



Home Office

Serious Violence Strategy

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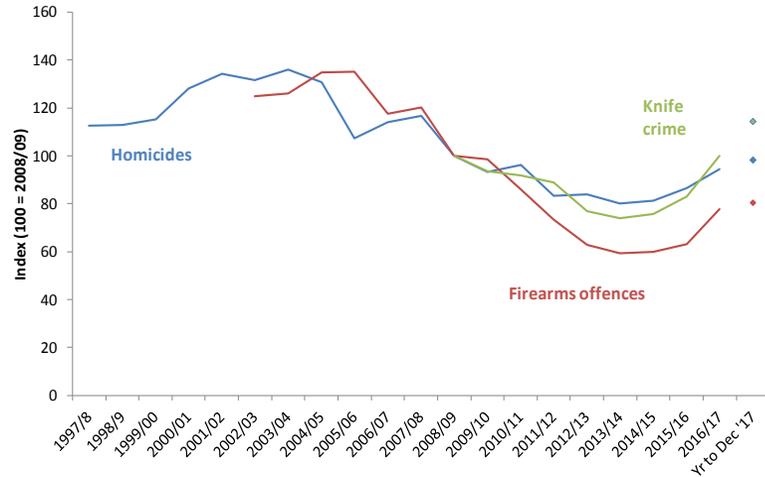
12 July 2018

Introduction

- Government concerned about serious violence driven by recent increases in knife crime, gun crime and homicide.
- Serious Violence Strategy sets out our response and outlines ambitious programme of **61 commitments**.
- Represents step-change in the way we respond to violent crime. It strikes a balance between **prevention** and robust law enforcement.
- Approach is not solely focused on law enforcement but depends also on **partnerships across a number of sectors**.
- **Scope** covers specific types of crime such as homicide, knife and gun crime. Areas of criminality such as gangs and county lines drugs dealing and emerging crime threats such as use of corrosive substances as a weapon.

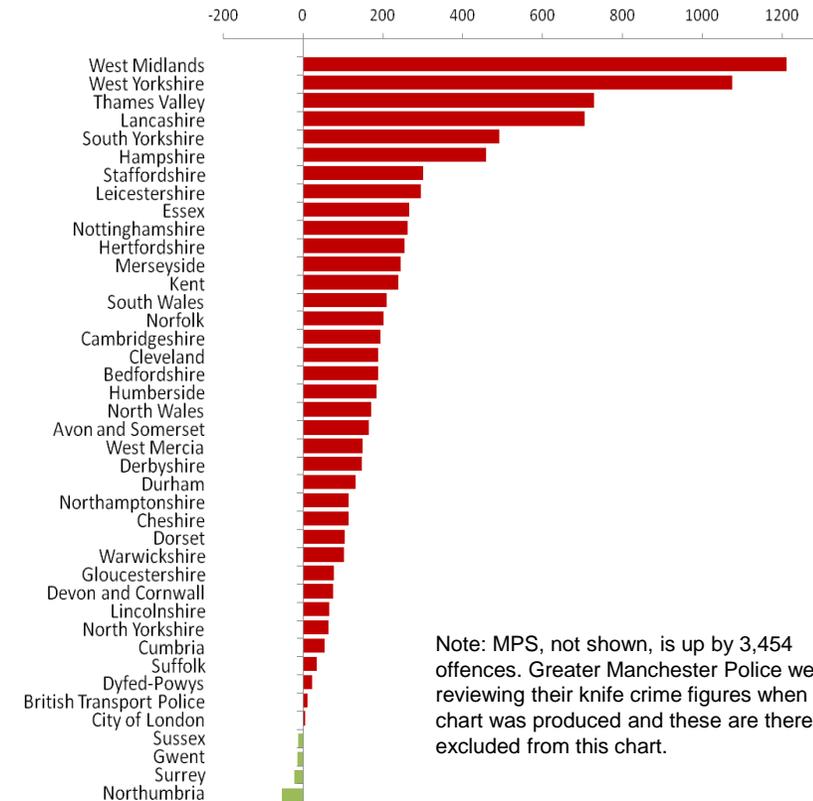
What's happening with serious violent crime?

Long-term trends in knife/gun crime and homicide 1997/98 to year to December



- **Serious violent crime is up** for the year to Dec 2017 (knife crime by 22%, gun crime by 11%, homicide 9%)
- **Some of the increase is genuine:** some of the increase is down to better recording, but ONS says some of the increases are genuine.
- **The increase is a national issue.** Whilst majority of knife/gun crime, robbery and homicide is concentrated in urban areas, increases seen in virtually all forces.

Changes in the volume of crimes involving a knife or sharp instrument from the year to Dec 2014 to the year to Dec 2017

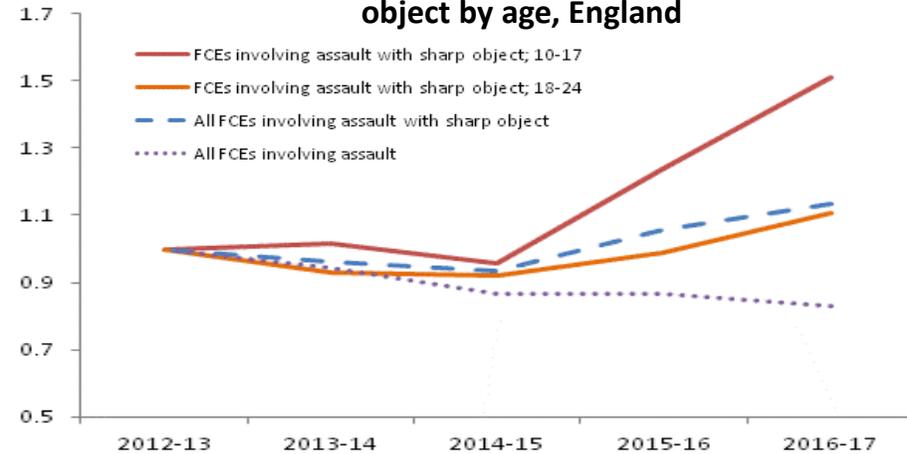


Note: MPS, not shown, is up by 3,454 offences. Greater Manchester Police were reviewing their knife crime figures when this chart was produced and these are therefore excluded from this chart.

What do we know about victims and perpetrators?

- **The increase in homicide has been driven by male-on-male cases.** Homicides of women and homicides involving intimate partners are not driving the increase.
- **We have seen a shift to youth as serious violence has risen.** As the number of knife possession offenders has risen, so has the proportion aged under 20.

NHS 'Finished Consultant Episodes' for assault, 2012/13 – 2016/17: indexed data for all assaults, and assaults with a sharp object by age, England



Offences recorded as homicide, rates per million population by victim's and principal suspect's ethnic appearance: combined data for three years, 2013/14 to 2015/16

Ethnicity	Victim		Principal Suspect	
	Volumes	Rate per million	Volumes	Rate per million
White	1,207	8	954	7
Black	181	32	232	41
Asian	127	11	113	10
Other	43	7	31	5

What is driving the increase?

Although a number of drivers are likely to be involved, our analysis has shown that improvements in police recording and drug-related cases are likely to be particularly important.



Recording improvements

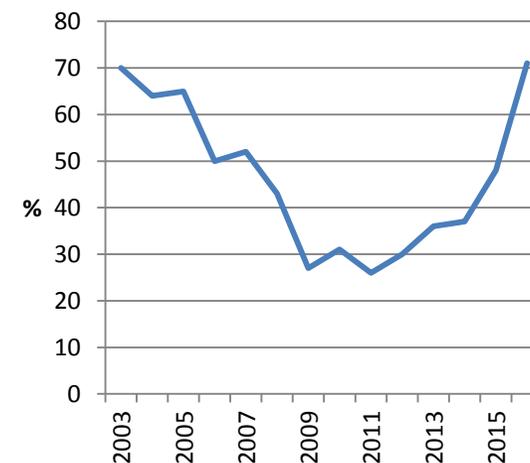
- Several forces have overhauled their crime recording systems in response to HMIC audits.
- Based on comparison with alternative data sources, our judgement is that recording improvements account for about half the increases in knife/gun crime and robbery since 2014.
- For example: since 2013/14, the rise in hospital data for knife injuries is 18% whereas the rise in police recorded knife crimes is 36%.



Drugs

- Cocaine production at source has risen since around 2013. In line with this, crack-cocaine purity in England rose from 36% in 2013 to 71% in 2016 and use of the drug has also risen.
- This extra supply and demand is likely to have driven drug-selling groups to pursue new markets via County Lines.
- Good evidence suggests this would drive up violence: County Lines dealers are more violent than the local user/dealers who previously ran markets; and crack-cocaine is the drug most linked to violence.
- Homicide stats show that between 2014/15 and 2016/17 homicides involving known drug dealers and/or users, as either victims or suspects, increased from 206 to 247.

Crack Cocaine Purity, 2003 - 2016



Strategy Commitments - 61 commitments which are set out under four key themes. The commitments include:

Tackling county lines and misuse of drugs	Early intervention and prevention	Supporting communities and local partnerships	Law enforcement and criminal justice response
<p>£3.6m to support development of a new National County Lines Co-ordination Centre.</p> <p>Comprehensive County Lines Action Plan.</p> <p>Nationwide awareness`-raising communication activity about the threat of county lines targeted to young and vulnerable people.</p> <p>£500,000 over 2 years to support delivery of Heroin and Crack Action Areas.</p> <p>Encouraging use of Drug Dealing Telecommunications Restriction Orders.</p>	<p>£11m over the next two years through a new Early Intervention Youth Fund to work with PCCs and local partnerships to provide support to communities to support early intervention and prevention with young people.</p> <p>Support schools in England to respond to potential crime risks and to provide additional support to excluded children.</p> <p>Supporting Redthread to expand and pilot its Youth Violence Intervention Programme outside London, starting with hospitals in Nottingham and Birmingham, and to develop its service in London hospitals.</p>	<p>£1m anti-knife crime Community Fund to help communities tackle knife crime.</p> <p>Match- funded support for local and regional reviews in England and Wales.</p> <p>Launched a major new media campaign, #knifefree to focus anti-knife crime messages on young people.</p> <p>Working with PCCs and local partnerships to galvanise the local response and provide focus to support this work.</p>	<p>Taking effective preventative measures against gang related material on social media.</p> <p>Offensive Weapons Bill which includes proposals on knives, corrosive substances and firearms. Introduced in Parliament on 20 June.</p> <p>Supporting effective action through co-ordinated police action including Operation Sceptre to tackle knife crime.</p> <p>HMICFRS to ensure their PEEL inspections focus on serious violence and a thematic inspection on county lines in 2018/19.</p> <p>Supporting police capability through: sharing best practice of hotspot policing; expanding use of data analytics and improving analysis.</p>

Tackling County Lines

- County Lines Working Group set up in November 2016 and drives delivery of cross government and agency work to tackle county lines. As part of first 12-month programme, it delivered introduction and implementation of DDTRs and significantly raised awareness of the issue. Second phase of work builds on this and responds to new intelligence. Action plan published in the Strategy.

Pursue: prosecuting the criminality

- Implementation of DDTRs
- NCA/NPCC establishment of County Lines Co-ordination Centre supported by £3.6m of new Home Office funding
- County lines prosecution guidance reflects best practice

Protect: building resilience

- Raising awareness of county lines exploitation to statutory and non-statutory audiences, including the public and small businesses via Crimestoppers
- Review, refresh and develop guidance for statutory partners, including social services, YOTs, and school.

Prepare: support for those affected

- Delivery of support interventions for children and young people caught up in county lines, through e.g. Young People's Advocates, Gang Exit Scheme, etc.
- Review and scope potential interventions, e.g. ICTAs

Prevent: intelligence to inform response

- NCA fourth annual threat assessment
- Use of drug demand information to provide insight on trends and emerging threat areas
- Profiling those at risk of gang involvement to understand pathways into county lines involvement



Serious Violence Taskforce

- **Serious Violence Taskforce** established which brings together Ministers, Members of Parliament, the Mayor of London, the Metropolitan Police Commissioner, Director General of the National Crime Agency, other senior police leaders, **Councillor Simon Blackburn, on behalf of the Local Government Association** and public sector and voluntary sector chief executives.
- Its aim is to deliver the key commitments of the strategy and evaluate the impact, and hold the Government and others to account.
- First taskforce meeting held 26 April and focused on tackling County Lines and second meeting held on 11 June focused on social media.
- Plus the current Inter-Ministerial Group on Gangs will be refocused to an **Inter-Ministerial Group** on the Serious Violence Strategy in order to oversee and drive delivery of the strategy.

Next Steps – county lines

Next steps

- Local area reviews - ongoing
- Next meeting of Serious Violence Taskforce with focus on Early Intervention - 17 July
- Next phase of national awareness raising work in collaboration with Crimestoppers – late July
- Launch of the Early Intervention Youth Fund – Summer
- Publication of refreshed County Lines guidance booklet – Summer
- National County Lines Co-ordination Centre – Autumn
- Serious violence strategy regional engagement events September 2018 – March 2019.
- New police social media national capability - late 2018