

**Bath & North East  
Somerset Council**

Improving People's Lives



**AVON &  
SOMERSET**  
POLICE & CRIME  
COMMISSIONER

# **Joint Community Safety Plan**

**Bath & North East Somerset Council**

**and**

**Avon and Somerset Office of the Police and Crime  
Commissioner**

**2022 – 2025**

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## Introduction

The Police & Crime Commissioner (PCC) and Bath & North East Somerset Council have a clear shared aim, to take every opportunity to protect the public and promote safer communities. Its success and that of all partner agencies depends on dedicated teams of staff working together across agencies to keep communities safe.

Our joint working includes tackling domestic abuse, addressing local anti-social behaviour, preventing people from being drawn into terrorism, and working in partnership to combat serious organised crime and to reduce serious violent crime.

In Bath & North East Somerset, we have redefined our community safety and safeguarding governance arrangements to look holistically at how the needs of children, adults at risk, families and the wider community could be met. A unique Community Safety & Safeguarding Partnership (BCSSP) was established in 2019. The BCSSP governance arrangements were developed in partnership with the existing members of the Local Safeguarding Children Board, Safeguarding Adult Board and the Responsible Authorities Group (the former Community Safety Partnership) to meet the statutory requirements of the three Boards which it replaced.

This plan sets out how all partners will work together to protect vulnerable people, prevent crime and build strong, resilient communities. It focuses on collective priorities with a shared vision, and actions that we, collectively, will take to achieve the best outcomes for individuals, families and communities. It sets out the PCC and council community safety objectives and planned activities for the next three years, identifying the key issues upon which we will focus to tackle crime, disorder and anti-social behaviour in Bath & North East Somerset. The council, Avon & Somerset Police and the Office of the Police & Crime Commissioner (OPCC) have worked closely together to prepare this document. This plan reflects our shared priorities and serves as both the Community Safety Plan and the local Police & Crime Plan for Bath & North East Somerset.

The plan utilises the data we hold on crime in Bath and North East Somerset and reflects priorities and concerns raised by local people.

Through this plan we ask for your support, because only together can we keep our communities in Bath and North East Somerset safe and, importantly, feeling safe.

## Bath and North East Somerset – An Overview

Bath and North East Somerset is a diverse area which includes the World Heritage Site City of Bath as well as vibrant towns, villages and rural communities. The latest population [2021 United Kingdom Census](#) shows there is an estimated 193,400 residents in B&NES an increase of 9.9% since 2011.

Bath & North East Somerset Council covers approximately 135 square miles. Bath is the largest urban settlement in the area, acting as the commercial and recreational centre of the district. It is home to just over 50% of the B&NES population and is a UNESCO World Heritage Site.

Keynsham lies to the west of Bath and is a traditional market town comprising just over 9% of the total B&NES population.

Midsomer Norton and Radstock are in the south of the district with approximately 12% of the total population split between them. They both have a strong heritage of mining and industry stemming from the North Somerset coalfield.

The rest of the district comprises 69 diverse rural communities of varying sizes and characteristics, including a line of villages along the foothills of the Mendips, the Chew Valley and the Cotswolds villages around Bath.

Ethnicity data from the 2021 census is not yet available. According to the 2011 Census 94.6 % is from white groups and 5.4% of the population is from Black and Minority Ethnic (BME) groups. The largest BME groups are:

- Chinese (1912 people) 1.1%
- Other Asian (1160 people) 0.7%
- Asian (Indian): (1116 people) 0.6%
- Mixed white and Asian (954 people) 0.5%,
- Mixed white and Caribbean (951 people) 0.5%
- Black Caribbean (672 people) 0.4%

The 9.9% increase in the size of the population (from an estimated 176,016) to an estimated 193,400 is higher than the overall increase for England (6.6%) and the South West (7.8%). This growth has come from a combination of increasing student numbers at the two Universities and an increasing number of new housing developments.

- As of 2021, B&NES is the 11th most densely populated LA in the South West
- Since 2011, there has been a 17.5% increase in people aged 65 years and over in B&NES, lower than the national increase of 20.1%.

- We have also seen an increase of 8.2% in people aged 15-64 years and
- an increase of 7.6% in children under 15 years.

Despite being an area with generally good health and low crime, there is significant variation within the area. Compared with the most affluent communities in the area, the most deprived communities experience a range of inequalities and poorer life outcomes.

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## Partnership Working in Bath and North East Somerset

Community Safety Partnerships (CSPs) aim to reduce crime and the fear of crime, address risk, threat and harm to victims and local communities. They aim to empower and strengthen communities through the delivery of local initiatives. CSPs are statutory bodies required under the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 (and subsequent amendments). The 'responsible authorities' that form the CSPs are the local Authority, Police, Health, Probation and the Fire and Rescue Service.

Their function is to:

- Act as a legal body for CSP work, ensuring compliance with statutory duties and addressing community safety issues,
- Ensure systems and processes are in place amongst partners to deliver their duties and address arising issues,
- Set priorities, determine policy and strategic direction.

The CSP is committed to:

- Strengthening the voice of children, adults, families, and communities
- Strengthening and improving the work on 'Think Family and Community'
- Improving strategic decision making and leadership by having one cohesive conversation
- Focusing on shared strategic objectives to achieve the greatest impact and improve outcomes for children, adults, families, and the community
- Reducing duplication and therefore helping us to use our resources more effectively across the area

The Avon & Somerset PCC sets out a Crime Plan and the current 2021-25 crime plan has four overarching priorities:

1. Preventing and fighting crime
2. Engaging, supporting and working with communities, victims and partner organisations
3. Leading the police to be efficient and effective
4. Increasing the legitimacy of, and public confidence in, the police and criminal justice system

This community safety plan sets out how we aim to support delivery of the Avon & Somerset Crime Plan in the local Bath and North East Somerset area. For the council, this covers wide ranging responsibilities, including delivery of those services that help to create healthier communities and address the underlying causes of crime, but also respond to those concerns and broader issues that contribute to making people feel unsafe in their communities - for example antisocial behaviour,

environmental crime, fly tipping and rogue trading. We can only do all this effectively by working in partnership.

## Policing and Crime in a Local Context

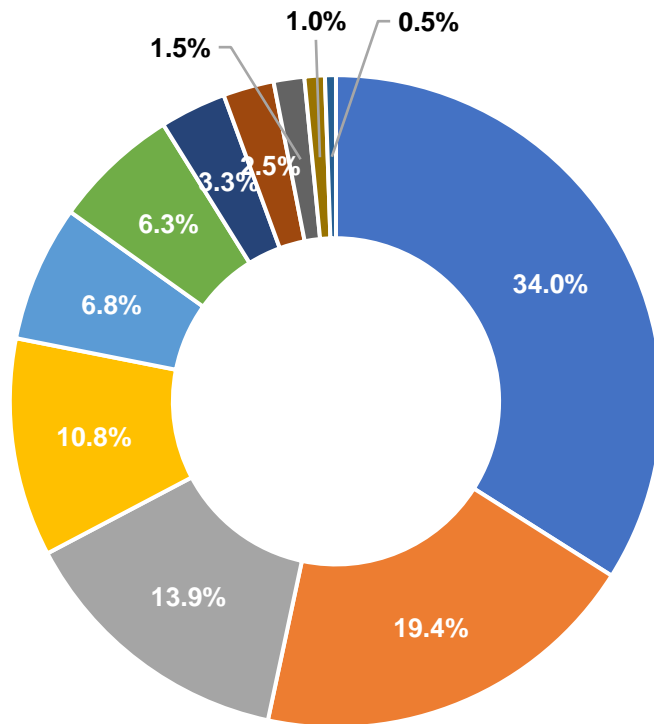
Overall, the Bath and North East Somerset area remains a safe place, but in the context of all public agencies facing immense challenges in maintaining this; with rising crime trends and changing crime patterns, this puts a pressure on local resources. We are required to prioritise our work according to our strategic assessment of crime and disorder in our area which is built on a range of data including recorded crime and feedback from local agencies and communities. This is set out below.

The number of people identified as vulnerable in Avon & Somerset is significant and placing increasing demand upon public sector services. Neighbourhood policing teams have an important role to play in supporting and protecting vulnerable people, through reassurance, monitoring and, where necessary, intervention, either in partnership with other agencies or as the lead agency. All statutory partners work closely with local communities through their local forums to inform our priorities.

In Bath and North East Somerset, in the last year, there were just under 12,000 recorded crimes. This is a 15% increase on the previous year and heading back towards pre-pandemic levels. Reports of anti-social behaviour reduced by -11.6% (380 fewer reports).

The Covid-19 pandemic impacted on crime and the demand for policing services during 2021. Levels of crime and demand for police services are returning to pre-pandemic levels.

### B&NES Crime by type Apr-19 to Mar-22



- Violence Against The Person
- Public Order Offences
- Vehicle Offences
- Sexual Offences
- Miscellaneous Crimes Against Society
- Possession of Weapons
- Theft
- Arson and Criminal Damage
- Burglary
- Drug Offences
- Robbery



## Feedback from Local Communities

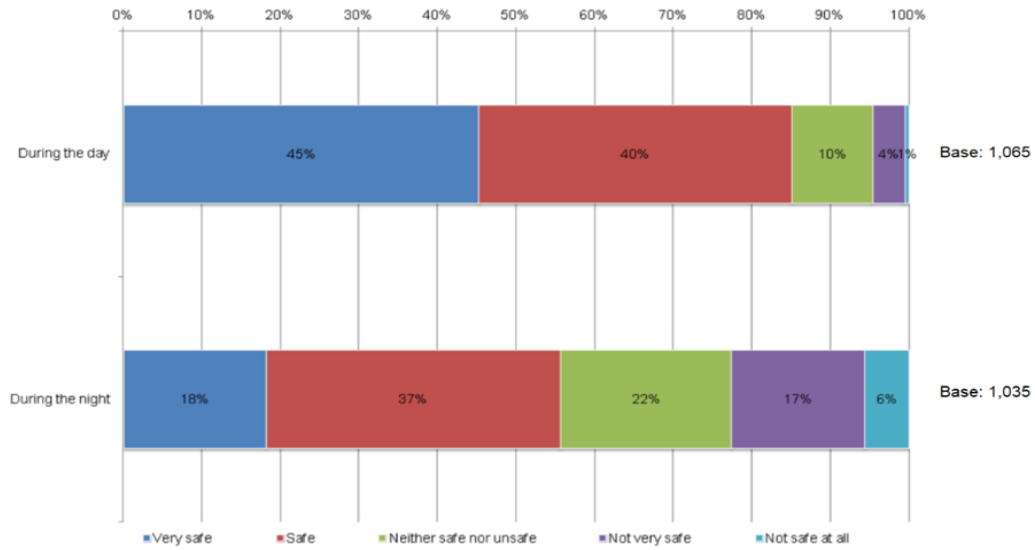
Avon & Somerset Police provide regular policing updates to the 'Connecting Communities' Area Forums and this allows for local concerns to be raised and projects identified. An analysis of the Connecting Communities Forum reports and feedback has identified a number of differences in concerns raised across B&NES, and these are set out below.

Most recently the Forums have highlighted issues of river safety, rural crime particularly related to agricultural buildings, vehicles, sheds and garages and antisocial behaviour.

Bath & North East Somerset Council undertakes a "Voicebox" survey of local residents. In the latest survey a number of questions were asked about people's concerns relating to violent crime

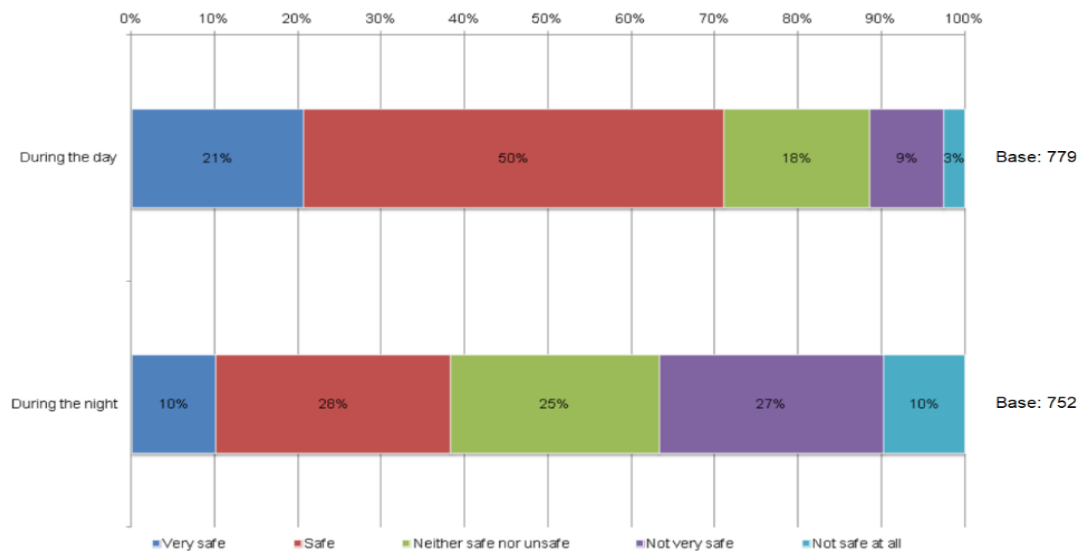
- 85% said they felt very safe or safe from violence outside the home in B&NES during the day, 5% outlined they felt not very safe or not safe at all.
- 56% said they felt very safe or safe from violence outside the home in B&NES during the night, nearly a quarter (23%) outlined they felt not very safe or not safe at all.

**Chart 1: How safe do you feel from violence outside the home in Bath & North East Somerset (B&NES)? (Q29)**



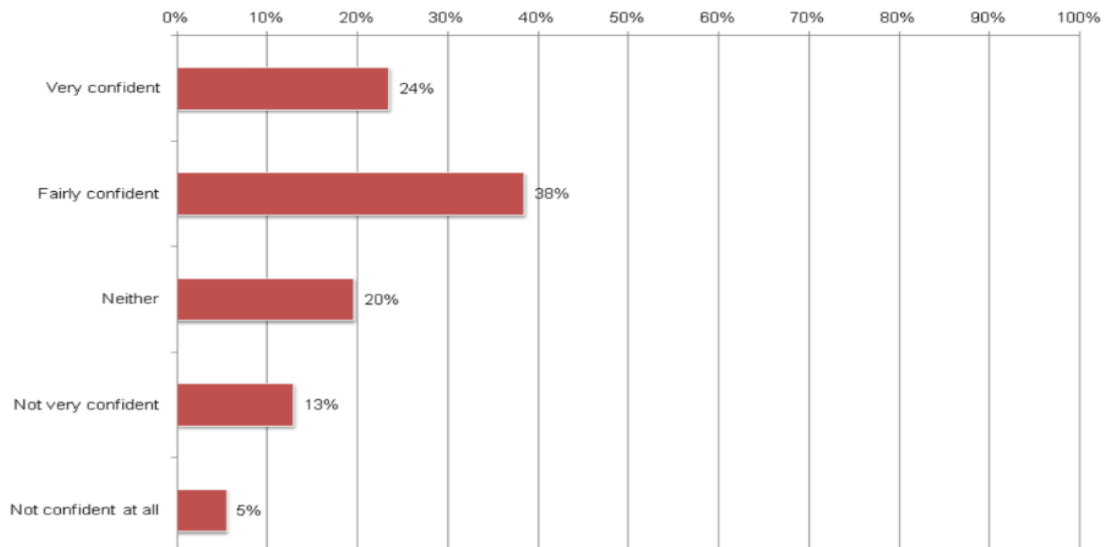
- 71% said they felt children are very safe or safe from violence outside the home in B&NES during the day
- 11% said they felt children are not very safe or not safe at all
- 38% said they felt children are very safe or safe from violence outside the home in B&NES during the night
- 37% said they felt children are not very safe or not safe at all.

**Chart 2: How safe do you feel children are from violence outside the home in Bath & North East Somerset (B&NES)? (Q30)**



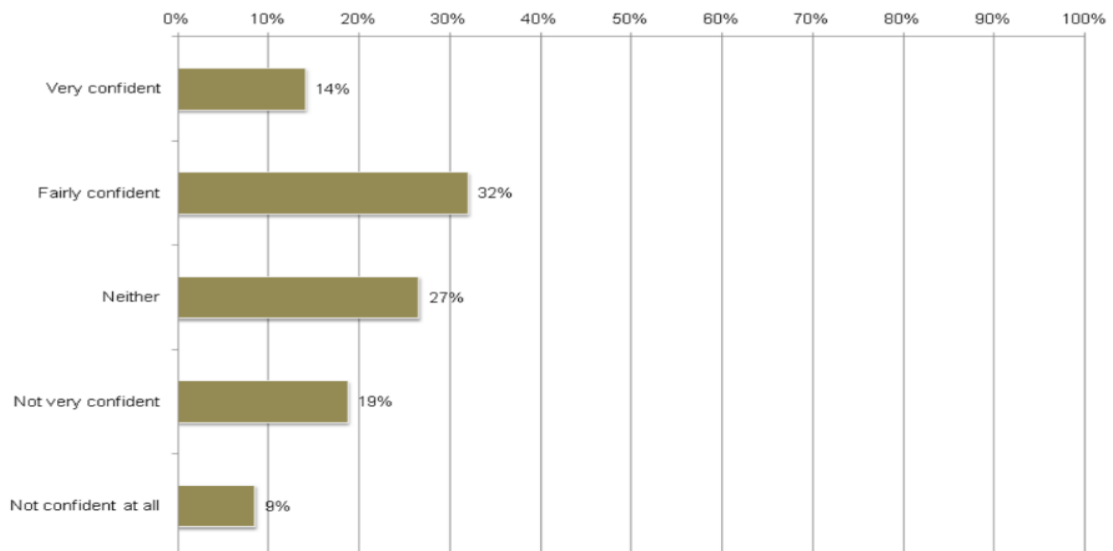
- 62% said they would be very or fairly confident about reporting concern about violence in their local area
- 18% said they would be not very confident or not confident at all

**Chart 3: As a B&NES resident, how confident do you feel about reporting concern about violence in your local area? (Q31)**



- 46% said they would be very or fairly confident about recognising the signs of child exploitation e.g., county lines, online grooming
- 27% said they would be not very confident or not confident at all

**Chart 4: How confident are you about recognising the signs of child exploitation e.g. county lines, online grooming? (Q32)**



## Strategic and Emerging Issues in B&NES

A range of community safety issues are raised at the BCSSP's Vulnerable Communities sub-group, where the agenda reflects changing crime patterns and addresses local concerns. It takes a strategic overview of the emerging priorities raised by local partners, particularly those where there may be gaps or where demands are increasing due to external pressures and legislative changes. Partnership resources are coordinated to address new and emerging concerns.

The B&NES Violence Reduction Unit (VRU) covers the whole local authority area, paying particular attention to central Bath, which was identified by Police as a location where levels of serious violence are high, relative to the rest of the B&NES area.

The VRU is seeking to better understand the relationship between anti-social behaviour and serious violence; it will also focus on the urban areas of Keynsham and Midsomer Norton. It identifies other hotspot areas already recognised through regular multi-agency mapping to keep abreast of the changing picture of violence and exploitation.

A needs assessment was carried out in 2020 and is refreshed annually. In 2021-2022, the group focused on the following key issues:

- Domestic abuse
- Youth violence and exploitation
- Protecting vulnerable adults, the street population in Bath
- Demand for drugs
- The impact of COVID-19 on vulnerability and violence

Due to a significant shutdown of the night-time economy during the COVID-19 lockdown periods, there has been a decrease in night-time economy violence, but it has been reported that 'gang' and organised violence have become more prevalent. These incidents can occur during the daytime and involve weapons.

## What we can Deliver Together

Historically, significant central government funding was available to support the work of Community Safety Partnerships. However, external funding for community safety has declined significantly in recent years and the only dedicated funding of this type is now allocated by the OPCC. The OPCC awards a grant to support activities to address local priorities; the current grant has been awarded from 2022 for a three-year period. This grant goes towards funding the Independent Domestic Violence Advocate (IDVA) domestic abuse service, the youth crime prevention service and the young people's substance misuse service.

Local partner organisations agree the level of resources they commit to the work of the BCSSP, against a backdrop of financial challenges for all partners. In some cases, the level of support can be quantified, for example, investment by the Council in the CCTV control room operations, and in other cases support is "mainstreamed" through the day-to-work of services such as:

- a) The multi-agency Youth Offending Service brings together staff from a range of backgrounds including Police, Health, Social Care, Youth Services, Education and the National Probation Service.
- b) The Council's Trading Standards team, which takes firm action against illegal businesses and those selling illegal products.
- c) The Council's Public Protection team working alongside police on tackling serious organised crime, county lines, modern slavery and rural exploitation.
- d) Licensing and enforcement, which deal with a wide range of local concerns including fly-tipping and noise.
- e) Extensive network of public space CCTV cameras.

External partners such as Registered Social Landlords provide significant resources to address anti-social behaviour through specialist tenancy support. In many cases, partners also provide significant 'in kind' support and partner resources, for example in sharing data which we use to ensure that people are offered the support they need.

Public sector agencies are operating under significant financial challenges, increasing resource pressure on partners to address the assessed needs set out above means that we need to:

- Prioritise our resources based on helping those who most need our help, particularly targeting our work on helping and protecting the most vulnerable people.
- Involve communities more in what we do and support them in addressing local concerns.
- Work better together to share resources and identify new ways of working.

## Priorities

|   |
|---|
| <b>Local Priority 1: <i>Protecting the most Vulnerable from Harm</i></b>  |
| <b>Links to Avon &amp; Somerset Police and Crime Plan Priority 1: <i>Preventing and Fighting Crime</i></b>  |
| Focus on: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Vulnerable children and adults</li><li>• Male violence against women and girls, specifically domestic abuse, sexual offences, stalking and harassment</li><li>• Neighbourhood crime and anti-social behaviour, specifically burglary, car crime, robbery, theft, hate crime and rural crime</li><li>• The strategic policing requirement, terrorism, serious and organised crime, a national cyber security incident, threats to public order or public safety, civil emergencies and child sexual abuse</li><li>• Fraud, scams and cybercrime</li></ul>  |
| Key Objectives:   |
| 1.<br><b>Implement, monitor, and evaluate our partnership investment in reduction of Violence Against Women and Girls.</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Continue to respond to and manage Domestic Homicide Reviews (DHR), learning from the outcomes of DHRs and implement changes to working practices where necessary.</li><li>• Continue to identify opportunities for longer-term funding to reduce domestic abuse and improve outcomes for survivors.</li><li>• Continue to address the MARAC self-assessment 2022 regarding capacity to consider case for review by implementing the new online system.</li><li>• Implement the Government's Safer Streets funded programme, delivering targets and to budget.</li><li>• Support the Police VAWG plan through the joint 'Night Time Economy Operations' and BCSSP sub-group activities.</li></ul> |
| 2.<br><b>Strengthen the role and effectiveness of the Bath &amp; North East Somerset Hate Crime and Community Cohesion Partnership.</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Ensure that the B&amp;NES Hate Crime and Community Cohesion Partnership's (BHCCCP) remit provides an integrated, proactive approach to monitoring patterns and trends and using data to challenge, influence and champion change needed in services to tackle hate crime and incidents effectively.</li><li>• Seek assurance about the effective work of the Hate Crime Case Review Panel.</li></ul>  |
| 3.  |

**Continue to seek assurance about and actively work across the Avon & Somerset partnerships on Child Sexual Exploitation, Anti-Slavery Partnership and Modern Slavery / human trafficking**

- Support and enable the reporting of, discovery of, and response to, incidents of modern slavery and exploitation.
- Actively participate in the Avon & Somerset Anti-Slavery Partnership and develop proportionate local initiatives across partner organisations and with services to identify and respond to incidents.

4.

**Seek assurance about multi-agency practice and effectiveness in areas of community safety, children/adult safeguarding cross over**

- Organised crime, specifically around cuckooing<sup>1</sup>.
- County lines
- Sexual exploitation of children, young people and vulnerable adults

5.

**Seek assurance about compliance with legislative changes regarding responsibility for 'Prevent'**

- Meet our Prevent duties and help other partners to do so, including raising awareness of reporting method for online extremist material working with community groups to raise awareness of radicalisation and in particular the role of social media.

6.

**Seek assurance regarding responses to fraud, scams and cybercrime**

- Raise awareness of the types and prevalence of scams fraud and cybercrime, in particular building fraud, doorstep crime and cold calling and scams involving older people.
- Publicise the nation advice on staying safe from scams, fraud and cybercrime and investigate where there is a local origin.

**Why this is a local priority?**

- Complex crimes with high levels of associated risk, such as Child Abuse, Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE), modern slavery and human trafficking, are increasing and this rise is expected to continue
- It is widely acknowledged that children and young people experiencing Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACES) are more likely to develop complex trio behaviours / dependencies in adulthood.

<sup>1</sup> Cuckooing is a practice where people take over a person's home and use the property to facilitate exploitation. It takes the name from cuckoos who take over the nests of other birds. There are different types of cuckooing: Using the property to deal, store or take drugs.

- Early intervention (particularly in ‘complex trio’ work focussing on substance and alcohol misuse, mental ill health and domestic abuse / violence) is a key factor in reducing service dependency in later life.
- Hate crime reports in B&NES increased by 6.3% in 2021.
- It is believed that only 5% of mass marketing fraud is reported. It is recognised that there is significant under reporting in relation to mass marketing fraud – and that vulnerable people due to age or capacity are more likely to be targeted.
- The nature of crime is changing. We need to be open to new ways of working which deliver outcomes in a smarter way, including greater working across boundaries.
- Child Sexual Exploitation continues to rise, with reports increasing over the last year. The PCC has brought together contributions from across the force area to provide specialist support to address Child Sexual Exploitation. The BCSSP draws professionals together focussing on this as well as topics such as modern slavery and human trafficking which also require significant regional co-ordination and specialist training and support including actively participating in the regional Anti-Slavery Partnership.
- County lines is becoming more prevalent in Avon and Somerset. Police teams have developed a system where persons vulnerable to being ‘cuckooed’ are identified through intelligence/information sharing and local Beat Managers visit these individuals on a regular basis to offer support and advice. The Homeless Prevention Worker assists in identifying those vulnerable to ‘cuckooing’, particularly those living on the streets but who have tenancies.
- The Counter Terrorism Strategy 2018 places a duty to “have due regard to the need to prevent people from, being drawn into terrorism”. It applies to a range of public bodies including colleges, universities, councils, health, probation and police. Again, local activity depends on access to regional and other intelligence. Avon and Somerset Counter Terrorism Local Profile informs partners of threats, vulnerabilities and risks. Prevent is part of the Contest strategy which aims to reduce the risk to the UK from terrorism. Prevents’ aim is to stop people becoming radicalised. “Lone Actors” present the highest threat to Avon and Somerset. We work closely to protect “crowded places” with work ongoing on designing and securing protective measures.



**Local Priority 2: Strengthen and improve local communities to improve outcomes for local people.**

**Links to Avon & Somerset Police and Crime Plan Priority 2: Engaging, supporting and working with communities, victims and partner organisations**

Focus on:

- Public engagement – particularly with underrepresented groups
- Supporting victims of crime and anti-social behaviour
- Collaboration and partnership working

Key Objectives:

1.

**Reduce the impact that anti-social behaviour has in our communities**

- Ensure the Police and other partners agencies work closely with Area Forums on key community safety issues

2.

**Continue the commitment to support neighbourhood policing**

- Seek assurance about the support and promotion of collaboration between public and private sector organisations working within the night-time economy sector to reduce impacts on local residents; and that there is continued multi-agency enforcement visits to licensed premises to ensure they are safe and do not create nuisance.
- Seek assurance about continued commitment to active participation in local community fora.

3.

**Strengthen the resilience of local communities by seeking assurance about:**

- Continued focus on river safety campaigns with partners and students
- Work with the Student Community Partnership and with educational establishments individually as appropriate on a range of projects to promote safety, e.g., awareness of drink spiking.
- Work alongside partners to promote safety on our streets particularly in response to national campaigns regarding women's safety in public areas.
- Work alongside community groups to facilitate closer partnership working to problem solve local issues.
- Work on hate crime through the Hate Crime Partnership and encourage families and friends to report concerns.

**Why this is a local priority?**

- A high proportion of people report feeling safe in their local area (88%). However, local residents say they require more 'reassurance' through visible policing.

- Work with our Community Forums and our experiences in Midsomer Norton and Keynsham shows the benefits of local communities coming together to address local concerns.
- Safer streets and drinks spiking campaigns, along with the Bath and Bristol Rugby Clubs #Mates Matter campaign on river safety shows the benefits of tapping into local networks for community outreach and engagement.
- Fraud is increasingly being carried out online, by phone and text messaging. This is usually not locally based, the preparators are unknown and are therefore difficult to identify. The Government's 'Beating Crime Plan' published in 2021 states that fraud now accounts for "approximately 42% of all crime against individuals and costs society at least £4.7 billion a year. Fraud can include: fraud by false representation, fraud by failure to disclose information and fraud by abuse of position.

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## Key performance Indicators

|     |   |
|-----|---|
| 1.  | Police recorded total crime for the B&NES area  |
| 2.  | Police recorded serious cases involving young people as victims of abuse, CSE, Modern Slavery and VAWG        |
| 3.  | The number of people referred to the IDVA service who take up the offer of support                            |
| 4.  | Police recorded hate crime  |
| 5.  | Police recorded fraud with vulnerable victims   |
| 6.  | The number of domestic abuse incidents reported to the Police and domestic abuse prosecutions                 |
| 7.  | Police recorded Anti-Social Behaviour   |
| 8.  | Establishment and success of joint working initiatives between police and housing services around 'cuckooing' |
| 9.  | NTE incidents recorded by Police from licensed premises   |
| 10. | Victim satisfaction   |

## Acronyms

|       |  |
|-------|--|
| ACES  | Adverse Childhood Experiences  |
| B&NES | Bath and North East Somerset   |
| BCSSP | Bath & North East Somerset Community Safety & Safeguarding Partnership |
| CCG   | Clinical Commissioning Group   |
| CCTV  | Closed Circuit Television  |
| CSE   | Child Sexual Exploitation  |
| CSP   | Community Safety Partnership   |
| DVA   | Domestic Abuse and Violence  |
| IDVA  | Independent Domestic Abuse Advisor                                     |
| LSAB  | Local Safeguarding Adults Board  |
| LSCB  | Local Safeguarding Children's Board                                    |
| MARAC | Multi-Agency Risk Assessment Conference                                |
| NTE   | Night Time Economy   |
| OPCC  | Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner                            |
| PCC   | Police and Crime Commissioner  |
| RAG   | Responsible Authorities Group  |
| RUH   | Royal United Hospital  |
| VAWG  | Violence Against Women and Girls                                       |
| VRU   | Violence Reduction Unit  |

## Appendix 1 – BCSSP Structure

