

SAFER NORTH HAMPSHIRE

HART STRATEGIC ASSESSMENT (2023/24)

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Executive Summary

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

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 crime and ASB – 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. What more can be done?

Recommendations for 2024/25 by assessment section;

Feelings of Safety
• 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.
Serious Violence
• 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.
Domestic Abuse
• 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.

Anti-Social Behaviour

- 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 of drug and alcohol as a major contributory factor in asb incidents

Crime

- 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 around shoplifting

Fire and Rescue

- 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
- 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.

Underreported and unrecorded crimes

- 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.

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.

Hart Community Safety Processes

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

However, on a monthly basis, Hart district holds joint 'PEOPLE meetings with Rushmoor. This is where partners, including Local Authorities (Social Services, Housing, Environmental Health and

Community Safety), the Police, the Community Mental Health Team, Housing Associations, Domestic Abuse Services and Hampshire Fire and Rescue Service, are invited to gather, discuss and manage individuals identified as being at risk through permanent or temporary vulnerabilities. Partners have the opportunity to make referrals to the group, which are discussed, and Action Plans are created if necessary.

Hart also holds three-monthly Problem -Solving Focus Group meetings to discuss any particular emerging trends from the data.

Hart currently has two Community Safety Officers and will recruit a Community Safety Support Officer in July 2024 who collectively deal with the day-to-day operational response to ASB reports and work closely with partners to resolve issues as they arise with a dedicated focus on early intervention whenever possible. Enforcement is a last resort when early intervention options have not been successful. All three of these officers report to the Safer Communities Manager who reviews the tactical and strategic approach to trends and patterns and guides the wider, proactive engagement work. There is no patrolling function at Hart.

Hart Demographics

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

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

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

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

Risks

Risks which should be considered in the upcoming year include;

- Increasing number of Domestic Homicide Review notifications
- Implementation of offensive weapon homicide Reviews and the impact this may have on the partnership
- Resourcing/funding
- Uncertainty around the Violence Reduction Unit
- Community Safety Partnership Review

Priority 1 – Feelings of Safety

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

- 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.
- The key issues affecting feelings of safety as identified by the 'Lets Talk' survey were fly-tipping, speeding, ASB issues, drug and related issues and nuisance vehicle use.

Progress during 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;

- 1,425 Safe and Well visits carried out by HFRS in Hart
- Hart and Rushmoor People meetings held monthly to identify and manage vulnerable individuals including referrals, repeat callers, harassment victims, hate crime victims and repeat domestic abuse victims

Current Position

Where details were available for Hart¹, data shows that violent crime was much more likely (79%) to be committed by somebody the victim knew; acquaintance and ex-partner being the most common, while violence committed by a stranger accounted for only 21% of these offences.

In 2023/24 there were just 7 Street Safe reports made relating to Hart. Street Safe allows people to anonymously report where and why they have felt unsafe. Of the seven reports made, five related to behavioural concerns and two related to environmental concerns.

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.

¹ InterAct, Searchable data from 01.04.2022 to 31.03.2023

Sample data for the three-month period 01/03/24 and 31/05/24, shows that in Hart the top priorities, based on responses from 487 residents, were;

- 1) fly-tipping
- 2) speeding,
- 3) ASB issues
- 4) drug 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.

Priority 2 – Serious Violence

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 Hart SV Strategic group has been established alongside partners
- Hart's rate of serious violence is the lowest in the County and considerably lower than the HIPS average.
- Slight increase in the number of young victims (10-17) since 2021/22.
- Possession of a weapon (51%), violence with injury (28%) and robbery personal (17%) make up most serious violence offences in Hart.

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
- Safer Streets 5 funding has provided £5,000 towards Detached Youth work across 2023/24 and 2024/25.

Current Position

In 2023/24 22 crimes were recorded as most serious violence (MSV) in Hart District. This figure represents a 19% (n5) reduction compared to the previous year.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Hart ranks better than the Hampshire average for almost all of the identified risk and protective factors, and the same for two factors. Furthermore, Hart ranks as the least deprived district in England. This means that Hart has a lower likelihood of risk of involvement in serious violence compared to the Hampshire average.

There were 100 serious violence offences in Hart in 2022/23, which accounted for 2% of the total serious violence in the HIPS area. Hart's rate of serious violence was the lowest in comparison with other districts and significantly lower than the HIPS average. There has been a 19% increase in serious violence since 2021/22 but levels are still lower than the peak in 2019/20.

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

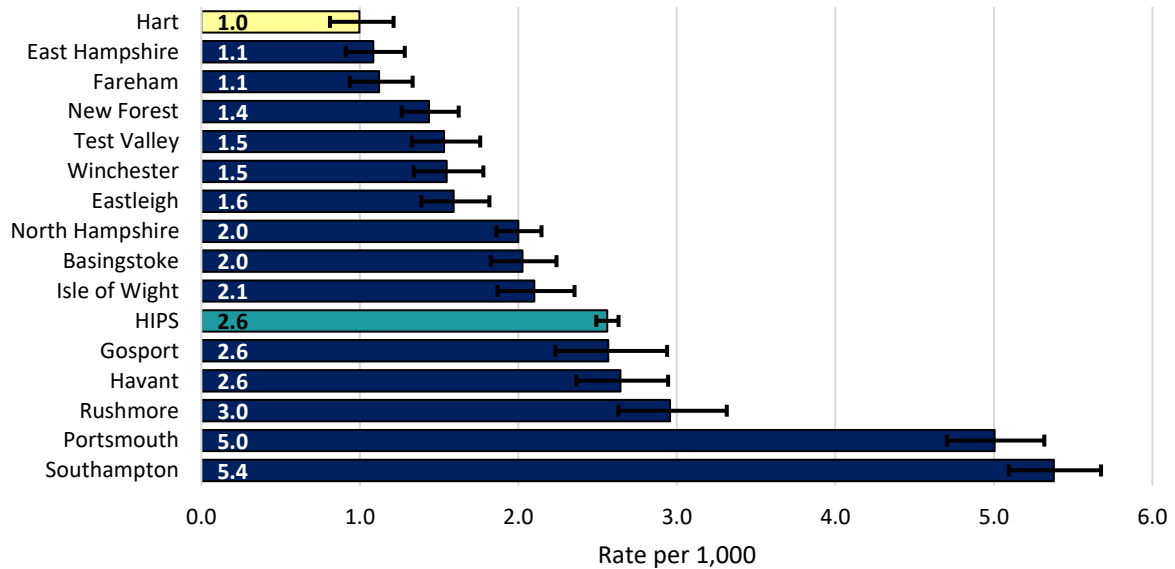
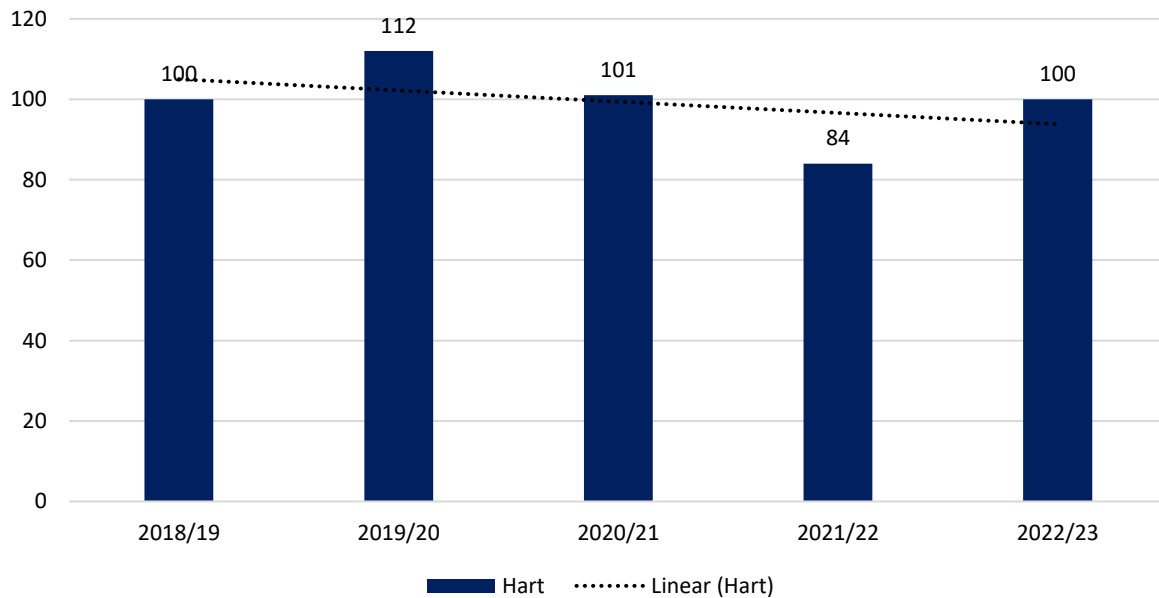
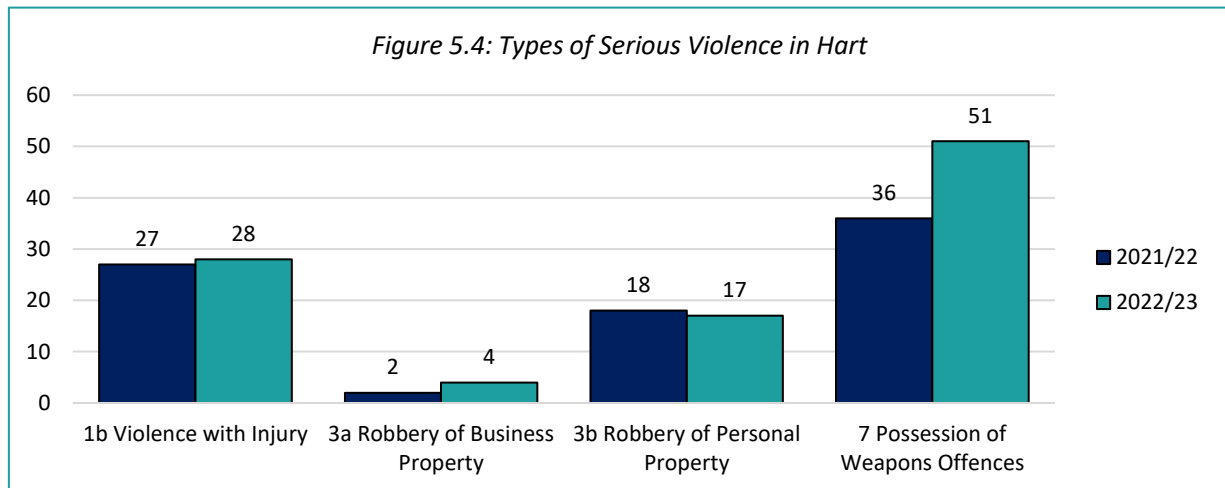


Figure 5.2: Police recorded serious violence for Hart: 2018/19 - 2022/23



Since there are low numbers of serious violence offences, the following profile should be interpreted with caution as patterns are more susceptible to change, and percentage changes will be large even when the numerical change is small. The main offences that make up serious violence in Hart are possession of a weapon (51%), violence with injury (28%), robbery of personal property (17%). There has been a 42% increase in possession of a weapon offences in Hart since 2021/22, although this is

influenced by police activity, and it is not possible to say with certainty that this represents a similar increase in weapons in the community.



The highest levels of serious violence were in Fleet and parts of Hook, and 54% were known to have taken place in public areas. There are no clear seasonal trends, although there are higher levels on Sunday, Monday, and Fridays mostly between 4pm and 1 am. 6% of serious violence flagged as linked to licenced premises and 16% involved alcohol use by the suspect. A further 4% were drug related.

The most common victim and suspect relationship for serious violence was stranger (39%), followed by victimless crimes (23%), acquaintance (20%) and partner/ex-partner/family (14%). 11% of offences were flagged as domestic in nature.

Most suspects are male (87%), 38% were under 25 years of age. Males were also more likely to be the victims (69%) compared to females (23%) and 36% were under the age of 25 years. There has been a slight increase in numbers of victims aged 10-17 years.

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 Hart 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.

Priority 3 – Domestic Abuse

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.”²

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 71% of all victims in Hart being female over the last year.
- 32% were repeat victims

² [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 Hart district, domestic crimes account for 16% of total crime in 2023/24 (down from 17% the previous year) with reported DA offences reducing by 12% (n88) during this strategic period.

In 2023/24, 'Violence against the person' accounted for 79% (n525) of domestic abuse crime. The most common VAP offence types were stalking and harassment offences (35%), common assault and battery (29%) and Actual Bodily Harm (ABH) (24%). 32% of all domestic crime involved repeat victims. Across Hart, 71% of victims were female and 29% were male. 72% of offenders were male and 28% were female. The peak age for victims was between 18-25 years (14%) and 35-39 years (14%). The monthly PEOPLE meeting assesses repeat victims graded as LOW or MEDIUM for risk factors and engages with partners to suggest actions to reduce those risk factors where victims/perpetrators are not already being managed as HIGH risk by within the Multi Agency Risk Assessment Conferences (MARAC) framework.

When there is a domestic related homicide, Community Safety Partnerships must undertake a Domestic Homicide Review in circumstances where the death of a person occurs, or is thought to occur, as a result of violence, abuse or neglect from a family member or member of the same household. The purpose being to establish what lessons are to be learned regarding the way in which local professionals and organisations work individually and together to safeguard victims and to prevent domestic homicide in the future. Reviews are published with the aim of restoring public confidence and improving transparency of the processes in place across all agencies to protect victims. There have been a Domestic homicide Abuse Related Death Review was accepted towards the end of this strategic period which has since been confirmed as a joint Safeguarding Adult Review.

Where details were provided the most common victim/offender relationships were, ex partner – heterosexual (49%), partner – heterosexual (21%) and parent (8%).

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 Hart in 2022/23 18 disclosures were made and of these, 9 were 'right to ask' which enables someone to ask the police about a partner's previous history of domestic violence or violent acts and 9 were 'right to know' where police can proactively disclose information in prescribed circumstances.

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 348 adult referrals in Hart. Broken down, 189 of

these were from IDVA, 189 were from outreach and 2 were from resettlement. In addition they received 28 referrals regarding children and young people.

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

Priority 4 – Anti-Social Behaviour

Antisocial Behaviour Background

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

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

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

Hart is committed to reducing levels of anti-social behaviour. This has contributed to a 42% 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 research³, 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.

³ Home Office public polling on community safety: March 2023

Key Observations

- Reports of Anti-social behaviour are down by 8% on the previous year
- 69% of reports are classified as ASB Community
- Sharp rise in reports classified as 'ASB Environmental' linked to recreational drug use.
- Vehicle nuisance (30%), youth related ASB (25%) and neighbour nuisance (9%) most common types in Hart

Progress during 2023/24

- 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
- 2 ASB case reviews requested and conducted
- 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.

In 2023/24 there were 622 reports of anti-social behaviour to the police in Hart. This figure represents an 8% (n52) reduction compared to 2022/23.

As in previous years, anti-social behaviour across the Hart area was higher during the summer months (25% occurred in August and September). Reports were highest on Saturday (19%, n119) and increased from 14:00 hours continuing at a similar level until midnight.

The majority of anti-social behaviour reports in Hart were classified as ASB Community (69%). ASB Environmental accounted for 23%, while ASB Personal made up 7% of incidents. There were also 2 ASB Case Reviews

In 2023/24 the key issues for Hart District in terms of anti-social behaviour were, vehicle nuisance (30%, n188), youth related ASB (25%, n153) and neighbour nuisance (9%, n54).

Vehicle nuisance

Vehicle nuisance was the most common type of anti-social behaviour reported to the police in Hart District in 2023/24, as it also was the previous year. Such reports accounted for 30% (n188) of anti-social behaviour and increased by 10% compared to 2022/23.

Vehicle nuisance can be split into two types. Motorbike nuisance (incidents such as motorbikes, mopeds and quad bikes being ridden on pathways or in the woods) which accounted for 70% (n131) of vehicle nuisance and car nuisance (includes car meets and cars racing) which made up 30% (n57) of vehicle nuisance reports in Hart in 2023/24.

Vehicle nuisance as with other types of anti-social behaviour was highest in the summer months (36% reported in August and September) and increased Saturday and Sunday (39%).

The peak times for vehicle nuisance differed depending on the type. Motorbike nuisance typically occurred during the afternoon (50%, n66 between 14:00 – 17:59 hours) while car nuisance typically occurred at night (65%, n37 between 19:00 – midnight).

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

Car nuisance was most common in Hook (18%, n10) with reports mostly relating to large numbers of vehicles in car parks, racing, doing donuts and revving engines.

Motorbike nuisance was most common in Yateley West (15%, n20), Yateley North (13%, n17) and Hartley Wintney (12%, n15) beats with reports commonly related to motorbikes being ridden on pathways and green spaces by young people with no PPE.

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

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

Youth related anti-social behaviour

In 2023/24 approximately 25% (n153) of anti-social behaviour related to young people. This figure represents no significant change compared to the previous year. It does not include incidents where two or more incident types were mentioned. For example, there were a number of reports of youths riding motorbikes /mini mottos/quad bikes. These reports were categorised under the behaviour rather than the person so were recorded as vehicle nuisance.

Reports of youth related anti-social behaviour occurred across Hart. The Problem Solving Focus Group Meetings have highlighted specific locations where youth nuisance is a problem and, where

appropriate, identified individuals have been discussed at the monthly PEOPLE Meeting and the Community Safety Officers work directly with the Neighbourhood Policing Teams on a weekly basis to assess the best way to tackle the issues identified.

Incidents of youth related ASB occurred throughout the year but unlike the general trend were slightly higher during the winter months (35% occurring between January – March with incidents mostly occurring in Fleet Central beat where youths were causing problems around the shopping centre and Crondall beat). There were no peak days, but 75% occurred between 14:00 – 21:59 hours.

Almost a third of youth related ASB occurred in Fleet Central beat (30%, n47). Issues largely related to young people in the shopping centre vaping, throwing things, riding bikes and scooters and being abusive. As a result, the DISC reporting system has been widely promoted to retailers and much work has been done to identify those involved with the local schools in order to take follow up action.

In Hart there were 916 ASB referrals (direct and via the Police Contact Management Program), resulting in 36 formal early interventions being undertaken which included Acceptable Behaviour Agreements (ABs) and Warning Letters.

Neighbour nuisance/disputes (including drug use)

Neighbour nuisance/disputes accounted for 9% (n54) of incident reports in 2023/24 and were down by 36% (n31) compared to the previous year. Broken down, 61% (n33) were general issues with neighbours such as feuds and noise complaints and 39% (n21) related to neighbours smoking drugs (mostly cannabis).

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

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

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

Other issues of note

Where stated, approximately 13% of anti-social behaviour incidents in Hart were linked to drugs and alcohol. This included youths drinking and taking drugs (30%), neighbours smoking cannabis (27%), drug use/dealing/paraphernalia (27%), alcohol related incidents and street drinking (13%) and general drug and alcohol related ASB (3%).

Drug and alcohol related incidents were largely concentrated in the town beats of Fleet North (19%), Fleet Central (17%), Hook (12%) and Fleet West (11%) with these four areas accounting for 62% of total drug and alcohol related ASB. Such incidents were more common during the summer months (70% April to September), on Saturdays and Sundays (37%) and between 15:00 – midnight (72%).

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

Anti-Social Behaviour Case Review

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

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

The criteria to meet the threshold are as follows:

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

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

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

There were 2 applications for Antisocial Behaviour Case Reviews requested and conducted in 2023/24 for Hart.

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 of drug and alcohol as a major contributory factor in asb incidents

Crime Data Summary

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 3% reduction in crime levels across Hart compared to five years ago⁴.

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.

Hart, type and level of crime.

Across Hart 4,307 crimes were recorded in 2023/24. This figure represents a 2% (n103) reduction on the previous year when 4,410 crimes were recorded.

The rate of crime per 1,000 population in Hart District was 43 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 in violence without injury offences (-6%), possession of a weapon offences (-32%) and public order offences (-15%). However, areas which experienced significant increases were burglary residential (+27%), shoplifting (+23%), criminal damage (+24%) and trafficking drugs offences (+95%), the latter much more to do with police activity and offenders being apprehended.

⁴ Source: Hampshire Constabulary Business Objects

Figure 1

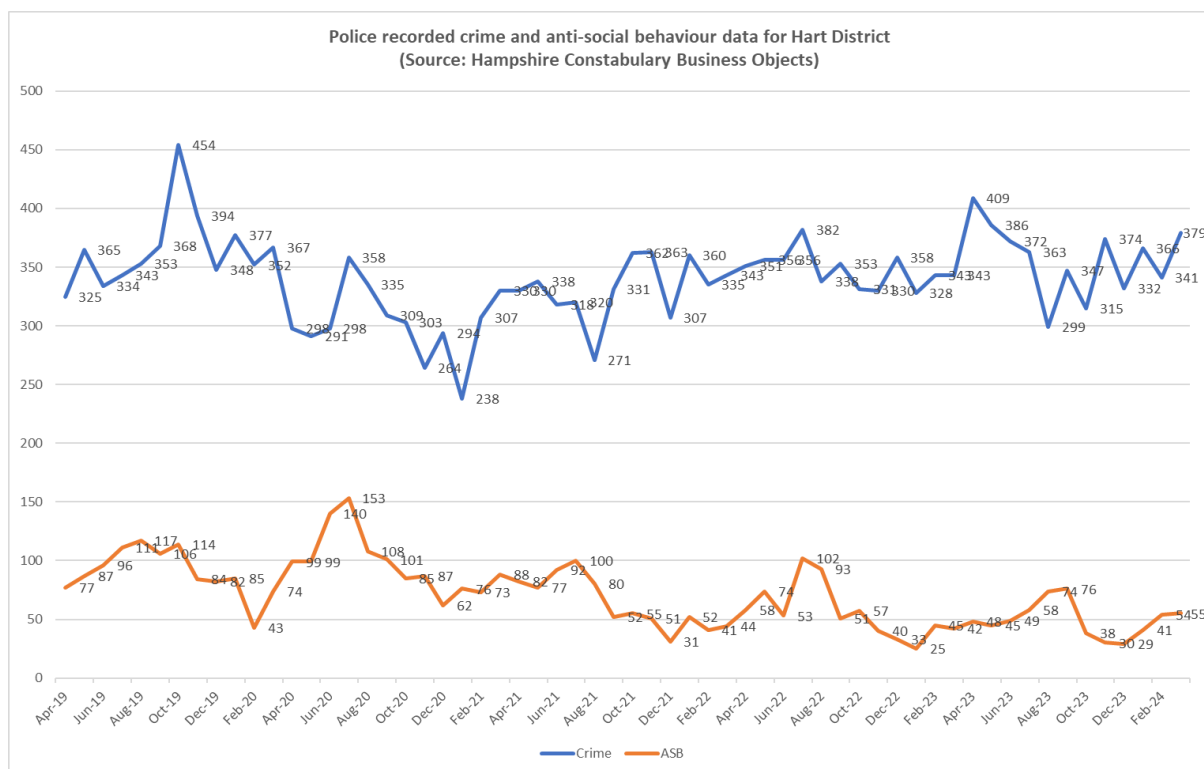
(Source: Hampshire Constabulary Business Objects, Report run April 2024)

	HART		
	22/23 crimes	23/24 crimes	% change
1a Homicide	0	0	0%
1b Violence with Injury	511	488	-5%
1c Violence without Injury	1,292	1,214	-6%
2a Rape	62	61	-2%
2b Other Sexual Offences	125	104	-17%
3a Robbery of Business Property	4	3	-25%
3b Robbery of Personal Property	16	17	+6%
4a1 Burglary Residential	125	159	+27%
4a2 Burglary Business and Community	100	105	+5%
4b Vehicle Offences	353	340	-4%
4c Theft from the Person	21	20	-5%
4d Bicycle Theft	44	24	-45%
4e Shoplifting	159	196	+23%
4f All Other Theft Offences	427	389	-9%
5a Criminal Damage	372	460	+24%
5b Arson	12	16	+33%
6a Trafficking of Drugs	19	37	+95%
6b Possession of Drugs	93	107	-15%
7 Possession of Weapons Offences	53	36	-32%
8 Public Order Offences	542	458	-15%
9 Miscellaneous Crimes Against Society	80	73	-9%
Totals	4,410	4,307	-2%
Domestic crimes	757	668	-12%
Hate crime	128	98	-26%
Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB)	674	622	-8%

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

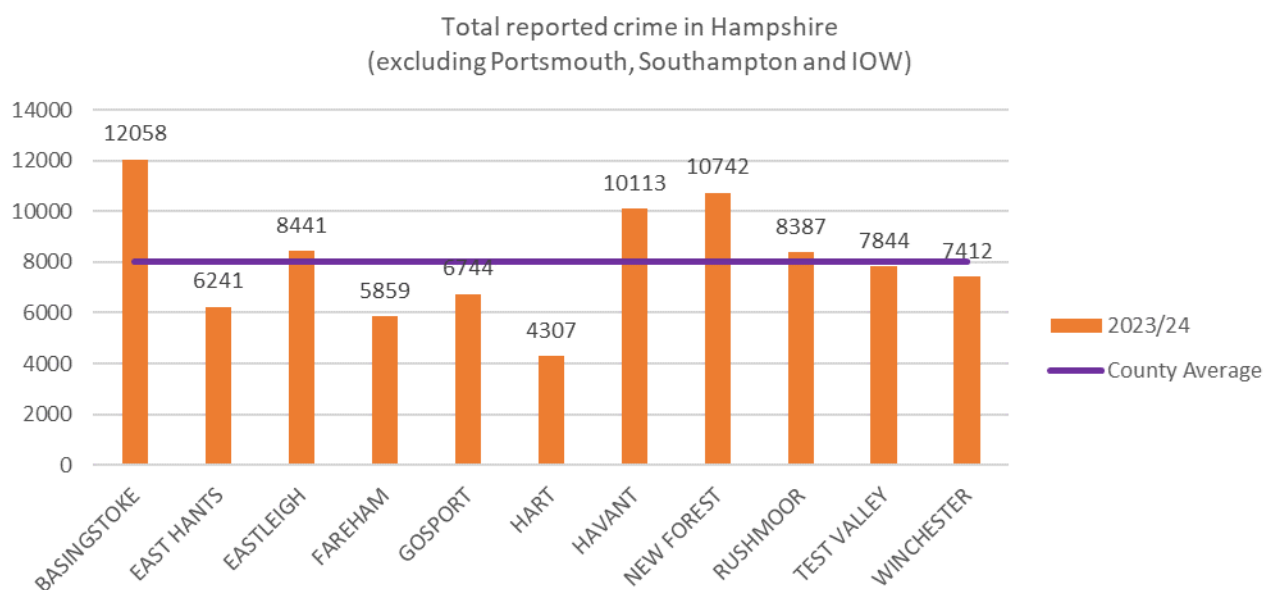
Crime, shown in blue, reduced considerably during the Covid-19 pandemic, with the lowest monthly figures coinciding with the first (April 20), second (November 20) and third (January 21) National lockdowns. Since the loosening of restrictions, starting in April 2021 crime levels have steadily returned 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 year 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 Hart is considerably lower 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 Hart District, overall violence against the person offences reduced by 6% when compared to the previous year.

Despite this reduction, violence against the person remains the single largest contributor to crime across Hart, accounting for 40% of all reported offences.

Violence without injury accounted for 71% of VAP offences while violence with injury offences made up 29% of VAP offences. There were no homicides during the assessment period.

The most common offence types were common assault and battery (28%), ABH (22%) and harassment and stalking offences (22%).

Across Hart, 31% of violence against the person offences were domestic related. 5% involved the use of a weapon and 3% 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. The peak ages for victims were between 10-17 years (16%), 18-25 years (12%), 40-44 years (9%) and 35-39 years (9%). The most common victim ethnicity was White North European (87%).

Town Centre locations had some of the highest levels of violence against the person, with Fleet Central beat accounting for 11% (n177) of total offences, the same as the previous year.

- Night-time economy related⁵ violence against the person offences (32%, n56), occurring in or outside of a licensed premises between 22:00 – 03:59 hours. Night-time economy offences are monitored within Quarterly Performance data reviews.
- Domestic related offences accounted for 20% (n36) of violence against the person offences in Fleet Central beat which is lower than across Hart district (31%).

⁵ Source: Hampshire Constabulary Business Objects 'Basingstoke Night-Time Economy' Report

- The percentage of violence against the person offences committed by a stranger (41%) was higher in Fleet Central beat than across Hart district (22%). This can be explained in terms of a higher footfall of people in town centre locations, along with the night-time economy.
- 0.6% (n1) of violence against the person offences in Fleet Central beat were hate related which is lower than the figure for Hart (3%).
- 3.1% (n5) of violence against the person offences in Fleet Central beat involved the use of a weapon which lower than the figure for Hart district (5%).
- 63% of victims were male and 37% were female, which is a higher proportion of male victims than the figure for Hart district as a whole (45% male and 55% female).

Violence against the person offences in Crondall beat made up 12% of offences and increased by 60% (n75) compared to the previous year. This rise was in part due to increases in four locations where offences were predominantly committed by someone known to the victim, rises in domestic related offences (+13%) and an increase in harassment offences (+122%). Crondall beat also experienced a rise in offences with a weapon (+450%, n9), with 6 offences involving a non-bladed implement and 5 involving a bladed implement.

In the areas outside of Fleet Central beat, the beats with the highest percentage of domestic related violence against the person offences were **Fleet Pondtail** (37.6%), **Hartley Wintney** (37.8%) and **Blackwater and Hawley** (37.2%). **Fleet Courtmoor** (6.8%), **Yateley West** (6.1%) and **Odiham** (5.8%) beats had the highest percentage of VAP offences with a hate crime flag. **Church Crookham East** (12.3%), **Blackwater and Hawley** (10.1%) and Fleet **Courtmoor** (9.5%) had the highest percentage of VAP offences involving weapons.

Public Health England data (2020/21 – 2022/23) shows that the level of hospital admissions for violent crime (including sexual offences) in Hart (24.5 per 100,000⁶) was lower than the England average (34.3. per 100,000) and had reduced over the past 10 years (from 35.5 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.

There was no change in levels of total robbery offences (robbery business and robbery personal) in Hart District with 20 offences reported in 2023/24, the same as the previous year. Broken down, robbery personal offences increased slightly (+6%, n1) while robbery business offences reduced slightly (-25%, n1).

Robbery offences in Hart have been examined. Broken down, 85% of offences were robbery personal while just 15% were robbery business.

In 2023/24, victims of robbery personal were often male (78%), with almost three quarters (71%) of male victims aged under 25 years.

Where details were available 64% of offences were committed by a stranger and 17% (n3) involved a weapon.

⁶ Data should be treated caution due to Frimley Health Trust not submitting any HES data for June 22-March 23

Top locations for robbery in Hart were Fleet Central (20%, n4 – 2 robbery personal and 2 robbery business offences) and Yateley North (20%, n4 – 4 robbery personal offences).

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).

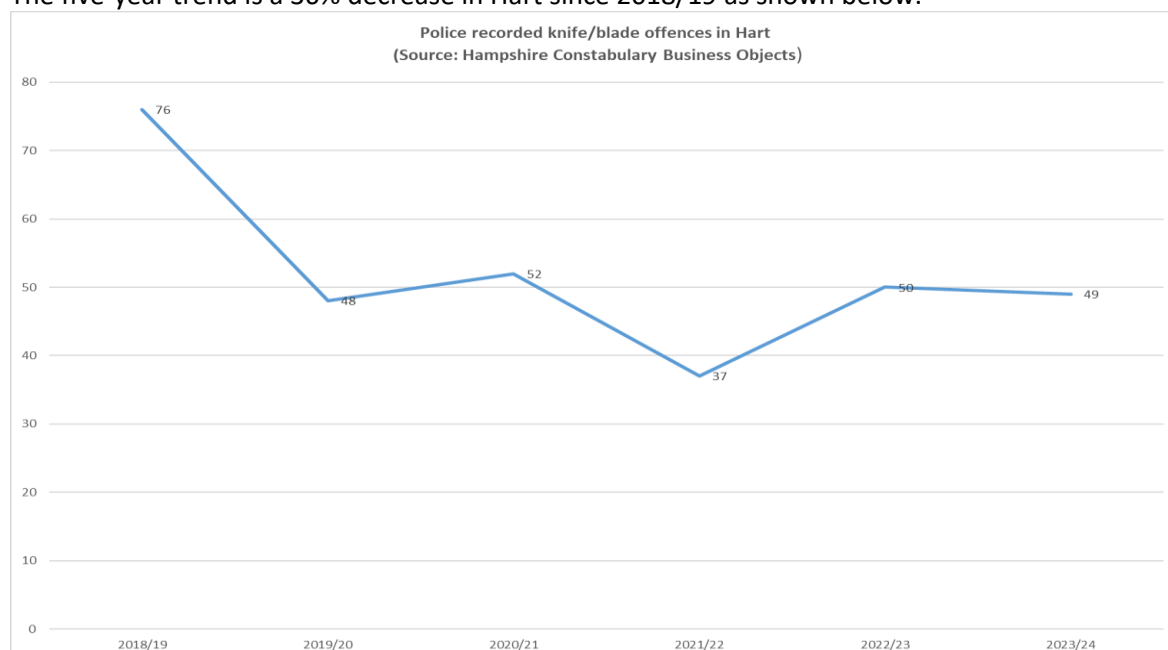
However, admissions data for NHS hospitals in England and Wales shows a 4% decrease in the number of admissions for assault by a sharp object in the year ending September 2023 compared to the previous year.

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)⁷.

In Hart offences involving a knife/blade were down slightly (-2%) from 50 offences in 2022/23 to 49 in 2023/24 and such offences accounted for 1.2% of total crime. Of the 49 knife/blade offences, almost half (45%) were recorded as violence against the person, followed by possession of a weapon (22%) and theft (14%).

The five-year trend is a 36% decrease in Hart since 2018/19 as shown below.



⁷ Crime in England and Wales, year ending December 2023 – PFA tables

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 Hart reduced by 27%. 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.

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

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

Acquisitive Crime

There was no significant change in overall acquisitive crime levels in Hart District 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

While there were reductions in some offence types, including vehicle theft (-4%), theft from the person (-5%), bicycle theft (-45%) and all other theft (-9%), burglary residential offences (+27%), shoplifting (+23%) and burglary business and community offences (+5%) experienced increases.

Burglary business and community increased by 27% from 125 offences in 2022/23 to 159 in 2023/24. Broken down 82% of offences were recorded as burglary business and community and 18% were attempted burglary business and community. Hartley Wintney Beat (23%) was the location with the most offences.

Police recorded shoplifting offences increased by 23% (n37) across Hart, which was less than the national increase of 37% in the year ending December 2023. More than a third (40%) of offences occurred in Fleet Central beat, with offences here up 45% compared to the previous year. Thefts predominantly occurred in the shopping centre. Outside of the Town Centre, Hook was the beat with the most reported offences (20%) with offences here up 46%.

While shoplifting offences have increased it is suggested that figures represent a 'fraction of the true picture of shop theft⁸.' In addition, a recent survey by the British Retail Consortium (BRC) found that

⁸ James Lowman, chief executive of the Association of Convenience Stores which represents local shops.

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.

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 Hart reduced by 12% (n22) compared to the previous year. The number of rape offences reduced by 2% (n1) and the number of other sexual offences reduced by 17% (n21).

A more detailed look at sexual offences in Hart for 2023/24 shows that, where details were available, 80% of victims were female and 20% were male. The most common offences were rape of a female over 16 (26%) and sexual assault on a female 13+ (20%). Where details were available, 35% of offences were committed by an acquaintance, 35% by a partner/ex-partner, 19% by a stranger and 11% by a family member. In addition, 0.7% of offences involved the use of a weapon.

The peak age for victims was between 11-15 years (36%) with 75% of victims in this age group female. Almost a quarter (22%) of offences against this age group were sexual assault on a female 13+, followed by causing a child to watch a sexual act – offender 18+ (15%) and rape of a female under 16 (12%). Where details were available, 55% were committed by an acquaintance, 27% were domestic related (partner, ex-partner and family member) and 18% were by a stranger which differs to the overall victim/offender relationship trend across Hampshire.

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 Hart business crime accounted for 14.17% of total crime, up from 12.72% the previous year.

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

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 increased by 24% (n88) across Hart. Reports of Police recorded arson were also up slightly (+33%, n4).

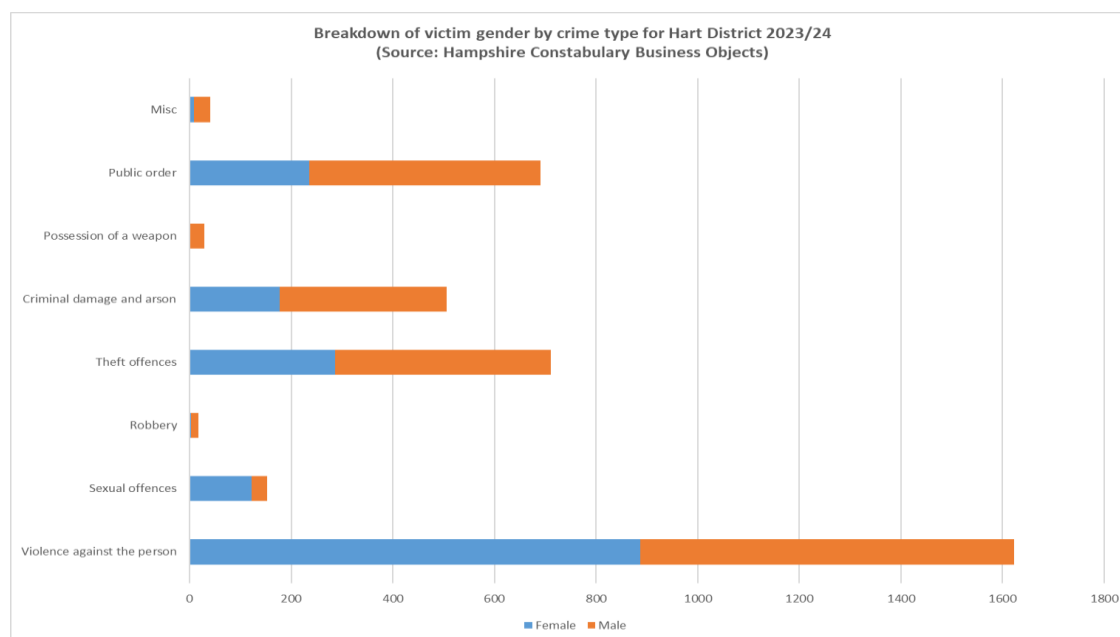
Crondall beat had the highest number of reports of criminal damage (13%), followed by Fleet Central (12%) and Yateley East (9%) with increases in all of these areas compared to last year contributing towards to the overall rise in offences⁹. Across Hart, criminal damage to vehicles under £5,000 was the most common, accounting for 30% of offences, followed by criminal damage other under £5,000 (25%) and criminal damage to a building - residential under £5,000, (24%).

⁹ Crondall (+103%, n30), Fleet Central (+42%, n16) and Yateley East (+75%, n18).

Victims

In 2023/24, where victim data was available¹⁰, 53% of victims across Hart were female and 47% were male, similar to Hampshire where the split was 52% female to 48% male victims and similar to the previous year.

A higher proportion of males were victims of robbery (82%) and public order offences (66%). Meanwhile females were more likely to be victims of sexual offences (80%).



Where details were available, the offender was known to the victim in 67% of crimes committed in Hart in 2023/24. Of these the most common were acquaintance (41%), ex-partner – heterosexual (20%) and parent (11%). 33% of offences were committed by a stranger. The picture is similar across Hampshire.

Broken down by age, 10-17 years had the highest number of victims in Hart (12%), followed by 35-39 years (10%) and 18-24 years (9%).

Where details were available, 92% of victims were White-North European, followed by White European (6.3%), Asian (3.7%), Black (1.5%), White South European (0.9%), Arabic or North African (0.6%) and Chinese, Japanese and SE Asian (0.3%).

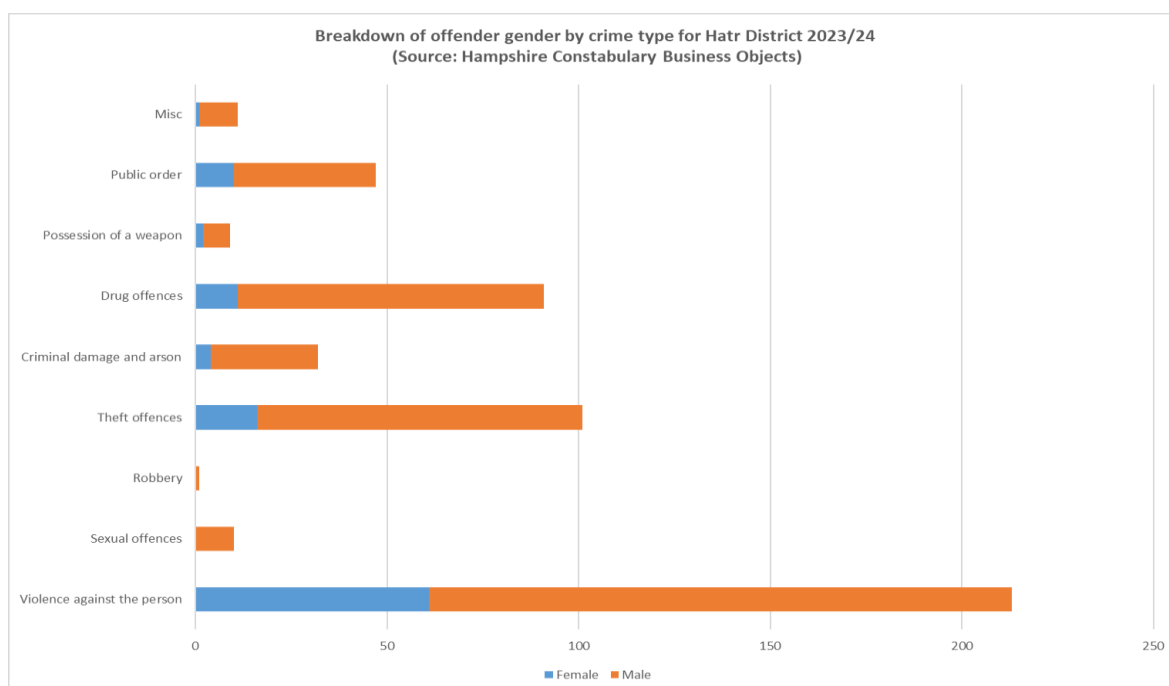
Where hate crime offences had been committed, 50% of victims were White North European, 32% were Asian, 14% of victims were black and 5% were White South European.

Offenders

Where offender data was available¹¹ 80% of offenders in Hart were male and 20% were female and this was slightly different to the picture across Hampshire where 76% of offenders were male and 24% were female.

¹⁰ Business Objects searchable data from 01.04.2023 to 31.03.2024.

¹¹ Business Objects data for the 12 months 01.04.2023 – 31.03.2024



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

Where details were available, 92% of offenders in Hart were White North European, followed by Black (3.1%) and White South European (2.0%).

Re-Offending and Offending Risk

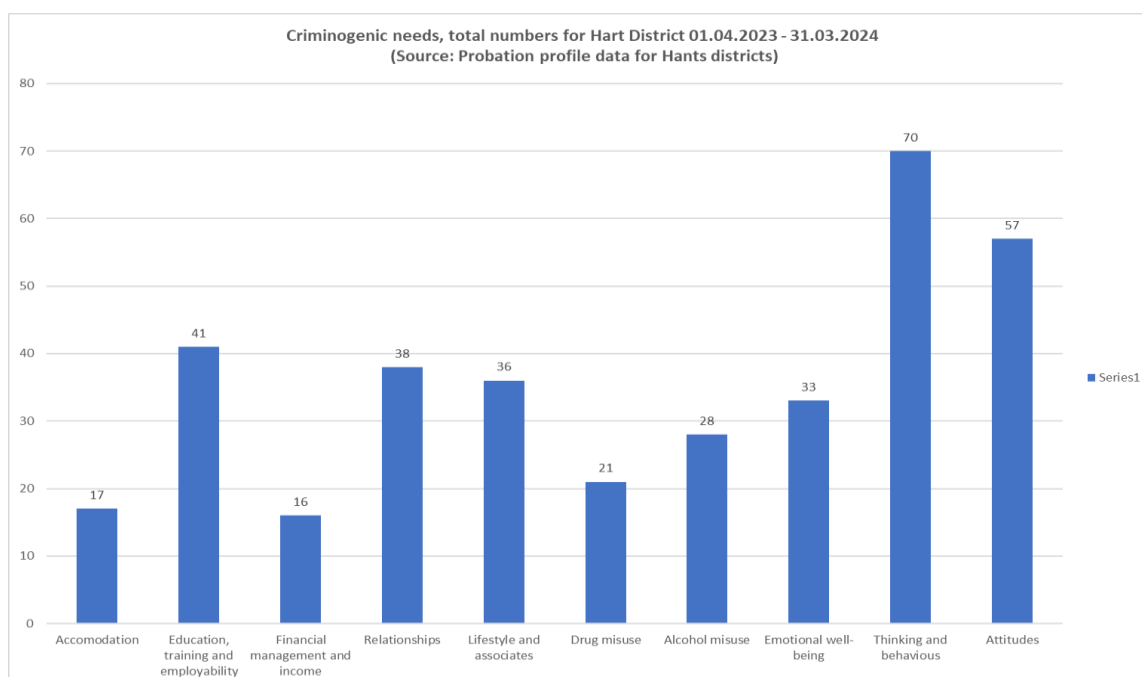
Adults

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 82% of offenders and juveniles accounted for 18% of offenders in Hart in 2023/24.

For higher risk offenders managed by the National Probation Service (NPS), there are 75 repeat offenders in Hart on the current NPS caseload¹². An analysis of these repeat offenders for whom there are current needs assessments shows that the key aspects of their criminogenic needs are thinking and behaviours and attitudes. (See graph below).

¹² Data for the period 01.04.2023 – 31.03.2024



Of this cohort, 89% were male and 11% were female. The age groups with the most offenders were 35-49 years (36%) and 26-34 years (33%) and 35-49 years and the most common offender ethnicity was White British (71%). The most common offence types committed by this group were, violence against the person (35%) and summary motoring offences (16%).

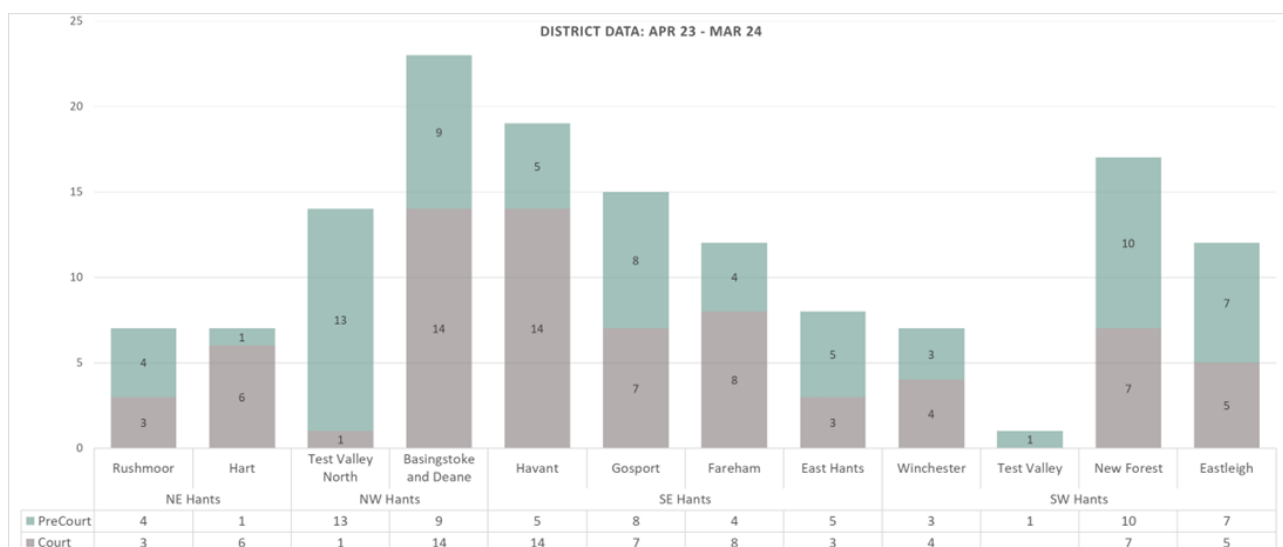
Youths

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%).

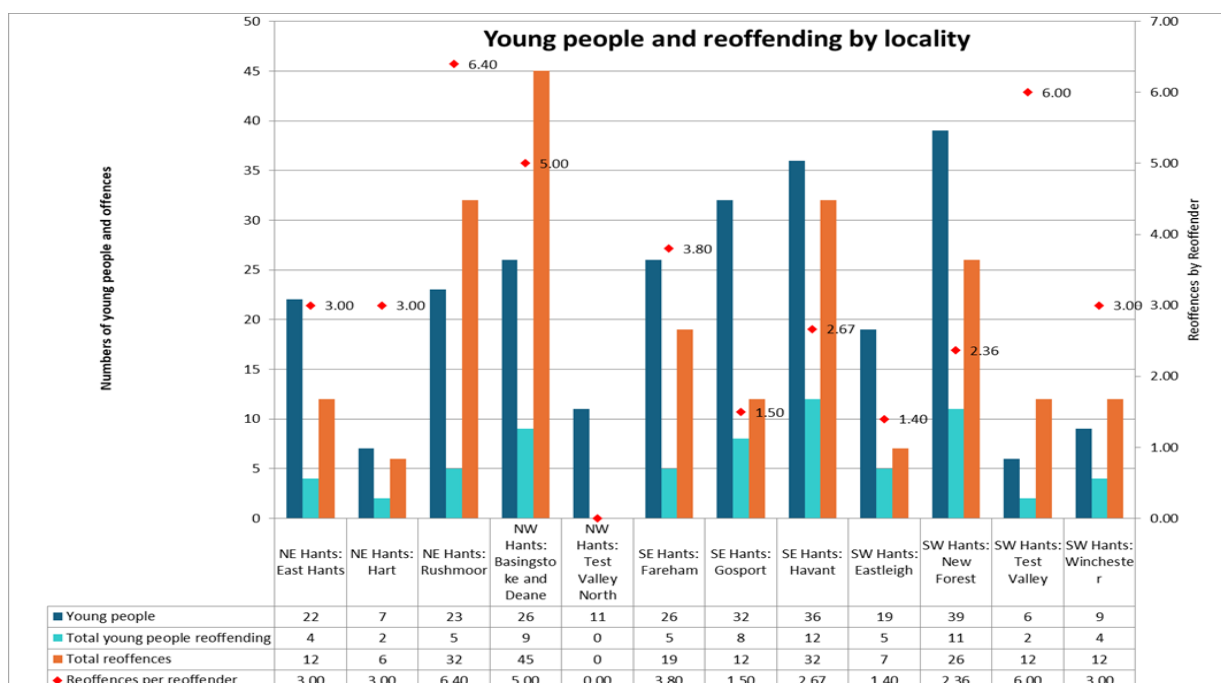
The offences most commonly committed by this age group were violence against the person (45%), theft (24%) and drugs offences (11%).

Data from the Youth Offending Team for 2023/24 shows that in Hart there were 7 First Time Entrants (FTE) into the Youth Justice System.



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

In the last few years, the reoffending rate has been a key area of focus for the Youth Offending Teams. In Hart, from a cohort of 7 young people aged between 10-17 who offended in the period 01.04.2023 – 31.03.2024, 2 went on to offend again in the 12 months following their sentence/release from custody. This equates to a reoffending rate of 3.00 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 desistence
- 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

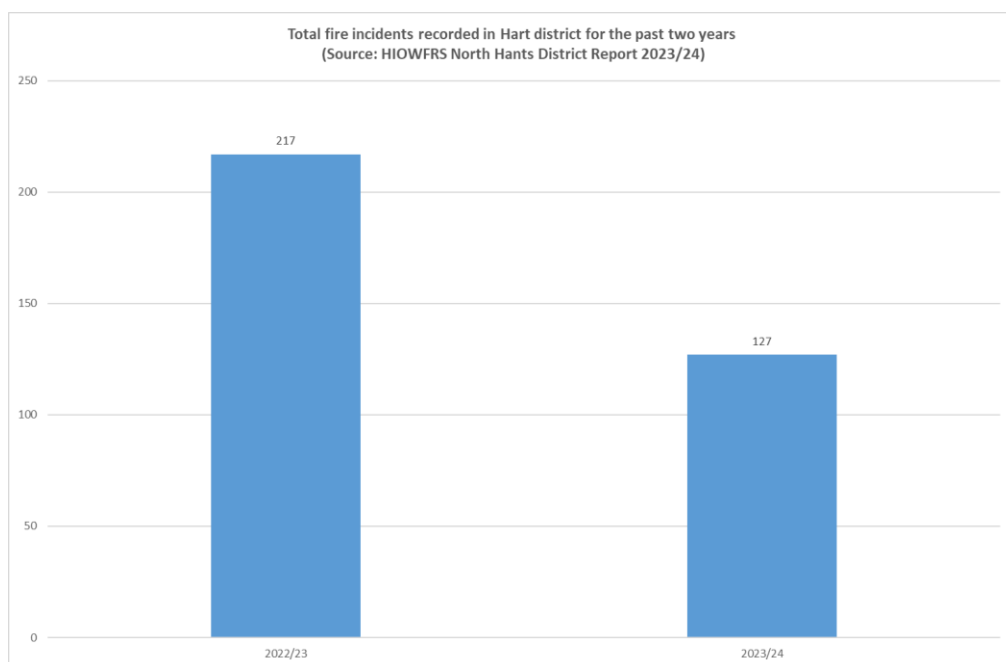
- CSP partners to work collaboratively with the Violence Reduction Unit, Police and Crime Commissioner and Hampshire County Council Community Safety Strategy Group to ensure the serious violence duty can be appropriately embedded into practice.
- Development of the approach of Offensive Weapon Homicide 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 tackle and prevent shoplifting

Fire and Rescue data summary

Fire Incidents

The North Hants District report presents statistical information on all incidents within Basingstoke and Deane, Hart and Rushmoor district council boundaries for the period 1 April 2023 to 31st March 2024.

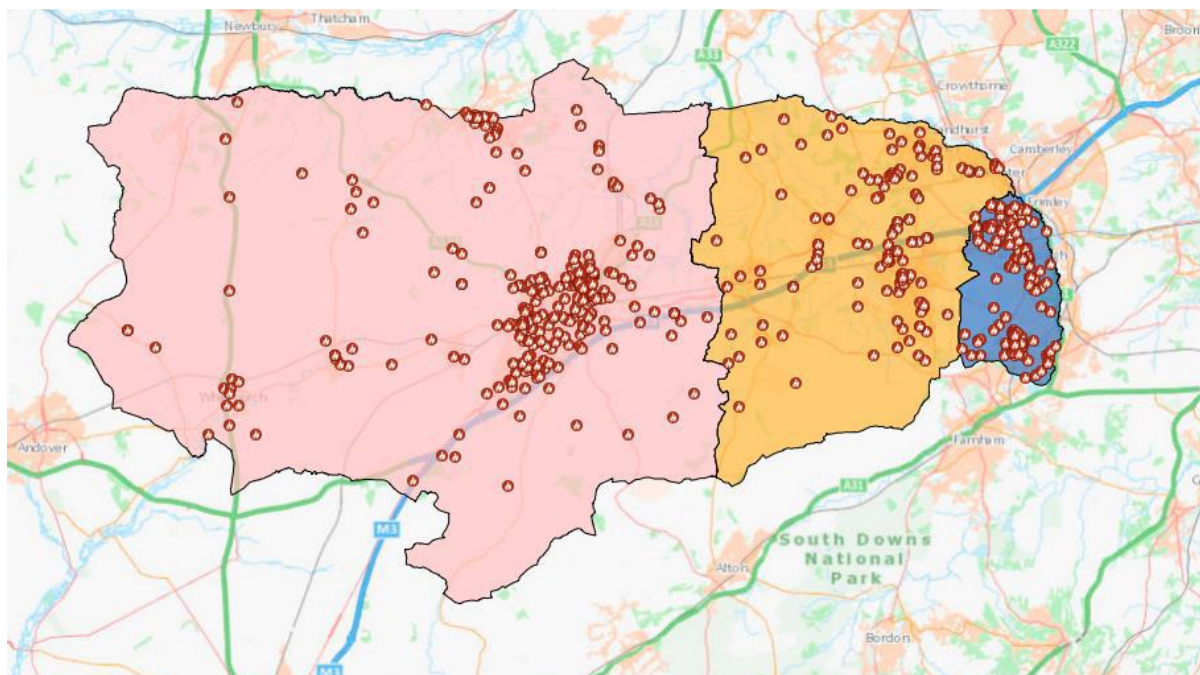
The report shows that in Hart the number of fire incidents reduced by 41% from 217 in 2022/23 to 127 in 2023/24.



Detailed data is combined for Hart and Rushmoor and shows that broken down fires across these two areas were categorised as either, accidental (47%, n124), deliberate (32%, n84) or unknown (21%, n57).

These can be further broken down into primary (62%) and secondary (38%). The most common types of fires in 2023/24 in Hart and Rushmoor were, primary vehicle, primary dwelling and secondary grass fires.

The below graph shows where fires occurred in Hart in 2023/24.



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.

A total of 1,425 Safe and Well visits were carried out between April 23 and March 24 within Hart and Rushmoor, a decrease of 4% compared to the previous year. Where the agency was known, the top three referring agencies were Adult Services, Oxygen Services and IOW Mental health and LD Teams. Ambulance Service (18%) and Southern Health Teams (16%). There were 110 post incident referrals and 411 risk based and self-referrals.

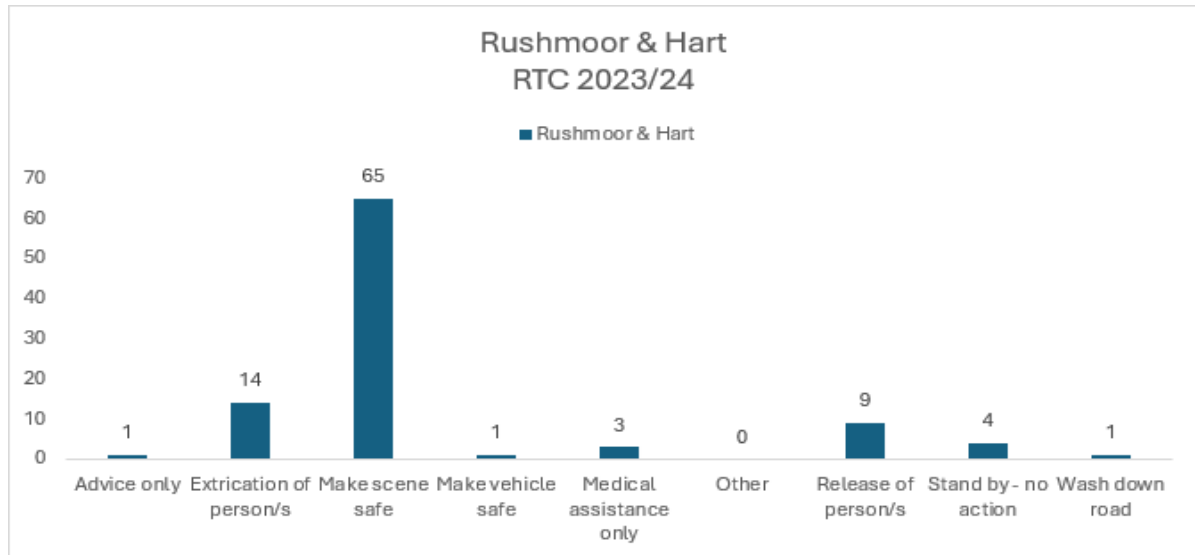
Road Traffic Collisions

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 Hart increased slightly (+4%) from 679 incidents in 2022/23 to 704 in 2023/24. Broken down by type, the most common was road traffic collision – damage only which accounted for 72% (505) of incidents and increased by 2%. Road traffic collisions – minor injury made up 23% (n162) of incidents and increased by 17%. Road traffic collision – serious injury accounted for 5% (n35) of incidents and reduced by 20%, while the number of road traffic collisions – death accounted for 0.3% of incidents and remained stable with 2 occurrences in both 2022/23 and 2023/24.

The total number of Road Traffic Collisions recorded by Hampshire Fire and Rescue Service for Hart and Rushmoor increased by 29% in 2023/24 compared to the previous year.

The highest number of RTC types attended in Hart and Rushmoor were Making the scene safe, extrication & release of persons and release of person/s.



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.

Underreported and unrecorded crimes

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

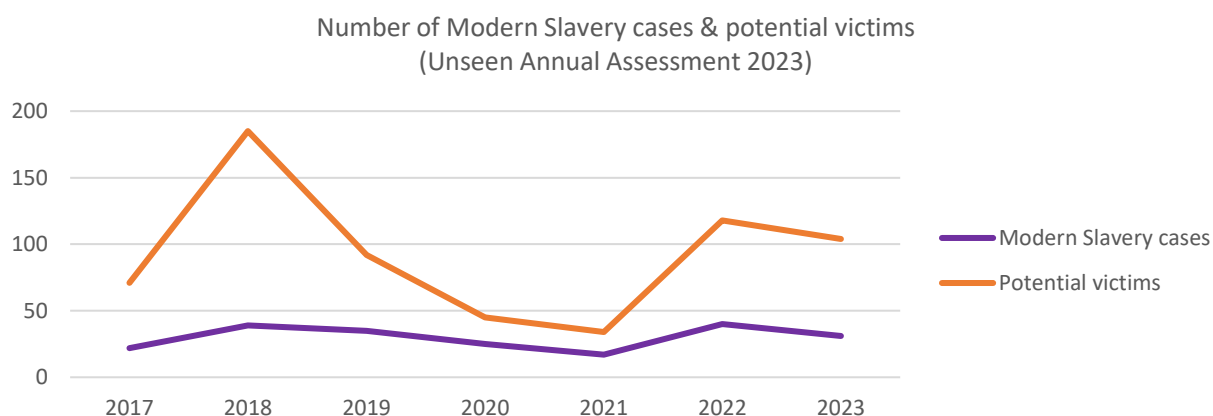
The Global Slavery Index estimates there are around 136,000 victims of slavery in the UK, official records in 2021 show around 12,000 reports. Between January and March 2024, 4,524 potential victims were referred to the Home Office. This represents a 9% increase compared to the previous quarter, October to December 2023 (n4,134) and a 5% decrease on the same period last year, January to March 2023 (n4,738).¹³

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.

¹³ 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 2022.¹⁴

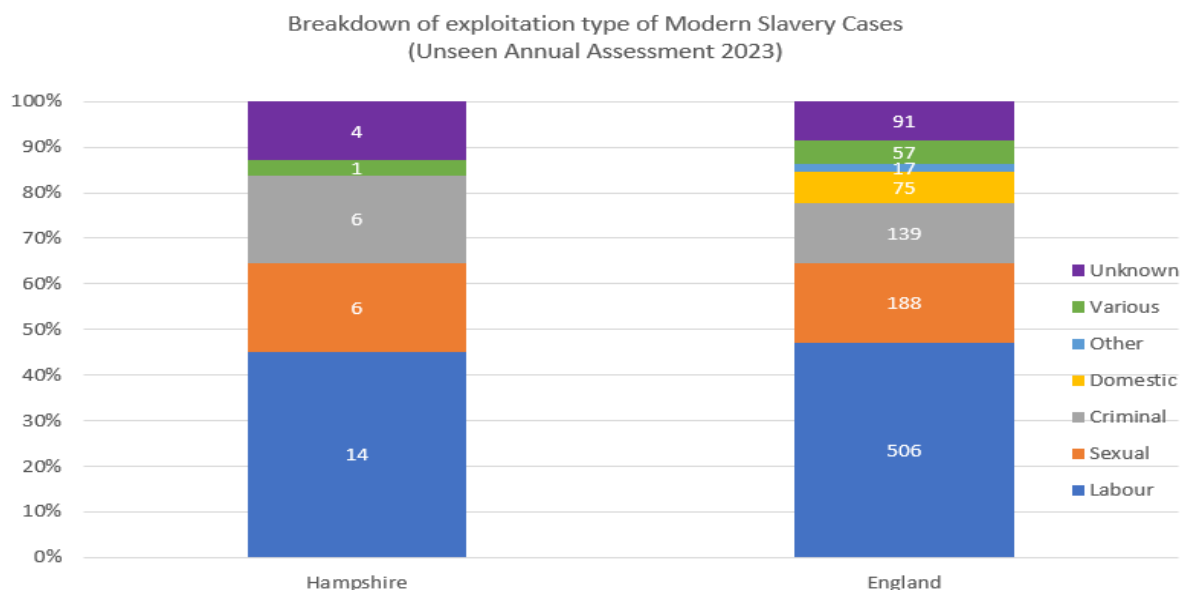
The helpline identified 104 potential victims across Hampshire and the Isle of Wight, with 31 cases of modern slavery reported. The data shows a decline from 2022 figures (n118) yet marks a 200% increase from the preceding year (2021).



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.

¹⁴ Unseen Annual Assessment 2023



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

Child exploitation and child victims of crime

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

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

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

The different types of exploitation include:

- Child Sexual Exploitation** - is a form of sexual abuse where children are coerced into sexual activities in exchange for gifts, money, drugs, affection, or status. It can affect any child, regardless of gender or background, both in and out of school. Children as young as 8 can be exploited, often believing they are in a consensual relationship.

- **Child Criminal Exploitation** - using power imbalances to coerce, manipulate, or deceive a child into criminal activity, often in exchange for something the child needs or wants, or through violence or threats.
- **Online Exploitation** - occurs over the internet on devices like phones, tablets, computers, and game consoles. There are various types of online abuse, including grooming, sexting, sexual abuse, and exploitation.
- **Modern Slavery & trafficking** – this can include human trafficking, slavery, servitude, and forced labour. More details in the Modern Slavery section of the document.
- **Gang activity and youth violence** - children may join gangs due to peer pressure, the desire for respect and protection, promises of money, school exclusion, and social media influence, making them vulnerable to exploitation.
- **Radicalisation** - exposure to radical or extreme views can lead to radicalisation, which is the process of supporting or becoming involved in extremist ideologies, experiences of radicalisation are unique and can be rapid or gradual.

Hate Crime

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

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

Nationally, the number of hate crimes reduced by 5% in the year ending March 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 Hart during the assessment period reduced by 26% (n30).

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

Across Hart, offences relating to race were the most common, accounting for more than half (59%) of all reported hate crimes, followed by sexual orientation (18%) and disability (15%).

Hate related violence against the person was the most common offence type (48%), followed by public order (43%).

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

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 estimates¹⁵ 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.

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

¹⁵ Crime in England and Wales: Annual Trend and Demographic dataset

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.

Quality of life

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 harm¹⁶. 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.

¹⁶ Drug and Alcohol Strategy Update March 2024; Hampshire County Council.

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

In Hart offences increased by 29% (n32) in 2023/24 when compared to the previous year. Trafficking offences increased by 95% while possession offences were up 15%. Broken down, possession of drugs accounted for 74% of offences in the district and trafficking offences made up the remaining 26%.

In 2023/24 the highest number of offences related to possession of cannabis (57%). Offenders of drug offences were overwhelmingly young males aged between 17-30 who accounted for 58% of drug offenders in Hart last year.

Alcohol

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

Nationally, the number of admissions episodes for alcohol related conditions (broad) was 1,705 per 100,000 people in 2022/23. The rate in Hart was lower with 1,410 admissions per 100,000 people¹⁷.

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

In 2023/24 there were 159 offences across Hart in which the alcohol marker was ticked, equating to 3.7% of total crime.

Rough sleeping and begging

Police reports relating to individuals sleeping rough and begging increased by 50% from 6 last year, down to 9 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.

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:

¹⁷ 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.

- 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.

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.

Priorities and Recommendations

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