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Title of meeting:	Cabinet
Subject:	Community Safety Survey 2022 - key findings
Date of meeting:	25 th October 2022
Report by:	Matt Gummerson, Head of Strategic Intelligence and Research Sam Graves, Community Safety Analyst
Wards affected:	All

1. Requested by Director of Public Health

2. Purpose

2.1 To present to Cabinet the main findings of the Community Safety Survey 2022.

3. Information Requested

3.1 The Community Safety Research team, now part of the Public Health Intelligence team, have undertaken a face-to-face survey with residents on behalf of the Safer Portsmouth Partnership every two years since 2012. This survey is an opportunity to consult directly with residents and allow them to tell us about their views and experiences of crime and anti-social behaviour (ASB). It is also an important source of data, as it does not rely on residents having reported crimes and ASB to the police or other agencies.

3.2 Trained fieldworkers conducted structured interviews with a broadly representative sample of 1,255 Portsmouth residents at various locations across the city in February and March 2022. The full report of the findings was shared with key stakeholders, including Cabinet as an appendix to the report on Violence Against Women and Girls presented on 27th September. The Executive Summary, attached as Appendix A, is also available on the Safer Portsmouth Partnership website: [Executive Summary \(saferportsmouth.org.uk\)](http://saferportsmouth.org.uk) along with the full report: [Survey \(saferportsmouth.org.uk\)](http://saferportsmouth.org.uk)

4. Summary of findings from the Community Safety Survey 2022

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- 4.1 A quarter of participants reported that they had been a victim of at least one crime (excluding online crime), which is a significant reduction from the 2020 survey (25% compared with 37%). However, it is likely that this lower level of victimisation is at least partially due to changes in behaviour brought about by Covid-19 related restrictions and has been offset by an increase in online crimes. Despite the lower victimisation rate compared with 2020, the overall trend since 2014 has been fairly stable.
- 4.2 The survey found that people with mental health issues were more likely to be victims of crime than those with other or no disabilities, which is also consistent with other research. Conversely, those aged over 75 years / retired were less likely to be victims of crime.
- 4.3 The most common crimes reported to this survey were: threats/intimidation (7.2% of participants), phishing resulting in money or data stolen (4.9%) and online fraud (4.8%). While online crime has increased, most other types of crime reported to this survey have reduced or remained stable since 2020. This supports the theory that there has been displacement from some times of crime taking place in public areas to online crimes as a result of increased used of online platforms for working, socialising and shopping.
- 4.4 This survey found that only just over half (58%) of crimes of crimes experienced by participants were reported; with most being reported to the police (49% of all crimes disclosed) rather than any other agency. This is higher than the previous survey in 2020 (46%) but the same level as in 2016 (58%).
- 4.5 Almost half of the participants thought knife crime was a problem in Portsmouth (46%) which is a 5 percentage point increase from 2020, although most held these beliefs because of what they had seen in the news or on social media, or heard from others. Despite the increase in the perception of knife crime being a problem, the proportion of participants having witnessed, or experienced knife crime was similar to 2020:
- Seen someone carrying a weapon (10%)
 - Witnessed knife crime (4%)
 - Experienced knife crime (1%)

While this survey found that knife crime has not increased since 2020, knife crime continues to be visible in the community and continued focus on knife-enabled serious violence through the Violence Reduction Unit is recommended.

- 4.6 Levels of ASB reported to this survey have been fairly stable overall since 2014, contrasting with the reducing trend seen in police recorded ASB. This continues to support the view that levels of ASB have not changed but instead residents are less likely to report it to the police. The most reported ASB issues to this survey were:
- People hanging around (19%)

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- People using/supplying drugs (18%)
- Noise in the street (15%).

While the proportion of participants reporting drug misuse has reduced (from 21% in 2020) levels are still much higher than 2018 or earlier, showing that this is still an issue for our residents.

The largest increase was seen in the category of traffic issues, which includes a variety of behaviours such as people cycling on pavements, parking inconsiderately, using streets as rat runs, and more recently E-scooters used in a way that causes a nuisance. Additionally, when the 'other' category was analysed, E-scooters were mentioned by 4.9% (n61) respondents making it a notable additional ASB issue for residents.

- 4.7 Just over half of participants (54%) said there were areas of Portsmouth they avoided because they felt unsafe. Women were more likely to feel unsafe than men (64% and 44% respectively), and the likelihood of feeling unsafe was also higher for those who were sick/disabled (65%).

Somerstown and Buckland are the areas where the most people felt unsafe or were avoided (16% and 12% respectively). This has been the case for the last twenty years. While this is largely due to a 'bad reputation', there are currently also concerns about groups or gangs, dodgy people and drug use or dealing.

5. Next steps

- 5.1 These findings will form part of the annual update to the Strategic Assessment of Crime, ASB, Substance Misuse, and Re-offending that will be presented to the Health and Wellbeing Board in November 2022. They have been presented to most council directorates as part of discussions about how they can support community safety priorities as part of council's duties to consider crime, disorder and community safety in all their activities under the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 (section 17). Specific questions included this year have informed the work to create a safer public domain for women and girls that was presented to Cabinet in September.

- 5.2 Cabinet are asked to consider where else the Survey findings can add value to the council's work, and to continue to support this work including the production of the next Survey in 2024.

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Signed by (Director)

Helen Atkinson, Director of Public Health

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Appendices:

Appendix A Executive Summary, Community Safety Survey 2022

Background list of documents: Section 100D of the Local Government Act 1972

The following documents disclose facts or matters, which have been relied upon to a material extent by the author in preparing this report:

Title of document	Location
Community Safety Survey 2022	Survey (saferportsmouth.org.uk)