

DECISION-MAKER:	OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE		
SUBJECT:	SAFE CITY PARTNERSHIP ANNUAL REVIEW		
DATE OF DECISION:	12 JANUARY 2023		
REPORT OF:	CHAIR OF THE SAFE CITY PARTNERSHIP		
<u>CONTACT DETAILS</u>			
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STATEMENT OF CONFIDENTIALITY
None
BRIEF SUMMARY
<p>This report provides the Overview and Scrutiny Management Committee (OSMC) with an update for 2021/22 on community safety in Southampton and the Safe City Partnership. It includes information on the recently completed Community Safety Strategic Needs Assessment, as well as an update on work to revise and update the Safe City Strategy. The data refers to the period April 2021 to end March 2022 as this is the latest full year data available for analysis.</p>
<p>A new Safe City Strategy was published in early 2022 (post this data set) and covers the period 2022-27 (“the Strategy”). The Strategy was informed by the findings of the 2019/20 and 2020/21 Safe City Strategic Assessments as well as the annual public Community Safety Survey and sets out the Safe City Partnership’s priorities for keeping Southampton safe over the next five years.</p>
<p>The Strategy is aligned to the Hampshire and Isle of Wight Police & Crime Plan and also the vision for Southampton as set out in Southampton City Council's Corporate Plan. This also complements the key aims, objectives and activities of other key strategic boards, including the Children and Adults Safeguarding Boards, the Health and Wellbeing Board, and the recently established Domestic Abuse Strategic Partnership Board.</p>
<p>Community Safety Partnerships (“CSPs”) were established in law under sections 5-7 of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998. In Southampton, the CSP is known as the ‘Safe City Partnership’ (“the SCP”). The SCP is managed by the Council’s Stronger Communities team on behalf of the following statutory partners:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hampshire and Isle of Wight Constabulary • Hampshire and Isle of Wight Fire and Rescue Service • Hampshire and Isle of Wight Integrated Care Board • National Probation Service (Southampton).

RECOMMENDATIONS:	
(i)	That the Committee considers and notes this report.
REASONS FOR REPORT RECOMMENDATIONS	
1.	The Police and Justice Act 2006 requires overview and scrutiny committees to scrutinise Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnerships, and the partners who comprise it, insofar as their activities relate to the partnership, at least once a year.
ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED AND REJECTED	
2.	None
DETAIL (Including consultation carried out)	
Background	
3.	Under section 5-7 of the Crime and Disorder Act the Safe City Partnership (of which Southampton City Council is a statutory member) has a legal obligation to formulate and implement: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) a strategy for the reduction of crime and disorder in the area (including anti-social and other behaviour adversely affecting the local environment); b) a strategy for combatting the misuse of drugs, alcohol and other substances in the area; and c) a strategy for the reduction of re-offending in the area.
4.	A new Safe City Strategy was published in 2022 and covers the period 2022-27 ("the Strategy"). The Strategy was informed by the findings of the 2019/20 and 2020/21 Safe City Strategic Assessments as well as the annual public Community Safety Survey and sets out the Safe City Partnership's priorities for keeping Southampton safe over the next five years.
5.	There is a legislative requirement for the Partnership to undertake a Community Safety Strategic Needs Assessment each year. This year's Strategic Assessment has recently been completed and provides an overview of current and future crime trends, disorder and community safety issues affecting Southampton. This report provides an overview of the latest available evidence and progress across a range of community safety related issues.
6.	This report focuses on the activity of the Safe City Partnership during the first year of the strategy and updates on the current (2021/22) Strategic Assessment, incorporating this year's annual Community Safety Survey.
7.	The Partnership has identified three main priorities for keeping Southampton safe over the next, extended five-year period (2022 to 2027). These are: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Priority 1: Keeping people safe from harm Priority 2: Preventing and reducing offending Priority 3: Creating safe and stronger communities
8.	There is a Statutory requirement for Community Safety Partnerships to undertake a 'Strategic Assessment' each year. The purpose is to assist the partnership in revising the Community Safety Strategy and as such it should include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • An analysis of the levels and patterns of crime and disorder and alcohol and drug misuse in the area • Identification of changes in those levels and why these have occurred

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Views of people living and working in the area • Recommendations for matters which should be prioritised.
9.	<p>This report demonstrates how the partnership has aimed to deliver its strategic objectives and responded to local need, including the pandemic. It also responds to the latest Strategic Assessment (2021/22) and sets out next steps for the partnership and strategy.</p> <p>This report should be read in conjunction with the Strategic Assessment which can be found on the Southampton Data Observatory.</p>
Strategic Assessment	
10.	<p>Data included in this Strategic Assessment covers the 2020/21 financial year, with data covering this period significantly impacted by the coronavirus pandemic and government restrictions imposed to limit the spread of the virus. Therefore, trends and changes in patterns over recent years should be interpreted in light of this. To minimise the impact of COVID on crime trends, comparisons with the current period (2021/22), will be made against the pre-pandemic baseline (2019/20) in most cases. However, where appropriate some insight will be drawn from comparing 2020/21 for certain crime types, such as domestic abuse and hate crime.</p>
11.	<p>In 2021/22, Southampton had an overall crime rate of 136 crimes per 1k population:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Southampton accounted for 20% of total recorded crime across Hampshire Constabulary in 2021/22 • Southampton has the highest total reported crime rate and highest crime severity amongst iQuanta comparators.
12.	<p>It is important that not only the volume of crime in Southampton is considered, but also the harm caused to victims and society. For example, high volume but low harm offences may be less of a priority to the Partnership than lower volume but high harm offences. A crime severity score estimates the harm caused by crime. The score gives more severe offence categories a higher weight than less severe ones using crime sentencing weights calculated by ONS using data from the Ministry of Justice.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • When examining the mix of all crimes, some crimes are relatively high volume, but are low harm e.g., public order offences. • Rape is an example of a relatively low volume, but a high harm crime, as it accounts for 1.5% of the number of offences, but 26.7% in terms of relative severity (harm caused). <p>Rape, violence with injury and residential burglary were the crime groups that caused the most harm in Southampton during 2021/22.</p>
13.	<p>Between 2019/20 and 2021/22 there was a +7.4% increase in total police recorded crime in Southampton:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • England (+5.5%) and Hampshire Constabulary (+7.6%) also experienced increases in total police recorded crime during the same period. • The increase in total recorded crime over recent years may not reflect a 'true' increase in crime. Recorded crime can be influenced by improved

	<p>awareness of key issues, more people reporting crime and improvements in recording by the police.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • However, it is important to highlight that historically, increases in police recorded crime during 2014/15 and 2015/16 for Southampton, Hampshire and several other police forces were largely driven by crime data integrity improvements following an HMICFRS audit in 2014. • Therefore, any non-recent changes should be interpreted in line with continual improvements in reporting and recording as well as changes in counting rules and increased awareness and reporting of certain crimes. • However, it is also important to note that changes in the volume of crimes vary across different crime groups. Additionally, police recorded crime only includes crimes that have been reported to and recorded by the police, with 'hidden' crimes such as domestic abuse far more likely to be underreported than other offences such as theft.
14.	<p>Alongside the number of offences, it is important to examine the relative severity or harm caused by a crime:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • When examining the mix of all crimes, some crimes are relatively high volume, but are low harm e.g., public order offences. • Rape is an example of a relatively low volume, but a high harm crime, as it accounts for 1.5% of the number of offences, but 26.7% in terms of relative severity (harm caused). • Southampton experienced a +4.5% increase in the crime severity score of all crimes between 2019/20 and 2021/22, although this was lower than the increase for Hampshire Constabulary (+8.2%) and England (+8.0%) which also experienced increases in severity. However, Southampton's crime severity score remains 1.6 times higher than Hampshire Constabulary as a whole in 2021/22. • Southampton remains highest among comparators and higher than the national average when considering the volume (rate) and severity of total recorded crime.
15.	<p>It is also important to monitor changes in the volume of different crime types. Notable increases include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Violent crime (+24.6%) - Domestic violent crime (+23.8%) - Stalking and harassment (+75.2%) - Sexual offences (+21.3%) - Domestic flagged crimes (+23.4%) - Drug offences (+10.7%) - Drug affected crime (+34.6%) - Hate crime (+49.2%) <p>Modern slavery (+82.4%; +28 crimes) also experienced an increase compared to the pre-pandemic baseline, but numbers for these offences are relatively small.</p> <p>There have been declines in:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Non-residential burglary (-40.1%) - Residential burglary (-18.3%)

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Theft offences (-18.9%) - Robbery (-18.2%) - Vehicle offences (-8.6%) - Criminal damage and arson (-7.8%) - Anti-social behaviour (-28.1%) <p>There were also declines in firearms offences (-16.4%) and cruelty to children offences (-7.0%); however, the numbers for these offences are relatively small and percentage changes should therefore be interpreted with caution.</p>
16.	<p>Change in counting rules for stalking and harassment offences introduced in 2018 are likely to still be impacting on the number of reported violent offences. Although stalking and harassment is lower in severity compared to other violent crimes (for example, violence with injury), it can still have a significant impact on the victim and be the pre-cursor for more serious offending. There has also been training on stalking and harassment for officers across the force area. Increases are likely to also be due to improved recognition and awareness of this offence type. Local evidence suggests that some crimes are being classified based on victim perception, with some crimes that may previously have been coded as anti-social behaviour, now being coded as stalking and harassment.</p>
17.	<p>A simple score was calculated to inform crime priority for the Safe City Partnership setting based on ranks of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Crime frequency ● Crime severity score ● Proportion of crimes with formal action taken ● Year on year percentage increase in crime ● Relative position of Southampton among its comparator group of Community Safety Partnerships. <p>Based on overall rank the top 3 crime priorities for the Partnership are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Violent crime (all forms) ● Sexual offences ● Domestic crimes, including domestic violent crime. <p>Violent crime, domestic crimes and sexual offences have consistently featured among the top priority areas for Southampton. Residential burglary featured as a priority in the previous assessment. However, due to declines in volume and severity, it does not score as highly in 2021/22. Although, if acquisitive crimes increase due to current economic uncertainty, residential burglary may again feature as a priority in future assessments.</p> <p>It is important to note that these are not the only areas of community safety that the Strategic Assessment recommends the Partnership prioritise. However, it provides an additional tool for the Partnership to consider when determining areas of focus.</p>
18.	<p>It is important to understand the distribution of crime in the city as not all wards are impacted in the same way. This is particularly relevant to wards such as Bargate and Bevois where higher volumes of crime can be attributed to the night-time economy in these wards:</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • At ward level, total crime rates in Bevois (239 per 1k population) and Bargate (209 per 1k) continue to be significantly higher than the city average (130 per 1k). • Freemantle, Shirley, Millbrook and Redbridge wards also have significantly higher overall crime rates compared to the city average. Although, geographical analysis may be influenced by key police sites located in Freemantle and Shirley. If a crime comes through these police sites and is against the state or the location is unknown, they will be assigned to the ward where the station sits. At present it is not possible to remove these incidents from geographical analysis. • Overall crime continues to be strongly patterned with deprivation. In 2021/22, the overall crime rate in the 20% most deprived neighbourhoods was 2.6 times higher than in the 20% least deprived neighbourhoods in Southampton. • Although crime rates remain significantly higher in the 20% most deprived Southampton neighbourhoods compared to the 20% least deprived neighbourhoods, this gap appears to be narrowing; having been 3.7 times higher in 2019/20 and 3 times higher in 2020/21. • However, this change appears to be driven by higher crime rates in the 20% least deprived neighbourhoods (+39.8% increase in the crime rate from 2019/20), rather than lower crime rates in the 20% most deprived neighbourhoods (-2.7% decline in the crime rate from 2019/20).
19.	<p>Overall crime increased in 13 out of the 16 wards:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Largest increase in total crime was in Freemantle ward (+29.1%), followed by Swaythling (+26.6%) and Bevois (+20%) wards (as noted above, the increase in Freemantle may be influenced by a key police site located in this ward). • Violent crime increased in all but one ward with Bitterne experiencing a negligible decline (-0.1%) • Domestic flagged crimes increased in 14 wards • Hate crime increased in 15 wards • Anti-social behaviour declined in 13 wards • Residential burglary declined in 11 wards. <p>Some increases such as Hate Crime can in part be attributed to awareness campaigns and multi-agency support to encourage reporting.</p>
20.	<p>There were 9,828 individual suspects or offenders who were identified in 2021/22, who were responsible for 61.1% of the crimes committed in Southampton. It is worth noting not all of these will necessarily be resident in the city. This, however, represents a 14.2% increase on the 8,604 identified during 2019/20.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The majority (61.5%) of offenders identified committed just 1 crime in the year, which is lower than the proportion in 2019/20 (64.1%). • 38.4% of offenders committed more than 1 offence yet were responsible for the majority (71.1%) of recorded crime with a suspect or offender identified in 2021/22. • 69.7% of offenders were male. • Males continue to be much more likely to commit multiple offences in the year than females, with 73.1% of the most prolific (5+ offences) offenders being male.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Those aged 35 to 49 years (28.2%) and 25 to 34 (28.0%) share similar proportions for the largest groups of offenders, followed by the 18 to 24 age group (18.9%). • The proportion of under 18 offenders decreased from 13.2% in 2019/20 to 12.4% in 2021/22. • The majority of offenders were white (70.5%), 14.2% ethnic minorities and 15.3% of unknown ethnicity.
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Significant Community Safety Issues - Violent Crime

21.	<p>Changes to the structure of the Violence Reduction Unit were agreed with the Hampshire and Isle of Wight Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner in 2022, in order to align with Home Office funding recommendations and to consolidate models of good practice across all areas of Hampshire and the Isle of Wight. The change creates a VRU Director, with VRU Leads recruited to work directly with Local Authorities and CSP's. Southampton's new VRU Lead joined the OPCC on 15 December 2022 and will be supported by the Community Cohesion and Grants Manager, located within the Stronger Communities Service.</p>
22.	<p>The outputs of this most recent Strategic Assessment show that Southampton is ranked highest for violent crime among comparator CSPs and 10th nationally (previously ranked 22nd in 2020/21), placing Southampton in the worse 5% of CSPs nationally.</p> <p>Southampton experienced a 24.6% increase in the number of violent crimes between 2019/20 and 2021/22. All three of the main violent crime subgroups also experienced increases in Southampton:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Violence with injury increased by +1.3% • Violence without injury experienced an +18.5% increase • Stalking and harassment increased by +75.2%. <p>Increases in violent crime are also observed nationally and across Hampshire Constabulary, with this, in part, attributed to greater awareness around Violence Against Women and Girls and improvements in identification and recording of stalking and harassment.</p> <p>Almost a third (32.6%) of violent crime in Southampton during 2021/22 was flagged as domestic, highlighting that domestic violence continues to be a driver of overall violent crime in Southampton.</p>

Significant Community Safety Issues - Crimes Involving a Weapon, Violent crime

23.	<p>Southampton (1.8 offences per 1k population) is ranked highest among comparators for the rate of possession of weapons offences and significantly higher than the England average (0.8 per 1k).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 644 recorded crimes involving use of a bladed implement in Southampton during 2021/22, similar compared to 2019/20 (646). • Southampton accounted for 25% of knife enabled crime across Hampshire Constabulary between October 2021 and September 2022, a significantly higher proportion than all other districts.
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Victims and perpetrators of knife enabled crime continue to be skewed towards males and younger age groups; highlighting the importance of early intervention and work of the Violence Reduction Unit. • There were 46 firearms offences in Southampton during 2021/22, 9 fewer crimes (-16.4%) compared to the pre-pandemic baseline (2019/20). • Despite the number of firearms offences being relatively small in Southampton, firearms can cause significant harm and are often linked to organised crime.
24.	<p>The Violence Reduction Unit is an initiative to prevent and reduce serious violence, particularly involving under 25s use of knives. Funded by the Home Office and coordinated through the OPCC. Funding is currently agreed until March 2023 and is anticipated to continue for another full year, although this is not yet confirmed. The VRU commissions an annual serious violence problem profile and develops a response strategy based on the findings. This response aims to tackle violence as part of a public health approach, driving forward plans around education, diversion, and intervention to prevent the escalation of risky behaviours. The service will be integral to Southampton City Council fulfilling its duties under a new Serious Violence Duty that is expected to be implemented in 2022/23.</p>
25.	<p>The VRU has been successful in drawing down funding for the city from the Home Office, in partnership with the OPCC, including through programmes such as Safer Streets, Stronger Communities led partnership bids to secure Home Office funding for tackling themes of Violence against Women and Girls, anti-Social behaviour and violence in the Night-time Economy. The funds were:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Safer Streets 3: 2021/22- £190K • Safety of Women at Night: 2021/22 - £154K • Safer Streets 4: 2022/23 - £645K <p>Examples of initiatives funded include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Education delivered through partners Yellow Door, Saints Foundation, Beyond Equality in schools • Extra CCTV – Empress Road, Riverside Park • LED Lighting upgrade – Coxford Road/UHS • Student Safety • Safe Places • Awareness campaign – White Ribbon Day, VAWG Conference • Problem profile • Protecting those at risk – extra patrols by Safe and Well Monitors, Street Security, Street Pastors • Identifying and targeting perpetrators – Police Spotters, extra CCTV staff, extra radios for the NTE • Feeling safe at night – Pop-up Safe Zones from St John Ambulance, Safe Places in NTE Venues • Drink Spiking response.

	<p>St John Ambulances are also operating in the city to provide a safe place for those who are vulnerable through drink, but also deal with minor injuries. This helps to reduce unnecessary pressure on the NHS, having seen 269 service users, of whom 68 would have otherwise called 999 or gone to A+E.</p>
26.	<p>Stronger Communities, working with the Integrated Commission Unit, has developed and implemented a network of Safe Places across the City, to provide support for people with a variety of vulnerabilities. This is part of a national network and therefore built on an established and growing organisation that provided and maintained relevant information.</p> <p>Any service or business that registers acts as a temporary refuge when a person is feeling unsafe. The network offers safety for any adult or young person who feels vulnerable while out and about in public. This is backed up by information on the SCC Website, including a case study for a shop that became a member of the Network.</p> <p>Southampton now has over 120 businesses, shop and premises signed up as members of the Southampton Safe Places Network, and the network has been promoted at a variety of events, such as Freshers Weeks, Well-being events and through our partnership networks.</p>
<p>Significant Community Safety Issues - Domestic Abuse (Violence Against Women and Girls)</p>	
27.	<p>Domestic Abuse and Violence Against Women and Girls has been an area of strategic focus in 2021/22 as Southampton City Council, working with city partners through the Domestic Abuse Strategic Board, has worked collectively to develop and embed a long-term strategy that meets the council's legal duties as part of the Domestic Abuse Act 2021.</p>
28.	<p>Police recorded crime data on domestic abuse only provides a partial picture, as domestic abuse is a hidden crime and remains underreported, despite improvements in recent years. Therefore, it's difficult to say whether changes in the number of domestic flagged crimes reflects a 'true' increase, as police recorded figures of domestic abuse are likely to have been impacted by changes to recording practices, policing activity and public reporting of crime. Nonetheless, domestic abuse remains a significant issue in Southampton and has again been highlighted as a priority for the Partnership.</p> <p>There were 5,782 domestic flagged crimes in Southampton during 2021/22, a 21.1% increase from 2020/21 and a 23.4% increase compared to the pre-pandemic baseline (2019/20).</p> <p>Domestic flagged crime accounted for 16.9% of all recorded crime in Southampton during 2021/22, a significantly higher proportion compared to 2019/20 (14.5%) but similar to 2020/21 (17.1%).</p> <p>The majority (81.9%) of domestic flagged crimes in Southampton during 2021/22 were violent crimes. However, domestic rape continues to cause significant harm in the city, with rape accounting for 49.2% of the harm (severity) caused by domestic flagged crime, despite only accounting for 3.5% of domestic flagged offences in 2021/22.</p>
29.	<p>Domestic abuse not only has an impact on victims, but also close family and children in the household. Children related to or under parental responsibility</p>

	<p>of either the victim or perpetrator of domestic abuse are recognised as victims in their own right under the Domestic Abuse Act.</p> <p>Children experiencing or witnessing domestic abuse is a key adverse childhood experience (ACE), with children having ACEs more likely to have poorer outcomes; particularly those relating to health, education and crime.</p> <p>The impact of domestic abuse on children in the city continues to be significant:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 60% of Southampton HRDA referrals have children and young people in the household (2021/22) • 46% of child assessments undertaken in 2021/22 had domestic violence recorded as an assessment factor* <p>*Domestic violence is a recorded outcome within Children and Learnings Care Director system, based on Dept for Education coding requirements</p>
30.	<p>Sub city patterns of domestic flagged crime are similar to previous years:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rates of domestic flagged crime are highest in Bitterne, Redbridge and Woolston wards, with notable hotspots in neighbourhoods across these wards. • These wards are also where some of the most deprived neighbourhoods in the city are located. • Domestic flagged crime continues to have strong links to deprivation, with rates approximately 4.4 times higher in the most deprived neighbourhoods compared to the least deprived in Southampton.
Significant Community Safety Issues - Sexual Offences	
31.	<p>Southampton has the highest rate of sexual offences among comparator CSPs and is the 9th highest in England and Wales (310 with a valid sexual offences rate total). There has been:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A 21.3% increase in the number of sexual offences in Southampton between 2019/20 and 2021/22, with Hampshire Constabulary (+27.6%) and England (+25.8%) also experiencing an increase, • A 9.6% increase in rapes and an increase of 29.6% in other sexual offences in Southampton. <p>Changes in reporting habits can have a substantial impact on the volume of police recorded sexual offences. As highlighted in the previous assessment (2020/21), lockdown restrictions and suppression of the night-time economy (NTE) contributed to fewer recorded sexual offences in 2020/21. However, the increase in recorded sexual offences seen in 2021/22 exceeds the pre-pandemic baseline (2019/20).</p> <p>The latest sexual offence figures (2021/22) are likely influenced by a range of factors including increased reporting due to 'Everyone's invited' website; greater awareness around Violence Against Women and Girls; the re-opening of the night-time economy; and, media focus on high-profile issues and cases, such as the rape and murder of Sarah Everard. If awareness and reporting continue to increase, then there could be subsequent increases in the number</p>

	<p>of police recorded sexual offences, which could be an encouraging indicator of a change in confidence to report.</p> <p>Females aged under 25 continue to be highlighted as a high-risk group for sexual offence victims, with those aged under 25 accounting for over half of rape victims, whilst those aged under 18 account for 44.2% of other sexual offence victims.</p>
<p>Significant Community Safety Issues - Drugs, Alcohol and Tobacco</p>	
32.	<p>A new Drugs, Alcohol and Tobacco strategy has been consulted on for adoption in 2023 under the auspices of the Health and Wellbeing Board. This new strategy aims to unify work to tackle addiction risks by applying a public health approach to the problem and will align to the Governments new ten-year drugs strategy. A Drug Harm Reduction Partnership was established in 2022.</p>
33.	<p>Southampton is ranked 5th highest among comparator CSPs and significantly higher than the England average for the rate of drug offences:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1,034 drug offences were recorded in 2021/22 (includes possession and trafficking offences), a 10.7% increase compared to the pre-pandemic baseline, but 16.7% lower than 2020/21. • There is a strong link between drug offences and deprivation, with the offence rate 4.9 times higher in the 20% most deprived neighbourhoods compared to the 20% least deprived. • Drug affected crime (where drugs are flagged as a factor) experienced a 34.6% increase from 849 crimes in 2019/20 to 1,143 crimes in 2021/22 (1,008 in 2020/21). <p>The number of drug offences recorded by the police is heavily dependent on police activities and priorities. Hampshire Constabulary attributed higher volumes of drug offences to increased stop checks from COVID-19 enforcement during 2020/2021.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Local stop-check data supports this, as the number of stop-checks conducted with reason to suspect drugs fell from 1,790 in 2020/21 to 1,201 in 2021/22 (-32.9%). • Assuming that the number of stop-checks continues to decline, it could be expected that the rate of recorded drug offences will return to pre-pandemic levels, unless there are further changes in policing activities.
34.	<p>There were 3,105 alcohol affected crimes in 2021/22, an 18.7% increase in the number of alcohol affected crimes from 2019/20 and 36.6% higher than in 2020/21:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The reopening of the night-time economy has driven the increase in alcohol affected crime over the last year. • Increases from the pre-pandemic baseline are likely a result of improved reporting and coding of crimes, rather than a real change in incidence. • The majority of alcohol affected crimes continue to be violent crimes (70.7%).

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bevois and Bargate wards continue to have the highest rates of alcohol affected crime, with rates in these wards significantly higher than the city average. • Peak times for alcohol affected crimes continue to be late at night and during the early hours on weekends. <p>Sub city and temporal patterns in the occurrence of alcohol affected crime continues to highlight the link between alcohol affected crime and the night-time economy.</p>
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Significant Community Safety Issues - Crime involving children (as victims or perpetrator)

35.	<p>Responsibility for tackling youth crime is the responsibility of the Southampton Youth Justice Service (SYJS) overseen by a Youth Justice Management Board (YJMB). A new Youth Justice Strategy for 2021 to 2024 has been published and is supported by an overarching Children and Young People Strategy for 2022 to 2027.</p>
36.	<p>In 2021/22, Southampton had a juvenile First Time Entrant (FTE) rate of 18.9 per 10,000 children aged 10 to 17 years. This is higher but not significantly than the national average (14.4 per 10,000 children). Since 2012/13, the juvenile FTE rate has been on a downward trend in Southampton and nationally. However, 2021/22 is the first year in the last 5 that the juvenile FTE rate in Southampton has been statistically similar to the national average.</p> <p>Whilst SYJS have had success in managing the cities FTE rate with a significant drop in 2021, Southampton has seen an increase this year and are now (at 194) just above our statistical neighbour average of 184. Whilst this cohort is small in number, there has been an increase of cases coming into the system and this does not reflect the cases that have been diverted into the Youth Diversion Programme (all children whose offence meant they would have received a FTE disposal) and so that rate of entry would have been significantly higher. The city is also seeing, whilst numbers are small, an increase each quarter in the use of this diversion disposal, hopefully demonstrating confidence in the disposal itself. Whilst it is too early to reflect the reoffending rates of that particular outcome, out of the 23 cases given in the first two quarters of this year, 2 have reoffended to date.</p> <p>Serious violence statistics fluctuated as these are very much dependent upon outcomes in the city for relevant offence types but Southampton is on average above their comparator groups for serious youth violence.</p>
37.	<p>The percentage of youth offenders who reoffend in Southampton is 35.6% (2019/20 cohort), which is similar to the England and Wales average (34.2%). Southampton has a lower-than-average number of reoffences per youth reoffender at 3.3 reoffences (compared to 3.6 for England and Wales). Changes in the data reporting methodology means analysis of long-term trends is not possible.</p> <p>There was a decline in the youth reoffending rate between 2016/17 and 2017/18, before increasing in 2018/19. However, over the last year there has been a 14.7 percentage point decrease in the youth offending rate from 50.3% in 2018/19 to 35.6% in 2019/20. It is important to note that this increase is not statistically significant due to the small cohort of offenders. At this stage it is</p>

	<p>unclear what impact delays in sentencing within the Court system will have on offending and reoffending rates in the city, which only reflect those children who have experienced a conviction at court. In terms of reoffending SYJS reoffending rate is 40% compared to statistical neighbour average of 33%. The rate has fluctuated over recent quarters, and there is a concern that some of the reoffending data will be affected by COVID and lockdown given the time period used to look at reoffending data.</p>
38.	<p>The Southampton Youth Justice Service has higher than their family average rates for custody. Currently placed at twice the family rate. Whilst the rates are continuing to decrease nationally, this is not the case in Southampton, and we are one of the highest in the comparator group. The numbers remain low, and therefore any increase will show a fluctuation; however, it is still of concern when compared with the national picture. Remand figures for this year have also increased compared to last year. The threshold for remand has increased for children, and so to still have high rate of remand reflects the serious level of offending perpetrated by some children in the city.</p>
39.	<p>The Southampton Youth Justice Service retains a duty to support all victims of youth crime. This is delivered through a range of restorative interventions to those victims who consent to receive support, who are also able to indicate the remedies that should be undertaken by the young person to repair the harm caused by their offending. The creation of a Youth Hub at the Civic Centre has delivered a vital asset for engagement with at risk children and young people, as well as creating a safe space in which meetings can take place with professionals. Other developments for the service include the development of a reparation offer, allowing victims to make greater choices around how children can repair the harm of their offending.</p> <p>SYJS has also been successful in securing funding for a speech and language therapist with the aim of identifying and supporting children with speech and language needs, knowing there are a disproportionate number of children with SLC needs in the YJ cohort than the general population. The Ministry of Justice have recently provided three year funding to support children on the fringes of offending and therefore is allowing SYJS to build on its developing prevention offer, allowing more proactive outreach to children at risk to prevent escalation into the system and the level of offending in the city.</p>
<p>Significant Community Safety Issues - Residential burglary</p>	
40.	<p>Southampton experienced an 18.3% reduction in residential burglary offences between 2019/20 and 2021/22. Hampshire Constabulary (-20.9%) and England (-23.9%) also experienced declines during the same period. The decline in residential burglaries in Southampton over recent years is likely to reflect a genuine decline, as residential burglaries alongside other theft offences are relatively well reported to and recorded by the police.</p> <p>Declines in recent years have been attributed to increases in home working and improved residential security technology acting as a deterrent to offenders. However, despite the decline in recent years, Southampton has the highest rate of residential burglary among comparator CSPs and remains the most affected area across Hampshire Constabulary. Trends and patterns in residential burglary should continue to be monitored, as recent economic uncertainty, financial pressures and the 'cost of living crises could lead to an</p>

	<p>increase in acquisitive crime. If the number of residential burglaries increase, it could again feature as a priority area in future assessments.</p> <p>Hampshire Constabulary have confirmed that an officer will attend every report of a domestic dwelling burglary, with this announced in September 2022.</p>
Community Cohesion, Modern Slavery, Prevent and Hate Crime	
41.	<p>The Stronger Communities team has been coordinating improvements to our local response to ensure that matters relating to hate crime, modern day slavery and Prevent (radicalisation) are strengthened, better communicated and benefit from strategic oversight. However, many of these areas of delivery are challenged by a lack of dedicated resource within the partnership. A new Modern-Day Slavery Working-Group has been implemented to ensure that local partners have an awareness of this complex issue. The working group reports locally into the Southampton Safeguarding Adults Board (SSAB) and to the Hampshire Modern Slavery Partnership. A new online training module has been developed by the OPCC, which is promoted widely via the SSAB and Southampton Safeguarding Children's Partnership and take up of this training across partnerships has increased. However, the removal of an OPCC funded MDS Lead for Hampshire and the IOW has reduced local partnerships collective capacity to ensure this issue has the focus needed.</p>
42.	<p>Southampton City Council was able to award a contract to Spectrum Centre for Independent Living in 2022 to continue its work for two years to provide a hate crime reporting 'app', maintain and grow a network of Third-Party Hate Crime Reporting Centres and to facilitate a Hate Crime Network.</p>
43.	<p>Race continues to be the largest motivating factor of hate crime, followed by sexual orientation and disability in Southampton.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There were 1,189 recorded hate crime offences in Southampton during 2021/22, a 21.5% increase from 2020/21 and a 49.2% increase from 2019/20. • This is in keeping with the national picture, with England and Wales experiencing a 26% increase in police recorded hate crimes between 2020/21 and 2021/22. <p>The main drivers for the increase in hate crime over recent years, are thought to be greater public confidence to report hate crime and improvements in police recording. Increases seen in Southampton could also reflect local reporting processes, where individuals reporting a crime are directly asked whether they think the crime is a hate crime or motivated by hate. However, there is evidence to suggest that there have been short-term genuine rises in hate crime following certain trigger events, such as terrorist attacks and political events. For example, there was an increase in hate crimes during the summer of 2020 following the murder of George Floyd.</p>
44.	<p>The Community Cohesion and Diversity Officer, located within the Stronger Communities team provides additional capability to nurture and support local community networks, gain insight, and broaden agencies awareness of community level issues impacted by race inequality, discrimination and hate. This officer works closely with the Police Community Cohesion Officer in responding to issues impacting refugees located in the city.</p>

	<p>To give victims of hate crime the confidence to report incidents, and ensure this crime data is monitored, the Police employ a cohesion officer who engages with communities who are most likely to endure hate crime, especially around race and religion. This is fed into their daily management meeting. Changes to SCC's reporting on Hate Crime have been made to ensure reports go directly to Spectrum (CIL) removing an unnecessary step that could delay action.</p>
45.	<p>A Prevent Action Plan is refreshed annually that includes a refresh of the Counter Terrorism Police Local Plan which sets out the situational risks for the city, which continue to be low. A continued increase in reported right wing extremism matches a national trend. Referrals from Southampton are reportedly higher than other parts of Hampshire and the Isle of Wight, but it is unclear how Counter Terrorism Police data is measured.</p> <p>The Channel Panel has undertaken an annual audit and continues to provide a safe and timely response to cases of radicalisation identified through local referral pathways or Policing.</p> <p>The new 'Contain' duty is expected to confer a duty on public agencies to manage buildings safely in light of the Manchester Arena bombings. This duty will likely be managed through Emergency Planning processes in liaison with the Prevent Strategic Partnership Board. A new, Hampshire wide training plan has been developed to support professional learning and promote awareness of Prevent across public services. Prevent awareness training has also been scheduled for all Members.</p>
<p>Residents Views - The Annual Southampton Community Safety Survey</p>	
46.	<p>Regulations state that strategic assessments must consider views of people living and working in the city. The Southampton Community Safety Survey ran from 31st August to 28th September 2022:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The total number of valid responses for the survey was 1,569, • The survey was promoted through the Community Engagement team and Southampton People's Panel - survey was predominately online. • Due to the self-selecting nature of an online survey participants may have more interest in community safety issues than the general population, and possibly different views. <p>Due to methodological and demographic differences; especially in age of respondents, between surveys, any differences should be interpreted with some caution.</p>
47.	<p>With respect to Community Cohesion the survey asked:</p> <p><i>'To what extent do you agree or disagree that your local area is a place where people from different backgrounds get on well together?'</i></p> <p>The majority (60%) of respondents agreed that people from different backgrounds get on well in their area. This has remained relatively consistent since 2019. There are high levels of agreement with the statement across most demographic and geographic groups.</p>
48.	<p>With respect to confidence in the partnership the survey asked:</p>

	<p><i>‘To what extent would you agree or disagree that the police and other public services are successfully dealing with crime and anti-social behaviour in your local area?’</i></p> <p>Just 13% of respondents agreed that the Partnership were successfully dealing with crime and anti-social behaviour in their local areas in the 2022 survey:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This is a 13-percentage point decline in agreement compared to the 2021 survey, -18%pts from the 2020 survey and -4%pts compared to the 2019 survey. • This suggests that whilst residents felt more confident with how crime is being dealt with during the pandemic, people now feel less confident than they did before the pandemic. • The majority (63%) of respondents now disagree with this statement; a 10-percentage point increase compared to the 2019 survey. <p>It is important to note that public perceptions of how the Partnership are dealing with crime and anti-social behaviour can be influenced by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • High profile national events, particularly around VAWG • The coronavirus pandemic when officers were more visible due to COVID enforcement • Social media and the digital presence of police, council and other public services.
49.	<p>With respect to perceived levels of crime, the survey asked:</p> <p><i>‘Do you think the level of crime in your local area has increased, decreased, or stayed the same in the last 12 months?’</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 63% of respondents felt crime in their local had increased in the last 12 months, whilst 36% felt crime levels had stayed the same. • The proportion of respondents who felt crime levels have increased is significantly higher compared to the previous three surveys. • These results coincide with increases seen in police recorded crime over recent years.
50.	<p>With respect to feelings of safety, the survey asked:</p> <p><i>‘How safe do you feel after dark in the following settings? (In your local area or City Centre)’</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The majority of respondents felt safe during the day in both their local area (76%) and in the city centre (66%). • However, feelings of safety continue to be lower after dark; 40% of respondents felt safe after dark in their local area and 30% in the city centre. • Feelings of safety have continued to decline, with the proportion of respondents who feel unsafe increasing beyond that of the 2019 survey. • Respondents with a disability felt significantly less safe across all settings in comparison to respondents without a disability.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Female respondents felt significantly less safe across all settings after dark. Approximately a third (34%) of females felt safe in their local area after dark compared to almost half of males (49%) and less than a quarter of females (24%) felt safe in the city centre after dark compared to almost two-fifths (38%) of males. • Respondents felt the most unsafe in parks and open spaces after dark, with just 13% of respondents feeling safe in this setting; 6% of females felt safe compared to 22% of males. • This is a reoccurring theme, as previous Southampton community safety and city surveys also highlighted that females felt more unsafe after dark than males.
51.	<p>If respondents had indicated that they had felt unsafe, they were then asked if they had changed their behaviour in the last month as a result.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Of those respondents that felt unsafe, 70% (718) said that they had changed their behaviour in the last month as a result of feeling unsafe. • The most common behaviour change was that respondents stopped going to streets or areas they feel are unsafe (59%) and stopped walking in quiet places such as parks or open spaces (54%). • As a result of feeling unsafe, female respondents changed their behaviour to a greater extent compared to males. • 78% of respondents with a disability said that they had changed their behaviour, compared to 67% of respondents without a disability.
52.	<p>Respondents were asked what would make them feel safer in Southampton: Free text comments were analysed and grouped into key themes. The most mentioned themes included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Greater police presence • Deal and respond effectively to reports and/or give out more consequences • Better lighting across the city • CCTV cameras • More control over drug problems and/or users.
53.	<p>When asked about perceptions of community safety issues in the local area survey respondents highlighted the following themes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The biggest perceived community safety issues were anti-social behaviour (68%), people using or dealing drugs (64%), vandalism, graffiti and other deliberate damage (62%), burglary, robbery or theft (61%) and youth crime (60%). • Notably, hate crime (-8), domestic abuse (-6), sexual assault (-4), stalking and harassment (-3), VAWG (-2) have all seen percentage point decreases in the proportion of respondents reporting these categories as an issue. • Over a third of respondents in the 2022 survey answered 'don't know' when asked about the issues highlighted above. • This highlights the opportunity to increase awareness of these crimes among residents. <p>It is important to highlight that people's perceptions of issues are likely influenced by the visibility of crime, personal experiences and the media.</p>

54.	<p>Respondents were also asked if they had been a victim of crime or anti-social behaviour in the last 12 months:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The majority of respondents (62%) in the most recent survey had not been a victim of crime or anti-social behaviour in Southampton in the last 12 months. • The proportion of respondents reporting that they had been a victim of crime or anti-social behaviour (38%) is significantly higher than the previous two surveys (26% in 2020 and 29% in 2021). • However, proportions from the previous two surveys are likely impacted by the pandemic, with the proportion reporting being a victim in 2022 (38%) similar to the 2019 survey (35%). Therefore, suggesting a return to pre-pandemic trends.
55.	<p>If respondents said they had been a victim of crime or anti-social behaviour in the last 12 months, they were then asked to describe their experiences (please note people could say they have witnessed and/or been a victim of a multiple crime types):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Begging in the streets, anti-social behaviour, people using or dealing drugs and vandalism, graffiti and other deliberate damage continue to be the most witnessed or experienced by respondents. • This is in line with police recorded crime, with high volume but lower harm offences most common (e.g., vandalism/graffiti and ASB). These offences are also some of the most visible. • Low volume but high harm offences were less commonly witnessed or experienced by respondents (sexual assault and serious violent crime). <p>It is important to note that the survey is self-selecting, and certain offence types are more 'hidden' than others e.g., domestic abuse compared with vandalism/graffiti.</p>
56.	<p>If respondents had witnessed or been a victim of a crime or anti-social behaviour, they were then asked if they had reported the incident(s):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • For all crime types, over half of respondents did not report the incident. This is particularly concerning for high harm and priority offence groups such as VAWG (74%), sexual assault (73%), domestic abuse (68%) and serious violent crime (57%). • In comparison to the previous survey there has also been significant declines in the reporting of these crimes; sexual assault and stalking and harassment falling by 20%pts, VAWG falling by 15%pts and domestic abuse declining by 13%pts. • 73% of respondents who witnessed or were a victim of hate crime did not report the incident(s). • Reporting makes no difference, not serious enough to report, disappointing previous experience of reporting, fear of negative consequences and happens too often were commonly cited reasons for not reporting crime.
Wider Determinants of Crime	
57.	<p>It is important to not only consider police recorded crime, but also the factors that make individuals more or less likely to become involved in crime; known as wider determinants. This is because if wider determinants worsen, we</p>

could expect to see subsequent increases in crime. Wider determinants such as deprivation and poverty are not just linked to crime, but a wide range of outcomes; particularly those relating to health and education. Examining wider determinants provides an opportunity to understand and address the root causes of crime and to try and prevent individuals; especially young people, from becoming involved in crime in the first place.

Some wider determinants include:

- **Population change** - Young people are at a disproportionately higher risk of becoming involved in crime, either as a victim or offender. Southampton has a relatively young age profile, with the population aged 10 to 24 years forecast to grow 6.7% by 2028
- **Poverty and deprivation** – Southampton has high levels of poverty and deprivation. 33.0% (11,049) of Southampton pupils in state funded schools were known to be eligible for free school meals in 2021/22.
- **Unemployment** – 4% of working age adults in November 2022 were claiming out of work benefits in Southampton.
- **Adverse Childhood Experiences** – Children experiencing ACEs are more likely to have poorer outcomes, particularly those relating to health, education and crime.

The Safe City Partnership supports the city’s ambition to become a Child Friendly City, which has aligned to Hampshire and IOW Constabularies ambition to apply child centred policing in its approach.

Strategic Assessment Summary

58. Southampton remains the most affected CSP among comparators for both the volume and severity of total crime. Total recorded crime increased by 7.4% between 2019/20 and 2021/22 locally, highlighting that Southampton has returned to and is in some cases exceeding pre-pandemic volumes.
- The increase in total recorded crime over recent years may not reflect a ‘true’ increase in crime. Recorded crime can be influenced by improved awareness of key issues, more people reporting crime and improvements in recording by the police.
- The following areas remain a priority for the Partnership: violent crimes, sexual offences, domestic crimes. Having featured previously as a priority, residential burglary does not score as highly given declines seen in 2021/22.
- Repeat victimisation and repeat offending remain issues and are potential growing issues in Southampton. This is because there has been a sustained increases in the proportion of repeat victims and offenders in recent years.
- Findings from the 2022 Southampton community safety survey suggests that confidence in the Partnership is declining. The majority of respondents now disagree (63%) that the police and other local services are successfully dealing with crime and anti-social behaviour.
- Feelings of safety after dark remains a substantial issue in Southampton. Female respondents felt significantly less safe than male respondents after dark across all settings. In addition, respondents with a disability felt

	<p>significantly less safe than those without a disability after dark across all settings. 70% of respondents who felt unsafe had changed their behaviour in the last month; females and respondents with a disability to a greater extent.</p> <p>The majority of respondents did not report crimes they had either witnessed or been a victim of in the last 12 months. This is especially concerning for higher harm and priority offence groups where proportions of respondents who did not report crimes increased; namely VAWG, sexual assault, stalking and harassment and domestic abuse. Although barriers for not reporting vary between crime types, reporting it makes no difference was the most common reason for not reporting crimes.</p> <p>It is also important to consider the wider determinants of crime, because if these worsen we may see subsequent increases in crime. There is evidence that some wider determinants have worsened recently, likely as a result of the pandemic. However, given recent financial pressures and economic uncertainty wider determinants could deteriorate further.</p>
<p>Governance structures</p>	
<p>59.</p>	<p>Responsibility for the coordination of the Safe City Partnership (SCP) moved from the Policy Team to the new Stronger Communities Team in 2020. This includes oversight of a range of connected strategic groups, including the Southampton Prevent Strategic Partnership Board, the new Domestic Abuse Strategic Partnership Board, Modern Slavery Working Group and Violence Reduction Group. This change has enabled fresh impetus to be applied to the operational activity supported by these meetings, whilst ensuring that strategic leads have confidence that key issues and actions are being taken within a strengthened set of governance arrangements. Updated terms of reference for the SCP, including a refreshed Information Sharing Agreement, were accepted by the SCP's members in the spring of 2020 for review in 2022.</p>
<p>Safe City Partnership Activity – 2022</p>	
<p>60.</p>	<p>The Safe City Partnership's membership has grown to include Victim Support and the Spectrum Centre for Independent Living.</p>
<p>61.</p>	<p>An action plan has been created, based on its five-year strategy and is responsive to current trends, with key performance indicators that will enable the Safe City Partnership to better understand how it can impact on priority issues for the city.</p>
<p>62.</p>	<p>The Southampton Business Crime Reduction Partnership (SBCP) is the nationally accredited crime reduction partnership for the city centre. GO! Southampton are members of two national bodies - the National Business Crime Solution and the National Business Crime Partnership.</p> <p>In 2022 GO! Southampton won two awards - the Police and Crime Commissioners award for tackling anti-social behaviour and an award from the Town and City Management Association for our partnership work. All GO! levy payers are automatically members of the scheme and others can join for a fee. Membership allows access to an intelligence sharing database (DISC) where partners circulate details of current offenders and banned subjects in the day and night-time economies.</p>

63.	<p>The Business Crime Reduction Partnership manages a strictly controlled warning and banning scheme for prolific or violent offenders, and this also encompasses those excluded from licensed premises by the courts. Police can also request the circulation of wanted or missing persons, and this has proved to be very effective.</p> <p>A radio scheme for the city is controlled by City-watch CCTV and this allows members to pass on details of subjects, call for assistance and talk directly to police if available. We currently have 261 members on DISC with some 85 day-time radios and 75 night-time radios in operation.</p>
64.	<p>The BCRP provides two full time security officers to patrol the city centre from 10am to 8pm seven days a week providing business support and two further officers for Friday and Saturday evenings to assist with vulnerability of women and girls in the night-time economy. Damage and graffiti is reported by the GO! Ranger for clean-up.</p>
65.	<p>GO! Southampton hold regular meetings with police and council partners monthly/quarterly to highlight issues directly affecting the city centre and agree on five or six prolific offenders to manage as effectively as possible. GO! Southampton and partners provide business impact statements to assist with criminal behaviour orders.</p> <p>GO! Southampton actively support other police and council schemes such as Hotel-watch, CEAG (Community Engagement and Action Group dealing with street attached), No Limits, Hate-Crime network, Street Pastors etc.; and are exploring potential to looking at the application of restorative justice.</p> <p>GO! Southampton have worked closely with the Purple Flag Accreditation and with the Night-time Economy Strategy and Review.</p>
66.	<p>In response to guidance to implement the National Drug Strategy, Southampton Reducing Drug Harm Partnership (RDHP) has been convened, including senior leaders from across Police Health, Social Care and voluntary sector. The Partnership is chaired by Director of Public Health and met for a 2nd time on 15 December to agree the Terms of Reference and needs assessment and to develop the city's action plan. The Southampton Tobacco, Alcohol & Drug Strategy 2023-27 was approved at the Health and Wellbeing Board and Cabinet for implementation from January 2023.</p>
67.	<p>Southampton Public Health Team are working with colleagues in the ICU, Police, Health Observatory, and other partners to complete a Drugs Needs Assessment (DNA). The first draft of which will be shared with the Reducing Drug Harm Partnership and will ultimately be available on the Health Observatory pages. This data is a brief snapshot of relevant prevalence and treatment outcome data to evidence the outcomes our drug and alcohol treatment providers are delivering.</p>
68.	<p>An indicative action plan of Key Performance Indicators has been developed that aims to report to the Safe City Partnership on a quarterly or annual basis on strategic priorities identified in the five-year strategy, or that have been identified as an increasing risk. Work is underway to support reporting mechanisms to achieve this which will enable to Safe City Partnership to better understand patterns of offending, hot spot areas and trends within the city that the partnership can impact upon.</p>

Grants and Funding

69. The Stronger Communities Team has administered both the Community Fund and this year's new Safer Neighbourhoods Fund.
- The Safer Neighbourhoods Fund has two strands:
- Strengthening Communities
 - Youth Outreach and Engagement.
- The grant application process was developed and implemented by the Stronger Communities Team and the fund closed for applications on 14th November 2022. Two webinars were held by Stronger Communities to help encourage good applications in October and November. Over 40 applications were received and are currently in the process of assessment and award, with over £300K expected to be allocated to 33 local organisations.
70. Stronger Communities and partners also work closely with the OPCC on local programmes of support, including grant funding for three years to a range of crime prevention initiatives. A total of £310,08 has been allocated to projects that benefit Southampton SCP in some way, with £206,868 allocated to 9 projects that are unique to the city from domestic abuse support to youth diversion.

Communications and Public Engagements

71. A new Communications Group has been established comprising communications leads of the Safe City Partnership core membership (Police, Fire, Health, Probation and SCC). As a multi-partnership communications group this enables partners to coordinate communications plans together.
72. Southampton Cops is a mode of social media communication used by the Police to communicate with residents in live time, providing updates about ongoing investigations, multi-agency working and issues of concern in local neighbourhoods. This is proving to be an effective tool in raising awareness of local activity as well as high priority crimes that have had a high impact on the community.
73. The Stronger Communities team have coordinated a series of street visits in response to anti-social behaviour or crime in the West, Central and East localities of the city. This involves multi-agency teams working together to visit an affected area, utilising a survey as an engagement tool to talk with and listen to residents impacted by ASB in their area. Themes have included street drinking, motor bike nuisance and drug and alcohol misuse. These visits have proven to be an effective approach in reassuring residents, by explaining what action can and is being taken and to offer advice on how to report problems they experience. This visibility, supported by social media communications and follow up engagements, has been received well by both residents and partner agencies and the team anticipate doing more in 2023.
74. Structural changes to the Violence Reduction Unit have been implemented in 2022. This places overall direction of the VRU's at the centre, led by a new VRU Director located within the OPCC. A new VRU Lead for Southampton has been appointed and will work with the Community Cohesion and Grants Manager, who has overseen the VRU until the changes were implemented.

75.	The Council Community Safety Team merged with the Community Cohesion Team in December 2022. Oversight of the VRU, Partnership Action Groups and SCC's response to Community Safety will now sit together and create a more agile response.
76.	<p>The Partners Action Group [PAG] has been running in its current format since December 2020. The meetings are held weekly with each sector of the city [Central, North, East & West] having a designated meeting for their area on a monthly basis. The issues discussed at each meeting are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Polices community priorities for each of their wards. • Perpetrators that have been referred for discussion by a partner agency. • Vulnerable individuals that have been referred for discussion by a partner agency. • Anti-social behaviour hotspots by ward. • Any Community Triggers raised for the sector will be discussed in Any Other Business.
77.	<p>The Community Safety Team has a team of four City Welfare Wardens who cover the entirety of the Southampton Unitary Authority area. The City Welfare wardens were accredited by Hampshire Police during the summer of 2022 under the Community Safety Accreditation Scheme and can now use the following powers to reduce anti-social behaviour and provide reassurance to all the communities of Southampton:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Power to require giving of name and address 2. Power to require name and address for anti-social behaviour 3. Power to require persons aged under 18 to surrender alcohol 4. Power to seize tobacco from a person aged under 16 5. Power to deal with begging 6. Power to require persons drinking in designated places to surrender alcohol 7. Power to issue penalty notices for behaviour likely to cause harassment, alarm or distress. <p>Some of the common issues [but not an exhaustive list] that City Welfare Wardens address are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Engaging with street attached individuals/rough sleepers and encouraging them off the streets and into accommodation. • Dealing with abandoned property left by street attached individuals. • Unlocking the Council owned multi story car parks and ensuring that they are a safe and welcoming environment for visitors to park their cars. • Dealing with traveller and gypsy unauthorised encampments by carrying out statutory welfare checks and then using enforcement options to remove the encampment. [An average of 17 sites per year dealt with over the last 3 years]. • Working in partnership with both colleagues at SCC and external agencies to address anti-social behaviour within the City. • Locating and safely disposing of drug paraphernalia. [An average of 110 used needles per month located & disposed of over the last 6 months].

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Locating and safely disposing of weapons – Often linking in with National Police Operation such as Op Sceptre. • A visible uniform presence on the streets of Southampton providing reassurance to communities and able to link in to support partners such as police, housing, street homeless prevention, Go Southampton etc.
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RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

Capital/Revenue

78.	The Safe City Partnership currently has no dedicated budget of its own with all costs associated with assessment, communications and campaigns borne by SCC alone. This includes the annual production of a Strategic Assessment, Community Safety Survey, and analysis of the same.
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79.	In order that the SCP can be more agile discussions have begun with SCP partners about support for the costs of administering the SCP, in line with other statutory partnerships such as the Southampton Safeguarding Children’s Partnership and Southampton Safeguarding Adults Board. However, these discussions have not achieved an outcome, with core partners having to consider resourcing to all 14 Community Safety Partnerships in Hampshire and the Isle of Wight which is not deliverable.
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Property/Other

80.	None.
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LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

Statutory power to undertake proposals in the report:

81.	The Police and Justice Act 2006 empowers overview and scrutiny committees to scrutinise Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnerships, and the partners who comprise it, insofar as their activities relate to the partnership, at least once a year.
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Other Legal Implications:

82.	None.
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RISK MANAGEMENT IMPLICATIONS

83.	Risk to be reflected in the revised Safe City Strategy.
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POLICY FRAMEWORK IMPLICATIONS

84.	These will be defined as the work progresses.
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KEY DECISION?	No
WARDS/COMMUNITIES AFFECTED:	All
<u>SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION</u>	
Appendices	
1.	None

Documents In Members’ Rooms

1.	None	
Equality Impact Assessment		
Do the implications/subject of the report require an Equality and Safety Impact Assessment (ESIA) to be carried out?		No
Privacy Impact Assessment		
Do the implications/subject of the report require a Privacy Impact Assessment (PIA) to be carried out?		No
Other Background Documents		
Other Background documents available for inspection at:		
Title of Background Paper(s)		Relevant Paragraph of the Access to Information Procedure Rules / Schedule 12A allowing document to be Exempt/Confidential (if applicable)
1.	Safe City Strategic Assessment:	https://data.southampton.gov.uk/Images/Safe-City-Strategic-Assessment-Report-2021-22_tcm71-463196.pdf
2.	Safe City Strategy	Safe City Strategy (southampton.gov.uk)