



2014—2015 Annual Report



Contents Page

CSP Chair Introduction	3
How we work	3
Funding	4
<i>Performance Summary: What we have done</i>	
Domestic Abuse—Home Safety Checks	5
Sanctuary Scheme	6
J9	6
Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB)	7
CCTV Abuse Camera System	7
Burglary Dwelling	8
Assault / Violent crime	8
West Local policing Area Analyst	9
VAEF Home Safety / Handyman Scheme	9
Young Persons Independent Sexual Violence Advisor (ISVA) Post	10
Sports Activities	11
Crucial Crew	12
Reality Road show	12
<i>Reported Crime Figures</i>	
All Crime	14
Burglary Dwelling	15
Burglary Other	16
Criminal Damage	17
Shoplifting	18
Vehicle Offences	19
Violence with Injury	20



CSP Chair Introduction

The Epping Forest District Community Safety Partnership (CSP) continues to function efficiently and effectively despite resource reductions. The Partnership continues to maintain strong links between organisations involved in community safety within the District which provide benefits in targeting reductions of crime, disorder and anti-social behaviour. The previous 12 months have been a challenging time which have brought about innovative changes in maintaining standards and, in a number of cases, improving service delivery to the businesses and residents of the district.

Councillor Gary Waller – Chair of the Community Safety Partnership

How we work

The CSP is made up of representatives from Essex Police, Essex Fire and Rescue Service, Community Rehabilitation Service (CRC), Epping Forest District Council (EFDC), Voluntary Action Epping Forest (VAEF) and the Magistracy, which meet on a quarterly basis to oversee the range of work undertaken. The CSP is responsible for undertaking an annual review of current crime and disorder issues and each year, the CSP Analyst prepares a Strategic Assessment based around local identified priorities. The Strategic Assessment sets out to;-

- Understand the patterns of crime, disorder and substance misuse
- Set clear and robust priorities for the Partnership
- Develop activity that is driven by reliable intelligence and which meets the needs of the local community
- Incorporate the views of residents living in the area

Once local priorities are identified, an annual CSP Plan is formulated to address those issues. The CSP's local priorities are currently;-

- Domestic Abuse
- Assault/violent crime
- Anti-social Behaviour
- Burglary in a dwelling

Funding

The main source of funding for the CSP is the Office of the Police & Crime Commissioner (PCC). This funding is allocated to the 14 District, Borough and City CSPs in Essex on an annual basis. This PCC grant is allocated to CSPs to ensure continuity of service, build on effective relationships and to support key priority areas of focus in the Police and Crime Plan.

In Epping Forest District, this funding is supported by a range of other funding sources and, in 2014/15, the funding profile for the Epping Forest CSP was as follows:

Income 2014/15	Amount
Essex Police & Crime Commissioner – Community Safety Fund	£21,800
Essex Fire & Rescue Service – Partner Contribution	£3,000
New Initiatives Fund – Young Persons Guide to Volunteering Boxing Club	£1,500
High Sheriffs Awards – Crucial Crew	£1,000
Epping Forest District Council – Crucial Crew	£8,200
Total	£35,500



Performance Summary: What have we done?

Domestic Abuse - Home Safety Checks

The CSP continues to provide care to victims of domestic abuse that are considered 'high risk', and this involves carrying out safety surveys by the Community Safety Officer and the Police Crime Prevention Tactical Adviser. The voluntary sector are also involved in supporting this work through Voluntary Action Epping Forest's (VAEF) Safe & Sound Scheme, to fit additional security devices where specified by the survey. This scheme has been successful in reducing repeat victimisation by 38% for up to 6 months after the survey is carried out, when compared to those not subject to a visit.

Between 1st April 2014 and 31st March 2015, EFDC's Community Safety Team carried out 30 security surveys with Essex Police in relation to high risk victims of domestic abuse. Satisfaction surveys, together with home security and fire safety leaflets, were sent to all victims. Of those surveys 12 (40%) were returned. All the surveys reflected an appreciation of the contact and comments made about the service included;

'I felt valued and they took good care of my safety – I am so grateful to them.'

'Feel so much better since the visit; feel a lot safer making the changes suggested to my home and advice given.'

'Fantastic team that visited us in a time of need. Very good at their jobs; gave us some control again in a time of fear.'

'Fantastic help & advice; extremely grateful; wonderful service.'

'so supportive & kind and ever so helpful especially as you feel embarrassed asking for help.'

Source: Domestic Abuse survey feedback forms

Sanctuary Scheme

EFDC's Community Safety, Housing Options and Housing Repairs Teams work closely together to support local people at risk. The Housing Options Team manage a district-wide Sanctuary Scheme, which involves them working together with Community Safety, Essex Police and Essex County Fire & Rescue Service to provide enhanced security to very high risk victims that do not wish to move. The scheme allows for family life to remain as normal as possible for victims, giving them enhanced levels of security and threat management and reduction, through lifestyle action plans. The scheme is tenure neutral and costs are reduced by work being carried out in-house, by EFDC Housing Repairs Team in accordance with best practice guidelines.

There are currently 6 Sanctuary Schemes in Epping Forest
Source: EFDC Housing Options

J9

In order to deal with the preventative side of domestic abuse, we continue to run a programme of J9 training courses to local partners and businesses across West Essex, in conjunction with Safer Places' Domestic Abuse Support Services. Over the last 12 months there have been 5 courses in Epping Forest involving 93 participants. The courses provide information on identifying victims and signposting them to appropriate services.

“The J9 Course helps me support my staff and families who access our services”

“I will listen more, not tell victims what to do, but give options. Be more patient.”

Since the development of J9 Safer Places Outreach Services in Epping Forest have seen an increase in referrals of over 135%.

Source: J9 Feedback forms

Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB)

Anti-social behaviour continues to be a priority area for the CSP and with the increased threat from street gangs in the south of the district, there is a cross border working group hosted by EFDC ASB Investigators to deal with this issue. Members on this group include EFDC Housing Service, Essex Police, Metropolitan Police Safer Neighbourhoods Team, British Transport Police, Redbridge Homes and London & Quadrant Housing Trust. The Community Safety Officer with responsibility for the South area works closely with the Assistant Area Housing Manager from the housing office at Limes Farm. This allows local contact with service providers and residents and provides an intelligence conduit to Community Safety and the Police.

The North Area ASB Investigator is trained in mediation and is also the EFDC Restorative Justice Ambassador to the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner. This is a new initiative to identify emerging problem families and provide mediation and support before problems escalate. Both Investigators deal with graffiti complaints which allows them to monitor any emerging community tension issues. The investigators are responsible for running a 6 weekly ASB Co-ordinating Group (ASBCG). This allows a multi-agency approach to deal with the problems of anti-social behaviour, ensuring tasks are not duplicated and each problem has a clearly identified lead officer.

ASB complaints received by EFDC are set to increase, as the level of Essex Police priority for dealing with ASB reduces, through triage of cases in relation to threat, risk and harm. Cases not assessed as high risk will in future be sign-posted by Essex Police to other agencies to deal with. This is likely to place additional burdens on EFDC's Community Safety, Housing, Environment & Neighbourhoods Officers.

ASB investigators dealt with 277 complaints between 01/07/13 – 30/06/14 which increased to 307 between 01/07/14 – 30/06/15 a 10.8% rise.

Source: M3 PP system

CCTV Abus Camera Systems

In 2013, with funding from the PCC New Initiatives Fund, EFDC's Community Safety Team purchased 5 cameras which allowed the installation of a self-contained CCTV system (camera / monitor and recorder). These are offered to local residents on a 'loan' type basis for a specific period of time, with an option to purchase (at cost price). The cameras can be used to assist across a broad spectrum of matters including; gathering evidence in support of allegations of Anti-Social Behavior; deterring bogus callers and reassurance to victims.

Since 2013, 6 cameras have been installed in the district, 1 camera is currently still in use, 3 have been removed, and 2 were purchased by the homeowners. These cameras were replaced so that the project continues to be self-sustaining.

Source: EFDC Community Safety Team

Burglary Dwelling

Burglary from dwellings continues to be a priority crime to address locally. This is due to the District's close proximity to the London Metropolitan area and the excellent transport links through the district, allowing travelling criminals to enter and leave by a number of different means. The district is made up of many affluent areas which thereby encourages the theft of desirable products from homes. The police response to burglary dwelling is Operation Insight. This involves predicting patterns of crime and targeting areas that could potentially be the focus of a linked series of crimes. The response involves 'cocooning,' which is a door knocking and leaflet drop exercise by Police Community Support Officers. EFDC's Community Safety Team supports this operation by providing 'Lock 'em Out' leaflets and witness reporting cards for this type of criminal activity.



EFDC's Housing Options Team also issue new tenants with Homesafe security packs when they take up a new tenancy. This is a general security advice pack which additionally contains fire safety advice, electoral information and details of NHS services in the district.

Neighbourhood Watch has gone from strength to strength in the district, with a dedicated Essex Watch Liaison Officer co-ordinating the activity of groups and identifying new ones. Working with Essex Police's Crime Prevention

and EFDC's Community Safety Teams, the number of Neighbourhood Watch groups in the district now stands at 600, with approximately 20,000 houses covered.

Assault / Violent Crime

Generally, a high proportion of assaults in the district relate to domestic abuse, or the 'night time' economy. The district has night clubs located in Epping and Loughton High Streets that attract large numbers of customers which can generate occasional disorder. Essex Police and EFDC are working closely together to provide public safety. Recently, high quality cameras were installed to cover the 'Club 195' and 'Villa' Clubs in Epping. The evidence of disorder relating to the 'Villa' recorded from these cameras played a significant part in closing the club. Further CCTV upgrades are taking place in Loughton which will improve evidence gathering of crime and disorder.

Re-deployable CCTV cameras were used at the Limes Farm Estate in Chigwell earlier this year to support police operations and reduce the fear of crime, after violent, gang related activity was identified. Staff were also briefed on 'cuckooing', which is a process of recruiting and using residents who have vulnerabilities, to assist in the facilitation of crimes. Residents likely to be vulnerable to this activity were identified and monitored by Essex Police and housing officers, with police making one arrest where cuckooing was identified in Loughton.

West Local Policing Area Analyst

The CSP funds, and EFDC is responsible for managing an Area Analyst who is dedicated to support the partnership activities of West Local Policing Area (LPA). These areas include Epping Forest, Brentwood, Harlow and Thurrock Districts. The selection process was carried out in conjunction with the Principal Analyst from Essex Police and the police are providing training and support to the role. West LPA is currently the only district or borough in Essex with this resource.

Between 01/04/13 – 31/03/14 EFD recorded 6,871 crimes. Between 01/04/14 – 31/03/15 EFD recorded 6,689 crimes - a reduction of 3%

Source: Home Office iQuanta data

Voluntary Action Epping Forest Home Safety / Handyperson Scheme

Between April 2014 and March 2015, 51 visits were made to elderly residents' homes, via referrals from EFDC's Community Safety Team. Over 100 items of equipment were fitted during that time. In the same period, security checks were undertaken for 403 elderly people that were visited for "Falls Prevention" work. During these visits, smoke detectors were also checked and replaced where necessary.

Comments from clients included:



"I feel so much safer after your visit; your advice has been invaluable and I am so grateful for your help."

"The lighting you fitted has made such a difference. I now have more confidence when I arrive home during the evenings"

VOLUNTARY ACTION
EPPING FOREST

"What a wonderful service. I have been very impressed with everyone that has assisted me. Thank you for the work you have carried out; it has made me so much safer and I worry much less now knowing that I am secure within my home. "

Source Voluntary Action Epping Forest

Young Persons Independent Sexual Violence Advisor (ISVA) Post

During the review year, Epping Forest CSP, Braintree CSP and Victim Support funded a six month Young Person's ISVA post. The aim of the post are to carry out targeted work with young people who have been victims of sexual abuse, or have been sexually exploited. This includes raising awareness, through the delivery of workshops to young people in relation to consent and the law, the grooming process, the effects of rape/sexual assault and Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE). Training to raise awareness of sexual violence, including CSE, has also been provided to professionals working with young people, including educational establishments, Youth Offending, Essex Police, housing associations, Social Care and Health and this has included provision of a referral and support pathway for schools.

From April 1st 2015, Epping Forest & Braintree CSPs and the Office of the Police & Crime Commissioner agreed to joint fund the post for a further year, until March 2016, when the Countywide ISVA Service, which will incorporate workers for young people, is due to go live.

From 1st Jan – 31st March 2015 there have been 13 Young Person Referrals (7 Braintree and 6 Epping Forest.) The referrals came from Schools, Social Care, Police, Victim Support and Oakwood Place. A CSE Awareness Programme was delivered to Epping St Johns School to 98 pupils.
Source: Victim Support

Young Persons Guide to Volunteering

EFDC's Community Engagement Team were successful in securing £1,390 from the Police and Crime Commissioner's Fund, to produce 1,000 copies of a Young Persons' Guide to Volunteering in Epping Forest. They obtained agreement from the following local partner organisations that will support young people to volunteer from age 14+, to be promoted in the guide: Voluntary Action Epping Forest, Essex Youth Service, Lambourne End Outdoor Centre, Epping Forest District Museum, The Red Balloon Family, and City of London Corporation.

To promote the guide, the Epping Forest Youth Council (EFYC) have so far presented to 2 school assemblies at Davenant Foundation School (167 pupils) and Chigwell School (88 pupils). At the school assembly, the Youth Councillors distributed the Volunteer Guides and travel wallets, which were well received and the teachers all complimented the Youth Councillors for their excellent presentation. Due to the summer term being considered their busiest, several schools have requested their respective presentations to be booked for the Autumn term, as it is the start of the new school year.

Sports Activities

A range of sports activities and projects are delivered across the district through funding from the CSP and PCC. Currently these include football, boxing and multi-sports at the following locations and times;

- Football for 11 – 16 year olds at the Limes Farm Estate, Chigwell every Monday (6pm – 8pm), with an average weekly attendance of 20 young people.
- Multi-sport session on Thursdays at Limes Farm Estate, (6pm – 8pm) (introduced following requests from local young people), with an average weekly attendance of 12 -16 young people.
- Football for 11 – 16 year olds at TownMead, Waltham Abbey every Friday (6pm – 8pm). This is an incredibly successful session with an average attendance of 80 - 90 young people each week.
- Boxing sessions at Buckhurst Hill and Limes Farm.

The various projects have had a positive impact upon young people in terms of improving their health and wellbeing and their regular engagement has helped to reduce anti-social behaviour. Feedback from young people identifies that they just 'want something to do and love playing football'. Parents have also fed back that they really appreciate the sessions, as they know that their children are in a safe environment and where they are. The young people have shown more respect for their community and the facilities within the community and this has been very significant at Town Mead in Waltham Abbey, where young people are no longer causing a nuisance to people using the new 3G astro turf pitch, as they are actively involved in the sessions. The projects have also contributed to improving crime prevention through positively engaging young people in constructive activities. The experienced coaches employed to deliver the sessions have taught the young people new skills and respect, through the way sessions are delivered, and have provided pathways for several young people to go on and play for local football teams. The project has also improved their life skills and training opportunities.

The Boxing Project, which is organised in conjunction with Eastside Amateur Boxing Club (ABC) in Buckhurst Hill, has become sustainable through the Club taking the Project on board, and sessions are provided at the club in Buckhurst Hill. A new boxing session for young people has also been set up at the Limes Centre in Chigwell, which is currently being delivered by Gator ABC, and although the number of young people attending these sessions is low at present, work is being done to develop and promote the sessions further.



Crucial Crew

Nearly 1,700 children aged 10 and 11 years old from the Epping Forest and Brentwood districts were given a snapshot safety experience, at the annual Crucial Crew event held in June 2014 at Gilwell Park in Sewardstone, Waltham Abbey. Part funded by the CSP, Crucial Crew is a specially designed initiative which covers a wide range of topics including fire safety, road safety, internet safety, healthy relationships, water safety, environmental issues, bullying and the dangers of alcohol. Children attend Crucial Crew over a 2 week period every June and follow a strict timetable of activities which take them through various scenarios, where they are given the chance to role play potentially dangerous situations, experiencing risk in a safe environment.

Reality Road Show

Reality Road Show is a similar initiative to Crucial Crew, but is targeted at 14 year olds in local secondary schools. Reality Road Show however includes more high level messages around potential health and safety risks to young people and includes different scenarios. In 2014, the Council delivered Reality Road Show in the following schools:

- Epping St Johns
- West Hatch, Chigwell
- Roding Valley, Loughton
- Davenant Foundation, Loughton
- King Harold, Waltham Abbey

The schools each received an Arc Theatre educational production which focussed on key issues of concern in the district, which was designed by Arc Theatre's script writer in conjunction with EFDC's Community Services. This year the production was a bespoke piece, focussing on child sexual exploitation (CSE), internet safety and grooming. Schools were re-charged for the theatre element of the day.

All pupils attending participated in scenarios covering the following key themes:

- Consequences of crime via an offender's insight
- Internet safety
- Legal highs
- Alcohol misuse
- Sexual health
- Healthy relationships, incorporating domestic abuse

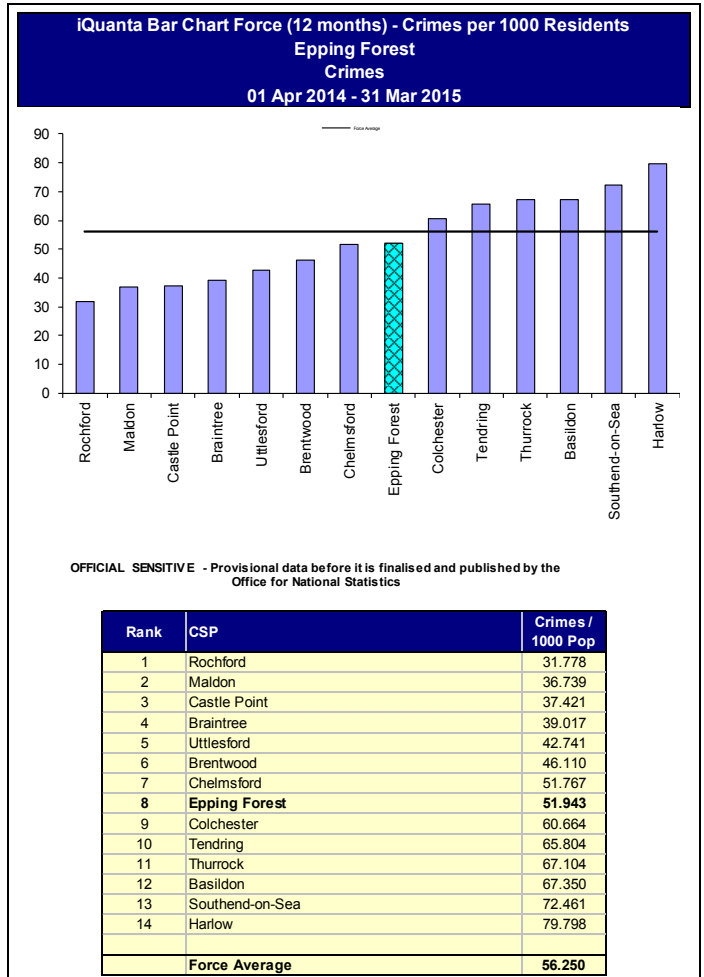
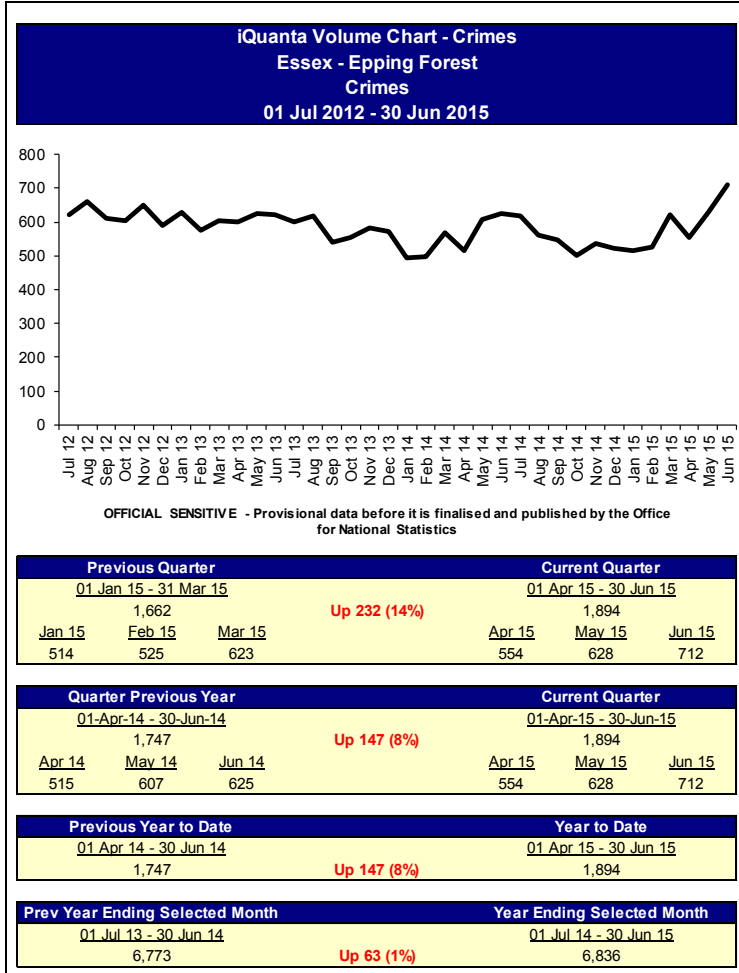




Crime Statistics

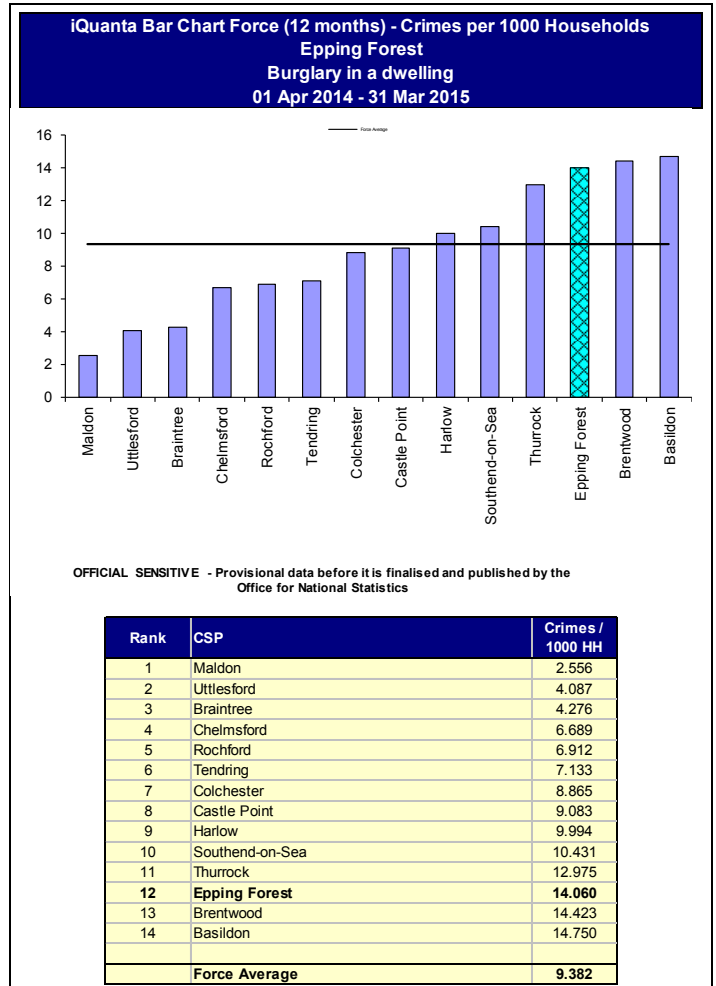
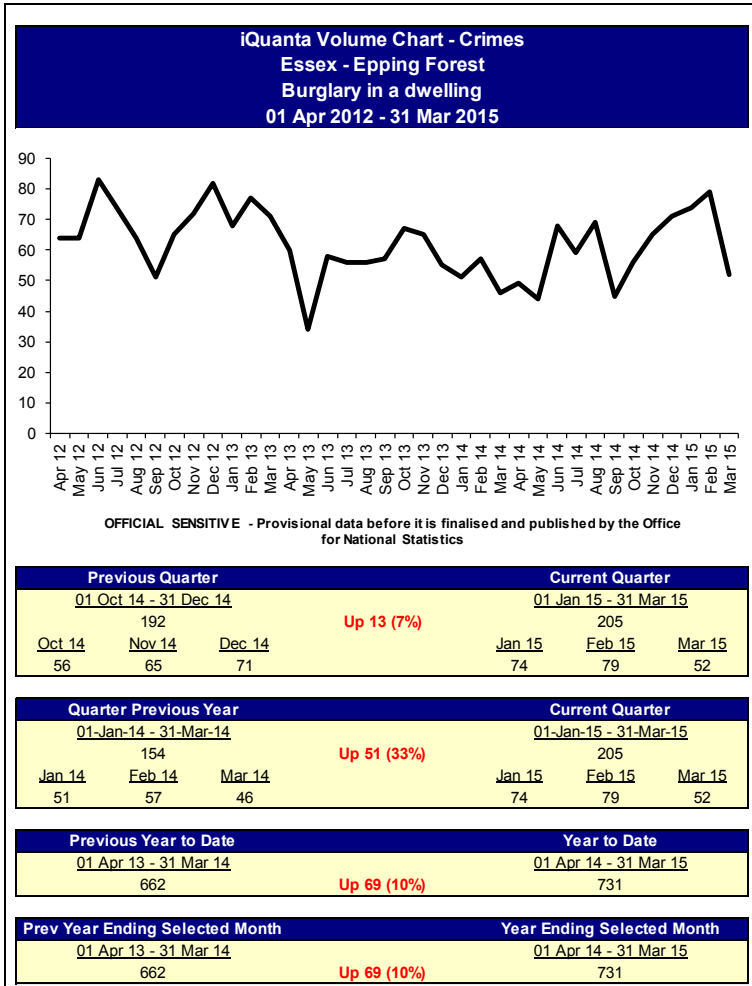
Data is extracted from iQuanta, the Home Office system for recording reported crime figures.

All Crime



There were 182 fewer reported crimes overall compared to 2013/14, a decrease of 3%. The projection is for a nil to slight increase. Epping Forest rated 8th in Essex and 8.6% below the Essex average. Crime in Epping Forest is also 35% less than in neighbouring Harlow, which was top of the Essex list.

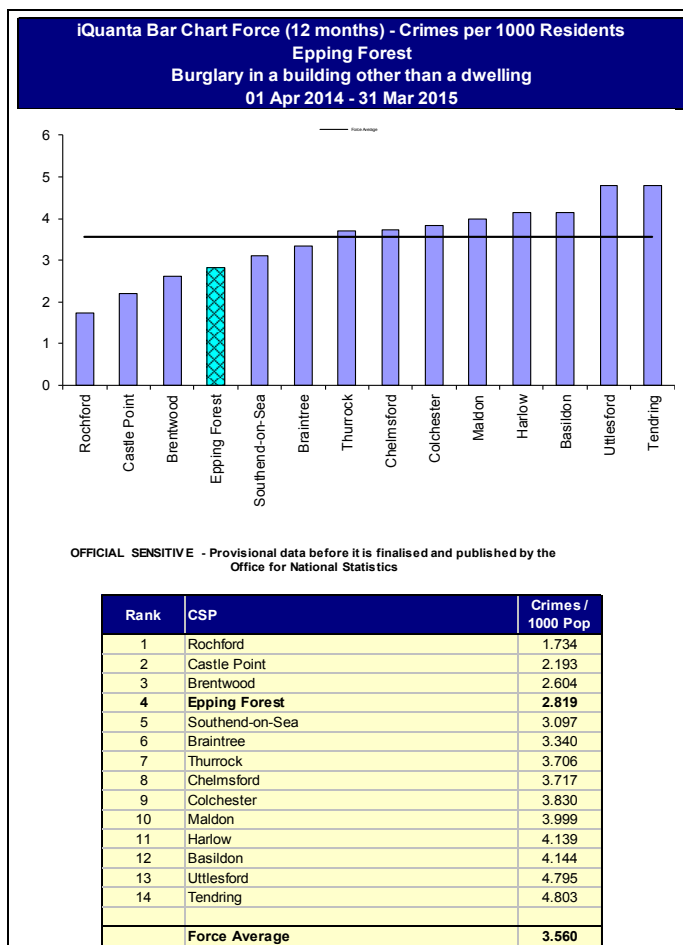
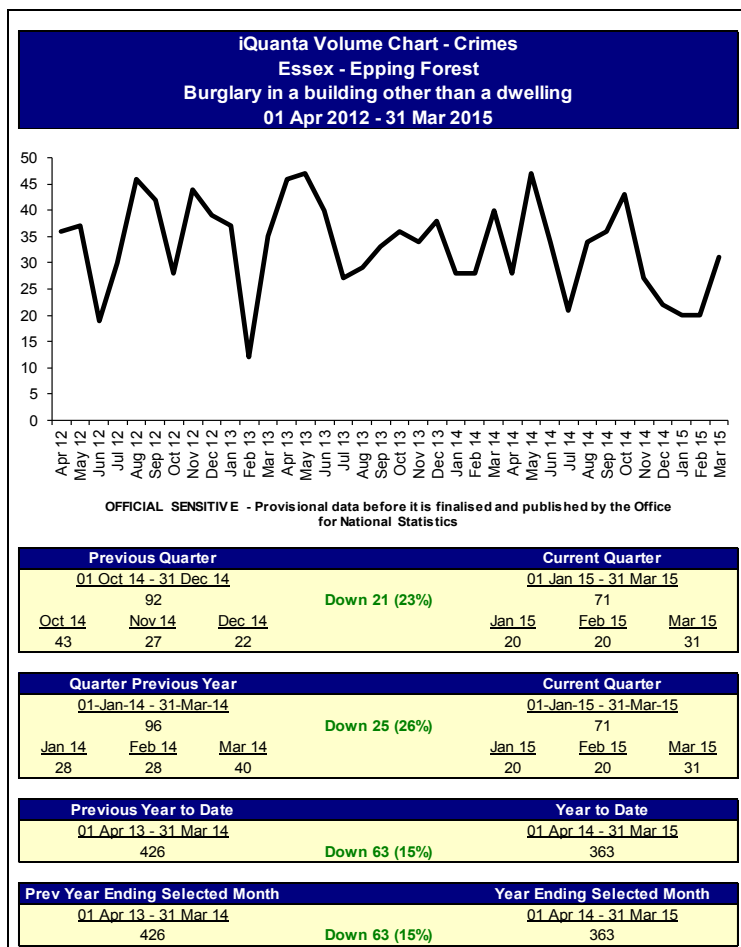
Burglary Dwelling



With 731 reported dwelling burglary crimes, this was a 10% (69) increase on the previous year. This placed Epping Forest as the 12th highest district in Essex when compared by per thousand residents. However, the projection is for a slight increase, but nothing significant.

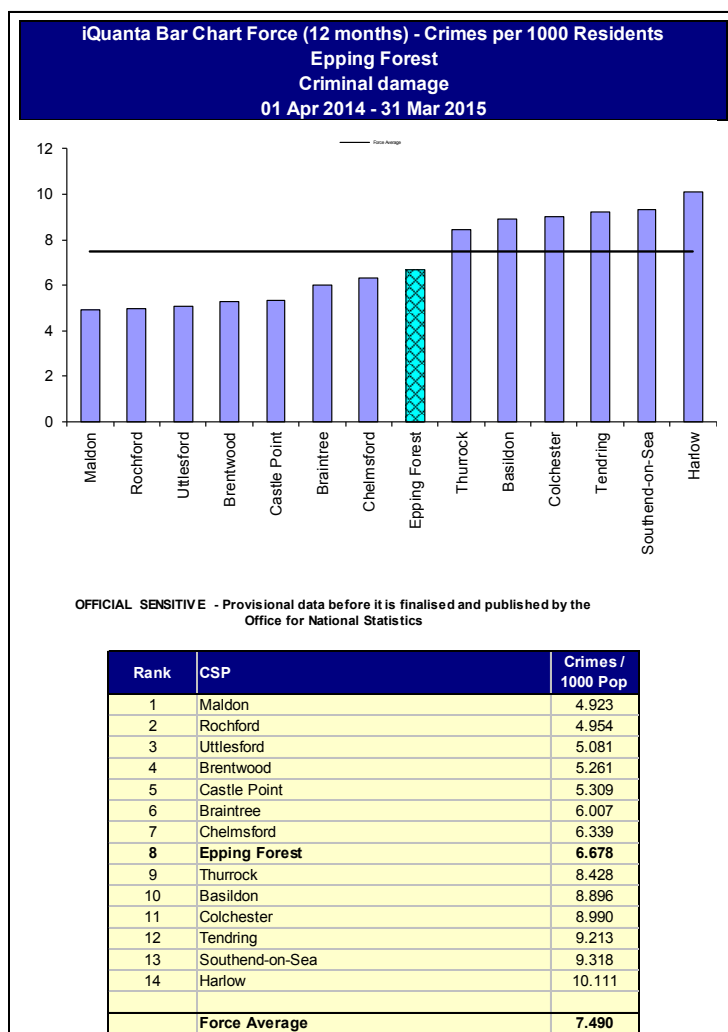
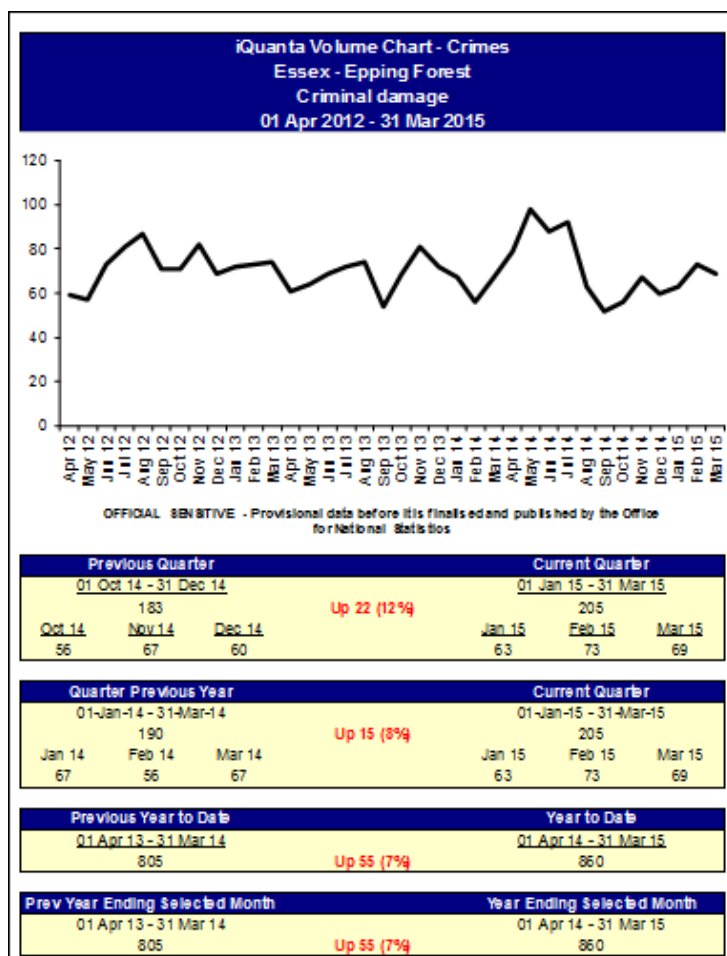
There are no particular patterns of peak or trough months/seasons over the past 3 years.

Burglary (Other)



There were 363 reported non-dwelling burglary crimes, which was a decrease of 15% (63) compared to the previous year. In comparison to the rest of Essex, Epping ranked fourth which was 21% below the Essex average. There are significant peaks and troughs throughout the 3 year comparison but there are no particular months or seasons trends. The long term projection is for a significant reduction.

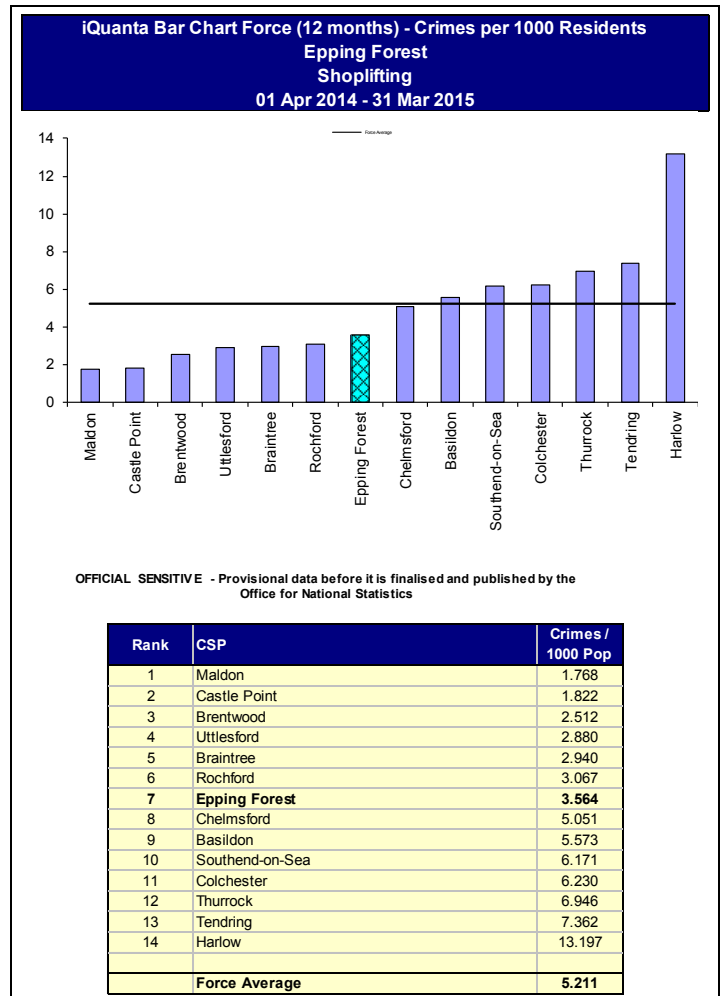
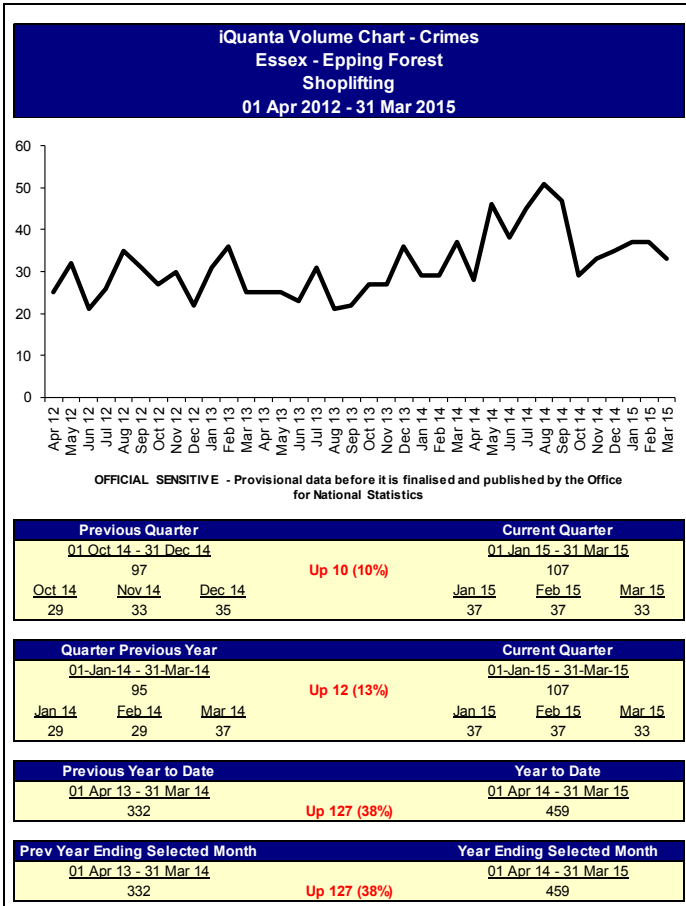
Criminal Damage



There were 860 reported crimes of criminal damage, an increase of 7% (55) over the previous year. In comparison to the remainder of the Essex area, Epping Forest was placed 8th lowest, and below the Essex average.

Whilst there was a spike of activity between May to July 2014, the figures have returned to previous levels and the projection is for a steady decrease.

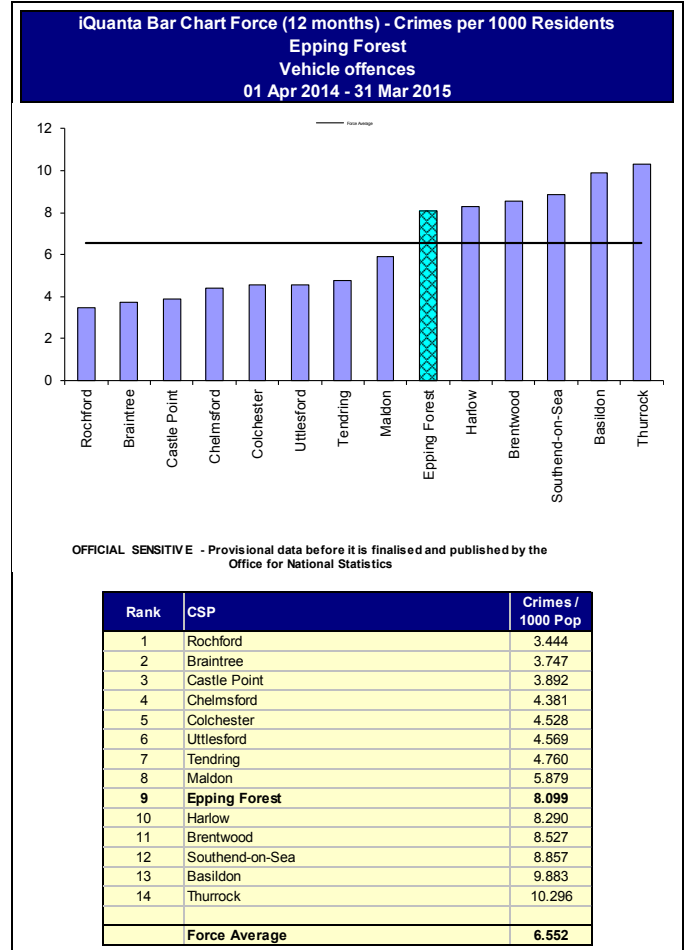
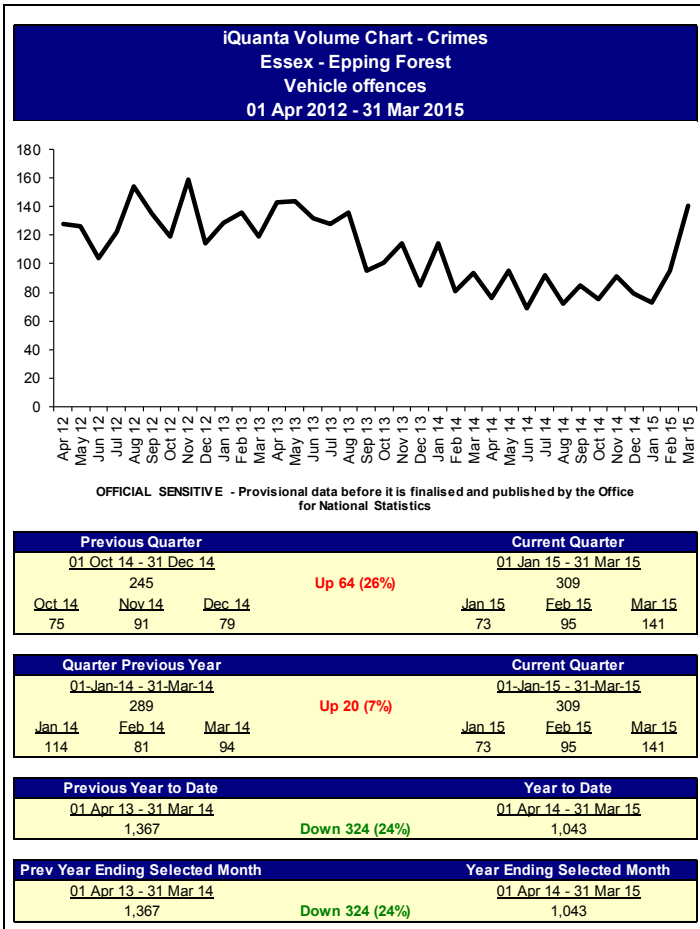
Shoplifting



There was an increase of 38% (127) in shoplifting compared to the previous year. Epping Forest is the seventh in Essex and below the Essex average. However, the Essex average figure is significantly inflated by the figure for Harlow which is 23.6% of the Essex total.

Again, there was a peak of activity between May and September and the projection is for a steady but slight increase.

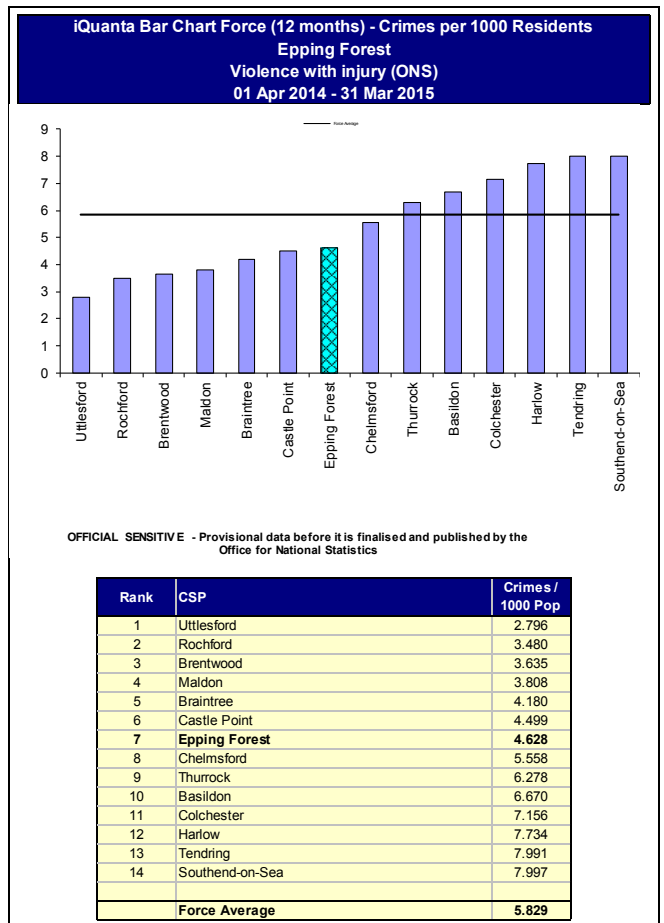
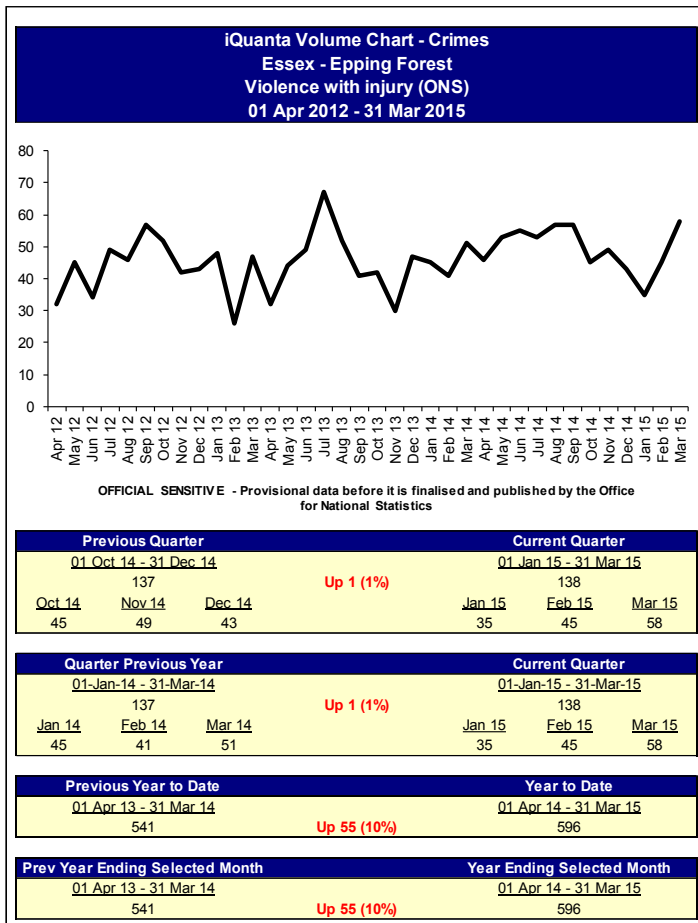
Vehicle Offences



Vehicle offences have increased by 7% (20) against the previous year. There are slight rises and falls between Feb 2014 – Feb 2015, but the total offences are significantly lower than the previous 12 months. However, it should be noted that March 2015 shows a significant increase of 47% (46) compared to Feb 2015 and it is known that the figures continue to climb significantly from April 2015 onwards.

Epping Forest is 6th highest in the Essex table and 24% above the Essex average.

Violence with Injury



Offences involving violence with injury have increased by 10% (55) over the previous year. Epping Forest is seventh lowest in Essex and below the Essex average. The projection is for a slight increase. Whilst March 2015 figures might indicate a rise in numbers, this has not been continued in the following months.