

Southampton Safe City Strategy

Priorities and current statistics
August 2024

Community Safety KPI's



Priority 1:
Keeping people
safe from harm



Priority 2:
Preventing
and reducing
offending



Priority 3:
Creating safe
and stronger
communities

Community Safety KPI's

Provisional data from April 2023 – March 2024



Any declines may not reflect a genuine decline, due to changes in crime counting rules introduced in 2023. More information can be found in the Office for Statistics Regulation Publication. [\(Click here for more info\)](#)

Our obsessions

Obsession 1

2024/25:

Tackling Violent Crime including serious youth violence, domestic abuse and rape

Obsession 2

2024/25:

Tackling Theft especially burglary, retail theft and car theft

Obsession 3

2024/25:

Tackling anti-social behaviour through rapid and effective partnership responses





Violent Crime

**All violent crime
down -1.9%**



**Serious Violence
down -19.9%**



**Domestic Abuse DV
down -4.8%**



- All violent crime -1.9%
- Serious Violence -19.9%
- Domestic Abuse DV -4.8%
- Sexual Offences +0.8%, Rape +8.3%
- What do we need to do?
- Make our Violent Crime Hotspots safer
- Reduce the number of repeat Domestic Abuse offences
- Reduce Rape incidents
- Tackle Serious Youth Violence

Continue our public health approach to understand and tackle the underlying causes of serious violence in our city, by defining and measuring the problems, to implement effective strategies and evaluating their impact.

Violent Crime – How will we do this?

**Sexual Offences
up +0.8%**



**Rape
up +8.3%**

- Establish a multi-agency governance mechanism to identify, engage and monitor young people involved in violent crime and evaluate impact
- Work in partnership to reduce city centre night-time economy violence and Violence against Women and Girls (Op Defender)
- Work with the Violent Crime Task Force to tackle violence hotspots
- Develop the domestic abuse service to focus increasingly on perpetrators and family safeguarding
- Undertake a deep dive analysis on Rape and develop a multi-agency response plan

How will we measure this?

- Community Safety dashboard KPI's

Violent Crime – What does success look like?

Theme	Current picture	Proposed targets
Overall violent crime	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Southampton had a violent crime rate of 58 crimes per 1k population in 2022/23 Southampton is ranked second highest for violent crime among comparator CSPs and 11th nationally placing Southampton in the worse 5% of CSPs nationally 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Southampton's violent crime rate (58 per 1k population) to be lower than our comparator average (41.9 per 1k population)
Domestic abuse	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> There were 5,645 domestic flagged crimes in Southampton during 2022/23 Repeat victimisation and offending remains a substantial issue: 30.3% of victims experienced multiple domestic flagged crimes in the year; increasing for the fourth consecutive year since 2019/20 34.2% of domestic crime offenders committed more than one domestic flagged offence in the year, also a third consecutive increase since 2019/20 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increase the number of domestic flagged crimes – through improved identification of domestic flagged crimes and more victims reporting A reduction in the proportion of repeat domestic abuse victims and offenders
Sexual offences	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Southampton has the highest rate of sexual offences among comparator CSPs and 7th highest in England and Wales (296 with a valid sexual offences rate total) There was a +0.8% increase in the number of sexual offences in Southampton and a +8.3% increase in Rapes between 2021/22 and 2022/23 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Southampton's sexual offence rate (5.4 per 1k population) to be lower than our comparator average (3.7 per 1k)
Community Safety Survey	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A large proportion of respondents answered 'don't know' when asked about key issues in their local area, which highlights an opportunity for raising awareness and increase crime reporting: Domestic abuse (54%) Sexual offences (41%) Serious violent crime (29%) Over half of respondents experiencing or witnessing crimes are not reporting them, this is particularly concerning for high harm and priority crimes such as violent crime, domestic abuse and sexual offences Feelings of safety after dark in Southampton are low, both in the city centre (28% felt safe) and in local areas (41%). There continues to be a significant gap in feelings of safety between males and females. Approximately a third (34%) of females felt safe in their local area after dark compared to over half of males (51%) and less than a quarter of females (22%) felt safe in the city centre after dark compared to almost two fifths (38%) of males. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increase awareness and reporting of crimes, particularly high harm and priority offences. Monitored through the annual community safety survey An increase in the proportion of respondents in the Southampton community safety survey feeling safe after dark, particularly for females

Theft – What do we need to do?

▲
All theft
up +17.7%

▲
Burglary non-res
up +20.4%

▲
Vehicle Crime
up +27.9%

- Reduce retail theft
- Prevent offences in our burglary hotspots
- Prevent more keyless vehicle thefts



Theft – How will we do this?

- Work with the chambers of commerce and retail industry to establish a retail theft action plan
- Identify high volume perpetrators and reduce their impact
- Implement property marking schemes in priority streets
- Develop and deliver vehicle crime prevention campaigns

How will we measure this?

- Police Crime data

Theft – What does success look like?

Theme	Current picture	Proposed targets
Overall theft offences	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Theft offences emerged as one of the top priorities for the first time in the Safe City Strategic Assessment • In 2022/23, Southampton experienced 40.4 theft offences per 1k population, which is significantly higher than the national average and second highest among comparators • Southampton experienced a +17.7% increase in the volume of theft offences between 2021/22 and 2022/23 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Southampton's overall theft offence rate (40.4 per 1k population) to be lower than our comparator average (34.7) • Southampton's rate of residential burglaries (5.4 per 1k population) to be lower than our comparator average (3.5) • Southampton's rate of vehicle offences (11 per 1k population) to be lower than our comparator average (8.6)
Residential burglary	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There were 5.4 residential burglaries per 1k population in Southampton during 2022/23, which is significantly higher than the national average (3.3) and highest amongst comparators • Despite a decline in the volume of residential burglaries (-1.1%) over the last year, residential burglary is one of the most severe theft offences 	
Vehicle offences	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There were 2,719 vehicle offences in Southampton during 2022/23, which equates to a rate of 11 offences per 1k population, significantly higher than the national average (7.1) • Southampton has the fourth highest vehicle offence rate among comparators 	

Anti-Social Behaviour – What do we need to do?

**Anti-Social Behaviour
down 30.4%**



- Establish a clear mechanism for community reporting of ASB to help identify hotspots and trends
- Tackle motorcycle nuisance through partnership action
- Reduce ASB associated with begging in the City Centre, signposting to appropriate support services
- Strengthen our collective responses to address all forms of anti-social behaviour across our city.

Anti-Social Behaviour – How will we do this?

- Hold Police and Communities Together meetings in our communities on a regular basis
- Work with police, council, communities and landowners to target harden and respond to repeated incidents
- Establish an ASB coordinator across the partnership
- Establish a multi-agency rapid response service to disrupt anti-social behaviour and engage perpetrators constructively in positive activities
- Increase the numbers of redeployable CCTV cameras to respond quickly to areas of concern

How will we measure this?

- Police Crime data
- Increase confidence in Police
- Increase the community perception of Southampton as a safe city

Anti-Social Behaviour – What does success look like?

Theme	Current picture	Proposed targets
Recorded incidents	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Anti-social behaviour declined by -30.4% between 2021/22 and 2022/23, however, this is unlikely to reflect a genuine decline due to perceived barriers to reporting 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increase the number of reported anti-social behaviour incidents
Community Safety Survey	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The 2023 community safety survey showed that 70% of people witnessing or experiencing ASB are not reporting this, with common reasons for not reporting including reporting it makes no difference, not serious enough to report and it happens too often 67% of respondents to the 2023 survey felt that anti-social behaviour was an issue in their local area Confidence in The Partnership remains low, with just 14% of survey respondents feeling that The Partnership are successfully dealing with crime and anti-social behaviour in their local area 	



Agencies represented

Community Rehabilitation Company
Go! Southampton
Hampshire Constabulary
Hampshire Fire and Rescue
Southampton City Council
Southampton Clinical Commissioning Group
National Probation Service
Office of Police Crime Commissioner (Hampshire)
Public Health
Youth Offending Service

[southampton.gov.uk](https://www.southampton.gov.uk)