

**Title of meeting:** Health & Wellbeing Board

**Date of meeting:** 29 November 2023

**Subject:** Partnership Strategic Assessment of Crime, Anti-social Behaviour, Reoffending and Substance Misuse: Update for 2022/23

**Report by:** Helen Atkinson, Director of Public Health

**Written by:** Sam Graves, Community Safety Analyst

**Wards affected:** All

**Key decision:** No

**Full Council decision:** No

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## 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 2022/23'* provides an update on crime trends, identifies any emerging issues, and reviews the community safety priorities.<sup>1</sup> This strategic assessment also includes the Serious Violence Strategic Needs Assessment (Chapter 3) which will inform the Serious Violence Strategy.
- 1.3 Taking the updated crime data into consideration, it is recommended that the priorities identified in 2020/21 remain the same:
- (i) Tackling violent crime, continuing to focus on violence against women and girls, sexual violence, domestic abuse, and knife-enabled 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 anti-social behaviour and offending.

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<sup>1</sup> 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](mailto: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) Use the information in this strategic assessment (and the previous full strategic assessment in 2020/21) 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 probation<sup>2</sup> - 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).<sup>3</sup>
- 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 The Serious Violence Strategic Needs Assessment (Chapter 3) is a requirement of the Serious Violence Duty, which was introduced in Chapter 1, Part 2 of the Police, Crime, Sentencing and Courts Act, 2022. The Serious Violence Duty requires specified authorities<sup>4</sup> to work together to prevent and reduce serious violence by completing a Strategic Needs Assessment (SNA) to identify the kinds of serious violence occurring in the area and likely causes where possible, which should then inform a strategy. Analysts in upper tier local authorities have collaborated with the Office for the Police and Crime Commissioner and police to produce individual SNAs for the HIPS<sup>5</sup> districts, using a bottom up approach. These district level SNAs will be used to produce an overall HIPS-wide SNA but will give detail for the lower level areas which is often lacking from HIPS-wide documents. The Portsmouth SNA has been situated within the Partnership Strategic Assessment so that it can be considered in

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<sup>2</sup> Also referred to as the 'responsible authorities'

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

<sup>4</sup> Similar to the responsible authorities - but with the addition of Youth Offending Teams as well as Probation.

<sup>5</sup> Hampshire, Isle of Wight, Portsmouth and Southampton.



the context of other crime and ASB trends and used to inform the crime and ASB and priorities for Portsmouth.

3.4 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 2022/23
- (ii) Appendix B - Partnership Strategic Assessment of Crime, Anti-Social Behaviour, Substance Misuse and Reoffending: Update for 2022/23 (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).

#### **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.

#### **7. Director of Finance's comments**

There are no direct financial implications arising from the recommendations within this report. Any future requests with potential financial impact will be assessed on case by case basis.

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Signed by: **Helen Atkinson, Director of Public Health**



**Appendices:**

- (i) Appendix A - Key Messages from the Partnership Strategic Assessment of Crime, Anti-Social Behaviour, Substance Misuse and Reoffending: Update for 2022/23
- (ii) Appendix B - Partnership Strategic Assessment of Crime, Anti-Social Behaviour, Substance Misuse and Reoffending: Update for 2022/23

**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 .....

.....  
Signed by:

## **Appendix A - Key Messages from the Partnership Strategic Assessment of Crime, Anti-Social Behaviour, Substance Misuse and Reoffending: Update for 2022/23**

- There were 27,239 police recorded crimes in Portsmouth during 2022/23, which equates to a crime rate of 132 per 1,000 residents and is higher than the average for other similar local authority areas (112 per 1,000). This is a slight reduction (3%, n741) from 2021/22.
- Police trend data for Portsmouth is showing signs of stabilising and when other data sources are considered, it is likely that overall levels of crime have remained fairly stable over the last decade.
- Previous increases in police recorded violence from 2014 are thought to be largely due to improved recording practices, an increased willingness by victims to report violence, and the addition of some new offences. Other data sources (such as local survey data and emergency department attendances and hospital admission data) show a stable or reducing trend in violence overall, which means that we can be quite confident that the previous increases in police recorded violence did not reflect a genuine increase in violence in Portsmouth.
- Domestic abuse continues to be the largest known driver of violent crime, accounting for 40% of assaults recorded by police. While levels of police recorded domestic abuse offences also seem to be stabilising, the Domestic Abuse Monitoring Report has identified that there is still work to be done to challenge, support and hold domestic abuse perpetrators to account.
- The Serious Violence SNA has found that levels of serious violence have remained similar to last year, but higher than pre-Covid years due to increases in possession of a weapon offences and robbery over the few years. It should be noted that possession of a weapon offences are impacted by police activity and we cannot be certain this means there has been an increase in weapons in the community.
- The most common offences making up the category of serious violence are possession of a weapon (40%), violence with injury (30%) and robbery of personal property (26%).
- There are higher levels of serious violence from Friday to Sunday and in the evenings. This suggests that the night time economy could be a significant driver, particularly because over 60% occurred in public spaces and where there was a victim relationship recorded, the most common relationship was stranger. Young males aged between 18 and 34 years were most affected by serious violence, both as victims and suspects. There has also been an increase from 2021/22 in young victims and suspects aged between 10 and 17 years.
- Portsmouth compares poorly with the Hampshire and England averages for many of the measures associated with an increased likelihood of violence across family,



accommodation, employment, income, education, young people at risk, mental health, and substance use domains.

- The number of young people at risk of CCE has increased since 2021/22, and this is likely to be partially due to better awareness and referral pathways, but also to a small genuine increase linked to exploitation of young people by local drug networks. And while there has been a reduction in drug offences since last year, levels are still higher than they were prior to the Covid-19 pandemic.
- While it was suggested that the cost of living crisis might increase theft offences, local police data shows a mixed picture with vehicle crime increasing and shoplifting and burglary reducing. However, shoplifting data from other sources suggests there is likely to have been an increase in shoplifting but that shops are less likely to report it to the police.
- There has been a substantial and sustained reduction in ASB reported to the police. While approximately one quarter of the reduction can be accounted for by the increases in public order offences, there has still been a reduction of between around six or seven thousand reports of ASB since 2011/12. Data from the CSS 2022 have shown that levels of ASB have remained fairly stable, and while some other sources have seen an increase in reports, there are still a large shortfall in the number of ASB incidents reported to local agencies. Not tackling ASB could affect confidence in the police and agencies dealing with these issues.