



Gosport CSP Strategic Assessment

1.0 Introduction

This report has been produced by the Gosport Community Safety Partnership (CSP) as a legal requirement and it will be used to inform its strategic priorities for the 2020/2021 financial year.

The report contains a summary of the key statistics and issues regarding Crime and Disorder, including Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB). These have been identified through a high level analysis of information from a range of national and local information sources as well as community feedback.

2.0 Demographic Overview

The Borough of Gosport is a peninsula situated on the Solent coastline and lies between the cities of Portsmouth and Southampton. The population of Gosport is 85300.¹ Deprivation is seen at a local level within the wards of Grange, Forton and Leesland ranked in the 20% most deprived areas in the Country and Town in the 10% most deprived areas in the Country.² The health of Gosport residents is varied compared with the England average. Approximately 15.5% (2,370) children live in low income families. Life expectancy for both men and women is similar to the England average.³

3.0 Performance Overview

A range of data sources has been used to help provide a picture of Crime and Disorder (including ASB) however these data sources will have their limitations. The performance data included in this assessment will be influenced by a range of additional parameters including changes in police recording practices, policing activity/focus and willingness of victims to report.

Performance statistics for England and Wales, from the Crime Survey 2019, show the level of crime has remained broadly stable in recent years. National (England and Wales) recorded crime increased by 4% in 2019/2020 and for Hampshire 1%.⁴

Gosport crime statistics show an overall decrease of 4.5% for 2019/2020 and Hampshire figures show a 0.7% increase.⁵

¹ Office for National Statistics (ONS), Mid-2019 Population Estimates

² The Index of Multiple Deprivation (IMD), 2019

³ Public Health England, Health Profile for Gosport 2019

⁴ <https://www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/crimeandjustice/datasets/policeforceareadatatables>

⁵ Interact Crime Records – Gosport district

Despite an overall decrease in Gosport recorded crime the following largest overall increases are highlighted (although figures for these occurrences are low so single occurrences significantly impact the statistics):

- Homicide 200.0% (3 offences in 2019/2020)
- Robbery of Business Property 66.7% (5 offences in 2019/2020)
- Theft from the Person 52.0% (38 offences in 2019/2020)
- Trafficking of drugs 26.7% (37 offences in 2019/2020)

4.0 All Crime

The Crime Survey for England and Wales 2019 indicates the level of crime has remained broadly stable in recent years; the latest figures from the Crime Survey for England and Wales (CSEW) estimate a fall of 5% in the year ending December 2019. However, it is too early to say from this single data point whether this will come to represent a change in the recent trend. All other main crime types measured by the CSEW showed no change, including overall fraud and lower-harm violent offences (for example, violence without injury and assault with minor injury).⁶

4.1 Gosport's Crime Statistics

12-month Period	GOSPORT			
	2018/2019	2019/2020	Difference	% Difference
1a Homicide	1	3	2	200.0%
1b Violence with Injury	957	910	-47	-4.9%
1c Violence without Injury	1590	1765	175	11%
2a Rape	80	86	6	7.5%
2b Other Sexual Offences	176	132	-44	-25.0%
3a Robbery of Business Property	3	5	2	66.7%
3b Robbery of Personal Property	45	41	-4	-8.9%
4a1 Burglary Residential	291	224	-67	-23.0%
4a2 Burglary Business and Community	163	121	-42	-25.8%
4b Vehicle Offences	380	416	36	9.5%
4c Theft from the Person	25	38	13	52.0%
4d Bicycle Theft	296	211	-85	-28.7%
4e Shoplifting	554	583	29	5.2%
4f All Other Theft Offences	573	528	-45	-7.9%
5a Criminal Damage	918	687	-231	-25.2%
5b Arson	50	41	-9	-18.0%
6a Trafficking of Drugs	29	37	8	27.6%
6b Possession of Drugs	117	117	0	0.0%
7 Possession of Weapons Offences	67	71	4	6.0%
8 Public Order Offences	647	622	-25	-3.9%

⁶ <https://www.ons.gov.uk/releases/crimeinenglandandwalesyearendingdecember2019>

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9 Miscellaneous Crimes Against Society	107	116	9	8.4%
Total	7069	6754	-315	-4.5%
ASB	2378	1893	-485	-20.39%

4.2 Violence against the person

1a Homicide – the 2019/2020 statistics showed an increase from 2018/2019 of 200%, this is due to the low numbers for this offence increasing from one in 2018/2019 to three in 2019/2020.

1b Violence with Injury - the 2019/2020 statistics showed a 4.9% decrease from 2018/2019.

1c Violence without injury - the 2019/2020 statistics showed an 11% increase from 2018/2019.

Due to the low figures data trend analysis is not appropriate for the homicide data. Violence with injury shows a reduced overall trend but violence without injury shows an increase.

4.3 Sexual offences

2a Rape - the 2019/2020 statistics showed a 7.5% increase from 2018/2019.

2b Other Sexual Offences - the 2019/2020 statistics showed a 25% decrease from 2018/2019.

Rape shows an increase however other sexual offences show a decrease.

4.4 Robbery and burglary

3a Robbery of a business property - the 2019/2020 statistics showed an increase of 66.7% from 2018/2019. Figures are low so single occurrences significantly impact the statistics.

3b Robbery of a personal property - the 2019/2020 statistics showed an 8.9% decrease from 2018/2019.

4a1 Burglary Residential - the 2019/2020 statistics showed a 23% decrease from 2018/2019.

4a2 Burglary business and community - the 2019/2020 statistics showed a 25.8% decrease from 2018/2019.

Due to the low figures trend analysis is not appropriate for robbery of a business property data or personal property. Burglary residential data, business and community show a decrease.

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4.5 Theft

4b Vehicle Offences - the 2019/2020 statistics showed a 9.5% increase from 2018/2019.

4c Theft from the person - the 2019/2020 statistics showed a 52% increase from 2018/2019.

4d Bicycle theft - the 2019/2020 statistics showed a 28.7% decrease from 2018/2019.

4e Shoplifting - the 2019/2020 statistics showed a 5.2% increase from 2018/2019.

4f All other theft offences - the 2019/2020 statistics showed a 7.9% decrease from 2018/2019.

Vehicle offence, theft from the person and shoplifting show an increase whilst bicycle theft and all other theft offences show a decrease.

4.6 Criminal Damage including Arson

5a Criminal Damage - the 2019/2020 statistics showed a 25.2% decrease from 2018/2019.

5b Arson - the 2019/2020 statistics showed an 18% decrease from 2018/2019.

Criminal Damage and Arson data both show a decrease.

4.7 Drugs offences

6a Trafficking of Drugs - the 2019/2020 statistics showed a 27.6% increase from 2018/2019.

6b Possession of Drugs - the number of recorded offences in 2019/2020 remained the same as recorded in 2018/2019.

7 Possession of weapons offences - the 2019/2020 statistics showed a 6% increase from 2018/2019.

8 Public Order Offence - the 2019/2020 statistics showed a 3.9% decrease from 2018/2019.

9 Misc. crimes against society - the 2019/2020 statistics showed an 8.4% decrease from 2018/2019.

Due to the low figures data trend analysis is not appropriate for the Trafficking of Drugs. Possession of drugs remained the same. Possession of Weapons shows an increase but public order offences and miscellaneous crimes against society both show decreases.

4.8 Hate Crime

Gosport's data for 2019/2020 is 87 offences and the statistics showed a 4.8% increase from 2018/2019.⁷ Hate Crime England and Wales 2018/2019 shows a national increase of 10% for such offences. While increases in Hate Crime over the last five years have been mainly driven by improvement in crime recording by the Police, there have been spikes in Hate Crime following certain events such as the EU Referendum and terror attacks.

4.9 Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB)

Gosport's data for 2019/2020 statistics showed a decrease of 20.39% from 2018/2019 and Hampshire figures show a 15.8% decrease from 2018/2019⁸. ASB can be categorised into three main types and Gosport's ratio of each type is comparable with national ratios:

- **Personal** - incidents that the caller, call-handler or anyone else perceives as either deliberately targeted at an individual or group or having an impact on an individual or group rather than the community at large. It includes incidents that cause concern, stress, disquiet and/or irritation through to incidents which have a serious adverse impact on people's quality of life. At one extreme of the spectrum it includes minor annoyance; at the other end it could result in risk of harm, deterioration of health and disruption of mental or emotional well-being, resulting in an inability to carry out normal day to day activities through fear and intimidation.

Gosport's data for 2019/2020 was 407 offences showing a decrease of 39.2% from 2018/2019.

- **Community** - captures those incidents where an act, condition, thing or person causes trouble, annoyance, inconvenience, offence or suffering to the local community in general rather than to individual victims. It includes incidents where behaviour goes beyond the conventional bounds of acceptability and interferes with public interests including health, safety and quality of life. Just as individuals will have differing expectations and levels of tolerance so will communities have different ideas about what goes beyond tolerable or acceptable behaviour.

Gosport's data for 2019/2020 was 1407 offences showing a decrease of 11.3% from 2018/2019.

- **Environmental** - deals with the interface between people and places. It includes incidents where individuals and groups have an impact on their surroundings including natural, built and social environments. This category is about encouraging reasonable behaviour whilst managing and protecting the various environments so that people can enjoy their own private spaces as well as shared or public spaces.

⁷ Interact Hate Crime records – Gosport district

⁸ Interact Anti-Social Behaviour Records – Gosport district

Gosport's data for 2019/2020 was 79 offences showing a decrease of 34.7% from 2019/2020.

4.10 Domestic Violence

In 2019/2020 there were 1114 recorded offences in Gosport which show a decrease of 1% from 2018/2019 (1124 offences) although Hampshire-wide there was an increase of 9%.⁹

5.0 Community Engagement

The Gosport Community Safety Partnership uses a range of engagement activities to link in with its community, to understand local priorities and to promote Community Safety. This includes an annual event, online channels and participation in neighbourhood level activity such as surgeries and community led events.

Safer Gosport Community Day

Each spring this event provides an opportunity for residents of Gosport to raise concerns about Crime and Anti-Social Behaviour with representatives of the Partnership. It also aims to increase the feelings of safety of Gosport residents through informing and promoting the work of the Partnership in improving community safety in the Borough. Resident's views were also captured on survey monkey which was available online following the event and also at the Blue Light Day during the summer. The most important issues respondents (2901) felt the CSP needs to be addressing were:

- 79% Youth related Anti-social Behaviour
- 65% Cycle Theft
- 61% Vandalism
- 60% Alcohol & Substance misuse
- 26% Noise related Anti-social Behaviour
- 23% other issues (main themes: theft, burglary, drug taking/dealing, street drinking, begging and homelessness)

Qualitative aspects of the survey indicated members of the public were concerned about other wider community issues and some common themes emerged:

- Concerns regarding the reduction in street lighting by Hampshire County Council and the possible increase in crime
- A perceived lack of a physical police station

⁹ Interact Domestic Violence records

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- Insufficient Police officer numbers and their visibility within the community
- Perception of increases crime and anti-social behaviour influenced by social media

Social Media

The Partnership has a good social media presence and the key themes are:

- Bicycle thefts
- ASB particularly related to young people gathering in community spaces and retail locations
- 101 reporting system concerns
- Homelessness, street drinking and begging in the High Street and Town area (seasonal)

Recent introduction of dedicated 'Gosport Police' Facebook page has been positively received and will assist in future community engagement via this method.

Customer feedback

The Council receives a number of telephone calls, emails, letters or visits regarding Community Safety and key themes are concerns around rough sleeping and ASB (some youth associated), although there are no specific hotspot locations for these complaints.

101 Reports

The 101 reporting systems informs the Partnership Action Group process, including tasking and deployment of resources, these reports show key themes of ASB (some youth associated) in Brockhurst Gate, Alver Village Square and behaviours associated with rough sleeping.

6.0 Current CSP Priorities

The CSP has been working towards an agreed action plan developed to deliver on the overarching aim of improving community safety in Gosport. The focus is on three priority areas and progress updates are provided below:

Vulnerability

16 days of action to raise awareness of all types of Domestic Abuse was completed in November, utilising Gosport Borough Council front line services alongside social media key messages.

An Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACE) screening was delivered to a range of CSP partners. Public Health will be providing guidance to CSPs for the future approach regarding ACEs.

The partnership continued to publicise the information and resources available on the Safe4Me website, to help keep young people safe and informed along with the anonymous reporting available through Fearless.

Support for the delivery of the Modern Slavery Partnership Strategy was delivered by raising awareness and promoting reporting.

Timely promotion of the availability of Third Party Reporting Centres has helped to support the intelligence picture in relation to hate crime and extremism.

Promotion of the Hampshire *PREVENT* Partnership Board Website <http://www.hampshirepreventboard.org.uk/> has been undertaken, with links on the CSP website.

Anti-Social Behaviour

The Partnership Action Group (PAG) meets monthly to co-ordinate multi-agency support and enforcement to assist with vulnerable individuals, persistent offenders of anti-social behaviour (ASB) and problematic locations.

The mediation service continued to be delivered by the Community Safety Team to support demand reduction to front line services, with a referral process established.

The CSP encouraged partners to refer young people committing ASB to PAG with a view to identify early interventions (support/enforcement) which could be put in place to prevent an escalation in offending behaviour.

For the twelfth year, Summer Passport was delivered and provided open access diversionary activities for Gosport's secondary school aged young people, during the first three weeks of the Summer Holidays. It attracted the highest number of participants ever: an increase of 21%.

The Supporting Families programme was coordinated by the Community Safety Team providing early help and assistance to vulnerable families.

Online campaigns such as Alcohol Awareness Week, alongside promotion of local support services such as the Inclusion Hub were supported by the partnership through Social Media to allow an understanding of how alcohol affects society as a whole.

Community Confidence

The Homelessness Action Group continued to meet and promote services to street homeless and developed co-ordinated solutions to assist individuals and provide community assurance. A rebrand of the promotional material

was implemented and an awareness campaign using these was supported by the CSP and its wider partners.

During 2019-2020 the Gosport Cycle Safe initiative provided a number of events in the Borough to promote personal cycle safety, bicycle security and cyclists' responsibilities. In total 133 bicycles were security coded and 27 locks were sold. A funding bid was made to the OPCC to purchase additional coding kits however this was unsuccessful.

An exploratory exercise into youth engagement models was carried out, and a Summer Passport Steering Group was introduced to progress this. Other delivery models will be reviewed to ascertain their effectiveness and expertise has been sought from specialist Unloc.

The annual Safer Gosport Community Day was delivered in 2019 but had to be postponed for 2020 due to Covid-19, with online models being explored with Hampshire Police & Crime Commissioner office.

The Hampshire Alerts Community Messaging system and online reporting have been promoted both via social media and at events to strengthen communication channels with the public.

7.0 Future Challenges

The immediate issue across the UK is Covid-19, the impact on frontline services and safety of members of the public, particularly those who are most vulnerable.

Increasing digital communications and electronic service delivery can increase vulnerability, provide criminal opportunities and increase the perception of crime and ASB issues.

Financial and demand pressures on organisations, including the voluntary sector, will impact on vulnerability and early help/intervention.

The forthcoming challenges in Gosport reflect a national picture of complex and organised criminality, a rise in higher harm violent crime and terrorist related incidents.

8.0 Gosport CSP Priorities

The mission of the CSP is to 'improve the safety of Gosport communities'. The Partnership will aim to deliver this by continuing to focus on the following priorities, with underpinning actions reflective of the findings of this strategic assessment:

- Vulnerability
- ASB
- Community Confidence

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