



## **Richmond upon Thames Strategic Assessment**

**1 April 2015-31 March 2016**

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## **1.Introduction**

The overarching aim of this Strategic Assessment is to identify medium to long term crime and disorder issues which are impacting on the London Borough of Richmond upon Thames. The implications of these issues and possible future threats will also be considered.

The main purpose of this product is to provide a clear and concise summary of the problems faced by Richmond Borough, in order to review the Community Safety Partnership Plan and support strategic decision making and resource allocation by the Community Safety partners.

## **2.Methodology**

The date parameters for this Strategic Assessment are 01/04/15 to 31/12/15 unless otherwise stated.

Iqanta crime data has been used to populate charts and graphs in this assessment and data has been gathered from partnership databases and Council databases.

## **3.Richmond upon Thames Borough**

Richmond upon Thames is a unique London borough as it is the only borough that is situated to both the north and south of the River Thames, with a river frontage of 21 miles. The borough is not entirely urbanized and contains a significant number of parks and open spaces including Richmond Park, Bushy Park and Kew Gardens. Richmond Borough is well connected to central London by National Rail and London Underground District Line Services run from Richmond and Kew Gardens.

There are 186,000 residents in Richmond, with 14% recorded as being from a black or minority ethnic (BME) background. Whilst it is far less diverse than neighbouring boroughs to the North and West, there are still wards with a higher proportion of ethnic populations than the overall 14%.

## **Executive Summary**

- Richmond is the third safest borough in London, according to the Iqanta Home Office website. It remains the safest borough for violent crime and race hate crime.
- Overall crime in Richmond has risen by 2% or 163 crimes from April to December 2014 compared with last year.
- Police recorded anti-social behaviour (ASB) has seen a reduction of 4% or 135 calls from April to December 2015 compared with last year.
- From Drug Test on Arrest records, there has been an 2 % rise in positive tests of persons who have committed trigger offences compared to 2014 (April to December)
- Domestic violence incident reporting has risen by 23%, with 798 cases compared to 649 in the same period last year. This increase is partly due to classification changes in most serious violent crimes and increased victim confidence in reporting domestic violence
- Integrated Offender Management (IOM) year two ended with a 33% re-offending rate, compared to 31% in the first year. The original baseline in 2012 was 66%.

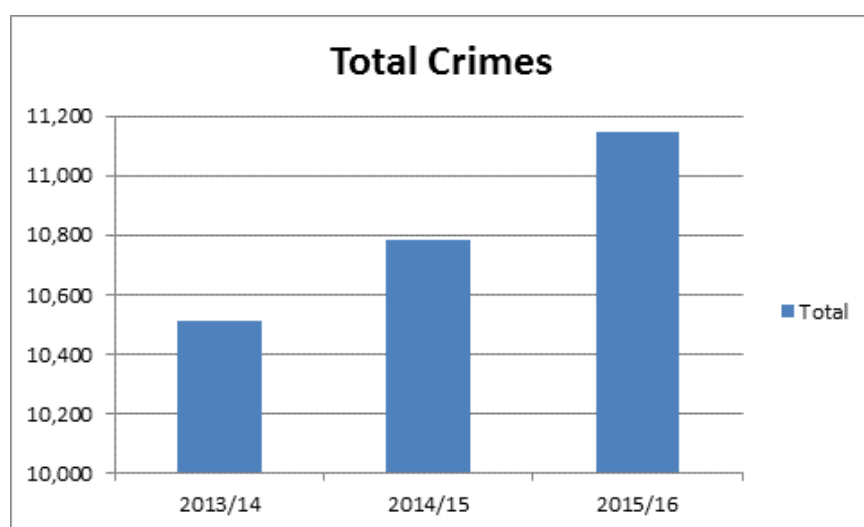
(All summary statistics are for the period of the 1 April 2015 to the 31 December 2015.)

#### **4. Overall Crime Performance 2014-15**

The following statistics are taken from the latest iQuanta updates (as of Quarter three 2015-16) and the Metropolitan Police performance dashboard as of 31/12/15, that track performance over the last 8 months.

Any data included later in the document will be based on crime type or caseload analysis; this performance data is strategic and should be used for any reporting on targets and expected performance.

Predictive analysis suggests that the final end of year figures (April 2015-March 2016) will show a possible 1% rise in all crime.



*(2015/16 figure is a predicted figure)*

Richmond remains in the best three performers for Total Notifiable Offences out of the 32 London boroughs and this is not expected to change.

There were 8366 crimes between April and December 2015, compared to 8203 in the same period in 2014. This is a 2% rise on the previous period of 163 crimes.

#### **Volume and Priority Crimes**

Of the three main crime types which are important to the local police and the Community Safety Partnership (CSP), there have been some impressive reductions but also rises too.

- Burglary has seen a 17% reduction during this period
- Vehicle offences have seen a 7% reduction during this period.
- Violent crime has risen by 20%. This increase has affected almost all London boroughs and Richmond remains the safest borough for violent crime. Some of the increase in violent crime is due to classification changes and increased confidence in reporting domestic violence.

## **Community Safety Partnership Performance**

Richmond remains one of the safest boroughs in London with a rate of 56.54 crimes per 1000 population for April to December 2015 (total of 8,366 offences). Richmond has moved up to third safest borough from fourth during this period.

The safest four boroughs are Bexley, Sutton, Richmond and Harrow.

## **5. Crime Group Summary**

### **Crime Performance April-December 2015**

CRIME TYPE	TOTAL	CHANGE	POSITION
ALL CRIME	8366	Up 2% (+ 163 crimes)	3rd/32
BURGLARY	1032	Down 17% (- 217 crimes)	4th/32
- Residential	519	Down 9% (- 52 crimes)	1st/32
- Non-Residential	513	Down 24% (- 165 crimes)	19 <sup>th</sup> /32
VEHICLE CRIME	1123	Down 7% (- 91 crimes)	6 <sup>th</sup> /32
- Theft of	323	Up 20% (+ 53 crimes)	8 <sup>th</sup> /32
- Theft from	633	Down 19% (-149 crimes)	10 <sup>th</sup> /32
VIOLENCE	2597	Up 20% (+ 428 crimes)	1 <sup>st</sup> /32
SERIOUS ACQUISITIVE CRIME	1587	Down 8% (- 136 crimes)	4 <sup>th</sup> /32

The table above shows the crime trends by type during the April to December period, There has been a small 2% increase in the number of crimes overall and more significant rises in theft of motor vehicle and violent offences. Other crime types have all seen reductions.

Theft of motor vehicles has seen a 20% rise, with a high number of mopeds and scooters included this total in the last 12 months. Key contributors to this rise are vehicle security and owners leaving valuables on show in vehicles. This problem remains a priority with the police and community safety team who are addressing this and the general lack of awareness about security through communications campaigns aimed at the public.

Violent crime has continued to rise across the 32 boroughs of London. One of the reasons for these increases is likely to include changes in recording practices for violent offences and improved confidence in victims reporting these crimes to the police, particularly Domestic Violence offences. It should be noted that Richmond remains the safest out of the 32 London boroughs for violent crime and this has not changed for the last five years.

Burglary has fallen by 17% overall. Reducing the level of burglary has been a priority for a few years now and these figures follow on from an impressive reduction over the last three years. As of Q3, Richmond was recorded as having the lowest residential burglary figures in London, per 1,000 head of population.

## **6. Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB) in Richmond 2015-16.**

### **Police Data**

The last two years have seen a continued decrease in all ASB reported to local police, this has resulted in monthly ASB levels being maintained at their lowest since 2015.

As of December 2015, there were 2970 calls to the local police regarding ASB; this is a 4% reduction on the 3105 calls made during the same period in the previous year. When predicted figures are added for the remainder of the year the level is expected to remain the same, with a reduction of 3 to 4%.

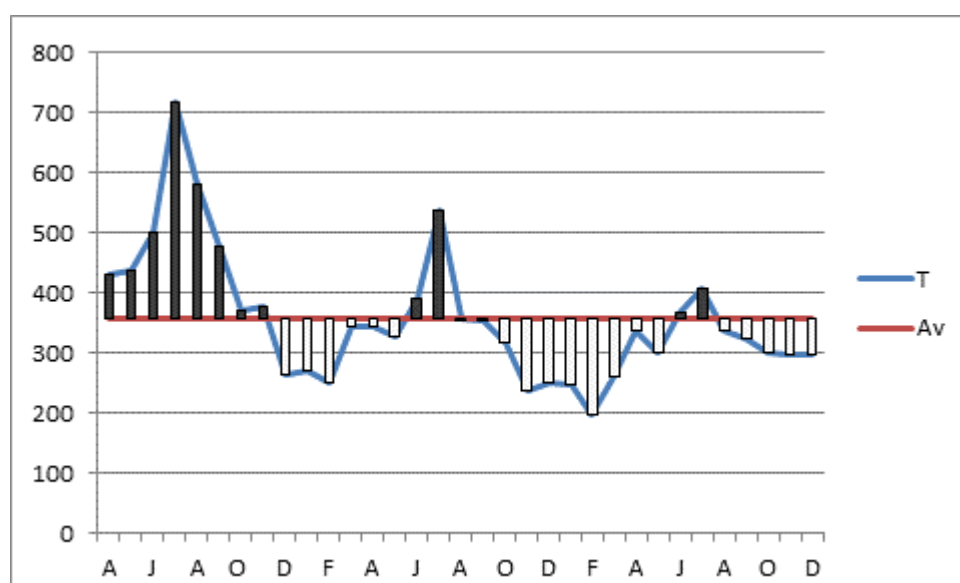
These reductions are less significant compared to the previous year's figures, however this will be the third successive year that police recorded ASB has fallen. There has been continued police focus on reducing repeat call numbers, as well as identifying and problem solving ASB flashpoint locations.

Rowdy and inconsiderate behaviour was the main ASB type and has been for at least the last five years.

Only three months in the last two years have exceeded the average for Richmond and these peaks were all during the summer months.

South Richmond, Twickenham Riverside and Hampton Wick were the top 3 wards for ASB.

Richmond Town Centre has seen an increase in calls of 9% between April to December 2015, compared to April to December 2014. (July, August, November and December all exceeded last year's totals.)



**Fig 1. Police Recorded ASB April 2013 – December 2015**

The graph above shows the seasonal trends over the period from April 2013 to December 2015. It clearly shows the significant ASB reductions since autumn 2013, indeed the summer peaks of 2013, were reduced in summer 2014 and then even further in summer 2015.

There has been significant police and partnership work targeting ASB and crime in these locations, resulting in continued success in reducing the level of ASB.

### **Local Authority Data**

Due to changes in the way data was collected, direct comparison of local authority data for 2014-15 and 2015-16 with 2013-14 data is not possible..

For the period April -December 2015 there were 3999 reports compared to 4465 for April – December 2014. This is a decrease of 10%. The prediction is that this will remain between an 8-10% reduction for the year overall.

Only reports of Noise saw an overall increase compared to last year (up 4%), Graffiti was down by 41% and Fly-Tipping down by 14%. Both of these reductions represent significant progress for the local authority.

There was no significant increase of ASB in the summer and levels remained fairly steady throughout the April to December period.

The main wards for ASB are South Richmond, Twickenham Riverside and East Sheen. Historically these wards were expected to be the top three and the majority of these reports relate to litter and low level environmental ASB.

### **ASB Panel**

Referrals to the ASB and Community Risk Panel have risen from 11 in 2014-15 to 14 referrals in 2015-16, when the April to December period is compared. The number of referrals where mental health concerns were known has risen, from 54% of referrals to 64% and is reflective of the transition to the community MARAC\* approach during this period.

*\*The Community MARAC model is being developed across London to more effectively target vulnerability and risk*

## **7. Hate Crime**

Richmond has traditionally had very low levels of hate crime and remains one of the safest London boroughs for racial hate crime in the Metropolitan Police area for the period April-December 2015.

The current total for April-Dec 2015 stands at 136, which is up 37% on the 99 recorded crimes at the same time last year. Richmond's relatively low level of hate crime means that any increase will be significant in percentage terms. Predictions indicate that the percentage increase will rise slightly above the current 37%.

### **Race Related Hate Crime**

The majority of these Hate Crimes were Race related (89%), with a small number of Homophobic hate crimes. All of the 44% increase relates to race hate crime, and mainly comprises of reports such as name calling on public transport rather than more serious violent hate crime.

A Metropolitan police spokesman commented that "Together with a greater awareness of hate crime, and an improved willingness of victims to come forward, this is likely to be a

factor in the projected increase in hate crimes recorded by the police in 2015-16 compared with the previous year.”

The majority of victims of Hate Crime in Richmond between Apr-Dec 2015 were White (33%), followed by Black (26%) and Asian (26%). The higher figure of victims identified as white is an interesting trend and is up by 5% on April-Dec 2014. Black and Asian Hate crime victims combined total 52% 60% of victims were Male, 40% were Female.

Victims classified as BME constituted 63% of all Hate Crime victims, down by 5% from the previous period. There is evidence of implied insults on white victims of eastern European or traveller heritage, by other white suspects. These incidents involve name calling and insults, not violence.

The main difference between suspects and victims is that 82% of suspects were White males.

The majority of racial offences involved using racial insults and usually took place on public transport or at street level. There were no clear seasonal trends. There is a strong element of “passing through” crimes, on public transport where the suspect is not a borough resident.

### **Disability Hate Crime**

There were no instances of reported disability hate crime, during April 2015-December 2015 with very low figures across London.

### **Religious Hate Crime**

2015/16 has been an exceptionally volatile year internationally for Jewish and Muslim communities on the issue of religious identity, caused by continued conflict and instability in the Middle East and the unprecedented refugee crisis in Syria. There have also been terror attacks by ISIS in mainland Europe and harassment cases in Germany during the last few months. Some of these factors have clearly contributed to a rise in hate crime with the Metropolitan police advising that Muslim females are likely to be at an increased risk of being the target for hate crime, especially if they are wearing the niqab or other clothing associated with their religion.

### **Homophobic Hate Crime**

The majority of homophobic hate crime victims were white males; this has changed slightly from last year where the ratio was 70/30 Male to Female victims.

### **Violent Hate Crime**

6% of Hate crime between April-Dec 2015 was classified as violent, with two incidents of Grievous Bodily Harm.

There were no hate-related ASB incidents reported to Richmond Community Safety Team on the Flare database.



## **8. Drug Test on Arrest (DTOA)**

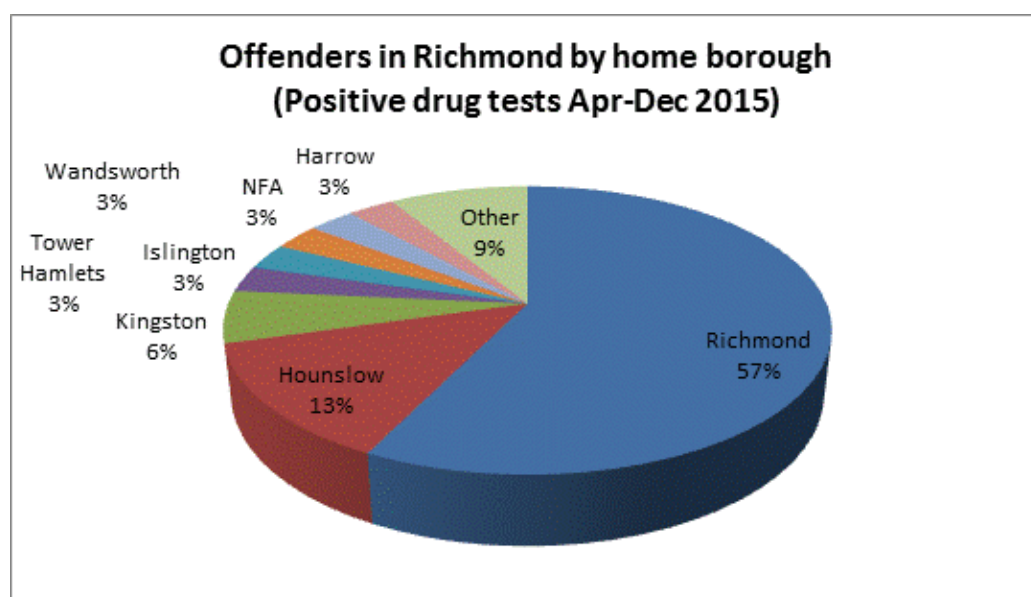
Drug test on arrest has now been running for almost four years in Richmond. The data below looks at the period from April-December 2015. There is also an analysis of the link between DTOA and the Integrated Offender Management (IOM) process.

These statistics cover offences in Richmond borough only. This data enables a picture to be drawn of offending habits and to identify the cross borough threat from offenders and inform the IOM process.

There have been 206 arrests of persons who have offended in Richmond between April-December 2015 of whom 99% were drug tested. (189 tests returned a result.)

Of these 189 tests, 94 (50%) were positive; this is a 2% rise on 2014-15. Fifty one percent of these positive tests were for cocaine, 39% were cocaine and opiates, 10% were opiates only.

The main trigger offences for all positive tested individuals was acquisitive crime (49%), as this is a volume crime in the borough. 57% of positive tested individuals were residents of Richmond borough. The main cross borough location for offenders was Hounslow with 13%.



These figures show that cross-borough offending remains a problem for Richmond, with 43% of positive tested individuals residing outside the borough. However these percentages also reflect targeted police work on resident offenders and this has resulted in a 5% reduction in the cross borough offender presence. Of the positive tested cohort 22% were from bordering metropolitan boroughs.

## **9. Offender Management**

Offender management is now a statutory duty of the Community Safety Partnership and the integrated offender management scheme (IOM) has been running in Richmond since September 2012, with monthly panel and strategy meetings. The third year started in September 2014.



This summary looks at the progress of offenders managed within the IOM scheme and the subject of nomination panel meetings and the current offending profile in Richmond. Overall probation case data no longer covers both Richmond and Kingston boroughs which means this data is no longer comparable with that for previous years.

### **Richmond Integrated Offender Management**

Year (Previous 12 months rate: 66%)	Re-offend rate%	Re-Offend Number	Max cohort number
IOM Year One	31%	11	35
IOM year Two	56%	14	25
IOM Year Three	33%	9	27
IOM Year Four (Sept15-Dec15)	44%	14	32

The re-offending rate during the last four years of the IOM scheme remains below the 66% baseline; both the first and third year rates were impressive. Year four has only been underway since September.

The reduction in re-offending during year three was due to significant personnel investment by the Police which changed the dynamics of the scheme and helped to reduce the rate by 23%.

In comparison with national re-offending statistics (not IOM cohort statistics) the Richmond IOM percentages are slightly higher than the 26-28% national figures over the last four years. There is some discussion as to the best measures of evaluating performance in tackling re-offending by different agencies.

National and local comparisons of data are difficult due to the complexity of Ministry of Justice recording and the complexities of the criminal justice system. Therefore the IOM Scheme is operating with local stand-alone measurements, with the first year providing a benchmark statistic for measurement.

Two factors are essential in creating a workable cohort; firstly there must be precise and careful selection of offenders for inclusion on the scheme. Secondly, there must be engagement from all partners in understanding and thinking laterally regarding difficult recidivist offenders. Neither task is easy within a pioneer scheme but both ingredients are essential for success.

Currently there has been one successful movement from re-offending to reformed living during the 2012-2015 time periods, with one proposed movement.

Positive Life Outcome measures (PLOs) record the many areas of living where the offenders are in need of assistance or lacking in some way, such as accommodation, education, drug treatment engagement, engagement with probation and others.

The consistent problem areas where the offender management programme remains less successful are in tackling engagement and employment. There has been some improvement with these areas but they remain weaker than accommodation and drug treatment numbers. Drug use is still a major player in the everyday habits of the majority of offenders and lifestyle choices remain a barrier to ceasing re-offending.

The problems that offenders experience in obtaining employment opportunities have reduced in the last year, however these spells of employment rarely seem to last beyond six

months and are not sustained. It is vitally important for the scheme to identify the educational needs of offenders, to uncover the hidden obstructions to gaining employment in the modern world. (For examples undiagnosed dyslexia sufferers struggling to fill in five page application forms etc.)

Engagement is an area that is difficult to accurately analyse as it is very subjective and can rely on perceptions and feelings. A small minority of the cohorts have engaged well and have been moving slowly away from old behaviours. However, with most offenders engagement seems to diminish rapidly with length of time on the Scheme.

Over the last year, there has been positive work looking into diversionary activities for offenders in the borough, however this has depended on funds being available for the Mayor's Office for London. These activities can help to channel re-offenders away from familiar haunts and practices, while also offering career opportunities and prospects.

### **Integrated Offender Management Links with drug testing**

Of the positive tested Richmond residents on the IOM scheme, 12% had been tested more than once. There is a good correlation between repeat DTOA tested offenders and IOM cohort members.

The link between the two processes is vital in identifying residents living on the borough who are offending who could benefit from the IOM process.

## **10. Domestic Abuse**

### **Summary**

Metropolitan Police statistics from April to December 2015 show a 23% rise in domestic abuse compared to the previous year (up from 649 to 798 notifiable offences).

A number of factors may have contributed towards this increase, these include a change in the classification of the most serious violent crime category of grievous bodily harm (GBH), an increased confidence in reporting domestic violence crime and the recording of historic crimes that may not have previously been included as part of these figures.

Within the domestic violence incidents, the levels of notifiable crime and violent crime remain steady, there has not been a continued increase in GBH offences, in fact most serious violence has fallen by 8% in the period from April to December 2015. This is not the case with all notifiable domestic violence which has risen by 32%.

The female/male ratio of victims of domestic violence remains at 79/21%, which is almost exactly reversed for domestic violence suspects, where it is 22/78 % female to male. Female suspect figures continue to slowly rise, over last three years the range has been from 19% to 21% female suspects.

The level of repeat victims for this year is 12% (up 2% from 2014-15), while repeat suspects were 10% of the cohort (up 2 % on 2014-15).

Comparable figures for in depth case analysis such as inter familial domestic violence, based on last year's analysis, show that the figures remain static, at 21% of suspects having inflicted violence on a family member.

*(These figures are based on notifiable domestic violence flagged crimes, which form 30-35% of the notifiable domestic crime totals)*

## **Multi-Agency Risk Assessment Conference (MARAC) 2015-16**

The Richmond MARAC meets monthly and shares information on the borough's highest risk cases of domestic violence and abuse and agrees through a risk management plan how to reduce the risk to victims and their children..

The MARAC caseload was up 9% from 155 cases last year to 169 for 14 cases) when compared with the same period (April to December) in the previous year.

The predicted total for the full year 2015-16 (April to March) is 230 up from last year (199) by 31 cases a significant increase of 15%.

20% of MARAC cases from April to December 2015 are classed as repeat cases, which is up 2% from the corresponding period in the year before.

Safelives guidelines (previously known as CAADA) recommend that an effective MARAC process should identify between 20% to 35% of the total cases being heard as repeat cases. Richmond's repeat cases stand at 20%.

Referrals by Richmond Police Community Safety Unit, who are responsible for the investigation of all domestic violence allegations, dominated the partnerships work in the early years of MARAC meetings, with police referrals as high as 88% in 2010-11.

Since the commissioning of the current Independent Domestic Violence Advocacy (IDVA) service in 2011 the number of cases referred to MARAC from other agencies, in particular the IDVA service has increased significantly. The figures for the period April to December 2015 stood at 28%, for police referrals with the IDVA service referring 50% of all cases.

The increase in referrals from agencies other than the police indicates a greater awareness and evolution of the MARAC process across the borough in Richmond since 2010-11, and would suggest that partnership participation and engagement is improving alongside a better understanding of the nature of domestic violence and abuse in Richmond.

The percentage of MARAC cases from a BME background have fallen significantly from April to December 2015, down from 43% last year to 24%. (A significant proportion of this increase is likely to be as a result of some non BME cases being recorded as BME cases during last year. This situation has now been corrected.) LGBT cases remain low, at 4%, although this is above the average for London MARACs which is less than 3%. Disability cases have fallen by 4% but still remain higher than the 2010-11 figures and above compared to London MARACs. The number of male victims has also fallen by 2%, standing at 9% of referrals to the MARAC.

## **Independent Domestic Violence Advocacy (IDVA) Service**

The national charity Refuge is commissioned to provide the borough's IDVA service and produce quarterly statistics on their work with domestic abuse victims. The statistics provide information on the reduction of risk to victims, the reduction and cessation of violence and abuse and a range of outcomes for victims who access the service. The information is available for the first three quarters of 2015.

Compared to last year's summary, the IDVA data is very similar and shows positive outcomes for victims accessing the service and also shows that "controlling behaviour" is the most prevalent condition described by victims.

It is interesting to note that when comparing the last three years, there have been improvements in outcomes related to health, accommodation and well-being.

The main vulnerability of victims during this period was mental health conditions, sometimes caused by the experiences the victim has gone through but also as a result of previously existing conditions. Most victims are not currently living with their abusive partner, this partner usually being described as “ex-intimate”. This has not changed significantly year on year.

When the type of abuse is looked at, “controlling behaviour” rather than physical or sexual abuse is the main type, linked to jealousy and insecurity. While this may not seem to be a classic description of abuse, it is very much a central feature of abusive relationships. Controlling behaviour has been the main type of abuse for three years now.

The new criminal offence of coercive and controlling behaviour came into effect on the 29 December 2015 and this should increase the level of prosecutions for non-violent controlling domestic violence and abuse during 2016. This will be monitored and measured during the year.

The main measures for the service performance such as service user outcomes being met by the IDVA service, service users feeling safer after intervention and a reduction in the severity of abuse, have all been on target during 2015-16.

As with all quarterly reporting there will be overlaps and duplication in caseloads and / or cohorts, and this should be noted in relation to this kind of data.

## **11. Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE)**

Between April and December 2015 there were 28 cases of alleged CSE investigated and classified, of these 28, five are currently open, however only two of these cases are being investigated by Richmond Council. Direct comparison with the previous period is not possible as these statistics are taken from the Multi Agency Child Sexual Exploitation tracker that started recording in April 2015.

In 2014-15 there were an average of 4.3 cases discussed at the Multi Agency Child Sexual Exploitation meeting per month, this has fallen to just 3 cases per month in 2015-16.

87% of alleged victims were female and three quarters were recorded as White British. 53% of victims were aged between 15-17, 40% were aged 14 and under. The youngest victim of alleged CSE was 11.

40% of cases discussed involved situations such as improper relations with older men, periods of going missing overnight and sharing images.

At this stage of the developing CSE analysis, the ratio of cases discussed and closed, to cases open and ongoing would suggest very low levels of CSE at the current time.

Missing persons data is problematic when being used as an accurate indication of CSE in particular but can show tensions and issues relating to individuals which may not appear elsewhere. From the missing persons data available there does seem to be small number where elements of CSE are being alleged, however these are usually reports where concern is expressed, and not open investigations.

## **12. Road Safety**

Traffic data has been supplied by the Environment department of Richmond Council with data available from the period Jan to July 2015.

- The data shows casualties in the borough are down by 28%, with 257 casualties from Jan to July 2015, compared to 359 Jan-July 2014.
- There were 3 fatalities from Jan to July 2015, compared to 8 in the previous period.
- The number of people being killed or seriously injured has fallen by 38% compared to Jan-July 2014.

## **13. Conclusion**

While problem crimes such as burglary have seen positive reductions, vehicle crime has risen, especially theft of vehicles. Violent crime has also seen a significant rise; one of the causes of this is a change in the way most serious violent crimes are being recorded.

Anti-social behaviour has been reduced significantly for the third year running based on police recording; while local authority recorded ASB has also fallen.

There is a suggestion that nationally, crime in 2015-16 has not actually fallen but has in fact changed and that current statistical evidence and analysis does not reflect this volume.

In October 2015, the Office for National Statistics estimated that there are a significant number of cybercrimes that are not being recorded, such as those under the Computer Misuse Act. If recorded, the volume of these crimes would change the current prevailing trend of crime going down across the UK. According to the estimate, there may be as many as 7,000,000 crimes per year that could be added to national levels of crime.

Crime is predicted to rise by between 2-3% for the financial year 2015-16 with the priorities highlighted from last year's consultation likely to remain the same. There is still a challenge ahead to maintain the high performance of the many partner agencies in the Community Safety Partnership bearing in mind in the current financial operate.