OFFICIAL

STRATEGIC ASSESSMENT OF CRIME AND DISORDER (2023 DATA)

FEBRUARY 2024

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 **07/02/2024** 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 - made up of the following Home Office groups; Burglary / Criminal Damage and Arson / Robbery / Sexual Offences / Theft and Stolen Goods / Vehicle Offences / Violence Against the Person

- Violence against the Person - made up of the following Home Office groups; homicide / violence with injury / violence without injury / death or serious injury caused by unlawful driving / stalking and harassment

    - Homicide - made up of the following Home Office code descriptions; Murder / manslaughter / corporate manslaughter / infanticide

    - Violence with Injury - made up of the following Home Office code descriptions; attempted murder / intentional destruction of a viable unborn child / cause or allow death or serious physical harm to child or vulnerable person / assault with intent to

cause serious harm / endangering life / assault with injury / racially or religiously aggravated assault with injury / assault with Injury on a Constable / assault with injury on an emergency worker (other than a constable)

- Violence without Injury - made up of the following Home Office code descriptions; conspiracy to murder / threats to kill / cruelty to children, young person's / child abduction / procuring illegal abortion / kidnapping and false imprisonment / assault without injury on a constable / assault without injury / racially or religiously aggravated assault without injury / modern slavery

- Death or serious injury caused by unlawful driving - made up of the following Home Office code descriptions, causing death or serious injury by dangerous driving / causing death by careless driving under the influence of drink or drugs / causing death by careless or inconsiderate driving / causing death or serious injury by driving unlicensed, disqualified or uninsured drivers / causing death by aggravated vehicle taking

- Stalking and Harassment - made up of the following Home Office code descriptions; Harassment / Racially or religiously aggravated harassment / Stalking / Malicious Communications / Controlling or Coercive Behaviour

- Sexual Offences - made up of the following Home Office groups, rape and other sexual offences

  - Rape Offences - 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 / rape of a female – multiple unidentified offenders / rape of a male – multiple unidentified offenders

  - Other Sexual Offences - 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 – this includes the trafficking in controlled drugs and possession of drugs

- Alcohol Related Crime - this 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 - this 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 - There are four areas of cyber related criminality, the College of Policing has developed the 'Cyber Spectrum' to assist in the understanding of these relatively new terms. More serious offences are weighted towards National or Regional units, however with the ever-increasing number of crimes, there is a likelihood that more will be dealt with at the local level. The four areas are defined as:

    1. Cyber Dependent Crime – crimes that can only be committed using ICT devices, where the devices are both the tool for committing the crime and the target of the crime.
    2. Cyber Enabled Crime – crimes that may be committed without ICT devices, such as financial fraud, but are changed significantly by use of ICT in terms of scale and reach.
    3. Internet Facilitated Crime – traditional crimes where the internet and digital devices are a component in the facilitation of the crime.
    4. Crime with a Digital Footprint – the trial of data left behind by users of digital services through device signature and online

- Hate Crime - this 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 - made up of the following Home Office code descriptions, robbery of personal property and robbery of a business property

- Burglary - made up of three Home Office categories: Residential burglary of a home, Burglary - Business and Community and residential burglary of unconnected building

    - Residential burglary of a home - made up of the following Home Office code descriptions; Residential burglary of a home / attempted residential burglary of a home / distraction burglary - Residential (Home) / attempted distraction burglary – Residential (Home) / aggravated burglary – Residential (Home)

    - Residential burglary of an unconnected building - made up of the following Home Office code descriptions; Residential burglary of a unconnected building / attempted residential burglary of a unconnected building / distraction burglary - Residential

(unconnected building) / attempted distraction burglary – Residential (unconnected building) / aggravated burglary – Residential (unconnected building)

- Burglary Business and Community - made up of the following Home Office code descriptions; burglary – business and community / attempted burglary – business and community / aggravated burglary – business and community

- Vehicle Offences - 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 - Home Office code description; shoplifting

- Theft from the Person - Home Office code description; theft from the person

- Bicycle Theft - Home Office code description; theft or unauthorised taking of a pedal cycle

- All Other Theft Offences - 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 – residential / criminal damage to a building – Business and Community / 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 / domestic incidents – involving a juvenile.

- Anti-social behaviour is a category made up of the following three incident types: ASB Environmental (BE) / ASB Nuisance (BN) and ASB Personal (BP):

    - Environmental ASB - 'Environmental' deals with the interface between people and places. It includes incidents where individuals and groups have an impact on their surroundings including natural, built and social environments. This category is about encouraging reasonable behaviour whilst managing and protecting the various environments so that people can enjoy their own private spaces as well as shared or public spaces. People's physical settings and surroundings are known to impact positively or negatively on mood and sense of well-being and a perception that nobody cares about the quality of a particular environment can cause those effected by that environment to feel undervalued or ignored. Public spaces change over time as a result of physical effects caused, for example, by building but the environment can also change as a result of the people using or misusing that space.

    - Nuisance ASB – 'Nuisance' captures those incidents where an act, condition, thing, or person causes trouble, annoyance, inconvenience, offence or suffering to the local community in general rather than to individual victims. It includes incidents where behaviour goes beyond the conventional bounds of acceptability and interferes with public interests including health, safety, and quality of life. Just as individuals will have differing expectations and levels of tolerance so will communities have different ideas about what goes beyond tolerable or acceptable behaviour.

    - Personal ASB – Personal' is designed to identify ASB incidents that the caller, call-handler, or anyone else perceives as either deliberately targeted at an individual or group or having an impact on an individual or group rather than the community at large. It includes incidents that cause concern, stress, disquiet and/or irritation through to incidents which have a serious adverse impact on people's quality of life. At one extreme of the spectrum it includes minor annoyance; at the other end it could result in risk of harm, deterioration of health and disruption of mental or emotional well-being, resulting in an inability to carry out normal day to day activities through fear and intimidation.

- 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, QPA, QMH, 136 or 135, 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 2023 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 Power BI. In order to extract the data in Power BI 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 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

Total crime volumes over the past 5 years in Cheshire West and Chester were at their lowest in 2023, there has been a 12% reduction since 2019, with 2019 & 2020 being affected by the COVID pandemic. Despite the 6.6% reduction seen between 2022 and 2023, Cheshire West and Chester recorded a slightly smaller decrease than what was recorded for the Force (-7.4%).

Following suite with the overall decrease in offences, Alcohol Related Crime (-8.1%) Malicious Communications (-33.3%) and Harassment (-19.9%) all recorded notable decreases in volumes. In addition, Vehicle offences (-16.1%) recorded double the decrease than what was seen for the Force (-6.7%). Of note, Violence without Injury offences recorded the first reduction (-3.3%) following year on year increases since 2019.

Several crime types however also recorded increases in the comparable years, most notably increases were seen in Shoplifting (+27.7%), Bicycle Theft (+13.7%), Burglary Business (+20.9%), Robbery (+42.2%), in particular Robbery of personal property (+51.4%) and Drug offences (+52.2%).

Changes in crime volumes could be attributed to changes to Crime Recording rules, such as the introduction of the Finished Incident Rule and the Principal Crime Recording Rule, or an increase in proactive policing rather than more offences being committed.

Little to no change was seen in the Home Office Groups of Sexual Offences (+0.2%) and Burglary (+0.2%) and for Domestic Abuse Crimes (-1.6%), however, Domestic Abuse volumes have fell to similar levels seen in 2019.

Incident demand across Cheshire West and Chester increased in the 2023 year by 2.8%, this following 4 years of decreases prior, and when compared against the Force increase of 0.9%, could be considered substantial. Increases were most notably observed in Drug related

incidents (+13.2%) and Missing Person incidents (+20.5%), both of which increasing a considerable amount more than the Force (+9.9% and +2.5% respectively).

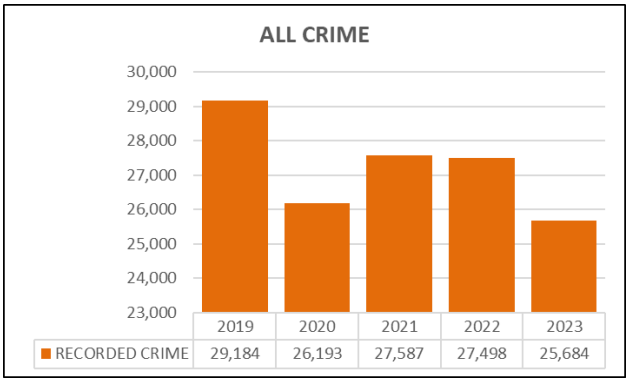
Decreases were however seen in the incident groups of Anti- Social Behaviour (-6.5%), particularly Personal Anti-Social behaviour (-33.6%), Alcohol related incidents (-22.8%) and Youth related incidents (-31.4%), all recording their lowest volumes when compared over the 5-year period.

Of note, despite the relatively small increase of 0.8% in Domestic incidents, Cheshire West and Chester was the only Local Authority to record an increase.

The fluctuations seen in Cheshire West and Chester are broadly in line with those recorded at Force level, however the increase in Missing Person incidents is much higher than anywhere else.

RECORDED CRIME FINDINGS

1. Total Crime

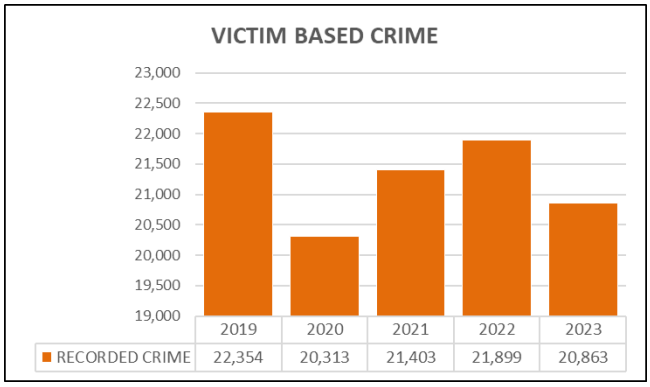


In the last year there has been a decrease of 1814 offences (-6.6%) in total crime in Cheshire West and Chester, this following a 0.3% decrease in 2021.

Across the Force area, over the last twelve months there has been a decrease of (-7.4%) in total crime compared to the 0.9% increase seen in the previous year.

When comparing total crime by Local Authority, Cheshire West and Chester has recorded the second smallest percentage decrease.

2. Victim Based Crime

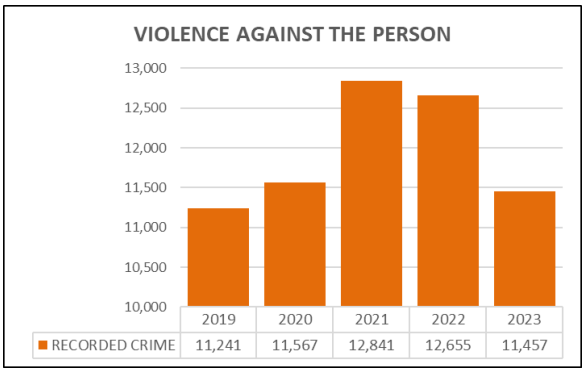


In the last year there has been a decrease of 4.7% (1036 less offences) in victim-based crime in Cheshire West and Chester, compared to a 2.3% increase in 2022.

Across the Force, over the last twelve months there has been a decrease of 5.9% in victim-based crime, which means Cheshire West and Chester has experienced a smaller percentage decrease.

When comparing victim-based crime by Local Authority, both Cheshire West and Chester and Halton recorded a 4.7% decrease, whilst the other two Local Authorities recorded larger percentage decreases when compared to 2022.

3. Violence Against the Person

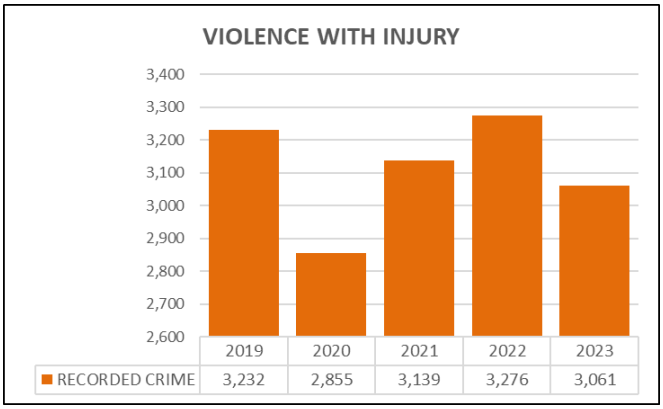


In the last twelve months there has been a decrease of 9.5% in Violence Against the Person in Cheshire West and Chester (1,198 less crimes).

Across the Force, over the last twelve months there has been a decrease of 10.2% in Violence Against the Person, Cheshire West and Chester having a slightly smaller percentage change.

When comparing violence against the person by Local Authority, Cheshire West and Chester saw the second smallest percentage decrease when compared to 2022.

a. Violence with Injury

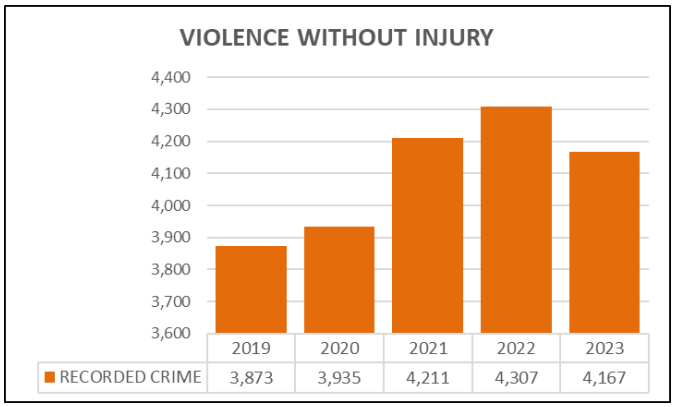


In the last twelve months there has been a decrease of 6.6% in Violence with Injury in Cheshire West and Chester; this decreasing by 215 crimes when compared to the previous year (2022).

Across the Force, over the last twelve months there has been a decrease of 6.7% in Violence with Injury offences, which means Cheshire West and Chester has seen a slightly smaller percentage decrease.

When comparing Violence with Injury by Local Authority, Cheshire West and Chester had the second largest percentage decrease when compared to 2022.

b. Violence without Injury

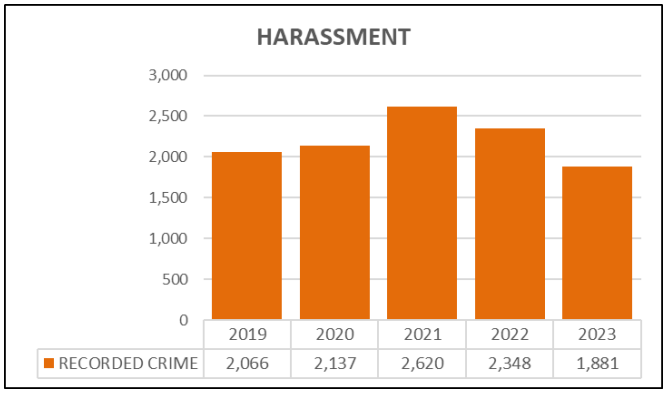


In the last twelve months there has been a decrease of 3.3% (140 less offences) in Violence without Injury in Cheshire West and Chester, the first decrease in offences seen in the last 5 years.

Across the Force, over the last twelve months there has been a decrease of 6.9% in Violence without Injury, which means Cheshire West and Chester have experienced a lower percentage decrease.

When comparing Violence without Injury by Local Authority, Cheshire West and Chester has had the lowest percentage decrease when compared to 2022 – all Local Authorities recorded a reduction.

4. Harassment

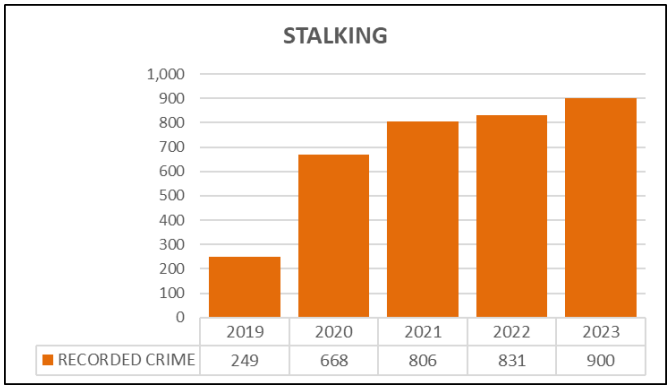


During the last year there has been an 19.9% decrease (467 fewer crimes) in Harassment offences in Cheshire West and Chester. This is the second year to show a decrease following 4 previous years of increases.

Across the Force during the same period, there has been a decrease of 17.8% 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 second highest percentage decrease when compared to 2022.

5. Stalking

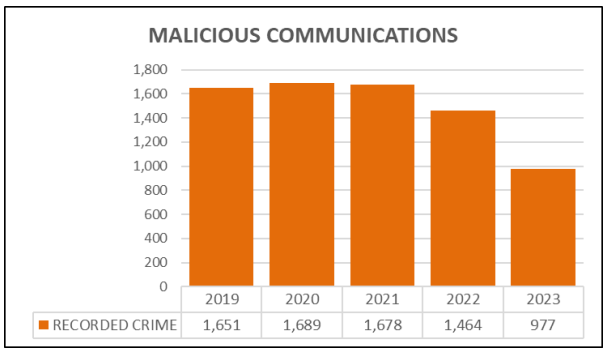


In the last twelve months there has been an increase of 8.3% (69 more offences) in Stalking offences recorded in Cheshire West and Chester.

Over the last twelve months across the Force there has been an increase of 10.9% in Stalking, which means Cheshire West and Chester had a slightly lower percentage increase.

When comparing Stalking offences by Local Authority, Cheshire West and Chester has had the second smallest percentage increase when compared to 2022. All Local Authorities recorded an increase.

6. Malicious Communications

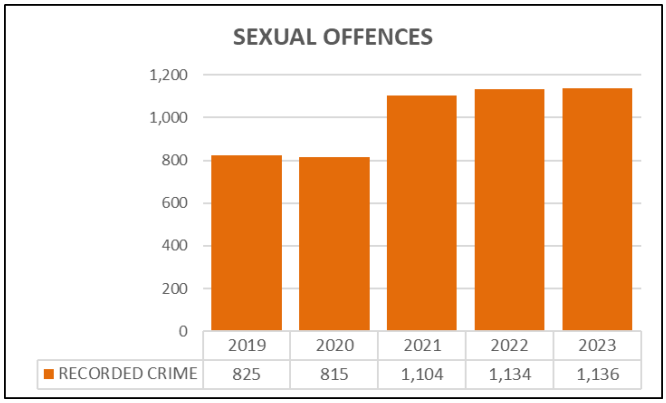


In the last year there has been a decrease of 33.3% (487 fewer crimes) in Malicious Communications offences recorded in Cheshire West and Chester; this following a decrease seen in the last two years.

Across the Force area over the last twelve months there has been a decrease of 34.9% in Malicious Communications, which means Cheshire West and Chester have a slightly lower percentage decrease.

When comparing Malicious Communications offences by Local Authority, Cheshire West and Chester has the smallest percentage decrease when compared to 2022.

7. Sexual offences



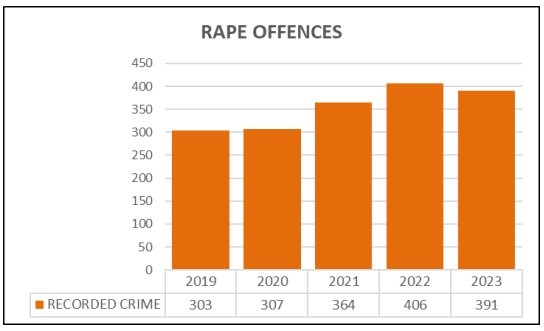
During the last twelve months there has been an increase of 0.2% (2 more crimes) in Sexual offences recorded in Cheshire West and Chester.

Across the Force area over the last twelve months there has been a decrease of 1.6% in Sexual offences.

When comparing Sexual offences by Local Authority, Cheshire West and Chester was the only area to record an increase when compared to 2022.

a. Rape offences

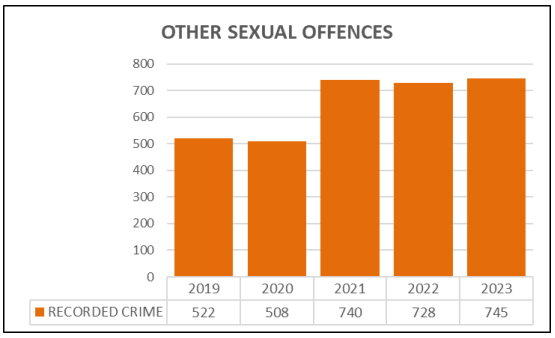
In the last twelve months there has been a decrease of 3.7% (15 less offences) in Rape offences recorded in Cheshire West and Chester; recording the first decrease in offences since 2019.



Across the Force area over the last twelve months there has been an increase of 0.7% in Rape, this contrasting with the decrease seen in Cheshire West and Chester.

When comparing Rape offences by Local Authority, Cheshire West and Chester had the highest percentage decrease compared to 2022, with one Local Authority recording a slight increase.

b. Other Sexual offences

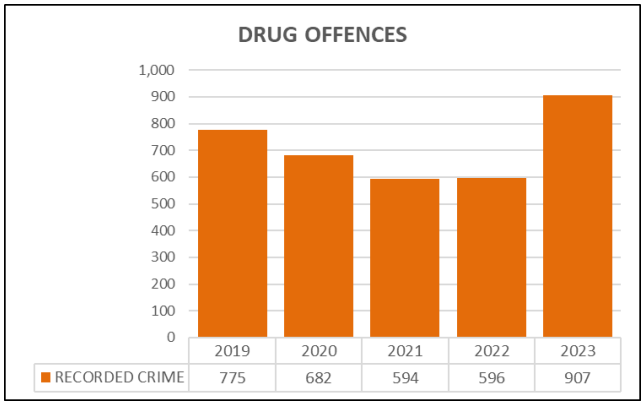


In the last twelve months there has been an increase of 2.3% (17 more offences) in Other Sexual offences recorded in Cheshire West and Chester.

In contrast Cheshire Constabulary has recorded a 1.3% decrease in Other Sexual offences in 2023.

When comparing Other Sexual offences by Local Authority, Cheshire West and Chester recorded the highest percentage increase in 2023; with two Local Authorities recording a decrease.

8. Drug offences

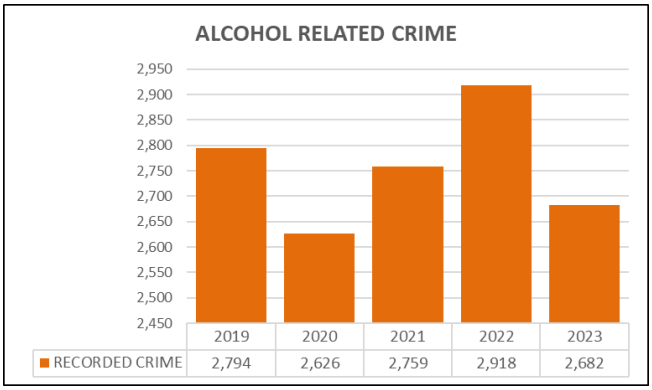


In the last twelve months there has been an increase of 52.2% (311 more offences) in Drug offences recorded in Cheshire West and Chester; a notably larger increase than the previous year.

Volumes of Drug offences recorded across Cheshire Constabulary have increased by 47.8% during 2023, meaning Cheshire West and Chester recorded a larger percentage increase.

When comparing Drug offences by Local Authority, Cheshire West and Chester recorded the percentage largest increase for 2023.

9. Alcohol Related Crime

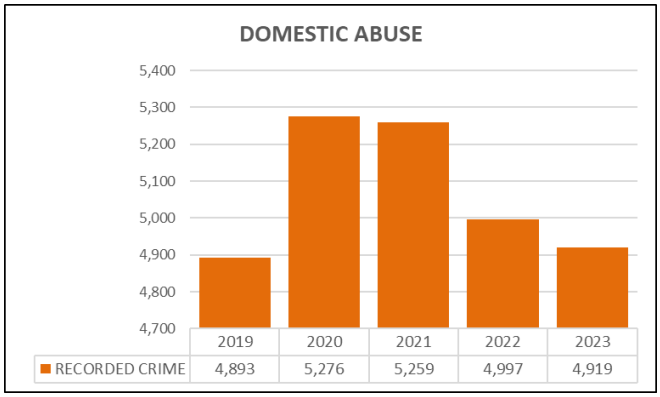


In the last twelve months there has been an 8.1% decrease (236 less offences) in Alcohol Related offences recorded in Cheshire West and Chester. This is the first decrease in offences since 2020.

Across the Force area over the last twelve months there has been a decrease of 4.9% in Alcohol Related offences, a smaller decrease than that observed in Cheshire West and Chester.

When comparing Alcohol Related offences by Local Authority, Cheshire West and Chester recorded the second largest percentage decrease when compared to 2022.

10. Domestic Abuse

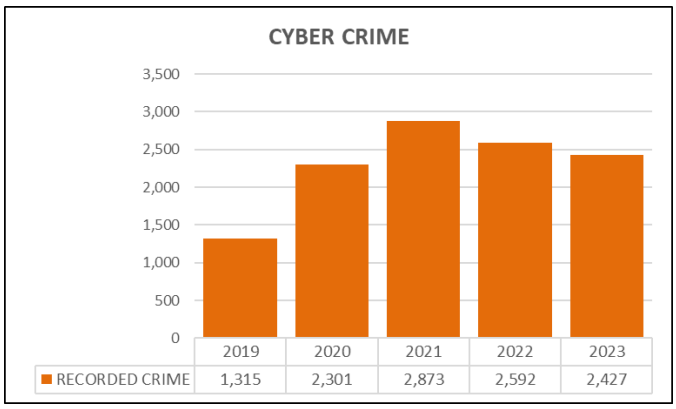


In the last twelve months there has been a decrease of 1.6% (78 fewer offences) in Domestic Abuse offences recorded in Cheshire West and Chester, volumes falling to similar levels seen in 2019 (4893 offences).

Across the Force area over the last twelve months there has been a decrease of 4.1% in Domestic Abuse offences, which means Cheshire West and Chester recorded a much smaller percentage decrease.

When comparing Domestic Abuse offences by Local Authority, Cheshire West and Chester has seen the smallest percentage reduction when compared to 2022.

11. Cyber-crime

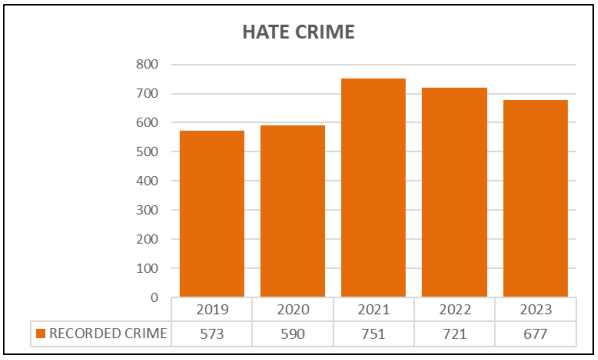


During the last twelve months there has been a decrease of 6.4% (165 fewer offences) in recorded Cyber-crime in Cheshire West and Chester – this following a decrease seen in the previous year.

Across the Force area over the last twelve months there has been a decrease of 5.2% in CNyber-crime offences, which means Cheshire West and Chester have recorded a larger percentage decrease.

When comparing offences by Local Authority, Cheshire West and Chester had the second largest percentage decrease when compared to 2022, with one Local Authority recording an increase.

12. Hate Crime

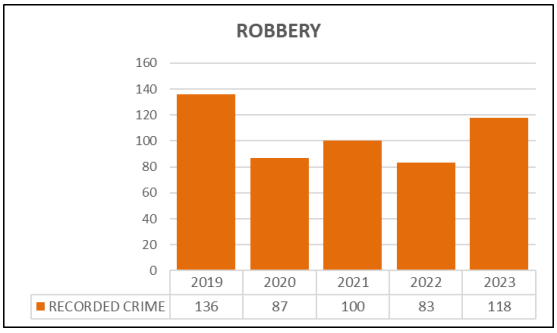


In the last twelve months there has been a decrease of 6.1% (44 fewer offences) in Hate Crime offences recorded in Cheshire West and Chester; this following a decrease also seen in the previous year.

Across the Force area over the last twelve months there has been a decrease of 6.5% in Hate Crime offences, which means Cheshire West and Chester have recorded a slightly smaller percentage decrease.

When comparing hate crime offences by Local Authority, Cheshire West and Chester has recorded the second smallest percentage decrease when compared to 2022.

13. Robbery offences



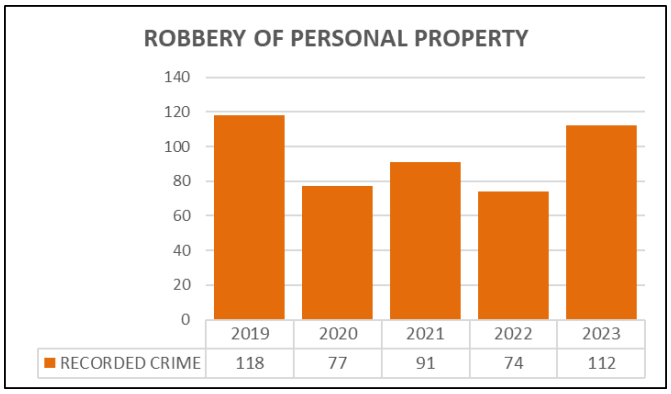
During the last twelve months there has been an increase of 42.2% (35 more offences) in Robbery offences recorded in Cheshire West and Chester, volumes being the highest seen since 2019.

Across the Force area over the last twelve months there has been a 10.1% increase in Robbery offences, which means Cheshire West and Chester has recorded a much larger percentage increase.

When comparing Robbery offences by Local Authority, Cheshire West and Chester has the largest percentage increase when compared to 2022, with one Local Authority recording a decrease.

a. Robbery of Personal Property

During the last twelve months there has been a 51.4% increase (38 more offences) in Personal Robbery offences recorded in Cheshire West and Chester.

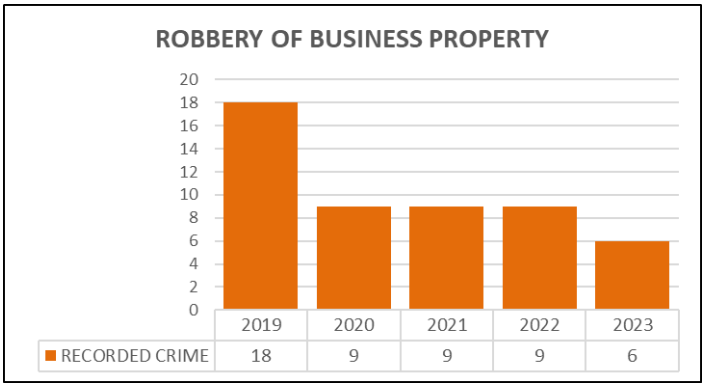


Across the Force area over the last twelve months there has been a 13% increase in Personal Robbery offences, which means Cheshire West and Chester recorded a much larger percentage increase.

When comparing Personal Robbery offences by Local Authority, Cheshire West and Chester had the largest percentage increase when compared to 2022, an increase which is over 4 times that of the Local Authority with the next highest increase. One Local Authority also recorded a slight decrease.

b. Robbery of Business Property

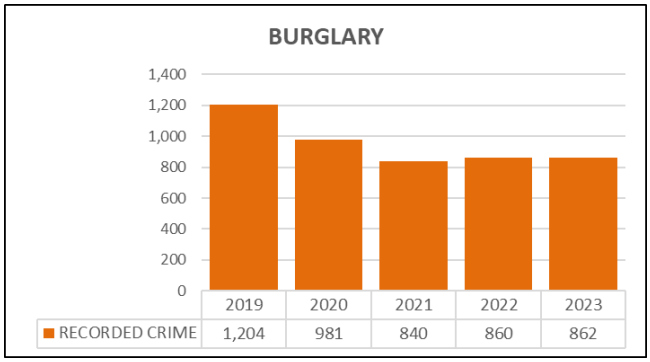
During the last twelve months there has been a 33.3% decrease (3 less offences) in Business Robbery offences recorded in Cheshire West and Chester, the first decrease seen since 2020 where volumes remained unchanged until 2023.



Across the Force area over the last twelve months there has been a 21.2% decrease in Business Robbery offences, meaning Cheshire West and Chester recorded a larger percentage decrease.

When comparing Business Robbery offences by Local Authority, Cheshire West and Chester recorded the second largest decrease since 2022, with one Local Authority recording an increase.

14. Burglary offences

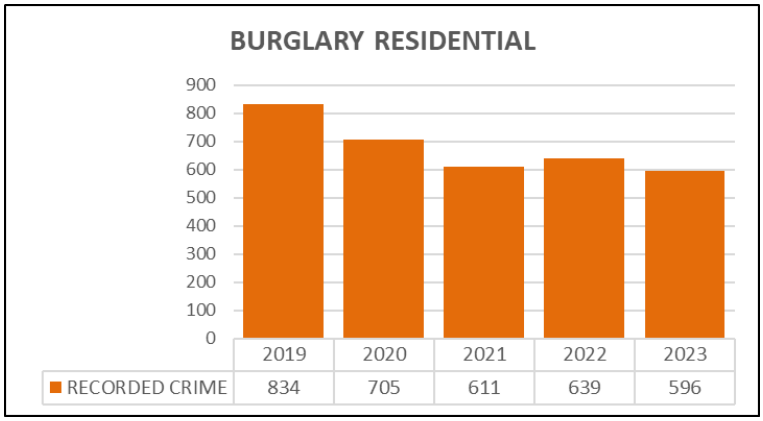


During the last twelve months there has been a 0.2% increase (2 more offences) in Burglary offences recorded in Cheshire West and Chester.

Across the Force area over the last twelve months there has been a decrease of 5.8% in Burglary offences.

When comparing Burglary offences by Local Authority, Cheshire West and Chester recorded the smallest increase when compared to 2022, only one other Local Authority recorded an increase.

a. Residential Burglary



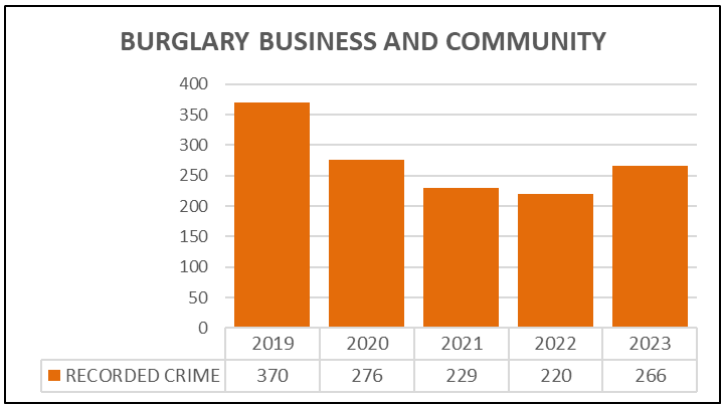
During the last twelve months there has been a 6.7% decrease (43 less offences) in Burglary residential offences recorded in Cheshire West and Chester, this is the lowest number recorded over the past 5 years and reverses the increase observed in the previous year.

Across the Force area over the last twelve months there has been a decrease of 7.9% in Burglary residential offences meaning Cheshire West and Chester recorded a smaller decrease.

When comparing Burglary residential offences by Local Authority, Cheshire West and Chester has recorded the smallest percentage decrease when compared to 2022, with one Local Authority recording an increase.

b. Business and Community Burglary

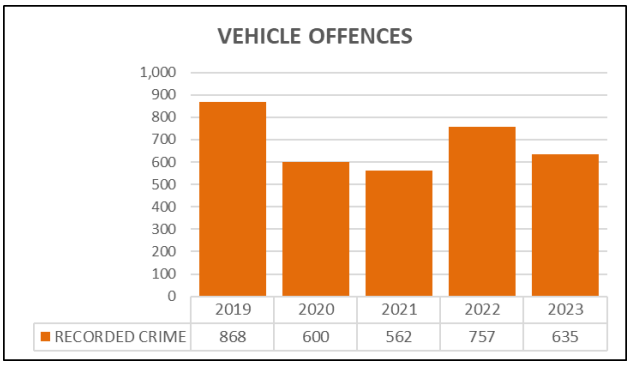
During the last twelve months there has been an increase of 20.9% (46 more offences) in Business and Community Burglary offences recorded in Cheshire West and Chester; this breaking the reducing trend recorded OVER the last 5 years.



Across the Force area over the last twelve months there has been an increase of 0.8% in Business and Community Burglary offences, which means Cheshire West and Chester has recorded a much larger percentage increase.

When comparing Business and Community Burglary offences by Local Authority, Cheshire West and Chester has the second largest percentage increase when compared to 2022, with two Local Authorities recording decreases.

15. Vehicle Crime



During the last twelve months there has been a decrease of 16.1% (122 less offences) in Vehicle offences recorded in Cheshire West and Chester.

Across the Force area over the last twelve months there has been a decrease of 6.7% in Vehicle offences, meaning Cheshire West and Chester recorded over double the percentage decrease than the Force.

When comparing Vehicle offences by Local Authority, Cheshire West and Chester has the largest percentage decrease (with 2 Local Authorities seeing increases) when compared to 2022.

16. Shoplifting

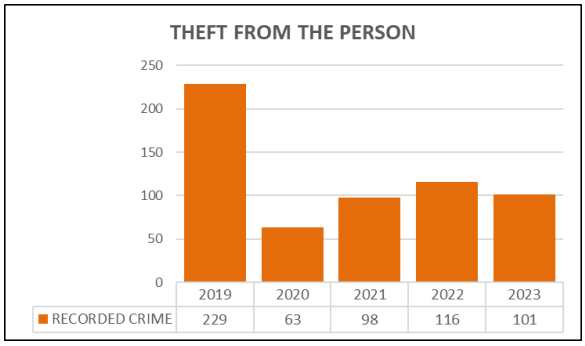
During the last twelve months, Cheshire West and Chester has recorded a 27.7% increase (plus 472 offences) in Shoplifting offences.

Across the Force area over the last twelve months there has been an increase of 32.6% in Shoplifting offences, which means Cheshire West and Chester recorded a smaller percentage increase.

When comparing Shoplifting offences by Local Authority, Cheshire West and Chester has the second smallest percentage increase when compared to 2022, with all Local Authorities recording an increase.

17. Theft from the Person

During the last year there has been a 12.9% decrease (15 less offences) in Theft from the Person offences recorded in Cheshire West and Chester.

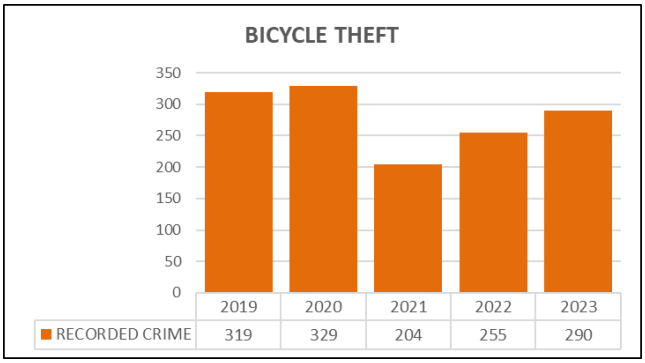


Across the Force area over the last twelve months there has been a 14.8% decrease in Theft from the Person offences, which means Cheshire West and Chester recorded a smaller percentage decrease.

When comparing Theft from the Person offences by Local Authority, Cheshire West and Chester has the second largest percentage decrease when compared to 2022.

18. Bicycle Theft

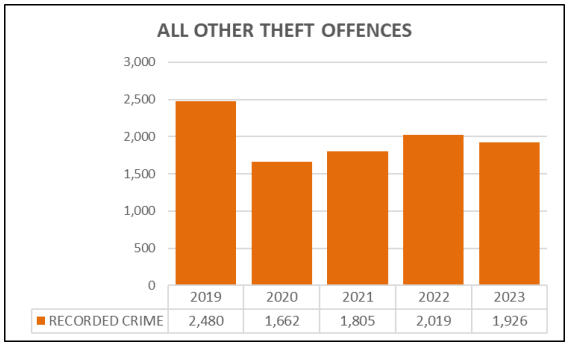
During the last year there has been an increase of 13.7% (51 more offences) in Bicycle Theft recorded in Cheshire West and Chester; volumes however are still below those recorded pre-2021.



Across the Force area over the last twelve months there has been a 1.6% decrease in Bicycle Theft.

When comparing Bicycle Theft by Local Authority, Cheshire West and Chester has seen the second largest percentage increase when compared to 2022 with two Local Authorities recording a decrease.

19. All Other Theft offences

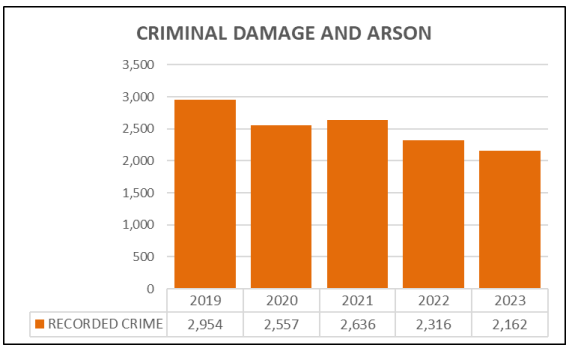


During the last twelve months there has been an 4.6% decrease (93 less offences) in All Other Theft recorded in Cheshire West and Chester.

Across the Force area over the last twelve months there has been a 5.5% decrease in All Other Theft, which means Cheshire West and Chester has recorded a smaller decrease.

When comparing All Other Theft by Local Authority, Cheshire West and Chester has recorded the smallest percentage decrease compared to 2022, with one Local Authority recording an increase.

20. Criminal Damage and Arson



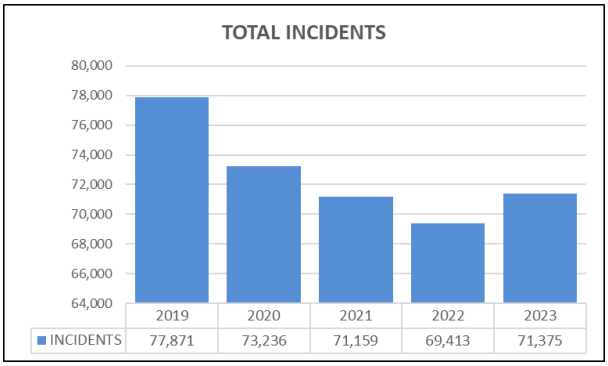
During the last twelve months there has been a 6.6% decrease (154 fewer offences) in Criminal Damage and Arson recorded in Cheshire West and Chester with volumes at the lowest they've been in the last 5 years.

Across the Force area over the last twelve months there has been a decrease of 9.5% in Criminal Damage and Arson offences, which means Cheshire West and Chester has recorded a smaller percentage decrease.

When comparing Criminal Damage and Arson offences by Local Authority, Cheshire West and Chester has recorded the second smallest percentage decrease since 2022.

REPORTED INCIDENT FINDINGS

21. Total Incidents

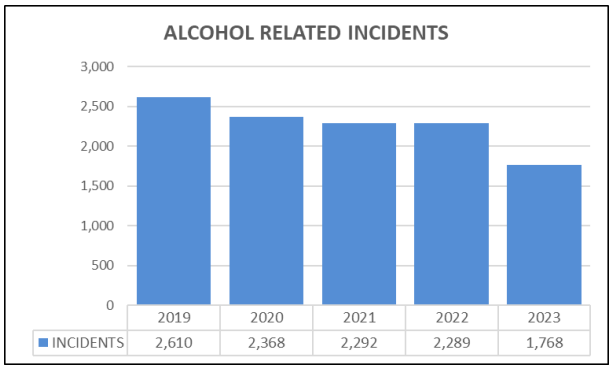


During the last twelve months there has been a 2.8% increase (1,962 more) in total incidents recorded in Cheshire West and Chester.

Across the Force area over the last twelve months there has been an increase of 0.9% in total incidents, which means Cheshire West and Chester has recorded a larger percentage increase.

When comparing the volume of total incidents by Local Authority, Cheshire West and Chester has recorded the largest percentage increase compared to 2022 with one Local Authority recording a decrease.

22. Alcohol Related Incidents

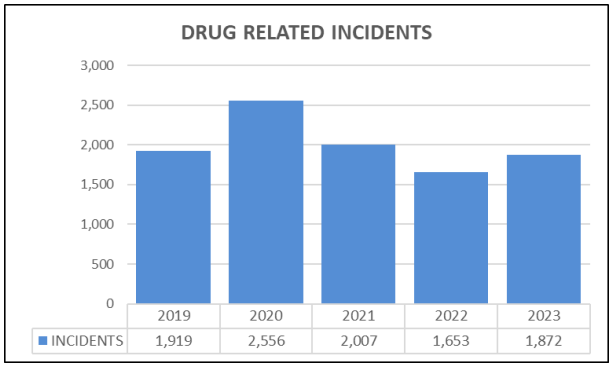


During the last twelve months there has been a 22.8% decrease (521 fewer) in Alcohol Related incidents recorded in Cheshire West and Chester.

Across the Force area over the last twelve months there has been a 22.8% reduction in Alcohol Related incidents, which means Cheshire West and Chester has recorded a percentage reduction in line with the Force.

When comparing the volume of Alcohol Related incidents by Local Authority, Cheshire West and Chester has recorded the second largest percentage reduction compared to 2022.

23. Drug Related Incidents

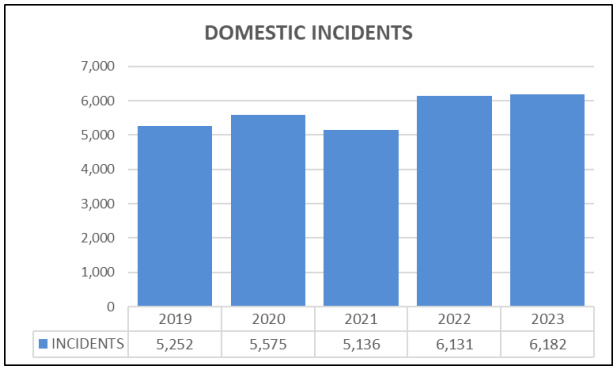


In the last twelve months there has been an increase of 13.2% (219 more) in Drug Related incidents recorded in Cheshire West and Chester.

Across the Force area over the last twelve months there has been an 9.9% increase in Drug Related incidents, which means Cheshire West and Chester has recorded a larger percentage increase.

When comparing the volume of Drug Related incidents by Local Authority, Cheshire West and Chester has recorded the second largest percentage increase when compared to 2022.

24. Domestic Incidents

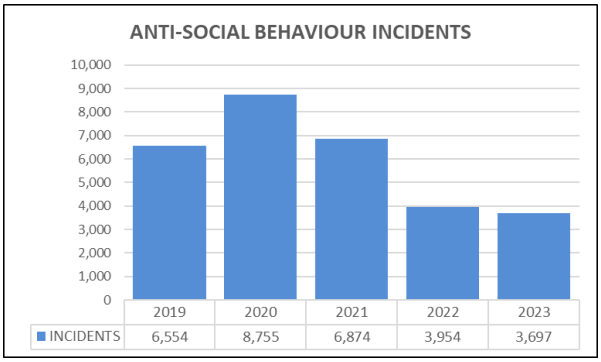


In the last twelve months there has been a 0.8% increase (plus 51) in Domestic incidents recorded in Cheshire West and Chester with volumes at the highest they have been in the 5-year review period.

Across the Force area over the last twelve months there has been a 3.6% decrease in Domestic incidents.

When comparing the volume of Domestic incidents by Local Authority, Cheshire West and Chester is the only Local Authority to have recorded an increase when compared to 2022.

25. Anti-Social Behaviour Incidents



During the last twelve months there has been a decrease of 6.5% (257 fewer) Anti-Social Behaviour Incidents recorded in Cheshire West and Chester.

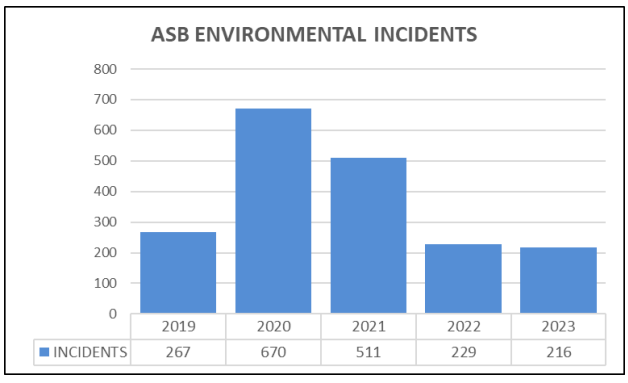
Across the Force area over the last twelve months there has been a decrease of 6.4% in Anti-Social Behaviour incidents, which means Cheshire West and Chester has recorded a slightly higher percentage decrease.

When comparing the volume of Anti-Social Behaviour incidents by Local Authority, Cheshire West and Chester has recorded the largest percentage decrease when compared to 2022.

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 2023 46.4% (1,716) of all ASB occurred in Chester LPU; 31% (1,147) in Northwich LPU and 22.6% (834) in Ellesmere Port LPU. With the highest volumes of ASB incidents by BTC have occurred in Chester City (20%); Winsford (14%); and Ellesmere Port East (12%).

Local Policing Unit (LPU)	Police Beat Team Cluster (BTC)	Enviornmental ASB		Nuisance ASB		Personal ASB		Total ASB		
		Volume	%	Volume	%	Volume	%	Volume	% per LPU	% per total ASB
CHESTER	Chester City	30	33.0%	628	46.6%	69	24.9%	**727**	42.4%	20%
	Chester North	13	14.3%	239	17.7%	58	20.9%	**310**	18.1%	8%
	Chester Rural & Frodsham	27	29.7%	285	21.1%	83	30.0%	**395**	23.0%	11%
	Chester South	21	23.1%	196	14.5%	67	24.2%	**284**	16.6%	8%
	Total Chester LPU	**91**	**42.1%**	**1348**	**46.7%**	**277**	**46.4%**	**1716**	**46.4%**	46%
ELLESMERE PORT	Ellesmere Port East	29	52.7%	361	57.3%	58	38.9%	**448**	53.7%	12%
	Ellesmere Port West & Neston	26	47.3%	269	42.7%	91	61.1%	**386**	46.3%	10%
	Total Ellesmere Port LPU	**55**	**25.5%**	**630**	**21.8%**	**149**	**25.0%**	**834**	**22.6%**	23%
NORTHWICH	Northwich North	16	22.9%	288	31.8%	51	29.8%	**355**	31.0%	10%
	Northwich South	15	21.4%	206	22.7%	39	22.8%	**260**	22.7%	7%
	Winsford	39	55.7%	412	45.5%	81	47.4%	**532**	46.4%	14%
	Total Northwich LPU	**70**	**32.4%**	**906**	**31.4%**	**171**	**28.6%**	**1147**	**31.0%**	31%
CWaC Grand Total		**216**	**5.8%**	**2884**	**78.0%**	**597**	**16.1%**	**3697**	**100%**	100.0%

a. Environmental Anti-Social Behaviour Incidents

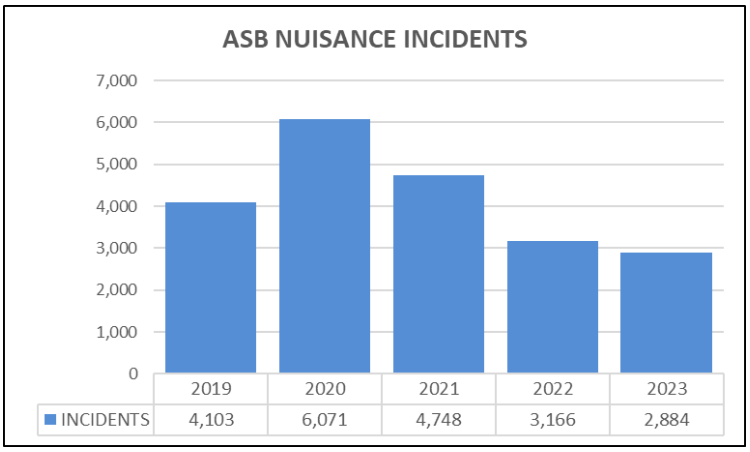


In the last twelve months there has been a 5.7% decrease (13 fewer) in Environmental Anti-Social Behaviour Incidents recorded in Cheshire West and Chester. Figures in 2020 and 2021 would also have included breaches of Covid restrictions, for example, large groups of people.

Across the Force area over the last twelve months there has been a decrease of 12.2% in Environmental Anti-Social Behaviour incidents, which means Cheshire West and Chester has recorded a smaller percentage decrease.

When comparing the volume of Environmental Anti-Social Behaviour incidents by Local Authority, Cheshire West and Chester has recorded the smallest percentage decrease when compared to 2022.

b. Nuisance Anti-Social Behaviour Incidents

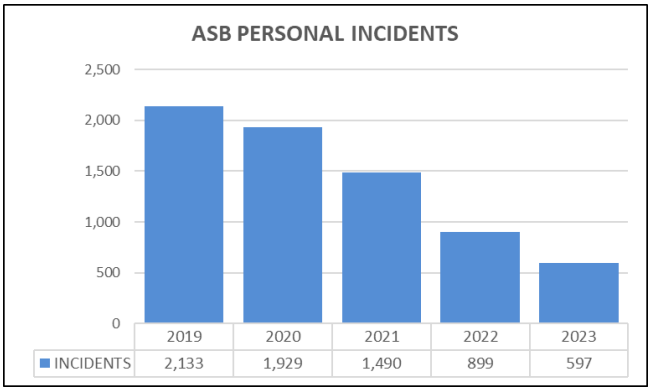


During the last twelve months there has been an 8.9% decrease (282 fewer) in Nuisance Anti-Social Behaviour Incidents recorded in Cheshire West and Chester.

Across the Force area over the last twelve months there has been a decrease of 11.3% in Nuisance Anti-Social Behaviour Incidents, which means Cheshire West and Chester has recorded a smaller percentage decrease.

When comparing the volume of Nuisance Anti-Social Behaviour Incidents by Local Authority, Cheshire West and Chester has recorded the smallest percentage decrease when compared to 2022.

c. Personal Anti-Social Behaviour Incidents

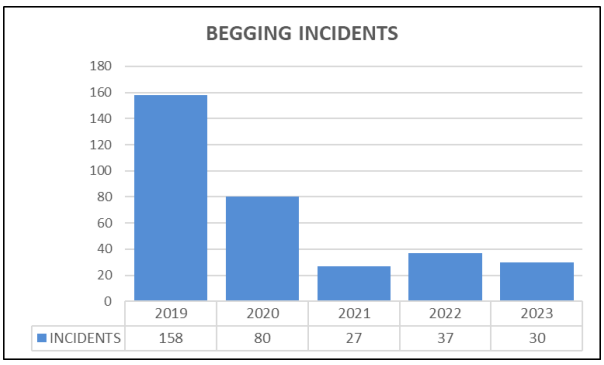


In the last twelve months there has been a 33.6% decrease (302 fewer) in Personal Anti-Social Behaviour Incidents recorded in Cheshire West and Chester.

Across the Force area over the last twelve months there has been a 27.1% decrease in Personal Anti-Social Behaviour Incidents, which means Cheshire West and Chester has recorded a larger percentage decrease.

When comparing the volume of Personal Anti-Social Behaviour incidents by Local Authority, Cheshire West and Chester has recorded the largest percentage decrease when comparing to 2022.

26. Begging Incidents

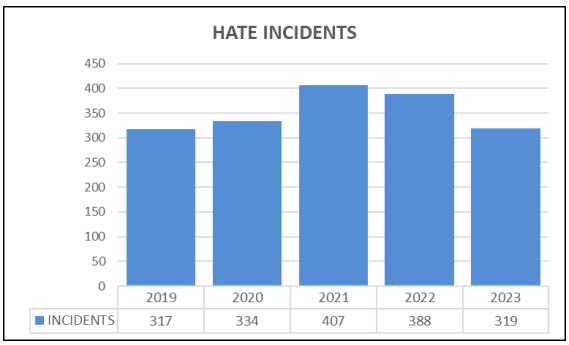


During the last twelve months there has been a 18.9% decrease (7 fewer) in Begging incidents recorded in Cheshire West and Chester.

Across the Force area over the last twelve months there has been a decrease of 34.1% in Begging incidents, which means Cheshire West and Chester has recorded a smaller percentage decrease.

When comparing the volume of Begging incidents by Local Authority, Cheshire West and Chester has recorded the smallest percentage decrease when compared to 2022.

27. Hate Incidents

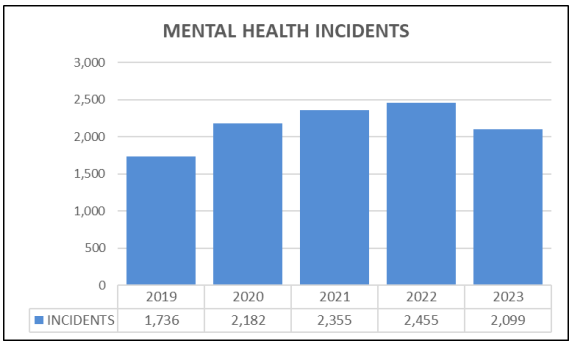


In the last twelve months volumes of Hate Incidents in Cheshire West and Chester have decreased by 17.8% (69 fewer), bringing volumes closer to that seen in 2019 (317).

Across the Force area over the last twelve months there has been a decrease of 16.6% in Hate Incidents, which means Cheshire West and Chester has recorded a larger percentage decrease.

When comparing the volume of Hate Incidents by Local Authority, Cheshire West and Chester has recorded the second largest percentage decrease when compared to 2022.

28. Mental Health Incidents

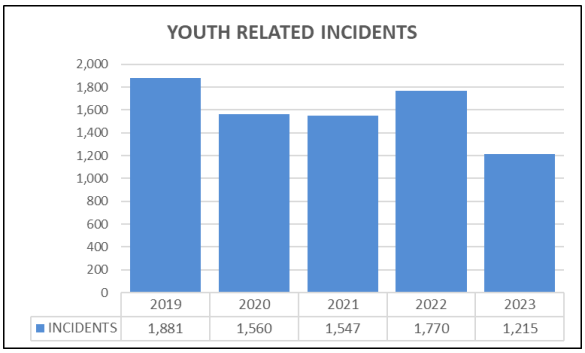


During the last twelve months there has been a year-on-year decrease of 14.5% (356 fewer) in Mental Health Incidents recorded in Cheshire West and Chester.

Cheshire Constabulary over the last twelve months has seen a 10.3% decrease in Mental Health Incidents.

When comparing the volume of Mental Health Incidents by Local Authority, Cheshire West and Chester has recorded the largest percentage decrease when compared to 2022.

29. Youth Related Incidents



During the last twelve months there has been a 31.4% decrease (555 fewer) in Youth Related Incidents recorded in Cheshire West and Chester.

Across the Force area over the last twelve months there has been a 33.2% decrease in Youth Related Incidents, which means Cheshire West and Chester has recorded a smaller percentage decrease.

When comparing the volume of Youth Related Incidents by Local Authority, Cheshire West and Chester has recorded the second smallest percentage decrease when compared to 2022.

Conclusions / Summary

Recorded Crime

Cheshire West and Chester recorded a year-on-year decrease in Total Crime volumes of 6.6% with a 7.4% decrease recorded at Force level, a considerable decrease when compared to the changes seen in 2022.

There is a mixed picture presented for crimes across Cheshire West and Chester in 2023 with Shoplifting and Bicycle Theft, like the previous year, having increased again by 27.7% and 13.7% respectively, the increase in Bicycle Theft in particular contrasting with the decrease seen at Force level. Increases of note were also seen in Burglary business (20.9%), Robbery (42.2%) and Robbery of Personal Property (51.4%), all of which are much higher increases than when compared to Force figures. A large increase was seen in Drug offences, both at Cheshire West and Chester (52.2%) and Force (47.8%) level, these increases however could be due to increases in proactive policing rather than more offences being committed by members of the public.

Despite the large increase in Licenced Premise offences reported in 2022, a change in the way these crimes are recorded has resulted in a smaller change for 2023 (4.6%).

Decreases in volumes across Cheshire West and Chester were also present in Alcohol Related Crime (-8.1%) and Vehicle offences (-16.1%), again both of which being higher decreases than when that seen at Force Level. Large decreases can also be seen in Malicious Communications (-33.3%) and Harassment (-19.9%), with similar decreases seen at Force level and could be partly, if not mostly, attributed to the introduction of the Principal Crime Recording Rule[1] and the changes to the Finished Incident Rule[2].

Little to no change was seen in the Home Office Groups of Sexual Offences (0.2% increase) and Burglary (0.2%) and for Domestic Abuse Crimes (-1.6%).

Incidents

Overall, the number of incidents recorded across CWaC during 2023 (71,375) is 2.8% more than seen in 2022 (69,413) despite a number of incident groups recording decreases, mainly in Anti-Social Behaviour (6.5%, 257 fewer incidents) and Mental Health (14.5%, 356 fewer incidents).

Increases have been noted in relation to Drug incidents (13.2%, 219 more incidents) and Missing Persons (20.5%, 436 more incidents). Of note, the increase in Drug incidents in CWaC is larger than that seen across the Force as a whole. Also worthy of mention is the small increase in Domestic incidents (0.8%, 51 more) in CWaC especially as this is the only Local Authority to have recorded an increase.

The fluctuations seen in CWaC are broadly in line with those recorded at Force level however the increase in Missing Person is much higher in CWaC than anywhere else.

[1] See appendix for definition.
[2] See appendix for definition.

Appendix A: Crime -Table of Comparative Change 2022/23

The following table illustrates the percentage change in Recorded Crime compared to 2022 and whether or not this change is higher or lower than the change seen at Force level.

RECORDED OFFENCES	CWaC Percentage change on 2022	FORCE Percentage change on 2022
Total Crime	-6.6%	-7.4%
Victim Based Crime	-4.7%	-5.9%
Violence Against the Person	-9.5%	-10.2%
- Violence With Injury	-6.6%	-6.7%
- Violence Without Injury	-3.3%	-6.9%
Harassment	-19.9%	-17.8%
Stalking	8.3%	10.9%
Malicious Communications	-33.3%	-34.9%
Sexual Offences	0.2%	-1.6%
- Rape offences	-3.7%	0.7%
- Other Sexual Offences	2.3%	-1.3%
- Child Sexual Abuse	-4.4%	-5.1%
Drug Offences	52.2%	47.8%
Alcohol Related Offences	-8.1%	-4.9%
Domestic Abuse Offences	-1.6%	-4.1%
Cyber Crime	-6.4%	-5.2%
Hate Crime	-6.1%	-6.5%
Robbery Offences	42.2%	10.1%
- Personal Robbery	51.4%	13.0%
- Business Robbery	-33.3%	-21.2%
Burglary Offences	0.2%	-5.8%
- Residential Burglary	-6.7%	-7.9%
- Business & Community Burglary	20.9%	0.8%
Vehicle Crime	-16.1%	-6.7%
Shoplifting	27.7%	32.6%
Theft from the Person	-12.9%	-14.8%
Bicycle Theft	13.7%	-1.6%
All Other Theft offences	-4.6%	-5.5%
Criminal Damage & Arson	-6.6%	-9.5%
Most Servious Violence	-4.6%	-0.9%
Violence Against Women & Girls	-14.4%	-16.0%
Licenced Premises	4.6%	3.5%

Appendix B: Incident -Table of Comparative Change 2022/23

The following table illustrates the percentage change in Reported Incidents compared to 2022 and whether or not this change is higher or lower than the change seen at Force level.

INCIDENTS	CWaC Percentage change on 2022	FORCE Percentage change on 2022
Total Incidents	2.8%	0.9%
Alcohol Related Incidents	-22.8%	-22.8%
Drug Incidents	13.2%	9.9%
Domestic Incidents	0.8%	-3.6%
Anti-Social Behaviour	-6.5%	-6.4%
- Environmental ASB	-5.7%	-12.2%
- Personal ASB	-33.6%	-27.1%
- Nuisance ASB	-8.9%	-11.3%
Begging Incidents	-18.9%	-34.1%
Hate Incidents	-17.8%	-16.6%
Mental Health Incidents	-14.5%	-10.3%
Missing Persons	20.5%	2.5%
Youth Related Incidents	-31.4%	-33.2%

Appendix C: Definition of the Principal Crime Related Offence Rule

Related Crime Definition

'Any crime within a series of crimes arising from the same incident that involves the same victim and offender(s) which by virtue of HOCR General Rule F cannot ordinarily be recorded. In addition, where, during the course of an investigation, the victim alleges a more serious historic crime against the same offender which results in the reclassification of the original recorded crime'. These less serious crimes should be regarded as related crimes.

* Where there is only evidence to charge one of the related crimes the principal crime cannot be allocated an outcome under type 1, 2, 3, 4 or 6 and should be allocated the appropriate alternative outcome.

* The related crime for which there is sufficient evidence should be additionally recorded and assigned the relevant outcome.

* If there is evidence to charge more than one related crime the principal crime rule should be re-applied to the related crimes.

Principal Crime Rule Priority List:

PRINCIPAL CRIME LOOK-UP TABLE				
Offence	HO Class	H.O. Classification	Maximum sentence	State or victim based
Homicide	1	001/00	Life	V
Attempted murder	2	002/00	Life	V
Rape	19C-K	019/04 - 019/14	Life	V
Robbery	34	034/01 - 034/02	Life	V
Conspiracy to murder	3A	003/02	Life	S
Assault by penetration	17A-B	017/13 -017/14	Life	V
	20A-B	020/03-020/04		
Grievous bodily harm with intent (S18)	5D	005/01	Life	V
Sexual assault on male/female child under 13	17B, 20B	017/06, 020/06	14 yrs	V
Criminal damage endangering life	57	057/00	Life	V
Arson	56	056/01-056/02	Life	V
Racially or Religiously Aggravated harassment or stalking with fear of violence	8M	08/58	14 yrs	V
Stalking (Sec4A) – fear of violence	8Q	08/65	10 yrs	V
Stalking (Sec4A) – Serious Alarm/Distress or Fear of Violence	8Q	08/66	10 yrs	V
Harassment (Sec4) - fear of violence	8L	08/30	10 yrs	V
Controlling & Coercive Behaviour	8U	08/67	5 yrs	V
Sexual assault on male/female aged 13 or over	17A, 20A	017/15, 020/05	10 yrs	V
Aggravated burglary	29A, 31A	029/00, 031/00	Life	V
Racially or Religiously Aggravated harassment or stalking without violence	8M	08/56	2 yrs	V
Grievous bodily harm (S20) only	8N	08/01	5 yrs	V
Non-Fatal Strangulation	8N	08/77	5 yrs	V
Stalking (Sec 2A) – A course of conduct in breach of Sec 1 (1)	8Q	195/12	51 weeks	V
Harassment (Sec 2) – without violence	8L	195/94	6 months	V
Actual bodily harm	8N	08/06	5 yrs	V
Threats to kill	3B	03/01	10 yrs	V
Threats/Possession with intent to commit criminal damage	59	59/11	10 yrs	V
Burglary Residential	28E	028/03	14 yrs	V
Criminal damage (Over £5000)	58A-D, J	058/00	10 yrs	V
Theft from person	39	041/00	7 yrs	V
Theft of vehicle	48	045/10	7 yrs	V
Malicious Communications	8R	08/71	2yrs	V
		08/72		
Assault without injury	105A	105/01	6 months	V
Criminal damage (Under £5000)	149	149/00	3 months	V

Appendix D: Definition of the Finished Incident Rule

The normal finished incident rule will apply in so much as once a course of conduct crime has been recorded any future offending by the same offender against the victim will result in a new crime recording decision and process.

The only exception to this will be where the future offending amounts to a crime of Malicious Communications and it is clear that the new crime is a continuation of the conduct crime already recorded.

If the future offending by the same offender against the victim amounts to a continuation of Malicious Communications, the continuation of the conduct should be added on to the crime already recorded, unless police have in some way dealt with the offender i.e., by means of charge, summons caution etc., or unless a period of 3 months has passed from the last recorded incident when a new CRDMP should be undertaken

If the future offending amounts to a notifiable offence for example, Section 47 Assault, Criminal, Damage, Theft etc. these must be recorded additionally, in line with the normal finished incident rule, and the circumstances of that offence should be added to the already recorded behaviour crime.

Where future offending takes place following a course of conduct crime being recorded, there is an expectation that the circumstances are reviewed to determine whether the crime needs

to be reclassified to a higher classification i.e., Section 2 Stalking/Harassment may need to be reclassified to a Section 4 Stalking/Harassment if the circumstances have escalated.