

Richmond upon Thames Strategic Assessment 2007 Summary

The following information summarises the analysis of information up to 30th June 2007.

There have been further reductions in crime since then.

The full range of information will be used by task groups to draw up action plans to tackle specific issues.

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1. Executive Summary

The analytical process has highlighted the borough's priorities as alcohol and drugs. The next main priorities identified are assaults, residential burglary, personal robbery and anti-social behaviour.

Alcohol and drugs are the key drivers of crime and focusing on these areas will have an impact on many crime types. Alcohol is linked to assaults and criminal damage and this accounts for over a quarter of all total notifiable offences. Focusing on drugs will help reduce acquisitive crime which accounts for over half of all the boroughs total notifiable offences.

These two areas also cross cut many themes and strategies, such as the Every Child Matters Agenda, health issues and domestic violence. They are also key Government priorities.

Alcohol and drugs are also major concerns of the borough residents and focusing on these areas will help address the resident's fear of crime issues and Government set fear of crime targets.

Assaults are a priority for the borough, due to the high volume, seriousness of some of the offences and the reduction targets set.

There is no co-ordinated work undertaken regularly by the CSP to look at Assaults with the exception of assaults from Domestic Violence. Most assaults are as a result of the night time economy or Domestic Violence. Assaults also account for 12% of total notifiable offences, which will help the borough meet the target of becoming 'London's safest borough'.

Residential burglary continues to be a concern to Richmond borough. It is a high volume crime and is currently showing a slight increase. Therefore tackling burglary will have a significant impact upon becoming 'London's safest borough'. Residential burglary is also high on the list of public concern in terms of fear of crime, and is a serious acquisitive crime, which impacts greatly upon victims. It is also likely to remain as a key police priority.

Robbery continues to be a major concern to the borough of Richmond. Although offence levels are currently low for the Metropolitan Police they are however higher than the average for England and Wales. It is also a major crime committed by young people from this borough and has a high impact upon victims. It is likely to remain as a key police priority.

Anti Social Behaviour (ASB) generates many police incident reports. More incidents are generated by the Local Authority however this data is insufficient to provide a fuller picture. ASB is also continually identified as the number one concern of borough residents. Tackling ASB will help address fear of crime and meet associated Government targets with regards to public confidence and reassurance.

Terrorism will still need to be a priority for the borough due to the seriousness of the threat and fear of crime it generates for London.

a) **Alcohol related offending**

- The British Crime Survey suggests that with the exception of 2003/04 the number of alcohol related violent offences has decreased every year since 1995. However the British Crime Survey shows that people are increasingly likely to think that alcohol-related disorder is a problem.
- The most popular concern of the borough residents was identified as 'people being drunk/rowdy in public places' in the Metropolitan Police, Public Attitude Survey 2006/07.
- The social and economic costs of alcohol related assaults are estimated to have cost this borough £8.1 million in 2006/07.
- Almost one quarter of the public houses of the borough are located in South Richmond ward.
- Most alcohol related incidents and violence occur on Friday and Saturday nights in Richmond and Twickenham town centres.
- Just three 250m Cad Grid Squares account for 12% of rowdy inconsiderate behaviour in the borough, between September 2006 to June 2007.
- 83% of assaults between April to June 2007 were related to alcohol.
- Approximately three quarters of victims and suspects of alcohol related violence were borough residents.
- Alcohol related violence victims are mainly borough residents, aged between 26-35 and of white ethnic appearance and of either sex.
- Alcohol related violence suspects are mainly borough residents, male, aged between 18-25 and of white ethnic appearance.
- There is a significant positive correlation between the location of licensed premises and the location of assaults in the borough.
- London Ambulance Service data for 2005/06 found most alcohol related incidents occur in Richmond and Twickenham town centres.

b) **Anti-social behaviour**

- The 2006/07 Police Public Attitude Survey of borough residents found the top four problems identified were; people being drunk or rowdy in public places; teenagers hanging around on the streets; vandalism, graffiti and other deliberate damage to property or vehicles and rubbish or litter lying around.
- Richmond upon Thames has the lowest number of ASB incidents per 1,000 population across the Metropolitan Police Service.
- Richmond and Twickenham town centres have the greatest concentrations of ASB in the borough.
- Friday evening is the peak time for ASB incidents in the borough.
- Improving recording and collation of ASB data was a recommendation of the Crime Audit 2004, ASB scrutiny report 2006 and a target for the 2005 – 2008 Community Safety and Substance Misuse strategy. This has still not been done to a satisfactory level. It is now a requirement of the Crime and Disorder Regulations 2007 to submit ASB data on a quarterly basis with effect from July 2007. This needs to be a priority for the CSP.
- 953 graffiti service requests were recorded by the local authority from April – June 2007.
- 85 service requests were recorded by the local authority for fly-tipping from April – June 2007.
- 337 service requests were recorded by the local authority for noise from April – June 2007.
- Transport for London found the high risk areas for bus crime and disorder are Richmond and Twickenham town centres.

ASBOs and 18 ABCs were issued in 2006/07 and 2 ASBOs and 1 ABC issued from April – June 2007.

c) **Assaults**

- Assaults became an MPS priority 3 years ago when the British Crime Survey (BCS) reduction targets were introduced
- Assaults is made up of GBH, ABH and common assault
- The Public Attitude Survey for 2006/07 shows 14% of respondents to be either very worried or fairly worried about being physically attacked
- Assaults is classified as a volume crime and makes up 12% of the Total Notifiable Offences on the borough
- In 2004 the NCRS changed which affected the classification of crimes between common assault and ABH
- There has been a dramatic decrease in assaults over the last four financial years, however the short term trend is showing assaults as constant
- Assaults used to demonstrate a seasonal peak in the summer months, and then again at Christmas. Police and partnership operations over the past 3 years have countered this seasonal trend
- In order to maintain performance it is suggested that the summer and Christmas campaigns should continue
- Richmond is performing well below the CDRP average for both wounding and common assault.
- Iquanta predicts a continued decrease in wounding offences, and a continuation of the current level of common assault offences
- Safe, Sensible and Sociable Strategy is likely to impact on assaults
- 34% of assaults were flagged as domestic violence, 86% of these were related to alcohol
- 83% of all assaults were related to alcohol
- Offences peak between 1600 hrs and 0000hrs
- The peak days are Friday and Saturday
- The hotspots for the borough are the town centres of Richmond and Twickenham
- Town centre assaults tend to occur outside licensed venues and late night food outlets

d) **Burglary (residential)**

- Residential burglary continues to be an MPS priority
- Current performance shows a large increase in residential burglary against last year, however this is largely due to a significantly low month in April 2006
- IQuanta data shows Richmond Borough to be just above average in comparison to its most similar CDRPs
- Residential burglary is a serious crime, particularly distraction burglary against the elderly.
- The Richmond upon Thames Public Attitude Survey 2006/07 found that 73% of respondents were very worried or fairly worried about having their home broken into and something stolen
- Residential burglary has accounted for 8% of the total notifiable offences on Richmond Borough between April to June 2007. It is the 5th highest volume crime type
- Residential burglary has decreased over the last 7 years since 2000
- IQuanta predicts offences to increase if based upon the last three and six months data. However a longer 12 months analysis predicts the number of offences to decline
- Residential burglary is unlikely to generate other crime, however is usually affected by drugs
- The hotspot for all residential burglary offences between 01/04/2007 and 30/06/2007 was the North Barnes area along Castelnau
- The majority (40%) of the offences were committed in the daytime, although there was an increase in this quarter in night time offences
- Weekday offences were more common than weekend offences
- The most commonly stolen items were electrical items
- Force MO was the commonest MO used to commit a burglary between the search dates making up 35% of the offences
- Commonest entry point was the front door featuring in 26% of the reports
- Between June 2006 and June 2007 only 31% of offenders (where a home address was known) resided on Richmond borough

e) **Criminal Damage**

- Criminal damage is showing a large reduction in both FYTD performance and over the last 5 years.
- The borough is currently exceeding it's reduction target for 07/08 of 11.1%
- Criminal Damage accounts for 15% of TNOs and as such is classified as a high volume crime
- The largest proportion of criminal damage occurs to a motor vehicle
- IQuanta data shows Richmond Borough to be performing best in the CDRP group for criminal damage
- IQuanta data also predicts criminal damage to further decrease over the next year
- Public concern puts vandalism, graffiti and other deliberate damage to property or vehicles as one of the top 4 problems in the borough (PAS 06/07)
- Criminal damage is not seen as a serious offence in comparison to others as it involves no violence against the person
- Criminal damage is a moderate generator of other crime and the fear of crime, as illustrated by the Broken Windows Theory
- Peak locations for the current quarter were in Richmond Town Centre and Twickenham town centre
- Saturday is the peak day for offences to occur
- Offences generally occur overnight or in the evening
- Previous analysis has linked alcohol as a driver of criminal damage
- Criminal damage is a youth crime

f) **Drugs**

- Drugs crimes are perceived as less problematic in Richmond borough compared with the MPS as a whole.
- Borough residents' view one of the key police priorities; is to 'tackle drug dealing and use'.
- The British Crime Survey found in 2006/07 8% of 16-24 year olds reported use of any Class A drug in the past year.
- For 2005/06 and 2006/07 Richmond upon Thames has had the lowest number of drugs offences per 1,000 population across the MPS.
- Friday is the peak day for drugs offences across the borough.
- In 2006/07 93% of drugs offences in the borough where known were committed by males.
- Cannabis is the drug most people are accused of possessing. This is more pronounced amongst youths. However increased proactive police operations of searching people entering certain licensed premises has seen a dramatic increase in the number of people accused of possession of cocaine.
- Three quarters of the Prolific Priority Offenders on the borough are drug users.
- 41% of Drug Intervention Programme clients main drug use is Heroin. This increases to 65% of all clients through the Arrest Referral scheme.

g) Domestic Violence

- Richmond upon Thames achieved 100% compliance towards the national 2006/07 Best Value Performance Indicator for domestic violence.
- The British Crime Survey 2006/07 found that repeat victimisation accounts for 70% of all incidents of domestic violence.
- The British Crime Survey 2006/07 found that 16% of all incidents of violence were for domestic violence. However 33% of violent incidents against women were domestic violence compared with 6% of incidents against men.
- There are no overall seasonal trends in domestic violence incidents in the London Borough of Richmond upon Thames.
- For 2005/06 and 2006/07 the London Borough of Richmond upon Thames had the lowest number of domestic violence offences across the Metropolitan Police Service, in April to June 2007 the borough had the second lowest.
- Over three quarters of domestic violence offences are for violence against the person crimes.
- Richmond upon Thames has consistently had one of the highest sanctioned detection rates across the MPS.
- Sunday between 00:00 to 01:00 hours is the peak time for domestic violence offences across the borough.
- People of African/Caribbean appearance are more likely to be victims of domestic violence than are present in the boroughs population. This pattern is echoed across the Metropolitan Police Service.
- Most domestic violence victims are women and this percentage is increasing.
- 77% of victims were aged between 18 and 45. The level of repeat victimisation is decreasing from 11% in 2005/06 to 9% in 2006/06 down to 6% in April to June 2007. This compares with 70% recorded in the British Crime Survey.
- The vast majority of people accused of domestic violence offences in the borough are white, male, aged between 18 and 45.
- Further analysis needs to be conducted to monitor the relationships between victims and perpetrators. As preliminary analysis shows that when males were shown as accused 9% of the victims were also male.
- 79% of offenders were from Richmond upon Thames.

h) Homophobic Crime

- On average less than one homophobic offence is reported in Richmond upon Thames per month.
- Due to the very low levels of offences most of the data analysed is not statistically significant.
- Crime trends show that homophobic recorded crime has fallen for the last 3 years in Richmond upon Thames.
- The number of homophobic crimes in Richmond upon Thames is consistently below the Metropolitan Police average and it's most similar CDRP group.
- Most homophobic crimes in the borough are for violence against the person offences.
- The sanctioned detection rate for Richmond has increased in 2006/07 to 50.0% from 26.7% in 2005/06.
- Numbers of offences are low therefore no conclusive temporal profiles can be derived however most offences have occurred between 21:00 to 01:59 hours.
- Offenders are equally split between males and females, no offenders have been recorded in the last two years as being aged over 45.
- Three quarters of those accused of homophobic offences in the last two years live in the borough.
- Most victims of homophobic offences are males of White/European appearance aged between 18 and 45.
- The rate of repeat victimisation has been 10% from April 2005 to June 2007.

i) Motor Vehicle Crime

- Motor vehicle crime has been an MPS wide priority for many years due to it's high volume
- The Public Attitude Survey 2006/07 showed 34% of residents were very worried or fairly worried about having things stolen from their car and 19% felt the same about having their car stolen
- Motor vehicle crime makes up 13% of the borough's total notifiable offences
- Motor vehicle crime rose steadily until in FY2003/04 where it fell suddenly and continued this decrease throughout FY04/05. This large decrease in offences is attributable to Operation Footbrake
- There is no significant seasonal trend with motor vehicle crime
- IQuanta data shows Richmond Borough as performing below average within it's most similar CDRP grouping
- IQuanta predicts vehicle crime to continue falling throughout the next year based on the last 3, 6 and 12 months of data
- The time profile for motor vehicle crime is overnight
- Richmond Town Centre was the hotspot for this period with theft from motor vehicles occurring mostly in the car parks
- There is no significant peak day, however weekdays were generally busier than weekends.
- Suspects for this crime type are mainly unknown as the number of perpetrators caught is low
- Volkswagens, Fords (in particular Focus), and BMW'S were the most popular vehicles to be broken into or stolen from
- The most popular vehicle to be stolen was the Piaggio moped/scooter followed by Vauxhall cars, mainly Corsa's
- Audio radio CD players were the most popular item of property stolen followed by number plates

j) Race crime

- The Census 2001 showed 9% of the borough classified themselves as being a minority ethnic person.
- Heathfield ward has the greatest concentration of minority ethnic people in the borough.
- The Census 2001 showed that over a quarter of the borough did not specify a religion or stated they had no religion.
- A study of 180 minority ethnic people living and working in the borough found 2 out of every 3 people had been a victim or witnessed a racial incident over the past two years.
- The study found people did not report incidents because the victim did not feel they would be supported or taken seriously.
- The 2006/07 police Public Attitude Survey found 16% of the borough questioned were either very worried or fairly worried about being subject to physical attack because of skin colour, ethnic origin or religion compared to 14% in 2005/06.
- Crime trends show that race crime is falling in the borough.
- The number of race crimes in Richmond upon Thames is consistently below the Metropolitan Police average and it's most similar CDRP group.
- Most race crimes in the borough are for violence against the person offences.
- The sanctioned detection rate for Richmond has increased in 2006/07 to 49.6% from 33.3% in 2005/06, this is one of the highest in the MPS.
- Most race incidents are located in small areas of Whitton, Heathfield and Richmond town centre.
- There is no specific temporal profile for race incidents, only a slight increase in incidents between 21:00 to 01:00 hours.
- The offender profile of race crimes is White European males, aged 18 – 25 from this borough. There has been an increase in the number of Dark Europeans accused of race crimes from 2005/06 to 2006/07.
- The profile of victims of race crimes is Indian/Pakistani females, aged 18 to 45.
- The rate of repeat victimisation was 9% in 2005/06 and this reduced to 6% in 2006/07 and April to June 2007.

k) Robbery

- Personal Robbery has been an MPS wide priority for many years
- The Police target for the reduction of personal robbery stands at –1% for FY07/08 against FY06/07
- Robbery of the person accounted for 3% of all total notifiable offences within the period studied
- Robbery has risen steadily over the past 7 years, and peaked in 2005/06. Offences decreased last year and appear to be remaining constant in the shorter term.
- The offence rate for personal robbery shows Richmond just below average in comparison to the most similar CDRPs, IQuanta data
- IQuanta data predicts offence levels to continue to significantly decrease over the next year based on the last 3, 6 and 12 months data
- Weekends are generally busier than weekdays for robbery
- Peak time was 1900-2345 hours
- There is no borough hotspot for offences although Twickenham Town Centre, the area around Richmond College and surrounding open spaces and play parks including Marble Hill park and Palewell Park emerged as an area of concern
- The suspect profile shows both white and afro-Caribbean males aged 15-18 years
- The victim profile shows white males in the slightly younger age group of 14-17 years
- The property profile shows Mobiles (23%) were the most popular item of property stolen
- Previous police strategic assessments have highlighted robbers travel into Richmond from other boroughs and use their numbers to intimidate victims who are often in groups themselves
- It is presumed that the significant decrease in robbery offences, coupled with the increase in the SD rate can be attributed to the introduction of the borough's 'Q' car.

I) Youth Crime

- Young people account for approximately one quarter of all crime suspects in the borough this has consistently been the pattern since 2001.
- There is some degree of correlation between the index of Income Deprivation Affecting Children and where young offenders and young people at risk of offending live on the borough.
- Most youth suspected crime consistently occurs in a small output area of Richmond town centre covering George Street and Red Lion Street.
- 16 is the peak age for young offenders.
- 80% of young offenders in this borough are male.
- Criminal damage and robbery of the person are the crimes most committed by young people.
- Where known just over half of young people suspected of crime in this borough are residents of this borough.
- It can be estimated that criminal damage by young people cost this borough £1 million in 2006/07.
- It can be estimated that robbery of the person by young people cost this borough £1.8 million in 2006/07.
- 3 of the PPOs on the borough are juveniles.
- 9.4% of pupils in the boroughs secondary schools had fixed term exclusions compared with 11% in 2005/06.