

Notice of Overview and Scrutiny Board

Date: Monday, 6 January 2025 at 6.00 pm

Venue: HMS Phoebe, BCP Civic Centre, Bournemouth BH2 6DY



Membership:

Chairman:

Cllr S Bartlett

Vice Chairman:

Cllr S Aitkenhead

Cllr P Broadhead
Cllr J Beesley
Cllr L Dedman
Cllr C Goodall

Cllr S Mackrow
Cllr L Northover
Cllr Dr F Rice
Cllr K Salmon

Cllr T Trent
Cllr O Walters
Cllr C Weight

All Members of the Overview and Scrutiny Board are summoned to attend this meeting to consider the items of business set out on the agenda below.

The press and public are welcome to view the live stream of this meeting at the following link:

<https://democracy.bcpCouncil.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?MId=5951>

If you would like any further information on the items to be considered at the meeting please contact: Democratic Services on 01202 096660 or email democratic.services@bcpCouncil.gov.uk

Press enquiries should be directed to the Press Office: Tel: 01202 454668 or email press.office@bcpCouncil.gov.uk

This notice and all the papers mentioned within it are available at democracy.bcpCouncil.gov.uk

GRAHAM FARRANT
CHIEF EXECUTIVE

24 December 2024

**DEBATE
NOT HATE**



Available online and
on the Mod.gov app



Maintaining and promoting high standards of conduct

Declaring interests at meetings

Familiarise yourself with the Councillor Code of Conduct which can be found in Part 6 of the Council's Constitution.

Before the meeting, read the agenda and reports to see if the matters to be discussed at the meeting concern your interests



What are the principles of bias and pre-determination and how do they affect my participation in the meeting?

Bias and predetermination are common law concepts. If they affect you, your participation in the meeting may call into question the decision arrived at on the item.

Bias Test

In all the circumstances, would it lead a fair minded and informed observer to conclude that there was a real possibility or a real danger that the decision maker was biased?

Predetermination Test

At the time of making the decision, did the decision maker have a closed mind?

If a councillor appears to be biased or to have predetermined their decision, they must NOT participate in the meeting.

For more information or advice please contact the Monitoring Officer
(janie.berry@bcpcouncil.gov.uk)

Selflessness

Councillors should act solely in terms of the public interest

Integrity

Councillors must avoid placing themselves under any obligation to people or organisations that might try inappropriately to influence them in their work. They should not act or take decisions in order to gain financial or other material benefits for themselves, their family, or their friends. They must declare and resolve any interests and relationships

Objectivity

Councillors must act and take decisions impartially, fairly and on merit, using the best evidence and without discrimination or bias

Accountability

Councillors are accountable to the public for their decisions and actions and must submit themselves to the scrutiny necessary to ensure this

Openness

Councillors should act and take decisions in an open and transparent manner. Information should not be withheld from the public unless there are clear and lawful reasons for so doing

Honesty & Integrity

Councillors should act with honesty and integrity and should not place themselves in situations where their honesty and integrity may be questioned

Leadership

Councillors should exhibit these principles in their own behaviour. They should actively promote and robustly support the principles and be willing to challenge poor behaviour wherever it occurs

AGENDA

Items to be considered while the meeting is open to the public

1. Apologies

To receive any apologies for absence from Councillors.

2. Substitute Members

To receive information on any changes in the membership of the Committee.

Note – When a member of a Committee is unable to attend a meeting of a Committee or Sub-Committee, the relevant Political Group Leader (or their nominated representative) may, by notice to the Monitoring Officer (or their nominated representative) prior to the meeting, appoint a substitute member from within the same Political Group. The contact details on the front of this agenda should be used for notifications.

3. Declarations of Interests

Councillors are requested to declare any interests on items included in this agenda. Please refer to the workflow on the preceding page for guidance.

Declarations received will be reported at the meeting.

4. Confirmation of Minutes

7 - 16

To confirm and sign as a correct record the minutes of the Meeting held on 9 December 2024.

a) Action Sheet

17 - 20

The Board is asked to note the action sheet which tracks decisions, actions and outcomes from previous meetings.

5. Public Issues

To receive any public questions, statements or petitions submitted in accordance with the Constitution. Further information on the requirements for submitting these is available to view at the following link:-

<https://democracy.bcpccouncil.gov.uk/ieListMeetings.aspx?CommitteeID=151&Info=1&bcr=1>

The deadline for the submission of public questions is midday 3 clear working days before the meeting – 30 December 2024.

The deadline for the submission of a statement is midday the working day before the meeting – 3 January 2025.

The deadline for the submission of a petition is 10 working days before the meeting.

ITEMS OF BUSINESS

6. BCP Community Safety Partnership Annual Report

21 - 346

Please note that this item was deferred from the O&S Board meeting on 9 December 2024.

This paper sets out elements of development and delivery by the BCP Community Safety Partnership (CSP), 'Safer BCP' and its constituent agencies. It provides Members with an update since the last report to Overview and Scrutiny Panel in December 2023.

The Local Government Act 2000 includes crime and disorder scrutiny as one of the functions the council must ensure its scrutiny arrangements cover. Sections 19 and 20 of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 and related regulations require the Council to have a committee with the functions of reviewing and scrutinising decisions and actions in respect of the discharge of crime and disorder functions by "responsible authorities".

The specifics of the duty are set out in the Police and Justice Act 2006, which also allows members to refer any "local crime and disorder matter" raised with them by anyone living or working in their area, to the Crime and Disorder Committee. The Board designated as the Crime and Disorder Scrutiny Committee must meet at least once every 12-month period to conduct the functions.

Guidance issued concerning how this role should be conducted include that:

- the role should be one of a critical friend, providing constructive challenge at a strategic level.
- the focus should be on the entire partnership and if issues arise that relate specifically to a particular partner agency, it may be more appropriate to refer such issues to the governing bodies of that organisation.
- the scrutiny of partners should be "in so far as their activities relate to the partnership itself."

In the BCP area, the Overview and Scrutiny Board undertakes this function each December.

7. Devolution

347 - 350

HM Government requested the Council return an expression of interest pro-forma in September, stating its devolution preferences. This matter was debated at this Board in September 2024, considering the options set out by the Chief Executive. Subsequently, a response was submitted expressing the Council's preference for devolution on a BCP-only geography.

On 16 December, Government released its Devolution White Paper which sets out some new parameters, building on the previous framework, with the aims of working at a larger scale, bringing consistent governance to the devolution process and bringing into law the creation of Statutory

Authorities.

Those councils leading the Heart of Wessex proposal have stated they would opt to set up a mayoral model, which has raised their profile with Government, offering the chance to be part of the new “Devolution Priority Programme”. BCP Council has been invited to join the Heart of Wessex configuration and the proposed Mayoral Statutory Authority. This report sets out this context in more detail for members to consider the situation and recommend a way forward.

8. Work Plan

The Overview and Scrutiny (O&S) Board is asked to consider and identify work priorities for publication in a Work Plan.

351 - 394

No other items of business can be considered unless the Chairman decides the matter is urgent for reasons that must be specified and recorded in the Minutes.

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BOURNEMOUTH, CHRISTCHURCH AND POOLE COUNCIL
OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY BOARD

Minutes of the Meeting held on 09 December 2024 at 6.00 pm

Present:-

Cllr S Bartlett – Chairman

Cllr S Aitkenhead – Vice-Chairman

Present: Cllr P Broadhead, Cllr L Dedman, Cllr C Goodall, Cllr S Mackrow,
Cllr L Northover, Cllr K Salmon, Cllr T Trent, Cllr C Weight and
Cllr M Tarling (In place of Cllr O Walters)

Also in attendance: Cllr P Canavan, Cllr M Cox, Cllr M Earl, Cllr J Hanna, Cllr K Wilson
and Cllr A Martin

Also in attendance virtually: Cllr R Burton, Cllr A Keddie, Cllr C Rigby and Cllr T Slade.

71. Apologies

Apologies were received from Cllr J Beesley and Cllr O Walters.

72. Substitute Members

Cllr M Tarling for Cllr O Walters.

73. Declarations of Interests

Cllr M Tarling declared a disclosable pecuniary interest in agenda item 8, Pay and Reward Progress update as a close family member was employed by BCP Council. He would not participate or vote on the item.

Cllr C Weight declared an other interest in agenda item 8 Pay and Reward Progress update as a family member was employed by BCP Council but they were not financially interdependent.

74. Confirmation of Minutes

The minutes of the meeting held on 18 November 2024 were approved as a correct record.

75. Action Sheet

The Board's Action Sheet was noted.

The actions which had been resolved were removed.

76. Public Issues

There were none received on this occasion.

77. BCP Community Safety Partnership Annual Report

Due to the number of items on the agenda and to allow sufficient time for consideration of time critical items it was agreed to defer further consideration of the report to the next scheduled Board meeting.

78. Pay and Reward progress update

The Portfolio Holder for Transformation Resources and Governance presented a report, a copy of which had been circulated to each Member and a copy of which appears as Appendix 'A' to these Minutes in the Minute Book. The Board was informed that since the creation of BCP Council through the merger of the four preceding councils in April 2019 work had been ongoing with the trade unions to negotiate a new Pay and Reward package which aligns pay and conditions across all colleagues.

The report sets out the results of the recent trade union ballot process and outlined the next steps. The Chairman invited the Unison Trade Union representative to address the Board. They noted the expected costs of fire and rehire and noted that the union was opposed to this approach and would challenge it if that was the route the Council chose to pursue. The Board raised a number of issues in the discussion of this issue which included:

The difference in timeframe between option 1 and 2 was only 3 months and the reasons for this being the recommendation option were discussed further. The Portfolio Holder confirmed that it was important to get the pay and reward process finalised for those staff currently affected.

It was noted that the staff voting no to the proposals may be unhappy with both the proposals and the journey. It was noted that there was a lot of difficult history with the process and talking about fire and rehire at this stage would make things more difficult.

In response to question regarding the numbers involved in the union ballot voting against the proposals the Director of People and Culture, advised that they do not have access to the numbers in terms of union membership, but they had a reasonable idea around the potential numbers

It was proposed and seconded that Cabinet be recommended to proceed with Option 1.

During discussion of the motion it was noted that the confidence of staff had already been affected by putting option 2 on the table but that the reasons for the recommendation were understood. The Portfolio Holder made it clear that if it became apparent that it was worth continuing conversations to reach agreement with the unions there could be flexibility of the timeline.

The motion was put to the vote but lost by 4 votes to 6.

The Board questioned the impact on Council finances incurred by the decision to progress with option 2 and whether the impact of this should mean that it was considered by Council. It was confirmed by the Chief Executive confirmed that the initial decision within the Cabinet paper would not need to go to full Council but that the final decision on termination and reengagement would need to go to Full Council.

It was noted that the project team was funded through to the end of this financial year. It would be around April 2025 that additional costs would be incurred and at that point further decisions may need to be taken

It was then proposed and seconded that Cabinet be recommended to proceed with option 2.

Concern was raised regarding the Board endorsing the recommendation at option 2 including the fire and rehire process. It was reiterated by the Portfolio Holder that nobody was in favour of fire and rehire but the process had been dragging on for a long time and there was a need to move forward as soon as possible.

RESOLVED that Cabinet be recommended to approve option 2 of the proposed process flowchart (Appendix 1 of the report) and the commencement of collective consultation under s188 of the Trade Union and Labour Relations (Consolidation) Act 1992 ('TULRCA'), which is a statutory obligation where an employer is proposing to dismiss 20 or more employees.

Cllr K Salmon and Cllr S Aitkenhead asked to be recorded as voting against the motion.

Voting: 6 in favour 2 against, 2 abstentions

79. Housing Delivery Council Newbuild Housing and Acquisition Strategy (CNHAS) update and Harbour Sail acquisition

The Portfolio Holder for Housing and Regulatory Services presented a report, a copy of which had been circulated to each Member and a copy of which appears as Appendix 'B' to these Minutes in the Minute Book. The report provided an update on the Council Newbuild Housing and Acquisition Strategy established in 2021 and set out the priorities for delivering more Council owned homes of all tenures. The report included the acquisition of the Harbour Sail, a 12-storey high-rise building in Poole, under the Council's New Build Housing and Acquisition Strategy (CNHAS) Programme 4a (subject to satisfactory warranties and no incumbrance to lettings). The building comprises 32 leasehold flats currently owned by Stonewater Limited. The acquisition was intended to provide temporary accommodation as part of the Council's broader housing strategy.

The Board noted that 105 properties had been acquired but only 46 of these had been let. There was potentially a significant financial impact of acquiring those properties and at the same time still paying for people to be

housed in bed and breakfast accommodation. If the pace of acquisition continued there would need to be a strong project management plan in place to ensure that the properties were turned around in a timely fashion. The Plans would be shared with the Board once they were available

It was noted that responsibility for the programme was shared across a number of different services and the Board asked about the capacity of the Council to be able to do the work required in order to get properties into a condition that can be let. The Portfolio Holder was asked about how the organisation was set up to accommodate this and who had overall responsibility for ensuring the finances were used effectively. The Portfolio Holder advised that responsibility was shared but was taken extremely seriously, it was noted that when there had been issues resources were relocated in order to try to reduce void periods. It was important to be flexible in order to improve delivery.

In response to a query around the Seascope acquisition for Assured Shorthold Tenancies programme it was noted that the immediate need was to reduce the numbers of families in Bed and Breakfast accommodation which the temporary accommodation was focused on. The Seascope lets were longer term to provide stability and help encourage people to settle into paying rent regularly.

It was noted that the MTFP paper set out the debt of the Council as being in the mid-range compared to other local authorities. It was noted that the viability of an acquisition programme always needed to be considered, especially in light of the current level of interest rates.

Queries were raised about the quality of properties being purchased and the time taken to let them. It was noted that properties were purchased in various different conditions and therefore the time taken to have them ready for let was varied. It was questioned whether the programme had had an impact on the market. There was a need to ensure that properties were not clustered in specific areas. The financial feasibility was gone through to ensure that each property purchase on its own was viable. It was noted that a number of properties had only recently completed. There had been a flow of properties coming through since February 2023.

A request was made to benchmark on voids against other local authorities. The Portfolio Holder undertook to look into this. However, it was noted that not many authorities had similar programmes, and it may be difficult to get any relevant information on this.

An issue was raised with a specific property acquisition which had led to the sitting tenants facing eviction to allow the sale to proceed. The Board was advised that this situation was a one-off and any properties brought in the future would need to be vacant prior to purchase.

The Board asked about the level of tenant turnover. When people were being placed within temporary accommodation, previously people were in bed and breakfast accommodation for several months. The Council worked

with those accessing temporary accommodation to get something more permanent within the different housing sectors.

The Board asked for the overall number of temporary accommodation units. The Portfolio Holder undertook to provide this information. It was noted that there was a need to build more affordable homes and that even though accommodation was originally purchased at some point as temporary accommodation it could still be repurposed for other usages.

The Board requested to go into exempt session to consider information within the exempt appendix to the report it was therefore: RESOLVED that under Section 100 (A)(4) of the Local Government Act 1972, the public be excluded from the meeting for the following items of business on the grounds that they involve the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in Paragraph 3 in Part I of Schedule 12A of the Act and that the public interest in withholding the information outweighs such interest in disclosing the information.

The meeting adjourned at 7:50pm and resumed at 7:58pm in exempt session.

During exempt session questions were raised and responded to concerning the sale of the Harbour Sail property and the rationale for the Council purchase of it.

The meeting returned to public session and consideration was given to the recommendations outlined in the Cabinet report.

RESOLVED that the Overview and Scrutiny Board recommend that Cabinet support the recommendations as set out in the report as follows:

Recommend to Council to Approve:

- a)
 - I. The Acquisition of Harbour Sail including 32 leasehold flats for temporary affordable housing in accordance with the budget outlined in the exempt report attached at Appendix 4.
 - II. Approval to proceed with the acquisition and delivery of 16 homes by March 2026 under the LAHF3 programme.
- b) Approve the delegation to the Chief Operations Officer in consultation with the Director of Finance and the Director of Law & Governance of authority to enter contracts related to activity set out in this report.

RECOMMEND to Audit and Governance Committee to recommend to Council:

- c) Increasing the authorised borrowing limit of the Council to accommodate the budget set out in the exempt report at Appendix 4 for the purchase of Harbour Sail.

Voting: Unanimous

80. Scrutiny of Budget related Cabinet Reports

The Portfolio Holder for Finance presented the following three reports, a copy of each had been circulated to each Member and the reports appear as Appendices 'C', 'D' and 'E' to these Minutes in the Minute Book.

- Medium Term Financial Plan Update
- Council Budget Monitoring 2024/25 at Quarter 2
- Assessing the serious cashflow issue caused by ever-increasing demand and cost outstripping High Needs Dedicated Schools Grant government funding.

The Board was informed that the MTFP aimed to ensure the council continued to maintain a balanced 2025/26 budget forecast by considering the impact that changes to the previous assumptions would have on the underlying approved position and taking mitigating action where necessary. This included the announcements relevant to local government in the 30 October Budget statement.

It was noted by the Board that this needed to be considered alongside the “Assessing the serious cashflow issue caused by ever-increasing demand and cost outstripping High Needs Dedicated Schools Grant government funding” report which provided an update on the ongoing conversation with the Department for Education (DfE) and the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (MHCLG) further to the letter of the Director of Finance issued on the 22 May 2024. This letter outlined concerns about the impact the ever-increasing deficit on the Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) would have on the council's ability to set a legally balanced budget for 2025/26.

The budget monitoring report provided the quarter two 2024/25 projected financial outturn information for the general fund and housing revenue account (HRA). The Board was informed that the February 2024 approved general fund budget for 2024/25 was balanced on the assumption of £38m in savings, efficiencies, and additional resources. Consistent with the position being reported by other upper tier authorities, the relentless demand for services and ever-increasing costs is a continual financial challenge. The 2024/25 quarter two budget monitoring position for BCP Council was a net forecast overspend for the year of £3m.

Officers were committed to bring the forecast back into balance.

- A number of issues were discussed relating to all of the finance papers although there was a significant focus on the report addressing the DSG related cashflow issues, including:
- Local Government Finance Settlement - In response to a question the Chief Finance Officer advised that the Local government finance settlement was delivered in November. In which the Government set out its intention towards Local Authorities. Further details on the settlement

were still awaited. It outlined the basic principles on Council Tax increases which allowed for a 2.99 percent basic increase which was in line with the MTFP assumption. It was confirmed that the settlement was to include national insurance employer contributions for directly employed staff but would not cover the impact of increases in commissioned care costs. Support of the household support fund had also been confirmed. Further detail was expected on either 16 or 19 December.

- Budget monitoring – parking costs -The Board asked about the situation with bank charges and the impact that this was having on the budget as it was reported that there were significant costs occurred. It was hoped that the summer season would have had a positive impact on this. However, the weather had not been good which had further impacted on charges.
- The SEND statutory override – It was noted that this was due to finish on 31 March 2026. A member suggested that the Council should be working with the five local MPs to help ensure that the government was listening to the Local Authorities. It was noted that 4 out of the 5 MPs had already written on the issue and the fifth MP was taking it up directly through a parliamentary question. It was noted that the four options outlined in section 28 of the report to address this issue were all unpalatable. At the present time it was not possible to set a balanced budget and it was expected that if the government would need to provide direction on what they expected the local authorities to do.
- Cashflow impact - It was noted that any available cash in the Council's accounts was being used to cashflow the deficit and the cost to the council was being occurred in the loss of interest to the Council. It was noted that CIL funding was also included in the funds being used to cashflow this.
- Transformation programme – This was included in the MTFP report and it was expected that the main transformation programme was ending soon. However, there were further transformation programmes taking place including ones within Adults and Children's Services.
- Carter's Quay – The Board raised concerns regarding the release fee to the administrator and questioned the level of costs for this. It was noted that this was still highlighted as a potential risk for the Council.
- Contingency – The Board questioned how the Council would be able to address any unexpected issues given the contingency has been depleted. It was noted that the monitoring report was aiming to provide a realistic projected picture in terms of contingency use. It was imperative that everybody worked together to address the projected overspend.
- Additional capital programmes – It was noted that there was a lot of work being undertaken on the Capital programme and that something more transparent would be brought to a future meeting.
- Concern was raised that only 88 percent of savings were on track to be realised and the contingency had been used in full. It was noted that reserves were also expected to fall. The Portfolio Holder responded that they had a reasonable level of confidence to achieve the savings outlined but it was expected that these would be achieved in a longer timeframe than anticipated.

- High Needs DSG impact – It was noted that SEND leaders within the Council did not have the power to address the issue which was the demand created but not by those who needed to fund it and a lack of provision in the areas in which it was needed. Decision makers outside of the influence of the SEND budget, within BCP there was an improving SEND system but many of the demands were beyond the Council's control.

81. BCP Council Libraries – Update on Library Strategy Development

The Portfolio Holder for presented a report, a copy of which had been circulated to each Member and a copy of which appears as Appendix 'F' to these Minutes in the Minute Book. The Board was advised that the report provided an update to Cabinet on progress being made with the future library strategy following consultation with the Public during May and June 24. It also included the Needs Assessment document which had been developed to aid the evaluation of any future proposed change. The report set out the next phase of work to determine recommendations in relation to the future library service model and explained the connection with the wider asset management work which was underway organisationally to seek efficiencies around the corporate estate. It was anticipated that the key elements of the future library strategy would be presented no later than the end of May 2025, including potential options on a site-by-site basis. The Board raised a number of issues in discussion on this item including:

- Access to refreshments - there were many respondents dissatisfied with the access to refreshments in libraries and there was a request to have café facilities within libraries.
- Use of online Services – it was interesting to see that the survey respondents didn't appear to use online services very often and it was noted that perhaps access to this service versus the cost of provision could be considered
- Survey responses – The Board welcomed the very comprehensive survey responses and noted that it was interesting to see the use of libraries within different areas. It was noted that the main reason for library visits was the books but that this was combined with other reasons.
- Friends of Library Organisations – it was suggested that if people were given the opportunity to do this it may be welcomed. It was noted that there was assistance available to help with setting friends groups up.
- Community use of Libraries – Encouraging community use of libraries was a positive step but it was noted that it was important to explain and promote the size and facilities for these and also how people could book them.
- Survey results – It was suggested that it was important to recognise that the results of the survey were not necessarily representative. For example, there were a number of resources available which could be accessed online and perhaps those responding to the consultation accessing physical libraries were different to those accessing online resources.

- Potential change of location or co-location of services – The Board questioned whether this could mean that some of the library services would be closed. The Portfolio Holder advised that it was their ambition to retain 24 libraries across the conurbation, but individual library locations may be given consideration.
- Budget – There were some concerns raised at the potential direction the strategy may take when proposed. It was noted that the Library services budget has been reduced incrementally overtime and it wouldn't be possible to continue in the same vein which was why the renewed strategy was required.

RESOLVED that the Overview and Scrutiny Board recommend that Cabinet support the recommendations as set out in the report as follows:

- (A) notes the content of the report and outcomes of the Public Consultation**
- (B) notes and comments on the planned tranches of work to define the service offer and the options appraisal process regarding building**
- (C) approves the timescale of no later than end of May 2025 for presenting the key elements of the future library strategy**

Voting: Nem. Con.

82. Work Plan

The Chair presented a report, a copy of which had been circulated to each Member and a copy of which appears as Appendix 'G' to these Minutes in the Minute Book. The Overview and Scrutiny (O&S) Board is asked to consider and identify work priorities for publication in a Work Plan.

It was noted that the Board had expressed a preference to take the Arts and Culture Funding Report as its next scheduled pro-active scrutiny item.

The Board noted the current working group on the Consultation Framework would need to meet for the first time in February 2025.

The Chairman advised that further potential working groups on the issues raised by the BID briefing would also need to be considered. The Board agreed to add a working group on this issue to the Work Plan.

Items for the meeting in January were noted.

The meeting ended at 9.45 pm

CHAIRMAN

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ACTION SHEET – BOURNEMOUTH, CHRISTCHURCH AND POOLE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY BOARD

Updated – 7 November 2024

Minute number	Item	Action* *Items remain until action completed.	Benefit	Outcome (where recommendations are made to other bodies)
Meeting Date: 27 August 2024				
28.	Council Budget Monitoring 2024/25 at Quarter One	The Board requested that a report on Capital - as part of Q2 report be brought to the Board – to remain on tracker until achieved.	To ensure the Board has some oversight of this issue.	Further detail on this expected with the next Budget monitoring report
Meeting Date: 21 October 2024				
60.	Blue Badge Service Update Report	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The Portfolio Holder/Leader and the Chief Executive be asked to write to the Department for Transport to raise the concerns outlined by the O&S Board and that the Portfolio Holder take the issue forward with local MPs and the Local Government Association to encourage local authorities to raise these issues with the Department for Transport and request that central government gives local authorities the freedom to set fees which cover the cost of administering the system and that the system should be simplified in terms of renewal processes. 2. A further update be brought back to the Board in approximately 6 months. 		Item added to Work Plan – Response provided - Action to be removed

Meeting Date: 18 November 2024				
68.	Overview of BCP Council Consultation approaches	That a working group to consider the Consultation Framework be established		Working group added to the FP – Membership being sought
69.	O&S Budget Working Groups – findings and recommendations	<p>Please see minutes for full recommendations:</p> <p>Recommendations to Cabinet will be included within the Cabinet agenda for its meeting on 10.12.24</p> <p>Budget related recommendations to be considered by Cabinet in February</p> <p>Recommendations to other overview and scrutiny Committees have been taken to the respective committee meetings</p>		
Meeting Date: 9 December 2024				
78.	Pay and Reward progress update	The Board resolved to support the recommendations within the Cabinet Report	To ensure that Cabinet considered the views of the O&S Board when taking a decision on this matter	Item reported to O&S Board on 10 December – item to be removed
79.	Housing Delivery Council Newbuild Housing and Acquisition Strategy (CNHAS) update and	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. A request was made to benchmark on voids against other local authorities. – PH to look into the viability of this. 2. Information on the total number of temporary accommodation units in BCP to be provided to the Board 	To ensure that responses are received to information requested at the meeting	Information awaited. Recommendations reported to the Cabinet meeting on 10 December

	Harbour Sail acquisition	3. The Baord resolved to support the recommendations within the Cabient Report		
81.	BCP Council Libraries – Update on Library Strategy Development	The Baord resolved to support the recommendations within the Cabient Report	To ensure that Cabient considered the views of the O&S Board when taking a decision on this matter	Item reported to O&S Board on 10 December – item to be removed
82.	Work Plan	Arts and Culture Fundng to be added as an item on the Board on 25 February. BID related issues working group to be added to the Work Plan		Items added to the Work Plan

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OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY BOARD



Report subject	BCP Community Safety Partnership Annual Report
Meeting date	9 December 2024
Status	Public Report
Executive summary	<p>This paper sets out elements of development and delivery by the BCP Community Safety Partnership (CSP), 'Safer BCP' and its constituent agencies. It provides Members with an update since the last report to Overview and Scrutiny Panel in December 2023.</p> <p>The Local Government Act 2000 includes crime and disorder scrutiny as one of the functions the council must ensure its scrutiny arrangements cover. Sections 19 and 20 of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 and related regulations require the Council to have a committee with the functions of reviewing and scrutinising decisions and actions in respect of the discharge of crime and disorder functions by "responsible authorities".</p> <p>The specifics of the duty are set out in the Police and Justice Act 2006, which also allows members to refer any "local crime and disorder matter" raised with them by anyone living or working in their area, to the Crime and Disorder Committee. The Board designated as the Crime and Disorder Scrutiny Committee must meet at least once every 12-month period to conduct the functions.</p> <p>Guidance issued concerning how this role should be conducted include that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the role should be one of a critical friend, providing constructive challenge at a strategic level. • the focus should be on the entire partnership and if issues arise that relate specifically to a particular partner agency, it may be more appropriate to refer such issues to the governing bodies of that organisation. • the scrutiny of partners should be "in so far as their activities relate to the partnership itself." <p>In the BCP area, the Overview and Scrutiny Board undertakes this function each December.</p>
Recommendations	It is RECOMMENDED that:

	<p>i) Members note the progress of the Community Safety Partnership over the past year, to November 2024</p> <p>ii) Members note the BCP Community Safety Partnership's progress under the Serious Violence Duty which came into effect 31 January 2024</p>
Reason for recommendations	<p>Overview and Scrutiny Board are updated and made aware of the Safer BCP Community Safety Partnership's activities and achievements over 2023/24, most notably the work undertaken on the Serious Violence Duty.</p> <p>The requirement for annual scrutiny is met.</p>
Portfolio Holder(s):	Cllr Kieron Wilson, Portfolio Holder for Community Safety
Corporate Director	Jillian Kay, Corporate Director for Wellbeing
Report Authors	<p>Kelly Deane, Director for Housing and Communities</p> <p>Cat McMillan, Head of Communities, Partnerships and Community Safety</p>
Wards	Council-wide
Classification	For update and information]

Background

1. In line with guidance, the Community Safety Partnership (CSP) developed the three-year Community Safety Strategy 2022-25, which was adopted by BCP Cabinet in September 2022 and Full Council in November 2022. The strategy is delivered through the development and implementation of annual Strategic Assessments to ensure that we continue to focus on working in partnership on the issues that matter most to the BCP area, using an evidence-based approach.
2. This report details the findings of the current Strategic Needs Assessments which inform the work of the CSP, the progress that has taken place since the last update to Overview and Scrutiny Board and details the future planned activity.
3. Since the BCP Community Safety Partnership (CSP) reported to the Overview and Scrutiny Panel in December 2023, the CSP has completed the Strategic Assessment of Crime and Disorder, compiling and reviewing data for the financial year for 2023/24, the findings of which are attached at Appendix A and form the basis for our work in 2024/5 and is available [here](#).
4. The strategic priorities for the CSP are:
 - a. Tackle violent crime in all its forms

- b. Keep young people and adults-at-risk safe from exploitation, including online risks
 - c. Work with communities to deal with antisocial behaviour (ASB) and crime hotspots, including ASB linked to substance misuse
 - d. Tackle issues relating to Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG)
- 5. Board Members will be aware that CSP's are statutory partnerships that comprise local authorities, the police, fire and rescue authorities, probation, and health. They have a reciprocal duty to cooperate with the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner, with responsibilities set out in legislation, to develop strategies and plans 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).¹
- 6. Specifically, the current statutory obligations of CSP's may be summarised as follows:
 - To establish a strategic group to direct the CSP's work
 - To set up protocols and systems for sharing information
 - To identify priorities via an annual strategic assessment
 - To produce a Partnership Plan and monitor progress against it
 - To develop strategies to reduce re-offending, substance misuse and domestic abuse
 - To commission Domestic Homicide Reviews
- 7. The CSP also has oversight of the work to prevent people from being drawn into terrorism, although the statutory Prevent Duty is on individual organisations rather than the CSP itself.
- 8. The Serious Violent Crime Duty came into effect in January 2023, with the BCP CSP Serious Violence Strategy approved in January 2024- progress against this is covered in further details later in the report.
- 9. The CSP Chair is T/Chief Superintendent Heather Dixey, and the Vice-Chair is Cllr Kieron Wilson as Portfolio Holder for Housing and Regulation with responsibility for Community Safety.
- 10. A significant amount of activity has taken place through the CSP over the last 12 months and key elements are highlighted in this report. Appendix D provides a full summary of the activity undertaken during 2024.
- 11. This report sets out:
 - a. The CSPs compliance with its statutory functions as set out at section 6
 - b. Activity undertaken by the CSP against its priorities over the last 12 months

¹ <https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/1998/37/section/5> and <https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/1998/37/section/6>

- c. The key findings from the refreshed Strategic Needs Assessment and Serious Violence Needs Assessment using the 2023-4 data
- d. The recommendations for targeted work in response to the findings of the Needs Assessments
- e. Other forthcoming work and areas of focus for the CSP

Overview and Scrutiny Board review of the CSP's functions

12. The following sections details the CSP's compliance and progress against the key functions of CSP's under the Crime and Disorder Act as set out in sections 5 and 6 of this report.

13. Strategic Group to Direct the work of the CSP- The BCP Community Safety Partnership was formed in 2019 following Local Government Review. The work is led by the Executive Board which consists of representations from the specified authorities under the Act:

- a. Dorset Police
- b. Dorset & Wiltshire Fire Service
- c. Dorset Probation Service and Dorset Combined Youth Justice Service
- d. Health
- e. BCP Council (representation from Portfolio Holder for Housing and Regulation, Adults Services, Children's Services, Community Safety and Housing)
- f. Representation from the Office for the Police & Crime Commissioner for Dorset (non-voting capacity)

14. The Executive Board has increased the frequency of the Board meetings from quarterly to bi-monthly in order ensure that we are able to incorporate the statutory responsibilities of the Serious Violence Duty alongside the core function of the CSP. Meetings are recorded and minute'd and displayed on the Safer BCP website for openness and transparency. A risk register is maintained for the CSP highlighting any key risks to the work of the partnership- current risks remain the uncertainty around the continuation of grant funding for domestic abuse and serious violence beyond the end of the current financial year.

15. **(CSPs should) set up protocols and systems for sharing information-** to enable the effective and timely operation of the CSP, appropriate information sharing protocols should be in place for the proportionate sharing of data to:

- facilitate the secure sharing of information between CSPs and partner agencies;
- govern the secure use and management of information by CSPs;
- enable the responsible authorities in a CSP to meet their legislative obligations effectively, e.g. Section 17 of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 (as amended by the Police and Justice Act 2006 and the Policing and Crime Act 2009); and
- ensure that clear processes are in place for the partnership to respond to Freedom of Information requests, including those occasions when a request is made for information from one agency which originated from another

partner agency (in this situation the agency who received the request should consult with the originating authority before any information is released).

16. Data is shared between the specified authorities of the CSP in order to disclose information to help to prevent or detect crime, or to help to catch, or prosecute offenders. Data may also be used to safeguard and support an individual from harm and/or exploitation. For example, the Council works in partnership with the Dorset Police, Dorset Fire & Rescue Services and other local agencies to assist in Community Safety under the Crime & Disorder Act. This Act allows information to be shared in certain circumstances.
17. Both personalised and de-personalised data may be shared based upon the issues being addressed. For example, the CSP Analysts have clearance to access to the Police Niche recording system in order to develop the quarterly KPI reports and annual strategic assessments and this is reported as depersonalised data. Reports are also compiled to inform the monthly Partnership Co-ordinating Group (PCG) about real time hotspot and trend data to enable targeted partnership activity. Personalised data may be shared between relevant agencies under appropriate legislation- for example, through the Young Person's Violent Crime Task & Finish group to ensure that young people are safeguarded and protective measures can be applied to move them away from harm and criminality.
18. **To identify priorities via an annual strategic assessment-** CSP's are required to undertake an annual assessment of the type and nature of crime and disorder that impacts their area. In addition, under the Serious Violence Duty they should also under an annual assessment of the Serious Violent Crime that most affects their area. In some instances, the 'priority' crime types may overlap in both strategic assessments, as we see with Domestic Abuse. However, a higher prevalence of a crime type under the CSP Annual Strategic Assessment may not make it a priority for the focus of partnership working. Priorities need to be considered alongside the proportionality/threat/harm/impact to the community of BCP and where partnership working can bring the best outcomes. The findings of the two strategic assessments using the 2023-4 data sets are detailed further in this report in section 62 to 68.
19. **To produce a partnership plan and monitor progress against it-** The [BCP Community Safety Partnership Strategy](#) and the [Serious Violence Strategy](#) provide the strategic plan for the partnership's priorities and areas of work. These are then broken down in to detailed annual action plans which are reported back to and monitored by the CSP at their Executive Meetings to ensure that progress is being made and to help 'unblock' any areas where we are struggling to make progress. Areas of concerns are discussed and if appropriate added to the risk register for the CSP along with any mitigating actions which we can put in place. The CSP's Strategy is due for a refresh in 2025 and this will include a review of progress to date against our existing actions, any emerging threats or issues and confirmation around any future funding for the work from central government. Recommendations from Domestic Homicide Reviews (DHRs) and Safeguarding Adults Review are also incorporated into the action plan for the CSP.

20. **To develop strategies to reduce re-offending, substance misuse and domestic abuse-** both the BCP and Dorset CSP's approved the Pan-Dorset Reducing Reoffending Strategy in 2024. Monitoring of the strategy is undertaken by the Pan-Dorset Reducing Reoffending Board which the CSPs have representation on alongside the Institute for Offender Management (IOM). Probation Services are currently undergoing a number of changes due to changes in legislation relating to prison release and Offender Management. This will be reported back to the CSP Executive Board at their November meeting to discuss any concerns if they have arisen. The Dorset and BCP Combatting Drugs Partnership was established in 2022 in response to the Government's 'Harm to Hope' 10 year's drug strategy. The Partnership is led by the Office for the Police and Crime Commissioner for Dorset.
21. The 'BCP Preventing Domestic Abuse Strategy 2022-25' is currently being refreshed alongside a 'Safe Accommodation Strategy' and a 'Perpetrators Strategy'. These will help to inform our commissioning plans for new services to be advertised in 2025 and will cover the period 2025-30. They will be shaped by our Lived Experience survey work, our Experts by Experience group, a cross-party member working group and public consultation. It is anticipated that they will be presented to Cabinet in April 2025. The delivery of the strategies are overseen by the Domestic Abuse Strategic Group which reports to the CSP Executive Board.
22. **To commission Domestic Homicide Reviews (DHR)-** during 2023/4 we have been notified of four domestic homicide reviews for the CSP to commission and report back to the Home Office and appropriate safeguarding boards on the findings and recommendations. These are then incorporated into the CSP Action Plan. We are unable to provide details at this time of the four individual cases as some are still subject to the court process. Once a DHR has been completed it is published [here](#).
23. In addition to the above, the CSP also has statutory duties under the Serious Violent Crime Duty. The CSP's [Serious Violence Strategy](#), was adopted in January 2024, and at the time of writing this report we are now ten months into the new duty for Serious Violence and making good progress. A detailed Serious Violence Needs Assessment is undertaken annually to ensure that any changes in crime types can be identified and assessed, this is available as Appendix B and [here](#).
24. The four priorities for the CSP under the Serious Violence Duty are:
- Sexual Assaults and Rape
 - Violence Against the Person- Knife Crime
 - Robbery
 - Domestic Abuse

Progress against our key priorities over the past 12 months:

25. The following section summarises activity that has taken place over the past 12 months in relation to our key priorities. A full summary can be found in Appendix D. Many of the initiatives undertaken cover more than one priority, for example domestic abuse and sexual assaults fit under the 'violent crime' priority, but as the majority of victims are female they also fit under the 'Violence Against

Women and Girls' priority. Therefore, where an intervention is cross cutting, it will have the initial **(CC)** next to it.

Priority 1- Tackle violent crime in all its forms, including Serious Violent Crime

- 26. Knife Crime Awareness Campaign-** The campaign #livesbeforeknives #changesaremade to raise awareness of knife crime ran between May and September 2024 and included a range of activities for young people, parents and carers and professionals to educate and support around knife crime [Knife Crime Awareness - Working in Partnership](#). This included working with partners including AFC Bournemouth, Bournemouth Town Centre BID, Dorset Police, Community Champions and the community and voluntary sector in a Public Health approach to addressing and preventing crime.
- 27. Sexual Violence Awareness Week (Feb 24) (CC)** - This campaign started off with 'Cat Calls of BCP' where members of the BCP Youth Parliament and Youth Forum chalked their experiences of street-based harassment onto the pavements in Poole and Bournemouth. We provided training sessions to professionals who work with young people around sexually harmful behaviour, gender inequality, gender-based violence and progressive masculinity.
- 28. Domestic Abuse (DA) Forums (CC)** – We have worked with partners to provide a productive learning and sharing space about Domestic Abuse for professionals for the last 19 months. These covered a range of subjects including DA perpetrators, support for Children and DA, stalking, learning disabilities and DA, Victim Support and male victims.
- 29. Serious Violence Delivery Group (CC)** – This group coordinates projects in response to the Serious Violence Needs Assessment, working with a wide range of partners. Examples of the work include training for seafront staff and other frontline staff on handling and responding to disclosures of sexual offences from the public, making it easier for victims to access support quickly and safely. Dedicated Task & Finish groups focus on specific activity such as the Young Person's Serious Violence group which aims to look at safeguarding vulnerable young people from harm and or exploitation
- 30. Stalking and DA Perpetrator work (CC)** – We provide a DA perpetrator programme across BCP, which is a behaviour change programme working with both male and female perpetrators of domestic abuse. Our workers are trained in stalking risk assessments to provide a better risk assessment process to ensure that we provide the correct response to those causing harm. Each DA perpetrator programme is tailored to the individual following a thorough assessment, specific modules linked to the assessment are carried out with each individual. The victim is offered a specialist support worker whilst the perpetrator is on the programme to manage risk and offer support.
- 31. Harmful Sexual Behaviour (HSB) in young people** – We are currently working with partners to develop a local framework in how to deal with HSB in schools and other settings to keep children and young people safe. We are in the early stages of planning a joint event for schools and professionals about HSB in March 25.
- 32. Consent Worker** – We have funded a consent worker with STARS to work with schools, universities and the community, raising awareness with all about sexual consent.

- 33. Sex Outreach Worker** – We have funded a worker at Bournemouth and Poole College with STARS for sex outreach worker – they offer guidance, advice and support to both students and staff to try to prevent offences occurring and offering support where they have
- 34. Operation Soteria Bluestone** - Dorset Police is part of Operation Soteria Bluestone, which aims to improve the response of the police service to victims of rape and sexual offences and their experience of the criminal justice process. Officers actively engaged with universities in the run up to and during fresher's fortnight, promoting a range of safety initiatives including personal safety awareness and crime reporting options.
- 35. Domestic Abuse Health Advocates** – We fund specialist domestic abuse health advocates who are based in both main hospitals in the BCP Council area. They work with patients in the hospital who are identified as suffering domestic abuse, providing support and safety advice, and referring on to relevant services if required. They also provide training and support to hospital staff, helping them identify domestic abuse more effectively.
- 36. Children and Young People Domestic Abuse Support** – We have funded six specialist children and young people domestic abuse advocates across BCP. They provide support, advocacy and therapeutic intervention to children and young people who have experienced domestic abuse in their homes and/or in their intimate relationships.
- 37. Escape The Trap**- We have funded 9 staff within BCP to be trained in Escape The Trap facilitation. Escape the Trap (Teenage Relationship Abuse Programme, TRAP) has been developed in acknowledgement of the rising numbers of young people identified as being vulnerable to intimate relationship abuse. It is designed to support young people to learn about the dynamics of grooming, coercion and power & control at a much earlier stage in their experience of intimate relationships.
- 38. Domestic Abuse Housing Alliance (DAHA) (CC)** - BCP Council is working toward DAHA accreditation which is the UK benchmark for how housing providers should respond to domestic abuse in the UK. It is the only scheme in the UK offering domestic abuse accreditation for the housing sector.
- 39. Multi-Agency Risk Assessment Conference (MARAC) (CC)** – we continue to operate the weekly multi-agency MARAC with 734 cases in 2023/24. The average number of cases per BCP MARAC (14) falls just below the predicted range of 15 to 20 cases per week.
- 40. Domestic Abuse Strategic Lead (CC)** – we have recruited a domestic abuse strategic lead to ensure that we are complying with all current and forthcoming legislation and ensure we are providing the best possible services to survivors of domestic abuse.

Priority 2- Keep young people and adults-at-risk safe from exploitation, including online risks

- 41. SafeBus** – We are working with Dorset Police to secure a Safe Bus provision for Bournemouth Town Centre, as a static alternative to the Town Pastors, who patrol Bournemouth town centre on a Saturday night. The SafeBus, or Safe Base, will be a consistent safe space on weekends, offering a safe place to all nighttime economy revellers and visitors to Bournemouth Town Centre at night.

- 42. Safe Places** – a Safe Place Scheme has run in BCP for the last 5 years for people with Learning Difficulties, offering a place of safety in local spaces including shops and cafes if an individual is feeling at risk or needing support. BCP Council and People First Forum have been working over the last year towards making those Safe Places available to anyone who would need a safe place – including but not exclusively to young people, women and girls. Over 120 locations across BCP are signed up to the Safe Place scheme and they receive training on how to support the individual needing sanctuary. We are in the process of expanding in Bournemouth Town Centre to more premises in the Autumn of 2024.
- 43. Prevent Week of Action 7th – 11th October 24-** Building on the success of last year's Prevent Week of Action, activity aimed to promote and raise awareness across the partnership, education sector, and local community. The key focus was to increase the number and quality of the referrals coming in for Prevent and subsequently increase our conversion rate. The Week of Action was carried out with good attendance to all events across the week.
- 44. The Pan-Dorset PREVENT Partnership-** we have updated the pan-Dorset Prevent Partnership Plan informed by the SW Counter Terrorism Local Plan. The Prevent 'Education and Training' Task and Finish group has created the pan Dorset Training framework and has launched Home Office accredited face to face Prevent Awareness training delivered by BCP staff.
- 45. Channel Panel-** led by the local authority, Channel is a multi-agency forum to support individuals who are susceptible to being drawn into terrorism. Individuals who have been referred in to PREVENT are assessed by Counter Terrorism police and if appropriate referred into Channel for support, with their consent. Information on the numbers in the Channel process is restricted information but there have been active cases in BCP over the last 12 months. Compliance with PREVENT and Channel is monitored by the Home Office and is currently assessed as 'meeting' or 'exceeding' all of the requirements under the CONTEST strategy.
- Priority 3- Work with communities to deal with antisocial behaviour (ASB) and crime hotspots, including ASB linked to substance misuse**
- 46. CCTV (CC)** – We have installed additional CCTV through the 'Safer Streets' fund for additional cameras in both Westcliff and Horseshoe Common in Bournemouth as a direct response to concerns around ASB, sexual assaults and other crimes.
- 47. ASB hotspot mapping-** Our analysts map ASB data to identify any hotspot locations or emerging areas of concern. Where hotspots are identified, multi-agency Task & Finish (T&F) groups are established to work together to address ASB with the local community. An example of this over the last 12 months is a T&F group for the West Howe area of Bournemouth in response to concerns about ASB.
- 48. Multi-agency working-** The ASB team have officers working across BCP and work closely with key partners both internal and external, such as Licensing and Trading Standards teams; Community Safety (CSAS) Officers; Dorset Police; Bournemouth Town Centre BID (Business Improvement District) Rangers; WISE Litter Enforcement Officers and We are With You for early intervention, engagement, education and enforcement focus to tackle anti-social behaviour.

49. Youth ASB prevention- The service holds a youth specific role, focusing on joint working with Dorset Police and Children's Social Care to prevent anti-social behaviour and encourage suitable support. This positively shows that early intervention has been a benefit in reducing ASB cases from escalating through our scheme. The team undertake early Intervention home visits to identify needs early for our families in the BCP community and work with our partners to offer support

50. The Community Safety Accreditation Scheme (CSAS)- CSAS provides uniformed patrol officers across key locations. The officers undertake visible uniformed patrols to tackle street related anti-social behaviour, using targeted police powers. The teams co-locate with Dorset police colleagues to ensure robust information sharing and relevant escalation of issues. The team are deployed on a data led approach, where incidents of anti-social behaviour are most prevalent. The team take an engagement and enforcement focus, with support referrals made to relevant charities and commissioned providers to engage clients who are homeless or have addition needs.

51. Town Team activity- The table below details the activity which took place as part of the CSAS and ASB Team Town Team activity between November 2023 and November 2024.

Activity	
CSAS Coverage (hours)	6,478
Alcohol Seizures	79
Alcohol Dispersals	154
ASBIs	18
CPNs	11
CPWs	31
ASB/PSPO Warnings	22
Support Referrals	48

Priority 4- Tackle issues relating to Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG)

52. United Nations 16 Days of Activism (Nov-Dec 23)- We ran a full programme of events throughout this period with a focus on victim/survivor support. Working with more than 10 local and national partners the events included an art and community support exhibition, healthy masculinity workshops, community engagement events and online webinars.

53. The Unity Promise (CC) – We launched the Unity Promise which is practical steps for venues, services, operators and businesses to take to help make

Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole a great and safe, place for women and girls to live and visit. It looks at removing the responsibility from women and girls to keep themselves safe and instead looks at how we can support venues looking to best respond to disclosures and identify risk areas and predatory behaviour. So far, 22 businesses have successfully received their training and are now pledged and fully qualified members of the Unity Promise, helping to create a safer environment for all women and girls.

- 54. Community Guardianship Scheme (CC)** – We have funded the setup of a community guardianship scheme to offer reassurance and a visible presence in an area of Bournemouth Town Centre which we know is a concern for women and girls. We have linked in with the existing town pastors who will assist in providing training for the Community Guardians. This scheme covers the top part of the town from the Mary Shelley pub up to the train station to assist/support students walking back to Holdenhurst Rd student accommodation. We are currently advertising for volunteers to take part in the scheme.
- 55. Women Only drop-in service (CC)** – We run a drop-in one evening a week in Bournemouth for women at risk of abuse or homeless in partnership with St Mungo's. This is staffed by BCP Council staff, volunteers and other partnership agencies. We aim to provide a safe space for women and practical help as well as providing other support services such as a clothes swap, mindfulness, health and fitness.
- 56. Street Workers Risk Assessment Conference (SWRAC) (CC)** – We hold a multiagency risk assessment meeting, chaired by BCP Council staff, each month to assess risk and coordinate a response to this risk for all known street sex workers. Working closely with Dorset Working Women Project, outreach workers and accommodation providers, work is carried out to ensure that we work together to reduce the likelihood of violence and other offences against these women.
- 57. Support and programmes for domestic abuse (CC)** – We have a domestic abuse outreach service and offer two programmes for female victim/survivors on a weekly basis- these are Power to Change and the Freedom Programme. An example of the work undertaken is where The Shores and BCP staff visit local traveller sites to offer support and advice to female members of the travelling community and make them aware of services and options available to them in the local area.
- 58. VAWG Conferences** – We participated in both the VAWG conference at Bournemouth University last year and the VAWG summit at the University this year.
- 59. Town Watch (CC)**- Both BCP and Dorset Police are active members of Town Watch where members recently worked with officers to promote a sense of security in licensed venues. Local policing teams actively work with partners on a range of initiatives to ensure the safety of women and girls in Dorset including Operation Vigilant to identify potential perpetrators.
- 60. Experts by Experience (CC)** - We have established an Experts by Experience Board, who are a group of female survivors of domestic abuse who meet monthly to assist BCP Council in responding to the local domestic abuse need.
- 61. White Ribbon Accreditation (CC)** - BCP Council has gained White Ribbon Accreditation which provides all organisations with a structured approach to

create positive cultural change. Becoming Accredited shows our commitment to preventing harassment, abuse and violence against women and girls through promoting gender equality, raising awareness and ensuring that men as well as women are part of the solution.

Summary of Crime and Disorder in 2023/4, including Serious Violent crime

62. The following is a summary of the findings of the BCP CSP Strategic Needs Assessment and BCP CSP Serious Violence Needs Assessment which looks at all recorded crime across the BCP area between the 2023-24 financial year. Appendix C provides information regarding the data and Key Performance Indicators adopted by the CSP for the financial year 22/3 to 23/4. This is reported to the CSP Executive Board for scrutiny on both a quarterly and annual basis.
63. The most common types of serious violence offending in BCP in financial year 2023/24 were sexual assault on a female, rape of a female aged 16 or over, personal robbery and GBH Section 18. It is worth noting that some of this data will include historical offences in each year, so may not be a true reflection of actual offences committed during each year.
64. There was a 7% reduction in police recorded sexual assault on a female and a 6.6% reduction of police recorded rape of a female aged 16 or over between 2022/3 and 2023/4. However, there was a 19% increase in serious sexual offences where the offence was flagged as Domestic Abuse.
65. Knife flagged serious violence occurrences follow a different pattern to all of the other crime types when looking over a 5-year period to 2023/4, with a considerable peak in 2020/21, at 172 occurrences. Numbers decreased by 24% the following year to 131, and decreased by a further 37% in 2022/23, to 82 occurrences. There were 88 knife flagged occurrences in 2023/24. Personal robbery was consistently the most common type of knife flagged serious violence occurrence within the 5-year period
66. There was a 3.8% reduction in police reported public place violent crime between 2022/3 and 2023/4.
67. There was a 11% reduction in the total number of all ASB reported to the police, with 10,949 reported in 2022/3 compared to 9,726 in 2023/4.
68. There has been a noticeable reduction in the number of young people as first-time entrants to the Criminal Justice System. One reason for the reduction in First-Time Entrants is the use of 'Outcome 22', which was implemented locally in early 2023. Outcome 22 is a police recording code for offences where no further police action is taken, on the basis that the child will receive an assessment and an appropriate intervention. All decisions to use a diversion option for children are taken jointly between Dorset Police and DCYJS, taking into account both the seriousness of the offence and the child's individual situation.

Year	2022/23	2023/24	2024/25 (figures to 31/10/24)
Total First-Time Entrants in the BCP Council area	79	54	31

Recommendations from the Strategic and SV needs assessment

69. The following recommendations from the Strategic Needs Assessment and the Serious Violence Needs Assessment will form part of the action plan for the BCP CSP during 2024/5. In a number of examples there is overlap between priorities such as serious violence and issues relating to VAWG

Priority 1- Tackling Violent Crime in all its forms (including Serious Violent Crime): Sexual offences, including Rape:

- 70. Older victims/offenders-** The number of victims aged 50-54 for sexual offences was higher than to be expected. Work for 2024/5 will focus on ensuring that support services are accessible for older victims to ensure that support is widely available.
- 71. Older victims/offenders-** A behavioural Change programme is being developed with researchers from Bournemouth University to specifically target older offenders of sexual offences with a view to changing offending behaviour.
- 72. Young people-** Prevention, education and consent work will continue with universities around sexual offences, as data for 2023/24 shows that this age group is still a key cohort in terms of victims of sexual offences. This includes working with accommodation providers and attending events such as Freshers Fayre to raise awareness of consent and staying safe.
- 73. Young people-** the CSP will be rolling out it's Harmful Sexual Behaviour programme with schools and the Safer Schools team at Dorset Police to provide a safe space for young people to ask questions around sex. In addition, we will continue to fund workers through Stars to support young people with reports of sexual offences.
- 74. Young people-** we have secured agreement from West Yorkshire Combined Authority to implement the impactful #justdon't campaign in BCP, looking at using behavioural change and peer pressure to challenge young men's harassment and sexualisation of young women. This will include a dedicated comms campaign with the CSP branding and further work with schools and local ambassadors to 'break the cycle' and challenge what is and isn't acceptable behaviour for a younger generation. [Just Don't - West Yorkshire Combined Authority](#)
- 75. Night- time economy establishments-** work will continue with pubs, bars and clubs to ensure that comprehensive training and procedures are in place when supporting victims of sexual assault in licensed premises.
- 76. Night- time economy establishments-** Work will continue with pubs, bars and clubs to increase the membership of the Unity Promise scheme and look at how it can be rolled out to other locations with partners. [BCP Unity Promise](#)

Robbery:

- 77. Further analytical profiling -** The most common location for robberies was in Central Bournemouth, and numbers were elevated on weekends. This is likely to do with routine activities theory. Future work will focus on geographical and spatial mapping and robbery methodology alongside seasonal trends (Christmas

Winter Wonderland, summer peaks etc) to help inform targeted police activity if trends continue.

Domestic abuse:

- 78. Domestic-abuse flagged rape** - A high proportion of rape occurrences had a domestic abuse flag. Further work will be undertaken to ensure that professionals working within domestic abuse services have extensive training on how to support victims of rape.
- 79. Domestic Abuse Strategies and re-commissioning of services** - The new 'BCP Domestic Abuse Strategy 2025/2030', 'BCP Safe Accommodation and Housing Strategy 2025/2030' and 'BCP Perpetrator Strategy 2025/2030' are in development and on track for publishing in April 2025, following public and professional consultation and approval through the Council's decision-making process, including the Overview and Scrutiny panel. These have been developed using local and national data, the BCP strategic assessment, the Safe Accommodation needs assessment and in collaboration with our lived experience groups.
- 80. Development of a Perpetrator programme (CC)** – we are working with Bournemouth University to look at developing our own Perpetrators Programme that builds on the significant experience of the UP2U programme.
- 81. Domestic Abuse Men's Lived Experience** - we are looking to develop better engagement with men who have been victims/survivors of domestic abuse. This is often achieved better on a 121 basis as they are often reluctant to engage in a group setting but it is important that we understand the barriers to their reporting and accessing support services.

Priority 2- keep young people and adults safe from exploitation (including online exploitation)

- 82. Data gaps** - Unfortunately, data around Priority 2 was limited. There were low numbers of young people known to the Complex Safeguarding Team who were being or were at risk of being criminally or sexually exploited. Wider police data around this topic (for both children and adults) was not available, creating a significant gap in our knowledge around this topic. We are working with Nottingham City Council who have developed a good system for recording and tracking instances relating to exploitation, cuckooing etc and will look to see if this can be replicated in BCP to enable us to assess the scale of the issue and any interventions that may be needed. It is hoped that this knowledge gap will be resolved for the next Strategic Assessments and we will work with partners to develop an exploitation action plan.
- 83. A learning and improving culture**- We continue to learn from reviews such as Domestic Homicide Reviews (DHRs) and Safeguarding Adult Reviews (SARs) to ensure that recommendations are added to the CSP Action Plan and implemented. Examples of DHRs for the BCP area can be found [here](#) and for SARs at the bottom of this page [here](#).

Priority 3- Work with communities to deal with ASB hotspots, including drug dealing

- 84.** Data around ASB showed that 'youth' was one of the most common themes within ASB data. Further, 'drug' related ASB increased by 25% in comparison to

last year. People using or dealing/drugs was identified as a key concern in the BCP resident's survey (2023), with residents in Boscombe West having the largest perception of all the wards of people using/dealing drugs in the area. This highlights the need to tackle drug dealing and use across BCP, perhaps with particular attention towards public perception in Boscombe West.

Priority 4- Tackle issues relating to Violence Against Women and Girls

85. A number of the priorities for the CSP overlap when looking at the data contained within the Strategic Needs Assessment and Serious Violence Needs Assessment. For example, when considering data relating to sexual offences and rape, women were disproportionately more likely to be a victim than men. This is also the case when looking at data relating to domestic abuse and rape cases with a domestic abuse flag. Future work for this priority is therefore highlighted in the section under Priority 1, Tackling Violent Crime in all its forms. Research and data around honour-based abuse and forced marriage were explored but there was limited data to make any conclusions. We will therefore look to raise awareness of the issues and how to report alongside developing an Exploitation action plan which will also link to priority 2 around keeping people safe from exploitation.

Cross cutting recommendations:

86. **Bournemouth** - Analysis of serious violent crime, anti-social behaviour and domestic abuse shows that across the three towns of BCP, Bournemouth experiences the highest amount of crime and disorder in relation to these crime types. A key beat code within the data which consistently displays high numbers across the different crime types is Central Bournemouth. As such, there is an evidence base for continued targeted and early intervention activity focusing on the town centre, such as the work around Unity Promise, work with young people, Days of Action and the #justdon't campaign.
87. **Young people** - A key cohort within the data was young people. Data shows that the most common age groups within the majority of the most prevalent types of serious violence occurrences in BCP generally involve young people as both victims and suspects, particularly those aged 15-19. Further, 'youth' was a significant theme within the ASB data. This suggests that young people are a key age group to target with intervention and prevention activities. Future work will focus on the continued engagement of young people, particularly those considered to be at risk.
88. **Young people** - Although young people were key cohorts within the different types of serious violence occurrences explored within this report, it is key to remember that only a minority of young people are involved in serious violence and the majority of crime is committed by adults.
89. **Missing data and data quality** - As reported in last year's annual report, there continues to be a large amount of missing ethnicity data, meaning the assessments were in some cases unable to clearly identify if there are any over or under representations of victim or suspect ethnicities. We will continue to work with partners to improve the quality of data collection to ensure that any anomalies are identified. The violence profile of the assessments would have been enhanced by the addition of ambulance and emergency care data relating to serious violence and work is underway with partners to look at how this can be addressed for future assessments.

Future work for the CSP in 2024/5 currently includes:

- 90. Victims and Prisoners Bill-** The Victims and Prisoners Bill introduces key reforms to improve the support, rights, and treatment of victims within the criminal justice system. By placing the principles of the Victims' Code into law, it ensures victims have enforceable rights to information, support, and participation. The Bill mandates that criminal justice bodies promote awareness of these rights and regularly review compliance, increasing transparency and accountability. It also enhances support services through joint commissioning for victims of serious crimes and strengthens the roles of Independent Sexual Violence Advisors (ISVAs) and Independent Domestic Violence Advisors (IDVAs). Additionally, the Bill expands the definition of victims to include bereaved families and children affected by domestic abuse, addressing their specific needs throughout the justice process. We are awaiting further guidance on what this means for the CSP and its partners.
- 91. Prevent Partnerships-** we are expecting that there will be amendments to the Serious Violence Act around the development of Prevent Partnerships to focus on early intervention for young people. We are awaiting further detail at this stage.
- 92. Cuckooing-** we will undertake further work with partners to better understand the extent of cuckooing within the BCP area and develop plans and interventions to address this.
- 93. Modern Day Slavery-** we will develop and adopt a Modern Day Slavery policy for BCP Council and the CSP and explore the extent to which this is taking place in the BCP area and undertake activity accordingly with partners.
- 94. Safer BCP website-** we will carry out a refresh of our [Safer BCP website](#) which has grown significantly in size and content since first developed in order to make sure that the CSP is openly publishing all its relevant information and activity.
- 95. Harmful Sexual Behaviours (HSB) Framework-** we will be launching and rolling out our HSB framework with schools and partners in response to data and analysis from the Serious Violence Needs Assessment around sexual assaults.
- 96. Exploitation Action Plan-** working with the two Safeguarding Boards we will look at developing an Exploitation Action Plan for both adults and children to address any issues identified through the planned work around modern day slavery, cuckooing and our existing work with SWARAC.

Forthcoming Strategies

97. The 'BCP Preventing Domestic Abuse Strategy 2025-30' and accompanying 'BCP Safe Accommodation Strategy' and 'BCP Perpetrators Strategy' have been drafted through the Domestic Abuse Strategic Group which reports to the CSP. These will be further refined through two cross-party Member working groups and public consultation and are due to go to Cabinet for approval in April 2025 before being formally commissioned for services.
98. The 'BCP Community Safety Partnership Strategy 2025-2030', will be developed during 2025 for consultation and adoption, incorporating the guidance from the Victims and Prisoners Bill and the three domestic abuse strategies detailed above. The BCP Anti-Social Behaviour Strategy will also be developed during 2025 as part of the work of the CSP.

99. All of this is in addition to the ongoing work around campaigns and weeks of action; development of tactical and strategic groups in response to analytical analysis; work under the Domestic Abuse Act Duty and Serious Violence Act Duty. We are also holding an away day for the CSP in February to look at how we can build on the current structure to make even greater links across our partners and existing Boards such as the Safeguarding Adults Board and Safeguarding Children's Board.

Summary

100. In summary, the CSP has undertaken a significant amount of activity over the past 12 months. The Serious Violence Needs Assessment has enabled us to identify the cohorts of individuals who are disproportionately at higher risk of being a victim of a serious violent crime, ensuring that the interventions we develop are targeted using an evidence based and public health approach.
101. We have seen a reduction in ASB, an overall reduction in sexual assaults and rapes and a reduction in public place violent crime. The number of young people as first-time entrants to the criminal Justice System has also significantly reduced. However, we must not be complacent and need to consider whether reductions in numbers of reported crime could be associated with a reluctance to report, rather than an overall reduction in crime.
102. Our work around Violence Against Women and Girls is making good progress and is further enhanced by the funding available through Safer Street 5 and the Serious Violence Duty.
103. Our domestic abuse lived experience survey is helping to shape and inform the development of the new Domestic Abuse Strategy, Safer Accommodation Strategy, Perpetrators Strategy and the commissioning of future services which meet the needs of our victims and perpetrators.
104. We continue to focus on activity to tackle exploitation of individuals working with partners such as local support agencies and charities to ensure we continue to develop our knowledge, identify vulnerable children and offer the best possible support to those affected. During 2025 we be looking to expand our work around 'Keeping young people and adults-at-risk safe from exploitation, including online risks' and 'Working with communities to deal with antisocial behaviour (ASB) and crime hotspots, including ASB linked to substance misuse' in line with the CSP's priorities.
105. Whilst we are proud of the work that has taken place across the last 12 months we are very conscious that there is still a lot of work ahead of us, particularly looking at how we can build on our existing community engagement activity and ensure that where ever possible we are co-designing interventions, using trauma informed approaches and including lived experiences.

Summary of financial implications

106. Where additional activity is taking place across the system, it is being funded through the relevant duty and associated funding, including the Domestic Abuse grant, Serious Violent Crime grant and the Safer Streets Fund. However, we are mindful that all of this funding is currently due to stop at the end of March 2025 and we have not had any confirmation of future funding as yet from the new Government.

Summary of legal implications

107. The Crime and Disorder Act 1998 (as amended) 2011, established partnerships between police, local authorities, fire and rescue authorities, probation, and health. The purpose of these partnerships is to ensure that all these agencies work together to tackle local crime and disorder. The 1998 Act placed a central duty on these 'responsible authorities' to produce audits of the area's local crime problems and implement strategies to tackle them.
108. Section 115 of the Crime and Disorder Act (1998) gave a power to any person or body to share information with partners for the purposes of reducing crime and disorder. This was strengthened by paragraph 5 of Schedule 9 to the Police and Justice Act that introduces a new section 17A of the 1998 Act which is a duty to share certain sets of depersonalised information,
109. The [Domestic Abuse Act 2021](#) Serious Violence Act 2023 and the [Police, Crime, Sentencing and Courts Act 2022](#) gives greater focus on violence, both within and outside the home, and on our collective ability to effectively safeguard and protect those within our communities who are vulnerable to these and other forms of harm. [From harm to hope: a 10-year drugs plan to cut crime and save lives](#) is an ambitious and action-focused 10-year strategy to enable real and sustained change.

Summary of human resources implications

110. The work of the CSP requires coordination and administration. This is largely met by council and police staff, utilising grant funding where eligible and appropriate. Measures are being pursued to involve staff from other partners, especially in providing data and analytical support.

Summary of sustainability impact

111. The Partnership is developing a strength-based approach which will include residents in developing local solutions to local problems. This, coupled with the Public Health Approach, will improve sustainability through early intervention and building on the strengths in communities.

Summary of public health implications

112. Public health and wellbeing are important by-products of a safer community. The work of the Partnership is to improve public health and community wellbeing by preventing crime and disorder, effectively tackling them when they occur, improving safety in the community, and reducing victimisation.

Summary of equality implications

113. Crime and disorder are unevenly distributed across the conurbation, and generally in inverse proportion to income levels. The overwhelming majority of victims of domestic abuse are women and children. Minority groups, including Black & Minority Ethnic people, people with disabilities and people from LGBTQ+ groups can suffer from hate crimes and incidents. Young people are disproportionately represented among both victims of crime and offenders, and elderly people often suffer from exaggerated fear of crime.

Summary of risk assessment

114. Data management resources and the unconfirmed nature of future funding pose the greatest risk to the effective functioning of the Partnership.

Appendices

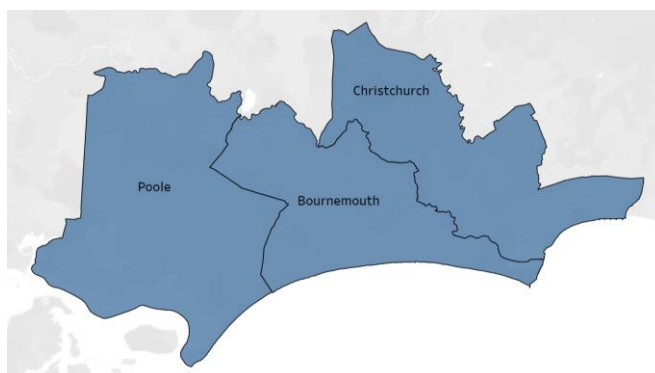
- Appendix A- BCP Strategic Assessment
- Appendix B- BCP Serious Violence Needs Assessment
- Appendix C- CSP dataset and KPI update
- Appendix D- Full CSP activity over the last 12 months

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SAFERBCP

Partnership

Bournemouth, Christchurch & Poole



STRATEGIC ASSESSMENT 2024/25



DORSET
POLICE



National
Probation
Service



Our
Dorset
Local NHS and Councils Working Together

Date: 17/06/2024

Version: 4.0

This document carries a protective marking of **OFFICIAL**.

Protective Marking: The document should not be used for any other purpose outside of this core remit, or passed to external agencies or other third parties, without the prior agreement of either the Chair of the BCP CSP or the Community Safety Manager.

Produced by: BCP Community Safety Partnership
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Contents

1	Executive Summary	7
1.1	Overview	7
1.2	Additional Needs and Risk Factors.....	7
1.3	2023/24 Recommended Priorities.....	8
1.4	Report Structure/ Methodology.....	9
1.5	Overview of Projects Run by the Community Safety Team in Relation to The Priorities.....	10
2	Introduction.....	11
2.1	The Safer Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole (BCP) Partnership	11
2.2	BCP Council	11
2.3	Policing:	12
2.4	Fire & Rescue.....	13
2.5	Probation	13
2.6	Our Dorset Integrated Care System (ICS)	13
2.7	Dorset Combined Youth Justice Board	14
3	Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole – Key Facts.....	15
3.1	Geographical	15
3.2	Population	15
3.3	Employment.....	17
3.4	Deprivation.....	18
3.5	Deprivation – Longer Term Trends	23
3.6	The Pandemic and Cost of Living Situation.....	25
3.7	Population Profile.....	26
3.8	Education	27
3.9	Young People	30
3.10	Health.....	31
3.11	Travel and Tourism.....	32
	33
4	Additional Needs/ Risk Factors	34
4.1	Overview	34
4.2	Substance Misuse or Abuse	34
4.3	Mental Health	39
4.4	Missing Persons.....	42
4.5	Homelessness.....	43
4.6	Radicalisation	44

5	Victims.....	46
6	Priority 1 – Tackle Violent Crime in all of its forms.....	49
6.1	Serious Violence – Overview and National Context.....	49
6.2	Serious violence in bcp.....	51
6.3	Sexual assaults	55
6.4	Rape.....	63
6.5	Robbery	69
6.6	Section 18 Grievous Bodily Harm (GBH)	75
6.7	Knife Flagged Offending	81
6.8	Summary	86
7	Priority 2 – Keep young people and adults safe from exploitation (including online exploitation).....	88
7.1	Child Criminal and Sexual Exploitation	88
7.2	Child criminal exploitation in a bcp context.....	89
7.3	Child sexual exploitation	89
7.4	Child sexual exploitation in a bcp context	91
7.5	Modern Slavery and Human Trafficking	91
7.6	Modern Slavery and Human Trafficking in a BCP context.	93
8	Priority 3 – Work with Communities to deal with ASB Hotspots, Including Drug Dealing. 94	
8.2	Anti-Social Behaviour in BCP	94
8.3	ASB Incidents in the BCP area, 2023-24	95
8.4	ASB in BCP by location	96
8.5	ASB type in BCP	100
8.6	ASB incidents involving youth.....	100
8.7	ASB incidents involving drugs.....	102
8.8	ASB incidents involving homelessness	104
8.9	ASB incidents involving alcohol	107
8.10	ASB Incidents involving buses.....	108
8.11	ASB incidents involving weapons.....	108
8.12	ASB incidents involving vehicles	110
8.13	ASB in BCP Temporal Hotspots.....	113
8.14	Summary	113
9	Priority 4 – Tackle Issues Relating to VAWG.	115
10	Domestic abuse.....	115
10.1	Definitions and overview	115

10.2	Domestic abuse risk and protective factors	116
10.3	The importance of trauma informed care	118
10.4	Times when domestic abuse is more likely to occur	119
10.5	Barriers to seeking support	122
10.6	Domestic Abuse and Suicide	126
10.7	The link between domestic abuse and female offending.....	128
10.8	Repeat victimisation	129
10.9	Older victims and domestic abuse	130
10.10	Local data – Longer term trends	132
10.11	Local data – 2023/24	133
10.12	Support services in bcp	141
11	Honour-Based Abuse and Forced Marriage	142
11.2	Honour-based abuse – National Context.....	146
11.3	Honour-based abuse – local context	146
12	Conclusions.....	147

1 EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

1.1 OVERVIEW

1.1.1 The BCP Strategic Assessment provides an overview of the BCP Community Safety Partnership's priorities and explores key crime types in relation to these priorities provide an overview of crime and disorder in the area.

1.2 ADDITIONAL NEEDS AND RISK FACTORS

1.2.1 The risk of being a victim or perpetrator of crime and/or anti-social behaviour increases with the frequency and severity of exposure to risk factors and the number of risk factors present. The age at which the exposure occurs also has an impact; the younger the individual, the greater the impact. Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs) research links childhood traumas/experiences (such as abuse, neglect, and dysfunctional home environments) to long-term impacts on an individual's health, wellbeing, and life chances. Research demonstrates the importance of early intervention in order to mitigate some of the consequences of ACEs.

1.2.2 BCP has areas which are among the most and the least deprived in the country. BCP has nine areas in the most deprived 10% in England, where 16,000 residents live. The greatest levels of deprivation are in the wards of Boscombe West, Kinson, East Cliff & Springbourne, Alderney & Bourne Valley, and Muscliff & Strouden Park.

1.2.3 Many measures for young people compare favourably with the national average, but BCP has higher rates of fixed and permanent exclusions and children in need. These measures draw attention to the need for early intervention for young people at risk of poor outcomes.

1.2.4 Although drug related deaths decreased in financial year 2023/24 in comparison to the previous financial year, the rate of drug-related hospital admissions for 15–24-year-olds has been increasing since 2014/15 and is significantly higher than the England average. This suggests that drug-related harm could be a growing issue for young people.

1.2.5 BCP had a higher rate than the England average for a number of alcohol related hospital measures in 2020/21 (which is the most recent data), including: alcohol related hospital admissions, admission episodes for mental and behavioural disorders due to the use of alcohol, admission episodes for alcoholic liver disease. Many of these measures are associated with long term alcohol abuse, and this indicates that BCP may have a high proportion of dependent or risky drinkers.

1.2.6 BCP has a higher than England average rate for measures associated with poor mental health, for both adults and young people.

1.2.7 There are a number of gaps in our shared knowledge, particularly around the profile of youth offending and adult offender management, which are likely to be linked to needs associated with their offending behaviours. There are also gaps in shared knowledge around high harm offences, particularly child criminal exploitation, modern slavery and trafficking, and county lines. Having a better understanding will inform the partnership approach and allow opportunities for early intervention moving forward.

1.3 2023/24 RECOMMENDED PRIORITIES

1.3.1 Significant data and analysis in late 2021 identified three recommended priorities that the partnership subsequently agreed to adopt. The fourth priority was added in 2023. No data and analysis in early 2024 suggested that the principle of carrying forward the priorities for at least three years should be reviewed. This continuity was considered essential to ensure and monitor the effectiveness of interventions and initiatives. The following priorities, as recommended to the partnership for 2023/24, are therefore further recommended for adoption in 2024/25:

- **Priority 1** *Tackle violent crime in all its forms.*
- **Priority 2** *Keep young people and adults-at-risk safe from exploitation, including online risks.*
- **Priority 3** *Work with communities to deal with antisocial behaviour (ASB) and crime hotspots, including drug dealing.*
- **Priority 4** *Tackle issues relating to Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG).*

1.3.2 It is recommended that the following Principles are also adopted by the Safer BCP partnership.



Enhancing knowledge and understanding of crime and anti-social behaviour through better sharing of information, so we may address the human, social and environmental factors that drive them, the interventions likely to have positive impact, and the ways we may work with communities to prevent and combat them.



Collaborating across agency boundaries to plan, commission and deliver jointly, and to improve our efficiencies for the benefits of BCP communities, with a clear focus on crime prevention, reduction of first-time entrants to the criminal justice system, and reduction of repeat and persistent offending.



Ensuring victims and communities are central to the development, commissioning, and delivery of services, including in early education settings, and where there are complex and additional needs such as familial and personal substance misuse, poor mental health, special educational needs, and protected characteristics



Committed to developing a partnership that embraces equality and inclusivity



Operating a robust performance management framework to measure what works and how to be more effective

1.4 REPORT STRUCTURE/ METHODOLOGY

1.4.1 The following Strategic Assessment begins by exploring key facts to provide contextual information around the demographics of the local area. The report moves on to address additional needs/risk factors which make an individual more likely to become a victim or perpetrator of crime. This section includes comparator data which provides contextual information on how the local area performs in comparison to other local authorities.

1.4.2 National and local data is then used to provide information on crime types related to the aforementioned priorities. This is structured as follows:

- **Priority 1 – Tackle Violent Crime in all its forms.**
 - Background research on serious violent crime provides contextual information in this section.
 - Serious violence data for the year 2023/24 from Dorset Police related to the BCP area is then used to provide an overview of serious violent crime in BCP.
 - Overall numbers of SV in BCP are similar to previous year (increased by 2%), with no notable concerns.
- **Priority 2 – Keep young people and adults safe from exploitation (including online exploitation).**
 - This section begins with a discussion on child criminal exploitation, followed by child criminal exploitation in a BCP context.
 - Child sexual exploitation is then explored, followed by child sexual exploitation in a BCP context.

- Data on child criminal and sexual exploitation in a BCP context were provided by the Complex Safeguarding Team.
- Background research on modern slavery and human trafficking is then addressed. However, data of this issue in a BCP context was not available for the financial year 2023/24. Subsequently, longer term trends around this topic cannot be established.
- **Priority 3 – Work with communities to deal with anti-social behaviour hotspots including drug dealing:**
 - Data from the latest resident survey is used to gain an understanding of community perceptions of anti-social behaviour.
 - Police antisocial behaviour incident data is then used to provide further information on this topic.
 - There has been an 11% decrease in ASB incidents in comparison to the previous year. Numbers of ASB increased over the summer months of 2023. ASB incidents involving themes of ‘drugs’ and ‘homelessness’ have increased this year in comparison to last year.
- **Priority 4 - Tackle issues relating to violence against women and girls:**
 - Domestic abuse, honour-based abuse and forced marriage are explored within this priority.
 - Background research on domestic abuse is explored to provide more contextual information. Dorset police data on domestic abuse incidents and crimes is then explored to provide more local context on this issue.
 - Background research on honour-based abuse and forced marriage is discussed, along with a short paragraph on this in a BCP context. However, it is acknowledged that this crime type is often under reported and numbers are very low in the area.
 - Overall, numbers of domestic abuse incidents increased in financial year 2023/24 in comparison to the previous, however, this was not a statistically significant increase, suggesting this is representative of natural fluctuations in crime rates. Numbers of domestic abuse incidents decreased slightly in comparison to the previous financial year.

1.5 OVERVIEW OF PROJECTS RUN BY THE COMMUNITY SAFETY TEAM IN RELATION TO THE PRIORITIES.

1.5.1 In the financial year 2023/24 a wide variety of work has been done by the Community Safety Partnership in line with these priorities, including:

- Keeping Our Young People Safer conference, which brought together professionals to better understand issues such as knife crime, county lines, and trauma informed responses, and equip professionals with practical tips to take away and help keep our young people in BCP safer.
- Sexual Violence Awareness Week, which included training for professionals on sexually harmful behaviour in young people, honour-based abuse, forced marriage, and female genital mutilation. A domestic abuse forum was held with a range of talks from local services that provided support to victims of sexual violence and/or domestic abuse. Further, a community engagement event was held at Bournemouth Library where members of the public were able to pop in and speak to stallholders from [STARS](#), [Sexual Health Dorset](#), and the [Dorset Working Women's project](#).

- 16 days of action, which included training on honour-based abuse, an awareness session on male victims of domestic violence, webinars on healthy relationships and ‘arguing better’, understanding stalking in the context of domestic abuse, an introduction to the domestic homicide timeline, and a webinar on street harassment by the Suzy Lamplugh Trust. There was also an art exhibition which ran throughout the week for members of the public to drop in to.
- The Prevent Partnership Group week of action, ‘Preventing Radicalisation’, which consisted of 9 live webinars for professionals, educators and parents, and 2 ‘in house’ sessions at Weymouth College and Bournemouth and Poole College. The week gained positive feedback, with participants reporting they have a greater understanding and awareness of Prevent after attending the workshop, and that they felt confident knowing ‘who to contact and how’ if they had concerns for a friend, colleague or child.
- Safer Internet Day, which included three free webinars for the public and professionals. Dorset Cyber Crime Unit provided a free webinar on cyber awareness, Progressive Masculinity provided a free online talk for parents on Healthy Masculinity and Online Influences, and the Dorset Police Safer Schools Team ran an online webinar on online safety for parents.

2 INTRODUCTION

2.1 THE SAFER BOURNEMOUTH, CHRISTCHURCH AND POOLE (BCP) PARTNERSHIP

2.1.1 The Safer BCP Partnership consists of an executive membership of statutory partners: BCP Council, Dorset Police, Our Dorset Integrated Care System, Dorset & Wiltshire Fire and Rescue Authority, and the National Probation Service. Additional partners, including voluntary and community sector representatives and the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner form the wider partnership.

2.1.2 The Safer BCP Partnership was formed when the area of Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole transitioned from their former unitary authorities to a single unitary authority, BCP Council, on 1st April 2019.

2.1.3 Community Safety Partnerships have a statutory obligation to produce a strategic assessment annually. This document aims to assess crime, disorder, and community safety issues, highlight areas of increasing and reducing threat and evaluate the partnership’s current response to inform future priorities and work. It is recognised that this is a work in progress and work is ongoing to obtain datasets that will enhance our knowledge, particularly around reoffending, exploitation and factors that may increase the likelihood of a person becoming a victim or perpetrator of crime.

2.1.4 Each of the executive Community Safety Partnership agencies have a wider remit outside of their commitment to Community Safety and have published strategies or plans which set out their individual agency’s corporate priorities, and are listed below:

2.2 BCP COUNCIL

2.2.1 Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole (BCP) Council’s Corporate Strategy is as follows:

Our Place and Environment

- People and places are connected by sustainable and modern infrastructure. Our communities have pride in our streets, neighbourhoods and public spaces.
- Our inclusive, vibrant and sustainable economy supports our communities to thrive.
- Revitalised high streets and regenerated key sites create new opportunities.
- Climate change is tackled through sustainable policies and practices.
- Our green spaces flourish and support the well-being of both people and nature.

Our people and Communities

- High quality of life for all, where people can be active, healthy and independent.
- Working together, everyone feels safe and secure.
- Those who need support receive it when and where they need it.
- Good quality homes are accessible, sustainable and affordable for all.
- Local communities shape the services that matter to them.
- Employment is available for everyone and helps create value in our communities.
- Skills are continually developed, and people can access lifelong learning.

We are an open, transparent and accountable Council, putting our people at the heart of our services.

- Working closely with partners, removing barriers and empowering others.
- Providing accessible and inclusive services, showing care in our approach.
- Using data, insights and feedback to shape services and solutions.
- Intervening as early as possible to improve outcomes.
- Developing a passionate, proud, valued and diverse workforce.
- Creating an environment for innovation, learning and leadership.
- Using our resources sustainably to support our ambitions.

2.3 POLICING:

2.3.1 The Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner, which sets the strategic intent for policing in Dorset, sets out six priorities in their [2021-29 Police and Crime Plan](#):

- Cut crime & anti-social behaviour.
- The police will provide a robust focus to cut crime and the constant grind of anti-social behaviour, so people across Dorset see a clear difference and feel safer. To better engage with young people to secure a brighter future.
- Make Policing more visible & connected.
- To increase the number and visibility of police officers in our neighbourhood teams, so police can fulfil a prevention role and people and businesses across Dorset experience less crime. Contact and connectivity with the public to be improved.
- Fight violent crime & high harm.
- To tackle organised crime, be tough on drugs and violent crime, and to tackle hidden harm issues that affect Dorset's communities, such as child abuse, domestic abuse, stalking and modern slavery.
- Put victims & communities first.
- Support all victims, particularly those most at risk of harm – and build community strength by working with local agencies. Supporting volunteers, such as neighbourhood Watch, and increasing opportunities for young people.
- Fight rural crime.

- To significantly increase the rural crime team and their capabilities and to have specific strategies to address those crimes and issues that most affect rural communities, and to tackle wildlife crime.
- Make every penny count.
- Resourcing and transforming the frontline and improving efficiency so that the police can spend more time out in their communities. Ensuring robust oversight of financial, audit and governance arrangements.

2.4 FIRE & RESCUE

2.4.1 The [Dorset and Wiltshire Fire and Rescue Authority Community Safety Plan 2021-24](#) sets out their priorities as:

- Help you to make safer and healthier choices– we want you to be more aware about the risks you face and support you and your business to be safer. We are committed to improving the wellbeing of you and your family.
- Protect you and the environment from harm– we will work with you to improve your safety and reduce the effect that day-to-day hazards and risks can have on you and your environment.
- Be there when you need us– we will continue to provide a professional and prompt response when an emergency happens.
- Make every penny count– we will continue to be a well-respected and trusted Service, offering excellent value for money.
- Supporting and developing our people– making sure our staff are at the centre of everything we do, are well led, and have the right knowledge and skills, is crucial to the success of our Service.

2.5 PROBATION

2.5.1 On 26 June 2021, the [Probation Services](#) unified, bringing 7,000 probation professionals into their new model, either directly in the Probation Services or employed by one of the organisations appointed to deliver Commissioned Rehabilitative Services to offenders.

- *Our priority is to protect the public by the effective rehabilitation of offenders, by reducing the causes which contribute to offending and enabling offenders to turn their lives around.*

2.5.2 Bournemouth Probation Office is a probation contact centre, which covers Dorset Council and BCP areas. These services provide a programme suitable for those males assessed as posing a medium or high risk of causing serious harm.

2.6 OUR DORSET INTEGRATED CARE SYSTEM (ICS)

2.6.1 Our [Dorset ICS' partners](#) include:

- Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole Council.
- Dorset Council.
- Dorset Clinical Commissioning Group
- Dorset County Hospital NHS Foundation Trust
- University Hospitals Dorset NHS Foundation Trust
- Dorset Healthcare University NHS Foundation Trust
- South Western Ambulance Service NHS Foundation Trust

- Dorset Primary Care Networks (PCNs)

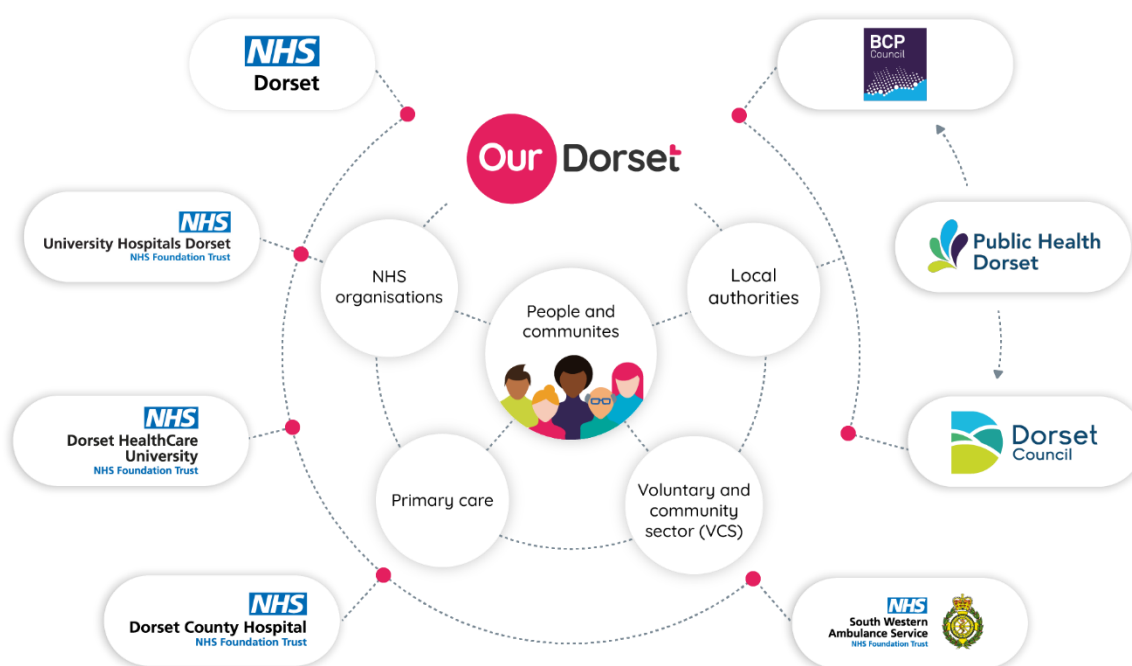


Figure 1 - Our Dorset Integrated Care System Partners

2.6.2 Their key mission is ‘to support people in Dorset to lead healthier lives, for longer’. This mission sets out their ultimate purpose and defines what they aim to achieve every day, through every decision and interaction.

2.7 DORSET COMBINED YOUTH JUSTICE BOARD

2.7.1 The Dorset Combined Youth Justice Board is a statutory partnership between BCP Council, Dorset Council, Dorset Police, National Probation Service Dorset, and NHS Clinical Commissioning group.

2.7.2 The Dorset Combined Youth Justice Service consists of a multi-disciplinary team which includes youth justice officers, restorative justice specialists, parenting workers, education and employment workers, police officers, probation officers, nurses, speech and language therapists, and a psychologist.

2.7.3 The Dorset Combined Youth Justice Service works with young people in the local youth justice system to help them make positive changes to their lifestyle, keep them safe and secure, and offer assistance and reparation to victims.

2.7.4 The Youth Justice Board seeks to have a ‘child first’ youth justice system which treats young people fairly and helps to build on their strengths so they can make a constructive contribution to society. This will prevent reoffending and create safer communities with fewer victims.

2.7.5 All victims of crime committed by young people involved with the youth justice service are contacted. Victims are offered the chance to take part in restorative justice processes which can help repair the harm they have experienced.

3 BOURNEMOUTH, CHRISTCHURCH AND POOLE – KEY FACTS

3.1 GEOGRAPHICAL

3.1.1 The area of Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole is in the county of Dorset located on the south coast. The area has 33 Wards, shown in figure 2 and is served by a range of local agencies and those with pan-Dorset responsibilities, such as Dorset Police and Our Dorset Integrated Care System, and agencies with a wider area responsibility, such as Dorset & Wiltshire Fire Authority and National Probation Service. BCP Council was formed in April 2019.

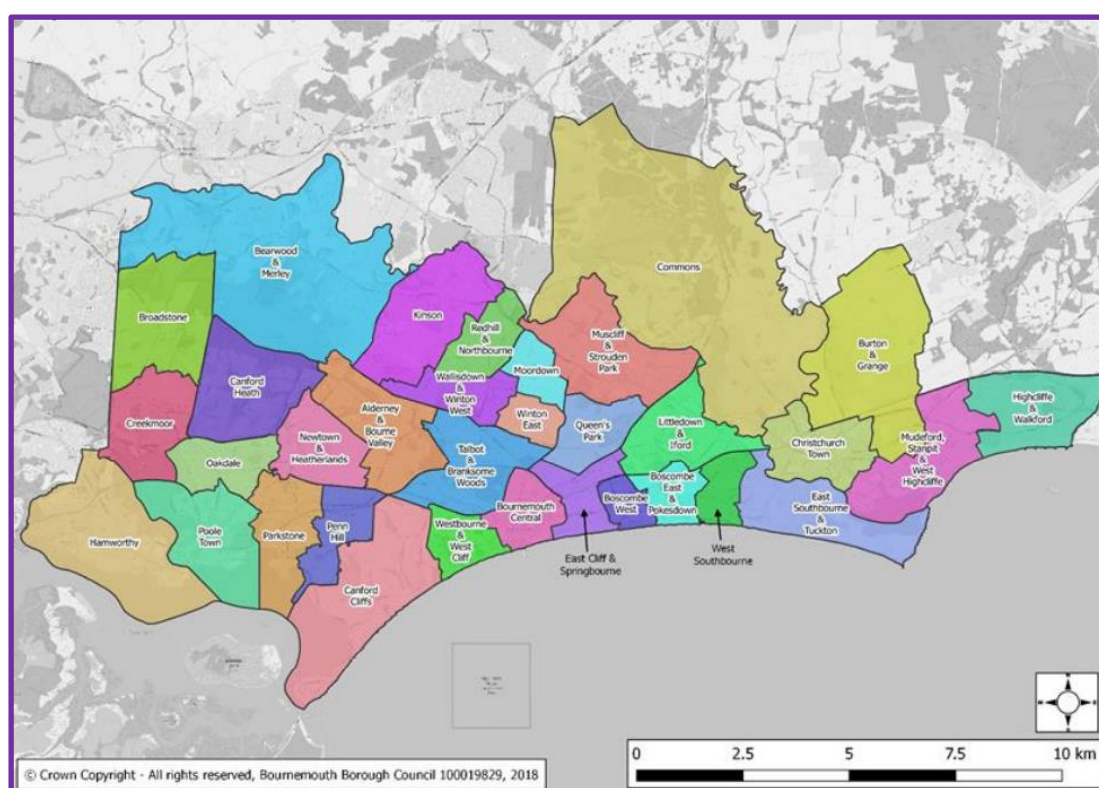


Figure 2 - Map of BCP

3.1.2 There are four Business Improvement Districts within the BCP area, [Poole BID](#), Bournemouth [Town Centre BID](#), Bournemouth [Coastal BID](#) and [Christchurch BID](#).

3.1.3 Dorset & Wiltshire Fire and Rescue Authority have six stations across the BCP area:

- Three Wholtime stations – Redhill Park, Westbourne, Springbourne;
- Two that are both Wholtime and On-call stations – Poole and Christchurch;
- One On-call station – Hamworthy.

3.2 POPULATION

3.2.1 The most recent [ONS data](#) (2021) estimates the BCP population to be 400,300. The population is predicted to grow to 403,600 by 2028, a growth of 2%.

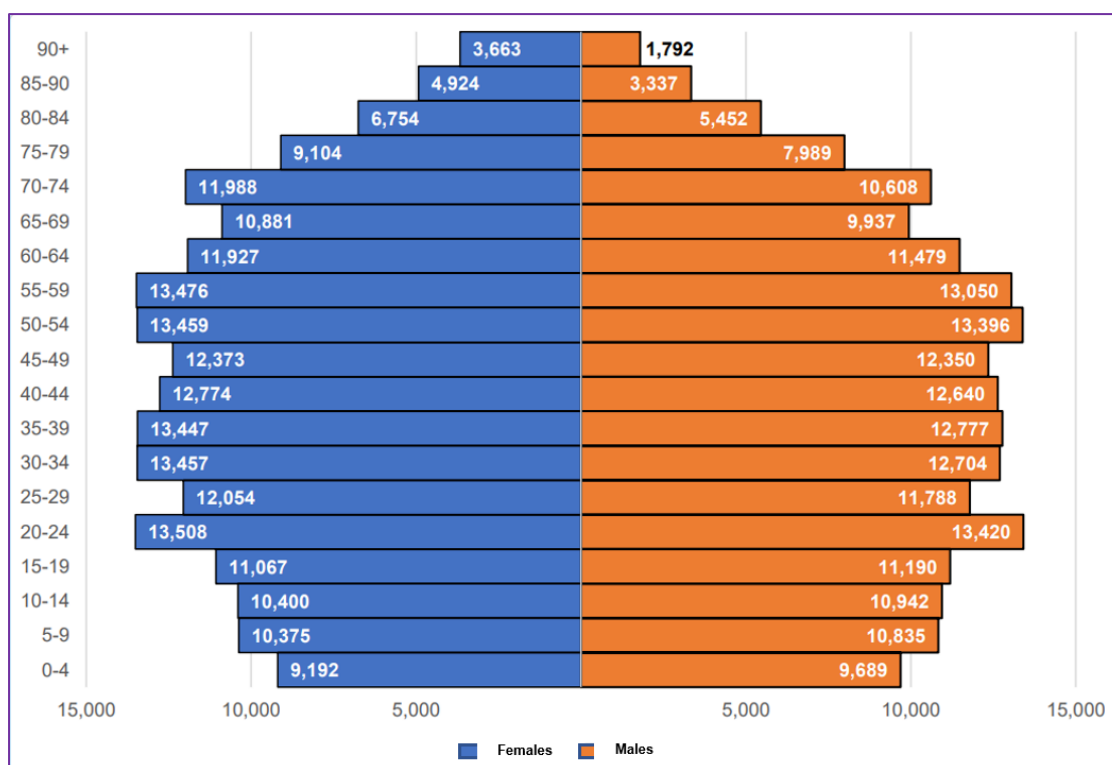


Figure 3 - Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole Age Distribution by Gender

3.2.2 BCP has a higher proportion of residents over the age of 65 and a smaller proportion of the population under age 16 when compared with national rates; 22% of the population are over 65 in BCP in comparison to 19% nationally, and 17% of the population are aged 0-15 in comparison to 19% nationally. BCP has an ageing population. The number of residents aged 65 and over is set to increase by 15% between 2018 and 2028, with 24% of the local population to be aged 65+ by 2028.

3.2.3 [Ethnicity data](#) (2021) for BCP shows 82.4% of the population are White British, and 8% are other white. Asian, Asian British and Asian Welsh make up 3.4% of the population in BCP, and Mixed and Multiple Ethnic Groups make up 2.8%. 1.1% of the population are Black, Black British, Black Welsh, Caribbean or African. Over 85 languages are spoken across the BCP area.

3.2.4 Data on [religion](#) shows:

- 46.8% of the population of BCP are Christian,
- 42.2% have no religion,
- 1.7% are Muslim.
- 0.7% are Hindu.
- 0.7% are any other religion.
- 0.5% are Buddhist.
- 0.4 are Jewish.
- 0.1% are Sikh.
- 6.9% of people in BCP did not provide an answer in relation to religion in the ONS survey which provided this data.

3.2.5 ONS Data on [sexual orientation](#) shows that 88.5% of the population (aged 16+) in BCP are heterosexual and 3.9% are lesbian, gay, bisexual or other. There is no data available for 7.6% of the population.

3.3 EMPLOYMENT

3.3.1 Currently 61% of the total resident population are of working age. Median annual pay for residents of, and people working in, BCP is slightly lower than the [national average](#). Data from [LG Inform](#) shows the unemployment rate for economically active members of the population in BCP for 2022 Q3 (12 months ending) at 4% in comparison to 3.7% for England.

3.3.2 Figure 4¹ shows that in comparison to our CIPFA nearest neighbours², unemployment rates as a percentage of the economically active population in BCP are fairly central and not of notable concern:

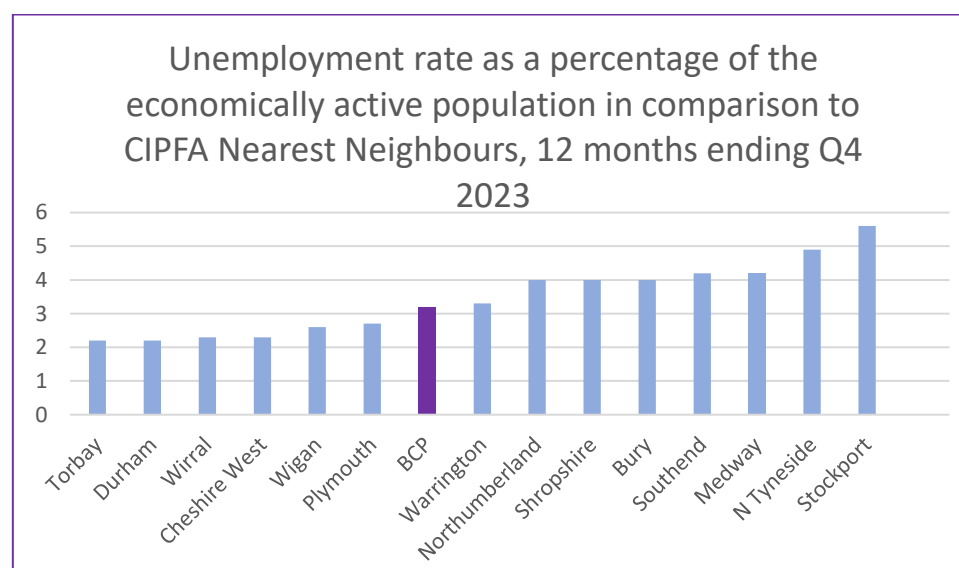


Figure 4 - unemployment rate as a percentage of the economically active population - BCP in comparison to CIPFA Nearest Neighbours.

3.3.3 Data from [NOMIS](#)³ (Oct 2021-Sept 2022) shows that of those who are economically inactive aged 16-64 living in the BCP area;

- 26.6% are students.
- 18.8% are looking after family/home.

¹ Data for Sefton was missing and therefore is not included in this figure.

² The CIPFA (Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy) Nearest Neighbours Model tool uses statistical processes to identify a local authority's nearest neighbours. The factors upon which classifications are based must provide a balanced representation of the authorities' traits. The variables employed in the assessment are descriptive characteristics of the area each authority administers; they are not a reflection of the way in which resource of services are considered. The Nearest Neighbours tool includes 40 metrics using a wide range of social-economic indicators.

³ Nomis is a service provided by the Office for National Statistics (ONS) which publishes statistics related to the population, society and the labour market at national, regional and local levels.

- 23.9% are long term sick.
- 14.5% are retired.
- 14.2% are other.
- 20.9% want a job.
- 79.1% do not want a job⁴.

3.3.4 NOMIS data suggests that the number of students in BCP has an impact on high unemployment rates in the areas in comparison to the South West.

3.3.5 BCP has lower rates of long-term sick (23.9% of economically inactive population) in comparison to the South West as a whole (25.7%), as well as lower rates of retired economically inactive people (14.5%) in comparison to the South West as a whole (19.0). Further, 79.1% of economically inactive people in BCP do not want a job, in comparison to 82% of economically inactive people in the South West.

3.3.6 Those in employment in the BCP area are employed in a range of industries. Over 53% of total employment in the BCP area in the five largest sectors: 'health', 'retail' 'accommodation and food services', 'education' and 'manufacturing'. ([BCP Council](#) 2023).

3.3.7 Unemployment across the BCP area was on a downward trend after it peaked in around 2009, following the financial crisis of 2008. Unemployment numbers started to rise in 2020 due to the impact of the covid pandemic and rose to an annual figure of 5.6% in the year to September 2021 before starting to fall ([BCP Council](#) 2023).

3.4 DEPRIVATION

3.4.1 Deprivation refers to a lack of basic necessities and covers a wide range of factors that heavily impact on both individuals and families. The Indices of Deprivation (IMD) combines 7 domains to produce an overall relative measure of deprivation. These domains are as follows:

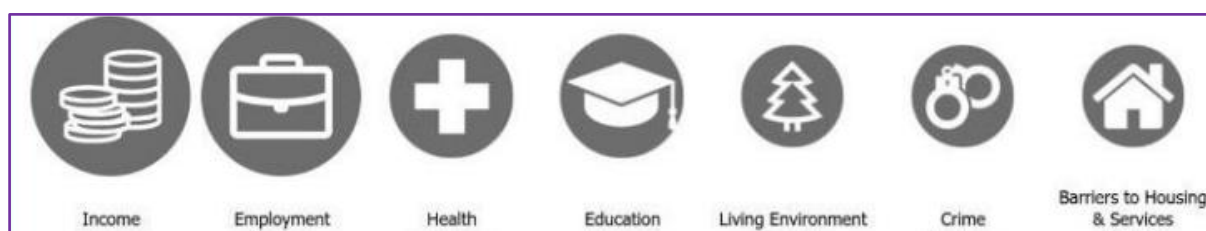


Figure 5 - Indices of Deprivation domains.

⁴ Numbers do not equate to 100% because some people may fall in to more than one category.

3.4.2 There are two supplementary indices: The Income Deprivation Affecting Children Index (IDACI) and the Income Deprivation Affecting Older People Index (IDOAPI).

3.4.3 There are areas within BCP that are considered to be among both the most and least deprived areas of the country through the Indices of Deprivation 2019. Understanding where these areas are and what types of deprivation affect them provides important contextual information when seeking to understand risk factors around serious violence.

3.4.4 45,400 people in BCP live in an area that is amongst the 20% most deprived in England under the Indices of Multiple Deprivation 2019, including 8,900 0-16-year-olds and 6,200 over 65-year-olds. BCP has 9 lower super output areas in the most deprived 10% in England where 16,000 residents live. The greatest levels of deprivation are in the wards of Boscombe West, Kinson, East Cliff & Springbourne, Alderney & Bourne Valley, and Muscliff & Strouden Park.

3.4.5 In contrast, 82,800 people live in an area that is amongst the 20% least deprived areas in England, including 12,700 0–16-year-olds and 26,000 over 65-year-olds.

3.4.6 Figure 6 shows a map of BCP coloured by areas of deprivation, with red being the most deprived and green being the least deprived. Areas in dark red are in the 10% most deprived in the UK.

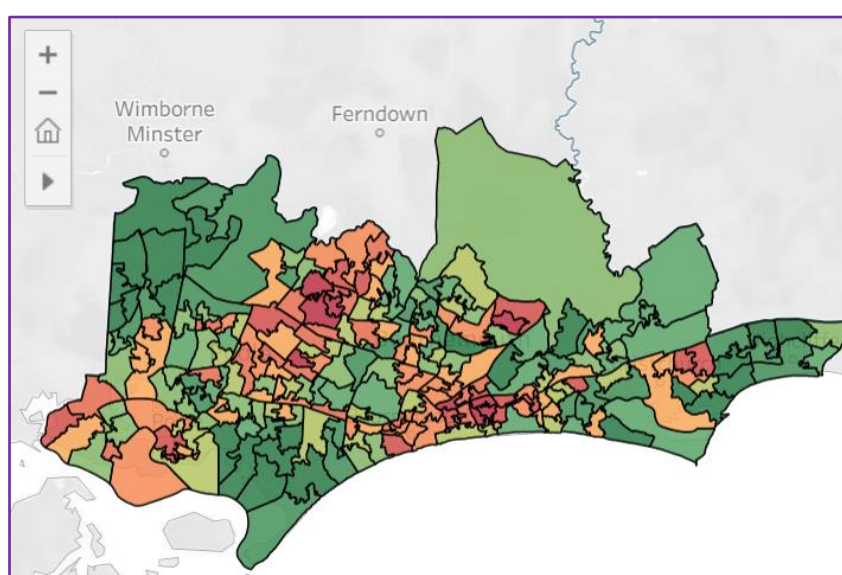


Figure 6 - Map of Index of Multiple Deprivation across BCP

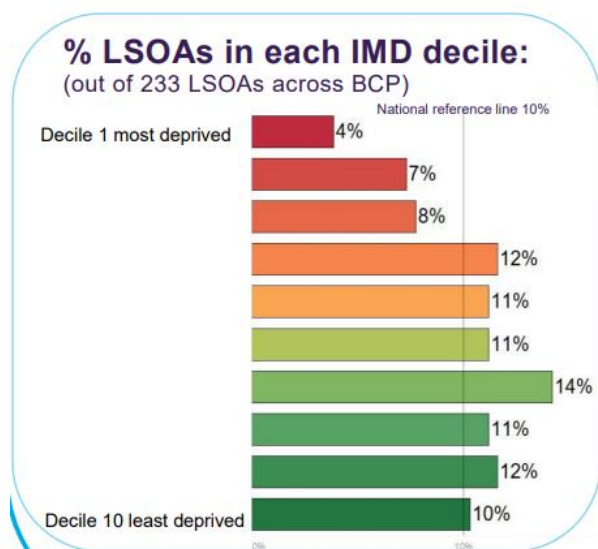


Figure 7 Percentage of LSOAs in each IMD decile

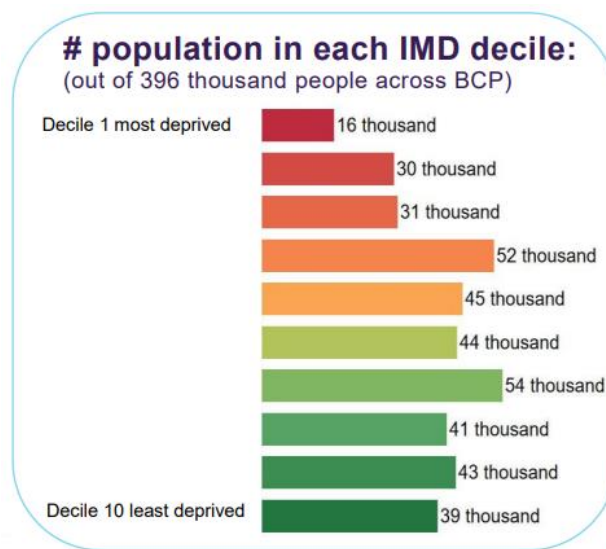


Figure 8 Number of people in each IMD decile

3.4.7 Figures 7 and 8 show that BCP has more Lower Super Output Areas (LSOAs) in areas of lower deprivation in comparison to areas of high deprivation, a protective factor against crime and disorder. BCP has 9 Lower Super Output areas in the most deprived areas in comparison to 24 Lower Super Output Areas in the least deprived areas. Over half of the population in BCP live in low areas of deprivation.

3.4.8 Figure 9 shows the number of LSOAs in the most 20% deprived nationally by deprivation type. It shows that there are 27 LSOAs in the most deprived 20% nationally in terms of crime deprivation.

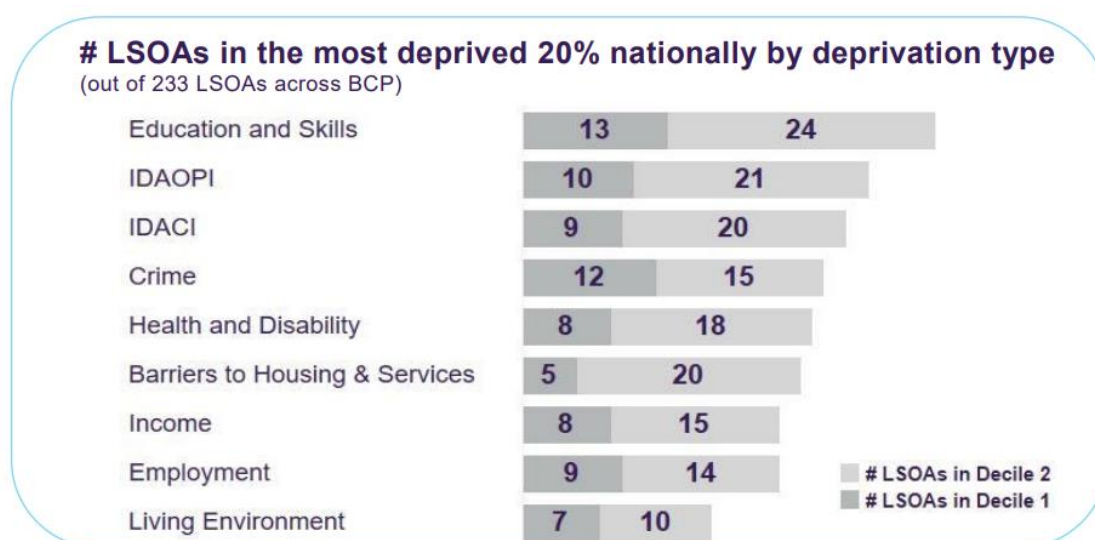


Figure 9 - Number of LSOAs in the most deprived 20% nationally by deprivation type

3.4.9 Figure 10 below provides a breakdown of the most deprived areas in BCP. Deprivation in BCP is polarised in a small number of highly deprived areas. These have been split in to 4 categories in figure 10:

- **'Entrenched'** areas of deprivation are LSOAs whose ranking has remained in the most deprived 10% nationally over both time periods⁵ 2015 and 2019.
- **'Escalating'** areas of deprivation are LSOAs whose ranking has deteriorated and moved them into the most deprived 10% in 2019.
- **'Continuing'** areas of deprivation are LSOAs in the most deprived 11-20% nationally in 2019.
- **'Emerging'** areas of deprivation are LSOAs whose ranking has moved them in to the most deprived 11-20% during 2019.

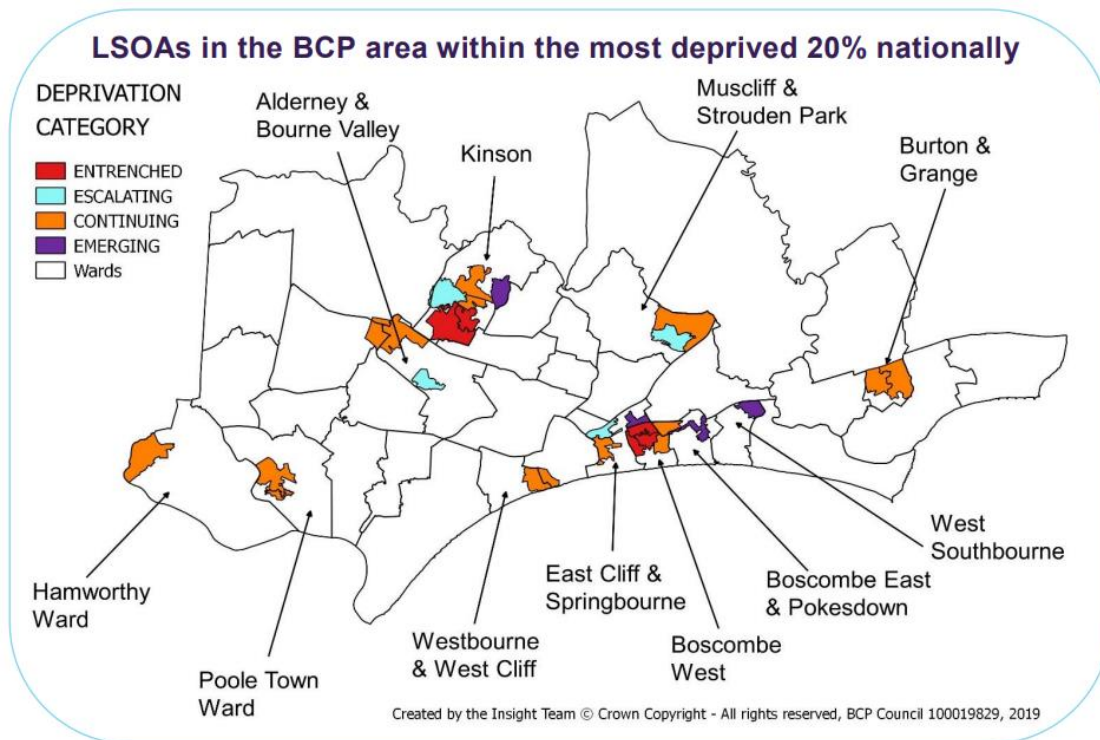


Figure 10- Areas of BCP among the 20% most deprived nationally

3.4.10 All five LSOAs of entrenched deprivation cluster around two wards: Boscombe West and Kinson. Deprivation in these areas appears to be spreading or diffusing in to neighbouring or nearby areas.

3.4.11 It is important to understand the different types of deprivation within each area to understand what impact this may have on crime and disorder in BCP as a whole.

3.4.12 **Boscombe West** - Data suggests that the primary forms of deprivation affecting the area in Boscombe West are living environment, health deprivation and crime. In contrast to Kinson, there are low levels of deprivation for educational skills and training in Boscombe West, indicating this domain is not a concern in the area.

⁵ Index of multiple deprivation was updated in both 2015 and 2019

3.4.13 **East Cliff and Springbourne** - East Cliff and Springbourne is geographically close to Boscombe West and is similarly affected by high deprivation in the crime domain. There are medium levels of deprivation in reference to barriers to housing and services, health and deprivation and disability, and income deprivation affecting children in this area. It is likely that some of the issues experienced in Boscombe West have diffused into this area.

3.4.14 **Kinson** - In Kinson, deprivation is medium to high across all domains of deprivation, but it is particularly affected by education and skills deprivation.

3.4.15 **Alderney and Bourne Valley** - Alderney and Bourne Valley is geographically close to Kinson and similarly suffers from deprivation in the education, skills and training domain. Further, Alderney and Bourne Valley has medium levels of deprivation affecting children and barriers to housing. Alderney and Bourne Valley has low crime deprivation.

3.4.16 **Muscliff and Strouden Park** - Muscliff and Strouden Park differs from the other wards discussed because it is not a geographical neighbour with either of the two entrenched areas of deprivation (Boscombe West and Kinson). It has concentrated areas of continuing and escalating deprivation⁶, but also has areas of low deprivation. There are higher levels of deprivation affecting older people across the ward, and medium to high levels of deprivation in concentrated areas in the domains of education, training and skills. Muscliff and Strouden Park has low levels of crime deprivation. Deprivation is higher in areas where the Councils core housing stock is situated.

3.4.17 An exploration of tenure and migration rates can provide further contextual information to the links between deprivation and crime and disorder in these areas of BCP. Boscombe West and East Cliff and Springbourne have higher rates of migration and private rented accommodation than Kinson, Alderney and Bourne Valley, and Muscliff and Strouden Park, indicating that the population is more transient in the former two wards than in the latter three.

3.4.18 Boscombe West is particularly afflicted by issues commonly experienced by seaside towns. Boscombe West has a high concentration of houses of multiple occupation which have been converted from former guest houses, previously designed for seaside tourism. HMOs fulfil an important role in the UK housing market, especially for those unable to access other tenures⁷. However, scholars have identified social concerns stemming from the proliferation of HMOs in certain areas, namely that cheap rents lead to the concentration of vulnerable and deprived social groups, often with multiple and complex health needs, and the reproduction of socioeconomic decline.

3.4.19 One way in which HMOs may reproduce socioeconomic decline is that they can lead to difficulties in regeneration. The poor physical condition of the properties can put off investors, and many people living in HMOs often stay on a short-term basis, meaning it is hard to get support from residents for local regeneration.

⁶ Refers to figure 10

⁷ Barratt, C., Kitcher, C., and Stewart, J. 'Beyond safety to wellbeing: How local authorities can mitigate the mental health risks of living in houses in multiple occupation'. *Journal of Environmental Health Research*. 12:1. Available at: [Journal of Environmental Health Research - Beyond safety to wellbeing \(core.ac.uk\)](https://core.ac.uk/doi/pdf/10.1080/17447607.2017.1345441)

3.4.20 Further, as more people can be housed in HMOs than a traditional family home, there are concerns connected to rising population densities which occur alongside the growth of HMOs in a specific area. As a result, it can be harder to manage residential areas⁸. For example, there may be more refuse, litter, car parking and congestion, as well as higher levels of anti-social behaviour and conflict between neighbours.

3.4.21 These geographical factors help to explain why Boscombe West experiences high levels of health and living environment deprivation. Boscombe West also experiences high levels of crime deprivation. The association of Police and Crime Commissioners note that half of acquisitive crimes are drug related. This may be particularly prevalent in Boscombe West which houses a number of vulnerable individuals for whom substance misuse is an issue.

3.4.22 In terms of further tactical work and interventions, this exploration of migration trends suggests that areas which experience a more fixed population such as Kinson may be better suited to longer term early intervention strategies. Lower migration rates mean that families live in the area for longer, indicating that social problems may be the result of intergenerational issues. In contrast, in areas such as Boscombe West and East Cliff and Springbourne, early intervention work may be less successful due to higher population transience and migration rates. Subsequently, shorter-term intervention strategies such as those focussing on the environment and target hardening may be more beneficial crime prevention strategies by acting as a deterrent.

3.5 DEPRIVATION – LONGER TERM TRENDS

3.5.1 Changes across the BCP area between IMD 2015 and IMD 2019 show that a number of the most improved LSOAs in terms of deprivation are around the centre of Bournemouth in Bournemouth Central, Boscombe West and Westbourne and West Cliff wards. However, some of these remain among the most deprived areas in BCP.

3.5.2 The LSOAs in the Poole Town ward have seen the largest increase in its relative deprivation between 2015 and 2019. In the IMD 2019 there were 9 LSOAs in the most deprived 10% nationally, in comparison to 7 LSOAs in 2015, indicating that deprivation has increased relative to other LSOAs in the UK.

3.5.3 4 LSOAs have moved up to the most deprived 10% nationally – in Alderney and Bourne Valley, Kinson, East Cliff and Springbourne, and Muscliff and Strouden Park wards. 2 LSOAs have moved out of the most deprived 10% - in East Cliff and Springbourne and Kinson Wards. Figure 11 shows the LSOAs with the greatest shift in their relative levels of deprivation between 2015 and 2019:

⁸ Smith, D (2012). 'The social and economic consequences of housing in multiple occupation (HMO) in UK coastal towns: geographies of segregation.' *Transactions of the Institute of British Geographers*, 37:3 pp. 461-476. Available at: [The social and economic consequences of housing in multiple occupation \(HMO\) in UK coastal towns: geographies of segregation \(jstor.org\)](https://www.jstor.org/stable/2672111)

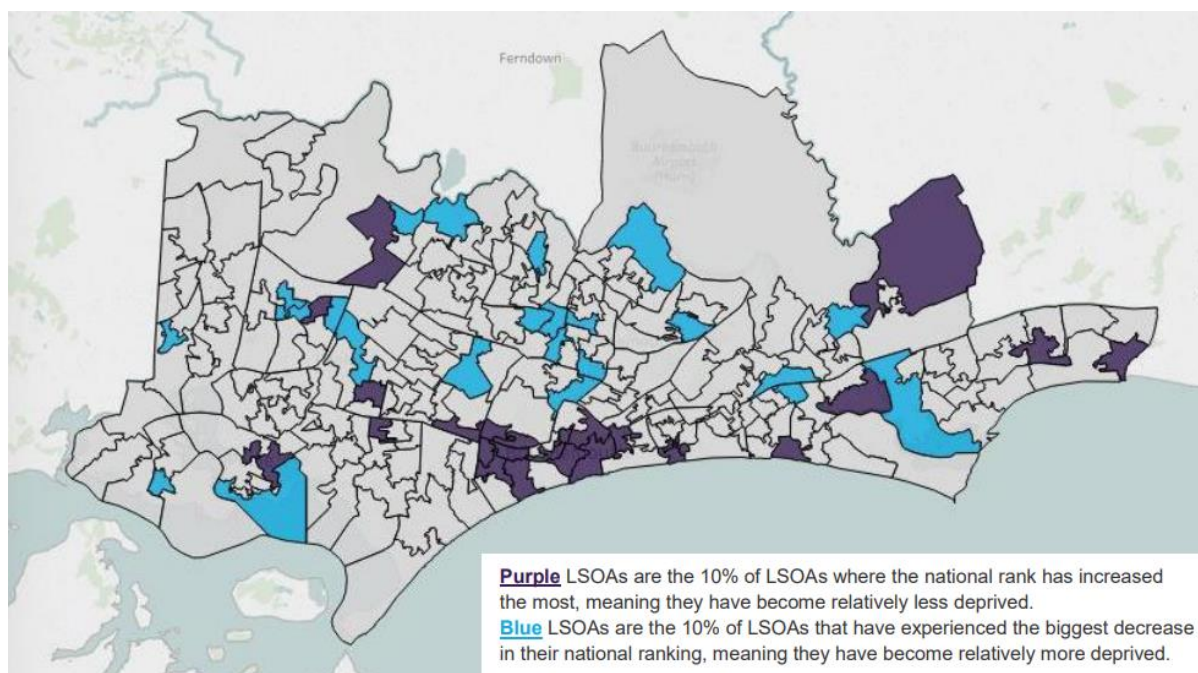


Figure 11 - LSOAs with greatest shift in their levels of relative deprivation 2015-2019
Deprivation – Impacts

3.5.4 Hot spot mapping identifies correlations between high levels of some types of crime and areas identified as being disadvantaged under the Indices of Multiple Deprivation 2019. A child growing up in a deprived area implies that they are more likely to be provided with insufficient educational support, lack of recreational space (no safe park or playground) and receive poorer quality childcare and health support⁹.

3.5.5 This has numerous inevitable long-term consequences such as poorer mental and physical health, lower school achievement, and worse outcomes in adulthood^{10,11,12,13}. Another study has found that children in deprived areas are at higher risk of early alcohol use¹⁴ and early onset of alcohol use increases the risk of alcohol dependence and other illicit drug use in later life¹⁵.

⁹ Galster, G., Marcotte, D., Mandell, M., Wolman, H., and Augustine, N. (2007) 'The Influence of Neighbourhood and Poverty During Childhood on Fertility, Education, and Earning Outcomes. 22:5. Pp. 723-751. [The Influence of Neighbourhood Poverty During Childhood on Fertility, Education, and Earnings Outcomes: Housing Studies: Vol 22 , No 5 - Get Access \(tandfonline.com\)](#)

¹⁰ Featherstone, B., Morris, B., Daniel, B., Bywaters, P., Brady, G., Bunting, L., Mason, W., and Mirza, N. (2019) 'Poverty, inequality, child abuse and neglect: Changing the conversation across the UK in child protection?' *Children and Youth Services Review*. 97, pp. 127-133. [Poverty, inequality, child abuse and neglect: Changing the conversation across the UK in child protection? - ScienceDirect](#)

¹¹ See footnote 7.

¹² Wickham, S., Anwar, E., Barr, B., Law, C., Taylor-Robinson, D. (2016). 'Poverty and child health in the UK: using evidence for action'. *Archives of Diseases in Childhood*. 101:8. Pp. 759-766 [Poverty and child health in the UK: using evidence for action | Archives of Disease in Childhood \(bmj.com\)](#)

¹³ Wood, D. (2003). 'Effect of Child and Family Poverty on Child Health in the United States.' *Pediatrics*, 112. Pp. 707-711. [Effect of Child and Family Poverty on Child Health in the United States | Pediatrics | American Academy of Pediatrics \(aap.org\)](#)

¹⁴ Bandyopadhyay, A. (2022). 'Health and Household environment factors linked with early alcohol use in adolescence: a record-linked, data-driven, longitudinal cohort study. *IJDPS*, 7:1.

¹⁵ Hingson, R., Heeren, T., Winter, M. (2006). 'Age at Drinking Onset and Alcohol Dependence'. *JAMA Pediatrics*, 160:7. Pp. 739-746. [Age at Drinking Onset and Alcohol Dependence: Age at Onset, Duration, and Severity | Adolescent Medicine | JAMA Pediatrics | JAMA Network](#)

3.5.6 Research¹⁶ shows that children from the poorest homes are a year behind in their language and literacy skills by the age of 5. The social disparities in language and communication among children in reception persist and widen throughout the school years; half of the inequality in learning outcomes at age 11 can be traced back through the school years, whilst children who score badly on school readiness at age 5 are less likely to succeed in secondary school, and more likely to experience poor health and low pay as adults.¹⁷

3.5.7 Children living in deprived neighbourhoods are less likely to complete high school and achieve higher educational attainment. This creates a significant difference in their earning levels in later life compared to their peers. Local areas with community safety issues often restrict children from after-school outdoor activities and increases their sedentary behaviours. This significantly contributes to childhood obesity amongst children living in poor neighbourhoods¹⁸.

3.5.8 Family and area level disadvantageous socio-economic conditions often lead to teenage pregnancy¹⁹, which is significantly associated with adverse health outcomes and social consequences²⁰.

3.6 THE PANDEMIC AND COST OF LIVING SITUATION

3.6.1 The Covid 19 pandemic and the current cost of living situation has exposed and exacerbated many existing structural and economic inequalities. This has and is resulting in significant impacts on the health and safety of individuals and communities across Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole which is likely to continue for years to come. This makes it even more important that we work together to prevent and mitigate harm as a result of adversity and trauma, intervening at the earliest point. Reducing inequalities is a key component to addressing serious violent crime and it can't be achieved without all organisations working together to address the root causes in communities.

¹⁶ [Childhood poverty and early cognitive development in the U \(suttontrust.com\)](https://www.suttontrust.com/research/childhood-poverty-and-early-cognitive-development-in-the-u/)

¹⁷ [Mind the gap – getting our children ready for school \(savethechildren.org.uk\)](https://www.savethechildren.org.uk/mind-the-gap-getting-our-children-ready-for-school)

¹⁸ Cecil- Karb, R., Grogan-Kaylor, A. 'Childhood Body Mass Index in Community Context: Neighbourhood Safety, Television Viewing, and Growth Trajectories of BMI.' *Health and Social Work*, 24:3. Pp. 169-177. [Childhood Body Mass Index in Community Context: Neighborhood Safety, Television Viewing, and Growth Trajectories of BMI | Health & Social Work | Oxford Academic \(oup.com\)](https://www.oup.com/academic/article/doi/10.1093/hsw/24.3.169)

¹⁹ Penman-Aguilar, A., Carter, M., Snead, C., and Kourtis, A. (2013). 'Socioeconomic Disadvantage as a Social Determinant of Teen Childbearing in the U.S.' *Public Health Reports*, 128:1. Pp.5-22. [Socioeconomic Disadvantage as a Social Determinant of Teen Childbearing in the U.S. - PMC \(nih.gov\)](https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/24111111/)

²⁰ Cook, S., Cameron, S. 'Social issues of teenage pregnancy'. *Obstetrics, Gynaecology and Reproductive Medicine*. 27:11. Pp. 327-332.

3.7 POPULATION PROFILE

3.7.1 Drawing on Experian's Mosaic Segmentation Tool, the vast majority of the BCP population (403,018 people) live in urban areas, with few members of the population (1,358 people) living in rural areas (BCP Council Report, 2022). The majority of those living in rural areas live in the Commons ward.

3.7.2 The Mosaic Profile for BCP is very different to that for the UK overall, and generally reflects the older age profile, higher proportion of students, and multinational communities living in BCP.

3.7.3 Over half of the BCP population belong to four Mosaic Groups:

- 'Rental Hubs'
- 'Senior Security'
- 'Aspiring Homemakers'
- 'Prestige Position'

3.7.4 The largest Mosaic group in the BCP area is 'Rental Hubs' (17.2% of the BCP 2021 population, 69,719 actual). These are typically well-educated young people who either have university degrees or are in the process of gaining them. Accommodation is usually rented from private landlords in urban neighbourhoods. Over half the population in Bournemouth Central, Boscombe West, and Winton East wards are from this group.

3.7.5 The second largest Mosaic group in BCP is 'Senior Security', relating to 14.9% of the BCP population in 2021, 60,166 people total. This group is made up of retired homeowners with good pensions who live in pleasant suburbs. Aged in their late 60s, and in their 70s and 80s, some are married but many live alone, and most have a comfortable financial situation. This group is fairly evenly distributed, but in Highcliffe & Walkford, Mudeford, Stanpit & West Highcliffe, and East Southbourne & Tuckton, more than 40% of the population belong to this group.

3.7.6 13.2% of the BCP population in 2021 (53,437 actual) fall under the Mosaic Group 'Aspiring Homemakers'. These are young people in their 20s and 30s, with a mix of young couples and single people. Around two-thirds have started families and have young children. Most homes are priced below the national average, but mortgage payments make a significant dent in these owners' monthly finances. Residents earn mid-range salaries in varied occupations, with most working full-time. A number may work part-time or take career breaks when their children are small. While incomes are respectable, outgoings are often considerable. Newtown & Heatherlands and Creekmoor wards have the highest proportions in this group.

3.7.7 10.8% of the BCP population in 2021 (43,767 actual) belong to the Mosaic Group 'Prestige Positions'. These are affluent families living in spacious homes within sought-after neighbourhoods. Most householders are married couples, some are older and no longer have dependants, others have children or young adults living at home. They own large, detached houses with substantial market value. Residents are highly educated and have achieved success in their careers. Broadstone and Canford Cliffs have the highest proportions of the population in this group.

3.7.8 Groups with the lowest household incomes are under-represented in the BCP area in comparison to the UK. These groups are:

- Family Basics – Families with limited resources who budget to make ends meet.
 - Transient Renters - Single people renting low-cost homes for the short term.
 - Municipal Tenants - Urban residents renting high density housing from social landlords.
- These groups are clustered in BCP's most deprived areas and account for 11% of the overall population.

3.7.9 Over a third of the population in Kinson (36%) are from the Family Basics group. Other wards with a significant proportion from this group include Alderney & Bourne Valley (25%), Burton & Grange (23%), and Hamworthy (18%). This group contains households bringing up children, who have limited incomes and budget carefully. Many live as couples, whilst others are single. Residents live in low-cost family homes, with many rented from local authorities or housing associations. Adults in employment earn modest wages from a range of lower-level jobs. Some work full-time, whilst others work part-time or stay at home to look after children. Some are studying or looking for work.

3.7.10 Boscombe West has a high proportion of Transient Renters (16%); these are young single people in their 20s and 30s who rent affordable living space. Levels of movement are high, and most residents have been living at their address for a few years or less. Some live alone whilst others share with housemates or partners. A minority of households include a young child. Accommodation is rented in low-value properties, usually terraced houses or flats. Day-to-day budgets are limited, usually with very few savings to fall back on. Some people may take out low-value loans.

3.8 EDUCATION

3.8.1 There are three universities in the BCP area:

- Bournemouth University, which has some 19,000 students, including approximately 3,000 from outside the UK. Its Talbot Campus is in Poole, adjacent to North Bournemouth. The university also has a "Lansdowne Campus" dispersed around Central Bournemouth. It provides a significant amount of student accommodation through university accommodation providers, but privately renting students are concentrated in the Winton and Charminster areas of North Bournemouth.
- The Arts University Bournemouth, with approximately 3,500 students, has a campus adjacent to Bournemouth University's campus in Poole, and has a number of accommodation blocks in and around Bournemouth University's "Lansdowne Campus". Students privately renting are again concentrated in the Winton and Charminster areas.
- BCP's newest university is the AECC University College (formerly the *Anglo-European College of Chiropractic*) and has about 800 students. AECC's campus is in Boscombe.

3.8.2 BCP has 19 halls of residents to accommodate university students, alongside accommodation provided by private landlords. Police data from 2022/23 suggested that student accommodation is an overrepresented location in both sexual assault and rape occurrences, despite overall numbers remaining low.

3.8.3 There are 114 schools in BCP, including 67 primary schools, 23 secondary schools, and 3 all through schools. There are 100 Mainstream schools, 12 special schools, and 2 Pupil Referral Unit's.

3.8.4 86% of schools in BCP are academies. There are 56 primary academies, 19 secondary academies, 3 special academies, 1 middle school academy 1 junior academy and 1 all through academy. 14 schools in BCP are maintained.

3.8.5 Education is the most prevalent domain of deprivation across all three towns in BCP. There are 13 LSOAs in the 10% most deprived areas nationally in the education domain. These LSOAs are in Canford Heath, Hamworthy, Alderney and Bourne Valley, Kinson, East Cliff and Springbourne, and Burton and Grange.

3.8.6 LG Inform data shows the permanent exclusion rate in BCP schools 2021/22 was 0.01% of pupils in [primary schools](#), 0.14% of pupils in [secondary schools](#), and 0.18% of pupils in [schools for those with SEN](#). The [state school permanent exclusion rate](#) in BCP was 0.14% of pupils²¹. Figure 12 shows BCP's state school permanent exclusion rate in comparison with our CIPFA nearest neighbours.

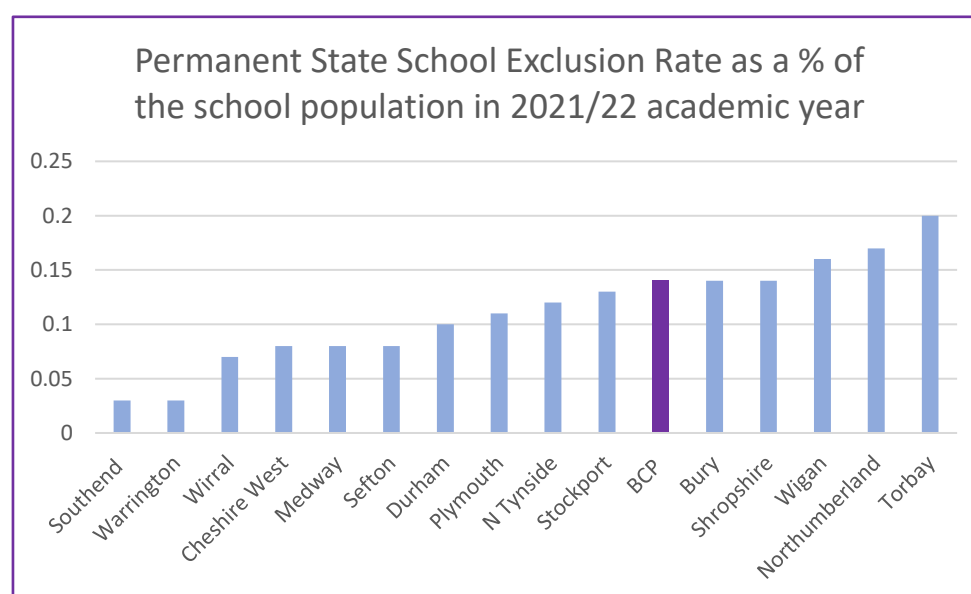


Figure 12 - Permanent state school exclusion rate as a % of the school population in 2021/22 academic year.

²¹ 2021/22 is the most up to date data.

3.8.7 Further, the fixed term exclusions rate in BCP 2021/22 was 2.02% of pupils in [primary schools](#), 16.55% of pupils in [secondary schools](#), and 4.06% in [schools for those with SEN](#). The [fixed term exclusion rate in BCP state schools](#) was 8.79% of pupils. Figure 13 shows BCP's state school fixed term exclusion rate in comparison with our CIPFA nearest neighbours.

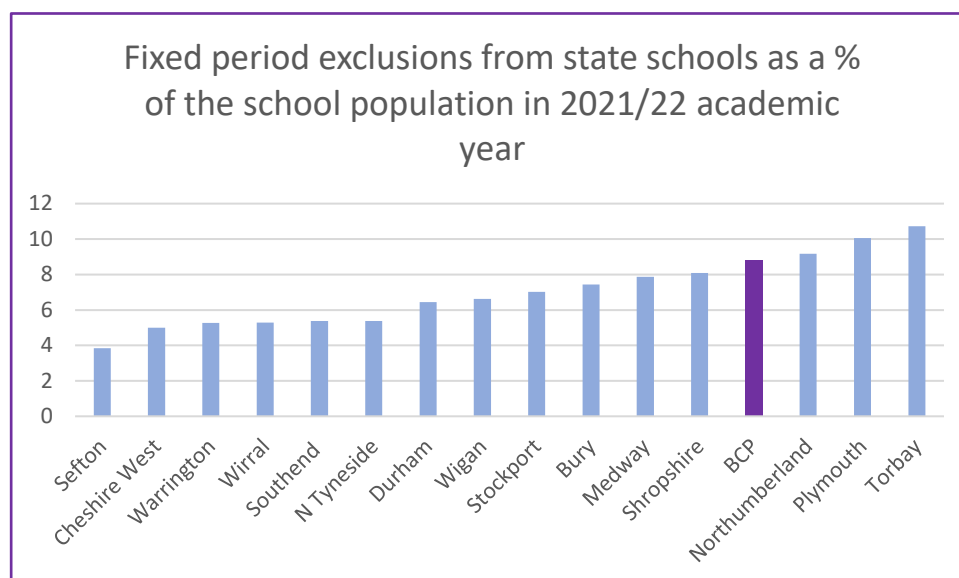


Figure 13 - Fixed term exclusion rate as a % of the school population in 2021/22 academic year.

3.8.8 Comparator data with BCP's CIPFA Nearest Neighbours suggests that these numbers are high. The Home Office Serious Violence Strategy (2018) highlights school exclusions as a risk factor for serious violence. Speaking in [The House Magazine \(2019\)](#) Vicky Foxcroft, Labour MP who set up the cross-party Youth Violence Commission explained:

“Of course, it is not inevitable that pupils who have been excluded will go on to become involved in serious violence and crime. However, we cannot ignore the link between school exclusion and social exclusion: once children and young people are permanently excluded, it is very difficult for them to re-enter mainstream education. This means that they are more vulnerable to grooming by criminals and to becoming the victims or perpetrators of violent crime.”

3.8.9 Local data shows that there were 116 permanent exclusions in BCP schools in the 2023/24 financial year. Each exclusion can have up to 3 reasons assigned to it without any ranking. The most common reasons for exclusions in BCP last year were persistent disruptive behaviour (71 permanent exclusions), verbal abuse/ threatening behaviour against an adult (27 permanent exclusions), and physical assault against an adult (21 permanent exclusions).

3.8.10 Subsequently, the high exclusion rates in BCP may be a cause for concern from a safeguarding of young people and a crime prevention perspective.

3.9 YOUNG PEOPLE

3.9.1 Overall, most children have a generally good start in BCP, comparing favourably with the national average in a number of key measures according to the [Local Authority Interactive Tool](#) and [Public Health England](#). BCP has:

- Lower infant mortality rates than the national average (2.7 per 1,000 in BCP compared with 4 nationally per 1,000, 2020-22),
- A lower proportion of children who are overweight or obese in reception (18.1% in BCP compared with 21.3% nationally, 2022/23),
- Higher population vaccination coverage for Dtap / IPV / Hib (92.1% in BCP compared with 91.8% nationally, 2022/23),
- Good school readiness as evidenced by achieving a good level of development at the end of reception (70.5% in BCP compared with 67.2%, nationally 2022/23).

3.9.2 The rate of children in absolute low-income families is lower in BCP at 8.4% in comparison to the England average at 12.5% (2022/23). Similarly, the percentage of children in relative low-income families is lower in BCP at 12.1% than the England average at 15.8% (2022/23).

3.9.1 However, there are undoubtedly some children living in BCP who do not have positive childhood experiences and may face a number of adversities. This makes them more vulnerable to harm and may be a risk factor in terms of committing or experiencing serious violence. For example, the rates of children in need are higher in BCP at 337.8 per 10,000, compared with the national average of 321.0 in May 2024.

3.9.2 Historically, DCYJS has had a higher rate of First Time Entrants than the national and regional averages. National performance data for First Time Entrants was previously drawn from the Police National Computer, however, this changed in 2023. The national data is now drawn from the Youth Justice Board's uploads of information from Youth Justice Service case management systems. This change in reporting methods has seen the rate of local First Time Entrants fall, with numbers now lower than the national average.

3.9.3 A 'First Time Entrant' is a child receiving a formal criminal justice outcome for the first time. A Youth Caution, a Youth Conditional Caution, or a court outcome count as a formal criminal justice outcome. There are also options for diverting children away from the justice system, by using formal justice outcomes. Dorset Police, DCYJS and other children's services work closely to decide the appropriate outcome for a child who has committed a criminal offence. Where possible, these agencies seek to use an informal option which does not criminalise the child, as it is recognised that receiving a formal justice outcome is detrimental for children.

3.9.4 Local data shows that the First Time Entrant rate to the criminal justice system for young people in BCP in financial year 2023/24 was 162 per 100,000. Between Jan 23-Dec 23 the First Time Entrant rate in England and Wales was 167 per 100,000. Local data shows that there was a notable decrease in First Time Entrants in BCP in the financial year 2023/24 at 52, in comparison to 79 in 2022/23.

3.9.5 Violence against the person (which includes weapon possession offences) is by far the most common offence type for First Time Entrants. Diversion options are rarely considered for weapon offences.

3.9.6 There are different services within BCP which seek to safeguard and support the welfare of children and adolescents in need. The SaferBCP and Working Together for a Safer Dorset Partnership work with adolescents and young adults at risk, with a focus on a seamless transition in safeguarding practices from childhood into adulthood. The partnership involves multiple agencies and stakeholders working together to address the complex needs and risks associated with this transitional period²².

3.10 HEALTH

3.10.1 In the BCP area people are generally healthier and live for longer than England overall; 0.9 years longer for men and 0.6 years longer for women. Males living in the least deprived areas live on average 8.6 years longer and females 6 years longer, than those living in the most deprived areas²³.

3.10.2 However, there are significant differences between ethnic minorities, those with and without different forms of disability, and between other discriminated against groups in comparison to the majority.

3.10.3 People's life chances and their prospects of living a long and healthy life are established in their very early years and accumulate throughout life. The link between disadvantage and poor health outcomes can only be broken by influencing for the better the conditions in which people are born, grow, live, work and age. It is important to understand factors that influence health are wide ranging and cover income, employment, education, housing and the natural and built environment, often referred to as the 'social determinants of health'.

²² [transitional_safeguarding_position_statement_final_june_2023.pdf \(bcpsafeguardingadultsboard.com\)](#)

²³ [Health-inequalities-in-BCP-Nov-2021 \(bcpcouncil.gov.uk\)](#)

3.10.4 Deprivation has a significant role in health inequalities. Life expectancy is lower in the more deprived areas mentioned above (those with a higher IMD score). Additionally, people living in deprived areas spend fewer years in good health and a larger proportion of life in poor health.

3.10.5 It should be noted that the importance of the early years is undeniable in promoting future good health, and actions to tackle inequalities must start before conception and continue throughout childhood in order to break the cycle of disadvantage and ill health.

3.10.6 Across all ages, the leading cause of death and disability in Bournemouth and Poole in 2019 were cancer and cardiovascular disease, followed by musculoskeletal disorders, mental health illnesses, and neurological disorders.

3.10.7 The British Heart Foundation (2023) note that around 60,000 people in BCP are living with heart and circulator disease, 17,000 people are living with coronary heart disease, and around 5,600 have been diagnosed with heart failure by their GP²⁴.

3.10.8 8% of the population in BCP have a disability that limits their day to day activity a lot, whilst 10% are limited a little. This percentage varies considerably when also considering age groups.

- 13% of 65-74-year-olds are limited a lot.
- 24% of 75-85-year-olds are limited a lot.
- 47% of people of over 85 years are limited a lot.

3.10.9 Mental health conditions can have a substantial impact on one's health, with a report by BCP council noting that mental health conditions such as depression and anxiety were the leading cause of death and disability in those aged 15-49, accounting for a fifth of total death and disability in this age group²⁴.

3.10.10 Mental health problems are common among those needing treatment for alcohol misuse. Admission episodes for mental and behavioural disorders due to use of alcohol are significantly higher in BCP (485 per 100,000) than the England and South West average (412 and 392 per 100,000 respectively).

3.10.11 Section 4.2. covers substance misuse and mental health in more detail.

3.11 TRAVEL AND TOURISM

3.11.1 There are approximately 10 million visitors each year to the BCP area, spending £740 million locally, with 10,096 full time roles, estimated to be linked to tourism.

3.11.2 The estimated tourist accommodation capacity in the BCP area is 23,824, including around 15,200 are in hotels, guesthouses, and B&B's, 2,500 in camping and caravans, 3,478 second homes and 1,627 in Marina berths.

²⁴ [bournemouth-christchurch-and-poole-bhf-statistics.pdf](#)

3.11.3 Bournemouth Airport flies to 35 international destinations throughout the year and is used by more than 700,000 passengers.

3.11.4 Poole Harbour is the second largest natural harbour in the world, and BCP is also home to Christchurch Harbour.

3.11.5 BCP has 15 miles of coastline including nine Blue Flag and fourteen Seaside Awards beaches.

3.11.6 Surveys and analysis by the Insight Team²⁵ included questions to determine whether beachfront users were residents of the BCP Council area, day visitors or working in the BCP Council area, or staying visitors (overnight or on holiday). The report concludes that *“Just under half (45%) said that they were residents of the BCP area, more than a third (36%) were staying visitors and the remainder (19%) were day visitors. This is quite different to the visitor profile in 2019, when more than half of those interviewed (56%) were staying visitors. The remainder were split almost equally between residents (21%) and day visitors (23%). The 2021 visitor profile is more similar to the profile of the 2017 Bournemouth and Poole visitor survey which was consistent with previous Bournemouth seafront visitor surveys.”*

3.11.7 Differentiation between different areas of the BCP beachfront were evident in the report, shown in Figure 15, breakdown of visitor types to different areas of BCP beachfront in Aug 2021.

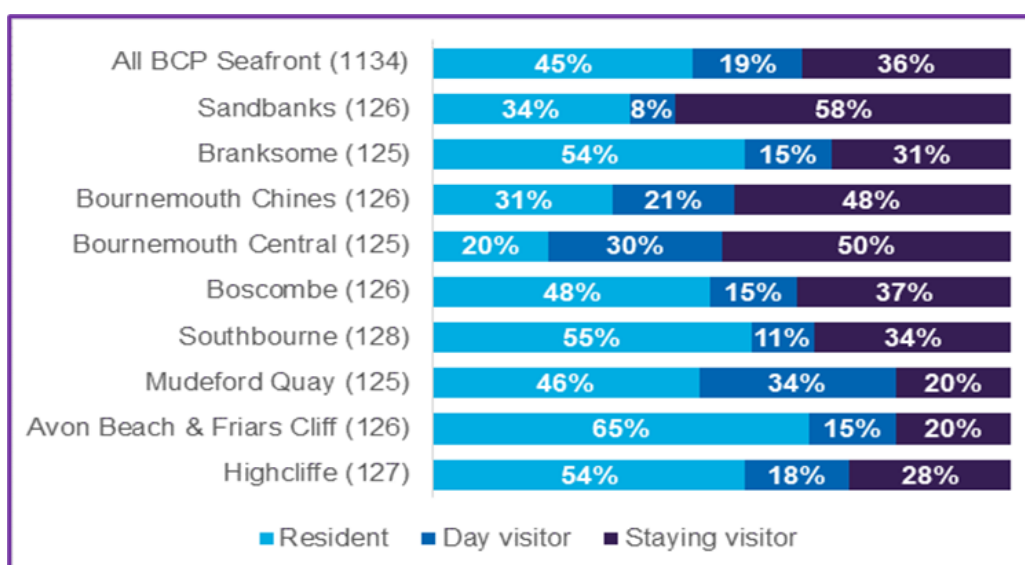


Figure 15 - Visitor type by seafront zone

²⁵ Seafront Visitor Survey 2021, August 2021, Insight Team BCP Council [Seafront Visitor Survey 2021 \(amazonaws.com\)](https://www.amazonaws.com)

4 ADDITIONAL NEEDS/ RISK FACTORS

4.1 OVERVIEW

4.1.1 We know that victims and perpetrators can often be the same population of people who are vulnerable to being drawn into criminality. Some of this overlap is predictable from personal childhood characteristics and an accumulation of many adverse childhood experiences²⁶.

4.1.2 Further, there is very strong evidence²⁷ to suggest that crime and antisocial behaviour is not evenly distributed, but rather is highly concentrated. Some neighbourhoods, streets and people are much more likely to experience crime than others, and more regularly.

4.1.3 These points highlight that there is an inequality of risk in our society when it comes to being a victim or suspect (or both) of crime. This section of the report seeks to explore what factors can make an individual more likely to become involved in crime.

4.2 SUBSTANCE MISUSE OR ABUSE

4.2.1 While some people are able to drink alcohol responsibly, drug and alcohol misuse and dependence can have a far reaching and devastating impact on individuals and communities.

4.2.2 The most recent data available from the Crime Survey of England & Wales (CSEW 2022/23) found that overall drug use had remained stable nationally²⁸, although levels are higher compared with ten years ago (year ending March 2013) for any drug (8.1%), cannabis (6.3%) and Class A drugs (2.5%).

4.2.3 Young people (aged 16-24 years) were more likely to use drugs, with 17.6% (around one million people) reporting taking drugs in the last year, a decrease in comparison to the year ending March 2020 (21%). This was largely due to a reported fall in cannabis use for this age group.

4.2.4 In England and Wales, 4,907 deaths related to drug poisoning were registered in 2022, equivalent to a rate of 84.4 deaths per million people. There was a higher rate of drug-poisoning deaths for males (3,240 deaths, 114.3 deaths per million) in comparison to females (1,667 deaths, 55.8 deaths per million)²⁹.

4.2.5 Nationally, rates of drug misuse deaths continue to be elevated among those born in the 1970s, with the highest rate in those aged 40-49 years²⁹.

4.2.6 Just under half of all drug-poisoning deaths registered in 2022 involved an opiate (46.1%; 2,261 deaths), whilst 857 deaths involved cocaine. This was a rise from 2021 and represented the 11th consecutive annual rise²⁹.

4.2.7 Hospital admissions due to substance misuse³⁰ (15-24 years) have been gradually increasing in BCP since 2012/13-2014/15. Numbers are small, so three-year averages are used. LG inform data shows BCP had a rate of 98.71 per 100,000 in 2020/21-2022/23, which was significantly higher than the England average (58.29 per 100,000). The chart below shows where BCP ranks in comparison to its CIPFA Nearest Neighbours for hospital admissions due to substance misuse (15-24 years) 2018/19-2020/21³¹.

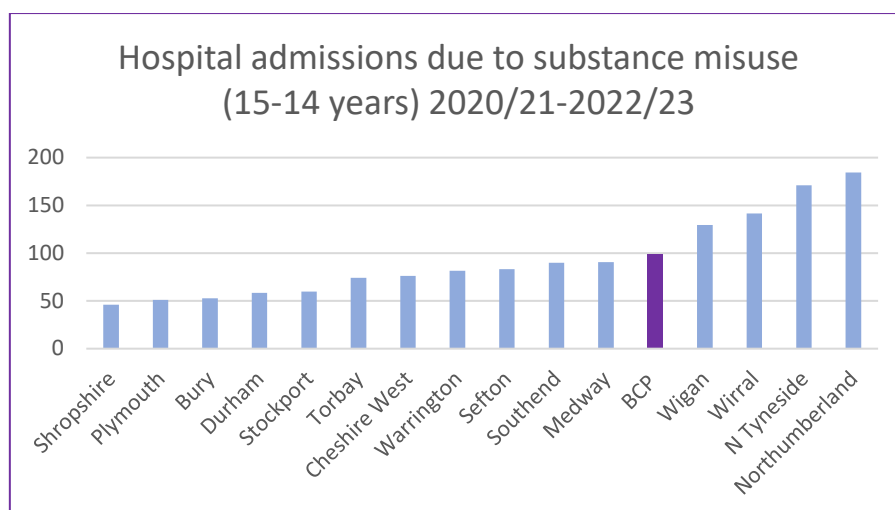


Figure 16 - Hospital admissions due to substance misuse per 100,000 population for 15-24 year olds - BCP in comparison to our CIPFA Nearest Neighbours

4.2.8 The [rate of admissions episodes for alcoholic liver disease](#) (broad)³² are similar in BCP to the England average, and are relatively low in comparison to our CIPFA Nearest Neighbours:

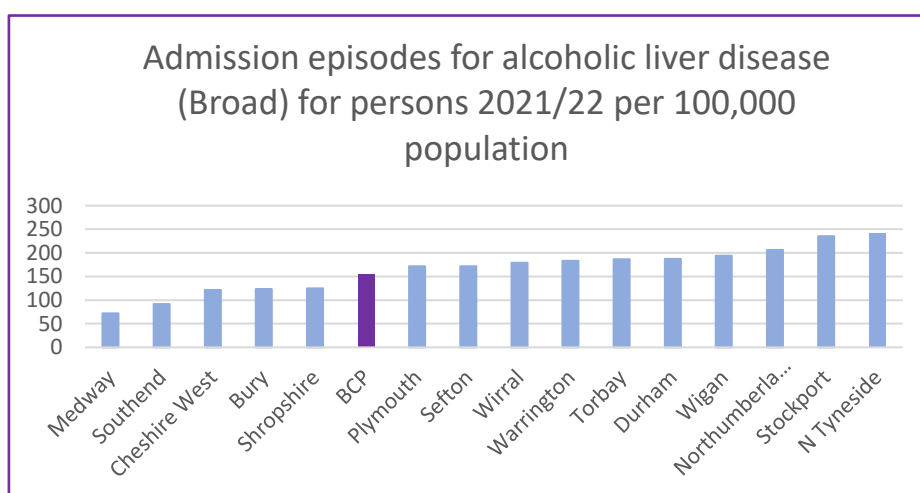


Figure 17 - Admissions for alcoholic liver disease - BCP in comparison to CIPFA Nearest Neighbours

²⁶ [The Developmental Nature of the Victim-Offender Overlap | Journal of Developmental and Life-Course Criminology \(springer.com\)](#)

²⁷ [People and places – how resources can be targeted | College of Policing](#)

²⁸ [Drug misuse in England and Wales - Office for National Statistics \(ons.gov.uk\)](#)

²⁹ [Deaths related to drug poisoning in England and Wales - Office for National Statistics \(ons.gov.uk\)](#)

³⁰ [Data and reports | LG Inform \(local.gov.uk\)](#)

³¹ This was the most up to date data.

³² Broad definition: A measure of hospital admissions where either the primary diagnosis (main reason for admission) or one of the secondary (contributory) diagnoses is an alcohol-related condition. This represents a Broad measure of alcohol-related admissions but is sensitive to changes in coding practice over time.

4.2.9 National trends suggest a concerning disparity between the rates of admission episodes for alcoholic liver disease (broad) for male and female members of the population in England. The average rate for [males](#) (2021-22) is 213.0 per 100,000 in comparison to 99.6 per 100,000 for [females](#). This trend is reflected in BCP, at 197.6 per 100,000 for males in comparison to 114.2 per 100,000. The rate for females is higher than the national average in BCP. Research notes that although there is a male predominance for alcoholism, chronic alcohol consumption induces more rapid and severe liver injury in females than males³³.

4.2.10 Further, admissions for mental and behavioural disorders due to the use of alcohol were high in BCP in 2021/22 in comparison to CIPFA Nearest Neighbours, as shown in figure 18. This was the most up to date data.

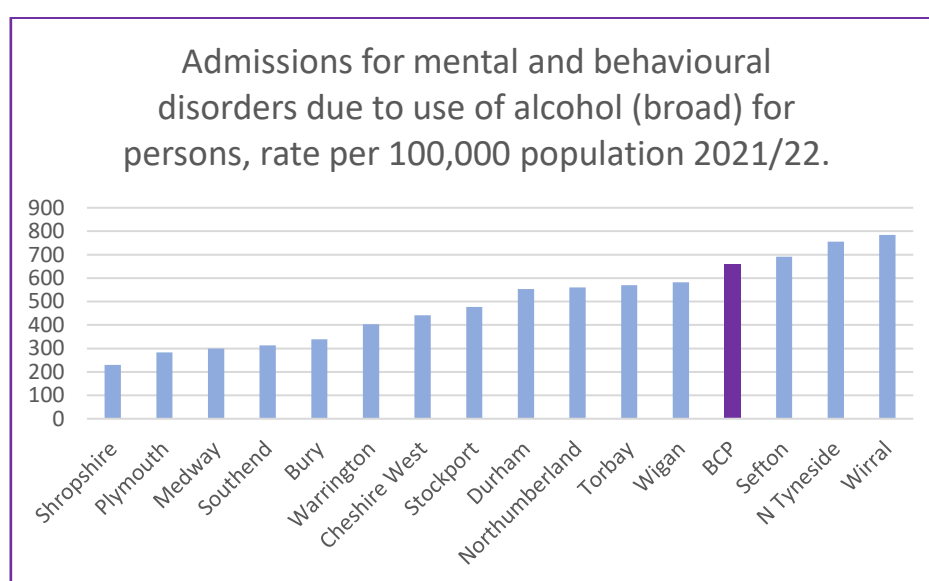


Figure 18 - Admissions for mental and behavioural disorders due to use of alcohol (broad) for persons, rate per 100,000 population 2021/22 for BCP in comparison with CIPFA Nearest Neighbours

4.2.11 There are a variety of ways in which substance misuse can exacerbate offending³⁴:

- Acquisitive crime committed by dependent users of drugs who commit crimes such as theft, burglary, fraud and shoplifting to get money to buy drugs.
- People getting caught using or supplying illegal drugs.
- People who commit violent offences whilst under the influence of drugs, particularly alcohol.
- Alcohol abuse is associated with a majority of murders, manslaughters and stabbings and half of domestic assaults.
- Alcohol and drug-related driving offences.
- Violence involving drug dealers who may clash with rival gangs or be violent towards drug users who owe them money.

³³ Schimizu, I., Kamiochi, M., Yoshikawa, H., and Nakayama, Y. (2012). 'Gender Difference in Alcoholic Liver Disease', in I. Schimizu (ed.) *Trends in Alcoholic Liver Disease Research – Clinical and Scientific Aspects*. Available at: [Trends in Alcoholic Liver Disease Research - Clinical and Scientific Aspects | IntechOpen](#)

³⁴ [How much crime is drug related? – DrugWise](#)

4.2.12 The Drug and Alcohol Homeless Team was implemented in 2022, assertively outreaching people and meeting with them where they are at has proved successful in terms of engaging and retaining complex people to improve their health and wellbeing. The £971,197 DACT secured government grant funding supports the team which is made up of recovery workers, nurses, and prescribers. The most recent data (March 2024) indicates, 1,687 individuals have engaged with the team since 1st April 2023. In the last quarter – 452 people were engaged in structured treatment with 68 people newly presenting to treatment. Over 300 people have primary opiate misuse and 88 people have an identified mental health need but are not accessing/engaged with mental health services.

4.2.13 The Drug and Alcohol Housing Team has been active since 1st May 2023, from another government grant funded initiative of £594,300 successfully secured by the DACT. The team actively support people with drug and alcohol problems in their own home (private or rented) to help prevent eviction and sustain tenancy. To date, the project of 11 workers has supported 298 people (an additional 50 people have either been offered the service or are currently at referral stage).

4.2.14 The Criminal Justice Transform Team, another government grant funded initiative, of £304,480, have been working hard to increase the Continuity of Care offer to people coming out of prison and engaging with treatment upon release. Engagement is crucial at this vulnerable time if people do not turn up for opiate substitution therapy appointments, putting themselves at increased risk of overdose due to lower tolerance levels. Over the last twelve months the performance for continuity of care has increase from 35% at March 2023 to 55% at March 2024. This is above regional and national average. All of the grants in sections 4.2.12 to 4.2.14 are due to cease on 31st March 2025.

4.2.1 Since the start of the Naloxone project in 2016, 2,353 kits have been issued to people in drug treatment at 31/03/2024, and 1,143 kits to those that are not in drug treatment (family, friends, people who use opiates but who are not in treatment). The increase in issuing of kits is pertinent now more than ever due to the rise in synthetic opiates in the UK, which are many times more potent than heroin and hidden within illegal substances including heroin and illicit Valium and Xanax.

4.2.2 BCP Council staff who come in to contact with people at risk of opiate overdose can now voluntarily choose to attend naloxone training and subsequently carry a kit. Council staff are offered a choice to carry Nyxoid (nasal naloxone) or Prenoxad (injection naloxone).

4.2.3 The DACT is currently, in partnership with Public Health Dorset, updating the Local Drug Information System – which is the process used to share and assess drug information. It also involves issuing drug alerts where needed.

4.2.4 A project which BCP participated in with Alcohol Change UK in 2022 looked at individuals with cognitive impairment due to alcohol misuse and pathways of services for them. As a result of the project, the following national guidance has been developed – ‘The Blue Light Approach: Identifying and addressing cognitive impairment in dependent drinkers’. At the time in BCP, it was perceived that potentially 1,575 people could have some form of alcohol related brain damage. It has now become apparent that there needs to be a wider piece of work undertaken locally with health and social care colleagues about a pathway for cognitive impairment individuals not accessing treatment, and what is the wider offer available to anyone with cognitive impairment linked to alcohol misuse. (*Cognitive impairment is a general term used to describe the range of damage to cognitive function resulting from heavy drinking or the associated lifestyle. Alcohol Change UK reports that cognitive impairment is common in people who drink dependently and can have a wide range of causes. The effect of cognitive impairment can impact on the help people receive from services due to the way they can be mistakenly interpreted. Further, cognitive impairment is a frequent factor in the exploitation of individuals, which has been highlighted in a number of Serious Case Reviews and Domestic Homicide Reviews.)

4.2.5 The DACT is working alongside adult social care partners in BCP to raise awareness around executive functioning and mental capacity, after a recent thematic review of South West safeguarding adults reviews looking at practice issues identified in relation to Mental Capacity Act 2005 found the largest area of practice concern to be that of executive dysfunction in relation to self-neglect and substance misuse. Alcohol Change UK, in partnership with BCP Council and other local authorities across the country, is currently running a project to develop a national guidance document on appropriate accommodation options for vulnerable and dependent drinkers that services find difficult to engage into mainstream treatment.

4.2.6 Adult residents of BCP have access to a range of local and national drug and alcohol support services. From 1st November 2021 the primary local provider commissioned by BCP Council to support both adults and young people are [We Are With You](#), formerly Addaction. Further, Engage Develop Adapt Succeed (EDAS)/Reach provides a free and confidential drug and alcohol service for those under 25 who live in the county of Dorset. EDAS/Reach work with young people and consider their own personal situation through the completion of an assessment to identify needs. The service then work with young people to achieve their goals, whether this is simply to increase their factual knowledge about the realities and consequences of substance use or to work towards a goal of controlled use or abstinence.

4.2.7 There is evidence to suggest that being in treatment for substance misuse improves health outcomes, family relationships and reduces levels of offending. As of August 2021, it has been estimated that for every £1 spent on treatment, £4 will be saved from reduced demands on health, emergency, law enforcement and prison services³⁵.

³⁵ [Review of drugs part two: prevention, treatment, and recovery - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](#)

4.2.8 In February 2024, there were 2,730 adults in BCP in treatment in the reporting period³⁶. 771 of these individuals were in treatment for primary alcohol misuse, 565 were in treatment for non-opiate only (including alcohol) misuse, and 1,394 individuals were in treatment for opiate substance misuse. Numbers in treatment during the reporting period gradually increased over the year, from 2,556 in March-23³⁷ to the 2730 in February-24.

4.2.9 According to the National Drug Treatment Monitoring System, between March 23- February 24 there were 147 young people in structured treatment in the BCP area. This was an increase of 84% from the previous year; between March 22- February 24 there were 80 young people in structured treatment.

4.2.10 There were 110 new presentations to treatment, and 83 total exits from treatment between April 23- February 2024³⁸.

4.3 MENTAL HEALTH

4.3.1 Good mental health is an asset associated with positive outcomes for individuals and communities, whereas poor mental health is associated with a variety of adversities. Research has found that people with mental health problems are considerably more likely to be victims of crime than the general population. For example, those with severe mental health illnesses are three times more likely to be a victim of assault³⁹.

4.3.2 Further, research by Mind⁴⁰ has found that people with severe mental health problems experience higher rates of sexual and domestic violence. In comparison to the general population, they were four times as likely to be victimised by their relatives.

4.3.3 There are three key risk factors among people with severe mental health issues⁴¹ which make them more prone to victimisation:

- Less engagement with services.
- Drug misuse.
- A history of being violent.

4.3.1 As well as increasing the risk of becoming a victim of crime, research also finds that mental health issues are prevalent among suspects within the criminal justice system. 45% of adults in prison have anxiety or depression, 8% have a diagnosis of psychosis, and 60% have experienced a traumatic brain injury⁴².

³⁶ Reporting period September 2022- August 2023.

³⁷ Reporting period October 21- September 2022.

³⁸ [NDTMS - Monthly - Young people \(new methodology\)](#)

³⁹ [People with mental health problems at high risk of being victims of crime | Website archive | King's College London \(kcl.ac.uk\)](#)

⁴⁰ [at-risk-yet-dismissed-report.pdf \(mind.org.uk\)](#)

⁴¹ [At risk, yet dismissed - summary.pdf \(victimsupport.org.uk\)](#)

⁴² [The future of prison mental health care in England - Centre for Mental Health](#)

4.3.2 The relationship between poor mental health and other aspects which put individuals at risk of becoming a suspect are complex. For example, someone may self-medicate if they are unable to access mental health support, and drug use is associated with a risk of offending. Research⁴³ has shown that whilst over half of prisoners have poor mental health, the crimes were often committed for other reasons, such as poverty, homelessness, substance misuse and unemployment.

4.3.3 There is also a relationship between poor mental health and homelessness. For example, the onset of mental illness can trigger a series of events that lead someone into homelessness. Conversely, housing insecurity and homelessness are stressful events in themselves, and may lead to poorer mental health. Additionally, people experiencing homelessness often face trauma and adversity which are deeply connected to mental health issues.

4.3.4 There are a number of indicators which can give us an insight into the mental health of those living in the BCP area:

4.3.5 The rates of school pupils with diagnosed social, emotional and mental health needs increased in 2021/22⁴⁴, and is increasing at 3.1%. However, rates are similar to the England average (3.0%), which follows a similar trend.

4.3.6 When thinking about social, emotional, and mental health needs, looked after children are a particular group who are a cause for concern. 57% of looked after children in BCP have emotional wellbeing which is a cause for concern, in comparison to 37% for the England average. This may be pertinent when discussing risk of safeguarding and criminality as research shows that looked after children are overrepresented within the criminal justice system. Office for National Statistics (2022)⁴⁵ data on the backgrounds of looked-after children who interact with the criminal justice system shows:

- More than half (52%) of looked-after children born in the academic year ending 1994 and who attended school in England, had a criminal conviction by the age of 24, compared with 13% of children who had not been in care.
- Imprisonment was a relatively unusual outcome for these children, however, 1 in 7 (15%) looked-after-children had received an immediate custodial sentence by the age of 24, over 10 times the proportion of children who had not been in care.
- A further 37% of looked-after children had received a non-custodial conviction, such as a fine or caution; this is compared with 12% of children who had not been in care.
- 1 in 4 (24%) of looked-after children who were male had received an immediate custodial sentence compared with 2% of male children who had not been in care.
- Looked-after children were more likely to have been identified as having special educational needs (SEN); among looked-after children who received an immediate custodial sentence by age 24 years, 9 in 10 (92%) had been identified with SEN.

⁴³ [Mental illness not usually linked to crime, research finds \(apa.org\)](#)

⁴⁴ This is the most recent data

⁴⁵ [The education background of looked-after children who interact with the criminal justice system - Office for National Statistics \(ons.gov.uk\)](#)

4.3.7 The rates of in-patient stays in secondary mental health services⁴⁶ in BCP has been decreasing since 2018. There was a notable decrease in rates in BCP between 2018/19 (315 per 100,000) to 2019/20 (238 per 100,000). This is slightly lower than the average in England (241 per 100,000).

4.3.8 However, data⁴⁷ shows that the suicide rate in BCP has been consistently higher than the national average since 2013. The most recent data (2020-22) shows the suicide rate in BCP at 14.2 per 100,000, in comparison to 10.3 in England. Further, comparator data shows that suicide rates in BCP are high in comparison to our CIPFA Nearest Neighbours:

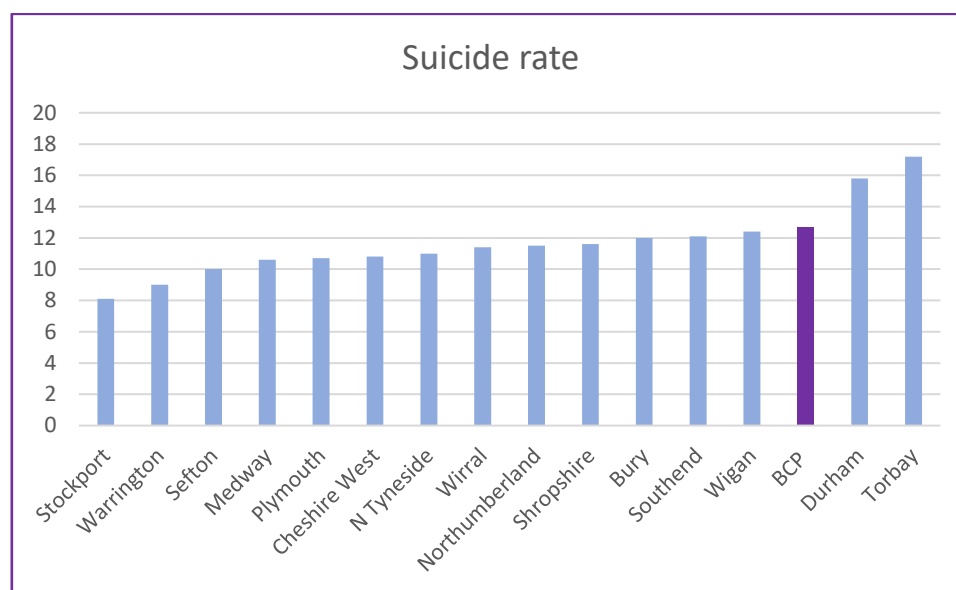


Figure 19 - Suicide rate per 100,000 for BCP in comparison to our CIPFA Nearest Neighbours

4.3.9 Further, there has been a notable increase in the suicide rate for males⁴⁸ in BCP, which was 19.0 per 100,000 in 2019-21, and 23.3 per 100,000 in 2020-22. This is considerably higher than the England average of 15.8.

4.3.10 In contrast, the suicide rate for females⁴⁹ in BCP has decreased year-on-year since 2018. It is slightly higher than the England average at 5.7 per 100,000 (BCP) in comparison to 5.2 per 100,000 (England).

4.3.11 There is a variety of support available for those who struggle with mental health concerns in BCP. The Community Mental Health Team⁵⁰ works with adults in BCP, and seeks to:

- Provide advice on the management of mental health problems,
- Offer a seamless and integrated service so that patients and carers received flexible, holistic and responsive care.

⁴⁶ [Public health profiles - OHID \(phe.org.uk\)](https://publichealthprofiles.org.uk/)

⁴⁷ [Public health profiles - OHID \(phe.org.uk\)](https://publichealthprofiles.org.uk/)

⁴⁸ [Public health profiles - OHID \(phe.org.uk\)](https://publichealthprofiles.org.uk/)

⁴⁹ [Public health profiles - OHID \(phe.org.uk\)](https://publichealthprofiles.org.uk/)

⁵⁰ [Community mental health teams for adults from 18 to 64 and over | BCP \(bcpcouncil.gov.uk\)](https://www.bcpccouncil.gov.uk/community-mental-health-teams-for-adults-from-18-to-64-and-over/)

- Provide Treatment and care for those with more complex and enduring needs through focusing on individual needs.
- Eliminate any inequalities/differential outcomes experiences as a result of race, disability, gender, age, religious belief or faith, or sexual orientation.
- Promote social inclusion and recovery for all.
- Deliver choice throughout an individual's care pathway, including accessing primary care services, secondary care assessments, treatment and care, and inpatient care.
- Improve joint working between health and social care services.

4.3.12 Young people in BCP can seek support from Children and Adolescent Mental Health services (CAMHS)⁵¹. CAMHS offer assessment and treatment to children and young people up to the age of 18 who are suffering with significant mental health difficulties. Additionally, Pebble Lodge is a specialist psychiatric unit which provides 24-hour assessment, treatment and care for children and young people with severe mental health problems and who pose a risk to themselves, others or the environment.

4.3.13 Forensic CAMHS is a specialist services which aims to assist professionals with under-18s who may have neuro-developmental and/or mental health concerns, and present with a high risk of harm to others, including but not limited to:

- Violence.
- Fire-setting.
- Stalking.
- Internet offending.
- Animal cruelty.
- Damage to property.
- Terrorism/concerns about radicalisation.

4.3.14 It should be noted that referrals for Forensic CAMHS are low, with 36 young people being referred in 2023/24 and a further 6 receiving advice during the financial year.

4.4 MISSING PERSONS

4.4.1 Dorset Police have had a Missing Support Team (MST) in place in BCP since November 2020, who prioritise:

- High risk missing episodes;
- Under 18s and repeat vulnerable adults;
- Back-office support to all other medium risk investigations.
- Leave from MH establishment.

4.4.2 There are a variety of reasons why people may go missing. Some of the most common reasons for children to be missing are⁵²:

- Conflict, neglect and abuse at home
- Sexual exploitation
- Trafficking
- Mental health issues

⁵¹ [Dorset HealthCare :: Child and Adolescent Mental Health \(CAMHS\)](#)

⁵² [Key information and statistics about missing - Missing People](#)

4.4.3 Some of the most common reasons for adults are⁵²:

- Diagnosed or undiagnosed mental health issues
- Relationship breakdown
- Dementia
- Financial problems
- Escaping violence

4.4.4 The most recent available local police data shows that there were 3920 missing persons reported to Dorset Police between March 2023-February 2024. Unfortunately, data is currently only available force wide and is not BCP specific. There were 5120 missing persons reported in financial year 2022/23, and 5637 reported in 2021/22.

4.5 HOMELESSNESS

Previous research has shown that homeless people often have additional or complex needs that increase their vulnerability, particularly in relation to being a victim or perpetrator of crime. An example is recent research⁵³(published in 2020) by the Ministry of Housing, Communities & Local Government with people who are currently or recently have slept rough or were at risk of having to sleep rough. This research highlighted these vulnerabilities:

- 82% had a current mental health vulnerability.
- 65% had been a victim of crime in the previous six months.
- 60% had a current substance misuse need.
- 53% had spent time in prison.
- 50% had long-standing physical impairment, illness or disability.
- 35% had experienced domestic abuse.
- 26% had been in care.
- 21% had been homeless before they were 16 years old.
- 19% had a learning disability.

4.5.1 The Government Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities has taken a snapshot of those rough sleeping⁵⁴ on a single night in the autumn since 2010 to gain an idea of the number of people rough sleeping in England. There are limitations, as this does not account for those who find places that are well hidden or are sleeping in outbuildings etc. As such, it will be an under-estimate. However, it does give an idea of trends and a base to start from. The most recent snapshot⁵⁵ is from Autumn 2022, where there was estimated to be 3,069 people sleeping rough. This is the first increase in four years.

⁵³ [Rough Sleeping Questionnaire: initial findings \(publishing.service.gov.uk\)](https://publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/904444/rough-sleeping-questionnaire-initial-findings.pdf)

⁵⁴ 'People sleeping rough' are defined as follows: People sleeping, about to bed down (sitting on/in or standing next to their bedding) or bedded down in the open air (such as on the streets, in tents, doorways, parks, bus shelters or encampments). People in buildings or other places not designed for habitation (such as stairwells, barns, sheds, car parks, cars, derelict boats, stations, or 'bashes' which are makeshift shelters, often comprised of cardboard boxes). The definition **does not include** people in hostels or shelters, people in campsites or other sites used for recreational purposes or organised protest, squatters or travellers. **Bedded down** is taken to mean either lying down or sleeping. **About to bed down** includes those who are sitting in/on or near a sleeping bag or other bedding.

⁵⁵ [Rough sleeping snapshot in England: autumn 2022 - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/rough-sleeping-snapshot-in-england-autumn-2022)

4.5.2 BCP had the largest percentage change out of other local authorities when comparing the number of people sleeping rough on the night of the snapshot in autumn 2022 in comparison to the previous year. In 2021 there was 29 people sleeping rough on the night of the snapshot, in comparison to 64 people in 2022, an increase of 121%⁵⁵.

4.5.3 Data⁵⁶ shows that between 2017 and 2022, the majority of rough sleepers reported in England have been males, a trend which is reflected in BCP. Further, most of those rough sleeping in England are aged 26 and over, which is also the case in BCP.

4.5.4 Homeless people are at substantially increased risk of crime victimisation in comparison to the general population. In particular, the increased risk of violent victimisation in individuals using homeless shelters represents an underappreciated health problem – violent victimisation can contribute to severe health problems which can create large consequences for public health and can also increase health inequalities. This highlights the need for strategic and targeted approaches to prevent homelessness and to help people out of homelessness. Research shows that improvements in multiagency collaboration - such as between homeless shelters, health-care services, substance misuse services, and police forces – are likely to be important in reducing the risk of victimisation in marginalised populations affected by homelessness⁵⁷.

4.5.5 BCP is one of six trailblazer regions as part of Homewards: a five year-programme created by Prince William and The Royal Foundation of The Prince and Princess of Wales. It aims to demonstrate that together it's possible to end homelessness, making it rare, brief and unrepeated. Homewards is locally led and puts collaboration at the heart of the response. The six locations are forming local coalitions of committed people, organisations and businesses who will create and deliver a plan to prevent and end homelessness⁵⁸.

4.6 RADICALISATION

4.6.1 Prevent helps to keep communities safe from the threat of terrorism and violent extremism by stopping people from becoming terrorists or supporting terrorism. The Prevent Duty was introduced under the Counter Terrorism and Security Act 2015. Under this, authorities such as local councils, schools, healthcare providers, and the police must have '*due regard to the need to prevent people from being drawn into terrorism*'. This means that authorities have a duty to take certain steps to support people at risk of becoming drawn into extreme views or beliefs (radicalised). This can include offering counselling, mentoring and education⁵⁹.

4.6.2 Nationally, Prevent referrals have risen - in the year ending 31st March 2023, there were 6,817 referrals to Prevent, an increase of 6.4% compared to the previous year, and the third highest total of referrals since 2015⁶⁰.

⁵⁶ [Rough sleepers England 2022, by gender | Statista](#)

⁵⁷ [Homelessness and police-recorded crime victimisation: a nationwide, register-based cohort study \(thelancet.com\)](#)

⁵⁸ [Homewards - Homelessness Partnership BCP \(hpbcp.org\)](#)

⁵⁹ [Prevent | BCP \(bpcouncil.gov.uk\)](#)

⁶⁰ [New statistics show increase in Prevent referrals | Counter Terrorism Policing](#)

4.6.3 Locally, Prevent referrals in BCP are very low. In terms of types of threat, our local picture is very similar to the national picture. In the UK, the primary domestic terrorist threat comes from Islamist terrorism, which accounts for approximately 67% of attacks since 2018, about three quarters of MI5 caseload and 64% of those in custody for terrorism-connected offences.

4.6.4 The remainder of the UK domestic terrorist threat is driven almost exclusively by Extreme Right-Wing Terrorism (ERWT), which amounts to approximately 22% of attacks since 2018, about a quarter of MI5 caseload, and 28% of those in custody for terrorism-connected offences.

4.6.5 Left Wing, Anarchist and Single-Issue Terrorism (LASIT) currently represents a significantly smaller terrorist threat to the UK than Islamist terrorism or ERWT and is not currently perceived to be present in the UK at any significant scale.

4.6.6 In BCP, the Pan-Dorset Prevent Partnership Board provides a forum to promote co-operation between partners to fulfil their statutory requirements as set out by the Prevent Duty.

4.6.7 The Pan-Dorset Partnership seeks to deliver the key objectives of the Prevent Strategy by:

- Responding to the ideological challenge of terrorism and the threats we face from who promote it;
- Preventing people from being drawn into terrorism and the threats we face from those who promote it;
- Working with sectors and institutions where there are risks of radicalisation that we need to address.

4.6.8 The role of the Partnership Board is to:

- Enable effective delivery against the statutory Prevent Duty;
- Engage with and develop an understanding of risks to our seldom heard communities;
- Maintaining awareness of any significant developments in relation to community tensions;
- Identify gaps and opportunities across all strands of Prevent;
- Agree a joint programme, proportionate to risks;
- Deliver effective actions and projects in coordination with partners;
- Mainstream the Prevent agenda within existing service delivery.

4.6.9 The Pan Dorset Prevent Partnership Week of Action 'Preventing Radicalisation' took place between 2nd and 6th October 2023. This week consisted of 9 live webinars for professionals, educators and parents, and 2 in-house sessions at Weymouth College and Bournemouth and Poole College for students. There was a total of 176 attendees for the live webinars, with 116 attendees from BCP, 32 from Dorset and 8 parents in attendance. Feedback forms indicate that attendees took useful knowledge from the sessions:

- With 16 'completely disagree', and 90 'completely agree' the statement 'after attending the webinar(s), I have a greater understanding and awareness of Prevent'.
- The statement 'having attended the webinar(s), if I was concerned that a friend/colleague/child etc needed support from a Prevent team, I would know who to contact and how' scored 83 out of 100.

4.6.10 The Channel program offers support to individuals who have not engaged in terrorist activity but has been identified as being susceptible to the risk of radicalisation. This is a completely voluntary scheme and is fully confidential⁵⁹.

4.6.11 The Channel panel consists of professionals from many services including the police, healthcare providers and social workers. The panel meets regularly to closely monitor the risks of the individual and organise tailored support⁵⁹. This may include:

- Specially trained intervention providers
- Counselling and mental health support
- Substance misuse services
- Education or careers support
- Housing support

4.6.12 Interventions by the Channel Panel help to reduce the impact of susceptibility factors on the individual, increase resilience, and aim to redirect them away from extreme or terrorists beliefs. Cases are only closed when there are no longer concerns. Reviews take place after 6 and 12 months, and an individual may re-enter the Channel if necessary.

5 VICTIMS

5.1.1 A victim is defined⁶¹ as:

- A person who has suffered harm, including physical, mental or emotional harm or economic loss which was directly caused by a criminal offence;
- A close relative (or a nominated family spokesperson) of a person whose death was directly caused by a criminal offence.

5.1.2 Research shows that the risk of becoming a victim is not equally spread out throughout society, and evidence suggests that some members of the public are at greater risk of becoming a victim than others.

5.1.3 Males are at a considerably greater risk of being a victim of violent crime⁶². Additionally, Health status is a statistically significant factor affecting violent crime, and adults with limiting disability or long-standing illness had a higher risk of being a victim of violence than adults without a disability.

⁶¹ [Victims and Witnesses: Care and Treatment | The Crown Prosecution Service \(cps.gov.uk\)](https://www.cps.gov.uk/victims-and-witnesses/care-and-treatment)

⁶² [VS Insight Report - An easy target.pdf \(victimsupport.org.uk\)](https://www.victimsupport.org.uk/vs-insight-report-an-easy-target.pdf)

5.1.4 Socioeconomic background also affects risk of victimization. Those living in households with an income of under £10,000 are at the greatest risk of all forms of violence whilst alcohol-related victimisation is disproportionately clustered in the lowest socioeconomic groups. Higher rates of alcohol-related domestic and acquaintance violence for lower socioeconomic groups are behind this pattern, with the most disadvantaged groups experiencing prevalence rates up to five times as high as the most advantaged groups, and incident rates as much as 14 times as high⁶³.

5.1.5 Additionally, lower socioeconomic groups are more likely to experience high frequency alcohol-related anti-social behaviour. Data from the Crime Survey England and Wales from 2013/14-2017/18 shows that of those from the lowest socioeconomic groups who experienced anti-social behaviour, around half of them experienced it every week or more often. This highlights the prevalence of repeat victimization for this crime type amongst this cohort.

5.1.6 In terms of ethnic background, recent research shows that men from Mixed ethnic backgrounds are more likely to be victims of crime than men from any other ethnic group⁶⁴.

5.1.7 Not only is the risk of becoming a victim spread unequally throughout society, some individuals are prone to repeat victimisation. One study found that 5% of victims experience 60% of crime⁶⁵.

5.1.8 There are different explanations as to why repeat victimisation occurs. The *state dependence* perspective views future victimisation as a direct response to initial victimisation. This 'boost' in risk is explained by two processes; firstly, there are changes within the victim. For example, initial victimisation may make a victim more fearful about confronting offenders, thereby increasing that person's vulnerability and attractiveness as a target. Alternatively, some research suggests that repeat victimisation may be due to offender choices. Strong evidence suggests that crimes are disproportionately the work of prolific offenders^{66,67}. For example, many residential burglary offenders return to the same house⁶⁸ whilst many bank robbers strike the same banks⁶⁹. Offenders tend to favour locations in which they have familiarity with, which do not require lots of effort. Subsequently, if they know a specific location to be an easy target, they are more likely to return. Evidence suggests that the majority of crimes involving repeat victimisation stem from offender decisions, where the offender learns in the initial crime which targets are the best, boosting the likelihood of them repeating the crime⁶⁵.

5.1.9 Another explanation comes from the *population heterogeneity* perspective. This is the view that possessing certain characteristics make some people or households more at risk than others. This can include biological factors (e.g. individual size or physical vulnerabilities), psychological propensities (e.g. submissive or aggressive personalities), lifestyle factors (e.g. regularly staying out late drinking), or occupation⁶⁵.

⁶³ Inequalities in victimisation: alcohol, violence, and anti-social behaviour. An Institute of Alcohol Studies report, (2020). Available at: [rp41052020.pdf \(ias.org.uk\)](https://ias.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2020/04/rp41052020.pdf)

⁶⁴ [Victims of crime - GOV.UK Ethnicity facts and figures \(ethnicity-facts-figures.service.gov.uk\)](https://ethnicity-facts-figures.service.gov.uk/)

⁶⁵ O, S., Martinez, N., Lee, Y., and Eck, J. (2017). 'How concentrated is crime among victims? A systematic review from 1977 to 2014'. *Crime Science*, 6(1), 9. [\[PDF\] How concentrated is crime among victims? A systematic review from 1977 to 2014 \(researchgate.net\)](https://www.researchgate.net/publication/316111111)

⁶⁶ Ashton *et al* (1998). Referenced in O *et al*, (2017) – see footnote 65.

⁶⁷ Martinez *et al* (2017). Referenced in O *et al*, (2017) – see footnote 65.

⁶⁸ Winkel, F. W. (1991). Referenced in O *et al*, (2017) – see footnote 65.

⁶⁹ Gill and Matthews (1993) Referenced in O *et al*, (2017) – see footnote 65.

5.1.10 The reasons for repeat victimisation vary by crime type. In the case of domestic violence, risk factors for victims who have been victimised repeatedly in different relationships differ from those who have been repeatedly victimised in just one relationship. In crimes such as burglary, being a neighbour of the original victim may increase the chances of becoming a victim as the offender becomes familiar with the area. There is also evidence to suggest that people who experience antisocial behaviour are more likely to suffer repeatedly than victims of personal and property crime. Some people are likely to be particularly vulnerable to antisocial behaviour, such as young people and households with children, those living in less affluent areas and rented accommodation, and people in poor health and/or with disabilities⁷⁰. Exploring repeat victimisation is important because as mentioned above, a small proportion of victims experience a large proportion of crime. Identifying repeat victims can provide us with a means of allocating crime prevention resources in an efficient and informed manner.

5.1.11 The impacts of being a victim of crime vary from person to person. Victimisation often causes trauma and can be devastating for some individuals, particularly those who have already experienced trauma in their lifetime.⁷¹

5.1.12 People with mental health illnesses are more likely to become victims and also more likely to suffer serious psychological consequences, leading to suicide attempts as a result of becoming victimised. People with mental health problems were also reluctant to report crime to the police⁷².

5.1.13 Compared with people who did not have mental health problems, victims with severe mental health issues explained how being a victim of crime affected many aspects of their life including: financial and material situation, personal relationships and behaviour, physical health, housing situation, emotional well-being, and mental health.

5.1.14 It is important to understand what characteristics victims of crime possess in order to best target resources. The next section of this report takes an in-depth look at different types of crime in BCP in relation to the 4 priorities and delves deeper into the demographics of victims for different types of crime.

⁷⁰ [People and places – how resources can be targeted | College of Policing](#)

⁷¹ [The Impact of Victimization.PDF \(crcvc.ca\)](#)

⁷² [People with mental health problems at high risk of being victims of crime | Website archive | King's College London \(kcl.ac.uk\)](#)

6 PRIORITY 1 – TACKLE VIOLENT CRIME IN ALL OF ITS FORMS

6.1 SERIOUS VIOLENCE – OVERVIEW AND NATIONAL CONTEXT

6.1.1 Violent crime in the UK had been falling steadily since its peak in the mid-1990s, however, from 2014 onwards, certain types of violent crime began to rise, especially incidents involving knives and guns⁷³. This is a real concern for Community Safety Partnerships nationwide; not only does serious violence have a devastating impact on the lives of victims and families, it also has wide reaching effects into the community, instilling fear and making people feel that their neighbourhoods and local areas are unsafe.

6.1.2 This increase in serious violent crime prompted the Home Office to produce its Serious Violence Strategy (2018)⁷⁴. This document sets out what actions the Government will take to address serious violence, and in particular the recent increases in knife crime, gun crime and homicides. An important note is that these offences make up just 1% of total crime, however, they are of course among the most harmful to society. Although these rises are worrying, they do need to be put into context. The Serious Violence Strategy notes that despite the increases in homicide since 2014, the number of homicides in 2016/17 was 31% lower than its peak in 2003/04, equating to 276 fewer homicides. It notes that England and Wales is one of the safest places to live, with the homicide rate being well below the global and European average.

6.1.3 The Serious Violence Strategy identifies a number of drivers for the recent national increases in serious violence:

- **Drugs and Profit** – Drug use can drive up serious violence directly, as psychoactive effects can encourage users to act violently, or indirectly, by fuelling robberies to service drug dependence. Additionally, the emergence of new psychoactive substances like ‘spice’ have contributed to higher rates of serious violence. There has also been a shift towards more young people involved in the drugs market. However, the Serious Violence Strategy notes that the most important shift in the drugs market is the rise in Crack Cocaine since 2014, along with an increase in purity. Additionally, there has been a shift in market and coastal towns towards County Lines drug selling gangs, and these gangs tend to be much more violent than local dealers who previously controlled the market.
- **Effectiveness of the Criminal Justice System** - The Serious Violence Strategy notes that the certainty of punishment has a greater impact on reducing crime rates than the severity of punishment. The recent downward trend in arrests and charges for some crimes lessens the certainty of punishment. The Strategy notes that enforcement can play a vital role in tackling offences, and that the primary focus should be on hot-spots policing where there is proven evidence of effectiveness.
- **Character** - A key finding of criminological research is that a small minority of offenders commit the majority of crime. This is true for serious violence offending. For serious violence offences, there appears to be a shift towards younger offenders. This may in part be due to spillover effects from violence involving young people associated with the drugs market, as evidence shows that if gangs start to carry more weapons due to drug-selling activity, others

⁷³ [Serious violence | Neighbourhood Watch Network \(ourwatch.org.uk\)](https://www.ourwatch.org.uk/serious-violence)

⁷⁴ [Home Office – Serious Violence Strategy, April 2018 \(publishing.service.gov.uk\)](https://publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/684441/home-office-serious-violence-strategy-2018.pdf)

feel the need to arm themselves for protection⁷⁵. This escalates violent trends as it means that conflict is likely to result in a more serious outcome. Additionally, an increase in the numbers of most vulnerable individuals may also contribute to the trend of younger serious violence offenders; numbers of children in care, excluded children and homelessness amongst adults have all risen since 2014. Being in care and experiencing school exclusions are markers for risk of victimisation, perpetration, and substance abuse, which may put these young people at higher risk of being exploited for offences such as drug market related violence⁷⁶.

- **Alcohol-** The Serious Violence Strategy notes that a substantial proportion of serious violence is linked to alcohol in some way. Subsequently, evidenced-based interventions targeting alcohol-related violence are likely to help bring serious violence levels down.
- **Opportunity-** Criminological theory states that crime is driven by an individual's propensity for offending, as well as the factors that make the opportunity for crime greater⁷⁷. The increasing presence of social media over recent years has influenced the opportunity for serious violence. Whilst the vast majority of social media usage does not impact serious violence, a very small minority of use does. The growth in smart phones between 2011-2014 has transformed accessibility to social media, creating unlimited opportunity for rivals to antagonise each other. This, paired with the presence of increased availability of a large audience to these threats⁷⁸, may have led to cycles of tit for tat violence⁷⁹.

6.1.4 As part of the Serious Violence Duty, local government areas are required to identify the kinds of serious violence that occur in the area, the causes of that violence (so far as it is possible to do so), and to prepare to implement a strategy for preventing and reducing serious violence in the area. This led to the creation of the BCP Serious Violence Needs Assessment (2023-24), which identified the following priority areas:

- Sexual Assaults and Rape
- Violence Against the Person – Knife related offences
- Robbery
- Domestic abuse.

6.1.5 A variety of interventions and activities are underway in the area as part of BCP's serious violence strategy. An overview of these can be found here: [Final BCP CSP Serious Violence Duty Strategy \(saferbcp.co.uk\)](https://saferbcp.co.uk).

⁷⁵ Brennan, I. R. & Moore, S. C. (2009). Weapons and violence: A review of theory and research. *Aggression and Violent Behavior*, 14, 215–25. *Referenced in the Home Office Serious Violence Strategy (2018)*.

⁷⁶ National Crime Agency. (2017). County Lines Violence, Exploitation & Drug Supply 2017. Retrieved from: <http://www.nationalcrimeagency.gov.uk/publications/832-county-lines-violence-exploitation-and-drug-supply-2017/file> [accessed 26/02/2018]. *Referenced in the Home Office Serious Violence Strategy (2018)*.

⁷⁷ For full description of the opportunity approach see: Felson, M. & Clarke, R. V. (1998). *Opportunity Makes the Thief: Practical Theory for Crime Prevention*. (Police Research Series Paper 98.) London, UK: Policing and Reducing Crime Unit, Home Office Research, Development and Statistics Directorate. *Referenced in the Home Office Serious Violence Strategy*.

⁷⁸ Ofcom. (2017). Communications Market Report: United Kingdom. Retrieved from: https://www.ofcom.org.uk/_data/assets/pdf_file/0017/105074/cmr-2017-uk.pdf [accessed 26/02/2018]. *Referenced in the Home Office Serious Violence Strategy*

⁷⁹ Irwin-Rogers, K. & Pinkney, C. (2017). Social Media as a Catalyst and Trigger for Youth Violence. Retrieved from: <https://www.catch-22.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2017/01/Social-Media-as-a-Catalyst-and-Trigger-for-Youth-Violence.pdf> [accessed 26/02/2018]. *Referenced in the Home Office Serious Violence Strategy*

6.2 SERIOUS VIOLENCE IN BCP.

6.2.1 The working definition of serious violence in BCP is as follows:

‘Mirroring the Home Office Serious Violence Strategy (2018), Serious Violence in BCP will be defined as “homicide, knife crime, and gun crime and areas of criminality where serious violence or its threat is inherent, such as in gangs and county lines drug dealing”. The BCP Serious Violence Strategy/ Needs Assessment will also address manslaughter, attempted murder, Grievous Bodily Harm (S18 and S20), domestic abuse, rape, sexual assaults, aggravated burglary, robbery, and arson with intent to endanger life.’

As such, this analysis is conducted using the following crime types:

- Manslaughter,
- Attempt murder,
- S18 – Grievous Bodily Harm with Intent,
- S18 – Wounding with intent,
- Inflict Grievous Bodily Harm without Intent – (GBH S20),
- Rape,
- Sexual assaults,
- Aggravated Burglary,
- Robbery,
- Arson with intent to endanger life.

6.2.2 An important aspect of serious violence is knife related offending, however, there is no such offence as ‘knife crime’. Police recorded occurrences involving a knife are marked with a knife crime flag. Subsequently, knife related offending will be explored through the extraction of the offences mentioned in point 6.2.1, paired with a knife crime flag.

6.2.3 This section of the report uses data from 1st April 2023- 31st March 2024 to analyse the key forms of serious violence in BCP, and to provide recommendations around these crime types.

6.2.4 The following table explores breakdown of serious violence occurrences by crime type in BCP for the financial year 2023/24, in comparison with the previous financial year. The table also shows the difference as both a number and percentage.

Crime Type	2022/23	2023/24	+/-	% +/-
Sexual assault on a female (recordable)	385	358	-27	-7%
Rape of a Female aged 16 or over (Sec 1 SOA 2003)	361	337	-24	-6.60%
Robbery - Personal (recordable)	261	294	33	13%
Section 18 - grievous bodily harm with intent (recordable)	92	92	0	0%
Inflict grievous bodily harm without intent (Section 20)	72	59	-13	-18%
Rape of a Female aged under 16 (Sec 1 SOA 2003)	62	61	-1	-2%
Sexual assault of a female child under 13 (S3, SOA 2003)	54	65	11	20%
Sexual assault on a male aged 13 or over (Sec 3, SOA 2003)	54	60	6	11%
Sexual assault of a female 13 or over by penetration (S2, SOA 2003)	48	54	6	13%
Section 18 - wounding with intent (recordable)	43	37	-6	-14%
Rape a girl under 13 (recordable)	23	12	-11	-48%
Robbery - Business (recordable)	20	40	20	100%
Rape a man 16 or over - SOA 2003 (recordable)	15	27	12	80%
Arson with intent to endanger life (recordable)	15	19	4	27%
Aggravated burglary - dwelling (recordable)	12	2	-10	-83%
Rape of a boy under 13 - SOA 2003 (recordable)	11	11	0	0%
Rape of a Male aged under 16 (Sec 1, SOA 2003)	5	4	-1	-20%
Section 18 - cause grievous bodily harm with intent to resist / prevent arrest (recordable)	4	1	-3	-75%
Attempt murder	3	4	1	33%
Sexual assault of a male child under 13 by penetration (Sec 6 SOA 2003)	3	6	3	100%
Rape of a female aged 16 or over by multiple undefined offenders (Dorset)	3	3	0	0%
Aggravated burglary - other than dwelling (recordable)	2	0	-2	-100%
Manslaughter (recordable)	1	0	-1	-100%
Murder - victim one year of age or older	1	4	3	300%
Rape of a male aged 16 or over by multiple undefined offenders (Dorset)	1	1	0	0%
Aggravated Burglary - Residential (Home)	0	19	19	-
Aggravated Burglary - Residential (Unconnected Building).	0	3	3	-
Rape of a female aged under 16 by multiple undefined offenders (Dorset)	0	1	1	-
Total	1551	1574	23	2%

Table 1 - Crime types for serious violence occurrences in BCP 2023/24, in comparison to 2022/23.

6.2.5 Table 1 shows that the most common types of serious violence offending in BCP in financial year 2023/24 were sexual assault on a female, rape of a female aged 16 or over, and personal robbery. This is consistent with the findings of the BCP serious violence needs assessment, based on data from 2022/23.

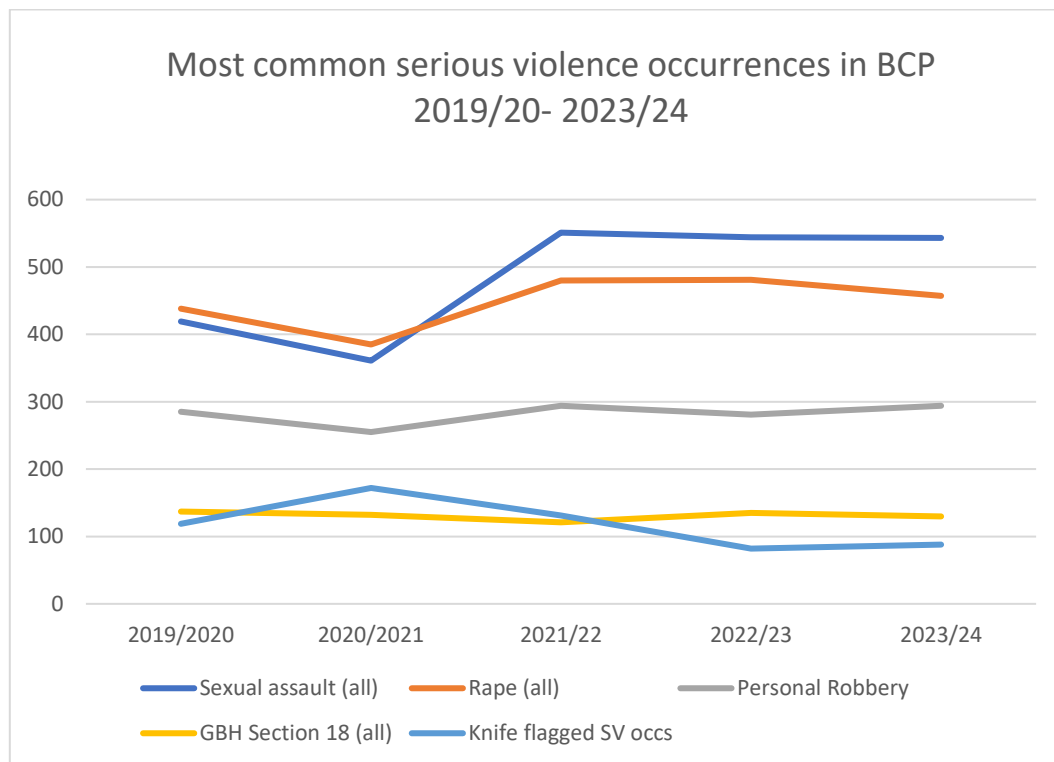


Figure 20 - Trends for most common types of serious violence occurrences in BCP 2019/2020-2023/24

6.2.6 Figure 20⁸⁰ shows data trends for the most common types of serious violence over the last 5 financial years. Sexual offences were consistently the most common types of serious violence occurrence. The numbers of sexual assaults increased by 53% between 2020/21-2021/22, from 361 in 2020/21 to 551 in 2021/22. It is thought that the low number of sexual assaults in 2020/21 is reflective of the Covid Pandemic and the impact of lockdown which prevented socialisation. A key theme in the sexual assault data is the night-time economy, and lack of engagement in leisure pursuits is likely to have contributed to the low numbers in 2020/21. Sexual assault numbers peaked in 2021/22 and remained relatively stable from 2021/22-2023/24.

6.2.7 Rape numbers followed a similar trend to sexual assault numbers, but there was a less severe increase in numbers between 2020/21-2021/22, at a 25% increase.

6.2.8 Personal robbery figures were relatively consistent across the five financial years, with a drop being seen in 2020/21 which is likely to be attributed to the Covid Pandemic and lockdown.

6.2.9 Similarly, GBH section 18 occurrences stayed relatively consistent throughout the five financial years. In contrast to the other offences, there was no notable decline in 2020/21, but there was a slight decline in 2021/22.

6.2.10 Interestingly, knife flagged serious violence occurrences follow a different pattern to all of the other crime types, and there was a considerably peak in 2020/21, at 172 occurrences. Numbers decreased by 24% the following year to 131, and decreased by a further 37% In 2022/23, to 82 occurrences. There were 88 knife flagged occurrences in 2023/24.

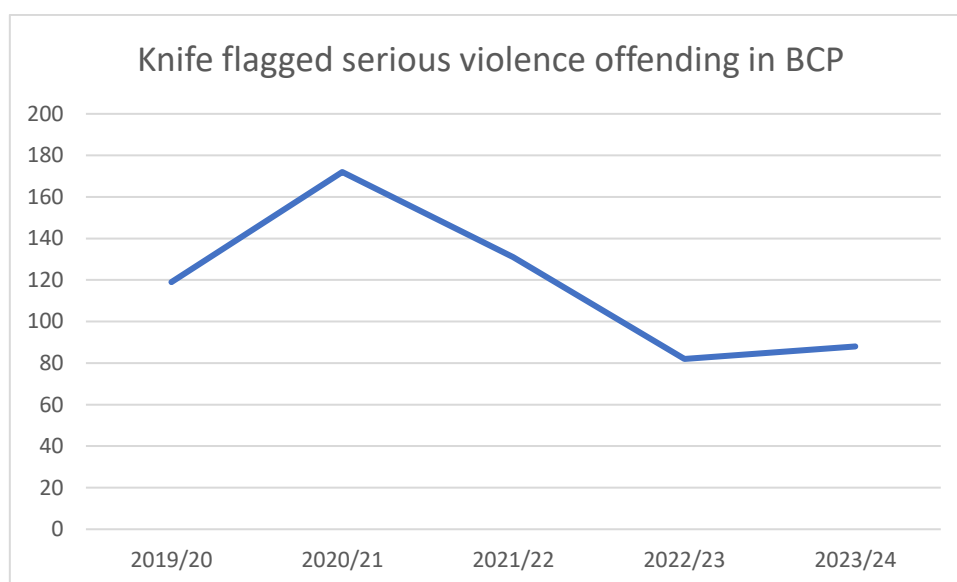


Figure 21 - Knife flagged serious violence offending in BCP

⁸⁰ Note that this table includes all occurrences reported to Dorset Police in the financial year 2023/24, occurring in BCP. This data includes some historic occurrences, particularly for sexual assaults and rape.

6.2.11 Personal robbery was consistently the most common type of knife flagged serious violence occurrence within the 5 year period explored in the graph above. In 2020/21, there were 92 knife flagged personal robbery occurrences. In comparison, there were 50 in 2019/2020 and 63 in 2021/22. The numbers of knife flagged GBH S18 occurrences were also higher in 2020/21, contributing to the spike in knife flagged occurrences in that year.

6.2.12 The following analysis takes a deeper dive into the most common crime types to present key information and trends in the data.

6.3 SEXUAL ASSAULTS

6.3.1 Sexual assault on a female was the most common serious violence occurrence in the data, making up 23% of all serious violence in BCP.

6.3.2 There are multiple different crime types for sexual assault, based on age and gender. For example, there is 'sexual assault on a female', 'sexual assault of a female child under 13', 'sexual assault on a male child aged 13 or over', etc. If we add all of these crime types together, there were 543 sexual assault occurrences reported to and recorded by Dorset Police in BCP between 1st April 2023-31st March 2024. All of these crime types combined account for 36% of the data.

6.3.3 In total, there were 68 occurrences which were reported between 1st April 2023-31st March 2024, which had a start date prior to 1st April 2023. These occurrences were removed from the data prior to analysis in order to produce a more accurate picture of occurrences which were both reported and occurred within the financial year 2023/24. It is likely that there are other historical occurrences within the data that have not been recorded with the correct start date, however, it would be impossible to remove these without reading through every occurrence within the data. As such, this should be considered as a margin of error when discussing numbers of sexual assaults within the area. This left a total of 475 sexual assault occurrences within the analysis.

Victims

6.3.4 Looking at victim age, data shows that 15-19 year olds were the largest age group within the data.

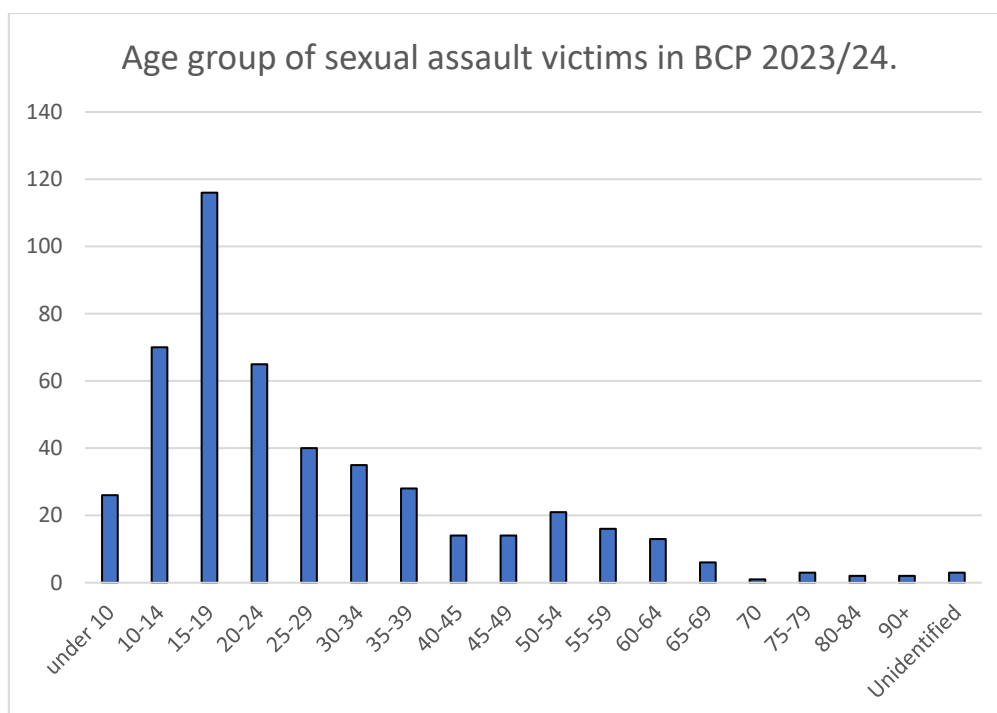
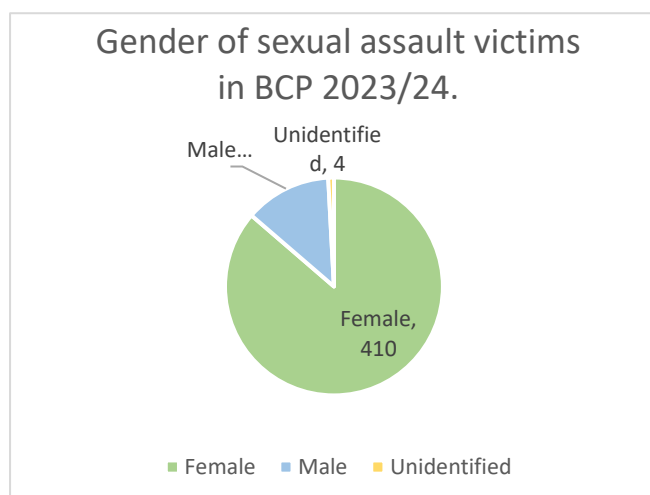


Figure 22 - Age group of victims of sexual assault reported to and recorded by Dorset Police in BCP 2023-24.

6.3.5 Figure 22 shows that the number of victims peaks between the ages 15-19, and then as age increases, the number of victims decreases. However, the number of 50-54 victims is higher than may be expected. In total, there were 21 50-54 year old victims, accounting for 4% of the data. As a result, it is suggested that the accessibility of support for sexual assaults for older victims is assessed, as it is likely that this number is an underrepresentation.



6.3.6 Figure 23 shows that the vast majority of victims of sexual assault in BCP in 2023/24 were female (86%) in comparison to male (13%). There were 4 victims whose gender was unidentified. It is likely that these occurrences were reported to the police by third parties.

Figure 23 - Gender of victims of sexual assault reported to and recorded by Dorset Police in BCP 2023/24.

Victim ethnicity	Count	Percentage
0	235	49.47%
W1. White British	179	37.68%

NS. Not stated	40	8.42%
W9. Any other white background	10	2.11%
#N/A	3	0.63%
M1. White & Black Caribbean	2	0.42%
M9. Any other mixed background	2	0.42%
I1. Gypsy or Irish Traveller	1	0.21%
B1. Black Caribbean	1	0.21%
O9. Any other ethnic group	1	0.21%
A9. Any other Asian background	1	0.21%

Table 2 - Ethnicity of victims sexual assault victims reported to and recorded by Dorset Police in BCP in financial year 2023/24.

6.3.7 Table 2 shows the ethnicity of victims of sexual assault recorded by Dorset Police in financial year 2023/24. Unfortunately, ethnicity information is unavailable for over half of victims (278 total, 59%). This makes it difficult to identify any ethnic groups which may be over-represented or under-represented within the data, due to the lack of information. The majority of victims with identified ethnicity data are White British, which is to be expected, however, other ethnic groups appear to be underrepresented.

Suspects

6.3.8 In total, there were 266 suspects for the sexual assault occurrences. There were 22 suspects who appeared more than once in the data. These suspects were responsible for a total of 48 occurrences (10%).

6.3.9 8 occurrences had more than one suspect. These 8 occurrences related to 20 suspects.

6.3.10 There was a total of 194 occurrences (41%) where suspects were not identified. This accounted for 41% of all sexual assaults in BCP recorded by Dorset Police in 2023/24. A total of 281 of the 475 occurrences had suspects.

6.3.11 The following analysis is based on the 266 identified suspects.

6.3.12 The age groups of identified suspects presented quite a different pattern to the age groups of victims. Suspect age groups are displayed in the graph below:

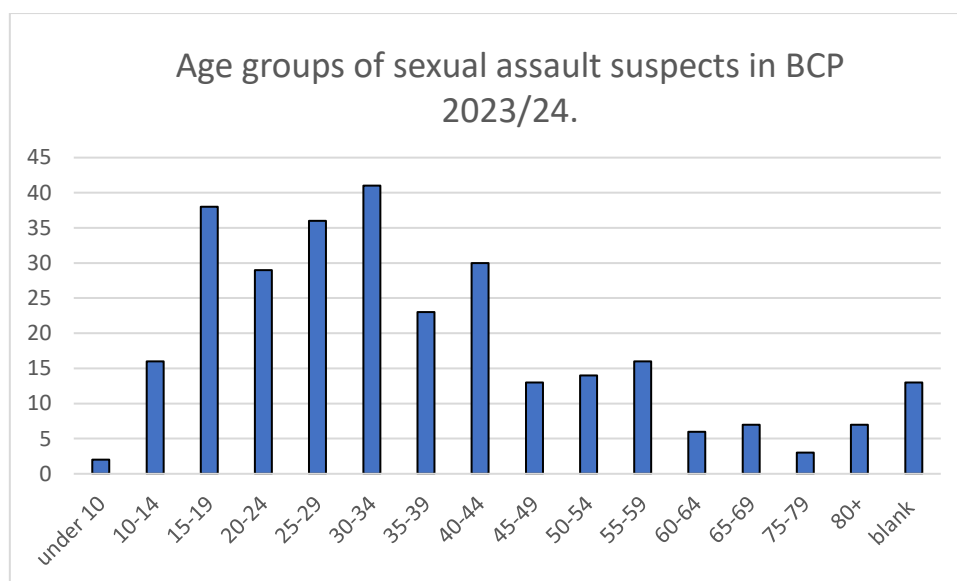


Figure 24 - Age groups of suspects of sexual assaults reported to and recorded by Dorset Police in 2023/24.

6.3.13 For victims, as age increased the number of sexual assaults decreased. However, the same cannot be said for suspects. The largest age group for suspects was 30-34, whereas the largest age group for victims was 15-19 by a considerable margin. 30-34 year old suspects made up 15% of the data (41 actual). 15-19 was the next most common age group, making up 14% of the data (38 actual).

6.3.14 Suspects of sexual assault tended to be older than victims. 53% of sexual assault victims were aged 10-24, whilst 30% of suspects fell within the same age range. In contrast, 38% of suspects were age 30-49 in comparison to 19% of victims.

6.3.15 Numbers of sexual assault suspects generally began to decrease after the age 44, however, the age groups 55-59 and 65-69 were exceptions to this. The 80+ age group appears high, however, there was one 84 year old suspect who appeared 4 times within the data who inflates this number.

6.3.16 Age data was unavailable for 12 suspects.

There were 38 young people aged 10-17 who were identified suspects of sexual assault during financial year 2023/24. There was one young person who was a suspect of sexual assault twice during the reporting period. Both occurrences happened on the same day, with two separate victims.

Gender of sexual assault suspects in BCP 2023-24

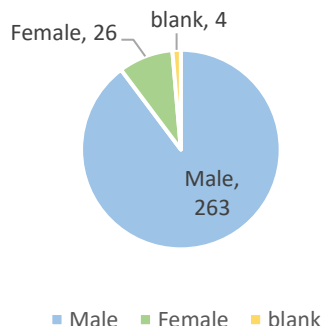


Figure 25 - Gender of suspects of sexual assault reported to and recorded by Dorset Police, occurring in BCP in financial year 2023/24.

6.3.17 The majority of identified suspects were male (91%). Females suspects made up 9% of the data. There was no gender information for 4 identified suspects.

6.3.1 Ethnicity identified considerably more than for 24% of total suspects available in comparison victims. Table that suspects (8% of sexual assault comparison to population) of identified suspects in 1.1% of the population) are

Suspect Ethnicity	Count	Percentage
W1. White British	146	55%
NS. Not stated	17	6%
W9. Any other white background	14	5%
A1. Asian - Indian	9	3%
O9. Any other ethnic group	6	2%
A9. Any other Asian background	4	2%
A3. Asian - Bangladeshi	4	2%
B2. Black African	4	2%
W2. White Irish	3	1%
A2. Asian - Pakistani	2	0.75%
M3. White & Asian	2	0.75%
M9. Any other mixed background	2	0.75%
M1. White & Black Caribbean	2	0.75%
I1. Gypsy or Irish Traveller	1	0.4%
B9. Any other Black background	1	0.4%
B1. Black Caribbean	1	0.4%
Blank	48	18%

data for suspects was more complete victims, with identified having no ethnicity data, to 59% of 3 indicates from Asian identified suspects in 3.4% of BCP and black (4% sexual assault comparison to BCP backgrounds

Table 3 - Ethnicity data for identified suspects of sexual assault reported to and recorded by Dorset Police in financial year 2023/24.

overrepresented within the data in comparison to the percentage of individuals from those ethnic backgrounds living in BCP. However, it should be noted that overall numbers of identified suspects from these age groups are small, and it is unlikely that all identified suspects resided in BCP.

Relationship between victim and offender in sexual assault occurrences

6.3.2 Table 4 below shows the relationship between victim and offender recorded by Dorset Police for sexual assault occurrences reported and occurring in BCP in financial year 2023/24.

Relationship Type	Count	Percentage
No known relationship	119	25.05%
Friend/acquaintance/colleague	83	17.47%
Complete stranger	54	11.37%
Ex spouse/cohabitee/partner	46	9.68%
Other relationship (misc)	45	9.47%
Educational relationship	29	6.11%
Commercial relationship	19	4.00%
Care/health/NHS worker	18	3.79%
Neighbour direct/indirect	16	3.37%
Family - other family member	12	2.53%
Spouse/cohabitee/partner	11	2.32%
Family - father	10	2.11%
Family - brother	3	0.63%
Policing duties	2	0.42%
Family - grandparent	2	0.42%
Sex worker/client	1	0.21%
Online/internet/social media	1	0.21%
Family - child on parent	1	0.21%
Victimless/crime against state	1	0.21%
Family - child sibling on sibling	1	0.21%
Family - mother	1	0.21%

Table 4 - Relationship between victim and suspect for sexual assault occurrences reported to and recorded by Dorset Police, occurring in BCP in financial year 2023/24.

6.3.3 The most common relationship between victim and suspect was 'no known relationship', making up 25% of the data.

6.3.4 15% of occurrences had a domestic abuse flag.

Locations

Beatcode	Count	Percentage
Central Bournemouth	122	25.68%
Poole Town	31	6.53%
Boscombe West	28	5.89%
Westbourne and Westcliff	25	5.26%
Eastcliff and Springbourne	23	4.84%
Winton East	14	2.95%
Queens Park	12	2.53%
Boscombe East	12	2.53%

Kinson North	12	2.53%
Newtown	11	2.32%
Wallisdown	10	2.11%
Rossmore and Alderney	10	2.11%
Talbot and Branksome Wood	10	2.11%
Littledown/lford	10	2.11%

Table 5 - Beatcodes with 10 or more sexual assault occurrences reported to and recorded by Dorset Police in financial year 2023/24.

6.3.5 Table 5 displays Police beat codes which had 10 or more sexual assault occurrences recorded by Dorset Police in BCP in financial year 2023/24. This is in relation to the location of the assault. Central Bournemouth was the most common location by a considerable margin, making up 26% of the data.

6.3.6 Temporal analysis into the sexual assault occurrences around Central Bournemouth suggests that the high numbers in this location are likely related to the evening and night-time economy.

Time period	Mon	Tues	Weds	Thurs	Fri	Sat	Sun	Grand Total
0000-0059	3	0	0	2	1	0	2	8
0100-0159	0	0	0	0	1	5	4	10
0200-0259	0	1	2	0	0	6	2	11
0300-0359	0	3	0	0	0	5	5	13
0400-0459	0	2	1	0	1	0	1	5
0500-0559	0	0	0	1	0	2	1	4
0600-0659	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	2
0700-0759	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	2
0800-0859	1	0	0	2	0	1	0	4
0900-0959	0	1	0	0	0	1	1	3
1100-1159	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	2
1200-1259	0	0	0	0	0	1	2	3
1300-1359	0	1	0	0	0	0	2	3
1400-1459	0	2	2	0	0	2	2	8
1500-1559	1	0	0	2	1	0	0	4
1600-1659	0	0	1	1	0	1	1	4
1700-1759	1	0	3	0	2	1	1	8
1800-1859	1	0	1	0	2	1	1	6
1900-1959	1	0	0	0	0	2	2	5
2000-2059	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	2
2100-2159	1	0	1	1	2	1	1	7
2200-2259	0	0	0	1	3	1	0	5
2300-2359	0	1	0	0	2	0	0	3
Total	10	12	11	12	17	30	30	122

Table 6 - Days and times of sexual assault occurrences recorded by Dorset Police, occurring in financial year 2023/24.

6.3.7 Table 6 shows a clear prevalence of sexual assault occurrences in the early hours of Saturday and Sunday mornings between 0000-0359, a key time period for the night time economy.

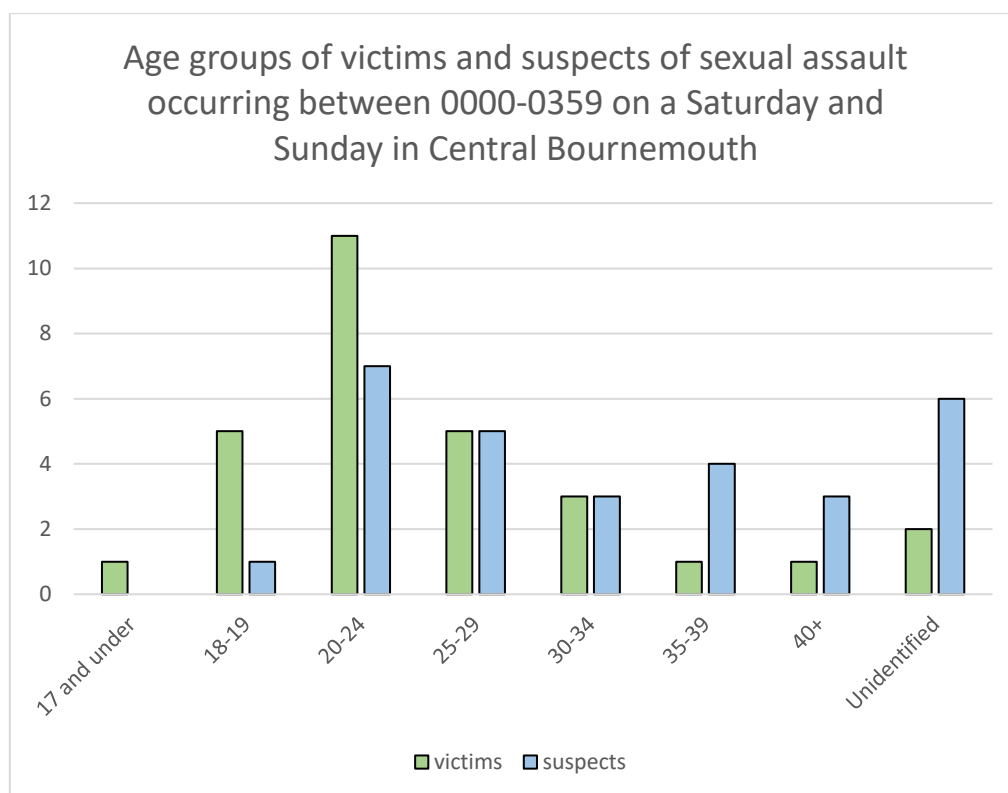


Figure 26 - Age groups of victims and suspects of sexual assault occurring between the hours of 0000-0359 on a Saturday and Sunday in Central Bournemouth.

6.3.8 Figure 26 explores the ages of victims and suspects of sexual assaults occurring in the prevalent hours between 0000-0359 as displayed in Table 12 on a Saturday and Sunday. The most prominent age group for both victims and suspects is 20-24, although there are notably more victims than suspects. This may be at least in part because there was a notable portion of unidentified suspects for whom there was no age data available.

6.3.9 Another prevalent age group for victims was those aged 18-19.

6.3.10 A key observation of figure 26 is that victim ages peaked at age 20-24 before steadily decreasing. In contrast, suspects appeared to be older and there were considerably more suspects between the aged 35-39 and 40+ than victims. It should be noted however, that the ages of suspects may be skewed by the high proportion of unidentified suspects.

6.3.11 93% of victims of sexual assault which occurred during the key night time economy hours and days were female (27 actual), in comparison to 7% who were male (2 actual). All identified suspects were male (79%, 23 actual). There were 6 suspects (21%) who were unidentified, and therefore no gender information was available for these suspects.

Victim ethnicity	Count	Percentage
W1. White British	10	34.48%
NS. Not stated	3	10.34%
B1. Black Caribbean	1	3.45%
M9. Any other mixed background	1	3.45%
unidentified	14	48.28%

Suspect ethnicity	Count	Percentage
W9. Any other white background	7	24.14%
W1. White British	6	20.69%
B2. Black African	2	6.90%
O9. Any other ethnic group	2	6.90%
NS. Not stated	2	6.90%
B1. Black Caribbean	1	3.45%
unidentified	9	31.03%

Table 7 and 8 - Victims and suspect ethnicity for sexual offences occurring in Central Bournemouth between the hours of 0000-0359 on a Saturday and Sunday.

6.3.12 Tables 7 and 8 display the ethnicity of victims and suspects of sexual offences during the key night time economy hours and days in Central Bournemouth. Unfortunately, the largest categories for both victims and suspects have no available ethnicity data. However, the tables highlight that there is an over representation of suspects from 'any other white backgrounds' for sexual offences in the night-time economy hours.

6.3.13 An exploration of the postcodes of these occurrences found that 14 of the 29 occurrences within the key night time economy hours and days related to Bar So in Central Bournemouth. A key point to note is that Bar So are particularly proactive in reporting sexual offences to the police. Further, research shows that sexual offences are often underreported. This suggests that it is likely that there are many more sexual assaults which occur between these hours and days which do not get reported to the police.

6.3.14 Work completed on data from 2022/23 found that there was a high percentage of sexual assaults in student accommodation. A problem-solving project was completed by the BCP Community Safety Partnership in collaboration with Dorset Police which included premises reviews of 7 student accommodation buildings. The work found that a very professional approach was taken by all premises. In general, most of the properties had sensible security arrangements, and all premises had provided staff training to identify students in crisis. Staff were provided with guidance to signpost their incident reporting procedure, and most of the locations had trained mental health practitioners within their staff team. A monthly meeting takes place amongst providers, allowing them to share information. In terms of the offences, 7 of the offences were committed by suspects the victim had met that night. It was found that the sites visited had firm policies on allowing visitors and guests, whilst underlining that all students are adults and take responsibility for whom they share their lives with. All of the sites acknowledged that first year students have tendencies towards overuse of alcohol. Students are provided with a wealth of awareness information around this topic when they enrol.

6.4 RAPE

6.4.1 In total, there were 457 rape occurrences reported to and recorded by Dorset Police occurring in BCP in financial year 2023/24. There were 94 occurrences which were reported to Dorset Police in 2023/24, which did not occur in the financial year. These occurrences have been removed to provide a more accurate picture of rape occurrences in the area in financial year 2023/24, meaning the following analysis is based on 363 occurrences. Similar to sexual assaults, it is likely that there are occurrences within the data which do not contain the correct start date and may be historical, and this should be considered when discussing the data.

Victims

6.4.2 Age data for victims of rape occurrences which were reported to and recorded by Dorset Police in financial year 2023/24 show that the most common age group for victims 15-19, followed by 20-24:

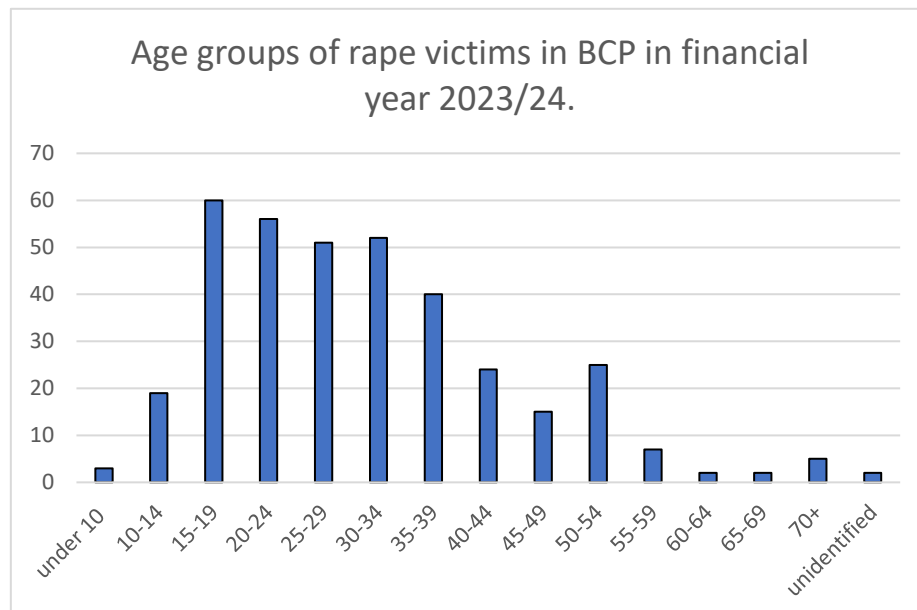
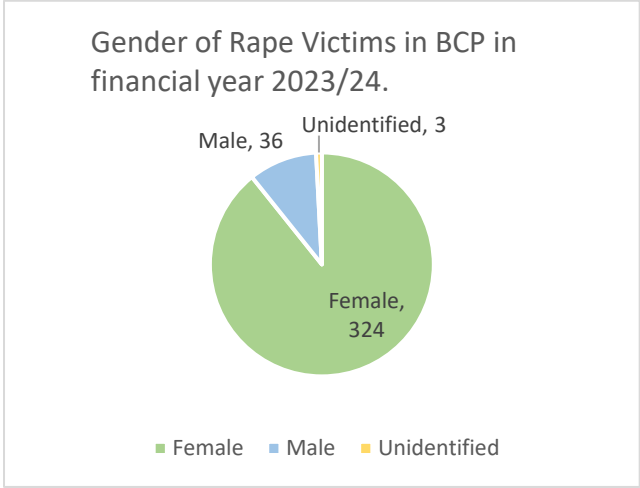


Figure 27 - age groups of victims of rape reported to and recorded by Dorset Police, occurring in BCP in financial year 2023/24.

6.4.3 The age breakdown for victims of rape were very different to victims of sexual assaults, which showed a clear spike for the age group 15-19 and then a sharp decrease, which continued as age increased. In contrast, the age groups for rape victims were more spread out.

6.4.4 There was a spike in data for victims of both rapes and sexual assaults in the age group 50-54. There were three victims aged 50-54 which appeared in the data more than once for rape occurrences in the financial year 2023/24. These three victims accounted for 8 of 25 occurrences. However, there were still 17 individual victims which was an increase from the 45-49 age group. Although this may appear relatively low given that the data is based on 12 months, it is important to keep in mind the low reporting rates for sexual offences, meaning that this is likely to be an underrepresentation.

6.4.5 Given the spike in victims between the age group 50-54 for both sexual assault and rape occurrences, it is recommended that work is done around understanding what resources are available within the community to enable older victims of sexual offences to seek help and support.



6.4.6 Figure 28 shows that the majority of victims of rape in BCP in financial year 2023/24 were female (89%). 10% of victims were male, and 1% of victims gender was not identified in the data. It is likely that the occurrences for these individuals came from third party referrals.

Figure 28 - Gender of victims of rape occurrences reported to and recorded by Dorset Police, occurring in BCP in financial year 2023/24.

Ethnicity	Count	Percentage
W1. White British	161	44.35%
0	154	42.42%
NS. Not stated	26	7.16%
W9. Any other white background	7	1.93%
B2. Black African	4	1.10%
M1. White & Black Caribbean	2	0.55%
#N/A	2	0.55%
M2. White & Black African	2	0.55%
B9. Any other Black background	1	0.28%
W2. White Irish	1	0.28%
O9. Any other ethnic group	1	0.28%
B1. Black Caribbean	1	0.28%
M3. White & Asian	1	0.28%

6.4.7 Table 9 shows the ethnicity of victims of rape occurrences in BCP in financial year 2023/24.

The largest ethnic group was White British, however, no ethnicity data was available for a total of 49% of

Table 9 - Ethnicity of victims of rape occurrences reported to and recorded by Dorset Police, occurring in BCP in financial year 2023/24.

victims, which hinders our ability to draw meaningful conclusions from this data.

Suspects

6.4.8 In total, there were 298 identified suspects for the 457 rape occurrences. There were 7 suspects who each were suspects twice within the year, accounting for 14 total occurrences. There was a total of 159 unidentified suspects. The rest of this analysis focuses solely on identified suspects.

6.4.9 Figure 29 shows the age groups of identified suspects of rape occurrences in BCP in financial year 2023/24.

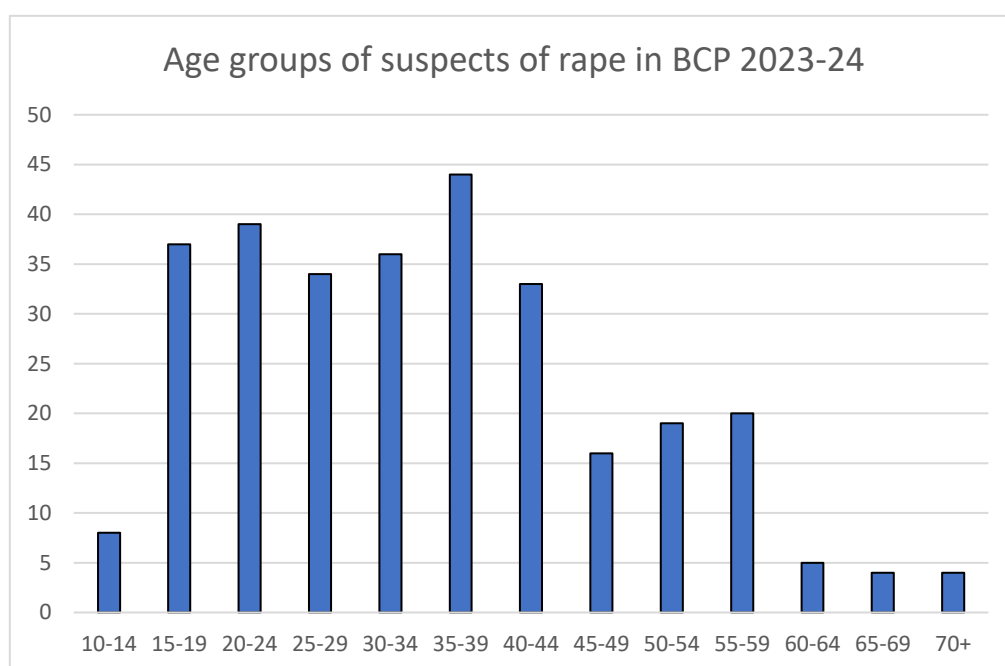


Figure 29 - Age groups of suspects of rape occurrences reported to and recorded by Dorset Police, occurring in BCP in financial year 2023/24.

6.4.10 Figure 29 shows that the largest group of identified rape suspects were between the ages of 35-39 (44 actual, 15%). The next most common age group was those aged 20-24 (39 actual, 13%). Identified suspects were older than victims, however, it is important to keep in mind that there were 159 unidentified victims and therefore this age breakdown may not represent an accurate portrayal of rape suspect ages.

There were 27 young people aged 10-17 who were identified suspects of rape occurrences in BCP in financial year 2023/23. There was one young person who was a suspect twice during the financial year. These occurrences took place on different days in January 2024 and were in relation to the same victim.

6.4.11 Table 10 shows the ethnicity information for suspects of rape occurrences in BCP in financial year 2023/24.

Ethnicity	Count	Percentage
-----------	-------	------------

W1. White British	183	61.41
Wz9. Any other white background	16	5.37
NS. Not stated	14	4.70
B2. Black African	13	4.36
M1. White & Black Caribbean	6	2.01
O9. Any other ethnic group	5	1.68
B1. Black Caribbean	3	1.01
B9. Any other Black background	3	1.01
A9. Any other Asian background	2	0.67
A3. Asian – Bangladeshi	2	0.67
A1. Asian – Indian	2	0.67
M2. White & Black African	2	0.67
A2. Asian – Pakistani	1	0.34
M3. White & Asian	1	0.34
M9. Any other mixed background	1	0.34
(blank)	44	14.77

Table 10 – Ethnicity data for identified suspects of rape occurrences reported to and recorded by Dorset Police in financial year 2023/24.

6.4.12 Table 10 shows that the most common ethnic group for identified suspects of sexual assault in financial year 2023/24 was White British, followed by any other white background. 7% of suspects were from Black backgrounds, in comparison to 1.1% of the BCP population, suggesting that this ethnic group may be overrepresented within the data. It is important to note that there were many unidentified suspects which hinders the quality of the data.

Relationship between victim and offender

Relationship	Count	Percentage
Ex spouse/cohabitee/partner	110	30.56%
Friend/acquaintance/colleague	71	19.72%
No known relationship	55	15.28%
Spouse/cohabitee/partner	50	13.89%
Other relationship (misc)	28	7.78%
Complete stranger	18	5.00%
Online/internet/social media	5	1.39%
Family – other family member	5	1.39%
Victim refuses to identify	3	0.83%
Neighbour direct/indirect	3	0.83%
Family – child sibling on sibling	2	0.56%
Care/health/NHS worker	2	0.56%
Family – father	2	0.56%
Educational relationship	1	0.28%
Commercial relationship	1	0.28%
Family – cousin	1	0.28%
Family – brother	1	0.28%
Family – niece	1	0.28%
Family – grandparent	1	0.28%

Table 11 – Relationship between victim and offender in rape occurrences reported to and recorded by Dorset Police in financial year 2023/24.

6.4.13 The most common relationship between victim and suspect in rape occurrences in BCP in 2023/24 was 'ex-spouse/cohabitee/ partner', making up 31% of the data.

6.4.14 47% of rape occurrences in BCP in 2023/24 had a domestic abuse flag. This is a considerably higher percentage than the number of sexual assaults with a domestic abuse flag. The prevalence of domestic abuse in rape occurrences in BCP is important for frontline practitioners to be aware of when seeking to support victims, highlighting the need for extensive training on domestic abuse for those who support victims of sexual offences.

Locations

6.4.15 Table 12 shows the beatcodes in BCP which had 10 or more reported rape occurrences in 2023/24.

Beatcode	Count	Percentage
Central Bournemouth	56	15.43%
Boscombe West	26	7.16%
Westbourne and Westcliff	24	6.61%
East Cliff and Springbourne	24	6.61%
Poole Town	22	6.06%
Newtown	21	5.79%
Parkstone	14	3.86%
Kinson North	11	3.03%
Rossmore and Alderney	11	3.03%
Queens Park	11	3.03%
Winton East	11	3.03%

Table 12 - Locations of rape occurrences reported to and recorded by Dorset Police in financial year 2023/24.

6.4.1 Similar to sexual assault, Central Bournemouth was the most common beatcode for rape occurrences. However, there was a higher proportion of sexual assaults occurring in Central Bournemouth than there were rapes.

Temporal analysis – Central Bournemouth

Time	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat	Sun	Total
0000-0059	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	2
0100-0159	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1
0200-0259	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1
0300-0359	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	2
0400-0459	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	2
0500-0559	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1
0700-0759	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	2
0800-0859	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1
0900-0959	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	2
1000-1059	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	2
1100-1159	0	1	1	0	0	1	2	5
1200-1259	0	0	1	1	2	0	0	4
1300-1359	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	2
1500-1559	1	0	4	0	1	0	0	6
1600-1659	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	2

1700-1759	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1
1800-1859	0	1	1	1	0	0	1	4
1900-1959	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	2
2000-2059	0	1	2	1	0	0	0	4
2100-2159	0	1	1	1	0	2	0	5
2200-2259	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	2
2300-2359	0	0	0	1	0	1	1	3
Total	6	7	10	9	9	7	8	56

Table 13 – Times and days of rape occurrences reported to and recorded by Dorset Police, occurring in Central Bournemouth in financial year 2023-24.

6.4.2 Table 13 shows that the most prevalent hours for rape in Central Bournemouth were between 1000-1059, 1500-1559, and 2100-2159, and the most prevalent days were Wednesday, Thursday and Friday. The data on a Wednesday between 1500-1559 includes 3 separate occurrences reported by the same victim who was 54 years old. All three occurrences have unidentified suspects.

6.4.3 Temporal analysis of rape occurrences in Central Bournemouth portrays a very different picture to sexual assault occurrences in Central Bournemouth, the timings of which are patterned by the night time economy. In contrast, rape occurrences do not appear to be impacted by the night time economy to a great extent, as we would expect to see more occurrences in the early hours of Saturday and Sunday mornings after potential victims are returning home from nights out.

6.4.4 It is unclear why rape occurrences in Central Bournemouth are patterned in this way. The most common relationship between victim and suspect in central Bournemouth was 'no known relationship', making up 31% of the data, followed by 'ex-spouse/ cohabitee/ partner' at 22% of the data. 40% of occurrences had a domestic abuse flag.

6.5 ROBBERY

6.5.1 Robbery was the third most commonly reported type of serious violence recorded by Dorset Police in BCP in financial year 2023/24, with 294 recorded occurrences, making up 19.20% of the data.

Victims

6.5.1 Existing research notes that street robbers often search for victims who appear to have money or other valuables, such as students or tourists. They also target people who appear to be the most vulnerable, for example, young adults using ATMs alone at night or under the influence of alcohol. Offenders also look for victims who may be less aware of their immediate surroundings, such as those who look lost, are using a mobile phone, or are rummaging through their bag⁸¹.

⁸¹ [Street Robbery | ASU Center for Problem-Oriented Policing | ASU](#)

6.5.2 Figure 30 shows the age groups of victims of robbery which occurred in BCP in financial year 2023/24. The age group 15-19 had the largest amount of victims, making up 22% of the total (65 actual). Generally, as victim age increased the number of robberies decreased.

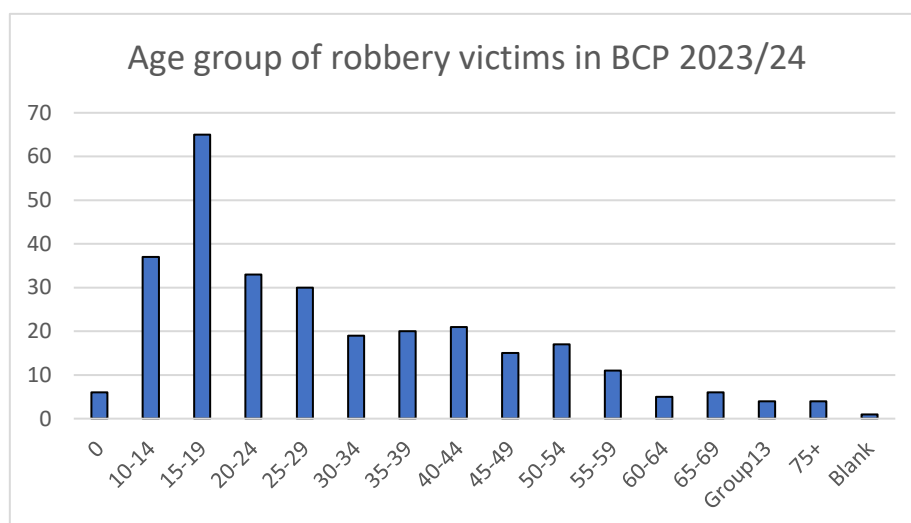


Figure 30 - Age groups of robbery victims reported to and recorded by Dorset Police, occurring in BCP in financial year 2023/24.

Gender of robbery victims in BCP in financial year 2023/24.

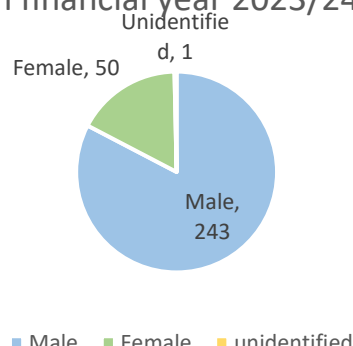


Figure 31 - Gender of victims of robbery reported to and recorded by Dorset Police in financial year 2023/24.

6.5.3 Figure 31 shows that the vast majority of victims of robbery in BCP in financial year 2023/24 were male (83%). In comparison, female victims made up 17% of victims.

Ethnicity	Count	Percentage
0	125	42.52%
W1. White British	115	39.12%
NS. Not stated	19	6.46%
W9. Any other white background	13	4.42%
O9. Any other ethnic group	4	1.36%
M9. Any other mixed background	4	1.36%
A9. Any other Asian background	3	1.02%
B9. Any other Black background	2	0.68%
O1. Chinese	1	0.34%

A2. Asian - Pakistani	1	0.34%
W2. White Irish	1	0.34%
B1. Black Caribbean	1	0.34%
A1. Asian - Indian	1	0.34%
B2. Black African	1	0.34%
#N/A	1	0.34%
M1. White & Black Caribbean	1	0.34%
M3. White & Asian	1	0.34%

Table 14 - Ethnicity of victims of robbery occurrences reported to and recorded by Dorset Police in financial year 2023/24.

6.5.4 Table 14 shows that the largest category for victims ethnicity was '0', meaning no data was available. The next largest category was White British, making up 39.12% of the data. The missing data around victims ethnicity makes it challenging to draw any meaningful conclusions from this data.

Suspects

6.5.5 There were 115 individual identified suspects for the 294 recorded robbery occurrences. 17 suspects appeared more than once in the data. The highest amount of times one individual suspect appeared in the data was 5. These repeat suspects were accountable for 51 total occurrences.

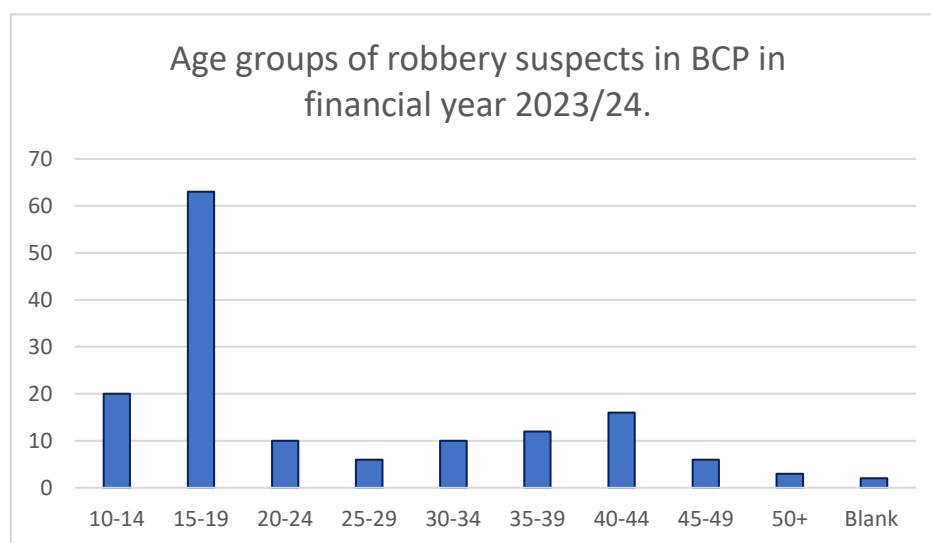


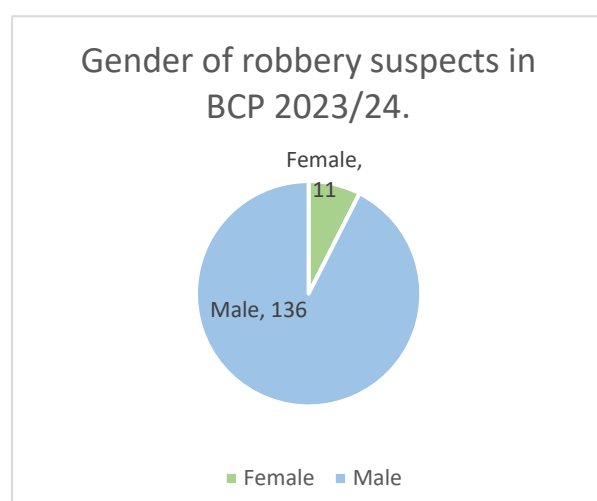
Figure 32 -Age groups of robbery suspects reported to and recorded by Dorset Police in financial year 2023/24.

6.5.6 Figure 32 shows that the most prevalent age group for suspects of robbery were those in the 15-19 age group (43% of total). There were 9 suspects in this age group who were a suspect of robbery more than once in the financial year. These suspects were involved in 28 occurrences. With duplicate suspects removed, 15-19 year olds made up 39% of suspects (44 total), which was still the largest group by a considerable proportion.

6.5.7 The age group 10-14 was the second largest age group, followed by 40-44. These were still the next largest age groups, even when accounting for repeat suspects.

In total, there were 47 young people aged 10-17 who were robbery suspects in financial year 2023/24. 14 of these young people were repeat suspects. These 14 young people were involved in 40 robbery occurrences.

6.5.8 Existing research on street robbery suggests that is a young person's crime, with offenders often in their late teens and early 20s. An overwhelming majority of street robbers are male¹⁰⁶.



6.5.9 Figure 33 shows the gender of robbery suspects in BCP in financial year 2023/24. The vast majority of suspects were male (93%). 8% of suspects were female.

Figure 33 - Gender of suspects of robbery reported to and recorded by Dorset Police in financial year 2023/24.

Ethnicity	Count	Percentage
W1. White British	86	60.99
NS. Not stated	10	7.09
O9. Any other ethnic group	8	5.67
W9. Any other white background	7	4.96
M1. White & Black Caribbean	4	2.84
B9. Any other Black background	3	2.13
A9. Any other Asian background	2	1.42
Blank	21	14.89

Table 15 - Ethnicity of robbery suspects reported to and recorded by Dorset Police in BCP in financial year 2023/24.

6.5.10 Table 15 shows the ethnicity data of robbery suspects in BCP in 2023/24, which shows that the most common ethnic group was White British. There were a total of 31 suspects whose ethnicity was either not stated or blank, which limits the quality of the data.

Relationship between victim and suspect

Relationship between victim and suspect	Count	Percentage
No known relationship	158	53.92%
Complete stranger	65	22.18%
Other relationship (misc)	29	9.90%
Friend/acquaintance/colleague	26	8.87%
Educational relationship	5	1.71%
Spouse/cohabitee/partner	3	1.02%
Neighbour direct/indirect	3	1.02%
Commercial relationship	2	0.68%
Victim refuses to identify	1	0.34%
Ex spouse/cohabitee/partner	1	0.34%

Table 16 - Relationship between victim and offender in robbery occurrences reported to and recorded by Dorset Police in BCP 2023/24.

6.5.1 Table 16 shows the most common relationships between victim and suspect in robbery occurrences in BCP in 2023/24. It shows that in the majority of incidents, the victim and suspects either had no known relationship or were complete strangers.

Locations

Locations	Count	Percentage
Central Bournemouth	91	30.95%
Boscombe West	22	7.48%
Westbourne and Westcliff	17	5.78%
Eastcliff and Springbourne	15	5.10%
Wallisdown	14	4.76%
Poole Town	13	4.42%
Newtown	10	3.40%

Table 17 – Beatcodes of robbery occurrences reported to and recorded by Dorset Police in BCP in financial year 2023/24.

6.5.2 Table 17 shows the beatcodes with 10 or more robbery occurrences in BCP in financial year 2023/24. It shows that Central Bournemouth is the most common location by a large margin.

Temporal Analysis – Central Bournemouth

Time	Mon	Tues	Weds	Thurs	Fri	Sat	Sun	Total
0000-0159	1	1	1	1	0	0	0	4
0100-0159	3	0	1	0	0	1	0	5
0200-0259	0	0	0	1	2	1	4	8
0300-0359	0	2	2	0	0	2	0	6
0400-0459	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	2
0500-0559	0	1	1	0	0	2	1	5
0600-0659	0	0	0	0	0	1	2	3
0700-0759	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	2
0800-0859	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	2
0900-0959	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	1
1000-1059	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
1100-1159	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1
1200-1259	0	0	2	0	1	0	0	3
1300-1359	0	1	0	0	0	0	1	2
1400-1459	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	2
1500-1559	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	2
1600-1659	1	0	0	1	0	0	1	3
1700-1759	0	0	0	1	1	2	1	5
1800-1859	0	1	0	0	0	4	1	6
1900-1959	1	0	1	0	0	2	1	5
2000-2059	1	0	2	0	0	0	1	4
2100-2159	0	1	1	1	0	2	3	8
2200-2259	1	1	1	0	0	1	0	4
2300-2359	0	1	1	3	0	2	0	7
Total	12	10	14	8	5	25	17	91

Table 18 - Times and Days of robbery occurrences in Central Bournemouth reported to and recorded by Dorset Police in financial year 2023/24.

6.5.3 Table 18 shows that robbery occurrences in Central Bournemouth were most common on a weekend, particularly on a Saturday. Occurrences were most common in the evening, in to the early hours of the morning.

6.5.4 Existing research on street robbery patterns show that crimes appear to cluster by times, days and locations, when entertainment districts are busier and pubs, bars and clubs are open later. This can contribute to an explanation as to why we see a greater number of occurrences on the weekends, in the late afternoon in to the early hours of the morning, where the night-time economy is more likely to be thriving. Additionally, there is a greater likelihood of vulnerability for victims in these time periods, who may be more likely to be intoxicated¹⁰⁶.

6.5.5 Most street robberies occur at night, but for some groups, peak robbery times vary with their routine activity patterns. For instances, elderly people may be more likely to leave the house earlier in the day, meaning they are more likely to be targeted at this time. In contrast, school aged children (those ages 17 and below) are more likely to be robbed between 3pm and 6pm after school hours. Young adults are more likely to be robbed in the evening whilst engaging in leisure activities, such as the night-time economy¹⁰⁶.

6.5.6 In terms of days, most street robberies occur on weekends. This is due to a pattern linked to social functions which attract many targets to a single area¹⁰⁶ and provides an explanation for the higher number of robberies on a weekend in Central Bournemouth.

Robbery characteristics

6.5.7 A recent report written by BCP Council exploring the targets of robberies in the area found that the most common items stolen were mobile phones, bags and cash. Victims most commonly described offenders using the 'Blitz' attack method, where the suspect first uses violence to gain control over the victim, with the robbery occurring after the offender immobilizes the victim.

6.5.8 14% of robbery occurrences reported to and recorded by Dorset Police, occurring in financial year 2023/24 had a knife crime flag (41 actual occurrences).

6.6 SECTION 18 GRIEVOUS BODILY HARM (GBH)

6.6.1 Section 18 Grievous Bodily Harm with intent was the fourth most common occurrence type in the data at 92 occurrences. However, there are 3 crime types within the data which relate to Section 18 GBH, meaning that this number is in fact slightly higher, at 130 total occurrences. 70% (92 actual) were classified as 'Section 18 – grievous bodily harm with intent', 29% (37 actual) were 'Section 18 – wounding with intent', and 1% (1 actual) were 'Section 18 – cause grievous bodily harm with intent to resist/prevent arrest'.

Victims

6.6.2 Figure 34 below shows the ages of GBH S18 victims in BCP 2023/24.

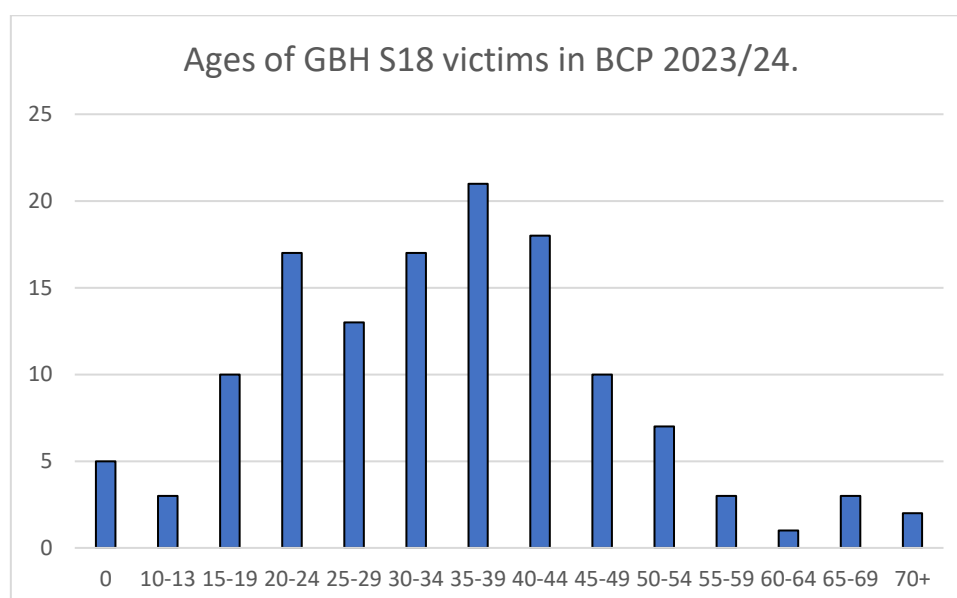
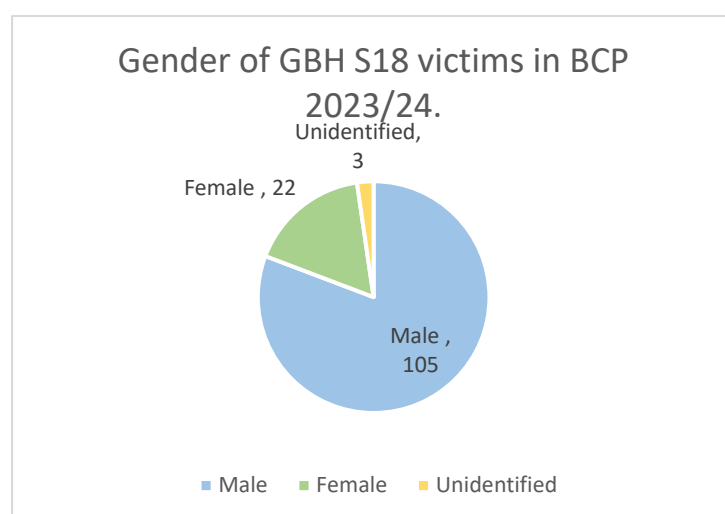


Figure 34 - Age of GBH S18 victims reported to and recorded by Dorset Police in financial year 2023/24.

6.6.1 Ages of victims of GBH S18 were relatively spread out, with the largest age group being 35-39 (16%, 21 total), followed by 40-44 (14% total, 18), closely followed by the groups 20-24 and 30-34 (13%, 17 each).



6.6.2 Figure 35 shows the gender of GBH S18 victims in BCP 2023/24. The majority of victims were male (81%). 17% of victims were female. 3 victims (2%) did not have an identified gender.

Figure 35 - Gender of GBH S18 victims reported to and recorded by Dorset Police in financial year 2023/24.

6.6.3 Table 21 shows the ethnicity of victims of GBH S18 occurrences in BCP 2023/24. Similar to other crime types explored in this section on serious violence, a considerable proportion of victims had unidentified ethnicities.

Ethnicity	Count	Percentage
W1. White British	69	53.08%
0	30	23.08%
NS. Not stated	12	9.23%
W9. Any other white background	8	6.15%
O9. Any other ethnic group	3	2.31%
M9. Any other mixed background	3	2.31%
A1. Asian - Indian	1	0.77%
A3. Asian - Bangladeshi	1	0.77%
A9. Any other Asian background	1	0.77%
B2. Black African	1	0.77%
B9. Any other Black background	1	0.77%

Table 19 - Ethnicity of victims of GBH S18 reported to and recorded by Dorset Police in BCP 2023/24.

Suspects

6.6.4 In total, there were 183 suspects for the GBH S18 occurrences. 39 occurrences had more than one suspect. There were 122 suspects linked to the 39 occurrences with more than one suspect.

6.6.5 There were 10 suspects who appeared more than once in the data. These 10 suspects were all suspects of GBH S18 twice during 2023/24.

6.6.6 Figure 36 below shows the age group of GBH S18 suspects in 2023/24.

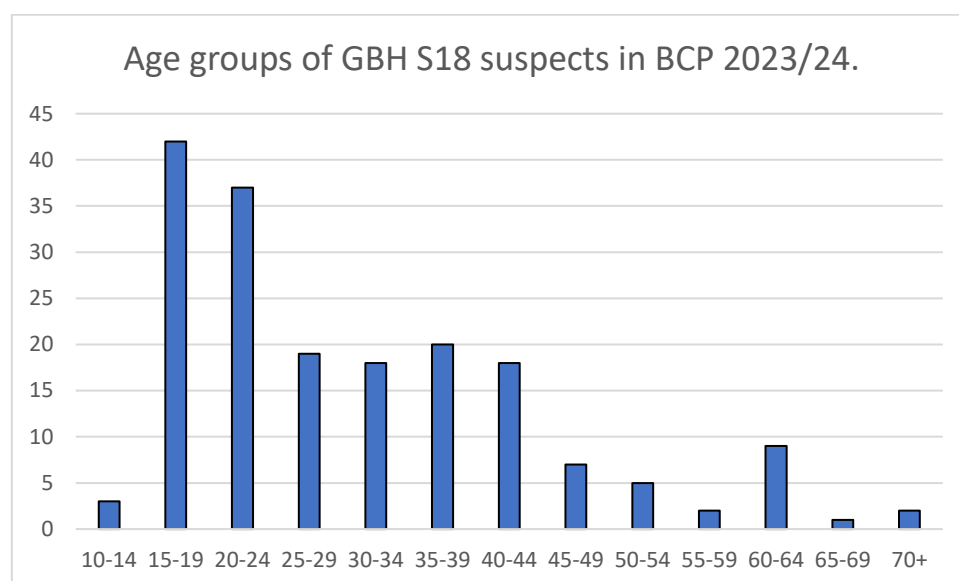


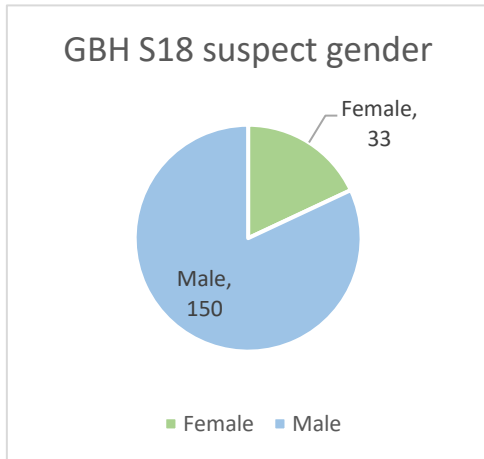
Figure 36 - Age groups of suspects of occurrences of GBH Section 18, reported to and recorded by Dorset Police in financial year 2023/24.

In total, there were 23 young people aged 10-17 involved in GBH Section 18 occurrences in financial year 2023/24.

There were 3 young people who were suspects of GBH section 18 more than once during the reporting period. These 3 young people were each suspects twice in financial year 2023/24. 2 of the young people were suspects of incidents which took place on the same day but there were 2 separate victims. The other young person was a suspect of one occurrence which took place in July 2023, and the other occurrence was in October 2023.

6.6.7 The age groups of suspects look very different to the age groups of victims, which are displayed in figure 33. The largest age group for suspects was 15-19, at 23% (42 actual). In contrast, the largest age group for victims was 35-39. The second largest age group for suspects was 20-24, making up 20% of the data. The age group 60-64 was overrepresented for suspects, at 5% of the data (9 actual). It is unclear as to what is driving this trend.

6.6.8 It is likely that the difference in the age group breakdowns for victims and suspects is affected by the large number of occurrences which have more than one suspect.



6.6.9 The majority of suspects were male (82%). 18% of suspects were female.

Figure 37 - Gender of GBH S18 suspects reported to and recorded by Dorset Police in financial year 2023/24.

Ethnicity	Count	Percentage
W1. White British	122	69.32%
NS. Not stated	9	5.11%
M9. Any other mixed background	9	5.11%
W9. Any other white background	9	5.11%
B9. Any other Black background	7	3.98%
B2. Black African	5	2.84%
W2. White Irish	3	1.70%
M1. White & Black Caribbean	3	1.70%
A9. Any other Asian background	3	1.70%
O9. Any other ethnic group	2	1.14%
M2. White & Black African	2	1.14%
B1. Black Caribbean	1	0.57%
M3. White & Asian	1	0.57%

Table 20– Ethnicity of suspects of GBH S18 reported to and recorded by Dorset Police in financial year 2023/24, occurring in BCP.

6.6.10 Table 20 above shows the ethnicity of suspects of GBH S18 in BCP in financial year 2023/24. This data was relatively complete, with ethnicity information being available for 167 of 183 suspects. Suspects from Black, and mixed and multiple ethnic groups were over represented in this data in comparison to the percentage of the population in BCP.

Relationship between victim and offender

Relationship	Count	Percentage
No known relationship	43	33.33%
Friend/acquaintance/colleague	26	20.16%
Other relationship (misc)	20	15.50%
Complete stranger	11	8.53%
Spouse/cohabitee/partner	11	8.53%
Ex spouse/cohabitee/partner	4	3.10%
Commercial relationship	3	2.33%

Family - mother	2	1.55%
Victim refuses to identify	2	1.55%
Neighbour direct/indirect	2	1.55%
Family - child on parent	1	0.78%
Family - father	1	0.78%
Victimless/crime against state	1	0.78%
Policing duties	1	0.78%
Educational relationship	1	0.78%

Table 21 - Relationship between victim and offender in GBH S18 occurrences in BCP financial year 2023/24.

6.6.11 Table 21 shows the relationships between victim and offender for GBH S18 occurrences in BCP in financial year 2023/24. A considerable proportion of the data involved no relationship between victim and offender (no known relationship and complete stranger categories made up 42% of the data).

6.6.12 18% of the data had a domestic abuse flag (23 occurrences total).

Locations

Beatcode	Count	Percentage
Central Bournemouth	36	27.69%
Westbourne/ Westcliff	9	6.92%
Wallisdown	8	6.15%
Poole Town	7	5.38%
Littledown/ Iford	6	4.62%
Kinson South	5	3.85%

Table 22 – Beatcodes with 5 or more GBH S18 occurrences reported to and recorded by Dorset Police in financial year 2023/24.

6.6.13 Table 22 shows the beat codes of areas with 5 or more GBH S18 occurrences in BCP in financial year 2023/24. Similar to other crime types explored in this section on serious violence, Central Bournemouth was the most common location of occurrences.

6.6.14 Westbourne and Westcliff, and Kinson South were the beatcodes with the highest proportion of knife flagged GBH section 18 occurrences. 6 out of 9 incidents in Westbourne and Westcliff had a knife crime flag, whilst 3 out of 5 incidents in Kinson South had a knife crime flag.

Temporal Analysis – Central Bournemouth

Time	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thur	Fri	Sat	Sun	Total
0000-0059	1	0	0	0	0	2	0	3
0100-0159	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	2
0200-0259	0	0	0	0	1	1	3	5
0300-0359	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	2
0400-0459	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1
0500-0559	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
0600-0659	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1
0700-0759	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
0800-0859	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
0900-0959	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1
1000-1059	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1
1100-1159	0	1	0	0	0	0	1	2
1200-1259	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
1300-1359	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
1400-1459	0	0	0	2	1	0	0	3
1500-1559	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	2
1600-1659	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	2
1700-1759	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1
1800-1859	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1
1700-1759	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
2000-2059	0	1	0	0	1	1	0	3
2100-2159	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	2
2200-2259	1	0	0	0	1	0	1	3
2300-2359	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	1
Total	2	2	1	5	6	9	11	36

Table 23 - Times and days of GBH S18 occurrences in Central Bournemouth, reported to and recorded by Dorset Police in financial year 2023/24.

6.6.15 Table 23 shows the times and days of GBH section 18 occurrences in Central Bournemouth. Occurrences are more concentrated on weekend days in the early hours of the morning and from 14:00 onwards.

6.6.16 Temporal patterns of GBH S18 occurrences may be affected by routine activity theory, which posits that for a crime to occur there must be the convergence in time and space of a potential offender, a suitable target, and the absence of a capable guardian. It is likely that there are more people in Central Bournemouth on a weekend as potential victims and suspects may be less tied to work constraints.

6.6.17 Additionally, more people are likely to be engaging in the night-time economy in the early hours of the morning. The spatial availability of alcohol is known to impact the probability of violence, with research finding that bar and club density had a statistically significant and positive relationship with violence⁸². The Home Office Serious Violence Strategy (2018)⁸³ notes that a substantial proportion of serious violence is linked to alcohol in some way, whilst the Dorset Police Homicide and near miss problem profile (2022) notes that alcohol was the highest influencing factor for homicides and near misses in Dorset in the three years ending March 2022. One explanation for this is due to the pharmacological effects of substances on the brain in terms of loosening inhibitions which may lead to an enhanced tendency towards violent behaviour for some individuals. These factors may contribute to an explanation as to why we see more GBH S18 occurrences in Central Bournemouth in the early hours of a Saturday and Sunday morning.

6.7 KNIFE FLAGGED OFFENDING

6.7.1 In total there were 88 knife flagged serious violence occurrences reported to and recorded by Dorset Police in BCP in financial year 2023/24. Knife crime has severe impacts on victims, their families and communities, and therefore requires consideration despite relatively low numbers over the course of the financial year. It should be noted that these 88 occurrences only encompass 'serious violence' occurrences as defined by BCP Council's working definition⁸⁴.

6.7.2 Table 26 shows the occurrence types for the knife flagged serious violence occurrences reported to and recorded by Dorset Police in financial year 2023/24.

Occurrence Type	Count	Percentage
Robbery - Personal (recordable)	41	46.59%
Section 18 Grievous Bodily Harm occurrences	29	32.95%
Robbery - Business (recordable)	5	5.68%
Aggravated Burglary - Residential (Home)	4	4.55%
Attempt murder	3	3.41%
Rape of a Female aged 16 or over (Sec 1 SOA 2003)	3	3.41%
Aggravated burglary - dwelling (recordable)	1	1.14%
Sexual assault on a female (recordable)	1	1.14%
Murder - victim one year of age or older	1	1.14%

Table 24 - Types of knife flagged occurrences in BCP, reported to and recorded by Dorset Police in 2023/24.

6.7.3 Table 24 shows that robbery was the most common knife flagged serious violence making up 47% of the data. GBH section 18 occurrences were the second most common occurrences. There were two different crime types for GBH section 18 occurrences – Section 18 wounding with intent (15 actual occurrences), and section 18 – grievous bodily harm with intent (14 actual occurrences).

⁸² Cameron, M., Cochrane, W., Gordon, C., Livingston, M. (2015). 'Alcohol outlet density and violence: A geographically weighted regression approach'. *Drug and Alcohol review*, 35:3. Pp. 280-288. Available at: [Alcohol outlet density and violence: A geographically weighted regression approach - Cameron - 2016 - Drug and Alcohol Review - Wiley Online Library](#)

⁸³ [Home Office – Serious Violence Strategy, April 2018 \(publishing.service.gov.uk\)](#)

⁸⁴ Refer back to definition on page 56

Victims

6.7.4 Figure 38 below shows the age groups of victims of knife flagged occurrences in BCP in financial year 2023/24.

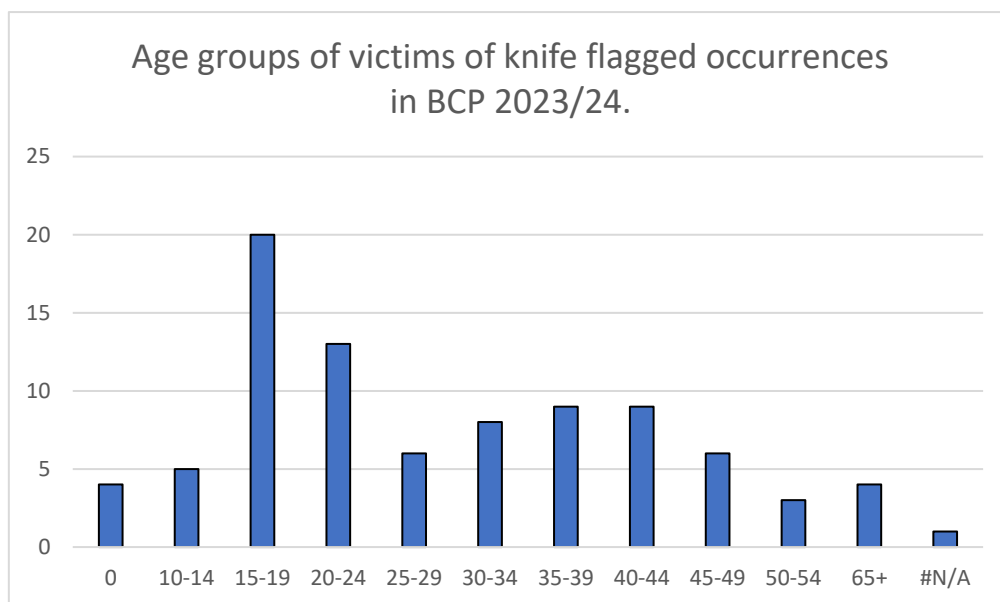
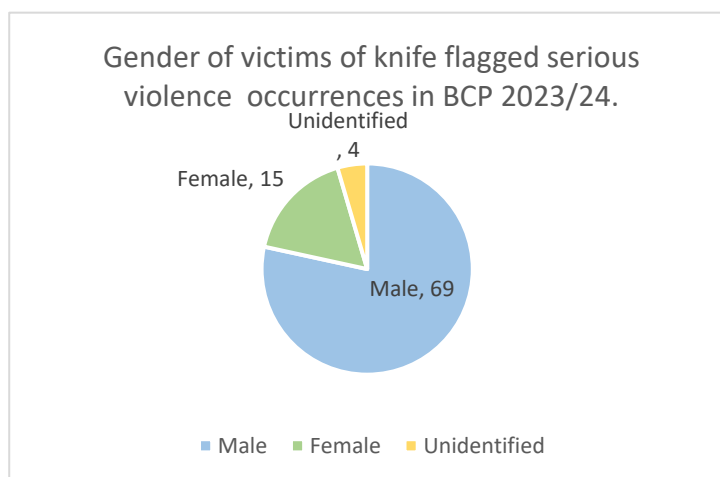


Figure 38 - Age groups of victims of knife flagged serious violence occurrences in BCP financial year 2023/24.

6.7.5 Figure 39 shows that the most common age group for victims was 15-19, followed by those age 20-24.



6.7.6 Figure 39 shows that that majority of victims of knife flagged serious violence occurrences in BCP were male (78%). 17% of victims were female, and 5% of victims did not have gender information available in the data.

Figure 39 - Gender of victims of knife flagged serious violence occurrences, reported to and recorded by Dorset Police in financial year 2023/24.

Ethnicity	Count	Percentage
W1. White British	37	42.05%
0	31	35.23%
NS. Not stated	10	11.36%
W9. Any other white background	2	2.27%
B2. Black African	2	2.27%

A3. Asian - Bangladeshi	1	1.14%
O9. Any other ethnic group	1	1.14%
A9. Any other Asian background	1	1.14%
#N/A	1	1.14%
B9. Any other Black background	1	1.14%
M9. Any other mixed background	1	1.14%

Table 25 - Ethnicity data for victims of knife flagged occurrences in BCP 2023/24.

6.7.1 Table 25 shows that the most common ethnic group for victims of knife flagged occurrences in BCP in 2023/24 was White British.

Suspects

6.7.2 In total, there were 122 suspects for the 88 knife flagged serious violence occurrences. 22 occurrences had more than one suspect. The attempt murder occurrences had the highest number of suspects, with 31 suspects between the 3 occurrences.

6.7.3 17 suspects were suspects of knife flagged serious violence occurrences more than once in financial year 2023/24. These 17 suspects appeared in the data a total of 37 times.

6.7.4 There were 31 knife flagged serious violence occurrences with no identified suspect.

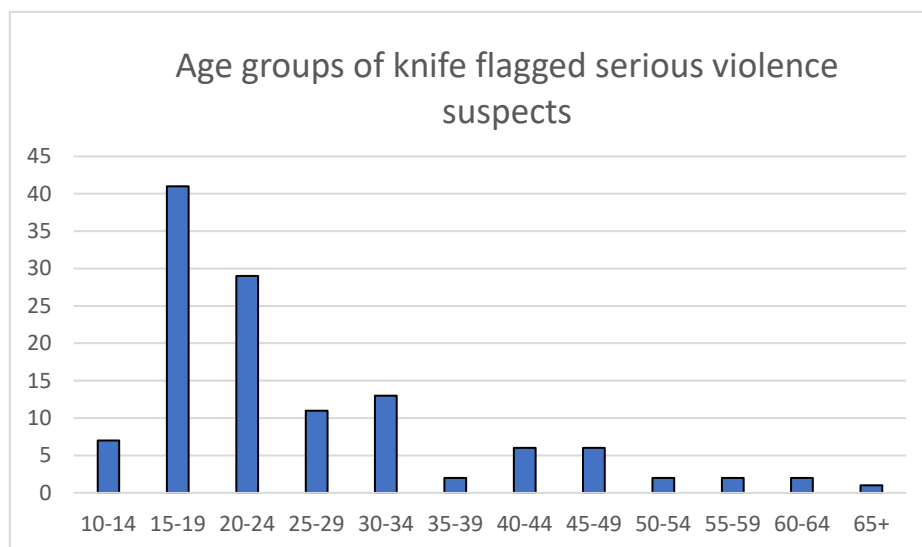


Figure 40 - Age groups of knife flagged serious violence suspects in BCP, financial year 2023/24.

6.7.5 Figure 40 shows that the age group 15-19 years had the largest amount of suspects for knife flagged serious violence occurrences. In total, there were 41 suspects in the age group 15-19, however, this figure was inclusive of repeat suspects and therefore some individuals were counted more than once in this data. When repeat suspects were removed, the age group 15-19 had 32 unique suspects. This was still the largest age group within the data. Repeat suspects are included in the age analysis as it is believed that it is important to count the ages of identified suspects in every individual occurrence.

In total there were 23 young people aged 10-17 who were suspects of knife flagged serious violence occurrences in financial year 2023/24. There were 8 young people who were suspects more than once in the financial year. 2 of these young people were suspects 3 times in the financial year, and 6 young people were suspects twice during the financial year.

The majority of young people do not carry knives. 2023/24 data suggests that serious violence knife flagged incidents are committed by a minority of young people, with 54% of occurrences being committed by repeat suspects.

Gender of knife flagged serious violence suspects in BCP 2023/24.

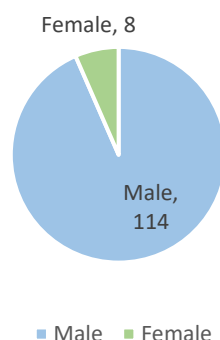


Figure 41 - Gender of suspects of knife flagged serious violence occurrences in BCP, financial year 2023/24.

6.7.6 Figure 41 shows the gender of knife flagged serious violence suspects in BCP 2023/24. Following the same pattern of the other crime types explored in this section, the majority of suspects were male (93%). 7% of suspects were female.

Ethnicity	Count	Percentage
W1. White British	61	50.00%
O9. Any other ethnic group	10	8.20%
NS. Not stated	9	7.38%
A9. Any other Asian background	9	7.38%
W9. Any other white background	7	5.74%
B9. Any other Black background	6	4.92%
M9. Any other mixed background	6	4.92%
M1. White & Black Caribbean	4	3.28%
B2. Black African	2	1.64%
B1. Black Caribbean	1	0.82%
M2. White & Black African	1	0.82%
Blank	6	4.92%

Table 26 - Ethnic groups of suspects of knife flagged serious violence occurrences in BCP 2023/24.

6.7.1 Table 26 shows ethnicity data for suspects of knife flagged serious violence occurrences in BCP in 2023/24. White British suspects are underrepresented, whilst suspects from any other ethnic group, mixed ethnic groups, and Black ethnic groups are overrepresented in comparison to the BCP population. However, we should keep in mind that suspects may not reside in BCP.

Relationship between victim and suspect

Relationship	Count	Percentage
No known relationship	38	43.18%
Friend/acquaintance/colleague	18	20.45%
Complete stranger	9	10.23%
Other relationship (misc)	9	10.23%
Commercial relationship	4	4.55%
Ex spouse/cohabitee/partner	3	3.41%
Spouse/cohabitee/partner	2	2.27%
Educational relationship	2	2.27%
Neighbour direct/indirect	2	2.27%
Policing duties	1	1.14%

Table 27 - Relationship between victim and offender in knife flagged serious violence occurrences in BCP 2023/24.

6.7.2 Table 27 shows in total, 53% of knife flagged serious violence occurrences in BCP occurred between a victim and suspect who did not know each other⁸⁵. When victims did know each other, the most common relationship was 'friend/acquaintance/colleague'.

6.7.3 5% of knife flagged serious violence occurrences also had a domestic abuse flag (4 actual).

Locations

Beatcodes	Count	Percentage
Central Bournemouth	26	29.55%
Westbourne/ West Cliff	8	9.09%
East Cliff and Springbourne	7	7.95%
Boscombe West	6	6.82%
Poole Town	5	5.68%
Kinson South	5	5.68%

Table 28 - Beatcodes with 5 or more knife flagged serious violence occurrences in BCP 2023/24.

⁸⁵ This is a combination of 'no known relationship' and 'complete stranger' relationship categories.

6.7.4 Following a similar trend to other serious violence occurrences, Central Bournemouth was the beatcode with the highest number of knife flagged serious violence occurrences. Westbourne and Westcliff was the second highest beatcode, which is unsurprising given that this location had a high proportion of knife flagged GBH occurrences.

Central Bournemouth Temporal Analysis

Days	Mon	Tues	Weds	Thurs	Fri	Sat	Sun	Total
0000-0059	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1
0100-0159	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	2
0200-0259	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	2
0300-0359	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
0400-0459	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1
0500-0559	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
0600-0659	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1
0700-0759	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
0800-0859	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
0900-0959	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1
1000-1059	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
1100-1159	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1
1200-1259	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
1300-1359	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1
1400-1459	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	2
1500-1559	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
1600-1659	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1
1700-1759	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
1800-1859	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1
1900-1959	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1
2000-2059	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	2
2100-2159	1	1	0	0	0	0	3	5
2200-2259	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	1
2300-2359	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	2
Total	3	2	4	3	1	5	8	26

Table 29 - Times and days of knife flagged serious violence occurrences in Central Bournemouth in financial year 2023/24.

6.7.5 Table 29 shows that knife flagged serious violence occurrences were more common on a weekend in the late afternoon, into the evening and the night. It is likely that this type of offending is also impacted by routine activities theory, as discussed in point 16.6.16. Victims and offenders are more likely to come together in time and space on a weekend due to being more likely to engage in leisure activities in Central Bournemouth on these days, outside of work/ school hours.

6.8 SUMMARY

6.8.1 Serious violence data for BCP in financial year 2023/24 highlights that priority 1 – tackle violent crime in all of its forms is closely linked with Priority 4 – Tackle issues relating to VAWG, as sexual offences are the most common types of serious violence in BCP.

6.8.2 15-19 year olds were the most prevalent victim age group for both sexual assaults and rapes. However, this was much more pronounced for sexual assaults, whereas age groups for rape victims were more spread out. Data on suspect age groups are limited, because there were many unidentified suspects. Data from identified suspects showed that 15-19 year olds were most prevalent for sexual assaults, along with 30-34 year olds. In contrast, the most prevalent suspect age group for rape was 35-39, although age ranges were relatively spread out and this age group did not show an overall majority. A key theme in the sexual assault data was the night-time economy, whereas a key theme within the rape data was domestic abuse.

6.8.3 One trend that was displayed in both sexual assault and rape data was an overrepresentation of older victims aged 50-54. It should be kept in mind that this is likely to be underrepresented overall due to the underreporting of sexual offences. Although there is a clear prevalence of younger victims displayed within the police data, we should be mindful of potential underreporting of sexual offences by older victims and assess the accessibility of support services to older victims who may be less likely to use technology.

6.8.4 Robbery was the third most common type of serious violence occurrence in BCP in financial year 2023/24. The most prevalent age group for both victims and suspects was 15-19. This reflects existing research which identifies robbery as a young person's crime. The most common relationship between victim and suspect in robbery occurrences was 'no known relationship' and 'complete stranger', indicating that victims are most often random targets identified by the offender. Central Bournemouth was the most common location for robberies. Within Central Bournemouth, robberies tended to happen on weekends in the afternoon and early hours of the morning. This is likely to be due to Routine Activities Theory; both suspects and victims are more likely to be available on weekends due to less work/educational commitments and are therefore more likely to go in to the town centre in pursuit of leisure. Suitable targets are more likely to be available in the early hours of the morning when entertainment districts are likely to be open later, victims are more likely to be vulnerable due to intoxication, and there is less likely to be the presence of a capable guardian due to the cover of darkness and the streets being less busy. Another point of note is that robbery numbers were particularly low in March 2024, and this coincided with work by Dorset Police which resulted in the arrest of key individuals linked to organised crime groups. Simply looking at the data alone does not provide us with an understanding of the impact of organised crime groups on robbery numbers, but this may be an important driver in numbers of robbery occurrences in the area and is something to be aware of.

6.8.5 GBH S18 occurrences were the fourth most common type of serious violence in BCP in 2023/24. The largest victim age group was 35-39, whilst the largest suspect age group was 15-19. It is likely that suspect ages are impacted by a large number of occurrences which have multiple suspects, which is likely to produce inaccurate data. 42% of occurrences involved incidents where there was no known relationship between the suspect and victim, or they were complete strangers. Central Bournemouth was the most common overall location, and in this area, occurrences were most common on weekends, in the afternoons and the early hours of the morning. Similar to robbery, this is likely to be impacted by Routine Activities Theory, as more people are likely to be in Central Bournemouth on weekends. Additionally, more people are likely to be engaging in the night-time economy in the early hours of the morning, and the spatial availability of alcohol is linked to higher rates of violence. An interesting finding is that Kinson South and Westbourne and Westcliff had higher proportions of knife flagged occurrences, although numbers were low overall. This should be kept in mind when discussing serious violence related knife offending.

6.8.6 Knife flagged offending is a key priority in terms of serious violence due to the severe harms associated with this type of offending. Data from 2023/24 shows that a key cohort for both victims and suspects is 15-19 year old males. Robbery was the most common type of offence with a knife flag, making up 47% of knife flagged serious violence occurrences. Central Bournemouth was the most common location, and occurrences were most common weekends in the late afternoon and evening, reflecting similar trends to both robbery and GBH S18.

6.8.7 A key theme within the serious violence data is the prevalence of occurrences in Central Bournemouth for all occurrence types, suggesting that this area should be a key focus for any initiatives on serious violence. Additionally, the night-time economy appears to be an important factor in serious violence occurrences.

7 PRIORITY 2 – KEEP YOUNG PEOPLE AND ADULTS SAFE FROM EXPLOITATION (INCLUDING ONLINE EXPLOITATION).

7.1 CHILD CRIMINAL AND SEXUAL EXPLOITATION

7.1.1 The Home Office⁸⁶ describe child criminal exploitation as follows:

Child Criminal Exploitation... occurs where an individual or group takes advantage of an imbalance of power to coerce, control, manipulate or deceive a child or young person under the age of 18. The victim may have been criminally exploited, even if the activity appears consensual. Child criminal exploitation does not always involve physical contact; it can also occur through the use of technology. Criminal exploitation of children... includes for instance children forced to work on cannabis farms or to commit theft.'

7.1.2 A particular concern when discussing child criminal exploitation is county lines. This has been briefly discussed in section 16 when addressing the rise of serious violence. County lines is a highly lucrative and illegal business model; those running county lines can earn thousands of pounds a day. The adults running the networks are removed from the frontline activity of dealing, instead using vulnerable children and adults to transport and sell Class A drugs, predominantly from urban areas in to market or coastal towns, or rural areas, to establish a new drugs market or to take over existing ones. Children are also used to transport and hide weapons, and to secure dwellings of vulnerable people in the area. There are high levels of violence and intimidation involved in county lines, and children are often groomed and/or tricked into working before they recognise the dangers of their involvement⁸⁷.

7.1.3 Children can be very quickly groomed in to these activities before parents or professionals realise what is happening. Younger siblings may also be recruited through fear, violence and intimidation against the family of older exploited children.

⁸⁶ 'Criminal exploitation of children and vulnerable adults', Home Office, 2018. Referenced in Protecting children from criminal exploitation, human trafficking and modern slavery: an addendum. Available at: [Protecting children from criminal exploitation, human trafficking and modern slavery: addendum \(publishing.service.gov.uk\)](https://publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/748481/Protecting_children_from_criminal_exploitation_human_trafficking_and_modern_slavery_addendum.pdf)

⁸⁷ Protecting children from criminal exploitation, human trafficking and modern slavery: an addendum. Available at: [Protecting children from criminal exploitation, human trafficking and modern slavery: addendum \(publishing.service.gov.uk\)](https://publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/748481/Protecting_children_from_criminal_exploitation_human_trafficking_and_modern_slavery_addendum.pdf)

7.1.4 Children involved in county lines are at risk of serious violence. Other dealers may target these children to prevent them from taking over their 'patch', and some children have been stabbed and killed by rival gangs or dealers in the UK. This is a great community safety concern, and often the first time police become aware of county lines activity in the area is due to the result of a significant increase in knife crime and youth violence.

7.1.5 A common tactic used by county lines gangs is to stage a fake robbery, where a young person who is running drugs is robbed, unbeknownst to them, by their own gang. In these cases, the child believes they have lost money, drugs or phone contacts that are valuable to those running the gangs and are told they must work for free to repay the debt. Gangs may also threaten the safety of the child's family or parents⁸⁸.

7.1.6 Involvement in county lines gangs can be extremely traumatic for young people, who are often victims of intimidation and violence, witness drug use or overdoses, and experience continued threats to themselves or their families. Consequently, it is vitally important to take a multi-agency approach to prevent further harm to children and families.

7.1.7 In order to work effectively to safeguard criminally exploited children, it is key for all agencies to understand the context of the child's behaviour. Exploited children may be viewed as 'hard to reach', however agencies must understand that all children who have been criminally exploited are victims of crime, and the behaviours these young people present are often the product of abuse. Further, exploited children tend to have been repeatedly let down by adults, and may be less receptive to engaging with professionals. Research highlights the importance of building trusting with young people, with relationships based on consistency, stability and respectful communication having the most important in supporting effective interventions with exploited children⁸⁸.

7.2 CHILD CRIMINAL EXPLOITATION IN A BCP CONTEXT

7.2.1 As of March 2024, there are **68** children in BCP known to the Complex Safeguarding Team who are on the child exploitation profile.

7.2.2 **22** of these children **are** children in care.

7.2.3 There are **17** children considered to be suffering harm as a result of exploitation, and a further **39** children considered to be at risk of harm from exploitation.

7.2.4 There are **11** children identified as a potential concern of exploitation.

7.2.5 Dorset police note that between September 2023-March 2024 there have been approximately 28 county lines affecting the BCP area.

7.3 CHILD SEXUAL EXPLOITATION

7.3.1 Many children who are criminally exploited are often also sexually abused and/ or exploited. The Department for Education (2017) defined child sexual exploitation (CSE) as follows:

'Child sexual exploitation is a form of child sexual abuse. It occurs where an individual or group takes advantage of an imbalance of power to coerce, manipulate, or deceive a child or young person under the age of 18 into sexual activity a) in exchange for something the

*victim needs or wants, and/or b) for the financial advantage or increased status of the perpetrator or facilitator. The victim may have been sexually exploited even if the sexual activity appears consensual. Child sexual exploitation does not always involve physical contact; it can also occur through the use of technology.*⁸⁸

7.3.2 Estimating the scale and prevalence of CSE is extremely challenging as it is under-reported and under-recorded, and agencies often record CSE data in different ways meaning that collating information across agencies is a challenge. In 2016, the UK government established a requirement for police forces to 'flag' all offences recorded by the police that met the definition of CSE. Although this does provide more accurate data on numbers of children affected by CSE in contact with the police, it does not provide a comprehensive overview of the numbers of children in contact with health, children's services, or voluntary services for CSE, nor does it provide an overview of those children who are not in contact with any service⁸⁹.

7.3.3 Another factor to consider is that data on the prevalence of CSE, and also research into CSE is often explored alongside child sexual abuse, which includes sexual abuse in the family and by peers. This crime is different in nature from child sexual exploitation, and further hinders our understanding of prevalence rates and the nature of child sexual exploitation.

7.3.4 The transportation of drugs is at the forefront of county lines gangs, however CSE is an associated risk factor that is growing in significance. It is reported to be used as a means of control, for the gratification of gang members, and as a service to be sold. The risk of CSE within a county lines context is more prevalent for young females than males, however, young males are still affected by this issue⁹⁰. The Children's Society highlight that there is evidence of boys being sexually exploited as a means to humiliate and blackmail them into submission⁹¹. However, this is an issue that is particularly under-reported.

7.3.5 There are a variety of childhood experiences associated with increased risk of child sexual exploitation⁹². These are:

- Prior sexual abuse or neglect and dysfunction, such as domestic violence, family breakdown, and parental drug or alcohol misuse.
- Being in care. The experience of being in care can be accompanied by multiple placement moves, rejection, lack of positive attachments, or peer introductions to exploitative adults, all of which make a young person at higher risk of CSE.
- Going missing or running away from home or a care placement.
- Substance misuse.
- Disengagement in education.
- Social isolation.
- Low self-esteem.

⁸⁸ Department for Education, 2017. Referenced in Scott, S., Bovarnick, S., and Pearce, J (2019) 'What works in responding to child sexual exploitation.' Available at: [what-works-in-cse.pdf \(dmss.co.uk\)](https://www.demss.co.uk/what-works-in-cse.pdf)

⁸⁹ Scott, S., Bovarnick, S., and Pearce, J (2019) 'What works in responding to child sexual exploitation.' Available at: [what-works-in-cse.pdf \(dmss.co.uk\)](https://www.demss.co.uk/what-works-in-cse.pdf)

⁹⁰ [County Lines and Child Sexual Exploitation - Shiva Foundation](https://www.shivafoundation.org.uk/county-lines-and-child-sexual-exploitation)

⁹¹ The Children's Society, "Counting Lives: Responding to children who are criminally exploited," (2019) Available at: [Counting Lives Report | The Children's Society \(childrenssociety.org.uk\)](https://www.childrenssociety.org.uk/counting-lives-report)

⁹² Brown, [Child sexual abuse and exploitation: Understanding risk and vulnerability | Early Intervention Foundation \(eif.org.uk\)](https://www.eif.org.uk/child-sexual-abuse-and-exploitation-understanding-risk-and-vulnerability-early-intervention)

7.4 CHILD SEXUAL EXPLOITATION IN A BCP CONTEXT

7.4.1 As of Feb 2024, there were 8 children in the BCP area identified as being sexually exploited, and 7 children in the area identified as being both sexually and criminally exploited. Although these numbers are low, it is important to keep in mind that these are number of children known to services, and there may be other children who in the area who are not known. Additionally, this highlights the overlap of criminal and sexual exploitation, with just one child being sexually but not criminally exploited.

7.5 MODERN SLAVERY AND HUMAN TRAFFICKING

7.5.1 Modern Slavery & Human Trafficking (MSHT) is a complex crime covering all forms of slavery, trafficking, and exploitation. Trafficking includes recruiting, transporting, or harbouring a person with a view to exploiting them. Modern slavery crimes may involve a wide range of abuses or crimes, and victims may not be aware that they are being trafficked or exploited. Additionally, they may have consented to elements of their exploitation. This can make it harder for the police, local authorities, or agencies to detect MSHT.

7.5.2 Nationally, modern slavery and human trafficking referrals have increased. The National Crime Agency⁹³ note that in the year ending December 2022, 7,936 referrals were made for potential victims of exploitation which has taken place in the UK, a 10.3% increase from the previous year. However, like many other crime types mentioned in this report, modern slavery and human trafficking is an under-reported, under-recorded crime, meaning that producing an accurate measure of prevalence is a challenge⁹⁴.

7.5.3 Many victims work in the construction industry, in agriculture, in the sex industry, and in places like nail bars, car washes, and cannabis farms. Children are found in all of these areas, including sex slavery.

7.5.4 Many victims are trafficked from overseas, frequently from Eastern Europe, South East Asia and Africa, and often the exploitation begins en-route. In contrast, British victims may be individuals who have fallen on difficult times, making them more vulnerable to promises of well-paid work and decent accommodation which act as a recruitment tool in to modern slavery and human trafficking⁹⁴.

7.5.5 Some victims are threatened and can suffer extreme violence. Many have their documents confiscated and have most of their earnings held as 'payment' for living costs or for their journey to the UK⁹⁴.

7.5.6 The National Referral Mechanism (NRM) was introduced in 2009 as a framework for identifying, referring and supporting victims of modern slavery and human trafficking in the UK. Following a referral to the NRM by staff at dedicated first responder organisations, a reasonable grounds decision is made about "potential victims" to assess whether they are thought to be victims of modern slavery⁹⁵.

⁹³ [Modern slavery and human trafficking - National Crime Agency](#)

⁹⁴ [Modern slavery in the UK - Office for National Statistics \(ons.gov.uk\)](#)

⁹⁵ [Child victims of modern slavery in the UK - Office for National Statistics \(ons.gov.uk\)](#)

7.5.7 If a potential victim is under 18, or may be under 18, an NRM referral must be made. Child victims do not have to consent to be referred in to the NRM. They must first be safeguarded as a priority before being referred in to the NRM. In contrast, consent is required for an adult to be referred in to the NRM. For an adult to provide their informed consent, referring professionals must explain:

- What the NRM is.
- What support is available through it.
- What the possible outcomes are for an individual being referred.

It should also be made clear that this information may be shared with other public authorities such as the police or local authorities.

7.5.8 If an adult does not consent to being referred to the NRM, a Duty to Notify referral should be completed instead. From 1st November 2015, specified public authorities have been required to notify the Home Office about any potential victims of modern slavery they encounter in England and Wales⁹⁶.

7.5.9 Once a NRM referral is submitted, trained decision makers at the Home Office consider claims to decide if there are 'reasonable grounds' to suspect that the individual is a victim of modern slavery. They aim to make this decision within 5 days, and potential victims are entitled to emergency accommodation during this time if they are destitute. If a person receives a reasonable grounds decision, they are entitled to support from the Government. Individuals cannot be removed from the UK whilst claims are being considered and are entitled to a minimum of 45 days rest and reflection period. During this time, the Government will gather more information about the individual to make a 'Conclusive Grounds' decision. If a positive Conclusive Grounds decision is made, the individual is considered a victim of modern slavery and is entitled to further support⁹⁷.

7.5.10 However, the International Organization for Migration (IOM) has some concerns around the decision making processes of the NRM. Since the introduction of the Nationality and Borders Act (from January 2023), stark differences have emerged in the likelihood of people being recognised as a potential victim of modern slavery depending on their nationality. Changes made to the statutory guidance in January 2023 meant that potential victims had to provide 'objective evidence' of their experiences of modern slavery, meaning that a personal account of their own experiences was not enough on its own for them to receive a positive initial reasonable grounds decision⁹⁸. Considering the fact that many victims of human trafficking and modern slavery originate from overseas, often with a language barrier, this change to the legislation is likely to present an additional barrier to seeking support. A common theme throughout this report has centred on victims from ethnic minority backgrounds facing additional barriers to support for a variety of different crime types. It appears that modern slavery and human trafficking is no exception to this trend.

⁹⁶ [National referral mechanism guidance: adult \(England and Wales\) - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/612222/national-referral-mechanism-guidance-adult-england-and-wales.pdf)

⁹⁷ [accessing-support-as-a-victim-of-modern-slavery-adult.pdf \(antislaverycommissioner.co.uk\)](https://www.antislaverycommissioner.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2021/06/accessing-support-as-a-victim-of-modern-slavery-adult.pdf)

⁹⁸ [IOM's analysis of National Referral Mechanism data following the | IOM United Kingdom](#)

7.5.11 In practice, the IOM has noted that these changes to how decisions are made for potential victims of modern slavery has resulted in an ‘unprecedented and dramatic’ fall in the percentage of foreign nationals being recognised as potential victims. In contrast, there has been very little impact to the numbers of UK nationals being recognised as potential victims of modern slavery⁹⁹.

7.5.12 To illustrate this point, national data shows that 86% of the decisions for UK nationals were positive in comparison to just 40% for foreign nationals in the first six months of 2023⁹⁹.

7.5.13 Additionally, the IOM found inconsistencies in the outcomes of cases depending on the referring agency. People were much less likely to be found a victim of modern slavery if they were referred by Home Office staff than if they were referred by police, charities or local authorities⁹⁹.

7.5.14 The changes to how decisions are made have also resulted in potential victims of modern slavery waiting longer for a Reasonable Grounds decision, meaning they are not able to access government-funded support through the NRM. This increases the risk of re-trafficking and makes it harder for victims to recover⁹⁹.

7.5.15 The changes to how decisions are made mean that the Home Office may prevent people from accessing support if they are a ‘threat to public order’. In practice, this can mean those who have been convicted of an offence in the UK and have been sentenced to at least 12 months in prison. However, most people referred to the NRM are reported as having been exploited for the purposes of committing crimes, for example, working in a cannabis factory, transporting and selling drugs in county lines, and petty crimes⁹⁹. Subsequently, some victims may be unable to access support as a direct consequence of their trafficking, which acts as a huge barrier to seeking help and keeps victims trapped.

7.5.16 The changes to how decisions are made are part of a wider political discussion around a ‘need to prevent abuse of the system...’, by ‘...temporarily blocking access for people arriving in the UK irregularly⁹⁹. In reality however, IOM analysis of publicly available government data about the NRM does not find evidence of misuse. Individuals cannot self-refer to the NRM; they can only be referred by trained professionals working for specific organisations permitted by the Home Office. This in itself should help to prevent abuse of the system, as potential victims will need to be appropriately assessed before a referral is made. Additionally, despite a public focus on irregular migrants, just 7% of those arriving in the UK on small boats between 2018-2022 accessed support through the modern slavery protection system. In contrast, 25% of those referred were UK nationals⁹⁹.

7.6 MODERN SLAVERY AND HUMAN TRAFFICKING IN A BCP CONTEXT.

7.6.1 Unfortunately, it has not been possible to obtain data on modern slavery and human trafficking for this year’s Strategic Assessment. It is hoped that this will be resolved for next year’s version.

⁹⁹ [Illegal Migration Bill, 3 Facts About Modern Slavery in the UK | IOM United Kingdom](#)

8 PRIORITY 3 – WORK WITH COMMUNITIES TO DEAL WITH ASB HOTSPOTS, INCLUDING DRUG DEALING.

8.1.1 The Anti-Social Behaviour and Crime Act 2014 defines anti-social behaviour as the following:

- Conduct that has caused, or is likely to cause, harassment, alarm, or distress to any person.
- Conduct capable of causing nuisance or annoyance to a person in relation to that person's occupation of residential premises, or
- Conduct capable of causing housing-related nuisance or annoyance to any person.

8.1.2 There are three main categories for antisocial behaviour, and these depend on how many people are affected¹⁰⁰:

- **Personal antisocial behaviour** is when a person targets a specific individual or group.
- **Nuisance antisocial behaviour** is when a person causes trouble, annoyance or suffering to a community.
- **Environmental antisocial behaviour** is when a person's actions affect the wider environment.

8.1.3 Anti-social behaviour covers criminal and non-criminal behaviour, including¹⁰¹:

- Intimidatory behaviour, such as threatening or unruly behaviour, drunkenness, harassment and loitering in public spaces.
- Drug use, and the paraphernalia, mess and disruption that can go with it.
- Vandalism, graffiti, and the plague of fly -tipping and littering.
- Disruptive neighbours.

8.1.4 Nationally the police recorded 1.0 million incidents of anti-social behaviour in the year ending June 2023. This was an 11% decrease compared with the year ending June 2022 (1.2 million incidents).

8.1.5 *"There is a growing gap between the anti-social behaviour that people are suffering and what they report to police. This suggests that people are increasingly unwilling to report anti-social behaviour."* (Department for Levelling Up, 2024)¹⁰².

8.2 ANTI-SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR IN BCP

8.2.1 Data from the most recent residents survey in BCP (September 2021) provides insight in to what residents of BCP are most concerned about in terms of anti-behaviour. The data showed that:

- **24%** of participants thought that **rubbish or litter lying around** was a very/fairly big problem.
- **24%** of participants thought that **people using or dealing drugs** was a very/fairly big problem.
- **20%** of participants thought that **being drunk or rowdy in public places** was a very/fairly big problem.
- **18%** of participants though that **groups hanging around the streets** was a very/fairly big problem.

¹⁰⁰ [What is antisocial behaviour? | Metropolitan Police](#)

¹⁰¹ [Anti-Social Behaviour Action Plan \(accessible\) - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](#)

¹⁰² [Crime in England and Wales - Office for National Statistics \(ons.gov.uk\)](#)

- **16%** of participants thought that **vandalism, graffiti and other deliberate damage** was a very/fairly big problem.
- **11%** of participants thought that **noisy neighbours or loud parties** was a very/ fairly big problem.
- **8%** of participants thought that **untidy gardens or other privately owned land** was a very/fairly big problem.

8.2.2 Participants had a different perceptions of anti-social behaviour depending on where they lived. Overall, 12% of respondents had a high perception of antisocial behaviour. In contrast;

- **49%** of participants in **Boscombe West** had a high perception of anti-social behaviour.
- **28%** of participants in **Bournemouth Central** had a high perception of anti-social behaviour.
- **27%** of participants in **East Cliff and Springbourne** had a high perception of anti-social behaviour.
- **26%** of participants in **Poole Town** had a high perception of anti-social behaviour.
- **24%** of participants in **Boscombe East and Pokesdown** had a high perception of anti-social behaviour.
- **20%** of participants in Westbourne and West Cliff had a high perception of anti-social behaviour.

8.2.3 Participants aged 25-34 and 55-64 also had a higher perception of anti-social behaviour than overall respondents (18% and 15% respectively).

8.2.4 Further, LGBTQ+ individuals had a higher perception of anti-social behaviour (30%) than overall participants, as well as those with long term health conditions (19%).

8.2.5 Although 24% of respondents said that drugs were a big problem, 56% of respondents said that people using or dealing drugs was not a problem at all. Drug dealing and use was a particular problem for those living in Boscombe West (62%), East Cliff and Springbourne (53%), Poole Town (51%), Bournemouth Central (48%) and Boscombe East and Pokesdown (44%).

8.2.6 Residents in Boscombe West had the largest problem out of all the wards with people using drugs (62%), people being drunk or rowdy (64%), and groups hanging around (53%). This suggests that Boscombe West may be a particular ward that would benefit from any interventions implemented around Priority 3, and in particular any interventions which seek to improve community perceptions of anti-social behaviour.

8.3 ASB INCIDENTS IN THE BCP AREA, 2023-24

8.3.1 This section focuses on data from incidents of ASB reported to and recorded by Dorset Police in the financial year 2023-24.

8.3.2 Dorset Police recorded 9,722 reported ASB incidents in the BCP area from April 2023 to March 2024. This is a 11% decrease compared with the previous year from April 2022 to March 2023 (10,949 incidents).

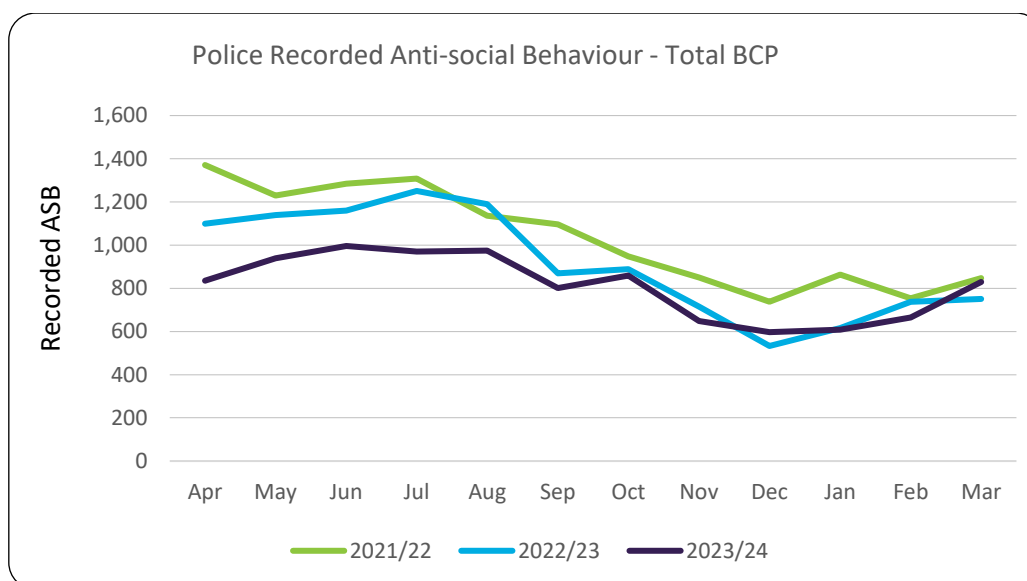


Figure 42: BCP ASB incidents by month.. STORM (1st April 2021 to 31st March 2024)

8.3.3 The line graph above illustrates the number of ASB occurrences recorded in the BCP area from 1st April to 31st March for the years 2021/22, 2022/23, and 2023/24.

8.3.4 The graph shows a consistent trend of lower ASB incidents in 2023/24 compared to the preceding years from April until December.

8.3.5 In April 2023/24, there is a 24% decrease in ASB incidents compared to the previous year.

8.3.6 In contrast, in December there is a 12% increase compared to the previous year, while March saw a 10% increase compared to the preceding year.

8.3.7 June had the highest number of reported ASB incidents, followed by August and July. In contrast, December and January had the lowest number of ASB incidents.

				2023/24 vs. 2022/23		
	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24	Trend	Change	% Change
Apr	1371	1099	835		-264	-24%
May	1230	1139	939		-200	-18%
Jun	1284	1160	996		-164	-14%
Jul	1309	1251	970		-281	-22%
Aug	1137	1189	974		-215	-18%
Sep	1096	870	801		-69	-8%
Oct	948	889	859		-30	-3%
Nov	850	715	648		-67	-9%
Dec	738	533	597		64	12%
Jan	864	616	609		-7	-1%
Feb	754	737	665		-72	-10%
Mar	847	751	829		78	10%
BCP Total	12428	10949	9722		-1227	-11%

Table 30: BCP ASB incidents by month. STORM (1st April 2021 to 31st March 2024)

8.4 ASB IN BCP BY LOCATION

8.4.1 The following section identifies geographical hotspots of anti-social behaviour.

8.4.2 This is based on the data provided from the police system STORM from 1st April 2021 to 31st March 2024.

Locations with the largest number of ASB incidents

				2023/24 vs. 2022/23		
	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24	Trend	Change	% Change
Central Bmth (CBAA)	1954	1754	1641		-113	-6%
Poole Town (CPBA)	869	956	758		-198	-21%
W/Bourne&Wcliff (CBBA)	557	403	557		154	38%
East Cliff&Sbrn (CECB)	722	573	532		-41	-7%
Boscombe West (CECA)	678	542	476		-66	-12%
Winton East (CNGA)	363	342	327		-15	-4%
BCP Total	12428	10949	9722		-1227	-11%

Table 31: BCP ASB incidents by location. STORM (1st April 2021 to 31st March 2024)

8.4.3 The table above shows the locations with the largest number of ASB incidents in the BCP area.

8.4.4 Central Bmth (CBAA) has the highest number of ASB incidents reported in 2023/24, (1,641) a 6% lower than in the previous year. Followed by Poole Town (CPBA), W/Bourne&Wcliff (CBBA), and East Cliff&Sbrn (CECB).

8.4.5 A considerable number of ASB cases in this areas are related to NTE (Night time Economy) incidents.

8.4.6 The table below indicates that Central Bmth (CBAA) accounts for 17% of ASB incidents in BCP area in 2023/24.

Location	Percentage
Central Bmth (CBAA)	17%
Poole Town (CPBA)	8%
W/Bourne&Wcliff (CBBA)	6%
East Cliff&Sbrn (CECB)	5%
Boscombe West (CECA)	5%
Winton East (CNGA)	3%
Others	56%

Table 32: BCP ASB incidents by month.. STORM (1st April 2023 to 31st March 2024).

Largest numerical increases in ASB incidents









	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24	Trend	2023/24 vs. 2022/23	
					Change	% Change
W/Bourne&Wcliff (CBBA)	557	403	557		154	38%
Talbot&Brank/Wd (CNAA)	282	191	222		31	16%
East Southborne (CEAA)	182	119	145		26	22%
Highcliffe (DKAB)	68	35	61		26	74%
Portfield (DKFA)	85	50	65		15	30%
St.Cath&Hurn (DKGB)	62	32	44		12	38%
Broadstone (CRDB)	74	47	56		9	19%
BCP Total	12428	10949	9722		-1227	-11%

Table 23: BCP ASB incidents by location. STORM (1st April 2021 to 31st March 2024)

8.4.7 In the table above it is important to note that W/Bourne&Wcliff (CBBA) has experienced the largest increase in the number of ASB incidents with 557 cases. This represents a 38% increase compared to the previous year, reaching the same figures as in 2020/21. Talbot&Brank/Wd (CNAA) and East Southborne (CEAA) have followed with increases of 16% and 22%, respectively.

Largest numerical decreases in ASB incidents







	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24	Trend	2023/24 vs. 2022/23	
					Change	% Change
Poole Town (CPBA)	869	956	758		-198	-21%
R/More&Alderney (CRBA)	364	364	235		-129	-35%
Newtown (CRAC)	414	422	298		-124	-29%
Central Bmth (CBAA)	1954	1754	1641		-113	-6%
Kinson South (CNJA)	235	386	273		-113	-29%
BCP Total	12428	10949	9722		-1227	-11%

Table 34: BCP ASB incidents by location. STORM (1st April 2021 to 31st March 2024)

8.4.8 The table above shows that in 2023/24, Poole Town (CPBA) has experienced the largest numerical decrease in ASB incidents 198 (-21%), followed by R/More&Alderney (CRBA) with a decrease of 129 incidents, (-35%).

Distribution of ASB incidents by postcode

8.4.9 The following maps show the postcodes where anti-social behaviour occurred, highlighting in a different colour the postcodes where anti-social behaviour was most frequently reported.

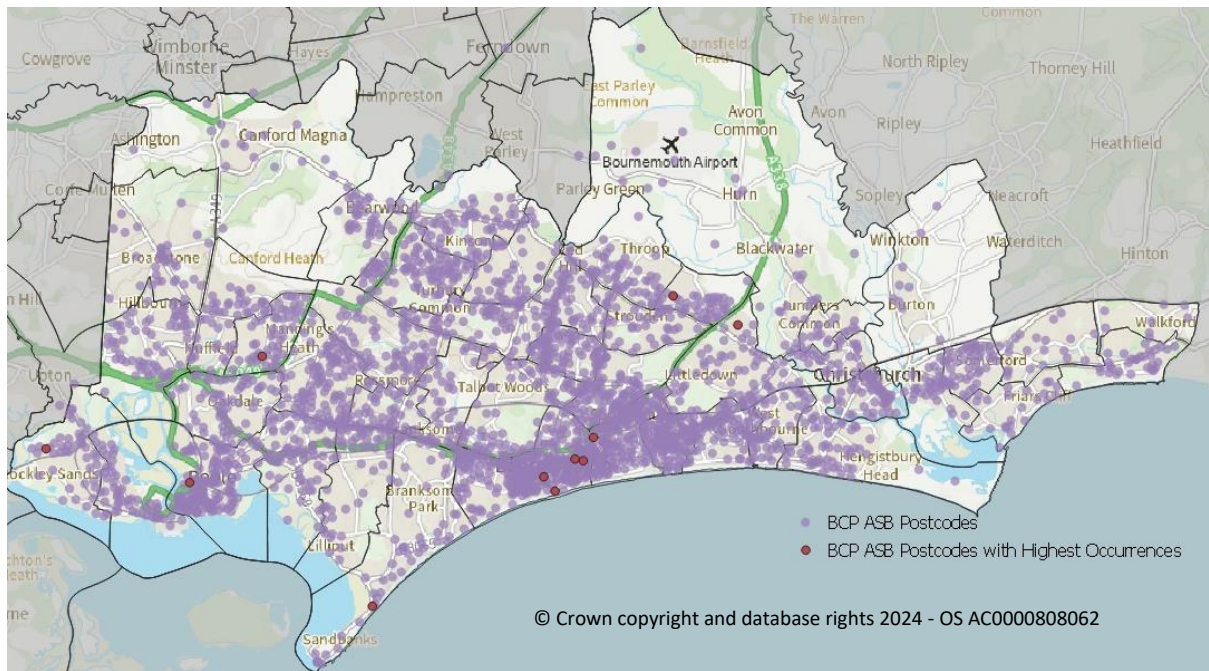


Figure 43: BCP ASB incidents by location. STORM (1st April 2023 to 31st March 2024)



Figure 44: ASB incidents by location. STORM (1st April 2023 to 31st March 2024)

8.5 ASB TYPE IN BCP

8.5.1 The following section identifies geographical and specific ASB behaviours that are a particular problem in their location.

8.5.2 Please be cautious when considering the information below, as it relies on the accuracy of the details provided in the incident descriptions and may not represent a comprehensive overview.

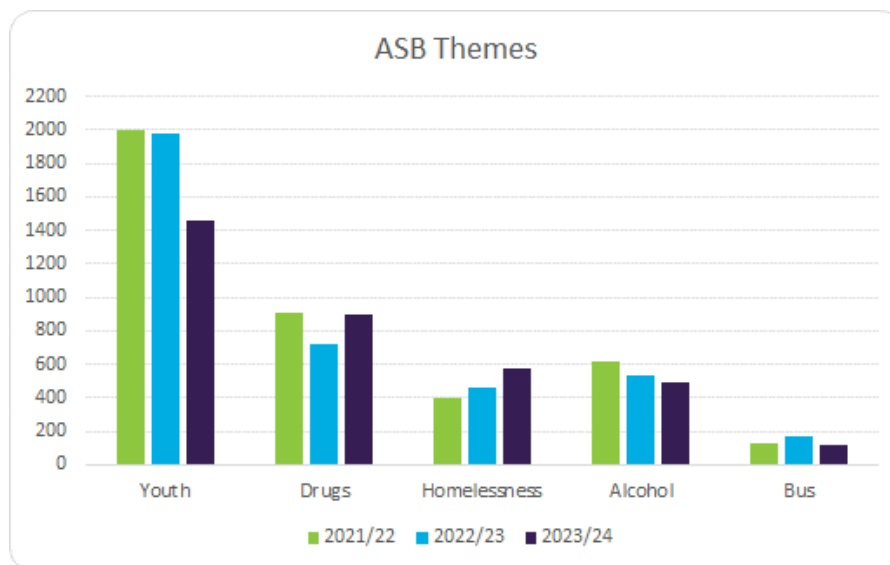


Figure 45: BCP ASB incidents by theme. STORM (1st April 2021 to 31st March 2024)

8.5.3 The chart above illustrates an overview of the different themes of ASB incidents.

8.5.4 While ASB occurrences involving youth are a predominant theme, there has been a decrease compared to the previous years.

8.5.5 Conversely, ASB incidents involving drugs and homelessness have seen significant increases.

8.5.6 In contrast, both ASB involving alcohol and buses have decreased compared to the previous year.

8.6 ASB INCIDENTS INVOLVING YOUTH

8.6.1 The following table shows the locations with the largest number of ASB incidents involving youth¹⁰³ in BCP area.

8.6.2 The locations with the most ASB incidents involving youth in 2023/24 are Poole Town (CPBA) with 117 incidents, followed by Central Bmth (CBAA) with 103 incidents.

8.6.3 Additionally, the table shows that ASB occurrences involving youth in BCP have had a considerable decrease compared to the previous year (-26%).









	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24	Trend	2023/24 vs. 2022/23	
					Change	% Change
Poole Town (CPBA)	170	235	117		-118	-50%
Central Bmth (CBAA)	145	124	103		-21	-17%
Newtown (CRAC)	137	179	91		-88	-49%
Hamworthy West (CPCB)	97	90	84		-6	-7%
Canford Cliffs (CPAA)	49	63	64		1	2%
R/More&Alderney (CRBA)	92	117	61		-56	-48%
Kinson South (CNJA)	63	120	55		-65	-54%
BCP Total	2002	1976	1458		-518	-26%

Table 35: BCP ASB incidents involving youth.. STORM (1st April 2021 to 31st March 2024)

8.6.4 The maps below show the postcodes where anti-social behaviour involving youth occurred, highlighting in a different colour the postcodes where anti-social behaviour involving youth was most frequently reported.

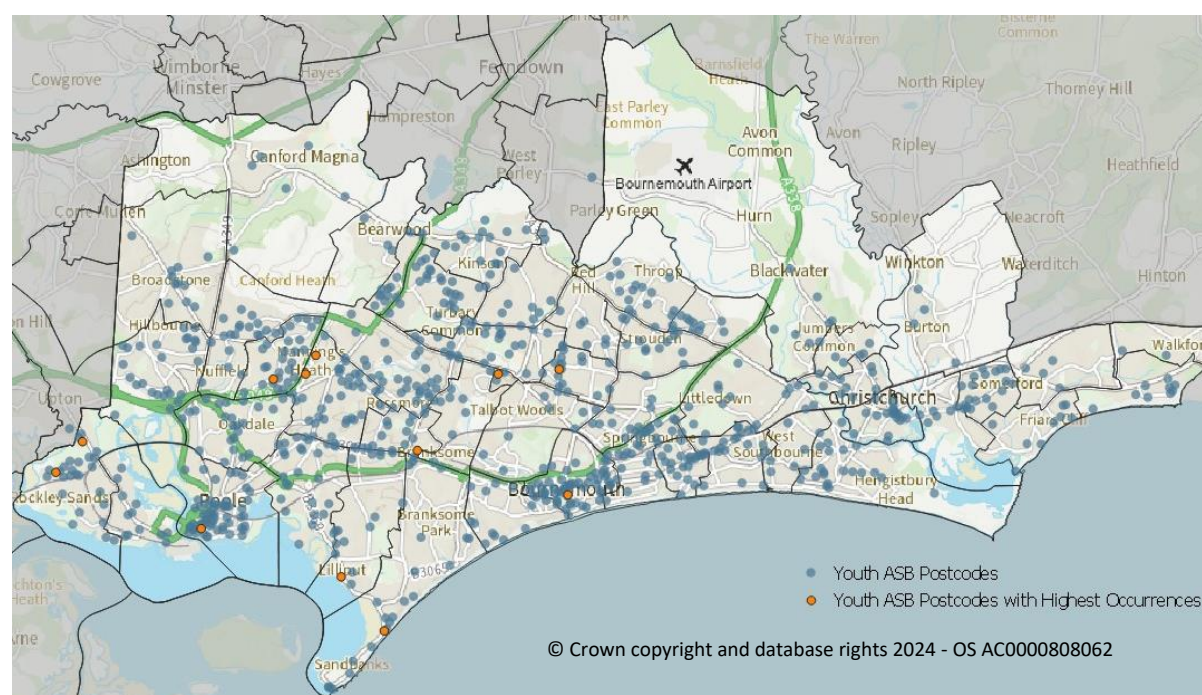


Figure 46: BCP ASB incidents involving youth.. STORM (1st April 2023 to 31st March 2024)

¹⁰³ Extracted from system STORM data using keywords such as 'young,' 'youth,' 'student,' etc., in Incident Text. Accuracy may vary depending on the precision of the incident text notes.

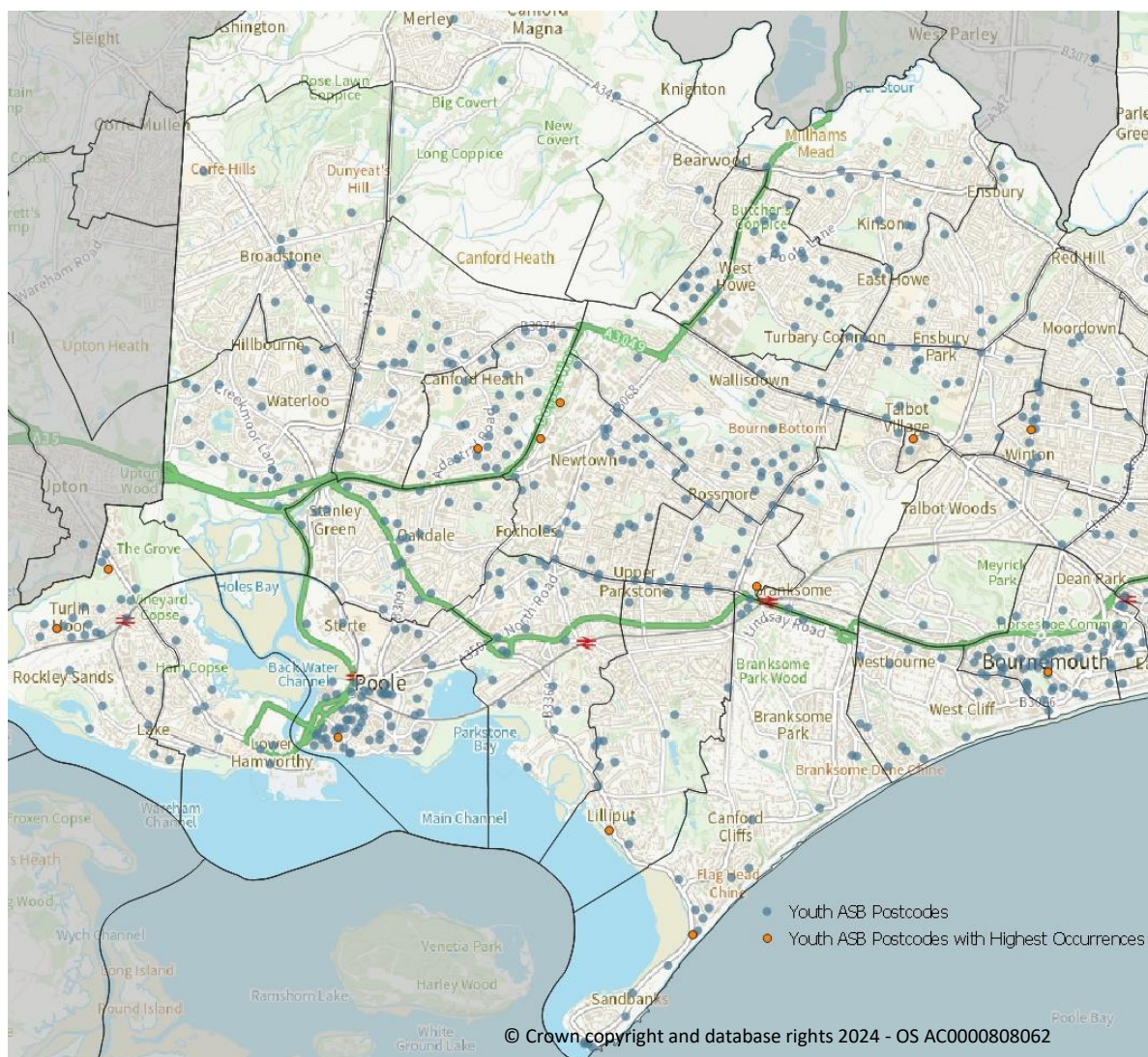


Figure 47: ASB incidents involving youth.. STORM (1st April 2023 to 31st March 2024)

8.7 ASB INCIDENTS INVOLVING DRUGS

8.7.1 The following table shows the locations with the largest number of ASB incidents involving drugs¹⁰⁴ in BCP area.

8.7.2 Central Bmth (CBAA), Poole Town (CPBA), and W/Bourne&Wcliff (CBBA) are the areas with the highest number of ASB incidents involving drugs, with 203, 80, and 79 incidents respectively.

8.7.3 Additionally, it is important to note the 25% increase of ASB incidents involving drugs in 2023/24 compared to the preceding year.

¹⁰⁴ Extracted from system STORM data using keywords such as 'drug,' 'cannabis,' 'dealer,' etc., in Incident Text. Accuracy may vary depending on the precision of the incident text notes

	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24	Trend	2023/24 vs. 2022/23	
					Change	% Change
Central Bmth (CBAA)	147	162	203	↗	41	25%
Poole Town (CPBA)	61	50	80	↗	30	60%
W/Bourne&Wcliff (CBBA)	56	43	79	↗	36	84%
East Cliff&Sbrn (CECB)	83	52	62	↗	10	19%
Boscombe West (CECA)	73	51	52	↗	1	2%
Queens Park (CNBA)	43	27	50	↗	23	85%
BCP Total	908	716	895	↗	179	25%

Table 36: BCP ASB incidents involving drugs.. STORM (1st April 2021 to 31st March 2024)

8.7.4 The maps below show the postcodes where anti-social behaviour involving drugs occurred, highlighting in a different colour the postcodes where anti-social behaviour involving drugs was most frequently reported.

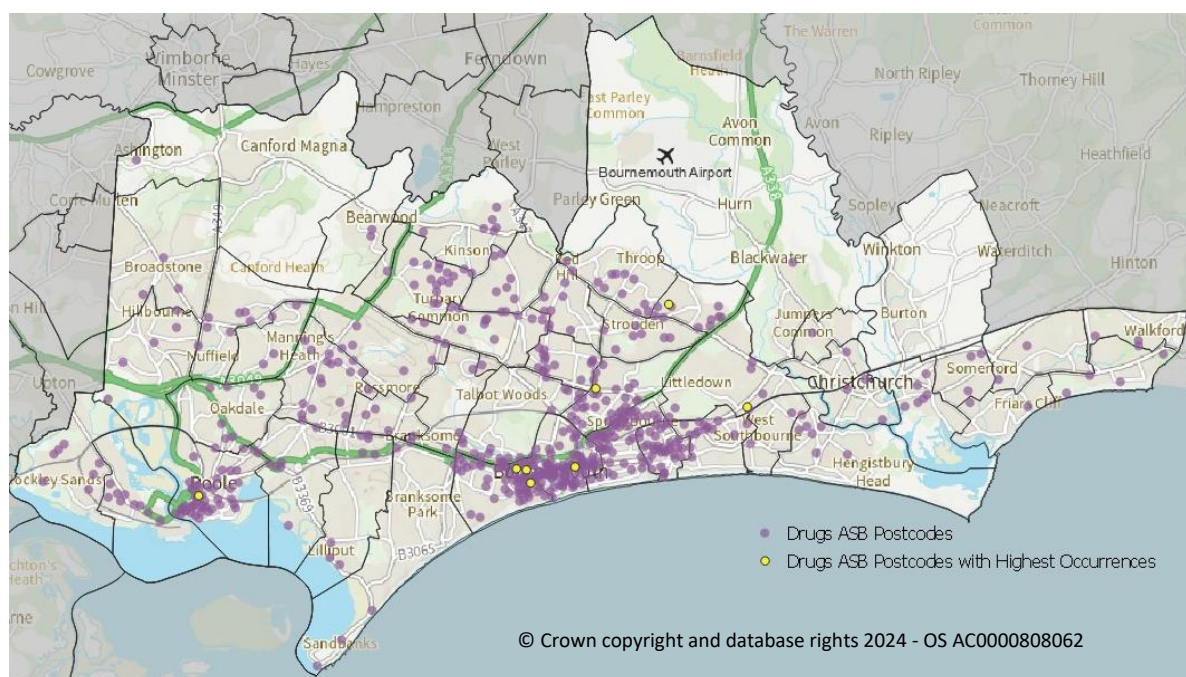


Figure 48: BCP ASB incidents involving drugs.. STORM (1st April 2023 to 31st March 2024)

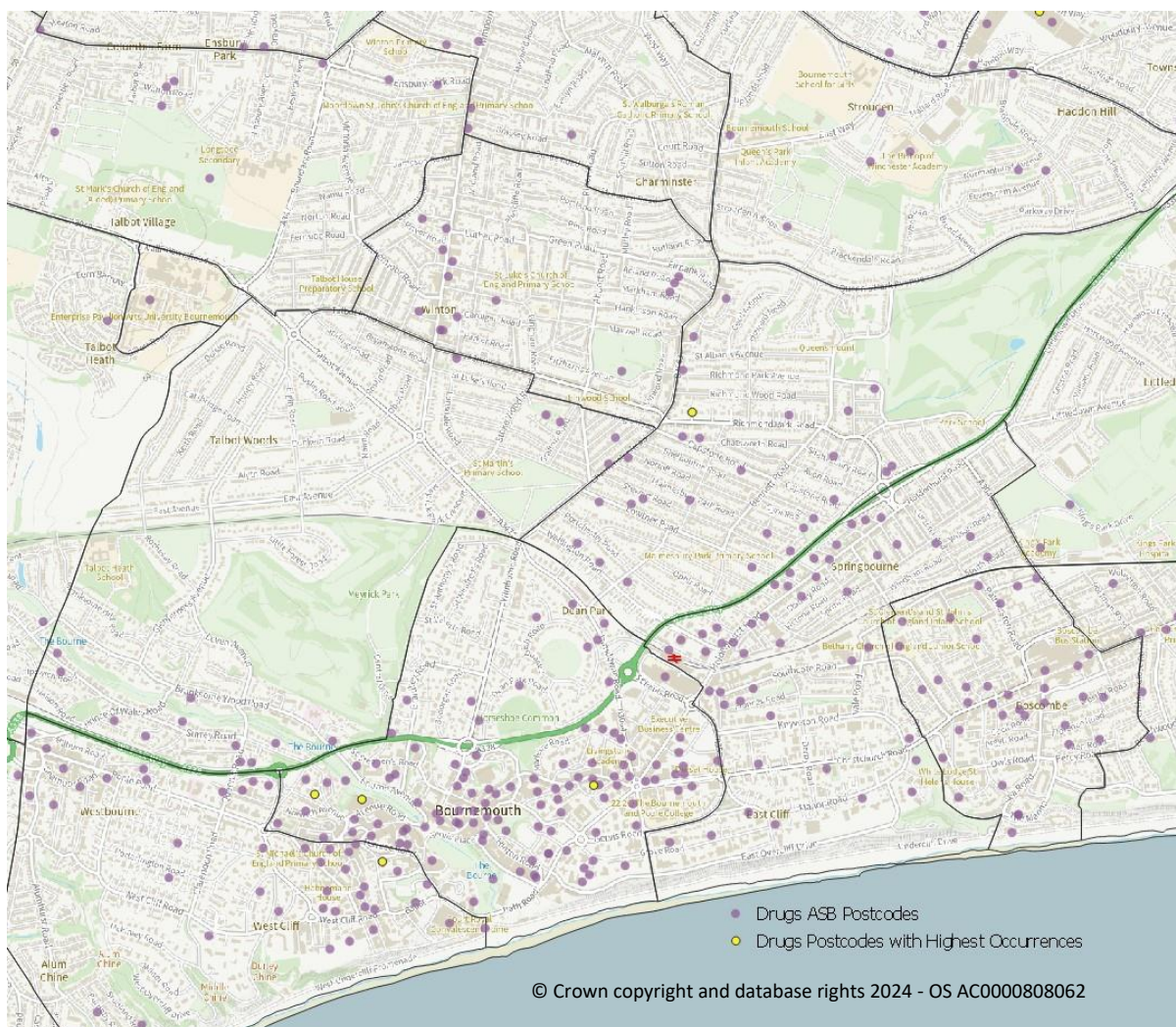


Figure 49: ASB incidents involving drugs.. STORM (1st April 2023 to 31st March 2024)

8.8 ASB INCIDENTS INVOLVING HOMELESSNESS

8.8.1 The following table shows the locations with the largest number of ASB incidents involving homelessness¹⁰⁵ in BCP area.

8.8.2 Central Bmth (CBAA) and W/Bourne&Wcliff (CBBA) are the areas with the highest number of ASB occurrences.

8.8.3 Additionally, it is important to note the increase of ASB occurrences involving homelessness in 2023/24: a 24% increase compared to 2022/23 and 43% increase compared to 2021/22.

¹⁰⁵ Extracted from system STORM data using keywords such as 'homeless,' 'vagrant,' 'beggar,' etc., in Incident Text. Accuracy may vary depending on the precision of the incident text notes

	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24	Trend	2023/24 vs. 2022/23		2023/24 vs. 2021/22	
					Change	% Change	Change	% Change
Central Bmth (CBAA)	139	123	188		65	53%	49	35%
W/Bourne&Wcliff (CBBA)	32	39	62		23	59%	30	94%
Poole Town (CPBA)	34	37	44		7	19%	10	29%
East Cliff&Sbrn (CECB)	28	38	39		1	3%	11	39%
Littledown&Iford (CEBA)	6	11	35		24	218%	29	483%
Townsend (CNDA)	2	21	28		7	33%	26	1300%
BCP Total	401	460	572		112	24%	171	43%

Table 37: BCP ASB incidents involving homelessness.. STORM (1st April 2021 to 31st March 2024)

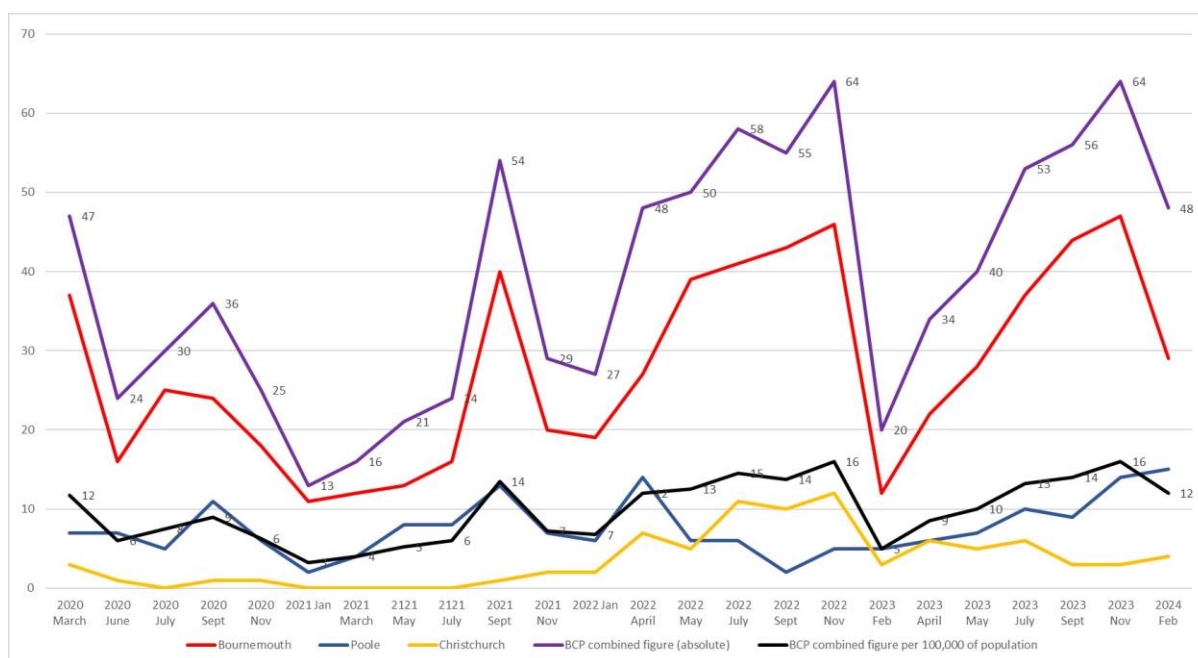


Figure 50: Council's homeless team - physical street count overnight every 3 months counting how many street homeless they find

8.8.4 The graph above illustrates a significant increase in homelessness count in BCP area in February 2024 compared to the previous year.

8.8.5 The following maps show the postcodes where anti-social behaviour involving homelessness occurred, highlighting in a different colour the postcodes where anti-social behaviour involving homelessness was most frequently reported.

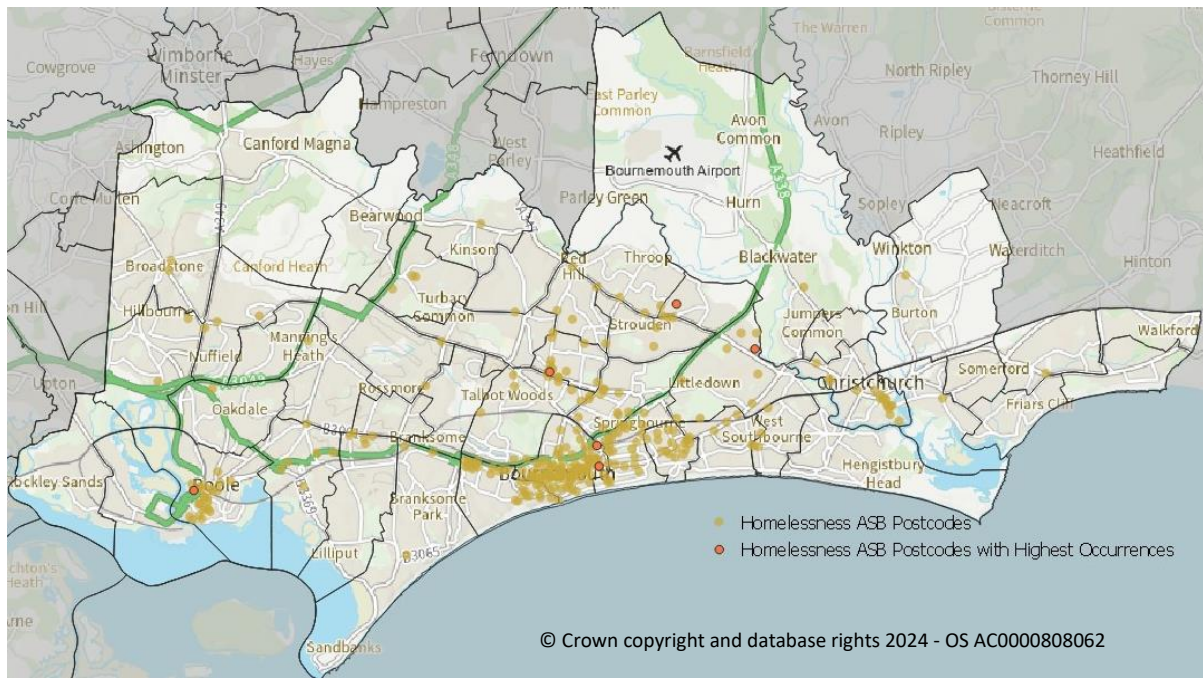


Figure 51: BCP ASB incidents involving homelessness.. STORM (1st April 2023 to 31st March 2024)

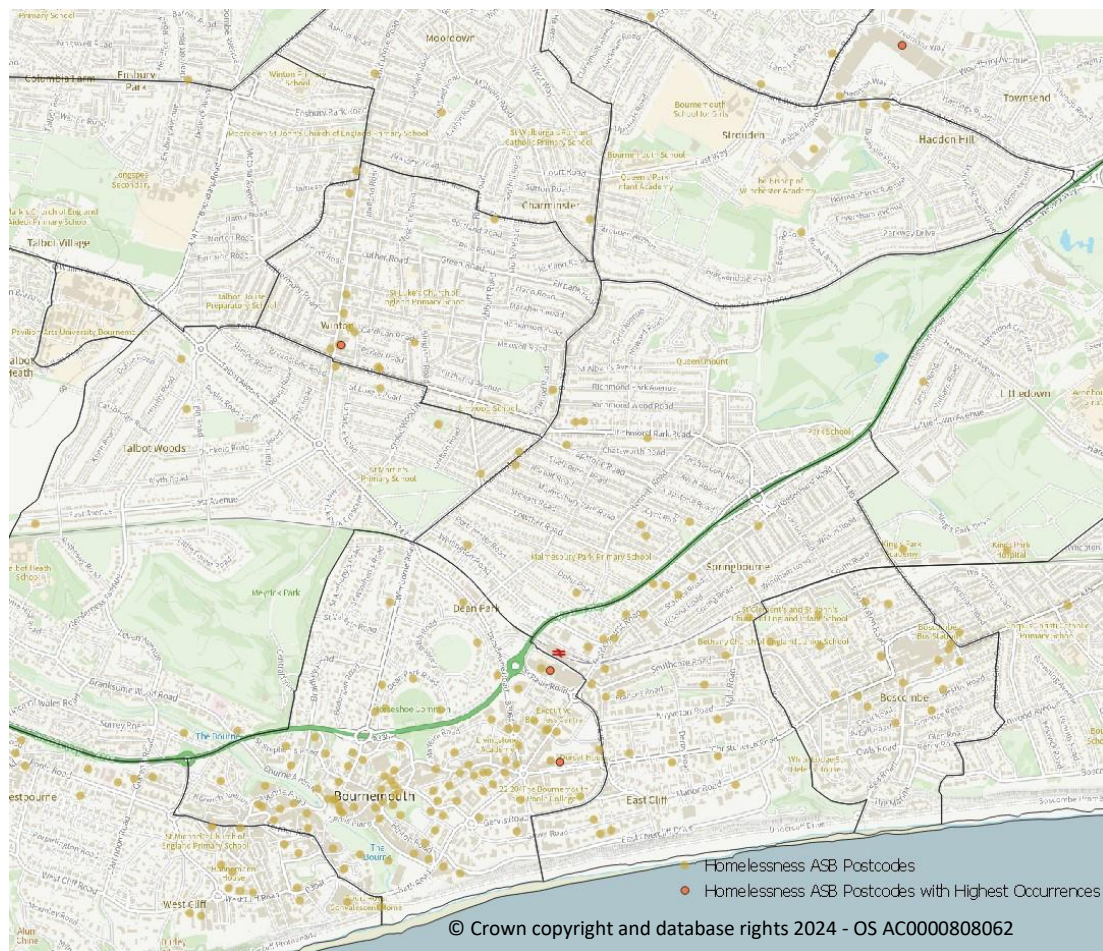


Figure 52: ASB incidents involving homelessness.. STORM (1st April 2023 to 31st March 2024)

8.9 ASB INCIDENTS INVOLVING ALCOHOL

	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24	Trend	2023/24 vs. 2022/23	
					Change	% Change
Central Bmth (CBAA)	138	120	73		-47	-39%
Boscombe West (CECA)	45	53	51		-2	-4%
Poole Town (CPBA)	48	40	42		2	5%
East Cliff&Sbrn (CECB)	40	38	40		2	5%
W/Bourne&Wcliff (CBBA)	37	27	39		12	44%
Winton East (CNGA)	19	20	31		11	55%
BCP Total	618	536	492		-44	-8%

Table 38: BCP ASB incidents involving alcohol.. STORM (1st April 2021 to 31st March 2024)

8.9.1 The preceding table indicates that in 2023/24, Central Bmth (CBAA) has the highest number of ASB incidents involving alcohol¹⁰⁶, with 73 cases, reflecting a 39% decrease compared to the previous year. Following Central Bmth (CBAA), Boscombe West (CECA) has 51 occurrences, and Poole Town (CPBA) has 41 occurrences.

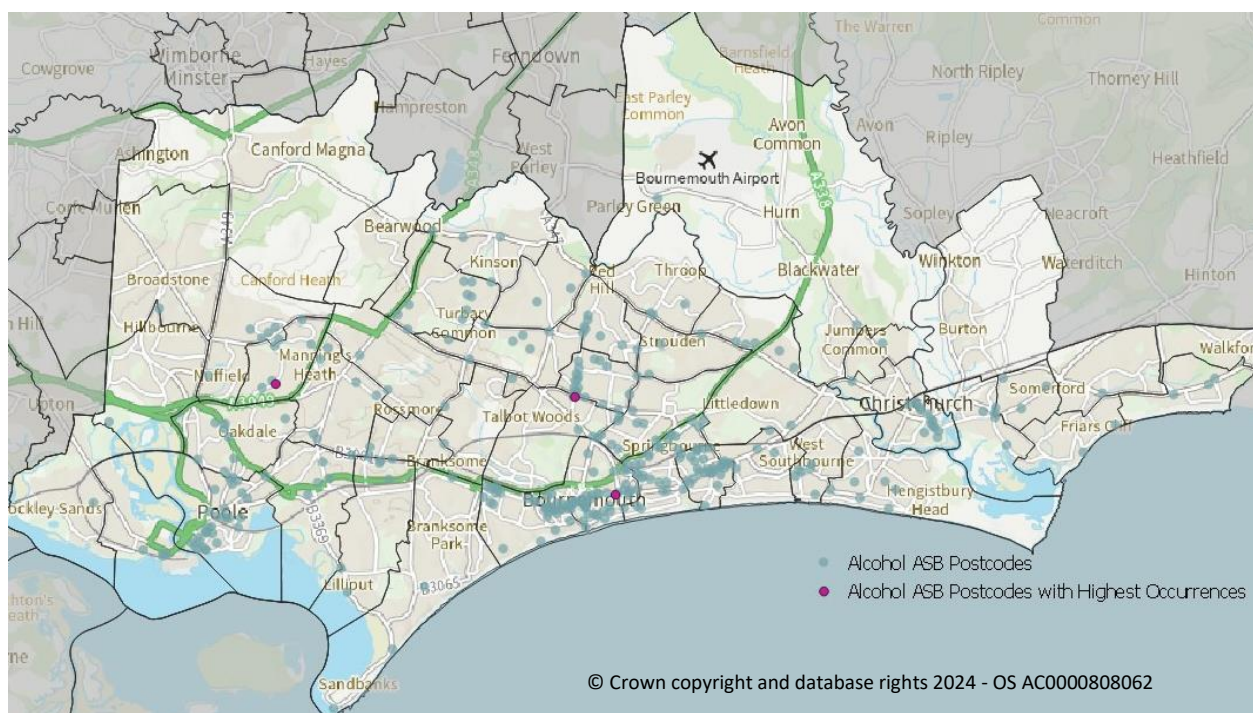


Figure 53: BCP incidents involving alcohol.. STORM (1st April 2023 to 31st March 2024)

¹⁰⁶ Extracted from system STORM data using keywords such as 'drink,' 'alcohol,' 'drunk,' etc., in Incident Text. Accuracy may vary depending on the precision of the incident text notes

8.10 ASB INCIDENTS INVOLVING BUSES






				2023/24 vs. 2022/23		
	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24	Trend	Change	% Change
Poole Town (CPBA)	52	51	32		-19	-37%
Central Bmth (CBAA)	11	23	20		-3	25%
Boscombe West (CECA)	9	16	20		4	-13%
East Cliff&Sbrn (CECB)	2	3	5		2	67%
BCP Total	618	536	492		-44	-8%

Table 39: BCP ASB incidents involving buses.. STORM (1st April 2021 to 31st March 2024)

8.10.1 The table above shows that Poole Town (CPBA) has the highest number of ASB incidents involving buses¹⁰⁷ in 2023/24, with 32 cases, representing a 37% decrease from the previous year. Central Bmth (CBAA) and Boscombe West (CECA), both have 20 cases.

8.10.2 The map below shows the postcodes where anti-social behaviour involving buses occurred, highlighting in a different colour the postcodes where anti-social behaviour involving buses was most frequently reported.

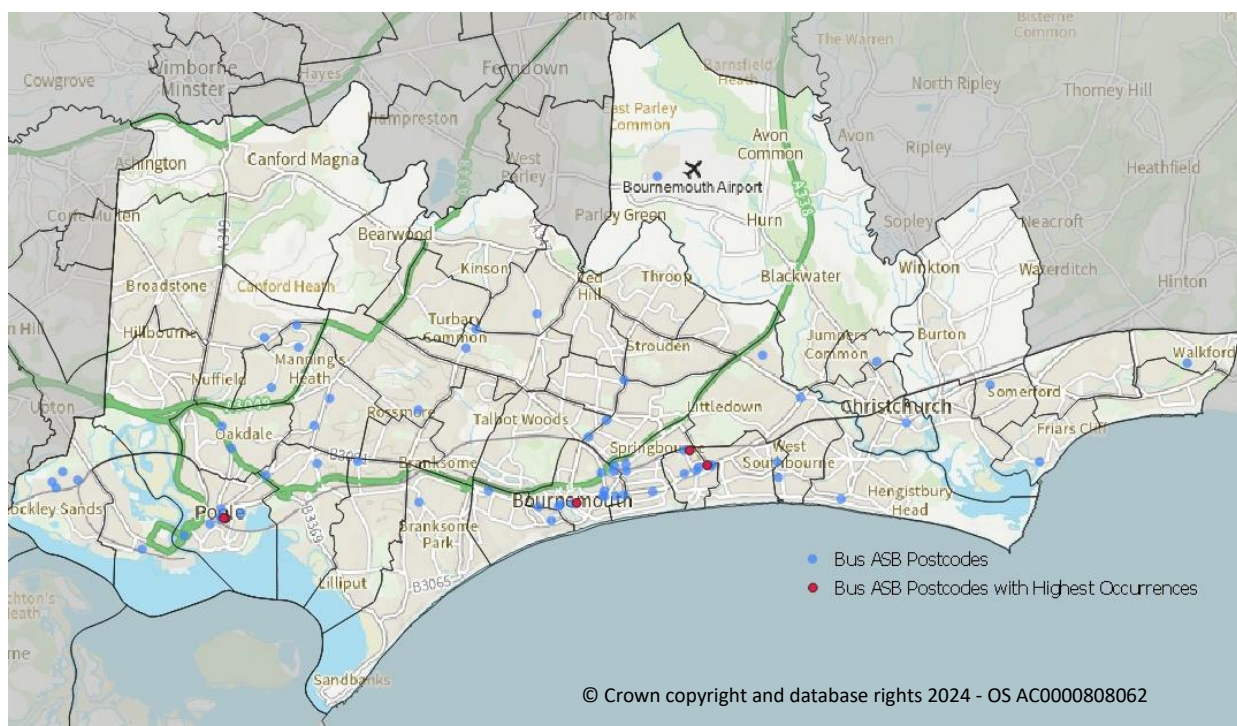


Figure 54: BCP ASB incidents involving buses.. STORM (1st April 2023 to 31st March 2024)

8.11 ASB INCIDENTS INVOLVING WEAPONS

¹⁰⁷ Extracted from system STORM data using keywords such as 'bus,' 'passenger,' 'bus,' etc., in Incident Text. Accuracy may vary depending on the precision of the incident text notes

8.11.1 The following table shows the locations with the largest number of ASB incidents involving weapons¹⁰⁸ in BCP area.

8.11.2 Central Bmth (CBAA), Poole Town (CPBA), and Kinson South (CNJA) are the areas with the highest number of ASB occurrences.

8.11.3 Additionally, it is important to note the 40% increase of ASB occurrences involving weapons in Central Bmth (CBAA) in 2023/24 compared to the previous year.

	2023/24 vs. 2022/23					
	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24	Trend	Change	% Change
Central Bmth (CBAA)	59	35	49	↘	14	40%
Poole Town (CPBA)	13	18	22	↗	4	22%
Kinson South (CNJA)	11	14	21	↗	7	50%
East Cliff&Sbrn (CECB)	12	11	13	↘	2	18%
R/More&Alderney (CRBA)	8	10	9	↘	-1	-10%
W/Bourne&Wcliff (CBBA)	11	7	9	↘	2	29%
BCP Total	242	258	212	↘	-46	-18%

Table 40: BCP ASB incidents involving weapons.. STORM (1st April 2021 to 31st March 2024)

8.11.4 The maps below show the postcodes where anti-social behaviour involving weapons occurred, highlighting in a different colour the postcodes where anti-social behaviour involving weapons was most frequently reported.

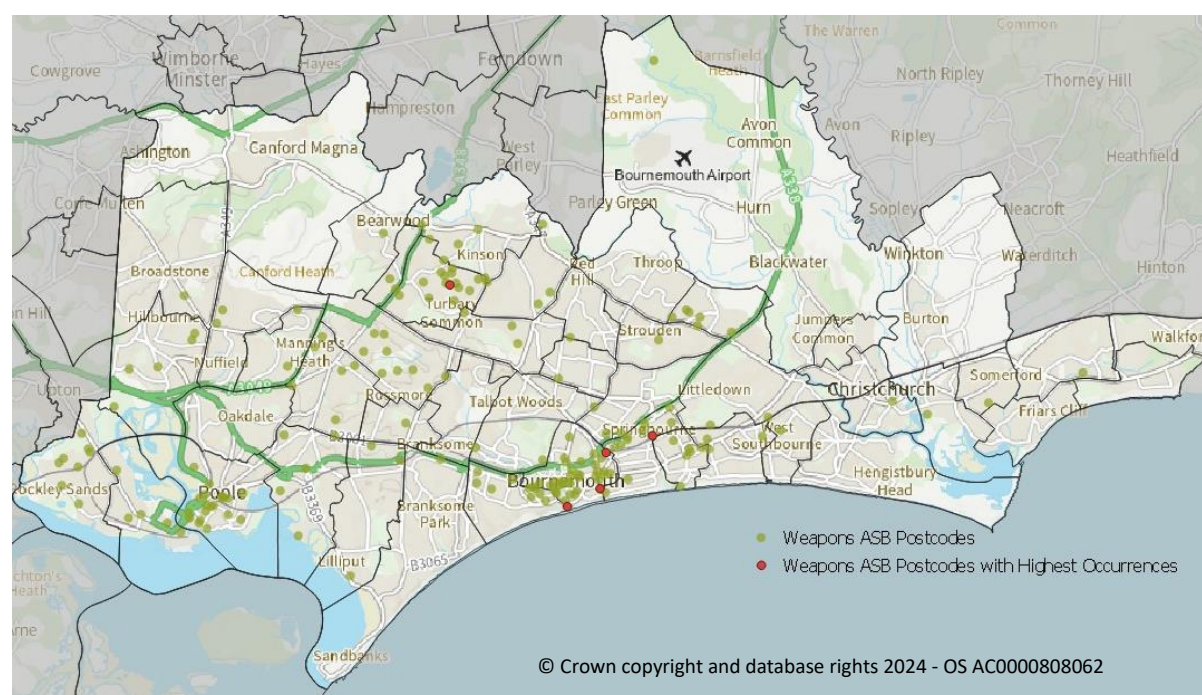


Figure 55: BCP ASB incidents involving weapons.. STORM (1st April 2023 to 31st March 2024)

¹⁰⁸ Extracted from system STORM data using keywords such as 'weapon,' 'gun,' 'assault,' etc., in Incident Text. Accuracy may vary depending on the precision of the incident text notes

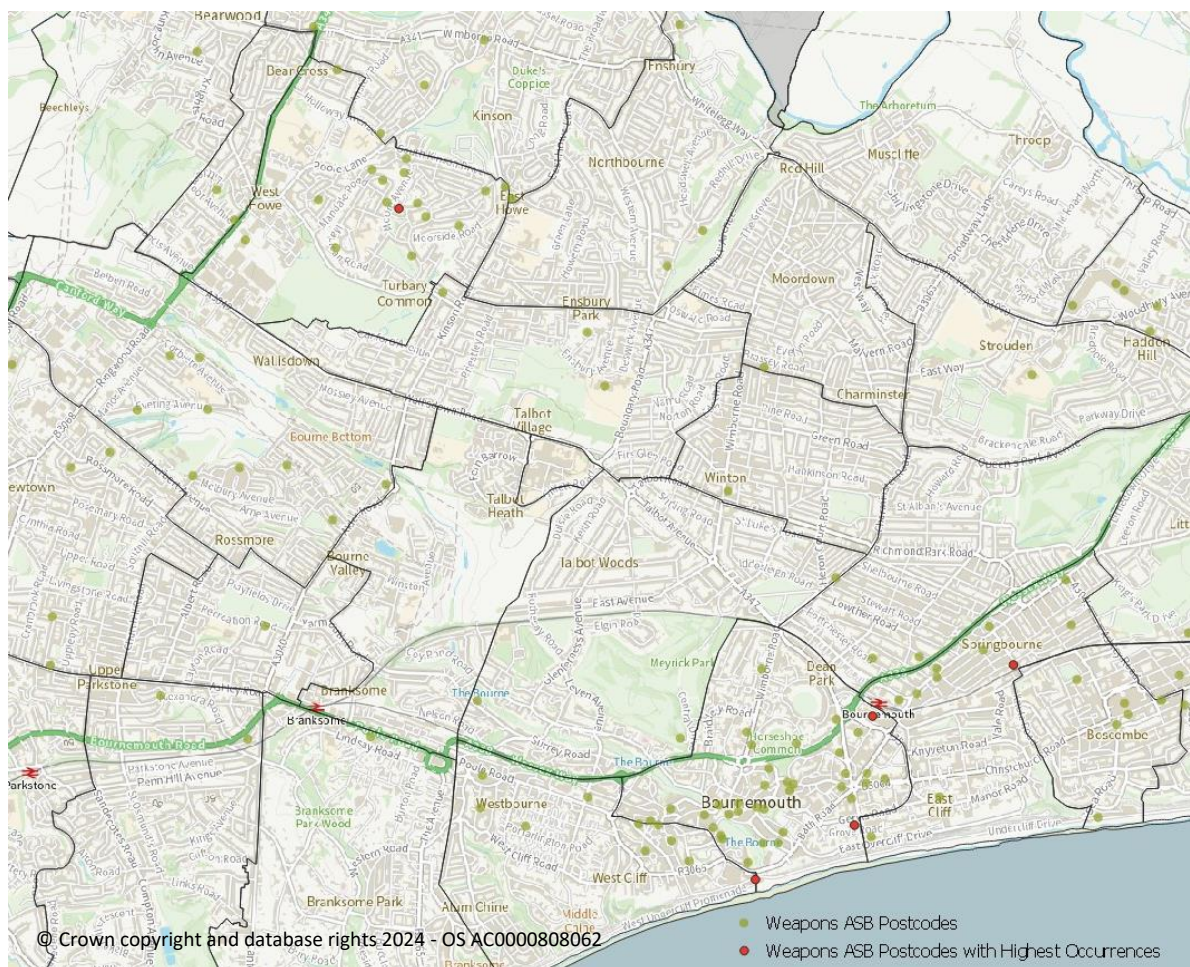


Figure 56: ASB incidents involving weapons. STORM (1st April 2023 to 31st March 2024)

8.12 ASB INCIDENTS INVOLVING VEHICLES

8.12.1 The following chart below illustrates the percentages and numbers of reported ASB incidents involving vehicles in BCP area,

8.12.2 In 2023/24, there was a 3% decrease compared to the previous year. Of the 1256 ASB occurrences involving vehicles in 2023/24, ASB involving scooters¹⁰⁹ accounted for 5%, ASB involving motorcycles¹¹⁰ for 36%, and other vehicles¹¹¹ for 59%.

¹⁰⁹ Extracted from system STORM data using keywords such as 'scooter,' in Incident Text. Accuracy may vary depending on the precision of the incident text notes

¹¹⁰ Extracted from system STORM data using keywords such as 'motor,' 'scrambler,' 'pit bike,' etc., in Incident Text. Accuracy may vary depending on the precision of the incident text notes

¹¹¹ Extracted from system STORM data using keywords such as 'veh,' 'car,' 'road,' etc., in Incident Text. Accuracy may vary depending on the precision of the incident text notes

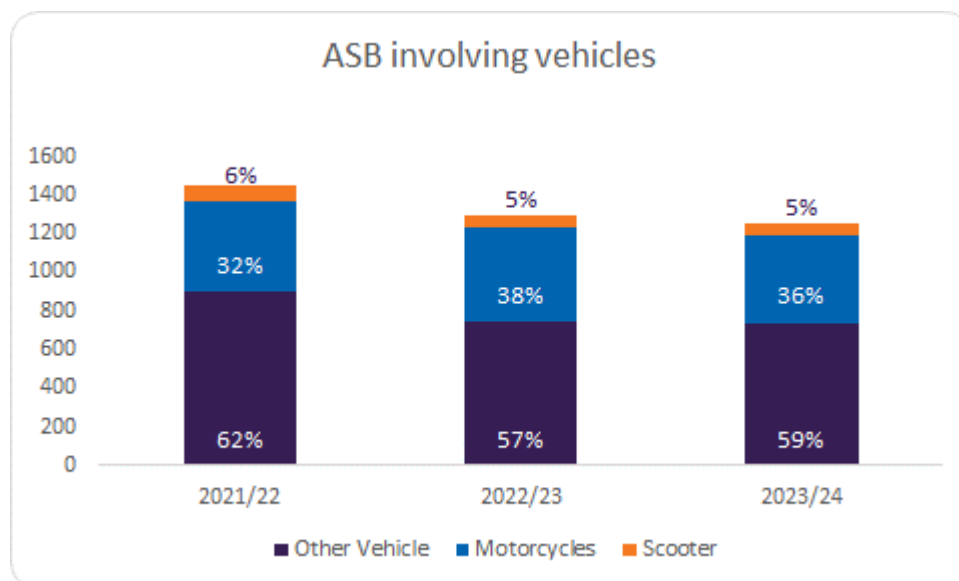


Figure 57: BCP ASB incidents involving vehicles. STORM (1st April 2021 to 31st March 2024)

8.12.3 The following maps illustrate the locations of reported ASB incidents involving vehicles in BCP area in 2023/24.

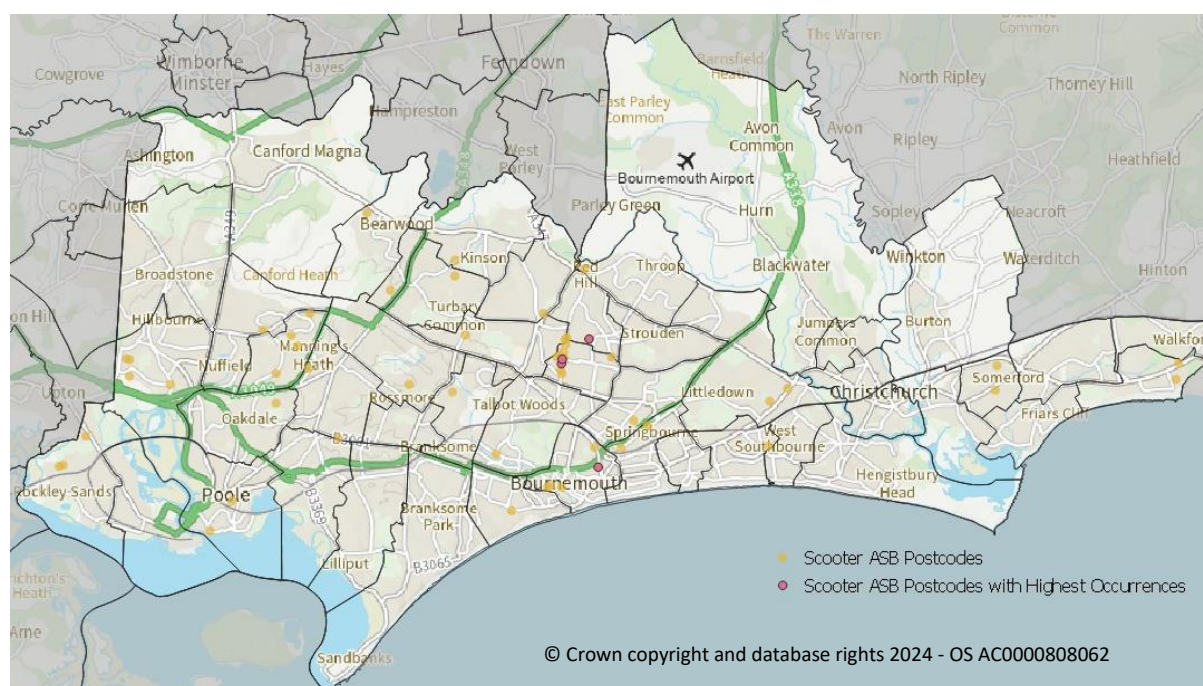


Figure 58: BCP ASB incidents involving scooters. STORM (1st April 2023 to 31st March 2024)

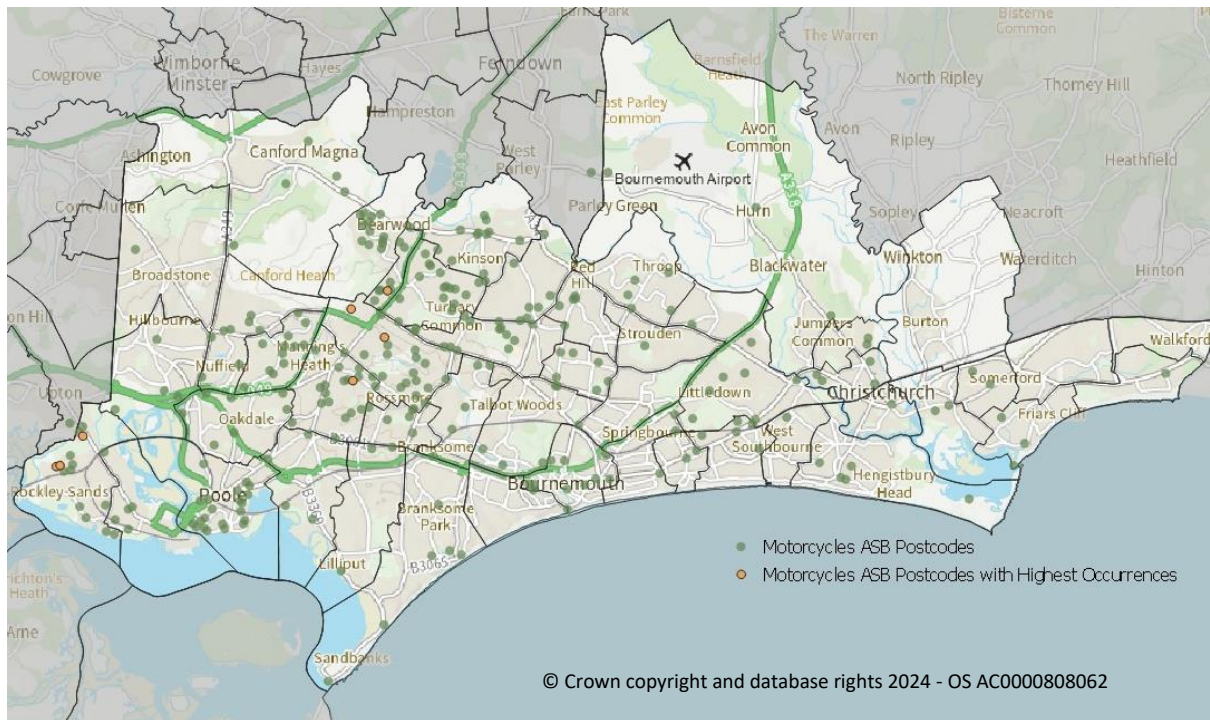


Figure 59: BCP ASB incidents involving motorcycles. STORM (1st April 2023 to 31st March 2024)

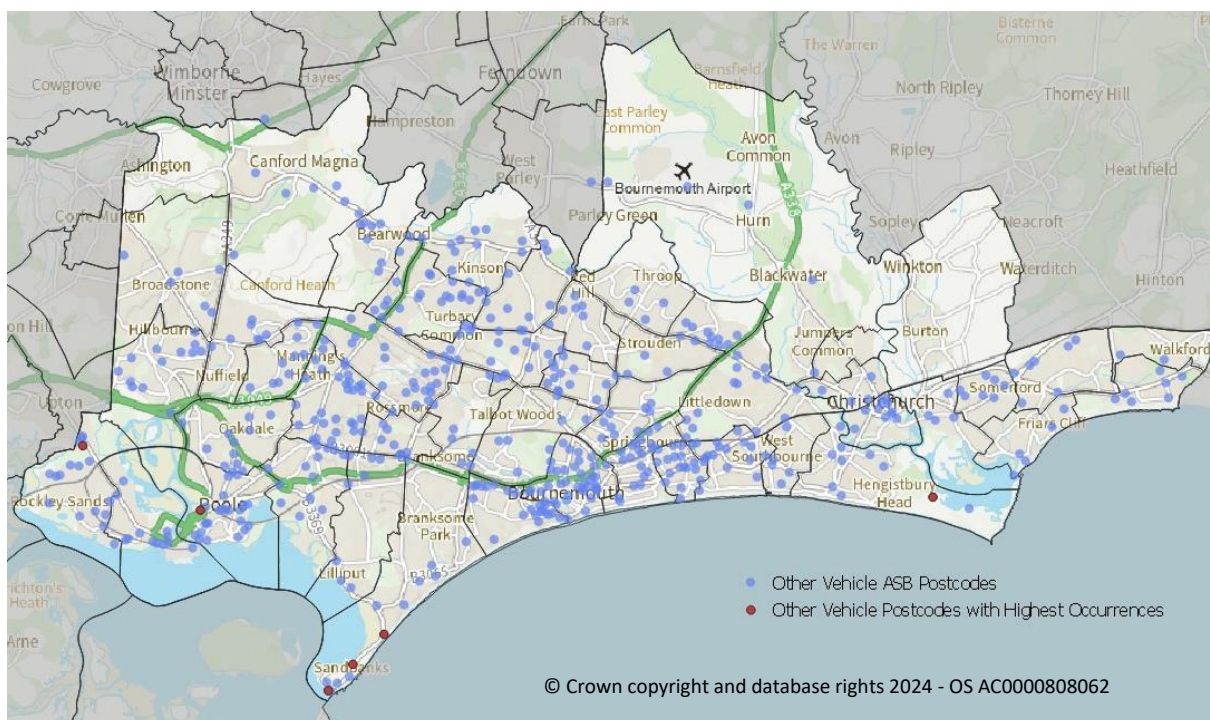


Figure 60: BCP ASB incidents involving 'Other vehicles. STORM (1st April 2023 to 31st March 2024)

8.13 ASB IN BCP TEMPORAL HOTSPOTS

8.13.1 The following section identifies temporal hotspots of anti-social behaviour.

	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun	
00:00 - 01:59	68	58	43	46	64	126	137	542
02:00 - 03:59	42	40	59	48	39	84	114	426
04:00 - 05:59	19	22	27	24	25	46	41	204
06:00 - 07:59	17	19	21	15	19	28	36	155
08:00 - 09:59	85	85	88	100	81	96	100	635
10:00 - 11:59	105	145	132	160	103	123	121	889
12:00 - 13:59	147	165	150	210	167	137	136	1112
14:00 - 15:59	137	194	195	210	193	186	162	1277
16:00 - 17:59	159	163	173	154	190	193	179	1211
18:00 - 19:59	146	188	181	146	172	206	188	1227
20:00 - 21:59	186	146	123	148	195	173	154	1125
22:00 - 23:59	128	121	97	114	175	158	126	919
	1239	1346	1289	1375	1423	1556	1494	9722

Table 41: Distribution of total BCP ASB incidents across days of the weekdays and times. (1st April 2023 to 31st March 2024)

8.13.2 The temporal table above is based on the initial input date and time from the police system. It shows that Saturday and Sunday are the weekdays with the highest number of ASB incidents recorded in BCP area.

8.13.3 Furthermore, the most frequent ASB occurrence time periods are between 14:00 and 16:00, and between 18:00 and 20:00.

8.13.4 Thursday shows the highest number of ASB incidents between 12:00 and 16:00.

8.13.5 It is important to note that these findings represent a general trend in the BCP area based on the initial input date, and further analysis at the individual group level could provide more specific insights.

8.14 SUMMARY

8.14.1 There has been a decrease in ASB incidents of 11% in 2023/24 compared to the previous year.

8.14.2 March 2023/24 has seen an increase in ASB incidents of 10% compared to the previous year.

8.14.3 June had the highest number of reported ASB incidents, followed by August and July.

8.14.4 In contrast, December and January had the lowest number of ASB incidents.

8.14.5 Locations with the largest number of ASB incidents were: Central Bmth (CBAA), Poole Town (CPBA), W/Bourne&Wcliff (CBBA), and East Cliff&Sbrn (CECB).

8.14.6 The locations with the largest numerical ASB incident increases were observed in Central Bmth (CBAA), Talbot&Brank/Wd (CNAA), and East Southbourne (CEAA).

8.14.7 The largest numerical decreases were observed in Poole Town (CPBA), R/More&Alderney (CRBA), and Newtown (CRAC).

8.14.8 Despite a 26% decrease in ASB occurrences involving youth compared to the previous year, 'youth' remains one of the main ASB themes.

8.14.9 There has been a significant increase in ASB incidents involving drugs of 25% compared to the previous year.

8.14.10 There has been a 24% increase in ASB incidents involving homelessness compared to 2022/23 and a 43% increase compared to 2021/22.

8.14.11 ASB incidents involving homelessness mainly occurred in Central Bmth (CBAA) and W/Bourne&Wcliff (CBBA).

8.14.12 Bus related ASB incidents mainly occurred in Poole Town (CPBA) and Central Bmth (CBAA).

8.14.13 ASB incidents involving weapons mainly occurred in Central Bmth (CBAA), which saw a 44% increase compared to the previous year, followed by Poole Town (CPBA) and Kinson South (CNJA).

9 PRIORITY 4 – TACKLE ISSUES RELATING TO VAWG.

9.1.1 As mentioned in section 8.8, Priority 4 is closely linked to Priority 1 (tackle violent crime in all its forms), as the most common form of serious violence in BCP is sexual offences against women and girls. This section takes a step away from exploring BCP specific data on sexual offences and explores other forms of violence that affect primarily women and girls, namely domestic abuse¹¹² and honour-based abuse and forced marriage.

10 Domestic abuse

10.1 DEFINITIONS AND OVERVIEW

10.1.1 The domestic abuse act (2021)¹¹³ defines 'domestic abuse' as:

- Physical abuse,
- Sexual abuse,
- Violent or threatening behaviour,
- Controlling or coercive behaviour,
- Economic abuse,
- Psychological, emotional or other abuse,

when the victim and perpetrators are aged 16 and over and 'personally connected' to each other. This may mean that they are or have:

- Been married to each other,
- Been civil partners of each other,
- Agreed to marry one another (whether or not the agreement has been terminated),
- Entered into a civil partnership agreement (whether or not the agreement has been terminated),
- Been in an intimate personal relationship with each other,
- They each have, or there has been a time when they each have had, a parental relationship in relation to the same child,
- Are relatives.

It does not matter if the behaviour consists of a single incident or is repeated behaviour; both scenarios are considered to be domestic abuse.

¹¹² Although we acknowledge that males are also victims of domestic abuse, data shows victims of domestic abuse are most commonly female, which is why domestic abuse is discussed within Priority 4.

¹¹³ [Domestic Abuse Act 2021 \(legislation.gov.uk\)](https://legislation.gov.uk)

10.1.2 Domestic abuse is a particularly hidden crime; it generally occurs at home, out of sight and is often unreported. On average, it takes three years for victims of domestic abuse to access support services. Further, domestic abuse has a profound impact on victims and survivors, their families and wider society. In terms of the individual, domestic abuse can cause poor physical and mental health, and in some extreme cases may lead to death. There are also severe consequences for children witnessing domestic abuse in the home, with impacts on their physical and mental health, safety and educational attainment. Domestic abuse also contributes significantly to homelessness and increases the risk of poverty for victims and their children. As previously mentioned, there are also considerable costs to wider society; the Home Office estimates that the economic and social costs of domestic abuse are over £66 billion in England and Wales¹¹⁴.

10.2 DOMESTIC ABUSE RISK AND PROTECTIVE FACTORS

10.2.1 The CDC¹¹⁵ identify the following risk factors for the perpetration of domestic abuse:

Individual Factors	Relationship Factors	Community Factors	Societal Factors
Low self-esteem Low education or income. Young age Aggressive or delinquent behaviour as a youth. Heavy alcohol and drug use. Depression and suicide attempts. Anger and hostility. Lack of nonviolent social problem. Antisocial personality traits and conduct problems. Poor behavioural control and impulsiveness. Traits associated with borderline personality disorder. History of being physically abusive Having few friends and being isolated from others. Economic stress (e.g. unemployment).	Relationship conflict including jealousy, possessiveness, tension, divorce, or separations. Dominance and control of the relationship by one partner over the other. Families experiencing economic stress. Unhealthy family relationships and interactions. Association with antisocial and aggressive peers. Parents with less than a high-school education. Witnessing violence between parents as a child. History of experiencing poor parenting as a child. History of experiencing physical discipline as a child.	Communities with high rates of poverty and limited educational and economic opportunities. Communities with high rates of unemployment. Communities with high rates of violence and crime. Communities where neighbours don't know or look out for each other and there is low community involvement among residents. Communities with easy access to drugs and alcohol. Weak community sanctions against IPV (e.g. unwillingness of neighbours to intervene in situations where they witness violence).	Traditional gender norms and gender inequality (e.g. the idea that women should stay at home, not enter the workforce, and be submissive; men should support the family and make the decisions). Cultural norms that support aggression toward others. Societal income inequality. Weak health, educational, economic and social policies or laws.

¹¹⁴ [Buckinghamshire Council Director of Public Health Annual Report 2021 \(buckinghamshire.gov-uk.s3.amazonaws.com\)](https://www.buckinghamshire.gov.uk/s3.amazonaws.com)

¹¹⁵ Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Violence Prevention – Risk and Protective Factors. Available at: [Risk and Protective Factors|Intimate Partner Violence|Violence Prevention|Injury Center|CDC](https://www.cdc.gov/violenceprevention/riskandprotectivefactors/index.html)

Emotional dependence
and insecurity.
Belief in strict gender
roles.
Desire for power and
control in relationships.
Hostility towards women.
Attitudes accepting or
justifying violence and
aggression.
History of physical or
emotional abuse in
childhood.

Table 42 - risk factors for perpetration of domestic abuse. Source: [Risk and Protective Factors/Intimate Partner Violence/Violence Prevention/Injury Center/CDC](#)

10.2.2 The CDC¹¹⁶ also identifies some protective factors against domestic abuse. They highlight the importance of strong support networks and stable positive relationships with others as a key relationship factor. They also note some community factors which are protective factors against domestic abuse. These are important from a Community Safety perspective, as these themes may be beneficial underpinnings of interventions against domestic abuse:

- Neighbourhood collective efficacy, meaning residents feel connected to each other and are involved in the community.
- Coordination of resources and services among community agencies.
- Communities with access to safe, stable housing.
- Communities with access to medical care and mental health services.
- Communities with access to economic and financial help.

10.2.3 Domestic abuse can have a wide range of impacts on victims emotional wellbeing and their general quality of life. Some effects of domestic abuse can include¹¹⁶:

- Depression,
- Fear, anxiety and panic attacks,
- Loneliness or isolation,
- A lack of confidence or self-esteem,
- Feelings of guilt or self-blame,
- Experiencing difficulties at work or in other relationships,
- Trouble sleeping.

¹¹⁶ [Domestic abuse - Victim Support](#)

10.2.4 Research has also identified that domestic abuse is a significant risk factor for suicidal thoughts and behaviours, as well as physical injuries, disabilities, homicides, sexual assaults, complications during pregnancy, substance abuse, economic losses, and issues with employment status¹¹⁷.

10.3 THE IMPORTANCE OF TRAUMA INFORMED CARE

10.3.1 The Home Office¹¹⁸ note that long-term trauma may not always be recognised in victims, who may present as chaotic or difficult to engage. This is particularly important to recognise when working with domestic abuse victims/survivors and emphasizes the importance of trauma-informed care when providing support to avoid retraumatisation. The following chart demonstrates the five principles of trauma informed care:



Figure 61 - The five principles of trauma-informed care¹¹⁹.

10.3.2 Further, professionals should be aware that victims who are parents may be wary of the involvement with children's social care due the fear of children being removed from their care. This can act as a barrier to seeking support. The Home Office note that practitioners should understand that working with victims can take time and trust, and it is important to not focus wholly on disclosures¹¹⁹.

¹¹⁷ McLaughlin, J. Carroll, R.E. and Connor, R.C. (2012) 'Intimate partner abuse and suicidality: A systematic review'. *Clinical Psychology Review*, 32:8. Pp. 667-689. [Intimate partner abuse and suicidality: A systematic review - ScienceDirect](#)

¹¹⁸ [Domestic abuse: draft statutory guidance framework \(accessible version\) - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](#)

¹¹⁹ [What is Trauma-Informed Care? - University at Buffalo School of Social Work - University at Buffalo](#)

10.4 TIMES WHEN DOMESTIC ABUSE IS MORE LIKELY TO OCCUR

Pregnancy

10.4.1 There are certain times in relationships where domestic abuse is more likely to occur. Pregnancy is one of these times; the National Centre for Domestic Violence quote that domestic abuse often begins or escalates during pregnancy, and one in three pregnant women experience domestic abuse¹²⁰. Research finds that outside of pregnancy, the most common injuries to victims are to the head and neck, followed by musculoskeletal injuries¹²¹, whilst during pregnancy women are more likely to be struck on the abdomen or have multiple sites of injury¹²².

10.4.2 Domestic abuse can have a number of adverse outcomes for pregnant women, including a higher risk of antenatal obstetric complications leading to hospital admission¹²³, a higher risk of hypertension, oedema, vaginal bleeding, vomiting and dehydration, urinary tract infections and pre-term delivery¹²⁴. The causal mechanisms behind these trends are unclear; it may be that abdominal trauma causes ruptured membranes leading to increased fear and stress, creating hypertension. Or it may be that women experiencing domestic abuse do not attend for antenatal care meaning that underlying health conditions go untreated¹²⁵. One piece of research found that health disadvantages during pregnancy for women experiencing domestic abuse is apparent in all socioeconomic groups, not only the most disadvantaged which may be expected¹²⁶.

Post Separation Abuse

10.4.3 Another key time period where victims are more at risk of domestic abuse is around the termination of a relationship. Separation from an abusive partner is thought to be a solution to end violence, however, research shows that abuse often escalates following separation^{127,128,129}. Separation is a complex process, and post separation abuse can happen following physical and/or legal separation¹³⁰.

¹²⁰ [Domestic Abuse Statistics UK • NCDV](#)

¹²¹ Bhandari M. Musculoskeletal manifestations of physical abuse after intimate partner violence. *J Trauma*. 2006;61:1473–9.

¹²² Hillard PA. Physical abuse in pregnancy. *Obstet Gynecol*. 1985;66:185–90.

¹²³ Kaye DK, Mirembe FM, Bantebya G, Johansson A, Ekstrom AM. Domestic violence during pregnancy and risk of low birth weight and maternal complications: a prospective cohort study at Mulago Hospital, Uganda. *Trop Med Int Health*. 2006;11:1576–84.

¹²⁴ Silverman JG, Decker MR, Reed E, Raj A. Intimate partner violence victimization prior to and during pregnancy among women residing in 26 US states: associations with maternal and neonatal health. *Am J Obstet Gynecol*. 2006;195:140–8.

¹²⁵ Cook, J (2008). 'Acknowledging a persistent truth: domestic violence during pregnancy.' *Journal of the Royal Society of Medicine*. [Acknowledging a persistent truth: domestic violence in pregnancy - PMC \(nih.gov\)](#)

¹²⁶ Reproductive health and domestic violence: are the poorest women uniquely disadvantaged? *Demography*. 2006;43:293–307.

¹²⁷ Campbell, J. C., Glass, N., Sharps, P. W., Laughon, K., & Bloom, T. (2007). Intimate partner homicide: Review and implications of research and policy. *Trauma, Violence & Abuse*, 8(3), 246–260

¹²⁸ Stark, E., & Hester, M. (2019). Coercive control: Update and review. *Violence Against Women*, 25(1), 81–104.

¹²⁹ Zeoli, A. M., Rivera, E. A., Sullivan, C. M., & Kubiak, S. (2013). Post-separation abuse of women and their children: Boundary-setting and family court utilization among victimized mothers. *Journal of Family Violence*, 28(6), 547–560.

¹³⁰ Spearman, K., Hardesty, J., Campbell, J. (2021). 'Post Separation abuse: A concept analysis.' *Journal of Advanced Nursing*, 79:4. Pp.1225-1246.

10.4.4 Some victims may not recognise domestic abuse when there has been a long history of controlling behaviours by the perpetrator but no physical violence. For some victims, leaving the relationship may be the first time they experience violence from a former partner. Alternatively, where violence has occurred during the relationship, it is common for perpetrators to continue or escalate violence after separation in an attempt to gain or reassert control over the victim, or to punish the victim for leaving the relationship¹³¹.

10.4.5 The Queensland Domestic and Family Violence Review and Advisory Board notes a strong correlation between separation and homicide, with 50.6% of domestic homicide victims between 1st July 2016 and 30th June 2022 being known to have separated (40.5%), or intended to separate (10.1%) from the perpetrator¹³². The Femicide Census found that in 2020, 37% (21 actual)¹³³ of those killed by a current or former partner were reported to have separated or taken steps to separate from the men who killed them. Information on this topic was unknown for a further 12 cases¹³¹. Although all genders experience domestic abuse, abuse towards women by their male partners following separation is enabled by patriarchal norms and is more lethal. Additionally, it should be noted that domestic abuse is more prevalent amongst couples with children. Mothers may be at particular risk of post-separation abuse because they must negotiate co-parenting arrangements and family court.

10.4.6 Spearman *et al* (2021)¹³¹ note that divorce and custody literature that guides family court decision making processes often frame conflict as mutual, however, this fails to account for the power and control dynamics of abuse. Domestic abuse, child maltreatment and children's exposure to domestic abuse are often minimized, despite this having long lasting consequences on survivors.

10.4.7 For families with children in particular, post-separation abuse may take a variety of different forms. Legal abuse may include attempts and threats to take children away through custody proceedings, whilst economic abuse may involve withholding access to resources to support children. Threats and endangerment to children may include threats to harm or kidnap children, and isolating and discrediting includes portraying the victim as an unfit parent, and harassment and stalking may be another form of post-separation abuse designed to intimidate and create fear within the victim¹³¹.

10.4.8 The Domestic Abuse Interventions Program¹³⁴ developed the post-separation wheel¹³⁵ which identifies the different types of behaviour that are commonly used by abusers, and then outlines specific types of behaviour which may occur:

¹³¹ [Factors affecting risk - National Domestic and Family Violence Bench Book \(aija.org.au\)](#)

¹³² Domestic and Family Violence Death Review and advisory Board – Collaborative responses to risk, safety and dangerousness. Annual report 2021-22 [Domestic and Family Violence Death Review and Advisory Board Annual Report 2021-22 \(courts.qld.gov.au\)](#)

¹³³ It should be noted, that during 2020 evidence of separation was found in fewer cases, and this was largely affected by the Covid Pandemic where lockdown and restrictions on movement made it harder for women to leave abusive men.

¹³⁴ [Home Page - Domestic Abuse Intervention Programs \(theduluthmodel.org\)](#)

¹³⁵ Post-Separation Power and Control Wheel. Available at: [PowerandControl.pdf \(theduluthmodel.org\)](#)

Post-Separation Power and Control Wheel

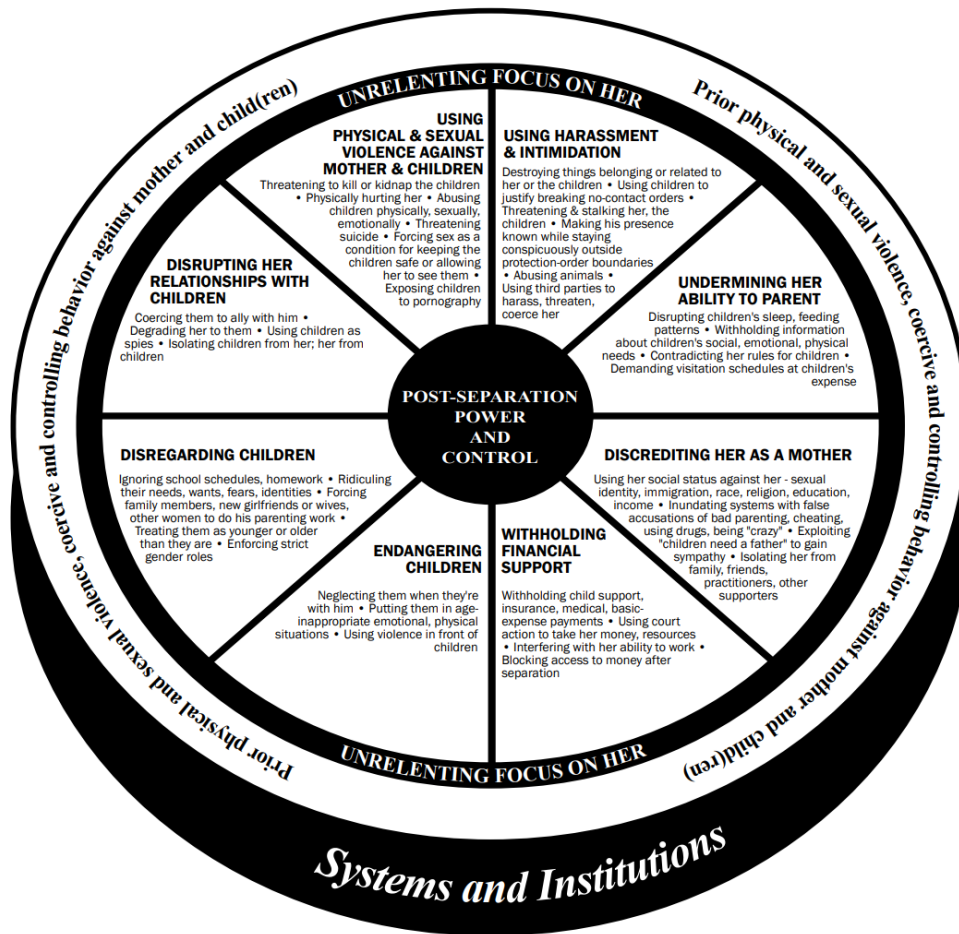


Figure 62 - Post-Separation Power and Control Wheel

10.4.9 It is important to have an awareness of post-separation abuse and the impact this can have on victims. Spearman *et al* (2021) note that understanding specific techniques of post-separation abuse is crucial to designing interventions that acknowledge experiences in negotiating violence, separation and divorce, and the structural contexts that are barriers to safety and health.

10.5 BARRIERS TO SEEKING SUPPORT

10.5.1 The Domestic Abuse statutory guidance framework¹¹⁹ notes that specialist domestic abuse organisations should offer a range of training for professionals working in multi-agency safeguarding contexts, and notes that this training should take in to account the intersecting forms of oppression and abuse that some victims face and how this can prevent them from accessing services. The college of policing note that certain victims may have specific needs or issues relating to their age, gender sexual orientation, disability, cultural background, immigration status or profession¹³⁶, which can act as a barrier to seeking support.

Minority Ethnic Groups

10.5.2 As mentioned previously, domestic abuse is often underreported. However, data shows that underreporting is more acute within minority communities¹³⁷. Additionally, SafeLives (2015)¹³⁸ found that victims from ethnic minority groups typically suffer abuse for 1.5 times longer before getting help than those who identify as White, British or Irish.

10.5.3 Individuals from different cultural backgrounds and ethnic minorities may be more vulnerable to domestic abuse and face specific barriers when trying to leave an abusive partner. For example, they may not speak strong English, and may not know where to turn for help. Additionally, they may be reliant on their partner or partner's family for financial support or may be isolated from people outside their immediate family or community. Those with insecure immigration status may fear contact with authorities, or their right to remain in the country may depend on their relationship with the abuser continuing. Certain forms of abuse may be accepted and considered normal by some cultural backgrounds, which will hinder the victim's ability to seek help. Further, the police in the victim's country of origin may not enforce laws against domestic abuse effectively, leading to a distrust of the police¹³⁹. These factors may serve to isolate individuals from different cultural backgrounds, may contribute to underreporting, and are likely to act as a barrier to seeking support to leave an abusive relationship.

10.5.4 The Office for National Statistics (2019) data shows that in the year 2018-2019, the rates of domestic abuse amongst BAME communities were higher than their white counterparts, and rates of domestic abuse were highest amongst those of mixed ethnicity¹⁴⁰.

10.5.5 The vulnerabilities faced by individuals from ethnic minority backgrounds, paired with underreporting present particular challenges for professionals working with victims of domestic abuse. Research notes that professionals should be aware that some victims from the BAME community might not always be ready to disclose abuse, and it may therefore take more trust-building, patience and a unique set of skills in order to get a victim to open up about the abuse. Adequate training of frontline professionals is of great importance when it comes to supporting individuals from ethnic minority backgrounds.

¹³⁶ [Understanding risk and vulnerability in the context of domestic abuse | College of Policing](#)

¹³⁷ [Domestic Abuse in Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic Groups | Interventions Alliance](#)

¹³⁸ [Supporting B&ME victims – what the data shows | Safelives](#)

¹³⁹ [Understanding risk and vulnerability in the context of domestic abuse | College of Policing](#)

¹⁴⁰ [Domestic Abuse in Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic Groups | Interventions Alliance](#)

Disability

10.5.6 Those with disabilities are also more likely to experience domestic abuse. Disabled women are significantly more likely to experience domestic abuse than disabled men and experience more frequent and more severe domestic abuse than disabled men¹⁴¹.

10.5.7 Disabled men are more likely to experience higher rates of domestic abuse than non-disabled men¹⁴².

10.5.8 The Equality Act (2010)¹⁴³ defines disability as a physical or mental health impairment that has a 'substantial' and 'long-term' negative effect on a person's ability to do normal daily activities, with 'substantial' meaning more than minor or trivial, and 'long-term' meaning 12 months or more.

10.5.9 Disabled people are not only more likely to experience domestic abuse, they are also more likely to experience abuse that is more severe, more frequent, lasting over longer periods, and experience abuse in a wider context by a greater number of significant others. This may include intimate partners, family members, personal care assistants and health care professionals¹⁴⁴.

10.5.10 The severity of the disability increases the risk of abuse. Public Health England note that there are various international studies which show that disabilities which have a greater effect on daily life require more support, and this increases the risk of sexual assault, physical assault and domestic abuse¹⁴⁵.

10.5.11 Disability can create social isolation in two ways, firstly due to inaccessibility of the environment and secondly because of stigma and discrimination in social situations. Disabled people are more likely to be isolated and have smaller support networks, and social isolating can be a barrier to seeking help. Disabled people may be less likely to have anybody who might recognise the abuse or who they could turn to for support¹⁴⁵, meaning it is increasingly important that professionals working with disabled people receive comprehensive training allowing them to spot signs of abuse.

10.5.12 It should also be recognised that a disabled person may feel that she or he cannot leave a perpetrator due to the reliance on them for care, housing, or financial security, representing another barrier to seeking help.

10.5.13 Public Health England¹⁴⁵ note that domestic abuse services are often inaccessible. The lack of domestic abuse services for disabled women is particularly concerning due to their greater need for these services. Effective domestic abuse services for disabled people should be accessible and barrier-free. This includes providing:

¹⁴¹ Cohen, M., Forte, T., Du Mont, J., Hyman, I., Romans, S. (2006). Adding insult to injury: intimate partner violence among women and men reporting activity limitations. *Annals of Epidemiology*, Vol. 16, pp. 644-651. Available at: [Adding Insult to Injury: Intimate Partner Violence Among Women and Men Reporting Activity Limitations - ScienceDirect](#)

¹⁴² Crime in England and Wales 2009/2010: Findings from the British Crime Survey and police recorded crime. London : Home Office, 2010. Available at: [Crime in England and Wales 2009/10 Findings from the British Crime Survey and police recorded crime \(publishing.service.gov.uk\)](#)

¹⁴³ [Definition of disability under the Equality Act 2010 - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](#)

¹⁴⁴ Public Health England (2015). 'Disability and domestic abuse – risks, impacts and response'. [Microsoft Word - Disability and domestic abuse topic overview FINAL.docx \(publishing.service.gov.uk\)](#)

- Accessible transportation,
- Personal care assistants,
- Lifts, ramps, bathroom and kitchen adaptations, smooth floor surfaces, continuous handrails, colour-contrasted environments,
- Communication assistance, sign language interpretations, email and text phones for helplines, flashing light alarms, vibrating pillow alarms,
- Information available in various formats including video, audio and British sign language clips and easy-to-read large print information.

10.5.14 Providing personal care assistants is of vital importance as the fear of loss of independence can create barriers for seeking help. Disabled women leaving their geographic area for a refuge may lose local care funding, and therefore their personal assistance, highlighting the need for care packages to be portable between different environments¹⁴⁵.

10.5.15 Further work should be done to understand the provisions for disabled victims of domestic abuse in BCP and how accessible domestic abuse services are.

LGBTQ+ identities

10.5.16 LGBTQ+ individuals may also face additional barriers when attempting to receive support for domestic abuse. Although research on LGBTQ+ individuals is growing, there is a notable lack of reliable statistical data on the experiences of LGBTQ+ communities and domestic abuse. Evidence suggests that 60-80% of LGBTQ+ victims/survivors have never reported incidents to the police or attempted to seek help or advice from support services.¹⁴⁵ A consequence of this is that the experiences of LGBTQ+ individuals are not recognised by service providers and policy makers due to lack of knowledge and understanding of the issue. Further, lack of information about abusers restricts the ability of developing appropriate prevention and response programmes.

10.5.17 The few existing studies on the prevalence of domestic abuse in same sex relationships suggests that LGBTQ+ individuals may experience domestic abuse and sexual violence at levels similar to or possibly even higher than heterosexual women and men, making the lack of reliable data particularly concerning. The National Intimate Partner and Sexual Violence Survey in the United States found that bisexual women reported significantly higher lifetime prevalence of rape, physical violence, and or/stalking by an intimate partner when compared to both lesbian and heterosexual women¹⁴⁶. UK-based studies point to similar findings; the Stonewall national surveys from 2008 and 2011 show that one in four lesbian and bi women have experienced domestic abuse whilst in a relationship, and almost half (49%) of all gay and bi men have experienced at least one incident of domestic abuse from a family member or partner since the age of 16¹⁴⁷.

¹⁴⁵ Magic, J., and Kelley, P. 'LGBT+ People's Experiences of Domestic Abuse: a report on Galop's domestic abuse advocacy service.' Available at: [Galop_domestic_abuse.indd](#)

¹⁴⁷ Guasp, A. (2011). Gay and Bisexual Men's Health Survey. London: Stonewall UK and Hunt, R. & Fish, J. (2008). Prescription for change: Lesbian and bisexual women's health check 2008. London: Stonewall UK..

10.5.18 Further, transgender people are more at risk of domestic abuse; a Scottish study found that 80% of trans people had experienced domestic abuse from a partner or ex-partner¹⁴⁸, whilst a recent Stonewall study (2018) found that 28% of British trans people in a relationship experienced domestic abuse from a partner in the previous year¹⁴⁹.

10.5.19 LGBTQ+ individuals can find it challenging to access competent programmes and resources due to homophobia and heterosexism, which can be a considerable barrier to seeking support. Traditional domestic abuse safety planning responses often involve removing survivors from their home shared with an abusive partner into a refuge. However, this can be less effective for LGBTQ+ victims/survivors, as this often means removing them from their community which can be a strong pillar of social support. Complete separation from the perpetrator of the abuse may be harder to achieve with LGBTQ+ domestic abuse cases if both victim and perpetrator attend the same community events and social spaces¹⁵⁰. Another challenge victims may face is that service providers may be more likely to believe that same-sex domestic abuse is less serious than opposite sex domestic abuse, and is less likely to get worse over time¹⁵¹. Not being taken seriously is likely to have a severe impact on victim's likelihood of seeking help in the future, acting as a barrier to seeking help and support.

10.5.20 The previous points highlight the importance of specialised domestic abuse services for LGBTQ+ victims/survivors and the need for intensive training of frontline staff, which seeks to address any hidden biases or preconceptions of professionals. It is recommended that further work is done to assess the quality and capability of domestic abuse services existing in BCP when seeking to support LGBTQ+ victims of domestic abuse.

Recommendation

10.5.21 One of the strategic priorities from the Domestic Abuse Commissioner's strategic plan (2022-2025)¹⁵² is 'improving support for the most marginalised victims and survivors who face the greatest barriers'. It is recommended that this priority is adopted by BCP, and further work be completed to develop a deeper understanding of the barriers those from marginalised communities face in seeking support for domestic abuse within the local area.

Economic abuse

10.5.22 Economic abuse includes behaviours that prevent a person's ability to acquire, use, and maintain economic resources. Economic abuse is an aspect of 'coercive control' which is described as a pattern of controlling, threatening and degrading behaviour that restricts a victims freedom. It includes¹⁵³:

¹⁴⁸ Roch, A., Ritchie, G. & Morton, J. (2010). Out of sight, out of mind? Transgender People's Experiences of Domestic Abuse. Glasgow/Edinburgh: LGBT Youth Scotland, Equality Network/Scottish Transgender Alliance

¹⁴⁹ Bachman, C. & Gooch, B. (2018). LGBT in Britain: Trans Report. London: Stonewall UK.

¹⁵⁰ Albright, M., Alcantara-Thompson, D. (2011). 'Contextualising Domestic Violence from a LGBTQ Perspective'. [*GB0260301-LAYOUT-MQ1.QXD \(squarespace.com\)](#)

¹⁵¹ Brown, M. J., & Groscup, J. (2009). Perceptions of same-sex domestic violence among crisis center staff. *Journal of Family Violence*, 24(2), 87–93. [Perceptions of same-sex domestic violence among crisis center staff. \(apa.org\)](#)

¹⁵² [Strategic plan: September 2022 to September 2025 \(accessible\) - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](#)

¹⁵³ [Financial Abuse - Bedfordshire Domestic Abuse Partnership \(bedsdv.org.uk\)](#)

Ability to acquire

- Preventing a victim from attending school, college or university.
- Forbidding paid employment or limited work.
- Taking the victim's pay.
- Refusing to allow the victim to claim benefits.
- Preventing access to a bank account.

Ability to use

- Controlling how money is spent providing a limited allowance, telling the victim what should be bought, making victim keep a spending diary and having to justify every purchase and provide receipts.
- Controlling use of property, such as car or phone.
- Insisting that all economic assets are in the name of the abuser.

Ability to maintain

- Stealing property and/or money.
- Destroying property.
- Refusing to contribute to household costs.
- Making the victim have all economic liabilities in their name.
- Creating debt in the victim's name through fraud or coercion.

10.5.23 Economic abuse undermines a victim's ability to leave, and often makes a victim more likely to return to an abusive relationship. It can leave victims with little or no money for basic essentials such as food or clothing¹⁵⁴. Financial abuse can mean a victim is forced to choose being staying in an abusive relationship, or face poverty and potentially homelessness¹⁵⁴.

10.6 DOMESTIC ABUSE AND SUICIDE

10.6.1 The link between domestic abuse and suicide has been described as a 'known unknown', however, campaigners suggest that the number of deaths through suicide in domestic abuse contexts may substantially exceed those directly caused at the hands of perpetrators¹⁵⁵.

10.6.2 Research from low and middle income countries found that the most consistent risk factors for suicide attempts after adjusting for probable common mental health disorders were intimate partner violence, non-partner physical violence, childhood sexual abuse, and having a mother who had experienced intimate partner violence, amongst others¹⁵⁶.

¹⁵⁴ [Quick Guide: Economic and Financial Abuse \(ncadv.org\)](https://www.ncadv.org/quick-guide-economic-financial-abuse)

¹⁵⁵ Dangar, S., Munro, V., and Young Andrade, L. (2023). *Learning legacies: an analysis of domestic homicide reviews in cases of domestic abuse suicide*. Coventry, UK: Advocacy After Fatal Domestic Abuse (AAFDA); University of Warwick. Available at: [WRAP-learning-legacies-analysis-domestic-homicide-reviews-cases-domestic-abuse-suicide-2023.pdf \(warwick.ac.uk\)](https://www.warwick.ac.uk/wrap-learning-legacies-analysis-domestic-homicide-reviews-cases-domestic-abuse-suicide-2023.pdf)

¹⁵⁶ Devries, K., Watts, C., Yoshihama, M. *et al.* (2011) 'Violence against women is strongly associated with suicide attempts: evidence from the WHO multi-country study on women's health and domestic violence against women'. *Social Science and Medicine*. 73(1). Pp. 79-86.

10.6.3 More recent research in this subject area is limited, however, the knowledge base on this topic is currently expanding and evolving.

10.6.4 Bates et al found that there were 39 victim suicides in England and Wales in the year to March 2021, however, they note that this is likely to be an under-estimation¹⁵⁷.

10.6.5 Work by the Kent and Medway Suicide Prevention Team¹⁵⁸ found that approximately 30% of all suspected suicides in Kent and Medway between January 2019 and January 2022 were impacted by domestic abuse (either as a victim, perpetrator, or as a young person experiencing the abuse).

10.6.6 As a result of this work, Kent and Medway¹⁵⁹ provide a number of implications for practice, including:

- Extending safe routine and enquiry (where professionals ask questions about relationships and domestic abuse at every contact and record that they have done so) to include asking questions about an individual's mental health, self-harm and suicide ideation.
- Staff should pay particular attention to the suicide risk in cases where co-occurring conditions, such as domestic abuse, mental ill-health, and substance misuse are present.
- Professional curiosity should be utilised at high risk points, for example, when a victim attempts to end a relationship, other major events during a relationship (e.g. pregnancy, house moves), and around the time of contact with the criminal justice system.
- Support is needed for victims of domestic abuse after the direct abuse has stopped. Kent and Medway note that trauma and emotional suffering does not necessarily stop when the abuse does, meaning staff should recognise the need to support survivors of domestic abuse in the months and years after the abuse.
- Ensure that professionals working in domestic abuse undertake suicide prevention training.
- Professionals should pay attention to the suicide risk for men victimised by domestic abuse, as male victims experience elevated risk. Middle aged men have the highest suicide risk of all population groups.
- The impact of language should be considered; the words 'victim' and 'perpetrator' evoke emotions within us that affect the amount of empathy we feel towards a certain individual. Frontline practitioners should be aware of unconscious biases which affect conceptions of who is more deserving of time, input and intervention, and challenge thinking when confronted with words that label people definitively.
- Tragically, there will be cases where an individual takes their own life after being impacted by domestic abuse. It is crucial that family and friends of that individual are supported timely and appropriately following the suicide of a loved one.

¹⁵⁷ Bates, L., Hoeger, K., Stoneman, M. & Whitaker, A. (2021) 'Domestic Homicides and Suspected Victim Suicides During the Covid-19 Pandemic 2020-21' at https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/1013128/Domestic_homicides_and_suspected_victim_suicides_during_the_Covid-19_Pandemic_2020-2021.pdf

¹⁵⁸ Woodhouse, T. Abbott, M. *Highlighting the link between domestic abuse and suicide*. Available at: [google.com/url?sa=t&rct=j&q=&esrc=s&source=web&cd=&cad=rja&uact=8&ved=2ahUKEwjE_pbL1-yFAxU0VKEAHVTyD_AQFnoECA8QAw&url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.kscmp.org.uk%2F_data%2Fassets%2Fword_doc%2F0004%2F142339%2FHighlighting-the-link-between-domestic-abuse-and-suicide.docx%23%3A~%3Atext%3DKey%2520findings%2520from%2520local%2520research%26text%3D30%2525%2520of%2520suspected%2520suicides%2520in%2C114%2520out%2520of%2520379%2520cases\).&usq=AOvVaw0T5pw-rfNTXujlWZ1xJtxi&opi=89978449](https://www.kscmp.org.uk/assets/word_doc/0004/142339/Highlighting-the-link-between-domestic-abuse-and-suicide.docx)

10.7 THE LINK BETWEEN DOMESTIC ABUSE AND FEMALE OFFENDING

10.7.1 Research has identified a link between female offending and domestic abuse. 57% of women in prison have been victims of domestic abuse as adults, and 53% have experienced emotional, physical or sexual abuse as a child compared to 27% of men^{159, 160}. Many women in prison have been victims of offences that are considerably more serious than the ones they have been accused of, and evidence suggests that physical, emotional and sexual abuse can be a driver for offending¹⁶⁰.

10.7.2 Most women affected by domestic abuse do not commit offences, but for the majority of women in prison, domestic abuse has been a significant contributory factor. In some cases, there is a direct causal link where women offend due to threats of harm if they do not comply. For other women, there may not be a causal link, however, the recognition of abuse may be a significant and worthy factor for consideration and intervention during any contact with the criminal justice system¹⁶⁰.

10.7.3 Some women who experience domestic abuse may be coerced in to offending in distinct ways. This may include trafficked women, foreign nationals, those from minority ethnic and religious groups, and women with learning disabilities and difficulties¹⁶⁰. Other women's offending may stem from taking the blame to protect a partner, support their drug use, or due to pressure from a partner in a coercive and controlling relationship. Alternatively, some women may turn to substance abuse to cope with their partner's abuse, which makes some women more susceptible to further abuse and offending.

10.7.4 Female offenders may face particular barriers to seeking help for domestic abuse. This is especially true for women with drug and alcohol problems, as those using methadone can be specifically excluded. Additionally, women with mental health problems may be required a diagnosis before they can access a refuge¹⁶⁰. A woman who has been violent towards others may be considered a risk to other women and therefore refused access to a refuge¹⁶¹. However, this presents considerable barriers in enabling female offenders to break the cycle and seek support for domestic abuse.

10.7.5 Criminalisation and particularly imprisonment compound the problems of women affected by domestic abuse. The Prison Reform Trust¹⁶⁰ argue that there is a clear need for early intervention, before matters get to court so that wherever possible the underlying problems that have contributed to women's offending can be solved within the community. Areas where women have identified as requiring further support include parenting, housing, mental health, and problematic substance misuse, which are issues that are often linked with domestic abuse and with each other.

¹⁵⁹ Prison Reform Trust (2017). "There's a reason we're in trouble". Domestic abuse as a driver to women's offending'. Available at: [*Layout 1 \(prisonreformtrust.org.uk\)](https://www.prisonreformtrust.org.uk)

¹⁶⁰ Ministry of Justice (2012). 'Prisoners' childhood and family backgrounds'. Available at: [Prisoners' childhood and family backgrounds \(publishing.service.gov.uk\)](https://www.prisonerschildhoodandfamilybackgrounds.service.gov.uk)

¹⁶¹ Vickers, S., and Wilcox, P. (2011). 'Abuse, women and the criminal justice system'. Centre for Crime and Justice Studies. Available at: [*09627251.2011.599668.pdf \(crimeandjustice.org.uk\)](https://www.crimeandjustice.org.uk)

10.7.6 The issue of domestic abuse should be acknowledged in the provision of services for female offenders given the prevalence of need. Further, frontline domestic abuse workers are key professionals in identifying additional support requirements for victims to intervene early and break the cycle of offending.

10.8 REPEAT VICTIMISATION

10.8.1 McClean (2005)¹⁶² argues that domestic abuse is the '*...most prevalent repeated, criminal offence of our time*'. McClean notes on average, victims will experience abuse 35 times before ever telling the police.

10.8.2 SafeLives¹⁶³ found that approximately 42% of domestic violence victims have been victimised more than once, with victims experiencing an average of 20 incidents of domestic violence in a year, which often increase in severity each time.

10.8.3 Domestic abuse often centres around a perpetrators need for power and control. This may lead to the victim feeling unable to leave the relationship, and therefore increasing their risk of repeat victimisation. However, even once a victim does make the decision to leave a relationship, evidence shows that they are still likely to experience further repeat victimisation. Statistics show that victims return to their partner an average of seven times before they leave for good¹⁶⁴. Returning to the relationship may put victims at an even greater risk, as leaving the relationship may have been viewed as disobedience, leading to an increased risk of violence upon return.

10.8.4 The College of Policing found¹⁶⁵ promising evidence in relation to forensic marking to deter repeat victimisation related to domestic abuse and sexual offences. Forensic marking involves the marking of moveable items and doorways, panic alarms, and forensic sprays or greases. The aim of forensic marking is to deter offences from occurring, improve trust, confidence and satisfaction in policing, and provide evidence to help bring perpetrators to justice. The outcomes of the intervention are reductions in incidents of domestic abuse and reductions in, and deterrence of repeat victimisation. As part of this intervention, victims are identified as requiring protection either through police investigations or through MARAC processes. Discussions are then held with victims to identify what sort of tactics may be most suitable for the particular perpetrator. If the risk of victimisation is low, a forensic home protection kit can be provided which includes stickers to display around the property, making it known that it is protected by forensic marking. Items within the property are also marked with a unique forensic solution to help prevent theft. If risk of revictimization is high, additional measures may include the following:

- 1) The issuing of a handheld forensic spray. This spray can be carried by the victim around their property or whilst out in public. The canister sprays a directional forensic solution with a coverage of up to 10 meters in distance.
- 2) Forensic greases can also be used to mark door handles or window frames. If touched by the perpetrator, they will then be forensically linked to where the grease was deployed.

¹⁶² McLean, M.,(2005) 'Domestic Violence and Repeat Victimization'. *International Review of Victimology*, 12. Pp. 51-74.

¹⁶³ [How widespread is domestic abuse and what is the impact? | Safelives](#)

¹⁶⁴ [Supporting Someone Who Keeps Returning - The Hotline](#)

¹⁶⁵ [Forensic marking to deter repeat victimisation related to domestic abuse and sexual offences | College of Policing](#)

- 3) Where risk of repeat victimisation and potential harm is assessed as high, a domestic abuse spray system can be used. This is a multifunctional forensic spray unit, which also activates a panic alarm to the police communications centre and sounds a loud and audible alarm.

A key point of forensic marking is that the perpetrator must be warned that the victim is protected, as this increases the deterrence aspect of the initiative. The message must be clear enough to deter without informing the perpetrator exactly how the victim is protected. As mentioned above, there is promising evidence to suggest that this initiative has a positive impact on the reduction of repeat victimisation in domestic abuse cases. In terms of cost benefit, West Yorkshire Police estimated that a total spend of £3,683,664 was avoided through use of the project, and the College of Policing note that the cost of protection through forensic marking is approximately one tenth of the response to domestic abuse related crime. Research found that the use of forensic marking was successful in deterring offenders, it gave victims more confidence to testify and offers more proof of domestic abuse which was not previously available, and forensic marking helps to build positive relationships with the police and helps victims to feel they are being taken seriously. The project won a Tilley Award in 2022. The positive evidence around forensic marking may suggest that it is an initiative to be considered in BCP.

10.9 OLDER VICTIMS AND DOMESTIC ABUSE

10.9.1 Domestic abuse affects people of all ages, yet older victims have often been overlooked within existing literature.

10.9.2 The abuse of older people is often referred to as ‘elder abuse’ and is defined as: “...a single or repeated act where, or lack of appropriate action, occurring within any relationship where there is an expectation of trust, which causes harm or distress to an older person. This type of violence constitutes a violation of human rights and includes physical, sexual, psychological, and emotional abuse; financial and material abuse; abandonment; neglect; and serious loss of dignity and respect.”¹⁶⁶

The age of an 'older person' is not explicitly defined, but typically refers to those aged 60 and older.

10.9.3 Older victims' experiences often differ to those of young people due to a variety of social, cultural and physical factors¹⁶⁷:

- For older victims, family members rather than intimate partners are most often the perpetrators of domestic abuse.
- When the perpetrator is an intimate partner, Hourglass note that older women often feel expected to protect the family unit by staying with the abuser.
- For many older victims, abuse may become normalised and expected, which can create barriers for seeking help and support.
- Older victims may experience a decline in physical and cognitive health and become dependent on their abuser for support.
- Older victims may also provide a caring role for their abuser which impacts on their willingness and ability to leave the relationship.

¹⁶⁶ Domestic abuse of older people: [Domestic abuse of older people - House of Lords Library \(parliament.uk\)](https://www.parliament.uk/library/research-and-factsheets/information-sheet/domestic-abuse-of-older-people/)

¹⁶⁷ [1 new message \(wearehourglass.org\)](#)

- Media and political campaigns that predominantly focus on the experiences of younger women and children may contribute to barriers for seeking support for older victims.

10.9.4 SafeLives note that on average, older victims experience abuse for twice as long before seeking help as those under 61, and nearly half have a disability. However, older clients are underrepresented among domestic abuse services¹⁶⁸.

10.9.5 The WHO published a study in 2017¹⁶⁹ which estimated that almost 1 in 6 people aged 60 years and older experienced abuse within a community setting in that year, however, noted that this was likely to be an underestimation. Although older people may not be prevalent within existing data, this is primarily a reflection of police recording practices and is not necessarily a reflection of reality. It is important to keep in mind the underrepresentation of older victims when designing any interventions or policies around domestic abuse.

National statistics

10.9.6 National statistics can provide us with an overview of the prevalence of domestic abuse and help us to understand the demographics of victims.

10.9.7 The Crime Survey for England and Wales estimated that 2.1 million people aged 16 years and over (1.4 million women and 751,000 men)¹⁷⁰ experienced domestic abuse in the year ending March 2023¹⁷¹. There was no significant change compared with the previous year.

10.9.8 To put these numbers in context, the Crime Survey for England and Wales found that in the year ending March 2023, an estimated 9.8 million people aged 16 years and over had experienced domestic abuse since the age of 16 years. This equates roughly to one in five people aged 16 years and over.

10.9.9 Police recorded crime figures show that in the year ending March 2023, the victim was female in 73.5% of domestic-abuse related crimes¹⁷².

10.9.10 The ONS note that domestic abuse is often a hidden crime that is not reported to the police; therefore, data held by the police can only provide a partial picture of the actual level of domestic abuse experienced. One of the strengths of the Crime Survey for England and Wales is that it covers many crimes that are not reported to the police, and therefore is able to provide more reliable estimates of domestic abuse¹⁷³.

10.9.11 The Crime Survey for England and Wales for the year ending March 2023 showed that a significantly higher proportion of people aged 16 to 19 years were victims of any domestic abuse (8.0%) compared with those age 45 to 54 years (4.2%), and those aged 60 years and over (3.2% for 60 to 74 years). For those aged 75 and over, the percentage of victims was significantly lower than all other age groups (1.4%)¹⁷³.

¹⁶⁸ [Spotlight #1: Older people and domestic abuse | Safelives](#)

¹⁶⁹ Yon, Y., Mikton, C., Gassoumis, Z., Wilber, K. (2017). 'Elder abuse prevalence in community settings: a systematic review and meta-analysis'. *Lancet Global Health*, 5, pp. 147-56. [Elder abuse prevalence in community settings: a systematic review and meta-analysis \(thelancet.com\)](#)

¹⁷⁰ It should be noted that data for the year ending March 2023 are not badged as National Statistics – they are based on eight months of data collection because of an error in the survey which resulted in missing data.

¹⁷¹ [Domestic abuse in England and Wales overview - Office for National Statistics \(ons.gov.uk\)](#)

¹⁷² [Domestic abuse victim characteristics, England and Wales - Office for National Statistics \(ons.gov.uk\)](#)

10.9.12 For the year ending March 2023, the Crime Survey for England and Wales showed that a significantly higher proportion of people aged 16 years and over in the Mixed and White ethnic groups experienced domestic abuse in the last year compared with those in the Asian or Asian British groups. Almost twice as many women in the White ethnic group experienced domestic abuse in the last year (6.0%) compared with Black or Black British woman (3.1%) and Asian or Asian British women (3.0%)¹⁷³.

10.9.13 In the year ending March 2023, the Crime Survey for England and Wales showed that a significantly higher proportion of people aged 16 years and over who were separated or divorced experienced domestic abuse in the last year than those who were married or civil partnered, cohabiting, single or widowed. However, marital status may have changed as a result of the abuse experience¹⁷³.

10.9.14 Data from the Crime Survey for England and Wales also showed that a lower percentage of those who were unemployed (4.6%) experienced domestic abuse in the last year compared with those with a long-term or temporary illness (11.7%) and those looking after their family and home (8.5%). Students and those who were retired experienced a lower proportion of domestic abuse in the last year compared with those who were employed¹⁷³.

10.9.15 A larger percentage of people living in a single-parent household experienced domestic abuse in the last year (18.6%) compared with households with no children (4.2%) and households with multiple people and one or more children (3.7%). The proportion of women who experienced domestic abuse in the last year was significantly higher in households with no children, or households with multiple adults and one or more children, compared with men. However, household structure may have changed as a result of the abuse experienced¹⁷³.

10.10 LOCAL DATA – LONGER TERM TRENDS

10.10.1 The data used to produce this analysis is extracted from Dorset Police records using Business Objects.

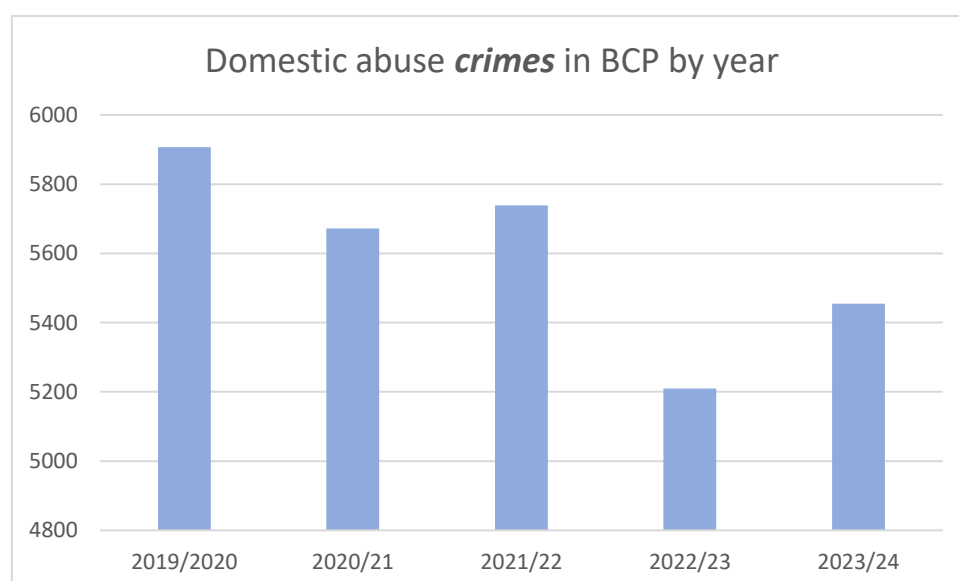


Figure 63 - Domestic abuse crimes in BCP by financial year

10.10.2 Figure 63 shows the numbers of domestic abuse *crimes* recorded in BCP per financial year. Drawing on the discussion above, it is important to note that domestic abuse is an under-reported crime, and therefore it is likely that in reality these figures are higher. These numbers are simply a reflection of crime which have been reported to Dorset Police. Figure 43 shows that numbers were highest in 2019/2020, and lowest in 2022/23. Although there are notable fluctuations between the years, there were no years which reached statistical significance, meaning that numbers for all of the years are within a normal range.

10.10.3 Figure 63 below shows the numbers of domestic abuse *incidents* recorded by Dorset Police. An incident is any event that comes to police attention and is recorded as an incident. If the police find sufficient evidence of criminal activity, a crime will usually be recorded.¹⁷³

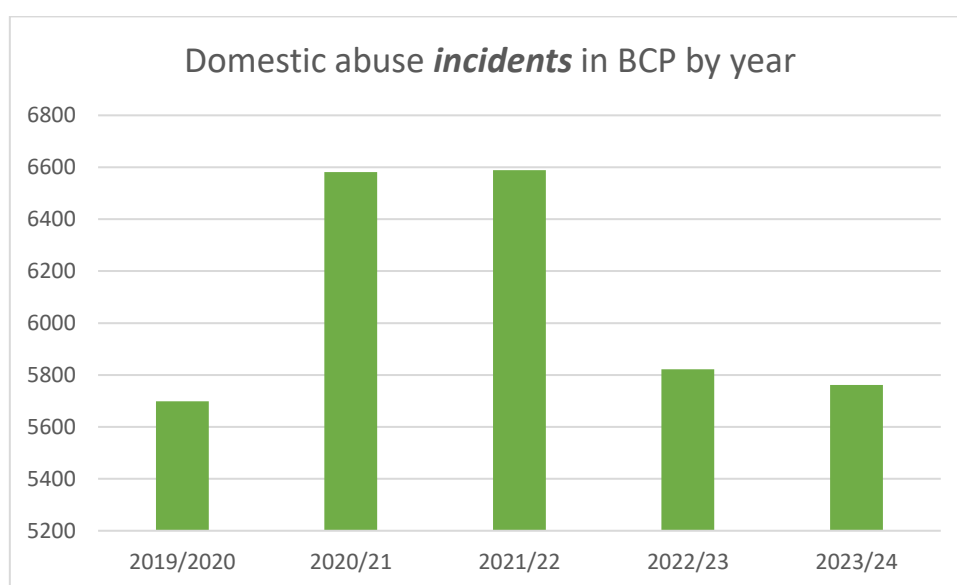


Figure 64 - DA incident numbers by year in BCP

10.11 LOCAL DATA – 2023/24

10.11.1 This section uses Dorset Police domestic abuse crime data extracted from Business Objects to provide information on the nature of domestic abuse crimes which were reported to and recorded by Dorset Police in the financial year 2023/24.

Main crime group	Count	Percentage
Violence Against the Person	4247	77.68
Criminal Damage	381	6.97
Sexual Offences	273	4.99
Public Order	226	4.13
Theft	163	2.98
Other Offences	48	0.88

¹⁷³ Lewis, S., Birks, D., Chandan, S.K., Chenevoy, N., Cumbria Constabulary. (2023). *Understanding the Geospatial and Contextual Patterns of Rural Domestic Abuse: An Exploratory Study*. Available at: [Understanding the Geospatial and Contextual Patterns of Rural Domestic Abuse: An Exploratory Study - White Rose Research Online](#)

Dwelling Burglary	42	0.77
Drug Offences	26	0.48
Theft of Motor Vehicle	21	0.38
Possession of Weapons	17	0.31
Robbery	10	0.18
Blank	9	0.16
Theft From Motor Vehicle	4	0.07
Total	5467	100.00

Table 43 - Main crime group for domestic abuse crimes in BCP reported to and recorded by Dorset Police in financial year 2023/24.

10.11.2 There was a total of 5,467 domestic abuse crimes reported to and recorded by Dorset Police occurring in BCP in the financial year 2023/24. Table 43 shows that the majority of domestic abuse recorded crime in BCP had a main crime group of violence against the person. Table 44 below shows the top 10 crime types when the main crime group was violence against the person.

Crime Type	Count	Percentage
Assault occasioning actual bodily harm (Section 47)	985	23.19%
Common assault (S39) and assault without injury (Class 105A)	856	20.16%
Assault by beating (recordable)	598	14.08%
Stalking involving serious alarm / distress (recordable)	327	7.70%
Non-fatal strangulation and suffocation - Serious Crime Act 2015 s75	241	5.67%
Stalking involving fear of violence (recordable)	226	5.32%
Stalking without fear / alarm / distress (recordable)	225	5.30%
Harassment without violence (recordable)	163	3.84%
Send communication / article of an indecent / offensive nature (recordable)	162	3.81%
Engage in controlling / coercive behaviour in an intimate / family relationship (recordable)	99	2.33%

Table 44 - Top 10 crime types when the main crime group was violence against the person for DA crimes reported to and recorded by Dorset Police, occurring in BCP in financial year 2023/24.

10.11.3 Table 45 below explores the relationship between victim and offender in the domestic abuse crime:

Relationship between victim and offender	Count	Percentage
Ex spouse/cohabitee/partner	2367	43.41%
Spouse/cohabitee/partner	1080	19.81%
Family - child on parent	488	8.95%
Other relationship (misc)	307	5.63%
Family - other family member	194	3.56%
Family - mother	166	3.04%
Family - brother	146	2.68%
No known relationship	145	2.66%
Family - father	137	2.51%
Friend/acquaintance/colleague	113	2.07%
Victimless/crime against state	71	1.30%
Complete stranger	55	1.01%
Family - sister	48	0.88%
Family - child sibling on sibling	33	0.61%
Neighbour direct/indirect	19	0.35%
Family - grandparent	18	0.33%
Policing duties	13	0.24%
Family - nephew	13	0.24%
Commercial relationship	9	0.17%
Family - niece	8	0.15%
Family - cousin	7	0.13%
Care/health/NHS worker	6	0.11%
Online/internet/social media	3	0.06%
Victim refuses to identify	2	0.04%
Other law enforcement agency	2	0.04%
Educational relationship	2	0.04%
Sex worker/client	1	0.02%

Table 45 - Relationship between victim and offender in domestic abuse crimes reported to Dorset Police, occurring in BCP in financial year 2023/24

10.11.4 Table 45 shows that the most common relationship between victim and offender in domestic abuse crimes in BCP reported to and recorded by Dorset Police in the financial year 2023/24 was ex-spouse/ cohabitee/ partner. This links back to the discussion around post-separation abuse in point 10.4. As previously mentioned, although separation from an abusive partner may be thought of as a solution to end violence, research shows that abuse often escalates following separation. It appears that this a trend which is reflected in Police data on domestic abuse in BCP, as shown by the large number of ex-spouse/cohabitee/partner relationships in recorded domestic abuse occurrences.

10.11.5 In terms of location, the majority of domestic abuse crimes were reported to have occurred in Bournemouth, followed by Poole, and then Christchurch:

Local Authority Area		
Bournemouth	3047	55.73%
Poole	1969	36.02%
Christchurch	451	8.25%

Table 46 - Domestic abuse crimes by local area, reported to and recorded by Dorset Police in financial year 2023/24

10.11.6 Broken down further, table 47 shows the top 5 beatcodes for domestic abuse crimes:

Beatcode	Count	Percentage
Central Bournemouth	363	6.64%
Eastcliff and Springbourne	302	5.52%
Poole Town	290	5.30%
Boscombe West	287	5.25%

Table 47 - Top 5 beatcodes for Domestic Abuse crimes in BCP reported to and recorded by Dorset Police in financial year 2023/24.

Victims

10.11.7 In total, there were 4,004 victims for the 5,467 domestic abuse flagged crimes reported by Dorset Police in BCP 2023/24.

10.11.8 846 individuals were repeat victims who experienced more than one domestic abuse crime over the financial year, up to a maximum of 11 times. These victims accounted for 2,216 recorded crimes, making up 40% of the data.

10.11.9 There were 3,153 victims who appeared once in the data. These victims accounted for 58% of occurrences.

10.11.10 Of the 4,004 victims, 2,713 were female, accounting for 68% of the data. 1,271 victims were male, accounting for 32% of the data. Gender data was unavailable for 20 victims.

Age group	Count	Percentage
under 10	67	1.67
10-14	69	1.72
15-19	294	7.34
20-24	388	9.69
25-29	478	11.94
30-34	527	13.16
35-39	491	12.26
40-44	464	11.59
45-49	350	8.74
50-54	299	7.47
55-59	197	4.92
60-64	106	2.65
65-69	65	1.62

70-74	45	1.12
75-79	50	1.25
80-84	20	0.50
85-89	23	0.57
90+	9	0.22
Blank	62	1.55
Total	4004	100%

Table 48 - Age groups for victims of domestic abuse crimes reported to and recorded by Dorset Police in BCP in financial year 2023/24

10.11.11 Table 48 shows the age groups for victims of domestic abuse in BCP in financial year 2023/24. The age group 30-34 has the highest number of victims, followed by 35-39, then 25-29. The age group 40-44 is also high.

Self-defined race	Count	Percentage
W1. White British	1,385	34.59
NS. Not stated	1,211	30.24
W9. Any other white background	99	2.47
B2. Black African	29	0.72
A9. Any other Asian background	28	0.70
B1. Black Caribbean	25	0.62
B9. Any other Black background	20	0.50
A1. Asian - Indian	19	0.47
O9. Any other ethnic group	18	0.45
M9. Any other mixed background	18	0.45
M1. White & Black Caribbean	16	0.40
M3. White & Asian	11	0.27
A3. Asian - Bangladeshi	10	0.25
M2. White & Black African	6	0.15
A2. Asian - Pakistani	4	0.10
I1. Gypsy or Irish Traveller	4	0.10
W2. White Irish	3	0.07
O1. Chinese	2	0.05
Blank	1096	27.37
Total	4004	100

Table 49 - Self-defined race for victims of domestic abuse crimes reported to and recorded by Dorset Police in financial year 23/24.

10.11.12 Table 49 shows self-defined race data for victims of domestic abuse in BCP in 2023/24. This data is limited as many fields are blank or victims have chosen not to state their self-defined race. As a result, it is difficult to identify if any ethnicities are over-represented or under-represented in the data.

10.11.13 11% of victims in the dataset had also been involved in a domestic abuse crime as a suspect in the financial year 2023/24.

Repeat victims

10.11.14 As mentioned above, 2,216 occurrences involved repeat victims, accounting for 40% of all domestic abuse recorded crime. 72% of these occurrences also involved repeat suspects. This suggests that 72% of repeat victims were victimised multiple times as part of the same relationship.

10.11.15 15% of the occurrences involving repeat victims involved suspects who were suspects just once. This suggests that 15% of repeat victims were victimised as a result of different relationships. 13% of suspects were unidentified when the victim was a repeat victim.

10.11.16 26% of victims experienced four or more DA crimes in the financial year 2023/24 (597 total), accounting for 11% of domestic abuse recorded crime. Research by the University of Leeds (2023)¹⁷⁴ found similar trends of high repeat victimisation within their data, and suggested the implementation of a tiered response to domestic abuse which concentrates some proportion of local multi-agency responses on repeat victims. This may also be beneficial in BCP.

10.11.17 When the victim was a repeat victim, the most common relationship between victim and suspect was ex-spouse/cohabitee/partner (1169 total, 51%). This relationship type was higher for repeat victims than overall victims of domestic abuse. In other words, when the domestic abuse crime involved repeat victims, half of all occurrences involved ex-partners. This was the most common form of relationship by a considerable margin, with spouse/cohabitee/partner making up 19% of the data. Again, this emphasises the risk of post-separation abuse and highlights the need for professional understanding around the specific techniques of post-separation abuse, as well as the structural contexts that are barriers to safety and health in order to provide the best support to victims.

10.11.18 The high rates of repeat victimisation, paired with the implication that repeat victimisation is often part of the same relationship (i.e. repeat victimisation occurs at the hands of the same suspect and is not a product of different suspects from different relationships) suggests that forensic marking discussed in point 10.8.4 may be an appropriate initiative to support victims. This would be subject to assessment from professionals working with the victim to determine suitability but may be worthy of consideration when discussing future interventions.

10.11.19 Research by University of Leeds (2023)¹⁷⁵ found that the likelihood of a repeat offence is highest within a short time period of the initial offence, and that the risk of revictimization decays over time. This suggests that multi-agency work to support victims should be timely in nature when risk of re-victimisation is greatest.

¹⁷⁴ Lewis, S, Birks, D., Chandan, S.K. & Chenevoy, N. (2023). *Understanding the Geospatial and Contextual Patterns of Rural Domestic Abuse: An Exploratory Study*. Available at: [Understanding the Geospatial and Contextual Patterns of Rural Domestic Abuse: An Exploratory Study \(whiterose.ac.uk\)](https://www.whiterose.ac.uk/understanding-the-geospatial-and-contextual-patterns-of-rural-domestic-abuse-an-exploratory-study/)

Suspects

10.11.20 In total, there were 3,360 suspects for the 5,467 domestic abuse crimes recorded by Dorset Police in BCP in financial year 2023/24. There were 743 occurrences which did not have identified suspects. Unidentified suspects made up 14% of the data.

10.11.21 898 individuals were repeat suspects. These 898 individuals were involved in 2,443 recorded domestic abuse crimes. Occurrences involving repeat suspects accounted for 50% of the data. The University of Leeds¹⁷⁵ (2023) found that as the number of intimate partner crimes an offender commits increases, the conditional probability of them committing another intimate partner offences increases. This highlights the need to identify and intervene with repeat perpetrators early in their offending career. There is also some evidence to suggest that the time between subsequent offences becomes more frequent for repeat offenders. The research also found that offenders should be targeted by both crime frequency and crime seriousness to produce the greatest reduction in reoffending.

10.11.22 There were 2,461 unique suspects, who appeared just once within the data. These suspects who appeared just once were responsible for 50% of domestic abuse recorded crimes.

10.11.23 95 occurrences had more than one suspect.

10.11.24 Of the 3,360 suspects, 2,401 (72%) were male, and 958 (29%) were female. There was 1 suspect whose gender was unidentified.

Age group	Count	Percentage
Under 10	3	0.09
10-14	21	0.63
15-19	259	7.71
20-24	333	9.91
25-29	396	11.79
30-34	490	14.58
35-39	496	14.76
40-44	457	13.60
45-49	280	8.33
50-54	240	7.14
55-59	172	5.12
60-64	80	2.38
65-69	39	1.16
70-74	23	0.68
75-79	26	0.77
80-84	9	0.27
85-89	11	0.33
90+	3	0.09
Blank	22	0.65
Total	3360	100.00

Table 50 - Age groups for suspects of domestic abuse crimes recorded by Dorset Police in BCP in financial year 2023/24.

10.11.25 Table 50 shows age groups for suspects of domestic abuse in BCP in financial year 2023/24. The age groupings for suspects follow a very similar pattern to victims of domestic abuse. The age groups 30-34 and 35-39 are the largest, with the age groups 25-29 and 40-44 also being high.

Self-defined race	Count	Percentage
NS. Not stated	1295	38.54
W1. White British	1130	33.63
W9. Any other white background	95	2.83
B1. Black Caribbean	62	1.85
B2. Black African	56	1.67
A9. Any other Asian background	55	1.64
B9. Any other Black background	35	1.04
M9. Any other mixed background	30	0.89
A1. Asian - Indian	23	0.68
M1. White & Black Caribbean	21	0.63
O9. Any other ethnic group	16	0.48
M2. White & Black African	13	0.39
M3. White & Asian	11	0.33
A3. Asian - Bangladeshi	9	0.27
A2. Asian - Pakistani	9	0.27
I1. Gypsy or Irish Traveller	7	0.21
W2. White Irish	5	0.15
O1. Chinese	2	0.06
Blank	486	14.46
Total	3360	100

Table 51 - Self-defined race for suspects of domestic abuse recorded by Dorset Police, occurring in BCP in financial year 2023/24.

10.11.26 Table 51 shows the self-defined race data for suspect of domestic abuse in BCP in financial year 2023/24. As is the case with self-defined race data for victims, this data is limited because there are many blank fields, and many suspects chose not to state their self-defined race. As a result, it is challenging to draw any meaningful conclusions around the over/under representation of specific ethnic groups due to this missing data.

10.11.27 10% of suspects had also been victims of domestic abuse crimes in the financial year 2023/24.

MARAC Data

10.11.28 The domestic abuse draft statutory guidance framework¹¹⁹ states that agencies must work together and share information to ensure they are able to draw on all the information held within each agency to build a full picture of the victims, children and perpetrators. This is facilitated through MARAC (Multi Agency Risk Assessment Conference) which is a meeting where information is shared on the highest risk domestic abuse cases between representatives of the following agencies:

- Police
- Health
- Child and adult social care
- Housing practitioners
- Domestic Abuse Advisors (DAAs)
- Probations
- Other specialists from statutory and voluntary sectors.

10.11.29 After sharing all relevant information they have about a victim, the representatives discuss options for increasing the safety of the victim and turn these into a co-ordinated action plan. The primary focus of the MARAC is to safeguard the adult victim, any children and manage the risks posed by the adult perpetrator. The victim does not attend the meeting but is represented by a DAA who speaks on their behalf.

10.11.30 Individuals are referred to MARAC because they have been identified as being at 'high' risk of current or future harm from domestic abuse. Any frontline agency representative that undertakes a risk assessment with a victim can refer a case to a local MARAC.

10.11.31 In most cases, people give their consent to be discussed at the MARAC. In a small number of cases, someone may be referred to the MARAC without their consent. This only happens when there is an urgent need to protect that person and/or their children.

10.11.32 There were 52 MARACs in financial year 2023/24. 734 cases were heard at these 52 MARACs. In total, there were 160 repeat cases.

10.11.33 430 of the cases were from Bournemouth, 254 were from Poole and 43 were from Christchurch.

10.11.34 95% of victims heard at MARAC in 2023/24 were female (695 total). 5% were male (40 total). There were 30 female offenders.

10.11.35 50% of relationships were between ex-partners (369 total), further demonstrating the risk of post-separation abuse. 41% of cases were between current partners (300 total), 5% were parent and child cases (35 total), and 3% were other family members (25 total).

10.11.36 1% of cases involved same sex relationships (8 total). As point 18.5.15 notes, LGBTQ+ individuals may experience domestic abuse and sexual violence at levels similar to, or possibly even higher than, heterosexual women and men. This suggests that same sex relationships are underrepresented at MARAC.

10.12 SUPPORT SERVICES IN BCP

10.12.1 There are a variety of different support services available for those experiencing domestic abuse in BCP:

- **BCHA** help victims of domestic abuse to escape and recover from traumatic situations they have experienced, and help them to stay safe. BCHA can provide:
 - Safe houses and refuges,
 - Outreach services to victims in their own home or community, or over the phone,
 - Abuse support courses which aim to help victims of domestic abuse to understand their rights and provide them with tools and knowledge which will empower them,

- Family intervention project, which provides sessions to build positive family relationships and promote safety for children aged 5-16 years old.
- Pathfinders Pilot, which supports victims of domestic abuse through family courts. The project seeks to boost the voice of children at every stage of the process, ensuring they are listened to, and their views are taken into account when decisions are made about their future.
- **Choose 2 Change** is a domestic abuse prevention programme delivering a group work behaviour change programme consisting of 11 modules amounting to approximately 28 weeks. The material is comprised of a core block of modules including the impact of abuse on children, parenting at various developmental stages, jealousy, sexual issues, anger and women's anger, as well as other core subjects.
- **Paragon** are commissions by BCP Council to develop and deliver a specialist health team working within hospitals. This team supports victims and survivors of domestic abuse and trains hospital staff so they can better support anyone who wishes to disclose and talk about their life experiences of domestic abuse.
- **SAFE Partnership** provides services to help victims of stalking or domestic abuse to feel safe and secure at home. This service is free of charge, and provides target hardening, which are measures taken to reduce the risk of crime. This can include lock fitting, installing security measures, or providing security advice.
- **Time 2 Change** works with female perpetrators of domestic abuse in a one-to-one setting. It is an intervention that includes assessment for suitability, a structured motivational programme and goal setting, and is delivered over a period of up to 20 weeks. Support sessions are also provided for the partner or ex-partner to ensure a safety plan is implemented.
- **Up2U** is a programme designed to help perpetrators of domestic abuse learn about healthy relationships, develop new skills and break the cycle of violence. The programme involves one to one sessions led by experienced facilitators who support perpetrators in understanding the impact of their actions, recognising unhealthy patterns, and adopting positive behaviours. The programme is CBT based, tapping in to thinking and reasoning skills. Participation is voluntary and self-referrals are also considered as the service is committed to being preventative.

11 HONOUR-BASED ABUSE AND FORCED MARRIAGE

11.1.1 Honour-based abuse is a crime or incident committed to protect or defend the 'honour' of a family or community¹⁷⁵, and can be described as a collection of practices which are used to control behaviour within families or other social groups¹⁷⁶. The Crown Prosecution Service describes Honour-Based abuse as violation of human rights and may be a form of domestic/sexual violence¹⁷⁷.

11.1.2 Honour-based abuse can include¹⁷⁷:

- Murder,
- Attempted or actual forced marriage,
- Domestic abuse,
- Child abuse,
- Rape,

¹⁷⁵ [What is honour-based abuse? | Metropolitan Police](#)

¹⁷⁶ [One minute guide: Honour Based Abuse \(leeds.gov.uk\)](#)

¹⁷⁷ [So-Called Honour-Based Abuse | The Crown Prosecution Service \(cps.gov.uk\)](#)

- Kidnapping,
- False imprisonment,
- Assault,
- Harassment,
- Forced abortion.

11.1.3 Honour-based abuse may also involve practices that are performed on victims for cultural or socio-conventional reasons, including female genital mutilation, breast flattening and dowry abuse. Families may feel shame long after the incident of ‘dishonour’ has passed, meaning the risk of serious harm may persist¹⁷⁷.

11.1.4 There is currently little accurate data on the true extent of honour-based abuse and its impact on women and girls; its true scale, scope and prevalence is not known¹⁷⁸. Honour-based abuse is underreported, and professionals may not recognise incidents in which honour-based abuse is a motivating factor for the offences they are presented with¹⁷⁹.

11.1.5 Honour-based abuse tends to affect ethnic minority women of South Asian and Arab heritage¹⁸⁰; victims therefore face the barriers to seeking support discussed in section 8.7 on ethnic minority groups. Men can also become victims, particularly in relation to marriageability, when they do not define as heterosexual and when they have a disability or mental ill-health, as well as other vulnerabilities.

11.1.6 Karma Nirvana¹⁷⁹, a charity aiming to end honour-based abuse, notes that:

- Victims of honour-based abuse experience abuse for much longer than those not identified as at risk of honour-based abuse.
- Victims of honour-based abuse are seven times more likely to experience abuse from multiple perpetrators, and are at greater risk of serious harm or homicide.
- Research suggests that at least one ‘honour’ killing occurs in the UK every month (and this is likely to be an underestimate).

¹⁷⁸ [What is Honour Based Abuse? – Karma Nirvana](#)

¹⁷⁹ College of Policing, His Majesty’s Inspectorate of Constabulary and Fire & Rescue Services, and Independent Office for Police Conduct. (2022) ‘How the police respond to victims of sexual abuse when the victim is from an ethnic minority background and may be at risk of honour-based abuse. Report on Tees Valley Inclusion Project’s Super Complaint.’ Available at: [How the police respond to sexual abuse when the victim is from an ethnic minority background and may be at risk of honour-based abuse: Report on Tees Valley Inclusion Project’s super-complaint \(publishing.service.gov.uk\)](#)

¹⁸⁰ See Begum, R., Khan, R., Brewer, G., & Hall, B. (2020) ‘They Will Keep Seeing Young Women Murdered by Men. Enough is Enough- We Have Seen too Many Women Lose Their Lives’. Lessons for Professionals Working with Victims of ‘Honour’ Abuse and Violence’. *Genealogy* 4:69. Available at: [*genealogy-04-00069-v2.pdf](#)

11.1.7 Honour-based abuse tends to occur in collectivist honour cultures, which emphasize the importance of strong bonds with immediate and extended family. They are also patriarchal; women are often constrained by demands to be religiously and socially conservative and are often openly scrutinised and monitored by close friends, family, and members of the local community to judge whether their appearance and conduct align with social expectations. On the other hand, males must be dominant and have authority over their female counterparts, providing punishment if they act improperly¹⁸¹.

11.1.8 Banaz Mahmod was the victim of an honour-based killing in 2006. This is still one of the most prominent murder cases of this kind in Britain, partially due to the complexity of the case, but also because of the poor police response to Banaz's case before her death. She reported her abuse to the police at least five times, told the officers she would be murdered, and named her killers. Begum *et al* (2020)¹⁸⁵ note that support services are still naïve to those most vulnerable to honour-based abuse in Britain. Banaz's sister, Payzee Mahmod¹⁸² explained:

"The police force doesn't understand the family dynamics... they don't understand the community ties and complicated relationships. I'm not saying they don't want to, but I'm saying until they actually learn to see the signs of danger, they can't help them."

11.1.9 Further, recent research from Canada suggests that Police lack sufficient guidance on how to respond to honour-based abuse related crimes, and indicates the need for clear, appropriate policies regarding cases which need to be directed to specialized domestic abuse units. There is a real need to consider cultural sensitivity, as well as the impact of cultural and racist stereotypes when responding to situations of honour-based abuse¹⁸³.

11.1.10 The severe consequences of these crimes highlight the importance of intervening agencies getting responses right the first time a victim seeks support. However, existing evidence suggests that we may be failing victims from ethnic minority backgrounds. Victim Support¹⁸⁴ note that recent research reveals that almost half (48%) of Black and ethnic minority respondents felt the police treated them differently because of their ethnic background or heritage when reporting domestic abuse.

11.1.11 Additionally, victims may face challenges when approaching specialist external agencies. Eshareturi *et al* (2014)¹⁸⁵ argue that the UK government has consistently side-lined honour-based abuse from mainstream political discourse, presenting the issue as a problem that is embedded in cultural minorities. This may impact on professional service providers, who become reluctant to intervene, or whose help may be restricted due to concerns around being seen as culturally insensitive.

¹⁸¹ Information extracted from multiple sources – main source referenced in footnote 181, Begum *et al*.

¹⁸² Brown, S. (2019) 'What It's Like to Lose Your Sister in an Honour Killing'. *Vice*. Available at: [What It's Like To Lose Your Sister in an Honor Killing \(vice.com\)](https://www.vice.com/en/article/what-it-s-like-to-lose-your-sister-in-an-honor-killing)

¹⁸³ Aujla, W. (2021). 'Police understandings of responses to a complex vignette of "honour"-based crime and forced marriage'. *International Journal of Child, Youth and Family Studies*. 12:1 pp. 93-123.

¹⁸⁴ [New research shows police failing to act on domestic abuse reports - ethnic minority victims worst affected - Victim Support](#)

¹⁸⁵ Eshareturi, C., Lyle, C., & Morgan, A. (2012). 'Policy Responses to Honor-Based Violence. A Cultural or National Problem?'. *Journal of Aggression, Maltreatment & Trauma*. 23:4. Pp. 369-382

11.1.12 The Justice Inspectorate (2015)¹⁸⁶ found that challenges and inhibitors most frequently identified by forces in terms of leadership around honour-based abuse were a lack of guidance on information-sharing from and between external partner agencies such as health, social care and education, meeting the demands of ongoing training for officers, and a requirement for updated national guidance to assist in identifying and responding to cases of honour-based abuse, forced marriage, and female genital mutilation.

11.1.13 Other challenges reported were resource constraints, difficulties accessing relevant data from their current systems, a need for a common referral mechanism of cases from other agencies to the police, a lack of understanding of multi-agency processes and guidance, and a perception that honour-based abuse is not seen as a priority business area by some forces¹⁸⁷.

11.1.14 A more recent joint report by His Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary and Fire & Rescue Services, the College of Policing, and the Independent Office for Police Conduct¹⁸⁷ suggests that the findings from the Justice Inspectorate in 2015 are continuing issues when supporting victims of honour-based abuse. The report addresses a super-complaint; this is when a feature, or combination of features of policing by one or multiple police forces, is or appears to be significantly harming the interests of the public. The report focuses on police responses to ethnic minority victims of sexual abuse who may be at risk of honour-based abuse, finding that there are nine features of policing which cause significant harm to victims:

- 1) Overuse of voluntary suspect interviews.
- 2) Failure to consider honour-based abuse as a concomitant safeguarding concern following sexual abuse reporting.
- 3) Failure to keep victims informed following the report of sexual abuse.
- 4) Failure to provide information during the prosecution process.
- 5) Failure to discuss special measures and other protective measures with victims/survivors.
- 6) Lack of empathy from the police.
- 7) Ineffective and inadequate use of police resources.
- 8) Disproportionate focus on community impact.
- 9) Failure to understand the retraumatising effect of the prosecution process.

11.1.15 These findings make it apparent that there is still considerable work to be done when responding to and providing support to victims of honour-based abuse. The College of Policing¹⁸⁸ note some key points for police first responders:

- Professional curiosity should be used to spot signs or indicators that a victim could have been subject to honour-based abuse.
- Family members may try to prevent victims from speaking with support agencies. Subsequently, initial responders should consider the safest way to speak to the victim out of earshot of the family, and preferably away from the home. If there is a language barrier, a professional interpreter should be considered rather than friends or family.
- Police officers should be empathetic and non-judgemental in approach and listen carefully to the victim's concerns. They should ask if there is anything the family may do if they do not comply with their wishes.

¹⁸⁶ [*the-depths-of-dishonour.pdf \(justiceinspectorates.gov.uk\)](https://www.justiceinspectorates.gov.uk/the-depths-of-dishonour.pdf)

¹⁸⁷ [How the police respond to sexual abuse when the victim is from an ethnic minority background and may be at risk of honour-based abuse: Report on Tees Valley Inclusion Project's super-complaint \(publishing.service.gov.uk\)](https://publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/444444/How_the_police_respond_to_sexual_abuse_when_the_victim_is_from_an_ethnic_minority_background_and_may_be_at_risk_of_honour-based_abuse_Report_on_Tees_Valley_Inclusion_Project's_super-complaint.pdf)

¹⁸⁸ [Honour-based abuse: Advice for first responders \(college.police.uk\)](https://college.police.uk/honour-based-abuse/advice-for-first-responders)

- Police officers should ask about known risk indicators, such as other family members subject to honour based abuse, forced marriage or female genital mutilation.
- Police officers should consider capturing initial accounts on body-worn video. If honour-based abuse is suspected, victims will be entitled to special measures.
- Any suspicion of honour-based abuse will require safeguarding activity and police officers should contact the force specialist or their line manager for advice.

11.1.16 The College of Policing¹⁸⁹ also note that when dealing with honour-based abuse, it is important that officers note the severity of the situation, and that they may only have **one chance** of speaking to a potential victim to save that individual from serious harm. By seeking police assistance, the victim may have brought further shame on themselves, their family and community. They may be fearful of putting their family at further risk by disclosing abuse and may be reluctant to engage. It is of great importance that officers take positive action to ensure safety of victims, regardless of whether they are supportive of an investigation or not.

11.2 HONOUR-BASED ABUSE – NATIONAL CONTEXT

11.2.1 In the year ending March 2023, there were 2,905 HBA-related offences recorded by police in England and Wales (excluding Devon and Cornwall), an increase of 1% compared with the year ending March 2022. Of the 2,905 offences, 84 were FGM offences and 172 were forced marriage offences¹⁸⁹.

11.2.2 There were also 2,018 HBA-related incidents recorded by the police, an increase of 10% from the previous year¹⁹⁰.

11.3 HONOUR-BASED ABUSE – LOCAL CONTEXT

11.3.1 Local data provided by Dorset Police shows that there were 4 recorded honour-based abuse crimes in BCP in the financial year 2023/24. There were no recorded FGM or Forced Marriage crimes. As previously mentioned, these crimes are often underreported meaning that this is likely to be an underrepresentation of numbers.

¹⁸⁹ [National data shows increase in 'honour'-based abuse \(HBA\) offences - Saveria UK](#)

12 CONCLUSIONS

12.1.1 Analysis of serious violent crime, anti-social behaviour and domestic abuse shows that across the three towns of BCP, Bournemouth experiences the highest amount of crime and disorder in relation to these crime types.

12.1.2 A key beat code within the data which consistently displays high numbers across the different crime types is Central Bournemouth. As such, this may be an important location for any intervention strategies.

12.1.3 A key cohort within the data was young people. Data shows that the most common age groups within the majority of the most common types of serious violence occurrences in BCP generally involve young people as both victims and suspects, particularly those aged 15-19. Further, 'youth' was a significant theme within the ASB data. This suggests that young people are a key age group to target with intervention and prevention activities.

12.1.4 Although young people were key cohorts within the different types of serious violence occurrences explored within this report, it is key to remember that a minority of young people are involved in serious violence. We must also seek to tailor interventions and education to adult members of the community, particularly for sexual offences due to the over-representation of older victims.

12.1.5 When exploring BCP specific data, Priority 1 – Tackle violent crime in all of its forms, was closely linked to Priority 4 – Tackle issues related to violence against women and girls. Police data shows that the most common type of serious violence occurrences in 2023/24 were sexual offences, with the majority of victims being female.

12.1.6 Unfortunately, data around Priority 2 – keep young people and adults safe from exploitation (including online exploitation) was limited. There were low numbers of young people known to the Complex Safeguarding Team who were being, or at risk of being criminally or sexually exploited. However, wider police data around this topic (for both children and adults) was not available, creating a significant gap in our knowledge around this topic. It is hoped that this knowledge gap will be resolved for the next Strategic Assessment.

12.1.7 Looking at Priority 3 – Work with communities to deal with ASB hotspots, including drug dealing, showed that youth was one of the most common themes within ASB data. Further, 'drug' related ASB increased by 25% in comparison to last year. People using or dealing/drugs was identified as a key concern in the resident's survey (2021), with residents in Boscombe West having the largest perception of all the wards with people using/dealing drugs in the area. This highlights the need to tackle drug dealing and use across BCP, perhaps with particular attention towards public perception in Boscombe West.

12.1.8 As part of Priority 4 – Tackle issues relating to VAWG, research and data around domestic abuse and honour-based abuse and forced marriage was explored.

12.1.9 Research and data around domestic abuse in a BCP context shows the prevalence of post-separation abuse. It is therefore key for professionals to be aware of this issue and have the required skills and knowledge to adequately support victims.

12.1.10 Further, data highlights that there is a high proportion of repeat victims experiencing domestic abuse. Professionals should be aware of this when seeking to provide support, as well as the fact that research by the University of Leeds (2023) found that the likelihood of a repeat offence is highest within a short time period after the initial offence, emphasising the crucial need for support for victims at this time.

12.1.11 The ages of those involved in domestic abuse were very different from those involved in serious violence occurrences. A large proportion of victims and suspects were aged 30-44.

12.1.12 In reference to priority 4, research highlights the lack of data around the most marginalised victims who experience abuse and barriers they face to accessing support. As such, it is recommended that BCP adopt the DA Commissioner's Strategic priority to improve support for the most marginalised victims and survivors who face the greatest barriers. It is recognised that we have a gap in our knowledge around marginalised victims due to underreporting, particularly around honour-based abuse and forced marriage. Therefore, it is important that we are mindful of these issues when seeking to deliver intervention strategies to communities.



Serious Violence Needs Assessment

2024-2025

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Contents

Executive Summary	4
Risk Factors – Key Findings	4
Violence Profile – Key Findings	5
Violence Profile – Recommendations	6
Limitations	6
1. Description of Population and Place	8
Geographical	8
Population	9
Employment	10
Deprivation	11
1.4. Population profile	16
Education	17
Young People	20
1.7. Bournemouth Town Centre and Night-Time Economy	20
1.8. Composition of Local Government	21
1.9. Health and Social care services	21
1.10. Criminal Justice System	22
2. Serious Violence Risk and Protective Factors	24
2.1. Childhood trauma	24
2.2. Looked After Children	29
2.3. School exclusions	32
2.4. Special Educational Needs (SEN)	35
2.5. Sense of belonging	38
2.6. Gangs/ Child Exploitation	39
2.7. Social media	41
2.8. First time entrants to the CJS	41
2.9. Domestic Abuse	43
2.10. Substance abuse	44
2.11. County Lines	46
2.12. Night-time economy related violence.	47
2.13. Sexual violence and the night-time economy	49
2.14. Other Sexual Violence	50
2.15. Sexual Violence and Under Reporting	51
2.16. Protective factors	53

3. Violence Profile.....	56
Serious violence in BCP	56
Sexual assaults	59
Rape.....	68
Robbery.....	74
Section 18 Grievous Bodily Harm (GBH).....	79
Knife Flagged Offending.....	85
Summary	91
Costs of crime	92
4. Community Voice Surveys	93
4.1. Dorset Police Community Safety Survey 2023/24.	93
4.2. Consultation of Young People, Parents and Carers.....	94
4.3. Young People’s Consultation on Youth Service	95
4.4. Community Voice Surveys - Discussion.....	95
5. Evidence Based Reviews.....	97
5.1. High Impact Interventions.....	97
5.1.1. A&E Navigators.....	97
5.1.2 Focused Deterrence.....	98
5.1.3. Social Skills Training.....	100
5.1.4. Sports Programmes	102
5.2. Moderate Impact Interventions.....	104
5.2.1 Bystander interventions to prevent sexual assault	104
5.2.2. Relationship violence prevention lessons and activities.....	106
5.2.3. Hot Spots Policing.....	108
5.3. Other Interventions.....	113
5.3.1. Knife surrender schemes	113
5.3.2. Knife crime education programmes	114
5.3.3. Interventions to prevent school exclusion	115
6. Service Mapping	117
6.1. Acts Fast	117
6.2. BCHA	117
6.3. Child and Adolescent Mental Health Service (CAMHS)	118
6.4. Children in Care (CIC) Health Team	119
6.5. Choose 2 Change	119
6.6. Community Mental Health Teams (CMHT)	119
6.7. Community Safety Accreditation Scheme (CSAS)	119

6.8. Criminal Justice Liaison and Diversion (CJLD) Service	120
6.9. Dorset Combined Youth Justice Service (DCYJS).....	121
6.10 . Engage Develop Adapt Succeed (EDAS)/ Reach – Young People Drug and Alcohol Service	121
6.11. Family Hubs.....	122
6.12. Footprints Project.....	123
6.13. BCP Neighbourhood Policing Team	124
6.14. Paragon	126
6.15. The Retreat.....	126
6.16. SAFE Partnership	126
6.17. Sexual Trauma and Recovery Service (STARS)	127
6.18. Shelter.....	127
Speech and Language Therapy within the Criminal Justice Liaison and Diversion Service.....	128
6.19. The Shores	128
6.20. Steps 2 Wellbeing	129
6.21. St Mungo's	129
6.22. Time 2 Change	129
6.23. UP2U	129
6.24. Victim Support.....	130
6.25. We Are With You	130
6.26. Youth Outreach Team.....	130
6.27. YMCA Bournemouth	131

Executive Summary

Serious violence has a devastating impact on the lives of victims and families. It instils fear within communities and is extremely costly to society. Dorset Policing Authority is the seventh safest place to live in the United Kingdom, which should be kept in mind when discussing serious violence in a BCP context. However, there are still violent crimes which occur within BCP; between 1st April 2023 and 31st March 2024, approximately 140 individuals were seriously harmed due to serious violent crime in the BCP area.

The purpose of this Serious Violence Strategic Needs Assessment is to shed light on the picture of serious violence in Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole. The document provides a comprehensive overview of risk and protective factors for serious violence with links to the local population. A contextual picture of serious violence in Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole is given using data from 2023/24, exploring key trends, victim and suspect demographic characteristics, key locations for violence within the area, and recommendations for further work to further develop understanding.

Risk Factors – Key Findings

Existing research identifies that seriously violent offenders are a minority, however, chronic and persistent offenders tend to experience common risk factors which occur well before the age of offending and sometimes even before birth. Criminological and public health research suggests that childhood trauma and adversity significantly increase the risk of serious, chronic, and violent offending¹. Those who have experienced greater levels of childhood trauma are at greater risk of offending.

Looked after children are likely to have experienced greater than average amounts of childhood trauma, and national statistics identify a correlation between looked-after-children and offending. National comparator data shows that there is a higher percentage of looked after children aged 10-17 who are offending in BCP in comparison to our CIPFA Nearest Neighbours. Additionally, the percentage of looked after children with fixed period exclusions is highest in BCP in comparison to our CIPFA Nearest Neighbours, and looked after children in BCP perform the worst out of our CIPFA nearest neighbours in terms of their emotional and behavioural health average score. These findings indicate that further work is needed to understand the experiences of looked after children in BCP and any potential links between looked after children and serious violence with the intention of reducing risk.

¹ Piquero *et al* (2003), referenced in Fox, B., Perez, N., Cass, E., Baglivio, M., and Epps, N. (2015). 'Trauma changes everything: Examining the relationship between adverse childhood experiences and serious, violence and chronic juvenile offenders.' *Child Abuse & Neglect*. 46. Pp. 163-173. Available at: [Trauma changes everything: examining the relationship between adverse childhood experiences and serious, violent and chronic juvenile offenders - PubMed \(nih.gov\)](#)

Existing research identifies school suspensions and exclusions as a risk factor for serious violence, as increased unsupervised time online and in the community for those young people who already exhibit behavioural challenges may provide greater opportunity to commit crime. National comparator data shows that suspension and exclusion rates in BCP are relatively high.

Gang participation is another risk factor for serious violence. Children who have experienced childhood trauma are more likely to be at risk of exploitation from gangs which can offer a sense of belonging that is normally associated with being part of a family or extended family. Dorset police are currently working to identify if there are individuals within BCP who may meet the definition of a 'street gang', which the NSPCC define as 'groups of young people who see themselves (and are seen by others) as a discernible group for whom crime and violence is integral to the groups identity'.

Contact with the criminal justice system is another risk factor for serious violence. Research shows that those who have had contact with the criminal justice system are more likely to experience further future contact than those who have no experience with the criminal justice system, even after accounting for self-reported offending². Burke (2014)³ notes that adolescents who are in the process of developing their identity may be strongly affected by stigmatization and social obstacles such as difficulty finding employment, ineligibility for student loans, and exclusion from conventional social networks resulting from a criminal record, which may encourage deviance. Historically, there have been discrepancies between local and national data for first time entrant to the criminal justice system rates in BCP, with national data showing the rates to be high. The Youth Justice Board changed their source of first-time entrant data from Q1 2023; it is hoped this will lead to more accurate data, which should enable a greater understanding of the rates of first time entrants and shed light on the need for intervention in this area. Since the change, first time entrant rates are considerably lower.

Violence Profile – Key Findings

The definition of serious violence being used by BCP Council for the purpose of this report is as follows:

'Mirroring the Home Office Serious Violence Strategy (2018), Serious Violence in BCP will be defined as "homicide, knife crime, and gun crime and areas of criminality where serious violence or its threat is inherent, such as in gangs and county lines drug dealing". The BCP Serious Violence Strategy/ Needs Assessment will also address manslaughter,

² Beardslee, J., Miltimore, S., Fine, A., Frick, P. J., Steinberg, L., & Cauffman, E. (2019). Under the radar or under arrest: How is adolescent boys' first contact with the juvenile justice system related to future offending and arrests? *Law and Human Behaviour*, 43(4), 342- 357. Available at: [Under the radar or under arrest: How is adolescent boys' first contact with the juvenile justice system related to future offending and arrests? \(apa.org\)](https://apa.org)

³ Burke, R. (2014). *An Introduction to Criminological Theory*. 4th ed. UK: Willan Publishing.

³ See footnote 84.

attempted murder, Grievous Bodily Harm (S18 and S20), domestic abuse, rape, sexual assaults, aggravated burglary, robbery, and arson with intent to endanger life.'

Based on the above definition, the priority crime types identified from the violence profile are sexual offences (sexual assault and rape) and robbery. Knife crime is another identified priority due to the severe consequences which can result from this crime.

Domestic abuse will not be addressed by the serious violence duty as this would lead to duplication as there are many services already operating in the BCP area to tackle this, as well as the domestic abuse strategic group to help tackle this issue.

Violence Profile – Recommendations

The number of victims aged 50-54 for sexual offences was higher than to be expected. As such, it is recommended that the accessibility of support services for older victims should be assessed to ensure that support is widely available.

Education work with universities around sexual offences should be continued, as data for 2023/24 shows that this age group is still a key cohort in terms of victims of sexual offences.

Work should be done with pubs, bars and clubs to ensure that comprehensive procedures are in place when supporting victims of sexual assault in licensed premises.

A high proportion of rape occurrences had a domestic abuse flag. Further work should be done to ensure that professionals working within domestic abuse services have extensive training on how to support victims of rape.

The most common location for robberies was in Central Bournemouth, and numbers were elevated on weekends. This is likely to do with routine activities theory. Numbers of GBH S18 in the town centre were also elevated on weekends; this should be kept in mind when discussing policing initiatives in the town centre.

Limitations

There are concerns around the quality of the police data used in this report, particularly in terms of flagging for domestic abuse and knife related offences. The numbers of offences discussed in these sections should be treated with caution.

There was a large amount of missing ethnicity data, meaning this report is unable to clearly identify if there are any over or under representations of victim or suspect ethnicities.

The violence profile of this report would have been enhanced by the addition of ambulance and emergency care data relating to serious violence, however, this data is

not currently available. It is hoped that this data will become available for future versions of this report.

1. Description of Population and Place

Geographical

The area of Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole is in the county of Dorset located on the south coast. The area has 33 Wards, shown in figure 2 and is served by a range of local agencies and those with pan-Dorset responsibilities, such as Dorset Police and Our Dorset Integrated Care System, and agencies with a wider area responsibility, such as Dorset & Wiltshire Fire Authority and National Probation Service. BCP Council was formed in April 2019.

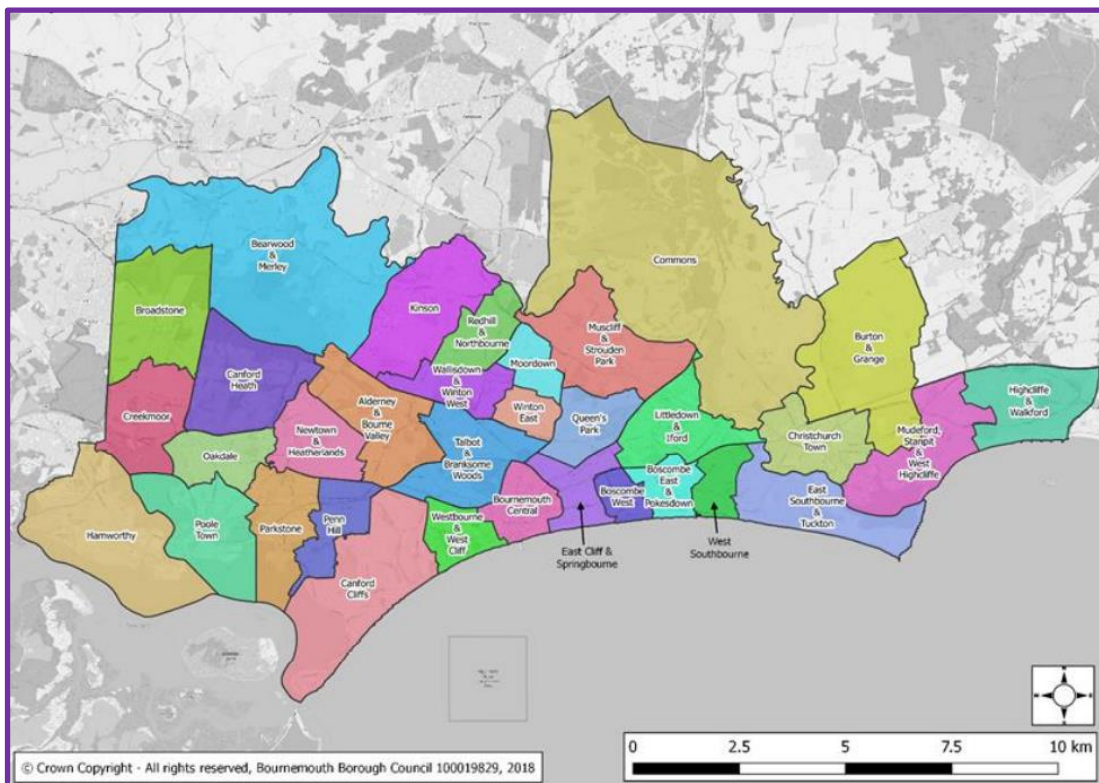


Figure 1 - Map of BCP

There are four Business Improvement Districts within the BCP area, [Poole BID](#), Bournemouth [Town Centre BID](#), Bournemouth [Coastal BID](#) and [Christchurch BID](#).

Population

The most recent [ONS data](#) (2021) estimates the BCP population to be 400,300. The population is predicted to grow to 403,600 by 2028, a growth of 2%.

BCP has an ageing population; there are a higher proportion of residents over the age 65 and a smaller proportion of the population under age 16 when compared with national rates.

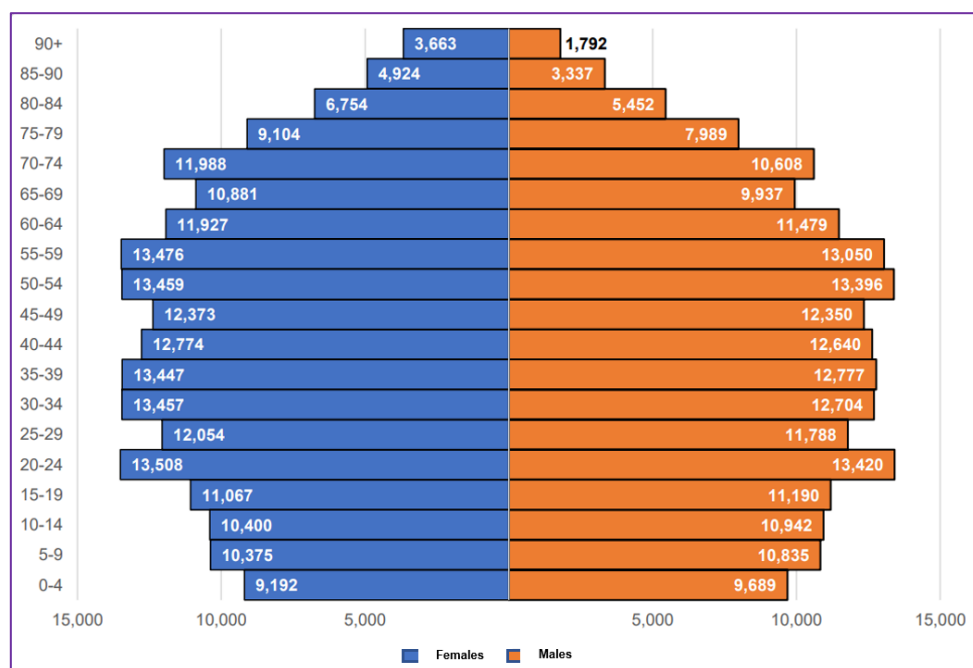


Figure 2 - Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole Age Distribution by Gender

Although the majority of those involved in serious violence are adults, as will be seen later on in the violence profile, young people are disproportionately affected by serious violence, both as victims and suspects. This is important to note considering the lower proportion of young people as residents in the area.

[Ethnicity data](#) (2021) for BCP shows:

- 82.4% of the population are White British.
- 8% are other white.
- 3.4% of the population are Asian, Asian British and Asian Welsh.
- 2.8% of the population are from Mixed and Multiple Ethnic Groups.
- 1.1% of the population are Black, Black British, Black Welsh, Caribbean or African.

Data on [religion](#) shows:

- 46.8% of the population of BCP are Christian,
- 42.2% have no religion,

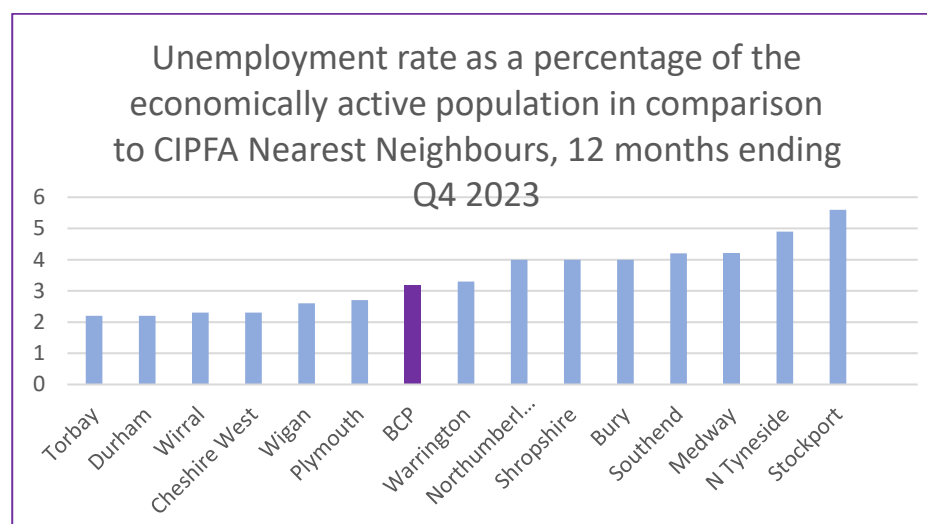
- 1.7% are Muslim.
- 0.7% are Hindu.
- 0.7% are any other religion.
- 0.5% are Buddhist.
- 0.4 are Jewish.
- 0.1% are Sikh.
- 6.9% of people in BCP did not provide an answer in relation to religion in the ONS survey which provided this data.

ONS Data on [sexual orientation](#) shows that 88.5% of the population (aged 16+) in BCP are heterosexual and 3.9% are lesbian, gay, bisexual or other. There is no data available for 7.6% of the population.

Employment

Currently 61% of the total resident population are of working age. Median annual pay for residents of, and people working in, BCP is slightly lower than the [national average](#). Data from [LG Inform](#) shows the unemployment rate for economically active members of the population in BCP for 2022 Q3 (12 months ending) at 4% in comparison to 3.7% for England.

Figure 3⁴ shows that in comparison to our CIPFA nearest neighbours⁵, unemployment rates as a percentage of the economically active population in BCP are fairly central and not of notable concern:



⁴ Data for Sefton was missing and therefore is not included in this figure.

⁵ The CIPFA (Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy) Nearest Neighbours Model tool uses statistical processes to identify a local authority's nearest neighbours. The factors upon which classifications are based must provide a balanced representation of the authorities' traits. The variables employed in the assessment are descriptive characteristics of the area each authority administers; they are not a reflection of the way in which resource of services are considered. The Nearest Neighbours tool includes 40 metrics using a wide range of social-economic indicators.

Figure 3 - unemployment rate as a percentage of the economically active population - BCP in comparison to CIPFA Nearest Neighbours.

Data from [NOMIS](#)⁶ (Oct 2021-Sept 2022) shows that of those who are economically inactive aged 16-64 living in the BCP area;

- 26.6% are students.
- 18.8% are looking after family/home.
- 23.9% are long term sick.
- 14.5% are retired.
- 14.2% are other.
- 20.9% want a job.
- 79.1% do not want a job⁷.

NOMIS data suggests that the number of students in BCP has an impact on high unemployment rates in the areas in comparison to the South West.

BCP has lower rates of long-term sick in comparison to the South West as a whole (25.7%), as well as lower rates of retired economically inactive people in comparison to the South West as a whole (19.0). Further, 79.1% of economically inactive people in BCP do not want a job, in comparison to 82% of economically inactive people in the South West.

Those in employment in the BCP area are employed in a range of industries. Over 53% of total employment in the BCP area in the five largest sectors: 'health', 'retail' 'accommodation and food services', 'education' and 'manufacturing'. ([BCP Council](#) 2023).

Unemployment across the BCP area was on a downward trend after it peaked in around 2009, following the financial crisis of 2008. Unemployment numbers started to rise in 2020 due to the impact of the covid pandemic and rose to an annual figure of 5.6% in the year to September 2021 before starting to fall ([BCP Council](#) 2023).

Deprivation

Deprivation refers to a lack of basic necessities and covers a wide range of factors that heavily impact on both individuals and families. The Indices of Deprivation (IMD) combines 7 domains to produce an overall relative measure of deprivation. These domains are as follows:

⁶ Nomis is a service provided by the Office for National Statistics (ONS) which publishes statistics related to the population, society and the labour market at national, regional and local levels.

⁷ Numbers do not equate to 100% because some people may fall in to more than one category.

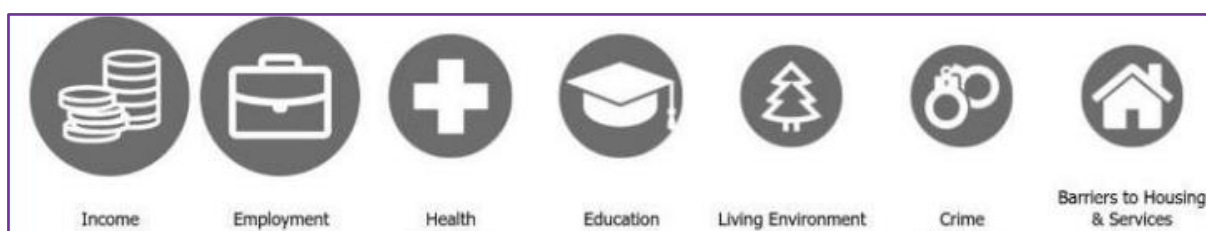


Figure 4 - Indices of Deprivation domains.

There are two supplementary indices: The Income Deprivation Affecting Children Index (IDACI) and the Income Deprivation Affecting Older People Index (IDOAPI).

There are areas within BCP that are considered to be among both the most and least deprived areas of the country through the Indices of Deprivation 2019. Understanding where these areas are and what types of deprivation affect them provides important contextual information when seeking to understand risk factors around serious violence.

45,400 people in BCP live in an area that is amongst the 20% most deprived in England under the Indices of Multiple Deprivation 2019, including 8,900 0-16-year-olds and 6,200 over 65-year-olds. BCP has 9 lower super output areas in the most deprived 10% in England where 16,000 residents live. The greatest levels of deprivation are in the wards of Boscombe West, Kinson, East Cliff & Springbourne, Alderney & Bourne Valley, and Muscliff & Strouden Park.

In contrast, 82,800 people live in an area that is amongst the 20% least deprived areas in England, including 12,700 0–16-year-olds and 26,000 over 65-year-olds.

Figure 5 shows a map of BCP coloured by areas of deprivation, with red being the most deprived and green being the least deprived. Areas in dark red are in the 10% most deprived in the UK.

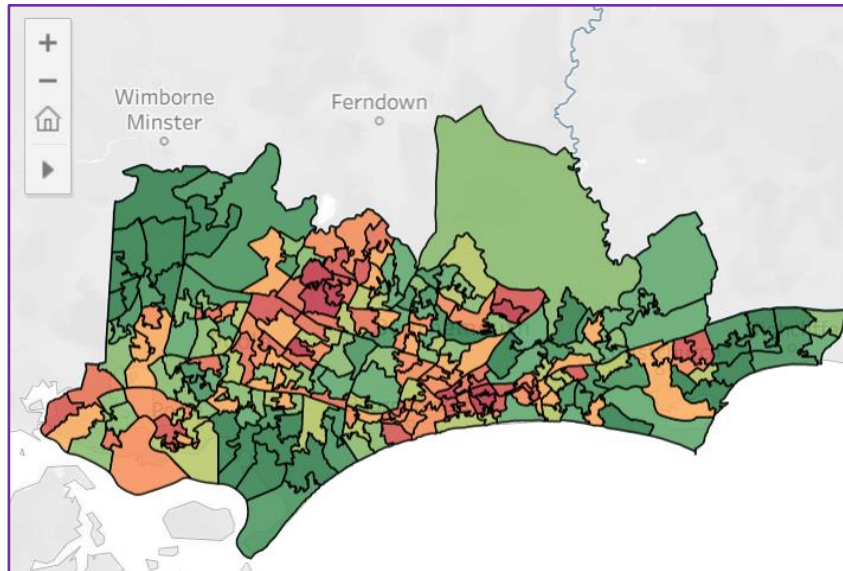


Figure 5 - Map of Index of Multiple Deprivation across BCP

BCP has more Lower Super Output Areas (LSOAs) in areas of lower deprivation in comparison to areas of high deprivation, a protective factor against crime and disorder. The most common type of deprivation in the BCP area is education and skills deprivation.

Figure 6 below provides a breakdown of the most deprived areas in BCP. Deprivation in BCP is polarised in a small number of highly deprived areas. These have been split in to 4 categories in figure 6:

‘Entrenched’ areas of deprivation are LSOAs whose ranking has remained in the most deprived 10% nationally over both time periods⁸ 2015 and 2019.

‘Escalating’ areas of deprivation are LSOAs whose ranking has deteriorated and moved them into the most deprived 10% in 2019.

‘Continuing’ areas of deprivation are LSOAs in the most deprived 11-20% nationally in 2019.

‘Emerging’ areas of deprivation are LSOAs whose ranking has moved them in to the most deprived 11-20% during 2019.

⁸ Index of multiple deprivation was updated in both 2015 and 2019

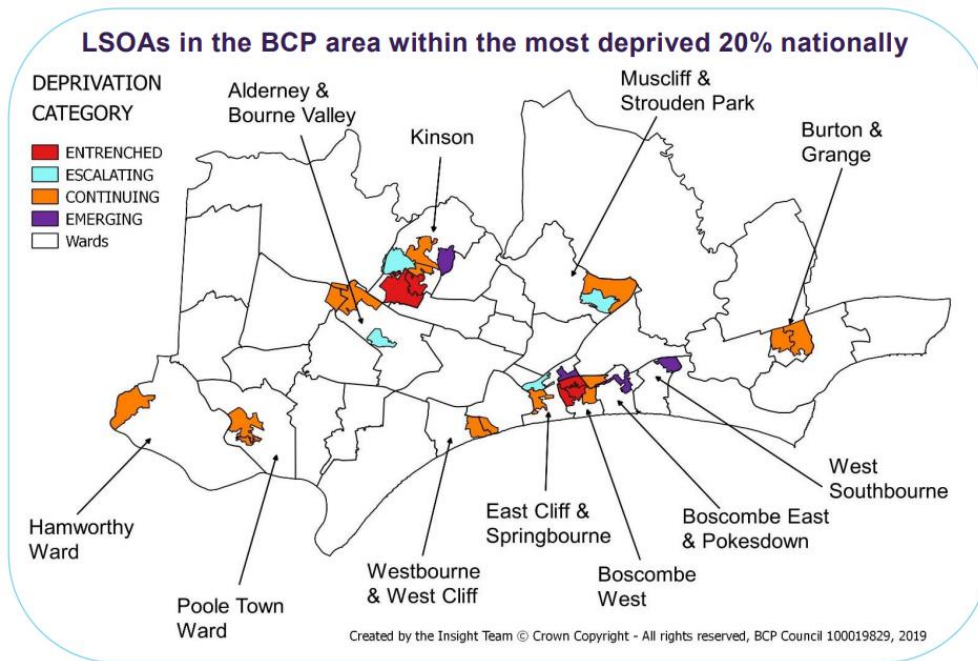


Figure 6 -Breakdown of the most deprived areas in BCP.

All five LSOAs of entrenched deprivation cluster around two wards: Boscombe West and Kinson. Deprivation in these areas appears to be spreading or diffusing in to neighbouring or nearby areas.

The primary forms of deprivation within Boscombe West are living environment, health deprivation, and crime, whereas in Kinson, deprivation is medium to high across all the domains, but particularly education and skills deprivation.

The characteristics of these areas are likely to have an impact on the types of deprivation experienced. Boscombe West has a high concentration of houses of multiple occupation (HMOs) which have been converted from former guest houses, previously designed for seaside tourism, which contributes to a more transient population in this area. HMOs play a valuable role in the UK housing market, especially for those unable to access other tenures⁹. However, scholars have identified concerns stemming from the proliferation of HMOs, namely that cheap rents may lead to the concentration of vulnerable and deprived social groups, often with multiple and complex health needs, contributing to higher levels of health deprivation in Boscombe West. Additionally, vulnerable individuals are more susceptible to becoming both victims and perpetrators of crime, likely contributing to higher rates of crime deprivation in the area.

In contrast, Kinson has lower migration rates and lower levels of privately rented accommodation. This suggests that individuals and families are likely to live in the area for longer. A child growing up in a deprived area implies that they are more likely to be provided with insufficient educational support, lack of recreational space (no safe park

⁹ Barratt, C., Kitcher, C., and Stewart, J. 'Beyond safety to wellbeing: How local authorities can mitigate the mental health risks of living in houses in multiple occupation'. *Journal of Environmental Health Research*. 12:1. Available at: [Journal of Environmental Health Research - Beyond safety to wellbeing \(core.ac.uk\)](https://www.core.ac.uk/journals/journal-of-environmental-health-research)

or playground) and receive poorer quality childcare and health support¹⁰. This has numerous inevitable long-term consequences such as poorer mental and physical health, lower school achievement, and worse outcomes in adulthood^{11,12,13,14}. Another study has found that children in deprived areas are at higher risk of early alcohol use¹⁵ and early onset of alcohol use increases the risk of alcohol dependence and other illicit drug use in later life¹⁶.

Research¹⁷ shows that children from the poorest homes are a year behind in their language and literacy skills by the age of 5. The social disparities in language and communication among children in reception persist and widen throughout the school years; half of the inequality in learning outcomes at age 11 can be traced back through the school years, whilst children who score badly on school readiness at age 5 are less likely to succeed in secondary school, and more likely to experience poor health and low pay as adults.¹⁸

Children living in deprived neighbourhoods are less likely to complete high school and achieve higher educational attainment. This creates a significant difference in their earning levels in later life compared to their peers. Local areas with community safety issues often restrict children from after-school outdoor activities and increases their sedentary behaviours. This significantly contributes to childhood obesity amongst children living in poor neighbourhoods¹⁹.

¹⁰ Galster, G., Marcotte, D., Mandell, M., Wolman, H., and Augustine, N. (2007) 'The Influence of Neighbourhood and Poverty During Childhood on Fertility, Education, and Earning Outcomes. 22:5. Pp. 723-751. [The Influence of Neighborhood Poverty During Childhood on Fertility, Education, and Earnings Outcomes: Housing Studies: Vol 22, No 5 - Get Access \(tandfonline.com\)](#)

¹¹ Featherstone, B., Morris, B., Daniel, B., Bywaters, P., Brady, G., Bunting, L., Mason, W., and Mirza, N. (2019) 'Poverty, inequality, child abuse and neglect: Changing the conversation across the UK in child protection?' *Children and Youth Services Review*. 97, pp. 127-133. [Poverty, inequality, child abuse and neglect: Changing the conversation across the UK in child protection? - ScienceDirect](#)

¹² See footnote 7.

¹³ Wickham, S., Anwar, E., Barr, B., Law, C., Taylor-Robinson, D. (2016). 'Poverty and child health in the UK: using evidence for action'. *Archives of Diseases in Childhood*. 101:8. Pp. 759-766 [Poverty and child health in the UK: using evidence for action | Archives of Disease in Childhood \(bmj.com\)](#)

¹⁴ Wood, D. (2003). 'Effect of Child and Family Poverty on Child Health in the United States.' *Pediatrics*, 112. Pp. 707-711. [Effect of Child and Family Poverty on Child Health in the United States | Pediatrics | American Academy of Pediatrics \(aap.org\)](#)

¹⁵ Bandyopadhyay, A. (2022). 'Health and Household environment factors linked with early alcohol use in adolescence: a record-linked, data-driven, longitudinal cohort study. *IJDPS*, 7:1.

¹⁶ Hingson, R., Heeren, T., Winter, M. (2006). 'Age at Drinking Onset and Alcohol Dependence'. *JAMA Pediatrics*, 160:7. Pp. 739-746. [Age at Drinking Onset and Alcohol Dependence: Age at Onset, Duration, and Severity | Adolescent Medicine | JAMA Pediatrics | JAMA Network](#)

¹⁷ [Childhood poverty and early cognitive development in the U \(suttontrust.com\)](#)

¹⁸ [Mind the gap – getting our children ready for school \(savethechildren.org.uk\)](#)

¹⁹ Cecil- Karb, R., Grogan-Kaylor, A. 'Childhood Body Mass Index in Community Context: Neighbourhood Safety, Television Viewing, and Growth Trajectories of BMI.' *Health and Social Work*, 24:3. Pp. 169-177. [Childhood Body Mass Index in Community Context: Neighborhood Safety, Television Viewing, and Growth Trajectories of BMI | Health & Social Work | Oxford Academic \(oup.com\)](#)

Family and area level disadvantageous socio-economic conditions often lead to teenage pregnancy²⁰, which is significantly associated with adverse health outcomes and social consequences²¹.

1.4. Population profile

Drawing on Experian's Mosaic Segmentation Tool, the vast majority of the BCP population (403,018 people) live in urban areas, with few members of the population (1,358 people) living in rural areas (BCP Council Report, 2022). The majority of those living in rural areas live in the Commons ward.

The Mosaic Profile for BCP is very different to that for the UK overall, and generally reflects the older age profile, higher proportion of students, and multinational communities living in BCP.

Over half of the BCP population belong to four Mosaic Groups:

- 'Rental Hubs'
- 'Senior Security'
- 'Aspiring Homemakers'
- 'Prestige Position'

The largest Mosaic group in the BCP area is 'Rental Hubs' (17.2% of the BCP 2021 population, 69,719 actual). These are typically well-educated young people who either have university degrees or are in the process of gaining them. Accommodation is usually rented from private landlords in urban neighbourhoods. Over half the population in Bournemouth Central, Boscombe West, and Winton East wards are from this group.

The second largest Mosaic group in BCP is 'Senior Security', relating to 14.9% of the BCP population in 2021, 60,166 people total. This group is made up of retired homeowners with good pensions who live in pleasant suburbs. Aged in their late 60s, and in their 70s and 80s, some are married but many live alone, and most have a comfortable financial situation. This group is fairly evenly distributed, but in Highcliffe & Walkford, Mudeford, Stanpit & West Highcliffe, and East Southbourne & Tuckton, more than 40% of the population belong to this group.

13.2% of the BCP population in 2021 (53,437 actual) fall under the Mosaic Group 'Aspiring Homemakers'. These are young people in their 20s and 30s, with a mix of young couples and single people. Around two-thirds have started families and have young children. Most homes are priced below the national average, but mortgage payments make a significant dent in these owners' monthly finances. Residents earn mid-range salaries in varied occupations, with most working full-time. A number may

²⁰ Penman-Aguilar, A., Carter, M., Snead, C., and Kourtis, A. (2013). 'Socioeconomic Disadvantage as a Social Determinant of Teen Childbearing in the U.S.' *Public Health Reports*, 128:1. Pp.5-22. [Socioeconomic Disadvantage as a Social Determinant of Teen Childbearing in the U.S. - PMC \(nih.gov\)](#)

²¹ Cook, S., Cameron, S. 'Social issues of teenage pregnancy'. *Obstetrics, Gynaecology and Reproductive Medicine*. 27:11. Pp. 327-332.

work part-time or take career breaks when their children are small. While incomes are respectable, outgoings are often considerable. Newtown & Heatherlands and Creekmoor wards have the highest proportions in this group.

10.8% of the BCP population in 2021 (43,767 actual) belong to the Mosaic Group 'Prestige Positions'. These are affluent families living in spacious homes within sought-after neighbourhoods. Most householders are married couples, some are older and no longer have dependants, others have children or young adults living at home. They own large, detached houses with substantial market value. Residents are highly educated and have achieved success in their careers. Broadstone and Canford Cliffs have the highest proportions of the population in this group.

Groups with the lowest household incomes are under-represented in the BCP area in comparison to the UK. These groups are:

- Family Basics – Families with limited resources who budget to make ends meet.
- Transient Renters - Single people renting low-cost homes for the short term.
- Municipal Tenants – Urban residents renting high density housing from social landlords.

These groups are clustered in BCP's most deprived areas and account for 11% of the overall population.

Over a third of the population in Kinson (36%) are from the Family Basics group. Other wards with a significant proportion from this group include Alderney & Bourne Valley (25%), Burton & Grange (23%), and Hamworthy (18%). This group contains households bringing up children, who have limited incomes and budget carefully. Many live as couples whilst others are single. Residents live in low-cost family homes, with many rented from local authorities or housing associations. Adults in employment earn modest wages from a range of lower-level jobs. Some work full-time, whilst others work part-time or stay at home to look after children. Some are studying or looking for work.

Boscombe West has a high proportion of Transient Renters (16%); these are young single people in their 20s and 30s who rent affordable living space. Levels of movement are high, and most residents have been living at their address for a few years or less. Some live alone whilst others share with housemates or partners. A minority of households include a young child. Accommodation is rented in low-value properties, usually terraced houses or flats. Day-to-day budgets are limited, usually with very few savings to fall back on. Some people may take out low-value loans.

Education

There are three universities in the BCP area:

- Bournemouth University, which has some 19,000 students, including approximately 3,000 from outside the UK. Its Talbot Campus is in Poole, adjacent to North Bournemouth. The university also has a "Lansdowne Campus" dispersed around Central Bournemouth. It provides a significant

amount of student accommodation through university accommodation providers, but privately renting students are concentrated in the Winton and Charminster areas of North Bournemouth.

- The Arts University Bournemouth, with approximately 3,500 students, has a campus adjacent to Bournemouth University's campus in Poole, and has a number of accommodation blocks in and around Bournemouth University's "Lansdowne Campus". Students privately renting are again concentrated in the Winton and Charminster areas.
- BCP's newest university is the AECC University College (formerly the *Anglo-European College of Chiropractic*) and has about 800 students. AECC's campus is in Boscombe.

BCP has 19 halls of residents to accommodate university students, alongside accommodation provided by private landlords. Police data from 2022/23 suggested that student accommodation is an overrepresented location in both sexual assault and rape occurrences, despite overall numbers remaining low.

There are 114 schools in BCP, including 67 primary schools, 23 secondary schools, and 3 all through schools. There are 100 Mainstream schools, 12 special schools, and 2 Pupil Referral Unit's.

86% of schools in BCP are academies. There are 56 primary academies, 19 secondary academies, 3 special academies, 1 middle school academy 1 junior academy and 1 all through academy. 14 schools in BCP are maintained.

As previously mentioned, education is the most prevalent domain of deprivation across all three towns in BCP. There are 13 LSOAs in the 10% most deprived areas nationally in the education domain. These LSOAs are in Canford Heath, Hamworthy, Alderney and Bourne Valley, Kinson, East Cliff and Springbourne, and Burton and Grange.

LG Inform data shows the permanent exclusion rate in BCP schools 2021/22 was 0.01% of pupils in [primary schools](#), 0.14% of pupils in [secondary schools](#), and 0.18% of pupils in [schools for those with SEN](#). The [state school permanent exclusion rate](#) in BCP was 0.14% of pupils. Figure 12²² shows BCP's state school permanent exclusion rate in comparison with our CIPFA nearest neighbours.

²² 2021/22 is the most up to date data.

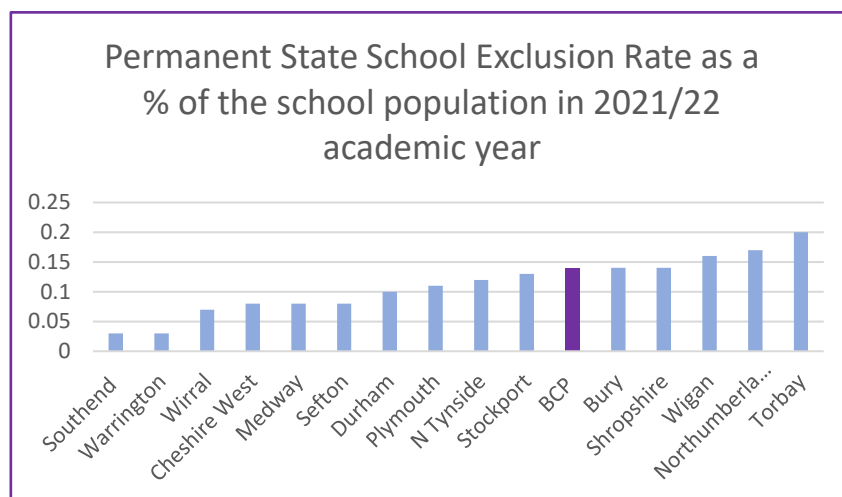


Figure 7 - Permanent state school exclusion rate as a % of the school population in 2021/22 academic year.

Further, the fixed term exclusions rate in BCP 2021/22 was 2.02% of pupils in [primary schools](#), 16.55% of pupils in [secondary schools](#), and 4.06% in [schools for those with SEN](#). The [fixed term exclusion rate in BCP state schools](#) was 8.79% of pupils. Figure 13 shows BCP's state school fixed term exclusion rate in comparison with our CIPFA nearest neighbours.

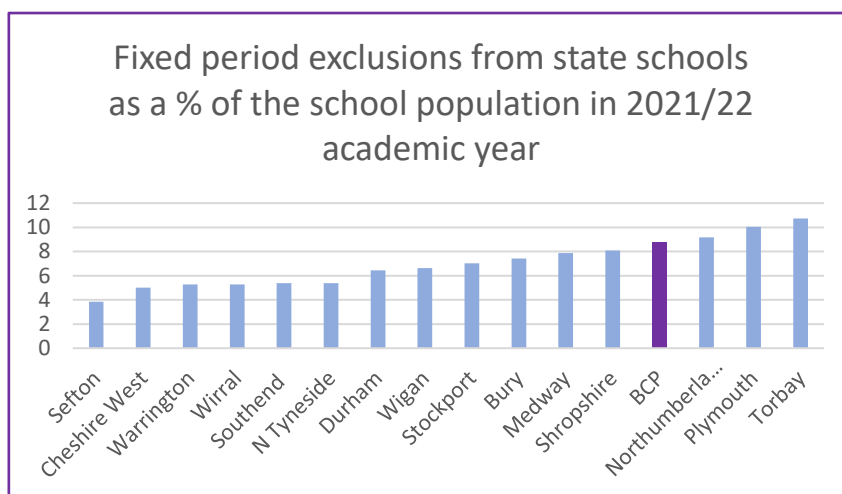


Figure 8 - Fixed term exclusion rate as a % of the school population in 2021/22 academic year.

Comparator data with BCP's CIPFA Nearest Neighbours suggests that these numbers are high. The Home Office Serious Violence Strategy (2018) highlights school exclusions as a risk factor for serious violence. Speaking in [The House Magazine \(2019\)](#) Vicky Foxcroft, Labour MP who set up the cross-party Youth Violence Commission explained:

“Of course, it is not inevitable that pupils who have been excluded will go on to become involved in serious violence and crime. However, we cannot ignore the link between school exclusion and social exclusion: once children and young people are

permanently excluded, it is very difficult for them to re-enter mainstream education. This means that they are more vulnerable to grooming by criminals and to becoming the victims or perpetrators of violent crime.”

Local data shows that there were 116 permanent exclusions in BCP schools in the 2023/24 financial year. Each exclusion can have up to 3 reasons assigned to it without any ranking. The most common reasons for exclusions in BCP last year were persistent disruptive behaviour (71 permanent exclusions), verbal abuse/ threatening behaviour against an adult (27 permanent exclusions), and physical assault against an adult (21 permanent exclusions). The high exclusion rates in BCP may be a cause for concern from a safeguarding of young people and a crime prevention perspective.

Young People

Overall, most children have a generally good start in BCP, comparing favourably with the national average in a number of key measures according to the [Local Authority Interactive Tool](#) and [Public Health England](#). BCP has:

- Lower infant mortality rates than the national average (2.7 per 1,000 in BCP compared with 4 nationally per 1,000, 2020-22),
- A lower proportion of children who are overweight or obese in reception (18.1% in BCP compared with 21.3% nationally, 2022/23),
- Higher population vaccination coverage for Dtap / IPV / Hib (92.1% in BCP compared with 91.8% nationally, 2022/23),
- Good school readiness as evidenced by achieving a good level of development at the end of reception (70.5% in BCP compared with 67.2%, nationally 2022/23).
- The rate of children in absolute low-income families is lower in BCP at 8.4% in comparison to the England average at 12.5% (2022/23). Similarly, the percentage of children in relative low-income families is lower in BCP at 12.1% than the England average at 15.8% (2022/23).

However, there are undoubtedly some children living in BCP who do not have positive childhood experiences and may face a number of adversities. This makes them more vulnerable to harm and may be a risk factor in terms of committing or experiencing serious violence. For example, the rates of children in need are higher in BCP at 337.8 per 10,000, compared with the national average of 321.0 as of May 2024.

1.7. Bournemouth Town Centre and Night-Time Economy

Bournemouth Town Centre has a thriving evening and night-time economy. It achieved and retained its Purple Flag accreditation in 2022, which was first won in 2010. However, the nature of the night-time economy can breed concerns with alcohol related serious violence. It is therefore expected that there will be a hot spot for serious violence around Bournemouth Town Centre. This theme is explored further in Chapter 2, Risk and Protective Factors, and Chapter 3, Violence Profile.

1.8. Composition of Local Government

The BCP Council is a local authority that serves the areas of Bournemouth, Christchurch, and Poole. It was formed in April 2019 through the merger of three former councils in Bournemouth, Christchurch, and Poole.

The composition of BCP Council includes the following elements:

- The leader of the council.
- Cabinet. The leader and the Cabinet members are responsible for making key decisions about local policies and services.
- Councillors. The BCP Council is made up of 76 members representing 33 wards.
- Departments and Services.

1.9. Health and Social care services

NHS Dorset is the public name of NHS Dorset Integrated Care Board (ICB).

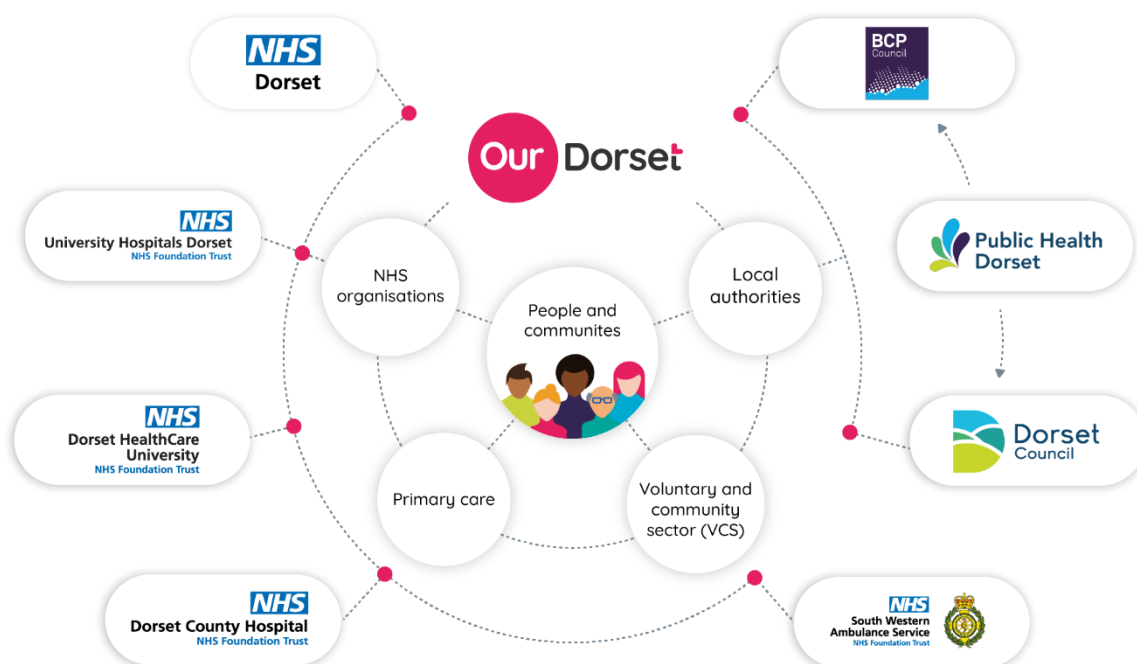


Figure 9 - Our Dorset Integrated Care Board Partners

BCP Council has the following hospital healthcare facilities: Royal Bournemouth Hospital, Christchurch Hospital, and Poole Hospital.

The Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole area also offers residential care or nursing care suitable for different needs.

1.10. Criminal Justice System

The criminal justice system in Bournemouth, Christchurch, and Poole operates under the framework of the English legal system. There are some of the key components in the area.

Police

Dorset Police is responsible for maintaining safety and preventing crimes in BCP area through the following stations:

- Bournemouth Enquiries and Custody Building.
- Bournemouth Police Station
- Christchurch Police station.
- Poole Police station and enquiry office.
- Winton Police Station
- Boscombe Police station

Courts

Cases are adjudicated in various courts, depending on the severity and type of the offense.

Bournemouth and Poole County Court and Family Court handles adoption, bankruptcy, childcare arrangements if you separate from your partner, divorce hearings, domestic abuse, financial, remedy, housing, money claims, high court cases, crime, and single justice procedure.

Poole Magistrates' Court handles crime, single justice procedure and benefits.

Probation services

Bournemouth Probation Office is a probation contact centre, which covers Dorset Council and BCP areas. These services provide a programme suitable for those males assessed as posing a medium or high risk of causing serious harm.

Youth justice system

The youth justice system is designed to handle cases involving young offenders who are under the age of 18.

Bournemouth Probation Office and Poole Probation Centre are the probation contact centres within BCP area.

Dorset Combined Youth Justice Service (DCYJS) is a statutory partnership between BCP Council, Dorset Council, Dorset Police, National Probation Service and NHS Dorset Clinical Commissioning Group.

This multi-disciplinary team focuses on helping young people to make positive changes to their lifestyle, keep them safe and secure, and offer assistance and reparation to the victims.

This partnership also works directly with parents, careers, language and speech therapists, psychologists to help provide a positive support network.

Prisons

The Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole area does not have any prisons within its boundaries.

2. Serious Violence Risk and Protective Factors

This chapter explores different risk and protective factors for serious violence that take place across the lifecourse, and provides areas of potential for future work.

2.1. Childhood trauma

There are different risk and protective factors for serious violence across the life course. Research highlights that seriously violent offenders are a minority, however, chronic and persistent offenders tend to have risk factors that occur well before the age of offending, sometimes being present before birth. Criminological and public health research suggests that childhood trauma and adversity significantly increase the risk of serious, chronic, and violent offending²³.

In a U.S. based study²⁴, researchers found that of 658 adolescents reporting involvement in the youth justice system, 90% of justice-involved youths report exposure to some type of traumatic event, with 70% of them meeting the criteria for mental health disorder and 30% of youths meeting the criteria for post-traumatic stress disorder. One-third of their study reported exposure to multiple types of traumas each year.

Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs)

The adverse childhood experiences score was first used in 1998 in a medical study examining the relationship between abuse experienced in childhood and trauma, and the leading causes of death in adults²⁵. The study identified several traumatic childhood experiences that significantly and positively correlated with various negative health outcomes. Not only can these be used as a prediction of poor health, Fox *et al* (2015)²⁶

²³ Piquero *et al* (2003), referenced in Fox, B., Perez, N., Cass, E., Baglivio, M., and Epps, N. (2015). 'Trauma changes everything: Examining the relationship between adverse childhood experiences and serious, violence and chronic juvenile offenders.' *Child Abuse & Neglect*. 46. Pp. 163-173. Available at: [Trauma changes everything: examining the relationship between adverse childhood experiences and serious, violent and chronic juvenile offenders - PubMed \(nih.gov\)](#)

²⁴ Dierkhising, C., Ko, S., Woods-Jaeger, B., Briggs, E., Lee, R., and Pynoos, R. (2013). 'Trauma histories among justice-involved youth: findings from the National Child Traumatic Stress Network'. 4(1). Available at: [Trauma histories among justice-involved youth: findings from the National Child Traumatic Stress Network - PubMed \(nih.gov\)](#)

²⁵ Felitti, V., Anda, R., Nordenberg, D., Williamson, D., Spitz, A., Edwards, V., Koss, M. and Marks, J. (1998). 'Relationship of childhood abuse and household dysfunction to many of the leading causes of death in adults: The Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACE) Study'. *American Psychological Association*. 14(4). Pp. 245-258. Available at: [Relationship of childhood abuse and household dysfunction to many of the leading causes of death in adults. The Adverse Childhood Experiences \(ACE\) Study - PubMed \(nih.gov\)](#)

²⁶ Fox, B., Perez, N., Cass, E., Baglivio, M., and Epps, N. (2015). 'Trauma changes everything: Examining the relationship between adverse childhood experiences and serious, violence and chronic juvenile offenders.' *Child Abuse & Neglect*. 46. Pp. 163-173. Available at: [Trauma changes everything: examining the relationship between adverse childhood experiences and serious, violent and chronic juvenile offenders - PubMed \(nih.gov\)](#)

suggest that the ACE score could be used as a 'first-line screening tool' to identify children at risk of serious, violent and chronic offending *before* this occurs.

ACEs are:

"Highly stressful, and potentially traumatic, events or situations that occur during childhood and/or adolescence. It can be a single event, or prolonged threats to, and breaches of, the young person's safety, security, trust or bodily integrity. These experiences directly affect the young person and their environment, and require significant social, emotional, neurobiological, physical or behavioural adaptations.

- ([Young Minds, 2018](#)).

Examples of these experiences include:

- Physical abuse
- Sexual abuse
- Emotional abuse
- Neglect
- Living with someone who has abused drugs
- Living with someone who has abuse alcohol
- Exposure to domestic violence
- Living with someone who has gone to prison
- Living with someone with serious mental illness
- Losing a parent through divorce, death or abandonment.

ACEs can be barriers to healthy attachment relationships forming in children, can have an adverse impact on physical and mental health, and can be a risk factor for future criminality. The longer an individual experiences an ACE, and the more ACEs an individual experiences, the bigger the impact it will have on their development (Manchester University/NHS).

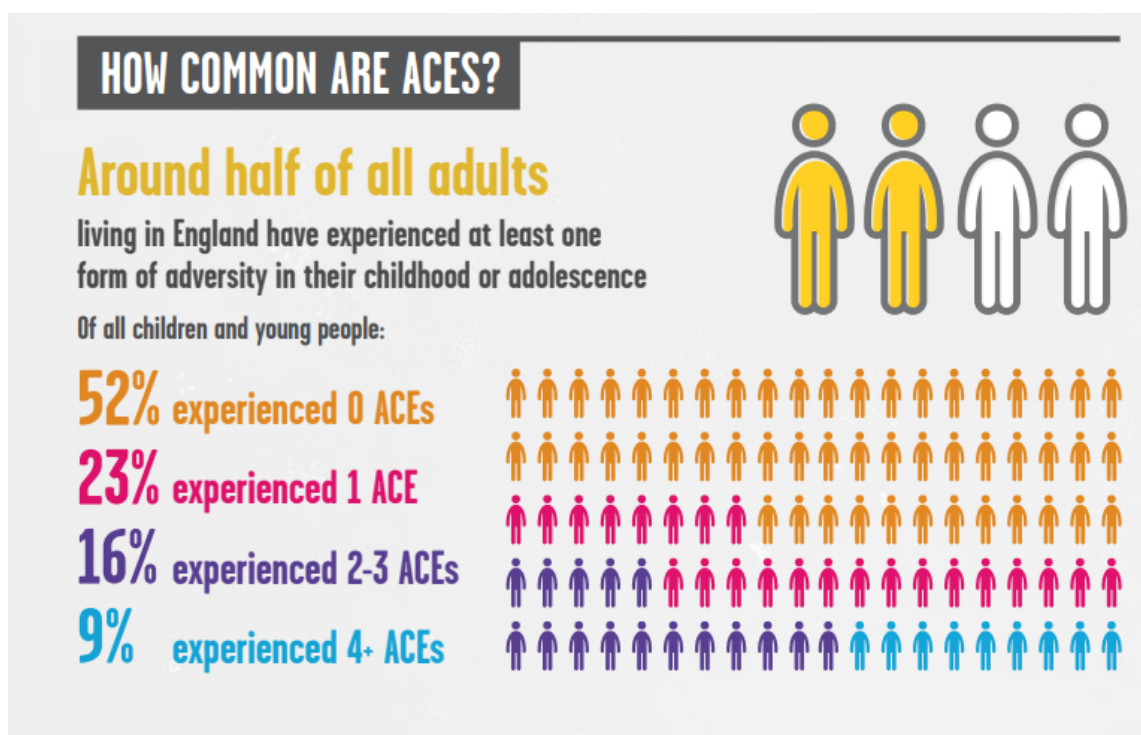


Figure 10 - How Common are ACEs? Source - [Young Minds](#)

As figure 10 shows, ACEs are relatively common, with around half of all adults in England experiencing at least one form of adversity in their childhood or adolescence. Research suggests that as the number of ACEs experienced increases, so does the risk of becoming a perpetrator of serious violence. Fox *et al* (2015) identified that there is a significant difference in the prevalence of ACEs between serious, violent and chronic (SVC) juvenile offenders and offenders who commit one offence and then stop - 'one and done' (O&D) offenders - with SVC offenders showing a higher prevalence of individual ACEs as well as higher overall ACE scores.

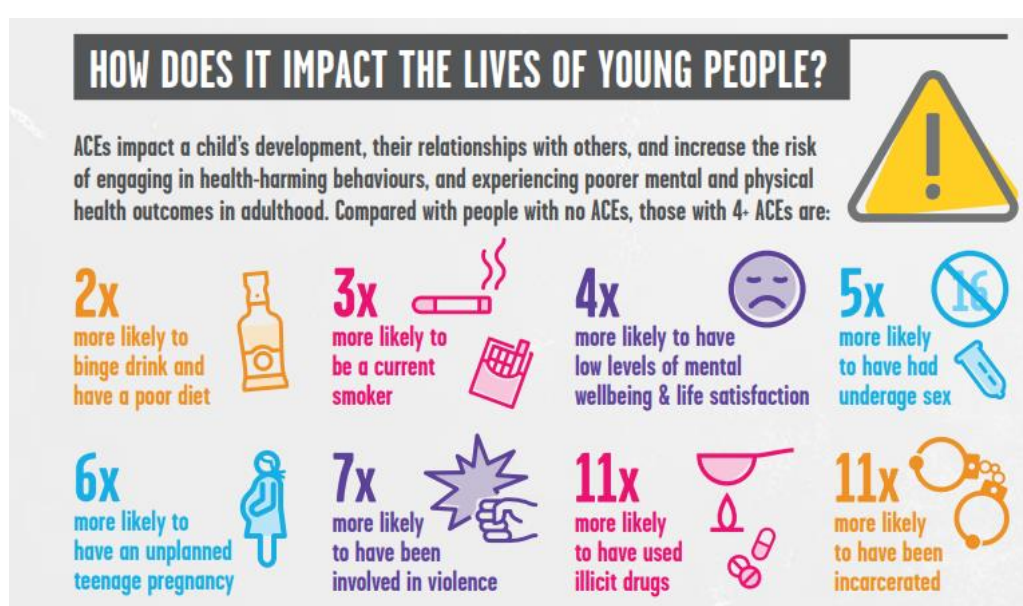


Figure 11 - How do ACEs impact the lives of young people? Source - [Young Minds](#)

ACEs and Attachment

ACEs may inhibit a child's ability to develop secure attachment to their care givers. Children living in adverse environments may have unsupportive or inattentive care givers, who do not respond to their needs appropriately or consistently. Consequently, children become unable to reduce their stress through familial support, and therefore may become accustomed to suppressing or avoiding negative emotions^{27, 28}. As more emotional pain increases, ability to cope with stress decreases, which may cause depressive reactions^{29, 30}.

Hirschi (1969)³¹ conceptualised attachment as an affective bond through which children internalize norms of society. He argued that delinquency will be low in families with strong ties as young people who are attached to their parents are more likely to care about the reactions and expectations of their parents. In contrast, if the parent/child bond is weak, delinquency will increase. Further, these families may struggle to regulate anger in their children, which may reinforce aggressive behaviour if a child feels they are able to act in this way without consequence. Fox *et al* (2015) suggests that these effects can have serious consequences on the development of the child and may be connected to higher levels of violent behaviour.

Further, ACEs are far more prevalent in those who are poor, isolated, and living in deprived circumstances. Social inequality both increases the likelihood of ACEs and amplifies their negative impact³². As previously mentioned, Kinson and Boscombe West are key areas of entrenched deprivation in BCP. As a result, we may see higher levels of serious violence in these areas due to the correlation between ACEs and deprivation.

²⁷ Burns, E., Fischer, S., Jackson, J., Harding, H. (2012). 'Deficits in emotion regulation mediate the relationship between childhood abuse and later eating disorder symptom'. *Child Abuse & Neglect* 36:1 pp. 32-39. Available at: [Deficits in emotion regulation mediate the relationship between childhood abuse and later eating disorder symptoms - PubMed \(nih.gov\)](#)

²⁸ Ye, Z., Wei, X., Zhang, J., Huilin, L., Jiageng, C. (2023). 'The impact of adverse childhood experiences on depression: the role of insecure attachment styles and emotion dysregulation strategies. *Current Psychology*. 13. Pp. 1-11. Available at: [The impact of adverse childhood experiences on depression: the role of insecure attachment styles and emotion dysregulation strategies - PMC \(nih.gov\)](#)

²⁹ Cheong, E Von, Sinnott, C., Dahly, D. & Kearney, P. (2017). 'Adverse childhood experiences (ACEs) and later-life depression: perceived social support as a potential protective factor'. *BMJ Open* 7:9. Available at: [Adverse childhood experiences \(ACEs\) and later-life depression: perceived social support as a potential protective factor - PMC \(nih.gov\)](#)

³⁰ Klumparendt, A., Nelson, J., Barenbrugge, J. and Ehring, T. (2019). 'Associations between childhood maltreatment and adult depression: a mediation analysis'. *BMC Psychiatry*. 19(36). [Associations between childhood maltreatment and adult depression: a mediation analysis | BMC Psychiatry | Full Text \(biomedcentral.com\)](#)

³¹ Referenced in Hoeve, M., Stams, G., van der Put, C., Dubas, J., van der Laan, P., Gerris, J. (2012). 'A Meta-analysis of Attachments to Parents and Delinquency'. *Journal of Abnormal Child Psychology*. 40. pp. 771-785. Available at: [A Meta-analysis of Attachment to Parents and Delinquency | Research on Child and Adolescent Psychopathology \(springer.com\)](#)

³² Asmussen, K., Fischer, F., Drayton, E., and McBride, T. (2020) "Adverse childhood experiences: What we know, what we don't know and what should happen next." *Early Intervention Foundation*. Available at: [Adverse childhood experiences: What we know, what we don't know, and what should happen next | Early Intervention Foundation \(eif.org.uk\)](#)

ACEs and toxic stress

Studies show that trauma experienced in childhood may impact biological and psychological processes, affecting development of the child. One area of development that may be affected, which has impacts on serious violence is one's ability to manage stress. Researchers note that stressful and traumatic events occurring in childhood can lead to chromosome damage³³ and other changes to the brain, as well as a heightened neural state which triggers the brain to excrete adrenal steroids, growth hormones, amino acids, and other stress mediating chemicals³⁴. These hormones may be beneficial in short bursts, but a prolonged chemical response may lead to permanent chemical elevations³⁵.

These neurological and psychological changes may mean that those who have experienced more ACEs are prone to violence in a variety of ways. The physiological changes resulting from the prolonged chemical response to stressful environments may lead to extreme, and potentially violent reactions to trivial stimuli. Toth *et al* (2011, in Fox *et al*, 2015) argue that maltreated children experience difficulties recognizing, expressing and understanding their emotions, and show more aggressive and reactive behaviour.

As well as the ACEs mentioned above, the CDC note additional experiences which may contribute to toxic stress for individuals, namely, living in impoverished neighbourhoods, experiencing food insecurity, experiencing racism and having limited access to support and medical services.

ACEs and intervention implications

Research clearly suggests that the experience of trauma in childhood is a prevalent risk factor for those who may commit serious violence. To tackle this, Fox *et al* (2015) recommend the implementation of policies and programs that help to prevent childhood ACEs in order to reduce risk of future offending. Oral *et al* (2016)³⁶ note that interventions aimed at reducing ACEs at a population level will have the greatest individual and social impact. They argue that to accomplish this, interventions should focus on strengthening individual and community resilience rather than solely identifying and responding to individual ACEs. Focus should be on strengthening communities and reducing resource disparity.

³³ Shalev, I., Moffitt, T., Sugden, K., Williams, B., Houts, R., Danese, A., Mill, J., Arseneault, L., Caspi, A. (2013). 'Exposure to violence during childhood is associated with telomere erosion from 5 to 10 years of age: a longitudinal study'. *Mol Psychiatry*, 18(5). Pp. 576-581. Available at: [Exposure to violence during childhood is associated with telomere erosion from 5 to 10 years of age: a longitudinal study - PMC \(nih.gov\)](#)

³⁴ See article in footnote 23.

³⁵ Cicchetti, D. & Toth, S. 'Child Maltreatment'. *Annual review of Clinical Psychology*. 1, pp. 409-438. [Child Maltreatment | Annual Reviews](#)

³⁶ Oral, R., Ramirez, M., Coohy, C., Nakada, S., Walz, A., Kuntz, A., Benoit, J., Peek-Asa, C. (2016). 'Adverse childhood experiences and trauma informed care: the future of healthcare'. *Pediatric Research*. 79, 227-233. [Adverse childhood experiences and trauma informed care: the future of health care | Pediatric Research \(nature.com\)](#)

2.2. Looked After Children

Looked After Children are likely to have experienced multiple ACEs, leading to their time in care. 2022 Ward level data for BCP shows there are 440 looked after children in the area.

In England, a child looked after is one that is either provided accommodation by, or in the care of, a local authority. The term “looked-after children” includes unaccompanied asylum-seeking children, children in friends and family placements, and those children where the agency has authority to place the child for adoption. It does not include those who have been permanently adopted or who are on a special guardianship order³⁷.

The number of looked after children in England rose from 59,400 in the year ending March 2008, to 72,670 in the year ending March 2017, an increase of just over 22 percent and higher than at any point since 1985^{38, 39}. A small part of this can be dedicated to demographic changes, however there are other social factors at play. High profile cases such as Baby P led to higher levels of Section 31 applications in England⁴⁰. Further, care orders now tend to have a longer duration meaning children are in care for longer, and there have been proposals that the growing population may reflect a growth in the prevalence of social problems and familial difficulties which may lead local authorities to determine a child as sufficiently at risk to meet the threshold for entry to care⁴¹.

Bateman *et al* (2018) note that the **majority** of children who are looked after **do not** come to the attention of the youth justice system. However, there is an evident overrepresentation of looked after children in the youth justice system.

Office for National Statistics (2022) data on the education background of looked-after-children who interact with the criminal justice system shows:

- More than half (52%) of looked-after children born in the academic year ending 1994 and who attended school in England, had a criminal conviction by the age of 24, compared with 13% of children who had not been in care.

³⁷ Office for National Statistics (2022). ‘The education background of looked-after-children who interact with the criminal justice system: December 2022’. Available at: [The education background of looked-after children who interact with the criminal justice system - Office for National Statistics \(ons.gov.uk\)](#)

³⁸ Department for Education (2010) Outcomes for children looked after by LAs: 31 March 2010. London: Department for Education.

³⁹ Department for Education (2017) Children looked after in England including adoption: 2016 to 2017. London: Department for Education.

⁴⁰ Macleod, S., Hart, R., Jeffes, J. and Wilkin, A. (2010) 'The impact of the Baby Peter case on applications for care orders'. *Local Government Education and Children's Services Research Programme*. Available at: [The impact of the Baby Peter case on applications for care orders \(nfer.ac.uk\)](http://nfer.ac.uk)

41 Bateman, T., Day, A., and Pitts, J. (2018) 'Looked after children and custody: a brief review of the relationship between care status and child incarceration and the implications for service provision.' *University of Bedfordshire, Nuffield Foundation*. [Available at: Looked after children and custody: a brief review of the relationship between care status and child incarceration and the implications for service provision \(openrepository.com\)](#)

- Imprisonment was a relatively unusual outcome for these children, however, 1 in 7 (15%) looked-after-children had received an immediate custodial sentence by the age of 24, over 10 times the proportion of children who had not been in care.
- A further 37% of looked-after children had received a non-custodial conviction, such as a fine or caution; this is compared with 12% of children who had not been in care.
- 1 in 4 (24%) of looked-after children who were male had received an immediate custodial sentence compared with 2% of male children who had not been in care.
- Looked-after children were more likely to have been identified as having special educational needs (SEN); among looked-after children who received an immediate custodial sentence by age 24 years, 9 in 10 (92%) had been identified with SEN.

One explanation for the overrepresentation of children in care in the criminal justice system may be that they are likely to have experienced many of the risk factors for offending prior to coming in to care. For example, educational attainment is poorer for looked after children than their peers, but this should be seen in the context of higher rates of school exclusion for this group⁴². Similarly, educational attainment will be impaired when children have speech and language difficulties, which are overrepresented in the care system.

Further, the care environment may serve as an explanatory factor in the overrepresentation of looked after children within the criminal justice system. This explanation concerns issues of stability; desistance literature highlights the importance of stable relationships with trusted adults in supporting young people to desist from offending. However, young people within the care system often experience placement moves or breakdown which inevitably impacts children's relationship with carers, which are often abruptly stopped at the point of moving⁴³.

Children in care may be more likely to experience behavioural difficulties. This may be related to the struggle of coming to terms with the loss and disruption associated with being removed from their birth families, creating long term feelings of anger, distrust of authority and a sense of disempowerment. Challenging behaviour may lead to involvement with the criminal justice system, or placement breakdown which perpetuates the cycle described above⁴⁴.

Secondly, there is evidence that children in care are more likely to be criminalised for behaviour that would not have been brought to the attention of authorities if it occurred in the family home or within a family placement. Research which captured the views of more than half of the 43 police forces in England and Wales found that all of them reported incidents of 'call outs' by children's homes for minor incidents which the police

⁴² See footnote 38.

⁴³ See footnote 38

⁴⁴ See footnote 38

considered could have been more appropriately handled internally⁴⁵. The future consequences of acquiring a criminal record and associated barriers to obtaining training and employment can be a great hinderance to achievement by legitimate means and lead to further engagement in criminal activities. There is a clear link between contact with the criminal justice system and future offending, which will be discussed in more detail further on.

Additionally, in the children's home environment, exposure to older peers who may already be offending might have a negative impact on the behaviour of younger children placed in the same home.

National comparator data highlights concerning trends around the percentage of looked after children aged 10-17 who are offending, with rates in BCP being highest out of our CIPFA Nearest Neighbours.

Further, BCP has high rates of exclusions and suspensions in comparison to its CIPFA Nearest Neighbours, and national data displayed in figure 12 shows that this is particularly true for looked after children⁴⁶.

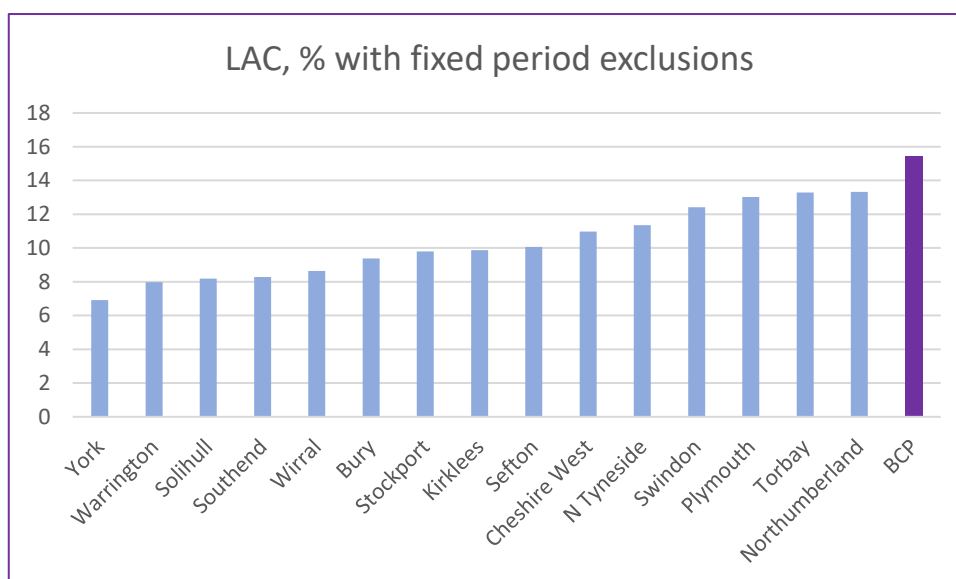


Figure 12 - Percentage of school aged looked after children with at least one fixed period exclusion from school 2021/22. Data extracted from LG Inform.

Further, LG Inform data shows the LAC emotional and behavioural health average score 2021/22 as high in comparison to our CIPFA Nearest Neighbours. This measure looks at the emotional and behavioural health of looked after children. It presents the average score for children looked after on 31st March 2022, for whom a Strengths and Difficulties Questionnaire (SDQ) was completed. A higher score on the SDQ indicates more emotional difficulties. A score of 0-13 is considered normal, a score of 14-16 is

⁴⁵ (Howard League, 2017b, in Bateman *et al*, 2018). – see footnote 38.

⁴⁶ This is the most up to date data. Available at: [Data and reports | LG Inform \(local.gov.uk\)](https://www.local.gov.uk/data-and-reports)

considered borderline cause for concern and a score of 17 and over is a cause for concern. Figure 13 presents national data around LAC emotional and behavioural health average scores. It shows that the average score for children in BCP is 18, which indicates cause for concern and is high in comparison to our CIPFA Nearest Neighbours.

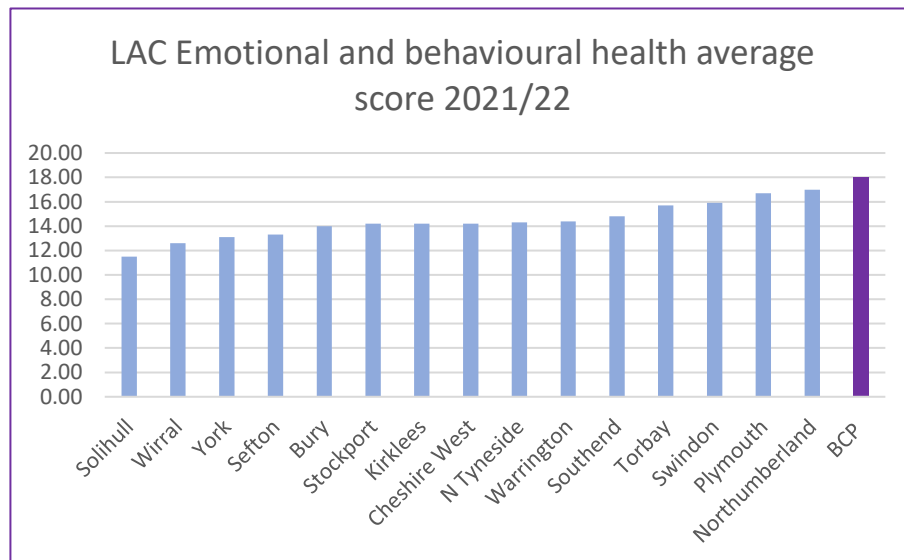


Figure 13 - LAC Emotional and behavioural health average score 2021/22. Source - [LG Inform](#)

Department for Education and Ministry of Justice (2022) research suggests that looked after children are more likely to commit serious violence offences than their peers, with 11% of looked after children in the cohort being convicted or cautioned for a serious violence offence in comparison to 1% of all pupils.

The factors explored in this section through national comparator data indicate a cause for concern regarding LAC in BCP. We know that LAC are more likely to commit serious violence offences than their peers⁴⁷, suggesting that this is one potential risk factor for serious violence in the area. It may be beneficial to conduct more work in this area to understand why outcomes for LAC in BCP appear poor in these areas in comparison to our CIPFA Nearest Neighbours.

2.3. School exclusions

Department for Education and Ministry of Justice (2022) research highlights that the majority of those in the cohort who were cautioned or sentenced for a serious violence offence also experienced suspensions and permanent exclusions from school at a disproportionate rate to all pupils, as demonstrated in figure 20.

⁴⁷ Department for Education and Ministry of Justice (2022). Education, children's social care and offending. Descriptive Statistics. Available at: [Education, children's social care and offending \(publishing.service.gov.uk\)](https://publishing.service.gov.uk)

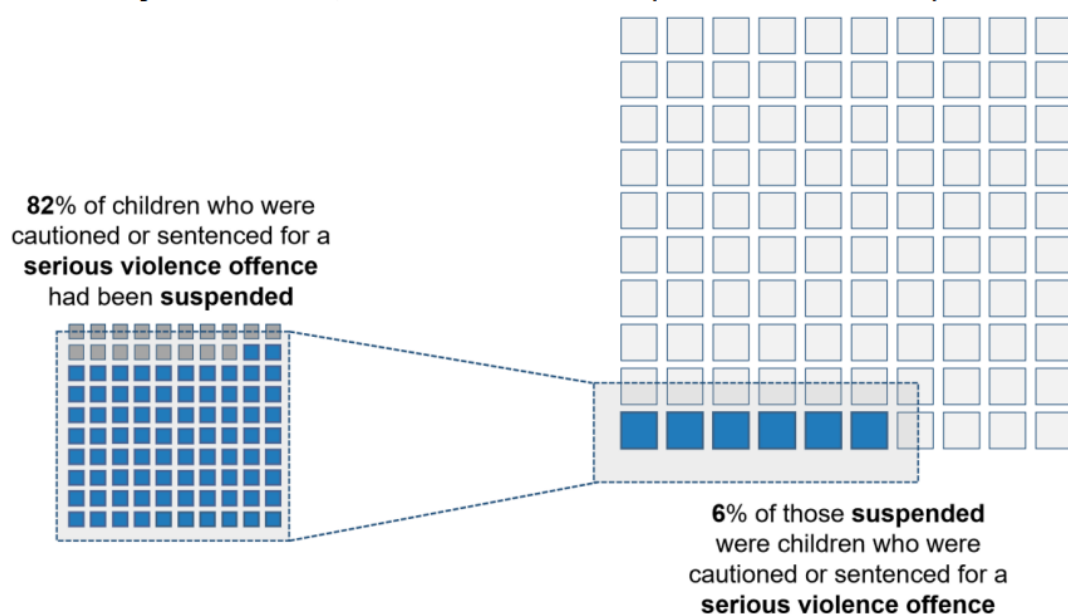


Figure 14 - The proportion of children who had been cautioned or sentenced for a serious violence offence had been suspended, and all pupils who had been suspended for pupils matched to KS4 academic years 2012/13, 2013/14 and 2014/15.

As figure 15 below shows, 82% of those in the cohort who had been cautioned or sentenced for a serious violence offence had been suspended, and 10% of them had been permanently excluded.

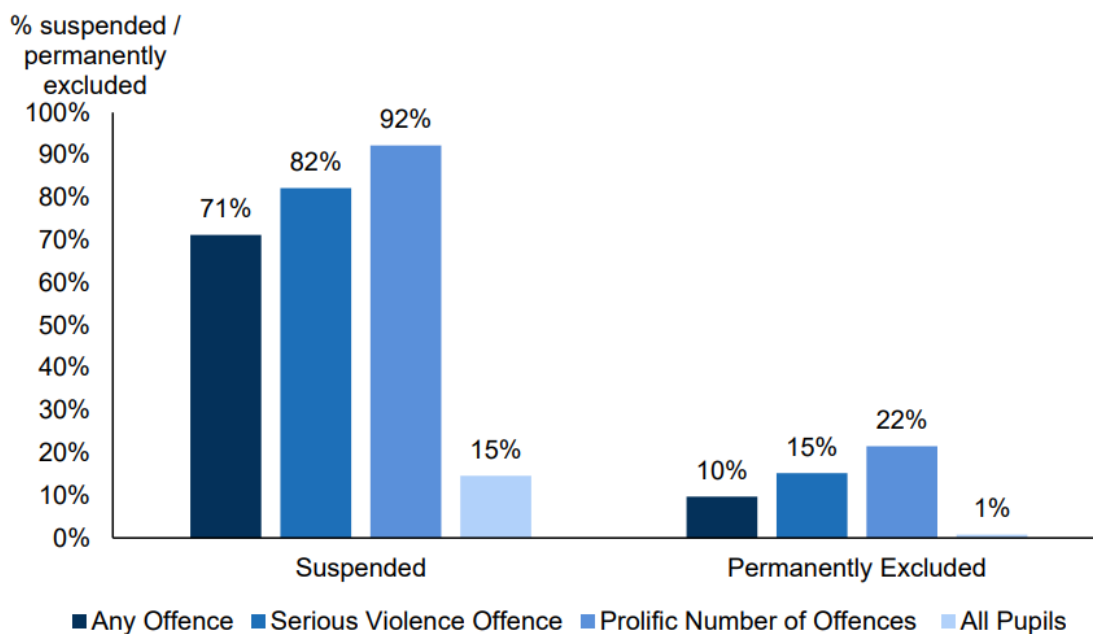


Figure 15 - The proportion of all pupils who had a record of being suspended or permanently excluded by offending and pupil group, for pupils matched to KS4 academic years 2012/13, 2013/14 and 2014/15. Source: Gov.uk 2022

The majority of those who had been cautioned or sentenced for a serious violence offence, and had been suspended or excluded, experienced their school suspension or

exclusion *before* the serious violence offence (88% of suspensions and 64% of exclusions).

Academic research can help us to understand *why* school exclusions may lead to future involvement with the criminal justice system. Wald and Losen (2007, referenced in Cuellar and Markowitz, 2015)⁴⁸ identify that the most direct pathway between schools and the criminal justice system is the referral of students directly to law enforcement for the violation of school policies.

Cuellar and Markowitz (2015) found that suspensions may also lead to days in the community with reduced supervision, leading to increased opportunities to commit crimes. Further, professionals working with young people in BCP highlight that school exclusions may lead to more unsupervised time online, heightening the risk of a child being groomed and potential further exploitation.

Local school exclusions data in BCP provides contextual information around the numbers of pupils who are being excluded for violence offences. 11% of suspensions included a reason of 'physical assault against a pupil, whilst 12% included a reason of 'physical assault against an adult. 0.6% included a reason of 'use or threat of an offensive weapon or prohibited item'. The most common included reason was 'persistent disruptive behaviour', making up 40% of the data. This highlights the relatively low number of exclusions for reasons related to violence.

Say It With Your Chest, an organization which supports young people at risk of school exclusions, note that certain pupils are more likely to be excluded than others: children with special educational needs (SEN), Black Caribbean children and Gypsy, Roma and Traveller children, and children from poor families are significantly more likely to be excluded⁴⁹. Sabrina Jones, the organization's founder, argues that this means that school exclusions are not being applied consistently or fairly⁵⁰. Further, behaviour is the number one reason for exclusion, with 'persistent disruptive behaviour' accounting for a third of all exclusions. Sabrina Jones argues this is an indication that schools are struggling to effectively manage behaviour, and notes many examples where schools are not using exclusions as a genuine last resort, or where 1-2-1 support could have helped to keep a child within mainstream education.

Say It With Your Chest (2023) note four key problems with the current exclusion system:

- 1) Schools don't have enough money for preventative in-school support.
- 2) Teachers lack the training and support to manage behaviour.
- 3) There is significant variation in the use of exclusion across the country.

⁴⁸ Cuellar, A and Markowitz, S. (2015) 'School suspension and the school-to-prison pipeline'. *International Review of Law and Economics*. 43. Pp.98-106. Available at: [School suspension and the school-to-prison pipeline - ScienceDirect](#)

⁴⁹ Say It With Your Chest (2023). 'A Roadmap to Halve School Exclusions by the End of the Decade'. Available at: [A roadmap to halve school exclusions by the end of the decade..pdf - Google Drive](#)

⁵⁰ Children & Young People Now. (2023) 'Let's halve school exclusions by the end of the decade'. Available at: [Let's halve school exclusions by the end of the decade | CYP Now](#)

- 4) Alternative provision, such as Pupil Referral Units, isn't working.

They note a further four actions that can be taken to 'halve' school exclusions:

- 1) Invest in specialist in-school support to support schools to manage challenging behaviour.
- 2) Ensure all new and existing teachers receive effective behaviour management training.
- 3) Introduce a more consistent approach to how exclusions are applied across schools by updating guidance on exclusions and providing additional support for schools with high rates of exclusions.
- 4) Put a stop to 'zero tolerance' behaviour policies.

A potential area for future work centres around understanding the processes and practices of school exclusions in BCP. Work could be done with schools to learn how they handle challenging behaviour and to understand any further support they may need. Further, we should seek to understand what behaviour management training staff receive. An exploration of the data regarding school exclusions should be undertaken to learn if any pupil groups are being targeted disproportionately, or if any schools are excluding disproportionately.

2.4. Special Educational Needs (SEN)

The SEND Code of Practice⁵¹ states that "a child or young person has SEN if they have a learning difficulty or disability which calls for special educational provision to be made for him or her". It notes that children's SEN are generally thought of in the following four broad areas of need and support (SEND Code of Practice, 2015: 85):

- ❖ Communication and interaction
- ❖ Cognition and learning
- ❖ Social, emotional and mental health
- ❖ Sensory and/or physical needs

Research identifies that individuals who experience SEN are overrepresented in the criminal justice system. The Department for Education and Ministry of Justice (2022) found that those who committed serious violence offences were considerably more likely to experience special educational needs than all pupils, as demonstrated in figure 16 below.

⁵¹ Department for Education and Department of Health (2015). 'Special educational needs and disability code of practice: 0 to 25 years.' Available at: [SEND Code of Practice January 2015.pdf \(publishing.service.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/402613/SEND_Code_of_Practice_January_2015.pdf)

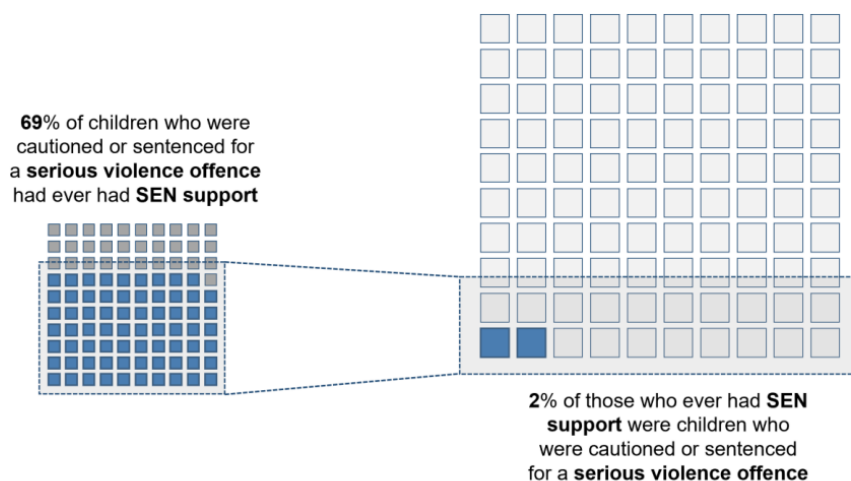


Figure 16 - The proportion of children who had been cautioned or sentenced for a serious violence offence and had SEN support, alongside all pupils who had SEN support, for pupils matched to KS4 academic years 2012/13, 2013/14, 2014/15.

Research indicates that high levels of speech, language and communication needs (SLCN) are found amongst offenders^{52, 53}. Individuals with SLCN have difficulties communicating with others; for some, these difficulties might be minor and temporary, but for others their needs will be complex and long term.

In terms of offenders, a project based in Pontypridd Probation Service showed that all participants had “below average” speech, language and communication ability and revealed specific problems with comprehension needs, whilst a study in northwest England found that up to 80% of adult prisoners had speech, language and communication needs.⁵⁴

Research shows that there is often an overlap in the four broad areas of need and support, identified by the SEND Code of Practice (2015)⁵⁵. Hollo *et al* (2014)⁵⁶ found that 81% of children with social, emotional and mental health needs have significant language

⁵² Gregory, J. and Bryan, K. (2002). ‘Speech and language therapy intervention with a group of persistent and prolific young offenders in a non-custodial setting with previously undiagnosed speech, language and communication difficulties. *International Journal of Language and Communication Disorders*. Available at: [Speech and language therapy intervention with a group of persistent and prolific young offenders in a non-custodial setting with previously undiagnosed speech, language and communication difficulties: International Journal of Language & Communication Disorders: Vol 0, No 0 \(tandfonline.com\)](http://www.tandfonline.com)

⁵³ The Royal College of Speech and Language Therapists. (2017). Justice Evidence Base. Available at: [justice-evidence-base-2017.pdf \(rcslt.org\)](http://www.rcslt.org/justice-evidence-base-2017.pdf)

⁵⁴ (Iredale *et al* 2010, and McNamara 2012, referenced in The Royal College of Speech and Language Therapists, 2017) – see footnote 51.

⁵⁵ See footnote 49.

⁵⁶ Hollo, A., Wehby, J. and Oliver, R. ‘Unidentified Language Deficits in Children with Emotional and Behavioural Disorders: A Meta-Analysis.’ *Exceptional Children*. 80(2). Pp. 169-186. Available at: [Unidentified Language Deficits in Children with Emotional and Behavioral Disorders: A Meta-Analysis - Alexandra Hollo, Joseph H. Wehby, Regina M. Oliver, 2014 \(sagepub.com\)](http://www.sagepub.com)

deficits. Bryan *et al* (2015)⁵⁷ argue that all children and young people presenting with emotional and behavioural difficulties should have a full speech, language and communication assessment.

[Unlocking Potential](#) note that Social, Emotional & Mental Health (SEMH)⁵⁸ difficulties, are linked to negative attachment history, a history of trauma and current family dynamics. This may be related to Toth *et al*'s (2011, in Fox *et al*, 2015) view, as mentioned [above](#) when discussing the impacts of toxic stress on neurological and psychological development, who found that maltreated children experience difficulties recognising, expressing and understanding their emotions, and subsequently show more aggressive and reactive behaviour.

Further, children and young people who have SEMH difficulties may find it difficult to make and sustain healthy relationships, and may also display challenging, disruptive or disturbing behaviour⁵⁹. Oldfield *et al* (2015)⁶⁰ note that these behaviours might include verbal and physical abuse, fighting, vandalism, lying and stealing. These behaviours are associated with negative outcomes such as unemployment⁶¹ and perpetrations of crime⁶².

Additionally, there is a link between SEN and school exclusions^{63,64} which, as previously mentioned, are a risk factor for crime and serious violence. [Unlocking Potential](#) note that 1 in 2 pupils who are permanently excluded have a diagnosis of SEMH needs.

⁵⁷ Bryan, K. (2015). 'Language difficulties and criminal justice: the need for earlier identification.' *Sheffield Hallam University Research Archie*. Available at: [Language difficulties and criminal justice: the need for earlier identification - PubMed \(nih.gov\)](#)

[Bullock, C. and Beckson, M. \(2011\). 'Male Victims of Sexual Assault: Phenomenology, Psychology, Physiology'. *The Journal of the American Academy of Psychiatry and the Law*. 39:2. Pp. 197-205. Available at: Male Victims of Sexual Assault: Phenomenology, Psychology, Physiology | Journal of the American Academy of Psychiatry and the Law \(jaapl.org\)](#)

⁵⁸ The term 'Social Emotional & Mental Health' was introduced in the Special Educational Need and Disabilities (SEND) Code of Practice 2014, replacing the term Behaviour Emotional and Social Development (BESD) and Emotional & Behavioural Difficulties (EBD). SEMH is the first term to drop the word 'behaviour' in an attempt to emphasize that behaviour is a way of communicating. By referring to behaviour, many practitioners were focusing on the behaviours on display rather than the underlying causes. The updated term also includes mental health. (Source: [Unlocking Potential](#)).

⁵⁹ [Unlocking Potential – Social, Emotional & Mental Health – Unlocking Potential \(up.org.uk\)](#)

⁶⁰ Oldfield, J., Humphrey, N., Hebron, J. (2015). 'Cumulative risk effects for the development of behavioural difficulties in children and adolescents with special educational needs and disabilities'. *Research in Developmental Disabilities*. 41-42, pp. 66-75. [Cumulative risk effects for the development of behaviour difficulties in children and adolescents with special educational needs and disabilities - ScienceDirect](#)

⁶¹ Healy *et al* 2004, referenced in Oldfield *et al* 2015 – see footnote 57.

⁶² Fergusson *et al* 2005, referenced in Oldfield *et al* 2015.

⁶³ Clegg, J., Stackhouse, J., Finch, K., Murphy, C., & Nicholls, S. (2009). 'Language abilities of secondary age pupils at risk of school exclusion: A preliminary report'. *Child Language Teaching and Therapy*. 25:1. Pp.123-140. [Language abilities of secondary age pupils at risk of school exclusion: A preliminary report \(integrated.org.uk\)](#)

⁶⁴ Ripley, K. and Yuill, N. 2005. 'Patterns of language impairment and behaviour in boys excluded from school'. *British Journal of Educational Psychology* 75, 37–50. [Language abilities of secondary age pupils at risk of school exclusion: A preliminary report \(integrated.org.uk\)](#)

Research suggests that intervention within the early years is important to improve opportunities and outcomes for children⁶⁵. Anders *et al* (2010)⁶⁶ note that the early identification of young children's special educational needs, as well as the development of strategies to support children identified with SEN are recognised as crucial to facilitating good adjustment to school for children, and key to ensuring they reach their educational potential. They identify the experience of high-quality pre-school education to reduce the likelihood of a child being identified as experiencing SEN in the long run.

Professionals working within the youth justice service and alternative provision in BCP note the prevalence of special educational needs, and particularly undiagnosed special educational needs of the young people they work with.

2.5. Sense of belonging

Professionals working with young people in BCP identified sense of belonging as an important factor which can either help or hinder an individuals' likelihood of becoming involved in serious violence. Lerner *et al*⁶⁷, note that for positive social development, young people must have positive social contacts, a feeling of social integration, attachment to prosocial organizations and the ability to navigate various contexts. In reality, positive social development encompasses relationships with families, peers and social institutions such as schools and communities.

Burns and Jobson (2015)⁶⁸ note that family is the first site of belonging for most individuals which supports secure attachment and positive self-identity. This is crucial to positive social development, however, young people involved in serious violence may be less likely to have experienced this early sense of belonging and may be more likely to have experienced ACEs and early childhood trauma.

This lack of sense of belonging may put young people more at risk of falling susceptible to negative peer influences, or even involvement in gangs. Kaplan and Johnson (1992)⁶⁹ found that students who do not feel accepted in the mainstream tend to seek their own

⁶⁵ Zwaigenbaum, L., Bryson, S., Garon, N. (2013). 'Early identification of autism spectrum disorders. 251. Pp. 133-146. Available at: [Early identification of autism spectrum disorders - ScienceDirect](#)

⁶⁶ Anders, Y., Sammons, P., Taggart, B., Sylva, K., Melhuish, E., & Siraj-Blatchford, I. (2010). 'The influence of child, family, home factors, and pre-school education on the identification of special education needs at age 10.' British Educational Research Journal. 37:3. 421-444. Available at: (PDF) [The influence of child, family home factors and pre-school education on the identification of special educational needs at age 10 \(researchgate.net\)](#)

⁶⁷ Lerner *et al* (2009), referenced in Drolet, M., and Arcand, I. (2013). 'Positive Development, Sense of Belonging, and Support of Peers among Early Adolescents: Perspectives of Different Actors'. *International Education Studies*. Pp. 29-38. Available at: [ERIC - EJ1067610 - Positive Development, Sense of Belonging, and Support of Peers among Early Adolescents: Perspectives of Different Actors, International Education Studies, 2013](#)

⁶⁸ Burns, J., Jobson, J., and Zuma, B. (2015). 'Youth identity, belonging and citizenship: Strengthening our democratic future'. *South African child gauge*. Pp. 83-91. Available at: [ChildGauge2015-lowres-libre.pdf \(d1wqtxts1xzle7.cloudfront.net\)](#)

⁶⁹ Kaplan and Johnson (1992), in Beck, M., and Malley, J. (1998). 'A Pedagogy of belonging.' Available at: [A pedagogy of belonging \(cyc-net.org\)](#)

sense of belonging, often in a context that is antisocial. As Beck and Malley (1998)⁷⁰ state, ‘...it is better to belong to an antisocial group than to no group at all.’

Schools can foster an alternative sense of belonging for young people, acting as a protective factor. Faircloth and Hamm (2005)⁷¹ define the sense of belonging to schools as follows:

- 1) A positive tie that early adolescents maintain with teachers and other adults who they believe appreciate, and can support them, in difficult times.
- 2) A positive network of friends among whom they feel appreciated.
- 3) Participation in extracurricular activities, sports and cultural activities, among others.

Scholars note that involvement in extracurricular activities can lead to a marked increase in school attachment (Drolet and Arcand, 2013)⁷². Further, Rhodes and Lowe (2009)⁷³, found that young people who achieve a positive social development, despite occasional setbacks, often note the positive influence of an adult outside their family who expresses a truly caring attitude towards them. This could be in the form of school staff, or youth workers, and highlights the powerful impact professionals may have in a young person’s life.

2.6. Gangs/ Child Exploitation

In relation to a lack of sense of belonging, Curry (2008)⁷⁴ found that being part of an organised gang could offer a sense of belonging normally associated with being part of a family or extended family. For males especially, Beck and Malley (1998)⁷⁵ note that in adolescence, at an age where young men feel particularly insecure about their

⁷⁰ Beck, M., and Malley, J. (1998). ‘A Pedagogy of belonging.’ Available at: [A pedagogy of belonging \(cyc-net.org\)](http://cyc-net.org)

⁷¹ Faircloth, B., and Hamm, J. (2005). ‘Sense of Belonging Among High School Students Representing Four Ethnic Groups’. *Journal of Youth and Adolescence*. 34:4. 293-309. Available at: [Sense of Belonging Among High School Students Representing Four Ethnic Groups | Request PDF \(researchgate.net\)](http://Sense of Belonging Among High School Students Representing Four Ethnic Groups | Request PDF (researchgate.net))

⁷² Drolet, M., and Arcand, I. (2013). ‘Positive Development, Sense of Belonging, and Support of Peers among Early Adolescents: Perspectives of Different Actors’. *International Education Studies*. Pp. 29-38. Available at: ERIC - EJ1067610 - Positive Development, Sense of Belonging, and Support of Peers among Early Adolescents: Perspectives of Different Actors, International Education Studies, 2013

⁷³ Rhodes and Lowe (2009, in Drolet, M., and Arcand, I. (2013). ‘Positive Development, Sense of Belonging, and Support of Peers among Early Adolescents: Perspectives of Different Actors’. *International Education Studies*. Pp. 29-38. Available at: ERIC - EJ1067610 - Positive Development, Sense of Belonging, and Support of Peers among Early Adolescents: Perspectives of Different Actors, International Education Studies, 2013

⁷⁴ Curry, D. (2008). ‘Gangs: a high price to pay for belonging’. *Criminal Justice Matters*, 55:1. Pp.14-15 Available at: [09627250408553588.pdf \(crimeandjustice.org.uk\)](http://09627250408553588.pdf (crimeandjustice.org.uk))

⁷⁵ See footnote 67.

masculinity, the feeling of power that comes from joining a gang can be a significant attraction. In this way, poor sense of belonging may encourage young people to engage in antisocial peer groups and behaviour, which may then become a risk factor for participation in serious violence for *some* young people.

There is clearly a difference in involvement in organised criminal gangs and street gangs; Anne Longfield, Children's Commissioner for England (2019:3)⁷⁶ notes: "for some, being in a gang entails little more than putting a hashtag on social media. For others it can be far more serious and dangerous."

The [NSPCC](#) notes that the word 'gang' can mean different things in different contexts, and distinguishes between different types of gangs:

- 'Peer Group' – a relatively small and transient social grouping which may or may not describe themselves as a gang depending on the context.
- 'Street Gang' – "groups of young people who see themselves (and are seen by others) as a discernible group for whom crime and violence is integral to the group's identity".
- 'Organised Criminal Gangs' – "A group of individuals for whom involvement in crime is for personal gain (financial or otherwise). For most, crime is their 'occupation'.

Though the exact form of 'street gang' may vary, three elements are almost invariably present: violence, drugs and geographical definition. It is often these elements which form the basis of the link back to the organised criminal gangs who are those providing the supply of drugs and are those making huge money from the violence on our streets.

National concerns relating to the role of gangs in the increase in serious violence stem from a rise in homicide, knife crime and gun crime, and robbery, which began rising in 2014 and peaked in 2018, reaching their highest point for more than 10 years (Home Office, 2018)⁷⁷. Densley *et al* (2020)⁷⁸ note that the increases were accompanied by a shift towards younger victims and perpetrators. For homicide in particular, the rise was driven almost exclusively by street homicide and male-on-male cases, in comparison to domestic homicide or violence against woman and girls. Further, in London, killings linked to gang violence more than doubled from 17 in 2017 to 44 in 2014.

It is clear that there has been a national rise in gang related violence, however, it is less clear how relevant this is to BCP. There is currently work being carried out by Dorset police to identify if there are any individuals residing in the area who would meet the 'street gang' definition.

⁷⁶ Children's Commissioner (2019) 'Keeping kids safe'. Available at: [CCO-Gangs.pdf \(ioe.ac.uk\)](#).

⁷⁷ Home Office (2018). Serious Violence Strategy. [Available at: Home Office – Serious Violence Strategy, April 2018 \(publishing.service.gov.uk\)](#)

⁷⁸ Densley, J., Deuchar, R., and Harding, S. (2020). 'An Introduction to Gangs and Serious Youth Violence in the United Kingdom'. *Sage Journals*. 20:1-2. Available at: [\(PDF\) 'Going Viral' and 'Going Country': The Expressive and Instrumental Activities of Street Gangs on Social Media \(researchgate.net\)](#)

2.7. Social media

Professionals working with young people in BCP suggest social media as an aggravating factor for serious youth violence. Patton *et al* (2014:548)⁷⁹ note, “social media has become recognised as a vehicle through which youth perpetrate acts of violence against their peers, such as bullying, harassment, dating aggression, and gang-related crimes”.

Some studies suggest that social media portrayals of violence may contribute to the normalization of violence in everyday life⁸⁰ with scholars arguing that frequent exposure to violent activities through social media has a detrimental effect on young people.

However, despite these links, empirical data on the causal relationship between youth violence and social media is limited, with scholars reporting that most children and adolescents have little to no involvement in violence on social media sites⁸¹. This is likely to reflect their involvement in violence in day-to-day life and further reinforces the fact that serious violence generally involves a minority of offenders.

Despite this, scholars note that social media may exacerbate violence when used by gangs. Storrod and Densley (2017)⁸² note that like physical territory, gangs monitor online spaces to ensure taunts or acts of disrespect are responded to.

Additionally, the Home Office Serious Violence Strategy (2018) notes that drug-market violence may be facilitated by a small minority who use social media to glamorise gang or drug-selling life, taunt rivals, and normalise weapon carrying. In this way, gang members may use social media to ‘flame wars’⁸³, which may play a role in young people’s engagement in serious violence. However, as previously mentioned, it is unclear to what (if any) extent the role of gangs plays as an influencing factor in the facilitation of serious violence in BCP, and there is work being done by Dorset Police to establish any prevalence of gangs in the area.

2.8. First time entrants to the CJS

A classic criminological debate centres on the question: does contact with the criminal justice system deter or promote future criminal behaviour? There are two theoretical traditions – deterrence theory and labelling theory – which address this, but they have arrived at different conclusions. Both of these theories shift focus away from the offender

⁷⁹ Patton, D., Hong, J., Ranney, M., Patel, S., Kelley, C., Eschmann, R., Washington, T. (2014). ‘Social media as a vector for youth violence: A review of the literature’. *Computers in Human Behaviour*. 35. Pp. 548-553. Available at: [Social media as a vector for youth violence: A review of the literature - ScienceDirect](#)

⁸⁰ See footnote 75.

⁸¹ See footnote 75.

⁸² Storrod, M., and Densley, J. (2017). “Going viral’ and ‘Going country’: the expressive and instrumental activities of street gangs on social media’. *Journal of Youth Studies*. 20:6 677-696 Available at: [‘Going viral’ and ‘Going country’: the expressive and instrumental activities of street gangs on social media \(researchgate.net\)](#)

⁸³ See footnote 78.

to focus on the actions and impact of the justice system, where contact with the system works as a turning point that alters the life course of the individual. Deterrence theory suggests that contact with the justice system is positive and teaches offenders that the costs of crime outweigh the benefits, whilst labelling theory argues that justice system contact is negative and exacerbates the chances of future offending by initiating a self-fulfilling prophecy in which the individual perceives him or herself as a 'bad apple'⁸⁴.

There is evidence to suggest that contact with the criminal justice system can increase the risk of future offending, with punitive approaches being more harmful to children^{85, 86, 87}. A key theme in labelling theory is the view that in reacting to people as criminal, society encourages them to become so, and criminal justice intervention can deepen criminality⁸⁸. This can be illustrated with an example; those with a criminal record may be less likely to find a job due to having a conviction, which may therefore necessitate a return to crime to get by.

A significant policy implication of labelling theory relates to early offending by children and juveniles. As Burke (2014)⁸⁹ notes,

"Adolescents who are in the process of developing their identities may, in particular, be strongly affected by stigmatization and, because they are just beginning to develop their stakes in conformity, the presentation of serious social obstacles, such as difficulty finding employment, ineligibility for student loans and exclusion from conventional social networks, may affect their life-course orientation." (p.205).

This quote highlights the importance of the youth justice system in providing young offenders support and redirection towards legitimate means of success.

Historically, DCYJS has had a higher rate of First Time Entrants than the national and regional averages. National performance data for First Time Entrants was previously drawn from the Police National Computer, however, this changed in 2023. The national data is now drawn from the Youth Justice Board's uploads of information from Youth Justice Service case management systems. This change in reporting methods has seen the rate of local First Time Entrants fall, with numbers now lower than the national average. Local data shows that the First Time Entrant rate to the criminal justice

⁸⁴ Motz, R., Barnes, J.C., Caspi, A. Arseneault, L. Cullen, F., Houts, R., Wertz, J. Moffitt, T. (2019) 'Does contact with the justice system deter or promote future delinquency? Results from a longitudinal study of British adolescent twins'. *Criminology*, 58:2. 307-335

⁸⁵ Lucas, P., and Staines, J. (2022) 'Supporting the youngest children in the youth justice system: what works to reduce offending and produce outcomes?' *Local Government Association*. Available at: [Supporting the youngest children in the youth justice system: what works to reduce offending and improve outcomes? | Local Government Association](#)

⁸⁶ Beardslee, J., Miltimore, S., Fine, A., Frick, P. J., Steinberg, L., & Cauffman, E. (2019). Under the radar or under arrest: How is adolescent boys' first contact with the juvenile justice system related to future offending and arrests? *Law and Human Behaviour*, 43(4), 342- 357. Available at: [Under the radar or under arrest: How is adolescent boys' first contact with the juvenile justice system related to future offending and arrests? \(apa.org\)](#)

⁸⁷ See footnote 80.

⁸⁸ Burke, R. (2014). *An Introduction to Criminological Theory*. 4th ed. UK: Willan Publishing.

⁸⁹ See footnote 84.

system for young people in BCP in financial year 2023/24 was 162 per 100,000. Between Jan 23-Dec 23 the First Time Entrant rate in England and Wales was 167 per 100,000. Local data shows that there was a notable decrease in First Time Entrants in BCP in the financial year 2023/24 at 52, in comparison to 79 in 2022/23.

2.9. Domestic Abuse

A Victims Commissioner report (2020)⁹⁰ notes that domestic abuse is one of the widely acknowledged risk factors for youth violence. The Crime Survey for England and Wales estimated that 2.1 million people aged 16 years and over (1.4 million women and 751,000 men) experienced domestic abuse in the year ending March 2023⁹¹.

The Crime Survey for England and Wales (2022) estimated that 5.0% of adults (6.9% of women and 3.0% of men) aged 16 years and over experienced domestic abuse in the year ending March 2022, equating to 2.4 million adults (1.7 million women and 699,000 men).

There were 734 total domestic abuse cases heard at MARAC in 2023/24 in BCP. These are considered to be the most high-risk domestic abuse cases. Of this, a total of 492 cases had children listed on referral (67% of all cases). Although children may be linked to either the victim and/or perpetrator, in many cases the children are no longer living with either party. This highlights the prevalence of children affected by domestic abuse at home; over half of the highest risk cases in BCP 2023/24 had children linked on referral, and there will be many more children who have witnessed or experienced domestic abuse within the home, who have not come to the attention of professionals, living in BCP.

Domestic abuse in the home can have a wide range of impacts on a child's health and wellbeing. The Victims Commissioner Report (2020)⁹² found that children and young people living in a household with domestic abuse may go on to commit further acts of violence themselves, have difficulties with regulating emotions, become isolated, and have difficulties with making and sustaining friendship. These young people may turn their emotions inward, becoming quiet and insular, leading to the potential for risky behaviour and self-harm. Some practitioners provided examples of children and young people who feel pushed out from the family home due to the domestic abuse, finding themselves increasingly on the street or in dangerous situations and looking for love and attention in proxy familial relationships such as gangs⁹³.

Further, practitioners note that experiencing DA in the home may sow the seeds for unhealthy relationships and future perpetration of domestic abuse by that young person.

⁹⁰ Victims Commissioner (2020). 'Sowing the seeds: Children's experience of domestic abuse and criminality'. Available at: [Sowing the seeds: Children's experience of domestic abuse and criminality - Victims Commissioner](#)

⁹¹ [Domestic abuse in England and Wales overview - Office for National Statistics \(ons.gov.uk\)](#)

⁹² See footnote 86.

⁹³ The Victims Commissioner (2018) acknowledges that children and young people can be part of friendship groups – which can be characterised as 'gangs' – which do not engage in criminal activities.

Many practitioners felt that witnessing DA in the home normalised violence for that young person, who then is more likely to go on and use violence in their own relationships, including romantic relationships, friendships with peers and within their communities⁹⁴.

As a representative from Barnardo's taking part in the research explained (Victim's Commissioner 2020)⁹⁵:

"We see a cycle of abuse, children living with domestic abuse, then these children and young people get into relationships when they are teenagers which are likely to be abusive. We have services with children to help recognise what a healthy relationship is, their views can be perverted by what they have seen when they were growing up. It is so damaging that children in domestic abuse households don't get to see healthy relationships. If they don't know what they look like, they don't know what to look for in their own relationships as they grow up. They don't know how to behave if they do become a victim themselves or even a perpetrator. There should be specialist preventative services for children who experience domestic abuse."

Similar to many other risk factors discussed in this report, the link between domestic abuse and criminality is not deterministic. There is likely to be many children involved in criminality who may have experienced domestic abuse, but not every child who experiences domestic abuse will go on to be involved in criminality⁹⁶.

Experiencing DA in the home is a risk factor for future perpetration of general serious violence, and more specifically domestic abuse. Consequently, this emphasizes the importance for appropriate education for young people in BCP on healthy relationships, and perhaps with further intervention for those young people who are known to be growing up witnessing domestic abuse. A future project may be to identify what education schools are providing around healthy relationships, and what support they may need to aid this. Further, it may be important to understand what support social services provide to young people who witness DA in the home regarding healthy relationships.

2.10. Substance abuse

The risk and protective factors explored so far throughout this chapter have been primarily focused on children and young people. Much of the literature for serious violence centres around young people, however, literature on adult perpetration of serious violence is relatively scant.

⁹⁴ See footnote 86.

⁹⁵ See footnote 86.

⁹⁶ See footnote 86.

Despite this, there are clear links identified between experiencing childhood trauma and future substance use and dependence. Khoury *et al*, (2010)⁹⁷ found levels of substance use, particularly cocaine, strongly correlated with levels of childhood physical, sexual, and emotional abuse, as well as current PTSD symptoms.

There are a variety of ways substance abuse is linked to serious violence. The Home Office Serious Violence Strategy (2018) notes that a substantial proportion of serious violence is linked to alcohol in some way; in more than a third of homicides (35%) in 2016/17, either the victim or suspect had consumed alcohol prior to the incident. The Dorset Police homicide and near miss problem profile (2022) notes that alcohol was the highest influencing factor for homicides and near miss homicides, alongside domestic abuse, in Dorset in the three years ending March 2022.

One explanation for this relates to the pharmacological effects of substances on the brain in terms of loosening inhibitions. This may lead to an enhanced tendency towards violent behaviour for some individuals. The American Addiction Centre (2022)⁹⁸ suggests that this increased tendency for violence may be due to alcohol myopia: an intoxicated person's focus narrows like a camera lens. For some, this narrowed view may lead to misperception. For example, a bump in a bar may be perceived as an act of hostility. Further, alcohol impairs cognitive function, interrupting cognitive processing and making it difficult to problem-solve, control anger and make good decisions. This may also impede an individual's ability to consider future consequences, and research indicates that individuals who ignore future consequences and focus on the here and now are more aggressive when intoxicated.

In terms of drug abuse, the Home Office Serious Violence Strategy (2018) places a key emphasis on drug-related criminality when discussing the rise of serious violent crime nationwide. The Serious Violence Strategy (Home Office, 2018) notes that between 2014/15 and 2016/17, homicides where either the victim or suspect were known to be involved in using or dealing illicit drugs increased from 50% to 57%. The strategy places emphasis on a link between crack cocaine markets and serious violence, and notes that crack cocaine use in England is rising due to a mix of supply and demand factors.

There are a number of theories which explore links between drugs and offending. One theory is that opiate use may require the user to commit crime to generate income⁹⁹. Other theories suggest that the illegality of drug use promotes opportunities for further

⁹⁷ Khoury, L., Tang, Y., Bradley, B., Cubells, J., and Ressler, K. (2010). 'Substance use, childhood traumatic experience, and Posttraumatic Stress Disorder in an urban civilian population.' 27(12). Pp. 1077-1086. Available at: [Substance use, childhood traumatic experience, and Posttraumatic Stress Disorder in an urban civilian population - PMC \(nih.gov\)](#)

⁹⁸ American Addiction Centers. (2022) 'How Drugs and Alcohol can Fuel Violent Behaviours'. Available at: [How Drugs & Alcohol Can Fuel Violent Behaviors \(americanaddictioncenters.org\)](#).

⁹⁹ Bennett *et al*, 2008, and Goldstein *et al*, 1985, referenced in Hayhurst, K., Pierce, M., Hickman, M., Seddon, T., Dunn, G., Keane, J., and Millar, T. (2017). 'Pathways through opiate use and offending: A systematic review'. *International Journal of Drug Policy*. 39, pp. 1-13. Available at: [Pathways through opiate use and offending: A systematic review - PMC \(nih.gov\)](#)

involvement in criminal networks¹⁰⁰, whilst some scholars suggest that similar to alcohol use, drug use and criminality may be linked due to the psychopharmacological effects of drug use on behaviour¹⁰¹.

2.11. County Lines

County lines drug dealing describes organised crime groups who supply drugs to suburban areas including market and coastal towns. County lines drug dealers use dedicated mobile phones or “deal lines” to assist in the transport of drugs. This type of drug dealing is strongly associated with the coercion of children and vulnerable people, who dealers use to move drugs, money and sometimes weapons between their hometown and the town they are dealing in¹⁰².

There are links between county lines and serious violence, with the National Crime Agency¹⁰³ stating that “violence at street level is often linked to drugs supply”, whilst the Home Office¹⁰⁴ concludes that changes to the drugs market, such as the emergence of county lines, is ‘partly fuelling’ serious violence.

Organised Crime Groups involved in county lines exploit vulnerable people, including children and those with mental health or addiction issues by recruiting them to distribute the drugs¹⁰⁵.

Vulnerable individuals, who are lonely, isolated, or have substance abuse issues may be at higher risk of becoming a cuckooing victim. Cuckooing is when organised criminal groups exploit vulnerable people by using their home as a base for dealing drugs. It is common for organised criminal groups to use a property for a short amount of time, moving address frequently to reduce the chances of being caught.

Dorset Police identified 28 county lines affecting the BCP area as of March 2024.

¹⁰⁰ Hammersley *et al*, 1989, referenced in Hayhurst, K., Pierce, M., Hickman, M., Seddon, T., Dunn, G., Keane, J., and Millar, T. (2017). ‘Pathways through opiate use and offending: A systematic review’. *International Journal of Drug Policy*. 39, pp. 1-13. Available at: [Pathways through opiate use and offending: A systematic review - PMC \(nih.gov\)](#)

¹⁰¹ Brownstein, 2016, Hayhurst, K., Pierce, M., Hickman, M., Seddon, T., Dunn, G., Keane, J., and Millar, T. (2017). ‘Pathways through opiate use and offending: A systematic review’. *International Journal of Drug Policy*. 39, pp. 1-13. Available at: [Pathways through opiate use and offending: A systematic review - PMC \(nih.gov\)](#)

¹⁰² Havard, T. (2022). ‘Serious youth violence: County lines drug dealing and the Government response’. House of Commons Library. Available at: [CBP-9264.pdf \(parliament.uk\)](#)

¹⁰³ National Crime Agency (2020). National Strategic Assessment of Serious and Organised Crime. Available at: [file \(nationalcrimeagency.gov.uk\)](#)

¹⁰⁴ Home Office (2021). Beating Crime Plan. Available at: [Beating crime plan - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](#)

¹⁰⁵ Metropolitan Police, County Lines. Available at: [County lines | Metropolitan Police](#)

2.12. Night-time economy related violence.

The spatial availability of alcohol is known to impact the probability of violence. Research has found that bar and night club density, and licensed club density (e.g., sports clubs) have a statistically significant and positive relationship with violence¹⁰⁶. The night-time economy is an area where alcohol is readily available and is therefore likely to experience higher rates of violent crime.

Wickham (2012)¹⁰⁷ defines the night-time economy as economic activity which occurs between the hours of 6pm to 6am and involves the sale of alcohol for consumption on-trade¹⁰⁸ (e.g., bars, pubs and restaurants). There are great benefits to the night-time economy; it generates economic activity and employment, it can bring people together to socialise, and it is an enjoyable pastime that many value. However, it can come with a variety of costs such as crime and injury, which are often influenced by alcohol consumption.

These costs are concentrated in time and space. High-risk crime situations can occur due to routine activities theory which suggests that for a crime to occur, there must be a motivated offender, a suitable victim, and the absence of a capable guardian (anyone whose presence would discourage the crime from occurring)¹⁰⁹.

¹⁰⁶ Cameron, M., Cochrane, W., Gordon, C., Livingston, M. (2015). 'Alcohol outlet density and violence: A geographically weighted regression approach'. *Drug and Alcohol review*, 35:3. Pp. 280-288. Available at: [Alcohol outlet density and violence: A geographically weighted regression approach - Cameron - 2016 - Drug and Alcohol Review - Wiley Online Library](#)

¹⁰⁷ Wickham, M. (2012). 'Alcohol consumption in the night-time economy'. *GLAEconomics*. Available at: [Microsoft Word - wp-55-new-template.doc \(ias.org.uk\)](#).

¹⁰⁸ Wickham (2012) refers to on-trade premises as premises with a license to sell alcohol which is consumed at the premises e.g., bars or pubs. This contrasts with off-trade premises where the license only permits the sale of alcohol which must then be consumed off the premises e.g., supermarkets.

¹⁰⁹ Cohen, L., and Felson, M. (1979). Social change and crime rate trends: a routine activity approach. *American Sociological Review*, 44(4), pp.588-608.

Wickham (2012)¹¹⁰ identifies five situations which can contribute to the convergence of these three factors in the night-time economy and therefore create the occurrence of a crime:

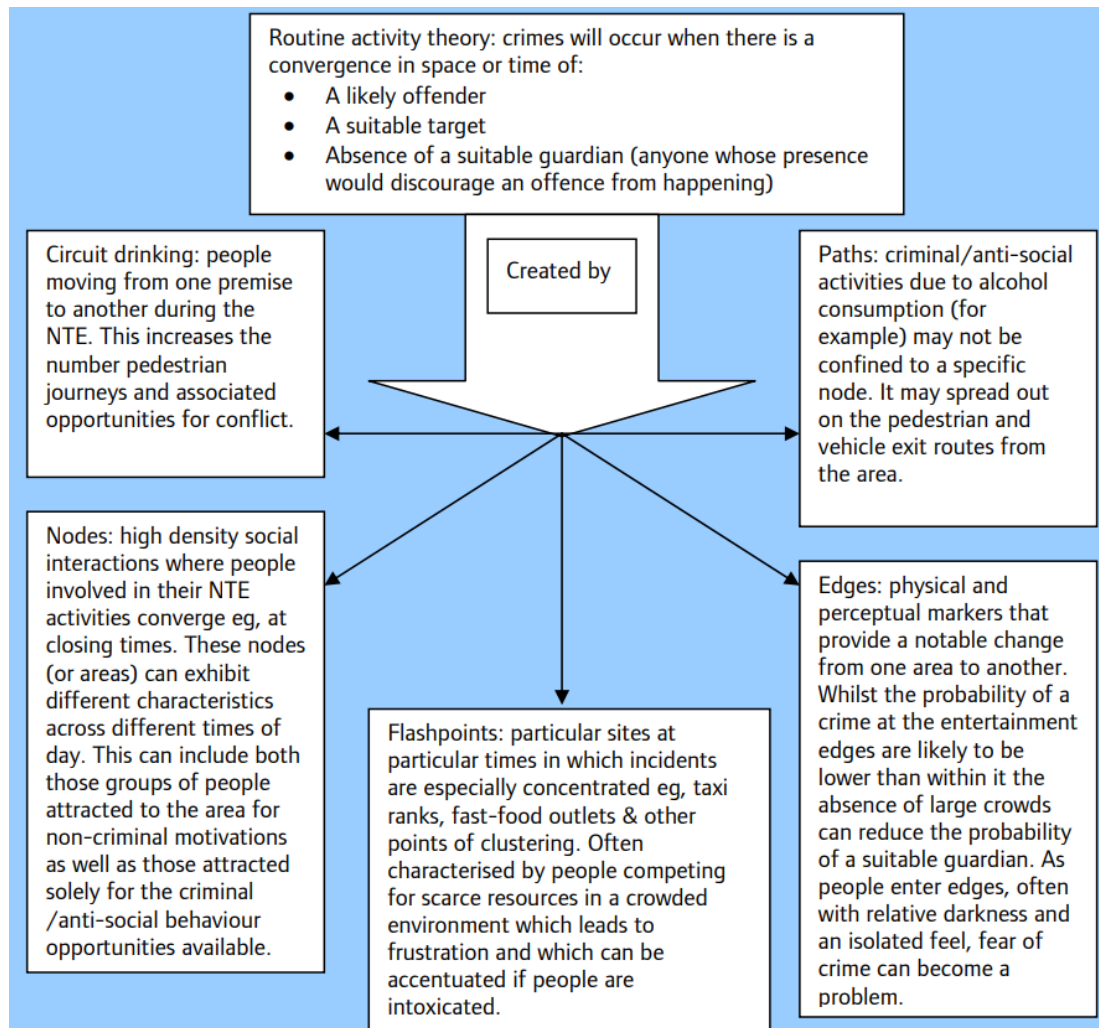


Figure 17- Routine Activities Theory and the Night Time Economy - Wickham, 2012. Source: [GLAEconomics](#)

Figure 17 highlights how the convergence of time and space paired with alcohol consumption can exacerbate violence in the night-time economy. Angus *et al* (2017)¹¹¹ note that previous research has found a positive association between spatial availability and alcohol consumption in a variety of crime types such as assault, domestic abuse, and public nuisance.

¹¹⁰ See footnote 104.

¹¹¹ Angus, C., Holmes, J., Maheswaran, R., Green, M., Meier, P., and Brennan, A. (2017). 'Mapping Patterns and Trends in the Spatial Availability of Alcohol Using Low-Level Geographic Data: A Case Study in England 2003-2013. Available at: [Mapping Patterns and Trends in the Spatial Availability of Alcohol Using Low-Level Geographic Data: A Case Study in England 2003–2013 - PMC \(nih.gov\)](#)

2.13. Sexual violence and the night-time economy

Gunby *et al* (2020)¹¹² note that women experience a plethora of unwanted experiences when drinking in venues, from rape to sexual assault, comments and staring. They note that such experiences are becoming a 'normalised' element of nights out for young women.

The latest ONS data¹¹³ on rape and sexual assaults shows that of victims who reported that the perpetrator was a stranger, the majority (64%) reported that they were under the influence of alcohol at the time of the assault, almost half (49%) reported that the perpetrator was under the influence of alcohol, and 14% said they suspected they had been drugged.

Gunby *et al* (2012)¹¹⁴ note how alcohol can muddy the waters of consent. They note that cues men and women use to signify attraction are often ambiguous to mitigate possible rejection. Subsequently, this can lead to misinterpretation, particularly when alcohol disrupts cognitive processes, making it more difficult to evaluate complex stimuli and situations. Therefore, an individuals' interpretation, or misinterpretation of a sexual situation may contribute to a sexual assault occurring.

Gunby *et al*'s (2012) research, although potentially outdated in 2023, highlights concerning gender differences in understanding of consent. They found that male respondents in their dataset were less likely than women to know what consent was and were unsure if it was reflected in law. Men were also less likely than women to believe that being drunk affects one's capacity to consent to sex. Further, male and female students differed in their attitudes towards the cues that they would deem relevant or informative when deciding if a person wanted to have sex with them. A greater proportion of male respondents deemed flirting, and the other person removing their own or the respondents clothing, as a relevant indicator when deciding if the other person wanted to have sex. Subsequently, Gunby *et al* (2012) suggest that these gender differences in perception may result in situations where drunken non-consensual sex is perceived as consensual by the male.

Gunby *et al* (2012) further argue that alcohol induced disinhibition, coupled with a reduction in self-appraisal and a focus on arousal in response to behaviour that the suspect deemed to be an appropriate indicator for sex may lead to a situation where pressure or force is used to obtain sex.

¹¹² Gunby, C., Carline, A., Taylor, S., & Gosling, H. (2020). 'Unwanted Sexual Attention in the Night-Time Economy: Behaviours, Safety Strategies, and Conceptualizing "Feisty Femininity"'. *Feminist Criminology*, 15:1. Pp. 24-46.

¹¹³ [Nature of sexual assault by rape or penetration, England and Wales - Office for National Statistics \(ons.gov.uk\)](https://ons.gov.uk)

¹¹⁴ Gunby, C., Bellis, M., & Beynon, C. (2012). 'Gender differences in alcohol-related non-consensual sex; Cross-sectional analysis of a student population. Available at: [\[PDF\] Gender differences in alcohol-related non-consensual sex; Cross-sectional analysis of a student population \(researchgate.net\)](https://www.researchgate.net/publication/260111111_Gender_differences_in_alcohol-related_non-consensual_sex_Cross-sectional_analysis_of_a_student_population)

2.14. Other Sexual Violence

The Pan-Dorset Sexual Violence Strategy 2017-2025 defines Sexual Violence as any type of sexual activity that you do not consent to, including:

- Rape
- Attempted Rape
- Vaginal, anal, or oral penetration
- Inappropriate touching
- Child molestation

The strategy notes that sexual violence is significantly underreported and has long lasting effects in terms of physical, mental health and sexual health problems for victims and their families.

The Pan-Dorset Sexual Violence Strategy 2017-2025 highlights overlapping issues which may place an individual at greater risk of becoming a victim of rape and serious sexual assault:

Mental health

- Sexual assault can lead to post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD), depression, anxiety, eating and sleeping disorders, suicidal tendencies and a wide range of short term and long-term mental health issues.

Learning Disability

- Studies in the field of learning disability suggest that adults with learning disabilities are at much greater risk of sexual abuse and assault and may be targeted by sex offenders because of their vulnerability.

Substance Misuse

- The connection between substance abuse and sexual violence can be complex. Victims and survivors often turn to alcohol and drugs as a way to cope with the trauma of sexual violence.

Prostitution

- People who are involved in sex work are especially vulnerable to sex crimes and are particularly at risk of sexual violence from people who pay for and use their services.
- Sexual violence against sex workers is very much underreported. Reasons for non-reporting included belief that they would not be believed or taken seriously by the police, fear of being arrested, fear of reprisal from perpetrators, fear the courts will not take them seriously, and fear that their involvement in prostitution will become public if the incident goes to court (Campbell and Kinnell, 2000/2001).

Modern Slavery and Trafficking

- Sex trafficking or slavery is the exploitation of women and children, within national or across international borders, for the purposes of forced sex work. Commercial sexual exploitation includes pornography, prostitution and sex trafficking of women and girls, and is characterized by the exploitation of a human being in exchange for goods or money. Adult women make up the largest group of sex trafficking victims, followed by female children, although a small percentage of men and boys are trafficked into the sex industry as well.

Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence

- The National Coalition Against Domestic Violence note that perpetrators who are physically violent to their intimate partners are often sexually abusive as well. They note that victims who are both physically and sexually abused are more likely to be injured or killed than victims who experience one form of abuse.

Child Sexual Abuse (From NSPPC website)

- There are 2 different types of child sexual abuse: contact abuse and noncontact abuse. Contact abuse involves touching activities where an abuser makes physical contact with a child, including penetration. Non-contact abuse involves non-touching activities, such as grooming, exploitation, persuading children to perform sexual acts over the internet and flashing. Children who have been abused or neglected may experience physical or emotional harm. If someone has been abused as a child, it is more likely that they will suffer abuse again and be re-victimised.

2.15. Sexual Violence and Under Reporting

There is a considerable issue with under reporting in cases of sexual offences, with many more offences being committed than are reported to and recorded by the police. For example, a total of 193,566 sexual offences were recorded by the police in England and Wales in the year ending March 2022, which is the highest level ever recorded. However, the Crime Survey for England and Wales estimated that 1.1 million adults had experienced sexual assault in the year ending March 2022 (798,000 women and 275,000 men). Unwanted sexual touching was the most common type of sexual assault experienced by adults, followed by assault by penetration and then rape¹¹⁵.

Sexual offences have distinct impacts on those who experience them; they are crimes that 'fundamentally challenge a victim's sense of dignity and autonomy'¹¹⁶, and there are

¹¹⁵ [Sexual offences in England and Wales overview - Office for National Statistics \(ons.gov.uk\)](https://ons.gov.uk/people-in-the-uk/population-and-demography/sexual-offences)

¹¹⁶ McMillan (2014), referenced in Burman, M. and Brooks-Hay (2021). 'Delays in Trials: the implications for victim-survivors of rape and serious sexual assault: an update'. *The Scottish Centre for Crime and Justice Research*. Available at: [Delays-in-Serious-Sexual-Offence-Cases.-Dec-2021.pdf \(sccjr.ac.uk\)](https://www.sccjr.ac.uk/research/publications/2021/12/delays-in-serious-sexual-offence-cases-dec-2021.pdf)

acts that remove power, control and dignity from victims¹¹⁷. Many victims describe feeling frightened and humiliated as a result of the crime, feelings which are often intensified by 'rape myths' and stereotypes which place blame on the actions of the victim¹¹⁸ (Burman and Brooks-Hay, 2020).

Bullock and Beckson (2011)¹¹⁹ argue that underreporting affects male victims in particular, and this is exacerbated by myths, stereotypes and unfounded beliefs about male sexuality and male homosexuality. They suggest that these beliefs are widespread in legal and medical communities, as well as amongst agencies that provide services to sexual assault victims. These beliefs include the perception that male victims are responsible for their assaults, male sexual assault victims are less traumatized by the experience than their female counterparts, and that ejaculation is an indicator of positive erotic experience. This leads to underreporting of sexual assault by male victims, a lack of appropriate services for male victims, and effectively, no legal redress for male victims. Bullock and Beckson (2011) argue that male sexual assault victims have fewer resources and greater stigma than female sexual assault victims.

Allen (2007)¹²⁰ notes that a victim of rape cannot receive social support or legal justice without revealing information about the crime to the police, however doing so creates a real cost – social recrimination and lost privacy, with no guarantee of offender apprehension. In fact, national data¹²¹ shows that in the year ending March 2023, rates of offender apprehension were low, with a low proportion of sexual offences being resolved with a charge/summons outcome (3.6%). Further, a higher-than-average proportion of cases were assigned to the evidential difficulties category. Two in five rape offences (43.1%) were closed because the victim did not support action against the suspect. Given the nature of the crime, more suspects were identified in sexual assault cases than any other crime type (85.9% in comparison to an average of 56.9% for all crimes).

Wait times for rape cases '...have been unacceptably lengthy for some time' according to Burman and Brooks-Hay (2020)¹²². The Covid-19 Pandemic has caused significant disruption to the operation of the criminal justice system and has heightened these wait times. These wait times have a considerable impact on victims, with *Justice Journeys* research¹²³ finding victims whose cases took between two to three years to reach an outcome describing themselves as "living in limbo, with 'no road map' for how to

¹¹⁷ Myers and LaFree (1982), referenced in Burman, M. and Brooks-Hay (2021). 'Delays in Trials: the implications for victim-survivors of rape and serious sexual assault: an update'. *The Scottish Centre for Crime and Justice Research*. Available at: [Delays-in-Serious-Sexual-Offence-Cases.-Dec-2021.pdf \(sccjr.ac.uk\)](https://www.sccjr.ac.uk/Delays-in-Serious-Sexual-Offence-Cases.-Dec-2021.pdf)

¹¹⁸ Burman, M. and Brooks-Hay (2021). 'Delays in Trials: the implications for victim-survivors of rape and serious sexual assault: an update'. *The Scottish Centre for Crime and Justice Research*. Available at: [Delays-in-Serious-Sexual-Offence-Cases.-Dec-2021.pdf \(sccjr.ac.uk\)](https://www.sccjr.ac.uk/Delays-in-Serious-Sexual-Offence-Cases.-Dec-2021.pdf)

¹¹⁹ Bullock, C. & Beckson, M. (2011). 'Male victims of sexual assault: Phenomenology psychology, physiology'. *Journal of the American Academy of Psychiatry and the Law*. 39(2). 197-205.

¹²⁰ Allen, D. (2007) 'The Reporting and Underreporting of Rape.' *Southern Economic Journal*. 73:3. Pp. 623-641. Available at: [The Reporting and Underreporting of Rape on JSTOR](https://www.jstor.org/stable/2346411)

¹²¹ [Crime outcomes in England and Wales 2022 to 2023 - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/crime-outcomes-in-england-and-wales-2022-to-2023)

¹²² See footnote 114.

¹²³ Referenced in Burman and Brooks-Hays (2020) – see footnote 114.

continue in the criminal justice process or in their life more generally, especially in situations marred with a lack of communication over what is happening and why”. Delays can have a wide range of adverse consequences for victims, impacting on personal, domestic and professional lives of victims, as well as their work or study and potentially leading to difficulties in maintaining and establishing close relationships and the development of mental and physical health problems. These delays are likely to prevent repeat victims from reporting future offences.

2.16. Protective factors

Research on resilience conceptualizes protective factors as a broader set of characteristics and environmental supports that promote the ability of youths to succeed and thrive, even in environments of risk¹²⁴ (Development Services Group Inc, 2015).

Kirby and Fraser (1997)¹²⁵ found that protective factors may contribute to resilience either by exerting positive effects in direct opposition to the negative effects of risk factors, or by buffering individuals against the negative effects of risk factors.

Protective factors are typically organized into the following domains:

- Individual (e.g., biological and psychological dispositions, attitudes, values, knowledge, skills).
- Family (e.g., function, management, bonding).
- Peer (e.g., norms, activities, attachment).
- School (e.g., bonding, climate, policy, performance).
- Community (e.g., bonding, norms, resources, awareness/mobilization).

The Centre for Disease and Control Prevention¹²⁶ provides examples of protective factors, as displayed below in Table 1:

¹²⁴ Development Services Group (2015). “Protective Factors for Delinquency”. Literature review. Washington, D.C: Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention. Available at: [OJJDP MPG Literature Review: Protective Factors \(ojp.gov\)](#)

¹²⁵ Referenced in Development Services Group (2015) – see footnote 120.

¹²⁶ [Risk and Protective Factors | Youth Violence Prevention | CDC](#)

Individual Factors

- Intolerant attitude toward deviance
- High IQ
- High grade point average – as an indicator of high achievement
- High educational aspirations
- Positive social orientation
- Popularity acknowledged by peers
- High developed social skills/competencies
- Highly developed skills for realistic planning
- Religious beliefs.

Family Factors

- Connectedness to family or adults outside the family
- Ability to discuss problems with parents
- Perceived parental expectations about school performance are high.
- Frequent shared activities with parents
- Consistent presence of parent during at least one of the following:
 - When awakening
 - When arriving home from school
 - During evening mealtime
 - When going to bed
- Involvement in social activities
- Parental/family use of constructive strategies for coping with problems (provision of models of constructive coping).

Peer and Social Factors

- Possession of affective relationships with those at school that are strong, close and pro-socially oriented.
- Commitment to school (an investment in school and in doing well at school).
- Close relationships with non-deviant peers.
- Membership in peer groups that do not condone antisocial behaviour.
- Involvement in prosocial activities.
- Exposure to school climates with the following characteristics:
 - Intensive supervision
 - Clear behaviour rules
 - Firm disciplinary methods
 - Engagement of parents and teachers

Table 1 - Centre for Disease and Control Prevention – Protective Factors against serious violence.

Further, Sociological theories help us to understand why certain young people do not participate in delinquent acts. Social Learning Theory¹²⁷ argues that behaviour is reinforced through both rewards and punishments, and by observational learning of other people's actions. It suggests that youths can learn through the prosocial modelling of peers, teachers, and/or family members to engage in positive rather than negative behaviours.

Social control theory suggests that the bonds that youths develop in the form of attachment to others and to school, commitment to social relationships, involvement in prosocial activities, and from adherence to prosocial beliefs help to prevent them from

¹²⁷ Bandura (1977). Referenced in Development Group Inc (2015) – see footnote 120.

delinquency¹²⁸. For example, if a child has a strong and positive attachment to his or her parents, is committed to education, is involved in productive and positive activities, and has conventional beliefs, he or she is less likely to engage in delinquency¹²⁹.

The five domains mentioned above, individual, family, peer, school and community related factors are the means through which researchers and practitioners can understand and measure the presence of protective factors. For example, involvement in prosocial activities can be measured by counting the number of class activities, school clubs, and organizations in which a student is involved. Protective factors are crucial in reducing the likelihood that youths will engage in delinquency and other problem behaviours such as violence and substance abuse. However, research is predominantly focused on the impact of risk factors on delinquency. The Development Group Inc (2015) note that comparable research on protective factors is lacking, and additional research is needed on the interaction of risk and protective factors, and how this information can be applied in the juvenile justice field to reduce delinquent behaviour in youths.

¹²⁸ Hirschi (1969), referenced in Development Group Services Inc (2015) – see footnote 120.

¹²⁹ Reingle *et al* (2011), referenced in Development Group Services Inc (2015) – see footnote 120.

3. Violence Profile

Serious violence in BCP

The working definition of serious violence in BCP is as follows:

‘Mirroring the Home Office Serious Violence Strategy (2018), Serious Violence in BCP will be defined as “homicide, knife crime, and gun crime and areas of criminality where serious violence or its threat is inherent, such as in gangs and county lines drug dealing”. The BCP Serious Violence Strategy/ Needs Assessment will also address manslaughter, attempted murder, Grievous Bodily Harm (S18 and S20), domestic abuse, rape, sexual assaults, aggravated burglary, robbery, and arson with intent to endanger life.’

As such, this analysis is conducted using the following crime types:

- Manslaughter,
- Attempt murder,
- S18 – Grievous Bodily Harm with Intent,
- S18 – Wounding with intent,
- Inflict Grievous Bodily Harm without Intent – (GBH S20),
- Rape,
- Sexual assaults,
- Aggravated Burglary,
- Robbery,
- Arson with intent to endanger life.

An important aspect of serious violence is knife related offending, however, there is no such offence as ‘knife crime’. Police recorded occurrences involving a knife are marked with a knife crime flag. Subsequently, knife related offending will be explored through the extraction of the offences mentioned above, paired with a knife crime flag.

The previous version of the Serious Violence Needs Assessment (2022/23) identified Rape, Sexual Assault, Robbery, GBH S18 and knife flagged offending as priority crime types. This section of the report will provide an updated overview of these crime types using Police data from 1st April 2023-31st March 2024. Domestic abuse was also identified as a priority, however, the nature of domestic abuse is very different to the nature of other serious violence offences looked at within this report, as domestic abuse often occurs over the course of a relationship, oftentimes consisting of prolonged and repeat abuse. This topic is widely covered by other documents produced by the Community Safety Partnership; the Strategic Assessment looks at domestic abuse on a wider scale, not limited to serious violence, and there is currently work being undertaken to produce a domestic abuse strategy. Therefore, domestic abuse is not addressed in this needs assessment,

The following table explores breakdown of serious violence occurrences by crime type in BCP for the financial year 2023/24, in comparison with the previous financial year. The table also shows the difference as both a number and percentage.

Crime Type	2022/23	2023/24	+/-	% +/-
Sexual assault on a female (recordable)	385	358	-27	-7%
Rape of a Female aged 16 or over (Sec 1 SOA 2003)	361	337	-24	-6.60%
Robbery - Personal (recordable)	261	294	33	13%
Section 18 - grievous bodily harm with intent (recordable)	92	92	0	0%
Inflict grievous bodily harm without intent (Section 20)	72	59	-13	-18%
Rape of a Female aged under 16 (Sec 1 SOA 2003)	62	61	-1	-2%
Sexual assault of a female child under 13 (S3, SOA 2003)	54	65	11	20%
Sexual assault on a male aged 13 or over (Sec 3, SOA 2003)	54	60	6	11%
Sexual assault of a female 13 or over by penetration (S2, SOA 2003)	48	54	6	13%
Section 18 - wounding with intent (recordable)	43	37	-6	-14%
Rape a girl under 13 (recordable)	23	12	-11	-48%
Robbery - Business (recordable)	20	40	20	100%
Rape a man 16 or over - SOA 2003 (recordable)	15	27	12	80%
Arson with intent to endanger life (recordable)	15	19	4	27%
Aggravated burglary - dwelling (recordable)	12	2	-10	-83%
Rape of a boy under 13 - SOA 2003 (recordable)	11	11	0	0%
Rape of a Male aged under 16 (Sec 1, SOA 2003)	5	4	-1	-20%
Section 18 - cause grievous bodily harm with intent to resist / prevent arrest (recordable)	4	1	-3	-75%
Attempt murder	3	4	1	33%
Sexual assault of a male child under 13 by penetration (Sec 6 SOA 2003)	3	6	3	100%
Rape of a female aged 16 or over by multiple undefined offenders (Dorset)	3	3	0	0%
Aggravated burglary - other than dwelling (recordable)	2	0	-2	-100%
Manslaughter (recordable)	1	0	-1	-100%
Murder - victim one year of age or older	1	4	3	300%
Rape of a male aged 16 or over by multiple undefined offenders (Dorset)	1	1	0	0%
Aggravated Burglary - Residential (Home)	0	19	19	-
Aggravated Burglary - Residential (Unconnected Building).	0	3	3	-
Rape of a female aged under 16 by multiple undefined offenders (Dorset)	0	1	1	-
Total	1551	1574	23	2%

Table 2 - Crime types for serious violence occurrences in BCP 2023/24, in comparison to 2022/23. -

Table 2 shows that the most common types of serious violence offending in BCP in financial year 2023/24 were sexual assault on a female, rape of a female aged 16 or over, personal robbery and GBH Section 18.

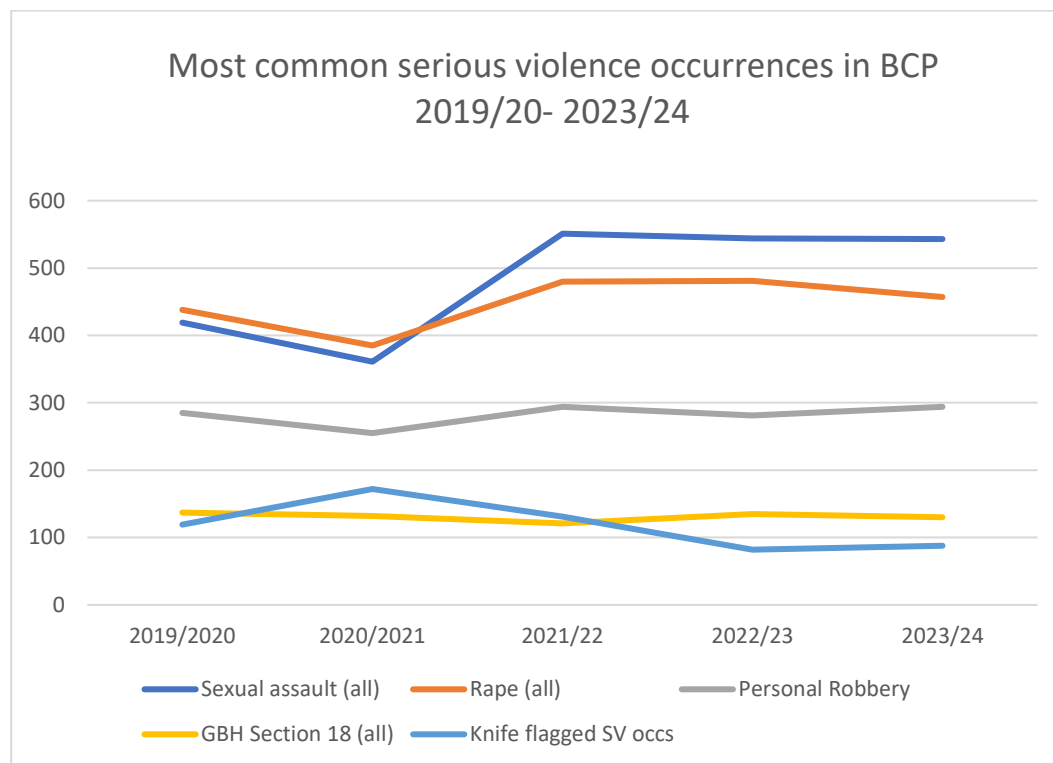


Figure 18 - Trends for most common types of serious violence occurrences in BCP 2019/2020-2023/24

Figure 18 shows data trends for the most common types of serious violence over the last 5 financial years. Sexual offences were consistently the most common types of serious violence occurrence. The numbers of sexual assaults increased by 53% between 2020/21-2021/22, from 361 in 2020/21 to 551 in 2021/22. It is thought that the low number of sexual assaults in 2020/21 is reflective of the Covid Pandemic and the impact of lockdown which prevented socialisation. A key theme in the sexual assault data is the night-time economy, and lack of engagement in leisure pursuits is likely to have contributed to the low numbers in 2020/21. Sexual assault numbers peaked in 2021/22 and remained relatively stable from 2021/22-2023/24.

Rape numbers followed a similar trend to sexual assault numbers, but there was a less severe increase in numbers between 2020/21-2021/22, at a 25% increase.

Personal robbery figures were relatively consistent across the five financial years, with a drop being seen in 2020/21 which is likely to be attributed to the Covid Pandemic and lockdown.

Similarly, GBH section 18 occurrences stayed relatively consistent throughout the five financial years. In contrast to the other offences, there was no notable decline in 2020/21, but there was a slight decline in 2021/22.

Interestingly, knife flagged serious violence occurrences follow a different pattern to all of the other crime types, and there was a considerable peak in 2020/21, at 172 occurrences. Numbers decreased by 24% the following year to 131, and decreased by a further 37% in 2022/23, to 82 occurrences. There were 88 knife flagged occurrences in 2023/24.

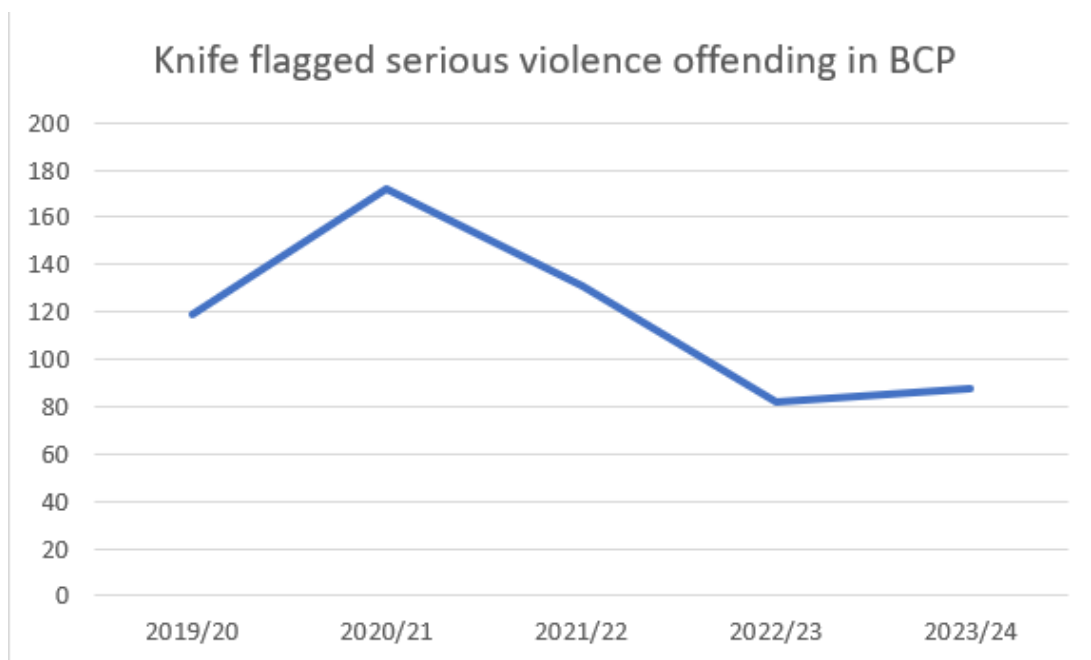


Figure 19 - Knife flagged serious violence offending in BCP.

Personal robbery was consistently the most common type of knife flagged serious violence occurrence within the 5 year period explored in the graph above. In 2020/21, there were 92 knife flagged personal robbery occurrences. In comparison, there were 50 in 2019/2020 and 63 in 2021/22. The numbers of knife flagged GBH S18 occurrences were also higher in 2020/21, contributing to the spike in knife flagged occurrences in that year.

The following analysis takes a deeper dive into the most common crime types to present key information and trends in the data.

Sexual assaults

Sexual assault on a female was the most common serious violence occurrence in the data, making up 23% of all serious violence in BCP.

There are multiple different crime types for sexual assault, based on age and gender. For example, there is 'sexual assault on a female', 'sexual assault of a female child

under 13', 'sexual assault on a male child aged 13 or over', etc. If we add all of these crime types together, there were 543 sexual assault occurrences reported to and recorded by Dorset Police in BCP between 1st April 2023-31st March 2024. All of these crime types combined account for 36% of the data.

In total, there were 68 occurrences which were reported between 1st April 2023-31st March 2024, which had a start date prior to 1st April 2023. These occurrences were removed from the data prior to analysis in order to produce a more accurate picture of occurrences which were both reported and occurred within the financial year 2023/24. It is likely that there are other historical occurrences within the data that have not been recorded with the correct start date, however, it would be impossible to remove these without reading through every occurrence within the data. As such, this should be considered as a margin of error when discussing numbers of sexual assaults within the area. This left a total of 475 sexual assault occurrences within the analysis¹³⁰.

Victims

Looking at victim age, data shows that 15-19 year olds were the largest age group within the data.

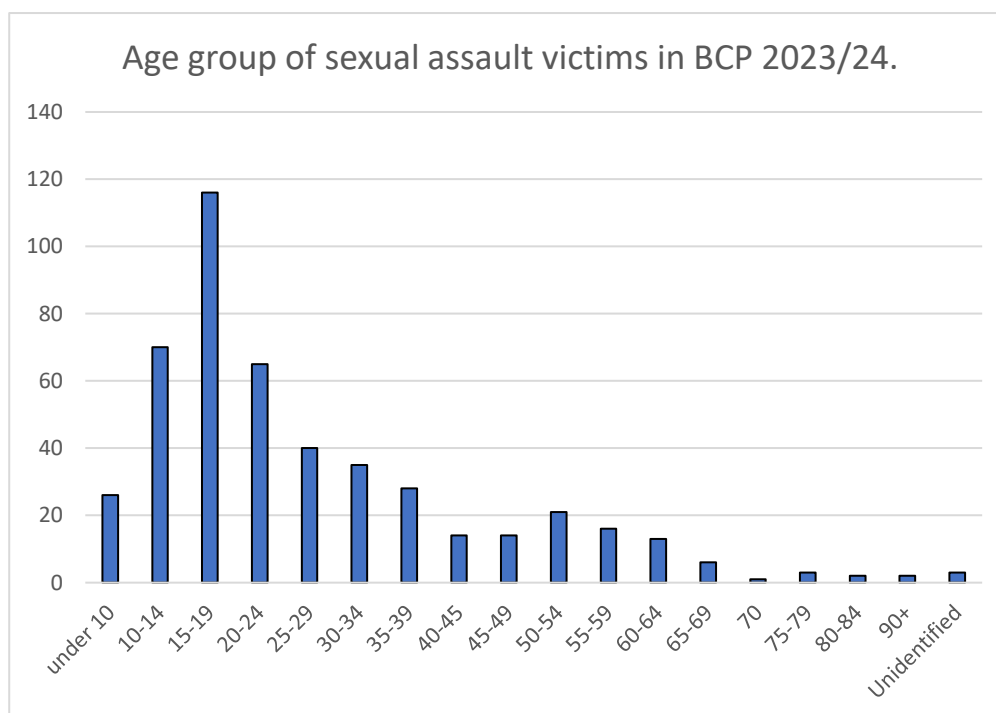


Figure 20 - Age group of victims of sexual assault reported to and recorded by Dorset Police in BCP 2023-24.

¹³⁰ Note that this methodology is different to the previous version of the Serious Violence Needs Assessment, where analysts did read through every sexual offence log and remove historical occurrences. However, due to capacity constraints this was not possible for the 2024/25 Serious Violence Needs Assessment. Subsequently, numbers of sexual offences may appear higher in this version of the Serious Violence Needs Assessment than the previous version, however, this is primarily down to this change in methodology.

Figure 20 shows that the number of victims peaks between the ages 15-19, and then as age increases, the number of victims decreases. However, the number of 50-54 year old victims is higher than may be expected. In total, there were 21 50-54 year old victims, accounting for 4% of the data. As a result, it is suggested that the accessibility of support for sexual assaults for older victims is assessed, as it is likely that this number is an under representation.

The previous years' Serious Violence Needs Assessment also found that younger victims were most prevalent in sexual assault occurrences, which has led to work with the Universities around education and prevention. Based on the data around victim age, it is recommended that this work continue, as university age students were still a key cohort within the data this year.

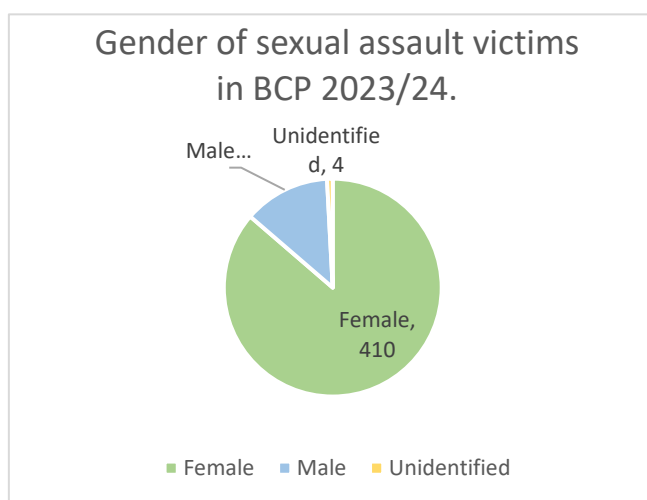


Figure 21 shows that the vast majority of victims of sexual assault in BCP in 2023/24 were female (86%) in comparison to male (13%). There were 4 victims whose gender was unidentified. It is likely that these occurrences were reported to the police by third parties.

Figure 21 - Gender of victims of sexual assault reported to and recorded by Dorset Police in BCP 2023/24.

Victim ethnicity	Count	Percentage
0	235	49.47%
W1. White British	179	37.68%
NS. Not stated	40	8.42%
W9. Any other white background	10	2.11%
#N/A	3	0.63%
M1. White & Black Caribbean	2	0.42%
M9. Any other mixed background	2	0.42%
I1. Gypsy or Irish Traveller	1	0.21%
B1. Black Caribbean	1	0.21%
O9. Any other ethnic group	1	0.21%
A9. Any other Asian background	1	0.21%

Table 3 - Ethnicity of victims sexual assault victims reported to and recorded by Dorset Police in BCP in financial year 2023/24.

Table 3 shows the ethnicity of victims of sexual assault recorded by Dorset Police in financial year 2023/24. Unfortunately, ethnicity information is unavailable for over half of victims (278 total, 59%). This makes it difficult to identify any ethnic groups which

may be over-represented or under-represented within the data, due to the lack of information. The majority of victims with identified ethnicity data are White British, which is to be expected, however, other ethnic groups appear to be underrepresented.

Suspects

In total, there were 266 suspects for the sexual assault occurrences. There were 22 suspects who appeared more than once in the data. These suspects were responsible for a total of 48 occurrences (10%).

8 occurrences had more than one suspect. These 8 occurrences related to 20 suspects.

There was a total of 194 occurrences (41%) where suspects were not identified. This accounted for 41% of all sexual assaults in BCP recorded by Dorset Police in 2023/24. A total of 281 of the 475 occurrences had suspects.

The following analysis is based on the 266 identified suspects.

The age groups of identified suspects presented quite a different pattern to the age groups of victims. Suspect age groups are displayed in the graph below:

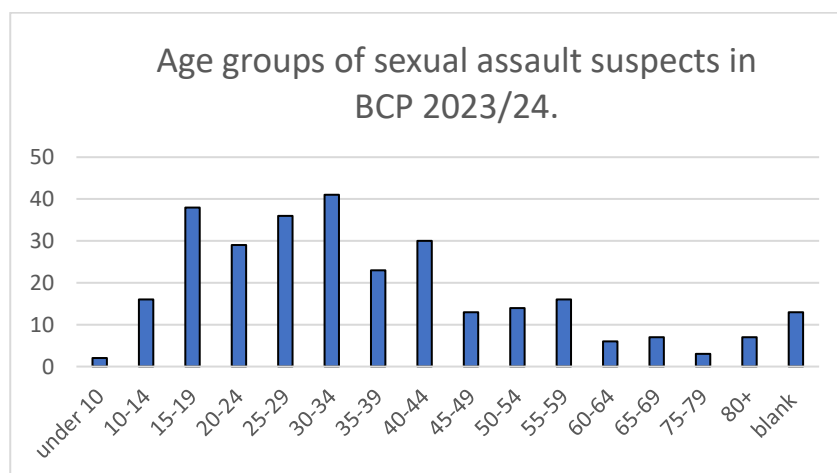


Figure 22 - Age groups of suspects of sexual assaults reported to and recorded by Dorset Police in 2023/24.

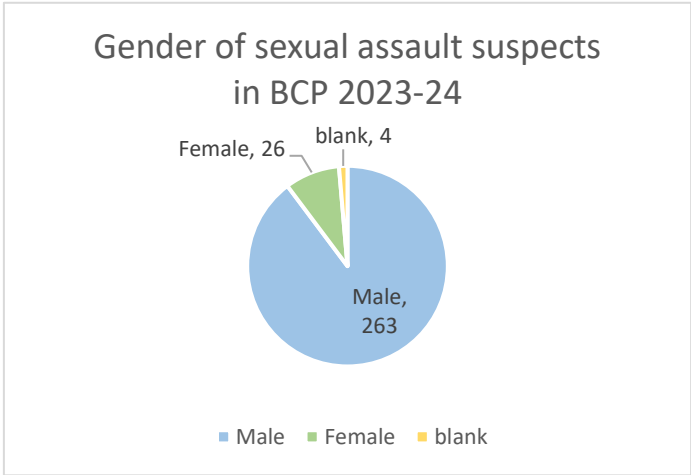
For victims, as age increased the number of sexual assaults decreased. However, the same cannot be said for suspects. The largest age group for suspects was 30-34, whereas the largest age group for victims was 15-19 by a considerable margin. 30-34 year old suspects made up 15% of the data (41 actual). 15-19 was the next most common age group, making up 14% of the data (38 actual).

Suspects of sexual assault tended to be older than victims. 53% of sexual assault victims were aged 10-24, whilst 30% of suspects fell within the same age range. In contrast, 38% of suspects were age 30-49 in comparison to 19% of victims.

Numbers of sexual assault suspects generally began to decrease after the age 44, however, the age groups 55-59 and 65-69 were exceptions to this. The 80+ age group appears high, however, there was one 84 year old suspect who appeared 4 times within the data who inflates this number.

Age data was unavailable for 12 suspects.

There were 38 young people aged 10-17 who were identified suspects of sexual assault during financial year 2023/24. There was one young person who was a suspect of sexual assault twice during the reporting period. Both occurrences happened on the same day, with two separate victims.



The majority of identified suspects were male (91%). Females suspects made up 9% of the data. There was no gender information for 4 identified suspects.

Figure 23 - Gender of suspects of sexual assault reported to and recorded by Dorset Police, occurring in BCP in financial year 2023/24.

Suspect Ethnicity	Count	Percentage
W1. White British	146	55%
NS. Not stated	17	6%
W9. Any other white background	14	5%
A1. Asian - Indian	9	3%
O9. Any other ethnic group	6	2%
A9. Any other Asian background	4	2%
A3. Asian - Bangladeshi	4	2%
B2. Black African	4	2%
W2. White Irish	3	1%
A2. Asian - Pakistani	2	0.75%
M3. White & Asian	2	0.75%
M9. Any other mixed background	2	0.75%
M1. White & Black Caribbean	2	0.75%
I1. Gypsy or Irish Traveller	1	0.4%
B9. Any other Black background	1	0.4%
B1. Black Caribbean	1	0.4%
Blank	48	18%

Table 4 – Ethnicity data for identified suspects of sexual assault, reported to and recorded by Dorset Police in financial year 2023/24.

Ethnicity data for identified suspects was considerably more complete than for victims, with 24% of total identified suspects having no available ethnicity data, in comparison to 59% of victims. Table 4 indicates that suspects from Asian (8% of identified sexual assault suspects in comparison to 3.4% of BCP population) and black (4% of identified sexual assault suspects in comparison to 1.1% of the BCP population) backgrounds are overrepresented within the data in comparison to the percentage of individuals from those ethnic backgrounds living in BCP. However, it should be noted that overall numbers of identified suspects from these age groups are small, and it is unlikely that all identified suspects resided in BCP.

Relationship between victim and offender in sexual assault occurrences

Table 5 below shows the relationship between victim and offender recorded by Dorset Police for sexual assault occurrences reported and occurring in BCP in financial year 2023/24.

Relationship Type	Count	Percentage
No known relationship	119	25.05%
Friend/acquaintance/colleague	83	17.47%
Complete stranger	54	11.37%
Ex spouse/cohabitee/partner	46	9.68%
Other relationship (misc)	45	9.47%
Educational relationship	29	6.11%
Commercial relationship	19	4.00%
Care/health/NHS worker	18	3.79%
Neighbour direct/indirect	16	3.37%

Family - other family member	12	2.53%
Spouse/cohabitee/partner	11	2.32%
Family - father	10	2.11%
Family - brother	3	0.63%
Policing duties	2	0.42%
Family - grandparent	2	0.42%
Sex worker/client	1	0.21%
Online/internet/social media	1	0.21%
Family - child on parent	1	0.21%
Victimless/crime against state	1	0.21%
Family - child sibling on sibling	1	0.21%
Family - mother	1	0.21%

Table 5 - Relationship between victim and suspect for sexual assault occurrences reported to and recorded by Dorset Police, occurring in BCP in financial year 2023/24.

The most common relationship between victim and suspect was 'no known relationship', making up 25% of the data.

15% of occurrences had a domestic abuse flag.

Locations

Beatcode	Count	Percentage
Central Bournemouth	122	25.68%
Poole Town	31	6.53%
Boscombe West	28	5.89%
Westbourne and Westcliff	25	5.26%
Eastcliff and Springbourne	23	4.84%
Winton East	14	2.95%
Queens Park	12	2.53%
Boscombe East	12	2.53%
Kinson North	12	2.53%
Newtown	11	2.32%
Wallisdown	10	2.11%
Rossmore and Alderney	10	2.11%
Talbot and Branksome Wood	10	2.11%
Littledown/Iford	10	2.11%

Table 6 – Beat codes with 10 or more sexual assault occurrences reported to and recorded by Dorset Police in financial year 2023/24.

Table 6 displays Police beat codes which had 10 or more sexual assault occurrences recorded by Dorset Police in BCP in financial year 2023/24. This is in relation to the location of the assault. Central Bournemouth was the most common location by a considerable margin, making up 25.68% of the data.

Temporal analysis into the sexual assault occurrences around Central Bournemouth suggests that the high numbers in this location are likely related to the evening and night-time economy.

	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun	Total
0000-0159	3	0	0	2	2	5	6	18
0200-0359	0	4	2	0	0	11	7	24
0400-0559	0	2	1	1	1	2	2	9
0600-0759	0	0	0	1	1	0	2	4
0800-0959	1	0	0	2	0	1	0	4
1000-1159	0	2	0	0	1	1	1	5
1200-1359	0	1	0	0	0	1	4	6
1400-1559	1	2	2	2	1	2	2	12
1600-1759	1	0	4	1	2	2	2	12
1800-1959	2	0	1	0	2	3	3	11
2000-2159	2	0	1	2	2	1	1	9
2200-2359	0	1	0	1	5	1	0	8
Total	10	12	11	12	17	30	30	122

Table 7 - Days and times of sexual assault occurrences recorded by Dorset Police, occurring in Central Bournemouth in financial year 2023/24.

Table 7 shows a clear prevalence of sexual assault occurrences in the early hours of Saturday and Sunday mornings between 0000-0359, a key time period for the night time economy.

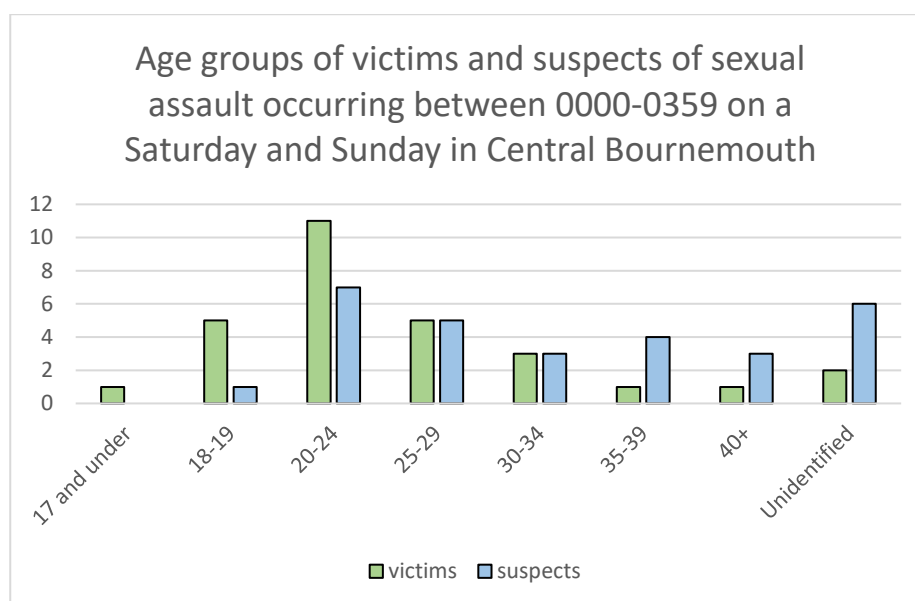


Figure 24 - Age groups of victims and suspects of sexual assault occurring between the hours of 0000-0359 on a Saturday and Sunday in Central Bournemouth.

Figure 24 explores the ages of victims and suspects of sexual assaults occurring in the prevalent hours between 0000-0359 on a Saturday and Sunday. The most prominent age group for both victims and suspects is 20-24, although there are notably more victims in this age group than suspects. This may be at least in part because there was a notable portion of unidentified suspects for whom there was no age data available.

Another prevalent age group for victims was those aged 18-19.

A key observation of figure 24 is that victim ages peaked at age 20-24 before steadily decreasing. In contrast, suspects appeared to be older and there were considerably more suspects between the aged 35-39 and 40+ than victims. It should be noted however, that the ages of suspects may be skewed by the high proportion of unidentified suspects.

93% of victims of sexual assault which occurred during the key night time economy hours and days were female (27 actual), in comparison to 7% who were male (2 actual). All identified suspects were male (79%, 23 actual). There were 6 suspects (21%) who were unidentified, and therefore no gender information was available for these suspects.

Victim ethnicity	Count	Percentage
W1. White British	10	34.48%
NS. Not stated	3	10.34%
B1. Black Caribbean	1	3.45%
M9. Any other mixed background	1	3.45%
unidentified	14	48.28%

Suspect ethnicity	Count	Percentage
W9. Any other white background	7	24.14%
W1. White British	6	20.69%
B2. Black African	2	6.90%
O9. Any other ethnic group	2	6.90%
NS. Not stated	2	6.90%
B1. Black Caribbean	1	3.45%
unidentified	9	31.03%

Table 8 and 9- Victims and suspect ethnicity for sexual offences occurring in Central Bournemouth between the hours of 0000-0359 on a Saturday and Sunday.

Tables 8 and 9 display the ethnicity of victims and suspects of sexual offences during the key night time economy hours and days in Central Bournemouth. Unfortunately, the largest categories for both victims and suspects have no available ethnicity data. However, the tables highlight that there is an over representation of suspects from 'any other white backgrounds' for sexual offences in the night-time economy hours.

An exploration of the postcodes of these occurrences found that 14 of the 29 occurrences within the key night time economy hours and days related to Bar So in Central Bournemouth. A key point to note is that Bar So are particularly proactive in reporting sexual offences to the police. Further, research shows that sexual offences are often underreported. This suggests that it is likely that there are many more sexual assaults which occur between these hours and days which do not get reported to the police. Work should be done with pubs, bars and clubs to ensure comprehensive procedures are in place when supporting victims of sexual assault in licensed premises.

Work completed on data from 2022/23 found that there was a high percentage of sexual assaults in student accommodation. A problem-solving project was completed by the BCP Community Safety Partnership in collaboration with Dorset Police which included premises reviews of 7 student accommodation buildings. The work found that a very professional approach was taken by all premises. In general, most of the properties had sensible security arrangements, and all premises had provided staff training to identify students in crisis. Staff were provided with guidance to signpost their incident reporting procedure, and most of the locations had trained mental health practitioners within their staff team. A monthly meeting takes place amongst providers, allowing them to share information. In terms of the offences, 7 of the offences were

committed by suspects the victim had met that night. It was found that the sites visited had firm policies on allowing visitors and guests, whilst underlining that all students are adults and take responsibility for whom they share their lives with. All of the sites acknowledged that first year students have tendencies towards overuse of alcohol. Students are provided with a wealth of awareness information around this topic when they enrol.

Rape

In total, there were 457 rape occurrences reported to and recorded by Dorset Police occurring in BCP in financial year 2023/24. There were 94 occurrences which were reported to Dorset Police in 2023/24, which did not occur in the financial year. These occurrences have been removed to provide a more accurate picture of rape occurrences in the area in financial year 2023/24, meaning the following analysis is based on 363 occurrences. Similar to sexual assaults, it is likely that there are occurrences within the data which do not contain the correct start date and may be historical, and this should be considered when discussing the data¹³¹.

Victims

Age data for victims of rape occurrences which were reported to and recorded by Dorset Police in financial year 2023/24 show that the most common age group for victims 15-19, followed by 20-24:

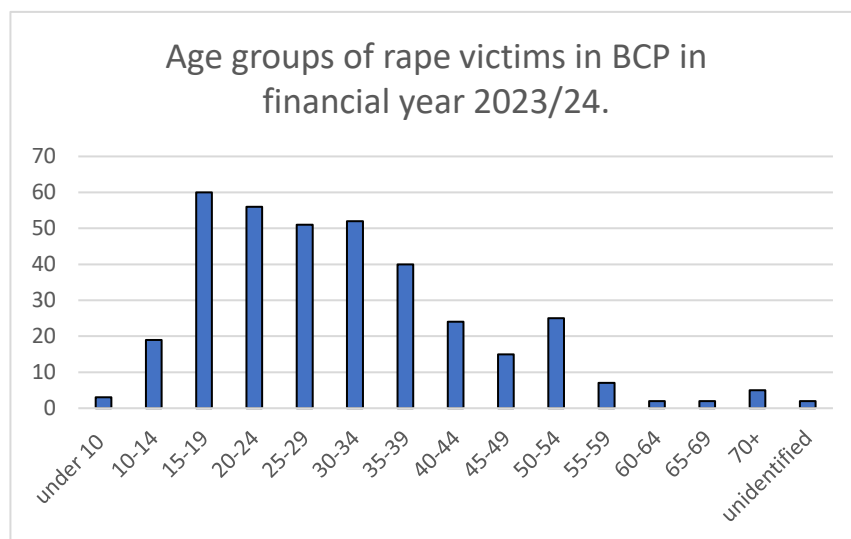


Figure 25 - age groups of victims of rape reported to and recorded by Dorset Police, occurring in BCP in financial year 2023/24.

The age breakdown for victims of rape were very different to victims of sexual assaults, which showed a clear spike for the age group 15-19 and then a sharp decrease, which

¹³¹ As is the case for sexual assault, rape figures are not comparable to the figure recorded in last year's version of the Serious Violence Needs Assessment due to differences in methodology. Comparisons for sexual offences can be drawn from the numbers displayed in figure 2.

continued as age increased. In contrast, the age groups for rape victims were more spread out.

There was a spike in data for victims of both rapes and sexual assaults in the age group 50-54. There were three victims aged 50-54 which appeared in the data more than once for rape occurrences in the financial year 2023/24. These three victims accounted for 8 of 25 occurrences. However, there were still 17 individual victims which was an increase from the 45-49 age group. Although this may appear relatively low given that the data is based on 12 months, it is important to keep in mind the low reporting rates for sexual offences, meaning that this is likely to be an underrepresentation.

Given the spike in victims between the age group 50-54 for both sexual assault and rape occurrences, it is recommended that work is done around understanding what resources are available within the community to enable older victims of sexual offences to seek help and support.

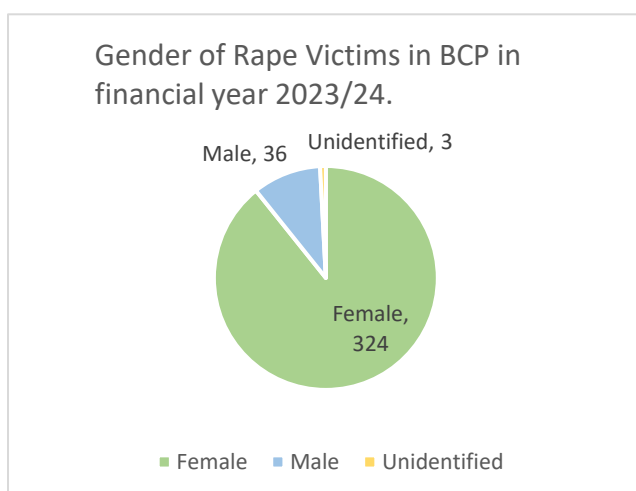


Figure 26 shows that the majority of victims of rape in BCP in financial year 2023/24 were female (89%). 10% of victims were male, and 1% of victims gender was not identified in the data. It is likely that the occurrences for these individuals came from third party referrals.

Figure 26 - Gender of victims of rape occurrences reported to and recorded by Dorset Police, occurring in BCP in financial year 2023/24.

Ethnicity	Count	Percentage
W1. White British	161	44.35%
0	154	42.42%
NS. Not stated	26	7.16%
W9. Any other white background	7	1.93%
B2. Black African	4	1.10%
M1. White & Black Caribbean	2	0.55%
#N/A	2	0.55%
M2. White & Black African	2	0.55%
B9. Any other Black background	1	0.28%
W2. White Irish	1	0.28%
O9. Any other ethnic group	1	0.28%
B1. Black Caribbean	1	0.28%
M3. White & Asian	1	0.28%

Table 10 - Ethnicity of victims of rape occurrences reported to and recorded by Dorset Police, occurring in BCP in financial year 2023/24.

Table 10 shows the ethnicity of victims of rape occurrences in BCP in financial year 2023/24. The largest ethnic group was White British, however, no ethnicity data was available for a total of 49% of victims, which hinders our ability to draw meaningful conclusions from this data.

Suspects

In total, there were 298 identified suspects for the 457 rape occurrences. There were 7 suspects who each were suspects twice within the year, accounting for 14 total occurrences. There was a total of 159 unidentified suspects. The rest of this analysis focuses solely on identified suspects.

Figure 27 shows the age groups of identified suspects of rape occurrences in BCP in financial year 2023/24.

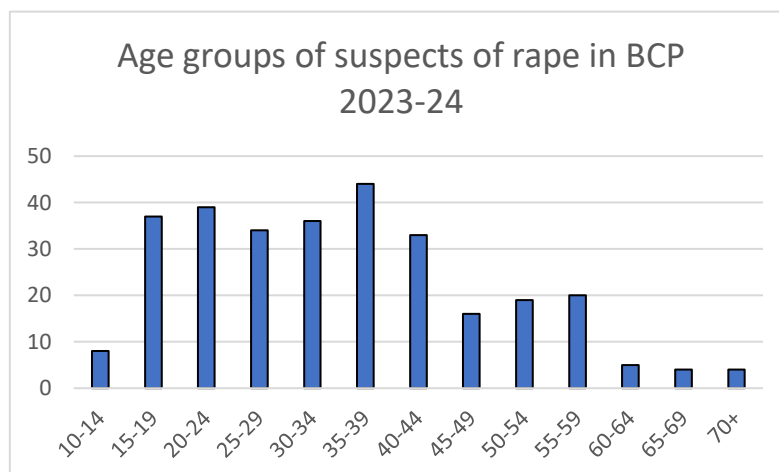


Figure 27 - Age groups of suspects of rape occurrences reported to and recorded by Dorset Police, occurring in BCP in financial year 2023/24.

Figure 27 shows that the largest group of identified rape suspects were between the ages of 35-39 (44 actual, 15%). The next most common age group was those aged 20-24 (39 actual, 13%). Identified suspects were older than victims, however, it is important to keep in mind that there were 159 unidentified victims and therefore this age breakdown may not represent an accurate portrayal of rape suspect ages.

There were 27 young people aged 10-17 who were identified suspects of rape occurrences in BCP in financial year 2023/23. There was one young person who was a suspect twice during the financial year. These occurrences took place on different days in January 2024 and were in relation to the same victim.

Table 11 shows the ethnicity information for suspects of rape occurrences in BCP in financial year 2023/24.

Ethnicity	Count	Percentage
W1. White British	183	61.41
Wz9. Any other white background	16	5.37
NS. Not stated	14	4.70
B2. Black African	13	4.36
M1. White & Black Caribbean	6	2.01
O9. Any other ethnic group	5	1.68
B1. Black Caribbean	3	1.01
B9. Any other Black background	3	1.01
A9. Any other Asian background	2	0.67
A3. Asian – Bangladeshi	2	0.67
A1. Asian – Indian	2	0.67
M2. White & Black African	2	0.67
A2. Asian – Pakistani	1	0.34
M3. White & Asian	1	0.34
M9. Any other mixed background	1	0.34
(blank)	44	14.77

Table 11 – Ethnicity data for identified suspects of rape occurrences reported to and recorded by Dorset Police in financial year 2023/24.

Table 11 shows that the most common ethnic group for identified suspects of sexual assault in financial year 2023/24 was White British, followed by any other white background. 7% of suspects were from Black backgrounds, in comparison to 1.1% of the BCP population, suggesting that this ethnic group may be overrepresented within the data. However, this was still a small percentage and is unlikely that all suspects were from the BCP area. Additionally, it is important to note that there were many unidentified suspects which hinders the quality of the data.

Relationship between victim and offender

Relationship	Count	Percentage
Ex spouse/cohabitee/partner	110	30.56%
Friend/acquaintance/colleague	71	19.72%
No known relationship	55	15.28%
Spouse/cohabitee/partner	50	13.89%
Other relationship (misc)	28	7.78%
Complete stranger	18	5.00%
Online/internet/social media	5	1.39%
Family – other family member	5	1.39%
Victim refuses to identify	3	0.83%
Neighbour direct/indirect	3	0.83%
Family – child sibling on sibling	2	0.56%
Care/health/NHS worker	2	0.56%
Family – father	2	0.56%
Educational relationship	1	0.28%
Commercial relationship	1	0.28%
Family – cousin	1	0.28%
Family – brother	1	0.28%
Family – niece	1	0.28%
Family – grandparent	1	0.28%

Table 12 – Relationship between victim and offender in rape occurrences reported to and recorded by Dorset Police in financial year 2023/24.

The most common relationship between victim and suspect in rape occurrences in BCP in 2023/24 was 'ex-spouse/cohabitee/ partner', making up 31% of the data. 47% of rape occurrences in BCP in 2023/24 had a domestic abuse flag. This is a considerably higher percentage than the number of sexual assaults with a domestic abuse flag. The prevalence of domestic abuse in rape occurrences in BCP is important for frontline practitioners to be aware of when seeking to support victims, highlighting the need for extensive training on domestic abuse for those who support victims of sexual offences.

Locations

Table 13 shows the beatcodes in BCP which had 10 or more reported rape occurrences in 2023/24.

Beatcode	Count	Percentage
Central Bournemouth	56	15.43%
Boscombe West	26	7.16%
Westbourne and Westcliff	24	6.61%
East Cliff and Springbourne	24	6.61%
Poole Town	22	6.06%
Newtown	21	5.79%
Parkstone	14	3.86%

Kinson North	11	3.03%
Rossmore and Alderney	11	3.03%
Queens Park	11	3.03%
Winton East	11	3.03%

Table 13 - Locations of rape occurrences reported to and recorded by Dorset Police in financial year 2023/24.

Similar to sexual assault, Central Bournemouth was the most common beat code for rape occurrences. However, there was a higher proportion of sexual assaults occurring in Central Bournemouth than there were rapes.

Temporal analysis – Central Bournemouth

	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun	Total
0000-0159	0	1	0	1	1	0	0	3
0200-0359	0	0	0	0	1	0	2	3
0400-0559	0	0	0	1	1	1	0	3
0600-0759	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	2
0800-0959	0	0	0	0	0	1	2	3
1000-1159	1	2	1	0	0	1	2	7
1200-1359	2	0	1	1	2	0	0	6
1400-1559	1	0	4	0	1	0	0	6
1600-1759	0	1	0	0	1	1	0	3
1800-1959	0	1	1	2	1	0	1	6
2000-2159	0	2	3	2	0	2	0	9
2200-2359	1	0	0	2	0	1	1	5
Total	6	7	10	9	9	7	8	56

Table 14 – Times and days of rape occurrences reported to and recorded by Dorset Police, occurring in Central Bournemouth in financial year 2023-24.

Table 14 shows that the most prevalent hours for rape in Central Bournemouth were between 1000-1159 and 2000-2159, and the most prevalent days were Wednesday, Thursday and Friday. The data on a Wednesday between 1400-1559 includes 3 separate occurrences reported by the same victim who was 54 years old. All three occurrences have unidentified suspects.

Temporal analysis of rape occurrences in Central Bournemouth portrays a very different picture to sexual assault occurrences in Central Bournemouth, the timings of which are patterned by the night time economy. In contrast, rape occurrences do not appear to be impacted by the night time economy to a great extent, as we would expect to see more occurrences in the early hours of Saturday and Sunday mornings after potential victims are returning home from nights out.

It is unclear why rape occurrences in Central Bournemouth are patterned in this way. The most common relationship between victim and suspect in central Bournemouth was 'no known relationship', making up 31% of the data, followed by 'ex-spouse/ cohabitee/ partner' at 22% of the data. 40% of occurrences had a domestic abuse flag.

Robbery

Robbery was the third most commonly reported type of serious violence recorded by Dorset Police in BCP in financial year 2023/24, with 294 recorded occurrences, making up 19.20% of the data.

Victims

Existing research notes that street robbers often search for victims who appear to have money or other valuables, such as students or tourists. They also target people who appear to be the most vulnerable, for example, young adults using ATMs alone at night or under the influence of alcohol. Offenders also look for victims who may be less aware of their immediate surroundings, such as those who look lost, are using a mobile phone, or are rummaging through their bag¹³².

Figure 28 shows the age groups of victims of robbery which occurred in BCP in financial year 2023/24. The age group 15-19 had the largest amount of victims, making up 22% of the total (65 actual). Generally, as victim age increased the number of robberies decreased.

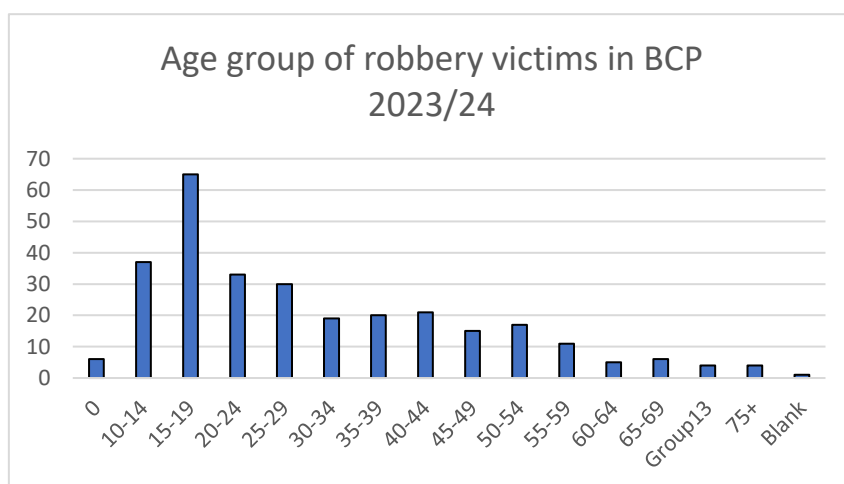


Figure 28 - Age groups of robbery victims reported to and recorded by Dorset Police, occurring in BCP in financial year 2023/24.

¹³² [Street Robbery | ASU Center for Problem-Oriented Policing | ASU](#)

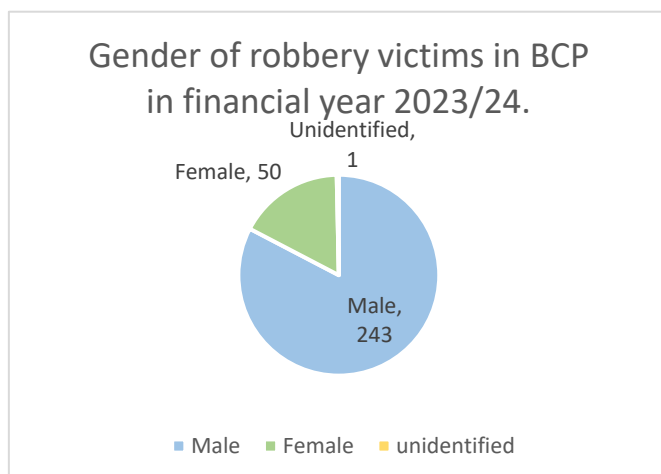


Figure 29 shows that the vast majority of victims of robbery in BCP in financial year 2023/24 were male (83%). In comparison, female victims made up 17% of victims.

Figure 29 - Gender of victims of robbery reported to and recorded by Dorset Police in financial year 2023/24.

Ethnicity	Count	Percentage
0	125	42.52%
W1. White British	115	39.12%
NS. Not stated	19	6.46%
W9. Any other white background	13	4.42%
O9. Any other ethnic group	4	1.36%
M9. Any other mixed background	4	1.36%
A9. Any other Asian background	3	1.02%
B9. Any other Black background	2	0.68%
O1. Chinese	1	0.34%
A2. Asian - Pakistani	1	0.34%
W2. White Irish	1	0.34%
B1. Black Caribbean	1	0.34%
A1. Asian - Indian	1	0.34%
B2. Black African	1	0.34%
#N/A	1	0.34%
M1. White & Black Caribbean	1	0.34%
M3. White & Asian	1	0.34%

Table 15 - Ethnicity of victims of robbery occurrences reported to and recorded by Dorset Police in financial year 2023/24.

Table 15 shows that the largest category for victims ethnicity was '0', meaning no data was available. The next largest category was White British, making up 39.12% of the data. The missing data around victims ethnicity makes it challenging to draw any meaningful conclusions from this data.

Suspects

There were 115 individual identified suspects for the 294 recorded robbery occurrences. 17 suspects appeared more than once in the data. The highest amount of times one individual suspect appeared in the data was 5. These repeat suspects were accountable for 51 total occurrences.

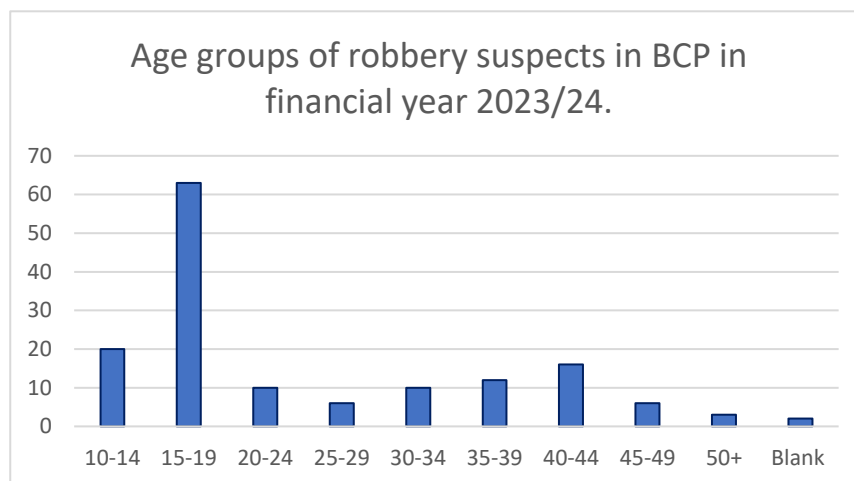


Figure 30 -Age groups of robbery suspects reported to and recorded by Dorset Police in financial year 2023/24.

Figure 30 shows that the most prevalent age group for suspects of robbery were those in the 15-19 age group (43% of total). There were 9 suspects in this age group who were a suspect of robbery more than once in the financial year. These suspects were involved in 28 occurrences. With duplicate suspects removed, 15-19 year olds made up 39% of suspects (44 total), which was still the largest group by a considerable proportion.

The age group 10-14 was the second largest age group, followed by 40-44. These were still the next largest age groups, even when accounting for repeat suspects.

In total, there were 47 young people aged 10-17 who were robbery suspects in financial year 2023/24. 14 of these young people were repeat suspects. These 14 young people were involved in 40 robbery occurrences.

Existing research on street robbery suggests that is a young person's crime, with offenders often in their late teens and early 20s. An overwhelming majority of street robbers are male¹³³.

¹³³ See footnote 129.

Gender of robbery suspects in
BCP 2023/24.

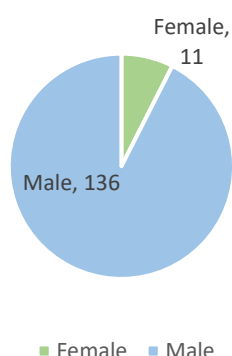


Figure 31 shows the gender of robbery suspects in BCP in financial year 2023/24. The vast majority of suspects were male (93%). 8% of suspects were female.

Figure 31 - Gender of suspects of robbery reported to and recorded by Dorset Police in financial year 2023/24.

Ethnicity	Count	Percentage
W1. White British	86	60.99
NS. Not stated	10	7.09
O9. Any other ethnic group	8	5.67
W9. Any other white background	7	4.96
M1. White & Black Caribbean	4	2.84
B9. Any other Black background	3	2.13
A9. Any other Asian background	2	1.42
Blank	21	14.89

Table 16 - Ethnicity of robbery suspects reported to and recorded by Dorset Police in BCP in financial year 2023/24.

Table 16 shows the ethnicity data of robbery suspects in BCP in 2023/24, which shows that the most common ethnic group was White British. There was a total of 31 suspects whose ethnicity was either not stated or blank, which limits the quality of the data.

Relationship between victim and suspect

Relationship between victim and suspect	Count	Percentage
No known relationship	158	53.92%
Complete stranger	65	22.18%
Other relationship (misc)	29	9.90%
Friend/acquaintance/colleague	26	8.87%
Educational relationship	5	1.71%
Spouse/cohabitee/partner	3	1.02%
Neighbour direct/indirect	3	1.02%
Commercial relationship	2	0.68%
Victim refuses to identify	1	0.34%
Ex spouse/cohabitee/partner	1	0.34%

Table 17 - Relationship between victim and offender in robbery occurrences reported to and recorded by Dorset Police in BCP 2023/24.

Table 17 shows the most common relationships between victim and suspect in robbery occurrences in BCP in 2023/24. It shows that in the majority of incidents, the victim and suspects either had no known relationship or were complete strangers.

Locations

Locations	Count	Percentage
Central Bournemouth	91	30.95%
Boscombe West	22	7.48%
Westbourne and Westcliff	17	5.78%
Eastcliff and Springbourne	15	5.10%
Wallisdown	14	4.76%
Poole Town	13	4.42%
Newtown	10	3.40%

Table 18 – Beat codes of robbery occurrences reported to and recorded by Dorset Police in BCP in financial year 2023/24.

Table 18 shows the beat codes with 10 or more robbery occurrences in BCP in financial year 2023/24. It shows that Central Bournemouth is the most common location by a large margin.

Temporal Analysis – Central Bournemouth

	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun	Total
0000-0159	4	1	2	1	0	1	0	9
0200-0359	0	2	2	1	2	3	4	14
0400-0559	0	1	1	0	0	3	2	7
0600-0759	1	0	0	0	0	2	2	5
0800-0959	0	0	1	0	0	2	0	3
1000-1159	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	2
1200-1359	0	1	2	0	1	0	1	5
1400-1559	2	1	0	0	0	1	0	4
1600-1759	1	0	0	2	1	2	2	8
1800-1959	1	1	1	0	0	6	2	11
2000-2159	1	1	3	1	0	2	4	12
2200-2359	1	2	2	3	0	3	0	11
Total	12	10	14	8	5	25	17	91

Table 19- Times and Days of robbery occurrences in Central Bournemouth reported to and recorded by Dorset Police in financial year 2023/24.

Table 19 shows that robbery occurrences in Central Bournemouth were most common on a weekend, particularly on a Saturday. Occurrences were most common in the evening, in to the early hours of the morning.

Existing research on street robbery patterns show that crimes appear to cluster by times, days and locations, when entertainment districts are busier and pubs, bars and clubs are open later. This can contribute to an explanation as to why we see a greater number of occurrences on the weekends, in the late afternoon in to the early hours of the morning, where the night-time economy is more likely to be thriving. Additionally,

there is a greater likelihood of vulnerability for victims in these time periods, who may be more likely to be intoxicated¹³⁴.

Most street robberies occur at night, but for some groups, peak robbery times vary with their routine activity patterns. For instances, elderly people may be more likely to leave the house earlier in the day, meaning they are more likely to be targeted at this time. In contrast, school aged children (those ages 17 and below) are more likely to be robbed between 3pm and 6pm after school hours. Young adults are more likely to be robbed in the evening whilst engaging in leisure activities, such as the night-time economy¹³⁵.

In terms of days, most street robberies occur on weekends. This is due to a pattern linked to social functions which attract many targets to a single area and provides an explanation for the higher number of robberies on a weekend in Central Bournemouth.

Robbery characteristics

A recent report written by BCP Council exploring the targets of robberies in the area found that the most common items stolen were mobile phones, bags and cash. Victims most commonly described offenders using the 'Blitz' attack method, where the suspect first uses violence to gain control over the victim, with the robbery occurring after the offender immobilizes the victim.

14% of robbery occurrences reported to and recorded by Dorset Police, occurring in financial year 2023/24 had a knife crime flag (41 actual occurrences).

Section 18 Grievous Bodily Harm (GBH)

Section 18 Grievous Bodily Harm with intent was the fourth most common occurrence type in the data at 92 occurrences. However, there are 3 crime types within the data which relate to Section 18 GBH, meaning that this number is in fact slightly higher, at 130 total occurrences. 70% (92 actual) were classified as 'Section 18 – grievous bodily harm with intent', 29% (37 actual) were 'Section 18 – wounding with intent', and 1% (1 actual) were 'Section 18 – cause grievous bodily harm with intent to resist/prevent arrest'.

Victims

Figure 32 below shows the ages of GBH S18 victims in BCP 2023/24.

¹³⁴ See footnote 129.

¹³⁵ See footnote 129.

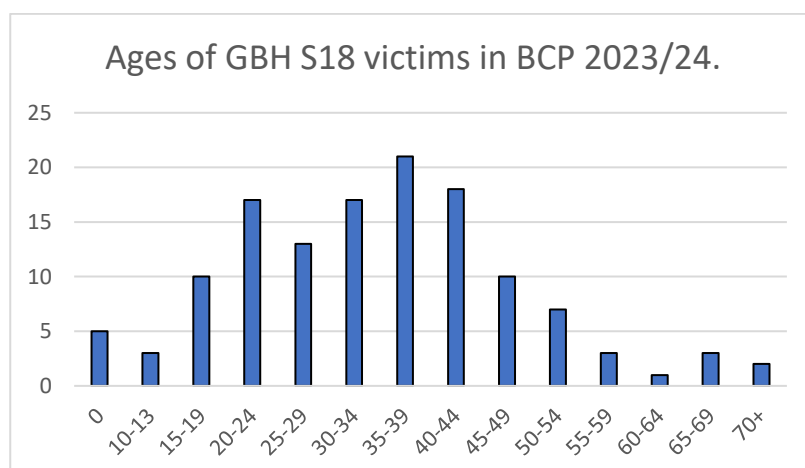


Figure 32 - Age of GBH S18 victims reported to and recorded by Dorset Police in financial year 2023/24.

Ages of victims of GBH S18 were relatively spread out, with the largest age group being 35-39 (16%, 21 total), followed by 40-44 (14% total, 18), closely followed by the groups 20-24 and 30-34 (13%, 17 each).

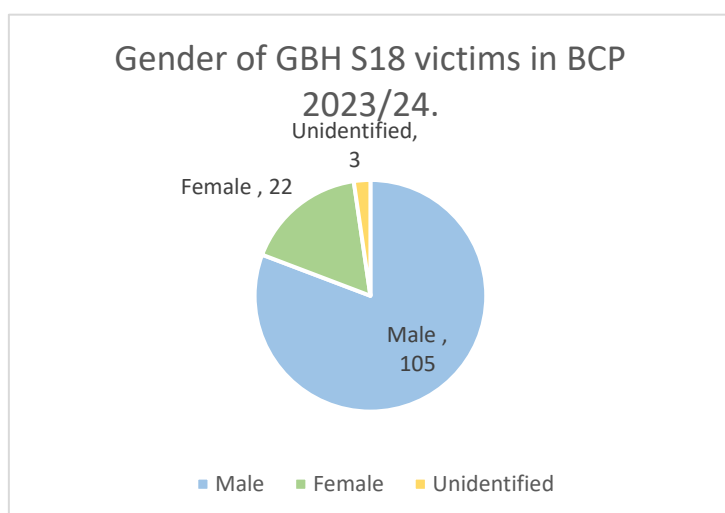


Figure 33 shows the gender of GBH S18 victims in BCP 2023/24. The majority of victims were male (81%). 17% of victims were female. 3 victims (2%) did not have an identified gender.

Figure 33 - Gender of GBH S18 victims reported to and recorded by Dorset Police in financial year 2023/24.

Table 20 shows the ethnicity of victims of GBH S18 occurrences in BCP 2023/24. Similar to other crime types explored in this section on serious violence, a considerable proportion of victims had unidentified ethnicities.

Ethnicity	Count	Percentage
W1. White British	69	53.08%
0	30	23.08%
NS. Not stated	12	9.23%
W9. Any other white background	8	6.15%
O9. Any other ethnic group	3	2.31%
M9. Any other mixed background	3	2.31%
A1. Asian - Indian	1	0.77%

A3. Asian - Bangladeshi	1	0.77%
A9. Any other Asian background	1	0.77%
B2. Black African	1	0.77%
B9. Any other Black background	1	0.77%

Table 20 - Ethnicity of victims of GBH S18 reported to and recorded by Dorset Police in BCP 2023/24.

Suspects

In total, there were 183 suspects for the GBH S18 occurrences. 39 occurrences had more than one suspect. There were 122 suspects linked to the 39 occurrences with more than one suspect.

There were 10 suspects who appeared more than once in the data. These 10 suspects were all suspects of GBH S18 twice during 2023/24.

Figure 34 below shows the age group of GBH S18 suspects in 2023/24.

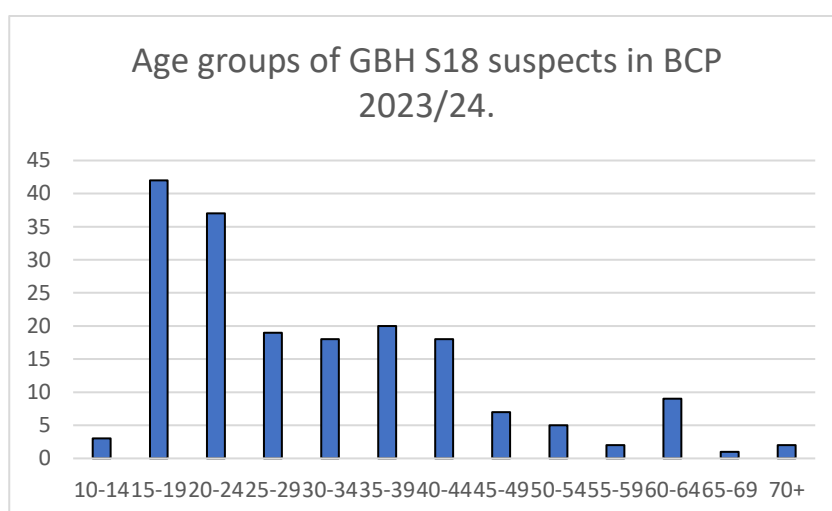


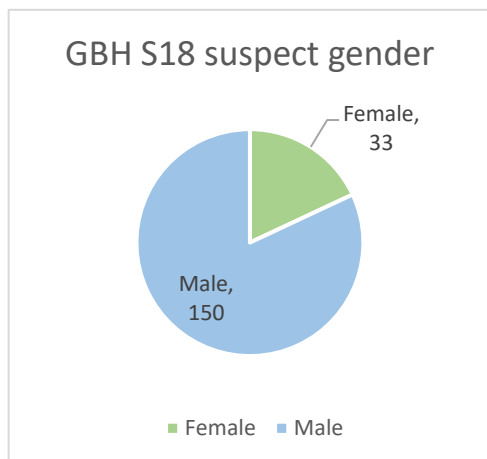
Figure 34 - Age groups of suspects of occurrences of GBH Section 18, reported to and recorded by Dorset Police in financial year 2023/24.

In total, there were 23 young people aged 10-17 involved in GBH Section 18 occurrences in financial year 2023/24. There were 3 young people who were suspects of GBH section 18 more than once during the reporting period. These 3 young people were each suspects twice in financial year 2023/24. 2 of the young people were suspects of incidents which took place on the same day but there were 2 separate victims. The other young person was a suspect of one occurrence which took place in July 2023, and the other occurrence was in October 2023.

The age groups of suspects look very different to the age groups of victims, which are displayed in figure 32. The largest age group for suspects was 15-19, at 23% (42 actual). In contrast, the largest age group for victims was 35-39. The second largest

age group for suspects was 20-24, making up 20% of the data. The age group 60-64 was overrepresented for suspects, at 5% of the data (9 actual). It is unclear as to what is driving this trend.

It is likely that the difference in the age group breakdowns for victims and suspects is affected by the large number of occurrences which have more than one suspect.



The majority of suspects were male (82%). 18% of suspects were female.

Figure 35 - Gender of GBH S18 suspects reported to and recorded by Dorset Police in financial year 2023/24.

Ethnicity	Count	Percentage
W1. White British	122	69.32%
NS. Not stated	9	5.11%
M9. Any other mixed background	9	5.11%
W9. Any other white background	9	5.11%
B9. Any other Black background	7	3.98%
B2. Black African	5	2.84%
W2. White Irish	3	1.70%
M1. White & Black Caribbean	3	1.70%
A9. Any other Asian background	3	1.70%
O9. Any other ethnic group	2	1.14%
M2. White & Black African	2	1.14%
B1. Black Caribbean	1	0.57%
M3. White & Asian	1	0.57%

Table 21– Ethnicity of suspects of GBH S18 reported to and recorded by Dorset Police in financial year 2023/24, occurring in BCP.

Table 21 above shows the ethnicity of suspects of GBH S18 in BCP in financial year 2023/24. This data was relatively complete, with ethnicity information being available for 167 of 183 suspects. Suspects from Black, and mixed and multiple ethnic groups were over represented in this data in comparison to the percentage of the population in BCP.

Relationship between victim and offender

Relationship	Count	Percentage
No known relationship	43	33.33%
Friend/acquaintance/colleague	26	20.16%
Other relationship (misc)	20	15.50%
Complete stranger	11	8.53%
Spouse/cohabitee/partner	11	8.53%
Ex spouse/cohabitee/partner	4	3.10%
Commercial relationship	3	2.33%
Family - mother	2	1.55%
Victim refuses to identify	2	1.55%
Neighbour direct/indirect	2	1.55%
Family - child on parent	1	0.78%
Family - father	1	0.78%
Victimless/crime against state	1	0.78%
Policing duties	1	0.78%
Educational relationship	1	0.78%

Table 22 - Relationship between victim and offender in GBH S18 occurrences in BCP financial year 2023/24.

Table 22 shows the relationships between victim and offender for GBH S18 occurrences in BCP in financial year 2023/24. A considerable proportion of the data involved no relationship between victim and offender (no known relationship and complete stranger categories made up 42% of the data).

18% of the data had a domestic abuse flag (23 occurrences total).

Locations

Beatcode	Count	Percentage
Central Bournemouth	36	27.69%
Westbourne/ Westcliff	9	6.92%
Wallisdown	8	6.15%
Poole Town	7	5.38%
Littledown/ Iford	6	4.62%
Kinson South	5	3.85%

Table 23 – Beatcodes with 5 or more GBH S18 occurrences reported to and recorded by Dorset Police in financial year 2023/24.

Table 23 shows the beat codes of areas with 5 or more GBH S18 occurrences in BCP in financial year 2023/24. Similar to other crime types explored in this section on serious violence, Central Bournemouth was the most common location of occurrences. Westbourne and Westcliff, and Kinson South were the beat codes with the highest proportion of knife flagged GBH section 18 occurrences. 6 out of 9 incidents in Westbourne and Westcliff had a knife crime flag, whilst 3 out of 5 incidents in Kinson South had a knife crime flag.

Temporal Analysis – Central Bournemouth

	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun	Total
0000-0159	1	0	0	0	0	3	1	5
0200-0359	0	0	0	0	2	1	4	7
0400-0559	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1
0600-0750	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1
0800-0959	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1
1000-1159	0	1	0	0	0	0	2	3
1400-1559	0	0	0	2	2	0	1	5
1600-1759	0	0	0	1	0	2	0	3
1800-1959	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1
2000-2159	0	1	0	1	1	2	0	5
2200-2359	1	0	1	0	1	0	1	4
Total	2	2	1	5	6	9	11	36

Table 24 - Times and days of GBH S18 occurrences in Central Bournemouth, reported to and recorded by Dorset Police in financial year 2023/24.

Table 24 shows the times and days of GBH section 18 occurrences in Central Bournemouth. Occurrences are more concentrated on weekend days in the early hours of the morning and from 14:00 onwards.

Temporal patterns of GBH S18 occurrences may be affected by routine activity theory, which posits that for a crime to occur there must be the convergence in time and space of a potential offender, a suitable target, and the absence of a capable guardian. It is likely that there are more people in Central Bournemouth on a weekend as potential victims and suspects may be less tied to work constraints.

Additionally, more people are likely to be engaging in the night-time economy in the early hours of the morning. The spatial availability of alcohol is known to impact the probability of violence, with research finding that bar and club density had a statistically significant and positive relationship with violence¹³⁶. The Home Office Serious Violence Strategy (2018)¹³⁷ notes that a substantial proportion of serious violence is linked to alcohol in some way, whilst the Dorset Police Homicide and near miss problem profile (2022) notes that alcohol was the highest influencing factor for homicides and near misses in Dorset in the three years ending March 2022. One explanation for this is due to the pharmacological effects of substances on the brain in terms of loosening inhibitions which may lead to an enhanced tendency towards violent behaviour for some individuals. These factors may contribute to an explanation as to why we see more GBH S18 occurrences in Central Bournemouth in the early hours of a Saturday and Sunday morning.

¹³⁶ Cameron, M., Cochrane, W., Gordon, C., Livingston, M. (2015). 'Alcohol outlet density and violence: A geographically weighted regression approach'. *Drug and Alcohol review*, 35:3. Pp. 280-288. Available at: [Alcohol outlet density and violence: A geographically weighted regression approach - Cameron - 2016 - Drug and Alcohol Review - Wiley Online Library](#)

¹³⁷ [Home Office – Serious Violence Strategy, April 2018 \(publishing.service.gov.uk\)](#)

Knife Flagged Offending

In total there were 88 knife flagged¹³⁸ serious violence occurrences reported to and recorded by Dorset Police in BCP in financial year 2023/24. Knife crime has severe impacts on victims, their families and communities, and therefore requires consideration despite relatively low numbers over the course of the financial year. It should be noted that these 88 occurrences only encompass 'serious violence' occurrences as defined by BCP Council's working definition¹³⁹.

Table 25 shows the occurrence types for the knife flagged serious violence occurrences reported to and recorded by Dorset Police in financial year 2023/24.

Occurrence Type	Count	Percentage
Robbery - Personal (recordable)	41	46.59%
Section 18 Grievous Bodily Harm occurrences	29	32.95%
Robbery - Business (recordable)	5	5.68%
Aggravated Burglary - Residential (Home)	4	4.55%
Attempt murder	3	3.41%
Rape of a Female aged 16 or over (Sec 1 SOA 2003)	3	3.41%
Aggravated burglary - dwelling (recordable)	1	1.14%
Sexual assault on a female (recordable)	1	1.14%
Murder - victim one year of age or older	1	1.14%

Table 25 - Types of knife flagged occurrences in BCP, reported to and recorded by Dorset Police in 2023/24.

Table 25 shows that robbery was the most common knife flagged serious violence making up 47% of the data. GBH section 18 occurrences were the second most common occurrences. There were two different crime types for GBH section 18 occurrences – Section 18 wounding with intent (15 actual occurrences), and section 18 – grievous bodily harm with intent (14 actual occurrences).

Victims

Figure 38 below shows the age groups of victims of knife flagged occurrences in BCP in financial year 2023/24.

¹³⁸ It should be noted that there are concerns around the quality of the data with a knife flag, and these numbers should be treated with caution.

¹³⁹ Refer back to definition on page 56

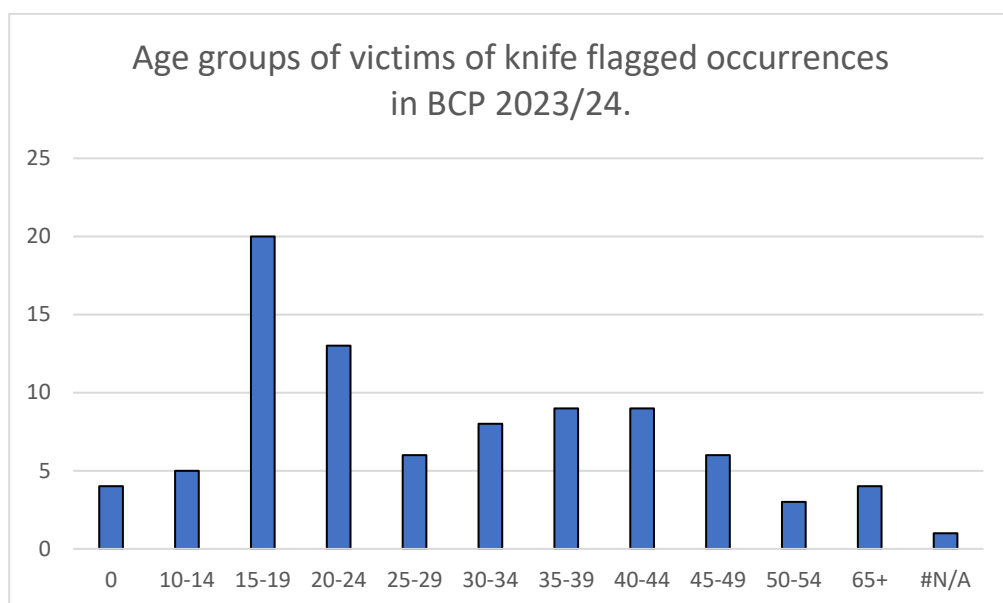


Figure 36 - Age groups of victims of knife flagged serious violence occurrences in BCP financial year 2023/24.

Figure 36 shows that the most common age group for victims was 15-19, followed by those age 20-24.

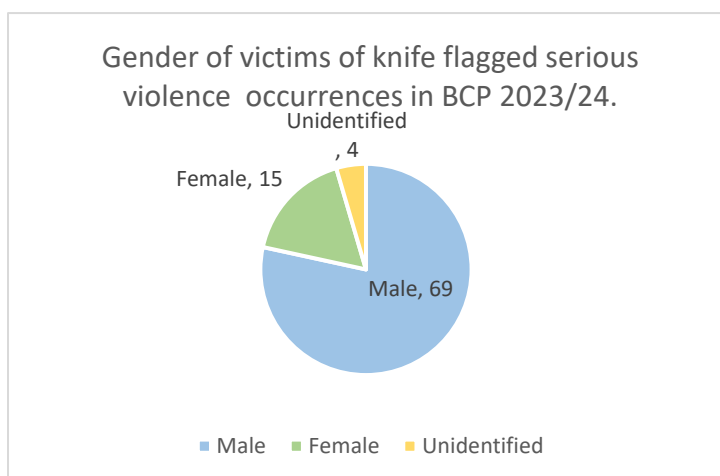


Figure 37 shows that that majority of victims of knife flagged serious violence occurrences in BCP were male (78%). 17% of victims were female, and 5% of victims did not have gender information available in the data.

Figure 37 - Gender of victims of knife flagged serious violence occurrences, reported to and recorded by Dorset Police in financial year 2023/24.

Ethnicity	Count	Percentage
W1. White British	37	42.05%
0	31	35.23%
NS. Not stated	10	11.36%
W9. Any other white background	2	2.27%
B2. Black African	2	2.27%
A3. Asian - Bangladeshi	1	1.14%
O9. Any other ethnic group	1	1.14%
A9. Any other Asian background	1	1.14%
#N/A	1	1.14%
B9. Any other Black background	1	1.14%
M9. Any other mixed background	1	1.14%

Table 26 - Ethnicity data for victims of knife flagged occurrences in BCP 2023/24.

Table 26 shows that the most common ethnic group for victims of knife flagged occurrences in BCP in 2023/24 was White British.

Suspects

In total, there were 122 suspects for the 88 knife flagged serious violence occurrences. 22 occurrences had more than one suspect. The attempt murder occurrences had the highest number of suspects, with 31 suspects between the 3 occurrences. 17 suspects were suspects of knife flagged serious violence occurrences more than once in financial year 2023/24. These 17 suspects appeared in the data a total of 37 times.

There were 31 knife flagged serious violence occurrences with no identified suspect.

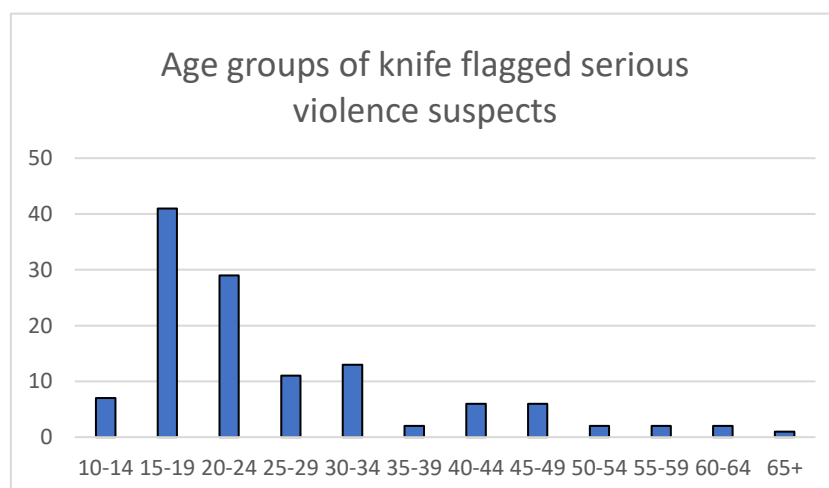


Figure 38 - Age groups of knife flagged serious violence suspects in BCP, financial year 2023/24.

Figure 40 shows that the age group 15-19 years had the largest amount of suspects for knife flagged serious violence occurrences. In total, there were 41 suspects in the age group 15-19, however, this figure was inclusive of repeat suspects and therefore some individuals were counted more than once in this data. When repeat suspects were removed, the age group 15-19 had 32 unique suspects. This was still the largest age group within the data. Repeat suspects are included in the age analysis as it is believed that it is important to count the ages of identified suspects in every individual occurrence.

In total there were 23 young people aged 10-17 who were suspects of knife flagged serious violence occurrences in financial year 2023/24. There were 8 young people who were suspects more than once in the financial year. 2 of these young people were suspects 3 times in the financial year, and 6 young people were suspects twice during the financial year.

The majority of young people do not carry knives. 2023/24 data suggests that serious violence knife flagged incidents involving young people are committed by a minority of suspects, with 54% of occurrences being committed by repeat suspects.

Gender of knife flagged serious violence suspects in BCP 2023/24.

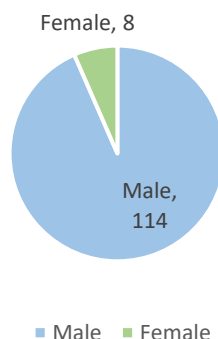


Figure 39 shows the gender of knife flagged serious violence suspects in BCP 2023/24. Following the same pattern of the other crime types explored in this section, the majority of suspects were male (93%). 7% of suspects were female.

Figure 39 - Gender of suspects of knife flagged serious violence occurrences in BCP, financial year 2023/24.

Ethnicity	Count	Percentage
W1. White British	61	50.00%
O9. Any other ethnic group	10	8.20%
NS. Not stated	9	7.38%
A9. Any other Asian background	9	7.38%
W9. Any other white background	7	5.74%
B9. Any other Black background	6	4.92%
M9. Any other mixed background	6	4.92%
M1. White & Black Caribbean	4	3.28%
B2. Black African	2	1.64%
B1. Black Caribbean	1	0.82%
M2. White & Black African	1	0.82%
Blank	6	4.92%

Table 27 - Ethnic groups of suspects of knife flagged serious violence occurrences in BCP 2023/24.

Table 27 shows ethnicity data for suspects of knife flagged serious violence occurrences in BCP in 2023/24. White British suspects are underrepresented, whilst suspects from any other ethnic group, mixed ethnic groups, and Black ethnic groups are overrepresented in comparison to the BCP population. However, we should keep in mind that suspects may not reside in BCP, as well as the fact that not all suspects are identified.

Relationship between victim and suspect

Relationship	Count	Percentage
No known relationship	38	43.18%
Friend/acquaintance/colleague	18	20.45%
Complete stranger	9	10.23%
Other relationship (misc)	9	10.23%
Commercial relationship	4	4.55%
Ex spouse/cohabitee/partner	3	3.41%
Spouse/cohabitee/partner	2	2.27%
Educational relationship	2	2.27%
Neighbour direct/indirect	2	2.27%
Policing duties	1	1.14%

Table 28 - Relationship between victim and offender in knife flagged serious violence occurrences in BCP 2023/24.

Table 28 shows in total, 53% of knife flagged serious violence occurrences in BCP occurred between a victim and suspect who did not know each other¹⁴⁰. When victims did know each other, the most common relationship was 'friend/acquaintance/colleague'.

5% of knife flagged serious violence occurrences also had a domestic abuse flag (4 actual).

¹⁴⁰ This is a combination of 'no known relationship' and 'complete stranger' relationship categories.

Locations

Beatcodes	Count	Percentage
Central Bournemouth	26	29.55%
Westbourne/ West Cliff	8	9.09%
East Cliff and Springbourne	7	7.95%
Boscombe West	6	6.82%
Poole Town	5	5.68%
Kinson South	5	5.68%

Table 29 - Beatcodes with 5 or more knife flagged serious violence occurrences in BCP 2023/24.

Following a similar trend to other serious violence occurrences, Central Bournemouth was the beat code with the highest number of knife flagged serious violence occurrences. Westbourne and Westcliff was the second highest beat code, which is unsurprising given that this location had a high proportion of knife flagged GBH occurrences.

Central Bournemouth Temporal Analysis

	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat	Sun	Total
0000-0159	1	0	1	0	0	1	0	3
0200-0359	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	2
0400-0559	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1
0600-0759	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1
0900-1059	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1
1100-1259	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1
1300-1459	0	0	0	2	1	0	0	3
1600-1759	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	2
1800-1959	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	2
2000-2159	1	1	1	0	0	1	3	7
2200-2359	0	0	2	1	0	0	0	3
Total	3	2	4	3	1	5	8	26

Table 30 - Times and days of knife flagged serious violence occurrences in Central Bournemouth in financial year 2023/24.

Table 30 shows that knife flagged serious violence occurrences were more common on a weekend in the late afternoon, into the evening and the night. It is likely that this type of offending is also impacted by routine activities theory, as discussed previously. Victims and offenders are more likely to come together in time and space on a weekend due to being more likely to engage in leisure activities in Central Bournemouth on these days, outside of work/ school hours.

Summary

15-19 year olds were the most prevalent victim age group for both sexual assaults and rapes. However, this was much more pronounced for sexual assaults, whereas age groups for rape victims were more spread out. Data on suspect age groups are limited, because there were many unidentified suspects. Data from identified suspects showed that 15-19 year olds were most prevalent for sexual assaults, along with 30-34 year olds. In contrast, the most prevalent suspect age group for rape was 35-39, although age ranges were relatively spread out and this age group did not show an overall majority. A key theme in the sexual assault data was the night-time economy, whereas a key theme within the rape data was domestic abuse.

One trend that was displayed in both sexual assault and rape data was an overrepresentation of older victims aged 50-54. It should be kept in mind that this is likely to be under represented overall due to the under reporting of sexual offences. Although there is a clear prevalence of younger victims displayed within the police data, we should be mindful of potential under reporting of sexual offences by older victims and assess the accessibility of support services to older victims who may be less likely to use technology.

Robbery was the third most common type of serious violence occurrence in BCP in financial year 2023/24. The most prevalent age group for both victims and suspects was 15-19. This reflects existing research which identifies robbery as a young person's crime. The most common relationship between victim and suspect in robbery occurrences was 'no known relationship' and 'complete stranger', indicating that victims are most often random targets identified by the offender. Central Bournemouth was the most common location for robberies. Within Central Bournemouth, robberies tended to happen on weekends in the afternoon and early hours of the morning. This is likely to be due to Routine Activities Theory; both suspects and victims are more likely to be available on weekends due to less work/educational commitments and are therefore more likely to go in to the town centre in pursuit of leisure. Suitable targets are more likely to be available in the early hours of the morning when entertainment districts are likely to be open later, victims are more likely to be vulnerable due to intoxication, and there is less likely to be the presence of a capable guardian due to the cover of darkness and the streets being less busy. Another point of note is that robbery numbers were particularly low in March 2024, and this coincided with work by Dorset Police which resulted in the arrest of key individuals linked to organised crime groups. Simply looking at the data alone does not provide us with an understanding of the impact of organised crime groups on robbery numbers, but this may be an important driver in numbers of robbery occurrences in the area and is something to be aware of.

GBH S18 occurrences were the fourth most common type of serious violence in BCP in 2023/24. The largest victim age group was 35-39, whilst the largest suspect age group was 15-19. It is likely that suspect ages are impacted by a large number of occurrences which have multiple suspects, which is likely to produce inaccurate data. 42% of occurrences involved incidents where there was no known relationship between the suspect and victim, or they were complete strangers. Central Bournemouth was the most common overall location, and in this area, occurrences were most common on

weekends, in the afternoons and the early hours of the morning. Similar to robbery, this is likely to be impacted by Routine Activities Theory, as more people are likely to be in Central Bournemouth on weekends. Additionally, more people are likely to be engaging in the night-time economy in the early hours of the morning, and the spatial availability of alcohol is linked to higher rates of violence. An interesting finding is that Kinson South and Westbourne and Westcliff had higher proportions of knife flagged occurrences, although numbers were low overall. This should be kept in mind when discussing serious violence related knife offending.

Knife flagged offending is a key priority in terms of serious violence due to the severe harms associated with this type of offending. Data from 2023/24 shows that a key cohort for both victims and suspects is 15-19 year old males. Robbery was the most common type of offence with a knife flag, making up 47% of knife flagged serious violence occurrences. Central Bournemouth was the most common location, and occurrences were most common on weekends in the late afternoon and evening, reflecting similar trends to both robbery and GBH S18.

A key theme within the serious violence data is the prevalence of occurrences in Central Bournemouth for all occurrence types, suggesting that this area should be a key focus for any initiatives on serious violence. Dorset Police are currently in the process of setting up a Violence Reduction Unit which will seek to tackle serious violence in Dorset, including Central Bournemouth. Additionally, the night-time economy appears to be an important factor in serious violence occurrences.

Costs of crime

The following table aims to show an estimation of the financial costs incurred due to serious violence related offences for the financial year 2023-24. However, certain limitations and considerations must be acknowledged:

- **Categorisation challenges:** The categorisation of incidents into the cost categories can be complex and may not always capture the full context.
- **Definitions:** The definitions of certain categories, such as 'violence against the person' and 'possession of knives', may not perfectly align with the nature of some incidents, which can lead to ambiguity.
- **The cost is based on 2018 prices,** which will have fluctuated since then. As such, this table should be seen as a loose estimate provided to give us an indication in to the cost of crime, rather than an exact figure.

	Rape	Other sexual offences	Personal Robbery	Violence with injury	Criminal damage - Arson	Domestic Burglary	Homicide	Commercial Robbery
BCP number of crimes	457	557	294	1424	17	63	4	40
In anticipation of crime	£287,810	£63,920	£89,100	£828,580	£5,280	£10,650	£183,210	£48,300
Defensive expenditure	£283,240	£58,350	£51,300	£804,210	£1,760	£4,800	£183,180	£43,260
Insurance administration	£4,570	£5,570	£41,160	£14,240	£3,740	£24,570	£40	£9,600
As a consequence of crime	£14,368,080	£2,907,540	£1,855,140	£27,343,140	£49,760	£51,150	£7,031,190	£168,420
Value of property	£0	£0	£302,820	£0	£27,200	£88,200	£0	£39,200
Physical and emotional harm	£11,146,230	£2,060,900	£1,055,460	£11,733,760	£16,660	£74,970	£8,329,720	£166,800
Lost output	£2,696,300	£623,840	£270,480	£2,933,440	£5,780	£27,720	£1,018,840	£90,000
Health services	£507,270	£217,230	£223,440	£1,310,080	£3,060	£23,940	£4,440	£24,000
Victim services	£18,280	£5,570	£2,940	£0	£170	£0	£21,920	£800
In response to crime	£3,171,580	£640,550	£1,263,600	£6,092,500	£79,680	£27,000	£2,438,820	£98,280
Police	£2,906,520	£317,490	£296,940	£2,753,810	£17,280	£7,950	£35,880	£21,210
Other CJS costs	£265,060	£323,060	£1,078,980	£3,338,690	£62,400	£19,050	£2,402,940	£77,070
Total BCP cost	£17,827,470	£3,612,010	£3,207,840	£34,264,220	£134,720	£88,800	£9,653,220	£315,000
Total unit cost	£39,360	£6,530	£11,320	£14,060	£8,420	£5,920	£3,217,740	£15,000

Figure 40 - Note. Adapted from Table E1: Unit costs of crimes by cost category. Heeks, M., Reed, S., Tafsiri, M., & Prince, S. (2018, July). *The economic and social costs of crime* (Research report No. 99). Home Office. <https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/gov>

Estimated total Cost BCP Council Area in 2023/24: £69,103,28

4. Community Voice Surveys

4.1. Dorset Police Community Safety Survey 2023/24.

Results from Dorset Police Community Safety Survey 2022/23 show that:

- ❖ 85% of respondents living in BCP, in comparison to 96% of respondents living in Dorset felt either 'very' or 'fairly' safe living in their local area.
- ❖ 53% of BCP respondents, in comparison to 32% of respondents in Dorset were worried about 'crime in general'.
- ❖ 57% of respondents in BCP, in comparison to 41% of respondents in Dorset, were worried about drugs/substance misuse or drug dealing in their local area.
- ❖ 25% of respondents in BCP, in comparison to 13% of respondents in Dorset were worried about being sexually assaulted in their local area.
- ❖ 49% of respondents in BCP, in comparison to 32% of respondents in Dorset were worried about drunkenness and associated bad behaviour.

- ❖ 39% of respondents in BCP, in comparison to 31% of respondents in Dorset were worried about people carrying items such as knives or airguns.

These figures are likely to be influenced by the differences between the two areas, with BCP being urban and Dorset being more rural. A notable increase was seen this year in BCP of respondents being concerned about people carrying items such as knives or airguns, from 32% last year to 39% this year. As a result, a worthwhile piece of work may centre around addressing public perception of weapon carrying. Further, over half of respondents in BCP were worried about drug/substance misuse or drug dealing in their local area, which again suggests work around public perception of these issues may be worthwhile.

4.2. Consultation of Young People, Parents and Carers

A consultation of young people and parents, carers, and community groups from three secondary schools took place from November-December 2021. The three schools were in different locations across the Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole area. The consultation for parents, carers, and community groups consisted of an online survey and a community event. There was a high completion rate on the survey, with 267 participants.

The results found that 69% were aware of county lines related issues, with 19% not aware, 8% not sure, and 8% needing more information. This highlights a need for further information on county lines and criminal exploitation. The most popular suggestions for improvement from the community event were:

- 1) Enhanced presence of police and community officers, particularly in specific areas, parks, and open spaces.
- 2) More information, advice, and guidance for young people inside and outside of school, and more information or workshops for parents at an early help level on spotting the signs of exploitation and how to seek help.
- 3) Increased numbers of youth workers, youth centres, and activities to engage young people, and provision of more mentoring and advice from people who have previously been involved in county lines and managed to 'get out'.

The consultation for young people involved an online survey of pupils in years 9 and 10. There were 210 responses. The majority reported feeling safest at home or a friend's home, however only 63% reported feeling safe or very safe in their home area in the daytime, dropping to 38% in the evening. The main concerns raised by young people were around feeling safe travelling to/from school, bullying, gangs, and county lines activity. Nearly half of the young people reported noticing drug dealing in the area they live in rarely, some of the time, or openly, and 43% said that they would feel safer if there were fewer drug dealers.

Other popular suggestions for improving a feeling of safety included more CCTV, more uniformed police, and more things for young people to do together. Only 55% of participants said that they knew how to report non-urgent crime or behaviour, showing that more education on this is needed.

4.3. Young People's Consultation on Youth Service

The young people's consultation on youth service took place in March 22. This involved 144 young people aged 10- 19 years from schools, youth access points, and youth clubs in Turlin Moor, Bourne Valley, Creekmoor, Boscombe, and Kinson/West Howe. These areas were selected as they are recognised as areas of particular deprivation within the Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole area. 38% of respondents identified as female, 33% as male, and 1% as transgender. The young people were given a questionnaire including 10 questions about youth service. Multiple answers for each question were permitted.

The first question related to the biggest issues being faced by the respondents. The top three were school/college (31%), mental health concerns (25%) and family (17%). Knife crime and safety were both reported as an issue by 2% of respondents, and 'chavs/roadmen' by 3%. This indicates there are some issues with serious violence and feeling safe for the young people involved, however, these are for a minority of young people who took part.

4.4. Community Voice Surveys - Discussion

A key theme in the consultations for both young people and adults is drug misuse and dealing, indicating that a priority for BCP residents which would fall under the Serious Violence Duty may centre around this subject.

The consultation with young people, parents and carers is useful as it provides some key insights into what these groups think would be beneficial interventions in relation to county lines and exploitation. However, there are limitations to the usefulness of this consultation being applicable to all children across BCP. It took place following the death of a 13-year-old boy after taking ecstasy and is therefore likely to include some bias.

The youth service consultation showed that knife crime and 'chavs/roadmen' were a concern for a minority of respondents. Existing research (Falk *et al*, 2012; Ministry of Justice and Department for Education, 2022) shows that a minority of offenders are responsible for a large proportion of violent crime, suggesting that most young people do not engage in violent crime or criminal activity. The small numbers of respondents concerned about knife crime and 'chavs/roadmen' may be more likely to engage in friendship groups/social media activities which promote these topics and are therefore more concerned about them.

Further consultation should be completed with young people around the topic of knife crime, with a particular focus on the views of those who are known to carry knives or are involved in social circles with those who carry knives. The voices of young people will be extremely valuable as they can help us to understand *why* young people are carrying knives in BCP. This, paired with crime script analysis, will enable us to identify key areas for intervention.

5. Evidence Based Reviews

This chapter discusses various interventions/approaches which may be implemented to help prevent and reduce serious violence. The chapter is informed by research conducted by the [Youth Endowment Fund](#).

5.1. High Impact Interventions

5.1.1. A&E Navigators

[A&E Navigator Programmes](#) place a case worker, called a 'navigator', in hospital emergency rooms to support young people with any violence-related injury. Navigators can be recruited from a range of backgrounds including youth work, social work, nursing, probation and medicine. Navigators aim to develop trusting relationships with the injured children, providing informal mentoring, and help them to access services. Some programmes involve short interventions (up to 35 minutes) and take place solely in the emergency department, whilst others involve a longer and more intensive phase of case management after the child is discharged.

Navigators often engage with children through a series of steps that can involve:

1. A holistic assessment of the victim's needs, including a safety and risk assessment to safeguard them against immediate harm.
2. Making an offer of support.
3. Designing a tailored service plan to connect the child to services such as counselling, family support, mentoring, or help with conflict resolution, employment or substance misuse.
4. Following up with the child and their family to continue support after the child has been discharged.

There are several ways in which A&E navigator programmes might prevent children becoming involved in crime and violence. Being a victim of violence is strongly associated with future involvement in violence. Providing support in the aftermath of an incident could protect vulnerable children from this vicious cycle. Children may also trust navigators more than other agencies so be more open to engaging with services. The tailored service plans, which often include more than one service and extend support to families, could be more effective than engaging a young person in a single intervention.

Is it effective?

The available evidence suggests that A&E navigator interventions **could** have a high impact in reducing further violence, however, there are only two studies examining the impact of

A&E Navigator Programmes on future violence. Subsequently, the Youth Endowment Fund state that their confidence in the headline crime reduction estimate is 'very low'.

How can it be implemented well?

The Youth Endowment Fund explain how to implement A&E Navigators:

➤ *Forming a connection with the young person*

These evaluations emphasized the importance of navigators developing strong relationships with the children involved.

In both studies about one-third of the children referred to the services did not participate. Some children may be distrustful of speaking to navigators, fear that it will lead to police involvement, and be reluctant to disclose the cause of their injury.

Recruiting relatable navigators who can build trusting relationships with young people could overcome this barrier. For example, the Glasgow programme recruited navigators with relevant lived experience.

Building trusting relationships might be easier in longer-term interventions. One study found that the rapport between navigators and children increased with each encounter.

➤ *Locating navigators in the A and E department*

Studies suggested that the location of navigators' offices could be an important consideration. When navigators' offices were located outside of the A&E department, medical staff were sometimes unaware the programme existed. Stationing navigators in the A&E department could increase awareness of the programme and improve communication between navigators and other staff.

Cost

The Youth Endowment Fund note that on average, the cost of this intervention is likely to be moderate and are likely to include the salary of full-time navigators stationed in hospitals and additional time and resources spent co-ordinating services.

5.1.2 Focused Deterrence

[Focused Deterrence](#) is a strategy that combines communicating the consequences of violence with support for developing positive routes away from it. It recognises that most serious violence is associated with a small group of people who are themselves likely to be victims of violence, trauma, and extremely challenging circumstances. The approach recognises that violence is often driven by conflict between groups, and argues that if two groups are engaged in violent conflict, focusing on individuals who have committed violent crimes is unlikely to prevent future conflict between other members in the groups.

Focused deterrence attempts to identify the people most likely to be involved in violence and support them to desist.

It combines several core strategies.

- **Support.** Help for people involved in violence to access positive support and social services.
- **Community engagement.** Engaging the wider community to communicate that they want violence to stop and those involved to be safe, provide support, and encourage reintegration in the community. Projects will often arrange engagement between the people who are the focus of the intervention and victims' family members, reformed former group members, and faith leaders.
- **Deterrence.** Clear communication of the consequences of violence and swift and certain enforcement if violence occurs.

Focused deterrence usually includes a combination of the following steps.

1. The approach begins by identifying a specific problem – such as knife crime, violent conflict between groups, or drug dealing – as the target for intervention. A dedicated project team is formed which includes the police and law enforcement, social services, and the local community.
2. The team combines their knowledge of the selected crime problem and identifies the people involved.
3. The team begin to directly and frequently communicate with the people involved in the crime problem. Programmes might start this communication at a 'call-in' meeting. The meeting often involves gathering together people from rival conflicting groups, the parents of victims of violence, police and other law enforcement agencies, social services, and community representatives. The team will emphasize that the affected community needs violence to stop and wants those involved to be safe. The team will offer help and access to positive opportunities and services and make explicit the consequences that will follow violence.
4. The project team continue to develop relationships with the people targeted by the approach. This could involve members of the local community coming together to work out how best to provide support. Or the team could help participants with access to services like education, training, housing, healthcare, and treatment for substance misuse.
5. If the people involved do not desist from violence, the project team could enforce sanctions. This could include increased police presence and surveillance, arrest and swift prosecution for minor offences, disruption of illegal money-making activity, or attention to driving transgressions or unpaid fines.

Different focused deterrence models vary in how much they emphasize different stages of this process. Models which emphasize enforcement might focus on using 'call-in' meetings to communicate the consequences of violence and taking swift action if the people involved do not desist. Other models might not use 'call-in' meetings at all, have minimal emphasis on enforcement, and instead emphasize developing relationships, rehabilitation and early intervention.

There are several potential explanations why focused deterrence could prevent serious crime and violence. The involvement of the community and social services could provide positive routes away from crime and violence. The potential for targeted, swift and certain sanctions might act as a deterrent. The people who are the focus of the approach might not understand the legal consequences of their actions – simply informing them of those realities might have an impact. Finally, collaboration between the community and police could develop relationships and legitimacy, improving the efficacy of future crime prevention activity.

5.1.3. Social Skills Training

[Social skills training](#) aims to develop children's ability to regulate their behaviour and communicate effectively. It supports children to think before they act, understand other people's perspectives, communicate effectively, and use strategies for managing impulsiveness or aggression. Research suggests that children who develop social skills and self-control are less likely to become involved in crime and violence.

It can be delivered through universal programmes, which work with all children, or through programmes which work in a targeted way with children who could benefit from more support. Programmes are often delivered at school, through structured lessons and can vary in intensity from a single short session to 40 or more sessions over eight months or more. School-based programmes will often be delivered by teachers with the support of training by programme staff.

Activities can include:

- Role playing. For example, children might take on different roles in a potential conflict and practise strategies for resolving the conflict peacefully.
- Video demonstrations of positive behaviours. For example, children might be shown examples of other children playing together and finding ways to resolve conflict.
- Specific activities to reinforce effective delayed gratification.
- Relaxation and deep breathing techniques which children could use to calm down if they become angry.
- Teacher observations of children playing to monitor their development of these skills.

Is it effective?

The Youth Endowment Fund found that research suggests that on average the impact of social skills training on preventing violence is likely to be high, with social skills training programmes reducing the number of children involved in crime by an average of 32%.

Social skills training programmes are most effective when working with children who were already demonstrating a need for more intensive support; in these cases, more intensive support programmes have achieved greater impacts than universal programmes focused on primary prevention.

Social skills training programmes have tended to have larger impacts when working with groups of boys than girls, and greater impacts were seen when working with children around the age of 9 to 10. A lower impact was found for younger children and slightly lower impact for older children,

How secure is the evidence?

The Youth Endowment Fund have high confidence in their estimate of the impact of social skills training programmes on violent crime. The estimate is based on a high-quality review of many studies, lots of which used randomised control trials, a strong design for understanding the impact of the intervention.

How can it be implemented well?

Evaluations tended to examine school-based primary prevention programmes. A frequent implementation barrier was finding time in an already busy curriculum for social skills training to take place.

The adaptability and accessibility of teaching materials are seen as an important factor in successful implementation of social skills training.

What programmes are available?

- Incredible Years Child Training (Dinosaur School) – a group-based programme for children with behavioural difficulties between the ages of 4 and 8.
- PATHS Elementary – The PATHS Elementary curriculum is a programme for promoting social skills and reducing aggression and behavioural difficulties in elementary school-aged children, while enhancing education.
- PATHS Preschool/Kindergarten curriculum – the PATHS Preschool/Kindergarten curriculum promotes emotional and social competencies and reduced aggression and behaviour problems in preschool/kindergarten-aged children.

How much does it cost?

The cost of social skills training is likely to be moderate, with school-based primary prevention programmes being likely to have lower costs. The EEF estimates that PATHS costs £11.52 per child per year. Intensive secondary prevention programmes are likely to have higher costs.

The costs are likely to include programme materials such as videos or hand outs and training and paying staff to deliver the programme. If the programme is delivered by teachers, this will include the cost of teaching cover while they attend training.

5.1.4. Sports Programmes

[Sports programmes](#) can be used as a ‘hook’ to engage children who are considered to be vulnerable to involvement in violence and children who are already part of the criminal justice system in other activities such as mentoring or counselling. They could involve team sports like basketball or football, or individual sports and physical activities like boxing or dance.

There are many ways in which these programmes might protect children from involvement in crime and violence:

- ❖ Sports could provide children with positive peer influences, supporting the development of their social skills and improving their physical and mental health.
- ❖ Sports could help children develop motivation and self-regulation through committed practice and relationships with positive role models such as sports coaches.
- ❖ Sports could play a direct role in prevention – reducing the time that children are exposed to negative influences and allowing children to take risks in a safe environment.
- ❖ Sports can be a platform to engage children in other helpful interventions or services such as education, counselling, and support for drug and alcohol problems.

Is it effective?

The Youth Endowment Fund found that sports programmes could have a high impact on crime and violence, as well as reducing aggression, promoting mental health and responding to other behavioural difficulties.

How secure is the evidence?

The Youth Endowment Fund note that their confidence in the headline crime reduction estimate is low. The systematic review used by the Youth Endowment Fund to produce

their summary was based on only six studies of low to moderate quality, with lots of variation in the estimates provided by these studies.

How can you implement it well?

- **Develop strong, trusting relationships with participating children.** Ideally staff can become a mentor, role model, and trusted person who children will turn to for advice. A shortage or lack of continuity of staff is noted as a barrier by several studies. Sports coaches need appropriate skills to develop these relationships.
- **Choose an accessible and safe location and time.** The venue will need the right equipment, and the children will need to feel that it is safe and easy to get there. Research provides some support for the idea that sports programmes keep children safe by reducing the time they are exposed to negative influences, suggesting that timing sessions so they happen when children would otherwise be at greatest risk could maximise impact.
- **Plan to connect children with other activities.** The research suggests that sport could be used as a 'hook' to engage children in other services, including continued participation in sports, as well as engagement with social services, education or employment.
- **Be aware of the reasons young people may leave programmes and support continued engagement.** Community based programmes have generally seen the highest rates of children dropping out in comparison to school-based programmes and programmes in custodial settings. Research on sports programmes suggests it is important to:
 - Find out what the children enjoy and ensure they find the sessions fun.
 - Provide incentives. Some programmes provide healthy meals, pay for training courses, fitness centre access, and coaching programmes for accreditation.
 - Offer a broad range of activities. Research suggests that type of activity matters because different activities appeal to different people. One programme reported a substantial reduction in the number of participants from 70% to 49% of the target group when it reduced the number of different activities offered.

How much does it cost?

The Youth Endowment Fund currently do not have enough evidence to provide a headline cost rating. Costs are likely to include facilities, hiring project staff and trained coaches to run sports sessions, training for volunteers, sporting equipment and insurance.

Cost will vary depending on the length and frequency of the programme, the type of activities, the amount of support from volunteer staff and the use of venues that are free like parks.

5.2. Moderate Impact Interventions

5.2.1 Bystander interventions to prevent sexual assault

[Bystander interventions to prevent sexual](#) assault aim to empower and help children and young people to intervene in situations of potential sexual assault. They teach participants to identify early warning signs and safely intervene to prevent sexual harm from occurring.

They might teach young participants to understand and notice controlling or abusive behaviour, or situations where someone is being exploited. They encourage participants to feel a sense of duty in these situations and give them concrete examples of things they can do or say to safely intervene. For example, starting a conversation with a potential victim or perpetrator, or physically intervening to prevent a potential victim being led away to an isolated place.

Programmes explore attitudes and assumptions about sexual violence, sexual consent, empathy for victims of sexual violence, and myths about the role of victim behaviour in sexual violence.

These programmes typically work with children and young people aged 14 and above in secondary school, further education, or university settings. Activities could involve educational sessions delivered by a trained facilitator, role-play or discussion exercises, online educational videos, and school or university-based media campaigns, such as posters and leaflets.

There are several possible theories for why these programmes might prevent sexual violence. If programmes are successful at supporting young people to intervene then this could prevent incidents of sexual assault committed by young people's peers and the broader public. An alternative explanation is that these programmes may reduce the likelihood of participants themselves committing sexual assault. Participants might be less defensive and more receptive to information if they are presented as part of the potential solution rather than potential perpetrators.

Bystander intervention training is also used in the prevention of other forms of violence. This includes programmes where 'violence interrupters' intervene to prevent escalation of violent conflict between groups. However, this Toolkit summary focuses specifically on interventions to prevent sexual assault. The YEF plans to include other types of bystander intervention in the Toolkit in the future.

Is it effective?

Research suggests that the programme can be effective in supporting people to intervene in potential incidents of sexual assaults that they may encounter in public or in their peer groups. However, research has been able to measure the impact of this on instances of sexual assault by the wider public.

The research is stronger on the impact of this training on participants' own likelihood of perpetrating sexual assault. It suggests that bystander interventions are likely to have a moderate impact on reducing participants' own involvement in sexual assault.

How secure is the evidence?

The Youth Endowment Fund have low confidence in the estimate of the average impact on sexual violence, because there are only four studies that look at the impact of these interventions on sexual violence. All four studies were undertaken with boys and young men, and none of the studies were from the UK; three were from the US and one was from India.

How can it be implemented well?

- **Well trained facilitators**, who are confident in talking about sex, healthy relationships, and sexual violence tend to achieve greater engagement from children and young people.
- **Age-appropriate content** – children from different age groups will likely encounter different social situations, and the content should reflect this.
- **More than one session** – research suggests that programmes that have more than one session may have a greater impact on changing attitudes towards sexual violence. Ideally, two or more sessions are delivered a few weeks apart, to provide time for reflection and informal discussions with peers.
- **Participant feedback** - sometimes, interventions that challenge attitudes and beliefs related to gender stereotypes and the role of victim behaviour in relation to sexual violence can cause hostility, anger, or pushback in a small number of people. It is important to regularly capture feedback from participants, formally or informally, to identify any individuals that may disrupt the process of creating shared-attitudes and new peer-group norms about preventing sexual violence.

How much does it cost?

The Youth Endowment Fund note that the cost of bystander interventions is likely to be low.

This estimate is based on programmes involving a single intervention through to a programme delivering up to three sessions that last approximately two hours. These sessions would usually be delivered by external facilitators or by trained teachers. Costs

often include facilitator or staff time, travel costs, session materials and related media such as posters and leaflets. The cost per participant would likely be in the region of £250 – £500, assuming a minimum of 20 participants.

5.2.2. Relationship violence prevention lessons and activities.

[Relationship violence prevention lessons and activities](#) include activities that aim to reduce violence between children and young people in intimate partner relationships. Dating and relationship violence includes all forms of violence and abuse, including emotional, physical, and sexual violence, psychological abuse, stalking and harassment. It differs from domestic abuse, which in the UK has a lower age limit of 16 and can include family relationships and carers.

Many dating and relationship violence prevention programmes are delivered by trained schoolteachers during existing relationship and sex education lessons or personal, social, health and economic lessons. Schools often commission external facilitators to deliver activities during school time or as an optional after school programme.

Activities may include:

- Education and awareness sessions, exploring attitudes and behaviours associated with dating and relationship violence.
- Reading or listening to stories that include incidents of dating and relationship violence, often from the perspectives of both perpetrators and victims.
- Role-playing and interactive theatre.
- Reflection and discussion activities, in which participants share their thoughts, experiences, or ideas, often after watching a video, listening to a story or participating in role-playing.
- Awareness campaigns, including posters, films, video games, leaflets and newsletters, in schools and extended to parents and carers.
- Training to increase identification of incidents of dating violence, and to improve confidence to intervene (often called bystander intervention).
- Educational booklets, presentations and discussion sessions aimed at parents and carers, exploring signs of unhealthy relationships, strategies for enhancing parent-child communication and resources to access support.

- Community support, including services aimed at encouraging victims or witnesses to report incidents, and support services such as counselling and group sessions for victims.

Is it effective?

The Youth Endowment Fund found that on average, relationship violence prevention activities are likely to have a moderate impact, reducing violence by an average of 17%.

There are three main explanations for why relationship violence and prevention lessons and activities might protect children from involvement in violence.

- 1) Programmes challenge unhealthy norms and perceptions, provide guidance about what is appropriate behaviour in a relationship, and dispel myths.
- 2) Programmes may seek to reduce dating and violence perpetration through improving self-regulation, communication skills and conflict resolution skills.
- 3) Programmes may help young people to protect themselves from violence by improving early identification of warning signs that a relationship could lead to violence, increased reporting of concerns and incidents, and increasing bystander intervention.

How secure is the evidence?

The Youth Endowment Fund have high confidence in their estimate of the average impact of relationship violence and prevention activities on violent crime. The review is based on 16 studies, which encompasses a total of over 200 evaluations of dating and relationship violence prevention programmes. However, there is some variation in the studies reviewed, with some finding higher impacts than others.

How can it be implemented well?

- ❖ **Tackle perceptions that ‘violence isn’t a problem here’** – research suggests that some schools have been reluctant to support delivery of violence prevention programmes for fear of it having a negative impact on the reputation of the school. Further, some school staff may believe that these types of programmes are unnecessary, because of their own views or biases about dating and relationship violence. Put an engagement plan in place to proactively expose and address these perceptions, beliefs and fears and build support for programme delivery.
- ❖ **Find the right facilitator** - Facilitators and teachers with good knowledge of dating and relationship violence, and confidence in the delivery of materials and sessions, achieve greater engagement with children and young people. This tends to be external facilitators or teachers that feel comfortable discussing complex issues related to relationships, sex and different forms of violence.
- ❖ **Interactive sessions** - Interventions that include games, role-play and discussion are more likely to engage children and young people, particularly where they interact

with both facilitators and peers. Developing good relationships between the facilitators and participants is important for enabling open discussions, questions and sharing personal views or experiences.

- ❖ **Match the programme to the context** - It is important to ensure that the programme content and activities are appropriate for the children and young people participating. This means considering the level of expected background knowledge on the topics involved, and the ages, sexual identities and disabilities of participants. Programmes may also need to be adapted where there is knowledge of previous experiences of trauma amongst participants. Also, schools may find it easier to implement single interventions, or easily adaptable programmes. For example, programmes that offer adaptations for last minute changes to the duration of sessions or the numbers or genders of staff required.
- ❖ **Have a dedicated behavioural policy in place for the programme** - Many evaluations report issues of disruptive behaviour, and sometimes sexist and prejudiced responses from participants on programmes. These programmes require teachers and facilitators to be able to adapt in the moment, using opportunities to educate. Provide clear guidance to equip facilitators to maximise learning opportunities whilst managing behaviour and protecting programme participants.
- ❖ **Time, equipment and space** - For interventions delivered in schools, lack of staff availability or constraints on staff time often disrupt or reduce programme delivery. Engage senior leadership to protect staff time allocated to programmes or consider programmes that provide external facilitators. Availability of classrooms or large spaces may also be required for breakout discussion groups, physical activities, or role-play and interactive theatre. Having equipment that is available and working to play videos, audio stories and digital games is often an important component in sessions.

How much does it cost?

The average cost of dating and relationship violence prevention programmes is likely to be low.

5.2.3. Hot Spots Policing

[Hot spots policing](#) is a police strategy that targets resources and activities to places where crime is most concentrated. Hot spots tend to form in small locations such as sections of streets or parks, areas around train stations, shops, pubs or clubs. Research shows that 58% of all crime happens in the top 10% of places with the most serious crime.

There are two main approaches to policing hot spots:

- ❖ Problem-oriented policing (POP), which aims to understand the root causes of crime in hot spot locations. It involves designing and implementing tailored interventions to reduce crime.
- ❖ Increased police presence, which aims to deter offenders from committing crimes in hot spot areas by increasing either the number of visits or the amount of time police officers spend in hot spots.

Common activities in both approaches could include:

- ❖ High-visibility police patrols, including increased uniformed police presence and patrols.
- ❖ Increased stop and search activity.
- ❖ Actively monitored CCTV.
- ❖ Targeting of known, repeat offenders.
- ❖ Use of media to communicate about increased policing activity.
- ❖ Increased police response to antisocial behaviour.

Is it effective?

The Youth Endowment Fund found that hot spots policing is likely to have a moderate impact on violent crime, reducing violence by 14% and reducing drug offences by 30%. Some recent UK studies have shown similar or higher levels of reductions in violence and crime due to hot spot policing:

- 'Operation Ark' in Southend-on-Sea saw a reduction in violent crime of 74% in the 20 highest crime hot spots on days when patrols took place.
- 'Operation Style' in Peterborough, used hot spots policing and found that crime was reduced by 39% in target areas and calls to emergency services also decreased by 20%.
- Bedfordshire Police identified that 30% of serious violent crime in the county occurred in only 30 Local Super Output Areas (LSOAs). They targeted these areas with foot patrols lasting a minimum of 15 minutes. The evaluation showed a 38% reduction in violence and robbery.
- 'Operation Menas' in London involved a double patrol team of uniformed officers patrolling bus stops three times a day, for 15 minutes. The evaluation showed mixed results. There was a 37% reduction in incident reports by bus drivers but a 25% increase in victims reporting incidents in nearby areas.
- West Midlands Police implemented increased patrols of between 5 and 15 minutes in targeted locations in Birmingham. Hot spots that received increased

patrols saw a 14% reduction in street crimes and antisocial behaviour. Crime also decreased in areas surrounding the hot spots.

The findings also indicate that there is limited crime displacement to other areas, and the studies suggest that hot spots policing could lead to small reductions in crime or antisocial behaviour.

The Youth Endowment Fund also found that where problem-oriented policing was used, a slightly larger effect was found for reducing crime, in comparison to traditional policing.

How secure is the evidence?

The Youth Endowment Fund have moderate confidence in their estimate of the average impact of hot spots policing on violent crime, however there was lots of variation in the studies, and the studies did not directly measure or report the impacts of hot spots policing for children and young people alone. They only reported the impact on children and adults combined, however, the Youth Endowment Fund used the results to specifically estimate the impact for children and young people.

How can it be implemented well?

- ❖ **Mapping hot spots** – use software to map crime hot spots, including locations, days and times of higher crime concentrations.
- ❖ **Take a problem-solving approach** – Problem-oriented policing may have a larger effect on reducing crime. This approach is similar to the SARA problem-solving model (Scanning, Analysis, Response, Assessment) that is widely used in policing. Problem-oriented policing usually involves:
 - Identify a specific problem.
 - Thoroughly analyse and understand the problem.
 - Develop a tailored response.
 - Assess the effects of the response.
- ❖ **Collect and use data** – Plan and resource this tailored response, ensuring data is collected about the time and location of visible police patrols. This could be collected through Wi-Fi/GPS tracking, or the use of a hot spots policing app.
- ❖ **Protect planned patrols** – Police officers face lots of competing demands for their time and it can be hard to ensure patrols take place as planned. Operation Ark in Southend-on-Sea, Essex, showed that protecting police officers from redeployment to other duties during hot spots policing interventions can ensure over 98% of planned patrols are completed at the right time. This study reported a 74% reduction in violence on patrol days compared to non-patrol days.

How much does it cost?

There is limited evidence related to the costs of hot spots policing, but on average, the cost is likely to be low. Costs can vary depending on frequency of duties and the distribution of work across police officers, Police Community Support Officers (PCSOs) and Special Constables.

The Youth Endowment Fund note that one study reports a high positive return on investment, demonstrating substantial savings from the reduced costs of imprisonment from reduced offending.

Hot Spots Policing in BCP

As of June 2024, areas for hot spots policing in BCP have been confirmed by Dorset Police. These are displayed below:

Bournemouth:

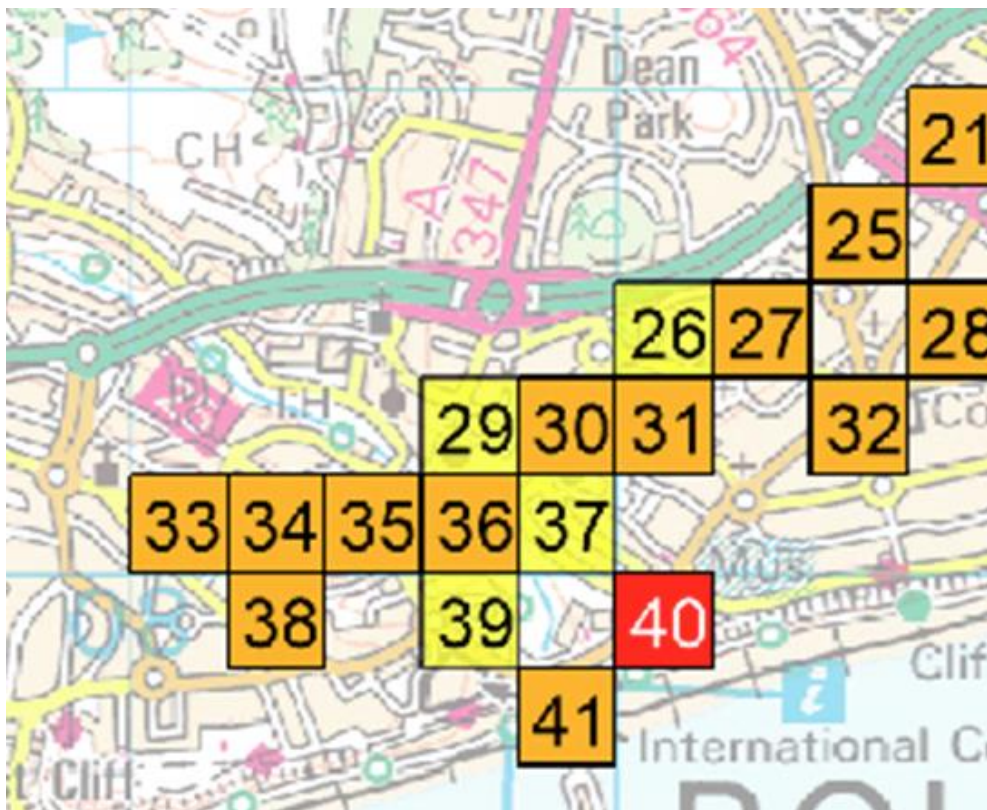


Figure 41 - Hot spots policing areas in Bournemouth

Winton and Charminster:

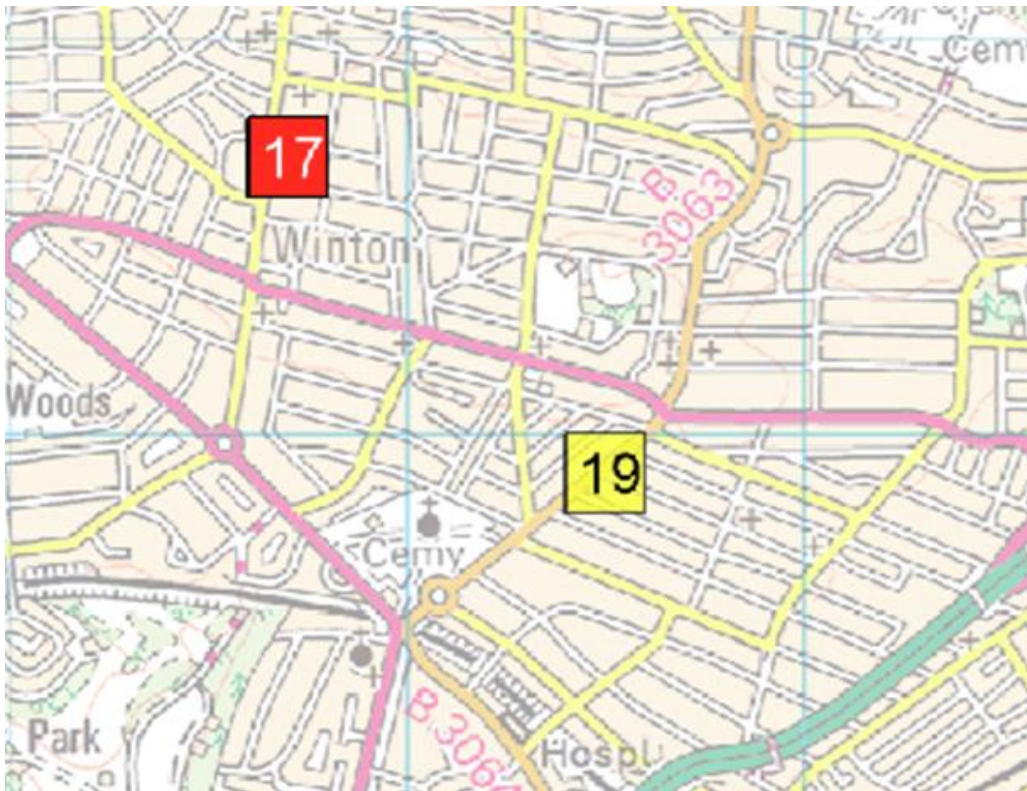


Figure 42 - Hot spots policing areas in Winton and Charminster

Boscombe and Christchurch:



Figure 43 - Hot spots policing areas in Boscombe and Christchurch

Poole:

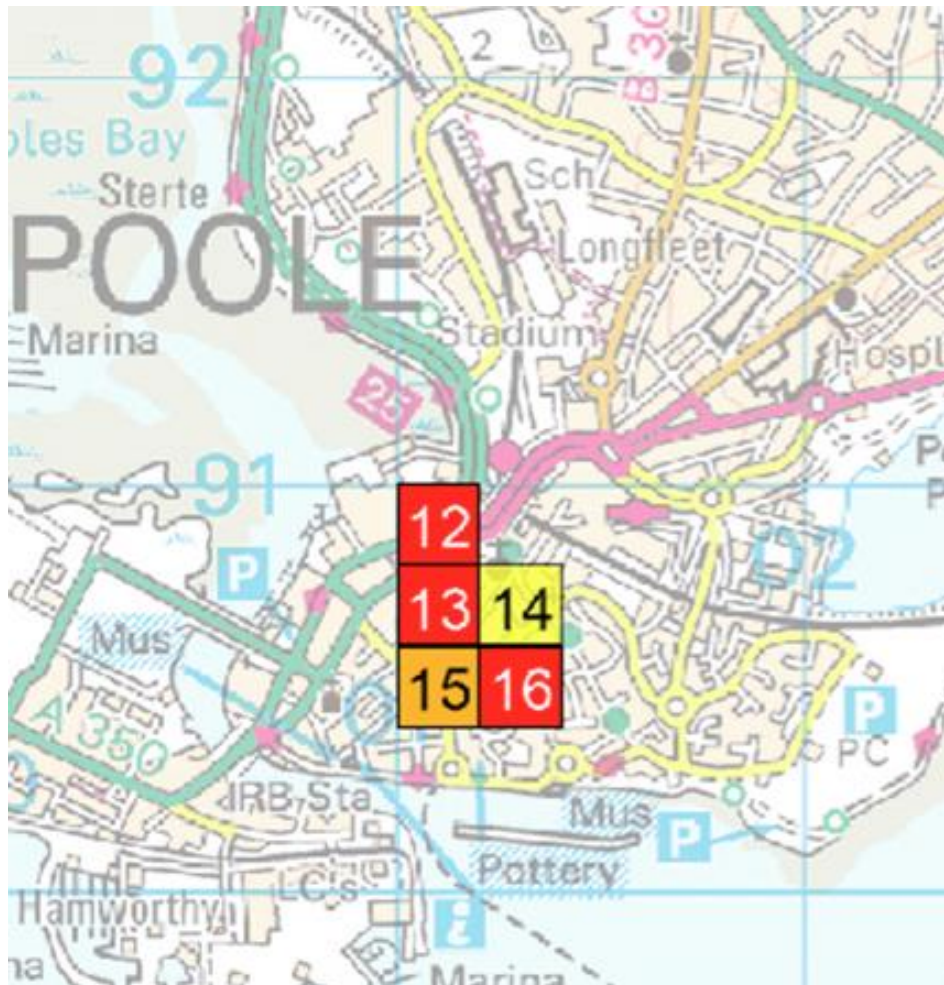


Figure 44 - Hot spots policing areas in Poole

5.3. Other Interventions

5.3.1. Knife surrender schemes

[Knife surrender schemes](#), also called 'weapon amnesties', or 'knife amnesties', aim to remove weapons from the street by providing bins or collection points where people can drop them off. These collection points are typically places in easily accessible locations.

Scheme will often allow people to drop off weapons anonymously and guarantee that there will be no immediate repercussions at point of handover. However, some schemes can inspect weapons later to identify any connection with criminal offences and then pursue investigation or prosecution if a link is found.

There are also compensation or 'buyback' schemes offering payment for weapons handed in. The payments can range from £3 for a knuckleduster or £20 for a truncheon, to over £5,000 for a rifle.

However, there are some criticisms of knife surrender schemes. Firstly, they are unlikely to reduce the availability of knives which are easily replaced. Secondly, knife surrender schemes without additional interventions such as education or training do not address motivations for carrying a weapon. Finally, knife surrender schemes, particularly those involving media campaigns could increase public concern about violence, leading to more individuals carrying weapons for self-defence.

Is it effective?

Two UK studies suggest that knife surrender scheme may contribute to a small reduction in weapon-related offending, but those reductions are not sustained for long. Research suggests that weapon related offences may initially reduce but tend to return to pre-scheme levels once the scheme has finished. This implies a need for long term intervention if knife surrender schemes are to be successful over time.

How can it be implemented well?

Research suggests that location is an important consideration. Schemes should select collection points that are easily accessible, are in areas with a higher number of weapon related incidents, and where it is easy to protect the anonymity of people surrendering weapons, for example, by having no CCTV.

5.3.2. Knife crime education programmes

Knife crime education programmes aim to reduce knife carrying amongst children and young people. These interventions emphasise the legal consequences, physical harm and emotional impacts that arise from violence involving knives.

There are two main ideas about why knife crime education programmes may reduce violence. Firstly, increasing awareness around the consequences of knife crime may deter young people from carrying a knife or using a knife as a weapon. Young people may talk to their friends and family about the consequences of knife carrying and knife crime, further spreading awareness. Secondly, increased awareness may change attitudes about how acceptable it is to carry a knife and may encourage young people to challenge their peers for carrying knives or involvement in knife crime.

However, there is a risk that raising awareness about knife crime may create a misperception about how common knife carrying is. This may increase fear of knife-related violence and may increase knife carrying for self-protection. Graphic imagery of knife injuries may also be upsetting for some children and young people.

Is it effective?

There is little research on the effectiveness of knife crime education programmes on the impact of violent crime. The Youth Endowment Fund reviewed six evaluations of knife crime education interventions. Four of the studies were undertaken in the UK and two in the US. None of these studies measured the impact of knife crime education on reducing violence.

5.3.3. Interventions to prevent school exclusion

[Preventing children from being excluded from school](#) might protect them in several ways. There is an extensive evidence base that children who are excluded from school face further adverse life experiences. Supporting children to stay in school might lead to higher educational attainment and more opportunities in the future, and ensure children remain in a safe environment. School exclusion is also relevant to wider concerns about disproportionality in the criminal justice system. Black Caribbean pupils are twice as likely to be subject to fixed-term exclusions and four times more likely to be permanently excluded. Pupils with special educational needs and children from Gypsy, Roma and Irish Traveller communities are also more likely to be excluded.

Research has aimed to understand whether a range of different interventions might keep children safe by supporting them to stay in school. Some interventions work directly with individual children. This could include:

- ❖ Counselling or specialist therapy from community mental health services.
- ❖ Activities to develop social-emotional skills such as self-regulation, relationship and communication skills, and decision-making.
- ❖ Therapeutic techniques to help students regulate their behaviour and develop appropriate coping strategies.
- ❖ Mentoring which pairs students with a mentor who can provide pastoral or academic support.
- ❖ Academic tutoring.

Another set of approaches work across the whole school. These approaches aim to create positive school environments, with clear rules that promote good behaviour, learning, and safety. Typically, this involves a range of components and activities such as one-to-one instruction, modelling, role-play exercises, feedback and reinforcement. They might also have a specific focus on restorative practices, such as responsive circles and restorative conferences, which are expected to reduce conflict between students. For example, the 'SaferSanerSchools' programme focused on communication skills, encouraging students to take responsibility for their actions and using restorative principles after disruption of conflict has occurred.

Is it effective?

The best available evidence suggests the impact is likely to be low, however, the evidence base is complex and different reviews have provided different conclusions. The Youth Endowment Fund found that one review that reported the impact of programmes on both arrests and suspensions. It did not include studies which only reported an outcome for permanent exclusion. The review found that, on average,

interventions which aimed to reduce school suspension reduce both arrests and suspensions by a very small amount. Programmes in this review failed to have much of an impact on suspensions. If programmes had greater success at reducing suspensions, they may have a greater impact on reducing crime.

Another review focused on a broader range of outcomes including in-school exclusion, out-of-school exclusion and expulsion. The review did not look at the impact on any crime or violence outcomes but found interventions that were much more successful at reducing exclusion. It is estimated that, on average, interventions had a high impact on exclusions.

How secure is the evidence?

The Youth Endowment Fund have moderate confidence in their estimate of the impact of school exclusion prevention on violence. The estimate was based on high-quality systematic reviews, however there was only six studies included.

Most of the available research is from the US. The Youth Endowment Fund identified only four studies which were conducted in the UK. The largest available study in the UK is an evaluation of the Engage in Education programme, delivered by Catch22. In this programme, youth workers worked with children in years 9 and 10 on topics such as effective communication, anger management and de-escalation. This study found no evidence that the Engage in Education intervention reduced school exclusions.

This may suggest that to reduce violence, interventions need to be more targeted towards those most at risk of committing serious violence, rather than a whole school approach.

6. Service Mapping

Service mapping is important to understand what services have already been commissioned in BCP, and what services may be missing when seeking to address the needs identified through the Strategic Needs Assessment. This section contains preliminary service mapping which will be built upon in the task and finish groups which are set up as part of the Serious Violence Strategy.

6.1. Acts Fast

Acts Fast provides support for non-abusive parents, carers and adult family members of children who have suffered Child Sexual Abuse, Child Sexual Exploitation, or sexual assault. They also provide support for adult family members and partners of individuals who have accessed Indecent Images of Children. The service provides:

- ❖ Trauma support – a free 10 week, one to one, trauma informed service providing stabilisation, psychoeducation, and support.
- ❖ Counselling – a 24 week one to one, person centred, trauma informed, counselling service. This can be provided face to face in Dorset or online.
- ❖ Brighter futures – a 12 week facilitated, peer led support group. Its main goals are to reduce isolation, promote wellbeing and help develop post traumatic growth.

6.2. BCHA

BCHA support includes a numbers of services for people experiencing:

- ❖ Modern day slavery and human trafficking
- ❖ Homelessness
- ❖ Mental Health
- ❖ Domestic abuse
- ❖ Services for women
 - Including women who have experiences, or are at risk of, repeat removals of children from their care. BCHA has been successful in its application to roll out the County's first Pause Practice. Pause is a national charity which assists women who have had children repeatedly removed from their care to engage in an 18-month programme of support. Women who take up the program take a "pause" in pregnancy aided by long term reversible contraception which gives them an opportunity to take control of their lives and identify personal goals they are supported to achieve. It aims to break transgenerational cycles and supports

vulnerable women to develop a sense of self-worth with significant improvements to substance abuse, domestic violence and mental health, as well as improving contact with children and gaining access to services.

- Respite rooms – providing short stay accommodation for single sex female rough sleeps who have experienced, or are at risk of experiencing violence abuse, trafficking or exploitation. Respite Rooms provide 8 bed spaces for women across Bournemouth for up to 6 weeks. Women are referred to respite rooms from BCP Council if they have been involved in street-based activity, and experienced abuse and exploitation.
- Women are referred to the BCHA from BCP Council if they have been involved in street-based activity and have experienced abuse and exploitation. The BCHA also provide accommodation to those who have no recourse to public funds. While staying at Respite Rooms, women are offered intensive trauma informed, practical and emotional support. The multi-disciplinary approach provides a dedicated mental health worker, drug and alcohol services, housing and benefits advisors, police and probation support.

6.3. Child and Adolescent Mental Health Service (CAMHS)

CAMHS offer assessment and treatment to children and young people age up to 18 who are suffering with significant mental difficulties. They employ an experienced team of doctors, nurses, occupational therapists, psychologists and social workers.

CAMHS deal with a range of serious mental health problems, including:

- ❖ Psychosis/schizophrenia.
- ❖ Significant self-harm and risk-taking behaviour.
- ❖ Eating problems.
- ❖ Obsessive compulsive disorders.
- ❖ Complex and/or significant post-traumatic disorders.
- ❖ Severe behavioural difficulties.
- ❖ Mental health or severe emotional difficulties in children with a diagnosis of autism.

6.4. Children in Care (CIC) Health Team

This team are notified along with University Hospitals Dorset when a child goes into care by social worker. They prove an initial health assessment with community paediatrician and health and treatment plan created. Regular review sessions.

6.5. Choose 2 Change

Choose 2 Change is a domestic abuse prevention programme delivering a group work behaviour change programme consisting of 11 modules amounting to approximately 28 weeks.

The material is comprised of a core block of modules including the impact of abuse on children, parenting at various developmental stages, jealous, sexual issues, anger and women's anger as well as other core subjects.

6.6. Community Mental Health Teams (CMHT)

CMHT provides a needs-led community mental health service for people with a severe and enduring mental health condition. The service:

- ❖ Gives advice on the management of mental health problems.
- ❖ Provides a seamless and integrated service so that service users and carers receive flexible, holistic and responsive care.
- ❖ Provides treatment and care for those with more complex and enduring needs through focusing on individual needs.
- ❖ Eliminates any inequalities/differential outcomes experienced as a result of race, disability, gender, age, religious belief or faith or sexual orientation.
- ❖ Promotes social inclusion and recovery for all.
- ❖ delivers choice throughout the service users care pathway, including accessing primary care services, secondary care assessment, treatment and care and inpatient care.
- ❖ Improves joint working between health and social care services.

6.7. Community Safety Accreditation Scheme (CSAS)

The Community Safety Accreditation Scheme (CSAS) gives employees who are involved in a community safety or traffic management role a range of powers usually

only available to police, such as the authority to issue fixed penalty notices for certain offences ([Metropolitan Police](#)).

The scheme provides an additional uniformed presence in communities to assist in reducing criminality and anti-social behaviour and capitalises on the skills and information captured by those already engaged with the community.

Main benefits of the scheme include (Source – [gov.uk 2012](#)):

- ❖ Increasing uniformed presence on the streets (CSAS accredited persons wear the uniform of their employing organisation, with an identification badge endorsed by the local police force).
- ❖ Reductions in local issues such as street drinking, begging and dog fouling.
- ❖ Saving valuable police time in community safety to deal with low-level crime and disorder.
- ❖ Promoting greater business involvement with the police, and allowing the police to influence the training of businesses, e.g. security companies
- ❖ Promoting partnership working and the 2-way exchange of information and intelligence between agencies

There are currently CSAS teams in Bournemouth, Boscombe, Poole and Christchurch.

6.8. Criminal Justice Liaison and Diversion (CJLD) Service

- ❖ This service is available for all ages and works to identify vulnerable people within the criminal justice system and provide the specialist assistance they, and their families, may need.
- ❖ There are two main roles within the service: mental health practitioners and support time recovery workers.
- ❖ Mental health practitioners carry out assessments of people in police custody identified as having a vulnerability.
- ❖ People with specific unmet needs can be referred to a support time recovery workers. They work with people for up to four weeks, providing help with issues such as:
 - Accessing services around mental health and drug or alcohol dependency.
 - Housing issues
 - Debt problems
 - Benefits

- ❖ The aim of the service is to divert people out of the youth and criminal justice systems into health, social care or other supportive services, and reduce re-offending.

6.9. Dorset Combined Youth Justice Service (DCYJS)

- ❖ The DCYJS works with young people in the local youth justice system, with the aim of helping them make positive changes to their lifestyle, keeping them safe and secure, and offering assistance and reparation to the victims.
- ❖ The DCYJS supports the Youth Justice Board Vision for a 'child first' youth justice system: A youth justice system that sees children as children, treats them fairly and helps them to build on their strengths so they can make a constructive contribution to society. This will prevent offending and create safer communities with fewer victims.
- ❖ The DCYJS is a statutory partnership between BCP Council, Dorset Council, Dorset Police, National Probation Service Dorset and NHS Dorset Clinical Commissioning Group.
- ❖ It is made up of a multi-disciplinary team including youth justice officers, restorative justice specialists, parenting workers, education and employment workers, police officers, probation officers, nurses, speech and language therapists and a psychologist.
- ❖ The team works directly with young people who have committed criminal offences to help them make positive changes to their lifestyle, while providing security and safety to both them and their victims. The DCYJS also work directly with parents and carers to help provide a positive support network.
- ❖ The DCYJS contact all victims of crimes committed by the young people they work with. Victims are offered the chance to take part in restorative justice processes to help repair the harm they have experienced.

6.10. Engage Develop Adapt Succeed (EDAS)/ Reach – Young People Drug and Alcohol Service

EDAS/Reach offers young people a free and confidential drug and alcohol service for those under 25 who live in the county of Dorset.

EDAS/Reach work with young people and consider their own personal situation through the completion of an assessment to identify needs. The service then work with young people to achieve their goals, whether this is simply to increase their factual knowledge

about the realities and consequences of substance use or to work towards a goal of controlled use or abstinence.

6.11. Family Hubs

Family hubs provide a wide range of support, from pregnancy onwards, and support families with children aged 0-19, or up to 25 for children with Special Educational Needs or disabilities. Services offered at the 6 family hubs across BCP include:

- ❖ Activities for children aged 0-5.
- ❖ Birth registration.
- ❖ Debt and welfare advice.
- ❖ Domestic abuse support.
- ❖ Early childhood education and care and financial support (Tax-Free Childcare, Universal Credit childcare).
- ❖ Health visiting 0-5 (inclusive of the Start for Life period).
- ❖ Housing
- ❖ Intensive targeted family support services, including those funded by the Supporting Families programme.
- ❖ Local authority 0-19 public health services, based on local needs assessments.
- ❖ Mental health services (beyond Start for Life parent-infant mental health).
- ❖ Midwifery/maternity.
- ❖ Nutrition and weight management.
- ❖ Oral health improvement.
- ❖ Reducing parental conflict support.
- ❖ SEND support services.
- ❖ Stop smoking support.
- ❖ Substance (alcohol/drug) misuse support.
- ❖ Support for separating and separated parents.

- ❖ Youth justice services.
- ❖ Youth services – universal and targeted.

6.12. Footprints Project

Footprints Project seeks to bring a sense of community, hope and increased self-worth to socially excluded people, reducing crime and building stronger communities. It trains volunteers in the community to provide person centred support for people who have been in prison or have received a community sentence or caution from the Police, enabling them to lead purposeful, fulfilling lives, contributing positively to the local community.

Footprints Project supports over 200 people a year with:

- ❖ 'Through the Gate' mentoring staff will visit people in prison to assess their needs around housing, education training and employment, finance and debt, mental and physical health, substance misuse, families and children, as well as attitudes, thinking and behaviour. Staff will then co-produce an action plan for release with the client.
 - Volunteer mentors and outreach workers help the person successful re-integrate into society, building safer and stronger local communities for everyone.
 - On the day of release from prison, staff will meet people at the gate, transport them to their local area and ensure their immediate needs are met, e.g. engaging them with foodbanks, helping them attend meetings with probation, registering them with a GP or helping them to initiate benefit claims.
- ❖ Community Mentoring
 - Community mentors will typically meet with a client once a week, with additional phone support between meetings, to offer on-going motivational support and engage clients with relevant agencies where they can obtain the specialist support they need. Community mentoring support continues for as long as it is required.
- ❖ Specialist female only support for women
 - Footprints are delivering a new female Out of Court Diversionary scheme in partnership with Dorset Police and PCC. The scheme works with women who are classified as vulnerable and are at the point of arrest for committing a crime for the first time, or if they have a criminal record but have not offended in the past 2 years. These women are given a conditional caution and opportunity to work with Footprints rather than their offence progressing to court. Vulnerabilities include mental health problems, women living in coercive or controlling relationships, domestic violence, and committing petty crime to support their family. Women will

meet with specialist workers once a week for 4-6 weeks and are then offered volunteer support with any ongoing problems.

- In line with the Government's 2018 Female Offender Strategy, Footprints provide gender specific support for women. This includes a female mentoring scheme supporting women returning to the area from prison. Women are visited by a specialist female member of staff who will assess their needs as above, but additionally will add support around domestic violence, sexual abuse and sexual exploitation. Women are matched to female mentors who continue the gender specific support in the community. Footprints can offer women who have been affected by trauma or have specific needs a place on an equine therapy course provided by Tower House Horses.

6.13. BCP Neighbourhood Policing Team

The Neighbourhood Policing Team in BCP work hard to take a preventative approach and identify young people at risk of committing serious violence before harm occurs. This is aided through multi-agency work and facilitated through a monthly Young Person's Serious Violence task and finish group.

The team identify high risk young people by looking at intelligence, offending patterns, use of weapons, and other risk factors as identified above. Once a subject youth has been identified, they are discussed at the Young Person's Serious Violence task and finish group to determine if the level of risk posed by the young person is high enough to warrant adoption at the group; generally, the high-risk individual is known to other agencies and this facilitates information sharing and joined up working. Often, the young people considered to be 'high-harm' are involved in weapon carrying.

Once a high-risk young person is identified, the Neighbourhood Policing Team develop a working strategy to support the young person and their family, embedded in a multi-agency context. This generally involves a home visit from the Neighbourhood Policing Team, and where permission/grounds exist, the team will lawfully recover any weapons. This may be used as a reachable moment to explain the concerns presented to the subject around knives and weapons, and also to signpost parents to support services. This early intervention seeks to help the young person understand the potential serious consequences to their actions and may act as an important preventative measure to dissuade the young person from carrying weapons in public.

Additionally, the team review intelligence relating to areas the young person frequents and include these places on their patrol plans. The team seek to engage with these young people when they are encountered in public to ensure they are safe and well, and not engaging in criminality.

The Neighbourhood Policing Team adopt a multi-agency approach, issuing a Public Protection Notice to share any concerns and information around the young person in health, education and social care.

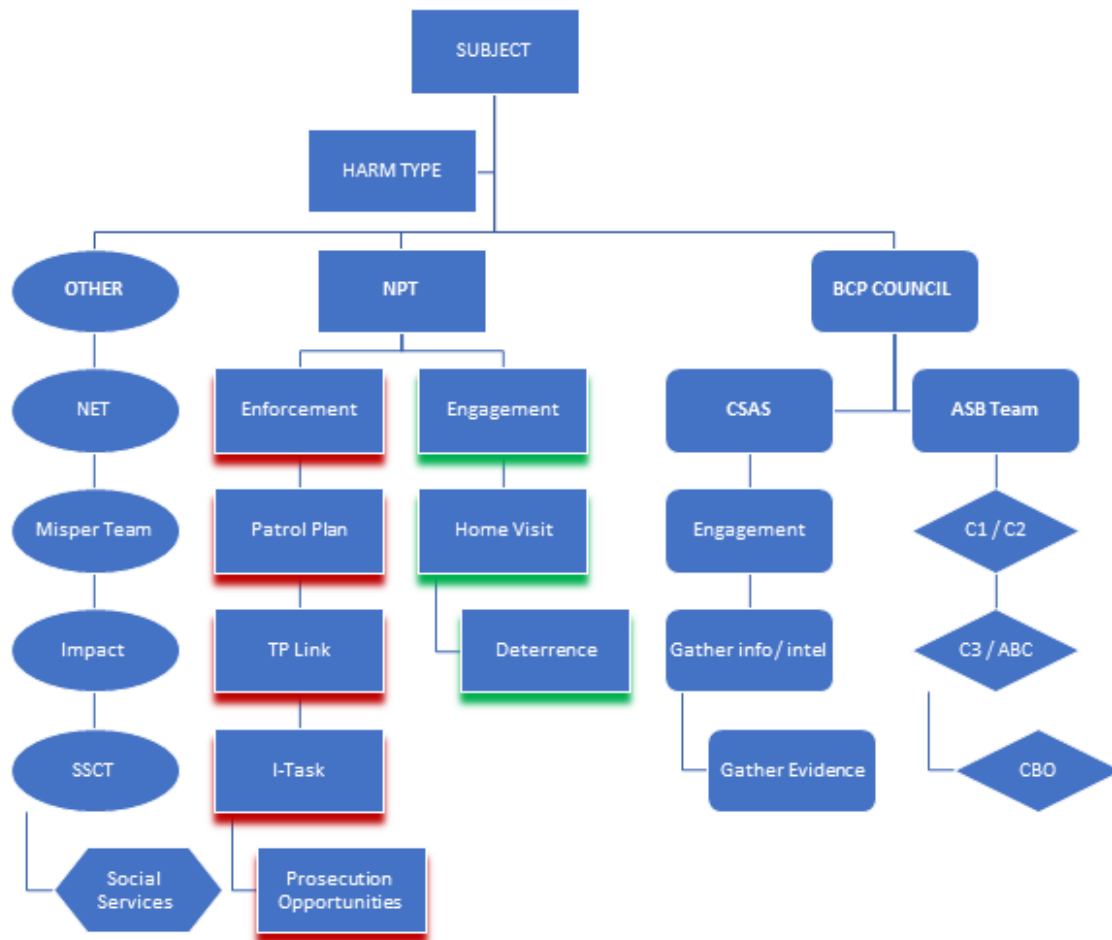


Figure 45 - Officer strategy options

Figure 45 identifies the list of options for officers to consider as part of their strategy when working with young people, as well as demonstrating some of the different agencies at work when supporting high risk young people.

This demonstrates just one of the ways the police help to reduce serious violence in BCP, by taking a proactive, multiagency approach to identify high risk young people, provide intervention and monitor activities. However, there are limitations to this approach. The Neighbourhood Policing Team only have the capacity to take on 7-12 young people at a time. Consequently, although the high-risk young people are subject to close monitoring, there may be young people on the fringes of being considered 'high risk', who do not benefit from this monitoring and intervention who slip through the net. It is important that we work towards a multi-agency approach to support other young people who may pose risk to their communities.

6.14. Paragon

Paragon are commissioned by BCP Council to develop and deliver a specialist health team working within hospitals. This team supports victims and survivors of domestic abuse and trains hospital staff so they can better support anyone who wishes to disclose and talk about their life experiences of domestic abuse.

6.15. The Retreat

The Retreat offers a safe place to discuss problems and access peer support. If an individual feels they are struggling to cope with life, and feels they are reaching crisis point, they are able to attend The Retreats in Bournemouth and Dorchester.

The Retreat offers a safe and welcoming environment, where service users are able to discuss their problems and work towards solutions. Staffed by both mental health professionals and peer specialists, The Retreat offers out-of-hours support and advice on self-management.

Service users can attend if they want to try to avoid reaching a crisis, or if they feel they are already in crisis. They do not need to be referred by a doctor or other health professional, service users can simply turn up and ring the doorbell.

The Retreat is an open access service for adults aged 18 and over. It cannot work with people who:

- ❖ Require medical attention beyond basic first aid/wound care.
- ❖ Are intoxicated.
- ❖ Display threatening or physically aggressive behaviour.
- ❖ Are under 18.

6.16. SAFE Partnership

SAFE Partnership provides services to help victims of stalking or domestic abuse to feel safe and secure at home, free of charge. SAFE Partnership provide target hardening, which are measures taken to reduce the risk of crime. Target Hardening can include fitting locks, installing security measures, or providing security advice.

6.17. Sexual Trauma and Recovery Service (STARS)

- ❖ STARS is a pan-Dorset charity that offers one to one support, free of charge, for anyone of any age or gender who lives, works or studies in Dorset and has experienced sexual violence at any time in their life.
- ❖ The service provides:
 - Independent Sexual Violence Advisor Service – a free and confidential service providing practical and emotional support, information and guidance to anyone who lives, works or studies in Dorset and who has experienced any form of sexual violence at any time in their life.
 - Counselling Service – operates a person-centred approach, combined with a trauma model. The service creates a safe and confidential space, allowing the client to explore and address thoughts and behaviours that are overwhelming. Through psycho-education, our counsellors help clients understand the impact of their trauma on their brain and their body, giving them control and choice.
 - Children and Young People Service - The Children and Young People ISVAs provides impartial information to the young person, their families or carers about their options. These specialist ISVAs can liaise with schools and other agencies on the young person's behalf and can accompany to appointments and meetings such as those with their GP. They can help them come to terms with their experience, understand their emotions, build their confidence and help them on their road to recovery.

6.18. Shelter

Shelter provides advice and guidance to those who are homeless, have nowhere to stay, are worried about losing their home, or are at risk of harm or abuse in their home. Shelter can help:

- ❖ Locally – Shelter provides advice and support services offer one-to-one personalised help with housing issues and homelessness.
- ❖ Online – On their website, individuals can find expert information about everything from reclaiming their deposit to applying as homeless.
- ❖ Over the phone – Shelter's free emergency helpline is open 365 days a year to answer called from anyone struggling with a housing issue or homelessness.
- ❖ Legal – solicitors provide free legal advice and attend court to help people who have lost their homes or are facing eviction.

Speech and Language Therapy within the Criminal Justice Liaison and Diversion Service

- ❖ Evidence shows that a high proportion of people within the criminal justice system have a Speech, Language or Communication Need (SLCN) which is often not identified, leading to poor justice, health and social outcomes.
- ❖ Speech and Language Therapists (SLT) have a unique registered role in identifying, assessing, and supporting individuals with communication difficulties and providing advice to the person, their families / carers and members of the multi-disciplinary team e.g., Police and probation. By identifying someone's SLCN it is hoped that they will have better access and support, especially in complex communication interactions e.g., custody or court and verbally mediated programmes e.g., probation related courses.
- ❖ There are currently two speech and language therapists working within the Criminal Justice Liaison and Diversion Service, working 14.5 hours per week. They are hoping to get increased resourcing of SLT hours within the service to increase patient contacts and support across multiple settings.
- ❖ Increased resourcing of hours will also enable the team to:
 - Seek further training,
 - Establish presence in other justice locations or teams. For example, probation are keen for SLCN support, but this is not currently possible due to resourcing limitations.
 - Provide support to health teams such as community mental health teams, forensic inpatient settings, mental health hospitals, and GPs.

6.19. The Shores

The Shores provides a comprehensive service to men, women and children who have been raped or sexually assaulted, in a safe, non-judgemental environment, focussing on the individual needs of the victim. The Shores offers:

- ❖ Emotional and psychological support.
- ❖ Medical care, including sexual health and emergency contraception.
- ❖ Practical help.
- ❖ Counselling for victims, and family or friends of victims.
- ❖ Information about making a report to the police.
- ❖ Forensic medical examinations.

6.20. Steps 2 Wellbeing

Steps 2 Wellbeing supports those suffering from mental health difficulties, and offers a range of talking therapies, online courses and guided self-help to support people who are feeling:

- ❖ Down, low, depressed
- ❖ Anxious or irritable.
- ❖ Having trouble sleeping or eating.
- ❖ Lacking motivation or feeling tired all the time.
- ❖ Experiencing physical symptoms like an upset stomach or headaches.

Steps 2 Wellbeing also offer a Body and Mind service which supports people with long term health conditions to better their mental health.

6.21. St Mungo's

St Mungo's provide a number of homelessness and mental health services in the area. Their outreach team provides daily support to rough sleepers, and they run two accommodation based mental health services, as well as leading the area's Housing First programme.

6.22. Time 2 Change

Time 2 Change works with female perpetrators of domestic abuse in a one-to-one setting. It is an intervention that includes assessment for suitability, a structured motivational programme and goal setting, and is delivered over a period of up to 20 weeks.

Support sessions are also provided for the partner or ex-partner to ensure a safety plan is implemented.

6.23. UP2U

The UP2U programme is designed to help perpetrators of domestic abuse learn about healthy relationships, develop new skills, and break the cycle of violence.

The UP2U programme involves one to one sessions led by experienced facilitators who support perpetrators in understanding the impact of their actions, recognising unhealthy patterns, and adopting positive behaviours.

The programme consists of an initial 6-week assessment period to identify risk and needs. Following this a pathway will be established which will provide participants with the tools to foster healthy and respectful relationships.

The programme is CBT based so taps into the thinking and reasoning skills we all possess and is very goal oriented. Participation is voluntary and self-referrals are also considered as the service is committed to being preventative. Support is also offered to partners whether the couple remain together or not as a healthy relationship to co parent effectively may still be required.

6.24. Victim Support

Victim support can give free, confidential help to people who have been affected by crime in Dorset. They are an independent charity, and victims can contact them for support regardless of whether they have contacted the police, and no matter how long ago the crime took place. Victims can also contact Victim Support regardless of their immigration status in England and Wales.

Victim Support provide personalised advice to victims and help to make them feel safer. They can also inform victims of their rights and the services they may be entitled to, as well as making onward referrals.

6.25. We Are With You

We Are With You works with clients on their own goals, whether that's making small changes, stopping drugs or alcohol completely or just getting some advice. Staff talk to clients about what immediate help they need, and what plans they want to make for the future. These are based on what the client wants to do at a pace suits them. Staff can also help clients with other needs, such as their housing situation.

6.26. Youth Outreach Team

The Youth Outreach Team form part of a targeted offer by BCP Children's Services to young people across BCP. Their remit is to provide a consistent presence for young people and to provide information, advice and guidance to those young people to support them to make positive choices.

The team undertakes standardised shifts in our town centres and hard to reach communities as well as providing a responsive service to concerns relation to young people's wellbeing and/or behaviour based on intel from partners, social media or other sources.

Where possible, the team will signpost young people they engage with to more positive diversionary activities. Where this is not achievable, they will safeguard and advocate for young people to provide a harm minimisation response based on a relational model of engagement.

6.27. YMCA Bournemouth

The YMCA strives to enable people to develop their full potential. Inspired by Christian values, the YMCA seeks to create supportive, inclusive and energising communities where people can truly belong, contribute and thrive. The YMCS provides:

- ❖ Housing
 - The YMCA provides short-term supported housing for men and women from 18 to 65 years, and 114 beds over four projects. They have 73 hostel rooms, 22 flats, 7 shared flats (14 beds) and a 5 bedroomed house. Each project has a different level of support to match the needs of its residents.
- ❖ Personal support and guidance – The YMCA seek to work in a person centred, trauma informed and psychologically informed way to equip residents with the skills and confidence they need to 'move on' to independent living and a positive long-term future. To do this, they provide a range of support measures, including:
 - Free gym membership, personal training programmes, and a sports hall for team games.
 - Free wi-fi
 - Opportunities to shape and influence service delivery.
 - Monitored facilities to ensure safety and security.
 - 24/7 support on site, including drug and alcohol support on a one to one and workshop basis.
 - Help clients to regain confidence and motivation.
 - Arts and crafts groups.
 - Chaplaincy and support individually and in groups.
 - Peer support.
 - Peer led support groups at weekend.
 - Accredited Life skills coaching e.g. money management and healthy eating.
 - Benefits and budgeting advice.
 - Residential trips to a retreat centre in Studland with a variety of outdoor activities.
 - Guest speakers, trips out to tourist attractions, and educational facilities.

- Quizzes, movie and pamper nights.
- CV assistance and computer access for job searches.
- Use of accredited Child Contact Centre.
- Other Family and Relationship services.
- Youth work opportunities (for residents under 25).
- Accredited volunteering opportunities.
- Help with registering with a Doctor and Dentist.
- Help obtaining ID.
- BACP Accredited confidential counselling service.
- Full engagement with statutory services to empower and enable residents.
- Residents lounge area with PCs for resident use.
- Laundry facilities.
- Restaurant (hostel only).
- Assistance in securing long-term housing solutions.

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Briefing for: BCP CSP Executive Meeting 22/05/2024

Report Title: DATA UPDATE

Author: Richard Furneaux / Esperanza Aguilera

Date: Tuesday 14th May 2024

Ref: 2024 – ref 291 V1.0

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1. Purpose of Briefing:

- 1.1. To provide latest available data relating to the agreed standard CSP data set;
 - 1.2. To pool data and provide analysis in alignment with CSP priorities;
 - 1.3. To provide data and analysis in respect of identified emerging issues or other referrals to the CSP Executive.
-

2. Partnership Priorities:

2.1. Based on the findings from the Strategic Assessment, three Strategic Priorities for the period 2022 – 2025 were identified as the primary areas of focus by the CSP:

- ☞ **Priority 1** *Tackle violent crime in all its forms*
- ☞ **Priority 2** *Keep young people and adults-at-risk safe from exploitation, including online risks*
- ☞ **Priority 3** *Work with communities to deal with antisocial behaviour (ASB) and crime hotspots, including drug dealing*

2.2. It was recommended that the following Principles be also adopted by the SaferBCP partnership:

- ☞ *Enhancing knowledge and understanding of crime and anti-social behaviour through better sharing of information, so we may address the human, social and environmental factors that drive them, the interventions likely to have positive impact, and the ways we may work with communities to prevent and combat them.*
- ☞ *Collaborating across agency boundaries to plan, commission and deliver jointly, and to improve our efficiencies for the benefits of BCP communities, with a clear focus on crime prevention, reduction of first-time entrants to the criminal justice system, and reduction of repeat and persistent offending.*
- ☞ *Ensuring victims and communities are central to the development, commissioning, and delivery of service, including in early education settings, and where there are complex and additional needs such as familial and personal substance misuse, poor mental health, learning needs and protected characteristics.*
- ☞ *Committed to developing a partnership that embraces equality and inclusivity.*
- ☞ *Operating a robust performance management framework to measure what works and how to be more effective.*

2.3. Subsequently a fourth, complementary, priority has been added to provide additional focus to the CSP's work:

- ☞ **Priority 4** *Tackle issues relating to violence against women and girls.*

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3. National Comparisons:

3.1. Comparable CSPs (where data available) by recorded Violence Against the Person crimes, High → Low¹:

Police Force	CSP	Local Authority	Pop	House Holds	Total Crime (ex fraud)	Violence Against the Person	Violence with Injury	Stalking & H'ment	Sexual Offences	Robbery	Drug offences	Possession of Weapons Offences
Lancashire	Blackpool	Blackpool	141,600	62,900	157.27	68.54	23.32	18.82	6.06	2.03	3.85	2.68
Humberside	Kingston upon Hull	City of Kingston upon Hull	268,900	113,500	136.73	54.32	14.99	21.58	4.36	1.54	1.51	0.99
Hampshire	Southampton	Southampton	252,700	101,700	133.25	52.25	16.14	15.66	5.45	1.48	5.87	2.01
Hampshire	Portsmouth	Portsmouth	208,400	90,200	122.79	50.26	15.49	14.44	4.34	1.49	4.63	1.94
West Yorkshire	Kirklees	Kirklees	437,600	181,100	105.32	46.33	9.40	20.53	3.64	0.81	3.13	0.87
Norfolk	Great Yarmouth	Great Yarmouth	99,900	43,900	98.19	45.53	14.39	10.30	4.95	0.52	3.03	1.36
North Wales	Conwy	Conwy	114,300	53,400	91.79	44.11	10.65	15.32	4.12	0.18	2.13	0.51
Essex	Southend-on-Sea	Southend-on-Sea	180,900	77,900	103.88	43.41	9.75	13.17	3.93	1.51	4.39	1.46
Kent	Dover	Dover	117,500	52,400	90.55	42.39	10.51	12.84	3.58	0.58	2.32	0.91
Sussex	Eastbourne	Eastbourne	102,200	47,200	107.71	39.50	13.64	9.47	4.48	1.11	3.20	1.55
Kent	Canterbury	Canterbury	157,600	67,000	93.70	39.12	10.13	10.71	3.68	0.76	3.00	0.91
Avon and Somerset	City of Bristol	City of Bristol	479,000	195,700	117.99	38.93	10.29	11.27	3.96	2.54	2.23	0.91
Sussex	Brighton & Hove	Brighton and Hove	278,000	126,400	104.91	34.51	10.38	8.78	4.28	1.31	4.01	1.45
South Wales	Cardiff	Cardiff	372,100	156,300	107.37	33.34	9.72	11.25	3.19	0.66	2.75	0.92
Northamptonshire	Combined CSP	West Northamptonshire	429,000	168,700	77.94	32.14	9.10	9.58	3.49	0.96	2.74	1.12
Cheshire	Cheshire West & Chester	Cheshire West & Chester	361,700	150,400	71.39	31.84	8.49	11.78	3.23	0.33	2.54	0.62
Thames Valley	Oxford	Oxford	163,300	53,500	101.63	31.76	8.71	8.80	3.66	0.70	4.04	1.07
Dorset	BCP CSP	BCP Council	401,900	174,800	79.20	29.20	8.50	9.04	3.01	0.83	1.55	0.53
Wiltshire	Swindon	Swindon	235,700	95,300	72.36	28.95	9.77	6.54	3.03	0.74	2.10	0.82

¹ <https://www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/crimeandjustice/datasets/recordedcrimedatabycommunitysafetypartnershiparea>

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Cambridgeshire	Cambridge	Cambridge	147,000	44,100	103.85	27.60	6.37	6.18	2.65	1.49	2.24	1.03
Norfolk	King's Lynn & West Norfolk	King's Lynn & West Norfolk	155,700	64,900	62.01	27.16	8.91	6.38	2.75	0.17	2.50	0.97
North Yorkshire	City of York	York	204,600	87,500	72.63	26.59	8.27	6.22	2.51	0.40	1.89	0.56
Avon and Somerset	Bath & North East Somerset	Bath & North East Somerset	195,600	79,400	66.47	24.66	6.35	7.96	2.19	0.74	1.19	0.42
Avon and Somerset	South Gloucestershire	South Gloucestershire	294,800	119,000	63.65	24.31	5.64	9.06	2.40	0.61	1.13	0.41
Hampshire	New Forest	New Forest	175,900	79,900	63.16	24.26	6.83	9.11	2.60	0.26	2.04	0.82
Sussex	Chichester	Chichester	126,100	54,200	63.92	22.78	7.20	5.78	2.58	0.36	1.15	1.01
Hampshire	Winchester	Winchester	130,300	50,500	59.60	22.02	6.49	7.26	2.77	0.22	2.58	0.60
Dorset	Dorset	Dorset	383,300	169,300	48.20	20.21	5.66	7.40	2.22	0.28	0.96	0.38
Thames Valley	South Oxfordshire	South Oxfordshire	151,800	57,400	45.03	17.72	4.20	6.43	2.08	0.16	1.63	0.43
ENGLAND AND WALES TOTALS²			60.238 mm	24.921 mm	91.21	34.02	9.35	11.02	3.17	1.35	3.02	0.98

3.2. Latest available data, used above, is for calendar year ending December 2023;

3.2. Data for Devon and Cornwall (especially Plymouth, Exeter, and Torbay) was not available at the time of publication;

3.2. Police recorded crime data in England and Wales is not designated as a National Statistic – caution is therefore advised in making direct comparison between different Police force areas.

3.2. Commentary – “Inequality of Risk” Across our Communities:

The above section – with significant provisos regarding data quality – suggests BCP’s position in prioritised crimes-per-head, when compared to other areas.

However, our Strategic Assessment observes that: “. . . . different members of our community do not share an “equality of risk” to the threats underlying the recommended priorities. We fail to recognise this if we pool those at highest risk with a general population comprising a significant majority of individuals who are lower risk by virtue of age, gender, race, income, vulnerability, etc, and when and where they work, reside, study, or travel”. This applies to Domestic Abuse as well as to public place violence. Yet – to an extent – that pooling is exactly what we do in the table at section 3.1, above, where we calculate “rate per thousand population” figures.

² <https://www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/crimeandjustice/datasets/policeforceareadatatables>

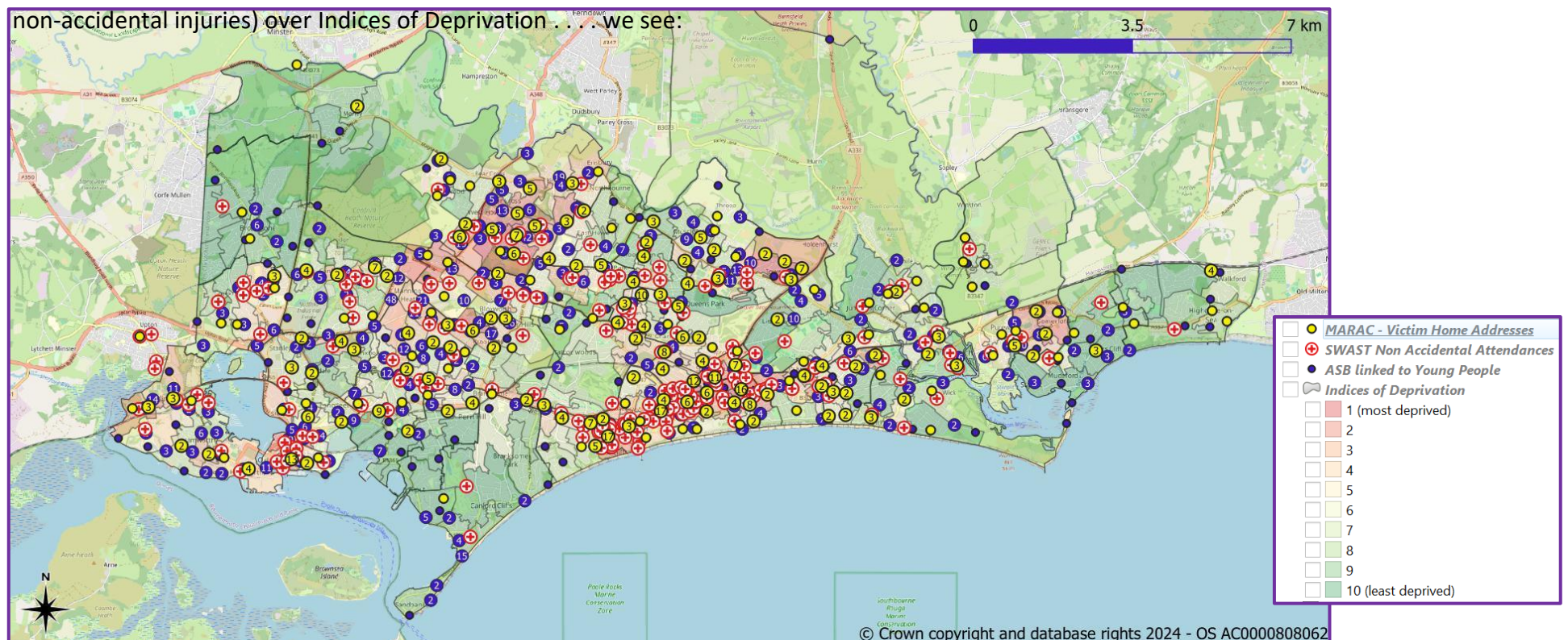
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For example, in calendar year 2023 there were 3242 recorded Violent Crimes flagged as DA, with a female victim. However, there were only 2326 different victims, with 566 being recorded as victim on more than one occasion in that calendar year (the highest number was 16 – all sixteen offences were reported on separate dates).

In a second example, previously reported analysis into ASB Incidents in BCP recorded by Police in the calendar year 2023 noted that of the 9,273 recorded Incidents:










- o **67** were reported via one telephone number, associated with a retail location;
- o **36** were reported via one telephone number who is a vulnerable individual;
- o **27** were reported via one telephone number, another vulnerable individual;
- o **24** were reported via one telephone number, associated with an NHS establishment.

Uneven geographic distribution is instantly familiar to partners problem solving at the tactical level, for example, layering three different data sets (MARAC (High Risk DA) Victim Home Addresses / ASB Incidents linked to Young People / four months available SWAST attendances to non-accidental injuries) over Indices of Deprivation . . . we see:



4. Standard Data Set (Key Metrics Only):

4.1. Priority 1 - Tackle Violent Crime in all its forms:

REF		Q1			Q2			Q3			Q4			Year		Projection- ACTUAL		Trend	Rate per x Population	
		22/23	23/24	+ / - %	22/23	23/24	+ / - %	22/23	23/24	+ / - %	22/23	23/24	+ / - %	21/22	22/23	23/24	+ / - %		BCP	England & Wales
	VIOLENT CRIME - PUBLIC PLACE																			
1.01	Public Place	783	687	-12.3%	644	624	-3.1%	648	593	-8.5%	580	558	-3.8%	2594	2559	2462	-3.8%		6.13:1,000	
1.12	Positive Outcomes for Violence Against the Person Offences																			
	DOMESTIC ABUSE																			
1.04	Violent Crimes	1123	1276	13.6%	1052	1084	3.0%	1032	1069	3.6%	1141	1085	-4.9%	4708	4348	4514	3.8%		11.23:1,000	
1.05	Incidents	1436	1669	16.2%	1451	1656	14.1%	1327	1570	18.3%	1505	1458	-3.1%	6554	5719	6353	11.1%		15.81:1,000	
1.13	Violent Crimes - Positive Outcome %													10.13%	9.96%	9.75%				
1.14	MARAC cases (High Risk)	732	703	-4.0%	711	732	3.0%	707	744	5.2%	725	734	1.2%	743	725	734	1.2%		42:10,000	44:10,000
1.15	Outreach referral (Medium Risk)	464	424	-8.6%	452	460	1.8%	420	373	-11.2%	386	423	9.6%	1768	1722	1680	-2.4%		4.18:1,000	
1.06	Weapon-related & Assault with Injury Ambulance call-outs																			
1.07	Weapon-related & Assault with Injury attendances at Hospital EDs (Emergency Care Data Set / ISTV, ex “Cardiff Model”)																			
	SEXUAL VIOLENCE																			
1.08	Serious Sexual Offences - BCP Total	332	247	-25.6%	278	271	-2.5%	263	254	-3.4%	252	235	-6.7%	1185	1125	1007	-10.5%		2.51:1,000	
1.09	SSO - not DA, Victim 18 or over	164	89	-45.7%	139	122	-12.2%	125	127	1.6%	100	90	-10.0%	534	528	428	-18.9%		1.06:1,000	
1.10	SSO - DA, Victim 18 or over	55	58	5.5%	44	69	56.8%	44	48	9.1%	56	63	12.5%	249	199	238	19.6%		0.59:1,000	
1.11	SSO - Victim aged 17 or under	104	95	-8.7%	82	69	-15.9%	89	74	-16.9%	92	76	-17.4%	370	367	314	-14.4%		0.78:1,000	

☞ Note the 19.6% increase in recorded Serious Sexual Offences, victim aged 18 or over, where the offence is flagged as Domestic Abuse related, compared with an 18.9% decrease in the corresponding figure for offences that are not recorded as DA related (overall, there was a 10% decrease in total SSOs, of all types, in BCP).

☞ Extensive analysis was completed for the Q3 Domestic Abuse Strategic Group Data Update (circulated February 2024), concentrating on the increase in DA Violent Crime (then projection: +5.9%, actual outturn +3.8%) / Incidents (projection +15.1%, actual 11.1%) / Stalking with female victim (projection +40%, actual +28.6%) / Sexual Violence (projection +36.1%, actual +19.6%). This concluded that:

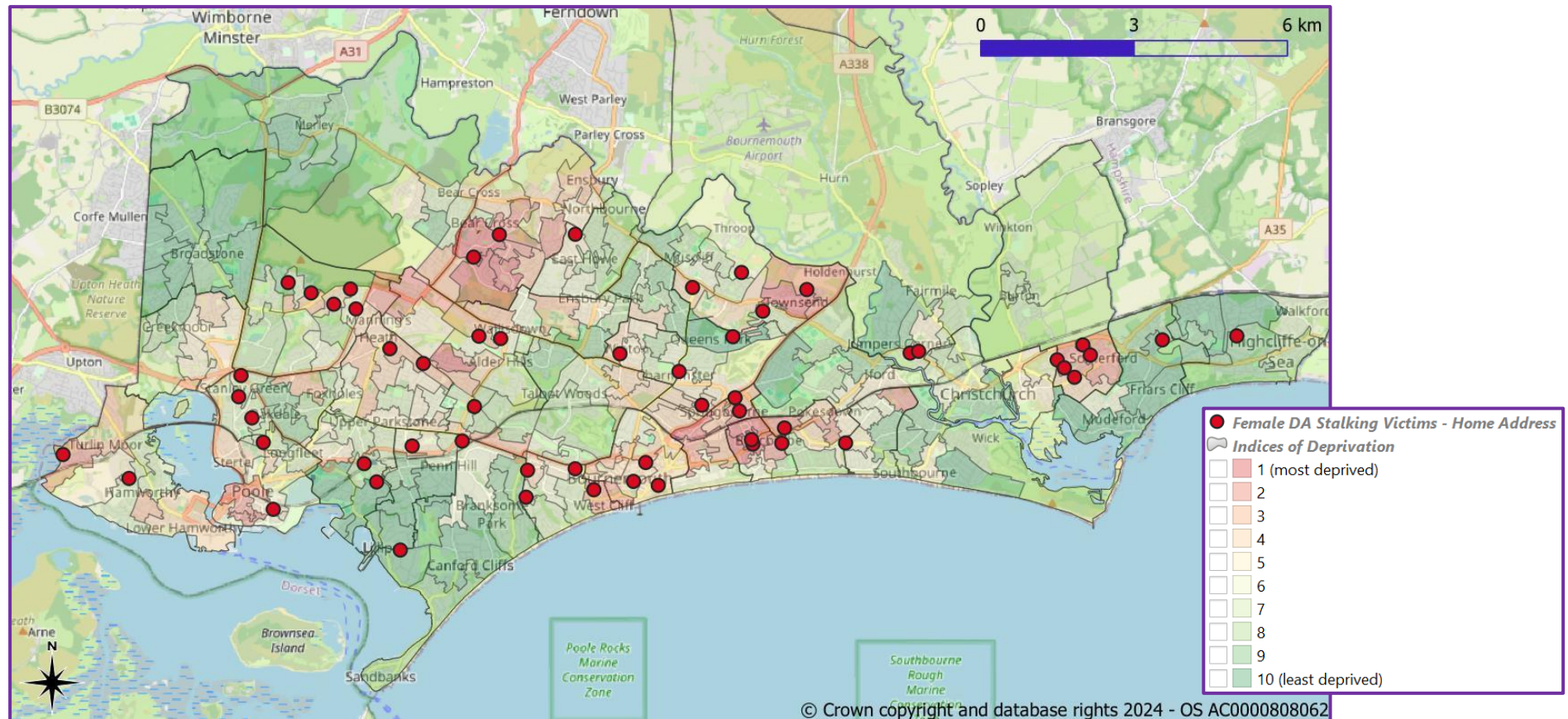
- Assault with Injury offences are not a contributing factor to the increases in DA Violent Crime in the year 2023/24;
- Stalking & Harassment offence trends are the most significant driver of the projected increases in DA Violent Crime, especially where:

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- The relationship between perpetrator and victim is recorded as Spouse / Partner, or ex-Spouse / Partner; and
- The victim is female.

STALKING & HARASSMENT COMMENTARY:

- Average age of female victims of DA flagged recorded Stalking & Harassment crimes: **35**.
- Home addresses of female victims of DA flagged recorded Stalking & Harassment crimes:



- ☞ This plot is noteworthy in that the pattern is “unusual”: it is starting to diverge from the distribution typically evident across multiple crime or ASB types (see map at section 3.2, above), which we see on issues as diverse as Deliberate Fires, DA Violent Crime, and ASB involving catapults or unlicensed motorcycles. (The biggest deviation is DA involving perpetrators aged over 65, the hypothesis to explain this latter distribution is the impact of underlying dementia and associated illness).

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NOTES:

Ref	Measure	NOTES
	VIOLENT CRIME - PUBLIC PLACE	
1.01	Public Place	Most Serious Violence + Assault with Injury (standard CSP data set - as at 04/24 Row 12 plus Row 13, <i>CSP Performance Measures</i>). Definition of “Public Place” = not flagged as Domestic Abuse.
1.12	Positive Outcomes for Violence Against the Person Offences	Metric not yet available.
	DOMESTIC ABUSE	
1.04	Violent Crimes	DVP5 on the standard feed - DV Violent Crime includes Assault, Sexual Assault, and Harassment offences, within the context of Domestic Abuse. Standard CSP data set. Data believed to contain “false positives” that could be as high as 10-14%.
1.05	Incidents	DVP1 on Standard CSP data set. No identified inaccuracies in this data.
1.13	Violent Crimes - Positive Outcome %	DVP5 / DVP7 from Standard CSP data set. Numbers do not yet include DVPO / DVPN.
1.14	MARAC cases (High Risk)	Rates per 10,000 population are from SafeLives.
1.15	Outreach referral (Medium Risk)	In 2022/23 approximately 27% of referrals became service users – 458 out of 1722.
1.06	Weapon-related & Assault with Injury Ambulance call-outs	Monthly feed from SWAST (from December 2023). There are 263 records for the four month period Dec 2023 to March 2024. Unfortunately, in the absence of detailed flagging / categorisation we are unable to differentiate between Domestic Abuse Violent Crime and Public Place Violence (or, indeed, necessarily self inflicted injury and some issues related to Mental Health) in the dataset with sufficient reliability to enable relevant inferences to be drawn. Of the 203 records for ambulance call-outs to non-accidental injuries in the BCP area in 23/24 Q4 where Gender is known, 76 (37.4%) are recorded as involving a female casualty.
1.07	Weapon-related & Assault with Injury attendances at Hospital EDs (Emergency Care Data Set / ISTV, ex “Cardiff Model”)	Metric not yet available.

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	SEXUAL VIOLENCE	
1.08	Serious Sexual Offences - BCP Total	Standard CSP data set.
1.09	SSO - not DA, Victim 18 or over	Standard CSP data set.
1.10	SSO - DA, Victim 18 or over	Standard CSP data set.
1.11	SSO - Victim aged 17 or under	Standard CSP data set.

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4.2. Priority 3 - Work with communities to deal with antisocial behaviour (ASB) and crime hotspots, including ASB linked to substance misuse:

REF		Q1			Q2			Q3			Q4			Year		Projection- ACTUAL		Trend	Rate per x Population	
		22/23	23/24	+ / - %	22/23	23/24	+ / - %	22/23	23/24	+ / - %	22/23	23/24	+ / - %	21/22	22/23	23/24	+ / - %		BCP	England & Wales
ANTI SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR																				
3.01	ASB reports to Police - Total	3,398	2,770	-18.5%	3,310	2745	-17.1%	2141	2106	-1.6%	2103	2105	0.1%	12,440	10,949	9726	-11.2%	<div></div>	24.20:1000	17.32:1,000
3.02	New ASB Cases Opened with Council - Total		45		77	45	-41.6%	43	39	-9.3%	31	32	3.2%			161		<div></div>		
3.03	ASB reports to Police - Personal	417	282	-32.4%	394	296	-24.9%	248	245	-1.2%	221	216	-2.3%	1,672	1,280	1039	-18.8%	<div></div>	2.56:1000	
3.04	New ASB Cases Opened with Council - Personal		7		22	13	-40.9%	14	4	-71.4%	4	5	25.0%			29				
3.05	Community Trigger – number of case reviews initiated	1	0		0	3		2	0		0	3		2	3	6				
LEGAL MEASURES AND ENFORCEMENT																				
3.10A	Civil injunctions (ASB) - INTERIM	1	1		1	1		4	0		1	1		8	7	3				
3.10B	Civil injunctions (ASB) - FULL	4	0		4	1		4	2		3	1		8	17	4				
3.12	Community Protection Warning Letters (CPW's)	19	22	15.8%	19	51		31	13		29	7		130	98	93				
3.13	Community Protection Notices (CPN's)	3	3	0.0%	1	2		1	1		7	1		13	12	7				
3.14	Closure Powers	4	3	-25.0%	5	4		2	4		0	1		10	11	12				
PUBLIC HEALTH INDICATORS																				
3.18	Hospital admissions (intentional self-harm)																			
3.17	Hospital admissions (alcohol)													3,115					807:100,000	
3.19	Hospital admissions (substance misuse, 15-24 yrs)													210						
3.20	Drug and Alcohol - Number in Treatment	2,608	2,618	0.4%	2,513	2,678	6.6%	2,527	2,904	14.9%	2,618	2,914	11.3%	2,515	2,618	2914	11.3%	<div></div>	7.25:1,000	
3.16	Alcohol-specific mortality													11.7					14.6:100,000	
3.15	Drug-related deaths											11		43	43	31			8.21:100,000	

☞ Additional information - **Overdose/Near Misses in BCP** – Data supplied by Public Health Dorset (information gathered is based on self-reporting and reports via other agencies – mostly drug and alcohol service staff – therefore there could well be gaps / inaccuracies / under reporting):

- Between January and April 2024 there has been 49 reports of overdose / near miss reported to the DACT;
- March and April saw significant spikes - 39 in total;
- BCP Data capture for 01/03/20224 – 30/04/2024 overdose / near miss reporting:
 - Majority are male;
 - Heroin / suspected heroin overdose in 29 cases;
 - Concentration in the BH1 area (10);
 - Location of incidences = Car parks / open space / public building 15 / Home address 9 / Supported accommodation 9;
 - Naloxone use reported in 25 cases, ambulance attendance in 18, hospital admission in 22.

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
NOTES & OBSERVATIONS:

Ref	Measure	NOTES
	ANTI SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR	
3.01	ASB reports to Police - Total	Standard CSP data set. 2021/22 data not entirely comparable to subsequent years: the measurable COVID-related increase in recorded ASB (at peak about 32% of total ASB was directly related to coronavirus and quarantine breaches) only fell to below 1% in July 2021.
3.02	New ASB Cases Opened with Council - Total	Data from BCP Housing & Communities.
3.03	ASB reports to Police - Personal	Standard CSP data set. 2021/22 data not entirely comparable to subsequent years due to impact of COVID.
3.04	New ASB Cases Opened with Council - Personal	Data from BCP Housing & Communities.
3.05	Community Trigger – number of case reviews initiated	Data from BCP Housing & Communities.
	LEGAL MEASURES AND ENFORCEMENT	
3.10A	Civil injunctions (ASB) - INTERIM	Enforcement data from BCP Housing & Communities.
3.10B	Civil injunctions (ASB) - FULL	Enforcement data from BCP Housing & Communities.
3.12	Community Protection Warning Letters (CPW's)	Enforcement data from BCP Housing & Communities.
3.13	Community Protection Notices (CPN's)	Enforcement data from BCP Housing & Communities.
3.14	Closure Powers	Enforcement data from BCP Housing & Communities.
	PUBLIC HEALTH INDICATORS	
3.18	Hospital admissions (intentional self-harm)	
3.17	Hospital admissions (alcohol)	Rate per Hundred Thousand based on 2021/22 data.
3.19	Hospital admissions (substance misuse, 15-24 yrs)	Rate per Hundred Thousand based on 2021/22 data.
3.20	Drug and Alcohol - Number in Treatment	Based on a rolling year (from local HALO data sourced by PHD – once ratified OHID data may differ) - this is for people aged 18 and over.
3.16	Alcohol-specific mortality	Alcohol mortality data sourced from Alcohol Profile - OHID (phe.org.uk) Rate per Hundred Thousand based on 2021/22 data. "Admissions to hospital for alcohol related conditions are higher in BCP compared to England (890 per 100,000 BCP, 626 England). By age, admissions are higher in young people and adults up to the age of 64, while admissions in older age groups are similar to the England average." ³
3.15	Drug-related deaths	These are figures for calendar years . 2024 figures are suspected drug related deaths – awaiting toxicology, pathology and coroner's conclusions.

³ <https://www.publichealthdorset.org.uk/jsna/needs-assessments-and-related-documents>

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4.3. Priority 4 - Tackle issues relating to violence against women and girls:

		Q1			Q2			Q3			Q4			Year		Projection- ACTUAL		Rate per x Population		
REF		22/23	23/24	+ / - %	22/23	23/24	+ / - %	22/23	23/24	+ / - %	22/23	23/24	+ / - %	21/22	22/23	23/24	+ / - %	Trend	BCP	England & Wales
	VAWG																			
4.01	Rape (Female Victim)	124	86	-30.6%	106	96	-9.4%	91	99	8.8%	118	89	-24.6%	457	439	370	-15.7%		0.92:1,000	
4.02	Stalking & Harassment (not POA) Offences (Female Victim - NOT DA)	165	226	37.0%	148	220	48.6%	193	185	-4.1%	179	162	-9.5%		685	793	15.8%		1.97:1,000	
4.03	Stalking & Harassment (not POA) Offences (Female Victim - DA FLAGGED)	149	195	30.9%	123	188	52.8%	151	206	36.4%	171	175	2.3%	601	594	764	28.6%		1.90:1,000	
4.04	Assaults with Injury (Female Victim)	407	429	5.4%	370	382	3.2%	340	382	12.4%	380	366	-3.7%	1,393	1,497	1,559	4.1%		3.88:1,000	

NOTES & OBSERVATIONS:

Ref	Measure	NOTES
	VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN AND GIRLS	
4.01	Rape (Female Victim)	<p>Standard SV CSP data set. This is Police recorded crime data. Home Office multipliers attempt to estimate the degree of under-reporting of violence in our communities – these vary from about 1:1 for the most serious violence (homicide and serious wounding), meaning that there is negligible under recording of this type of crime; through to 3.4:1 for Rape (in other words, best available estimates suggest that less than 30% of rapes are reported to Police), and 16.5:1 for other Sexual Offences.</p> <p>This therefore makes it impossible to apportion increases / decreases in the recorded number between those driven by a) changes in the underlying actual rate; and b) small changes in the proportion of underlying actual crimes that are reported to Police.</p> <p>Work at the tactical level has identified specific problem locations and issues – such as alcohol and consent in student accommodation – enabling targeted interventions and initiatives.</p>
4.02	Stalking & Harassment (not Public Order Act) Offences (Female Victim - **NOT DA FLAGGED**)	Data compiled by Analyst. POLE Alert 4.02.
4.03	Stalking & Harassment (not POA) Offences (Female Victim - DA FLAGGED)	Data compiled by Analyst. POLE Alert 4.03.
4.04	Assaults with Injury (Female Victim)	BCP Data compiled by Analyst. POLE Alert 4.04.

END OF REPORT

Appendix D- Community Safety Partnership 2024 Updates

1. Priority: Tackle violent crime in all its forms

Domestic Abuse

Domestic Abuse drop-ins for male victims

Posters were delivered to businesses in and around Boscombe shopping centre/Highstreet, promoting a new BCHA drop-in for male victims of domestic abuse. Boscombe was identified as a priority area due to hot spot mapping of domestic abuse data.

Domestic Abuse Support posters for children and young people

A poster was created showing the support available locally for children and young people affected by domestic abuse.



Domestic abuse
support for children a

Domestic Abuse Support posters for hospitals and GPs

A new updated poster was created with graphic design, detailing the support available locally for people experiencing domestic abuse. These are aimed at healthcare settings and have been sent digitally to GP surgeries in the BCP area, and we are aiming to have these displayed in hospitals.



da gp poster.pdf



da hospital poster.pdf

Domestic Abuse Professionals Forums

Domestic abuse forums have taken place regularly throughout the year on a variety of sessions on various sexual violence topics during sexual violence awareness week and also an online session focussing on stalking behaviour.

Domestic Abuse Forum for Professionals (Children & Young People)

The Domestic Abuse Forum for Professionals focused on “Children and Young People as Victims of Domestic Abuse” and was delivered as an online webinar via Microsoft Teams drawing substantial attendance. This timely discussion emphasised the recognition of children as independent victims entitled to specialised support. The event showcased the services and support available tailored to children and young people affected by domestic abuse in Bournemouth, Christchurch, and Poole. Coordinated by BCHA and BCP Council, the forum significantly expanded the distribution list, fostering increased collaboration and awareness among professionals in the field.

Children's Pathway to Domestic Abuse Services

The Children's Pathway to Services, available through BCP Council's Family Hubs and detailed on the Online Family Hub platform provides both in-person and virtual support for parents, carers, and young people. Covering stages from infancy through young adulthood, the pathway offers a range of programs that build parenting skills, foster resilience and support healthy family relationships. Each programme includes home learning elements to reinforce skills, while digital resources provide additional activities for home use. Access begins with a support request which is reviewed by the Family Hub team for eligibility, ensuring the right level of support for each family.

Lived Experience Group

We have established a domestic abuse lived experience group for women who have been affected by domestic abuse.

Domestic Abuse Lived Experience Survey & Interviews

The Lived Experience Survey and Extended Interviews conducted by BCP Council aimed to capture insights from a wide range of perspectives on domestic abuse. This research involved victims and survivors, perpetrators, domestic abuse professionals, and members of the public all sharing their firsthand experiences and viewpoints. By engaging directly with these groups, BCP gathered valuable data on the realities of domestic abuse, including the challenges faced, barriers to seeking help, and the effectiveness of current support services. This feedback is instrumental in shaping future policies, strategies and improving resources, ensuring that services are responsive, inclusive, and aligned with the real needs of the community.

Knife Crime

Knife Crime Awareness Campaign

We organised and ran a Knife Crime Awareness campaign which saw events in the Spring/Summer as well as across the September university 'Freshers' period. Events included webinars from the Ben Kinsella Trust, community engagement sessions and more.

[Knife Crime Awareness - Working in Partnership](#)

Knife Crime Awareness Period

We attended and supported an AFC Bournemouth event for local year 9 students, where they watched Vita Nova's educational play 'The Wasp's Nest' and participated in talks and interactive workshops around knife crime. The student's thoughts and feedback from this event were collated and used to create educational posters around knife crime.

The team also attended drop ins at Bournemouth Library, Bournemouth and Poole College, Art University Bournemouth, Bournemouth Hospital, and Bourne Free.



How Can YP Make Things Change poster



who to talk to knife crime poster.pdf

Knife Crime Awareness Campaign – in-person events

As part of BCP Council's #LivesBeforeKnives #ChangesAreMade knife crime awareness campaign, staff attended four in-person events to engage the public on the risks of knife crime. At Poole College, the event was highly successful due to the strategic location and the presence of a victim's relative which encouraged meaningful conversations with students. However, events at Asda and Tesco were less effective, as shoppers were often too preoccupied to engage, suggesting that these locations may not be ideal for future awareness efforts. At the BU Freshers Fair, while engagement was initially limited, approaching students in queues proved beneficial, highlighting the value of interactive strategies and small incentives to attract attention. Overall, the evaluation indicates that targeted venues and engaging strategies, like interactive stands and giveaways, may enhance future campaign effectiveness.

Sexual Offences

Supporting young people with pornography addiction

An information sheet was created and shared with relevant professionals on specialist organisations who can assist with supporting young people who have a pornography addiction.



Supporting Young People with Pornogra

Sexual Violence Awareness Week – (sexual offences, VAWG)

We held a week of events raising awareness of sexual violence. The week commenced with the Catcalls of BCP 'Chalkback' campaign where members of the Youth Forum and Youth Parliament chalked young people's experiences of street harassment on the pavement in Poole Town Centre and Poole Park. This received a lot of engagement and positive interactions from the public.

Several training sessions for professionals were held on topics including supporting young people who sexually harm (with Circles South West), healthy masculinity (with Progressive Masculinity) and a Domestic Abuse professionals forum which hosted a range of short talks. There was also a healthy masculinity webinar for parents (with Progressive Masculinity) and a community engagement session.

Work has commenced to plan Sexual Violence Awareness Week 2025.

[Stopping sexual violence | BCP](#)

Seafront Posters

Work was undertaken with the Shores, a specialist service which supports individuals who have been a victim of sexual assaults or rape to create a poster outlining what to do if someone discloses that they have been a victim of sexual assault. These posters were designed for staff at seafront businesses and direct to the Shores SARC helpline if advice is needed. After completion, the Shores were able to complete a leaflet drop to hand these out to businesses and are continuing to use.



Seafront Poster.pdf

Sexual Assaults in Student Accommodation

During a review of university accommodation in Bournemouth which was conducted as part of BCP Council's Violence Against Women and Girls initiative, we examined recent data on sexual assaults and conducted security assessments at selected sites.

We visited seven sites, focusing on security and procedural practices. Overall, the premises demonstrated strong physical security measures, robust policies on visitor access and proactive mental health and safety training for staff. Most properties have established mental health support and training on recognising students in crisis. Regular monthly meetings between providers helped facilitate information sharing with an open invitation for the University Liaison Police Officer Paul McKenna to participate.

2. Priority 2: Keep young people and adults-at-risk safe from exploitation, including online risks

County Lines and child exploitation resources

Information sheets were created which list local, national and online resources that offer guidance on supporting children and young people at risk of exploitation.

Resources for parents of children at risk of exploitation were also added to the Safer BCP website and listed in an info sheet.



County%20Lines%20 Parental%20support
and%20Child%20Expl %20for%20parents%

Keeping Safe event

We held a keeping Safe event for adults and young people with learning disabilities in November which included a range of talks and interactive stalls from local agencies including a fire engine drop in and police drone flight. The event has been organised with input from the OPCC, People First Forum and Parent Carer's Together.



Keeping Safe
poster.pdf

Online Misinformation posters

Two posters were created which signpost to resources on critical thinking and how to spot online misinformation. The young people's version was sent out to schools and a second version contains resources for adults was circulated to colleagues for circulation.



Online



Online

Misinformation - genMisinformation schoc

#LookCloser

[#LookCloser](#) is a campaign against child criminal and sexual exploitation that is run by the Children's Society. For the early 2024 campaign, a community engagement event/drop-in was held alongside the ASB team and a PSCO.

Safer Internet Day

Three public webinars were held on Safer Internet Day, these were Cyber Awareness (Dorset Police cyber team), Healthy Masculinity and Online Harms for parents (Progressive Masculinity – cross-over event with Sexual Violence Awareness Week), and Online Safety for Parents (Safer Schools team).

A 'Top Tips for Staying Safe Online' poster and an easy-read version were made digitally available via the Safer BCP websites and sent out to libraries.

Work has commenced to plan Safer Internet Day 2025.

[BCP0690 Safer internet top tips A3 print no crops](#)

[Stay Safe Online](#) (easy-read)

Cuckooing Survey

This project aims to identify and support vulnerable individuals at risk of cuckooing - a situation where criminals exploit a person's home for illegal activities. The project involves collaborating with housing providers, Adult Social Care, Anti-Social Behaviour teams and other stakeholders to understand the current landscape, identify gaps and enhance support systems. A survey has been developed to assess stakeholders' awareness of cuckooing, their methods for identifying it, and any additional training needs to improve intervention and protection efforts.

Briefing Paper on Child Sexual Exploitation – Hotels/Taxis

This briefing paper guides staff in hotels, other accommodation providers and taxi companies on recognising and responding to signs of Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE). It emphasises the duty of these businesses to safeguard minors and outlines

the legal responsibilities under the Licensing Act 2003 and the Anti-Social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014, which require vigilance and compliance to avoid serious penalties. Key resources provided include handbooks, posters and other online materials, all aimed at educating staff to spot and report indications of exploitation. Training opportunities, like The Children's Society's #LookCloser campaign further support staff in identifying and addressing CSE risks, underlining the essential role of these sectors in protecting young people.

Prevent Week of Action 2024

During the Pan-Dorset Prevent Partnership Board's Week of Action (7th-11th October), a series of online sessions were held aimed at improving the quality of Prevent referrals by enhancing awareness, skills, and confidence among professionals in identifying radicalisation risks. Key sessions focused on understanding extremist symbols, responding to potential terrorist threats, and navigating the Prevent referral pathway, with high engagement and satisfaction ratings across the board. The sessions were successful in increasing confidence levels and practical abilities, particularly in the CTLP Briefing and Referral Pathway sessions, where nearly all participants felt more capable in making detailed, high-quality referrals. Feedback highlighted the need for further training in multi-agency collaboration and best practices for referral writing to strengthen future referral quality. Overall, the initiative laid a strong foundation for continued improvements in Prevent referral processes in the region.

Priority 3: Tackle issues relating to Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG)

The BCP Unity Promise

The Unity Promise is a community lead initiative supported by BCP Council and Dorset Police. It sets a unified stance on the safety of women and girls. Essentially, it is a toolkit containing practical steps for venues, services, operators and businesses to help make BCP a great place for women and girls. The establishment of BCP Unity Promise was funded by Safer Streets round 5. This enabled us to produce our own charter with logos and illustrations, launch in Bournemouth Town Centre and fund the creation and delivery of the Unity Promise training. Currently, the group are planning their January-April 2025 schedule and will roll out the programme beyond Bournemouth to Christchurch and Poole.

[BCP Unity Promise](#)

Love Grace

The [Love Grace](#) handbag appeal was set up by the family of Grace Millane to support women who have experienced domestic violence. This appeal involves donations of handbags, which are filled with a range of practical items (toiletries, tissues, plasters, hairbrush) and small luxuries (scarves, makeup, notebooks, hair accessories). As there were no donation points locally, three donation points have been agreed in the BCP area. A social media appeal is set to launch on 6th December with the help of volunteers to transport the donations to relevant agencies.

Safer Streets Round 5 (SSR5) Funded Projects

Horseshoe Common CCTV

Funding for the last financial year covered the new West Cliff CCTV and this financial year covered Horseshoe Common. A total of 6 cameras have been installed at Horseshoe Common. 2 of the cameras are Pan-Tilt-Zoom (PTZ) cameras and 4 are static. They are now being monitored by the BCP CCTV hub.

Consent Worker

A Consent worker through STARS who works across schools and universities in BCP has been funded through SS5 funding.

Harmful Sexual Behaviour Worker

SSR5 funding was used to fund this post through STARS and work has begun this year on working towards a framework for Harmful Sexual Behaviour that can be used across BCP, which is something we currently don't have.

Community Guardianship Scheme

At present, SSR5 money is paying for two security staff, one female and one male, to patrol the top end of Bournemouth Town Centre on a Friday and Saturday night. We have recently launched our volunteer campaign to hire and train volunteers under the Police volunteer scheme to ensure sustainability of the patrols in the future beyond the current funding. It is hoped Volunteers will start their training in the New Year and be in post by Spring 2025. This scheme is designed to work alongside policing and other town centre safety initiatives such as the Safe Places scheme and the Unity Promise, where the community provide care to those who may be more vulnerable on a night out in Bournemouth.

Cross Cutting Projects

Safe Places

Work is ongoing with People First Forum to expand the existing Safe Places scheme for people with learning disabilities to open it up to anyone who needs it. We are currently working on a leaflet drop to recruit new businesses to the scheme around Bournemouth gardens and seafront.



Safe Places Scheme
leaflet.pdf

Pulse Smart Hubs

As part of the Serious Violence Delivery Group's efforts to address knife crime we identified an opportunity to install and equip Pulse Smart Hubs with bleed control kits, making them accessible to the public in emergencies. Currently, these hubs

house defibrillators, and expanding their use to include bleed kits could enhance public safety. The Pulse team presented this proposal to the Community Safety Partnership (CSP) Executive who support the rollout of these upgraded Smart Hubs across Bournemouth, Christchurch, and Poole.

Safer BCP website updates

There is lots of work ongoing to update and re-organise the Safer BCP website. This includes the addition of a 'County Lines and Child Exploitation' page and a general 'Resources' page containing a range of safety information. There have also been additional easy-read resources added to the Learning Disability Partnership pages.

We have also updated content for the BCP Council website and staff intranet on domestic abuse and Prevent.

[County Lines and reporting child exploitation](#)

[Resources](#)

[Learning Disability Partnerships Keeping Safe information](#)

Victims' Measures in the Victims and Prisoners Bill 2024

As part of an analysis of the Victims and Prisoners Bill 2024, a report was produced focusing on the Bill's impact on BCP Council's responsibilities towards supporting victims of crime. The Bill introduces several key obligations for the Council, including the joint commissioning of victim support services alongside Police and Crime Commissioners (PCCs) and Integrated Care Boards (ICBs), promoting awareness of the Victims' Code, and enhancing collaboration and data-sharing efforts with criminal justice bodies. The Council will also be required to offer targeted support for vulnerable groups, such as children affected by domestic abuse and families impacted by crime. Additionally, the Bill mandates public reporting on compliance with victim support standards, ensuring greater transparency and accountability. Overall, the Bill aims to strengthen BCP Council's role in safeguarding victims' rights and improving support services across the local area.

Analytical Team's work

Reductions in ASB incidents and SV occurrences

The purpose of the data analysis provided for Partnership Co-ordinating Group (PCG) meetings is to help reduce ASB incidents and SV occurrences in the BCP area by identifying key trends, themes, and patterns. This analysis supports decision making by highlighting and monitoring incident hotspots, facilitating timely interventions to prevent or reduce incidents and enhance community safety. The PCG is therefore better informed to implement strategies that address the needs of the BCP community.

Antisocial Behaviour (ASB)

The analyst's work has identified specific locations and themes requiring strategic attention to reduce ASB incidents through detailed analysis and regular reporting to the PCG meetings.

For instance, in October 2024, ASB incidents decreased to 704 from 859 in October 2023, showing a 18% reduction.

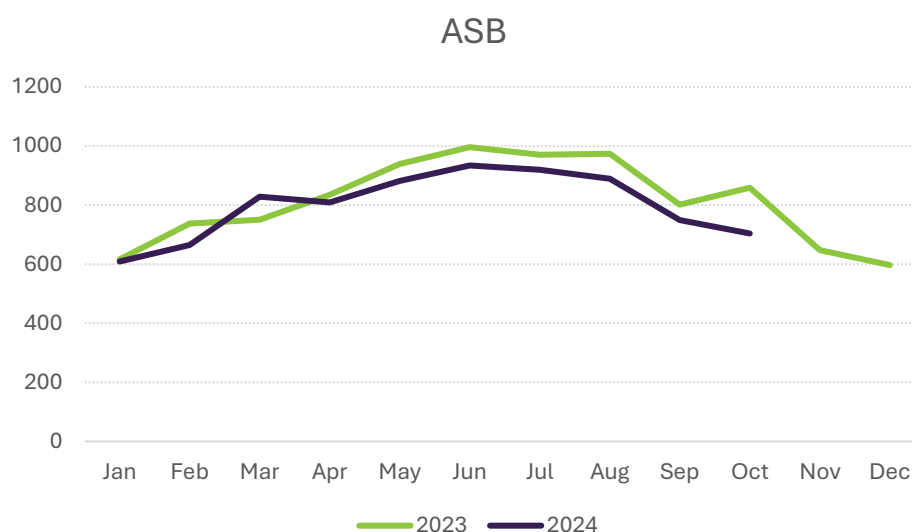


Figure 1: ASB incidents in BCP area. From Jan 23 to Oct 24

Antisocial Behaviour (ASB) involving drugs¹

The development of analytical formulae has enabled the CSP to identify and address 'ASB involving drugs' incidents. By analysing data patterns, a spike in August was identified and responded to promptly, resulting in reductions of these incidents from 140 cases in August 2024, to 91 in October 2024, showing a decrease of 35%.

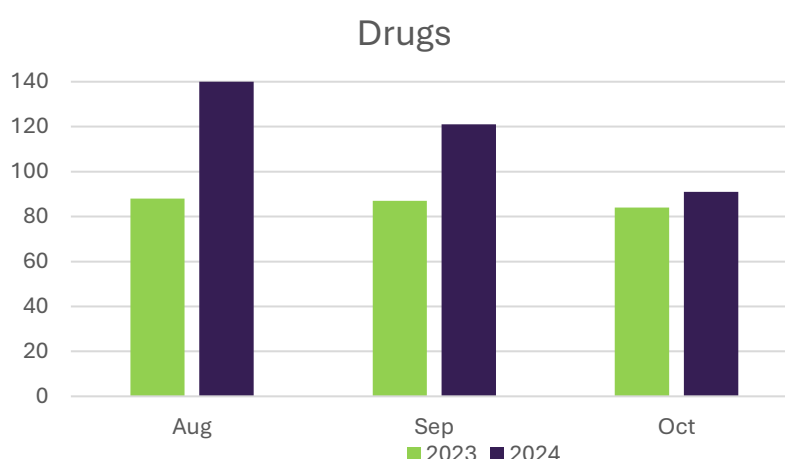


Figure 2: ASB incidents involving drugs in BCP area. (Aug, Sept, Oct, 2023-24)

¹ Extracted from system STORM data using keywords such as 'drug,' 'dealer,' 'cocaine,' etc., in Incident Text. Accuracy may vary depending on the precision of the incident text notes.

Antisocial Behaviour (ASB) involving homelessness²

The data also revealed a trend of ASB incidents involving homelessness. With focused monitoring and intervention, the PCG successfully decreased such incidents, showing a year-on-year improvement. For example, ASB incidents related to homelessness dropped from 61 cases in July 2023 to 23 in October 2024, a decrease of 62%.

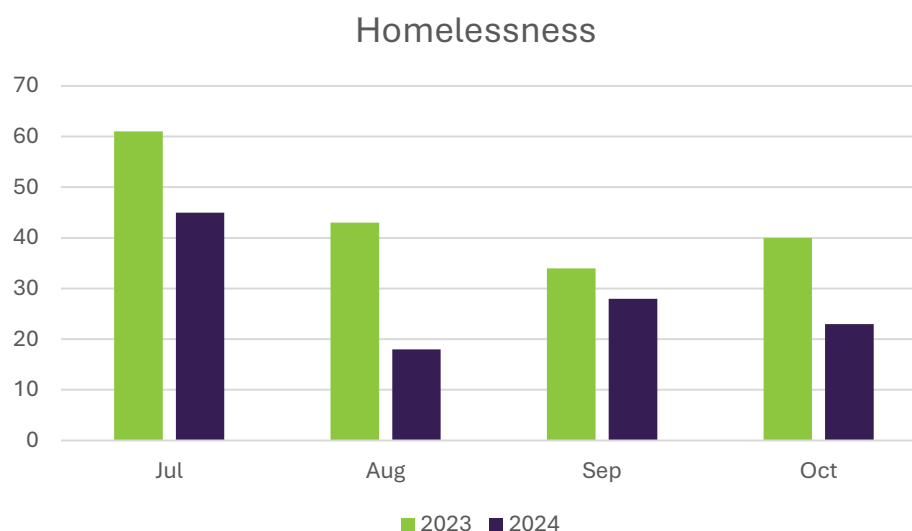


Figure 3. ASB incidents involving homelessness in BCP area. (July, Aug, Sept, Oct, 2023-24)

Antisocial Behaviour (ASB) involving buses³

The CSP has created formulae to detect ASB incidents related to buses. Monthly monitoring and reporting on specific cases have helped reduce the occurrences of such incidents consistently since February 2024, particularly in Poole Town area.

² Extracted from system STORM data using keywords such as 'beg,' 'vagrant,' 'homeless,' etc., in Incident Text. Accuracy may vary depending on the precision of the incident text notes.

³ Extracted from system STORM data using keywords such as 'bus,' 'bus ,' 'passenger,' etc., in Incident Text. Accuracy may vary depending on the precision of the incident text notes.

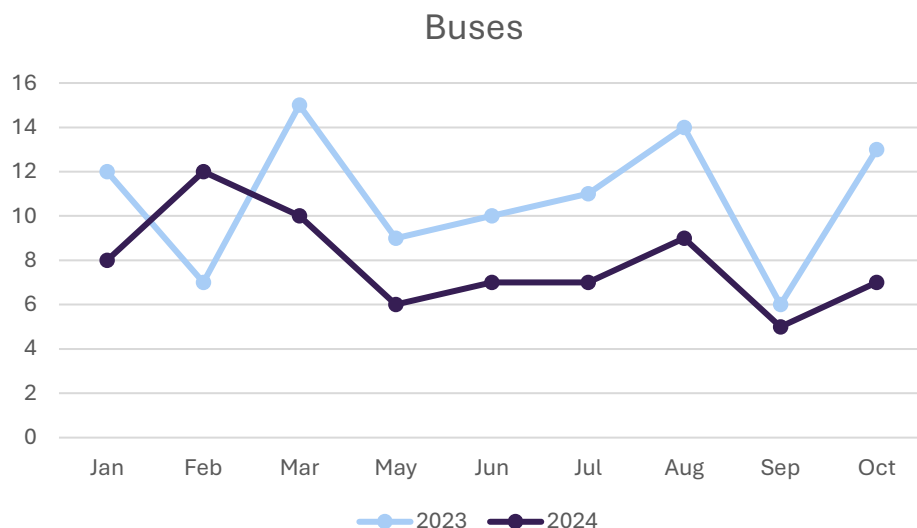


Figure 4. ASB incidents involving buses in BCP area. From Jan 23 to Oct 24

Serious Violence (SV) categorised as Sexual Assault⁴

In August 2024, a significant spike was noticed in the number of Serious Violence incidents categorised as Sexual Assault in Central Bournemouth, specifically around Pier approach. Immediate action was taken which has contributed to a sharp decrease of such incidents in this particular area. As shown in the following graph, Serious Violence incidents categorised as Sexual Assault in Central Bournemouth have decreased significantly, from 14 cases in October 2023, down to 5 cases in October 2024.

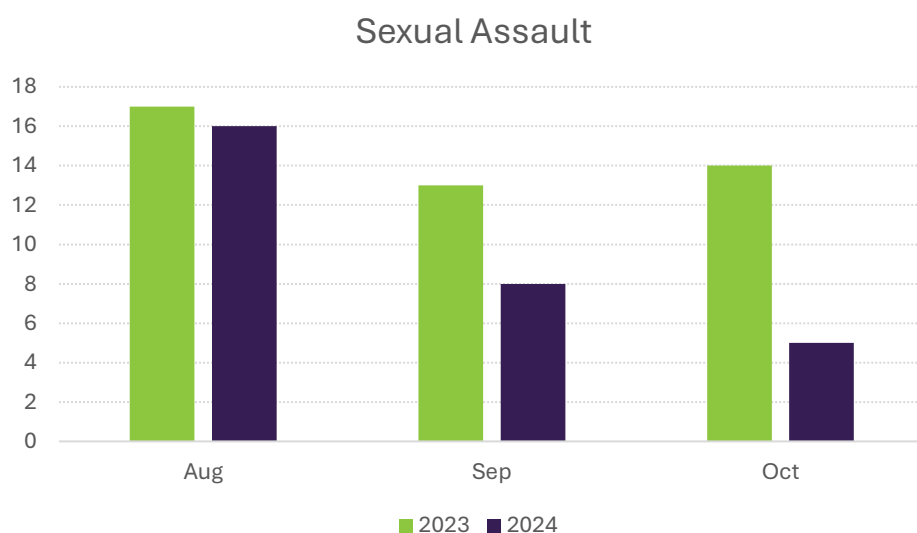


Figure 5. SV occurrences categorised as Sexual Assault in Central Bournemouth (CBAA) area. (Aug, Sept, Oct, 2023-24)

Serious Violence (SV) categorised as Robberies (Personal)

The number of robberies occurrences has remained lower than in the previous year for the last three months. For example, from 25 cases involving Robberies (Personal) in 2023 to 18 in 2024, marking a 28% decrease.

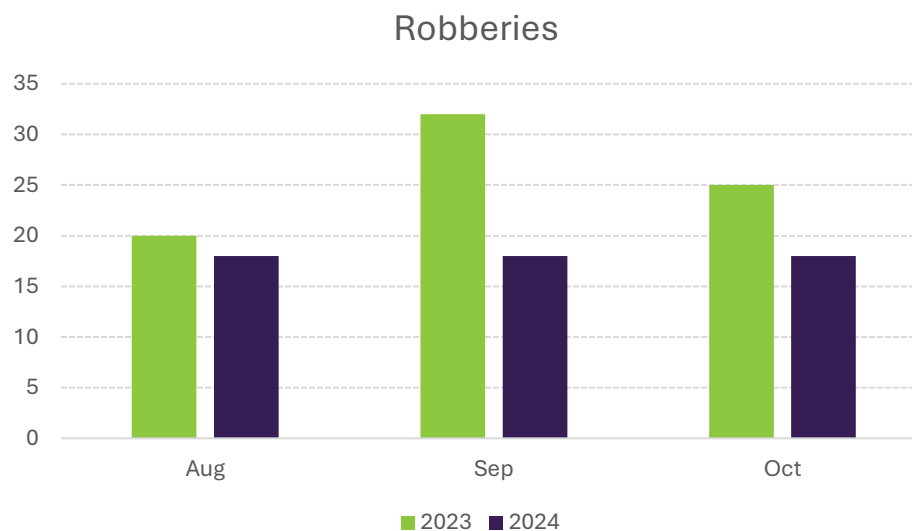


Figure 6. SV occurrences categorised as Robberies (Personal) in BCP area. (Aug, Sept, Oct, 2023-24)

Through data driven insights and targeted actions, the CSP has contributed to the progress in reducing specific types of incidents in BCP, enhancing safety in the community.

OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY BOARD



Report subject	Devolution
Meeting date	6 January 2025
Status	Public Report
Executive summary	<p>HM Government requested the Council return an expression of interest pro-forma in September, stating its devolution preferences. This matter was debated at this Board in September 2024, considering the options set out by the Chief Executive. Subsequently, a response was submitted expressing the Council's preference for devolution on a BCP-only geography.</p> <p>On 16 December, Government released its Devolution White Paper which sets out some new parameters, building on the previous framework, with the aims of working at a larger scale, bringing consistent governance to the devolution process and bringing into law the creation of Statutory Authorities.</p> <p>Those councils leading the Heart of Wessex proposal have stated they would opt to set up a mayoral model, which has raised their profile with Government, offering the chance to be part of the new "Devolution Priority Programme". BCP Council has been invited to join the Heart of Wessex configuration and the proposed Mayoral Statutory Authority. This report sets out this context in more detail for members to consider the situation and recommend a way forward.</p>
Recommendations	<p>It is RECOMMENDED that:</p> <p>Overview and Scrutiny board considers the changed circumstances and recommends that BCP Council considers the invitation to join the Heart of Wessex devolution proposal</p>
Reason for recommendations	<p>By joining this arrangement as it is forming, it provides the opportunity to ensure the urban needs of Bournemouth Christchurch and Poole are fully part of a devolution proposal that is likely to otherwise be focused on the needs of a largely rural area. There is unlikely to be an alternative option, and with Government creating the powers to facilitate devolution where it isn't happening, we are likely to be encouraged to join at a later stage but miss the opportunity to shape the proposal.</p>

Portfolio Holder(s):	Councillor Millie Earl, Leader of the Council
Corporate Director	Graham Farrant, Chief Executive
Report Authors	Chris Shephard, Head of Operations Strategy & Partnerships
Wards	Council-wide
Classification	For Recommendation

Background

1. HM Government requested that the Council return an expression of interest pro-forma by the end of September 2024, stating its devolution preferences. This matter was debated at this [Board](#) (2:30.11) in September 2024, considering the geographic options set out by the Chief Executive. Subsequently, a response was submitted expressing the Council's preference for devolution on a BCP-only geography.
2. On 16 December, as expected, Government released its [Devolution White Paper](#).
3. The White Paper sets out some new parameters building on the previous framework, with the aim of working at a larger scale of a population of 1.5m+, bringing consistent governance to the devolution process by standardising the options and bringing into law the creation of Statutory Authorities.
4. Some further key messages from the white paper are:
 - The Government aims to achieve universal coverage of Strategic Authorities across England and will avoid creating "devolution islands"
 - Doing "devolution by default" will end the deals-based approach
 - Powers will be standardised, and a menu of options will be offered to Statutory Authorities.
 - Voting will be simplified to "get things done"
 - Integrated Settlements will be provided to fund local priorities
 - The powers that Government intends to devolve to Strategic Authorities including those for Transport, Skills and Employment Support, Housing and Planning, Environment and Climate Change, Supporting Businesses and Research, and Reforming and Joining Up Public Services.
5. Additionally, between the original Expressions of Interest being submitted and the release of the White Paper, it became clear that those leading the Heart of Wessex proposal (Wiltshire, Somerset and Dorset Councils) stated to Government that they would support a Mayoral Strategic Authority, which raised their profile in advance of the White Paper being released, and raised the possibility of being in the next wave of deals to be agreed, as a priority area.
6. In the White Paper, Government stated that it will invite to join its Devolution Priority Programme:

“Certain places that are able to come together under sensible geographies which meet the criteria, and where they are ready to achieve mayoral devolution at pace. This programme will aim to deliver institutions and have Mayors elected in the May 2026 elections and provide certain places with the full backing of government to deliver to these ambitious timescales. Places will be able to further strengthen their voices and agency in deciding what is right for their areas, including accessing the new powers in our revised Devolution Framework and ultimately taking their seat at the Council of the Nations and Regions”

7. It is likely that the partners in the Heart of Wessex proposal will be invited to join this programme. Government is likely to announce the list of places in January, having indicated that it wishes to receive initial expressions of interest in forming a Mayoral Strategic Authority by 10 January 2025. MHCLG Civil Servants have confirmed the timescale and have supported BCP Council joining the Heart of Wessex partnership to avoid creating a devolution island.
8. There is an opportunity for BCP Council to join the Heart of Wessex configuration, and therefore the Devolution Priority Programme.
9. Should members agree with this approach, it is recommended that consideration is given to what resources will be required, especially to develop and agree what the Council's asks and offers should be, and to ensure residents are properly consulted within what is a tight timeframe.

Options Appraisal

10. To accept the invitation to join the Heart of Wessex devolution proposal, and all that comes with it including being part of the Government's Devolution Priority Programme. This will enable BCP Council to help shape and develop the proposal and ensure the urban needs of Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole are fully part of it.
11. To not accept the invitation, and potentially miss out on the opportunity to shape the proposal from an early stage, and the opportunity to work with Government as a priority area. If the Council does not join the Heart of Wessex partnership, consideration will need to be given to what alternative arrangements might be available given the government's stated intention to create Strategic Authorities covering the whole of England and the need to avoid creating devolution islands.
12. To assist the Board in considering the options, a presentation will be made to the Board meeting on 6 January, to enable councillors to properly consider the options in order to make an appropriate recommendation to the Leader of the Council.

Summary of financial implications

13. There are no financial implications of this report, however, consideration will need to be given to any future possible implications as things progress.

Summary of legal implications

14. There are no legal implications of this report, however consideration will need to be given to any future possible implications, especially in relation to the constitution and democratic process, as things progress.

Summary of human resources implications

15. Sufficient resource will need to be identified to carry out this work, should the recommendation be approved.

Summary of sustainability impact

16. There are no sustainability impacts of this report, however, there is the opportunity to help deliver our net zero ambitions through this process if the recommendation is approved.

Summary of public health implications

17. There are no direct public health implications of this report, however consideration will need to be given to any future implications as things progress.

Summary of equality implications

18. There are no direct equality implications of this report, however should Members approve the recommendation, equality impact assessments will need to be undertaken as part of the process the Council will be involved in.

Summary of risk assessment

19. The risk to the Council of approving the recommendation is low on the basis appropriate mitigations are put in place.

Background papers

20. None

Appendices

21. None

OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY BOARD



Report subject	Work Plan
Meeting date	6 January 2025
Status	Public Report
Executive summary	The Overview and Scrutiny (O&S) Board is asked to consider and identify work priorities for publication in a Work Plan.
Recommendations	It is RECOMMENDED that: the O&S Board review, update and confirm its Work Plan.
Reason for recommendations	The Council's Constitution requires all Overview and Scrutiny Committees to set out proposed work in a Work Plan which will be published with each agenda

Portfolio Holder(s):	N/A – O&S is a non-executive function
Corporate Director	Graham Farrant, Chief Executive
Report Authors	Lindsay Marshall, Overview and Scrutiny Specialist
Wards	Council-wide
Classification	For Decision

Background –

1. All Overview and Scrutiny (O&S) bodies are required by the Constitution to consider work priorities and set these out in a Work Plan. When approved, this should be published with each agenda.
2. It is good practice for the Work Plan to be kept under regular review by the Board. Between meetings O&S Chairs and Vice Chairs, in consultation with officers, suggest updates to the work plan to ensure proposed topics remain timely, fit for purpose and allow sufficient time for report preparation as appropriate. The Board is now asked to review, update and/ or confirm the latest work plan update. See the Work Plan attached at Appendix B to this report.
3. The current work plan is based on annual work programming activity undertaken by the Board in Winter 2023. Through this work, which was supported by the Centre for Governance and Scrutiny (CfGS), the Board agreed a [framework](#) which outlines how scrutiny work will be selected and approached. This is based on good practice. The framework outlines that scrutiny work will be divided into three categories of:
 - Proactive scrutiny
 - Reactive scrutiny
 - Pre-decision scrutiny.

Information only items should be received in other ways, reserving committee and working group capacity for value-added scrutiny. The Board's current work plan is structured to reflect this.

4. O&S statutory guidance recommends that a 'lens' or key set of priorities be established by O&S committees, to clearly communicate their role and how they will add value to the work of the organisation. The statements also clarify the role of the committee to the public. Through annual work programming activity, the Board agreed the following lens and supporting statement:

The **O&S Board** will approach work through a lens of **RESIDENT IMPACT AND EXPERIENCE**, such as considering:

- benefits that could be brought to residents by **delivering services** in different ways
- how the areas of highest **financial risk** for the council may impact on residents
- the council's **relationship with the public** and work that can be done to strengthen this.

5. Established lenses provide a tool to assist O&S members in work programming, to sift suggestions for work into a realistic annual work programme for each committee and to provide an angle by which to approach scrutiny topics. The lens should be referred to throughout the year as arising suggestions for work are made. The establishment of a lens does not preclude the Board from using the full extent of its scrutiny powers where appropriate.

Principles of Good Scrutiny

6. The Constitution requires that the Work Plan of O&S committees shall consist of work aligned to the principles of the function. The BCP Council O&S function is based upon six principles:
 - Contributes to sound decision making in a timely way by holding decision makers to account as a 'critical friend';
 - A member led and owned function – seeks to continuously improve through self-reflection and development;
 - Enables the voice and concerns of the public to be heard and reflected in the Council's decision-making process;
 - Engages in decision making and policy development at an appropriate time to be able to have influence;
 - Contributes to and reflects the vision and priorities of the Council;
 - Agility – able to respond to changing and emerging priorities at the right time with flexible working methods.

Process for agreeing Work Plan items

7. An O&S committee may take suggestions from a variety of sources to form its Work Plan. This may include suggestions from members of the public, officers of the Council, Portfolio Holders, the Cabinet and Council, members of the O&S Committee, and other Councillors who are not on the Committee.
8. The Constitution requires that all suggestions for O&S work will be accompanied by detail outlining the background to the issue suggested, the proposed method of undertaking the work and likely timescale associated, and the anticipated outcome and value to be added by the work proposed. No item of work shall join the Work Plan of the O&S Committee without an assessment of this information.
9. Any councillor may request that an item of business be considered by an O&S Committee. Councillors are asked to complete a form outlining the request, which is appended to this report at Appendix C. The same process will apply to requests for scrutiny from members of the public.
10. A copy of the most recent Cabinet Forward Plan will be supplied to O&S Committees at each meeting for reference when determining items of pre-decision scrutiny. The latest version is supplied as Appendix D to this report.

Resources to support O&S work

11. The Constitution requires that the O&S Committees take into account the resources available to support their proposals for O&S work. This includes consideration of councillor availability, officer time and financial resources. Careful and regular assessment of resources will ensure that there is appropriate resource available to support work across the whole O&S function, and that any work established can be carried out in sufficient depth and completed in a timely way to enable effective outcomes.

12. It is good practice for O&S Committees to agree a maximum of two/ three substantive agenda items per meeting. This will provide sufficient time for Committees to take a 'deep dive' approach to scrutiny work, which is likely to provide more valuable outcomes. A large amount of agenda items can lead to a 'light touch' approach to all items of business, and also limit the officer and councillor resource available to plan for effective scrutiny of selected items.
13. O&S Committees are advised to carefully select their working methods to ensure that O&S resource is maximised. A variety of methods are available for O&S Committees to undertake work and are not limited to the receipt of reports at Committee meetings. These may include:
- Working Groups;
 - Sub-Committees;
 - Tak and finish groups;
 - Inquiry Days;
 - Rapporteurs (scrutiny member champions);
 - Consideration of information outside of meetings – including report circulation/ briefing workshops/ briefing notes.

Further detail on O&S working methods are set out in the Constitution and in Appendix A – Terms of Reference for O&S Committees.

Options Appraisal

14. The O&S Board is asked to review, update and confirm its Work Plan, taking account of the supporting documents provided and including the determination of any new requests for scrutiny. This will ensure member ownership of the Work Plan and that reports can be prepared in a timely way. Should the Board not confirm its forthcoming priorities, reports may not be able to be prepared in a timely way and best use of the meeting resource may not be made.

Summary of financial implications

15. There are no direct financial implications associated with this report. The Board should note that when establishing a Work Plan, the Constitution requires that account be taken of the resources available to support proposals for O&S work. Advice on maximising the resource available to O&S Committees is set out in paragraphs 11 to 13 above.

Summary of legal implications

16. The Council's Constitution requires that all O&S bodies set out proposed work in a Work Plan which will be published with each agenda. The recommendation proposed in this report will fulfil this requirement.

Summary of human resources implications

17. There are no human resources implications arising from this report.

Summary of sustainability impact

18. There are no sustainability resources implications arising from this report.

Summary of public health implications

19. There are no public health implications arising from this report.

Summary of equality implications

20. There are no equality implications arising from this report. Any councillor and any member of the public may make suggestions for overview and scrutiny work. Further detail on this process is included within Part 4 of the Council's Constitution.

Summary of risk assessment

21. There is a risk of challenge to the Council if the Constitutional requirement to establish and publish a Work Plan is not met.

Background papers

None.

Appendices

Appendix A - Overview and Scrutiny Committees Terms of Reference

Appendix B - Current O&S Board Work Plan

Appendix C - Request for consideration of an issue by Overview and Scrutiny

Appendix D - Current Cabinet Forward Plan

Appendix E - O&S Framework

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BOURNEMOUTH, CHRISTCHURCH AND POOLE COUNCIL

OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY BOARD / COMMITTEES TERMS OF REFERENCE

Overview and Scrutiny (O&S) is a statutory role fulfilled by Councillors who are not members of the Cabinet in an authority operating a Leader and Cabinet model. The role of the Overview and Scrutiny Board and Committees is to help develop policy, to carry out reviews of Council and other local services, and to hold decision makers to account.

PRINCIPLES OF OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY

The Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole Overview and Scrutiny function is based upon six principles:

1. Contributes to sound decision making in a timely way by holding decision makers to account as a 'critical friend'.
2. A member led and owned function – seeks to continuously improve through self-reflection and development.
3. Enables the voice and concerns of the public to be heard and reflected in the Council's decision-making process.
4. Engages in decision making and policy development at an appropriate time to be able to have influence.
5. Contributes to and reflects the vision and priorities of the Council.
6. Agile – able to respond to changing and emerging priorities at the right time with flexible working methods.

MEETINGS

There are four Overview and Scrutiny bodies at BCP Council:

- Overview and Scrutiny Board
- Children's Services Overview and Scrutiny Committee
- Health and Adult Social Care Overview and Scrutiny Committee
- Environment and Place Overview and Scrutiny Committee

Each Committee meets 5 times during the municipal year, except for the Overview and Scrutiny Board which meets monthly to enable the Board to make recommendations to Cabinet. The date and time of meetings will be set by full Council and may only be changed by the Chairman of the relevant Committee in consultation with the Monitoring Officer. Members will adhere to the agreed principles of the Council's Code of Conduct.

Decisions shall be taken by consensus. Where it is not possible to reach consensus, a decision will be reached by a simple majority of those present at the meeting. Where there are equal votes the Chair of the meeting will have the casting vote.

MEMBERSHIP

The Overview and Scrutiny Board and Committees are appointed by full Council. Each Committee has 11 members and the Board has 13 members. No member of the Cabinet may be a member of the Overview and Scrutiny Committees or Board, or any group established by them. Lead Members of the Cabinet may not be a member of Overview and Scrutiny Committees or Board. The Chair and Vice-Chair of the Audit and Governance Committee may not be a member of any Overview and Scrutiny Committees or Board.

The quorum of the Overview and Scrutiny Committees and Board shall be one third of the total membership (excluding voting and non-voting co-optees).

No member may be involved in scrutinising a decision in which they been directly involved. If a member is unable to attend a meeting their Group may arrange for a substitute to attend in their place in accordance with the procedures as set out in the Council's Constitution.

Members of the public can be invited to attend and contribute to meetings as required, to provide insight to a matter under discussion. This may include but is not limited to subject experts with relevant specialist knowledge or expertise, representatives of stakeholder groups or service users. Members of the public will not have voting rights.

Children's Services Overview and Scrutiny Committee - The Committee must statutorily include two church and two parent governor representatives as voting members (on matters related to education) in addition to Councillor members. Parent governor membership shall extend to a maximum period of four years and no less than two years. The Committee may also co-opt one representative from the Academy Trusts within the local authority area, to attend meetings and vote on matters relating to education.

The Committee may also co-opt two representatives of The Youth Parliament and, although they will not be entitled to vote, will ensure that their significant contribution to the work of the Committee is recognised and valued.

Environment and Place Overview and Scrutiny Committee - The Committee may co-opt two independent non-voting members. The selection and recruitment process shall be determined by the Environment and Place Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

FUNCTIONS OF THE O&S COMMITTEES AND O&S BOARD

Each Overview and Scrutiny Committee (including the Overview and Scrutiny Board) has responsibility for:

- Scrutinising decisions of the Cabinet, offering advice or making recommendations
- Offering any views or advice to the Cabinet or Council in relation to any matter referred to the Committee for consideration
- General policy reviews, and making recommendations to the Council or the Cabinet to assist in the development of future policies and strategies
- Assisting the Council in the development of the Budget and Policy Framework by in-depth analysis of policy issues
- Monitoring the implementation of decisions to examine their effect and outcomes
- Referring to full Council, the Cabinet or appropriate Committee/Sub-Committee any matter which, following scrutiny a Committee determines should be brought to the attention of the Council, Cabinet or other appropriate Committee
- Preparation, review and monitoring of a work programme
- Establishing such commissioned work as appropriate after taking into account the availability of resources, the work programme and the matter under review

In addition, the Overview and Scrutiny Board has responsibility for:

- Considering decisions that have been called-in
- Undertaking scrutiny of the Council's budget processes
- Carrying out the Council's scrutiny functions relating to crime and disorder, and discharging any other statutory duty for which the O&S function is responsible, other than those that relate to Flood Risk Management, Health, Adult Social Care, Children's Services and Education
- Overseeing the Council's overall O&S function including oversight of the work plans and use of resource across all O&S bodies
- Keeping the O&S function under review, suggesting changes as appropriate to ensure that it remains fit for purpose
- Reporting annually to Full Council on the output of the O&S function
- Maintaining oversight of the training needs of the whole O&S function.

Figure 1 below provides an outline of the responsibilities of each Committee.

The remit of the Overview and Scrutiny Board and Committees is based on the division of Portfolio Holder responsibilities. Portfolio Holders may report to more than one Overview and Scrutiny body.

Portfolio Holder responsibilities are changeable and from time to time it may be necessary to modify the designation of functions across the four Overview and Scrutiny bodies.

Overview & Scrutiny Committee Structure

OVERALL RESPONSIBILITY FOR ALL CALL-IN PLUS OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY FUNCTION OVERSIGHT, DEVELOPMENT AND REPORTING

Overview and Scrutiny Board

13 Members, 12 meetings per year



CRITICAL FRIEND FOR PORTFOLIO AREAS:

Leader (partial) - Political priority delivery, BCP Council policy, Strategic partnerships, Devolution, Community governance, Regeneration & infrastructure

Deputy Leader & Finance (full) - Finance, Budget setting, Financial controls, Financial Services, Revenue & Benefits, Audit & management, Estates

Transformation, Resources & Governance (full) - General procurement, Transformation, IT, data & programmes, People & culture, Law & governance, Elections BCP, Council Constitution and controls, Equalities, diversity & inclusion.

Customer, Communications & Culture (full) - Communications, marketing & brand, Consultation, Customer services & contact, Website, Emergency Planning & Response, Libraries, Culture and museums, Cultural activities.

Communities & Partnerships (partial) - Community involvement & Voluntary Sector, Lived experience & engagement, Bereavement & Coroner Services

Destination, Leisure & Commercial Operations (partial) - Economic development, Destination & high streets, Tourism & events, Seafront, Sport & leisure, Commercial Operations, Car parking.

Housing & Regulatory (partial) - Environmental health, Community safety, Trading standards, Anti-social behaviour enforcement, Liaison with Dorset Police & Fire Service, Licensing policy

Plus Statutory Crime and Disorder Scrutiny

Environment & Place Overview and Scrutiny Committee

11 Members, 5 meetings per year



CRITICAL FRIEND FOR PORTFOLIO AREAS:

Leader (partial)
Planning & **Local Plan**

Climate Response, Environment & Energy (full)
Climate, Environmental services, Refuse collection & waste disposal, Street cleansing, Grounds maintenance, Parks & gardens, Highways maintenance, Sustainable travel, **Local Transport Plan**, **Strategic transport and Western Gateway**, Flood and Coastal Erosion Risk Management (FCERM)

Communities & Partnerships (partial)
Play Strategy

Destination, Leisure & Commercial Operations (partial)
Road safety

Housing & Regulatory (partial)
Housing management & landlord services, Housing strategy & standards, Homelessness & housing need

Plus Statutory Flood Risk Management Scrutiny

Children's Services Overview and Scrutiny Committee

11 Members, 5 meetings per year



CRITICAL FRIEND FOR PORTFOLIO AREAS:

Children, Young People, Education & Skills (full)
Children's social care, Education & SEND, Liaison with Ofsted and DfE, Liaison with schools, universities and colleges, Liaison with children & young people, Children's transformation programme

Plus to act as the Council's Statutory Education Committee

Health and Adult Social Care Overview and Scrutiny Committee

11 Members, 5 meetings per year



CRITICAL FRIEND FOR PORTFOLIO AREAS:

Health & Wellbeing (full)
Public Health, Adult social care, Adult commissioning, Relationship with NHS & Integrated Care System

Communities & Partnerships (partial)
Carers, Integrated Neighbourhood Teams

Plus Statutory Health Scrutiny

CHAIRS AND VICE-CHAIRS MEET REGULARLY TO ASSIST THE BOARD WITH MAINTAINING OVERSIGHT OF THE FUNCTION

COMMISSIONED WORK

In addition to Committee meetings, the Overview and Scrutiny Board and Committees may commission work to be undertaken as they consider necessary after taking into account the availability of resources, the work programme and the matter under review.

Each O&S body is limited to one commission at a time to ensure availability of resources.

a) **Working Groups** – a small group of Councillors and Officers gathered to consider a specific issue and report back to the full Board/ Committee, or make recommendations to Cabinet or Council within a limited timescale. Working Groups usually meet once or twice, and are often non-public;

b) **Sub-Committees** – a group of Councillors delegated a specific aspect of the main Board/ Committee's work for ongoing, in-depth monitoring. May be time limited or be required as a long-standing Committee. Sub-Committees are often well suited to considering performance-based matters that require scrutiny oversight. Sub-Committees usually meet in public;

c) **Task and finish groups** – a small group of Councillors tasked with investigating a particular issue and making recommendations on this issue, with the aim of influencing wider Council policy. The area of investigation will be carefully scoped and will culminate in a final report, usually with recommendations to Cabinet or Council. Task and finish groups may work over the course of a number of months and take account of a wide variety of evidence, which can be resource intensive. For this reason, the number of these groups must be carefully prioritised by scrutiny members to ensure the work can progress at an appropriate pace for the final outcome to have influence;

d) **Inquiry Days** – with a similar purpose to task and finish groups, inquiry days seek to understand and make recommendations on an issue by talking to a wide range of stakeholders and considering evidence relating to that issue, within one or two days. Inquiry days have similarities to the work of Government Select Committees. Inquiry days are highly resource intensive but can lead to swift, meaningful outcomes and recommendations that can make a difference to Council policy; and

e) **Rapporteurs or scrutiny member champions** - individual Councillors or pairs of Councillors tasked with investigating or maintaining oversight of a particular issue and reporting back to the main Board/ Committee on its findings. A main Committee can use these reports to facilitate its work prioritisation. Rapporteurs will undertake informal work to understand an issue – such as discussions with Officers and Portfolio Holders, research and data analysis. Rapporteur work enables scrutiny members to collectively stay informed of a wide range of Council activity. This approach to the provision of information to scrutiny members also avoids valuable

Committee time being taken up with briefings in favour of more outcome-based scrutiny taking place at Committee.

These terms of reference should be read in conjunction with the Overview and Scrutiny Procedure Rules outlined in Part 4C of the Council's Constitution.

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BCP Council Overview and Scrutiny Board – Work Plan. Updated 17.12.24

Guidance notes:

- 2/3 items per committee meeting is the recommended maximum for effective scrutiny.
- The O&S Board will approach work through a lens of **RESIDENT IMPACT AND EXPERIENCE**
- Items requiring further scoping are identified and should be scoped using the Key Lines of Enquiry tool.

	Subject and background	How will the scrutiny be done?	Lead Officer/Portfolio Holder	Report Information
Meeting Date: 6 January 2025				
1.	Transformation Programme – Completion Report To consider the Cabinet report which summarises what the programme has achieved, what hasn't been achieved, and proposed next steps To confirm the programme's closure by end March 2025 and the proposed direction of travel.	Scrutiny of a Cabinet report	PH - Transformation, Resources and Governance	Cabinet Report – See Cabinet Forward Plan
2.	Transformation and the centralised handling of complaints To consider how the Council's centralised complaint process operate and transformation changes in this area.	Report to Committee	Director of Customer & Property PH – Customer, Communication and Culture / PH - Transformation, Resources and Governance	Report requested through Work Planning Workshops
3.	Crime and Disorder Scrutiny of Community Safety Partnership	Annual Report	PH - Housing and Regulatory	

Key: Pre-Decision Scrutiny Pro-active Scrutiny



	Subject and background	How will the scrutiny be done?	Lead Officer/Portfolio Holder	Report Information
	The Overview and Scrutiny Board is the statutory body for crime and disorder scrutiny and will consider the annual report of the community safety partnership.		Director of Housing and Communities	
4.	Investment & Development Directorate - Regeneration Programme To provide an update on the progress of the Council's regeneration programme.	Committee Report	Director of Regeneration and Economy Leader of the Council	Report requested through Work Planning Workshops
Meeting Date: NEW DATE 3 February 2025				
1.	Budget Scrutiny Scrutiny of the 2025/26 budget proposals, consideration of the Cabinet report and any recommendations to be made to Cabinet.	Cabinet Budget report	Adam Richens, Chief Finance Officer Mike Cox, PH Finance	
2		Updates from Budget T&F groups if required	Adam Richens, Chief Finance Officer Mike Cox, PH Finance	
Meeting Date: 25 February 2025				
1.	Council Budget Monitoring 2024/25 Quarter Three Scrutiny of the Quarter 3 budget monitoring report to Cabinet.	Scrutiny of Cabinet Report	Adam Richens, Chief Finance Officer Mike Cox, PH Finance	
2.	Arts and Culture Funding Item requested through work planning workshops	Committee Report	Portfolio Holder for Connected Communities and Portfolio Holder for	Item from Pro-Active Scrutiny List (including

Key: Pre-Decision Scrutiny Pro-active Scrutiny

	Subject and background	How will the scrutiny be done?	Lead Officer/Portfolio Holder	Report Information
			Customer, Communication and Culture	funding for BSO and Lighthouse)
3.	Item to be selected from Pro-Active Scrutiny topic list			
Items with Dates to be allocated				
	Accounting for Social Value in decision making	Committee Report		Item requires further scoping - KLOE document
	Working more collectively across BCP geographical areas / Locality Governance – Substantive item	Committee Report		This requires further scoping – KLOE document
	Performance of the Council Data, and performance of directorates and staff (25)	Informal investigation report by O&S Board		This requires further scoping – KLOE document Will be suited to a working group.
	Customer Relationship Management	Committee Report/Working Group		
	Blue Badge Service Update	Committee Report		
Working Groups				
	Public Consultations Framework Development		Director of Marketing, Communications and Policy	The Board established this working group at its meeting on 18 November

Key: Pre-Decision Scrutiny Pro-active Scrutiny

	Subject and background	How will the scrutiny be done?	Lead Officer/Portfolio Holder	Report Information
			PH – Customer, Communications and Culture	
	POTENTIAL WORKING GROUP - Performance of the Council	TBC	TBC	TBC
	POTENTIAL WORKING GROUP – BID related issues	TBC	TBC	TBC
	POTENTIAL WORKING GROUP – Customer Relationship Management	TBC	TBC	TBC
Item suggestions for Briefing Sessions				

Key:  Pre-Decision Scrutiny  Pro-active Scrutiny

Request for consideration of an issue by Overview and Scrutiny

Guidance on the use of this form:

This form is for use by councillors and members of the public who want to request that an item joins an Overview and Scrutiny agenda. Any issue may be suggested, provided it affects the BCP area or the inhabitants of the area in some way. Scrutiny of the issue can only be requested once in a 12 month period.

The form may also be used for the reporting of a referral item to Overview and Scrutiny by another body of the council, such as Cabinet or Council.

The Overview and Scrutiny Committee receiving the request will make an assessment of the issue using the detail provided in this form and determine whether to add it to its forward plan of work.

They may take a variety of steps to progress the issue, including requesting more information on it from officers of the council, asking for a member of the overview and scrutiny committee to 'champion' the issue and report back, or establishing a small working group of councillors to look at the issue in more detail.

If the Committee does not agree to progress the issue it will set out reasons for this and they will be provided to the person submitting this form.

More information can be found at Part 4.C of the BCP Council Constitution
<https://democracy.bcpCouncil.gov.uk/ieListMeetings.aspx?CommitteeID=151&Info=1&bcr=1>

Please complete all sections as fully as possible

1. Issue requested for scrutiny

2. Desired outcome resulting from Overview and Scrutiny engagement, including the value to be added to the Council, the BCP area or its inhabitants.

3. Background to the issue

4. Proposed method of scrutiny - (for example, a committee report or a working group investigation)

5. Key dates and anticipated timescale for the scrutiny work

6. Notes/ additional guidance

Document last reviewed – January 2022

Contact – democratic.services@bcpcouncil.gov.uk

CABINET FORWARD PLAN – 1 DECEMBER 2024 TO 31 MARCH 2025

(PUBLICATION DATE – 09 December 2024)



What is the subject?	What is the purpose of the issue?	Is this a Key Decision?	Decision Maker and Due Date	Wards	Who are the key stakeholders to be consulted before the decision is made?	What is the consultation process and period	Officer writing the report	Is the report likely to be considered in private (i.e., it contains confidential or exempt information)?
Council Budget Monitoring 2024/25 Quarter Two	Budget monitoring at quarter two	No	Cabinet 10 Dec 2024 Council 10 Dec 2024	All Wards	n/a	n/a	Adam Richens	Open
Medium Term Financial Plan (MTFP) Update	Present progress in delivering a legally balance budget for 2025/26	No	Cabinet 10 Dec 2024	All Wards			Adam Richens	Open

What is the subject?	What is the purpose of the issue?	Is this a Key Decision?	Decision Maker and Due Date	Wards	Who are the key stakeholders to be consulted before the decision is made?	What is the consultation process and period	Officer writing the report	Is the report likely to be considered in private (i.e., it contains confidential or exempt information)?
Housing and Property Compliance Update (Housing Revenue Account)	To provide an update on performance and issues in completing health and safety compliance checks within individual dwellings and communal areas.	No	Cabinet 10 Dec 2024	All Wards	There are no changes to policy. The report will provide an update. The key stakeholders for consultation will be council tenants and leaseholders, BCP Homes Advisory Board and Cabinet Member for Housing and Regulatory Services.	Consultation will be through existing meetings with stakeholders.	Seamus Doran, Simon Percival, Matti Raudsepp	Open

What is the subject?	What is the purpose of the issue?	Is this a Key Decision?	Decision Maker and Due Date	Wards	Who are the key stakeholders to be consulted before the decision is made?	What is the consultation process and period	Officer writing the report	Is the report likely to be considered in private (i.e., it contains confidential or exempt information)?
Assessing the serious cashflow issue caused by ever-increasing demand and cost outstripping High Needs Dedicated Schools Grant government funding	To provide members with an update on the serious cashflow issue caused by ever-increasing demand and cost outstripping High Needs Dedicated Schools Grant government funding.	No	Cabinet 10 Dec 2024	All Wards			Adam Richens	Open
Pay and Reward progress update	Provide an update on the progress of the Pay and Reward project following the outcome of the Trade Union ballot process	No	Cabinet 10 Dec 2024	All Wards			Liz Bowman, Coleen Long	Open
BCP Council Plan For Play	To seek adoption of the BCP Council plan for play, a green spaces play and wheeled strategy; and allocation of funding for delivery.	No	Cabinet 10 Dec 2024	All Wards	Internal process at this stage. public consultation to follow Strategy adoption.	detailed in the report	Martin Whitchurch	Open

What is the subject?	What is the purpose of the issue?	Is this a Key Decision?	Decision Maker and Due Date	Wards	Who are the key stakeholders to be consulted before the decision is made?	What is the consultation process and period	Officer writing the report	Is the report likely to be considered in private (i.e., it contains confidential or exempt information)?
BCP Council Libraries – Update on Library Strategy Development	To update Cabinet on progress with the development of BCP Library Strategy	No	Overview and Scrutiny Board 9 Dec 2024 Cabinet 10 Dec 2024	All Wards			Matti Raudsepp	Open
East Cliff and Springbourne Neighbourhood Plan	To consider establishment of a Neighbourhood Plan Forum and area.	No	Cabinet 10 Dec 2024	East Cliff & Springbourne			Caroline Peach	Open
Hawkwood Road Phase 2- Boscombe Towns Fund	To inform and recommend delivery method for Phase 2 of Hawkwood Road	Yes	Cabinet 10 Dec 2024 Council 10 Dec 2024	Boscombe West	Ward Councillors		Remi Oshibanjo	Open

What is the subject?	What is the purpose of the issue?	Is this a Key Decision?	Decision Maker and Due Date	Wards	Who are the key stakeholders to be consulted before the decision is made?	What is the consultation process and period	Officer writing the report	Is the report likely to be considered in private (i.e., it contains confidential or exempt information)?
Housing Delivery Council Newbuild Housing and Acquisition Strategy (CNHAS) update and Harbour Sail acquisition	Update on CNHAS	No	Cabinet 10 Dec 2024				Jonathan Thornton, Amena Matin	Open
Travel Plan Monitoring Fees	Travel Plan Monitoring fees are inconsistently applied across BCP. This report sets out and seeks approval to harmonise travel plan monitoring fees across BCP.	No	Cabinet 10 Dec 2024 Council 10 Dec 2024	All Wards			Alexis Edwards	Open

What is the subject?	What is the purpose of the issue?	Is this a Key Decision?	Decision Maker and Due Date	Wards	Who are the key stakeholders to be consulted before the decision is made?	What is the consultation process and period	Officer writing the report	Is the report likely to be considered in private (i.e., it contains confidential or exempt information)?
Linwood Special School SEND Post-16 Provision at Ted Webster	To approve the expansion of Linwood School at the Ted Webster site to provide local places for local young people.	No	Children's Services Overview and Scrutiny Committee 26 Nov 2024 Cabinet 10 Dec 2024 Council 10 Dec 2024	All Wards; Parkstone			Sharon Muldoon	Open
Transforming Urgent and Emergency Care Services	Following a report to Cabinet in October, this report provides a detailed update on system-wide plans for transforming urgent and emergency care services in Dorset, and recommends to Cabinet to recommend to Council that they endorse the partnership agreement.	No	Health and Adult Social Care Overview and Scrutiny Committee 2 Dec 2024 Cabinet 10 Dec 2024 Council 10 Dec 2024	All Wards			Jillian Kay	Open

What is the subject?	What is the purpose of the issue?	Is this a Key Decision?	Decision Maker and Due Date	Wards	Who are the key stakeholders to be consulted before the decision is made?	What is the consultation process and period	Officer writing the report	Is the report likely to be considered in private (i.e., it contains confidential or exempt information)?
Council Tax Base 2025/26	To set the council tax base for 2025/26	No	Cabinet 15 Jan 2025 Council TBC	All Wards			Adam Richens	Open
Quarter 2 - Corporate Performance Report	Second quarterly report with an update on the measures of progress for the Shared Vision for Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole.	No	Cabinet 15 Jan 2025	All Wards			Sophie Bradfield, Isla Reynolds	Open
Integration of Dorset Local Enterprise Partnership functions	To seek approval for the integration of functions from the Dorset Local Enterprise Partnership into the Council	No	Cabinet 15 Jan 2025	All Wards			Chris Shephard	Open

What is the subject?	What is the purpose of the issue?	Is this a Key Decision?	Decision Maker and Due Date	Wards	Who are the key stakeholders to be consulted before the decision is made?	What is the consultation process and period	Officer writing the report	Is the report likely to be considered in private (i.e., it contains confidential or exempt information)?
Review of the approach to Environmental Crime and Environmental Crime Policy	To consider the review of the approach to Environmental Crime and Environmental Crime Policy	No	Cabinet 15 Jan 2025	All Wards			Sophie Sajic	Open
Programme Update - ASC Fulfilled Lives Programme	For Cabinet to be sighted on the progress made during the 'design and scope' stage of the Fulfilled Lives programme and awareness of the delivery stage from January 2024.	No	Cabinet 15 Jan 2025	All Wards			Tim Branson, Betty Butlin, Zena Dighton, Jillian Kay	Open
Transformation Programme - Completion Report	To summarise what the programme has achieved, what hasn't been achieved, and proposed next steps To confirm the programme's closure by end March 2025 and the proposed direction of travel	No	Cabinet 15 Jan 2025	All Wards			Jon Burrows	Open

What is the subject?	What is the purpose of the issue?	Is this a Key Decision?	Decision Maker and Due Date	Wards	Who are the key stakeholders to be consulted before the decision is made?	What is the consultation process and period	Officer writing the report	Is the report likely to be considered in private (i.e., it contains confidential or exempt information)?
Budget 2025/26 and Medium Term Financial Plan	To set out for Cabinet's consideration and recommendation to Council the proposed 2025/26 budget and council tax.	No	Cabinet 5 Feb 2025	All Wards			Adam Richens	Open
Council Budget Monitoring 2024/25 Quarter Three	Budget monitoring	No	Cabinet 5 Feb 2025 Council 25 Feb 2025	All Wards	n/a	n/a	Adam Richens	Open
Housing Revenue Account (HRA) Budget Setting 2025/26	To set out the proposal for charges to council tenants and leaseholders and expenditure on council homes and services.	No	Cabinet 5 Feb 2025	All Wards	Council tenants and leaseholders BCP Homes Advisory Board Cabinet Member for Housing and Regulatory Services	Consultation will be through existing meetings with residents and Advisory Board.	Kelly Deane	Open

What is the subject?	What is the purpose of the issue?	Is this a Key Decision?	Decision Maker and Due Date	Wards	Who are the key stakeholders to be consulted before the decision is made?	What is the consultation process and period	Officer writing the report	Is the report likely to be considered in private (i.e., it contains confidential or exempt information)?
Corporate Fleet Replacement Programme - Phase 2	The report seeks ongoing endorsement of Bournemouth Christchurch & Poole Council's Fleet replacement Strategy that will continue to support the council wide Fleet Management De Carbonising and Replacement Programme for the next 3 years, 2025 - 2028 that proposes to continue with the investment in vehicle replacements to ensure a pathway approach that will help to ensure that BCP Council has fit for purpose, safe, reliable, cost effective and carbon reduced vehicles, plant and associated equipment assets, in the right place at the right time and at the right cost to support the strategic, corporate and service objectives of the Council.	No	Cabinet 5 Feb 2025	All Wards			Kate Langdown	Open

What is the subject?	What is the purpose of the issue?	Is this a Key Decision?	Decision Maker and Due Date	Wards	Who are the key stakeholders to be consulted before the decision is made?	What is the consultation process and period	Officer writing the report	Is the report likely to be considered in private (i.e., it contains confidential or exempt information)?
Admission Arrangements 2026/27	To seek determination of the arrangements. There are no changes to our admissions policy and associated documents. Determination is an annual requirement of the School Admissions Code.	No	Children's Services Overview and Scrutiny Committee 26 Nov 2024 Cabinet 15 Jan 2025	All Wards			Sharon Muldoon	Open
School Admission Arrangements 2026/27	For determination of the arrangements which is an annual requirement of the School Admissions Code.	No	Children's Services Overview and Scrutiny Committee 28 Jan 2025 Cabinet 5 Feb 2025	All Wards			Sharon Muldoon, Tanya Smith	Open

What is the subject?	What is the purpose of the issue?	Is this a Key Decision?	Decision Maker and Due Date	Wards	Who are the key stakeholders to be consulted before the decision is made?	What is the consultation process and period	Officer writing the report	Is the report likely to be considered in private (i.e., it contains confidential or exempt information)?
Local Transport Plan Capital Programme 2025/26	Present recommended investment of Department for Transport (DfT) annual Local Transport Plan (LTP) capital grant for transport improvements and maintenance, and to present recommended delegation(s) to facilitate delivery of any approved spend. Intent is to inform recommendation from Cabinet to Council for approval of the recommendations.	Yes	Cabinet 5 Mar 2025	All Wards			Wendy Lane, Richard Pincroft	Open
Strategic Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL)	To consider priorities and future spend of CIL.	Yes	Cabinet 5 Mar 2025	All Wards			Steve Dring	Open

What is the subject?	What is the purpose of the issue?	Is this a Key Decision?	Decision Maker and Due Date	Wards	Who are the key stakeholders to be consulted before the decision is made?	What is the consultation process and period	Officer writing the report	Is the report likely to be considered in private (i.e., it contains confidential or exempt information)?
Local Transport Plan 4 (LTP4)	To present outputs from Local Transport Plan 4 (LTP4) consultation and to present proposed LTP4 Policy Document complete with Implementation Plan for approval/adoption.	Yes	Overview and Scrutiny Board 17 Nov 2025 Cabinet 26 Nov 2024 Council 9 Dec 2025	All Wards	Residents (BCP and neighbouring authorities), partners, organisations and businesses that operate/exist in BCP area and are impacted by transport.	Exact dates tbc, but 6 to 8 week public consultation required, note: LTP4 engagement was facilitated in Spring 2024.	Wendy Lane, Richard Pincroft	Open
DfE SEND review next steps	To consider the DfE review next steps	No	Cabinet Date to be confirmed				Rachel Gravett, Shirley McGillick, Sharon Muldoon	Fully exempt

What is the subject?	What is the purpose of the issue?	Is this a Key Decision?	Decision Maker and Due Date	Wards	Who are the key stakeholders to be consulted before the decision is made?	What is the consultation process and period	Officer writing the report	Is the report likely to be considered in private (i.e., it contains confidential or exempt information)?
Affordable Fairer Broadband for all (Award Contract)	In July 2022 Cabinet approved 'Accelerating Gigabit Fibre' and asked the team to return to Cabinet to award the contract. The purpose of this report is contract award.	No	Cabinet Date to be confirmed	All Wards			Ruth Spencer	Open
Bournemouth Development Company LLP Business Plan	To seek approval for the Bournemouth Development Company Business Plan, extend some contractual "Option Execution Dates" in relation to specific sites and provide an update in relation to the independent Local Partnerships Review.	No	Cabinet Date to be confirmed	Bournemouth Central			Sarah Longthorpe	Open
Children's Services Early Help Offer	Summary of findings and recommendations from an ongoing review of our current Early Help services	No	Cabinet Date to be confirmed	All Wards			Zafer Yilkan	Open

What is the subject?	What is the purpose of the issue?	Is this a Key Decision?	Decision Maker and Due Date	Wards	Who are the key stakeholders to be consulted before the decision is made?	What is the consultation process and period	Officer writing the report	Is the report likely to be considered in private (i.e., it contains confidential or exempt information)?
Adult Social Care Business Case	Adult Social Care services locally and nationally have faced significant challenges in recent years, and as a result the Council is holding significant risk in relation to the ability of the Council to deliver its statutory responsibilities to adults that require support within the available budget. The nature of these challenges means that long term, sustainable change is needed to ensure that BCP Council Adult Social Care services (ASCS) are modern, fit for the future and affordable. This business case sets out a proposal for initial investment in Adult Social Care transformation that will lead to improved outcomes for adults that draw on support in BCP and support the Council to deliver this within the available financial envelope.	Yes	Cabinet Date to be confirmed	All Wards			Chris McKensie	Open

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1. Development of this framework and its application by O&S Committees

Workshops were held with members of O&S committees across December 2023- February 2024, supported by the Centre for Governance and Scrutiny (CfGS). The aim of the workshops was to develop an approach to work programming at BCP for 2024/25 and beyond that is based on good practice and addresses improvements already identified for O&S as set out in [Assurance Review Action Plan](#) and the [O&S Action Plan](#). One output of this work is the framework set out below.

During 2024, the O&S Board and Environment and Place O&S Committee have been following the principles set out in this framework. The same good practices will be rolled out to all O&S committees in 2024 and used to support future annual work programming.

2. Using a lens to select and approach scrutiny topics

O&S statutory guidance recommends that a 'lens' or key set of priorities be established by O&S committees, to clearly communicate their role and how they will add value to the work of the organisation. The statements also clarify the role of the committee to the public.

Established lenses provide a tool to assist O&S members in work programming, to sift suggestions for work into a realistic annual work programme for each committee and should be referred to throughout the year as arising suggestions for work are made.

O&S Board and Environment and Place O&S Committees agreed lenses in 2024. Children's Services and Health and Adult Social Care O&S Committees have not yet considered the application of lenses to their work. Lenses are set out below. It is suggested that these lenses be reviewed annually to ensure they remain fit for purpose.

The **O&S Board** will approach work through a lens of **RESIDENT IMPACT AND EXPERIENCE**, such as considering:

- benefits that could be brought to residents by **delivering services** in different ways
- how the areas of highest **financial risk** for the council may impact on residents
- the council's **relationship with the public** and work that can be done to strengthen this.

The **Environment & Place O&S Committee** will approach work through a lens of **SUSTAINABILITY**, with a specific focus on the following priorities, drawn from the Corporate Strategy:

- **Climate change** is tackled through sustainable policies and practice
- Our **green spaces flourish** and support the wellbeing of being people and nature
- Our communities have pride in our **streets, neighbourhoods and public spaces**
- **Good quality homes are** accessible, sustainable and affordable for all

The **Children's Services O&S Committee** will approach work through a lens ofTBC

The **Health and Adult Social Care O&S Committee** will approach work through a lens ofTBC

3. Using a framework to structure O&S activity:

A framework for supporting different types of scrutiny work is set out in the table below. Scrutiny is split out into **proactive work**, **reactive work** and **pre-decision scrutiny**. When developing this framework, O&S councillors gave a clear steer that they wish to continue to undertake all these elements of scrutiny through their work programmes.

As with the lenses outlined at 2 above, the scrutiny framework will also be used to communicate the role and intentions of the committees to the wider council and the public. It is suggested that the framework be reviewed annually to ensure it remains fit for purpose.

Proactive Scrutiny

What is it?

- Early policy work - work focused on policy development and exploring options for the future. Also described as 'overview work' in BCP.
- Framed as a series of questions or 'key lines of enquiry', to which O&S seeks answers. These are found through the gathering of evidence, with a view to informing future policy.
- Driven by the O&S committee itself, or may be in response to a suggestion from councillors, community or decision makers.
- Less likely to directly align to another piece of work already underway in the council, eg. a cabinet report.
- Fulfils BCP principles of good scrutiny:

'O&S engages in decision making and policy development at an appropriate time to be able to have influence'

'O&S is a member led and owned function'

'O&S enables the voice and concerns of the public to be heard and reflected in the Council's decision-making process'

Examples

Cllr suggestions based on their understanding of local needs, eg:

- What more can we do to meet local people's housing needs?
- To what extent do we as a council as a community understand the likely challenges of climate change, and what action do we need to take?

Method for undertaking scrutiny:

- Either "in committee", as a whole-meeting challenge session followed up by agreement of recommendations at the next meeting, or a short and sharp working group with a group meeting two or three times between meetings.
- Outcomes are unlikely to be met by an officer report – proactive scrutiny relies on councillors scoping and directing the work and asking for specific data, information and evidence to be brought by relevant stakeholders.
- Recommendations are made, usually to Cabinet or Portfolio Holders. They must respond to these recommendations.

Pros and Cons

- ✓ Potential to add significantly more value than other work by using powers to gather evidence from stakeholders, investigate an issue in depth and find solutions. These may be used to inform policy in a significant and meaningful way.
- ✓ Potential to select and scope topics to have maximum positive impact on the communities of BCP.
- ✓ Can generate a clearer set of recommendations that can be communicated in the council and to the public.
- ✓ Easier for O&S to own the programme of work and not be affected by other factors (eg. movement of decisions on the Cabinet Forward Plan).
- ✗ Resource intensive for officers and councillors.
- ✗ May require committee to work more flexibly to find capacity for the depth of work, eg. swapping committee meetings to undertake working group meetings instead.

Method for selection of proactive scrutiny topics:

- Invite suggestions from councillors annually (through work programming workshops)
- Invite suggestions from decision makers for O&S to contribute to developing policies/ decisions.
- Invite suggestions from the public annually (consider how to incorporate into methodology for 2025 work programming)
- Sift suggestions according to the priorities of lenses as set out above ('resident impact and experience' / 'sustainability')
- Agree, scope and plan topics to add maximum value.
- Plan all proactive work on an annual basis to ensure it can be undertaken by an appropriate time to add value and in within resources available.

Pre-decision Scrutiny

What is it?:

- Scrutiny of a report close to the point of decision making – eg. a Cabinet report.
- Predominantly driven by the Cabinet Forward Plan.
- Sits between 'proactive' and 'reactive' scrutiny. Some councils undertake a minimal level of pre-decision scrutiny in favour of greater levels of deep dive investigations. BCP councillors have said that pre-decision scrutiny is an important part of the scrutiny process which they are keen to see stay in place.
- Fulfils BCP principle of good scrutiny:

'O&S contributes to sound decision making in a timely way by holding decision makers to account as a 'critical friend'.

Examples

Scrutiny of Cabinet reports on:

- BCP Local Plan
- BCP 2024/25 budget scrutiny & MTFP update reports
- Various policies prior to Cabinet/ Council decision

Method for undertaking scrutiny:

- In committee, consideration of a report already written for Cabinet. Report considered approximately 10 working days prior to the Cabinet meeting.
- Any recommendations or comments made on the report are formally passed to the next Cabinet meeting.
- The O&S Chairman will attend the Cabinet meeting to report recommendations and/or give a summary of comments made at O&S.
- Cabinet must consider any **formal recommendations** made and respond.

Pros and Cons

- ✓ Publicly demonstrates that decision makers are held to account.
- ✓ Less resource intensive – reports already written for Cabinet.
- ✗ Reactive – hard to plan agendas and relies on a well populated Cabinet Forward Plan to timetable work.
- ✗ Limited impact vs time spent. O&S is unlikely to be able to have much influence on fully developed policy and decisions.
- ✗ Potential to establish a ‘shadow cabinet’ and for meetings to become political, which must be managed effectively by O&S Chairs.
- ✗ Potential for Cabinet scrutiny to overwhelm agendas - can lead to additional/ long meetings which can limit effectiveness of scrutiny.
- ✗ Potential to duplicate other scrutiny opportunities – eg. full council debate.

Method for selection of pre-decision scrutiny topics:

- Establish a programme of informal, Teams based briefing sessions at a frequency which can be accommodated by O&S members and support officers. Schedule briefings to provide O&S with information on the key aspects of developing decisions. Aim to hold these as early as possible and at least 3 months prior to the decision to be made. Chairs and Vice Chairs take the lead in this, using the Cabinet Forward Plan and informal discussions with decision makers.
- Using the information provided at briefings and the agreed O&S lenses to determine which forthcoming Cabinet decisions will benefit from a councillor maintaining a watching brief and reporting back (rapporteur) or ultimately pre-decision scrutiny at committee.
- Give notice as early as possible of those items required for pre-decision scrutiny, to enable report authors to work to the relevant O&S timescales.
- Provide regular reporting on out of committee activity into a committee meeting via Chair, to maintain transparency of O&S activity.
- Note – this framework for selecting pre-decision scrutiny is expected to significantly reduce the number of Cabinet reports being considered by O&S committees but will require a commitment from decision makers to share information with O&S in a different way that is both open and timely. The proposed format will also provide decision makers with the opportunity to surface issues with the wider membership of the council prior to decision making and to gather informal input to shape direction of policy.

Reactive Scrutiny

What is it?:

- Emerging issues that arise throughout the year and can't easily be planned for in advance.
- Usually a significant issue of concern or risk to the council, residents or external bodies (eg. Ofsted or Government department)
- Fulfils BCP principles of good scrutiny:

*'O&S contributes to sound decision making in a timely way by holding decision makers to account as a 'critical friend';
 'O&S is agile – able to respond to changing and emerging priorities at the right time with flexible working methods'
 'O&S Contributes to and reflects the vision and priorities of the council';*

Examples

- Targeted scrutiny on council finances at the end of 2022 following concerns about in-year budget
- Safety valve scrutiny at Children's O&S Committee
- Best Value and Assurance Review reports.
- Decisions 'called in' by O&S

Method for undertaking scrutiny

- O&S Councillors review a suite of information regularly outside of the committee space – eg. corporate performance reports, medium term financial plan updates, complaints data or resident surveys.
- 'Red flags' are elevated to committee for more formal scrutiny to take place. Usually, a report is requested from officers.
- Any recommendations or comments made on the report are formally passed to the relevant decision maker, usually Cabinet/ Council.
- Cabinet/ Council must consider the recommendations made and respond.
- O&S may ask to receive regular updates outside of committee, to maintain a closer eye on the matter until it is resolved.

Pros and Cons

- ✓ Important governance mechanism to assist the council in resolving issues of concern.
- ✓ Provides public demonstration of scrutiny on issues that may be causing press interest or community concern and gives opportunity for public to engage.
- ✗ Limited impact vs time spent. O&S may ask decision makers to reconsider an issue or make recommendations expressing concerns but cannot change a decision.
- ✗ Can disrupt workplans owing to the need to scrutinise a matter quickly.
- ✗ Potential to duplicate other scrutiny opportunities – eg. full council debate.

Method for selection of reactive scrutiny topics:

- Committee members 'horizon scan' by reviewing a suite of information on a regular basis in their own time. These are provided by email or in a designated webspace. Rapporteurs may be established to monitor designated areas of interest, sharing the load across the committee.
- Emerging trends or red flags are raised by committee members informally to the Chair & Vice Chair.
- Chair and Vice Chair take the lead in raising concerns with relevant decision makers and seeking more information. Using this information and the lenses established by committees, they determine which matters warrant elevating to committee.
- In all cases, O&S will prioritise work where it can have the most value and will avoid duplicating efforts underway elsewhere in the council to resolve arising issues. Priority will therefore be given either to those areas of highest concern and which are generating significant public and media attention; where data trends indicate that concerns are at risk of becoming embedded, or where attempts to find solutions by Cabinet or service areas have not worked.

- For these matters, a report is requested to the next available committee meeting for more formal and forensic scrutiny to take place. Work plans may be adjusted to make room for this arising work within existing resources.
- Following formal scrutiny, O&S may ask to receive regular updates outside of committee, to maintain a closer eye on the matter until it is resolved.
- Nb. 'Call-in' decisions will follow a separate process as outlined in the constitution.

4. Next steps

- The O&S Board and Environment and Place O&S Committees have adopted this framework and agreed lenses for their work.
- In 2024, all remaining O&S committees will be asked to adopt this framework and establish lenses or a limited set of high-level priorities.
- The framework will accompany all work programme reports to committee and should be referred to as a structure to underpin ongoing work programming activity.
- The framework will be reviewed annually by O&S Chairs, and lenses reviewed annually by O&S Committees in annual work programming, to ensure they remain fit for purpose.

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