

## Perceptions of crime

The publics' perceptions of crime have often been noted as being at odds with actual crime prevalence and the 2016 Thames Valley surveys arrived at similar conclusions. Most adults demonstrated more awareness and concern about 'traditional' crime types, such as burglary and theft, than newer forms of crime such as fraud or cybercrime. The devastating social effects of burglary cannot be underestimated and this will remain a policing priority. However, raised public awareness of financial and online crime must be achieved.

Views expressed about crime by Black and Minority Ethnic (BME) communities and by young people in my 2016 Thames Valley crime surveys highlighted differences in concerns compared to other respondents. Although small samples of BME adults require the findings to be viewed with caution, greater awareness and concern about violent crime and hate crime may reflect a different experience of crime by those groups. Young people's concerns centred on safety in the immediate physical environment – their neighbourhoods and routes to school - including concerns such as speeding, alcohol misuse and violence. Notably, young female respondents were more concerned about bullying and sexual crime, especially involving the internet and social media, than boys whose concerns centred on theft of property and physical violence.

**“ It is a crime which cannot be insured against unlike household goods. So the result of fraud is devastating to individuals.”**

Public Survey 2016

