded the third highest increase when compared to 2019.

29. Youth related Incidents -Cheshire West and Chester

Youth Related - Incidents				
2016	2017	2018	2019	**2020**
No Data	**No Data**	2,270	1,881	**1,268**
No Data	**No Data**	**No Data**	-17.1%	**-32.6%**

Only partial data since 2018 is available. During the last twelve months there has been a decrease of 32.6% in youth-related incidents recorded in Cheshire West and Chester; which is a higher numerical and percentage decrease than in 2019.

Across the Force area over the last twelve months there has been a decrease of 40.6% in youth-related incidents, which means Cheshire West and Chester has recorded a lower decrease.

When comparing the volume of youth-related incidents by local authorities, Cheshire West and Chester has recorded the lowest decrease when compared to 2019.

30. Road Traffic Collisions (RTC) -Cheshire West and Chester

RTC - Fatals				
2016	2017	2018	2019	**2020**
13	6	11	10	**9**
8.3%	-53.8%	83.3%	-9.1%	**-10.0%**

During the last twelve months there has been a small volume (minus 1) decrease of 10% in fatal RTCs recorded in Cheshire West and Chester; which is similar to 2019.

Across the Force area over the last twelve months there has been a decrease of 17.1% in fatal RTCs, which means Cheshire West and Chester has recorded a lower decrease.

With very small volumes, when comparing the fatal RTC volumes by local authorities, Cheshire West and Chester has recorded the lowest decrease when compared to 2019.

RTC - Seriously Injured				
2016	2017	2018	2019	**2020**
112	90	115	71	**84**
-21.7%	-19.6%	27.8%	-38.3%	**18.3%**

In the last twelve months there has been an increase of 18.3% in serious RTCs recorded in Cheshire West and Chester; which follows a considerable volume reduction last year (2019) and less traffic flow at times this year due to Covid-19 travel restrictions.

Across the Force area over the last twelve months there has been an increase of 7.1% in serious RTCs, which means Cheshire West and Chester has recorded a higher increase.

With relatively small volumes, when comparing the volumes of serious RTCs by local authorities, Cheshire West and Chester has recorded the highest increase (+13) when compared to 2019.

Road Traffic Collision and Casualty Analysis

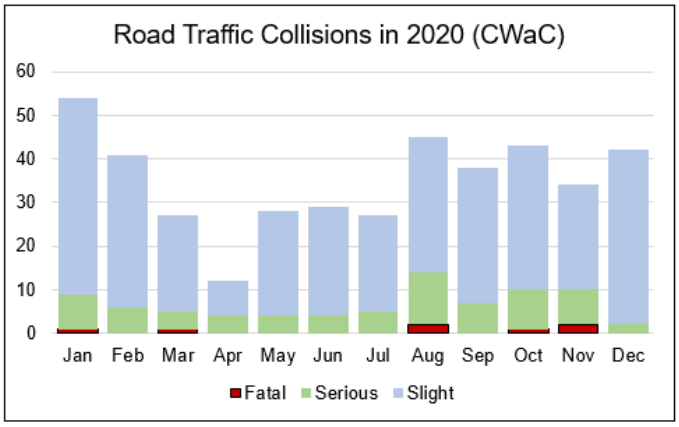
Further analysis of the Road Traffic Collisions in 2020 shows that 13 collisions occurred on the Motorway network within Cheshire West and Chester (2 fatal and 11 seriously injured). As well as the KSI collisions a further 340 slight injury collisions were also recorded as occurring on roads within Cheshire West and Chester (excluding motorways). To put this into context there were 0.28 collisions per mile of road in Cheshire West and Chester during 2020 compared to 0.31 collisions per mile of road across the Force (excluding motorways).

Analysis of collisions by road identifies the following roads as the main locations of collisions during 2020:

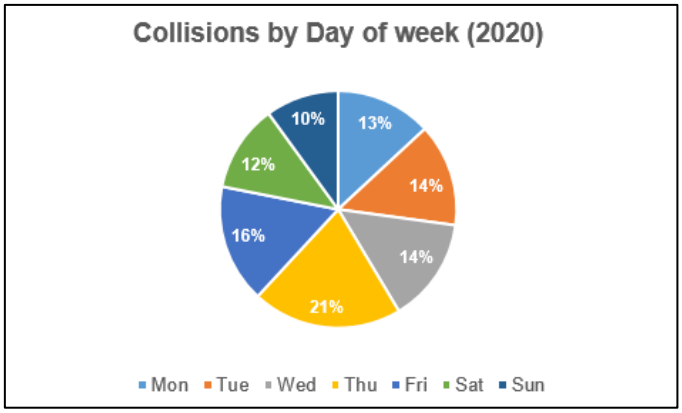
- A540 – 29 collisions (2 fatal, 7 serious and 20 slight)
- A41 – 25 collisions (1 fatal, 3 serious and 21 slight)

- A56 – 18 collisions (4 serious and 14 slight)
- A51 – 15 collisions (1 fatal, 4 serious and 10 slight)
- A49 – 14 collisions (1 serious and 13 slight)
- A54 – 14 collisions (2 serious and 12 slight)
- A5032 – 13 collisions (1 fatal and 12 slight)
- A559 – 13 collisions (1 fatal and 12 slight)
- A533 – 13 collisions (2 serious and 11 slight)
- B5132 – 12 collisions (1 serious and 11 slight)

Temporal analysis indicates that the highest volume of overall collisions occurred in January (54); August (45); December (42) and February (41). The following bar chart illustrates the volume of KSI, the highest number of both fatal and serious collisions occurred in August (2 fatal, 12 serious) whilst the highest number of slight injury collisions were recorded in January 2020.



Further temporal analysis also indicates that the peak day for collisions across Cheshire West and Chester was Thursday (20%), followed by Friday (16%) whilst the least (10%) occurred on a Sunday.



Analysis by hour of the day indicates that most collisions have occurred at 10:00 (8%) and between 15:00 and 18:59 (34%).

The 420 collisions recorded resulted in 520 casualties (1.55 per 1,000 population) – 8 fatalities, 83 seriously injured and 429 with slight injuries. Of note, the casualty rate

per 1,000 population is slightly higher than that seen across the Force as a whole (1.53).

The table below illustrates the casualty profile and the changes when compared with 2019. The most notable change has occurred in relation to people in Goods vehicles, including vans, being injured (+14 casualties) whilst notable reductions have been seen in relation to car occupants and pedestrians. A certain part of this is most likely linked to the changes in behaviour brought about by the COVID19 pandemic and subsequent lockdown restrictions – for example, increased working from home leading to less motorised traffic on the roads.

Type of casualty (Cheshire West and Chester)	2019	2020	Change in casualties	% Change
Car occupant	***417***	***291***	***-126***	**-30.2%**
Car driver	295	225	-70	-23.7%
Car passengers	122	66	-56	-45.9%
PTW	***59***	***57***	***-2***	**-3.4%**
PTW <125cc	30	24	-6	-20.0%
PTW 125cc - 500cc	7	5	-2	-28.6%
PTW >500cc	22	26	4	18.2%
PTW unknown cc	0	2	2	100.0%
Pedestrian	74	49	-25	-33.8%
Pedal cycle	79	80	1	1.3%
Goods Vehicles inc vans	21	35	14	66.7%
Other	10	8	-2	-20.0%

NB: PTW; Powered two-wheel vehicles.

Conclusions / Summary

Recorded Crime

Cheshire West and Chester recorded a reduction in Total Crime volumes of 4% with a 5% reduction recorded at Force level. Overall however, 2020 has presented a mixed picture with Stalking, Harassment and Violence Without Injury (VWOI) offences increasing by 300%, 8% and 6% respectively; whereas Violence With Injury reduced by 5%. Overall, due to the increases across the VWOI sub-category offences above, Violence Against the Person increased by 11% within CWaC, which is higher than the plus 10% Force level.

Robbery offences fell by 29% (19% at Force level), Burglary reduced by 14% (10% at Force Level) and Vehicle crime by 26% (28% at Force level). Added to these acquisitive crime volume reductions, a further large volume decrease was seen in Shoplifting offences 17% (25% at Force level), All Other Theft by 29% (21% at Force level) and Theft from the Person also fell by 70% (66% at Force level), although the later crime category has much smaller volume offences.

Sexual offences including CSA, Rape and Other Sexual Offences and Domestic Abuse all increased however, by 10%, 8%, 10% and 18% respectively. Most of these increases were also echoed to some extent at Force level, but at slightly higher levels in Cheshire West and Chester.

Also probably a consequence of the extended periods of the Covid-19 lockdowns, considerable increases in Cyber Crime (+75%) and Malicious Communications (+14%) were recorded in 2020.

Most of these changing crime level patterns are similar at North West Region and within the Constabulary's Most Similar Group (MSG).

Incidents

Overall the reductions and increases in volumes of incidents across CWaC are consistent with those seen at a Force level. The only exception to this is in relation to the total volume of incidents - CWaC have seen a small increase (+1.1%) whilst Cheshire Constabulary has recorded a small decrease (-1.3%).

Anti-social behaviour has increased in CWaC when compared to 2019 and this is in line with that recorded at Force level; however, the increase in Environmental ASB is 18 percentage points (p/pts) higher and Personal ASB is 21 p/pts lower than at Force level – this could in part, be due to varying localised recording practices.

Incidents of hate have increased when compared to 2019 but not to the extent recorded at Force level (7p/pts lower). Drug-related incidents have also increased by approximately a third when compared with 2019, although drug offences have actually reduced by 11%. The volume of drug offences and incidents, however, are subject to the amount of targeted focus and drug-related policing campaigns undertaken within any given area. Mental health incidents have also increased quite considerably (26%), 4% higher than at Force level, but this is possibly also due to an ongoing increased focus on related issues.

Alcohol, begging and youth-related incidents have decreased in 2020, these incidents are affected by the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic and associated public movement restrictions; as is probably the case in the 14% increase in domestic incidents (plus 13% at Constabulary level).

Road Traffic Collisions

Volumes of Fatal Collisions have reduced in line with Force reductions whilst the number of collisions resulting in serious injuries have increased.

Appendix A: Crime -Table of Comparative Change 2019/20

The following table illustrates the percentage change in Recorded Crime compared to 2019 and whether or not this change is higher or lower than the change seen at Force level.

Crime Type	CWaC	FORCE
	Percentage change on 2019	Percentage change on 2019
Total Recorded Crime	-3.7%	-4.7%
- Victim Based Crime	-2.2%	-3.4%
Violence against the Person	11.3%	9.9%
- Violence with Injury	-5.3%	-3.9%
- Violence without Injury	-1.4%	-6.2%
- Harassment	7.5%	8.9%
- Stalking	298.3%	329.1%
Domestic Abuse Offences	17.7%	14.7%
Hate Crime	8.0%	19.0%
Malicious Communications	14.1%	13.1%
Sexual Offences	9.6%	4.0%
- Rape Offences	10.1%	8.9%
- Other Sexual Offences	8.7%	0.4%
Child Sexual Abuse	8.3%	3.1%
Drug Offences	-11.2%	1.2%
Alcohol Related Crime	0.1%	-3.4%
Burglary	-13.6%	-9.8%
- Burglary Residential	-10.2%	-4.0%
- Burglary Business and Community	-21.2%	-23.8%
Vehicle Offences	-25.7%	-28.1%
Robbery	-29.4%	-18.7%
- Robbery Business	-38.9%	-25.0%
- Robbery Personal	-28.0%	-17.6%
Cyber-crime	75.0%	86.6%
Theft from the Person	-69.5%	-65.5%
- Shoplifting	-16.8%	-24.6%
- Bicycle Theft	7.6%	-11.9%
- All Other Theft Offences	-28.7%	-21.0%
Criminal Damage and Arson	-6.9%	-9.8%

Appendix B: Incident -Table of Comparative Change 2019/20

The following table illustrates the percentage change in Reported Incidents compared to 2019 and whether or not this change is higher or lower than the change seen at Force level.

Incident Type	CWaC	FORCE
	Percentage change on 2019	Percentage change on 2019
Total Incidents	1.1%	-1.3%
Alcohol Incidents	-9.3%	-6.5%
Anti-social Behaviour Incidents	51.6%	50.2%
- ASB Environmental	184.0%	162.5%
- ASB Nuisance	66.3%	56.3%
- ASB Personal	6.4%	27.7%
Drug Incidents	33.2%	30.1%
Hate Incidents	5.4%	12.8%
Mental Health Incidents	25.7%	22.1%
Missing Person Incidents	-14.4%	-0.6%
Domestic Incidents	13.6%	13.1%
Begging Incidents	-49.4%	-51.2%
Youth Incidents	-32.6%	-40.6%

Appendix C: RTC -Table of Comparative Change 2019/20

The following table illustrates the percentage change in Recorded Road Traffic Collisions compared to 2019 and whether or not this change is higher or lower than the change seen at Force level.

Road Traffic Collisions	CWaC	FORCE
	Percentage change on 2019	Percentage change on 2019
RTC Fatals	-10.0%	-17.1%
RTC Seriously Injured	18.3%	7.1%