

# **SAFER NORTH HAMPSHIRE**

## **HART STRATEGIC ASSESSMENT (2024/25)**

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## *Executive Summary*

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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.

This document will examine data for the crime reporting year 2024/25. To determine whether crime and anti-social behaviour reporting has increased or decreased comparisons will be made to the previous year. 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 provides a review of the 2024/25 priorities set as CSP level, and takes a broader look at other community safety matters, using the data available, to identify and trends in other areas requiring specific attention.

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 suggested priorities for 2025/26 based on the evidence produced in this strategic assessment;

- 1. Improving feelings of safety and health outcomes within the CSP area** - Monitoring feelings of safety and health outcomes remains crucial. Whilst there has been a downward trend in antisocial behaviour and reported crime, it's important to acknowledge that this may not be reflected in residents' perceptions of safety. We will continue to ensure that we have a representative understanding of how safe people feel in their local area and across other parts of the borough.
- 2. Serious Violence** – Across Hart there have been increases in police recorded serious violence offences (+50%). While there has been a positive reduction in personal robbery (-29%) and possession of a weapon (-8%) serious violence remains 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.
- 3. Domestic Abuse** – In Hart reports of domestic crime to the police have increased by 4% in the past year. 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.

**5. Town Centre crime and ASB** – Despite some significant reductions in ASB and Night-Time Economy related offences in Fleet Central beat, overall levels of business crime, including shoplifting offences have increased in Hart.

**Recommendations for 2025/26 by assessment section;**

<b>Feelings of Safety</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Prioritise surveys to understanding feelings of safety.</li> <li>• Work collaboratively to tackle the issues identified by residents through 'Lets Talk' surveys.</li> <li>• Examine and understand data in relation to reports of crime by LGBTQ+ and identify and work with seldom heard communities.</li> <li>• Educate residents on how they can keep themselves safe.</li> <li>• Continue to hold Stay Safe and Think Safe Events.</li> <li>• Increase safety messages and advice to rural communities to specific rural crime.</li> <li>• Obtain feelings of safety data through Hart Resident Survey.</li> </ul>
<b>Serious Violence</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Serious Violence (SV) data and analysis working group led by the VRU to consider the approach to the scheduling and delivery of district level Strategic Needs Assessments (SNAs).</li> <li>• Focus on establishing the Hart and Rushmoor SV Strategic group, with the aim of improving partnership working and monitoring on SV related matters and ensure the action plan is regularly updated by all partners.</li> <li>• Consider findings that are relevant to the borough, gained by SV &amp; Knife Crime surveys.</li> <li>• Develop the approach to Offensive Weapon Homicide Reviews, set out in the new serious violence legislation.</li> <li>• Look at increasing engagement with schools and youth groups around knife crime and risks of exploitation.</li> <li>• Funding to support victims of cuckooing through Catalyst.</li> </ul>
<b>Domestic Abuse</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The CSP should look at understanding barriers to reporting, why they exist, and implement processes to reduce them as well as promoting reporting mechanisms.</li> <li>• Ensure robust processes are in place for identifying repeat victims and considering measures to support them across all three areas.</li> <li>• Enable Domestic Abuse Forums to be utilised to share best practice and monitor trends in conjunction with the countywide strategies. Involve commissioned services to deliver where possible.</li> <li>• Review the impact of domestic homicide reviews on the CSP.</li> </ul>
<b>Anti-Social Behaviour</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Use of data to support monthly PAG updates and PEOPLE Meetings.</li> <li>• Continue conversations and work to improve systems which will aid recording and monitoring of ASB reports to HDC.</li> <li>• Seek data from Housing Associations on ASB reporting and outcomes</li> <li>• Partners to continue to work collaboratively to address antisocial behaviour</li> <li>• Focus on early intervention approaches with young people who are involved in antisocial behaviour to reduce risk of escalating behaviour</li> <li>• Continue to develop strategies to deal with vehicle nuisance with a specific focus on motorbike nuisance.</li> </ul>

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 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.</li> <li>• Explore the opportunities for improving youth service provision across the CSP area (assisting in diversionary and inclusive community activities for young people in the district).</li> <li>• Work closely with the LA ASB Task Force on the development of better reporting and recording practices and a one-stop-shop.</li> <li>• Work with health partners to examine the impact of drug and alcohol as a major contributory factor in ASB incidents.</li> <li>• ASB case review training would be beneficial.</li> </ul>
<b>Town Centre Business Crime and ASB</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Continue to share information on individuals involved in crime and anti-social behaviour in the town.</li> <li>• Continue to identify and safeguard vulnerable individuals who frequent the town centre and are at risk of exploitation.</li> <li>• Ensure best use of monthly PAG updates to understand issues in town centres.</li> <li>• Continue to work closely with schools and colleges to ensure safety of students in the town centre.</li> <li>• Continue information sharing and monitoring of NTE venues.</li> </ul>
<b>Crime</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 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.</li> <li>• Development of the approach of Offensive Weapon Homicide Reviews, set out in the new Serious Violence Legislation.</li> <li>• 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.</li> <li>• Work closely with businesses to prevent and tackle shoplifting.</li> </ul>
<b>Fire and Rescue</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 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.</li> <li>• Work with partners across a range of agencies and organisations to continue to identify opportunities to promote road safety and reduce harm.</li> <li>• Monitor the use of E-Scooters and E-bikes in the district and the potential dangers around increased use and develop a clear process to deal with it.</li> <li>• Continue to work with schools via Think Safe to deliver information on the dangers and impact of arson and wildfires.</li> </ul>
<b>Underreported and unrecorded crimes</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The CSP should continue to look at understanding barriers to reporting, why they exist, and implement processes to reduce them as well as promoting reporting mechanisms.</li> <li>• Examine and understand data in relation to reports of crime by LGBTQ+ victims.</li> <li>• Ensure robust processes are in place for identifying repeat victims and consider measures to support them across all three areas.</li> <li>• Partners to use best practice methods to encourage and enable reporting of sexual offences across all age groups. Use opportunities to promote healthy relationships messaging and education.</li> <li>• Support hate crime initiatives which encourage awareness and reporting and support needs of local community groups.</li> <li>• Ensure the CSP is aware of correct terminology and use of language.</li> </ul>

#### Quality of life

- Explore partnership working opportunities that arise from funding schemes that support CSP priorities.
- Capacity and resilience with service delivery with current resourcing challenges.
- Examine the links between alcohol and drugs in incidents of ASB at a local level.
- Continue to work collaboratively with Social Inclusion Partnership in relation in supporting vulnerable people and reducing crime and ASB.

## Introduction

### 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
- Aide 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

### 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. Basingstoke and Deane and Hart share an analytical function while Rushmoor has its own. From May 2023 there are now 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 2024 to 31 March 2025 with comparisons to 2023/24.

Crime and anti-social behaviour data has been obtained from Hampshire Constabulary using current constabulary software 'Business Objects' and 'Record Management 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.

## Community Safety Partnership Review

Part two of the Police and Crime Commissioner Review, recommended that the Home Office undertake a full review of Community Safety Partnerships across England and Wales.

The Community Safety Partnership review ran from March 2023 to January 2024 and has now concluded. It sought to clarify the role of Community Safety Partnerships, and improve their transparency, accountability, and effectiveness, making it easier for them to serve the needs of their communities in tackling crime, disorder, and antisocial behaviour.

Phase 1 of the CSP review was launched in March 2023 alongside the Antisocial Behaviour Action Plan. Phase 1 comprised of a targeted consultation, exploring the relationship between Community Safety Partnerships and Police and Crime Commissioners, with the aim of improving the way they work together, and strengthening the accountability of Community Safety Partnerships. The government response to the Community Safety Partnership Review and anti-social behaviour powers consultation was published in November 2023. The response sets out a package of measures being taken forward in legislation and guidance to strengthen powers to tackle anti-social behaviour and improve accountability and alignment between Community Safety Partnerships and Police and Crime Commissioners.

Phase 2 of the CSP review commenced in November 2023. It undertook wide-reaching engagement and evidence gathering to assess the role and remit of CSPs in the wider partnership landscape, noting the significant contextual changes that have taken place since they were first established. As a result of the review, the Home Office will be developing new guidance for CSPs, which will reflect the context CSPs currently work within and set out recommended minimum standards, as well as suggestions for good practice.

## 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.

## 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 District Council also produces a monthly Priority Action Group (PAG) document which looks at problematic locations and emerging issues and circulates this to partners.

Hart currently has two Community Safety Officers and a Community Safety Support Officer who collectively 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. All three 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.

### 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%).

### Risks

Risks which should be considered in the upcoming year include;

- Increasing number of Domestic Homicide Review notifications.
- Implementation of Offensive Weapon Homicide Reviews and the impact this may have on the partnership.
- Resourcing/funding and restructure pressures on CSP partners.
- Impact of loss of local level support from the Violence Reduction Unit.
- Community Safety Partnership Review.
- Impact of Local Government reform and devolution.
- Uncertainty over the impact of changes at Hampshire County Council regarding service level agreements.
- Potential loss of budget support for Think Safe and Stay Safe work.



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## *Priority 1 – Feelings of Safety*

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### Why is this a priority?

Communities with low levels of perceived safety often experience lower levels of physical and mental health, compromising the wellbeing of residents. It is crucial to differentiate between the fear of crime, an individual perceived level of risk at becoming a victim and their actual likelihood of being a victim. It is important to recognise the impact of feelings of safety more broadly, it's not just about the level of actual crime and offences committed, but residents perceptions and feelings.

### Key Observations

- Think Safe and Stay Safe are well established and provide an effective means of engaging with young people on issues of safety.
- The key issues affecting feelings of safety as identified by the 'Lets Talk' survey were fly-tipping, speeding, ASB issues, drug and related issues and nuisance vehicle use.

### Progress during 2024/25

During 2024/25 the Community Safety Partnership has been working hard to improve feelings of safety and health outcomes across Safer North Hampshire. These include but are not exclusive of;

- 923 Safe and Well referrals with 579 visits carried out by HFRS in Hart
  - Hart and Rushmoor People meetings held monthly to identify and manage vulnerable individuals including referrals, repeat callers, harassment victims, hate crime victims and repeat domestic abuse victims
  - Think Safe Event held across four days in May 2025 with a total of 732 children attending sessions delivered by agencies (including HIOWFRS, Police, Stop Domestic Abuse, Network Rail, Community Safety, HDC Climate Change, Natural England and St Johns Ambulance Service). Feedback from both schools and partners was very positive.
  - Stay Safe Event held in five secondary schools across Hart with a total of 1,479 students participating in sessions aimed to raise awareness of various safety and wellbeing issues, including domestic abuse and anti-social behaviour. Feedback from students, staff and parents was positive with results of the parent feedback survey shown below;
- **Do you feel this was a worthwhile event to attend as a Parent?**  
The average rating was **4.90**, indicating that parents found the event extremely valuable.
- **Do you feel this topic is important to be covered with your child(ren)?**  
Similarly, the average rating was **4.90**, highlighting the widespread recognition of the topic's importance.

- **What was your level of knowledge on this topic prior to this event?**  
Parents rated their prior knowledge at an average of **2.75**, indicating limited prior awareness of the subject.
- **What was your level of knowledge on this topic after this event?**  
The rating significantly increased to **4.74**, showing that the event had a substantial impact in improving parents' understanding of the topics covered.
- Hart Community Safety circulate the PAG (Partnership Action Group) document on a monthly basis to key partners and stakeholders for information and advice. The document identifies issues in particular locations or within communities to achieve better outcomes.
- HART monthly eNewsletter shares key messages - has extended reach through Here for hart community groups.
- Hart community delivers – Community In Motion – active bystandership training with Rushmoor – encouraging community resilience.
- Online scam sessions held in Women's Institute Group and supported living/older persons residential setting.

### Current Position

Where details were available for Hart, data shows that violent crime was much more likely (81%) 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 19% of these offences.

'Lets Talk' is HIOWC new community survey initiative that aims to understand the needs of the local communities and enables residents to share their concerns with officers. Data collected between April 2024 and September 2024 shows that in Hart, the key issues affecting residents were speeding, parking issues, fly-tipping, drugs and related issues and nuisance vehicle use.

It will be important for the partnership to monitor this over the upcoming year and react accordingly.

### Recommendations

- Prioritise surveys to understanding feelings of safety.
- Work collaboratively to tackle the issues identified by residents through 'Lets Talk' surveys.
- Examine and understand data in relation to reports of crime by LGBTQ+ and identify and work with seldom heard communities.
- Educate residents on how they can keep themselves safe.
- Continue to hold Stay Safe and Think Safe Events.
- Increase safety messages and advice to rural communities to specific rural crime.
- Obtain feelings of safety data through Hart Resident Survey.

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## Priority 2 – Serious Violence

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### Overview

The Serious Violence Duty requires that councils and other local services collaborate to share information and implement targeted interventions aimed at preventing and decreasing serious violence. Whilst the duty does not define Serious Violence for the purpose of the duty, specified authorities are required to take into account the following factors;

- *The maximum penalty which could be imposed for any offence involved in the violence*
- *The impact of the violence on any victim*
- *The prevalence of the violence in the area*
- *The impact of the violence on the community in the area*

### Why is this a priority?

As noted the Serious Violence Duty 2022 requires the CSP and its members to collaborate with other organisations to prevent and tackle serious violence (SV) in the local area. Whilst there have been some positive reductions in the most serious violence (SV), the threat of SV crime, particularly for females and young males is a concern.

### Key Observations

- The Hart and Rushmoor SV Strategic group has been established alongside partners
- Hart's rate of serious violence (0.9 per 1,000) is considerably lower than the HIPS average (2.5 per 1,000)
- The main offences that make up serious violence in Hart are possession of a weapon (41%), violence with injury (38%), robbery of personal property (19%).
- Most suspects are male (84%) and 52% were under 25 years of age with a third aged 10-17 years.

### Progress during 2024/25

- Active participation in Hampshire, Isle of Wight, Portsmouth, and Southampton (HIPS) wide VRU groups, as well as contributions to the development of Strategic Needs Assessment
  - Violence Reduction Board
  - Combatting Drugs Board
  - Homicide Prevention Board
  - Serious Violence Data and Analysis working group
- Participation in VAWG partnership forums and CSP VAWG plan
- Habitual Knife Carriers group set up and led by HCC to monitor local individuals and ensure appropriate safeguards are in place.
- Hart Safer Communities Manager attends and is active in Communications and Engagement Subgroup of the Prevent Partnership Board.

- Hart and Rushmoor Serious Violence Group been established.
- Hart community delivers – Community In Motion – active bystandership training with Rushmoor – encouraging community resilience.
- Stay safe knife crime messages to secondary schools
- Op met meetings
- Engagement with Willow Team

### Current Position

In 2024/25 33 crimes were recorded as most serious violence (MSV) in Hart District. This figure represents a 50% (n11) increase compared to the previous year.

Following public consultation in July 2019, the Government announced that it would bring forward legislation introducing a new Serious Violence Duty (SVD) on responsible authorities which will ensure relevant services work together to prevent and reduce serious violence. The government also announced that it would amend the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 to ensure that serious violence is an explicit priority for Community Safety Partnerships (CSPs) and make sure they have a strategy in place to tackle violent crime.

The SVD focuses on tackling the root causes of violence through a programme of early interventions with young people and local communities. Statutory partners will work together to tackle serious violence and share local knowledge and data to support an evidence-based, multi-agency, 'public health' approach to tackling violent crime.

As part of the duty, areas need to produce a Strategic Needs Assessment (SNA) to understand the picture of serious violence in the local area, as well as understanding some of the causes of violence. Outputs from the SNA should inform the local strategy, which should contain bespoke solutions to prevent and reduce serious violence in the area.

The SVD does not set out a national definition of serious violence. It does, however, state that specified authorities need to work together to identify the kinds of serious violence that occur in their area, accounting for the factors set out in the Police, Crime, Sentencing and Courts Act 2002.

In response to the SVD, a common definition of serious violence was agreed at the HIPS Strategic Violence Reduction Partnership to enable consistency.

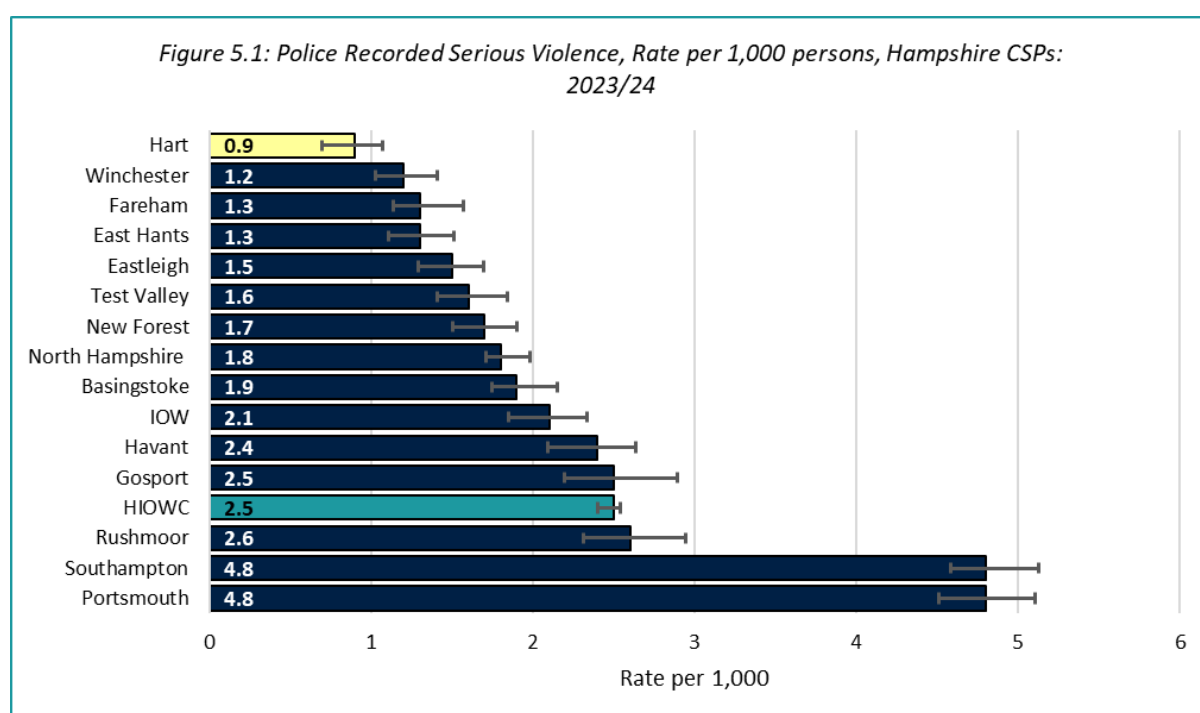
The agreed HIPS wide serious violence definition used in this needs assessment is:

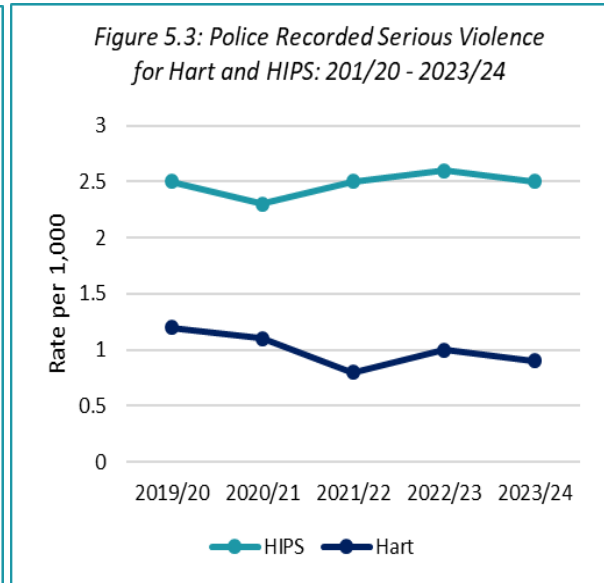
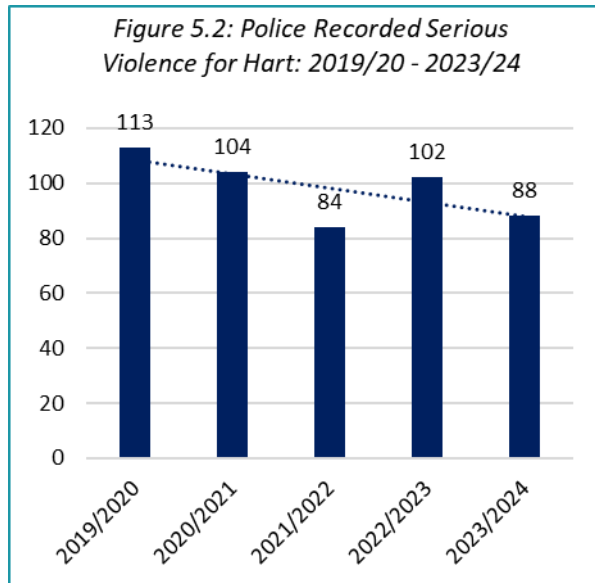
1. Most serious violence – existing definition (1a and 1b where it is GBH and above incl. death by dangerous driving).
2. Robbery (3a and 3b).
3. Possession of a weapon offences (7).
4. Public order (violent disorder [65] and riot [64/1] only).
5. Any violence with injury (1b) not included under MSV where a bladed implement was used.

Key points taken from the Hart Serious Violence Strategic Needs Assessment February 2025, show that in Hampshire and more specifically in Hart;

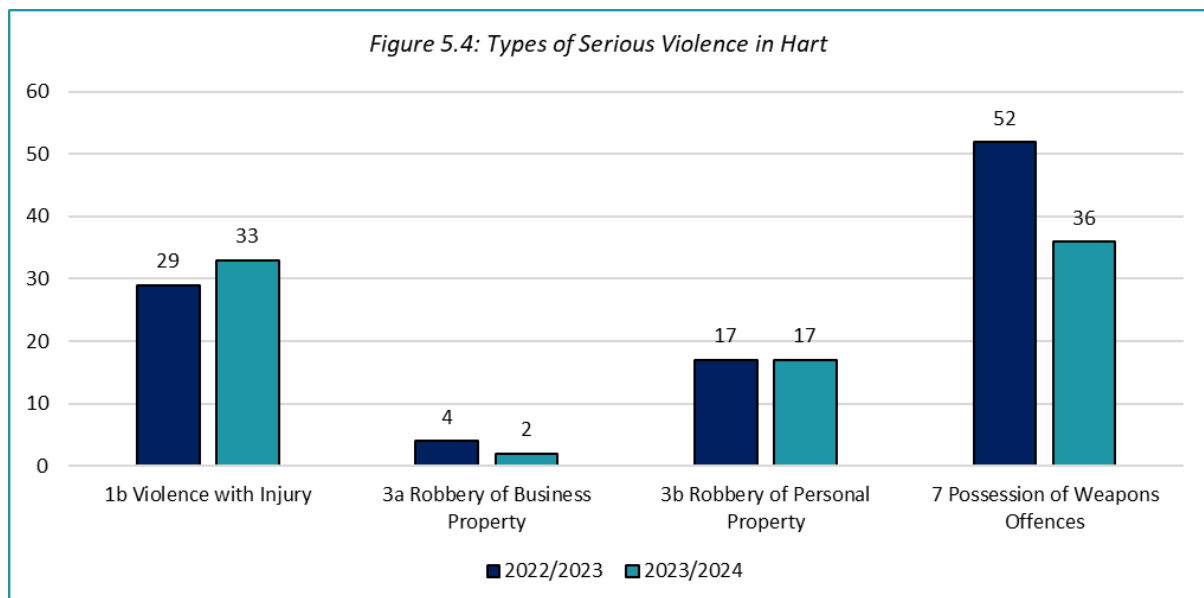
Overall, Hart only ranks similar to the Hampshire average for one of the identified risk and protective factors and ranks better than the Hampshire average for all other factors. Hart has a lower level of risk of involvement in serious violence compared to the Hampshire average. The low level of risk of involvement in serious violence is highlighted by Hart ranking as the least deprived district in England.

There were 88 serious violence offences in Hart in 2023/24, which accounted for 2% of the total serious violence in the HIPS area. Hart's rate of serious violence was the lowest in comparison with other districts and significantly lower than the HIPS average. There has been a 14% decrease in serious violence since 2022/23.





Since there are low numbers of serious violence offences, the profile should be interpreted with caution as patterns are more susceptible to change, and percentage changes will be large even when the numerical change is small. The main offences that make up serious violence in Hart are possession of a weapon (41%), violence with injury (38%), robbery of personal property (19%). There has been a 31% (n16) decrease in possession of a weapon offences in Hart since 2022/23, although this is influenced by police activity, and it is not possible to say with certainty that this represents a similar increase in weapons in the community.



The highest levels of serious violence were in Fleet and parts of Hook, and 52% were known to have taken place in public areas. There are no clear seasonal trends, although there are higher levels on Fridays and mostly between 18:00 and 23:59. Of recorded serious violence offences, 8% were flagged as linked to licenced premises and 10% involved alcohol use by the suspect. A further 3% were drug related.

The most common offender/victim relationship was stranger (25%), which would suggest serious violence offences are more likely to be committed by someone unknown to the victim. This is followed by acquaintance (18%) and victimless crime (15%), which is most often applied to possession of weapon offences. Also, of all serious violence occurrences, 10% had the domestic flag applied to it.

When looking at suspects of serious violence, 84% were male and 52% were under the age of 25. A third (n25) of all suspects in Hart were aged 10-17 and were also the most populated group when looking at males and females separately. Of these suspects, n9 (12%) were suspected of more than one serious violence in offence during 2023/24.

When looking at victims of serious violence, 70% were male and 35% were under the age of 25. Among males, those aged 10-17 and 45-54 are most likely to be identified as victims of serious violence. For females it is those aged 45-54. Of these victims, 7% were aggrieved of more than one serious violence offence during 2023/24.

The Violence Reduction Partnership (VRP) invited young people to participate in a survey about serious violence and knife crime. The aim was to better understand their perspectives on these issues and how they impact young people's sense of safety in Hampshire and Isle of Wight (HIOW)<sup>1</sup>.

A total of 474 responses were received with 217 of these complete responses. Below are the key findings:

- ❖ 35% (n88) believe serious violence and knife crime is being somewhat tackled, with only 2% (n4) believing it is being completely tackled.
- ❖ 34% (n26) were aware of things being done but more was needed while 28% (n21) were unaware of what measures were being taken to tackle serious violence and knife crime.
- ❖ 92% (n230) believe that the responsibility of tackling serious violence and knife crime lies with the police, followed by Education (38%, n96) and Fire and Rescue (32%, n81). However, there was many that chose several services, indicating a shared responsibility amongst services.
- ❖ 53% (n38) felt extremely positive about Fire and Rescue, majority felt positive or extremely positive towards the Police (52%, n38).
- ❖ 19% (n43) were very worried about serious violence and knife crime.
- ❖ The most common method of keeping yourself safe amongst young people was charging their phone (70%, n47).
- ❖ 56% (n105) disagree or strongly disagree that respect can be earned through violence.
- ❖ 47% (n89) agreed or strongly agreed that they were worried about others carrying a knife or a weapon.
- ❖ 43% (n81) agreed or strongly agreed that it's ok to do whatever it takes to protect yourself.
- ❖ 43% (n80) agreed or strongly agreed that they knew when to walk away from a situation.
- ❖ Of those who young people would trust to tell if they knew someone had a knife or a weapon, parents/family members were the most commonly chosen (63%, n137).
- ❖ 61% (n42) had been a witness of crime, 34% (n24) had been a victim of crime, and 24% (n16) had been a victim of a violent crime.

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<sup>1</sup> VRP Knife Crime Survey – December 2024 Review

- ❖ 27% (n29) of young people did not report a crime because of their lack of trust in the police.

### Recommendations

- Serious Violence (SV) data and analysis working group led by the VRU to consider the approach to the scheduling and delivery of district level Strategic Needs Assessments (SNAs).
- Focus on establishing the Hart and Rushmoor SV Strategic group, with the aim of improving partnership working and monitoring on SV related matters and ensure the action plan is regularly updated by all partners.
- Consider findings that are relevant to the borough, gained by SV & Knife Crime surveys.
- Develop the approach to Offensive Weapon Homicide Reviews, set out in the new serious violence legislation.
- Look at increasing engagement with schools and youth groups around knife crime and risks of exploitation.
- Funding to support victims of cuckooing through Catalyst.

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## Priority 3 – Domestic Abuse

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### Overview

The legal definition of Domestic abuse is:

*“...any incident of controlling, coercive or threatening behaviour, violence or abuse between those aged 16 or over who are 'personally connected', regardless of their gender or sexuality.”<sup>2</sup>*

Hampshire Constabulary explains some of the types of domestic abuse, include (not limited to) physical, emotional, psychological, sexual or financial. They provide some examples of what 'personally connected' could mean:

- relatives, including half and step relatives
- married couples, or couples who used to be married
- civil partners, or former civil partners
- people who have ever agreed to marry, or enter into a civil partnership agreement with each other
- people who have had an intimate relationship with each other
- people who are a parent of the same child, or have ever had a parental responsibility for the same child

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<sup>2</sup> [What is domestic abuse? | Hampshire and Isle of Wight Constabulary](#)



Estimates from the Crime Survey England and Wales (CSEW) showed that 4.2% of people aged 16 years and over experienced domestic abuse in the year ending December 2024. This was no significant change compared with the year ending March 2023.

### Why is this a priority?

Since the 2021/22 period, reports of domestic crime have been on a decline. However, this trend doesn't necessarily reflect a decrease in the occurrence of domestic abuse. Rather, it might be related to reduced awareness and reporting. Local initiatives play a crucial role in reducing the impact of trauma, delivering consistent messages throughout the community, and reducing domestic abuse. Actively promoting these initiatives is essential for recognising and supporting both victims and perpetrators.

### Key Observations

- Police recorded domestic abuse crimes increased by 4% in 2024/25.
- Women continue to be disproportionately represented among victims, with 70% of all victims in Hart being female over the last year.
- 32% were repeat victims

### Progress during 2024/25

- Active participation and enablement of Domestic Abuse Forums and MARAC meetings.
- Active role in supporting domestic homicide reviews and recent input with the OPCC on general feedback around the process/Home Office.
- Safe and Well referrals continue to be submitted by Community Safety and other teams in relation to vulnerable individuals.
- Shared IDVA service with Basingstoke and Deane.
- Stop Domestic Abuse Dashboard and data sharing.
- Hart Think Safe and Stay Safe training covers healthy relationships in schools.
- Hart Council has delivered internal training and awareness around domestic abuse and produced a poster with support messages around how Hart as an employer can support employees

### Current Position

In Hart district, domestic crimes account for 17% of total crime in 2023/24 (up from 16% the previous year) with reported DA offences increasing by 4% (n27) during this strategic period.

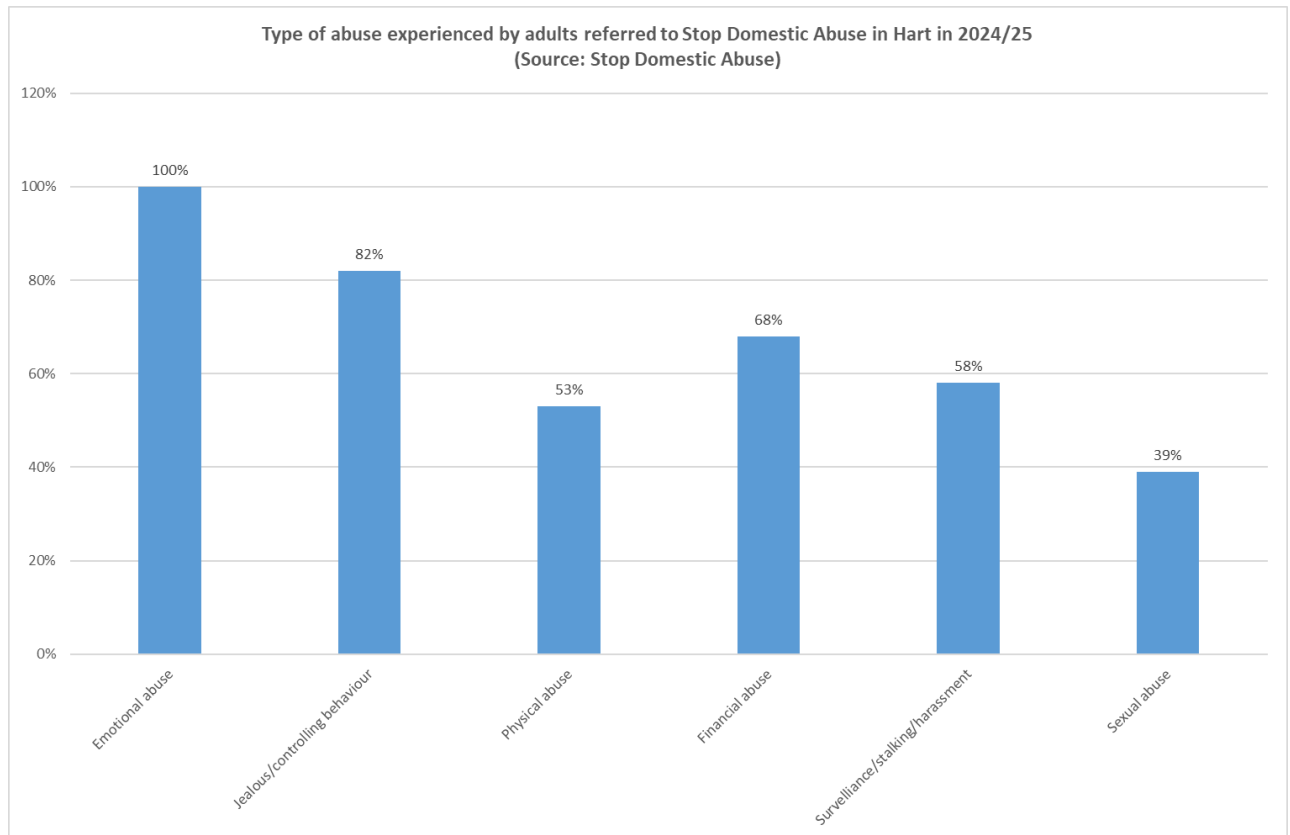
In 2024/25, 'Violence against the person' accounted for 79% (n546) of domestic abuse crime. The most common VAP offence types were common assault and battery (31%), stalking and harassment offences (27%) and Actual Bodily Harm (ABH) (22%). 32% of all domestic crime involved repeat victims. Across Hart, 70% of victims were female and 30% were male. The peak age for victims was between 18-25 years (17%) and 41-45 years (13%).

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 2 Domestic homicide Abuse Related Death Review during this assessment period.

Where details were provided the most common victim/offender relationships were, ex-partner – heterosexual (44%), partner – heterosexual (18%) and son (8%).

Stop Domestic Abuse supports and protects victims and survivors of domestic abuse and stalking. Data shows that in 2024/25 the number of adult referrals received in Hart reduced slightly (-2%) from 348 in 2023/24 to 340 in 2024/25. Broken down, 177 of these were from Outreach, 160 were from IDVA and 3 were from resettlement. The most common adult referral sources were Police (77%), self-referrals (6%) and Internal (4%). Stop Domestic Abuse delivered 76 interventions in Hart to adult clients in service. In line with police data, the most common relationships to perpetrator were ex-intimate partner (59%) and current intimate partner (19%). The types of abuse experienced are shown in the graph below, with emotional abuse (100%), jealous/controlling behaviour (82%) and financial abuse (68%) the most commonly experienced by victims.



In addition, Stop Domestic Abuse received 56 referrals regarding children and young people which is a 100% increase compared to the previous year. A number of these cases were referred by children services, and schools or colleges. This highlights the critical role these organisations play in identifying and addressing instances of domestic abuse affecting younger individuals.

### Recommendations

- The CSP should look at understanding barriers to reporting, why they exist, and implement processes to reduce them as well as promoting reporting mechanisms.
- Ensure robust processes are in place for identifying repeat victims and considering measures to support them across all three areas.
- Enable Domestic Abuse Forums to be utilised to share best practice and monitor trends in conjunction with the countywide strategies. Involve commissioned services to deliver where possible.
- Review the impact of domestic homicide reviews on the CSP.

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## Priority 4 – Anti-Social Behaviour

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### Antisocial Behaviour 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 or public order.

In addition, limitations with the Hampshire Constabulary 101 system for reporting ASB have led to issues with under-reporting.

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.

### Why is this a priority for us?

Consistent with findings from the Home Office research<sup>3</sup>, where ASB was the crime type respondents were most concerned about, concerns remain prominent among local communities, individuals, and businesses regarding anti-social behaviour. Issues related to vehicles, young people and neighbour nuisance are prevalent across the borough and make up a significant proportion of antisocial behaviour reports. Whilst some effective mechanisms are already established, it's important we continue prioritising early intervention with young people and proactive approaches to resolve neighbour disputes to prevent escalation of more severe offenses and nuisance problems.

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<sup>3</sup> Home Office public polling on community safety: March 2023

### Key Observations

- Reports of Anti-social behaviour are down 8% compared to the previous year
- 50% of reports classified as ASB Community
- Vehicle nuisance (32%), youth related ASB (21%) and neighbour nuisance (12%) most common types in Hart.

### Progress during 2024/25

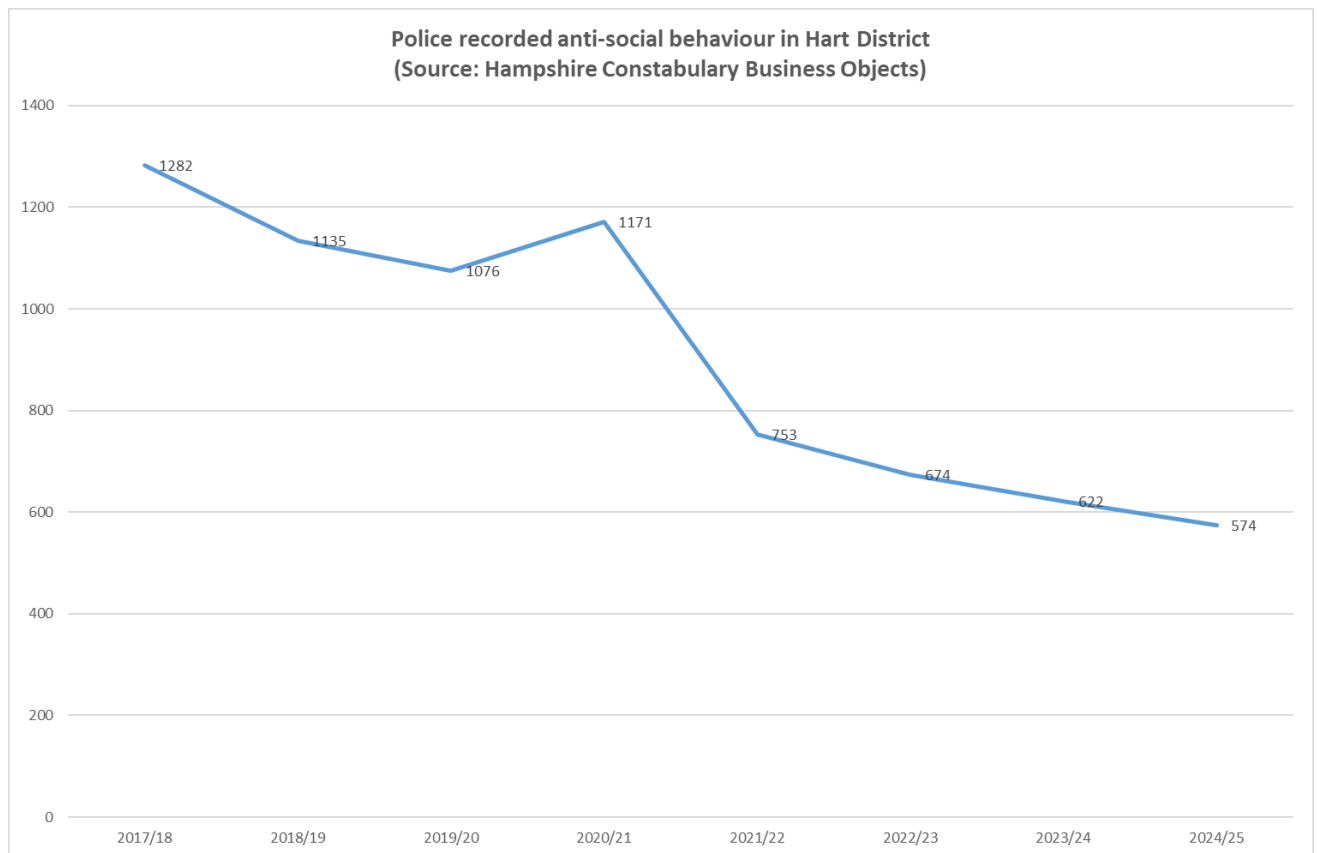
- Safer Streets 5 funding secured for Community in Motion training.
- Successful partnership work around vehicle nuisance and car meets including intelligence sharing, securing of vulnerable car parks and engagement with cross border multi-agency meeting.
- Hart Community Safety Team hold monthly meetings with police and secondary schools to identify emerging issues.
- 0 ASB case reviews requested
- Use of ASB warning letters, Acceptable Behaviour Contracts and Community Protection Warnings/Notices and Dispersal Orders.
- 1,189 ASB complaints processed, 778 early interventions achieved, 15 school interventions, 15 PEOPLE referrals and 18 safeguarding referrals
- Clear information about ASB Case Reviews available on council websites with reciprocal chairing arrangements in place across the three areas
- Engagement with local businesses around ASB issues, regular visits and patrols, identification of those causing nuisance and working groups
- Choices programme and other education funded by the OPCC.
- Stay Safe and Think Safe delivered in schools.
- Locational issues dealt with by PAG Places meeting including youth ASB in Yateley and ASB on buses.

### Current position – police recorded ASB

#### Overall observations

Hampshire Constabulary recorded 18,215 incidents of antisocial behaviour in Hampshire. This is a reduction of 4% (n785) on last year, when 19,000 incidents were recorded.

In 2024/25 there were 574 reports of anti-social behaviour to the police in Hart. This figure represents an 8% (n48) reduction compared to 2023/24.

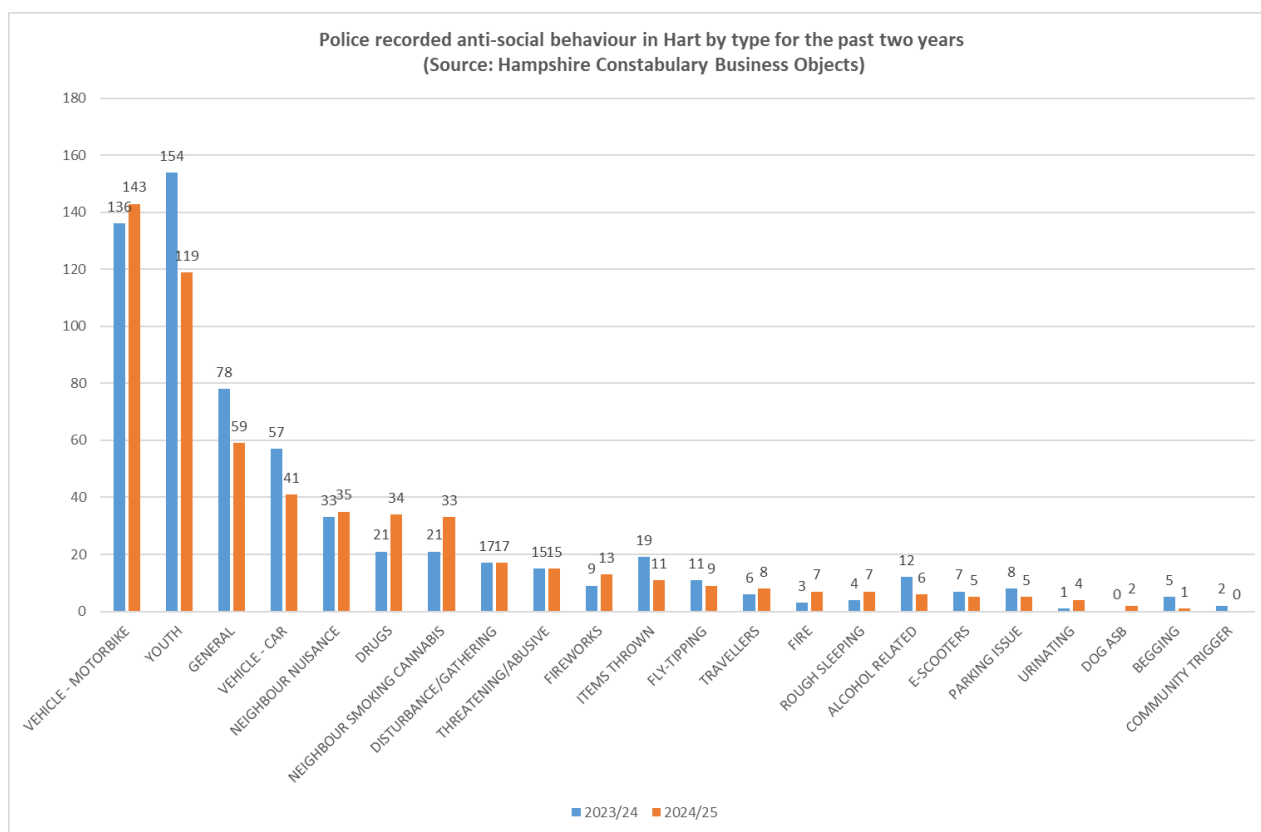


As in previous years, anti-social behaviour across the Hart area was slightly higher during the summer months (55% occurred in April to September). Reports were highest on Saturday (21%, n120) and increased from 13:00 hours continuing at a similar level until midnight.

Half of anti-social behaviour reports in Hart were classified as ASB Community (50%). ASB Environmental accounted for 42%, while ASB Personal made up 8% of incidents.

### Type of ASB

In 2024/25 the key issues for Hart District in terms of anti-social behaviour were, vehicle nuisance (32%, n184), youth related ASB (21%, n119) and neighbour nuisance (12%, n68).



## Vehicle nuisance

Vehicle nuisance was the most common type of anti-social behaviour reported to the police in Hart District in 2024/2 and has been for the past three years. Such reports accounted for 32% (n184) of anti-social behaviour but decreased slightly (-2%) compared to 2023/24.

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 78% (n143) of vehicle nuisance and car nuisance (includes car meets and cars racing) which made up 22% (n41) of vehicle nuisance reports in Hart in 2024/25.

Vehicle nuisance has increased more recently in Hart, with 39% of reports occurring in the three months January to March 2025. The peak days for vehicle nuisance were Saturday and Sunday (56%) while the peak times differed depending on the type of vehicle nuisance. Motorbike nuisance typically occurred in the afternoon (66% between 13:00 – 17:59 hours) while car nuisance typically occurred at night (76% between 20:00 – 01:59 hours).

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

Motorbike nuisance was most common in Yateley West (32%, n45), Eversley (24%, n34) and Yateley East (14%, n20) beats with reports commonly related to motorbikes and other off-road vehicles being ridden on pathways and green spaces by young people with no PPE.

Car nuisance was most common in Hook (27%, n11) with reports mostly relating to large numbers of vehicles in car parks, racing, doing donuts and revving engines.

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.

Awareness is raised regularly around reporting and advice to residents through the Community Safety eNewsletter.

### Youth related anti-social behaviour

In 2024/25 approximately 21% (n119) of anti-social behaviour related to young people. This figure represents a 22% reduction 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 Priority Action Group documents have highlighted specific locations where youth nuisance is a problem and, where appropriate, identified individuals have been discussed at the monthly PEOPLE Meeting and the Community Safety Officers work directly with the Neighbourhood Policing Teams on a weekly basis to assess the best way to tackle the issues identified.

Incidents of youth related ASB were higher during the summer months (62% between April and September), peaked on Saturdays (24%, n28) and increased from 15:00 occurring at a similar level until midnight (81%, n96).

This year has seen a significant reduction (68%) in youth related ASB in Fleet Central Beat. Use of the DISC reporting system by retailers and early identification of young people involved in anti-social has contributed to this reduction.

In Hart there were 1,189 ASB referrals (direct and via the Police Contact Management Program), resulting in 43 formal early interventions being undertaken which included Acceptable Behaviour Agreements (ABs) and Warning Letters.

### Neighbour nuisance/disputes (including drug use)

Neighbour nuisance/disputes accounted for 12% (n54) of incident reports in 2024/25 and increased by 26% (n14) compared to the previous year. Broken down, 52% (n35) were general issues with neighbours such as feuds and noise complaints and 48% (n33) 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.



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 such as Good Neighbour Agreements or Community Protection Warnings have not been successful.

#### Other issues of note

Where stated, approximately 15% of anti-social behaviour incidents in Hart were linked to drugs and alcohol. This included, drug use/dealing/paraphernalia (40%), neighbours smoking cannabis (38%), youths drinking and taking drugs (15%) and general alcohol related ASB (7%).

The Police Licensing Officer monitors NTE venues and advises of any particular problem venues or staff which the Local Authority Licensing team can address where needed.

#### Anti-Social Behaviour Case Review

An antisocial behaviour case review allows victims and communities to request a review of their case, encouraging agencies to collaborate and find a solution. This can be initiated by a victim of anti-social behaviour, someone acting on their behalf, or an individual representing a group of residents or a community group.

To activate the review, the victim or representative should contact Hampshire Constabulary using the non-emergency number 101.

The criteria to meet the threshold are as follows:

- Individual: Three complaints within a six-month period.
- Group: Five individuals within a local community have separately reported similar incidents of anti-social behaviour to a member of the Community Safety Partnership, believing that no action has been taken or being unsatisfied with the action taken.

In all cases, the incidents must have caused harassment, alarm, or distress, been logged within one month of the incident, and the last reported incident must have occurred within the past six months.

If the threshold is met, agencies will share information, review the actions already taken, and determine if additional actions are appropriate or possible.

There were no applications for Antisocial Behaviour Case Reviews requested and conducted in 2024/25 for Hart.

### Recommendations

- Use of data to support monthly PAG updates and PEOPLE Meetings.
- Seek data from Housing Associations on ASB reporting and outcomes
- 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
- 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 district).
- Work closely with the LA ASB Task Force on the development of better reporting and recording practices and a one-stop-shop.
- Work with health partners to examine the impact of drug and alcohol as a major contributory factor in ASB incidents.
- ASB case review training would be beneficial.

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## *Priority 5 – Town Centre, business crime and ASB*

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### Why is this a priority?

The Community Safety Partnership Town Centre locations experience some of the highest levels of crime and anti-social behaviour. Shoplifting offences increased by 45% across the CSP in the past year and ASB in town centre beats accounted for 22% of total reported incidents.

### Key Observations

- Business crime accounted for 18.35% of total crime in Hart, up from 14% last year.
- Shoplifting offences increased by 112% in Hart.
- Shoplifting, all other theft offences, criminal damage and arson, burglary business and community and vehicle offences and with the exception of shoplifting, all showed reductions compared to the previous year.
- Shoplifting FAT outcome rates increased from 21% to 34% in the six months Apr-Sep 24 compared to the previous year.
- ASB in Fleet Central beat reduced by 52%.
- Night-Time Economy related offences reduced by 34%.

### Progress in 2024/25

- Close working with Fleet NTP and Hart shopping centre, presence, identification, ASB warning letters issued etc.
- Close working with Housing Homelessness Team and retailers in response to ASB reported around begging.
- DISC system successfully used to identify individuals involved in crime and ASB and vulnerable individuals in the town centre.
- PAG - PLACES data identifies locational issues and PAG – PEOPLE data identifies individuals linked to issues which gets a partnership review.

### Current Position

#### Business Crime

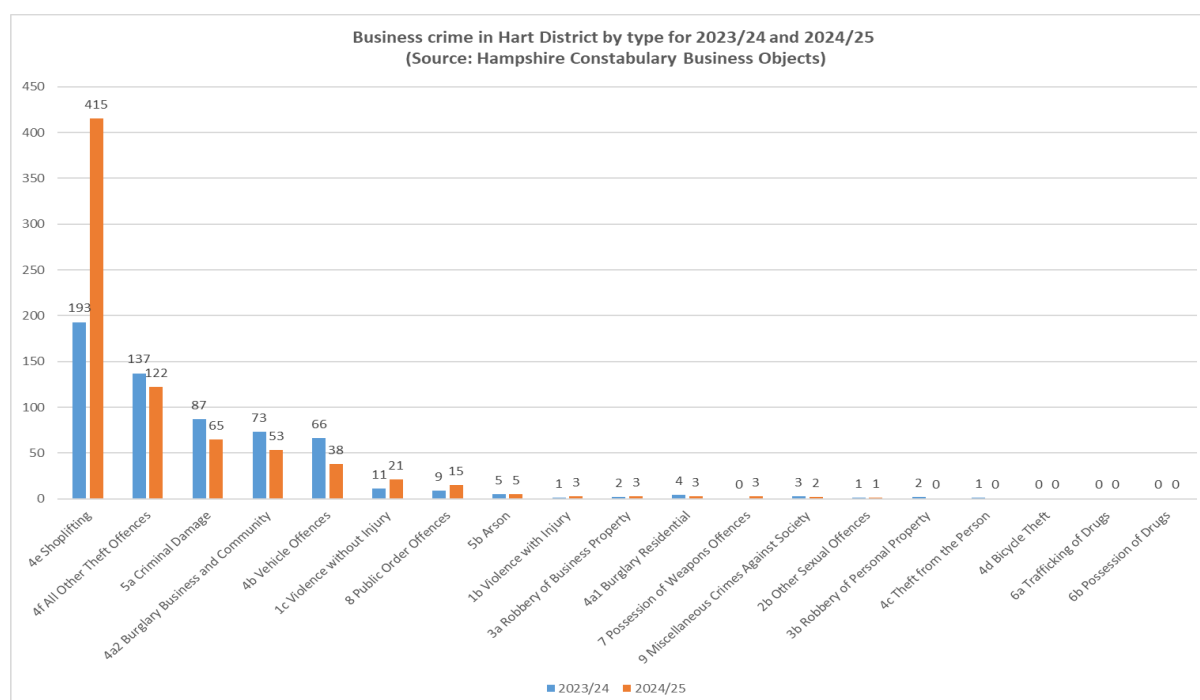
Within the Hampshire Constabulary policing area, business crime accounted for 18% of all crime recorded by the Force in 2024/25, higher than the previous year (17%).

Business crime accounted for 18.35% of total crime in Hart, up from 14% the previous year. Shoplifting (55%), all other theft offences (16%), criminal damage and arson (9%), burglary business and community (7%) and vehicle offences (5%) were the most common business crime types,

making up 92% of business crime and with the exception of shoplifting, all of these showed reductions compared to last year.

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.

Hampshire Constabulary have run a shoplifting initiative whereby they now have a dedicated officer to take reports, attend store, obtain statements and download CCTV. The problem has been divided up into people and places, with shops visited, relationships formed and shops signed up to DISC. Plans were put into place to deal with prolific offenders. This has led to greater confidence in the Police and in reporting, suspects being arrested, charged and remanded and the outcome rate for shoplifting going from 21% during the six months April to September 2023 to 32% during the six months April to September 2024.



Fleet Central beat which includes Fleet Town Centre has historically been one of the locations with the highest number of ASB reports. In total, 45 incidents were reported here in 2024/25 which represents a 52% reduction compared to the previous year when 94 incidents were reported.

The most common types of ASB in Fleet Central were youth related incidents (33% - reduced by 67% compared to last year), vehicle nuisance (11% - reduced by 67%) and E-scooters (11% - increased by 150%).

The number of night-time economy related offences in Fleet Town Centre have fallen by 34% (n34) in 2024/25 when compared to the previous year. Violence against the person (45%), criminal damage and arson (15%), drug offences (12%) and public order (12%) accounted for the majority of

offences, while the locations with the most offences were The Prince Arthur (13%) and The Old Emporium (13%). The Community Safety Team works closely with the council and police licensing teams and night-time economy offences are monitored through the PAG document.

### Recommendations

- Continue to share information on individuals involved in crime and anti-social behaviour in the town.
- Continue to identify and safeguard vulnerable individuals who frequent the town centre and are at risk of exploitation.
- Ensure best use of monthly PAG updates to understand issues in town centres.
- Continue to work closely with schools and colleges to ensure safety of students in the town centre.
- Continue information sharing and monitoring of NTE venues.

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## Crime Data Summary

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### Overview

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 both locally and nationally. These factors have contributed to a 8% reduction in crime levels across Hart compared to five years ago<sup>4</sup>.

Nationally, the police recorded 6.6 million crimes in England and Wales in the year ending December 2024. This figure was relatively stable equating to a 1% decrease on the previous year. 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 24 to 31st March 25), Hampshire Constabulary recorded a total of 153,548 crimes across Hampshire. This figure represents a 4% decrease compared to the previous year when 159,731 crimes were recorded.

### Hart, type and level of crime.

Across Hart 4,056 crimes were recorded in 2024/25. This figure represents a 6% (n251) reduction on the previous year when 4,307 crimes were recorded.

The rate of crime per 1,000 population in Hart District was 40.8 which is below the national average of 87.9 crimes per 1,000 population and the Hampshire average of 77.2 crimes per 1,000 population.

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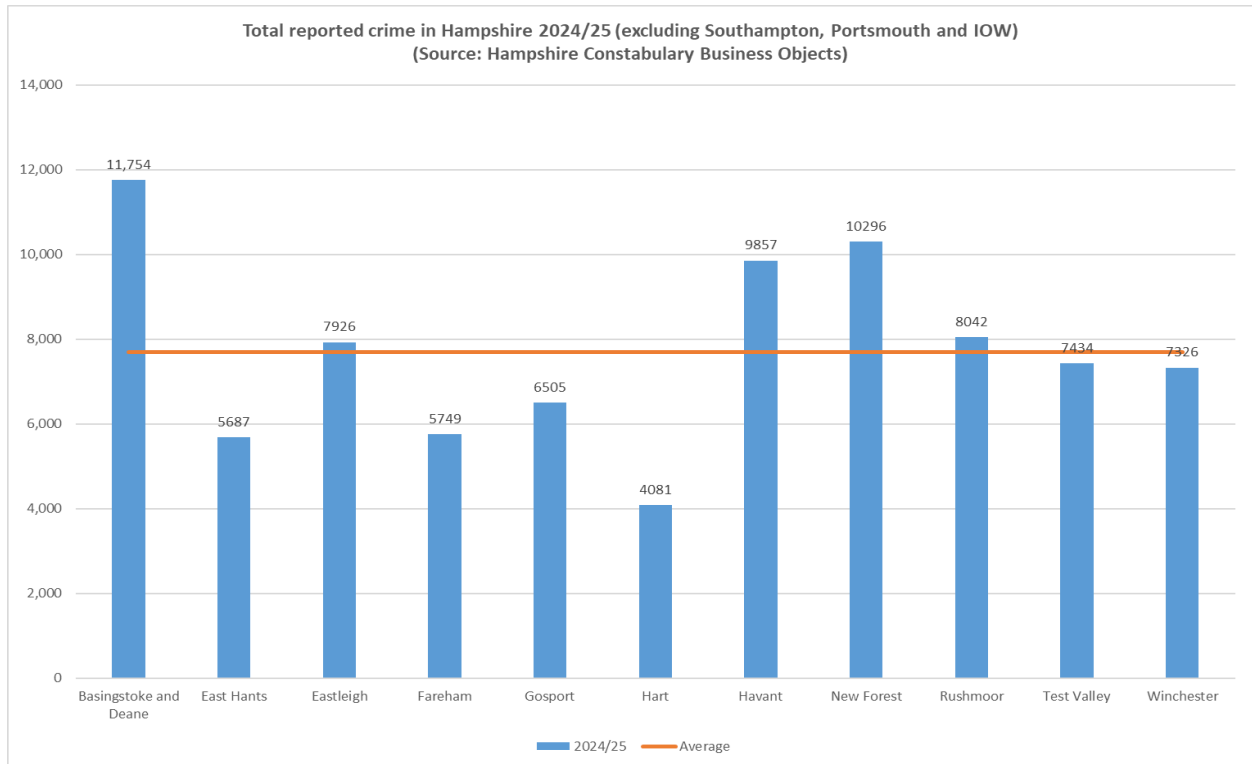
<sup>4</sup> Source: Hampshire Constabulary Business Objects

	HART		
	23/24 crimes	24/25 crimes	% change
1a Homicide	0	0	0%
1b Violence with Injury	488	441	-10%
1c Violence without Injury	1,214	1,130	-7%
2a Rape	61	63	+3%
2b Other Sexual Offences	104	130	+25%
3a Robbery of Business Property	3	3	0%
3b Robbery of Personal Property	17	12	-29%
4a1 Burglary Residential	159	144	-9%
4a2 Burglary Business and Community	105	65	-38%
4b Vehicle Offences	340	310	-9%
4c Theft from the Person	20	13	-35%
4d Bicycle Theft	24	10	-58%
4e Shoplifting	196	416	+112%
4f All Other Theft Offences	389	345	-11%
5a Criminal Damage	460	387	-16%
5b Arson	16	25	+56%
6a Trafficking of Drugs	37	18	-51%
6b Possession of Drugs	107	90	-16%
7 Possession of Weapons Offences	36	33	-8%
8 Public Order Offences	458	348	-24%
9 Miscellaneous Crimes Against Society	73	100	+37%
<b>Totals</b>	<b>4,307</b>	<b>4,056</b>	<b>-6%</b>
<b>Domestic crimes</b>	<b>668</b>	<b>695</b>	<b>+4%</b>
<b>Hate crime</b>	<b>98</b>	<b>85</b>	<b>-13%</b>
<b>Antisocial Behaviour (ASB)</b>	<b>622</b>	<b>574</b>	<b>-8%</b>

This year, when compared to the previous year there were considerable reductions in violence with injury offences (-10%), burglary business and community (-38%), criminal damage (-16%), trafficking of drugs (-51%), public order (-24%) and hate crime (-13%). However, areas which experienced significant increases were other sexual offences (+25%), shoplifting (+112%) and arson (+56%).

## Hampshire comparison

The graph below shows the total reported crime across the named local authorities alongside the county average. This shows that Hart is considerably lower the Hampshire average of 7,696 crimes.



## Violence against the person

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

Nationally there was a 6% reduction in police recorded violence with injury offences on the year ending December 2024. There was no change in levels of police recorded violence without injury.

In the year ending December 2024 CSEW, people aged 16 and over experienced an estimated 1.1 million incidents of violence with or without injury. There was no statistically significant change compared to the previous year and follows a mostly downward trend since 1995.

In line with the national trend, Hart District experienced a reduction in overall violence against the person offences in 2024/25 when compared to the previous year (-8%).

Violence with injury offences reduced by 10% in this strategic period. ABH accounted for almost three quarters of offences (73%), 34% had a domestic flag, 10% involved the use of a weapon, 75% were committed by someone the victim knew and 11-21 year olds accounted for 26% of victims.

Violence without injury offences reduced by 7% in 2024/25. Common assault and battery (41%) and harassment and stalking offences (38%) were the most widespread. 36% had a domestic flag, 5% involved the use of a weapon, 83% were committed by someone the victim knew and 17% of victims were aged 37-45 years.

Town Centre locations had some of the highest levels of violence against the person, with Fleet Central beat accounting for 7% (n114) of total offences, down from 11% the previous year.

Fleet Central beat had the third highest number of violence offences (n114), and these can be broken down into;

- Night-time economy related<sup>5</sup> violence against the person offences (26%, n30), occurring in or outside of a licensed premises between 22:00 – 03:59 hours. Night-time economy offences are monitored within the PAG data reviews.
- Domestic related offences accounted for 20% (n23) of violence against the person offences in Fleet Central beat which is lower than across Hart district (35%).
- The percentage of violence against the person offences committed by a stranger (44%) was higher in Fleet Central beat than across Hart district (19%). This can be explained in terms of a higher footfall of people in town centre locations, along with the night-time economy.
- 4.4% (n5) of violence against the person offences in Fleet Central beat were hate related which is higher than the figure for Hart (2.6%).
- 10% (n10) of violence against the person offences in Fleet Central beat involved the use of a weapon which is higher than the figure for Hart district (6.6%).
- 59% of victims were male and 41% were female, which is a higher proportion of male victims than the figure for Hart district as a whole (45% male and 55% female).

Violence against the person offences in Hook beat made up 13% of offences and increased by 14% compared to the previous year. This rise was in part due to increases in three locations where offences were predominantly committed by someone known to the victim and an increase in domestic related offences (+23%) and violence against the person offences with a weapon (+220%).

## Robbery

Crime in England and Wales reports that nationally there was no change in the number of police recorded robbery offences in the year ending December 2024. While robbery business offences increased by 54%, this was offset by a 7% reduction in robbery personal offences.

There was a 25% reduction in total robbery offences (robbery business and robbery personal) in Hart District with 15 offences reported in 2024/25, down from 20 the previous year. Broken down, robbery personal offences were down 29% (n5) while there was no change in the levels of robbery business offences.

Robbery offences in Hart have been examined. Broken down, 80% of offences were robbery personal and 20% were robbery business.

In 2024/25, victims of robbery personal were often male (70%), with three quarters (75%) of male victims aged under 28 years.

Where details were available 75% of offences were committed by a stranger and 39% (n5) involved a weapon with bladed implement the most common (80%, n4).

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<sup>5</sup> Source: Hampshire Constabulary Business Objects 'Basingstoke Night-Time Economy' Report



## Offences Involving Weapons

Nationally the number of knife-enabled offences increased by 2% in the year ending December 2024 compared to the previous year. Most were assault with injury with intent to cause harm (43%) and robbery (43%).

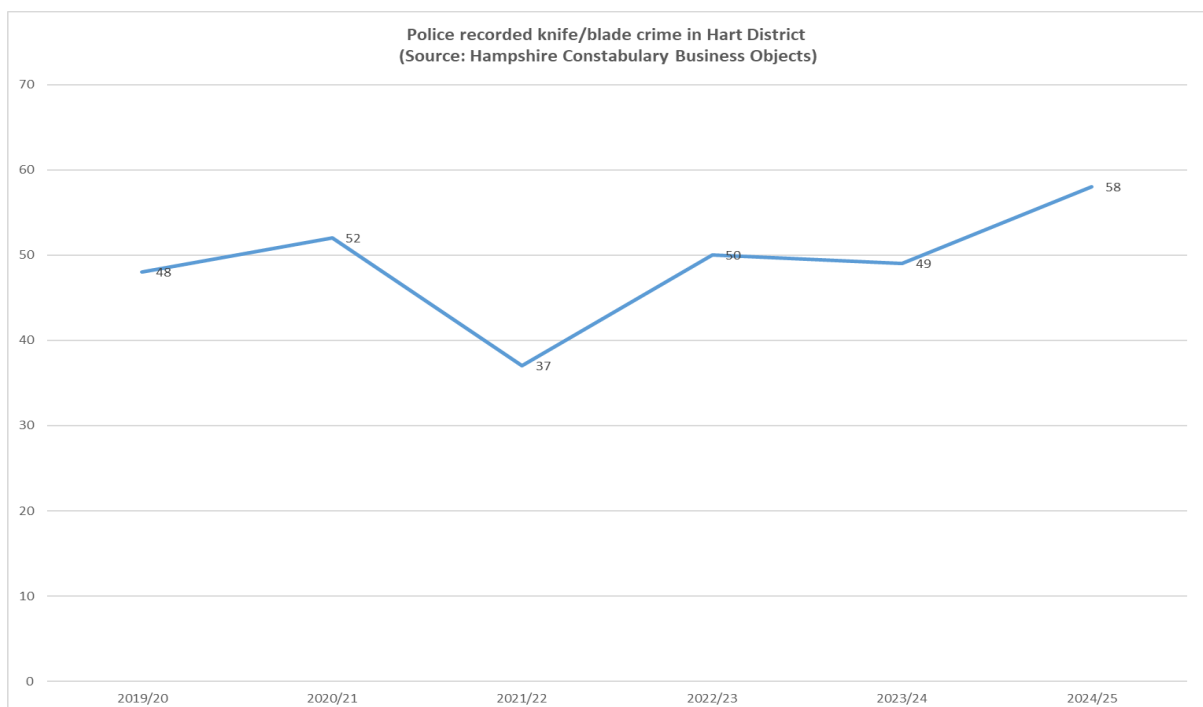
In contrast, provisional admissions data for NHS hospitals in England and Wales showed a 6% decrease in the number of admissions for assault by a sharp object in the year ending December 2024 when compared to the previous year.

Police recorded offences involving firearms reduced (-20%) in the year ending December 2024 with levels at their lowest since March 2016. The largest reduction was in offences involving imitation firearms (-32%), although these remain the most widely used (36%), closely followed by handguns (34%).

Rates of crimes involving knives or sharp instruments vary by Police Force Area. Hampshire's rate of crimes involving knives or sharp instruments (50 per 100,000 population) is much less than the England and Wales average (90 per 100,000 population)<sup>6</sup>.

In Hart offences involving a knife/blade increased by 18% from 49 offences in 2023/24 to 58 in 2024/25 and such offences accounted for 1.4% of total crime. Of the 58 knife/blade offences, almost half (45%) were recorded as violence against the person, followed by possession of a weapon (35%).

The five-year trend is a 21% increase in Hart since 2019/20 as shown below.



<sup>6</sup> Crime in England and Wales, year ending December 2023 – PFA tables

Crime in England and Wales (year ending Dec 24) reports that, Police recorded possession of an article with a blade or point offences increased by 1%. Possession of a bladed implement offences in Hart increased by 27% (n4).

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. They also tackle many of the myths associated with habitual knife carrying.

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.

### Acquisitive Crime

Overall acquisitive crime levels in Hart District increased by 6% in 2024/25 when compared to the previous year.

Acquisitive crime refers to offences where the primary motive is to gain property or money, the unlawful acquisition of someone else's belongings. The below factors describe conditions in which acquisitive crime is more likely to occur:

- **Socioeconomic factors** – higher rates of unemployment, poverty and economic instability
- **Seasonal Trends** – AC often spike during certain times of the year, particularly around holidays when more valuable and cash are on hand, and properties are left unattended.
- **Opportunity** – poorly secured properties, inadequate street lighting and lack of surveillance, often exploiting situations where the risk of detection is lower

While there were considerable reductions across most acquisitive crime types the overall increase can be attributed to a 112% rise in shoplifting offences.

Hampshire Constabulary have run a shoplifting initiative whereby they now have a dedicated officer to take reports, attend store, obtain statements and download CCTV. The problem has been divided up into people and places, with shops visited, relationships formed and shops signed up to DISC. Plans were put into place to deal with prolific offenders. This has led to greater confidence in the Police and in reporting, suspects being arrested, charged and remanded and the outcome rate for shoplifting going from 21% during the six months April to September 2023 to 32% during the six months April to September 2024.

### Sexual Offences

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

The Crime Survey England and Wales (CSEW) self-completion module provides a more reliable measure of trends in sexual offences than police recorded crime data. In the CSEW year ending December 2024, 2.1% of people aged 16 years and above had experienced sexual assault (including attempted offences).

There have been general increases in police recorded sexual offences over the past decade. This is because of improvements in recording and increased reporting by victims. There was an 8% increase across England and Wales in the year ending December 2024 compared to the previous year.

In 2024/25 the number of sexual offences recorded in Hart increased by 17% (n28) following a 12% reduction the previous year. The number of rape offences increased by 3% (n2) and the number of other sexual offences increased by 25% (n26).

A more detailed look at sexual offences in Hart for 2024/25 shows that, where details were available, 84% of victims were female and 16% were male and this is similar to the previous year. The most common offences were rape of a female over 16 (22%) and sexual assault on a female 13+ (23%). Where details were available, 86% of offences were committed by somebody the victim knew and 14% were committed by a stranger. 0.6% of offences involved the use of a weapon.

### 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 2024/25, levels of police recorded criminal damage reduced by 16% (n73) across Hart, however Police recorded arson offences increased by 56% (n9). This increase was due to a rise in arson offences, particularly in Hook (32%), Yateley North (20%) and Fleet Central (20%) beats with 48% of offences occurring during the three months November 2024 to January 2025 and carried out by known individuals.

Crondall beat had the highest number of reports of criminal damage (10%), followed by Hartley Wintney (9%) and Fleet Central (9%) however all of these areas experienced reductions compared to the previous year. Across Hart, criminal damage to vehicles under £5,000 was the most common, accounting for 31% of offences, followed by criminal damage other under £5,000 (30%) and criminal damage to a building - residential under £5,000, (25%).

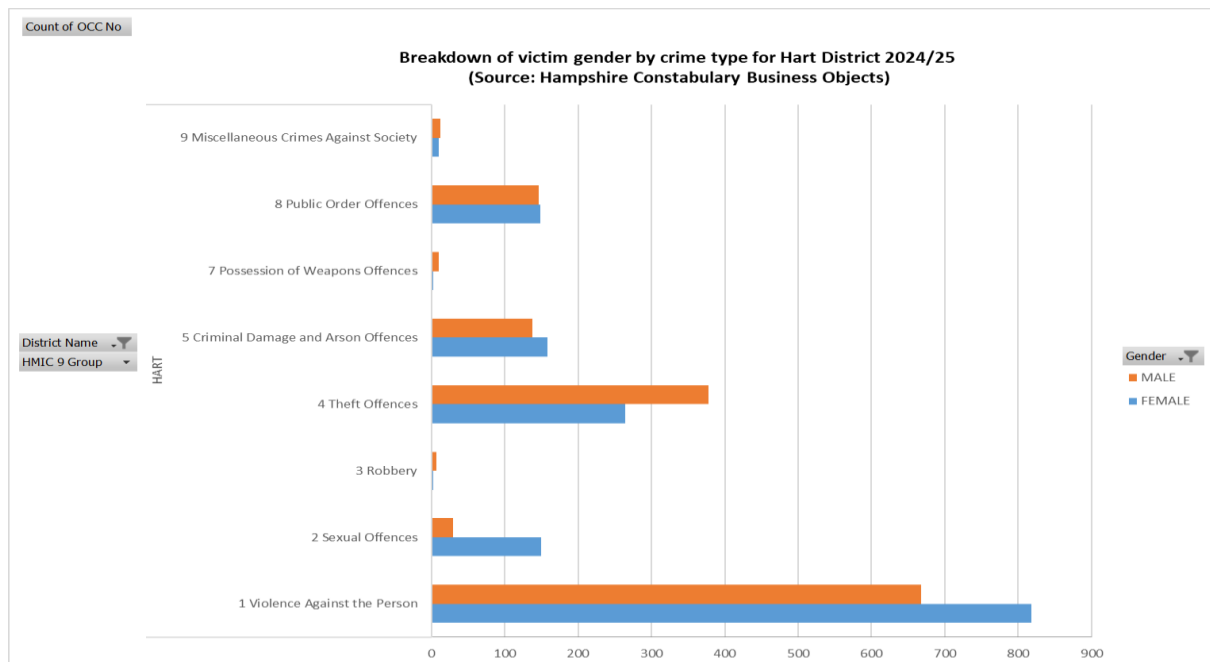
### Victims

In 2024/25, where victim data was available<sup>7</sup>, 53% of victims across Hart were female and 47% were male which is the same as the previous year.

A higher proportion of males were victims of robbery (70%), theft offences (59%) and possession of a weapon offences (83%). Meanwhile females were more likely to be victims of sexual offences (84%) and violence against the person (55%).

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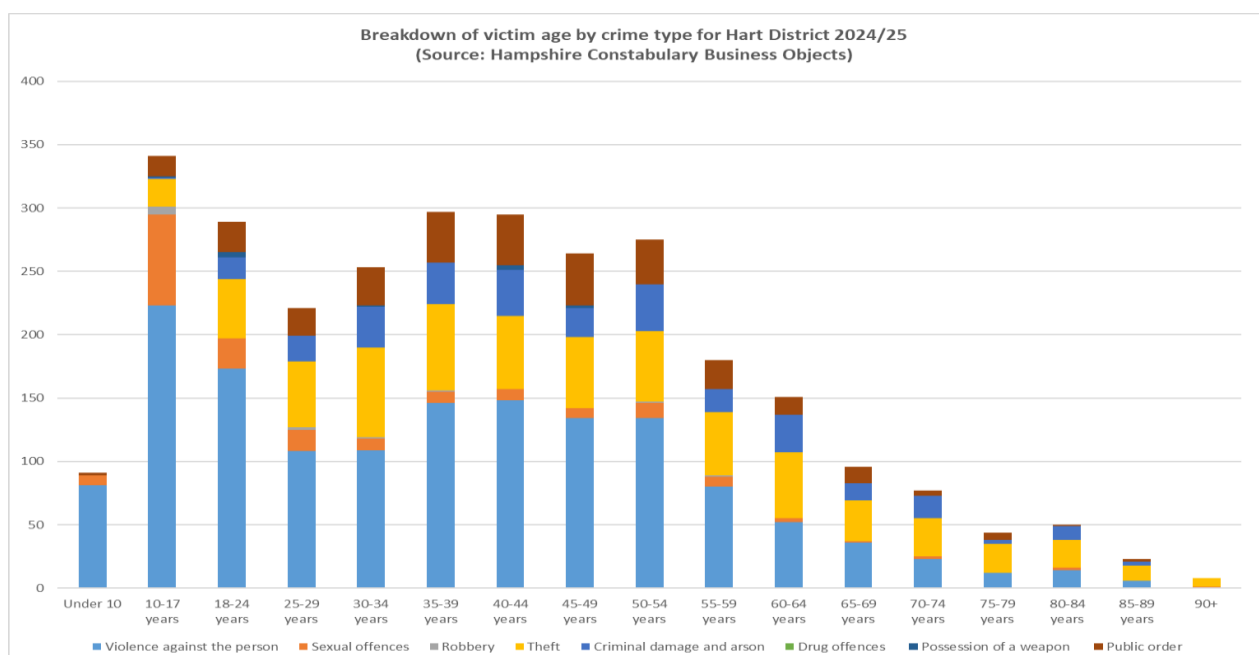
<sup>7</sup> Business Objects searchable data from 01.04.2024 to 31.03.2025.



Where details were available, the offender was known to the victim in 67% of crimes committed in Hart in 2024/25. Of these the most common were acquaintance (27%), ex-partner – heterosexual (15%) and parent (8%). 33% of offences were committed by a stranger. The picture is similar across Hampshire.

Broken down by age, 10-17 years (12%) had the highest number of victims in Hart. As shown in the graph below, this age bracket had the largest number of victims of violence against the person (15%), sexual offences (39%) and robberies (50%).

Victims in the 35-39 years age bracket experienced the second highest number of offences (10%), followed closely by 40-44 years (10%) and 18-24 years (10%).

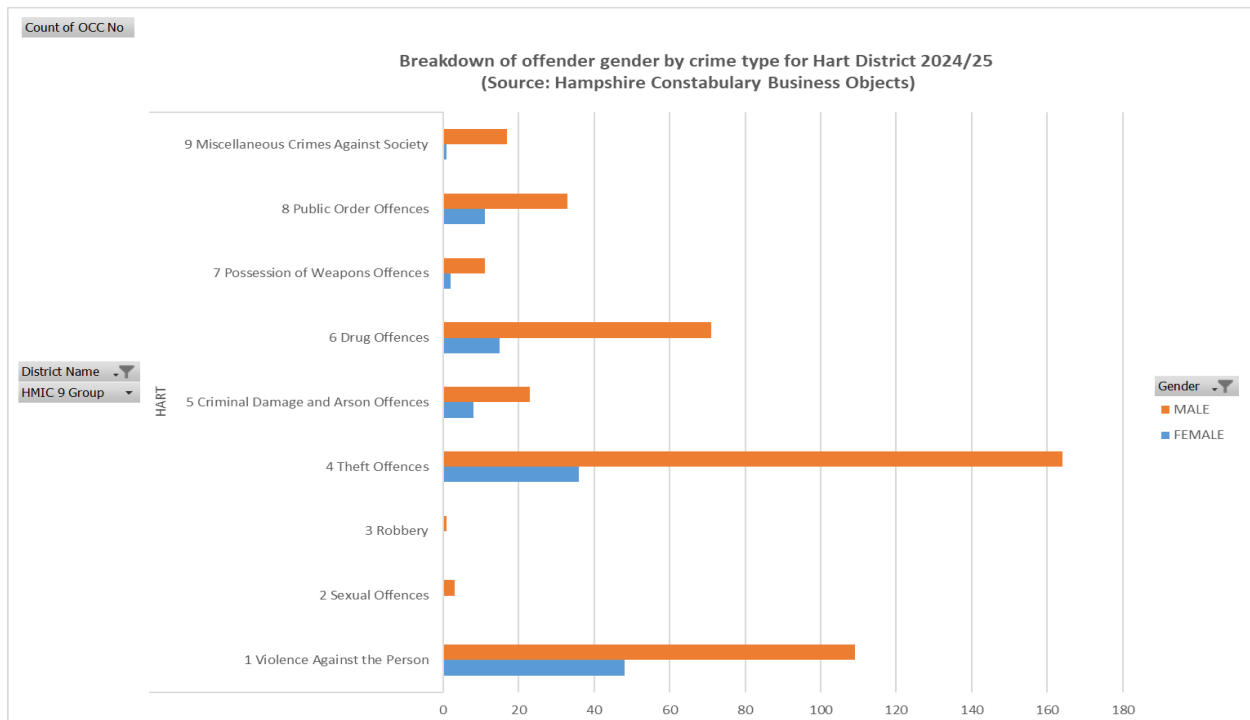


Where details were available, 87% of victims were White-North European, followed by White European (5.7%), Asian (3.5%), Black (2.3%), White South European (0.9%), Arabic or North African (0.1%) and Chinese, Japanese and SE Asian (0.1%).

Where hate crime offences had been committed, 60% of victims were White North European, 32% were Black and 10% were Asian.

## Offenders

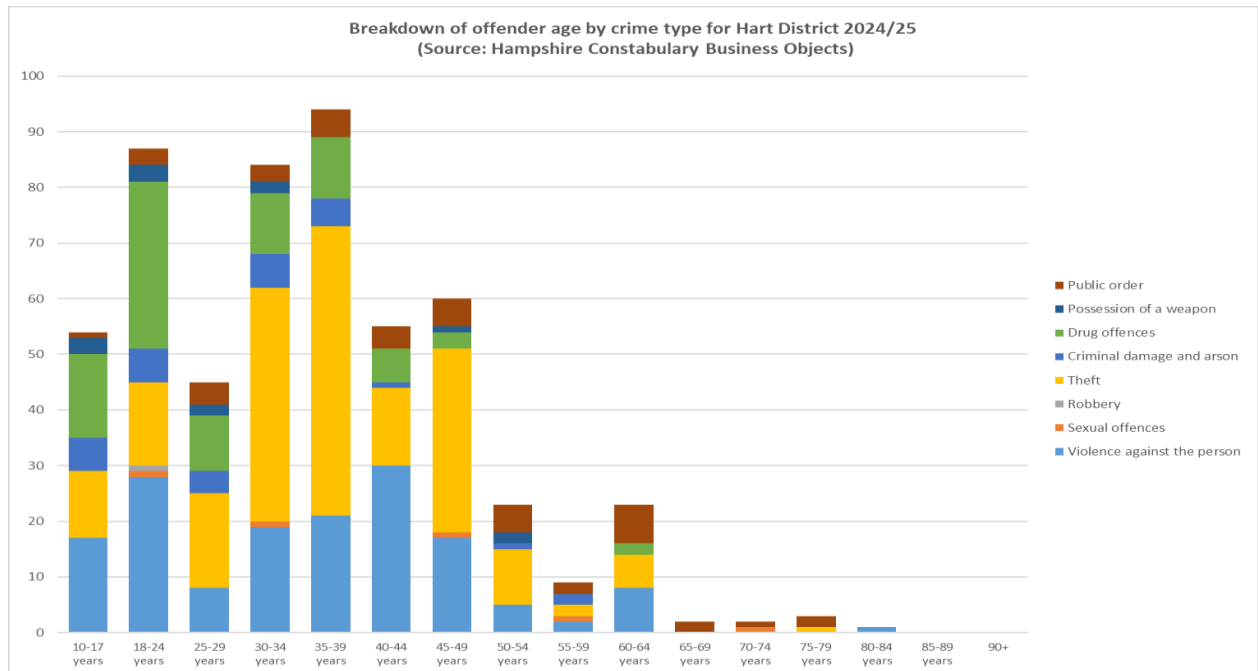
Where offender data was available<sup>8</sup> 78% of offenders in Hart were male and 22% were female.



Broken down by age, 35-39 years (17%) had the highest number of offenders, followed by 18-24 years (16%).

Offenders in the age bracket 40-44 years committed the highest number of violence against the person offences (19%). Offenders in the 35-39 years age bracket committed the highest number of theft offences. Offenders in the 18-24 years age bracket committed the most drug offences (34%) and offenders in the 10-17 years (23%) and 18-25 years (23%) committed the highest number of possession of a weapon offences.

<sup>8</sup> Business Objects data for the 12 months 01.04.2024 – 31.03.2025



Where details were available, 91% of offenders in Hart were White North European, followed by Asian (3.5%), Black (3.3%), White South European (1.6%) and Chinese, Japanese and SE Asian (0.2%).

## Re-Offending and Offending Risk

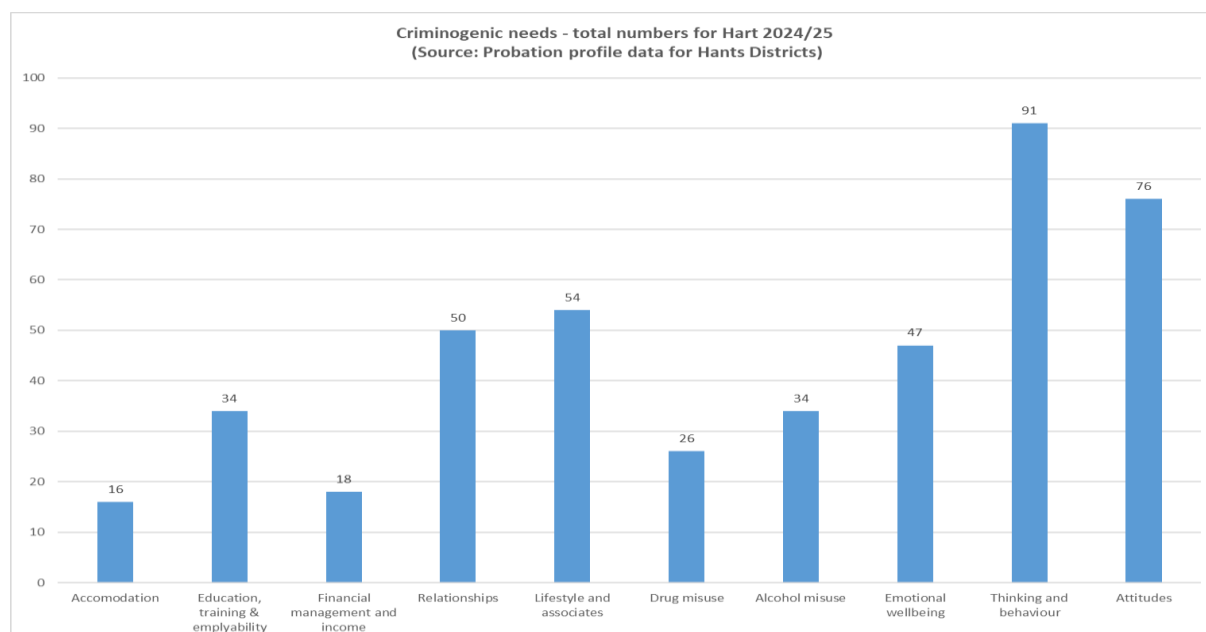
### Adults

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 90% of offenders and juveniles accounted for 10% of offenders in Hart in 2024/25.

For higher risk offenders managed by the National Probation Service (NPS), there are 94 repeat offenders in Hart on the current NPS caseload<sup>9</sup>. 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 graph below).

<sup>9</sup> Data for the period 01.04.2024 – 31.03.2025



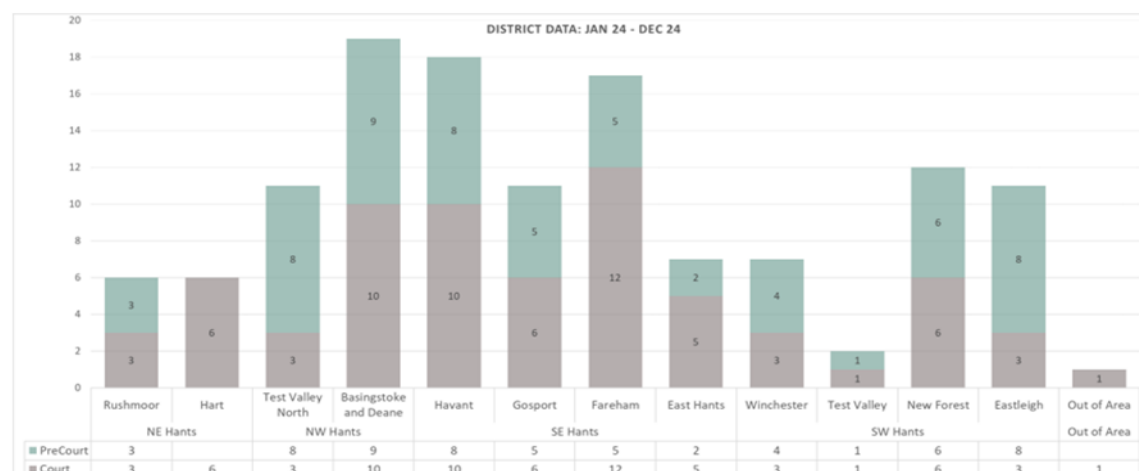
Of this cohort, 89% were male and 11% were female. The age groups with the most offenders were 26-34 years (31%) and 35-49 years (31%) and the most common offender ethnicity was White British (77%). The most common offence types committed by this group were, violence against the person (31%), summary motoring offences (21%) and other indictable offences (14%).

## Youths

Data from Hampshire Constabulary shows that in 2024/25, there were 55 offences committed by young people aged between 10-17 in Hart District.

80% of offenders in this age category were male while 20% were female. The peak age within this category was 16 years (22%). The offences most commonly committed by this age group were violence against the person (31%), drug offences (27%) and theft (22%).

Data from the Youth Offending Team for 2024 shows that in Hart there were six First Time Entrants (FTE) into the Youth Justice System.



## Violence against women and girls

In line with the Government's 2021 Tackling violence against women and girls' strategy, in September 2021, the Police and Crime Commissioner for Hampshire and the Isle of Wight established a Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG) task group in collaboration with Hampshire Constabulary, partners in the criminal justice system, and local authorities. The task group's objectives are to enhance the operational response and support provided to victims of these crimes, as well as to prevent such incidents by targeting and disrupting perpetrators.

VAWG is the umbrella term used to cover various types of abuse that affect more women and girls than men and boys. These include, domestic abuse, domestic homicide, sexual assault, abuse experienced as a child, female genital mutilation (FGM), forced marriage and harassment in work and public life. These experiences are often hidden and not limited to physical violence, involving abusive treatment or exploitation as well.

The Hampshire and Isle of Wight Force Strategic Assessment 2024 states that reported VAWG offences have shown a downward trend across the County (-10%). 72% of VAWG suspects were male, similar to the previous year.

Focusing on crime type, just over a quarter (28%) of offences are Section 4A Public Order Act – Causing Intentional Harassment, Alarm or Distress. This crime type accounts for the most offences, more than Protection From Harassment Act – Section 2 (23%), ABH (19%) and Sending Letters etc. With Intent to Cause Distress or Anxiety (15%). The remaining 15% of offences are covered by Stalking, Fear of Provocation of Violence and other offences.

Within the overall reductions, some individual crime types have shown notable decreases: Section 4A Public Order Act – Causing Intentional Harassment (-14.5%, -914) and Sending Letters etc. With Intent to Cause Distress or Anxiety (-20.0%, -720).

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.

## Recommendations

- 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.
- Work closely with businesses to prevent and tackle shoplifting.



## *Fire and Rescue data summary*

### 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 2024 to 31<sup>st</sup> March 2025.

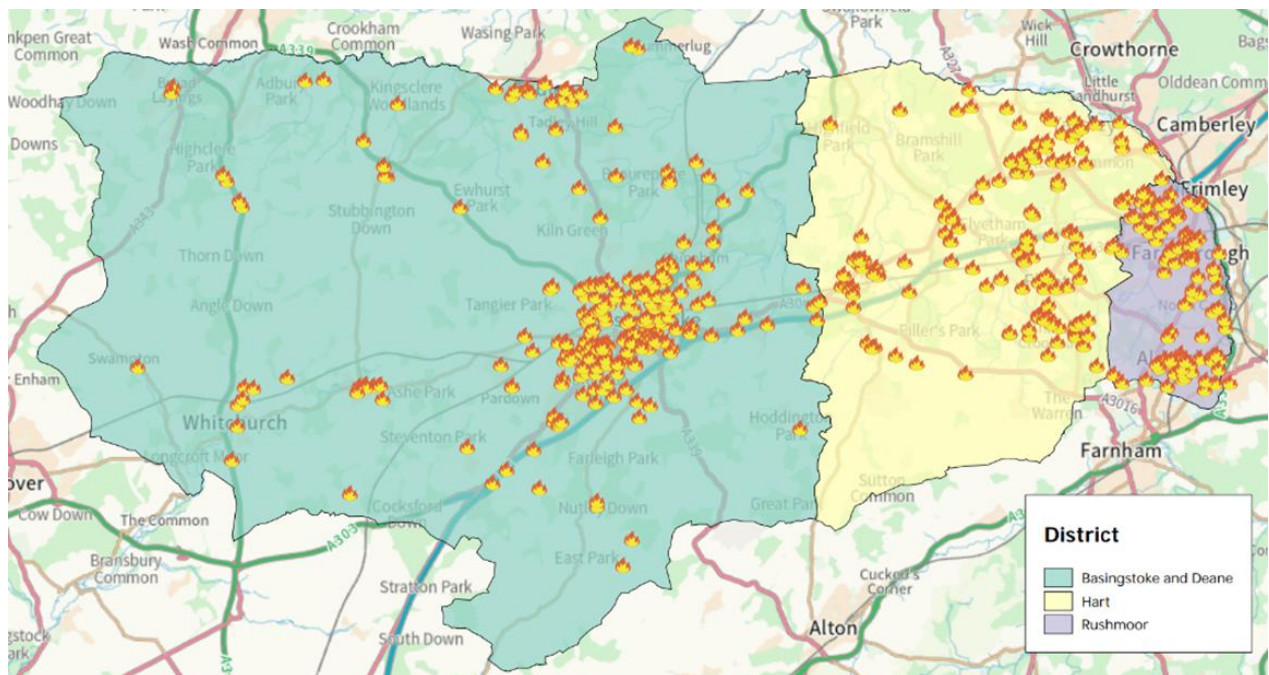
The report shows that Hart had the second highest number of fire incidents of the three areas with 152 in 2024/25, which is a 20% increase from 127 the previous year.

Detailed data is combined for Hart and Rushmoor and shows that broken down fires across these two areas were categorised as either, accidental (39%), deliberate (38% - increased by 23%) or not known (23%).

These can be further broken down into primary (63%) and secondary (37%) fires. The increase in incidents from 2023/24 to 2024/25 can mostly be attributed to rises in the Primary Grass (81%) & Secondary Other Outdoor Area (89%) categories.

The rise in 'Primary Grass' fires is due to woodland and forest fires increasing by 50% from last year. The rise in 'Secondary Other Outdoor Area' fires is due to more fires occurring in parks, and fires taking place in areas which did not happen last year - namely Hawley Lake, a landfill site near Yateley Lakes and a railway near Taplin's Farm Lane.

The below graph shows where fires occurred in Hart in 2024/25.



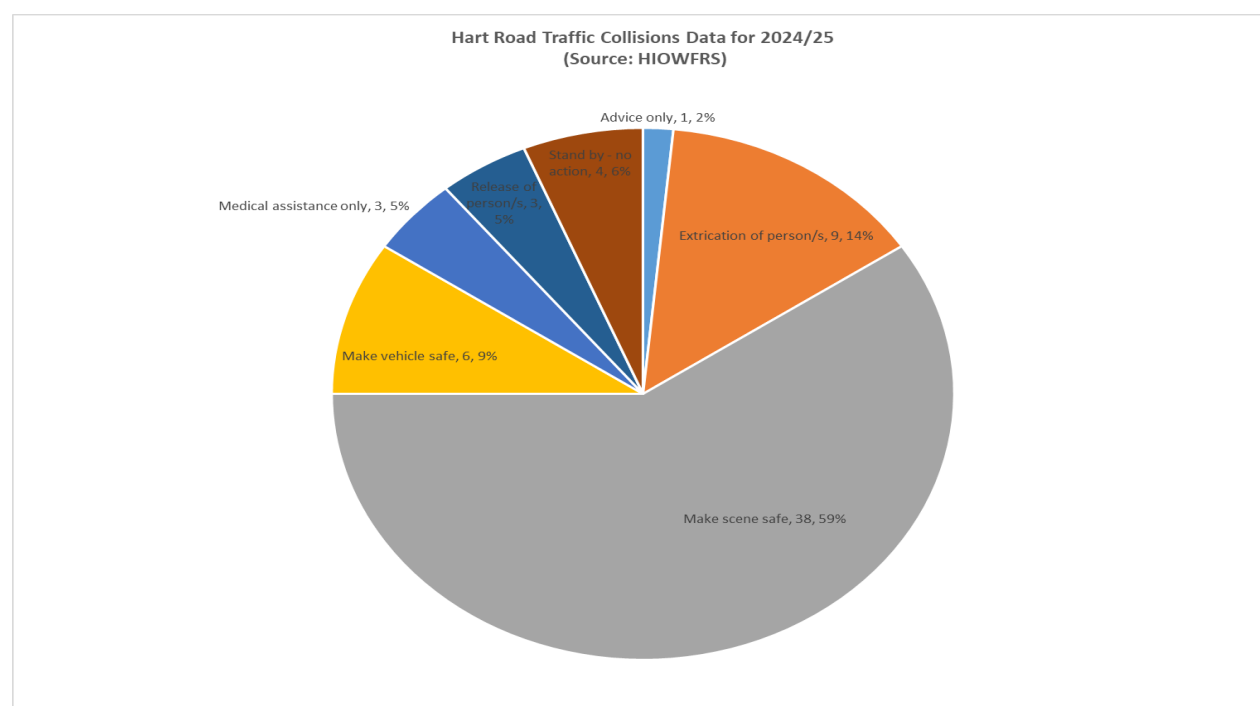
A total of 923 Safe and Well referrals were received in 2024/25 with 597 resulting in a visit. Where the agency was known, the top three referring agencies were Other agency (26%), Hampshire Adult Services (20%) and IOW Mental health and LD Teams (18%).

### 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).

In total there were 64 Road Traffic Collision incidents recorded by Hampshire Fire and Rescue Service for Hart district in 2024/25.

The highest number of RTC types attended were make scene safe (59%) and extrication of person/s (14%).



### Recommendations

- 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 and E-bikes in the district and the potential dangers around increased use and develop a clear process to deal with it.
- Continue to work with schools via Think Safe to deliver information on the dangers and impact of arson and wildfires.

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## *Underreported and unrecorded crimes*

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### Modern Slavery

#### Overview

*“Modern Slavery is a crime, which violates human rights, denying people of their rights to life, freedom and security.”*

The terminology above is used in the Modern Slavery Partnership Strategy 2023-2026 published by the Office of Police and Crime Commissioner (OPCC). Organised crime groups and criminals use threats, violence, and coercion to exploit children and adults into slavery and to keep them there. Modern Slavery is an umbrella term including but not limited to Criminal, Labour and Sexual exploitation.

#### Modern Slavery Partnership

The Modern Slavery Partnership for Hampshire and the Isle of Wight is chaired and facilitated by the OPCC, and the strategy has been developed in line with the Government’s Modern Slavery Strategy. It sets out four clear strategic objectives, which are delivered via a steering group “Prepare”, and three subgroups “Prevent”, “Project” and “Pursue”:

- **“Prepare – combat modern slavery working in partnership”** sits at the core of the partnership, bringing together agencies in the fight against Modern Slavery.
- **“Prevent - raise awareness of modern slavery”** through training, sharing of best practice, communications and events.
- **“Protect”** focuses on identifying and supporting victims through coordination of statutory and non-statutory agencies and the sharing of joined up working practices, legislation, research and best practice.
- **“Pursue”** aims to increase prosecutions by actively seeking perpetrators by seeking intelligence and working with partners collaboratively.

#### Modern Slavery Data

The Modern Slavery: National Referral Mechanism (NRM) and duty to notify statistics UK, end of 2024 summary states that 19,125 potential victims of modern slavery were referred to the Home Office in 2024, representing a 13% increase compared to the previous year, the highest since NRM began.

There have been a number of changes which have collectively raised the profile of modern slavery since 2014. These are likely to have increased awareness of modern slavery and the NRM and, alongside potential increases in exploitation, may have driven the increase in overall referrals. However, it is not possible to point to a main driver due to the hidden nature of modern slavery.

Demographic data shows that where details were known, 68% of referrals related to adults and 32% related to children. 74% were male and 26% were female.

Overall, the most common type of exploitation was labour exploitation (32%). However criminal exploitation was far more common when looking at referrals for children (48%).

Exploitation typically has gender patterns. In 2024 males most often reported labour exploitation (39%) while females most often reported sexual exploitation (31%).

The most common nationality referred was UK (23%), followed by Albanian (13%) and Vietnamese (11%).

Hart District Council sit on the Hampshire wide Modern Slavery PREVENT sub-group and are also members of the Local Government Association Modern Slavery Network. Any intelligence received relating to modern slavery is shared through appropriate means, and staff trained on what to look out for at regular safeguarding training sessions.

### Child exploitation and child victims of crime

Child exploitation occurs when someone uses a child for financial gain, sexual gratification, labour, or personal advantage. This can include both criminal and sexual exploitation, which often involves cruel and violent treatment that leads to physical and emotional harm to the child.

Child criminal exploitation involves using a child to commit crimes, such as working on a cannabis farm or selling drugs in county lines or local drug operations. It can involve bribery, intimidation, violence, and threats, and can occur even without direct contact, through the internet or mobile phones, and via social media platforms and gaming forums. Even if a child appears to be a willing participant, they may still be victims, as many young people do not recognise themselves as such. Exploiters often take advantage of their power over children due to age differences or other factors such as gender, intelligence, strength, status, or wealth.

Children can be exploited in multiple ways simultaneously and by various perpetrators, including individuals or groups, men or women, and adults or other young people. This exploitation causes significant physical and emotional harm, highlighting the importance of recognising and addressing these issues to protect vulnerable children.

The different types of exploitation include:

- **Child Sexual Exploitation** - is a form of sexual abuse where children are coerced into sexual activities in exchange for gifts, money, drugs, affection, or status. It can affect any child, regardless of gender or background, both in and out of school. Children as young as 8 can be exploited, often believing they are in a consensual relationship.
- **Child Criminal Exploitation** - using power imbalances to coerce, manipulate, or deceive a child into criminal activity, often in exchange for something the child needs or wants, or through violence or threats.
- **Online Exploitation** - occurs over the internet on devices like phones, tablets, computers, and game consoles. There are various types of online abuse, including grooming, sexting, sexual abuse, and exploitation.
- **Modern Slavery & trafficking** – this can include human trafficking, slavery, servitude, and forced labour. More details in the Modern Slavery section of the document.

- **Gang activity and youth violence** - children may join gangs due to peer pressure, the desire for respect and protection, promises of money, school exclusion, and social media influence, making them vulnerable to exploitation.
- **Radicalisation** - exposure to radical or extreme views can lead to radicalisation, which is the process of supporting or becoming involved in extremist ideologies, experiences of radicalisation are unique and can be rapid or gradual.

## Hate Crime

Hate crime is defined as any criminal offense perceived by the victim or anyone else to be motivated by hostility or prejudice towards an individual based on a personal characteristic. There are five centrally monitored categories of hate crime that can be flagged when recorded by the police:

- Race or ethnicity
- Religion or beliefs
- Sexual orientation
- Disability
- Transgender identity

Nationally, the number of hate crimes reduced by 5% in the year ending March 2024. While there was an overall reduction there was a 25% increase in religious hate crime, driven by a rise in crimes against Jewish people and to a lesser extent Muslims.<sup>10</sup>

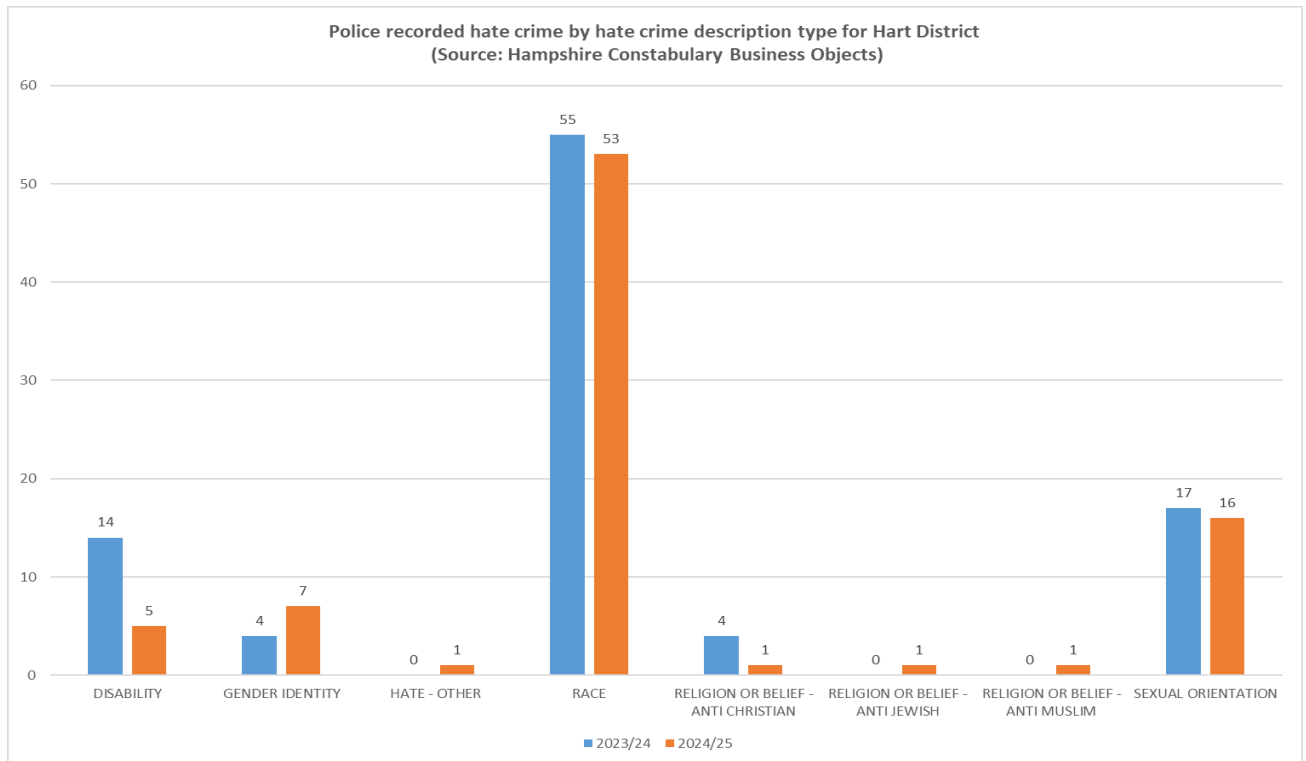
Unlike the National picture, reports of hate crime in Hampshire increased by 5%, however Hart experienced a reduction of 13% from 98 offences in 2023/24 to 85 in 2024/25.

There were several repeat victims of hate crime during the assessment period. In Hart these victims are managed through the monthly PEOPLE Meeting.

Across Hart, offences relating to race were the most common, accounting for more than half (62%) of all reported hate crimes, followed by sexual orientation (19%) and gender identity (6%) with all of these showing reductions compared to the previous year.

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<sup>10</sup> Hate Crime, England and Wales, Year Ending March 2024.



Hate related violence against the person (49%) and public order (41%) were the most common offence types, accounting for the majority of offences in 2024/25.

In Hart, the CSP continues to liaise with Prevent where incidents of hate such as banners, leaflets, graffiti or other issues that may cause community tension have arisen. We have worked with landowners to remove offensive images/wording as quickly as possible.

Work has also been carried out with local Council Members to ensure consistent messaging relating to Local and National issues.

Information has also been shared through the Community Safety eNewsletter.

## Fraud

According to the Crime Survey for England and Wales (CSEW) for the year ending December 2024, there were an estimated 4.1 million fraud incidents affecting household residents. This represents a 33% increase from the 3.1 million incidents reported in the year ending December 2023. Bank and credit card account fraud increased by 27% and consumer and retail fraud rose by 35%. Out of the estimated 4.1 million incidents of fraud, around 3 million incidents involved a loss. Victims were fully reimbursed in 2.1 million of these cases.

The CSEW also provides valuable context for police data. For instance, the latest estimates indicate that one in seven fraud offenses were reported to the police or Action Fraud, the national reporting centre for fraud and cybercrime.

Nationally, there were 301,972 reports of fraud to Action Fraud in the year ending December 2024, a reduction of 2% on the previous year. In Hart there were 134 reports made.

### Prevent – Counterterrorism strategy

Prevent is one part of the government's comprehensive counter-terrorism strategy, CONTEST. The objectives of Prevent are to:

- Address the ideological roots of terrorism.
- Intervene early to support individuals vulnerable to radicalisation.
- Facilitate the disengagement and rehabilitation of those already involved in terrorism.

Many activities and behaviours related to radicalisation and extremism may not be captured in crime data.

Hart District Council sit on the Hampshire PREVENT Partnership Board and Channel Panels. Hart District Council also provide data to the annual Counter Terrorism Local Profile which assists local agencies in assessing the threat from extremism at a local level.

### Recommendations

- The CSP should continue to look at understanding barriers to reporting, why they exist, and implement 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 consider measures to support them across all three areas.
- Partners to use best practice methods to encourage and enable reporting of sexual offences across all age groups. Use opportunities to promote healthy relationships messaging and education.
- Support hate crime initiatives which encourage awareness and reporting and support needs of local community groups.
- Ensure the CSP is aware of correct terminology and use of language.



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## Quality of life

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### Substance misuse

Substance abuse can significantly impact various aspects of an individual's wellbeing, including health, safety and social relationships, which in turn can affect their overall quality of life within a community. Drug and Alcohol use impacts health outcomes, crime, domestic abuse, unemployment and homelessness.

Hampshire County Council, alongside partners of the multi-agency Hampshire Strategic Drug and Alcohol Partnership have developed a plan to prevent and reduce drug and alcohol harm<sup>11</sup>. The Hampshire plan is closely linked to national drug and alcohol strategies aimed to:

- Have a renewed focus on drug and alcohol prevention
- Target county lines operations to disrupt the supply of illegal drugs in Hampshire
- Enhance drug and alcohol treatment by boosting workforce, and improving care pathways in collaboration with other organisations, such as criminal justice service, mental health, housing and employment.
- Reduce unmet need of those individuals misusing alcohol, by improving access to treatment. the number of people misusing alcohol.

The Drug and Alcohol Strategy Update noted that over half of opiate and/or crack cocaine users in Hampshire aren't in treatment, affecting around 2,000 vulnerable people, with an estimated 10,000 having unmet alcohol treatment needs.

Areas of deprivation have a higher risk of drug and alcohol harm; this is worth noting bearing in mind the levels of deprivation in some areas of the borough. To address this, targeted services include widespread naloxone availability, a Local Drug Information System, outreach from the Drug and Alcohol Harm Reduction Team, and a specialist alcohol team providing hospital and primary care support.

The Hampshire Strategic Drug and Alcohol Partnership's priorities for 2024 are:

- **Reducing stigma:** Improve understanding and reduce stigma by working with People with Lived Experience and developing a language guide for professionals.
- **Lived experience and co-production:** Involve people with lived experience in service improvement and decision-making through peer mentoring and user forums.
- **Reducing barriers to alcohol treatment:** Enhance access to alcohol treatment by improving public information, referral pathways, early access, and understanding of drug and alcohol use.
- **Addressing the changing illicit drug market:** Improve intelligence on synthetic opioids and other adulterants, pilot drug testing, and ensure naloxone availability.

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<sup>11</sup> Drug and Alcohol Strategy Update March 2024; Hampshire County Council.



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.

in Hart drug offences reduced by 25% (n36) in 2024/25 when compared to the previous year. Trafficking offences reduced by 51% while possession offences were down 16%. Broken down, possession of drugs accounted for 83% of offences in the district and trafficking offences made up the remaining 17%.

In 2024/25 the highest number of offences related to possession of cannabis (60%). Offenders of drug offences were overwhelmingly young males aged between 16-30 who accounted for 39% of drug offenders in Hart last year.

### 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 1,824 per 100,000 people in 2023/24. The rate in Hart was much lower with 1,297 admissions per 100,000 people<sup>12</sup>.

### Rough sleeping and begging

Police reports relating to individuals sleeping rough and begging reduced slightly (-11%) from nine reports last year to eight in 2024/25.

### Restorative Justice and Mediation

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

**Restorative Justice** focuses on a specific crime involving at least one victim and one offender. Thorough preparation and partnership working informs a formal risk assessment and the process focusses on exploring what harm has been caused and helping people to move forward or gain some closure.

In 2024/25, RJ received three referrals in Hart, all of which led to RJ conversations (victims) which included wellbeing and signposting. These individuals were victims of violence without injury, vehicle offences and burglary dwelling.

Of the three victims, two were female and one was male. All were aged between 35-54 years.

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<sup>12</sup> Local Alcohol Profiles England 2023/24 data should be treated with caution as Frimley Health Foundation Trust did not submit any HES data for June 22 – Mar 23.

Whilst data isn't available specifically related to those victims listed above, data from 2024/25 does indicate that many victims, after receiving support through RJ, reported an improvement in their health, wellbeing and in their feelings of safety.

Tackling ASB is a priority for the OPCC, as a result Restorative Solutions have worked closely with Hampshire Constabulary, Local Authorities, and businesses to explore how they can be used as a potential response to ASB issues. They have linked in with the ASB taskforce and built effective partnerships with Community Safety partners. Referrals related to ASB can be accepted not just from the Police but from CSPs and Local authorities. As a result, 3 cases have been referred to Mediation provider.

**Mediation** explores on-going conflict between two or more parties where there is no formal police outcome. Succinct preparation and a dynamic risk assessment are carried out by facilitators which focus on all parties changing behaviours to reduce harm and resolve on-going issues.

The RJ provider works closely with local mediation providers in cases which are outside the scope of any housing contracts with those providers, in order to offer the best service for those affected by ASB, crime and conflict.

All referrals are handled by the RJ provider in HIOW, Restorative Solutions, who can share the referral form for completion or they can accept referrals directly via a secure email.

For mediation (non-crime) referrals consent is required from all parties prior to referral.

For any ASB resulting in a criminal offence, we only need consent from the party being referred. 'The Restorative Justice (RJ) contract includes Restorative Justice (RJ) and Mediation both of which may be used as a potential response to ASB issues involving adults.'

Victims have the opportunity to discuss the impact of the behaviour and offence with practitioners and allows them to share anything they specifically want to with the offender or questions they would like to be asked via practitioners, as part of the awareness course. A central part of the course is to explore the wishes of the victim and any communication between those affected, which could take place on a voluntary basis, such as sharing information discussed within the course or entering into a further restorative process with the victim.

## Recommendations

- Explore partnership working opportunities that arise from funding schemes that support CSP priorities.
- Capacity and resilience with service delivery with current resourcing challenges.
- Examine the links between alcohol and drugs in incidents of ASB at a local level.
- Continue to work collaboratively with Social Inclusion Partnership in relation in supporting vulnerable people and reducing crime and ASB.

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## *Priorities and Recommendations*

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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 2025/26 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. The CSP will;
  - Prioritise surveys to understanding feelings of safety.
  - Work collaboratively to tackle the issues identified by residents through 'Lets Talk' surveys.
  - Examine and understand data in relation to reports of crime by LGBTQ+ and identify and work with seldom heard communities.
  - Educate residents on how they can keep themselves safe.
  - Continue to hold Stay Safe and Think Safe Events.
  - Increase safety messages and advice to rural communities to specific rural crime.
  - Obtain feelings of safety data through Hart Resident Survey.
2. **Serious Violence** – Across Hart there have been increases in police recorded serious violence offences (+50%). While there has been a positive reduction in personal robbery (-29%) and possession of a weapon (-8%) serious violence remains 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.
  - Serious Violence (SV) data and analysis working group led by the VRU to consider the approach to the scheduling and delivery of district level Strategic Needs Assessments (SNAs).
  - Focus on establishing the Hart and Rushmoor SV Strategic group, with the aim of improving partnership working and monitoring on SV related matters and ensure the action plan is regularly updated by all partners.
  - Consider findings that are relevant to the borough, gained by SV & Knife Crime surveys.
  - Develop the approach to Offensive Weapon Homicide Reviews, set out in the new serious violence legislation.
  - Look at increasing engagement with schools and youth groups around knife crime and risks of exploitation.
  - Funding to support victims of cuckooing through Catalyst.
3. **Domestic Abuse** – In Hart reports of domestic crime to the police have increased by 4% in the past year. 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.
  - The CSP should look at understanding barriers to reporting, why they exist, and implement processes to reduce them as well as promoting reporting mechanisms.

- Ensure robust processes are in place for identifying repeat victims and considering measures to support them across all three areas.
- Enable Domestic Abuse Forums to be utilised to share best practice and monitor trends in conjunction with the countywide strategies. Involve commissioned services to deliver where possible.
- Review the impact of domestic homicide reviews on the CSP.

**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 will;

- Use of data to support monthly PAG updates and PEOPLE Meetings.
- Continue conversations and work to improve systems which will aid recording and monitoring of ASB reports to RBC.
- Seek data from Housing Associations on ASB reporting and outcomes
- 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
- 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 district).
- Work closely with the LA ASB Task Force on the development of better reporting and recording practices and a one-stop-shop.
- Work with health partners to examine the impact of drug and alcohol as a major contributory factor in ASB incidents.
- ASB case review training would be beneficial.

**5. Town Centre Business Crime and ASB**– Despite some significant reductions in ASB and Night-Time Economy related offences in Fleet Central beat, overall levels of business crime, including shoplifting offences have increased in Hart. The CSP will;

- Continue to share information on individuals involved in crime and anti-social behaviour in the town.
- Continue to identify and safeguard vulnerable individuals who frequent the town centre and are at risk of exploitation.
- Ensure best use of monthly PAG updates to understand issues in town centres.
- Continue to work closely with schools and colleges to ensure safety of students in the town centre.
- Continue information sharing and monitoring of NTE venues.