

**Bath & North East
Somerset Council**



**AVON &
SOMERSET
POLICE & CRIME
COMMISSIONER**

Joint Community Safety Plan

**Bath & North East Somerset
Community Safety Partnership
(Community Safety & Safeguarding
Partnership)**

and

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

2021

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1 Joint Introduction

From Councillor Paul Crossley, Cabinet member for Community Services and Sue Mountstevens, Police and Crime Commissioner for Avon and Somerset.

- i. The PCC and the Bath and North East Somerset Community Safety and Safeguarding Partnership have a clear shared aim - to take every opportunity to protect the public and help keep us safe. Our success and that of our other partner agencies depends on dedicated teams of staff working together, whether that is to safeguard children and vulnerable people. This includes tackling domestic abuse, addressing local anti-social behaviour, disrupting radicalisation and extremism, working in partnership on serious organised crime and reducing serious violent crime.
- ii. For the Police, as an emergency service, this means responding efficiently and effectively to calls from the public and utilising resources in a cost effective manner. Protecting vulnerable people and preventing and reducing crime in partnership with others is the core activity.
- iii. For the Council, this covers wide ranging responsibilities including identifying and stopping rogue traders, fly-tippers or using CCTV to help the Police to identify suspects. We can only do all this effectively by working in partnership. This Plan sets out how we will protect vulnerable people, prevent crime and build strong, resilient communities. It focuses on our collective priorities where a shared vision is needed, and on the actions that we - by working together - will take to achieve the best outcomes for individuals, families and communities.
- iv. This joint Community Safety Plan sets out the Partnership's Community Safety objectives and planned activities for the next three years. It identifies the key issues we will focus on as we tackle crime, disorder and anti-social behaviour in Bath and North East Somerset. The Bath and North East Somerset Community Safety and Safeguarding Partnership (which is our Community Safety Partnership); Bath & North East Somerset Police and the

Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC), have worked closely together alongside the other key partners to prepare this document. This plan reflects their shared priorities and serves as both the Community Safety Plan and the local Police & Crime Plan for Bath and North East Somerset.

- v. This plan asks for your support - because together we can keep our communities in Bath and North East Somerset safe and feeling safe.

2 Bath and North East Somerset – a description

- i. Bath & 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.
- ii. Generally, our communities are healthy and safe with overall levels of deprivation that are significantly below the national average. However, we have a number of communities with significant levels of deprivation, particularly in the south and southwest of Bath, in Radstock and in Keynsham. There are areas of rural isolation as well as a high and growing student population.
- iii. Our Plan reflects the profiles for areas of Bath & North East Somerset, as below:

Bath Area Profile

Somer Valley Area Profile

Chew Valley Area Profile

Keynsham Area Profile

Bathavon Area Profile

3 Partnership Working in Bath & North East Somerset

Partners in B&NES are committed to maximising the integration of safeguarding children and adults with community safety. An innovative Partnership was created, designed to maximise opportunities to work more effectively and with joint purpose to protect children, adults, families and communities who most need our help.

We are committed to:

- The voice of children, adults, families and communities is strengthened
- 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 enable us to use our resources more effectively across B&NES

The Partnership employs an Independent Chair who manages the Partnership Support and ensures independent scrutiny takes place. We have developed robust scrutiny arrangements; Lay Members have a key role in this.

The B&NES Community Safety and Safeguarding Partnership is approved by Avon Fire and Rescue, Avon and Somerset Constabulary, Bath and North East Somerset (B&NES) Clinical Commissioning Group, B&NES Council and the National Probation Service.

i. **4 Police and crime - local context and challenges¹**

Overall, our area remains a safe place but in the context of all public agencies facing immense challenges maintaining this, with rising crime trends and changing crime patterns, this puts a pressure on 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, and is set out below:

- ii. The scale of identified vulnerability in Avon and 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.
- iii. The 12 month rolling comparator to December 2020 shows that recorded crime in B&NES fell by 4.5% compared against the previous year (540 less offences). Reports of anti-social behaviour reduced by 1.8% (59 less reports).¹ The Coronavirus Pandemic has impacted on crime and the demand for policing services during 2020.
- iv. Arson and Criminal Damage increased by +3.5% (45 more offences).
- v. Theft decreased by -16.9% (462 less offences).
- vi. Burglaries decreased by -16.6 % (149 less offences).
- vii. Robbery increased by +8.3% (10 more offences).
- viii. Sexual offences decreased by -7.0% (27 less reports) and offences involving violence decreased by -1.7% (64 less reports).
- ix. Offences classed as Hate Crime reduced by -6.6% (21 less offences).
- x. Over 35,000 “requests for service” were made to BaNES Police in 2020. The Constabulary’s vision is to deliver outstanding policing for everyone in an efficient and effective way. Customer satisfaction in the B&NES area remains in the top quartile.
- xi. Lighthouse is an integrated victim care and safeguarding service. It supports victims who are vulnerable, intimidated, persistently targeted or experience

¹ Data from Avon & Somerset ‘Business Objects’

serious crime. They may have been victims of Hate Crime, Domestic Abuse, sexual offences, or in need of safeguarding support for other reasons. Victims are offered practical support and guided through the criminal justice process by specially-trained staff. The service includes police staff, working with independent organisations. In the calendar year 2019, 3560 people in BaNES were given support by this unit. In 2020 that number of support referrals increased to 5592.

- xii. For the calendar year 2020, there was a further reduction in young people entering the youth justice system for the first time, continuing a long term trend. Out of Court Disposal (OoCD) options are widely used to divert young people from the Criminal Justice System.

5 Feedback from local communities

- i. The 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 Connecting Communities Forum reports and feedback has identified a number of differences in concerns raised across our Forum areas, and these are set out below:

1 In Bath, key issues raised included:

- 2 Drug offences particularly the impact of 'County Lines'. Note that the Constabulary has a dedicated team 'Operation Remedy' which focuses on tackling the drugs market and local resources are dedicated to this. The police work very closely with Social Housing providers to protect those most at risk from exploitation.
- 3 Gatherings of young people in Parks and ASB.
- 4 Thefts from vehicles.
- 5 Street issues - including begging, street drinking and rough sleeping.
- 6 Improving Police visibility, particularly in Bath city centre, there is a desire for a police base to be located back in the City centre.

2 In Somer Valley, key issues raised included:

- a) Anti-social behaviour, particularly in Gullock Tynning in Midsomer Norton. The introduction of a dispersal zone here resulted in a significant reduction in anti-social behaviour.
- b) Speeding traffic, we work together to reduce the number of persons killed or seriously injured on our roads, using community feedback to target danger hotspots through community speedwatch, road signage, traffic speed enforcement or traffic calming measures.

3 In Chew Valley, key issues raised included:

- a) Burglary, particularly non-dwelling burglaries such as from garden sheds.
- b) Road safety, particularly on the A37. The Chew Valley Transport Strategy Delivery Plan October 2017 recommended that the programme of safety measures following the recent review of this route should be continued. Some improvements have already been implemented. Further improvements to the junction at Farrington Gurney as part of the Somer Valley Enterprise Zone in Paulton are planned. Highways Department have commissioned a safety audit in Pensford.

4 In the Keynsham area, key issues raised included:

- a) Anti-social behaviour in the town, including issues in parks and the area around the civic centre, was the key issue raised. Offences have reduced significantly through a programme focusing on concerns raised by residents including:
 - Improving residents' ability to make reports – beat surgeries were set up in 4 locations including the library and café in Queens Road
 - Prevention of antisocial behaviour – police patrols targeting hotspot locations
 - Prosecution - use of the new antisocial behaviour powers one prolific young offender issued with a community protection order
 - Reassurance of the public – attendance at public meetings including quarterly Keynsham Forum meetings to report statistics and facts

6 Strategic and emerging issues across the area

- i. The B&NES CS&SP meets quarterly and has a number of sub groups. Although cross cutting, the majority of community safety issues are raised at the Vulnerable Communities sub group, its agenda reflects the changing crime patterns and addresses local concerns. It also 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. B&NES CS&SP then co-ordinates partnership resources to address new and emerging concerns; it is clear that this plan should be delivered in the context of the capacity which the various partners have to deliver.
- ii. 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 both the absolute and population adjusted levels of serious violence are high relative to the rest of the force area.
- iii. The VRU is seeking to better understand any 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.
- iv. A needs assessment was carried out in 2020 and is being refreshed annually.
 - i. 2019-20, the group focused on the following key issues:
 - a) 'Street' based issues, including supporting the Task and Targeting Group to address rough sleeping and aggressive begging.
 - b) Domestic Abuse, particularly supporting the Independent Domestic Violence Adviser service and conducting Domestic Homicide Reviews.
 - c) Serious and Organised Crime - establishing cross-agency links to disrupt organised crime gangs operating in our area, including Disrupt and modern

slavery and people trafficking. Our multi-agency Disrupt Panel brings together Council, Police, and others to tackle serious and organised crime in our area.

- d) Protecting vulnerable people - holding multi disciplinary discussions with Safeguarding and Community Safety practitioners to expedite actions.
- e) Linking with wider Avon and Somerset initiatives, such as the Avon and Somerset Reoffending Strategy.

7 What we can deliver together

- i. 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 PCC. Annually the PCC awards a grant to support activities to address local priorities. This annual sum that has been provided in 2021. It has been invested in our IDVA Domestic Abuse project, currently delivered by Southside Family Project domestic violence and abuse (DVA) commission; the Compass youth crime prevention service and the young people's substance misuse service.
- ii. Local partner organisations agree the level of resources they commit to the work of the B&NES CSSP 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 counterfeit and other illegal products.
 - c) The Council's Public Protection team working alongside Avon & Somerset 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) Our extensive network of public space CCTV cameras.
- iii. Our partners such as Curo also provide significant resources to address anti-social behaviour through their specialist Tenancy Compliance and Support

team. In many cases, partners also provide significant 'in kind' support and partner resources, for example in sharing data which we used to ensure that people were offered the support they needed.

- iv. However, public service agencies are operating under significant financial challenges, particularly in light of unplanned for Covid expenditure
- v. Partner agencies are facing similar challenges and this, along with the removal of national funding directly for Community Safety Partnerships, has put increasing pressure on partners to address the assessed needs set out above. This means that we need to:
 - 1. Prioritise our resources based on helping those who most need our help, particularly targeting our work on helping and protecting the most vulnerable people.
 - 2. Involve our communities more in what we do and support them in addressing local concerns.
 - 3. Work better together to share resources and identify new ways of working.

8 Priority 1:

Protect the most vulnerable from harm

1 Why this is a priority

- a) 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
- b) 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.
- c) 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.
- d) Hate crime reports in B&NES have increased by 6.6% in the last 12 months
- e) 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.

2 Key Objectives of priority 1:

1.	Implement, monitor and evaluate our new partnership investment from the Violence Against Women and Girls Fund.
	Continue to respond to and manage Domestic Homicide Reviews (DHR), learning from the outcomes of DHRs and implement changes to working practices where necessary.
	Continue to identify opportunities for longer-term funding to reduce domestic abuse and improve outcomes for survivors
	Work together with other Community Safety Partnerships in Avon and Somerset to finalise and implement the review of MARACs in a way that (1) reflects the

	financial challenges faced by councils and other agencies (2) mainstreams the work of MARAC and (3) improves outcomes for survivors (4) addresses perpetrators
2.	<p>Strengthen the role and effectiveness of the Bath and North East Somerset Hate Crime and Community Cohesion Partnership. The Partnership's remit is to provide an integrated, proactive approach to monitoring patterns and trends and using this challenging, influencing and championing change needed in services to tackle hate crime and incidents effectively.</p> <p>Between partners we will continue to administer and chair the Hate Crime Case Review Panel.</p>
3.	<p>Continue to take enforcement action against County Lines organised criminal gangs.</p> <p>To utilise effective partnership working across all agencies to effectively tackle this issue by preventing, disrupting and detecting offences, safeguarding individuals at risk, and protecting our communities.</p>

10 Priority 2:

Strengthen and improve local communities to improve outcomes for local people

1 Why this is a Priority

- a) A high proportion of people report feeling safe in their local area (88%). However, local residents say they require more ‘reassurance’ through visible policing.
- b) 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
- c) The #NeverOK Campaign on anti-harassment and bullying, and the Bath and Bristol Rugby Clubs #Mates Matter campaign on river safety shows the benefits of tapping into local networks for community outreach.

2 Key Objectives of priority 2:

1.	Reduce the impact that anti-social behaviour has in our communities
	Work through the Connecting Communities programme to develop partner responses to local priorities and promote community cohesion and resilience
2.	Continue the commitment to support neighbourhood policing
	Co-ordinate and administer the Night Time Economy Group to reduce impacts on local residents, and continue to undertake multi-agency enforcement visits to licensed premises to ensure they are safe and do not create nuisance.
	Continue commitment to active participation in local community forums
3.	Strengthen the resilience of local communities
	Continue to promote the “Got Ya Back” River Safety campaign with partners and

	<p>students. <i>We worked with Avon Fire and Rescue to develop and install 14 robust, vandal-proof cabinets for life-saving equipment along the River Avon.</i></p>
	<p>Work closely with the Student Community Partnership on a range of projects to promote safety</p>
	<p>Continue to develop the #NeverOK Campaign organised by the Student Community Partnership on Anti-harassment and Bullying. <i>The campaign has now been extended beyond the University of Bath to Bath Spa University and is being integrated into sports clubs and societies. The next step is to work with Bath College and Sixth Forms to involve them with the campaign</i></p>
	<p>Work alongside community groups to facilitate closer working to problem solve – in partnership - local issues</p>
	<p>Work together on hate crime and encourage families to report concerns.</p>

11 Priority 3:

Work together effectively to respond to community safety challenges

1 Why this is a Priority

- a) 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. For example
- b) 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 for Child Sexual Exploitation. Our LSCB has an outcome for staff to be confident in responding appropriately to these issues. Similarly, addressing Modern Slavery also requires significant regional co-ordination and specialist support including working with organisations such as the Gangmasters Licencing Authority.
- c) County lines is becoming more prevalent in the Avon and Somerset region. 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 at Julian House assists in identifying those vulnerable to 'cuckooing', particularly those living on the streets but who have tenancies.
- d) 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. Prevent's aim is intercept radicalisation, to stop people becoming terrorists or supporting terrorism. "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.

2 Key Objectives of priority 3:

1.	Continue to actively work across the Avon & Somerset partnerships on Child Sexual Exploitation, Anti-Slavery Partnership and Modern Slavery and people trafficking.
	Support and enable the reporting of, discovery of, and response to, incidents of modern slavery and exploitation.
	Actively participate in the Avon and Somerset Anti-Slavery Partnership and develop proportionate local initiatives across partner organisations and with services to identify and respond to incidents.
2.	Tackling County Lines organised crime, specifically around cuckooing.
3.	Comply 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.

12 Measures

- i. Indicators will be regularly reviewed in order to understand the impact of the Plan's activities, noting the challenges that present in interpreting these as measures of performance

Police recorded total crime for the B&NES area
Police recorded serious cases involving young people as victims of abuse, CSE, Modern Slavery
Police recorded hate crime
Police recorded fraud with vulnerable victims
The number of domestic abuse incidents reported to the Police
The number of domestic abuse prosecutions
Police recorded Anti Social Behaviour
Establishment and success of joint working initiatives between police and housing services around 'cuckooing'
NTE incidents recorded by Police from licensed premises
Victim satisfaction
Victim outcomes following support interventions

13 Glossary

ACES	Adverse Childhood Experiences
B&NES	Bath and North East Somerset
B&NES CSSP	Bath and 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
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

14 Appendix 1

Links to Other Plans, Strategies, web pages and Partnerships

Police and Crime Commissioner [Avon and Somerset PCC](#)

Avon and Somerset Constabulary [Avon & Somerset Police](#)

Bath & North East Somerset Council [Bath and North East Somerset Council](#)

Bath & North East Somerset Community Safety & Safeguarding Partnership [B&NES CSSP](#)

Crime Prevention and Community Safety [Crime Prevention and Community Safety](#)

Youth offending [Youth Offending Service](#)

Anti-Social behaviour [Anti-social Behaviour](#)

Trading standards rogue traders [Trading Standards](#)

Children and Young People [Children and Young Peoples plan 2018-2021](#)

Reoffending Strategy [reoffending strategy avon and somerset PCC](#)

Bath & NE Somerset Youth Justice Plan [youth justice plan](#)

Anti-slavery partnership [Anti Slavery Partnership](#)

[Health and Wellbeing Strategy](#)

[Child Sexual Exploitation Strategy](#)

Early Help Strategy [Early Help Services](#)

Prevent [Counter-terrorism strategy 2018](#)

Crowded Places [crowded places uk](#)