

8 Crime & Disorder

Crime in brief:

14,886 recorded crimes in Basingstoke and Deane in 2006/7

Overall crime rate of 95 recorded crimes per 1,000 population in the Borough – lower than Hampshire and England/Wales, but higher than the South East Region

Violent crime and criminal damage make up half the recorded crime in the Borough

Recorded crimes for domestic burglary and vehicle crime in the Borough lower than or similar to Hampshire, South East and national levels

9 domestic burglaries recorded per 1,000 households in the Borough (2006/7)

9 incidents of recorded vehicle crime per 1,000 population in the Borough (2006/7)

24 incidents of recorded violent crime per 1,000 population in the Borough (2006/7)

- 8.1 Police recorded crime statistics provide a good measure of trends in well reported crimes. The number of crimes recorded by the police is, however, influenced both by changes in the reporting of crime by the public and by changes in the rules and practices for recording crime by the police. As not all crimes are reported to the police, recorded crime statistics can underestimate the levels and patterns of crime and disorder in an area.
- 8.2 The British Crime Survey (BCS) measures the amount of crime in England and Wales by asking people about crimes they have experienced in the past year. Based on interviews with adults in private households, it can provide an assessment of the possible extent of crime as it includes crimes that are not reported to the police. The BCS, as a survey, however, is subject to sampling variability and does not include crime against people under 16 or commercial crime, both of which would be included in police recorded crime. Police recorded crime data and the BCS are complementary sources that together provide a more comprehensive overall picture of crime.
- 8.3 This Profile concentrates on Police Recorded Crime, thus providing monitoring for the Best Value Performance Indicators, and maintaining an approach consistent with the indicators used in the Indices of Deprivation. Basingstoke and Deane Borough has formed part of the North and East Hampshire Operational Command Unit (OCU) since April 2006. This OCU also includes Rushmoor, East Hampshire and Hart local authority areas. The data presented below, however, is presented by local authority area, not for the larger OCU.
- 8.4 The Basingstoke and Deane Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnership Community Safety Strategic Assessment (1 April – 30 September 2007) provides in depth analysis of people's perception and experiences of crime and disorder in the area down to beat and

Ward level, using a wide range of data sources. Section 17 of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 places a duty, not only on police and local authorities, but also on partner agencies, to work together to develop and implement a strategy for reducing crime and disorder. All agencies must consider the crime and disorder implications of their activities, throughout their organisation, and do all that they reasonably can to prevent crime and disorder. The Police and Justice Act 2006, which came into force on 1st August 2007, strengthens the co-operation and information sharing expected between partners. The Strategic Assessment, in addition to its data analysis, sets out priority themes and actions to be taken, can be found at:

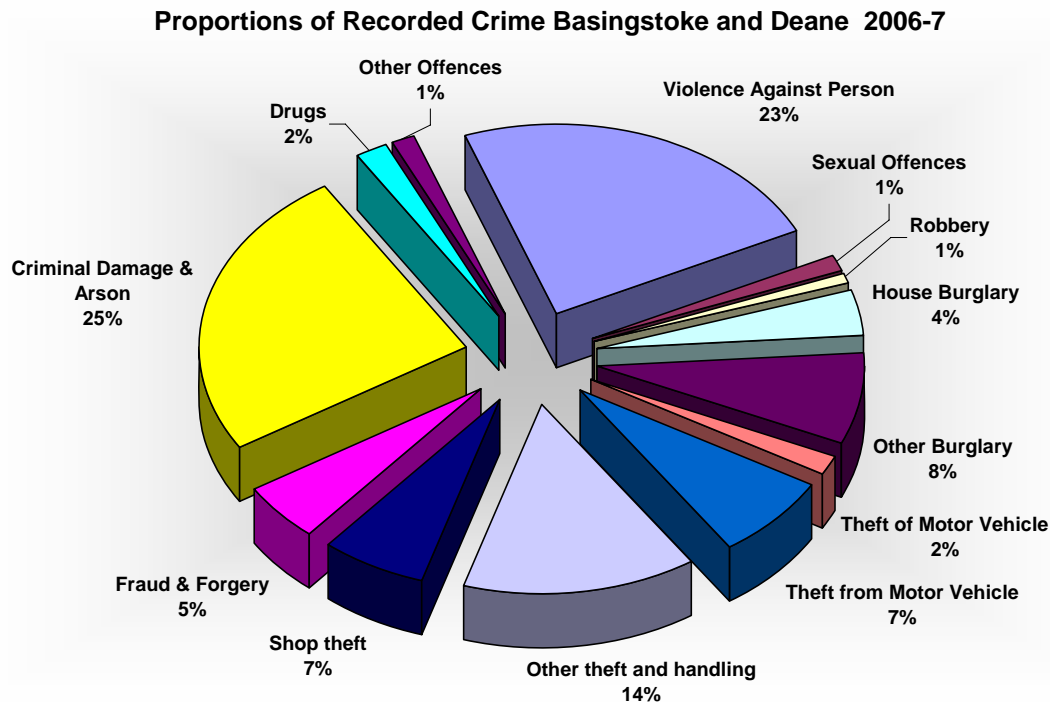
<http://www.basingstoke.gov.uk/Community/comsafety/strategic.htm>

- 8.5 Police Recorded Crime Statistics and data from the BCS, for 2006-7, can be found at: <http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/crimeew0607.html>.

Overall crime

- 8.6 The overall number of reported crimes in Basingstoke and Deane in the year 2006/07 was 14,886, which equates to a crime rate of 94.8 per 1,000 population (using Mid Year Population Estimates 2005 (first release) as denominator). This compares favourably with the crime rate for Hampshire at 99, and England and Wales at 100 but exceeds the average for the South East Region (91).
- 8.7 Figure 8.1 shows the proportions of all crime types in the Borough for 2006/07 as percentages of the total crime recorded by the police in the Borough that year. The proportions of certain crime types are broadly similar to the England and Wales profile. Theft of and from vehicles, violent crime, criminal damage, burglary and theft account for the majority of crimes at both Borough and national level, national proportions of recorded crime at the following levels:- violence against the person, 19%; sexual offences, 1%; robbery, 2%; drug offences, 4%; burglary, 11%; offences against vehicles, 14%; other thefts, 23%; fraud and forgery, 4%; criminal damage, 22%.

8.8 **Figure 8.1: Proportions of Recorded Crime in Basingstoke and Deane 2006-2007**



Source: Police recorded crime 2006-2007, Hampshire Constabulary

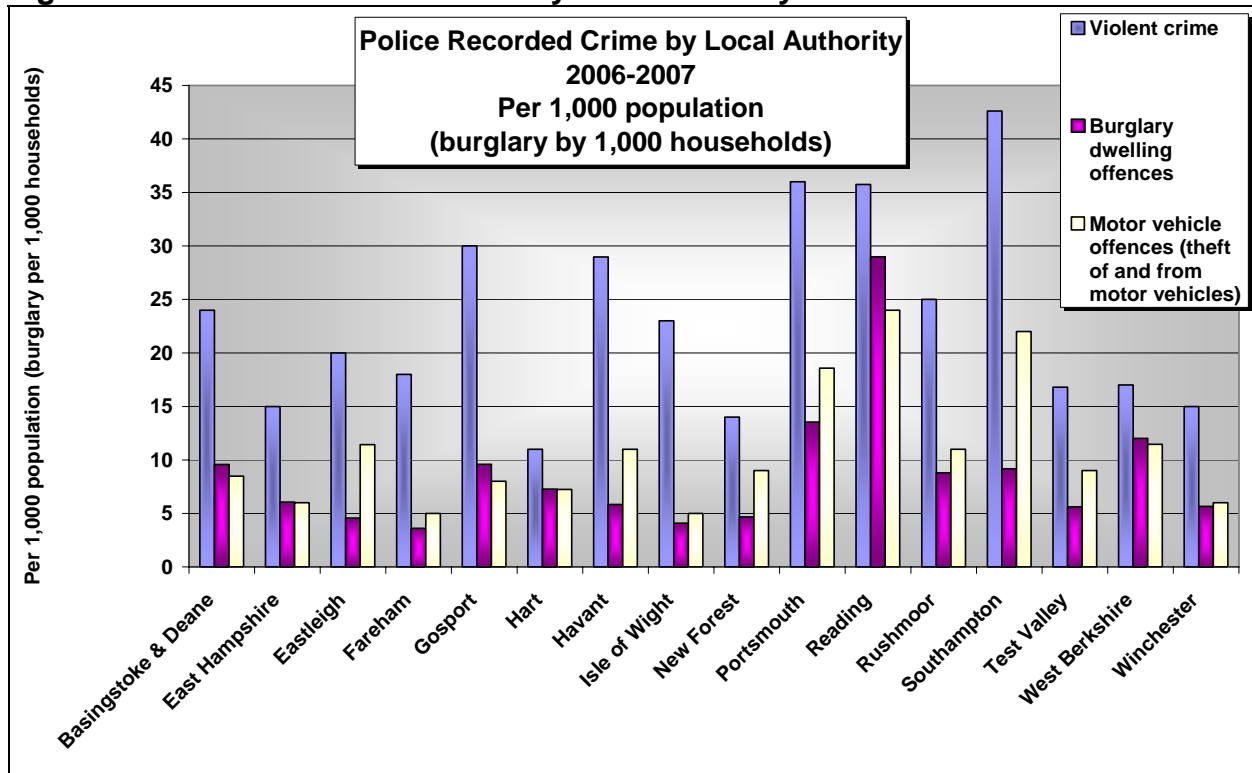
Burglary, Vehicle and Violent crime

- 8.9 Over the year 2006/07, the Borough had a rate of 9.2 domestic burglaries per 1,000 households, comparable to the rate for Hampshire (9), the South East (9) and England and Wales (12). Police recorded crime data shows that 1,747 burglaries were recorded in the Borough, 611 of which were in domestic properties.
- 8.10 The rate of vehicle crimes in 2006/07 (the definition including theft of, or from, a vehicle, and aggravated vehicle taking) stood at 8.5 per 1,000 population, a lower rate than that for Hampshire (12) and the South East (12), and lower than the England and Wales rate (14). Police recorded crime data shows that in 2006/07, 267 thefts of motor vehicles were recorded and 1,064 thefts from vehicles. Note that the figure for Basingstoke and Deane is taken from the Best Value Performance Indicator, the definition for which does not include the crime of “interfering with a motor vehicle” which is included in the Hampshire, South East and England and Wales figures. Recorded incidences of this crime in the Borough for 2006/7 totalled 105, bringing the vehicle crime rate up to 9.2 per 1,000 population.
- 8.11 Violent crime is defined as a combination of offences including violence against the person, sexual offences and robbery. Over the year 2006/07, the Borough had a rate of 24.2 violent crimes per 1,000 residents, just higher than Hampshire at 22 and higher than the South East and England and Wales rates (19). Police recorded crime data shows

that 3,791 violent crimes were recorded in the Borough in the year 2006 to 2007; 3,458 violent crimes against the person, 214 sexual offences and 119 robberies.

8.12 Figure 8.2 shows how the recorded crime rate profile for Basingstoke and Deane compares to the other local authority areas (and neighbouring areas) within the Hampshire Constabulary area. Each of the figures is expressed per 1,000 population, except for domestic burglary which is counted per 1,000 households according to standard performance indicator definitions.

Figure 8.2: Recorded Crime Rates by local authority



Source: Home Office Recorded Crime for 6 key offices by Local Authority 2006-7

8.13 Violent crime in Hampshire and the Borough's neighbouring authority areas ranges from the lowest, Hart at 11 crimes per 1,000 population, to Portsmouth, Reading and Southampton in the mid thirties and low forties. Basingstoke and Deane's violent crime rate of 24 per 1,000 places the Borough mid way in this range, though towards the top end of the area excluding the two cities. The Borough's rate for motor vehicle crime is fairly typical within this group of local authority areas.