

Title of meeting: Health & Wellbeing Board

Date of meeting: 23rd November 2022

Subject: Partnership Strategic Assessment of Crime, Anti-social Behaviour, Reoffending and Substance Misuse: Update for 2021/22

Report by: David Williams

Written by: Sam Graves, Community Safety Analyst

Wards affected: All

Key decision: No

Full Council decision: No

1. Purpose of report

- 1.1 Community Safety Partnerships have a statutory requirement to produce an annual strategic assessment (or update) as well as a three-year partnership plan (refreshed annually). This document fulfils the obligation to produce the strategic assessment and informs the refresh of the partnership plan.
- 1.2 The '*Partnership Strategic Assessment of Crime, Anti-social Behaviour, Re-offending and Substance Misuse: Update for 2021/22*' provides an update on crime trends and serious violence, identifies any emerging issues, and reviews the community safety priorities.¹
- 1.3 Taking the updated crime data into consideration, it is recommended that the priorities identified in 2020/21 remain largely the same, with the inclusion of an additional focus on violence against women and girls as part of the first priority. This is to reflect the national and local focus on this work.
 - (i) Tackling violent crime, continuing to focus on **violence against women and girls**, domestic abuse, knife-enabled violence, and sexual violence
 - (ii) Tackling drug-related harm, with a focus on increasing access to treatment and closer working across physical and mental healthcare.
 - (iii) Early identification of and interventions with children and young people at risk of exploitation or abuse, of misusing substances and of offending

¹ For the full wealth of data and analysis please refer to the full Strategic Assessment for 2020/21 at [Strategic Assessments - Safer Portsmouth](#) or contact the community safety researchers directly - csresearchers@portsmouthcc.gov.uk

- (iv) Improve accessibility and capacity of mental health provision for children, young people, and adults.
- (v) Increase the awareness of cyber-related harm and how it impacts service users.

2. Recommendations

- 2.1 It is recommended that the Health & Wellbeing Board:
- (i) Amend the first priority to include a focus on violence against women and girls.
 - (ii) Use the information in this strategic assessment (and the previous 2020/21 version) to guide evidence-based day to day decision making and resource allocation.

3. Background

- 3.1 The Safer Portsmouth Partnership was incorporated into the Health and Wellbeing Board in June 2019. The constitution of the board was amended to take on the statutory duties of a local community safety partnership. The Health and Wellbeing Board is now the vehicle through which the five statutory partners - council, fire, police, health and probation² - work together to reduce crime, anti-social behaviour, substance misuse and reoffending as required by Sections 5 and 6 of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 (as amended).³
- 3.2 The responsible authorities are required by sections 5 of the Act to produce a detailed piece of analysis (strategic assessment), that identifies local priorities for action. Strategic assessments and updates are produced by the Public Health Intelligence Team using a range of data from partner agencies, including police recorded crime, to provide a summary of local and national crime trends, checks the partnership's current priorities and identify any emerging issues
- 3.3 Please see attached Appendices for the findings of the strategic assessment update.
- (i) Appendix A - Key Messages from the Partnership Strategic Assessment of Crime, Anti-Social Behaviour, Substance Misuse and Reoffending: Update for 2021/22
 - (ii) Appendix B - Partnership Strategic Assessment of Crime, Anti-Social Behaviour, Substance Misuse and Reoffending: Update for 2021/22 (this is not for public distribution due to the inclusion of provisional data, a version which can be publicly disseminated will be produced after final amendments are made and will be available on the Safer Portsmouth website).

² Also referred to as the 'responsible authorities'

³ <https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/1998/37/section/5> and <https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/1998/37/section/6>

4. Reasons for recommendations

The Crime and Disorder Act 1998 (as amended) Secs 5 and 6 set out the requirements for community safety partnerships to prepare a strategic assessment in accordance with Regulations 5 to 7. The 2020/21 strategic assessment identified five main priorities that address the underlying issues of crime and anti-social behaviour.

This assessment update will inform the refresh of the partnership plan, and by providing collaborative leadership alongside our partners in order to address these issues, the levels of crime and anti-social behaviour should reduce and make residents safer.

5. Integrated impact assessment

Impact Assessments will be undertaken as required on the specific work to take forward the priorities identified in this needs assessment.

6. Legal implications

The report is compliant in that it is a statutory function to produce a strategic assessment. The assessment considers the needs of groups that may be impacted in particular as a result of having a protected characteristic. The emphasis change is sustainable and focuses upon particular groups as supported by relevant and up to date data, the emphasis is objectively defensible.

7. Director of Finance's comments

There are no direct financial implications arising from the recommendations contained within the report. The plans developed in response to this assessment by the Health and Wellbeing Board will need to continue to operate within their approved Cash Limit.

Appendices:

- (i) Appendix A - Key Messages from the Partnership Strategic Assessment of Crime, Anti-Social Behaviour, Substance Misuse and Reoffending: Update for 2021/22
- (ii) Appendix B - Partnership Strategic Assessment of Crime, Anti-Social Behaviour, Substance Misuse and Reoffending: Update for 2021/22

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

The recommendation(s) set out above were approved/ approved as amended/ deferred/ rejected by on

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Signed by:

David Williams, Chief Executive, PCC

Appendix A - Key Messages from the Partnership Strategic Assessment of Crime, Anti-Social Behaviour, Substance Misuse and Reoffending: Update for 2021/22

- Opportunities to commit crimes in public places have largely returned to pre-pandemic levels, but increased use of online platforms for working, shopping and socialising mean that there are still increased opportunities for online exploitation and cybercrime to take place.
- There were 28,119 police recorded crimes in Portsmouth during 2021/22, which equates to a crime rate of 131 per 1,000 residents and is higher than the average for other similar local authority areas (111 per 1,000).
- Consideration of several data sources suggest that overall levels of crime have remained stable in comparison with 2019/20. This is consistent with the national picture, where reductions in acquisitive crime were offset by increases in cybercrime.
- Violence with injury and most serious violence have remained fairly stable since 2017/18, with the exception 2020/21 where lower levels were seen as a result of restrictions and behaviour changes associated with the pandemic.
- There have been increases in stalking and harassment, domestic abuse, violence without injury, sexual offences, robbery, knife-enabled serious violence, possession of a weapon, drug offences, and public order offences since 2019/20, although some of these increases may be driven by improved recording, increased reporting, or police activity.
- Domestic abuse continues to be the largest driver of violent crime, accounting for 44% of assaults recorded by police.
- There is some evidence that some victims/survivors of domestic abuse may be experiencing more and frequent incidents, while there has also been a reduction in charges and domestic abuse cases heard at court, highlighting the need to focus on holding medium and high-risk perpetrators to account.
- Data is showing a positive increase in awareness of unhealthy and abusive relationships, with the continuing success of the 'Is This Love' Campaign increasing hits to the domestic abuse web pages, more schools having their policies available, more 'Right to know' disclosures and 'Right to ask requests,' and more concerns raised by maternity services. There has also been an increase in domestic abuse being identified within adult social care, adult mental health services and children and families undergoing SAFs compared to a couple of years ago.