



# Bournemouth, Christchurch & Poole Community Safety Strategy 2022 -2025



**DORSET  
POLICE**



## Foreword

We take great pleasure in presenting this three-year strategy for reducing crime and increasing safety in Bournemouth, Christchurch, and Poole (BCP).

The council, police, health services, fire and rescue services, and probation services share a collective responsibility to understand the causes and nature of crime, anti-social behaviour, and substance misuse. Together these agencies work with our communities and voluntary-sector agencies to identify community safety priorities for BCP and put plans in place to address them.

All community safety partners, and all Council departments are responsible for making sure the strategy and action plans are delivered. In addition, this strategy supports other strategies and plans developed in other partnerships, such as the Health and Wellbeing Board, Adults and Children Safeguarding Boards, and other pan-Dorset strategic partnerships.

We would like to encourage partners to share this strategy and subsequent annual plans widely within their organisations and among user groups, so we may increase knowledge and understanding of the Community Safety Partnership (CSP) and the collaborative approach to increasing safety and reducing crime.

There was a 13% reduction in police recorded crime in BCP from 2019/20 which is consistent with the 13% reduction nationally (excluding fraud and computer misuse offences). However, crime levels across the country have been significantly impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic and associated restrictions. The largest reductions in crimes were between April and June 2020, corresponding with the introduction of the first national restrictions beginning at the end of March 2020. The impact of the pandemic continues to impact on people's freedom, such as their ability to travel internationally, and their behaviour and it is not possible to predict when these restrictions will no longer be in place.

We understand the fight to improve safety within our communities is an ongoing challenge, and we are grateful for the participation of all our partners across all sectors. The commitment from partners to work with our residents and wider communities is clear and we appreciate and value their involvement.

There are known risk factors, including domestic abuse and violence, poor mental health and substance misuse that often result in our young people and adults becoming involved in crime and anti-social behaviour. These factors will continue to put the achievements we will make under this strategy at risk. So, it is important that we continue to raise awareness among agencies and with communities of things we can do to reduce crime and disorder. These include taking preventative measures to safeguard those who are vulnerable, and at the same time work to eradicate risks by taking proportionate enforcement activity against those who are intent on committing crime and harm in our communities.

Reducing crime and disorder, and protecting vulnerable people are extremely important factors in improving the lives of BCP residents. By working together, the Partnership has already achieved many successes, including during the harshest points of the coronavirus pandemic. We are proud of these achievements, but we know there is more to be done.

We are committed to finding new ways of working to increase our effectiveness and to improve our outcomes through work with partners, local residents, visitors and businesses to make BCP even safer.

**Cllr Bobbie Dove - BCP Council Cabinet Member for Community Safety & CSP Vice Chair**

**Chief Superintendent Mark Callaghan - BCP Local Police Area and CSP Chair**

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## Introduction

This strategy reflects on the achievements since the inception of BCP Community Safety Partnership in 2019. It also identifies current and future priorities and potential challenges and outlines the approach we will take over the next three years to increase safety and reduce crime and disorder in BCP.

The Crime and Disorder Act 1998, as amended by section 97 and 98 of the Police Reform Act 2002, places a requirement on Community Safety Partnerships to develop Crime and Disorder Reduction Strategies every three years. Community Safety Partnerships are also required to develop annual Partnership Plans, setting out what actions partner agencies will take, individually and collectively, to respond to the priorities agreed by the Partnership.

The BCP Community Safety Partnership is the statutory 'community safety partnership' for the local authority area of Bournemouth, Christchurch, and Poole. It brings together the key statutory public bodies with community, voluntary and private sector partners for the purpose of reducing crime, anti-social behaviour, domestic and sexual abuse/violence, substance misuse and reoffending in BCP. This is in line with the council's commitment in the Corporate Strategy to work with partners to deliver results together.

Our vision is **to make Bournemouth, Christchurch, and Poole a safer and healthier place where communities and businesses thrive and where residents and visitors feel safe and welcomed**, by working together to increase safety in the community, to reduce crime, anti-social behaviour, and substance misuse and to manage those who commit offences to prevent them from reoffending.

Our mission is **to provide clear strategic vision and leadership in improving safety in the conurbation for residents, businesses, and visitors**. We will work to address crime and anti-social behaviour, using data, insight, and a combination of communication, engagement, prevention, early intervention, and enforcement, and will work closely with the community to provide support to victims, especially those who are vulnerable.

Membership of the Community Safety Partnership consists of representation from a wide range of stakeholders and organisations including:

- BCP Council
- Dorset Police – BCP Local Policing Area
- National Probation Service (NPS)
- Dorset Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG)
- Dorset and Wiltshire Fire and Rescue Services (DWFRS)
- Dorset Combined Youth Justice Service
- The Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner (OPCC)
- Voluntary Sector

In 2022, subject to the passing of new legislation, Integrated Care System (ICS) will be rolled out nationally, after Dorset became one of England's first pilot ICSs in 2018.

This will incorporate the CCG and expand the range of partners working with the CSP and a strategic approach to commissioning services focusing on the wider factors that impact on safety, health, and wellbeing. With a strong and successful partnerships already in Dorset, the ICS will forge even stronger partnerships between communities, NHS services, local councils, and the voluntary sector to deliver necessary services, improve care and tackle health inequalities across the county.

BCP Council has made a clear commitment to the Cleaner, Greener, Safer initiative, which, among other outcomes, seeks to enhance community safety and reduce vandalism and anti-social behaviour. The Council's Big Plan and Corporate Strategy also set out a clear vision and priorities aimed at making BCP one of the best coastal places in the world to live, work, invest, and play.

Alongside complementary priorities of our statutory partners, this strategy takes account of Dorset Police and Crime Commissioner's Police and Crime Plan 2021 – 2029, particularly in relation to the PCC's commitments to cut crime and anti-social behaviour, to fight violent crime and high harm, and to put victims and communities first.

## Strategic Principles

The Community Safety Partnership will work towards achieving its vision in line with the following strategic principles:



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

We recognise that successful delivery of this Strategy depends on robust and effective partnership working. The Strategy will be supported by annual multi-agency Partnership Plans aligned to a robust performance framework so impact can be

measured. Performance will be reported to the CSP Executive Board, which meets quarterly.

## The Community Safety Strategic Assessment

Each year, the BCP Community Safety Partnership conducts a strategic assessment of local crime and disorder, as required by the [Crime and Disorder Act 1998](#) and the [Crime and Disorder \(Formulation and Implementation of Strategy\) Regulations 2011](#).

The strategic assessment considers the following data and information:

- Volumes and trends of local crime and antisocial behaviour
- Offending and re-offending data
- Emerging issues of national concern
- Priorities of key partners, including Dorset Police and Crime Commissioner's

The Strategic Assessment was approved in January 2022 and was based on analysing a range of information and data from the Council, Police, Health, Probation and Fire services, plus other local, regional, and national information. The Strategic Assessment identified the prevalence, levels and types of crime, disorder, anti-social behaviour, and substance misuse across BCP as well as any trends or areas of repeat demand.



The assessment found that crime levels across the country have been significantly impacted by the Covid-19 pandemic and associated lockdowns and social restrictions. The largest reductions in crimes were between April and June 2020, corresponding with the first national lockdown beginning at the end of March 2020. This lower level of crime is anticipated to gradually return to pre-pandemic levels as restrictions ease and people's behaviours go back to normal.

While there have been reductions in most types of crime, this overall reduction obscures the trends of individual crime types, in smaller geographical areas, at different times and where there are different risks. Different members of our community do not share an "equality of risk" to the threats underlying the recommended priorities. While the majority of crime types reduced in BCP compared with 2019/20, some types of crime saw an increase in [BCP](#). Most notably increases were seen in stalking and harassment (14%, 416), and public order offences (9%, 178).

Data from Hospital Emergency Departments suggests that, after "body part", knives are the single most frequent type of weapon responsible for non-accidental injury.





Homelessness



Reduction in rough sleepers due to "everyone in" campaign from 2019 -2020

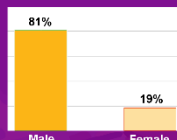
### Vulnerabilities among rough sleepers

- 83% current mental health vulnerability
- 65% had been a victim of crime
- 60% were currently misusing substances
- 53% former prisoners

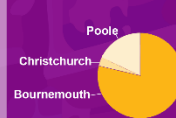
- 50% long term physical disability
- 35% experienced domestic abuse
- 26% had been in care
- 21% homeless before 16
- 19% with learning disabilities



Substance Abuse



Drug related deaths by gender (2019 -2021)



Drug related deaths (2019 -2021)

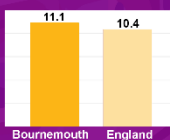


The Drug and Alcohol Commissioning Team (DACT) has been successful in securing over **£400,000** (2021/222)

## BCP Key Facts

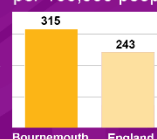


Mental Health



Suicide per 100,000 people

Stays in secondary mental health institutions per 100,000 people

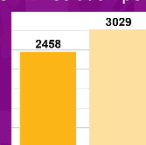


Two times the National rate of self-harm hospital admissions



Anti Social Behaviour

Increase in ASB incidents from 2019 to 2020 (Due to COVID isolation period)



People using and dealing drugs was among the biggest issues of contention in a public survey



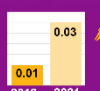
- Education  
- Health  
- Tourism



Percentage of BCP population of working age



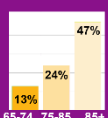
Approx. **23,000** students across three universities



Primary school exclusion rate (PEX) before and after COVID



Tourism welcomes **15 million** visitors per year spending a total of **£800 Million** locally



Percentage of population with a disability based on age



Crime and employment

Stalking up 14%  
Public Order up 9%



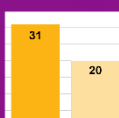
All crime reduced except Stalking and public order During COVID



Residents of working age



**8,823** children in absolute low income



Average age of knife crime suspects over recent 20 years



Predicted **180k** households in 2028

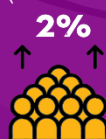
**174k** households in 2018



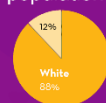
Population



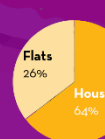
Estimated population growth (2019-2028)



White and non-white population



395,300 residents in Houses and flats in BCP

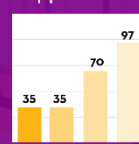


Percentage of population over 65 by 2028



**15,575** veterans  
1/15 actively serving

New business premises applications



Percentage of pupils from a white british background



The Telephone Crime Survey for England and Wales found that the reductions in crime were offset by increases in fraud and computer misuse offences, with no overall change in the level of crime reported to the survey. This displacement reflects the changing opportunities for criminal behaviour during the pandemic, some of which will continue for some time.

The Strategic Assessment identified that overall, since 2019/20, violence was showing a reduction across the BCP area, driven by a reduction in alcohol-related violence which is almost certainly a result of restrictions associated with the Covid-19 pandemic. As such, it is likely that levels of alcohol-related violence will increase – data available for 2021 indicate this to be the case.

Police reports suggested that the three main areas where violence is increasing are among young people, with an increase in public-place knife-related offences, violence in the drug using/dealing community, and violence in the night-time economy, linked to drug use.

Recorded sexual offences significantly reduced in 2020/21, a likely temporary trend linked to the restrictions in the night-time economy. However, data for 2021/22 strongly indicates increases beyond the levels recorded in 2019. Victims of sexual offences are disproportionately young females under 17 years. Meanwhile, reported domestic violence increased by 5% in Poole and Christchurch.

Links have also been found between knife crime and drugs, both nationally and in local data. There is evidence to suggest that young people are disproportionately the victims of robbery, and that there could be a concerning increase in young people perpetrating this crime.

The pandemic created additional challenges for child protection services and other front-line services, with changes to the services they provide and, in some cases, less face-to-face appointments. Additionally, the pandemic has meant that children and young people have spent more time online, for schooling and socialising, and potentially unsupervised. [Research](#) has found that Covid-19 restrictions have hampered the ability of front-line services to risk-assess exploitation and has exacerbated the potential for County Lines exploitation and other harm to remain hidden.

There were high levels of reported ASB during 2020 and 2021 compared with 2019, due to two consecutive factors resulting from the pandemic:

- a) During periods of control measures and restrictions, significant numbers of ASB incidents directly linked to breaches of restrictions were logged;
- b) The easing of restrictions, whilst travel overseas restrictions remained, resulted in larger number of people visiting the area.

Data analysis undertaken to filter out ASB incidents in 2021 directly associated with Covid shows the underlying levels of ASB similar to 2019. People using or dealing drugs was one of the types of ASB thought to be a very or fairly big problem by respondents to the Resident's Survey, along with rubbish and litter. This could indicate that drug issues are increasing in the area.



The COVID-19 pandemic has had a huge impact on society; there have been unprecedented changes to healthcare systems, economic performance, mental wellbeing, social interactions, and mobility in response to both the virus and attempts to control it. The restrictions imposed significantly limited physical interactions, particularly during, but not restricted to lockdown periods accelerating the adoption of working from home practices and shifting to online platforms for day-to-day needs. These changes created fewer opportunities for criminals in public areas and more opportunities online. Many services have also been delivering interventions by phone and video-conferencing technology, and more research is needed to understand more about the impacts of this change and whether it has increased the vulnerability of some BCP residents.

Popular press and tourism-related journalists ascribe a visible “boom” in visitor numbers to UK seaside resorts due to the increased complexity and restrictions involved in international travel. It is likely that this trend will continue into 2022, maintaining employment in the sector, but putting more demand on local services including street cleansing, parks and greenspace maintenance, medical services, and community safety.

As the country settles into living with COVID, the Partnership will strive to maintain the gains achieved from improved collaboration across agency boundaries and to work with the Council’s commitment to a cleaner, greener, safer BCP. We agree that in order to make BCP one of the best coastal places in the world to live, work, invest, and play, we must improve reduce crime and disorder and prevent levels to escalate to that of some other regions in the UK.

The introduction of the [Domestic Abuse Act 2021](#) and proposed [Police, Crime, Sentencing and Courts Bill](#) 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.

## **Strategic Priorities for 2022 - 2025**

Based on the findings from the strategic assessment, the following priorities have been identified as the primary areas of focus for the Partnership throughout the life of this strategy:

- 1. Tackle violent crime in all its forms**
- 2. Keep young people and adults-at-risk safe from exploitation, including online risks**
- 3. Work with communities to deal with antisocial behaviour (ASB) and crime hotspots, including ASB linked to substance misuse**

The Partnership Plans underpinning this strategy will be reviewed each year as part of the annual strategic assessment process and will reflect any changes in emphasis

and trends in relation to crime, disorder, anti-social behaviour, substance misuse, and reoffending.

## **Achievements**

This is the first Community Safety Strategy developed by BCP Community Safety Partnership since it was formed in 2019. In early 2020, the COVID-19 coronavirus virus had been detected in the UK and, by March that year, the UK Government introduced restrictions across the country to combat the spread of the virus.

All agencies involved in the CSP had been affected by the coronavirus, with impact on staffing and working arrangements. However, partners remained committed to keeping BCP communities safe and rallied together to develop and deliver an agile COVID response. The executive board of the Partnership met frequently to oversee the implementation of plans designed to maintain safety, not only in relation to the coronavirus, but also in relation to other challenging demands around crime and safety, anti-social behaviour, and domestic abuse.

A Domestic Abuse COVID-19 Response Plan was implemented in 2020, which included a dedicated domestic abuse helpline, increase in outreach support, a pan-Dorset communications campaign, COVID-secure drop-in, and other measures. A new Domestic Abuse Strategy was also developed and was signed off by the CSP Executive Board in 2021.

The Partnership also developed problem-solving groups to focus on key locations where there were concerns about crime and disorder. Weekly meetings were held during the heights of the pandemic, ensuring that timely and robust actions were taken. These groups meetings are on-going and are developing enforcement and engagement tactics to tackle crime and disorder in specific areas as soon as evidence emerges.

In response to multi-agency concerns about organised child exploitation in the BCP area, additional management oversight was established to provide overview and direction in our response. Using learning from identified cases, the Partnership has developed new and additional processes to safeguard our young people, including training to relevant professionals on how to identify exploitation and report concerns. BCP Council now have a Complex Safeguarding Team to work with children suffering significant harm from exploitation. The team is made up of social workers, family support workers and intervention workers, to support and provide on-going assessment of children and young people who are being criminally or sexually exploited.

In 2020 Dorset Combined Youth Justice Service (YJS) implemented the Trauma Recovery Model. The YJS is a multi-disciplinary partnership which has used the expertise of its health professionals to help embed trauma-informed practice in its work. The YJS Speech and Language Therapists complete specialist assessments of young people in the justice system, identifying communication needs in 80% of this

group. The combination of communication assessments and trauma-informed practice enables an individualised response plan for each child.

BCP Police have implemented a dedicated Missing Persons team to investigate cases of vulnerable adults and children who go missing. Some of the children and young people who go missing have been targeted for exploitation by adults from outside of the BCP area, and BCP police work with other police forces to identify perpetrators as well as ensuring those vulnerable children and young people are returned home safely and supported by BCP Council services.

During 2020 – 21, the police worked with CSP partners to run several successful operations to tackle serious violent crime in Bournemouth Lower Gardens involving young people and to educate local hotels in spotting signs of child exploitation. The Council's Community Safety Accreditation Scheme (CSAS) Officers worked with police officers to tackle aggressive begging across BCP. A police operation named *Operation Vigilant*, involving specially trained and dedicated officers, was launched in the summer of 2021 to respond to increased reports of sexual offences in Bournemouth and Weymouth town centres. The operation used a combination of uniformed and plain-clothed officers, to identify individuals who may be displaying signs of unacceptable behaviour, such as sexual harassment, inappropriate touching, and loitering.

Working with BCP Council, the police established a Multi-Agency Communications Centre (MACC) to manage the higher demand during the summer months and allow for all agencies to communicate effectively and react swiftly to reports of crime or anti-social behaviour. The MACC involved officers conducting high-visibility patrols, engaging with members of the public and intervening to disrupt early signs of disorder, such as those linked to social drinking in known hotspots. The MACC received positive comments following a visit by the UK Home Office.

Dorset Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) have developed a domestic abuse toolkit for General Practice and have delivered domestic abuse training to all universal services. Health Visitors, School Nurses, Midwives and GPs have now embedded questioning about domestic abuse into their routine practice and deliver early intervention / protection work.

Many other health services make a significant contribution to domestic abuse work in identification, managing disclosures and ongoing work, these include but are not exclusive; practice nurses, adult mental health practitioners, CAMHS, social prescribers, sexual health services, emergency departments, and minor injury units. Dorset Healthcare Trust Criminal Justice Liaison and Diversion Service work with the DRIVE perpetrator programme, which challenges and supports domestic abuse perpetrators to change their abusive behaviours.

As well as responding to fires and other emergencies, Dorset & Wiltshire Fire and Rescue Service priorities of prevention, protection and governance aim to improve the safety and quality of life for all the communities of Dorset and Wiltshire by helping them make healthier choices, protecting them and the environment from harm, being there when you need us and making every penny count. Throughout the Covid pandemic, the Service worked hard to help keep health and care workers safe during. Fire teams

fitted and tested thousands of face masks, vital to the safety of these important key workers. Fire Service staff also drove ambulances and played their part in helping health colleagues roll out the vaccine programme.

The Service covers an area of over 2,500 square miles and serves around 1.5 million people. It operates from has 50 community fire stations delivering services through a team of over 1,400 operational and corporate staff. The BCP area is supported by 6 fire stations with over 160 firefighters and 19 operational vehicles. The service actively contributes to multi-agency working and engagement with communities, such as Safe and Well checks, Business fire safety checks and road-safety activities, including educational activities in primary schools and with older people. They also deliver youth intervention programmes, helping local young people to build employability, teamwork, and community skills.

## Public Health Approach to improving Community safety

BCP CSP have agreed to take what is known as a Public Health Approach to reducing crime and making the community safer. This approach actively considers the wider drivers and systems that affect the whole community, as well as specific groups, and then takes a wider multi-agency response for short, medium, and long-term impacts.

The Public Health Approach aims to prevent violence by exposing a broad segment of the population to prevention measures to reduce and prevent violence at a population level, and target specific groups for certain interventions. It also involves working in partnership with different organisations in a multi-agency way to achieve maximum benefit

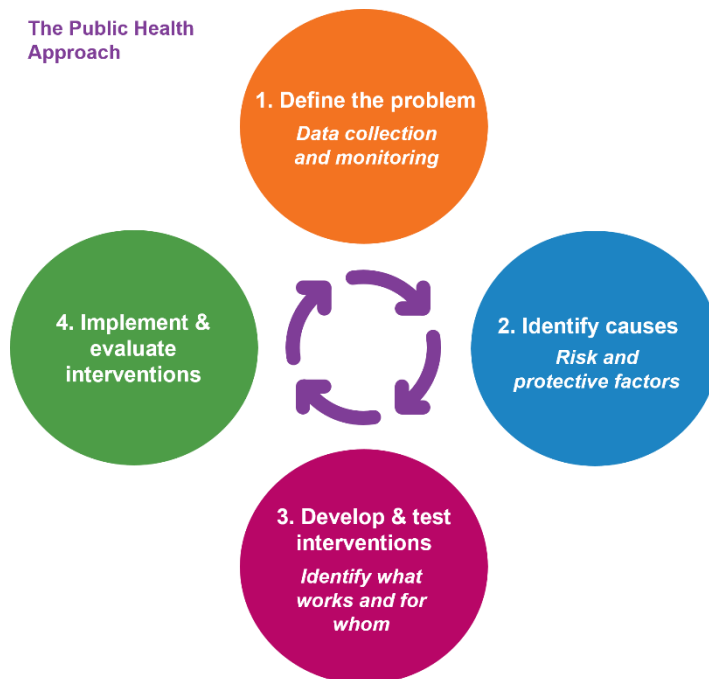
Research evidence has shown statistical association between offending behaviour and the impact of early trauma and adverse childhood experiences. We also know that victims and perpetrators can often be the same population of people who are vulnerable to being drawn into criminality. The whole-community approach must also take account of witnesses or bystanders who are exposed to criminality and may have an increased fear of crime, or suffer long-term negative impact on their mental health, or even increase their isolation and loneliness.

Under the Public Health Approach, different levels of intervention are used depending on the level of focus, as shown in the table below.

Levels of prevention	Types of intervention
Primary – preventing incidents before they happen, i.e., to reduce the number of new incidents of crime in the population	Universal – aimed at the general population
Secondary – immediate response to incidents to decrease prevalence after early signs of problem	Targeted selected – targeted at those more at risk of victimisation
Tertiary – to intervene once the crime problem is evident and causing harm	Targeted indicated – Targeted at those who perpetrate offences

Source: Adapted from Local Government Association, 2018

Many local authority areas have already implemented the Public Health Approach for some years, and we want to learn from their experiences and avoid the mistakes they made. On violence reduction, we will engage authorities who have set up Violence Reduction Units where partners work together to reduce weapons-related hospital admissions, knife-enabled serious violence, and all non-domestic homicides. We want to learn about the necessary culture-change required across partners and delivery agencies to share information, work with whole communities, and collaborate in commissioning and delivery.



Based on what we already know others have done, we will seek to understand prevention at all levels (primary, secondary, tertiary, criminal justice, and enforcement). We will also need to improve our shared understanding of risk and protective factors so we can start to tackle some of the specific causes of the problems we identify. We will then need to develop appropriate interventions and implement them in partnership with communities and businesses, including schools, universities, and hospitals.

This approach will be applied to the various types of crime and disorder experienced in the BCP area, whether it is violence at the most harmful end or anti-social behaviour, which although can be less harmful, affects our residents' quality of life and pride in the areas they live, work or play.

The importance of understanding and improving our knowledge of the issues cannot be underplayed. Using our combined data and intelligence, the Partnership will develop a shared understanding of what poses risks to our communities and what actions we may take to mitigate those risks. This will also include working with our communities to understand their experiences of crime and disorder and to ensure we can intervene early, even before issues develop and are reported to statutory agencies.

Our Dorset NHS partners have developed Dorset Insight and Intelligence Service (DIIS), which provides greater intelligence so that local low-level information can be factored into commissioning decisions. We will use this intelligence to help identify any gaps in services for those who may be vulnerable to exploitation but who may be below threshold for any intervention.

Our analysis will give us better understanding of our vulnerable communities and the threats facing them so we can work together to safeguarding them from harm. We will

use research and established good practice to learn what interventions might be most effective. Some of these interventions may need to be commissioned and delivered by more than one agency and we will seek to join the most appropriate skills and expertise to mainstream delivering community safety interventions across all our services, whether it is working with young people in schools about the harm caused by drugs, or it is engaging adults about preventing fraud and abuse.

Where initiatives have proven to work, we will increase their use with targeted groups and communities, building on our network of community leaders to increase engagement.

## **The Community Safety Partnership delivery model**

The CSP has a clear accountability and delivery structure, with an Executive Board that decides on the strategic priorities, provides oversight and strategic leadership, and approves the annual Partnership Plans. There are two strategic groups that together develop relevant strategies in line with the Partnership's priorities, oversee delivery plans and commission initiatives. Tactical and operational groups deliver and monitor initiatives, ranging from those working with individuals, to those addressing problems in specific locations or for the whole BCP population.

Some agencies that make up the Partnership operate across Dorset and the Partnership also takes account of crime and victimisation involving residents across BCP borders. As such, BCP Community Safety Partnership delivery model includes working with pan-Dorset groups on relevant issues.

Our delivery model has changed from a structure that focusses on individual crime types to one that focusses on four clear strategic themes: Prepare, Engage, Prevent, and Protect. This delivery embodies the principles of the Public Health Approach, with a focus on intelligence and data, engaging communities and building resilience, working collaboratively, and behaviour change across services, within communities and amongst individuals.

We know we need to improve data and intelligence sharing, including our ability to identify those who are at risk of victimisation and those who pose a risk to others, the community, and to themselves. This is key to us understanding and being able to define our problems, and our strategic groups will develop an Information Governance Network to lead this important work. The groups will work to ensure that services are addressing the root causes of the problems with effective interventions.

Across our three priorities, we will work to improve our engagement with our communities, including targeted groups such as young and disabled residents, so that we understand their experiences of crime and disorder and can work with them develop sustainable solutions. There are many strengths within BCP communities, which we want to build on, including working with residents to signposting others to support or to report concerns that may put the community at risk.

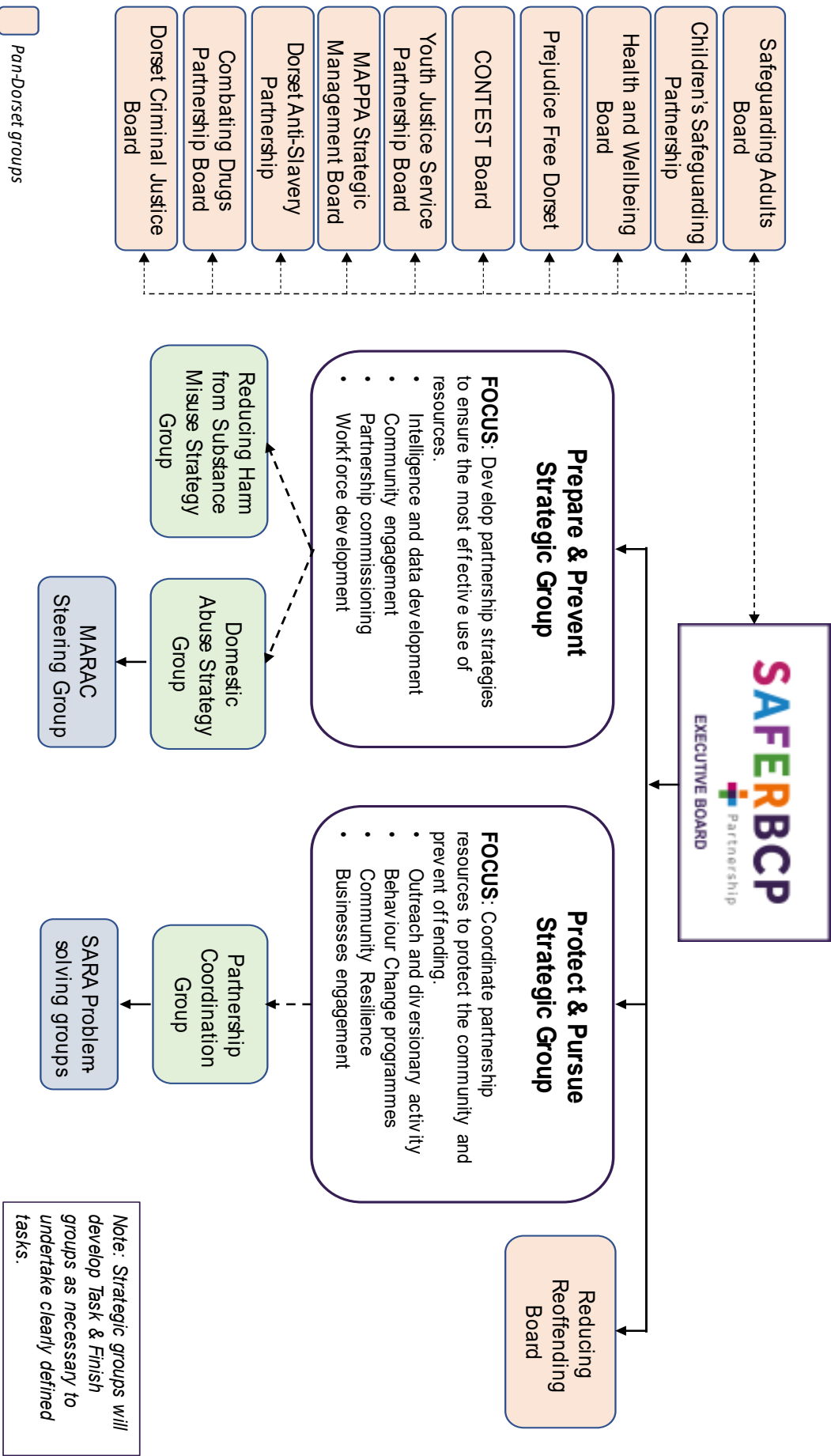
We are committed to creating a safer BCP and will take opportunities to commission services across multiple agencies and services wherever possible. This will both allow



us to get more out of the funding available and to extend available expertise across sectors.

Throughout the life of this strategy, our annual action plans will include a list of specific activities delivered by our partner organisations to address each of our priorities. There will be different workstreams and short-term groups (called Task and Finish groups) set up as required to provide expert insight, focus and development on particular issues.

The diagram on the next page illustrates the Partnership's, links, accountability, and delivery structure.



## Community Safety Priorities

### Priority 1. Tackle violent crime in all its forms

#### We will do this by:

- ✓ improving data sharing to better understand the risks around violent crime and how to reduce the harm it causes
- ✓ proactively tackling crime and working with in schools, including Pupil Referral Units and Alternative Provision, to raise awareness at an early age about how to prevent violence
- ✓ adopting a long term, preventative approach to violence reduction in collaboration with partners through the development of a Violence Reduction Network
- ✓ working with the Business Improvement Districts in Bournemouth and Poole in respect of safety in our town centres and in the night-time economy

#### Key Performance Indicators:

- ✓ reduction in recorded violent crimes, especially Serious Youth Violence, Sexual Violence, Domestic Violence, and weapons-related assaults
- ✓ increase in the number of violence-prevention awareness sessions delivered to young people so they understand what constitutes violence, and are empowered to report violence
- ✓ increase in the number of violent offenders brought to justice

Since 2019/20, there have been overall reductions in the types of crime associated with serious violence, such as robbery, possession of a weapon, and drug offences. However, more recently, some parts of the conurbation have seen small numerical increases in some of these offences, with drug offences increasing by 68%.

Similarly, in 2020/21 BCP saw a 15% reduction in sexual offences compared to the previous year, which was a greater reduction than seen nationally. However, in the wake of the abduction, rape and murder of Sarah Everard in March 2021, plus media coverage and various campaigns aimed at increasing reporting and challenging offenders, by January 2022 the reports of serious sexual offences in BCP had increased. While some of the increase may be because of increased confidence in reporting, the CSP wants to achieve a reduction in all forms of violence, including violence against women and girls.

As a partnership, we have made significant progress in improving safety of women and girls, particularly in relation to our combined response to domestic abuse. However, we are aware that acts of violence or abuse disproportionately affect women and girls and so we will do more to tackle crimes and behaviour including rape and other sexual offences, stalking, and offences committed online. This will involve

working with children and young people who experience violence and providing them with the skills to avoid and prevent violence.

Over the summer of 2021, our assessments identified robberies perpetrated by young people as a concerning issue in some areas. This has been reinforced by information from hospitals regarding the number of young people attending with significant injuries.

Supported by the Government's new legislation under the Police, Crime, Sentencing and Courts (PCSC) Act 2012, the CSP will work to develop new partnership arrangements to tackle violence. This will take the form of a Violence Reduction Network, which will aim to prevent violence from happening in the first place, prevent violence from escalating to serious criminality, and prevent violent offenders from reoffending.

The PCSC Act will require us to develop a violence prevention and reduction strategy and will increase the number of partners, such as educational, prisons and youth custody agencies to work closer with us to share information for the purposes of preventing and reducing serious violence. The development of a Violence Reduction Network will embrace these agencies and others to tackle violence at its root, using the Public Health Approach outlined earlier.

The CSP will provide leadership and strategic coordination, working closely with Dorset's Police and Crime Commissioner, to foster collaborative working between partners and to enhance our understanding of the causes of violence and those most at risk of perpetrating violence. The Violence Reduction Network will work with communities to find long-term solutions and build their resilience to avoid violence.

The CSP will also improve links with businesses in our town centres and high-footfall areas to prevent and reduce violence related to alcohol, crowded spaces, and robberies. Uniformed police and council officers will increase visibility, and licencing officers will work with businesses, particularly in the entertainment, accommodation, food, and recreation sectors, to improve safety through staff training and responsible management practices.

A key aspect of our strategy is to improve information-sharing among partners so we can better predict who and which families are more likely to be involved in violent or aggressive behaviours, as well as the places where violent crimes are more likely to occur. We also want to use evidence to understand the periods which can increase the risk of people becoming involved in violent behaviour, and the opportunities when interventions can be most effective.

We will promote and encourage the use of the Sexual Assault Referral Centre (SARC), which provides specialist medical and forensic services for anyone who has been raped or sexually assaulted. The SARC also plays a crucial role in gathering forensic evidence that can lead to the identification of perpetrators so we can get them off our streets and reduce the risks they pose.

We are clear that the community must be involved in our approach to reduce violence, and we will work with our schools, colleges, and universities to educate our young people about how to resolve conflict and to be aware of the dangers of substance misuse. We also want to improve links with our communities so that there is a better

connection between those who need help to avoid or flee violence and the services that can assist them.

Enforcement is a key tool available to us and we will work with other police forces and council services to identify and bring to justice those who present risk of violence in our area, whether they operate locally or from farther afield.

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

### **We will do this by:**

- ✓ driving improved identification of potential victims and provide enhanced levels of immediate and sustained support
- ✓ identifying and taking enforcement action against those who exploit vulnerable residents
- ✓ equipping the community to recognise and report exploitation and to know how to minimise risks
- ✓ developing a multi-disciplinary programme to proactively support pupils at risk of exclusion

### **Key Performance Indicators:**

- ✓ increase in the number of criminal and civil powers used to deter offenders, incl. Child Abduction Warning Notices, Community Protection Notices, Recovery Orders, Slavery & trafficking prevention orders, and referrals to the National Referral Mechanism
- ✓ increase in the number of practitioners trained to recognise the signs of exploitation and how to refer for support
- ✓ increase in the use of the Child Exploitation Screening Tool across all levels on intervention with children and young people at risk of exploitation
- ✓ Increase in children reporting that they feel safer, and parents / carers reporting greater confidence about available support and access to it

There is an increasing body of research linking factors such as adverse childhood experiences (ACEs), poor mental health, substance misuse and deprivation to an increased likelihood of a person becoming a victim or perpetrating crime or disorder. Our strategic assessment highlights that BCP has a higher-than-England average rate for measures associated with poor mental health, for both adults and young people. This includes emergency hospital admissions for intentional self-harm (for both adults and 10–24-year-olds); inpatient stays in secondary mental health services; school pupils with social, emotional or mental health needs; hospital admissions for mental health conditions (under 18s); and suicides.

We also know that young people who are involved in gangs or who are being exploited to commit violent crimes have significant needs themselves. Of course, young people in the criminal justice system will be held responsible for their actions and the harm they cause to others, but we will continue our approach to assess their needs to safeguard and promote their welfare and to prevent further harm to themselves and others.

Our activity will include ongoing training of frontline practitioners to recognise the signs of exploitation, and we will work with schools and community groups to identify and support children and young people who may be vulnerable to exploitation, or who are being exploited. We want our young people to develop safe and meaningful lives and we are committed to help them build their resilience to the negative attraction that dangerous adults offer only to exploit them.

We will use information from the police and other services to understand more about our vulnerable young people and adults, and those who pose a risk to them. This will include working with services outside of the BCP area to share information on County Lines drug dealers and those locally who prey on the vulnerability of some of our residents. We will also continue and scale up interventions in violent crime hotspots to intervene early before crimes are committed and to safeguard those we believe might be at risk.

We will use the full range of legislative tools, from Child Abduction Warning Notices to Slavery and Trafficking Prevention Orders and will be proactive in our referrals through the National Referral Mechanism for children exploited for criminal offences such as County Lines, pickpocketing or cannabis cultivation, when we believe they are also victims of modern slavery or human trafficking.

Prevention is a key pillar in our approach, and we will increase the use of our Child Exploitation Screening Tool across all frontline services when professionals believe that the child or young person is at risk of being exploited. We will also work closer with families, from supporting parents-to-be through health and social care services to address trauma caused by their own adverse childhood experiences, to engaging early through Children's services to focus on giving children the best start in life.



### **Priority 3. Work with communities to deal with antisocial behaviour (ASB) and crime hotspots, including ASB linked to substance misuse**

#### **We will do this by:**

- ✓ regularly consulting local communities to identify ASB and crime hotspots and work with residents and businesses to improve safety in the affected areas, using a combination of civil and criminal legislation, as well as wider supportive and community-resolution measures available to the council and the police
- ✓ Improving the reporting of crime and anti-social behaviour to the relevant agencies, including the quality of reporting
- ✓ Reducing the risk of harm to vulnerable victims through effective case-management and multi-agency resolution
- ✓ monitoring the number of community triggers raised, with scrutiny into lessons learnt and best practice to continually inform and improve our practices
- ✓ increasing the number of offenders coming out of prison establishments who engage in community provision

#### **Key Performance Indicators:**

- ✓ increase in the number of joint patrols by uniformed officers, such as neighbourhood policing teams and council enforcement officers
- ✓ increase in the number of intervention tools used, such as mediation, restorative justice methods, and tenancy warnings
- ✓ increase in the community reporting of personal ASB
- ✓ increase in the number of criminal and civil powers used to reduce ASB, incl. Civil Injunctions, Criminal Behaviour Orders, Community Protection Notices, and Closure Powers
- ✓ increase capacity for substance misuse treatment and reduce drug and alcohol-related deaths

Anti-social behaviour (ASB) refers to a wide range of behaviours, from environmental issues such as litter or dog mess, through to personal nuisance such as noise. ASB may also include criminal offences such as arson, criminal damage, and public order, depending on the severity of the incident and the effect on the person experiencing it.

Our strategy is to resolve ASB before the behaviour becomes detrimental. However, where early intervention and supportive methods have failed, such as mediation, restorative justice, and tenancy warnings, we will use the full range of tools and powers available to the police, council, and housing providers to tackle ASB and neighbourhood crime.

ASB is also a subjective issue, and what one person finds to be a nuisance, another may not even notice. BCP CSP wants to be led by residents in understanding and tackling ASB and low-harm offences that concern them in their local areas, which may be different in different parts of the conurbation. Although our aim is to reduce anti-social behaviour incidents, we want to encourage more reporting so we may direct services accordingly and work with businesses and residents to identify, challenge and stop behaviours that can impact the quality of life for our residents and visitors.

We know that drugs and alcohol misuse sometimes lie behind persistent ASB or crimes in certain locations and, together with other commitments in our strategy, we want to identify these hotspot locations and persistent behaviours and target interventions at the underlying causes. These can be down to individual behaviours but also can be related to the environment itself or to the conduct of businesses in a location.

The new national Drug Strategy, [From Harm to Hope](#), sets out the Government's 10-year ambition to achieve a generational shift in our relationship with drugs, and to reduce overall drug use. The strategy noted that seaside towns are among the areas with higher prevalence of multiple disadvantages (drug addiction, homelessness and contact with the criminal justice system). Bournemouth ranked 9th for opiate and crack misuse at 15.05 per 1,000 of population, and 8th for multiple disadvantages and complexities, at 12.4 per 1,000 of working adults.

We already commission and provide a range of support services for residents who use drugs, and those affected by others' illicit drug misuse. As a condition of grant funding, we must have regard to the need to improve the take up of, and outcomes from, our drug and alcohol misuse treatment services. We will work together to target individuals in hotspot locations, to deliver interventions to increase their motivation to engage in services and offer bespoke packages of support in line with their assessed needs.

While some people can drink alcohol responsibly, drug and alcohol misuse and dependence can have a far reaching and devastating impact on individuals and communities. Nationally, liver disease is now the second leading cause of premature death among people of working age, and BCP has a higher rate than the England average for the number of alcohol related hospital admission. The impact on the quality of lives for some residents can be significant and can affect other life outcomes, such as their health and wellbeing.

BCP Council have just started a project with Alcohol Change UK to look at cognitive functioning impairment in dependent drinkers. Some street drinkers within the BCP area, or individuals who cause ASB due to their substance misuse, could fall into this category and may be making decisions with impaired functioning which puts them at risk. At the end of the year-long project we will have a toolkit for screening, providing guidance around working with individuals with cognitive impairment, and offer training to relevant frontline staff.

The CSP aims increase coordination across police, council, and housing partners to tailor responses to meet the different challenges in localities and support residents to live their lives without fear or intimidation caused by persistent ASB and crime in certain locations. We also want to ensure our young people can use our parks and

open spaces without fear of drug dealers pressuring them to use or sell illicit substances.

Our strategy includes working closer at neighbourhood levels to engage residents and businesses about crime and ASB in their locality and work together to develop solutions that work, building on the strengths in these communities to develop the behaviour changes that are necessary to challenge criminality and ASB. We will raise awareness of the Community Trigger process, which gives victims of persistent anti-social behaviour reported to any of the main responsible agencies (such as the council, police, housing provider) the right to request a multi-agency case review of their case, where the threshold is met.

We will develop a dedicated partnership ASB strategy that sets out exactly how agencies will work together to improve the daily quality of life of our residents, whether it is about them feeling safe to use our spectacular public spaces during the daytime or take advantage of our growing night-time economy.

BCP Council have increased CCTV capacity across the conurbation to assist in deterring crime and ASB. CCTV also plays a significant role in identifying crime and ASB hotspots and can provide evidence to bring offenders to justice. We will further improve how we use information provided by CCTV to support our information-led approach.

## **Community Engagement and Communication**

We know that actively engaged communities contribute significantly to the improvement of services, the reduction of anti-social behaviour and improved community safety. Communities can only make these contributions if the communication and engagement work of the Partnership is undertaken with a genuine desire to communicate, listen and learn.

Our strategy is to build on communication and engagement work already done by each partner agency, and to ensure that residents and partners are involved as active participants in improving safety in Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole, and that the public's contribution influences decisions regarding the Partnership's priorities.

The Partnership will communicate with the community and establish dialogue where individuals, groups or organisations can feed in ideas to help shape our activities. We will consult with the community on matters of concern to them, to get messages out, share information, and to raise awareness of measures to improve safety for individuals and the wider community.

All partners will take a multi-agency approach, where possible, for relevant communication with residents and stakeholders, so that all partners are working towards shared communication aims and outcomes and are providing consistent messages to inform and reassure local communities.

The Partnership will make the most of all opportunities throughout each year to engage with all segments of the community on place and issue-based concerns, and to develop our work and future priorities, informed by such ongoing engagement.

All partners of the CSP will have their own existing platforms for engagement with communities within BCP. Wherever it is appropriate, the CSP will also engage residents and communities through these routes to avoid duplication and to extend our reach across agency boundaries.