



Serious Violence Needs Assessment

2024-2025

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Executive Summary

Serious violence has a devastating impact on the lives of victims and families. It instils fear within communities and is extremely costly to society. Dorset Policing Authority is the seventh safest place to live in the United Kingdom, which should be kept in mind when discussing serious violence in a BCP context. However, there are still violent crimes which occur within BCP; between 1st April 2023 and 31st March 2024, approximately 140 individuals were seriously harmed due to serious violent crime in the BCP area.

The purpose of this Serious Violence Strategic Needs Assessment is to shed light on the picture of serious violence in Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole. The document provides a comprehensive overview of risk and protective factors for serious violence with links to the local population. A contextual picture of serious violence in Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole is given using data from 2023/24, exploring key trends, victim and suspect demographic characteristics, key locations for violence within the area, and recommendations for further work to further develop understanding.

Risk Factors – Key Findings

Existing research identifies that seriously violent offenders are a minority, however, chronic and persistent offenders tend to experience common risk factors which occur well before the age of offending and sometimes even before birth. Criminological and public health research suggests that childhood trauma and adversity significantly increase the risk of serious, chronic, and violent offending¹. Those who have experienced greater levels of childhood trauma are at greater risk of offending.

Looked after children are likely to have experienced greater than average amounts of childhood trauma, and national statistics identify a correlation between looked-after-children and offending. National comparator data shows that there is a higher percentage of looked after children aged 10-17 who are offending in BCP in comparison to our CIPFA Nearest Neighbours. Additionally, the percentage of looked after children with fixed period exclusions is highest in BCP in comparison to our CIPFA Nearest Neighbours, and looked after children in BCP perform the worst out of our CIPFA nearest neighbours in terms of their emotional and behavioural health average score. These findings indicate that further work is needed to understand the experiences of looked after children in BCP and any potential links between looked after children and serious violence with the intention of reducing risk.

¹ Piquero *et al* (2003), referenced in Fox, B., Perez, N., Cass, E., Baglivio, M., and Epps, N. (2015). 'Trauma changes everything: Examining the relationship between adverse childhood experiences and serious, violence and chronic juvenile offenders.' *Child Abuse & Neglect*. 46. Pp. 163-173. Available at: [Trauma changes everything: examining the relationship between adverse childhood experiences and serious, violent and chronic juvenile offenders - PubMed \(nih.gov\)](#)

Existing research identifies school suspensions and exclusions as a risk factor for serious violence, as increased unsupervised time online and in the community for those young people who already exhibit behavioural challenges may provide greater opportunity to commit crime. National comparator data shows that suspension and exclusion rates in BCP are relatively high.

Gang participation is another risk factor for serious violence. Children who have experienced childhood trauma are more likely to be at risk of exploitation from gangs which can offer a sense of belonging that is normally associated with being part of a family or extended family. Dorset police are currently working to identify if there are individuals within BCP who may meet the definition of a 'street gang', which the NSPCC define as 'groups of young people who see themselves (and are seen by others) as a discernible group for whom crime and violence is integral to the groups identity'.

Contact with the criminal justice system is another risk factor for serious violence. Research shows that those who have had contact with the criminal justice system are more likely to experience further future contact than those who have no experience with the criminal justice system, even after accounting for self-reported offending². Burke (2014)³ notes that adolescents who are in the process of developing their identity may be strongly affected by stigmatization and social obstacles such as difficulty finding employment, ineligibility for student loans, and exclusion from conventional social networks resulting from a criminal record, which may encourage deviance. Historically, there have been discrepancies between local and national data for first time entrant to the criminal justice system rates in BCP, with national data showing the rates to be high. The Youth Justice Board changed their source of first-time entrant data from Q1 2023; it is hoped this will lead to more accurate data, which should enable a greater understanding of the rates of first time entrants and shed light on the need for intervention in this area. Since the change, first time entrant rates are considerably lower.

Violence Profile – Key Findings

The definition of serious violence being used by BCP Council for the purpose of this report is as follows:

'Mirroring the Home Office Serious Violence Strategy (2018), Serious Violence in BCP will be defined as "homicide, knife crime, and gun crime and areas of criminality where serious violence or its threat is inherent, such as in gangs and county lines drug dealing". The BCP Serious Violence Strategy/ Needs Assessment will also address manslaughter,

² Beardslee, J., Miltimore, S., Fine, A., Frick, P. J., Steinberg, L., & Cauffman, E. (2019). Under the radar or under arrest: How is adolescent boys' first contact with the juvenile justice system related to future offending and arrests? *Law and Human Behaviour*, 43(4), 342- 357. Available at: [Under the radar or under arrest: How is adolescent boys' first contact with the juvenile justice system related to future offending and arrests? \(apa.org\)](https://apa.org)

³ Burke, R. (2014). *An Introduction to Criminological Theory*. 4th ed. UK: Willan Publishing.

³ See footnote 84.

attempted murder, Grievous Bodily Harm (S18 and S20), domestic abuse, rape, sexual assaults, aggravated burglary, robbery, and arson with intent to endanger life.'

Based on the above definition, the priority crime types identified from the violence profile are sexual offences (sexual assault and rape) and robbery. Knife crime is another identified priority due to the severe consequences which can result from this crime.

Domestic abuse will not be addressed by the serious violence duty as this would lead to duplication as there are many services already operating in the BCP area to tackle this, as well as the domestic abuse strategic group to help tackle this issue.

Violence Profile – Recommendations

The number of victims aged 50-54 for sexual offences was higher than to be expected. As such, it is recommended that the accessibility of support services for older victims should be assessed to ensure that support is widely available.

Education work with universities around sexual offences should be continued, as data for 2023/24 shows that this age group is still a key cohort in terms of victims of sexual offences.

Work should be done with pubs, bars and clubs to ensure that comprehensive procedures are in place when supporting victims of sexual assault in licensed premises.

A high proportion of rape occurrences had a domestic abuse flag. Further work should be done to ensure that professionals working within domestic abuse services have extensive training on how to support victims of rape.

The most common location for robberies was in Central Bournemouth, and numbers were elevated on weekends. This is likely to do with routine activities theory. Numbers of GBH S18 in the town centre were also elevated on weekends; this should be kept in mind when discussing policing initiatives in the town centre.

Limitations

There are concerns around the quality of the police data used in this report, particularly in terms of flagging for domestic abuse and knife related offences. The numbers of offences discussed in these sections should be treated with caution.

There was a large amount of missing ethnicity data, meaning this report is unable to clearly identify if there are any over or under representations of victim or suspect ethnicities.

The violence profile of this report would have been enhanced by the addition of ambulance and emergency care data relating to serious violence, however, this data is

not currently available. It is hoped that this data will become available for future versions of this report.

Population

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

BCP has an ageing population; there are a higher proportion of residents over the age 65 and a smaller proportion of the population under age 16 when compared with national rates.

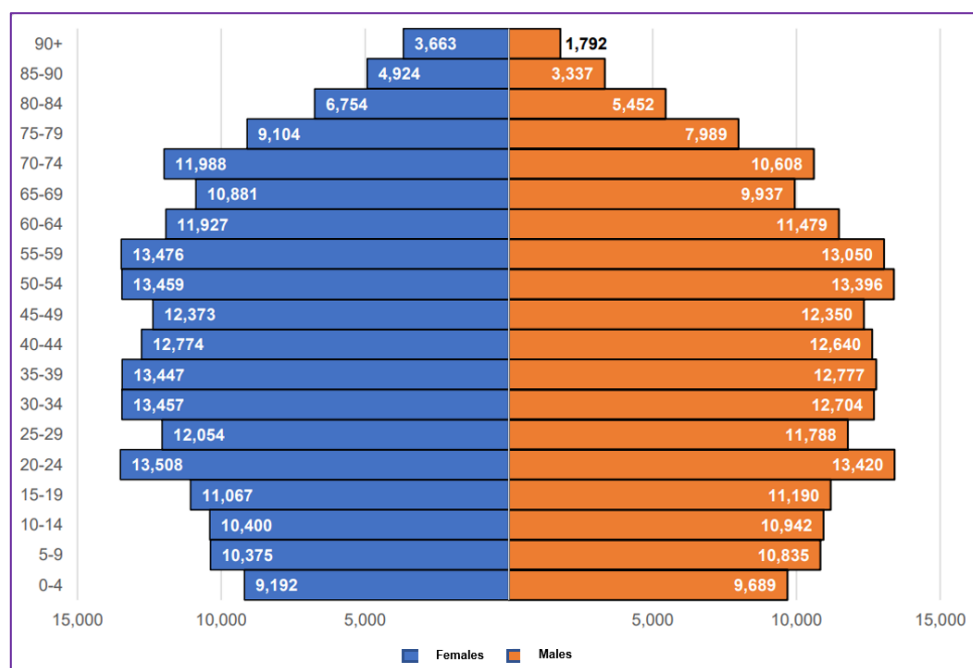


Figure 2 - Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole Age Distribution by Gender

Although the majority of those involved in serious violence are adults, as will be seen later on in the violence profile, young people are disproportionately affected by serious violence, both as victims and suspects. This is important to note considering the lower proportion of young people as residents in the area.

[Ethnicity data](#) (2021) for BCP shows:

- 82.4% of the population are White British.
- 8% are other white.
- 3.4% of the population are Asian, Asian British and Asian Welsh.
- 2.8% of the population are from Mixed and Multiple Ethnic Groups.
- 1.1% of the population are Black, Black British, Black Welsh, Caribbean or African.

Data on [religion](#) shows:

- 46.8% of the population of BCP are Christian,
- 42.2% have no religion,

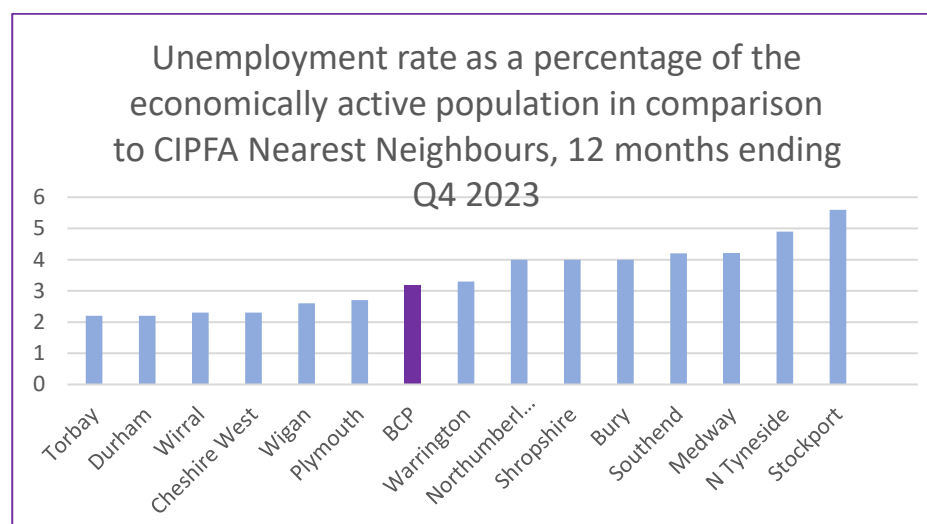
- 1.7% are Muslim.
- 0.7% are Hindu.
- 0.7% are any other religion.
- 0.5% are Buddhist.
- 0.4 are Jewish.
- 0.1% are Sikh.
- 6.9% of people in BCP did not provide an answer in relation to religion in the ONS survey which provided this data.

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

Employment

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

Figure 3⁴ shows that in comparison to our CIPFA nearest neighbours⁵, unemployment rates as a percentage of the economically active population in BCP are fairly central and not of notable concern:



⁴ Data for Sefton was missing and therefore is not included in this figure.

⁵ The CIPFA (Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy) Nearest Neighbours Model tool uses statistical processes to identify a local authority's nearest neighbours. The factors upon which classifications are based must provide a balanced representation of the authorities' traits. The variables employed in the assessment are descriptive characteristics of the area each authority administers; they are not a reflection of the way in which resource of services are considered. The Nearest Neighbours tool includes 40 metrics using a wide range of social-economic indicators.

Figure 3 - unemployment rate as a percentage of the economically active population - BCP in comparison to CIPFA Nearest Neighbours.

Data from [NOMIS](#)⁶ (Oct 2021-Sept 2022) shows that of those who are economically inactive aged 16-64 living in the BCP area;

- 26.6% are students.
- 18.8% are looking after family/home.
- 23.9% are long term sick.
- 14.5% are retired.
- 14.2% are other.
- 20.9% want a job.
- 79.1% do not want a job⁷.

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

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

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

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

Deprivation

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

⁶ Nomis is a service provided by the Office for National Statistics (ONS) which publishes statistics related to the population, society and the labour market at national, regional and local levels.

⁷ Numbers do not equate to 100% because some people may fall in to more than one category.

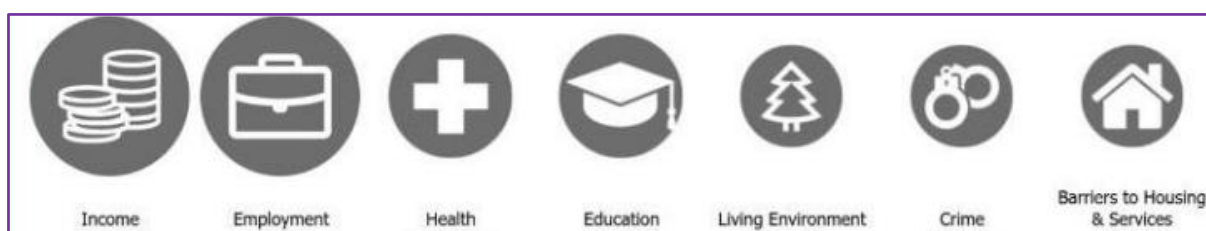


Figure 4 - Indices of Deprivation domains.

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

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

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

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

Figure 5 shows a map of BCP coloured by areas of deprivation, with red being the most deprived and green being the least deprived. Areas in dark red are in the 10% most deprived in the UK.

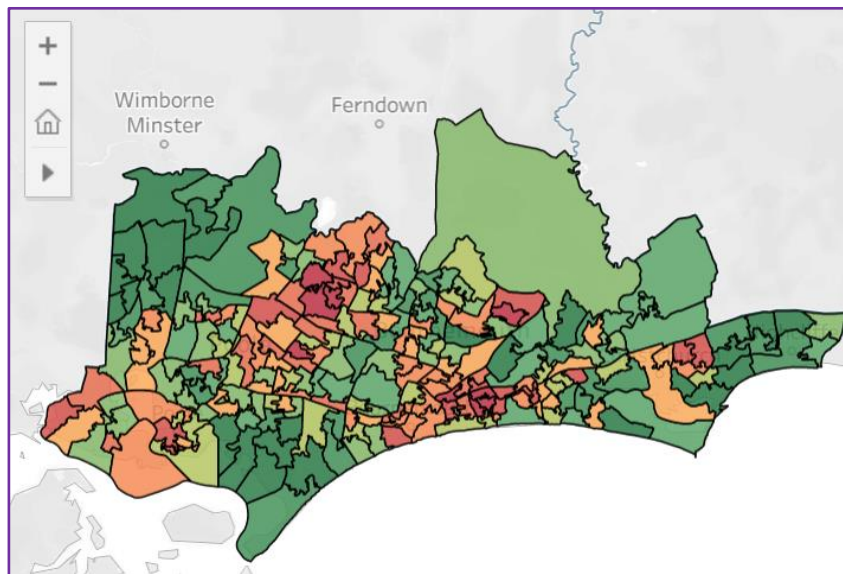


Figure 5 - Map of Index of Multiple Deprivation across BCP

BCP has more Lower Super Output Areas (LSOAs) in areas of lower deprivation in comparison to areas of high deprivation, a protective factor against crime and disorder. The most common type of deprivation in the BCP area is education and skills deprivation.

Figure 6 below provides a breakdown of the most deprived areas in BCP. Deprivation in BCP is polarised in a small number of highly deprived areas. These have been split in to 4 categories in figure 6:

‘Entrenched’ areas of deprivation are LSOAs whose ranking has remained in the most deprived 10% nationally over both time periods⁸ 2015 and 2019.

‘Escalating’ areas of deprivation are LSOAs whose ranking has deteriorated and moved them into the most deprived 10% in 2019.

‘Continuing’ areas of deprivation are LSOAs in the most deprived 11-20% nationally in 2019.

‘Emerging’ areas of deprivation are LSOAs whose ranking has moved them in to the most deprived 11-20% during 2019.

⁸ Index of multiple deprivation was updated in both 2015 and 2019

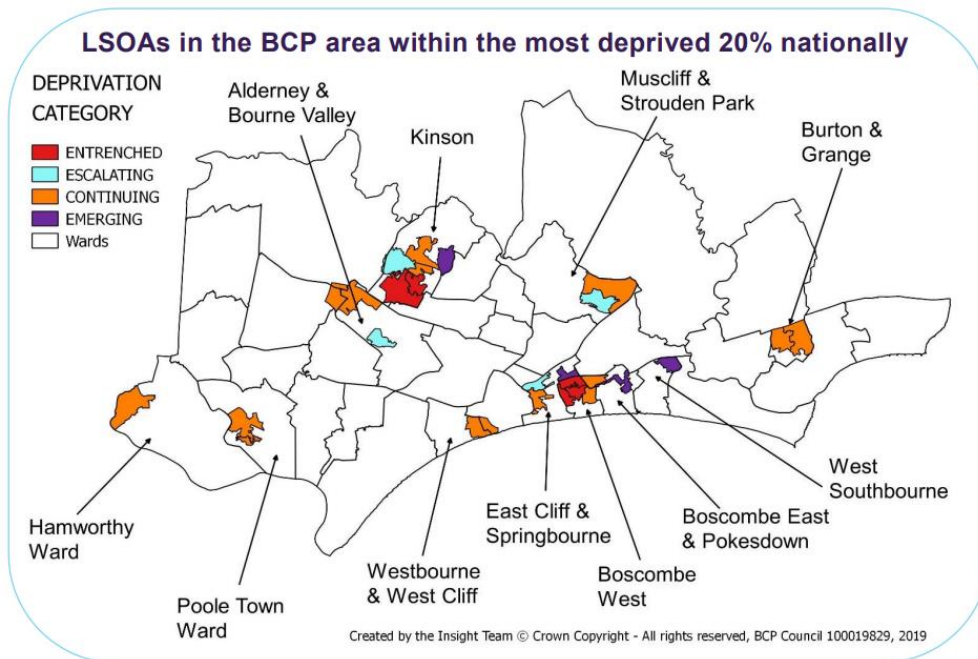


Figure 6 -Breakdown of the most deprived areas in BCP.

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

The primary forms of deprivation within Boscombe West are living environment, health deprivation, and crime, whereas in Kinson, deprivation is medium to high across all the domains, but particularly education and skills deprivation.

The characteristics of these areas are likely to have an impact on the types of deprivation experienced. Boscombe West has a high concentration of houses of multiple occupation (HMOs) which have been converted from former guest houses, previously designed for seaside tourism, which contributes to a more transient population in this area. HMOs play a valuable role in the UK housing market, especially for those unable to access other tenures⁹. However, scholars have identified concerns stemming from the proliferation of HMOs, namely that cheap rents may lead to the concentration of vulnerable and deprived social groups, often with multiple and complex health needs, contributing to higher levels of health deprivation in Boscombe West. Additionally, vulnerable individuals are more susceptible to becoming both victims and perpetrators of crime, likely contributing to higher rates of crime deprivation in the area.

In contrast, Kinson has lower migration rates and lower levels of privately rented accommodation. This suggests that individuals and families are likely to live in the area for longer. A child growing up in a deprived area implies that they are more likely to be provided with insufficient educational support, lack of recreational space (no safe park

⁹ Barratt, C., Kitcher, C., and Stewart, J. 'Beyond safety to wellbeing: How local authorities can mitigate the mental health risks of living in houses in multiple occupation'. *Journal of Environmental Health Research*. 12:1. Available at: [Journal of Environmental Health Research - Beyond safety to wellbeing \(core.ac.uk\)](https://core.ac.uk/doi/10.1080/17447607.2019.1644444)

or playground) and receive poorer quality childcare and health support¹⁰. This has numerous inevitable long-term consequences such as poorer mental and physical health, lower school achievement, and worse outcomes in adulthood^{11,12,13,14}. Another study has found that children in deprived areas are at higher risk of early alcohol use¹⁵ and early onset of alcohol use increases the risk of alcohol dependence and other illicit drug use in later life¹⁶.

Research¹⁷ shows that children from the poorest homes are a year behind in their language and literacy skills by the age of 5. The social disparities in language and communication among children in reception persist and widen throughout the school years; half of the inequality in learning outcomes at age 11 can be traced back through the school years, whilst children who score badly on school readiness at age 5 are less likely to succeed in secondary school, and more likely to experience poor health and low pay as adults.¹⁸

Children living in deprived neighbourhoods are less likely to complete high school and achieve higher educational attainment. This creates a significant difference in their earning levels in later life compared to their peers. Local areas with community safety issues often restrict children from after-school outdoor activities and increases their sedentary behaviours. This significantly contributes to childhood obesity amongst children living in poor neighbourhoods¹⁹.

¹⁰ Galster, G., Marcotte, D., Mandell, M., Wolman, H., and Augustine, N. (2007) 'The Influence of Neighbourhood and Poverty During Childhood on Fertility, Education, and Earning Outcomes. 22:5. Pp. 723-751. [The Influence of Neighborhood Poverty During Childhood on Fertility, Education, and Earnings Outcomes: Housing Studies: Vol 22, No 5 - Get Access \(tandfonline.com\)](#)

¹¹ Featherstone, B., Morris, B., Daniel, B., Bywaters, P., Brady, G., Bunting, L., Mason, W., and Mirza, N. (2019) 'Poverty, inequality, child abuse and neglect: Changing the conversation across the UK in child protection?' *Children and Youth Services Review*. 97, pp. 127-133. [Poverty, inequality, child abuse and neglect: Changing the conversation across the UK in child protection? - ScienceDirect](#)

¹² See footnote 7.

¹³ Wickham, S., Anwar, E., Barr, B., Law, C., Taylor-Robinson, D. (2016). 'Poverty and child health in the UK: using evidence for action'. *Archives of Diseases in Childhood*. 101:8. Pp. 759-766 [Poverty and child health in the UK: using evidence for action | Archives of Disease in Childhood \(bmj.com\)](#)

¹⁴ Wood, D. (2003). 'Effect of Child and Family Poverty on Child Health in the United States.' *Pediatrics*, 112. Pp. 707-711. [Effect of Child and Family Poverty on Child Health in the United States | Pediatrics | American Academy of Pediatrics \(aap.org\)](#)

¹⁵ Bandyopadhyay, A. (2022). 'Health and Household environment factors linked with early alcohol use in adolescence: a record-linked, data-driven, longitudinal cohort study. *IJDPS*, 7:1.

¹⁶ Hingson, R., Heeren, T., Winter, M. (2006). 'Age at Drinking Onset and Alcohol Dependence'. *JAMA Pediatrics*, 160:7. Pp. 739-746. [Age at Drinking Onset and Alcohol Dependence: Age at Onset, Duration, and Severity | Adolescent Medicine | JAMA Pediatrics | JAMA Network](#)

¹⁷ [Childhood poverty and early cognitive development in the U \(suttontrust.com\)](#)

¹⁸ [Mind the gap – getting our children ready for school \(savethechildren.org.uk\)](#)

¹⁹ Cecil- Karb, R., Grogan-Kaylor, A. 'Childhood Body Mass Index in Community Context: Neighbourhood Safety, Television Viewing, and Growth Trajectories of BMI.' *Health and Social Work*, 24:3. Pp. 169-177. [Childhood Body Mass Index in Community Context: Neighborhood Safety, Television Viewing, and Growth Trajectories of BMI | Health & Social Work | Oxford Academic \(oup.com\)](#)

Family and area level disadvantageous socio-economic conditions often lead to teenage pregnancy²⁰, which is significantly associated with adverse health outcomes and social consequences²¹.

1.4. Population profile

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

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

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

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

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

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

13.2% of the BCP population in 2021 (53,437 actual) fall under the Mosaic Group 'Aspiring Homemakers'. These are young people in their 20s and 30s, with a mix of young couples and single people. Around two-thirds have started families and have young children. Most homes are priced below the national average, but mortgage payments make a significant dent in these owners' monthly finances. Residents earn mid-range salaries in varied occupations, with most working full-time. A number may

²⁰ Penman-Aguilar, A., Carter, M., Snead, C., and Kourtis, A. (2013). 'Socioeconomic Disadvantage as a Social Determinant of Teen Childbearing in the U.S.' *Public Health Reports*, 128:1. Pp.5-22. [Socioeconomic Disadvantage as a Social Determinant of Teen Childbearing in the U.S. - PMC \(nih.gov\)](#)

²¹ Cook, S., Cameron, S. 'Social issues of teenage pregnancy'. *Obstetrics, Gynaecology and Reproductive Medicine*. 27:11. Pp. 327-332.

work part-time or take career breaks when their children are small. While incomes are respectable, outgoings are often considerable. Newtown & Heatherlands and Creekmoor wards have the highest proportions in this group.

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

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

- Family Basics – Families with limited resources who budget to make ends meet.
- Transient Renters - Single people renting low-cost homes for the short term.
- Municipal Tenants – Urban residents renting high density housing from social landlords.

These groups are clustered in BCP's most deprived areas and account for 11% of the overall population.

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

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

Education

There are three universities in the BCP area:

- Bournemouth University, which has some 19,000 students, including approximately 3,000 from outside the UK. Its Talbot Campus is in Poole, adjacent to North Bournemouth. The university also has a "Lansdowne Campus" dispersed around Central Bournemouth. It provides a significant

amount of student accommodation through university accommodation providers, but privately renting students are concentrated in the Winton and Charminster areas of North Bournemouth.

- The Arts University Bournemouth, with approximately 3,500 students, has a campus adjacent to Bournemouth University's campus in Poole, and has a number of accommodation blocks in and around Bournemouth University's "Lansdowne Campus". Students privately renting are again concentrated in the Winton and Charminster areas.
- BCP's newest university is the AECC University College (formerly the *Anglo-European College of Chiropractic*) and has about 800 students. AECC's campus is in Boscombe.

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

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

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

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

LG Inform data shows the permanent exclusion rate in BCP schools 2021/22 was 0.01% of pupils in [primary schools](#), 0.14% of pupils in [secondary schools](#), and 0.18% of pupils in [schools for those with SEN](#). The [state school permanent exclusion rate](#) in BCP was 0.14% of pupils. Figure 12²² shows BCP's state school permanent exclusion rate in comparison with our CIPFA nearest neighbours.

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

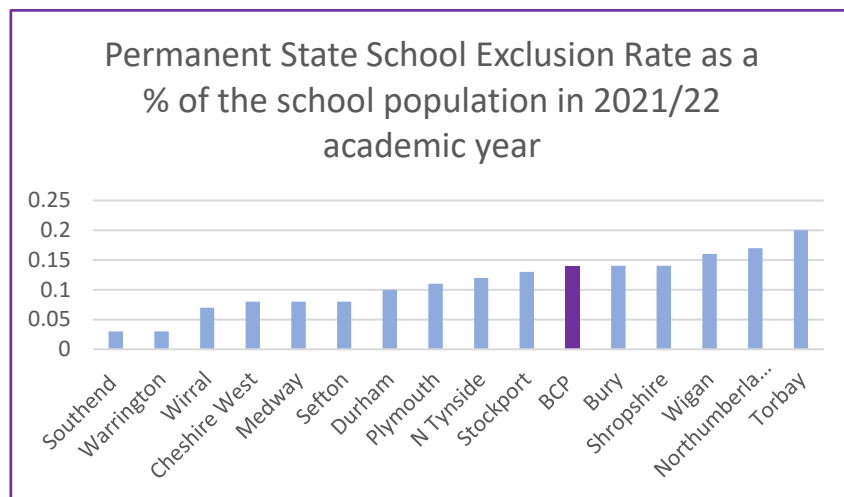


Figure 7 - Permanent state school exclusion rate as a % of the school population in 2021/22 academic year.

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

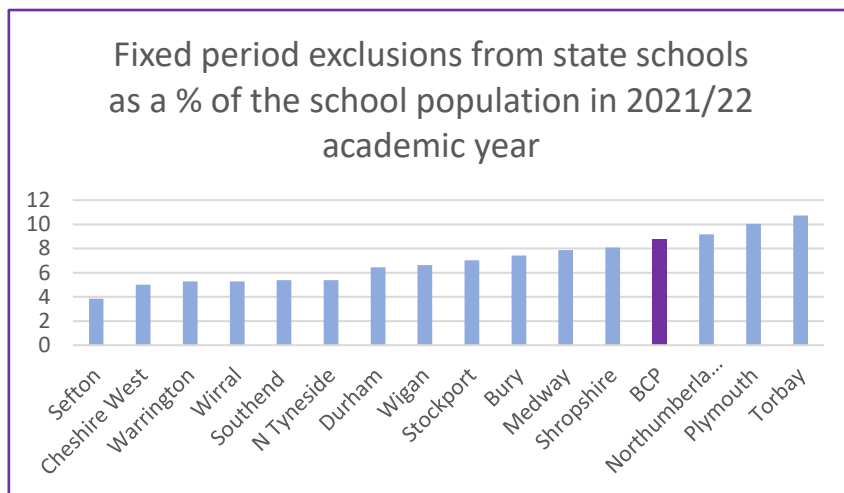


Figure 8 - Fixed term exclusion rate as a % of the school population in 2021/22 academic year.

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

"Of course, it is not inevitable that pupils who have been excluded will go on to become involved in serious violence and crime. However, we cannot ignore the link between school exclusion and social exclusion: once children and young people are

permanently excluded, it is very difficult for them to re-enter mainstream education. This means that they are more vulnerable to grooming by criminals and to becoming the victims or perpetrators of violent crime.”

Local data shows that there were 116 permanent exclusions in BCP schools in the 2023/24 financial year. Each exclusion can have up to 3 reasons assigned to it without any ranking. The most common reasons for exclusions in BCP last year were persistent disruptive behaviour (71 permanent exclusions), verbal abuse/ threatening behaviour against an adult (27 permanent exclusions), and physical assault against an adult (21 permanent exclusions). The high exclusion rates in BCP may be a cause for concern from a safeguarding of young people and a crime prevention perspective.

Young People

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

- Lower infant mortality rates than the national average (2.7 per 1,000 in BCP compared with 4 nationally per 1,000, 2020-22),
- A lower proportion of children who are overweight or obese in reception (18.1% in BCP compared with 21.3% nationally, 2022/23),
- Higher population vaccination coverage for Dtap / IPV / Hib (92.1% in BCP compared with 91.8% nationally, 2022/23),
- Good school readiness as evidenced by achieving a good level of development at the end of reception (70.5% in BCP compared with 67.2%, nationally 2022/23).
- The rate of children in absolute low-income families is lower in BCP at 8.4% in comparison to the England average at 12.5% (2022/23). Similarly, the percentage of children in relative low-income families is lower in BCP at 12.1% than the England average at 15.8% (2022/23).

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

1.7. Bournemouth Town Centre and Night-Time Economy

Bournemouth Town Centre has a thriving evening and night-time economy. It achieved and retained its Purple Flag accreditation in 2022, which was first won in 2010. However, the nature of the night-time economy can breed concerns with alcohol related serious violence. It is therefore expected that there will be a hot spot for serious violence around Bournemouth Town Centre. This theme is explored further in Chapter 2, Risk and Protective Factors, and Chapter 3, Violence Profile.

1.8. Composition of Local Government

The BCP Council is a local authority that serves the areas of Bournemouth, Christchurch, and Poole. It was formed in April 2019 through the merger of three former councils in Bournemouth, Christchurch, and Poole.

The composition of BCP Council includes the following elements:

- The leader of the council.
- Cabinet. The leader and the Cabinet members are responsible for making key decisions about local policies and services.
- Councillors. The BCP Council is made up of 76 members representing 33 wards.
- Departments and Services.

1.9. Health and Social care services

NHS Dorset is the public name of NHS Dorset Integrated Care Board (ICB).

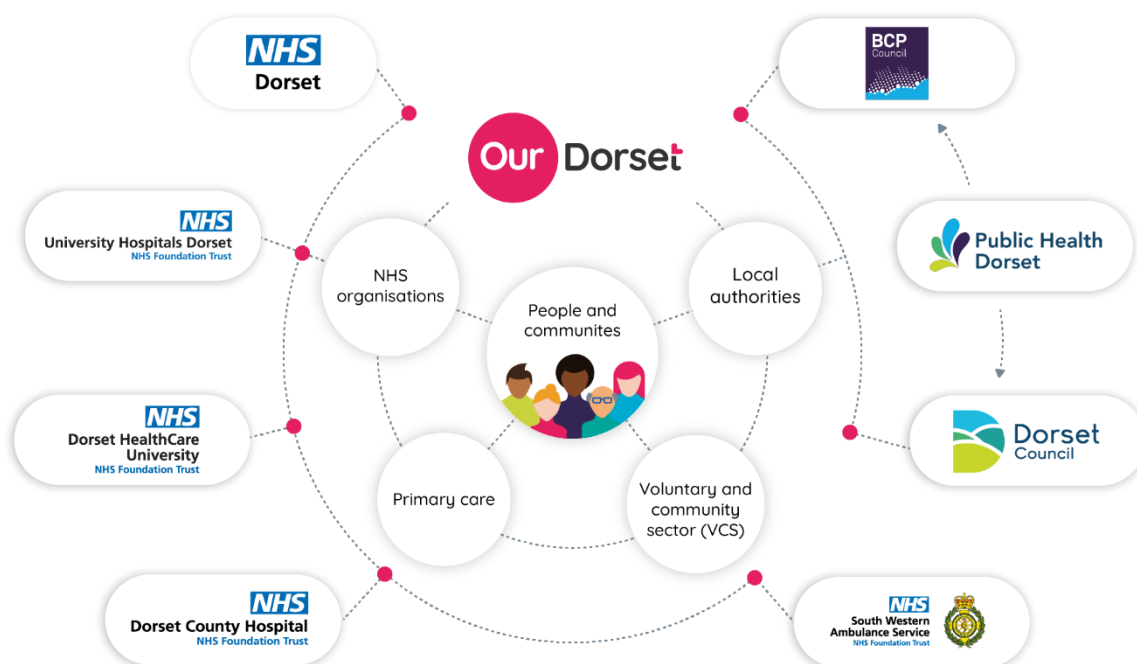


Figure 9 - Our Dorset Integrated Care Board Partners

BCP Council has the following hospital healthcare facilities: Royal Bournemouth Hospital, Christchurch Hospital, and Poole Hospital.

The Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole area also offers residential care or nursing care suitable for different needs.

1.10. Criminal Justice System

The criminal justice system in Bournemouth, Christchurch, and Poole operates under the framework of the English legal system. There are some of the key components in the area.

Police

Dorset Police is responsible for maintaining safety and preventing crimes in BCP area through the following stations:

- Bournemouth Enquiries and Custody Building.
- Bournemouth Police Station
- Christchurch Police station.
- Poole Police station and enquiry office.
- Winton Police Station
- Boscombe Police station

Courts

Cases are adjudicated in various courts, depending on the severity and type of the offense.

Bournemouth and Poole County Court and Family Court handles adoption, bankruptcy, childcare arrangements if you separate from your partner, divorce hearings, domestic abuse, financial, remedy, housing, money claims, high court cases, crime, and single justice procedure.

Poole Magistrates' Court handles crime, single justice procedure and benefits.

Probation services

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

Youth justice system

The youth justice system is designed to handle cases involving young offenders who are under the age of 18.

Bournemouth Probation Office and Poole Probation Centre are the probation contact centres within BCP area.

Dorset Combined Youth Justice Service (DCYJS) is a statutory partnership between BCP Council, Dorset Council, Dorset Police, National Probation Service and NHS Dorset Clinical Commissioning Group.

This multi-disciplinary team focuses on helping young people to make positive changes to their lifestyle, keep them safe and secure, and offer assistance and reparation to the victims.

This partnership also works directly with parents, careers, language and speech therapists, psychologists to help provide a positive support network.

Prisons

The Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole area does not have any prisons within its boundaries.

2. Serious Violence Risk and Protective Factors

This chapter explores different risk and protective factors for serious violence that take place across the lifecourse, and provides areas of potential for future work.

2.1. Childhood trauma

There are different risk and protective factors for serious violence across the life course. Research highlights that seriously violent offenders are a minority, however, chronic and persistent offenders tend to have risk factors that occur well before the age of offending, sometimes being present before birth. Criminological and public health research suggests that childhood trauma and adversity significantly increase the risk of serious, chronic, and violent offending²³.

In a U.S. based study²⁴, researchers found that of 658 adolescents reporting involvement in the youth justice system, 90% of justice-involved youths report exposure to some type of traumatic event, with 70% of them meeting the criteria for mental health disorder and 30% of youths meeting the criteria for post-traumatic stress disorder. One-third of their study reported exposure to multiple types of traumas each year.

Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs)

The adverse childhood experiences score was first used in 1998 in a medical study examining the relationship between abuse experienced in childhood and trauma, and the leading causes of death in adults²⁵. The study identified several traumatic childhood experiences that significantly and positively correlated with various negative health outcomes. Not only can these be used as a prediction of poor health, Fox *et al* (2015)²⁶

²³ Piquero *et al* (2003), referenced in Fox, B., Perez, N., Cass, E., Baglivio, M., and Epps, N. (2015). 'Trauma changes everything: Examining the relationship between adverse childhood experiences and serious, violence and chronic juvenile offenders.' *Child Abuse & Neglect*. 46. Pp. 163-173. Available at: [Trauma changes everything: examining the relationship between adverse childhood experiences and serious, violent and chronic juvenile offenders - PubMed \(nih.gov\)](#)

²⁴ Dierkhising, C., Ko, S., Woods-Jaeger, B., Briggs, E., Lee, R., and Pynoos, R. (2013). 'Trauma histories among justice-involved youth: findings from the National Child Traumatic Stress Network'. 4(1). Available at: [Trauma histories among justice-involved youth: findings from the National Child Traumatic Stress Network - PubMed \(nih.gov\)](#)

²⁵ Felitti, V., Anda, R., Nordenberg, D., Williamson, D., Spitz, A., Edwards, V., Koss, M. and Marks, J. (1998). 'Relationship of childhood abuse and household dysfunction to many of the leading causes of death in adults: The Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACE) Study'. *American Psychological Association*. 14(4). Pp. 245-258. Available at: [Relationship of childhood abuse and household dysfunction to many of the leading causes of death in adults. The Adverse Childhood Experiences \(ACE\) Study - PubMed \(nih.gov\)](#)

²⁶ Fox, B., Perez, N., Cass, E., Baglivio, M., and Epps, N. (2015). 'Trauma changes everything: Examining the relationship between adverse childhood experiences and serious, violence and chronic juvenile offenders.' *Child Abuse & Neglect*. 46. Pp. 163-173. Available at: [Trauma changes everything: examining the relationship between adverse childhood experiences and serious, violent and chronic juvenile offenders - PubMed \(nih.gov\)](#)

suggest that the ACE score could be used as a 'first-line screening tool' to identify children at risk of serious, violent and chronic offending *before* this occurs.

ACEs are:

"Highly stressful, and potentially traumatic, events or situations that occur during childhood and/or adolescence. It can be a single event, or prolonged threats to, and breaches of, the young person's safety, security, trust or bodily integrity. These experiences directly affect the young person and their environment, and require significant social, emotional, neurobiological, physical or behavioural adaptations.

- ([Young Minds, 2018](#)).

Examples of these experiences include:

- Physical abuse
- Sexual abuse
- Emotional abuse
- Neglect
- Living with someone who has abused drugs
- Living with someone who has abuse alcohol
- Exposure to domestic violence
- Living with someone who has gone to prison
- Living with someone with serious mental illness
- Losing a parent through divorce, death or abandonment.

ACEs can be barriers to healthy attachment relationships forming in children, can have an adverse impact on physical and mental health, and can be a risk factor for future criminality. The longer an individual experiences an ACE, and the more ACEs an individual experiences, the bigger the impact it will have on their development (Manchester University/NHS).

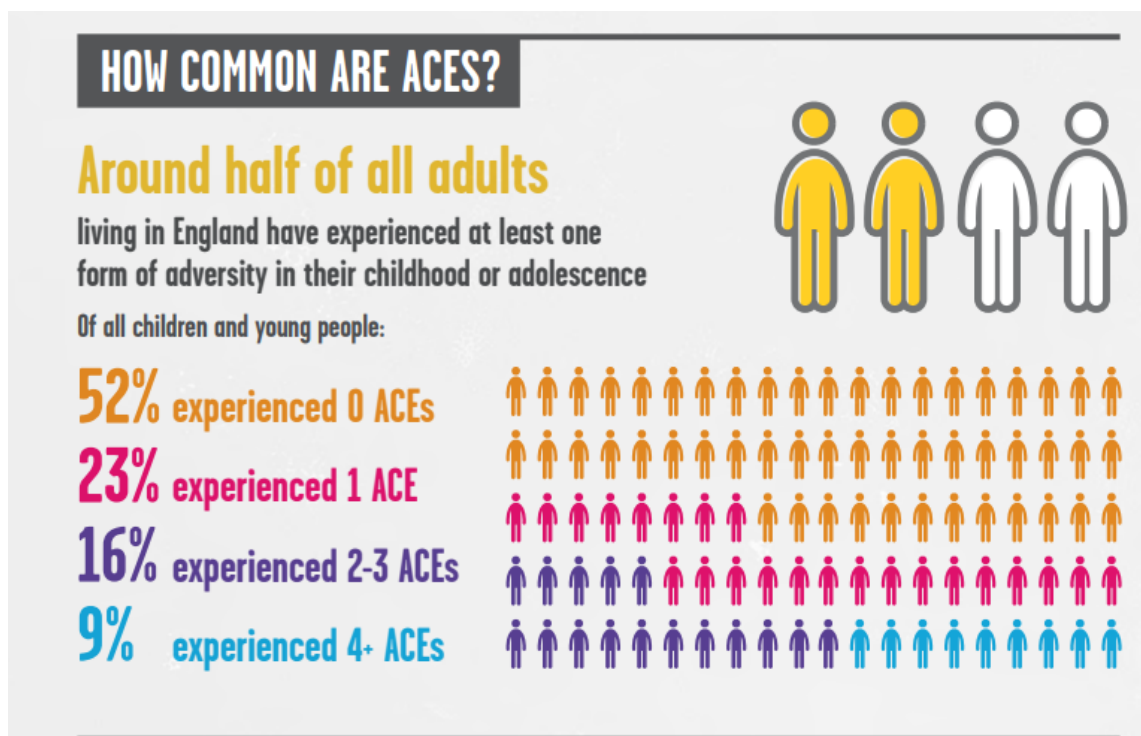


Figure 10 - How Common are ACEs? Source - [Young Minds](#)

As figure 10 shows, ACEs are relatively common, with around half of all adults in England experiencing at least one form of adversity in their childhood or adolescence. Research suggests that as the number of ACEs experienced increases, so does the risk of becoming a perpetrator of serious violence. Fox *et al* (2015) identified that there is a significant difference in the prevalence of ACEs between serious, violent and chronic (SVC) juvenile offenders and offenders who commit one offence and then stop - 'one and done' (O&D) offenders - with SVC offenders showing a higher prevalence of individual ACEs as well as higher overall ACE scores.



Figure 11 - How do ACEs impact the lives of young people? Source - [Young Minds](#)

ACEs and Attachment

ACEs may inhibit a child's ability to develop secure attachment to their care givers. Children living in adverse environments may have unsupportive or inattentive care givers, who do not respond to their needs appropriately or consistently. Consequently, children become unable to reduce their stress through familial support, and therefore may become accustomed to suppressing or avoiding negative emotions^{27, 28}. As more emotional pain increases, ability to cope with stress decreases, which may cause depressive reactions^{29, 30}.

Hirschi (1969)³¹ conceptualised attachment as an affective bond through which children internalize norms of society. He argued that delinquency will be low in families with strong ties as young people who are attached to their parents are more likely to care about the reactions and expectations of their parents. In contrast, if the parent/child bond is weak, delinquency will increase. Further, these families may struggle to regulate anger in their children, which may reinforce aggressive behaviour if a child feels they are able to act in this way without consequence. Fox *et al* (2015) suggests that these effects can have serious consequences on the development of the child and may be connected to higher levels of violent behaviour.

Further, ACEs are far more prevalent in those who are poor, isolated, and living in deprived circumstances. Social inequality both increases the likelihood of ACEs and amplifies their negative impact³². As previously mentioned, Kinson and Boscombe West are key areas of entrenched deprivation in BCP. As a result, we may see higher levels of serious violence in these areas due to the correlation between ACEs and deprivation.

²⁷ Burns, E., Fischer, S., Jackson, J., Harding, H. (2012). 'Deficits in emotion regulation mediate the relationship between childhood abuse and later eating disorder symptom'. *Child Abuse & Neglect* 36:1 pp. 32-39. Available at: [Deficits in emotion regulation mediate the relationship between childhood abuse and later eating disorder symptoms - PubMed \(nih.gov\)](#)

²⁸ Ye, Z., Wei, X., Zhang, J., Huilin, L., Jiageng, C. (2023). 'The impact of adverse childhood experiences on depression: the role of insecure attachment styles and emotion dysregulation strategies. *Current Psychology*. 13. Pp. 1-11. Available at: [The impact of adverse childhood experiences on depression: the role of insecure attachment styles and emotion dysregulation strategies - PMC \(nih.gov\)](#)

²⁹ Cheong, E Von, Sinnott, C., Dahly, D. & Kearney, P. (2017). 'Adverse childhood experiences (ACEs) and later-life depression: perceived social support as a potential protective factor'. *BMJ Open* 7:9. Available at: [Adverse childhood experiences \(ACEs\) and later-life depression: perceived social support as a potential protective factor - PMC \(nih.gov\)](#)

³⁰ Klumparendt, A., Nelson, J., Barenbrugge, J. and Ehring, T. (2019). 'Associations between childhood maltreatment and adult depression: a mediation analysis'. *BMC Psychiatry*. 19(36). [Associations between childhood maltreatment and adult depression: a mediation analysis | BMC Psychiatry | Full Text \(biomedcentral.com\)](#)

³¹ Referenced in Hoeve, M., Stams, G., van der Put, C., Dubas, J., van der Laan, P., Gerris, J. (2012). 'A Meta-analysis of Attachments to Parents and Delinquency'. *Journal of Abnormal Child Psychology*. 40. pp. 771-785. Available at: [A Meta-analysis of Attachment to Parents and Delinquency | Research on Child and Adolescent Psychopathology \(springer.com\)](#)

³² Asmussen, K., Fischer, F., Drayton, E., and McBride, T. (2020) "Adverse childhood experiences: What we know, what we don't know and what should happen next." *Early Intervention Foundation*. Available at: [Adverse childhood experiences: What we know, what we don't know, and what should happen next | Early Intervention Foundation \(eif.org.uk\)](#)

ACEs and toxic stress

Studies show that trauma experienced in childhood may impact biological and psychological processes, affecting development of the child. One area of development that may be affected, which has impacts on serious violence is one's ability to manage stress. Researchers note that stressful and traumatic events occurring in childhood can lead to chromosome damage³³ and other changes to the brain, as well as a heightened neural state which triggers the brain to excrete adrenal steroids, growth hormones, amino acids, and other stress mediating chemicals³⁴. These hormones may be beneficial in short bursts, but a prolonged chemical response may lead to permanent chemical elevations³⁵.

These neurological and psychological changes may mean that those who have experienced more ACEs are prone to violence in a variety of ways. The physiological changes resulting from the prolonged chemical response to stressful environments may lead to extreme, and potentially violent reactions to trivial stimuli. Toth *et al* (2011, in Fox *et al*, 2015) argue that maltreated children experience difficulties recognizing, expressing and understanding their emotions, and show more aggressive and reactive behaviour.

As well as the ACEs mentioned above, the CDC note additional experiences which may contribute to toxic stress for individuals, namely, living in impoverished neighbourhoods, experiencing food insecurity, experiencing racism and having limited access to support and medical services.

ACEs and intervention implications

Research clearly suggests that the experience of trauma in childhood is a prevalent risk factor for those who may commit serious violence. To tackle this, Fox *et al* (2015) recommend the implementation of policies and programs that help to prevent childhood ACEs in order to reduce risk of future offending. Oral *et al* (2016)³⁶ note that interventions aimed at reducing ACEs at a population level will have the greatest individual and social impact. They argue that to accomplish this, interventions should focus on strengthening individual and community resilience rather than solely identifying and responding to individual ACEs. Focus should be on strengthening communities and reducing resource disparity.

³³ Shalev, I., Moffitt, T., Sugden, K., Williams, B., Houts, R., Danese, A., Mill, J., Arseneault, L., Caspi, A. (2013). 'Exposure to violence during childhood is associated with telomere erosion from 5 to 10 years of age: a longitudinal study'. *Mol Psychiatry*, 18(5). Pp. 576-581. Available at: [Exposure to violence during childhood is associated with telomere erosion from 5 to 10 years of age: a longitudinal study - PMC \(nih.gov\)](#)

³⁴ See article in footnote 23.

³⁵ Cicchetti, D. & Toth, S. 'Child Maltreatment'. *Annual review of Clinical Psychology*. 1, pp. 409-438. [Child Maltreatment | Annual Reviews](#)

³⁶ Oral, R., Ramirez, M., Coohy, C., Nakada, S., Walz, A., Kuntz, A., Benoit, J., Peek-Asa, C. (2016). 'Adverse childhood experiences and trauma informed care: the future of healthcare'. *Pediatric Research*. 79, 227-233. [Adverse childhood experiences and trauma informed care: the future of health care | Pediatric Research \(nature.com\)](#)

2.2. Looked After Children

Looked After Children are likely to have experienced multiple ACEs, leading to their time in care. 2022 Ward level data for BCP shows there are 440 looked after children in the area.

In England, a child looked after is one that is either provided accommodation by, or in the care of, a local authority. The term “looked-after children” includes unaccompanied asylum-seeking children, children in friends and family placements, and those children where the agency has authority to place the child for adoption. It does not include those who have been permanently adopted or who are on a special guardianship order³⁷.

The number of looked after children in England rose from 59,400 in the year ending March 2008, to 72,670 in the year ending March 2017, an increase of just over 22 percent and higher than at any point since 1985^{38,39}. A small part of this can be dedicated to demographic changes, however there are other social factors at play. High profile cases such as Baby P led to higher levels of Section 31 applications in England⁴⁰. Further, care orders now tend to have a longer duration meaning children are in care for longer, and there have been proposals that the growing population may reflect a growth in the prevalence of social problems and familial difficulties which may lead local authorities to determine a child as sufficiently at risk to meet the threshold for entry to care⁴¹.

Bateman *et al* (2018) note that the **majority** of children who are looked after **do not** come to the attention of the youth justice system. However, there is an evident overrepresentation of looked after children in the youth justice system.

Office for National Statistics (2022) data on the education background of looked-after-children who interact with the criminal justice system shows:

- More than half (52%) of looked-after children born in the academic year ending 1994 and who attended school in England, had a criminal conviction by the age of 24, compared with 13% of children who had not been in care.

³⁷ Office for National Statistics (2022). ‘The education background of looked-after-children who interact with the criminal justice system: December 2022’. Available at: [The education background of looked-after children who interact with the criminal justice system - Office for National Statistics \(ons.gov.uk\)](https://www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/healthandsocialcare/mentalhealth/articles/theeducationbackgroundoflookedafterchildrenwhointeractwiththecriminaljusticesystem/december2022)

³⁸ Department for Education (2010) Outcomes for children looked after by LAs: 31 March 2010. London: Department for Education.

³⁹ Department for Education (2017) Children looked after in England including adoption: 2016 to 2017. London: Department for Education.

⁴⁰ Macleod, S., Hart, R., Jeffes, J. and Wilkin, A. (2010) ‘The impact of the Baby Peter case on applications for care orders’. *Local Government Education and Children’s Services Research Programme*. Available at: [The impact of the Baby Peter case on applications for care orders \(nfer.ac.uk\)](https://www.nfer.ac.uk/publications/100101/100101.pdf)

⁴¹ Bateman, T., Day, A., and Pitts, J. (2018) ‘Looked after children and custody: a brief review of the relationship between care status and child incarceration and the implications for service provision.’ *University of Bedfordshire, Nuffield Foundation*. Available at: [Looked after children and custody: a brief review of the relationship between care status and child incarceration and the implications for service provision \(openrepository.com\)](https://openrepository.com/handle/10261/100000)

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

One explanation for the overrepresentation of children in care in the criminal justice system may be that they are likely to have experienced many of the risk factors for offending prior to coming in to care. For example, educational attainment is poorer for looked after children than their peers, but this should be seen in the context of higher rates of school exclusion for this group⁴². Similarly, educational attainment will be impaired when children have speech and language difficulties, which are overrepresented in the care system.

Further, the care environment may serve as an explanatory factor in the overrepresentation of looked after children within the criminal justice system. This explanation concerns issues of stability; desistance literature highlights the importance of stable relationships with trusted adults in supporting young people to desist from offending. However, young people within the care system often experience placement moves or breakdown which inevitably impacts children's relationship with carers, which are often abruptly stopped at the point of moving⁴³.

Children in care may be more likely to experience behavioural difficulties. This may be related to the struggle of coming to terms with the loss and disruption associated with being removed from their birth families, creating long term feelings of anger, distrust of authority and a sense of disempowerment. Challenging behaviour may lead to involvement with the criminal justice system, or placement breakdown which perpetuates the cycle described above⁴⁴.

Secondly, there is evidence that children in care are more likely to be criminalised for behaviour that would not have been brought to the attention of authorities if it occurred in the family home or within a family placement. Research which captured the views of more than half of the 43 police forces in England and Wales found that all of them reported incidents of 'call outs' by children's homes for minor incidents which the police

⁴² See footnote 38.

⁴³ See footnote 38

⁴⁴ See footnote 38

considered could have been more appropriately handled internally⁴⁵. The future consequences of acquiring a criminal record and associated barriers to obtaining training and employment can be a great hinderance to achievement by legitimate means and lead to further engagement in criminal activities. There is a clear link between contact with the criminal justice system and future offending, which will be discussed in more detail further on.

Additionally, in the children's home environment, exposure to older peers who may already be offending might have a negative impact on the behaviour of younger children placed in the same home.

National comparator data highlights concerning trends around the percentage of looked after children aged 10-17 who are offending, with rates in BCP being highest out of our CIPFA Nearest Neighbours.

Further, BCP has high rates of exclusions and suspensions in comparison to its CIPFA Nearest Neighbours, and national data displayed in figure 12 shows that this is particularly true for looked after children⁴⁶.

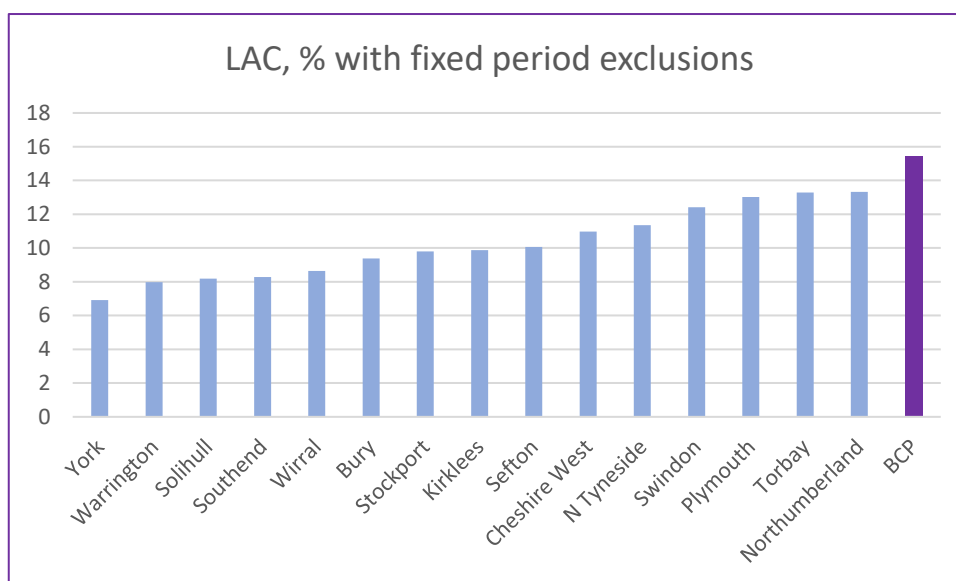


Figure 12 - Percentage of school aged looked after children with at least one fixed period exclusion from school 2021/22. Data extracted from LG Inform.

Further, LG Inform data shows the LAC emotional and behavioural health average score 2021/22 as high in comparison to our CIPFA Nearest Neighbours. This measure looks at the emotional and behavioural health of looked after children. It presents the average score for children looked after on 31st March 2022, for whom a Strengths and Difficulties Questionnaire (SDQ) was completed. A higher score on the SDQ indicates more emotional difficulties. A score of 0-13 is considered normal, a score of 14-16 is

⁴⁵ (Howard League, 2017b, in Bateman *et al*, 2018). – see footnote 38.

⁴⁶ This is the most up to date data. Available at: [Data and reports | LG Inform \(local.gov.uk\)](https://www.local.gov.uk/data-reports)

considered borderline cause for concern and a score of 17 and over is a cause for concern. Figure 13 presents national data around LAC emotional and behavioural health average scores. It shows that the average score for children in BCP is 18, which indicates cause for concern and is high in comparison to our CIPFA Nearest Neighbours.

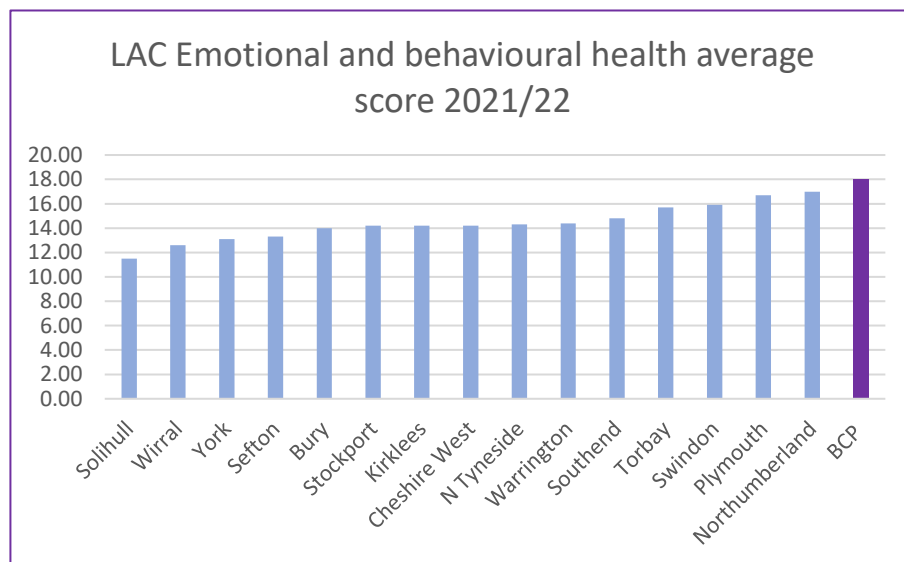


Figure 13 - LAC Emotional and behavioural health average score 2021/22. Source - [LG Inform](#)

Department for Education and Ministry of Justice (2022) research suggests that looked after children are more likely to commit serious violence offences than their peers, with 11% of looked after children in the cohort being convicted or cautioned for a serious violence offence in comparison to 1% of all pupils.

The factors explored in this section through national comparator data indicate a cause for concern regarding LAC in BCP. We know that LAC are more likely to commit serious violence offences than their peers⁴⁷, suggesting that this is one potential risk factor for serious violence in the area. It may be beneficial to conduct more work in this area to understand why outcomes for LAC in BCP appear poor in these areas in comparison to our CIPFA Nearest Neighbours.

2.3. School exclusions

Department for Education and Ministry of Justice (2022) research highlights that the majority of those in the cohort who were cautioned or sentenced for a serious violence offence also experienced suspensions and permanent exclusions from school at a disproportionate rate to all pupils, as demonstrated in figure 20.

⁴⁷ Department for Education and Ministry of Justice (2022). Education, children's social care and offending. Descriptive Statistics. Available at: [Education, children's social care and offending \(publishing.service.gov.uk\)](https://publishing.service.gov.uk)

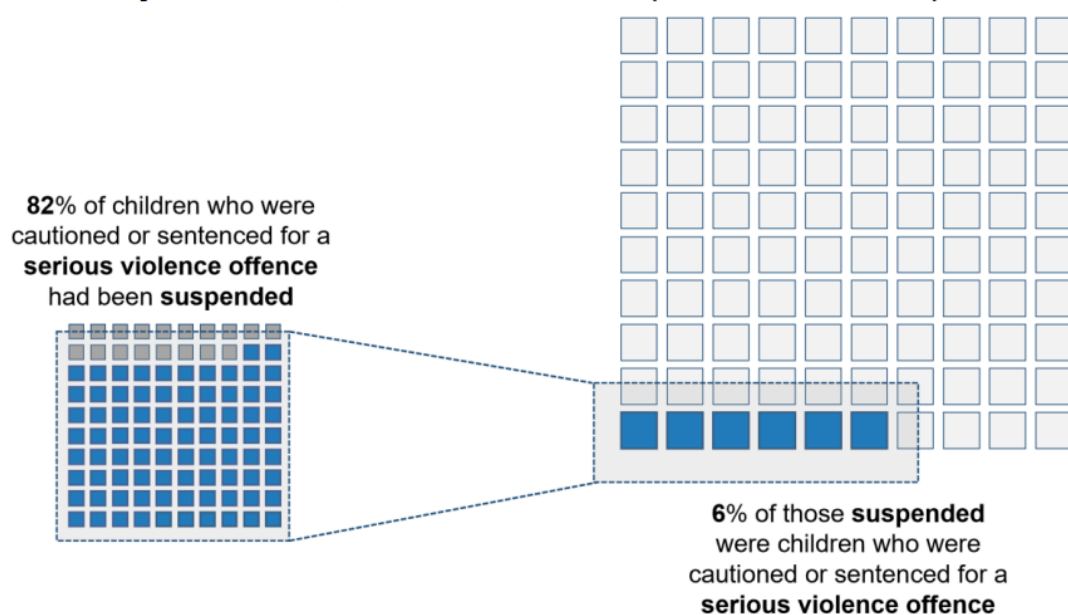


Figure 14 - The proportion of children who had been cautioned or sentenced for a serious violence offence had been suspended, and all pupils who had been suspended for pupils matched to KS4 academic years 2012/13, 2013/14 and 2014/15.

As figure 15 below shows, 82% of those in the cohort who had been cautioned or sentenced for a serious violence offence had been suspended, and 10% of them had been permanently excluded.

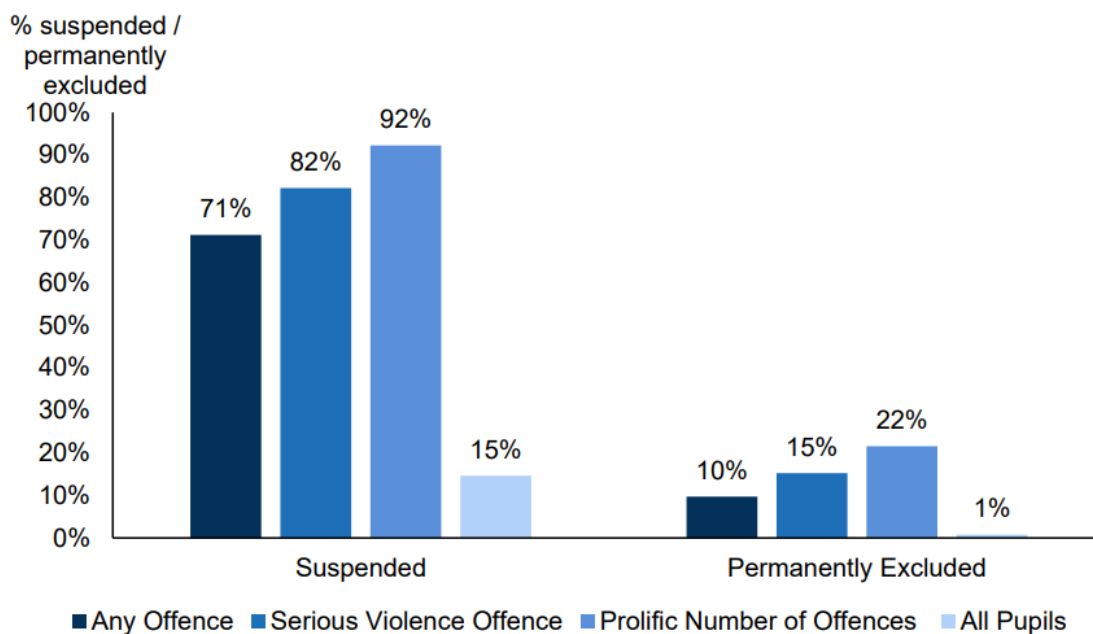


Figure 15 - The proportion of all pupils who had a record of being suspended or permanently excluded by offending and pupil group, for pupils matched to KS4 academic years 2012/13, 2013/14 and 2014/15. Source: Gov.uk 2022

The majority of those who had been cautioned or sentenced for a serious violence offence, and had been suspended or excluded, experienced their school suspension or

exclusion *before* the serious violence offence (88% of suspensions and 64% of exclusions).

Academic research can help us to understand *why* school exclusions may lead to future involvement with the criminal justice system. Wald and Losen (2007, referenced in Cuellar and Markowitz, 2015)⁴⁸ identify that the most direct pathway between schools and the criminal justice system is the referral of students directly to law enforcement for the violation of school policies.

Cuellar and Markowitz (2015) found that suspensions may also lead to days in the community with reduced supervision, leading to increased opportunities to commit crimes. Further, professionals working with young people in BCP highlight that school exclusions may lead to more unsupervised time online, heightening the risk of a child being groomed and potential further exploitation.

Local school exclusions data in BCP provides contextual information around the numbers of pupils who are being excluded for violence offences. 11% of suspensions included a reason of 'physical assault against a pupil, whilst 12% included a reason of 'physical assault against an adult. 0.6% included a reason of 'use or threat of an offensive weapon or prohibited item'. The most common included reason was 'persistent disruptive behaviour', making up 40% of the data. This highlights the relatively low number of exclusions for reasons related to violence.

Say it With Your Chest, an organization which supports young people at risk of school exclusions, note that certain pupils are more likely to be excluded than others: children with special educational needs (SEN), Black Caribbean children and Gypsy, Roma and Traveller children, and children from poor families are significantly more likely to be excluded⁴⁹. Sabrina Jones, the organization's founder, argues that this means that school exclusions are not being applied consistently or fairly⁵⁰. Further, behaviour is the number one reason for exclusion, with 'persistent disruptive behaviour' accounting for a third of all exclusions. Sabrina Jones argues this is an indication that schools are struggling to effectively manage behaviour, and notes many examples where schools are not using exclusions as a genuine last resort, or where 1-2-1 support could have helped to keep a child within mainstream education.

Say It With Your Chest (2023) note four key problems with the current exclusion system:

- 1) Schools don't have enough money for preventative in-school support.
- 2) Teachers lack the training and support to manage behaviour.
- 3) There is significant variation in the use of exclusion across the country.

⁴⁸ Cuellar, A and Markowitz, S. (2015) 'School suspension and the school-to-prison pipeline'. *International Review of Law and Economics*. 43. Pp.98-106. Available at: [School suspension and the school-to-prison pipeline - ScienceDirect](#)

⁴⁹ Say It With Your Chest (2023). 'A Roadmap to Halve School Exclusions by the End of the Decade'. Available at: [A roadmap to halve school exclusions by the end of the decade..pdf - Google Drive](#)

⁵⁰ Children & Young People Now. (2023) 'Let's halve school exclusions by the end of the decade'. Available at: [Let's halve school exclusions by the end of the decade | CYP Now](#)

- 4) Alternative provision, such as Pupil Referral Units, isn't working.

They note a further four actions that can be taken to 'halve' school exclusions:

- 1) Invest in specialist in-school support to support schools to manage challenging behaviour.
- 2) Ensure all new and existing teachers receive effective behaviour management training.
- 3) Introduce a more consistent approach to how exclusions are applied across schools by updating guidance on exclusions and providing additional support for schools with high rates of exclusions.
- 4) Put a stop to 'zero tolerance' behaviour policies.

A potential area for future work centres around understanding the processes and practices of school exclusions in BCP. Work could be done with schools to learn how they handle challenging behaviour and to understand any further support they may need. Further, we should seek to understand what behaviour management training staff receive. An exploration of the data regarding school exclusions should be undertaken to learn if any pupil groups are being targeted disproportionately, or if any schools are excluding disproportionately.

2.4. Special Educational Needs (SEN)

The SEND Code of Practice⁵¹ states that "a child or young person has SEN if they have a learning difficulty or disability which calls for special educational provision to be made for him or her". It notes that children's SEN are generally thought of in the following four broad areas of need and support (SEND Code of Practice, 2015: 85):

- ❖ Communication and interaction
- ❖ Cognition and learning
- ❖ Social, emotional and mental health
- ❖ Sensory and/or physical needs

Research identifies that individuals who experience SEN are overrepresented in the criminal justice system. The Department for Education and Ministry of Justice (2022) found that those who committed serious violence offences were considerably more likely to experience special educational needs than all pupils, as demonstrated in figure 16 below.

⁵¹ Department for Education and Department of Health (2015). 'Special educational needs and disability code of practice: 0 to 25 years.' Available at: [SEND Code of Practice January 2015.pdf \(publishing.service.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/413882/SEND_Code_of_Practice_January_2015.pdf)

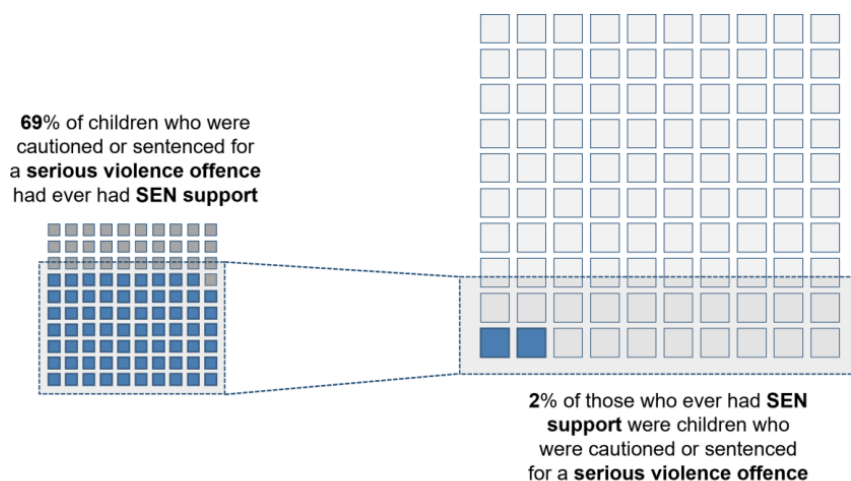


Figure 16 - The proportion of children who had been cautioned or sentenced for a serious violence offence and had SEN support, alongside all pupils who had SEN support, for pupils matched to KS4 academic years 2012/13, 2013/14, 2014/15.

Research indicates that high levels of speech, language and communication needs (SLCN) are found amongst offenders^{52, 53}. Individuals with SLCN have difficulties communicating with others; for some, these difficulties might be minor and temporary, but for others their needs will be complex and long term.

In terms of offenders, a project based in Pontypridd Probation Service showed that all participants had “below average” speech, language and communication ability and revealed specific problems with comprehension needs, whilst a study in northwest England found that up to 80% of adult prisoners had speech, language and communication needs.⁵⁴

Research shows that there is often an overlap in the four broad areas of need and support, identified by the SEND Code of Practice (2015)⁵⁵. Hollo *et al* (2014)⁵⁶ found that 81% of children with social, emotional and mental health needs have significant language

⁵² Gregory, J. and Bryan, K. (2002). ‘Speech and language therapy intervention with a group of persistent and prolific young offenders in a non-custodial setting with previously undiagnosed speech, language and communication difficulties. *International Journal of Language and Communication Disorders*. Available at: [Speech and language therapy intervention with a group of persistent and prolific young offenders in a non-custodial setting with previously undiagnosed speech, language and communication difficulties: International Journal of Language & Communication Disorders: Vol 0, No 0 \(tandfonline.com\)](http://www.tandfonline.com)

⁵³ The Royal College of Speech and Language Therapists. (2017). Justice Evidence Base. Available at: [justice-evidence-base-2017.pdf \(rcslt.org\)](http://www.rcslt.org/justice-evidence-base-2017.pdf)

⁵⁴ (Iredale *et al* 2010, and McNamara 2012, referenced in The Royal College of Speech and Language Therapists, 2017) – see footnote 51.

⁵⁵ See footnote 49.

⁵⁶ Hollo, A., Wehby, J. and Oliver, R. ‘Unidentified Language Deficits in Children with Emotional and Behavioural Disorders: A Meta-Analysis.’ *Exceptional Children*. 80(2). Pp. 169-186. Available at: [Unidentified Language Deficits in Children with Emotional and Behavioral Disorders: A Meta-Analysis - Alexandra Hollo, Joseph H. Wehby, Regina M. Oliver, 2014 \(sagepub.com\)](http://www.sagepub.com)

deficits. Bryan *et al* (2015)⁵⁷ argue that all children and young people presenting with emotional and behavioural difficulties should have a full speech, language and communication assessment.

[Unlocking Potential](#) note that Social, Emotional & Mental Health (SEMH)⁵⁸ difficulties, are linked to negative attachment history, a history of trauma and current family dynamics. This may be related to Toth *et al*'s (2011, in Fox *et al*, 2015) view, as mentioned [above](#) when discussing the impacts of toxic stress on neurological and psychological development, who found that maltreated children experience difficulties recognising, expressing and understanding their emotions, and subsequently show more aggressive and reactive behaviour.

Further, children and young people who have SEMH difficulties may find it difficult to make and sustain healthy relationships, and may also display challenging, disruptive or disturbing behaviour⁵⁹. Oldfield *et al* (2015)⁶⁰ note that these behaviours might include verbal and physical abuse, fighting, vandalism, lying and stealing. These behaviours are associated with negative outcomes such as unemployment⁶¹ and perpetrations of crime⁶².

Additionally, there is a link between SEN and school exclusions^{63,64} which, as previously mentioned, are a risk factor for crime and serious violence. [Unlocking Potential](#) note that 1 in 2 pupils who are permanently excluded have a diagnosis of SEMH needs.

⁵⁷ Bryan, K. (2015). 'Language difficulties and criminal justice: the need for earlier identification.' *Sheffield Hallam University Research Archie*. Available at: [Language difficulties and criminal justice: the need for earlier identification - PubMed \(nih.gov\)](#)

⁵⁸ Bullock, C. and Beckson, M. (2011). 'Male Victims of Sexual Assault: Phenomenology, Psychology, Physiology'. *The Journal of the American Academy of Psychiatry and the Law*. 39:2. Pp. 197-205. Available at: [Male Victims of Sexual Assault: Phenomenology, Psychology, Physiology | Journal of the American Academy of Psychiatry and the Law \(jaapl.org\)](#)

⁵⁹ The term 'Social Emotional & Mental Health' was introduced in the Special Educational Need and Disabilities (SEND) Code of Practice 2014, replacing the term Behaviour Emotional and Social Development (BESD) and Emotional & Behavioural Difficulties (EBD). SEMH is the first term to drop the word 'behaviour' in an attempt to emphasize that behaviour is a way of communicating. By referring to behaviour, many practitioners were focusing on the behaviours on display rather than the underlying causes. The updated term also includes mental health. (Source: [Unlocking Potential](#)).

⁶⁰ [Unlocking Potential – Social, Emotional & Mental Health – Unlocking Potential \(up.org.uk\)](#)

⁶¹ Oldfield, J., Humphrey, N., Hebron, J. (2015). 'Cumulative risk effects for the development of behavioural difficulties in children and adolescents with special educational needs and disabilities'. *Research in Developmental Disabilities*. 41-42, pp. 66-75. [Cumulative risk effects for the development of behaviour difficulties in children and adolescents with special educational needs and disabilities - ScienceDirect](#)

⁶² Healy *et al* 2004, referenced in Oldfield *et al* 2015 – see footnote 57.

⁶³ Fergusson *et al* 2005, referenced in Oldfield *et al* 2015.

⁶⁴ Clegg, J., Stackhouse, J., Finch, K., Murphy, C., & Nicholls, S. (2009). 'Language abilities of secondary age pupils at risk of school exclusion: A preliminary report'. *Child Language Teaching and Therapy*. 25:1. Pp.123-140. [Language abilities of secondary age pupils at risk of school exclusion: A preliminary report \(integrated.org.uk\)](#)

⁶⁵ Ripley, K. and Yuill, N. 2005. 'Patterns of language impairment and behaviour in boys excluded from school'. *British Journal of Educational Psychology* 75, 37–50. [Language abilities of secondary age pupils at risk of school exclusion: A preliminary report \(integrated.org.uk\)](#)

Research suggests that intervention within the early years is important to improve opportunities and outcomes for children⁶⁵. Anders *et al* (2010)⁶⁶ note that the early identification of young children's special educational needs, as well as the development of strategies to support children identified with SEN are recognised as crucial to facilitating good adjustment to school for children, and key to ensuring they reach their educational potential. They identify the experience of high-quality pre-school education to reduce the likelihood of a child being identified as experiencing SEN in the long run.

Professionals working within the youth justice service and alternative provision in BCP note the prevalence of special educational needs, and particularly undiagnosed special educational needs of the young people they work with.

2.5. Sense of belonging

Professionals working with young people in BCP identified sense of belonging as an important factor which can either help or hinder an individuals' likelihood of becoming involved in serious violence. Lerner *et al*⁶⁷, note that for positive social development, young people must have positive social contacts, a feeling of social integration, attachment to prosocial organizations and the ability to navigate various contexts. In reality, positive social development encompasses relationships with families, peers and social institutions such as schools and communities.

Burns and Jobson (2015)⁶⁸ note that family is the first site of belonging for most individuals which supports secure attachment and positive self-identity. This is crucial to positive social development, however, young people involved in serious violence may be less likely to have experienced this early sense of belonging and may be more likely to have experienced ACEs and early childhood trauma.

This lack of sense of belonging may put young people more at risk of falling susceptible to negative peer influences, or even involvement in gangs. Kaplan and Johnson (1992)⁶⁹ found that students who do not feel accepted in the mainstream tend to seek their own

⁶⁵ Zwaigenbaum, L., Bryson, S., Garon, N. (2013). 'Early identification of autism spectrum disorders. 251. Pp. 133-146. Available at: [Early identification of autism spectrum disorders - ScienceDirect](#)

⁶⁶ Anders, Y., Sammons, P., Taggart, B., Sylva, K., Melhuish, E., & Siraj-Blatchford, I. (2010). 'The influence of child, family, home factors, and pre-school education on the identification of special education needs at age 10.' British Educational Research Journal. 37:3. 421-444. Available at: (PDF) [The influence of child, family home factors and pre-school education on the identification of special educational needs at age 10 \(researchgate.net\)](#)

⁶⁷ Lerner *et al* (2009), referenced in Drolet, M., and Arcand, I. (2013). 'Positive Development, Sense of Belonging, and Support of Peers among Early Adolescents: Perspectives of Different Actors'. *International Education Studies*. Pp. 29-38. Available at: [ERIC - EJ1067610 - Positive Development, Sense of Belonging, and Support of Peers among Early Adolescents: Perspectives of Different Actors, International Education Studies, 2013](#)

⁶⁸ Burns, J., Jobson, J., and Zuma, B. (2015). 'Youth identity, belonging and citizenship: Strengthening our democratic future'. *South African child gauge*. Pp. 83-91. Available at: [ChildGauge2015-lowres-libre.pdf \(d1wqtxts1xzle7.cloudfront.net\)](#)

⁶⁹ Kaplan and Johnson (1992), in Beck, M., and Malley, J. (1998). 'A Pedagogy of belonging.' Available at: [A pedagogy of belonging \(cyc-net.org\)](#)

sense of belonging, often in a context that is antisocial. As Beck and Malley (1998)⁷⁰ state, ‘...it is better to belong to an antisocial group than to no group at all.’

Schools can foster an alternative sense of belonging for young people, acting as a protective factor. Faircloth and Hamm (2005)⁷¹ define the sense of belonging to schools as follows:

- 1) A positive tie that early adolescents maintain with teachers and other adults who they believe appreciate, and can support them, in difficult times.
- 2) A positive network of friends among whom they feel appreciated.
- 3) Participation in extracurricular activities, sports and cultural activities, among others.

Scholars note that involvement in extracurricular activities can lead to a marked increase in school attachment (Drolet and Arcand, 2013)⁷². Further, Rhodes and Lowe (2009)⁷³, found that young people who achieve a positive social development, despite occasional setbacks, often note the positive influence of an adult outside their family who expresses a truly caring attitude towards them. This could be in the form of school staff, or youth workers, and highlights the powerful impact professionals may have in a young person’s life.

2.6. Gangs/ Child Exploitation

In relation to a lack of sense of belonging, Curry (2008)⁷⁴ found that being part of an organised gang could offer a sense of belonging normally associated with being part of a family or extended family. For males especially, Beck and Malley (1998)⁷⁵ note that in adolescence, at an age where young men feel particularly insecure about their

⁷⁰ Beck, M., and Malley, J. (1998). ‘A Pedagogy of belonging.’ Available at: [A pedagogy of belonging \(cyc-net.org\)](http://cyc-net.org)

⁷¹ Faircloth, B., and Hamm, J. (2005). ‘Sense of Belonging Among High School Students Representing Four Ethnic Groups’. *Journal of Youth and Adolescence*. 34:4. 293-309. Available at: [Sense of Belonging Among High School Students Representing Four Ethnic Groups | Request PDF \(researchgate.net\)](http://Sense of Belonging Among High School Students Representing Four Ethnic Groups | Request PDF (researchgate.net))

⁷² Drolet, M., and Arcand, I. (2013). ‘Positive Development, Sense of Belonging, and Support of Peers among Early Adolescents: Perspectives of Different Actors’. *International Education Studies*. Pp. 29-38. Available at: ERIC - EJ1067610 - Positive Development, Sense of Belonging, and Support of Peers among Early Adolescents: Perspectives of Different Actors, International Education Studies, 2013

⁷³ Rhodes and Lowe (2009, in Drolet, M., and Arcand, I. (2013). ‘Positive Development, Sense of Belonging, and Support of Peers among Early Adolescents: Perspectives of Different Actors’. *International Education Studies*. Pp. 29-38. Available at: ERIC - EJ1067610 - Positive Development, Sense of Belonging, and Support of Peers among Early Adolescents: Perspectives of Different Actors, International Education Studies, 2013

⁷⁴ Curry, D. (2008). ‘Gangs: a high price to pay for belonging’. *Criminal Justice Matters*, 55:1. Pp.14-15 Available at: [09627250408553588.pdf \(crimeandjustice.org.uk\)](http://09627250408553588.pdf (crimeandjustice.org.uk))

⁷⁵ See footnote 67.

masculinity, the feeling of power that comes from joining a gang can be a significant attraction. In this way, poor sense of belonging may encourage young people to engage in antisocial peer groups and behaviour, which may then become a risk factor for participation in serious violence for *some* young people.

There is clearly a difference in involvement in organised criminal gangs and street gangs; Anne Longfield, Children's Commissioner for England (2019:3)⁷⁶ notes: "for some, being in a gang entails little more than putting a hashtag on social media. For others it can be far more serious and dangerous."

The [NSPCC](#) notes that the word 'gang' can mean different things in different contexts, and distinguishes between different types of gangs:

- 'Peer Group' – a relatively small and transient social grouping which may or may not describe themselves as a gang depending on the context.
- 'Street Gang' – "groups of young people who see themselves (and are seen by others) as a discernible group for whom crime and violence is integral to the group's identity".
- 'Organised Criminal Gangs' – "A group of individuals for whom involvement in crime is for personal gain (financial or otherwise). For most, crime is their 'occupation'.

Though the exact form of 'street gang' may vary, three elements are almost invariably present: violence, drugs and geographical definition. It is often these elements which form the basis of the link back to the organised criminal gangs who are those providing the supply of drugs and are those making huge money from the violence on our streets.

National concerns relating to the role of gangs in the increase in serious violence stem from a rise in homicide, knife crime and gun crime, and robbery, which began rising in 2014 and peaked in 2018, reaching their highest point for more than 10 years (Home Office, 2018)⁷⁷. Densley *et al* (2020)⁷⁸ note that the increases were accompanied by a shift towards younger victims and perpetrators. For homicide in particular, the rise was driven almost exclusively by street homicide and male-on-male cases, in comparison to domestic homicide or violence against woman and girls. Further, in London, killings linked to gang violence more than doubled from 17 in 2017 to 44 in 2014.

It is clear that there has been a national rise in gang related violence, however, it is less clear how relevant this is to BCP. There is currently work being carried out by Dorset police to identify if there are any individuals residing in the area who would meet the 'street gang' definition.

⁷⁶ Children's Commissioner (2019) 'Keeping kids safe'. Available at: [CCO-Gangs.pdf \(ioe.ac.uk\)](#).

⁷⁷ Home Office (2018). Serious Violence Strategy. [Available at: Home Office – Serious Violence Strategy, April 2018 \(publishing.service.gov.uk\)](#)

⁷⁸ Densley, J., Deuchar, R., and Harding, S. (2020). 'An Introduction to Gangs and Serious Youth Violence in the United Kingdom'. *Sage Journals*. 20:1-2. Available at: [\(PDF\) 'Going Viral' and 'Going Country': The Expressive and Instrumental Activities of Street Gangs on Social Media \(researchgate.net\)](#)

2.7. Social media

Professionals working with young people in BCP suggest social media as an aggravating factor for serious youth violence. Patton *et al* (2014:548)⁷⁹ note, “social media has become recognised as a vehicle through which youth perpetrate acts of violence against their peers, such as bullying, harassment, dating aggression, and gang-related crimes”.

Some studies suggest that social media portrayals of violence may contribute to the normalization of violence in everyday life⁸⁰ with scholars arguing that frequent exposure to violent activities through social media has a detrimental effect on young people.

However, despite these links, empirical data on the causal relationship between youth violence and social media is limited, with scholars reporting that most children and adolescents have little to no involvement in violence on social media sites⁸¹. This is likely to reflect their involvement in violence in day-to-day life and further reinforces the fact that serious violence generally involves a minority of offenders.

Despite this, scholars note that social media may exacerbate violence when used by gangs. Storrod and Densley (2017)⁸² note that like physical territory, gangs monitor online spaces to ensure taunts or acts of disrespect are responded to.

Additionally, the Home Office Serious Violence Strategy (2018) notes that drug-market violence may be facilitated by a small minority who use social media to glamorise gang or drug-selling life, taunt rivals, and normalise weapon carrying. In this way, gang members may use social media to ‘flame wars’⁸³, which may play a role in young people’s engagement in serious violence. However, as previously mentioned, it is unclear to what (if any) extent the role of gangs plays as an influencing factor in the facilitation of serious violence in BCP, and there is work being done by Dorset Police to establish any prevalence of gangs in the area.

2.8. First time entrants to the CJS

A classic criminological debate centres on the question: does contact with the criminal justice system deter or promote future criminal behaviour? There are two theoretical traditions – deterrence theory and labelling theory – which address this, but they have arrived at different conclusions. Both of these theories shift focus away from the offender

⁷⁹ Patton, D., Hong, J., Ranney, M., Patel, S., Kelley, C., Eschmann, R., Washington, T. (2014). ‘Social media as a vector for youth violence: A review of the literature’. *Computers in Human Behaviour*. 35. Pp. 548-553. Available at: [Social media as a vector for youth violence: A review of the literature - ScienceDirect](#)

⁸⁰ See footnote 75.

⁸¹ See footnote 75.

⁸² Storrod, M., and Densley, J. (2017). “Going viral’ and ‘Going country’: the expressive and instrumental activities of street gangs on social media’. *Journal of Youth Studies*. 20:6 677-696 Available at: [‘Going viral’ and ‘Going country’: the expressive and instrumental activities of street gangs on social media \(researchgate.net\)](#)

⁸³ See footnote 78.

to focus on the actions and impact of the justice system, where contact with the system works as a turning point that alters the life course of the individual. Deterrence theory suggests that contact with the justice system is positive and teaches offenders that the costs of crime outweigh the benefits, whilst labelling theory argues that justice system contact is negative and exacerbates the chances of future offending by initiating a self-fulfilling prophecy in which the individual perceives him or herself as a 'bad apple'⁸⁴.

There is evidence to suggest that contact with the criminal justice system can increase the risk of future offending, with punitive approaches being more harmful to children^{85, 86, 87}. A key theme in labelling theory is the view that in reacting to people as criminal, society encourages them to become so, and criminal justice intervention can deepen criminality⁸⁸. This can be illustrated with an example; those with a criminal record may be less likely to find a job due to having a conviction, which may therefore necessitate a return to crime to get by.

A significant policy implication of labelling theory relates to early offending by children and juveniles. As Burke (2014)⁸⁹ notes,

"Adolescents who are in the process of developing their identities may, in particular, be strongly affected by stigmatization and, because they are just beginning to develop their stakes in conformity, the presentation of serious social obstacles, such as difficulty finding employment, ineligibility for student loans and exclusion from conventional social networks, may affect their life-course orientation." (p.205).

This quote highlights the importance of the youth justice system in providing young offenders support and redirection towards legitimate means of success.

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

⁸⁴ Motz, R., Barnes, J.C., Caspi, A. Arseneault, L. Cullen, F., Houts, R., Wertz, J. Moffitt, T. (2019) 'Does contact with the justice system deter or promote future delinquency? Results from a longitudinal study of British adolescent twins'. *Criminology*, 58:2. 307-335

⁸⁵ Lucas, P., and Staines, J. (2022) 'Supporting the youngest children in the youth justice system: what works to reduce offending and produce outcomes?' *Local Government Association*. Available at: [Supporting the youngest children in the youth justice system: what works to reduce offending and improve outcomes? | Local Government Association](#)

⁸⁶ Beardslee, J., Miltimore, S., Fine, A., Frick, P. J., Steinberg, L., & Cauffman, E. (2019). Under the radar or under arrest: How is adolescent boys' first contact with the juvenile justice system related to future offending and arrests? *Law and Human Behaviour*, 43(4), 342- 357. Available at: [Under the radar or under arrest: How is adolescent boys' first contact with the juvenile justice system related to future offending and arrests? \(apa.org\)](#)

⁸⁷ See footnote 80.

⁸⁸ Burke, R. (2014). *An Introduction to Criminological Theory*. 4th ed. UK: Willan Publishing.

⁸⁹ See footnote 84.

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

2.9. Domestic Abuse

A Victims Commissioner report (2020)⁹⁰ notes that domestic abuse is one of the widely acknowledged risk factors for youth violence. The Crime Survey for England and Wales estimated that 2.1 million people aged 16 years and over (1.4 million women and 751,000 men) experienced domestic abuse in the year ending March 2023⁹¹.

The Crime Survey for England and Wales (2022) estimated that 5.0% of adults (6.9% of women and 3.0% of men) aged 16 years and over experienced domestic abuse in the year ending March 2022, equating to 2.4 million adults (1.7 million women and 699,000 men).

There were 734 total domestic abuse cases heard at MARAC in 2023/24 in BCP. These are considered to be the most high-risk domestic abuse cases. Of this, a total of 492 cases had children listed on referral (67% of all cases). Although children may be linked to either the victim and/or perpetrator, in many cases the children are no longer living with either party. This highlights the prevalence of children affected by domestic abuse at home; over half of the highest risk cases in BCP 2023/24 had children linked on referral, and there will be many more children who have witnessed or experienced domestic abuse within the home, who have not come to the attention of professionals, living in BCP.

Domestic abuse in the home can have a wide range of impacts on a child's health and wellbeing. The Victims Commissioner Report (2020)⁹² found that children and young people living in a household with domestic abuse may go on to commit further acts of violence themselves, have difficulties with regulating emotions, become isolated, and have difficulties with making and sustaining friendship. These young people may turn their emotions inward, becoming quiet and insular, leading to the potential for risky behaviour and self-harm. Some practitioners provided examples of children and young people who feel pushed out from the family home due to the domestic abuse, finding themselves increasingly on the street or in dangerous situations and looking for love and attention in proxy familial relationships such as gangs⁹³.

Further, practitioners note that experiencing DA in the home may sow the seeds for unhealthy relationships and future perpetration of domestic abuse by that young person.

⁹⁰ Victims Commissioner (2020). 'Sowing the seeds: Children's experience of domestic abuse and criminality'. Available at: [Sowing the seeds: Children's experience of domestic abuse and criminality - Victims Commissioner](#)

⁹¹ [Domestic abuse in England and Wales overview - Office for National Statistics \(ons.gov.uk\)](#)

⁹² See footnote 86.

⁹³ The Victims Commissioner (2018) acknowledges that children and young people can be part of friendship groups – which can be characterised as 'gangs' – which do not engage in criminal activities.

Many practitioners felt that witnessing DA in the home normalised violence for that young person, who then is more likely to go on and use violence in their own relationships, including romantic relationships, friendships with peers and within their communities⁹⁴.

As a representative from Barnardo's taking part in the research explained (Victim's Commissioner 2020)⁹⁵:

"We see a cycle of abuse, children living with domestic abuse, then these children and young people get into relationships when they are teenagers which are likely to be abusive. We have services with children to help recognise what a healthy relationship is, their views can be perverted by what they have seen when they were growing up. It is so damaging that children in domestic abuse households don't get to see healthy relationships. If they don't know what they look like, they don't know what to look for in their own relationships as they grow up. They don't know how to behave if they do become a victim themselves or even a perpetrator. There should be specialist preventative services for children who experience domestic abuse."

Similar to many other risk factors discussed in this report, the link between domestic abuse and criminality is not deterministic. There is likely to be many children involved in criminality who may have experienced domestic abuse, but not every child who experiences domestic abuse will go on to be involved in criminality⁹⁶.

Experiencing DA in the home is a risk factor for future perpetration of general serious violence, and more specifically domestic abuse. Consequently, this emphasizes the importance for appropriate education for young people in BCP on healthy relationships, and perhaps with further intervention for those young people who are known to be growing up witnessing domestic abuse. A future project may be to identify what education schools are providing around healthy relationships, and what support they may need to aid this. Further, it may be important to understand what support social services provide to young people who witness DA in the home regarding healthy relationships.

2.10. Substance abuse

The risk and protective factors explored so far throughout this chapter have been primarily focused on children and young people. Much of the literature for serious violence centres around young people, however, literature on adult perpetration of serious violence is relatively scant.

⁹⁴ See footnote 86.

⁹⁵ See footnote 86.

⁹⁶ See footnote 86.

Despite this, there are clear links identified between experiencing childhood trauma and future substance use and dependence. Khoury *et al*, (2010)⁹⁷ found levels of substance use, particularly cocaine, strongly correlated with levels of childhood physical, sexual, and emotional abuse, as well as current PTSD symptoms.

There are a variety of ways substance abuse is linked to serious violence. The Home Office Serious Violence Strategy (2018) notes that a substantial proportion of serious violence is linked to alcohol in some way; in more than a third of homicides (35%) in 2016/17, either the victim or suspect had consumed alcohol prior to the incident. The Dorset Police homicide and near miss problem profile (2022) notes that alcohol was the highest influencing factor for homicides and near miss homicides, alongside domestic abuse, in Dorset in the three years ending March 2022.

One explanation for this relates to the pharmacological effects of substances on the brain in terms of loosening inhibitions. This may lead to an enhanced tendency towards violent behaviour for some individuals. The American Addiction Centre (2022)⁹⁸ suggests that this increased tendency for violence may be due to alcohol myopia: an intoxicated person's focus narrows like a camera lens. For some, this narrowed view may lead to misperception. For example, a bump in a bar may be perceived as an act of hostility. Further, alcohol impairs cognitive function, interrupting cognitive processing and making it difficult to problem-solve, control anger and make good decisions. This may also impede an individual's ability to consider future consequences, and research indicates that individuals who ignore future consequences and focus on the here and now are more aggressive when intoxicated.

In terms of drug abuse, the Home Office Serious Violence Strategy (2018) places a key emphasis on drug-related criminality when discussing the rise of serious violent crime nationwide. The Serious Violence Strategy (Home Office, 2018) notes that between 2014/15 and 2016/17, homicides where either the victim or suspect were known to be involved in using or dealing illicit drugs increased from 50% to 57%. The strategy places emphasis on a link between crack cocaine markets and serious violence, and notes that crack cocaine use in England is rising due to a mix of supply and demand factors.

There are a number of theories which explore links between drugs and offending. One theory is that opiate use may require the user to commit crime to generate income⁹⁹. Other theories suggest that the illegality of drug use promotes opportunities for further

⁹⁷ Khoury, L., Tang, Y., Bradley, B., Cubells, J., and Ressler, K. (2010). 'Substance use, childhood traumatic experience, and Posttraumatic Stress Disorder in an urban civilian population.' 27(12). Pp. 1077-1086. Available at: [Substance use, childhood traumatic experience, and Posttraumatic Stress Disorder in an urban civilian population - PMC \(nih.gov\)](#)

⁹⁸ American Addiction Centers. (2022) 'How Drugs and Alcohol can Fuel Violent Behaviours'. Available at: [How Drugs & Alcohol Can Fuel Violent Behaviors \(americanaddictioncenters.org\)](#).

⁹⁹ Bennett *et al*, 2008, and Goldstein *et al*, 1985, referenced in Hayhurst, K., Pierce, M., Hickman, M., Seddon, T., Dunn, G., Keane, J., and Millar, T. (2017). 'Pathways through opiate use and offending: A systematic review'. *International Journal of Drug Policy*. 39, pp. 1-13. Available at: [Pathways through opiate use and offending: A systematic review - PMC \(nih.gov\)](#)

involvement in criminal networks¹⁰⁰, whilst some scholars suggest that similar to alcohol use, drug use and criminality may be linked due to the psychopharmacological effects of drug use on behaviour¹⁰¹.

2.11. County Lines

County lines drug dealing describes organised crime groups who supply drugs to suburban areas including market and coastal towns. County lines drug dealers use dedicated mobile phones or “deal lines” to assist in the transport of drugs. This type of drug dealing is strongly associated with the coercion of children and vulnerable people, who dealers use to move drugs, money and sometimes weapons between their hometown and the town they are dealing in¹⁰².

There are links between county lines and serious violence, with the National Crime Agency¹⁰³ stating that “violence at street level is often linked to drugs supply”, whilst the Home Office¹⁰⁴ concludes that changes to the drugs market, such as the emergence of county lines, is ‘partly fuelling’ serious violence.

Organised Crime Groups involved in county lines exploit vulnerable people, including children and those with mental health or addiction issues by recruiting them to distribute the drugs¹⁰⁵.

Vulnerable individuals, who are lonely, isolated, or have substance abuse issues may be at higher risk of becoming a cuckooing victim. Cuckooing is when organised criminal groups exploit vulnerable people by using their home as a base for dealing drugs. It is common for organised criminal groups to use a property for a short amount of time, moving address frequently to reduce the chances of being caught.

Dorset Police identified 28 county lines affecting the BCP area as of March 2024.

¹⁰⁰ Hammersley *et al*, 1989, referenced in Hayhurst, K., Pierce, M., Hickman, M., Seddon, T., Dunn, G., Keane, J., and Millar, T. (2017). ‘Pathways through opiate use and offending: A systematic review’. *International Journal of Drug Policy*. 39, pp. 1-13. Available at: [Pathways through opiate use and offending: A systematic review - PMC \(nih.gov\)](#)

¹⁰¹ Brownstein, 2016, Hayhurst, K., Pierce, M., Hickman, M., Seddon, T., Dunn, G., Keane, J., and Millar, T. (2017). ‘Pathways through opiate use and offending: A systematic review’. *International Journal of Drug Policy*. 39, pp. 1-13. Available at: [Pathways through opiate use and offending: A systematic review - PMC \(nih.gov\)](#)

¹⁰² Havard, T. (2022). ‘Serious youth violence: County lines drug dealing and the Government response’. House of Commons Library. Available at: [CBP-9264.pdf \(parliament.uk\)](#)

¹⁰³ National Crime Agency (2020). National Strategic Assessment of Serious and Organised Crime. Available at: [file \(nationalcrimeagency.gov.uk\)](#)

¹⁰⁴ Home Office (2021). Beating Crime Plan. Available at: [Beating crime plan - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](#)

¹⁰⁵ Metropolitan Police, County Lines. Available at: [County lines | Metropolitan Police](#)

2.12. Night-time economy related violence.

The spatial availability of alcohol is known to impact the probability of violence. Research has found that bar and night club density, and licensed club density (e.g., sports clubs) have a statistically significant and positive relationship with violence¹⁰⁶. The night-time economy is an area where alcohol is readily available and is therefore likely to experience higher rates of violent crime.

Wickham (2012)¹⁰⁷ defines the night-time economy as economic activity which occurs between the hours of 6pm to 6am and involves the sale of alcohol for consumption on-trade¹⁰⁸ (e.g., bars, pubs and restaurants). There are great benefits to the night-time economy; it generates economic activity and employment, it can bring people together to socialise, and it is an enjoyable pastime that many value. However, it can come with a variety of costs such as crime and injury, which are often influenced by alcohol consumption.

These costs are concentrated in time and space. High-risk crime situations can occur due to routine activities theory which suggests that for a crime to occur, there must be a motivated offender, a suitable victim, and the absence of a capable guardian (anyone whose presence would discourage the crime from occurring)¹⁰⁹.

¹⁰⁶ Cameron, M., Cochrane, W., Gordon, C., Livingston, M. (2015). 'Alcohol outlet density and violence: A geographically weighted regression approach'. *Drug and Alcohol review*, 35:3. Pp. 280-288. Available at: [Alcohol outlet density and violence: A geographically weighted regression approach - Cameron - 2016 - Drug and Alcohol Review - Wiley Online Library](#)

¹⁰⁷ Wickham, M. (2012). 'Alcohol consumption in the night-time economy'. *GLAEconomics*. Available at: [Microsoft Word - wp-55-new-template.doc \(ias.org.uk\)](#).

¹⁰⁸ Wickham (2012) refers to on-trade premises as premises with a license to sell alcohol which is consumed at the premises e.g., bars or pubs. This contrasts with off-trade premises where the license only permits the sale of alcohol which must then be consumed off the premises e.g., supermarkets.

¹⁰⁹ Cohen, L., and Felson, M. (1979). Social change and crime rate trends: a routine activity approach. *American Sociological Review*, 44(4), pp.588-608.

Wickham (2012)¹¹⁰ identifies five situations which can contribute to the convergence of these three factors in the night-time economy and therefore create the occurrence of a crime:

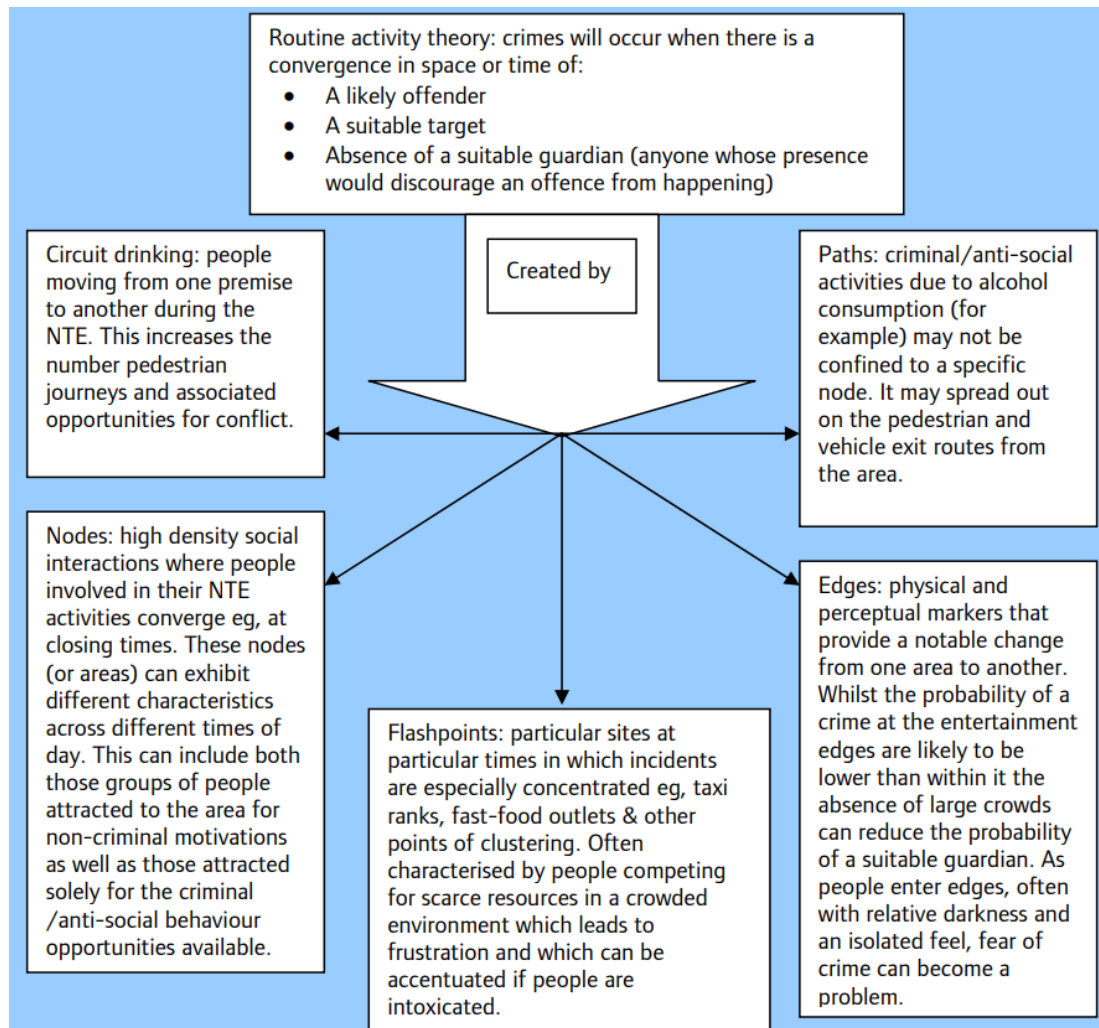


Figure 17- Routine Activities Theory and the Night Time Economy - Wickham, 2012. Source: [GLAEconomics](#)

Figure 17 highlights how the convergence of time and space paired with alcohol consumption can exacerbate violence in the night-time economy. Angus *et al* (2017)¹¹¹ note that previous research has found a positive association between spatial availability and alcohol consumption in a variety of crime types such as assault, domestic abuse, and public nuisance.

¹¹⁰ See footnote 104.

¹¹¹ Angus, C., Holmes, J., Maheswaran, R., Green, M., Meier, P., and Brennan, A. (2017). 'Mapping Patterns and Trends in the Spatial Availability of Alcohol Using Low-Level Geographic Data: A Case Study in England 2003-2013. Available at: [Mapping Patterns and Trends in the Spatial Availability of Alcohol Using Low-Level Geographic Data: A Case Study in England 2003–2013 - PMC \(nih.gov\)](#)

2.13. Sexual violence and the night-time economy

Gunby *et al* (2020)¹¹² note that women experience a plethora of unwanted experiences when drinking in venues, from rape to sexual assault, comments and staring. They note that such experiences are becoming a 'normalised' element of nights out for young women.

The latest ONS data¹¹³ on rape and sexual assaults shows that of victims who reported that the perpetrator was a stranger, the majority (64%) reported that they were under the influence of alcohol at the time of the assault, almost half (49%) reported that the perpetrator was under the influence of alcohol, and 14% said they suspected they had been drugged.

Gunby *et al* (2012)¹¹⁴ note how alcohol can muddy the waters of consent. They note that cues men and women use to signify attraction are often ambiguous to mitigate possible rejection. Subsequently, this can lead to misinterpretation, particularly when alcohol disrupts cognitive processes, making it more difficult to evaluate complex stimuli and situations. Therefore, an individuals' interpretation, or misinterpretation of a sexual situation may contribute to a sexual assault occurring.

Gunby *et al*'s (2012) research, although potentially outdated in 2023, highlights concerning gender differences in understanding of consent. They found that male respondents in their dataset were less likely than women to know what consent was and were unsure if it was reflected in law. Men were also less likely than women to believe that being drunk affects one's capacity to consent to sex. Further, male and female students differed in their attitudes towards the cues that they would deem relevant or informative when deciding if a person wanted to have sex with them. A greater proportion of male respondents deemed flirting, and the other person removing their own or the respondents clothing, as a relevant indicator when deciding if the other person wanted to have sex. Subsequently, Gunby *et al* (2012) suggest that these gender differences in perception may result in situations where drunken non-consensual sex is perceived as consensual by the male.

Gunby *et al* (2012) further argue that alcohol induced disinhibition, coupled with a reduction in self-appraisal and a focus on arousal in response to behaviour that the suspect deemed to be an appropriate indicator for sex may lead to a situation where pressure or force is used to obtain sex.

¹¹² Gunby, C., Carline, A., Taylor, S., & Gosling, H. (2020). 'Unwanted Sexual Attention in the Night-Time Economy: Behaviours, Safety Strategies, and Conceptualizing "Feisty Femininity"'. *Feminist Criminology*, 15:1. Pp. 24-46.

¹¹³ [Nature of sexual assault by rape or penetration, England and Wales - Office for National Statistics \(ons.gov.uk\)](https://ons.gov.uk)

¹¹⁴ Gunby, C., Bellis, M., & Beynon, C. (2012). 'Gender differences in alcohol-related non-consensual sex; Cross-sectional analysis of a student population. Available at: [\[PDF\] Gender differences in alcohol-related non-consensual sex; Cross-sectional analysis of a student population \(researchgate.net\)](https://www.researchgate.net/publication/260111111_Gender_differences_in_alcohol-related_non-consensual_sex_Cross-sectional_analysis_of_a_student_population)

2.14. Other Sexual Violence

The Pan-Dorset Sexual Violence Strategy 2017-2025 defines Sexual Violence as any type of sexual activity that you do not consent to, including:

- Rape
- Attempted Rape
- Vaginal, anal, or oral penetration
- Inappropriate touching
- Child molestation

The strategy notes that sexual violence is significantly underreported and has long lasting effects in terms of physical, mental health and sexual health problems for victims and their families.

The Pan-Dorset Sexual Violence Strategy 2017-2025 highlights overlapping issues which may place an individual at greater risk of becoming a victim of rape and serious sexual assault:

Mental health

- Sexual assault can lead to post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD), depression, anxiety, eating and sleeping disorders, suicidal tendencies and a wide range of short term and long-term mental health issues.

Learning Disability

- Studies in the field of learning disability suggest that adults with learning disabilities are at much greater risk of sexual abuse and assault and may be targeted by sex offenders because of their vulnerability.

Substance Misuse

- The connection between substance abuse and sexual violence can be complex. Victims and survivors often turn to alcohol and drugs as a way to cope with the trauma of sexual violence.

Prostitution

- People who are involved in sex work are especially vulnerable to sex crimes and are particularly at risk of sexual violence from people who pay for and use their services.
- Sexual violence against sex workers is very much underreported. Reasons for non-reporting included belief that they would not be believed or taken seriously by the police, fear of being arrested, fear of reprisal from perpetrators, fear the courts will not take them seriously, and fear that their involvement in prostitution will become public if the incident goes to court (Campbell and Kinnell, 2000/2001).

Modern Slavery and Trafficking

- Sex trafficking or slavery is the exploitation of women and children, within national or across international borders, for the purposes of forced sex work. Commercial sexual exploitation includes pornography, prostitution and sex trafficking of women and girls, and is characterized by the exploitation of a human being in exchange for goods or money. Adult women make up the largest group of sex trafficking victims, followed by female children, although a small percentage of men and boys are trafficked into the sex industry as well.

Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence

- The National Coalition Against Domestic Violence note that perpetrators who are physically violent to their intimate partners are often sexually abusive as well. They note that victims who are both physically and sexually abused are more likely to be injured or killed than victims who experience one form of abuse.

Child Sexual Abuse (From NSPPC website)

- There are 2 different types of child sexual abuse: contact abuse and noncontact abuse. Contact abuse involves touching activities where an abuser makes physical contact with a child, including penetration. Non-contact abuse involves non-touching activities, such as grooming, exploitation, persuading children to perform sexual acts over the internet and flashing. Children who have been abused or neglected may experience physical or emotional harm. If someone has been abused as a child, it is more likely that they will suffer abuse again and be re-victimised.

2.15. Sexual Violence and Under Reporting

There is a considerable issue with under reporting in cases of sexual offences, with many more offences being committed than are reported to and recorded by the police. For example, a total of 193,566 sexual offences were recorded by the police in England and Wales in the year ending March 2022, which is the highest level ever recorded. However, the Crime Survey for England and Wales estimated that 1.1 million adults had experienced sexual assault in the year ending March 2022 (798,000 women and 275,000 men). Unwanted sexual touching was the most common type of sexual assault experienced by adults, followed by assault by penetration and then rape¹¹⁵.

Sexual offences have distinct impacts on those who experience them; they are crimes that 'fundamentally challenge a victim's sense of dignity and autonomy'¹¹⁶, and there are

¹¹⁵ [Sexual offences in England and Wales overview - Office for National Statistics \(ons.gov.uk\)](https://ons.gov.uk/people-and-population/crime-and-justice/articles/sexual-offences-in-england-and-wales-overview/2022-03-01)

¹¹⁶ McMillan (2014), referenced in Burman, M. and Brooks-Hay (2021). 'Delays in Trials: the implications for victim-survivors of rape and serious sexual assault: an update'. *The Scottish Centre for Crime and Justice Research*. Available at: [Delays-in-Serious-Sexual-Offence-Cases.-Dec-2021.pdf \(sccjr.ac.uk\)](https://www.sccjr.ac.uk/publications/2021/12/delays-in-serious-sexual-offence-cases-dec-2021.pdf)

acts that remove power, control and dignity from victims¹¹⁷. Many victims describe feeling frightened and humiliated as a result of the crime, feelings which are often intensified by 'rape myths' and stereotypes which place blame on the actions of the victim¹¹⁸ (Burman and Brooks-Hay, 2020).

Bullock and Beckson (2011)¹¹⁹ argue that underreporting affects male victims in particular, and this is exacerbated by myths, stereotypes and unfounded beliefs about male sexuality and male homosexuality. They suggest that these beliefs are widespread in legal and medical communities, as well as amongst agencies that provide services to sexual assault victims. These beliefs include the perception that male victims are responsible for their assaults, male sexual assault victims are less traumatized by the experience than their female counterparts, and that ejaculation is an indicator of positive erotic experience. This leads to underreporting of sexual assault by male victims, a lack of appropriate services for male victims, and effectively, no legal redress for male victims. Bullock and Beckson (2011) argue that male sexual assault victims have fewer resources and greater stigma than female sexual assault victims.

Allen (2007)¹²⁰ notes that a victim of rape cannot receive social support or legal justice without revealing information about the crime to the police, however doing so creates a real cost – social recrimination and lost privacy, with no guarantee of offender apprehension. In fact, national data¹²¹ shows that in the year ending March 2023, rates of offender apprehension were low, with a low proportion of sexual offences being resolved with a charge/summons outcome (3.6%). Further, a higher-than-average proportion of cases were assigned to the evidential difficulties category. Two in five rape offences (43.1%) were closed because the victim did not support action against the suspect. Given the nature of the crime, more suspects were identified in sexual assault cases than any other crime type (85.9% in comparison to an average of 56.9% for all crimes).

Wait times for rape cases '...have been unacceptably lengthy for some time' according to Burman and Brooks-Hay (2020)¹²². The Covid-19 Pandemic has caused significant disruption to the operation of the criminal justice system and has heightened these wait times. These wait times have a considerable impact on victims, with *Justice Journeys* research¹²³ finding victims whose cases took between two to three years to reach an outcome describing themselves as "living in limbo, with 'no road map' for how to

¹¹⁷ Myers and LaFree (1982), referenced in Burman, M. and Brooks-Hay (2021). 'Delays in Trials: the implications for victim-survivors of rape and serious sexual assault: an update'. *The Scottish Centre for Crime and Justice Research*. Available at: [Delays-in-Serious-Sexual-Offence-Cases.-Dec-2021.pdf \(sccjr.ac.uk\)](https://www.sccjr.ac.uk/Delays-in-Serious-Sexual-Offence-Cases.-Dec-2021.pdf)

¹¹⁸ Burman, M. and Brooks-Hay (2021). 'Delays in Trials: the implications for victim-survivors of rape and serious sexual assault: an update'. *The Scottish Centre for Crime and Justice Research*. Available at: [Delays-in-Serious-Sexual-Offence-Cases.-Dec-2021.pdf \(sccjr.ac.uk\)](https://www.sccjr.ac.uk/Delays-in-Serious-Sexual-Offence-Cases.-Dec-2021.pdf)

¹¹⁹ Bullock, C. & Beckson, M. (2011). 'Male victims of sexual assault: Phenomenology psychology, physiology'. *Journal of the American Academy of Psychiatry and the Law*. 39(2). 197-205.

¹²⁰ Allen, D. (2007) 'The Reporting and Underreporting of Rape.' *Southern Economic Journal*. 73:3. Pp. 623-641. Available at: [The Reporting and Underreporting of Rape on JSTOR](https://www.jstor.org/stable/2346411)

¹²¹ [Crime outcomes in England and Wales 2022 to 2023 - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/crime-outcomes-in-england-and-wales-2022-to-2023)

¹²² See footnote 114.

¹²³ Referenced in Burman and Brooks-Hays (2020) – see footnote 114.

continue in the criminal justice process or in their life more generally, especially in situations marred with a lack of communication over what is happening and why”. Delays can have a wide range of adverse consequences for victims, impacting on personal, domestic and professional lives of victims, as well as their work or study and potentially leading to difficulties in maintaining and establishing close relationships and the development of mental and physical health problems. These delays are likely to prevent repeat victims from reporting future offences.

2.16. Protective factors

Research on resilience conceptualizes protective factors as a broader set of characteristics and environmental supports that promote the ability of youths to succeed and thrive, even in environments of risk¹²⁴ (Development Services Group Inc, 2015).

Kirby and Fraser (1997)¹²⁵ found that protective factors may contribute to resilience either by exerting positive effects in direct opposition to the negative effects of risk factors, or by buffering individuals against the negative effects of risk factors.

Protective factors are typically organized into the following domains:

- Individual (e.g., biological and psychological dispositions, attitudes, values, knowledge, skills).
- Family (e.g., function, management, bonding).
- Peer (e.g., norms, activities, attachment).
- School (e.g., bonding, climate, policy, performance).
- Community (e.g., bonding, norms, resources, awareness/mobilization).

The Centre for Disease and Control Prevention¹²⁶ provides examples of protective factors, as displayed below in Table 1:

¹²⁴ Development Services Group (2015). “Protective Factors for Delinquency”. Literature review. Washington, D.C: Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention. Available at: [OJJDP MPG Literature Review: Protective Factors \(ojp.gov\)](#)

¹²⁵ Referenced in Development Services Group (2015) – see footnote 120.

¹²⁶ [Risk and Protective Factors | Youth Violence Prevention | CDC](#)

Individual Factors

- Intolerant attitude toward deviance
- High IQ
- High grade point average – as an indicator of high achievement
- High educational aspirations
- Positive social orientation
- Popularity acknowledged by peers
- High developed social skills/competencies
- Highly developed skills for realistic planning
- Religious beliefs.

Family Factors

- Connectedness to family or adults outside the family
- Ability to discuss problems with parents
- Perceived parental expectations about school performance are high.
- Frequent shared activities with parents
- Consistent presence of parent during at least one of the following:
 - When awakening
 - When arriving home from school
 - During evening mealtime
 - When going to bed
- Involvement in social activities
- Parental/family use of constructive strategies for coping with problems (provision of models of constructive coping).

Peer and Social Factors

- Possession of affective relationships with those at school that are strong, close and pro-socially oriented.
- Commitment to school (an investment in school and in doing well at school).
- Close relationships with non-deviant peers.
- Membership in peer groups that do not condone antisocial behaviour.
- Involvement in prosocial activities.
- Exposure to school climates with the following characteristics:
 - Intensive supervision
 - Clear behaviour rules
 - Firm disciplinary methods
 - Engagement of parents and teachers

Table 1 - Centre for Disease and Control Prevention – Protective Factors against serious violence.

Further, Sociological theories help us to understand why certain young people do not participate in delinquent acts. Social Learning Theory¹²⁷ argues that behaviour is reinforced through both rewards and punishments, and by observational learning of other people's actions. It suggests that youths can learn through the prosocial modelling of peers, teachers, and/or family members to engage in positive rather than negative behaviours.

Social control theory suggests that the bonds that youths develop in the form of attachment to others and to school, commitment to social relationships, involvement in prosocial activities, and from adherence to prosocial beliefs help to prevent them from

¹²⁷ Bandura (1977). Referenced in Development Group Inc (2015) – see footnote 120.

delinquency¹²⁸. For example, if a child has a strong and positive attachment to his or her parents, is committed to education, is involved in productive and positive activities, and has conventional beliefs, he or she is less likely to engage in delinquency¹²⁹.

The five domains mentioned above, individual, family, peer, school and community related factors are the means through which researchers and practitioners can understand and measure the presence of protective factors. For example, involvement in prosocial activities can be measured by counting the number of class activities, school clubs, and organizations in which a student is involved. Protective factors are crucial in reducing the likelihood that youths will engage in delinquency and other problem behaviours such as violence and substance abuse. However, research is predominantly focused on the impact of risk factors on delinquency. The Development Group Inc (2015) note that comparable research on protective factors is lacking, and additional research is needed on the interaction of risk and protective factors, and how this information can be applied in the juvenile justice field to reduce delinquent behaviour in youths.

¹²⁸ Hirschi (1969), referenced in Development Group Services Inc (2015) – see footnote 120.

¹²⁹ Reingle *et al* (2011), referenced in Development Group Services Inc (2015) – see footnote 120.

3. Violence Profile

Serious violence in BCP

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

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

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

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

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

The previous version of the Serious Violence Needs Assessment (2022/23) identified Rape, Sexual Assault, Robbery, GBH S18 and knife flagged offending as priority crime types. This section of the report will provide an updated overview of these crime types using Police data from 1st April 2023-31st March 2024. Domestic abuse was also identified as a priority, however, the nature of domestic abuse is very different to the nature of other serious violence offences looked at within this report, as domestic abuse often occurs over the course of a relationship, oftentimes consisting of prolonged and repeat abuse. This topic is widely covered by other documents produced by the Community Safety Partnership; the Strategic Assessment looks at domestic abuse on a wider scale, not limited to serious violence, and there is currently work being undertaken to produce a domestic abuse strategy. Therefore, domestic abuse is not addressed in this needs assessment,

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

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

Table 2 - Crime types for serious violence occurrences in BCP 2023/24, in comparison to 2022/23. -

Table 2 shows that the most common types of serious violence offending in BCP in financial year 2023/24 were sexual assault on a female, rape of a female aged 16 or over, personal robbery and GBH Section 18.

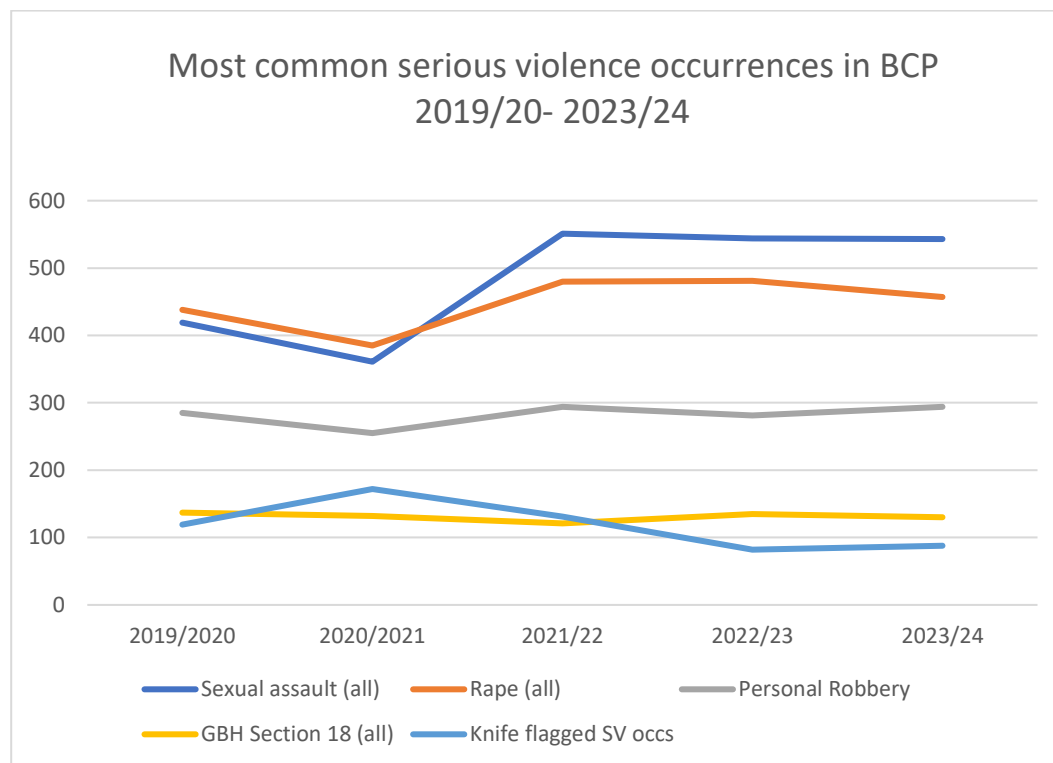


Figure 18 - Trends for most common types of serious violence occurrences in BCP 2019/2020-2023/24

Figure 18 shows data trends for the most common types of serious violence over the last 5 financial years. Sexual offences were consistently the most common types of serious violence occurrence. The numbers of sexual assaults increased by 53% between 2020/21-2021/22, from 361 in 2020/21 to 551 in 2021/22. It is thought that the low number of sexual assaults in 2020/21 is reflective of the Covid Pandemic and the impact of lockdown which prevented socialisation. A key theme in the sexual assault data is the night-time economy, and lack of engagement in leisure pursuits is likely to have contributed to the low numbers in 2020/21. Sexual assault numbers peaked in 2021/22 and remained relatively stable from 2021/22-2023/24.

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

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

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

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

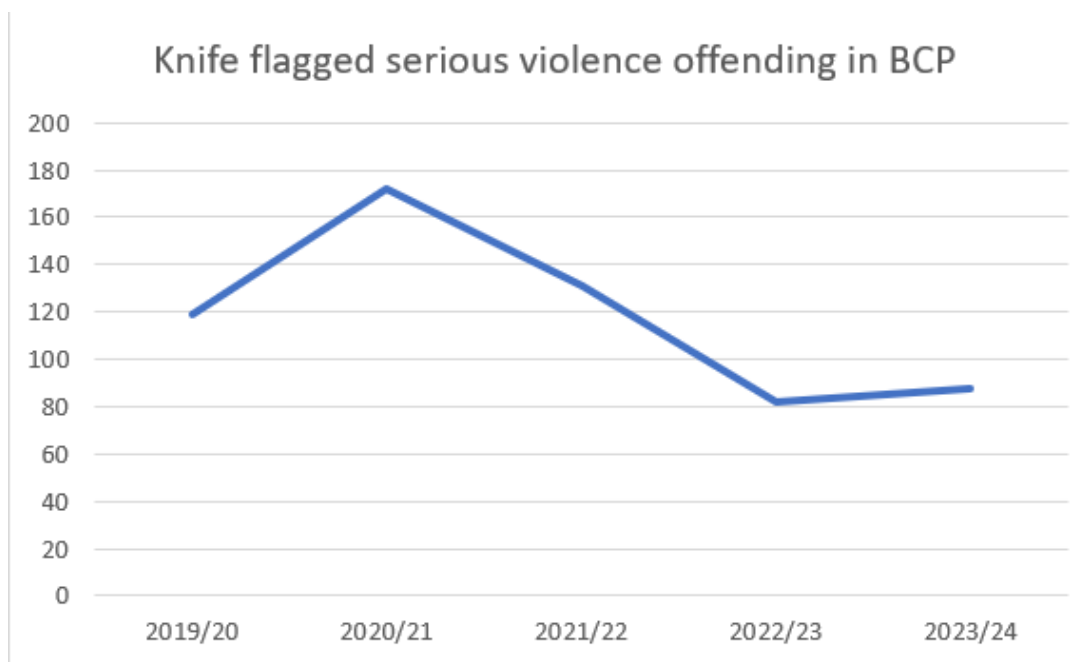


Figure 19 - Knife flagged serious violence offending in BCP.

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

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

Sexual assaults

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

There are multiple different crime types for sexual assault, based on age and gender. For example, there is 'sexual assault on a female', 'sexual assault of a female child

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

In total, there were 68 occurrences which were reported between 1st April 2023-31st March 2024, which had a start date prior to 1st April 2023. These occurrences were removed from the data prior to analysis in order to produce a more accurate picture of occurrences which were both reported and occurred within the financial year 2023/24. It is likely that there are other historical occurrences within the data that have not been recorded with the correct start date, however, it would be impossible to remove these without reading through every occurrence within the data. As such, this should be considered as a margin of error when discussing numbers of sexual assaults within the area. This left a total of 475 sexual assault occurrences within the analysis¹³⁰.

Victims

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

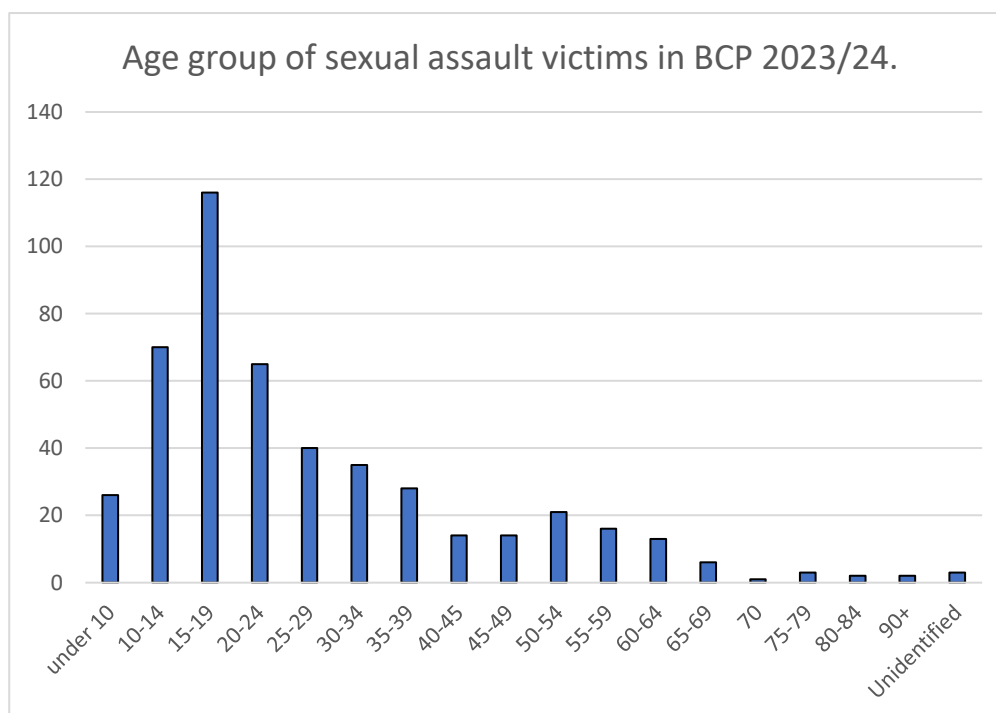


Figure 20 - Age group of victims of sexual assault reported to and recorded by Dorset Police in BCP 2023-24.

¹³⁰ Note that this methodology is different to the previous version of the Serious Violence Needs Assessment, where analysts did read through every sexual offence log and remove historical occurrences. However, due to capacity constraints this was not possible for the 2024/25 Serious Violence Needs Assessment. Subsequently, numbers of sexual offences may appear higher in this version of the Serious Violence Needs Assessment than the previous version, however, this is primarily down to this change in methodology.

Figure 20 shows that the number of victims peaks between the ages 15-19, and then as age increases, the number of victims decreases. However, the number of 50-54 year old victims is higher than may be expected. In total, there were 21 50-54 year old victims, accounting for 4% of the data. As a result, it is suggested that the accessibility of support for sexual assaults for older victims is assessed, as it is likely that this number is an under representation.

The previous years' Serious Violence Needs Assessment also found that younger victims were most prevalent in sexual assault occurrences, which has led to work with the Universities around education and prevention. Based on the data around victim age, it is recommended that this work continue, as university age students were still a key cohort within the data this year.

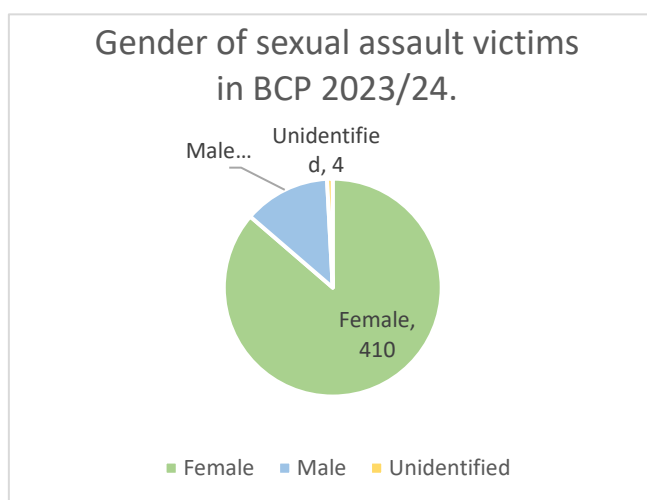


Figure 21 shows that the vast majority of victims of sexual assault in BCP in 2023/24 were female (86%) in comparison to male (13%). There were 4 victims whose gender was unidentified. It is likely that these occurrences were reported to the police by third parties.

Figure 21 - Gender of victims of sexual assault reported to and recorded by Dorset Police in BCP 2023/24.

Victim ethnicity	Count	Percentage
0	235	49.47%
W1. White British	179	37.68%
NS. Not stated	40	8.42%
W9. Any other white background	10	2.11%
#N/A	3	0.63%
M1. White & Black Caribbean	2	0.42%
M9. Any other mixed background	2	0.42%
I1. Gypsy or Irish Traveller	1	0.21%
B1. Black Caribbean	1	0.21%
O9. Any other ethnic group	1	0.21%
A9. Any other Asian background	1	0.21%

Table 3 - Ethnicity of victims sexual assault victims reported to and recorded by Dorset Police in BCP in financial year 2023/24.

Table 3 shows the ethnicity of victims of sexual assault recorded by Dorset Police in financial year 2023/24. Unfortunately, ethnicity information is unavailable for over half of victims (278 total, 59%). This makes it difficult to identify any ethnic groups which

may be over-represented or under-represented within the data, due to the lack of information. The majority of victims with identified ethnicity data are White British, which is to be expected, however, other ethnic groups appear to be underrepresented.

Suspects

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

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

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

The following analysis is based on the 266 identified suspects.

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

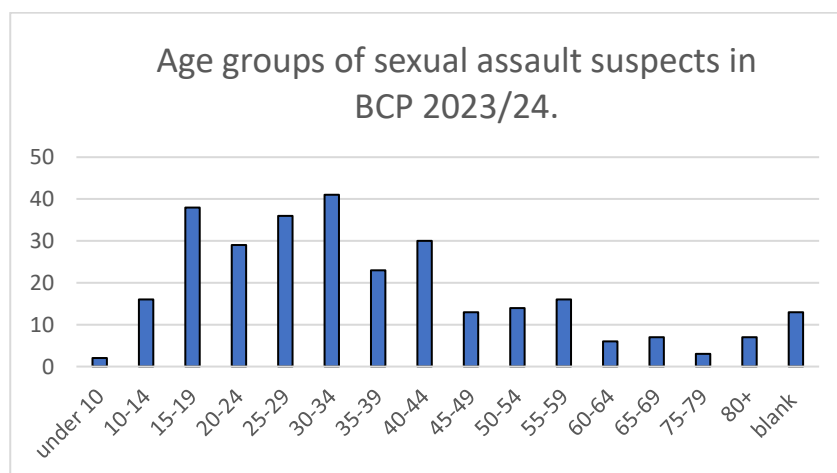


Figure 22 - Age groups of suspects of sexual assaults reported to and recorded by Dorset Police in 2023/24.

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

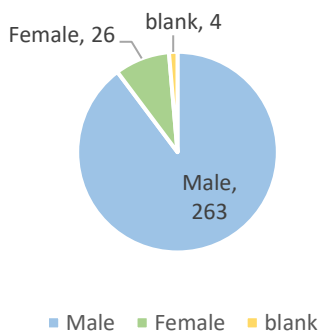
Suspects of sexual assault tended to be older than victims. 53% of sexual assault victims were aged 10-24, whilst 30% of suspects fell within the same age range. In contrast, 38% of suspects were age 30-49 in comparison to 19% of victims.

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

Age data was unavailable for 12 suspects.

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

Gender of sexual assault suspects
in BCP 2023-24



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

Figure 23 - Gender of suspects of sexual assault reported to and recorded by Dorset Police, occurring in BCP in financial year 2023/24.

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

Table 4 – Ethnicity data for identified suspects of sexual assault, reported to and recorded by Dorset Police in financial year 2023/24.

Ethnicity data for identified suspects was considerably more complete than for victims, with 24% of total identified suspects having no available ethnicity data, in comparison to 59% of victims. Table 4 indicates that suspects from Asian (8% of identified sexual assault suspects in comparison to 3.4% of BCP population) and black (4% of identified sexual assault suspects in comparison to 1.1% of the BCP population) backgrounds are overrepresented within the data in comparison to the percentage of individuals from those ethnic backgrounds living in BCP. However, it should be noted that overall numbers of identified suspects from these age groups are small, and it is unlikely that all identified suspects resided in BCP.

Relationship between victim and offender in sexual assault occurrences

Table 5 below shows the relationship between victim and offender recorded by Dorset Police for sexual assault occurrences reported and occurring in BCP in financial year 2023/24.

Relationship Type	Count	Percentage
No known relationship	119	25.05%
Friend/acquaintance/colleague	83	17.47%
Complete stranger	54	11.37%
Ex spouse/cohabitee/partner	46	9.68%
Other relationship (misc)	45	9.47%
Educational relationship	29	6.11%
Commercial relationship	19	4.00%
Care/health/NHS worker	18	3.79%
Neighbour direct/indirect	16	3.37%

Family - other family member	12	2.53%
Spouse/cohabitee/partner	11	2.32%
Family - father	10	2.11%
Family - brother	3	0.63%
Policing duties	2	0.42%
Family - grandparent	2	0.42%
Sex worker/client	1	0.21%
Online/internet/social media	1	0.21%
Family - child on parent	1	0.21%
Victimless/crime against state	1	0.21%
Family - child sibling on sibling	1	0.21%
Family - mother	1	0.21%

Table 5 - Relationship between victim and suspect for sexual assault occurrences reported to and recorded by Dorset Police, occurring in BCP in financial year 2023/24.

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

15% of occurrences had a domestic abuse flag.

Locations

Beatcode	Count	Percentage
Central Bournemouth	122	25.68%
Poole Town	31	6.53%
Boscombe West	28	5.89%
Westbourne and Westcliff	25	5.26%
Eastcliff and Springbourne	23	4.84%
Winton East	14	2.95%
Queens Park	12	2.53%
Boscombe East	12	2.53%
Kinson North	12	2.53%
Newtown	11	2.32%
Wallisdown	10	2.11%
Rossmore and Alderney	10	2.11%
Talbot and Branksome Wood	10	2.11%
Littledown/Iford	10	2.11%

Table 6 – Beat codes with 10 or more sexual assault occurrences reported to and recorded by Dorset Police in financial year 2023/24.

Table 6 displays Police beat codes which had 10 or more sexual assault occurrences recorded by Dorset Police in BCP in financial year 2023/24. This is in relation to the location of the assault. Central Bournemouth was the most common location by a considerable margin, making up 25.68% of the data.

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

	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun	Total
0000-0159	3	0	0	2	2	5	6	18
0200-0359	0	4	2	0	0	11	7	24
0400-0559	0	2	1	1	1	2	2	9
0600-0759	0	0	0	1	1	0	2	4
0800-0959	1	0	0	2	0	1	0	4
1000-1159	0	2	0	0	1	1	1	5
1200-1359	0	1	0	0	0	1	4	6
1400-1559	1	2	2	2	1	2	2	12
1600-1759	1	0	4	1	2	2	2	12
1800-1959	2	0	1	0	2	3	3	11
2000-2159	2	0	1	2	2	1	1	9
2200-2359	0	1	0	1	5	1	0	8
Total	10	12	11	12	17	30	30	122

Table 7 - Days and times of sexual assault occurrences recorded by Dorset Police, occurring in Central Bournemouth in financial year 2023/24.

Table 7 shows a clear prevalence of sexual assault occurrences in the early hours of Saturday and Sunday mornings between 0000-0359, a key time period for the night time economy.

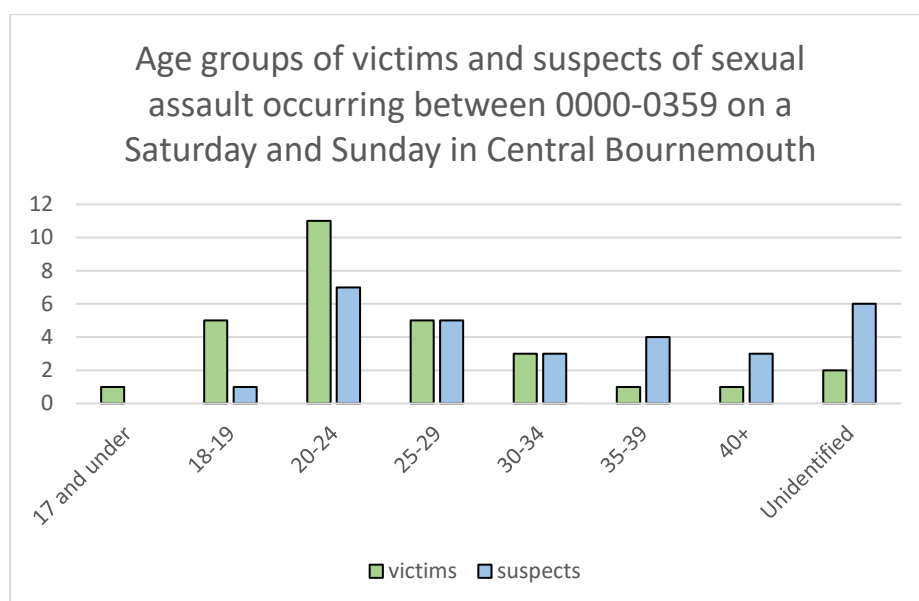


Figure 24 - Age groups of victims and suspects of sexual assault occurring between the hours of 0000-0359 on a Saturday and Sunday in Central Bournemouth.

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

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

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

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

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

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

Table 8 and 9- Victims and suspect ethnicity for sexual offences occurring in Central Bournemouth between the hours of 0000-0359 on a Saturday and Sunday.

Tables 8 and 9 display the ethnicity of victims and suspects of sexual offences during the key night time economy hours and days in Central Bournemouth. Unfortunately, the largest categories for both victims and suspects have no available ethnicity data. However, the tables highlight that there is an over representation of suspects from 'any other white backgrounds' for sexual offences in the night-time economy hours.

An exploration of the postcodes of these occurrences found that 14 of the 29 occurrences within the key night time economy hours and days related to Bar So in Central Bournemouth. A key point to note is that Bar So are particularly proactive in reporting sexual offences to the police. Further, research shows that sexual offences are often underreported. This suggests that it is likely that there are many more sexual assaults which occur between these hours and days which do not get reported to the police. Work should be done with pubs, bars and clubs to ensure comprehensive procedures are in place when supporting victims of sexual assault in licensed premises.

Work completed on data from 2022/23 found that there was a high percentage of sexual assaults in student accommodation. A problem-solving project was completed by the BCP Community Safety Partnership in collaboration with Dorset Police which included premises reviews of 7 student accommodation buildings. The work found that a very professional approach was taken by all premises. In general, most of the properties had sensible security arrangements, and all premises had provided staff training to identify students in crisis. Staff were provided with guidance to signpost their incident reporting procedure, and most of the locations had trained mental health practitioners within their staff team. A monthly meeting takes place amongst providers, allowing them to share information. In terms of the offences, 7 of the offences were

committed by suspects the victim had met that night. It was found that the sites visited had firm policies on allowing visitors and guests, whilst underlining that all students are adults and take responsibility for whom they share their lives with. All of the sites acknowledged that first year students have tendencies towards overuse of alcohol. Students are provided with a wealth of awareness information around this topic when they enrol.

Rape

In total, there were 457 rape occurrences reported to and recorded by Dorset Police occurring in BCP in financial year 2023/24. There were 94 occurrences which were reported to Dorset Police in 2023/24, which did not occur in the financial year. These occurrences have been removed to provide a more accurate picture of rape occurrences in the area in financial year 2023/24, meaning the following analysis is based on 363 occurrences. Similar to sexual assaults, it is likely that there are occurrences within the data which do not contain the correct start date and may be historical, and this should be considered when discussing the data¹³¹.

Victims

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

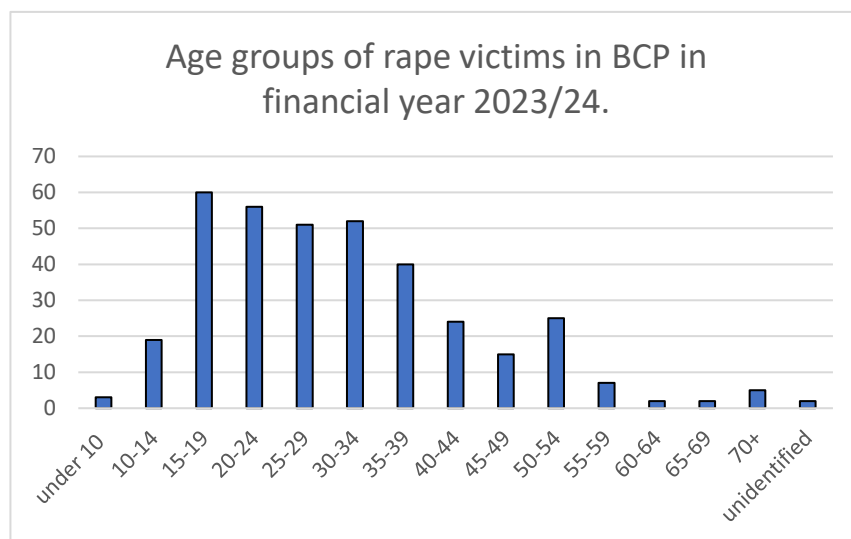


Figure 25 - age groups of victims of rape reported to and recorded by Dorset Police, occurring in BCP in financial year 2023/24.

The age breakdown for victims of rape were very different to victims of sexual assaults, which showed a clear spike for the age group 15-19 and then a sharp decrease, which

¹³¹ As is the case for sexual assault, rape figures are not comparable to the figure recorded in last year's version of the Serious Violence Needs Assessment due to differences in methodology. Comparisons for sexual offences can be drawn from the numbers displayed in figure 2.

continued as age increased. In contrast, the age groups for rape victims were more spread out.

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

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

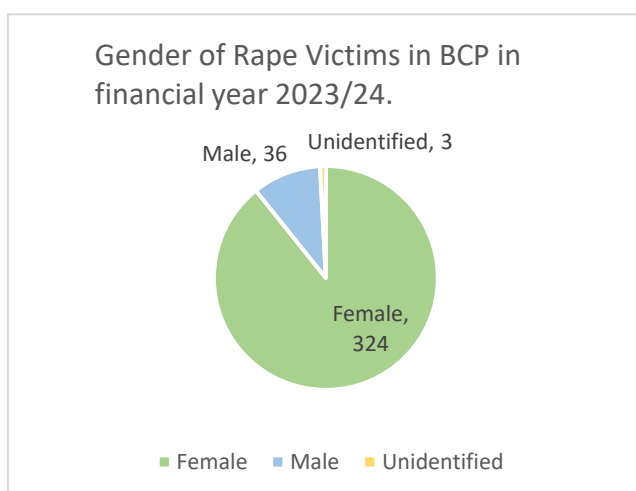


Figure 26 shows that the majority of victims of rape in BCP in financial year 2023/24 were female (89%). 10% of victims were male, and 1% of victims gender was not identified in the data. It is likely that the occurrences for these individuals came from third party referrals.

Figure 26 - Gender of victims of rape occurrences reported to and recorded by Dorset Police, occurring in BCP in financial year 2023/24.

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

Table 10 - Ethnicity of victims of rape occurrences reported to and recorded by Dorset Police, occurring in BCP in financial year 2023/24.

Table 10 shows the ethnicity of victims of rape occurrences in BCP in financial year 2023/24. The largest ethnic group was White British, however, no ethnicity data was available for a total of 49% of victims, which hinders our ability to draw meaningful conclusions from this data.

Suspects

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

Figure 27 shows the age groups of identified suspects of rape occurrences in BCP in financial year 2023/24.

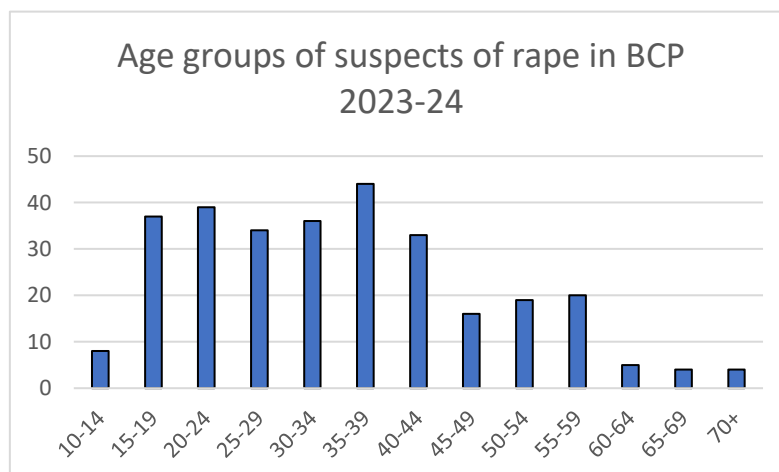


Figure 27 - Age groups of suspects of rape occurrences reported to and recorded by Dorset Police, occurring in BCP in financial year 2023/24.

Figure 27 shows that the largest group of identified rape suspects were between the ages of 35-39 (44 actual, 15%). The next most common age group was those aged 20-24 (39 actual, 13%). Identified suspects were older than victims, however, it is important to keep in mind that there were 159 unidentified victims and therefore this age breakdown may not represent an accurate portrayal of rape suspect ages.

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

Table 11 shows the ethnicity information for suspects of rape occurrences in BCP in financial year 2023/24.

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

Table 11 – Ethnicity data for identified suspects of rape occurrences reported to and recorded by Dorset Police in financial year 2023/24.

Table 11 shows that the most common ethnic group for identified suspects of sexual assault in financial year 2023/24 was White British, followed by any other white background. 7% of suspects were from Black backgrounds, in comparison to 1.1% of the BCP population, suggesting that this ethnic group may be overrepresented within the data. However, this was still a small percentage and is unlikely that all suspects were from the BCP area. Additionally, it is important to note that there were many unidentified suspects which hinders the quality of the data.

Relationship between victim and offender

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

Table 12 – Relationship between victim and offender in rape occurrences reported to and recorded by Dorset Police in financial year 2023/24.

The most common relationship between victim and suspect in rape occurrences in BCP in 2023/24 was 'ex-spouse/cohabitee/ partner', making up 31% of the data. 47% of rape occurrences in BCP in 2023/24 had a domestic abuse flag. This is a considerably higher percentage than the number of sexual assaults with a domestic abuse flag. The prevalence of domestic abuse in rape occurrences in BCP is important for frontline practitioners to be aware of when seeking to support victims, highlighting the need for extensive training on domestic abuse for those who support victims of sexual offences.

Locations

Table 13 shows the beatcodes in BCP which had 10 or more reported rape occurrences in 2023/24.

Beatcode	Count	Percentage
Central Bournemouth	56	15.43%
Boscombe West	26	7.16%
Westbourne and Westcliff	24	6.61%
East Cliff and Springbourne	24	6.61%
Poole Town	22	6.06%
Newtown	21	5.79%
Parkstone	14	3.86%

Kinson North	11	3.03%
Rossmore and Alderney	11	3.03%
Queens Park	11	3.03%
Winton East	11	3.03%

Table 13 - Locations of rape occurrences reported to and recorded by Dorset Police in financial year 2023/24.

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

Temporal analysis – Central Bournemouth

	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun	Total
0000-0159	0	1	0	1	1	0	0	3
0200-0359	0	0	0	0	1	0	2	3
0400-0559	0	0	0	1	1	1	0	3
0600-0759	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	2
0800-0959	0	0	0	0	0	1	2	3
1000-1159	1	2	1	0	0	1	2	7
1200-1359	2	0	1	1	2	0	0	6
1400-1559	1	0	4	0	1	0	0	6
1600-1759	0	1	0	0	1	1	0	3
1800-1959	0	1	1	2	1	0	1	6
2000-2159	0	2	3	2	0	2	0	9
2200-2359	1	0	0	2	0	1	1	5
Total	6	7	10	9	9	7	8	56

Table 14 – Times and days of rape occurrences reported to and recorded by Dorset Police, occurring in Central Bournemouth in financial year 2023-24.

Table 14 shows that the most prevalent hours for rape in Central Bournemouth were between 1000-1159 and 2000-2159, and the most prevalent days were Wednesday, Thursday and Friday. The data on a Wednesday between 1400-1559 includes 3 separate occurrences reported by the same victim who was 54 years old. All three occurrences have unidentified suspects.

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

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

Robbery

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

Victims

Existing research notes that street robbers often search for victims who appear to have money or other valuables, such as students or tourists. They also target people who appear to be the most vulnerable, for example, young adults using ATMs alone at night or under the influence of alcohol. Offenders also look for victims who may be less aware of their immediate surroundings, such as those who look lost, are using a mobile phone, or are rummaging through their bag¹³².

Figure 28 shows the age groups of victims of robbery which occurred in BCP in financial year 2023/24. The age group 15-19 had the largest amount of victims, making up 22% of the total (65 actual). Generally, as victim age increased the number of robberies decreased.

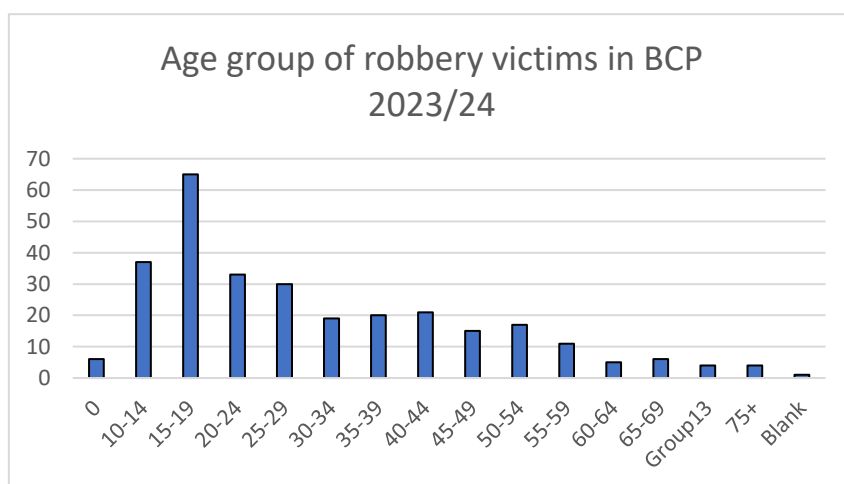


Figure 28 - Age groups of robbery victims reported to and recorded by Dorset Police, occurring in BCP in financial year 2023/24.

¹³² [Street Robbery | ASU Center for Problem-Oriented Policing | ASU](#)

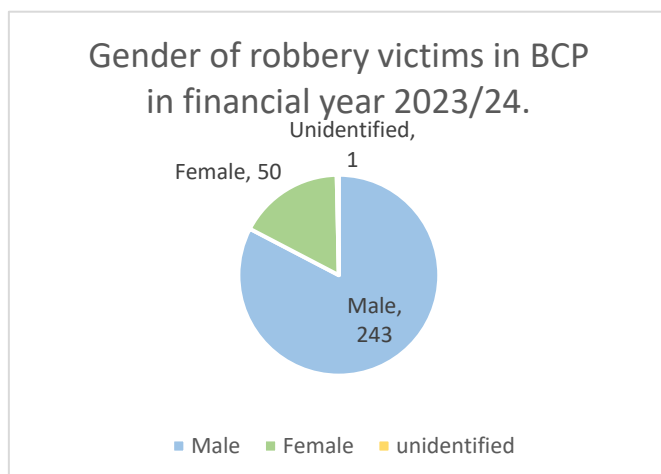


Figure 29 shows that the vast majority of victims of robbery in BCP in financial year 2023/24 were male (83%). In comparison, female victims made up 17% of victims.

Figure 29 - Gender of victims of robbery reported to and recorded by Dorset Police in financial year 2023/24.

Ethnicity	Count	Percentage
0	125	42.52%
W1. White British	115	39.12%
NS. Not stated	19	6.46%
W9. Any other white background	13	4.42%
O9. Any other ethnic group	4	1.36%
M9. Any other mixed background	4	1.36%
A9. Any other Asian background	3	1.02%
B9. Any other Black background	2	0.68%
O1. Chinese	1	0.34%
A2. Asian - Pakistani	1	0.34%
W2. White Irish	1	0.34%
B1. Black Caribbean	1	0.34%
A1. Asian - Indian	1	0.34%
B2. Black African	1	0.34%
#N/A	1	0.34%
M1. White & Black Caribbean	1	0.34%
M3. White & Asian	1	0.34%

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

Table 15 shows that the largest category for victims ethnicity was '0', meaning no data was available. The next largest category was White British, making up 39.12% of the data. The missing data around victims ethnicity makes it challenging to draw any meaningful conclusions from this data.

Suspects

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

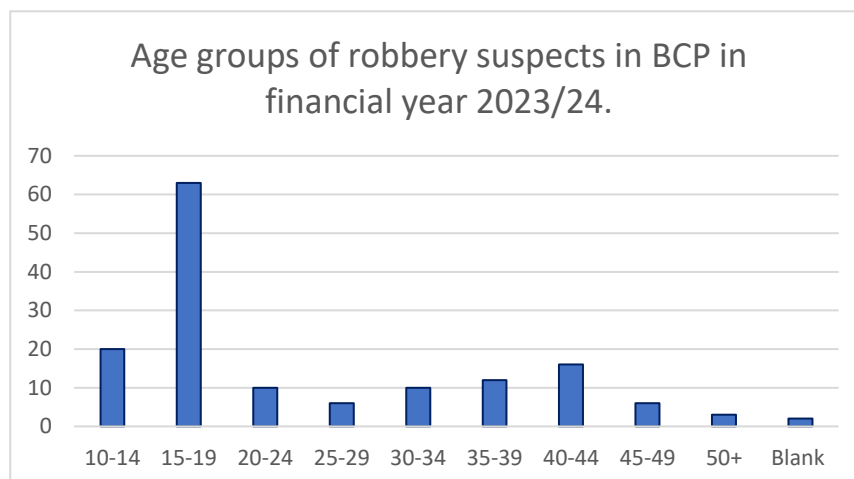


Figure 30 -Age groups of robbery suspects reported to and recorded by Dorset Police in financial year 2023/24.

Figure 30 shows that the most prevalent age group for suspects of robbery were those in the 15-19 age group (43% of total). There were 9 suspects in this age group who were a suspect of robbery more than once in the financial year. These suspects were involved in 28 occurrences. With duplicate suspects removed, 15-19 year olds made up 39% of suspects (44 total), which was still the largest group by a considerable proportion.

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

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

Existing research on street robbery suggests that is a young person's crime, with offenders often in their late teens and early 20s. An overwhelming majority of street robbers are male¹³³.

¹³³ See footnote 129.

Gender of robbery suspects in
BCP 2023/24.

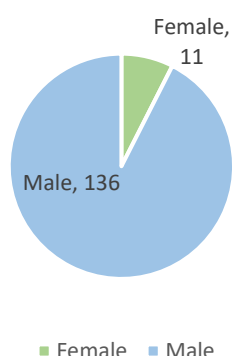


Figure 31 shows the gender of robbery suspects in BCP in financial year 2023/24. The vast majority of suspects were male (93%). 8% of suspects were female.

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

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

Table 16 - Ethnicity of robbery suspects reported to and recorded by Dorset Police in BCP in financial year 2023/24.

Table 16 shows the ethnicity data of robbery suspects in BCP in 2023/24, which shows that the most common ethnic group was White British. There was a total of 31 suspects whose ethnicity was either not stated or blank, which limits the quality of the data.

Relationship between victim and suspect

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

Table 17 - Relationship between victim and offender in robbery occurrences reported to and recorded by Dorset Police in BCP 2023/24.

Table 17 shows the most common relationships between victim and suspect in robbery occurrences in BCP in 2023/24. It shows that in the majority of incidents, the victim and suspects either had no known relationship or were complete strangers.

Locations

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

Table 18 – Beat codes of robbery occurrences reported to and recorded by Dorset Police in BCP in financial year 2023/24.

Table 18 shows the beat codes with 10 or more robbery occurrences in BCP in financial year 2023/24. It shows that Central Bournemouth is the most common location by a large margin.

Temporal Analysis – Central Bournemouth

	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun	Total
0000-0159	4	1	2	1	0	1	0	9
0200-0359	0	2	2	1	2	3	4	14
0400-0559	0	1	1	0	0	3	2	7
0600-0759	1	0	0	0	0	2	2	5
0800-0959	0	0	1	0	0	2	0	3
1000-1159	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	2
1200-1359	0	1	2	0	1	0	1	5
1400-1559	2	1	0	0	0	1	0	4
1600-1759	1	0	0	2	1	2	2	8
1800-1959	1	1	1	0	0	6	2	11
2000-2159	1	1	3	1	0	2	4	12
2200-2359	1	2	2	3	0	3	0	11
Total	12	10	14	8	5	25	17	91

Table 19- Times and Days of robbery occurrences in Central Bournemouth reported to and recorded by Dorset Police in financial year 2023/24.

Table 19 shows that robbery occurrences in Central Bournemouth were most common on a weekend, particularly on a Saturday. Occurrences were most common in the evening, in to the early hours of the morning.

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

there is a greater likelihood of vulnerability for victims in these time periods, who may be more likely to be intoxicated¹³⁴.

Most street robberies occur at night, but for some groups, peak robbery times vary with their routine activity patterns. For instances, elderly people may be more likely to leave the house earlier in the day, meaning they are more likely to be targeted at this time. In contrast, school aged children (those ages 17 and below) are more likely to be robbed between 3pm and 6pm after school hours. Young adults are more likely to be robbed in the evening whilst engaging in leisure activities, such as the night-time economy¹³⁵.

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

Robbery characteristics

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

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

Section 18 Grievous Bodily Harm (GBH)

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

Victims

Figure 32 below shows the ages of GBH S18 victims in BCP 2023/24.

¹³⁴ See footnote 129.

¹³⁵ See footnote 129.

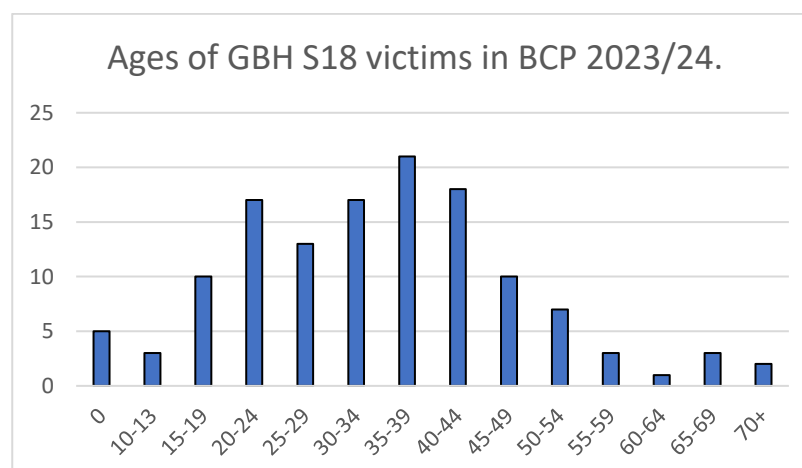


Figure 32 - Age of GBH S18 victims reported to and recorded by Dorset Police in financial year 2023/24.

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

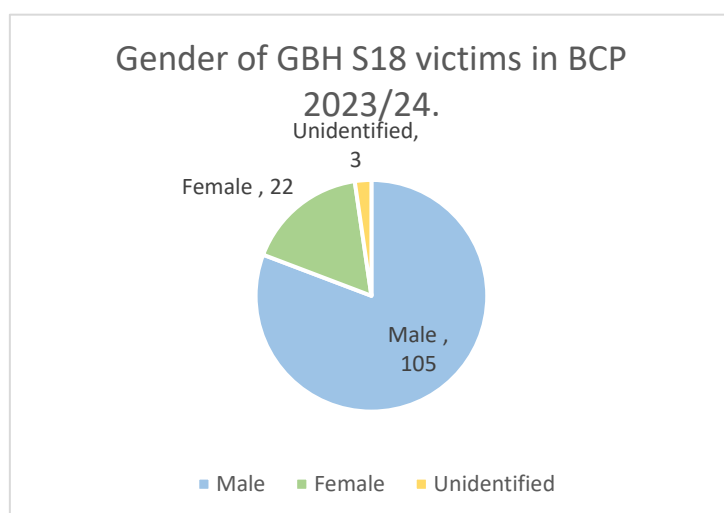


Figure 33 shows the gender of GBH S18 victims in BCP 2023/24. The majority of victims were male (81%). 17% of victims were female. 3 victims (2%) did not have an identified gender.

Figure 33 - Gender of GBH S18 victims reported to and recorded by Dorset Police in financial year 2023/24.

Table 20 shows the ethnicity of victims of GBH S18 occurrences in BCP 2023/24. Similar to other crime types explored in this section on serious violence, a considerable proportion of victims had unidentified ethnicities.

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

A3. Asian - Bangladeshi	1	0.77%
A9. Any other Asian background	1	0.77%
B2. Black African	1	0.77%
B9. Any other Black background	1	0.77%

Table 20 - Ethnicity of victims of GBH S18 reported to and recorded by Dorset Police in BCP 2023/24.

Suspects

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

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

Figure 34 below shows the age group of GBH S18 suspects in 2023/24.

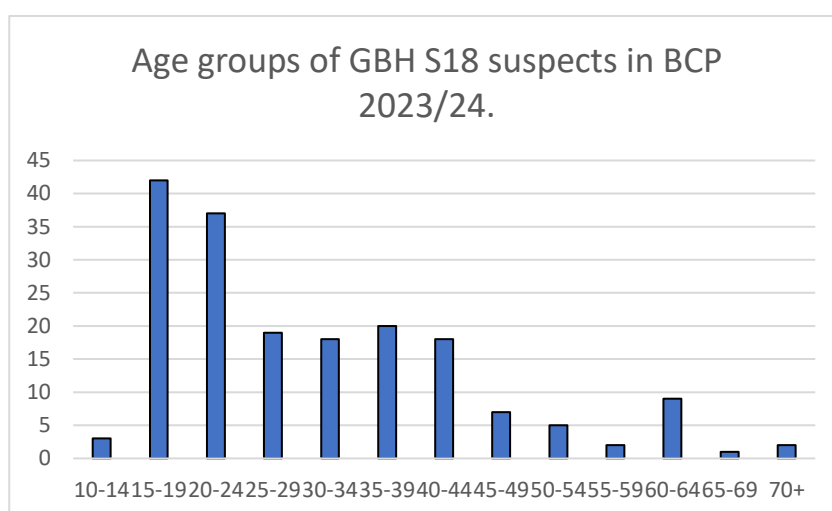


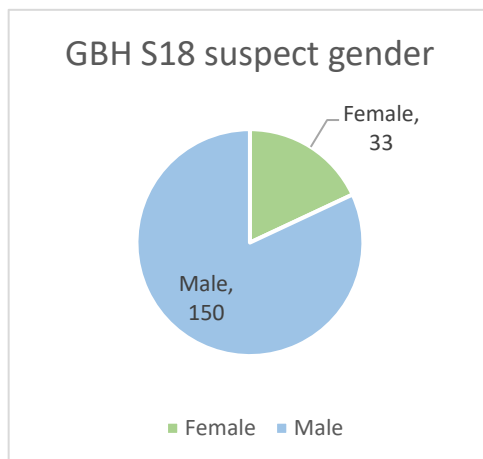
Figure 34 - Age groups of suspects of occurrences of GBH Section 18, reported to and recorded by Dorset Police in financial year 2023/24.

In total, there were 23 young people aged 10-17 involved in GBH Section 18 occurrences in financial year 2023/24. There were 3 young people who were suspects of GBH section 18 more than once during the reporting period. These 3 young people were each suspects twice in financial year 2023/24. 2 of the young people were suspects of incidents which took place on the same day but there were 2 separate victims. The other young person was a suspect of one occurrence which took place in July 2023, and the other occurrence was in October 2023.

The age groups of suspects look very different to the age groups of victims, which are displayed in figure 32. The largest age group for suspects was 15-19, at 23% (42 actual). In contrast, the largest age group for victims was 35-39. The second largest

age group for suspects was 20-24, making up 20% of the data. The age group 60-64 was overrepresented for suspects, at 5% of the data (9 actual). It is unclear as to what is driving this trend.

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



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

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

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

Table 21– Ethnicity of suspects of GBH S18 reported to and recorded by Dorset Police in financial year 2023/24, occurring in BCP.

Table 21 above shows the ethnicity of suspects of GBH S18 in BCP in financial year 2023/24. This data was relatively complete, with ethnicity information being available for 167 of 183 suspects. Suspects from Black, and mixed and multiple ethnic groups were over represented in this data in comparison to the percentage of the population in BCP.

Relationship between victim and offender

Relationship	Count	Percentage
No known relationship	43	33.33%
Friend/acquaintance/colleague	26	20.16%
Other relationship (misc)	20	15.50%
Complete stranger	11	8.53%
Spouse/cohabitee/partner	11	8.53%
Ex spouse/cohabitee/partner	4	3.10%
Commercial relationship	3	2.33%
Family - mother	2	1.55%
Victim refuses to identify	2	1.55%
Neighbour direct/indirect	2	1.55%
Family - child on parent	1	0.78%
Family - father	1	0.78%
Victimless/crime against state	1	0.78%
Policing duties	1	0.78%
Educational relationship	1	0.78%

Table 22 - Relationship between victim and offender in GBH S18 occurrences in BCP financial year 2023/24.

Table 22 shows the relationships between victim and offender for GBH S18 occurrences in BCP in financial year 2023/24. A considerable proportion of the data involved no relationship between victim and offender (no known relationship and complete stranger categories made up 42% of the data).

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

Locations

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

Table 23 – Beatcodes with 5 or more GBH S18 occurrences reported to and recorded by Dorset Police in financial year 2023/24.

Table 23 shows the beat codes of areas with 5 or more GBH S18 occurrences in BCP in financial year 2023/24. Similar to other crime types explored in this section on serious violence, Central Bournemouth was the most common location of occurrences. Westbourne and Westcliff, and Kinson South were the beat codes with the highest proportion of knife flagged GBH section 18 occurrences. 6 out of 9 incidents in Westbourne and Westcliff had a knife crime flag, whilst 3 out of 5 incidents in Kinson South had a knife crime flag.

Temporal Analysis – Central Bournemouth

	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun	Total
0000-0159	1	0	0	0	0	3	1	5
0200-0359	0	0	0	0	2	1	4	7
0400-0559	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1
0600-0750	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1
0800-0959	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1
1000-1159	0	1	0	0	0	0	2	3
1400-1559	0	0	0	2	2	0	1	5
1600-1759	0	0	0	1	0	2	0	3
1800-1959	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1
2000-2159	0	1	0	1	1	2	0	5
2200-2359	1	0	1	0	1	0	1	4
Total	2	2	1	5	6	9	11	36

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

Table 24 shows the times and days of GBH section 18 occurrences in Central Bournemouth. Occurrences are more concentrated on weekend days in the early hours of the morning and from 14:00 onwards.

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

Additionally, more people are likely to be engaging in the night-time economy in the early hours of the morning. The spatial availability of alcohol is known to impact the probability of violence, with research finding that bar and club density had a statistically significant and positive relationship with violence¹³⁶. The Home Office Serious Violence Strategy (2018)¹³⁷ notes that a substantial proportion of serious violence is linked to alcohol in some way, whilst the Dorset Police Homicide and near miss problem profile (2022) notes that alcohol was the highest influencing factor for homicides and near misses in Dorset in the three years ending March 2022. One explanation for this is due to the pharmacological effects of substances on the brain in terms of loosening inhibitions which may lead to an enhanced tendency towards violent behaviour for some individuals. These factors may contribute to an explanation as to why we see more GBH S18 occurrences in Central Bournemouth in the early hours of a Saturday and Sunday morning.

¹³⁶ Cameron, M., Cochrane, W., Gordon, C., Livingston, M. (2015). 'Alcohol outlet density and violence: A geographically weighted regression approach'. *Drug and Alcohol review*, 35:3. Pp. 280-288. Available at: [Alcohol outlet density and violence: A geographically weighted regression approach - Cameron - 2016 - Drug and Alcohol Review - Wiley Online Library](#)

¹³⁷ [Home Office – Serious Violence Strategy, April 2018 \(publishing.service.gov.uk\)](#)

Knife Flagged Offending

In total there were 88 knife flagged¹³⁸ serious violence occurrences reported to and recorded by Dorset Police in BCP in financial year 2023/24. Knife crime has severe impacts on victims, their families and communities, and therefore requires consideration despite relatively low numbers over the course of the financial year. It should be noted that these 88 occurrences only encompass 'serious violence' occurrences as defined by BCP Council's working definition¹³⁹.

Table 25 shows the occurrence types for the knife flagged serious violence occurrences reported to and recorded by Dorset Police in financial year 2023/24.

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

Table 25 - Types of knife flagged occurrences in BCP, reported to and recorded by Dorset Police in 2023/24.

Table 25 shows that robbery was the most common knife flagged serious violence making up 47% of the data. GBH section 18 occurrences were the second most common occurrences. There were two different crime types for GBH section 18 occurrences – Section 18 wounding with intent (15 actual occurrences), and section 18 – grievous bodily harm with intent (14 actual occurrences).

Victims

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

¹³⁸ It should be noted that there are concerns around the quality of the data with a knife flag, and these numbers should be treated with caution.

¹³⁹ Refer back to definition on page 56

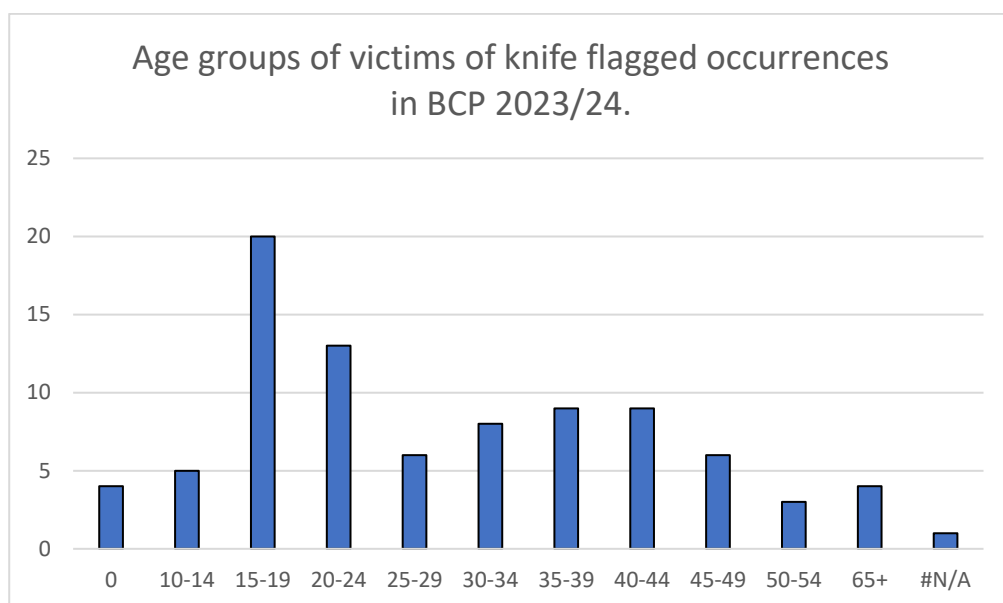


Figure 36 - Age groups of victims of knife flagged serious violence occurrences in BCP financial year 2023/24.

Figure 36 shows that the most common age group for victims was 15-19, followed by those age 20-24.

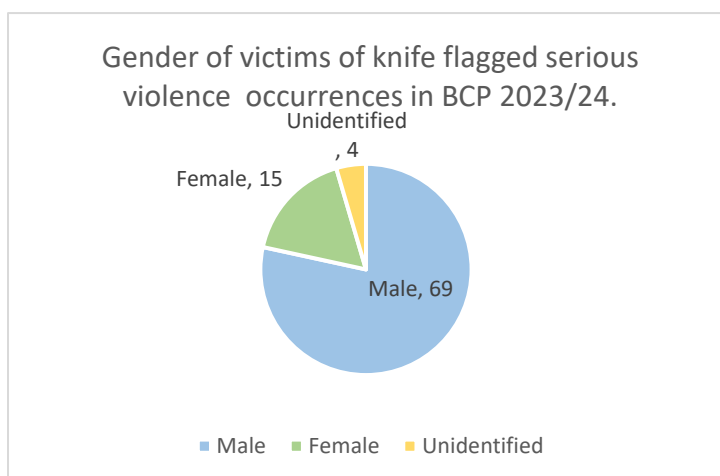


Figure 37 shows that that majority of victims of knife flagged serious violence occurrences in BCP were male (78%). 17% of victims were female, and 5% of victims did not have gender information available in the data.

Figure 37 - Gender of victims of knife flagged serious violence occurrences, reported to and recorded by Dorset Police in financial year 2023/24.

Ethnicity	Count	Percentage
W1. White British	37	42.05%
0	31	35.23%
NS. Not stated	10	11.36%
W9. Any other white background	2	2.27%
B2. Black African	2	2.27%
A3. Asian - Bangladeshi	1	1.14%
O9. Any other ethnic group	1	1.14%
A9. Any other Asian background	1	1.14%
#N/A	1	1.14%
B9. Any other Black background	1	1.14%
M9. Any other mixed background	1	1.14%

Table 26 - Ethnicity data for victims of knife flagged occurrences in BCP 2023/24.

Table 26 shows that the most common ethnic group for victims of knife flagged occurrences in BCP in 2023/24 was White British.

Suspects

In total, there were 122 suspects for the 88 knife flagged serious violence occurrences. 22 occurrences had more than one suspect. The attempt murder occurrences had the highest number of suspects, with 31 suspects between the 3 occurrences. 17 suspects were suspects of knife flagged serious violence occurrences more than once in financial year 2023/24. These 17 suspects appeared in the data a total of 37 times.

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

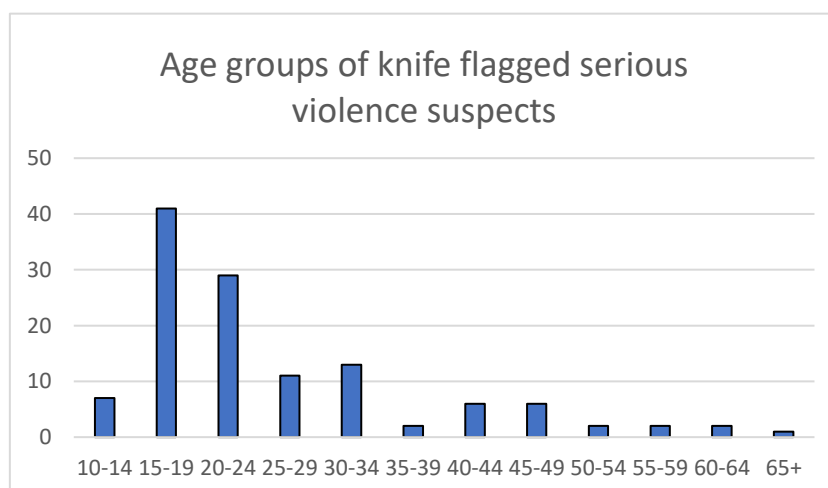


Figure 38 - Age groups of knife flagged serious violence suspects in BCP, financial year 2023/24.

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

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

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

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

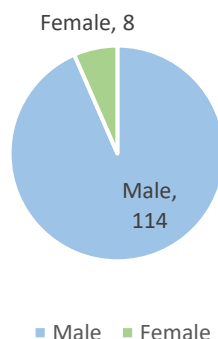


Figure 39 shows the gender of knife flagged serious violence suspects in BCP 2023/24. Following the same pattern of the other crime types explored in this section, the majority of suspects were male (93%). 7% of suspects were female.

Figure 39 - Gender of suspects of knife flagged serious violence occurrences in BCP, financial year 2023/24.

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

Table 27 - Ethnic groups of suspects of knife flagged serious violence occurrences in BCP 2023/24.

Table 27 shows ethnicity data for suspects of knife flagged serious violence occurrences in BCP in 2023/24. White British suspects are underrepresented, whilst suspects from any other ethnic group, mixed ethnic groups, and Black ethnic groups are overrepresented in comparison to the BCP population. However, we should keep in mind that suspects may not reside in BCP, as well as the fact that not all suspects are identified.

Relationship between victim and suspect

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

Table 28 - Relationship between victim and offender in knife flagged serious violence occurrences in BCP 2023/24.

Table 28 shows in total, 53% of knife flagged serious violence occurrences in BCP occurred between a victim and suspect who did not know each other¹⁴⁰. When victims did know each other, the most common relationship was 'friend/acquaintance/colleague'.

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

¹⁴⁰ This is a combination of 'no known relationship' and 'complete stranger' relationship categories.

Locations

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

Table 29 - Beatcodes with 5 or more knife flagged serious violence occurrences in BCP 2023/24.

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

Central Bournemouth Temporal Analysis

	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat	Sun	Total
0000-0159	1	0	1	0	0	1	0	3
0200-0359	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	2
0400-0559	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1
0600-0759	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1
0900-1059	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1
1100-1259	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1
1300-1459	0	0	0	2	1	0	0	3
1600-1759	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	2
1800-1959	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	2
2000-2159	1	1	1	0	0	1	3	7
2200-2359	0	0	2	1	0	0	0	3
Total	3	2	4	3	1	5	8	26

Table 30 - Times and days of knife flagged serious violence occurrences in Central Bournemouth in financial year 2023/24.

Table 30 shows that knife flagged serious violence occurrences were more common on a weekend in the late afternoon, into the evening and the night. It is likely that this type of offending is also impacted by routine activities theory, as discussed previously. Victims and offenders are more likely to come together in time and space on a weekend due to being more likely to engage in leisure activities in Central Bournemouth on these days, outside of work/ school hours.

Summary

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

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

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

GBH S18 occurrences were the fourth most common type of serious violence in BCP in 2023/24. The largest victim age group was 35-39, whilst the largest suspect age group was 15-19. It is likely that suspect ages are impacted by a large number of occurrences which have multiple suspects, which is likely to produce inaccurate data. 42% of occurrences involved incidents where there was no known relationship between the suspect and victim, or they were complete strangers. Central Bournemouth was the most common overall location, and in this area, occurrences were most common on

weekends, in the afternoons and the early hours of the morning. Similar to robbery, this is likely to be impacted by Routine Activities Theory, as more people are likely to be in Central Bournemouth on weekends. Additionally, more people are likely to be engaging in the night-time economy in the early hours of the morning, and the spatial availability of alcohol is linked to higher rates of violence. An interesting finding is that Kinson South and Westbourne and Westcliff had higher proportions of knife flagged occurrences, although numbers were low overall. This should be kept in mind when discussing serious violence related knife offending.

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

A key theme within the serious violence data is the prevalence of occurrences in Central Bournemouth for all occurrence types, suggesting that this area should be a key focus for any initiatives on serious violence. Dorset Police are currently in the process of setting up a Violence Reduction Unit which will seek to tackle serious violence in Dorset, including Central Bournemouth. Additionally, the night-time economy appears to be an important factor in serious violence occurrences.

Costs of crime

The following table aims to show an estimation of the financial costs incurred due to serious violence related offences for the financial year 2023-24. However, certain limitations and considerations must be acknowledged:

- **Categorisation challenges:** The categorisation of incidents into the cost categories can be complex and may not always capture the full context.
- **Definitions:** The definitions of certain categories, such as 'violence against the person' and 'possession of knives', may not perfectly align with the nature of some incidents, which can lead to ambiguity.
- **The cost is based on 2018 prices,** which will have fluctuated since then. As such, this table should be seen as a loose estimate provided to give us an indication in to the cost of crime, rather than an exact figure.

	Rape	Other sexual offences	Personal Robbery	Violence with injury	Criminal damage - Arson	Domestic Burglary	Homicide	Commercial Robbery
BCP number of crimes	457	557	294	1424	17	63	4	40
In anticipation of crime	£287,810	£63,920	£89,100	£828,580	£5,280	£10,650	£183,210	£48,300
Defensive expenditure	£283,240	£58,350	£51,300	£804,210	£1,760	£4,800	£183,180	£43,260
Insurance administration	£4,570	£5,570	£41,160	£14,240	£3,740	£24,570	£40	£9,600
As a consequence of crime	£14,368,080	£2,907,540	£1,855,140	£27,343,140	£49,760	£51,150	£7,031,190	£168,420
Value of property	£0	£0	£302,820	£0	£27,200	£88,200	£0	£39,200
Physical and emotional harm	£11,146,230	£2,060,900	£1,055,460	£11,733,760	£16,660	£74,970	£8,329,720	£166,800
Lost output	£2,696,300	£623,840	£270,480	£2,933,440	£5,780	£27,720	£1,018,840	£90,000
Health services	£507,270	£217,230	£223,440	£1,310,080	£3,060	£23,940	£4,440	£24,000
Victim services	£18,280	£5,570	£2,940	£0	£170	£0	£21,920	£800
In response to crime	£3,171,580	£640,550	£1,263,600	£6,092,500	£79,680	£27,000	£2,438,820	£98,280
Police	£2,906,520	£317,490	£296,940	£2,753,810	£17,280	£7,950	£35,880	£21,210
Other CJS costs	£265,060	£323,060	£1,078,980	£3,338,690	£62,400	£19,050	£2,402,940	£77,070
Total BCP cost	£17,827,470	£3,612,010	£3,207,840	£34,264,220	£134,720	£88,800	£9,653,220	£315,000
Total unit cost	£39,360	£6,530	£11,320	£14,060	£8,420	£5,920	£3,217,740	£15,000

Figure 40 - Note. Adapted from Table E1: Unit costs of crimes by cost category. Heeks, M., Reed, S., Tafsiri, M., & Prince, S. (2018, July). *The economic and social costs of crime* (Research report No. 99). Home Office. <https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/gov>

Estimated total Cost BCP Council Area in 2023/24: £69,103,28

4. Community Voice Surveys

4.1. Dorset Police Community Safety Survey 2023/24.

Results from Dorset Police Community Safety Survey 2022/23 show that:

- ❖ 85% of respondents living in BCP, in comparison to 96% of respondents living in Dorset felt either 'very' or 'fairly' safe living in their local area.
- ❖ 53% of BCP respondents, in comparison to 32% of respondents in Dorset were worried about 'crime in general'.
- ❖ 57% of respondents in BCP, in comparison to 41% of respondents in Dorset, were worried about drugs/substance misuse or drug dealing in their local area.
- ❖ 25% of respondents in BCP, in comparison to 13% of respondents in Dorset were worried about being sexually assaulted in their local area.
- ❖ 49% of respondents in BCP, in comparison to 32% of respondents in Dorset were worried about drunkenness and associated bad behaviour.

- ❖ 39% of respondents in BCP, in comparison to 31% of respondents in Dorset were worried about people carrying items such as knives or airguns.

These figures are likely to be influenced by the differences between the two areas, with BCP being urban and Dorset being more rural. A notable increase was seen this year in BCP of respondents being concerned about people carrying items such as knives or airguns, from 32% last year to 39% this year. As a result, a worthwhile piece of work may centre around addressing public perception of weapon carrying. Further, over half of respondents in BCP were worried about drug/substance misuse or drug dealing in their local area, which again suggests work around public perception of these issues may be worthwhile.

4.2. Consultation of Young People, Parents and Carers

A consultation of young people and parents, carers, and community groups from three secondary schools took place from November-December 2021. The three schools were in different locations across the Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole area. The consultation for parents, carers, and community groups consisted of an online survey and a community event. There was a high completion rate on the survey, with 267 participants.

The results found that 69% were aware of county lines related issues, with 19% not aware, 8% not sure, and 8% needing more information. This highlights a need for further information on county lines and criminal exploitation. The most popular suggestions for improvement from the community event were:

- 1) Enhanced presence of police and community officers, particularly in specific areas, parks, and open spaces.
- 2) More information, advice, and guidance for young people inside and outside of school, and more information or workshops for parents at an early help level on spotting the signs of exploitation and how to seek help.
- 3) Increased numbers of youth workers, youth centres, and activities to engage young people, and provision of more mentoring and advice from people who have previously been involved in county lines and managed to 'get out'.

The consultation for young people involved an online survey of pupils in years 9 and 10. There were 210 responses. The majority reported feeling safest at home or a friend's home, however only 63% reported feeling safe or very safe in their home area in the daytime, dropping to 38% in the evening. The main concerns raised by young people were around feeling safe travelling to/from school, bullying, gangs, and county lines activity. Nearly half of the young people reported noticing drug dealing in the area they live in rarely, some of the time, or openly, and 43% said that they would feel safer if there were fewer drug dealers.

Other popular suggestions for improving a feeling of safety included more CCTV, more uniformed police, and more things for young people to do together. Only 55% of participants said that they knew how to report non-urgent crime or behaviour, showing that more education on this is needed.

4.3. Young People's Consultation on Youth Service

The young people's consultation on youth service took place in March 22. This involved 144 young people aged 10- 19 years from schools, youth access points, and youth clubs in Turlin Moor, Bourne Valley, Creekmoor, Boscombe, and Kinson/West Howe. These areas were selected as they are recognised as areas of particular deprivation within the Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole area. 38% of respondents identified as female, 33% as male, and 1% as transgender. The young people were given a questionnaire including 10 questions about youth service. Multiple answers for each question were permitted.

The first question related to the biggest issues being faced by the respondents. The top three were school/college (31%), mental health concerns (25%) and family (17%). Knife crime and safety were both reported as an issue by 2% of respondents, and 'chavs/roadmen' by 3%. This indicates there are some issues with serious violence and feeling safe for the young people involved, however, these are for a minority of young people who took part.

4.4. Community Voice Surveys - Discussion

A key theme in the consultations for both young people and adults is drug misuse and dealing, indicating that a priority for BCP residents which would fall under the Serious Violence Duty may centre around this subject.

The consultation with young people, parents and carers is useful as it provides some key insights into what these groups think would be beneficial interventions in relation to county lines and exploitation. However, there are limitations to the usefulness of this consultation being applicable to all children across BCP. It took place following the death of a 13-year-old boy after taking ecstasy and is therefore likely to include some bias.

The youth service consultation showed that knife crime and 'chavs/roadmen' were a concern for a minority of respondents. Existing research (Falk *et al*, 2012; Ministry of Justice and Department for Education, 2022) shows that a minority of offenders are responsible for a large proportion of violent crime, suggesting that most young people do not engage in violent crime or criminal activity. The small numbers of respondents concerned about knife crime and 'chavs/roadmen' may be more likely to engage in friendship groups/social media activities which promote these topics and are therefore more concerned about them.

Further consultation should be completed with young people around the topic of knife crime, with a particular focus on the views of those who are known to carry knives or are involved in social circles with those who carry knives. The voices of young people will be extremely valuable as they can help us to understand *why* young people are carrying knives in BCP. This, paired with crime script analysis, will enable us to identify key areas for intervention.

5. Evidence Based Reviews

This chapter discusses various interventions/approaches which may be implemented to help prevent and reduce serious violence. The chapter is informed by research conducted by the [Youth Endowment Fund](#).

5.1. High Impact Interventions

5.1.1. A&E Navigators

[A&E Navigator Programmes](#) place a case worker, called a 'navigator', in hospital emergency rooms to support young people with any violence-related injury. Navigators can be recruited from a range of backgrounds including youth work, social work, nursing, probation and medicine. Navigators aim to develop trusting relationships with the injured children, providing informal mentoring, and help them to access services. Some programmes involve short interventions (up to 35 minutes) and take place solely in the emergency department, whilst others involve a longer and more intensive phase of case management after the child is discharged.

Navigators often engage with children through a series of steps that can involve:

1. A holistic assessment of the victim's needs, including a safety and risk assessment to safeguard them against immediate harm.
2. Making an offer of support.
3. Designing a tailored service plan to connect the child to services such as counselling, family support, mentoring, or help with conflict resolution, employment or substance misuse.
4. Following up with the child and their family to continue support after the child has been discharged.

There are several ways in which A&E navigator programmes might prevent children becoming involved in crime and violence. Being a victim of violence is strongly associated with future involvement in violence. Providing support in the aftermath of an incident could protect vulnerable children from this vicious cycle. Children may also trust navigators more than other agencies so be more open to engaging with services. The tailored service plans, which often include more than one service and extend support to families, could be more effective than engaging a young person in a single intervention.

Is it effective?

The available evidence suggests that A&E navigator interventions **could** have a high impact in reducing further violence, however, there are only two studies examining the impact of

A&E Navigator Programmes on future violence. Subsequently, the Youth Endowment Fund state that their confidence in the headline crime reduction estimate is 'very low'.

How can it be implemented well?

The Youth Endowment Fund explain how to implement A&E Navigators:

➤ *Forming a connection with the young person*

These evaluations emphasized the importance of navigators developing strong relationships with the children involved.

In both studies about one-third of the children referred to the services did not participate. Some children may be distrustful of speaking to navigators, fear that it will lead to police involvement, and be reluctant to disclose the cause of their injury.

Recruiting relatable navigators who can build trusting relationships with young people could overcome this barrier. For example, the Glasgow programme recruited navigators with relevant lived experience.

Building trusting relationships might be easier in longer-term interventions. One study found that the rapport between navigators and children increased with each encounter.

➤ *Locating navigators in the A and E department*

Studies suggested that the location of navigators' offices could be an important consideration. When navigators' offices were located outside of the A&E department, medical staff were sometimes unaware the programme existed. Stationing navigators in the A&E department could increase awareness of the programme and improve communication between navigators and other staff.

Cost

The Youth Endowment Fund note that on average, the cost of this intervention is likely to be moderate and are likely to include the salary of full-time navigators stationed in hospitals and additional time and resources spent co-ordinating services.

5.1.2 Focused Deterrence

[Focused Deterrence](#) is a strategy that combines communicating the consequences of violence with support for developing positive routes away from it. It recognises that most serious violence is associated with a small group of people who are themselves likely to be victims of violence, trauma, and extremely challenging circumstances. The approach recognises that violence is often driven by conflict between groups, and argues that if two groups are engaged in violent conflict, focusing on individuals who have committed violent crimes is unlikely to prevent future conflict between other members in the groups.

Focused deterrence attempts to identify the people most likely to be involved in violence and support them to desist.

It combines several core strategies.

- **Support.** Help for people involved in violence to access positive support and social services.
- **Community engagement.** Engaging the wider community to communicate that they want violence to stop and those involved to be safe, provide support, and encourage reintegration in the community. Projects will often arrange engagement between the people who are the focus of the intervention and victims' family members, reformed former group members, and faith leaders.
- **Deterrence.** Clear communication of the consequences of violence and swift and certain enforcement if violence occurs.

Focused deterrence usually includes a combination of the following steps.

1. The approach begins by identifying a specific problem – such as knife crime, violent conflict between groups, or drug dealing – as the target for intervention. A dedicated project team is formed which includes the police and law enforcement, social services, and the local community.
2. The team combines their knowledge of the selected crime problem and identifies the people involved.
3. The team begin to directly and frequently communicate with the people involved in the crime problem. Programmes might start this communication at a 'call-in' meeting. The meeting often involves gathering together people from rival conflicting groups, the parents of victims of violence, police and other law enforcement agencies, social services, and community representatives. The team will emphasize that the affected community needs violence to stop and wants those involved to be safe. The team will offer help and access to positive opportunities and services and make explicit the consequences that will follow violence.
4. The project team continue to develop relationships with the people targeted by the approach. This could involve members of the local community coming together to work out how best to provide support. Or the team could help participants with access to services like education, training, housing, healthcare, and treatment for substance misuse.
5. If the people involved do not desist from violence, the project team could enforce sanctions. This could include increased police presence and surveillance, arrest and swift prosecution for minor offences, disruption of illegal money-making activity, or attention to driving transgressions or unpaid fines.

Different focused deterrence models vary in how much they emphasize different stages of this process. Models which emphasize enforcement might focus on using 'call-in' meetings to communicate the consequences of violence and taking swift action if the people involved do not desist. Other models might not use 'call-in' meetings at all, have minimal emphasis on enforcement, and instead emphasize developing relationships, rehabilitation and early intervention.

There are several potential explanations why focused deterrence could prevent serious crime and violence. The involvement of the community and social services could provide positive routes away from crime and violence. The potential for targeted, swift and certain sanctions might act as a deterrent. The people who are the focus of the approach might not understand the legal consequences of their actions – simply informing them of those realities might have an impact. Finally, collaboration between the community and police could develop relationships and legitimacy, improving the efficacy of future crime prevention activity.

5.1.3. Social Skills Training

[Social skills training](#) aims to develop children's ability to regulate their behaviour and communicate effectively. It supports children to think before they act, understand other people's perspectives, communicate effectively, and use strategies for managing impulsiveness or aggression. Research suggests that children who develop social skills and self-control are less likely to become involved in crime and violence.

It can be delivered through universal programmes, which work with all children, or through programmes which work in a targeted way with children who could benefit from more support. Programmes are often delivered at school, through structured lessons and can vary in intensity from a single short session to 40 or more sessions over eight months or more. School-based programmes will often be delivered by teachers with the support of training by programme staff.

Activities can include:

- Role playing. For example, children might take on different roles in a potential conflict and practise strategies for resolving the conflict peacefully.
- Video demonstrations of positive behaviours. For example, children might be shown examples of other children playing together and finding ways to resolve conflict.
- Specific activities to reinforce effective delayed gratification.
- Relaxation and deep breathing techniques which children could use to calm down if they become angry.
- Teacher observations of children playing to monitor their development of these skills.

Is it effective?

The Youth Endowment Fund found that research suggests that on average the impact of social skills training on preventing violence is likely to be high, with social skills training programmes reducing the number of children involved in crime by an average of 32%.

Social skills training programmes are most effective when working with children who were already demonstrating a need for more intensive support; in these cases, more intensive support programmes have achieved greater impacts than universal programmes focused on primary prevention.

Social skills training programmes have tended to have larger impacts when working with groups of boys than girls, and greater impacts were seen when working with children around the age of 9 to 10. A lower impact was found for younger children and slightly lower impact for older children,

How secure is the evidence?

The Youth Endowment Fund have high confidence in their estimate of the impact of social skills training programmes on violent crime. The estimate is based on a high-quality review of many studies, lots of which used randomised control trials, a strong design for understanding the impact of the intervention.

How can it be implemented well?

Evaluations tended to examine school-based primary prevention programmes. A frequent implementation barrier was finding time in an already busy curriculum for social skills training to take place.

The adaptability and accessibility of teaching materials are seen as an important factor in successful implementation of social skills training.

What programmes are available?

- Incredible Years Child Training (Dinosaur School) – a group-based programme for children with behavioural difficulties between the ages of 4 and 8.
- PATHS Elementary – The PATHS Elementary curriculum is a programme for promoting social skills and reducing aggression and behavioural difficulties in elementary school-aged children, while enhancing education.
- PATHS Preschool/Kindergarten curriculum – the PATHS Preschool/Kindergarten curriculum promotes emotional and social competencies and reduced aggression and behaviour problems in preschool/kindergarten-aged children.

How much does it cost?

The cost of social skills training is likely to be moderate, with school-based primary prevention programmes being likely to have lower costs. The EEF estimates that PATHS costs £11.52 per child per year. Intensive secondary prevention programmes are likely to have higher costs.

The costs are likely to include programme materials such as videos or hand outs and training and paying staff to deliver the programme. If the programme is delivered by teachers, this will include the cost of teaching cover while they attend training.

5.1.4. Sports Programmes

[Sports programmes](#) can be used as a ‘hook’ to engage children who are considered to be vulnerable to involvement in violence and children who are already part of the criminal justice system in other activities such as mentoring or counselling. They could involve team sports like basketball or football, or individual sports and physical activities like boxing or dance.

There are many ways in which these programmes might protect children from involvement in crime and violence:

- ❖ Sports could provide children with positive peer influences, supporting the development of their social skills and improving their physical and mental health.
- ❖ Sports could help children develop motivation and self-regulation through committed practice and relationships with positive role models such as sports coaches.
- ❖ Sports could play a direct role in prevention – reducing the time that children are exposed to negative influences and allowing children to take risks in a safe environment.
- ❖ Sports can be a platform to engage children in other helpful interventions or services such as education, counselling, and support for drug and alcohol problems.

Is it effective?

The Youth Endowment Fund found that sports programmes could have a high impact on crime and violence, as well as reducing aggression, promoting mental health and responding to other behavioural difficulties.

How secure is the evidence?

The Youth Endowment Fund note that their confidence in the headline crime reduction estimate is low. The systematic review used by the Youth Endowment Fund to produce

their summary was based on only six studies of low to moderate quality, with lots of variation in the estimates provided by these studies.

How can you implement it well?

- **Develop strong, trusting relationships with participating children.** Ideally staff can become a mentor, role model, and trusted person who children will turn to for advice. A shortage or lack of continuity of staff is noted as a barrier by several studies. Sports coaches need appropriate skills to develop these relationships.
- **Choose an accessible and safe location and time.** The venue will need the right equipment, and the children will need to feel that it is safe and easy to get there. Research provides some support for the idea that sports programmes keep children safe by reducing the time they are exposed to negative influences, suggesting that timing sessions so they happen when children would otherwise be at greatest risk could maximise impact.
- **Plan to connect children with other activities.** The research suggests that sport could be used as a 'hook' to engage children in other services, including continued participation in sports, as well as engagement with social services, education or employment.
- **Be aware of the reasons young people may leave programmes and support continued engagement.** Community based programmes have generally seen the highest rates of children dropping out in comparison to school-based programmes and programmes in custodial settings. Research on sports programmes suggests it is important to:
 - Find out what the children enjoy and ensure they find the sessions fun.
 - Provide incentives. Some programmes provide healthy meals, pay for training courses, fitness centre access, and coaching programmes for accreditation.
 - Offer a broad range of activities. Research suggests that type of activity matters because different activities appeal to different people. One programme reported a substantial reduction in the number of participants from 70% to 49% of the target group when it reduced the number of different activities offered.

How much does it cost?

The Youth Endowment Fund currently do not have enough evidence to provide a headline cost rating. Costs are likely to include facilities, hiring project staff and trained coaches to run sports sessions, training for volunteers, sporting equipment and insurance.

Cost will vary depending on the length and frequency of the programme, the type of activities, the amount of support from volunteer staff and the use of venues that are free like parks.

5.2. Moderate Impact Interventions

5.2.1 Bystander interventions to prevent sexual assault

[Bystander interventions to prevent sexual](#) assault aim to empower and help children and young people to intervene in situations of potential sexual assault. They teach participants to identify early warning signs and safely intervene to prevent sexual harm from occurring.

They might teach young participants to understand and notice controlling or abusive behaviour, or situations where someone is being exploited. They encourage participants to feel a sense of duty in these situations and give them concrete examples of things they can do or say to safely intervene. For example, starting a conversation with a potential victim or perpetrator, or physically intervening to prevent a potential victim being led away to an isolated place.

Programmes explore attitudes and assumptions about sexual violence, sexual consent, empathy for victims of sexual violence, and myths about the role of victim behaviour in sexual violence.

These programmes typically work with children and young people aged 14 and above in secondary school, further education, or university settings. Activities could involve educational sessions delivered by a trained facilitator, role-play or discussion exercises, online educational videos, and school or university-based media campaigns, such as posters and leaflets.

There are several possible theories for why these programmes might prevent sexual violence. If programmes are successful at supporting young people to intervene then this could prevent incidents of sexual assault committed by young people's peers and the broader public. An alternative explanation is that these programmes may reduce the likelihood of participants themselves committing sexual assault. Participants might be less defensive and more receptive to information if they are presented as part of the potential solution rather than potential perpetrators.

Bystander intervention training is also used in the prevention of other forms of violence. This includes programmes where 'violence interrupters' intervene to prevent escalation of violent conflict between groups. However, this Toolkit summary focuses specifically on interventions to prevent sexual assault. The YEF plans to include other types of bystander intervention in the Toolkit in the future.

Is it effective?

Research suggests that the programme can be effective in supporting people to intervene in potential incidents of sexual assaults that they may encounter in public or in their peer groups. However, research has been able to measure the impact of this on instances of sexual assault by the wider public.

The research is stronger on the impact of this training on participants' own likelihood of perpetrating sexual assault. It suggests that bystander interventions are likely to have a moderate impact on reducing participants' own involvement in sexual assault.

How secure is the evidence?

The Youth Endowment Fund have low confidence in the estimate of the average impact on sexual violence, because there are only four studies that look at the impact of these interventions on sexual violence. All four studies were undertaken with boys and young men, and none of the studies were from the UK; three were from the US and one was from India.

How can it be implemented well?

- **Well trained facilitators**, who are confident in talking about sex, healthy relationships, and sexual violence tend to achieve greater engagement from children and young people.
- **Age-appropriate content** – children from different age groups will likely encounter different social situations, and the content should reflect this.
- **More than one session** – research suggests that programmes that have more than one session may have a greater impact on changing attitudes towards sexual violence. Ideally, two or more sessions are delivered a few weeks apart, to provide time for reflection and informal discussions with peers.
- **Participant feedback** - sometimes, interventions that challenge attitudes and beliefs related to gender stereotypes and the role of victim behaviour in relation to sexual violence can cause hostility, anger, or pushback in a small number of people. It is important to regularly capture feedback from participants, formally or informally, to identify any individuals that may disrupt the process of creating shared-attitudes and new peer-group norms about preventing sexual violence.

How much does it cost?

The Youth Endowment Fund note that the cost of bystander interventions is likely to be low.

This estimate is based on programmes involving a single intervention through to a programme delivering up to three sessions that last approximately two hours. These sessions would usually be delivered by external facilitators or by trained teachers. Costs

often include facilitator or staff time, travel costs, session materials and related media such as posters and leaflets. The cost per participant would likely be in the region of £250 – £500, assuming a minimum of 20 participants.

5.2.2. Relationship violence prevention lessons and activities.

[Relationship violence prevention lessons and activities](#) include activities that aim to reduce violence between children and young people in intimate partner relationships. Dating and relationship violence includes all forms of violence and abuse, including emotional, physical, and sexual violence, psychological abuse, stalking and harassment. It differs from domestic abuse, which in the UK has a lower age limit of 16 and can include family relationships and carers.

Many dating and relationship violence prevention programmes are delivered by trained schoolteachers during existing relationship and sex education lessons or personal, social, health and economic lessons. Schools often commission external facilitators to deliver activities during school time or as an optional after school programme.

Activities may include:

- Education and awareness sessions, exploring attitudes and behaviours associated with dating and relationship violence.
- Reading or listening to stories that include incidents of dating and relationship violence, often from the perspectives of both perpetrators and victims.
- Role-playing and interactive theatre.
- Reflection and discussion activities, in which participants share their thoughts, experiences, or ideas, often after watching a video, listening to a story or participating in role-playing.
- Awareness campaigns, including posters, films, video games, leaflets and newsletters, in schools and extended to parents and carers.
- Training to increase identification of incidents of dating violence, and to improve confidence to intervene (often called bystander intervention).
- Educational booklets, presentations and discussion sessions aimed at parents and carers, exploring signs of unhealthy relationships, strategies for enhancing parent-child communication and resources to access support.

- Community support, including services aimed at encouraging victims or witnesses to report incidents, and support services such as counselling and group sessions for victims.

Is it effective?

The Youth Endowment Fund found that on average, relationship violence prevention activities are likely to have a moderate impact, reducing violence by an average of 17%.

There are three main explanations for why relationship violence and prevention lessons and activities might protect children from involvement in violence.

- 1) Programmes challenge unhealthy norms and perceptions, provide guidance about what is appropriate behaviour in a relationship, and dispel myths.
- 2) Programmes may seek to reduce dating and violence perpetration through improving self-regulation, communication skills and conflict resolution skills.
- 3) Programmes may help young people to protect themselves from violence by improving early identification of warning signs that a relationship could lead to violence, increased reporting of concerns and incidents, and increasing bystander intervention.

How secure is the evidence?

The Youth Endowment Fund have high confidence in their estimate of the average impact of relationship violence and prevention activities on violent crime. The review is based on 16 studies, which encompasses a total of over 200 evaluations of dating and relationship violence prevention programmes. However, there is some variation in the studies reviewed, with some finding higher impacts than others.

How can it be implemented well?

- ❖ **Tackle perceptions that ‘violence isn’t a problem here’** – research suggests that some schools have been reluctant to support delivery of violence prevention programmes for fear of it having a negative impact on the reputation of the school. Further, some school staff may believe that these types of programmes are unnecessary, because of their own views or biases about dating and relationship violence. Put an engagement plan in place to proactively expose and address these perceptions, beliefs and fears and build support for programme delivery.
- ❖ **Find the right facilitator** - Facilitators and teachers with good knowledge of dating and relationship violence, and confidence in the delivery of materials and sessions, achieve greater engagement with children and young people. This tends to be external facilitators or teachers that feel comfortable discussing complex issues related to relationships, sex and different forms of violence.
- ❖ **Interactive sessions** - Interventions that include games, role-play and discussion are more likely to engage children and young people, particularly where they interact

with both facilitators and peers. Developing good relationships between the facilitators and participants is important for enabling open discussions, questions and sharing personal views or experiences.

- ❖ **Match the programme to the context** - It is important to ensure that the programme content and activities are appropriate for the children and young people participating. This means considering the level of expected background knowledge on the topics involved, and the ages, sexual identities and disabilities of participants. Programmes may also need to be adapted where there is knowledge of previous experiences of trauma amongst participants. Also, schools may find it easier to implement single interventions, or easily adaptable programmes. For example, programmes that offer adaptations for last minute changes to the duration of sessions or the numbers or genders of staff required.
- ❖ **Have a dedicated behavioural policy in place for the programme** - Many evaluations report issues of disruptive behaviour, and sometimes sexist and prejudiced responses from participants on programmes. These programmes require teachers and facilitators to be able to adapt in the moment, using opportunities to educate. Provide clear guidance to equip facilitators to maximise learning opportunities whilst managing behaviour and protecting programme participants.
- ❖ **Time, equipment and space** - For interventions delivered in schools, lack of staff availability or constraints on staff time often disrupt or reduce programme delivery. Engage senior leadership to protect staff time allocated to programmes or consider programmes that provide external facilitators. Availability of classrooms or large spaces may also be required for breakout discussion groups, physical activities, or role-play and interactive theatre. Having equipment that is available and working to play videos, audio stories and digital games is often an important component in sessions.

How much does it cost?

The average cost of dating and relationship violence prevention programmes is likely to be low.

5.2.3. Hot Spots Policing

[Hot spots policing](#) is a police strategy that targets resources and activities to places where crime is most concentrated. Hot spots tend to form in small locations such as sections of streets or parks, areas around train stations, shops, pubs or clubs. Research shows that 58% of all crime happens in the top 10% of places with the most serious crime.

There are two main approaches to policing hot spots:

- ❖ Problem-oriented policing (POP), which aims to understand the root causes of crime in hot spot locations. It involves designing and implementing tailored interventions to reduce crime.
- ❖ Increased police presence, which aims to deter offenders from committing crimes in hot spot areas by increasing either the number of visits or the amount of time police officers spend in hot spots.

Common activities in both approaches could include:

- ❖ High-visibility police patrols, including increased uniformed police presence and patrols.
- ❖ Increased stop and search activity.
- ❖ Actively monitored CCTV.
- ❖ Targeting of known, repeat offenders.
- ❖ Use of media to communicate about increased policing activity.
- ❖ Increased police response to antisocial behaviour.

Is it effective?

The Youth Endowment Fund found that hot spots policing is likely to have a moderate impact on violent crime, reducing violence by 14% and reducing drug offences by 30%. Some recent UK studies have shown similar or higher levels of reductions in violence and crime due to hot spot policing:

- 'Operation Ark' in Southend-on-Sea saw a reduction in violent crime of 74% in the 20 highest crime hot spots on days when patrols took place.
- 'Operation Style' in Peterborough, used hot spots policing and found that crime was reduced by 39% in target areas and calls to emergency services also decreased by 20%.
- Bedfordshire Police identified that 30% of serious violent crime in the county occurred in only 30 Local Super Output Areas (LSOAs). They targeted these areas with foot patrols lasting a minimum of 15 minutes. The evaluation showed a 38% reduction in violence and robbery.
- 'Operation Menas' in London involved a double patrol team of uniformed officers patrolling bus stops three times a day, for 15 minutes. The evaluation showed mixed results. There was a 37% reduction in incident reports by bus drivers but a 25% increase in victims reporting incidents in nearby areas.
- West Midlands Police implemented increased patrols of between 5 and 15 minutes in targeted locations in Birmingham. Hot spots that received increased

patrols saw a 14% reduction in street crimes and antisocial behaviour. Crime also decreased in areas surrounding the hot spots.

The findings also indicate that there is limited crime displacement to other areas, and the studies suggest that hot spots policing could lead to small reductions in crime or antisocial behaviour.

The Youth Endowment Fund also found that where problem-oriented policing was used, a slightly larger effect was found for reducing crime, in comparison to traditional policing.

How secure is the evidence?

The Youth Endowment Fund have moderate confidence in their estimate of the average impact of hot spots policing on violent crime, however there was lots of variation in the studies, and the studies did not directly measure or report the impacts of hot spots policing for children and young people alone. They only reported the impact on children and adults combined, however, the Youth Endowment Fund used the results to specifically estimate the impact for children and young people.

How can it be implemented well?

- ❖ **Mapping hot spots** – use software to map crime hot spots, including locations, days and times of higher crime concentrations.
- ❖ **Take a problem-solving approach** – Problem-oriented policing may have a larger effect on reducing crime. This approach is similar to the SARA problem-solving model (Scanning, Analysis, Response, Assessment) that is widely used in policing. Problem-oriented policing usually involves:
 - Identify a specific problem.
 - Thoroughly analyse and understand the problem.
 - Develop a tailored response.
 - Assess the effects of the response.
- ❖ **Collect and use data** – Plan and resource this tailored response, ensuring data is collected about the time and location of visible police patrols. This could be collected through Wi-Fi/GPS tracking, or the use of a hot spots policing app.
- ❖ **Protect planned patrols** – Police officers face lots of competing demands for their time and it can be hard to ensure patrols take place as planned. Operation Ark in Southend-on-Sea, Essex, showed that protecting police officers from redeployment to other duties during hot spots policing interventions can ensure over 98% of planned patrols are completed at the right time. This study reported a 74% reduction in violence on patrol days compared to non-patrol days.

How much does it cost?

There is limited evidence related to the costs of hot spots policing, but on average, the cost is likely to be low. Costs can vary depending on frequency of duties and the distribution of work across police officers, Police Community Support Officers (PCSOs) and Special Constables.

The Youth Endowment Fund note that one study reports a high positive return on investment, demonstrating substantial savings from the reduced costs of imprisonment from reduced offending.

Hot Spots Policing in BCP

As of June 2024, areas for hot spots policing in BCP have been confirmed by Dorset Police. These are displayed below:

Bournemouth:

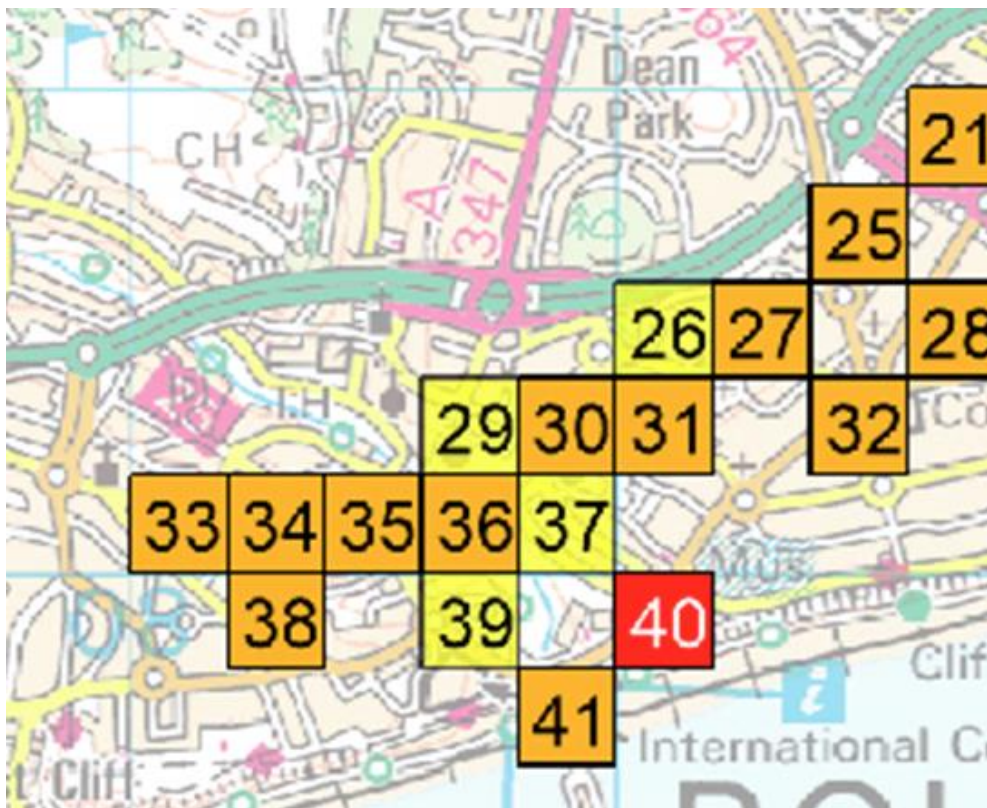


Figure 41 - Hot spots policing areas in Bournemouth

Winton and Charminster:

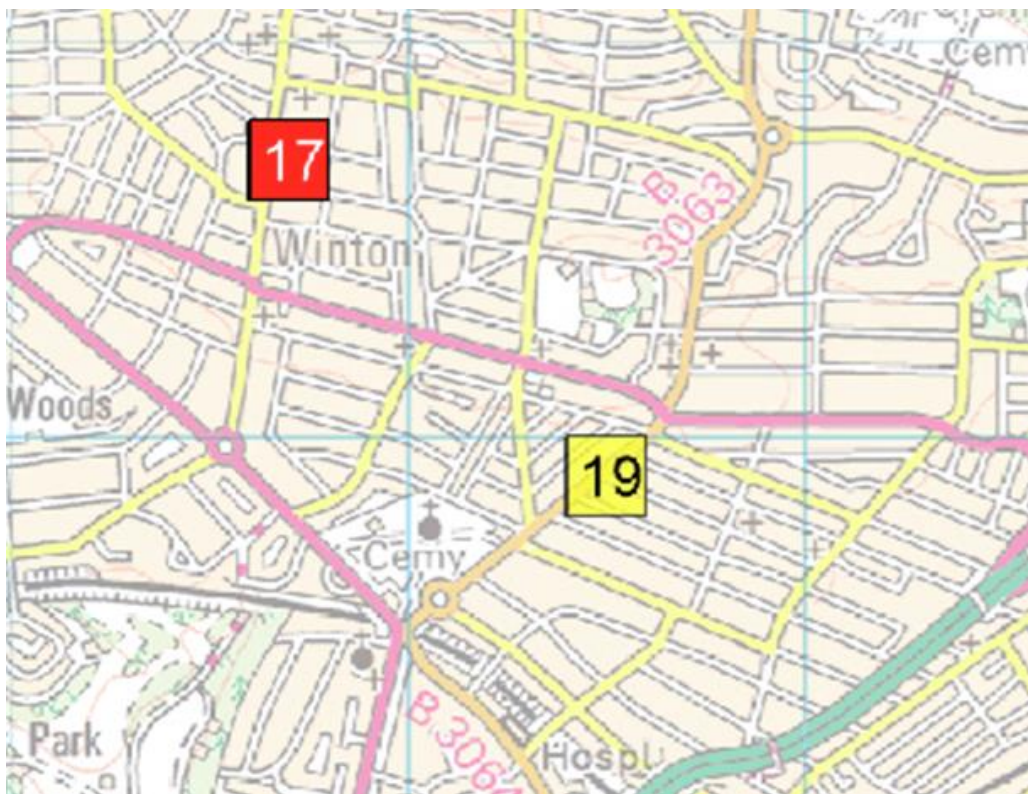


Figure 42 - Hot spots policing areas in Winton and Charminster

Boscombe and Christchurch:

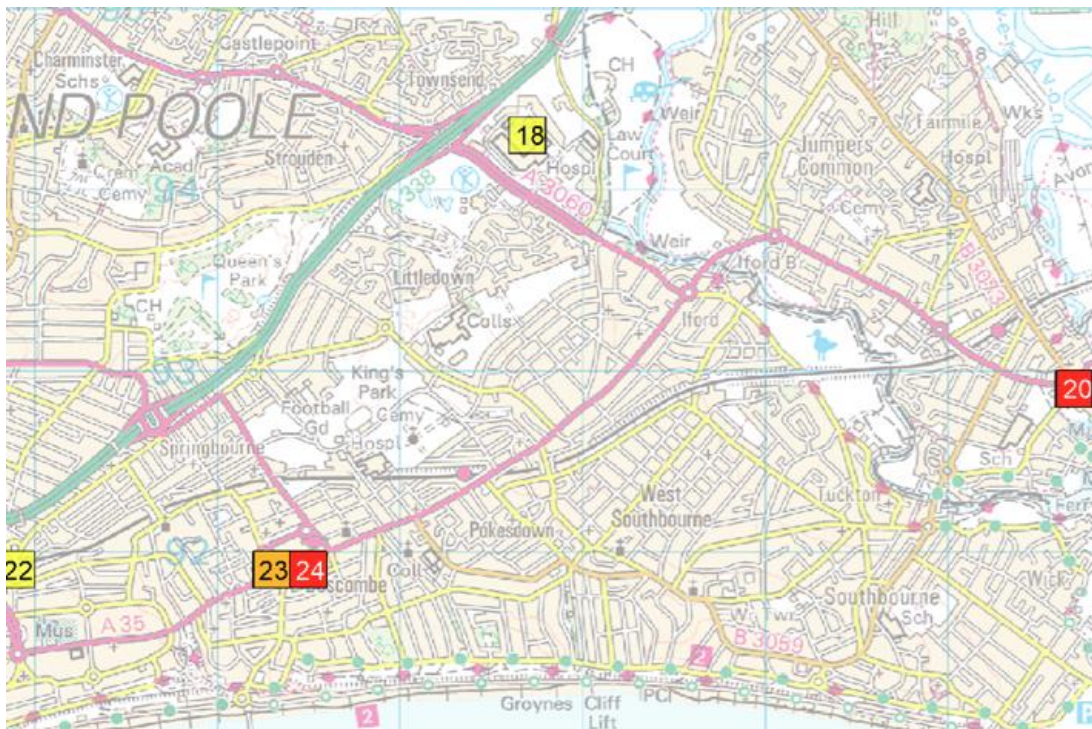


Figure 43 - Hot spots policing areas in Boscombe and Christchurch

Poole:

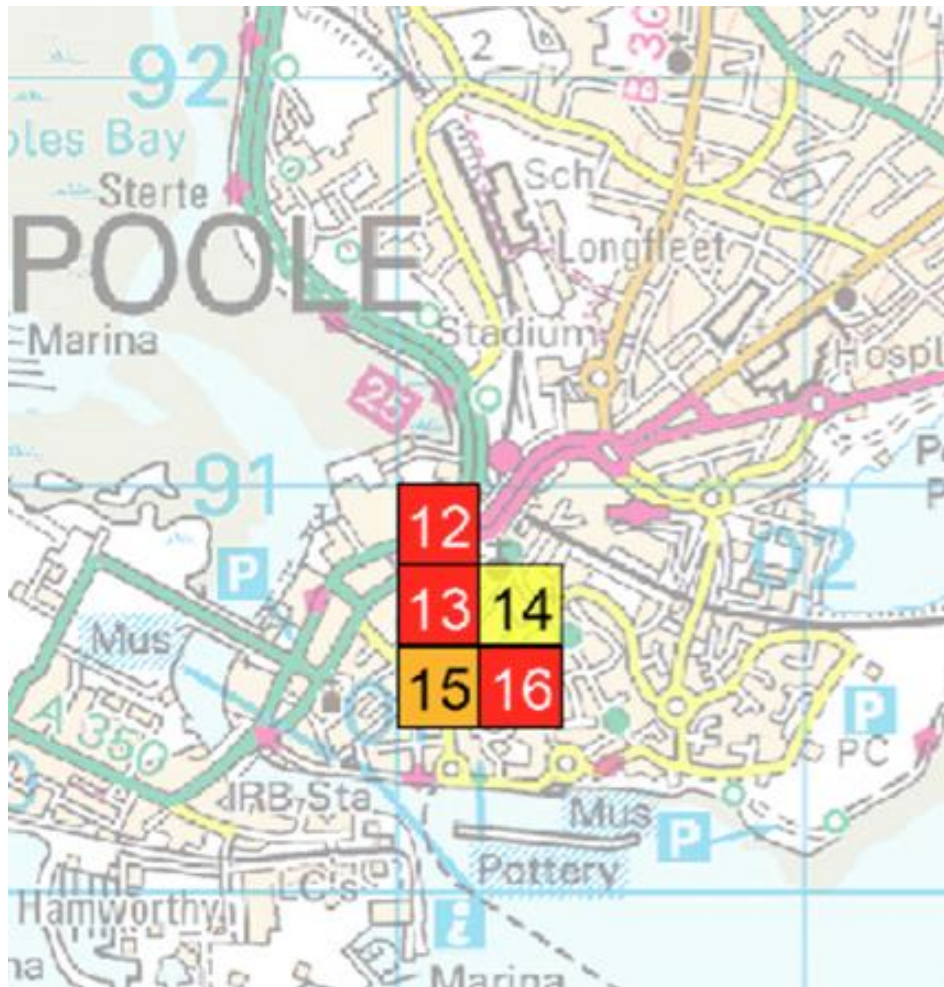


Figure 44 - Hot spots policing areas in Poole

5.3. Other Interventions

5.3.1. Knife surrender schemes

[Knife surrender schemes](#), also called 'weapon amnesties', or 'knife amnesties', aim to remove weapons from the street by providing bins or collection points where people can drop them off. These collection points are typically places in easily accessible locations.

Scheme will often allow people to drop off weapons anonymously and guarantee that there will be no immediate repercussions at point of handover. However, some schemes can inspect weapons later to identify any connection with criminal offences and then pursue investigation or prosecution if a link is found.

There are also compensation or 'buyback' schemes offering payment for weapons handed in. The payments can range from £3 for a knuckleduster or £20 for a truncheon, to over £5,000 for a rifle.

However, there are some criticisms of knife surrender schemes. Firstly, they are unlikely to reduce the availability of knives which are easily replaced. Secondly, knife surrender schemes without additional interventions such as education or training do not address motivations for carrying a weapon. Finally, knife surrender schemes, particularly those involving media campaigns could increase public concern about violence, leading to more individuals carrying weapons for self-defence.

Is it effective?

Two UK studies suggest that knife surrender scheme may contribute to a small reduction in weapon-related offending, but those reductions are not sustained for long. Research suggests that weapon related offences may initially reduce but tend to return to pre-scheme levels once the scheme has finished. This implies a need for long term intervention if knife surrender schemes are to be successful over time.

How can it be implemented well?

Research suggests that location is an important consideration. Schemes should select collection points that are easily accessible, are in areas with a higher number of weapon related incidents, and where it is easy to protect the anonymity of people surrendering weapons, for example, by having no CCTV.

5.3.2. Knife crime education programmes

Knife crime education programmes aim to reduce knife carrying amongst children and young people. These interventions emphasise the legal consequences, physical harm and emotional impacts that arise from violence involving knives.

There are two main ideas about why knife crime education programmes may reduce violence. Firstly, increasing awareness around the consequences of knife crime may deter young people from carrying a knife or using a knife as a weapon. Young people may talk to their friends and family about the consequences of knife carrying and knife crime, further spreading awareness. Secondly, increased awareness may change attitudes about how acceptable it is to carry a knife and may encourage young people to challenge their peers for carrying knives or involvement in knife crime.

However, there is a risk that raising awareness about knife crime may create a misperception about how common knife carrying is. This may increase fear of knife-related violence and may increase knife carrying for self-protection. Graphic imagery of knife injuries may also be upsetting for some children and young people.

Is it effective?

There is little research on the effectiveness of knife crime education programmes on the impact of violent crime. The Youth Endowment Fund reviewed six evaluations of knife crime education interventions. Four of the studies were undertaken in the UK and two in the US. None of these studies measured the impact of knife crime education on reducing violence.

5.3.3. Interventions to prevent school exclusion

[Preventing children from being excluded from school](#) might protect them in several ways. There is an extensive evidence base that children who are excluded from school face further adverse life experiences. Supporting children to stay in school might lead to higher educational attainment and more opportunities in the future, and ensure children remain in a safe environment. School exclusion is also relevant to wider concerns about disproportionality in the criminal justice system. Black Caribbean pupils are twice as likely to be subject to fixed-term exclusions and four times more likely to be permanently excluded. Pupils with special educational needs and children from Gypsy, Roma and Irish Traveller communities are also more likely to be excluded.

Research has aimed to understand whether a range of different interventions might keep children safe by supporting them to stay in school. Some interventions work directly with individual children. This could include:

- ❖ Counselling or specialist therapy from community mental health services.
- ❖ Activities to develop social-emotional skills such as self-regulation, relationship and communication skills, and decision-making.
- ❖ Therapeutic techniques to help students regulate their behaviour and develop appropriate coping strategies.
- ❖ Mentoring which pairs students with a mentor who can provide pastoral or academic support.
- ❖ Academic tutoring.

Another set of approaches work across the whole school. These approaches aim to create positive school environments, with clear rules that promote good behaviour, learning, and safety. Typically, this involves a range of components and activities such as one-to-one instruction, modelling, role-play exercises, feedback and reinforcement. They might also have a specific focus on restorative practices, such as responsive circles and restorative conferences, which are expected to reduce conflict between students. For example, the 'SaferSanerSchools' programme focused on communication skills, encouraging students to take responsibility for their actions and using restorative principles after disruption of conflict has occurred.

Is it effective?

The best available evidence suggests the impact is likely to be low, however, the evidence base is complex and different reviews have provided different conclusions. The Youth Endowment Fund found that one review that reported the impact of programmes on both arrests and suspensions. It did not include studies which only reported an outcome for permanent exclusion. The review found that, on average,

interventions which aimed to reduce school suspension reduce both arrests and suspensions by a very small amount. Programmes in this review failed to have much of an impact on suspensions. If programmes had greater success at reducing suspensions, they may have a greater impact on reducing crime.

Another review focused on a broader range of outcomes including in-school exclusion, out-of-school exclusion and expulsion. The review did not look at the impact on any crime or violence outcomes but found interventions that were much more successful at reducing exclusion. It is estimated that, on average, interventions had a high impact on exclusions.

How secure is the evidence?

The Youth Endowment Fund have moderate confidence in their estimate of the impact of school exclusion prevention on violence. The estimate was based on high-quality systematic reviews, however there was only six studies included.

Most of the available research is from the US. The Youth Endowment Fund identified only four studies which were conducted in the UK. The largest available study in the UK is an evaluation of the Engage in Education programme, delivered by Catch22. In this programme, youth workers worked with children in years 9 and 10 on topics such as effective communication, anger management and de-escalation. This study found no evidence that the Engage in Education intervention reduced school exclusions.

This may suggest that to reduce violence, interventions need to be more targeted towards those most at risk of committing serious violence, rather than a whole school approach.

6. Service Mapping

Service mapping is important to understand what services have already been commissioned in BCP, and what services may be missing when seeking to address the needs identified through the Strategic Needs Assessment. This section contains preliminary service mapping which will be built upon in the task and finish groups which are set up as part of the Serious Violence Strategy.

6.1. Acts Fast

Acts Fast provides support for non-abusive parents, carers and adult family members of children who have suffered Child Sexual Abuse, Child Sexual Exploitation, or sexual assault. They also provide support for adult family members and partners of individuals who have accessed Indecent Images of Children. The service provides:

- ❖ Trauma support – a free 10 week, one to one, trauma informed service providing stabilisation, psychoeducation, and support.
- ❖ Counselling – a 24 week one to one, person centred, trauma informed, counselling service. This can be provided face to face in Dorset or online.
- ❖ Brighter futures – a 12 week facilitated, peer led support group. Its main goals are to reduce isolation, promote wellbeing and help develop post traumatic growth.

6.2. BCHA

BCHA support includes a numbers of services for people experiencing:

- ❖ Modern day slavery and human trafficking
- ❖ Homelessness
- ❖ Mental Health
- ❖ Domestic abuse
- ❖ Services for women
 - Including women who have experiences, or are at risk of, repeat removals of children from their care. BCHA has been successful in its application to roll out the County's first Pause Practice. Pause is a national charity which assists women who have had children repeatedly removed from their care to engage in an 18-month programme of support. Women who take up the program take a "pause" in pregnancy aided by long term reversible contraception which gives them an opportunity to take control of their lives and identify personal goals they are supported to achieve. It aims to break transgenerational cycles and supports

vulnerable women to develop a sense of self-worth with significant improvements to substance abuse, domestic violence and mental health, as well as improving contact with children and gaining access to services.

- Respite rooms – providing short stay accommodation for single sex female rough sleeps who have experienced, or are at risk of experiencing violence abuse, trafficking or exploitation. Respite Rooms provide 8 bed spaces for women across Bournemouth for up to 6 weeks. Women are referred to respite rooms from BCP Council if they have been involved in street-based activity, and experienced abuse and exploitation.
- Women are referred to the BCHA from BCP Council if they have been involved in street-based activity and have experienced abuse and exploitation. The BCHA also provide accommodation to those who have no recourse to public funds. While staying at Respite Rooms, women are offered intensive trauma informed, practical and emotional support. The multi-disciplinary approach provides a dedicated mental health worker, drug and alcohol services, housing and benefits advisors, police and probation support.

6.3. Child and Adolescent Mental Health Service (CAMHS)

CAMHS offer assessment and treatment to children and young people age up to 18 who are suffering with significant mental difficulties. They employ an experienced team of doctors, nurses, occupational therapists, psychologists and social workers.

CAMHS deal with a range of serious mental health problems, including:

- ❖ Psychosis/schizophrenia.
- ❖ Significant self-harm and risk-taking behaviour.
- ❖ Eating problems.
- ❖ Obsessive compulsive disorders.
- ❖ Complex and/or significant post-traumatic disorders.
- ❖ Severe behavioural difficulties.
- ❖ Mental health or severe emotional difficulties in children with a diagnosis of autism.

6.4. Children in Care (CIC) Health Team

This team are notified along with University Hospitals Dorset when a child goes into care by social worker. They prove an initial health assessment with community paediatrician and health and treatment plan created. Regular review sessions.

6.5. Choose 2 Change

Choose 2 Change is a domestic abuse prevention programme delivering a group work behaviour change programme consisting of 11 modules amounting to approximately 28 weeks.

The material is comprised of a core block of modules including the impact of abuse on children, parenting at various developmental stages, jealous, sexual issues, anger and women's anger as well as other core subjects.

6.6. Community Mental Health Teams (CMHT)

CMHT provides a needs-led community mental health service for people with a severe and enduring mental health condition. The service:

- ❖ Gives advice on the management of mental health problems.
- ❖ Provides a seamless and integrated service so that service users and carers receive flexible, holistic and responsive care.
- ❖ Provides treatment and care for those with more complex and enduring needs through focusing on individual needs.
- ❖ Eliminates any inequalities/differential outcomes experienced as a result of race, disability, gender, age, religious belief or faith or sexual orientation.
- ❖ Promotes social inclusion and recovery for all.
- ❖ delivers choice throughout the service users care pathway, including accessing primary care services, secondary care assessment, treatment and care and inpatient care.
- ❖ Improves joint working between health and social care services.

6.7. Community Safety Accreditation Scheme (CSAS)

The Community Safety Accreditation Scheme (CSAS) gives employees who are involved in a community safety or traffic management role a range of powers usually

only available to police, such as the authority to issue fixed penalty notices for certain offences ([Metropolitan Police](#)).

The scheme provides an additional uniformed presence in communities to assist in reducing criminality and anti-social behaviour and capitalises on the skills and information captured by those already engaged with the community.

Main benefits of the scheme include (Source – [gov.uk 2012](#)):

- ❖ Increasing uniformed presence on the streets (CSAS accredited persons wear the uniform of their employing organisation, with an identification badge endorsed by the local police force).
- ❖ Reductions in local issues such as street drinking, begging and dog fouling.
- ❖ Saving valuable police time in community safety to deal with low-level crime and disorder.
- ❖ Promoting greater business involvement with the police, and allowing the police to influence the training of businesses, e.g. security companies
- ❖ Promoting partnership working and the 2-way exchange of information and intelligence between agencies

There are currently CSAS teams in Bournemouth, Boscombe, Poole and Christchurch.

6.8. Criminal Justice Liaison and Diversion (CJLD) Service

- ❖ This service is available for all ages and works to identify vulnerable people within the criminal justice system and provide the specialist assistance they, and their families, may need.
- ❖ There are two main roles within the service: mental health practitioners and support time recovery workers.
- ❖ Mental health practitioners carry out assessments of people in police custody identified as having a vulnerability.
- ❖ People with specific unmet needs can be referred to a support time recovery workers. They work with people for up to four weeks, providing help with issues such as:
 - Accessing services around mental health and drug or alcohol dependency.
 - Housing issues
 - Debt problems
 - Benefits

- ❖ The aim of the service is to divert people out of the youth and criminal justice systems into health, social care or other supportive services, and reduce re-offending.

6.9. Dorset Combined Youth Justice Service (DCYJS)

- ❖ The DCYJS works with young people in the local youth justice system, with the aim of helping them make positive changes to their lifestyle, keeping them safe and secure, and offering assistance and reparation to the victims.
- ❖ The DCYJS supports the Youth Justice Board Vision for a 'child first' youth justice system: A youth justice system that sees children as children, treats them fairly and helps them to build on their strengths so they can make a constructive contribution to society. This will prevent offending and create safer communities with fewer victims.
- ❖ The DCYJS is a statutory partnership between BCP Council, Dorset Council, Dorset Police, National Probation Service Dorset and NHS Dorset Clinical Commissioning Group.
- ❖ It is made up of a multi-disciplinary team including youth justice officers, restorative justice specialists, parenting workers, education and employment workers, police officers, probation officers, nurses, speech and language therapists and a psychologist.
- ❖ The team works directly with young people who have committed criminal offences to help them make positive changes to their lifestyle, while providing security and safety to both them and their victims. The DCYJS also work directly with parents and carers to help provide a positive support network.
- ❖ The DCYJS contact all victims of crimes committed by the young people they work with. Victims are offered the chance to take part in restorative justice processes to help repair the harm they have experienced.

6.10. Engage Develop Adapt Succeed (EDAS)/ Reach – Young People Drug and Alcohol Service

EDAS/Reach offers young people a free and confidential drug and alcohol service for those under 25 who live in the county of Dorset.

EDAS/Reach work with young people and consider their own personal situation through the completion of an assessment to identify needs. The service then work with young people to achieve their goals, whether this is simply to increase their factual knowledge

about the realities and consequences of substance use or to work towards a goal of controlled use or abstinence.

6.11. Family Hubs

Family hubs provide a wide range of support, from pregnancy onwards, and support families with children aged 0-19, or up to 25 for children with Special Educational Needs or disabilities. Services offered at the 6 family hubs across BCP include:

- ❖ Activities for children aged 0-5.
- ❖ Birth registration.
- ❖ Debt and welfare advice.
- ❖ Domestic abuse support.
- ❖ Early childhood education and care and financial support (Tax-Free Childcare, Universal Credit childcare).
- ❖ Health visiting 0-5 (inclusive of the Start for Life period).
- ❖ Housing
- ❖ Intensive targeted family support services, including those funded by the Supporting Families programme.
- ❖ Local authority 0-19 public health services, based on local needs assessments.
- ❖ Mental health services (beyond Start for Life parent-infant mental health).
- ❖ Midwifery/maternity.
- ❖ Nutrition and weight management.
- ❖ Oral health improvement.
- ❖ Reducing parental conflict support.
- ❖ SEND support services.
- ❖ Stop smoking support.
- ❖ Substance (alcohol/drug) misuse support.
- ❖ Support for separating and separated parents.

- ❖ Youth justice services.
- ❖ Youth services – universal and targeted.

6.12. Footprints Project

Footprints Project seeks to bring a sense of community, hope and increased self-worth to socially excluded people, reducing crime and building stronger communities. It trains volunteers in the community to provide person centred support for people who have been in prison or have received a community sentence or caution from the Police, enabling them to lead purposeful, fulfilling lives, contributing positively to the local community.

Footprints Project supports over 200 people a year with:

- ❖ 'Through the Gate' mentoring staff will visit people in prison to assess their needs around housing, education training and employment, finance and debt, mental and physical health, substance misuse, families and children, as well as attitudes, thinking and behaviour. Staff will then co-produce an action plan for release with the client.
 - Volunteer mentors and outreach workers help the person successful re-integrate into society, building safer and stronger local communities for everyone.
 - On the day of release from prison, staff will meet people at the gate, transport them to their local area and ensure their immediate needs are met, e.g. engaging them with foodbanks, helping them attend meetings with probation, registering them with a GP or helping them to initiate benefit claims.
- ❖ Community Mentoring
 - Community mentors will typically meet with a client once a week, with additional phone support between meetings, to offer on-going motivational support and engage clients with relevant agencies where they can obtain the specialist support they need. Community mentoring support continues for as long as it is required.
- ❖ Specialist female only support for women
 - Footprints are delivering a new female Out of Court Diversionary scheme in partnership with Dorset Police and PCC. The scheme works with women who are classified as vulnerable and are at the point of arrest for committing a crime for the first time, or if they have a criminal record but have not offended in the past 2 years. These women are given a conditional caution and opportunity to work with Footprints rather than their offence progressing to court. Vulnerabilities include mental health problems, women living in coercive or controlling relationships, domestic violence, and committing petty crime to support their family. Women will

meet with specialist workers once a week for 4-6 weeks and are then offered volunteer support with any ongoing problems.

- In line with the Government's 2018 Female Offender Strategy, Footprints provide gender specific support for women. This includes a female mentoring scheme supporting women returning to the area from prison. Women are visited by a specialist female member of staff who will assess their needs as above, but additionally will add support around domestic violence, sexual abuse and sexual exploitation. Women are matched to female mentors who continue the gender specific support in the community. Footprints can offer women who have been affected by trauma or have specific needs a place on an equine therapy course provided by Tower House Horses.

6.13. BCP Neighbourhood Policing Team

The Neighbourhood Policing Team in BCP work hard to take a preventative approach and identify young people at risk of committing serious violence before harm occurs. This is aided through multi-agency work and facilitated through a monthly Young Person's Serious Violence task and finish group.

The team identify high risk young people by looking at intelligence, offending patterns, use of weapons, and other risk factors as identified above. Once a subject youth has been identified, they are discussed at the Young Person's Serious Violence task and finish group to determine if the level of risk posed by the young person is high enough to warrant adoption at the group; generally, the high-risk individual is known to other agencies and this facilitates information sharing and joined up working. Often, the young people considered to be 'high-harm' are involved in weapon carrying.

Once a high-risk young person is identified, the Neighbourhood Policing Team develop a working strategy to support the young person and their family, embedded in a multi-agency context. This generally involves a home visit from the Neighbourhood Policing Team, and where permission/grounds exist, the team will lawfully recover any weapons. This may be used as a reachable moment to explain the concerns presented to the subject around knives and weapons, and also to signpost parents to support services. This early intervention seeks to help the young person understand the potential serious consequences to their actions and may act as an important preventative measure to dissuade the young person from carrying weapons in public.

Additionally, the team review intelligence relating to areas the young person frequents and include these places on their patrol plans. The team seek to engage with these young people when they are encountered in public to ensure they are safe and well, and not engaging in criminality.

The Neighbourhood Policing Team adopt a multi-agency approach, issuing a Public Protection Notice to share any concerns and information around the young person in health, education and social care.

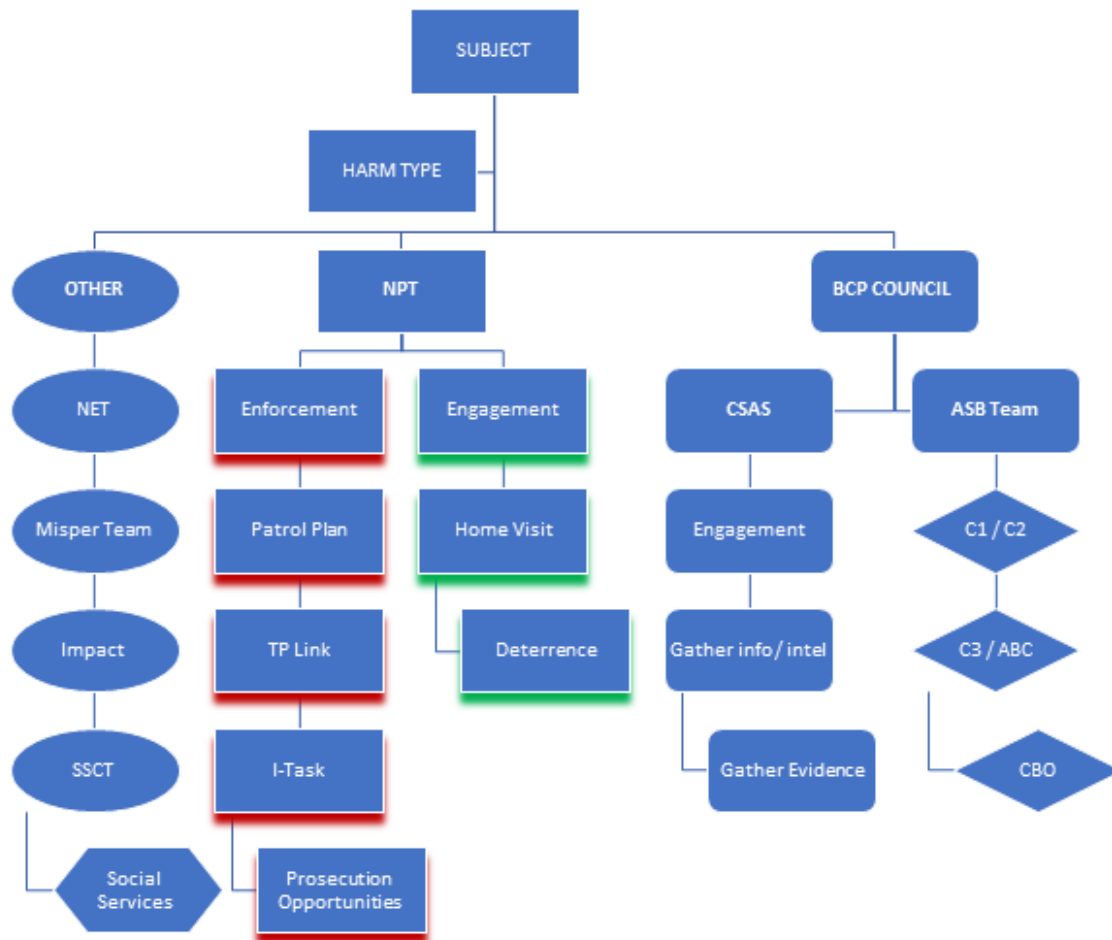


Figure 45 - Officer strategy options

Figure 45 identifies the list of options for officers to consider as part of their strategy when working with young people, as well as demonstrating some of the different agencies at work when supporting high risk young people.

This demonstrates just one of the ways the police help to reduce serious violence in BCP, by taking a proactive, multiagency approach to identify high risk young people, provide intervention and monitor activities. However, there are limitations to this approach. The Neighbourhood Policing Team only have the capacity to take on 7-12 young people at a time. Consequently, although the high-risk young people are subject to close monitoring, there may be young people on the fringes of being considered 'high risk', who do not benefit from this monitoring and intervention who slip through the net. It is important that we work towards a multi-agency approach to support other young people who may pose risk to their communities.

6.14. Paragon

Paragon are commissioned by BCP Council to develop and deliver a specialist health team working within hospitals. This team supports victims and survivors of domestic abuse and trains hospital staff so they can better support anyone who wishes to disclose and talk about their life experiences of domestic abuse.

6.15. The Retreat

The Retreat offers a safe place to discuss problems and access peer support. If an individual feels they are struggling to cope with life, and feels they are reaching crisis point, they are able to attend The Retreats in Bournemouth and Dorchester.

The Retreat offers a safe and welcoming environment, where service users are able to discuss their problems and work towards solutions. Staffed by both mental health professionals and peer specialists, The Retreat offers out-of-hours support and advice on self-management.

Service users can attend if they want to try to avoid reaching a crisis, or if they feel they are already in crisis. They do not need to be referred by a doctor or other health professional, service users can simply turn up and ring the doorbell.

The Retreat is an open access service for adults aged 18 and over. It cannot work with people who:

- ❖ Require medical attention beyond basic first aid/wound care.
- ❖ Are intoxicated.
- ❖ Display threatening or physically aggressive behaviour.
- ❖ Are under 18.

6.16. SAFE Partnership

SAFE Partnership provides services to help victims of stalking or domestic abuse to feel safe and secure at home, free of charge. SAFE Partnership provide target hardening, which are measures taken to reduce the risk of crime. Target Hardening can include fitting locks, installing security measures, or providing security advice.

6.17. Sexual Trauma and Recovery Service (STARS)

- ❖ STARS is a pan-Dorset charity that offers one to one support, free of charge, for anyone of any age or gender who lives, works or studies in Dorset and has experienced sexual violence at any time in their life.
- ❖ The service provides:
 - Independent Sexual Violence Advisor Service – a free and confidential service providing practical and emotional support, information and guidance to anyone who lives, works or studies in Dorset and who has experienced any form of sexual violence at any time in their life.
 - Counselling Service – operates a person-centred approach, combined with a trauma model. The service creates a safe and confidential space, allowing the client to explore and address thoughts and behaviours that are overwhelming. Through psycho-education, our counsellors help clients understand the impact of their trauma on their brain and their body, giving them control and choice.
 - Children and Young People Service - The Children and Young People ISVAs provides impartial information to the young person, their families or carers about their options. These specialist ISVAs can liaise with schools and other agencies on the young person's behalf and can accompany to appointments and meetings such as those with their GP. They can help them come to terms with their experience, understand their emotions, build their confidence and help them on their road to recovery.

6.18. Shelter

Shelter provides advice and guidance to those who are homeless, have nowhere to stay, are worried about losing their home, or are at risk of harm or abuse in their home. Shelter can help:

- ❖ Locally – Shelter provides advice and support services offer one-to-one personalised help with housing issues and homelessness.
- ❖ Online – On their website, individuals can find expert information about everything from reclaiming their deposit to applying as homeless.
- ❖ Over the phone – Shelter's free emergency helpline is open 365 days a year to answer called from anyone struggling with a housing issue or homelessness.
- ❖ Legal – solicitors provide free legal advice and attend court to help people who have lost their homes or are facing eviction.

Speech and Language Therapy within the Criminal Justice Liaison and Diversion Service

- ❖ Evidence shows that a high proportion of people within the criminal justice system have a Speech, Language or Communication Need (SLCN) which is often not identified, leading to poor justice, health and social outcomes.
- ❖ Speech and Language Therapists (SLT) have a unique registered role in identifying, assessing, and supporting individuals with communication difficulties and providing advice to the person, their families / carers and members of the multi-disciplinary team e.g., Police and probation. By identifying someone's SLCN it is hoped that they will have better access and support, especially in complex communication interactions e.g., custody or court and verbally mediated programmes e.g., probation related courses.
- ❖ There are currently two speech and language therapists working within the Criminal Justice Liaison and Diversion Service, working 14.5 hours per week. They are hoping to get increased resourcing of SLT hours within the service to increase patient contacts and support across multiple settings.
- ❖ Increased resourcing of hours will also enable the team to:
 - Seek further training,
 - Establish presence in other justice locations or teams. For example, probation are keen for SLCN support, but this is not currently possible due to resourcing limitations.
 - Provide support to health teams such as community mental health teams, forensic inpatient settings, mental health hospitals, and GPs.

6.19. The Shores

The Shores provides a comprehensive service to men, women and children who have been raped or sexually assaulted, in a safe, non-judgemental environment, focussing on the individual needs of the victim. The Shores offers:

- ❖ Emotional and psychological support.
- ❖ Medical care, including sexual health and emergency contraception.
- ❖ Practical help.
- ❖ Counselling for victims, and family or friends of victims.
- ❖ Information about making a report to the police.
- ❖ Forensic medical examinations.

6.20. Steps 2 Wellbeing

Steps 2 Wellbeing supports those suffering from mental health difficulties, and offers a range of talking therapies, online courses and guided self-help to support people who are feeling:

- ❖ Down, low, depressed
- ❖ Anxious or irritable.
- ❖ Having trouble sleeping or eating.
- ❖ Lacking motivation or feeling tired all the time.
- ❖ Experiencing physical symptoms like an upset stomach or headaches.

Steps 2 Wellbeing also offer a Body and Mind service which supports people with long term health conditions to better their mental health.

6.21. St Mungo's

St Mungo's provide a number of homelessness and mental health services in the area. Their outreach team provides daily support to rough sleepers, and they run two accommodation based mental health services, as well as leading the area's Housing First programme.

6.22. Time 2 Change

Time 2 Change works with female perpetrators of domestic abuse in a one-to-one setting. It is an intervention that includes assessment for suitability, a structured motivational programme and goal setting, and is delivered over a period of up to 20 weeks.

Support sessions are also provided for the partner or ex-partner to ensure a safety plan is implemented.

6.23. UP2U

The UP2U programme is designed to help perpetrators of domestic abuse learn about healthy relationships, develop new skills, and break the cycle of violence.

The UP2U programme involves one to one sessions led by experienced facilitators who support perpetrators in understanding the impact of their actions, recognising unhealthy patterns, and adopting positive behaviours.

The programme consists of an initial 6-week assessment period to identify risk and needs. Following this a pathway will be established which will provide participants with the tools to foster healthy and respectful relationships.

The programme is CBT based so taps into the thinking and reasoning skills we all possess and is very goal oriented. Participation is voluntary and self-referrals are also considered as the service is committed to being preventative. Support is also offered to partners whether the couple remain together or not as a healthy relationship to co parent effectively may still be required.

6.24. Victim Support

Victim support can give free, confidential help to people who have been affected by crime in Dorset. They are an independent charity, and victims can contact them for support regardless of whether they have contacted the police, and no matter how long ago the crime took place. Victims can also contact Victim Support regardless of their immigration status in England and Wales.

Victim Support provide personalised advice to victims and help to make them feel safer. They can also inform victims of their rights and the services they may be entitled to, as well as making onward referrals.

6.25. We Are With You

We Are With You works with clients on their own goals, whether that's making small changes, stopping drugs or alcohol completely or just getting some advice. Staff talk to clients about what immediate help they need, and what plans they want to make for the future. These are based on what the client wants to do at a pace suits them. Staff can also help clients with other needs, such as their housing situation.

6.26. Youth Outreach Team

The Youth Outreach Team form part of a targeted offer by BCP Children's Services to young people across BCP. Their remit is to provide a consistent presence for young people and to provide information, advice and guidance to those young people to support them to make positive choices.

The team undertakes standardised shifts in our town centres and hard to reach communities as well as providing a responsive service to concerns relation to young people's wellbeing and/or behaviour based on intel from partners, social media or other sources.

Where possible, the team will signpost young people they engage with to more positive diversionary activities. Where this is not achievable, they will safeguard and advocate for young people to provide a harm minimisation response based on a relational model of engagement.

6.27. YMCA Bournemouth

The YMCA strives to enable people to develop their full potential. Inspired by Christian values, the YMCA seeks to create supportive, inclusive and energising communities where people can truly belong, contribute and thrive. The YMCS provides:

- ❖ Housing
 - The YMCA provides short-term supported housing for men and women from 18 to 65 years, and 114 beds over four projects. They have 73 hostel rooms, 22 flats, 7 shared flats (14 beds) and a 5 bedroomed house. Each project has a different level of support to match the needs of its residents.
- ❖ Personal support and guidance – The YMCA seek to work in a person centred, trauma informed and psychologically informed way to equip residents with the skills and confidence they need to 'move on' to independent living and a positive long-term future. To do this, they provide a range of support measures, including:
 - Free gym membership, personal training programmes, and a sports hall for team games.
 - Free wi-fi
 - Opportunities to shape and influence service delivery.
 - Monitored facilities to ensure safety and security.
 - 24/7 support on site, including drug and alcohol support on a one to one and workshop basis.
 - Help clients to regain confidence and motivation.
 - Arts and crafts groups.
 - Chaplaincy and support individually and in groups.
 - Peer support.
 - Peer led support groups at weekend.
 - Accredited Life skills coaching e.g. money management and healthy eating.
 - Benefits and budgeting advice.
 - Residential trips to a retreat centre in Studland with a variety of outdoor activities.
 - Guest speakers, trips out to tourist attractions, and educational facilities.

- Quizzes, movie and pamper nights.
- CV assistance and computer access for job searches.
- Use of accredited Child Contact Centre.
- Other Family and Relationship services.
- Youth work opportunities (for residents under 25).
- Accredited volunteering opportunities.
- Help with registering with a Doctor and Dentist.
- Help obtaining ID.
- BACP Accredited confidential counselling service.
- Full engagement with statutory services to empower and enable residents.
- Residents lounge area with PCs for resident use.
- Laundry facilities.
- Restaurant (hostel only).
- Assistance in securing long-term housing solutions.