



Community Safety and Crime

1. Introduction

Crime and the fear of crime are key factors that impact on how we feel about our community. Overall, crime rates in Hounslow are similar to the London average; however, they are on a downward trend. Since 2003, crime levels – as measured by notifiable offences reported to the police – have decreased in Hounslow by 27%, which equates to approximately 740 fewer crimes per month. The most serious violence and acquisitive crimes have reduced by 16% and 7% (respectively) in the last 8 years. However, for some types of crime, Hounslow has higher rates than both the London and national average, and evidence from a range of surveys¹ show that residents' perceptions and fear of crime remain a real concern.

2. The Local Picture

In 2010-2011, there were a total of 23,854 Total Notifiable Offences (TNO) reported to the Police²; a 3% increase on the previous year (23,140). Theft and handling crimes accounted for 35% of all offences and violent crime a further 24% of the total. In general, males are more likely to commit an offence in all crime categories than females, except for domestic crime. Black ethnic groups have the highest risk (53%) of being a victim of violent crime compared with other ethnic groups, followed by Asians (28.2%).

2.1 Crime against Youth

In Hounslow, there were 2,064 crimes committed against youth in 2010-11. Youth from Black ethnic groups had the highest risk of being victims of crime (16.8 per 1,000 population) followed by White ethnic groups (8.8 per 1,000). The highest number of crimes against youth in the Borough of Hounslow were reported in Hounslow and Feltham. ([Figure 2](#))

2.2 Robbery, Burglary and Theft

The Hounslow rates of robberies, burglaries and theft were below the London averages for 2010-11. ([Table 1](#)) A majority of robbery and burglary victims were male; 52% and 77% respectively. ([Table 2](#)) Asian and White ethnic groups had a higher risk of being burgled compared to other ethnic groups, with 12.5 and 10 incidences per 1,000 population, respectively. ([Table 3](#))

2.3 Hate Crime

In 2010-11, there were 421 victims of hate crime in Hounslow. Black and Asian ethnic groups had a higher risk of being victims of this type of crime compared to other ethnic groups (3.9 and 3 per 1,000 population, respectively). ([Table 3](#))

2.4 Domestic Crime

In Hounslow, there were a total of 2,049 victims of domestic crime in 2010-11, with 80% of these victims being female. Black ethnic groups were at the highest risk of being the subject of domestic crime (16.8 per 1,000 population), followed by White ethnic groups. ([Table 3](#))

¹ Sources of survey data include the Residents' Panel, Place Survey, Police Key Individual Network and Police Fear of Crime Survey

² <http://maps.lb.met.police.uk/access.php?area=00AT&sort=count&order=a>



Areas in Hounslow and Feltham experienced the highest incidence of domestic crime. ([Figure 3](#))

2.5 Violent crime

The 2010-11 rate of violent crime in Hounslow was 24.0 per 1,000 population; 13% higher than the London average. Of the 6,500 victims of violent crime in Hounslow, 49% were male. The map in [Figure 4](#) illustrates Hounslow town centre as being the Borough's violent crime 'hotspot'.

2.6 Community Safety and Fear of Crime

Making the Borough a safer place for all residents is a key priority for the Hounslow Community Safety Partnership (CSP). The CSP holds a public consultation period every year to allow residents to express their views about safety in their local area. The most recent consultation period was held between August 2010 and February 2011, which included the 'One Hounslow, Many Voices' event held in September 2010 in the Lampton Park Conference Centre and the Youth Crime Conference in February 2011.

The top priorities for tackling crime, as indicated by the 2010-11 public consultation, were anti-social behaviour, burglary, serious violent crime, and drug misuse, closely followed by domestic violence and car crime. ([Table 4](#)³) For anti-social behaviour, the priorities were 'rubbish or litter' (44%), 'people being drunk or rowdy' (34%), 'teenagers being rowdy' (31%) and 'people using or dealing drugs' (31%). Overall, approximately three quarters of the public felt that the council and police were dealing effectively with crime and anti-social behaviour. Despite this, less than half of people (46%) did not feel 'very safe' or 'fairly safe' in their local area after dark, while 42% had concerns about feeling vulnerable.

3. Strategic Leadership and Collaboration

The Hounslow CSP is comprised of several local agencies who work together, by law, to reduce crime, disorder, substance misuse and reoffending in the Borough. Local agencies involved include Hounslow Council, the Metropolitan Police Service, London Fire Brigade, London Probation Trust, Hounslow Primary Care Trust and the Youth Offending Service, amongst others. The full list of Hounslow CSP partners is available online.⁴

The CSP undertakes a yearly strategic assessment, which informs a Community Safety Strategy. This assessment outlines new and emerging priorities the CSP will focus on to reduce and manage crime in the Borough of Hounslow. The most up-to-date Community Safety Strategy will be finalised in 2011.

In 2010/2011, the Partnership undertook an [in-depth audit of all crime and disorder](#) in the Borough for a three-year period, to March 2010. The audit analysed crime trends and 'hotspots', victim and offender profiles, and trends over time for all crimes and anti-social behaviour reported to Hounslow Police and Hounslow Council. The audit was evaluated and assessed by the Hounslow CSP, resulting in six new strategic themes as priorities for the Partnership over the next year. These are:

- Safer Neighbourhoods and Town Centres;
- Safer, Cohesive Communities;
- Protecting Young People;

³ Please note that the figures within Table 4 on the Data Sheet are all percentages.

⁴ www.hounslow.gov.uk/index/community_and_living/crime_prevention/community_safety/hcsp_partners.htm



- Safeguarding Vulnerable People;
- Reducing the Criminal Harm of Drugs and Alcohol; and
- Reducing Reoffending.

The partnership also has agreed on certain outcomes within these strategic themes and these will be part of the strategic aims within the Community Safety Strategy.

In addition to addressing these themes, the CSP will be finalising the following key strategies and policies for specific strands of crime and disorder:

- Anti-Social Behaviour (how to tackle and prevent ASB);
- Violence Against Women and Girls (as per the Government's directive, 'Call to end violence against women and girls: Action Plan'); and
- Communications strategy (to improve the way the Partnership communicates with its partners and the residents of the Borough).

3.1 *Crime Prevention*

In 2010-11 the Partnership has overseen, amongst other things:

- Nine Premises Closure Orders, which included five closures for premises acting as a crack house (where drugs are unlawfully supplied, distributed or produced at a premises);
- Three Dispersal Zones, an order which enables the police to disperse groups of two or more persons and return unsupervised young persons under the age of 16 to their home address;
- Establishing the Hate Crime Prevention Forum where local agencies are able to raise awareness and assist in reduction of hate crimes. There is a website to report a hate crime incident.⁵
- Establishing two additional, permanent Controlled Drinking Zones⁶ (CDZ) within the Borough, in Lampton Park and Heston Park and its surrounding areas. A CDZ gives police the power to confiscate alcohol from individuals who are deemed to be engaging in antisocial behaviour as a result of drinking in public spaces. There are already two permanent CDZs within the Borough – Hounslow Town centre and Feltham Town centre – and a fifth zone was established around Hounslow West Town Centre during October 2011.

4. **Priorities**

The key priorities for 2011/12 are:

- Reduce alcohol-related harm (in terms of hospital admissions and alcohol-attributable crime rates);
- Development of Partnership, Strategy and Action plans to reduce violence against women and girls (including forced marriages and honour-based deaths); and
- Reduce victim-based crime in the Borough.

⁵ www.hounslow.gov.uk/hatecrime

⁶ www.hounslow.gov.uk/CDZ



5. Summary of Need

The following table summarises the needs in Community Safety and Crime in the Borough of Hounslow.

SUMMARY OF NEED: CHECKLIST	
Is need increasing over time?	Yes
Is need greater than the London average?	No
Is there qualitative intelligence indicating that need is substantially unmet?	Yes
Is there an external inspection or report suggesting need is unmet?	N/A
Are quality indicators worsening over time?	N/A
Are quality indicators worse than the London average?	No
Is there an intervention of proven effectiveness to address the need which is not currently delivered in Hounslow (or not delivered enough)?	N/A