



2024-2025 Avon & Somerset Serious Violence Strategic Needs Assessment

Approved by ASVRP Board



CONTEXT & OVERVIEW

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CONTEXT & OVERVIEW

PURPOSE

The purpose of this Serious Violence SNA 2024-25 is to provide a specific focus on violence-related needs within our local area. It aims to increase understanding of the types, distribution, and extent of violence. This assessment provides insights into the current and future wellbeing needs of a defined population, to help partners collectively agree on priorities and allocate resources.

This SNA should inform:

- The Avon and Somerset Violence Reduction Partnership (VRP) governance on setting priorities and performance measures.
- VRP partners on identifying interventions to commission.
- VRP partners on assessing risk and protective factors of children and young people.

DEFINITION

The Avon and Somerset VRP embraces a priority focus on the prevention and reduction of public space violence for under 25's (children and young people); including homicide, attempted homicide, robbery, wounding, grievous bodily harm, knife and gun crime, alcohol and drug related violence and areas of criminality where serious violence or its threat is inherent, such as county lines and modern slavery.

We also recognise and commit to supporting a joined-up response to existing partnership work to tackle serious violence across the whole pathway and in the broadest sense, including domestic abuse, rape and serious sexual offences and violence against women and girls more generally.

INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND TO THE VIOLENCE REDUCTION PARTNERSHIP

In March 2019, the (then) Home Secretary announced a £100million Serious Violence Fund to help tackle serious violence. Of this, £35 million was allocated for the development of Violence Reduction Units (VRUs) across England and Wales. Eighteen Police force areas worst affected by serious violence received this VRU funding. A VRU is responsible for driving local approach and strategy to tackling Serious Violence and embedding cultural change. Bringing together Police, Local Authorities, Health, Fire, Education, Justice and Community Representatives for a multi-agency response to the local drivers of serious violence and the delivery response to tackle them.

In June 2019, the Avon and Somerset Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner (OPCC) was awarded £1.16 million from the Home Office to set up a ViRU. It was agreed locally that responses needed to be truly local and so a 'Hub and Spoke' model was the preferred approach, this resulted in the OPCC leading the strategic coordination from the Hub and the five local authorities driving the local responses through the Spokes (Figure 1). In Avon and Somerset partners have come together since 2019 to shape this response.



CONTEXT & OVERVIEW

INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND CONTINUED

In 2023 it was agreed that the collaboration should be called the Violence Reduction Partnership, and this would encompass the Hub and Spoke model and the wider partners across the system. This partnership is overseen by the Serious Violence Reduction Partnership Board (SVRPB), which ensures that the partnership is both efficient and effective in its plans to tackle serious violence.

Further to this in January 2023 the Government launched the Serious Violence Duty, which placed legal responsibility on police, justice, fire and rescue, health, and local authorities (known as the “specified authorities”) to work together to prevent and reduce serious violence. They must work together in a local government area (section 8 of the Police, Crime, Sentencing and Police Act 2022 (“the 2022 Act”)) or can agree to work together over a wider geographic area, such as a police force area. The VRP is the collaboration in which local partners respond to this duty.

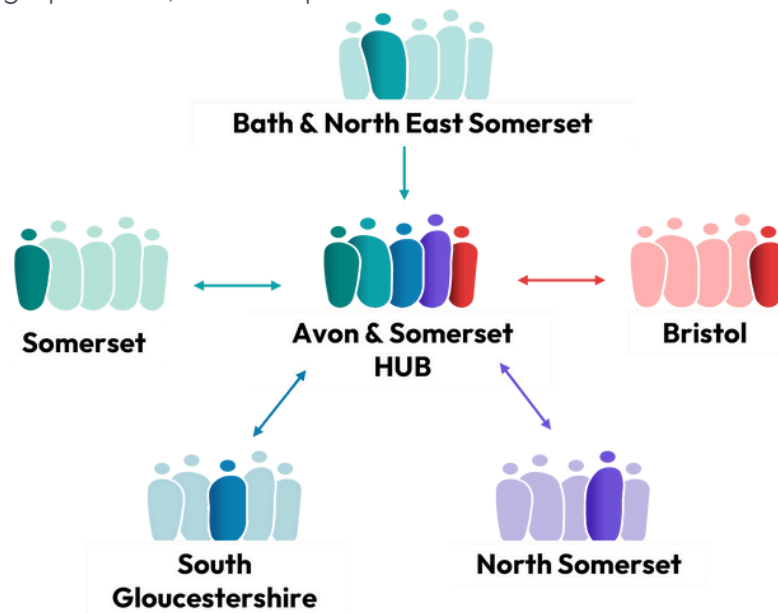


Figure 1: The Avon and Somerset hub & spoke model



PUBLIC HEALTH APPROACH

The VRP has adopted a public health approach into its ways of working both at a strategic and operational level. This follows four key steps ¹:

At a pan Avon and Somerset level, our strategic needs assessment works to assist us in understanding stages 1 and 2 of these core steps. In doing this we can then influence stages 3 and 4. This strategy will therefore draw out areas for us to focus and drive across these 4 stages, this will direct us in making positive change.

At an operational level, the spokes use this approach in identifying vulnerable people and places at risk of serious violence, their local partnerships will respond to these specific needs and tailor responses.

This isn't always through interventions but might be through existing statutory support services, police disruption or referring on to other more appropriate support pathways.

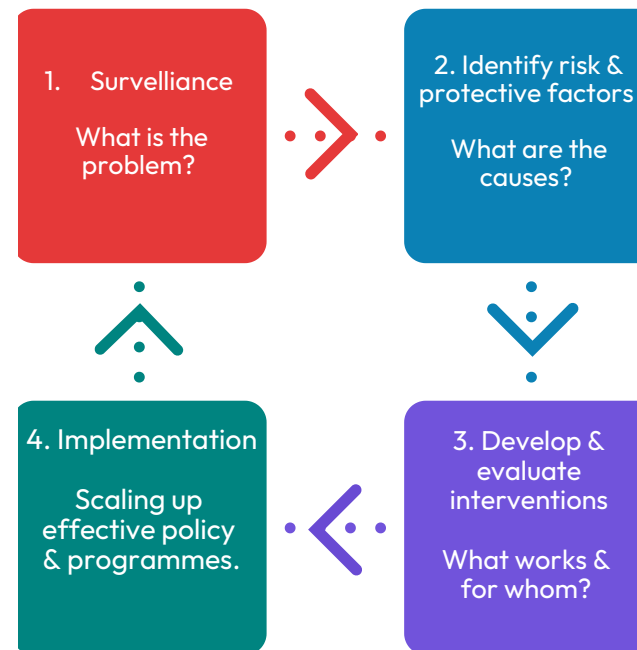
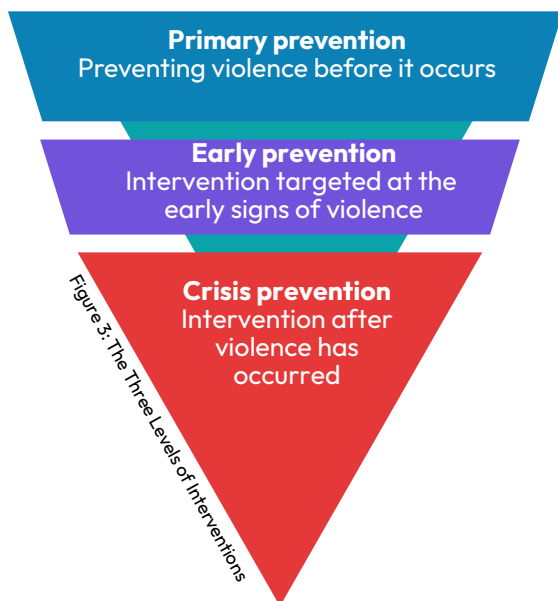


Figure 2: Four key steps of the VRP public health approach.

In terms of approaches to intervention, the public health model is built upon these 3 layers of intervening and eradicating a problem: ²

The spokes within the local authorities apply local knowledge and assessment, as well as utilising the strategic needs assessment, in determining what sort of interventions they need locally. These will cut across the approaches above.

An example of a **primary intervention** is tailored awareness sessions in school settings. **Early intervention** may include mentoring or diversionary activities such as sports and art-based activities. **Crisis intervention** may potentially have a criminal justice outcome where the individual has perpetrated violence, such as focused deterrence, however it can also include therapeutic and trauma informed approaches, such as cognitive behavioural therapy and social skills development.

1. A whole-system multi-agency approach to serious violence prevention (publishing.service.gov.uk)

2. [PDF] Reflecting on primary prevention of violence against women: the public health approach | Semantic Scholar



MEASURING SERIOUS VIOLENCE

A number of different data sources can be used to understand serious violence in Avon and Somerset. These different data sources need to be triangulated with the voice of lived experience to create a full picture of what is happening, and therefore how violence can be prevented.

CRIME DATA

- Police recorded knife-enabled serious violence incidents
- Police recorded non-domestic homicides
- Serious violence offences using the VRP serious violence definition
- Police Reported ASB incidents
- Domestic Abuse Incidents

HEALTH DATA

- Number of hospital admissions for assaults with a knife or sharp object.

EDUCATION AND CHILDREN'S SERVICES DATA

- Number excluded from school (permanently or fixed term).
- Number persistently absent from school.
- Proportion of 16 -17 year olds Not in Education, Employment or Training (NEET).
- Numbers of children in need.

COMMUNITY

- Community satisfaction with safety initiatives and law enforcement efforts.
- Cohesion and trust levels.

CRIMINAL JUSTICE PATHWAYS

- Rates of re-offending.
- Reduction in prison leavers with an accommodation need.
- Increase in prison leavers who gain entry into employment.
- Reduction in risk of harm.



RISK & PROTECTIVE FACTORS

Risk factors are those which are associated with an increased likelihood of being a victim or perpetrator of violence, whilst protective factors are associated with a reduced likelihood of violence.

Understanding which factors can make individuals vulnerable to violence can help identify at risk populations and target preventive interventions accordingly. Viewing the ways in which these risk factors come together and influence patterns of behaviour throughout the life course provides insights into the key points at which interventions to break the cycle should be implemented.




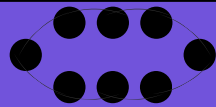
Protective factors are integral to a strength or assets-based approach to violence reduction, in line with the underpinning principles of any Violence Reduction Strategy. Protective factors provide an opportunity to build resilience against serious violence through the work of the VRP, and across the system more widely.

It is important to note that these factors often interact with each other.

For example:

- A person with a mental health issue may turn to substance abuse, which in turn increases their propensity for violence.
- Economic stress within a community can lead to higher crime rates, further perpetuating a cycle of violence.
- Exposure to violence in the media might normalise aggressive behaviour, especially if coupled with a family environment where violence is common.

RISK & PROTECTIVE FACTORS

RISK FACTORS			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Genetic or biological Perinatal trauma Early malnutrition Behavioural & learning difficulties Alcohol or substance misuse Traumatic brain injury Gender 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Low family income Poor parenting & inconsistent discipline Abuse (emotional/physical/sexual) Emotional or physical neglect Household alcohol/substance misuse Household mental illness Family violence Family breakdown Household offending behaviour 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Unsafe or violent communities Low social integration & poor social mobility Lack of possibilities for recreation Insufficient infrastructure for the satisfaction of needs & interests of young people 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Social-economically deprived communities High unemployment Homelessness or poor housing Culture of violence, norms & values which accept, normalise or glorify violence Discrimination Difficulties in accessing services
Individual 	Relationships 	Community 	Society 
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Healthy problem solving & emotional regulation skills School readiness Good communication skills Healthy social relationships 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Stable home environment Nurturing & responsive relationships Strong & consistent parenting Frequent shared activities & parents Financial security & economic opportunities 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sense of belonging & connectedness Safe community environments Community cohesion Opportunities for sports & hobbies 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Good housing High standards of living Opportunities for valued social roles
PROTECTIVE FACTORS			

Source: A whole-system multi-agency approach to serious violence prevention A resource for local system leaders in England, Public Health England 2019





ASVRP STRATEGY 2024-25

In January 2024, the Avon and Somerset VRP published its Serious Violence Strategy and set out nine strategic commitments for its work to reduce and prevent serious violence ([AS-VRP-Strategy-24-25.pdf](#)).

1. **Interventions:** Commission and fund interventions and responses that address the causes of serious violence, reduce known risk factors, and strengthen protective factors.
2. **Risk identification:** Ensure that the right people and places are being identified to access the right support through the VRP and beyond.
3. **Hotspots and contextual responses:** Develop and embed multi-agency responses to serious violence hotspots, with the VRP building an evidence base for contextual safeguarding responses.
4. **Engagement:** Build and develop meaningful engagement approaches to offer co-production opportunities and ensuring that lived experience is a thread across VRP delivery responses.

5. **Local opportunities:** Contribute to building opportunities and tackling disproportionality within our most affected communities facing serious violence.
6. **Awareness and resilience:** Build awareness and drive community led counter-narratives to serious violence, which in time will increase confidence and resilience around complex and generational issues.
7. **Leadership:** Drive system changes through implementation of coordinated and shared responsibility of key partners, all of whom are working to prevent serious violence in the long-term.
8. **Data and evidence:** Develop and build multi-agency data, insights, and evidence to increase our ability to make an impact on serious violence in Avon and Somerset.
9. **Sustainability:** Drive cultural and financial sustainability consideration to continue the work of the VRP beyond 2025.



EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

AVON AND SOMERSET PRIORITIES

The Avon and Somerset VRP embraces a priority focus on the prevention and reduction of public space violence for under 25's (children and young people); including homicide, attempted homicide, robbery, wounding, grievous bodily harm, knife and gun crime, alcohol and drug related violence and areas of criminality where serious violence or its threat is inherent, such as county lines and modern slavery.

The Avon and Somerset Partnership recognises and commits to supporting a joined-up response, working in partnership to tackle serious violence in the broadest sense, including domestic abuse, rape and serious sexual offences and violence against women and girls more generally.

Whilst it's important to gain an understanding of overall serious violence across Avon and Somerset it is imperative that a one size fits all approach is not undertaken, at a high level we can gain an understanding in relation to the volume and trends in relation to serious violence and the causal factors, however it is important to identify local drivers in order for effective targeted interventions to be put in place.

While there is no single measure of violent crime, the [Crime Survey for England and Wales \(CSEW\)](#) has shown gradual decreases in violence with and without injury, and domestic abuse, over the last ten years. It has also indicated a rise in sexual assault. Over the same time period, trends in CSEW stalking and police recorded homicide have remained relatively flat.



EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

KEY FINDINGS

Key findings are detailed under each of the individual local authority area profiles however what is of note is that the following emerging themes have been identified across Avon and Somerset.

EMERGING THEMES / PRIORITY AREAS

- Improve our response to serious violence.
- The VRP is supported in its work to coordinate multiagency plans to reduce youth violence / serious violence.
- Partnerships deliver an effective response to the Serious Violence Duty.
- Partnerships deliver an effective strategic response to Serious Violence.
- Partnerships have a clear and effective communications strategy, addressing key community safety concerns.
- Community engagement forms a central part of the partnership's communication strategy.
- Prevention and Early Intervention.
- Early identification of at-risk groups.
- Deliver targeted and timely Diversional Activities and Projects.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

- Engage with all stakeholders and communities.
- Enforcement and Criminal Justice.
- Make effective use of intelligence focusing on high risk individuals and areas.
- Policing priorities include the disruption of all forms of serious organised crime and exploitation.
 - Ensure robust prosecution of violent offenders to deter future crimes.

SUPPORT SERVICES

- Recognise that victims and perpetrators may be both.
- Take a trauma informed approach.
- Ensure a range trauma informed support for victims of violence.

DATA DRIVEN APPROACHES

- Maintain live data and intelligence dashboards.
- Data quality.
- Develop an evidence based approach:
 - Effective evaluation of Interventions
 - Sustainable interventions
 - Secure future funding
 - Maximising resources



SNA RECOMMENDATIONS

1. Continue to maintain a focus on identifying children who are engaged in or at risk of serious violence and commission evidence based interventions across primary, secondary and tertiary levels which seek to increase protective factors and reduce risk factors.
2. Improve our collective understanding of those aged 18-24 years who are engaged in or at risk of involvement in serious violence and explore opportunities to reduce the risk for those young people. Scoping of this work should include a particular focus on those who face increased risk as they transition to adulthood.
3. Enhance the partnership's focus on the collection of evidence around the impact that interventions are having and the impact that risk management processes are having on individual young people.
4. Review and refresh the existing Data Analysis, Management, Performance and Evaluation Group (DAMPEG) structures, membership and processes to enhance data collection, insight and analysis across the Avon and Somerset area. This should include development of plans to address remaining data gaps and data quality issues and to ensure a clear and consistent approach to data analysis. To support this reinvigorate police membership of DAMPEG and develop dynamic data dashboards.
5. Carry out a mapping exercise to provide a more extensive picture of the wide range of initiatives taking place within agencies, the Voluntary, Community, and Social Enterprise (VCSE) and the community which work to increase protective factors and reduce risk factors for children and young people.
6. Provide greater visibility of the wider policing responses that support collective work to address serious youth violence, such as hotspot policing, out of court disposals, county lines and exploitation to ensure that there is good alignment and reduce the risk of duplication.
7. Improve data quality so that the VRP can better understand the true ethnic breakdown in recorded/reported offences and young people identified as being at risk of serious violence and contribute to wider work to tackle disproportionality.
8. Ensure consultation and engagement approaches with young people and communities are effective and in line with best practice to ensure they are involved in the design of solutions and to improve awareness of the action being taken to address serious violence across the partnership and its impact.
9. Further define how governance of the Avon and Somerset VRP links to other partnerships, such as Community Safety Partnerships (CSPs), safeguarding and youth justice and agreeing effective collaboration across those structures.



WHAT WE UNDERSTAND ABOUT A&S

POPULATION

Avon and Somerset are a geographically diverse area from the beautiful and scenic rolling hills, national parks, levels and market towns of Somerset to the culturally rich, historic and vibrant cities of Bristol and Bath. Across the whole of Avon and Somerset 22.8% of the population live in rural areas, however this varies greatly by Local Authority ranging from Bristol, which is wholly urban, to Somerset which has almost half its population living in rural areas. Bristol has a population density almost 4 times that of England.

The Office of National Statistics (ONS) estimates the resident population of Avon and Somerset at 1.7 million people (in 2021) across almost 734,000 households ([based on ONS population estimates](#)). The population is growing and is expected to continue.

Those that were 18-24 years old in 2021 had the greatest rise in their number, which driven by Bristol and Bath and North East Somerset (BANES) figures, is explainable through the student populations, with four large universities located within those areas. Both Bristol and Bath and North East Somerset have significantly higher proportion of students aged 18 to 24, higher than local and national figures, which reflects the higher education establishments in the area.

There were notable moves into areas for other age brackets. There was a 14% increase for A&S in the group who were 25-29 in 2021, driven by the increase of 64% in Bristol alone. There were also increases of 25-32% for North Somerset and South Gloucestershire for groups who were in their thirties in 2021.

Females make up 51% of the population and males 49% with those aged 0-24 making up almost 30% of the Avon and Somerset population. However, the portion of both males and females aged 15-24 in BANES and Bristol, are significantly higher than A&S as a whole (6.4) and England (5.9). For North Somerset, this figure is significantly lower.

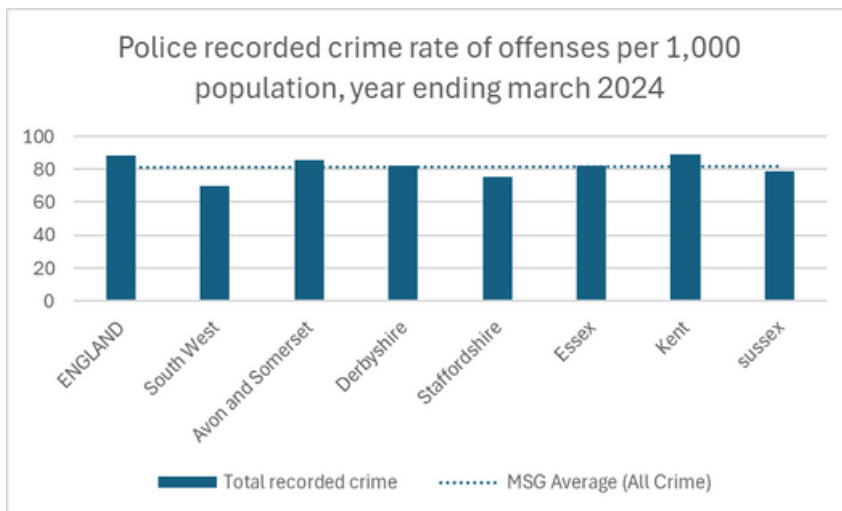
The Avon and Somerset population is predominantly White British (84.3%). This varies greatly across the local authorities with Bristol being the most diverse and above the national average for those other than White British residents.

In relation to religion/beliefs the 2021 census had a 93.4% response rate to the question on religion/beliefs. Of the Avon and Somerset residents who answered, the predominant categories were no religion (49.4%) and Christian (46.0%). Bristol has the most diversity, with 10.2% of the population having a religion other than Christianity.

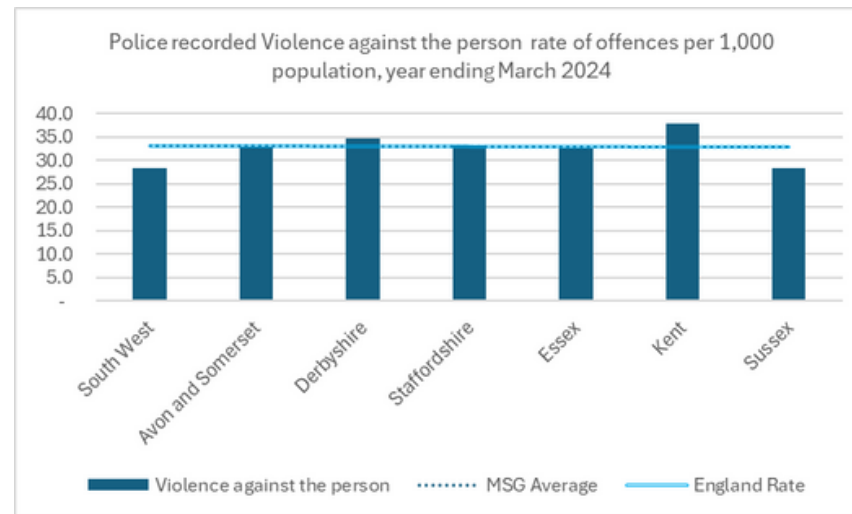
WHAT WE UNDERSTAND ABOUT A&S

A&S VIOLENT CRIME 2023/24

To establish statistical comparators constabularies are put into Most Similar Groups (MSGs) by the ONS. The Avon and Somerset MSG group includes Staffordshire, Derbyshire, Essex, Hampshire, Hertfordshire, Kent and Sussex.



Avon and Somerset (85.3) overall crime rate per thousand population for the year ending March 2024³ is lower than that of England (88.6), however it is significantly higher than the Southwest rate of 69.8 although the rate is similar to most of our MSG group areas it is higher than the MSG average of 82.7.

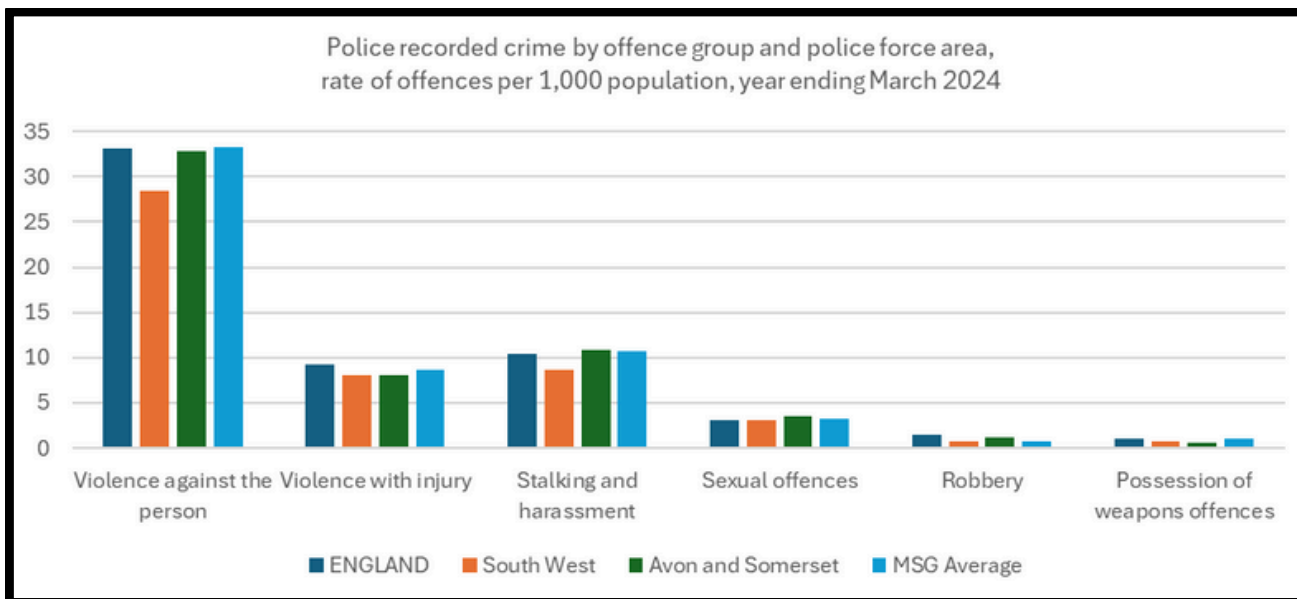


When comparing A&S (32.9) against the MSG average (33.3) and England (33.1), Avon and Somerset Constabulary had lower crime rates per 1000 persons for Violence Against the Person (32.9). However, the rate is higher than the Southwest rate of 28.4, Both Violence with injury, and Possession of weapons show a similar picture.



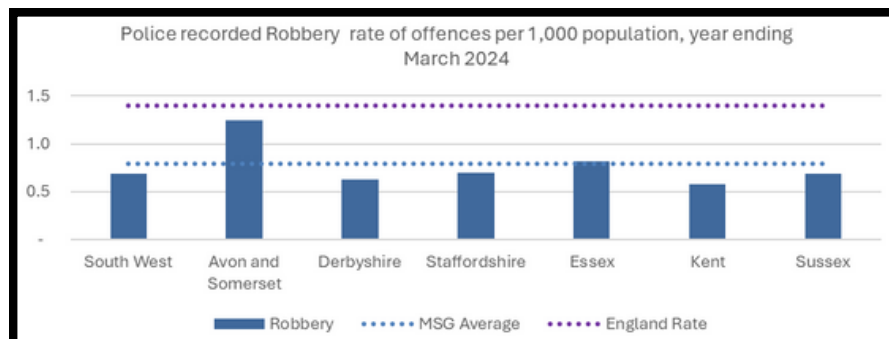
³ Crime in England and Wales, year ending March 2024

WHAT WE UNDERSTAND ABOUT A&S

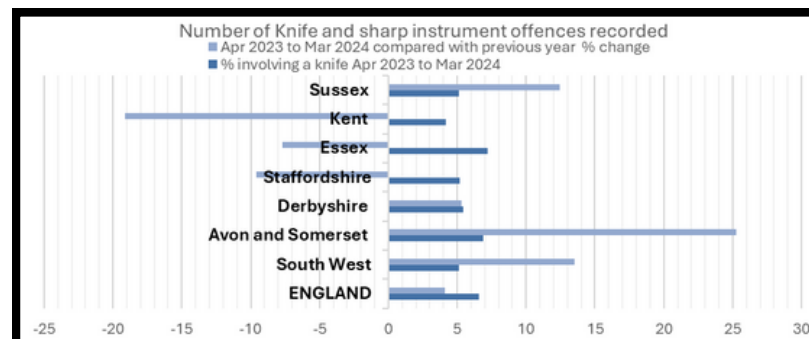


However, rates of stalking and harassment, and sexual offences are higher than England, MSG, and South West rates.

Avon and Somerset has a higher rate of Robbery (likely all types) than other constabulary regions in its Most Similar Group.



In 2023/24, across A&S 7% (1576n) of offences involved a knife. This was a 25% increase on the previous year. Significantly higher than MSG comparators, the South West and England.





BATH AND NORTH EAST SOMERSET (B&NES)

PLACES & POPULATION

As a local authority area, Bath and North East Somerset (B&NES) was formed in 1996 and covers approximately 135.2 square miles. The B&NES population in [mid-2022 population](#) is estimated to be 195,618.

It is projected that the student age population will remain significant in B&NES. The local population is projected to continue to become older with further implications, for example, increasing the strain on the NHS and adult social care.

The local population's age structure is like the UK's population as a whole but there is higher number of people aged between 20-24 highlighting the area's notable student population.

Between 2001 and 2019, the growth in the 20-24 age range accounted for nearly 40% of the area's population growth. ONS population projections indicate that the B&NES population will increase to 210,848 by 2030, an increase of nearly 8% from 2020.

B&NES is less ethnically diverse than the UK as a whole, the 2021 Census shows 85.6% of B&NES residents identified as 'White: English, Welsh, Scottish, NI or British', followed by 5.8% 'White: Other White' and 3.3% Asian (all primary Asian categories from [2021 census](#)) From the [January 2024 school census](#), 80.9% children define themselves as White British. (all school types, state funded, attended schools located in B&NES).

As a whole, Bath and North East Somerset remains one of the least deprived local authorities in the country and continues to become relatively less deprived over time. However, there are still pockets of deprivation locally and there are two small areas within the most deprived 10% nationally.

The 10-17 resident population Males – 8,742, & Females – 8,291, White population is c.14,960 for the 10-17 age group as at the time of the 2021 Census (March 2021). This represents 90.7% of the entire 10-17 year old population (c.16,495). Therefore, the proportion of other global ethnic groups is 9.3%.

The 2021 Census shows 4.1% of people in B&NES have bad or very bad health as compared to the England 5.3%.



B&NES VISION

To create a safer Bath and North East Somerset by reducing incidents of serious violence through targeted prevention, effective intervention, and comprehensive support systems.

We believe that intervening and preventing issues early is the best way to ensure children, families and communities lead lives free from violence and trauma.

We aim to divert children at risk of violence (either as a victim or offender) away from that risk, and to manage the risk of serious violence in the community.

People who have experienced trauma can have trouble identifying, expressing, and managing emotions. This can lead to anxiety and potentially violent behaviour.

We aim to educate local communities about the impact of trauma on individuals. We can then create an environment and culture that effectively supports victims of trauma and rehabilitates individuals to prevent future violence.

A trauma-informed community can then work together to help current victims of trauma, and also help to prevent trauma for future generations.

B&NES STRATEGIC PRIORITIES

B&NES Council's Corporate Strategy⁴ sets out an overarching purpose to **'IMPROVE PEOPLE'S LIVES'**.

The vision for all children and young people is that they live in safe, happy and healthy families and communities, which is detailed in the Health and Wellbeing Strategy for B&NES⁵.

HEALTH & WELLBEING BOARD

The Vision for 2030 sets out four priorities:

- Ensure that children and young people are healthy and ready for learning and education
- Improve skills, good work and employment
- Strengthen compassionate and healthy communities.
- Create health promoting places

The Children and Young People's Plan (CYPP) has been closely aligned to the Health & Wellbeing Strategy, the Early Help Strategy and the B&NES Community Safety and Safeguarding Partnership (BCSSP) Strategy to ensure a more coherent strategic focus on delivering better outcomes for our most vulnerable children and young people in Bath and North East Somerset Council.

4. <https://beta.bathnes.gov.uk/document-and-policy-library/corporate-strategy-2023-2027>

5. <https://beta.bathnes.gov.uk/document-and-policy-library/joint-health-and-wellbeing-strategy>



B&NES COMMUNITY SAFETY PRIORITIES

HEALTH & WELLBEING BOARD

Our Key Outcomes and Priorities:

- Children and young people are safe
- Children and young people are healthy
- Children and young people who are vulnerable have fair life chances
- Children and young people are engaged citizens within their own community.

The Bath, Swindon and Wiltshire Integrated Care Strategy and Implementation Plan provides a vision for the next five years, 2023 to 2028, uniting partners behind three clear objectives. These are:

- Focus on prevention and early intervention
- Fairer health and wellbeing outcomes
- Excellent health and care services.

COMMUNITY SAFETY & SAFEGUARDING PARTNERSHIP

The Bath and North East Somerset Community Safety and Safeguarding Partnership (BCSSP) has outlined its priorities for 2024 to 2027 in a strategic plan⁶.

The priorities in this strategic plan have been identified through a range of evidence. This includes learning from Safeguarding Adult Reviews, Child Safeguarding Practice Reviews, Domestic Homicide Reviews, bringing executive partners together for two development days and consulting with wider partners.

⁶. <https://bswtogether.org.uk/about-us/our-integrated-care-strategy/>
⁷. https://bcssp.org.uk/assets/7a7eb990/bcssp_strategic_plan_2024_-_2027_vf.pdf

The BCSSP has also considered current legislation, national, regional and local plans, local strategic needs assessment, including crime and disorder, public health and housing.

OVERARCHING COMMUNITY SAFETY PRIORITIES OF THE BCSSP ARE:

- **Priority 1:** To develop the strategic oversight and scrutiny of the CSP arrangements.
- **Priority 2:** We will further develop our work with partners to prevent people from becoming involved in and reduce instances of serious violence.
- **Priority 3:** Continue to identify opportunities for longer term funding to reduce domestic abuse incidents and improve outcomes for survivors.

What we know about serious violence in B&NES:

Key Findings: Incidence of Violence:

- There was a 11% increase in the number of recorded crimes⁸ in 2023/24 with a rate per 1,000 of 69.8.
- The whole of Bath and North East Somerset saw increases in the levels of violence in 2023/24.
- Violent and sexual offences accounted for 42% of recorded crime
- The estimated cost of Violent Crime in Bath and North East Somerset⁹ rose by 9% in 2023/24.
- Violence and Sexual Offences increased by 15% in 2023/24.

⁸. ONS CSP recorded Crime

⁹. The economic and social costs of crime



SERIOUS VIOLENCE IN B&NES

Key Findings: Incidence of Street Based SV:

- Street Based Serious Violence (SBSV), increased by 43% (98n) in 2023/24 against previous year, 2022/23.
- There were increases across all Police beat areas.
- 16.5% of SBSV took place on a Saturday.
- 22% of SBSV crime taking place between 11.00pm-1.00am.

Types of Street Based SV:

- 55% (56n) increase in robbery.
- Knife-Flagged offences increased by 46% (101n).

Demographics and Profiles Street Based SV

Where offenders identified;

- 55% increase in identified offenders.
- 55% increase in males, 45% increase in females offending.
- 82% offender's male.
- 88% offenders white.
- 40% increase in identified victims
- 67% of victims were male with 33% female
- 90% of victims were white

Children and young people (aged 10-24)

- The number of identified offenders increased by 67%.
- Where age is stated 50% of offenders were under 25 of which 82% were male.
- Where age is stated 45% of victims were under 25 of which 65% were male.
- Victims under 25 increased by 23%.

Impact on Communities of Street Based SV Crime:

Street Based SV 2023/24 police beat areas

- 65% of SBSV occurred in 3 police beat areas.
- 40% occurring in Bath City Centre.
- Based on ward level data the biggest increases have been in Bath (Kingsmead, 11.5%).
- Significant increases on previous year in some areas (although numbers are low).

Most SBSV Crime in B&NES occurred in;

- Central East Bath (43).
- Central Bath (37n).
- Kingsmead (14n).

RISK AND PROTECTIVE FACTORS

Substance Misuse, in 2022/23 in B&NES there were:

Adults

- 1,083 adults in treatment, of which;
- Males 69% (n=749) Females 31%(n=334) in treatment.
- Those aged between 30 to 49 years old accounted for 55%, followed by those aged 50+ (28%) and 18-29 (17%).

Young People

- From 2020/21 in Bath and North East Somerset the number of young people in treatment is increasing.
- 2022/23, there were 86 males and 54 females.
- Young people aged 14-15 accounting for 48%, those aged 16-17 (43%) and those under 14 (9%).



SERIOUS VIOLENCE IN B&NES

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- 2022/23, there were 86 males and 54 females.
- Young people aged 14-15 accounting for 48%, those aged 16-17 (43%) and those under 14 (9%).

Mental Health

- Depression: QOF Prevalence (18+ yrs) shows an increasing trend year on year.
- BANES 11.2% proportionally higher compared to South West region (13.6%) and England (13.2%).
- The number of Hospital admissions for mental health conditions (<18 yrs) in 2022/23 was 40 (110.8 per 100,000).
- 2022/23 rate 110.8 lower than the South West rate of 125.1, however, higher than the England rate of 80.8.

Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB)

According to the police definition of (ASB) there were

- 2,369 incidents in 2023/24, an increase of 14% on the previous year but lower than 2021/22 (-11%).

- Nuisance incidents (e.g. rowdy or inconsiderate neighbours) accounted for 83.8% (1,985) of reported ASB.

Deliberate Fires

- Over the 3 years 34% of fires occurred between 4pm-8pm.
- Saturday (19%) is when most fires occurred.
- Over the last three years, Keynsham St. John (Bath and North East Somerset 001B) Lower Super Output Area (LSOA) has recorded the highest number of Fires in B&NES.

Domestic Abuse (based on local police data)

- 3,052 domestic abuse incidents were recorded in Bath and North East Somerset in 2023/24, an increase from 2,907 in 2022/23 (up 5.0%).
- The rate of domestic abuse related incidents and crimes per 1,000 population was 16 per 1,000, an increase from 15 per 1,000 in 2022/23.

Hate Crime & Discrimination

- In 2023/24 there was a 19.4% increase in hate crime incidents compared to 2022/23.
- Racial hate crime accounted for 60% of hate crime in B&NES.

Hospital Admissions for Violence

- During 2020/21-2022/23, there were 170 hospital admissions, with a rate of 29.6 per 100,000. This rate has reduced by 3.4 from 2019/20-2021/22 (33.0).
- The rate of 29.6 is higher than the South West's value of 25.7, but, lower than England's (34.3).



WHAT THE DATA SAYS

Financial stress and unemployment

- Across the 14 distribution centres in B&NES a total of 9,469 food parcels were distributed in 2023/24. (Parcels Distributed to: Children 3,047 Adults 6,422)
- 38% increase since 2021/22.
- 10,935 (13.2%) households in fuel poverty.¹¹

Employment

The unemployment rate for B&NES has been dropping incrementally since December 2020 when the rate was 3.4%, to 2.6% in the twelve months ending March 2024.

- Economic activity rate March 2024: 77.1% (GB 78.6%)
- Employment rate March 2024: 75.3% (GB 75.5%).
- Unemployment rate March 2024: 2.6% (GB 3.9%).
- 1,275 male and 1,035 females out of work benefit claimant's resident in B&NES (2.1% and 1.7% of the working age population respectively).
- Of the 2,310 claimants 345 were aged 16 to 24 (15% of claimants).

Supporting Families Programme

The number of families in B&NES in the Supporting Families with Successful Outcomes Programme has reduced in 2023/24 but remains above 80%.

Offender Management

Probation supervised 40 individuals convicted of a serious violent crime during the period 2023/24;

Those aged 18-25years (12n)

- 92% were male.
- 17% (2n) sentenced to custody.

Criminogenic Need:

- Education, Training, Employment (ETE) 42%,
- Drugs 58%,
- Alcohol 25%
- Accommodation 8%

Children in Care

There were 214 Children Looked After by B&NES LA as of 31st March 2024. This is at a rate of 58.35 per 10,000 children aged under 18 years.¹²

Children in Need

- There were 439 children on a Child in Need Plan.
- 2023 CIN Census, showed ¹³ (30%) children with recognised long-term health problems or disabilities that limited day-to-day activities.

Child Protection

- There were 141 children on a Child Protection Plan.

11. <https://www.data.gov.uk/dataset/f3009590-2bc9-40d9-8dc371e6fddae45/fuel-poverty-in-england-sub-regional>

12. Children Social Care Performance Dashboard April 2024



WHAT THE DATA SAYS

Education Training & Employment

- The National overall absence rate of 6.7% in Autumn 2023/24, a decrease from 7.5% in Autumn 2022/23. The B&NES rate of 6.3% is lower than the national and regional rate, this is a decrease on the 7.0% rate in 2022/23.
- Nationally, percentage of persistent absentees 2023/24 Autumn term (10% or more missed) 19.4% in Autumn 2023/24, a decrease from 24.2% in Autumn 2022/23. The B&NES rate of 17.5% is lower than the national rate, this is a decrease on the 21.7% rate in 2022/23.¹³

Pupils with Special Educational Needs (SEN)

- 17% of children eligible for free school meals.
- 1,541 children have an education, health and care plan.
- 3,614 children are receiving SEN support in our schools.
- There is a 9.1% increase in the number of EHCPs in 2023/24 compared to 2022/23, an increase similar to that of the South West region (10.2%) and England (11.2%).

SEN Children known to Youth Justice Service

- 61 individual children had an intervention with B&NES Youth Justice Service in the period April 2023 to March 2024.^{18/19}.

Of which:

- 42 (69%) had an Education Health and Care Plan (EHCP) or a SEN support plan.
- Of these 42, 32 (52%) had an EHCP (either draft or final) and 10 (16%) had an SEN support plan.

Not in Education, Employment or Training (NEET)

- The participation rate in April 2024 in B&NES for young people aged 16 and 17 years is 93.%.¹⁴
- The NEET rate in B&NES in April 2024 is 3%, compared with a South West rate of 3.7% and a rate in England of 3.5%.¹⁴

Poverty and Economic Disparities

- 2023/24 the number of children eligible for free school meals (FSM) increased by 1.0% from year 2022/23.
- In 2023/24 out of 4,727 children eligible, 3,627 (17.2%) were taking free school meals in B&NES.¹⁵
- 2022/23, there were 4,509 children living in relative low income families in B&NES, this number gradually increased since 2018/19.

Housing

- 2022/23, 495 households owed a duty under the Homelessness Reduction Act in B&NES and this number increased by 141 from 2022/21.
- The crude rate per 1,000 is 6.1 and is lower than South West (11.2) and England (12.4).

¹³. [Pupil absence in schools](#)

¹⁴. <https://explore-education-statistics.service.gov.uk/find-statistics/participation-in-education-and-training-and-employment>

¹⁵. FSM <https://explore-education-statistics.service.gov.uk/find-statistics/school-pupils-and-their-characteristics>



Youth Justice Service

First Time Entrants

- In 2023/24 the rate of First Time Entrants has increased from 106 to 129 per 100,000 in the population. This represents 22 individual children compared with 14 in the previous reporting period.

Reducing Re-Offending

- Re-offending has reduced in this reporting period by 5.33% for the period July 2021 – June 2022.
- There were 25 children in the previous cohort and 8 re-offended.

B&NES CHILDREN'S VOICE

Children and young people should have opportunities to have their voices heard and be taken seriously in decisions that affect them. When young people are involved, we know this leads to better decision-making and improved services¹⁶.

B&NES VRP contributes to the local authority annual Voicebox survey, which is a survey that goes out to all residents in B&NES to capture voices on a number of issues that may be of concern to residents, which include perception of safety and how safe individuals feel.

The Avon and Somerset Police Early Intervention Team (EIT) which is one of the statutory partners of the B&NES VRP produced a survey which captures the child's voice on the perception of how safe they feel in the Southgate area of Bath (City Centre). We do not have the final results from this survey as yet.

B&NES local authority has undertaken an s.11 audit to gain a more comprehensive understanding of how we are meeting the needs of our staff and the children and families that we serve.

What does best practice tell us (national/local)

The B&NES VRP meets monthly as a multi-agency case meeting to discuss individuals identified as linked to violence. It provides a platform for cross agency discussion and agreement to support and divert people away from violence going forward, through partner agency referrals or support directly from our VRP staff.

This Partnership to Reduce Exploitation and Violence (PREV) is not a case management meeting, rather the focus of this group will be on individuals where there is a known risk of serious violence, child criminal exploitation (CCE), child sexual exploitation (CSE), adult exploitation and/or of serious 'street-based' violence taking place.

¹⁶. <https://www.barnardos.org.uk/voice-influence-young-people>



B&NES CHILDREN'S VOICE

Systemic Practice Model

As part of its Children's Transformation Programme and supported by Department of Education funding, the Local Authority has adopted a systemic practice model for Children's Services. This is integrated within a trauma informed, relationship aware approach and is attachment focused.

Enhanced Case Management

The Service is now in its sixth year of working in partnership with three other Youth Justice Services to deliver trauma recovery, Psychology-led support to children in the youth justice system. The model has been developed by Johnny Matthews and Tricia Scuse, based on Maslow's hierarchy of need and a seven-stage trauma recovery model, and builds on work previously undertaken in Wales.

Evaluations have commented on how the model has been implemented consistently in line with guidance. The flexibility of the Psychologists' approach has been identified as central to the success of the work. The approach is perceived to have contributed to improvements in a range of psychosocial outcomes and linked with placement in more appropriate accommodation and re-building of family relationships. There has also been an improvement in children's mental health, coping skills and understanding of the impact of their behaviour on others. Improved relationships with staff in Youth Justice Services have also been noted and overall, no negative impacts have been identified for children.

B&NES LOCAL SERVICES

The B&NES VRP consists of the VRP Lead (part-time), VRP Coordinator (full-time) and VRP Development Officer (part-time). We lead on the commissioning of interventions and provisions funded through the B&NES VRP grant, consulting with our statutory partners.

The activity to reduce serious violence that the partnership has commissioned and co-ordinated has included detached youth work, lived experience mentors, Street Doctors Training, Night Time Economy Joint Briefings, Surrender Bins, Bleed Control Kits, Parent Knife Crime Awareness Sessions and staff training.

The Police Early Intervention Team (EIT) deliver;

Teachable Moments Car – B&NES. Funded by the Police and Crime Commissioner as part of the Hotspot Policing Programme not as part of the VRP funding. This is a pilot involving the police and a youth worker in a car on a Friday late shift following up on calls to the police involving children to engage and safeguard.

In addition, there are a series of educational packages, covering multiple subjects that police deliver in the classroom. An evaluation of these programmes of intervention undertaken with schools is underway. Initial findings will be available later in the year with the final version published in January 2025. In addition, the expansion of the efficacy trial for this school year is likely to proceed on the back of a successful pilot.

Turnaround

Turnaround works with children aged 10 to 17 years who are on the cusp of the youth justice system. To be eligible for Turnaround a child would need to have received a level 3 anti-social behaviour warning, No Further Action, a Police Facilitated Community Resolution, a first time Youth Caution, interviewed under caution or be released under investigation or pre-charge bail for an offence.

Turnaround uses the new Prevention and Diversion Assessment Tool to assess need and develop a support plan. Like the Compass Service, it operates using a key worker model and uses Team Around the Child or Family Meetings to review progress.

Southside

A community-led project for supporting those affected by domestic abuse is also commissioned by the B&NES VRP to offer lived-experience mentoring to those at risk of being involved in serious violence.

Community voice

B&NES VRP aim to prioritise developing community links with professionals and businesses. Provide more professionals' training around youth violence. Further to this, we hold a series of knife crime awareness events in community settings such as school halls, to educate and raise awareness around the causes and effects of bladed article related crime.





BRISTOL

PLACES & POPULATION

The population of Bristol is estimated to be 483,000 people. Bristol is the largest city in the South West and one of the eleven 'Core Cities' in the UK.

Bristol's population grew by an estimated 44,000 people over the decade 2013-23, a 10.0% increase (England and Wales grew by 6.8%). The greatest increase was in the number of 19-23 year olds, with this age group growing by 12,100 (+28.3%) over the decade.

Net international migration was the largest component of population growth in Bristol in the 12 months to mid-2023. For the second consecutive year, net international migration to Bristol was almost 5 times higher than natural change (births minus deaths) and was the highest net international migration in almost two decades.

As seen nationally, there has been a marked change in immigration since 2021. Until 2019 EU nationals were the larger component of total immigration, whereas since 2021 the majority of immigration is now non-EU nationals. This coincides with free movement ending for EU nationals, the introduction of the graduate visa route, the easing of travel restrictions following the COVID-19 pandemic and external developments such as the war in Ukraine.

The number of births each year are falling gradually. In 2022 the number of births fell to 5,048, a fall of 26% since the recent peak of 6,781 births in 2012 and the lowest number since 2003. The population of Bristol has become increasingly diverse and some local communities have changed significantly. There are now more than 287 different ethnic groups in the city, more than 185 countries of birth represented, at least 45 religions and more than 90 languages spoken by people living in Bristol.

In 2022/23 there were 70,920 students registered at the two Bristol universities. In the 10 years up to 2022/23 university student numbers increased by more than half (51%, +24,000). Overseas students make up more than a quarter (27%) of all students at the two universities - of these, 3% come from EU countries and the remaining 24% come from countries outside of the EU.

Healthwise, the 2021 Census shows 4.9% of people in Bristol have bad or very bad health as compared to the England 5.3%.

BRISTOL'S VISION FOR A SAFER CITY

- We are One City, many communities
- Safe & Inclusive
- Fair, hopeful, aspirational for all

BRISTOL'S PRINCIPLES FOR STRATEGY AND ACTION

- Voice and lived experience at heart
- Data and evidence informed
- Innovative and solutions focussed
- Working as One City



BRISTOL STRATEGIC PRIORITIES

1. One City. Many Communities

- Mobilise the wider City Partners to utilise their assets to create opportunities, reduce inequality and to find new solutions.
- Engage and work closely with and within local communities recognising the expertise, knowledge and skill which lies with our communities - taking a communities first approach.
- Prioritise young people and community voices to inform and shape local investment and action.

2. Prevention & Early Intervention for families & young people

- Invest in children, families and young people's programmes and activities.
- Providing broad experiences and opportunities for all of our young people to grow, develop and lead.
- Maintain targeted youth engagement programmes for those most at risk to divert young people from violent pathways.
- Work with schools and school leaders to ensure that schools are inclusive and that all young people can thrive.

3. Enforcement and Criminal Justice

- Increase police presence and undertake targeted operations.
- Prosecute violent offences alongside strong mentoring and diversionary programmes.
- Develop comprehensive rehabilitation for offenders to reduce reoffending and maximise the impact of sentencing.

4. Victim Support

- Recognise that victims and perpetrators may be both.
- Take a trauma informed approach.
- Ensure a range trauma informed support for victims of violence.

5. Data led and evidence informed

- Maintain live data and intelligence dashboards to inform partner action.
- Develop an evidence based approach supported by a new Academic Hub in partnership with the University of Bristol.



SERIOUS VIOLENCE IN BRISTOL

WHAT WE KNOW:

- Issues are very localised.
- Racism and social exclusion are clearly identified as causal factors by communities.
- School attendance and exclusions are a particular issue.
- There is a high level of fear and anxiety among the public, communities and young people.
- There is a lot of energy, concern and desire for change.

KEY FINDINGS FROM STATISTICS

Incidence of Serious Violence:

- Serious violence offences increased by 11% in 2023/24. Knife-flagged serious violence increased by 38% in Bristol in 2023/24.
- East Central locality has seen an 18% increase in the rate of overall serious violence in the last three years.
- Central, Lawrence Hill and Ashley Wards have the highest number of serious violence incidents in the past three years.
- Assault with injury accounted for 74% of serious violence offences in Redcliffe Quays LSOA in the last 12 months.
- In North Bristol, 85% of serious offences within the ten highest occurring postcodes were recorded in Central or Hotwells and Harbourside Wards, with both wards having a high concentration of night-time economy venues.
- A significant number of offences have occurred at HMP Bristol in the last 12 months.

Demographics and Victim Profiles:

- The overall number of offenders aged 25 and under has not increased and accounted for 34% of all offenders in 2023.
- Serious violence impacts all ages, however and there has been an increase in the number of 14–17-year-old knife crime offenders and victims in 2023, which has increased by 61% and 75% respectively.

Types of Serious Violence:

- Personal robbery increased by 24% in Bristol and 49% of all knife flagged offences were personal robbery.

Impact on Communities:

- Heightened fear and reduced community cohesion in affected areas.
- Increased pressure on emergency and health services due to violence related injuries.

RISK AND PROTECTIVE FACTORS

Substance Misuse

The use of alcohol and other illegal drugs is a significant factor impacting on the prevalence of violence, sexual violence, intimidation and anti-social behaviour

- There are an estimated 5,436 opiate and/or crack users in Bristol (2019-20).



BRISTOL - WHAT THE DATA SAYS

Substance Misuse

- Bristol has the second largest estimated rate of opiate and/or crack users (per 1,000 population) of the English core cities.
- 4.2% of opiate drug users left drug treatment successfully and did not re-present to treatment within 6 months (2023, NDTMS).
- Age and sex: In the 18-29 age group there is a significant reduction in the number of opiate users compared to 10 years ago.
- Across all age groups, males represent 72% of clients in treatment for opiate use and females represent 28%.

Mental Health

- Local data shows 19.8% of Bristol residents have “below average mental wellbeing”, rising to 30.3% in the most deprived areas.
- Disabled people are the least satisfied with life (32.6%), significantly lower than the Bristol average (66%).

Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB)

According to the police definition of anti-social behaviour there were:

- 9,265 incidents in 2023/24, a slight increase of 1.7% on the previous year but significantly lower than 2021/22 (-17.8%).

- Nearly 41% of residents (40.5%) feel ASB is a problem locally.
- This is significantly higher than the previous year (35.6%) and this rises to 73.7% for residents living in the 10% most deprived areas, compared to 15.0% for residents living in the 10% least deprived areas.

Deliberate Fire Setting

- 909 fires were recorded in Bristol in 2023, a 6% increase from 859 in 2022.
- 31% of fires occurred between 4pm-8pm over the last three years.
- 42% of fires occurred between June and September over the last three years.

Domestic Abuse

- Based on local police data, 9,841 domestic offences with victims over the age of 16 and domestic abuse incidents (across all ages) were recorded in Bristol in 2022/23, a decrease from 11,152 in 2021/22.
- The rate of domestic abuse related incidents and crimes per 1,000 population (aged 16 and over) was 24.4 per 1000, a decrease from 28.2 per 1000 in 2021/22.
- For Bristol in 2022/23, 41% of all recorded domestic abuse related crimes with victims over the age of 16 were a repeat offence, down from 42% in 2021/22 repeat offences are defined as multiple offences committed against the same victim within 12 months of the latest offence.



WHAT THE DATA SAYS

Domestic Abuse Continued...

- In Bristol, females over the age of 16 are 2.5 times more likely to be a victim of a domestic abuse related crime in Bristol than males.
- There have been 9,182 recorded contacts made to Children's Social Care in the past three years (April – March) due to domestic abuse, representing 5,954 children.

Hate Crime & Discrimination

- The total number of hate crimes increased by 8% in 2023/24.
- Numbers increased across most hate crime types, disability related hate crime rose by 34%, while religiously motivated hate crime increased by 69%.
- Hate crime numbers following far-right unrest increased by 25% in August 2024 and this coincided with the far-right violent unrest nationwide following the multiple murders in Southport.

Hospital Admissions

- Assault related hospital admissions in Bristol increased by 14% in 2023/24, however the total admissions are lower than both 2020/21 and 2021/22.
- In 2023/24, 61% of assault related admissions were for bodily force.

- The proportion of assaults involving a sharp object (19%) has increased in 2023/24, however the total is similar to 2021/22.

Financial stress and unemployment¹⁷

- Around 1 in 23 (4.3%) households in Bristol experienced severe food insecurity in 2023/24, and 1 in 12 (8.3%) experienced moderate to severe food insecurity
- 13.8% (approximately 27,560 households) of all households in Bristol are living in fuel poverty which is higher than the national average (13.1%).

The Quality-of-Life survey also provides insight into fuel poverty in Bristol and in 2023:

- 31% of respondents were extremely or moderately worried about keeping their home warm this winter (a large decrease from 48% in 2022) but this, rises to 44% in most deprived areas
- 75% of residents were satisfied with the state of repair of their home, reducing to 67% in most deprived areas
- 10% found it difficult to manage financially, rising to 21% in most deprived areas
- 27,561 (13.8%) of households are in fuel poverty¹⁸.

¹⁷ <https://stat-xplore.dwp.gov.uk/webapi/jsf/dataCatalogueExplorer.xhtml>

¹⁸ <https://www.data.gov.uk/dataset/f3009590-2bc9-40d9-8dc3-571e6fddae45/fuel-poverty-in-england-sub-regional>



WHAT THE DATA SAYS

Employment

- Unemployment rate in December 2023: 3.6% (Great Britain 3.7%).
- Of the working age population, there were 6,875 (4.2%) males and 4,850 (3.0%) females out of work and benefit claimant's resident in Bristol (March 2024).
- The employment rate for working age (16 to 64) in December 2023 was male 80.5% and female 71.4%, the gap has increased to 9.1 percentage points from 3.1pp in December 2016.

Supporting Families Programme

- The number of families in Bristol in the Supporting Families programme with successful outcomes has increased in 2023/24 to 841n (611n in 2022/23).

Offender Management

- Probation supervised 135 individuals convicted of a serious violent crime during the period 2023/24;

Of those aged 18-25years (33n)

- 97% were male
- 55% (18n) sentenced to custody
- Assessment of criminogenic needs are as follows: lifestyle & attitudes both 81%, relationships 78%, education, training and employment 70%, accommodation 56% and drug use 52%

Of those aged 26+years (102n)

- 88% were male
- 55% (56n) sentenced to custody
 - Criminogenic need increased by 12% for accommodation to 68%
 - 19% for drugs to 71%
 - 27% for alcohol to 38%

Children in Care

As of 9th September 2024, there are 778 Children in Care in Bristol. Data taken from the annual national data collection from local authorities show that Bristol had a rate of 80 Children in Care per 10,000 children at the end of 2022/23, higher than the national rate of 71 per 10,000 but in line with statistical neighbours.¹⁹

Children in Need

- As of September 2024, there were 1,154 Children in Need in Bristol, compared to 1,100 in the same period last year 41% of current Children in Need have a Child in Need Plan.
- Currently, the most common age group of Children in Need is 10-15 years (41%), followed by 5-9 years (23%).
- 54% are White and 35% are from Black and ethnic minority backgrounds.

¹⁹ Children looked after in England including adoptions, Reporting year 2023 - Explore education statistics - GOV.UK (explore-education-statistics.service.gov.uk)



WHAT THE DATA SAYS

Child Protection

- As of 10th September 2024, there were 483 children with a Child Protection Plan in Bristol.

Missing Persons

- The number of missing episodes increased by 13% in 2023/24, while the proportion of Missing Return Conversations accepted decreased year-on-year since 2020/21.
- Prevalence of different factors in the reason for going missing include peer influences, family difficulties both (53%), issues around education (50%), running to friends (48%), mental health (46%) and substance misuse (42%).

Early Help Referrals

- 141 referrals have been made by Families in Focus teams in Bristol in the past three years, and
- 160 assessments have been completed during this period.
- 29% of assessments resulted in the provision of services.

EXPLOITATION DATA²⁰

Children at risk of Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE)

- As of June 2024, there were 185 children receiving a service from Bristol City Council Children and Families Services with a CSE Flag.
- Females account for 69% of those identified as at risk of CSE
- Around 26% of children in the current cohort are from Black and ethnic minority backgrounds.

Children at risk of Child Criminal Exploitation (CCE)

- As of June 2024, there were 173 children receiving a service from Bristol City Council Children and Families Services with a CCE Flag, Males account for 80% of those identified as at risk of CCE.
- Around 47% of children in the current cohort are from Black and ethnic minority backgrounds.

EDUCATION TRAINING & EMPLOYMENT

Permanent Exclusions/Permanent Moves

- There have been national increases in permanent exclusion rates across the country this year.
- Although Bristol has seen the number of permanent exclusions steadily rise since 2020, the number of children who have been permanently moved out of their schools has started to decrease over the last two years.

20. KBSP Children's Services Exploitation Data 2023/24



WHAT THE DATA SAYS

EDUCATION TRAINING & EMPLOYMENT

Permanent Exclusions/Permanent Moves Continued...

- The permanent exclusion (PEX) rates for ethnic minorities is significantly higher than for white British children.
- The rate of PEX for the group identified (Black Caribbean, White and Black Caribbean, Gypsy Roma, and Traveller heritage) group is currently at 0.75. The national figure for this cohort is 0.1.
- There has been a noticeable increase in the proportion of girls being permanently excluded from schools.

Suspensions and Permanent Suspensions within Bristol

- Overall Suspensions within Bristol reduced by 5% in 2023/24.
- Permanent Suspensions almost doubled (this excludes children within Bristol attending out-of-area schools).

Not in Education, Employment or Training (NEET)

- In November 2024 5.0% of 16–17-year-olds in Bristol are “not in education, employment or training (NEET)” or their current situation is unknown, this is lower than the national average (5.3%).

- 92.7% of 16–17-year-olds in Bristol are ‘in learning’, which is slightly higher than the England average of 92.1%
- Local data at the end of November 2024 shows us that there were 475 16 – 17-year-olds NEET only

Poverty and Economic Disparities

- 15% of Bristol’s population live in the most deprived 10% of areas in England in 2019 (16% in 2015)
- 17,200 children (21%) and 13,600 older people (17%) in Bristol live in income deprived households

Housing

- Bristol’s figure (per thousand households) for those households currently placed in temporary accommodation is the third highest in the core cities, indicating the pressure on providing suitable and affordable move on accommodation for homeless households.

Modern Slavery Referrals linked to County Lines²¹

- Since 2021/22, 81 Modern Slavery Offences flagged as ‘Arrange or facilitate travel of another person with a view to exploitation’ have been recorded in Bristol – 30 such offences were recorded in 2023/24 (up from 26 in the previous year).
- Victim Age was recorded for 58 of 81 offences over the last three years.

BRISTOL SERVICES & SYSTEMS

Youth Justice Service

- At the end of 2023/24, 45% of young people known to Bristol Youth Justice Service have been or are currently under a Child Protection Plan (similar to the end of the previous year), while 28% were Children in Care (lower than at the end of 2022/23).
- The overall proven reoffending²² rate across all offences committed by young people of all ages (up to 17 years old) in Bristol was 29% between July 2021 and June 2022, down from 34% in the previous 12-month period and lower than the national rate of 33%.
- The rate in 2021/22 was highest among 15 to 17 year olds (31%)
- The overall number of young re-offenders has reduced by 87% since 2011/12.

The Youth Justice Service (YJS) is in part co-located with our neighbourhood team approach. This enables better join up across children's services and a greater focus on earlier intervention and prevention, and shared risk management. The YJS participates in locality meetings where children are discussed to ensure the most appropriate services are in place to meet needs.

Youth Justice Service

Systemic Practice

In Bristol our practice with children and families in all of our teams, is supported by our Systemic Practice Hub. The system delivers trauma informed practice that is relationship based and trauma informed. The Hub is overseen by the Principal Social Worker for Children and Families, and is composed of three Systemic Practice Leads, each of whom are integral in promoting systemic thinking and learning in order to ensure the best interventions are enabled for children and families.

Enhanced Case Management (ECM)

The ECM project continues to offer a psychologically informed and supported approach to working with the children most impacted by previous trauma within the criminal justice system. In partnership with Forensic Child Adolescent Mental Health Services (F-CAMHS), the project develops the multi-agency understanding of the child and families' needs and supports the network in agreeing a consistent approach to addressing the impact of that trauma. The independent scrutiny and evaluation has shown significant improvements in children's outcomes, as well as linked benefits to wider approaches to practice across the service, and improved working relationships between partner agencies.



22. Proven reoffending statistics: April to June 2022 - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk)

BRISTOL SERVICES & SYSTEMS

The Police Early Intervention Team (EIT)

Bristol YJS works closely with A&S EIT to support children in the criminal justice system who are at risk of involvement in serious youth violence, or of being exploited.

three Police Officers are seconded from the EIT to work directly with Bristol YJS, offering enhanced information and intelligence sharing opportunities, and bringing police knowledge and expertise into those professional networks.

Turnaround

The Turnaround programme is a Ministry of Justice funded prevention and early intervention scheme delivered by Youth Justice Services. The programme began in December 2022, and Bristol YJS is currently funded to deliver the programme until April 2026. The programme offers support, resources and interventions for children identified as at risk of entering the Youth Justice System. Bristol YJS has worked with over 60 children and families to date under the Turnaround programme. The programme takes a child-first approach, seeking to identify and facilitate young people's engagement in positive activities in their community, creating opportunities for return to education provision where necessary. The service report back on the children who have engaged with positive involvement in mental health support, mentoring and supportive relationships, educational and vocational activities, sports, music, or social and emotional activities.

Safer Options

Safer Options supports Bristol's approach to serious youth violence and exploitation. It is a coordinated, whole system response to prevent serious youth violence and exploitation in Bristol. Safer Options is a multi-agency approach, with weekly meetings held in localities which share information and coordinate resources to reduce exploitation and serious violence.



YOUNG PEOPLE'S VOICE

What are Bristol young people tell us

The Bristol Preventing Serious Violence Partnership (BPSVP) has put the voice of children and young people, families and communities at the heart of its operating model. The BPSVP captures the voice of young people in various ways. The Board has funded young people's organisations in different areas of the city to bring experiences, ideas and solutions to the Board. In addition, Bristol has a thriving Youth Council, with representatives in every ward in the city.

Safer Options currently commissions a local grass roots organisation called Creative Power Town (CPT) with one of their key objectives being to engage and listen to what young people are telling us. CPT have been carrying out consultation with young people and exploring the issues that most affect them in relation to exploitation and serious violence.

Young people continue to share their experiences and insights and tell us that financial challenges, lack of appropriate accommodation, lack of youth activity provisions, lack of positive activities to do in their community and an absence of effective strategies that enable them to step away from exploitative situations and relationships, continue to be key factors that drive this problem.

Participation, voice and influence is a golden thread that runs through the suite of interventions and activities delivered through Safer Options. Community mentoring is a clear example of this in action, where mentors with lived experience are commissioned to work and support individual young people to increase the likelihood of engagement and positive outcomes. Some feedback from a service user and parent as below:

"So happy to see a role model from my community who can listen to my problems, hopes and makes me feel safe, doesn't invade my private space and helped me to be a better version of myself." Male aged 16

"Since the mentor met my son, his behaviour has changed considerably in such a short time. I'm over the moon that as a single mother he is able to access a male role model."
Young Person's mum



BRISTOL CITY YOUTH COUNCIL

YOUTH VOICE CONFERENCE

In October 2023, BCTC held its annual youth voice conference. At this conference over 120 young people from across Bristol attended and were asked to vote for their top issues. The most important issue that came from this conference was knife crime and safety. This became the city-wide campaign for the newly elected young people in February 2024. The BCYC works as a group to represent the voices of young people in Bristol. Together we have gathered opinions of young people to aim to raise awareness surrounding knife crimes, safety and various linked aspects. We strive to ensure that young people feel safe in their surroundings. To do this we will work with local young people, police, decision makers, education departments and youth workers to help everyone feel safer in the city. In April 2024, we took part in a two-day residential, where we explored what safety means for young people which allowed us to break down this campaign. We identified 4 sub-groups:

Knife Crime

The topic of knife crime was chosen by the young people of Bristol, as many places, including Bristol have been hit massively with the increase of knife related violence. As a group we hope to reduce the risk for young people. We aim to do this by raising awareness and working with decision makers and higher authorities.

Police and Crime

The police and crime group aims to find out what the police are working on in relation to young people. We want to find out what is being done to improve relationships between the police and the youth, building trust and making them feel safer around them. We also want to find out what is being done to improve the city's crime rate in relation to young people, making sure that they feel secure and safe.

Prevention, Education & Welfare

The prevention, education and welfare group are focusing on educating young people on how to prevent and recognise unsafe situations. This will include working with schools to find out what support there is for young people in regards to mental health and safety. This group is about addressing the root causes to ensure the wellbeing of young people in Bristol

Safer Communities & Environments

The safer communities and environment group aims to achieve safe surroundings for all within the community so that they feel they can express themselves freely and have an environment that doesn't make them feel unsafe or endangered. We want to work with local young people and higher authorities that have the same passion for safety as we do in order to resolve the issues we stand for through social media and contacts in schools and other organisations. With their support we want to ensure that people feel safe in their surroundings by creating fun and enjoyable spaces. We need to make sure the young people in Bristol have safe spaces to go.



BRISTOL BEST PRACTICES

WHAT DOES BEST PRACTICE TELL US?

(national/local)

The BPSVP Board is committed to developing an evidence-based approach. An Academic Hub has been developed in partnership with Bristol University and the University of the West of England. Bristol University have assembled a world class team of multi-disciplinary researchers and have undertaken an initial rapid review of current evidence. Further work is planned to develop the evidence base, including the training of community and embedded researchers.

The evidence base is currently not strong, and the localised nature of many interventions means that it's difficult to predict their impact on a community. There are several high-quality reviews that have already been done on this topic which do provide some valuable insights.²³

Strong partnership and wide stakeholder engagement, including with committees is generally found to be crucial to tackling serious youth violence. This is not the work of a small team or a single agency but a whole system.

What services do we currently have in place locally

Community leadership and engagement is an essential element of Bristol's place-based response to serious violence. Four new place-based locality partnerships have been established. These locality partnerships bring together community leaders and local stakeholders to understand and respond to issues, concerns and opportunities. This approach has also supported fast and effective multi-agency acute responses when the need has arisen.

Only working closely with members of local communities as equal partners can we understand the complex and interconnected risk and protective factors for violence.

Safer Options have held a number of workshops with young people and their families focussing on exploitation and serious violence awareness.

The City Office have convened a series of Round Tables to bring together key partners in the city, to develop a shared understanding of serious youth violence and bring together the resources available within the city to take a multi-agency approach to tackle the issue as One City.



²³ www.eif.org.uk/report

BRISTOL BEST PRACTICES

These meetings set out to tackle the issue as One City and form part of Bristol's overall approach to preventing serious violence, bringing together strategic stakeholders to explore, collaborate and innovate. To date, the Round Tables have explored the multi-agency landscape within the city (including pathway mapping and lived experience mapping) and explored best practice within and beyond the city. This collaboration includes independent VCSE programmes, especially those delivering sport, creative arts and youth and play partnerships.

Safer Options currently funds a number of interventions designed to support young people and prevent serious violence.

1 to 1 community mentoring facilitates adults with lived experience to work with young people at medium or high risk of exploitation and serious youth violence. These packages of support are bespoke and tailored to the needs and interests of the individual young person to increase the likelihood of engagement and positive outcomes.

Multi agency detached youth work is delivered in identified areas across the city, targeting areas where there is concern about organised exploitation of children and missing children. This intervention sets out to meet young people where they are, engage with them and develop meaningful relationships. The work includes 'pop up' youth activities, responding to serious incidents, involvement and support in contextual safeguarding assessments and late-night detached work.

Parent support programmes for parents and carers of children and young people involved in/or on the periphery of SYV and exploitation are a key element of Safer Options delivery. This service offers a combination of 1 to 1 support for parents, peer support (to develop community networks to build safety), Non-Violent Resistance (NVR) strategies and support for protective strategies for siblings.

Project Hope is a new programme for 2024/25 that offers life coaching, mentoring and through the gate support to young people in HMP Bristol. This service provides mentoring and coaching in custody and on return to the community and includes advice, advocacy, workshops and activity away days.

Education Inclusion Support involves supporting young people at risk of exclusion or being moved schools due to incidents in education settings involving weapons or drugs. This service also supports education settings to assess risk and to safety plan for young people involved in serious youth violence and exploitation.



BRISTOL BEST PRACTICES

The **Weapons in Schools Pathway** is a package of support for young people who have been found in possession of an offensive weapon on the premises of an education setting and aims to support young people involved in these incidents, prevent further offending and to keep them safe.

Drugs in Schools Pathway is a package of support for young people who have been found in possession of a small quantity of a controlled drug on the premises of an education setting. The Drugs in Schools Pathway aims to support children involved in these incidents, prevent further offending and to keep them safe.

Targeted Group Work involves working in partnership with local youth organisations to co design and deliver interventions for young people. This programme is centred around supporting identified friendship groups of young people aged 11-25 who are involved in child criminal exploitation (CCE) and/or SYV to manage conflict and improve relationships. Creating safe places is key to this work to enable young people to share their experiences, challenges, and perspectives around living in the community, whilst supporting them with decision-making and goal setting. This work also includes social education on issues to include knife crime and exploitation.

Specialist Wellbeing Support provides specialist trauma informed following a significant incident of serious youth violence.

Girls & Young Women's work currently commissioned by Safer Options involves a number of organisations which are set up to run Girls and Young Women's programmes across the city. This programme of work covers the following theme to include:

- Anti-violence & exploitation workshops.
- Higher Education elements to encourage continued learning.
- Skill-building workshops (such as cooking, arts, dance and movement and holistic therapy).
- Confidence and self-esteem building.
- Awareness raising through workshops focused on sexual exploitation, healthy relationships and choices, sexual harassment, boundaries and consent.
- Professional facilitators building relationships through activities with young women and encouraging them to seek relevant advice and help.
- Young women-led activities to encourage leadership and decision making.

Prevention Workshops include raising awareness and developing specific campaigns (identified with young people) on SYV, exploitation, county lines, knife crime, the negative influences of social media and working with young people to raise aspiration.





NORTH SOMERSET

PLACES & POPULATION

North Somerset is a Unitary Authority covering 145 square miles and is one of the 5 local authorities forming Avon and Somerset. North Somerset is made up of 35 wards and combines both urban and rural areas. It has a population of 216,700.

Around 10% of North Somerset's population lives in areas that are amongst the 20% most deprived in England. All of these are in Weston-super-Mare. However, there are also significant pockets of deprivation in the other towns and in some villages across the county with the additional challenges of transport networks in the rural areas.

The population is made up of 51.4% women, and 48.6% men. With 95.7% of the population white compared to 81.0% for England.

North Somerset has a greater proportion of those aged 65 and over at 23.93% (51,872) compared to England 19.4%. Children and young people (0-17) at 19.77% (42,845) and people of working age 56.3% (122,011) have lower proportion as compared to the England averages of 20.84% and 60.74% respectively.

The population is growing, but most of the population growth is expected to be in adults over 65 where there has been a 42.6% percentage increase in the over 65 years population since 2001.

17.7% of the population are School children or full-time students (20.4% England). Those unemployed is 2.2% compared to 3.5% unemployed in England. Whilst 40.3% of the population is economically inactive (39.1% England)

The 2021 Census shows 4.9% of people in North Somerset have bad or very bad health as compared to the England 5.3%.

The number of children (aged under 16) living in Relative low income families in North Somerset in 2022/23, 6,641 (17.2%) children were recognised as living in absolute low-income families. This is lower than England at 24.6% and the South West 21.5%.

In North Somerset, income deprivation had a greater adverse effect on children and young compared to the older age group (60 years and over). There are higher proportions of young people living in more deprived areas in North Somerset, with 27 of LSOAs among the 20% most deprived in England.

VISION

To create a safer North Somerset by reducing incidents of serious violence through targeted prevention, effective intervention, and comprehensive support systems.



NORTH SOMERSET STRATEGIC PRIORITIES

1. Prevention and Early Intervention:

- Ensure Early identification of risk factors.
- Deliverer targeted and timely Diversional Activities and Projects.
- Enhance preventative and early interventions in respect of youth violence and exploitation.
- Ensure Our children and young people are cared for, safe, supported, and are given equality of opportunity to thrive.

2. Community Engagement:

- Make Our communities caring, healthy and safe, where people help each other to live well.
- Promote violence prevention programmes within primary, secondary and wider community groups.
- Deliver Professional, parent & wider community awareness & education.
- Engage with local communities and community groups via Local, Region & National Days/Weeks of Action.

3. Enforcement and Criminal Justice:

- Make effective use of intelligence focusing on high risk individuals and areas.
- Policing priorities include the disruption of all forms of serious organised crime and exploitation.
- Ensure robust prosecution of violent offenders to deter future crimes.

4. Support Services:

- Deliver pathways out of violence utilising Evidence based interventions.
- VRP led, as well as commissioned interventions all in place to reduce violence.
- Ensure comprehensive support for the survivors of violence.
- Enhance and develop contextual safeguarding responses in partnership with the Youth Justice Service North Somerset, Community Safety Partnership, Safeguarding Partnership and Children's Services.

WE WILL WORK WITH COMMUNITIES TO ENSURE OUR TOWNS AND VILLAGES ARE CLEAN, RESILIENT, AND SAFE FOR EVERYONE.²⁴

Reduce crime and anti-social behaviour by delivering the actions in the Community Safety Partnership Plan. Including the North Somerset Evening and Night-time Economy Delivery Plan, the Violence Reduction Unit Response Strategy, the Hate Crime Strategy, the Anti-Social Behaviour Strategy, the Domestic Abuse Strategy and Public Space Protection Orders.

24. [North Somerset Corporate Plan 202024-28.pdf](#)

SERIOUS VIOLENCE IN NORTH SOMERSET

Key Findings from statistics

- Compared with national and some regional statistics, North Somerset as a whole experiences lower levels of violence, however, specific areas Weston Town Centre and surrounds are showing increases significantly higher and continue to do so.
- There was a 7% increase in the number of recorded crimes²⁵ in 2023/24 with a rate per 1,000 of 73.7.

Incidence of Violence:

- Violent and sexual offences accounted for 47% of recorded crime.
- The cost of Violent Crime²⁶ in North Somerset rose by 14% in 2023/24.
- Violence Offences increased by 11% in 2023/24, with personal robbery increasing by 56%.
- Increases in violent offences in 13 of the 15 Police beat areas.

Street Based Serious Violence

- Street Based Serious Violence²⁷ increased by 29% in 2023/24.
- Increases across 75% of North Somerset.
- Knife-Flagged offences increased by 24%.
- Knife-Flagged offences 32% of offenders were males aged 10 to 24 (where age stated).

Demographics and Victim Profiles: Street Based Serious Violence

- 92% of offenders were White with 8% from other ethnic groups.
- 29% increase in the number of identified offenders.
- 83% offenders were male.
- 38% of offenders were aged under 25.
- 23% (17n) increase in offenders aged under 25.
- 37% increase in the number of victims.
- 28% of victims were female.
- 92% of victims were White with 8% from other ethnic groups.
- Over one third of victims were aged under 25.
- 53% (28n) increase in victims aged under 25.

Hotspots

- 57% of SBSV occurred in 4 police beat areas, Weston Town Centre, Worle & North Weston, Bournville (One Team) and Weston Central.
- 24% SBSV occurring in Weston Town centre beat area.
- 72% increase in Weston super mare.



²⁵ <https://www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/crimeandjustice/datasets/recordedcrimedatabycommunitysafetypartnershiparea>

²⁶ <https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/media/5b684f22e5274a14f45342c9/the-economic-and-social-costs-of-crime-horr92.pdf>

²⁷ Street Based Serious Violence Definition Offences



WHAT THE DATA SAYS

Risk and protective factors

Substance Misuse: During the year 2022/23 in North Somerset there were

Adults

- 1,005 adults in treatment.

Of which;

- Males 68% (n=680) Females 32%(n=325) in treatment.
- Those aged between 30 to 49 years old accounted for 57%, followed by those aged 50+ (30%) and 18-29 (13%).

Young People

From 2020/21 in North Somerset the number of young people in treatment is has been stable over the

- 2022/23, there were 25 males and 42 females
- Young people aged 14-15 accounting for 46%, those aged 16-17 (50%) and those under 14 (4%).

Mental Health

- Depression: QOF Prevalence (18+ yrs) shows an increasing trend year on year.
- North Somerset: 15.7% proportionally higher compared to South West region (13.6%) and England (13.2%).
- The number of Hospital admissions for mental health conditions (<18 yrs) in 2022/23 was 105 (242.1 per 100,000).
- 2022/23 rate 242.1 is higher than the South West rate of 125.1 and the England rate of 80.8.

Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB)

According to the police definition of ASB there were

- 2,643 incidents in 2023/24, a slight reduction -4% on the previous.
- Nuisance incidents (e.g. rowdy or inconsiderate neighbours) accounted for 82.7% (2,186) of reported ASB.

Deliberate Fires

- Over the 3 years 32% of fires occurred between 4pm-8pm.
- Sunday or Thursday (17%) is when most fires occurred.
- There was a 33% reduction in 2023/24.
- Over the last three years, North Somerset O27A (WsM East - Airfield) LSOA has recorded the highest number of deliberate fires in North Somerset.

Domestic Abuse (Based on local police data)

- 4,509 domestic abuse incidents were recorded in North Somerset in 2023/24, an increase from 4,379 in 2022/23 (up 3.0%).
- The rate of domestic abuse related incidents and crimes per 1,000 population was 21 per 1,000, an increase from 20 per 1,000 in 2022/23.

Hate Crime & Discrimination

- In 2023/24 there was a 13.8% increase in hate crime incidents compared to 2022/23.
- Transphobic hate crime rose by 79%, Sexual orientation 20% and Racial by 15%.



WHAT THE DATA SAYS

Hospital Admissions for Violence

- During 2020/21-22/23, there were 150 hospital admissions, with a rate of 25.6 per 100,000. This rate has reduced by 5.9 from 2019/20-21/22 (31.5).
- The rate of 25.6 is lower than both the South West's rate of 25.7 and England's (34.3).

Financial stress and unemployment²⁸

- Across the 8 distribution centres in North Somerset a total of 15,036 food parcels were distributed in 2023/24 (Parcels Distributed to: Children 6,099, Adults 8,937) 33% increase since 2021/22.
- 11,217 (11.3%) households in fuel poverty.²⁹

Employment

The unemployment rate for North Somerset been dropping incrementally since December 2020 when the rate was 3.7%, to 2.6% in the twelve months ending March 2024. Economic activity rate March 2024: 77.1% (Great Britain 78.6%);

- Employment rate March 2024: 78.7% (Great Britain 75.5%).
- Unemployment rate March 2024: 2.6% (Great Britain 3.9%).
- 1,800 male and 1,590 females out of work benefit claimant's resident in North Somerset (2.9% and 2.5% of the working age population respectively).
- Of the 3,390 claimants 580 were aged 16-24 with 4.2% Aged 18 to 24 (575n).

Supporting Families Programme

The number of families in North Somerset in the Supporting Families with successful outcomes Programme has increased in 2023/24, this is 65% at year end.³⁰

Offender Management

Probation supervised 27 individuals convicted of a serious violent crime during the period 2023/24;

Those aged 18-25 years (9n);

- 89% were male.
- 11% (1n) sentenced to custody.
- Criminogenic Need – Relationships 86%, ETE 57%, Accommodation 43% and Drugs 29%, Alcohol 0%.

Those aged 26+ years (18n);

- 78% male.
- 56% (10n) sentenced to custody.

Criminogenic Need increased by;

- 20% for Accommodation to 63%.
- 31% for Alcohol 31% to 31%.
- 24% for Thinking & Behaviour to 81%.

28. <https://stat-xplore.dwp.gov.uk/webapi/jsf/dataCatalogueExplorer.xhtml>

29. <https://www.data.gov.uk/dataset/f3009590-2bc9-40d9-8dc3-571e6fddae45/fuel-poverty-in-england-sub-regional>

30. Annual report of the Supporting Families programme 2023-2024 - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk)



CHILDREN'S SAFEGUARDING

The children and young people North Somerset supported as of the end of March 2024:

Children in Care

- 252 children in care, 23 of these children are unaccompanied asylum seeking children – at a rate of 58.11 per 10,000.
- 236 care leavers (155 care leavers aged 18 to 21 years; 81 care leavers aged 22-24).

Children in Need

- 233 children on a child in need plan at a rate of 54.44 per 10,000.

Child Protection

- 133 children with a child protection plan – at a rate of 31.04 per 10,000.

Children Missing

There were 496 missing episodes during the year 2023/24, involving 163 young people.

- of which 86 Female, 76 male and 1 Other.
- 15% aged Under 13yr (25n),
- 59% aged 13y to 15y (95n),
- 26% aged 16/17y28 (43n).

Early Help Referrals

- 189 families (355 children) supported through early help in our family wellbeing service.

Children at risk of Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE)

- The number of children identified as at risk of CSE as of 31/3/2024 – 15
- Children at risk of Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE)
- The number of children identified as at risk of CCE as of 31/3/204 – 16.

Education Training & Employment

In North Somerset we have 64 primary schools, 11 secondary schools, 4 special schools and 1 pupil referral unit in the area.

- 95 different languages spoken in our schools.
- 16% of children eligible for free school meals.
- 2,266 children have an education, health and care plan.
- 3,373 children are receiving SEN support in our schools.

The National overall absence rate of 6.7% in Autumn 2023/24, a decrease from 7.5% in Autumn 2022/23.

- The North Somerset rate of 7.0% is higher than the national rate and similar to regional average, this is a decrease on the 7.7% rate in 2022/23.

Nationally, percentage of persistent absentees 2023/24 Autumn term (10% or more missed) 19.4% in Autumn 2023/24, a decrease from 24.2% in Autumn 2022/23. The North Somerset rate of 20.5% is higher than the national rate, this is a decrease on the 24.5% rate in 2022/23.³¹

31. Pupil absence in schools <https://explore-education-statistics.service.gov.uk/find-statistics/pupil-absence-in-schools-in-england>



CHILDREN'S SAFEGUARDING

Poverty and Economic Disparities

- 2023/24 the number of children eligible for free school meals (FSM) increased by 0.4% from year 2022/23.
- In 2023/24 out of 5,152 children eligible, 3,876 (12.2%) were taking free school meals in North Somerset.
- 2022/23, there were 6,641 children living in relative low income families in North Somerset, this number has gradually increased.

Housing

- 2022/23, 810 households owed a duty under the Homelessness Reduction Act in North Somerset, this is a reduction of 140 from 2021/22.
- The crude rate per 1,000 is 8.2 and is lower than South West (11.2) and England (12.4).
- In 2022/23, 655 young people approached North Somerset as homeless or at risk of homelessness.

Modern Slavery Referrals linked to County Lines

Responding locally, young people are being identified with the aim of delivering appropriate targeted interventions. Policing priorities include the disruption of all forms of serious organised crime and exploitation.

Youth Justice Service

First Time Entrants

- 2023/24 the rate of First Time Entrants continues to see a downward trend 160 to 141 per 100,000 in the population. This represents 29 individual children compared with 32 in the previous reporting period.

Reducing Re-Offending (re-offending has increased)

- Overall re-offending rate of 36.0% for the period July 2021 - June 2022, an increase of 4.89pp.
- There were 25 children in the cohort and 9 re-offended compared to 45 in 20/21 with 14 re-offending cohort.

Serious Youth Violence

- Youth Justice data indicates that 20 children in North Somerset have been involved in violence related offending 80% of children involved in violence have been known to children social care and 65% have experienced disrupted education histories.



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YOUNG PERSON'S VOICE

We commissioned Collaborate Digital who delivered education to over 3,000 students across 9 secondary schools through workshops and assemblies, creating podcasts and interactive learning for young people to share key messaging around the role of social media today. Teacher and student feedback was overwhelmingly positive.

In the lead up to and during May 2024, North Somerset VRP led on hosting Knife Angel in Weston super Mare, bringing together groups of young people to complete various art installations and similar projects before, during and after hosting the statue itself. Knife Angel provided a catalyst for conversations around violence and knife crime throughout all communities, but particularly with young people. This, in turn, enables us to engage with young people (rather than just inform) and provide a platform for their voices to be heard. Examples are listed below:

- Young people from a local pupil referral unit designed and helped create a metal sculpture before May; the final piece was displayed during our Knife Angel hosting month.
- Students from Weston College designed and created a powerful memorial tree.

Youth insights into youth violence in North Somerset

Young people in North Somerset fear violence, carry knives, know where to source drugs and conflict escalates from online to offline.

Around 450 school students from Year 6 to Year 13 completed an online survey to share their views, and we consulted with nearly 100 students through workshops: including Year 6 students, Year 8 students, Year 9 students, Weston College students and Pupil Referral Unit students.

Survey Results	1 in 4 know someone who carries a weapon (this rises to 37% in Weston Southward).
On average 46% of young people felt scared of physical violence in their communities.	Nearly a quarter of young people have been in a fight because of something that started or was exacerbated online (this is as high as 42% in Nailsea).
Nearly two thirds see drugs in their area, and 1 in 5 know who is dealing drugs in their area.	Over half (55%) of young people trust the police .
45% of young people feel that they are good at managing their emotions at a time of disagreement (falling from 61% in 2021).	41% of young people have been ignored or left out on purpose on social media .
61% have experienced someone being rude to them in person because of something that started online .	Just over 1 in 6 young people report they have seen pictures or videos of themselves online without their permission, which is intended to hurt them.





YOUNG PERSON'S VOICE

What does best practice tell us (national/local)

North Somerset VRP commissioned research with young people and professionals, including the role of social media in serious violence.

Key findings included – Social media issues have not gone away,

- These issues have a wide geographic spread.
- Seem to be less connected to historical trends of violence.

The most recent research, completed by in 2023 provided various areas of opportunity, including targeted social media education for young people in our communities.

The above-mentioned research used young people's voices to provide opportunity areas for the North Somerset VRP and its partners in shaping the landscape in our communities to reduce serious violence. This included identifying how elements of the physical infrastructure in hot spots – such as lack of lighting, plant landscaping and camera absence – can make young people feel unsafe. Their research further highlighted the opportunity to focus on individuals and groups already identified as high risk – rather than waiting for the violence to happen. North Somerset VRP were involved in the recent Street Games data capture, mapping interventions and projects in our area, which can be directly compared with our North Somerset serious violence data dashboard, providing regular real time data including mapping of demand.

Ensuring Trauma Informed Approaches

When planning for Knife Angel hosting in May 2024, we sought advice and learning from various partner agencies to ensure we were considering all parts of our community. This included contact with, and a later visit from, Trauma Informed Practice Officer for Public Health & Regulatory Services.

Evidence reviews and resources

The localised nature of many interventions means that it's difficult to predict their impact on a community. However, particular elements in interventions have been shown to be consistently useful across a range of settings.

LOCAL SERVICES

With the uncertainty of funding beyond March 2025, North Somerset VRP has not commissioned or made commitments to projects and interventions beyond then. However, we have recently reviewed our current interventions alongside our staffing constraints, making every effort to maximise the time of our staff and making best use of the funding we commit.

Fully funded by VRP	Part funded by VRP	Not funded by VRP			
		No VRP staff needed	Jointly staffed by VRP	Purely staffed by VRP	
St Giles Trust in Schools	Professionals' workshops and education	Blunt Truth	999 Cadets	F/Wellbeing Community Events	Missing Children Meeting
Start to Finish (young people)	Teachable Moments Car	Supporting TOPAZ cases	Hans Price Careers Input	Mini Police	VRP Case Managements
Sports Funding	Bike Project	Knife Bin	Junction 21 Link and Inputs	Choices and Consequences	VAWG support projects
Play/Art/Other Therapies		VLC (PRU) engagement	Weston College Pop ups & inputs	School Pop up engagement	ESOL engagement

The Police Early Intervention Team (EIT) deliver;

- Choice and Consequences in Somerset and North Somerset, an intervention delivered to children to try to divert them from crime.
- Blunt Truth is an intervention created and jointly delivered by police and health.
- Educational packages, covering multiple subjects that police deliver in the classroom.



COMMUNITY VOICE

North Somerset VRP gives focus to community engagement events involving all ages, including family engagement events at community centres throughout the year. We also recognise the importance of feedback and views of our colleagues and other professionals such as teachers, sports coaches and youth workers for example; in ensuring we are considering how different people communicate and process society.

Our engagement with young people specifically takes many forms including pop up stalls in schools, as part of intervention delivery (such as Blunt Truth) and public facing engagement.

Knife Angel in May 2024 provided a vital platform for communities in North Somerset and beyond to share their thoughts, feedback and voices in relation to knife crime and associated violence. Our staff and volunteers engaged with thousands of people through the month, with over 80,000 people passing through the footfall cameras.



SOMERSET

PLACES & POPULATION

Serious violence in Somerset, a largely rural county in South West England, presents unique challenges and requires tailored strategies for prevention and intervention. The approach to tackling serious violence in Somerset must consider the county's specific social, economic, and environmental context.

Somerset is comprised of four former district authority: Mendip, South Somerset, Sedgemoor and Somerset West and Taunton, covering covers 3,452 square kilometres (1,333 square miles) with a resident population of 576,900.

The population is 571,548 made up of 51.1% women, and 48.96% men. With 96.4% of the population white compared to 81.0% for England.

Somerset has a greater proportion of those aged 65 and over at 24.8% compared to England 19.4%. Children and young people (0-17) at 19.2% (109,694) and people of working age 56.0% (319,958) have lower proportion as compared to the England averages of 20.84% and 60.74% respectively.

The population is growing, but most of the population growth is expected to be in adults over 65 where there has been a 46.5% percentage increase in the over 65 years population since 2001.

16.6% of the population are School children or full-time students (20.4% England). Those unemployed is 2.3% compared to 3.5% unemployed in England. Whilst 41.1% of the population is economically inactive (39.1% England).

The 2021 Census shows 5.1% of people in Somerset have bad or very bad health as compared to the England 5.3%.

The number of children (aged under 16) living in relative low-income families in Somerset in 2022/23, 21,893 (22.7%) children were recognised as living in absolute low-income families. This is lower than England at 24.6% but higher than the South West 21.5%.

48% of the population live in a Rural area (England: 18%) (Census 2011) and 16.9% of the current population are children (0 to 15 years). Almost 1 in 4 of the residents of the county are over the age of 65 (25% in 2021).

47,806 Somerset people live in one of the 20% most deprived areas in England, but 61,253 live in one of England's 20% least deprived areas. (This compares to 40,000 and 74,000 in 2015) Index of Multiple Deprivation (IMD).

VISION

"Our collective vision is to eliminate serious violence, protect the vulnerable and create safer communities, through the opportunities provided by the evolving Violence Reduction Partnership"



SOMERSET STRATEGIC PRIORITIES

Challenges faced by young people living in rural Somerset include:

- Social isolation.
- Lack of connectivity due to poor mobile signals or broadband speed.
- Limited public transport routes with reliance on private or community transport.
- Harder for people to access services and for service providers to reach the people.
- Lack of appropriate housing.
- Fuel poverty, and higher upfront costs for fuel and transport which has a major financial impact on the less well-off.
- Lower social mobility, particularly in West Somerset.
- Vulnerable to the effects of shrinking public sector budgets (note the financial crisis of Somerset Council).
- Increasing ratio of economically inactive to economically active populations in rural areas.

Principles for strategy and action

Strategic Priorities

The Safer Somerset Partnership sets out countywide priorities in its Community Safety Plan. The current plan for 2022-25 prioritises the improvements to serious violence as follows:

Short Term

- Refine the partnership's structure to deliver an effective response to exploitation and serious and organised crime.
- All statutory partners embed standardised practice and policy in relation to modern slavery.
- The Violence Reduction Partnership is supported in its work to coordinate multiagency plans to reduce youth violence.

Medium Term

- The partnership delivers an effective response to the Serious Violence Duty.
- The partnership delivers an effective strategic response to sexual violence.

Long term

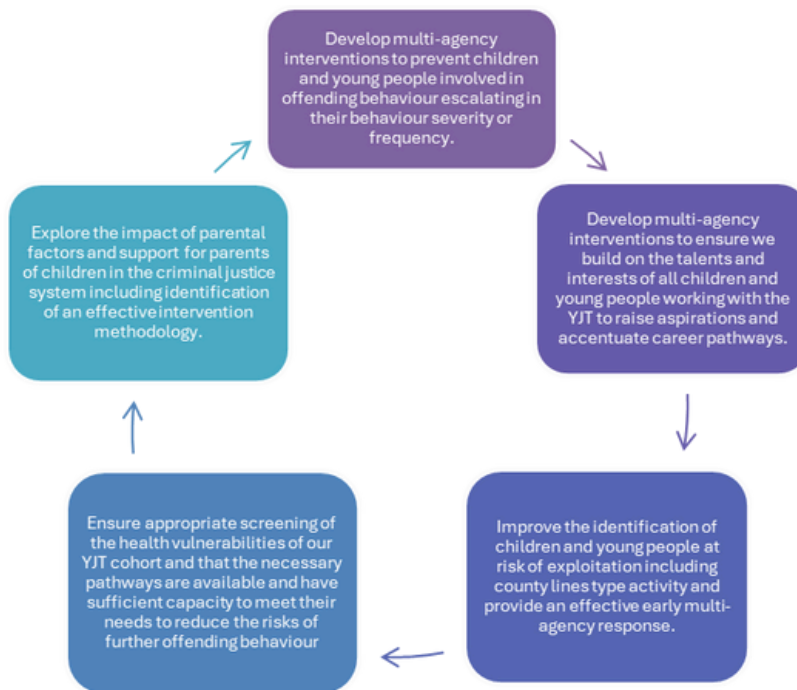
- Increase collaboration with other strategic partnerships, delivering a refreshed response to county lines.
- The partnership demonstrates its commitment to support women and girls to live free from violence and harassment.



STRATEGIC PRIORITIES

Youth Justice Plan

The Youth Justice Service have the following Strategic Priorities (2023-25)



SERIOUS VIOLENCE IN SOMERSET

What we know about serious violence in Somerset :

Serious violence in Somerset encompasses various forms of violent crime, including:

- Violent Crime Incidents such as homicides, serious assaults, and armed robberies
- Domestic Abuse often hidden and underreported
- Rural Crime: Unique challenges related to rural crime, including violent thefts and agricultural-related violence
- Substance Abuse Violence linked to alcohol and drug misuse

Key Findings from statistics

Incidence of Violence:

- There was a 4% increase in the number of recorded crimes³² in 2023/24 with a rate per 1,000 of 72.6.
- Almost 90% of Somerset saw increases in the levels of violence in 2023/24.
- Violent and sexual offences accounted for 49% of recorded crime.
- The estimated cost of Violent Crime in Somerset³³ rose by 12% in 2023/24.
- Violence and Sexual Offences increased by 11% in 2023/24.
- Robbery increased by 40% in 2023/24.

³². Community safety partnership area data

³³. the-economic-and-social-costs-of-crime-horr99.pdf



SERIOUS VIOLENCE IN SOMERSET

Types of Street Based Serious Violence:

- Street Based Serious Violence (SBSV) [1] increased by 20% in 2023/24 against previous year, 2022/23 and 43% on 2021/22.
- There were increases across 75% of Somerset in (30 of the 42 beat areas).
- March 2024 highest number of monthly SBSV crimes in the previous 3 year period.

Demographics and Profiles Street Based Serious Violence SBSV

Where offenders identified;

- 13% increase in identified offenders.
- 18% increase in males, 7% reduction in females offending.
- 86% offender's male.
- 94% offenders white.
- 24% increase in identified victims.
- 68% of victims were male with 32% female.
- 97% of victims were white.

Children and young people (aged 10-24)

- The number of identified offenders increased by 12%.
- Where age is stated 43% of offenders were under 25 of which 87% were male.
- Knife flagged offences 45% of offenders were males under 25.
- Where age is stated 40% of victims were under 25 of which 75% were male.
- Victims under 25 increased by 29% Street Based Serious Violence one third of victims were aged under 25.

Impact on Communities:

Street Based Serious Violence³⁴ 2023/24 police beat

- 57% of SBV occurred in a quarter of police beat areas
- 20% occurring in 2 beat areas Taunton Central (11%) and Yeovil Town (11%)
- Significant increases on previous year in some rural areas (although numbers are low)
- Shepton Mallet Town 86% (12n)
- Chard Town 81% (13n)
- Bridgwater Town West 50% (11n)
- Taunton Central 29% (20n)
- Yeovil has had a 10% reduction (10n)

³⁴. Street Based Serious Violence Definition Offences



WHAT THE DATA SAYS

RISK AND PROTECTIVE FACTORS

Substance Misuse

During the year 2022/23 in Somerset there were

Adults

- 2,206 adults in treatment

Of which;

- Males 64% (n=1420) Females 36%(n=786) in treatment.
- Those aged between 30 to 49 years old accounted for 58%, followed by those aged 50+ (24%) and 18-29 (18%).

Young People

- In 2022/23 the number of young people in treatment increased by 30% (35n).
- There was a significant increase in the number of females 78% (35n).
- There were 70 males and 80 females in treatment

Young people aged 14-15 account for 43%, those aged 16-17 (51%), those 14-15 (43%), those under 14 (6%).

Mental Health

- Depression: QOF Prevalence (18+ yrs) shows an increasing trend year on year.
- Somerset: 16.1% proportionally higher compared to South West region (13.6%) and England (13.2%).
- The number of Hospital admissions for mental health conditions (<18 yrs) in 2022/23 was 135 (122.2 per 100,000).

- 2022/23 rate 122.2 is lower than the South West rate of 125.1, but higher than the England rate of 80.8.

Anti-Social Behaviour

According to the police definition of anti-social behaviour (ASB) there were

- 6,348 incidents in 2023/24, a slight reduction -6% on the previous year.
- Nuisance incidents (e.g. rowdy or inconsiderate neighbours) accounted for 80% (4,948) of reported ASB.

Deliberate Fires

- Over the 3 years 34% of fires occurred between 4pm-8pm.
- Sunday (17%) is when most fires occurred.
- There was a 19% reduction in 2023/24.
- Over the last three years, Mendip 001B (Beckington and Berkley) LSOA has recorded the highest number of deliberate fires in Somerset.

Domestic Abuse (based on local police data)

- 11,784 domestic abuse incidents were recorded in Somerset in 2023/24, an increase from 11,622 in 2022/23 (up 1.4%).
- The rate of domestic abuse related incidents and crimes per 1,000 population was 21 per 1,000, an increase from 20 per 1,000 in 2022/23.



WHAT THE DATA SAYS

RISK AND PROTECTIVE FACTORS

Hate Crime & Discrimination

- In 2023/24 there was a 0.9% increase in hate crime incidents compared to 2022/23.
- Racial hate crime accounted for 53% of hate crime in Somerset, but this was a reduction of 2% on 2022/23.
- Gender based hate crime rose by 21% and religion or belief by 20%, numbers remain low in these categories.

Hospital Admissions

- During 2020/21-22/23, there were 325 hospital admissions, with a rate of 20.9 per 100,000. This rate has reduced by 6.3 from 2019/20-21/22 (27.2).
- The rate of 20.9 is lower than both the South West's rate of 25.7 and England's (34.3).
- 2023/24, 124 assault related admissions.
- 51% (42n) increase in Assault/serious violence related admissions.
- 19% as a result of Assault by sharp or blunt object.
- 832 Assault/serious violence related ambulance incidents.
- Rate of 14.0 per 10,000, 0.4 reduction on 2022/23.

Financial stress & unemployment³⁵

- Across the 7 distribution centres in Somerset a total of 18,219 food parcels were distributed in 2023/24 (Parcels Distributed to: Children 6,627, Adults 11,592) 20% increase since 2021/22.
- 34,901 (13.3%) households in fuel poverty.³⁶

Employment

- The unemployment rate for Somerset has been dropping incrementally since December 2020 when the rate was 4.0%, to 2.0% in the twelve months ending March 2024.
- Economic activity rate March 2024: 82.7% (Great Britain 78.6%).
- Employment rate March 2024: 81.0% (Great Britain 75.5%).
- Unemployment rate March 2024: 2.0% (Great Britain 3.9%).
- 4,695 male and 4,095 females out of work benefit claimants resident in Somerset (2.8% and 2.4% of the working age population respectively).
- Of the 3,390 claimants 580 were aged 16-24 with 4.2% Aged 18 to 24 (575n).

Supporting Families Programme

- The number of families in Somerset in the Supporting Families with successful outcomes Programme has continued to be 100% 2023/24 at year end.³⁷

Offender Management

Probation supervised 75 individuals convicted of a serious violent crime during the period 2023/24;

Those aged 18-25years (17n)

- 94% were male.
- 41% (7n) sentenced to custody.
- Criminogenic Need – Relationships 75%, ETE 67%, Accommodation 50% and Drugs 67%, Alcohol 58%.

35. <https://stat-xplore.dwp.gov.uk/webapi/jsf/dataCatalogueExplorer.xhtml>

36. <https://www.data.gov.uk/dataset/f3009590-2bc9-40d9-8dc3-571e6fddae45/fuel-poverty-in-england-sub-regional>

37. Supporting Families - Annual report of the Supporting Families programme 2023-2024.



WHAT THE DATA SAYS

Offender Management

Those aged 26+years (58n)

- 86% male.
- 47% (27n) sentenced to custody.
- Criminogenic Need increased by 4% for Accommodation to 54%.
- 15% for Relationships to 90%.

Criminogenic Need reduced by

- 23% for ETE to 44%.
- 29% for Drugs to 38%.

CHILDREN'S SAFEGUARDING

The children Somerset have support as of the end of March 2024:

Children in Care

- 586 children in care, at a rate of 53 per 10,000.
- 389 care leavers.

Child Protection

- 325 children with a child protection plan – at a rate of 29 per 10,000.

Children in Need

- 699 children on a child in need plan at a rate of 63 per 10,000.

Somerset snapshot – 2023/4

19.2% Children and young people (0-17) as a % of total population (ONS 2022 mid-year estimate)



11% Children and young people (0-17) who are non-White British* (2021 census)



18% Children and young people living in low-income families/poverty (DWP 2022)



21.8% Pupils classed as persistent absentees Primary 15% / Secondary 28.3% (SC 2022/23)



110,512 Children and Young People, aged 0 to 17 (ONS 2022 mid-year estimate)

72,603 CYP attending* (Jan 2023 school census)

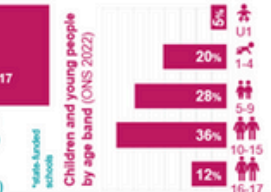
12,058 CYP with SEND in schools* (Jan 2023 school census)

5,374 Children with Education Health & Care Plans Somerset Council, Nov 23

4.5% NEET 16-17 year olds (May-Jul 2023 3-month average (CSW))

51 YOS caseload (as at 03/06/2024)

389 Care Leavers aged 18-25 (as at 07/02/2024)



1,611 Educated at Home pupils (Somerset Council, Sep 23)

591 Children Looked After (CLA) (Somerset Council, Jan 24)

389 Care Leavers aged 18-25 (as at 07/02/2024)



CHILDREN'S SAFEGUARDING

IN 2023/24 THERE WERE:

Missing Persons

- 661 missing Episodes.
- 129 young people.

Early Help Referrals

1420 Early Episodes starting, for

- 1381 children, across.
- 867 families.

Exploitation Data sourced from LA's

There were 185 children deemed as at risk of child exploitation at any point in 2023/24.

There are hot spots in urban areas such as Taunton, Bridgwater, Frome, Yeovil and Glastonbury, but also a number of children living in more rural areas across the county.

Education Training & Employment

In Somerset we have 218 primary schools, 7 middle schools, 28 secondary schools, 1 all through school, 9 state-funded special schools and 4 pupil referral units in the area.

- 21% of children eligible for free school meals.
- 5,374 children have an education, health and care plan.
- 12,058 children are receiving SEN support in our schools.

The National overall absence rate of 6.7% in Autumn 2023/24, a decrease from 7.5% in Autumn 2022/23.

- The Somerset rate of 7.3% is higher than the national and regional rate, this is a decrease on the 8.1% rate in 2022/23.

³⁸

Nationally, percentage of persistent absentees 2023/24 Autumn term (10% or more missed) 19.4% in Autumn 2023/24, a decrease from 24.2% in Autumn 2022/23. The Somerset rate of 20.7% is higher than the national and regional rate, this is a decrease on the 25.9% rate in 2022/23.

Not in Education, Employment or Training (NEET)

As at 31 March 2024 4.2% of young people aged 16-17 were NEET compared with a South West rate of 5.3% and a rate in England of 5.3%.

Poverty & Economic Disparities

- 2023/24, the number of children eligible for free school meals (FSM) increased by 0.4% from the year 2022/23.
- In 2023/24, out of 6,461 children eligible, 4,797 (11.5%) were taking free school meals in Somerset.
- 2022/23, there were 21,893 children living in relative low income families in Somerset.

³⁹

³⁸ Pupil absence in schools <https://explore-education-statistics.service.gov.uk/find-statistics/pupil-absence-in-schools-in-england>

³⁹ FSM <https://explore-education-statistics.service.gov.uk/find-statistics/school-pupils-and-their-characteristics>



CHILDREN'S SAFEGUARDING

YOUTH JUSTICE SERVICE

First Time Entrants

- 2023/24 the rate of First Time Entrants as recently risen by 52%. An increased rate of 143 per 100,000 in the population from 94. This represents 76 individual children compared with 50 in the previous reporting period.

Reducing Re-Offending

- Re-offending has reduced.
- Overall re-offending rate of 32.9% for the period July 2021 - June 2022, a reduction of 10.62pp.
- There were 85 children in the cohort and 28 re-offended compared to 101 in 20/21 with 44 re-offending cohort.

Serious Youth Violence

Youth Justice data indicates Nine Somerset children received substantive outcomes for fourteen serious youth violence offences in 2023/24. These offences are violence against the person, drugs and robbery offences with a gravity score of five or greater.

YOUNG PERSONS VOICE

The Child's Voice is pivotal throughout Children's Social Care in Somerset quality assurance and service improvement planning.

In Somerset we have carried out a town centre youth safety consultation with over 1300 young people as part of 2 new problem-solving plans for key hotspots in Somerset where young people are effected by violence.

Young people told us that:

- 9% has experienced violence in town centres.
- Less than 1 in 5 would report a violent incident to the police.
- Young people want more information about how to stay safe in town centres.

This work has informed the delivery of our problem solving plan led by the Police Early Intervention Team. This has included a youth voice schools program [Somerset Schools Public Vote | Collaborate Digital](#) communications plan [Safer Somerset – town centre youth safety](#) and new youth hubs in Taunton and Bridgwater town centres. [Safer Somerset – town centre youth safety](#).

Children and young people have told us that they want to live in safe communities where streets and parks feel safe at night. They told us that they want fewer children and young people involved in county lines and fewer incidents of violence.



SCHOOLS HEALTH & WELLBEING SURVEY: ⁴⁰

Schools and colleges should be safe environments for pupils and staff and should be places that promote respect and diversity.

- Feeling safe at school declines with age.
- More than one quarter of secondary pupils do not feel safe at school.
- Pupils feel less safe travelling to and from school when they attend a secondary school.
- Older pupils are more likely to be upset by something they have seen online.
- 3 in 10 pupils in all year groups felt online pressure to do something they don't want to do 'always' or 'sometimes'.

Somerset Council's Engagement and Participation Team supported the Corporate Parent Board with a thematic workshop regarding missing persons.

Corporate Parenting Thematic Workshop on Children Going Missing | SiCC and SLCC

Nature of the case

On 14th March 2023, there was a Missing Children thematic workshop to take an in depth look at children who go missing.

How did the Engagement and Participation team become involved?

The Corporate Parent Board requested thematic workshops and identified this topic as its first theme.

Details of the case

The meeting was opened by the Independent Chair of the Corporate Parenting Board, with the theme presented by the Prevent Missing and Exploitation (PMEX) team. A representative from the Avon and Somerset and Somerset Constabulary also attended. There were discussions on what constitutes a missing child, local data was presented regarding numbers of missing children and the reasons they run away, they looked at the systems in place to support parent/ carers and young people when they go missing and heard case studies.

How many young people took part and what was their involvement?

The meeting was attended by representatives from the Somerset Leaving Care Council (SLCC) and Dan Graves, the Young Person's Champion for the Children and Young People's Plan (CYPP).

What are the outcomes of the case?

The results of the actions are:

- They identified the pressure on residential providers who feel they must report a child missing under their OFSTED responsibilities.
- The Corporate Parenting Board are raising the issue of these pressures with OFSTED.

Feedback from a young person

"This was an interesting event, where I got to learn about the inner proceedings and what Somerset as a county is handling and addressing missing children across the county."

Daniel Graves - Young Person's Champion

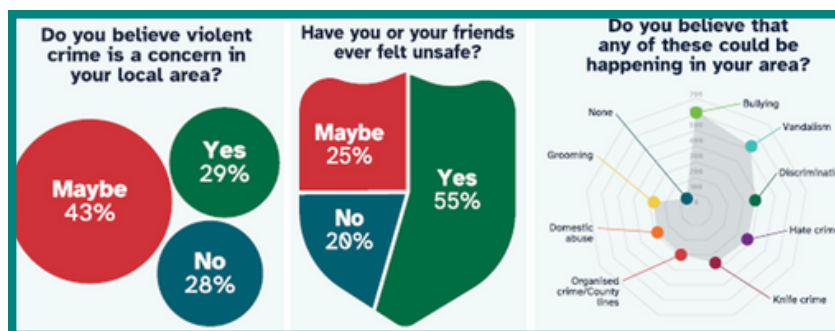
Supporting imagery

34 Engagement and Participation | Annual Report 2022-23



YOUNG PEOPLE'S PERCEPTIONS OF VIOLENCE & CRIME IN SOMERSET

This year long project was commissioned by the Somerset VRP to explore young people's perceptions of violent crime, reveal their concerns and identify risks and vulnerabilities.



Recommendations (summary from young people)

- More police presence but proportional responses from the police.
- Training for police to improve understanding of young people's behaviour, mental health and/or disability.
- More convictions.
- Therapy support and more care for victims.
- Supportive, safe spaces in schools to avoid threat, harassment, and abuse especially in break times. (This was included with more trained mental health nurses/workers in schools as young people believe the availability of support is not enough and schools/students aren't coping. This leads to a breakdown in general behaviour, and bullying, or even non-attendance).

- On safety in schools - a few young people suggested metal detectors, and random bag searches (for weapons).
- Better teacher training to identify possible grooming.
- Better/more conversations and discussions with young people about sex, relationships, drugs and violence - instead of being presented to. Young people described being talked at, then 'end of'. Young people also identified that even when schools bring in services to talk about issues - it feels like an information dump and a box ticking exercise.
- Supportive work with boys and young men to: understand their needs, their feelings, how they behave when uncomfortable/embarrassed and start to appreciate them (some spoke of education needing to change at primary stage) "we' (boys) need to hear and understand the victims experience and effects on them around sexual harassment. Sometimes what seems like messing around can be hurtful" (Youth Parliament member).
- More community and young people's engagement (more events bringing people together, building trust) but also more opportunities for young people to be heard regularly through forums and help problem solve.
- Better street lighting seems to be a recurring request.
- Improved 'signposting'/information about how and where to get help.



BEST PRACTICE

(NATIONAL/LOCAL)

Somerset VRP will have oversight and governance of two new multi-agency meetings aimed at improving local understanding and response to violence and exploitation.

Ensuring Trauma Informed Approaches.

- Since 2023 Somerset VRP have contributed funding and expertise to support delivery of the Somerset Trauma Informed Action Plan, coordinated by Somerset Children's Safeguarding Partnership Business Unit. Actions delivered include:
- Operating a multi-agency Trauma Informed steering group
- Setting up a Trauma Informed network, for which a website and newsletter are up and running with over 700 sign-ups.
- Providing a Trauma Informed forum week in June 2024 which was attended by just under 800 practitioners.
- Developing a sustainable Trauma Informed training program for Somerset.
- More information can be found at [Somerset Trauma Informed Network - Somerset Safeguarding Children Partnership.](#)

Evidence based practice (YJS)

- Appropriate locally or nationally evidence-based programmes are implemented within practice (including, those evaluated by the Youth Endowment Fund and our own QA activity or learning reviews). These approaches have guided our response to specific needs including concerns around Serious Youth

Violence, School absence and Exclusions with a variety of evidence based best practice models, which have included:

- **Sports & Arts mentoring:** Children aged 11-17 identified as at risk from offending/reoffending are referred to Voluntary, Community, Faith and Social Enterprise (VCSFE) organisations such as Somerset Activity Sports Partnership (SASP), who support our children into healthy activities in the community, with the opportunity to take leadership roles; or, Action Trak who use music and the arts as a vehicle to highlight children's concerns, engage them positively and support their diversion away from crime.
- **REACH and Young Somerset** support children on our cohort who may be disengaged from education or other pro social activity, vulnerable and at risk of becoming entrenched in offending and the criminal justice system. Both organisations use youth work methodology engage, build trusted relationships necessary to support targeted intervention and support work bespoke to individual needs.
- **St Giles Trust:** They offer specialist lived experience mentoring for children thought or known to be exploited. The SYJT alongside our Child Exploitation lead social worker identify children as most likely involved in CE or violence which aims to support children develop positive routes away from this path. Mentors have worked with some of our identified children in the community and through brokered in-reach to identified children in the secure estate.



BEST PRACTICE

(NATIONAL/LOCAL)

- **Stand against violence:** SYJT work closely with this local charity, to revise learning and training materials, ensure Child First delivery using licences, training, sustainable resource for direct work to address SYV.

WHAT SERVICES WE HAVE IN PLACE LOCALLY

Somerset VRP has commissioned 3 key interventions during 2024-25 to support young people at risk of violence and/or exploitation.

- **Admit:** 2 Substance Misuse Workers sit within Musgrove Park Hospital and Yeovil General Hospital A&E departments during the weekend nights. Any young person who is admitted with an injury or suspected risk from violence or exploitation are offered support.
- **Sports Mentoring:** Young people at risk from ASB or violence are provided with holistic mentoring and supported into community activities to improve sense of belonging and wellbeing.
- **Early intervention for young people** at risk of exclusion from school: This program operates in partnership with the family intervention service at Somerset Council and offers users a variety of tools at a “teachable moment” that provide social skills tailored to a young persons need, covering areas such as anger management, relaxing techniques, stress management, healthy relationship work, reflection techniques.

- **The Police Early Intervention Team (EIT)** work closely with the SYJT and Somerset VRP to reduce serious youth violence. Identifying and intervening with children at risk of serious youth violence as well as children engaged in serious youth violence. And 3 interventions started in 2023-24 continue to make impact:
- **Positive Masculinity Program:** 2 schools in Somerset have participating in a program to develop an all schools approach to positive male image. This included workshops with pupils and teachers. They will also work with the provider to produce a toolkit for all Somerset schools to access and learn from.
- **Town Centre Problem Solving Plans:** Led by the Police Early Intervention Team, Somerset has multi-agency problem solving plans in 2 of the main hotspots for youth violence concerns in the county
- **Safer Streets:** As part of the Home Office Safer Streets 5 program the Somerset VRP working on a regionally led program of bystander training and scoping the feasibility of a women’s NTE charter for Somerset.

The Police Early Intervention Team (EIT) deliver;

- **Choice and Consequences** in Somerset and North Somerset, an intervention delivered to children to try to divert them from crime. This is an intervention delivered following the investigation of an offence and the decision will be made by the police only or via a multi-agency youth panel. In addition, there are a series of educational packages, covering multiple subjects that police deliver in the classroom.



SOUTH GLOUCESTERSHIRE

PLACES & POPULATION

South Gloucestershire Unitary Authority covers an area of approximately 496.96 square kilometres, bordering the local government areas of Bristol, Bath and North East Somerset, Wiltshire, and Gloucestershire. South Gloucestershire is made up of 28 wards and combines both urban and rural areas. A large portion of the South Gloucestershire population live on the Bristol 'fringe' area, with further population concentrations living in the towns of Yate, Chipping Sodbury and Thornbury.

According to the Office for National Statistics (ONS) mid-year population estimates 2023, South Gloucestershire is home to 299,439 residents (1). Overall, the population tends to experience better than national average outcomes, such as higher life expectancy and lower levels of poverty and deprivation (2). It is important to note, however, that the area is not uniform, with variation in demographics and outcomes across the area.

18.7% of the South Gloucestershire population are aged 65 and over, which is lower than the South West region (22.7%) (1). South Gloucestershire has a large proportion of young people aged 0 to 19 (22.8%), which is slightly higher than the South West region (21.3%) (1).

South Gloucestershire has an ethnic minority population of 8.8%, an increase of 3.8% since 2011 (5%) (1).

This is slightly higher than the South West region (6.9%) but considerably lower than England (19%) (1).

19.5% of the population are School children or full-time students (20.4% England). Those unemployed is 2.5% compared to 3.5% unemployed in England. Whilst 35.3% of the population is economically inactive (39.1% England).

The 2021 Census shows 4.2% of people in South Gloucestershire have bad or very bad health as compared to the England 5.3%.

The number of children (aged under 16) living in Relative low-income families in South Gloucestershire in 2022/23, 8,178 (15.4%) children were recognised as living in absolute low-income families. This is lower than England at 24.6% and the South West 21.5%.

According to the 2019 (IMD)

South Gloucestershire is ranked 267th out of 317 local authorities in England (with 1 being the most deprived and 317 being the least deprived) (4). South Gloucestershire has no small areas, known as local super output areas (LSOAs), that rank in the 10% most deprived nationally. Approximately 31% of LSOAs in South Gloucestershire are in the 10% least deprived nationally (4). There are pockets of deprivation, with the most deprived LSOAs generally being clustered within the urban areas. More detailed information about the demographic make-up of the South Gloucestershire population can viewed in the 'Our population' dashboard hosted on the [Population Health Intelligence Portal \(PHIP\)](#).



VISION

To create a safer South Gloucestershire by reducing incidents of serious violence through targeted prevention, effective intervention, and comprehensive support systems.

PRINCIPLES FOR STRATEGY AND ACTION

South Gloucestershire Council have five strategic priorities within our 2024 - 2028 council plan⁴², including 'supporting children and young people to thrive' and 'help reduce inequalities by working together to provide a public health approach to violence reduction, focussing on understanding the cause of violence and why people get drawn into a life of crime'.

Our 2024 - 2025 South Gloucestershire Youth Justice Service⁴³ vision for children and young people in South Gloucestershire is that they get the very best start in life, reach their full potential and live their lives safe from harm (violence, abuse, neglect, and/or exploitation). To achieve this vision, we will work together with local communities to improve their outcomes. We want South Gloucestershire to be a place where safeguarding is everybody's business.

From March 2025 the South Gloucestershire Community Safety Partnership will be developing a new 3 year strategic plan. This will include embedding the recommendations and delivery of the South Gloucestershire Local Strategic Needs profile to deliver a safer South Gloucestershire by reducing incidents of serious violence through targeted prevention, effective intervention, and comprehensive support systems.

STRATEGIC PRIORITIES

SERIOUS VIOLENCE IN SOUTH GLOUCESTERSHIRE

Key Findings from statistics

Violence Offences increased by 11% in 2023/24

Incidence of Violence:

- There was a 4.3% increase in the number of recorded crimes⁴ in 2023/24 with a rate per 1,000 of 73.7.
- Over 75% of the South Gloucestershire area saw increases in the levels of violence.
- Violent and sexual offences accounted for 44% of recorded crime.
- The cost of Violent Crime in South Gloucestershire⁵ rose by 9% in 2023/24.
- Violence Offences increased by 11% in 2023/24.

Types of Street Based Serious Violence:

- Street Based Serious Violence (SBSV) [1] increased by 21 % (56 n) in 2023/24 against previous year, 2022/23.
- There were increases across 66% Police beat areas.
- 17 % of SBSV took place on a Sunday.
- 30 % of SBSV crime taking place between 5 pm- 9pm.
- 26% reduction in robbery
- Knife-Flagged offences increased by 10%

⁴¹ 2024 - 2028 council plan

⁴² 2024 - 2025 South Gloucestershire Youth Justice Service



SERIOUS VIOLENCE IN SOUTH GLOUCS.

Demographics and Profiles Street Based Serious Violence

Where offenders are identified;

- There is a 27 % increase in identified offenders.
- There is a 24 % increase in males, 45% increase in females offending.
- 84 % of offender's are male.
- 77 % offenders white.
- There is a 21 % increase in identified victims.
- 74 % of victims were male and 26% of victims were female.
- 88 % of victims were white.

Children and young people (aged 10-24)

- The number of identified offenders increased by 5 %.
- Where age is stated 49 % of offenders were under 25 of which 88 % were male.
- Where age is stated 44 % of victims were under 25 of which 82 % were male.
- No change in number of Victims under 25.

Impact on Communities:

Street Based Serious Violence 2023/24 police beat data

- 45% of SBSV occurred in 4 police beat areas.
- 13 occurring in Yate & Doddington,
- Significant increases on previous year in some areas (although numbers are low).

Most SBSV Crime occurred in;

- 186% Frampton & Charfield (13 n).
- 125% Bradley Stoke Area (10 n).
- 93% Boyd Valley, Emersons & Lyde Green (13 n).

WHAT THE DATA SAYS

Risk and protective factors

Substance Misuse

During the year 2022/23 in South Gloucestershire there were

Adults

- 847 adults in treatment.

Of which;

- Males 65% (n=547) Females 35%(n=300) in treatment.
- Those aged between 30 to 49 years old accounted for 65%, followed by those aged 50+ (25%) and 18-29 (20%).

Young People

The number of young people in treatment reduced.

- 2022/23, there were 30 males and 26 females.
- Young people aged 14-15 accounting for 54%, those aged 16-17 (38%) and those under 14 (8%).

Mental Health

- Depression: QOF Prevalence (18+ yrs) shows an increasing trend year on year.
- South Gloucestershire: 13.9% proportionally higher compared to South West region (13.6%) and England (13.2%).



WHAT THE DATA SAYS

- The number of Hospital admissions for mental health conditions (<18 yrs) in 2022/23 was 60 (99.7 per 100,000).
- 2022/23 rate 99.7 is lower than the South West rate of 125.1 but higher than the England rate of 80.8.

Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB)

According to the police definition of anti-social behaviour there were

- 2,564 incidents in 2023/24, a reduction -10% on the previous.
- Nuisance incidents (e.g. rowdy or inconsiderate neighbours) accounted for 79.5% (2,039) of reported ASB.

Deliberate Fires

- Over the 3 years 33% of fires occurred between 4pm-8pm.
- Sunday (19%) is when most fires occurred.
- There was a 33% reduction in 2023/24.
- Over the last three years, South Gloucestershire 019F (Siston/ Siston Hill Area) LSOA has recorded the highest number of deliberate fires in South Gloucestershire.

Domestic Abuse (based on local police data)

- 5,289 domestic abuse incidents were recorded in South Gloucestershire in 2023/24, a decrease from 5,494 in 2022/23 (down 3.7%).
- The rate of domestic abuse related incidents and crimes per 1,000 population was 18 per 1,000, a decrease from 19 per 1,000 in 2022/23. 2/23. ever, lower than England (34.3).

Hate Crime & Discrimination

- In 2023/24 there was a 18.8% increase in hate crime incidents compared to 2022/23.
- Racial hate crime accounted for 62% of hate crime in South Gloucestershire ,14.7% up on 2022/23.

Hospital Admissions

- During 2020/21-22/23, there were 270 hospital admissions, with a rate of 30.3 per 100,000. This rate has reduced by 5.3 from 2019/20-21/22 (35.6).
- The rate of 30.3 is higher than South West (25.7), however, lower than England (34.3).

Financial stress and unemployment⁴³

- Across the 5 distribution centres in South Gloucestershire a total of 7,029 food parcels were distributed in 2023/24 (Parcels Distributed to: children 3,025 adults 4,004) an 82% increase since 2021/22.
- 11,624 (9.4%) households in fuel poverty.⁴⁴

43. <https://stat-xplore.dwp.gov.uk/webapi/jsf/dataCatalogueExplorer.xhtml>
<https://www.data.gov.uk/dataset/f3009590-2bc9-40d9-8dc3-571e6fddae45/fuel-poverty-in-england-sub-regional>
 44. <https://www.data.gov.uk/dataset/f3009590-2bc9-40d9-8dc3-571e6fddae45/fuel-poverty-in-england-sub-regional>

WHAT THE DATA SAYS

Employment

Unemployment in South Gloucestershire has been dropping incrementally since December 2020 when the rate was 3.5%, to 2.3% in the twelve months ending March 2024

- Economic activity rate March 2024: 86.8% (Great Britain 78.6%).
- Employment rate March 2024: 85.3% (Great Britain 75.5%).
- Unemployment rate March 2024: 2.3% (Great Britain 3.9%).
- 1,910 male and 1,590 females out of work benefit claimant's resident in North Somerset (2.1% and 1.7% of the working age population respectively).
- Of the 3,500 claimants ⁴⁵ 675 were aged 16-24 with 19% of claimants.

Supporting Families Programme

The number of families in South Gloucestershire in the Supporting Families with successful outcomes Programme has increased in 2023/24, this is 89% at year end.

Offender Management

- Probation supervised 27 individuals convicted of a serious violent crime during the period 2023/24;

Those aged 18-25years (11n)

- 91% were male.
- 36% (4n) sentenced to custody.

Criminogenic Need

Lifestyle 73%, ETE 64%, Accommodation 45% and Drugs 64%, Alcohol 18%

- Those aged 26+years (16n)
- 100% male.
- 44% (7n) sentenced to custody.
- Criminogenic Need increased by.
- 8% for Accommodation to 54%.
- 22% for Relationships to 77%.
- 16% for Attitudes to 62%.

CHILDREN'S SAFEGUARDING CHILDREN & YOUNG PEOPLE

Children in Care (CiC)

- 217 (36.1 per 10,000) CiC at the end of March 2024. Statistical Neighbours average CiC population is 54.1 per 10,000.
- 151 (of the 217) Children in Care are aged 10-17 (31/3/24).
- Unaccompanied Asylum-Seeking children (UASC) account for 28 of the 217 being CiC (13%).





CHILDREN'S SAFEGUARDING

Child Protection (CP)

- 248 CP Plans (41.2 per 10,000) at the end of March 2024. 12 months ago, CP plans numbered 317 so there has been a significant decrease. Statistical Neighbours average is 36.3 per 10,000.

Children in Need (CiN)

- 531 CYP on a CiN plan at the end of March 2024.

Missing Persons

- Between 1/4/23 to 31/3/24 354 young people were reported missing, this is an increase from 299 the previous year (an increase of 16%).

Early Help Referrals

Between 1/11/2023 and 31/10/2024 there were 5672 contacts made to the Compass Team in South Gloucestershire Council.

Children at risk of Child Criminal Exploitation (CCE)

Between 1st April 2023 and 31st March 2024 there were 78 Children/Young People discussed at the Partnership Intelligence Management Meeting (PIMM) who are at risk of CCE.

Education Training & Employment

In South Gloucestershire we have 95 primary schools, 16 secondary schools, 6 special alternative provision schools in the area.

- 16% of children eligible for free school meals.
- 1974 children have an education, health and care plan.
- 5,290 children are receiving SEN support in our schools.

The National overall absence rate of 6.7% in Autumn 2023/24, a decrease from 7.5% in Autumn 2022/23.

- The South Gloucestershire rate of 6.4% is lower than the national and regional rate, this is a decrease on the 7.1% rate in 2022/23.⁴⁶

Not in Education, Employment or Training (NEET)

As at 31 March 2024, 2% of young people aged 16-17 were NEET compared with a South West rate of 5.3% and a rate in England of 5.3%.

Poverty and Economic Disparities

- 2022/23, there were 8,178 children living in relative low income families in South Gloucestershire, this number gradually increased since 2018/19.
- In 2023/24 the number of children eligible for free school meals (FSM) increased by 0.4% from the year 2022/23.
- In 2023/24 out of 5,152 children eligible, 3,876 (12.2%) were taking free school meals in South Gloucestershire

⁴⁶ Pupil Absence (stat-xplore)

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CHILDREN'S SAFEGUARDING

Housing

- 2022/23, 757 households owed a duty under the Homelessness Reduction Act in South Gloucestershire, this is a reduction of 105 from 2021/22.
- The crude rate per 1,000 is 6.2 and is lower than South West (11.2) and England (12.4).
- In 2022/23, 210 young people approached South Gloucestershire as homeless or at risk of homelessness.

Youth Justice Service

First Time Entrants

- 2023/24 the rate of First Time Entrants continues to see a downward trend 97 to 89 per 100,000 in the population. This represents 24 individual children compared with 26 in the previous reporting period

Reducing Re-Offending

- Re-offending has reduced.
- Overall re-offending rate of 22.2% for the period July 2021 - June 2022, a reduction of -4.25pp.
- There were 27 children in the cohort and 6 re-offended compared to 34 in 20/21 with 69 re-offending cohort.

Serious Youth Violence

There has been a significant escalation in serious youth violence across South Gloucestershire (and neighbouring authorities) since June 2023.

In 2023/24 there have been 3 mandatory **serious incident notifications** to the YJB, all for public protection offences. This is unprecedented within SGC.

Knife and weapon crime has not been a significant area of concern for South Glos until recently, but an area we have always remained vigilant over. This past year has shown an increase in serious violence where weapons have been a significant factor (2 of the 3 mandatory serious incident notifications).

46. [Pupil Absence \(stat-xplore\)](#)

47. FSM 46. [Pupil Absence \(stat-xplore\)](#)

YOUNG PEOPLES VOICE

South Gloucestershire VRP recognises the importance of a young person's voice and ensures we gather these where interventions have been offered through the use of 'distance travelled', evaluation and outcome tools. Our education inclusion project gathers the young person, schools and parental voice at the conclusion of support and have received feedback and evidence of the effectiveness of this intervention:

J (case study) Feedback
It's been useful. It always calms me down. When I get into school on a Monday, my first thought is when is it going to be Wednesday

Laurence was great at communicating each week notes with myself. Any actions or questions were clear and I felt that he worked really well with J to support him.
Start 3/10 End 9/10
I = being most worried about risk of Pex

School Feedback (case example - J). Prior to work with Laurence was dealing with any form of conflict using violence. J would get easily angry and 'lash out'. This seems to have calmed down significantly and J is now able to deal with conflict in a much more reasoned way.

School headteacher feedback of service: Thank you for the amazing work you and your team have done for our SG children - I've been so impressed with the care and support that has been given to some of our most vulnerable children in the sector and advice you have given.



South Gloucestershire youth partnership designed a knife crime survey to capture the voice of our young people on behalf of the South Gloucestershire VRP, we had 768 responses and used the data collected to target areas where young people did not feel safe and to implement the recommendations of the youth board identified from the survey results.



BEST PRACTICE LOCALLY & NATIONALLY

In 2023 the South Gloucestershire Council Youth Board developed a knife crime survey (the YJS team manager supported the children in this). These surveys were sent to all schools (including alternative provision), youth centres, YJS. The data indicates that of 768 surveys completed, 244 children (32%) knew people who carried weapons in their area and 243 children requested information about how to keep safe. There is work being undertaken across the partnership to address the children's identified needs/ concerns (You said, we did), and has resulted in police securing "grip funding" enabling regular police attendance in areas identified by children as a "hotspot" and the deployment of Youth Detached workers in those areas to provide support and engagement opportunities.

We have used evidence/information from our Partnership intelligence Management Meeting (PIMM) to identify themes and trends within South Gloucestershire and have used this to inform our commissioning to make sure we are delivering effective interventions at the right time.

We are also using evaluation tools to inform our onward plans. A barrier to implementing sustainable interventions is the short-term nature of the funding of the VRPs. Many of the interventions are commissioned externally and can be expensive to commission under a small or short term contract. Long-term funding would allow us to plan more effectively and sustainably.

Ensuring Trauma Informed Approaches

South Gloucestershire VRP have funded Trauma Recovery training for our EIT Police officers, exploitation social workers and a member of YJS staff. We have made this investment following a critical incident in which a South Gloucestershire young person lost his life to a knife incident which had an immediate and long-lasting impact his close friends who were present at the time of his death. There was a recognition that professionals not only need to work in a trauma informed way but need to have the skills to support with trauma recovery for young people affected by Serious Violence.

The localised nature of many interventions means that it's difficult to predict their impact on a community.

However, particular elements of interventions have been shown to be consistently useful across a range of settings.

We have identified through PIMM evidence of a strong link between young people not attending school either through their permanent exclusion (PEX) from school or choice and their increased risk of exploitation.

We have also identified that a high percentage of young people not in education are neurodivergent whether that be diagnosed or undiagnosed with schools being under resourced and unable to manage their presenting needs and any resulting behaviour putting those young people at increased risk of PEX.



SERVICES

SERVICES NORTH SOMERSET CURRENTLY HAVE IN PLACE

In line with the South Gloucestershire Council plan 2024 to 2028 we want people to be safe and to feel safe in South Gloucestershire and for everyone to receive the education they need.

To support this priority the South Gloucestershire VRP have funded the **Education Inclusion Project** which provides 6-8 weeks of support to young people at risk of exclusion from school and work with young people, school and parents to resolve any issues or barriers to them staying in an educational setting. We have decided to focus funding on this area as our data shows that a high percentage of young people on our risk management pathway are neuro diverse whether diagnosed or undiagnosed or have had adverse childhood experiences (ACE's) and their vulnerability to exploitation increases exponentially if they are not in education.

We have commissioned Unique Voice to deliver the '**Belonging**' programme into 30 primary schools. This was delivered to year 5 & 6 in preparation for transition to secondary school. The programme covers community belonging, healthy relationships and age-appropriate material on healthy and unhealthy relationships. An evaluation was included in the cost of this intervention and demonstrated positive feedback from both professionals and young people.

Trauma Recovery training has been funded for 10 professionals from our Police Early Intervention Team, social care and youth justice service. We recognise the importance of not just working in a trauma informed way but to support young people who have suffered trauma to recover from that trauma.

HorseWorld '**Discovery**' programme is being delivered to young people as a therapeutic intervention. This is being offered to young people who are not in full time education, have ACE's and are struggling with their mental health and wellbeing which contributes to their risk of exploitation and Serious Youth Violence.

The Wheels Project This has been commissioned to support young people not receiving a full-time educational provision or not attending education. Young people are transported to this intervention by the Police which enables them to build positive relationships with those officers. The programme teaches teamwork and skills to enable those young people to build on what they have learnt in future college courses/employment opportunities.

Detached Youth Work (YDW) is being delivered throughout South Gloucestershire in hotspot locations that are identified through our PIMM meetings as well as evidence from Police data. We have funded a mobile youth bus 'Doris' which enables our YDW to reach rural areas to provide youth services.



SERVICES

Young people are referred to PIMM where there are concerns about extra familial threats such as:

- Criminal exploitation (CCE)
- Sexual exploitation (CSE)
- Involvement in serious youth violence (SYV)
- Radicalisation
- Modern Slavery

THE PRIMARY PURPOSE OF PIMM IS TO ENSURE:

- The **earliest possible identification** of; young people who may be at risk of extra familial harm; possible people of interest; locations, emerging issues or hotspots.
- That young people are **supported at the earliest opportunity** and at the right level to respond to the level of risk/need.
- **Ensure that information and intelligence is shared across partner agencies** to develop an understanding of themes, emerging trends.

The Police Early Intervention Team (EIT)

- EIT officers are allocated our most high-risk young people. They make regular contact, build positive relationships and signpost them onto positive paths.
- Our EIT officers deliver small group or individual educational packages or words of advice as an early intervention to try to divert the children from crime.

- **Blunt Truth** is an intervention created and jointly delivered by police and health. Funded by the Violence Reduction Partnerships in North Somerset and South Gloucestershire, this is also delivered elsewhere without VRP funding.
- The EIT officers have been involved in supporting transport to and from The Wheels Project. This has allowed them to build positive relationships with young people and to steer them onto a more positive path.

In addition, there are a series of educational packages, covering multiple subjects that police deliver in the classroom.

COMMUNITY VOICE

The South Gloucestershire VRP work closely with our neighbourhood beat teams and regularly take part in partnership community events to engage with the public throughout our local authority area. We speak to our residents and gather information about community areas that feel unsafe, or any community concerns they may have. We then work in partnership with the Police to address those concerns.

We have funded a mobile youth bus called 'Doris' which stands for the Delivery of Rural Inclusion and Support. 'Doris' allows us to deliver detached youth work sessions into our more rural areas along with sessions in our more residential areas. 'Doris' is becoming well known amongst young people in South Gloucestershire and is used frequently by our youth service providers for different events. We have received positive feedback from young people, parents and our youth service providers.

We hosted PCC Claire Moody at an event in Kingsgate Park Yate on 15 August 2024 where we demonstrated a youth detached session using 'Doris' and showcased the work that the South Gloucestershire VRP are delivering.

We have worked closely with our neighbourhood beat team partners to tackle ASB in hotspot areas taking a joint approach with retailers to support them and reduce incidents, we are also part of our Community Tension Monitoring Group who have oversight of tensions within the community, and we work in partnership to resolve those issues.



South Gloucestershire 'Doris'





Term	Definition
Absolute Low Income Families	<p>Absolute low income is defined as a family in low income Before Housing Costs (BHC) in the reference year in comparison with incomes in 2010/11. A family must have claimed one or more of Universal Credit, Tax Credits or Housing Benefit at any point in the year to be classed as low income in these statistics.</p> <p>Absolute low income takes the 60 per cent of median income threshold from 2010/11 and then fixes this in real terms (i.e. the line moves with inflation). This is designed to assess how low incomes are faring with reference to inflation. It measures the number and proportion of individuals who have incomes below this threshold. The percentage of individuals in absolute low income will decrease if individuals with lower incomes see their incomes rise by more than inflation.</p> <p>A family is defined as a single adult; or a married or cohabitating couple; or a Civil Partnership; and any dependent children.</p>
Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs)	<p>Adverse childhood experiences (ACEs) are traditionally understood as a set of 10 traumatic events or circumstances occurring before the age of 18 that have been shown through research to increase the risk of adult mental health problems and debilitating diseases.</p> <p>Five ACE categories are forms of child abuse and neglect, which are known to harm children and are punishable by law, and five represent forms of family dysfunction that increase children's exposure to trauma. The 10 original ACEs are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • physical abuse • sexual abuse • psychological abuse • physical neglect • psychological neglect • witnessing domestic abuse • having a close family member who misused drugs or alcohol • having a close family member with mental health problems • having a close family member who served time in prison • parental separation or divorce on account of relationship breakdown
Avon & Somerset Violence Reduction Partnership (VRP)	<p>The Violence Reduction Partnership (VRP) brings together specialist partners, at both the strategic pan Avon and Somerset and local authority level. Working together to identify and understand the underlying causes of local violent crime and provide an effective response to reduce and deter people from carrying out these crimes.</p>
Child Protection Plan (CP)	<p>A child protection plan is a plan drawn up by the local authority. It sets out how the child can be kept safe, how things can be made better for the family and what support they will need.</p>



Term	Definition
Children and Young People's Plan (CYPP)	Children and Young People's Plan (CYPP) is a strategic guide for service providers that helps them to meet local needs and best support children and young people. The plan aims to ensure that children and young people have the best start in life, are healthy and happy, and are prepared for adulthood
Child Criminal Exploitation (CCE)	<p>Criminal exploitation is child abuse where children and young people are manipulated and coerced into committing crimes. There are many forms of child criminal exploitation. All are extremely harmful to a child and their families both in the immediate and long term.</p> <p>County lines is just one form of criminal exploitation other forms of exploitation include using young people to</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Move counterfeit money/goods, • Steal to order, • Street robberies and stealing of vehicles, • Holding and moving of guns and weapons, • Being used to perpetrate violence against rivals, for money or to control members of their own group as punishments.
Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE)	<p>Child sexual exploitation is a form of child sexual abuse. It occurs where an individual or group takes advantage of an imbalance of power to coerce, manipulate or deceive a child or young person under the age of 18 into sexual activity</p> <p>(a) in exchange for something the victim needs or wants, and/or</p> <p>(b) for the financial advantage or increased status of the perpetrator or facilitator.</p> <p>The victim may have been sexually exploited even if the sexual activity appears consensual. Child sexual exploitation does not always involve physical contact; it can also occur through the use of technology.</p>
Children Looked After (CLA) Child in Care (CiC)	<p>A child who has been in the care of their local authority for more than 24 hours is known as a looked after child. Looked after children are also often referred to as children in care, a term which many children and young people prefer.</p> <p>Each UK nation has a slightly different definition of a looked after child and follows its own legislation, policy and guidance.</p> <p>But in general, looked after children are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Living with foster parents. • Living in a residential children's home or • Living in residential settings like schools or secure units. • A child stops being looked after when they are adopted, return home or turn 18. However local authorities in all the nations of the UK are required to support children leaving care at 18 until they are at least 21. This may involve them continuing to live with their foster family.



Term	Definition
Children in Need (CiN)	Children in need are defined in law as children who are aged under 18 and: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Need local authority services to achieve or maintain a reasonable standard of health or development, • Need local authority services to prevent significant or further harm to health or development, • Are disabled.
Community Safety Partnership	Community Safety Partnerships (CSPs) were introduced by Section 6 of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 and bring together local partners to formulate and implement strategies to tackle crime, disorder and antisocial behaviour in their communities.
County Lines	County lines is a term used to describe gangs and organised criminal networks involved in exporting illegal drugs into one or more importing areas within the UK, using dedicated mobile phone lines or other form of “deal line”. They are likely to exploit children and vulnerable adults to move and store the drugs and money and they will often use coercion, intimidation, violence (including sexual violence) and weapons.
Data Analysis, Management, Performance & Evaluation Group (DAMPEG)	The Serious Violence Data Analyst Group (DAMPEG) is established to provide data-driven insights and analyses to understand and combat serious violence and meet the requirements of the Serious Violence Duty. This group will leverage data to inform policy, strategic decisions, and operational responses
Education Health & Care Plans	An education, health and care (EHC) plan is for children and young people aged up to 25 who need more support than is available through special educational needs support. EHC plans identify educational, health and social needs and set out the additional support to meet those needs.
Enhanced case management	Enhanced Case Management (ECM) is a relational psychosocial approach to working with children supervised by youth justice services (YJSs). ECM is based on the Trauma Recovery Model (TRM), which has links to Maslow’s hierarchy of needs, and comprises a series of intervention layers that are sequenced according to developmental and mental health need.
Health & Wellbeing Board	Health and wellbeing boards were established under the Health and Social Care Act 2012 to act as a forum in which key leaders from the local health and care system could work together to improve the health and wellbeing of their local population and reduce health inequalities. They became fully operational on 1 April 2013 in all 152 local authorities with adult social care and public health responsibilities.

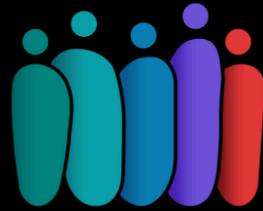


Term	Definition
Not in Education, Employment or Training (NEET)	Young people who are neither in employment nor in education or training are at risk of becoming socially excluded
Owed a duty under the Homelessness Reduction Act	<p>Households including one or more dependent children owed a prevention or relief duty under the Homelessness Reduction Act, crude rate per 1,000 estimated households that include at least one dependent child. Children should count as dependent if they're under 18 and living at home. An 18 year old can also count as dependent if they're in full time education or can't support themselves for other reasons, and they live at home.</p> <p>Prevention duties include any activities aimed at preventing a household threatened with homelessness within 56 days from becoming homeless. Relief duties are owed to households that are already homeless and require help to secure settled accommodation. Although it is in principle possible, it is not likely that a household will be included in the numerator more than once per financial year. Applications are made on a household, rather than individual, basis and the timescales and nature of the process are such that it is not likely that a household will make more than one application in a year.</p>
Referral to Children's Social Care	<p>A referral, in the context of child protection, is when someone contacts Children's Services because they have concerns about the safety and well-being of a child.</p> <p>Anyone can make a referral including a parent, wider family member, friend, doctor, teacher or health visitor.</p>
Safeguarding & Promoting the welfare of children	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Protecting children from maltreatment. • Preventing impairment of children's mental and physical health or development. • Ensuring that children grow up in circumstances consistent with the provision of safe and effective care. • Taking action to enable all children to have the best outcomes.
Serious Violence Duty	The legal responsibility on police, justice, fire and rescue, health, and local authorities (known as the "specified authorities") to work together to prevent and reduce serious violence.
Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND)	Special educational needs and disabilities (SEND) are learning difficulties or disabilities that affect a child or young person's ability to learn.



ASVRP Serious Violence SNA GLOSSARY

Term	Definition
Strategy meeting (AKA Strategy discussion)	The purpose of a strategy discussion [AKA a strategy meeting] is to decide whether the threshold has been met for a single or joint agency (HSC and Police) child protection investigation, and to plan that investigation. They happen when it is believed a child has suffered, or is likely to suffer, serious harm.
Strategic Needs Assessment (SNA)	Provides a specific focus on related needs within local areas.
Systematic Review	Systematic reviews typically involve a detailed and comprehensive plan and search strategy derived a priori, with the goal of reducing bias by identifying, appraising, and synthesizing all relevant studies on a particular topic. Often, systematic reviews include a meta-analysis component which involves using statistical techniques to synthesize the data from several studies into a single quantitative estimate or summary effect size
Youth Justice Service (YJS)	The YJS provides a range of services to help and support young people, and their families, to try to keep them away from crime and anti-social behaviour.



Avon & Somerset

**Violence
Reduction
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Thank you to everyone involved in
the creation of this Serious Violence
Strategic Needs Assessment.

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