Cheshire West & Chester Community Safety Partnership

Cheshire West & Chester

Strategic Assessment Performance Overview

April 2025

Cheshire Constabulary

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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 **19/03/2025** 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.

Contents

Executive Summary 4

Introduction 5

All Crime 6

Cyber Crime 9

Violent Crime 10

Most Serious Violence (MSV) 12

Public Space Violence with Injury 13

Licenced Premise & Licenced Premise Violence with Injury (VWI) 13

Possession of Weapons 14

Knife Crime 16

Domestic Abuse 17

Domestic related offences 17

Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG) 18

Stalking and Harassment 19

Sexual Offences 21

Serious Acquisitive Crimes 23

Burglary 24

Vehicle 25

Robbery 27
Theft Offences 29
Theft from the Person 30
Bicycle Theft 31
Shoplifting 33
Criminal Damage and Arson 35
Public Order Offences and Incidents 36
Substance Misuse 39
Drug offences 39
Drug related 40
Alcohol related 42
Hate Crime and Hate Incidents 45
Hate crime 45
Hate incidents 47
All Incidents 48
Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB) Incidents 48
Environmental (Police) ASB incidents 52
Nuisance (Police) ASB incidents 53
Personal (Police) ASB incidents 54
Youth-related Anti-social Behaviour 55
Alcohol-related Anti-social Behaviour 56
Drug-related Anti-social Behaviour 57
Road Safety 58
Collisions 58
Casualties 59
Appendix/Definitions 61
Principal Crime Related Offence Rule explained: 61
Cyber-crime definition: 62
Domestic Abuse definition: 62
Right Care Right Person (RCRP): 62
Personal Anti-Social Behaviour Incidents definition: 63
Nuisance Anti-Social Behaviour Incidents definition: 63
Environmental Anti-Social Behaviour Incidents definition: 63
Crime -Table of Comparative Change 2023/24 64
Incident -Table of Comparative Change 2023/24 65
Roads -Table of Comparative Change 2023/24 65

Executive Summary

Volumes of all crime offences reduced across Cheshire West and Chester to the lowest volumes over the past 5 years, a 4% reduction was recorded from 2023 to 2024, with a slightly larger reduction of 5% recorded over the 5 year period. The reduction in Cheshire West and Chester was the same as that recorded in Warrington and Halton, it was however much larger than the reduction recorded at Force level (-2%) and opposite to the increase recorded in Cheshire East (+0.4%).

The rate per 1,000 population in CWAC (69.5) for all crime is the second smallest when compared across the Force (Halton; 96.9, Warrington; 72.9, & Cheshire East; 64.9).

Looking at individual crime types shown that the reduction in Cheshire West and Chester was smaller than that for the Force for Violence Against Women & Girl offences (-5% versus -6%), for Domestic Abuse Offences however the reduction was the same (-4%), volumes of both offences in 2024 were the lowest over the 5 year period.

Following suite with the overall decrease, Violence with Injury offences (-7%) and Serious Acquisitive crime (-14%) also reduced, with notable reductions in the Home Office groups of Burglary offences (-19%), Vehicle offences (-14%), Theft/Stolen Goods offences (-11%) and Criminal Damage and Arson offences (-12%). The Sexual Offences Home Office group however recorded an increase (+10%), to volumes which were the highest over the 5 year period. Of note, a large increase was also recorded for Child Sexual Abuse offences (+30%).

Although a small change was recorded for the Stalking and Harassment Home Office group as a whole (-2%), larger and contrasting changes were recorded for some offences within the group; Malicious Communication (-54%) and Harassment (+27%).

Several crime types however also recorded increases in the comparable years, most notably in volumes of Knife Crime (+17%), Hate Crime (+12%), Drug related Crime (+15%) and Most Serious Violence offences (+57%). The increase in each of these crime types has meant that volumes in 2024 were the highest over the 5 year period.

Little to no change was recorded for Drug offences (-2%), Possession of Weapon offences (+1%), Public Order offences (-2%) and Licences Premise offences (-2%); the Force recorded a larger change than Cheshire West and Chester for each of these offence types.

Changes in volumes could be attributed to legislative changes, such as the introduction of the Principal Crime Recording Rule in 2023 and the creation of the Online Safety Act in 2024. They could also be influenced by changes made by the Force, such as the use of NDQIS to classify some offence types or a drive for increased proactive policing.

It is also important to consider the role of significant events reported in the media in both crime and incident volumes, for example reports on high profile celebrity sex offence cases and the nation-wide public disorder following the murders in Southport.

Incident demand across Cheshire West and Chester decreased in the 2024 year by 4%, this follows an increase of 3% in the previous year and is a reduction larger than that recorded for the Force (-3%). Notable reductions were recorded for Alcohol related incidents (-15%), Anti-Social Behaviour incidents (-10%), Mental Health incidents (-25%) and Public Order incidents (-18%).

Notable increases were however recorded in volumes of Domestic incidents (+9%) and Hate incidents (+30%), the increase in Cheshire West and Chester for Hate incidents in particular was more than double that recorded for the Force (+14%).

Cheshire West and Chester recorded a small reduction of 3% for Missing Person incidents in 2024, this was opposite to the 5% increase recorded at Force level.

Introduction

To summarise the below report, for CWAC in 2024, reductions of note were in:

- Violence Against Women and Girls (-361 offences/-5%)
- Violence with Injury offences (-204 offences/-7%)
- Malicious Communications (-530 offences/-54%)
- Serious Acquisitive Crime (-175 offences/-14%)
- Burglary offences (-167 offences/-19%)
- Vehicle offences (-87 offences/-14%)
- Theft/Stolen Goods offences (-501 offences/-11%)
- Shoplifting (-209 offences/-10%)
- Criminal Damage and Arson (-264 offences/-12%)
- Alcohol related incidents (-265 incidents/-15%)
- Anti-Social Behaviour incidents (-362 incidents/-10%)
- Mental Health incidents (-515 incidents/-25%)[1]
- Public Order incidents (-299 incidents/-18%)

In contrast, notable increases were recorded in the following areas:

- Harassment (+519 offences/+27%)
- Sexual Offences (+118 offences/+10%)
- Child Sexual Abuse (CSA) (+195 offences/+30%)
- Knife Crime (+29 offences/+17%)
- Hate Crime (+82 offences/+12%)
- Cyber Crime (+695 offences/+29%)
- Drug related Crime (+221 offences/+15%)
- Most Serious Violence (+113 offences/+57%)
- Hate incidents (+95 incidents/+30%)
- KSI Collisions (+26 collisions/+27%)

Legislative changes are important to consider when looking at differences in volumes between 2023 and 2024, for example the introduction of the 'Principal Crime Rule'[2] in July 2023 could still be influencing volumes in 2024 due to changing the way 'conduct crimes', such as those under the Stalking and Harassment Home Office (HO) group, were recorded; changes to this rule meant that only the 'most serious' crimes were recorded, decided on through using a priority list[3].

Changes were also made to existing communication and sharing of intimate photograph/film offences through the introduction of the Online Safety Act making changes from February 2024. This act was introduced to regulate the use of internet services due to public concern around the spread of illegal content online and what risk this poses to children's safety. The act broadened offences to include

[1] Impacted by Right Care Right Person (RCRP), see appendix for explanation.
[2] See appendix for explanation.
[3] See appendix for priority list.

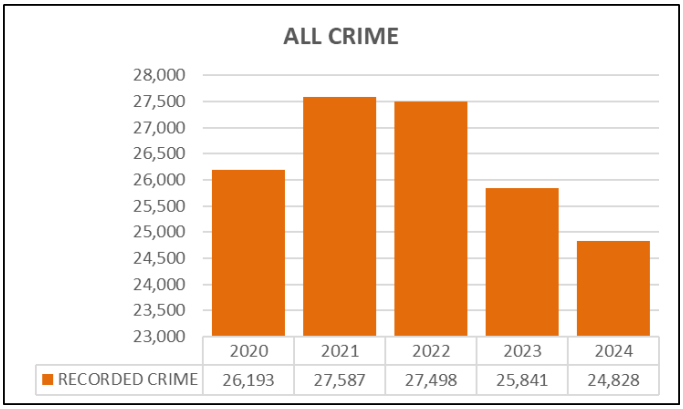
newer incidents, such as 'Cyber Flashing' where individuals send photographs or films of their genitals to cause alarm, distress or humiliation, which could impact volumes, such as for Cyber-crime and communication offences.

Introduction of the use of NDQIS[4] in 2024 for the classification of Cyber Crimes and Child Sexual Abuse (CSA) crimes in Cheshire Constabulary has led to better recording and could impact changes to these crime types.

In terms of incident changes, Cheshire Constabulary introduced the Right Care Right Person (RCRP) operational model in January 2024. This model ensured that the public are provided with the right care, responded to by the right person with the right skills, training and experience to best meet their needs. There were three phases to the introduction, these related to 'Concern for Safety' call outs, 'Walkouts' from Health care settings and 'Mental Health' related incidents, as such volumes of incidents relating to these situations could be affected by RCRP.

All Crime

All crime across the Cheshire West and Chester (CWAC) Community Safety Partnership (CSP) area reduced by 4% in 2024, 1,013 less offences were recorded which resulted in a total of 24,828 offences which is the lowest volume over the 5 year period.

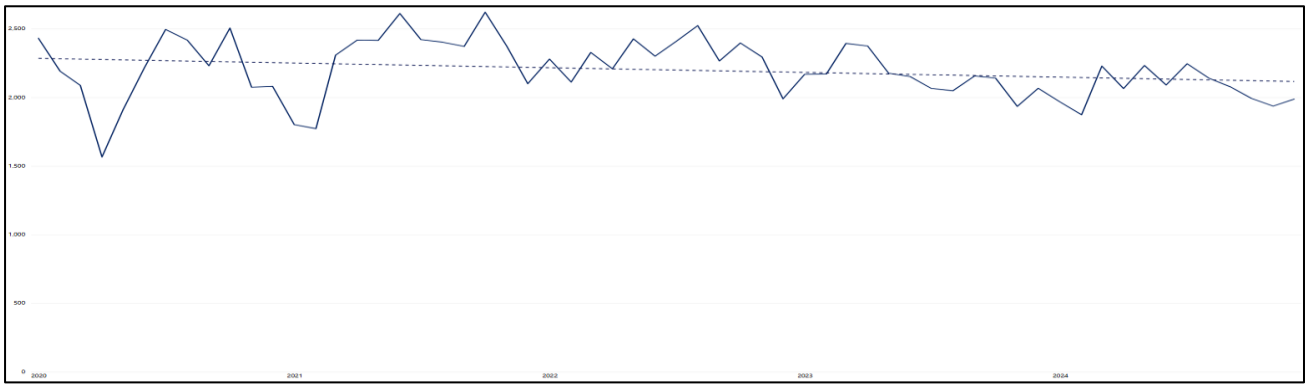


This reduction was the same as that recorded in Warrington and Halton which also reduced by 4%, it was however much larger than the reduction recorded at Force level (-2%) and opposite to the increase recorded in Cheshire East (+0.4%).

When reviewed over the 5 year period, a reducing linear trend was recorded across all CSPs (Warrington; -15%, Halton; -10%, Cheshire East; -7%), with CWAC recording the smallest (-5%).

The below graph shows the reducing trend of crime in CWAC since January 2020.

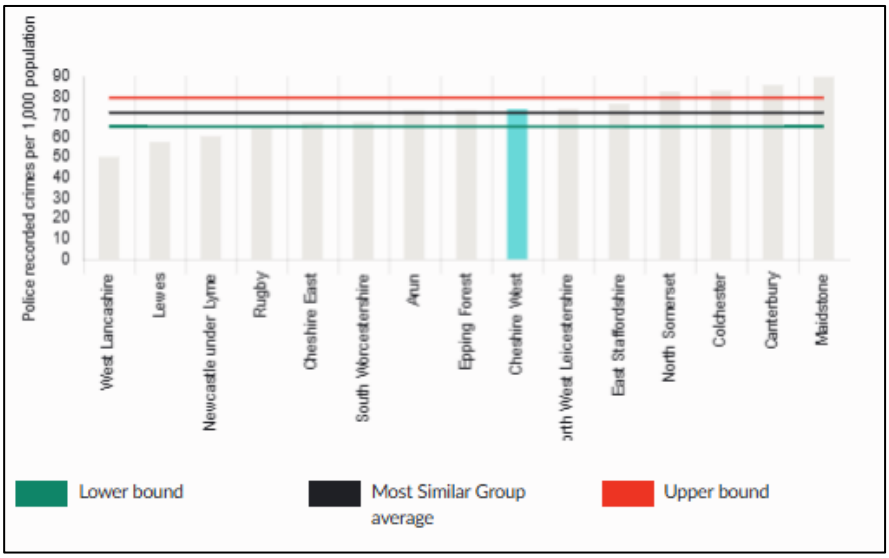
[4] NDQIS is a computer assisted tool which helps improve the accuracy and consistency of data.



It is important to consider these figures with the understanding that 581 crimes in 2024 across the Force area have not been able to be linked to specific Local Authority (LA) geographies, as such the volumes in CWAC could be higher than what is recorded[5].

Analysis of crime rates per 1,000 population / household[6] indicates that rates in CWAC are smaller than rates for Cheshire Constabulary as a whole for the majority of the individual offence types, and for overall total crime (69.5 vs 72.2 Force). The rate per 1,000 population in CWAC is second smallest when compared across the Force (Halton; 96.9, Warrington; 72.9, & Cheshire East; 64.9).

In the year ending September 2024, CWAC had a rate of 73.99 for all crime which was slightly above the MSG average (72.12) and sat in the 7th highest position (out of 15) when compared across its Most Similar Groups (MSG).



Source: www.police.uk

Volumes in CWAC were highest in July (2,245 offences/72.4 crime rate per day), May (2,232 offences/72.0 crime rate per day) and March (2,228 offences/71.9 crime rate per day), these months all recording a proportion of 9% of crime and a crime rate per day in the 70's. The month of August also recorded 9% (2,140 offences) of crime across the year, however the crime rate per day is lower than the other high demand months (69.0). Although September only recorded 8% of crime, with a volume count of 2,076 offences, anlysis shows that the rate per day in this month (69.2) is higher than the rate in August, therefore is also considered a high demand month.

[5] 'No Location' figures are included in overall Force figures; this is not a sum of the 4 Local Authorities.
[6] When calculating crime rates for Burglary offences, census household population data has been used.

The highest demand month throughout the Local Policing Units (LPUs) varies but is still in line with those for the whole of CWAC, for Chester LPU this is May (1,041 offences), for Ellesmere Port LPU this is July (633 offences) and for Northwich LPU this is March (706 offences). Peak months for the Force match those in CWAC.

Analysis of volumes throughout the area shows that the Chester LPU recorded 44% of the demand in 2024 (vs 44% in 2023), the rest of the demand being similar between Northwich LPU (29% vs 30% in 2023) and Ellesmere Port LPU (26% vs 25% in 2023). Demand throughout the Beat Team Clusters (BTCs) was highest in Chester City (16%), Ellesmere Port East (14%), Winsford (13%), Ellesmere Port West & Neston (12%), Chester North (11%) and Northwich North (10%), with all other clusters recording a proportion of less than 10%. The highest demand clusters in 2024 also presented with the highest demand in 2023, however with the addition of Chester South in 2023 (10% vs 9% in 2024).

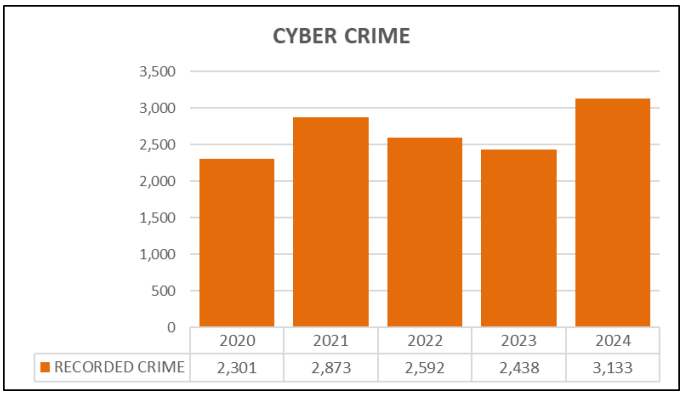
Beat Team Cluster	CRIME VOLUMES													
	2024-01	2024-02	2024-03	2024-04	2024-05	2024-06	2024-07	2024-08	2024-09	2024-10	2024-11	2024-12	Recorded Crime 2024	%
Chester	**906**	**822**	**929**	**857**	**1041**	**947**	**958**	**954**	**955**	**808**	**861**	**925**	**10963**	**44%**
Chester City	324	302	355	275	358	315	332	323	379	305	303	341	**3912**	**16%**
Chester North	197	207	221	205	286	246	246	243	229	187	198	202	**2667**	**11%**
Chester Rural & Frodsham	164	159	176	195	198	190	171	187	163	155	192	191	**2141**	**9%**
Chester South	221	154	177	182	199	196	209	201	184	161	168	191	**2243**	**9%**
Ellesmere Port	**494**	**485**	**593**	**582**	**577**	**537**	**633**	**548**	**538**	**560**	**534**	**490**	**6571**	**26%**
Ellesmere Port East	265	286	302	301	309	321	336	298	273	288	290	253	**3522**	**14%**
Ellesmere Port West & Neston	229	199	291	281	268	216	297	250	265	272	244	237	**3049**	**12%**
Northwich	**567**	**566**	**706**	**625**	**614**	**606**	**654**	**638**	**583**	**624**	**540**	**571**	**7294**	**29%**
Northwich North	183	187	206	222	194	205	208	234	182	251	187	225	**2484**	**10%**
Northwich South	137	129	159	133	140	143	125	128	144	122	108	117	**1585**	**6%**
Winsford	247	250	341	270	280	258	321	276	257	251	245	229	**3225**	**13%**
Grand Total	**1967**	**1873**	**2228**	**2064**	**2232**	**2090**	**2245**	**2140**	**2076**	**1992**	**1935**	**1986**	**24828**	**100%**
Percentage	**8%**	**8%**	**9%**	**8%**	**9%**	**8%**	**9%**	**9%**	**8%**	**8%**	**8%**	**8%**	**100%**	

When comparing both years, a reduction was recorded in Chester (-785 offences/-7%) and Northwich (-394 offences/-5%) LPU, although the reduction was larger in Chester. Ellesmere Port LPU was the only area to record an increase (+166 offences/+3%), with the two BTCs within recording the only increases across the area, both of which at a rate of 3% (Ellesmere Port East; +87 offences & Ellesmere Port West & Neston; +79 offences). The largest reduction across the CWAC area was recorded in the Chester South BTC, both in terms of volume (-268 offences) and percentage (-11%). The Chester City cluster was the only other area to record a reduction of over 200 offences (-246 offences/-6%), although the percentage reduction in Northwich South was larger (-7%/-118 offences).

Local Authority	All Crime change 2 years			
	2023	2024	Change	% Change
Chester	**11748**	**10963**	**-785**	**-7%**
Chester City	4158	3912	**-246**	**-6%**
Chester North	2823	2667	**-156**	**-6%**
Chester Rural & Frodsham	2256	2141	**-115**	**-5%**
Chester South	2511	2243	**-268**	**-11%**
Ellesmere Port	**6405**	**6571**	**166**	**3%**
Ellesmere Port East	3435	3522	**87**	**3%**
Ellesmere Port West & Neston	2970	3049	**79**	**3%**
Northwich	**7688**	**7294**	**-394**	**-5%**
Northwich North	2615	2484	**-131**	**-5%**
Northwich South	1703	1585	**-118**	**-7%**
Winsford	3370	3225	**-145**	**-4%**
Total	**25841**	**24828**	**-1013**	**-4%**

Cyber Crime

Cyber Crime in CWAC increased by 29% (+695 offences) in 2024 to the highest volumes recorded over the 5 year period (3,133 total offences).



Compared across the Force, CWAC recorded the second largest increase, with all other CSPs also increasing.

Local Authority	Cyber Crime			
	2023	2024	Change	% Change
Warrington	1520	1964	444	29%
Halton	1266	1591	325	26%
Cheshire West and Chester	**2438**	**3133**	**695**	**29%**
Cheshire East	2525	3273	748	30%
Force	**7829**	**10091**	**2262**	**29%**

The rate per 1,000 population for Cyber Crime in CWAC is lower than the rate for the Force (8.8 vs 9.2).

A crime can be classed as a Cyber Crime at any point by adding a flag, this flag can be added to any type of crime and as such there is a mixed profile. In CWAC, the top 3 crime types for Cyber Crime offences in 2024 were 'Harassment' (1,050 offences), 'Stalking' (633 offences) & 'Malicious communications' (368 offences), these accounting for 65% of Cyber Crime collectively. The largest proportion of Cyber Crimes sitting within the Stalking and Harassment HO group is also true for the Force and within each CSP.

33% (1,037 offences) of Cyber Crime in CWAC also had a Domestic Abuse flag, this suggests that technology and online systems plays a role in offenders committing Domestic related offences.

A large proportion of Cyber Crimes were also of a sexual nature, 'Obscene publications' (217 offences), 'Sexual Activity' (77 offences), 'Other miscellaneous sexual offences' (51 offences) and 'Sexual grooming' (35 offences) offences reflected the largest demand for Cyber Crime of a sexual nature within CWAC and Force figures. To further confirm this link, in CWAC, 10.1% (316 offences) of Cyber Crime also had a Child Sexual Abuse (CSA) flag.

Demand throughout the area for Cyber Crime offences was highest in Chester LPU (1,218 offences), although Northwich LPU also recorded over 1,000 offences (1,078 offences), with the Winsford BTC recording the highest demand across the area (543 offences). Despite Ellesmere Port LPU recording the lowest demand in 2024 (837 offences), Ellesmere Port West & Neston (450 offences) and Ellesmere Port East (387 offences) were the second and third most demanding clusters.

Demand was highest over the summer months with the period of May to September recording close to 300 offences each month and 1,150 offences collectively. The lowest volumes were recorded in January (216 offences), February (213 offences) and March (207 offences). These trends are also reflected in Force volumes.

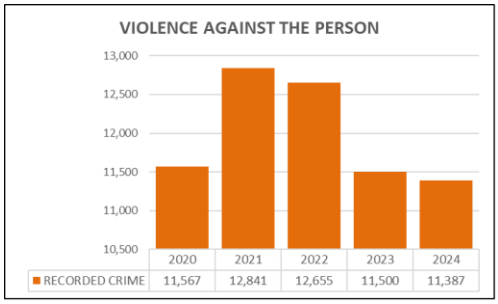
It is important to consider that volumes could be impacted by factors which would suggest increases are not due to more offences being committed alone. One example of this is the use of NDQIS[7] for the classification of Cyber Crimes, Cheshire Constabulary introduced this process in 2024 which has led to better recording and could contribute to the increase in volumes. Another impact upon volumes could be legislative changes, such as those to the Online Safety Act[8] in 2024 which extended the scope of offences that could be recorded, and which fit into the Cyber Crime category.

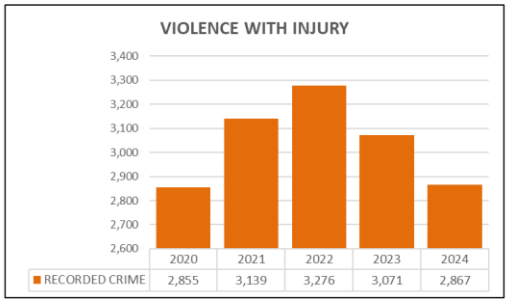
Violent Crime

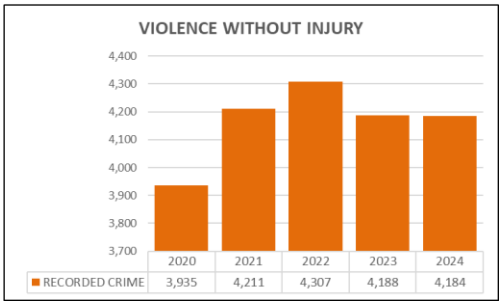
A small reduction of 1% (-113 offences) was recorded for Violence Against the Person HO group offences leading to a total of 11,387 offences in 2024 across the CWAC area.

A reduction was also recorded in the subcategory of 'Violence with Injury' offences (-204 offences/-7%), however for 'Violence without Injury' offences there was no change (0%/-4 offences).

Compared over the 5 year period, volumes for the HO group were the lowest in 2024 following 3 consecutive years of decreases. For Violence with Injury offences volumes reduced back to similar levels in 2020, and for Violence without Injury offences similar volumes have been recorded over the last 4 years.



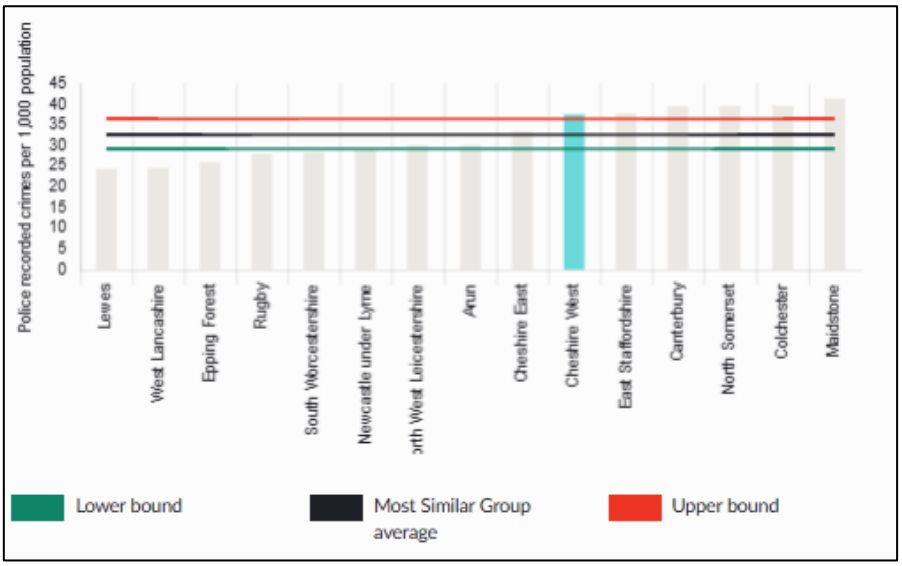




Compared across the Force, rates per 1,000 population for the Violence Against the Person HO group (31.9 vs 32.5 Force) and Violence with Injury (8.0 vs 8.2 Force) subgroup were lower in CWAC. For Violence without Injury offences however, the rate was larger in CWAC (11.7 vs 11.5 Force).

CWAC in the year ending September 2024 were in the 6th highest position (out of 15) for Violence (& sexual) offences when compared across its MSGs with a rate which was higher than the average (37.65 vs 32.72 MSG average).

[7] NDQIS is a computer assisted tool which helps improve the accuracy and consistency of data.
[8] Details can be found on legislation.gov.uk.



Source: www.police.uk

The reduction in CWAC was the same as that recorded at Force level (-1%), it was however the smallest when compared to reductions recorded in Halton (-3%) and Warrington (-2%), with Cheshire East being the only CSP to record an increase (+1%).

Monthly volumes show the highest number of offences were in March (1,054 offences) and July (1,057 offences), with no other months recording over 1,000 offences; of note, this matches the peak month for the Force (July). The lowest demand month for Violence Against the Person offences was October (872 offences).

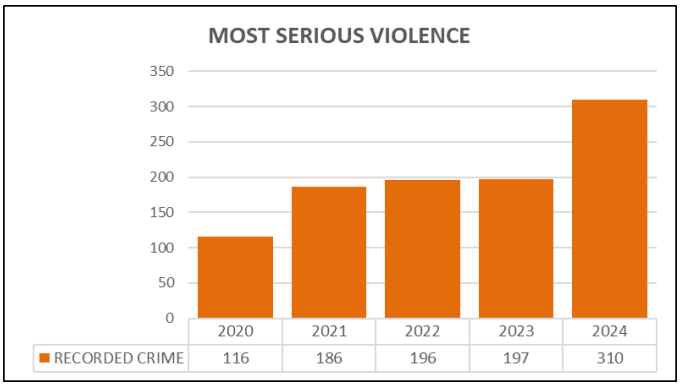
The reduction recorded was mostly influenced by a large reduction of 132 offences (-3%) in Chester LPU, a smaller reduction was also recorded in Northwich (-48 offences/-1%), however this had no impact overall due to an increase in Ellesmere Port (+67 offences/+2%). Reductions were recorded throughout the majority of the BTCs, the largest percentage reduction was recorded in Chester South (-10%/-103 offences), however a larger volume reduction was recorded in Chester North (-114 offences/-9%). Similar increases in the Chester City (+6%/+89 offences) and Ellesmere Port East (+5%/+70 offences) clusters reduced the impact of reductions throughout the other areas.

Beat Team Cluster	Violence Against the Person			
	2023	2024	Change	% Change
Chester	**4817**	**4685**	**-132**	**-3%**
Chester City	1446	1535	**89**	**6%**
Chester North	1327	1213	**-114**	**-9%**
Chester Rural & Frodsham	967	963	**-4**	**0%**
Chester South	1077	974	**-103**	**-10%**
Ellesmere Port	**2980**	**3047**	**67**	**2%**
Ellesmere Port East	1431	1501	**70**	**5%**
Ellesmere Port West & Neston	1549	1546	**-3**	**0%**
Northwich	**3703**	**3655**	**-48**	**-1%**
Northwich North	1101	1115	**14**	**1%**
Northwich South	886	827	**-59**	**-7%**
Winsford	1716	1713	**-3**	**0%**
Total	**11500**	**11387**	**-113**	**-1%**

Of the flags applied to crimes, 39% (4,476 offences) of Violence Against the Person group offences had a Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG) flag, a figure which is matched at Force level.

Most Serious Violence (MSV)[9]

Offences within the Most Serious Violence category increased by 57% (+113 offences) in 2024 to 310 offences recorded in CWAC. The offence volumes in 2024 were the highest over the 5 year period which was a 167% increase from 2020.



The increase in MSV offences in CWAC was the highest across the CSPs and was higher than the increase recorded for the Force.

Local Authority	Most Serious Violence			
	2023	2024	Change	% Change
Warrington	122	172	50	41%
Halton	102	156	54	53%
Cheshire West and Chester	**197**	**310**	**113**	**57%**
Cheshire East	240	328	88	37%
Force	**667**	**970**	**303**	**45%**

Rates per 1,000 population for MSV offences in CWAC and the Force are the same (0.9).

Volumes of MSV offences varied throughout the year ranging from 21 offences in March, April & June to 30 offences in February, 31 offences in December and 32 offences in September. The peak month in CWAC matches that for the Force.

Beat Team Cluster	Most Serious Violence			
	2023	2024	Change	% Change
Chester	**81**	**125**	**44**	**54%**
Chester City	31	47	**16**	**52%**
Chester North	20	29	**9**	**45%**
Chester Rural & Frodsham	16	25	**9**	**56%**
Chester South	14	24	**10**	**71%**
Ellesmere Port	**43**	**83**	**40**	**93%**
Ellesmere Port East	20	35	**15**	**75%**
Ellesmere Port West & Neston	23	48	**25**	**109%**
Northwich	**73**	**102**	**29**	**40%**
Northwich North	23	33	**10**	**43%**
Northwich South	14	12	**-2**	**-14%**
Winsford	36	57	**21**	**58%**
Total	**197**	**310**	**113**	**57%**

Volume changes show increases in each LPU across the area, Ellesmere Port recorded the largest percentage increase of 93% (+40 offences), however Chester recorded a larger volume increase of 44 offences (+54%). Volumes throughout the BTCs increased mostly in Ellesmere Port West & Neston

[9] Most Serious Violence offences include Assault with Intent to cause Serious Harm, Attempted Murder, Causing death by aggravated vehicle taking, Causing death by careless or inconsiderate driving, Causing death by dangerous driving, Causing or allowing the death of a child of vulnerable person, Corporate manslaughter, Endangering life, Infanticide, Intentional destruction of a viable unborn child & Manslaughter.

recording an additional 25 offences (+109%). The only reduction recorded across the area was in Northwich South of 14% and 2 less offences.

Offence type breakdown highlights that most offences were recorded as 'Assault with Intent to Cause Serious Harm' in both 2023 (173 offences) and 2024 (241 offences), a proportional decrease of 10.1pp was however recorded in 2024 (77.7% in 2024 vs 87.8% in 2023), despite an increase in volumes. This reduction corresponds with a proportional increase in 'Endangering life' offences in 2024 (19.0%/59 offences in 2024 vs 4.1%/8 offences in 2023).

Looking further into these offences shows that the majority had a 'Stranger' (34.7%) or Acquaintance' (25.6%) relationship, this is also true for the other CSPs across the Force and suggests that for most offences the victim does not know the offender.

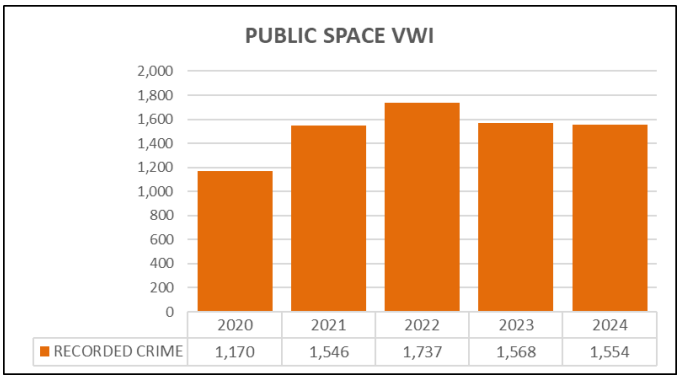
Public Space Violence with Injury

In 2024, a small reduction of 1% was recorded for Public Space Violence with Injury (VWI) offences, a total of 1,554 offences were recorded in CWAC which was 14 less offences from the previous year.

The reduction recorded in CWAC matches that recorded at Force level (-1%), it is however larger than that that recorded in Warrington (0%) but smaller than that recorded in Halton (-7%). Cheshire East recorded the only increase (+2%).

The rate per 1,000 population for Public Space VWI offences in CWAC (4.4) is higher than the Force (4.2).

Comparison across the 5 year period shows volumes continue to reduce to similar levels in 2021.



Analysis shows that volumes were lowest in January (107 offences) and highest in May (151 offences) and July (152 offence), this matching peaks in the Force.

Looking at changes throughout the area shows the small reduction overall was due to opposite changes in Northwich (+30 offences/+7%) and Chester (-35 offences/-4%). Throughout the clusters the largest changes were recorded in Winsford (+23 offences/+12%) and Chester North (-19 offences/-12%).

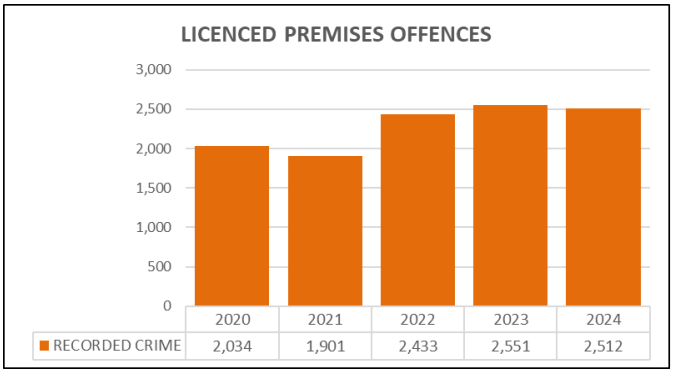
Licenced Premise & Licenced Premise Violence with Injury (VWI)

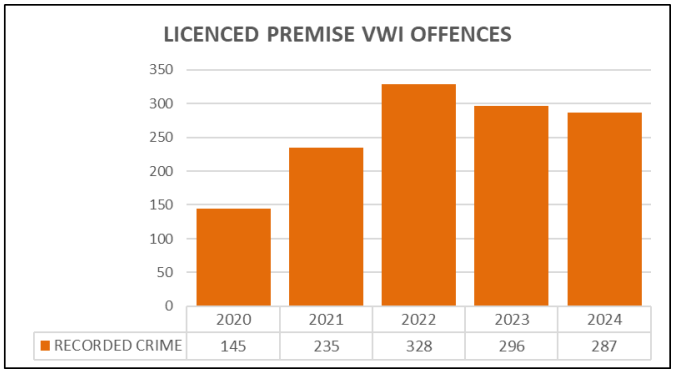
Licenced Premise offences in CWAC reduced by 2% in 2024 (2,512 total offences/-39 offences) with a similar but slightly larger reduction of 3% being recorded for Licenced Premise VWI offences (287 total offences/-9 offences).

The rate per 1,000 population for Licenced Premise offences is smaller in CWAC than the Force (7.0 vs 7.1 Force), however for Licenced Premise VWI offences it is larger (0.8 vs 0.7 Force).

Compared across the Force, CWAC was the only CSP to record a reduction in Licenced Premise offences (Cheshire East; +17%, Warrington; +13% & Halton; +13%). For Licenced Premise VWI offences however Halton (-15%) and Warrington (-9%) also recorded reductions however of a much larger amount, with Cheshire East recording the only increase (+18%).

Comparisons over the 5 year period shown that Licenced Premise offences recorded the first reduction since 2021 and that Licenced Premise VWI offences recorded the second reduction following a peak in 2022.





Licenced Premise offences were highest in May (245 offences) and July (249 offences) and lowest in April (181 offences), this does not match Force trends (peak month of August). For Licenced Premise VWI offences the highest demand month was also May (31 offences), however the second highest demand month was December (38 offences), with the lowest demand month being November (17 offences); this matches the peak for the Force. Both offence types can be influenced by the night-time economy.

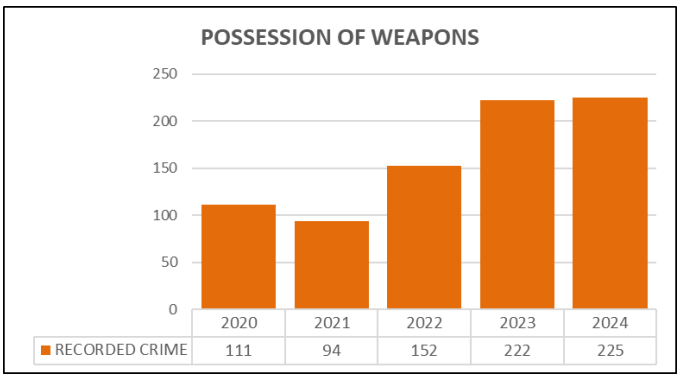
Volumes across the area show that the little change to Licenced Premise offences was due to conflicting changes in Northwich LPU (-116 offences/-17%) and Ellesmere Port LPU (+78 offences/15%). For Licenced Premise VWI offences, similar volume reductions were recorded in Chester LPU (-12 offences/-7%) and Northwich LPU (-10 offences/-12%), the impact of these being reduced by an increase in Ellesmere Port LPU (+13 offences/+35%).

Possession of Weapons

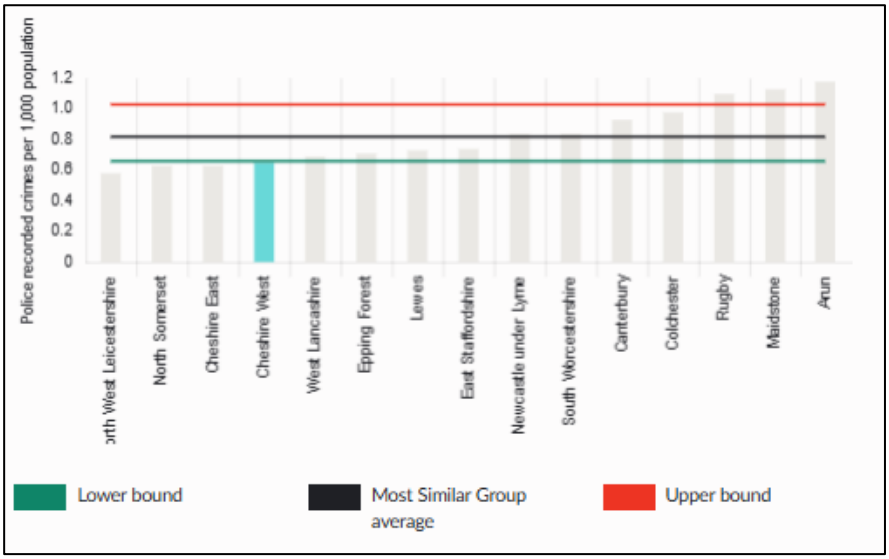
Possession of Weapon offences in CWAC increased by a small amount of 3 additional offences in 2024 (+1%/225 total offences), this is considerably smaller than the 46% increase recorded in 2023. Compared across the Force this increase matches that recorded in Cheshire East (+1%), it is however opposite to reductions recorded in Halton (-25%) and Warrington (-21%). At Force level a reduction of 8% was recorded, despite a larger reduction recorded at Force level, the rate per 1,000 population in CWAC is smaller (0.6 vs 0.7 Force).

It is important to consider that increases could be due to increases in proactive policing, such as stop searches, rather than an actual increase in members of the public possessing weapons.

Comparisons over the 5 year period show that the volumes in 2024 were the highest over the 5 year period with an increase of 103% from 2020.



Possession of Weapon offences for the year ending September 2024 in CWAC sit in the 4th lowest position (out of 15) with a rate which is lower than the MSG average (0.65 vs 0.82 MSG average).



Source: www.police.uk

Possession of Weapon offences were highest in 2024 in April (26 offences), June (26 offences) and August (25 offences), this matching the peak month for the Force (August).

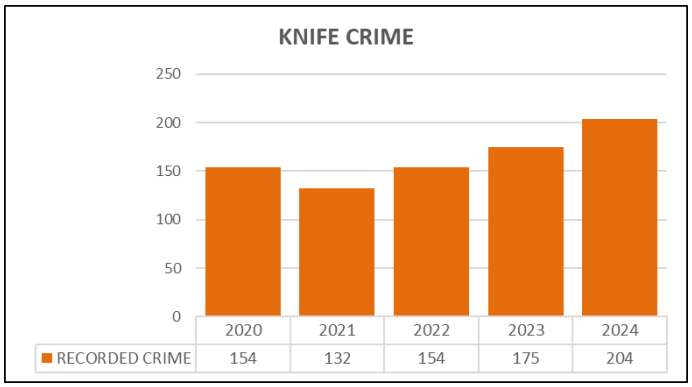
The small increase of 1% for Possession of Weapon offences was due to similar but conflicting changes in Chester LPU (-10 offences/-9%) and Ellesmere Port LPU (+9 offences/+17%), the percentage change in Ellesmere Port was however larger. Single digit changes were recorded across the majority of the BTCs, the exception being Chester North increasing by 10 offences (+50%) and Chester City reducing by 24 offences (-42%). A larger percentage change was however recorded in Northwich South (+5 offences/+56%).

Beat Team Cluster	Possession of Weapons			
	2023	2024	Change	% Change
Chester	**107**	**97**	**-10**	**-9%**
Chester City	57	33	**-24**	**-42%**
Chester North	20	30	**10**	**50%**
Chester Rural & Frodsham	14	15	**1**	**7%**
Chester South	16	19	**3**	**19%**
Ellesmere Port	**54**	**63**	**9**	**17%**
Ellesmere Port East	28	34	**6**	**21%**
Ellesmere Port West & Neston	26	29	**3**	**12%**
Northwich	**61**	**65**	**4**	**7%**
Northwich North	21	27	**6**	**29%**
Northwich South	9	14	**5**	**56%**
Winsford	31	24	**-7**	**-23%**
Total	**222**	**225**	**3**	**1%**

Knife Crime

Knife Crime offences for this measure uses a definition decided by the Home Office[10], as such the criteria has been narrowed down to specific crime types only and could result in a under representation of the true picture.

There was a total of 204 Knife Crime offences in CWAC in 2024 which was an additional 29 offences and an increase of 17%. Compared across the comparative period, 2024 volumes were the highest.



The rate per 1,000 population for Knife Crime offences in CWAC is the same as the Force rate (0.6).

Comparison across the Force shows CWAC recorded the second largest increase, with Cheshire East recording the largest (+18%) (Halton; +3%) and Warrington recording the only reduction (-18%). The increase in CWAC was larger than that recorded at Force level (+8%).

Monthly volumes show the largest volumes throughout the year were recorded in December (26 offences), with November (22 offences) being the only other month to record over 20 offences; these peak months are opposite to the peak in Force volumes (January). The lowest volumes throughout the year for Knife Crime offences were February and October which both recorded 11 offences each.

Knife crime offences in each LPU increased in 2024 with Chester recording both the largest volume (+17 offences) and percentage (+29%) change. Increases were also recorded in the majority of

[10] Data regarding knife or sharp instrument offences recorded by the police are submitted to the Home Office via an additional special collection. This special collection includes the offences: homicide; attempted murder; threats to kill; assault with injury and assault with intent to cause serious harm; robbery; rape; and sexual assault

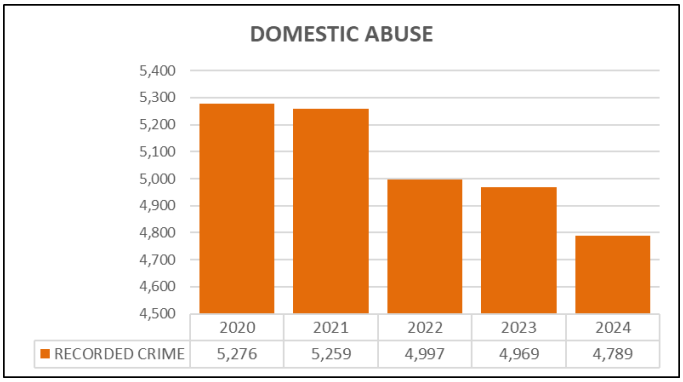
clusters, most notably Northwich North increased by 15 offences and 115%. Despite the overall increase, both Northwich South (-8 offences/-47%) and Winsford (-5 offences/-15%) reduced.

Beat Team Cluster	Knife Crime			
	2023	2024	Change	% Change
Chester	**58**	**75**	**17**	**29%**
Chester City	23	26	**3**	**13%**
Chester North	16	20	**4**	**25%**
Chester Rural & Frodsham	6	9	**3**	**50%**
Chester South	13	20	**7**	**54%**
Ellesmere Port	**53**	**63**	**10**	**19%**
Ellesmere Port East	31	31	**0**	**0%**
Ellesmere Port West & Neston	22	32	**10**	**45%**
Northwich	**64**	**66**	**2**	**3%**
Northwich North	13	28	**15**	**115%**
Northwich South	17	9	**-8**	**-47%**
Winsford	34	29	**-5**	**-15%**
Total	**175**	**204**	**29**	**17%**

Domestic Abuse

Domestic related offences

There were 4,789 Domestic related offences recorded in CWAC in 2024, this was a 4% reduction (-180 offences) from 2023 and resulted in the lowest volumes over the 5 year period.



This reduction meant that in the rate per 1,000 population in CWAC reduced from 13.9 to 13.4 in 2024 which is below the rate for the Force (13.7).

The reduction recorded in CWAC was similar to reductions recorded across the Force.

Local Authority	Domestic Abuse			
	2023	2024	Change	% Change
Warrington	2942	2800	-142	-5%
Halton	2573	2461	-112	-4%
Cheshire West and Chester	**4969**	**4789**	**-180**	**-4%**
Cheshire East	5042	4800	-242	-5%
Force	**15605**	**14969**	**-636**	**-4%**

There have been no crime recording changes of note in 2024 which could have affected the recording of Domestic related offences, reductions however could still be affected by the introduction of the 'Principal Crime Rule'[11] in the previous year.

[11] See appendix for explanation.

The profile of Domestic related offences has not changed much between 2023 and 2024, 'Assault without Injury' (2024; 22.9% vs 2023; 25.2%), 'Stalking' (2024; 17.8% vs 2023; 16.5%) and 'Assault with Injury' (2024; 16.1% vs 2023; 18.1%) were the top 3 recorded offences in both years, with a proportional increase to Stalking offences (+1.3pp). These offences together accounted for over half (56.8%) of the Domestic related offences recorded in CWAC in 2024.

Monthly volumes show the highest number of offences were recorded in December (447 offences), June (428 offences) and August and March (425 offences each); June matches the peak month for the Force and coincides with dates of the European football. Domestic related offence volumes were lowest in October (349 offences).

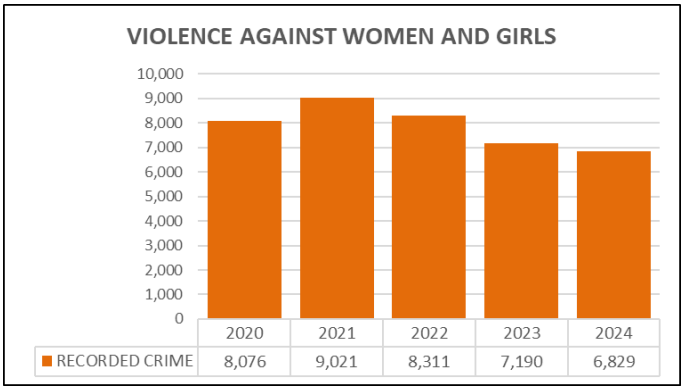
Volumes throughout the area show a much larger decrease in Northwich LPU (-167 offences/-10%) than in Chester LPU (-21 offences/-1%), a change which is also larger than the increase in Ellesmere Port LPU (+8 offences/+1%). BTC analysis shows the largest change across CWAC was a reduction of 70 offences and 14% in Northwich North, a 14% reduction was however also recorded in Northwich South (-60 offences). The largest percentage change across the area was an increase of 18% in Chester Rural & Frodsham (+67 offences).

Beat Team Cluster	Domestic Abuse			
	2023	2024	Change	% Change
Chester	**1827**	**1806**	**-21**	**-1%**
Chester City	421	386	**-35**	**-8%**
Chester North	569	501	**-68**	**-12%**
Chester Rural & Frodsham	380	447	**67**	**18%**
Chester South	457	472	**15**	**3%**
Ellesmere Port	**1390**	**1398**	**8**	**1%**
Ellesmere Port East	677	666	**-11**	**-2%**
Ellesmere Port West & Neston	713	732	**19**	**3%**
Northwich	**1752**	**1585**	**-167**	**-10%**
Northwich North	501	431	**-70**	**-14%**
Northwich South	438	378	**-60**	**-14%**
Winsford	813	776	**-37**	**-5%**
Total	**4969**	**4789**	**-180**	**-4%**

Of note, 66% (3,166 offences) of Domestic related offences also had a VAWG flag and suggests many victims identify as female.

Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG)

VAWG offences reduced by 5% (-361 offences/6,829 total offences) in 2024 across CWAC, this resulted in the rate per 1,000 population also reducing from 20.1 to 19.1 which is below the Force rate (19.2). The volumes in 2024 were the lowest when compared across the 5 year period.



The reduction recorded in CWAC was the largest in terms of volumes when compared across the Force, the percentage change in Halton however was larger, despite similar volumes (-10%/-359 offences) (Warrington; -3% & Cheshire East; -3%). The reduction in CWAC was larger than the reduction for the Force (-4%).

Volumes of VAWG offences across CWAC peaked in May (623 offences), volumes also reached over 600 in a number of other months (March; 619 offences, July; 615 offences & June; 613 offences); these high demand months are reflected in Force volumes. The lowest volume month of October (513 offences) coincides with the lowest volume month for Domestic related offences.

Reductions were recorded across all LPUs in CWAC with similar volume reductions recorded in Ellesmere Port (-142 offences/-7%) and Northwich (-146 offences/-6%). All but one cluster (Chester Rural & Frodsham; +26 offences/+4%) recorded reductions in 2024, the largest one in terms of both volumes and percentage in Northwich South (-77 offences/-13%).

Beat Team Cluster	Violence Against Women and Girls			
	2023	2024	Change	% Change
Chester	**2831**	**2758**	**-73**	**-3%**
Chester City	704	694	**-10**	**-1%**
Chester North	818	762	**-56**	**-7%**
Chester Rural & Frodsham	631	657	**26**	**4%**
Chester South	678	645	**-33**	**-5%**
Ellesmere Port	**2019**	**1877**	**-142**	**-7%**
Ellesmere Port East	976	901	**-75**	**-8%**
Ellesmere Port West & Neston	1043	976	**-67**	**-6%**
Northwich	**2340**	**2194**	**-146**	**-6%**
Northwich North	697	646	**-51**	**-7%**
Northwich South	593	516	**-77**	**-13%**
Winsford	1050	1032	**-18**	**-2%**
Total	**7190**	**6829**	**-361**	**-5%**

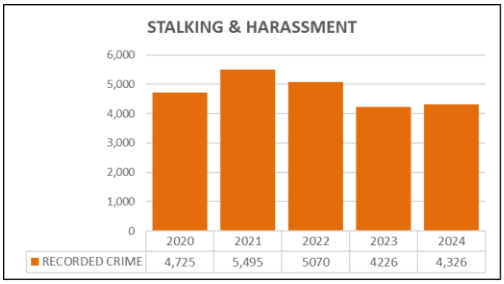
Stalking and Harassment

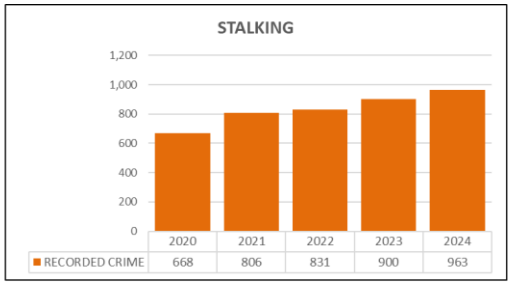
There was little change to Stalking and Harassment HO group[12] offence volumes across CWAC which recorded a 2% increase (+100 offences/4,326 total offences) in 2024, this being much smaller than the 17% increase in the previous year.

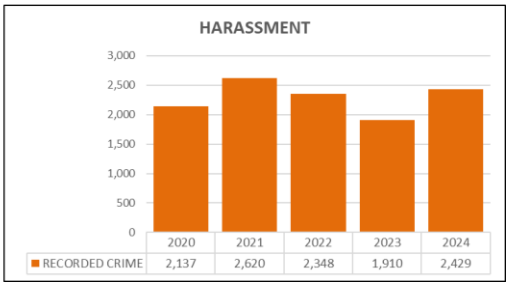
For the offences within this group however, increases were much larger ('Harassment'; +27%/+519 offences/2,429 total offences, 'Controlling or Coercive Behaviour'; +11%/+48 offences/480 total offences & 'Stalking'; +7%/+63 offences/963 total offences), with a reduction recorded in 'Malicious Communication' offences (-54%/-530 offences/454 total offences).

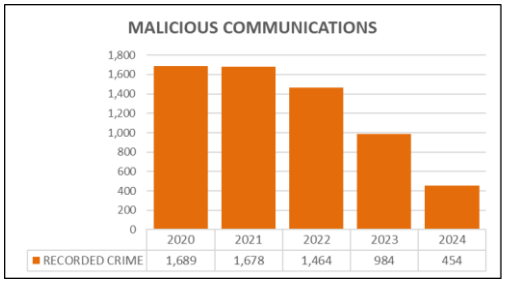
[12] The Stalking and Harassment Home Office group includes the following offences: Controlling or Coercive behaviour, Malicious Communications, Harassment, Racially or Religiously aggravated Harassment and Stalking.

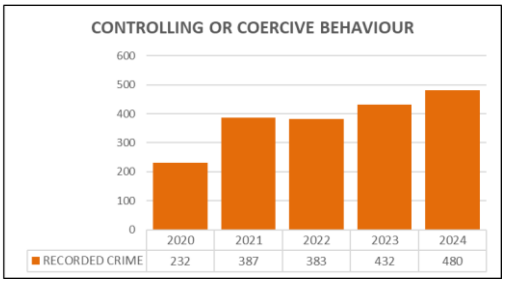
Compared over the 5 year period, the increase to Stalking and Harassment HO group offences and to Harassment offences was the first one following two previous years of decreases. The 2024 volumes for Stalking and Controlling or Coercive behaviour offences were the highest over the 5 year period and for Malicious Communication offences, 2024 volumes were the lowest over the 5 year period.











Compared across the Force, changes in CWAC to the Stalking and Harassment HO group were similar to the rest of the CSPs (Cheshire East; +2%, Halton; +2% & Warrington; +1%). For Stalking offences, the volume change in CWAC was the largest, however the percentage change in Halton was larger (+8%). The increase in CWAC for Controlling or Coercive behaviour offences was second largest to Cheshire East (+15%). Lastly, the increase in CWAC for Harassment offences and the decrease in Malicious Communication offences was the largest in terms of both volumes and percentage.

Rate per 1,000 population figures in 2024 across CWAC were either lower than, or the same as, the rate for the Force: Stalking and Harassment HO group (12.1 vs 12.7 Force), Harassment (6.8 vs 7.0 Force), Stalking (2.7 vs 2.9 Force), Malicious Communications (1.3 vs 1.3) and Controlling or Coercive behaviour (1.3 vs 1.5 Force).

Volumes peaked in July (396 offences), March (386 offences) and January (382 offences), with the lowest volumes recorded in February (316 offences); this matches the Forces peak month (July).

Beat Team Cluster	Stalking & Harassment offences			
	2023	2024	Change	% Change
Chester	**1543**	**1640**	**97**	**6%**
Chester City	275	366	**91**	**33%**
Chester North	450	446	**-4**	**-1%**
Chester Rural & Frodsham	358	408	**50**	**14%**
Chester South	460	420	**-40**	**-9%**
Ellesmere Port	**1178**	**1227**	**49**	**4%**
Ellesmere Port East	541	576	**35**	**6%**
Ellesmere Port West & Neston	637	651	**14**	**2%**
Northwich	**1505**	**1459**	**-46**	**-3%**
Northwich North	406	416	**10**	**2%**
Northwich South	395	352	**-43**	**-11%**
Winsford	704	691	**-13**	**-2%**
Total	**4226**	**4326**	**100**	**2%**

Comparison of volumes throughout CWAC shown that Northwich LPU, despite an increase recorded for the whole CSP, recorded a reduction (-46 offences/-3%), this was due to decreases in Malicious Communications offences. The largest increase across the LPUs was recorded in Chester (+97 offences/+6%) due to increases in Harassment offences; Chester recorded the highest demand in both years. The highest demand cluster is Winsford within Northwich LPU. Increases were recorded in the majority of clusters, most notably in Chester City (+91 offences/+33%), with a similar volume decrease in Northwich South (-43 offences/-11%) and Chester South (-40 offences/-9%).

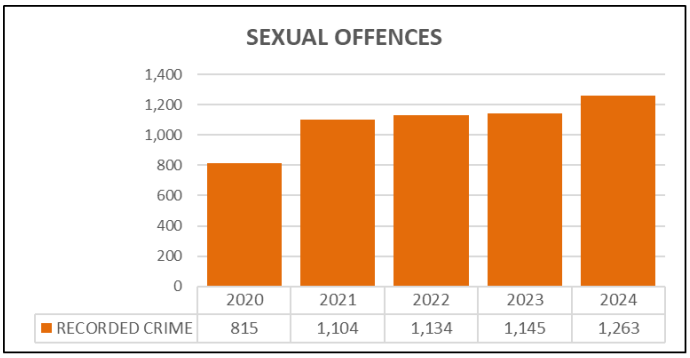
Chester LPU was mostly responsible for the increase in Harassment offences (38%/197 offences) and Controlling or Coercive behaviour offences (65%/31 offences), for Stalking offences this was Ellesmere Port LPU (68%/43 offences) and lastly Northwich LPU recorded most of the decrease in Malicious Communication offences (39%/204 offences).

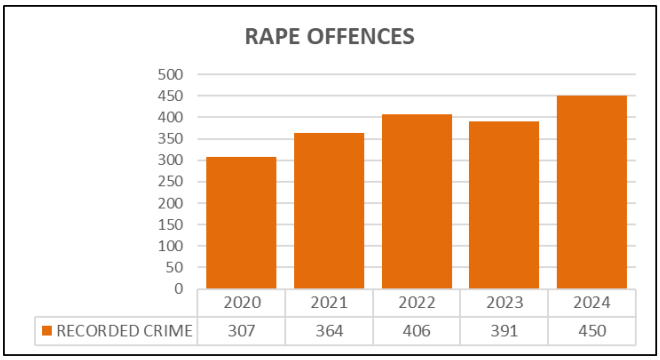
Of the Stalking and Harassment offences recorded, 40% (1,731 offences) also had a Domestic Abuse flag, for Stalking offences this figure is much higher at 87% which is similar to the figure for the Force (88%). 59% (2,559 offences) of Stalking and Harassment offences also had a VAWG flag, this figure matches that for the Force and suggests that the majority of victims identify as female, like it also does for Domestic related offences.

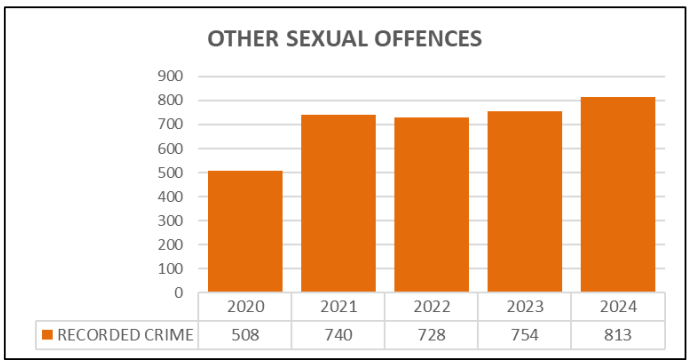
Sexual Offences

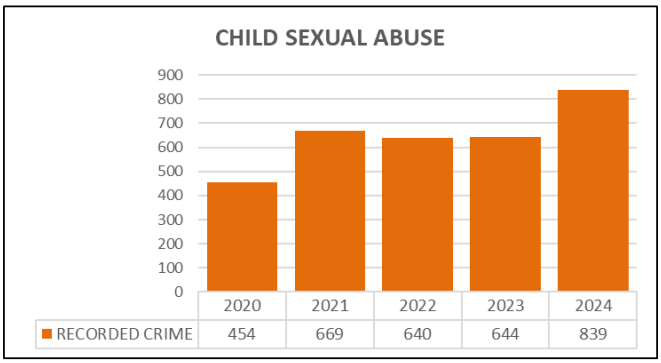
Sexual offences across CWAC in 2024 increased by 10% (+118 offences/1,263 total offences), increases were also recorded for the offences within this group; 'Rape' offences (+15%/+59 offences/450 total offences) and 'Other Sexual Offences'[13] (+8%/+59 offences/813 total offences). A much larger increase of 30% (+195 offences) was also recorded for 'Child Sexual Abuse' offences (839 total offences).

Volumes recorded in 2024 were the highest over the 5 year period for all offences highlighted above.









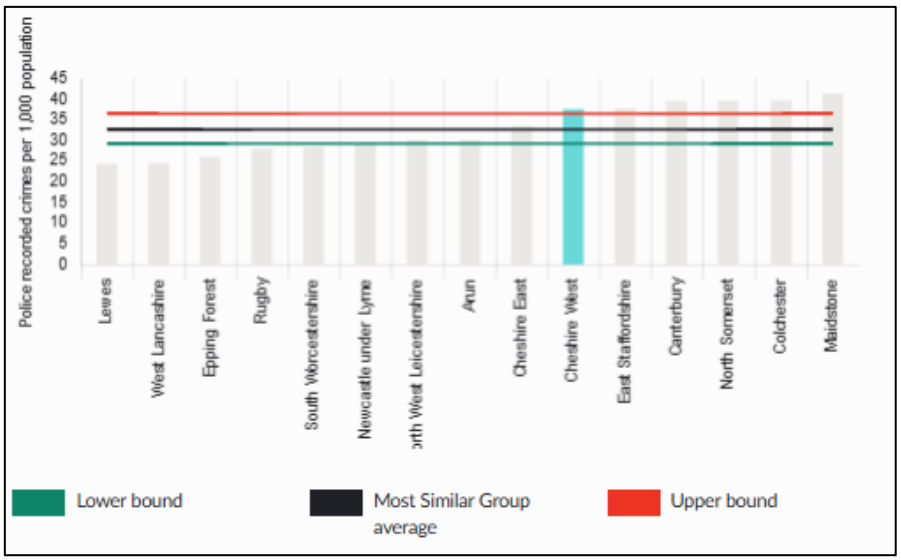
[13] Other Sexual Offences is all other offences within the Sexual Offences Home Office group, excluding Rape offences.

The increase to Sexual Offences in CWAC was the second smallest percentage change but second largest volume change when compared to the CSPs. The increase in CWAC was slightly smaller than the increase for the Force (+11%).

Local Authority	Sexual Offences			
	2023	2024	Change	% Change
Warrington	724	827	103	14%
Halton	508	530	22	4%
Cheshire West and Chester	**1145**	**1263**	**118**	**10%**
Cheshire East	1174	1305	131	11%
Force	**3625**	**4018**	**393**	**11%**

Rates per 1,000 population in CWAC were smaller than, or the same as, rates for the Force: Sexual Offences HO group (3.5 vs 3.7 Force), Rape offences (1.3 vs 1.3 Force), Other Sexual Offences (2.3 vs 2.3 Force) & Child Sexual Abuse offences (2.3 vs 2.4 Force).

CWAC in the year ending September 2024 were in the 6th highest position (out of 15) for Sexual (& violence) offences when compared across its MSGs with a rate which was higher than the average (37.65 vs 32.72 MSG average).



Source: www.police.uk

The highest volumes throughout the year were recorded in May (128 offences), June (123 offences) and March (121 offences), with no other months recording over 120 offences. The lowest volume months all recorded under 100 offences and were January (84 offences), August (89 offences) and April (95 offences). The same trend was observed in volumes of both Rape and Other Sexual Offences and in Force volumes.

It is important to consider the impact of external factors, such as the media, in volumes and reporting of Sexual Offences, one clear example of this is the creation of Operation Yewtree as a result of increased reports of historical Sexual Offences due to high profile celebrity cases within the media.

Volumes across the CSP show increases in both Chester LPU (+34 offences/+7%) and Northwich LPU (+84 offences/+25%) whereas Ellesmere Port LPU recorded no change. The increase in Chester was mostly due to an increase in Rape offences, whereas in Northwich LPU it was due to an increase in Other Sexual Offences. BTC changes show the largest increase across the area was recorded in Winsford (+66 offences/+58%), and although an increase was recorded overall, some clusters recorded reductions, most notably in Chester City (-34 offences/-17%).

For Rape offences, it was Ellesmere Port LPU which recorded most of the increase (+30 offences/+36%). The increase in Other Sexual Offences was due to a large increase in Northwich LPU (+74 offences/+37%), the impact of this however being reduced by a decrease in Ellesmere Port (-30 offences/-14%). For Child Sexual Abuse offences Northwich LPU recorded the largest increase (+139 offences/+68%).

Beat Team Cluster	Sexual offences			
	2023	2024	Change	% Change
Chester	**510**	**544**	**34**	**7%**
Chester City	201	167	**-34**	**-17%**
Chester North	118	156	**38**	**32%**
Chester Rural & Frodsham	96	110	**14**	**15%**
Chester South	95	111	**16**	**17%**
Ellesmere Port	**298**	**298**	**0**	**0%**
Ellesmere Port East	152	140	**-12**	**-8%**
Ellesmere Port West & Neston	146	158	**12**	**8%**
Northwich	**337**	**421**	**84**	**25%**
Northwich North	132	124	**-8**	**-6%**
Northwich South	91	117	**26**	**29%**
Winsford	114	180	**66**	**58%**
Total	**1145**	**1263**	**118**	**10%**

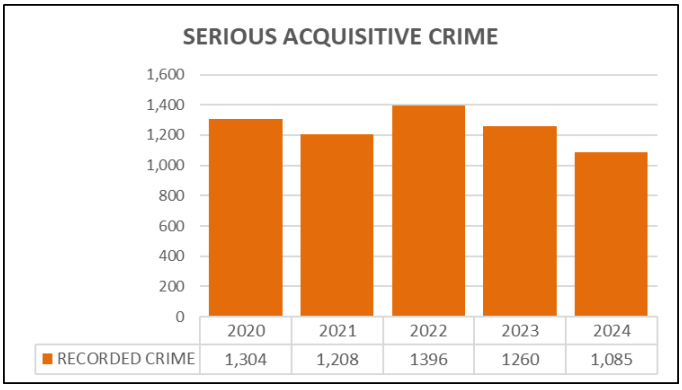
Looking at the different crime types within the Sexual Offences HO group shows the most notable increase occurred in 'Exposure and Voyeurism' offences (+46 offences/+100%). 'Other Miscellaneous Sexual Offences' increased by 6400% (+64 offences), this however is linked to the creation of new offences under the 'Online Safety Act'[14].

Of note, 62% (787 offences) of Sexual offences in CWAC also had a VAWG flag.

Serious Acquisitive Crimes

Serious Acquisitive Crime (SAC)[15] is not a Home Office offence group, it was created to act as an umbrella category for selected Burglary, Robbery and Vehicle offences.

SAC offences in 2024 reduced by 14% (-175 offences) across CWAC to 1,085 offences, rates per 1,000 population figures also reduced and are below the rate for the Force (3.0 vs 4.0 Force). Comparison of yearly volumes shows that the reduction in 2024 brings volumes to their lowest over the 5 years.



[14] Details can be found on legislation.gov.uk.
[15] Serious Acquisitive Crime consists of the following offences: Residential Burglary, Robbery of Business Property, Robbery of Personal Property, Aggravated Vehicle taking, Theft from a Vehicle and Theft or unauthorised taking of a Motor Vehicle.

The reduction in CWAC was larger than that recorded at Force level (-10%) and was the second largest when compared across the Force (Warrington; -20%, Halton; -6% & Cheshire East; -5%); these reductions interestingly do not reflect the projected increase due to the cost of living crisis.

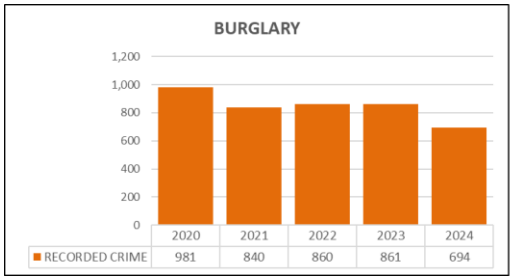
Of the offence types within the SAC group, 'Burglary' offences accounted for 46%, 'Vehicle' offences accounted for 42% and lastly 'Robbery' offences accounted for the smallest amount of 12%

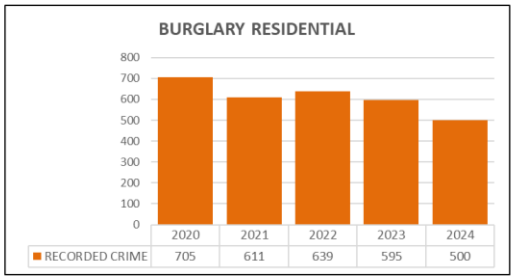
Serious Acquisitive crime volumes were highest in August (107 offences) following an upwards trend from June (77 offences), with a spike also recorded in October (107 offences). The lowest volume month across the year was December. Force volumes were however highest in July and lowest in June.

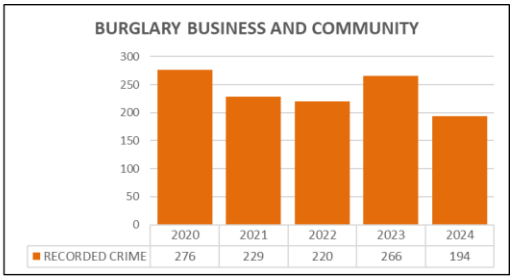
Burglary

Burglary offences reduced by 19% (-167 offences) in CWAC in 2024 to a total of 694 offences, the same trend was also mirrored in the subcategories of 'Residential Burglary' (-16%/-95 offences/500 total offences) and 'Business & Community Burglary' (-27%/-72 offences/194 total offences).

For all Burglary, Residential Burglary and Business & Community burglary, the volumes in 2024 were the lowest over the comparative period.



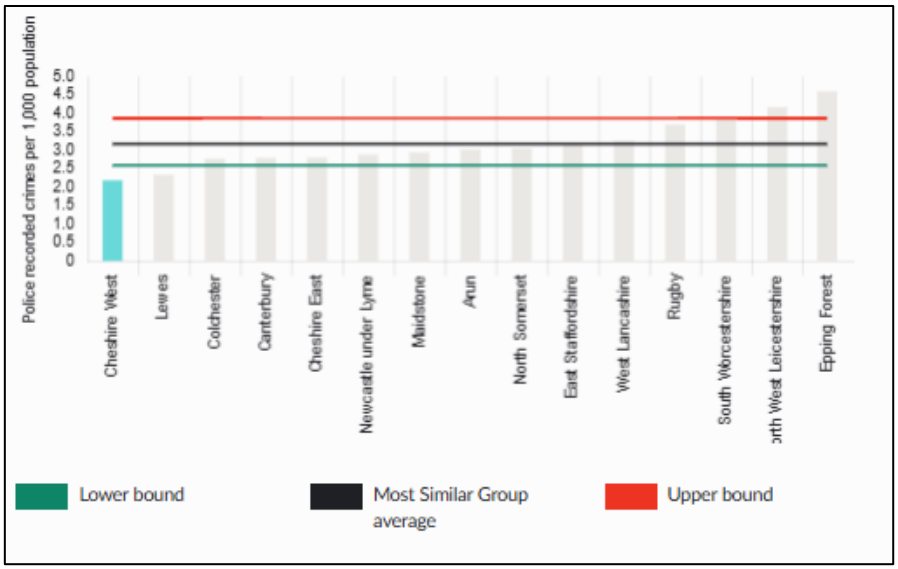




The reduction in CWAC was the largest when compared across the CSPs (Halton; -10%, Warrington; -7% & Cheshire East; -4%) and was more than double that recorded at Force level (-9%).

The rate per 1,000 household in CWAC is smaller than the rate for the Force for all Burglary (4.5 vs 5.7), Residential Burglary (3.2 vs 4.2) and Business & Community Burglary (1.3 vs 1.5).

The position of CWAC in the year ending September 2024 for Burglary offences was the lowest out of the 15 most similar LAs, the rate was also much smaller than the MSG average (2.19 vs 3.18).



Source: www.police.uk

Analysis of monthly volumes shows peaks of Burglary offences in March (71 offences) and July (70 offences) with December recording the lowest volumes (32 offences). This same monthly trend is mirrored in both types of Burglary and in Force volumes.

Burglary offences reduced across the whole CWAC area, the largest volume and percentage change occurred in Chester LPU (-120 offences/-27%) and was mostly due to a reduction in Residential Burglary. In terms of BTC changes, Chester South recorded the largest reduction (-47 offences/-39%) due to a reduction in Residential Burglary. A similar volume reduction was also recorded in Chester Rural & Frodsham (-46 offences/-33%), again due to a reduction in Residential Burglary. Ellesmere Port East was the only cluster to record an increase, albeit of small volumes (+2 offences/+2%).

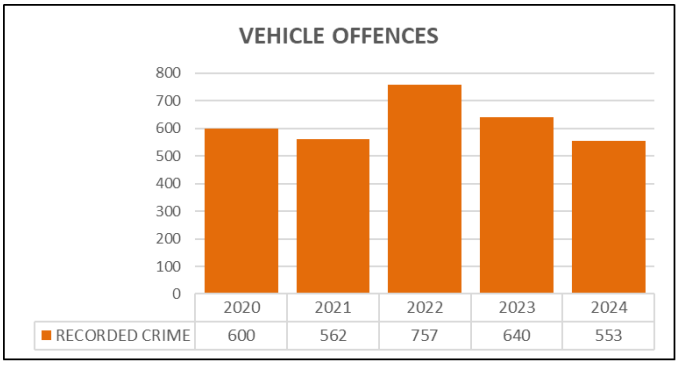
All of the reduction in Residential Burglary occurred in Chester LPU (-109 offences/-34%) as increases were recorded in Northwich (+13 offences/+9%) and Ellesmere Port (+2 offences/+2%). For Business & Community Burglary it was Northwich LPU that recorded most of the reduction (-53%/-49 offences).

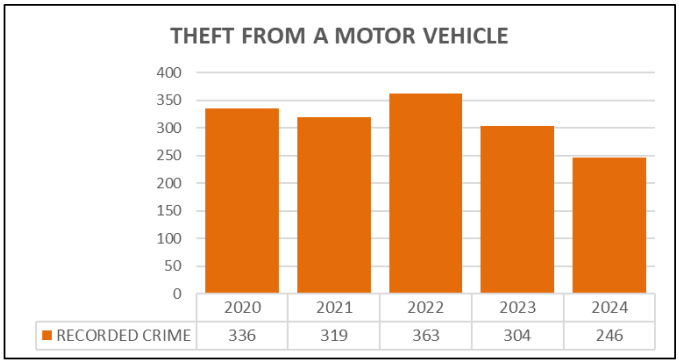
Beat Team Cluster	Burglary offences			
	2023	2024	Change	% Change
Chester	**439**	**319**	**-120**	**-27%**
Chester City	95	81	**-14**	**-15%**
Chester North	84	71	**-13**	**-15%**
Chester Rural & Frodsham	140	94	**-46**	**-33%**
Chester South	120	73	**-47**	**-39%**
Ellesmere Port	**176**	**166**	**-10**	**-6%**
Ellesmere Port East	81	83	**2**	**2%**
Ellesmere Port West & Neston	95	83	**-12**	**-13%**
Northwich	**246**	**209**	**-37**	**-15%**
Northwich North	89	72	**-17**	**-19%**
Northwich South	71	58	**-13**	**-18%**
Winsford	86	79	**-7**	**-8%**
Total	**861**	**694**	**-167**	**-19%**

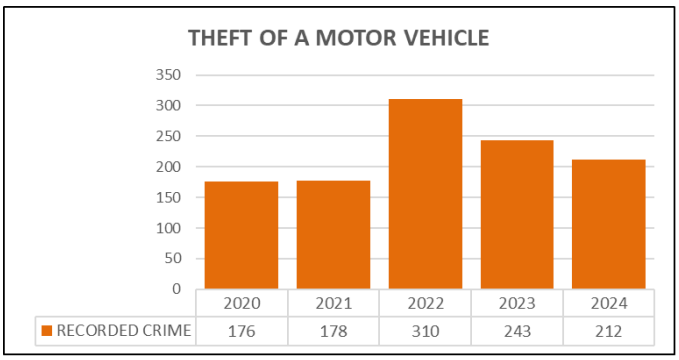
Vehicle

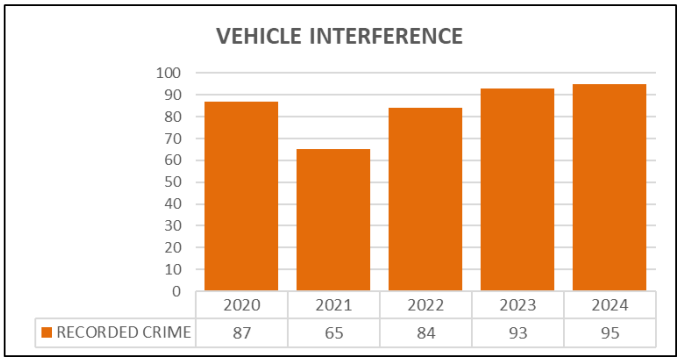
Volumes recorded in the Vehicle offences HO group decreased by 14% in CWAC in 2024 (-87 offences/553 total offences), a reduction was also recorded in the subcategories of 'Theft from a Motor Vehicle' (-19%/-58 offences/246 total offences) and 'Theft of a Motor Vehicle' (-13%/-31 offences/212 total offences), however an increase was recorded in 'Vehicle Interference' (+2%/+2 offences/95 total offences).

The changes for all Vehicle offences carried on the trend recorded in the previous year.









Comparison across the Force shows that the reduction in CWAC was second largest to Warrington (-27%) with Halton (-6%) and Cheshire East (-2%) also reducing. The reduction recorded at Force level (-12%) was slightly smaller than that in CWAC.

Rates per 1,000 population figures are higher at Force level than in CWAC for the Vehicle offences group (1.5 vs 2.1 Force), Theft from Motor Vehicle offences (0.7 vs 0.9 Force) and Theft of Motor Vehicle offences (0.6 vs 0.8 Force). The rate in CWAC was however the same as the Force for Vehicle Interference offences (0.3 vs 0.3 Force).

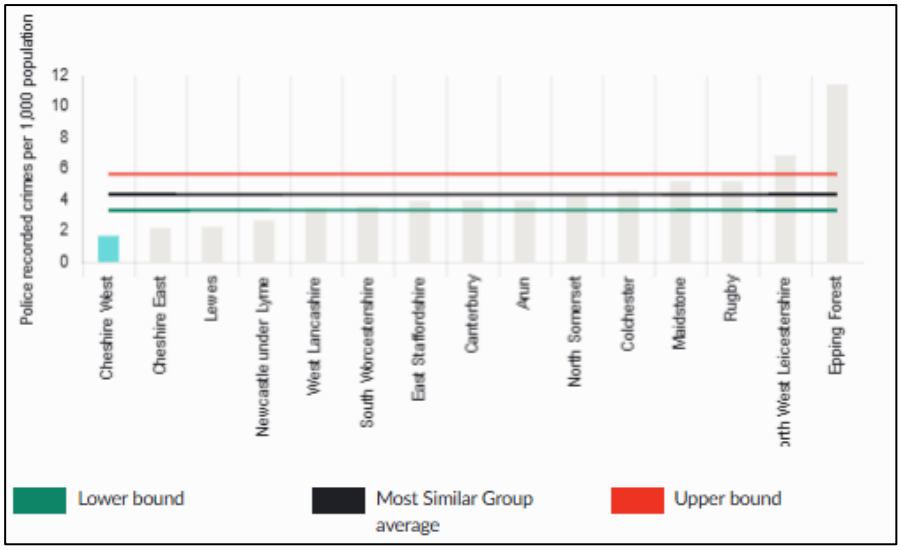
Vehicle offence volumes remain steady from January to May ranging from 45 to 47 offences, volumes however vary throughout the rest of the year with the highest number recorded in October (61 offences) and August (59 offences), and the lowest in June (37 offences) and November (37 offences). The peak months for the Force however differ (January & November). October was the peak month within all three types of Vehicle offences. Comparison to the previous year shows that despite an overall reduction, the month of August increased by 11 offences.

Beat Team Cluster	Vehicle offences			
	2023	2024	Change	% Change
Chester	**325**	**244**	**-81**	**-25%**
Chester City	46	43	**-3**	**-7%**
Chester North	87	46	**-41**	**-47%**
Chester Rural & Frodsham	80	74	**-6**	**-8%**
Chester South	112	81	**-31**	**-28%**
Ellesmere Port	**149**	**162**	**13**	**9%**
Ellesmere Port East	70	80	**10**	**14%**
Ellesmere Port West & Neston	79	82	**3**	**4%**
Northwich	**166**	**147**	**-19**	**-11%**
Northwich North	65	49	**-16**	**-25%**
Northwich South	23	22	**-1**	**-4%**
Winsford	78	76	**-2**	**-3%**
Total	**640**	**553**	**-87**	**-14%**

The reduction in volumes of Vehicle offences was mostly due to a 25% (-81 offences) decrease in Chester LPU, mostly in Theft from a Vehicle offences, the impact of this was however reduced by an increase in Ellesmere Port (+13 offences/+9%) which was mostly in Theft of a Motor Vehicle offences. Comparing changes throughout the BTCs shows both the largest volume and percentage reduction was recorded in Chester North (-41 offences/-47%) and was due to a reduction in Theft from a Motor Vehicle offences. The Ellesmere Port East cluster recorded the largest increase throughout the area (+10 offences/+14%) and was due to an increase in Theft from a Motor Vehicle offences.

The reduction recorded in Theft from a Motor Vehicle offences was mostly a result of a reduction in Chester LPU (-51 offences/-29%), for Theft of Motor Vehicle offences the reduction was mostly a result of a reduction in Northwich LPU (-25 offences/-28%) and for Vehicle Interference offences the increase was a result of an increase in Northwich LPU only (+14 offences/+108%).

The rate of Vehicle crime in CWAC when compared to its MSGs is much lower than the average (1.69 vs 4.36 MSG average) and sits in the 1st lowest position (out of 15) when compared across the most similar LAs.

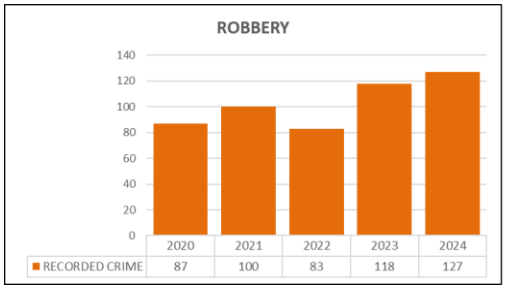


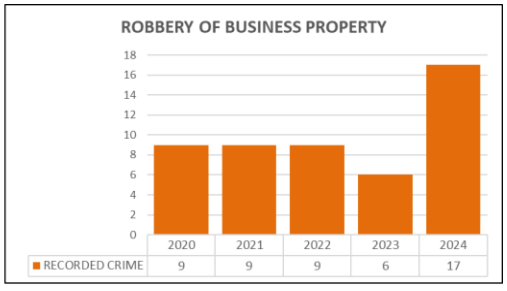
Source: www.police.uk

Robbery

In 2024 Robbery offences across CWAC increased by 8% and recorded an additional 9 offences (127 total offences). A much larger increase was however recorded for Business Robbery offences of 183% (+11 offences/17 total offences), this reversing the 33% reduction recorded in 2023. For Personal Robbery offences however a small decrease of 2% was recorded (-2 offences/110 total offences) which begins to reverse the impact of a 51% increase in 2023.

Volumes in 2024 for overall Robbery and the Business Robbery subtype were the highest over the 5 year period.

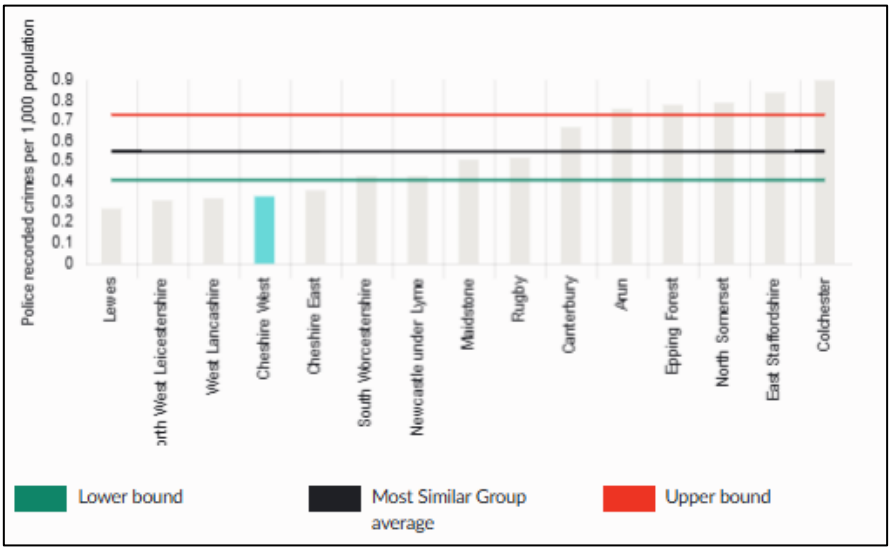




The increase in Robbery offences in CWAC when compared across the CSPs was second smallest to Cheshire East (+4%), a much larger increase was recorded in Halton (+36%), however a reduction was recorded in Warrington (-21%).

Rate per 1,000 population figures in CWAC were the same as those for the Force for all Robbery (0.4) and Business Robbery (0.0), however for Personal Robbery they were slightly larger at Force level (0.3 vs 0.4 Force).

MSG comparison for Robbery offences shows that for the year ending September 2024, the rate in CWAC (0.33) was 4th lowest (out of 15) and sat below the MSG average (0.55).



Source: www.police.uk

Monthly volumes show that August (20 offences) and December (18 offences) were the peak months for Robbery offences in CWAC in 2024, compared to 2023, these two months recorded the largest increases (December; +12 offences & August; +7 offences). The peak month of December is reflected in both Robbery types, it however does not match the peak months for the Force (May & July).

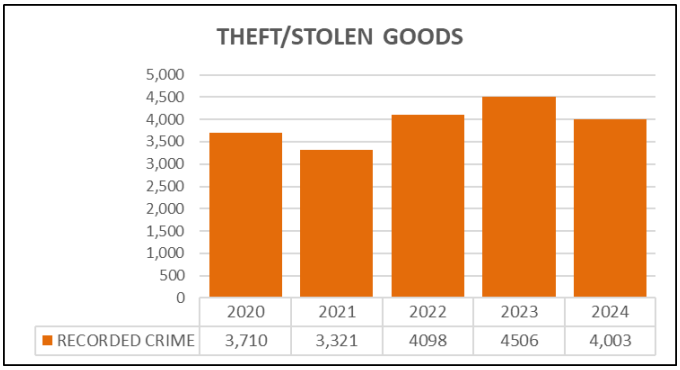
The increase in Robbery offences across CWAC was mostly because of the increase in Northwich LPU (+16 offences/+70%), changes here being mostly to the Personal Robbery subtype. The impact of increases in Northwich were however reduced by a reduction in Chester LPU (-12 offences/-19%), mostly due to reducing volumes of Personal Robbery. Analysis of the BTCs shows similar volume increases in Northwich South (+8 offences/+400%) and Ellesmere Port West & Neston (+7 offences/+88%), both due to increases in Personal Robbery. Looking at reductions throughout the clusters shows that Chester South and Chester North both reduced by 5 offences each, although the percentage reduction in Chester North was larger (-42% vs -36%).

The minimal change in Personal Robbery offences was due to similar but conflicting changes in Northwich LPU (+13 offences/59%) and Chester LPU (-14 offences/-23%). For Business Robbery, Ellesmere Port recorded the majority of the increase (+6 offences/+600%).

Beat Team Cluster	Robbery offences			
	2023	2024	Change	% Change
Chester	**64**	**52**	**-12**	**-19%**
Chester City	32	29	**-3**	**-9%**
Chester North	12	7	**-5**	**-42%**
Chester Rural & Frodsham	6	7	**1**	**17%**
Chester South	14	9	**-5**	**-36%**
Ellesmere Port	**31**	**36**	**5**	**16%**
Ellesmere Port East	23	21	**-2**	**-9%**
Ellesmere Port West & Neston	8	15	**7**	**88%**
Northwich	**23**	**39**	**16**	**70%**
Northwich North	11	14	**3**	**27%**
Northwich South	2	10	**8**	**400%**
Winsford	10	15	**5**	**50%**
Total	**118**	**127**	**9**	**8%**

Theft Offences

In CWAC, Theft/Stolen Goods HO group[16] offences recorded a 11% decrease in 2024 (-503 offences/4,003 total offences), this being the first decrease following two previous years of increases.



Compared throughout the Force, CWAC was the only area to record a reduction, with an increase recorded in Halton (+15%) and Cheshire East (+4%), and no change recorded in Warrington (0%). The rate per 1,000 population in CWAC is smaller than that for the Force for the overall group (11.2 vs 11.8), and for the offence types within (detailed below).

Volumes throughout the year peaked during April to June with 1,102 offences recorded collectively which equated to 27.5% of demand. Low volumes were recorded in November (301 offences) and December (291 offences), this is also seen at Force level however does not agree with the expected increase around Christmas time. Compared to the Force (August) the peak months in CWAC are earlier, May however is still a high demand month in Force volumes.

Analysis of volumes throughout the CSP show that despite the overall reduction, Ellesmere Port LPU recorded an increase in Theft offences (+109 offences/+10%), this however did not have much impact

[16] Theft/Stolen Goods Home Office group includes the following offences: Blackmail, Dishonest use of electricity, Other theft, Shoplifting, Theft- Making off without payment, Theft by an employee, Theft from a automatic machine or meter, Theft from the person, Theft in a dwelling other than from automatic machine/meter, Theft of mail & Theft or unauthorised taking of a pedal cycle

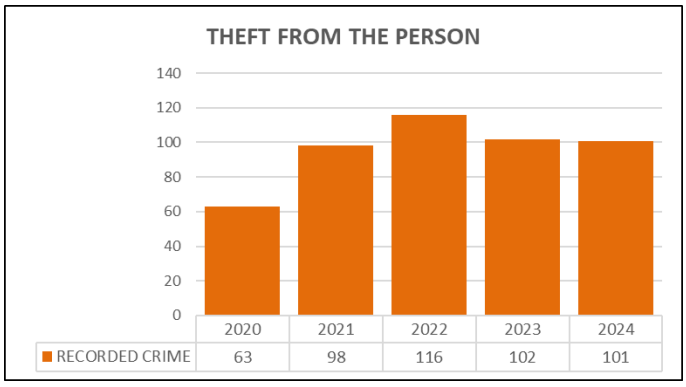
due to a large volume decrease in Chester LPU (-356 offences/-15%), with Northwich LPU recording an even larger percentage decrease (-23%/-256 offences).

The highest demand cluster in 2023 was Chester City, this cluster however recorded a large reduction of 267 offences (-26%) in 2024, due to this, demand in 2024 was now higher in Ellesmere Port East, this position further confirmed by an increase of 73 offences (+10%) here; both of these changes were the largest across the area.

Beat Team Cluster	Theft Offences			
	2023	2024	Change	% Change
Chester	**2298**	**1942**	**-356**	**-15%**
Chester City	1044	777	**-267**	**-26%**
Chester North	456	491	**35**	**8%**
Chester Rural & Frodsham	328	290	**-38**	**-12%**
Chester South	470	384	**-86**	**-18%**
Ellesmere Port	**1079**	**1188**	**109**	**10%**
Ellesmere Port East	760	833	**73**	**10%**
Ellesmere Port West & Neston	319	355	**36**	**11%**
Northwich	**1129**	**873**	**-256**	**-23%**
Northwich North	560	434	**-126**	**-23%**
Northwich South	187	143	**-44**	**-24%**
Winsford	382	296	**-86**	**-23%**
Total	**4506**	**4003**	**-503**	**-11%**

Theft from the Person

Across CWAC there was little change recorded to Theft from the Person offences in 2024, and reduction of 1 offence was recorded (-1%) which resulted in a total of 101 offences and meant that the rate per 1,000 population has not changed and remains the same as the Force (0.3). Compared over the 5 year period, this change, although minimal, was the second reduction following a trend of increases from 2020-2022.



The reduction in CWAC was the smallest across the CSPs (Warrington; -28% & Cheshire East; -22%) but was similar to that recorded for the Force (-2%). Halton recorded the only increase (+83%).

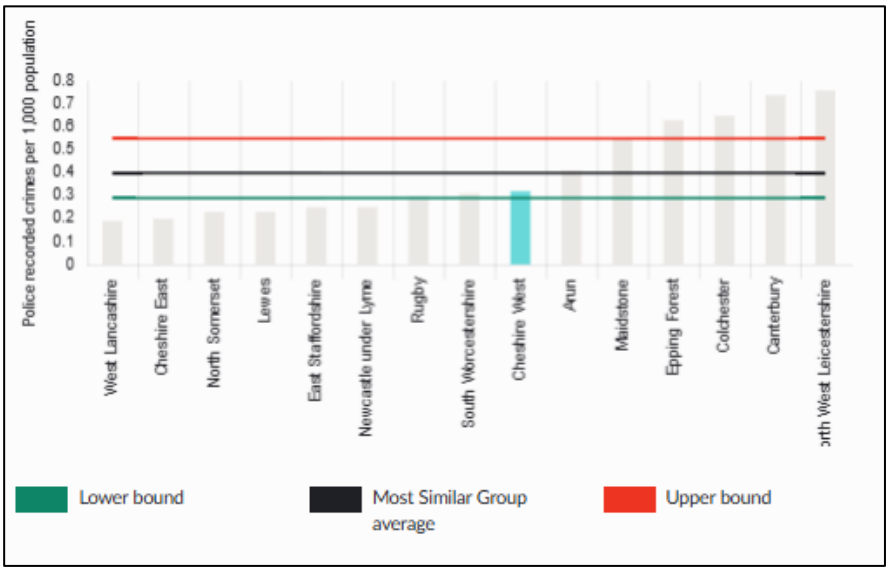
Theft from the Person offences only reached double digits in three of the twelve months throughout the year, January (13 offences), July (13 offences) and May (11 offences), with volumes ranging from 2 to 9 offences in the remaining months. These high volume months have changed from 2023 and differ to the peak month for the Force (August).

The overall minimal change was however not reflected in the individual LPUs, Chester recorded the largest decrease of 11 offences (-16%) and Ellesmere Port recorded the largest increase of 17 offences

(+106%). In the BTCs, a large percentage increase of 300% and 6 additional offences was recorded in both Chester North and Ellesmere Port West & Neston, a larger volume increase was however recorded in Ellesmere Port East (+11 offences/+79%). Chester City recorded the highest demand despite recording the largest reduction throughout the area of 16 offences and 29%.

Beat Team Cluster	Theft from the Person			
	2023	2024	Change	% Change
Chester	**67**	**56**	**-11**	**-16%**
Chester City	56	40	**-16**	**-29%**
Chester North	2	8	**6**	**300%**
Chester Rural & Frodsham	2	3	**1**	**50%**
Chester South	7	5	**-2**	**-29%**
Ellesmere Port	**16**	**33**	**17**	**106%**
Ellesmere Port East	14	25	**11**	**79%**
Ellesmere Port West & Neston	2	8	**6**	**300%**
Northwich	**19**	**12**	**-7**	**-37%**
Northwich North	9	8	**-1**	**-11%**
Northwich South	6	1	**-5**	**-83%**
Winsford	4	3	**-1**	**-25%**
Total	**102**	**101**	**-1**	**-1%**

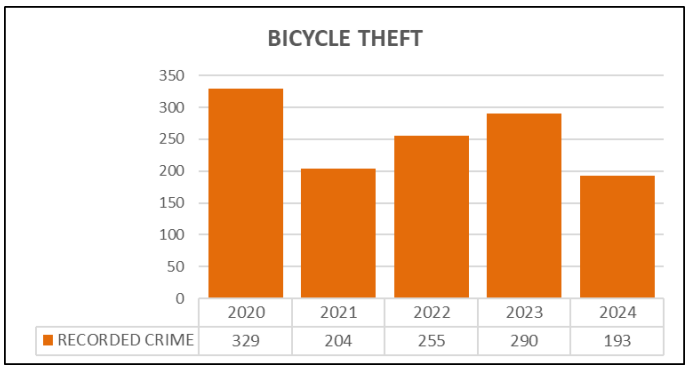
For the year ending September 2024, CWAC is placed 7th highest (out of 15) when compared to its MSGs with a rate which is below the MSG average (0.32 vs 0.40 MSG average).



Source: www.police.uk

Bicycle Theft

In CWAC, Bicycle theft volumes reduced by 33% in 2024 (-97 offences), this reduction follows 2 previous years of increases and resulted in the lowest volumes over the 5 year period (193 offences).



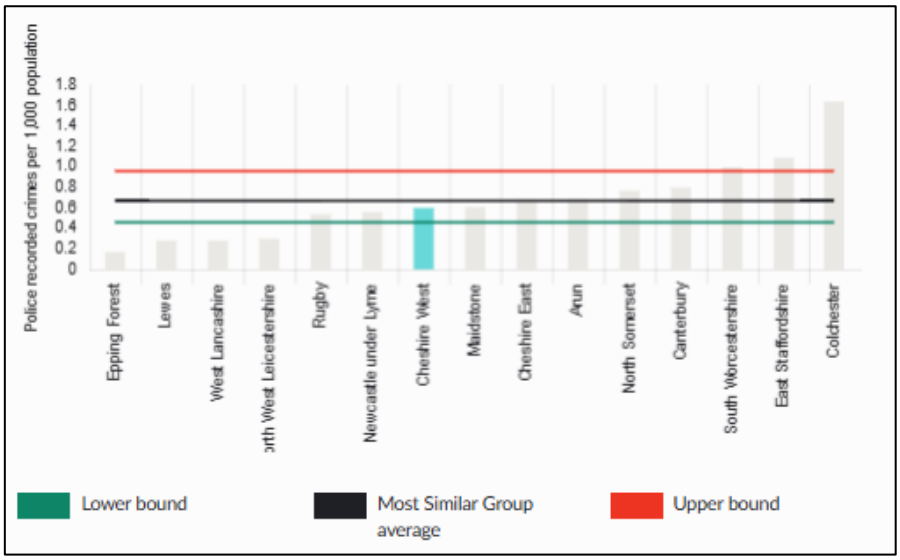
The rate per 1,000 population in CWAC is smaller than the rate for the Force (0.5 vs 0.7). The reduction in CWAC was larger than that recorded at Force level (-19%) and was larger than changes experienced across the CSPs (Cheshire East; -25%, Warrington; -4% & Halton; +1%).

Volumes of Bicycle thefts in 2024 show spikes in April (25 offences), February and August (21 offences each); Force volumes however peak in June.

In line with the overall reduction, each LPU also reduced, the largest one occurred in Chester of 50% and 89 offences, whereas small reductions of 4 less offences and 7% were recorded in both Ellesmere Port and Northwich. The largest reductions across the BTCs were also recorded within Chester, most notably Chester South (-28 offences) and Chester North (-22 offences) both reduced by 61%; a larger volume reduction was however recorded in Chester City (-36 offences/-43%). Despite reductions, Ellesmere Port East (+3 offences/+10%) and Northwich South (+4 offences/+44%) both increased.

Beat Team Cluster	Theft of Pedal Cycle			
	2023	2024	Change	% Change
Chester	**178**	**89**	**-89**	**-50%**
Chester City	83	47	**-36**	**-43%**
Chester North	36	14	**-22**	**-61%**
Chester Rural & Frodsham	13	10	**-3**	**-23%**
Chester South	46	18	**-28**	**-61%**
Ellesmere Port	**58**	**54**	**-4**	**-7%**
Ellesmere Port East	29	32	**3**	**10%**
Ellesmere Port West & Neston	29	22	**-7**	**-24%**
Northwich	**54**	**50**	**-4**	**-7%**
Northwich North	21	19	**-2**	**-10%**
Northwich South	9	13	**4**	**44%**
Winsford	24	18	**-6**	**-25%**
Total	**290**	**193**	**-97**	**-33%**

MSG comparison of Bicycle thefts in CWAC for the year ending September 2024 shows a middle position (7th lowest out of 15) when compared to its similar LAs. The rate in CWAC of 0.60 is slightly lower than the MSG average (0.67).



Source: www.police.uk

Shoplifting

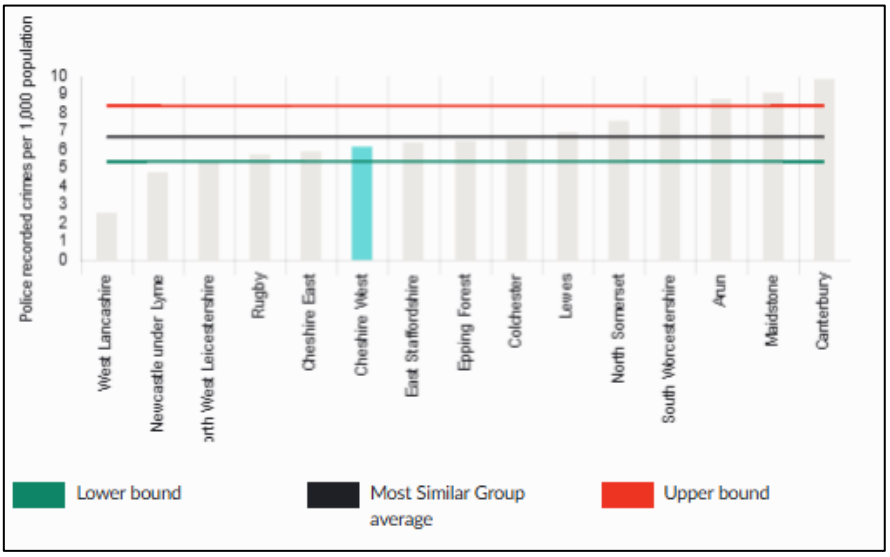
Shoplifting offences mirrored the trend seen for all Theft offences and reduced in 2024 at a similar, but slightly smaller rate of 10%. A total of 1,974 Shoplifting offences were recorded which was a reduction of 209 offences from 2023, this reduction is not in line with an expected increase due to the cost of living crisis. Like all other offences within the HO group, the rate per 1,000 population in CWAC (5.5) is smaller than the Force (5.8).

The reduction recorded in Shoplifting in 2024 was the first one following 2 previous years of increases and was surprising considering the 28% increase in the previous year.

When compared across the Force, CWAC was the only CSP to record a reduction (Halton; +37%, Cheshire East; +16% & Warrington; +9%). An increase was also recorded at Force level (+8%).

Shoplifting volumes were highest during the summer months with a peak recorded in May (186 offences), June (189 offences) and July (188 offences); July aligns with the peak month for the Force. The highest demand location within this peak period was Marks & Spencer, Stanney Woods Avenue in Ellesmere Port with a total of 21 offences, this volume accounting for nearly 50% (46.7%) of the demand at this location over the year. Interestingly, low volumes were recorded in December (110 offences) which is not in line with an expected increase around Christmas. Demand in Chester LPU was highest in May & June, in Ellesmere Port it was in October & June and in Northwich LPU it was in July & August. Another peak is recorded earlier in the year in February (177 offences).

The rate in CWAC (6.19) is lower than the MSG average (6.73) for Shoplifting offences in the year ending September 2024 (6th lowest position out of 15).



Source: www.police.uk

Across CWAC a large reduction of 35% (-182 offences) was recorded in Northwich LPU, with the largest percentage reduction across the BTCs being recorded Winsford (-72 offences/-48%).

A large volume reduction was also recorded in Chester LPU (-145 offences/-13%), with the Chester City BTC within recording the largest volume reduction across the clusters (-180 offences/-29%). Despite an overall reduction in Chester, the Chester North cluster recorded an increase (+67 offences/+33%), this being the largest volume increase across the area.

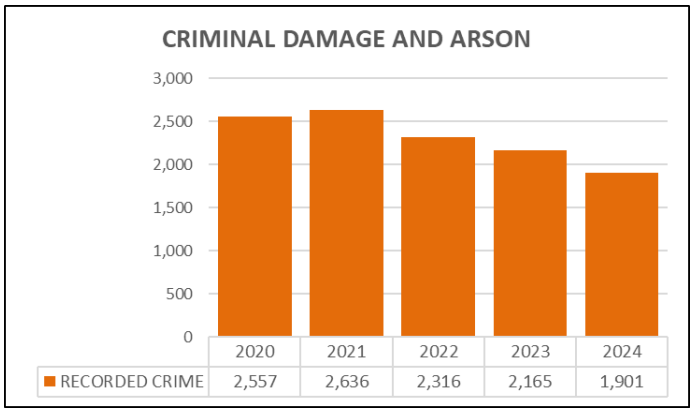
Ellesmere Port LPU recorded an increase (+22%/+118 offences), with increases to both clusters within, most notably Ellesmere Port West and Neston recorded the largest percentage change across CWAC (+72%/+54 offences).

Analysis of locations across the CSP shown that Foregate Street, Chester and Cheshire Oaks Outlet Village, Ellesmere Port both recorded 174 offences each over the year, when including the Coliseum Retail park over the road from Cheshire Oaks (77 offences), these three locations presented with the highest demand for Shoplifting offences in 2024 and accounted for 21.5% (425 total offences) of demand.

Beat Team Cluster	Shoplifting offences			
	2023	2024	Change	% Change
Chester	**1118**	**973**	**-145**	**-13%**
Chester City	611	431	**-180**	**-29%**
Chester North	206	273	**67**	**33%**
Chester Rural & Frodsham	87	85	**-2**	**-2%**
Chester South	214	184	**-30**	**-14%**
Ellesmere Port	**539**	**657**	**118**	**22%**
Ellesmere Port East	464	528	**64**	**14%**
Ellesmere Port West & Neston	75	129	**54**	**72%**
Northwich	**526**	**344**	**-182**	**-35%**
Northwich North	314	231	**-83**	**-26%**
Northwich South	63	36	**-27**	**-43%**
Winsford	149	77	**-72**	**-48%**
Total	**2183**	**1974**	**-209**	**-10%**

Criminal Damage and Arson

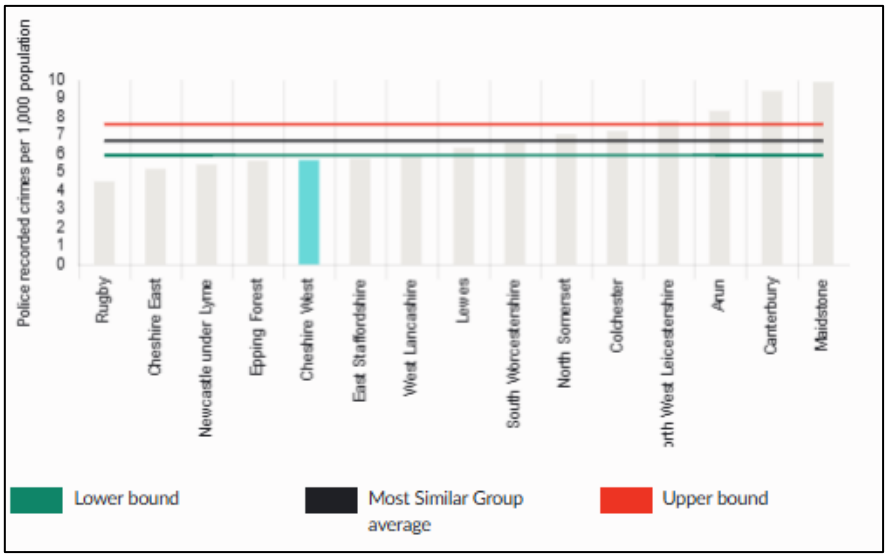
Volumes of Criminal Damage and Arson offences in CWAC reduced for the third consecutive year (-12%/-264 offences) leading to the lowest volumes over the 5 year period (1,901 offences). The rate per 1,000 population in CWAC is below the rate for the Force (5.3 vs 5.5).



When compared across the CSPs, the reduction in CWAC was the largest in terms of volumes, however the second largest in terms of percentage change.

Local Authority	Criminal Damage and Arson			
	2023	2024	Change	% Change
Warrington	1283	1162	-121	-9%
Halton	1205	1013	-192	-16%
Cheshire West and Chester	**2165**	**1901**	**-264**	**-12%**
Cheshire East	2119	1948	-171	-8%
Force	**6797**	**6045**	**-752**	**-11%**

For Criminal Damage and Arson offences in the year ending September 2024, the rate in CWAC (5.68) was the 5th lowest (out of 15) when compared to its MSGs and was lower than the MSG average (6.73).



Source: www.police.uk

Volumes in 2024 for Criminal Damage and Arson offences peaked in May (190 offences) and July (178 offences), with the lowest volumes recorded in November (126 offences); these match Force trends.

Reductions were recorded in all LPUs in 2024 with Northwich recording the largest percentage (-21%) and volume (-149 offences) reduction. The largest BTC reduction was recorded in Winsford of 101 less

offences (-28%), Northwich South however recorded a larger percentage reduction of 37% (-55 offences). Three of the nine clusters across CWAC recorded increases, the largest one being in Chester South of 11% and 19 offences.

Beat Team Cluster	Criminal Damage & Arson			
	2023	2024	Change	% Change
Chester	**914**	**846**	**-68**	**-7%**
Chester City	249	254	**5**	**2%**
Chester North	241	182	**-59**	**-24%**
Chester Rural & Frodsham	246	213	**-33**	**-13%**
Chester South	178	197	**19**	**11%**
Ellesmere Port	**543**	**496**	**-47**	**-9%**
Ellesmere Port East	295	238	**-57**	**-19%**
Ellesmere Port West & Neston	248	258	**10**	**4%**
Northwich	**708**	**559**	**-149**	**-21%**
Northwich North	201	208	**7**	**3%**
Northwich South	147	92	**-55**	**-37%**
Winsford	360	259	**-101**	**-28%**
Total	**2165**	**1901**	**-264**	**-12%**

The profile of offences shows that 'Criminal Damage to a Vehicle' was the most recorded offence type in 2024 (585 offences/30.8%), as it also was in 2023 (674 offences/31.1%), despite a 13% reduction (-89 offences). Offences were mostly recorded in the Ellesmere Port East cluster (85 offences).

'Other Criminal Damage' was the second largest recorded offence type (26.2%/498 offences), as it also was in 2023 (578 offences/26.7%), despite a reduction of 13% (-80 offences). Offences were mostly recorded in the Chester Rural & Frodsham cluster (80 offences).

'Criminal Damage to a dwelling' was the third most recorded offence type in 2024 (455 offences/23.9%), as it also was in 2023 (557 offences/25.7%), again despite a reduction (-18%/-102 offences). Offences were mostly recorded in the Ellesmere Port West & Neston cluster (95 offences).

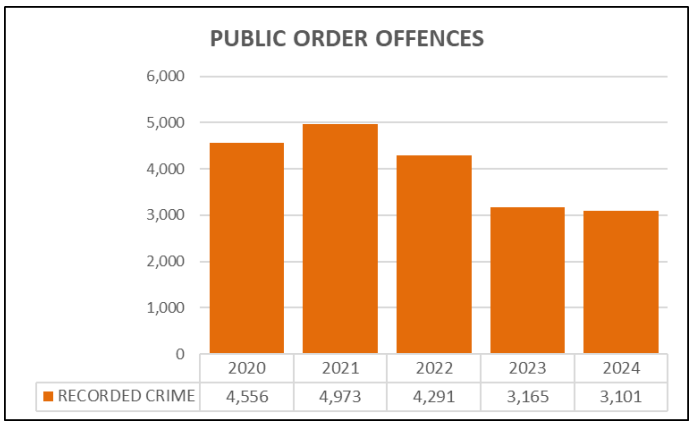
There was a slight increase in 'Criminal Damage to a building other than a dwelling' offences in 2024, volumes increased by 2% (+7 offences/301 total offences) and were mostly recorded in the Chester City cluster (94 offences).

Of note, there were also 59 'Arson' offences, and 3 offences of 'Racially or Religiously aggravated Criminal Damage'.

Looking further at the relationship types added to these offences shown that 33.4% had a 'Stranger', and 33.3% had a 'Not seen by Victim', victim to offender relationship, this suggesting that offences are mostly committed by people not known to the Victim.

Public Order Offences and Incidents

Public Order offences in 2024 reduced by 2% (-64 offences/3,101 total offences) across CWAC, this is the 3rd consecutive decrease and led to the lowest volumes over the 5 year period, it is however much smaller than the 26% reduction recorded in the previous year. The denotification of Section 5 Public Order offences in 2023 could still be affecting volumes. The rate per 1,000 population for Public Order offences in CWAC (8.7) is 0.6 above the rate for the Force (8.1).



Compared across the Force, the reduction recorded in CWAC was the smallest (Halton; -13%, Warrington; -12% & Cheshire East; -5%) and was smaller than the reduction at Force level (-7%).

Volumes throughout the year were at their highest during the summer months with the period of May to August recording 1,199 offences collectively. A similar trend is observed at Force level.

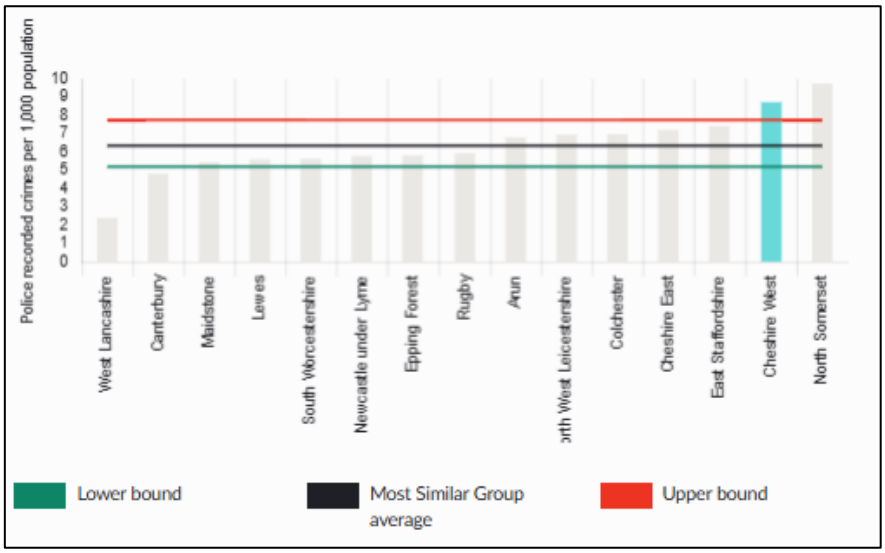
A review of the offence types recorded under the Public Order group shows little change from 2023 where 'Public fear, alarm of distress' was the most recorded offence in both years (80.4%/2,545 offences in 2023 vs 77.3%/2,397 offences in 2024), albeit with a slight reduction in 2024 (-3.1pp).

The proportion of 'Racially or Religiously aggravated Public Order' offences was also similar, however slightly higher in 2024 due to a proportional increase of 1.4pp (7.0%/223 offences in 2023 vs 8.4%/262 offences in 2024). This could be partially attributed to the nationwide public disorder as a result of the murders that occurred in Southport.

A similar percentage reduction was recorded in all LPUs in 2024 (Chester; -2%, Northwich; -2% & Ellesmere Port; -1%), the volume reduction in Chester was however the largest (-30 offences). Reductions were recorded across the majority of clusters with Winsford (-25 offences) and Chester North (-21 offences) both reducing by 6%. The Chester South BTC recorded the largest increase of 10 offences and 4%.

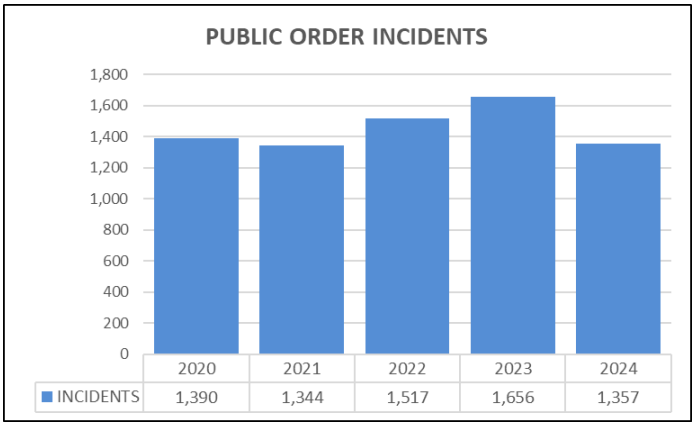
Beat Team Cluster	Public Order offences			
	2023	2024	Change	% Change
Chester	**1465**	**1435**	**-30**	**-2%**
Chester City	568	544	**-24**	**-4%**
Chester North	340	319	**-21**	**-6%**
Chester Rural & Frodsham	276	281	**5**	**2%**
Chester South	281	291	**10**	**4%**
Ellesmere Port	**773**	**762**	**-11**	**-1%**
Ellesmere Port East	405	396	**-9**	**-2%**
Ellesmere Port West & Neston	368	366	**-2**	**-1%**
Northwich	**927**	**904**	**-23**	**-2%**
Northwich North	312	308	**-4**	**-1%**
Northwich South	193	199	**6**	**3%**
Winsford	422	397	**-25**	**-6%**
Total	**3165**	**3101**	**-64**	**-2%**

In the year ending September 2024, Public Order offences in CWAC were 2nd highest (out of 15) when compared across its similar LAs and had a rate of 8.74 which is higher than the MSG average (6.36).



Source: www.police.uk

Matching the reduction recorded for offences, Public Order incidents in 2024 also reduced, this was the first reduction following two previous years of increases and was at a much larger rate of 18% (-299 incidents/1,357 total incidents). This reduction was larger than that recorded at Force level (-14%) and meant that the rate per 1,000 population was smaller than the Force rate (3.8 vs 4.3), unlike offences where the rate in CWAC is larger.



A review of the types of Public Order incidents indicated that the reduction was attributed to an equal volume reduction of 134 incidents in 'Bail Breaches/Wanted Persons/Breach of Court Order' incidents (-11%) and in 'Prevent Potential Breach of the Peace' incidents (-53%).

Analysis of volumes throughout the year shows an increase from February (92 incidents) to July where volumes peak at 160 incidents.

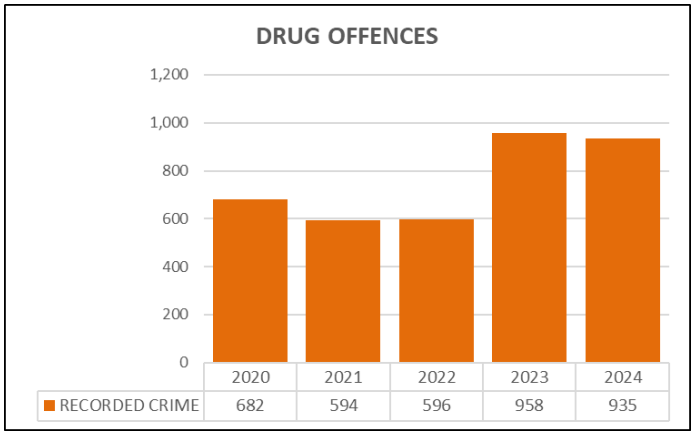
In 2024, Ellesmere Port was the only LPU to record an increase in Public Order incidents (+35 incidents/+9%) with similar volume increases recorded in both clusters within (Ellesmere Port East; +17 incidents/+7% & Ellesmere Port West & Neston; +18 incidents/+11%). Northwich LPU recorded the largest decrease across the area (-181 incidents/-35%), with the Winsford cluster within recording the largest volume decrease across the clusters (-86 incidents/-34%). The Chester Rural & Frodsham cluster recorded the largest percentage reduction (-40%/-53 incidents).

Beat Team Cluster	Public Order incidents			
	2023	2024	Change	% Change
Chester	**735**	**582**	**-153**	**-21%**
Chester City	212	191	**-21**	**-10%**
Chester North	237	203	**-34**	**-14%**
Chester Rural & Frodsham	131	78	**-53**	**-40%**
Chester South	155	110	**-45**	**-29%**
Ellesmere Port	**397**	**432**	**35**	**9%**
Ellesmere Port East	233	250	**17**	**7%**
Ellesmere Port West & Neston	164	182	**18**	**11%**
Northwich	**524**	**343**	**-181**	**-35%**
Northwich North	185	118	**-67**	**-36%**
Northwich South	89	61	**-28**	**-31%**
Winsford	250	164	**-86**	**-34%**
Total	**1656**	**1357**	**-299**	**-18%**

Substance Misuse

Drug offences

Drug Offences across CWAC recorded a reduction of 23 offences in 2024, this equated to a small percentage decrease of 2% and a total of 935 offences. These volumes are however still a 37% increase from 2020 which is due to a 61% increase in the previous year. The rate per 1,000 population in 2024 for CWAC (2.6) is still below the rate for the Force (3.0), as it also was in 2023 (2.7 vs 3.1).



Comparison across the Force shows a similar reduction to that recorded at Force level (-3%), it was however much smaller than that recorded in Halton (-12%) and shows a opposite movement to the 1% increase in Warrington and Cheshire East.

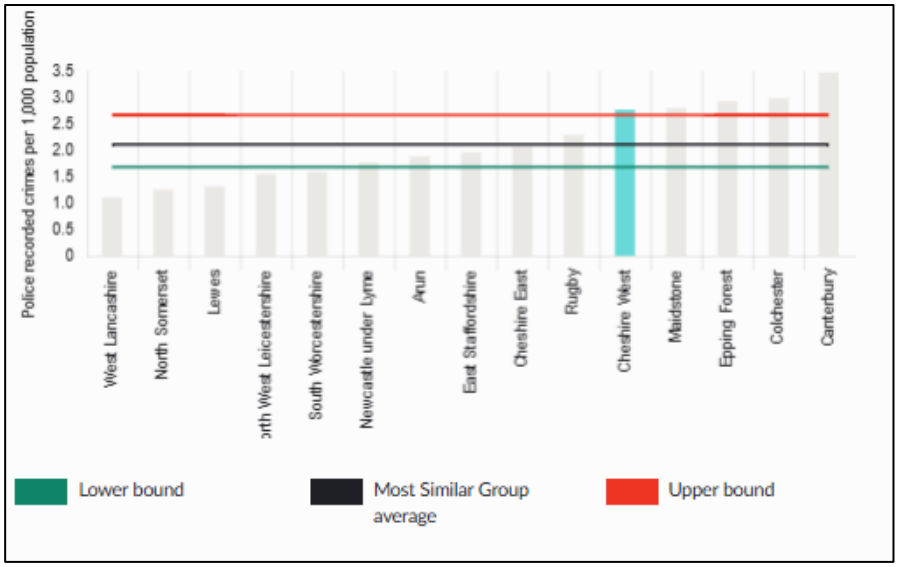
Of note, 89.5% (836 offences) of Drug offences were recorded as 'Possession of Controlled drugs', only a small amount was recorded as 'Trafficking in Controlled drugs' (10.5%/99 offences).

The peak month in 2024 for Drug offences across CWAC was December (104 offences), with March recording similar volumes (103 offences). The peak month of December matches that in 2023, it however differs to the Force where August recorded the largest volumes.

In 2024, Chester LPU (581 offences) and the Chester City BTC (385 offences) recorded the highest demand across CWAC, this has not changed from 2023. Volumes throughout the area mostly differed in Ellesmere Port LPU which recorded a 9% reduction (-16 offences) and in the Chester South BTC which recorded a 30% reduction (-26 offences).

Beat Team Cluster	Drug offences			
	2023	2024	Change	% Change
Chester	**580**	**581**	**1**	**0%**
Chester City	373	385	**12**	**3%**
Chester North	73	83	**10**	**14%**
Chester Rural & Frodsham	48	53	**5**	**10%**
Chester South	86	60	**-26**	**-30%**
Ellesmere Port	**179**	**163**	**-16**	**-9%**
Ellesmere Port East	111	98	**-13**	**-12%**
Ellesmere Port West & Neston	68	65	**-3**	**-4%**
Northwich	**199**	**191**	**-8**	**-4%**
Northwich North	70	75	**5**	**7%**
Northwich South	54	39	**-15**	**-28%**
Winsford	75	77	**2**	**3%**
Total	**958**	**935**	**-23**	**-2%**

The rate for Drug offences in the year ending September 2024 in CWAC was 5th highest (out of 15) when compared to its MSGs and was higher than the average (2.78 vs 2.12 MSG average).

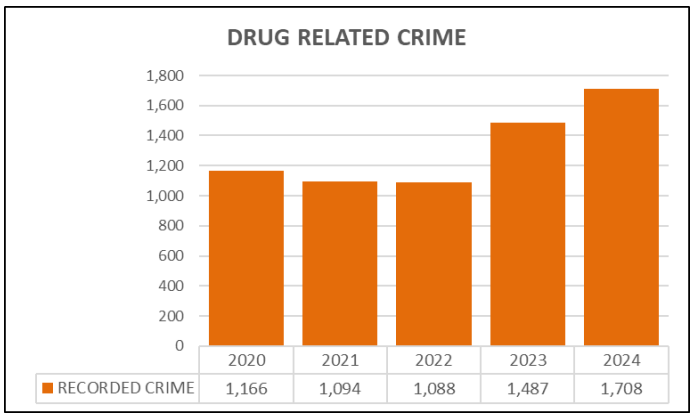


Source: www.police.uk

Drug related

Drug-related crime[17] increased by 15% (+221 offences/1,708 total offences) across CWAC in 2024 leading to the highest volumes over the 5 year period. The rate per 1,000 population in CWAC (4.8) remains lower than the rate for the Force (5.4).

[17] This flag relies on the presence of a "Drugs" qualifier or "Affected by Drugs" or "Affected by alcohol and drugs" or "Affected by drugs and solvents" being selected in the crime on Niche.



The increase in CWAC was the second smallest when compared across the CSPs (Cheshire East; +26%, Warrington; +21% & Halton; +2%), it was also slightly smaller than the increase for the Force (+17%).

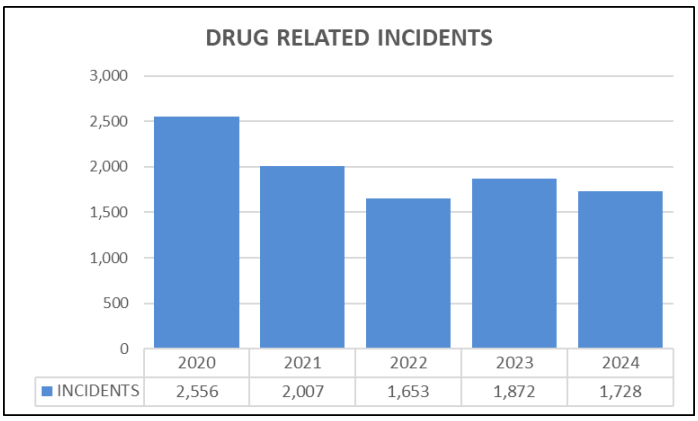
Of note, a large proportion (52.5%/897 offences) of these offences sat within the Drug offences HO group, therefore any changes to this group could have a knock on impact. This is evident with a peak month for Drug-related crime being December (175 offences), as it also is for Drug offences. August recorded the largest demand throughout the year (180 offences).

Across CWAC increases were recorded in each LPU, most notably Ellesmere Port recorded a 29% increase (+92 offences), a larger volume increase was however recorded in Chester (+97 offences/+12%). All but one BTC (Northwich South; -5 offences/-5%) across the area recorded an increase in 2024, the Ellesmere Port West & Neston cluster in particular increased by the largest volume (+56 offences) and percentage (+41%) amount.

Beat Team Cluster	Drug related Crimes			
	2023	2024	Change	% Change
Chester	**801**	**898**	**97**	**12%**
Chester City	469	507	**38**	**8%**
Chester North	132	162	**30**	**23%**
Chester Rural & Frodsham	79	93	**14**	**18%**
Chester South	121	136	**15**	**12%**
Ellesmere Port	**321**	**413**	**92**	**29%**
Ellesmere Port East	186	222	**36**	**19%**
Ellesmere Port West & Neston	135	191	**56**	**41%**
Northwich	**365**	**397**	**32**	**9%**
Northwich North	131	136	**5**	**4%**
Northwich South	92	87	**-5**	**-5%**
Winsford	142	174	**32**	**23%**
Total	**1487**	**1708**	**221**	**15%**

Drug-related incidents[18] across CWAC also reduced in 2024, there was a total of 1,728 incidents which was 144 less from 2024 and an 8% reduction overall. Rate per 1,000 population analysis shows the Force has a larger rate than CWAC (5.2 vs 4.8). Comparison over the 5 year period shows that this reduction is bringing volumes back in line with those recorded in 2022.

[18] This relies on the call taker adding the "QDR: DRUGS - LEGAL OR ILLEGAL OR SUSPECTED" qualifier to the incident. True numbers could be higher or lower than what is recorded.



Comparison across the Force shows reductions were recorded in all CSPs with Warrington recording the largest (-14%/-181 incidents) (Halton; -11% & Cheshire East; -2%). The reduction in CWAC was second largest in terms of volumes however second smallest in terms of percentage change.

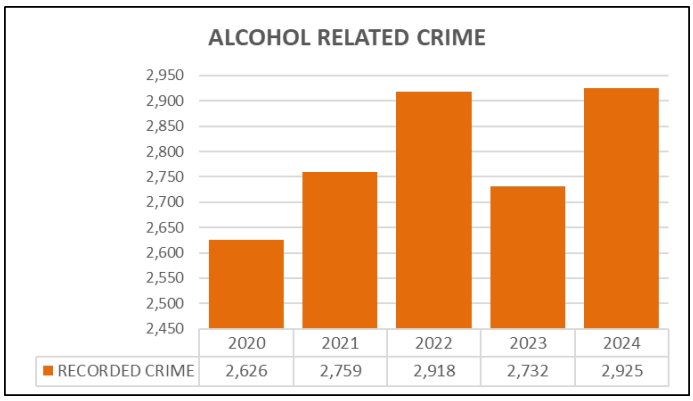
The peak month for Drug-related incidents is March (166 incidents), volumes were also high in August (158 incidents), as they also are for Drug-related offences. A peak is also seen in October and May (156 incidents each).

Along with the reduction recorded overall, each LPU also reduced with Chester recording the largest (-90 incidents/-10%). The largest reductions throughout the BTCs were also recorded within Chester LPU and were in Chester South (-69 incidents/-35%) and Chester Rural & Frodsham (-42 incidents/-23%). A slight increase was however recorded across a number of clusters, most notably in Chester North (+18 incidents/+10%).

Beat Team Cluster	Drug related incidents			
	2023	2024	Change	% Change
Chester	**937**	**847**	**-90**	**-10%**
Chester City	377	380	**3**	**1%**
Chester North	179	197	**18**	**10%**
Chester Rural & Frodsham	181	139	**-42**	**-23%**
Chester South	200	131	**-69**	**-35%**
Ellesmere Port	**435**	**405**	**-30**	**-7%**
Ellesmere Port East	225	214	**-11**	**-5%**
Ellesmere Port West & Neston	210	191	**-19**	**-9%**
Northwich	**500**	**476**	**-24**	**-5%**
Northwich North	169	175	**6**	**4%**
Northwich South	151	127	**-24**	**-16%**
Winsford	180	174	**-6**	**-3%**
Total	**1872**	**1728**	**-144**	**-8%**

Alcohol related

Alcohol related crime volumes across CWAC in 2024 were at 2,925 offences, these were the highest volumes over the 5 year period. The 7% increase (+193 offences) recorded in 2024 follows a 6% decrease in 2023 and brings volumes back in line with those recorded in 2022. The increase recorded in CWAC is similar to that recorded in Cheshire East (+6%) and Warrington (+6%), however opposite to the reduction recorded in Halton (-6%). Force volumes (+5%) increased by a smaller amount.



The rate per 1,000 population in CWAC has increased from 7.6 to 8.2 in 2024, the rate is now higher than the rate for the Force (7.7).

The profile of Alcohol-related crimes shows that the majority (51.7%/1,512 offences) of offences were recorded as Assault, 28.8% (845 offences) of which as 'Assault without Injury' and 22.8% (667 offences) as 'Assault with Injury'.

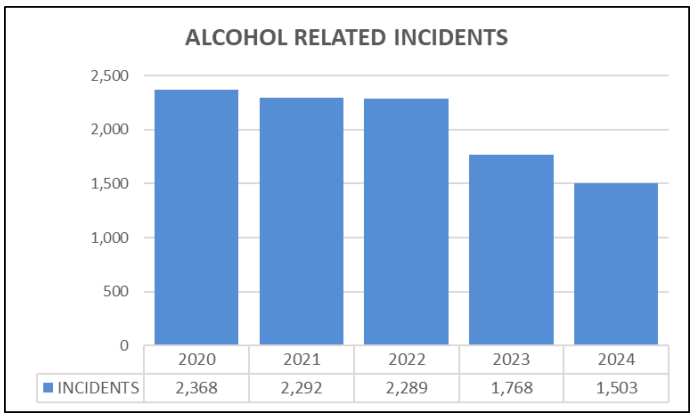
The highest demand months for Alcohol-related crime were December (302 offences), July (300 offences) and August (290 offences). The majority of months recorded over 200 offences, the exception to this was October which recorded 181 offences. These months correspond with the Summer and Christmas periods where increased alcohol consumption is expected and with the peak for the Force (July).

There was a mix of increases and decreases throughout CWAC in 2024, Chester LPU recorded the largest volume increase of 132 offences (+10%), however Ellesmere Port recorded a larger percentage increase (+12%/+78 offences). Northwich LPU recorded the only reduction (-17 offences/-2%). Throughout the BTCs, Northwich South recorded the largest percentage increase of 30% (+47 offences), however both Ellesmere Port East (+68 offences/+22%) and Chester City (+74 offences/+11%) recorded larger volume increases. Northwich North recorded the largest reduction across the area of 21% and 71 less incidents.

Beat Team Cluster	Alcohol related Crimes			
	2023	2024	Change	% Change
Chester	**1281**	**1413**	**132**	**10%**
Chester City	669	743	**74**	**11%**
Chester North	231	225	**-6**	**-3%**
Chester Rural & Frodsham	199	225	**26**	**13%**
Chester South	182	220	**38**	**21%**
Ellesmere Port	**658**	**736**	**78**	**12%**
Ellesmere Port East	312	380	**68**	**22%**
Ellesmere Port West & Neston	346	356	**10**	**3%**
Northwich	**793**	**776**	**-17**	**-2%**
Northwich North	331	260	**-71**	**-21%**
Northwich South	158	205	**47**	**30%**
Winsford	304	311	**7**	**2%**
Total	**2732**	**2925**	**193**	**7%**

Alcohol-related incidents[19] however reduced in 2024, a reduction of 15% (-265 incidents) was recorded resulting in a total of 1,503 incidents which were the lowest volumes over the 5 year period.

[19] This relies on the call taker adding the "QAL: ALCOHOL - WHERE CONSUMPTION HAS HAD AN IMPACT" qualifier to the incident. True numbers could be higher or lower than what is recorded.



The rate per 1,000 population in 2024 for CWAC is similar to, but lower than, the rate for the Force (4.2 vs 4.3).

The reduction recorded in CWAC was the second largest volume reduction however second smallest percentage reduction.

Local Authority	Alcohol Related incidents			
	2023	2024	Change	% Change
Warrington	1101	973	-128	-12%
Halton	720	537	-183	-25%
Cheshire West and Chester	**1768**	**1503**	**-265**	**-15%**
Cheshire East	1834	1462	-372	-20%
Force	**5688**	**4730**	**-958**	**-17%**

The highest demand months for Alcohol-related incidents were August (137 incidents), May (137 incidents) and November (136 incidents). This is similar to the peak for the Force (December).

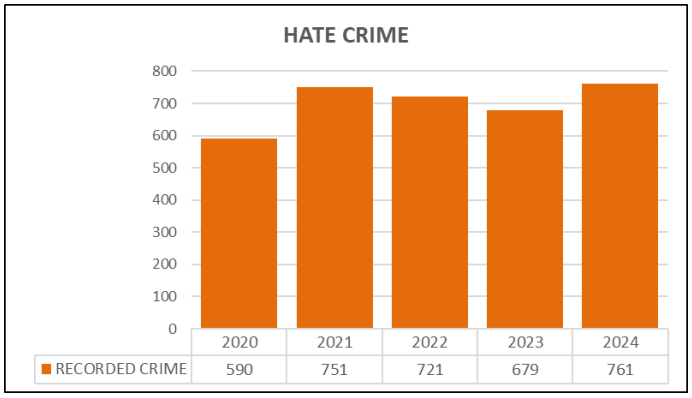
Volumes of Alcohol-related incidents reduced in each LPU and each BTC across CWAC, the largest reduction was recorded in Chester LPU of 124 incidents (-13%) and in the Chester City BTC of 65 incidents (-15%). A larger percentage reduction was however recorded in Northwich LPU (-20%/-103 incidents) and in the Northwich North (-25%/-52 incidents), Winsford (-23%/-42 incidents) and Chester Rural & Frodsham (-18%/-32 incidents) clusters.

Beat Team Cluster	Alcohol related incidents			
	2023	2024	Change	% Change
Chester	**923**	**799**	**-124**	**-13%**
Chester City	446	381	**-65**	**-15%**
Chester North	145	133	**-12**	**-8%**
Chester Rural & Frodsham	180	148	**-32**	**-18%**
Chester South	152	137	**-15**	**-10%**
Ellesmere Port	**340**	**302**	**-38**	**-11%**
Ellesmere Port East	162	143	**-19**	**-12%**
Ellesmere Port West & Neston	178	159	**-19**	**-11%**
Northwich	**505**	**402**	**-103**	**-20%**
Northwich North	209	157	**-52**	**-25%**
Northwich South	115	106	**-9**	**-8%**
Winsford	181	139	**-42**	**-23%**
Total	**1768**	**1503**	**-265**	**-15%**

Hate Crime and Hate Incidents

Hate crime

Hate Crimes across the CWAC CSP increased by 12% in 2024, an additional 82 offences were recorded leading to a total of 761 offences. The volumes in 2024 were the highest over the 5 year period and were a 29% increase from 2020, although similar volumes were recorded in 2021.



CWAC recorded both the largest volume and percentage change when compared across the Force. Increases were also recorded at Force level (+7%) and in Cheshire East (+10%) and Halton (+7%), Warrington however recorded a reduction (-6%). The rate per 1,000 population for Hate crimes in CWAC is the same as the rate at Force level (2.1).

Of all the Hate Crimes recorded across the Force, those in CWAC accounted for 34% despite being one of four CSPs (761 offences out of 2,274 offences).

The top two most recorded Hate Crime offence types in 2024 were 'Public fear, alarm of distress' (49.3%/375 offences) and 'Harassment' (22.1%/168 offences).

Monthly volumes in 2024 indicate a large spike in August which recorded 109 offences, this was an increase of 41 offences from 68 offences in July, and particularly occurred in the Winsford (+13 offences) and Chester North (+12 offences) clusters. No other month recorded near to the volumes in August with the next highest demand month being October with 72 offences. This peak in August matches the peak for the Force.

Comparison of the Hate Crime flags applied to offences in CWAC and Cheshire Constabulary as a whole shown that the overall profile[20] is the same, 'Racial' flags accounted for the largest proportion, whereas 'Religion or Belief' and 'Transgender' flags accounted for the lowest proportion.

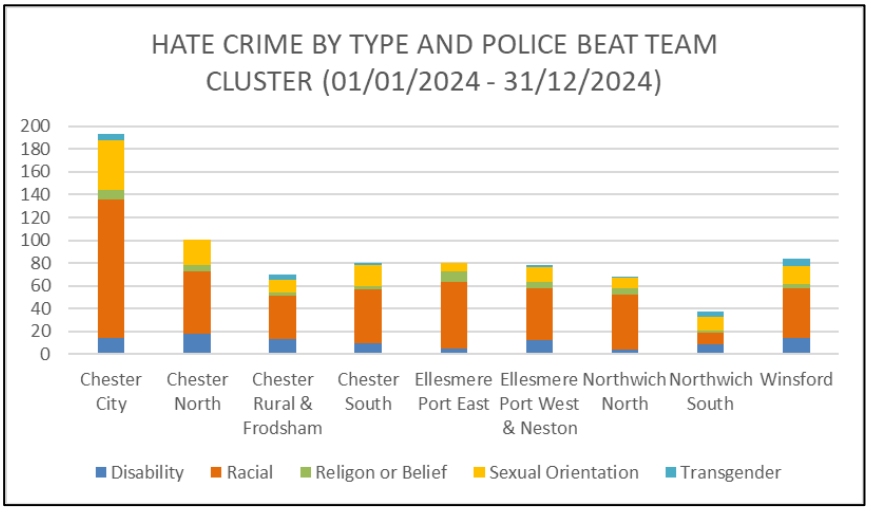
Hate Crime Type	Cheshire West and Chester	Force
Disability	13%	13%
Racial	59%	60%
Religon or Belief	6%	4%
Sexual Orientation	19%	21%
Transgender	3%	3%

[20] A Hate Crime can fall into more than one Hate Crime category, which accounts for some of the difference in the total numbers by type of Hate Crime. Another reason for a difference in overall volumes can be attributed to the reports having been run on different days. Hate Crime is subcategorised as Racial, Disability, Religion or Belief, Sexual Orientation and Transgender.

Volumes peaked in August for the 'Disability', 'Racial', 'Religion or belief' and 'Sexual Orientation' offence flags, however volumes for offences with the 'Transgender' flag peaked in January.

The overall profile also applies when looking at the flags by LPU. Northwich recorded the largest proportion of Disability (14%) and Transgender (6%) Hate Crimes, Ellesmere Port recorded the largest proportion of Racial (66%) and Religion or belief (9%) Hate Crimes and lastly Chester recorded the largest proportion of Sexual Orientation (22%) Hate Crimes.

When looking at Hate Crime flags by BTC (see below chart), the same profile is also present.



A look at Hate Crimes throughout the CSP shows that the highest demand LPU of Chester also recorded the largest increase in 2024 (+81 offences/+24%). Northwich was the only LPU to record a reduction (-13 offences/-7%), it however still recorded the second highest volumes. The Chester City cluster recorded the largest demand in both years and also recorded the largest volume increase (+36 offences/+24%) in 2024. A larger percentage increase was however recorded in both Ellesmere Port West & Neston (+30%/+18 offences) and Northwich North (+43%/+20 offences). Reductions were recorded across 3 clusters, most notably in Northwich South (-44%/-28 offences).

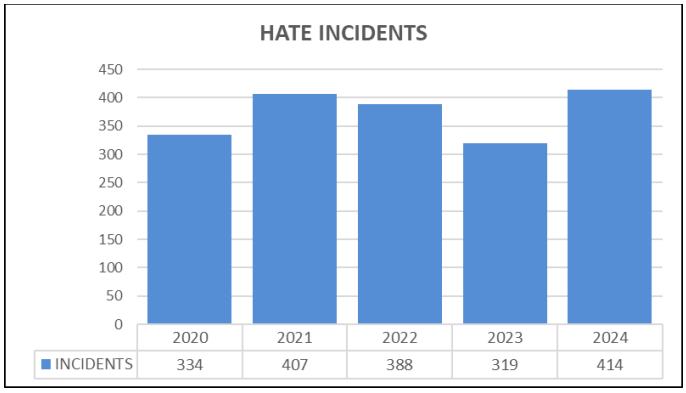
Beat Team Cluster	Hate Crimes			
	2023	2024	Change	% Change
Chester	**342**	**423**	**81**	**24%**
Chester City	149	185	**36**	**24%**
Chester North	81	100	**19**	**23%**
Chester Rural & Frodsham	53	65	**12**	**23%**
Chester South	59	73	**14**	**24%**
Ellesmere Port	**141**	**155**	**14**	**10%**
Ellesmere Port East	81	77	**-4**	**-5%**
Ellesmere Port West & Neston	60	78	**18**	**30%**
Northwich	**196**	**183**	**-13**	**-7%**
Northwich North	46	66	**20**	**43%**
Northwich South	63	35	**-28**	**-44%**
Winsford	87	82	**-5**	**-6%**
Total	**679**	**761**	**82**	**12%**

Further analysis shows that most Hate Crime offences in 2024 across CWAC were recorded with a 'Stranger' or 'Acquaintance' victim to offender relationship, with the majority recorded as Stranger relationships (47.3% vs 34.5%). When looking at each Hate Crime flag individually, analysis shows the same profile for Racial (48.8% vs 31.8%) and Sexual Orientation (54.2% vs 32.3%) flags, however for

offences with the Disability flag, the proportion of Acquaintance relationships was larger (55.0% vs 31.0%). Offences with a Transgender flag recorded an equal split between Stranger and Acquaintance relationships (45.2% vs 45.2%). Lastly for offences with a Religion or Belief flag, the proportion of Stranger relationships (34.0%) was equally split with 'Victimless/Crimes Against State' relationships (34.0%), this could be because the majority were recorded as Racially or Religiously Aggravated Public Order (54.0%) which is a state based offence.

Hate incidents

Like Hate Crime offences, Hate incidents across CWAC also increased in 2024, however at a much larger rate of 30% (+95 incidents). This reversed the 18% decrease in 2023 and led to the highest number of incidents over the 5 year period (414 total incidents). The rate per 1,000 population in CWAC increased to 1.2 in 2024, it is now above the Force rate of 1.1.



The increase in CWAC was the largest when compared across the Force where all other CSPs increased (Halton; +20%, Cheshire East; +7% & Warrington; +3%), it was also over double the increase recorded at Force level (+14%).

Like Hate offences, incident volumes were also highest in August (56 incidents) and October (44 incidents), with the lowest recorded in April (15 incidents).

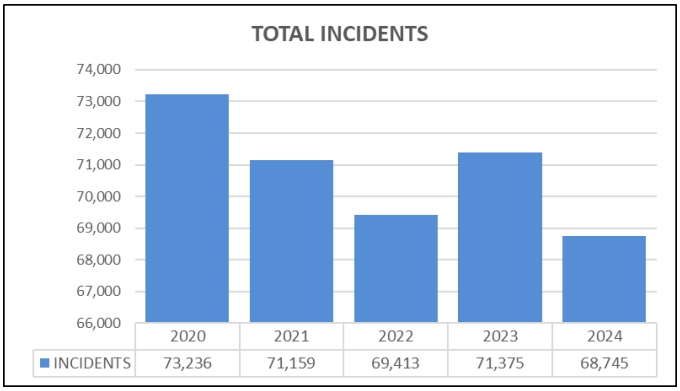
The below table shows that the majority of incidents occurred in Chester LPU and in the Chester City BTC, as they also did in 2023. Increases were recorded across each LPU, most notably Chester recorded an additional 63 incidents (+38%). The majority of clusters also increased; the largest volume increase occurred in Chester City (+29 incidents/+40%) however Chester North recorded a larger percentage increase (+44%/+15 incidents). Other clusters to note are Northwich South which recorded the only reduction (-8 incidents/-28%) and Chester Rural & Frodsham recording 30 incidents in both years.

Beat Team Cluster	Hate incidents			
	2023	2024	Change	% Change
Chester	**164**	**227**	**63**	**38%**
Chester City	73	102	**29**	**40%**
Chester North	34	49	**15**	**44%**
Chester Rural & Frodsham	30	30	**0**	**0%**
Chester South	27	46	**19**	**70%**
Ellesmere Port	**67**	**80**	**13**	**19%**
Ellesmere Port East	35	41	**6**	**17%**
Ellesmere Port West & Nestor	32	39	**7**	**22%**
Northwich	**88**	**107**	**19**	**22%**
Northwich North	16	34	**18**	**113%**
Northwich South	29	21	**-8**	**-28%**
Winsford	43	52	**9**	**21%**
Total	**319**	**414**	**95**	**30%**

All Incidents

There was a total of 68,745 incidents recorded in CWAC in 2024, this was a 4% reduction (-2,630 incidents) from 2023 and when compared across the Force was the second smallest change with all other CSPs reducing (Warrington; -6%, Halton; -5% & Cheshire East; -1%). Rates per 1,000 population figures for all incidents are considerably smaller in CWAC (192.5) than in the Force (234.5).

Compared over the 5 year period, volumes in 2024 were the lowest.



Looking at the type of incidents[21] recorded in CWAC in 2024, with comparisons to 2023, highlighted the following;

- 12% (8,316) were 'Traffic' incidents (+0.5%/+48 incidents)
- 10% (6,733) were 'Domestic' incidents (+9%/+551 incidents)
- 10% (6,703) were 'Concern for safety' incidents (-15%/-1,197 incidents)[22]
- 5% (3,335) were 'ASB' incidents (-10%/-362 incidents)[23]
- 4% (2,723) were 'RTC' incidents (-7%/-209 incidents)
- 4% (2,476) were 'Misper' incidents (-3%/-84 incidents)[24]
- 2% (1,584) were 'Mental Health' incidents (-25%/-515 incidents) [25]
- 2% (1,357) were 'Public Order' incidents (-18%/-299 incidents)

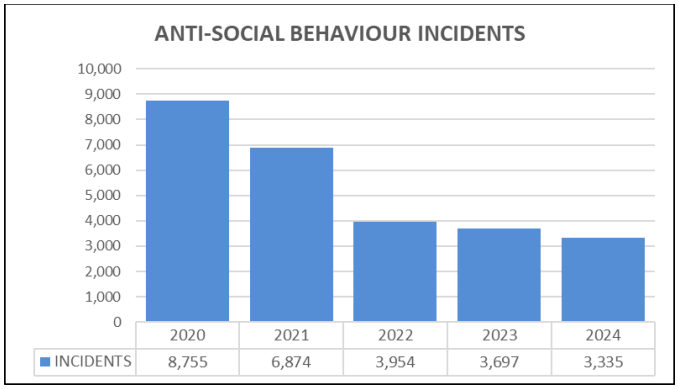
Incident volumes reduced in Chester (-6%) and Northwich (-3%) LPU, however in Ellesmere Port they slightly increased (+0.2%). Reductions were recorded in all but one BTC (Ellesmere Port East; +1%/+61 incidents), with the largest percentage reduction recorded in Chester North (-7%/-587 incidents) and the largest volume reduction recorded in Chester Rural & Frodsham (-627 incidents/-6%). Demand in both years was highest in Chester LPU and the Chester Rural & Frodsham clusters despite reductions.

Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB) Incidents

Volumes of ASB incidents across CWAC reduced for the 5th consecutive year to a total of 3,335 incidents in 2024, this was a reduction of 10% (-362 incidents) from 2023 and resulted in the lowest volumes over the comparative period. Reductions were also recorded across the Force with the

[21] Categorised through closing group.
[22] Impacted by Right Care Right Person (RCRP), see appendix for explanation
[23] Impacted by Right Care Right Person (RCRP), see appendix for explanation
[24] Impacted by Right Care Right Person (RCRP), see appendix for explanation
[25] Impacted by Right Care Right Person (RCRP), see appendix for explanation

reduction in CWAC being the largest followed by Warrington (-9%), Halton (-5%) and then Cheshire East (-0.5%). The reduction in CWAC was also larger than that recorded for the Force (-6%).

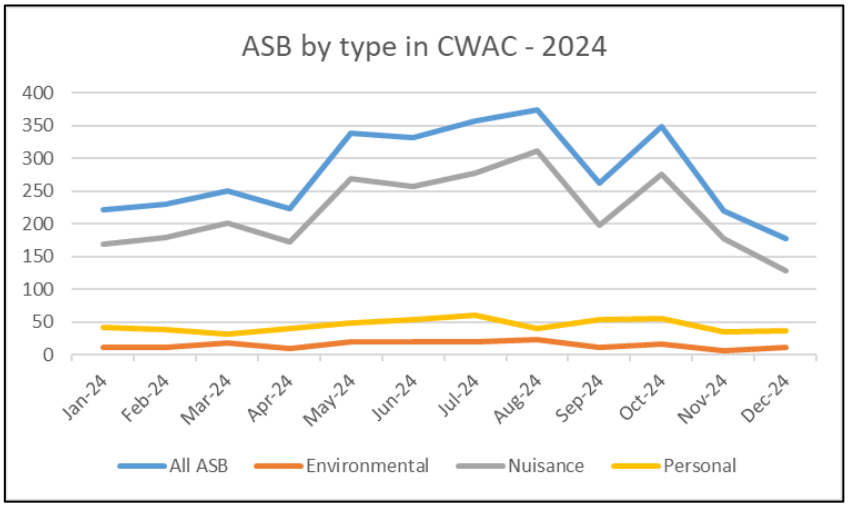


In 2023 the rate per 1,000 population for ASB incidents in CWAC was larger than the Force (10.3 vs 10.1), rates have however reduced meaning the rate for CWAC is now smaller (9.3 vs 9.5 Force).

Reductions were also recorded in each of the subtypes, 'Nuisance ASB' recorded the highest demand and reduced by 9%, 'Personal ASB' recorded the second highest demand and reduced by 10% and lastly the lowest demand subtype, 'Environmental ASB', reduced by 17%.

Monthly volumes show a peak period from May to August (1,401 incidents collectively), with volumes peaking at 375 incidents in August. A peak in October (348 incidents) was also recorded, this is something seen across the Force and is addressed by operations, such as Op Treacle, specifically created for increased demand around Halloween/'Mischief night'. Rate per day analysis confirms these peak months, August recorded the largest rate (12.1) followed by July (11.5), October (11.2), June (11.0) and then May (10.5). In terms of peak periods in each LPU, Chester and Ellesmere Port both peak in August, however Northwich volumes peak in June. The lowest volumes throughout the year were recorded in December (177 incidents).

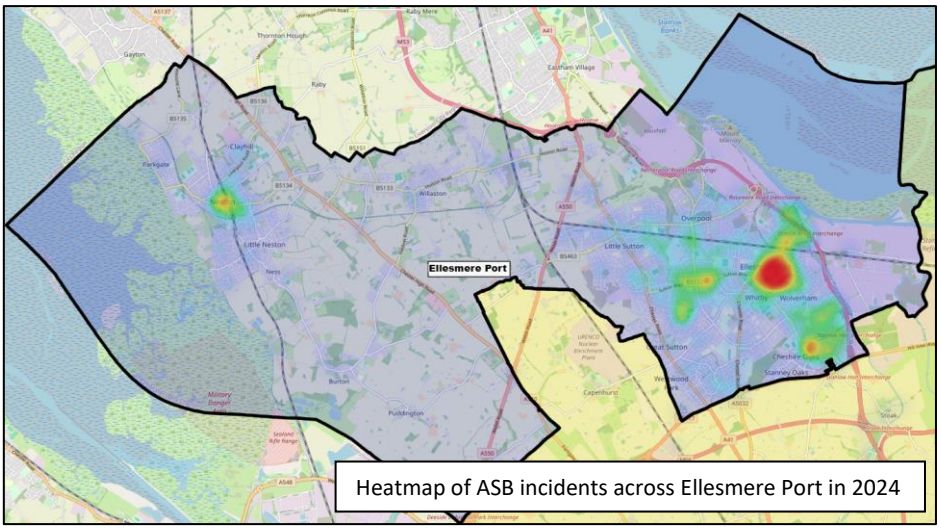
Similar trends are present in each of the ASB subtypes and can be seen below.



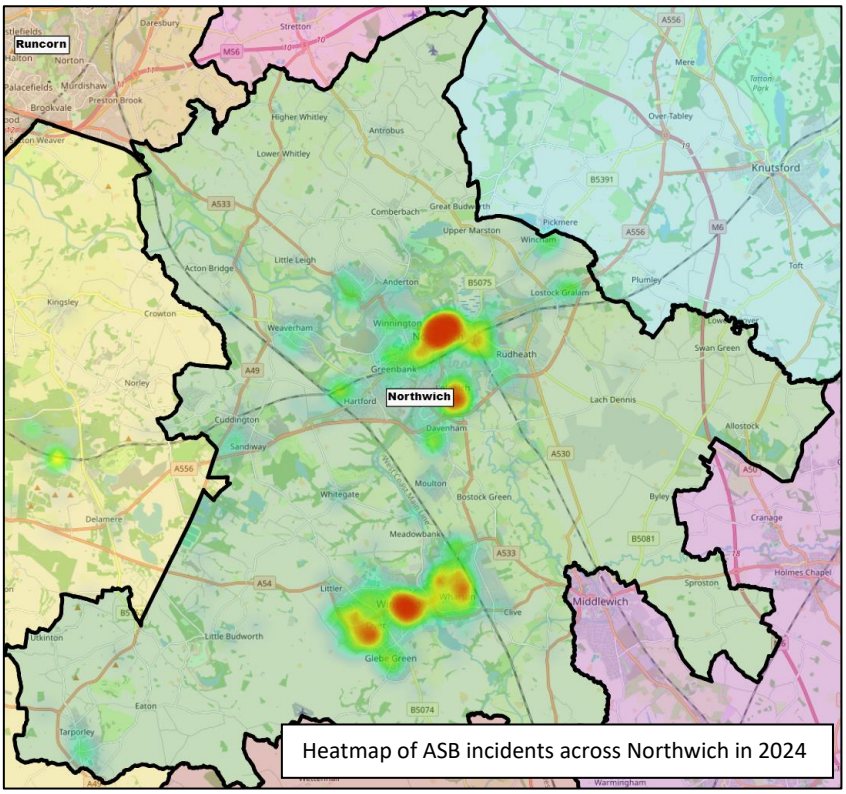
The highest volumes across the CSP were in Chester LPU and the Chester City BTC in both 2023 and 2024, with these areas recording the largest reductions (Chester LPU; -236 incidents/-14% & Chester City; -130 incidents/-18%). Despite an overall decrease, the Ellesmere Port East (+13 incidents/+3%) and Northwich North (+15 incidents/+4%) BTCs both recorded small increases.

Beat Team Cluster	All ASB incidents			
	2023	2024	Change	% Change
Chester	**1716**	**1480**	**-236**	**-14%**
Chester City	727	597	**-130**	**-18%**
Chester North	310	268	**-42**	**-14%**
Chester Rural & Frodsham	395	337	**-58**	**-15%**
Chester South	284	278	**-6**	**-2%**
Ellesmere Port	**834**	**786**	**-48**	**-6%**
Ellesmere Port East	448	461	**13**	**3%**
Ellesmere Port West & Neston	386	325	**-61**	**-16%**
Northwich	**1147**	**1069**	**-78**	**-7%**
Northwich North	355	370	**15**	**4%**
Northwich South	260	227	**-33**	**-13%**
Winsford	532	472	**-60**	**-11%**
Total	**3697**	**3335**	**-362**	**-10%**

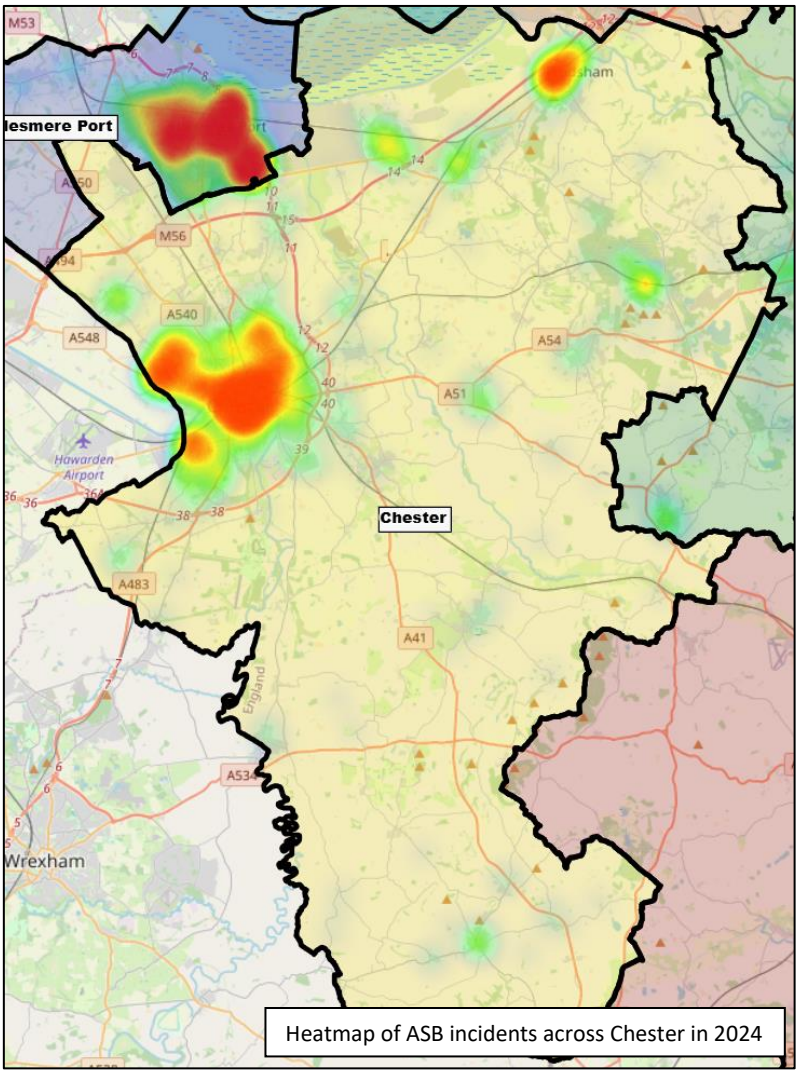
Below shows a heat map of ASB incidents in CWAC, split by LPU, for the 2024 year, red indicates higher volumes whereas light green indicates lower volumes.



Heatmap of ASB incidents across Ellesmere Port in 2024



Heatmap of ASB incidents across Northwich in 2024

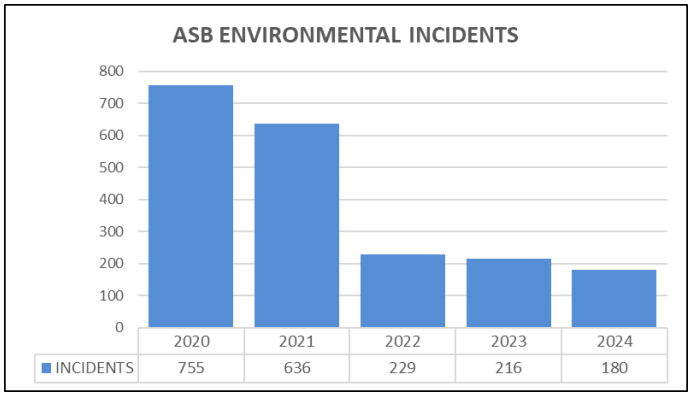


Heatmap of ASB incidents across Chester in 2024

Environmental (Police) ASB incidents

Environmental ASB recorded the largest percentage change across the subtypes in 2024 with a 17% reduction (-36 incidents) resulting in a total of 180 incidents. This subtype represents the smallest proportion of ASB and accounted for only 5% of demand, this is slightly smaller than the proportion at Force level (6%). Rates per 1,000 population for Environmental ASB incidents in 2024 across CWAC are 0.5, this is slightly below the Force rate (0.6).

The reduction recorded in 2024 was the 4th consecutive decrease across the area and resulted in the lowest volumes over the 5 year period (-76% from 2020).



The reduction in CWAC was larger than that recorded for the Force (-12%) and was the second largest when compared across the CSPs (Halton; -31% & Cheshire East; -10%). Warrington recorded the only increase (+11%).

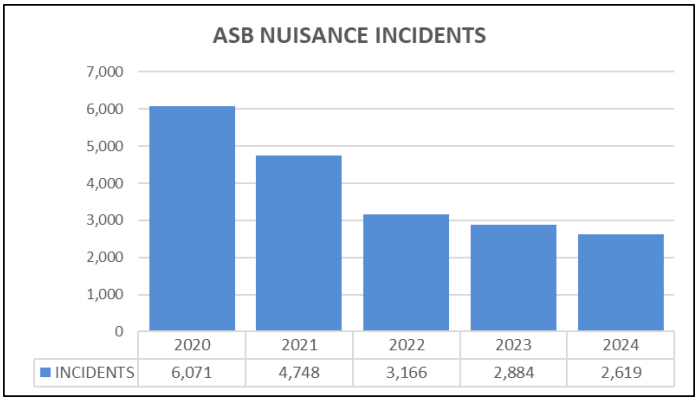
Volumes of Environmental ASB peaked in the same month as all ASB (August; 24 incidents), the second highest demand month was however slightly earlier in May (20 incidents); the peak month for the Force is July. When looking at each LPU the peak month however varies, for Chester it is August, for Ellesmere Port it is May, August & December and for Northwich it is March & May.

Chester LPU and the Winsford BTC recorded the highest demand for Environmental ASB in both years. Reductions were recorded in each LPU across CWAC, most notably in Ellesmere Port (-29%/-16 incidents). Like all ASB there was a mix of increases and decreases across the clusters, the largest reduction occurred in Ellesmere Port East (-14 incidents/-48%) whereas the largest increase occurred in Chester North (+5 incidents/+38%).

Beat Team Cluster	Environmental ASB			
	2023	2024	Change	% Change
Chester	**91**	**80**	**-11**	**-12%**
Chester City	30	18	**-12**	**-40%**
Chester North	13	18	**5**	**38%**
Chester Rural & Frodsham	27	26	**-1**	**-4%**
Chester South	21	18	**-3**	**-14%**
Ellesmere Port	**55**	**39**	**-16**	**-29%**
Ellesmere Port East	29	15	**-14**	**-48%**
Ellesmere Port West & Nestor	26	24	**-2**	**-8%**
Northwich	**70**	**61**	**-9**	**-13%**
Northwich North	16	18	**2**	**13%**
Northwich South	15	10	**-5**	**-33%**
Winsford	39	33	**-6**	**-15%**
Total	**216**	**180**	**-36**	**-17%**

Nuisance (Police) ASB incidents

Nuisance ASB was the most recorded subtype and accounted for 79% (2,619 incidents) of ASB incidents in 2024; this is slightly higher than the proportion in Force figures (75%). Changes to Nuisance ASB has followed the trend seen in previous years and continued to reduce in 2024 (-9%/-265 incidents), this resulting in the lowest volumes over the 5 year period (-57% from 2020).



The rate per 1,000 population in CWAC (7.3) is slightly above the rate for the Force (7.2).

The volume reduction in CWAC was the largest, however the percentage reduction was second largest. Cheshire East was the only area to record an increase (+3%).

Local Authority	Nuisance ASB incidents			
	2023	2024	Change	% Change
Warrington	1443	1269	-174	-12%
Halton	1387	1381	-6	0%
Cheshire West and Chester	**2884**	**2619**	**-265**	**-9%**
Cheshire East	2438	2508	70	3%
Force	**8227**	**7843**	**-384**	**-5%**

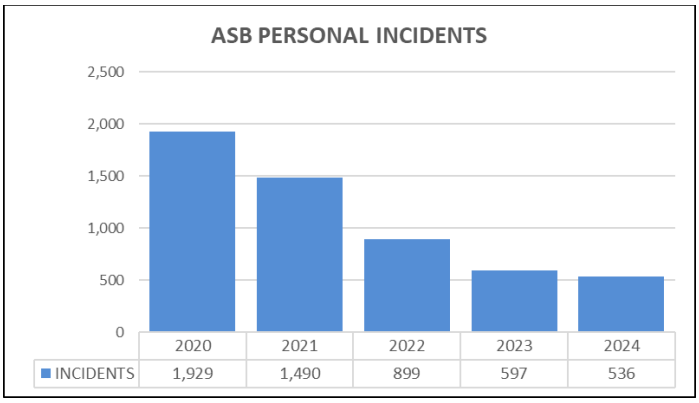
The highest demand months for Nuisance ASB match those for all ASB and are August (311 incidents), July (278 incidents) and October (276 incidents); this trend is mirrored in the Force and in each LPU.

Demand in 2024 remains highest in Chester LPU and the Chester City BTC, as it also did in 2023, these two areas also recording the largest change across the CSP (Chester LPU; -183 incidents/-14% & Chester City BTC; -128 incidents/-20%). BTC changes show a slight increase in Chester South (+13 incidents/+7%), Ellesmere Port East (+11 incidents/+3%) and Northwich North (+21 incidents/+7%).

Beat Team Cluster	Nuisance ASB			
	2023	2024	Change	% Change
Chester	**1348**	**1165**	**-183**	**-14%**
Chester City	628	500	**-128**	**-20%**
Chester North	239	203	**-36**	**-15%**
Chester Rural & Frodsham	285	253	**-32**	**-11%**
Chester South	196	209	**13**	**7%**
Ellesmere Port	**630**	**621**	**-9**	**-1%**
Ellesmere Port East	361	372	**11**	**3%**
Ellesmere Port West & Nestor	269	249	**-20**	**-7%**
Northwich	**906**	**833**	**-73**	**-8%**
Northwich North	288	309	**21**	**7%**
Northwich South	206	168	**-38**	**-18%**
Winsford	412	356	**-56**	**-14%**
Total	**2884**	**2619**	**-265**	**-9%**

Personal (Police) ASB incidents

Like overall ASB and the other subtypes, Personal ASB continued to reduce in 2024 (-10%/-61 incidents), this resulting in the lowest volumes over the 5 year period (536 total incidents/-72% from 2020). Personal ASB accounted for 16% of all ASB incidents in 2024, a figure which is slightly smaller than Force proportions (19%).



The percentage reduction in CWAC was the same as that recorded for the Force (-10%), it however was second largest to Halton (-15%) (Cheshire East; -8% & Warrington; -6%).

The rate per 1,000 population in CWAC is smaller than that for the Force (1.5 vs 1.8 Force).

For Personal ASB the highest demand months were July (60 incidents), October (55 incidents), September and June (54 incidents each), these are similar to peak months for all ASB and the Force. The highest demand months however vary between each LPU; Chester (July & June), Ellesmere Port (October & September) and Northwich (May & September).

Looking at the changes recorded shows that despite recording the largest volume reduction (-42 incidents/-15%), Chester LPU still recorded the largest demand in 2024. Due to a 43% (-39 incidents) reduction recorded in Ellesmere Port West & Neston, this cluster no longer has the highest demand across the area (Winsford BTC in 2024); of note, this reduction was the largest across the clusters. Northwich was the only LPU to record an increase (+4 incidents/+2%), however there were multiple across the clusters, most notably in Ellesmere Port East (+16 incidents/+28%).

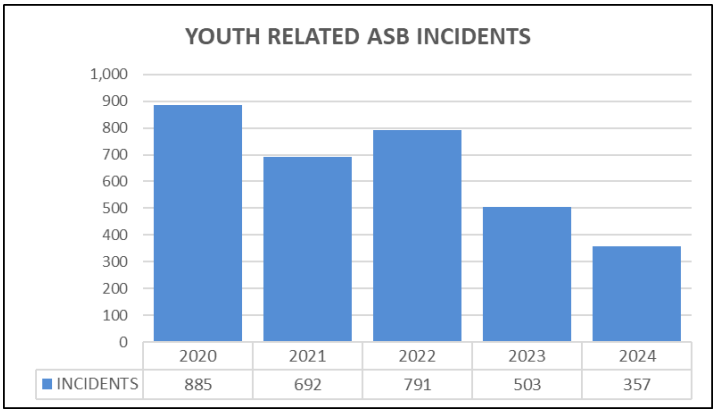
Beat Team Cluster	Personal ASB			
	2023	2024	Change	% Change
Chester	**277**	**235**	**-42**	**-15%**
Chester City	69	79	**10**	**14%**
Chester North	58	47	**-11**	**-19%**
Chester Rural & Frodsham	83	58	**-25**	**-30%**
Chester South	67	51	**-16**	**-24%**
Ellesmere Port	**149**	**126**	**-23**	**-15%**
Ellesmere Port East	58	74	**16**	**28%**
Ellesmere Port West & Neston	91	52	**-39**	**-43%**
Northwich	**171**	**175**	**4**	**2%**
Northwich North	51	43	**-8**	**-16%**
Northwich South	39	49	**10**	**26%**
Winsford	81	83	**2**	**2%**
Total	**597**	**536**	**-61**	**-10%**

Youth-related Anti-social Behaviour

Youth-related[26] ASB incidents reduced by 29% in CWAC, in 2024 a total of 357 incidents were recorded which was 146 less from 2023. The rate per 1,000 population for Youth-related ASB incidents is 1.0 in both CWAC and the Force. CWAC recorded the second smallest percentage reduction but second largest volume reduction when compared across the CSPs. The reduction in CWAC was slightly smaller than the reduction recorded at Force level (-33%).

Local Authority	Youth related ASB incidents			
	2023	2024	Change	% Change
Warrington	274	204	-70	-26%
Halton	368	247	-121	-33%
Cheshire West and Chester	**503**	**357**	**-146**	**-29%**
Cheshire East	526	313	-213	-40%
Force	**1680**	**1128**	**-552**	**-33%**

Analysis shows that the volumes recorded in 2024 were the lowest over the 5 year period.



The highest demand month for Youth related ASB in CWAC was October (57 incidents), this month recording volumes much higher than the next highest demand month of May (37 incidents); October matches the peak month for the Force and is one of the peak months for all ASB.

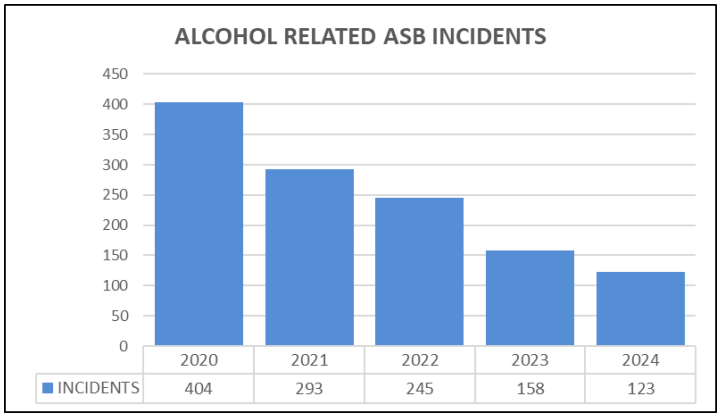
A reduction was recorded across each LPU in CWAC, Northwich in particular reduced by 29% (-56 incidents) meaning demand was higher in Chester in 2024 (150 incidents vs 139 incidents). The largest percentage reduction was recorded in Ellesmere Port LPU (-42%/-50 incidents). Reductions were recorded in all but two clusters (Chester North; +5 incidents/+14% & Northwich North; +3 incidents/+6%), the largest percentage reduction was in Ellesmere Port West & Neston (-68%/-26 incidents) and the largest volume reduction was in Winsford (-44 incidents/-42%); despite this large volume reduction, Winsford remains the largest demand cluster.

[26] Youth related Anti-Social Behaviour relies on a 'QYH' qualifier being added to the incident by the call taker. True numbers could be higher or lower than what is recorded.

Beat Team Cluster	Youth related ASB incidents			
	2023	2024	Change	% Change
Chester	**190**	**150**	**-40**	**-21%**
Chester City	71	53	**-18**	**-25%**
Chester North	37	42	**5**	**14%**
Chester Rural & Frodsham	58	34	**-24**	**-41%**
Chester South	24	21	**-3**	**-13%**
Ellesmere Port	**118**	**68**	**-50**	**-42%**
Ellesmere Port East	80	56	**-24**	**-30%**
Ellesmere Port West & Neston	38	12	**-26**	**-68%**
Northwich	**195**	**139**	**-56**	**-29%**
Northwich North	47	50	**3**	**6%**
Northwich South	42	27	**-15**	**-36%**
Winsford	106	62	**-44**	**-42%**
Total	**503**	**357**	**-146**	**-29%**

Alcohol-related Anti-social Behaviour

Volumes of Alcohol-related[27] ASB reduced by 22% (-35 incidents) in 2024, this continuing the reducing trend seen over the last 5 years resulting in the lowest volumes over the comparative period (123 total incidents). The rate per 1,000 population in CWAC and the Force is the same (0.3).



CWAC recorded the largest volume reduction when compared across the CSPs, the percentage reduction in Halton however was larger (-33%). A reduction was also recorded in Cheshire East (-16%) however an increase was recorded in Warrington (+3%). The reduction in CWAC was larger than that recorded for the Force (-17%).

Looking at demand by month shows a peak in June (17 incidents), August (16 incidents) and May (14 incidents), with May being a high demand month for the Force.

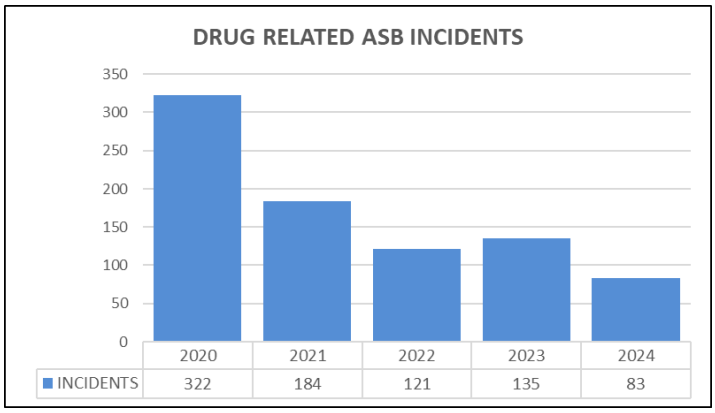
Volumes in 2024 remain mostly in Chester LPU (76 incidents) despite a 26% reduction (-27 incidents); of note this is the largest change across the LPUs. The majority of BTCs also reduced, most notably Winsford reduced by 77% (-10 incidents), a larger volume reduction was however recorded in Chester City (-20 incidents/-26%). A small volume increase was recorded in a number of clusters, most notably in Chester Rural & Frodsham (+4 incidents/+200%).

[27] This relies on the call taker adding the "QAL: ALCOHOL - WHERE CONSUMPTION HAS HAD AN IMPACT" qualifier to the incident. True numbers could be higher or lower than what is recorded.

Beat Team Cluster	Alcohol related ASB incidents			
	2023	2024	Change	% Change
Chester	**103**	**76**	**-27**	**-26%**
Chester City	76	56	**-20**	**-26%**
Chester North	8	4	**-4**	**-50%**
Chester Rural & Frodsham	2	6	**4**	**200%**
Chester South	17	10	**-7**	**-41%**
Ellesmere Port	**16**	**17**	**1**	**6%**
Ellesmere Port East	11	11	**0**	**0%**
Ellesmere Port West & Neston	5	6	**1**	**20%**
Northwich	**39**	**30**	**-9**	**-23%**
Northwich North	16	19	**3**	**19%**
Northwich South	10	8	**-2**	**-20%**
Winsford	13	3	**-10**	**-77%**
Total	**158**	**123**	**-35**	**-22%**

Drug-related Anti-social Behaviour

There was a total of 83 Drug-related[28] ASB incidents in CWAC in 2024, this was a 39% (-52 incidents) reduction and follows the trend seen for all other ASB types resulting in the lowest volumes over the 5 year period (-74% from 2020). The rate per 1,000 population is 0.2 for CWAC and the Force.



When compared across the Force, CWAC recorded the largest change (Warrington; -35%, Halton; -20% & Cheshire East; -10%), one which was also larger than that recorded for the Force (-28%).

Volumes of Drug-related ASB are relatively low throughout the year, peaks were however recorded in May (16 incidents), August (11 incidents) and November (11 incidents); the peak month for the Force is October.

Volumes throughout the CSP mostly occurred in Chester LPU (45 incidents) despite a reduction of 21 incidents (-32%), Ellesmere Port LPU however recorded a larger percentage change (-52%/15 incidents). Reductions were recorded in each of the BTCs, most notably Ellesmere Port West & Neston reduced by 64% (-9 incidents), Chester City however recorded a slightly larger volume reduction of 10 less incidents (-31%).

[28] This relies on the call taker adding the "QDR: DRUGS - LEGAL OR ILLEGAL OR SUSPECTED" qualifier to the incident. True numbers could be higher or lower than what is recorded.

Beat Team Cluster	Drug related ASB incidents			
	2023	2024	Change	% Change
Chester	**66**	**45**	**-21**	**-32%**
Chester City	32	22	**-10**	**-31%**
Chester North	8	7	**-1**	**-13%**
Chester Rural & Frodsham	13	8	**-5**	**-38%**
Chester South	13	8	**-5**	**-38%**
Ellesmere Port	**29**	**14**	**-15**	**-52%**
Ellesmere Port East	15	9	**-6**	**-40%**
Ellesmere Port West & Neste	14	5	**-9**	**-64%**
Northwich	**40**	**24**	**-16**	**-40%**
Northwich North	11	9	**-2**	**-18%**
Northwich South	12	7	**-5**	**-42%**
Winsford	17	8	**-9**	**-53%**
Total	**135**	**83**	**-52**	**-39%**

Road Safety

Collisions

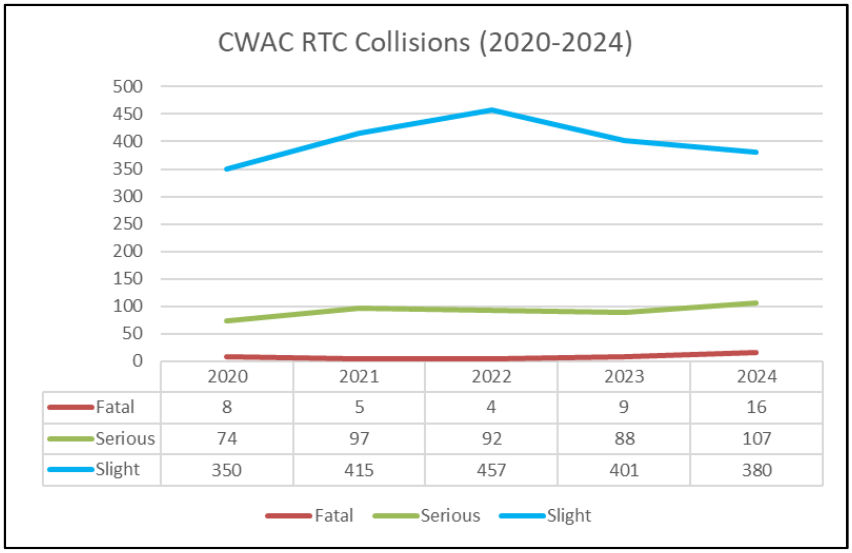
The number of Road Traffic Collisions resulting in a Fatal or Serious injury (KSI) increased by 27% in 2024 (+26 KSI collisions/123 total KSI collisions) (vs 97 KSI collisions in 2023); of note this was the highest volumes over the 5 year period (+50%/+41 KSI collisions from 2020).

This reduction is also reflected in KSI collision rates per 100 miles of road with the rate in CWAC being below the rate for the Force (8.6 vs 8.8 Force).

Compared across the CSPs, CWAC recorded the second largest increase, Cheshire East recorded the largest (+42 KSI collisions /+38%) followed by Halton recording the smallest (+3 KSI collisions/+10%). Warrington was the only CSP to record a reduction (-17 KSI collisions/-25%).

Volumes of collisions in 2024 were highest in November (60 collisions) and June (55 collisions), and lowest in April (31 collisions). Force volumes were highest slightly earlier in the year (October) however June was also the second highest demand month.

Looking at the different types of collisions that occurred in 2024 shows a 78% (+7 collisions) and 22% (+19 collisions) increase in Fatal and Serious collisions, Slight collisions however recorded a 5% (-21 collisions) decrease. The below graph shows 5 year comparisons, the same trend is mirrored for Fatal (+100%) and Serious (+45%) collisions, however for Slight collisions an increase was recorded (+9%).



Analysis of all the collisions (503) that occurred across CWAC in 2024 indicated that they were most likely to happen in the below conditions;

- Between the hours of 15:00-17:59 (27%/134 collisions), with another peak recorded at 08:00 (9%/45 collisions)
- On 30mph (36%/181 collisions) or 50mph (21%/103 collisions) speed limit roads
- In daylight light conditions (77%/388 collisions)
- On dry road conditions (77%/385 collisions)

The above also applies to each of the three collision severities.

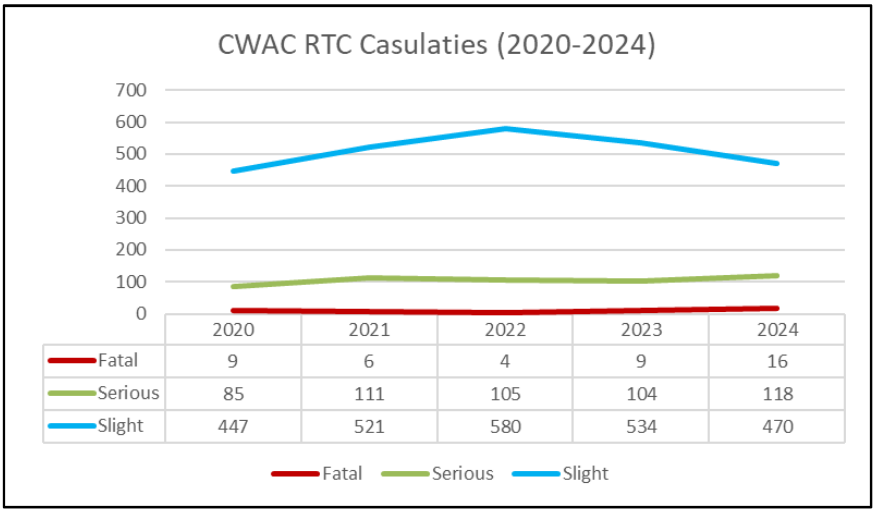
Casualties

During 2024 a total of 604 people were injured on Cheshire Wests roads, of these casualties 134 were classed as KSI casualties which is a 19% increase from 2023 (+21 KSI casualties). Cheshire Constabulary recorded a KSI casualty rate of 9.7 per 100 miles of road, this is above the rate for CWAC (9.4).

Compared across the CSPs, CWAC recorded the second largest increase, Cheshire East recorded the largest (+40 KSI casualties/+32%) followed by Halton recording the smallest (+2 KSI casualties/+6%). Warrington CSP recorded the only decrease (-4%/-3 KSI casualties).

Peak months throughout the year for casualties are the same as those for collisions and are June (75 casualties) and October (62 casualties).

Looking at the different types of casualty severities shown a 78% (+7 casualties) and 13% (+14 casualties) increase in Fatal and Serious casualties, Slight casualties however recorded a 12% (-64 casualties) decrease. The below graph shows 5 year comparisons, the same trend is mirrored for Fatal (+78%) and Serious (+39%) casualties, however for Slight casualties an increase was recorded (+5%).



	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
Fatal	9	6	4	9	16
Serious	85	111	105	104	118
Slight	447	521	580	534	470

Analysis of the profile of all casualties (604) that occurred across CWAC in 2024 indicated that;

- 61% (367 casualties) were Male
- 38% (277 casualties) were aged between 26-55 years old (17% (100) 26-35 years old, 15% (91) 36-45 years old & 14% (86) 46-55 years old)
- 67% (402 casualties) were caused by a Car & Taxi vehicle type
- 73% (440 casualties) were classed as the Driver/rider

- 10% (61 casualties) of casualties were Children[29]
- 21% (127 casualties) of casualties were Older[30] people

Of all the casualties in CWAC in 2024, seatbelts were worn in the majority of cases (285/47%), with only 2% (14) recorded as no seatbelt worn.

[29] Under the age of 16 at time of the collision
[30] 60 years and over at time of collision

Appendix/Definitions

Principal Crime Related Offence Rule explained:

Related Crime Definition

'Any crime within a series of crimes arising from the same incident that involves the same victim and offenders) 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 (As of February 2024):

Principal crime look-up table

Offence	HO Class	H.O. Classification	Maximum sentence	State or victim based
Homicide	1	001/01	Life	V
Attempted murder	2	002/00	Life	V
Rape (including attempted rape)	19C-K	019/07 - 019/19	Life	V
Robbery	34	034/01 - 034/02	Life	V
Conspiracy to murder	3A	003/02 – 003/06	Life	S
Assault by penetration	17A-B 20A-B	017/13 -017/14 020/03-020/04	Life	V
Grievous bodily harm with intent (S18)	5D	005/01	Life	V
Sexual assault on male/female child under 13	17B, 20B	017/16, 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	008/58	14 yrs	V
Stalking (Sec 4A) – fear of violence	8Q	008/65	10 yrs	V
Stalking (Sec 4A) – Serious Alarm/Distress or Fear of Violence	8Q	008/66	10 yrs	V
Harassment (Sec 4) - fear of violence	8L	008/30	10 yrs	V
Controlling & Coercive Behaviour	8U	008/67	5 yrs	V
Sexual assault on male/female aged 13 or over	17A, 20A	017/15, 020/05	10 yrs	V
Grievous bodily harm (S20) only	8N	008/01	5 yrs	V
Non-Fatal Strangulation	8N	008/77	5 yrs	V
Encouraging or assisting serious self-harm	5E	005/30	5 yrs	V
Sending or showing flashing images electronically	5E	005/29	5yrs	V
Aggravated burglary	29A, 31A	029/00, 031/00	Life	V
Threats to kill	3B	003/01	10 yrs	V
Threatening Communications Offence	8R	005/28	5 yrs	V
Racially or Religiously Aggravated harassment or stalking without violence	8M	008/56	2 yrs	V
Sharing or threatening to share intimate photographs or film	88C	88/15	2 yrs	V
Sending etc photograph or film of genitals	88E	88/14	2 yrs	V
Sharing or threatening to share intimate photographs or film without consent	88C	175/08	51 weeks	V
Stalking (Sec 2A) – A course of conduct in breach of Sec 1 (1)	8Q	195/12	6 months	V
Harassment (Sec 2) – without violence	8L	195/94	6 months	V
Actual bodily harm	8N	008/06	5 yrs	V
Threats/Possession with intent to commit criminal damage	59	059/11	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	039/00	7 yrs	V
Theft of vehicle	48	048/01	7 yrs	V
Sending letters etc. with intent to cause distress or anxiety	8R	008/72	2 yrs	V
False Communications	8R	138/52	51 weeks	V
Assault without injury	105A	105/01	6 months	V
Criminal damage (Under £5000)	149	149/00	3 months	V

Cyber-crime definition:

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

Domestic Abuse definition:

Domestic Abuse is identified as following on Cheshire Constabulary systems:

- Domestic related offences – a NICL qualifier flag has been added to say the offence is domestic related. This flag can be applied to any Home Office offence or where the victim / offender relationship has been identified by the officer as 'domestic related'.
- Domestic related Violence with Injury – a NICL qualifier flag has been added to any offence within the Violence with Injury group as identified by the Home Office (see list below) or where the victim / offender relationship has been identified by the officer as 'domestic related':
    - Attempted murder
    - Causing death by aggravated vehicle taking
    - Intentional destruction of a viable unborn child
    - Causing death by dangerous driving
    - Causing death by careless driving under influence of drink or drugs
    - Causing or allowing the death of a child or vulnerable person
    - Causing death or serious injury by driving unlicensed, disqualified or uninsured
    - Assault with intent to cause serious harm
    - Endangering life
    - Assault with injury
    - Racially or Religiously aggravated assault with injury

Right Care Right Person (RCRP):

Right Care Right Person (RCRP) was introduced in January 2024 and is an operating model for police and partners that seeks to ensure the public are provided with the right care, responded to by the right person with the right skills, and training and experience to best meet their needs. It aims to ensure people who call the police get the best possible support and service.

Police Officers have often been required to offer support to those who really require specialist medical or psychological care. Officers will no longer be taking on this responsibility when it is not appropriate to do so.

Indeed, police intervention can have a detrimental effect on vulnerable patients who feel they are being criminalised because of their health or social care issues.

Their care will now be provided by the agency that can best meet the individual's needs.

- Phase 1 focuses on Concern for Safety reports.
- Phase 2 focuses on 'Walkouts' from health care facilities.
- Phase 3 focuses on 'Mental Health' related incidents.

Personal Anti-Social Behaviour Incidents definition:

'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.

Nuisance Anti-Social Behaviour Incidents definition:

'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.

Environmental Anti-Social Behaviour Incidents definition:

'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.

Crime -Table of Comparative Change 2023/24

The following table illustrates the percentage change in recorded crime compared to 2023 and whether or not this change is higher (green colour) or lower (red colour) than the change seen at Force level.

RECORDED OFFENCES	CWaC Percentage change in 2024	FORCE Percentage change in 2024
Total Crime	-4%	-2%
Victim Based Crime	-5%	-2%
Violence Against Women & Girls	-5%	-6%
Violence Against the Person	-1%	-1%
- Violence With Injury	-7%	-5%
- Violence Without Injury	0%	-1%
Stalking & Harassment HO group	2%	2%
- Stalking	7%	6%
- Harassment	27%	24%
- Controlling or Coercive behaviour	11%	11%
- Malicious Communications	-54%	-53%
Sexual Offences	10%	11%
- Rape	15%	7%
- Other Sexual Offences	8%	13%
- Child Sexual Abuse	30%	31%
Drug Offences	-2%	-3%
Possession of Weapons	1%	-8%
Knife Crime	17%	8%
Alcohol Related Offences	7%	5%
Drug related Offences	15%	17%
Domestic Abuse	-4%	-4%
Cyber Crime	29%	29%
Hate Crime	12%	7%
Serious Aqcuisitive crime	-14%	-10%
Robbery	8%	6%
- Personal Robbery	-2%	1%
- Business Robbery	183%	92%
Burglary Offences	-19%	-9%
- Residential Burglary	-16%	-10%
- Business & Community Burglary	-27%	-8%
Vehicle Crime	-14%	-12%
- Theft from a Motor Vehicle	-19%	-19%
- Theft of a Motor Vehicle	-13%	-8%
- Vehicle interference	2%	1%
Theft/Stolen goods HO group	-11%	0%
- Shoplifting	-10%	8%
- Theft from the Person	-1%	-2%
- Bicycle Theft	-33%	-19%
- Other theft offences	-10%	-6%
Criminal Damage & Arson	-12%	-11%
Most Serious Violence	57%	45%
Public Order	-2%	-7%
Public Space VWI	-1%	-1%
Licenced Premise VWI	-3%	1%
Licenced Premises	-2%	9%

Incident -Table of Comparative Change 2023/24

The following table illustrates the percentage change in recorded crime compared to 2023 and whether or not this change is higher (green colour) or lower (red colour) than the change seen at Force level.

INCIDENTS	CWaC	FORCE
	Percentage change in 2024	Percentage change in 2024
Total Incidents	-4%	-3%
Alcohol related incidents	-15%	-17%
Drug related incidents	-8%	-7%
Domestic incidents	9%	10%
Anti-Social Behaviour	-10%	-6%
- Environmental ASB	-17%	-12%
- Personal ASB	-10%	-10%
- Nuisance ASB	-9%	-5%
- Youth related ASB	-29%	-33%
- Alcohol related ASB	-22%	-17%
- Drug related ASB	-39%	-28%
Begging incidents	-87%	-85%
Hate incidents	30%	14%
Mental Health incidents	-25%	-22%
Missing Persons incidents	-3%	5%
Public Order incidents	-18%	-14%

Roads -Table of Comparative Change 2023/24

The following table illustrates the percentage change in recorded crime compared to 2023 and whether or not this change is higher (green colour) or lower (red colour) than the change seen at Force level.

ROAD TRAFFIC	CWaC	FORCE
	Percentage change in 2024	Percentage change in 2024
- KSI Collisions	27%	17%
- KSI Casualties	19%	18%