

# Community Safety Strategic Assessment Annual Refresh

## Staffordshire and Stoke-on-Trent 2020

Produced on behalf of



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<b>Title</b>	Staffordshire and Stoke-on-Trent: Community Safety Strategic Assessment Refresh Report (2020)
<b>Description</b>	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 (2020-21) is being produced as an annual refresh of the full three yearly assessment, produced last year.

## Coronavirus (COVID-19) Pandemic

The coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic has had a considerable and unprecedented impact on the lives of everyone in the UK, including those in Staffordshire and Stoke-on-Trent.

At the time of this report, latest data<sup>1</sup> shows that over 1,400 people in Staffordshire and Stoke-on-Trent have lost their lives as a result of COVID-19, with Staffordshire and Stoke-on-Trent currently (as at 2<sup>nd</sup> December 2020) in the highest tier of government restrictions, due to rates of infection which are above the national level.

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 on many; directly affecting individual's physical health, mental health and well-being, education, and employment.

A survey of local residents (n=3,921) carried out by Staffordshire County Council<sup>2</sup> highlights 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 who have been furloughed, having experienced even greater negative impact.

The pandemic has also had a significant impact on how front line services have operated; including protective measures for front line staff through use of personal protective equipment (PPE) and limiting non-essential face to face contact with the public and service users, and with other professionals.

The combined impact of reduced contact with the public, significant limitations on travel and social contact, and closure and strict restrictions in public spaces and recreational spaces, is that almost all services have seen unprecedented shifts in demand. As a result, in approaching this year's annual CSSA Refresh report we must consider that data for the year is highly irregular, and that observations and analysis should be considered in the context of the coronavirus pandemic and its impact on 'normal' day-to-day life.

Rather than focus on Covid-19 within this assessment as a single specific priority or risk to community safety, the impact of the pandemic has been considered and discussed as a factor in each individual priority theme, wherever it is relevant.

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<sup>1</sup> Office of National Statistics (ONS) Death registrations and occurrences by local authority (Week 47 – ending 20<sup>th</sup> November 2020)

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

# Key findings and comparison to previous (2019) assessment

## Significant overall changes and findings

Restrictions imposed as part of the government approach to controlling the Coronavirus pandemic have resulted in significant reductions in recorded crime and disorder from mid-March 2020 onwards. This is particularly the case with regards to crime, disorder and ASB taking place in public places.

The data for the period from April 2019 to March 2020 has shown limited significant change in most types of crime since the last assessment, and in the time leading up to the first UK lockdown in March 2020. Increases in crime, and particularly in Violent offences, seen nationally (around 9% increase) have not been seen in the local force-area.

All Safety Partnership areas in Staffordshire and Stoke-on-Trent have overall levels of crime which are statistically either similar to, or lower than, levels seen across all Safety Partnership areas in England and Wales.

There has been no significant shift in the demographic composition of any of the Safety Partnership areas in Staffordshire and Stoke-on-Trent, and demographic analysis within the previous (2019) Strategic Assessment still remains relevant.

## Key changes against priorities

### Community Cohesion & Tackling Extremism

- This priority replaces two pre-existing priorities around *Community Cohesion & Hate Crime* and *Counter Terror/Prevent* – with the two merged together and renewed focus on Community Cohesion.
- This merge is taking place in the wake of Brexit, as well as in response to increases in Right Wing extremism, and tension in some communities resulting from breaches of COVID guidance and legislation.
- Since the time of the last report the UK terror threat level has been increased from 'Substantial' to 'Severe' – the second highest threat level, following terror attacks in 2020 in mainland Europe.

### Fraud

- Fraud is of increased and growing 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 since.
- 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 as a result of the government approach to the Coronavirus pandemic: much of the night-time economy has been closed or heavily restricted for some time, as well as sporting events and entertainment events (such as live music).
- It is anticipated that as events and the night-time economy begin to re-open to the public, levels of associated crime, anti-social behaviour and disorder will return to pre-pandemic levels.

### Vulnerable persons (all)

- There is growing concern that the wider impact of COVID will result in considerable increases in demand relating to all major vulnerabilities (alcohol, drug and substance misuse, mental health, safeguarding)
- Analysis<sup>3</sup> has already 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.

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<sup>3</sup> 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.

### Community Cohesion & Tackling Extremism

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.

### Domestic Abuse

Safety Partnerships should remain sighted on the Domestic Abuse Bill (2020) - due to become law in April 2021. This places statutory duties on upper-tier LAs, including the duty to provide victims (and their children) with appropriate safe accommodation and support whilst in accommodation. Responsible authorities will be required to form Domestic Abuse Local Partnership Boards and CSPs should ensure that they engage with these accordingly.

### Drug Supply & County Lines

*[See recommendation relating to Vulnerable Persons]*

### Fraud

Telephone and courier fraud still present a high risk to particularly vulnerable and socially isolated groups. As these are individuals who 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 awareness raising activity. With growth in online auction/marketplace fraud, those who are connected digitally are also at increasing risk – awareness raising strategy should also consider younger age groups who carry out much of their non-essential shopping online.

### Public Place Violence & Serious Violence

All Safety Partnership areas must anticipate that when COVID restrictions become more relaxed, activity in public places (including activity linked to the night-time economy) will increase considerably – and as such there will likely be an equivalent increase in Public Place Violent and alcohol-related offences.

### Vulnerable Persons

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.

### Business Crime

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

## Staffordshire Commissioner's Office Priorities

It is recommended Community Safety Partnerships consider their approach to community safety challenges in the context of the priorities identified in the 2017-2020 Staffordshire Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner's Strategic Plan ([Safer, Fairer, United Communities for Staffordshire](#)). Although recognising that these priorities may develop or change from April 2021 onwards, partnerships should consider opportunities to tackle priorities through;

**Early Intervention and Prevention:** Addressing root causes wherever possible and shifting the focus of investment from acute to early help services. Intervening early to identify and support those most vulnerable to experiencing crime and helping those who have started experiencing problems by supporting them to address the issues that they face.

**Supporting Victims and Witnesses:** Being a victim of crime can be truly damaging and have a lasting impact on feelings of safety and well-being. It is essential to ensure that victims (both individuals and businesses) and witnesses have access to prompt and appropriate support, and that it is as easy as possible for victims and witnesses to access such support.

**Managing Offenders:** Preventing offending and reducing the likelihood of re-offending by delivering early intervention activities such as targeted education. Diverting those involved in minor offences, particularly the most vulnerable, away from unnecessary contact with the criminal justice system through triage processes and diversion schemes. Helping those motivated to change to reintegrate successfully into the community and achieve stable lifestyles away from crime.

**Public Confidence:** Making individuals and communities feel safer and reassured. Ensuring that the people of Staffordshire are better informed and involved in how policing and community safety arrangements are delivered, helping thereby to increase public confidence, build trust through transparency and open communication, and reduce the fear of crime.

## Summary of Local Community Safety Priorities

A review of the priorities identified and confirmed in the three-yearly full SA has taken place, in order to identify any changing or emerging key strategic priorities and risks. These have been cross referenced against known existing priorities and findings for each locality, as well as through intelligence held by local partners (such as Staffordshire Police). Where priorities are amended or changed compared to their position in the 2019 full assessment, these have been highlighted. The identified priorities are as follows;

- Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB)
- **[REVISED] Community Cohesion & Tackling Extremism**  
(combines previous Counter Terror, Community Cohesion and Hate Crime priorities)
- Domestic Abuse
- Drug Supply & County Lines<sup>4</sup>
- Fraud
- Public Place Violence & Serious Violence
- Vulnerable Persons and Contextual Safeguarding<sup>5</sup> (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
- **[MERGED]** Community Cohesion and Hate Crime merged into *Community Cohesion & Tackling Extremism*
- **[MERGED]** Counter Terror / Prevent merged into *Community Cohesion & Tackling Extremism*

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
- Business Crime
- Fire and Fire Risk

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

<sup>5</sup> 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 some Community Safety priorities identified through this Strategic Assessment apply to all Safety Partnership areas, some are less prevalent in specific areas, and some are only prevalent in a limited number of partnership localities.

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 overall 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 all major types of crime are similar to, or below, rates seen across England & Wales overall; with Staffordshire Police seeing particularly low levels of Vehicle Offences overall and lower levels of Burglary, Drug Offences and Public Order offences.

Compared to England & Wales, rates of Anti-social Behaviour (ASB) are high in Staffordshire & Stoke-on-Trent. Rates of Stalking & Harassment offences are also slightly above England & Wales, however, recent changes in recording mean that there is still variation in recording across force areas, and it is currently difficult to make a meaningful comparison.

The Coronavirus pandemic and government lockdowns and tier restrictions have had a significant impact nationally on levels of most types of crime; considerable reductions have been observed, particularly during the first national lockdown (March to May 2020). While this only affected the end of the 2019-20 data period, it will have a significant impact on 2020-21 data and present challenges with regards to comparison in next year's annual refresh report.

### Rates of Recorded Crime and ASB – Home Office (2019-20)<sup>6</sup>

	<i>Rate per 1,000 residents</i>		
	<b>Staffordshire (Force Area)</b>	<b>West Midlands (Region)</b>	<b>England &amp; Wales</b>
<b>Total crime (excl. fraud)</b>	<b>70.3</b>	<b>79.6</b>	<b>88.9</b>
<b>Criminal Damage and Arson</b>	<b>8.9</b>	<b>8.2</b>	<b>9.4</b>
<b>Robbery</b>	<b>0.7</b>	<b>1.7</b>	<b>1.5</b>
<b>Sexual Offences</b>	<b>2.6</b>	<b>2.6</b>	<b>2.7</b>
<b>Theft Offences</b>	<b>23.6</b>	<b>28.9</b>	<b>32.2</b>
Burglary	4.2	6.6	6.3
<i>Residential burglary</i>	2.8	4.8	4.4
<i>Non-residential burglary</i>	1.5	1.8	1.9
Vehicle offences	5.0	8.1	7.7
Theft from the person	0.5	0.8	1.9
Bicycle theft	0.7	0.8	1.5
Shoplifting	6.3	5.7	6.1
All other theft offences	6.9	6.9	8.7
<b>Violence against the person</b>	<b>26.9</b>	<b>29.0</b>	<b>29.9</b>
Homicide	0.01	0.01	0.01
Death or serious injury - unlawful driving	0.00	0.01	0.01
Violence with injury	7.7	9.9	9.1
Violence without injury	10.2	11.2	12.3
Stalking and harassment	8.9	7.9	8.4
<b>Drug offences</b>	<b>1.8</b>	<b>1.9</b>	<b>3.1</b>
<b>Possession of weapons offences</b>	<b>0.6</b>	<b>0.9</b>	<b>0.8</b>
<b>Public order offences</b>	<b>3.7</b>	<b>5.1</b>	<b>7.6</b>
<b>Miscellaneous crimes against society</b>	<b>1.4</b>	<b>1.4</b>	<b>1.8</b>
<b>Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB)</b>	<b>28.9</b>	<b>N/A</b>	<b>22.7</b>

<sup>6</sup> 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 2019-20 in Staffordshire and Stoke-on-Trent there were 32,840 ASB incidents recorded by the Police – around 10% lower than in 2018-19 - but still accounting for roughly 20% of Police demand.

Between 1<sup>st</sup> April 2020 and 30<sup>th</sup> November 2020 there had been 10,080 instances of ASB relating specifically to breaches of COVID-19 related legislation. Hot spots for high volumes of COVID breaches align with major towns and built up areas – with breaches reported in all localities.

The level of ASB across Staffordshire and Stoke-on-Trent is equivalent to a rate of 28.9 incidents per 1,000 residents, which is significantly higher than the national rate of 22.7 per 1,000 people.

Local ASB is dominated by reports of Rowdy & Inconsiderate Behaviour (59%), the vast majority of which takes place in town and city centres and other public spaces. Town and City Centres account for all of the areas in Staffordshire and Stoke-on-Trent with significantly high levels of Rowdy & Inconsiderate behaviour.

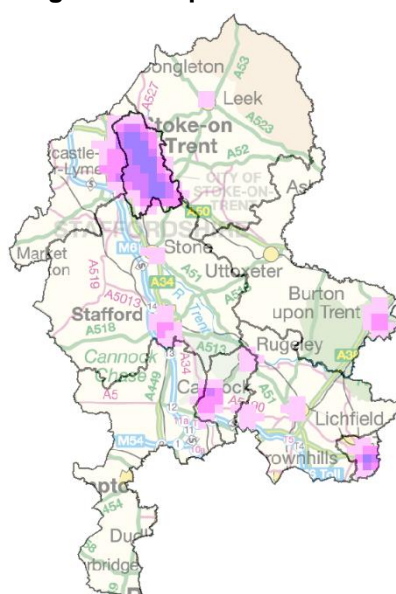
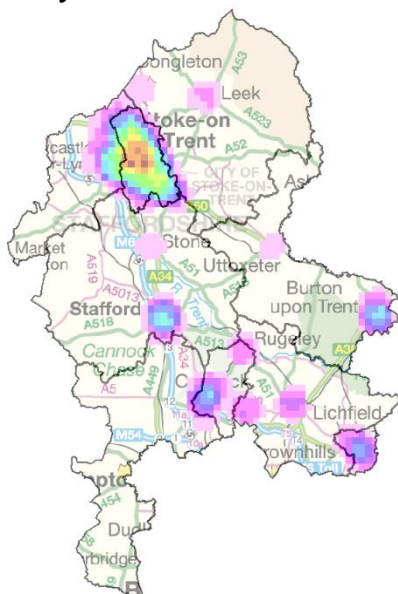
Historically several communities experience challenges with ASB relating to Neighbour Disputes, with levels substantially above force averages; notably, Blurton West & Newstead, Ford Green & Smallthorne, and Tunstall wards in Stoke-on-Trent; Eton Park in East Staffordshire, Chasetown in Lichfield, and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

Similarly to 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 2019-20 (heat-map):**

### Rowdy and Inconsiderate Behaviour:

### Neighbour Disputes:



### Direction of travel:

Ongoing challenge. There has been a slight reduction (-4%) in the 12 months to November 2020 on the previous 12 months; however this includes some lockdown breaches taking place between 23<sup>rd</sup> March and 10<sup>th</sup> April 2020.

**Public expectation:** Moderate

**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.

## [REVISED] Community Cohesion<sup>7</sup> & 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:

In the period of the European Union (EU) referendum (2016-17) Hate Crime increased nationally by 30% (17,300 incidents) on the previous year, with increases seen in all following years to date at a national level. While the large majority of national incidents (76% in 2019-20) are based on the victim's Race or Religion, Hate offences against the Transgender community, based on Disability, or on Sexual Orientation have all more than doubled in recent years.

Locally in the 12 months to November 2020, there has been no change in levels of Hate Crime compared to the previous 12 months – although there was a significant spike in June 2020 after the easing of the national lockdown (highest numbers recorded in a single month in three years). It is considered that leaving the EU on 1<sup>st</sup> January 2021 will have a similar impact to the 2016 referendum, and there will be an increase in Hate-related offences.

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, and a threat to cohesion.

The cost of Covid-19 to society and state has been significant. It has become clear that while the spread of virus has been fairly indiscriminate, the impact has not been felt equally across all communities. Opportunities for social mixing, one of the most powerful forms of reducing prejudice and promoting empathy, have been severely limited – with some restrictions likely to continue. 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.

In parallel to the Covid-19 pandemic, over Summer/Autumn 2020 terror-related attacks have been carried out in mainland Europe. As a result, the UK national terror threat level has increased compared to last year's report - and is now at Severe (the second highest threat level): meaning that an 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 remains 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 Far-right support – with increasing Prevent referrals for Far-right ideologies.
- Risk and concerns around Al-Qaeda/ISIL-inspired extremism remain high
- Increase in National terror-threat level from 'Substantial' up to 'Severe'
- Departure from European Union to take place in January 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.

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<sup>7</sup> 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

### Volume and potential harm:

Moderate volume / Severe individual harm / Substantial community harm

**CSPs with priority:** All Safety Partnership Areas

### Summary:

Domestic Abuse affects all communities to some extent and is not unique to any one part of Staffordshire or Stoke-on-Trent. Around 21% of all crime in Staffordshire and Stoke-on-Trent between April 2019 and March 2020 was domestic-related. Domestic Abuse presents a significant risk to victims, but also has a wider impact where children are present.

Domestic incidents are not just limited to physically violent offences between intimate partners (and former intimate partners) - domestic offences include 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 their gender or sexuality.

In the 12 months to the end of March 2020 there were 16,140 domestic-flagged crimes in the force area; the majority of these were Violence against the Person offences (78%), primarily consisting of Violence without injury (33%), Stalking & Harassment (32%) and Violence with injury (13%). Although most domestic-related crimes were violent offences, they cross a range of offence types; around 9% were incidents of Criminal Damage, 4% were incidents of Theft, and around 2% were Sexual Offences (around half of which were incidents of rape).

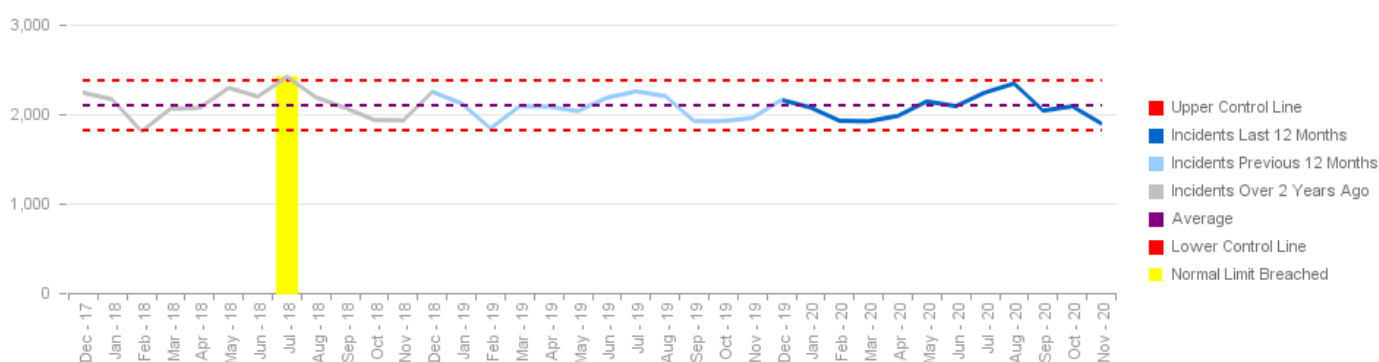
Nationally reported increases in Domestic Abuse due to the March lockdown and wider impact of COVID on society have not been seen in the force-area overall – in the 12 months to November 2020 there is no change on the previous 12 months. While there was a spike in incidents in August 2020, this was within normal expected incident levels.

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.

In 2019-20 locally there were 366 Domestic Violence Disclosure Scheme (Clare's Law) requests made, a 44% increase on the 255 requests made their previous year (2018-19). In 2020-21 to the end of November, a total of 311 requests have been made. It is considered that this increase is a result of growing awareness of the legislation.

Domestic Stalking incidents increased considerably in the 12 months to the end of November 2019 (with 869 incidents) although this has fallen slightly in the 12 months to the end of November 2020 (743 incidents, 14% reduction). As restrictions were eased over the summer, incidents of Domestic Stalking increased, and now sit around an average of 50-60 per month.

### Domestic Incidents over three-years to November 2020, Staffordshire Police



**Force rate (per 1,000 people):** 14.2

**Direction of travel:** Long-term challenge

**Public expectation:** Moderate

**At risk groups:** Disproportionately younger women (aged under 30), and those who live in already disadvantaged communities. However, anyone can become a victim of DA, and there are male victims in the area, and victims who are older adults. Households where there are high levels of economic stress and alcohol/drug use and dependency are at particularly high risk – with areas of concern also facing challenges around alcohol and drugs. Offenders are also disproportionately younger (aged under 40) and male, although there are also female offenders. Stalking and Harassment 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, Stafford, 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.

The operation of County Lines by OCGs often relies on the activity of 'cuckooing'; a practice where criminals take over a person's home and use the property to facilitate exploitation. It takes the name from cuckoos who take over the nests of other birds. 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.

There is a level of County Lines risk 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 a number of 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.

Although Covid-19, and associated Government mandated travel and social restrictions, have undoubtedly had an impact on both levels and visibility of County Lines activity locally, there is still a persistent ongoing threat in Staffordshire and Stoke-on-Trent.

**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.

Additionally, there are challenges in Stoke-on-Trent with regards to substance misuse; deaths from drug misuse<sup>8</sup> are significantly above the national level, and the second-highest amongst statistically similar areas.

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 16% of people across the force-area considered drugs to be a significant local issue. In recent years there have been additional concerns and press coverage around psycho-active substances such as 'Monkey Dust' focussed on the city, which appear to have heightened public concerns. As such, around 25% of Stoke-on-Trent residents consider drugs to be a considerable local issue.

Those involved in drug supply offences in Staffordshire and Stoke-on-Trent are disproportionately young and male compared to offenders overall; with 91% of offenders being male; 79% male and aged under 40 years – including 20% who are male and aged 15-19 years. Around 8% of local drug supply offences were committed by females, compared to around 17% of offending overall.

A slightly disproportionate amount of drug trafficking offenders are aged 20-24 years; 21% of drug supply offenders, compared to 14% of offending across all offence types.

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. In 2019-20 around 20% of those committing drug supply offences were aged 15-19 years old – an age group which made up around 14% of offenders overall. Those aged 15-19 were more likely to be involved in supply of Class B drugs (26% of relevant offenders) compared to Class A (17% of relevant offenders) and were unlikely to be involved in offences related to production or import of drugs (5% of relevant offenders).

Prior analysis (2018-19) shows that those involved in drug supply are also even more 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 nationally, 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'.

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<sup>8</sup> 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:

Fraud is increasingly sophisticated, organised and technologically advanced. Fraud scams using internet banking and remote computer access, mean that criminals can defraud individuals and businesses of large sums of money quite rapidly. In the 12 months to October 2020, The National Fraud Intelligence Bureau (NFIB) recorded Fraud losses to business and individuals in Staffordshire and Stoke-on-Trent totalling around £15million.

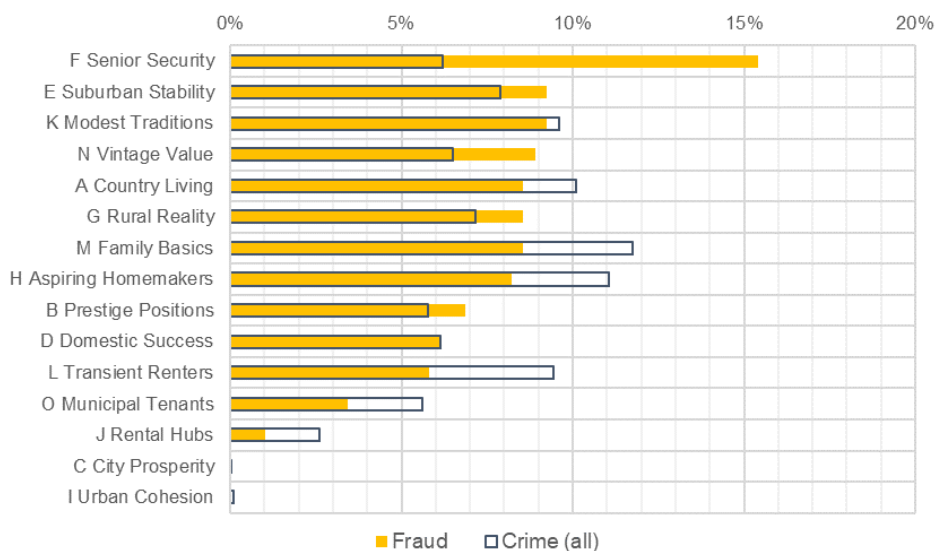
It appears that the Covid-19 pandemic has had an impact on Fraud. In the six months following the UK lockdown in March 2020, NFIB reporting<sup>9</sup> shows that average monthly Fraud in Staffordshire and Stoke-on-Trent has risen from around 390 per month (Oct 2019 to March 2020) to 500 per month (Apr to Sept 2020) – equivalent to a 29% increase.

Given that a high proportion of Fraud relates to online shopping and auctions, and 59% of Staffordshire and Stoke-on-Trent residents reported<sup>10</sup> an increase in online shopping during the pandemic – it is likely that the two are linked. While incidents have increased significantly, estimated losses have not, suggesting that much of the increase seen from April 2020 onwards comprises of lower-loss Fraud. Issues around ‘romance fraud’ also remain a concern.

Locally, Action Fraud recorded 4,800 incidents of Fraud in the 12 months to October 2020, equivalent to a rate of 4.2 per 1,000 residents – making Fraud as prevalent than Burglary (4.1 incidents per 1,000). However, this is slightly lower than the rate for England (5.4 per 1,000 population).

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. 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.

### Victims of Fraud compared to all victims of Crime in Fraud priority areas (socio-demographic group, Mosaic):



**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.

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

<sup>10</sup> Staffordshire Resident's Survey – Covid-19 - <https://www.staffordshire.gov.uk/Coronavirus/Covid-19-residents-survey-results.aspx>

## Public Place Violence & Serious Violence

### 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. Government lockdowns (March and November) and Tier-based restrictions have severely limited activity in public spaces and activity linked to the night-time economy; as a result in the 12 months to the end of November 2020, Public Place Violent (PPV) offences fell by 41% (4,100 incidents) compared to the previous 12 months.

It should be considered and anticipated that as restrictions begin to be relaxed and lifted in the UK, and public spaces, entertainment and sporting events, and the night-time economy begin re-open, there will be an associated considerable increase in PPV offending – with at minimum a likely return to levels seen prior to the pandemic.

Alcohol is highly likely to remain a factor in PPV incidents once public spaces become more open, prior to the pandemic alcohol was a factor in a little over a third (36%) of all PPV offences, and there is as yet no evidence to suggest that there will be a considerable shift in this as COVID restrictions are eased.

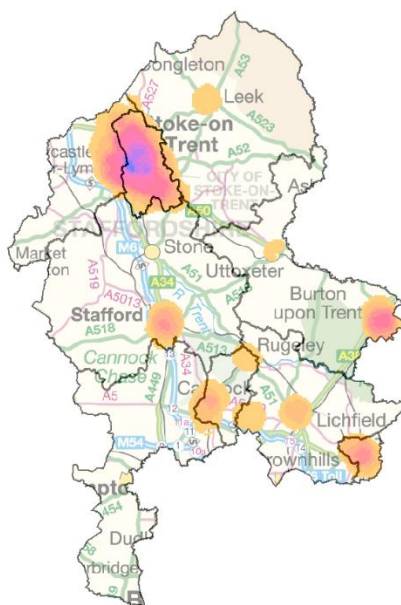
In a number of parts of the force-area there are also concerns about links between Urban Street Gang (USG) activity, Drug Supply/County Lines and serious violence; with particular concern about premeditated violent offences between gangs, and following reprisals. While Staffordshire does not see the same level of serious violence experienced by neighbouring force-areas, over the last five years, the level of serious violence seen locally has increased, with an increase in violent gangs and violence linked to Organised Crime Groups (OCGs).

The reduction seen in Public Place Violence has not been seen to the same extent amongst Serious Violence (SV) Offences; while SV offences in the 12 months to November 2020 are 27% lower (440 less offences) than in the equivalent previous 12 months – more serious violent crime is now starting to return towards pre-pandemic levels.

Public Place and Serious Violence offences largely tend to be committed by younger males, against other younger males; with the most dominant group of both victims and offenders being males aged 18-29 years – although there are 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, however it is not a high volume concern in Staffordshire and Stoke-on-Trent. While several areas nationally have seen large increases in the last three years, this has not been the case locally – with rates remaining low and fairly stable. Although the number of offences are very low by comparison, as with Public Place Violence, many of the wards which see the highest levels of Knife Crime are town/city centre wards – with offences generally focussed towards most urban and metropolitan parts of the force area; primarily East Staffordshire, Stafford, Tamworth and Stoke-on-Trent.

### Violence with injury offence hot spots, 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.

It is anticipated that easing of government COVID restrictions will result in fairly sharp increases in PPV offences, back towards pre-pandemic levels.



## 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 exploitation<sup>11</sup>.

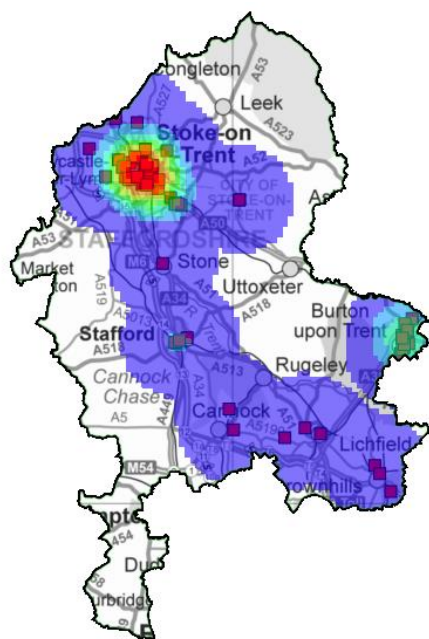
The scale and visibility of Modern Slavery and Human Trafficking is gradually and consistently increasing, and is likely to continue to do so<sup>12</sup>. Modern Slavery is a highly complex and hidden crime which makes it challenging to accurately measure in terms of prevalence; however there have been year on year increases in the number of victims identified. Staffordshire Police have seen a gradual increase in the reporting of Modern Slavery which is in line with the national picture.

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 offences, there have been a number of incidents which have been flagged for potential Modern Slavery concerns.

Known victims and perpetrators of Modern Slavery offences in Staffordshire and Stoke-on-Trent are predominantly British, followed by Vietnamese; with both perpetrator and victim often being of the same nationality. British victims tend to have fallen on difficult times, making them vulnerable to the false promise of well-paid work complete with decent accommodation. Many non-British victims are brought into the UK from areas of conflict and economic hardship, with the promise of a new life, after 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 affected are extremely low, the level of Organised Crime (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 involved in money laundering offences.

### 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)*

<sup>11</sup> NCA – National Strategic Assessment of Serious and Organised Crime 2018

<sup>12</sup> <https://nationalcrimeagency.gov.uk/what-we-do/crime-threats/modern-slavery-and-human-trafficking>

## Car Key Burglary / Vehicle Theft

### Volume and potential harm:

Low volume / Moderate individual harm / Low community harm

### CSPs with priority:

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.

There additionally remains challenge relating to the use of electronic devices to facilitate theft of vehicles which use 'keyless' technology – without the criminal needing to access the key fob itself. So-called 'relay attacks' can be committed without an individual needing to physically access the keys, using a device to pick up the key fobs signal from indoors, and 'relay' this to the vehicle outdoors. Regionally, it is considered that this approach to vehicle theft has contributed significantly to the rise in vehicle thefts across the West Midlands region.

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.

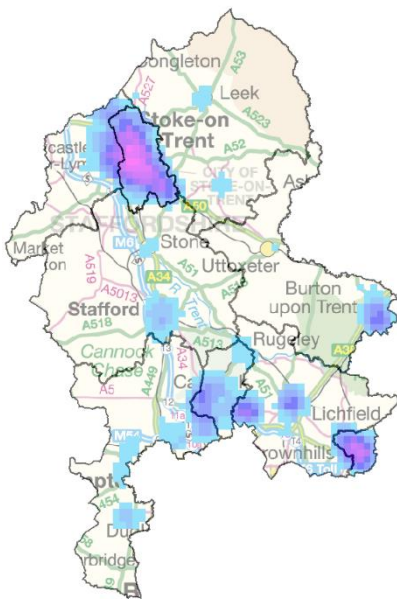
While acquisitive crime in general has reduced drastically in the year ending November 2020 (28% reduction compared to previous 12 months, compared to 17% reduction across crime overall), this has largely been driven by reductions in more prevalent and high-volume theft offences such as shoplifting – with Vehicle Thefts and Residential Burglary not reducing by the same level as other acquisitive types of crime. At the time of this report – Vehicle Thefts had returned to be in line with three-year monthly averages, although Residential Burglaries remain lower.

These offences have typically been focussed in the south-east of the force-area, with Tamworth and Lichfield particularly affected compared to other CSP areas. However, these offences also affect South Staffordshire, and in the last 12 months have had an impact on the 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.

### 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:**

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 than rural, some types of crime (particularly acquisitive crimes) see particularly high rates in rural locations. Rural areas and rural-fringe areas also tend to be home to some of the demographic groups which can be at greater risk of Fraud offences.

In recent years, rural areas nationally and locally have been affected by a number of high-risk Fly-Tipping and Environmental offences linked to Organised Crime Groups.

In 2019-20, compared to the force-area overall and urban areas, the proportion of offences which are alcohol-related are similar (6% rural, 8% urban). Proportions of offences which are recorded as being domestic-related are slightly lower (18% compared to 22% in urban areas). Online-enabled offences are similar, with around 4% of all crime in both urban and rural areas having an Online element. In latest data (2018-19) flagged business crime is significantly higher in rural areas; 43% of crime in rural Staffordshire is business-related, compared to 34% in urban areas.

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. While rural areas experience around 12% of force-area crime, they experience 16% of Vehicle crime and 19% of all Burglary offences. Rural areas also experience a fractionally higher proportion of Burglaries in which vehicles are stolen.

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. In previous analysis around 22% of vehicles stolen in rural areas were vehicles broadly considered to be 'high value' which is slightly higher than those stolen in urban areas (18%). Rural areas also saw a higher proportion of vans being stolen (13% of vehicle thefts) than urban areas (10%). Additionally, around 43% of vehicle thefts in rural areas were additionally flagged as Business Crime, this is compared to around 28% of vehicle thefts across the force-area.

**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 / building density and farming / agricultural premises are at particular risk.

All-terrain vehicles such as off-road motorcycles, Land Rovers and quad-bikes 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 is a significant local health concern<sup>13</sup>; the overall Staffordshire and Stoke-on-Trent rate of hospital admissions for alcohol-related conditions is significantly above the national level, with significantly high rates in seven-out-of-nine local CSP areas. Rates of alcohol-specific deaths remain significantly above the national level in two CSP areas (Stoke-on-Trent and Newcastle-under-Lyme).

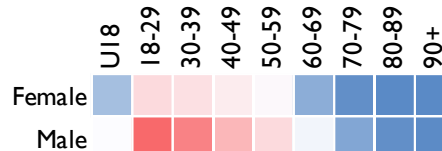
The rate of offences where alcohol is considered an aggravating factor is 5.4 per 1,000 people, with alcohol considered to be a factor in 8% of all crime in Staffordshire & Stoke-on-Trent. Alcohol is more commonly a factor in violent offences compared to offending overall, with around 15% of violence against the person offences being alcohol-related; this is particularly the case in Public Place Violent offences. Alcohol is slightly more likely to be a factor in Public Order offences (11% alcohol-related) and also in Sexual Offences (10% alcohol-related) than most other types of crime. Acquisitive crimes such as Burglary, Theft, and Vehicle Offences see very low proportions with alcohol considered a factor (1%).

Most offenders in alcohol-related crime are male and aged under 40. There is no significant difference in the gender of victims, with males and females similarly likely to be affected by alcohol-related crime overall – particularly those aged under 40, and a large number between 18-29 years old.

### Victims in alcohol-related crime:



### Offenders in alcohol-related crime:



### Offending with alcohol as a factor

Force rate (per 1,000 people): 5.4

### Proportion of offences flagged as alcohol being an aggravating factor:

All offences: 8% alcohol a factor

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.

Etruria and Hanley ward in Stoke-on-Trent sees the highest rate of alcohol-related crime in force (36.7 incidents per 1,000 pop.) followed closely by Burton in East Staffordshire (36.6) and Stafford town centre (Forebridge ward, 30.7).

There is also some concern in Town ward (27.6) in Newcastle-under-Lyme and in Stowe ward, Lichfield (15.4).

### 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)

<sup>13</sup> Public Health England (PHE) 2018-19 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.

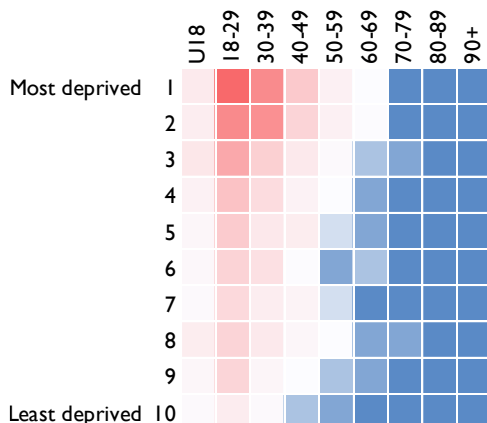
Drug users are at considerable risk of being criminally exploited through County Lines activity and other aspects of organised crime; drug dealers/suppliers will allow users to build-up high levels of drug-related debt, and use this as leverage to force the user to conduct criminal activity on their 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 and Missing Persons

### 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.

The COVID-19 pandemic is anticipated to have a considerable impact on mental health and wellbeing over coming years. It is expected that demand relating to mental health will increase considerably into 2021 and beyond. In mid-April 2020, at the peak of the national lockdown, Staffordshire Police recorded a considerable surge in weekly mental health incidents – far above expected upper limits.

Local<sup>14</sup> and national<sup>15</sup> 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 analysis<sup>16</sup> 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 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 disorder<sup>17</sup>. 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 <b>Force-wide</b>	9.2 <b>9.5</b>
Adults (age 16+)	England <b>Force-wide</b>	16.9 <b>16.4</b>
Older adults (age 65+)	England <b>Force-wide</b>	10.2 <b>10.2</b>

GP practice-level data however, shows that the overall level of recorded diagnoses of depression in the force-area are above the national level (12.3% of those aged 18+, compared to 10.7% nationally), around 114,570 individuals. Levels of suicide (particularly amongst men) are in line with national levels (where data is available) with the exception of Stafford, where rates are above the national level, although these relate to a small number of incidents.

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

<sup>14</sup> Staffordshire County Council – Residents Survey

<sup>15</sup> Office of National Statistics (ONS) - Coronavirus and the social impacts on Great Britain

<sup>16</sup> Institute of Fiscal Studies (IFS) - The mental health effects of the [first] lockdown and social distancing during the Covid-19 pandemic in the UK

<sup>17</sup> 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 traditional children's safeguarding and Children's Social Care support to families, there are four Safety Partnership areas in Staffordshire and Stoke-on-Trent where the proportion of children subject to a Child Protection Plan (CPP) has been above the national average, and five where the rate of Looked After Children/Children in care (LAC) have recently been above national levels.

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 NSPCC<sup>18</sup> 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**  
*The risk of child abuse is higher when caregivers become overloaded by the stressors in their lives. There are indications that the coronavirus pandemic has increased stressors on caregivers*
- **Increase in children and young people's vulnerability**  
*There are indications that conditions caused by the pandemic have heightened vulnerability of children and young people to certain types of abuse, e.g. online abuse, abuse within the home, criminal exploitation and child sexual exploitation.*
- **Reduction in normal protective services**  
*There is evidence that the 'normal' safeguards relied on to protect children and young people have been reduced during the pandemic. However social connections and support can provide a protective effect for children's safety and wellbeing.*

While it is important to consider the safeguarding of young children and risk of harm within the family environment, as young people move from childhood and 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, where there are risks around criminal exploitation of young people, as well as risks attached to 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 in disadvantaged communities (particularly including LAC and those in PRUs). Child Sexual Exploitation primarily affects females aged 10-14 years, although there are older victims and male victims. There is no strong correlation between areas of deprivation and CSE victimisation. 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.

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<sup>18</sup> 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 priority:** Cannock Chase, East Staffordshire, Lichfield, Newcastle-under-Lyme, Stafford, Staffordshire Moorlands, Stoke-on-Trent, Tamworth

**Summary:**

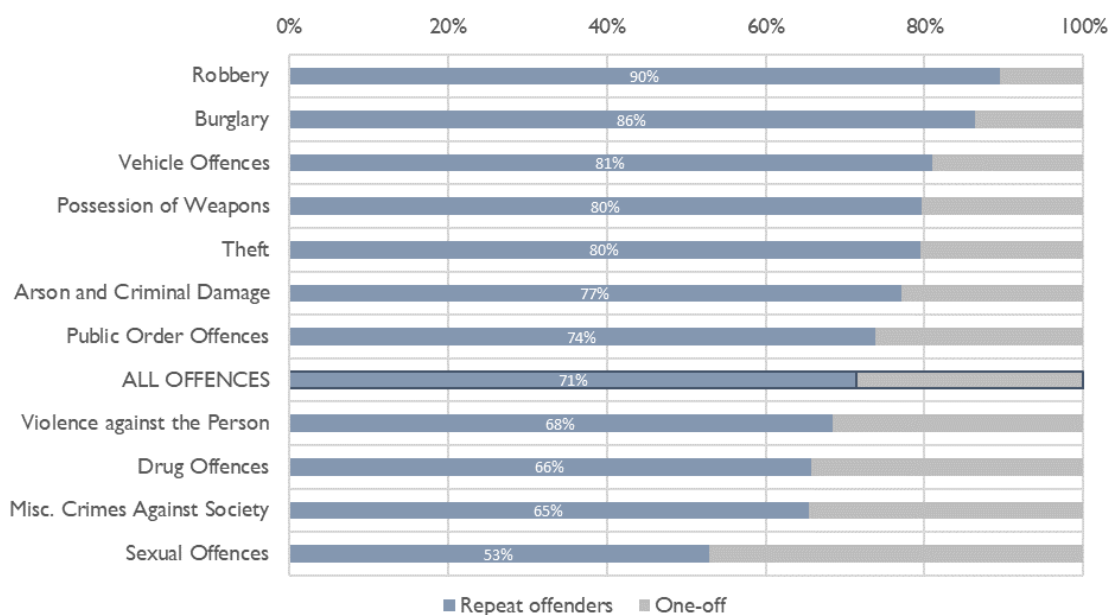
Repeat and persistent offenders are consistently disproportionately responsible for crime in Staffordshire and Stoke-on-Trent, with the minority of offenders responsible for the majority of offences.

In the latest detailed data (2018-19) while 45% of the 22,490 offenders living in Staffordshire and Stoke-on-Trent were considered repeat or persistent, they 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.

All major types of crime saw 50% of incidents or more committed by repeat and persistent offenders – and six<sup>19</sup> 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.

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.

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



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

**Direction of travel:** N/A (New indicator)

**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, Robbery and Burglary. There are a high proportion of repeat and persistent offenders who commit Possession of Weapon offences – which may pose additional risk to the public and law enforcement services.

<sup>19</sup> Arson & Criminal Damage, Burglary, Possession of a Weapon, Robbery, Theft, Vehicle Offences.



## **Fires and Fire Risk**

Some pockets of the force-area have a high proportion of lower value residential properties in areas of high housing density, and that 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 compared to the number of dwelling fires that they are a factor in, 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.

It is important that homes are fitted with functioning fire alarms as a minimum, and that communities are encouraged to engage with the Safe and Well programme ran by Staffordshire Fire and Rescue in order to have the safety of their homes assessed and addressed.

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.

## **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 2020, there were around 630 instances of Fraud recorded by the National Fraud Intelligence Bureau (NFIB) affecting organisations in Staffordshire and Stoke-on-Trent, with total losses of around £4.6million. 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 farms who are victims of machinery and 'off-road' vehicle thefts (such as quad-bikes, 4x4s and Land Rovers) 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.

## 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 considered to be 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 experienced throughout 2020, 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.

The closures of several national retail chains during the pandemic, as well as significant restrictions placed on much of the entertainment, food and accommodation, and service industries have already resulted in national spikes in unemployment – with levels expected to rise further in the next 12 months – particularly when the Government Furlough Scheme ends in Spring 2021. While unemployment in Staffordshire & Stoke-on-Trent overall is below the national average – it is still likely to rise over the next 12 to 24 months.

The impact of unhealthy lifestyles in some parts Staffordshire and Stoke-on-Trent is considerable, with some parts of the force-area experiencing 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 survey has shown that a proportion of 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 and ongoing concern across the force-area, with hospital admissions for alcohol-related conditions significantly higher than national levels in seven out of the nine Safety Partnership areas, and alcohol-specific deaths higher in two out of nine CSP areas.

School attainment in the area is 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.

Overall levels of employment across the majority of Staffordshire and Stoke-on-Trent is good, but there are some communities which face considerable employment disadvantage, where rates of adults claiming employment benefits for the long-term significantly above the national level. It is considered that the impact of COVID on these communities, particularly economically, will be severe – further exacerbating long-standing disadvantage.

While employment levels are generally good across the force-area, levels of pay have failed to increase significantly in recent years, with average annual earnings around £660 less than the national average across the force area overall, and over £2,000 a year less in some areas. With significant disruption to the economy in 2020, it is likely that wage levels will not increase in line with inflation in the short term, with those on lower incomes disproportionately affected.

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.

Some parts of the force-area face hidden challenges around deprivation and income; where lower wage levels mean that although families and individuals may live in communities which are not statistically classified as deprived, 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. These areas are especially vulnerable to the negative economic impacts of the Coronavirus pandemic, particularly as the furlough scheme ends in Spring 2021.

## 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 residents' survey introduced in late 2020. Findings from the new survey will be shared, as relevant, once made 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%).

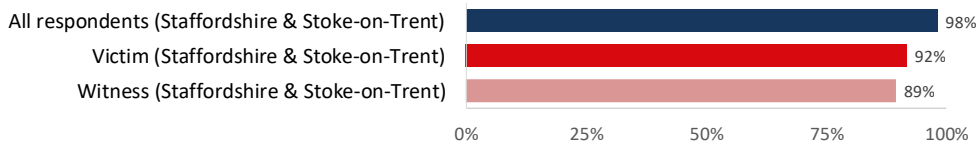
Around half of residents were satisfied with the level of visible Police presence across the force-area (48%) and the level of trust that residents have in the Police is particularly high (91% of residents).

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.

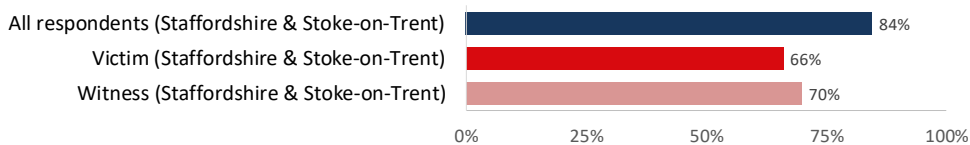
In addition to the majority of residents feeling safe both at daytime and after dark, a small proportion feel that they are likely to become a victim of crime in the future, around 15% of residents.

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.

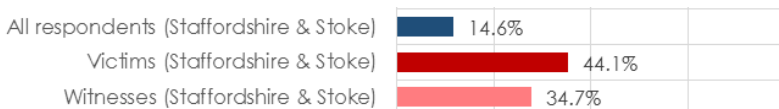
### Feelings of safety during daylight hours



### 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'<sup>20</sup> 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 last year, 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)

**[REVISED]** 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 cases 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.*

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<sup>20</sup> 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.

## **[REVISED] Community Cohesion & Tackling Extremism**

**[NEW]** 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.

**[NEW]** 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.

**[REVISED]** 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**

**[NEW]** Safety Partnerships should remain sighted on the Domestic Abuse Bill (2020) - due to become law in April 2021. This places statutory duties on upper-tier LAs, including the duty to provide victims (and their children) with appropriate safe accommodation and support whilst in accommodation. Responsible authorities will be required to form Domestic Abuse Local Partnership Boards and CSPs should ensure that they engage with these accordingly.

### ***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

**[NEW]** 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]** Telephone and courier fraud still present a high risk to particularly vulnerable and socially isolated groups. As these are individuals who 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 awareness raising activity. With growth in online auction/marketplace fraud, those who are connected digitally are also at increasing risk – awareness raising strategy 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)**

**[NEW]** All Safety Partnership areas must anticipate that when COVID restrictions become more relaxed, activity in public places (including activity linked to the night-time economy) will increase considerably – and as such there will likely be an equivalent increase in Public Place Violent and alcohol-related offences.

### **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 Speedwatch 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)**

**[NEW]** 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 Fire Risks:**

#### ***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.*

### **Business Crime:**

**[NEW]** 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.

#### ***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 conversations with individual CSP leads.

Previous priorities have been identified through a review of existing strategic risk and threat assessments, analysis of locality data, local and force-wide intelligence, intelligence from appropriate partners and stakeholders and national bodies (such as Action Fraud).

## Appendix D: Data tables

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

Ward Name	Partnership Area	Count (rounded) + rate per 1,000 population	Difference to ward average <sup>21</sup>
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

<sup>21</sup> Difference is calculated as above the mean plus one increment of ward-level standard deviation. Significant difference is calculated as above the mean plus two increments of ward-level standard deviation

## 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