

Item No.	Classification: Open	Date: 19 April 2012	Meeting Name: Housing and community safety scrutiny sub committee
Report title:		Briefing report on requests for further information made by the sub-committee	
From:		Jonathon Toy, head of community safety and enforcement	

Background information

1. Any incident of threatening behaviour, violence or abuse (psychological, physical, sexual, financial or emotional) between adults who are or have been intimate partners or family members, regardless of gender or sexuality and whether a crime has occurred or not, is recorded by the police as a domestic violence incident. All incidents that are perceived as domestic violence are marked as such by the police through the addition of a “flag” to the crime report.
2. Offences are confirmed reports of crimes being committed. All data relates to ‘notifiable offences’ - designated categories of crimes (e.g. harassment, common assault, grievous bodily harm, criminal damage) that all police forces in England and Wales are required to report to the Home Office.
3. A crime will be recorded as domestic violence where it meets the definition provided above. Not all incidents reported to the police will result in the recording of a crime.
4. Domestic violence crimes are classified according to the Home Office Counting Rules and form a subset of the overall recorded crime figures.
5. We know from national research that incidents of domestic violence are under reported. On average an individual can be victimised up to 35 times before reporting to the police.

Request 1:

A breakdown of domestic abuse offences in further detail e.g. ethnicity, age, ward, repeats – both for victims and perpetrators and including any emerging trends.

6. The data used is taken from the 2011/12 strategic assessment which uses recorded domestic violence offences between January 2011 and December 2011.
7. It is important to note that this is reported crime and there are key things to remember in the consideration of this dataset, including:
 - The number of counter allegations
 - Who reported the crime e.g. neighbour
 - The ongoing engagement of the victim

Victims

8. The total number of victims in 2011 was 2,228. The tables below give a full breakdown of gender, age and ethnicity.

Gender	Percentage	Number
Female	76.2%	1697
Male	22.1%	492
Not known	1.8%	39

Age	Percentage	Number
9 or under	0.9%	21
10 – 17	1.2%	26
18 – 24	24.0%	534
25 – 30	20.3%	453
31 -39	24.9%	554
40 – 65	25.0%	557
66 or over	2.1%	46
Not known	1.7%	37

Ethnicity	Percentage	Number
White	45.0%	987
Mediterranean	6.2%	135
African/Caribbean	42.1%	923
Pakistani, Indian, Nepalese, Maldivian, Sri Lankan, Bangladeshi, or any other (South) Asian	3.6%	78
Chinese, Japanese, or South-East Asian	1.5%	32
Arabic, Egyptian, Tunisian, Algerian or Maghreb	1.1%	25
Unknown	0.5%	48

Accused

9. The total number of accused in 2011 was 784. The tables below give a full breakdown of gender, age and ethnicity.

Gender	Percentage	Number
Female	18.4%	148
Male	81.6%	656

Age	Percentage	Number
10 – 17	1.8%	14
18 – 24	27.0%	212
25 – 30	18.5%	145
31 -39	24.6%	193
40 – 65	27.7%	217
66 or over	0.4%	3

Ethnicity	Percentage	Number
White	44.1%	346
Mediterranean	6.0%	46
African/Caribbean	42.7%	335
Pakistani, Indian, Nepalese, Maldivian, Sri Lankan, Bangladeshi, or any other (South) Asian	4.3%	34
Chinese, Japanese, or South-East Asian	1.5%	12
Arabic, Egyptian, Tunisian, Algerian or Maghreb	1.1%	9
Unknown	0.3%	2

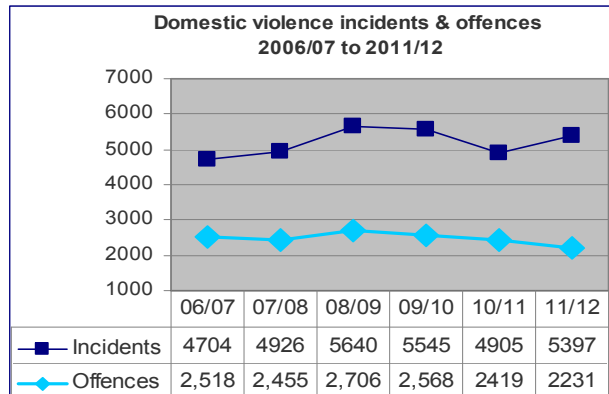
Location

10. The offences took place in the following wards:

Ward	Percentage	Numbers
Peckham	6.9%	143
Camberwell Green	6.8%	141
Grange	6.5%	135
Newington	6.4%	132
Livesey	6.2%	128
The Lane	5.9%	122
East Walworth	5.8%	121
Nunhead	5.7%	119
Rotherhithe	5.3%	109
South Bermondsey	5.2%	108
Faraday	5.1%	106
Riverside	5.0%	104
Chaucer	4.6%	95
Cathedrals	4.4%	91
Brunswick Park	3.5%	72
Surrey Docks	3.3%	68
South Camberwell	3.2%	67
College	3.1%	64
East Dulwich	2.3%	48
Peckham Rye	2.2%	46
Village	1.8%	38

Trend data

11. Between 2006/07 and 2011/12 the number of domestic violence incidents increased by 15% (693 incidents). During this time period, incidents were at their highest in 2008/09 and 2009/10.
12. There were 2231 offences with a domestic violence flag recorded in 2011/12; this is a decrease of 287 offences (-11%) from 2006/07.



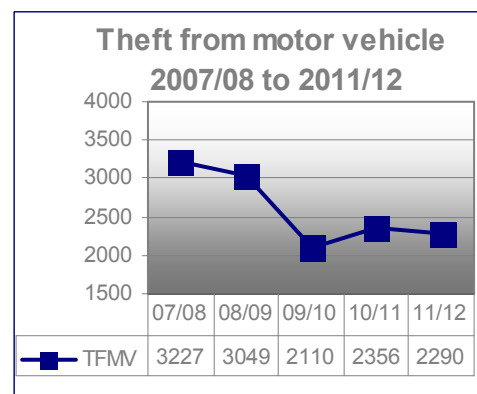
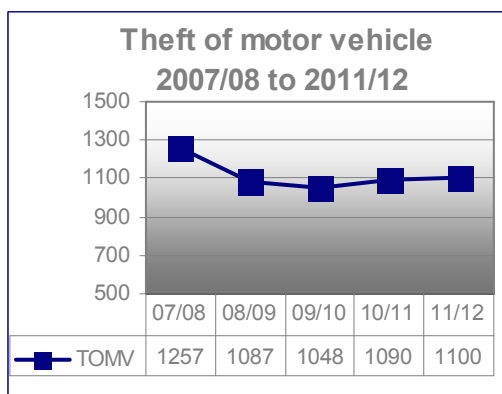
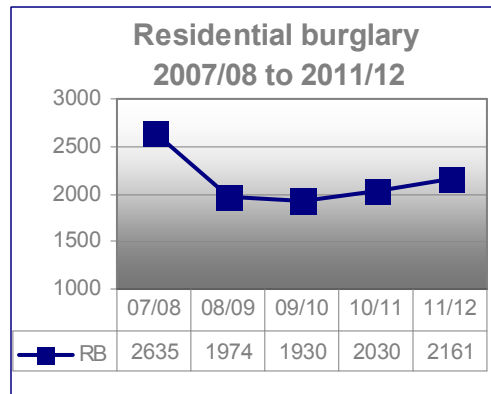
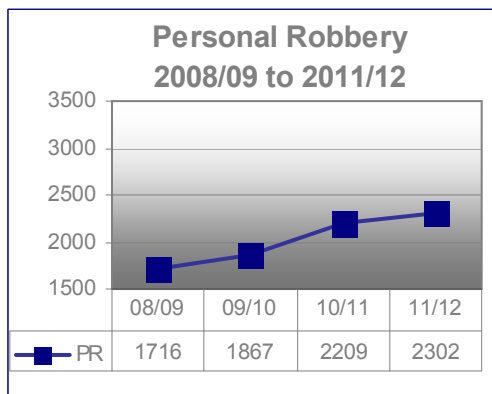
Request 2

More detailed figures regarding the types of crime that were now more prevalent in the current economic downturn.

13. Figures for the financial year to date show the following crime types increasing. However, there is no proven link to the current economic downturn. As at the end of December 2011:

- Personal robbery was up 6% compared to same period 2010
- Overall property crime remains 3% higher than 2010 due to increases in personal robbery, theft from person and residential burglary

14. Longer term acquisitive crimes trajectories show the following:



15. This data needs to be considered in the context of significant reductions seen in these crime types as shown the graphs.

Request 3

The number of convictions in Southwark per year

16. The Crown Prosecution Service (CPS) states that there were 215 convictions in Southwark last year which were flagged up as domestic violence. They are compiling data from previous years and this will be submitted to the committee at a later meeting.

17. The table below shows a breakdown of cases that went to the CPS and the outcome.

Case outcome	2011/12
Cases with CPS advice	461
Convictions	215
Not guilty verdicts	79
Offered no evidence / discontinued	79
No further action (NFA)	140
Total	974

NFA =cases have not been charged but police have asked for CPS advice

Request 4

More information on what orders are available for the courts to use and the frequency with which they're used.

18. An injunction is a court order that requires someone to do or not to do something. There are two main types of injunctions available under Part IV of the Family Law Act 1996:

- A non-molestation order
- An occupation order

19. A non-molestation order is aimed at preventing the partner or ex-partner from using or threatening violence against the victim or their child, or intimidating, harassing or pestering them, in order to ensure the health, safety and well-being of the victim and their children. A breach of a non-molestation order is a criminal offence.

20. An occupation order regulates who can live in the family home, and can also restrict the perpetrator from entering the surrounding area. If a victim does not feel safe continuing to live with their partner, or if they have left home because of violence, but want to return and exclude the perpetrator this order can be applied.

21. Restraining orders can also be utilised, although these are not specific to domestic violence cases.

22. National information shows:

Family matters

Domestic Violence: Applications and orders made in the county courts, England and Wales, Q1 2008 - Q3 2011 ¹

Year	Quarter	Applications made ²			Orders made ³		
		Non-molestation	Occupation	Total	Non-molestation	Occupation	Total
2008		17,141	7,738	24,879	19,367	5,099	24,466
2009		18,903	7,124	26,027	20,662	4,203	24,865
2010		17,843	6,106	23,949	20,444	3,643	24,087
2008	Q1	3,993	1,878	5,871	4,463	1,261	5,724
	Q2	4,303	1,942	6,245	4,887	1,315	6,202
	Q3	4,592	2,086	6,678	5,223	1,331	6,554
	Q4	4,253	1,832	6,085	4,794	1,192	5,986
2009	Q1	4,636	1,924	6,560	4,941	1,118	6,059
	Q2	4,710	1,837	6,547	5,055	1,120	6,175
	Q3	5,161	1,897	7,058	5,597	1,054	6,651
	Q4	4,396	1,466	5,862	5,069	911	5,980
2010	Q1	4,564	1,562	6,126	5,125	916	6,041
	Q2	4,551	1,622	6,173	5,172	932	6,104
	Q3	4,829	1,623	6,452	5,507	969	6,476
	Q4	3,899	1,299	5,198	4,640	826	5,466
2011	Q1	3,962	1,366	5,328	4,560	787	5,347
	Q2 (r)	3,865	1,248	5,113	4,493	785	5,278
	Q3 (p)	4,178	1,338	5,516	4,783	761	5,544

Source:

HM Courts and Tribunals Service FamilyMan system

Notes:

1 Does not include orders made in Family Proceedings Courts

2 Applications for arrest warrants are not included

3 The Domestic Violence, Crime and Victims Act 2004 made breach of a non-molestation order a criminal and arrestable offence as of July 2007, making it no longer necessary for courts to attach a power of arrest to non-molestation orders

23. Local data is currently being compiled and this will be submitted to the sub-committee at a later meeting.