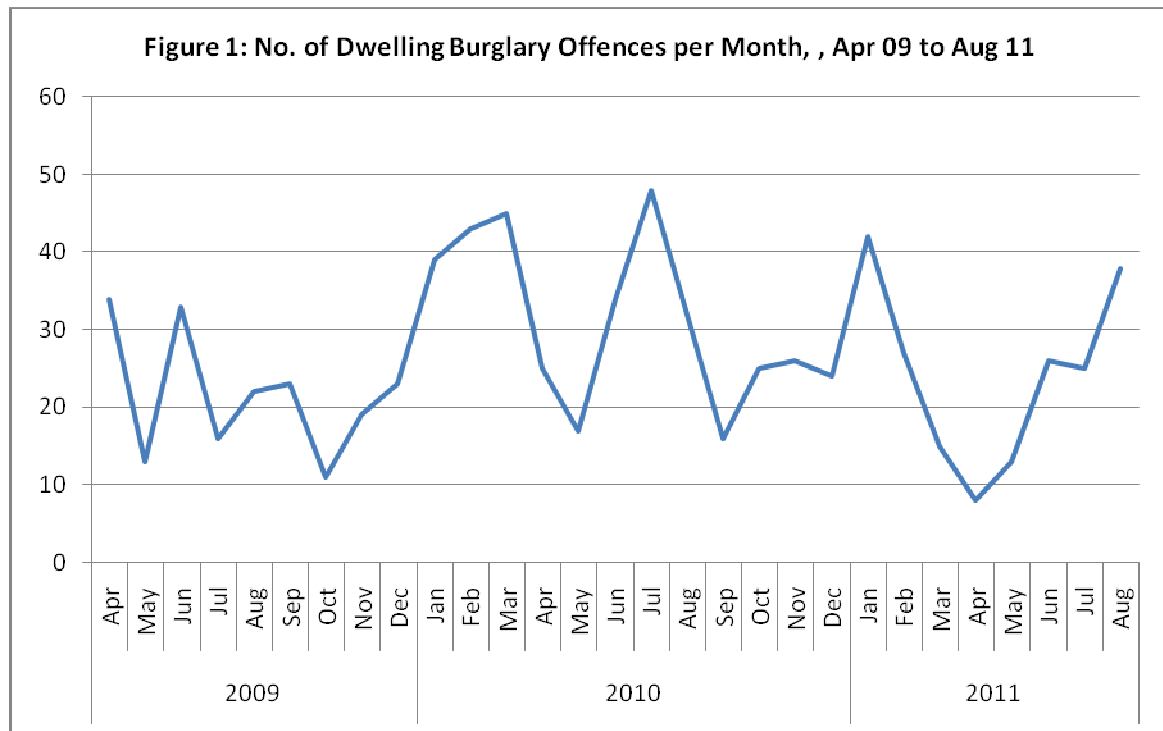


Burglary and Vehicle Crime in Bromsgrove

Report for Overview and Scrutiny – October 2011

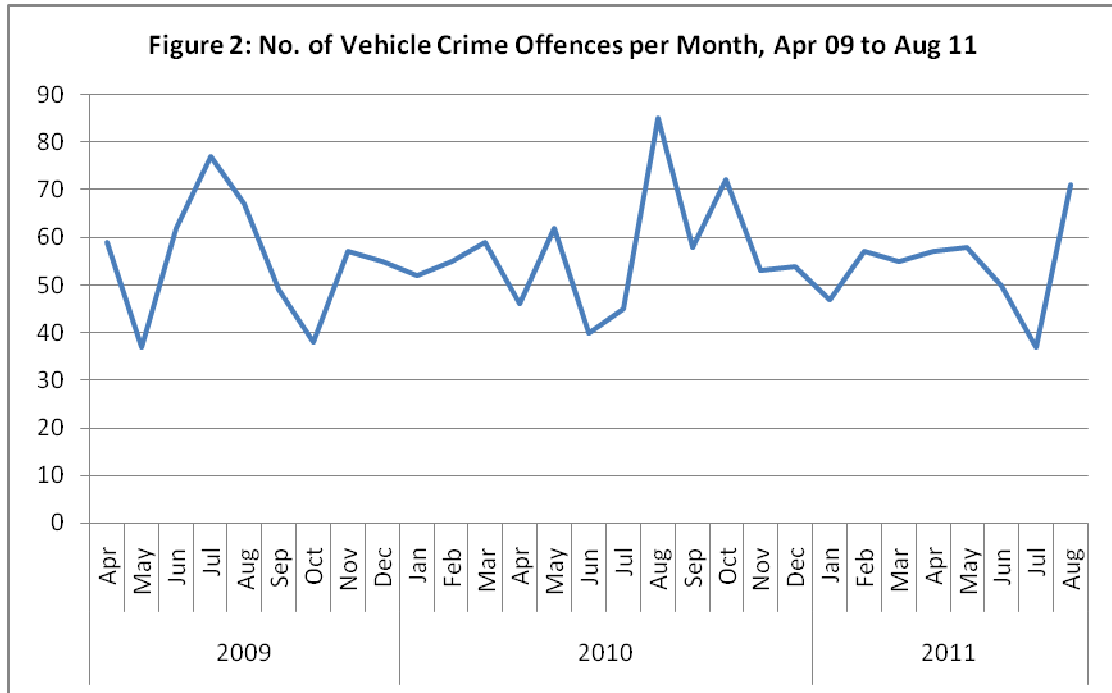
1. Trend

1.1 Dwelling Burglary Trend



- Dwelling Burglary figures in the district have been known to vary quite dramatically month on month.
- Following spikes in offending in the summer and winter of 2010 / 2011, the level of offending between February 2011 and May 2011 was extremely low – in fact, April 2011 saw the lowest number of offences recorded in a single month for at least five years.
 - Since June 2011, the volume of offences has begun to increase again – these increases are mainly attributed to spates of car key burglaries across the district

1.2 Vehicle Crime Trend



- The overall trend in vehicle crime over the last three years has been fairly static, with notable increases in offending during June / July 2009 and July / August 2011.
- The number of offences reported between January and April 2011 was fairly consistent each month, followed by a steep drop in offending in June and July and a subsequent dramatic increase during August.

2. 2011/12 Year to Date Changes

Figure 3: No. of Dwelling Burglary Offences 01 April to 31 August 2010 and 2011 and relative change

Crime Type	No. Offences April to August:		Change
	2010/11	2011/12	
Dwelling Burglary	156	110	-29.49%

- Due to the unprecedented low levels of offending in the early part of 2011/12, the year to date performance for Dwelling Burglary shows a 29% decrease compared to the same period last year.
- This also compares very favourably to the 3.4% increase in offending that was seen during the last financial year.

Figure 4: No. of Vehicle Crime Offences, with offence type breakdown, 01 April to 31 August 2010 and 2011 and relative change

Crime Type	No. Offences April to August:		Change
	2010/11	2011/12	
Theft Of Motor Vehicle	63	65	3.17%
Theft From Motor Vehicle	215	208	-3.26%
Total Vehicle Crime	278	273	-1.80%

- Despite a slight increase in theft of motor vehicle offences, overall vehicle crime this year to date has decreased by almost 2%.
- This compares to a 3.7% decrease in offending during 2010/11.

3. Detection rates

Figure 5: Detection Rates for Dwelling Burglary and Vehicle Crime. All figures provided by West Mercia Police for the period 01 April 2011 to 06 October 2011

Crime Type	No. Offences Recorded	No. Solved / Detected	% Solved / Detected
Dwelling Burglary	142	18	12.7%
Vehicle Crime	337	25	7.4%

4. What the Community Safety Partnership and West Mercia Police do to tackle Burglary and Vehicle Crime

4.1 Dwelling Burglary

- Dwelling Burglary is highlighted as a strategic priority in both the Bromsgrove CSP Partnership Plan 2011/12 and in the current West Mercia Police Control Strategy
- West Mercia Police, in conjunction with the Community Safety Partnerships are committed to reducing the number of burglary dwellings across the District, and bring to justice those individuals who commit such crimes within North Worcestershire.
- West Mercia Police has ensured that each of the North Worcestershire Districts has a specialist burglary team.
 - The scene of every reported offence is attended by a scene investigator from the Burglary Team, who coordinates enquires in relation to the incident and provides practical support and assistance to the victim
 - All investigation into the offence is carried out by a team of six dedicated specialist Burglary Detectives.
- The Bromsgrove Burglary Team also work closely with Bromsgrove CSP on the Home Security Initiative which involves:

- Offering all victims of burglary a free SmartWater property marking kit
- Offering residents within the locality of a burgled address SmartWater kits at reduced cost in order to provide public reassurance.
- Production of the CSP "Home Security Guide" enabling home owners to assess the security and vulnerability of their homes to would-be thieves
- Officers trained to carry out home security assessments on identified vulnerable properties, with dedicated budget set aside to help with the cost of any improvements.

4.1 Vehicle Crime

- Vehicle crime is not currently in the Strategic Priorities of the CSP
- As such, responses to vehicle crime issues tend to be more reactive to emerging trends than strategically planned.
- When a specific need for action is identified, appropriate actions are allocated through the Tasking process
- Examples of initiatives used in the last 12 months are:
 - Additional police patrols and media awareness campaign in relation to "frosting" offences – where opportunistic thieves took cars from driveways whilst they were left running to defrost during the winter months
 - Operation Everest – a joint operation between the CSP and the Police where additional patrols were carried out in local beauty spot car parks during the Easter holidays to identify vehicles vulnerable to theft from motor vehicle offences.