

HART DISTRICT

STRATEGIC ASSESSMENT

2022/23

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Safer North Hampshire Community Safety Partnership (CSP) produces an annual Strategic Assessment which it reviews every six months. This ensures that the partnership is aware of current and emerging trends.

In previous years there has been one document to cover the whole of the Safer North Hampshire Area. This year, in preparation for Rushmoor Borough Council no longer having shared analytical support, there will be separate documents for Basingstoke and Deane, Hart and Rushmoor which will be complimented by a Safer North Hampshire summary.

The crime reporting year 2022/23, unlike the previous two years, was not affected by the coronavirus pandemic. To determine whether crime and anti-social behaviour reporting has increased or decreased or returned to pre-pandemic levels, comparisons will be made between the previous year, and also to 2019/20 which was pre-pandemic. There have also been some changes to recording practices particularly around repeat anti-social behaviour cases, which is explained further in the anti-social behaviour section.

This document has focused on the areas where crime and anti-social behaviour has risen and seeks to examine whether this is a result of the pandemic or whether it is a longer-term trend which needs to be addressed by the partnership going forward. Included in this Strategic Assessment will be evidence-based recommendations which can be considered by the partnership.

The Partnership Plan sets out how partners will work to tackle identified priorities throughout the year, and it is for individual agencies to evidence how they are contributing to these priorities.

The priorities for 2023/24 based on the evidence produced in this strategic assessment are;

- 1. Improving feelings of safety and health outcomes within the CSP area** – public, virtual and private space.
 - Ensuring safeguarding of vulnerable residents through partnership forums and multi-agency forums. interventions/projects including safe and well.
 - Recognising the link between thriving communities and improvement in health outcomes.
 - Enable and promote community led initiatives and self-referral to services and support which gives residents the tools to protect themselves.
 - Increase confidence to report all crimes with a particular attention to those with historically low levels of reporting, for example hate crime.
- 2. Serious violence** – The past year has seen increases in most serious violence (+7%), robbery personal (+18%), possession of weapon offences (+1%) and knife/blade offences (+8%) in Safer North Hampshire and this is a concern for the Partnership. In addition, The Serious Violence Duty 2022 ensures that it is an explicit duty of the Community Safety Partnership to tackle serious violence. Working with the Violence Reduction Unit (VRU), the Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG) taskforce and using Street Safe Data to maximise victim/location identification should be a priority for 2023/24.
- 3. Domestic Abuse** – Reports of domestic crime across the Safer North Hampshire area have fallen by 2% in the past year, while both nationally and across Hampshire reports increased. Promotion of initiatives that reduce the impact of trauma and consistent messaging across the area to ensure that victims and perpetrators are recognised and supported is essential as well as working alongside local initiatives which aim to reduce domestic abuse.

4. **Anti-Social Behaviour** - Anti-social behaviour remains a concern for communities, individuals, and businesses. ASB in both public and private spaces was widespread across the area. Although the CSP currently has some effective mechanisms in place, early intervention with young people, proactivity in neighbour disputes and clear plans around vehicle nuisance are key in reducing the number of higher harm offences the more severe neighbour nuisance issues and those that continue to impact residents.

The CSP should look at understanding barriers to reporting, why they exist, and implementing processes to reduce them as well as promoting reporting mechanisms.

Recommendations for 2023/24 by assessment section;

Overview
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Examine and understand data in relation to reports of crime by LGBTQ+ victims b) Educate residents on how they can keep themselves safe c) Monitor You Gov data over the course of the upcoming year and look at how the partnership can improve resident's feelings of safety. d) Better promotion and use of Street Safe as a tool for reporting feelings of safety within the partnership area e) Work closely with the VAWG task group to fully understand the survey results, what they mean for the partnership area and how we can address them going forward.
Anti-Social Behaviour
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Review the process of dealing with cannabis related ASB reports to be clear about evidential support required to take any informal early intervention work followed by formal enforcement in persistent and severe cases. b) Partners to continue to work collaboratively to address antisocial behaviour c) Focus on early intervention approaches with young people who are involved in antisocial behaviour to reduce risk of escalating or repeat behaviour d) Embed the county-wide Community Trigger process and make best use of partnership case review meetings to identify best practice. e) Continue to develop strategies to deal with vehicle nuisance with a specific focus on motorbike nuisance. f) Focus on developing strategies to reduce the impact of neighbour disputes including making better use of restorative justice options available through the OPCC (such as mediation services) early on. g) Continue to support youth service provision across Hart (assisting in diversionary and inclusive community activities for young people). h) Work closely with the LA ASB Task Force on the development of better reporting and recording practices and a one-stop-shop.
Crime
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) CSP partners to work collaboratively with the Violence Reduction Unit, Police and Crime Commissioner and Hampshire County Council Community Safety Strategy Group to ensure the serious violence duty can be appropriately embedded into practice. b) Development of the approach of Offensive Weapon Homicide Reviews, set out in the new Serious Violence Legislation. c) Partners to continue working closely to monitor and develop its Action Plan around Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG) and Youth Related Violence and Exploitation with progress and any barriers reported back to the CSP. d) Continue to monitor acquisitive crime levels and associated effects of the cost-of-living crisis.

Crimes with historically low levels of reporting

- a) The CSP should look at understanding barriers to reporting, why they exist, and implementing processes to reduce them as well as promoting reporting mechanisms
- b) Examine and understand data in relation to reports of crime by LGBTQ+ victims
- c) Ensure robust processes are in place for identifying repeat victims and considering measures to support them across all three areas.
- d) Examine the effectiveness of the interactive experience offered to Hart secondary schools to raise awareness around the risks and consequences of involvement in drugs and county lines exploitation. Share and consider best practice with Basingstoke and Rushmoor schools.
- e) Continue to support the implementation of White ribbon accreditation and DAHA in Basingstoke and share best practice.
- f) Enable Domestic Abuse Forums to be utilised to share best practice and monitor trends in conjunction with the countywide strategies. Involving commissioned services to deliver where possible.
- g) Partners to use best practice methods to encourage and enable reporting of sexual offences across all age groups. Using opportunities to promote healthy relationships messaging and education.
- h) Support hate crime initiatives which encourage awareness and reporting such as third-party reporting centres and support needs of local community groups.
- i) Support and enable the Hate Crime Awareness Group.

Fire Safety

- a) The Partnership should, where appropriate, look at where it can enhance the use of fire data, particularly around Safe and Well visits and vulnerable individuals.
- b) Work with partners across a range of agencies and organisations to continue to identify opportunities to promote road safety and reduce harm.
- c) Consider risks in relation to batteries for electrically propelled vehicles such E-Scooters and E-Bikes charging in domestic settings.
- d) Monitor the use of E-Scooters in the borough and the potential dangers around increased use and develop a clear process to deal with it.

Key Factors and risks for Community Safety

- a) Examine the effectiveness of the interactive experience used in Hart to raise awareness around the risks and consequences of involvement in drugs and county lines involvement and consider benefits of this in Basingstoke and Rushmoor too.
- b) Better understanding of the effects of drugs and alcohol at a local level.
- c) Explore partnership working opportunities that arise from funding schemes that support CSP priorities.
- d) Capacity and resilience with service delivery with current resourcing challenges across the 3 districts.
- e) The CSP to work with the Combating Drugs Partnership.

1.0 INTRODUCTION

1.1 PURPOSE

The Crime and Disorder Act 1998 places a requirement on Community Safety Partnerships to produce a Strategic Assessment annually. This ensures it is aware of the local issues and emerging trends and can alter its focus as problems in an area change.

The aim of the document is to:

- Identify current and emerging trends and explore why they may have occurred
- Present clear and robust findings to enable decision making and priority setting
- Aid the production of the Partnership Plan once the Strategic Assessment has been adopted by the CSP
- Identify gaps in knowledge
- Make evidence-based recommendations to ensure partnership work can be directed in the right way

1.2 METHODOLOGY

Hart, Rushmoor and Basingstoke and Deane Councils began working together to deliver community safety under the banner of Safer North Hampshire in 2012. Following a review of the service, the Local Authority was formally merged in March 2015. In October 2020 after much consideration it was decided that these council Community Safety services would go back in-house but a shared Community Safety Partnership across the three Local Authority areas was retained, along with analytical support covering the three areas. However, from May 2023 Rushmoor will no longer have shared analytical support and in preparation for this there will be separate documents for Basingstoke and Deane, Hart and Rushmoor which will be complimented by a Safer North Hampshire summary.

Unless otherwise stated, the current Strategic Assessment is based on data from 01 April 2022 to 31 March 2023, with comparisons to 2021/22 and 2019/20, in order to rule out disparities in data attributed to the coronavirus pandemic.

Crime and anti-social behaviour data has been obtained from Hampshire Constabulary using current constabulary software 'Business Objects' and 'Record Management System.' Data has also been extracted from the OPCC Interact system. Data from a range of partners has been used throughout the Strategic Assessment to ensure a holistic approach.

Data contained in this report is referenced with the supporting source, and relevant graphs and tables appear throughout the text.

1.3 LIMITATIONS

Police recorded crime is prone to changes in recording practices and police activity, as well as changing behaviour in public reporting of crime. As a result, trends will not always reflect changing levels in criminal activity.

1.4 HART COMMUNITY SAFETY PROCESSES

The Strategic Assessment is an annual document, which enables the Community Safety Partnership to consider year on year trends and set its main priorities for the year.

However, on a monthly basis, Hart district holds joint 'PEOPLE meetings with Rushmoor. This is where partners, including Local Authorities (Social Services, Housing, Environmental Health and Community Safety), the Police, the Community Mental Health Team, Housing Associations, Domestic Abuse Services and Hampshire Fire and Rescue Service, are invited to gather, discuss and manage individuals identified as being at risk through permanent or temporary vulnerabilities. Partners have the opportunity to make referrals to the group, which are discussed, and Action Plans are created if necessary.

Hart has also until now held three monthly Quarterly Performance Meetings to discuss any particular emerging trends from the data, but these will move to a circulated report moving forward with a request for feedback and questions arising as much of the meeting time was being redirected to discussion around unreported data.

Hart currently has a Community Safety Officer and a Community Safety Support Officer who deal with the day-to-day operational response to ASB reports and work closely with partners to resolve issues as they arise with a dedicated focus on early intervention whenever possible. Enforcement is a last resort when early intervention options have not been successful. Both of these officers report to the Safer Communities Manager who reviews the tactical and strategic approach to trends and patterns and guides the wider, proactive engagement work. There is no patrolling function at Hart.

1.5 HART DEMOGRAPHICS

Data from the 2021 Census shows that Hart has a population of 99,400 people, living in 40,000 households.

Hart has a lower percentage of people aged 18-24 and 25-34 than the English average (probably reflecting the absence of a higher education institution in the district) and a slightly lower percentage of people aged 65 and over compared to the English average. However, the district has a higher proportion of people aged 0-17 and 45-54 compared to the England average (reflecting the presence of a higher proportion of households consisting of a married couple with dependents).

Hart has a greater percentage of households facing no deprivation than the average of Hampshire. The majority of households (61%) in Hart are not deprived in any dimension, 30% of households face one dimension of deprivation, 8% of households face two dimensions of deprivation.

2021 census data shows that almost 92.5% of the borough identifies as part of the "White: English, Welsh, Scottish, Northern Irish or British" ethnic group. The second largest group is "Asian, Asian British or Asian Welsh (3.6%), followed by mixed or multiple ethnicities (2.2%) and "Black, Black British, Black Welsh, Caribbean or African: African" (0.9%) and other ethnic groups (0.8%).

2.0 CRIME AND ANTI-SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR OVERVIEW

2.1 CRIME STATISTICS

Nationally, the police recorded 6.6 million crimes in England and Wales in the year ending September 2022. This figure was 10% higher than the pre-coronavirus year ending March 2020. Police recorded crime has fluctuated and hides a lot of variation by crime type. Most of the fluctuations can be attributed to increases in the offence categories, which are most subject to changes in reporting and recording practices. Therefore, these estimates should be treated with caution as they may not reflect a genuine increase in crime.

This year (01st April 22 to 31st March 23), Hampshire Constabulary recorded a total of **178,732** crimes across Hampshire. This figure represents a 4% (n6,127) increase compared to the previous year when 172,605 crimes were recorded and similarly to the National trend, reported crime levels increased by 11% when compared to pre pandemic figures (161,259 offences in 2019/20).

Across Hart **4,410** crimes were recorded in 2022/23. This figure represents an 11% (n446) increase on the previous year when 3,964 crimes were recorded but no significant change compared to 2019/20 (pre-pandemic).

This year, when compared to the previous year there were increases across most crime types, including violence with (+7%) and without (+10%) injury, burglary business and community (+92%), theft offences, possession of drugs (+45%) and possession of a weapon (+55%). The key exceptions were burglary residential (-17%) and hate crime (-3%).

Hampshire Constabulary recorded **22,604** incidents of anti-social behaviour in Hampshire. This is a reduction of **23%** (n6,609) on last year, when 29,213 incidents were recorded.

Across Hart, **674** incidents of anti-social behaviour were recorded. This figure represents an 11% (n79) reduction when compared to the previous year and a 37% (n402) reduction compared to 2019/20 (pre-pandemic).

Figures 1 and 2 shown below compare police recorded crime and anti-social behaviour data from the current year with the previous year and to pre-pandemic.

Figure 1

(Source: Hampshire Constabulary Business Objects,
Report run 05.04.2023)

	HART					
	21/22 crims	22/23 crimes	% change	19/20 Crimes	22/23 Crimes	% change
1a Homicide	0	0	0%	0	0	0%
1b Violence with Injury	476	511	+7%	484	511	+6%
1c Violence without Injury	1,177	1,292	+10%	915	1,292	+41%
2a Rape	47	62	+32%	38	62	+63%
2b Other Sexual Offences	123	125	+2%	94	125	+33%
3a Robbery of Business Property	1	4	+300%	3	4	+33%
3b Robbery of Personal Property	16	16	0%	36	16	-56%
4a1 Burglary Residential	150	125	-17%	220	125	-43%
4a2 Burglary Business and Community	52	100	+92%	111	100	-10%
4b Vehicle Offences	271	353	+30%	380	353	-7%
4c Theft from the Person	21	21	0%	30	21	-30%
4d Bicycle Theft	30	44	+47%	76	44	-42%
4e Shoplifting	129	159	+23%	210	159	-24%
4f All Other Theft Offences	379	427	+13%	602	427	-29%
5a Criminal Damage	369	372	+1%	567	372	-34%
5b Arson	13	12	-8%	20	12	-40%
6a Trafficking of Drugs	19	19	0%	9	19	+111%
6b Possession of Drugs	64	93	+45%	72	93	+29%
7 Possession of Weapons Offences	35	53	+51%	25	53	+112%
8 Public Order Offences	512	542	+6%	411	542	+32%
9 Miscellaneous Crimes Against Society	64	80	+25%	86	80	-7%
Totals	3,964	4,410	+11%	4,389	4,410	0%
Domestic crimes	663	757	+14%	602	757	+26%
Hate crime	132	128	-3%	46	128	+178%
Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB)	753	674	-11%	1,076	674	-37%

Figure 2

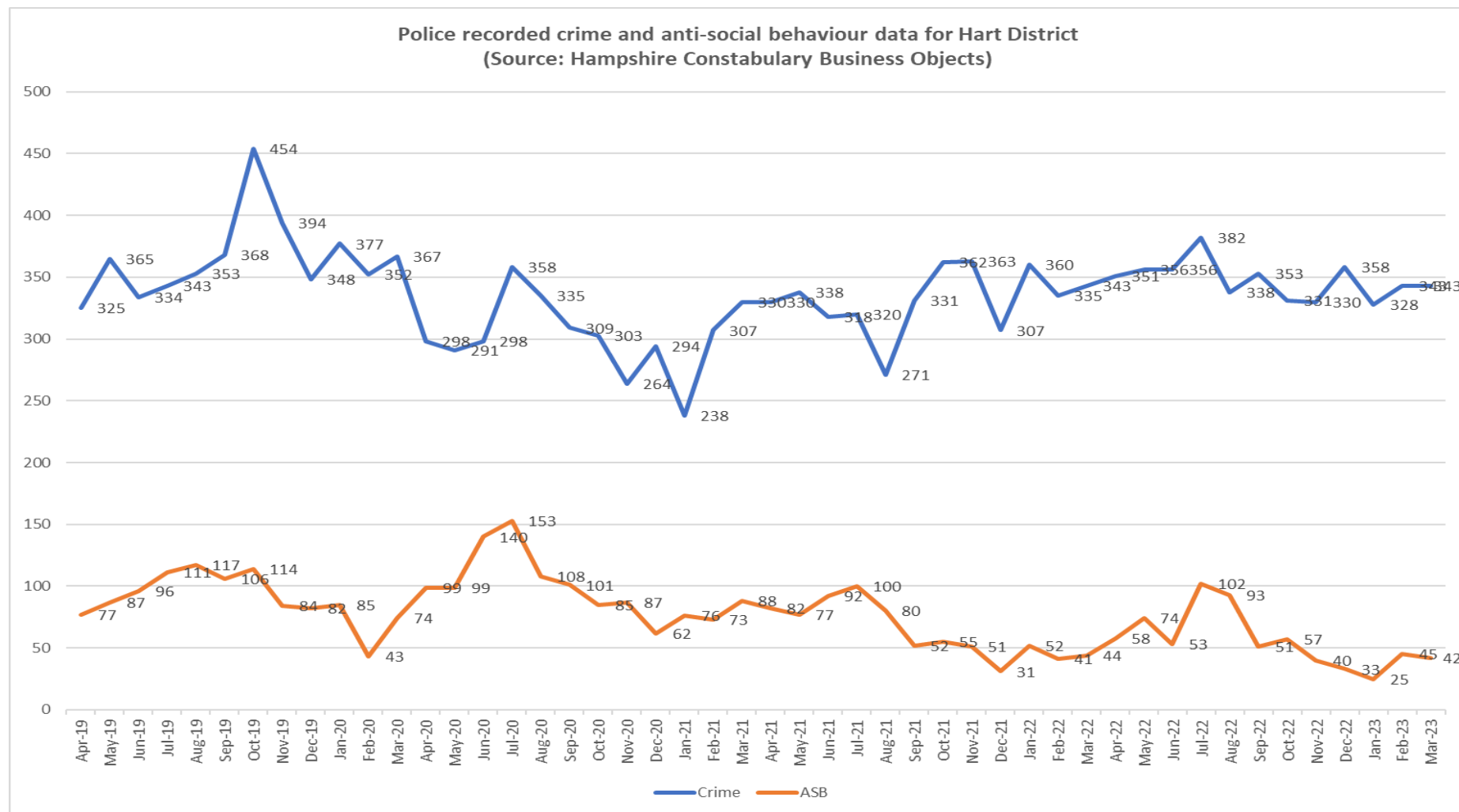


Figure 2 above shows crime and anti-social behaviour figures across Hart for the past four years.

Crime, shown in blue, reduced considerably during the Covid-19 pandemic, with the lowest monthly figures coinciding with the first (April 20), second (November 20) and third (January 21) National lockdowns. Since the loosening of restrictions, starting in April 2021 crime levels have steadily returned to pre pandemic levels.

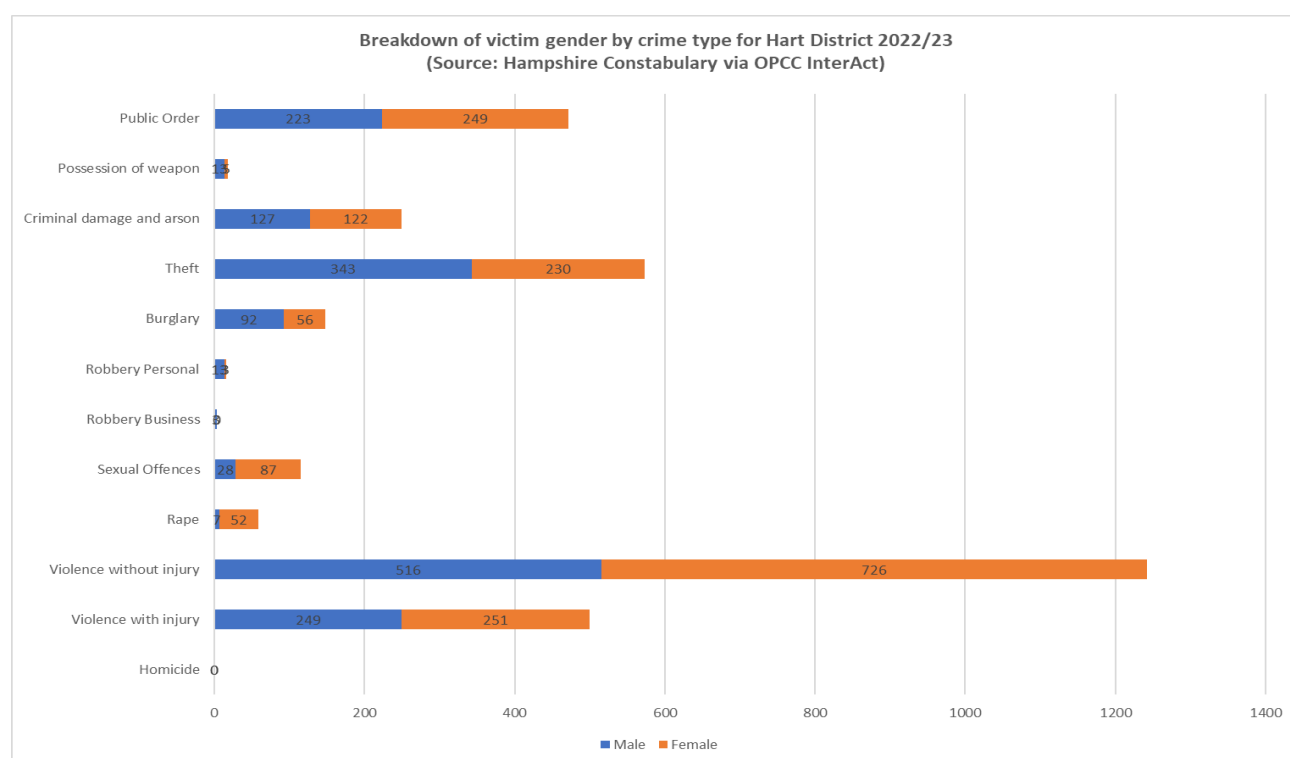
Anti-social behaviour which is shown in orange, was relatively unaffected by the pandemic. The seasonal trends seen in previous years continued throughout 2022/23 and more recently, the past six months have seen some of the lowest monthly ASB figures recorded.

2.2. VICTIMS

In 2022/23, where victim data was available¹, 52% (n1,787) of victims across Hart were female and 48% (n1,622) were male, similar to Hampshire where the split was 53% female to 47% male victims.

A higher proportion of males were victims of theft offences (60%). Meanwhile females were more likely to be victims of violence without injury (59%), rape (88%) and other sexual offences (76%).

Figure 3



Where details were available, the offender was known to the victim in 69% (1,437) of crimes committed in Hart in 2022/23. Of these the most common were acquaintance (44%), ex-partner – heterosexual (24%), partner – heterosexual (11%) and parent (8%). 31% (n634) of offences were committed by a stranger. The picture is similar across Hampshire.

Broken down by age, 10-17 years had the highest number of victims in Hart (13%), followed by 18-24 years (11%) and 35-39 years (10%). This was similar to Hampshire where the age groups 18-24 (13%), 10-17 (13%) and 30-34 (11%) had the highest number of victims.

Where details were available, 80.1% of victims were White-North European, followed by White European (10.1%), Asian (4.4%), Black (3.5%), White South European (0.9%), Arabic or North African (0.6%), Chinese, Japanese and SE Asian (0.3%) and Arabic (0.1%).

¹ Searchable data from 01.04.2022 to 31.03.2023.

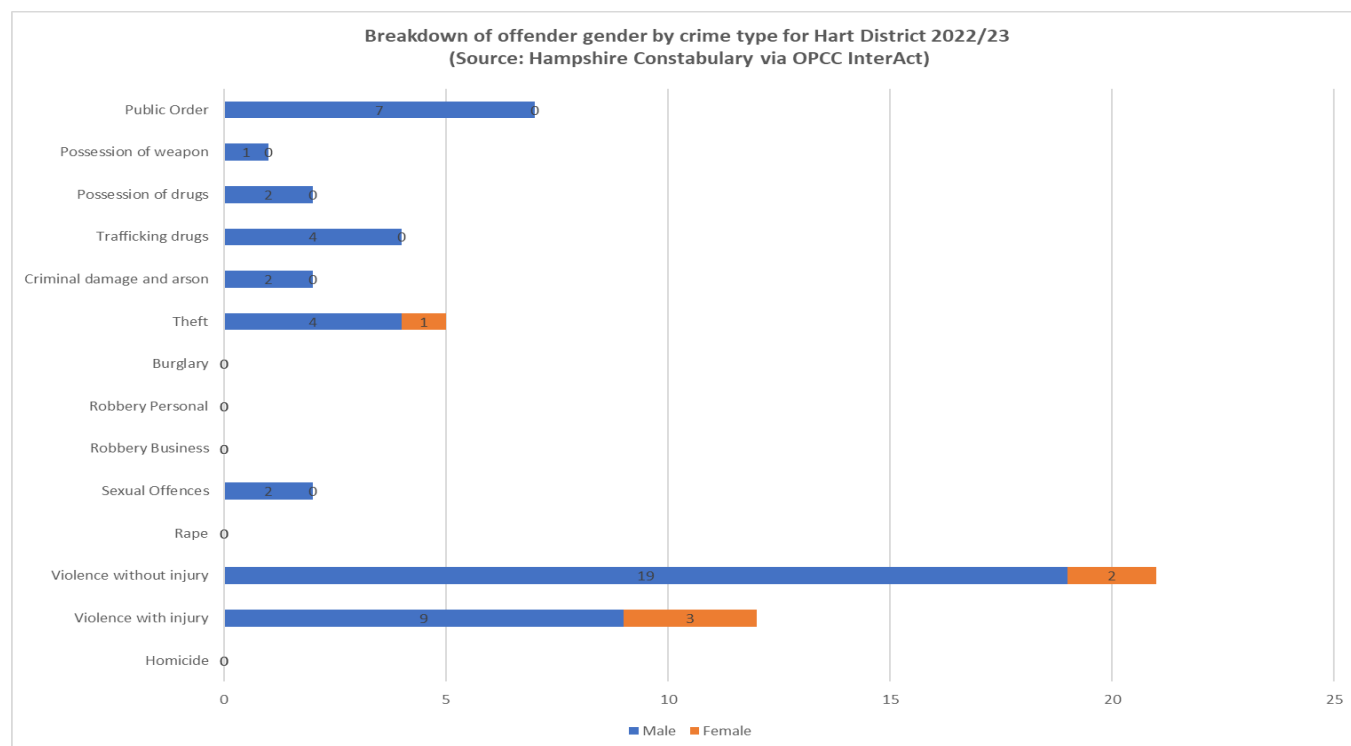
Where hate crime offences had been committed, 42% of victims were White North European, 28% were Asian and 28% of victims were black.

In addition, in 2022/23, 59% of offences recorded across Hart were against a person and 41% were against property which is similar to previous years.

2.3 OFFENDERS

Where offender data was available² 90% (n54) of offenders in Hart were male and 10% (n6) were female. There was a slightly higher percentage of male offenders in Hart than across Hampshire where the split was 85% male and 15% female offenders.

Figure 4



Broken down by age, 18-24 years had the highest number of offenders (18%, n11), followed by 50-54 years (15%, n9) and 25-29 years (13%, n8).

Where details were available, 89% of offenders in Hart were White European.

² Figures for the 12 months 01.04.2022 – 31.03.2023

2.4 RE-OFFENDING AND OFFENDING RISK

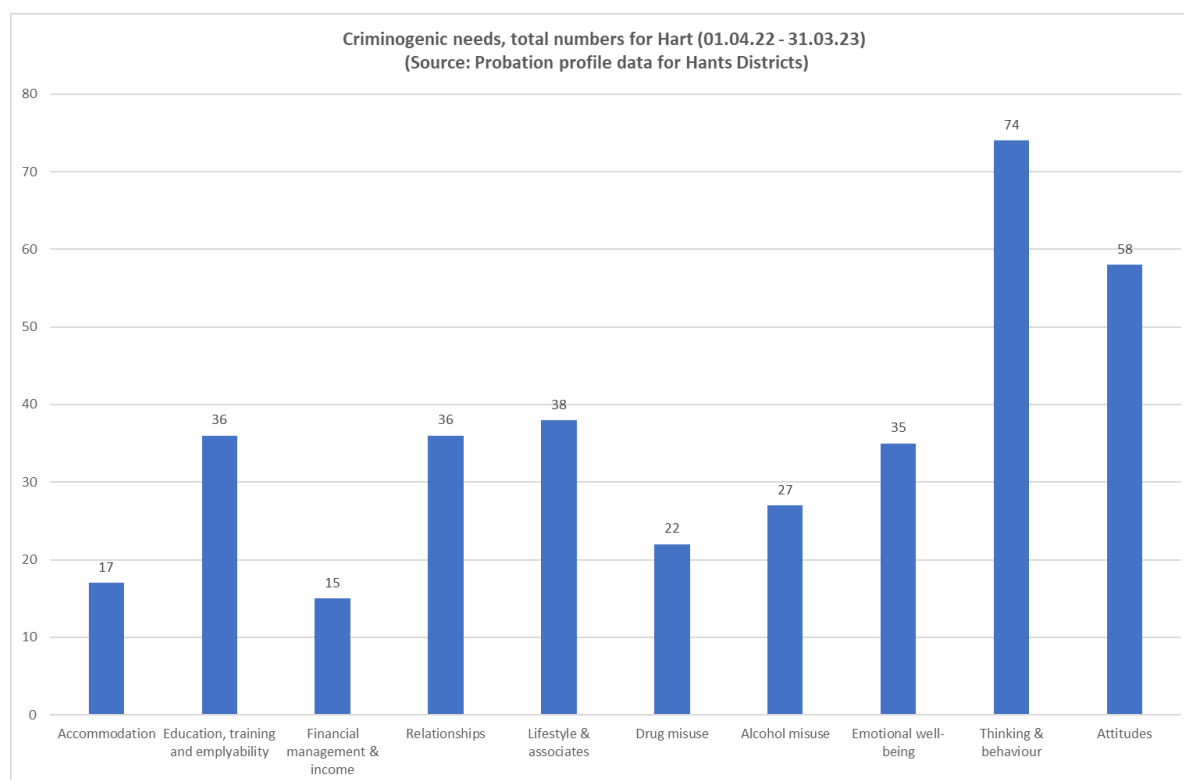
ADULTS

Much crime is committed by a relatively small number of offenders, so the rate of repeat offending and the effective rehabilitation of prolific offenders is a key factor in the safety of our communities.

Where data was available, adult offenders accounted for approximately 88% of offenders and juveniles accounted for 12% of offenders in Hart in 2022/23.

For higher risk offenders managed by the National Probation Service (NPS), there are 78 repeat offenders in Hart on the current NPS caseload³. An analysis of these repeat offenders for whom there are current needs assessments shows that the key aspects of their criminogenic needs are thinking and behaviours and attitudes. (See figure 5 below).

Figure 5 (Source: NPS)



Of this cohort, 91% (n71) were male and 9% (n7) were female. The age groups with the most offenders were 26-34 years (32%, n25) and 35-49 years (22%, n17). The most common offence types committed by this group were, violence against the person (28%, n22), summary motoring offences (24%, n19) and other indictable offences (17%, n13).

³ Data for the period 01.04.2022 – 31.03.2023

YOUTHS

Data from Hampshire Constabulary shows that in 2022/23, there were 76 offences committed by young people aged between 10-17 in the Hart area.

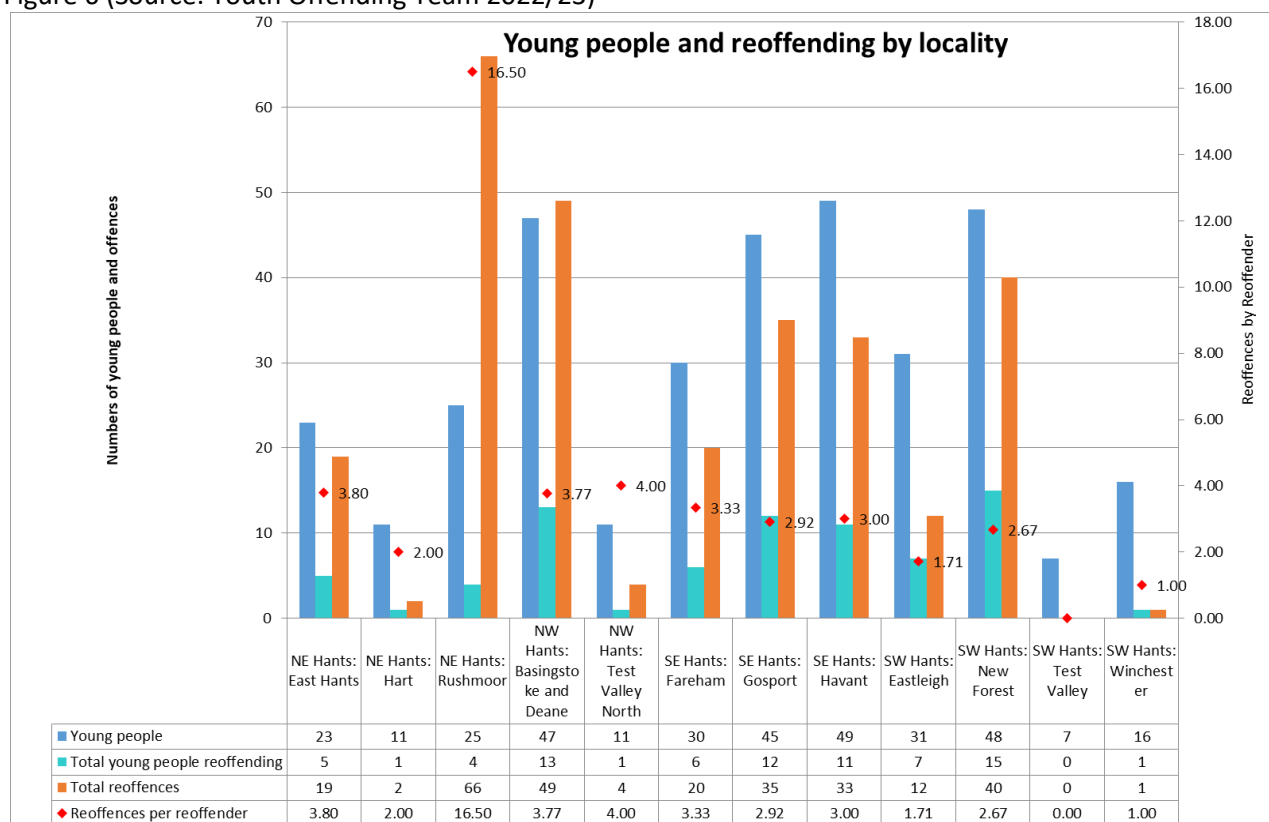
77% (n57) of offenders in this age category were male while 23% (n17) were female. The peak age within this category was 16 years (20%, n15).

The offences most commonly committed by this age group were violence against the person (46%), theft (18%) and drug offences (18%).

Data from the Youth Offending Team for 2022/23 shows that in Hart there were 7 First Time Entrants (FTE) into the Youth Justice System. Broken down, 100% of offenders were male. 29% were aged 17, 29% were aged 16, 29% were aged 13 and 14% were aged 15. The offences committed by FTEs included violence against the person (57%), drug offences (29%) and motoring offences (14%). The most common outcomes were youth conditional cautions (43%), followed by youth caution with voluntary intervention (29%), fines (14%) and referral order (14%).

In the last few years, the reoffending rate has been a key area of focus for the Youth Offending Teams. In Hart, the rate of re-offending among young people was 2.00.

Figure 6 (Source: Youth Offending Team 2022/23)



To address re-offending a set of information has been developed by the Youth Offending Team which allows the needs of the children who go on to offend to be assessed. This is done at service and district level.

Further it is known that offending (or desistence from) can be influenced by the following factors:

- A good assessment drawing in all of the information available about the child
- Developing a plan with the child based on this assessment
- Delivering interventions which support desistence
- Developing a relationship with the child
- Supporting the child to move from a pro-offending to a pro-social identity.

2.5 FEELINGS OF SAFETY

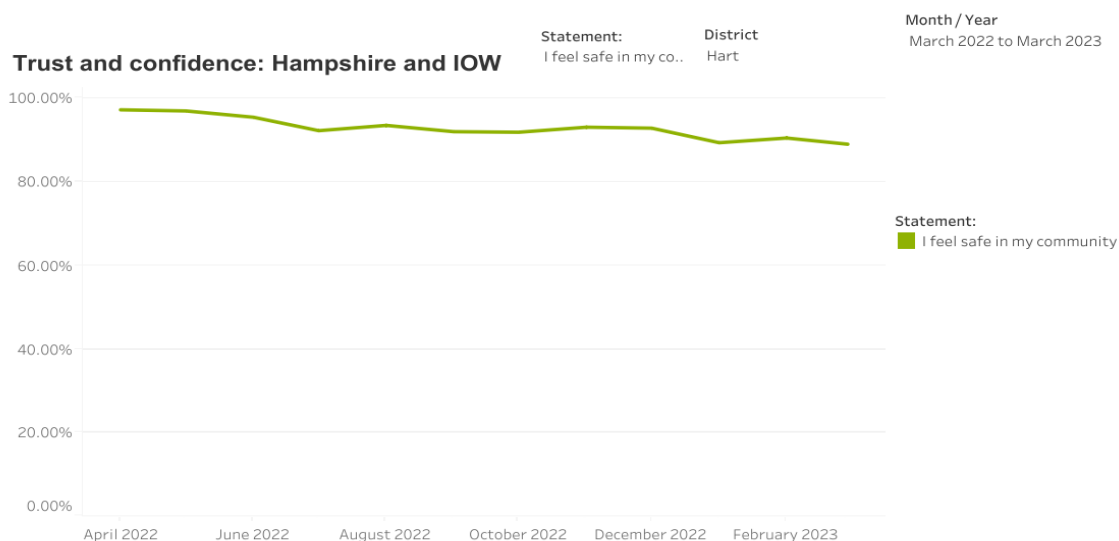
Neighbourhoods where feeling of safety are low have repeatedly been shown to be associated with poor mental and physical health and lower well-being of the residents, so this point is about so much more than actual crime data and offences committed. It is also important to make the distinction that the fear of crime refers to the fear of being a victim of crime as opposed to the actual probability of being a victim.

It is important to educate residents on how they can keep themselves safe but just as important is providing information around the actual probability of being a victim and knowing which groups to target advice towards.

Where details were available for Hart⁴, data shows that violent crime was much more likely (79%) to be committed by somebody the victim knew; acquaintance and ex-partner being the most common, while violence committed by a stranger accounted for only 21% of these offences.

During the assessment period data collected by YouGov relating to public confidence in policing and safety shows that the percentage of residents feeling safe in their community in Hart dropped from 97.3% in April 2022 to 89.09% in March 2023.

Figure 7 (Source: YouGov via OPCC InterAct)



⁴ InterAct, Searchable data from 01.04.2022 to 31.03.2023

It will be important to monitor this over the course of the upcoming year and look at how the partnership can improve resident's feelings of safety.

2.6 VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN AND GIRLS

In September 2021 the Police and Crime Commissioner for Hampshire and the Isle of Wight launched a Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG) task group with Hampshire Constabulary, partners across the criminal justice system and local authorities. The task group will seek to improve the operational response and support given to victims of these crimes and focus on stopping it happen through prevention and targeting and disrupting perpetrators.

Violence against women and girls includes a variety of crime types such as domestic abuse, harassment and domestic homicide. These experiences are sometimes hidden and are not limited to physical violence including abusive treatment or exploitation. While men and boys also suffer many forms of abuse, they disproportionately affect women.

The Hampshire and Isle of Wight Force Strategic Assessment 2023-2024 notes that reporting of VAWG offences increased by 5% in 2022, with larger rises seen in the offences of Disclose or Threats to Disclose Private Sexual Photographs (30%) and Sexual Assault on a Female above the age of 13 (19%).

Domestic abuse (DA) makes up a high proportion of all VAWG (43%), and the most common VAWG crime type is Actual Bodily Harm (ABH) (18%). The top five crime types – ABH, Section 4A Public Order Act, Sending Letters with Intent to Cause Distress/Anxiety, Harassment and Common Assault - make up 68% of all VAWG offences.

VAWG is more common in urban areas, with a third (34%) of all offences taking place in the cities of Southampton and Portsmouth. This is likely to be linked to deprivation and the commission of offences within the Night-Time Economy (NTE).

The force's understanding of VAWG has improved considerably in the last year, since the release of the NPCC's definition. A force wide problem profile and a strategic action plan have been created, with governance and oversight being managed through FPG and the VAWG Programme Board.

The national focus on VAWG remains high, with media and political commentary highlighting numerous shortcomings in police and other agencies' support for and service towards VAWG victims. The force is committed to tackling this problem and has conducted listening circles the last 12 months which identified a number of issues, including how we support victims of VAWG, tackling a victim blaming culture, challenging non-equal treatment of female officers and staff, and reducing compassion fatigue. Following on from this, sexism and misogyny training has been delivered to all senior officers and staff.

The Community Safety Partnership has created its own Action Plan to help monitor outcomes against strategic planning to support the VAWG agenda and over the coming year, it will be important for the Community Safety Partnership to continue to work closely with the VAWG task group.

2.7 BUSINESS CONCERNS⁵

Within the Hampshire Constabulary policing area, business crime accounted for 12.45% of all crime recorded by the force, slightly higher than the previous year (10.64%).

In Hart business crime accounted for 12.72% of totally crime, up from 11.87% the previous year.

Shoplifting, all other theft, criminal damage and burglary business and community were the most common business crime types. The make up of the district and number of rural businesses that are quite isolated and with less natural surveillance mean that there are many targets for organised gangs for this type of business crime. Advice is offered out to such businesses in rural communities through the Police Country Watch team.

2.8 RECOMMENDATIONS

The recommendations made in relation to this section are;

- a) Examine and understand data in relation to reports of crime by LGBTQ+ victims
- b) Educate residents on how they can keep themselves safe
- c) Monitor You Gov data over the course of the upcoming year and look at how the partnership can improve resident's feelings of safety.
- d) Better promotion and use of Street Safe as a tool for reporting feelings of safety within the partnership area
- e) Work closely with the VAWG task group to fully understand the survey results, what they mean for the partnership area and how we can address them going forward.

⁵ Source: Hampshire Constabulary, Business related Crime, Hampshire and the Isle of Wight, 2019/20 via Interact.

3.0 ANTI - SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR AND QUALITY OF LIFE ISSUES

3.1 BACKGROUND

The Crime and Disorder Act (1998) defines anti-social behaviour as:

“Acting in a manner that causes or is likely to cause harassment, alarm or distress to one or more persons not in the same household as (the defendant).”

Different agencies record data in relation to ASB, including Police, Council and Housing Associations. Antisocial behaviour can cover a broad range of subject headings, which may differ to Police recorded antisocial behaviour. For instance, Councils may record environmental antisocial behaviour types such as littering and dog fouling.

Hart is committed to reducing levels of anti-social behaviour. This has contributed to a 47% reduction compared to five years ago. The partnership has mechanisms in place in relation to early interventions that help both victims and perpetrators.

These reductions are partly due to changes in recording practices. Incidents previously recorded as anti-social behaviour, particularly those in which there is evidence of a long running feud, for example cases of neighbour nuisance, may now be recorded as harassment (+18%) or public order (+6%), both of which saw increases this year.

In addition, limitations with the Hampshire Constabulary 101 system for reporting ASB have led to issues with under-reporting. Development of the Police QR code for quick, easy access to online reporting is hoped will help with this issue and was circulated to all households along with a reminder or other reporting mechanisms (including the anonymous reporting to Crimestoppers or Fearless) with the 2023-24 Council Tax bills.

A Local Government ASB Taskforce has been set up to work specifically with Local Authorities and Police to establish mandatory reporting of key ASB metrics and also work with Courts and Housing Associations. The aim is to create a one stop shop for reporting and collecting ASB data which is hoped will improve reporting and recording practices.

3.2 POLICE RECORDED ANTI-SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR

Hampshire Constabulary records anti-social behaviour under three primary categories. The first is ASB – Community (previously ASB – Nuisance), which includes incidents that cause problems to the local community in general. Environmental ASB includes incidents where individuals and groups have an impact on their surroundings, and Personal ASB identifies incidents deliberately targeted at an individual or group.

In 2022/23 there were 674 reports of anti-social behaviour to the police in Hart. This figure represents an 11% (n79) reduction compared to 2021/22 and a 37% (n402) reduction compared to 2019/20 (pre pandemic).

As in previous years, anti-social behaviour across the Hart area was higher during the summer months (29% occurred in July and August). Reports were highest on Saturday (20%, n133) and increased throughout the day, peaking between 14:00 – 22:59 hours (55%, n354).

The majority of anti-social behaviour reports in Hart were classified as ASB Community (83%, n563). ASB Personal accounted for 10% (n64) while ASB Environmental made up 7% (n47) of total recorded incidents in 2022/23.

In 2022/23 the key issues for Hart District in terms of anti-social behaviour were, vehicle nuisance (25%, n171), youth related ASB (23%, n152) and neighbour nuisance (13%, n85).

Vehicle nuisance

Vehicle nuisance was the most common type of anti-social behaviour reported to the police in Hart District in 2022/23. Such reports accounted for 25% (n171) of anti-social behaviour and there was no significant change in the number of reports when compared to the previous year (n170).

Vehicle nuisance can be split into two types. Motorbike nuisance (incidents such as motorbikes, mopeds and quad bikes being ridden on pathways or in the woods) which accounted for 70% (n120) of vehicle nuisance and car nuisance (includes car meets and cars racing) which made up 30% (n51) of vehicle nuisance reports in Hart in 2022/23.

Vehicle nuisance as with other types of anti-social behaviour was highest in the summer months (26%, n45 reported in July and August) and increased Friday to Sunday (58%, n99).

The peak times for vehicle nuisance differed depending on the type. Motorbike nuisance typically occurred during the afternoon (57%, n68 between 14:00 – 20:59 hours) while car nuisance typically occurred at night (55%, n28 between 21:00 – midnight).

Similarly, the locations with the most reports of vehicle nuisance differed depending on whether it was motorbike or car nuisance.

Car nuisance was most common in Hook (16%, n8 – particularly around Station Road), Church Crookham East (14%, n7 – particularly around Beacon Hill Road) and Crondall with reports mostly relating to large numbers of vehicles in car parks, racing, doing donuts and revving engines.

Motorbike nuisance was most common in Blackwater and Hawley (17%, n20 – mostly around Hawley Green and Hurst Avenue) and Yateley East (15%, n18 – mostly Cricket Hill Lane East and Manor Park Drive) beats with reports commonly related to motorbikes being ridden on pathways and green spaces by young people with no PPE.

The CSP is aware of the dangerous and detrimental impact of vehicle nuisance and over the last year has worked hard to reduce the problem, including assisting Police where possible with Op Chromium activities, undertaking Environmental Visual Audits in problematic locations, resulting in increased patrols and ASB Warning Letters being sent to vehicle owners where they have been identified. It remains a challenge to capture evidence which clearly identifies perpetrators, which in turn, means that further action is not possible. In addition, enforcement, deterrent, target hardening and education options are considered for repeat locations.

In Hart residents have been given advice to report incidents. A walkabout at Hawley Lake was undertaken with fliers around motorbike issues and a leaflet drop to surrounding houses. Awareness of the issue and how to report has also been raised through the Community Safety eNewsletter.

Youth related anti-social behaviour

In 2022/23 approximately 23% (n152) of anti-social behaviour related to young people. This figure represents a 13% (n22) reduction increase compared to the previous year. It does not include incidents where two or more incident types were mentioned. For example, there were a number of reports of youths riding motorbikes /mini mottos/quad bikes. These reports were categorised under the behaviour rather than the person so were recorded as vehicle nuisance.

Reports of youth related anti-social behaviour occurred across Hart. The Quarterly Performance Meetings have highlighted specific locations where youth nuisance is a problem and, where appropriate, identified individuals have been discussed at the monthly PEOPLE Meeting. There have also been two ASB Case Reviews linked to youth related anti-social behaviour which have provided an opportunity to review all possible avenues to take action and work towards prevention.

Incidents of youth related ASB occurred throughout the year but were higher during the summer months (68%, n103 occurring April to September). There were no peak days, but more than two thirds (69%, n105) occurred between 14:00 – 01:59 hours.

The police beats with the most reports of youth related ASB were Fleet North (18%, n27 – particularly around Oasthouse Drive, The Key and Turners Way), Church Crookham West (15%, n23 – 70% around the area of Sepen Meade, Further Vell-Mead and Nether Vell-Mead), Fleet Central (13%, n20 – 65% in Fleet Road), Crondall (13%, n19 – mostly Well Road and Green Springs) and Fleet West (13%, n19 – mostly in the area of Reading Road North and Merivale).

Covid restrictions have meant that some of the ASB processes and interventions used to tackle anti-social behaviour were put on hold over the past two years. However, ASB Warning letters, Acceptable Behaviour Contracts and referrals to the PEOPLE Meeting have continued to have a major impact on early intervention and supporting vulnerable people.

In Hart there were 1,168 ASB referrals (direct and via the Police Contact Management Program), resulting in 16 Acceptable Behaviour Contracts/Warning letters.

Neighbour nuisance/disputes (including drug use)

Neighbour nuisance/disputes accounted for 13% (n85) of incident reports in 2022/23 and increased by 13% (n10) compared to the previous year. Broken down, 53% (n174) were general issues with neighbours such as feuds and noise complaints and 47% (n40) related to neighbours smoking drugs (mostly cannabis).

Neighbour disputes are often ongoing issues with regular reports coming into the police, housing associations and other agencies and these cases are monitored through the PEOPLE meeting and in regular operational professionals meetings to agree the most appropriate agency to take the lead on enforcement if early intervention work is not successful in stopping the issue.

In 2022/23 almost half (45%, n18) of reports of neighbours smoking cannabis were in Yateley West beat (67% of these in Cullen Close). A Community Trigger was requested and accepted and an ASB Case Review was conducted with an Action Plan subsequently created. Regular patrols were conducted by the PCSO

covering this area and the Hart Community Safety Team in an attempt for a professional witness to be able to confirm cannabis use, which to date despite numerous patrols, has not been achieved. An ASB Survey was conducted along the entire road and whilst several residents advised that they could smell what they believed to be cannabis sometimes out on the street, they could not identify a source for the odours and did not feel harassment, alarm and distress as a result of smelling it. Neighbours reported greater concern for vehicle ASB through the use of motorbikes by young people riding without helmets – none of the young people, however, were identified and no further action could be taken. The ASB Survey sought to encourage reporting of any antisocial behaviour and provided residents with a handy A6 flier sharing details of all reporting mechanisms – including the new QR code. Reports of the cannabis dropped off following the ASB Case Review and have been minimal since.

General neighbour nuisance complaints were spread across the district with no significant patterns or trends.

It is considered positive that no Closure Orders or Antisocial Behaviour Injunctions have been sought in the last year as these should always only be considered if earlier intervention work has not been successful.

Restorative Justice

The Police and Crime Commissioner for Hampshire and the Isle of Wight commissions Restorative Solutions to deliver their Restorative Justice service.

Restorative Justice (RJ) is a victim focused approach that empowers victims and communities by giving them the opportunity to:

- Communicate directly or indirectly with the person/s responsible for the offence
- explain how the crime has affected them
- ask questions
- It is about holding offenders to account for what they have done, by helping them to understand the real impact of their behaviour directly from those harmed by their actions.

It is also an opportunity for the offender to take responsibility for what they have done, acknowledge the harm caused and where possible make amends.

Any victim of crime or anti-social behaviour can access Restorative Justice services, regardless of when the offence was committed. Each case will be assessed on an individual basis before being taken forward, and all cases which progress are risk assessed throughout

Restorative Justice is voluntary for all parties. As the victim, Restorative Justice hopes to empower you by having your voice heard, giving you the opportunity to express how you have been affected by the crime and to have any questions answered.

In 2022/23 the service received 4 RJ Referrals and passed 1 referral to the mediation service for this area.

Community Trigger

A community trigger provides victims and communities with the right to request a review of their case, bringing agencies together to take a joined-up approach with the aim being to try and find a solution.

Community triggers can be used by a victim of anti-social behaviour, another person acting on behalf of the victim or an individual acting on behalf of a group of residents or community group.

In order to activate the trigger, the victim or representative should contact Hampshire Constabulary using the non-emergency number 101.

In order for the threshold to be met there is certain criteria;

Individual – 3 complaints within a six month period or 1 hate crime complaint

Group – 5 individuals within a local community have separately reported similar incidents of anti-social behaviour to a member of the Community Safety Partnership. They must all think that non action has been taken or are not satisfied with the action already taken.

To meet the criteria in all cases, incidents need to have caused harassment, alarm or distress, been logged within one month of the incident and the last reported incidents must have occurred within the last six months.

If the Community Trigger threshold is met, agencies will share information, review what action has already been taken and decide if additional actions are appropriate or possible.

In 2022/23, there were 3 activations in Hart.

3.4 POLICE RECORDED CRIMINAL DAMAGE

Criminal damage is defined as *'the intentional or reckless damage, or destruction of another person's property and includes damage to vehicles and buildings, graffiti and arson.'* Criminal damage is a volume crime and causes significant distress to its victims, increases the level of fear among the public and has the potential to cause people a great deal of concern.

In 2022/23, levels of police recorded criminal damage increased by 1% (n3) across Hart. However, when compared to 2019/20 offences were 34% (n195) lower than pre pandemic levels.

Fleet Central beat had the highest number of reports of criminal damage (10%, n38) followed by Blackwater and Hawley (9%, n33). Across Hart, criminal damage to vehicles under £5,000 was the most common, accounting for 33% (n120) of offences, followed by criminal damage to a building - residential under £5,000, (20%, n74) and criminal damage to a building – business/community under £5,000 (19%, n68).

3.5 RECOMMENDATIONS

The recommendations made in relation to anti-social behaviour are;

- a) Review the process of dealing with cannabis related ASB reports to be clear about evidential support required to take any informal early intervention work followed by formal enforcement in persistent and severe cases.
- b) Partners to continue to work collaboratively to address antisocial behaviour

- c) Focus on early intervention approaches with young people who are involved in antisocial behaviour to reduce risk of escalating or repeat behaviour
- d) Embed the county-wide Community Trigger process and make best use of partnership case review meetings to identify best practice.
- e) Continue to develop strategies to deal with vehicle nuisance with a specific focus on motorbike nuisance.
- f) Focus on developing strategies to reduce the impact of neighbour disputes including making better use of restorative justice options available through the OPCC (such as mediation services) early on.
- g) Continue to support youth service provision across Hart (assisting in diversionary and inclusive community activities for young people).
- h) Work closely with the LA ASB Task Force on the development of better reporting and recording practices and a one-stop-shop.

4.0 CRIMES

4.1 BACKGROUND

As a result of Covid-19, crime levels locally and nationally fluctuated over the past two years. In addition, changes to recording practices, as well as police activity and changing behaviour in public reporting of crime have also led to fluctuations in crime levels in the longer term. These factors have contributed to a 3% rise in crime levels across Hart compared to five years ago⁶.

4.2 VIOLENCE AGAINST THE PERSON

Violence against the person includes the categories 1a homicide, 1b violence with injury and 1c violence without injury.

Nationally, police recorded violence against the person showed a 21% increase compared with the year ending March 2020.

Violence with injury was 7% higher than levels recorded in the pre-coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic year ending March 2020 and stalking and harassment rose by 45% compared with the year ending March 2020 and by 5% rise compared with the year ending September 2021. This continued the trend of year-on-year increases since the year ending March 2012, though this was partially driven by changes in Home Office Counting Rules across this period.

The Crime Survey for England and Wales (CSEW) also looks at the overall trend in violent crime. Estimates from the CSEW for the year ending September 2022 showed that there were 1.1 million violent offences which represents no significant change compared with the survey for the year ending March 2020.

Previously, the CSEW has not included estimates for stalking and harassment but in April 2022, launched an experimental module with the aim to fill some important evidence gaps around the experience of harassment. Estimates based on six months of data from the CSEW showed that 11% of adults aged 16 years and over experienced some form of harassment in the last year. Experiences of harassment were greater among women aged 16 to 34 years (21%) than men aged 16 to 34 years (13%), with the main difference between women and men being experiences of sexual harassment (15% and 4%, respectively).

In Hart District, overall violence against the person offences increased by 9% (n150) in 2022/23 when compared to the previous year and 29% (n404) compared to 2019/20, pre pandemic.

Violence against the person remains the single largest contributor to crime across Hart, accounting for 41% of all reported offences, down slightly from 42% in 2021/22.

Violence without injury accounted for 72% of VAP offences while violence with injury offences made up 28% of VAP offences. There were no homicides during the assessment period.

As was seen nationally, harassment accounted for a large number of violence against the person offences (15%) and can in part explain the increases seen since before the pandemic.

⁶ Source: Hampshire Constabulary Business Objects

Across Hart, 34% of violence against the person offences were domestic related. 4.7% involved the use of a weapon and 3.9% had a hate crime flag.

In contrast to previous years, there were more female victims of violence against the person (56%), compared to males (44%) and this reflects the increase in harassment offences reported by female victims over the past two years (+83%). The peak ages for victims were between 12-16 years (11%, n186) and 32-37 years (16%, n271). The most common victim ethnicity was White North European (81%).

Town Centre locations had some of the highest levels of violence against the person and **Fleet Central** beat accounted for 11% (n189) of offences. These can be broken down into;

- Night-time economy related⁷ offences (62%, n118), occurring in or outside of a licensed premises between 22:00 – 03:59 hours. Night-time economy offences are monitored within Quarterly Performance data reviews.
- Domestic related offences accounted for 19% (n35) of violence against the person offences in Fleet Central beat which is lower than across Hart district (34%).
- The percentage of violence against the person offences committed by a stranger (59%) was higher in Fleet Central beat than across Hart district (21%). This can be explained in terms of a higher footfall of people in town centre locations, along with the night-time economy.
- 3.2% (n11) of violence against the person offences in Fleet Central beat were hate related which is slightly lower than the figure for Hart (3.9%).
- 3.1% (n5) of violence against the person offences in Fleet Central beat involved the use of a weapon which lower than the figure for Hart district (4.7%).
- 55% of victims were male and 45% were female, which is a higher proportion of male victims than the figure for Hart district as a whole (44% male and 56% female).

In the areas outside of Fleet Central beat, the beats with the highest percentage of domestic related violence against the person offences were **Blackwater and Hawley** (52%, n50) and **Hartley Wintney** (51%, n54). **Odiham** (14.5%, n25) beat had the highest percentage of VAP offences with a hate crime flag. **Long Sutton** (11.8%, n2), **Church Crookham West** (8.5%, n5) and **Fleet Courtmoor** (8.0%, n4) had the highest percentage of VAP offences involving weapons.

Public Health England data (2018/19 – 2020/21) shows that the level of hospital admissions for violent crime (including sexual offences) in Hart (21.1 per 1,000 population) was lower than the England average (41.9 per 1,000 population) and had reduced over the past 10 years (from 35.5 in 2009/10 – 2011/12).

⁷ Source: Hampshire Constabulary Business Objects 'Basingstoke Night-Time Economy' Report

4.3 SERIOUS VIOLENCE

In 2022/23 28 crimes were recorded as most serious violence (MSV) in Hart District. This figure represents a 12% (n3) increase compared to the previous year.

In April 2018, the Government published its Serious Violence Strategy setting out an ambitious programme of work to respond to increases in knife crime, gun crime and homicide.

Following on from this, The Serious Violence Duty was introduced as part of the Police, Crime, Sentencing and Courts Act 2022, alongside Serious Violence Reduction Orders (SVROs) and Offensive Weapon Homicide Reviews.

It is a key part of the Government's wider programme of work to prevent and reduce serious violence; taking a multi-agency approach to understand the causes and consequences of serious violence, focused on prevention and early intervention. The duty requires organisations to work together to plan, share data and information, to generate evidence-based analysis of the problem and solutions and publish a strategy to prevent and reduce serious violence in local areas. **The Crime and Disorder Act 1998 will be amended to ensure that tackling serious violence is an explicit priority for Community Safety Partnerships.**

Hampshire Constabulary was identified in 2019 as one of 18 areas to receive funding for a Violence Reduction Unit (VRU) from the Home Office. The VRU brings together different organisations, including police, local government, health, community leaders and other key partners to tackle violent crime by understanding its root causes. The unit will be responsible for identifying what is driving violent crime in the area and coming up with a coordinated response.

The definition of most serious violence has been adapted in this year's problem profile to align the most serious definition used by Hampshire & IOW Constabulary. The new definition focuses on crimes of particular concern as follows: 'Most Serious Violence (MSV)', robbery, possession of weapon, violent disorder, riot and any violence with injury where a bladed implement was used⁸.

Key points taken from the latest Violence Reduction Unit Problem Profile, November 2022, show that in Hampshire and more specifically in Hart;

Crimes involving knife or sharp instrument

- In 2021/22 the rate of crimes in both the Hampshire & IOW Constabulary area and England & Wales were the highest since 2010/11.
- Since 2015/16, the Hampshire and IOW Constabulary area rate has doubled, but is still statistically significantly lower than the England and Wales average in 2020/21. In Hampshire and IOW Constabulary area there was an 88.9% increase in knife related crimes between 2020/21 and 2021/22; this rate of increase was four times greater than the increase nationally.

⁸ Crime codes included in the definition;

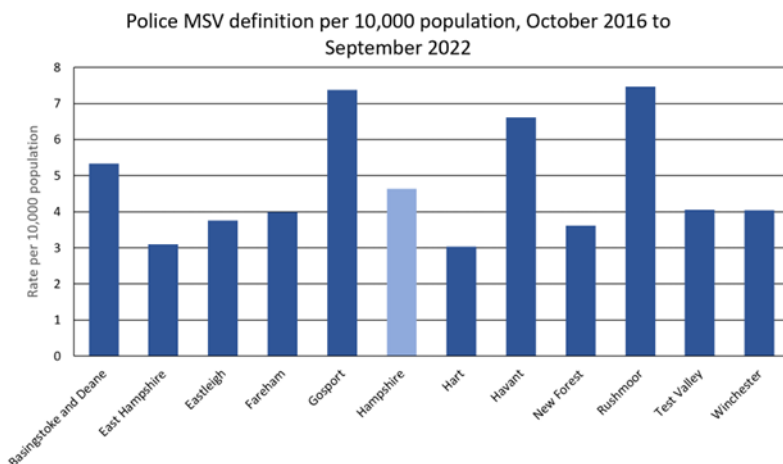
- MSV – Existing Definition (1a and 1b where it is GBH and above incl. death by dangerous driving)
- Robbery (3a and 3b)
- Possession of Weapon Offences (7)
- Public Order (Violent Disorder [65] and Riot [64/1] only)
- Any Violence with Injury (1b) not included under MSV where a bladed implement was used.

Risks

- When looking at relationship risks, Hart had no factors with higher rates than the Hampshire average.
- When looking at individual risks, Hart had no factors with higher rates than the Hampshire average.
- When looking at community risks, Hart had 1 factor (out of 7) with higher rates than the Hampshire average. This was house stability.

Most serious violent crimes

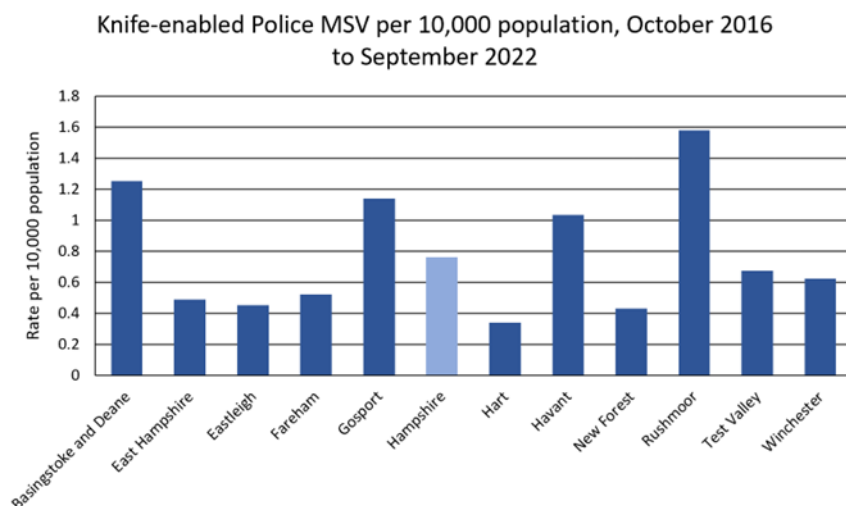
Figure 8



- Since 2016/17 Havant, Gosport, Rushmoor and Basingstoke and Deane has consistently highest rates
- Across Hampshire and IOW offences most commonly occurred among males (offenders and victims)
- Over a third of crimes occurred on a Saturday and Sunday and highest rate of crime occurred between 18:30 and 01:30.

Knife enabled MSV

Figure 9



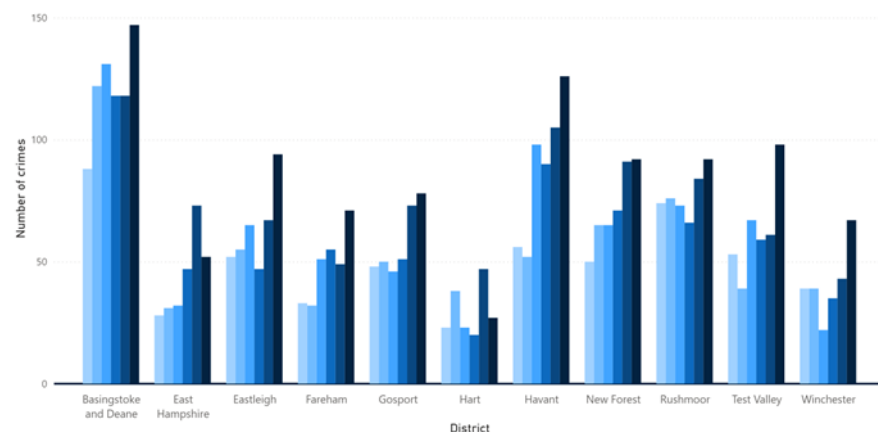
- Across Hampshire and IOW The number of knife enabled MSV crimes almost halved between 2020/21 and 2021/22.
- Since 2016/17, Rushmoor, Havant, Gosport and Basingstoke and Deane had consistently highest rates
- Across Hampshire and IOW, offences most commonly occur among males (offenders and victims) and the highest rate of crime occurred on Friday and Saturday between 19:30 and 2:30

Knife Possession Offences

Figure 10

Possession of bladed weapons, October 2016 to September 2022

Year 2016/17 2017/18 2018/19 2019/20 2020/21 2021/22

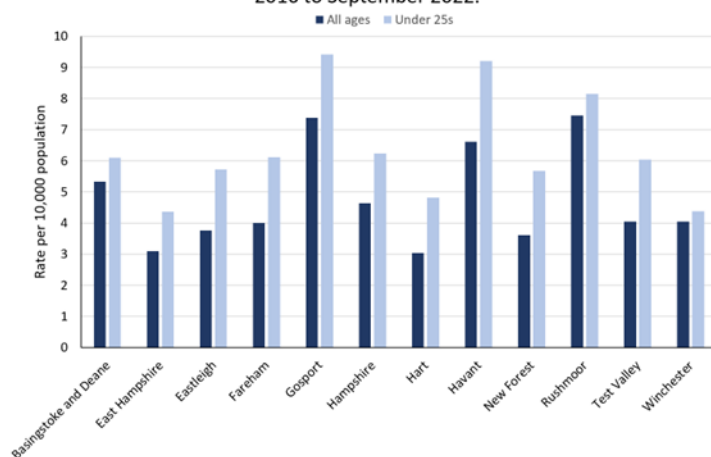


- Across Hampshire and IOW area, since 2016/17, there has been year on year increases in possession of bladed weapons offences, with an 8% increase in possession offences since 2020/21.
- Since 2016/17, Basingstoke and Deane, Havant, Rushmoor and Gosport had consistently highest rates.
- Across Hampshire and IOW area, the highest rate of crime occurred on weekdays after school hours between 14:30 and 18:30

MSV Under 25s

Figure 11

Police MSV crimes for all ages compared to Under 25s, October 2016 to September 2022.



- Since 2016, Gosport, Havant and Rushmoor had consistently highest rates
- The rate of offences in Hampshire was higher in Under 25s (6.2 per 10,000 population) compared to all ages (4.64).

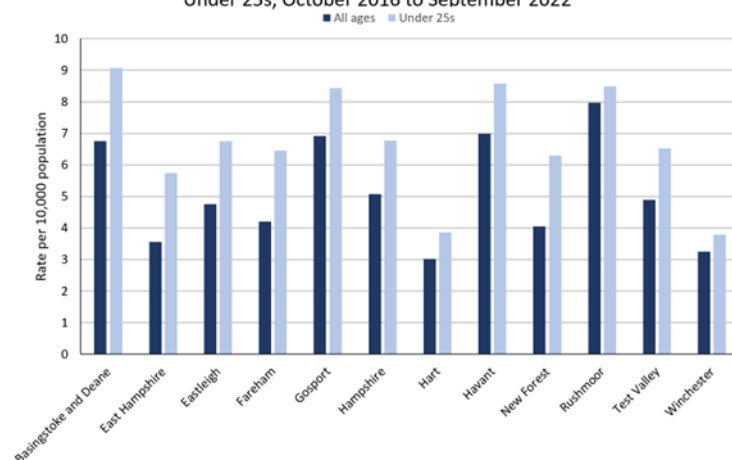
Knife enabled MSV Under 25s

- Across Hampshire and IOW, offences decreased in 2021/22 to 35 from 47 in 2020/21.
- Since 2016/17, Havant, Rushmoor and Gosport had consistently highest rates.
- The rate of offences in Hampshire was higher for Under 25s (1.03 per 10,000 population) compared to all ages (0.76)

Knife Possession Offences Under 25

Figure 12

Possession of bladed weapon offence rates by all ages compared to Under 25s, October 2016 to September 2022



- Across Hampshire and IOW offences increased by 44% between 2018/19 and 2021/22
- The highest rate of crime occurred weekdays after school hours between 14:30 and 18:30
- Between 2020/21 and 2021/22, the highest rate of crimes occurred in Basingstoke and Eastleigh town centres.
- 80% of offenders did not have an ethnicity recorded
- No available data on location of offenders' residence cannot be concluded if the offenders are local residents of the urban areas.
- 13% of offenders are multiple offenders.

In Response to serious violence, the VRU funded interventions in Hampshire include commissioning and delivering interventions (for example school projects, custody intervention schemes and trauma informed practitioners), multi-agency working, data sharing and analysis and engaging young people and communities. Across Hart, such interventions within schools are in their second year and offer an educational piece in the evening to parents of the students as well.

4.4 ROBBERY

Crime in England and Wales reports that nationally, police recorded robbery offences reduced by 21% in the year ending September 2022 when compared to the year ending March 2020.

Total robbery offences (robbery business and robbery personal) in Hart District increased by 18% from 17 offences in 2021/22 to 20 offences in 2022/23. However, when compared to 2019/20 (pre pandemic) robberies were down 49% from 39 to 20.

Robbery offences in Hart have been examined. Broken down, 80% (n16) of offences were robbery personal while 20% (n4) were robbery business.

In 2022/23, victims of robbery personal were often young males, with 10-17 years (20%, n4) and 18-24 years (20%, n4) being the age groups with the most victims, followed by 25-29 (15%, n3). 91% of victims in these cohorts were male.

Where details were available, almost three quarters of offences were committed by a stranger (71%), 30% (n6) involved a weapon, with bladed implements the most common (67%, n4).

Top locations for robbery in Hart were Hook (25%, n5 – robbery personal) and Frogmore and Derby Green (15%, n3 – 2 robbery personal, 1 robbery business).

4.5 OFFENCES INVOLVING WEAPONS

Crime in England and Wales reports that over the last year (ending September 2022) offences involving knives or sharp instruments were down by 8% nationally when compared with the year ending March 2020 (pre-pandemic), largely due to a reduction in the number of knife enabled robberies (-25%).

Levels of knife-enabled crime fell to 45,595 offences in the year ending September 2021 because of government restrictions on social contact. It has increased by 11% in the year ending September 2022 while remaining below pre-coronavirus pandemic levels.

This trend is supported by admissions data for NHS hospitals in England and Wales, which shows a 12% reduction in admissions for assault with a sharp object in 2021/22 when compared to 2019/20 (pre-pandemic) but a 2% rise compared to 2020/21.

Similarly, there was an 4% fall in offences involving firearms when compared to the year ending March 2020 and a 12% increase compared with the year ending September 2021.

Rates of crimes involving knives or sharp instruments vary by Police Force Area. Hampshire's rate of crimes involving knives or sharp instruments (64 per 100,000 population) is much less than the England and Wales average (85 per 100,000 population)⁹.

The Hampshire and Isle of Wight Force Strategic Assessment 2023-2023 reports that across Hampshire knife crime offence levels are stable with no significant increase expected in 2023.

Across Hampshire recorded firearms offences rose by 17% in 2022, with Possession of Weapons and Criminal Damage experiencing the largest increases. This is believed linked to a rise in use of BB guns, catapults and Tasers/pepper spray, not to offences involving live firearms.

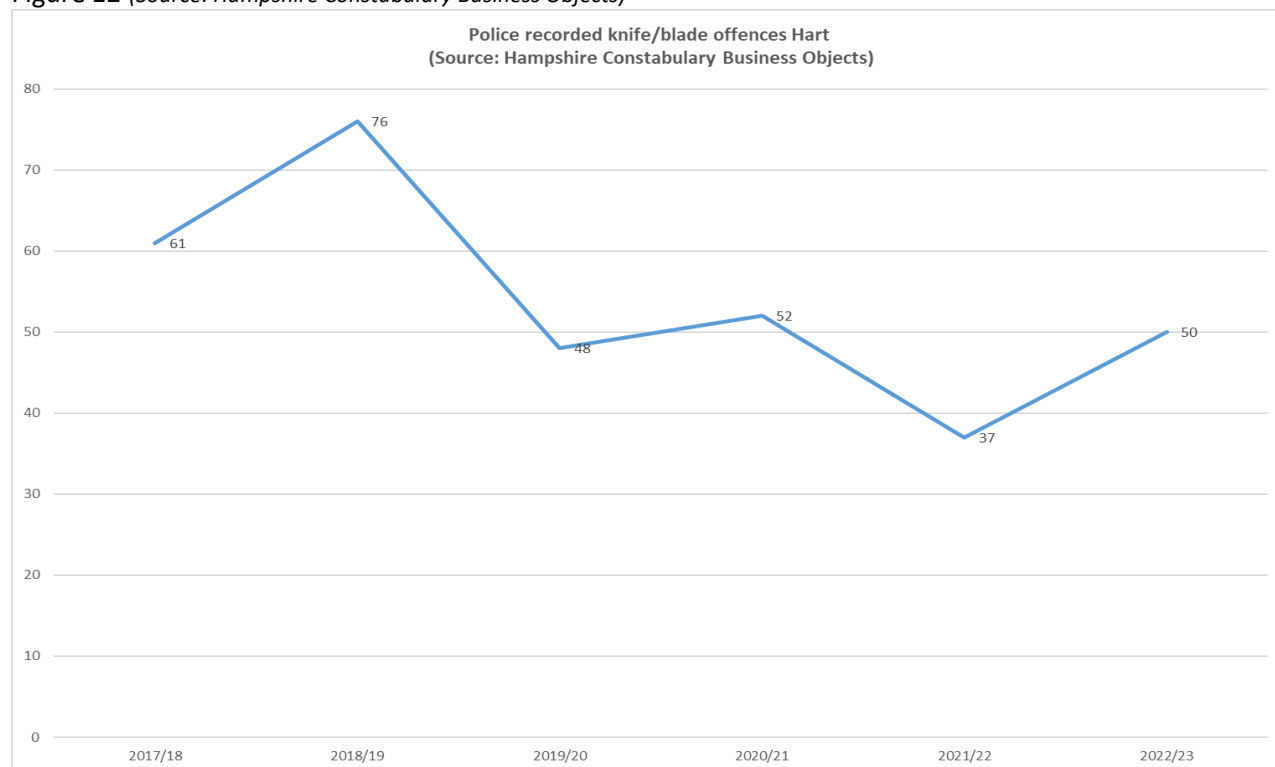
In Hart, offences involving catapults have seen a marked increase and work has been done with local schools through the PCSOs to raise awareness of the potential dangers to both persons and wildlife.

In Hart, offences involving a knife/blade were up 35% (n13) from 37 in 2021/22 to 50 in 2022/23 and such offences accounted for 1.1% of total crime. Of the 50 knife/blade offences, almost half were recorded as possession of a weapon (46%), followed by violence against the person (28%) and robbery (8%).

⁹ Crime in England and Wales, year ending December 2022 – PFA tables

The five-year trend is a 18% decrease across Hart since 2017/18 as shown below.

Figure 12 (Source: Hampshire Constabulary Business Objects)



Crime in England and Wales (year ending Sep 2022) reports that, Police recorded "possession of article with a blade or point" offences were 15% higher in the year ending September 2022 (26,643 offences) than the year ending March 2020 (23,246 offences). This was a 17% increase compared with the year ending September 2021 (22,853 offences). This could have been influenced by increases in targeted police action to tackle knife crime which included provision of knife amnesty bins and test purchasing across stores in Hart for sale of bladed weapons to under 18s.

Knife crime and its potential risks and impacts is covered by the Childrens Services Willow Team at the Stay Safe offering to secondary schools across Hart. They illustrate with the use of two paper suits worn by students and two marker pens how it is impossible to use a knife without sustaining injury.

The Violence Reduction Unit also offers the Choices programme in Junior and Secondary schools which are pupil and parent workshops aimed at risky decision making.

4.6 ACQUISITIVE CRIME

The Hampshire and Isle of Wight Force Strategic Assessment 2023-2024 reports that the largest rises in offences relate to acquisitive crime, likely influenced by the cost-of-living crisis and associated increase in deprivation. However, the changes to the operating model being implemented in 2023 are likely to prevent these increases continuing. Operation Relentless is the force's pilot response to proactive and reactive policing demands under the move to new area structures. The aim is to capture all policing activity, from across all commands, to assess the benefits to local communities. This focus will help launch the new area

model and maximise our understanding of our resourcing and the effectiveness of targeting serious violence, ASB and knife crime through intelligence-led operational activity.

Vehicle crime increased by 12% in 2022 when compared to 2021, and is now reaching pre-pandemic levels.

Organised acquisitive crime series within the last 12 months have generally been concentrated within the northern area of the force, eg. Op Scould (keyless car thefts – for which much advice has been circulated through the Community Safety eNewsletter), Op Potager (Asian gold burglaries), Op Autumn (tool thefts from vans) and Op Acumen (bike thefts/burglary).

Rural areas are the most impacted by organised acquisitive crime, and within this community, the cost of theft can vastly exceed the value of what is stolen. For example, loss of vehicles during time-dependent crop seasons can debilitate an entire harvest for a farmer.

Thieves often target repeat locations after items have been replaced through insurance claims.

Series are often cross-border and offenders are known to travel from outside Hampshire and the Isle of Wight to commit crimes within the force area.

Offences tend to take place under the cover of darkness and identification of suspects is challenging. Offenders will use sophisticated methods to avoid detection. Most perpetrators that are identified are local to Hampshire or the surrounding area, however some operate regionally or even nationally, including groups of foreign nationals.

Overall acquisitive crime increased by 19% (n197) across Hart in 2022/23 when compared to the previous year. When offences were compared to 2019/20 (pre-pandemic) there was a 25% (400) reduction.

In 2022/23 there were considerable increases in burglary business and community (+92%) and vehicle offences (+30%) when compared to the previous year. However, all acquisitive crime types showed reductions when compared to 2019/20 (pre-pandemic).

Burglary business and community offences in Hart increased by 92% from 52 offences in 2021/22 to 100 in 2022/23. Hook beat (17%) and Fleet North (14%) were the locations with the most offences.

Vehicle offences in Hart increased by 30% from 271 offences in 2021/22 to 353 in 2022/23. Offences were predominantly theft from a motor vehicle (59%) and theft of a motor vehicle (22%), both of which were spread across the district. Many of these are thought to be opportunist so general safety messages about locking cars are shared periodically through the Community Safety eNewsletter.

Rural areas experienced some offence series, particularly in relation to burglaries and thefts of machinery and ATVs are a police priority. There has been a cross border response to this with active crime prevention messaging, reassurance patrols and follow-up visits at vulnerable locations and operational activity taking place to disrupt criminals.

4.7 RECOMMENDATIONS

The recommendations made in relation to this section are;

- a) CSP partners to work collaboratively with the Violence Reduction Unit, Police and Crime Commissioner and Hampshire County Council Community Safety Strategy Group to ensure the serious violence duty can be appropriately embedded into practice.
- b) Development of the approach of Offensive Weapon Homicide Reviews, set out in the new Serious Violence Legislation.
- c) Partners to continue working closely to monitor and develop its Action Plan around Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG) and Youth Related Violence and Exploitation with progress and any barriers reported back to the CSP.
- d) Continue to monitor acquisitive crime levels and associated effects of the cost-of-living crisis.

5 CRIMES WITH HISTORICALLY LOW LEVELS OF REPORTING AND RECORDING

5.1 DOMESTIC ABUSE

Domestic abuse is 'any incident or pattern of controlling, coercive or threatening behaviour, violence or abuse between those aged 16 or over who are or have been intimate partners or family members regardless of gender or sexuality. This can encompass, but is not limited to, the following types of abuse: psychological, physical, sexual, financial and emotional.'

Estimates from the Crime Survey England and Wales (CSEW) showed that 5.7% of adults aged between 16 and 59 years experienced domestic abuse in the year ending March 2022. This was no significant change compared with the year ending March 2020. The survey estimated that

Police recorded domestic abuse figures show that nationally there was a 14% increase in reported offences in the year ending March 2022 when compared to March 2020. Some of this increase may reflect improvements seen in reporting over the last few years.

The Hampshire and Isle of Wight Constabulary Force Strategic Assessment 2023-2024 reports that in Hampshire in 2022, the force recorded a 5% increase in DA crimes, taking it over 30,000 crimes for the first time and representing a substantial workload for officers. The increase was less than the 15% rise the previous year, but demonstrates a continuation of improved identification and recording of both Stalking & Harassment, and Coercive & Controlling Behaviour (CCB) offences. In contrast, higher harm Grievous Bodily Harm (GBH) offences reduced by 15%.

Having had no intimate partner murders recorded since 2019, 2022 saw two people killed by their current partner within the force area, neither of which were in Hart; one being a repeat victim of DA.

New offences of Non-Fatal Strangulation and Threats to Disclose Sexual Imagery were introduced in June 2022 under the Domestic Abuse Act 2021. Since then, 242 offences have been recorded for Non-Fatal Strangulation and the force achieved one of the first convictions in the country for this offence.

The FAT outcome rate for 2022 was 8.7%, a 0.2% increase from 2021, but still a 4% decrease from 2019. The number of DA charge/summons outcomes decreased by 26% compared to 2019.

Project Foundation uses a set criteria to identify repeat offenders within a family setting, who have not recently been charged, to refer them to partnership intervention schemes or allow for increased neighbourhood policing disruption. The programme has been rolled out to all Districts following an introductory programme in Southampton and Eastleigh.

In Hart district, domestic crimes account for 17% of total crime in 2022/23 (the same as the previous year) with reported DA offences increasing by 14% (n94) during this strategic period.

In 2022/23, 'Violence against the person' accounted for 80% (n608) of domestic abuse crime. The most common offence types were common assault and battery (32%, n192) and Actual Bodily Harm (ABH) (24%, n144). 29% of all domestic crime involved repeat victims. Across Hart, 68% of victims were female and 32% were male. 85% of offenders were male and 15% were female. The peak age for victims was between

30-34 years (15%). The monthly PEOPLE meeting assesses repeat victims graded as LOW or MEDIUM for risk factors and engages with partners to suggest actions to reduce those risk factors where victims/perpetrators are not already being managed as HIGH risk by within the Multi Agency Risk Assessment Conferences (MARAC) framework.

When there is a domestic related homicide, Community Safety Partnerships must undertake a Domestic Homicide Review in circumstances where the death of a person occurs, or is thought to occur, as a result of violence, abuse or neglect from a family member or member of the same household. The purpose being to establish what lessons are to be learned regarding the way in which local professionals and organisations work individually and together to safeguard victims and to prevent domestic homicide in the future. Reviews are published with the aim of restoring public confidence and improving transparency of the processes in place across all agencies to protect victims. There have been no domestic homicide reviews undertaken in Hart district during this strategic period.

Where details were provided 47% of domestic abuse offences involved an ex-partner, either heterosexual (98%) or non-heterosexual (2%). 24% of offences involved a current partner, either heterosexual (97%) or non-heterosexual (3%) while a further 27% involved a relative¹⁰.

Launched in 2014, Clare's Law is the domestic violence disclosure scheme designed to provide victims with information that may protect them from an abusive situation before it ends in tragedy. The scheme allows the police to disclose information about a partner's previous history of domestic violence or violent acts. In Hart in 2022/23 18 disclosures were made and of these, 9 were 'right to ask' which enables someone to ask the police about a partner's previous history of domestic violence or violent acts and 9 were 'right to know' where police can proactively disclose information in prescribed circumstances.

Multi Agency Risk Assessment Conferences (MARACs) operate across England, Wales, Northern Ireland and Scotland. The Multi-Agency Risk Assessment Conference is a regular meeting where agencies discuss high risk domestic abuse cases, and together develop a safety plan for the victim and his or her children. Agencies taking part can include Police, Independent Domestic Violence Advisors (IDVAs), Children's Social Services, Health Visitors and GPs, amongst others. Meetings operate on a monthly basis across the Safer North Hampshire Area. In addition, Domestic Abuse Forums are active across the area which seek to educate partners working in DA around services available, provide networking opportunities and share best practice.

5.2 HATE CRIME

Hate crime is defined as 'any criminal offence which is perceived by the victim or any other person, to be motivated by hostility or prejudice towards someone based on a personal characteristic.' There are five centrally monitored strands of hate crime which can be flagged when recorded by the police:

- Race or ethnicity
- Religion or beliefs
- Sexual orientation
- Disability
- Trans-gender identity

¹⁰ Includes brother, sister, parent, grandchild, grandparent, son , daughter and other relative.

Nationally, the number of hate crimes has been increasing and were up 26% in the year ending March 2022, the biggest increase since 2017 when there was a 29% rise. 2020/21. Increases in police recorded hate crime in recent years have been driven by improvements in crime recording and a better identification of what constitutes a hate crime.

The CSEW is a face-to-face victimisation survey and also provides information on hate crimes experienced by people resident in England and Wales. However, the size of the CSEW sample means the number of hate crime incidents and victims estimated in a single survey year is too unreliable to report on. Therefore, three annual datasets are combined to provide a larger sample which can be used to produce robust estimates for hate crime. Estimates from the survey were last published in 'Hate Crime, England and Wales, 2019 to 2020'. The next publication of figures from the CSEW would have been due in 2023, but this will be delayed because the face-to-face survey was suspended due to public health restrictions during the COVID-19 pandemic.

However, the previous survey showed a long-term decline in hate crime, with a 38% fall in these incidents between the combined year ending March 2008 and year ending March 2009 and the combined year ending March 2019 and year ending March 2020 surveys.

The Hampshire and Isle of Wight Force Strategic Assessment 2023-2024 states that, reported hate crime offences increased by 2% in the calendar year of 2022. Public order (44%) and Violence without Injury (39%) remain the most prevalent offences.

Almost half of all hate crimes recorded took place in the densely populated districts of Southampton (24%), Portsmouth (18%) and Basingstoke (7%).

The proportion of hate crime within each strand remains relatively consistent, with 58% recorded as related to race, 19% sexual orientation, 18% disability, 6% gender identity and 3% religion or belief.

Gender identity-related hate crime levels increased in 2022, although numbers remain low. This could be due to improved confidence in reporting as a result of recent media attention on issues such as the Scottish Gender Recognition Reform Bill, and transgender prisoner policies.

Hate crimes are disproportionately reported to be occurring in Police buildings, hospitals and residential care facilities. It is believed that this is due to incidents occurring in custody that result in effective recording, or previous engagement. For example, Operation Cavell encourages health colleagues to report and record incidents of hate.

The FAT outcome rate for 2022 was 16.7%, an increase of 1.1% from 2021. However, the removal of the hate crime awareness course has led to a reduction in the options for out of court disposals.

In contrast to the National and Hampshire wide picture, reports of hate crime in Hart district during the assessment period reduced by 3% (n4).

Districts are working closely with the local Hate Crime Working Groups to increase trust and confidence in reporting.

In addition, there were several repeat victims of hate crime during the assessment period. In Hart and Rushmoor these victims are managed through the monthly PEOPLE Meeting.

Across Hart, offences relating to race were the most common, accounting for almost three quarters (71%, n91) of all reported hate crimes, followed by disability (15%, n19) and sexual orientation (6%, n8). There has been concern for refugees seeking asylum within the area and they are advised to report any hate incidents or crimes as part of their settlement.

Hate related violence against the person was the most common offence type (58%, n160), followed by public order (43%, n148).

A media campaign is followed during Hate Crime Awareness Week to raise the profile of a still suspected much under reported crime and information has also been shared through the Community Safety eNewsletter.

5.3 SEXUAL OFFENCES

Sexual offences includes the categories 2a rape and 2b other sexual offences.

Crime in England and Wales, year ending March 2022 reports that police recorded sexual offences data must be treated with caution. High levels of non-reporting combined with changes in reporting trends can have a significant impact on sexual offences recorded by the police. The figures do, however, provide a good measure of the crime-related demand on the police.

Estimates from the CSEW for the year ending March 2022 Prior to the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic, the number of police recorded sexual offences was well below the number of victims estimated by the crime survey, with fewer than one in six victims of rape or assault by penetration reporting the crime to the police.

Nationally, the number of sexual offences recorded by the police showed a 22% increase in the year ending September 2022 compared with the year ending March 2022. This is the highest number of sexual offences recorded within a 12-month period.

The latest figures may reflect a number of factors, including the impact of high-profile incidents, media coverage and campaigns on people's willingness to report incidents to the police, as well as a potential increase in the number of victims.

Of all sexual offences recorded by the police in the year ending September 2022, 35% (70,633) were rape offences (a subcategory of sexual offences). This was a 20% increase from 59,104 in the year ending March 2020. Other sexual offences increased to 128,388 offences; a 23% rise compared with the year ending March 2020.

The Hampshire and Isle of Wight Force Strategic Assessment 2023-2024 reports that across Hampshire sexual offences continue on an upward trend with a 10% increase in 2022. This is mainly driven by a 24% rise in Sexual Assaults on a Female aged +13. 'Other Sexual Offences' (non-rape offences) increased by 14%, whilst reported rape offences increased by 4%.

Across Hampshire domestic offences account for just over half of all sexual offences (45% partner/ex-partner, 7% relatives), acquaintance offences for 27% and stranger offences 8%.

Over the last two years there has been greater reporting of child peer-on-peer offences, believed to be instigated by the national media attention on under-reporting of these offences in 2020.

The force currently ranks 39th nationally in terms of the FAT outcome rate for rape offences. In 2022, the force joined Operation Soteria, a research and change programme that brings together police forces with

academics and policy leads to use evidence to gain new insight into the policing response to Rape and Serious Sexual Offences (RASSO). The programme is working to develop a national operating model which will be delivered to the Home Office in June 2023. The aim is for radical and sustainable improved procedural and justice outcomes, focusing on suspect behaviour, not victim credibility.

In 2022/23 the number of sexual offences reported in Hart District increased by 10% (n17) compared to the previous year. The number of rape offences increased by 32% (n15) and the number of other sexual offences were up 2% (n2).

A more detailed look at sexual offences in Hart for 2022/23 shows that, where details were available, 81% of victims were female and 19% were male and this is similar to previous years.

The peak age for victims was between 10-17 years (44%) with 71% of victims in this age group female. More than a third (34%) of these offences were sexual assault on a female 13+ (18%) and rape of a female under 16 (16%). 56% were committed by an acquaintance, 30% were domestic related (partner, ex-partner and family member) and 13% were by a stranger which differs to the overall victim/offender relationship trend across Hampshire (shown above).

5.4 CHILD EXPLOITATION AND CHILD VICTIMS OF CRIME

Child exploitation linked to organised criminal activity is a key threat to the safety of vulnerable children.

The National Crime Agency suggest that children as young as 12 are being drawn into County Lines activity, with 15-16 years being the most common age. Children are being subjected to debt bondage, threats and violence with vulnerable adults losing their homes due to cuckooing. Males were most commonly exploited but females were also found to be exploited and groomed by gangs.

In Hampshire there is experience of cases where young people have been suspected to be involved in running/dealing drugs for particular groups. They have gone on to be robbed or assaulted by their 'own' group, thereby creating a drug debt, often of significantly high amounts.

Typically, class A drugs such as heroin, cocaine and crack cocaine are being sold. Children are used to move and sell drugs as they are considered a cheap resource and are less likely to be known to the police.

'Pull' factors include the sense of belonging to a gang and the amount of money said to be earned can be up to £700 per week. There is experience in Hampshire where children as young as 13 have been involved. Other slightly older teenagers can be involved in recruiting and grooming boys for drug running and girls for sexual exploitation.

The Hampshire and Isle of Wight Force Strategic Assessment 2023-2024 states that across the county the volumes of both Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE) flagged crimes and children flagged at risk of CSE remain stable.

The number of children flagged at risk of Child Criminal Exploitation (CCE) has increased by 24%, likely due to improved officer recording. Children flagged as medium risk account for the greatest proportion of CCE, yet children flagged as low risk have seen the highest increase (+50%).

The exploitation of children by drugs networks continues to increase, with the number of networks linked to CCE more than doubling in 2022. Some of the increase in CCE may reflect greater capacity to identify

children linked to drugs networks resulting from increased exploitation of phone data, since the establishment of Operation Orochi.

External support continues to develop the force's capability within CSE and CCE investigations. The National Hydrant Programme has broadened its support from only offering advice in non-recent child sexual abuse investigations to encompassing all child sexual abuse and exploitation cases. In addition, the South East Regional Organised Crime Unit (SEROUC) has introduced the Tackling Organised Exploitation Team (TOEX) capability which aims to work with regional forces in identifying exploitation threats and opportunities.

In 2022/23 across Hampshire, 9.8% of victims of crime were aged between 10-17 up from 8.8% in 2021. In Hart district the percentage was similar (9.7%) but increased since 2021 (up from 8.6%). More than half (56%) of this cohort were victims of violence against the person offences and 19% were victims of sexual offences.

Delivery of the Stay Safe program to secondary schools has been in direct response to this escalating issue and looks to tackle the myth that a child has to be from a deprived background to be considered as a target for such gangs. The program explains that children who are not known to Police and Social Services are effectively 'clean skins' and can be recruited and exploited with little or no intervention. Risk takers and those on the social peripheries are often more likely to be approached. The approaches made by a potential groomer and the impact upon the victim and his sister are outlined through a drama piece which forms the basis for workshops and leads on to challenges which illustrate practically the need to develop community resilience and the need to identify and speak out to trusted adults when seeing any of the warning signs of possible exploitation taking place.

5.5 MODERN SLAVERY

The Modern Slavery Partnership of Hampshire and Isle of Wight underwent a restructuring at the end of 2019 to ensure the Partnership remained outcome focused. The new structure comprises a Steering Group and 3 Sub-Groups: Prevent/Training & Raising Awareness, Protect/Victim Support and Pursue. The Steering Group is acting as the 4th 'P' or Prepare group. Each group has been given a specific functionality:

- Prepare/Steering Group to work in partnership, which sits at the core of the Modern Slavery Partnership as a whole by bringing agencies together in the fight against modern slavery.
- Prevent to raise awareness of the issue of modern slavery through training, sharing of best practice, communications and events.
- Protect to identify and support victims of modern slavery through coordination of statutory and non-statutory agencies and the sharing of joined up working practices, current legislation, research and best practice.
- Pursue perpetrators by actively seeking intelligence and partnership working to increase prosecutions

The strategy to tackle Modern Slavery in Hampshire and the Isle of Wight has been developed in line with the Government's Modern Slavery Strategy.

The Hampshire and Isle of Wight Constabulary Force Strategic Assessment 2023-2024 notes that offences classified as modern slavery increased by 20% from 2021 to 2022, while intelligence levels remain stable.

Sexual exploitation, labour exploitation, criminal exploitation and financial exploitation continue to be the most common forms of exploitation across Hampshire.

A number of operations continue with the collaboration of partner agencies such as Op Awareness (online sexual exploitation), Op Moonbeam (car washes), Op Jackal.

Unseen, which is a UK wide modern slavery and exploitation helpline reported that the Helpline has seen the number of contacts increasing throughout 2022. During the past five years, the Helpline has seen a steady growth in contacts year on year, only interrupted by the COVID-19 pandemic.

In 2022, the Helpline took 7,315 (+16%) calls and 2,464 (+13%) webforms and App submissions. A total of 6,516 (+116%) potential victims were indicated, from 99 (+30%) different nationalities, the top three being Romanian, Indian and Vietnamese. 24,231 potential exploiters were indicated from 57 different nationalities.

During 2022, 2,588 modern slavery cases raised (up 70%) and 8,387 referrals sent to law enforcement agencies, NGOs and safeguarding teams. A significant proportion of calls into the Helpline remain related to wider abuse and exploitation, such as labour abuse and domestic violence.

For the third year running, the Helpline has seen an increase in the number of reports of sexual exploitation, from 289 in 2021 to 479 in 2022 (+66%). This is in-line with the increasing overall cases of modern slavery. This sizable increase in sexual exploitation cases has led to 50% more potential victims in 2022. Instances of sexual exploitation make up 19% of all modern slavery cases recorded by the Helpline. 85% of those potential victims were indicated as female.

Labour exploitation has generally been the most prevalent type of modern slavery indicated through the Helpline each year. Exceptions were 2020 and 2021. However, in 2022 labour exploitation cases increased significantly, by 134% to 1,046. They make up 40% of all modern slavery cases reported to the helpline in 2022.

Domestic servitude, mainly perpetrated in private households, remains one of the most hidden and complex typologies of modern slavery. In 2022, 114 cases were raised by the Helpline indicating 142 potential victims. This is 4% of all modern slavery cases raised by the Helpline in 2022 and up 75% on the previous year. This is lower than in the two preceding years and highlights the need to continue raising awareness of this particular typology.

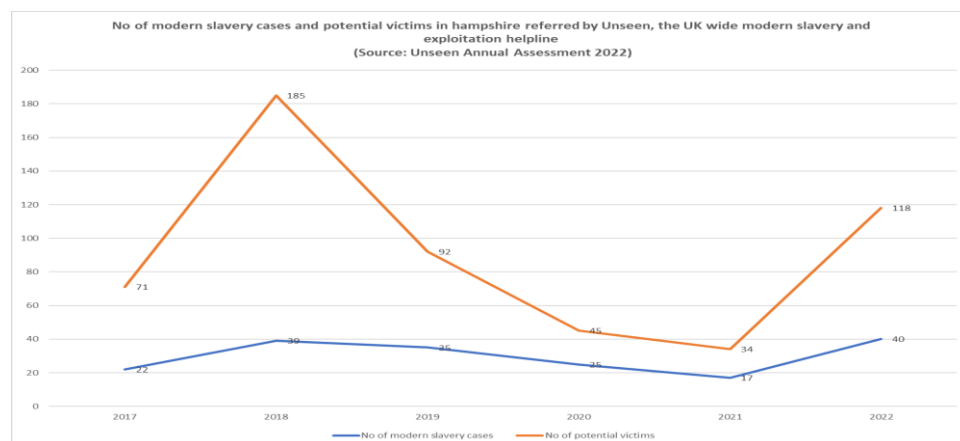
Criminal exploitation remains a prevalent type of exploitation across the UK. In 2022, 226 cases were indicated to the Helpline, making up 9% of all modern slavery cases raised. This comprised 317 potential victims, of which 67% were male and 10% were minors, and 408 potential exploiters. The two most prevalent criminal exploitation types continue to be drugs and begging.

Young people can fall prey to exploiters because of their age, lack of experience and family background. In 2022, the Helpline raised 213 cases indicating 331 minors in potentially exploitative situations. The largest single group of these cases (33%) was related to labour exploitation.

Referrals and signposts continue to be an important aspect of the Helpline's work to support individuals out of situations of exploitation. In 2022, the Helpline raised a total of 8,387 signposts and referrals to other organisations and agencies.

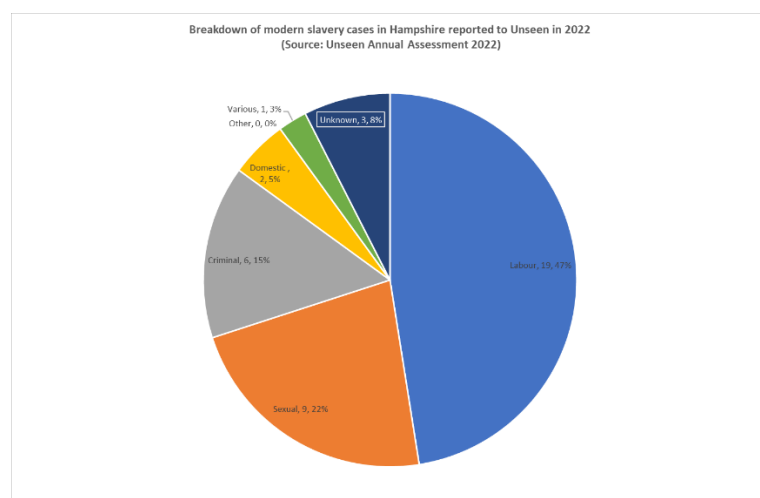
The number of modern slavery cases dealt with by Unseen that related to the Hampshire Constabulary area increased by 135% in the year ending December 2022, while the number of potential victims increased by 247%.

Figure 13 (Source: Unseen Annual Assessment 2022)



Of the 40 modern slavery cases in Hampshire in 2022 the most common related to labour (47%, n19).

Figure 14



Of the 118 potential victims identified in Hampshire, 27% were female, 26% were male and 46% were gender unknown. 5 potential victims were minors.

Given the number of contacts the Helpline receives, it is often the first place where emerging trends and issues are identified. In the case of 2022, the Helpline has identified a trend relating to Indian, Zimbabwean and Nigerian nationals in the care sector. For the first time these nationalities have been indicated in situations of forced labour related to a range of care settings. The care sector has always been an area where forced labour could be present because of the use of temporary labour and levels of low pay. Nepalese potential victims were indicated for the first time being exploited for labour in the manufacturing industry, Thai potential victims became, for the first time, the most indicated nationals in sexual

exploitation. To establish the circumstances related to these types of instances the Helpline intends to analyse data and provide a trend report later in 2023.

5.6 FRAUD, ROGUE TRADERS AND SCAMS

Fraud and scams do not discriminate and anybody can be a victim. Approximately 1 in 5 people fall victim to a scam every year and almost 50% of adults have been targeted¹¹.

The Hampshire and Isle of Wight Force Strategic Assessment 2023-2024 reports that in 2022, residents of Hampshire and the Isle of Wight reported to Action Fraud over 9000 cases of fraud, with an estimated value of £45m, a 36% (£25m) decrease compared to 2021. However, during 2021 there were three individuals who reported combined losses of £27.5m, which inflated that year's total.

The volume of cases reported to Action Fraud has decreased by around 17%. The reason for this is not known.

Just 24% of National Fraud Intelligence Bureau (NFIB) cases are recorded on RMS, either as a call for service (when the case is reported directly to the force), NFIB referral (where the incident is reported to Action Fraud directly and this has been referred to the police as there is some investigative opportunity) or victim care (created to undertake safeguarding with no investigative opportunity).

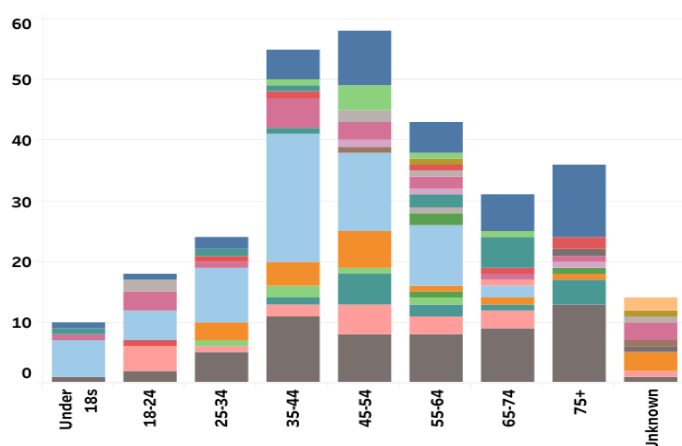
There has been a rapid increase in the number of Suspicious Activity Reports (SARs) created. This is thought to be as a result of increased awareness and identification of fraud.

Across Hart there were 289 reports of fraud in 2022, down 12% on the previous year and at a cost of almost 2 million pounds.

Across Hart, the peak age of victims was between 35-44 years (see graph below), with online shopping and auctions being the most common fraud type, followed by advanced fee fraud.

Figure 15 (Source: OPCC Tableau)

Fraud by age:



¹¹ Source: OPCC Tableau 2019

Operation Signature is the force campaign to identify and support vulnerable victims of fraud within Hampshire. Increasingly fraud is becoming more complex and deceptive, much of which is targeted at vulnerable and elderly people. The OPCC is working with Hampshire Constabulary and Neighbourhood Watch to raise the awareness of fraud and keeping safer in our communities.

5.7 RECOMMENDATIONS

Recommendations made in relation to crimes with historically low levels of reporting are;

- a) The CSP should look at understanding barriers to reporting, why they exist, and implementing processes to reduce them as well as promoting reporting mechanisms
- b) Examine and understand data in relation to reports of crime by LGBTQ+ victims
- c) Ensure robust processes are in place for identifying repeat victims and considering measures to support them across all three areas.
- d) Examine the effectiveness of the interactive experience offered to Hart secondary schools to raise awareness around the risks and consequences of involvement in drugs and county lines exploitation. Share and consider best practice with Basingstoke and Rushmoor schools.
- e) Continue to support the implementation of White ribbon accreditation and DAHA in Basingstoke and share best practice.
- f) Enable Domestic Abuse Forums to be utilised to share best practice and monitor trends in conjunction with the countywide strategies. Involving commissioned services to deliver where possible.
- g) Partners to use best practice methods to encourage and enable reporting of sexual offences across all age groups. Using opportunities to promote healthy relationships messaging and education.
- h) Support hate crime initiatives which encourage awareness and reporting such as third-party reporting centres and support needs of local community groups.
- i) Support and enable the Hate Crime Awareness Group.

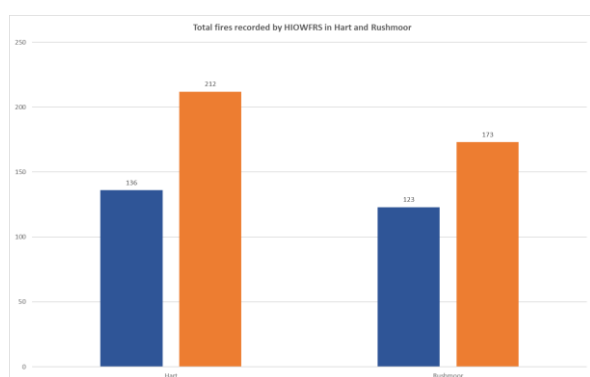
6.0 FIRE SAFETY

6.1 FIRE INCIDENTS

The North Hants District report presents statistical information on all incidents within Basingstoke and Deane, Hart and Rushmoor district council boundaries for the period 1 April 2022 to 31st March 2023¹².

The report shows that in the Hart and Rushmoor area, Hart had the highest number of fires in 2022/23 with 212, which is a 56% (n76) increase compared to the previous year. In Rushmoor there were 173 fires recorded in 2022/23, an increase of 41% (n50) compared to the previous year.

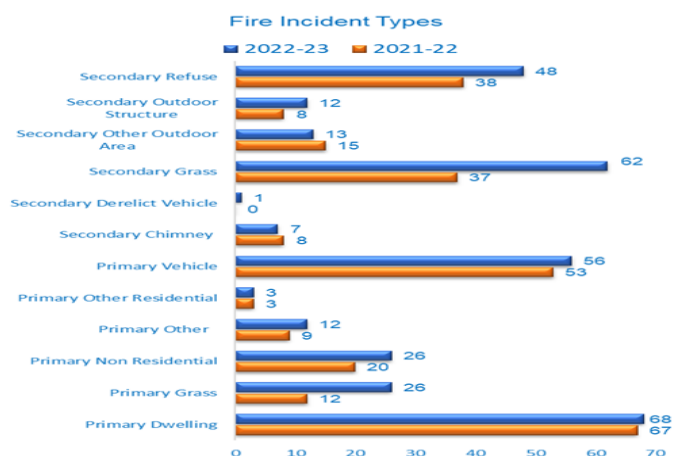
Figure 16 (Source: North Hants District Report)



Across Hart and Rushmoor the causes of fires are categorised as either accidental (47%, n180), deliberate (27%, n105) or unknown (26%, n100).

These can be further broken down into primary (52%, n201) and secondary (48%, n184) fires and the breakdown of these fires for Hart and Rushmoor is shown in the graph below, with secondary grass fires (29%, n112), primary dwelling fires (18%, n69) and primary vehicle fires (14%, n53) the most common in 2022/23.

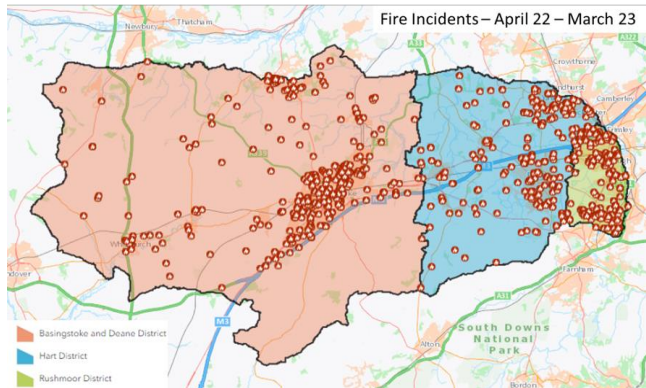
Figure 17



¹² Data was sourced from Reporting Services on 20th April 2023.

The below graph shows where fires occurred in Hart and Rushmoor in 2022/23.

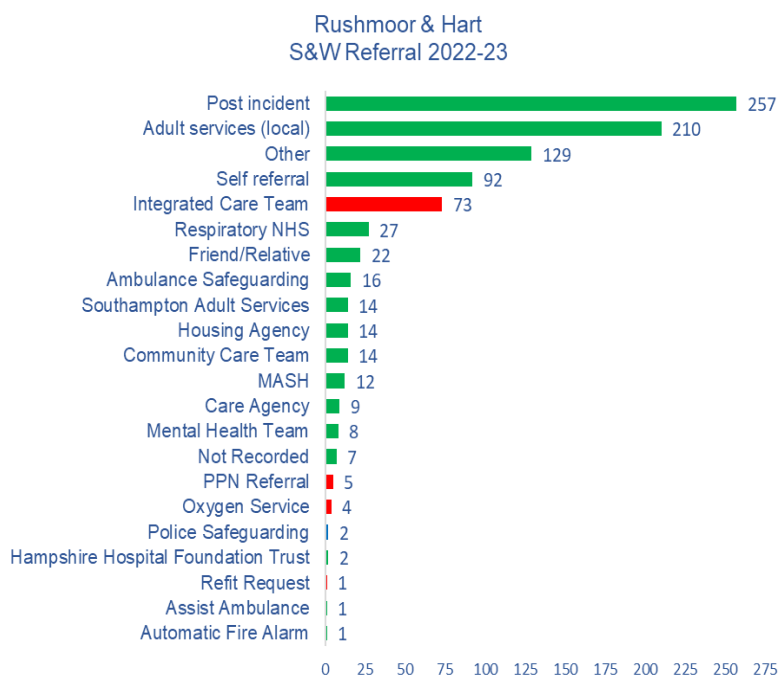
Figure 18 (Source: North Hants District Report)



A total of 920 Safe and Well visits were carried out between April 22 and March 23 within Hart and Rushmoor, an increase of 35% (n238) compared to the previous year. The increase is impacted by HIWFRS resuming business as usual with the Safe and Well process; in the previous year, the service prioritised targeting vulnerable people due to the aftermath of the pandemic.

The top three referral categories for Safe and Well visits in 2022/23 for Hart and Rushmoor were post incident (28%, n257) Adult Services (local) (23%, n210) and other (14%, n129). There have been noticeable increases in Self Referrals, as well as referrals made by Mental Health Team, Ambulance Safeguarding, Hampshire Hospital Foundation Trust & MASH. Referrals made by CSO, Occupational Therapy, Operational Incidents & Refit Requests have reduced considerably in 2022/23 compared to those in 2021/22.

Figure 19 (Source: North Hants District Report)



6.2 ROAD TRAFFIC COLLISIONS

Road safety impacts all districts within the county. The topic sits across enforcement (Police), Rescue (HFRS), Accident and Emergency (South Central Ambulance Service) and Local Authorities (prevention and enforcement).

The Hampshire and Isle of Wight Force Strategic Assessment 2023-24 states that road collisions in Hampshire and the Isle of Wight resulting in injury or loss of life have reduced by 31% over the last 10 years. This downward trajectory was more pronounced during the pandemic in 2020 and 2021 when traffic volumes were reduced by travel restrictions. 2022 has seen a 19% increase compared to 2021, when COVID restrictions were still in place, however levels are still lower than pre-pandemic levels in 2019.

Despite the overall reducing picture, collisions involving loss of life have remained stable, with 52 reported in 2022.

During the pandemic, there was a shift away from public transport and cars towards cycling and walking. Rising fuel costs and national train strikes have continued this trend. This has been reflected in an increase in collisions involving these vulnerable road users. In particular, in 2022 pedestrians were involved in 42% of collisions resulting in loss of life.

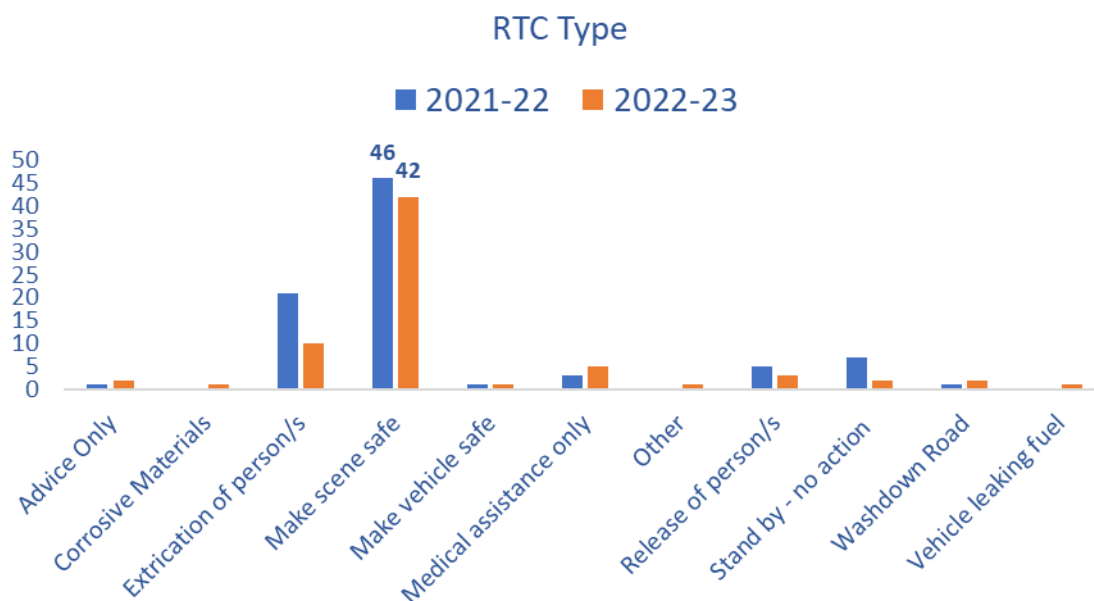
There has been an increased use of E-Scooters over the last 12 months. Currently, only those using E-Scooters as part of a government-backed rental trial scheme can ride them on public roads, although this law is not well-adhered to. The existing E-Scooter rental trial scheme is running until May 2024 and it is likely to be approved due to the positive environmental impact. Scooters, however, are not built for road use. For example, indicators are too low down to be seen by a car, and potholes and uneven road surfaces impact on stability. If E-Scooters are legalised for all, this is a factor that could lead to increases in fatalities and is an area that Roads Policing are monitoring.

The Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner undertook research into the driving habits of 9,597 residents across the region for leisure driving, commuting and motorway driving. They found that leisure driving was highest for New Forest and Winchester districts. Commuting five days was the highest for Hart and Rushmoor districts and residents that drive on motorways 5 days a week are more likely to be from Fareham, Hart and Eastleigh.

The total number of Road Traffic Collisions attended by HIOWFRS over the last three years for Rushmoor & Hart increased by 57% in 2021/22 compared to 2020/21 & decreased by 18% (-15 incidents) compared to 2022/23.

The highest number of RTC types attended over the last two years in Rushmoor & Hart were Making the scene safe & Extrication of persons. These RTC types have decreased in 2022/23. RTC's involving medical assistance have increased slightly in 2022/23.

Figure 20 (Source: North Hants District Report)



6.3 RECOMMENDATIONS

Recommendations made in relation to this section are;

- e) The Partnership should, where appropriate, look at where it can enhance the use of fire data, particularly around Safe and Well visits and vulnerable individuals.
- f) Work with partners across a range of agencies and organisations to continue to identify opportunities to promote road safety and reduce harm.
- g) Consider risks in relation to batteries for electrically propelled vehicles such E-Scooters and E-Bikes charging in domestic settings.
- h) Monitor the use of E-Scooters in the borough and the potential dangers around increased use and develop a clear process to deal with it.

7.0 KEY FACTORS AND RISKS FOR COMMUNITY SAFETY

7.1 SUBSTANCE MISUSE

DRUGS

The number of drug offences recorded by the police is greatly dependent on police activity rather than trends in the level of drug offending. In recent years there has been an increase in proactive policing, meaning that police have recovered controlled drugs and made arrests.

The Hampshire and Isle of Wight Force Strategic Assessment 2023-2024 reports that drug trafficking offences decreased by 12% in 2022 when compared to 2021, while possession offences reduced by 4%. FAT outcome rates for drug trafficking offences decreased slightly in 2022 (-4%) to 44.8%, while those for possession offences are stable at 86.8%.

The number of known County Lines networks operating in the force area remains consistent, while the number of known LDNs has increased, possibly due in part to improved local intelligence reporting. The majority of known CLs originate from London and its surrounds. As such, the northern districts are more impacted by CLs than those further away.

There are a growing number of Urban Street Gangs (USGs) within the force area. Recent incidents have highlighted the significant violence that can arise from tensions between USGs, Local Drug Networks (LDNs)s and CLs.

Drug Related Violence (DRV) decreased slightly (-3%) in 2022, continuing a long term downward trend. Southampton continues to experience significantly higher levels of DRV than any other district.

Drug criminality linked to Western Balkan (WB) nominals continues to increase. In addition to being recognised as dominating the cocaine market across the UK, WB OCGs are now significantly involved in the production and trafficking of cannabis. Southampton is the most heavily impacted district, with nearly half of all cannabis farms being identified there in 2022.

Heroin and other opioids continue to be the most harmful illicit drugs abused by users in the force area. 70% of the 72 drug-related deaths (DRDs) attended by police in 2022 involved heroin.

In Hart drug offences increased by 35% (n29) in 2022/23 when compared to the previous year. Trafficking offences remained the same while possession offences were up 45%. Broken down, possession of drugs accounted for 83% of offences in the district and trafficking offences made up the remaining 17%.

In 2023/23 the majority of offences related to possession of cannabis (69%). Offenders were overwhelmingly young males aged between 16-25 who accounted for 59% of drug offenders in Hart last year.

Over the past year the Police alongside partner agencies have worked extremely hard to reduce Drug Related Harm (DRH). There have been improvements made to Op Fortress, continual improvements in information sharing with Local Authorities and Housing Associations and ongoing work to identify young people on the periphery of exploitation and harm.

Hart Community Safety work in partnership with the High Harm Team to identify possible concerns and utilise whatever regulatory services possible to gain intelligence to tackle drug issues.

ALCOHOL

“Overall, alcohol harm costs society £21 billion a year, with costs to the NHS at £3.5 billion. We see massive inequalities in where the impact is felt. People with mental illness are more likely to misuse alcohol. And the most deprived fifth of the population of the country suffers two to three times greater loss of life attributable to alcohol.” – Public Health England.

Nationally, the number of admissions episodes for alcohol related conditions (broad) was 1,734 per 100,000 people. The rate in Hart was much lower with 1,133 admissions per 100,000 people .

In addition, Hampshire Constabulary records data in relation to offences in which alcohol was a contributory factor. Data is dependent on whether the officer ticks the alcohol box when recording the offence.

In 2022/23 there were 265 offences across Hart in which the alcohol marker was ticked, equating to 6% of total crime.

Dependency on and engagement with drugs and/or alcohol affects all aspects of an individual and community: relationships, meaningful activities and employment, family life, parenting, educational attainment, housing opportunities, **criminal and anti-social behaviour**.

Among the impacts of substance misuse in Hampshire we know:

- In 2020/21, 3,110 adults accessed substance misuse treatment services in Hampshire for alcohol, opiate and non-opiate use.
- 292 young people (under 18) accessed support and treatment for their alcohol/drug use in 2020/21
- The impact of substance misuse is greatest in deprived areas, for example Gosport, Rushmoor and Havant.
- Parental substance misuse can negatively affect children. It is estimated that around 20% of Children ‘In need’ are affected by drug misuse and 18% by alcohol misuse. A quarter of cases on the Child protection register are related to parental substance misuse.
- Acquisitive crime, violent crime and domestic abuse are particularly associated with drug and alcohol misuse. It is estimated that 45% of acquisitive crime is committed by regular crack/heroin users. 48% of domestic abuse perpetrators had a history of alcohol dependence; 73% had consumed alcohol prior to the event
- Over 80% of homeless people in Hampshire who were provided support by street outreach services (August 2017) were identified as having a substance misuse support need.

Alcohol problems are widespread:

- A recent survey of school children aged between 11-15 in Hampshire reported that 29% had ever tried alcohol. This varies with age, increasing from 9% of 11-year-olds to 53% of 15-year-olds. This is lower than the 2018 England rate (14% and 70% respectively for these age groups)
- 70% of young people (who accessed specialist young people’s substance misuse services) started using their problem substance from 15 years.
- 72% of children and young people accessing substance misuse services use two or more substances (including alcohol) compared to 55% nationally.
- Approximately 22% of the Hampshire adult population have increased risk of harm through consuming more than the recommended levels of alcohol.
- It is estimated that there are 11,248 dependent drinkers in Hampshire – 91% of these are not currently in treatment.

Drug use is a problem but dependence is more concentrated:

- 5% of young people aged between 11-15 in Hampshire reported having tried cannabis and 4% reported trying other drugs. This varies with age increasing amongst 15-year-olds with 10% reporting having tried cannabis and 8% trying other drugs.
- There are approximately 5,229 opiate and/or crack cocaine users in Hampshire.
- It is estimated that approximately 44% of opiate users are not accessing substance misuse service
- There has been a significant increase in drug related deaths in Hampshire over the last few years in line with the national trend. 2018-20 saw a slight fall in the number of drug-related deaths from 151 in 2017-19 to 144 in 2018-2020. Nationally, just under half of all deaths involved opiates.

7.2 RECOMMENDATIONS

Recommendations made in this section are;

- a) Examine the effectiveness of the interactive experience used in Hart to raise awareness around the risks and consequences of involvement in drugs and county lines involvement and consider benefits of this in Basingstoke and Rushmoor too.
- b) Better understanding of the effects of drugs and alcohol at a local level.
- c) Explore partnership working opportunities that arise from funding schemes that support CSP priorities.
- d) Capacity and resilience with service delivery with current resourcing challenges across the 3 districts.
- e) The CSP to work with the Combating Drugs Partnership.

8.0 PRIORITIES AND RECOMENDATIONS

The Partnership Plan sets out how partners will work to tackle identified priorities throughout the year, and it is for individual agencies to evidence how they are contributing to these priorities.

The priorities for 2023/24 based on the evidence produced in this strategic assessment are;

- 1. Improving feelings of safety and health outcomes within the CSP area** – public, virtual and private space.
 - Ensuring safeguarding of vulnerable residents through partnership forums and multi-agency forums. interventions/projects including safe and well.
 - Recognising the link between thriving communities and improvement in health outcomes.
 - Enable and promote community led initiatives and self-referral to services and support which gives residents the tools to protect themselves.
 - Increase confidence to report all crimes with a particular attention to those with historically low levels of reporting, for example hate crime.
- 2. Serious Violence** – The past year has seen increases in most serious violence (+7%), robbery personal (+18%), possession of weapon offences (+1%) and knife/blade offences (+8%) in Safer North Hampshire and this is a concern for the Partnership. In addition, The Serious Violence Duty 2022 ensures that it is an explicit duty of the Community Safety Partnership to tackle serious violence. Working with the Violence Reduction Unit (VRU), the Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG) taskforce and using Street Safe Data to maximise victim/location identification should be a priority for 2023/24.
- 3. Domestic Abuse** – Reports of domestic crime across the Safer North Hampshire area have fallen by 2% in the past year, while both nationally and across Hampshire reports increased. Promotion of initiatives that reduce the impact of trauma and consistent messaging across the area to ensure that victims and perpetrators are recognised and supported is essential as well as working alongside local initiatives which aim to reduce domestic abuse.
- 4. Anti-Social Behaviour** - Anti-social behaviour remains a concern for communities, individuals, and businesses. ASB in both public and private spaces was widespread across the area. Although the CSP currently has some effective mechanisms in place, early intervention with young people, proactivity in neighbour disputes and clear plans around vehicle nuisance are key in reducing the number of higher harm offences the more severe neighbour nuisance issues and those that continue to impact residents.

The CSP should look at understanding barriers to reporting, why they exist, and implementing processes to reduce them as well as promoting reporting mechanisms.

Recommendations for 2023/24 by assessment section;

Overview
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Examine and understand data in relation to reports of crime by LGBTQ+ victims b) Educate residents on how they can keep themselves safe c) Monitor You Gov data over the course of the upcoming year and look at how the partnership can improve resident's feelings of safety. d) Better promotion and use of Street Safe as a tool for reporting feelings of safety within the partnership area e) Work closely with the VAWG task group to fully understand the survey results, what they mean for the partnership area and how we can address them going forward.
Anti-Social Behaviour
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Review the process of dealing with cannabis related ASB reports to be clear about evidential support required to take any informal early intervention work followed by formal enforcement in persistent and severe cases. b) Partners to continue to work collaboratively to address antisocial behaviour c) Focus on early intervention approaches with young people who are involved in antisocial behaviour to reduce risk of escalating or repeat behaviour d) Embed the county-wide Community Trigger process and make best use of partnership case review meetings to identify best practice. e) Continue to develop strategies to deal with vehicle nuisance with a specific focus on motorbike nuisance. f) Focus on developing strategies to reduce the impact of neighbour disputes including making better use of restorative justice options available through the OPCC (such as mediation services) early on. g) Continue to support youth service provision across Hart (assisting in diversionary and inclusive community activities for young people). h) Work closely with the LA ASB Task Force on the development of better reporting and recording practices and a one-stop-shop.
Crime
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) CSP partners to work collaboratively with the Violence Reduction Unit, Police and Crime Commissioner and Hampshire County Council Community Safety Strategy Group to ensure the serious violence duty can be appropriately embedded into practice. b) Development of the approach of Offensive Weapon Homicide Reviews, set out in the new Serious Violence Legislation. c) Partners to continue working closely to monitor and develop its Action Plan around Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG) and Youth Related Violence and Exploitation with progress and any barriers reported back to the CSP. d) Continue to monitor acquisitive crime levels and associated effects of the cost-of-living crisis.
Crimes with historically low levels of reporting
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) The CSP should look at understanding barriers to reporting, why they exist, and implementing processes to reduce them as well as promoting reporting mechanisms b) Examine and understand data in relation to reports of crime by LGBTQ+ victims c) Ensure robust processes are in place for identifying repeat victims and considering measures to support them across all three areas. d) Examine the effectiveness of the interactive experience offered to Hart secondary schools to raise awareness around the risks and consequences of involvement in drugs and

<p>county lines exploitation. Share and consider best practice with Basingstoke and Rushmoor schools.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> e) Continue to support the implementation of White ribbon accreditation and DAHA in Basingstoke and share best practice. f) Enable Domestic Abuse Forums to be utilised to share best practice and monitor trends in conjunction with the countywide strategies. Involving commissioned services to deliver where possible. g) Partners to use best practice methods to encourage and enable reporting of sexual offences across all age groups. Using opportunities to promote healthy relationships messaging and education. h) Support hate crime initiatives which encourage awareness and reporting such as third-party reporting centres and support needs of local community groups. i) Support and enable the Hate Crime Awareness Group.
<p>Fire Safety</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) The Partnership should, where appropriate, look at where it can enhance the use of fire data, particularly around Safe and Well visits and vulnerable individuals. b) Work with partners across a range of agencies and organisations to continue to identify opportunities to promote road safety and reduce harm. c) Consider risks in relation to batteries for electrically propelled vehicles such E-Scooters and E-Bikes charging in domestic settings. d) Monitor the use of E-Scooters in the borough and the potential dangers around increased use and develop a clear process to deal with it.
<p>Key Factors and risks for Community Safety</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Examine the effectiveness of the interactive experience used in Hart to raise awareness around the risks and consequences of involvement in drugs and county lines involvement and consider benefits of this in Basingstoke and Rushmoor too. b) Better understanding of the effects of drugs and alcohol at a local level. c) Explore partnership working opportunities that arise from funding schemes that support CSP priorities. d) Capacity and resilience with service delivery with current resourcing challenges across the 3 districts. e) The CSP to work with the Combating Drugs Partnership.