OFFICIAL

STRATEGIC ASSESSMENT OF CRIME AND DISORDER (2022 DATA)

APRIL 2023

Cheshire Constabulary Corporate Research and Analysis

[Collar Nos. 07$7182 & 07$24175]

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 includes police Niche Crime records plus police incident data from Saab Safe that have 'Cheshire Constabulary' recorded as the owning agency.

The data in the following report was run on **03/03/2023** and will therefore be subject to change in line with updates made to the two primary source recording systems.

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

<u>Recorded Incidents:</u>

Until February 2018 all police incidents in Cheshire were recorded on a system called NSPIS Command and Control. However in March 2018, 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 has an incident qualifier code (QAL) that can be applied to any type of incident.

- Drugs has an incident qualifier code (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 three incident types; ASB Environmental (BE) / ASB Nuisance (BN) and ASB Personal (BP):

    - 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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Introduction

The following Strategic Assessment is based on 2022 calendar year data for Cheshire West and Chester Local Authority. The report provides a picture of overall crime broken down into specific crimes and goes on to address incident data across areas such as domestic violence, anti-social behaviour (ASB), begging, hate crime, youth, 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. Additionally, the recent Covid-19 pandemic and subsequebt periods of lock-down has made an impact on police crime and incident volumes recorded during 2020 and 2021.

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.

Issues continue to be 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.

Executive Summary

The following Strategic Assessment is based on 2022 data (01 January to 31 December 2022) 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 address incident data across areas such as domestic violence, anti-social behaviour (ASB), begging, hate crime, mental health, youth and missing persons.

Recorded Crime volumes in 2022 were lower than those in 2018 and 2019 with volumes in 2020 and part of 2021 being affected by the Covid 19 pandemic. Actually 2022 when compared to 2018 Cheshire West and Chester has recorded a 5% reduction in recorded offences (1,458 fewer offences).

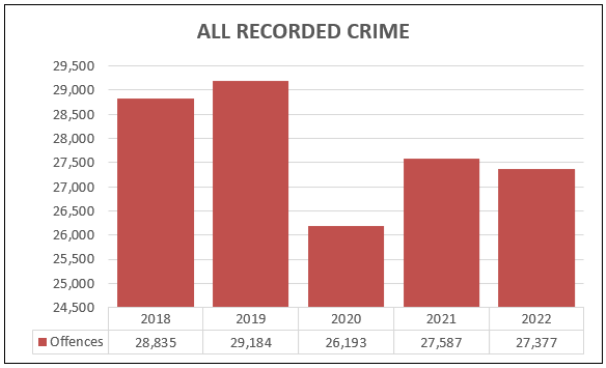
When we compare 2022 figures to 2021 overall crime figures are very similar (-0.8%, 210 fewer offences). This reduction is in line with the overall reduction (-0.9%) seen across Cheshire Constabulary. Despite this overall reduction in crime certain crime categories have recorded increases, most notably in relation to Rape offences (10.2%); Vehicle Crime (34.5%); Shoplifting (39.7%); Theft from the Person (18.4%); Bicycle theft (25%), All Other Theft (11.6%) and Most Serious Violence (4.3%), whilst decreases have been recorded in Harassment (-8.9%); Malicious Communications (-12.8%); Cyber Crime (-7.5%); Personal Robbery (-19.8%) and Criminal Damage (-12.2%). Changes to Crime Recording standards account for some of the variations noted especially within the Stalking and Harassment categories. Many of these increases and reductions are replicated across the force, of note the increase in Rape offences is the highest across the force although in terms of volumes recorded during 2022 Cheshire West and Chester has recorded the second highest volume (401).

When looking at reported incidents rather than crimes the overall picture is one of decreasing demand, locally we have seen a decrease of 1,746 reported incidents (-2.5%) to the police

compared to last year thus continuing the reductions observed over the past 3 years. Certain incident types have experienced increases, most notably Drug incidents (37%); Environmental ASB (19.4%); Youth related incidents (14.4%) and Missing Person incidents (14.4%).

RECORDED CRIME FINDINGS

1. Total Crime

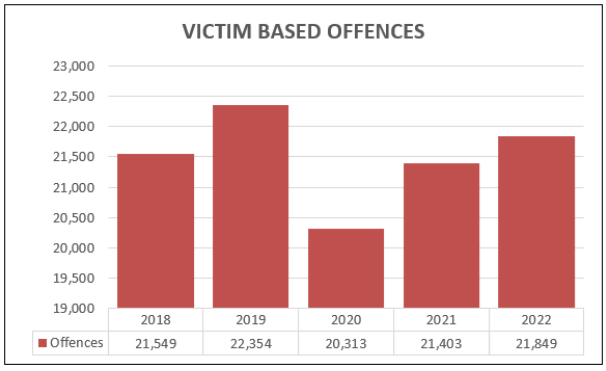


In the last year there has been a decrease of 210 offences (-0.8%) in total crime in Cheshire West and Chester; this follows a 5.3% increase seen in 2021 but this could, in part, be distorted due to the impact of the national lockdown periods during the COVID-19 pandemic; their impact on street crime offences and subsequent return to 'normal'.

Across the Force area, over the last twelve months there has been a decrease of (-0.9%) in total crime compared to the 1.5% increase seen in the previous year.

When comparing total crime by Local Authority, Cheshire West and Chester has recorded the smallest percentage decrease, when compared to percentage change from 2021.

2. Victim Based Crime

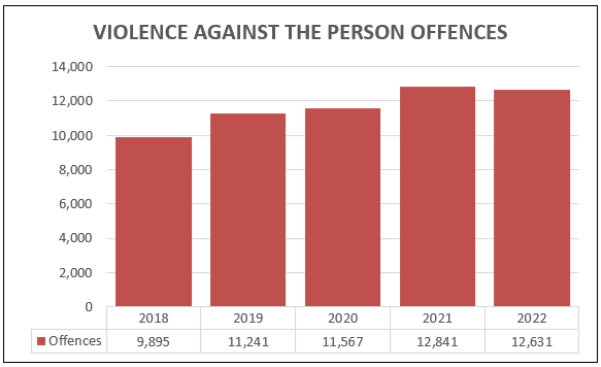


In the last year there has been an increase of 2.1% (446 more offences) in victim-based crime in Cheshire West and Chester.

Across the Force, over the last twelve months there has been an increase of 0.9% in victim-based crime, which means Cheshire West and Chester has experienced a larger percentage increase.

When comparing victim-based crime by Local Authority, both Cheshire West and Chester AND Halton have recorded 2.1% increase, whilst the other two Local Authority recorded small percentage point decreases when compared to 2021.

3. Violence against the Person

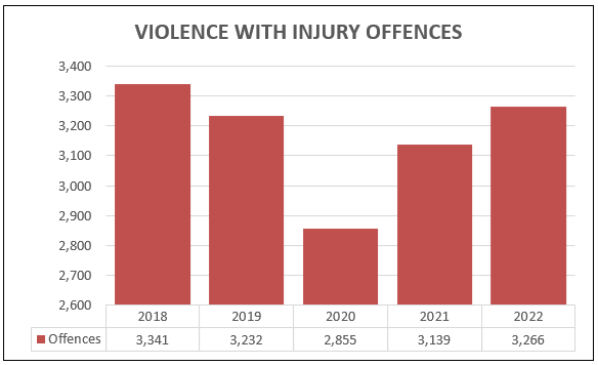


In the last twelve months there has been a decrease of 1.6% in violence against the person in Cheshire West and Chester, volume decreases of 210 crimes.

Across the Force, over the last twelve months there has been a decrease of 1.9% (753 offences) in violence against the person, giving Cheshire West and Chester have a smaller percentage increase.

When comparing violence against the person by Local Authority, Cheshire West and Chester saw the second smallest percentage decrease when compared to 2021.

a. Violence with Injury

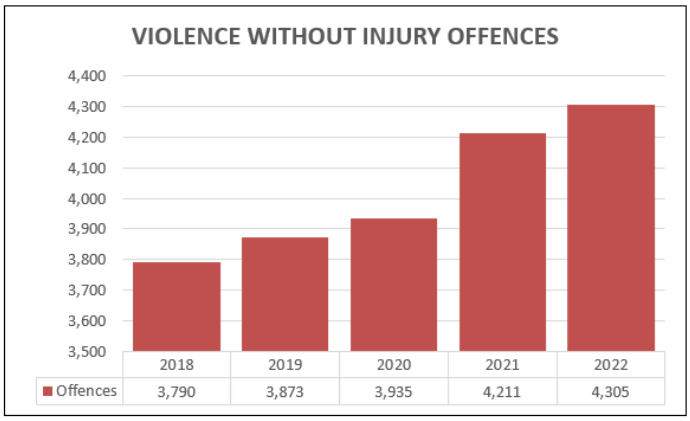


In the last twelve months there has been an increase of 4% in violence with injury in Cheshire West and Chester; this represents 127 more crimes when compared to the previous year (2021).

Across the Force, over the last twelve months there has been an increase of 2.6% in violence with injury offences, which means Cheshire West and Chester has seen a larger percentage increase.

When comparing violence with injury by Local Authority, Cheshire West and Chester has had the second largest percentage increase, when compared to 2021.

b. Violence without Injury

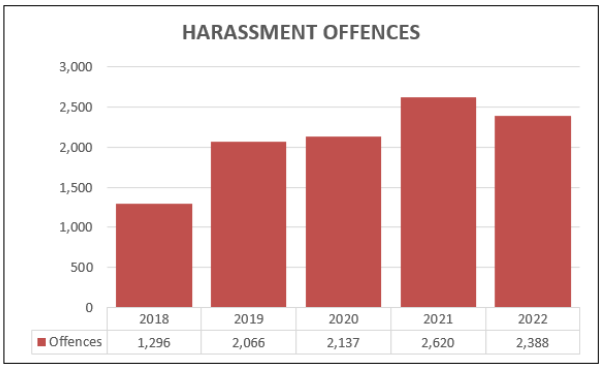


In the last twelve months there has been an increase of 2.2% (94 more) in violence without injury in Cheshire West and Chester.

Across the Force, over the last twelve months there has been an increase of 2.1% in violence without injury, which means Cheshire West and Chester have experienced a slightly higher percentage increase.

When comparing violence without injury by Local Authority, Cheshire West and Chester has had the second largest percentage increase, when compared to 2021 – only one Local Authority recorded a reduction.

4. Harassment

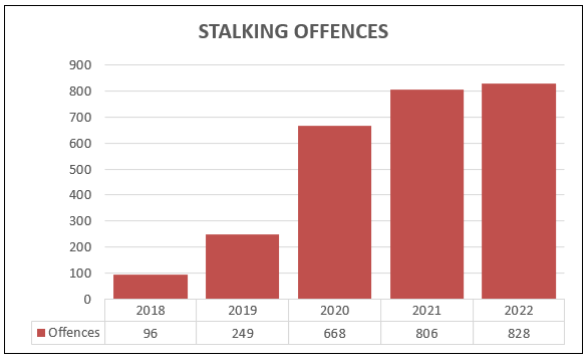


During the last year there has been an 8.9% decrease (or 232 fewer crimes) in harassment offences in Cheshire West and Chester. This is the first reduction in offences seen in the past 5 years.

Across the Force during the same period, there has been an decrease of 7.6% in harassment cases recorded, which means Cheshire West and Chester had a higher percentage increase.

When comparing harassment by Local Authority, Cheshire West and Chester had the highest percentage decrease, when compared to 2021.

5. Stalking



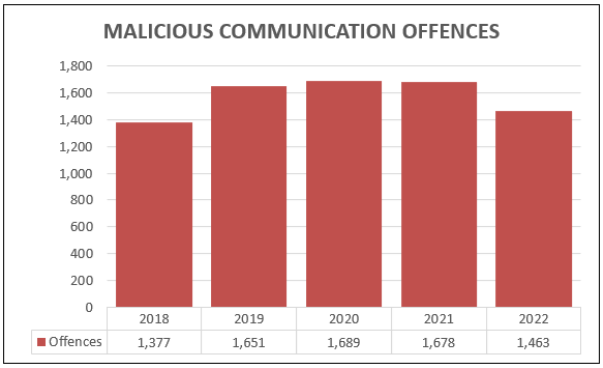
In the last twelve months there has been an increase of 2.7% (plus 22 offences) in stalking offences recorded in Cheshire West and Chester; a much lower increase than seen in previous years.

Over the last twelve months across the Force there has been an increase of 2.5% in stalking, which means Cheshire West and Chester have a slightly higher percentage increase.

When comparing stalking offences by Local Authority, Cheshire West and Chester has had the second largest percentage increase, when compared to 2021 with 2 Local Authorities recording decreases.

The increase seen in 2020 can be attributed, in a large part, to changes to the National Crime Recording Standards (NCRS) made in April 2020 resulting in all post-separation course of conduct offences being also recorded as stalking by default, rather than just harassment. The National Stalking Lead, DCC Mills and the National Crime Registrar, Steve Bond, subsequently issued guidance to help crime recorders make proportionate decisions using the mnemonic FOUR (Fixated, Obsessive, Unwanted, Repeated) as there was concern Forces were recording behaviour that was not stalking as stalking.

6. Malicious Communications

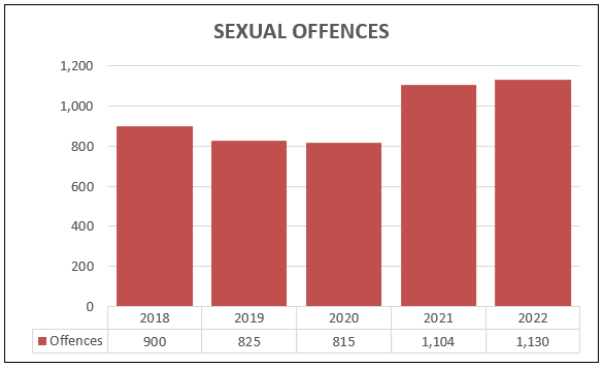


In the last year there has been a decrease of 12.8% (215 fewer crimes) in malicious communications offences recorded in Cheshire West and Chester; this is the second decrease recorded in the previous five years.

Across the Force area over the last twelve months there has been a decrease of 14.1% percentage points in malicious communications, which means Cheshire West and Chester have a lower percentage point decrease.

When comparing malicious communications offences by Local Authority, Cheshire West and Chester has the second smallest percentage decrease, when compared to 2021.

7. Sexual offences



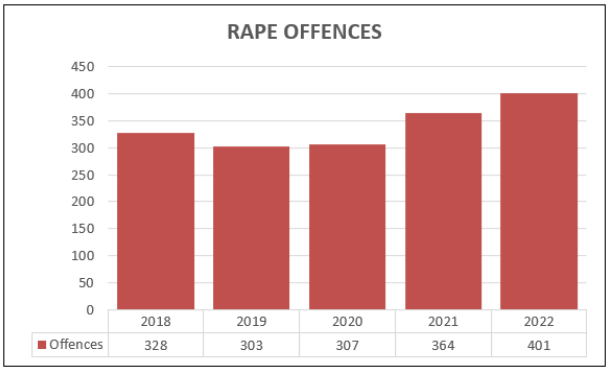
During the last twelve months there has been an increase of 2.4% (plus 26 crimes) in sexual offences recorded in Cheshire West and Chester; this follows a sharp increase in 2021 which was likely related to the relaxing of restrictions following the COVID pandemic.

Across the Force area over the last twelve months there has been an increase of 4.3% in sexual offences, which means Cheshire West and Chester has recorded a smaller percentage increase.

When comparing sexual offences by Local Authority, all CSPs have recorded increases, but Cheshire West and Chester has the smallest percentage increase, when compared to 2021.

a. Rape offences

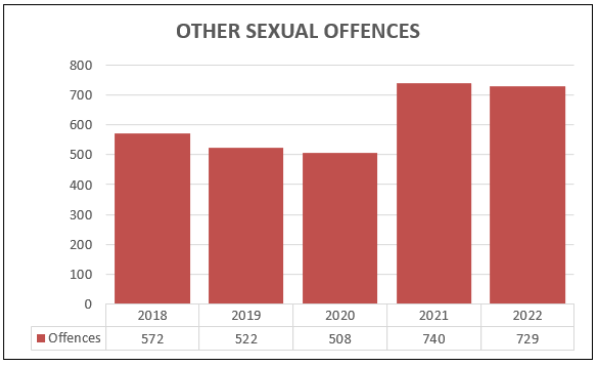
In the last twelve months there has been an increase of 10.2% (plus 37) in rape offences recorded in Cheshire West and Chester; with volumes reaching their highest over the 5 year period.



Across the Force area over the last twelve months there has been an increase of 2.8% in rape, which means Cheshire West and Chester have a much higher percentage increase.

When comparing rape offences by Local Authority, Cheshire West and Chester has the highest percentage increase compared to 2021.

b. Other Sexual offences

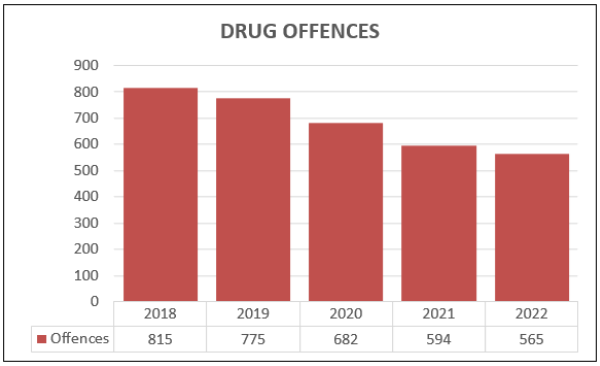


In the last twelve months there has been a decrease of 1.5% (11 fewer offences) in other sexual offences recorded in Cheshire West and Chester.

In contrast Cheshire Constabulary has recorded a 5.1% increase in other sexual offences in 2022 compared to 2021.

When comparing other sexual offences by Local Authority, Cheshire West and Chester is the only Local Authority to have recorded a decrease when compared to 2021.

8. Drug offences

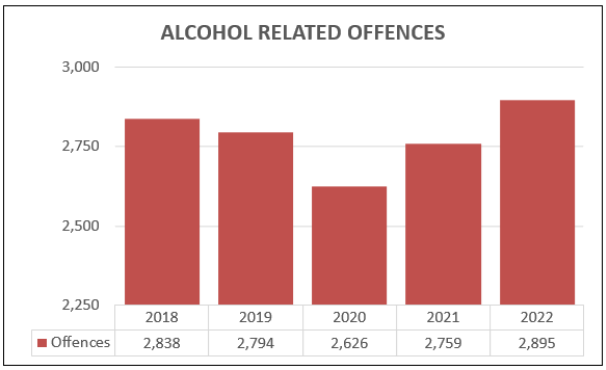


In the last twelve months there has been a decrease of 4.9% (minus 142 offences) in drug offences recorded in Cheshire West and Chester thus continuing the decreasing trend observed over the previous five years.

In contrast volumes of drug offences recorded across Cheshire Constabulary have increased by 7.5% during 2022 when compared with 2021.

When comparing drug offences by Local Authority, Cheshire West and Chester is the only Local Authority to have recorded a decrease when compared to 2021.

9. Alcohol related crime

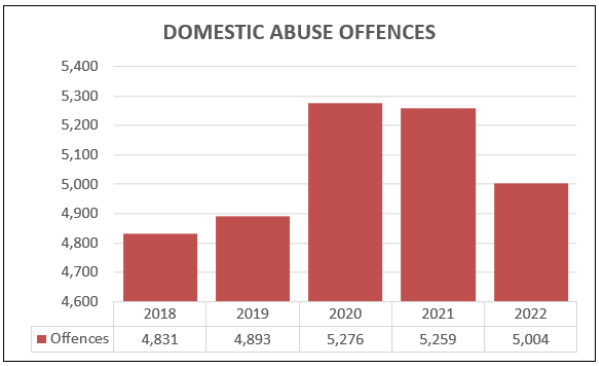


In the last twelve months there has been a 4.9% increase (plus 136 offences) in alcohol-related offences recorded in Cheshire West and Chester. Of note, levels are slightly higher (57 more) than recorded volumes in 2018.

Across the Force area over the last twelve months there has been an increase of 18.6% in alcohol-related offences, a much larger increase than that observed in Cheshire West and Chester.

When comparing alcohol-related offences by Local Authority, Cheshire West and Chester has seen the second lowest percentage increase when compared to 2021.

10. Domestic Abuse

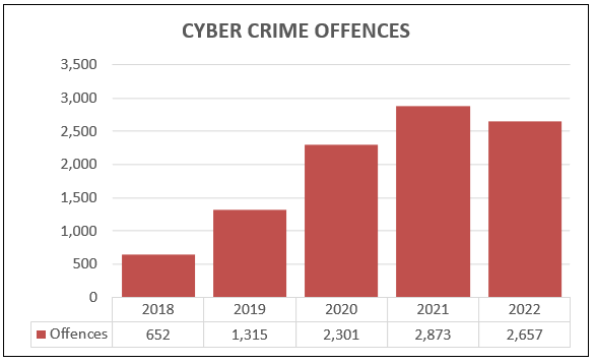


In the last twelve months there has been a decrease of 4.8% (255 fewer offences) in domestic abuse offences recorded in Cheshire West and Chester placing the volume of offences below that recorded in 2020.

Across the Force area over the last twelve months there has been a decrease of 3.2% in domestic abuse offences, which means Cheshire West and Chester have recorded a larger percentage point lower decrease.

When comparing domestic abuse offences by Local Authority, Cheshire West and Chester has seen the largest percentage reduction when compared to 2021.

11. Cyber-crime

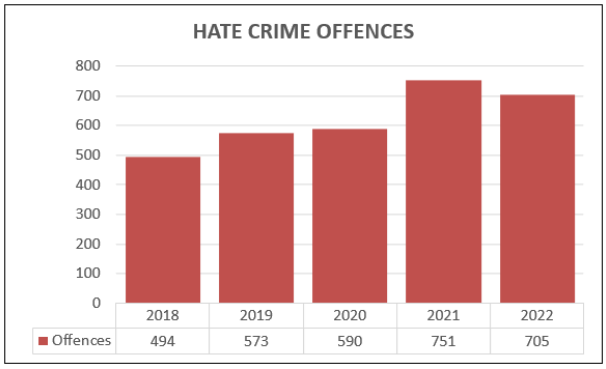


During the last twelve months there has been a decrease of 7.5% (216 fewer offences) in recorded cyber-crime in Cheshire West and Chester – the first decrease noted throughout the 5-year review period.

Across the Force area over the last twelve months there has been a decrease of 6.5% in cyber-crime offences, which means Cheshire West and Chester have recorded a larger percentage decrease.

When comparing offences by Local Authority, Cheshire West and Chester has the second smallest percentage decrease when compared to 2021.

12. Hate Crime

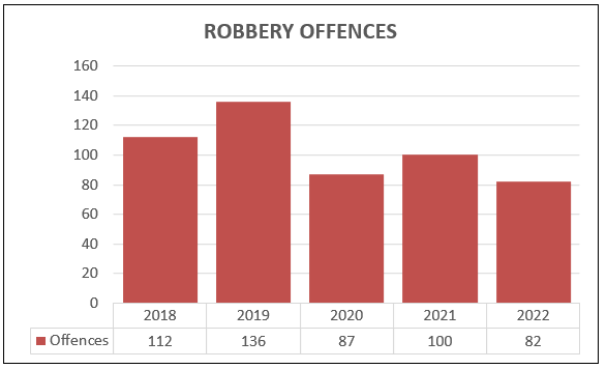


In the last twelve months there has been a decrease of 6.1% (46 fewer offences) in Hate Crime offences recorded in Cheshire West and Chester; this is the first decrease recorded in the previous five-year review period.

Across the Force area over the last twelve months there has been a decrease of 8.8% in Hate Crime offences, which means Cheshire West and Chester have recorded a smaller percentage increase.

When comparing hate crime offences by Local Authority, Cheshire West and Chester has recorded the smallest percentage decrease when compared to 2021.

13. Robbery offences



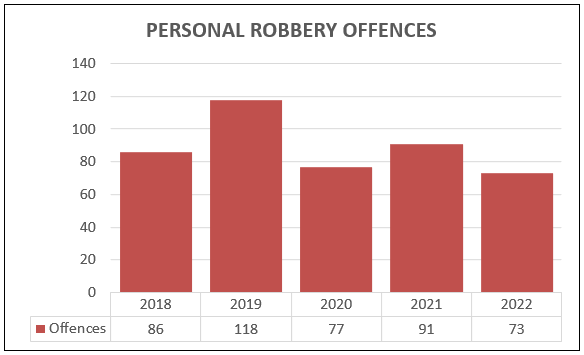
During the last twelve months there has been a 18.0% decrease (18 fewer offences) in robbery offences recorded in Cheshire West and Chester with volume falling close to those seen in 2020.

Across the Force area over the last twelve months there has been a 10.6% decrease in robbery offences, which means Cheshire West and Chester has recorded a larger percentage decrease.

When comparing robbery offences by Local Authority, Cheshire West and Chester has the smallest percentage decrease when compared to 2021 with one Local Authority recording an increase.

a. Robbery of Personal Property

During the last twelve months there has been a 19.8% decrease (18 fewer offences) in personal robbery offences recorded in Cheshire West and Chester.

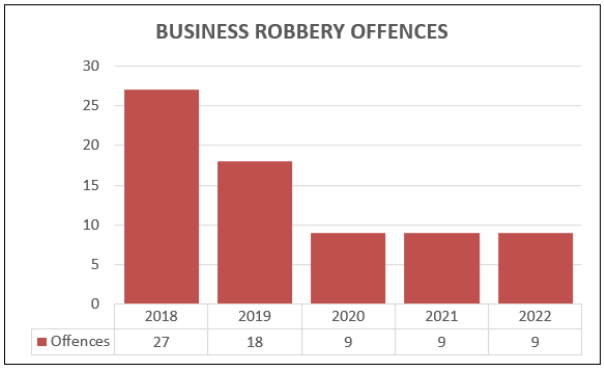


Across the Force area over the last twelve months there has been a 10.3% decrease in personal robbery offences, which means Cheshire West and Chester has recorded a larger percentage decrease.

When comparing personal robbery offences by Local Authority, Cheshire West and Chester has the second largest percentage decrease when compared to 2021.

b. Robbery of Business Property

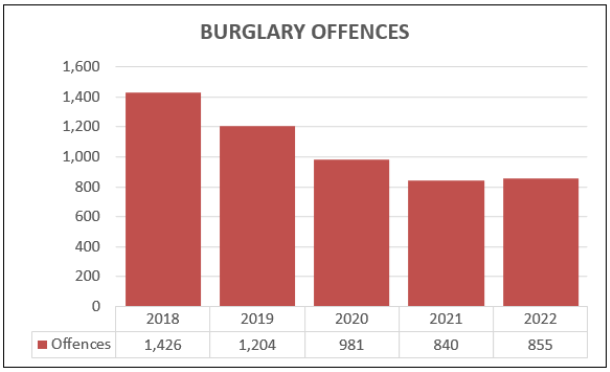
There has been no change in the volume of business robbery offences recorded in Cheshire West and Chester during 2022 compared with 2021.



Across the Force area over the last twelve months there has been a 13.2% decrease in business robbery offences.

When comparing business robbery offences by Local Authority, Cheshire West and Chester is the only Local Authority to have not recorded a decrease when compared to 2021.

14. Burglary offences

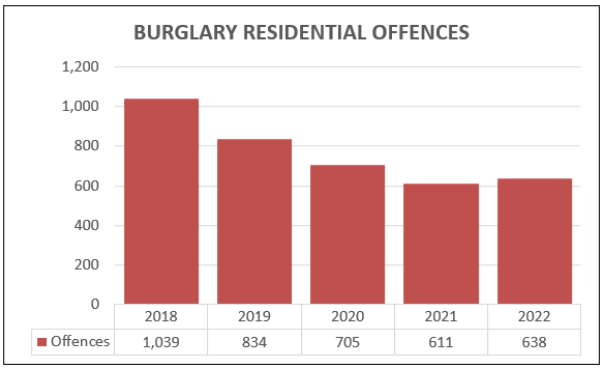


During the last twelve months there has been a 1.8% increase (15 more offences) in burglary offences recorded in Cheshire West and Chester thus, reversing the trend observed over the previous 3 years.

Across the Force area over the last twelve months there has been a decrease of 3.4% in burglary offences.

When comparing burglary offences by Local Authority, Cheshire West and Chester is the only Local Authority not to have recorded a decrease when compared to 2021.

a. Residential Burglary



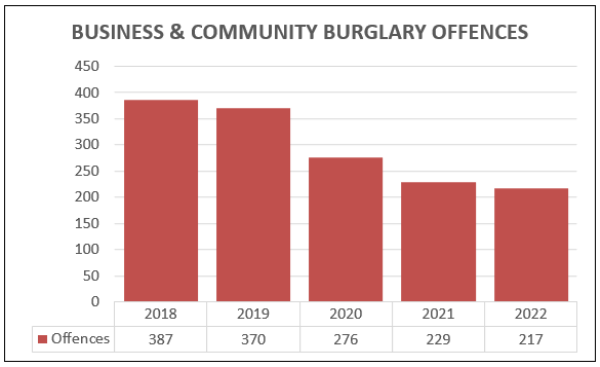
During the last twelve months there has been a 4.4% increase (27 more offences) in burglary residential offences recorded in Cheshire West and Chester thus, reversing the trend observed over the previous 3 years.

Across the Force area over the last twelve months there has been a decrease of 4.1% in burglary residential offences.

When comparing burglary residential offences by Local Authority, Cheshire West and Chester has recorded the largest percentage increase when compared to 2021.

b. Business and Community Burglary

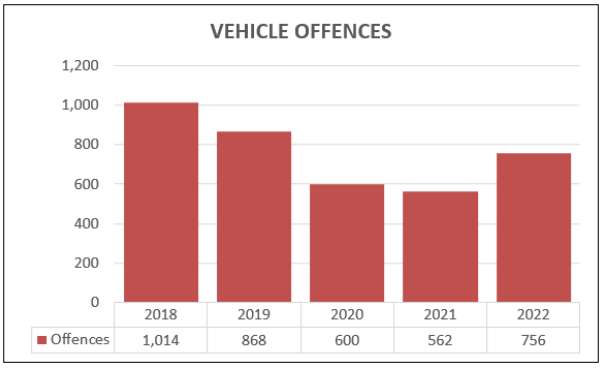
During the last twelve months there has been a decrease of 5.2% (12 fewer offences) in business and community burglary offences recorded in Cheshire West and Chester; this follows on from a reducing trend to the lowest volume recorded across the five year review period.



Across the Force area over the last twelve months there has been a decrease of 1.0% in business and community burglary offences, which means Cheshire West and Chester has recorded a larger percentage decrease.

When comparing business and community burglary offences by Local Authority, Cheshire West and Chester has the second largest percentage decrease when compared to 2021.

15. Vehicle Crime



During the last twelve months there has been an increase of 34.5% (194 more offences) in vehicle offences recorded in Cheshire West and Chester. Despite this increase volumes are still below those seen in 2019.

Across the Force area over the last twelve months there has been an increase of 8.3% in vehicle offences, which means Cheshire West and Chester has recorded a much larger percentage increase.

When comparing vehicle offences by Local Authority, Cheshire West and Chester has the largest percentage increase (with 2 Local Authorities seeing decreases) when compared to 2021.

16. Shoplifting

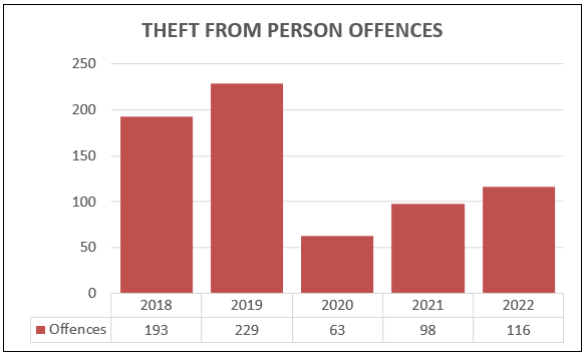
During the last twelve months Cheshire West and Chester has recorded a 39.7% increase (plus 482 offences) in shoplifting offences thus reversing the decreasing trends seen in previous years. Of note volumes are still below those recorded in 2019.

Across the Force area over the last twelve months there has been an increase of 17.2% in shoplifting offences, which means Cheshire West and Chester has recorded a larger percentage increase.

When comparing shoplifting offences by Local Authority, Cheshire West and Chester has the largest percentage increase when compared to 2021 with only 1 Local Authority recording a decrease.

17. Theft from the Person

During the last year there has been a 18.4% increase (18 more offences) in theft from the person offences recorded in Cheshire West and Chester.

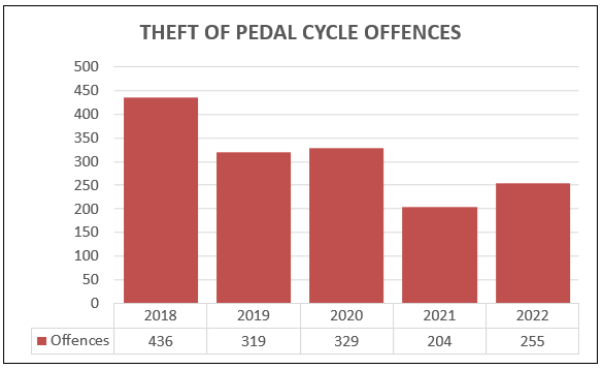


Across the Force area over the last twelve months there has been a 31.3% increase in theft from the person offences, which means Cheshire West and Chester has recorded a smaller percentage increase.

When comparing theft from the person offences by Local Authority, Cheshire West and Chester has the smallest percentage increase when compared to 2021.

18. Bicycle Theft

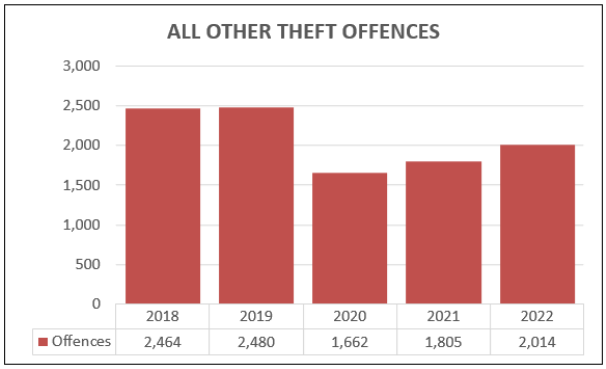
During the last year there has been a increase of 25% (51 more offences) in bicycle theft recorded in Cheshire West and Chester; volumes however are still below those recorded pre 2021.



Across the Force area over the last twelve months there has been a 14.7% increase in bicycle theft, which means Cheshire West and Chester recorded a higher percentage increase.

When comparing bicycle theft by Local Authority, Cheshire West and Chester has seen the second largest percentage decrease when compared to 2021 with only 1 Local Authority recording a decrease.

19. All Other Theft offences

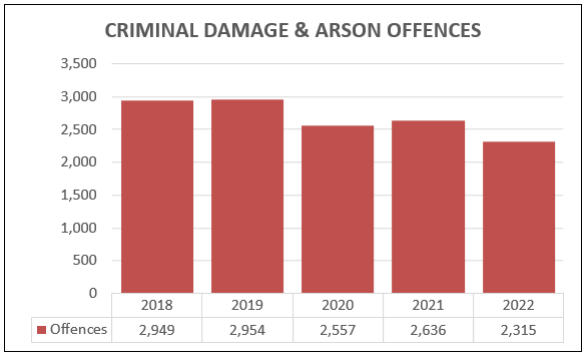


During the last twelve months there has been an 11.6% increase (plus 209 offences) in Other Theft recorded in Cheshire West and Chester with volume returning closer to those seen in 2018/19.

Across the Force area over the last twelve months there has been a 15% increase in Other Theft, which means Cheshire West and Chester has recorded a smaller increase.

When comparing Other Theft by Local Authority, Cheshire West and Chester has recorded the second smallest percentage increase compared to 2021.

20. Criminal Damage and Arson



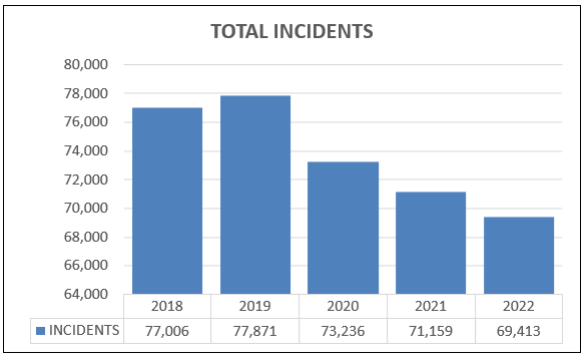
During the last twelve months there has been a 12.2% decrease (321 fewer) in Criminal Damage and Arson offences recorded in Cheshire West and Chester with volumes at the lowest they've been in 5 years.

Across the Force area over the last twelve months there has been a decrease of 6% in Criminal Damage and Arson offences, which means Cheshire West and Chester has recorded a higher percentage decrease.

When comparing Criminal Damage and Arson offences by Local Authority, Cheshire West and Chester has recorded the largest percentage decrease with one Local Authority having seen an increase when compared to 2021 volumes.

REPORTED INCIDENT FINDINGS

21. Total Incidents

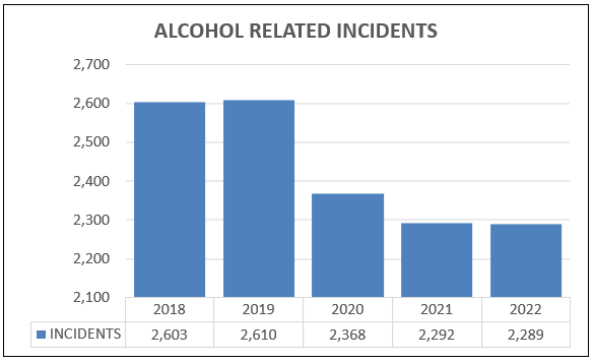


During the last twelve months there has been a 2.5% decrease (1,746 fewer) in Total incidents recorded in Cheshire West and Chester. It is also worth noting that volume are the lowest they have been in the 5 year review period.

Across the Force area over the last twelve months there has been a decrease of 1% in total incidents, which means Cheshire West and Chester has recorded a larger percentage decrease.

When comparing the volume of total incidents by Local Authority, Cheshire West and Chester has recorded the second largest percentage decrease compared to 2021.

22. Alcohol Related Incidents

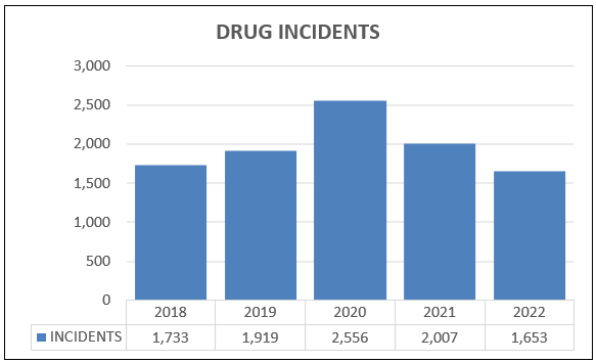


During the last twelve months there has been a 0.1% decrease (3 fewer) in alcohol-related incidents recorded in Cheshire West and Chester.

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

When comparing the volume of alcohol-related incidents by Local Authority, Cheshire West and Chester has recorded the smallest percentage reduction compared to 2021.

23. Drug Incidents

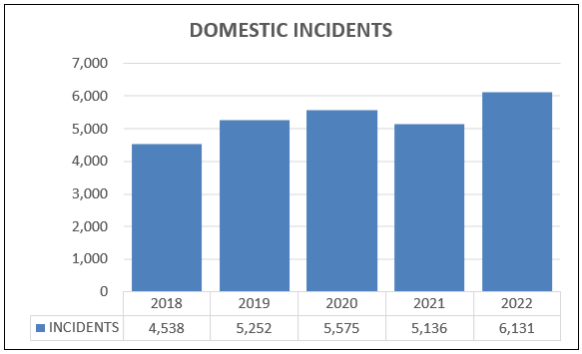


In the last twelve months there has been a decrease of 17.6% (minus 354) in drug-related incidents recorded in Cheshire West and Chester.

Across the Force area over the last twelve months there has been a decrease of 8.2% in drug-related incidents, which means Cheshire West and Chester has recorded a larger percentage decrease.

When comparing the volume of drug-related incidents by Local Authority, Cheshire West and Chester has recorded the largest percentage decrease when compared to 2021 with one Local Authority recording an increase.

24. Domestic Incidents

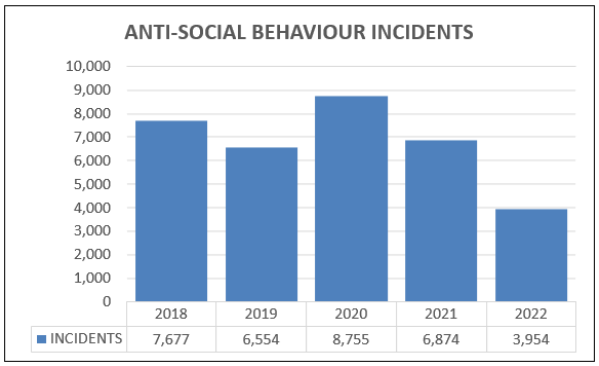


In the last twelve months there has been a 19.4% increase (plus 995) in domestic-related incidents recorded in Cheshire West and Chester with volumes at the highest they have been in the 5-year review period.

Across the Force area over the last twelve months there has been a 1.1% increase in domestic-related incidents, which means Cheshire West and Chester has recorded a much larger percentage increase.

When comparing the volume of domestic-related incidents by Local Authority, Cheshire West and Chester has recorded the largest percentage increase when compared to 2021. Of note, one Local Authority recorded a reduction in incidents.

25. Anti-Social Behaviour Incidents



During the last twelve months there has been a decrease of 42.5% (minus 2,920) Anti-Social Behaviour Incidents recorded in Cheshire West and Chester. Volumes are just over half of that recorded in 2018. Some of this reduction can be attributed to improved crime recording standards at Cheshire Constabulary with more 'crimes' being removed from this incident type. The increase recorded in 2020 was most likely due to the restrictions in place during the Covid pandemic.

Across the Force area over the last twelve months there has been a decrease of 38.7% in Anti-Social Behaviour incidents, which means Cheshire West and Chester has recorded a higher percentage decrease.

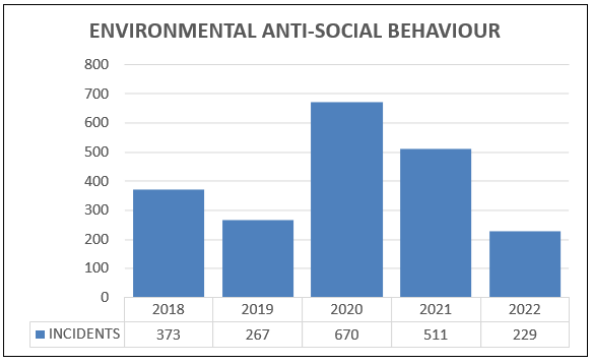
When comparing the volume of Anti-Social Behaviour incidents by Local Authority, Cheshire West and Chester has recorded the second largest percentage decrease when compared to 2021.

The following table provides a breakdown of Anti-Social Behaviour incidents by sub-category, LPU and Beat Team Cluster (BTC). Analysis of incidents by Local Policing Unit indicates that during 2022 43.5% (1,867) of all ASB occurred in Chester LPU; 33.5% (1,438) in Northwich LPU and 23% (989) in Ellesmere Port LPU. With the highest volumes of ASB incidents by BTC have

occurred in Chester City (17.5%); Winsford (14.5%); Ellesmere Port East (13.3%); and Northwich North (11.4%).

Local Policing Unit (LPU)	Police Beat Team Cluster (BTC)	Enviornmental ASB		Nuisance ASB		Personal ASB		Total ASB	
		Volume	%	Volume	%	Volume	%	Volume	%
CHESTER	Chester City	30	29.7%	604	43.3%	117	31.5%	**751**	40.2%
	Chester North	14	13.9%	287	20.6%	89	23.9%	**390**	20.9%
	Chester Rural & Frodsham	35	34.7%	268	19.2%	83	22.3%	**386**	20.7%
	Chester South	22	21.8%	235	16.9%	83	22.3%	**340**	18.2%
	Total Chester LPU	**101**	**44.1%**	**1394**	**44.0%**	**372**	**41.4%**	**1867**	**43.5%**
ELLESMERE PORT	Ellesmere Port East	32	51.6%	423	61.0%	114	48.9%	**569**	57.5%
	Ellesmere Port West & Neston	30	48.4%	271	39.0%	119	51.1%	**420**	42.5%
	Total Ellesmere Port LPU	**62**	**27.1%**	**694**	**21.9%**	**233**	**25.9%**	**989**	**23.0%**
NORTHWICH	Northwich North	24	36.4%	472	43.8%	125	42.5%	**621**	43.2%
	Northwich South	25	37.9%	365	33.9%	100	34.0%	**490**	34.1%
	Winsford	17	25.8%	241	22.4%	69	23.5%	**327**	22.7%
	Total Northwich LPU	**66**	**28.8%**	**1078**	**34.0%**	**294**	**32.7%**	**1438**	**33.5%**
CWaC Grand Total		**229**	**5.3%**	**3166**	**73.7%**	**899**	**20.9%**	**4294**	**100%**

a. Environmental Anti-Social Behaviour Incidents

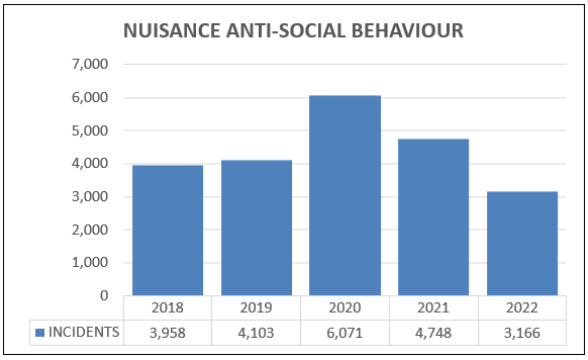


In the last twelve months there has been a 55.2% decrease (282 fewer) in Environmental Anti-Social Behaviour Incidents recorded in Cheshire West and Chester. Figures in 2020 and 2021 would also have included breaches of Covid restrictions, for example, large groups of people.

Across the Force area over the last twelve months there has been a decrease of 48.9% in Environmental Anti-Social Behaviour incidents, which means Cheshire West and Chester has recorded a higher percentage increase.

When comparing the volume of Environmental Anti-Social Behaviour incidents by Local Authority, Cheshire West and Chester has recorded the largest percentage decrease when compared to 2021.

b. Nuisance Anti-Social Behaviour Incidents

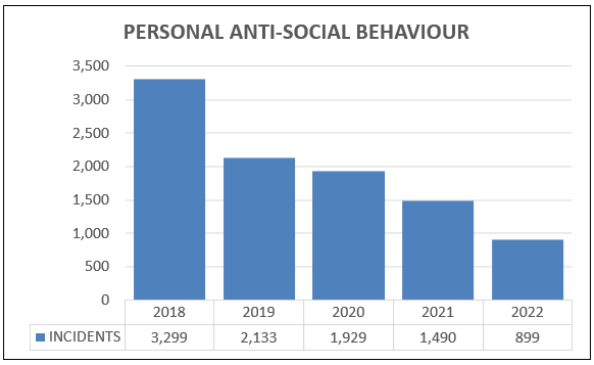


During the last twelve months there has been a 33.3% decrease (minus 1,582) in Nuisance Anti-Social Behaviour Incidents recorded in Cheshire West and Chester.

Across the Force area over the last twelve months there has been a decrease of 31.4% in Nuisance Anti-Social Behaviour Incidents, which means Cheshire West and Chester has recorded a slightly larger percentage decrease.

When comparing the volume of Nuisance Anti-Social Behaviour Incidents by Local Authority, Cheshire West and Chester has recorded the second largest decrease when compared to 2021.

c. Personal Anti-Social Behaviour Incidents

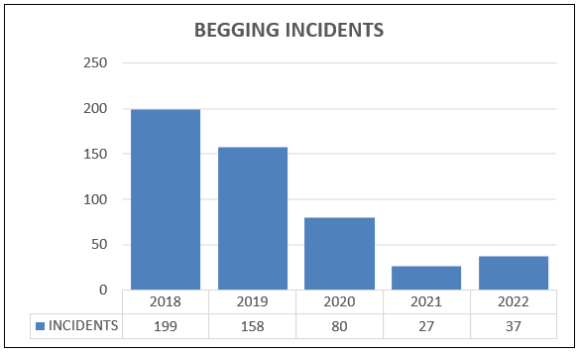


In the last twelve months there has been a decrease of 39.7% (591 fewer) in Personal Anti-Social Behaviour Incidents recorded in Cheshire West and Chester.

Across the Force area over the last twelve months there has been a 49% decrease in Personal Anti-Social Behaviour Incidents, which means Cheshire West and Chester has recorded a smaller percentage decrease.

When comparing the volume of personal anti-social behaviour incidents by Local Authority, Cheshire West and Chester has recorded the second smallest percentage decrease when comparing to 2021.

26. Begging Incidents

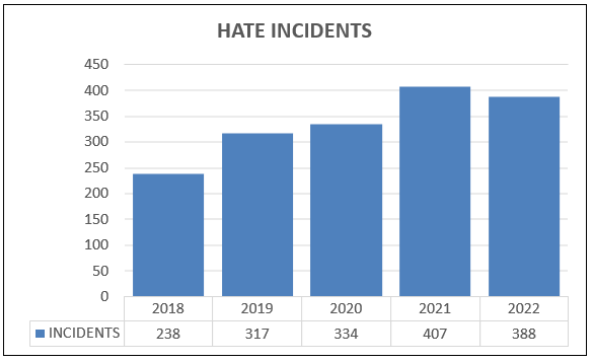


During the last twelve months there has been a 37% increase (plus 10) in begging incidents recorded in Cheshire West and Chester. It is worth noting that despite this percentage increase volumes are still much lower than those seen in 2018.

Across the Force area over the last twelve months there has been an increase of 24.2% in begging incidents, which means Cheshire West and Chester has recorded a larger percentage increase.

When comparing the volume of begging incidents by Local Authority, Cheshire West and Chester has recorded the second largest percentage increase when compared to 2021.

27. Hate Incidents

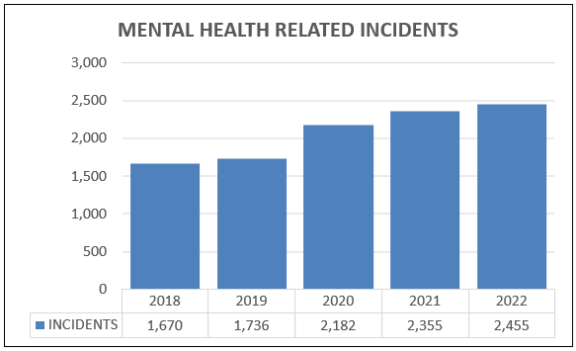


In the last twelve months volumes of Hate Incidents in Cheshire West and Chester have decreased by 4.7% (19 fewer), despite this volumes in 2022 are still higher than those seen before 2021 which could be due to a greater belief in Cheshire Constabulary's response to such incidents.

Across the Force area over the last twelve months there has been an decrease of 7.4% in Hate Incidents, which means Cheshire West and Chester has recorded a smaller percentage decrease.

When comparing the volume of hate incidents by Local Authority, Cheshire West and Chester has recorded the smallest percentage decrease when compared to 2021 with one Local Authority recording an increase.

28. Mental Health Incidents

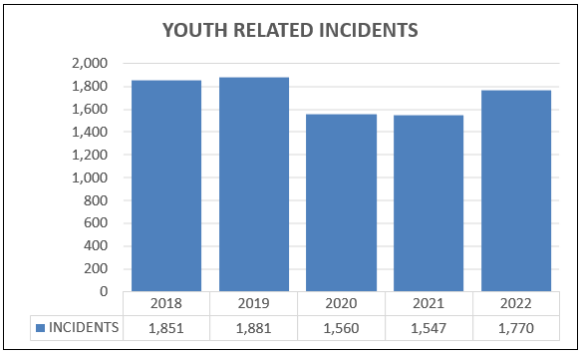


During the last twelve months there has been a year-on-year increase of 4.2% (plus 100) in Mental Health Incidents recorded in Cheshire West and Chester.

In contrast Cheshire Constabulary as a whole over the last twelve months has seen a 0.2% decrease in mental health incidents.

When comparing the volume of mental health incidents by Local Authority, Cheshire West and Chester has recorded the second largest percentage increase when compared to 2021 with 2 Local Authorities recording decreases.

29. Youth Related Incidents



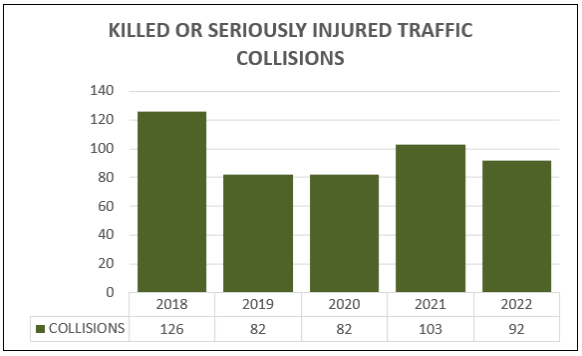
Only partial data is available for 2018 (only available since 6th March 2018). During the last twelve months there has been a 14.4% increase (plus 223) in Youth Related Incidents recorded in Cheshire West and Chester.

Across the Force area over the last twelve months there has been a 13.3% increase in Youth Related Incidents, which means Cheshire West and Chester has recorded a larger percentage increase.

When comparing the volume of youth-related incidents by Local Authority, Cheshire West and Chester has recorded the second largest percentage increase when compared to 2021.

ROAD TRAFFIC COLLISION FINDINGS

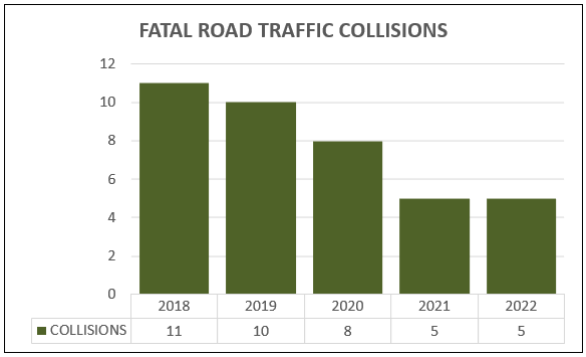
30. Road Traffic Collisions (RTC)



Following in increase recorded in 2021 the number of Killed or Seriously Injured (KSI) Collisions occurring on the Cheshire West and Chester road network has decreased by 10.7% (11 fewer) in 2022.

Volumes across Cheshire Constabulary have remained stable (0% change).

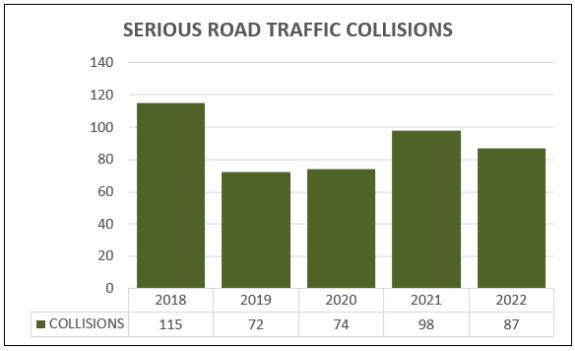
When comparing the KSI Collisions by Local Authority, Cheshire West and Chester has seen the second largest percentage decrease when compared to 2021 with 2 Local Authorities recording increases.



During the last twelve months there has been no change in the number of fatal RTCs recorded in Cheshire West and Chester.

Across the Force area over the last twelve months there has been a 36.4% decrease (12 fewer) in fatal RTCs.

In comparison 2 of the other Local Authorities have seen increases in fatal RTCs whilst one has recorded a decrease compared to 2021.



In the last twelve months there has been a decrease of 11.2% (11 fewer) in serious RTCs recorded in Cheshire West and Chester.

In contrast volumes of serious RTCs across Cheshire Constabulary as a whole have increased 4.5% (+12) over the last twelve months.

When comparing the KSI Collisions by Local Authority, Cheshire West and Chester has seen the second largest percentage decrease when compared to 2021 with 2 Local Authorities recording increases.

Road Traffic Collision and Casualty Analysis

Further analysis of the Road Traffic Collisions in 2022 shows that 10 KSI collisions occurred on the Motorway network within Cheshire West and Chester (no fatal). As the motorways are managed by National Highways they have been excluded from this analysis.

As well as the 82 KSI collisions a further 447 collisions resulting in slight injuries were also recorded as occurring on roads within Cheshire West and Chester. To put this into context there were 0.37 collisions per mile of road in Cheshire West and Chester during 2022 compared to 0.39 collisions per mile of road across the Force (excluding motorways). The 0.37 collision rate in Cheshire West and Chester is the second lowest rate when compared with the other Local Authorities.

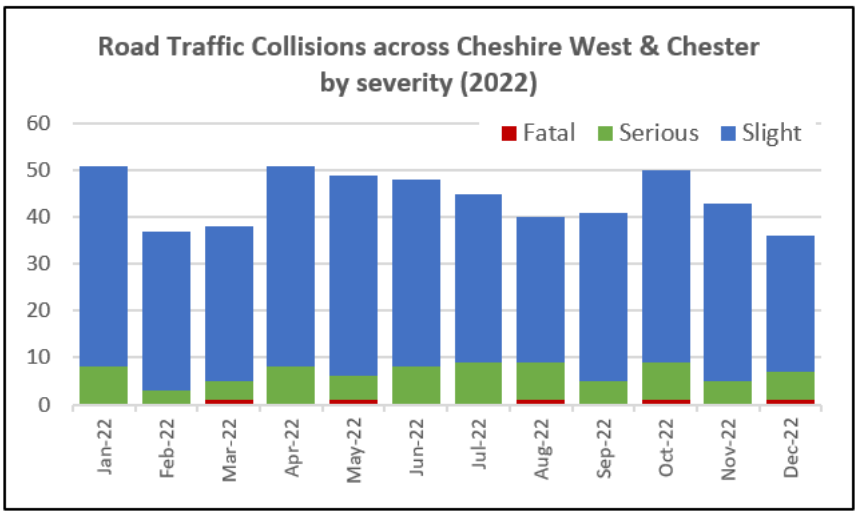
Collisions resulting in slight injuries have been included in the following analysis as they can often be a precursor to more serious collisions.

Analysis of collisions by road identifies the following roads as the main locations of collisions during 2022:

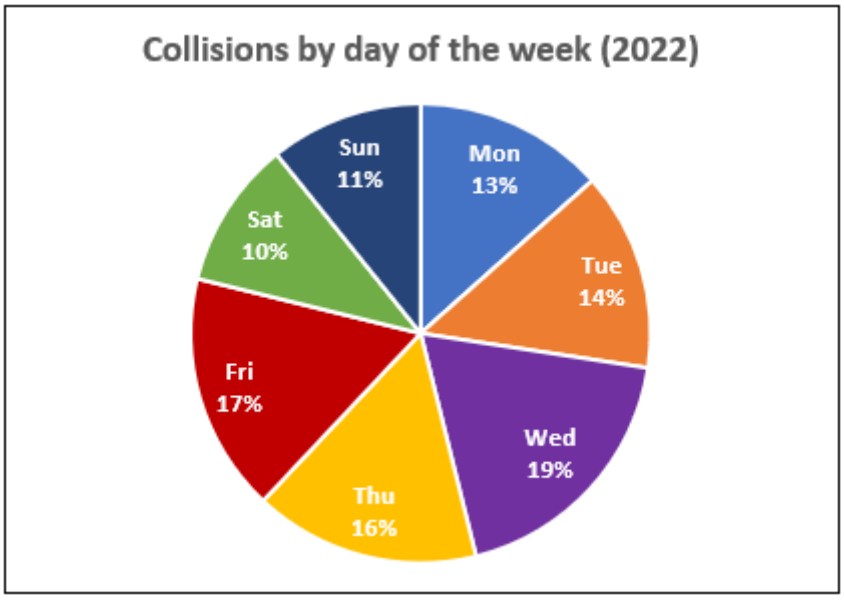
- A41 – 34 collisions (1 fatal, 4 serious and 29 slight)
- A556 – 24 collisions (1 serious and 23 slight)
- A56 – 23 collisions (2 serious and 21 slight)
- A559 – 19 collisions (7 serious and 12 slight)
- A54 – 18 collisions (2 serious and 16 slight)
- B5132 – 17 collisions (5 serious and 12 slight)
- A51 – 16 collisions (4 serious and 12 slight)
- A49 – 13 collisions (1 serious and 12 slight)
- A5032 – 13 collisions (1 serious and 12 slight)
- A483 – 11 collisions (1 serious and 10 slight)
- A550 – 10 collisions (4 serious and 6 slight)
- A533 – 10 collisions (1 serious and 9 slight)
- A5117 – 10 collisions (2 serious and 8 slight)

Of note, the 5 fatal collisions occurred on the A41 Chester Road; A540 Parkgate Road; B5130 Chester Road; Rake Lane and Wet Lane.

Temporal analysis indicates that the highest volume of overall collisions occurred in January (51); April (51) and October (50). The following bar chart illustrates the volume of collisions by month. Of note, the highest number of KSI collisions occurred in July (9 serious); August (1 fatal, 8 serious) and October (1 fatal, 8 serious) whilst the highest volumes of slight collisions were recorded in January (43); April (43) and May (43).



Further temporal analysis also indicates that the peak days for collisions across Cheshire West and Chester were Wednesdays (19%, 99 collisions); Fridays (17%, 89 collisions) and Thursdays (16%, 84 collisions) whilst the least have occurred on Saturdays (10%, 55 collisions) and Sundays (11%, 57 collisions).



Analysis by hour of the day indicates that most collisions have occurred between 08:00 and 20:59 (88%, 521) with notable peaks at 08:00 (11%, 66) and 15:00 to 17:59 (27%, 158). Temporal analysis across the week suggests that 08:00 to 08:59 on Wednesdays and Thursdays were the peak periods for KSI collisions during 2022.

HOUR	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT	SUN	TOTAL	%
00:00 - 00:59	1	0	1	0	1	1	1	5	1%
01:00 - 01:59	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	2	0%
02:00 - 02:59	1	0	1	0	0	0	2	4	1%
03:00 - 03:59	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	2	0%
04:00 - 04:59	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	0%
05:00 - 05:59	1	0	2	0	1	0	0	4	1%
06:00 - 06:59	3	0	2	0	0	2	0	7	1%
07:00 - 07:59	3	3	1	3	1	1	1	13	2%
08:00 - 08:59	9	8	17	15	6	1	3	59	11%
09:00 - 09:59	6	2	7	4	3	5	1	28	5%
10:00 - 10:59	4	7	7	7	2	4	5	36	7%
11:00 - 11:59	0	2	5	4	6	2	3	22	4%
12:00 - 12:59	3	2	5	4	3	4	5	26	5%
13:00 - 13:59	5	5	4	2	7	8	6	37	7%
14:00 - 14:59	4	5	4	2	7	1	5	28	5%
15:00 - 15:59	5	7	9	9	11	4	7	52	10%
16:00 - 16:59	6	6	10	9	12	3	3	49	9%
17:00 - 17:59	8	7	9	6	5	6	1	42	8%
18:00 - 18:59	3	5	6	4	7	5	1	31	6%
19:00 - 19:59	6	5	2	4	6	0	2	25	5%
20:00 - 20:59	0	6	3	3	3	2	2	19	4%
21:00 - 21:59	2	1	1	0	2	1	5	12	2%
22:00 - 22:59	1	0	3	3	6	1	1	15	3%
23:00 - 23:59	0	3	0	3	0	3	1	10	2%
TOTAL	71	74	99	84	89	55	57	529	100%

The 529 collisions recorded across Cheshire West and Chester resulted in 663 casualties – 4 fatalities, 87 seriously injured and 572 with slight injuries.

The table below illustrates the casualty profile and the changes when compared with 2021. The most notable increases have been observed in relation to car occupants, both drivers and passengers whilst the largest numerical decrease has been for Goods vehicles / vans.

Type of vehicle casualty travelling in	2022	2021	Volume Change	% Change
Car Occupant	**384**	**340**	**44**	**13%**
Car Driver	272	249	23	9%
Car Passenger	112	91	21	23%
Pedal cycle	93	97	-4	-4%
Pedestrian	85	75	10	13%
Power Two Wheels	**68**	**70**	**-2**	**-3%**
<50cc	5	3	2	67%
50 to 125cc	25	28	-3	-11%
125 to 500cc	9	11	-2	-18%
>500cc	28	26	2	8%
unknown cc	1	2	-1	-50%
Goods vehicle / Van	23	31	-8	-26%
Other vehicles*	10	11	-1	-9%

**Other vehicles: 2022: 3x Other; 2x Bus or coach; 2x Electric motorcycle; 1x Agricultural vehicle; 1x mobility scooter; 1x Ridden horse. 2021: 5x Bus or coach; 3x Agricultural vehicles; 3x mobility scooters.*

Conclusions / Summary

Recorded Crime

Cheshire West and Chester recorded a year-on-year decrease in Total Crime volumes of 0.8% with a 0.9% decrease recorded at Force level.

Overall, 2021 has again presented a mixed picture with Rape offences, Vehicle Crime, Shoplifting, Bicycle Theft and offences in licenced premises increasing quite considerably by 10.2%, 34.5%, 39.7%; 25% and 81.9% respectively – all of which, with the exception of offences in licenced premises are higher increases than seen at Force level.

At the same time, Criminal Damage and Arson Offences and Violence Against Women and Girls have reduced by -12.2% and 8.1% respectively. Percentage reductions in both these crime groups have been larger than those seen at Force level.

Year-on-year there was little change in Total Crime (minus 0.8%); Child Sexual Abuse (minus 0.1%); Business Robbery (no change); Other Sexual offences (minus 1.5%) and Violence Against the Person (plus 1.6%).

Incidents

Total incidents decreased by 2.5% across CWaC (minus 1% at Force level). Overall the increases and reductions in incident volumes across CWaC are consistent with those seen at a Force level. The only exception to this is Domestic incidents where CWaC recorded a 19.4% increase compared to the 1.1% increase at Force level.

Road Traffic Collisions

Overall volumes of KSI Collisions across CWaC have decreased by 10.7% (11 fewer), a larger decrease than seen Force level (no change – 301 collisions).

Volumes of Fatal Collisions have remained the same (5) whilst the Force has seen an 36.4% decrease. Volumes of Serious Collisions have decreased by 11.2% compared to a 4.5% increase seen across the Force.

Appendix A: Crime -Table of Comparative Change 2021/22

The following table illustrates the percentage change in Recorded Crime compared to 2021 and whether or not this change is higher or lower than the change seen at Force level.

RECORDED OFFENCES	CWaC	FORCE
	Percentage change on 2021	Percentage change on 2021
Total Crime	-0.8%	-0.9%
Victim Based Crime	2.1%	0.9%
Violence Against the Person	-1.6%	-1.9%
- Violence With Injury	4.0%	2.6%
- Violence Without Injury	4.0%	2.6%
Harassment	-8.9%	-7.6%
Stalking	2.7%	2.5%
Malicious Communications	-12.8%	-14.1%
Sexual Offences	2.4%	4.3%
- Rape offences	10.2%	2.8%
- Other Sexual Offences	-1.5%	5.1%
- Child Sexual Abuse	-0.1%	2.2%
Drug Offences	-4.9%	7.5%
Alcohol Related Offences	4.9%	18.6%
Domestic Abuse Offences	-4.8%	-3.2%
Cyber Crime	-7.5%	-6.5%
Hate Crime	-6.1%	-8.8%
Robbery Offences	1.8%	-3.4%
- Personal Robbery	-19.8%	-10.3%
- Business Robbery	0.0%	-13.2%
Burglary Offences	1.8%	-3.4%
- Residential Burglary	4.4%	-4.1%
- Business & Community Burglary	-5.2%	-1.0%
Vehicle Crime	34.5%	8.3%
Shoplifting	39.7%	17.2%
Theft from the Person	18.4%	31.3%
Bicycle Theft	25.0%	14.7%
All Other Theft offences	11.6%	15.0%
Criminal Damage & Arson	-12.2%	-6.0%
Most Servious Violence	4.3%	8.7%
Violence Against Women & Girls	-8.1%	-6.7%
Licenced Premises	81.9%	106.4%

Appendix B: Incident -Table of Comparative Change 2021/22

The following table illustrates the percentage change in Reported Incidents compared to 2021 and whether or not this change is higher or lower than the change seen at Force level.

INCIDENTS	CWaC	FORCE
	Percentage change on 2021	Percentage change on 2021
Total Incidents	-2.5%	-1.0%
Alcohol Related Incidents	-0.1%	-6.5%
Drug Incidents	-17.6%	-8.2%
Domestic Incidents	19.4%	1.1%
Anti-Social Behaviour	-42.5%	-38.7%
- Environmental ASB	-55.2%	-48.9%
- Personal ASB	-39.7%	-49.0%
- Nuisance ASB	-33.3%	-31.4%
Begging Incidents	37.0%	24.2%
Hate Incidents	-4.7%	-7.4%
Mental Health Incidents	4.2%	-0.2%
Missing Persons	13.6%	15.9%
Youth Related Incidents	14.4%	13.3%

Appendix C: RTC -Table of Comparative Change 2021/22

The following table illustrates the percentage change in Recorded Road Traffic Collisions compared to 2021 and whether or not this change is higher or lower than the change seen at Force level.

ROAD TRAFFIC	CWaC	FORCE
	Percentage change on 2021	Percentage change on 2021
Collisions		
- Fatal Collisions	0.0%	-36.4%
- Serious Collisions	-11.2%	4.5%
- KSI Collisions	-10.7%	0.0%
- Slight Collisions	6.9%	1.0%
Casualties		
- Fatal Casualties	37.5%	30.0%
- Serious Casualties	3.6%	19.8%
- KSI Casualties	0.0%	14.6%
- Slight Casualties	33.1%	25.0%