



**WIRRAL  
INTELLIGENCE  
SERVICE**

**This is Wirral**

**Crime & Safety**

**Wirral Intelligence Service  
(December 2019)**

## This is Wirral

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## Background to This is Wirral

This is Wirral is a collected set of evidence about Wirral.

It includes information about the Wirral population including their current and future health and wellbeing needs and the borough including information about the economy, housing, environment and transport.

The insight is collected into a number of sections to allow ease of access for the reader.

Each section contains detailed content including the key messages from the analysis and insight on main issues and is underpinned by detailed information.

The information forms our Joint Strategic Needs Assessment (JSNA) providing a detailed picture of the borough.

It is used to enable effective strategic planning to determine what actions local authorities and other partners need to take to meet resident needs and to address the wider determinants that impact on health and wellbeing.

### **How can you help?**

If you have ideas or any suggestions about these issues or topics then please email us at [wirralintelligenceservice@wirral.gov.uk](mailto:wirralintelligenceservice@wirral.gov.uk) or go to <https://www.wirralintelligenceservice.org/>

Version Number	Date	Authors
1.0	December 2019	Paula Vickers, Performance Management Officer for Wirral Council

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# This is Wirral: Crime & Safety

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## Key Messages

- **Wirral Residents' Survey** - Wirral residents consider low levels of crime and anti-social behaviour to be the most important aspect of a good neighbourhood and say this should be the Council's highest priority. This is most important to younger residents. Key issues concerning residents are drug dealing and usage and groups hanging around the streets.
- **Crime and Anti-social Behaviour** - Wirral's crime, anti-social behaviour and drug offence rates are the lowest in Merseyside (per 1,000 population).
- **Safer Wirral** - The Wirral Safety Partnership (Safer Wirral) is made up of local agencies who work together to make Wirral safer by policing, safeguarding and supporting the local community and individuals.
- **Safer Wirral** - Amongst services Safer Wirral provide are: Safeguarding communities and preventing criminality and anti-social behaviour; Wrap-around response for victims and offenders of child exploitation; Combat effects of domestic abuse; Integrated offender management; and Target and disrupt serious and organised crime.
- **Safer Wirral** - 'County Lines' is a term used when drug gangs from big cities expand their operations to smaller towns, often using violence to drive out local dealers and exploiting children and vulnerable people to sell drugs. A common feature in county lines drug supply is the exploitation of young and vulnerable people. The dealers will frequently target children and adults - often with mental health or addiction problems - to act as drug runners or move cash so they can stay under the radar of law enforcement. Through Safer Wirral, Merseyside Police is able to work with multi-agency partners in developing a whole-system approach which is vital to ensuring that vulnerable people are identified and safeguarded, understand factors behind demand for drugs, and recover proceeds of crime.
- **Wirral Neighbourhoods and Deprivation** - Wirral's neighbourhoods contain areas amongst the most and least deprived in England.
- **Wirral Neighbourhoods and Deprivation** - Deprivation is high in large areas of some neighbourhoods in Birkenhead and Wallasey, predominantly Bidston & James, Seacombe and Birkenhead. These neighbourhoods have higher rates of anti-social behaviour and crime (per 1,000 population).
- **Wirral Neighbourhoods and Deprivation** - West Wirral and South Wirral have large areas in some neighbourhoods with some of the lowest deprivation in England, predominantly Heswall, Greasby, Frankby & Irby and Clatterbridge. These neighbourhoods have some of the lowest anti-social behaviour and crime (per 1,000 population) in England.

## CRIME & SAFETY



### ANTI-SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR

**19.2**

WIRRAL

**22.5**

ENGLAND

RATE PER 1,000 HOUSEHOLDS  
MAR 2018 - FEB 2019



### VEHICLE CRIME

**6.0**

WIRRAL

**7.8**

ENGLAND

RATE PER 1,000 HOUSEHOLDS  
MAR 2018 - FEB 2019



### BURGLARY

**13.9**

WIRRAL

**17.1**

ENGLAND

RATE PER 1,000 HOUSEHOLDS  
MAR 2018 - FEB 2019



### CRIMINAL DAMAGE

**10.8**

WIRRAL

**9.2**

ENGLAND

RATE PER 1,000 HOUSEHOLDS  
MAR 2018 - FEB 2019



### VIOLENCE & SEXUAL OFFENCES

**30.7**

WIRRAL

**29.1**

ENGLAND

RATE PER 1,000 HOUSEHOLDS  
MAR 2018 - FEB 2019



### CRIME

**WIRRAL HAS LOWEST OVERALL CRIME RATE IN MERSEYSIDE PER 1,000 POPULATION**

## What do we know?

### Merseyside Police Budget

[Merseyside Police has had its budget reduced](#) by more than £77m over the last six years. This has led to the loss of more than 1,600 officers, PCSOs and staff.

Based upon [House of Commons Debate Pack: Funding of Merseyside Police \(February 2019\)](#) data for Merseyside suggests that police funding in 2019/20 (excluding Pension Grant allocation) amounted to £327 million in cash terms. This is recorded as a rise of 7% since 2015/16. This compares to a rise for all 43 forces in England and Wales of 10%. In real terms (taking inflation into account) there has been a fall in police funding for Merseyside over the period of 1% compared to a rise of 1% for all 43 forces.

In the same [House of Commons Debate Pack: Funding of Merseyside Police \(February 2019\)](#) it goes on to suggest that the number of full time equivalent (FTE) police officers (including long term absentees) employed in Merseyside decreased by 10.2% between 31 March 2015 and 30 September 2018. The total number of FTE (including long term absentees) police officers in all 43 police forces in England decreased by 3.5% over the same period.

In response to budget cuts, Merseyside Police has centralised units and services like 24-hour emergency response, crime investigation, and administration and secretarial support. These functions previously ran independently in each of the five former Basic Command Units (BCUs) of which Wirral was one. Safer Wirral Horizon Scanning (2018) implies that with continued austerity there are a number of other saving options being explored internally, with partners and by collaborating with other forces.

### Police Recorded Crime

Police recorded crime is the number of crimes reported to and recorded by the police. For types of crime that are well-reported and accurately recorded, police data can provide a valuable measure of trends. This data also provides an insight into the demands being made on the police and are useful in assessing how caseload has changed both in volume and nature over time.

However, police recorded crime statistics do not always provide a reliable measure of levels or trends for many types of crime. This is because not all crimes are reported to the police. For example, victims may be reluctant to report a crime because it seems too trivial, or not worth reporting. In contrast, other crimes, such as thefts, may be more likely to be reported if they require a crime reference number to be issued by the police, to support an insurance claim. Furthermore, police recorded figures can be affected by changes in recording practices.

One particular change to police recorded crime is that from April 2015 a change was made to the [Home Office Counting Rules](#) for recorded crime, such that reports of crime from professional third parties had to be recorded and counted. The [Office for National Statistics \(ONS\) \(2019\)](#) reports ([in the User Guide to Crime Statistics for England and Wales](#)) that this is 'thought to have led to some increases in crimes against vulnerable people such as victims of child abuse, domestic abuse and elder abuse'.

Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary and Fire & Rescue Services (HMICFRS) (formerly HMIC) independently assess the effectiveness and efficiency of police forces and fire & rescue services, in the public interest.

A report published on the accuracy of crime-recording by [Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary \(HMIC\) \(2014\) Crime-Recording: Making the Victim Count](#) concluded that 2014 national average of under-recording of crimes was 19%. [Merseyside Police 2014 Crime data integrity inspection](#) also found an under-recording of crimes of 19%, consistent with the national average.

A further report was conducted by [Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary and Fire & Rescue Services \(HMICFRS\) Crime Data Integrity inspection of Merseyside Police \(2016\)](#). The report concluded that the crime-recording arrangements in the force were not acceptable with an under-recording of crimes at 15.8%.

Merseyside Police were re-inspected in 2018 ([Merseyside Police: Crime Data Integrity re-inspection 2018](#)) and found that its crime-recording accuracy since 2016 has improved crime-recording standards finding an under-recording of crimes of 9.9% (this still provides some room for improvement). For this reason, the increases in the number of crimes recorded by the police does not necessarily mean the level of crime has increased as continuing improvements to recording processes and practices have affected the volume of recorded crime, along with more victims reporting crime and genuine increases in crime.

## Comparing crime to other regions

This report uses a process of benchmarking; measuring performance against areas most like Wirral. This helps to identify where crime levels are better or worse than normal.

### Community Safety Partnerships (CSPs)

Wirral, what we refer to as a 'local area' is technically a 'Community Safety Partnership' area. There are currently 293 Community Safety Partnerships (CSPs) in England and 22 in Wales, the majority of which correspond to local authority areas. They are made up of representatives from the police, the local council, and the fire, health and probation services

Police Forces and Community Safety Partnership compare performance against similar areas. Two areas are said to be 'similar' if they have similar demographic, economic and social characteristics. The development of the Most Similar Group (MSG) approach involved stakeholders from the Home Office, Association of Chief Police Officers, Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary and other key stakeholders. The current approach was chosen following advice from independent academics.

### Crime Comparison Data

*Merseyside Police Community Safety Partnerships (CSPs):*

- Wirral
- Sefton
- Knowsley
- St Helens
- Liverpool

*Wirral's Most Similar Group consists of 15 Community Safety Partnerships (CSPs) including*

- Bury
- Chesterfield
- Darlington
- Dudley; Mansfield
- North Tyneside
- Rotherham



- Sefton; St Helens
- Stockton-on-Tees
- Thanet
- Torbay
- Wakefield
- Wigan
- Wirral

Throughout the following section of this (All Crime) document, crime volume is taken from [www.police.uk](http://www.police.uk) and calculated as per 1,000 population. The latest available data available from end of September 2018.

## All Crime

Recorded crime trend in Wirral has been steadily increasing since quarter ending March 2017.

During quarter ending September 2018, Wirral recorded 25 crimes per 1,000 population compared to 16 in September 2015. Volume is consistently below Merseyside and Wirral’s most similar group average. **(Figure 1).**

The increase can be due to a number of factors: including improvements to recording processes and practices resulting in increased volume of recorded crime; changes to crime counting rules, more victims reporting crime; and genuine increases in crime.

**Figure 1:** All Crime Data for Wirral and geographic comparators for 2018



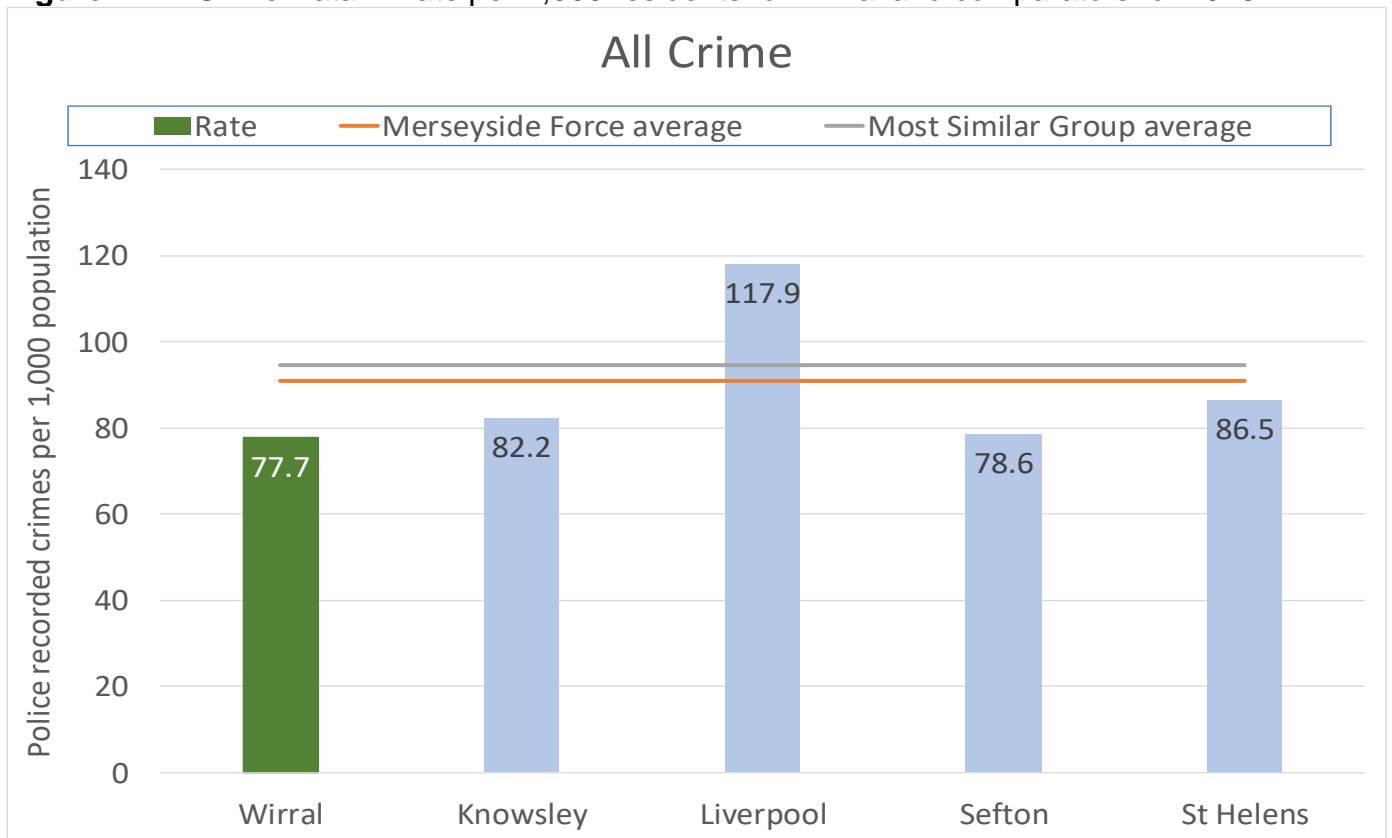
**Source:** Police data (2018) [www.police.uk](http://www.police.uk)

**Notes:** This chart shows how rates in Wirral, have changed over time, and by quarter per 1,000 residents over a 3-year period.



**Figure 2** suggests that Wirral lies below both Merseyside average and Most similar areas lines, so its crime rate is lower than normal for both groups.

**Figure 2:** All Crime Data – Rate per 1,000 residents for Wirral and comparators for 2018

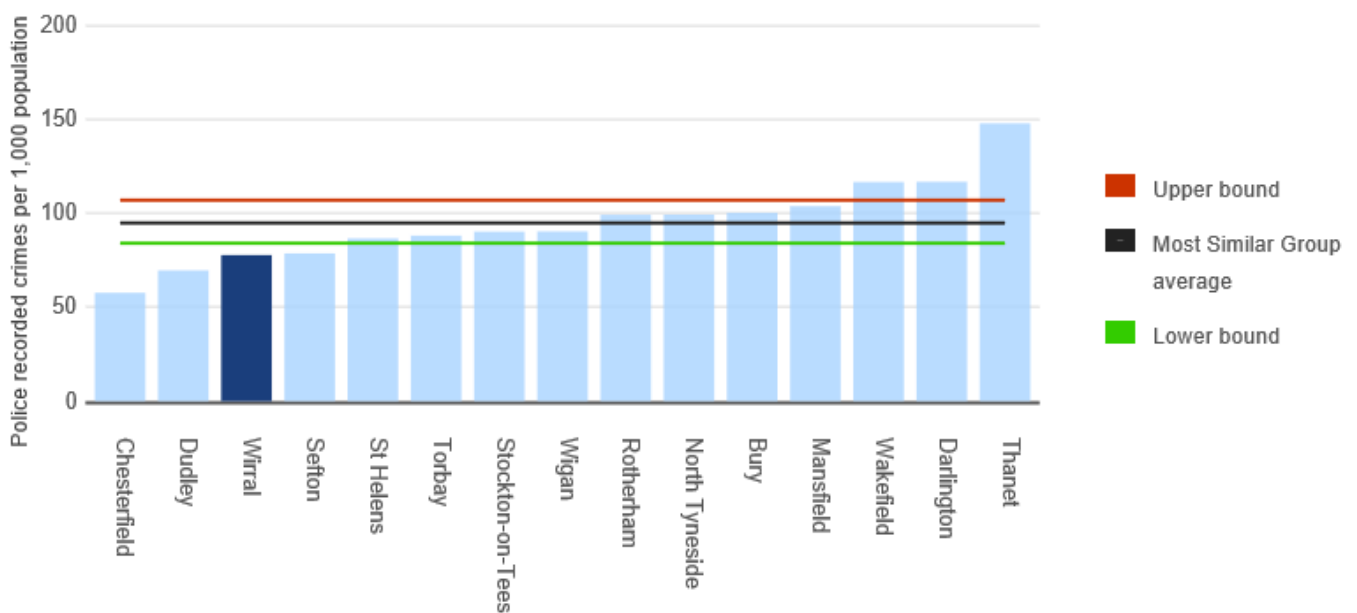


**Source:** Police data (2018) [www.police.uk](http://www.police.uk)

**Notes:** This chart compares the rate in Wirral to the average rate across the Merseyside. It shows the total number of incidents over a 12-month period per thousand residents, for the type selected.

Amongst our Most Similar Group of Community Safety Partnerships, Wirral has the 3<sup>rd</sup> lowest rate of crime per 1,000 population (**figure 3**).

**Figure 3:** All Crime Data – Rate per 1,000 residents for Wirral and comparators for 2018

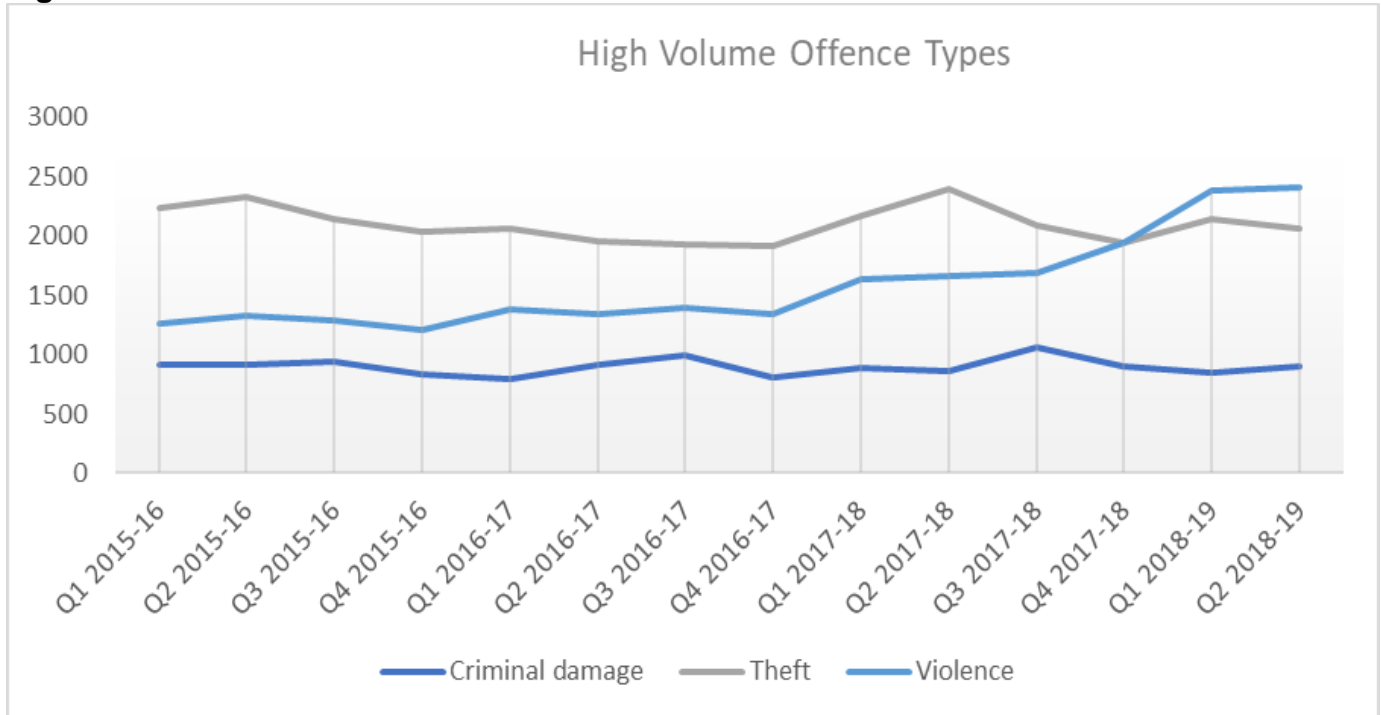


**Source:** Police data (2018) [www.police.uk](http://www.police.uk)

**Notes:** The red and green lines show how far the crime rate would normally vary from the average. Wirral lies below the green line, so its crime rate is lower than normal for the group.

Violence, Criminal Damage and Theft (theft includes bicycle, burglary, shoplifting, vehicle, person and other) are high level offence categories. 81% crime types fall within one of these categories. During the recent 12-month period 34% of all crime was violence, 33% theft and 15% criminal damage (figure 4).

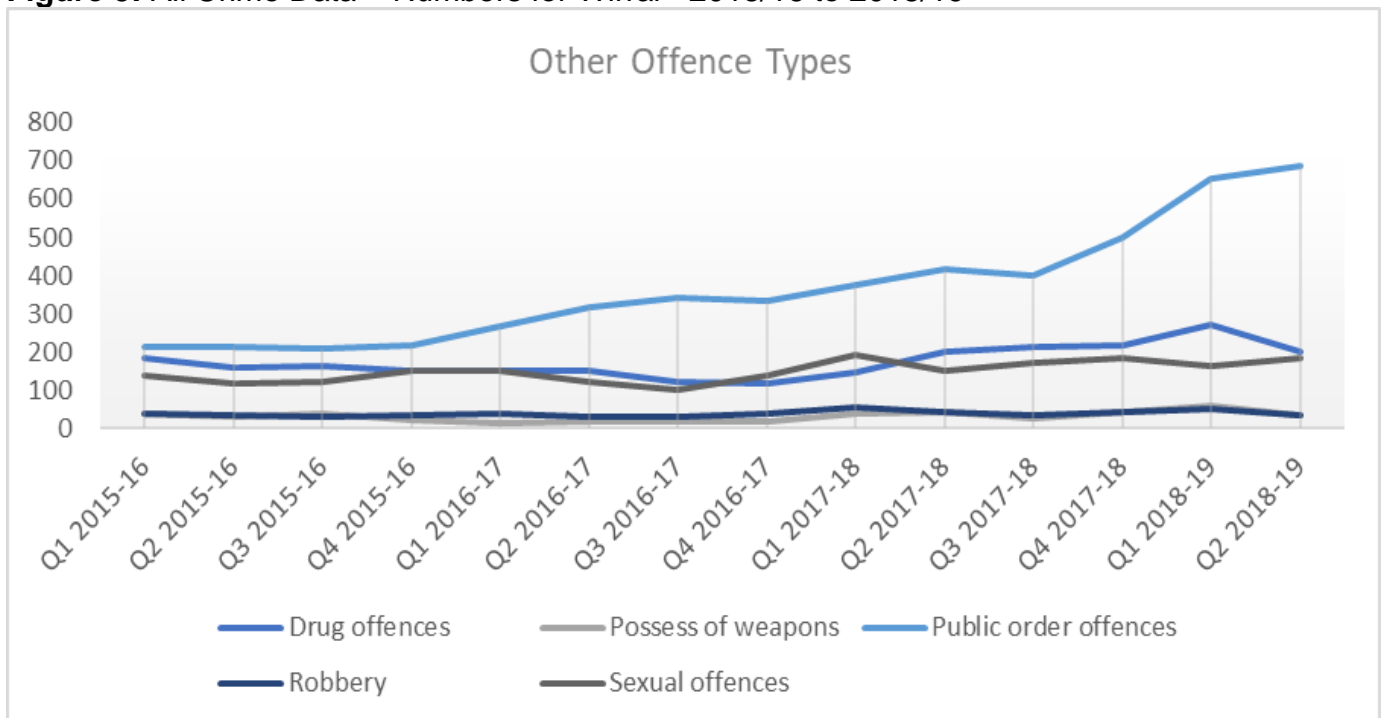
**Figure 4:** All Crime Data – Numbers for Wirral - 2015/16 to 2018/19



Source: Police data (2018) [www.police.uk](http://www.police.uk)

The remaining crime types are Drug offences (4% of all crime), Possession of weapons (1%), Public order (9%), Robbery (1%) and Sexual offences (3%). The only significant increase amongst these crimes is Public Order (figure 5).

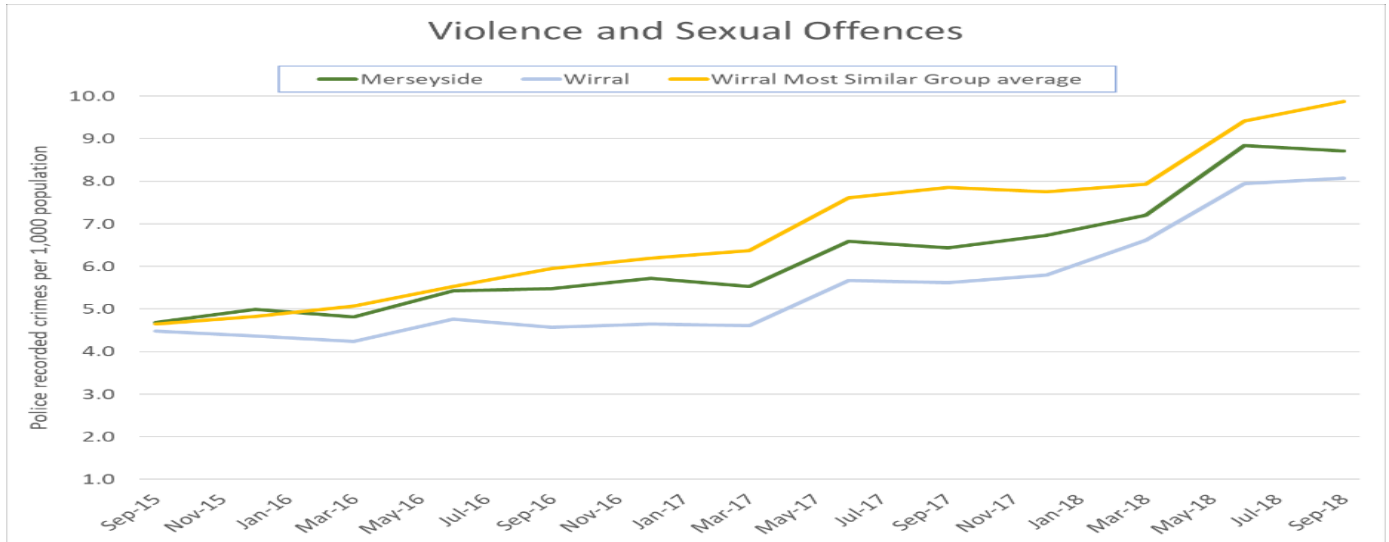
**Figure 5:** All Crime Data – Numbers for Wirral - 2015/16 to 2018/19



Source: Police data (2018) [www.police.uk](http://www.police.uk)

## Violence and Sexual Offences

This offence group includes the following crime types: Homicide; Death or serious injury – Unlawful driving; Violence with injury; Violence without injury; Stalking and harassment, Rape, Other sexual offences. Recorded violence and sexual offences trend in Wirral have been steadily increasing since quarter ending March 2017. However, the number of recorded crimes per 1,000 population is consistently below Merseyside and Wirral's most similar group average (**figure 6**).



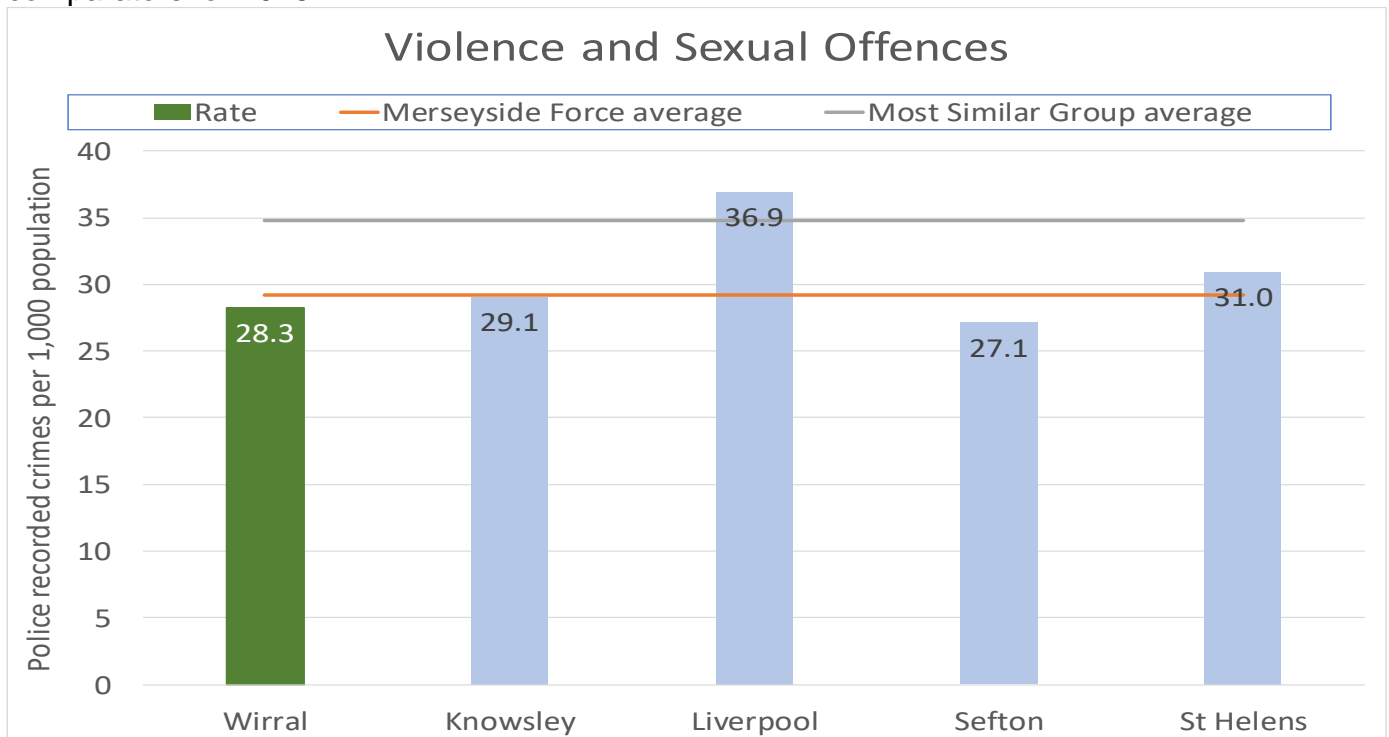
**Figure 6:** Violence and Sexual Offences Crime Data – Rate per 1,000 residents for Wirral and comparators for 2018

**Source:** Police data (2018) [www.police.uk](http://www.police.uk)

**Notes:** This chart shows how rates in Wirral, have changed over time, and by quarter per 1,000 residents over a 3-year period.

Wirral lies below both Merseyside average and Most similar areas lines, so its crime rate is lower than average for both groups (**figure 7**).

**Figure 7:** Violence and Sexual Offences Crime Data – Rate per 1,000 residents for Wirral and comparators for 2018

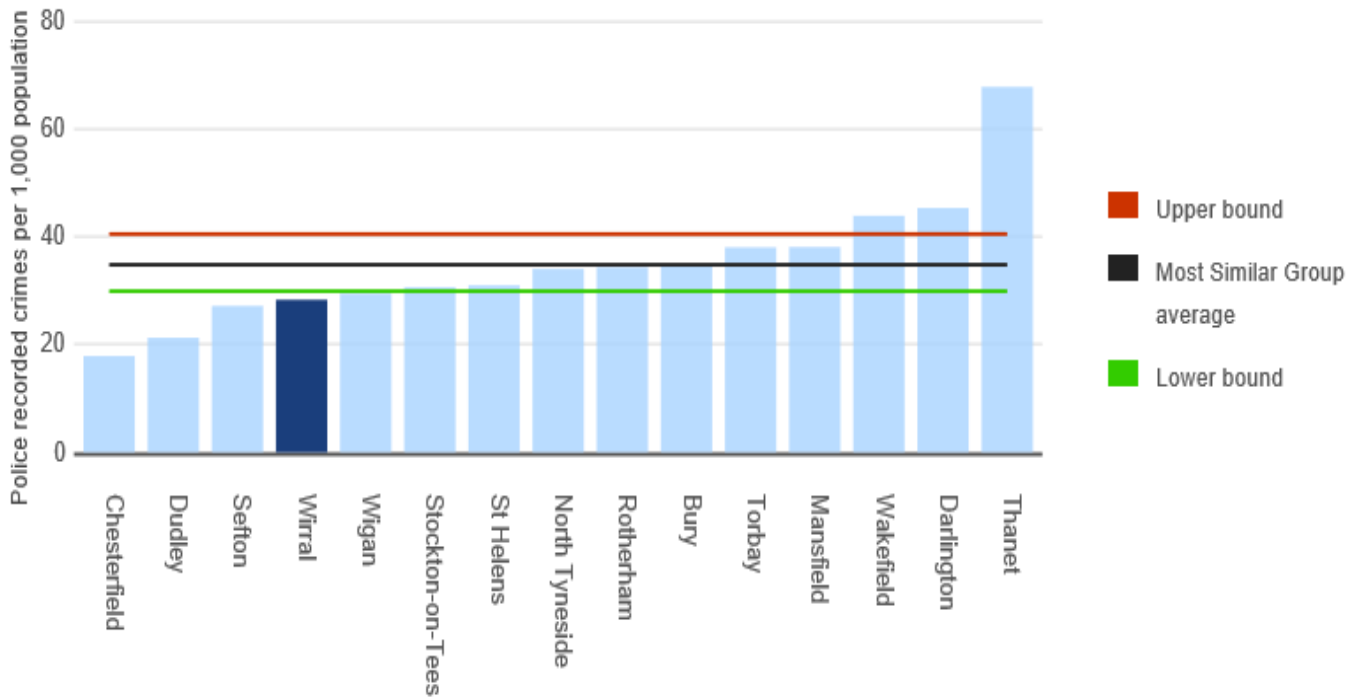


**Source:** Police data (2018) [www.police.uk](http://www.police.uk)

**Notes:** This chart compares the rate in Wirral to the average rate across the Merseyside. It shows the total number of incidents over a 12-month period per thousand residents, for the type selected.

Amongst our Most Similar Group of Community Safety Partnerships, Wirral has the 4<sup>th</sup> lowest rate of crime per 1,000 population (**figure 8**).

**Figure 8:** Violence and Sexual Offences Crime Data – Rate per 1,000 residents for Wirral and comparators for 2018

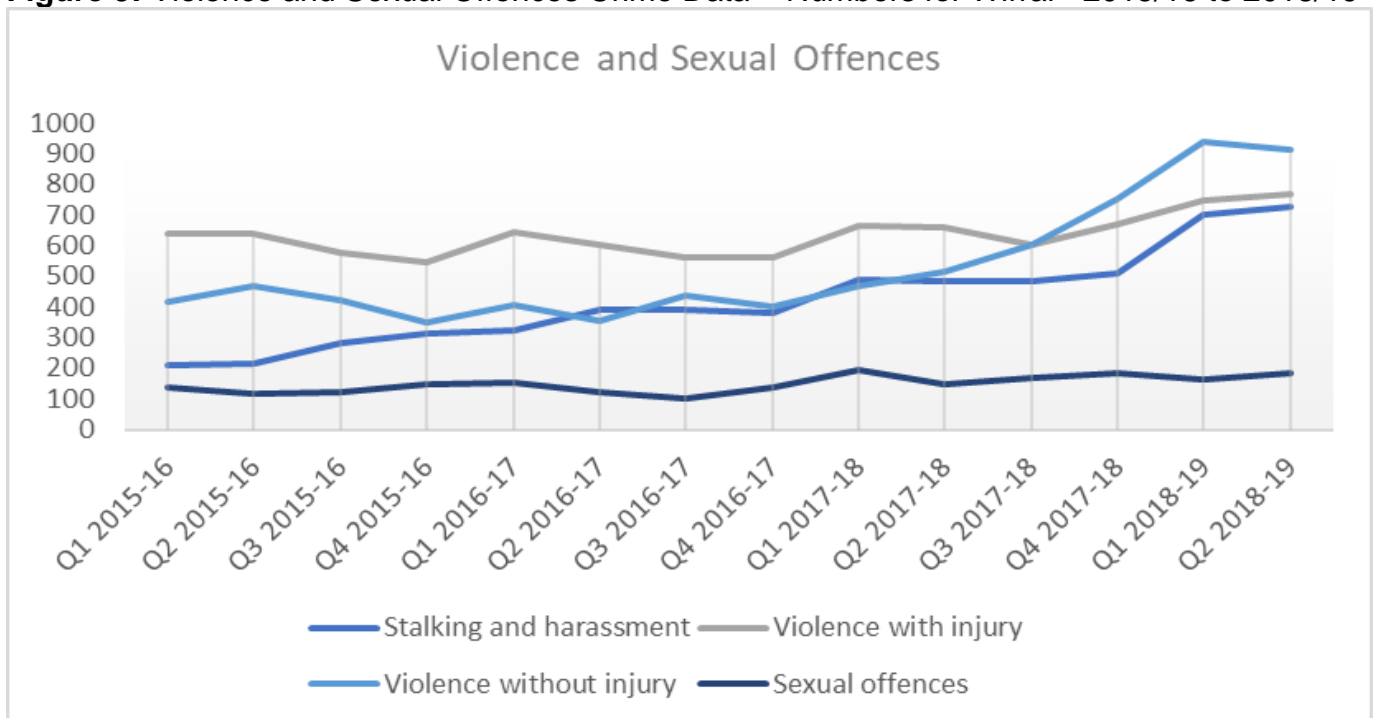


**Source:** Police data (2018) [www.police.uk](http://www.police.uk)

**Notes:** The red and green lines show how far the crime rate would normally vary from the average. Wirral lies below the green line, so its crime rate is lower than normal for the group.

During the recent 12-month period, of violence and sexual offences, 8% are sexual offences. 35% violence without injury, 31% violence with injury and 27% stalking and harassment (**figure 9**).

**Figure 9:** Violence and Sexual Offences Crime Data – Numbers for Wirral - 2015/16 to 2018/19

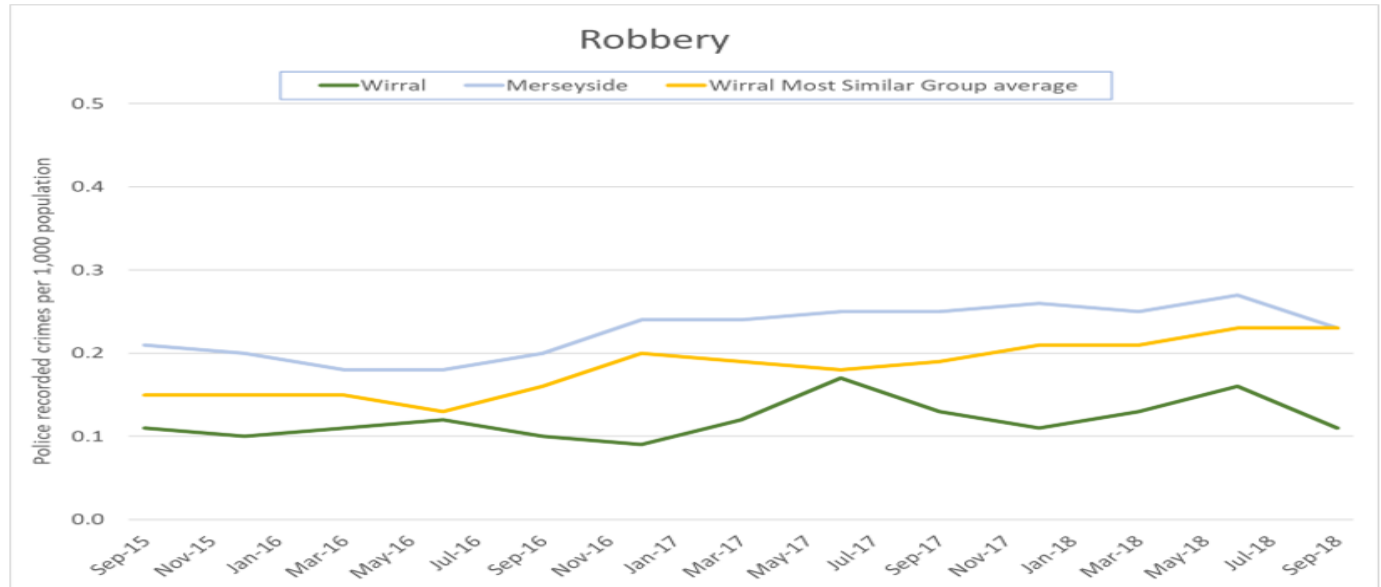


**Source:** Police data (2018) [www.police.uk](http://www.police.uk)

## Robbery

This offence group includes the following crime types: Business Robbery; Personal Robbery. Recorded robbery offences trend in Wirral has remained steady. The number of recorded crimes per 1,000 population is consistently below Merseyside and Wirral's most similar group average (figure 10).

**Figure 10:** Robbery Crime Data – Rate per 1,000 residents for Wirral and comparators between 2015 to 2018

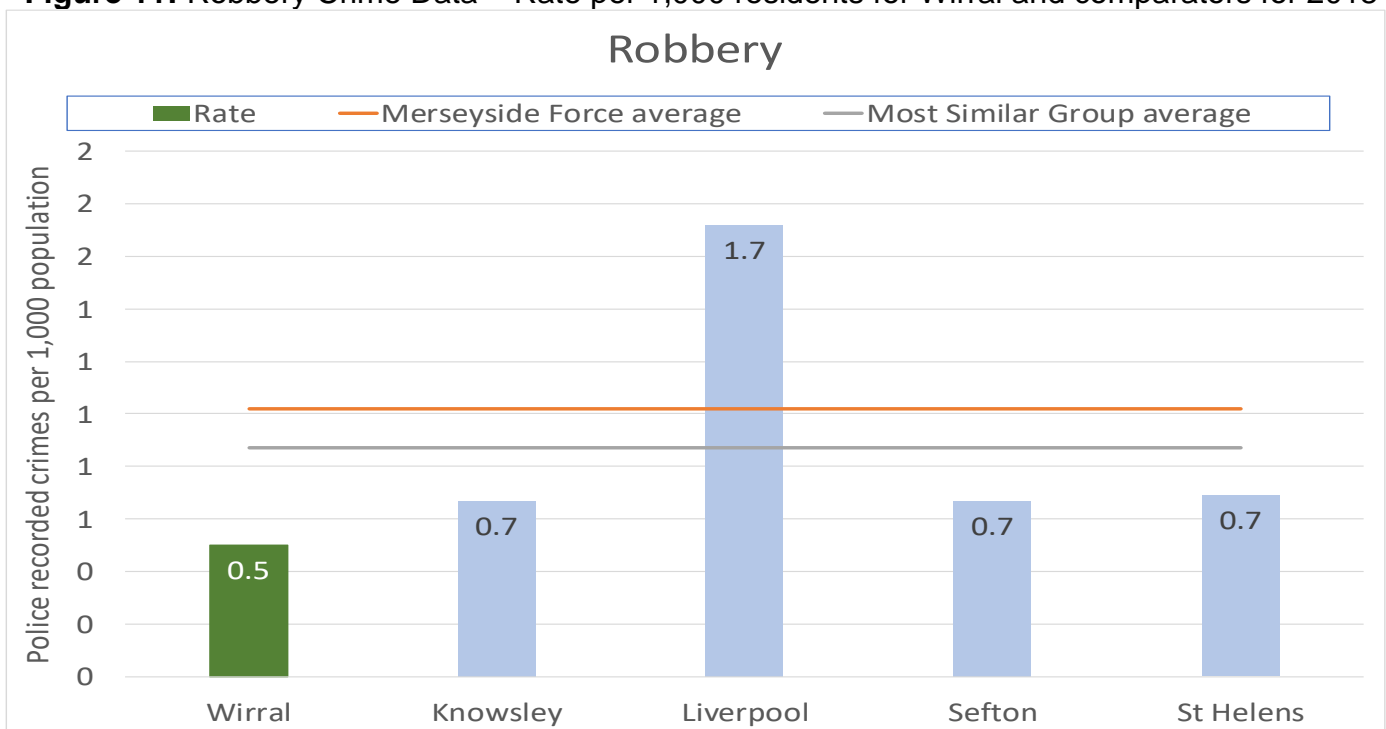


**Source:** Police data (2018) [www.police.uk](http://www.police.uk)

**Notes:** This chart shows how rates in Wirral, have changed over time, and by quarter per 1,000 residents over a 3-year period.

Wirral lies below both Merseyside average and Most similar areas lines, so its crime rate is lower than normal for both groups (figure 11).

**Figure 11:** Robbery Crime Data – Rate per 1,000 residents for Wirral and comparators for 2018

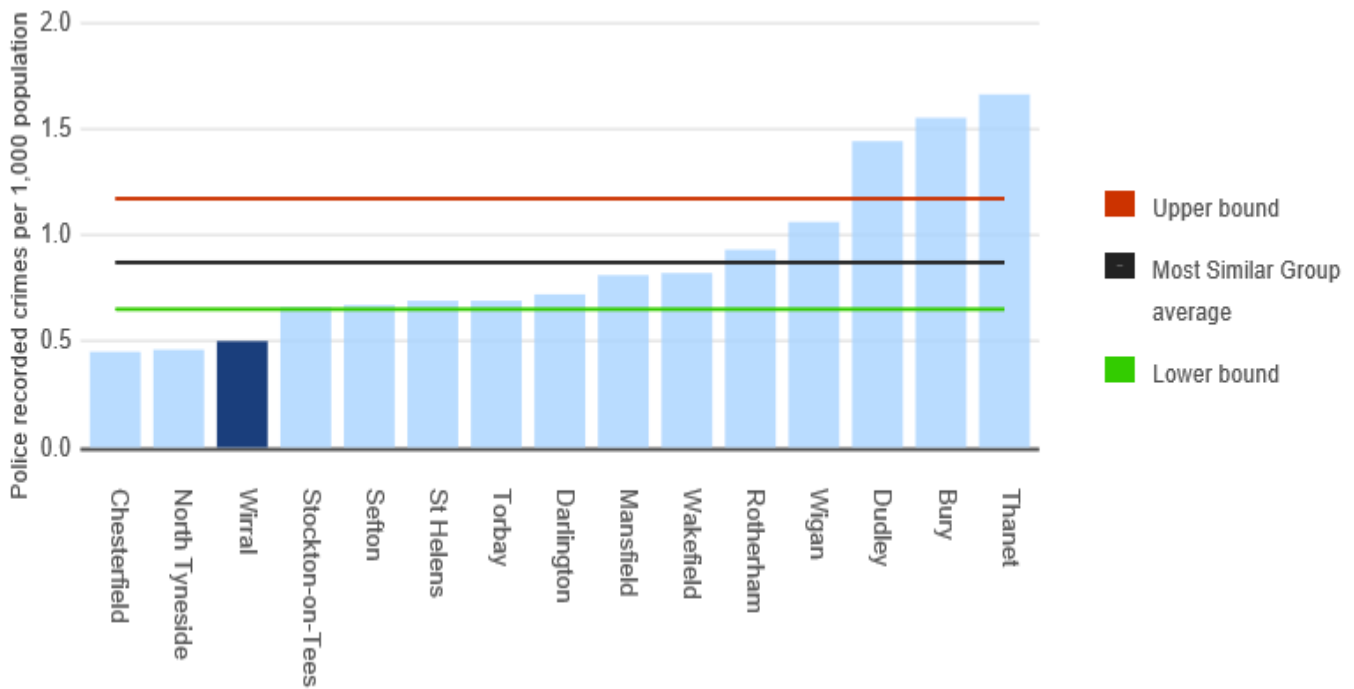


**Source:** Police data (2018) [www.police.uk](http://www.police.uk)

**Notes:** This chart compares the rate in Wirral to the average rate across the Merseyside. It shows the total number of incidents over a 12-month period per thousand residents, for the type selected.

Amongst our Most Similar Group of Community Safety Partnerships, Wirral has the 3<sup>rd</sup> lowest rate of crime per 1,000 population (**figure 12**).

**Figure 12: Robbery Crime Data – Rate per 1,000 residents for Wirral and comparators for 2018**

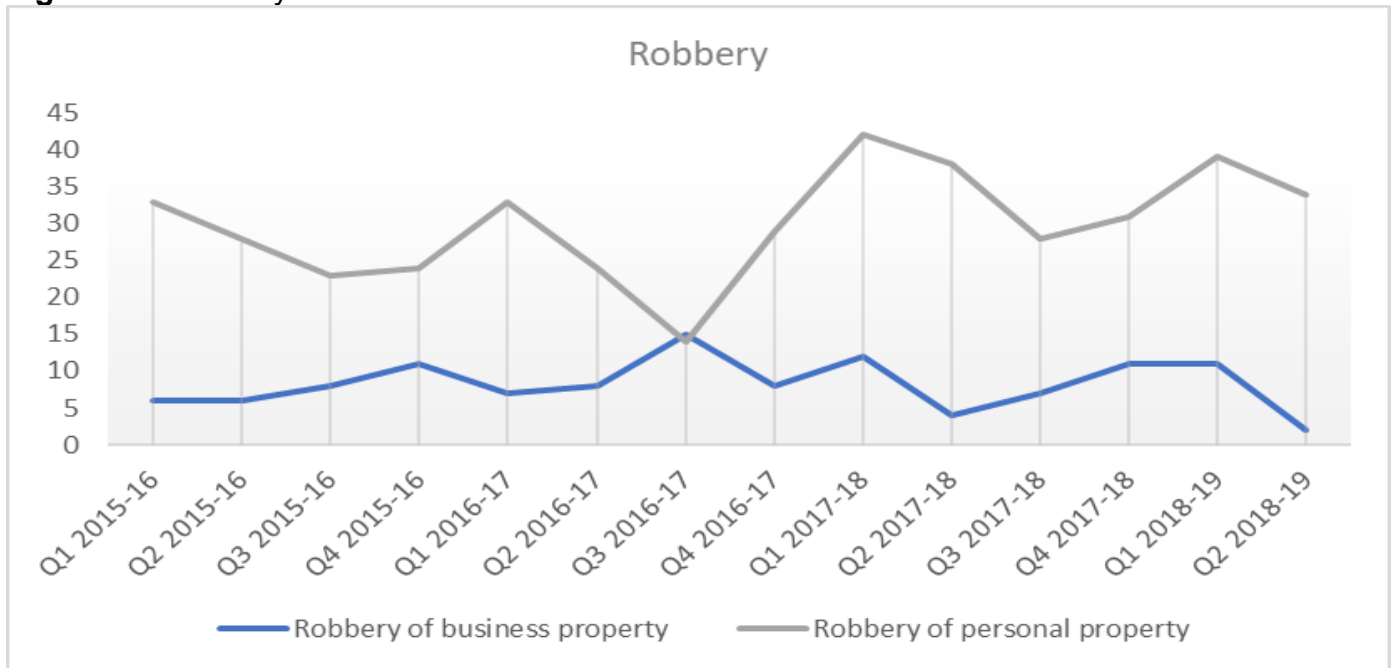


Source: Police data (2018) [www.police.uk](http://www.police.uk)

Notes: The red and green lines show how far the crime rate would normally vary from the average. Wirral lies below the green line, so its crime rate is lower than normal for the group.

During the recent 12-month period, of robbery offences, 19% were of business property and 81% of personal property (**figure 13**).

**Figure 13: Robbery Crime Data – Numbers for Wirral - 2015/16 to 2018/19**



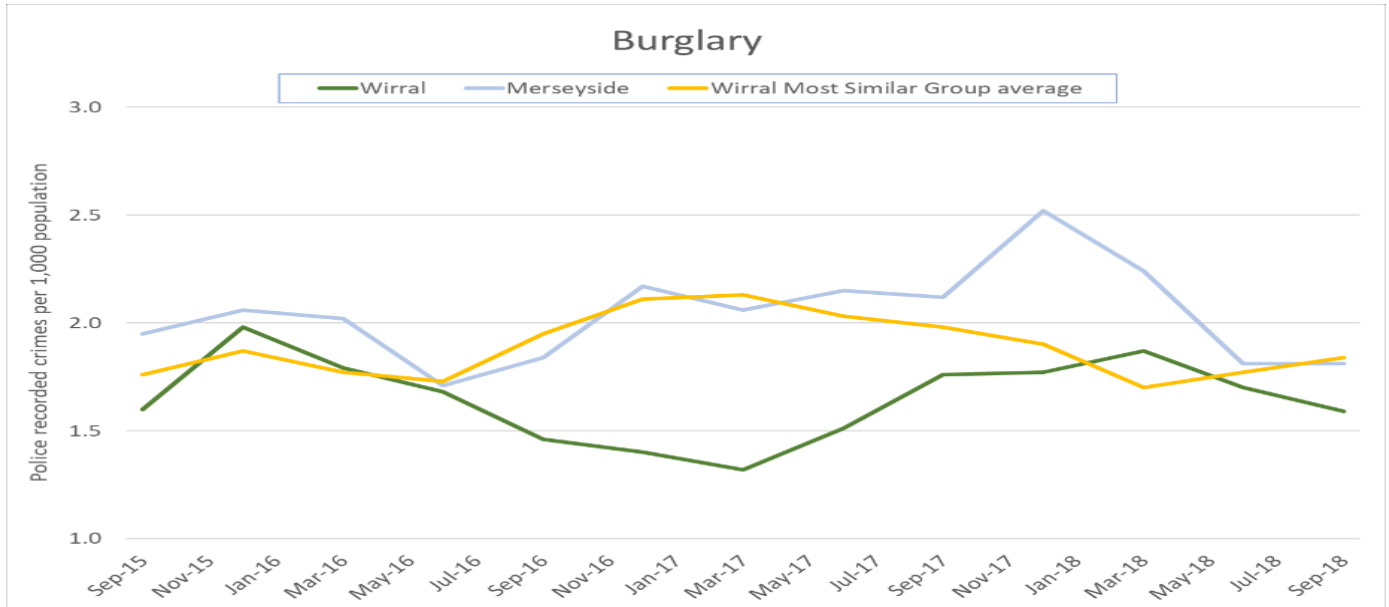
Source: Police data (2018) [www.police.uk](http://www.police.uk)

Robbery volume is highest in Birkenhead constituency with 1.1 offences per 1,000 population and lowest in Wirral South Constituency with 0.3. This compares with 1.4 across England.

## Burglary

This offence group includes the following crime types: Burglary Residential, Burglary Business and Community. Recorded burglary offences volume is similar to 2015, but higher than in 2016 and early 2017. Volume has been decreasing since quarter ending March 2018. The number of recorded crimes per 1,000 population is currently below Merseyside and Wirral's most similar group average (**figure 14**).

**Figure 14:** Burglary Crime Data – Rate per 1,000 residents for Wirral and comparators between 2015 to 2018

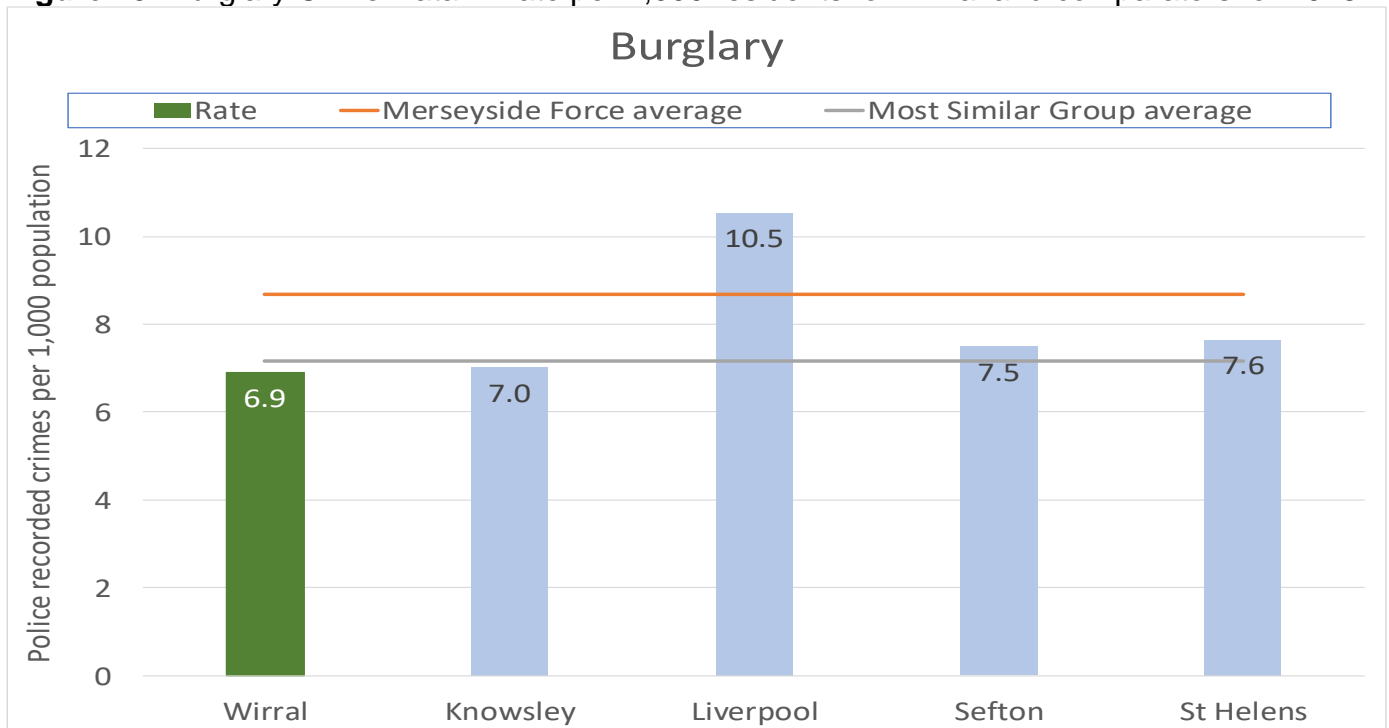


**Source:** Police data (2018) [www.police.uk](http://www.police.uk)

**Notes:** This chart shows how rates in Wirral, have changed over time, and by quarter per 1,000 residents over a 3-year period.

Wirral lies below both Merseyside average and Most similar areas lines, so its crime rate is lower than normal for both groups (**figure 15**).

**Figure 15:** Burglary Crime Data – Rate per 1,000 residents for Wirral and comparators for 2018



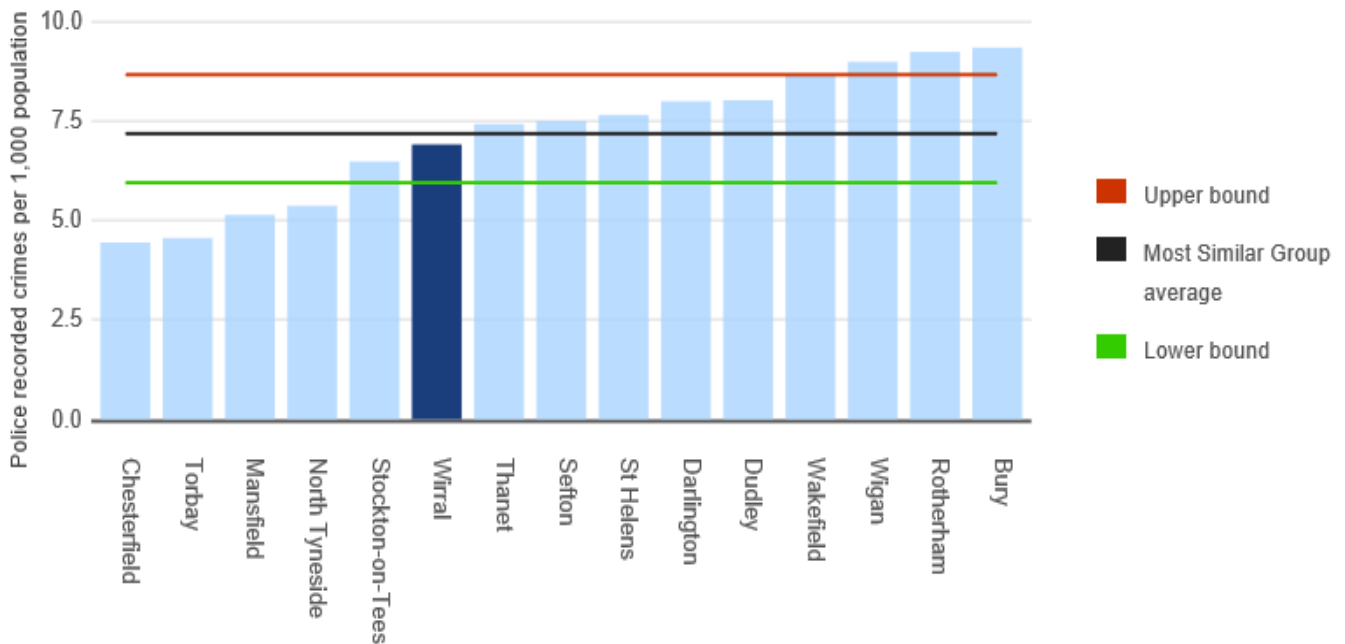
**Source:** Police data (2018) [www.police.uk](http://www.police.uk)

**Notes:** This chart compares the rate in Wirral to the average rate across the Merseyside. It shows the total number of incidents over a 12-month period per thousand residents, for the type selected.



Within our Most Similar Group of Community Safety Partnerships, Wirral has the 6<sup>th</sup> lowest rate of crime per 1,000 population (**figure 16**).

**Figure 16:** Burglary Crime Data – Rate per 1,000 residents for Wirral and comparators for 2018

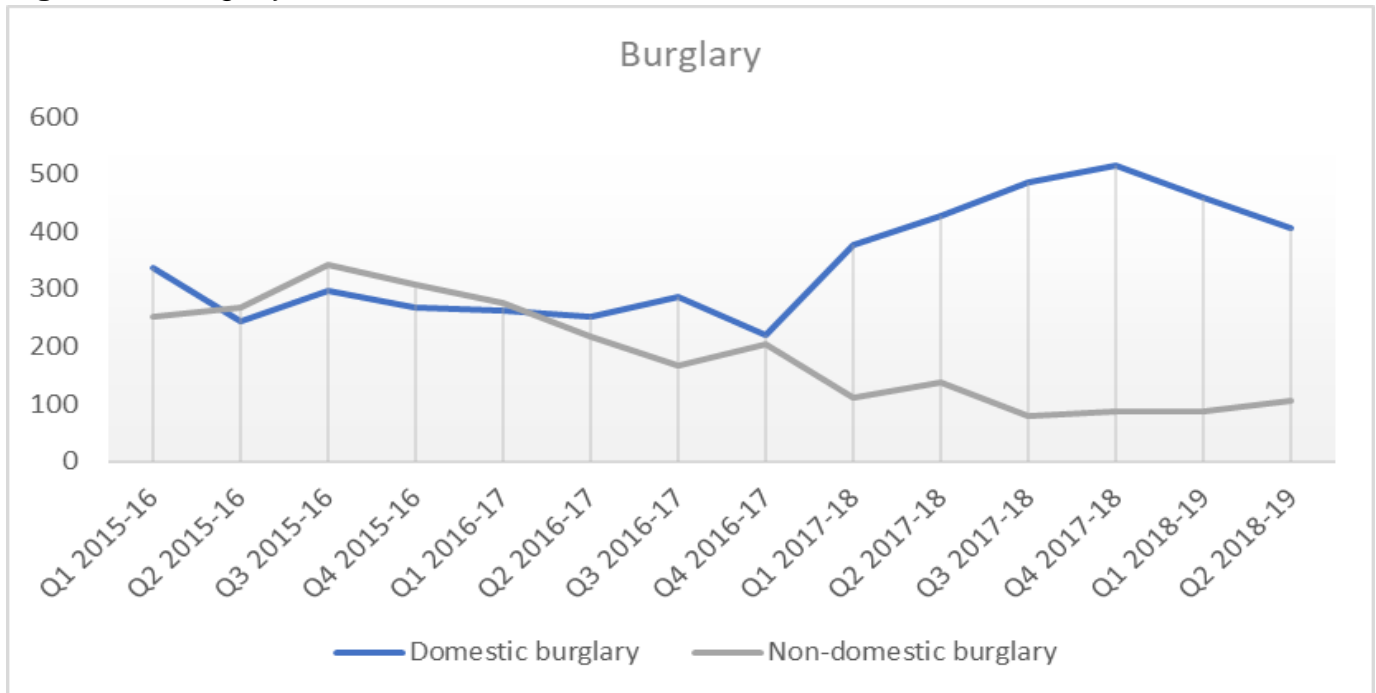


**Source:** Police data (2018) [www.police.uk](http://www.police.uk)

**Notes:** The red and green lines show how far the crime rate would normally vary from the average. Wirral lies between the red and green lines, so its burglary rate is normal for the group.

During the recent 12-month period, of burglary offences, 84% were domestic and 16% were non-domestic (**figure 17**).

**Figure 17:** Burglary Crime Data – Numbers for Wirral - 2015/16 to 2018/19



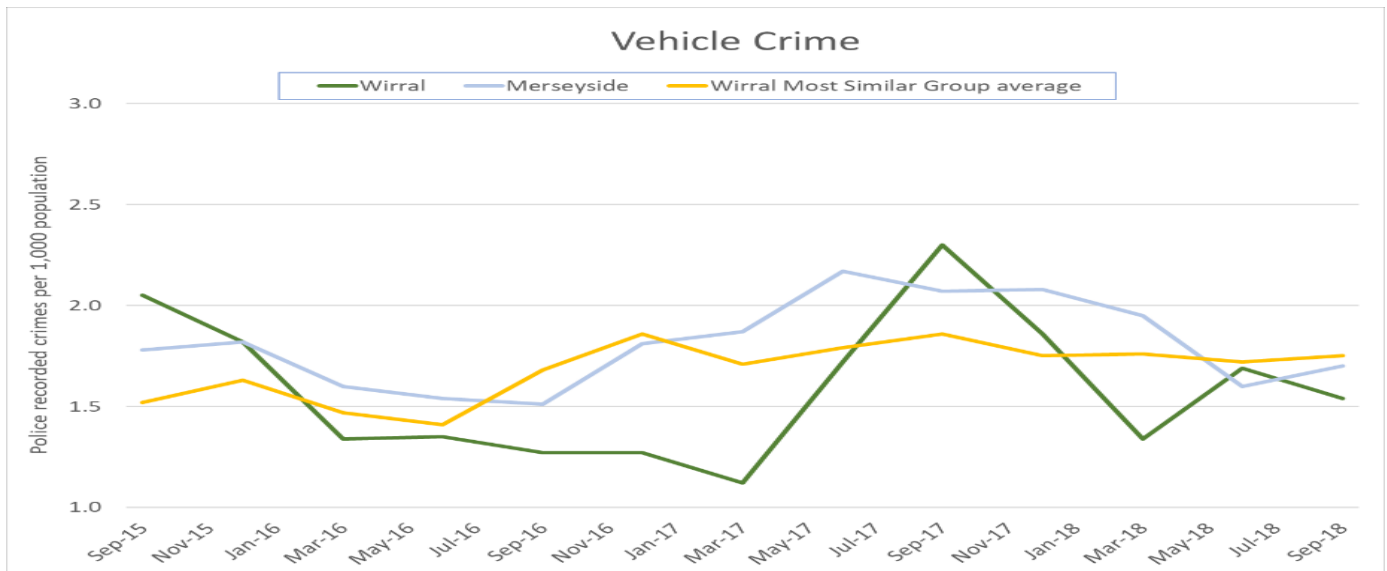
**Source:** Police data (2018) [www.police.uk](http://www.police.uk)

## Vehicle Crime

This offence group includes the following crime types: Aggravated Vehicle Taking, Theft from a Motor Vehicle, Theft or Unauthorised Taking of a Motor Vehicle, Interfering with a Motor Vehicle.

Recorded vehicle offences trend in Wirral peaked during quarter ending September 2017 with 2.3 crimes recorded crimes per 1,000 population. Currently at 1.5 per 1,000 population, volume is currently below Merseyside and Wirral's most similar group average (**figure 18**).

**Figure 18:** Vehicle Crime Data – Rate per 1,000 residents for Wirral and comparators between 2015 and 2018

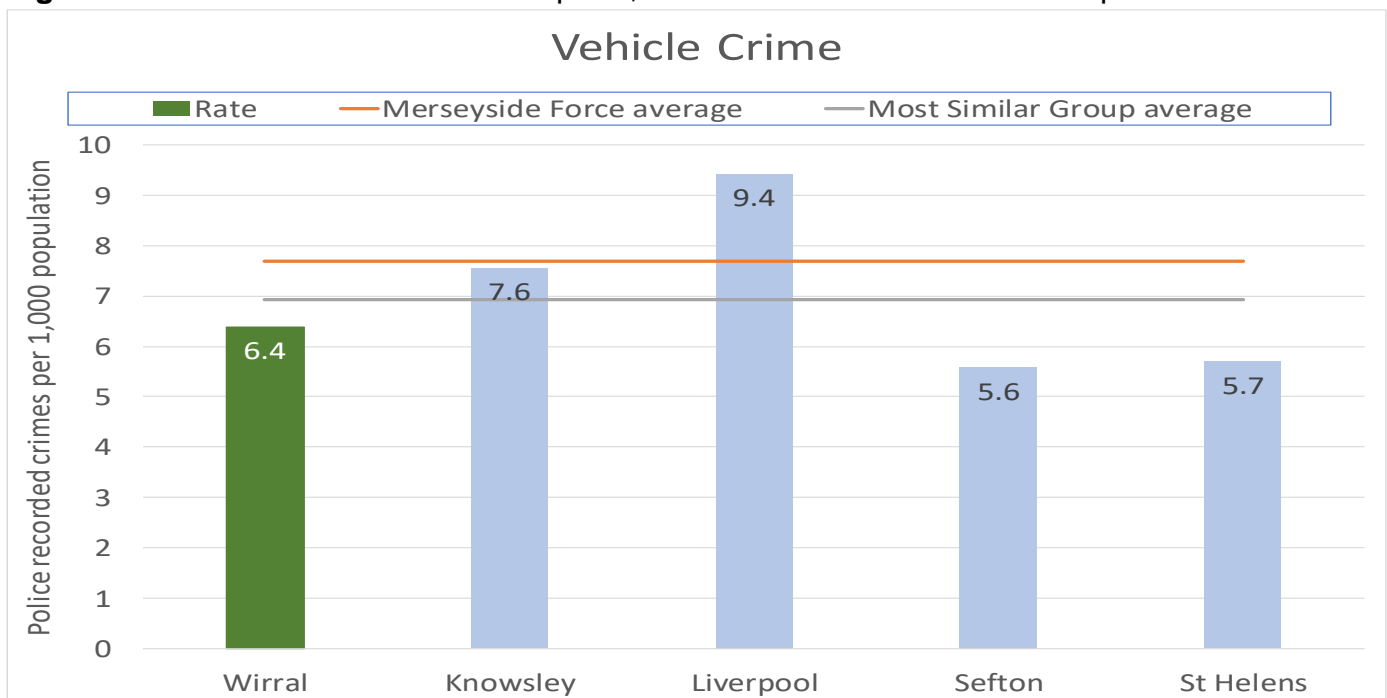


**Source:** Police data (2018) [www.police.uk](http://www.police.uk)

**Notes:** This chart shows how rates in Wirral, have changed over time, and by quarter per 1,000 residents over a 3-year period.

Wirral lies below both Merseyside average and Most similar areas lines, so its crime rate is lower than normal for both groups (**figure 19**).

**Figure 19:** Vehicle Crime Data – Rate per 1,000 residents for Wirral and comparators for 2018

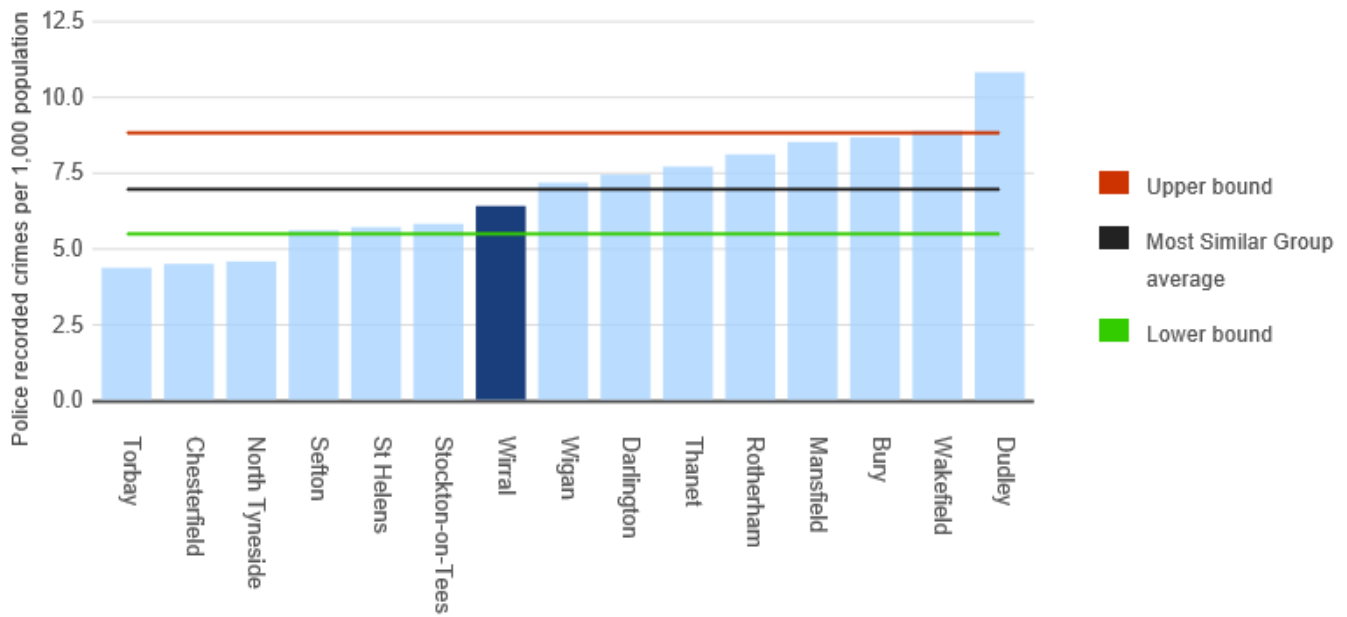


**Source:** Police data (2018) [www.police.uk](http://www.police.uk)

**Notes:** This chart compares the rate in Wirral to the average rate across the Merseyside. It shows the total number of incidents over a 12-month period per thousand residents, for the type selected.

Within our Most Similar Group of Community Safety Partnerships, Wirral has the 7th lowest rate of crime per 1,000 population (**figure 20**).

**Figure 20:** Vehicle Crime Data – Rate per 1,000 residents for Wirral and comparators for 2018

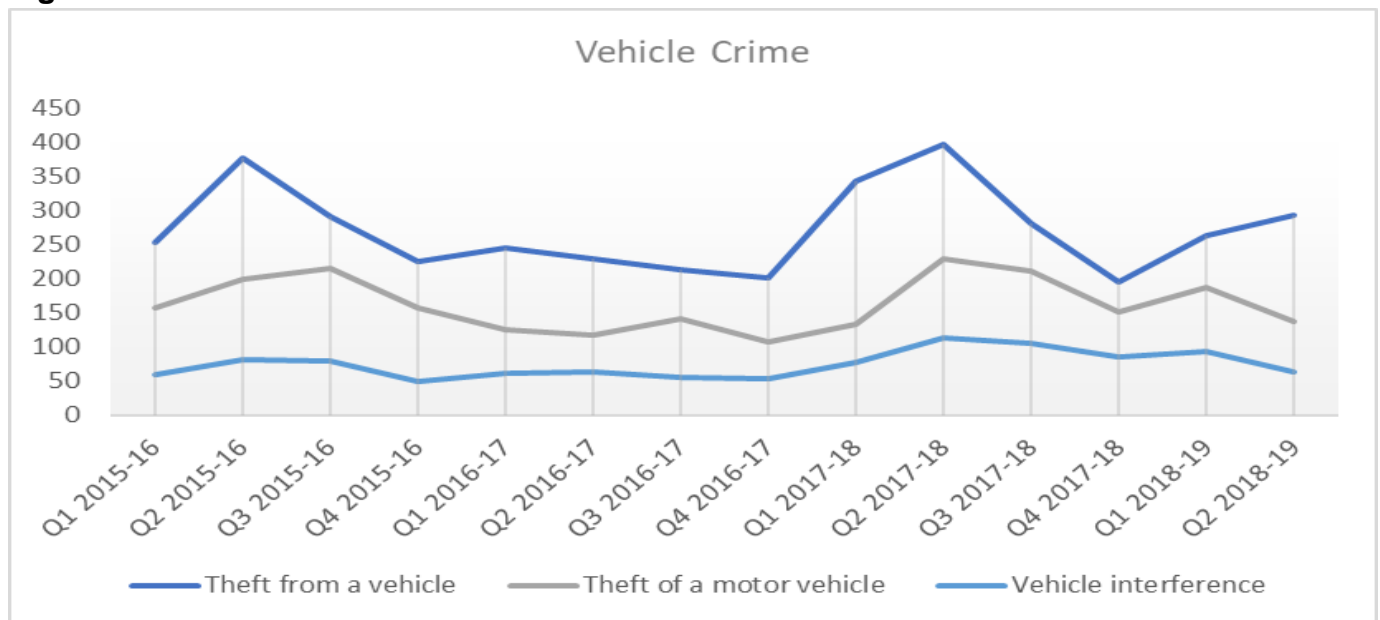


**Source:** Police data (2018) [www.police.uk](http://www.police.uk)

**Notes:** The red and green lines show how far the crime rate would normally vary from the average. Wirral lies between the red and green lines, so its burglary rate is normal for the group.

During the recent 12-month period, of vehicle offences, 50% were thefts from a vehicle, 33% thefts of a vehicle and 17% vehicle interference (**figure 21**).

**Figure 21:** Vehicle Crime Data – Numbers for Wirral - 2015/16 to 2018/19



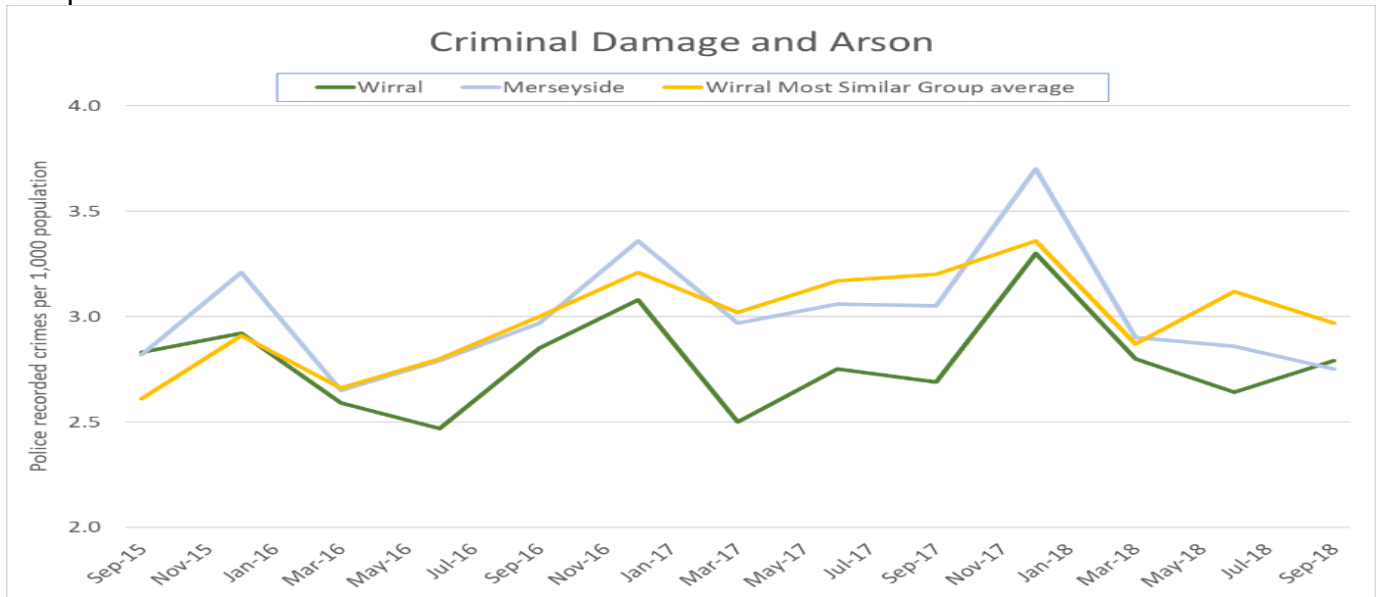
**Source:** Police data (2018) [www.police.uk](http://www.police.uk)

Vehicle crime volume is highest in Birkenhead constituency with 7.8 offences per 1,000 population and lowest in Wirral South constituency with 3.6. This compares with 7.8 across England.

## Criminal Damage and Arson

This offence group includes the following crime types: Criminal damage; Arson. Recorded criminal damage and arson offences trend in Wirral is variable due to seasonal changes, e.g. during Mischief night volume increases. These seasonal changes can be seen across Merseyside and our most similar groups. The number of recorded crimes per 1,000 population is mostly below Merseyside and Wirral's most similar group average, however during quarter ending September 2018 Wirral recorded 2.79 offences per 1,000 population compared Merseyside average of 2.75. **(figure 22).**

**Figure 22:** Criminal Damage and Arson Crime Data – Rate per 1,000 residents for Wirral and comparators between 2015 and 2018

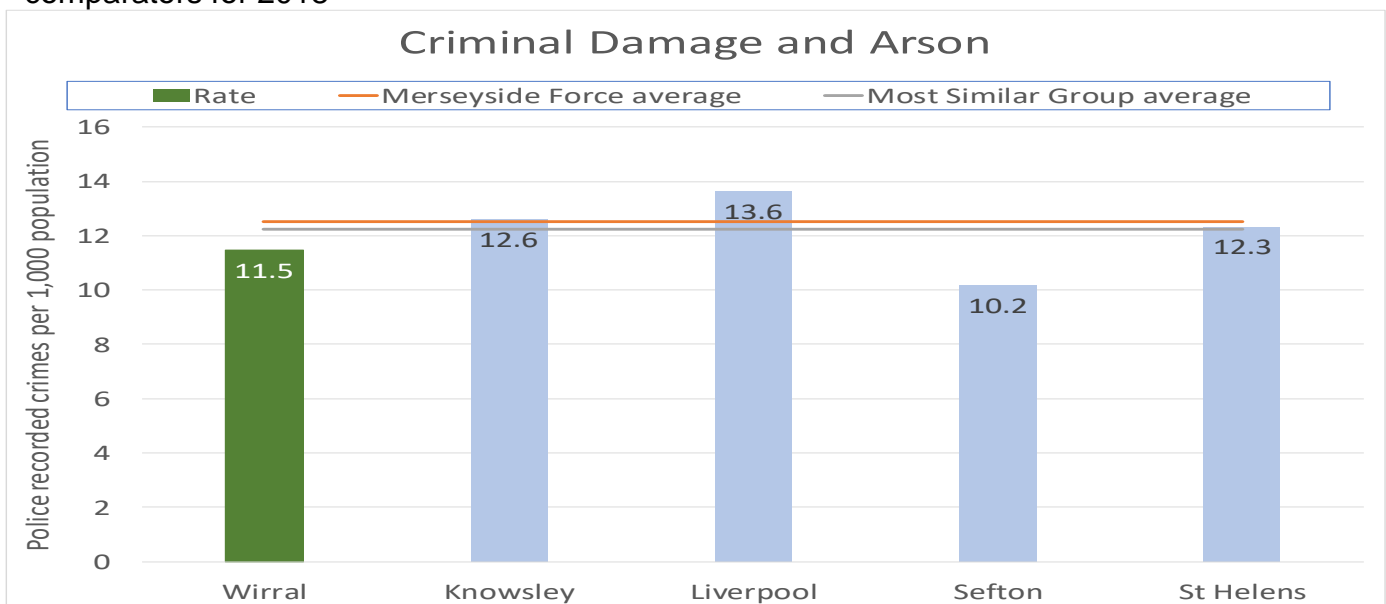


**Source:** Police data (2018) [www.police.uk](http://www.police.uk)

**Notes:** This chart shows how rates in Wirral, have changed over time, and by quarter per 1,000 residents over a 3-year period

Wirral lies below both Merseyside average and Most similar areas lines, so its crime rate is lower than normal for both groups **(figure 23).**

**Figure 23:** Criminal Damage and Arson Crime Data – Rate per 1,000 residents for Wirral and comparators for 2018

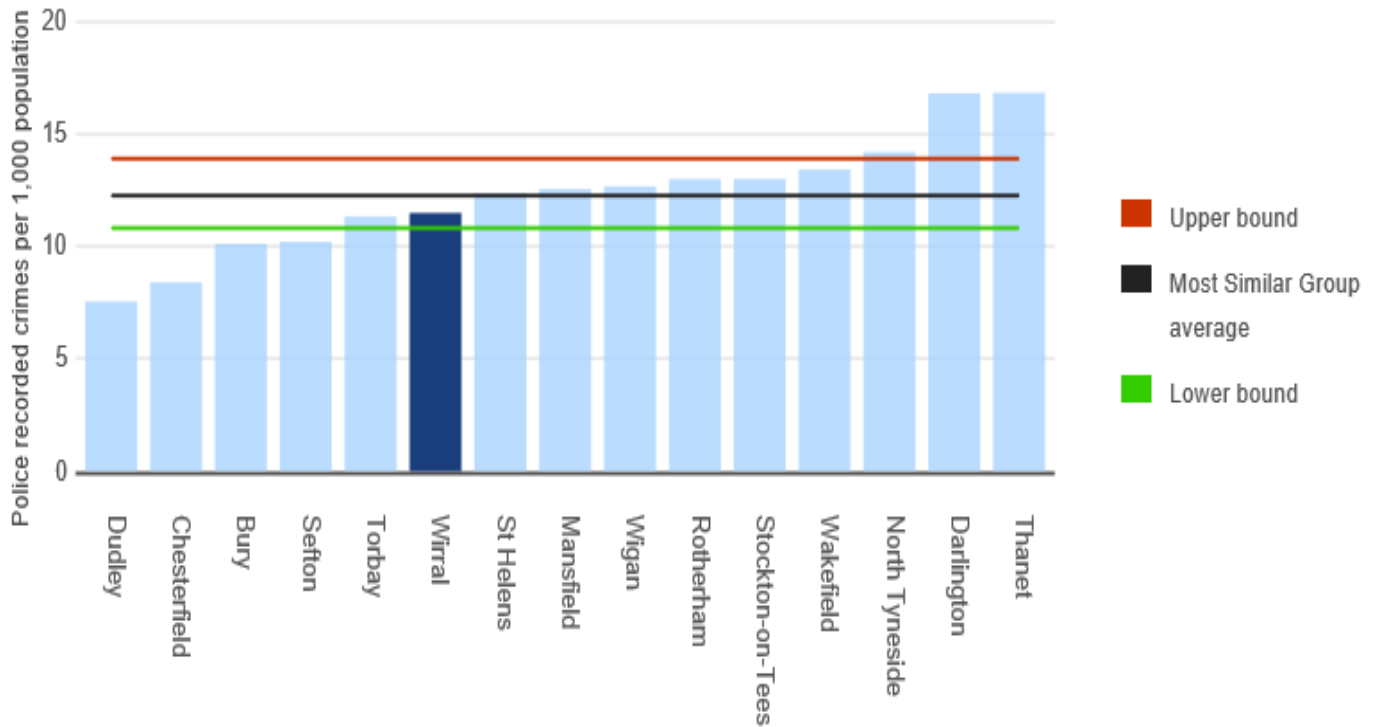


**Source:** Police data (2018) [www.police.uk](http://www.police.uk)

**Notes:** This chart compares the rate in Wirral to the average rate across the Merseyside. It shows the total number of incidents over a 12-month period per thousand residents, for the type selected.

Within our Most Similar Group of Community Safety Partnerships, Wirral has the 6<sup>th</sup> lowest rate of crime per 1,000 population (**figure 24**).

**Figure 24:** Criminal Damage and Arson Crime Data – Rate per 1,000 residents for Wirral and comparators for 2018



**Source:** Police data (2018) [www.police.uk](http://www.police.uk)

Note: The red and green lines show how far the crime rate would normally vary from the average. Wirral lies between the red and green lines, so its criminal damage rate is normal for the group.

During the recent 12-month period, of criminal damage and arson offences, 96% were criminal damage and 4% arson. Currently, 13% of all crime is criminal damage and arson (**figure 25**).

**Figure 25:** Criminal Damage and Arson Crime Data – Numbers for Wirral - 2015/16 to 2018/19

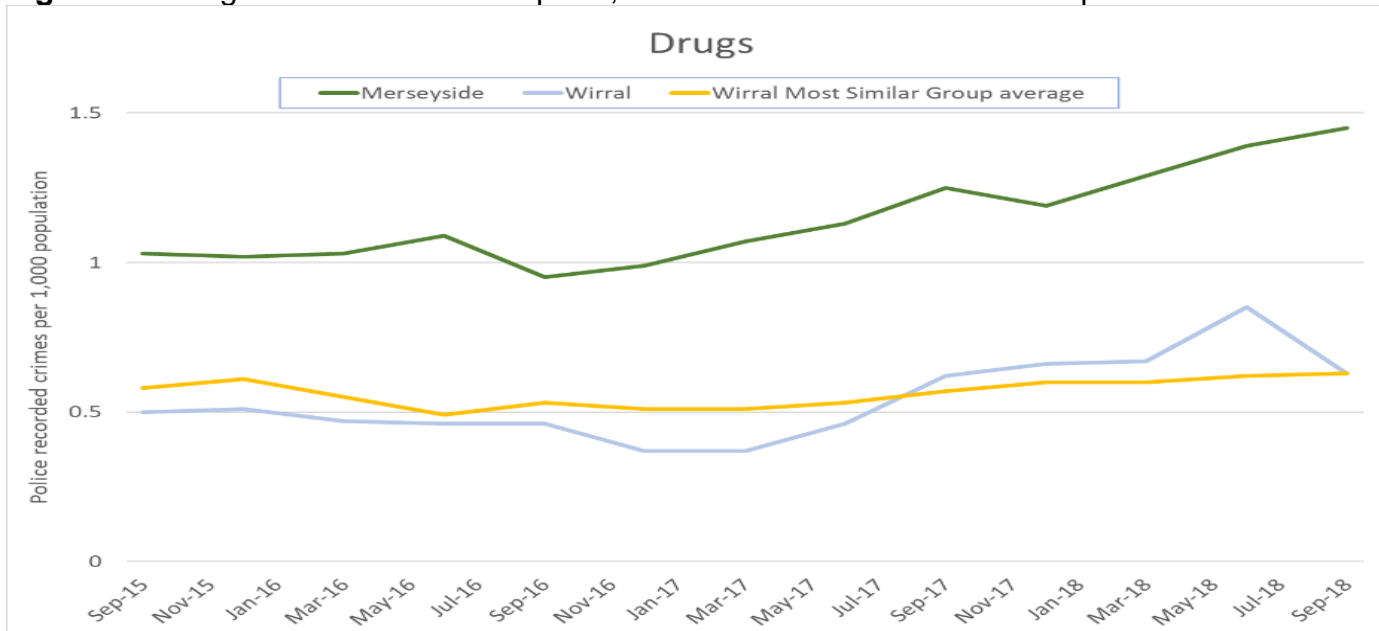


**Source:** Police data (2018) [www.police.uk](http://www.police.uk)

This offence group includes Trafficking in controlled drugs and Possession of drugs.

Recorded drug offences trend in Wirral peaked during quarter ending July 2018 with 0.85 offences recorded per 1,000 population. Currently at 0.63 per 1,000 population, volume is currently below Merseyside and equal to Wirral's most similar group average (**figure 26**).

**Figure 26:** Drugs Crime Data – Rate per 1,000 residents for Wirral and comparators for 2018

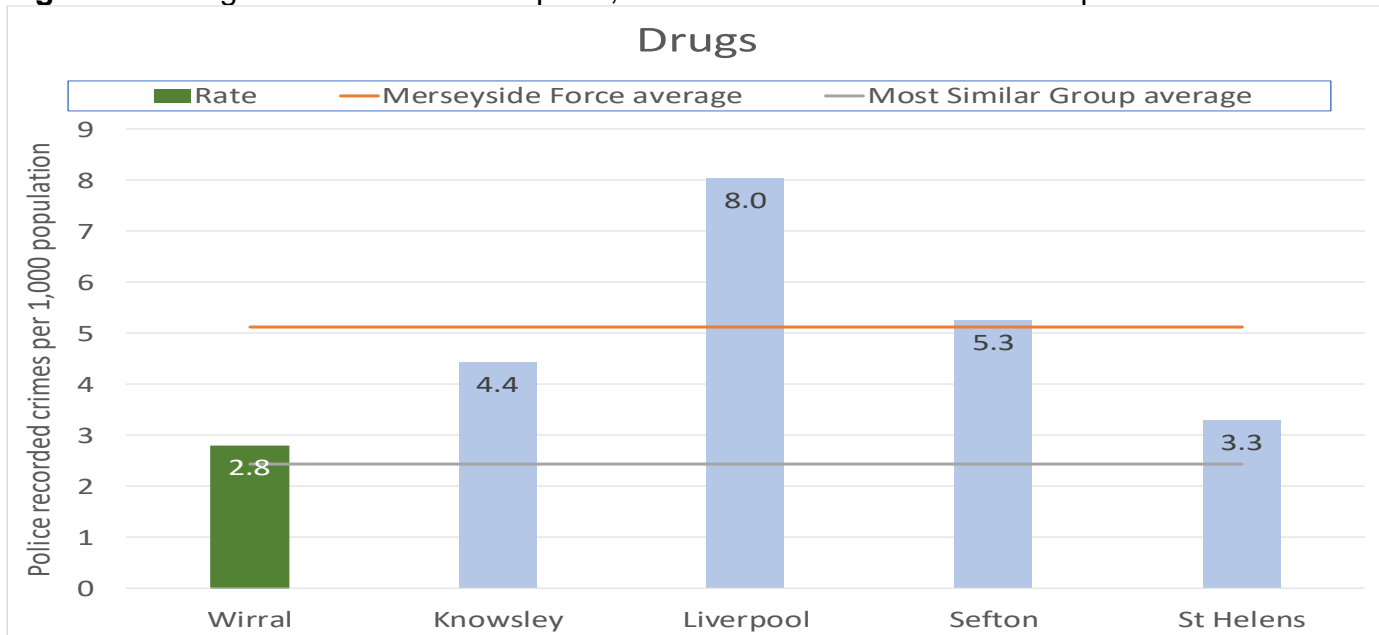


**Source:** Police data (2018) [www.police.uk](http://www.police.uk)

**Notes:** This chart shows how rates in Wirral, have changed over time, and by quarter per 1,000 residents over a 3-year period

Wirral lies below both Merseyside average and Most similar areas lines, so its crime rate is lower than normal for both groups (**figure 27**).

**Figure 27:** Drugs Crime Data – Rate per 1,000 residents for Wirral and comparators for 2018

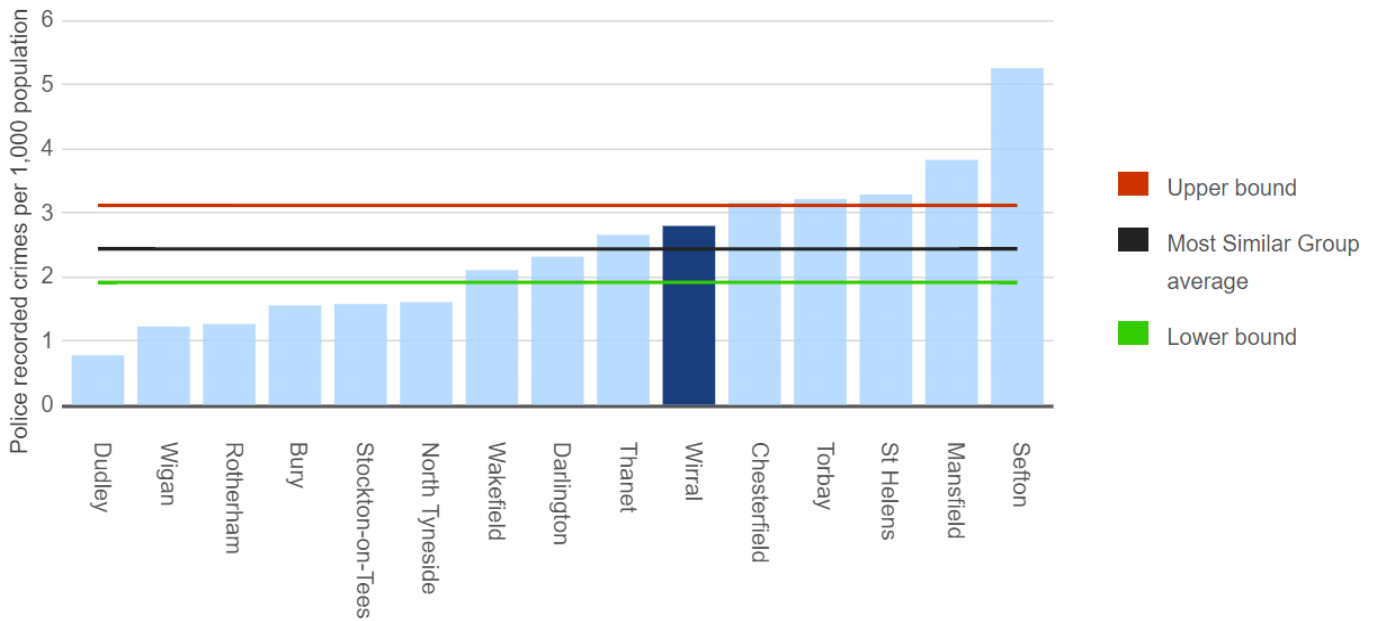


**Source:** Police data (2018) [www.police.uk](http://www.police.uk)

**Notes:** This chart compares the rate in Wirral to the average rate across the Merseyside. It shows the total number of incidents over a 12-month period per thousand residents, for the type selected.

Within our Most Similar Group of Community Safety Partnerships, Wirral has the 10<sup>th</sup> lowest, or 6<sup>th</sup> highest, rate of crime per 1,000 population (**figure 28**).

**Figure 28: Drugs Crime Data – Rate per 1,000 residents for Wirral and comparators for 2018**

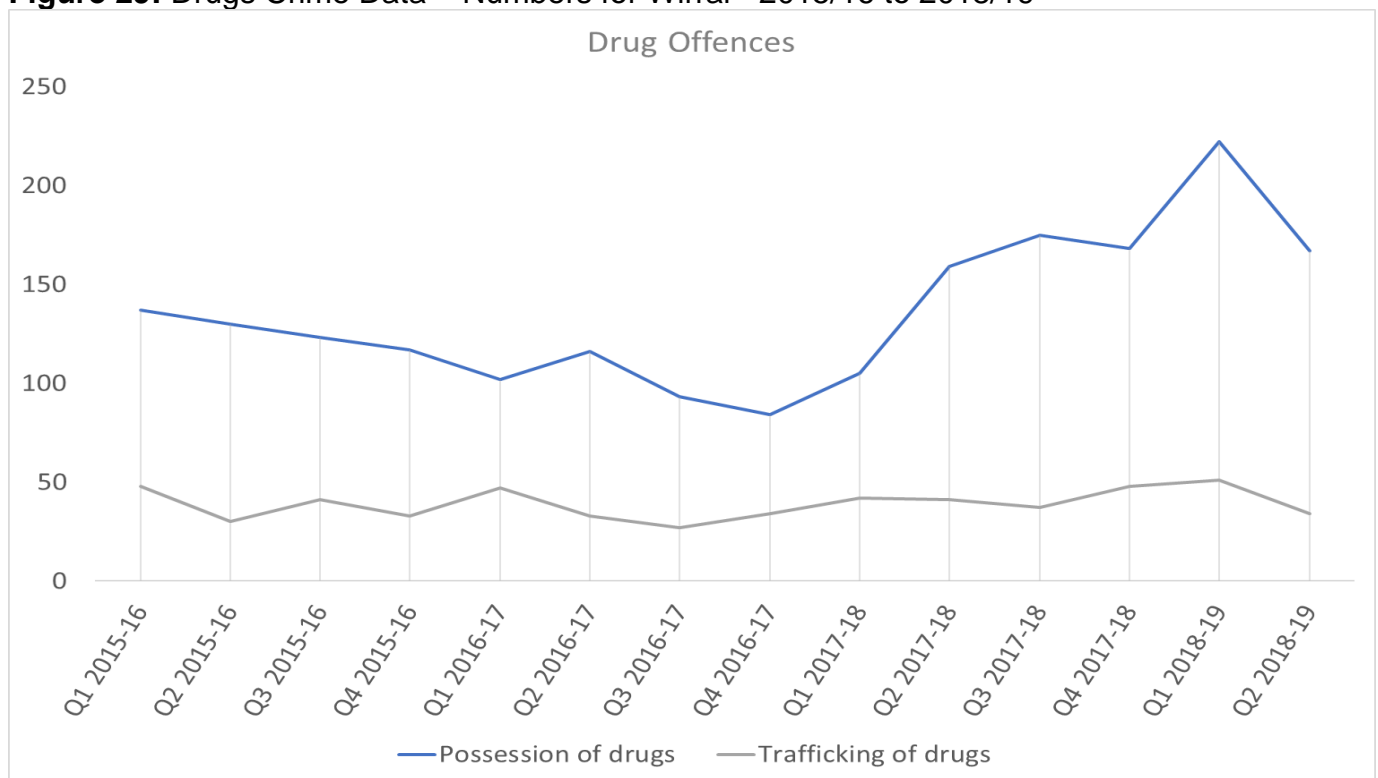


Source: Police data (2018) [www.police.uk](http://www.police.uk)

Note The red and green lines show how far the crime rate would normally vary from the average. Wirral lies between the red and green lines, so its criminal damage rate is normal for the group.

During the recent 12-month period, of drug offences, 81% were possession and 9% trafficking. Currently 4% of all crime is drugs (**figure 29**).

**Figure 29: Drugs Crime Data – Numbers for Wirral - 2015/16 to 2018/19**



Source: Police data (2018) [www.police.uk](http://www.police.uk)



## Anti-Social Behaviour

Anti-social behaviour covers a wide range of unacceptable activity that causes harm to an individual, to their community or to their environment. This could be an action by someone else that leaves you feeling alarmed, harassed or distressed. It also includes fear of crime or concern for public safety, public disorder or public nuisance. Examples of anti-social behaviour include:

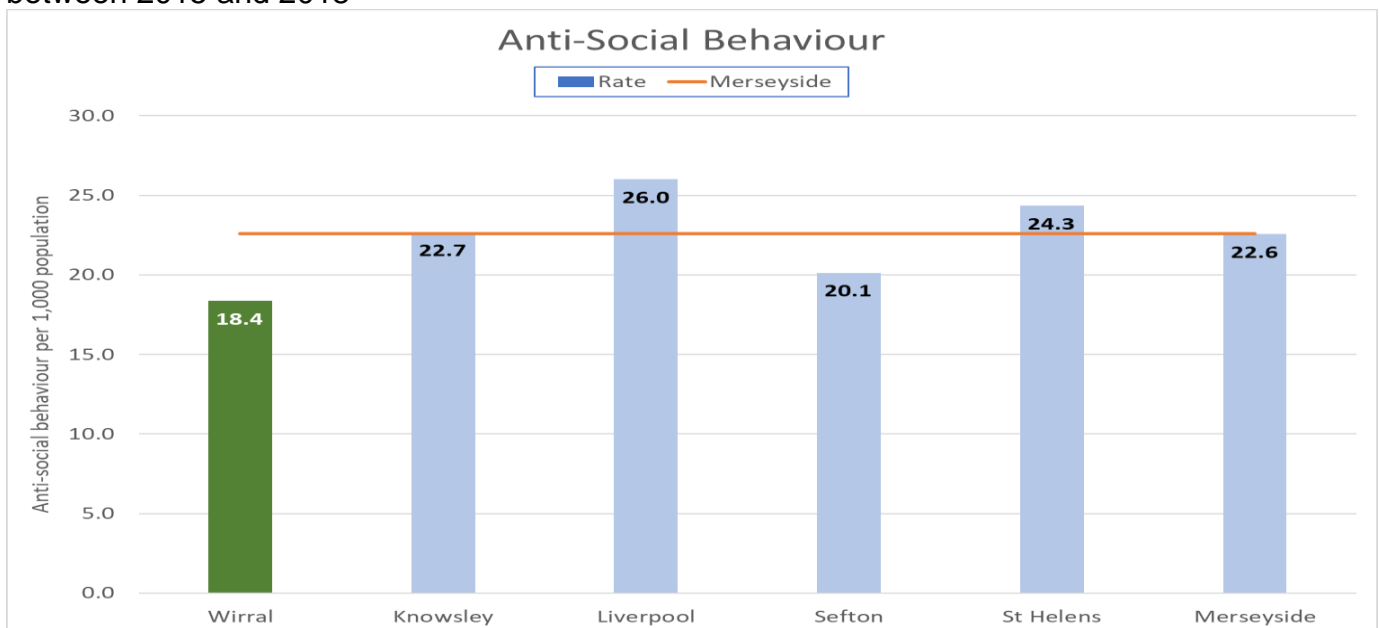
- Nuisance, rowdy or inconsiderate neighbours
- Vandalism, graffiti and fly-posting
- Street drinking
- Environmental damage including littering, dumping of rubbish and abandonment of cars
- Prostitution related activity
- Begging and vagrancy
- Fireworks misuse
- Inconsiderate or inappropriate use of vehicles

The police, local authorities and other community safety partner agencies, such as Fire & Rescue and social housing landlords, all have a responsibility to deal with anti-social behaviour and to help people who are suffering from it. If you are experiencing problems with anti-social behaviour, or have any concerns about it, or other community safety issues, you should contact your local council or call the non-emergency number, 101. In an emergency, call 999.

Incidents of anti-social behaviour reported to the police have been reducing. We expect to see seasonal increases during the warmer months and in October around Mischief Night however volumes did not increase as sharply this year compared to last year and has remained consistently lower throughout the year.

During the 12-month period May 2018 to April 2019 there were 18.4 reported anti-social behaviour incidents reported per 1,000 population in Wirral. This is the lowest rate in Merseyside and compares to 22.6 across Merseyside (**figure 30**).

**Figure 30:** Anti-social behaviour Data – Rate per 1,000 residents for Wirral and comparators between 2015 and 2018

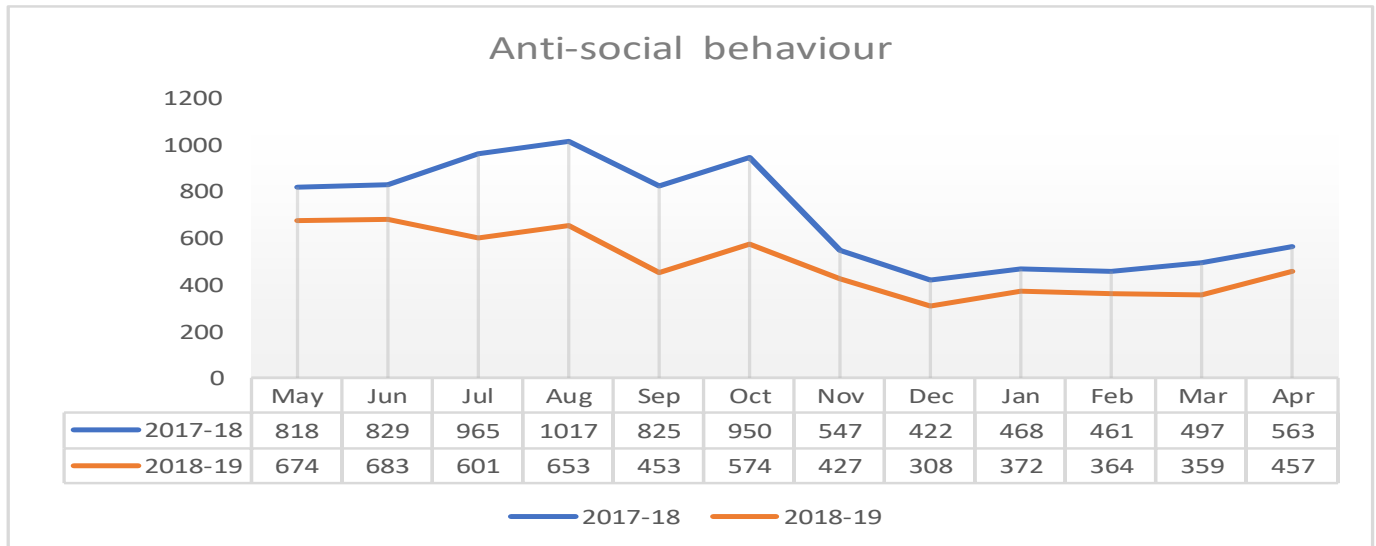


**Source:** Police data (2018) [www.police.uk](http://www.police.uk)

**Notes:** This chart compares the rate in Wirral to the average rate across the Merseyside. It shows the total number of incidents over a 12-month period per thousand residents between May 2018 and April 2019, for the type selected.

Comparison for 2017/18 and 2018/19 of all Wirral shows a reduction in the number of anti-social behaviour reports across the whole year (**figure 31**).

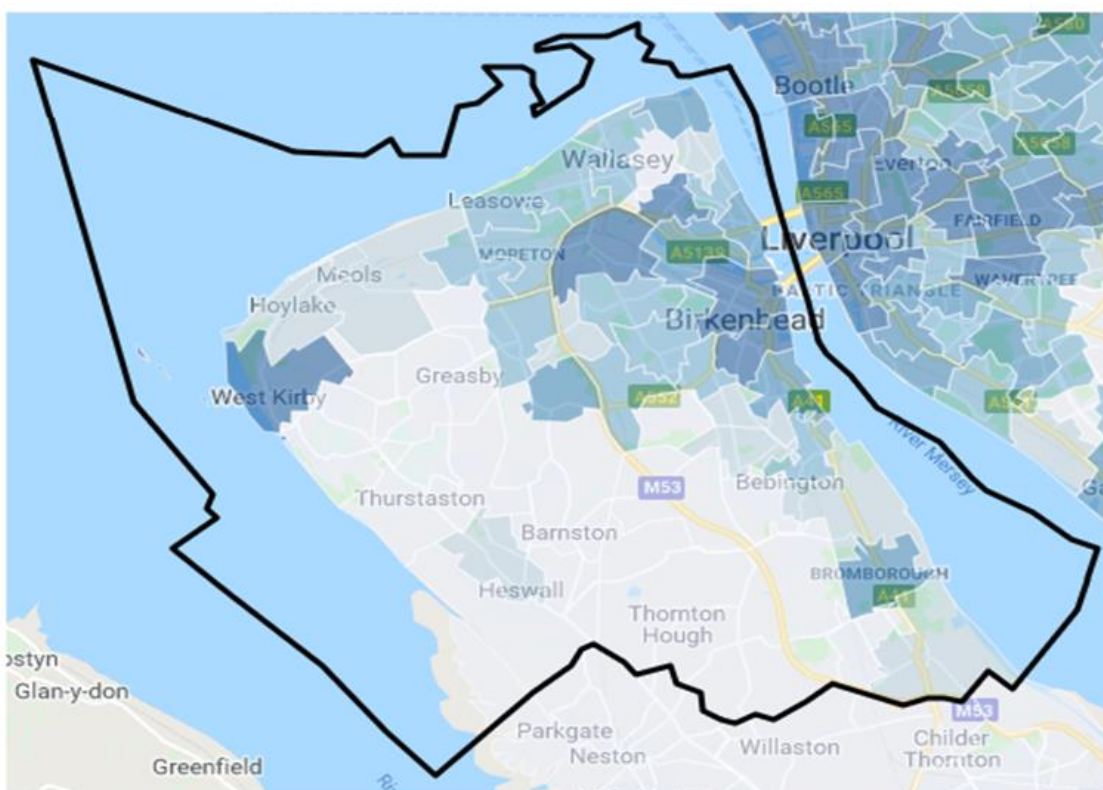
**Figure 31:** Anti-social behaviour data as numbers of incidents in Wirral between 2017/18 and 2018/19



Source: Police.uk <https://data.police.uk/data/>

Anti-social behaviour volume is highest in Birkenhead constituency with 31.8 offences per 1,000 population and lowest in Wirral South Constituency with 11.0. This compares with 22.5 across England. **Map 1** illustrates these higher figures

**Map 1:** Anti-social behaviour - Wirral - 2018



**Anti-social behaviour**

The colours on the map show Anti-social behaviour 12 month total (rate per 1,000 population)

Showing all areas at MSAO level

- 0.5 to 9.3
- 9.3 to 14.2
- 14.2 to 20.0
- 20.0 to 29.9
- 29.9 to 425.8

Source: Wirral Community Insight (2019) <https://wirral.communityinsight.org/>

To protect residents from the effects anti-social behaviour, Wirral employ a number of tactics; operations, tools and powers, including:

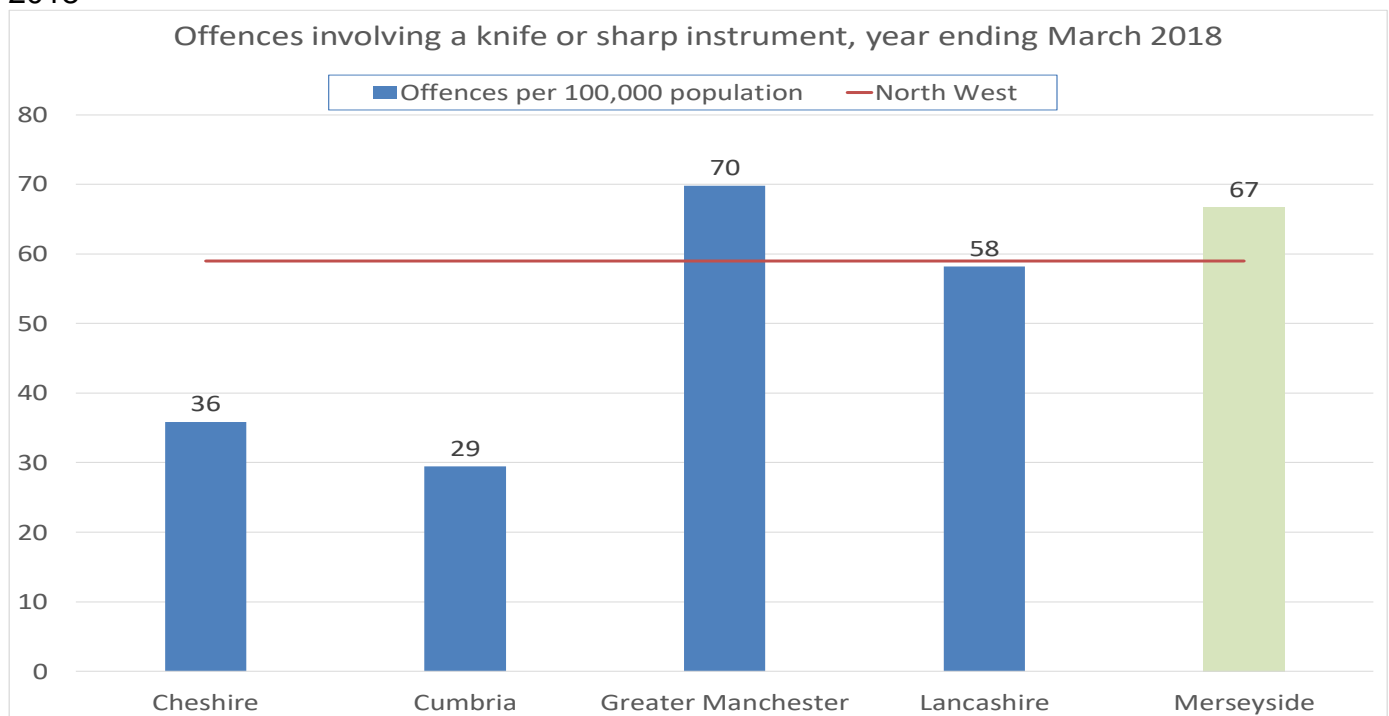
- Operations FeelSafe ~ Protecting vulnerable youths at risk in communities.
- Operation Bangor ~ Coordinated plan to ensure safety for Bonfire and Halloween.
- Restorative Justice ~ Victim involved in determining a process where the perpetrator is given the opportunity to understand the consequences of their actions.
- Use of tools and powers ~ Anti-Social Behaviour Crime and Policing Act 2014
- Police Community Support Officers (PCSO), Community Patrol, & Local Policing joint operations

## Knife Crime

Knife crime is any crime that involves a sharp or bladed instrument and can include anything from a kitchen knife or piece of glass to a potato peeler or knitting needle. Knife crime can range from a threat of violence, where someone is carrying a sharp or bladed instrument to someone who receives an injury as a result of a sharp or bladed instrument.

In the year ending March 2018, there were 67 knife crimes per 100,000 population across Merseyside compared to 57 in the previous year. This compares to the North West as whole with 59 offences per 100,000 population in the year ending March 2018 and 51 in the previous year. **(figure 32)** (Crime statistics are not published at Community Safety Partnership (CPS) level; therefore, we are not able to provide Wirral only data.)

**Figure 32:** Knife crime Data – Rate per 100,000 residents for Merseyside and comparators for 2018



Source: Office for National Statistics (2019)

<https://www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/crimeandjustice/datasets/offencesinvolvingtheuseofweaponsdatatables>

Merseyside Police are working closely with partner agencies across the region to promote and increase public confidence in the force's ability to reduce knife crime across our region. They do this by enforcing the law and also work to tackle the problem through education. Police want to educate young people from an early age about the dangers of carrying a knife and getting involved in violent crime. Schools have undertaken a range of activities, including assemblies, a truancy sweep during school hours and after school patrols.

If you are aware of a person carrying a knife and is a threat, phone the Police immediately on 999 or call Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111. If a child or young person is at risk of harm, please report it to the Wirral Integrated Front Door Team. If you need help yourself, you can also use these numbers. Mon-Fri, 9:00am – 5.00pm Tel: 0151 606 2008. Outside of these hours Tel: 0151 677 6557

## Motivations for Crime

The following are not offences/crimes defined in law, however a 'marker' or 'flag' is applied to offences where there has been motivation for the crime, for example motivated by a person's race (Hate Crime) or familial relationship (Domestic Abuse).

For example, as domestic abuse is not an offence defined in law, therefore, a domestic abuse marker or flag is applied to offences where domestic abuse has been the motivation for the crime. The list below is not exhaustive but demonstrates how police forces record and monitor these serious offences. [Home Office Counting Rules for recorded crime \(2019\)](#) describe them as:

### Hate Crime

- Any criminal offence which is perceived by the victim or any other person, to be motivated by hostility or prejudice based on a person's race or perceived race; religion or perceived religion; sexual orientation or perceived sexual orientation; disability or perceived disability and any crime motivated by hostility or prejudice against a person who is transgender or perceived to be transgender

### Domestic Abuse

- Any incident or pattern of incidents of controlling, coercive or threatening behaviour, violence or abuse between those aged 16 or over who are or have been intimate partners or family members regardless of gender or sexuality. This can encompass, but is not limited to, the following types of abuse:
  - Psychological
  - Physical
  - Sexual
  - Financial
  - Emotional

### Child Sexual Abuse

- Forcing or enticing a child or young person to take part in sexual activities, not necessarily involving a high level of violence, whether or not the child is aware of what is happening.

### Child Sexual Exploitation

- A form of child sexual abuse. It occurs where an individual or group takes advantage of an imbalance of power to coerce, manipulate or deceive a child or young person under the age of 18 into sexual activity
  - a) in exchange for something the victim wants or needs, and/or
  - b) (b) for the financial advantage or increased status of the perpetrator or facilitator.

### Honour Based Abuse

- A crime or incident involving violence, threats of violence, intimidation, coercion or abuse (including psychological, physical, sexual or emotional abuse), which has may have been committed to protect or defend the honour of an individual, family or community for alleged or perceived breaches of the family and/or community's code of behaviour

## What are we doing and why?

### Working in Partnership to tackle serious violence

Merseyside Police Crime Commissioner is meeting with a range of partners to seek agreement to establishing the multi-agency partnership, with the aim of preventing and reducing the incidences of violence, as well as identifying the underlying reasons for the recent increase in serious crime on Merseyside.

This will include producing a 10-year Violence Reduction strategy that will lay out the partnership's objectives and set out the benchmark data that will be used to measure the impact of the partnership's work.

The partnership will build on what works and share best practice, with research already taking place to assess similar models in other areas, including Glasgow, Manchester and London and overseas in Colombia, the USA and Canada.

### The Wirral Plan – Wirral's Neighbourhoods are Safe

The [Wirral Plan, published in June 2015, sets out a series of 20 pledges](https://www.wirral.gov.uk/about-council/wirral-plan-2020-vision/wirral-plan-strategies#overlay-context=about-council/wirral-plan-2020-vision) which the council and its partners will work to achieve by 2020. Pledge 19 is Wirral's Neighbourhoods are Safe. We have pledged that we will place a greater emphasis on activities which will positively engage young people and communities to prevent anti-social behaviour, and support people that have been affected. We will also look at improving potential licensing and planning enforcement powers. <https://www.wirral.gov.uk/about-council/wirral-plan-2020-vision/wirral-plan-strategies#overlay-context=about-council/wirral-plan-2020-vision>

#### We are monitoring progress by:

- Reports of anti-social behaviour to Merseyside Police
  - Reduction in reports of anti-social behaviour of 30% compared to 8,617 reported incidents last year
- Proportion of residents who state they feel safe when outside in their local area (daytime)
  - 2017 Wirral Residents Survey indicates 90% feel safe
- Proportion of residents who state they feel safe when outside in their local area (After Dark)
  - 2017 Wirral Residents Survey indicates 51% feel safe
- Number of crimes recorded by the police
  - There has been a 10.5% rise in the number of crimes recorded between 17/18 and 18/19. However, Wirral maintains the 4th lowest crime rate compared to the Home Office 'family' of 15 demographically comparable Community Safety Partnerships. The rise in certain crime types being reported by the Home Office is not reflected in statistics from the Office for National Statistics. This is because the recording standards the Police use for recorded crime data have been changed to reflect legislation and need, whilst the Crime Survey for England and Wales, (previously British Crime Survey) remains consistent.

#### To support progress, we have the following measures in place:

- First-time entrants to the youth justice system (10-17 year olds, as a rate per 100,000 of the local general population)



- Violence that causes an injury to an individual victim (not including homicide) recorded by the Police
  - There was an increase of 10% in crimes of ‘violence with injury’ compared to last year, (in which there were 2,569). However, this increase is consistent with all other 15 Community Safety Partnerships with which Wirral is benchmarked in the Home Office ‘Most Similar’ Group. Wirral is ranked 4th lowest amongst 15 for violence with injury an improvement on 5th lowest last year.
- Percentage of Youth Re-Offending (age 10-17 years)

### **Key priorities that enable us to accomplish our aims through various activities, such as:**

#### Build Stronger and more confident communities where people feel safe

- Using the results of Wirral’s Residents Survey, we will develop actions to target those areas of the community who feel unsafe to increase feelings of safety:
  - Community Connectors and engaging agencies work with communities to build social cohesion and identify and support the vulnerable and isolated.
  - Since the ‘Connect Us’ project was launched in February 2017 Community Connectors have knocked on 56,700 doors of which 12,900 were answered by occupants.
  - The Good Neighbour Scheme (GNS) works in collaboration with Wirral Older People’s Parliament and Wirral Together. GNS aims to reignite community spirit where people feel valued and safe in their neighbourhoods, encouraging them to look out for each other and feel part of a friendly, thriving and vibrant neighbourhood. To date 5,500 of Wirral households, community premises and commercial businesses have opted to demonstrate their pride in where they live by displaying a GNS sticker in their door.
  - 7,533 LED lanterns installed, the remaining 27,655 lanterns to be installed over by March 2020. These units are mainly in residential areas.

#### Improve Community Safety by tackling the cause and impact of crime and anti-social behaviour

- Build on the success of the Community Days of Action
  - Merseyside Fire Service along with partner agencies completed 11 community action days rebranded under the banner “Wirral Together” arson awareness days.

#### Protect the most vulnerable people in our communities

- Develop a strategy and deliver a work programme to combat Modern Slavery wherever it may occur on Wirral
  - Wirral Modern Slavery Conference attracted speakers from the Salvation Army, Gangmasters Labour Abuse Authority, the Home Office Immigration, Environmental Health and the Merseyside Police, ‘Operation Sanctuary’
  - Modern Slavery Training has been provided to over 100 trainees in Wirral, targeted those agencies dealing with vulnerable service users.

#### Deliver greater integration with all relevant partner agencies to achieve a Safer Wirral

- Continue to build on the success of the Safer Wirral Hub Model by reviewing services and delivery teams such as the Integrated Front Door, Early Help and Interventions (Child Sexual Exploitation, Child Exploitation, Modern Slavery etc), to assess their suitability for inclusion in Phase 2 of the Safer Wirral Hub.

### Wirral Neighbourhoods – ASB, Crime and Deprivation

#### Index of Multiple Deprivation (IMD)

The Index of Multiple Deprivation 2015 is the official measure of relative deprivation for small areas in England. The Index of Multiple Deprivation ranks every small area in England from 1 (most deprived area) to 32,844 (least deprived area). These Lower-layer Super Output Areas are designed to be of a similar population size with an average of 1,500 residents each and are a standard way of dividing up the country.

To help with this, deprivation 'deciles' (tenths of the population) are published alongside ranks. Deciles are calculated by ranking the 32,844 small areas in England from most deprived to least deprived and dividing them into 10 equal groups.

These range from the most deprived 10 per cent of small areas nationally to the least deprived 10 per cent of small areas nationally.

There are 7 domains of deprivation included in the index:

- Income (22.5%)
- Employment (22.5%)
- Education (13.5%)
- Crime (9.3%)
- Barriers to housing and services (9.3%)
- Living environment (9.3%)

The index can be used to compare small areas across England, identify the most deprived and compare ranks.

Wirral was the 66th most deprived authority (of 326 authorities) in England according to the 2015 IMD (1 the being most deprived, 326 the least deprived). Wirral ranked 60<sup>th</sup> in the previous IMD in 2010. This ranking of 66, means Wirral is no longer classified as being one of the 20% most deprived authorities in England (as it was previous IMDs). This could mean that relative to other authorities, Wirral has become less deprived, or that other authorities in England have become more deprived (the IMD is a relative Index, areas are always judged in relation to one another, they are not compared historically).

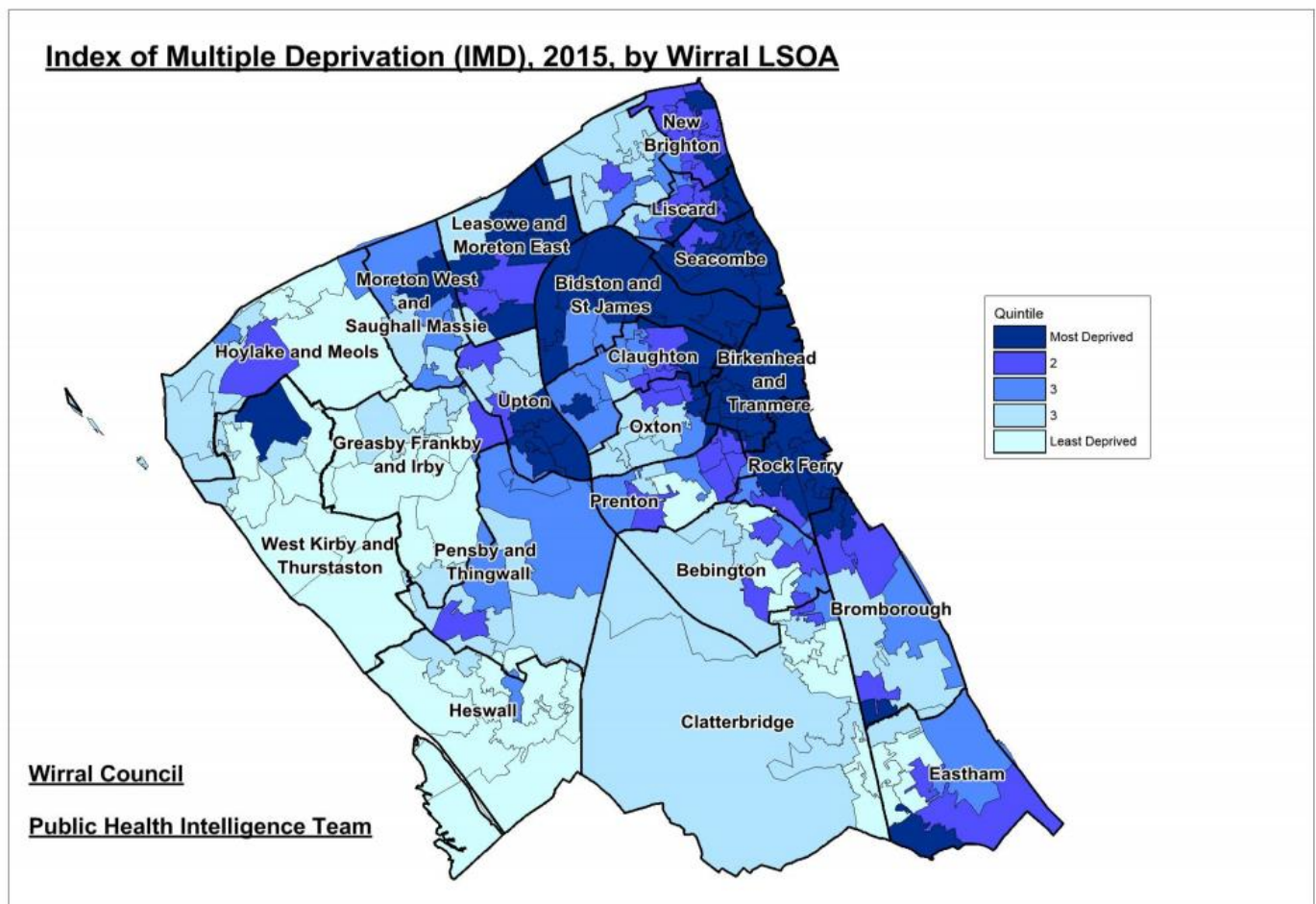
The below **map 2** shows Wirral's neighbourhoods (or wards) by Parliamentary Constituency

The map below also evidences the disparate make-up of Wirral, with parts of the borough in being in the most deprived in England and other parts in the least deprived. Parts of Birkenhead and Wallasey are in the top 20% of most deprived in England whilst most of Wirral West and parts of Wirral South are in the 20% least deprived.

Indices of Deprivation will be published in Autumn 2019 – data will be presented on [Wirral Intelligence service website](#) and [Wirral Local Insight tool](#).



**Map 2:** Index of Multiple Deprivation (IMD) results for Wirral by Lower Super Output Area (2015)



Source: Wirral Intelligence Service (2015) <https://www.wirralintelligenceservice.org/jsna/indices-of-deprivation-2015/>

The Index of Multiple Deprivation (IMD) does not publish neighbourhood level figures. Rather, it provides data and rankings for smaller geographical areas (called small areas). Each small area has a similar population size of around 1,500 residents. Wirral Intelligence Service has mapped these small areas to Wirral neighbourhoods making it possible to compare the extent of each neighbourhood that is most and least deprived. Each Wirral neighbourhood contains between 5 and 13 small areas depending on population levels within the neighbourhood.

Crime is an important feature of deprivation that has major effects on individuals and communities. The Crime Domain measures the risk of personal and material victimisation at a local level.

Examining multiple and crime deprivation at neighbourhood level, the contrast between some neighbourhoods is demonstrated throughout this section of the document.

Bidston & James has most areas in multiple deprivation, with 89% of the neighbourhood in the top 10% most deprived in the country, all of Bidston & St James is in the top 20% most deprived in the country. 33% of the neighbourhood ranks in the top 20% highest crime rates in England.

Conversely, 73% of Heswall is in the 20% least deprived in the country with almost half is in the 10% least deprived. Heswall residents are less likely to be victims of crime with 73% in the to 10% lowest crime decile, and the whole of Heswall in the top 20%.

The below **figure 33** shows the percentage of small areas within each neighbourhood in the top and bottom 10% and 20% for multiple deprivation and crime deprivation (which is volume of crime).

**Figure 33:** Index of Multiple Deprivation national comparison to Wirral wards and percentage of those within given deciles with comparison to crime data for England (2015)

Neighbourhood	% small areas in Most and Least Multiple Deprivation Ranking in England				% small areas in Most and Least Crime Ranking in England			
	Most Deprived 10%	Most Deprived 20%	Least Deprived 10%	Least Deprived 20%	Crime Highest 10%	Crime Highest 20%	Crime Lowest 10%	Crime Lowest 20%
Bidston and St. James	89%	100%			33%	33%		
Seacombe	89%	90%			30%	40%		
Birkenhead and Tranmere	67%	92%			50%	83%		
Rock Ferry	46%	62%			8%	31%		
Leasowe and Moreton East	38%	63%						
Upton	27%	45%				9%	9%	18%
Claughton	25%	38%			13%	25%		
Moreton West and Saughall Massie	20%	50%						20%
Liscard	17%	33%			8%	17%		
New Brighton	13%	25%				25%		
Bromborough	10%	30%				20%		50%
West Kirby and Thurstaston		13%	25%	63%			75%	88%
Prenton				17%			33%	
Oxton								
Bebington				20%			10%	50%
Eastham			13%	50%			40%	50%
Pensby and Thingwall							40%	80%
Wallasey								30%
Hoylake and Meols			20%	40%			20%	30%
Clatterbridge			44%	56%			89%	89%
Greasby, Frankby and Irby			40%	50%			60%	80%
Heswall			45%	73%			73%	100%

**Source:** (Small areas) Gov.uk (2019) <https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/english-indices-of-deprivation-2015>

**Notes:** The Index of Multiple Deprivation does not publish data at neighbourhood/ward level. To compare data within Local Authorities, LA's are advised to use local mapping tools. Wirral Intelligence Service has mapped the small areas to our neighbourhoods, however, please note some with cross boundaries due to geographical make-up.

**Figure 33** above demonstrates how small areas within Wirral neighbourhood's compares against all other small areas in England for multiple deprivation and crime deprivation. The following tables compare anti-social behaviour and crime rates per 1,000 households, by category by neighbourhoods in each parliamentary constituency to the rest of England, North West and Liverpool City Region

**Please note:** Figures 34 to 37 show the 12-month total of neighbourhood-level burglaries, and as a rate per 1,000 households. This is different to content between pages 7 and 24 that uses total population (322,796)

- Burglary is defined using a series of National Crime Recording System codes covering different types of this crime.
- The incidents were located to the point at which they occurred and allocated to the appropriate output area and lower super output area (LSOA).
- Rate calculated as = (Burglary recorded offences)/(All households (census KS402)) x 1000

### Wirral West (Figure 34)

- Low anti-social behaviour and overall low crime rates.

ASB & Crime per 1,000 households 12 Months March 2018 to February 2019					
	Anti-social Behaviour	Criminal Damage	Vehicle Crime	Burglary	Violence and Sexual Offences
England	22.5	9.2	7.8	17.1	29.1
North West	21.9	11.5	7.7	19.2	36.9
Liverpool City Region	21.8	11.4	6.8	16.1	34.6
Wirral	19.2	10.8	6	13.9	30.7
Birkenhead Constituency	31.8	17.1	7.8	17.1	49.8
Wallasey Constituency	17.9	11.3	7.2	14.9	31
Wirral South Constituency	11	6.5	3.6	12.7	18.9
Wirral West Constituency	12.7	6.1	4.4	9.4	17.2
Upton	15.7	11.7	4.6	10.4	32.3
Pensby and Thingwall	7.2	3.9	3.4	6.6	12.9
Hoylake and Meols	21.3	7.3	4.7	15.2	17.5
West Kirby and Thurstaston	11.5	4.5	6.5	8.3	12.4
Greasby, Frankby and Irby	7.4	2.2	3	6.2	7.8

### Wallasey (Figure 35)

- Low anti-social behaviour rates compared to England average. Vehicle crime and burglary relatively high in Liscard (which contains a shopping precinct and bars).

ASB & Crime per 1,000 households 12 Months March 2018 to February 2019					
	Anti-social Behaviour	Criminal Damage	Vehicle Crime	Burglary	Violence and Sexual Offences
England	22.5	9.2	7.8	17.1	29.1
North West	21.9	11.5	7.7	19.2	36.9
Liverpool City Region	21.8	11.4	6.8	16.1	34.6
Wirral	19.2	10.8	6	13.9	30.7
Birkenhead Constituency	31.8	17.1	7.8	17.1	49.8
Wallasey Constituency	17.9	11.3	7.2	14.9	31
Wirral South Constituency	11	6.5	3.6	12.7	18.9
Wirral West Constituency	12.7	6.1	4.4	9.4	17.2
Seacombe	25.3	19.6	9.9	20.4	52.9
Leasowe and Moreton East	16.6	11.9	5.8	14.8	32.9
Liscard	20.3	12.4	8.3	18.8	33.9
New Brighton	17.5	8.2	7.4	12.4	27.6
Moreton West and Saughall Massie	13.9	7.9	4.3	11.8	21.7
Wallasey	13.1	6.9	6.9	10.3	14.9

## Birkenhead (Figure 36)

- Birkenhead & Tranmere neighbourhood has noticeably high levels and anti-social behaviour and crime. This is Wirral's main shopping and night-time economy area with a high concentration of bars, clubs and shops and therefore a high volume of people visiting the area, especially during night-time economy (NTE) hours. (NTE is the economic activity which occurs between evening and early hours and involves the sale of alcohol.)

ASB & Crime per 1,000 households 12 Months March 2018 to February 2019					
	Anti-social Behaviour	Criminal Damage	Vehicle Crime	Burglary	Violence and Sexual Offences
England	22.5	9.2	7.8	17.1	29.1
North West	21.9	11.5	7.7	19.2	36.9
Liverpool City Region	21.8	11.4	6.8	16.1	34.6
Wirral	19.2	10.8	6	13.9	30.7
Birkenhead Constituency	31.8	17.1	7.8	17.1	49.8
Wallasey Constituency	17.9	11.3	7.2	14.9	31
Wirral South Constituency	11	6.5	3.6	12.7	18.9
Wirral West Constituency	12.7	6.1	4.4	9.4	17.2
Birkenhead and Tranmere	74.5	29.8	9.9	24.1	101.5
Bidston and St. James	39.1	29	9.1	18.5	54.9
Rock Ferry	20.5	15.6	6.4	14.5	54
Clughton	18.9	11.5	7.3	12.5	28.1
Prenton	10.7	5.2	5.8	15.4	22.4
Oxton	16	6.5	7.6	14.9	24.1

## Wirral South (Figure 37)

- Low anti-social behaviour and overall low crime rates.

ASB & Crime per 1,000 households 12 Months March 2018 to February 2019					
	Anti-social Behaviour	Criminal Damage	Vehicle Crime	Burglary	Violence and Sexual Offences
England	22.5	9.2	7.8	17.1	29.1
North West	21.9	11.5	7.7	19.2	36.9
Liverpool City Region	21.8	11.4	6.8	16.1	34.6
Wirral	19.2	10.8	6	13.9	30.7
Birkenhead Constituency	31.8	17.1	7.8	17.1	49.8
Wallasey Constituency	17.9	11.3	7.2	14.9	31
Wirral South Constituency	11	6.5	3.6	12.7	18.9
Wirral West Constituency	12.7	6.1	4.4	9.4	17.2
Bromborough	19.5	13	5.6	16.4	31.5
Bebington	10.1	6.1	4.5	11.9	19.7
Eastham	8.3	5.5	3.1	17	16.7
Clatterbridge	6.7	3.2	2	9.7	13.4
Heswall	9	3.9	2.5	7.8	11.4

Source: All four Figures 34 to 37 are from Wirral Community Insight (2019) <https://wirral.communityinsight.org/>

## Deliberate Fires

There were 935 deliberate property fires, vehicle fires and secondary fires (small outdoor fires including refuse, grassland and derelict buildings or vehicles) in Wirral were attended by Merseyside Fire and Rescue Service between 1<sup>st</sup> April 2018 and 31<sup>st</sup> March 2019.

When considered as per head of Wirral population, Birkenhead had the highest rate, followed by Wallasey. Wirral West had the lowest rate followed by Wirral South. (see figure 38 below).

The highest number of all deliberate fires; 482 (51.6%) were attended in Birkenhead constituency. 221 (23.6%) of all deliberate fires were in Bidston & St James neighbourhood of Birkenhead.

The second highest number of deliberate fires attended were in Birkenhead & Tranmere neighbourhood, with 112 (12%) of total.

**Figure 38:** Deliberate Fire data – Wirral, Ward and Constituency comparison for 2018/2019

	Neighbourhood	Deliberate Fires Attended	Per Constituency	Per Head of Population
Wirral West	West Kirby and Thurstaston	30	97 (10.4%)	0.0014
	Upton	26		
	Greasby, Frankby and Irby	17		
	Hoylake and Meols	15		
	Pensby and Thingwall	9		
Wallasey	Seacombe	77	248 (26.5%)	0.0028
	Leasowe and Moreton East	63		
	New Brighton	41		
	Wallasey	26		
	Moreton West and Saughall Massie	22		
	Liscard	19		
Birkenhead	Bidston and St. James	221	482 (51.6%)	0.0054
	Birkenhead and Tranmere	112		
	Rock Ferry	74		
	Clughton	54		
	Oxton	15		
	Prenton	6		
Wirral South	Bromborough	51	108 11.6%)	0.0016
	Bebington	23		
	Heswall	18		
	Eastham	9		
	Clatterbridge	7		
Total		935		

**Source:** Volume – Merseyside Fire and Rescue Service Incident Recording System. Population - Wirral Intelligence Service (2019)

During the year, the volume of deliberate fires was highest between May and July (58%), peaking in July (19%) (figure 39)

**Figure 39:** Deliberate Fire data – comparison by month and constituency for 2018/2019

	Birkenhead	Wallasey	Wirral South	Wirral West	Total
Apr	19	7	6	2	34
May	69	31	9	7	116
Jun	79	34	23	10	146
Jul	82	45	25	27	179
Aug	46	34	11	8	99
Sep	29	20	4	7	60
Oct	23	21	4	9	57
Nov	47	17	11	8	83
Dec	18	3	4	3	28
Jan	21	16	4	1	42
Feb	29	10	4	8	51
Mar	20	10	3	7	40

Source: Volume – Merseyside Fire and Rescue Service Incident Recording System (2019)

More than half of all deliberate fires attended were in Birkenhead. The below table shows volume by neighbourhood within Birkenhead constituency. Between May and August 55% of deliberate fires attended in Birkenhead were in Bidston & St James (figure 40).

**Figure 40:** Deliberate Fire data – focusing on Birkenhead Wards and constituency, by month for 2018/2019

	Bidston and St James	Birkenhead and Tranmere	Cloughton	Oxton	Prenton Rock Ferry	Total
Apr	7	4		2		6
May	29	11	11	4	2	12
Jun	43	18	5	2		11
Jul	55	12	8	2	1	4
Aug	24	8	6	1	1	6
Sep	11	7	4			7
Oct	9	3	7	1		3
Nov	16	17	5		1	8
Dec	7	8	1	1		1
Jan	8	8	1	1		3
Feb	6	7	4			12
Mar	6	9	2	1	1	1

Source: Volume – Merseyside Fire and Rescue Service Incident Recording System (2019)

Where recorded, 63% of deliberate fires attended were on outdoors land. 19.9% were outdoor structures. The below chart breaks these fires down, showing location/property types with more than 1% of total) (figure 41).



**Figure 41:** Deliberate Fire data – type of place/venue of fire and constituency 2018/2019

	Birkenhead	Wallasey	Wirral South	Wirral West	Total
Outdoors land	31.3%	16.4%	7.5%	7.8%	63.0%
Outdoor structures	9.8%	6.3%	2.4%	1.4%	19.9%
Car	2.4%	1.4%	0.9%	0.2%	4.8%
Motorcycle	2.7%	1.0%	0.1%	0.1%	3.9%
Dwelling	2.0%	0.5%	0.2%	0.3%	3.1%
Non Residential	1.2%	0.3%	0.2%	0.2%	1.9%
Van	0.5%	0.3%	0.1%	0.2%	1.2%
Other Residential	0.9%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.9%
Other	0.7%	0.3%	0.2%	0.1%	1.4%

Source: Merseyside Fire and Rescue Service Incident Recording System (2019)

Around 30% of all deliberate fire was the burning of domestic and garden waste.

Neighbourhoods highest in these types of fires are Seacombe, Bidston & St James and Birkenhead & Tranmere

183 (31%) of deliberate fires on outdoors land is loose refuse, including garden waste. 71 (38%) of deliberate fires in outdoor structures were small amounts of refuse/rubbish. 58 (31%) of these were wheelie bins.

The highest volume non-domestic and garden waste deliberate fires attended were in Bidston & St James neighbourhood with 27% of Wirral total, this is followed by 12% in Birkenhead & Tranmere.

## Wirral Residents' Survey 2017

The research undertaken in the [2017 Wirral Residents Survey](#) has been designed with the intention to explore, amongst other issues: Residents' views on Wirral as a place to live, particularly around perceptions of litter and anti-social behaviour

### Crime and Anti-social behaviour

- Wirral residents consider the most important aspects of a good area to be low levels of crime and anti-social behaviour (66%). 63% consider these should be the council's highest priorities. 43% stated levels need improving.
- Younger residents aged 18-34 are significantly more likely to place importance on low levels of crime and anti-social behaviour (80% vs. 66% overall), whereas older residents aged 65+ are most likely to see good health care services as vital in a good place to live.
- Residents in Wallasey and Birkenhead had lower perceptions of community cohesion and perceived issues around litter, crime and anti-social behaviour compared to Wirral West and Wirral South.
- The key issues concerning crime and anti-social behaviour is drug dealing and usage (39% think it's a problem), and groups hanging around in the streets (37%). Significantly fewer residents think vandalism and graffiti is an issue (26% vs. 30% in 2015).
- Crime and anti-social behaviour are a high cause of concern in Birkenhead and Wallasey –and this question reveals the specific issues in both. In Birkenhead, over half think drug dealing and usage to be a problem (51%), whereas Wallasey residents are significantly more likely to be worried about groups hanging around in the streets (46%).



## Feeling Safe

- Asked 'what do you feel are the most important factors contributing to your quality of life', 74% of residents cited Feeling Safe (vs. 66% in the 2015 survey).
- It is not unusual to find that residents are more likely to feel safe during the day (90%), than at night (51%). 28% feel unsafe and 15% responded neither/nor.
- Residents in Birkenhead (35% unsafe vs. 28% overall), and in Wallasey (33% vs. 28% overall) are more likely to feel threatened at night-time. Similarly, those who do not own their own home are more likely to feel in danger (47% of social tenants and 42% of private tenants).

## Wirral Community Safety Partnership

Wirral Community Safety Partnership (Safer Wirral) is made up of local agencies who work together to make Wirral safer.

Some of the work being undertaken by the Partnership is outlined below.

### The Safer Wirral Hub

The Safer Wirral Hub is a multi-agency service delivering joined up community safety service for the people of Wirral. Wirral Council, Merseyside Police, Merseyside Fire and Rescue Service and many other public, private, voluntary sector and community and residents' groups work together to safeguard vulnerable communities and prevent criminality and anti-social behaviour.

### Child Exploitation

- Ensure criminal and sexual exploitation of children identified at the earliest opportunity.
- Effective and coordinated safeguarding, policing and crime reduction agencies for early identification, appropriate referral and wrap-around response for both victims and offenders.

### Social Cohesion

- Support the Community Advisory Group and Independent Advisory Group in representing community need to both voluntary, community and faith groups as well as statutory crime reduction agencies.
- Community engagement at constituency and community group level including Neighbourhood Watch coordination through the police.
- Community Payback schemes where offenders repay their debt directly to communities.

### Hate Crime

- Support victims and specialist support groups to report previously under-reported crime
- Encourage multi agency response to reduce the risk of re-victimisation.
- Proactive initiatives to address prejudice and discrimination

### Prevent

Prevent is the shared duty to protect communities through supporting the vulnerable, raising awareness and preventing extremism:

- Support for vulnerable individuals at risk of exploitation including radicalisation.
- Ensure all practitioners are aware of the Prevent Duties and services available.
- Prevent individuals or groups seeking to further extremist views.

### Domestic Abuse & Harmful Practises

- Honour based violence.
- Support for victims in coming forward to report.
- Reducing the risk of repeat victimisation.
- Support for hard to reach groups such as parent (child on adult) and male victims.

## **Zero Tolerance to Domestic Violence**

Domestic abuse is any incident or pattern of incidents of controlling, coercive or threatening behaviour, violence or abuse between those aged 16 or over who are or have been intimate partners or family members regardless of gender or sexuality.

Wirral has a range of strategies to combat the effects of domestic abuse that include support to victims and the rehabilitation of offenders.

The charity 'Tomorrow's Women Wirral' (TWW) provides a supportive, women only environment to help women make positive changes at their own pace. This includes courses, counselling, mentoring and legal support for women who have experienced domestic abuse. TWW receive more than 650 visits per week by women needing support. During 2018-19 1,910 women were referred to TWW by other agencies. They received the support of 9,067 volunteer hours. If you are considering volunteering, make contact via phone: 0151 647 7907 or 0792 733 5655 or online: [www.tomorrowswomen.org.uk](http://www.tomorrowswomen.org.uk)

Wirral's Family Safety Unit (FSU) is a team of Independent Domestic Advocates (IDVA's). The FSU provides independent and impartial advice to any high risk victim / survivor of domestic abuse. For support and ways to get help, visit:

<https://www.wirral.gov.uk/health-and-social-care/adult-social-care/domestic-abuse>

## **Offender Management**

Wirral Integrated Offender Management manages a Domestic Abuse Cohort of up to 15 offenders. Perpetrators are subject to statutory management by the Probation Service in collaboration with Merseyside Police and key agencies including Wirral Ways to Recovery, Wirral Family Safety Unit, Multi Agency Safeguarding Hub, HM Prisons, The Growth Company, Merseyside Offender Mentoring and Shelter.

Probation and Police continue to value co-location to efficiently share information and intelligence which offers a more effective service. Given the nature of the cohort and raised risk, there is a close correlation with Multi Agency Public Protection Arrangements (MAPPA) to achieve a robust risk management plan and added value in relation to the resources that are made available.

## **Serious and Organised Crime**

- Educational programmes and youth diversionary schemes.
- Targeting prolific criminals through offender management to redress their criminal behaviour.
- Disrupt and deter gangs and gun crime through local and regional interventions.
- Ensure the protection of vulnerable people and the support of those who assist the Police. and their partners in the disruption and dismantling of organised criminality.

## **Early Intervention**

- Integrated referrals through a single 'gateway' to ensure early identification.
- Multi Agency Safeguarding Hub collocated with crime enforcement and reduction agencies.
- Active management of 'high demand generators' to save response costs across agencies.

## **Modern Slavery and Human Trafficking**

This is about preventing the exploitation of the vulnerable

- Use of the powers and provisions set out in the Modern Slavery Act 2015.
- Liaison and collaboration with the Voluntary, Community and Faith Sector.
- Raise awareness of the National Recording Mechanism and National Crime Agency.
- Establish effective partnership arrangements with a range of agencies to co-ordinate local activity and build up intelligence to understand local risks and deal with them effectively.

## Drug and Drug Related Crime

Drug crime is crime involving drugs such as possession, possession with intent to supply, or drug dealing.

- Drug related crime is crime where drugs were involved, usually as a causal or contributory factor. National research indicates between 30% and 50% of acquisitive crime (crime for material gain – acquiring goods) is drug-related.
- Cannabis Cultivation convictions have become synonymous with Modern Day Slavery, often with those cultivating the plants kept in servitude and coerced with threats.
- Similarly, children are exploited for the sale of drugs, often trafficked out of the area: 'County Lines' is the term used by Police to describe urban street gangs supplying drugs to suburban areas and town using mobile phone lines. These are county lines.

## Community Services

[The Wirral Plan, published in June 2015](#), sets out a series of 20 pledges which the council and its partners will work to achieve by 2020. Pledge 17 is Community Services

We have pledged that we are already integrating public sector and community services to make sure they are fully joined up, but we will integrate more services with our partners, and work with voluntary and community groups to transfer local assets for them to manage directly, providing the services residents need.

We have made good progress to deliver the actions set out in this pledge; making it easier to volunteer and in ways which work for a range of people. Every day, all across the borough, people living in communities work tirelessly to improve their local areas: through residents' associations, tenants' groups, neighbourhood forums and more informal groups of volunteers.

There are a number of large pieces of work planned over the summer months such as the [Centre of Local Economic Strategies \(CLES\)](#) and the [Capacity lab work](#) who are supporting the third sector so they are better prepared for any prospective commissioning tenders.

A full calendar of volunteer-related material for 2019 has been planned, this will include a number of volunteering related workshops and events. Between September 2017 and March 2019, 418 organisations took advantage of opportunities to meet funding organisations and improve their skills to support local groups to develop and flourish and we will continue to support local groups and organisations to see how they can be supported further to flourish in our communities.

During this last quarter £224,835 of external funding has been brought into the borough to support third sector organisations and community groups to thrive.

## Victim Support

The below are some information sources victims of crime as well as crime prevention advice.

### The Victims' Code

- If you've been a victim of crime, you are entitled to certain information and support from criminal justice agencies such as the police and the courts.
- The Victims' Code explains what you can expect from criminal justice agencies from the moment you report a crime to what happens after a trial.
- The Victims' Code is available at <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/the-code-of-practice-for-victims-of-crime>

## Victim Support

- This is an independent charity, is free and confidential to support victims to move beyond the impact of crime.
- Contact [www.victimsupport.org.uk](http://www.victimsupport.org.uk) or 08 08 16 89 111 for their free support line.

## Report a crime

- In an emergency telephone 999.
- If you are deaf, deafened, hard of hearing or have a speech impairment, a text phone is available on 18000.
- For all other calls, telephone 101.
- To report a crime online visit [www.merseyside.police.uk](http://www.merseyside.police.uk). Crimestoppers: 0800 555 111

## Crime Prevention advice

- For advice on how to reduce your risk of becoming a victim of crime, visit: <https://www.police.uk/crime-prevention-advice/>

## Related sources

### Contact Merseyside Police

- Phone 101
- Facebook <http://www.facebook.com/merseypolice>
- Vine <http://www.vine.co/MerseysidePoliceVine>
- Website <http://www.merseyside.police.uk/>
- YouTube <https://www.youtube.com/merseysidepolice>
- Twitter <https://twitter.com/merseypolice>
- Instagram <http://instagram.com/merseysidepolice>

## Support victims, protect vulnerable people and maintain public safety

- **Domestic Abuse** Volume and link to WBC Adult Social Care page
  - <https://www.wirral.gov.uk/health-and-social-care/adult-social-care/domestic-abuse#wgSM-2>
- **Hate Crime** Volume and link to WBC communities and neighbourhoods / crime reduction
  - <https://www.wirral.gov.uk/communities-and-neighbourhoods/crime-reduction/hate-crime>
- **Child Sexual Exploitation** (Links to)
  - <https://www.wirralsafeguarding.co.uk/child-exploitation/>
  - <https://www.merseyside.police.uk/advice/advice-and-information/caa/child-abuse/child-sexual-exploitation/>
  - <https://www.nspcc.org.uk/preventing-abuse/child-abuse-and-neglect/child-sexual-exploitation/>
- **Child Criminal Exploitation** (Links to)
  - <https://www.wirralsafeguarding.co.uk/county-lines-exploitation/>
  - [https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/741194/HOCountyLinesGuidanceSept2018.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/741194/HOCountyLinesGuidanceSept2018.pdf)

- **Partnership working** (Links to)
  - Safer Wirral Hub
  - <https://www.wirral.gov.uk/communities-and-neighbourhoods/crime-reduction/safer-wirral-hub>
  - Wirral Community Safety Partnership <https://www.wirral.gov.uk/communities-and-neighbourhoods/crime-reduction/wirral-community-safety-partnership>

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**Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary and Fire & Rescue Services (HMICFRS) (2018).** Crime Data Integrity re-inspection of Merseyside Police. Last accessed on 5<sup>th</sup> August 2019 <https://www.justiceinspectors.gov.uk/hmicfrs/publications/merseyside-crime-data-integrity-re-inspection-2018/>

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**Merseyside Police Commissioner (2019).** PCC and Chief Constable set police budget for 2018/19. Website News Story. Last accessed on 3<sup>rd</sup> September 2019 at [https://www.merseysidepcc.info/36/section.aspx/35/pcc\\_and\\_chief\\_constable\\_set\\_police\\_budget\\_for\\_201819](https://www.merseysidepcc.info/36/section.aspx/35/pcc_and_chief_constable_set_police_budget_for_201819)

**Office for National Statistics (2019).** Crime and justice Data. Last accessed on 5<sup>th</sup> August 2019 at <https://www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/crimeandjustice>

**Office for National Statistics (2019).** User Guide to Crime Statistics for England and Wales. Last accessed on 5<sup>th</sup> August 2019 at <https://www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/crimeandjustice/methodologies/userguidetocrimestatisticsforenglandandwales>

**Safer Wirral Horizon Scanning (2018).** Internal Service Provision document (internal use only)

## Underpinning and supporting evidence

[Visit Wirral Intelligence Service website for more details that inform this document.](#)

## Contact details

### **For further details please contact**

Wirral Intelligence Service at [wirralintelligenceservice@wirral.gov.uk](mailto:wirralintelligenceservice@wirral.gov.uk)

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