

# **SAFER NORTH HAMPSHIRE**

## **BASINGSTOKE AND DEANE**

### **STRATEGIC ASSESSMENT**

#### **(2023/24)**

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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 2023/24. 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 2023/24 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 2024/25 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 Safer North Hampshire there have been increases in serious violence offences (+14%) and possession of a weapon offences (+3%). While there has been a positive reduction in robberies (-24%) and no significant change in knife/blade offences serious violence remains a concern for the partnership. In line with the Serious Violence Duty, it is essential to recognise the severe impact of serious violence, understand the role of risk and protective factors, and focus on local areas with high IMD scores. Continued efforts are needed to monitor and influence the local situation regarding serious violence and to collaborate with the Community Safety Partnership (CSP) to enhance prevention strategies. The development of the first Strategic Needs Assessment (SNA) has been a positive step, guiding future actions.

### **3. Domestic Abuse**

Reports of domestic crime across the Safer North Hampshire area have fallen by 18% 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 and business crime and anti-social behaviour

Across the CSP 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.

#### Recommendations for 2024/25 by assessment section;

<b>Feelings of Safety</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Prioritise surveys to understanding feelings of safety</li> <li>• Engage with the police to assess the best measure, bearing in mind “Let’s Talk” and “StreetSafe” options.</li> <li>• Monitor the progress of A&amp;E data collection, linking to the work of Violence Reduction Unit to establish an information sharing agreement between local hospitals, Integrated Care Boards and Local Authorities.</li> <li>• Examine and understand data in relation to reports of crime by LGBTQ+ victims</li> <li>• Educate residents on how they can keep themselves safe</li> <li>• Continue to work closely with businesses in the town centre and across the borough to understand their concerns and needs.</li> </ul>
<b>Serious Violence</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Serious Violence data and analysis working group to consider approach and plan to schedule and delivery of district level SNAs.</li> <li>• Focus on establishing the Basingstoke SV Strategic group with the aim of improving partnership working and monitoring on SV related matters.</li> <li>• Consider findings that are relevant to the borough, gained by SV &amp; Knife Crime surveys.</li> <li>• Development of the approach of Offensive Weapon Homicide Reviews, set out in the new Serious Violence Legislation.</li> </ul>
<b>Domestic Abuse</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Seek to establish relationship with Adults Health and Care in relation to data collection.</li> <li>• Working to set up data sharing with Stop Domestic Abuse.</li> <li>• The CSP should look at understanding barriers to reporting, why they exist, and implementing 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>• Continue to support the implementation of White ribbon accreditation and DAHA in Basingstoke and share best practice.</li> <li>• Enable Domestic Abuse Forums to be utilised to share best practice and monitor trends in conjunction with the countywide strategies. Involving commissioned services to deliver where possible.</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 Problem Solving Focus Group Meetings and ASB Panel.</li> <li>• Continue conversations and work to improve systems which will aid recording and monitoring of ASB reports to RBC.</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> <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 these districts/boroughs).</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>• Examine the impact of drug and alcohol as a major contributory factor in asb incidents</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 in the borough and the potential dangers around increased use and develop a clear process to deal with it</li> <li>• Continue to examine RTC data, working with police and ambulance to obtain a holistic view of hotspots and whether these link in with areas with increased vehicle nuisance.</li> </ul>
<b>Underreported and unrecorded crimes</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The CSP should look at understanding barriers to reporting, why they exist, and implementing 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 considering measures to support them across all three areas.</li> </ul>

- Partners to use best practice methods to encourage and enable reporting of sexual offences across all age groups. Using opportunities to promote healthy relationships messaging and education.
- Support hate crime initiatives which encourage awareness and reporting such as third-party reporting centres and support needs of local community groups.
- Support and enable the Hate Crime Awareness Group.

#### Quality of life

- Examine the effectiveness of the interactive experience used in Hart to raise awareness around the risks and consequences of involvement in drugs and county lines involvement and consider benefits of this in Basingstoke and Rushmoor too.
- Better understanding of the effects of drugs and alcohol at a local level.
- Explore partnership working opportunities that arise from funding schemes that support CSP priorities.
- Capacity and resilience with service delivery with current resourcing challenges across.
- The CSP to work with the Combating Drugs Partnership.
- Examine the links between alcohol and drugs in incidents of 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, along with analytical support covering the three areas. However, from May 2023 Rushmoor will no longer have shared analytical support and in preparation for this there will be separate documents for Basingstoke and Deane, Hart and Rushmoor which will be complimented by a Safer North Hampshire summary.

Unless otherwise stated, the current Strategic Assessment is based on data from 01 April 2023 to 31 March 2024, with comparisons to 2022/23.

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.

### 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.

### Basingstoke and Deane 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, Basingstoke and Deane holds Anti-Social Behaviour Panels and a Problem Solving Focus Group meeting on a bi-monthly basis. This is where partners, including Local Authorities, the Police, Housing Associations and Hampshire Fire and Rescue Service, gather to

discuss and manage vulnerable people and high risk cases of anti-social behaviour. Partners have the opportunity to make referrals to the meetings, which are discussed, and action is taken if necessary.

### Basingstoke and Deane Demographics

Data from the 2021 Census shows that Basingstoke and Deane has the largest population within the Community Safety Partnership area, with 185,200 residents in an area covering 245 square miles and 76,645 dwellings but a lower than Hampshire population density. 65% of the borough is covered by agricultural land and 63% of the population lives in Basingstoke Town.

The 2021 census shows that 30-34 accounts for the largest age group in the borough with 7.41% of the population fitting in this range, closely followed by 50-54 (7.4%). Ages 15-25 represent the lowest age range under 65 with 9,090 between 15-19 years and 9,233 between 20-24 years with no other age groupings under 10,000 until 65+.

The majority of households (55%) in Basingstoke are not deprived in any dimension, 32% of households face one dimension of deprivation and 13% of households face 2+ dimensions of deprivation.

Basingstoke has a greater percentage of households facing no deprivation than the average of Hampshire.

2021 census data shows that almost 82% of the borough identifies as part of the "White: English, Welsh, Scottish, Northern Irish or British" ethnic group. The second largest group is "White: Other" with 5.7% residents identifying under this ethnic group. The remaining ethnic groups over 1% of the borough include "Asian, Asian British or Asian Welsh: Indian" (2.6%), "Asian, Asian British or Asian Welsh: Other Asian" (2.1%) and "Black, Black British, Black Welsh, Caribbean or African: African" (1.4%).

### 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
- Uncertainty around the Violence Reduction Unit
- Community Safety Partnership Review



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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

- Bi-Annual residents survey is now well established and provides an effective measure of how safe people feel and is helping to identify any specific areas of concern.
- 97% of respondents felt safe in their local area during the daytime and 74% felt safe in their local area after dark.
- The key issues affecting feelings of safety as identified by the 'Lets Talk' survey were speeding, parking issues, fly-tipping, drugs and nuisance vehicle use.

### Progress during 2023/24

During 2023/24 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;

- 1,568 Safe and Well visits carried out by HFRS in Basingstoke and Deane
- 1,112 incidents recorded by the Community Safety Patrol Officers and 38 enforcement actions taken
- 128 engagements under the Town Centre Public Spaces Protection Order since 2022

### Current Position

Where details were available for Basingstoke and Deane data shows that violent crime was much more likely (72%) 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 28% of these offences.

Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council regularly engage with the community to test and inform key priorities and the allocation of resources. As part of the process the council commissioned M.E.L Research to carry out a resident's survey on their behalf. The overall objective of the research was to capture resident's perceptions to inform service prioritisation and improvement.

Between June and August 2022, 1,103 doorstep surveys were carried out with residents which were representative of the borough by age group, gender, Rural and Urban classification and ward.

Residents were asked about their attitudes towards their local area and 97% said that they feel safe when outside in their local area during the day (compared to 91% South East and 95% Nationally) and 74% said that they feel safe when outside in their local area after dark (compared to 73% South East and 74% Nationally).

In 2023/24 there were 46 Street Safe reports made relating to Basingstoke and Deane. Street Safe allows people to anonymously report where and why they have felt unsafe has shown that, the key environmental concern for Basingstoke and Deane residents who made a report were signs of drug and alcohol use (70%) and the key behavioural concern was loitering and/or intimidation by a group (65%). In addition, 84% of these reports were made by females.

Street Safe usage has been low and Police have moved towards a new initiative called 'Lets Talk.' Lets Talk was launched on 6th March 2024 and since then over 13,000 people across Hampshire have completed a survey from which the responses shape the Policing that occurs in their Neighbourhood.

Sample data for the three-month period 01/03/24 and 31/05/24, shows that in Basingstoke and Deane the top priorities, based on responses from 1,046 residents, were

- 1) speeding
- 2) parking issues
- 3) fly-tipping
- 4) drugs and related issues
- 5) 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
- Engage with the police to assess the best measure, bearing in mind "Let's Talk" and "StreetSafe" options.
- Monitor the progress of A&E data collection, linking to the work of Violence Reduction Unit to establish an information sharing agreement between local hospitals, Integrated Care Boards and Local Authorities.
- Examine and understand data in relation to reports of crime by LGBTQ+ victims
- Educate residents on how they can keep themselves safe
- Continue to work closely with businesses in the town centre and across the borough to understand their concerns and needs.

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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 for Rushmoor.

### Key Observations

- The Basingstoke SV Strategic group has been established alongside partners.
- Basingstoke and Deane's rate of serious violence is lower than the HIPS average.
- Increase in the number of young people (10-17) suspected of SV crimes since 2021/22.
- Possession of a weapon (45%), robbery personal (27%) and violence with injury (25%) make up most serious violence offences.

### Progress during 2023/24

- Active participation in 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

## Current Position

In 2023/24 77 crimes were recorded as most serious violence (MSV) in Basingstoke and Deane District. This figure represents a 3% (n2) 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.

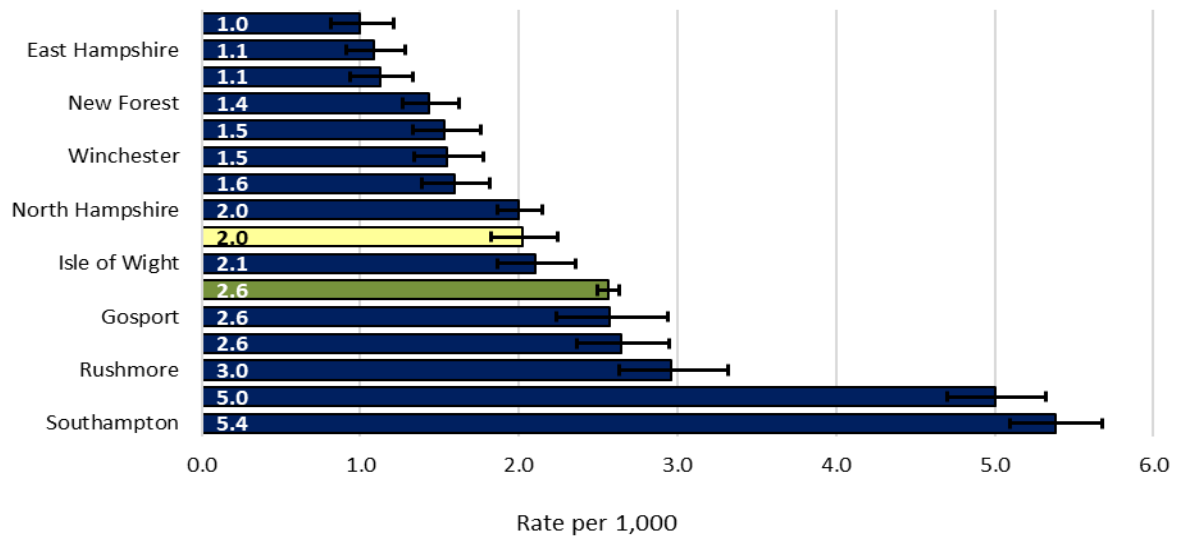
The agreed HIPS wide serious violence definition used in this needs assessment is:

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.

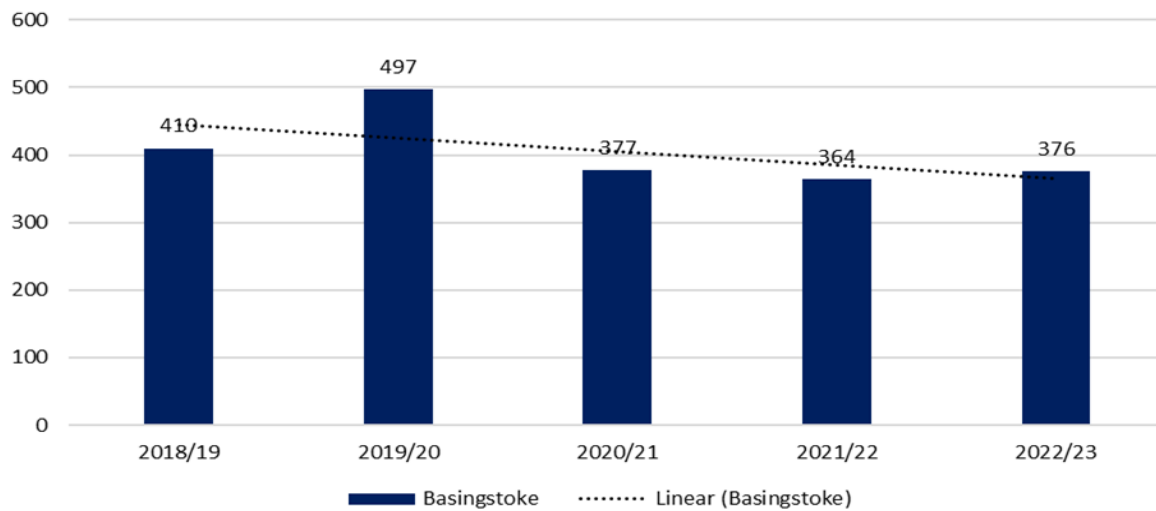
Key points taken from the Basingstoke and Deane Serious Violence Strategic Needs Assessment October 2023, show that in Hampshire and more specifically in Basingstoke and Deane;

There were 377 serious violence offences in Basingstoke and Deane in 2022/23, which accounted for 7% of the total serious violence in the HIPS area. Basingstoke and Deane rate of serious violence was lower than the HIPS average. There has been a 28% increase in serious violence since 2021/22 but levels are still lower than the peak in 2019/20. There has been a 3% (n12) increase from last year, but levels are still lower than 2019/20.

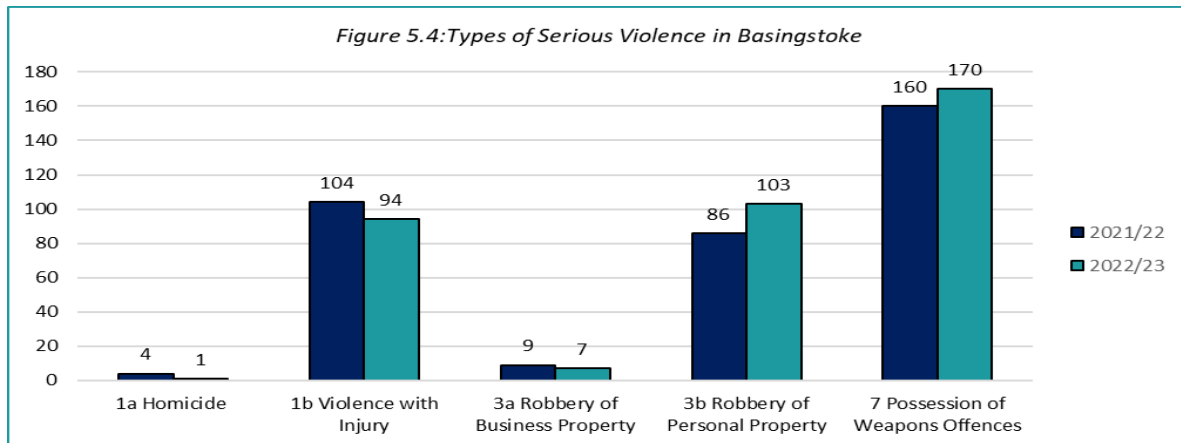
*Figure 5.1: Police recorded serious violence, rate per 1,000 persons, Hampshire  
CSPs: 2022/23*



*Figure 5.2: Police recorded serious violence for Basingstoke: 2018/19 - 2022/23*



The main offences that make up serious violence are possession of a weapon (45%), robbery of personal property (27%) and violence with injury (25%). While Basingstoke and Deane saw a 14% (n93) increase in serious violence from last year, levels are still lower than 2019/20.



Higher levels of serious violence occur in the LSOAs in the Town Centre south of the railway lines, although the levels north of the railway lines are still higher than the rest of the Basingstoke and Deane area. There are no clear seasonal trends, although there are higher levels Saturday, Sunday, and Wednesday, mostly between 3 and 9pm. 6% of offences were linked to licenced premises, 6% involved alcohol use by the suspect and 4% involved drug use.

The most common victim and suspect relationship for serious violence was strangers (31%), followed by victimless crimes (28% - common for possession of a weapon offences), acquaintances (23%) and partners/ex-partners or family (11%). 7% were flagged as domestic abuse related, which is a smaller proportion than for the HIPS area overall.

Most suspects are male (84%) and 49% were under 25 years, and there has been an increase in 10-17 year olds since 2021/22. 17% of suspects were linked to more than one offence, and most were male (84%) and the peak age group was 18-24years (31%).

Males were also more likely to be the victims (70%) compared to females (23%). The peak age groups for male victims were 25-34yrs (25%), 18-24yrs (24%) and 10-17Yrs (24%). There was no distinct peak age group for females with similar numbers seen for all age groups. There has also been an increase in 10-17 year old victims.

### Recommendations

- Serious Violence data and analysis working group to consider approach and plan to schedule and delivery of district level SNAs.
- Focus on establishing the Basingstoke SV Strategic group with the aim of improving partnership working and monitoring on SV related matters.
- Consider findings that are relevant to the borough, gained by SV & Knife Crime surveys.
- Development of the approach of Offensive Weapon Homicide Reviews, set out in the new Serious Violence Legislation.

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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>1</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

Estimates from the Crime Survey England and Wales (CSEW) showed that 4.4% of people aged 16 years and over experienced domestic abuse in the year ending March 2023. This was no significant change compared with the year ending March 2020.

### 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

- There is a downward trend in the number of domestic related crimes reported to the police.
- Women continue to be disproportionately represented among victims, with 74% of all victims in Basingstoke and Deane being female over the last year.
- 37% were repeat victims

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<sup>1</sup> [What is domestic abuse? | Hampshire and Isle of Wight Constabulary](#)

### Progress during 2023/24

- 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

### Current Position

In Basingstoke and Deane district, domestic crimes account for 17% of total crime in 2023/24 (down from 18% the previous year) with reported DA offences reducing by 18% (n423) during this strategic period.

In 2023/24, 'Violence against the person' accounted for 77% (n1502) of domestic abuse crime. The most common VAP offence types were common assault and battery (33%), stalking and harassment offences (28%) and Actual Bodily Harm (ABH) (26%). 37% of all domestic crime involved repeat victims. Across Basingstoke and Deane 74% of victims were female and 26% were male. 74% of offenders were male and 26% were female. The peak age for victims was between 18-25 years (18%) and 35-39 years (14%).

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 is one ongoing domestic homicide review currently being undertaken in Basingstoke and Deane district during this strategic period.

Where details were provided the most common victim offender relationships were, ex-partner – heterosexual (40%), partner – heterosexual (27%) and parent (8%).

Stop Domestic Abuse supports and protects victims and survivors of domestic abuse and stalking. Data shows that in 2023/24 they received a total of 1,129 adult referrals in Basingstoke and Deane. Broken down, 492 of these were from outreach, 483 were from IDVA, 153 were from Refuge and 1 was from resettlement. In addition they received 98 referrals regarding children and young people. The majority of these cases were referred by parents, 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.

Launched in 2014, Clare's Law is the domestic violence disclosure scheme designed to provide victims with information that may protect them from an abusive situation before it ends in tragedy. The scheme allows the police to disclose information about a partner's previous history of domestic violence or violent acts.



Most recent data is not available, however, In Basingstoke and Deane in 2022/23 56 disclosures were made and of these, 18 were 'right to ask' which enables someone to ask the police about a partner's previous history of domestic violence or violent acts and 38 were 'right to know' where police can proactively disclose information in prescribed circumstances.

### Recommendations

- Seek to establish relationship with Adults Health and Care in relation to data collection.
- Working to set up data sharing with Stop Domestic Abuse.
- The CSP should look at understanding barriers to reporting, why they exist, and implementing 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.
- Continue to support the implementation of White ribbon accreditation and DAHA in Basingstoke and share best practice.
- Enable Domestic Abuse Forums to be utilised to share best practice and monitor trends in conjunction with the countywide strategies. Involving commissioned services to deliver where possible.
- 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.

Basingstoke and Deane 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>2</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>2</sup> Home Office public polling on community safety: March 2023

### Key Observations

- Reports of Anti-social behaviour are down by 19% (n360) on the previous year (-n409 reports)
- 65% of reports are classified as ASB Community
- Sharp rise in reports classified as 'ASB Environmental' linked to recreational drug use.
- Vehicle nuisance (24%), youth related ASB (20%) and neighbour nuisance (17%) most common types in Basingstoke and Deane

### Progress during 2023/24

- 1,112 incidents recorded by the CSPOs with patrols focussed in the areas with the greatest community need including antisocial behaviour hotspots
- Safer Streets funding secured
- 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
- Use of ASB warning letters, Acceptable Behaviour Contracts and Community Protection Warnings/Notices
- 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

### Current position – police recorded ASB

#### Overall observations

Hampshire Constabulary recorded 19,010 incidents of anti-social behaviour in Hampshire. This is a reduction of 23% (n6,609) on last year, when 22,604 incidents were recorded.

Across Basingstoke and Deane, 1,537 incidents of anti-social behaviour were recorded. This figure represents a 19% (n353) reduction when compared to the previous year when 1,890 incidents were recorded.

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 2023/24 there were 1,537 reports of anti-social behaviour to the police in Basingstoke and Deane. This figure represents a 19% (n360) reduction compared to the previous year. The reduction seen locally is slightly higher than that seen across Hampshire (-16%).

As in previous years, anti-social behaviour across Basingstoke and Deane area was higher during the summer months (61% occurred April to September), with the most reports occurring in July (12%).

Reports were higher Friday to Sunday (52%) and incidents increased throughout the day and were highest between 14:00 – midnight (76%).

The majority of anti-social behaviour reports were classified as ASB Community (65%), followed by ASB Environmental (28%), ASB Personal (7%) and Community Trigger (0.1%).

In 2023/24 the key issues for Basingstoke and Deane District in terms of anti-social behaviour were, vehicle nuisance (24%) youth related ASB (20%) and neighbour nuisance (17%), and this was the same as the previous year.

## Type of ASB

### Vehicle nuisance

Vehicle nuisance was the most common type of anti-social behaviour reported to the police in Basingstoke and Deane District in 2023/24. Such reports accounted for 24% (n374) of anti-social behaviour but were down (-20%, n91) compared to the previous year.

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 42% (n158) of vehicle nuisance and car nuisance (includes car meets and cars racing) which made up 58% (n216) of vehicle nuisance in Basingstoke and Deane in 2023/24.

Vehicle nuisance as with other types of anti-social behaviour was highest in the summer months with 69% (n257) reported between April and September.

The peak days and times for vehicle nuisance differed depending on the type. Motorbike nuisance occurred throughout the week, typically occurring during the afternoon (56%, n89 between 14:00 – 19:59 hours) while car nuisance typically occurred at the weekend (68%, n147 Friday to Sunday) and at night (68%, n146 between 20:00 – midnight).

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

Car nuisance was most common in Norden (17%), South Ham (15%) and Chineham (13%) with reports mostly relating to large numbers of vehicles in car parks, racing, doing donuts and revving engines.

Motorbike nuisance was most common in Norden (13%), Kempshott (11%), Popley East (10%) and South Ham (10%) beats, with reports commonly related to motorbikes being ridden on pathways and green spaces by young people with no PPE.

The CSP is aware of the dangerous and detrimental impact of vehicle nuisance and over the last year has worked hard to reduce the problem, including assisting Police where possible with Op Cranium activities, undertaking Environmental Visual Audits in problematic locations, resulting in increased patrols and ASB Warning Letters being sent to vehicle owners. In addition, enforcement, deterrent and education options are considered for repeat locations.

A multi-agency Car Meets Working Group has been established in Basingstoke and Deane as a response to antisocial behaviour reported at car meets at various sites across the borough. Target hardening has been put in place in some areas such as Basing View Car Park. Signage has been developed and erected in known hotspot areas to deter those responsible and give visible

reassurance to the public. Police have publicised any prosecution, action or seizures of vehicles. Businesses have been educated around the issue and have been encouraged to take action to secure their sites. Private land owners and supermarkets have also been worked with to ensure that they are taking measures to deter the gathering of vehicles. We have also been a part of OP Chromium discussions pan Hampshire that are looking at a wider problem-solving approach as displacement is an issue. Through the Problem-Solving Focus Group and Car Meets Working Group the partnership is now looking at ways to identify individuals committing motorbike nuisance and linking in with Housing Associations and tenancy agreements.

### Youth related anti-social behaviour

In 2023/24 approximately 20% (n304) of anti-social behaviour related to young people. This figure represents a 23% 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 Basingstoke and Deane. The bi-monthly Problem-Solving Focus Group meetings have highlighted specific locations where youth nuisance is a problem and identified individuals have been discussed at the ASB Panel.

Incidents of youth related ASB occurred throughout the year and like other types of ASB, were highest during the summer months (61% April to September). Youth related ASB was higher Friday to Sunday (51%) and between 14:00 – 21:59 hours (75%).

The location with the most reports of youth related anti-social behaviour was Eastrop beat (15%) and this has historically been the case. However, such reports have fallen by 54% compared to the previous year.

Incidents typically related to groups causing problems in the town centre, and, as a result partnership working has taken place across the Basingstoke Town Centre area to address concerns, identify offenders, and suitable interventions have been considered and implemented. Support has been provided to residents and businesses in relation to reporting.

Elsewhere in Basingstoke and Deane, Pinkerton Road in South Ham beat had 15 reports of youth related ASB which related to groups of youths smoking drugs in communal areas of the flats and accessing the roofs of various buildings. As a result targeted patrols have taken place as well as liaison with the Housing Association to secure doors and speak with residents regarding reporting and behaviour of visitors.

ASB Warning letters, Acceptable Behaviour Contracts and referrals to the People Meeting and ASB Panel have continued to have a major impact on early intervention and supporting vulnerable people.

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

Neighbour nuisance/disputes accounted for 17% (n253) of reports in 2023/24 and reduced by 25% compared to the previous year. Broken down, 54% (n136) related to neighbours smoking drugs (mostly cannabis) and 46% (n117) were general issues with neighbours such as feuds and noise complaints.

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 ASB Panel in Basingstoke and Deane.

In 2023/24 almost a quarter (24%) of reports of neighbours smoking cannabis were in two locations, Braddock Court in Norden beat (n18) and Southington Close (n14) in Overton/Laverstoke/Steventon beat. Partnership work has been carried out at Braddock Court resulting in a partial closure and Southington Close is being monitored through the PSFG.

General neighbour nuisance complaints were spread across the district with the beats of Buckskin (17%), South Ham (11%) and Eastrop (10%) the most incidents, often with multiple reports in the same street. There were no other significant patterns or trends.

Where referrals have been made to the ASB panel a partnership approach has been taken.

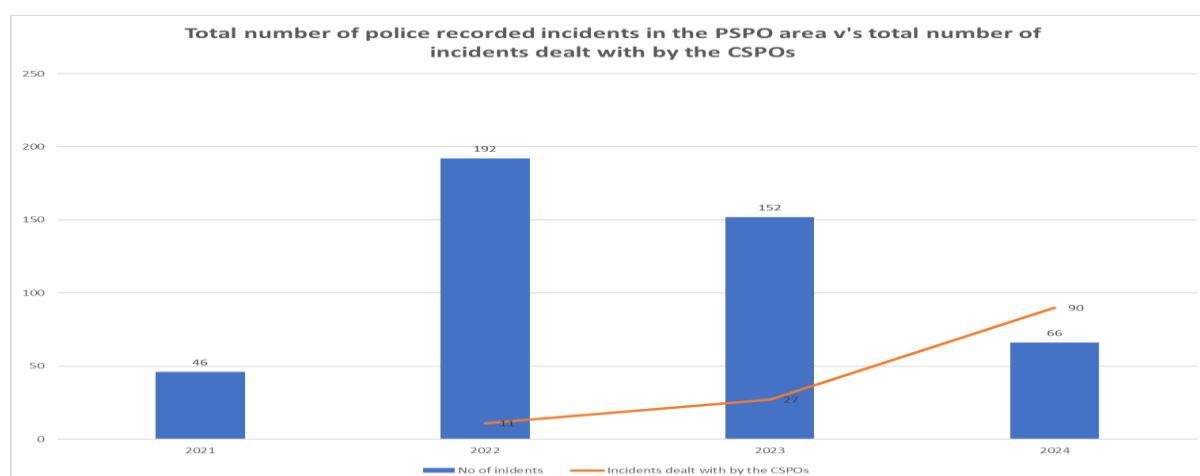
### Other issues of note

A significant (22%) number of anti-social behaviour incidents in Basingstoke and Deane were linked to drugs and alcohol. This included neighbours smoking cannabis (41%), drug use/dealing/paraphernalia (30%), youths drinking and taking drugs (18%), alcohol related incidents and street drinking (6%) and general drug and alcohol related ASB (5%).

Drug and alcohol related incidents were largely concentrated in the town beats of Norden (15%), South Ham (11%), Popley East (9%) and Eastrop (9%) with these four areas accounting for 44% of total drug and alcohol related ASB. Such incidents were more common during the summer months (67% April to September), on Saturdays (18%) and between 15:00 – midnight (67%).

### Public Spaces Protection Order

This order remains in force in Basingstoke Town Centre and is utilised by Police and Council Officers. The number of engagement and enforcement actions taken by the CSPOs have increased with 11 in 2022, 27 in 2023 and 66 so far in 2024, while the number of police recorded alcohol related incidents have fallen.



The PSPO is currently being reviewed as to whether there are any amendments to make it more effective. It is due for renewal or expiry in November 2024.

### 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 5 applications for Antisocial Behaviour Case Reviews in 2023/24 for Basingstoke and Deane.

### Recommendations

- Use of data to support Problem Solving Focus Group Meetings and ASB Panel.
- 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 districts/boroughs).
- Work closely with the LA ASB Task Force on the development of better reporting and recording practices and a one-stop-shop.
- Examine the impact drug and alcohol as a major contributory factor in asb incidents



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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 6% reduction in crime levels across Basingstoke and Deane compared to five years ago.

Nationally, the police recorded 6.7 million crimes in England and Wales in the year ending September 2023. This figure was relatively stable equating to a 1% increase 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 23 to 31st March 24), Hampshire Constabulary recorded a total of 159,731 crimes across Hampshire. This figure represents a 4% (n6,127) increase compared to the previous year when 178,732 crimes were recorded.

### *Basingstoke and Deane recorded, type and level of crime.*

Across Basingstoke and Deane 12,058 crimes were recorded in 2023/24. This figure represents a 7% (n877) reduction on the previous year when 12,935 crimes were recorded.

The rate of crime per 1,000 population in Basingstoke and Deane was 65 which is below the national average of 90 crimes per 1,000 population.

This year, when compared to the previous year there were considerable reductions across a number of crime types, including violence with (-10%) and without (-16%) injury, other sexual offences (-24%), robbery personal (-38%) and public order offences (-20%). The key exceptions were burglary residential (+30%), burglary business and community (+35%) and shoplifting (+59%) which were significantly up on the previous year.

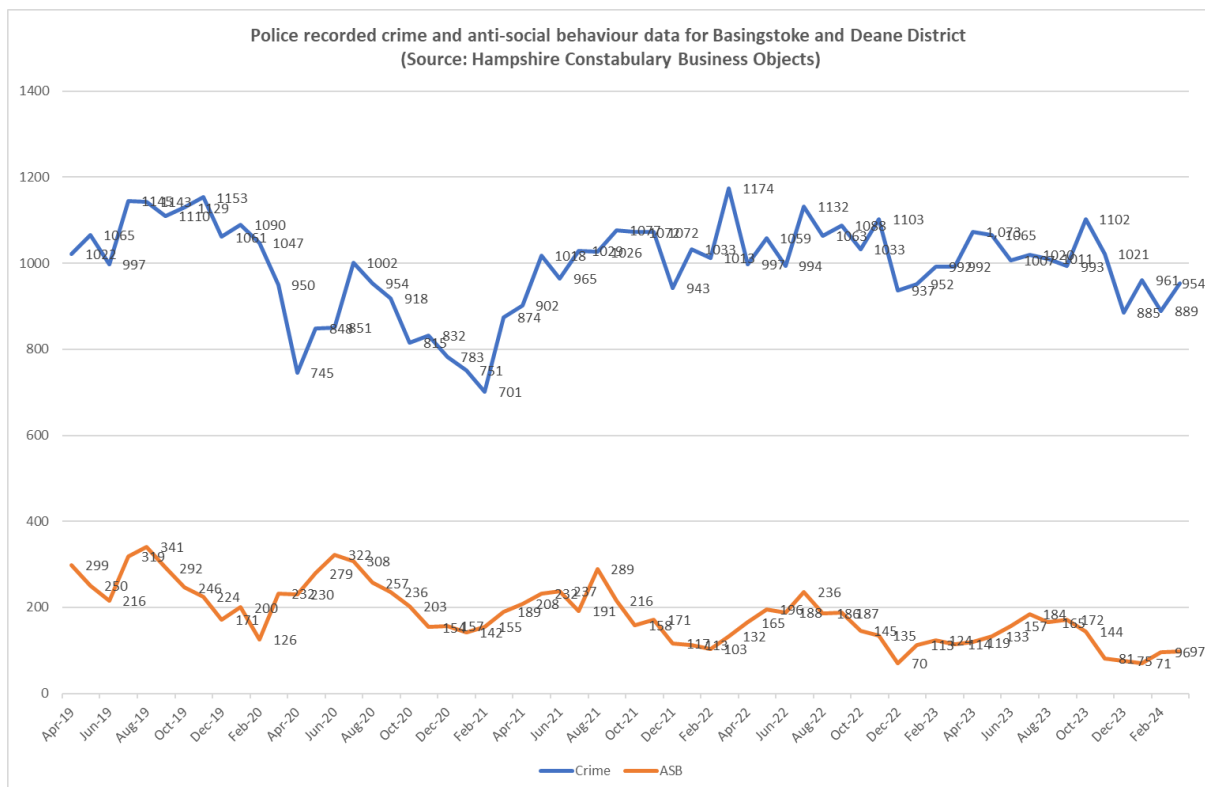


	BASINGSTOKE AND DEANE		
	22/23 crimes	23/24 crimes	% change
1a Homicide	1	1	0%
1b Violence with Injury	1,655	1,490	-10%
1c Violence without Injury	4,049	3,384	-16%
2a Rape	205	181	-12%
2b Other Sexual Offences	420	319	-24%
3a Robbery of Business Property	8	15	+88%
3b Robbery of Personal Property	104	64	-38%
4a1 Burglary Residential	344	448	+30%
4a2 Burglary Business and Community	214	288	+35%
4b Vehicle Offences	581	627	+8%
4c Theft from the Person	67	70	+4%
4d Bicycle Theft	92	93	+1%
4e Shoplifting	596	947	+59%
4f All Other Theft Offences	995	957	-4%
5a Criminal Damage	1,194	1,096	-8%
5b Arson	41	32	-22%
6a Trafficking of Drugs	106	110	+4%
6b Possession of Drugs	317	284	-10%
7 Possession of Weapons Offences	167	176	+5%
8 Public Order Offences	1,548	1,235	-20%
9 Miscellaneous Crimes Against Society	231	241	+4%
<b>Totals</b>	<b>12,935</b>	<b>12,058</b>	<b>-7%</b>
<b>Domestic crimes</b>	<b>2,382</b>	<b>1,959</b>	<b>-18%</b>
<b>Hate crime</b>	<b>323</b>	<b>265</b>	<b>-18%</b>
<b>Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB)</b>	<b>1,890</b>	<b>1,537</b>	<b>-19%</b>

The graph below shows crime and anti-social behaviour figures across Basingstoke and Deane for the past five years.

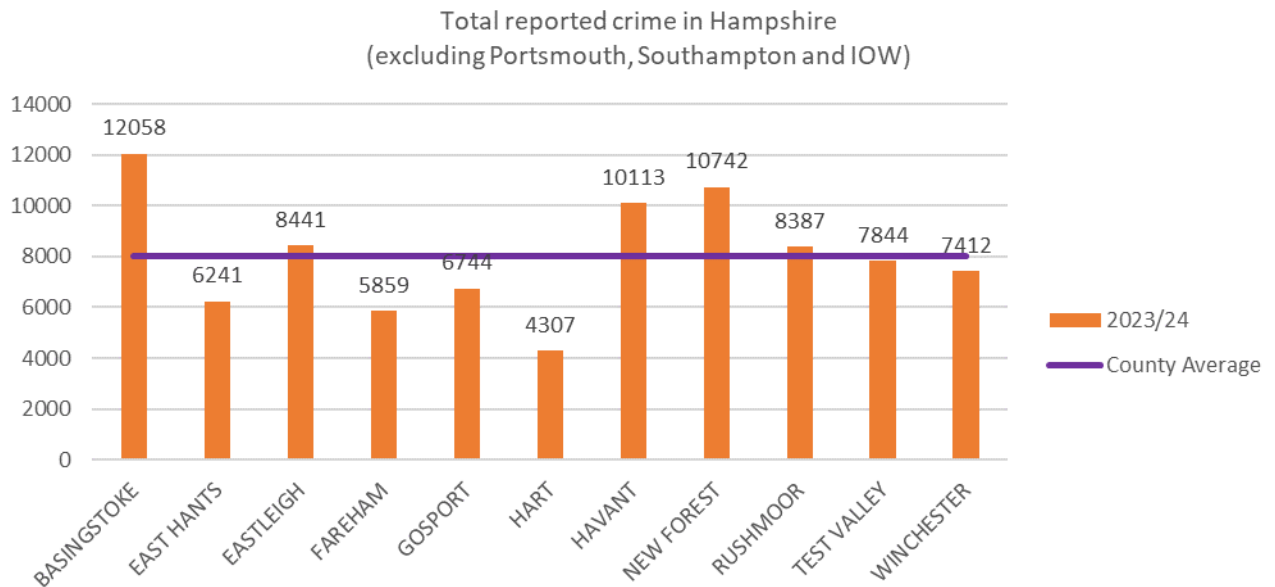
Crime, shown in blue, reduced considerably during the Covid-19 pandemic, with the lowest monthly figures coinciding with the first (April 20), second (November 20) and third (January 21) National lockdowns. Since the loosening of restrictions, starting in April 2021 crime levels have steadily returned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

Anti-social behaviour which is shown in orange, was relatively unaffected by the pandemic. The seasonal trends seen in previous years continued throughout 2023/24 and more recently, the past six months have seen some of the lowest monthly ASB figures recorded.



### Hampshire comparison

The graph below shows the total reported crime across the named local authorities alongside the county average. This shows that Basingstoke and Deane is considerably above the Hampshire average of 8,013 crimes.



### Violence against the person

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

Nationally, police recorded violence against the person showed a 3% decrease in the year ending September 2023 compared with the previous year.

There were reductions in violence with injury (-3%), violence without injury (-1%) and stalking and harassment (-5%) compared to the previous year.

The Crime Survey for England and Wales (CSEW) also looks at the overall trend in violent crime. Estimates from the CSEW for the year ending September 2023 showed that there were 0.9 million violent offences which represents no significant change compared with the survey for the previous year.

Violent crime as measured by the CSEW and police recorded crime differ. Police figures include large volume crimes such as stalking and harassment which are not covered in the CSEW. In the year ending September 2023, stalking and harassment offences accounted for a third (33%) of all police recorded violence.

In 2023/24, in Basingstoke and Deane District, overall violence against the person offences reduced significantly (-15%) when compared to the previous year.

Despite this reduction, violence against the person remains the single largest contributor to crime across Basingstoke and Deane, accounting for 40% of all reported offences, down from 44% in 2022/23.

Violence without injury accounted for 69% of VAP offences while violence with injury offences made up 31% of VAP offences. There was one homicide during the assessment period.

The most common offence types were common assault and battery (30%) and ABH (24%). Harassment and stalking offences accounted for 17% of offences, lower than the number seen nationally.

Across Basingstoke and Deane, 31% of violence against the person offences were domestic related. 6% involved the use of a weapon and 2% had a hate crime flag, similar to the previous year.

This year, as in the previous year, there were more female victims of violence against the person (55%), compared to males (45%) and this reflects the increase in harassment offences reported by female victims over the past two years. The peak ages for victims were between 10-17 years (18%), 18-25 years (15%) and 35-39 years (11%). The most common victim ethnicity was White North European (83%).

Town Centre locations had some of the highest levels of violence against the person, with Eastrop beat accounting for 11% of total offences, down slightly from 13% last year.

**Eastrop** beat (n532) had the highest total number of offences, and these can be broken down into;

- Night-time economy related<sup>3</sup> violence against the person offences (12%, n66), occurring in or outside of a licensed premises between 22:00 – 03:59 hours. Night-time economy offences are monitored at the Problem Solving Focus Group meetings.
- Domestic related offences accounted for 20% (n104) of violence against the person offences in Eastrop beat, less than Basingstoke and Deane as a whole (31%).
- The percentage of violence against the person offences committed by a stranger (40%) was much higher in Eastrop beat than the district as a whole (23%). This can be explained in terms of a higher footfall of people in town centre locations, along with the night-time economy.
- 2.8% (n15) of violence against the person offences in Eastrop beat were hate related which is in line with the figure for Basingstoke and Deane (2%).
- 4.6% (n22) of violence against the person offences in Eastrop beat involved the use of a weapon which is lower than the figure for Basingstoke and Deane (6%).
- The percentage of male victims (55%) was higher than female victims (45%) in Eastrop beat compared to Basingstoke and Deane (55% female and 45% male).

In the areas outside of Eastrop beat, the beats with the highest percentage of domestic related violence against the person offences were **Hatch Warren** (46%) and **Popley East**. **Hatch Warren** (5.7%), **Popley West** (5%) and **Whitchurch** (5%) beats had the highest percentage of VAP offences with a hate crime flag. Pamber and Silchester (12.8%), Kingsclere (7.9%) and Tadley South (7.9%) had the highest percentage of VAP offences involving weapons.

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<sup>3</sup> Source: Hampshire Constabulary Business Objects 'Basingstoke Night Time Economy' Report

Public Health England data (2020/21 – 2022/23) shows that the level of hospital admissions for violent crime (including sexual offences) in Basingstoke and Deane (22.8 per 100,000<sup>4</sup>) was lower than the England average (34.3. per 100,000) and had reduced over the past 10 years (from 42.0 in 2009/10 – 2011/12).

## Robbery

Crime in England and Wales reports that nationally, police recorded robbery offences increased by 12% in the year ending September 2023 when compared to the previous year.

Total robbery offences (robbery business and robbery personal) in Basingstoke and Deane District reduced by 29% (33) from 112 offences in 2022/23 to 79 offences in 2023/24. Broken down, robbery personal offences fell by 38% (n40), however there was an increase in Robbery Business offences (+88%, n7).

Robbery offences in Basingstoke and Deane have been examined. Broken down, 81% of offences were robbery personal while just 19% were robbery business.

In 2023/24, victims of robbery personal were often male (78%), with more than half (54%) of male victims aged under 25 years.

Where details were available, more than half of offences were committed by a stranger (54%) and 17% (n12) involved a weapon, with bladed implements the most common (83%).

Top locations for robbery in Basingstoke and Deane were Eastrop (24% - 16 robbery personal offences and 3 robbery business) and Norden 15% - 10 robbery personal offences and 2 robbery business).

## Offences involving weapons

Nationally the number of knife-enabled offences increased by 5% in the year ending September 2023 compared to the previous year. Notable increases were seen in the number of robberies involving a knife or sharp instrument (up 19% compared with the previous year).

However, admissions data for NHS hospitals in England and Wales shows a 4% decrease in the number of admissions for assault by a sharp object in the year ending September 2023 compared to the previous year.

Police recorded offences involving firearms also increased (+3%) in the year ending September 2023 compared to the previous year. Offences involving firearms can be broken down by type of weapon. While there were decreases in most subcategories, the use of imitation firearms, such as replica weapons and BB guns, rose by 24% to 2,659 offences. Offences involving these weapons have overtaken handguns as the most commonly used weapon in these crimes.

Rates of crimes involving knives or sharp instruments vary by Police Force Area. Hampshire's rate of crimes involving knives or sharp instruments (57 per 100,000 population) is much less than the England and Wales average (89 per 100,000 population)<sup>5</sup>.

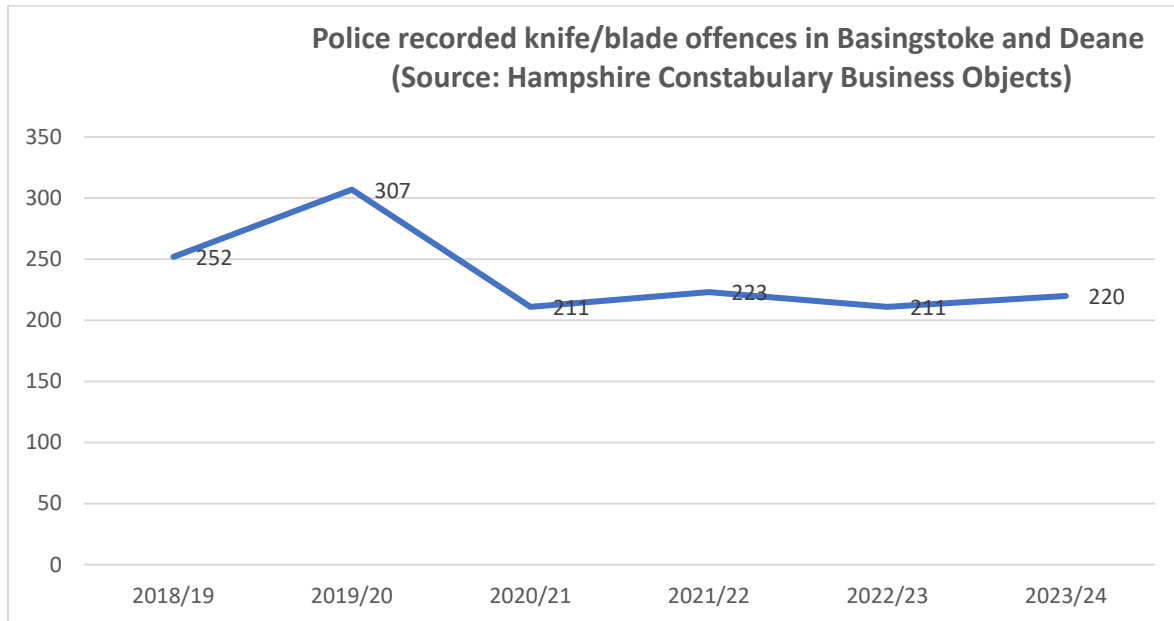
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<sup>4</sup> Data should be treated caution due to Frimley Health Trust not submitting any HES data for June 22-March 23

<sup>5</sup> Crime in England and Wales, year ending December 2023 – PFA tables

In Basingstoke and Deane, offences involving a knife/blade were up slightly (+4%) from 211 in 2022/23 to 220 in 2023/24 and such offences accounted for 1.9% of total crime. Of the 220 knife/blade offences, more than a third were recorded as violence against the person (36%), followed by possession of a weapon (33%) and public order (8%).

The five-year trend is a 13% decrease in Basingstoke and Deane since 2018/19 as shown below.



Crime in England and Wales (year ending Dec 2023) reports that, Police recorded "possession of article with a blade or point" offences were 1% higher in the year ending December 2023 (27,672 offences) than the year ending December 2022 (27,463 offences). Possession of a bladed implement offences in Basingstoke and Deane increased by 24%. This follows more substantial increases in recent years, which could have been influenced by increases in targeted police action to tackle knife crime, including knife amnesty bins and test purchasing across stores in the district for sale of bladed weapons to under 18s.

The Violence Reduction Unit currently 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 increased by 19% (n541) across Basingstoke and Deane in 2023/24 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:

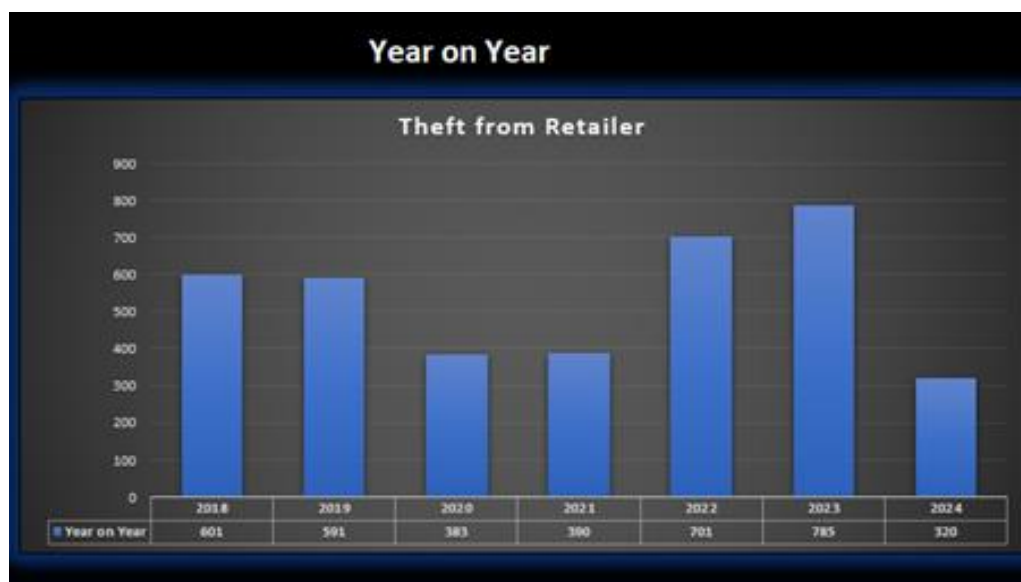
- **Socioeconomic factors** – higher rates of unemployment, poverty and economic instability
- **Seasonal Trends** – AC often spike during certain times of the year, particularly around holidays when more valuable and cash are on hand, and properties are left unattended
- **Opportunity** – poorly secured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

In 2023/24 there were considerable increases in shoplifting (+59%), burglary business and community (+35%) and burglary residential offences (+30%).

Police recorded shoplifting offences increased by 59% (n351) across Basingstoke and Deane, higher than the national increase of 37% in the year ending December 2023. More than a third of offences occurred in Eastrop beat (39%) with thefts predominantly occurring in shops around Festival Place and the Malls. Outside of the Town Centre, Chineham Shopping Centre reported 69 offences (7%).

Shoplifting offences in the district have been examined. The peak months for offences were July (10%) and August (11%) and not December (6%) and January (5%) which might be expected given the Christmas period. Offences were also higher during the week with 63% of offences reported Monday to Thursday and not during the weekend which again might have been expected. In addition, the peak times for offences were between midday and 18:59 hours (63%).

Data from DISC relating to Festival Place in Basingstoke Town Centre shows that thefts from retailers have increased in recent years with figures for 2022 and 2023 higher than pre-pandemic figures.



While shoplifting offences have increased it is suggested that figures represent a 'fraction of the true picture of shop theft<sup>6</sup>.' In addition, a recent survey by the British Retail Consortium (BRC) found that the surge in shoplifting offences went hand in hand with increased violence towards shop workers, including racial abuse, sexual harassment, physical assault and threats with weapons which rose by 50% in the year ending September 2023.

<sup>6</sup> James Lowman, chief executive of the Association of Convenience Stores which represents local shops.



Burglary business and community increased by 35% from 214 offences in 2022/23 to 288 in 2023/24. Broken down 86.4% of offences were recorded as burglary business and community, 13.2% were attempted burglary business and community and 0.4% were aggravated burglary business and community. Similar to last year, Eastrop (14%) and Norden beat (12%) were the locations with the most offences.

Burglary residential offences increased by 30% from 344 in 2022/23 to 448 in 2023/24. The most common offence types were residential burglary of a home (37%), residential burglary of an unconnected building (31%) and attempted residential burglary of a home (9%). In addition, 8% of offences involved shed/garages etc with 80% of them burglaries and 20% attempts.

The locations with the most offences were Burghclere/Highclere/St Mary Bourne (10%), South Ham (8%) and Chineham (7%).

Neighbourhood Watch has secured funding from the OPCC for an Outbuilding Security project whereby residents in identified vulnerable locations will be offered home security measure and advice. The project is currently in its initial stages and will be monitored and evaluated through the Problem-Solving Focus Group meetings.

## Sexual Offences

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

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

Estimates from the CSEW for the year ending March 2023 estimated 2.7% of people aged 16 to 59 years had experienced sexual assault (including attempted offences) in the last year. There was no significant change compared with the year ending March 2022 (2.7%), with fewer than one in six victims of rape or assault by penetration reporting the crime to the police.

Improvements in police recording practices and increased reporting by victims have contributed to increases in the number of sexual offences recorded by the police in recent years, although latest figures could suggest they are having a reduced effect. Nationally, Police recorded sexual offences decreased by 2% in the year ending December 2023 compared with the previous year. Despite the 2% decrease in the last year, sexual offences for the year ending December 2023 remain 17% higher than the year ending March 2020 and 116% higher than the year to March 2015.

Of all sexual offences recorded by the police in the year ending December 2023, 36% were rape offences. This was a 1% decrease from the year ending December 2022. For a subset of

forces supplying data to the Home Office Data Hub, 21% of all sexual offences, and 24% of adult rape offences, in the year ending December 2023, had taken place over a year prior to the incident being recorded.

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



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

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

The force currently ranks 39th nationally in terms of the FAT outcome rate for rape offences. In 2022, the force joined Operation Soteria, a research and change programme that brings together police forces with academics and policy leads to use evidence to gain new insight into the policing response to Rape and Serious Sexual Offences (RASSO). The programme is working to develop a national operating model which will be delivered to the Home Office in June 2023. The aim is for radical and sustainable improved procedural and justice outcomes, focusing on suspect behaviour, not victim credibility.

In 2023/24 the number of sexual offences recorded in Basingstoke and Deane reduced by 20% (n125) compared to the previous year. The number of rape offences reduced by 12% (n24) and the number of other sexual offences reduced by 24% (n101).

A more detailed look at sexual offences in Basingstoke and Deane for 2023/24 shows that, where details were available, 85% of victims were female and 15% were male and this is similar to previous years. The most common offences were rape of a female over 16 (27%), sexual assault on a female 13+ (24%) and sexual assault on a child under 13 (6%). Where details were available, 37% of offences were committed by an acquaintance, 32% by a partner/ex-partner, 19% by a stranger and 13% by a family member. In addition, 1.4% of offences involved the use of a weapon.

The peak age for victims was between 11-18 years (37%) with 81% of victims in this age group female. More than a quarter (26%) of offences against this age group were sexual assault on a female 13+ and rape of a female over 16 (14%). Where details were available, 52% were committed by an acquaintance, 27% were domestic related (partner, ex-partner and family member) and 21% were by a stranger which differs to the overall victim/offender relationship trend across Hampshire (shown above).

## Business Crime

Within the Hampshire Constabulary policing area, business crime accounted for 16.53% of all crime recorded by the force in 2023/24, higher than the previous year (12.45%).

In Basingstoke and Deane business crime accounted for 16.64% of total crime, up from 11.64% the previous year.

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

Basingstoke and Deane CSPOs regularly engage with businesses in the Top of Town area and in November 2023 completed a survey with 17 businesses relating to any issues or concerns they might have. The survey showed that people and groups drinking alcohol, people involved in anti-social behaviour and begging were the main concerns for the businesses. It is hoped that some of the recent engagement visits to businesses and demonstration of some of the work already taking place to deal with incidents has increased the visibility and awareness of CSPOs.

## 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.

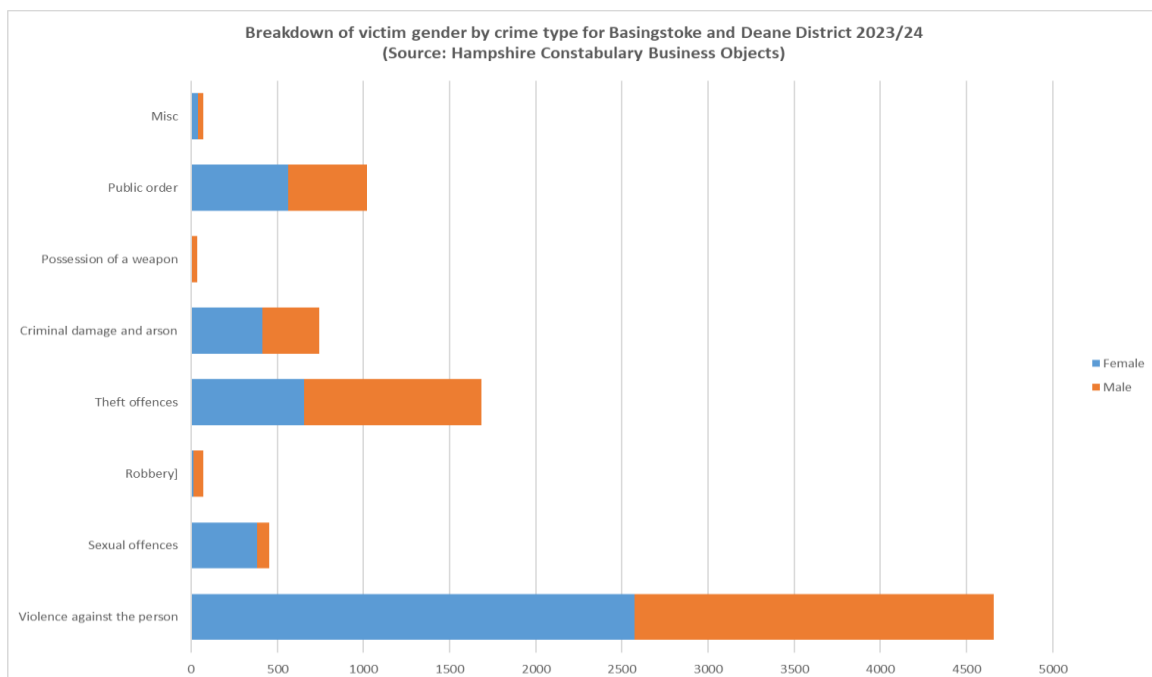
In 2023/24, levels of police recorded criminal damage reduced by 8% (n98) across Basingstoke and Deane. Reports of Police recorded arson were also down (-22%, n9).

Similar to the previous year, Eastrop beat had the highest number of reports of criminal damage (9%, n93) followed by Norden (8%, n90) and South Ham (7%, n75). Across Basingstoke and Deane criminal damage to vehicles under £5,000 was the most common, accounting for 29% of offences, followed by criminal damage other, under £5,000 (27%) and criminal damage to a building – residential under £5,000 (23%).

## Victims

In 2023/24, where victim data was available<sup>7</sup>, 53% of victims across Basingstoke and Deane were female and 47% were male, similar the picture across Hampshire and similar to the previous year.

A higher proportion of males were victims of robbery (78%) and theft offences (61%). Meanwhile females were more likely to be victims of sexual offences (85%).



Where details were available, the offender was known to the victim in 66% of crimes committed in Basingstoke and Deane in 2023/24. Of these the most common were acquaintance (45%), ex partner – heterosexual (19%), partner – heterosexual (12%) and parent (12%). 34% of offences were committed by a stranger. The picture is similar across Hampshire.

<sup>7</sup> Business Objects Aggrieved and Offender Data from 01.04.2023 to 31.03.2024.

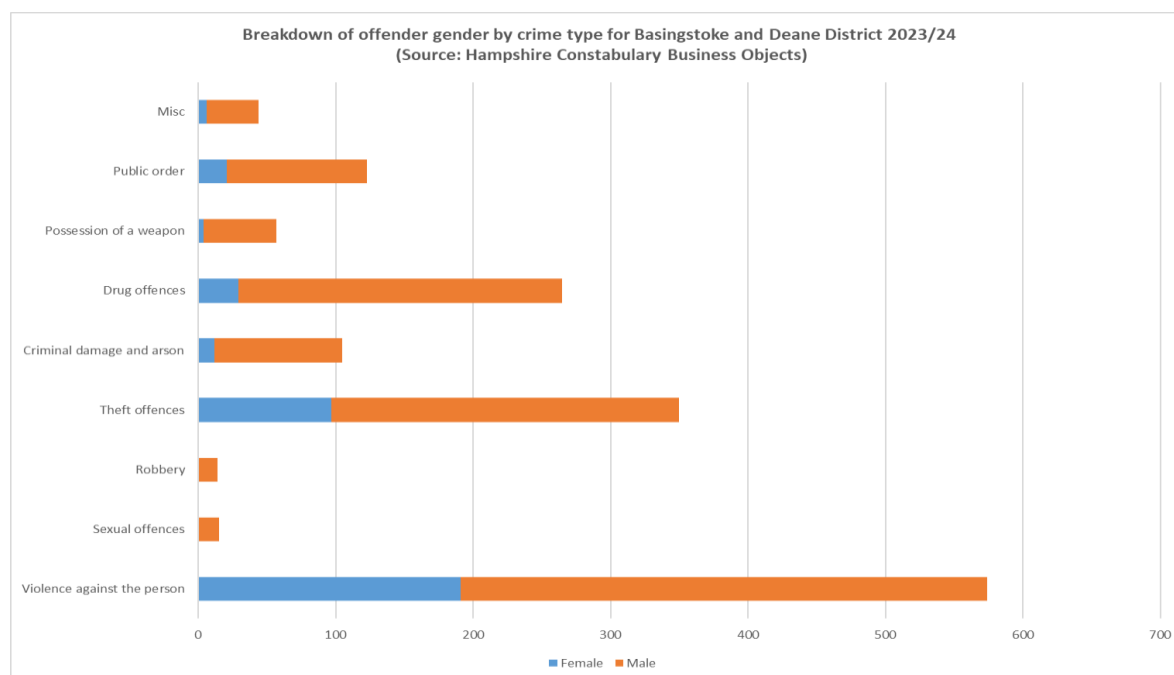
Broken down by age, 10-17 years (12%) and 18-24 years (12%) had the highest number of victims in Basingstoke and Deane, followed closely by 35-39 years (11%).

Where details were available, 81.8% of victims were White-North European, followed by White European (7.9%), Black (4.4%), Asian (3.0%), White South European (1.8%), Arabic or North African (0.6%), Chinese, Japanese and SE Asian (0.2%), Oriental (0.1%) African Caribbean (0.1%) and Dark European (0.1%).

Where hate crime offences had been committed, 62% of victims were White North European, 18% were Asian and 10% of victims were black.

## Offenders

Where offender data was available<sup>8</sup> 77% of offenders across Basingstoke and Deane were male and 23% were female and this was similar to the picture across Hampshire where 76% of offenders were male and 24% were female.



Broken down by age, 18-24 years (18%) had the highest number of offenders, followed by 10-17 years (15%) and 35-39 years (15%).

Where details were available the most common offender ethnicity in Basingstoke and Deane was White North European (87%), followed by Black (6%) and Asian (3%).

<sup>8</sup> Figures for the 12 months 01.04.2022 – 31.03.2023

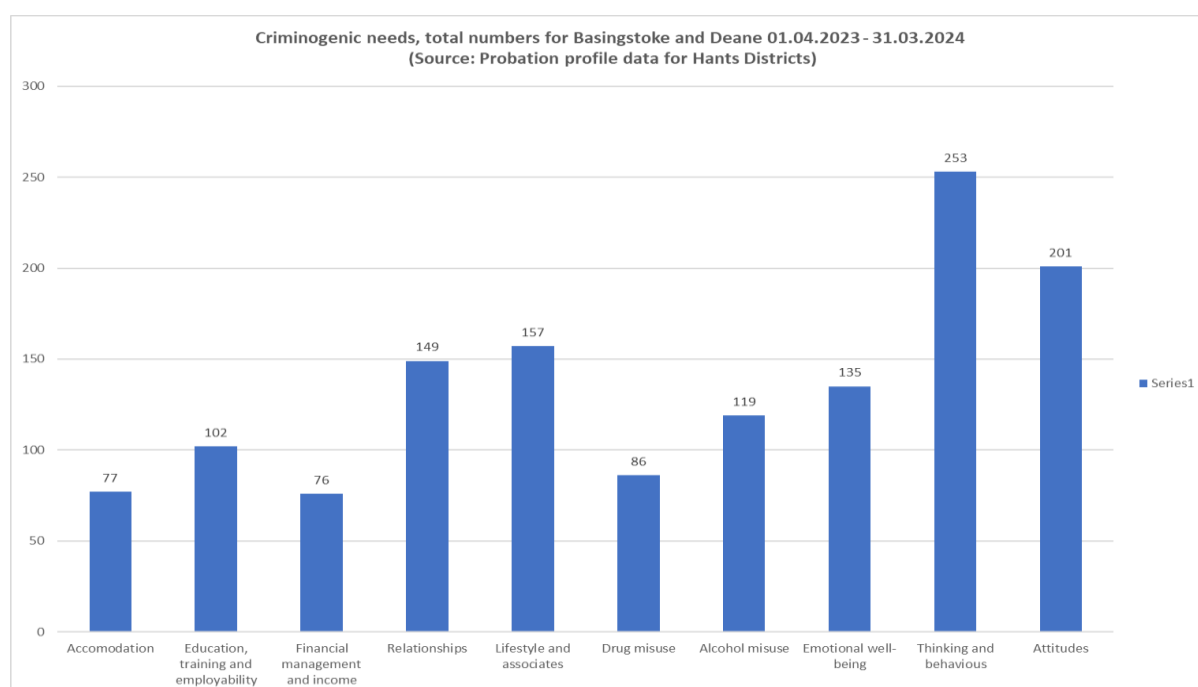
## Re-offending and offending risk

### 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 85% of offenders and juveniles accounted for 15% of offenders in Basingstoke and Deane in 2023/24.

For higher risk offenders managed by the National Probation Service (NPS), there are 256 repeat offenders in Basingstoke and Deane 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 figure 5 below).



Of this cohort, 89% were male and 11% were female. The age groups with the most offenders were 35-39 years (38%) and 26-34 years (26%) and the most common offender ethnicity was White British (73%). The most common offence types committed by this group were, violence against the person (37%), summary motoring offences (16%) and other indictable offences (12%).

### Youths

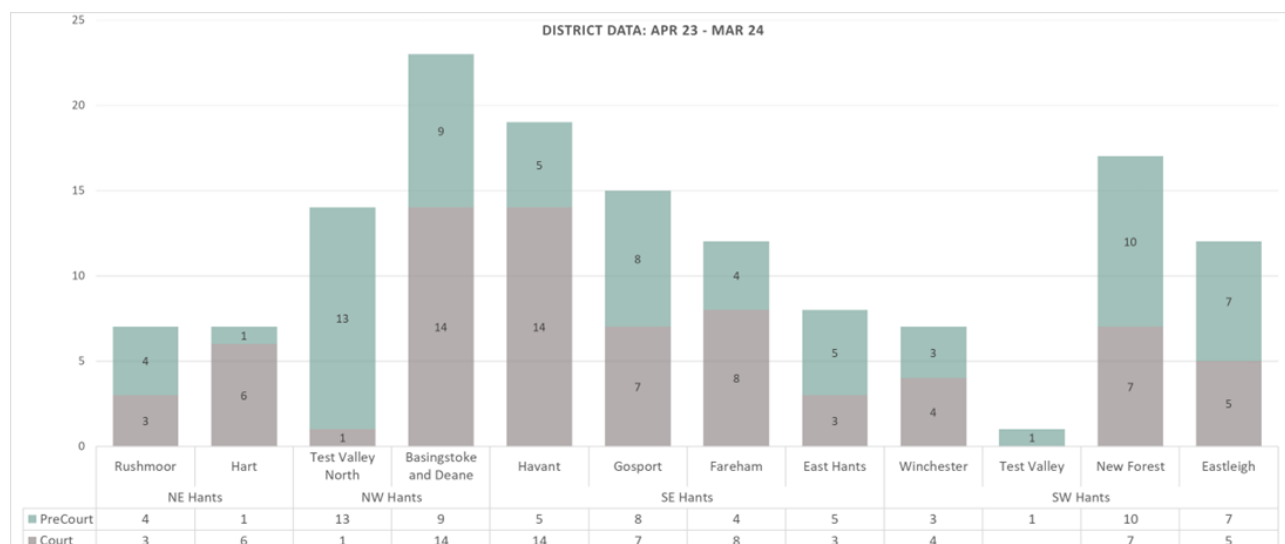
Data from Hampshire Constabulary shows that in 2023/24, there were 239 offences committed by young people aged between 10-17 in Basingstoke and Deane.

62% of offenders in this age category were male while 38% were female. The peak age within this category was 17 years (20%).

<sup>9</sup> Data for the period 01.04.2023 – 31.03.2024

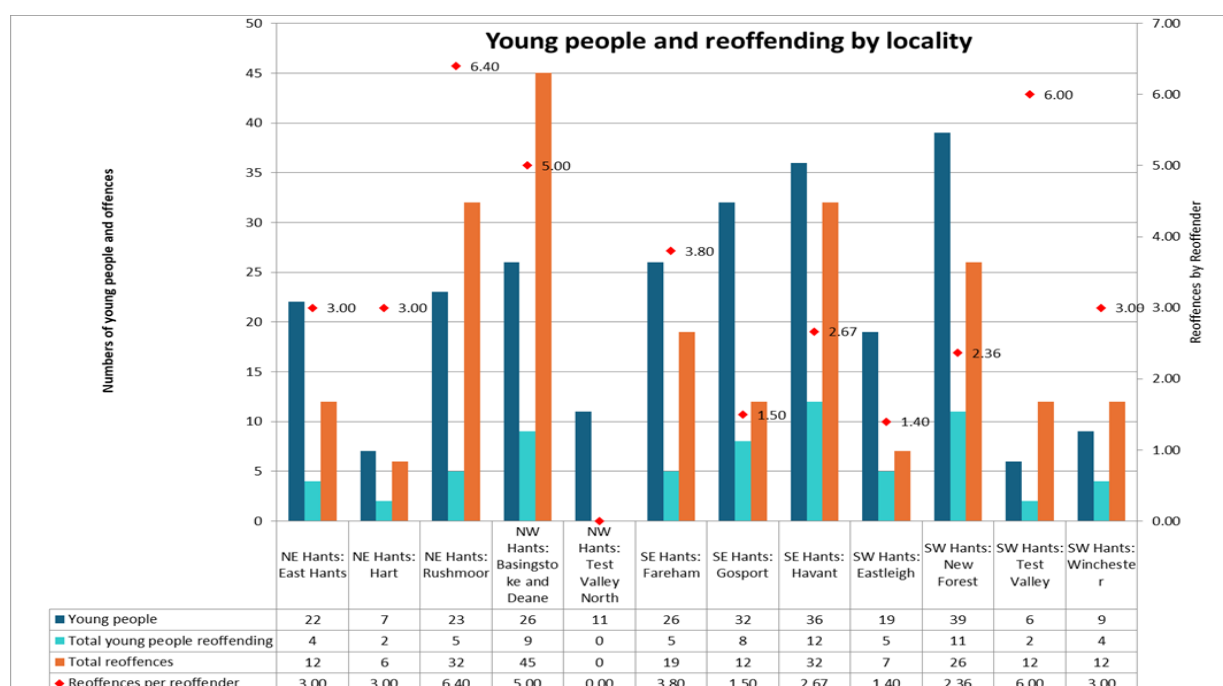
The offences most commonly committed by this age group were violence against the person (45%), theft (24%) and drugs offences (11%).

Data from the Youth Offending Team for 2023/24 shows that in Basingstoke and Deane there were 23 First Time Entrants (FTE) into the Youth Justice System, the highest number across Hampshire.



Broken down, 91% of First Time Entrants were female and 9% were male. The most common offences committed by FTEs included violence against the person (52%) and motoring offences (22%).

In the last few years, the reoffending rate has been a key area of focus for the Youth Offending Teams. In Basingstoke and Deane, from a cohort of 26 young people aged between 10-17 who offended in the period 01.04.2023 – 31.03.2024, 9 went on to offend again in the 12 months following their sentence/release from custody. This equates to a binary reoffending rate of 34.6% (higher than Hampshire 26.2%) and at a rate of 5.00 re-offences per re-offender (higher than Hampshire 3.21).



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

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

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

### Violence against women and girls

In line with the Governments 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 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. The Action Plan is due for a significant review and update in the coming months before being shared at the September 2024 CSP meeting.

### Recommendations

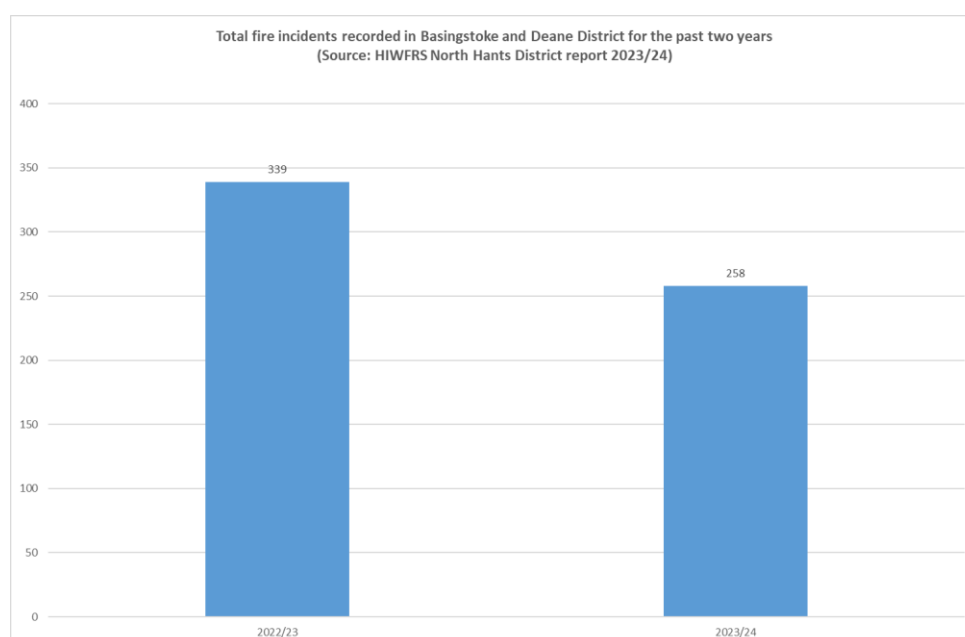
- CSP partners to work collaboratively with the Violence Reduction Unit, Police and Crime Commissioner and Hampshire County Council Community Safety Strategy Group to ensure the serious violence duty can be appropriately embedded into practice.
- Development of the approach of Offensive Weapon Homicide 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.
- Work closely with NHW on the roll out of the Outbuilding Security Project.

## 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 2023 to 31<sup>st</sup> March 2024.

The report shows that Basingstoke and Deane continue to attend the most incidents of the three areas with 258 in 2023/24, which is a 24% decrease compared to the previous year when 339 incidents were recorded.



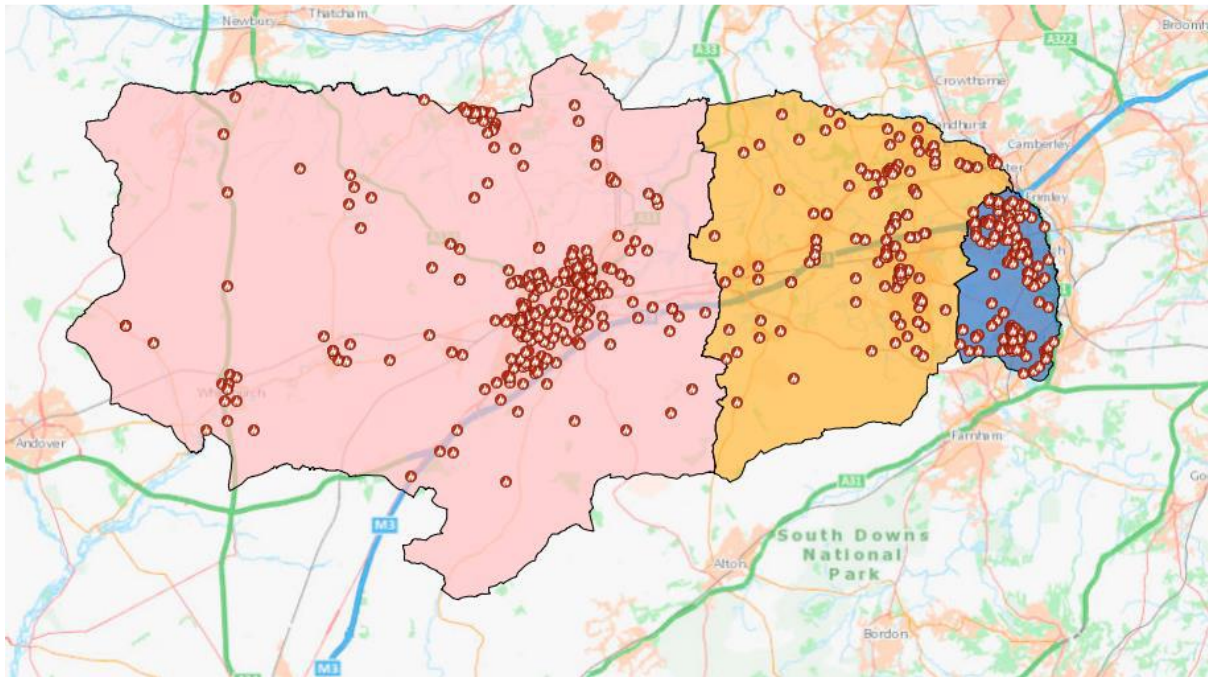
The causes of fires are categorised as either accidental (41%, n104), deliberate (33%, n86) or unknown (26%, n66).

These can be further broken down into primary (62%, n161) and secondary (38%, n97). The most common types of fires in 2023/24 in Basingstoke and Deane were, primary vehicle (23%), primary dwelling (21%), secondary grass (15%) and secondary refuse (14%).

Locally, the Hampshire Fire and Rescue service has been working collaboratively with partners, including the MOD and Surrey Fire and Rescue Service ahead of the warmer summer months on a wildfires campaign, they have an initiative with schools locally, delivering awareness session with students and have for neighbourhoods bordering large woodland areas, garden safety briefings have been incorporated in safe and well visits.

The below graph shows where fires occurred in Basingstoke and Deane in 2023/24. The majority occurred in Basingstoke Town.





A total of 1,568 Safe and Well visits were carried out between April 23 and March 24 within Basingstoke and Deane, a decrease of 9% compared to the previous year. Where the agency was known, the top three referring agencies were Adult Services (33%), Ambulance Service (18%) and Southern Health Teams (16%). There were 164 post incident referrals and 384 risk based and self-referrals.

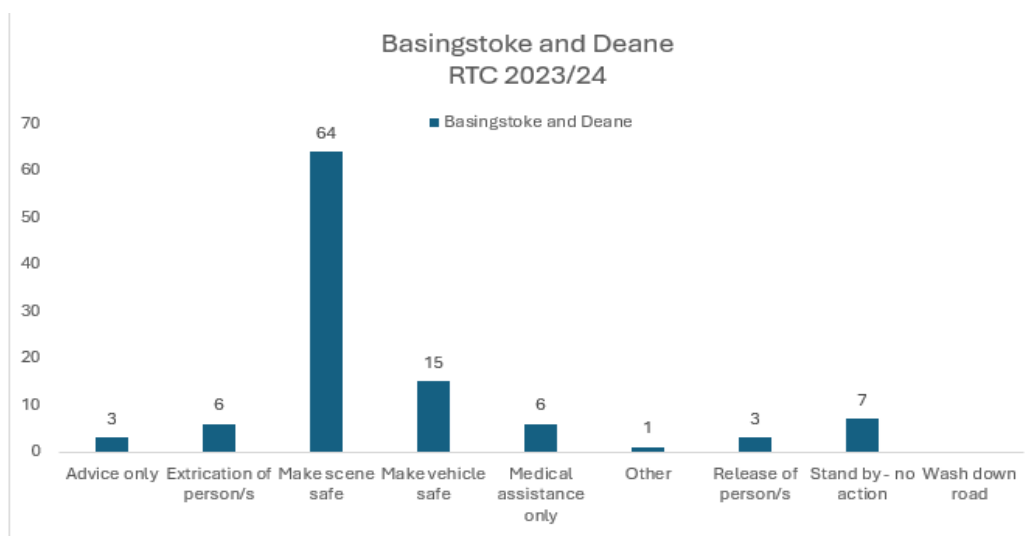
### Road Traffic Collisions

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).

Police recorded road traffic collisions in Basingstoke and Deane increased slightly from 1,400 incidents in 2022/23 to 1,414 in 2023/24. Broken down by type, the most common was road traffic collision – damage only which accounted for 78% (1,096) of incidents and increased by 5%. Road traffic collisions – minor injury made up 18% (n258) of incidents and reduced by 4%. Road traffic collision – serious injury accounted for 4% (n59) of incidents and reduced by 19%, while the number of road traffic collisions – death accounted for 0.1% of incidents and reduced from 7 in 2022/23 to 1 in 2023/24.

The total number of Road Traffic Collisions recorded by Hampshire Fire and Rescue Service for Basingstoke & Deane increased by 19% in 2023/24 compared to the previous year.

The highest number of RTC types attended in Basingstoke & Deane were Making the scene safe; increasing by 14 incidents in 2023/24 compared to 2022/23. RTC's involving making a vehicle safe increased by 9 incidents and extrication & release of persons have decreased by 11 incidents.



### 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 in the borough and the potential dangers around increased use and develop a clear process to deal with it
- The partnership will monitor levels of RTCs over the coming year and will work with police and ambulance to obtain a holistic view of hotspots and whether these link in with areas with increased vehicle nuisance.

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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 Global Slavery Index estimates there are around 136,000 victims of slavery in the UK, official records in 2021 show around 12,000 reports. Between January and March 2024, 4,524 potential victims were referred to the Home Office. This represents a 9% increase compared to the previous quarter, October to December 2023 (n4,134) and a 5% decrease on the same period last year, January to March 2023 (n4,738).<sup>10</sup>

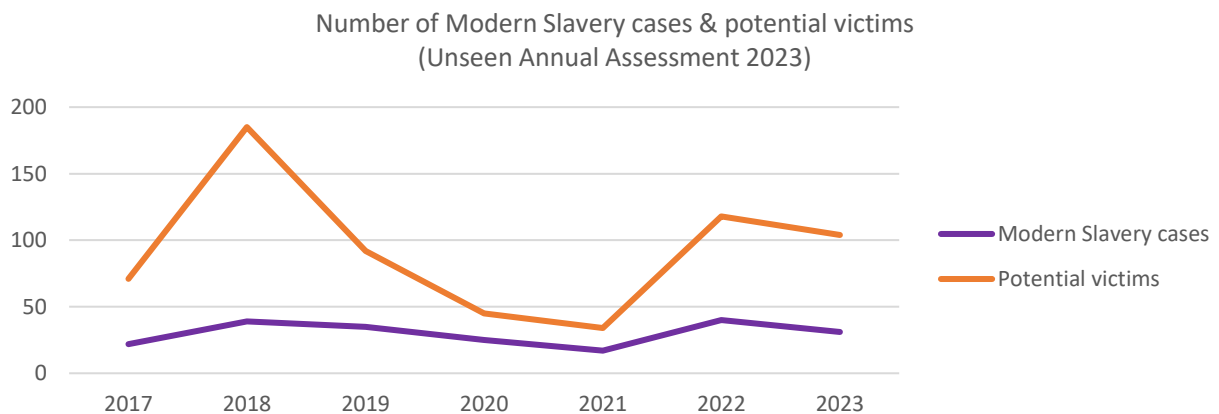
Males (73%) continue to be more likely to be victims of modern slavery, however there is a continued rise in female exploitation with 27% of potential victims being female from January to March 2024, this is the highest quarterly number of referrals for females since the National Referral Mechanism was introduced.

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<sup>10</sup> Home Office: Modern Slavery: National Referral Mechanism and Duty to Notify statistics UK

Unseen, a UK wide modern slavery and exploitation helpline, received 8,367 calls during 2023 which is a 14% increase on 2022. In addition to this, they have received 3,233 webforms, which is a 40% increase on 2022.<sup>11</sup>

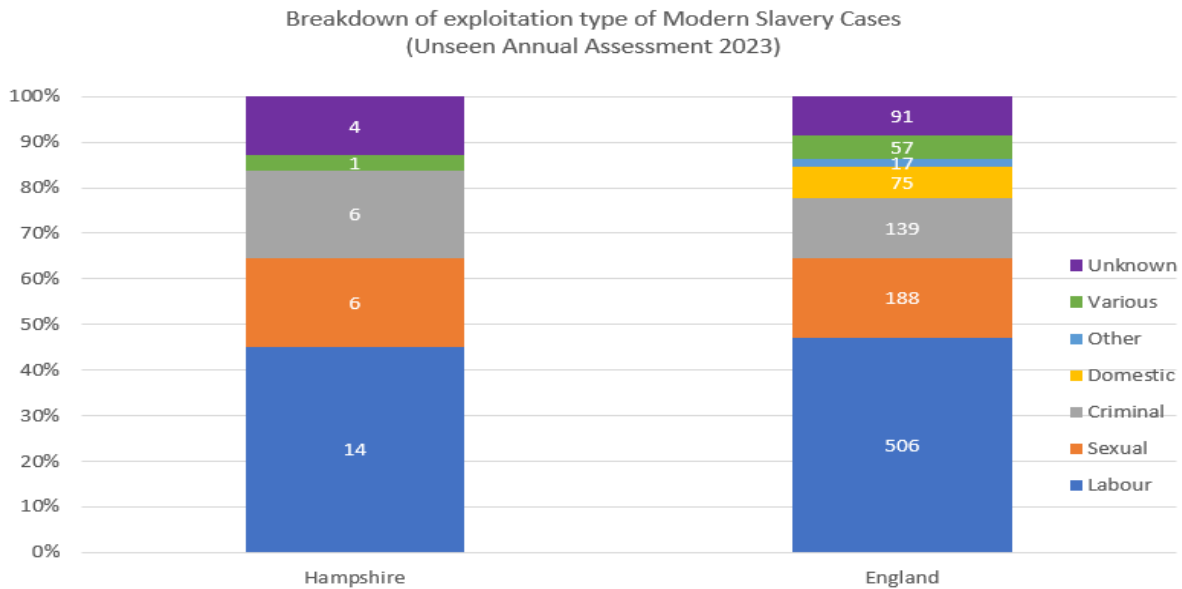
The helpline identified 104 potential victims across Hampshire and the Isle of Wight, with 31 cases of modern slavery reported. The data shows a decline from 2022 figures (n118) yet marks a 200% increase from the preceding year (2021).



Out of the 104 potential victims identified, the majority were unknown regarding age (60%) and gender (48%). Of those identified, 31% were adults and 10% were minors, with a slight majority being female (28%) compared to males (24%).

The Unseen Annual Assessment shows a breakdown of the type of exploitation reported in Hampshire, these generally follow the trends at national level, with 45% of cases being Labour exploitation (47% nationally), 19% Sexual exploitation and 19% Criminal exploitation (18% and 13% respectively, nationally). There were 75 cases of Domestic exploitation nationally, however no reports of this type were identified within Hampshire.

<sup>11</sup> Unseen Annual Assessment 2023



Basingstoke and Deane Borough 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 2023, the first fall since comparable time series began in the year ending March 2013. Prior to the fall seen this year police recorded hate crime offences rose and this prolonged period of increasing offences was thought to have been driven by improvements in crime recording by the police and better identification of what constitutes a hate crime.

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

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

Similar to the National picture, reports of hate crime in Basingstoke and Deane during the assessment period reduced by 18% (n58).



Districts are working closely with the local Hate Crime Awareness Group to increase trust and confidence in reporting. Actions undertaken by the group include a hate crime competition to raise awareness in young school ages children which has for young people which has run for the past three years.

There were several repeat locations for hate crime and these include hospitals, the Police Investigation Centre in Jays Close, Basingstoke and shopping centers.

In addition, there were several repeat victims of hate crime during the assessment period. In Basingstoke and Deane these victims are managed by the Police.

Across Basingstoke and Deane, offences relating to race were the most common, accounting for more than half (57%) of all reported hate crimes, followed by disability (16%), sexual orientation (12%) and gender identity (9%).

Hate related public order was the most common offence type (50%), followed by violence against the person (42%).

In Basingstoke and Deane 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 land owners to remove offensive images/wording as quickly as possible.

## Fraud

According to the Crime Survey for England and Wales (CSEW) for the year ending December 2023, there were an estimated 3.1 million fraud incidents affecting household residents. This represents a 16% decrease from the 3.7 million incidents reported in the year ending December 2022. The reduction includes a 13% drop in bank and credit account fraud, a 34% decrease in advance fee fraud, and a 50% decline in other types of fraud.

The CSEW also provides valuable context for police data. For instance, the latest estimates<sup>12</sup> indicate that fewer than one in seven fraud offenses were reported to the police or Action Fraud, the national reporting centre for fraud and cybercrime.

Overall, police recorded a 1% increase in fraud, totalling 1.2 million offenses compared to the year ending December 2022. This rise was primarily driven by a 10% increase in offenses reported by UK Finance, due to enhanced reporting from its members. Additionally, Action Fraud reported a 1% increase in fraud, with 301,166 offenses compared to 298,792 in the previous year.

## 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.

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<sup>12</sup> Crime in England and Wales: Annual Trend and Demographic dataset



Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council sit on the Hampshire PREVENT Partnership Board and Channel Panels. Basingstoke and Deane Borough 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 look at understanding barriers to reporting, why they exist, and implementing processes to reduce them as well as promoting reporting mechanisms
- Examine and understand data in relation to reports of crime by LGBTQ+ victims
- Ensure robust processes are in place for identifying repeat victims and considering measures to support them across all three areas.
- Partners to use best practice methods to encourage and enable reporting of sexual offences across all age groups. Using opportunities to promote healthy relationships messaging and education.
- Support hate crime initiatives which encourage awareness and reporting such as third-party reporting centres and support needs of local community groups.
- Support and enable the Hate Crime Awareness Group.

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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>13</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>13</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 Basingstoke and Deane drug offences reduced by 7% (n29) in 2023/24 when compared to the previous year. Trafficking offences increased by 4% while possession offences were down 10%. Broken down, possession of drugs accounted for 72% of offences in the district and trafficking offences made up the remaining 28%.

In 2023/24 the highest number of offences related to possession of cannabis (49%). Subsequently, 11% of offences were possession of cocaine and nearly a third of these offences occurred in Eastrop beat and were linked to the Night-Time Economy. Offenders of drug offences were overwhelmingly young males aged between 17-30 who accounted for 58% of drug offenders in Basingstoke and Deane 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 1,705 per 100,000 people in 2022/23. The rate in Basingstoke and Deane was higher with 1,740 admissions per 100,000 people<sup>14</sup>.

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 2023/24 there were 642 offences across Basingstoke and Deane in which the alcohol marker was ticked, equating to 5.3% of total crime.

An alcohol related nuisance Public Spaces Protection Order (PSPO) is currently in place for the Town Centre and surrounding areas. It has been in place since November 2021 and will expire in November 2024.

### Rough sleeping and begging

Police reports relating to individuals sleeping rough and begging reduced by 38% from 55 last year, down to 34 reports this year.

### Restorative Justice

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

Restorative Justice (RJ) gives people harmed by a crime or the people responsible for crime, the opportunity to share how it has affected them. It enables all parties involved, to collaboratively consider how they can move forward in a positive way. All victims of crime, regardless of the type of crime, can seek Restorative Justice however it can only take place if both the victim and offender want it to.

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<sup>14</sup> Local Alcohol Profiles England 2022/23 data should be treated with caution as Frimley Health Foundation Trust did not submit any HES data for June 22 – Mar 23.

It is voluntary for all parties; with the use of trained facilitators, they assess risks to ensure the process is safe for everybody involved. Restorative Justice aims to empower the victim to share their voice, to express how they have been affected and to answer any questions they may have.

In 2023/24, RJ facilitated 15 cases in the North Hants area with an RE outcome. This included:

- 6 conversations with those harmed which included wellbeing and signposting.
- 4 Indirect processes where information was exchanged between parties.
- 5 Conditional Cautions where an apology was facilitated between parties.

Of the 15 victims, seven were female and seven were male – with one not stated. They had an age range between 20 – 80 years old, with 67% being reported as white British. The remaining 33% not stated.

RJ support was in place by Restorative Solutions for victims of the following crimes:

- 1 Serious Violence – Sexual Assault
- 7 Assaults / Police assaults
- 2 Criminal Damage
- 2 Harassment
- 1 Fraud
- 1 Public Order
- 1 Dangerous Driving

Whilst data isn't available specifically related to those victims listed above, data from 2023/24 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, Restorative Solutions have supported one Harassment case between neighbours and 4 cases have been referred to Mediation provider all of which related to boundary issues or noise.

### Neighbourhood Watch

Neighbourhood Watch groups are dispersed widely across England and Wales. Each group is run by a volunteer Coordinator with the goal of making their community a better and safer place to live. Neighbourhood Watch groups are supported on a regional level by their local Association and on a national level by Neighbourhood Watch Network.

People join Neighbourhood Watch for many different reasons, whether it is to improve safety around their home or to become part of a group and meet new people. It is widely regarded that being part of Neighbourhood Watch can:

- Reduce/prevent local crime and disorder
- Reduce fear of crime

- Address issues relating to antisocial behaviour
- Create safer neighbourhoods
- Build community spirit and cohesion
- Reassure members of the public
- Enhance partnership working with other community groups
- Assist in the detection and apprehension of criminals through members providing information to the police
- Improve the quality of life and the local environment

Neighbourhood Watch (NHW) is very well regarded in Basingstoke and Deane. They have a very close working relationship with Neighbourhood Policing and the Community Safety Team and attend and contribute regularly at Community Safety Partnership Meetings.

At present there are 152 approved schemes operating in the Basingstoke and Deane area with 145 Main Coordinators, 1711 members and a total of 4,987 users.

In 2022/23 NHW were successfully awarded a Norden grant (£500) and more recently joint success working with OPCC grant circa £5000 for work supporting non dwelling activity with SSF2 with Police PCC which is ongoing.

### Recommendations

- Examine the effectiveness of the interactive experience used in Hart to raise awareness around the risks and consequences of involvement in drugs and county lines involvement and consider benefits of this in Basingstoke and Rushmoor too.
- Better understanding of the effects of drugs and alcohol at a local level.
- Explore partnership working opportunities that arise from funding schemes that support CSP priorities.
- Capacity and resilience with service delivery with current resourcing challenges across.
- The CSP to work with the Combating Drugs Partnership.
- Examine the links between alcohol and drugs in incidents of 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 2024/25 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
- Engage with the police to assess the best measure, bearing in mind “Let’s Talk” and “StreetSafe” options.
- Monitor the progress of A&E data collection, linking to the work of Violence Reduction Unit to establish an information sharing agreement between local hospitals, Integrated Care Boards and Local Authorities.
- Examine and understand data in relation to reports of crime by LGBTQ+ victims
- Educate residents on how they can keep themselves safe
- Continue to work closely with businesses in the town centre and across the borough to understand their concerns and needs.

**2. Serious Violence – Across Safer North Hampshire there have been increases in serious violence offences (+14%) and possession of a weapon offences (+3%). While there has been a positive reduction in robberies (-24%) and no significant change in knife/blade offences 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. The CSP will;**

- Serious Violence data and analysis working group to consider approach and plan to schedule and delivery of district level SNAs.
- Focus on establishing the Basingstoke SV Strategic group with the aim of improving partnership working and monitoring on SV related matters.
- Consider findings that are relevant to the borough, gained by SV & Knife Crime surveys.
- Development of the approach of Offensive Weapon Homicide Reviews, set out in the new Serious Violence Legislation.

**3. Domestic Abuse –Reports of domestic crime across the Safer North Hampshire area have fallen by 18% 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 will;**

- Seek to establish relationship with Adults Health and Care in relation to data collection.
- Working to set up data sharing with Stop Domestic Abuse.
- The CSP should look at understanding barriers to reporting, why they exist, and implementing 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.
- Continue to support the implementation of White ribbon accreditation and DAHA in Basingstoke and share best practice.
- Enable Domestic Abuse Forums to be utilised to share best practice and monitor trends in conjunction with the countywide strategies. Involving commissioned services to deliver where possible.
- 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 Problem Solving Focus Group Meetings and ASB Panel.
- 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 districts/boroughs).
- Work closely with the LA ASB Task Force on the development of better reporting and recording practices and a one-stop-shop.
- Examine the impact around drug and alcohol as a major contributory factor in asb incidents

**5. Town Centre Engagement** – Across the CSP 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. The CSP will;

- Focus patrols in town centres including Place Protection Officers
- Improve awareness of and increased sign-ups to DISC system
- Development of town centre action plan focusing on key issues as defined by Council and Police hotspot data, as well as engagement with businesses and residents
- Focused case management on key town centre nominals (victims and offenders)
- Positive promotion of town centres and associated events to encourage footfall



