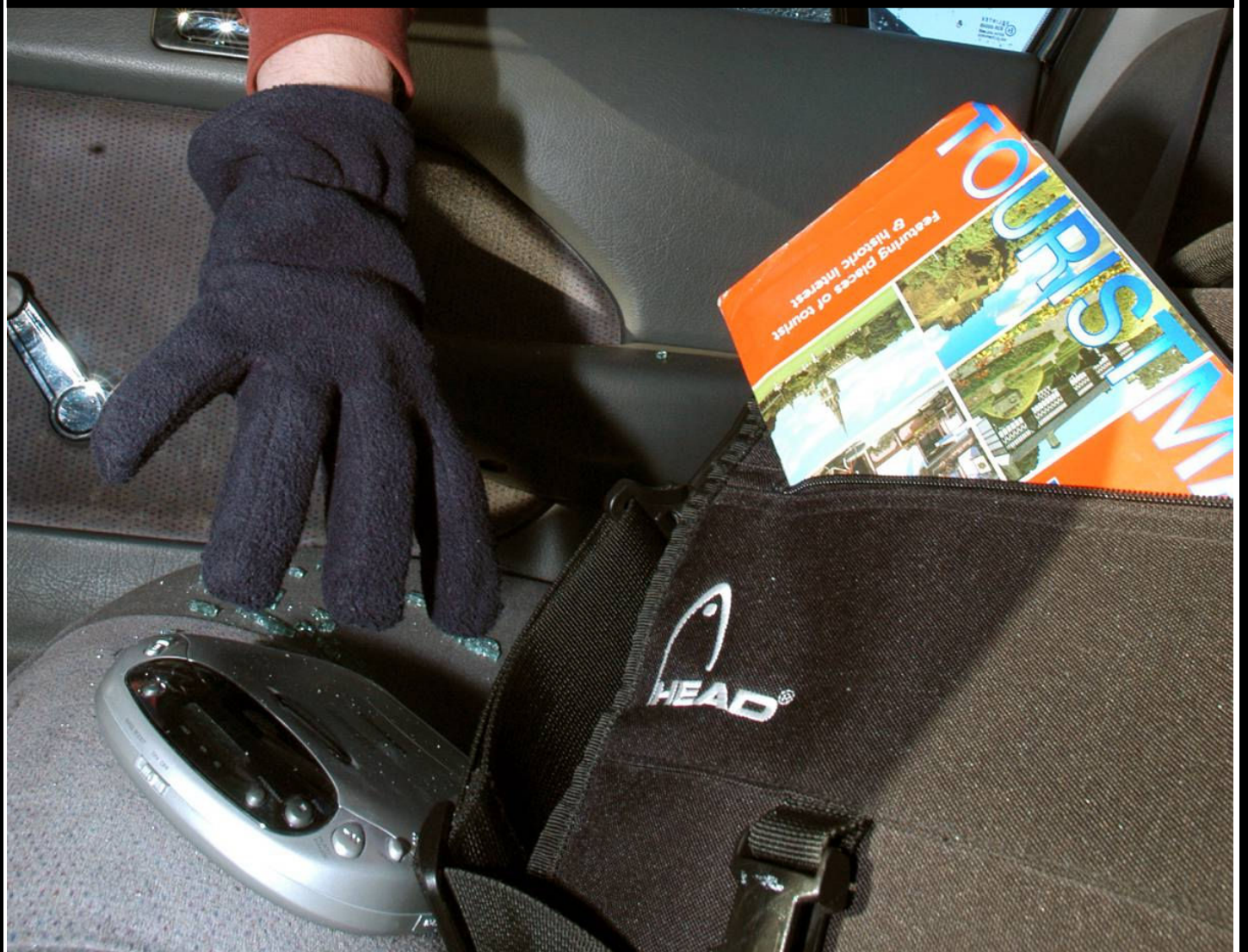




ACQUISITIVE CRIME



Serious Acquisitive Crime¹ now features prominently in PSA 23. In Plymouth, vehicle crime currently accounts for 14 per cent of all crime and 18 per cent of BCS crime. Domestic burglary accounts for 4 per cent of all crime and 6 per cent of BCS crime.

In 2007/8 (compared with the previous year) Plymouth reduced theft from vehicles by 6 per cent and theft of vehicles by 3 per cent but burglary went up 9 per cent (largely due to a peak in prolific offender activity during March 2008). The total estimated annual cost to the City of acquisitive crime in 2006/07 (based on 2003 figures) is **£10,469,200**

Burglary, has a strong association with PPO's², who continue to be the single most significant influence, and is a crime largely driven by drug misuse. Plymouth maintains a low level of occurrences of burglary (compared with similar areas) but there remains a high fear in the community.

Fluctuations in burglary are usually associated with seasonal swings (weather related) and/or active PPO's. However, numbers of burglaries are kept low, mainly due to successful drug treatment programmes in the City and target hardening. Provision of accommodation and other support for ex-offenders is also key to preventing re-offending.

There is a high prevalence of acquisitive crime around students' accommodation and accommodation in multiple-occupation. In contrast to burglary, for vehicle crime there is a relatively low fear. Seasonal swings (festive season for example) often relate to active PPO's, again largely driven by drug-misuse. The cost of vehicle interference is comparatively lower than "theft of", and "theft from", vehicles.

There has been a problem in Plymouth with theft of small-engined mopeds, motorcycles and scooters, particularly in the North of the City. To address this, the Acquisitive Crime Delivery Group has purchased a large number of bike chains, which are provided to owners of this type of vehicle in targeted areas. This has proven to significantly reduce the numbers of theft.

Plymouth currently compares well on acquisitive crime amongst its comparator family. It is important to keep up the momentum, which has successfully delivered in this area.

There are currently other emerging acquisitive crime types such as theft of fuel, metal and other commodity theft. This will be subject of further analysis in the coming year and the CDRP aims to support new approaches to emerging crime types.

¹ Acquisitive Crime is defined as offences where the offender derives material gain from the crime. 'Acquisitive Crime' is strongly connected with substance misuse. Many illicit drug users not receiving treatment for their addiction commit acquisitive crime to fund their chaotic drug use. Shoplifting is not part of the definition of 'serious' acquisitive under the new definition (for NI16) and as such is not a CDRP, but we recognise that the cost of theft from a shop is estimated at £100 per incident¹. Between April 2007 and March 2008, there were 1,640 such incidents officially reported to the Police

² PPO – Prolific and Other Priority Offender