

Community Safety Strategy 2026-2029

1. Foreword

Staffordshire stands at a pivotal moment in its commitment to community safety. Guided by a clear and uncompromising principle, that government must serve the people by safeguarding their freedoms and security, we are determined to protect our most vulnerable and create a county where every resident feels safe and supported.

Our approach is rooted in common-sense values: prevention before crisis, accountability in delivery, and partnership that works. We will strengthen collaboration across agencies, ensuring that resources are focused where they matter most, on tackling domestic abuse, child exploitation, modern slavery, and the insidious crimes that threaten the fabric of our communities.

This strategy reflects a bold ambition: to make Staffordshire stronger and safer through decisive action, not bureaucracy. By prioritizing early intervention, empowering local communities, and demanding excellence from all partners, we will reduce harm, restore confidence, and build resilience.

To make this ambition real, we will set clear targets, publish transparent progress reports, and hold ourselves accountable for outcomes. This includes measurable reductions in violent crime and domestic abuse, improved safeguarding for children and vulnerable adults, and stronger community confidence in local policing and support services.

Together, we will deliver a Staffordshire where safety is not a privilege but a guarantee, where families thrive, businesses prosper, and every individual can live free from fear. This is our pledge, and we will hold ourselves to it.

2. Executive Summary

Staffordshire County Council's Community Safety Strategy focuses on four key areas, with clear priorities under each area. Delivery will be underpinned by robust data and evidence and strong performance management arrangements to facilitate continuous improvement through effective challenge and accountability.

Protecting Vulnerable People

Protecting those most at risk through targeted, practical interventions that make a real difference.

Safer and Stronger Places


Making Staffordshire's neighbourhoods safe, strong and proud.

Prevention

Preventing harm before it occurs by addressing the root causes of crime and vulnerability.

Effective Partnerships

Driving community safety through partnership, challenge and accountability



Robust data and evidence and strong performance management arrangements

3. Strategic Context

This strategy is shaped by a complex and evolving landscape of local, regional and national policy, priorities and legislation.

National Strategic Context

Legislation

The key legislation which informs our community safety activity is listed below. Further detail about the legislation and specific local authority statutory responsibilities is provided at **Appendix 1**.

- Road Traffic Act 1988
- Crime and Disorder Act 1998
- Domestic Violence, Crime and Victims Act 2004
- Crime and Disorder Regulations 2007
- Crime and Security Act 2010
- Police Reform and Social Responsibility Act 2011
- Anti-Social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014
- Serious Crime Act 2015
- Counter-Terrorism and Security Act 2015
- Modern Slavery Act 2015
- Stalking Protection Act 2019
- Domestic Abuse Act 2021
- Police, Crime, Sentencing and Courts Act 2022
- Victim and Prisoners Act 2024
- Children Act 1989 and 2004
- Care Act 2014

National Strategies

There are a range of national strategies and policy drivers which inform our Community Safety Strategy. These include:

- [Serious Violence Strategy 2018](#)
- [Freedom from violence and abuse: a cross-government strategy 2025](#)
- [Tackling Child Sexual Abuse Strategy 2021](#)

- [Domestic Abuse Commissioner's Strategic Plan 2022-2026](#)
- [Prevent Strategy 2011, updated 2023](#)
- [CONTEST strategy 2023](#)
- [Antisocial Behaviour Action Plan 2023](#)
- [From harm to hope: A 10-year drugs plan to cut crime and save lives](#)
- [Working Together to Safeguard Children \(updated June 2025\)](#)
- [Care and Support Statutory Guidance \(currently under review as at Mar 26\)](#)

Local Strategic Context

Community safety in Staffordshire is delivered through a strong and collaborative partnership approach, which is underpinned by our shared Community Safety Agreement, local Community Safety Partnerships and aligned with the strategic priorities of the Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner. This work is informed by local strategic assessments and supported by a number of multi-agency forums.

Local Strategies and Plans

Key local strategies and plans include:

- **Staffordshire Community Safety Agreement 2023-2026**

Sets out our partnership priorities across the county including domestic abuse, modern slavery, counter-terrorism, hate crime, anti-social behaviour and child exploitation.

The agreement was developed collaboratively with partners and supports the partnership to meet our statutory duties under the Crime and Disorder Act.

The Staffordshire Community Safety Agreement is informed by Strategic Assessments which are refreshed annually.

- **District and Borough Community Safety Plans**

Developed by district and borough Community Safety Partnerships, the local Community Safety Plans outline how individual districts will address crime, anti-social behaviour and broader safety concerns in their communities. Current priorities within the plans include domestic abuse, violence, drug use and county lines and anti-social behaviour.

The District and Borough Community Safety Plans are informed by Strategic Assessments which are refreshed annually.

- **Police and Crime Plan 2024-2028**

Led by the Staffordshire Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner the plan focusses on reducing crime, supporting victims and building safer communities.

- **Health and Wellbeing Strategy 2022-2027**

Developed by the Health & Wellbeing Board, the strategy aims to improve healthy life expectancy, reduce health inequalities, and promote mental wellbeing. It recognises the links between health outcomes and community safety, particularly in the areas of substance misuse, domestic abuse and social isolation.

- **Youth Justice Plan (2025-2028)**

Provides an overview of the work of the Youth Justice Service in Staffordshire and sets out the priorities for the next three years including enhancing support to victims and restorative justice, strengthening and enhancing health provision for children engaged with Youth Justice Service, reducing disproportionality, and transforming Youth Justice Services into a fully multi-agency, child-first organisation.

- **Community Risk Management Plan 2025-2028**

Developed by Staffordshire Fire and Rescue Service, the plan identifies local risks and outlines prevention, protection and emergency response strategies to keep communities safe.

- **Staffordshire Fire and Rescue Service Prevention Strategy 2024-2028**

Developed by Staffordshire Fire and Rescue Service, the strategy defines how the service is achieving the priorities of prevention and early intervention, protecting Staffordshire and its communities, public confidence, and service reform.

- **Safer Roads Strategy (under development by Safer Roads Partnership)**

- **Staffordshire Contextual Safeguarding Strategy 2024-2027**

Developed by the Staffordshire Safeguarding Children Partnership, the strategy aims to bring together expertise, knowledge and skills to deliver services in a co-ordinated way across the following strands of exploitation: child sexual exploitation, child criminal exploitation (including county lines, financial exploitation, and organised crime groups), children missing from home, harmful sexual behaviour, modern day slavery and human trafficking, online child exploitation, and peer on peer exploitation / teenage relationship abuse. The Child Exploitation & Missing Strategic Group will be leading on the development of the Child Exploitation and Missing Plan which will support the delivery of this strategy.

- **SSASPB Strategic Priorities 2025-2028**

The Staffordshire and Stoke-on-Trent Adult Safeguarding Partnership Board are committed to listening to and empowering communities and supporting the workforce to keep adults who may have care and support needs safe from abuse and neglect. They have set out their Strategic Priorities for 2025-2028 and are working towards developing a Strategic Plan based on these priorities.

- **Staffordshire Safeguarding Children Together Plan 2025-2028**

Developed by the Staffordshire Safeguarding Children's Partnership, the plan outlines the shared vision for children to be happy, healthy, loved and safe. It identifies two priority outcomes: an effective integrated front door and an improvement of the identification, assessment and response to intra-familial child sexual abuse. It also identifies extra-familial harm (contextual safeguarding) and domestic abuse as being two key areas of focus.

- **Staffordshire Children's Strategic Partnership Plan**

Developed by the Staffordshire Children and Families Strategic Partnership, the plan outlines the aspirations for all children and young people to be happy and healthy, safe and belong and enjoy and achieve. It also describes the principles that underpin the work of the partnership.

Local Governance and Partnership Working

The delivery of effective community safety outcomes is dependent on strong, multi-agency collaboration. Our partnership approach is supported by a clear commitment to transparency, mutual accountability and a culture of constructive scrutiny among partners.

The Staffordshire Safer and Stronger Communities Strategic Partnership Board is the statutory countywide partnership board which oversees community safety activity in Staffordshire. It has responsibility for developing and delivering the partnership Community Safety Agreement.

There are a number of inter-connected partnership boards and forums which contribute to the delivery of community safety activity in Staffordshire. The diagram below shows some of the key interdependencies.

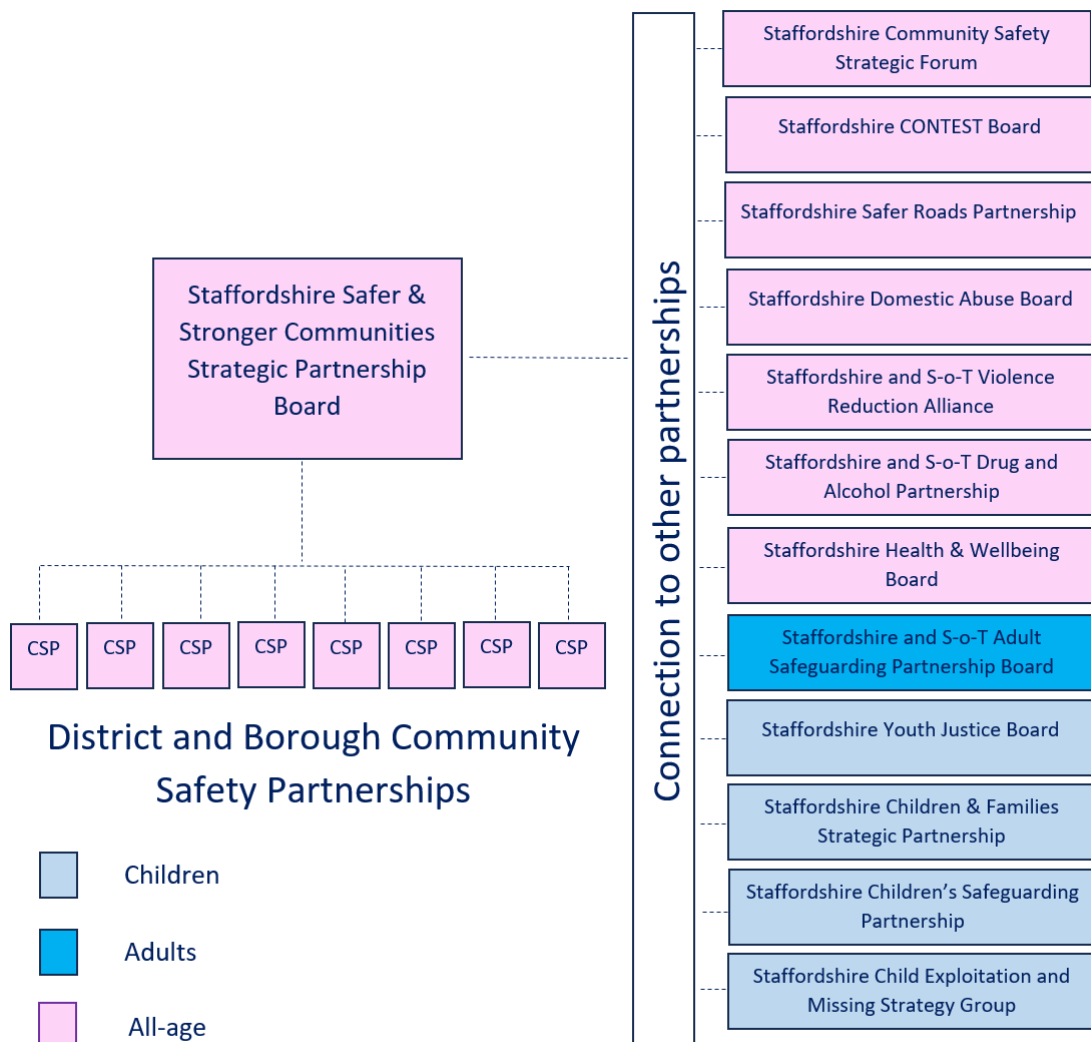


Fig 1: Staffordshire community safety partnership arrangements

4. Strategic Priorities

Our community safety activity will be delivered under four main areas:

**Protecting
Vulnerable
People**

**Safer and
Stronger Places**

Prevention

**Effective
Partnerships**

Protecting Vulnerable People

In Staffordshire, we recognise that some individuals and groups face greater risks of harm, exploitation, and victimisation. These include children, older adults, people with disabilities, and those experiencing mental health challenges or social isolation.

These vulnerabilities can increase exposure to crime, abuse, and anti-social behaviour, while limiting access to support. Our priority is to protect those most at risk by delivering targeted, practical interventions that make a real difference.

We are committed to empowering families and communities to play an active role in safeguarding. Strong, informed local networks are essential to preventing harm and building resilience. By working together, we can create safer, fairer

neighbourhoods where everyone has the opportunity to thrive and where common-sense values guide action.

Priorities:

We will work collaboratively through the Safeguarding Boards to support existing activity and the ongoing development and delivery of new activity in relation to:

- Safeguarding our most vulnerable children: zero tolerance for grooming gangs, county lines and child exploitation
- Safeguarding vulnerable children and adults through accountability and enforcement
- Empowering families and communities to take responsibility for safeguarding
- Streamlined, effective safeguarding services focused on outcomes
- Preventing radicalisation of vulnerable children and adults through education, intelligence, and community vigilance

Safer and Stronger Places

Our goal is to make Staffordshire's neighbourhoods safe, strong, and proud. We want communities where people feel secure, connected, and confident that local priorities come first. By promoting shared values, civic pride, and mutual respect, we will create environments that deter crime, violence, and anti-social behaviour.

We are committed to a zero-tolerance approach to crime and ASB, ensuring swift and consistent action against unacceptable behaviour. This means backing law enforcement, cutting red tape, and using resources efficiently to deliver real results.

By fostering a culture of personal responsibility and community pride, we will empower residents to take ownership of their streets, support local initiatives, and help shape safer, cleaner public spaces. Our vision is clear: neighbourhoods where families thrive, businesses grow, and people trust that their community is fair, secure, and governed by common-sense values.

Priorities:

- Zero tolerance for neighbourhood crime and antisocial behaviour
- Tackling serious violence through the Violence Reduction Alliance, with a focus on prevention, swift justice and visible enforcement
- Promoting civic pride and shared British values to strengthen community cohesion
- Targeted interventions in high-risk areas, including night-time economy safety

- Improving road and fire safety through practical, targeted interventions
- Designing out crime with safer streets, public spaces, and infrastructure by implementing Martyn's Law
- Refocusing Trading Standards to deliver high-impact, efficient service

Prevention

We will prevent crime before it occurs by addressing the root causes of crime and vulnerability, investing in people and places and creating safer, healthier and more inclusive communities.

We will focus on early intervention and prevention, fostering integrated partnerships across statutory, voluntary, and community sectors, while building resilience through investment in skills, enterprise and civic pride.

Aligning community safety with broader investment in people and places fosters civic pride, supports families, and builds resilient communities where everyone can thrive.

Priorities:

- Targeted interventions in high-risk areas, including night-time economy safety.
- Domestic abuse prevention and victim support.
- Using our lobbying role to champion visible policing and reassurance to deter crime and build trust.
- Child exploitation and safeguarding.
- Modern slavery and human trafficking prevention.
- Support for families and personal responsibility.
- Counter-terrorism and Prevent duties.
- Investment in skills and local enterprise to reduce dependency.
- Hate crime reduction and community cohesion.

Effective Partnerships

Effective community safety relies on strong, collaborative partnerships across sectors. Our approach to partnership working is rooted in collaboration, but it is also underpinned by a strong commitment to accountability and constructive challenge.

We recognise that effective community safety requires shared ownership across agencies, with each partner bringing unique expertise, resources, and influence. However, collaboration must go beyond cooperation and must include a willingness to challenge underperformance, question assumptions, and hold each other to account for delivering shared priorities.

As a local authority, we have a vital role in holding partners to account and providing constructive challenge, ensuring that commitments are met and that services are responsive to local needs. We are well-placed to convene, coordinate, and challenge, using our strategic position and lobbying power to influence local and national approaches. We actively champion local priorities, lobbying for change where needed, and ensuring that our partnership approach is responsive, equitable, and evidence-led.

We are committed to reducing duplication and unnecessary bureaucracy, streamlining processes to ensure that resources are used efficiently and effectively. Our partnerships are not only about cooperation; they are about shared responsibility, accountability, transparency, and delivering real outcomes for our communities. By fostering public trust through openness and integrity, we aim to build safer, stronger communities where people feel heard, protected, and empowered.

Priorities:

Effective partnership working underpins everything we do, but we will have a particular focus on the following priorities:

- Ensuring that justice is swift and visible, by being bold with our own enforcement activity and doing everything within our power to ensure that our evidence is high quality and robust to support effective judicial outcomes
- Using our lobbying role to challenge and highlight delays and issues with judiciary and enforcement partners
- Streamlined, joined-up working cutting duplication and bureaucracy
- Robust performance and accountability: developing robust datasets and measurable outcomes to allow us to hold ourselves and partners to account
- Local leadership with national influence lobbying for local priorities
- Transparency and public trust with a focus on open reporting and community oversight

5. Implementation, Measuring Progress and Accountability

We are committed to ensuring that our work leads to real change and results in positive outcomes for the people of Staffordshire.

To achieve this, we will:

- Develop a **detailed action plan** that outlines the specific actions, responsibilities and timescales required to deliver our Community Safety Strategy. The plan will identify the links and interdependencies with other areas of work (for example, safeguarding activity) to ensure that our work is joined up across the system and that we are not duplicating activity. The action plan will not include prescriptive requirements for activity by other parts of the system, which are beyond the local authority's control. However, it will reflect the Council's role in identifying and championing activity to respond to community need, driving partnership approaches, as well as our leadership and lobbying role in influencing local, regional and national agendas.
- Develop **key performance indicators** to help us to measure our achievement and progress in delivering the strategy, as well as allowing us to identify where things aren't going well and where remedial action is needed.
- **Report performance on a quarterly basis** to the Cabinet Member for Community Safety and Resilience and to the Assistant Director for Culture, Rural and Safer Communities on a quarterly basis.
- **Report performance on an annual basis** to the Safeguarding and Education Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

6. Our commitment to continuous improvement of the evidence base

Staffordshire County Council are committed to strengthening community safety through a practical, evidence-led approach. By continuously improving the data we use, we will ensure decisions are based on facts, not bureaucracy, delivering real results for local people.

This commitment will drive transparency, accountability, and measurable outcomes, so residents can see clear progress. Our focus will be on using evidence to target resources effectively, reduce waste, and respond quickly to the issues that matter most in our communities.

The data currently shared between Staffordshire County Council and our community safety partners is often aggregated, filtered, and retrospective. While this ensures compliance, it limits our ability to identify emerging risks and respond proactively. Emergency services hold detailed, incident-level data that could significantly strengthen strategic planning, yet access remains constrained by fragmented systems and overly cautious interpretations of data protection laws.

A lack of timely and granular data reduces our capacity to predict and prevent harm. Reactive approaches lead to inefficiencies and missed opportunities for early intervention. High-quality, unfiltered data is essential for evidence-based decision-making and for delivering the best possible outcomes for our communities.

To address these challenges, through this strategy, we commit to working with our partners to:

- Create a secure, role-based data-sharing platform for raw emergency services data.
- Pilot real-time data sharing in priority areas such as domestic abuse and serious violence.
- Update governance protocols and training staff on lawful sharing under GDPR.
- Invest in secure infrastructure with encryption and audit trails.

A multi-agency data taskforce will be key to driving this forward, alongside endorsement from the Community Safety Partnership Board and alignment with Staffordshire's Digital and Data Strategy.

We are committed to continuing to develop the evidence base to ensure that the ongoing development and delivery of our approach to community safety is underpinned by reliable and insightful data. This will be a key area of activity in our community safety action plan.

It will support how we measure our performance and will help to improve transparency, support evidence-based decision making, and strengthen public accountability.

7. Appendices

Appendix 1: Legislation Overview and Local Authority Statutory Responsibilities

Legislation	Overview	LA Statutory Responsibilities
Road Traffic Act 1988	Consolidates laws relating to road use, vehicle standards, driver behaviour, and road safety. It sets out a number of offences and includes provisions on vehicle insurance, licensing, seat belt use and protective headgear. It gives police powers to conduct preliminary tests (e.g. drug / alcohol impairment tests). It also places a statutory duty on local authorities to promote road safety through accident studies, education and engineering measures.	Staffordshire County Council, as a Highway Authority, has a statutory responsibility to maintain the safety of its local road network. They must: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Carry out studies into accidents arising from the use of vehicles within their area. • Take appropriate measures to prevent such accidents. • Take measures, when constructing new roads, to reduce the possibility of such accidents.
Crime and Disorder Act 1998	Established a framework for reducing crime and anti-social behaviour in the UK. It introduced key measures such as Anti-Social Behaviour Orders (ASBOs), Youth Offending Teams, and Community Safety Partnerships, requiring local agencies to work together to prevent crime. The Act also created new offences for racially aggravated crimes and emphasized early intervention and prevention, particularly for young people	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Local authorities must exercise all their functions with due regard to the likely effect on crime and disorder, including anti-social behaviour and substance misuse. They are required to do all that is reasonably possible to prevent such issues in their communities. • Local authorities are designated as ‘responsible authorities’ and must work in partnership with the police, health services, fire and rescue and probation services to form Community Safety Partnerships.

Staffordshire County Council

Legislation	Overview	LA Statutory Responsibilities
Domestic Violence, Crime and Victims Act 2004	Strengthens protections for victims of domestic abuse and other crimes, with a wide range of reforms across domestic violence, criminal justice and victims' rights. Key provisions include making the breach of non-molestation orders a criminal offence, expanding the definition of cohabitants to include same-sex couples, and creating a new offence of causing or allowing the death of a child or vulnerable adult.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Local authorities, through Community Safety Partnerships, must conduct Domestic Homicide Reviews (now called Domestic Abuse Related Death Reviews) when the death of a person aged 16 or over has, or appears to have resulted from violence, abuse or neglect by– <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) a person to whom they were related or with whom they were or had previously been in an intimate personal relationship, or (b) a member of the same household as them, held with a view to identifying the lessons to be learnt from the death.
Crime and Disorder Regulations 2007	Required local agencies, such as councils, police, health, and fire services, to work together through Community Safety Partnerships. These partnerships must regularly assess local crime issues, share information, engage communities, and develop joint strategies and action plans to reduce crime and anti-social behaviour.	<p>Local authorities, as part of Community Safety Partnerships, are required to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Establish a strategy group to prepare and implement a strategic assessment and a partnership plan for reducing crime, disorder and substance misuse. • Conducting annual strategic assessments that analyse crime patterns, trends, and community concerns. • Developing a three-year partnership plan, updated annually, outlining priorities, actions, and resource allocation. • Engaging with the community, including holding public meetings and consulting residents and stakeholders on local crime and safety issues. • Sharing information between responsible authorities through a formal protocol.

Staffordshire County Council

Legislation	Overview	LA Statutory Responsibilities
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Participating in county-level strategy groups (in two-tier areas like Staffordshire) to produce a Community Safety Agreement that coordinates efforts across districts.
Crime and Security Act 2010	Introduced a wide range of measures aimed at enhancing public safety and improving the effectiveness of policing and crime prevention. Key provisions include the introduction of Domestic Violence Protection Notices and Orders, allowing police and courts to provide immediate protection to victims by removing suspected perpetrators from the home. The Act also reformed stop and search procedures, streamlined the retention and destruction of DNA and fingerprint data, and introduced new powers to tackle gang-related violence and anti-social behaviour.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Local authorities may be involved in multi-agency arrangements to support victims and enforce DVPOs. • Local authorities must conduct a report on family circumstances and may be required to implement parenting orders if the ASBO is breached. Typically in two tier areas, district councils take the lead on ASBO applications. • Local authorities, as licensing authorities, are given powers to restrict the sale and supply of alcohol between 3am and 6am in their area, unless specific exemptions apply. In two-tier areas, this is a district council responsibility.
Police Reform and Social Responsibility Act 2011	Replaced Police Authorities with directly elected Police and Crime Commissioners, introduced changes to alcohol licensing, reformed regulation of protests around Parliament Square and allowed the temporary banning of harmful drugs.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Licensing authorities are designated as responsible authorities, which gives them powers to act proactively on licensing issues without waiting for other responsible authorities (e.g. Police) to intervene.
Anti-Social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014	Streamlined and strengthened the powers available to authorities for tackling anti-social behaviour and related criminal issues. It introduced 6 tools (to	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • District and borough councils are responsible for direct ASB enforcement through Community Protection Notices etc. They are responsible for

Staffordshire County Council

Legislation	Overview	LA Statutory Responsibilities
	<p>replace 19 existing powers): civil injunctions, criminal behaviour orders, community protection notices, public spaces protection orders, closure powers and dispersal powers. It also introduced the Community Trigger and Community Remedy, giving victims and communities a greater voice in how ASB is addressed. It introduced provisions to tackle dangerous dogs, forced marriage, illegal firearms and gang-related violence.</p>	<p>leading on ASB casework and for facilitating and publicising the Community Trigger process.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Upper tier local authorities as the authority for children’s and adults’ services ensure ASB responses consider safeguarding and support for vulnerable people. • Upper tier local authorities must participate in multi-agency reviews when the Community Trigger is activated.
<p>Serious Crime Act 2015</p>	<p>Strengthened the ability of law enforcement to tackle serious and organised crime, protect vulnerable individuals, and enhance public safety. It introduced a range of new offences and powers, including making it illegal to participate in the activities of an organised crime group and criminalising coercive or controlling behaviour in intimate or family relationships. It also strengthened laws around female genital mutilation, child cruelty and prison security.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Update safeguarding policies to respond to child cruelty (to include psychological as well as physical harm). • Local authorities can apply for FGM orders and have a duty to safeguarding those at risk. • Local authority staff must be aware of the offence of knowingly participating in the activities of an organised crime group. This is particularly relevant for roles involving licensing, housing or procurement to avoid unwitting involvement. • Local authorities may be involved in multi-agency work to apply for or enforce Serious Crime Prevention Orders. • Ensure their domestic abuse response is aligned with the legal definition of domestic abuse, which includes coercive and controlling behaviour.

Staffordshire County Council

Legislation	Overview	LA Statutory Responsibilities
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Local authorities are required to work through Community Safety Partnerships to tackle serious and organised crime.
Counter-Terrorism and Security Act 2015	Enhances the UK's ability to prevent and respond to terrorism. It gives authorities power to seize passports, impose Temporary Exclusion Orders and strengthen Terrorism Prevention and Investigation Measures to manage suspected terrorists. It requires public bodies to implement the Prevent Duty, helping to stop radicalisation.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prevent Duty: local authorities are required to have due regard to the need to prevent people from being drawn into terrorism. Key requirements include risk assessment, action planning, training, partnership working and monitoring and assurance. Staffordshire County Council co-ordinate and chair the Staffordshire Prevent Board. • Channel Panel Duties: Local authorities must establish and chair a Channel Plan to assess and support individuals vulnerable to being drawn into terrorism. Staffordshire County Council chair the Channel Panel and provide administrative support and co-ordination.
Modern Slavery Act 2015	Consolidated and strengthened measures to combat slavery, servitude forced labour and human trafficking. It established an Independent Anti-Slavery Commissioner and introduced Slavery and Trafficking Prevention Orders and Risk Orders to restrict the activities of suspected offenders. It gave victims greater protections, including a statutory defence for crimes committed under coercion. The Act requires large businesses to publish annual modern slavery statements.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Local authorities have a Duty to Notify the Home Office if they identify a potential victim of modern slavery and refer them to the National Referral Mechanism (for children and consenting adults) and anonymously for adults who do not consent. • Local authorities must co-operate with the Independent Anti-Slavery Commissioner. • Ensure that safeguarding procedures for children and adults are robust and include modern slavery as a form of abuse. • Provide or facilitate access to accommodation, care and support for victims.

Staffordshire County Council

Legislation	Overview	LA Statutory Responsibilities
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Publish an annual Modern Slavery Statement to describe the steps they are taking to ensure that there is no modern slavery in their own supply chains. • Local authority staff must be trained to spot signs of modern slavery and how to respond and refer cases appropriately.
Stalking Protection Act 2019	Empowers police to apply to magistrates' courts for Stalking Protection Orders (SPOs). SPOs are a civil measure designed to protect individuals from stalking behaviours at an early stage before a criminal conviction is secured. Breaching an SPO is a criminal offence, and the Act includes provisions for interim orders, notification requirements, and enforcement mechanisms.	The Stalking Protection Act 2019 does not impose explicit statutory duties on local authorities, but it does place them within the broader safeguarding and partnership framework. Local authorities are expected to play a supportive and collaborative role, particularly in commissioning services and contributing to multi-agency responses.
Domestic Abuse Act 2021	Provides a legal definition of domestic abuse, covering physical, emotional, coercive, controlling and economic abuse. It introduced Domestic Abuse Protection Orders, banned abusers from cross-examining victims in court and created the role of the Domestic Abuse Commissioner. It also made non-fatal strangulation and threats to share intimate images criminal offences and placed a duty on councils to provide	There are a number of requirements for upper tier local authorities in relation to the Safe Accommodation Duty: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Assess need for accommodation- based support for all victims of domestic abuse. • Prepare, publish, review and update a strategy. • Provide or commission support services for those who are living in safe accommodation. • Monitor effectiveness of provision and report to government.

Staffordshire County Council

Legislation	Overview	LA Statutory Responsibilities
	support for victims in safe accommodation.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Establish and maintain a local multi-agency board to lead on needs assessments, strategy development and delivery. • District and borough councils must co-operate with the upper tier authority in delivering the duties.
Police, Crime, Sentencing and Courts Act 2022	Aims to strengthen police powers, reform the justice system, and enhance public safety. It increases penalties for assaults on emergency workers, introduces Serious Violence Reduction Orders and places a duty on public bodies to work together to prevent serious violence.	<p>'Specified authorities' (which includes local authorities) and must work together to prevent and reduce serious violence in their local areas, as part of the Serious Violence Duty. They must:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conduct a strategic needs assessment to understand the nature and causes of serious violence. • Create and implement a strategy to address violence locally. • Share relevant data between agencies to support evidence-based interventions. • Comply with statutory guidance and report progress to Secretary of State. • Conduct offensive weapons homicide reviews.
Victim and Prisoners Act 2024	Strengthens the rights of victims and is intended to improve public confidence in the criminal justice system. It places the Victims Code on a statutory footing and introduces a duty for local commissioners to collaborate when providing victim support services. It formalises the roles of Independent Domestic and Sexual Violence Advisors, establishes and	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Local authorities have a statutory duty to work jointly with Police & Crime Commissioners and Integrated Care Boards to commission support services for victims of domestic abuse, sexual abuse and serious violence. • Work together to develop a needs assessment. • Prepare, publish, review and revise a strategy for commissioning victim support services.

Staffordshire County Council

Legislation	Overview	LA Statutory Responsibilities
	Independent Public Advocate and reforms the parole system.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Collaborate in the exercise of victim support functions.
Children Act 1989	Places the welfare of the child as the paramount concern in all decisions affecting them. It introduced the concept of parental responsibility and placed duties on local authorities to safeguard and promote the welfare of children in need. It also established legal frameworks for care proceedings, child protection, and support for looked-after children, including provisions for special guardianship and family assistance orders.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Local authorities have a statutory duty to safeguard and promote the welfare of children in need within their area. • This includes assessing children's needs, providing appropriate services to support their health and development, and ensuring their upbringing is safe and stable—ideally within their families. • Authorities must provide accommodation for children who are without suitable care, and take responsibility for those who become looked-after, including developing care plans, promoting educational outcomes, and regularly reviewing their welfare. • The Act also places duties on councils to support disabled children, care leavers, and to collaborate with other agencies to ensure children's needs are met holistically.
Children Act 2004	Promoted multi-agency co-operation and accountability in safeguarding children. It created the role of Children's Commissioner for England, required local authorities to appoint a Director of Children's Services and established Local Safeguarding Children Boards.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Establish a Director of Children's Services and designate a Lead Member for Children's Services. • Work with health, police, education, and other partners to improve the wellbeing of children in their area. • Ensure their functions are discharged with regard to the need to safeguard and promote the welfare of children.

Staffordshire County Council

Legislation	Overview	LA Statutory Responsibilities
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support multi-agency safeguarding arrangements, as outlined in Working Together to Safeguard Children statutory guidance. • Ensure effective sharing of information between agencies to protect children.
Care Act 2014	<p>Placed adults and their carers at the centre of social care planning and delivery. It introduced a legal duty on local authorities to promote individual wellbeing, prevent or delay the development of care needs, and provide clear information and advice. It introduced personal budgets, strengthened safeguarding duties and required councils to ensure a diverse, high-quality care market. It emphasised integration with health services and the provision of independent advocacy for those who need help navigating the system.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Promote the wellbeing of individuals in all care and support decisions, considering factors like dignity, health, protection from abuse, control over life, relationships, and living conditions. • Provide or arrange services that prevent, reduce, or delay the development of care and support needs. • Ensure access to comprehensive information and advice about care and support services, funding options, and how to access them. • Develop a diverse, sustainable market of high-quality care services that meet local needs and promote wellbeing. • Carry out assessments for any adult who appears to need care and support, including carers. This includes determining eligibility under a national minimum threshold. • Create care and support plans for eligible individuals, including a personal budget and the option for direct payments. • Provide an independent advocate for individuals who would otherwise struggle to participate in assessments or planning.

Staffordshire County Council

Legislation	Overview	LA Statutory Responsibilities
		<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Lead local safeguarding arrangements to protect adults at risk of abuse or neglect, including establishing Safeguarding Adults Boards (SABs).• Work in partnership with health services and other agencies to integrate care and support effectively.• Ensure continuity of care in the event of provider failure or service interruption.