

# **SAFER NORTH HAMPSHIRE**

## **STRATEGIC ASSESSMENT**

**2019/20**

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## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

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

In 2019/20 there was no significant change in crime levels across Safer North Hampshire. While certain crime types experienced increases, others remained stable or reduced slightly. There are multiple reasons for increases in crime records for certain crime types. These include a national focus on the improvement of recording practices and public confidence and campaigning, as well as real rises in offending. The following have been identified as the primary threats for Safer North Hampshire and the priorities for the upcoming year:

- 1) **Youth related anti-social behaviour** - Youth related anti-social behaviour occurred across Safer North Hampshire with some locations more at risk than others. Although the CSP has some effective mechanisms in place, early intervention with young people is key in reducing the number who go on to commit further, often higher harm offences.
- 2) **Knife and blade related offences with a specific focus on robbery** – Knife/blade crime has risen 99% in the past five years and whereas Hampshire as a whole saw knife/blade crime reduce, offences across SNH were up 7%. We know that knife/blade crime is rare, however, 22% of robberies involved the use of a blade/knife, with these offences rising year on year. Young males have been identified as being at risk of offending and it is hoped that the CSP can work with this cohort to educate them and reduce the risk of future offences.
- 3) **Crimes with historically low levels of reporting** – Given that certain significant events can lead to a rise in hate crime the current Black Lives Matter movement has the potential to lead to a rise in hate offences. In addition, the Covid – 19 pandemic has left victims of domestic abuse even more vulnerable and at risk. Therefore it is recommended that these offences with historically low levels of reporting are looked at as priorities for the upcoming year.

## 1.0 INTRODUCTION

### 1.1 PURPOSE

Safer North Hampshire produces a Strategic Assessment annually. This ensures that Community Safety Partnerships<sup>1</sup> (CSPs) are aware of the local priorities and can alter their focus as problems in an area change.

The aim of the document is to:

- Identify current and emerging trends and why they may have occurred
- Set clear and robust priorities
- Aide the production of the Partnership Plan once the Strategic Assessment has been adopted by the CSP
- Identify gaps in knowledge

### 1.2 METHODOLOGY

Hart, Rushmoor and Basingstoke and Deane Councils began working together to deliver community safety under the banner of Safer North Hampshire in 2012. Following a review of the service, the partnership was formally merged in March 2015. As a result, changes have been made to the way that the Strategic Assessment is completed. There is now a Safer North Hampshire document, which summarises the common themes across the three areas and examines the local issues.

Unless otherwise stated, the current Strategic Assessment is based on data from 01 April 2019 to 31 March 2020, with comparisons to previous years where appropriate.

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

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

### 1.3 LIMITATIONS

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

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<sup>1</sup> Community Safety Partnerships are made up of representatives from the responsible authorities, which are police, local authorities, fire and rescue authorities, probation service and health. The partnership meets regularly and pool resources to tackle crime, disorder and anti-social behaviour issues.

## 1.4 SAFER NORTH HAMPSHIRE 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.

Meanwhile, on a monthly basis, Basingstoke and Deane holds Anti-Social Behaviour Panels and Hart and Rushmoor holds Vulnerabilities Operational Group (VOG) meetings. This is where partners, including Safer North Hampshire, the Police, Housing Associations and Hampshire Fire and Rescue Service, gather to discuss and manage vulnerable people. Partners have the opportunity to make referrals to the group, which are discussed, and action is taken if necessary. In addition Quarterly Performance Meetings (QPM) are where identified vulnerable locations are discussed. These meetings allow the partnership to react to current issues and direct resources accordingly.

## 1.5 SAFER NORTH HAMPSHIRE DEMOGRAPHICS

Safer North Hampshire includes Basingstoke and Deane, Hart and Rushmoor. Each area is quite distinct in character and population make up.

Safer North Hampshire includes Basingstoke and Deane, Hart and Rushmoor. Each area is quite distinct in character and population make up.

Basingstoke and Deane has the largest population of 173,860 and an estimated 72,890 dwellings<sup>2</sup>. Less than 8% of the geographic area is built up with 75% of land being agricultural or green-field and about 15% woodland or forest. 62% (108,000) of the population lives in Basingstoke town and 9.5% (16,600) live in Basingstoke, Pamber and Tadley. The 2015 population profiles show that Basingstoke and Deane has a slightly younger than average age profile with nearly 25% of the population aged under 20 compared to 23.5% across England and Wales. 22% of the population is aged 60 or over, compared to 23% across England and Wales. It is anticipated that there will be a rapid increase in the older population in the next 5 years. 2011 census data shows that 88% of the population are White British with the next two largest population groups being White Other 4.7% and Asian / Asian British 4%. 85% of the population is economically active which is significantly higher than the average 78% across England. Unemployment levels are relatively low at 3.7% (5.1% across England). There are small pockets of deprivation although only 5 /109 Lower Super Output Areas (LSOA<sup>3</sup>), are in the 30% most deprived across England.

Hart has a population of 93,900 people of which 25% (n23,733) are 20 or under and 24.2% (n22,727) are 60 and above. Both of which are slightly over the England and Wales averages. 70% of the council area is urban and 30% rural<sup>4</sup>. The urban population is spread across a number of towns and villages including Blackwater, Fleet (including Church Crookham), Hook, Yateley and the smaller urban areas of Hartley Wintney and Odiham. 0.4% of the working age population is unemployed which is below the national average. Fleet is the

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<sup>2</sup> General data is from the 2015 mid year estimates: Office for National Statistics.

<http://www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/populationandmigration/populationestimates/bulletins/annualmidyearpopulationestimates/mid2015> and details from Hampshire County Council <http://www3.hants.gov.uk/factsandfigures/population-statistics/pop-estimates/ons-mid-year-est.htm>

<sup>3</sup> Lower Layer Super Output Areas (LSOAs) were first built using 2001 Census data and have been updated following the 2011 Census. They have an average of roughly 1,500 residents and 650 households. They are also designed in location and social homogeneity (to encourage areas of similar social background).

<sup>4</sup> Data from Hampshire County Council: <http://www3.hants.gov.uk/factsandfigures/keyfactsandfigures/key-facts/kf-hart.htm#hartboundaries>

largest town with 41.5% of the population<sup>5</sup>; the next largest is Yateley where 11% of the population lives.<sup>6</sup> Hart has the highest proportion of LSOAs in the least deprived areas in the country. 77% of Hart's LSOA fell in the 10% of least deprived areas. Nearly 91% of the population defined themselves as White British<sup>7</sup>.

Rushmoor<sup>8</sup> has a population of 95,342 located in the two main towns of Farnborough and Aldershot. 61.3% of the population lives in Farnborough<sup>9</sup> and 38.7% live in Aldershot. 25.6% (n24,438) of the population are 20 or under; again above the England and Wales average. However, the 60 and over population is just 18.4% (17526), which is below the England and Wales averages. Rushmoor is the most ethnically diverse area in Hampshire. 80.2% of the population define themselves as White British. The next largest population group is Asian Other (7.6%) which is because Rushmoor has the largest Nepali community in England and Wales with 6.5% (n6,131) of the population being Nepalese. This reflects the Gurkha connection with Aldershot Garrison during their service<sup>10</sup>. 0.9% of the working age population is unemployed, which is below the national and South East average but slightly higher than Hampshire as a whole (0.8%). There are just two out of 58 small areas (LSOA) that are in the 20% most deprived in the country<sup>11</sup>.

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<sup>5</sup> 2011 census data; 37760 population out of a total of 91033.

<sup>6</sup> Again based upon 2011 census details with 10115 out of a population of 91033.

<sup>7</sup> More information on [http://www3.hants.gov.uk/2011\\_census\\_hart\\_summary\\_factsheet.pdf](http://www3.hants.gov.uk/2011_census_hart_summary_factsheet.pdf)

<sup>8</sup> Further detail is available on the Rusmoor council website: <http://www.rushmoor.gov.uk/CHttpHandler.ashx?id=11203&p=0> and <http://www.rushmoor.gov.uk/CHttpHandler.ashx?id=11200&p=0> and <http://www.rushmoor.gov.uk/CHttpHandler.ashx?id=11199&p=0>

<sup>9</sup> Based on available 2011 population data: <http://www.rushmoor.gov.uk/CHttpHandler.ashx?id=11196&p=0> It is probable that these estimates will have increased slightly in the 2015 mid year estimates but the data has yet to be made available.

<sup>10</sup> Following a 2008 High Court ruling, the Government gave Gurkhas who retired before 1997 and their dependent families, the right to settle in the UK. This ruling resulted in a further increase in the number of Nepali people coming to England and a high proportion of those coming to Rushmoor.

<sup>11</sup> Part of Aldershot Park ward and part of Cherrywood wards.

## 2.0 CRIME AND ANTI-SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR OVERVIEW

### 2.1 CRIME STATISTICS

Nationally, Police recorded crime<sup>12</sup> increased by **4%** in the year ending December 2019 when compared to the previous year. 5,013,284 offences were recorded, or **89** crimes per 1,000 population.

This year, Hampshire Constabulary recorded a total of **161,259** crimes across Hampshire or **86** crimes per 1,000 population. This figure represents a slight increase compared to the previous year (+1%, n1850).

Across Safer North Hampshire **25,457** crimes were recorded or **68** crimes per 1,000 population which represents no significant change on the previous year when 25,509 crimes were recorded.

Broken down, total crime in Basingstoke (-1%) and Hart (-1%) reduced while offences in Rushmoor increased slightly (+2%).

Hampshire Constabulary recorded **38,083** incidents of anti-social behaviour in Hampshire or **20** incidents per 1,000 population. This is a reduction of **15%** (n6,684) on last year, when 44,767 incidents were recorded.

Across Safer North Hampshire, **5,906** incidents of anti-social behaviour were recorded, or **16** incidents per 1,000 population. This is a reduction of 17% (n1,242) on the previous year when 7,148 incidents were recorded.

Anti-social behaviour reduced in Basingstoke and Deane (-20%), Rushmoor (-19%) and Hart (-6%).

Table 1, shown below compares police recorded crime and anti-social behaviour data from the current year with the previous year.

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<sup>12</sup> All offences excluding fraud and computer misuse  
Excluding Greater Manchester Police due to an IT upgrade

Table 1

(Source: Hampshire Constabulary Business Objects, Report run 19.05.2020)

	BASINGSTOKE			HART			RUSHMOOR			SAFER NORTH HANTS AREA		
	18/19 Crimes	19/20 Crimes	% change	18/19 Crimes	19/20 Crimes	% change	18/19 Crimes	19/20 Crimes	% change	18/19 Crimes	19/20 Crimes	% change
1a Homicide	0	2	+100%	0	0	0%	0	0	0%	0	2	+100%
1b Violence with Injury	1,749	1,654	-5%	562	485	-14%	1,125	1,024	-9%	3,436	3,163	-8%
1c Violence without Injury	2,859	3,249	+14%	926	917	-1%	1,782	1,982	+11%	5,567	6,148	+10%
2a Rape	185	177	-4%	53	37	-30%	114	103	-10%	352	317	-10%
2b Other Sexual Offences	311	314	+1%	88	95	+8%	182	143	-21%	581	552	-5%
3a Robbery of Business Property	15	12	-20%	3	3	0%	5	14	+180%	23	29	+26%
3b Robbery of Personal Property	108	171	+58%	20	34	+70%	61	96	+57%	189	301	+59%
4a1 Burglary Residential	541	673	+24%	244	221	-9%	329	379	+15%	1,114	1,273	+14%
4a2 Burglary Business and Community	319	326	+2%	177	112	-37%	128	126	-2%	624	564	-10%
4b Vehicle Offences	1,113	917	-18%	356	382	+7%	541	626	+16%	2,010	1,925	-4%
4c Theft from the Person	88	95	+8%	39	30	-23%	79	73	-8%	206	198	-4%
4d Bicycle Theft	239	118	-51%	57	76	+33%	173	150	-13%	469	344	-27%
4e Shoplifting	881	812	-8%	145	202	+39%	782	600	-23%	1,808	1,614	-11%
4f All Other Theft Offences	1,121	1,054	-6%	599	604	+1%	632	648	+3%	2,352	2,306	-2%
5a Criminal Damage	1,583	1,391	-12%	538	572	+6%	842	822	-2%	2,963	2,785	-6%
5b Arson	43	49	+14%	34	20	-41%	28	28	0%	105	97	-8%
6a Trafficking of Drugs	83	70	-16%	20	12	-40%	42	33	-21%	145	115	-21%
6b Possession of Drugs	274	293	+7%	62	72	+16%	154	112	-27%	490	477	-3%
7 Possession of Weapons Offences	152	168	+11%	40	24	-40%	112	92	-18%	304	284	-7%
8 Public Order Offences	1,196	1,197	0%	426	412	-3%	740	910	+23%	2,362	2,519	+7%
9 Miscellaneous Crimes Against Society	234	228	-3%	57	88	+54%	118	128	+8%	409	444	+9%
<b>Totals</b>	<b>13,094</b>	<b>12,970</b>	<b>-1%</b>	<b>4,446</b>	<b>4,398</b>	<b>-1%</b>	<b>7,969</b>	<b>8,089</b>	<b>+2%</b>	<b>25,509</b>	<b>25,457</b>	<b>0%</b>
<b>ASB</b>	<b>3,653</b>	<b>2,921</b>	<b>-20%</b>	<b>1,145</b>	<b>1,076</b>	<b>-6%</b>	<b>2,350</b>	<b>1,909</b>	<b>-19%</b>	<b>7,148</b>	<b>5,906</b>	<b>-17%</b>

Table 2 (Source: Hampshire Constabulary Business Objects)

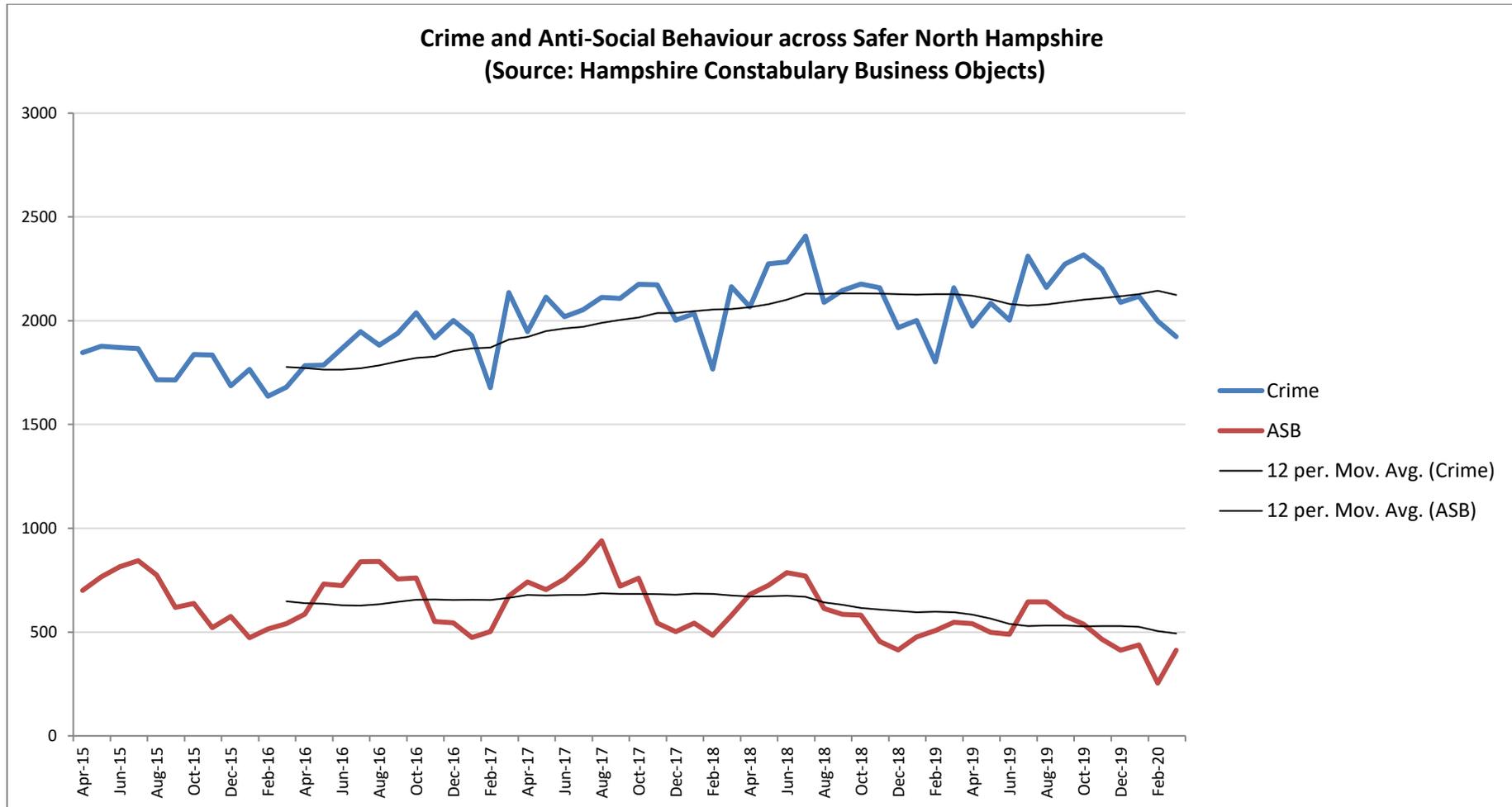


Table 2 above shows crime and anti-social behaviour figures across Safer North Hampshire for the past four years. Crime, shown clearly in blue has fluctuated. Offence levels peaked in July 2018 but since then have started to come down. The moving average line marked in black, which shows the longer term trend, shows that crime is beginning to level out.

Anti-social behaviour which is shown in red, displays a clear seasonal trend with increases in the summer months. The moving average line, which shows the longer term trend, shows that ASB levels are declining.

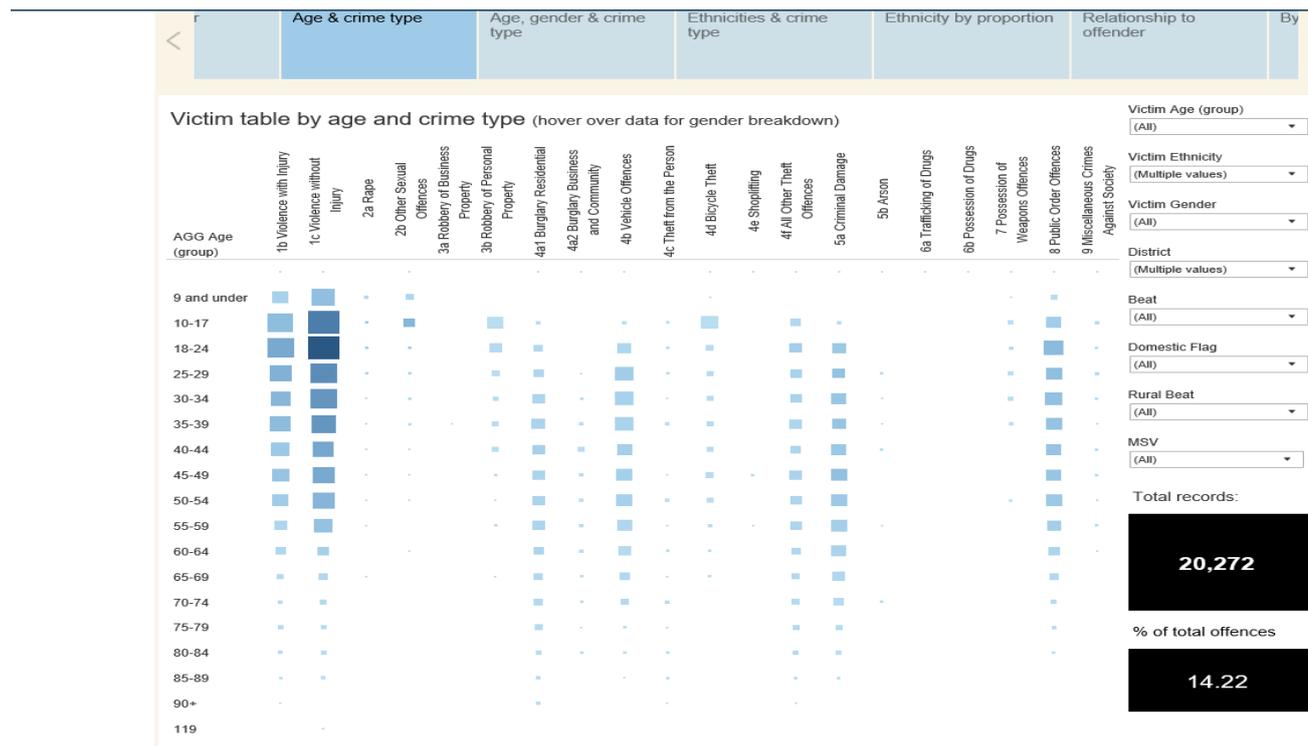
## 2.2. VICTIMS

The Crime Survey England and Wales (CSEW) estimates that over 10.9 million offences were experienced by adults aged 16 years and over in the year ending September 2019. The CSEW also measures the prevalence of crime, with the latest estimates showing that 8 in 10 adults did not experience any of the crimes asked about in the survey in the previous 12 months.

There have been no statistically significant changes in total CSEW crime over the last two years. However it is important to look at individual crime types as the relatively stable overall picture hides variation both within and across crime types.

Where victim data was available<sup>13</sup> 50% of total victims across Safer North Hampshire were male and 50% were female. Broken down by age, 18-24 years had the highest number of victims and this was the same across Hampshire.

Table 3 (Source: Hampshire Constabulary via OPCC InterAct, report run 19.06.2020)



Where details were available, 77% of victims were White-North European.

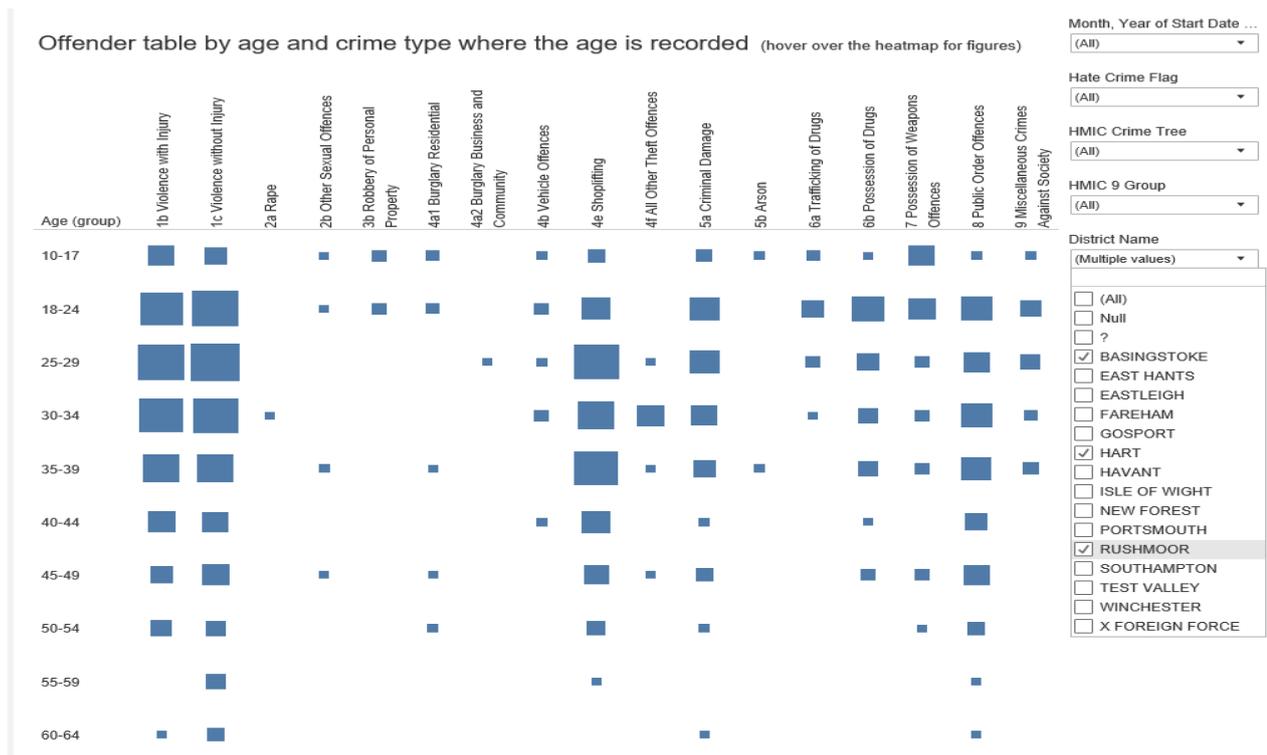
Most offences (where details were available) were committed by a stranger (35%) or acquaintance (27%).

<sup>13</sup> Searchable data from 01.04.2019 to 31.03.2020.

## 2.3 OFFENDERS

Where offender data was available<sup>14</sup> 84% of offenders across Safer North Hampshire were male and 16% were female. Broken down by age, 18-24 years had the highest number of offenders which is younger than the previous year when the highest proportion of offenders was 25-29.

Table 4 (Source: Hampshire Constabulary via OPCC InterAct, report run 19.06.2020)



Where details were available, 84% of offenders were White-North European.

## 2.4 BUSINESS CONCERNS<sup>15</sup>

Within the Hampshire Constabulary policing area, business crime accounts for over 15% of all crime recorded by the force. The impact of such crimes is not only serious for the businesses concerned but can have a significant and devastating effect on the communities they serve<sup>16</sup>.

Across Safer North Hampshire, Hart had the highest volume of Business crime last year, accounting for 19% of all crime, above the Hampshire average.

Shoplifting, all other theft, criminal damage and burglary business and community were the most common business crime types.

<sup>14</sup> Figures for the 12 months 01.04.2019 – 31.03.2020

<sup>15</sup> Source: Hampshire Constabulary, Business related Crime, Hampshire and the Isle of Wight, 2019/20 via Interact.

## 3.0 ANTI - SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR AND QUALITY OF LIFE ISSUES

### 3.1 BACKGROUND

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

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

Different agencies record data in relation to ASB, including Police, Council and Housing Associations.

Safer North Hampshire is committed to reducing levels of anti-social behaviour. This has resulted in a **34%** (n 3,108) reduction compared to five years ago. The partnership has mechanisms in place to help victims and deal with perpetrators, and the way we work has received recognition from the HMIC.

### 3.2 POLICE RECORDED ANTI-SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR

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

In 2019/20 across the Safer North Hampshire Area reported levels of anti-social behaviour reduced by 17%, from 7,148 to 5,906 incidents.

Broken down, Basingstoke (-20%), Rushmoor (-19%) and Hart (-6%) all experienced significant reductions.

As in previous years, anti-social behaviour was higher during the summer months. Anti-social behaviour was higher at the weekends. Incidents increased throughout the day and were highest between 14:00 and 22:59 with the peak at 18:00.

The majority of anti-social behaviour was classified as ASB Community (70%). ASB Personal accounted for 25% while ASB Environmental made up just 5% of total recorded incidents in 2019/20..

In 2019/20 the key issues for Safer North Hampshire in terms of anti-social behaviour were;

#### ***Street Attached and homelessness***

A report by the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government states that nationally there has been a consistent increase in the estimated number of rough sleepers in England since 2010. In 2017, the increase against 2016 was 15%. However in Basingstoke (-42%) and Rushmoor (-44%) the number of rough sleepers has decreased since 2015, going against the national trend.

Nationally the majority of rough sleepers are male (84%), UK nationals (71%) and over the age of 25 (81%). This is similar across Safer North Hampshire.

Street drinking, homelessness and begging continue to be apparent in Basingstoke and Rushmoor town centre beats. Nonetheless, significant headway has been made in dealing with individuals causing issues. Action ranges from prevention and enforcement and involves a number of agencies.

This has contributed to notable reductions in related ASB incidents in town centre beats, with a 48% (n48) reduction in Eastrop beat in Basingstoke and Deane, and a 44% (n42) reduction in Wellington beat in Rushmoor<sup>17</sup>. Although it should be noted that in Rushmoor district an increase in street drinking/drug taking, homelessness and begging incidents has been recorded in Empress beat (n57) and issues have been discussed through the QPMs and other partnership forums.

In Fleet Central beat the number of incidents related to street drinking, homelessness and begging remained low with just two reported incidents during the assessment period.

### ***Youth related anti-social behaviour***

Reports of youth related anti-social behaviour occurred across Safer North Hampshire. The Quarterly Performance Meetings have highlighted specific locations where youth nuisance is a problem and identified individuals were discussed at the VOG meetings.

Whilst the overall picture is a reduction, in 2019/20 problems with youth related asb have been localised.

Buckskin in Basingstoke and Deane, is an area which has been the focus of ongoing partnership work, largely related to a group of local youths and adults causing anti-social behaviour and linked to drugs networks. A number of arrests have been made and SHN have received a large number of referrals from the Police and CSPOs to look at interventions for some of the people involved. The Covid-19 pandemic has affected the implementation of these but it is hoped that this will be accelerated soon.

The town centre beats have also experienced high levels of youth related disorder. In 2019/20, around a quarter of ASB in Eastrop beat in Basingstoke and Deane (30%, n136), Wellington (24%, n78) and Empress (27%, n90) beats in Rushmoor and Fleet Central beat in Hart (37%, n36) was youth related. Common themes here were of youths accessing roof tops and derelict buildings and gathering in large groups and behaving in an anti-social manner.

Strong partnership working in relation to youth related asb has resulted in 8 Acceptable Behaviour Contracts being successfully signed up in 2019/20.

The success of the Community Court continued into 2019/20. Sessions were run in Basingstoke and Deane and Hart and Rushmoor for young people committing low level crime and ASB. Attendees were given an outcome determined by their peers, ranging from writing letters of apology to attending educational workshops. Court sessions are currently on hold due to the pandemic.

## **3.4 COMMUNITY SAFETY PATROL OFFICERS**

The Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council Community Safety Patrol Officers (CSPOs) focus on tackling low level anti-social behaviour and environmental issues while providing reassurance to communities throughout the borough. Their priorities are informed by information from a range of sources including reports made to the council and partner organisations.

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<sup>17</sup> Compared to 2018/19

During 2019/20 the CSPO team recorded 1,778 incidents. This was a 2% (n27) increase on the previous year. The top incident type was anti-social behaviour (45%, n797), followed by environmental (42%, n745), welfare (7%, n127) and other incidents (6%, n111). The CSPOs use a combination of enforcement powers to tackle antisocial behaviour and environmental offences. During 2019/20, the team issued a total of 47 warning notices, 18 fixed penalty notices and 1 prosecution for littering.

For all incidents recorded by the CSPOs, including antisocial behaviour and environmental issues the top location was Eastrop (31%, n555) where incidents mostly related to begging/rough sleeping and rowdy and inconsiderate behaviour and dangerous litter.

### **3.5 POLICE RECORDED CRIMINAL DAMAGE**

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

In 2019/20, levels of police recorded criminal damage and arson reduced by 6% (n178) across Safer North Hampshire, and this follows from a 6% reduction the previous year. Offences decreased in Basingstoke and Deane (-12%) and Rushmoor (-2%) but increased slightly (+6%, n34) in Hart.

Police recorded arson was also down (-8%, n8) in 2019/20 but this is not in line with the trend observed by Hampshire Fire and Rescue Service for deliberate fire setting (+4%, n8).

Areas suffering from high amounts of criminal damage often experienced high levels of anti-social behaviour.

In all three areas, the top locations for damage were town centre locations, with vehicles and windows the most common targets. This is likely due to the high footfall of people, number of vehicles parked up and the influence of alcohol in the night-time economy.

In addition, locations suffering problems with youth related nuisance (as identified through the QPM) have also been found to have high levels of criminal damage (town centre beats of Eastrop, Fleet Central and Wellington).

## **4.0 CRIMES**

### **4.1 BACKGROUND**

Crime levels locally and nationally have fluctuated over recent years and much of this has to do with changes to recording practices as well as police activity and changing behaviour in public reporting of

crime. This has contributed to a 42% (n7,571) increase across Safer North Hampshire compared to five years ago<sup>18</sup>.

In its latest review of Hampshire Constabulary's crime recording accuracy, HMICFRS<sup>19</sup> states that Hampshire has made a "real and concerted effort" to improve its approach to recording crime. The force has "strong, demonstrable leadership and a very clear commitment to get crime recording right. We also found that officers and staff generally place the victim at the forefront of their crime-recording decisions. This has resulted in significant improvements to the crime-recording standards that we found and in turn means more victims are receiving the service and support they should."

In 2014 the force was at the bottom of the table recording just 60% of crime accurately. Thanks to the hard work of officers and staff across the force this has gone up to 91.3%.

Figures for individual crime categories vary and will be discussed in the next section.

## 4.2 VIOLENCE AGAINST THE PERSON

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

The office for National Statistics report 'Crime in England and Wales: year ending September 19' states that for some crime types, an increase in the number of offences recorded by the police is unlikely to indicate a real rise in these crime types. They include violent crime, particularly violence without injury offences in this.

The report states that the CSEW<sup>20</sup> provides the better measure of trends in overall violent crime, covering the more common but less harmful offences. In the year ending September 2019 the survey reported no change in overall levels of violent offences.

The report also states that Police recorded crime provides a better measure of the more harmful but less common violent offences that are not measured well by the survey because of their relatively low volume.

Nationally, Police recorded violence against the person offences were up 4% in the year ending September 2019. There were more violence without injury offences (41%) and these were up 12%, compared to violence with injury (28%) which rose 1%.

Stalking and harassment offences which fall within violence without injury rose by 28%. From April 2018, a change in Home Office Counting rules meant that the offence of stalking and harassment is recorded in addition to the most serious additional offence involving the same victim and offender. This change has been a large driver in the increase in these offences.

In Safer North Hampshire violence against the person offences rose by 3% (n310) in 2019/20, from 9,003 to 9,313 offences. Violence against the person remains the single largest contributor to crime across Safer North Hampshire accounting for 37% of all reported offences.

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<sup>18</sup> Source: Hampshire Constabulary Business Objects

<sup>19</sup> Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary and Fire and Rescue Service

<sup>20</sup> Crime Survey England and Wales

Broken down, Basingstoke (+6%) and Rushmoor (+3%) experienced increases in the number of offences, while in Hart they were down 6%.

Violence without injury increased by 10%, while violence with injury offences were down 8%.

Across the Safer North Hampshire area, town centre locations had the highest levels of violence against the person accounting for 15% of total offences.

In Eastrop beat in Basingstoke and Deane offences can be broken down into;

- Night-time economy related<sup>21</sup> offences (18%, n127), occurring in or outside of a licensed premises between 22:00 – 03:59 hours. Offences were concentrated in the 'top of town' area and were highest at the weekend. Fever and Boutique (30%, n38) was the premises with the most offences.. Night-time economy offences are monitored at the Quarterly Performance Meetings. While year on year the number of reported offences has risen by 18%, Street Pastors and Festival Place staff report an increase in lower level incidents and problems caused by serial offenders. As a result, work is ongoing between relevant parties to make improvements.

A dedicated team of Street Pastors patrol Basingstoke town centre on Friday and Saturday evenings. Throughout 2019/20 they have helped to calm 118 aggressive situations and also supported 249 vulnerable people. These figures represent a slight reduction on the previous year.

- Domestic related offences (18%, n126)
- Unknown offences (64%) - It is currently unclear what the remaining two thirds (64%) of VAP in Eastrop is made up of and **further analysis is required**.

In Fleet Central beat in Hart, offences can be broken down into;

- Night-time economy related<sup>22</sup> offences (46%, 82), occurring in or outside of a licensed premises between 22:00 – 03:59 hours. Offences were down 25% on the previous year, highest at the weekend with MooMoos (n35) the premises with the most offences. Speaking to Police Licensing, they do not have any concerns with the running of the venues in the town and state that the majority of incidents are low level and can involve several people due to the nature of the venue.
- Domestic related offences (19%, n34)

In Wellington beat in Rushmoor, offences can be broken down into;

- Night-time economy related<sup>23</sup> offences (29%, n138), occurring in or outside of a licensed premises between 22:00 – 03:59 hours. Offences increased by 8% compared to the previous year. They were not concentrated at any specific locations, instead they occurred throughout Aldershot town centre and were highest at the weekend.
- Domestic related offences (23%, n108)

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<sup>21</sup> Source: Hampshire Constabulary Business Objects 'Basingstoke Night Time Economy' Report

<sup>22</sup> Source: Hampshire Constabulary Business Objects 'Basingstoke Night Time Economy' Report

<sup>23</sup> Source: Hampshire Constabulary Business Objects 'Aldershot Night Time Economy' Report

Public Health England data shows that the level of hospital admissions for violent crime (including sexual offences) in Rushmoor (53.7 per 100,000 population) is much higher than the England (43.4) and South East (30.4) average and also much higher than Basingstoke and Deane (26.8) and Hart (28.6).

Outside of the town centres, more than a third (35%) of VAP in Safer North Hampshire was domestic related (see domestic abuse section for more information).

The Community Safety Partnership is working closely with the Hampshire Violence Reduction Unit (VRU). This was established in 2019 to bring together different organisations, including police, local government, health, community leaders and other key partners to tackle violent crime by understanding its root causes. The units will be responsible for identifying what is driving violent crime in the area and coming up with a coordinated response.

### **4.3 ROBBERY**

Crime in England and Wales reports that nationally, police recorded robbery offences rose for the fourth consecutive year, with an increase of 12% in the year ending September 2019. Whilst it is likely that robbery is still impacted by recording improvements the rise is thought to reflect a real increase in these crimes.

Robbery offences across Safer North Hampshire increased by 56% in 2019/20 and this follows from a 14% increase the previous year. Broken down, total robbery offences in Basingstoke (+49%, n60), Hart (+61%, n14) and Rushmoor (+67%, n44) all increased.

Offences in the Safer North Hampshire area have been examined. The highest number occurred in Basingstoke (55%, n183 or 1.01 crimes per 1,000 population) and Rushmoor (33%, n110 or 1.12 crimes per 1,000 population) both above the national average of 1.0 offences per 1,000 population. Levels in Hart were much lower (11%, n37 or 0.37 crimes per 1,000 population).

In 2019/20 victims were often youths. 38% were aged 14-20 with two thirds of this cohort being male. Where details were available nearly half (46%) of all offences involved weapons with bladed implements the most common (65%, n72), up 24% on the previous year. Offenders across SNH were predominantly young males (82% male and aged under 23).

### **4.4 OFFENCES INVOLVING WEAPONS**

Crime in England and Wales reports that over the last year (ending Sept 2019), police figures indicate rises in some higher-harm violent offences involving the use of weapons. While these offences tend to be disproportionality concentrated in London and other Metropolitan areas most police force areas reported a rise and overall offences involving knives or sharp instruments went up by 7%, following an 8% rise the previous year. The rise in this type of crime is supported by admissions data for NHS hospitals in England, which have shown a 2% increase in admissions for assault by a sharp object in the year to March 2019.

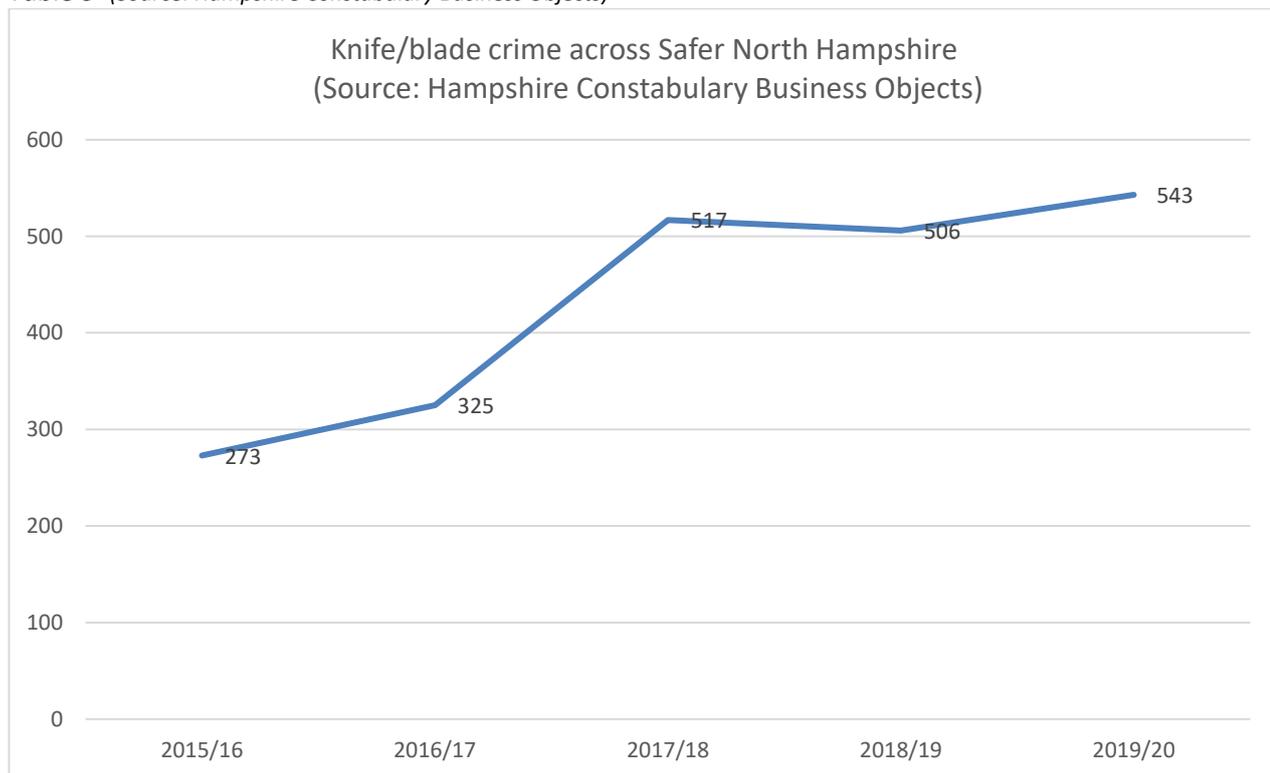
However, there was no significant change in offences involving firearms. These differences are thought to reflect genuine change.

Rates of crimes involving knives or sharp instruments vary by Police Force Area. Hampshire’s rate of crimes involving knives or sharp instruments (39 per 100,000 population) is much less than the England and Wales average (81 per 100,000 population)<sup>24</sup>.

Across Hampshire overall offences involving a knife or sharp instrument fell by 6%. However locally, across Safer North Hampshire, offences were up 7% from 506 in 2018/19 to 543 in 2019/20.

In addition the five year trend is a 99% (n270) increase across Safer North Hampshire since 2015/16 as shown below, though it is anticipated that some of this rise is down to improved recording.

Table 5 (Source: Hampshire Constabulary Business Objects)



While offences have increased, it should be seen in context. The majority of crime does not involve weapons. Just 2.1% of total crime across Safer North Hampshire involved the use of a bladed implement or knife. Robbery and possession of weapons are the exception accounting for 22% and 60% of offences respectively.

Table 6 (Source: Hampshire Constabulary Business Objects)

Crime category	% as blade/knife crime 2019/20
Violence against the person	2.1% N193
Sexual offences	1.0% N9
Robbery	22% N72
Theft offences	0.4% N40
Criminal damage	0.6% N17

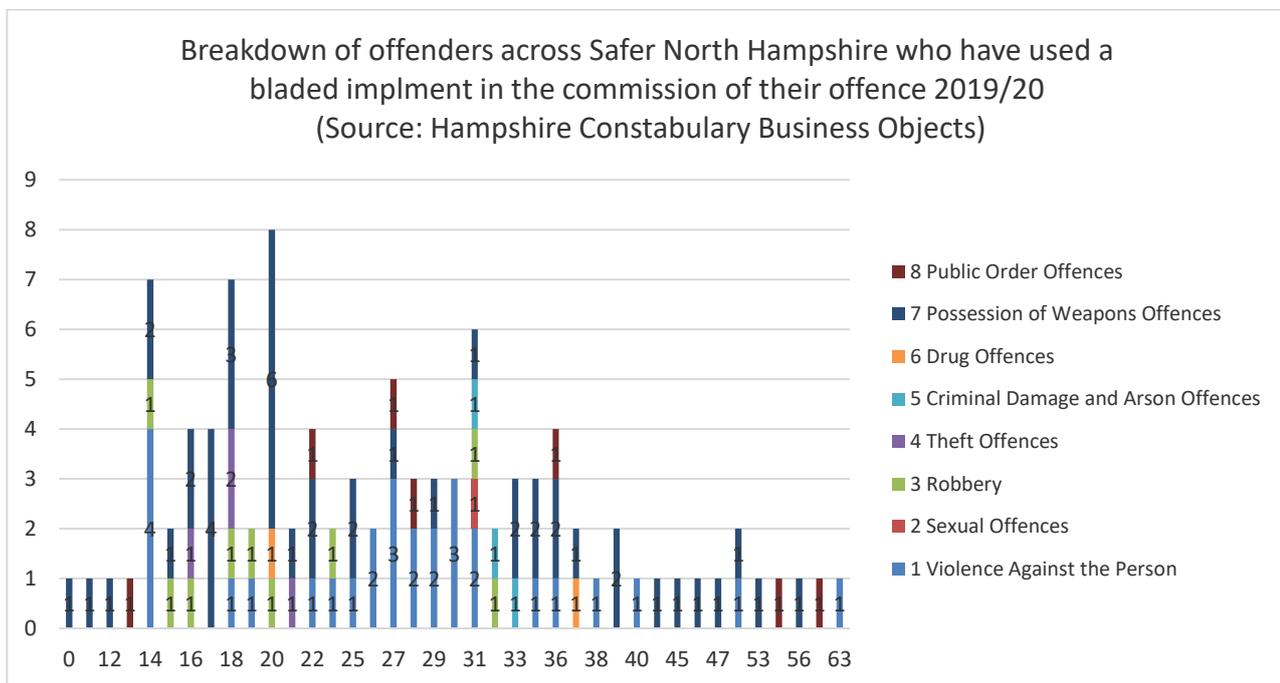
<sup>24</sup> Source: Crime in England and Wales, year ending December 2019 – PFA tables

Drugs	0.8% N5
Possession weapons	60% N169
Public Order	1.3% N34
Misc	0.9% N4
<b>Total Crime</b>	<b>2.1% N543</b>

Offenders who used a knife or bladed implement during the commission of their crime peaked between 14 and 20 years old (34%, n34).

In addition, the peak age for carrying a knife or bladed implement was between 17 and 20 (29%, n13).

Table 7 (Source: Hampshire Constabulary Business Objects)



#### 4.5 ACQUISITIVE CRIME

Overall there were some increases in acquisitive crime across Safer North Hampshire and total theft offences were down 4% from 8,538 to 8,224 making theft the second largest contributor to crime after violence.

Despite the overall reduction there were some local increases in specific offence types. In Basingstoke and Deane burglary residential was up 24%. Vehicle offences in Rushmoor rose by 16%, while in Hart, bike theft (+33%) and shoplifting (+39%) were up compared to the previous year. These rises were dealt with by the police and partners at the Tactical Policing Meetings (TPM).

## 5.0 CRIMES WITH HISTORICALLY LOW LEVELS OF REPORTING AND RECORDING

### 5.1 DOMESTIC ABUSE

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

The CSEW has shown little change in the prevalence of domestic abuse in recent years. However, the cumulative effect of these changes has resulted in a small, significantly lower prevalence for the year ending March 2018 (6.1%), compared to the year ending March 2005 (8.9%). This indicates a gradual, longer-term downward trend.

In the Safer North Hampshire area, domestic crimes account for 15% (n3769) of total crime, with DA offences increasing slightly by 2% (n64) during this strategic period. Offences increased by 5% in Basingstoke and Deane and 3% in Rushmoor but were down 10% in Hart following a 15% rise the previous year which was largely due to improved recording, confidence in reporting, or increased counter allegations following on from the increased arrest rate.

'Violence against the person' accounts for 80% (n3035) of domestic abuse crime, 34% of this is 'violence against the person with injury' (down 12%) and 66% (n2006) was 'violence against the person without injury' (up 9%). There were no domestic related homicides during this period. 34% (n1272) of all domestic crime involved repeat victims compared to 31% the previous year. Two thirds of victims were female (68%, n2569) and 29% (n1099) were male.

Launched in 2014, Clare's Law is the domestic violence disclosure scheme designed to provide victims with information that may protect them from an abusive situation before it ends in tragedy. The scheme allows the police to disclose information about a partners previous history of domestic violence or violent acts. Across Safer North Hampshire in 2019/20 42 disclosures were made and of these, 29 were 'right to ask' which enables someone to ask the police about a partners previous history of domestic violence or violent acts and 13 were 'right to know' where police can proactively disclose information in prescribed circumstances.

Karen Evans covers Domestic Abuse across Safer North Hampshire. She reports some key points of interest for 2019/20:

#### **Measurable outcomes:**

##### **Outcome 1: Partner attendance and engagement at Forum meetings**

The forum members have continued to meet bi-monthly for the main meeting, with an average of 25 partners attending each meeting. The quality of the speakers at this and the sub group meetings have been exceptional over the past year, and included the newly appointed Domestic Abuse Commissioner as well as many researchers, lead practitioners and people with lived experience. In addition, there are three sub group meetings which meet quarterly: the Basingstoke sub group

attracts on average 15 partners; the Military domestic abuse meeting, 18 partners and the Children and Young People meeting, 10 partners.

### **Outcome 2: Number of support groups established and attendance**

A pilot group was established to support residents who are transitioning. Research identifies that members of the trans+ community are at higher risk of being a victim of domestic abuse as well as hate crime. The group focused on increasing confidence levels.

### **Outcome 3: Training sessions held, attendance and feedback**

- Held 18 half or full day training sessions to multi agency practitioners focusing on domestic abuse related issues – these have reached 854 practitioners
- 2007 additional practitioner or members of the public have accessed presentations on domestic abuse related issues
- 3005 school / college students have accessed domestic / dating abuse awareness sessions  
Feedback is obtained from people accessing the training and schools sessions and available upon request.

### **Other: Provide support and advice to authorities and partners when requested**

The forum chair continues to support Members, Officers and Partner agencies both pro-actively and upon request. The Forum Chair is part of many county and national groups and continues to share good practice between these groups and the forum membership as well as engaging in national discussions, for example around the proposed Domestic Abuse Bill and Call to Action for a national Perpetrator Strategy.

### **Additional statistical information:**

The table below (table 8) shows data for Basingstoke and Hart and Rushmoor during 2019 (data for 1/4/2019 – 31/3/2020 will not be available until June 2020)

Source: Safelives	Hart and Rushmoor	Basingstoke
Number of cases	211	201
Children in household	292	301
% of BME cases (should be statistically in line with population)	8.1%	9.5%
% of LGBT cases (Safelives recommend around 2.5% - 5.8%)	1.9%	1%
% of cases where disability known (Safelives recommend 19% +)	2.4%	0.5%
% of cases male victim (Safelives recommend 5-10%)	7.6%	7%
Number of victims aged 16 and 17	1	0

Number harming others aged 17 or below	2	0
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- **Hampshire roll out of HRDA's (High Risk Domestic Abuse)**

Following a pilot, meetings to discuss high risk domestic abuse cases on a daily basis was introduced in the summer of 2019. These meetings are held at the Multi Agency Safeguarding Hub in Fareham and cover all Hampshire district areas. The meetings are attended by key statutory partners, supported by an Independent Domestic Abuse Advocate and decisions made as to which agency is best placed to offer immediate support to the victim. Cases which need a full, local multi agency response are referred into the MARACs (Multi Agency Risk Assessment Conference).

**Relevant additional information:**

- **Changes to Domestic Abuse Support Services**

The Hampshire Domestic Abuse Service was re-commissioned with Stop Domestic Abuse (previously known as Southern Domestic Abuse Service) being awarded the contract from 1<sup>st</sup> April 2019. Stop Domestic Abuse are commissioned to deliver support for female, male and LGBT+ victims across Hampshire to include refuge services, community based Independent Domestic Abuse Advocacy and outreach support, group based support, support for children and young people as well as operating the Advice Line which acts as a gateway into services for victims and perpetrators.

Victim Support are commissioned to support victims of domestic abuse who are assessed as being at standard risk of serious harm, in addition to the support they provide to all victims of crime.

The Hampton Trust are commissioned to deliver perpetrator interventions which include 1:1 as well as group based interventions.

In addition to the commissioned services, there is a Nepali domestic and sexual abuse outreach service to support members of the Nepali community who are unable to access mainstreamed support due to language and / or cultural support and this service is grant funded and available through telephone support worldwide.

The South Coast Target Hardening project, managed through Hart Council delivers a target hardening service for victims of domestic abuse, in partnership with Stop Domestic Abuse, the You Trust and the Blue Lamp Trust, as well as having domestic abuse outreach workers based in Basingstoke Hospital, and delivery of the Dragonfly training for frontline practitioners in Basingstoke and for community members through the Ask Me sessions in Rushmoor and Hart. The project additionally includes the 'DA Car' work, with outreach workers supporting victims immediately following a police incident on Friday and Saturday evenings as well as within the Police Investigation Centre.

- **Development of resources to support businesses**

In partnership with the Office of the Police Crime Commissioner, hate crime guides have been written and published to assist employers, employees and HR teams. These guides build on the previous domestic abuse guide for employers and have been adopted in many other parts of the country.

- **Youth Commission focus on unhealthy relationships**

The OPCC Youth Commission identified unhealthy relationships as one of its key priorities for 2019 and have been working closely with the domestic abuse forum in respect of their aims of:

- Raise awareness of consent with peers
- Provide input to professionals on young people's experience
- Become trauma informed

The recommendations of their focus on this are:

- more education and awareness from a younger age
- highlight impacts of unhealthy relationships
- Address gender (and other) unhelpful stereotypes

**Suggested focus and actions for 2020/21 to include:**

- **Covid-19 Response**

The covid-19 pandemic has increased the risk to victims making them even more vulnerable. The major issue is around changed circumstances increasing the risk, particularly as people reevaluate their relationships and consider whether leaving is realistic for them. Increased pressures on household finances, increased alcohol consumption and tensions in households linked to home schooling and people trying to work from home also playing a role. Domestic abuse services are expecting a large increase in people seeing to flee in the 6-12 month period following lock down easing. They are also seeing an increase in non-intimate partner violence (eg child to parent abuse, siblings and 'honour' based abuse).

- **Domestic Abuse Bill**

The re-introduction and likely speedy progress of this Bill through Parliament will result in a lot of additional statutory requirements for local government as well as partner agencies. The Domestic Abuse forum will focus on training needs linked to this Bill when it becomes law and more detailed guidance is available. In the meantime, the DA Forum will continue to be involved at national level to ensure partner members are fully involved in any relevant consultations and discussions.

## 5.2 HATE CRIME

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

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

Nationally, the number of hate crimes has been increasing and were up 10% in 2018/19. While increases in hate crime over the past five years have been mainly driven by improvements in crime recording by the police, there has been a spike in hate crime following certain events such as the EU Referendum and terrorist attacks in 2017<sup>25</sup>.

Given that certain significant events can lead to a rise in hate crime it is anticipated that offences this coming year will increase furthermore with the effects of the worldwide Covid-19 pandemic and Black Lives Matter protests having an impact.

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<sup>25</sup> Source: Home Office, Hate Crime, England and Wales, 2018/19.

During the assessment period hate crime across Safer North Hampshire rose by 3% (n15) from 432 to 447 offences. Offences in Basingstoke (+16%) and Rushmoor (+2%) were up while Hart experienced a 32% reduction.

Safer North Hampshire has a growing diverse population with increasing numbers of people from different backgrounds.

- Basingstoke and Deane and Rushmoor have the highest percentage of non white British residents in Hampshire
- Over 10% of Rushmoors population are from a non-white British ethnic group, with over 6,120 people identifying themselves as Nepalese

This could explain the higher number of crimes per 1,000 population in these areas (Rushmoor 1.6, Basingstoke, 1.4 and Hart 0.5).

Across Safer North Hampshire, offences relating to race were the most common, accounting for almost two thirds (60%, n275) of all reported hate crimes.

Hate related violence against the person was the most common offence type (48%, n221), followed by public order (45%, n209).

### **5.3 SEXUAL OFFENCES**

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

Nationally, Police recorded sexual offences increased by 2% in the year ending December 2019. Crime in England and Wales reports that a factor of the latest rise is improvements made by the police in the recording of sexual offences.

A contributing factor to the rise is an increased willingness of victims to come forward and report these crimes to the police. High-profile coverage of sexual offences and the police response to reports of non-recent sexual offending, for example Operation Yewtree which began in 2012, and more recently allegations by former footballers, alongside a dedicated police operation set up to investigate these, is likely to have an ongoing influence on victims willingness to come forward and report both recent and non-recent offences.

In 2019/20 the number of sexual offences recorded across Safer North Hampshire reduced by 7% (n64).

Broken down, the number of rape offences reduced by 10% while the number of other sexual offences reduced by 5%.

### **5.4 CHILD ABUSE AND NEGLECT**

Child exploitation linked to organised criminal activity is a key threat to the safety of vulnerable children. This can typically involve young people being given large amounts of money and high cost items and an increase in frequency and duration of missing episodes. Further indications are evidence of injuries with

unwillingness to seek medical attention, an increase in aggression and or the carrying of weapons. Children are trafficked across areas in order to move or deal drugs and a number of gangs can operate within one area. The County Strategic Assessment 2018/19 states that there is evidence that at any one time at least five gangs have/are operating within the Basingstoke area. The networks develop quickly and often change their names and profiles. They will often work across large geographical areas , switching location when discovered and emerging weeks later. The location of Hampshire with good rail and motorway networks potentially compounds the issues.

The County Assessment also states that Basingstoke and Aldershot are current hotspots for County Lines activity, whereby vulnerable children and adults are specifically targeted to deliver drugs across counties.

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

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

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

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

## **5.5 FRAUD, ROUGE TRADERS AND SCAMS**

Fraud and scams do not discriminate and anybody can be a victim. Approximately 1 in 5 people fall victim to a scam every year and almost 50% of adults have been targeted<sup>26</sup> with the peak age of victims in the year to November 2017 being 55-64 (see graph below).

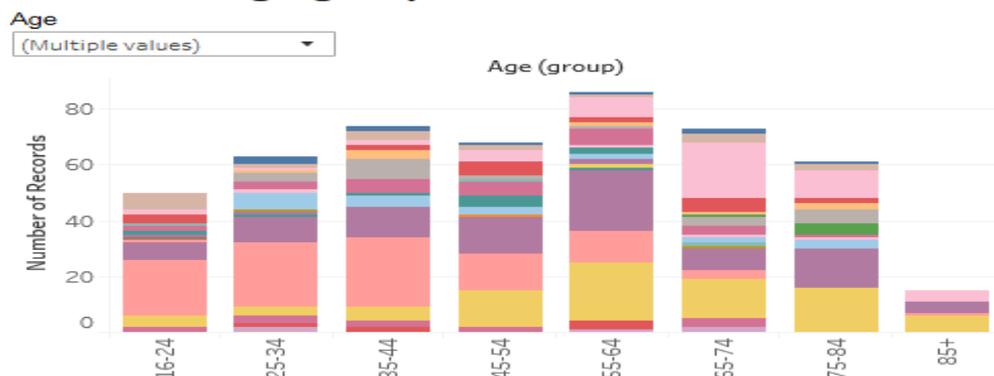
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<sup>26</sup> Source: OPCC Tableau 2019

Table 9 (Source: OPCC Tableau)

## Fraud in Hampshire November 2017

### Fraud and age groups



In addition to fraud and scams, cyber crime affects our communities and it is estimated that at least 84% of crime within the Hampshire force area was cyber enabled<sup>27</sup>.

CSEW findings for the year ending September 2019 estimated that Nationally, the number of fraud incidents had not significantly changed from the previous survey year.

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

## 6.0 FIRE SAFETY

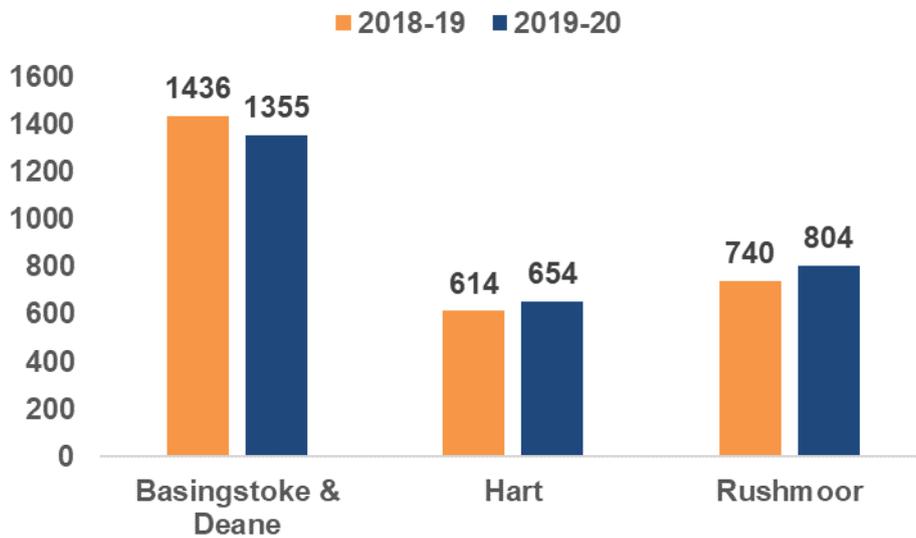
### 6.1 FIRE INCIDENTS

The North Hants District report presents statistical information on all incidents within Basingstoke and Deane, Hart and Rushmoor district council boundaries for the period 1 April 2019 to 31<sup>st</sup> March 2020.

The report shows that Basingstoke and Deane continue to attend the most incidents of the three areas with 1,355 in 2019/20, which is a 6% (81 fewer incidents) decrease compared to the previous year. Hart and Rushmoor on the other hand have seen an 8% (104 more incidents) increase in incidents this year.

<sup>27</sup> <sup>27</sup> Source: OPCC Tableau 2019

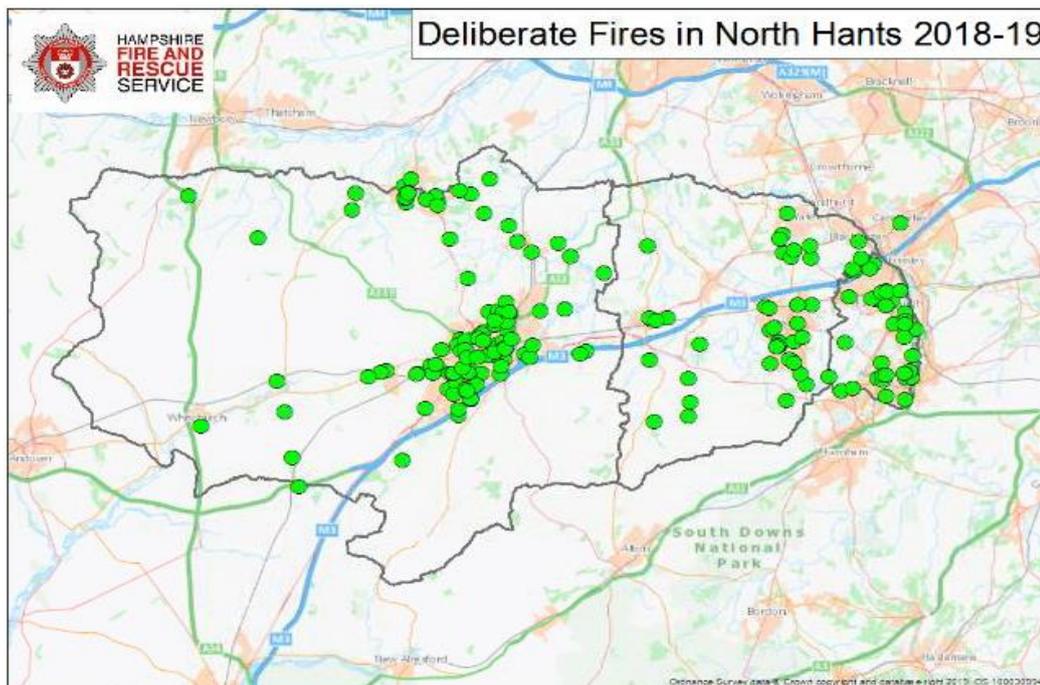
Table 10 (Source: North Hants District Report)



In Basingstoke and Deane there was a rise in the number of road traffic collisions and special service calls, whereas false alarms and fires decreased. Hart and Rushmoor experienced an increase across all categories apart from fires, which decreased.

The map below shows the spread of incidents across the Safer North Hampshire area. It shows that fires are often concentrated in urban areas and these are often the areas which also experience high levels of criminal damage and anti-social behaviour.

Table 11 (Source: North Hants District Report)



## 6.2 ROAD TRAFFIC COLLISIONS

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

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

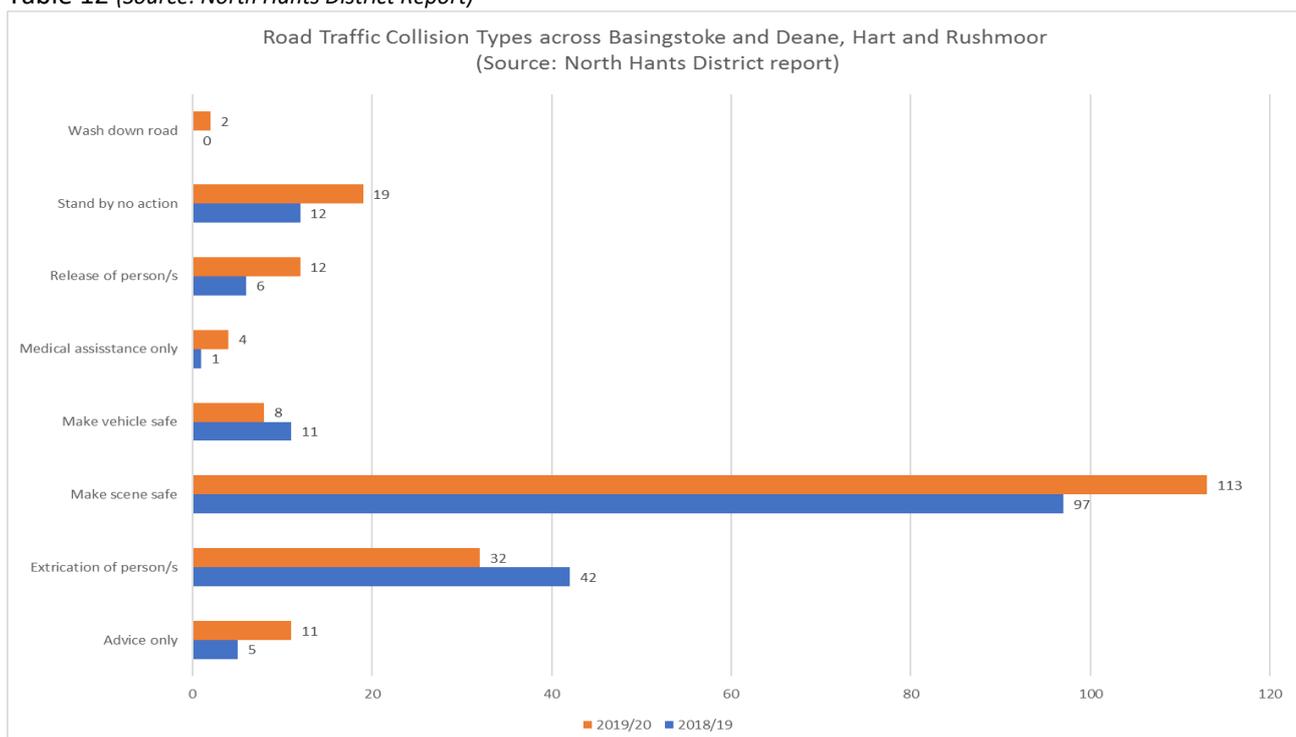
Hampshire Constabulary Strategic Assessment 2018 notes a 17% reduction in fatal casualties in 2017 compared to 2016, reducing the number to that of three years ago. Serious casualties have recorded a 4% reduction. Commuting times remain a key risk issue, particularly between 15:00 and 18:00, with A-roads accounting for the majority of injuries.

Key contributory factors in 2017 for both fatal and serious collisions are poor observation, loss of control, careless or reckless behaviour, poor manoeuvre and poor judgement of another road user. The 'Fatal Four' also feature highly and particularly for fatal collisions, alcohol impairment is a top contributory factor.

In addition, Public Health England Data shows that the number of people from Hart (53.4 per 100,000 population) killed or seriously injured on England's roads is significantly higher than the England average (40.8 per 100,000 population).

In 2019/20 the overall number of RTCs attended by HFRS across Basingstoke, Hart and Rushmoor increased by 16% compared to the previous year. The graph below shows the breakdown of incidents by type.

Table 12 (Source: North Hants District Report)



## 7.0 KEY FACTORS AND RISKS FOR COMMUNITY SAFETY

### 7.1 SUBSTANCE MISUSE

#### DRUGS

The number of drug offences recorded by the police is greatly dependent on police activity rather than trends in the level of drug offending. In 2019/20 there were 592 offences recorded by the Police across Safer North Hampshire, a 7% reduction compared to the previous year.

Broken down 81% (n477) of offences were recorded as possession of drugs and 19% (n115) were for trafficking offences.

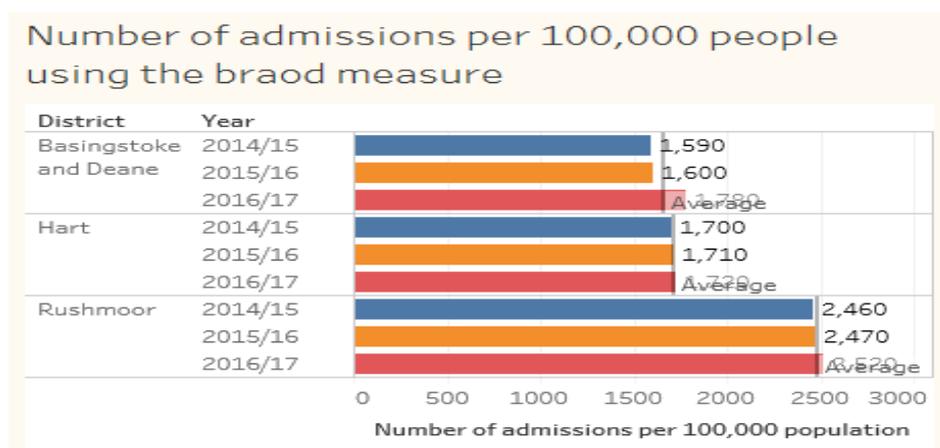
Hampshire Constabulary’s Force Strategic Assessment 2017/18 notes that county line drug supply is considered to present the greatest risk with regard to drug related harm and violence, and the exploitation of vulnerable adults and children. The severity of violence continues to increase, with knife related occurrences rising. The ‘Fortress’ model of NPT engagement combined with organised crime group style offender management is shown to be effective in increasing intelligence, reducing harm and tackling offenders. Joint working with regional partners maximises opportunities for enforcement.

#### 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.

Across Basingstoke and Deane, Hart and Rushmoor, the number of alcohol admissions per 100,000 people has increased year on year since 2014/15.

Table 13 (Source: LAPE data via OPCC InterAct)



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

In 2019/20 there were 2,304 offences across Safer North Hampshire in which the alcohol marker was ticked, equating to 9% of total crime.

The County Strategic Assessment 2018/19 states that dependency on and engagement with drugs and/or alcohol affects all aspects of an individual and community: relationships, meaningful activities and employment, family life, parenting, educational attainment, housing opportunities, **criminal and anti-social behaviour**.

Among the impacts of substance misuse in Hampshire we know:

- In 2016/17, 3,088 adults accessed substance misuse treatment services in Hampshire for alcohol, opiate and non-opiate use.
- 263 young people (under 18) access specialist support and treatment for their alcohol/drug use in 2016/17.
- The impact of substance misuse is greatest in deprived areas, for example Gosport, **Rushmoor** and Havant.
- Parental substance misuse can negatively affect children. It is estimated that around 20% of Children 'In need' are affected by drug misuse and 18% by alcohol misuse. A quarter of cases on the Child protection register are related to parental substance misuse.
- Acquisitive crime, violent crime and domestic abuse are particularly associated with drug and alcohol misuse. It is estimated that 45% of acquisitive crime is committed by regular crack/heroin users. 48% of domestic abuse perpetrators had a history of alcohol dependence; 73% had consumed alcohol prior to the event
- Over 80% of homeless people in Hampshire who were provided support by street outreach services (August 2017) were identified as having a substance misuse support need.
- There are approximately 500 people in Hampshire who are claimants of Incapacity Benefit/Severe Disability Allowance or Employment and Support Allowance with alcohol misuse as the main disabling condition

Alcohol problems are widespread:

- A recent survey of school children aged 11-15 in Hampshire reported that 49% had consumed alcohol compared to 38% nationally.
- 50% of young people (who accessed specialist young people's substance misuse services) started using their problem substance from 15 years.
- 81% of children and young people accessing substance misuse services use two or more substances (including alcohol) compared to 60% nationally.
- Approximately 27% of the Hampshire adult population have increased risk of harm through consuming more than the recommended levels of alcohol.
- It is estimated that there are 9,980 dependant drinkers in Hampshire – 90% of these are not currently in treatment.

Drug use is a problem but dependence is more concentrated:

- 8.7% of young people aged 11-15 in Hampshire reported having taken cannabis and 3.2% psychoactive substances.
- There are approximately 4,043 opiate and/or crack cocaine users in Hampshire.
- It is estimated that approximately 35% of opiate users are not accessing substance misuse service

There has been a significant increase in drug related deaths in Hampshire over the last few years. There were 143 deaths from drug misuse between 2014-2016 and over half of these were due to opiates.

## 7.2 RE-OFFENDING AND OFFENDING RISK

### ADULTS

Public Health England Data for 2014 shows that both Basingstoke and Deane (27.3%) and Rushmoor (28.9) have levels of re-offending which are above the England average (25.4%). Basingstoke and Deane (0.95) and Rushmoor (1.05) also have a higher than the England average (0.82) number of re-offences per offender.

The County Strategic Assessment 2018/19 states that 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. Adult offenders account for around 93% of offenders and juvenile offenders account for 7%.

For higher risk offenders managed by the National Probation Service (NPS), there are 97 repeat offenders across Safer North Hampshire on the current NPS caseload<sup>28</sup>. An analysis of these repeat offenders for whom there are current needs assessments shows that the key aspects of their criminogenic needs are as follows:

- Accommodation - n43
- Alcohol – n41
- Attitudes and behaviours – n77
- Drug misuse n63
- Emotional wellbeing - n49
- Employment, training and education – n30
- Finance – n60
- Lifestyle and associates – n73
- Relationships – n55
- Thinking and behaviours - n94

### YOUTHS

The County Strategic Assessment 2018/19 notes how the number of children entering the youth justice system via the courts has reduced significantly over the years.

85% of the Hampshire's young offenders are boys and 72% are aged 15-17 years. The needs of the group have become more complex and the reoffending rate for the group has increased. Nationally, the proven reoffending rate for young offenders is almost 42%. The highest rate of re-offending is in the 15-17 age group and Hampshire's re-offending rate is above the national average. The average number of offences

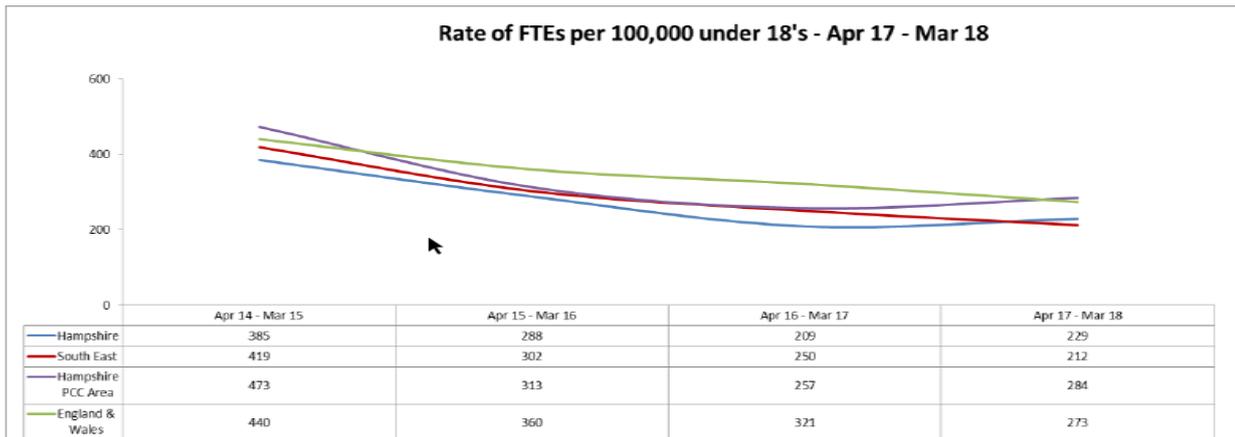
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<sup>28</sup> Data for the period 01.07.2019 – 30.06.2020

per re-offender has also increased in recent years. However, the number of Hampshire children in custody is significantly (80%) lower than the national average.

The graph below taken from the County Strategic Assessment 2018/19 demonstrates the reduction in the number of first time entrants (FTEs) to the youth justice system in Hampshire compared to the regional and national trend.

Table 14 (Source: County Strategic Assessment 2018/19)



## 8.0 PRIORITIES

The priorities for 2020/21 based on the evidence produced in this strategic assessment are:

- 1) Youth related anti-social behaviour - *Youth related anti-social behaviour occurred across Safer North Hampshire with some locations more at risk than others. Although the CSP has some effective mechanisms in place, early intervention with young people is key in reducing the number who go on to commit further, often higher harm offences.*
- 2) Knife and blade related offences with a specific focus on robbery – *Knife/blade crime has risen 99% in the past five years and whereas Hampshire as a whole saw knife/blade crime reduce, offences across SNH were up 7%. We know that knife/blade crime is rare, however, 22% of robberies involved the use of a blade/knife, with these offences rising year on year. Young males have been identified as being at risk of offending and it is hoped that the CSP can work with this cohort to educate them and reduce the risk of future offences.*
- 3) Crimes with historically low levels of reporting – *Given that certain significant events can lead to a rise in hate crime the current Black Lives Matter movement has the potential to lead to a rise in hate offences. In addition, the Covid – 19 pandemic has left victims of domestic abuse even more vulnerable and at risk. Therefore it is recommended that these offences with historically low levels of reporting are looked at as priorities for the upcoming year.*