

Taunton Deane Borough Council

Community Scrutiny Committee – 27th June 2017

Update on Crime and Policing in Taunton

Report of Inspector Carey, Avon and Somerset Constabulary

(This matter is the responsibility of Executive Councillor Mrs Jane Warmington)

Headline crime and satisfaction figures for the Taunton policing area, please be aware this information is taken from live systems so may be different to stats on Police.uk.

The below details the breakdown of different offences across the Taunton Deane Borough Council area for the last 24 months (April 2015 to March 2017 inclusive).

Offence Group	Current YTD	Previous Year	Pct Change	Actual Change
Violence Against The Person	2917	1902	53%	1015
Theft And Handling Stolen Goods	1989	1634	22%	355
Criminal Damage	730	602	21%	128
Burglary	444	395	12%	49
Sexual Offences	219	170	29%	49
Other Offences	176	90	96%	86
Drug Offences	119	148	-20%	-29
Robbery	46	29	59%	17
Arson	23	24	-4%	-1
Fraud Forgery	12	30	-60%	-18
Total	6675	5024	33%	1651

Below is a further breakdown of the offence group 'Violence Against the Person'. This evidences the significant increases are around offences linked to public fear, harrassment and assaults without injury. The increases can be linked to an improvement in crime recording due to internal changes as well as national compliance. This is further evidenced in ASB reductions which is how these particular offences may have been previously recorded.

Breakdown of Violence Against the Person	Current YTD	Previous Year	Pct Change	Actual Change
Public fear, alarm or distress	793	367	116%	426
Assault without injury	733	567	29%	166
Harassment	571	304	88%	267
Assault with injury	566	494	15%	72
Racially or religiously aggravated public fear, alarm or distress	57	30	90%	27
Threats to kill	41	24	71%	17
Cruelty to and neglect of children	40	22	82%	18
Assault with Intent to cause Serious Harm	30	24	25%	6
Assault without injury on a constable	20	31	-35%	-11
Possession of article with blade or point	12	7	71%	5
Possession of other weapons	12	2	500%	10
Stalking	12	9	33%	3

Racially or religiously aggravated assault without injury	6	5	20%	1
Kidnapping	5	2	150%	3
Racially or religiously aggravated actual bodily harm and other injury	5	1	400%	4
Poisoning or female genital mutilation	3	6	-50%	-3
Child abduction	2	0	-	2
Possession of firearms with intent	2	0	-	2
Racially or religiously aggravated harassment	2	4	-50%	-2
Causing death by dangerous driving	1	0	-	1
Endangering Life	1	3	-67%	-2
Modern Slavery	1	0	-	1
Murder	1	0	-	1
Racially or religiously aggravated inflicting grievous bodily harm without intent	1	0	-	1

Below I have also detailed the breakdown of 'other offences'. This also shows as a significant increase within the original table (96%). As per the detail below, the majority of the increase is seen in the 'offence against the state or public order' category.

Breakdown of Other Offences	Current YTD	Previous Year	Pct Change	Actual Change
Other offences against the State or public order	127	56	127%	71
Obscene publications etc	18	7	157%	11
Blackmail	10	3	233%	7
Other notifiable offences	4	6	-33%	-2
Absconding from lawful custody	3	1	200%	2
Dangerous driving	3	1	200%	2
Perverting the course of justice	3	6	-50%	-3
Going equipped for stealing, etc	2	3	-33%	-1
Other firearms offences	2	4	-50%	-2
Violent disorder	2	0	-	2
Non Notifiable	1	0	-	1
Perjury	1	0	-	1

Anti-Social Behaviour

Below are the ASB figures for the TDBC area, broken down by the three categories.

ASB Type	Current YTD	Previous Year	Pct Change	Actual Change
ASB - NUISANCE	1438	1762	-18%	-324
ASB - PERSONAL	179	421	-57%	-242
ASB - ENVIRONMENTAL	84	107	-21%	-23
Total	1701	2290	-26%	-589

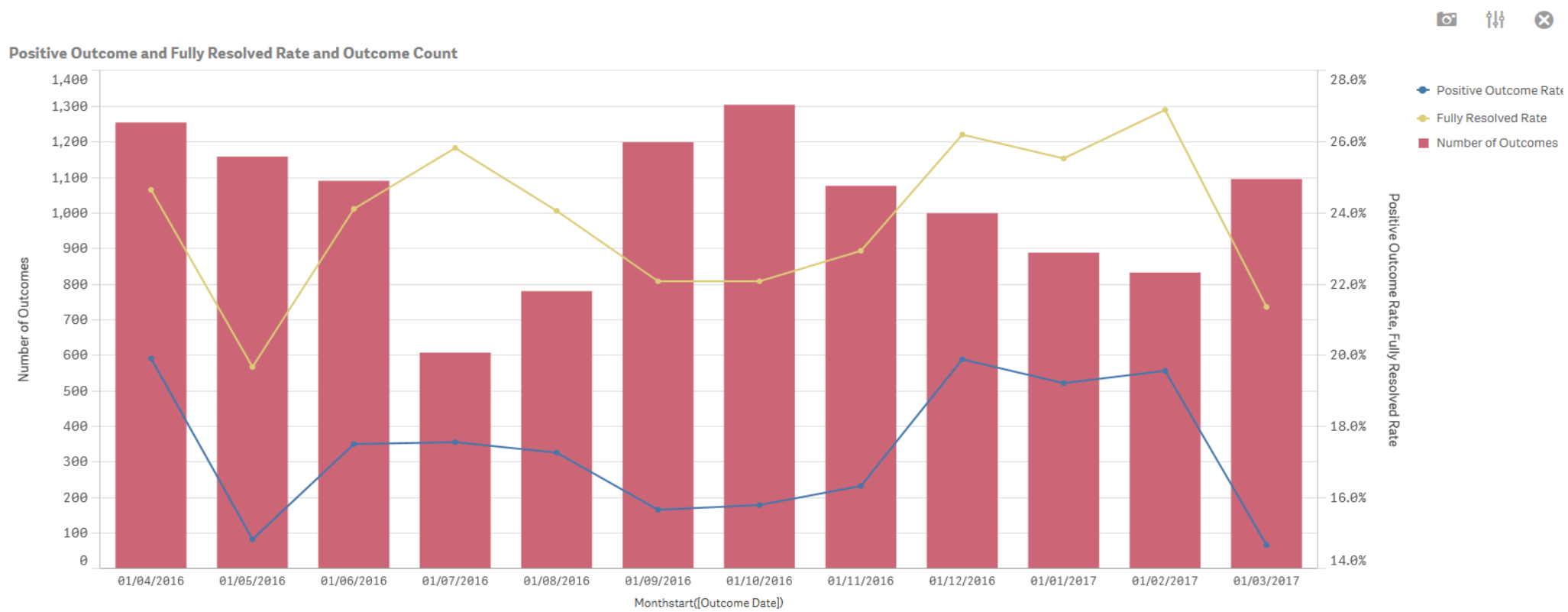
This shows an overall decrease of 26%, though as previously discussed, this is likely absorbed into the 33% increase we have seen in crime. This is further supported by one of the larger decreases seen in ASB – Personal which may have previously included offences now recorded as harassment or public fear. Similar logic could be applied to ASB – Nuisance, though more in depth analysis would be required to fully support this.

The below chart shows the direction of travel for both crime and ASB for the TDBC area. More crimes were recorded following implementation of ASC's new crime recording software in Spetember 2015.



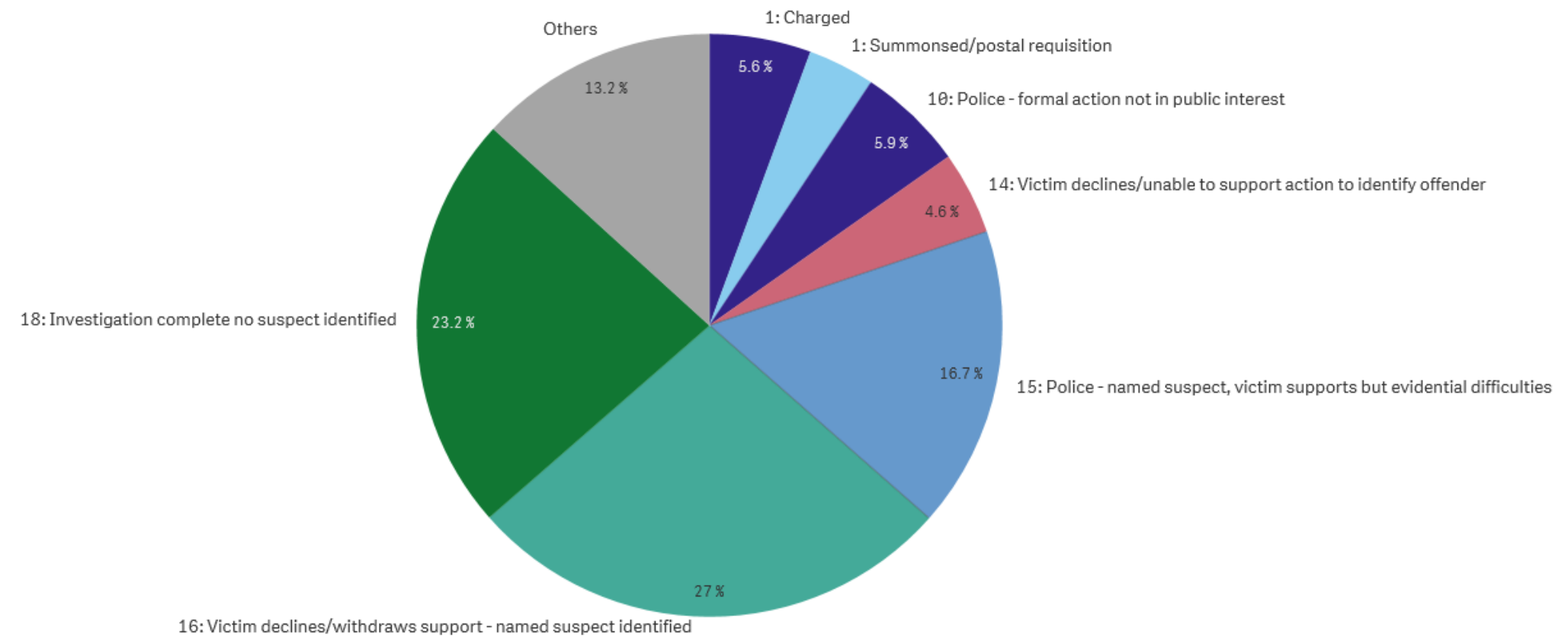
Outcomes

Geographically speaking outcome data is currently mesured at Local Policing Area level so the below is relevant for the Somerset West area.



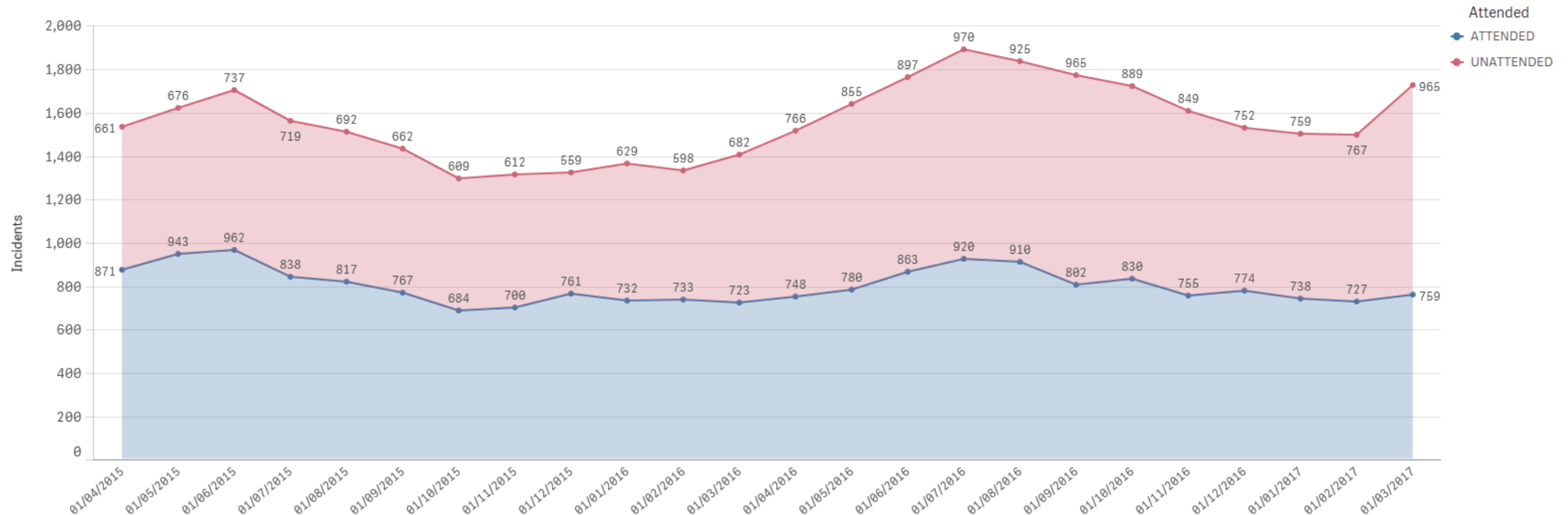
This shows that outcomes have been generally improving in recent months, though last month did see a slight dip in performance.

Below is a breakdown by the various outcome types used over the last year. This shows approximately half of all outcomes are linked to either the victim declining to prosecute or where no suspect has been identified.



Incidents (calls for service)

The below is looking at just the TDBC area again and breakdown by attended or unattended incidents. Incidents does not include all calls as some may not be recorded or multiple calls are wrapped in one incident.



There has been a total of 37,332 incidents over the last two years equating to 55,249 of officer hours spent at scene. This works out as an approximate cost of £1.5m. This cost is derived from officers at scene and does not take into account call handling, investigation time or any other costs associated with tackling crime.

Busiest hour is 16:00-17:00 (averaging 66 incidents per hour), quietest hour 05:00-06:00 (averaging 11 incidents per hour). Calls tend to increase and fall steadily throughout the day.

Busiest day of the week is Friday which averages 55 calls per day compare to the quietest day (Wednesday) which averages 49 calls per day.

Satisfaction

Across Somerset West when asked about confidence in the police.

