

OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY BOARD



Report subject	BCP Community Safety Partnership Annual Report
Meeting date	9 December 2024
Status	Public Report
Executive summary	This paper sets out elements of development and delivery by the BCP Community Safety Partnership (CSP), 'Safer BCP' and its constituent agencies. It provides Members with an update since the last report to Overview and Scrutiny Panel in December 2023. The Local Government Act 2000 includes crime and disorder scrutiny as one of the functions the council must ensure its scrutiny arrangements cover. Sections 19 and 20 of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 and related regulations require the Council to have a committee with the functions of reviewing and scrutinising decisions and actions in respect of the discharge of crime and disorder functions by "responsible authorities". The specifics of the duty are set out in the Police and Justice Act 2006, which also allows members to refer any "local crime and disorder matter" raised with them by anyone living or working in their area, to the Crime and Disorder Committee. The Board designated as the Crime and Disorder Scrutiny Committee must meet at least once every 12-month period to conduct the functions. Guidance issued concerning how this role should be conducted include that: • the role should be one of a critical friend, providing constructive challenge at a strategic level. • the focus should be on the entire partnership and if issues arise that relate specifically to a particular partner agency, it may be more appropriate to refer such issues to the governing bodies of that organisation. • the scrutiny of partners should be "in so far as their activities relate to the partnership itself." In the BCP area, the Overview and Scrutiny Board undertakes this function each December.
Recommendations	It is RECOMMENDED that:

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

Background

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

- b. Keep young people and adults-at-risk safe from exploitation, including online risks
 - c. Work with communities to deal with antisocial behaviour (ASB) and crime hotspots, including ASB linked to substance misuse
 - d. Tackle issues relating to Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG)
- 5. Board Members will be aware that CSP's are statutory partnerships that comprise local authorities, the police, fire and rescue authorities, probation, and health. They have a reciprocal duty to cooperate with the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner, with responsibilities set out in legislation, to develop strategies and plans to reduce crime, anti-social behaviour, substance misuse, and reoffending as required by Sections 5 and 6 of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 (as amended).¹
- 6. Specifically, the current statutory obligations of CSP's may be summarised as follows:
 - To establish a strategic group to direct the CSP's work
 - To set up protocols and systems for sharing information
 - To identify priorities via an annual strategic assessment
 - To produce a Partnership Plan and monitor progress against it
 - To develop strategies to reduce re-offending, substance misuse and domestic abuse
 - To commission Domestic Homicide Reviews
- 7. The CSP also has oversight of the work to prevent people from being drawn into terrorism, although the statutory Prevent Duty is on individual organisations rather than the CSP itself.
- 8. The Serious Violent Crime Duty came into effect in January 2023, with the BCP CSP Serious Violence Strategy approved in January 2024- progress against this is covered in further details later in the report.
- 9. The CSP Chair is T/Chief Superintendent Heather Dixey, and the Vice-Chair is Cllr Kieron Wilson as Portfolio Holder for Housing and Regulation with responsibility for Community Safety.
- 10. A significant amount of activity has taken place through the CSP over the last 12 months and key elements are highlighted in this report. Appendix D provides a full summary of the activity undertaken during 2024.
- 11. This report sets out:
 - a. The CSPs compliance with its statutory functions as set out at section 6
 - b. Activity undertaken by the CSP against its priorities over the last 12 months

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

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

Overview and Scrutiny Board review of the CSP's functions

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Progress against our key priorities over the past 12 months:

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

- 42. Safe Places** – a Safe Place Scheme has run in BCP for the last 5 years for people with Learning Difficulties, offering a place of safety in local spaces including shops and cafes if an individual is feeling at risk or needing support. BCP Council and People First Forum have been working over the last year towards making those Safe Places available to anyone who would need a safe place – including but not exclusively to young people, women and girls. Over 120 locations across BCP are signed up to the Safe Place scheme and they receive training on how to support the individual needing sanctuary. We are in the process of expanding in Bournemouth Town Centre to more premises in the Autumn of 2024.
- 43. Prevent Week of Action 7th – 11th October 24-** Building on the success of last year's Prevent Week of Action, activity aimed to promote and raise awareness across the partnership, education sector, and local community. The key focus was to increase the number and quality of the referrals coming in for Prevent and subsequently increase our conversion rate. The Week of Action was carried out with good attendance to all events across the week.
- 44. The Pan-Dorset PREVENT Partnership-** we have updated the pan-Dorset Prevent Partnership Plan informed by the SW Counter Terrorism Local Plan. The Prevent 'Education and Training' Task and Finish group has created the pan Dorset Training framework and has launched Home Office accredited face to face Prevent Awareness training delivered by BCP staff.
- 45. Channel Panel-** led by the local authority, Channel is a multi-agency forum to support individuals who are susceptible to being drawn into terrorism. Individuals who have been referred in to PREVENT are assessed by Counter Terrorism police and if appropriate referred into Channel for support, with their consent. Information on the numbers in the Channel process is restricted information but there have been active cases in BCP over the last 12 months. Compliance with PREVENT and Channel is monitored by the Home Office and is currently assessed as 'meeting' or 'exceeding' all of the requirements under the CONTEST strategy.

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

- 46. CCTV (CC)** – We have installed additional CCTV through the 'Safer Streets' fund for additional cameras in both Westcliff and Horseshoe Common in Bournemouth as a direct response to concerns around ASB, sexual assaults and other crimes.
- 47. ASB hotspot mapping-** Our analysts map ASB data to identify any hotspot locations or emerging areas of concern. Where hotspots are identified, multi-agency Task & Finish (T&F) groups are established to work together to address ASB with the local community. An example of this over the last 12 months is a T&F group for the West Howe area of Bournemouth in response to concerns about ASB.
- 48. Multi-agency working-** The ASB team have officers working across BCP and work closely with key partners both internal and external, such as Licensing and Trading Standards teams; Community Safety (CSAS) Officers; Dorset Police; Bournemouth Town Centre BID (Business Improvement District) Rangers; WISE Litter Enforcement Officers and We are With You for early intervention, engagement, education and enforcement focus to tackle anti-social behaviour.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Recommendations from the Strategic and SV needs assessment

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

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

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

Robbery:

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

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

Domestic abuse:

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Cross cutting recommendations:

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

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

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

Forthcoming Strategies

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

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

Summary

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

Summary of financial implications

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

Summary of legal implications

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

Summary of human resources implications

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

Summary of sustainability impact

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

Summary of public health implications

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

Summary of equality implications

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

Summary of risk assessment

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

Appendices

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