

# **SAFER NORTH HAMPSHIRE STRATEGIC ASSESSMENT SUMMARY**

**2023/24**

## Contents

Introduction.....	3
Priority 1 - Feelings of Safety and Health Outcomes .....	4
Priority 2 - Serious Violence.....	6
Priority 3 – Domestic Abuse .....	8
Priority 4 – Anti-Social Behaviour .....	10
Overall Priorities and Recommendations .....	12

## Introduction

In accordance with the Crime and Disorder Act 1998, Community Safety Partnerships produce a Strategic Assessment annually. This allows the partnership to identify local issues, emerging trends and consider priorities for the local area over the forthcoming year.

Within the Safer North Hampshire CSP, each local authorities produces a Strategic assessment, these assessments aim to:

1. Identify current and emerging trends and explore why they may have occurred.
2. Present clear and robust findings to enable decision making and priority setting.
3. Aide the production of the Partnership plan once the assessment has been adopted by the CSP.
4. Identify gaps in knowledge and set plans to close the gap.
5. Make evidence-based recommendations to ensure the partnership work can be directed in the right way.

The purpose of this overarching Strategic Assessment document is to pull together the findings from the individual Strategic Assessments, to provide a broader view on key community safety matters across the CSP and to consolidate priorities for the coming year. This document focuses on the priorities set for 2023/24, reflecting on what has been done, where we are and recommendations and priorities for the year ahead.

## Priority 1 - Feelings of Safety and Health Outcomes

### Why is this a priority?

Feelings of safety remains a priority across the Safer North Hampshire CSP for 2024/25, those who feel unsafe are often impacted by poorer physical and mental health, which affects the overall wellbeing of residents. It is important to understand that the fear of crime – how people perceive their risk of becoming a victim – is different to their actual change of being a victim. Addressing the fear of crime and associated feelings of safety is important because the impact of safety goes beyond the number of crimes committed, it deeply affects how residents feel and perceive their environment.

### Key Observations

- Resident community safety surveys are now well established within Basingstoke and Deane and Rushmoor BC.
- Lets Talk, a new initiative launched by Hampshire Constabulary to understand the needs of local communities, identified consistent themes in responses across the CSP. These related to issues with parking, speeding, drug-related matters, anti-social behaviour (ASB), and fly-tipping.

### Progress during 23/24

- 2,993 Safe and Well visits carried out by Hampshire Fire and Rescue Service
- Community Safety Activity:
  - 84 Community Safety patrols within Rushmoor focussed in the areas with the greatest community need including antisocial behaviour hotspots.
  - 45 engagements under the Aldershot Public Spaces Protection Order
  - 1,112 incidents recorded by the Community Safety Patrol Officers in Basingstoke and Deane with 38 enforcement actions taken.
  - Hart and Rushmoor People meetings held monthly to identify and manage vulnerable individuals including referrals, repeat callers, harassment victims, hate crime victims and repeat domestic abuse victims.
- Analysis of Community Safety survey results and considerations as to next steps

### Current position

Historically, the Community Safety Partnership (CSP) relied on the results from YouGov surveys commissioned by the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner (OPCC) to gauge community safety perceptions among their residents. Unfortunately, this service is no longer feasible for the OPCC to continue use and therefore local authorities have worked to develop their own Community Safety surveys.

Annual surveys are now well established in both Rushmoor and Basingstoke and Deane. The key issues affecting how safe people feel, identified during the latest Community Safety Survey, in Rushmoor, were related to drug use/dealing and street lighting.

	National <sup>1</sup>	South East <sup>2</sup>	Rushmoor Borough Council	Basingstoke & Deane Council
% of respondents feeling safe during the day	95%	91%	74%	97%
% of respondents feeling safe after dark	74%	73%	29%	74%

Hampshire Constabulary’s StreetSafe tool aimed to identify specific locations where residents did not feel safe and the cause. Its usage has been limited, with only 63 reports recorded across the CSP during the assessment period. In previous years the CSP has set recommendations to improve public awareness of StreetSafe to increase usage, however it feels appropriate with the launch of "Let's Talk" in March 2024, to move away from StreetSafe and work alongside the police in its use of their new initiative. Over 13,000 residents across Hampshire have used Let’s Talk since its launch, with 2,151 reports across the Safer and North Hampshire CSP. Key issues identified through Let's Talk are consistent across the three districts within the CSP, and include parking problems, speeding, drug-related issues, anti-social behaviour (ASB), and fly-tipping.

### Recommendations

- Prioritise surveys to understanding feelings of safety.
- Engage with the police to assess the best measure, bearing in mind “Let’s Talk” and “StreetSafe” options.
- Monitor the progress of A&E data collection, linking to the work of Violence Reduction Unit to establish an information sharing agreement between local hospitals, Integrated Care Boards and Local Authorities.
- Examine and understand data in relation to reports of crime by LGBTQ+ victims.
- Educate residents on how they can keep themselves safe.
- Continue to work closely with businesses in the town centre and across the borough to understand their concerns and needs.

<sup>1</sup> [Basingstoke and Deane - Residents Survey 2022](#)

<sup>2</sup> [Basingstoke and Deane - Residents Survey 2022](#)

## Priority 2 - Serious Violence

### Why is this a priority?

The Serious Violence Duty (SVD) 2022 requires councils and other local services to work together to share information and implement targeted strategies to prevent and reduce serious violence. Although the duty does not specifically define what constitutes serious violence, specified authorities must consider several factors:

- The maximum penalty that could be imposed for any related offence.
- The impact of the violence on the victim.
- The prevalence of violence in the area.
- The effect of the violence on the local community.

The SVD requires the Community Safety Partnership (CSP) and its members to collaborate with other organisations to address and prevent serious violence in the area. While there have been some positive reductions in the most serious cases, the threat of serious violence, particularly against females and young males, remains a significant concern for the CSP.

### Key Observations

- Strategic working groups have been established within each of the districts focusing on the Serious Violence in their respective areas.
- Most serious violence offences increased by 14% between 2021/22 and 2022/23
- No significant change in knife/blade crime
- 22% of robberies involved the use of a weapon

### Progress during 23/24

- Participation in Violence against women and girls (VAWG) forums and CSP VAWG plan
- Rushmoor: Funding secured from Hampshire Police and Crime Commissioner for Yellow Brick Road youth mentoring scheme aimed at vulnerable young persons at risk of becoming involved in county lines/serious violence etc.

### Current position

There is no set definition of serious violence within the SVD, it states that specified authorities need to work together to identify the kind of serious violence occurring in their area and accounting for factors set out in the Police, Crime, Sentencing and Courts Act 2002.

To enable consistency, the HIPS Strategic Violence Reduction Partnership agreed a common definition of serious violence. The agreed HIPS wide serious violence definition used in the needs assessments is:

1. Most serious violence – existing definition (1a and 1b where it is GBH and above incl. death by dangerous driving).
2. Robbery (3a and 3b).
3. Possession of a weapon offences (7).
4. Public order (violent disorder [65] and riot [64/1] only).
5. Any violence with injury (1b) not included under MSV where a bladed implement was used.

During 2023/24, individual Strategic Needs Assessments were completed by the HIPS Violence Reduction Partnership, which offered insights into Serious Violence at a local, district level. The assessments will guide the response taken at a local, CSP and HIPS wide level.

The SNAs identify the main offences making up Serious Violence, these are consistent across the CSP and are possession of a weapon, robbery of personal property and violence with injury. Males are more likely to be suspects and victims of serious violence, the district strategic assessments identify an increase in 10-17 year olds involvement in serious violence in both Hart and Rushmoor.

Each district has collaborated with the Violence Reduction Unit (VRU) and other partners during the assessment period in forming Serious Violence working groups. These groups will focus on improving partnership working in relation the serious violence matters and monitoring impact.

### Recommendations

- Serious Violence data and analysis working group to consider approach and plan to schedule and delivery of district level SNAs.
- Focus on establishing the strategic working groups with the aim of improving partnership working and monitoring on SV related matters.
- Consider findings that are relevant to the CSP, data sources include; SV & Knife Crime and #BeeWell surveys.
- Development of the approach of Offensive Weapon Homicide Reviews, set out in the new Serious Violence Legislation.

## Priority 3 – Domestic Abuse

### Why is this a priority?

Since the 2021/22 period, reports of domestic crime have been on a decline. However, this trend doesn't necessarily reflect a decrease in the occurrence of domestic abuse. Rather, it might be related to reduced awareness and reporting. Local initiatives play a crucial role in reducing the impact of trauma, delivering consistent messages throughout the community, and reducing domestic abuse. Actively promoting these initiatives is essential for recognising and supporting both victims and perpetrators.

### Key Observations

- There is a downward trend in the number of domestic related crimes reported to the police.
- Women continue to be disproportionately represented among victims, with 73% of all victims across Safer North Hampshire being female over the last year.
- 37% were repeat victims.

### Progress during 23/24

- Active participation and enablement of Domestic Abuse Forums and MARAC meetings
- Identification and management where appropriate of repeat victims and perpetrators of domestic abuse through the People meeting in Hart and Rushmoor
- Active role in supporting domestic homicide reviews and recent input with the OPCC on general feedback around the process/Home Office
- Safe and Well referrals continue to be submitted by Community Safety and other teams in relation to vulnerable individuals.

### Current position

Across Safer North Hampshire, domestic crimes accounted for 16% of total crime in 2023/24 with reported DA offences reducing by 18% during this strategic period.

In 2023/24, 'Violence against the person' accounted for 89% of domestic abuse crime and 37% of all domestic crime involved repeat victims. Across Safer North Hampshire 73% of victims were female and 27% were male.

When there is a domestic related homicide, Community Safety Partnerships must undertake a Domestic Homicide Review in circumstances where the death of a person occurs, or is thought to occur, as a result of violence, abuse or neglect from a family member or member of the same household. The purpose being to establish what lessons are to be learned regarding the way in



which local professionals and organisations work individually and together to safeguard victims and to prevent domestic homicide in the future. Reviews are published with the aim of restoring public confidence and improving transparency of the processes in place across all agencies to protect victims. There are currently 3 ongoing domestic homicide reviews undertaken across Safer North Hampshire.

Stop Domestic Abuse supports and protects victims and survivors of domestic abuse and stalking. Data shows that in 2023/24 they received a total of 2,101 adult referrals across Safer North Hampshire, with emotional abuse, jealous and controlling behaviour and financial abuse the most prevalent. In addition, they received 173 referrals regarding children and young people. The majority of these cases were referred by parents, children services, and schools or colleges. This highlights the critical role these organisations play in identifying and addressing instances of domestic abuse affecting younger individuals.

### Recommendations

- Seek to establish relationship with Adults Health and Care in relation to data collection.
- Working to set up data sharing with Stop Domestic Abuse.
- The CSP should look at understanding barriers to reporting, why they exist, and implementing processes to reduce them as well as promoting reporting mechanisms
- Ensure robust processes are in place for identifying repeat victims and considering measures to support them across all three areas.
- Continue to support the implementation of White ribbon accreditation and DAHA in Basingstoke and share best practice.
- Enable Domestic Abuse Forums to be utilised to share best practice and monitor trends in conjunction with the countywide strategies. Involving commissioned services to deliver where possible.
- Review the impact of domestic homicide reviews on the CSP

## Priority 4 – Anti-Social Behaviour

### Why is this a priority?

Consistent with findings from the Home Office research<sup>[1]</sup>, where ASB was the crime type respondents were most concerned about, concerns remain prominent among local communities, individuals, and businesses regarding anti-social behaviour. Issues related to vehicles, young people and neighbour nuisance are prevalent across the borough and make up a significant proportion of antisocial behaviour reports. Whilst some effective mechanisms are already established, it's important we continue prioritising early intervention with young people and proactive approaches to resolve neighbour disputes to prevent escalation of more severe offenses and nuisance problems.

### Key Observations

- Across Safer North Hampshire, reports of Anti-Social Behaviour were down 14% compared to the previous year
- Sharp rise in reports classified as 'ASB Environmental' linked to recreational drug use.
- Vehicle nuisance (23%), youth related ASB (22%) and neighbour nuisance (15%) most common types
- Public disorder linked to alcohol and drug use is a key influencing factor in ASB reports

### Progress during 23/24

- 1,112 incidents recorded by the CSPOs with patrols focussed in the areas with the greatest community need including ASB hotspots in Basingstoke and Deane
- 84 Community Safety patrols focussed in the areas with the greatest community need including ASB hotspots in Rushmoor
- Hart and Rushmoor People meetings held monthly to identify and manage vulnerable individuals including referrals, repeat callers, harassment victims, hate crime victims and repeat domestic abuse victims
- Closure Order successfully obtained against a premises being used for significant antisocial behaviour in Rushmoor
- Safer Streets funding secured
- Successful partnership work around vehicle nuisance and car meets including intelligence sharing, securing of vulnerable car parks and engagement with cross border multi-agency meeting
- Use of ASB warning letters, Acceptable Behaviour Contracts and Community Protection Warnings/Notices
- Clear information about ASB case reviews available on council websites with reciprocal chairing arrangements in place across the three areas

- Engagement with local businesses around ASB issues, regular visits and patrols, identification of those causing nuisance and working groups
- 45 engagements under the Aldershot Public Spaces Protection Order and 93 under the Basingstoke Town Centre Public Spaces Protection Order

### Current position

Police recorded ASB has reduced by 14% across Safer North Hampshire compared to the previous year.

The most common type of anti-social behaviour was vehicle nuisance (23%). Vehicle nuisance can be split into two types. Motorbike nuisance (incidents such as motorbikes, mopeds and quad bikes being ridden on pathways or in the woods) and car nuisance (includes car meets and cars racing).

Youth nuisance accounted for 22% of ASB reports. The most common locations for youth related incidents were town centre beats where issues largely related to groups congregating around shopping centres and causing problems.

Neighbour nuisance related ASB accounted for 15% of reports across Safer North Hampshire. Neighbour nuisance can be broken down into reports of neighbours smoking drugs (mostly cannabis) and general issues with neighbours such as feuds and noise complaints. Neighbour disputes are often ongoing issues with regular reports coming into the police, housing associations and other agencies and these cases are monitored through the ASB Panel in Basingstoke and Deane and at the PEOPLE meeting in Hart and Rushmoor.

A significant number of anti-social behaviour incidents across Safer North Hampshire was linked to drugs and alcohol.

### Recommendations

- Use of data to support Problem Solving Focus Group Meetings, ASB Panel and PEOPLE meetings
- Continue conversations and work to improve systems which will aid recording and monitoring of ASB reports to RBC.
- Seek data from Housing Associations on ASB reporting and outcomes
- Partners to continue to work collaboratively to address antisocial behaviour
- Focus on early intervention approaches with young people who are involved in antisocial behaviour to reduce risk of escalating behaviour
- Continue to develop strategies to deal with vehicle nuisance with a specific focus on motorbike nuisance.

- Focus on developing strategies to reduce the impact of neighbour disputes including making better use of restorative justice options available through the OPCC (such as mediation services) early on.
- Explore the opportunities for improving youth service provision across the CSP area (assisting in diversionary and inclusive community activities for young people in these districts/boroughs).
- Work closely with the LA ASB Task Force on the development of better reporting and recording practices and a one-stop-shop.
- Examine the impact drug and alcohol as a major contributory factor in asb incidents

## Overall Priorities and Recommendations

The Partnership Plan sets out how partners will work to tackle identified priorities throughout the year, and it is for individual agencies to evidence how they are contributing to these priorities.

The priorities for 2024/25, based on the evidence available and supplied in this strategic assessment are:

1. Improving feelings of safety and health outcomes within the CSP area
2. Serious Violence
3. Domestic Abuse
4. Antisocial behaviour
5. Town Centre engagement (new priority for 2024/25)

Recommendations identified under each priority are listed below.

### Feelings of Safety and Health Outcomes

- Prioritise surveys to understanding feelings of safety
- Engage with the police to assess the best measure, bearing in mind “Let’s Talk” and “StreetSafe” options.
- Monitor the progress of A&E data collection, linking to the work of Violence Reduction Unit to establish an information sharing agreement between local hospitals, Integrated Care Boards and Local Authorities.
- Examine and understand data in relation to reports of crime by LGBTQ+ victims
- Educate residents on how they can keep themselves safe
- Continue to work closely with businesses in the town centre and across the borough to understand their concerns and needs.

### Serious Violence

- Serious Violence data and analysis working group to consider approach and plan to schedule and delivery of district level SNAs.
- Focus on establishing the strategic working groups with the aim of improving partnership working and monitoring on SV related matters.
- Consider findings that are relevant to the CSP, data sources include; SV & Knife Crime and #BeeWell surveys.
- Development of the approach of Offensive Weapon Homicide Reviews, set out in the new Serious Violence Legislation.

## Domestic Abuse

- Seek to establish relationship with Adults Health and Care in relation to data collection.
- Working to set up data sharing with Stop Domestic Abuse.
- The CSP should look at understanding barriers to reporting, why they exist, and implementing processes to reduce them as well as promoting reporting mechanisms
- Ensure robust processes are in place for identifying repeat victims and considering measures to support them across all three areas.
- Continue to support the implementation of White ribbon accreditation and DAHA in Basingstoke and share best practice.
- Enable Domestic Abuse Forums to be utilised to share best practice and monitor trends in conjunction with the countywide strategies. Involving commissioned services to deliver where possible.
- Review the impact of domestic homicide reviews on the CSP

## ASB

- Use of data to support Problem Solving Focus Group Meetings and ASB Panel.
- Continue conversations and work to improve systems which will aid recording and monitoring of ASB reports to RBC.
- Seek data from Housing Associations on ASB reporting and outcomes
- Partners to continue to work collaboratively to address antisocial behaviour
- Focus on early intervention approaches with young people who are involved in antisocial behaviour to reduce risk of escalating behaviour
- Continue to develop strategies to deal with vehicle nuisance with a specific focus on motorbike nuisance.
- Focus on developing strategies to reduce the impact of neighbour disputes including making better use of restorative justice options available through the OPCC (such as mediation services) early on.
- Explore the opportunities for improving youth service provision across the CSP area (assisting in diversionary and inclusive community activities for young people in these districts/boroughs).
- Work closely with the LA ASB Task Force on the development of better reporting and recording practices and a one-stop-shop.
- Examine the impact drug and alcohol as a major contributory factor in ASB incidents

## Town Centres

- Focused patrols in town centres including Place Protection Officers, Housing Outreach and Town Centre Manager

- Improved awareness of and increased sign-ups to DISC system
- Development of town centre action plan focusing on key issues as defined by Council and Police hotspot data, as well as engagement with businesses and residents
- Focused case management on key town centre nominals (victims and offenders)
- Positive promotion of town centres and associated events to encourage footfall