

SAFER NORTH HAMPSHIRE

STRATEGIC ASSESSMENT SUMMARY

2022/23

1.0 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 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.

2.0 OVERVIEW

Across Safer North Hampshire **26,331** crimes were recorded in 2022/23. This figure represents a 7% (n1,688) increase on the previous year when 24,643 crimes were recorded, and a 4% increase compared to 2019/20 (pre-pandemic) when 25,374 crimes were recorded by the police.

Across Safer North Hampshire significant increases were seen in robbery (+24%), burglary business and community (+42%), vehicle offences (+36%), bicycle theft (+51%), shoplifting (+31%) and possession of weapon (+20%) offences.

Across Safer North Hampshire, **3,902** incidents of anti-social behaviour were recorded by the police. This figure represents an 8% (n348) reduction when compared to the previous year and a 34% (n1998) 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 2 below shows crime and anti-social behaviour figures across Safer North Hampshire for the past four years.

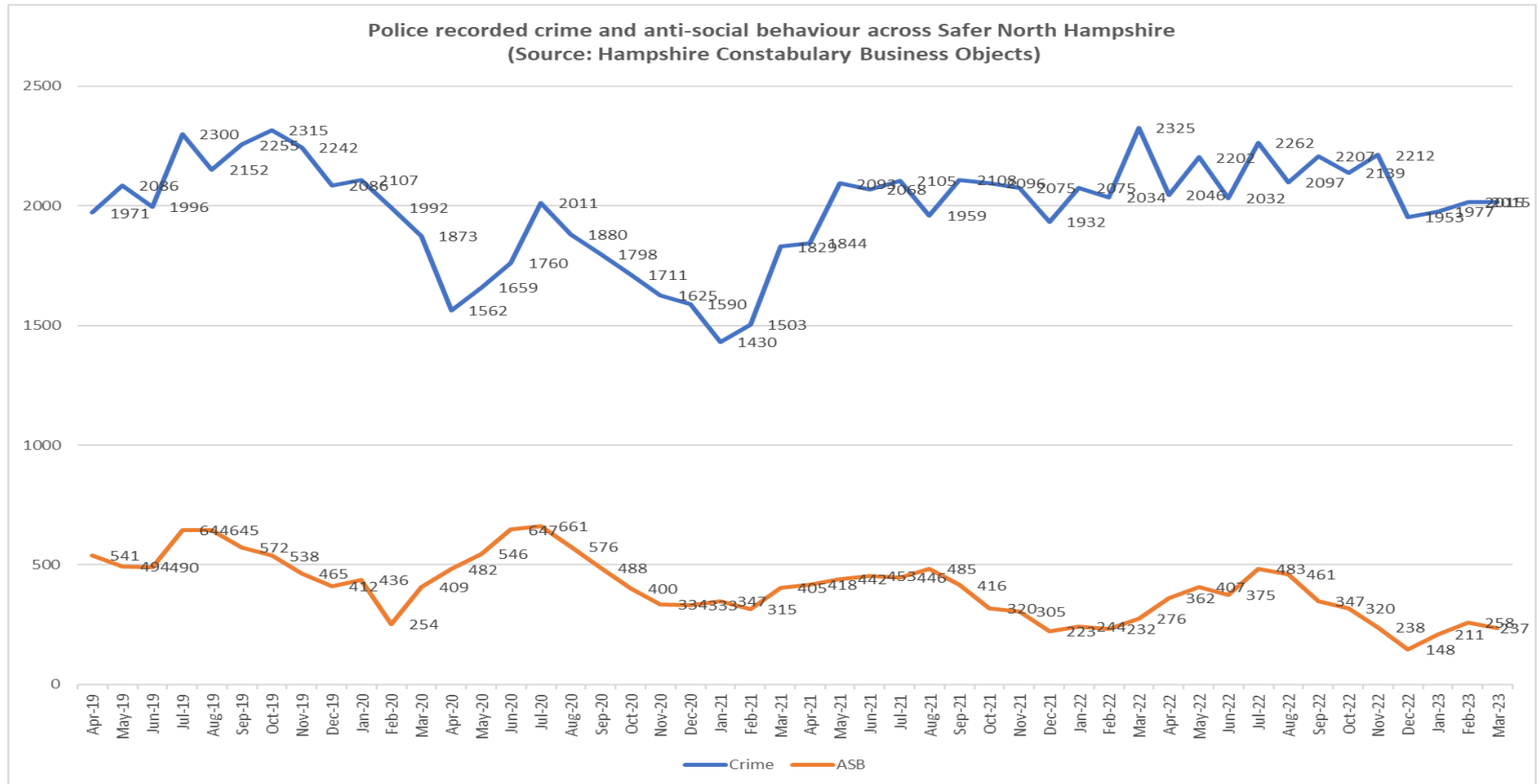
Crime, shown in blue, reduced considerably during the Covid-19 pandemic, with the lowest monthly figures coinciding with the first (April 20), second (November 20) and third (January 21) National lockdowns. Since the loosening of restrictions, starting in April 2021 crime levels have steadily returned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

Table 1 (Source: Hampshire Constabulary Business Objects)

	SAFER NORTH HANTS AREA					
	19/20 crimes	22/23 crimes	% change	21/22 crimes	22/23 crimes	% change
1a Homicide	2	2	0%	4	2	-50%
1b Violence with Injury	3,171	3,290	4%	3,249	3,290	1%
1c Violence without Injury	6,132	7,893	29%	7,906	7,893	-1%
2a Rape	322	397	23%	370	397	7%
2b Other Sexual Offences	549	722	32%	692	722	4%
3a Robbery of Business Property	29	22	-24%	11	22	100%
3b Robbery of Personal Property	307	193	-37%	163	193	18%
4a1 Burglary Residential	1,267	692	-45%	761	692	-9%
4a2 Burglary Business and Community	564	426	-24%	301	426	42%
4b Vehicle Offences	1,920	1,658	-14%	1,217	1,658	36%
4c Theft from the Person	195	152	-22%	152	152	0%
4d Bicycle Theft	344	255	-26%	169	255	51%
4e Shoplifting	1,619	1,409	-13%	1,074	1,409	31%
4f All Other Theft Offences	2,306	2,124	-8%	1,692	2,124	26%
5a Criminal Damage	2,765	2,302	-17%	2,221	2,302	4%
5b Arson	96	77	-20%	75	77	3%
6a Trafficking of Drugs	107	187	75%	164	187	14%
6b Possession of Drugs	469	632	35%	598	632	6%
7 Possession of Weapons Offences	281	338	20%	282	338	20%
8 Public Order Offences	2,502	3,129	25%	3,088	3,129	1%
9 Miscellaneous Crimes Against Society	427	440	3%	434	440	1%
Totals	25,374	26,331	4%	24,643	26,331	7%
Domestic crime	3,781	4,659	23%	4,730	4,659	-2%
Hate crime	447	658	47%	706	658	-7%
Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB)	5,900	3,902	-34%	4,250	3,902	-8%

Figure 2



3.0 VICTIMS/OFFENDERS/FEELINGS OF SAFETY

<p>3.1 CURRENT PICTURE</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Across Safer North Hampshire 53% of victims were female and 47% were male which is the same as the figure for Hampshire overall. 85% of offenders were male and 15% were female. • The most common victim age group across Safer North Hampshire was 10-17 years. • Data collected by You Gov showed that feelings of safety increased in Rushmoor, remained stable in Basingstoke and Deane and fell slightly in Hart. • Across Hampshire Violence Against Women and Girls offences increased by 5% in 2022, with domestic abuse accounting for 43% of offences. • The percentage of business crime increased across all three areas and was higher than the Hampshire average in Hart and Rushmoor.
<p>3.2 FORWARD LOOK</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It is likely that the upward trend in VAWG reporting will continue in 2023 due to the continued awareness around the topic. • It is likely that business crime could further increase if the cost-of-living crisis continues, with a rise in offences such as shoplifting and burglary business and community.
<p>3.3 KEY RISKS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lack of trust and confidence in the police continues to be an issue nationally. Recent high profile cases of police misconduct could lead to increased tensions and reduced feelings of safety within the Safer North Hampshire area.
<p>3.4 GAPS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Online VAWG offending is increasing, however the true volume is hard to ascertain. This is only likely to increase further going forward and tends to involve younger victims than other types of VAWG. • The use of Street Safe to report offences is not currently being used to its full potential • A lack of partnership data limits our understanding of the gap between police recorded VAWG and actual volumes.
<p>3.5 RECOMENDATIONS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Examine and understand data in relation to reports of crime by LGBTQ+ victims • Educate residents on how they can keep themselves safe • Monitor You Gov data over the course of the upcoming year and look at how the partnership can improve resident's feelings of safety. • Better promotion and use of Street Safe as a tool for reporting feelings of safety within the partnership area • Improve partnership working to better understand the true impact of VAWG within the Safer North Hampshire area.

4.0 ANTI-SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR

4.1 CURRENT PICTURE
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ASB reduced by 8% across Safer North Hampshire. Criminal damage and arson offences increased by 4% In 2022/23 the key issues in terms of anti-social behaviour were, vehicle nuisance, youth related ASB and neighbour nuisance There were 10 community trigger activations across Safer North Hampshire, double the number the previous year.
4.2 FORWARD LOOK
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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.
4.3 KEY RISKS
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Under-reporting has been identified as an issue both locally and nationally The increase in vehicle related ASB particularly relating to motor bikes is a concern for two reasons, firstly the risk of accidents for riders and pedestrians and secondly because riders are much more difficult to apprehend The increased use of community triggers may put additional pressure on agencies 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 this could lead to an increase in accidents
4.4 GAPS
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Partner data around ASB is not currently used to its full potential. Better use of internal data regarding fly-tipping, graffiti and other environmental issues.
4.5 RECOMENDATIONS
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Review findings of the cannabis warning letter scheme with a view to exploring if the process could be effective in Basingstoke and further developed in Hart. Partners to continue to work collaboratively to address antisocial behaviour Focus on early intervention approaches with young people who are involved in antisocial behaviour to reduce risk of escalating behaviour Embed the county-wide Community Trigger process and make best use of partnership case review meetings to identify best practice. Continue to develop strategies to deal with vehicle nuisance with a specific focus on motorbike nuisance. 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. Explore the opportunities for improving youth service provision across the CSP area (assisting in diversionary and inclusive community activities for young people in these districts/boroughs). Work closely with the LA ASB Task Force on the development of better reporting and recording practices and a one-stop-shop.

5.0 CRIME

<p>5.1 CURRENT PICTURE</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There was no significant change in levels violence against the person offences across SNH when compared to the previous year. The number of female victims has increased partially due to rise in harassment offences reported by female victims. Town Centre locations experienced the most offences. • The number of Most Serious Violence (MSV) offences increased by 7% across SNH in 2022/23. Basingstoke and Deane and Rushmoor both had consistently high rates of MSV per 10,000 pop, knife enabled MSV and knife possession offences since 2016/17. • Robbery offences increased by 24% across SNH with young males accounting for the majority of victims. • Knife/blade offences were up 8% across SNH and this was due to rises in Rushmoor and Hart. In Basingstoke and Deane district offences were down 5%. • In 2022/23 there were increases in most acquisitive crime types, likely influenced by the cost-of-living crisis and associated increase in deprivation. Burglary business and community offences increased by 42% but this rise was expected due to pandemic restrictions ending.
<p>5.2 FORWARD LOOK</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Serious Violence duty is likely to impact on the workloads of officers however it also has the potential to improve data sharing between partners. • Nationally acquisitive crime is on an upward trend. With the rise in the cost-of-living this is likely to continue.
<p>5.3 KEY RISKS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Impact on partners relating to the cost-of-living crisis, not just in relation to acquisitive crime but also fire safety, health and vulnerable people.
<p>5.4 GAPS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Street Safe data • Health data in relation to violent crimes • Firearms data is difficult to differentiate between criminal use, BB or toy guns, and licensing/rural issues. The data requires manual cleansing which limits analysis.
<p>5.5 RECOMENDATIONS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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. • Development of the approach of Offensive Weapon Homicide Reviews, set out in the new Serious Violence Legislation. • Partners to continue working closely to develop action plans around Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG) and Youth Related Violence and Exploitation with progress and any barriers reported back to the CSP. • Continue to monitor acquisitive crime levels and associated effects of the cost of living crisis.

6.0 CRIMES WITH HISTORICALLY LOW LEVELS OF REPORTING

6.1 CURRENT PICTURE
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reported domestic crimes reduced by 2% across SNH in 2022/23. Most offences were violence against the person, with common assault and battery and ABH the most widespread. A large number of victims were repeat victims (45% in Basingstoke and Deane, 29% in Hart and 38% in Rushmoor) and female (71%). Reports of hate crime to the police reduced by 7% across SNH in 2022/23. The most common offence types were Violence against the person and public order. Offences relating to race accounted for 53% of offences in Basingstoke and Deane and Rushmoor and 71% of offences in Hart. Reported sexual offences increased by 5% across SNH in 2022/23. 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 and a greater understanding of the sharing of sexual images as an offence. Across SNH the most common victim age was 10-17. 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. 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.
6.2 FORWARD LOOK
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Current police work to improve flagging of Domestic Abuse crimes will, within the next few months, enable a clearer picture of the volume of reported domestic offences within the force area. Recorded hate crime is likely to increase further, as public confidence to report continues to improve. This may be linked in part to an increase in third party reporting centres (TPRCs). CSE volumes are unlikely to decrease given the prevalence of digital means that can be used by offenders to initiate contact with children. It is likely that the volume of CCE will further increase due to continued exploitation of children by local drug networks (LDNs) and County Lines (CLs).
6.3 KEY RISKS
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> As the cost of living crisis continues, this will increase stress and pressure on couples, increasing the potential for domestic abuse. Financial vulnerability may keep individuals in abusive relationships due to added dependency, whereas those with shared parental responsibilities may need to reach out to abusive ex-partners for support. This could increase the risk of sexual abuse, renewed harassment or controlling coercive behaviour. Refugee hotels in the area – potential for hate crime, modern slavery and CCE/CSE. All CCE and CSE cases have now been integrated into the Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH) for Sergeants to review, adding to a growing demand within these teams.
6.4 GAPS

- The rollout of Rapid Video Response technology will enable officers to contact DA victims without physical deployment. It is not known however, whether the use of RVR will improve speed of service, victim satisfaction and criminal justice outcomes in the long term.
- Underreporting for sexual offences remains unquantifiable, with efforts to grow confidence in reporting negated by national events and media influence, especially with regards to diverse communities
- Hate crime is known to be underreported, therefore the true picture cannot be ascertained.

6.5 RECOMENDATIONS

- The CSP should look at understanding barriers to reporting, why they exist, and implementing processes to reduce them as well as promoting reporting mechanisms
- Examine and understand data in relation to reports of crime by LGBTQ+ victims
- Ensure robust processes are in place for identifying repeat victims and considering measures to support them across all three areas.
- 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.
- Continue to support the implementation of White ribbon accreditation and DAHA in Basingstoke and share best practice.
- 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.
- 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.
- Support hate crime initiatives which encourage awareness and reporting such as third-party reporting centres and support needs of local community groups.
- Support and enable the Hate Crime Awareness Group.

7.0 FIRE SAFETY AND RTC'S

7.1 CURRENT PICTURE
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The number of incidents attended by HIOWFRS increased across SNH (Basingstoke and Deane +24%, Hart +56% and Rushmoor +41%) in 2022/23. The most common types were primary dwelling, secondary grass and primary vehicles fires. • The number of Safe and Well Visits carried out increased across the area with 1,078 in Basingstoke and Deane and 920 in Hart and Rushmoor. The most common referral types were adult services and post incident. • 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. • 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.
7.2 FORWARD LOOK
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Previous road casualty forecasts were driven by an expectation of increased traffic due to local factors, such as housing developments in local geographical areas. We are in a period where the pandemic continues to impact on overall traffic patterns, for example, maintained home working practices. The long-term forecast is that collisions will increase but are expected to remain below pre-pandemic levels
7.3 KEY RISKS
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There is a risk that the cost-of-living crisis could lead to an increase in accidental house fires due to residents using alternative methods to heat homes, cook food and maintain fire safety equipment. Similarly, there is a risk that vehicles owners will not be able to afford to safely maintain their vehicles which could lead to increased road traffic collisions. • 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. • Consider risks in relation to batteries for electrically propelled vehicles such E-Scooters and E-Bikes charging in domestic settings.
7.4 GAPS
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There is the potential to increase and improve partnership working around arson/fly-tipping/ASB and damage hotspots at partnership meetings.
7.5 RECOMENDATIONS
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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. • Work with partners across a range of agencies and organisations to continue to identify opportunities to promote road safety and reduce harm. • Monitor the use of E-Scooters across the CSP area and the potential dangers around increased use and create a clear process for dealing with it. • Consider risks in relation to batteries for electrically propelled vehicles such E-Scooters and E-Bikes charging in domestic settings.

8.0 KEY FACTORS AND RISKS FOR COMMUNITY SAFETY

8.1 CURRENT PICTURE
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> In contrast to the Hampshire wide picture, drug offences across SNH increased by 7% in 2022/23, with offences in Basingstoke and Deane (+11%) and Hart (+35%) increasing. Rushmoor on the other hand saw a 5% reduction in drug offending. Possession offences accounted for the majority of offences in all three areas, with possession of cannabis making up more than half of offences. Offenders were overwhelmingly young males between 16-28 years. Alcohol related offences accounted for 7% of offences across SNH in 2022/23.
8.2 FORWARD LOOK
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> As the Combating Drugs Partnership develops, improvements in drug treatment and diversion may lead to a reduction in overall drug demand, and a consequent reduction in related criminality. Implementation of Operation Pivotal, a new methodology using the National ANPR Service (NAS) and bespoke software facilitating the identification of likely suspect vehicles, will enhance the capability to target the transportation of potentially large quantities of drugs from exporting hubs into the force area. The cost-of-living crisis could have an impact on substance related offending and offences in a number of ways. Including increased stress resulting in drinking/drug taking which could lead to offending. It could also increase the number of people who fall into selling/running drugs as a means to obtaining money and it could lead to substance users taking less pure/alternative substances which are cheaper.
8.3 KEY RISKS
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increasing incidents of the circulation of drugs contaminated with highly toxic psychoactive substances, especially synthetic opioids and novel benzodiazepines. A lack of capacity and capability to counter the use of increasingly sophisticated technology by drug traffickers and county lines networks
8.4 GAPS
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Knowledge of OCGs and nominals involved in supply to the middle market in the force area continues to be a significant gap. Lack of data around the current picture of drug users locally
8.5 RECOMENDATIONS
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The CSP to work with the Combating Drugs Partnership. 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 offering it in Basingstoke and Rushmoor too. Better understanding of the effects of drugs and alcohol at a local level. Explore partnership working opportunities that arise from funding schemes that support CSP priorities. Capacity and resilience with service delivery with current resourcing challenges across the 3 districts.