

From the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner's Policy Team

Overview

Police & Crime Plan: Fighting Crime, Making Hertfordshire Safer

Police & Crime Commissioner **Jonathan Ash-Edwards** continues to deliver against the five strategic priorities set out in his Police & Crime Plan:

1. **Make Hertfordshire safer**
2. **Strengthen local policing and build public confidence**
3. **Tackle crime and anti-social behaviour**
4. **Protect people from violence, abuse and exploitation**
5. **Bring offenders to justice and support victims**

The Plan reflects public feedback and sets clear performance expectations for Hertfordshire Constabulary. It also commits to innovation, partnership working, and targeted investment to address emerging threats and community concerns.

Neighbourhood Policing and Visibility

Neighbourhood policing remains central to the PCC's strategy. Recent developments include:

- **£3 million in Government funding** secured to recruit **35 additional police officers** and **20 PCSOs**, enhancing coverage in every district and borough.
- These officers will support **high-visibility patrols**, proactive engagement, and local problem-solving.
- The PCC has reaffirmed the **Neighbourhood Policing Guarantee**, ensuring every community has a **named, contactable officer**.
- During **Neighbourhood Policing Week**, the PCC joined patrols and launched **Community Engagement Panels** to scrutinise local policing plans and ensure community voices are heard.
- Public survey results show **88% feel safe**, but **70% want more visible policing**—a key driver of current investment.

Safer Town Centres and Public Spaces

The **Summer Town Centres for Hertfordshire** campaign (June - September 2025) is a major initiative to improve safety and confidence in public spaces:



- Builds on the success of **Operation Hotspot**, which delivered **26,000+ patrol hours** and reduced crime and ASB by **14.5%**.
- Patrols extended to **Cassiobury Park (Watford)** and **Hartham Common (Hertford)** to address seasonal footfall and park-related ASB.
- Focus areas include:
 - Retail crime and shoplifting
 - Street drinking, graffiti, and illicit goods
 - Protection of vulnerable individuals, especially women and girls
 - Road safety (e.g. e-scooters, antisocial motorcycle use)
- **Grant funding** available to councils, BIDs, and community groups to support local crime prevention initiatives.
- Residents invited to shape the programme via a public survey: Summer Town Centres Survey

Safer Streets Projects

Two major Safer Streets projects have recently concluded:

Hatfield

- Targeted hotspot areas with multi-agency interventions.
- Delivered:
 - **12% reduction in ASB**
 - Over **1,000 extra patrols** via *Operation Oarlock*
 - Upgraded CCTV and new street lighting
 - Environmental improvements to footpaths and alleyways
 - Garage defenders for motorbike/scooter owners
 - Educational workshops on gang involvement and drug exploitation
 - Arrests linked to theft and drugs

Hertford

- Focused on the night-time economy and violence against women and girls.
- Delivered:
 - *Project Vigilant* deployments with plain-clothed officers



- Bystander and door staff training
- Licensing SAVI scheme uptake
- Anti-spiking kits and awareness campaigns
- Closure of a disorder-linked licensed premise

Knife Angel and Youth Engagement

Welwyn Garden City will host the **Knife Angel** in October 2025, launching a county-wide anti-violence programme:

- The 27-foot sculpture made from **100,000 confiscated blades** will be a focal point for public education and youth engagement.
- Month-long programme includes:
 - Opening and closing ceremonies
 - Knife amnesty
 - Youth-led events, competitions, and outreach
- Aimed at raising awareness, promoting peace, and preventing knife crime.

Youth Commission on Policing and Crime

The PCC has launched the **Hertfordshire Youth Commission** to engage young people aged 14–25:

- A core panel of up to 25 young people will be trained to gather views from peers across the county.
- Focus areas:
 - Youth safety
 - Reducing youth offending
 - Improving relationships with police
 - Supporting young victims and witnesses
- Recommendations will be presented directly to the PCC and Constabulary.

Innovation and Targeted Interventions



- **Noise Camera Pilot** launched in St Albans to tackle illegal street racing and antisocial driving.
 - Acoustic monitoring and camera technology will detect vehicles exceeding noise thresholds.
 - Offenders will receive warnings, with repeat offenders facing enforcement under Section 59.
- **Fly Tipping Fund** continues to support private landowners, especially farmers, with clean-up and prevention measures.
 - £16.5k allocated in 2024/25; further funding committed for 2025/26.

Community Safety and Serious Violence Funding

- **£43,000 awarded** to nine local projects addressing:
 - ASB prevention
 - Violence against women and girls
 - Youth safety
- **£675,000 Serious Violence Duty funding** confirmed for 2025/26.
 - Delivered via the County Community Safety Unit Strategic Chairs Board.
 - Supports mentoring, education, and intensive interventions for at-risk individuals.

Performance and Accountability

- Regular **Accountability & Performance Meetings** held publicly to scrutinise:
 - Neighbourhood policing uplift
 - Crime outcome improvements
 - Firearms licensing backlog
 - Public disorder response and online risk mitigation

Countywide Stop and Search Update

Each RAG plays a key role in reviewing the Stop & Search data, including complaints, for their own district. We hope that sharing data with you will improve transparency about how this coercive power has been used.

The below data covers Stop & Searches undertaken over the last twelve months, from **1st July 2024 – 30th July 2025** (please note the data is subject to further finalisation).

During this time there has been a 6% increase in the use of Stop & Search compared to the equivalent period of 1st July 2023 – 1st August 2024. Positive outcomes are up 4.3% and arrest rates are up 1.1%.

There were some local differences in trends.

Use of Stop & Search was up in 6 of the 10 CSPs – St Albans (+46%), Hertsmere (+44%), East Herts (+12%), Welwyn Hatfield (+16%), Broxbourne (+6%), North Herts (3%).

However, over the same period East Herts, Hertsmere, Broxbourne, North Herts, and Welwyn Hatfield all saw increases in their positive outcome rates and arrests:

- In East Herts, there was a 7.3% increase in positive outcome rate and 19% increase in arrests.
- In Hertsmere, there was a 2.6% increase in positive outcome rate, and a 24% increase in arrests.
- In Broxbourne, there was a 4.9% increase in positive outcome rate and no increase in arrest rate.
- In North Herts, there was a 9.8% increase in positive outcome rate and a 19% increase in arrest rate.
- In Welwyn Hatfield, there was a 2.6% increase in positive outcome rate and a 24% increase in arrest rate.

Additionally, positive outcome rates were down in Three Rivers (-4.1%) and St Albans (-0.1%).

If you have any comments or questions about the data or information provided in this briefing, please email lucy.nicolson-james@herts-pcc.gov.uk.

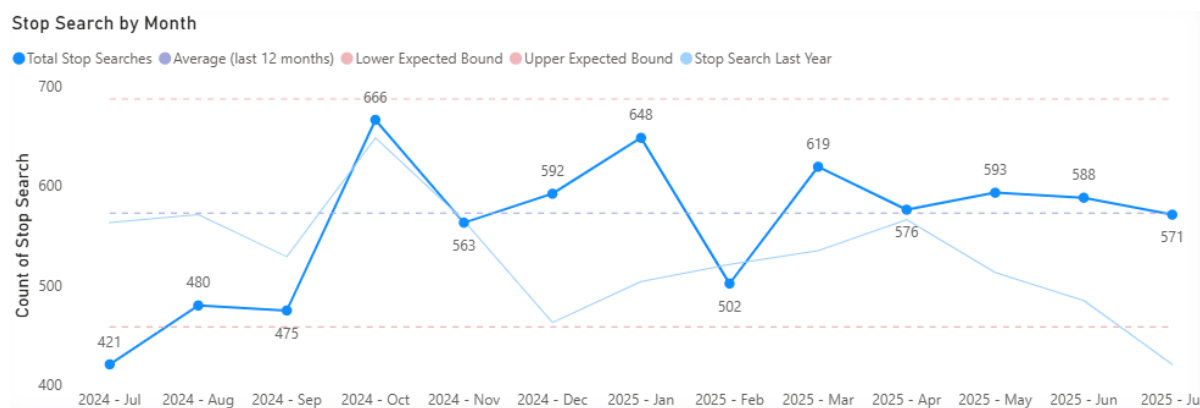


Figure 1 – Stop & Search volume by month in Hertfordshire, for period July 24 – July 25



Stop Search Volumes by CSP

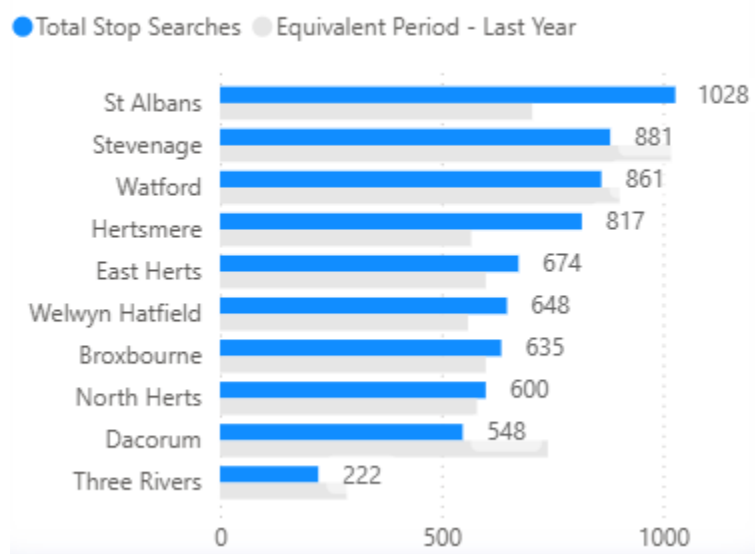


Figure 2 – Stop & Search volume by district in Hertfordshire, for period July 24 – July 25

Arrest Rate and Positive Disposal Rate

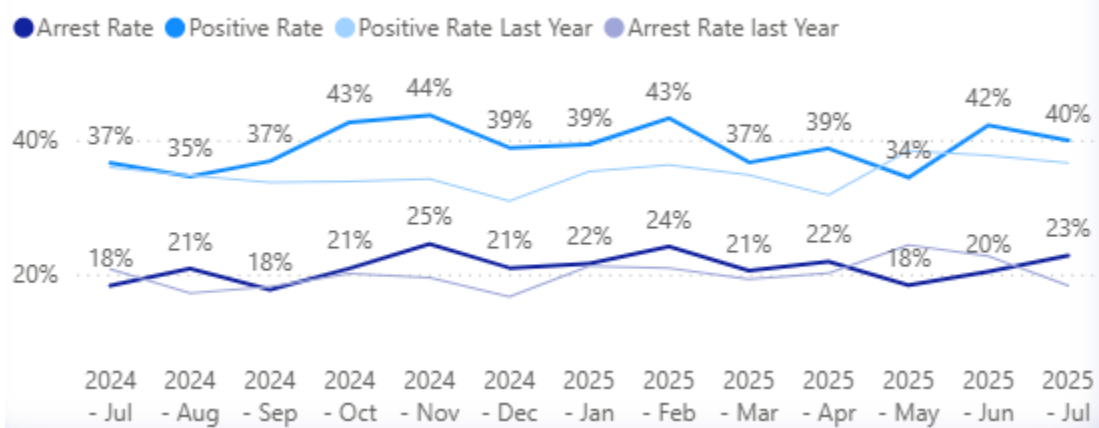


Figure 3 – Arrest and positive disposal rates for Stop & Searches monthly in Hertfordshire, for period July 24 – July 25



Positive Outcome Rate

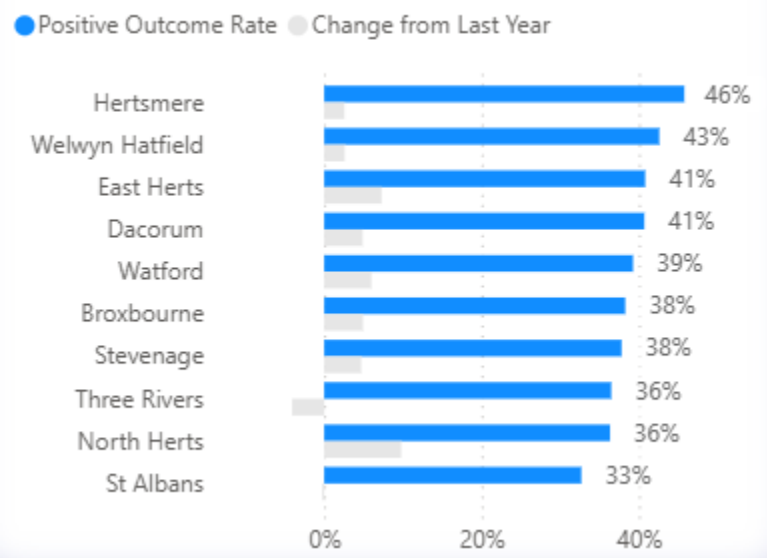


Figure 4 – Positive outcome rates for Stop & Search by district in Hertfordshire, for period July 24 – July 25

For further information or to discuss partnership opportunities, visit: www.herts-pcc.gov.uk
For funding enquiries: grants@herts-pcc.gov.uk