



Nottinghamshire

POLICE & CRIME COMMISSIONER

Police & Crime Panel
County Hall
West Bridgford
Nottingham
NG2 7QP

23 April 2018

Dear Colleague

Re: Recorded Crime in Nottinghamshire 2017-2018

I have attached a briefing document from Nottinghamshire Police about recorded crime figures in the County for the year that finished on 31 March 2018.

The headline figure indicates that crime reporting increased by 18.4%. However, as the report makes clear this is largely due to national changes in reporting practices and standards.

You will see that calls from the public for services remained broadly similar last year compared with the previous year. There was, in fact, a reduction in the number of 999 calls.

The report also contains details of the number of incidents reported and recorded by the police. Whilst there has been a slight increase, the number of incidents, converted into reported crime has increased substantially.

You will know that the police's inspectorate HMICFRS are currently examining the ways that police forces across the country record crime. Attached to the report is a summary of the inspections concluded so far. Of the 20 forces visited, 5 require improvement and 10 have been judged inadequate. Nottinghamshire Police will be inspected in the next few weeks but you will be pleased to note that this is an area which has received particular attention.

At this stage, the national picture for recorded crime in 2017-2018 is not known. However, the most recent national statistics suggest an increase of 15%.

Recently, there has been a great deal of discussion about police officer numbers. Nottinghamshire Police are recruiting strongly. There are today 155 student police officers in training. This month the number of officers has increased beyond 1900 and will grow to 1940 this financial year. Next year our headcount will approach 2000.

All areas of Nottinghamshire will benefit from increased numbers and this extra resource will undoubtedly help with the challenges outlined in the attached report.

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I hope this information is helpful but please contact me if you would like further details.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Paddy Tipping'.

Paddy Tipping
Nottinghamshire Police and Crime Commissioner

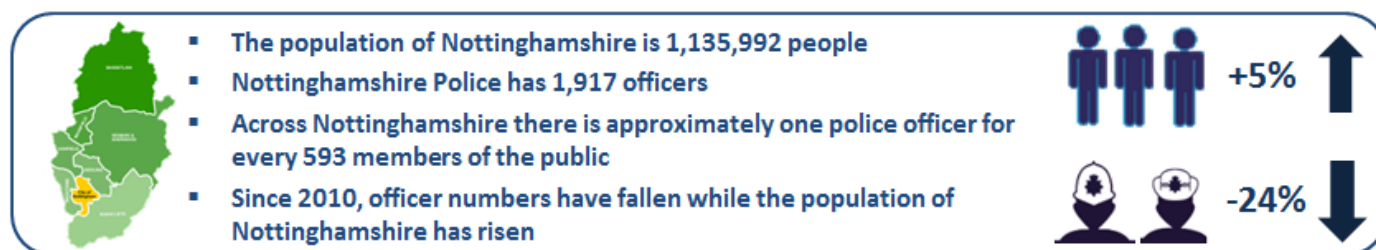
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NOTTINGHAMSHIRE POLICE PROUD TO SERVE

Executive summary

Policing in Nottinghamshire faces the challenge of reduced resources against an increase in population, and a continued evolving complexity in the demands placed on the service. Police Officer numbers have fallen by 24%, while the resident population of our county continues to grow both in terms of numbers of people, but also in respect of the diversity within our communities.



In common with all forces across England and Wales, Nottinghamshire Police is working extremely hard to ensure that its systems and processes support more accurate recording of crimes, allowing confidence in the integrity of our crime recording in line with the National Crime Recording Standards. As a result of this activity, the force has seen an 18.4% increase in recorded crime in the last year, despite calls for service from the public remaining at a similar level to the previous year. To put this in to context – the most recent national figures suggest that the average increase across England and Wales forces will be in the region of 15% at year-end, which is similar to our local performance.

The biggest percentage increase in the recorded crime figures was a 51.2% increase in reports of rapes. This is in line with the national trend and can, at least in part, be attributed to increases in reports of historic rapes. This increase in reporting is welcomed by the force as it is indicative of an increase in awareness and the confidence of survivors to come forward and report rape.

Violence against the person has gone up by 18.0% and again this is reflective of the national trend. The vast majority of the increase the result of increased reporting of low-level harassment including harassment on social media, which is recorded within the violence group of offences.

Robbery offences have increased by 21.9%, however over the same period Theft from Person offences have reduced by 22.8%, with this switch in performance attributed to the more robust recording processes that have been put in place.

Burglary offences have increased by 4.3% this year, however this is against the backdrop of a slightly larger national increase (expected to be around 6% at year-end).

Police effectiveness, efficiency and legitimacy – Published 11th April 2018

This is HMICFRS' fourth PEEL (police effectiveness, efficiency and legitimacy) assessment of Nottinghamshire Police. PEEL is designed to give the public information about how their local police force is performing in several important areas in a way that is comparable both across England and Wales, and year on year. The assessment is updated throughout the year with inspection findings and reports.

The force received an overall grading of **good** in the most recent inspection.

Calls for Service

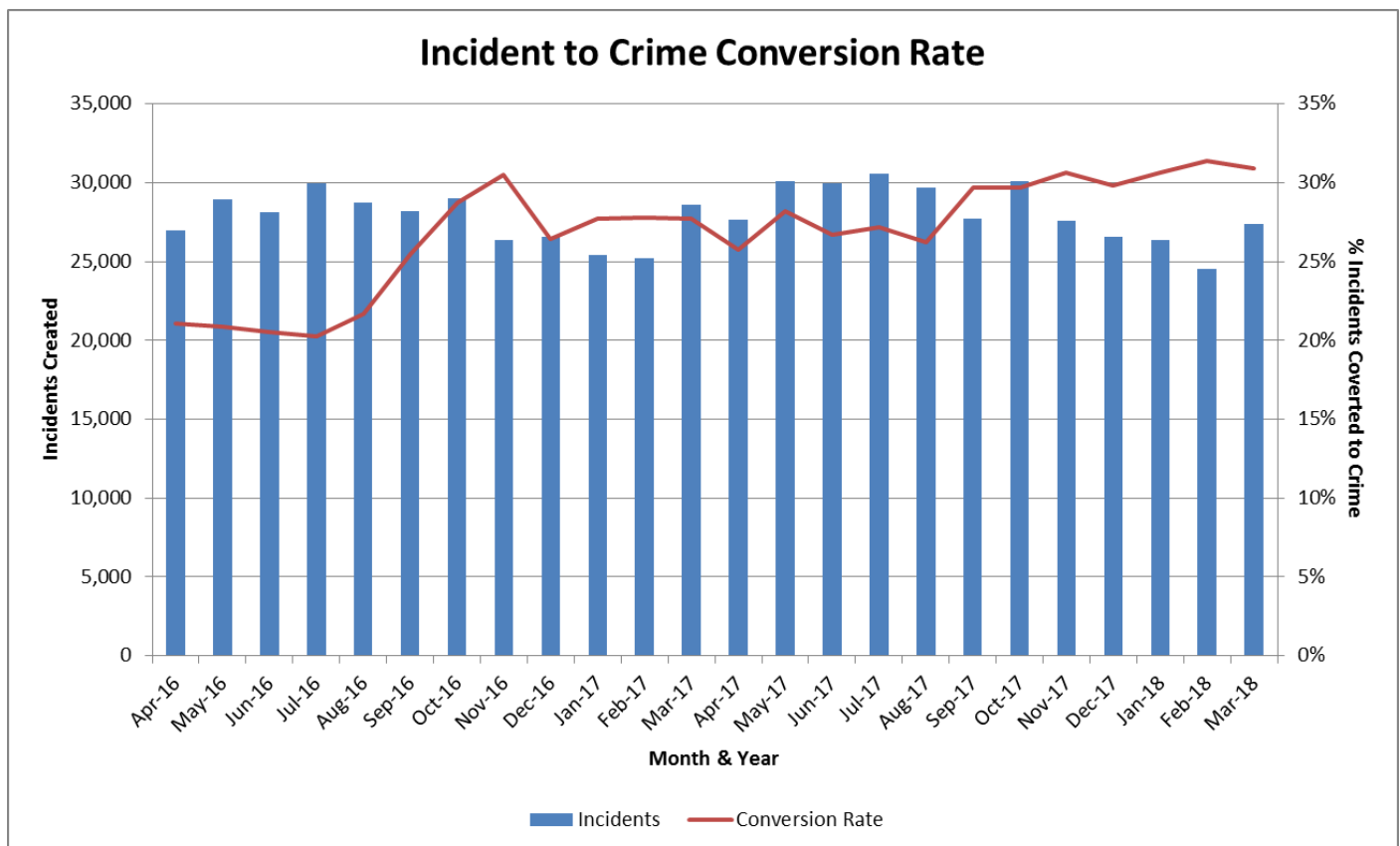
The number of calls for service from the public remained relatively stable in 2017/18. Over the year the force control room received over 600,000 calls, an average of 181 calls per day. The majority of calls are 101 (non-emergency calls), and these increased slightly this year, with 3.1% more calls compared to the previous year, while 999 calls reduced by 1.6% over the same period. The answer rate for 999 calls consistently remains at around six seconds, which is below the national advised standard of ten seconds.

The number of incidents recorded following a call to the control room was also relatively stable, with an increase of just 1.9% (6,209 additional incidents over the year) when compared to the previous year.

Recorded Crime

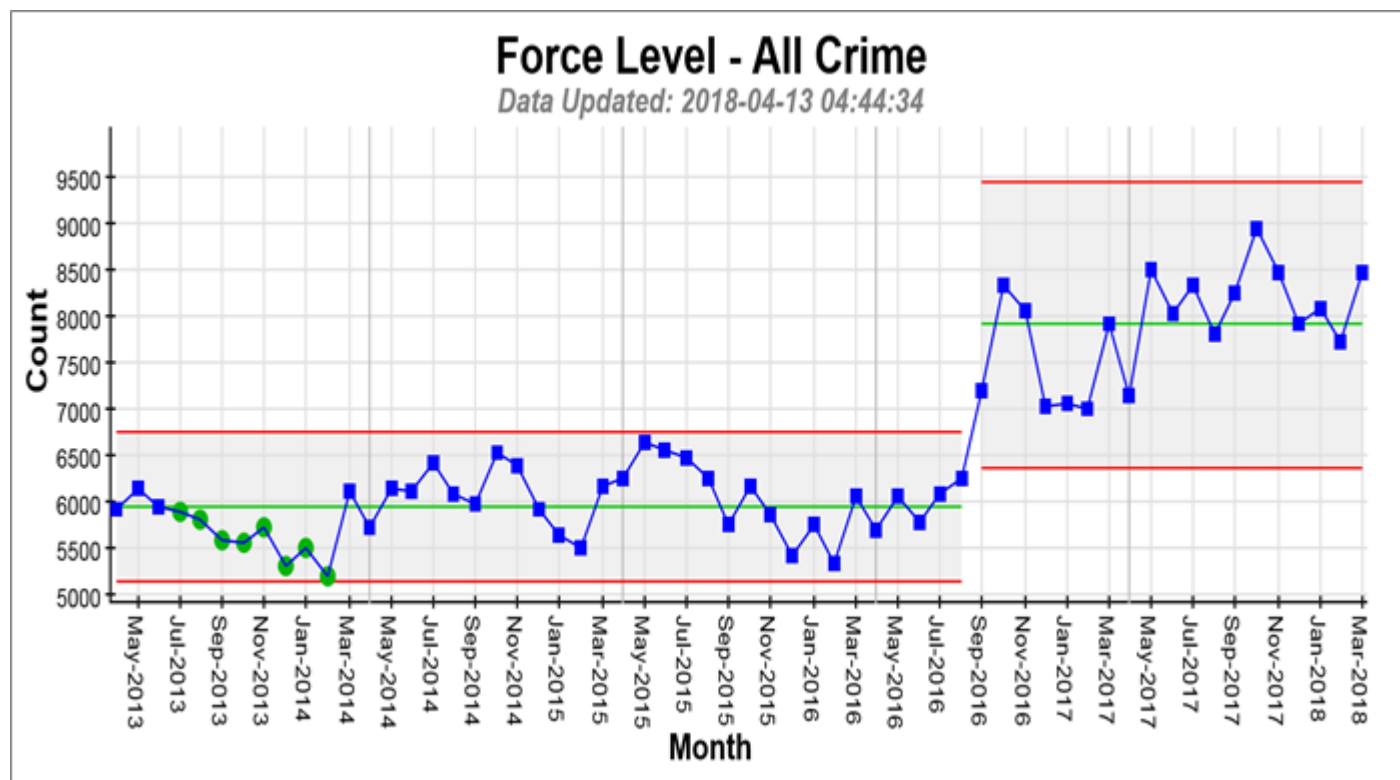
The force recorded a total of 97,508 crimes in 2017/18. This represents an increase of 18.4% or 15,181 crimes when compared to the previous year. Over the same period, the number of calls for service from the public and the number of incidents created as a result of a call have remained stable, with increases of 1.7% and 1.9% respectively.

This suggests that the increase seen in the crime figures is reflective of an increase in recording rather than an increase in the incidence of crime in Nottinghamshire, something that is further evidenced by the incident to crime conversion rate (see below chart), which shows that the force now converts a higher proportion of incidents to crimes than previously.



All Crime

The chart below shows the trend for All Crime in Nottinghamshire over the last five years. A clear step change in performance is apparent from September 2016, with monthly volumes remaining at a higher level since this point. This change in performance is the result of the force's activity to ensure crime recording in line with the National Crime Recording Standards (NCRS), and is a trend that is reflected equally on City and County partnership areas.



A large proportion of the All Crime increase can be attributed to Violence Against the Person and Sexual Offences, as the NCRS activity has primarily focused on these high risk areas. However it should be noted that the overall approach to NCRS has resulted in positive levels of recording compliance across all offence types.

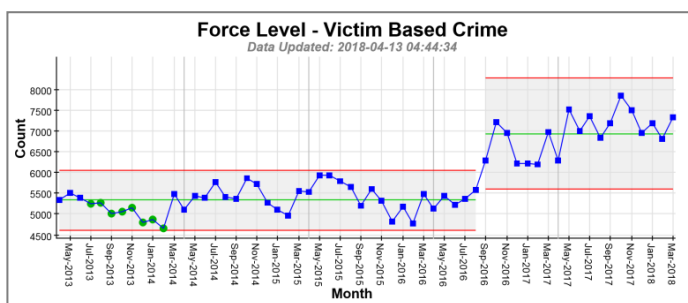
National Crime Recording Standards compliance¹

The latest audit results (Year to date to 21st January 2018) show an overall NCRS compliance of 95.3% (889/933). This represents the percentage of crimes that were actually recorded, as a proportion of all of those that should have been recorded according to the national standard, an approach which is in line with that of the HMICfrs in the Crime Data Integrity inspections of England and Wales police forces.

The proactive steps Nottinghamshire police has taken to improve compliance with the national standard allows the public and partners to have confidence in the integrity of crime recording in our force. Further to this it helps us to build the fullest possible picture of crime in Nottinghamshire so that the force and partners know what they are dealing with and can plan and act accordingly. Most crucially, we are ensuring that victims are identified and that the appropriate support and safeguarding is put in place, in accordance with the Victims Code of Practice.

¹ The National Crime Recording Standard (NCRS) was introduced to all 43 forces in England & Wales on 1 April 2002, with the aim of promoting greater consistency in the recording and disposal of crime and to take a more victim oriented approach.

Top level crime breakdown - Victim Based Crime, Other Crimes Against Society

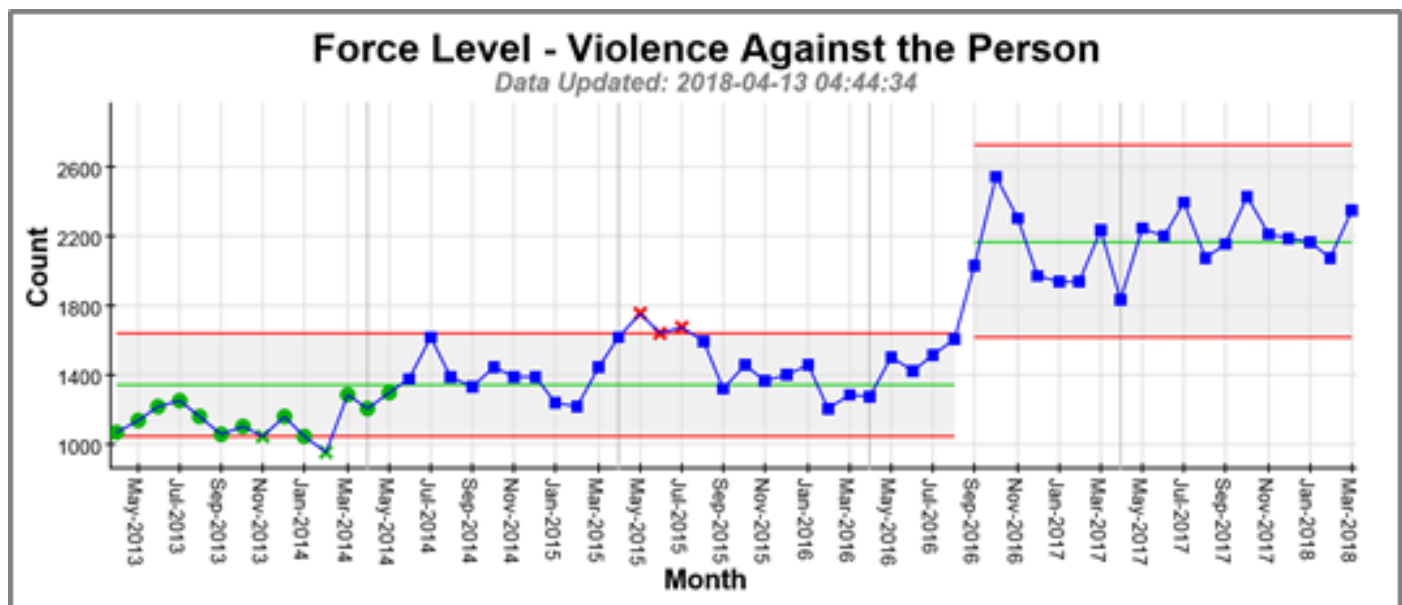


Victim Based crime represented 88% of all recorded crime in 2017/18. The overall increase in recording in the Victim Based crime group was 17.9% (+13,061), with the step change in September 2016 and subsequent higher period of recording mirroring the trend seen for All Crime.

Other crimes against society increased by 22.3% (+2,120) in the 2017/18, and as with Victim Based crime, a clear step change is apparent from September 2016. The majority of the increase in Other Crimes Against Society can be attributed to Public Order Offences, which increased by 34.9% (1,523 offences) this year.

Violence Against the Person

Violence against the person accounts for more than a quarter of all recorded crime, and as a result, performance in this group of offences has a tangible effect on the All Crime picture. Reported crimes in this category increased by 18.0% (4,019 offences) in 2017/18.

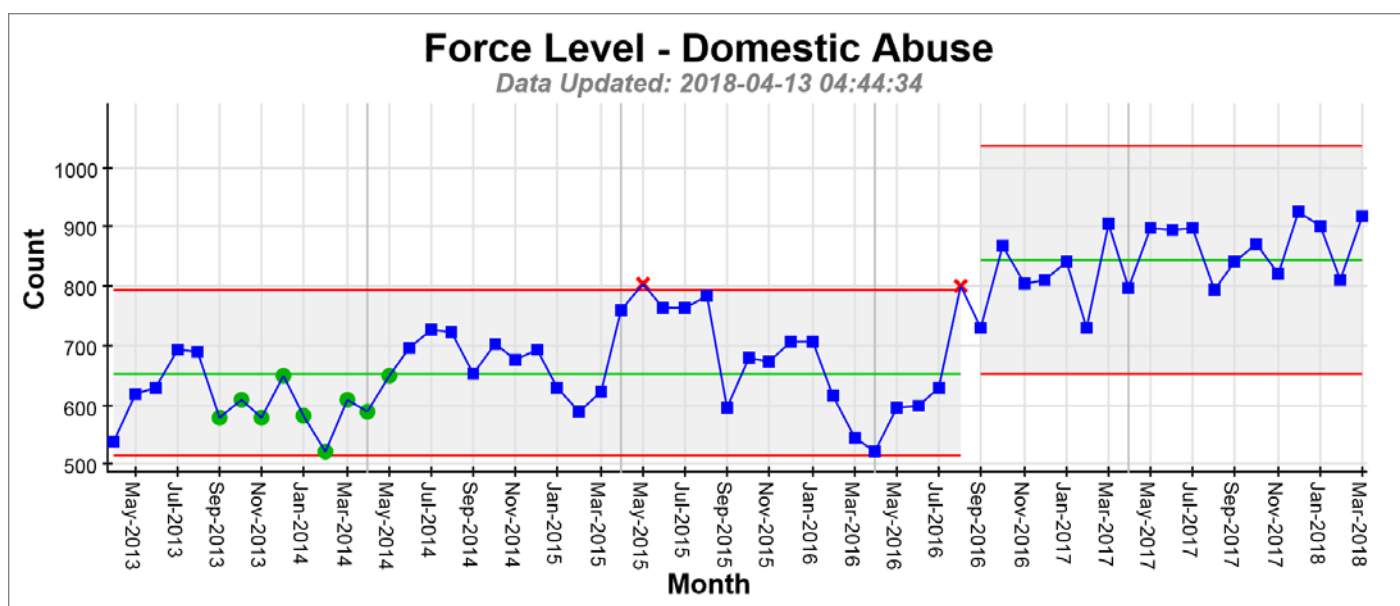


Violence with injury offences increased by 8.7% (941 offences) this year. The key drivers of the increase in the Violence Against the Person group are violence without injury offences – where a 19.1% increase was recorded - and Stalking and Harassment offences – which saw a significant increase of 42.8%. Between them these two offence types accounted for a total of 3,090 additional offences compared to the previous year, which equates to more than three quarters of the total increase in Violence Against the Person.

The legislation relating to the recording of Harassment and Stalking offences changed at the start of April 2018 and the force has already noted a further increase in the recording of these offences as a result. This will impact on the trend for the Violence Against the Person group as a whole and it is likely that a further increase will be recorded this year.

Domestic Abuse²

The Domestic Abuse offence group is made up of Violence Against the Person offences, Sexual Offences and other offences – with the majority of recorded Domestic Abuse offences being Violence Against the Person.



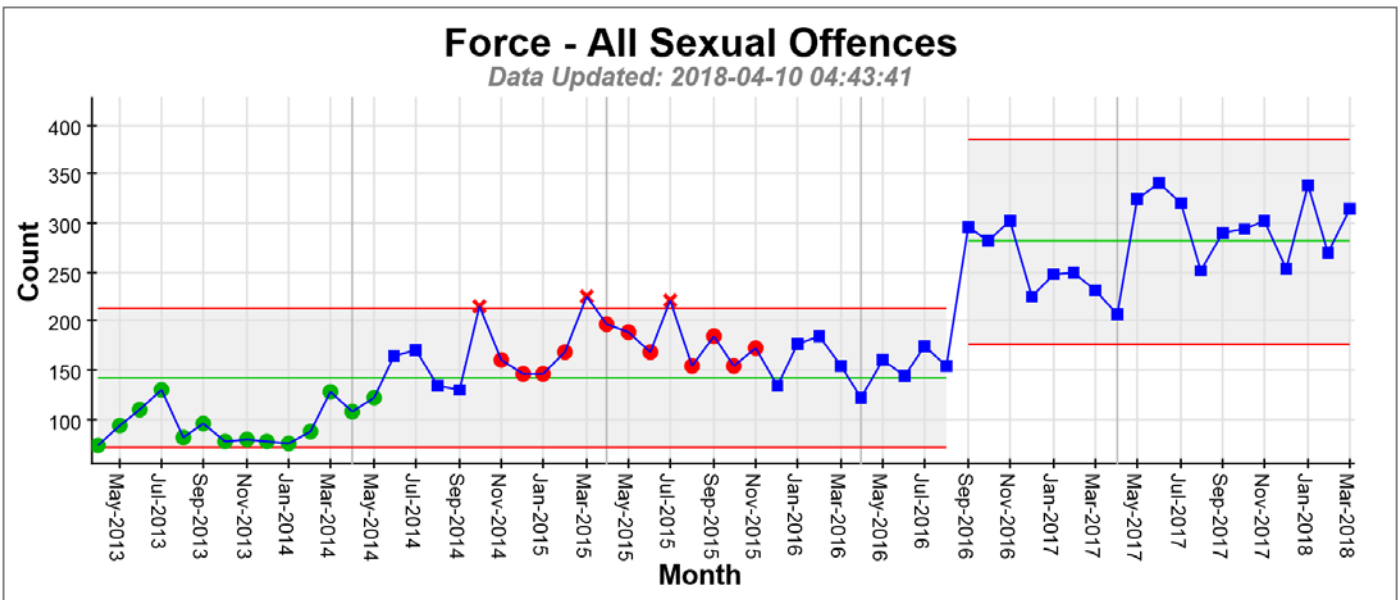
Domestic Abuse offences have increased by 17.4% (1,541 offences) with all offence types in the group contributing to this increase. Domestic Violence increased by 14.5% (1,006 offences), which is similar to the increase in overall Violence Against the Person. Within the Domestic Violence offences, the sub category of Harassment and Stalking has recorded the largest volume increase with Coercion and Control offences (an offence type that was introduced in 2017) showing the largest percentage change.

The increase in Domestic Abuse offences is attributable in part to the force's commitment to ensuring compliance with NCRS. In addition however it is suggested that increased awareness through both national and local campaigns has led to an increase in the confidence of survivors to approach the police and partners to report Domestic Abuse. The force welcomes this increase and continues to work closely with partner colleagues to ensure the best possible support and safeguarding is in place for Domestic Abuse survivors and their families.

² Domestic Abuse figures include any Home Office recordable crime that has a National Incident Classification List qualifier of Domestic Abuse. Both aggrieved and suspect/offender must be over the age of 16 year and be or have been in a close relationship or be a close family member.

Sexual Offences

Sexual Offences were a key focus of the NCRS audit in September 2016 and as a result a significant increase in recording is apparent since that point. Monthly volumes have remained at an enhanced level since September 2016, with a year-end increase of 35.6% which equates to 921 offences. 8.1% of the volume increase is Domestic Abuse.



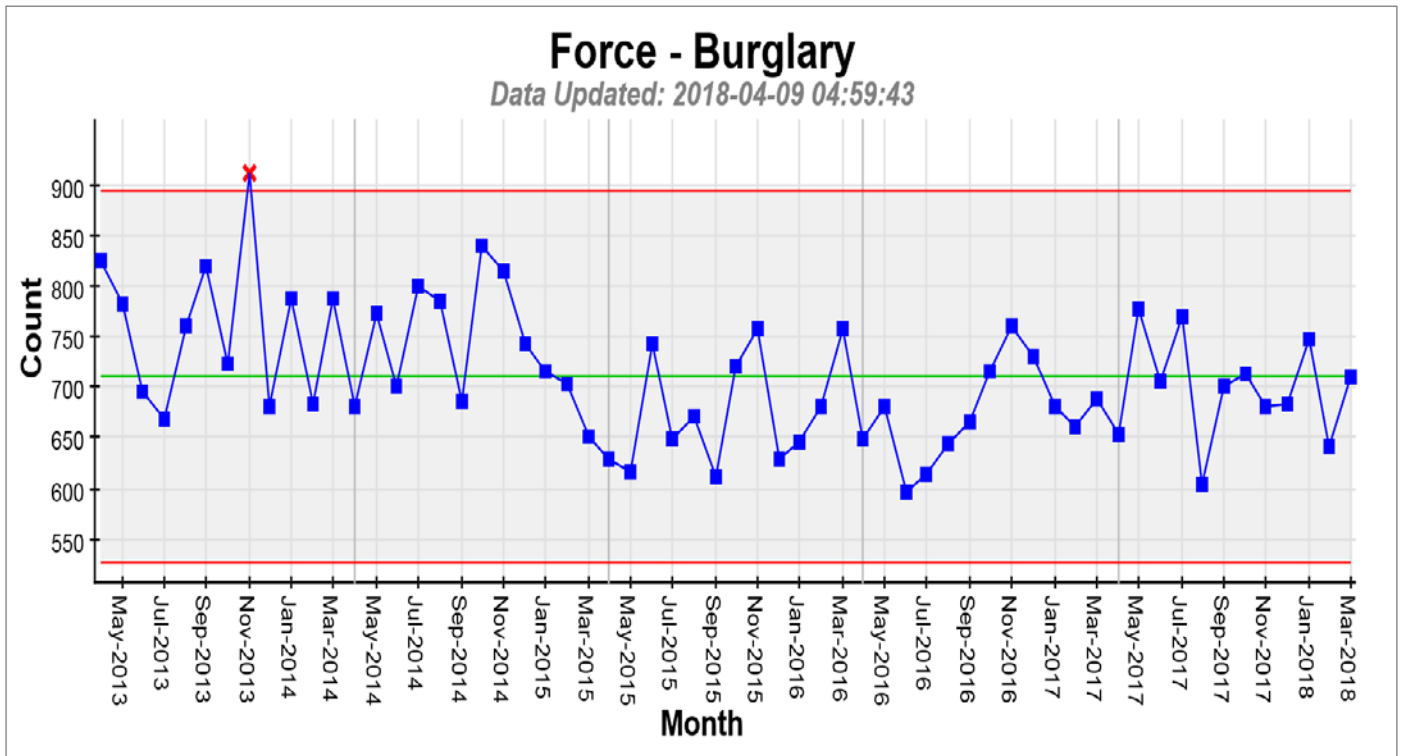
The volume increase of 921 offences breaks down in to an almost equal split between rape offences, which increased by 466 offences and other sexual offences which increased by 455 offences. Due to the smaller volume of rape offences however, the percentage increase in rape is notably greater at 51.2% compared to 27.1% for other sexual offences.

The increase in recorded Rape offences is something that is being mirrored nationally and can, at least in part, be attributed to increases in reports of historic rapes and a drive to raise awareness and increase the confidence of survivors to come forward and report rape.

Burglary

In April 2017 the categorisation of burglary changed. Burglary offences are now split into Residential and Business & Community. This change means that burglaries in a dwelling (residence) and burglary from a shed/garage in a residential setting are now combined making it challenging to extract burglaries that occurred within a dwelling. The overall burglary figures remain unaffected.

The overall increase in burglary at Force level was 4.3% (+344 offences). This suggests relatively stable performance, particularly when set against the context of a national increase of around 6%.

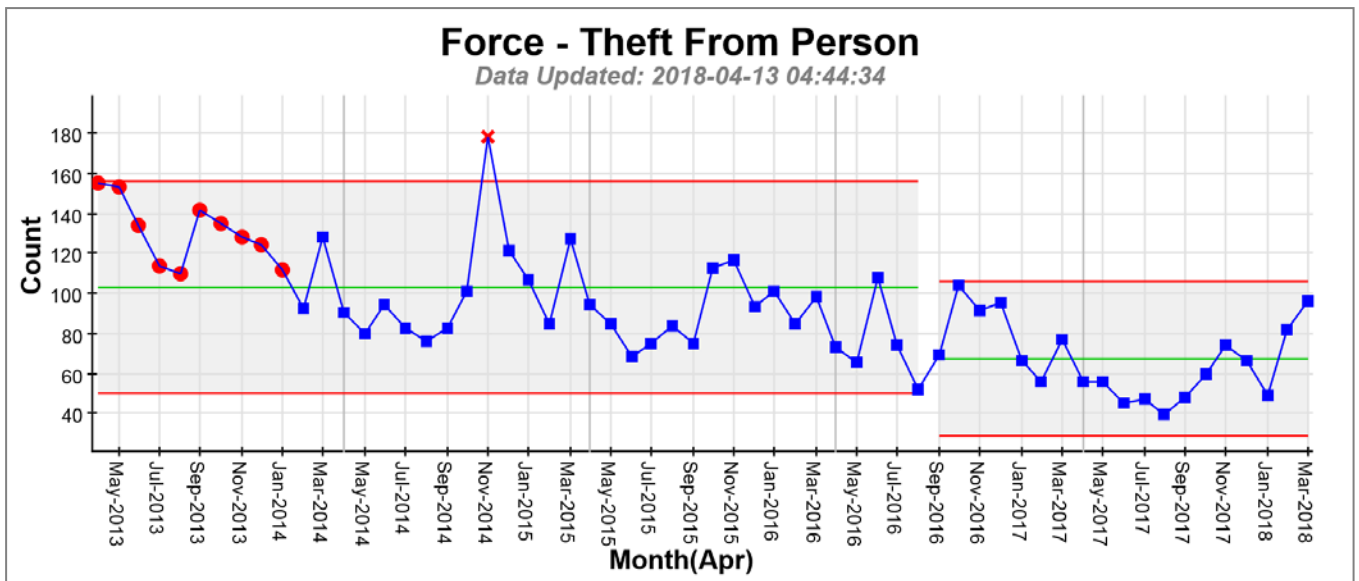
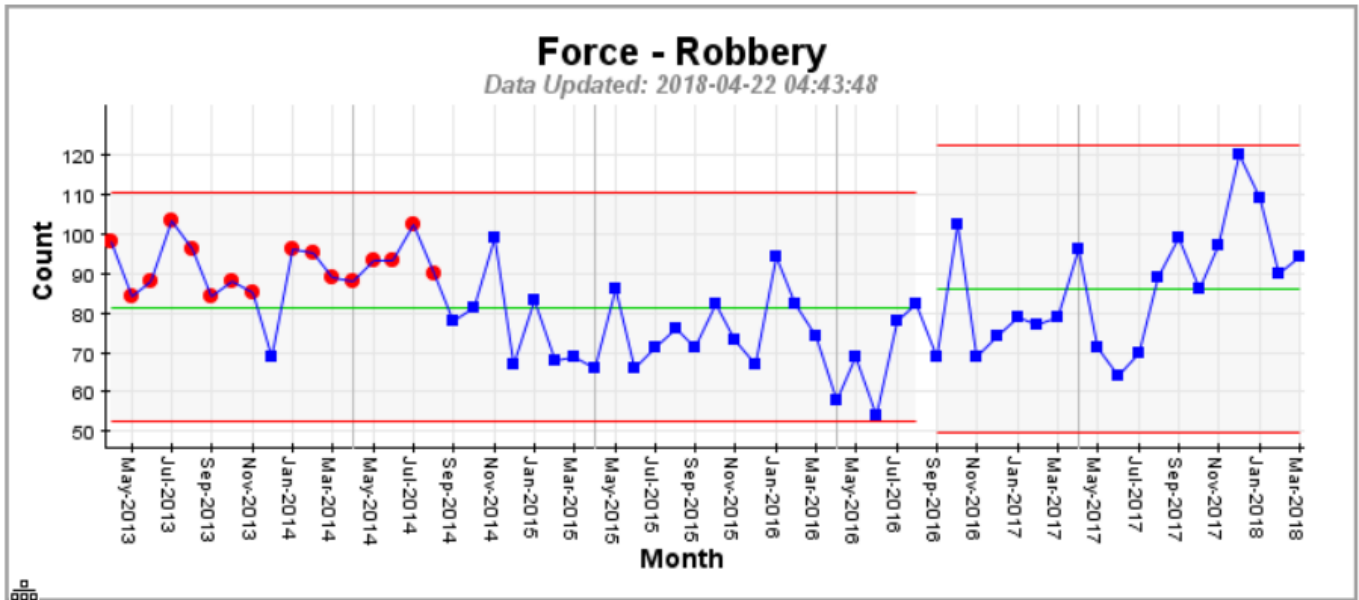


There is a difference in performance apparent between then City and County partnership areas however, with a year-end increase on the City area of 16.5% (+410), compared to relatively stable performance on the County partnership area (a year-end reduction of 2.2% or 121 offences).

Further analysis of this trend reveals that the increase on the City area is set against a statistically significant low recording period between May 2016 and December 2016. Since January 2017 figures have returned to more expected levels and are not exceptional. The County picture has remained stable for an extended period.

Robbery

Robbery offences increased by 21.9% (195 offences) this year. Over the same period Theft from Person offences reduced by 22.8%. The similarity of these trends suggests that the increase in Robbery is the result of improved compliance with the National Crime Recording Standards, with more incidents now being recorded as the more serious offence of Robbery rather than in the Theft from Person category (under the Theft group of offences).

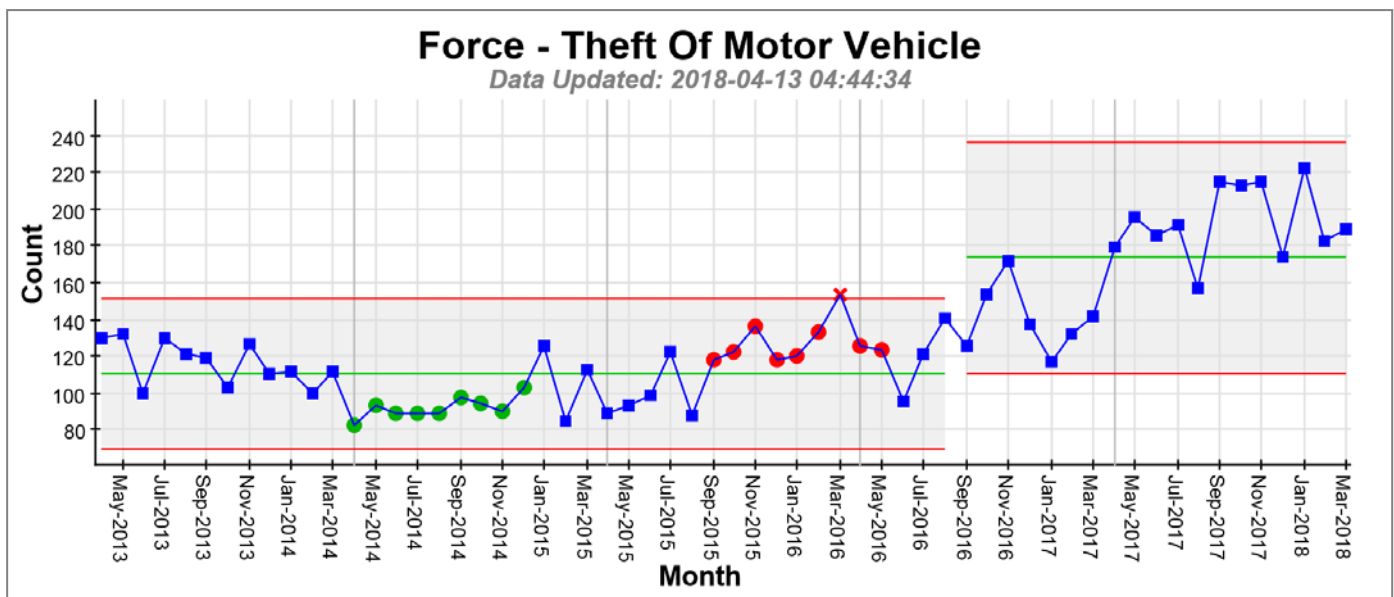
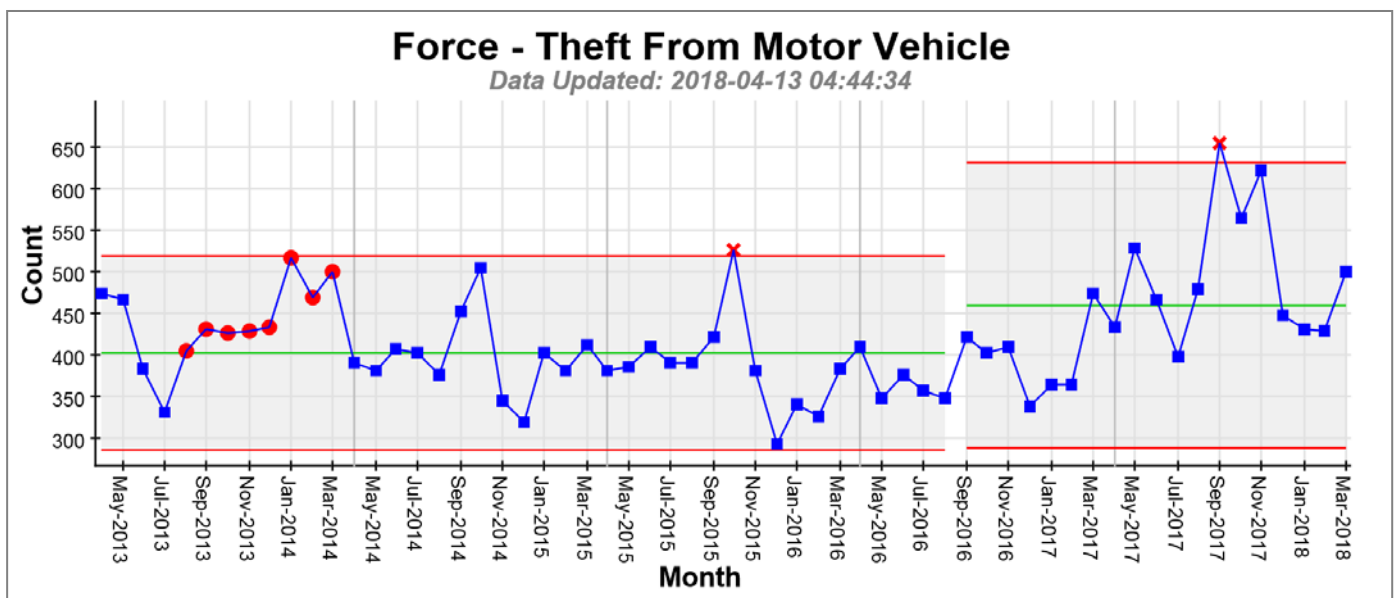


Vehicle Offences

Vehicle Crime has increased by 34.5% (2,433 offences), with a 28.8% increase in the Theft from Motor Vehicle offences and a 46.6% increase in Theft of Motor Vehicle offences. Vehicle Crime is an offence type which is less likely to be affected by the NCRS audit activity, which means that any increase in this category is more likely to be a genuine increase in crime, rather than a recording effect.

National data shows a large amount of variation between England and Wales forces in respect of Vehicle Crime trends. The national average increase is currently at around 15%, however within this there are a number of forces which are showing a similar percentage increase to Nottinghamshire.

The charts below show the trend for Theft from Motor Vehicle and Theft of Motor Vehicle. The process break in the charts is set at September 2016 in line with the NCRS audit, however the change in trend for both Theft of and Theft from Motor Vehicle actually takes place from about March 2017 – providing further evidence to suggest the increase is genuine and not as a result of crime recording processes.



Theft³

The Theft group of offences includes Theft from Person, Shoplifting and Other Theft offences. Theft increased by 17.9% this year, which equates to an increase of 3,782 offences.

Theft from Person offences actually recorded a reduction; however this is referred to in the Robbery section earlier in this report and will not be discussed here.

Both Shoplifting and Other Theft recorded increases, with Shoplifting increasing by 17.8% (1,524 offences) and Other Theft by 28.7% (2,793 offences).

The trend chart for Theft shows a slight increase in recording at around the time of the NCRS audit, however this is followed by a further period of increase from around April 2017. Due to the nature of the offences within this category, it is suggested that the NCRS audit activity may have had a small impact on recording, but that the majority of any increase is likely to be a genuine increase in offences.

Criminal Damage & Arson

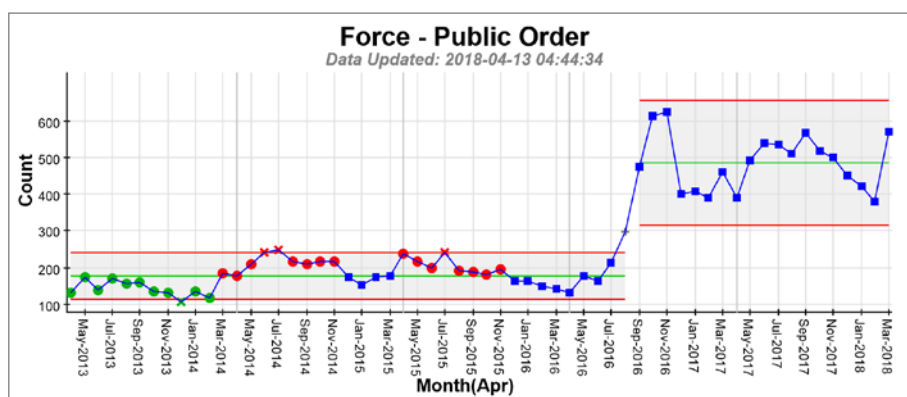
The force recorded a 12.6% (1,369 offences) increase in Criminal Damage and Arson offences in 2017/18. In volume terms the majority of the increase is Criminal Damage (1,291 offences), although the percentage increases for Criminal Damage offences and Arson offences are similar at 12.4% and 17.4% respectively.

National data reveals a national average increase of around 6%, which is lower than the increase recorded in Nottinghamshire.

Public Order

Public Order offences began to increase from September 2016 as a result of the NCRS audit, and monthly volumes have remained at a significantly higher level since this point. Analysis of local data suggests that many of the Public Order offences that are now being recorded would have previously remained on the force system as an incident rather than a crime. The NCRS audit activity means that we can now ensure we have the fullest possible picture of Public Order crime in our force area.

In 2017/18 the volume of Public Order offences increased by 34.9% or 1.523 offences, with a similar trend on both the City and County partnership areas.



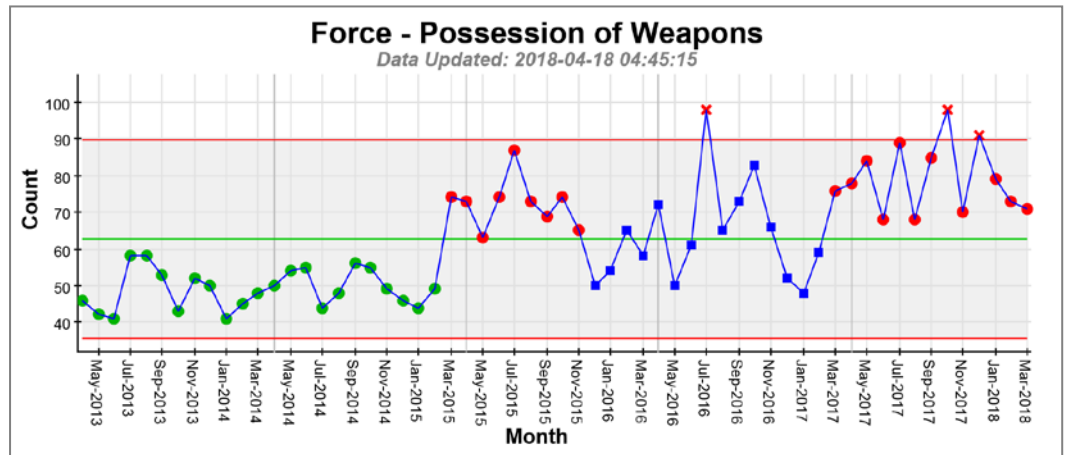
The national average increase in Public Order is at around 40% at present, providing reassurance that performance in Nottinghamshire is reflective of a national trend.

³ Although Theft of Bicycle figures are included in the total Theft Figures they are not shown separately as audits have shown that a number of offences have been erroneously included in the Theft Other category – therefore showing separate theft of bicycle figures would be misleading.

Possession of Weapons

The force recorded a 19.7% increase in Possession of Weapons offences in 2017/18 and within this a 7.5% increase in Possession of a Bladed Article. The chart below shows a higher period of recording from around April 2017. The force welcomes such an increase as it is indicative of our proactivity and use of appropriate powers to seek out and deal with those that choose to carry weapons in Nottinghamshire.

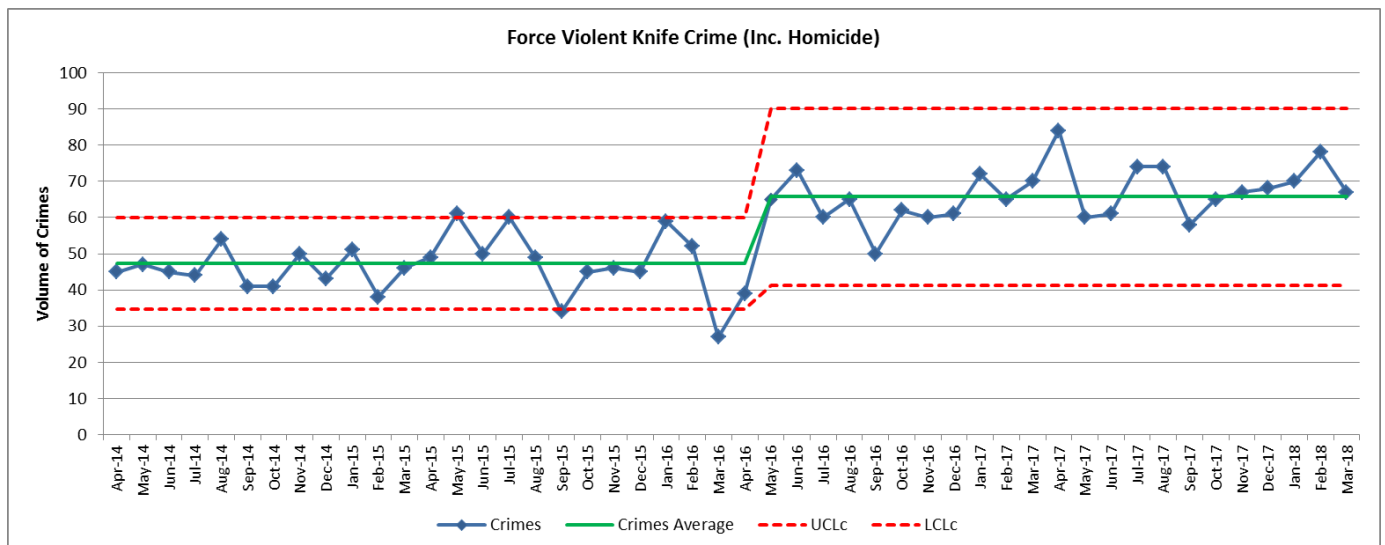
The force knife crime team – which is now established as part of the force operating model - is a key part of the force's drive to tackle weapon carrying in Nottinghamshire as part of our strategy to reduce weapon enabled violence.



Violent Knife Crime

Violent knife crime includes the offences of Violence Against the Person, Sexual Offences and Robbery where a knife or bladed article is used either as a threat or to cause injury.

The force recorded a 10.8% increase (80 offences) in Violent Knife Crime in 2017/18. Examination of the long term trend for Violent Knife Crime reveals that monthly volumes began to increase at around April 2016, and have remained a higher level since this date.



The trend in Nottinghamshire mirrors the national trend, where Violent Knife Crime is showing a similar level of increase over the same period. It should be noted however that Violent Knife Crime is not recordable as a crime type in itself, and is reliant on an appropriate marker being recorded on the crime recording system, to identify a violent offences as one involving a knife or bladed article. Nottinghamshire

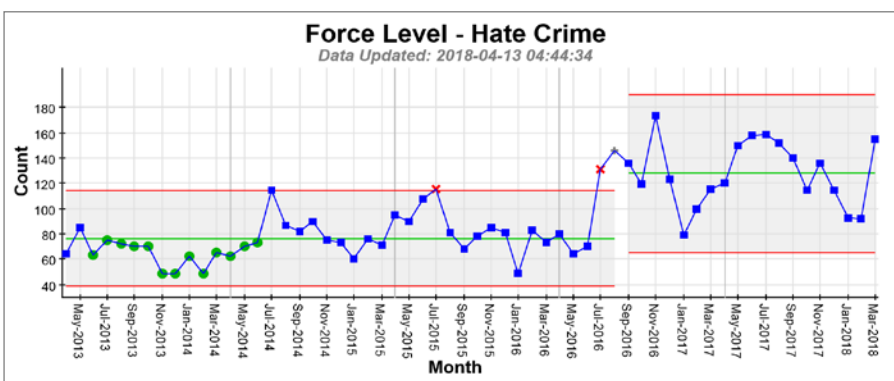
Police has a robust process for recording knife crime and extracting this data from the crime recording to ensure that we have the fullest possible picture of knife crime to inform analysis, planning and activity, but also to allow confidence in the integrity of the figures that we provide to the Home Office.

The force is currently reviewing the recently published Home Office Serious Violence Strategy, which reveals that violent crime, including weapon enabled offences is on the increase both nationally and internationally.

Hate Crime

The population in Nottinghamshire is ethnically diverse, with 12 percent of our community identifying as coming from black, Asian and other minority ethnic communities. The force works closely with established and emerging communities to tackle hate crime, build reassurance and improve representation within the force.⁴

Hate Crime is a term that is used to encompass any crime or non-crime that is perceived to be motivated by prejudice against any individual characteristics. The overall category of Hate Crime therefore includes Home Office recordable crimes as well as incidents (non-crimes).



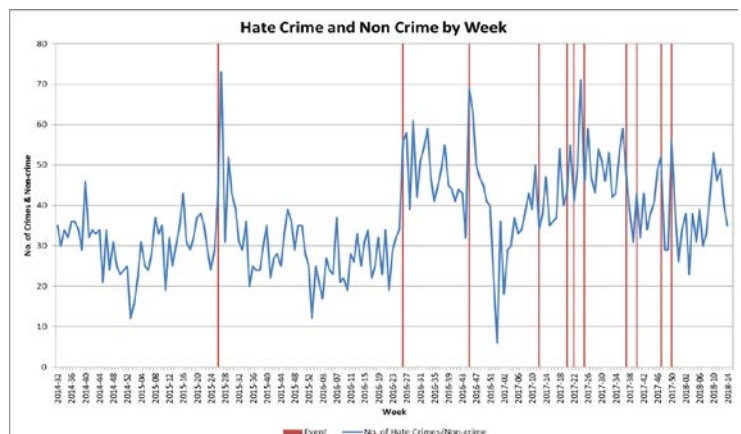
Hate crime was included as a key area of focus for the NCRS audit activity in September 2016, and this is apparent in the trend chart for recorded hate crime where there is a clear step change in recording at this point. Monthly volumes have then remained at a higher level although with quite a high amount of variability in the data.

In 2017/18, overall Hate Crime and shows a 7.4% increase (154 offences), and within this the recordable Hate Crime an 18.5% increase and Hate non-crime a reduction of 12.5%.

Looking at Crimes by Hate Strand⁵ the largest increase in percentage terms has been within the Transgender group (+62.5% or 20 offences), while race related Hate Crimes account for the majority of the volume (+138 offences or 9.8%). All strands recorded increases with the exception of Disability (-2.6%) and Misogyny (-20.6%).

Further analysis of Hate Crime recording in relation to key national and international events reveals that the reporting of Hate Crime appears to uplift following events such as terrorist attacks – this is demonstrated in the weekly chart.

Date	Week	Event
26/06/2015	26-2015	Tunisia Beach Attack
23/06/2016	26-2016	EU Referendum Vote
08/11/2016	45-2016	USA Election
22/03/2017	12-2017	Westminster Bridge Attack
22/05/2017	20-2017	Manchester Arena Attack
03/06/2017	22-2017	London Bridge Attack
19/06/2017	25-2017	Finsbury Park Attack
15/09/2017	37-2017	Parsons Green Attack
01/10/2017	40-2017	Las Vegas Attack
24/11/2017	47-2017	Oxford Street Bomb Scare
11/12/2017	50-2017	Attempted Suicide Bombing (New York)



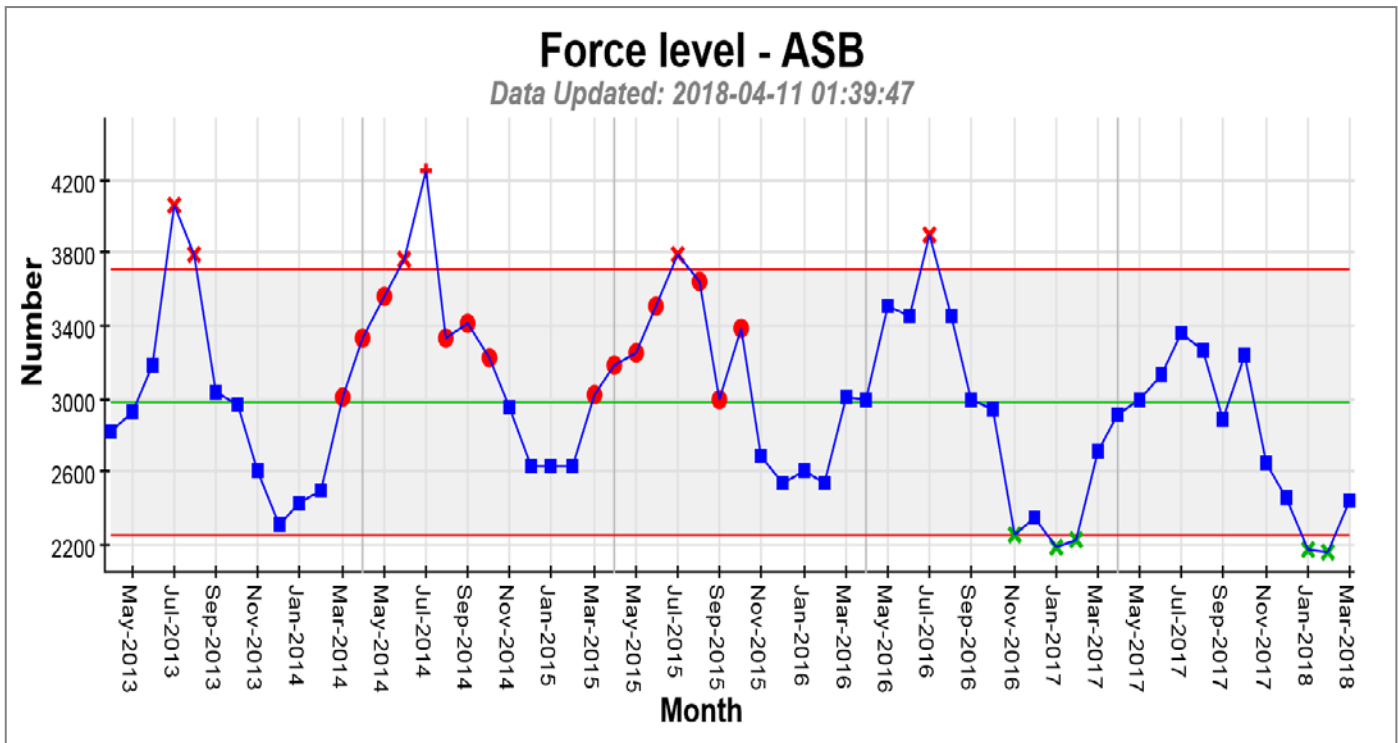
⁴ Force Statement from Nottinghamshire PEEL 2017

⁵ Hate occurrences can have more than one Hate strand applied

Anti-Social Behaviour

Nottinghamshire Police recognises that Anti-Social Behaviour is an important issue to individuals and communities. The impact of persistent nuisance or harassment can be worse than that of a single crime as, due to the wider impact on a victim's life, their health, mental and emotional well-being can suffer.

Over the past year the level of ASB across the Force area has reduced by 3.3% (-1,152 incidents).



The drivers behind the reduction are not fully understood, however there is some evidence to suggest this may be a national trend. There is no recent national data available for recorded ASB incidents; however the Crime Survey for England and Wales includes a number of questions which are related to an individual's perceptions of ASB in their local area. Examination of the results of the surveys based on these related questions suggests that ASB is being reported as less of a concern than it has been in previous surveys, with this trend apparent across the country.

Outcomes for Recorded Crime

Nottinghamshire Police recorded a positive outcome rate of 16.5% in 2017/18. Although this is a lower rate than the previous year (20.0%), it is recognised that the force's commitment to ethical crime recording has resulted in an increase in the number of offences recorded where there are no viable lines of enquiry to be able to identify and deal with an offender. This is evidenced by an increase in offences filed where no suspect can be identified (Outcome 18), where there has been a 20.5% increase this year. In addition, there was a 50.2% increase in crimes being filed where a suspect *has* been identified but the victim withdraws their support of the investigation (outcome 16) and a 66.5% increase where the victim declines or is unable to identify the suspect.

The number of positive outcomes achieved has actually remained stable, at 16,068 compared to a total of 16,434 the previous year, and it is the sharp uplift in recorded offences that has effectively served to dilute the positive outcome rate.

OFFICIAL

Within the overall picture for positive outcomes, increases in the volume of Charges (+4.3% or 511 charges) and Youth Cautions (+25% or 70 cautions) provide reassurance that force is maximizing investigative opportunities to ensure that offenders are brought to justice.

Despite the slight reduction in positive outcome rate, Nottinghamshire performs favourably compared to the national average (which is at around 15%), and in terms of formal Criminal Justice outcomes, Nottinghamshire is outperforming the East Midlands region based on the latest data.

Table: Summary of all CDI inspected forces performance

FORCE	GRADE	OVERALL COMPLIANCE	Overall - Estimated under recording per year	All Crime % change in 12 months to December 2017	National rank - All Crime % change
Sussex	Good	94.6%	5,300+	+11.2%	26
Northumbria	Req. Improvement	92.7%	7,300+	+26.0%	6
Durham	Good	91.5%	4,700+	+40.4%	1
Staffordshire	Good*	91.0%	6,700+	+11.1%	27
Wiltshire	Good	90.9%	4,100+	+5.2%	38
South Wales	Good	90.2%	11,000+	+9.5%	33
Avon & Somerset	Req. Improvement	89.6%	13,700+	+3.9%	42
North Wales	Req. Improvement	88.3%	5,300+	+18.1%	15
Cambridgeshire	Req. Improvement	87.8%	7,000+	+22.1%	8
Hertfordshire	Req. Improvement	87.2%	11,200+	+16.5%	16
Greater Manchester	Inadequate	85.5%	38000+	+35.8%	3
Lancashire	Inadequate	84.3%	20,000+	+15.2%	19
Merseyside	Inadequate	84.2%	19,200+	+14.3%	20
West Midlands	Inadequate	83.8%	38,800+	+13.6%	22
Kent	Inadequate	83.6%	24,300+	+33.1%	4
Cheshire	Inadequate	83.6%	11,600+	+36.4%	2
Devon & Cornwall	Inadequate	81.5%	17,400+	+19.8%	11
Thames Valley	Inadequate	80.4%	35,200+	+10.1%	30
North Yorkshire	Inadequate	80.1%	9,200+	+4.9%	39
Leicestershire	Inadequate	75.8%	21,200+	+20.6%	9