

May  
2019

# State of Dorset

## Crime



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 8% 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. This applies to violent crime (particularly violence without injury offences), sexual offences, stalking and harassment and public order offences.<sup>3</sup>

Big Numbers Box

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

**78%** of sexual assaults are committed against women

anti-social behaviour incidents

**8,358**

**1 in 7**

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

**1,831** domestic abuse incidents

Total crime up by

**8%**

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

- Domestic Abuse & Sexual Violence
- Serious Violence and Criminal Exploitation
- Acquisitive Crime
- Public Order and ASB
- Non-domestic Violence

- In 2018-19 there were 8,358 incidents of **anti-social behaviour** in the Dorset Council area.

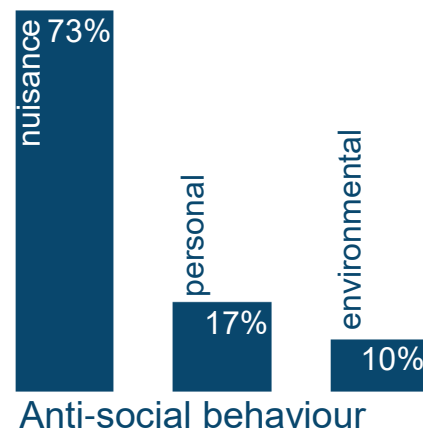
- 73% of these were classified as nuisance, 17% personal and 10% environmental.

- Weymouth has the highest rate of anti-social behaviour across the Dorset Council area.

- The Melcombe Regis area accounts for 14% of all **anti-social behaviour** incidents in the Dorset Council area.

- There were 624 serious **sexual offences** in the Dorset Council area last year.

- There were 1,831 **domestic abuse** incidents in the Dorset Council area last year.



#### Sources

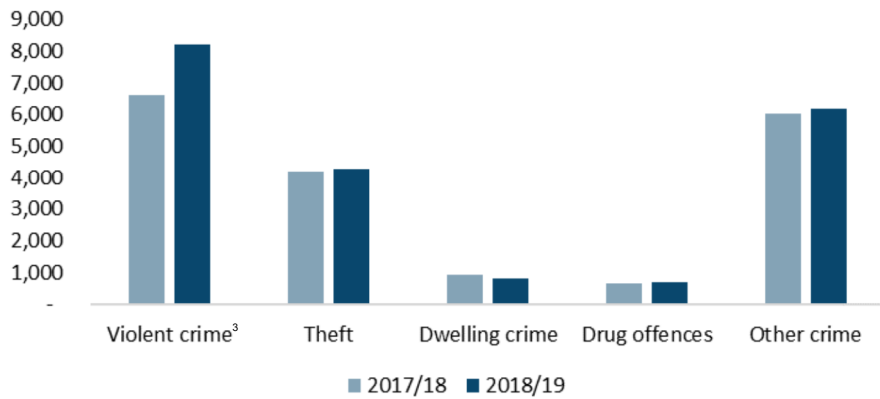
<sup>1</sup> Dorset Police statistics for the Dorset Council area

<sup>2</sup> Comparing 2017/18 to 2018/19

<sup>3</sup> For more information on changes to the way the police record crime: 'Crime in England and Wales: year ending December 2018', Office for National Statistics, 25/04/19

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

Crimes in the Dorset Council area



- Total crimes were higher this year than in previous years.
- Purbeck is the former 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 84% of residents surveyed across Dorset said that they felt safe walking alone after dark.
- **In the last year<sup>2</sup>:**
  - Violent crime rose<sup>3</sup> by 24%
  - Theft rose by 1%
  - Dwelling crime fell by 10%
  - Drug offences rose by 4%
- 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.

## 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.

### Sources

<sup>2</sup> Comparing 2017/18 to 2018/19