

Adult at Risk Review

Cheshire East Council

Health and Adult Social Care and Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee – 8th October 2020

DCI Chris Williams



Public Protection Directorate

HMICFRS Thematic Inspection – ‘The Poor Relation’ – July 2019

- Police and partners need to prepare for growth. By 2066, a quarter of population will be 66 years of age or over.
- Not all ‘older people’ are vulnerable but this age range is where vulnerability is most common.
- Crime against older people is not fully understood.
- The Police have a superficial understanding of the risk.
- There is some good practice in individual Police Forces but not a joined up service.



Is it just the Police?

- Adult safeguarding services were seen as the poor relation to children.
- Some reluctance from Adult Services to become involved in cases referred by the Police.
- Different understanding nationally about what old age is.
 - Age Concern – 50 years of age
 - CPS – 60 Years of age
 - Police – Differing definitions across the UK.



Victims of Crime who are aged 65yrs or over and the offence was committed within Cheshire during May 18 - April 19

SUMMARY

3,229 named victims of crime aged 65yrs or above were received during the 12 months ending April 2019

49% of victims were FEMALE and 49% were MALE (2% no gender detail provided).

The most common FEMALE/MALE victim age was 65yrs.

The most common crime type - **OTHER THEFT, HOUSEHOLD BURGLARY and PUBLIC FEAR /ALARM / DISTRESS**

5% of offences against victims above 65yrs resulted in a solved outcome.

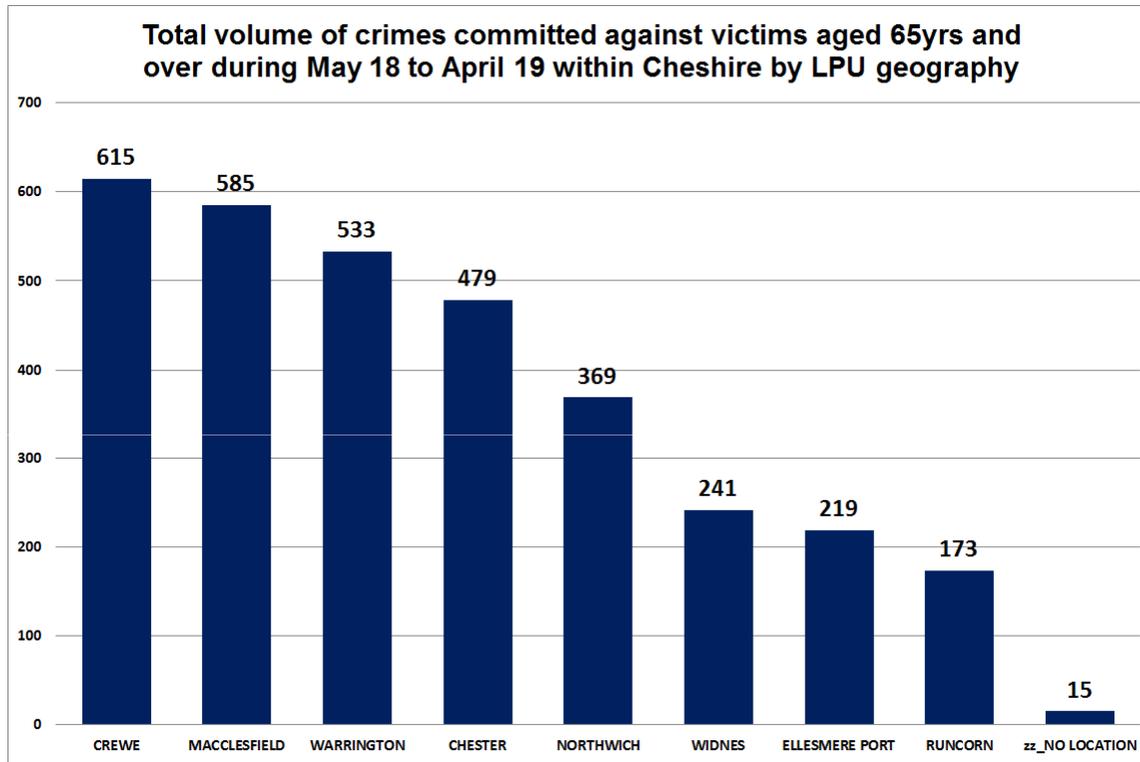
55% of offences resulted in investigation difficulties due to no suspect identified.

21% resulted in the victim withdrawing any further support.

10% of victims over 65yrs were repeat victims (285 out of 2,800 individual victims)



Victims of Crime who are aged 65yrs or over and the offence was committed within Cheshire during May 18 - April 19 by Local Policing Area



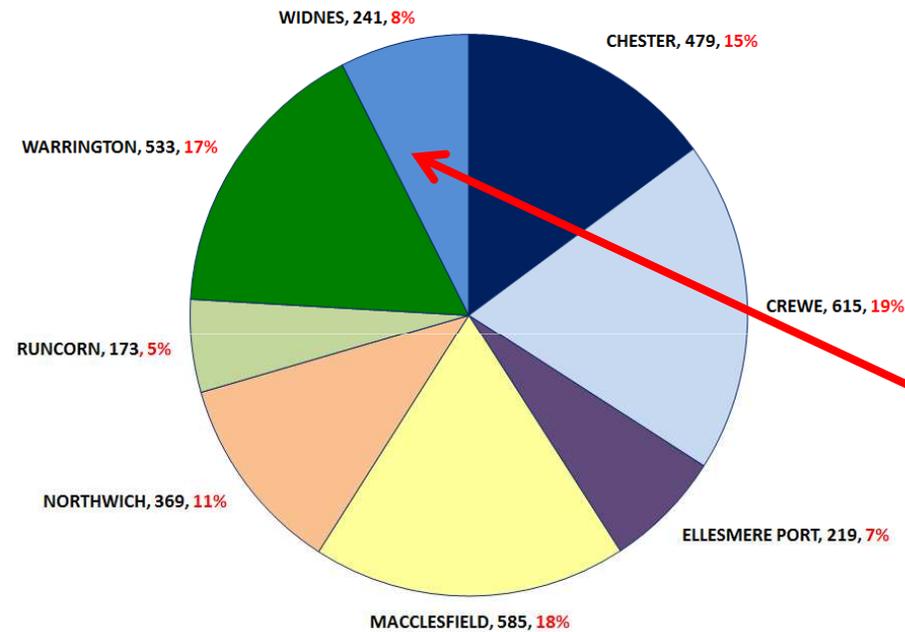
In total 3,229 named victims aged 65yrs and upwards were recorded as a victim of crime during the 12 months ending April 19 within Cheshire and split by the following LPU geography:-

- 19%** (615) – CREWE
- 18%** (585) – MACCLESFIELD
- 17%** (533) – WARRINGTON
- 15%** (479) – CHESTER
- 11%** (369) – NORTHWICH
- 8%** (241) – WIDNES
- 7%** (219) – ELLESMERE PORT
- 5%** (173) - RUNCORN

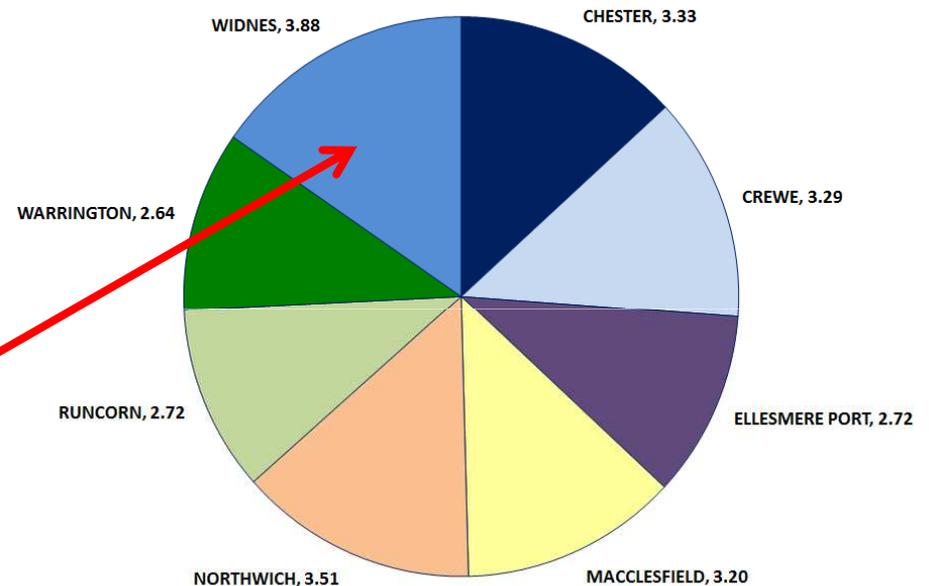


Change in the LPU geography proportion for victims of crime who are aged 65yrs or over by total crime volume and rate of crime per 1000 residents during May18 - April19

Total volume of crimes committed against victims aged 65yrs and over during May 18 to April 19 within Cheshire by LPU geography



Total volume of crimes per 1000 residents committed against victims aged 65yrs and over during May 18 to April 19 within Cheshire by LPU geography



Although Widnes LPU records one of the lowest volume of criminal offences against victims aged 65yrs+ the change in rate of victims per 1000 residents actually highlights Widnes LPU with the highest proportion



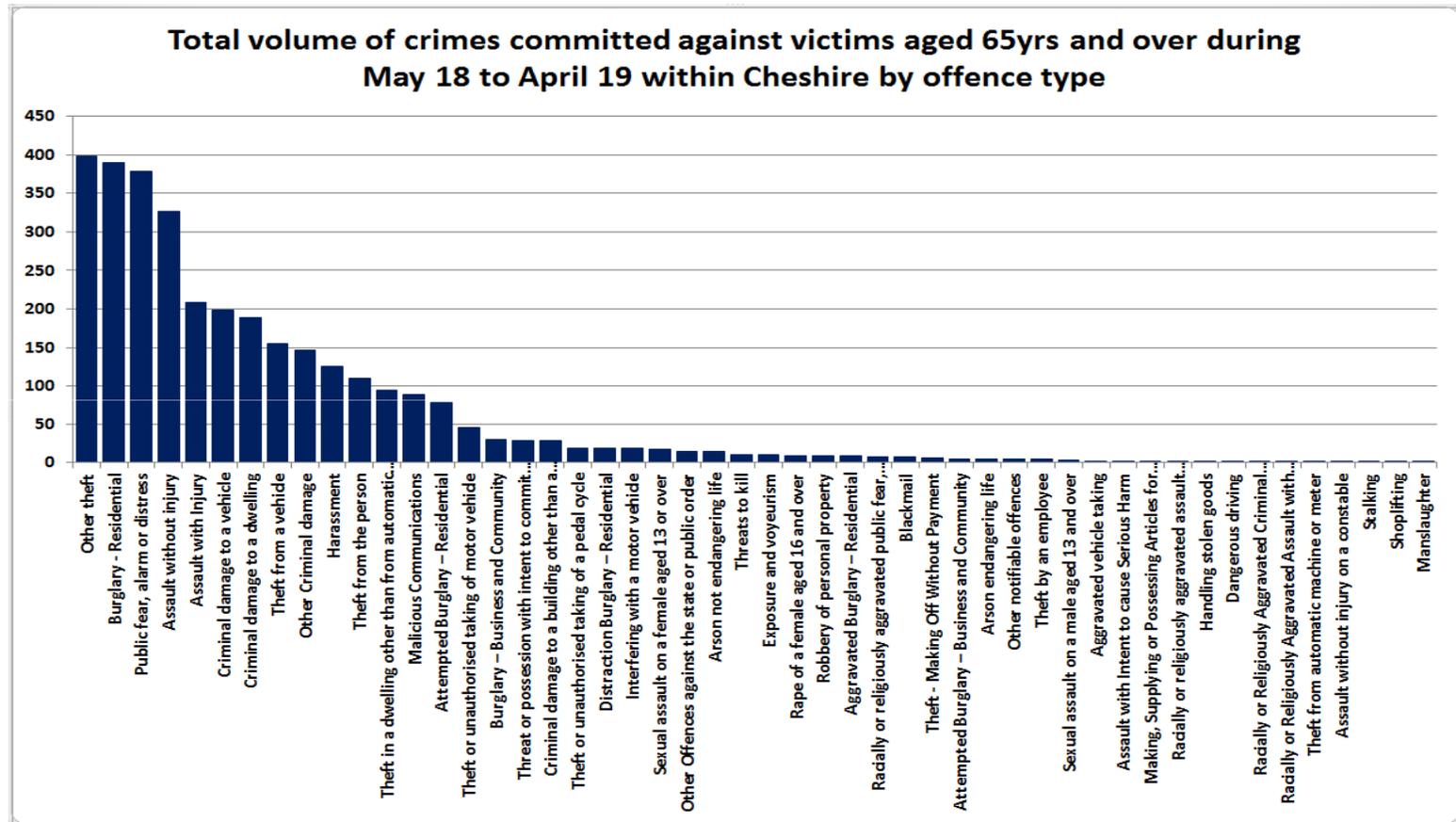
RESIDENT POPULATION
TAKEN FROM 2011 CENSUS



Corporate Research & Analysis

Victims of Crime who are aged 65yrs or over and the offence was committed within Cheshire during May 18 - April 19 by Offence Type

OTHER THEFT is the most common offence type which are also linked to 'purse dipping' offences of which females aged 65yrs and over are the most likely victim.



Victims of Crime who are aged 65yrs or over and the offence was committed within Cheshire during May 18 - April 19 by Investigation Outcome (as at 22/05/19)

55% of investigations are closed due to 'no suspect identified' and are more commonly reported for Other Theft, Household Burglary and Criminal Damage offences.

21% of investigations are closed due to 'no victim support' and are more commonly reported for Assaults, Public Fear, Alarm & Distress and Harassment which are also linked to family or domestic related causations

Total volume of crimes committed against victims aged 65yrs and over during May 18 to April 19 within Cheshire by investigation outcome (as at 22/05/19)	SUM	RATE
Charged	140	4.3%
Caution	9	0.3%
TIC	1	0.0%
Community resolution	11	0.3%
SOLVED OUTCOME	5.0%	
10: Police - formal action not in public interest	27	0.8%
12: Named suspect too ill to prosecute	7	0.2%
13: Named suspect but victim/key witness deceased or too ill	3	0.1%
14: Victim declines/unable to support action to identify offender	105	3.3%
15: CPS - named suspect, victim supports but evidential difficulties	12	0.4%
15: Police - named suspect, victim supports but evidential difficulties	183	5.7%
16: Victim declines/withdraws support - named suspect identified	685	21.2%
18: Investigation complete no suspect identified	1781	55.2%
20: Other body/agency has investigation primacy	5	0.2%
21: Police - named suspect, investigation not in the public interest	26	0.8%
OTHER OUTCOME	87.8%	
Still under investigation (as at 22/05/19)	234	7.2%



So what does Cheshire Constabulary do to support older victims?

- Cheshire Cares – Commissioned by the PCC.
- Integrated front door in each local authority area.
- Force Control Centre – Extensive training around vulnerability and effective risk assessment.
- SAAB – Control Room Manager function which ensures **ALL** information is reviewed at point of contact and deployment.
- Formal Tasking process within each Local Policing Units.
- Performance data regarding repeat callers.



- Mental Health Triage Team – 24/7 support to the front line.
- Public Protection Directorate lead on **all** professional abuse and care home offences.
- Public Protection DCI chairs Safeguarding Adult Review panels and learning across the Cheshire footprint. Local Adult Safeguarding Boards held within each Local Authority area.
- Financial abuse safeguarding prevention officer employed in the Constabulary.
- Protect officer working within the Cyber Crime team – all fraud referrals forwarded to Cheshire Cares.
- Each Public Protection Team having designated Adult Abuse officers to support investigation and improve on engagement with Local partnerships.



- Herbert Protocol supporting our response to Missing from Home/Dementia related incidents.
 - Development of the VPA – Supporting officers to identify and understand the ‘Voice of the Adult’ into the assessment. Providing officers with guidance and support when dealing with abuse (discussed with Sandra Murphy to ensure support)
 - Crime allocation Policy – Vulnerable persons ‘should’ be deployed to and this is currently under review to improve our response.
- **Ongoing review of this policy supported by reality testing.**



Challenges and Focus.

- To ensure our staff understand vulnerability linked to age and that the investigation focusses on this.
- To work with Regional and National leads to identify a definition of what constitutes 'old age' – 60 years of age?
- To understand the national picture around old age and its link to hate crime.
- To improve flagging of vulnerability to support our demand analysis and vulnerability assessment.
- To continue to embed and improve the use of the THRIVE assessment in our initial deployment.



HMICFRS Recommendations – Timetable.

- **3 Months** – To analyse the current and future demand for adult safeguarding. To remove the gap in knowledge that exist.
 - **Problem Profile to identify current demand and plan for the future.**
- **3 Months** – Ensure that adult safeguarding referrals are always made when appropriate.
- **6 Months** – Victim needs assessment completed at all times.
- **6 Months** – Can we improve our Victim support services.
 - **Cheshire Cares**



Conclusion: Key Messages

- Cheshire Constabulary **DOES** understand vulnerability within Communities – HMICFRS Peel 2019.
- Force Control Centre are using Risk Assessments to identify Vulnerability.
- Important to plan for the future – understanding our demand and supporting prevention.
- National improvement needed to standardise our approach to victims who are classed as being older – **Pan Cheshire approach.**
- Review of current allocation policy – Ongoing 2020.

