

Community Safety Strategic Assessment Annual Refresh

Staffordshire and Stoke-on-Trent 2021

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Title	Staffordshire and Stoke-on-Trent: Community Safety Strategic Assessment Refresh Report (2021)
Description	This Community Safety Strategic Assessment provides evidence and intelligence to inform the strategic decision-making process for Staffordshire Community Safety Partnerships (CSP) and Stoke-on-Trent Safer City Partnership (SCP), helping commissioners and partners to determine the priorities that require particular attention in their local area.
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Introduction and Context

Under the Police and Justice Act 2006 (England & Wales) local authorities are duty-bound to 'provide evidence-based data to support Community Safety Partnerships (CSPs) in their planning and duties'.

Evidence-based data is required to relate to crime and disorder taking place within the local area, which includes Recorded crime, Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB), Alcohol, Drug and Substance misuse.

It is a statutory obligation for Community Safety Partnerships to produce or procure an annual localised Strategic Assessment (SA), providing a strategic evidence base that identifies future priorities for the partnership and evaluates year on year activity. The approach and format of these is not prescribed by legislation.

SAs should be used to underpin a local area Community Safety Plan which is made publicly available through the partnership's and Commissioner's Office websites by 1st April each year. In Staffordshire agreement has been reached that Community Safety Plans will be produced three yearly and refreshed annually in line with the SA.

This SA (2021) is being produced as an annual refresh of the full three yearly assessment, produced in 2019. The next full assessment will be undertaken and published in 2022.

Coronavirus (Covid-19) pandemic

Over the last 18 months the coronavirus (Covid-19) pandemic has had a considerable and unprecedented global and local impact; affecting the lives of everyone in the UK, including those in Staffordshire and Stoke-on-Trent.

Since the first locally recorded death from Coronavirus in March 2020, at the time of this report (October 2021) approximately 3,700 people in Staffordshire and Stoke-on-Trent have lost their lives as a result of Covid-19.

Although lockdown restrictions were lifted in July 2021 and around 78% of Staffordshire and 70% of Stoke-on-Trent residents have received two doses of a Covid vaccine¹, there is still a degree of transmission of the virus within local communities, and the wider impact of coronavirus is still being felt by many. The virus and measures to control rates of infection (such as the national lockdowns, systems to limit social contact, and the temporary closure of education settings) have had a significant impact; directly affecting individual's physical health, mental health and well-being, education, and employment.

In September 2020 a survey of local residents (n=3,921) carried out by Staffordshire County Council² highlighted that more than 3-out of-5 people (63%) felt that the pandemic has had a negative impact on their life overall – with those with a disability or limiting illness, and those on furlough, being more negatively impacted than residents overall.

While Covid-19 has had a profound impact on society and local communities, the pandemic itself does not present as a single specific priority or risk to community safety; instead, the impact of the pandemic has been considered and discussed where it appears as a relevant factor within other key areas of priority. As such, there is no specific priority within Community Safety Strategic Assessments relating solely to Covid-19.

Impact of pandemic on Strategic Assessments

The effective and accurate identification and assessment of Community Safety challenges and risks relies heavily on the analysis and interpretation of a considerable amount of data, which usually (as a minimum) covers the previous financial year.

In the 2020 refresh of CSSAs, the latest financial year 2019-20 included one week which was spent under full nationwide lockdown restrictions, affecting approximately 2% of all data for the year.

This has been significantly different for the 2020-21 financial year; a considerable proportion of the period has been spent under national and local lockdown restrictions, or with social distancing measures in place; by comparison, around 75% of the financial year was spent with some degree of Covid-related measures in place.

In practice this means that while rates and figures published in this assessment may show significant change in comparison to previous years statistics, it cannot be assumed that figures show improving or worsening medium or long-term trends unless this is explicitly stated in the text (having been confirmed with further insight and intelligence).

¹ UK Government Coronavirus Vaccine Statistics – as at 27th October 2021 - <https://coronavirus.data.gov.uk/details/vaccinations>

² <https://www.staffordshire.gov.uk/Coronavirus/Covid-19-residents-survey-results.aspx>

Key findings and comparison to previous (2020) refresh

Significant overall changes and findings

Restrictions imposed as part of the government approach to controlling the Coronavirus pandemic resulted in significant reductions in recorded crime and disorder at the time of the first UK Lockdown in March 2020. Many reductions which were becoming initially evident in the previous (2020) refresh, have continued during 2020-21.

Data for the period from April 2020 to March 2021 shows the impact of national lockdowns on crime and disorder, with reductions observed across almost every offence type in the 2020-21 financial year. However, with lockdown measures and social distancing restrictions being lifted in summer 2021, monthly data for April 2021 to August 2021 suggests that levels of recorded crime in Staffordshire and Stoke-on-Trent are starting to increase again, although this increase appears to be far slower compared to that seen nationally.

Similarly to the previous year, all Safety Partnership areas in Staffordshire and Stoke-on-Trent recorded overall levels of crime in 2020-21 which were either statistically similar to, or lower than, levels seen across all Safety Partnership areas in England and Wales. No local CSP area recorded rates of overall crime above national levels.

It is still too early to assess the socio-demographic impact of the Covid-19 pandemic on Staffordshire and Stoke-on-Trent. As such, it is suggested that partnerships continue to refer to the Mosaic analysis in the 2019 full assessment, in lieu of a more detailed refresh in the 2022 full assessment.

Key changes against priorities

Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB)

- While ASB has decreased during 2020-21, Neighbour Dispute related ASB has increased by around 11% compared to 2019-20.

Community Cohesion & Tackling Extremism

- Increases in the visibility of right-wing and far-right extremism seen last year have continued through 2021.
- The UK terror threat level has returned to “severe” from “substantial” following November 2021 terror incident.

Domestic Abuse (DA)

- While local recorded crime overall reduced considerably in 2020-21 (-15%) police-recorded Domestic-related crime has remained consistent (+2%) while at the same time DA providers have seen referrals for support increase by over a third (+36%) and comment that cases are becoming increasingly high-risk and complex.

Fraud

- Fraud remains of increased concern in Staffordshire and Stoke-on-Trent. Monthly Fraud incidents picked up by the National Fraud Intelligence Bureau (NFIB) increased significantly following the first UK lockdown in March 2020 – and have remained consistently high throughout 2021.
- Much of the increase has comprised of less-sophisticated fraud, taking place through online marketplaces and auctions. With increases in online shopping during the pandemic, it is likely levels will remain high into 2021.

Public Place Violence and Serious Violence

- There have been significant reductions in Public Place Violence (PPV) as a result of the Coronavirus pandemic: in the 12 months to October 2021 PPV had fallen by a quarter (-26%) compared to the previous year. As yet there is no observed post-lockdown return towards pre-pandemic levels.
- Although low in volume, Serious Violence (SV) has risen over the 12 months to October 2021 (+9%). Out of the nine CSP areas six have seen increases in SV. While there were significant reductions during the first two periods of lockdown, SV crime has been rising steadily since January 2021 and is now similar to pre-pandemic.

Vulnerable persons (all)

- There has been a considerable increase (+19% during 2020-21) in recorded crime where Mental Health is considered to have been a relevant factor.
- Analysis³ found that mental health worsened substantially (by 8.1% on average) because of the pandemic. Young adults and women – groups with worse mental health pre-pandemic – have been hit hardest.
- Claimant Counts for Staffordshire & Stoke-on-Trent have increased significantly (more than doubled) during the first lockdown – and still remain higher than pre-pandemic (February 2020).

³ Institute of Fiscal Studies (IFS) - The mental health effects of the [first] lockdown and social distancing during the Covid-19 pandemic in the UK

New and revised recommendations

A full list of recommendations, including those still in place from the previous (2019) three-yearly full Strategic Assessment, as well as recommendations made below, can be found in Appendices A & B at the end of this report.

Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB)

[New and emerging] There should be consideration for how partnerships can support and develop a coordinated response to ASB across agencies. This should include work to develop the understanding and use of available tools and powers as part of a joint response to ASB.

Domestic Abuse (DA)

[New and emerging] Safety Partnerships should consider the implications of the Domestic Abuse Act (2021), which has provided a legal definition of Domestic Abuse, defines children who witness or experience DA as victims in their own right. The Act further adds statutory duties around the provision of support within DA-related Safe Accommodation.

Responsible authorities are required by the act to form DA Local Partnership Boards, which include oversight over support delivered within Safe Accommodation: CSPs should ensure that they engage with these accordingly.

It is essential that Safety Partnerships remain engaged with relevant pan-Staffordshire DA boards and commissioners, in order to shape how the changes introduced within the act will support local residents and their children.

Fraud

[Revised] In addition to door-step crime and bogus traders, telephone and courier fraud still present a high risk to particularly vulnerable and socially isolated groups. As victims are often not connected digitally, it is essential that awareness raising activity includes a focussed element for identified high-risk groups who might be missed by online and digital campaigns. With growth in online auction/marketplace fraud, those who are connected digitally are also at increasing risk – awareness raising should also consider younger age groups who carry out much of their non-essential shopping online, as well as older age groups who are new to using online services for essential shopping.

Public Place Violence and Serious Violence (including Knife Crime)

[Revised] As COVID restrictions have become more relaxed, activity in public places (including activity linked to the night-time economy) has increased, however not to the extent which was initially anticipated. It is highly recommended that Safety Partnerships continue to anticipate that as public confidence grows and the night-time economy recovers, related-incidents will return to pre-pandemic levels.

Fire and Rescue:

[New and emerging] As Fire and Rescue Services (FARS) continue to evolve and begin to go through a period of more formal reform, Safety Partnerships should be engaged with this process and remain sighted on strategic developments within FARS and might create new opportunities across the wider pan-Staffordshire partnership.

Safer Roads:

[New and emerging] While roads in Staffordshire and Stoke-on-Trent are very safe, continuation of proactive preventative work remains key; Safety Partnerships should continue to engage with the Staffordshire Safer Roads Partnership (SSRP) around community engagement, prevention/education activity and ongoing risk assessment.

Partnership areas with rural road networks should consider whether there are specific communities which may benefit from being supported to engage with and volunteer as part of the Community Speed Watch scheme.

Where Safety Partnerships have concerns about road use in specific locations within their partnership area, they should engage with the SSRP to discuss whether there is a need and opportunity for targeted enforcement activity.

Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG):

[New and emerging] Recently published strategies from both the UK Government and Staffordshire Police have a renewed focus on tackling and ending Violence Against Women and Girls. Given the role of the wider partnership in achieving this, Safety Partnerships should remain engaged with developments in VAWG strategy, and where appropriate and relevant, should contribute to the development of any related delivery plans.

Staffordshire Commissioner's Office Priorities

It is recommended Safety Partnerships consider their approach to community safety challenges in the context of the priorities identified in the Staffordshire Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner's 2021-24 Police and Crime Plan;

A Local and Responsive Service: Understand and deal with what matters to communities, respond promptly to incidents and work with partners to solve problems and prevent them from getting worse. This will mean that crime and ASB reduces, our roads are safer and confidence in Staffordshire Police increases.

Prevent Harm and Protect People: Prevent harm and protect people (particularly children and those that are vulnerable) by ensuring they are appropriately safeguarded and receive the help and support they need.

Support Victims and Witnesses: Ensure victims and witnesses are provided with exceptional specialist support services so they feel able to cope and recover from the impact of crime and ASB.

Reduce Offending and Re-offending: Ensure people are challenged and supported to make life choices that will prevent them from offending and perpetrators don't reoffend. Doing so will mean fewer victims of crime.

A More Effective Criminal Justice System: Ensure Staffordshire Police, the Crown Prosecution Service, Courts, the National Probation Service and HM Prison Service all work seamlessly so that effective justice is delivered quickly.

The Staffordshire Commissioner's Office recommends that the approach to tackling priorities should be; *Community Focussed*, consider *Prevention and Early Intervention*, use partnership to *Solve Problems Together*, provide *Value for Money* and be *Open and Transparent*.

Summary of Local Community Safety Priorities

A review of priorities identified and confirmed in the three-yearly full SA has taken place, in order to identify any changing or emerging strategic priorities and risks. These have been cross referenced against existing priorities and findings for each locality, as well as through local intelligence, research and insight held by partners (including Staffordshire Police and Staffordshire Fire and Rescue Service). Where priorities are amended or changed compared to their position in the full assessment or last year's refresh, these have been highlighted.

Identified priorities are as follows;

- Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB)
- Community Cohesion & Tackling Extremism [*revised in 2020 refresh*]
- Domestic Abuse
- Drug Supply & County Lines⁴
- Fraud
- Public Place Violence & Serious Violence
- Vulnerable Persons and Contextual Safeguarding⁵ (incl. Alcohol, Drugs and Mental Health)

And the following agreed as priorities primarily affecting specific parts of the force-area;

- Modern Slavery & Human Trafficking
- Car Key Burglaries / Vehicle Theft
- Rural Crime

In addition, there are some challenges which, while not necessarily a core priority in the partnership area, require the work of the whole partnership to address. It is important for each partnership to consider how they can contribute to the force-wide approach and strategy. These challenges are highlighted as;

- Repeat and Persistent Offending
- Fire and Rescue
- **[New!] Safer Roads** [*added as a consideration*]
- **[New!] Violence Against Women and Girls** [*emerging area of significant national priority*]
- Business Crime

⁴ County Lines refers to organised drug supply and trafficking routes into and out of 'county' and rural areas from metropolitan areas.

⁵ Contextual Safeguarding regards the practice of safeguarding individuals (particularly young people) within the context of the environment and setting that they are in, particularly in environments outside of their usual family environment, such as school and public places.

People and Communities at Greatest Risk

Those considered to be particularly vulnerable to experiencing crime, safeguarding concerns or being criminally exploited tend to be consistent over time. There is no change to these groups from the 2019 Strategic Assessment, and in Staffordshire and Stoke-on-Trent high-risk groups remain as;

- Residents (and offenders) with known drug dependencies or previous drug-related offending
- Children (under 10s) in areas with high levels of Domestic Abuse and/or drug or alcohol-related offending
- Children and young people (aged 10-19) at risk of criminal exploitation.
- Socially isolated adults with mental health needs
- Socially and geographically isolated older and elderly adults
- Socially isolated adults with alcohol and/or drug dependencies

In every Safety Partnership area in Staffordshire and Stoke-on-Trent, those who belong to the Family Basics Mosaic group remain disproportionately more likely to experience crime than those in other socio-demographic groups. In several areas, those in the Transient Renters group are also disproportionately present amongst victims of crime.

Older people living in isolation, who are particularly vulnerable to experiencing Fraud offences, are also vulnerable to 'door step' crime, which can involve intimidating and aggressive behaviour on the part of the offenders or an element of befriending or grooming of the victim.

Priorities by Locality

While several Community Safety priorities identified within this Strategic Assessment apply to all Safety Partnerships, a number are less prevalent in some areas, while some are unique to a small number of partnership areas.

Key priorities are set out by locality below, grouped into those most prevalent, which are a priority half (or more) of the Safety Partnership areas, and those which are less prevalent, which affect four or fewer partnership areas.

Most prevalent priorities

Priority	Cannock Chase	East Staffs	Lichfield	Newcastle-under-Lyme	South Staffordshire	Stafford	Staffordshire Moorlands	Tamworth	Stoke-on-Trent
Domestic Abuse	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
County Lines	✓	✓	✓	✓	(✓)	✓	(✓)	✓	✓
Community Cohesion & Tackling Extremism	✓	✓	(✓)	✓	(✓)	✓	(✓)	✓	✓
Fraud			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		
Public-Place & Serious Violence		✓		✓				✓	✓

Less-prevalent priorities

Priority	Cannock Chase	East Staffs	Lichfield	Newcastle-under-Lyme	South Staffordshire	Stafford	Staffordshire Moorlands	Tamworth	Stoke-on-Trent
Modern Slavery/Human Trafficking		✓		(✓)		✓			✓
Car-key Burglaries/Vehicle Theft	(✓)		✓		✓			✓	
Rural Crime					(✓)		✓		

Overview of Crime and Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB)

The rate of recorded crime in the Staffordshire Police force-area is well below the national average, as well as sitting below the regional (West Midlands) level. Rates of recorded crime are statistically below national levels in five CSP areas, and statistically similar to national levels in four areas. No local CSP area sees statistically high levels of crime.

Rates of all major types of crime are similar to, or below, rates seen across England & Wales overall; with Staffordshire Police seeing particularly low levels of Violence with injury, Public Order offences and Drugs Offences. However, while numbers are low, statistically speaking 2020-21 rates of Homicide are higher than the national level.

Unlike 2019-20 data, ONS published Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB) data for 2020-21 includes Covid legislation breaches as ASB incidents: the result is a local and national +50% increase in ASB on pre-pandemic levels. However, at a local level, when excluding Covid-breaches, in the year to date (October 2021) ASB fell by nearly a fifth (-19%).

Stalking & Harassment offences (which were previously higher than national levels) are now statistically similar to England & Wales, although this is reflective of rates nationally increasing, rather than local rates reducing.

The pandemic and related restrictions have had a significant impact on levels of most types of crime; overall recorded crime reduced by 15% locally, compared to 13% across England & Wales. Theft Offences (including Burglary, Shoplifting and Vehicle Offences) have fallen by around a third (-33%) in 2020-21 compared to the previous year.

Rates of Recorded Crime and ASB – ONS / Home Office (2020-21)⁶

	Rate per 1,000 residents		
	Staffordshire (Force Area)	West Midlands (Region)	England & Wales
Total crime (excl. fraud)	59.4	75.4	77.6
Criminal Damage and Arson	7.2	5.8	8.0
Robbery	0.5	1.3	1.0
Sexual Offences	2.1	2.6	2.5
Theft Offences	15.9	20.8	21.9
Burglary	2.8	4.7	4.5
Residential burglary	1.9	3.5	3.3
Non-residential burglary	1.0	1.2	1.2
Vehicle offences	3.4	6.1	5.7
Theft from the person	0.2	0.4	0.8
Bicycle theft	0.7	0.7	1.3
Shoplifting	3.6	3.7	3.8
All other theft offences	5.0	5.1	5.8
Violence against the person	26.9	33.7	29.9
Homicide	0.017	0.015	0.010
Death or serious injury - unlawful driving
Violence with injury	6.1	8.9	7.8
Violence without injury	9.2	12.3	11.4
Stalking and harassment	11.5	12.4	10.6
Drug offences	1.4	2.0	3.5
Possession of weapons offences	0.5	0.9	0.7
Public order offences	3.8	6.6	8.1
Miscellaneous crimes against society	1.2	1.7	1.9
ASB Incidents (incl. Covid breaches)	42.5	30.8	34.2

⁶ Table shows offence types as grouped by the Office of National Statistics (ONS)

Community Safety Strategic Priorities

Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB)

Volume and potential harm: High volume / Moderate individual harm / Severe community harm

CSPs with priority: Cannock Chase, East Staffordshire, Lichfield, South Staffordshire, Stafford, Staffordshire Moorlands, Stoke-on-Trent, Tamworth

Summary:

ASB accounts for a considerable amount of demand across the partnership. In 2020-21 in Staffordshire and Stoke-on-Trent there were 48,314 ASB incidents recorded by the Police – while this is a substantial increase (+51%) on 2019-20 levels it should be noted that these figures include the new recording of breaches of Covid legislation. As such, a similar increase is recorded at a national level (+50%).

Excluding Covid-related ASB, there have been 25,191 incidents in the 12 months to end of October 2021, which is representative of a reduction of around a fifth (-19%) in traditional ASB compared to the previous year. Locally the 2020-21 level of traditional (non-Covid) ASB is equivalent to a rate of 22.1 incidents per 1,000 residents, which is significantly below the rate of 28.9 per 1,000 people recorded pre-pandemic (2019-20).

Pre-pandemic local ASB was largely dominated by Rowdy & Inconsiderate behaviour (59% of ASB) which took place in public spaces. However, with the limits on gathering in public spaces in place during 2020-21, this reduced considerably. At the same time, in the early stages of lockdown, with more people spending time at home, Neighbour Disputes increased considerably – although this has since reduced drastically.

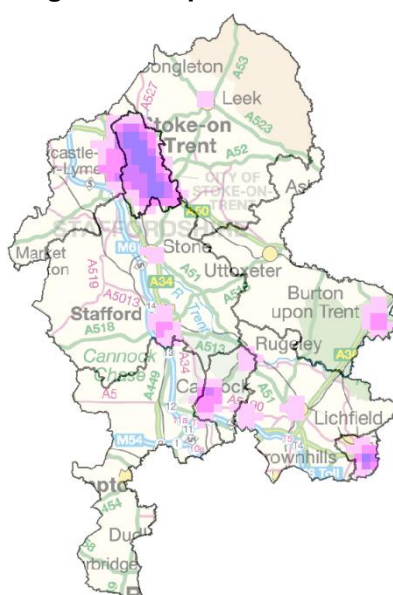
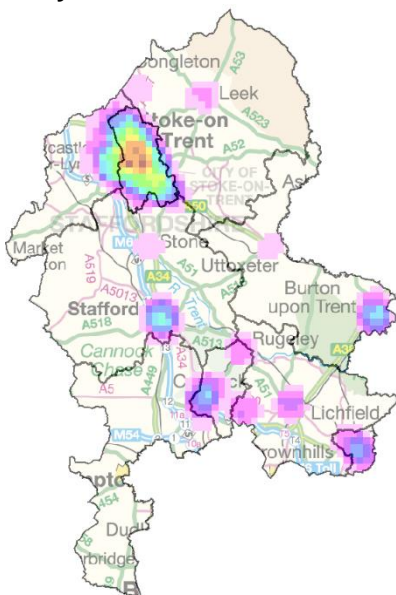
Historically several communities experience challenges with ASB relating to Neighbour Disputes, with levels substantially above force averages; notably, Blurton West & Newstead, Ford Green & Smallthorne, and Tunstall wards in Stoke-on-Trent; Eton Park in East Staffordshire, Chasetown in Lichfield, and Hednesford North in Cannock Chase.

As with crime overall, ASB tends to disproportionately affect the most deprived and disadvantaged communities, and town and city centres. Previous risk assessment concludes that repeat victims of ASB tend to experience the same levels of psychological harm as victims of less-serious violent crime.

Anti-Social Behaviour, Staffordshire Police: Pre-pandemic (2019-20) (heat-map):

Rowdy and Inconsiderate Behaviour:

Neighbour Disputes:



Direction of travel:

ASB is an ongoing local challenge. There has been a considerable reduction (-19%) in the 12 months to October 2021 on the previous 12 months – however, rates of ASB in Staffordshire and Stoke-on-Trent remain high.

Public expectation: Substantial

At risk groups: Deprived and disadvantaged communities, particularly those in high housing density areas and with high proportions of social housing, are disproportionately affected by ASB related to Neighbour Disputes. Town centre areas are also high risk, particularly from alcohol-related and drug-related Rowdy & Inconsiderate Behaviour.

Community Cohesion⁷ & Tackling Extremism

Volume and harm – Community Cohesion: Low volume / Substantial individual harm / Moderate community harm

Volume and harm – Extremism: Minimal volume / Risk of mass loss of life / Critical community harm

CSPs with priority: Cannock Chase, East Staffordshire, (Lichfield), Newcastle-under-Lyme, South Staffordshire, Stafford, (Staffordshire Moorlands), Stoke-on-Trent, Tamworth

Summary:

Nationally, levels of Hate Crime have been increasing steadily since the year of the EU referendum/Brexit (2016-17).

Locally there were around 1,535 recorded Hate Crimes in 2020-21 – with a notable spike in monthly Hate Crime in June 2020 as lockdown restrictions were eased. While the change seen in 2020-21 is a very small increase (less than +0.5%) on the previous year, it should be recognised that while crime overall has decreased by around 15%, levels of Hate Crime have remained consistent.

Local Hate Crime is dominated by offences relating to race or religion (73% of all Hate Crime) which is similar to the national picture. Locally, LGBTQ+ Hate offences accounted for 18% of Hate Crime in 2020-21, offences on the grounds of disability accounted for 9% of offences. Hate offences committed on the grounds of sexual orientation, being transgender, or having a disability have increased by more than a quarter (+26%) in the past year.

The Covid-19 pandemic has also had an effect on Community Cohesion; while the pandemic has strengthened many communities within Staffordshire and Stoke-on-Trent, with people providing support to those in their local area, it has also exacerbated and highlighted issues within a small number of more fragmented communities – with local outbreaks and compliance with government guidance proving to be a source of friction for some.

The cost of Covid-19 to society and state has been significant. Opportunities for social mixing, one of the most powerful forms of reducing prejudice and promoting empathy, have been severely limited over the last 18 months. As the full impact of the pandemic unfolds, government decision-making has the potential to affect social and political trust, which can be exploited by extremist groups.

Following the Liverpool Women's Hospital bomb in late 2021 the UK national terror threat level has increased to Severe (the second highest threat level): meaning that a future attack in the UK is considered '*highly likely*'.

The terror attack on London Bridge in 2019, which was carried out by an individual from the Staffordshire force-area, highlights the need for all partners to continue to deliver against our statutory obligations to create stronger, more cohesive and safer communities. Stoke-on-Trent has been a Home Office Prevent priority area with the city council receiving additional support from the Home Office for its work to tackle to extremism.

Comparison to previous assessment:

- Increasing evidence of Extreme right-wing radicalisation through Prevent and Channel.
- Risk and concerns around Al-Qaeda/ISIL-inspired extremism remain high.
- Increase in National terror-threat level from 'Substantial' up to 'Severe'.
- Community friction around supply shortages (such as fuel shortages observed in Sept' 2021).

Local hotspots: (Where appropriate see Staffordshire Police Counter-Terror Local Profile)

Direction of travel: Growing concern

Public expectation: Critical / National expectations

At risk groups: Hate Crime offenders are predominantly young men and more likely to be under 18 than offenders overall. Female Hate Crimes offenders tend to be in the 30-39 age group. Victims are predominantly males aged over 18, and particularly those aged 30-39. Although most victims are male, there are more female victims than female offenders. Those with Asian or Black ethnicity are disproportionately likely to be victims of Hate Crime.

Based on recent Prevent referrals, those at greatest risk of being radicalised remain younger males (aged under 20 years) although a growing number are in older age groups, including those aged 50 and over. In the last year, around 1 in 25 of those referred through Prevent in Staffordshire and Stoke-on-Trent was female.

⁷ As per the Local Government Association (LGA) definition of cohesive community as one where; There is common vision and a sense of belonging for all communities; The diversity of people's different backgrounds and circumstances are appreciated and positively valued; Those from different backgrounds have similar life opportunities; and, Strong and positive relationships are being developed between people from different backgrounds in the workplace, in schools and within neighbourhoods

Domestic Abuse (DA)

Volume and potential harm: Moderate volume / Severe individual harm / Substantial community harm

CSPs with priority: All Safety Partnership Areas

Summary:

DA is any incident or pattern of incidents of controlling, coercive, threatening behaviour, violence, or abuse between those aged 16 or over who are, or have been, intimate partners or family members regardless of gender or sexuality.

Domestic Abuse affects all communities to some extent and is not unique to any one part of Staffordshire or Stoke-on-Trent. DA presents a significant risk to victims, but also has a wider impact where children are present. With the passing of the DA Act (2021) there is now a clear legal definition of DA and the recognition of children who witness or experience such abuse as victims of DA in their own right. The DA Act further adds specific duties for districts and boroughs to ensure that victims (adults and children) in Safe Accommodation settings are appropriately supported.

DA remains a largely hidden crime; an estimated 65% of all DA overall is not reported to the police or to other support services. In rural communities it is estimated that around 90% of all DA goes unreported.

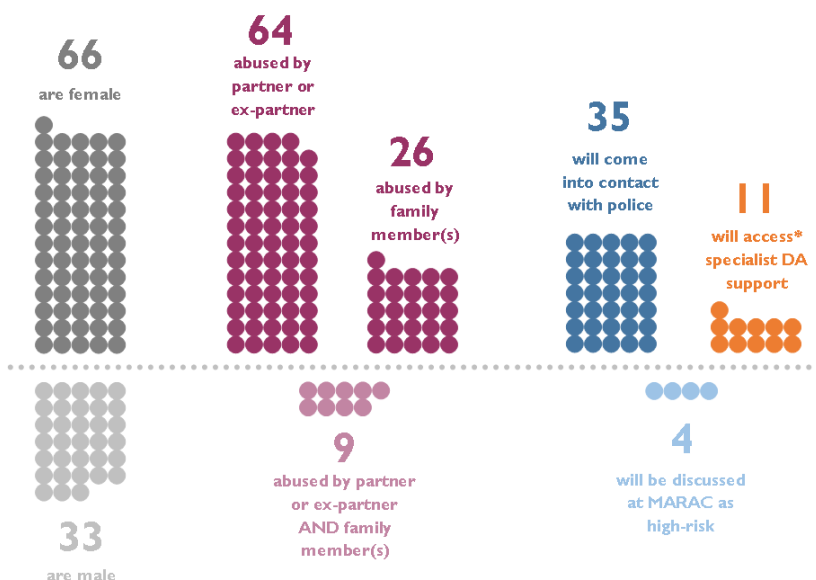
Although overall crime in the force area reduced in 2020-21, DA-related crimes and non-crime incidents have stayed consistent. While DA crime has remained stable, referrals to service providers have increased by over a third (+36%). In 2020-21 more than a quarter of all recorded crime (27%) was flagged as being domestic-related.

In the period from April 2020 to March 2021 there were 20,060 DA-flagged crimes in the force area; as is consistent with previous years, the very large majority of offences (3-in-4) are violent offences – largely comprising of Common Assault (1-in-4), Actual Bodily Harm (4-in-25), Harassment (3-in-20), Malicious Communications (1-in-10), and Stalking (1-in-25). Around 1-in-40 domestic-crimes are instances of Rape or other Serious Sexual Offences (RASSO).

While victims of Domestic offences are primarily younger women (aged 18-39) and offenders are most likely to be younger men (aged 18-39) – there are victims across all age ranges and both male and female offenders and victims.

There have been considerable increases in Domestic Stalking incidents recorded by the police, although this is considered to be the result of improved visibility and reporting – rather than an increase in the amount of stalking that takes place. In 2020-21 Staffordshire Police recorded 3,130 stalking offences, of which 85% (2,659) were DA-related.

Of every 100 domestic abuse victims in Staffordshire and Stoke-on-Trent (as at 2021)



Force rate (per 1,000 people): 17.6 (small increase on prev. year)

Direction of travel: Long-term challenge

Public expectation: Moderate to high

At risk groups: While anyone can be a victim of DA victims are disproportionately younger women (aged under 35), and those who live in already disadvantaged communities. Households where there are high levels of economic stress and alcohol/drug use and dependency are at particularly high risk. Offenders are disproportionately younger (aged under 40) and male, although there are also female offenders. DA Stalking victims are at particularly high risk of repeat victimisation and are predominantly females aged 20 to 34.

Drug Supply & County Lines: County Lines

Volume and potential harm:

Small volume / Substantial individual and community harm

CSPs with priority:

Cannock Chase, East Staffordshire, Lichfield, Newcastle-under-Lyme, (South Staffordshire), Stafford, (Staffordshire Moorlands), Stoke-on-Trent, Tamworth

Summary:

The use of County Lines to traffic drugs from urban areas into rural areas, causes significant issues for communities; particularly through the degradation of local areas through use of properties for drug use, drug supply and other criminal activity, and as a result of violent disorder and disputes between Organised Crime Groups (OCGs) and Urban Street Gangs (USGs) over control of particular County Lines and Drug Supply in specific areas.

The use of County Lines by OCGs is not limited to the supply and movement of drugs; the same criminal infrastructure is linked to Modern Slavery and People Trafficking, Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE) and Child Criminal Exploitation (CCE), Serious Violence, Money Laundering and the supply of illegal weapons.

County Lines activity often relies on 'cuckooing'; a practice where criminals take over a vulnerable person's home and use that property for criminality. Victims are often people who misuse substances such as drugs or alcohol, but there are cases of victims with learning difficulties, mental health issues, physical disabilities or who are socially isolated. People who choose to exploit will often target the most vulnerable in society and will establish a relationship with the vulnerable person in order to access their home. Cuckooed addresses are commonly used to store or distribute drugs, but can also be used in people trafficking and modern slavery, supply or storage of illegal firearms, sex work, or as 'safe houses' for criminals themselves who are trying to avoid detection by the Police.

OCGs involved in County Lines also exploit vulnerable young people (predominantly young men and boys) by "recruiting" them into County Lines activity, and in particular using these individuals for high-risk activity such as street dealing of drugs and the recovery of drug debts from drug users.

There is no significant positive or negative shift from the previous refresh or full assessment in terms of the risks presented to communities by County Lines activity. A level of County Lines risk exists in all CSP areas in Staffordshire & Stoke-on-Trent – with known risks around organised drug supply through County Lines as well as People Trafficking / Modern Slavery offences, in addition to elements of weapons offences. There is additional risk in several areas in Staffordshire & Stoke-on-Trent, due to high proportions of children in care, who are at elevated risk of being criminally exploited and recruited into organised crime by both OCGs and USGs.

At this point in time (November 2021) it appears that the Covid-19 pandemic has had little direct impact on drug supply (or demand) overall. Impact on drugs offending locally has been the result of significant long-term targeted operations conducted by Staffordshire Police and in partnership with neighbouring police forces.

Direction of travel: Long-term risk

Public expectation: Critical / National expectations

Local hotspots: (See Staffordshire Police's Serious and Organised Crime Assessment)

At risk groups:

Criminal exploitation:

Young males (aged 10-19) in disadvantaged communities and in care (LAC) or attending Pupil Referral Units (PRUs) are at particularly high risk of being criminally exploited through organised crime and gang membership.

'Cuckooing' risk:

Adults with existing drug or alcohol dependency, and adults and young adults with learning difficulties and/or mental health needs – particularly those who are living independently but who are socially isolated. There are significant levels of repeat drug possession offences in a number of wards across the force-area, and it is likely that many of the vulnerable individuals known to services in these areas for Class A drug use are at increased risk of cuckooing.

Drug Supply & County Lines: Drug Supply

Volume and potential harm:

Small volume / Substantial individual and community harm

CSPs with priority: Stoke-on-Trent

Summary:

In addition to County Lines concerns, some parts of the force-area also see their own self-contained drug supply and associated activity. This is an issue which particularly affects the largest metropolitan/urban parts of the force-area; particularly the city of Stoke-on-Trent, and to a lesser-extent, Burton-upon-Trent in East Staffordshire.

There are long-term challenges in Stoke-on-Trent with regards to substance misuse; in latest data (2018-20) the rate of deaths from drug misuse⁸ (13.9 per 100,000 people) remain significantly above the national level (5.0), and the second-highest amongst statistically authority similar areas (average of 7.9 per 100,000 people).

Nationally there have been increases in drug-related homicides: roughly a third of victims and two-thirds of suspects in homicides have been known drug-users or drug suppliers. At a local level there appears to be some increase in Serious Violence linked to drugs activity, with an increase in the use of violence in the recovery of drug-debts.

While the local rate of drugs-specific offences (1.4 per 1,000 population) is below the national level (3.5) and has fallen over the last 12 months, the local rate of drugs-related crime has increased (from 1.1 to 1.8 per 1,000 people). All Safety Partnership areas in Staffordshire and Stoke-on-Trent have seen some increase in drug-related offences.

Outside of Stoke-on-Trent, most safety partnerships in the force-area see limited levels of self-contained Drug Trafficking offences and experience more drug activity relating to County Lines from outside of Staffordshire.

In previous Resident Surveys around 1-in-6 people across the force-area considered drugs to be a significant local issue. While significant media coverage of issues around psychoactive substances (such as "Monkey Dust") heightened local levels of concern for a period, these have now been largely addressed.

Those involved in drug supply offences in Staffordshire and Stoke-on-Trent are disproportionately young and male compared to offenders overall; 9-out-of-10 of those suspected or charged with drugs supply offences are men; 3-out-of-5 are 20 to 40 years of age and 1-in-5 are male and under 20 years old. Females are significantly less likely to be drugs supply offenders or suspects than they are suspects/offenders in crime overall.

Under 18s are at particularly high risk of being recruited into organised crime and gang activity, which may eventually lead to involvement in drug trafficking and supply. Those aged 15-19 years are disproportionately likely to be involved in the supply of Class B drugs but are less likely to be involved in any importation and cultivation offences. These younger people are often seen as "disposable" by those who have recruited them and are increasingly being used for very high risk activity such as recovering drug debts and supplying drugs in areas controlled by rival groups.

Local analysis has consistently evidenced that those involved in drug supply are disproportionately likely to be those from the most disadvantaged communities in the force-area, with 51% of drug trafficking offenders living in areas which rank in the Top 20% most deprived, compared to 40% of offenders overall. In Stoke-on-Trent this is equally the case; around 83% of known drug trafficking offenders are from areas ranking in the Top 20% most deprived, compared to 73% of offenders across all other crime types.

Comparison to Force: High concern

Direction of travel: Ongoing challenge

Public expectation: Critical / National expectations

Local hotspots: (See Staffordshire Police's Local Serious and Organised Crime Assessment)

At risk groups:

Similarly to County Lines activity, young males (aged 10-19) in disadvantaged communities and in care (LAC) or attending Pupil Referral Units (PRUs) are at particularly high risk of being criminally exploited through organised crime and gang membership. To many OCGs these young recruits are seen as being 'expendable' unless they prove otherwise by rapidly rising through the ranks, and are often used in high risk activity such as violent attacks on rival crime groups and gangs, and street-dealing of drugs in areas where the OCG is not usually active or which may be considered to be a rival group's 'territory'. They are increasingly likely to be used in the recovery of drug debts.

⁸ Data for 2017-19 from Public Health England (PHE) Public Health Outcomes Framework

Fraud

Volume and potential harm:

Moderate volume / Severe individual financial harm / Moderate community harm

CSPs with priority: Lichfield, Newcastle-under-Lyme, South Staffordshire, Stafford, Staffordshire Moorlands

Summary:

In the 12 months to September 2021 the National Fraud Intelligence Bureau (NFIB) recorded 5,993 incidents of fraud in Staffordshire and Stoke-on-Trent – with total losses at around £16.3million. Roughly a £1.3million increase on the previous year. Around 92% of incidents were committed against individuals and 8% against businesses.

The rate of NFIB recorded *personal* fraud in Staffordshire and Stoke-on-Trent is 4.8 incidents per 1,000 population, which is significantly higher than the rate of Burglary (3.0 per 1,000 population).

Fraud is increasingly sophisticated, organised and technologically advanced. In Staffordshire and Stoke-on-Trent, latest figures show that around 70% of fraud committed against individuals has an online element. Fraud scams using internet banking and remote computer access, mean that criminals can defraud individuals and businesses of large sums of money very rapidly and from anywhere in the world with an internet connection.

NFIB reporting⁹ shows that since the first Covid lockdown, average monthly Fraud in Staffordshire and Stoke-on-Trent has risen from around 390 incidents pre-pandemic (Oct 2019 to March 2020) to 460 per month (Oct 2020 to Sept 2021) – equivalent to an 18% increase.

Consumer Fraud (which includes online shopping/auctions and dating scams) is by far the most prevalent, accounting for 42% of all fraud offences with average losses of around £1,540 per incident. Within Consumer Fraud, Dating scams and “romance fraud” still present a significant risk locally; while volumes are quite low (around 1-in-50 fraud cases) average levels of losses are amongst the highest of any type of fraud at around £9,400 per incident.

Those most affected by Fraud tend to be amongst those less affected by most other types of crime – mainly older people in more affluent communities. Over 60s tend to experience higher losses compared to those under 60; on average older adults see losses of around £4,040 per case, compared to around £1,490 amongst under 60-year olds.

Those vulnerable to Fraud are also often vulnerable to ‘door-step’ crime, which may involve intimidating and aggressive behaviour or an element of befriending or grooming of the victim to facilitate offending or repeat victimisation. The average victim of doorstep crime is over 80 years old and lives alone. There have been an average of 5-6 cases of doorstep crime per week (including bogus traders) reported to Action Fraud within the last 12 months.

NFIB: Demography and losses through personal fraud (12 months to Sept 2021)

	Count	Losses		Proportion	
		Total	Per case	of cohort	of all losses
Cyber-enabled	4,090	£ 9,300,000	£ 2,274	70%	74%
Non-cyber	1,786	£ 3,200,000	£ 1,792	30%	26%
Male	2,575	£ 7,100,000	£ 2,757	44%	57%
Female	2,637	£ 4,600,000	£ 1,744	45%	37%
Over 60s	1,487	£ 6,004,700	£ 4,038	26%	48%
Under 60s	4,319	£ 6,426,000	£ 1,488	74%	51%

Direction of travel: Increase since March 2020 lockdown

Public expectation: Critical

At risk groups:

Fraud victims are disproportionately those in the Senior Security Mosaic Group – accounting for 15% of all Fraud referrals, but only 6% of victims of crime overall. Those in the Senior Security group are likely to be over 65 and more likely to be over 75, living in affluent communities but fairly socially isolated, and spending a lot of time in their home. Those in the Senior Security group tend to have below average incomes from pensions, but reasonable levels of savings. Around 2-in-3 use online banking, although tend to use legacy technology and devices, only upgrading when items become obsolete – which may carry some cyber-security risks.

⁹ NFIB – Fraud dashboard - <https://colpolice.maps.arcgis.com/apps/opsdashboard/index.html#/60499304565045b0bce05d2ca7e1e56c>

Public Place Violence (PPV) & Serious Violence (SV)

Volume and potential harm:

Moderate volume / Moderate to substantial individual harm / Substantial to severe community harm

CSPs with priority: Cannock Chase, East Staffordshire, Newcastle-under-Lyme, Stoke-on-Trent, Tamworth

Summary:

The Coronavirus pandemic and associated government restrictions have resulted in a significant reduction in crime overall and have had a considerable impact on crime in public spaces. Comparing the financial year pre-pandemic (2019-20) to the most recent financial year (2020-21) PPV incidents had reduced by roughly half (-51%).

There is some evidence that as restrictions have been lifted (and public spaces, entertainment, sporting events, and the night-time economy have re-opened) there has been an increase in PPV. From the early part of 2021 (March onwards) PPV incidents have slowly increased, with around 6,700 in the 12 months to date (October 2021). However, it should be noted that PPV is still around a quarter below (-26%) levels recorded in the previous 12 months.

Alcohol remains a factor more-often present in PPV offences than in crime overall; while around 7% of crime in 2020-21 was flagged with alcohol as a factor, this doubles amongst PPV offences (14% alcohol-flagged). Although it should be noted that this is slightly lower than pre-pandemic where 19% of PPV was considered to be alcohol-related.

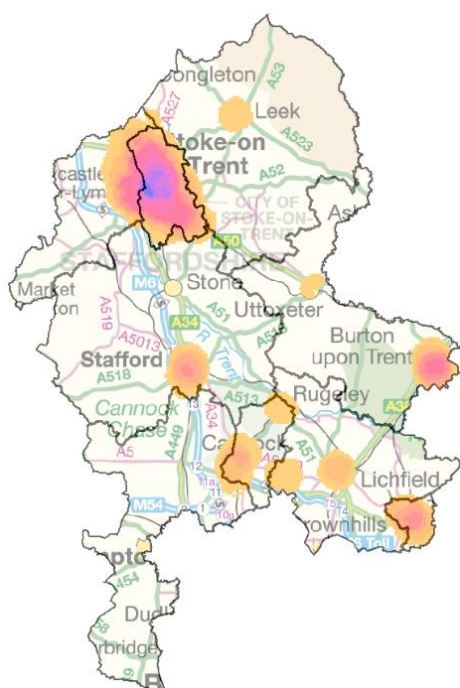
In several parts of the force-area concerns remain with regards to links between Urban Street Gang (USG) activity, Drug Supply/County Lines and serious violence; with particular concerns around feuds between rival USGs and rival OCGs and an increase in the use of violence to “recover” drug debts from users. Over recent years, levels of serious violence locally have increased, with much of this linked to USGs, OCGs and drugs.

Although a far smaller number of offences than PPV, Serious Violence (SV) offences have not seen quite the same reduction during the pandemic, with similar rates recorded in 2020-21 to the year prior (2019-20). Monthly data shows that SV offences have reduced during periods of lockdown but spiked as restrictions have been eased. In the year to date (October 2021) SV offences have increased by around 9% on the previous 12 months.

The most prevalent group of both victims and offenders in PPV and SV offences tend to be males aged 18-29 years – although there are small numbers of female victims and offenders who are also in the same age range.

Media, government, and public interest and concern over levels of Knife Crime remains. There is ongoing local concern around knife crime linked to organised criminality – however levels of Knife Crime in Staffordshire and Stoke-on-Trent remain comparatively low and have seen minimal change compared to pre-pandemic. The rate of 0.6 Knife Crime offences per 1,000 population remains unchanged across 2019-20 and 2020-21.

Violence with injury offence hot spots, pre-pandemic (2019-20) Staffordshire Police



At risk groups:

Public Place Violence and Serious Violence offenders are mainly young men (aged 18-29), although there are some female offenders, mainly aged under 40 years. Knife Crime offenders are also mainly young men with a particularly high proportion of Under 18s and Under 15s.

With PPV, SV, and Knife Crimes – both offender and victim are mainly young men. In many instances, the offender and the victim are of the same age group. Males aged 15-19 are disproportionately present amongst those who are charged with Weapons Possession offences.

Public Place Violence is polarised towards town centres and commercial areas, and tends to pose the greatest risk of serious harm between 21:00 and 04:00 hrs. Although the majority of PPV incidents are not alcohol-related, it is a factor in a disproportionate amount of PPV compared to other offence types – although PPV incidents related to night-time economy have declined in Stoke-on-Trent.

The lifting of Covid restrictions has seen some increase in PPV offences, although these are not at pre-pandemic levels at this stage. Although low in number SV incidents have spiked in periods post-lockdown and have shown a notable increase in the 12 months to date.

Modern Slavery & Human Trafficking

Volume and potential harm:

Small volume / Substantial individual and community harm

CSPs with priority:

East Staffordshire, Newcastle-under-Lyme, Stafford, Stoke-on-Trent

Summary:

Modern Slavery refers to the offences of human trafficking, slavery, servitude, and forced or compulsory labour. This can then be considered as five sub-threats: sexual exploitation of adults; trafficking of adults into conditions of labour exploitation; trafficking of adults into conditions of criminal exploitation; trafficking of minors into conditions of sexual, criminal or labour exploitation; and other forms of exploitation¹⁰.

The scale and visibility of Modern Slavery and Human Trafficking in Staffordshire and Stoke-on-Trent has continued to increase – although it remains a low-volume crime (under 100 cases identified per year) despite causing significant harm to individuals. As Modern Slavery offences are largely hidden, it is still considered that recorded increases represent improved detection of offences, rather than an increase in the number of offences taking place.

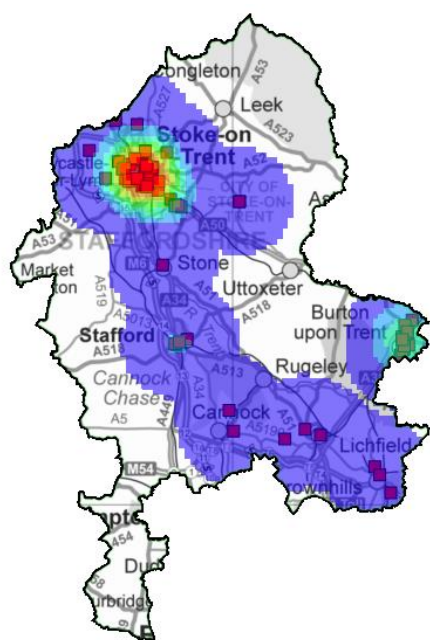
In the force-area Modern Slavery concerns mainly comprise of the offences of Forced or Compulsory Labour and Holding Persons in Slavery or Servitude, and to a lesser extent Human Trafficking and Facilitation of Travel with a view to Exploitation. In addition to recorded and prosecuted criminal offences, there have been a number of incidents which have been flagged for potential Modern Slavery concerns and further investigation.

Known victims and perpetrators of Modern Slavery offences in Staffordshire and Stoke-on-Trent are predominantly White British, although there have been increases in cases with victims who are Albanian. There remain a small number of Romanian, Slovakian and Vietnamese victims and perpetrators. Perpetrators often target those with the same geographic origin – and as such the ethnicity of the victim and perpetrator are usually the same.

British victims tend to be those who have fallen on difficult times, making them vulnerable to promises of well-paid work complete with decent accommodation. Non-British victims are brought into the UK from areas of conflict and/or economic hardship, with the promise of a new life, usually paying significant sums of money for transportation. Frequently traffickers will add debt on to the money already paid and expect those being illegally trafficked to either pay additional money or work for the traffickers until the additional 'debt' has been paid – in some instances this is linked to County Lines drug supply, with victims expected to manage cannabis farms/cultivations.

Although numbers are low, the level of OCG activity related to Human Trafficking (related to Modern Slavery and Exploitation) and Organised Immigration Offending is of some concern in limited parts of the force-area – with criminals involved in these offences also often involved in the smuggling of other commodities and money laundering.

Modern Slavery, Staffordshire Police (multiple years)



Direction of travel: Visibility of offences improving

Public expectation: Substantial

Local hotspots and at risk groups:

(See Staffordshire Police's Local Serious and Organised Crime Assessment)

¹⁰ NCA – National Strategic Assessment of Serious and Organised Crime 2018

Car Key Burglary (CKB) / Vehicle Theft

Volume and potential harm:

Low volume / Moderate individual harm / Low community harm

CSPs with priority:

(Cannock Chase), Lichfield, South Staffordshire, Tamworth

Summary:

As anti-theft technology in vehicles has improved, approaches to vehicle theft have changed. With many modern vehicles unable to be driven without their keys, criminals are increasingly using burglary to facilitate vehicle theft; entering properties purely to steal vehicle keys and key fobs - driving the stolen vehicle away from the scene.

While in the past there have been issues with the use of keyless thefts (KLT) or 'relay attacks' (where criminals use a device to amplify the signal from a car key inside someone's home in order open and start a vehicle without needing the key in hand) these types of thefts have fallen recently. It is not possible to know whether this is mainly the result of individuals becoming more cautious about where they store car keys or criminals moving away from this approach.

Although less common, and lower volume, changes in anti-theft technology have also resulted in some increases in aggravated vehicle-taking or "car-jacking" – where a vehicle is stolen whilst in use, usually on the road. There have been a number of such offences locally in recent years, although these are infrequent.

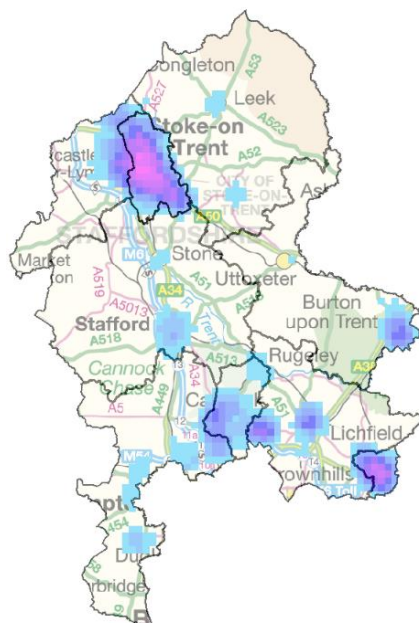
During the period of the pandemic (2020-21) Vehicle crime has fallen by a significant amount compared to the previous year; Thefts of motor vehicles reduced by a quarter (-25%) and Thefts from motor vehicles fell by more than a third (-37%). This is consistent with reductions seen in Burglary, which has also fallen by around a third (-35%).

These offences remain focussed in parts of the force area which border with the West Midlands, with the south-east areas of Tamworth and Lichfield particularly affected compared to other CSP areas. However, these offences have been increasingly affecting South Staffordshire and have recently had some impact on Cannock Chase CSP area.

Offences appear to be particularly targeted and have affected areas and communities which typically do not experience high levels of overall crime. The wards in the force-area with some of the highest proportions of burglaries resulting in a vehicle theft are also often wards with some of the lowest rates of crime overall. The demographic groups affected are very different to victims of crime overall. Those affected tend to be working-age households with above-average incomes, in more affluent suburban areas, primarily with higher-value detached properties – in areas which in general experience very low rates of crime overall and ASB.

While there have been increases in catalytic convertor thefts nationally and locally (with rising scrap prices) there are pro-active operations in place to limit both thefts and the ability for criminals to sell stolen convertors. Staffordshire Police have recently established a pro-active team to address CKB and Vehicle Thefts and it is anticipated that this should have a considerable impact on levels of such crimes.

Heat Map of Vehicle Offences (Staffordshire Police, 2019-20)



Direction of travel: On-going challenge. Remains highly targeted.

Public expectation: Moderate

At risk groups: Communities in higher-value suburban areas with detached homes and lower-levels of overall housing density. Analysis across the force-area suggests that households in the most affluent parts of affected CSP areas have been disproportionately affected by car key burglaries.

NB: High density of Vehicle Offences shown in Stoke-on-Trent relates to the urban nature of the area – this is also the case in Burton-upon-Trent in East Staffordshire. Vehicle Offences in these areas are in line with general offending levels for the CSP areas.

Rural Crime

Volume and potential harm:

Small volume / Moderate individual harm

CSPs with priority:

(South Staffordshire), Staffordshire Moorlands

Summary:

Rural communities are affected by the same types of crime as urban areas and by the same overall increases in recorded crime – although crime rates tend to be lower in rural areas overall. Although the broad challenges faced by rural and urban communities may be similar, the demography and characteristics of those within these communities can be very different, with differing expectations, resilience, community assets, strengths, and needs.

Rural crime is an ongoing concern in Staffordshire. While overall rates of crime are significantly higher in urban areas, rural areas are particularly affected by acquisitive crimes such as Burglaries and Vehicle Offences. Rural and rural-fringe areas also tend to be home to some of the demographic groups which are often at greater risk of Fraud.

In recent years, rural areas nationally and locally have been affected by a number of high-risk large-scale Fly-Tipping and Environmental offences linked to Organised Crime Groups. In some cases these have involved hazardous waste which pose considerable risk to the environment and residents. In most recent data (2019-20) there were 10,490 fly-tipping incidents reported in Staffordshire and Stoke-on-Trent, a 2% increase on the previous year.

Proportions of all offences in rural communities which are alcohol-related (around 7%) has remained consistent throughout the pandemic. Although while the proportion of offences which are domestic-related is similar in rural areas (26%) to the force area overall (27%) a recent needs assessment for local Domestic Abuse (DA) has highlighted that an estimated 90% of incidents of DA in rural communities go unreported, compared to around 65% of DA overall.

Rates of Burglary and Vehicle Crime are consistently similar in both Rural and Urban areas, with rates of Violent offences, Thefts, and Robbery are all significantly lower.

Thefts from farms and the agricultural community continue to present a challenge in rural areas. In 2020 there have been a number of instances of livestock theft across most rural parts of the force area. Farm burglaries have also persisted throughout the pandemic; with criminals targeting tools and off-road vehicles (bikes, 4x4s and quadbikes) as well as caravans, trailers and other farming equipment.

Around 1 in 5 vehicles stolen in rural areas are vehicles which have a degree of agricultural use; either quadbikes, off-road motorcycles, 4x4 vehicles (such as Land Rovers) and a small number of plant vehicles and tractors. Around 43% of vehicle thefts in rural areas were additionally flagged as being Business Crime, this is compared to around 28% of vehicle thefts across the force-area.

In more affluent and dispersed rural areas, particularly to the south of the force-area, challenges still persist around car-key burglaries and vehicle thefts – with some areas being targeted by criminals in order to steal high value and high performance vehicles. Although it should be noted that these have seen some reduction in the last 12 months, and a new policing team has been established to address these offences.

Comparison to Force: Significantly more Burglary and Vehicle Offences in rural areas.

Direction of travel: Ongoing concern. Rural crime increases in line with force-area increases.

Public expectation: Moderate

Local hotspots: Incidents are distributed across a range of more isolated rural localities.

At risk groups:

Isolated rural areas with low housing density / building density and farming / agricultural premises are at particular risk.

All-terrain vehicles such as off-road motorcycles, Land Rovers and quadbikes appear to be highly targeted in the north (Staffordshire Moorlands) compared to higher-value and high-performance vehicles in the south (South Staffordshire and Lichfield).

Vulnerable Persons: Alcohol

Volume and potential harm:

Moderate volume / Moderate individual and community harm

CSPs with priority: Lichfield, Newcastle-under-Lyme, Stoke-on-Trent

Summary:

Alcohol is often present as a factor in Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB), Domestic Abuse, Violent crime and Public-Place offences. Those who are dependent on alcohol are also a particularly vulnerable group irrespective of whether they are victims of crime, offenders, or neither; with poorer-than-average health outcomes, limited social and support networks, and vulnerability to being criminally exploited.

Alcohol remains a local health concern; latest public health data¹¹ shows a consistent picture across much of the force area, with no CSP areas showing significant change across key alcohol-related public health indicators. The level of alcohol-specific deaths are similar to national levels across eight CSP areas and significantly higher than the national level in one (Stoke-on-Trent). Alcohol-related deaths amongst females are a particular concern, with three CSP areas (Cannock Chase, Newcastle-under-Lyme, Stoke-on-Trent) recording rates significantly above national levels.

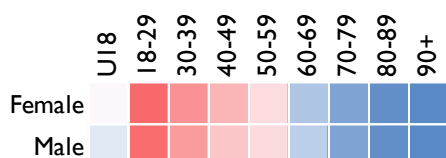
The rate of alcohol-related offending has fallen by a fifth (-21%) since pre-pandemic to 4.5 per 1,000 people. However, this is in line with decreases in crime overall in 2020-21. In contrast the proportion of crime where alcohol is considered to be a factor remains largely unchanged – with 7% of crime being flagged for alcohol (8% pre-pandemic).

Most offenders in alcohol-related crime are male and aged under 40 and often aged 18-29 years. While offenders are more likely to be male than female, victims are just as likely to be either gender. The only exception is amongst those who are under 18 years of age, where victims are slightly more likely to be female.

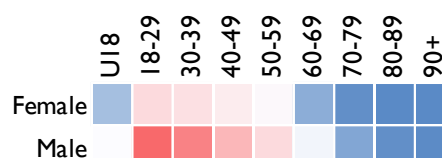
Although rates of Public-Place Violent offences have fallen during the pandemic, when they do occur, such offences remain twice as likely to be alcohol-related as offending overall. In the last year (2020-21) around 15% of all PPV offences were flagged as alcohol-related, compared to 7% of crime overall.

Serious Violent offences are broadly as likely to have alcohol as a factor as Violent offences overall (13% of SV, and 12% of Violent crime are considered to be alcohol-related).

Victims in alcohol-related crime:



Offenders in alcohol-related crime:



Offending with alcohol as a factor

Force rate (per 1,000 people): 4.5

Proportion of offences flagged as alcohol being an aggravating factor:

All offences: 7% alcohol a factor

Public Place Violent offences: 15% alcohol a factor

Direction of travel: Persistent concern

Public expectation: Moderate

Local hotspots:

Alcohol-related crime is at its most prevalent in large town and city centres – with all wards with rates significantly above force-average located in town and city centre areas.

At risk groups:

Clinical and public health data suggest that men and women aged 40 to 65 are most likely to require hospital treatment as a result of alcohol dependency – to have arrived at this stage it is likely that many will have been alcohol-dependent for a considerable time prior. Alcohol-related offenders tend to be male and predominantly aged under 40 years (mainly 18 to 29) and primarily live in areas with high levels of deprivation and disadvantage (areas in the top 20% most deprived nationally)

¹¹ Public Health England (PHE) Health Outcomes Data – Public Health Outcomes Framework

Vulnerable Persons: Drug use and possession

Volume and potential harm:

Small volume / Substantial individual harm / Severe community harm

CSPs with priority: Cannock Chase, East Staffordshire, Lichfield, Newcastle-under-Lyme, Staffordshire Moorlands, Stoke-on-Trent, Tamworth

Summary:

Drugs can be a factor in a range of crimes – sitting behind a range of offences; from acquisitive offences to fund addiction and organised crime, to serious violent offences relating to feuds over supply activity, in addition to drug-specific offences relating to possession and supply. In 2019-20 around 1-in-every-40 offences committed in Staffordshire and Stoke-on-Trent was a drugs-specific offence.

Drug users themselves (and particularly those with long-term substance misuse challenges) remain an extremely vulnerable group; as well as facing significant health, housing and employment challenges, drug users often also experience Domestic Abuse and are at high risk of harm from criminal exploitation and violence. Children in families where drug use is prevalent are often at significantly increased need of safeguarding and support.

Health challenges relating to drugs are particularly an issue in Stoke-on-Trent, where rates of drug-related deaths (specifically amongst men) are significantly above national levels – however, there are other parts of the force-area where drug-related deaths are also uncharacteristically high.

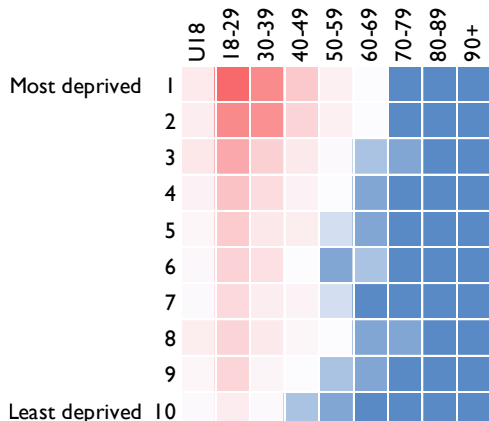
Drug users are at considerable risk of being criminally exploited through County Lines activity and other aspects of organised crime; drug dealers/suppliers will allow users to build-up high levels of drug-related debt, and use this as leverage to force the user to conduct criminal activity on their behalf, often taking control of the individual's home (cuckooing) for use in criminal activity.

Previous assessment has found that around 9% of offenders in Staffordshire and Stoke-on-Trent had committed drugs offences or other offences where drugs were an aggravating factor. Drug-related offenders are consistently disproportionately responsible for acquisitive offences such as Burglary, Theft and Shoplifting; accounting for around 17% of offending in the force-area, but for about 25% of acquisitive crime – particularly Burglary (32%), Vehicle Offences (28%) and Theft (27%).

Repeat offending is often linked with drugs-related offending; while 9-out of-20 offenders overall were Repeat or Persistent Offenders, 13-out of -20 of those with drug-related offences are known Repeat or Persistent Offenders.

Drug-related offenders are disproportionately male; in 2019-20 financial year 83% of all offenders in the force-area were male, compared to 90% of those committing drug-related offences. Known offenders with previous drug-related offences are mostly aged between 20 and 34 years, and significantly more likely to live in the most deprived parts of the force-area. There are very few drug-related offenders aged over 55 years, although there are an above-average proportion aged 15-19 years.

Heat map by age group and deprivation



Direction of travel: Consistent concern

At risk groups: Adults with known drug dependencies, particularly those who have previously accessed or who are presently accessing treatment programmes for Class A drug use or dependency. Children, young people and adolescents in households with adults with current or previous drug use or dependency concerns.

Vulnerable Persons: Mental Health

Volume and potential harm:

Small volume / Moderate to severe individual harm / Low community harm

CSPs with priority: Cannock Chase, East Staffordshire, Lichfield, Newcastle-under-Lyme, Stafford, Staffordshire Moorlands, Stoke-on-Trent, Tamworth

Summary:

Mental Health is a cross-cutting theme, with links to a range of other vulnerabilities. Many with mental health needs appear in other high-risk cohorts; including those with drug and/or alcohol challenges, those who are socially isolated and living in poor quality housing, as well as young people and adults who are at risk of criminal exploitation.

Vulnerable people, including those experiencing mental health issues, are often at greater risk of being a victim of crime - targeted by criminals who exploit vulnerabilities and take advantage through financial or criminal exploitation.

Early indications suggest that the Covid-19 pandemic is having an impact on mental health and wellbeing.

Staffordshire Police data shows that while crime rates have fallen, the rate of offences where Mental Health is considered a factor have increased by almost a fifth (+19%) from 3,360 incidents in 2019-20 to 4,010 in 2020-21.

GP practice-level data, shows that the level of recorded diagnoses of depression in the force-area are above the national level (14.3% of those aged 18 and over, compared to 12.3% nationally) and both national and local levels of depression diagnoses have increased by around a sixth (+16%) in the last financial year. The rate of detentions under the Mental Health Act¹² have increased locally from 81.3 to 88.0 per 100,000; an increase of around 8% overall.

Local¹³ and national¹⁴ Covid surveys have highlighted that more than two-thirds of people feel that the pandemic has had a negative impact on their life, with many feeling stressed and anxious. Further analysis¹⁵ found that, taking account of pre-pandemic trajectories, mental health has worsened substantially (by 8.1% on average) as a result of the pandemic. Young adults and women – groups with worse mental health pre-pandemic – have been hit hardest.

As well as those with existing mental health conditions being at risk of experiencing crime, experiencing crime itself also exacerbates and can create considerable mental health challenges for individuals. Many types of crime are judged to pose a substantial or severe risk of psychological harm to individuals; in particular, but not limited to; domestic abuse, serious violent and sexual offences, stalking and harassment, hate crimes, and criminal exploitation.

Local research has shown that individuals who have experienced crime first-hand as either a victim or a witness, are likely to score much lower than average in terms of their overall levels of wellbeing, anxiety and feelings of safety.

Latest Public Health England (PHE) estimates for Staffordshire and Stoke-on-Trent suggest that around 9.5% of children aged 5 to 16 years (approximately 14,060 children) in the area are likely to have a common mental health disorder¹⁶. This is similar to the national level. Similar estimates from PHE suggest that the prevalence of such disorders amongst adults (aged 16 and over) and older adults (aged 65+) are also similar to national levels.

Estimated prevalence of common mental disorders (Public Health England):

		% of population
Children (age 5-16)	England Force-wide	9.2 9.5
Adults (age 16+)	England Force-wide	16.9 16.4
Older adults (age 65+)	England Force-wide	10.2 10.2

¹² NHS Digital - Recorded uses of the Mental Health Act: crude rates per 100,000 population

¹³ Staffordshire County Council – Residents Survey

¹⁴ Office of National Statistics (ONS) - Coronavirus and the social impacts on Great Britain

¹⁵ Institute of Fiscal Studies (IFS) - The mental health effects of the [first] lockdown and social distancing during the Covid-19 pandemic in the UK

¹⁶ Mental Health disorders include, but are not limited to; Anxiety, Depression, Eating Disorders, Schizophrenia, Obsessive-Compulsive Disorder, Hyperactivity Disorders, Phobias and Paranoia.

Vulnerable Persons: Contextual Safeguarding

Volume and potential harm: Moderate volumes / Moderate to Severe individual and community harm

CSPs with priority: Cannock Chase, East Staffordshire, Lichfield, Newcastle-under-Lyme, Stoke-on-Trent, Tamworth

Summary:

Levels of safeguarding needs vary significantly across Staffordshire and Stoke-on-Trent, however, all Safety Partnership areas are home to children and young people who are in need of safeguarding from potential harm, and all areas have some communities with elevated safeguarding need.

In terms of children's safeguarding and Social Care support, half of CSP areas in Staffordshire and Stoke-on-Trent have previously seen rates of children subject to Child Protection Plans (CPP) and Looked-after Children (LAC) which were above national levels. Presently (2020-21) the rate of children subject to a CPP in Staffordshire County is in line with the national level, and while Stoke-on-Trent is significantly above the national rate, it is in line with rates seen in statistically-similar local authority areas. However, while rates of children entering care (LAC) are similar to national levels in Staffordshire County, they are significantly above national and stat-neighbour comparators in Stoke-on-Trent.

It is considered, that similarly to many other areas of vulnerability – the Covid-19 pandemic will result in considerable increases in demand for safeguarding services. In an assessment conducted by the NSPCC¹⁷ it is considered that the Coronavirus pandemic will considerably intensify a range of risk factors that children face, particularly as a result of;

- **Increase in stressors to parents and caregivers**
- **Increase in children and young people's vulnerability**
- **Reduction in normal protective services**

While safeguarding within the family home is important, as young people move into adolescence, they spend increasing amounts of time socialising independently of their families. During this time the nature of young people's schools and neighbourhoods, and the relationships that they form in these settings, inform the extent to which they encounter safeguarding risks in settings outside their families. There are parts of the force-area where this is a specific concern and there are risks around criminal exploitation, as well as County Lines, gangs, and wider organised crime.

Young people who are Looked After Children (LAC) and who have been placed in care, or who attend pupil referral units (PRUs) are at particularly increased risk of criminal exploitation and gang involvement due to their level of vulnerability and often unstable and limited social networks and networks of support. Young people who are groomed into criminal activity are often used for high risk activities, increasingly linked to County Lines drug supply activity, such as street dealing and transporting drugs, and carrying out violent offences against rival organised crime groups/gangs.

The level of children within the care system in Staffordshire and Stoke-on-Trent is of some concern due to considerable links (evidenced in Prison Reform Trust [research](#) as well Department for Education data) between experience of the care system the likelihood of contact with the criminal justice system. These are a particularly vulnerable cohort who often require well-coordinated multi-agency support. Additionally, Staffordshire and Stoke-on-Trent is both home and 'corporate parent' to a number of highly vulnerable unaccompanied asylum seeking children (UASC), many of whom have arrived from areas of conflict, with no networks of support and completely alone.

Direction of travel: On-going concern in specific parts of the locality

At risk groups:

Criminal exploitation:

Young people aged 10 to 19 years old in disadvantaged communities, as well as those within the care system and those accessing alternative education provision, are at increased risk of all types of criminal exploitation.

Those exploited through Organised/Gang Crime and County Lines are very often young men and boys.

Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE) primarily affects females aged 10-14 years, although there are older victims and male victims. CSE offences are more likely to have an online element compared to offending overall.

Children's safeguarding:

Children (birth to 17) living in communities with higher levels of deprivation, domestic abuse, drug and alcohol use.

¹⁷ NSPCC - Social isolation and the risk of child abuse during and after the coronavirus pandemic (2020)

Additional Challenges for Consideration

Repeat and Persistent Offending

Priority: Re-offending

Priority sub-type: Repeat and Persistent Offenders

Volume and potential harm: High volume / Moderate individual harm / Substantial community harm

CSPs with consideration: Cannock Chase, East Staffordshire, Lichfield, Newcastle-under-Lyme, Stafford, Staffordshire Moorlands, Stoke-on-Trent, Tamworth

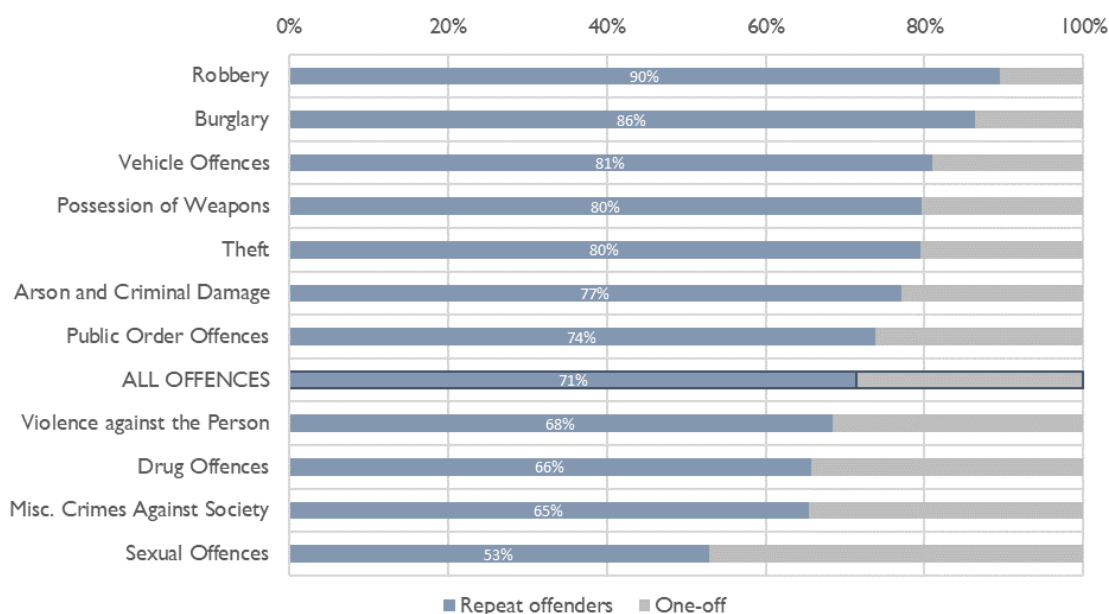
Summary:

Repeat and persistent offenders are consistently disproportionately responsible for crime in Staffordshire and Stoke-on-Trent, with the minority of offenders responsible for the majority of offences.

Previous local research has shown that 45% of the 22,490 offenders living in Staffordshire and Stoke-on-Trent were considered repeat or persistent – and were responsible for 71% of all recorded crime where an offender was identified. Young offenders (those under the age of 18) were not more likely to be repeat offenders and did not commit significantly more offences than known offenders who were aged 18 and over.

Prior to the pandemic, all major types of crime saw 50% of incidents or more committed by repeat and persistent offenders – and six¹⁸ out of eleven major crime types saw three-quarters (75%) or more committed by repeat offenders – including Weapons Offences. Sexual offences, however, were significantly less likely to be committed by repeat or persistent offenders compared to other major types of crime.

Proportion of total offences (by type) committed by Repeat Offenders, Staffordshire Police 2018-19



Offenders with known drug offences or offences where drugs were considered a factor in their recent offending history, are substantially more likely to be repeat and persistent offenders. Around 2-out-of-3 (66%) of those flagged for drug-related offending in the area were repeat and persistent offenders, compared to 43% of those with no recent drug-related offending.

Research conducted by The Prison Reform Trust (2019) suggests that securing jobs for ex-offenders is key in reducing re-offending with up to 1 in 10 fewer ex-offenders re-offending where they have secured employment.

Force proportion: 45% of repeat offenders commit 71% of recorded crime

Public expectation: Substantial

At risk groups: Offenders with previous drug-related offending are particularly likely to repeatedly offend – primarily committing acquisitive offences such as Shoplifting and Burglary.

¹⁸ Arson & Criminal Damage, Burglary, Possession of a Weapon, Robbery, Theft, Vehicle Offences.

Fire and Rescue

Volume and potential harm: Small volume / Moderate to severe individual harm / Low community harm

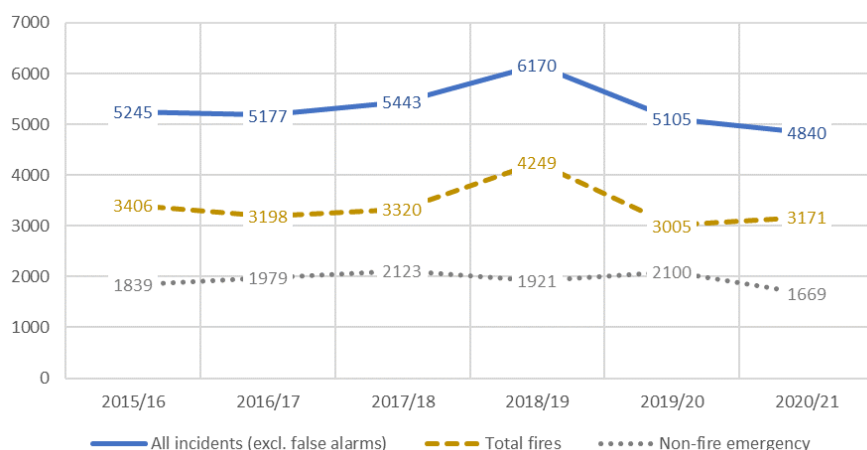
CSPs with consideration: Cannock Chase, East Staffordshire, Lichfield, Newcastle-under-Lyme, South Staffordshire, Stafford, Staffordshire Moorlands, Stoke-on-Trent, Tamworth

Summary:

The work that Fire & Rescue Services (FARS) do has changed significantly over the last twenty years, with a shift in the types of incidents attended at both a national and local level. Broadly while nationally and locally FARS have seen considerable reductions in fires (particularly vehicle and dwelling fires) the number of non-fire incidents attended have increased considerably. While across England total incidents attended have fallen by around two fifths (-40%) between 1999-2000 and 2019-2020, the proportion of Non-Fire Incidents attended have increased by around 11% over the same period.

At a local level FARS demand across Staffordshire and Stoke-on-Trent had remained largely consistent across the five years pre-pandemic, with the exception of considerable and complex wild-fires in 2018-19, which lasted for over a month. It is considered that extreme weather events as a result of climate change will see incidents such as large scale fires in open areas and flooding becoming more frequent.

Fire and Rescue Incidents, Staffordshire Fire and Rescue Service, 2015-16 to 2020-21



Some pockets of the force-area have a high proportion of residential properties in areas of high housing density which may carry some fire risk. The majority are areas with higher proportions young families with limited resources and areas with older-persons (65+) who are living alone.

There are a range of factors which appear to disproportionately result in casualties these are primarily; incidents involving chip-pan or deep-fat fryers, fires that are started by smoking materials (such as cigarettes), fires in dwellings where no alarm system is present, fires where the main occupant is under the influence, and fires where the main occupant has an underlying medical condition or illness. Risk can often be considerably higher for individuals as a result of their age, infirmity, physical disability, mental health or drug and alcohol abuse.

As well as vulnerable people, there is a need to focus its efforts on vulnerable locations. The tragic events at Grenfell Tower have increased the emphasis on technical fire safety audits, inspections of premises and the use of enforcement powers. Legislation is expected imminently which will formalise these. Staffordshire Fire & Rescue Service is already responding positively to this challenge with the recruitment of more specialist staff. It is already clear that protection work will be an increasing priority for future investment and resource allocation

Fires affecting businesses can have significant impact; causing difficulties for suppliers, retailers and affecting employees either temporarily or sometimes permanently. Up to 60% of small businesses do not recover from a severe fire. It is incredibly important that new businesses engage with the Fire & Rescue business support service team to receive fire safety advice and guidance.

Direction of travel: Consistent demand. Increasing complexity.

Public expectation: Substantial

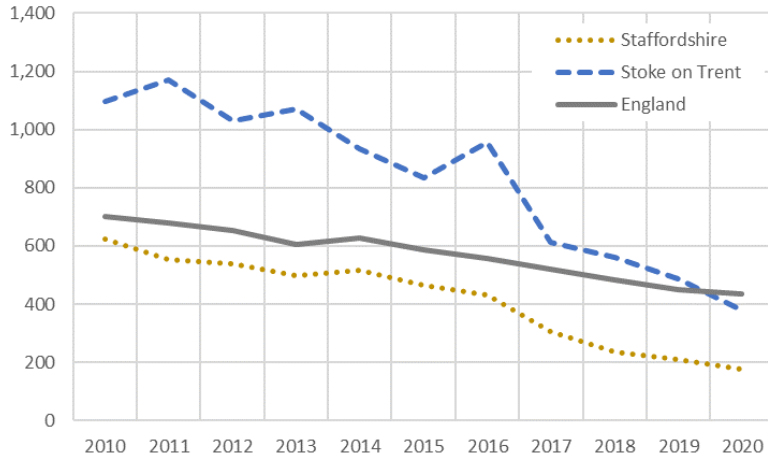
At risk groups: Older adults as well as those with physical disability, mental health challenges, or on going drug or alcohol challenges are considered to be at particularly high risk. Following the Grenfell Tower tragedy there is ongoing work to identify any physical premises locally which may be considered high risk.

Safer Roads

There have been considerable reductions in road casualties at a national and local level over the past decade; while the rate of casualties per billion vehicle miles has fallen by around two fifths nationally (-38%) they have fallen by almost two-thirds (-65%) in Stoke-on-Trent and by close to three-quarters (-72%) in Staffordshire in the same period.

Casualties per billion vehicle miles in Stoke-on-Trent have reduced by a significant amount, from being far above the national average up until 2016, to slightly below in 2020.

Department for Transport (DfT) STATS-19 reporting: Casualties per billion vehicle miles



The vast majority of injuries that occur on roads in the force area are non-serious and non-fatal. Out of 1,146 casualties on local roads in 2020 around 86% (985) resulted in slight injury, around 13% (149) resulted in serious injury, and just under 1% (12) were fatal. These proportions have remained largely consistent over time; in 2019 around 85% of casualties were non-serious and non-fatal, and in 2018 around 87% of casualties were 'slight'.

The pandemic and national lockdowns have had considerable impact on road use in 2020, with significantly fewer vehicles using the roads between March and June 2020. Locally the result has been a 35% reduction in casualties overall, a 46% reduction in serious casualties and a 56% reduction in fatal casualties.

While local roads are in general very safe and see a decreasing number of casualties, amongst road casualties there are some groups which are disproportionately likely to experience serious or fatal injuries; over the last four years in Staffordshire and Stoke-on-Trent motorcyclists, pedal cyclists and pedestrians have been disproportionately likely to be seriously or fatally injured when involved in collisions. This is also the case at a national level.

Although there is a significant motorway network which flows through and around the force area, collisions on motorways account for no more than 5% of all road casualties in Staffordshire and Stoke-on-Trent, and roughly 2-3% of casualties which resulted in serious or fatal injury.

Serious and fatal collisions in Staffordshire are more likely to occur on rural roads than on urban roads/streets or on the motorways network. DfT data¹⁹ suggests that over the past three-years the majority of fatal road casualties have occurred on rural roads; while 37% of local road casualties overall occur on rural roads, around 46% of all serious casualties occur in rural areas, and in 2019 approximately 78% of fatal casualties occurred in rural areas.

Recent local analysis suggests that drivers aged over 60 who live in rural areas are more likely to be involved in collisions than younger drivers and those who live in urban areas.

Direction of travel: Consistent improvement.

Public expectation: Substantial

At risk groups:

Where collisions occur on rural roads they are more likely to result in serious or fatal injuries than those that occur on urban roads or local sections of motorway. Cyclists, motorcyclists and pedestrians are also more likely than average to experience serious or fatal injuries when involved in collisions.

¹⁹ Department for Transport – Interactive Road Casualties data: <https://maps.dft.gov.uk/road-casualties/index.html>

Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG)

It is clear that many women do not feel safe in public or online; recent government research has shown that girls do not feel safe at school or in other educational establishments, and many women and girls in the UK have experienced verbal abuse, intimidation and sexual harassment in public spaces.

While a proportion of violent offences experienced by women and girls in Staffordshire and Stoke-on-Trent are domestic-related, a considerable amount are not. In the 12 months to October 2021, while non-domestic violent offences with a victim of any gender saw no change on the previous year (+/- 0%), non-domestic violent offences with a female victim increased by around 7% in the same period.

There is clear focus on improving confidence in reporting VAWG offences; notably in recent years (and particularly the last 18 months) locally there has been considerable improvement in the visibility and recording of Stalking offences.

In late 2020 a call for evidence was made by the Government, to inform a revised VAWG strategy, which was published in July 2021. The new VAWG strategy sets out some key objectives for the UK Government within the strategy, primarily to:

- Increase support for victims and survivors.
- Increase in reporting to the police, in addition to;
- Increased victim engagement with police, leading to;
- Increases in the number of perpetrators brought to justice, and;
- Reduce the prevalence of violence against women and girls overall.

The intent of the VAWG Strategy (2021) is to achieve these through improved earlier intervention and prevention and improving and strengthening existing systems.

Business Crime

The total price tag of burglary, shoplifting, robbery, criminal damage, theft and other offences against businesses in Staffordshire is estimated at over £7,300 per hour. Fraud alone costs companies £9.1 billion nationally a year. Over a third (39%) of businesses do not report crime to police.

In the 12 months to November 2021, there were around 560 instances of Fraud recorded by the National Fraud Intelligence Bureau (NFIB) affecting organisations in Staffordshire and Stoke-on-Trent, with total losses of around £3.7million. Unlike fraud committed against individuals, which has shown a local increase, fraud committed against businesses in Staffordshire has reduced by just over a tenth (-11%) compared to the previous 12 months.

Local research conducted on behalf of the Staffordshire Commissioner's Office has highlighted that many small businesses locally are particularly concerned about Fraud and Online crime, and this acts as a barrier to their development of online services.

Staffordshire has a high proportion of small and micro businesses, many of which do not have the same resilience as larger national and multi-national businesses. As a result, smaller businesses risk being significantly harmed and disrupted by experiences of crime. Business crime affects a broad range of businesses in Staffordshire; from incidents of criminal damage and arson, to large businesses who are victims of fraud and cyber-crime, and farms who are victims of machinery and thefts of 'off road' vehicles used in farming and agriculture.

On a national scale there have been significant Cyber-Crime offences committed against large businesses, particularly linked to "Ransom-ware" based extortion, which still present a significant risk to businesses, particularly those who rely on less up-to-date information technology infrastructure and equipment. Businesses in Staffordshire & Stoke-on-Trent experienced a number of cyber-crime incidents in the last 12 months; including hacking of company emails and Malware attacks.

Quality of Life and Wider Determinants

There are a range of factors which affect individual quality of life, life chances and overall vulnerability. Across Staffordshire and Stoke-on-Trent, there are a number of communities which face considerable disadvantage and deprivation, as well as pockets of affluence and advantage.

The factors of most concern across Staffordshire and Stoke-on-Trent are; deprivation, economic inactivity and economic stress, crime and ill-health related to alcohol and substance dependence/misuse, social isolation, as well as children and young people and vulnerable adults in need of safeguarding against abuse and criminal exploitation.

It is considered that the Covid-19 pandemic, and in particular the associated measures and restrictions to limit the spread of the virus, as well as the impact on the economy and government spending, will have a lasting and profound impact on the vulnerability of individuals and communities locally, nationally and globally.

Mental health has been a growing concern throughout the pandemic. Multiple pieces of national and international research suggest a worsening picture in terms of mental health across most of society as a result of Covid-19 and the measures that governments have been compelled to implement. At a local level, in 2020-21 diagnoses of depression amongst those aged 18 and over for the force-area were significantly above the national level and increasing.

The impact of unhealthy lifestyles in some parts Staffordshire and Stoke-on-Trent is considerable, with some communities recording proportions of both children and adults who are overweight or obese which are significantly above the national average - and have been for many years. While local evidence suggests that some adults have behaved more healthily during the pandemic, equal proportions have behaved in a less healthy way (unhealthy eating, less exercise). There are also considerable implications for those with pre-existing health conditions, who have been advised to isolate themselves through the majority of the Covid pandemic.

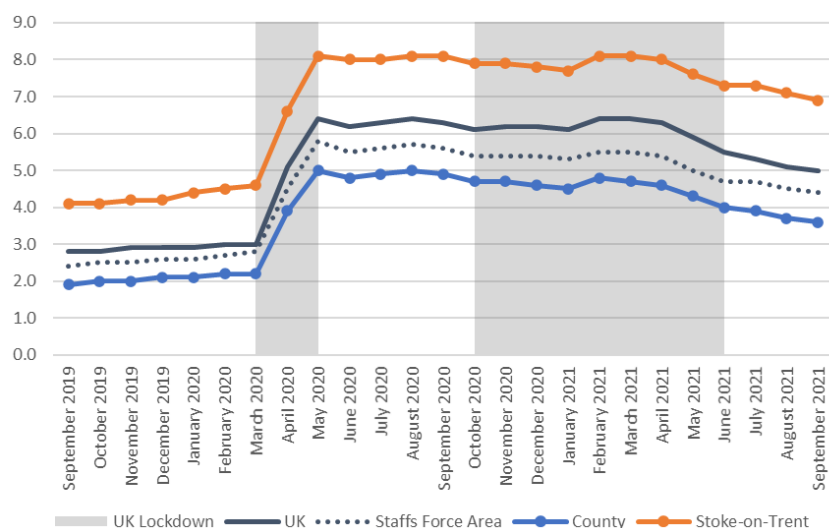
Long-term alcohol use and dependency remains an ongoing concern across the force-area although there have been recent improvements in hospital admissions relating to long-term alcohol use. In 2019-20 hospital admissions for alcohol-related conditions have fallen in line with national levels in all-but-one CSP area having previously been significantly higher than national levels in seven out of the nine Safety Partnership areas.

School attainment in the area remains below the national average at KeyStage 4 (previously GCSEs) with five Safety Partnership areas reporting average Attainment 8 (KeyStage 4) scores in 2019 which were significantly below the national average. There has been additional challenge in the last 12 months, as 2020 exams were replaced with 'expected' grades due to the Coronavirus pandemic – which resulted in many children receiving Attainment 8 results which were below those required in order to access their preferred next stages of education.

This is a particular concern, given the links between poor attainment at 16+ and barriers to further education opportunities and apprenticeships. Lack of qualifications amongst young people are a heightened concern in some communities within the force-area, as limited employment opportunities resulting from low levels of qualification may make young people more vulnerable to being criminally exploited.

The closures of several areas of industry resulted in national and local spikes in unemployment, with the proportion of working age adults claiming universal credit almost doubling across the force area between March and May 2020. While proportions have reduced since March 2021, they remain significantly above levels recorded pre-pandemic.

Claimant Count (DWP) September 2019 to September 2021



Quality of Life and Wider Determinants (continued)

Overall employment across the majority of Staffordshire and Stoke-on-Trent is good but has been impacted by the pandemic. However, there are communities which face considerable employment disadvantage, where rates of adults claiming employment benefits for the long-term remain significantly above the national level. It is considered that the economic impacts of Covid on these communities will be severe – exacerbating long-standing disadvantage.

Deprivation is a concern in a number of areas; there are pockets of Stoke-on-Trent which are amongst the Top 1% most deprived communities nationally, and communities in most Safety Partnership areas which are within the Top 20% most deprived – facing considerable challenges around employment, health and education, as well as experiencing high levels of crime and anti-social behaviour.

Some parts of the force-area face hidden challenges around what is often referred to as “in-work poverty”; where lower wage levels and high costs of living mean that although families and individuals may be in employment, they struggle to get by financially, and experience high levels of economic-stress – with little or no resilience against unplanned financial challenges such as temporary unemployment, or increased housing costs. With significant increases in the cost of goods and services through rising inflation (currently +5%) such families and individuals are likely to face greater challenges in the medium term.

Public Confidence & Feeling the Difference

It should be noted, that in 2019, the decision was made to redevelop it's approach to a Staffordshire and Stoke-on-Trent public confidence residents' survey. As such the Feeling the Difference survey ceased.

The final wave of the Feeling the Difference surveys were completed in late 2018 (referenced below) with a new approach surveys in development. Findings from new surveys will be shared, as relevant, once available.

In previous analysis a high proportion of Staffordshire and Stoke-on-Trent residents were generally satisfied with the area as a place to live, with 93% satisfied or very satisfied with the local area.

Just under 1-in-6 residents (16%) were concerned about people using or dealing drugs in the local area, a slightly smaller proportion concerned about anti-social behaviour (ASB, 15%) and in people misusing alcohol or being dependent on alcohol (13%).

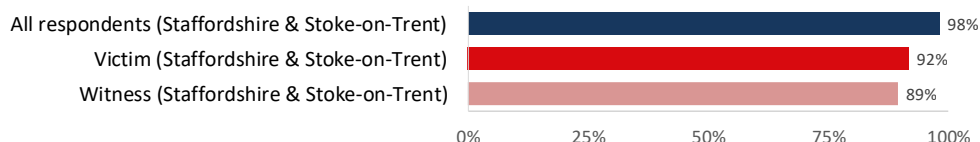
Around half of residents were satisfied with the level of visible Police presence across the force-area (48%) and the level of trust that residents have in the Police is particularly high (91% of residents).

The very large majority of residents report that they feel safe during the daytime (98%), and although there is a little variation across the force-area, nowhere sees fewer than 96% of residents stating that they feel safe during daylight hours. There is more variation across the force-area, however, when measuring how safe people feel after dark; while 84% of residents feel safe overall, proportions range from 77% to 90% depending on the Safety Partnership area.

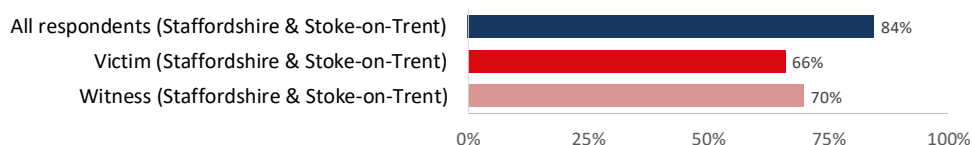
In addition to the majority of residents feeling safe both at daytime and after dark, a small proportion feel that they are likely to become a victim of crime in the future, around 15% of residents.

Data shows us that those who have previously experienced crime first-hand, as either a victim of crime or a witness to a crime, feel significantly less safe than the population overall. This is particularly acute when considering how safe residents feel at night or after dark, with a high proportion of those who have been a victim in the past (44%) feeling that they are likely to be a victim of crime again in the foreseeable future.

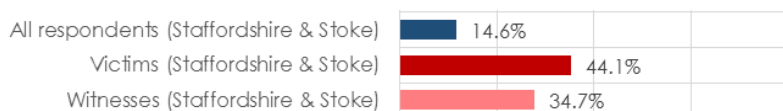
Feelings of safety during daylight hours



Feelings of safety at night/after dark



Feel likely that they will be a victim of crime



Appendices

Appendix A: Overall recommendations

Ensure that partnerships maintain links with Staffordshire Police, through the Knowledge Hub and local Policing Commanders, in order to identify emerging risks and priorities in 'real time' as they occur throughout the year – including making use of available Business Intelligence resources such as the Staffordshire Police Knowledge Hub BRAIN Gateway, and making use of relevant emerging risk assessment and strategic documents.

Partnerships should engage with Police Thematic Leads for each of their identified areas of priority in order to engage with and influence the Police response to priority challenges.

Ensure that partnerships remain engaged with relevant Needs and Risk Assessments developed through the Staffordshire Commissioner's Office, through Local Authorities, and in other Safety Partnership areas, so that emerging learning and recommendations can be reflected in ongoing partnership strategy and delivery.

Where services have been commissioned centrally, Safety Partnership areas and services should engage with one-another in order to share knowledge and expertise, to ensure that delivery is appropriately meeting local demand, and compliments any existing delivery and services.

The full partnership should explore approaches which will allow young people to anonymously report concerns around crime, radicalisation or extremist behaviour, and criminal exploitation - which can then be escalated through mechanisms such as Multi-Agency Risk Assessment Conferences (MARAC) or similar. In particular, but not limited to, giving young people an opportunity to communicate concerns that they may have about;

- Potential criminal exploitation of themselves or others (incl. gang-related activity/recruitment)
- Knowledge of weapons possession or 'stashing'²⁰ amongst their peers
- Drug or alcohol misuse (their own, or that of others)
- Potential radicalisation or extremism, or other concerning hate-related behaviour
- Knowledge of other criminal behaviour in the community which is a cause for concern

Appendix B: Specific recommendations for key priorities

As this report considers the current position in the context of the priorities and recommendations set out in the full three-yearly Strategic Assessment (issued in 2019) many recommendations and priorities remain unchanged from the previous full SA. Where recommendations are new additions or revised compared to the previous report, these are clearly highlighted with a prefix.

Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB)

[New and emerging] There should be consideration for how partnerships can support and develop a coordinated response to ASB across agencies. This should include work to develop the understanding and use of available tools and powers as part of a joint response to ASB.

Recommendations added in the previous refresh:

Work is needed to better understand where Hate is a factor in ASB and identify if there are communities where Hate-related ASB is of particular concern. Where there are concerns that ASB is hate-related, Partnerships should consider whether this is significant enough to refer perpetrators in to Prevent.

Existing recommendations for the duration of the three-year assessment period:

The pan-Staffordshire ASB Strategy group should continue to engage with Safety Partnerships and vice versa to help improve our knowledge and understanding of ASB in the force-area There is a need to continue to develop understanding around risk and protective factors affecting young people and their involvement in ASB.

Partnerships should continue to share information on perpetrators and particularly repeat and younger perpetrators (of both public place ASB and Neighbour Disputes) to ensure that individuals receive multi-agency support where appropriate in order to reduce re-offending. [Cross-cutting to Repeat & Persistent Offending recommendations]

As much ASB is public-place Rowdy & Inconsiderate Behaviour, Partnership areas should continue to consider options to limit ASB in hot-spot areas, including the use of provisions such as Public Space Protection Orders.

²⁰ Stashing refers to the practice of hiding knives and other weapons in public places, such as parks or undergrowth, so that they are available for individuals to use in violent offences – without the additional risk of being in possession of the weapon.

Community Cohesion & Tackling Extremism

Recommendations added in the previous refresh:

There should be additional consideration for children who receive home education, including those who have started to be home educated throughout the COVID-19 pandemic, to ensure that they are receiving a well-rounded education in order to prevent any extremist teachings.

Safety Partnerships should engage with the development of Community Cohesion partnership work through the Safer & Stronger Communities Strategic Group, which will link in to existing strategic Hate Crime work and the Prevent board. Partnerships should also strongly consider whether there is a need to work with local partners and stakeholders (such as voluntary sector partners) to develop local Community Cohesion strategy for their local area.

As people spend more time online as a result of COVID-19-related restrictions on social contact, it should be considered that there is increased risk around online radicalisation. Partnerships should continue to raise awareness of extremism and potential signs of radicalisation within communities, and particularly in those communities at risk of emerging extreme right-wing and far-right extremism. Young people, parents/guardians and community members should have an awareness of prevalent extremist groups.

Existing recommendations for the duration of the three-year assessment period:

All Safety Partnership areas must continue with Prevent activity and the work of the Prevent Board; maintaining and building further positive engagement between communities, police and partners; to enable identification of key individuals who may be radicalising others, and to safeguard any vulnerable persons.

There should be central consideration about whether there may be a need for enhanced mechanisms to allow young people to raise concerns if they feel they or their peers are becoming radicalised or showing extremist behaviour.

There remains a need for the Prevent Board and Safety Partnership areas to support partner agencies with low Prevent referral rates, including supporting their understanding of the referral mechanism to improve referral quality.

Safety Partnerships and Prevent partners should continue raising awareness of existing and emerging far-right and extreme right-wing groups and encourage reporting of concerns through usual channels such as Prevent.

Safety Partnerships should engage with other partners to improve knowledge and understanding of hate crime amongst groups who are less present in recorded incidents, in particular; the LGBTQ+ community, those with disabilities and/or learning difficulties, and those with mental health needs.

Domestic Abuse (DA)

[New and emerging] Safety Partnerships should consider the implications of the Domestic Abuse Act (2021), which has provided a legal definition of Domestic Abuse, defines children who witness or experience DA as victims in their own right. The Act further adds statutory duties around the provision of support within DA-related Safe Accommodation.

Responsible authorities are required by the act to form DA Local Partnership Boards, which include oversight over support delivered within Safe Accommodation: CSPs should ensure that they engage with these accordingly.

It is essential that Safety Partnerships remain engaged with relevant pan-Staffordshire DA boards and commissioners, in order to shape how the changes introduced within the act will support local residents and their children.

Existing recommendations for the duration of the three-year assessment period:

There is a continued need for collaborative working across the whole force-area to support the DA agenda, led by established pan-Staffordshire governance arrangements and delivered through the DA Strategy and Action Plan.

There is a continuing need for partners in front-line service to have a strong awareness and understanding of signs of non-physical types of domestic abuse, (e.g. coercive control, financial abuse, psychological abuse including stalking). There is a need to continue to raise public awareness around these types of domestic abuse.

Reaching out to hard to engage cohorts; including men, BME, LGBTQ+, those with Learning Difficulties, Mental Health needs, those in rural areas, as well as those from isolated or marginalised communities is vital in order to give individuals the confidence to come forward and seek support. This should remain linked to other services such as mental health, drug and alcohol misuse and homelessness, as well as education providers from age 14 and up.

Safety Partnerships should engage with partners to develop and improve understanding of Stalking and Harassment offences, and continue to improve awareness and understanding of the Stalking Protection Act (2019) and how the Police can apply for Stalking Protection Orders (SPOs) to address offending and protect victims.

Drug Supply and County Lines

Recommendations added in the previous refresh:

Given the impact of the Coronavirus pandemic; on physical health, mental health and well-being, employment, and education – it should be considered that over the next 12-24 months there will be increases in numbers of people and families considered to be vulnerable. Partnerships must consider that this will not only increase demand on support services and partners, but also increase numbers of individuals who may be at increased risk of criminal exploitation. It is important that mechanisms to document, share, and escalate concerns around exploitation and vulnerability can cope with increased pressure. [Duplicated within Vulnerable Persons recommendations]

Existing recommendations for the duration of the three-year assessment period:

Safety Partnerships should continue to develop and enhance partner and community awareness and sharing of concerns linked to County Lines; primarily the signs of criminal exploitation of young people through organised crime and gang activity, and the signs of criminal exploitation of vulnerable adults through cuckooing activity. Partnerships should continue to promote and encourage community use of Crime Stoppers to allow anonymous reporting.

Safety Partnerships should continue to develop and embed an approach which primarily treats vulnerable individuals who have been criminally exploited as victims in need of support, and ensure that there are targeted early intervention and prevention opportunities in place for individuals who are being or who have been criminally exploited.

There is an ongoing need to continue education in secondary schools and pupil referral units (PRUs) around risks attached to gang membership and organised crime, including ensuring that the mechanisms exist to allow young people to appropriately and anonymously raise concerns about the criminal exploitation of themselves or their peers. Centrally there is a need to ensure that those working with children in care (LAC) such as Care Homes and Foster Carers are aware of signs of criminal exploitation and feel confident in reporting concerns as appropriate.

Fraud

[Revised] *In addition to door-step crime and bogus traders, telephone and courier fraud still present a high risk to particularly vulnerable and socially isolated groups. As victims are often not connected digitally, it is essential that awareness raising activity includes a focussed element for identified high-risk groups who might be missed by online and digital campaigns. With growth in online auction/marketplace fraud, those who are connected digitally are also at increasing risk – awareness raising should also consider younger age groups who carry out much of their non-essential shopping online, as well as older age groups who are new to using online services for essential shopping.*

Existing recommendations for the duration of the three-year assessment period:

Safety Partnerships should support local services and communities in recognising signs of potential fraud and raising awareness of different types of fraud tactics. It is critical that carers, relatives, friends or neighbours of someone who is vulnerable know how to spot signs of fraud.

It remains beneficial to centrally develop and implement a pan-Staffordshire Fraud strategy; to provide knowledge and tools directed towards residents and businesses, and to create a force-wide structured approach to fraud prevention.

Preventative activity remains essential; it is important to raise awareness of types of fraud, and the action that individuals can take in order to verify legitimacy if they are unsure of whether activity is fraudulent or not.

Awareness raising activity must involve mechanisms for reaching those who live in isolation, those with additional needs and especially those who are not digitally, socially or geographically well-connected.

There is a need to develop a co-ordinated approach to doorstep crime across the range of agencies. There remains a need to raise awareness of the signs of doorstep crime, as well as provide advice and support to carers, relatives, friends or neighbours of those identified as vulnerable. At a central level there is a need to consider how doorstep crime can be addressed with existing and emerging strategy, with CSPs contributing towards ongoing development.

Businesses should be kept aware of links between cyber-security and Fraud risks attached to 'ransom-ware' cyber-attacks, and how to protect themselves.

Public Place Violence and Serious Violence (including Knife Crime)

[Revised] As COVID restrictions have become more relaxed, activity in public places (including activity linked to the night-time economy) has increased, however not to the extent which was initially anticipated. It is highly recommended that Safety Partnerships continue to anticipate that as public confidence grows and the night-time economy recovers, related-incidents will return to pre-pandemic levels.

Existing recommendations for the duration of the three-year assessment period:

All Safety Partnerships should remain engaged with the development and delivery of the Staffordshire and Stoke-on-Trent Serious Violence Reduction Strategy.

Partnerships should continue work with licensing authorities to identify and tackle heavy drinking in areas with high levels of alcohol-related disorder and public place violence. Authorities should work with licenced premises to support staff in recognising signs of potential violence amongst individuals/groups and take appropriate preventative action.

There remains a need for pubs, clubs and bars to have mechanisms whereby those who feel at risk of harm for any reason, can covertly raise concerns and be supported to safely leave the premises to a place of safety. It is important that mechanisms are well-publicised and available to anyone who feels concerned for their safety for any reason.

There are a number of areas which see repeat instances of public place violence, there may be value in exploring options for expanding the 'Safer Places' scheme to allow younger people who feel at risk of violence or harm to use the scheme to find a place of safety while Police are contacted.

To reduce re-offending, joined-up multi-agency support should exist for first-time violent offenders (including those who do not progress through the criminal justice system) in order to support and address relevant behavioural needs and/or any needs relating to mental health, in addition to relevant needs relating to alcohol or substance misuse.

Partnerships should continue to focus on early intervention for young people at risk of gang involvement and should to continue to engage in the delivery and development of gang prevention and disruption strategy as appropriate.

There is ongoing need to work with education settings, pupil referral units, care homes, prisons, youth groups, other youth services, and housing associations to raise awareness of the dangers, risks and legal repercussions associated with carrying knives and other weapons. Local evidence suggests a need to focus on those aged 11-18 years.

Modern Slavery, Human Trafficking and Organised Immigration Offending

Existing recommendations for the duration of the three-year assessment period:

Safety Partnerships should continue with co-ordinated partnership activity to tackle modern slavery, including the implementation of consistent training packages to improve awareness and knowledge of the factors which may highlight victims and perpetrators and to increase our understanding of the scale and scope of this threat.

Safety Partnerships should contribute to the multi-agency Anti-Slavery Partnership Tactical Group; to assist with early intervention for victims, disruption of offender networks and support a co-ordinated approach to enforcement activity. It is important for partners to remain engaged and in tune with national discussion around Modern Slavery, and developments to make the National Referral Mechanism better tailored for victimised children and young people.

It is important for partners and front-line services to have strong awareness of the range of offending included under Modern Slavery including that many victims and perpetrators of Domestic Servitude and Forced Labour offences in Staffordshire & Stoke-on-Trent are British. Safety Partnerships should remain engaged with Staffordshire Police and the Police Knowledge Hub in order to become aware of any shifts or emerging changes in Modern Slavery.

Car Key Burglary / Vehicle Theft

Existing recommendations for the duration of the three-year assessment period:

There is a need to raise awareness of measures that individuals can take to reduce the risk of becoming victims of such types of crime, particularly in high risk and hot-spot areas, and amongst high risk groups. This is equally the case for business and small business owners who rely on vehicles as a business asset.

Safety Partnerships should continue to engage with Staffordshire Police to identify emerging hot-spot areas and vehicle makes/models which are at particular risk, in order to direct relevant preventative activity as appropriate.

Rural Crime

Existing recommendations for the duration of the three-year assessment period:

There is a need for an appropriate commitment to crime prevention in rural communities. Approaches to tackling rural crime should consider that rural communities are more likely to be involved in proactive community safety activity such as Community Speed Watch and Neighbourhood Watch, and it is recommended that partners explore crime reduction options that engage with and develop new and existing community-based assets such as these in rural areas.

Rural communities have reported nationally that they sometimes do not report crime because they feel 'nothing will be done'. Although the sentiment is not as strong locally, services should develop good knowledge and understanding of rural communities needs and expectations and focus on ensuring confidence in reporting of crime and disorder.

There is an additional need to continue to work with the agricultural community to continue to raise awareness of vehicles which might be at increased risk of theft, and improve knowledge of preventative measures that can be taken to reduce risk, as well as measures that can be taken to support the Police in identification of suspects.

Vulnerable Persons (incl. Alcohol, Drugs, Safeguarding and Mental Health)

Recommendations added in the previous refresh:

Given the impact of the Coronavirus pandemic on physical health, mental health and well-being, employment, and education – it should be considered that over the next 12-24 months there will be increases in numbers of people and families considered vulnerable. Partnerships must consider that this will not only increase demand on support services and partners, but also increase the number of individuals who may be at risk of criminal exploitation. It is important that mechanisms to document, share, and escalate concerns around exploitation and vulnerability can cope with increased pressure. [Duplicated within Drug Supply and County Lines recommendations]

Existing recommendations for the duration of the three-year assessment period:

Alcohol is a cross-cutting theme across a range of priorities – partners should continue to consider where alcohol may be a factor in offending behaviour or in levels of vulnerability, ensuring support and intervention includes alcohol-related support. Support should be particularly intensive for young people with identified emerging alcohol concerns.

Being under the influence of alcohol remains a factor that disproportionately leads to casualties in dwelling fires, it is vital that those delivering support to individuals around alcohol also assess their residences for fire-related risks.

Centrally there is a need to continue to promote activity to raise awareness of the significant risks attached to drug and substance misuse, including the significant health and psychological risks attached to psychoactive substances previously referred to as 'legal highs'. There is a need to ensure that there is appropriate multi-agency support for young people with drug-related and suspected drug-related offending, in order to deter drug use and provide early treatment where addiction or dependency may be a concern. This should include work with schools, education providers, children's homes and foster carers where appropriate, to ensure that there is a sound understanding of the early signs of substance misuse, so that young people can be supported at the earliest possible opportunity.

There is a need to continue work with appropriate partners, so that workers are able to identify those with drug and substance misuse needs who are at risk of, or may be the victims of, criminal exploitation through activities such as cuckooing or through gang or organised crime activity, and appropriately document, share and escalate concerns.

Stronger knowledge of contextual safeguarding is essential in protecting vulnerable people. Partnerships should help lead the way in moving thinking around safeguarding forwards to address extra-familial risk; including supporting businesses in developing awareness of risks to young people and developing confidence in reporting any concerns.

It is essential that young people are aware of signs of potential criminal exploitation, and that mechanisms exist to allow young people to safely communicate concerns about criminal exploitation of themselves or their peers.

There is an ongoing need to keep prevention and early intervention work at the heart of community safety strategy, particularly focussing on young people who are at risk of either offending or becoming victims of crime. This must include work with looked-after-children (LAC) who are a particularly at-risk group and children in Pupil Referral Units (PRUs) who are greater risk of coming into contact with the criminal justice system and increased risk of exploitation.

Mental health is a cross-cutting area of need, with many of the most vulnerable victims and offenders (including those under 18) experiencing mental health challenges. It is recommended that partners continue to consider the impact of mental health on individual's levels of vulnerability and on their behaviour, ensuring that there are packages of appropriate multi-agency support for those with appropriate levels of need.

Recommendations against additional considerations

Repeat and Persistent Offending:

Existing recommendations for the duration of the three-year assessment period:

Continue to engage with partners and Offender Management (as appropriate) to ensure that are appropriate packages of multi-agency support for offenders, particularly those with drug and substance misuse and dependency. Support should be particularly intensive for younger offenders (under 21) who have drug dependencies or drug and substance misuse challenges.

Partnerships should consider that those who commit repeat acquisitive offences in order to sustain drug or alcohol misuse or dependency are at high risk of criminal exploitation and may need additional support and consideration at multi-agency risk assessment meetings.

Partnerships should continue to share information on perpetrators and particularly repeat perpetrators (of both public place ASB and Neighbour Disputes) to ensure that individuals receive multi-agency support where appropriate. It is particularly important that young people who are repeat perpetrators of ASB are identified and supported appropriately to prevent further patterns of offending. [Duplicated within ASB recommendations]

Continue activity with domestic abuse perpetrator programme providers. Approaches should consider additional support needs for offenders around alcohol and drug/substance misuse, mental health, and behavioural and emotional needs and challenges. Support should be particularly intensive for those who are first-time domestic offenders, and domestic offenders who are under 21 years old.

Fire and Rescue:

[NEW] As Fire and Rescue Services (FARS) continue to evolve and begin to go through a period of more formal reform, Safety Partnerships should be engaged with this process and remain sighted on strategic developments within FARS and might create new opportunities across the wider pan-Staffordshire partnership.

Existing recommendations for the duration of the three-year assessment period:

Support partners in front-line services to be able to recognise fire-risk in homes and recognise where factors are present that have links to disproportionate levels of fire-related casualties. Partners should make appropriate referrals to Fire and Rescue, or provide appropriate information, advice and support to individuals to reduce risk. This should also extend to partners who engage with businesses and the agricultural community.

Safer Roads:

[NEW] While roads in Staffordshire and Stoke-on-Trent are largely very safe, continuation of proactive preventative work remains key; Safety Partnerships should continue to engage with the Staffordshire Safer Roads Partnership (SSRP) around community engagement and prevention/education activity and ongoing risk assessment activity.

Partnership areas with rural road networks should consider whether there are specific communities which may benefit from being supported to engage with and volunteer as part of the Community Speed Watch scheme.

Where Safety Partnerships have concerns about road use in specific locations within their partnership area, they should engage with the SSRP to discuss whether there is a need and opportunity for targeted enforcement activity.

Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG):

[NEW] Recently published strategies from both the UK Government and Staffordshire Police have a renewed focus on tackling and ending Violence Against Women and Girls. Given the role of the wider partnership in achieving this, Safety Partnerships should remain engaged with developments in VAWG strategy, and where appropriate and relevant, should contribute to the development of any related delivery plans.

Business Crime:

Recommendations added in the previous refresh:

Preliminary findings from Staffordshire Commissioner's Office report on Business Crime suggests that there may be a need for greater engagement with smaller businesses in partnership areas, in order to better understand their needs and how they are impacted by crime and disorder..

Existing recommendations for the duration of the three-year assessment period:

Continue to engage with Business Crime Advisors at the Staffordshire Chambers of Commerce as appropriate. Engage with the development and delivery of pan-Staffordshire Business Crime strategy.

Appendix C: Methodology

The prioritisation setting process for 2020-21 has taken account of existing priorities, analysis, reporting and intelligence to identify any shift in, or emerging key priorities - validated through discussion with individual CSP leads.

In this final refresh in the current cycle of strategic assessments, the impact of the Coronavirus on crime, disorder and Anti-social Behaviour has been considered, and care has been taken to not add or adjust existing priorities unless there is clear evidence of need for a change.

Existing priorities have been identified through reviews of strategic risk and threat assessments, analysis of local data, local and force-wide intelligence, as well as intelligence from partners, stakeholders and relevant national bodies.

Appendix D: Data tables

Overall Crime: Ward-level count and rate, 2019-20 (wards where rate is above average)

NB: Ward level rates have not been refreshed in this iteration. This is due to the impact of the pandemic on crime and disorder over the past 18 months. It has been considered that any refocussing on localities based on data from April 2020 onwards would distract from communities and areas with long-established challenges.

In the full Strategic Assessment due in the year following this report, priority wards will be re-assessed.

Ward Name	Partnership Area	Count (rounded) + rate per 1,000 population	Difference to ward average ²¹
Etruria and Hanley	Stoke-on-Trent	2,790 (369.4 per 1,000)	Significantly above
Burton	East Staffordshire	1,410 (348.4 per 1,000)	Significantly above
Forebridge	Stafford	1,040 (275.2 per 1,000)	Significantly above
Town	Newcastle-under-Lyme	1,690 (257.2 per 1,000)	Significantly above
Castle	Tamworth	1,490 (198.7 per 1,000)	Significantly above
Broadway and Longton East	Stoke-on-Trent	900 (175.5 per 1,000)	Significantly above
Burslem Central	Stoke-on-Trent	1,170 (166.9 per 1,000)	Significantly above
Penkhull and Stoke	Stoke-on-Trent	1,070 (156.4 per 1,000)	Above
Tunstall	Stoke-on-Trent	1,040 (153.7 per 1,000)	Above
Cannock South	Cannock Chase	1,210 (144.8 per 1,000)	Above
Moorcroft	Stoke-on-Trent	810 (141.0 per 1,000)	Above
Stowe	Lichfield	830 (134.3 per 1,000)	Above
Fenton East	Stoke-on-Trent	830 (134.3 per 1,000)	Above
Joiner's Square	Stoke-on-Trent	830 (132.6 per 1,000)	Above
Hanley Park and Shelton	Stoke-on-Trent	860 (126.8 per 1,000)	Above
Bentilee and Ubberley	Stoke-on-Trent	1,420 (126.3 per 1,000)	Above
Burslem Park	Stoke-on-Trent	630 (126.1 per 1,000)	Above
Fenton West and Mount Pleasant	Stoke-on-Trent	710 (124.2 per 1,000)	Above
Little Chell and Stanfield	Stoke-on-Trent	800 (120.1 per 1,000)	Above
Meir North	Stoke-on-Trent	740 (120.0 per 1,000)	Above
Chasetown	Lichfield	510 (118.5 per 1,000)	Above

²¹ "Above" is where the rate is higher than the force-average plus the standard deviation seen from ward to ward.

"Significantly above" is where the rate for a given ward is higher than the force average plus double the standard deviation seen ward to ward.

Appendix E: Mosaic Groups (Source: Experian Mosaic 6 (2019), Grand Index v3.00)

Group/Type	Group/Type Name	One-Line Description
A	Country Living	Well-off owners in rural locations enjoying the benefits of country life
B	Prestige Positions	Established families in large detached homes living upmarket lifestyles
C	City Prosperity	High status city dwellers in central locations pursuing careers with high rewards
D	Domestic Success	Thriving families who are busy bringing up children and following careers
E	Suburban Stability	Mature suburban owners living settled lives in mid-range housing
F	Senior Security	Elderly people with assets who are enjoying a comfortable retirement
G	Rural Reality	Householders living in less expensive homes in village communities
H	Aspiring Homemakers	Younger households settling down in housing priced within their means
I	Urban Cohesion	Residents of settled urban communities with a strong sense of identity
J	Rental Hubs	Educated young people privately renting in urban neighbourhoods
K	Modest Traditions	Mature homeowners of value homes enjoying stable lifestyles
L	Transient Renters	Single people renting low cost homes for the short term
M	Family Basics	Families with limited resources who budget to make ends meet
N	Vintage Value	Elderly people with limited pension income, mostly living alone
O	Municipal Tenants	Urban residents renting high density housing from social landlords