

# **Tacking Crime & Increasing Community Safety in Islington**

**Policy & Performance Scrutiny  
April 2021**

# Crime Performance Summary

April 2020 – March 2021 vs previous year

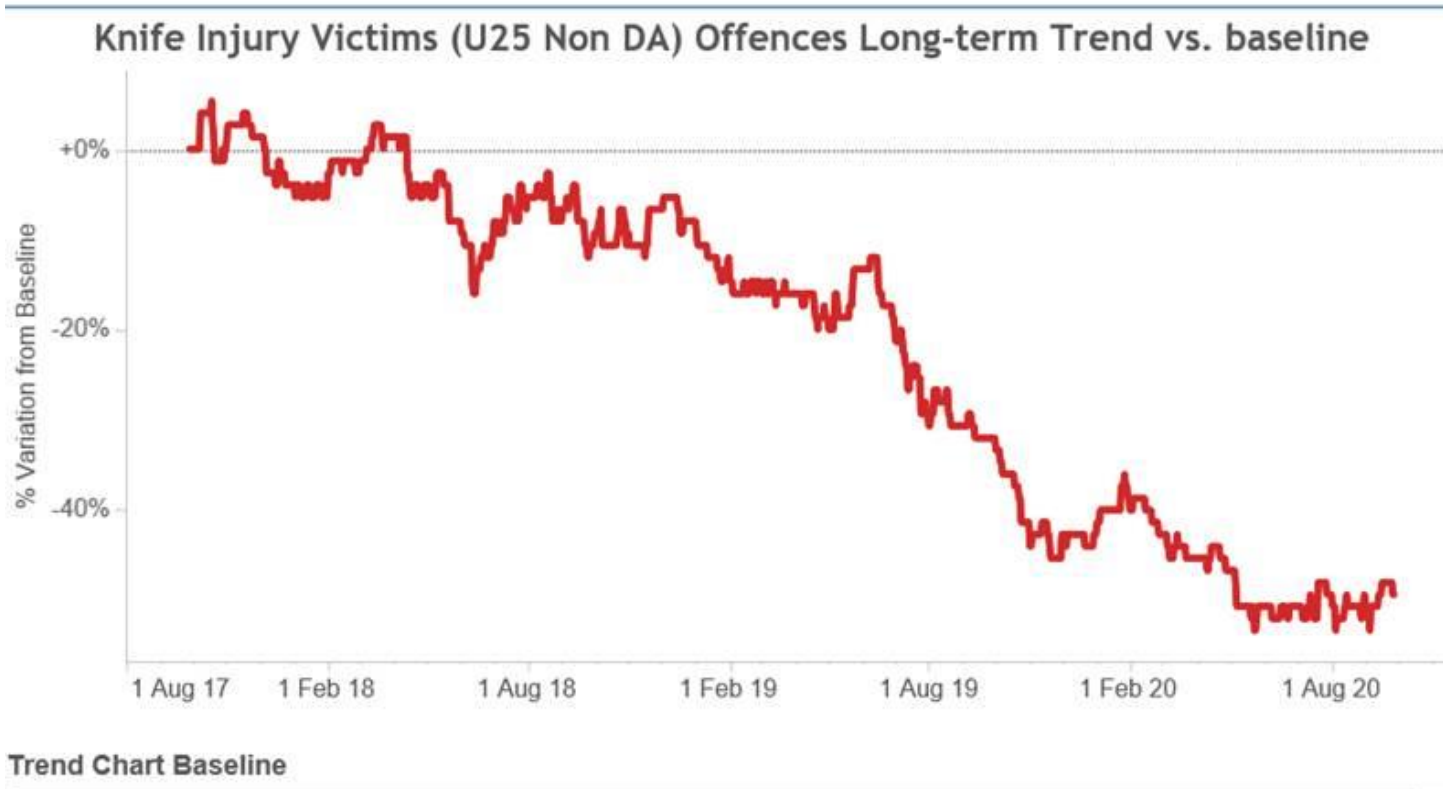
Crime Type	% Change		MPS Rank (out of 32)
Total Crime	24	↓	18
Violent Crime	6	↓	23
Sexual Offences	25	↓	24
Robbery	40	↓	6
Burglary	23	↓	14
MV Crime	24	↓	23
Theft	41	↓	7
Drugs	3	↓	20
Moped Enabled Crime	74	↓	3
Pedal Cycle Enabled Crime	40	↓	2
Serious Youth Violence	37	↓	16
Knife Crime	23	↓	10
Racial Offences	22	↑	15
Domestic Violence Offences	1	↑	22
DV Sanction Detections	3	↑	1

# Key Performance

- The Safer Islington Partnership has five strategic aims: Crimes Involving Young People, VAWG (including wider women's safety issues), Hate Crime & ASB, Drugs & Adult Offending and Exploitation & Extremism
- New theme of Trust, Accountability & Engagement being introduced (community engagement, ward panel review and increasing communication)
- Significant crime reductions in the majority of areas over the lockdown period (24% reduction overall) but this is slowly increasing
- The areas of concern centre around a small number of parks / estates where established gangs / groups are causing issues with increasing drug dealing and robbery
- Huge uptake in service provision from street homeless and drug users with the market changing towards spice and other more easily available drugs. What happens to the drug markets in the future is something we are alive to and is a similar picture across London
- A slight increase in Domestic abuse recorded offences, however support services have seen a significant increase in demand for help and advice
- Significant improvements seen in SDs for DA and Rape offences
- Rise in public order offences connected to Covid restriction tensions

# Knife Crime Trends

## Year on Year Comparisons



### Highlights:

- Sustained reduction over 3 years (2017-2020)
- Attributed to initiatives including the Integrated Gangs Team, the partnership approach to youth offending, out of court disposal scrutiny panel and the joined up police and partnership tasking, etc

# Police Response

## Key Highlights

- Creation of the Violence Suppression Unit (VSU) dealing with high harm offenders and groups with cyclical covert operations continuing
- Cross borough and force initiatives in Finsbury Park (Op Perch) and EC (Op Clementine)
- High harm violent offenders are reviewed at Inspector level on a daily basis
- Monthly tasking meeting focuses on violent reduction, gang and knife crime
- Multi-agency offender management through processes (MAPPA, MARACs & IOM)
- Uplift of NPT officers in wards with higher levels of violence
- Increased investment of officers embedded in the council (YOS, Licensing, Outreach, Community Safety, etc)
- Regularly weapon sweeps across the borough
- Safer schools officers delivery violence and knife crime awareness programmes
- Youth justice scrutiny panels are held 6 monthly to ensure our out of court disposals for youth offenders are consistent, fair and of value
- Engage (our in custody youth worker programme) continues to be successful and both custody suites are engaged.
- Joint visits to our high harm offenders
- Work with Pentonville prison to enhance our investigation of crime in prison and intelligence flow

# Violence & Knife Crime Reduction

## Key Highlights

- Regular analysis and tasking to key trends, patterns and hotspots
- Environmental visual audits and subsequent improvement plans on high harm locations
- Installation of 7 knife bins across the borough
- “No Knife Shop” Initiative and test purchase operations
- Adult habitual knife carriers managed through the multi-agency Integrated Offender Management scheme
- New Group Offending Partnership Panel
- Integrated Gangs Team
- GPS tagging pilot for knife offenders running in Islington
- Targeted communication campaigns (Not in my Community)
- Youth Violence Protection Toolkit available to every school and college on the borough
- Strong VCS partnerships with organisations including Minority Matters, Ben Kinsella Trust, CYP and Arsenal in the Community, all focused on violent crime reduction and exploitation
- Extensive investment in CCTV
- Robust approach to Licensing
- Nightsafe Patrols
- Trauma informed needs assessments for young people
- Maximising opportunities around “Teachable Moments” – hospitals & custody suites
- Comprehensive youth safety offer

# Crimes Involving Young People

## Successes, Changes and Challenges

The co-production and publication of the partnership's new five year youth safety strategy in November 2020. The strategy focusses on protecting our children and young people from violence, abuse and exploitation through eight core areas of focus: Prevention, Identification, Engagement, Diversion, Support, Protection, Disruption and Enforcement and Prosecution. A new Youth Safety Delivery group has been established and is co-chaired by young people, to monitor progress.

### Achievements

- Islington has reduced the number of young people who are first time entrants into the youth justice system from 75 in 2016/17 to 57 in 2019/20
- Reduced the number of children have received a custodial sentence from 30 in 2016/17 to 9 in 2019/20
- Reoffending rates for young people are now amongst the best in London
- 35% reduction in youth violence in the borough and an 37% reduction in Serious Youth Violence (April 2020 to March 2021 vs same period the previous year)
- Publication of Disproportionality study project with Haringey Council, City University and the Youth Justice Board

# Crimes Involving Young People

## Focus & Challenges for 2021/22

### Challenges

1. The impact of the pandemic on the exploitation of children and young people due to the increase in vulnerability
2. The surge in violence across London following the relaxing of lockdown 1
3. Youth violence may be falling, but serious incidents are still occurring including the murder of a fifteen year old in January 21
4. Organised crime groups adapting and becoming more sophisticated in approach
5. Cross border violence and activity

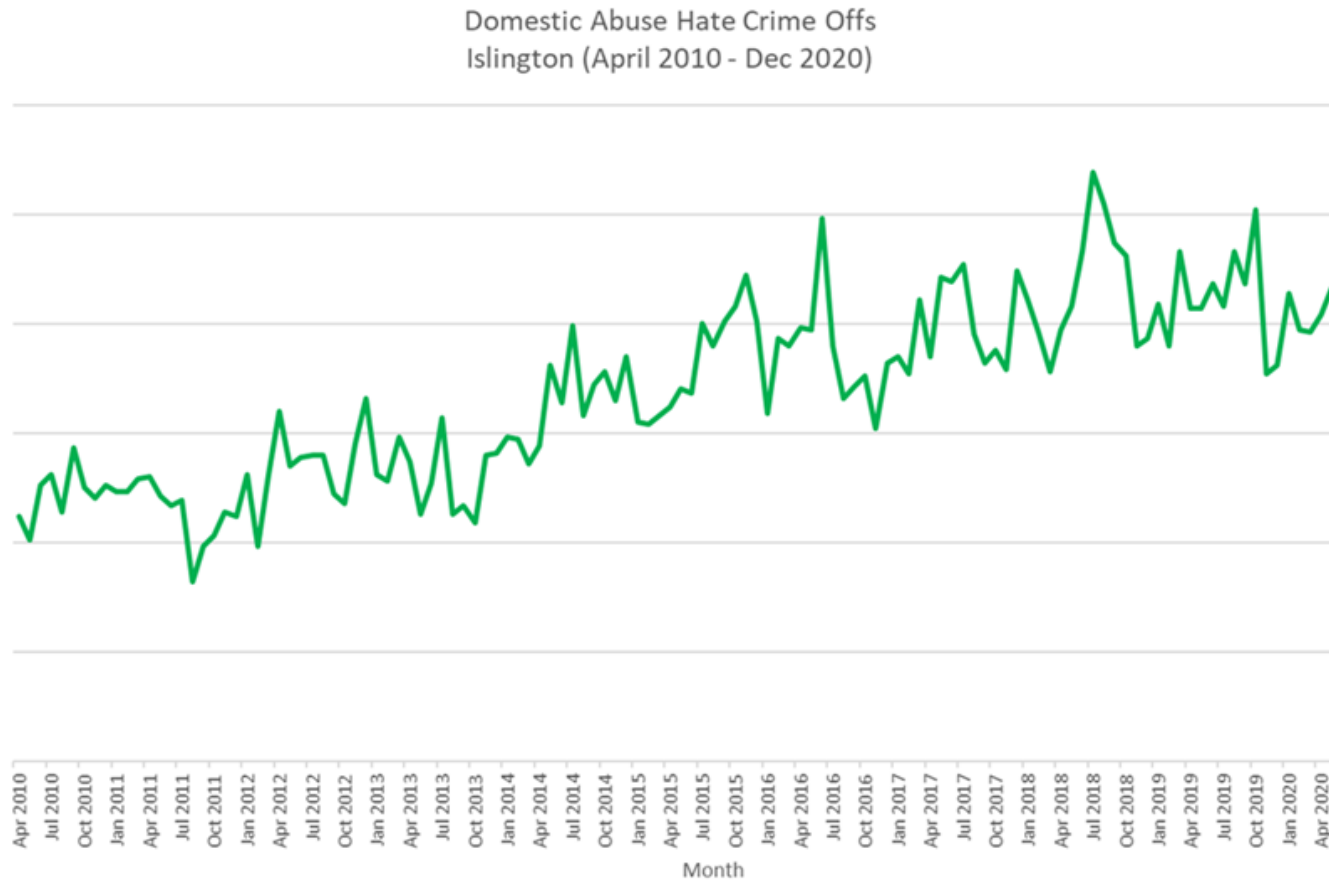
### Future Work/Opportunities

1. Continued delivery of objectives within the strategy
2. Provision of increased support into schools with various projects
3. Agreement by VRU to extend the funding of projects into next year
4. Third research project with City University criminologists is underway
5. Youth Voice mechanisms strengthened



# DV Offences in Islington

## Year on Year Comparisons



### Highlights:

- Sustained increase over the last 10 years
- Attributed to investment into encouraging reporting and changes in policing identification and recording standards

# Violence against Women and Girls (VAWG)

## Successes, Changes and Challenges

LBI embarked on an ambitious programme of VAWG Transformation in April 2020 supported by £2million new council investment over 3 years plus additional funding from MHCLG, CCG, London Violence Reduction Unit etc

- 13 Independent Domestic Violence Advocates/5 specialist posts co-located in health, housing, TYS, Children's Services plus Samira and IRIS project etc
- DA Housing First project and Women's Outreach role
- Family Support workers based in Islington refuges
- YUVA - child to parent violence project
- Replacement /emergency smart phones to survivors
- VAWG workforce development team sustaining good practice from Keel and VAWG practice priorities

## Achievements

Daily Safeguarding Meeting launched Jan 2021 with 199 survivors supported in the first three months since the launch

IDVA services are expecting to support approx. 30% more survivors in this financial year  
Comprehensive partnership effort to support survivors and their families during Covid 19  
Central North best sanction and detection rate in the Met

# Violence against Women and Girls (VAWG)

## Focus & Challenges for 2021/22

### Challenges

1. Ongoing impact of the pandemic on DA
2. Increasing the safety of women and girls in our communities, schools and workplaces
3. Increasing criminal justice outcomes for survivors
4. Increasing awareness of young people as victims of DA

### Future Work/Opportunities

1. Development of the new VAWG Strategy
2. Women's Safety campaign, training and support
3. Work to prevent sexual violence in education settings and support victims
4. Domestic Abuse Bill passes into law later this year
5. Launch of the new Journey to Change Service working with perpetrators of DA
6. DA Housing Alliance (DAHA) Accreditation.
7. Home Safe DA project supporting children and survivors in Islington schools
6. 3 year PHD student starts in summer to research approach to working with perpetrators of DA

# Women's Safety

## Key Highlights

- Safe Haven Scheme (over 100 currently signed up)
- Targeted communication campaigns (Look up & Look out, Safe in my Community, Ask Angela, etc)
- Women's Night Safety Charter (2/3 premises signed up in London are in Islington)
- Community women's walkabouts to identify areas women feel unsafe
- Police and LA to visit key women's groups to discuss feelings of safety
- X Marks the Spot campaign
- Personal safety taskforce around Finsbury Park / Blackstock Road
- Advice and training for licensees and door staff on identifying and supporting vulnerable women as premises re-open (through Pubwatch and Safer Towns)
- Treating Mysogyny as a hate crime and increasing awareness around this
- Revisiting the council's role in promoting gender equality and making the borough a safer place for women & girls (as both an employer and for the local community)
- Development of new early intervention workshops in schools and materials for young people and parents etc with specific sessions for boys
- Space for women and girls to be heard - speak about their experiences

# Wider Community Safety Initiatives

## Successes, Changes and Challenges

- Delivered over 35 separate multi-agency projects to reduce ASB and crime in the borough
- Conducted 20 EVA's in the year making hundreds of physical improvements to estates on the borough to reduce crime and ASB
- Anti-Social Behaviour Early Intervention Scheme (ASB EIS) setup in conjunction with police in November and over 200 ASB warnings have been issued so far
- Application for support at the Islington Community MARAC cases are at an all-time high with 80 cases against a target of 36 with an estimate of over 500 positive outcomes
- Created a multi-agency operational group with police and partners to tackle drugs and violent offending in the south of the borough with good results so far
- Continue to develop our tri-borough partnership strategy to tackle crime in the wider Finsbury Park area with ongoing positive results
- Multi-agency response to youth violence in North Islington, following the tragic murder of a young person in January in 2021
- Over 100 Safe Havens in Islington
- Increased CCTV across a range of crime hotspots

# Wider Community Safety Initiatives

## Focus & Challenges for 2021/22

- Planning for and responding to the expected crime rise with lockdown restrictions relaxing
- Need to manage demand for support for vulnerable people via CMARAC (multi-agency support panel), repeat callers and community trigger functions
- Meet the need in making people feel safe in the community and increasing our Safe Havens offering
- Supporting police to improve ward panel meetings so that community voices can be heard and they can work with us to fight ASB and crime
- Focused effort for dealing with increases in bicycle theft
- Expansion of the Integrated Offender Management scheme to include more violent and DV offenders (with support from a forensic psychologist)
- Helping embed the re-merged probation service in June 2021
- Utilising the grant money the Public Health team successful gained to support additional drug treatment with a particular focus on crime and harm reduction activity

# Hate Crime

## Successes, Changes and Challenges

Increasing confidence in reporting hate crime is a key priority, and hence it is expected hate crime figures will rise in line with the partnership work undertaken. To ensure we deal with this issue effectively we have a:

- New Hate Crime Strategy for 2021-24 with four key aims:
  - Raising awareness of hate crime and increasing reporting
  - Ensure an effective operational response
  - Support vulnerable victims
  - Work in partnership with the community
- New hate crime advice leaflet produced
- Increased number of organisations signing the Hate Crime Pledge and people undertaking hate crime training
- Vulnerable hate crime victims now supported in the Community MARAC
- Successful Hate Crime Awareness week in October 2020
- Annual hate crime event for schools with 120 students taking part and regular hate awareness input into all educational settings
- Regular dip sampling of hate crime cases to identify good practice and areas to improve in terms of investigation and referrals
- Wider representative membership at the Hate Crime forum

# Hate Crime

## Focus & Challenges for 2021/22

- Delivery of the new Hate Crime Strategy through a multi-agency action plan
- Tackling misogyny as a hate crime (legislative changes)
- Making hate crime reporting easier (QR codes, third party reporting sites etc)
- Review and improve the online hate crime training offer to all
- Improving sanction detections and positive outcomes across all forms of hate crime
- Utilising the new ASB early intervention warning system to help deal with hate crime between neighbours
- Working with housing providers to tackle rising racial hate between residents
- Monitor and responding to possible rises in community tensions as lockdown restrictions ease and significant incidents around the world occur



# Exploitation & Extremism

## Successes, Changes and Challenges

### Modern Day Slavery (MDS)

- Well attended multi-agency MDS board with new partners including Hestia, Refuge, HTF, etc
- Case dip sampling to identify good practice and areas to improve
- Successful bid to become a pilot borough for National Referral Mechanism (NRM) local decision making
- Trained over 300 staff in MDS awareness
- Established strong links to the MPS teams who deal with MDS/HT cases
- Saw the level of referrals from LBI into the NRM remain the same as the year despite lockdown restrictions

### Prevent

- Online training delivered to educational establishments, LB staff and key partners during lockdown
- Far Right awareness training to range of audiences including licensees, Arsenal FC staff and caretakers
- Direct support for a number of vulnerable people who were at risk of grooming in extremism through the Channel panel
- Arrest for series of swastikas graffiti across Islington & Hackney
- Successful bid to Home Office for continued and increased funding for 2021/22 for Prevent delivery work

# Exploitation & Extremism

## Focus & Challenges for 2021/22

### Modern Day Slavery

- Develop an online training package for MDS awareness training and bespoke training for those dealing with referrals
- Identifying and referring more victims of MDS to the NRM
- Delivering the pilot of local decision making on NRM for children
- Develop the dip sampling process for MDS cases
- Greater understanding of online exploitation during lockdown
- Increase the public communications to raise awareness around the signs to look out for and how to report potential MDS

### Prevent

- Close monitoring and response to the rise in Far Right linked to conspiracy theories, anti-vaccinations and Brexit
- Mapping of Far Right activity in Islington
- Greater understanding and awareness of the link between autism and grooming
- National review of the Prevent agenda
- Potential regionalisation of Prevent delivery across the country leading to reduction in local resources to deliver the statutory duties

# Rough Sleeping & Street Population

## Successes, Changes and Challenges

- Street Population team expanded – now have a dedicated complex needs women's worker and a Reconnections outreach worker Each carry a caseload of service users and provide direct support to women experiencing multiple disadvantage and people without a connection to Islington
- Funding application made to MHCLG for further funding as part of Rough Sleeper Initiative to continue current interventions, including accommodation options and secure further interventions, including nurse and psychologist
- Monthly Street User Outreach Meeting (SUOM) multi-agency meeting established in October 2020, to discuss individuals who are housed but continue to engage in street criminality and drug use. Focuses on individuals engaging in persistent, problematic ASB, to consider how agencies can support behaviour change and reduce impact
- Numbers on the streets are low – currently under 10 people R/S, although numbers are not static. Numbers being low means that targeted throughput work has been happening, which has seen people remain in accommodation and engage with services
- Housing First Scheme expanded providing a positive option for those with long history of rough sleeping, with dedicated support

# Rough Sleeping & Street Population

## Focus & Challenges for 2021/22

- Eviction ban being lifted and alongside the economic projection may lead to a new wave of homelessness and increase in demand on services
- EU nationals (applying for EUSS scheme) may face more difficulties evidencing their stay in the UK, with any pending criminal convictions further complicating issues
- Increasing complexity of individual's needs requiring a multi-agency response. Difficulties to mobilise services sometimes to get the best response, especially as demand on services is at an all-time high
- Challenge to deliver the wide range of current homelessness support activities if / when the current level of funding begins to reduce
- Opportunity to review the current outreach offer during the procurement for service covering 2021/24

# Appendix 1 – Current Crime Performance

April 2020 to March 2021 vs same period 2019/20

Crime Type	Number of Offences 2019/20 (between 1 Apr 2019 - 31 Mar 2020 (LBI))	Number of Offences 2020/21 (between 1 Apr 2020 - 31 Mar 2021 (LBI))		Difference between 2019/20 and 2020/21 (LBI)	MPS Rank* (out of 32 where 1 = highest levels of crime)	Percentage Change between 2019/20 and 2020/21 (LBI)	Percentage Change between 2019/20 and 2020/21 (MPS)
<b>Total Notifiable Offences</b>							
Total Notifiable Offences	30,362	23,189	●	-7,173	18	-23.6%	-18.8%
<b>Crime Type</b>							
Violence Against the Person	6,281	5,879	●	-402	23	-6.4%	-2.0%
Sexual Offences	619	462	●	-157	24	-25.4%	-7.8%
Robbery Offences	1,685	1,008	●	-677	6	-40.2%	-43.0%
Burglary Offences	2,518	1,933	●	-585	14	-23.2%	-28.5%
MV Offences	3,185	2,415	●	-770	23	-24.2%	-22.4%
Theft Offences	10,742	6,292	●	-4,450	7	-41.4%	-39.1%
Criminal Damage Offences	1,503	1,415	●	-88	21	-5.9%	-11.1%
Drugs Offences	1,461	1,419	●	-42	20	-2.9%	10.5%
Possession of Weapons Offences	223	163	●	-60	18	-26.9%	-13.2%
Public Order Offences	1,811	1,964	●	153	12	8.4%	2.3%
Other Offences	334	239	●	-95	26	-28.4%	0.5%

# Appendix 2 – Current Crime Performance

## April 2020 to March 2021 vs same period 2019/20

Crime Type	Number of Offences 2019/20 (between 1 Apr 2019 - 31 Mar 2020 (LBI))	Number of Offences 2020/21 (between 1 Apr 2020 - 31 Mar 2021 (LBI))		Difference between 2019/20 and 2020/21 (LBI)	MPS Rank* (out of 32 where 1 = highest levels of crime)	Percentage Change between 2019/20 and 2020/21 (LBI)	Percentage Change between 2019/20 and 2020/21 (MPS)
Moped Enabled Crime	662	171	●	-491	3	-74.2%	-48.9%
Pedal Cycle Enabled Crime	2,118	1,282	●	-836	2	-39.5%	-18.7%
Serious Youth Violence	284	178	●	-106	16	-37.3%	-36.3%
Youth Violence	553	361	●	-192	21	-34.7%	-31.1%
Gun Crime Offs	44	38	●	-6	21	-13.6%	-24.1%
Gun Crime Lethal Barrelled Discharged Offs	10	6	●	-4	15	-40.0%	-1.8%
Knife Crime Offs	555	425	●	-130	10	-23.4%	-33.9%
Knife Crime With Injury Offs	112	92	●	-20	17	-17.9%	-19.5%
Knife Crime Injury Victims 1-24 (Non DA)	41	39	●	-2	15	-4.9%	-24.8%
Knife Possession Offs	166	129	●	-37	17	-22.3%	-10.9%
Anti-Semitic Offs	11	14		3	10	27.3%	0.0%
Disability Hate Crime Offs	24	24		0	6	0.0%	8.4%
Faith Hate Crime Offs	56	50		-6	15	-10.7%	-15.1%
Homophobic Hate Crime Offs	123	120		-3	9	-2.4%	-3.7%
Islamophobic Offs	29	29		0	11	0.0%	-26.2%
Racist Hate Crime Offs	562	683		121	15	21.5%	14.9%
Transgender Hate Offs	15	11		-4	8	-26.7%	-0.3%
Domestic Abuse Incidents	4,084	4,255		171	22	4.2%	7.0%
Domestic Abuse Offs	2,507	2,537		30	22	1.2%	5.0%
Domestic Abuse SDs (Rate)	16%	18%			1	2.5%	0.7%