SAFERBCP Partnership

Bournemouth, Christchurch & Poole

STRATEGIC ASSESSMENT 2024/25

Date: 17/06/2024

Contents

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:

o **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.

o **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 sustainable 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)
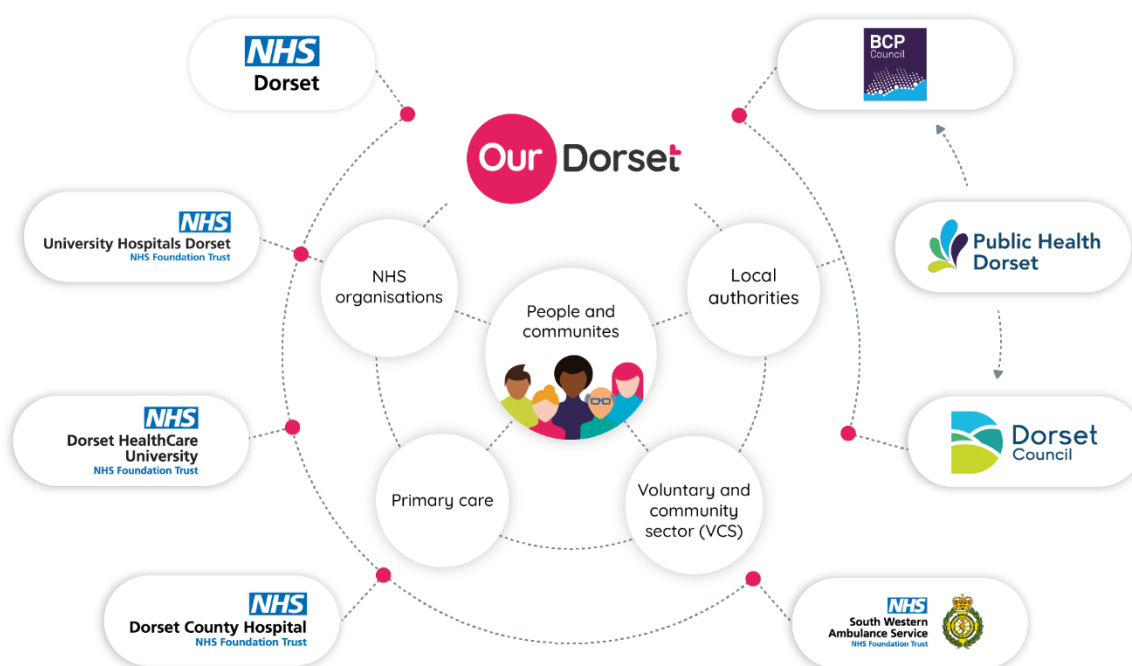
Figure 1 - Our Dorset Integrated Care System Partners

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.
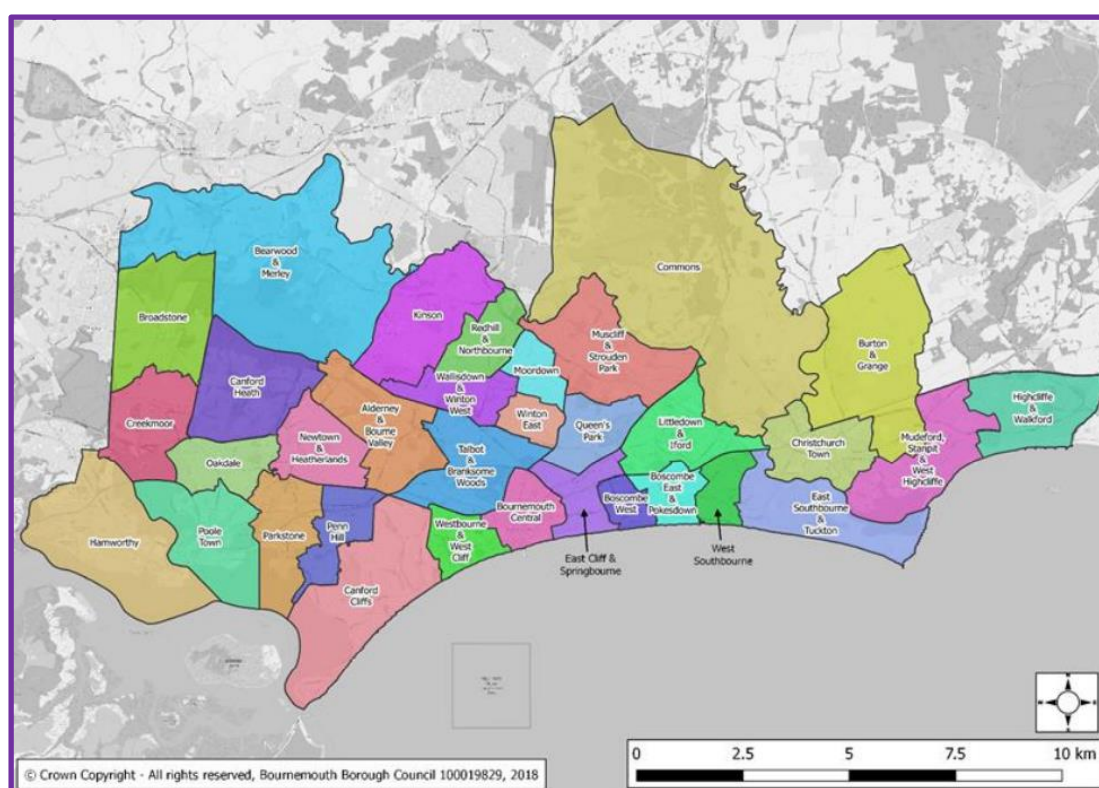
Figure 2 - Map of BCP

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 Wholetime stations – Redhill Park, Westbourne, Springbourne;
- Two that are both Wholetime 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%.
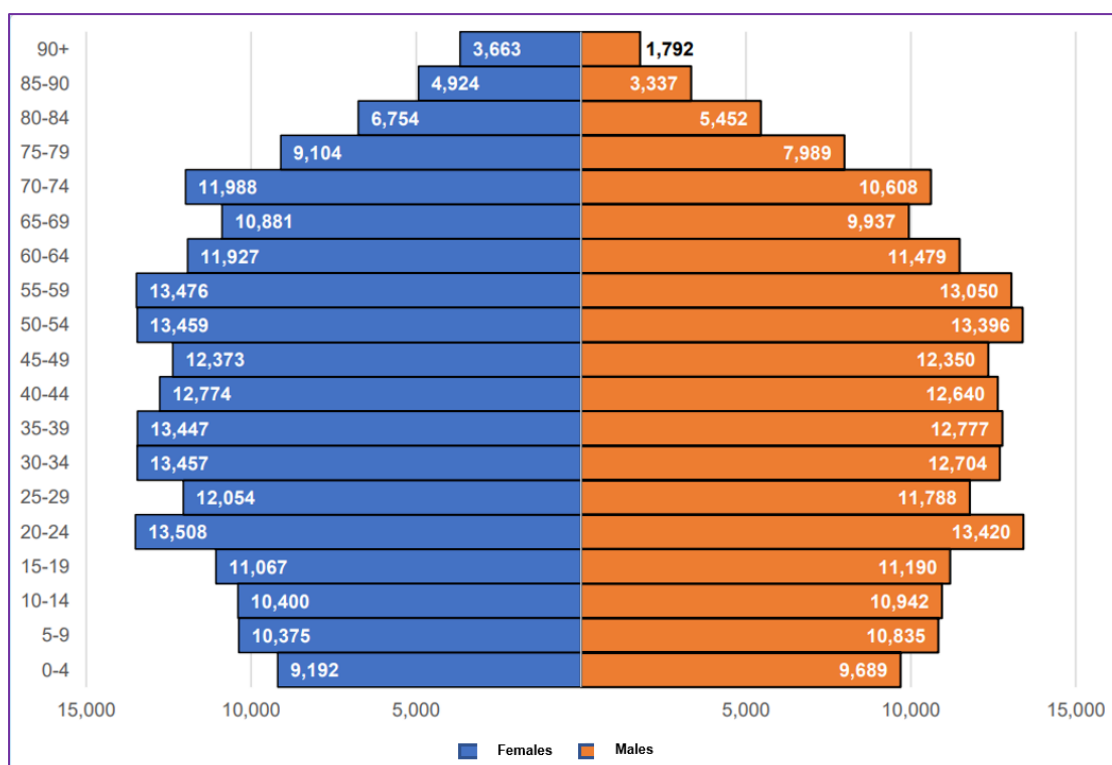
Figure 3 - Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole Age Distribution by Gender

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 4[1] shows that in comparison to our CIPFA nearest neighbours[2], unemployment rates as a percentage of the economically active population in BCP are fairly central and not of notable concern:
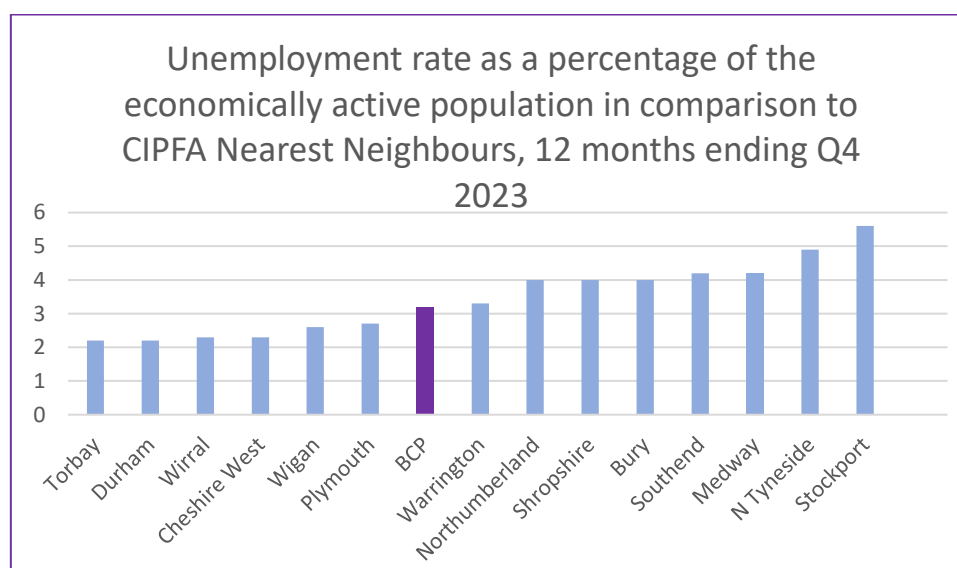
Figure 4 - unemployment rate as a percentage of the economically active population - BCP in comparison to CIPFA Nearest Neighbours.

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.

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[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 job[4].

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: 'heath', '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:
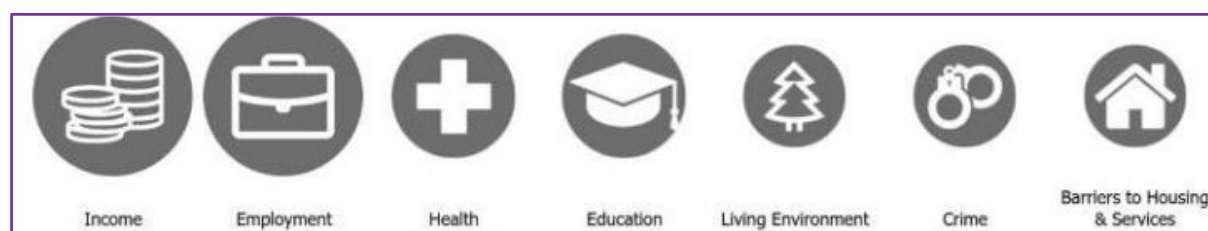
Figure 5 - Indices of Deprivation domains.

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[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.
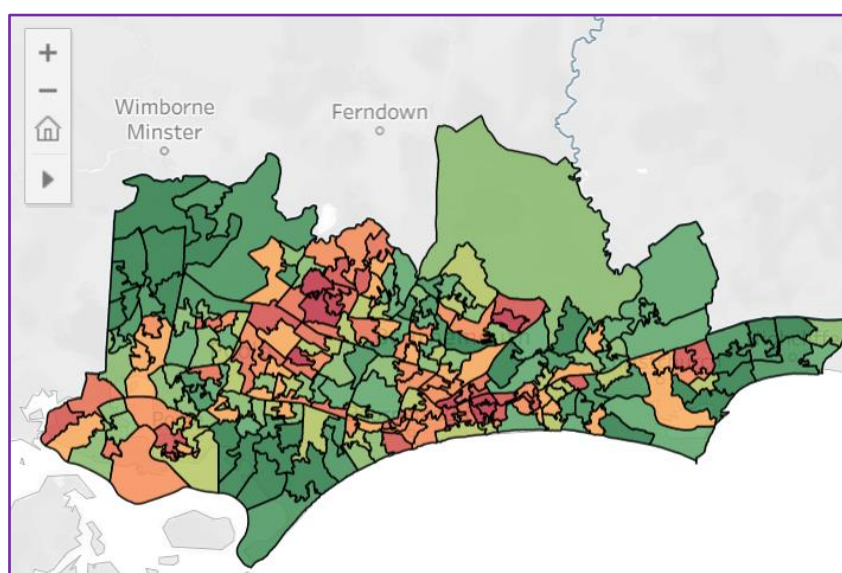
Figure 6 - Map of Index of Multiple Deprivation across BCP

% LSOAs in each IMD decile:
(out of 233 LSOAs across BCP)

National reference line 10%

Decile 1 most deprived	4%
	7%
	8%
	12%
	11%
	11%
	14%
	11%
	12%
Decile 10 least deprived	10%
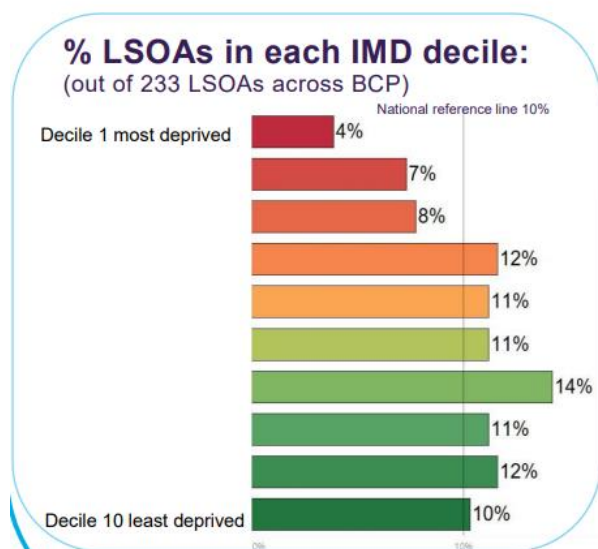
Figure 7 Percentage of LSOAs in each IMD decile

population in each IMD decile:
(out of 396 thousand people across BCP)

Decile 1 most deprived	16 thousand
	30 thousand
	31 thousand
	52 thousand
	45 thousand
	44 thousand
	54 thousand
	41 thousand
	43 thousand
Decile 10 least deprived	39 thousand
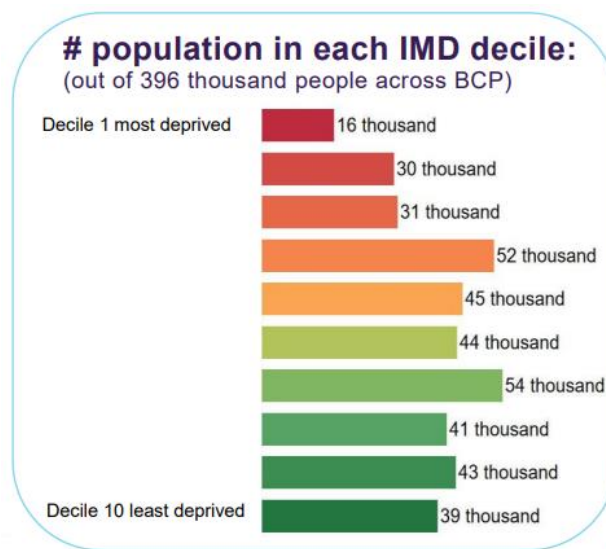
Figure 8 Number of people in each IMD decile

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.

LSOAs in the most deprived 20% nationally by deprivation type
(out of 233 LSOAs across BCP)

Deprivation type	# LSOAs in Decile 1	# LSOAs in Decile 2
Education and Skills	13	24
IDAOPI	10	21
IDACI	9	20
Crime	12	15
Health and Disability	8	18
Barriers to Housing & Services	5	20
Income	8	15
Employment	9	14
Living Environment	7	10
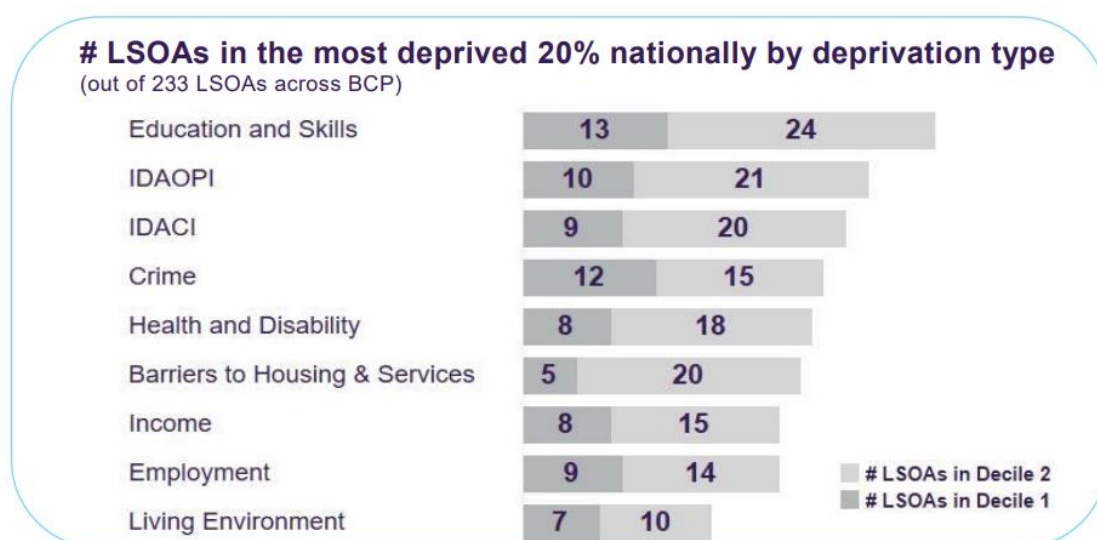
Figure 9 - Number of LSOAs in the most deprived 20% nationally by deprivation type

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 periods[5] 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.
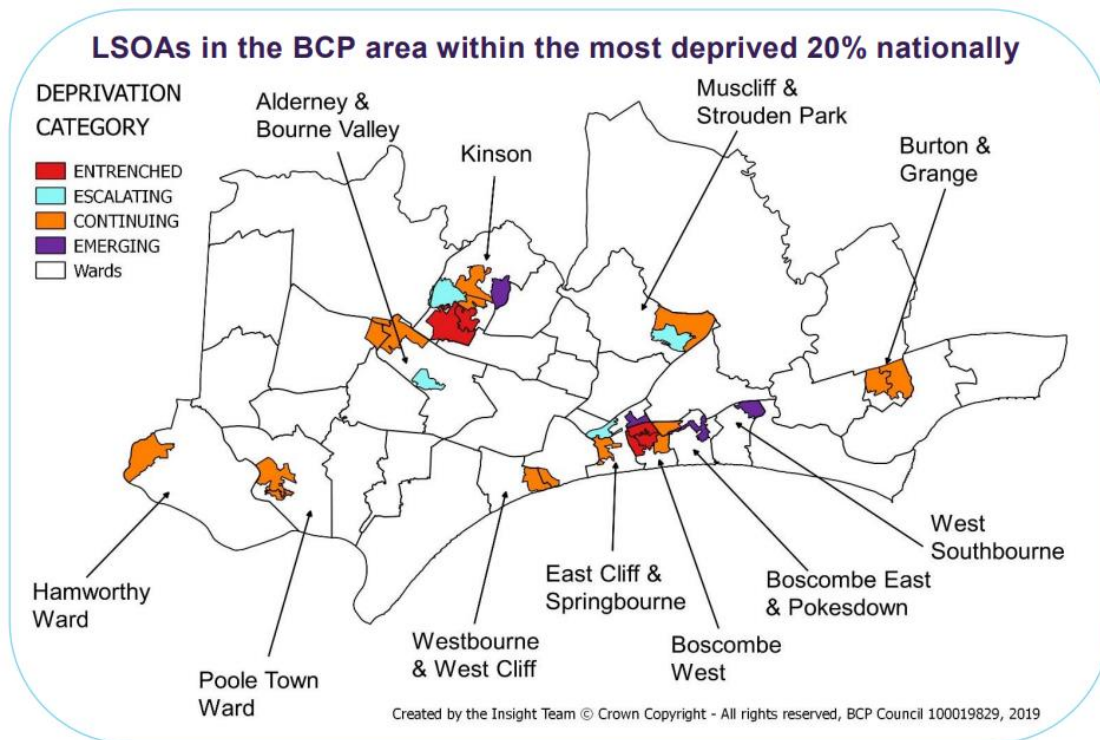
Figure 10- Areas of BCP among the 20% most deprived nationally

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.

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[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 deprivation[6], 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 tenures[7]. 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.

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[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 Resarch - Beyond safety to wellbeing (core.ac.uk)

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 areas[8]. 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:

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[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)

Purple LSOAs are the 10% of LSOAs where the national rank has increased the most, meaning they have become relatively less deprived.
Blue LSOAs are the 10% of LSOAs that have experienced the biggest decrease in their national ranking, meaning they have become relatively more deprived.
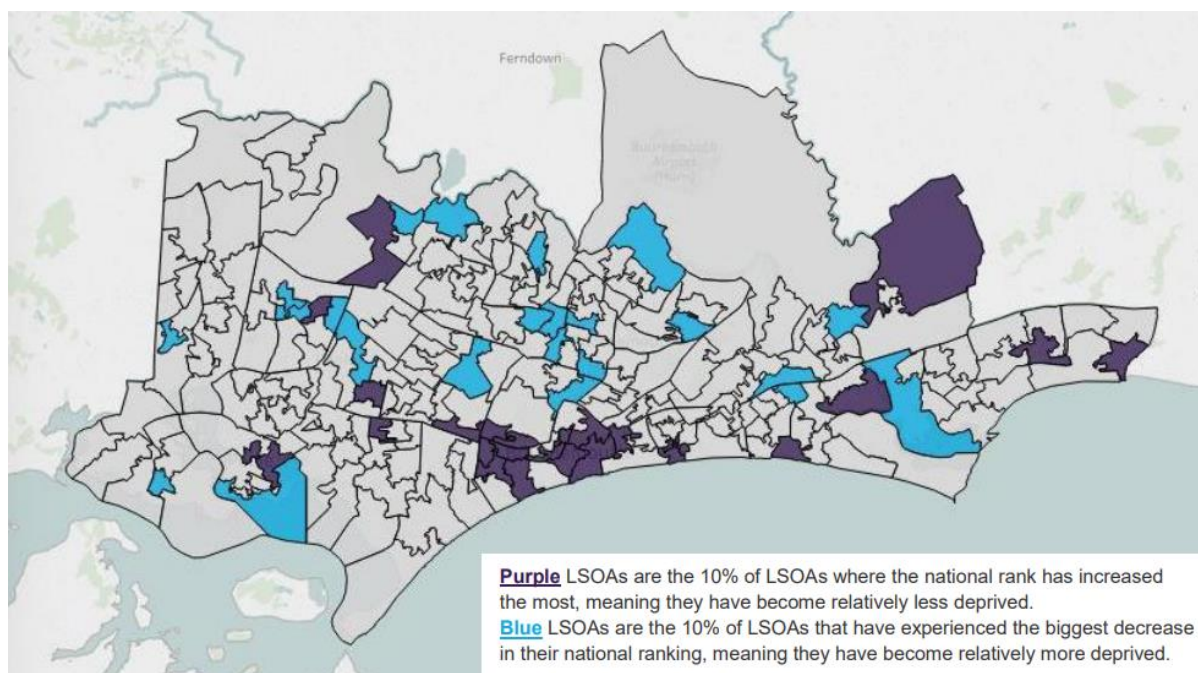
Figure 11 - LSOAs with greatest shift in their levels of relative deprivation 2015-2019
Deprivation – Impacts

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 support[9].

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 use[14] and early onset of alcohol use increases the risk of alcohol dependence and other illicit drug use in later life[15].

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[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 Neighborhood 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 Research[16] 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 neighbourhoods [18].

3.5.8 Family and area level disadvantageous socio-economic conditions often lead to teenage pregnancy[19],which is significantly associated with adverse health outcomes and social consequences[20].

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.

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[16] Childhood poverty and early cognitive development in the U (suttontrust.com)

[17] Mind the gap – getting our children ready for school (savethechildren.org.uk)

[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)

[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)

[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 pupils[21]. Figure 12 shows BCP's state school permanent exclusion rate in comparison with our CIPFA nearest neighbours.
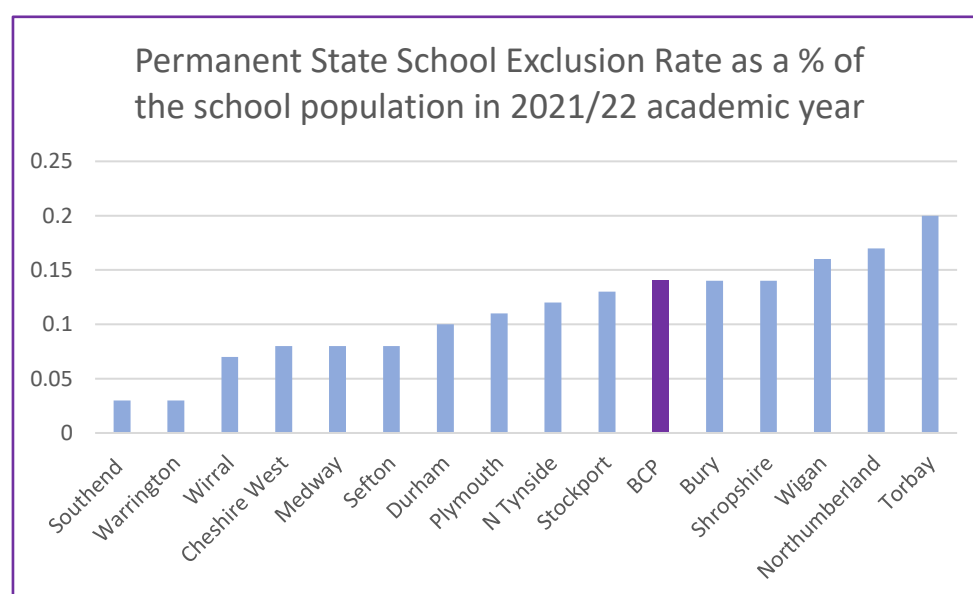
Figure 12 - Permanent state school exclusion rate as a % of the school population in 2021/22 academic year.

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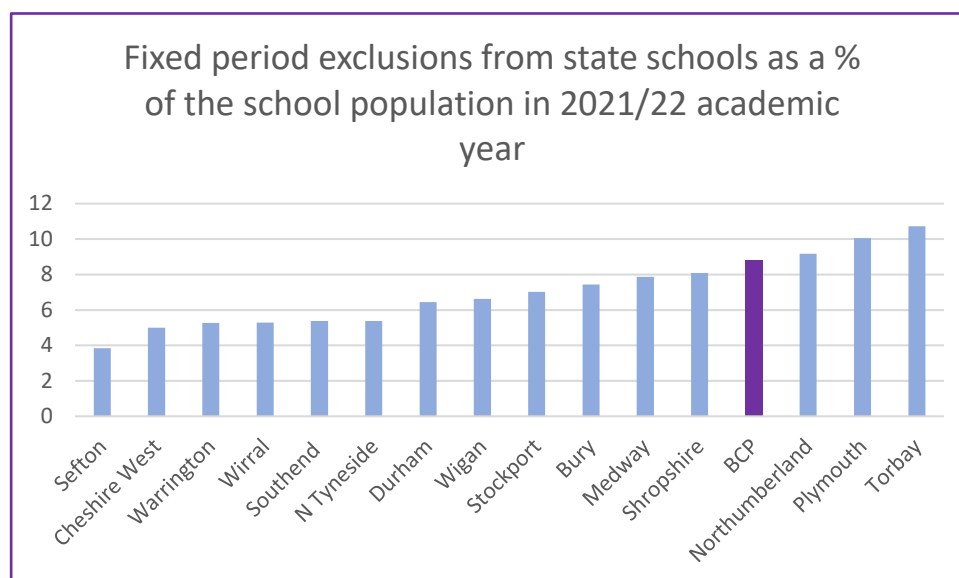
Figure 13 - Fixed term exclusion rate as a % of the school population in 2021/22 academic year.

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 period[22].

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 areas[23].

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'.

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[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 expectance 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 GP[24].

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 group[24].

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.

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[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 Team[25] 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.
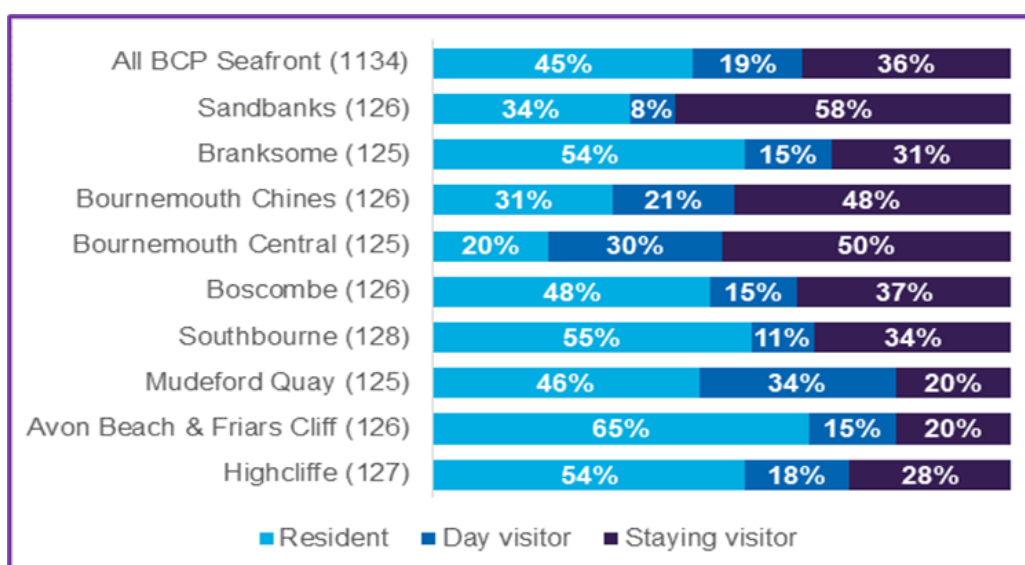
Figure 15 - Visitor type by seafront zone

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[25] Seafront Visitor Survey 2021, August 2021, Insight Team BCP Council Seafront Visitor Survey 2021 (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 experiences[26].

4.1.2 Further, there is very strong evidence[27] 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 nationally[28], 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 years[29].

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 rise[29].

4.2.7 Hospital admissions due to substance misuse[30] (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) 2018/19-2020/21[31].
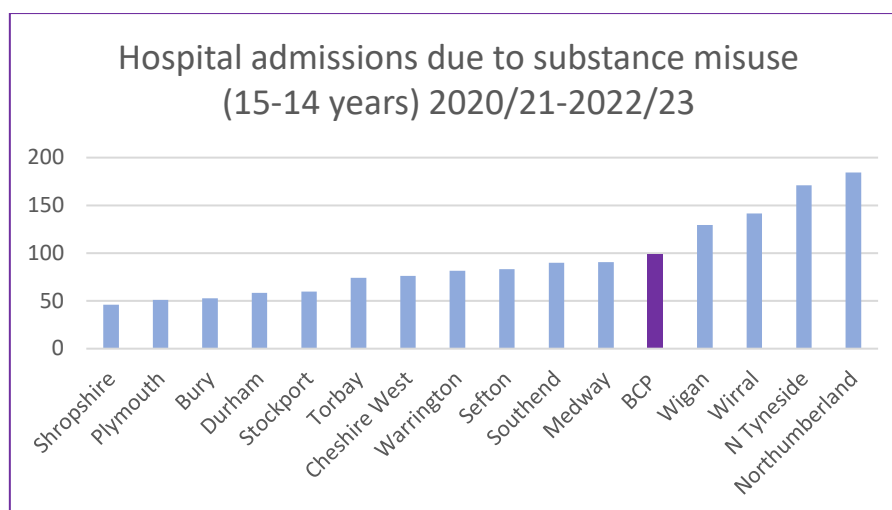
Figure 16 - Hospital admissions due to substance misuse per 100,000 population for 15-24 year olds - BCP in comparison to our CIPFA Nearest Neighbours

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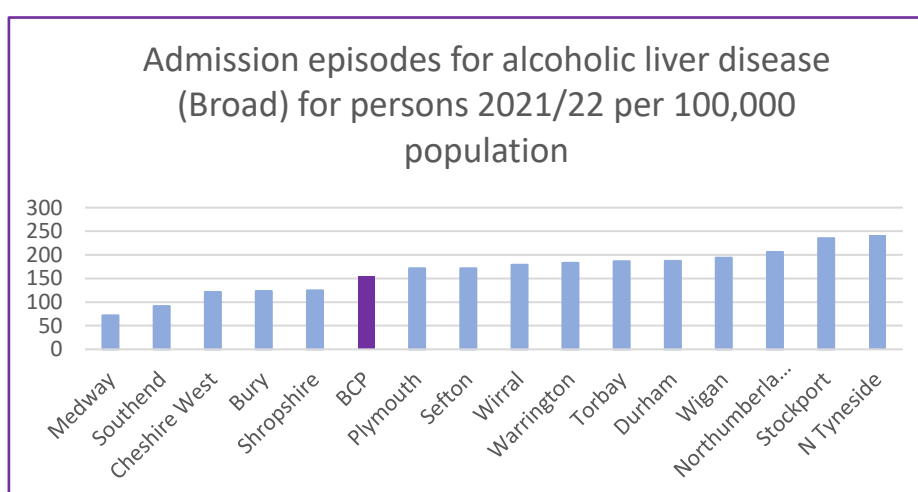
Figure 17 - Admissions for alcoholic liver disease - BCP in comparison to CIPFA Nearest Neighbours

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[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 males[33].

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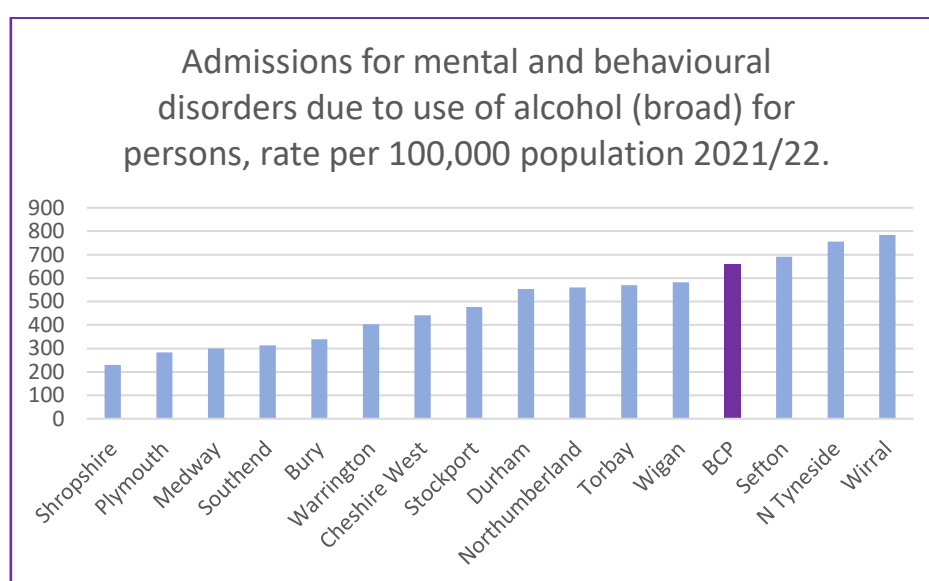
Figure 18 - Admissions for mental and behavioural disorders due to use of alcohol (broad) for persons, rate per 100,000 population 2021/22 for BCP in comparison with CIPFA Nearest Neighbours

4.2.11   There are a variety of ways in which substance misuse can exacerbate offending[34]:
- 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.

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[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 folzlowing 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 services[35].

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[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 period[36]. 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-23[37] 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 2024[38].

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 assault[39].

4.3.2 Further, research by Mind[40] 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 issues[41] 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 injury[42].

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[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. Research[43] 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 2021/22[44], 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.

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[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 services[46] 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, data[47] 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:
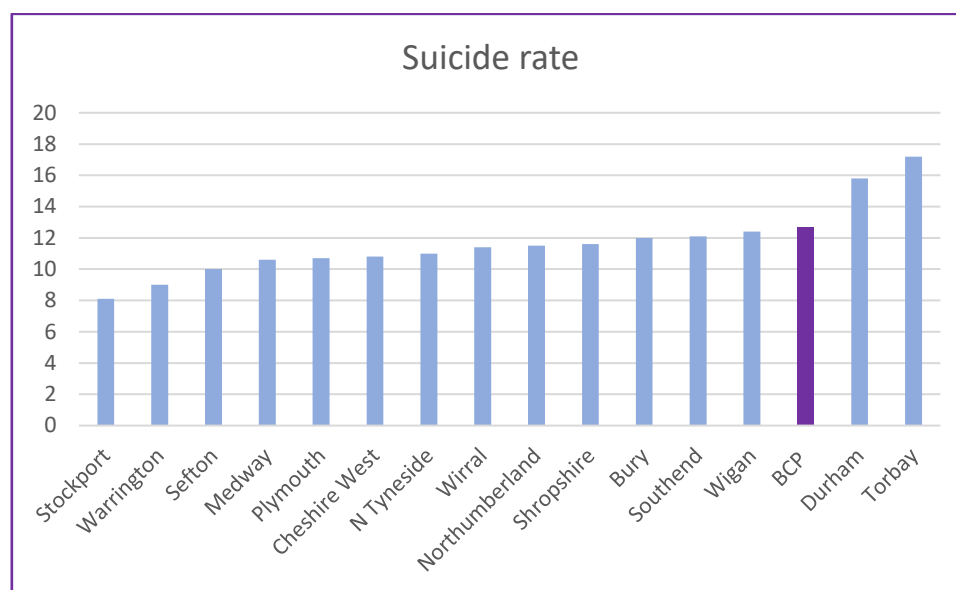
Figure 19 - Suicide rate per 100,000 for BCP in comparison to our CIPFA Nearest Neighbours

4.3.9 Further, there has been a notable increase in the suicide rate for males[48] 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 females[49] 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 Team[50] 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.

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[46] Public health profiles - OHID (phe.org.uk)
[47] Public health profiles - OHID (phe.org.uk)
[48] Public health profiles - OHID (phe.org.uk)
[49] Public health profiles - OHID (phe.org.uk)
[50] Community mental health teams for adults from 18 to 64 and over | BCP (bcpcouncil.gov.uk)

- 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 are[52]:

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

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[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 are[52]:

- 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 research[53](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 sleeping[54] 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 snapshot[55] is from Autumn 2022, where there was estimated to be 3.069 people sleeping rough. This is the first increase in four years.

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[52] Rough Sleeping Questionnaire: initial findings (publishing.service.gov.uk)
[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)

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 Data[56] 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 homelessness[57].

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 homelessness[58].

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 education[59].

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 2015[60].

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[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 (bcpcouncil.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 to 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 confidential[59].

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 support[59]. 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 defined[61] 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 crime[62],. 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.

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[61] Victims and Witnesses: Care and Treatment | The Crown Prosecution Service (cps.gov.uk)
[62] VS Insight Report - An easy target.pdf (victimsupport.org.uk)

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 high[63].

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 group[64].

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 crime[65].

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 house[68] whilst many bank robbers strike the same banks[69]. 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 crime[65].

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 occupation[65].

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[63] Inequalities in victimisation: alcohol, violence, and anti-social behaviour. An Institude of Alcohol Studies report, (2020). Available at: rp41052020.pdf (ias.org.uk)
[64] Victims of crime - GOV.UK Ethnicity facts and figures (ethnicity-facts-figures.service.gov.uk)
[65] O, S., Matinez, 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)
[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 disabilities[70]. 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 police[72].

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.

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[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 guns[73]. 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

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[73] Serious violence | Neighbourhood Watch Network (ourwatch.org.uk)
[74] *Home Office – Serious Violence Strategy, April 2018 (publishing.service.gov.uk)

feel the need to arm themselves for protection[75]. 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 violence[76].

- **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 greater[77].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 threats[78], may have led to cycles of tit for tat violence[79].

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).

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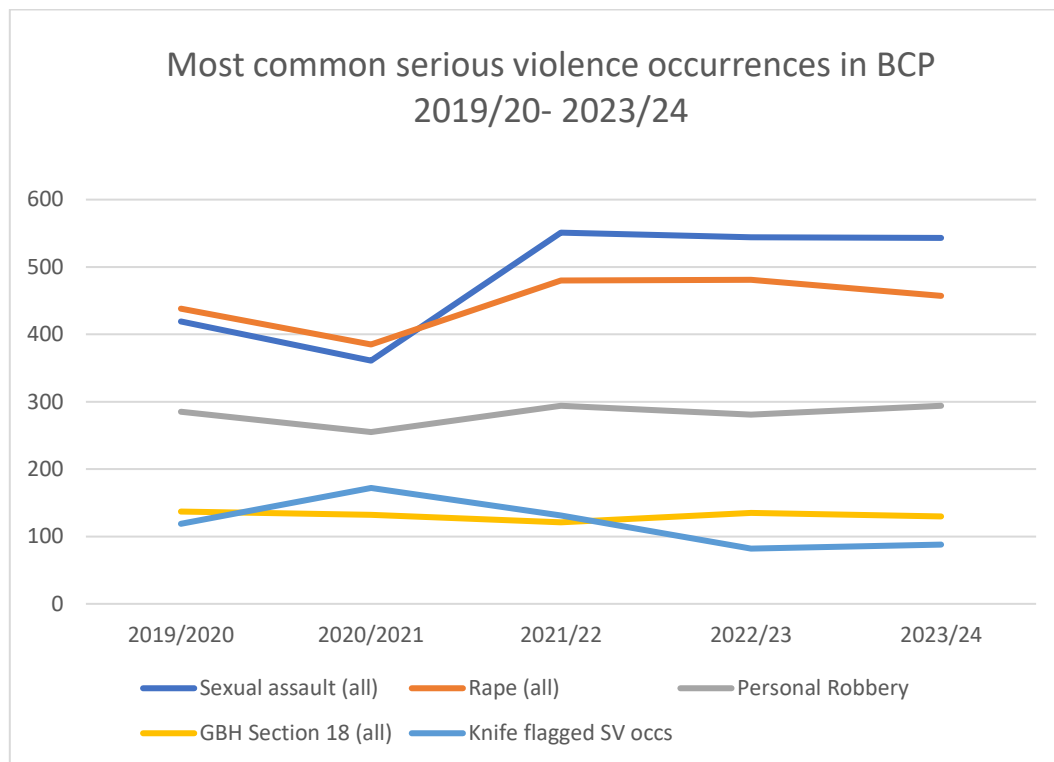
Figure 20 - Trends for most common types of serious violence occurrences in BCP 2019/2020-2023/24

6.2.6 Figure 20[80] 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.
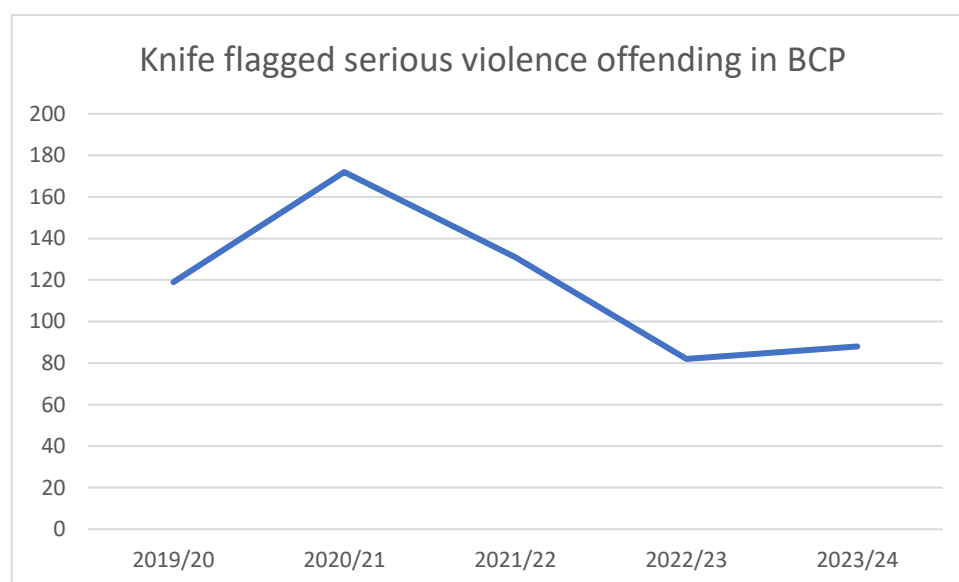
Figure 21 - Knife flagged serious violence offending in BCP

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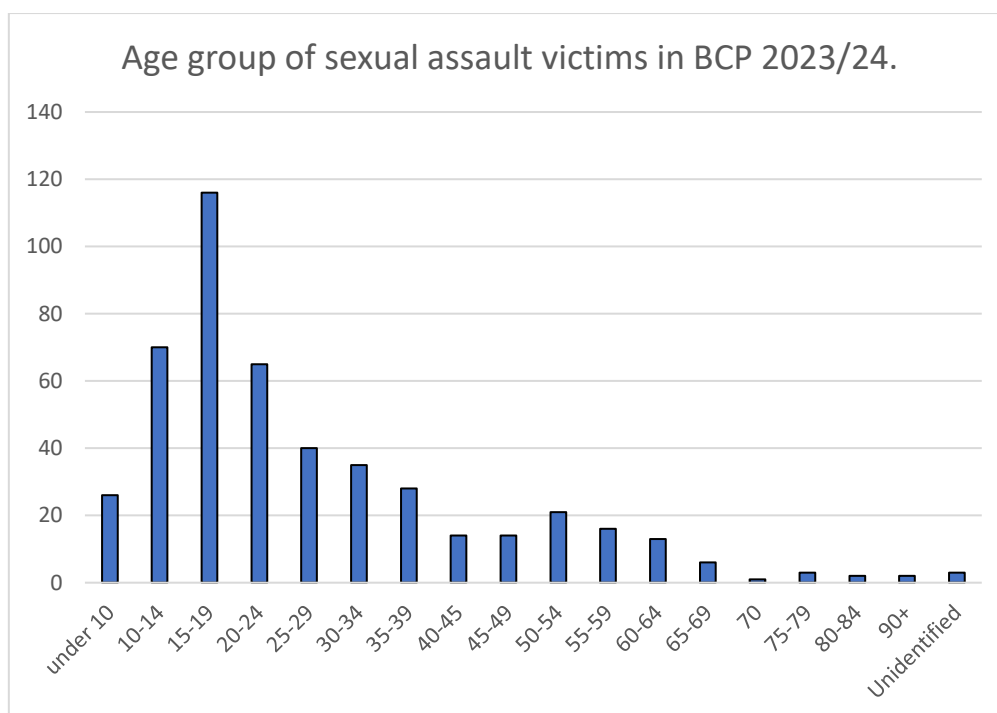
Figure 22 - Age group of victims of sexual assault reported to and recorded by Dorset Police in BCP 2023-24.

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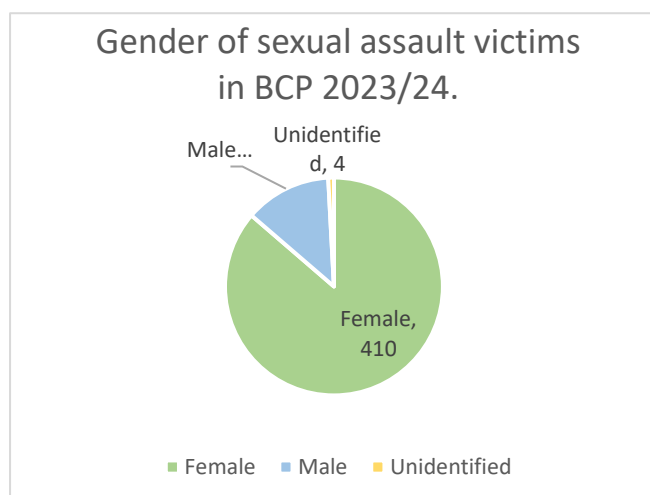
6.3.6 Figure 23 shows that the vast majority of victims of sexual assault in BCP in 2023/24 were female (86%) in comparison to male (13%). There were 4 victims whose gender was unidentified. It is likely that these occurrences were reported to the police by third parties.

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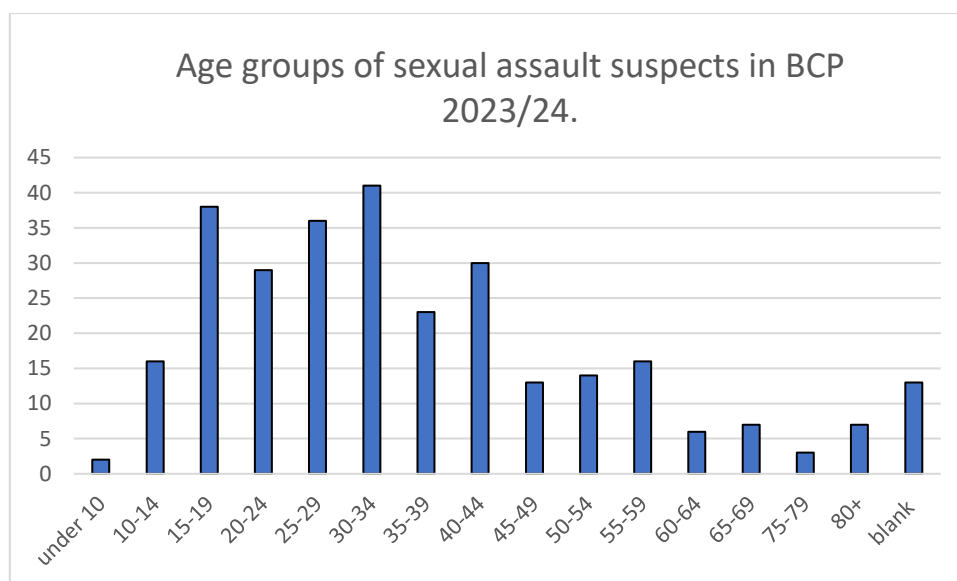
Figure 24 - Age groups of suspects of sexual assaults reported to and recorded by Dorset Police in 2023/24.

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

Female, 26
blank, 4
Male, 263

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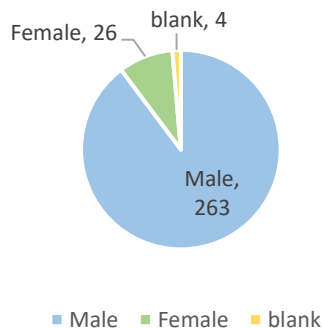
Figure 25 - Gender of suspects of sexual assault reported to and recorded by Dorset Police, occurring in BCP in financial year 2023/24.

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 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 202324.

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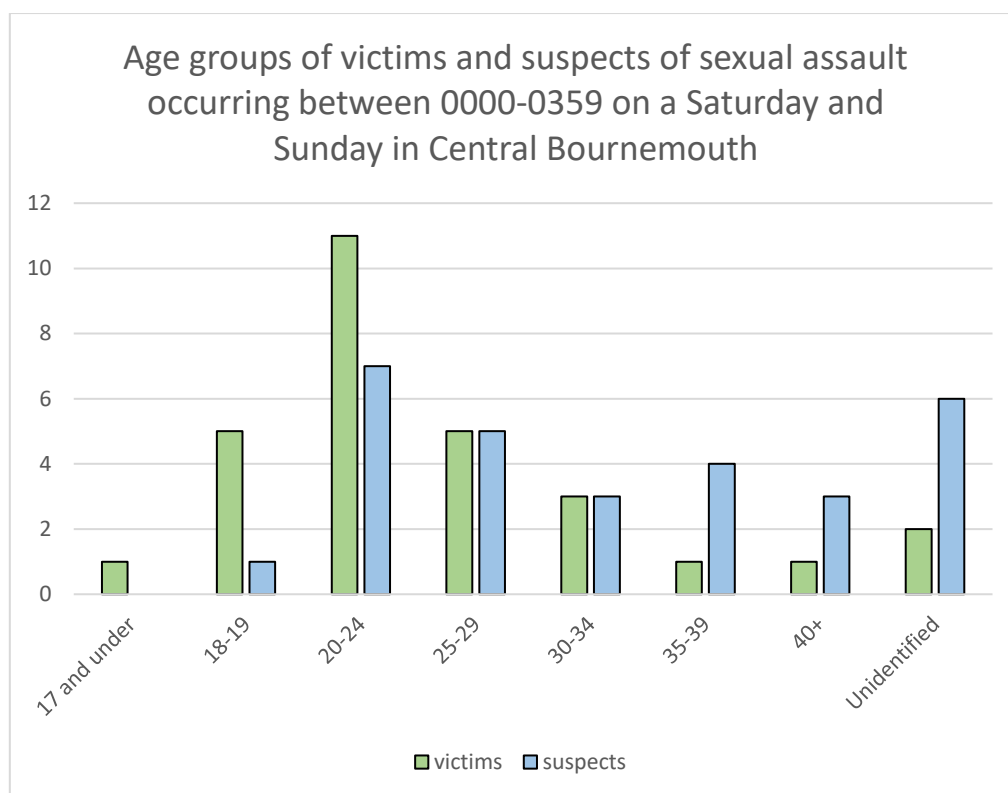
Figure 26 - Age groups of victims and suspects of sexual assault occurring between the hours of 0000-0359 on a Saturday and Sunday in Central Bournemouth.

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:

Age groups of rape victims in BCP in financial year 2023/24.

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.

Gender of Rape Victims in BCP in financial year 2023/24.

Unidentified, 3
Male, 36
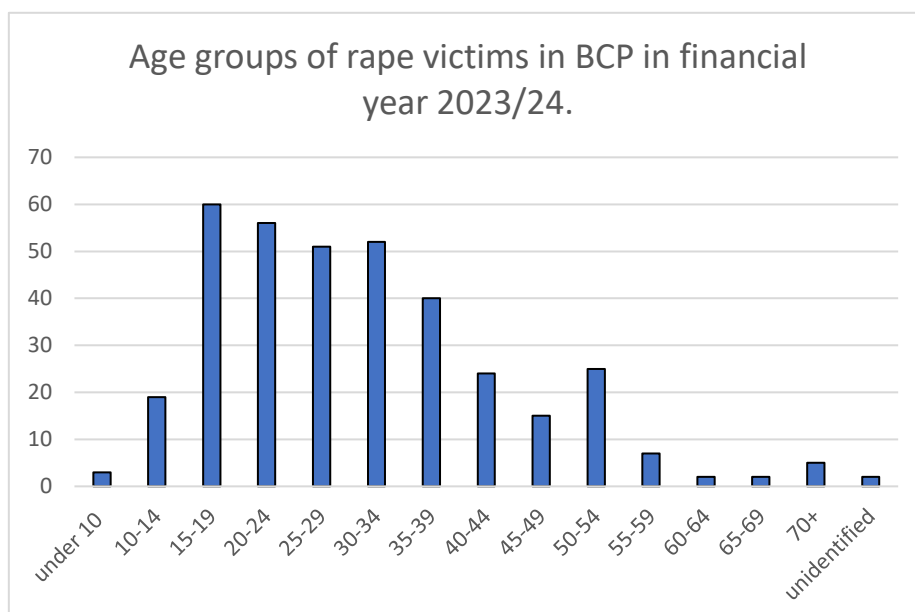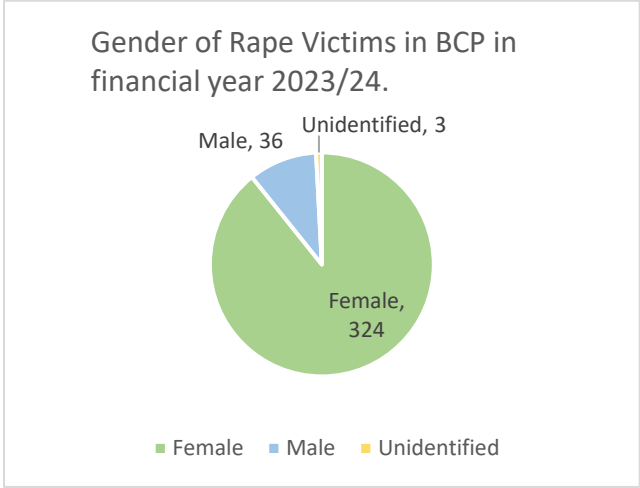Female, 324

■ Female ■ Male ■ Unidentified

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

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.

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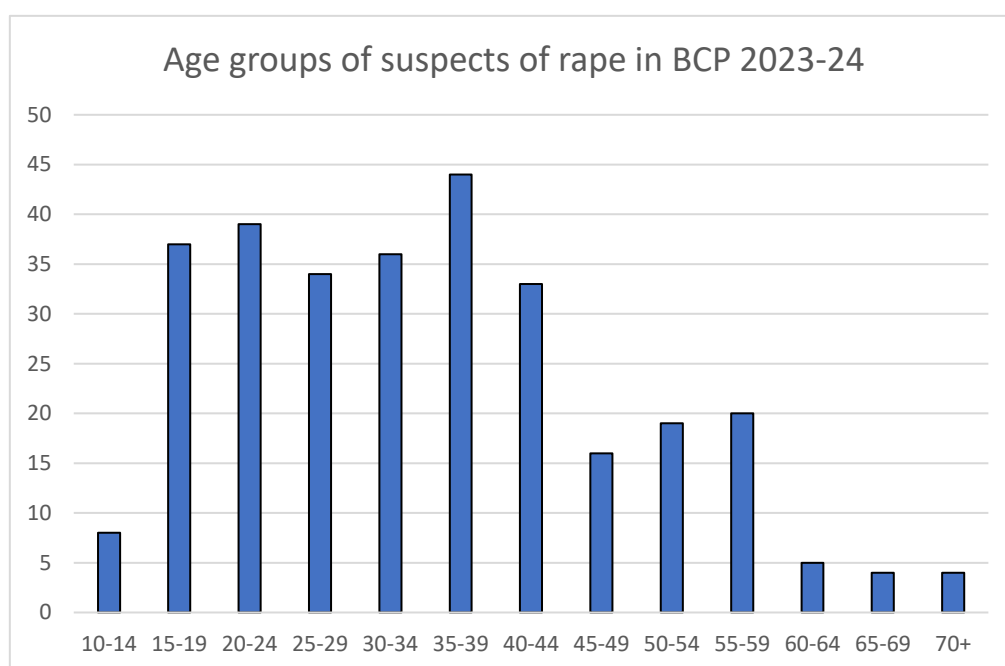
Figure 29 - Age groups of suspects of rape occurrences reported to and recorded by Dorset Police, occurring in BCP in financial year 2023/24.

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 bag[81].

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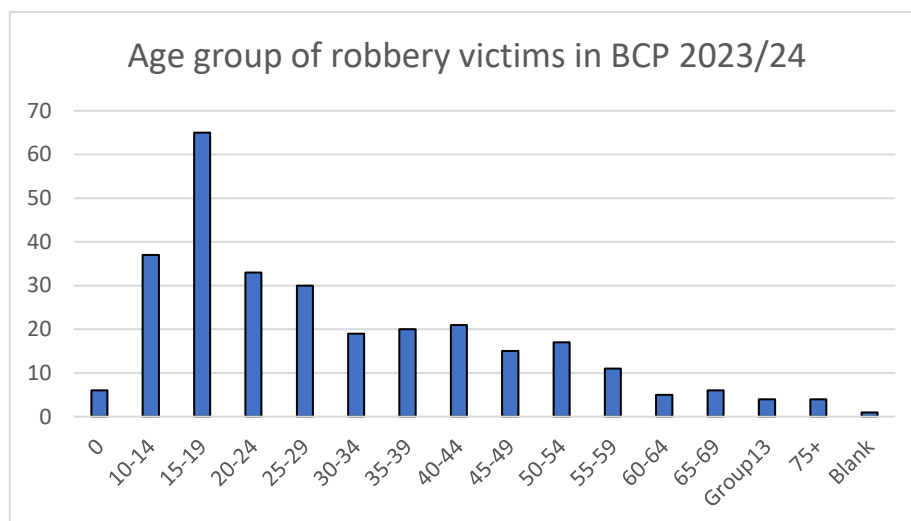
Figure 30 - Age groups of robbery victims reported to and recorded by Dorset Police, occurring in BCP in financial year 2023/24.

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.

Figure 31 - 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 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.
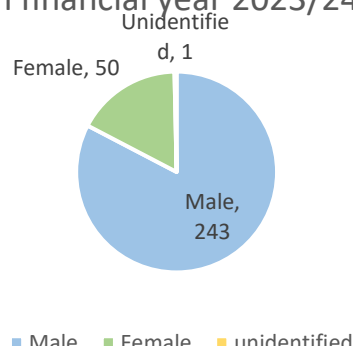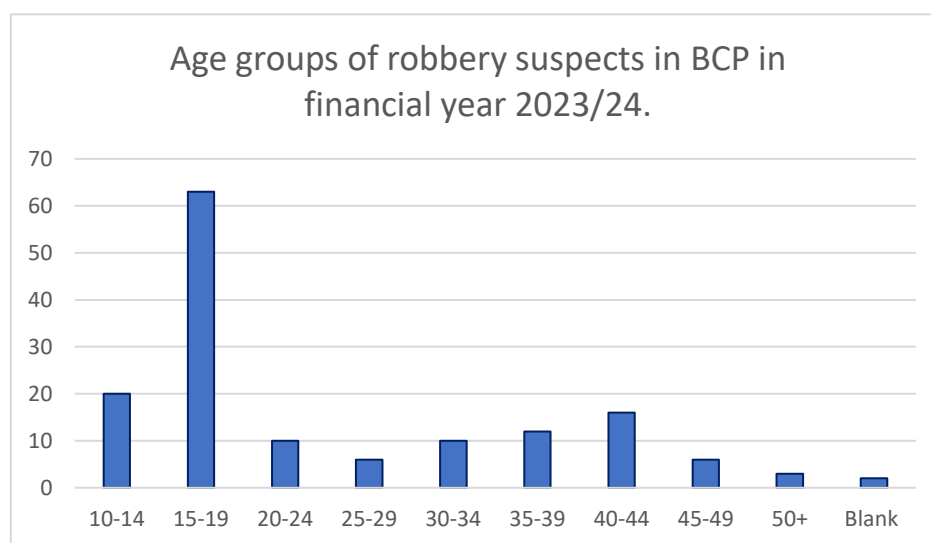

Figure 32 -Age groups of robbery suspects reported to and recorded by Dorset Police in financial year 2023/24.

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 male[106].
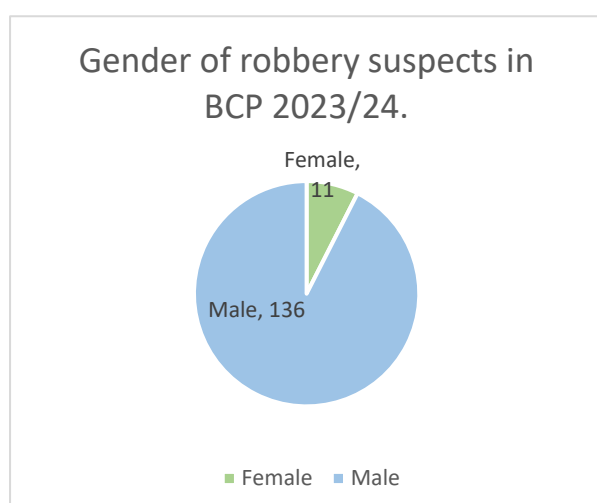
6.5.9   Figure 33 shows the gender of robbery suspects in BCP in financial year 2023/24. The vast majority of suspects were male (93%). 8% of suspects were female.

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 intoxicated[106].

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 economy[106].

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 area[106] 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

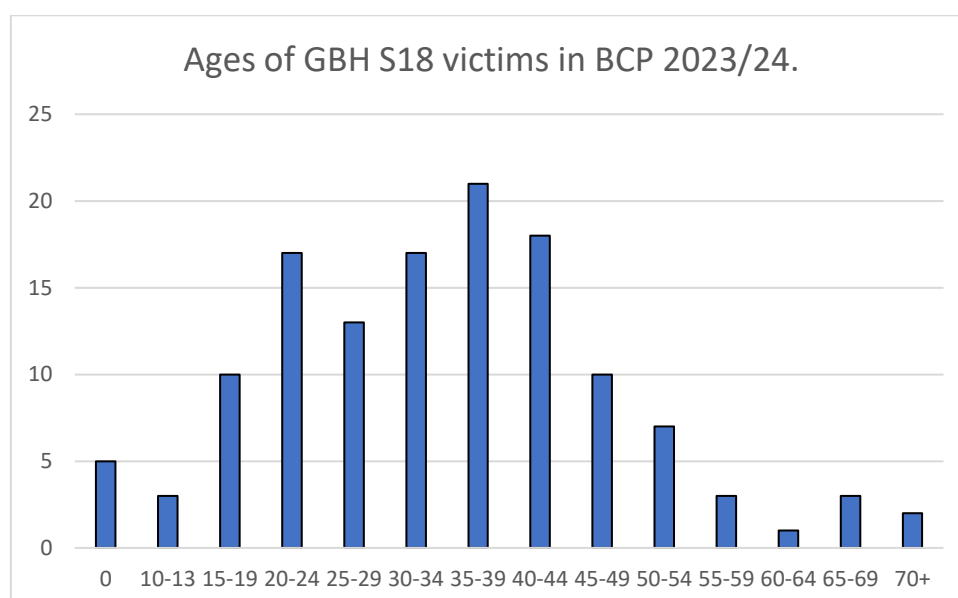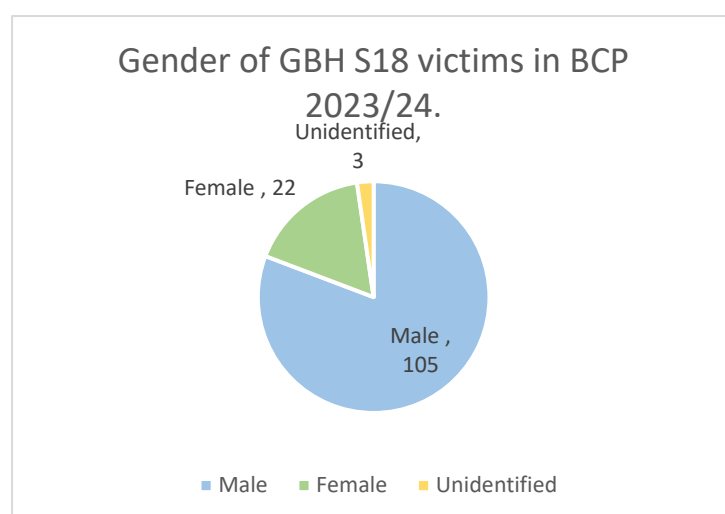6.6.2 Figure 34 below shows the ages of GBH S18 victims in BCP 2023/24.

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.

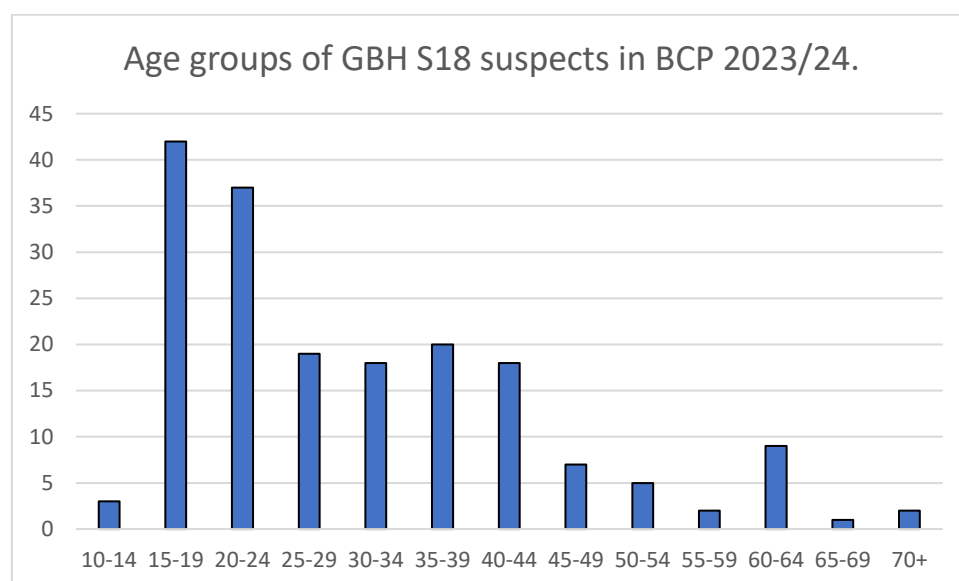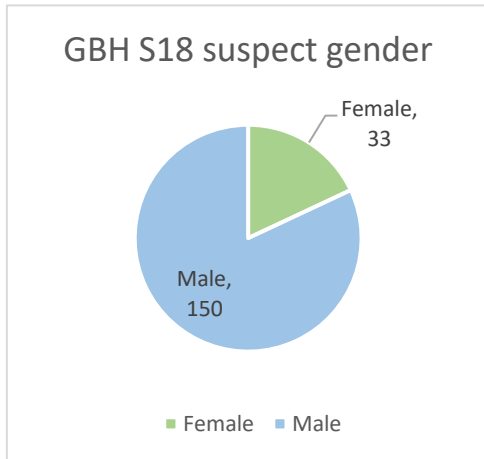6.6.6 Figure 36 below shows the age group of GBH S18 suspects in 2023/24.

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.

GBH S18 suspect gender

Female, 33

Male, 150

■ Female ■ Male

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

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

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 violence[82]. 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 definition[84].

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).

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[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.
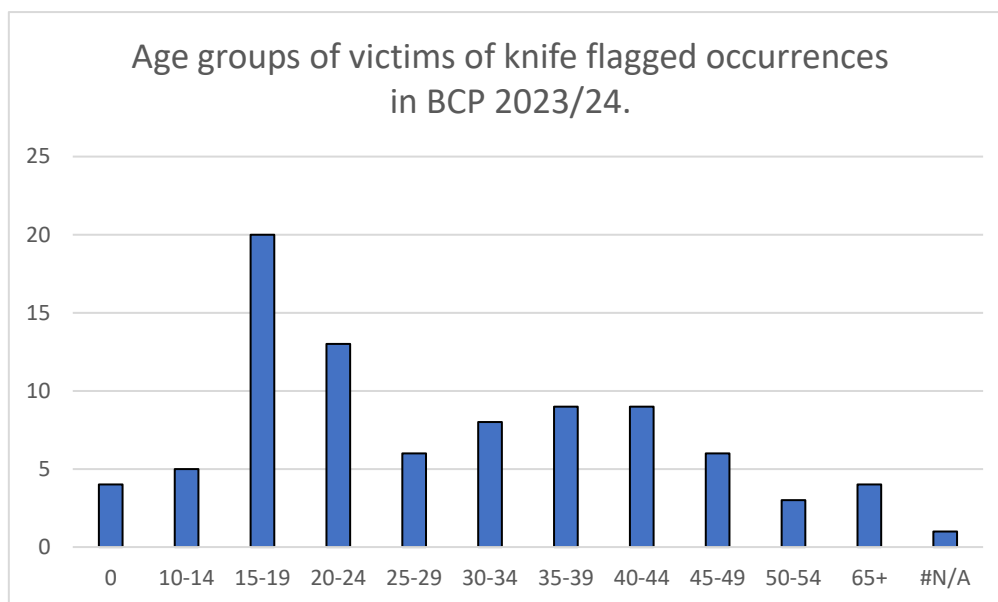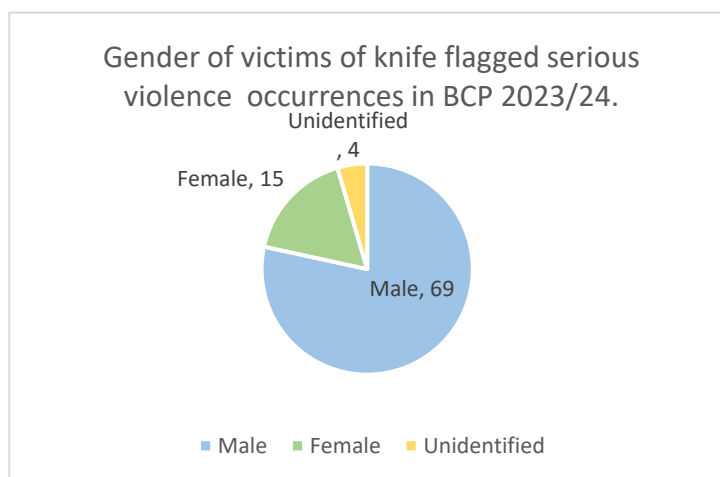

Figure 38 - Age groups of victims of knife flagged serious violence occurrences in BCP financial year 2023/24.

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.
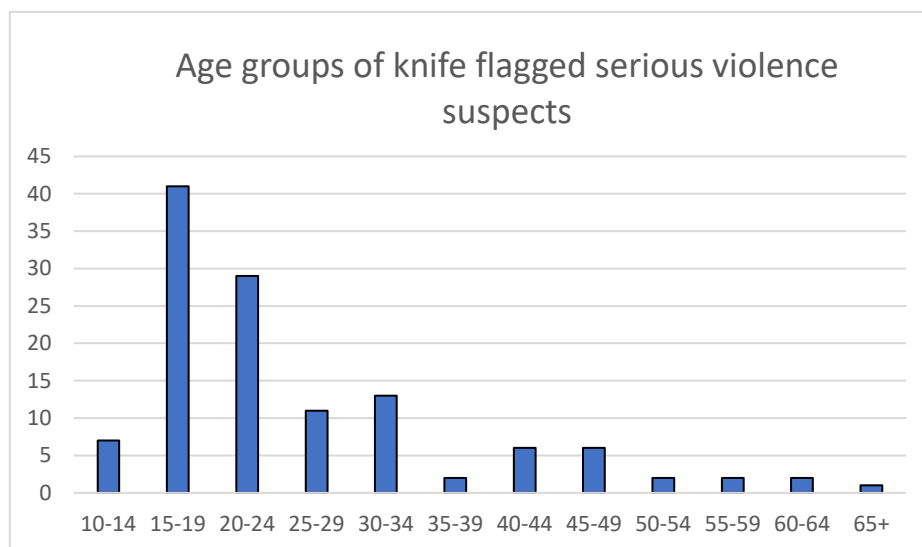

Figure 40 - Age groups of knife flagged serious violence suspects in BCP, financial year 2023/24.

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 knifes. 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.

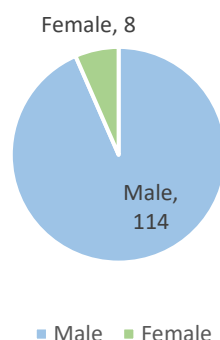Gender of knife flagged serious violence suspects in BCP 2023/24.

Female, 8

Male, 114

Male   Female

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.

Figure 41 - 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 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 other[85]. 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.

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[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 Office[86] 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 involvement[87].

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.

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[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)
[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)

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 parents[88].

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 children[88].

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 service[89].

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 issue[90]. The Children's Society highlight that there is evidence of boys being sexually exploited as a means to humiliate and blackmail them into submission[91]. 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 exploitation[92]. 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.

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[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)
[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)
[90] County Lines and Child Sexual Exploitation - Shiva Foundation
[91] The Children's Society, "Counting Lives: Responding to children who are criminally exploited," (2019) Available at: Counting Lives Report | The Children's Societyu (childrenssociety.org.uk)
[92] Brown, Child sexual abuse and exploitation: Understanding risk and vulnerability | Early Intervention Foundation (eif.org.uk)

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 Agency[93] 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 challenge[94].

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 oversees, 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 trafficking[94].

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 UK[94].

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 slavery[95].

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[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 Wales[96].

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 support[97].

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 decision[98]. 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.

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[96] National referral mechanism guidance: adult (England and Wales) - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk)
[97] accessing-support-as-a-victim-of-modern-slavery-adult.pdf (antislaverycommissioner.co.uk)
[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 slavery[99].

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 2023[99].

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 authorities[99].

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 for recover[99].

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 crimes[99]. 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 irregularly[99]. 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 nationals[99].

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.

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[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 affected[100]:

- **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, including[101]:

- 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.

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[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).
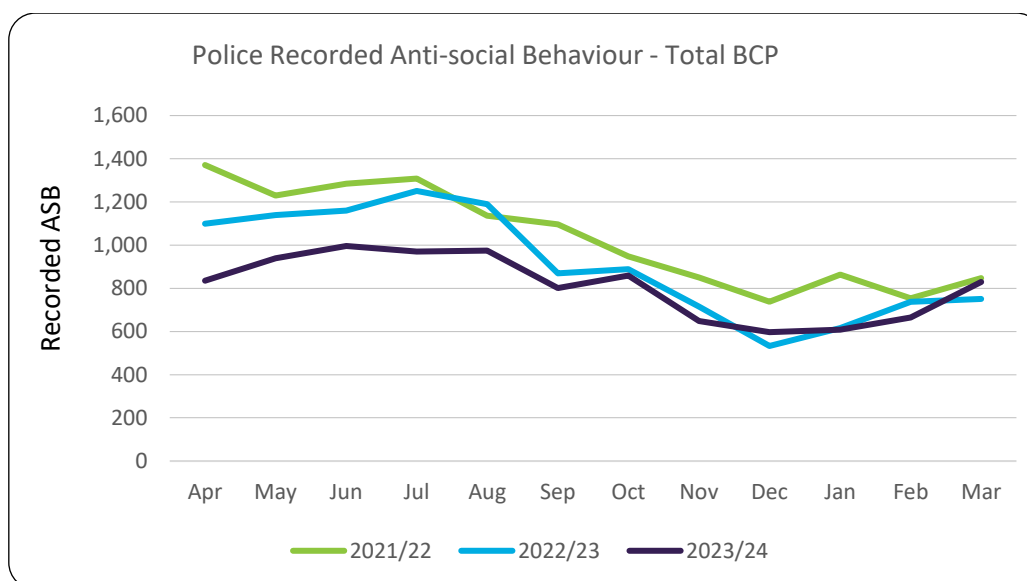
Figure 42: BCP ASB incidents by month.. STORM (1st April 2021 to 31st March 2024)

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.

	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24	Trend	2023/24 vs. 2022/23 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

	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24	Trend	2023/24 vs. 2022/23 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 Southbourne (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.
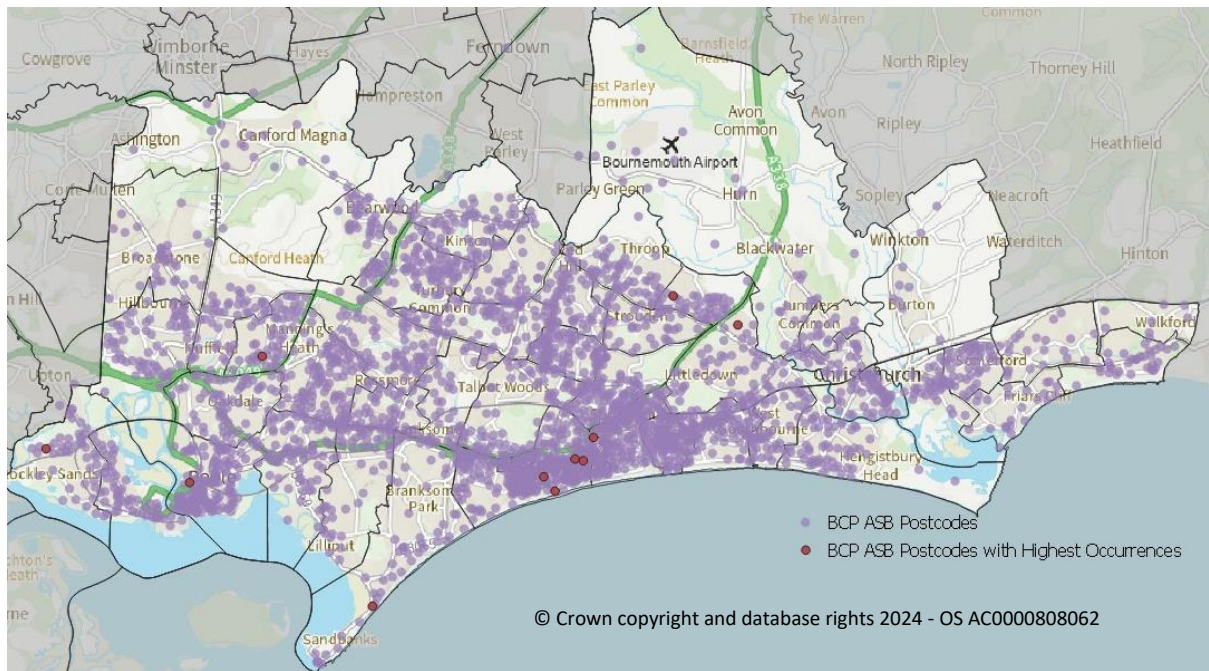
Figure 43: BCP ASB incidents by location. STORM (1st April 2023 to 31st March 2024)
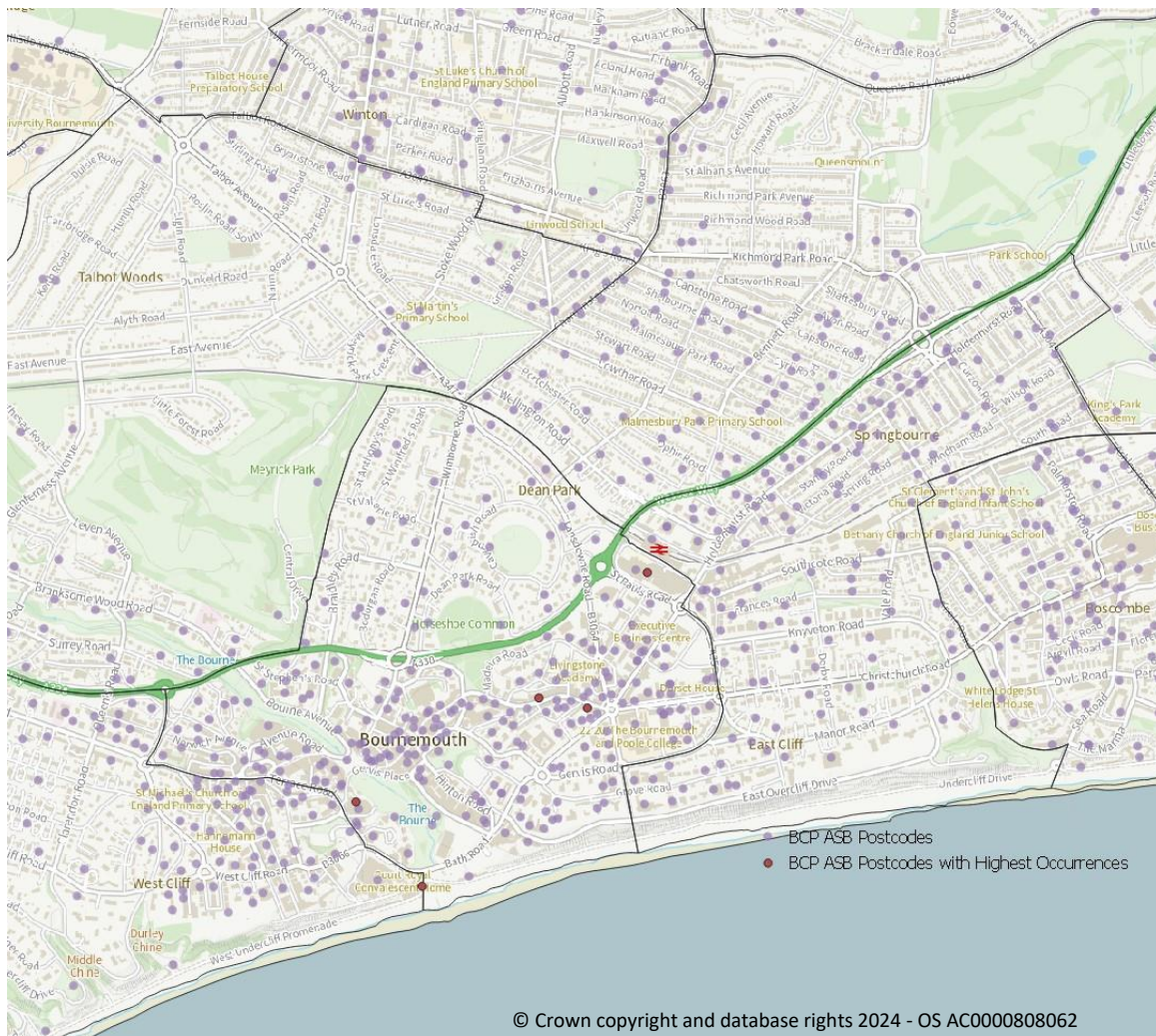
Figure 44: ASB incidents by location. STORM (1st April 2023 to 31st March 2024)

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.
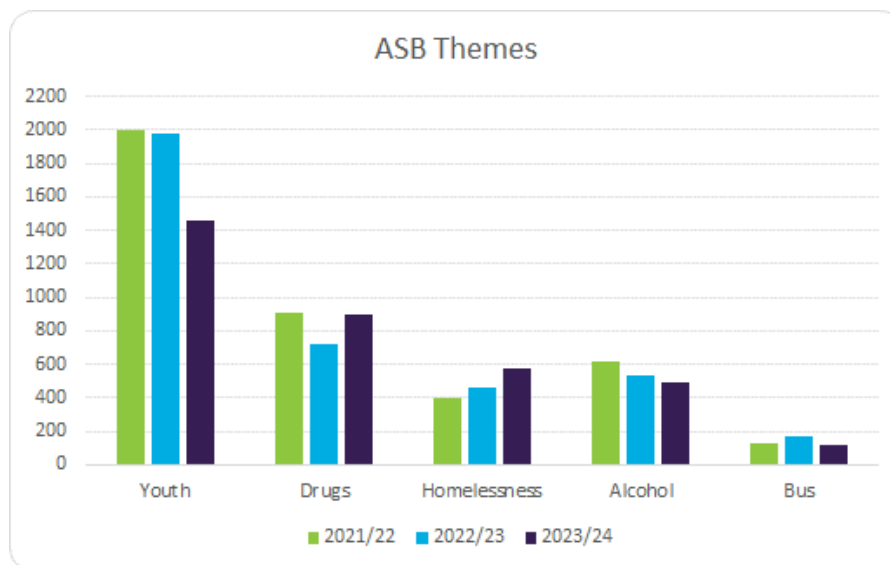
Figure 45: BCP ASB incidents by theme. STORM (1st April 2021 to 31st March 2024)

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 youth[103] 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)

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[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 drugs[104] 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.

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[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 homelessness[105] 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.

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[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)
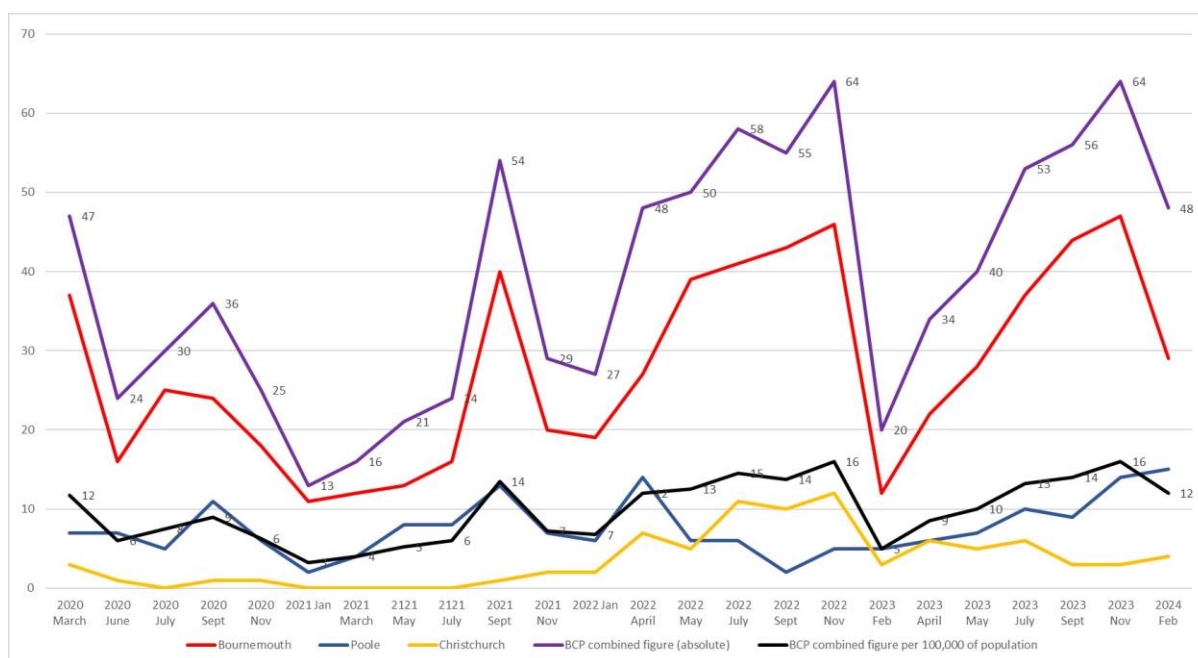
Figure 50: Council's homeless team - physical street count overnight every 3 months counting how many street homeless they find

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.
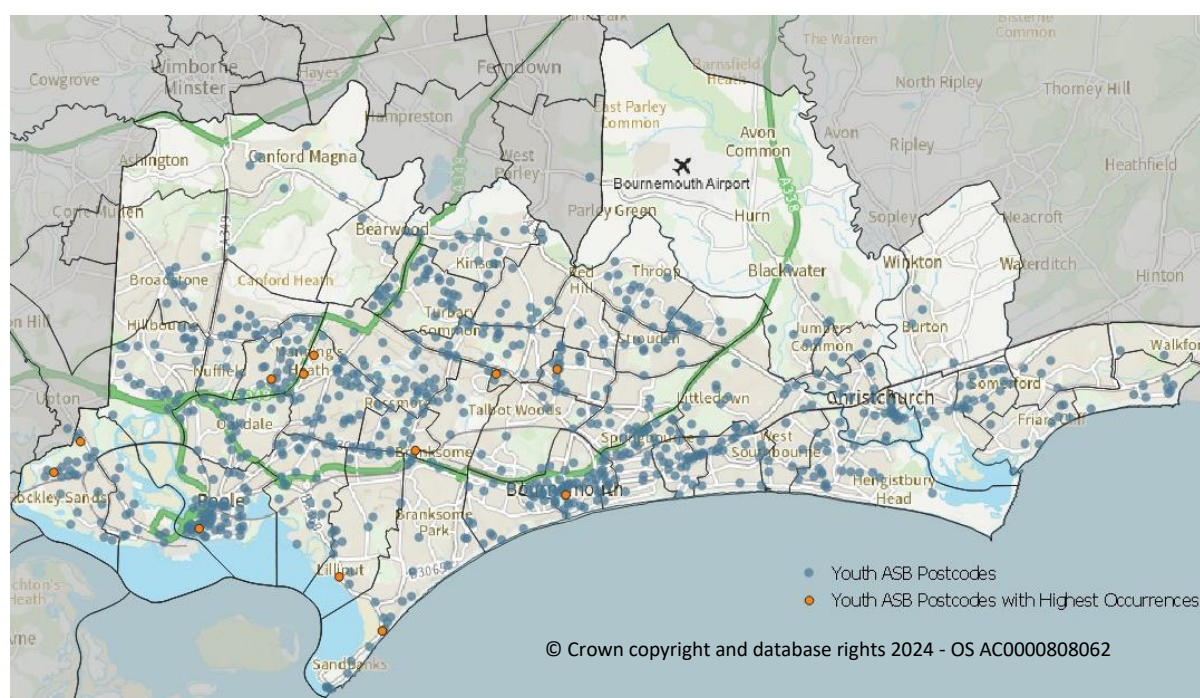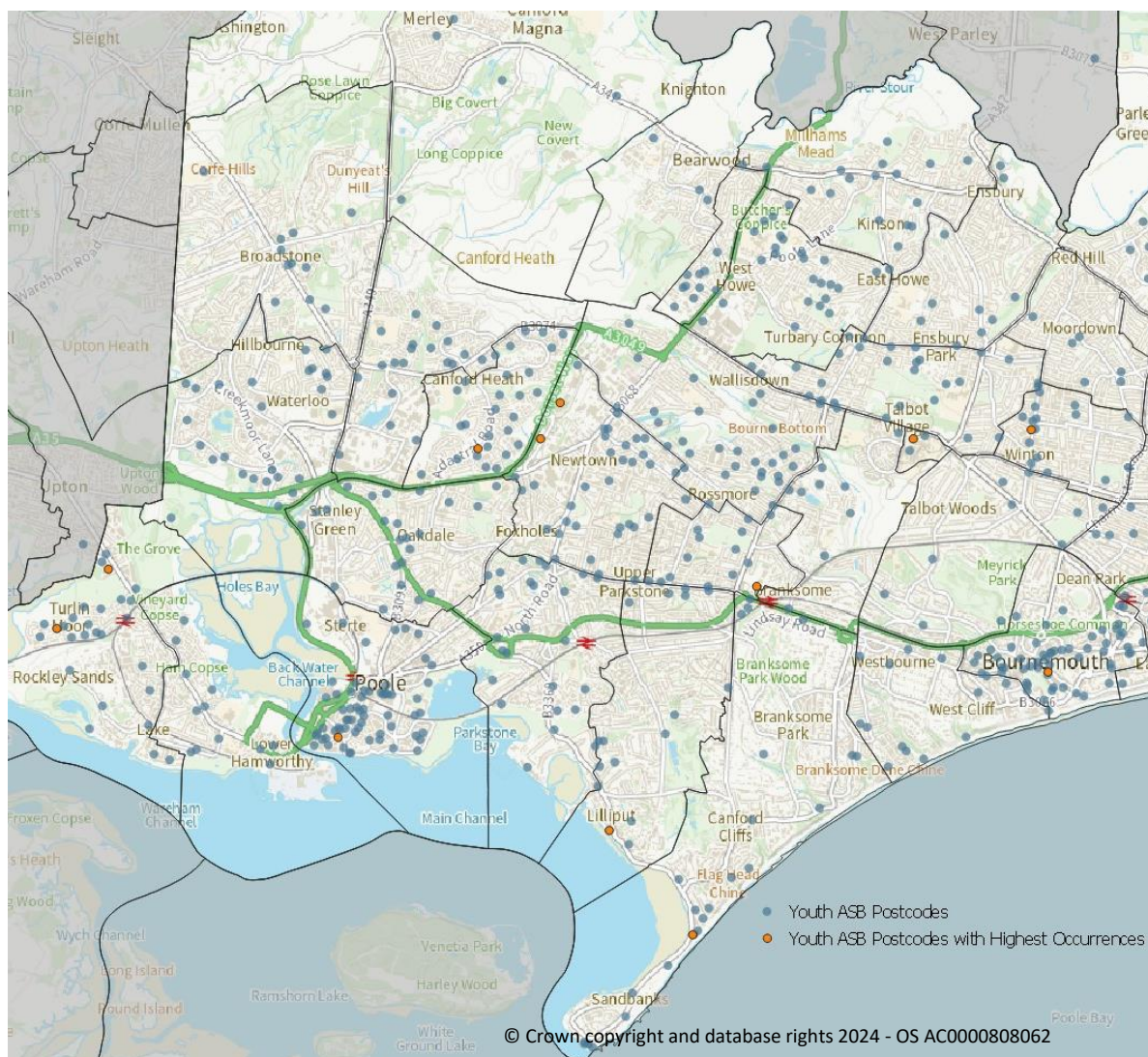
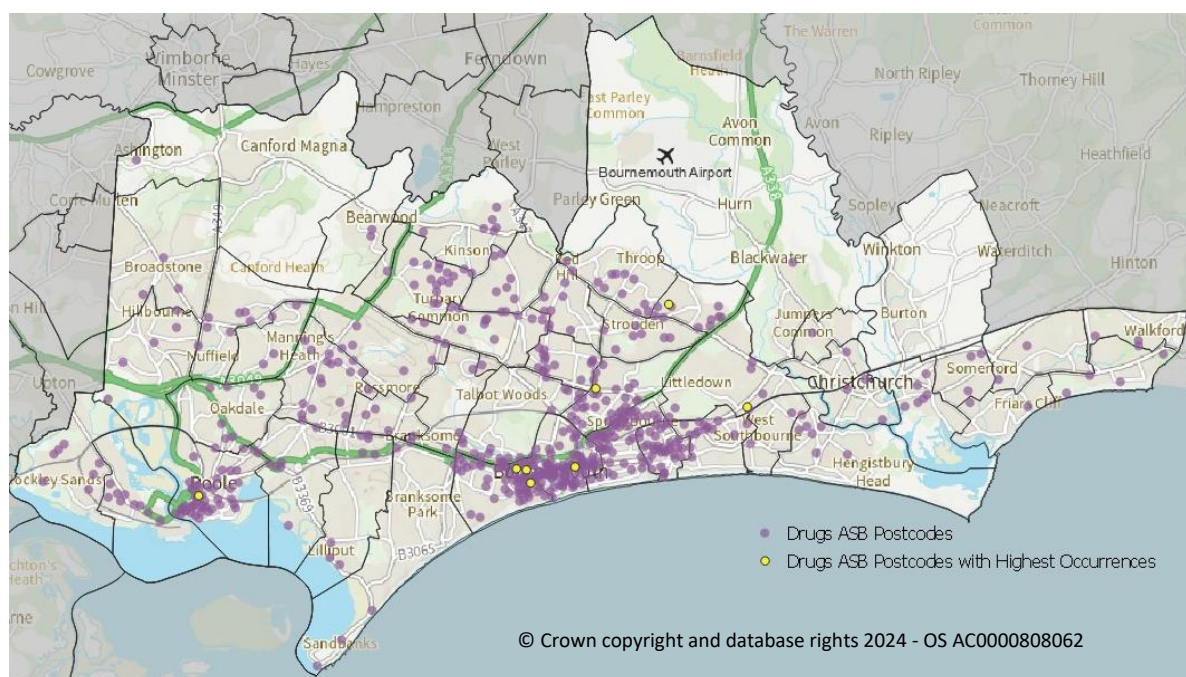*Figure 51: BCP ASB incidents involving homelessness.. STORM (1st April 2023 to 31st March 2024)*
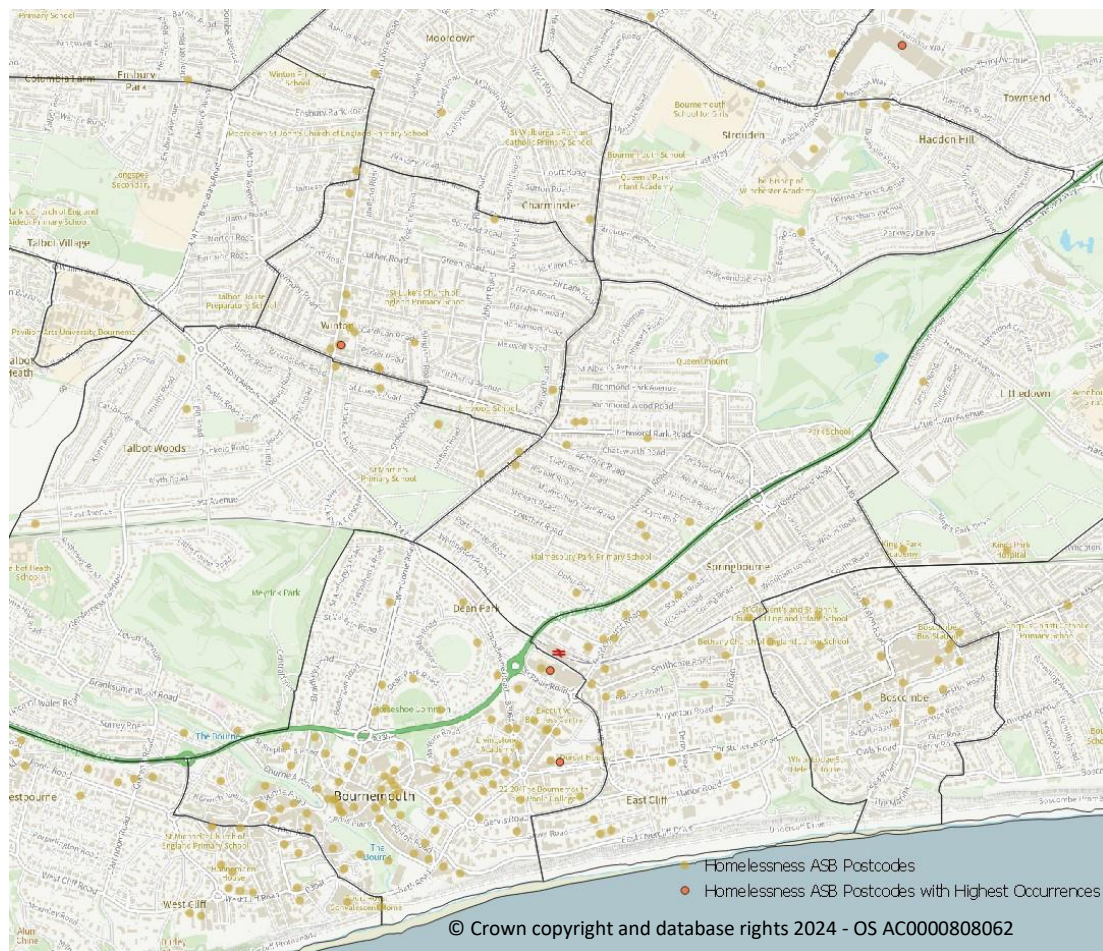
Figure 52: ASB incidents involving homelessness.. STORM (1st April 2023 to 31st March 2024)

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 alcohol[106], 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 2023to 31st March 2024)

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[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

| | 2021/22 | 2022/23 | 2023/24 | Trend | 2023/24 vs. 2022/23 | |
					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 buses[107] 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.
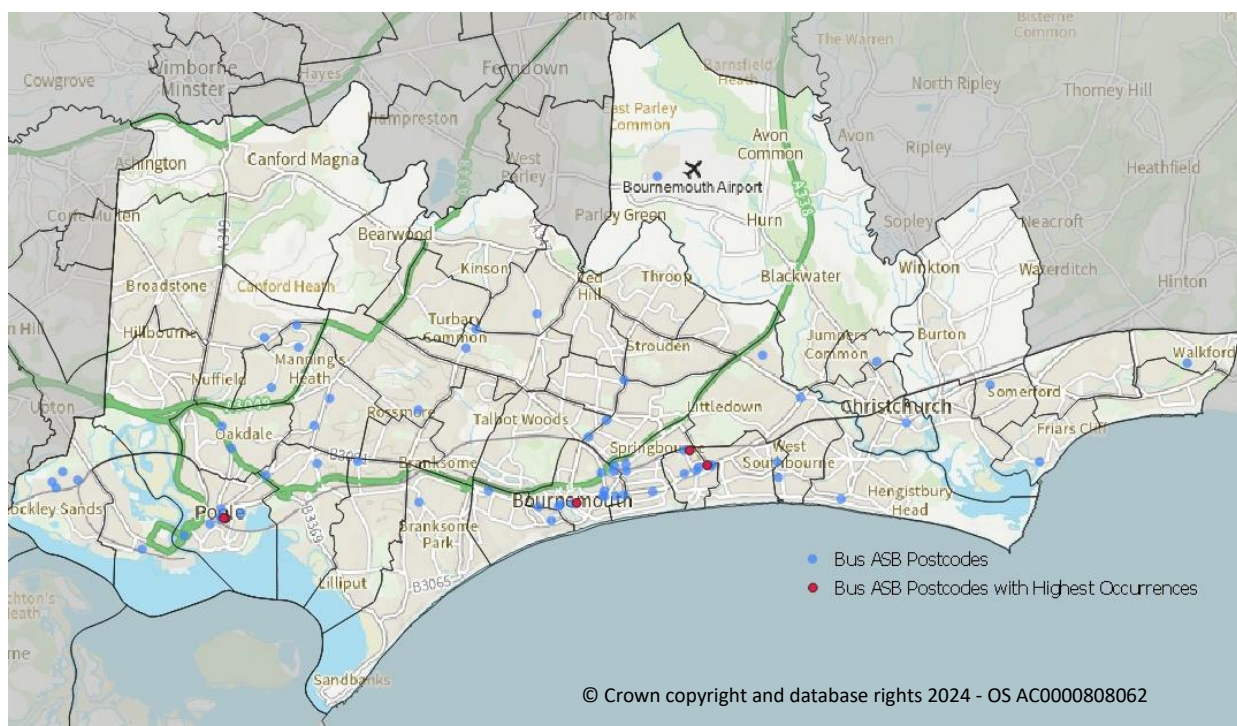
Figure 54: BCP ASB incidents involving buses.. STORM (1st April 2023 to 31st March 2024)
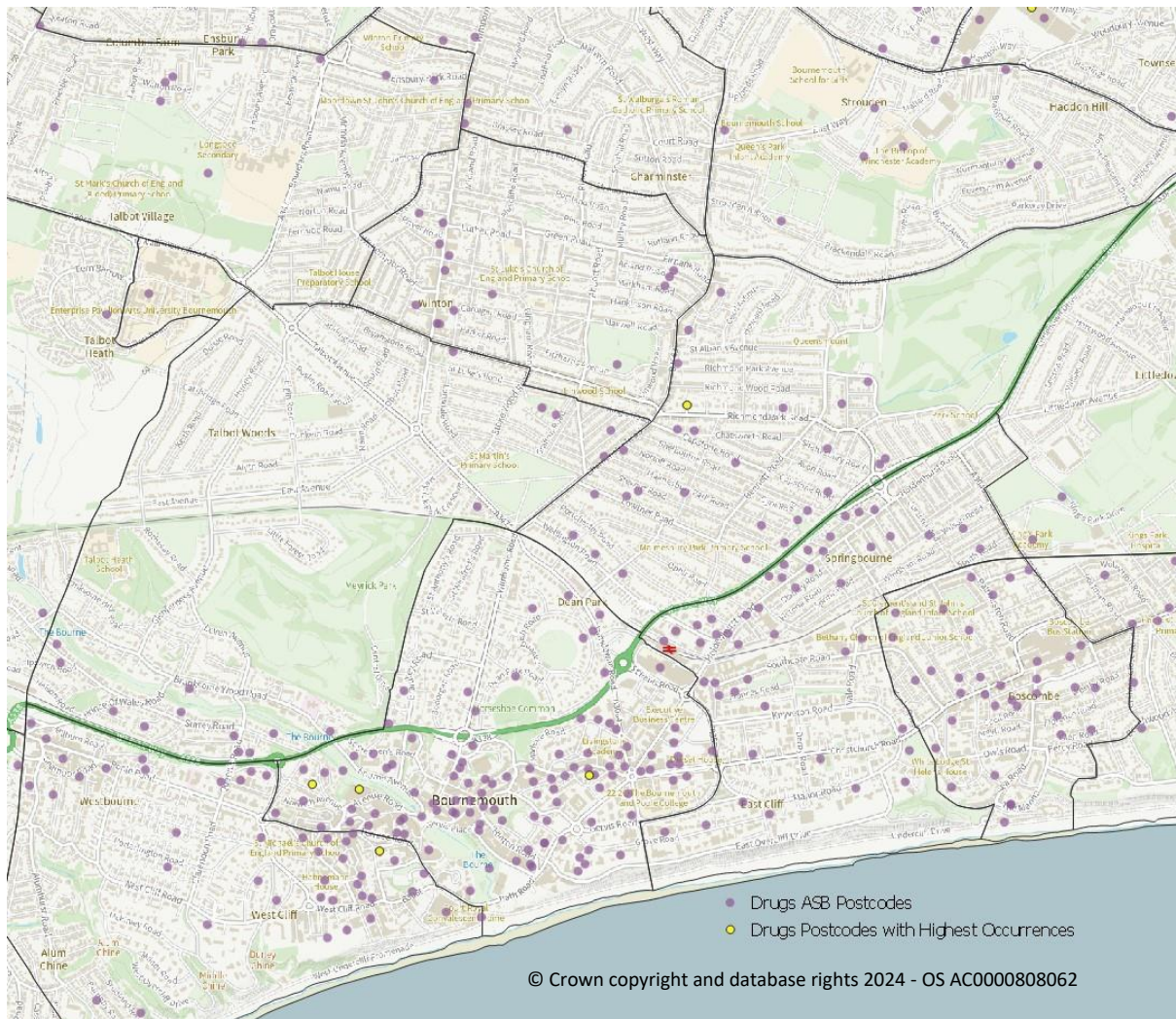
8.11 ASB INCIDENTS INVOLVING WEAPONS

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[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 weapons[108] 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.

	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24	Trend	2023/24 vs. 2022/23 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.
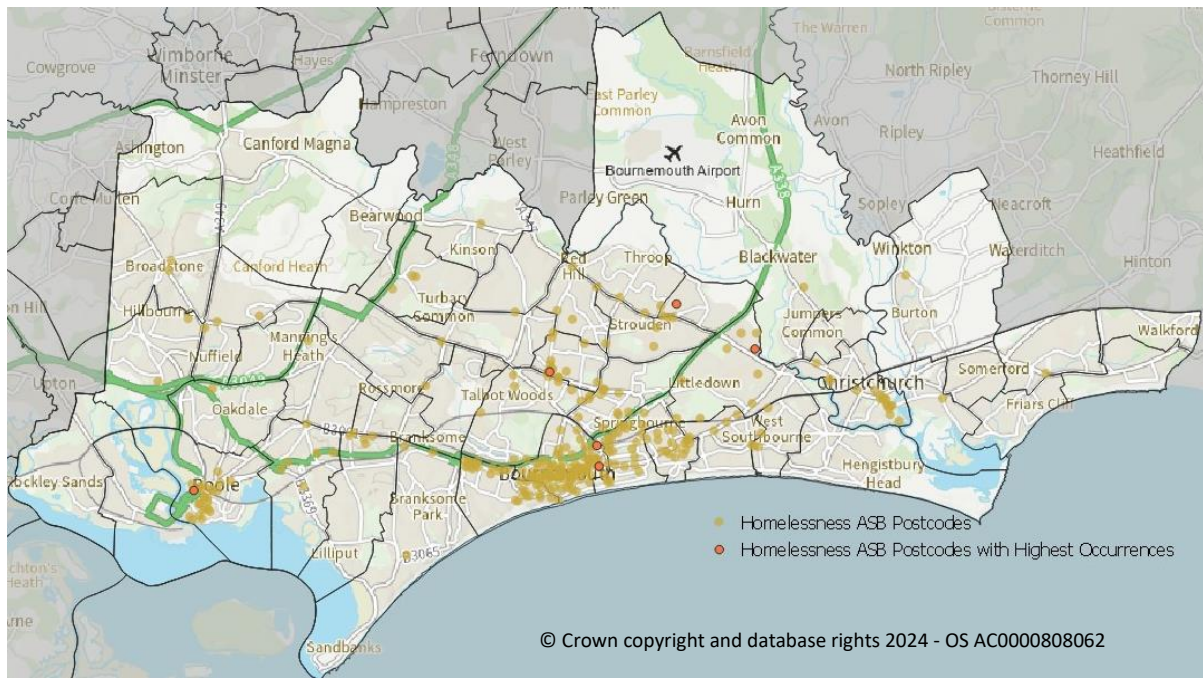

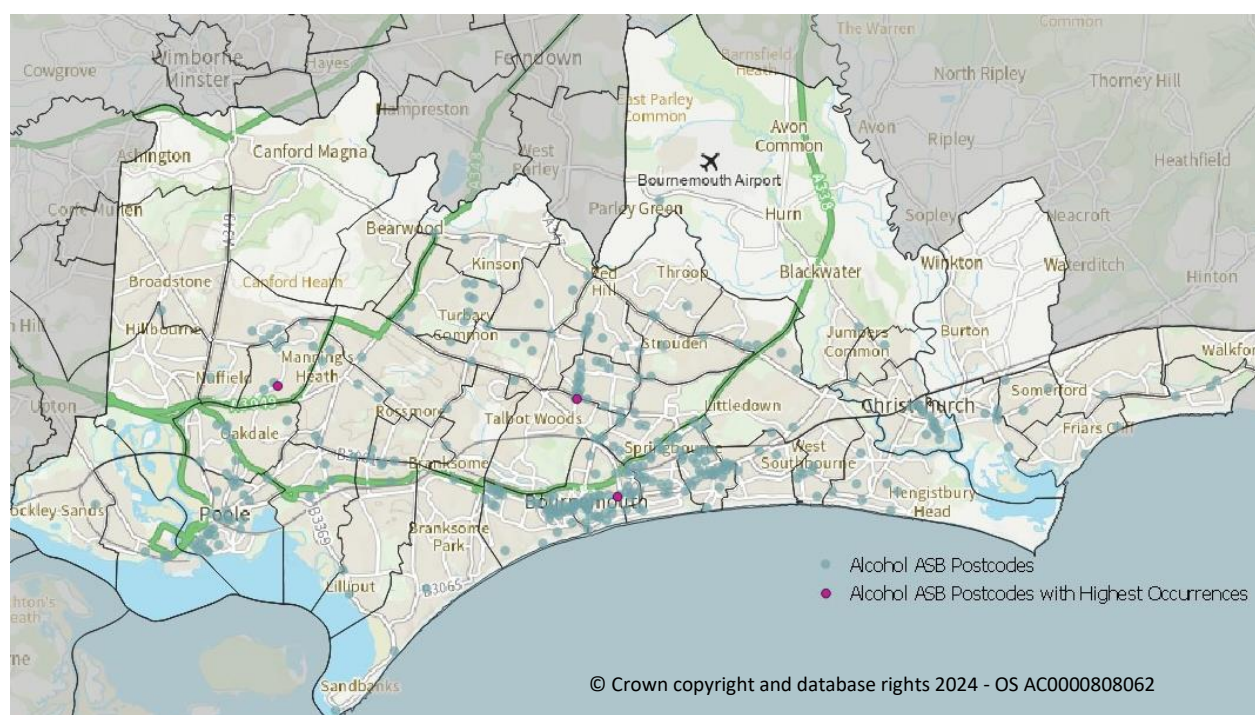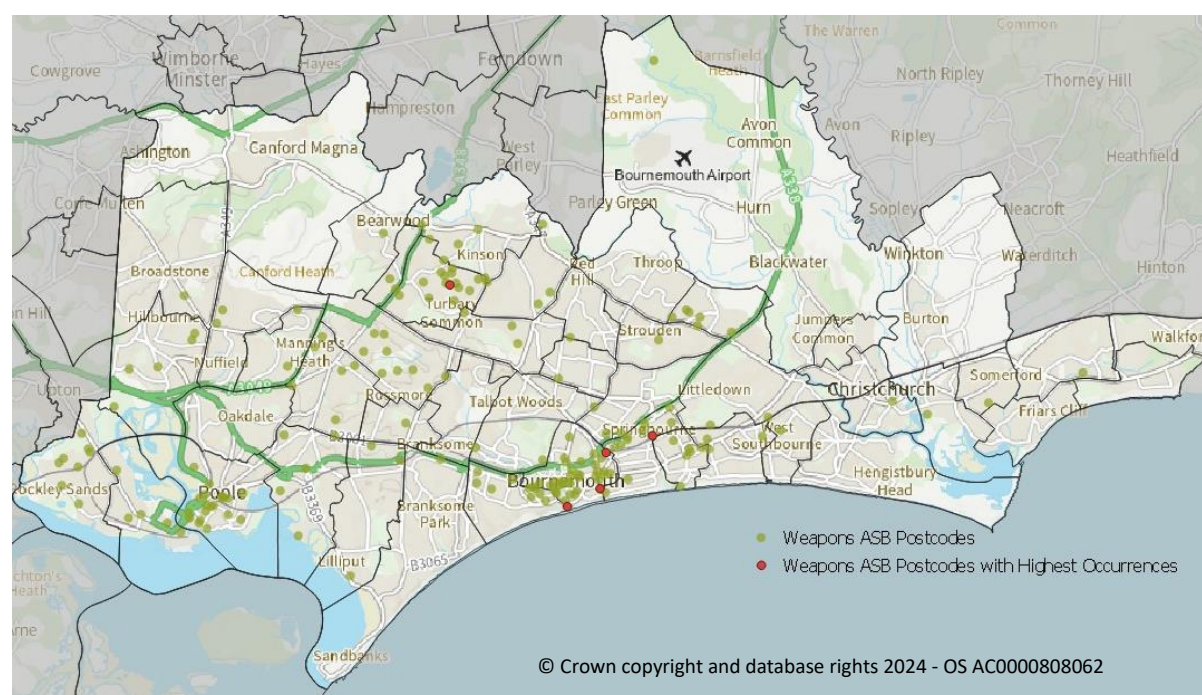*Figure 55: BCP ASB incidents involving weapons.. STORM (1st April 2023 to 31st March 2024)*

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[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*
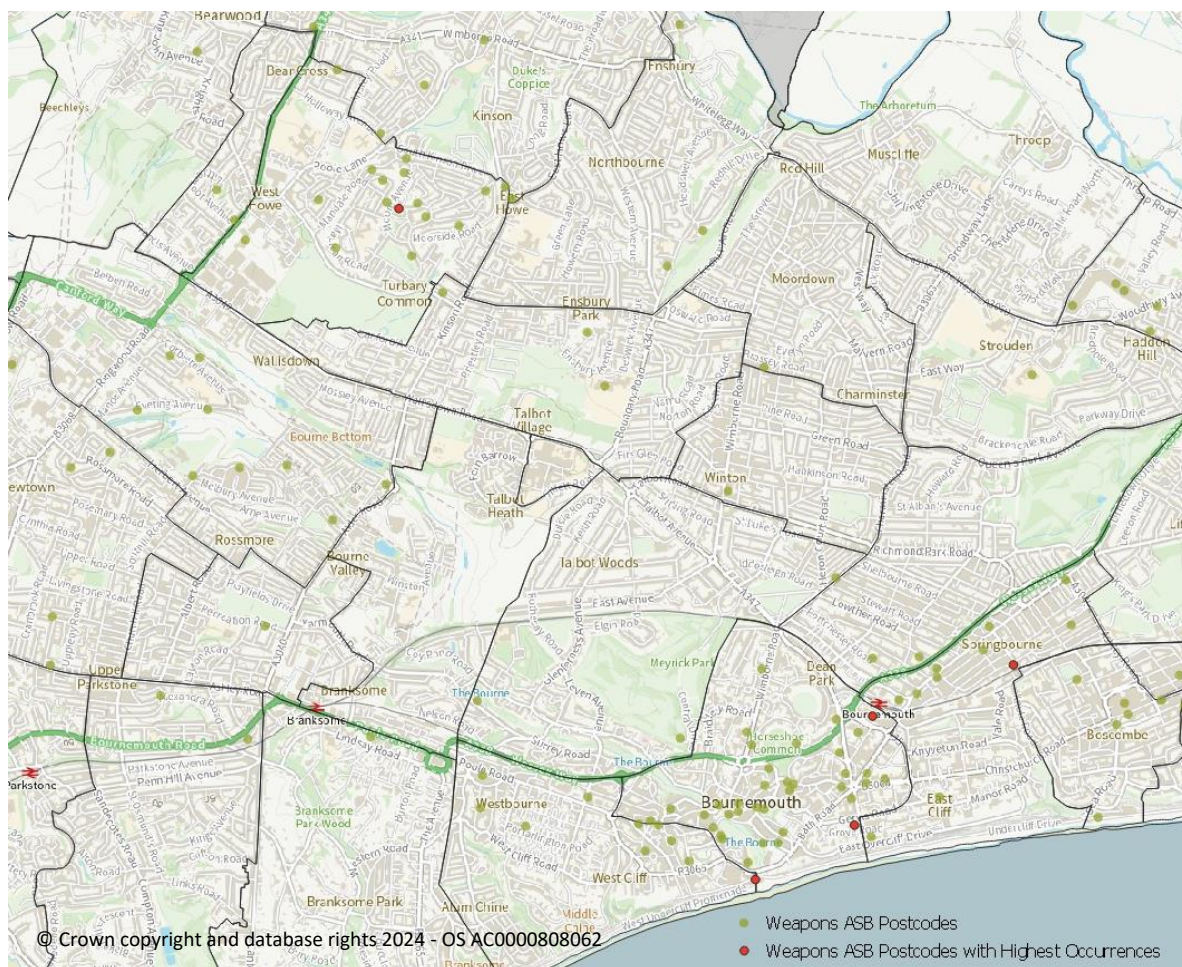
Figure 56: ASB incidents involving weapons. STORM (1st April 2023 to 31st March 2024)

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 scooters[109] accounted for 5%, ASB involving motorcycles[110] for 36%, and other vehicles[111] for 59%.

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[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*
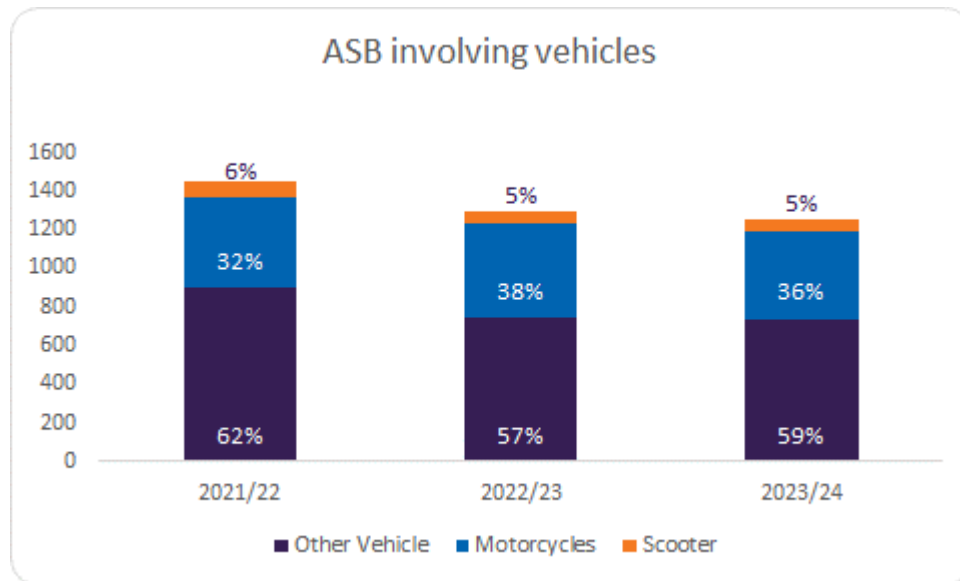
Figure 57: BCP ASB incidents involving vehicles. STORM (1st April 2021 to 31st March 2024)

8.12.3 The following maps illustrate the locations of reported ASB incidents involving vehicles in BCP area in 2023/24.
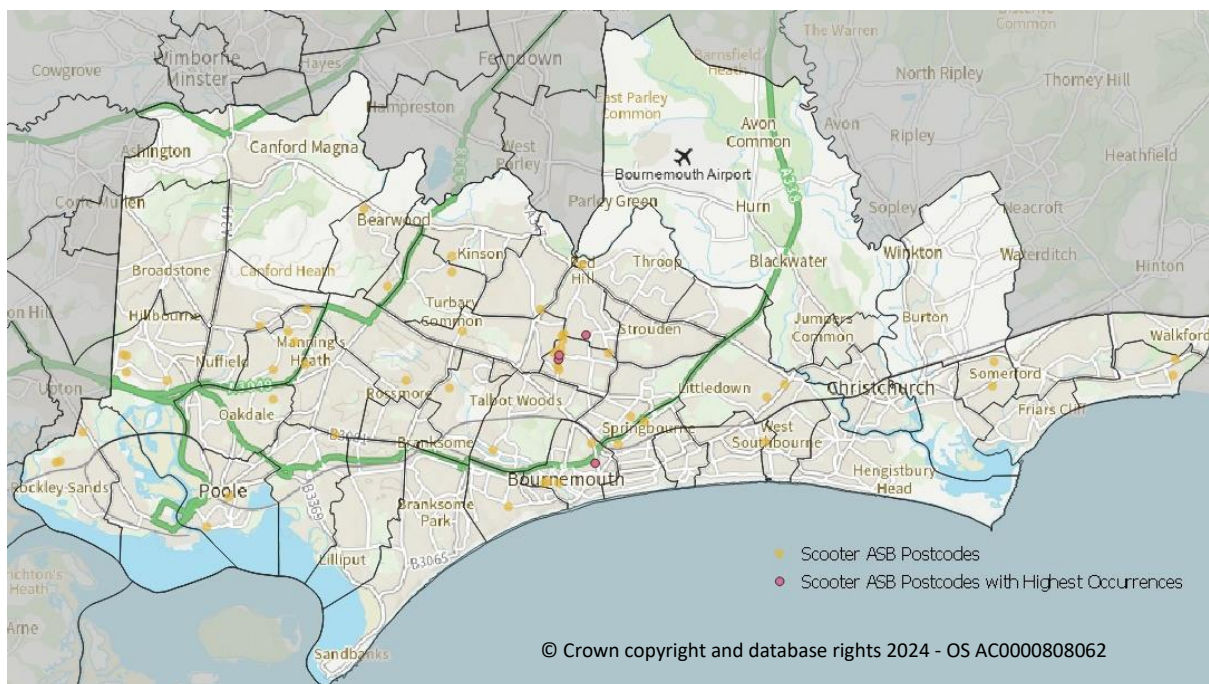
Figure 58: BCP ASB incidents involving scooters. STORM (1st April 2023 to 31st March 2024)
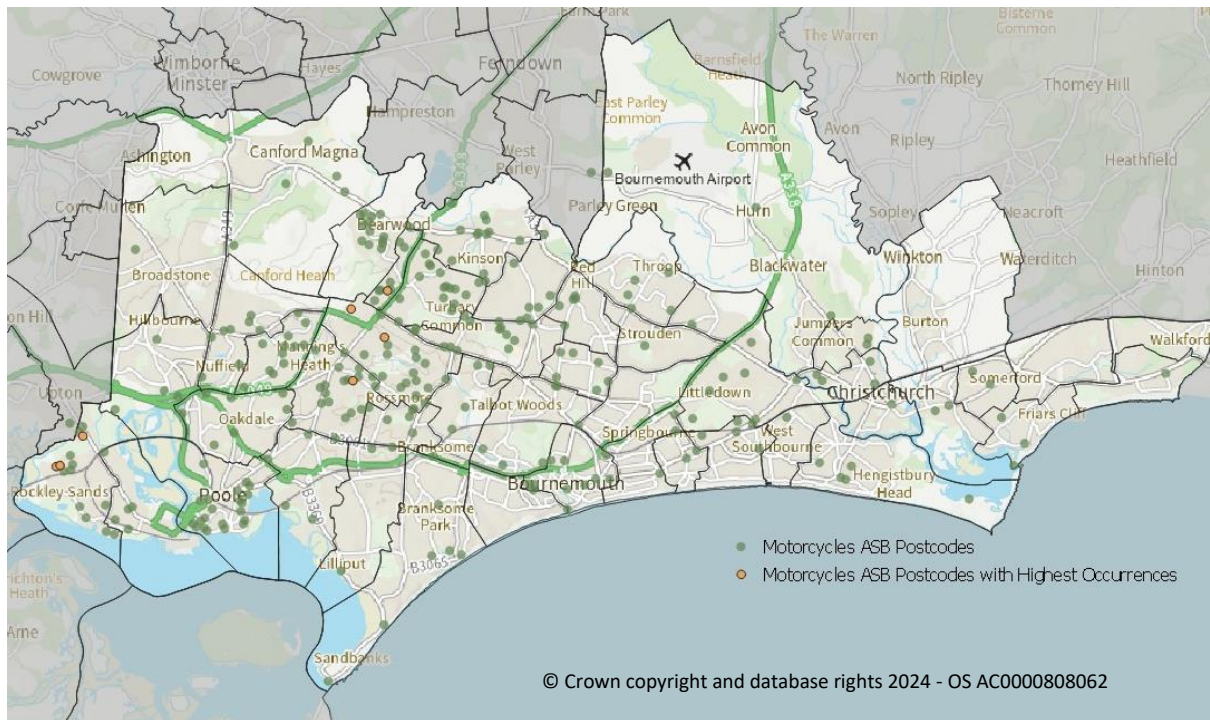
Figure 59: BCP ASB incidents involving motorcycles. STORM (1st April 2023 to 31st March 2024)
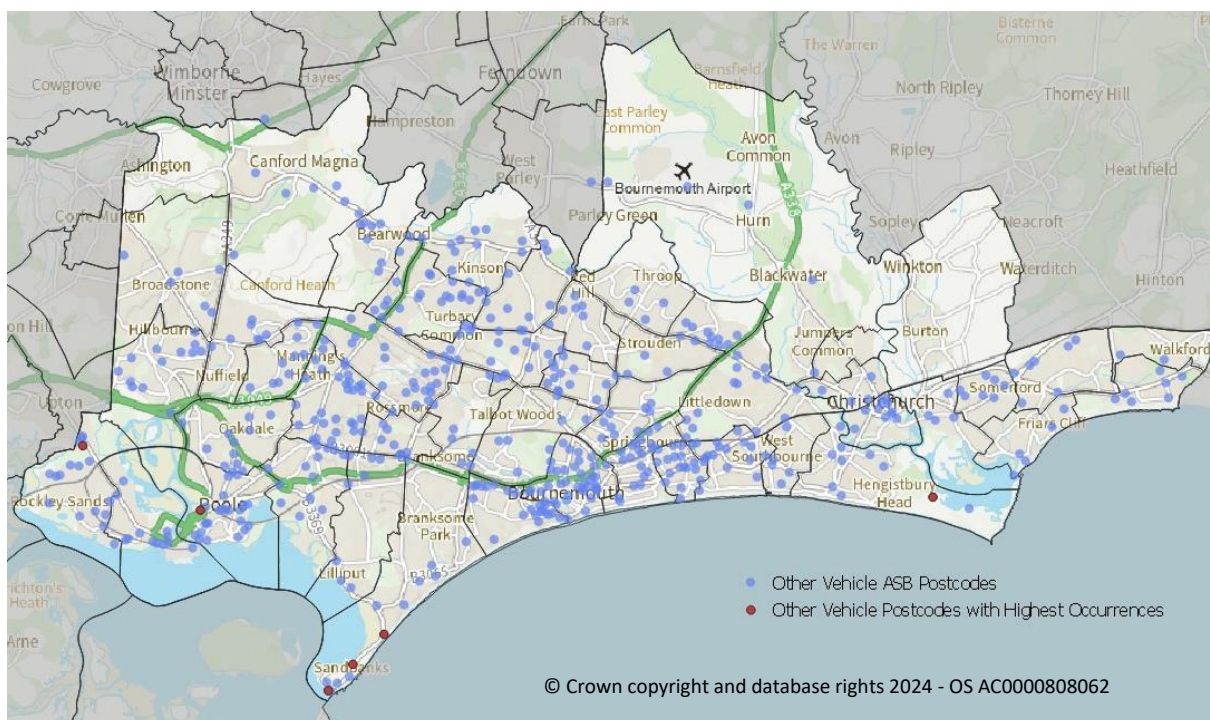
Figure 60: BCP ASB incidents involving 'Other vehicles. STORM (1st April 2023 to 31st March 2024)

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 abuse[112] 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.

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[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)

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 Wales[114].

10.2 DOMESTIC ABUSE RISK AND PROTECTIVE FACTORS

10.2.1   The CDC[115] 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)
[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

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 CDC[116] 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 include[116]:

- 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.

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[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 status[117].

10.3 THE IMPORTANCE OF TRAUMA INFORMED CARE

10.3.1   The Home Office[118] 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 care[119].

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 disclosures[119].

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[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 abuse[120]. Research finds that outside of pregnancy, the most common injuries to victims are to the head and neck, followed by musculoskeletal injuries[121], whilst during pregnancy women are more likely to be struck on the abdomen or have multiple sites of injury[122].

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 admission[123], a higher risk of hypertension, oedema, vaginal bleeding, vomiting and dehydration, urinary tract infections and pre-term delivery[124]. 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 untreated[125]. 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 expected[126].

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 separation[130].

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[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 relationship[131].

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 perpetrator[132]. 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 cases[131]. 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 intimidate and create fear within the victim[131].

10.4.8   The Domestic Abuse Interventions Program[134] developed the post-separation wheel[135] which identifies the different types of behaviour that are commonly used by abusers, and then outlines specific types of behaviour which may occur:

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[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 Advosiry 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

UNRELENTING FOCUS ON HER

Prior physical and sexual violence, coercive and controlling behavior against mother and child(ren)

USING PHYSICAL & SEXUAL VIOLENCE AGAINST MOTHER & CHILDREN
Threatening to kill or kidnap the children • Physically hurting her • Abusing children physically, sexually, emotionally • Threatening suicide • Forcing sex as a condition for keeping the children safe or allowing her to see them • Exposing children to pornography

USING HARASSMENT & INTIMIDATION
Destroying things belonging or related to her or the children • Using children to justify breaking no-contact orders • Threatening & stalking her, the children • Making his presence known while staying conspicuously outside protection-order boundaries • Abusing animals • Using third parties to harass, threaten, coerce her

DISRUPTING HER RELATIONSHIPS WITH CHILDREN
Coercing them to ally with him • Degrading her to them • Using children as spies • Isolating children from her; her from children

UNDERMINING HER ABILITY TO PARENT
Disrupting children's sleep, feeding patterns • Withholding information about children's social, emotional, physical needs • Contradicting her rules for children • Demanding visitation schedules at children's expense

POST-SEPARATION POWER AND CONTROL

DISREGARDING CHILDREN
Ignoring school schedules, homework • Ridiculing their needs, wants, fears, identities • Forcing family members, new girlfriends or wives, other women to do his parenting work • Treating them as younger or older than they are • Enforcing strict gender roles

DISCREDITING HER AS A MOTHER
Using her social status against her - sexual identity, immigration, race, religion, education, income • Inundating systems with false accusations of bad parenting, cheating, using drugs, being "crazy" • Exploiting "children need a father" to gain sympathy • Isolating her from family, friends, practitioners, other supporters

ENDANGERING CHILDREN
Neglecting them when they're with him • Putting them in age-inappropriate emotional, physical situations • Using violence in front of children

WITHHOLDING FINANCIAL SUPPORT
Withholding child support, insurance, medical, basic-expense payments • Using court action to take her money, resources • Interfering with her ability to work • Blocking access to money after separation

UNRELENTING FOCUS ON HER

Prior physical and sexual violence, coercive and controlling behavior against mother and child(ren)

Systems and Institutions

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 framework[119] 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 profession[136], 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 communities[137]. 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 police[139]. 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 ethnicity[140].

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.

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[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 men[141].

10.5.7   Disabled men are more likely to experience higher rates of domestic abuse than non-disabled men[142].

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 professionals[144].

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 abuse[145].

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 support[145], 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 England[145] 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:

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[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 environments[145].

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 women[146]. 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 16[147].

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[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-partner[148], 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 year[149].

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 spaces[150]. 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 time[151]. 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 includes[153]:

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[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' 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 clothing[154]. Financial abuse can mean a victim is forced to choose being staying in an abusive relationship, or face poverty and potentially homelessness[154].

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 perpetrators[155].

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 others[156].

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[154] Quick Guide: Economic and Financial Abuse (ncadv.org)
[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)
[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-estimation[157].

10.6.5   Work by the Kent and Medway Suicide Prevention Team[158] 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 Medway[159] 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%252037 9%2520cases).&usg=AOvVaw0T5pw-rfNTXujlWZ1xJtxi&opi=89978449

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 offending[160].

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 system[160].

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 difficulties[160]. 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 require a diagnosis before they can access a refuge[160]. A woman who has been violent towards others may be considered a risk to other women and therefore refused access to a refuge[161]. 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 Trust[160] 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.

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[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)

[160] Ministry of Justice (2012). 'Prisoners' childhood and family backgrounds'. Available at: Prisoners' childhood and family backgrounds (publishing.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)

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   SafeLives[163] 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 good[164]. 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 found[165] 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 though 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 cannister 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.

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[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 factors[167]:

- 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.

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[166] Domestic abuse of older people: Domestic abuse of older people - House of Lords Library (parliament.uk)
[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 services[168].

10.9.5   The WHO published a study in 2017[169] 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 2023[171]. 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 crimes[172].

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 abuse[173].

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].

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[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 experience[173].

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 employed[173].

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 experienced[173].

10.10   LOCAL DATA – LONGER TERM TRENDS

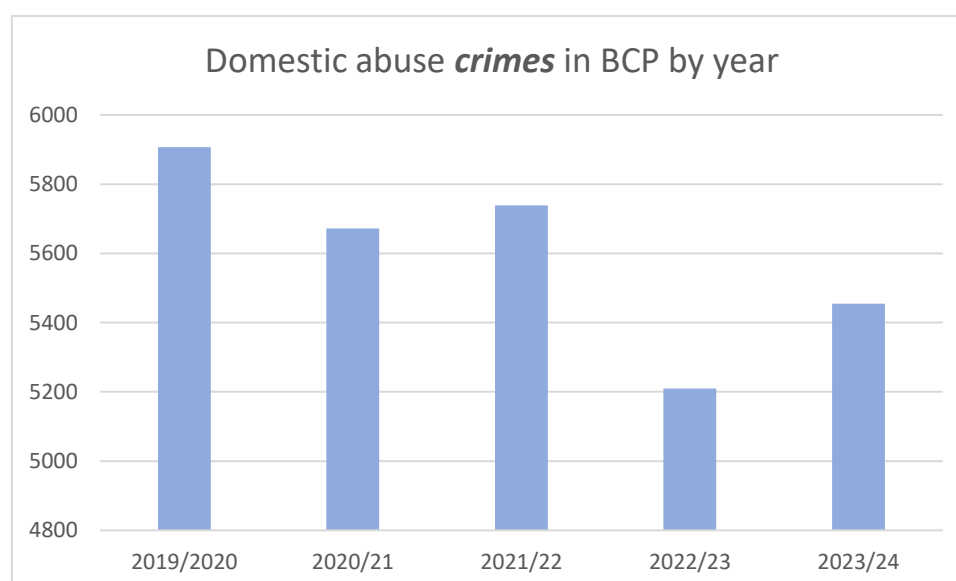10.10.1 The data used to produce this analysis is extracted from Dorset Police records using Business Objects.

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]
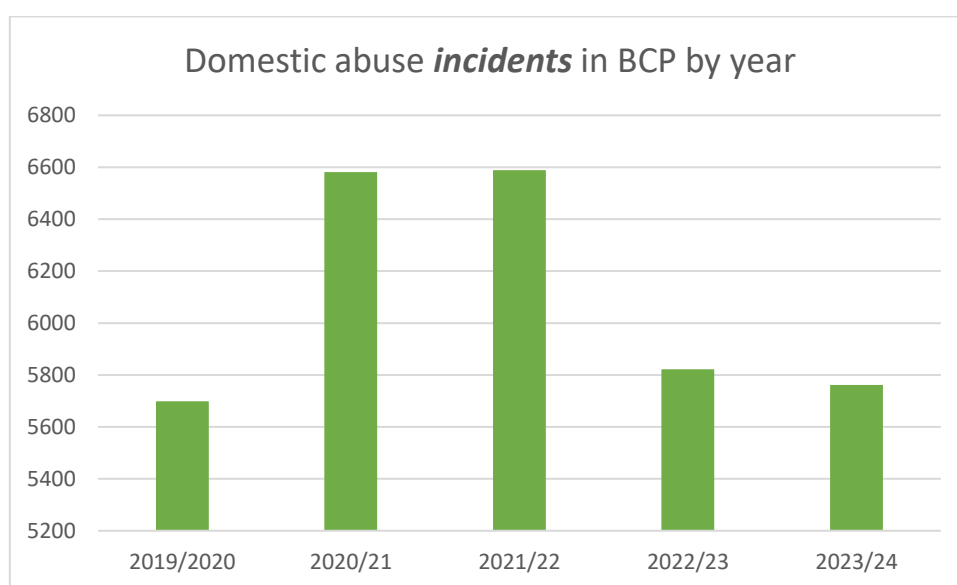
Figure 64 - DA incident numbers by year in BCP

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

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[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-define 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.

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[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)

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 Leeds[175] (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 framework[119] 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 or 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 community[175], and can be described as a collection of practices which are used to control behaviour within families or other social groups[176]. The Crown Prosecution Service describes Honour-Based abuse as violation of human rights and may be a form of domestic/sexual violence[177].

11.1.2   Honour-based abuse can include[177]:
- Murder,
- Attempted or actual forced marriage,
- Domestic abuse,
- Child abuse,
- Rape,

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[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 persist[177].

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 known[178]. 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 with[179].

11.1.5   Honour-based abuse tends to affect ethnic minority women of South Asian and Arab heritage[180]; 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 Nirvana[179], 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).

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[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 improperly[181].

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 Britan. Banaz's sister, Payzee Mahmod[182] 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 abuse[183].

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 Support[184] 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.

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[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)
[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 forces[187].

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 Conduct[187] 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 Policing[188] 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.

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[186] *the-depths-of-dishonour.pdf (justiceinspectorates.gov.uk)
[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)
[188] Honour-based abuse: Advice for first responders (college.police.uk)

- 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 Policing[189] 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 offences[189].

11.2.2   There were also 2,018 HBA-related incidents recorded by the police, an increase of 10% from the previous year[190].

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.

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[189] National data shows increase in 'honour'-based abuse (HBA) offences - Savera 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.