

## 4. WIDER SOCIAL DETERMINANTS OF HEALTH

### 4.4 Crime and Community Safety

Crime and community safety cover a wide range of issues relating to the prevention, risk, prevalence of and response to crime and disorder in the community. This section presents available information about crime and community safety in Buckinghamshire.

The partners that form the Buckinghamshire Community Safety Partnership include the Police, County and District Councils, Fire Service, National Probation Service, and Health representatives. They come together to identify both local (District based) and countywide priorities through a Strategic Assessment (SA), based on evidence and data. The SA is a detailed and restricted document but some of its content can be used to inform this section of the JSNA.

#### *4.4.1 The impact of crime and community safety*

Being a victim of crime can have very different effects on people but they will almost always need support from professionals or friends and family, therefore the impact spreads far beyond the person directly involved in a criminal incident. It causes many to feel low, helpless and taken advantage of while others become fearful of what used to be a regular activity such as going out or using public transport. This impact is most evident in the older population who may lose their confidence and become isolated. Fear of crime impacts all generations and becomes unhealthy when it diminishes their sense of freedom and personal safety.

Certain crimes can also harm and divide whole communities and neighbourhoods, and this includes anti-social behaviour. Increasingly we are also tackling crime that harms groups of people, whether that be grooming of children, radicalisation of people into terrorism, hate crime targeted at minority groups, or the exploitation of people with particular vulnerabilities such as mental health problems.

Buckinghamshire has seen a gradual decrease in some widely recognised types of crime such as burglary and car theft but there have been growing concerns over the exploitation of vulnerable people such as children, older people or individuals with a particular vulnerability. It is therefore more important than ever before to develop a thorough understanding of who is at risk of victimisation and what can be done to prevent it.

#### 4.4.2 Information on crime and community safety in Buckinghamshire

The number of all recorded crimes in Buckinghamshire fell by 5% between 2013/14 and 2014/15 (table 1). The rate of all crimes per 1000 population in Buckinghamshire was lower than in England and Wales and Thames Valley, and within Buckinghamshire the rate was lowest in Chiltern and South Bucks and highest in Wycombe.

**Table 1: All crime and violent crime, 2013/14 and 2014/15, Buckinghamshire and Districts, Thames Valley and England**

	2013/14 (number)	2014/15 (number)	Change in 2014/15	Crimes per 1000 popn
<b>ALL CRIME</b>				
<b>Buckinghamshire</b>	<b>22,806</b>	<b>21,758</b>	<b>↓ 5%</b>	<b>43.1</b>
Aylesbury Vale	7,685	7,618	↓ 1%	43.7
Chiltern and South Bucks	7,242	6,343	↓ 12%	39.8
Wycombe	7,879	7,797	↓ 1%	45.4
<b>Thames Valley</b>				<b>52.2</b>
<b>England and Wales</b>				<b>61.4</b>
<b>VIOLENT CRIME: VIOLENCE AGAINST THE PERSON (VAP)</b>				
<b>Buckinghamshire</b>	<b>3,662</b>	<b>4,030</b>	<b>↑ 10%</b>	<b>8.0</b>
Aylesbury Vale	1,464	1,558	↑ 6%	8.9
Chiltern and South Bucks	903	1,005	↑ 11%	6.3
Wycombe	1,295	1,467	↑ 13%	8.5
<b>Thames Valley</b>				<b>9.0</b>
<b>England and Wales</b>				<b>12.9</b>
<b>NIGHT TIME HOURS VAP: VAP BETWEEN 22:00 AND 04:00 (INCLUDING DOMESTIC VIOLENCE)</b>				
<b>Buckinghamshire</b>	<b>933</b>	<b>959</b>	<b>↑ 3%</b>	
Aylesbury Vale	357	385	↑ 8%	
Chiltern and South Bucks	245	251	↑ 2%	
Wycombe	331	323	↓ 2%	
<b>DOMESTIC VAP: VAP WITH A DOMESTIC FLAG (ALL HOURS)</b>				
<b>Buckinghamshire</b>	<b>1,439</b>	<b>1,383</b>	<b>↓ 4%</b>	
Aylesbury Vale	569	499	↓ 12%	
Chiltern and South Bucks	365	359	↓ 2%	
Wycombe	505	525	↑ 4%	
<b>ALL DVA INCLUDING CRIME RELATED INCIDENTS (CRIS)</b>				
<b>Buckinghamshire</b>	<b>7,454</b>	<b>7,687</b>	<b>↑ 3%</b>	
Aylesbury Vale	2,731	2,616	↓ 4%	
Chiltern and South Bucks	1,933	2,066	↑ 7%	
Wycombe	2,790	3,005	↑ 8%	

Source: Thames Valley Police

There were 21,758 recorded crimes between 01<sup>st</sup> April 2014 and 31<sup>st</sup> March 2015, not including Crime Related Incidents (CRIs<sup>1</sup>). Violent crime made up almost one-fifth (18.5%) of all crimes in Buckinghamshire in 2014/15 (table 4.4.3). The rate of violence against the person was lower in Buckinghamshire overall than in England and Wales and Thames Valley, but the rates in Aylesbury Vale and Wycombe were similar to Thames Valley while those in Chiltern and South Bucks were lower. The rate of violent crimes against the person increased in all areas of Buckinghamshire between 2013/14 and 2014/15. The rate of night time violence against the person increased in all areas of Buckinghamshire except Wycombe, while domestic violence fell in areas except Wycombe.

The commonest group of crimes is acquisitive crime (stealing) which accounted for 55.5% of all crimes in Buckinghamshire in 2014/15. Table 4.4.2 summarises statistics on acquisitive crime in 2013/14 and 2014/15. The rate of all acquisitive crime was lower in Buckinghamshire and all Buckinghamshire Districts than in England and Wales and Thames Valley, and fell in all areas of Buckinghamshire between 2013/14 and 2014/15. The largest single group was vehicle crime, which made up about 22% of the total. Although the number of vehicle crimes fell by 11% between 2013/14 and 2014/15, the rate in all areas of Buckinghamshire apart from Wycombe was the same as or higher than the Thames Valley average.

Shoplifting made up about 17% of acquisitive crimes, burglary of a dwelling 8% and burglary of a non-dwelling 12%. The rate of shoplifting was lower than England and Wales and Thames Valley, but the rates of dwelling and non-dwelling burglaries were similar to Thames Valley. The rate of shoplifting was lowest in Chiltern and South Bucks Districts, while the rates of dwelling and non-dwelling burglaries were highest in these Districts.

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<sup>1</sup> CRI – Crime Related Incident: any incident that is not counted under the Home Office counting rules either because it occurred as part of a more serious crime that takes precedence or because it does not fulfil criteria of the Home Office Counting Rules. CRI's are not included in the statutory returns required by the Home Office.

**Table 2: Acquisitive crime, 2013/14 and 2014/15, Buckinghamshire and Districts, Thames Valley and England**

	2013/14 (number)	2014/15 (number)	Change in 2014/15	Crimes per 1000 popn
<b>ACQUISITIVE CRIME (STEALING)</b>				
<b>Buckinghamshire</b>	<b>13,375</b>	<b>12,066</b>	<b>↓ 10%</b>	<b>23.9</b>
Aylesbury Vale	4,234	4,061	↓ 4%	23.3
Chiltern and South Bucks	4,709	3,841	↓ 18%	24.1
Wycombe	4,432	4,164	↓ 6%	24.3
<b>Thames Valley</b>				<b>28.8</b>
<b>England and Wales</b>				<b>30.7</b>
<b>SHOPLIFTING</b>				
<b>Buckinghamshire</b>	<b>1,969</b>	<b>2,022</b>	<b>↑ 3%</b>	<b>4.0</b>
Aylesbury Vale	736	814	↑ 11%	4.7
Chiltern and South Bucks	478	418	↓ 13%	2.6
Wycombe	755	790	↑ 5%	4.6
<b>Thames Valley</b>				<b>5.9</b>
<b>England and Wales</b>				<b>5.7</b>
<b>BURGLARY DWELLING</b>				
<b>Buckinghamshire</b>	<b>1,175</b>	<b>971</b>	<b>↓ 17%</b>	<b>1.9</b>
Aylesbury Vale	320	286	↓ 11%	1.6
Chiltern and South Bucks	583	387	↓ 34%	2.4
Wycombe	272	298	↑ 10%	1.7
<b>Thames Valley</b>				<b>2.1</b>
<b>England and Wales</b>				<b>3.5</b>
<b>BURGLARY NON DWELLING</b>				
<b>Buckinghamshire</b>	<b>1,894</b>	<b>1,401</b>	<b>↓ 26%</b>	<b>2.8</b>
Aylesbury Vale	595	502	↓ 16%	2.9
Chiltern and South Bucks	806	490	↓ 39%	3.1
Wycombe	493	409	↓ 17%	2.4
<b>Thames Valley</b>				<b>3.1</b>
<b>England and Wales</b>				<b>3.8</b>
<b>VEHICLE CRIME</b>				
<b>Buckinghamshire</b>	<b>2,903</b>	<b>2,596</b>	<b>↓ 11%</b>	<b>5.1</b>
Aylesbury Vale	924	978	↑ 6%	5.6
Chiltern and South Bucks	1,161	842	↓ 27%	5.3
Wycombe	818	776	↓ 5%	4.5
<b>Thames Valley</b>				<b>5.1</b>
<b>England and Wales</b>				<b>6.2</b>

Source: Thames Valley Police

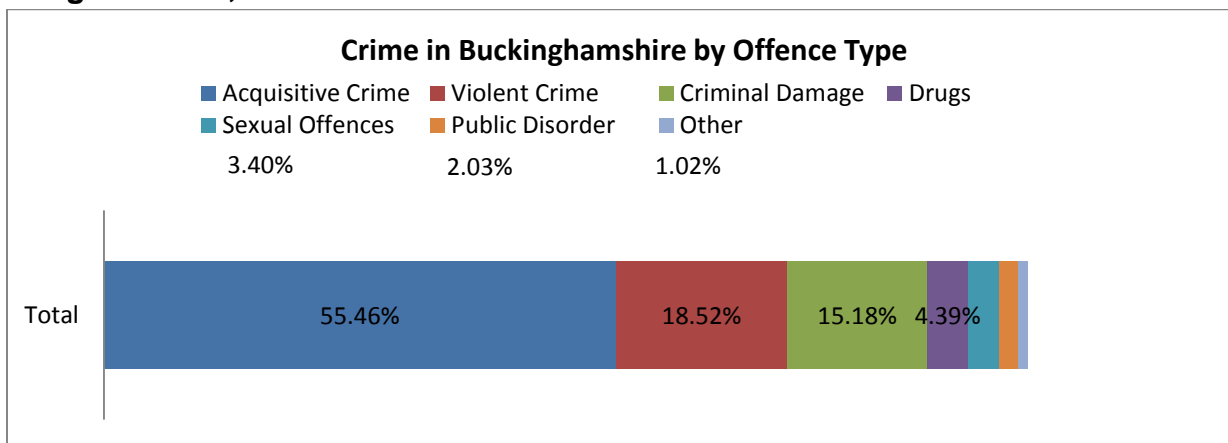
Table 3 and Figure 1 summarise statistics on the main offence types in Buckinghamshire and the Buckinghamshire Districts in 2014/15. As well as violent crime, the number of drugs offences, sexual offences and 'other' offences increased compared with the previous year, with the biggest increase, of 23%, in sexual offences. However, the number of acquisitive crimes, criminal damage offences and public disorder offences decreased, with the largest fall, of 33%, in public disorder offences.

**Table 3: Key offence types as a proportion of all recorded crimes by District in Buckinghamshire, 2014/15**

Crime Category	Aylesbury Vale		Chiltern and South Bucks		Wycombe		Bucks (Total)	
	Count	%	Count	%	Count	%	Count	%
<b>Acquisitive Crime</b>	4,061 (↓ 4%)	53%	3,841 (↓ 18%)	61%	4,164 (↓ 6%)	53%	12,066 (↓ 10%)	56%
<b>Violent Crime</b>	1,558 (↑ 6%)	20%	1,005 (↑ 11%)	16%	1,467 (↑ 13%)	19%	4,030 (↑ 10%)	19%
<b>Criminal Damage</b>	1,017 (↓ 5%)	13%	931 (↓ 9%)	15%	1,354 (↑ 2%)	17%	3,302 (↓ 4%)	15%
<b>Drugs</b>	374 (↑ 11%)	5%	257 (↓ 1%)	4%	325 (↑ 8%)	4%	956 (↑ 6%)	4%
<b>Sexual Offences</b>	332 (↑ 37%)	4%	156 (↑ 18%)	2%	252 (↑ 11%)	3%	740 (↑ 23%)	3%
<b>Public Disorder</b>	176 (↓ 30%)	2%	101 (↓ 41%)	2%	164 (↓ 29%)	2%	441 (↓ 33%)	2%
<b>Other</b>	100 (↑ 16%)	1%	52 (↑ 18%)	1%	71 (↑ 18%)	1%	223 (↑ 17%)	1%
<b>Total</b>	<b>7,618</b> (↓ 1%)		<b>6,343</b> (↓ 12%)		<b>7,797</b> (↓ 1%)		<b>21,758</b> (↓ 5%)	

KEY: highlighted boxes indicate where the proportion of an offence type is above average for the county  
Source: Thames Valley Police

**Figure 1: Key offence types as a proportion of all recorded crimes in Buckinghamshire, 2014/15**

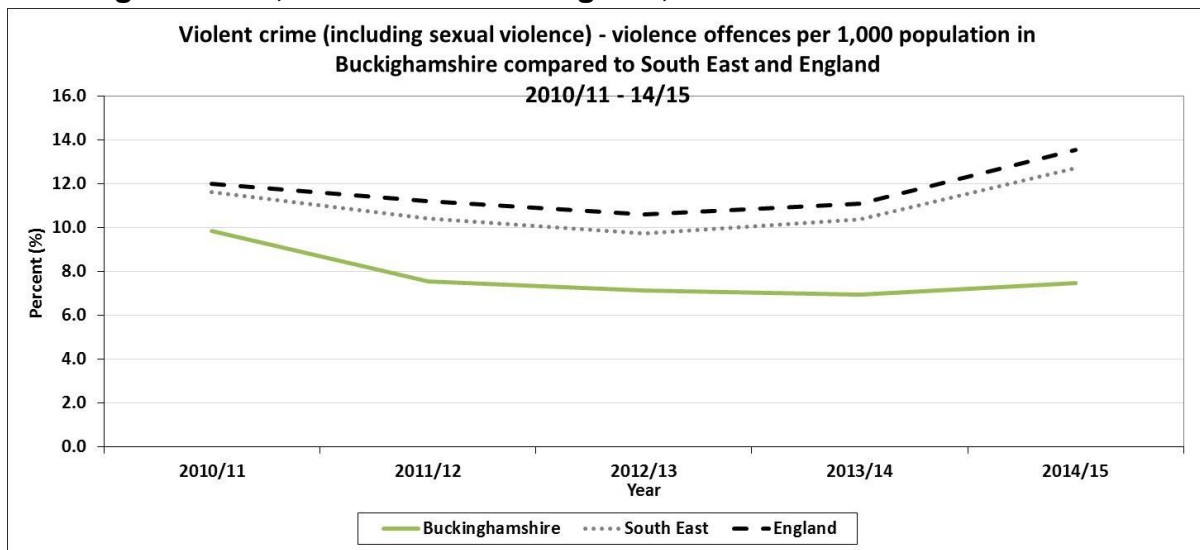


Source: Thames Valley Police

Crime relating to drugs accounted for 4% of the total in Buckinghamshire, but national evidence (supported by the experience within Buckinghamshire) has long indicated that substance misuse is closely linked with volume crime, especially acquisitive crime (stealing) and often violent crime<sup>1</sup>. Estimates suggest that there were 1,568 problem drug users in Buckinghamshire in 2013/14<sup>2</sup>.

Figure 2 shows the trend in the rate of violence offences per 1000 population. The Buckinghamshire rate fell between 2010/11 and 2011/12 and remained steady up to 2014/15, when the rate was 7.5/1000, significantly better than the England rate of 13.5/1000 in the same year<sup>3</sup>.

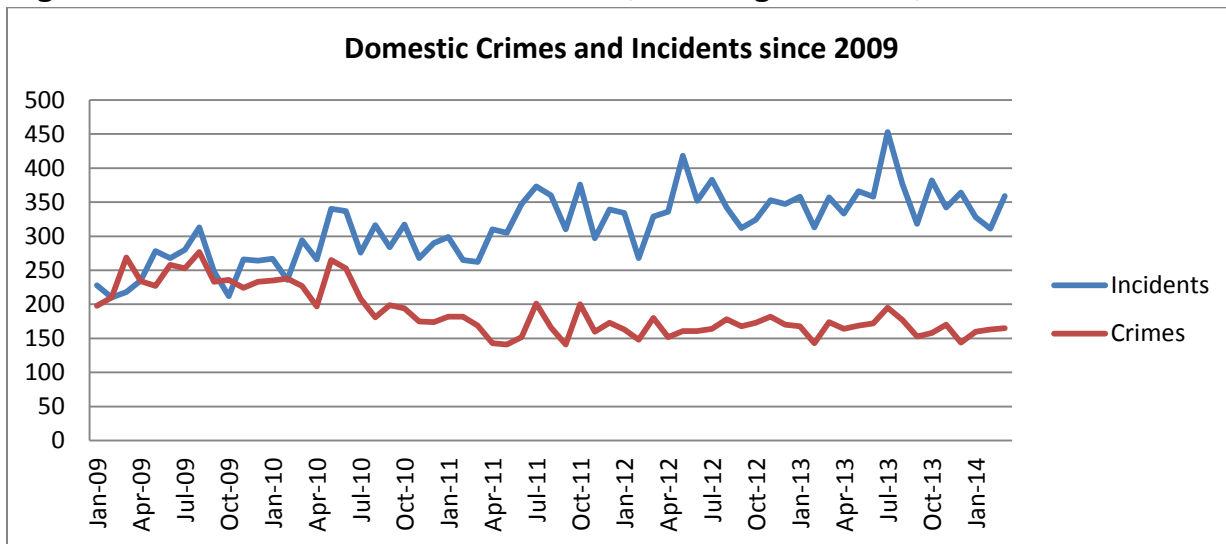
**Figure 2: Rate of violent crime (including sexual violence) per 1000 population, Buckinghamshire, South East and England, 2010/11 to 2014/15**



Source: Public Health Outcomes Framework

Domestic violence is a key priority in Buckinghamshire as ‘flagged’ domestic crimes make up approximately 35% of all violent crimes recorded by Thames Valley in 2014/15. Figure 3 shows the number of domestic crimes and domestic incidents between 2009 and 2014. The number of domestic crimes fell up to April 2011, since when it has remained relatively steady, but the total number of domestic incidents reported to the police has continued a gradual increase into 2014/15.

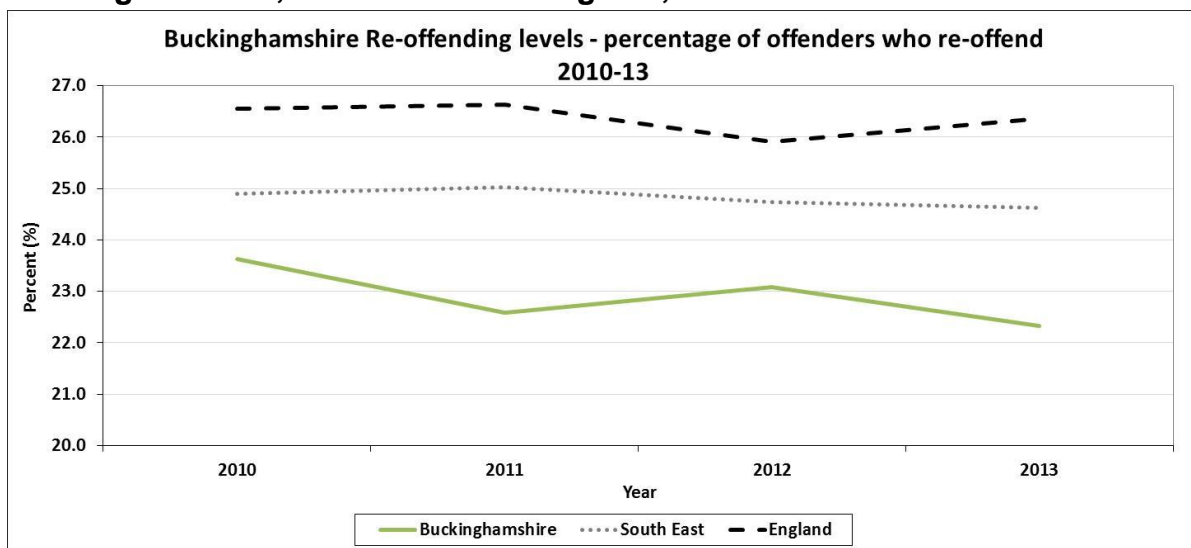
**Figure 3: Domestic Crimes and Incidents, Buckinghamshire, 2009-2014**



**4.4.3. Re-offending**

One of the key aims of services working with offenders is to prevent re-offending, as a relatively small number of individuals are often responsible for a high volume of crime. The reoffending levels in Buckinghamshire measured as percentage of offenders who re-offend show a falling trend with a rate of 22.3% in 2013, significantly better than the England average of 26.4% in 2013 (figure 4).

**Figure 4: Re-offending rates; percentage of offenders who re-offend, Buckinghamshire, South East and England, 2010-2013**



Source: Public Health Outcomes Framework

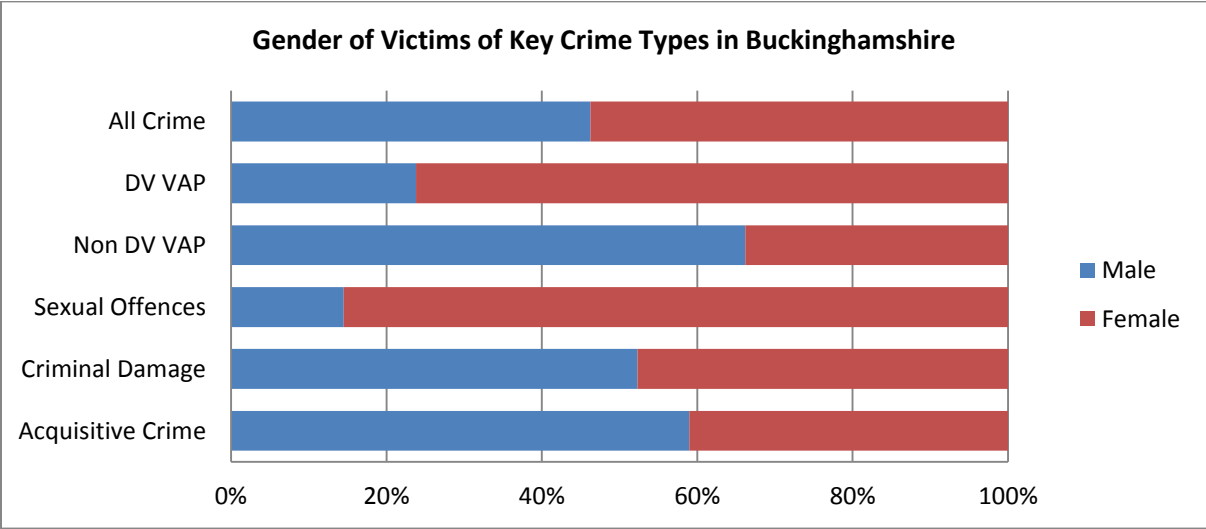
4.4.4 The impact of crime and community safety on different population groups

A number of population groups are particularly at risk of certain types of crime, and Buckinghamshire shares some key and growing concerns about crimes committed against vulnerable people. While some of these types of crimes are infrequent in comparison with offences such as stealing, the harm they cause individuals and communities is significant and long lasting. This must draw attention and resources to how to identify those at greatest risk, whilst supporting existing victims through a process that seeks justice and restoration.

4.4.4.1 Age and gender

Women are far more likely to suffer from domestic violence and sexual offences, for example, and men are more likely to be victims of non-domestic violent crimes (figure 5).

Figure 5: Gender of victims of key crime types, Buckinghamshire



Source:

The majority (58%) of Buckinghamshire’s victims of recorded crimes are aged between 20-50 years old. Young adults aged 20-27 years are approximately twice as likely to be victimised as one would expect when compared to the number of 20-27 year olds in Buckinghamshire. Among under 18s, violent crime and sexual offences together account for over three-quarters of offences (46% and 27% respectively). Adults in their 30s and 40s are most likely to be the victims of acquisitive crimes (table 4).



**Table 4: Most reported victim age groups for key offence types, Buckinghamshire**

Offence Type	Sexual Offences	DV VAP	Non DV VAP	Acquisitive Crime	Burglary
<b>Most Reported Victim Age Groups in Buckinghamshire</b>	12-15	23-28	14-22	36-50	40-52

Source:

#### 4.4.4.2 Ethnicity and cultural background

Black and Minority Ethnic (BME) groups are not significantly more victimised than White ethnicities, but there are a number of groups who are at increased risk of certain specific crimes due to their ethnicity or cultural background. For example, some groups are at risk of being manipulated by grooming for radicalisation into extremist views and terrorism, women and girls from certain countries and ethnic groups (particularly in Africa, but also in parts of the Middle East and Asia) are at risk of female genital mutilation (FGM), which is illegal to carry out both in the UK and overseas on a permanent or habitual UK resident<sup>4</sup>, and some groups are also at risk of modern slavery. Estimates suggest that approximately 0.7% of the Buckinghamshire population are at risk of FGM and 2.9% of the Bucks population are at risk of modern slavery.

#### 4.4.4.3 Social isolation

Isolation can increase vulnerability, both at an individual level (e.g. a person who lives alone without close family) or at a community level (e.g. a very rural community who feel they do not have easy access to mainstream services).

#### 4.4.4.4 Other vulnerable groups

Some other groups of people can suffer disproportionately because of factors that make them different, such as disability and gender identity. Many victims can also be hidden as they are less likely to report crimes of a personal nature e.g. hate crime and exploitation.

#### 4.4.4.5 Offenders

Research into offenders nationally reveals that they are much more likely to have mental and physical health problems than the general population, and this is reflected locally. For example, in Buckinghamshire one quarter of female offenders and one fifth of male offenders were recorded as having a disability. Offenders and ex-offenders often struggle to obtain access to universal services such as GPs, dentists and other NHS provision which means that problems may deteriorate before treatment is sought.

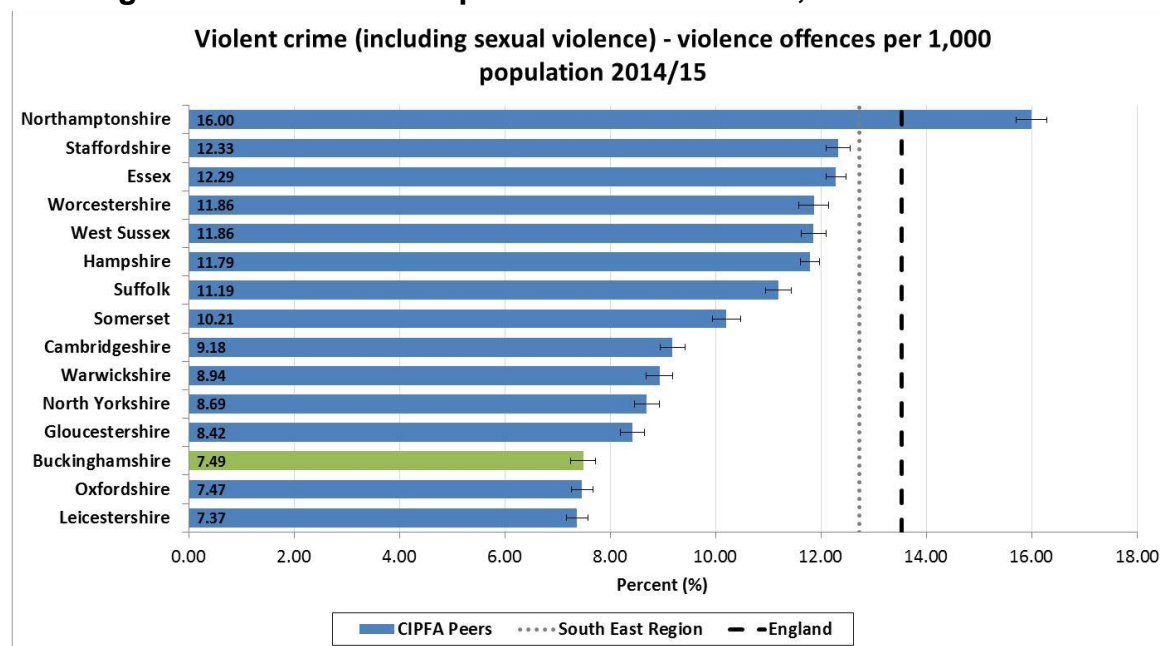
Mental health problems, including disorders such as depression and anxiety as well as more severe mental health problems such as psychosis and personality disorders, have been found to be more prevalent among offenders than the general population<sup>5</sup>.

#### 4.4.5. Geographical differences in crime and community safety

As shown above, recorded crime in Buckinghamshire is below the England and Wales average across all crime types, and also below the average across the Thames Valley Policing area for all crimes and violent crimes, but similar to Thames Valley for burglary and vehicles crimes.

Buckinghamshire ranked third lowest amongst its statistical neighbours (CIPFA peers) for the rate of violent crime in 2014/15 (figure 6). Buckinghamshire also ranks third lowest amongst its CIPFA peers for rates of re-offending, based on 2013 data.

**Figure 6: Rate of violent crime (including sexual violence) per 1000 population, Buckinghamshire and CIPFA peer Local Authorities, 2014/15**



Source: Public Health Outcomes Framework

Within Buckinghamshire, the rate of all crimes is highest in Wycombe and lowest in Chiltern and South Bucks. Violent crime rates are highest in Aylesbury Vale and Wycombe and lowest in Chiltern and South Bucks. The overall rate of acquisitive crimes is similar across all four Districts, but rates of shoplifting are higher in Aylesbury Vale

and Wycombe, of burglary in Chiltern and South Bucks, and vehicle crime in Aylesbury Vale.

The Crime domain of the Index of Multiple Deprivation measures the risk of personal and material victimisation at a small area level, derived from the rate of recorded crime in an area for four major crime types; violence, burglary, theft and criminal damage.

#### *4.4.6 Demand*

Although crime has been decreasing in Buckinghamshire, volume crime (stealing and violence both with and without injury) still makes up approximately a quarter of all crime in the county. Crime which exploits the most vulnerable people happens to a much smaller number of people but the demands it places on services for the victim and the offender are considerably greater. This relates to the amount of investigation needed (e.g. for child sexual exploitation) and to supporting victims through the criminal justice system.

There is evidence that generally a small number of prolific offenders are responsible for a large proportion of crime and that is also true in Buckinghamshire, therefore identifying and tackling offenders effectively can help to significantly reduce crime.

The priorities which have been identified for 2016/17 for Safer Communities in Buckinghamshire are:

- Tackling the exploitation and victimisation of vulnerable people, including radicalisation: e.g. the targeting of children and adults, including those with specific vulnerabilities (mental health, disability, illness, lack of stable support networks)
- Tackling Violence with Injury and Domestic Abuse
- Tackling victimisation of people through the internet / social media: e.g. internet safety, grooming, fraud, sex offences
- Tackling substance misuse: e.g. drugs, alcohol and new psychoactive substances

#### *4.4.7. Horizon scanning*

Some of the most challenging issues for crime and community safety lie in the hidden and unknown extent of problems such as the exploitation and targeting of vulnerable people. This is seen in fast emerging crime areas of child sexual exploitation, human trafficking, modern slavery and terrorism. There are a number of duties and obligations

that partners must adhere to, whilst trying to increase awareness and reporting of these under-reported areas of crime.

The internet is a fast developing enabler of serious crimes that affect all ages (including children and the elderly), and cyber-related crime has no geographical boundaries, making it harder to tackle.

The changing nature of illicit drugs continues to have a significant impact on volume crime, as new psychoactive substances become more apparent and there is continuing confusion about their legal status.

#### *4.4.8 Public views*

Residents consistently rate crime and feeling safe as a top priority and concern for local people, as articulated in the annual residents' surveys and budget consultation. There were 2,043 respondents to the Budget Consultation Survey in December 2014<sup>6</sup>, who identified the following top 5 priority areas for continued investment (as a net result calculated by those who want to continue to invest minus those who want to reduce spending):

- Safeguarding
- Caring for the disabled and the vulnerable
- Supporting independent living
- Roads
- Protecting people from crime

Residents were also asked for their opinion on community safety priorities in a consultation on the Safer Bucks Plan conducted in Feb 2015. 813 residents responded to the survey and identified protecting children and young adults, protecting vulnerable adults, and tackling stealing and re-offending as their top community safety priorities.

Residents often are concerned about police visibility and issues such as anti-social behaviour (including noise, nuisance and inconsiderate neighbours) in their very local area around their home.

#### *4.4.9 Conclusions*

Crime has a significant impact on the health and wellbeing of individuals and is also an indicator of the socio-economic situation of a geographical area. A comprehensive

statutory strategic assessment is conducted in Buckinghamshire annually that provides information on risk factors and causes of crime and the impact on victims. The rate of all types of crimes is lower in Buckinghamshire than nationally or in Thames Valley, and within Buckinghamshire the rate was lowest in Chiltern and South Bucks and highest in Wycombe.

While the overall crime rate in Buckinghamshire declined by 5% in 2014/15, there was an increase in the rate of violent crime, most marked in Wycombe District, although the rate of violent crime overall remains highest in Aylesbury Vale. The rate of acquisitive crime fell in 2014/15, but it still makes up over half of all crime, the largest single group being vehicle crime. The rate of shoplifting was lowest in Chiltern and South Bucks Districts, while the rates of dwelling and non-dwelling burglaries were highest in these Districts. There has been a small rise in the number of domestic incidents over the past five years but a steady rate of domestic crimes. Reoffending rates in Buckinghamshire are significantly lower than nationally and have declined in the last few years. Research shows that offenders are likely to have higher levels of mental and physical problems compared to the general population.

The majority (58%) of Buckinghamshire's victims of recorded crimes are aged between 20-50 years old. Younger adults are more likely to be victims of violent crime and sexual offences, and adults in their 30s and 40s are more likely to be the victims of acquisitive crimes. Women are more likely to be victims of domestic violence and sexual offences. People from Black and Minority Ethnic (BME) groups are not significantly more victimised than White ethnicities, but some specific crime types such as FGM and modern slavery do tend to affect certain BME groups.

Priorities identified for crime and community safety in Buckinghamshire include tackling the exploitation and victimisation of vulnerable people including radicalisation, tackling violence with injury and domestic abuse, tackling victimisation of people through the internet/social media, and tackling substance misuse.

## References

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<sup>1</sup> National Treatment Agency (2009) Breaking the link

<sup>2</sup> Buckinghamshire JSNA 2013/14

<sup>3</sup> PHE Public Health Outcomes Framework <http://www.phoutcomes.info/public-health-outcomes-framework#page/0/gid/1000041/pat/6/par/E12000008/ati/101/are/E07000004/iid/11201/age/1/sex/4>

<sup>4</sup> HM Government Serious Crime Bill <https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/serious-crime-bill>

<sup>5</sup> MoJ (2014) Transforming Rehabilitation: a summary of evidence on reducing re-offending

<sup>6</sup> Buckinghamshire County Council (Dec 2014) Budget Consultation Results