

July  
2018

# State of Dorset Crime



Dorset County Council  
for the Dorset Council area

*In this bulletin Dorset refers to the Dorset Council area coming into effect 1st April 2019 unless stated otherwise*

In a national context, crime in the Dorset Council area is consistently very low, well below the average in England.

Although total recorded crime has risen by 14% this year compared to last year, this reflects a national trend and is partly due to improved crime recording practices and changes to Home Office recording standards.

Crime levels are usually higher across the summer months in Dorset.

Big Numbers Box

**518** serious sexual offences in Dorset last year

**80%** of sexual assaults are committed against women

anti-social behaviour incidents  
**10,030**

**1 in 7**

of all anti-social behaviour incidents in Dorset occur in **Melcombe Regis** in Weymouth

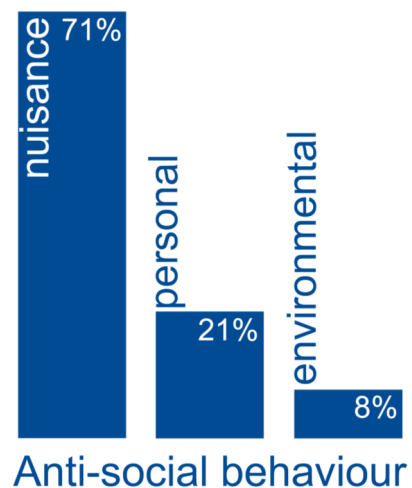
**2,037** domestic abuse incidents

Hate crime up by

**11%**

## Box 1: Dorset Community Safety Partnership Priorities<sup>1</sup>

- **Serious sexual offences**
- **Domestic abuse**
- **Anti-social behaviour**
- **Hate Crime**
- In 2017-18 there were 10,030 incidents of **anti-social behaviour** in the Dorset Council area.
- 71% of these were classified as nuisance, 21% personal and 8% environmental.
- Weymouth has the highest rate of anti-social behaviour across the Dorset Council area.
- Melcombe Regis ward accounts for 15% of all **anti-social behaviour** incidents in the Dorset Council area.
- There were 518 serious **sexual offences** in the Dorset Council area last year.
- There were 2,037 **domestic abuse** incidents in the Dorset Council area last year.



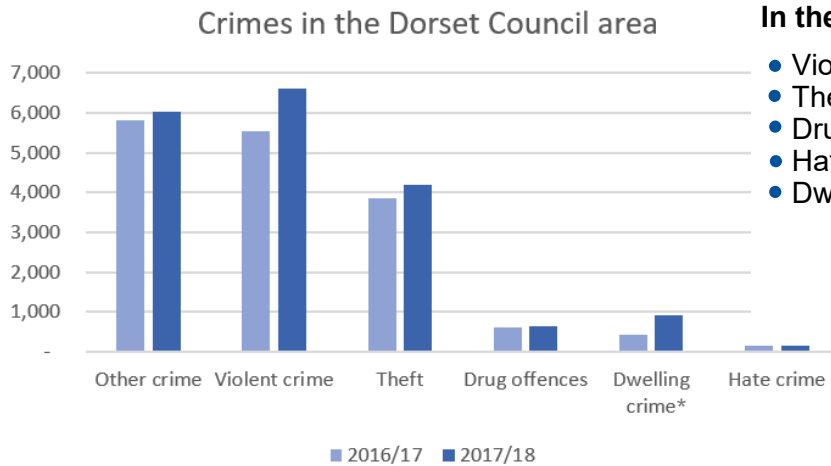
### Sources

1 Dorset Police statistics for the Dorset Council area

2 Comparing 2016/17 to 2017/18

## Box 2: Other Crime<sup>1</sup>

- Total crimes were higher this year than in previous years.



### In the last year<sup>2</sup>:

- Violent crime rose by 20%
- Theft rose by 9%
- Drug offences rose by 6%
- Hate crime rose by 11%
- Dwelling crime rose by 113%\*

- Compared to other areas, crime in the Dorset Council area is consistently low. Last year, Dorset had a lower crime rate than most council areas.

- Purbeck is the district with the lowest crime rate in Dorset...and Weymouth and Portland has the highest.

- The summer usually sees the most crime each year<sup>1</sup>. This could be because of the better weather over summer, the holidays and the longer daylight hours.

- Last year 85% of residents surveyed across Dorset said that they felt safe walking alone after dark.



## What are we doing about it?

The Dorset Community Safety Partnership (CSP) brings together local authorities, the police and other key partners to tackle crime and community safety issues. The CSP aims to reduce crime and the fear of crime; address risk, threat and harm to victims and local communities; and facilitate the strengthening of Dorset's communities in the delivery of local initiatives.

Crime and the fear of crime have a huge impact on the health and wellbeing of residents. The CSP undertakes annual assessments of local community safety issues and puts in place plans to address them. Current priority areas include domestic abuse, sexual violence and anti-social behaviour.

### Sources

<sup>2</sup> Comparing 2016/17 to 2017/18

\*Please note that the Home Office changed the definition of dwelling crime in 2017/18 to now include shed break-ins. Therefore the 2016/17 figures cannot be directly compared to the 2017/18 figures.