

Report of the Director of Environment and Neighbourhoods

North West (Inner) Area Committee

Date: 18th December 2008

Subject: Community Safety 2004-2008

Electoral Wards Affected:

All

Ward Members consulted (referred to in report)

Specific Implications For:

Equality and Diversity

Community Cohesion

Narrowing the Gap

Council Function

Delegated Executive Function available for Call In

Delegated Executive Function not available for Call In Details set out in the report

Executive Summary

This report provides details of crime statistics during the period April 2004 and March 2008 and highlights key activities during the last 12 months.

1.0 Background

1.1 This report is the annual community safety update report, providing details about crime trends between April 2004 and March 2008, highlighting key activities during the last 12 months.

1.2 It should be noted that a number of factors have a bearing on crime; these can be placed in 3 broad categories;

- a suitable target or opportunity
High value items which can be removed relatively easily, vulnerable premises or people, unlocked doors or windows, etc
- a motivated offender
someone whose values or beliefs make stealing / violence acceptable, drug dependency, someone motivated by greed, etc
- a low likelihood of getting caught
no police or security patrols, a neighbourhood with a culture of low reporting of crime, no natural street surveillance, properties obscured by overgrown bushes, etc

1.3 Traditional problem solving techniques aim to reduce crime by impacting on these 3 categories;

- working to educate the victim (leaflets, crime reduction advice, etc)
- tackle the offender (known as offender management - cautions, criminal sanctions, tenancy enforcement, disruption visits, etc)
- undertake environmental works (cut back hedges, fit additional locks, alleygates, etc)

1.4 However, it should be acknowledged that other factors also have a bearing on crime:

- Season
- Weather
- Release of offenders
- Location
- Population

1.5 It is also important to note that one offender can commit many offences in a short period of time and this can lead to significant increases in the figures. For example, where cars are damaged along a whole street there maybe 6 cars damaged and this would lead to 6 reports of criminal damage.

2.0 Summary of Key Actions

2.1 Operation Champion

This is a 1-3 day multi agency operation aimed at tackling crime, anti-social behaviour (ASB) and environmental issues within an agreed area. A number of agencies come together to focus their activity in this area to have a greater impact. During the last 12 months, 4 Operation Champions have been held in the inner north west area focusing on Little London (Feb 2008), Burley (April 2008), Woodhouse (Aug 2008) and Hyde Park (Oct 2008). A further 4 operations are planned in 2009, supplemented by action days as required.

2.2 Champion Action Days

These are 1 day operations similar to Operation Champion but more responsive. Whereas Operation Champions are planned for the year ahead, the action days are more needs based and responsive to specific problems. The action days require less planning and are used to tackle specific, focused problems and only involve the agencies who can impact on the problem. There have been 4 action days held in Ivesons, Hawksworth Wood, Little London and the Spens (Kirkstall). Further action days will be delivered in 2009.

2.3 Designated Public Places Orders (DPPOs)

A Designated Public Places Order provides the Police with additional powers to confiscate alcohol within a defined area. Where an order exists the Police have the powers to confiscate alcohol that is being consumed or that is thought likely to be consumed (unopened bottles / cans). Failure to comply with a Police request in this regard could lead to a fine or arrest. Work commenced earlier this year on pursuing DPPOs for parts of Little London and Little Woodhouse to tackle street drinking in these areas. The proposed orders will be presented to Licensing Panel on 3rd November 2008. Once agreed, these orders will be implemented in January 2009. Further work is underway to start consultation on a DPPO for Woodhouse Moor and surrounding greenspace.

2.4 Multi Agency Tasking

This group examines the key tactical priorities for the inner north west area and agrees actions to tackle these priorities. Work undertaken through this group includes organising multi agency action days, case conferences about specific families and/or individuals and commitment to deliver or contribute to specific projects (eg. promoting target hardening by door knocking a neighbourhood, crime prevention articles in newsletters, etc). Membership of this group includes Area Management, West Yorkshire Police, West North West Homes, Leeds University, Leeds Met University, Environmental Action Team, Youth Service and the ASB Unit.

2.5 Offender Management

Research and experience has shown that a small number of determined criminals are involved in a large portion of crime. Some studies have reported that 20% of criminals commit as much as 80% of crime. It is suggested therefore that resources are targeted on prolific offenders. The Police and other agencies will come together to problem solve and manage these offenders through visits, targeted intelligence gathering, focused attention (eg discussions when out in the street), use of ASB orders and through partner agencies powers, for example, use of tenancy enforcement for ALMO tenants.

2.6 Community Safety Metal Poster Frame

These frames were purchased through a well being application in 2005/06. The frames are targeted to key areas to tackle specific crimes; examples include deployment in car parks where cars have been broken into with posters about car crime. The Area Committee contributed £1,000 towards this project and the Police pick up the costs of the posters and relocating the frames.

2.7 Off - Road Motor Cycles

The deployment and cost of these vehicles is shared equally amongst the four Area Committees (£4,750 per Area Committee per year). The off-road motor cycles are deployed across the division to green spaces or to target specific problems with motorbikes. The vehicles are effective in reducing ASB and low level crime particularly on green spaces and providing reassurance to those using the parks and green spaces. These bikes have been used to disrupt drug dealing on green space in the Little London area.

2.8 Graffiti

800 graffiti removal kits available at start of this initiative, these kits allow householders to remove small items of graffiti and apply a coating to brickwork making it easier to remove graffiti in the future and are issued free of charge. 400 kits are still available and Police Community Support Officers (PCSOs) are able to demonstrate how the kits are used by contacting the Neighbourhood Policing Team on 2053025. A "name that tag" poster has been produced linked to Crimestoppers rewards. The poster is local to the inner north west area and encourages people to help identify who is tagging in the area. Young people are also referred to the Youth Service Street Art Project.

2.9 CASAC Target Hardening

This initiative is delivered across all the whole of Leeds and provides additional door locks, window locks, spy holes, chains and general crime prevention advice to householders. The Police help target this service to areas where burglary is an issue and PCSOs help to door knock and promote this service. CASAC are commissioned to provide this service to victims of burglary as a reactive measure. Less than 4% of properties target hardened are repeat victims of burglary.

2.10 Neighbourhood wardens

There are currently 2 full-time neighbourhood warden posts on the North West structure. The Hawksworth Wood warden position is currently vacant. There is also a half post on the structure and this has remained vacant from April - October which resulted in a saving. This saving will be used to fund a full-time temporary post for the Hyde Park and Little Woodhouse area. This post will be filled via an agency until March 2009. A transfer request from a warden in the east area has been received and this will be used to fill the Hawksworth Wood vacancy, with the warden taking up post on 10th November 08.

2.11 Anti-climb Paint

CASAC have been commissioned through the Well- Being Fund to apply anti climb paint to properties in the Harolds and Thornvilles to tackle sneak in burglaries occurring on the 1st floor of premises in the area. To date 350 properties have had anti climb paint applied to them.

2.12 Walksafe

A Police led operation bringing together resources from Leeds University and Leeds Met University to target patrols to key areas and engage with new and returning students on the issue of crime prevention. During this operation university staff and PCSOs patrol together to ensure maximum effectiveness of the resources available.

2.13 Little London Police Drugs Operation

This is a Police led operation focusing on the drugs market in Little London, funded through West North West Homes and the Intensive Neighbourhood Management Project. This project has run for 2 phases, securing 8 arrests, over 70 stops and searches and 12 injunctions with the Power of Arrest against drug users coming into the Little London Area. These successes have increased public confidence and feedback from community meetings has been very positive.

3.0 Overview of crime figures

- 3.1 Appendix 1 shows a downward trend in relation to all crimes in the 4 inner north west wards; Headingley, Hyde Park & Woodhouse, Kirkstall and Weetwood. The crimes presented in these figures cover the period April 2004 – March 2008 and relate to all crimes including; fraud & forgery, handling stolen goods, sexual offences and other thefts.
- 3.2 Crime reduced by 15% with 2011 fewer recorded incidents during this period. The biggest gains were achieved in Headingley ward (24% reduction) and Hyde Park & Woodhouse ward (22% reduction). It is important to note that these figures include all crime as mentioned above.

4.0 Overview of Crime Types

- 4.1 Appendix 2 provides an overview of specific crime types. Theft of and theft from motor vehicle achieved significant reductions during this reporting period. Burglary, criminal damage and violent crime also reduced. The following paragraphs will examine these trends in more detail.

Burglary and Robbery

Throughout the Inner North West Area burglary has reduced by 17% with 351 fewer offences recorded, Appendix 3. Robbery figures have remained static, with an increase in 2005/06 and a subsequent reduction during 2006/07 and 2007/08. It is difficult to attribute this to a single cause, more likely a combination of factors may have lead to this rise.

- 4.3 The greatest challenge in relation to burglary is people leaving windows and doors open. Over 40% of burglaries are committed because a door or window has been left open. Considerable effort goes in to delivering this key message, through discussions, leaflets and PCSOs trying doors and walking into properties to advise on crime prevention. Similarly, the greatest challenge in relation to robbery is people openly carrying laptops, mobile phones or other expensive small gadgets in plain sight and having no regard for personal safety.

Theft of and Theft from Motor Vehicles

Appendix 4 shows that theft of and theft from motor vehicles have achieved substantial reductions during this period, 48% and 36% respectively, with over 1000 fewer reported incidents.

- 4.5 Various tactics are used to help get the message about not leaving valuables on display across, examples include: If a PCSO comes across a vehicles where an item is on show they will note the details and arrange for the DVLA to write to the owner and provide some basic crime prevention advice. Temporary notices are also used in the form of the A4 poster frames purchased through well being in 2005/06.

4.6 Criminal Damage and Violent Crime

During the period of this report, recorded criminal damage reduced by 14%, a reduction of 338 offences (Appendix 5). Similarly, recorded violent crime reduced by 12%, with 215 fewer offences.

4.7 There was evidence to suggest that some criminal damage offences were being misreported as criminal damage when they were actually accidental damage. As a consequence some reports of criminal damage now receive a follow up visit by PCSOs to ensure that offences are not misreported. For example, accidental damage recorded as criminal damage. Violent Crime remains a challenging area, particularly, in areas where the night-time economy is active. The Headingley DPPO remains a success, assisting in reducing violent crime around Headingley town centre.

5.0 **Ward Summary**

5.1 Headingley

During this period all crime has decreased, with substantial reductions in robbery (47%), theft of motor vehicle (40%) and theft from motor vehicles (55%), Appendix 6. Criminal damage and violent crime also achieved significant reductions, of 20% and 13%, respectively. All of this has resulted in 646 fewer incidents in these crime categories, a reduction of 23%.

5.2 Hyde Park & Woodhouse

Appendix 7 shows that burglary (39%), theft of (54%) and theft from (52%) motor vehicle achieved substantial reductions during the period of this report. Criminal damage and violent also reduced by 10% and 19%, respectively. Robbery increased by 8 offences, over the course of this reporting period, an increase of 6%. However, it should be noted that this was after a significant increase in 2005/06 and the figures have reduced since.

5.3 Kirkstall

Theft of motor vehicle reduced substantially in Kirkstall (Appendix 8) with 102 fewer offences recorded, a 50% reduction. Criminal damage (11%), Violent crime (10%) and robbery (18%) also reduced significantly during this period.

5.4 Burglary increased in Kirkstall during this period, with 47 more offences (14%). 2 action days have been held in Kirkstall ward focusing on Hawksworth Wood and the Spens / Woodbridges. Considerable effort has been expended in offender management within this area and partner agencies are working together to reduce the offending of some challenging individuals within this area.

5.5 Weetwood

Appendix 9 shows that Theft of motor vehicle reduced by 41%, with 55 fewer offences. Robbery and criminal damage also reduced with reductions of 21% and 17% respectively.

5.6 Robbery experienced an increase of 23 offences which equates to a 135% increase. Some of this increase can be attributed to Youth on Youth crime and work with local schools is ongoing to tackle this issue with additional resources placed in the area during lunchtimes and at school leaving time. Violent crime also experienced a small increase of 3% (10 offences).

6.0 Conclusion

- 6.1 It is clear that substantial reductions in crime have been achieved in the Inner North West during the period April 2004 and March 2008. However, with the current economic outlook it is fair to predict that there will be significant challenges ahead in a number of areas. The partnership working developed during the period of this report will place us in a promising position to continue to deliver reductions in crime and improvements in community confidence, with continued support from the Inner North west Area Committee.

7.0 Recommendations

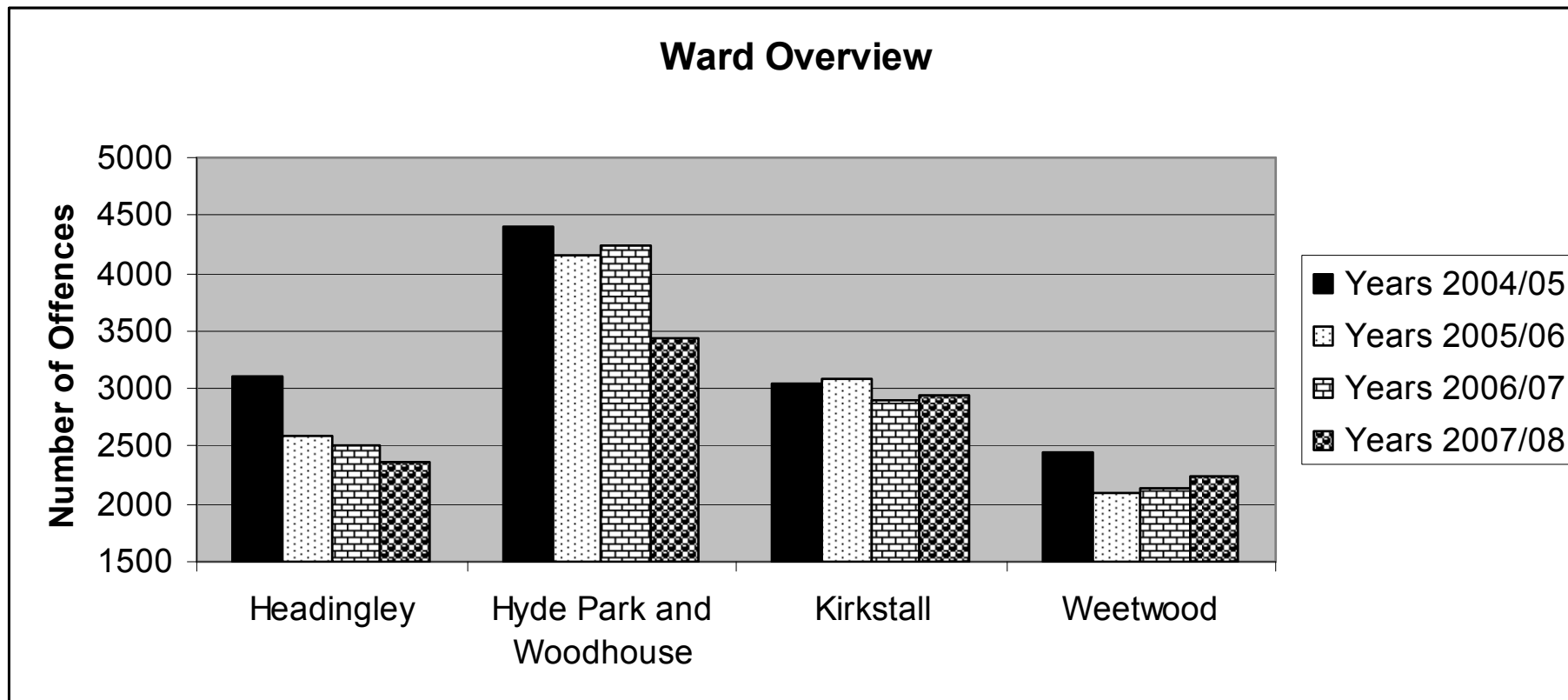
- 7.1 Members are asked to note this report and offer comments.

Background Papers

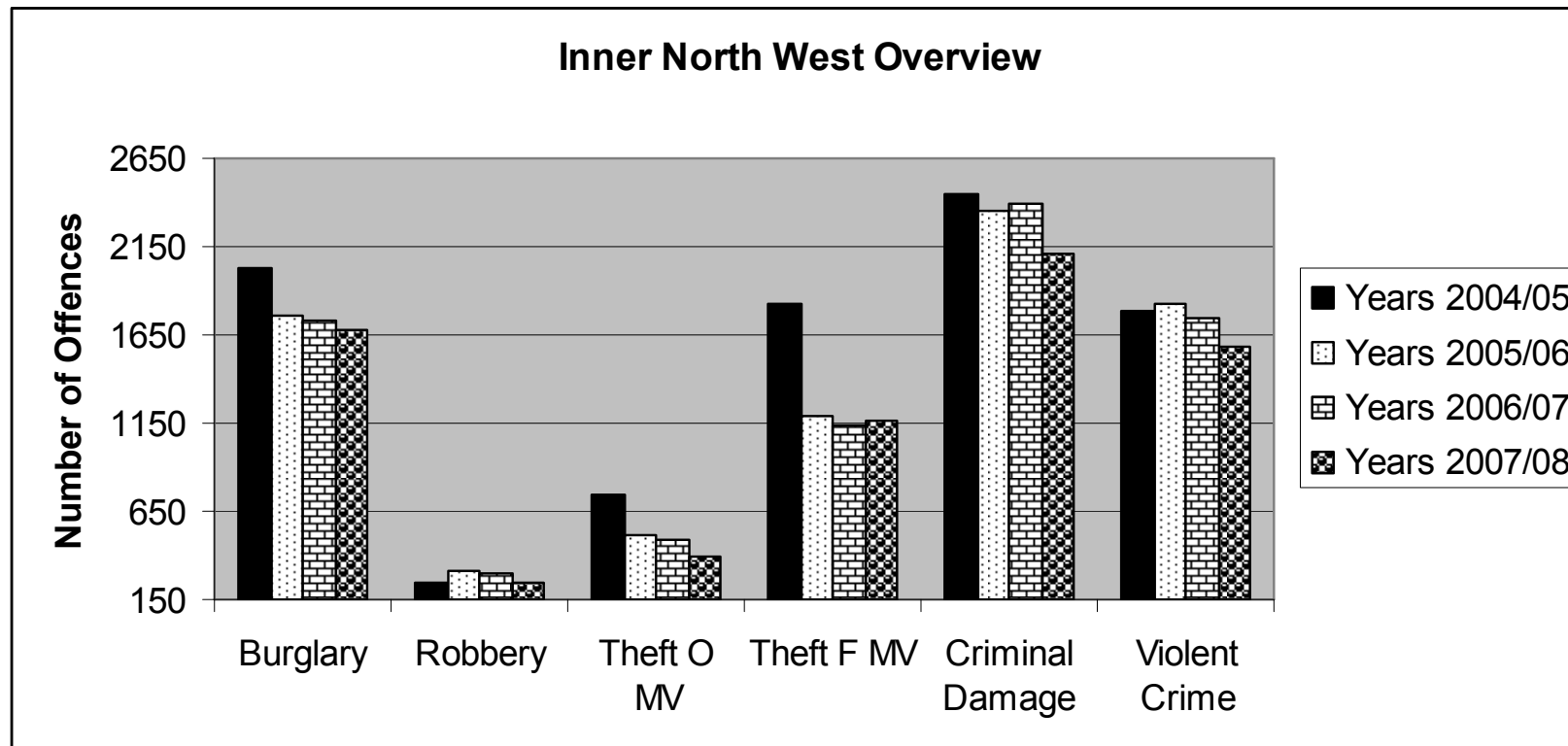
None

Ward Overview	Years				Difference	% Reduction
	2004/05	2005/06	2006/07	2007/08		
Wards						
Headingley	3109	2597	2499	2373	736	24
Hyde Park and Woodhouse	4394	4160	4238	3436	958	22
Kirkstall	3034	3078	2895	2935	99	3
Weetwood	2453	2097	2133	2235	218	9
Total Reduction in all crime	12990	11932	11765	10979	2011	15

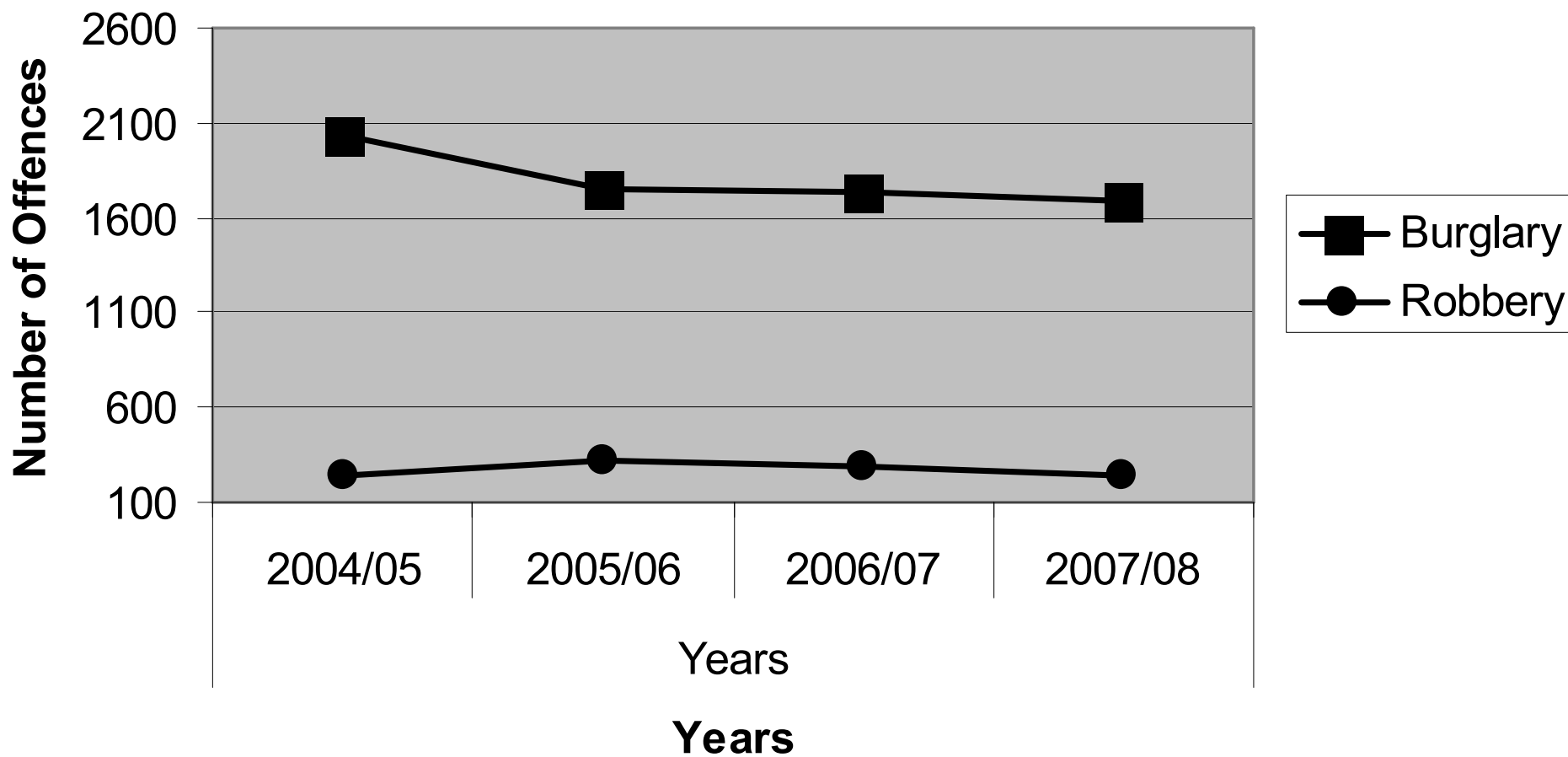
Appendix 1

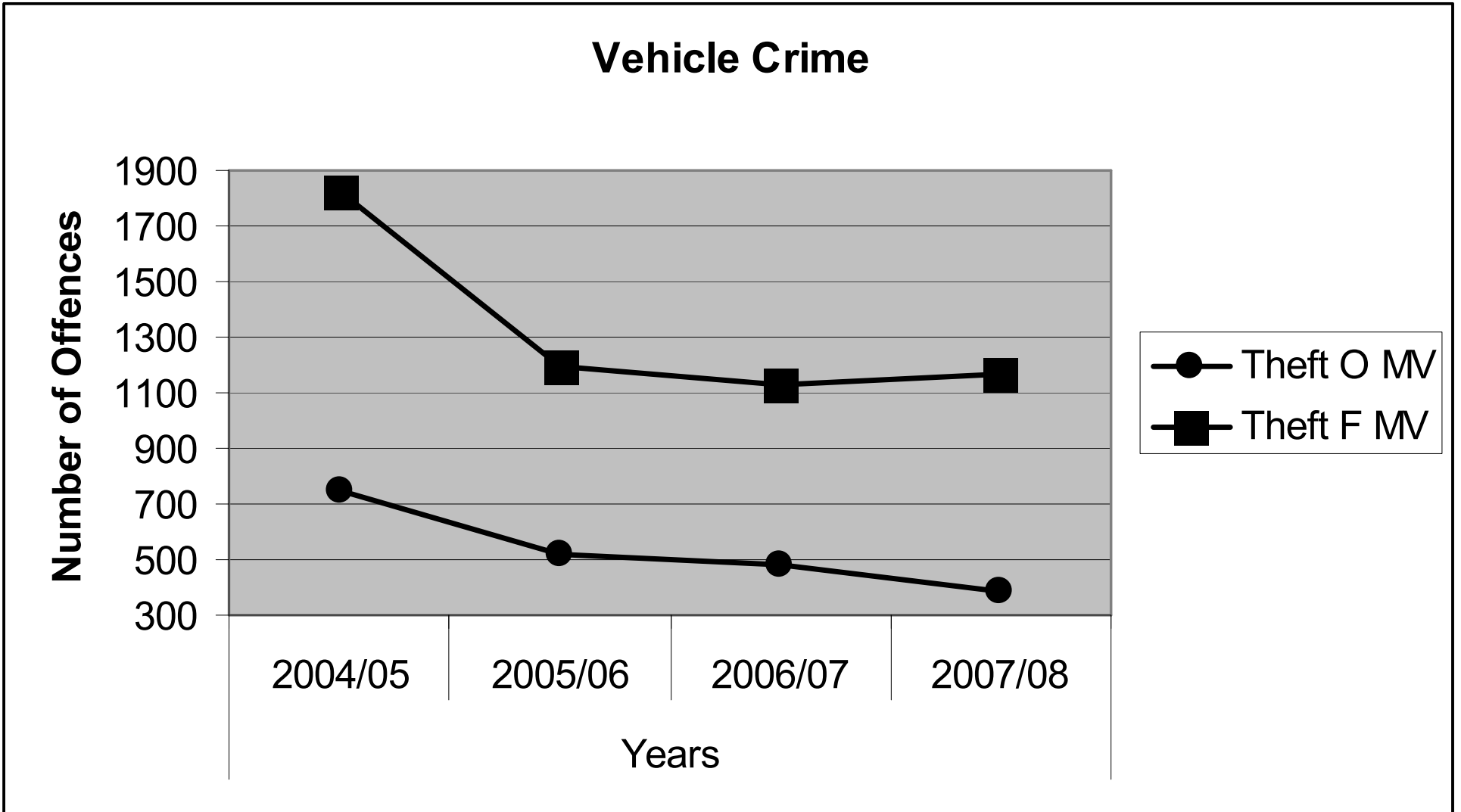


Inner North West Overview	Years				Difference	% Reduction
	2004/05	2005/06	2006/07	2007/08		
Crime Types	2032	1753	1732	1681	351	17
Burglary	2032	1753	1732	1681	351	17
Robbery	247	313	296	247	0	0
Theft O MV	746	521	483	390	356	48
Theft F MV	1822	1191	1130	1167	655	36
Criminal Damage	2454	2346	2398	2116	338	14
Violent Crime	1791	1820	1739	1576	215	12
Totals	6813	5878	5750	5249	1564	23

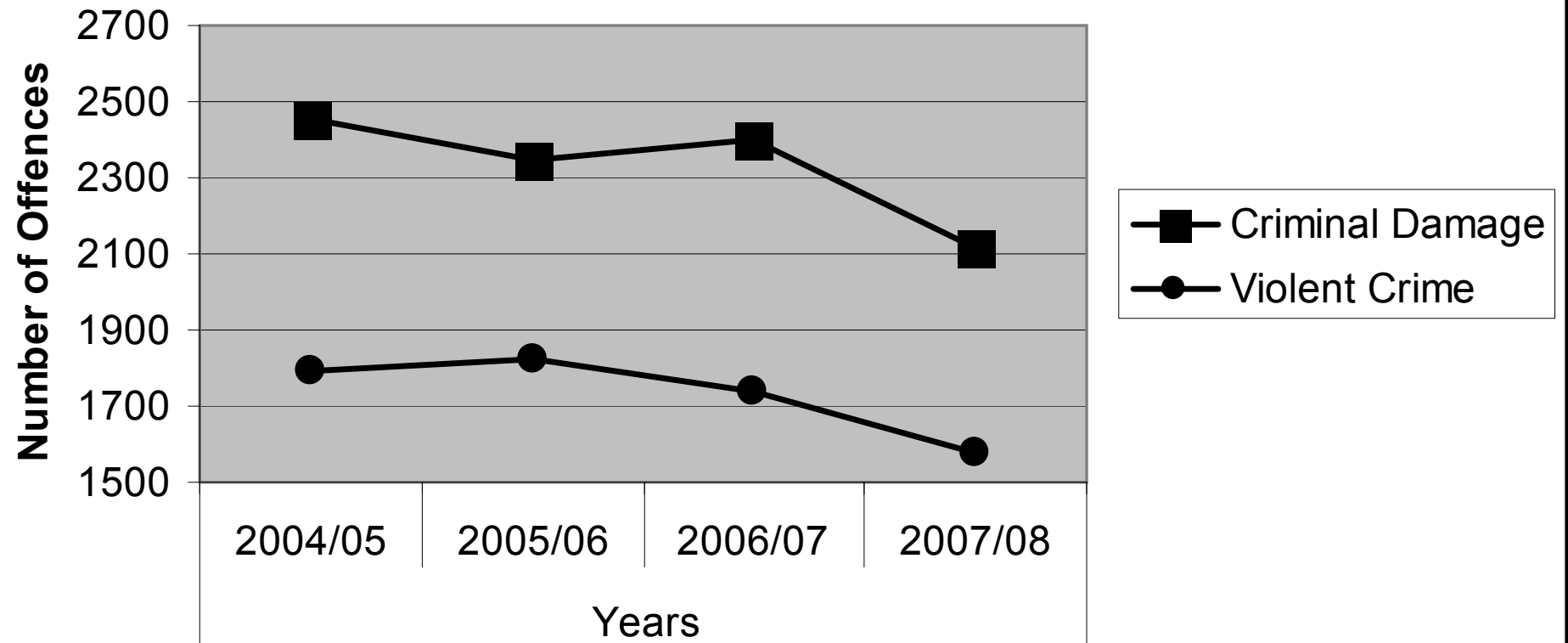


Burglary and Robbery

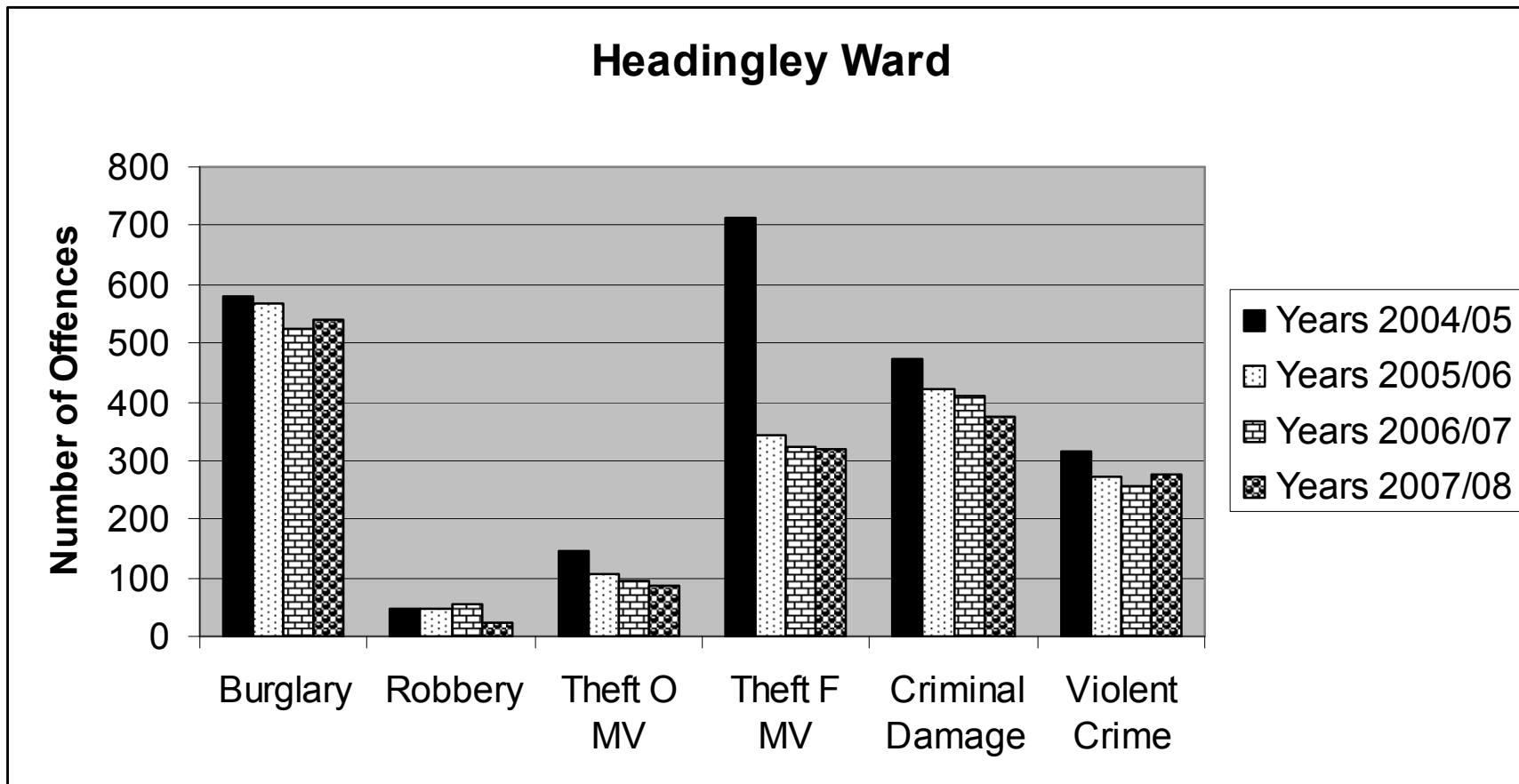




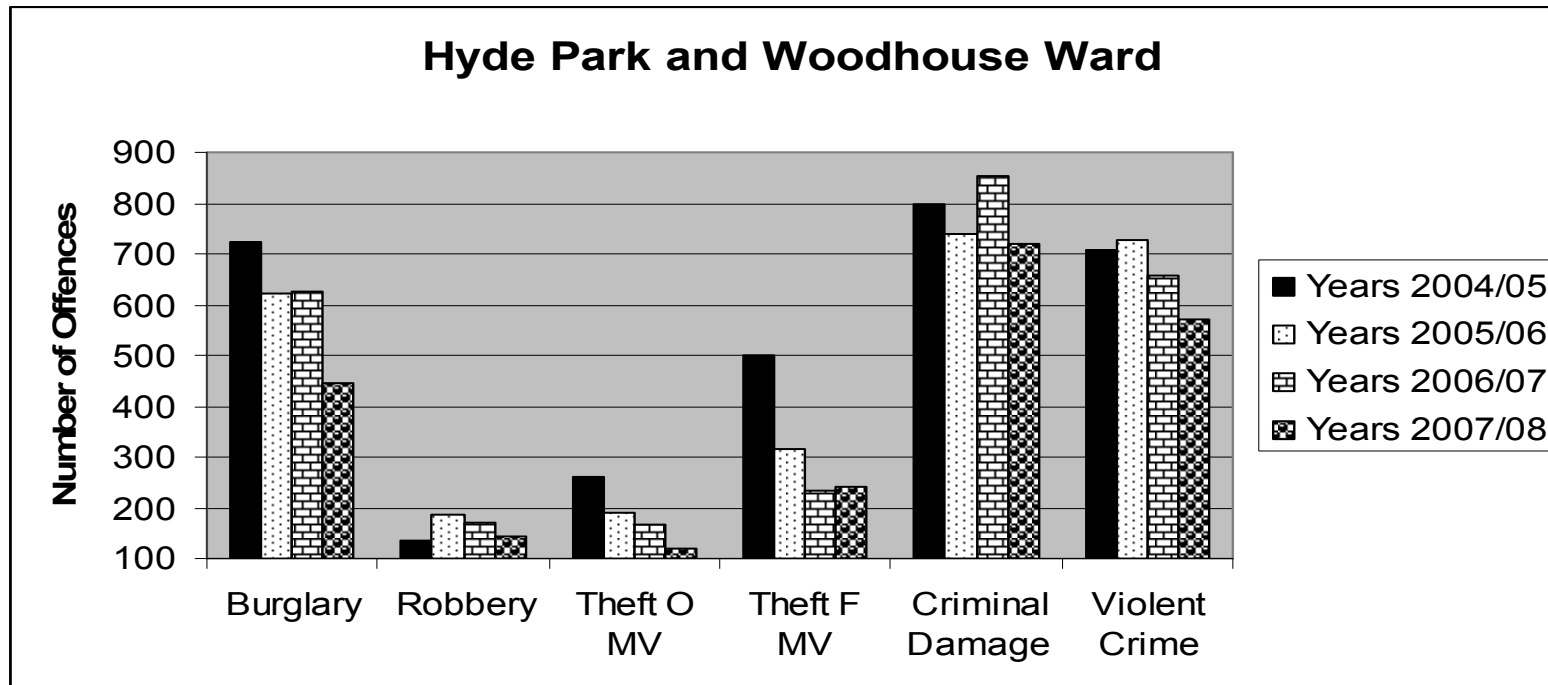
Criminal Damage and Violent Crime



Headingley Ward	Years				Difference	% Reduction
	2004/05	2005/06	2006/07	2007/08		
Crime Types						
Burglary	578	568	524	541	37	6
Robbery	47	49	55	25	22	47
Theft O MV	144	108	93	86	58	40
Theft F MV	712	341	322	318	394	55
Criminal Damage	471	420	410	376	95	20
Violent Crime	316	270	257	276	40	13
Totals	1643	1139	1082	1056	587	36

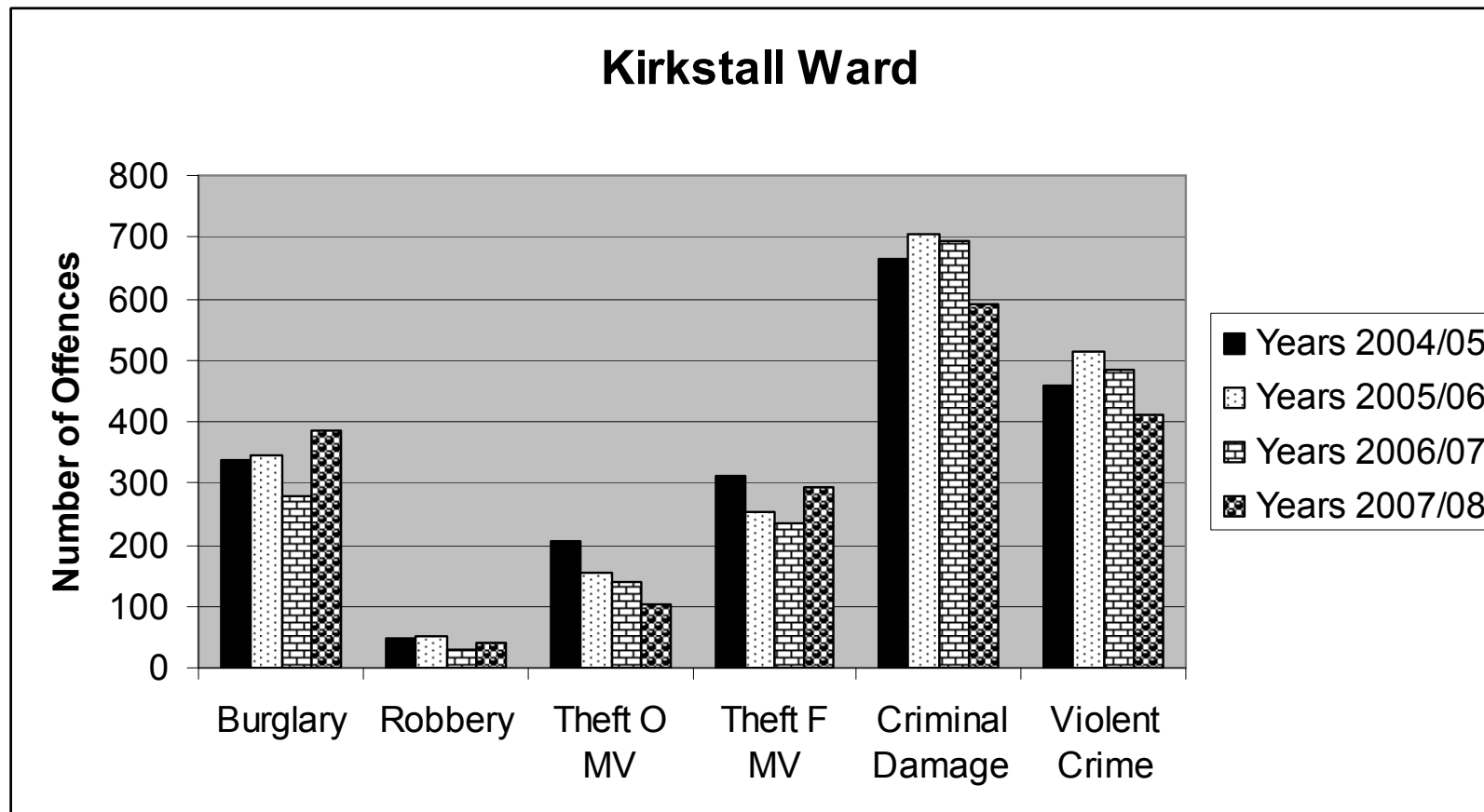


Hyde Park and Woodhouse ward	Years				Difference	% Reduction
	2004/05	2005/06	2006/07	2007/08		
Crime Types						
Burglary	725	620	626	445	280	39
Robbery	134	185	172	142	-8	-6
Theft O MV	262	190	168	121	141	54
Theft F MV	500	314	235	241	259	52
Criminal Damage	798	741	853	719	79	10
Violent Crime	708	727	656	570	138	19
Totals	2268	1972	1912	1651	617	27



Kirkstall ward	Years					
crime Types	2004/05	2005/06	2006/07	2007/08	Difference	% Reduction
Burglary	339	345	279	386	-47	-14
Robbery	49	51	30	40	9	18
Theft O MV	205	155	138	103	102	50
Theft F MV	312	253	235	293	19	6
Criminal Damage	666	706	692	590	76	11
Violent Crime	459	514	486	412	47	10
Totals	1642	1628	1551	1398	244	15

Appendix 8



Weetwood Ward	Years					
Crime Types	2004/05	2005/06	2006/07	2007/08	Difference	% Reduction
Burglary	390	220	303	309	81	21
Robbery	17	28	39	40	-23	-135
Theft O MV	135	68	84	80	55	41
Theft F MV	298	283	338	315	-17	-6
Criminal Damage	519	479	443	431	88	17
Violent Crime	308	309	340	318	-10	-3
Totals	1260	1139	1205	1144	116	9

