



Gosport CSP Strategic Assessment

1.0 Introduction

This assessment 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 2022/2023 financial year.

This 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 84,679.¹ 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 Approximately 14.8% (2,305) children live in absolute low-income families.³ Life expectancy for both men and women is similar to the England average.⁴

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 for example the Crime Data only reflects reported crime. The data included in this assessment will be influenced by a range of additional parameters including changes in police recording practices, policing activity/focus, Covid-19. Willingness of victims to report crime is also a key factor and sometimes an increase in reported crime can be a positive result if it is due to greater awareness, or higher confidence in, the reporting processes.

Gosport has seen an overall increase in recorded crime of 23.7%⁵ and Hampshire figures show an increase of 14.9%⁶ when comparing 2021/2022 to 2020/2021. It should be noted that throughout 2020 and 2021 lockdowns were in place which had a significant impact on the reduction of crime figures. Lockdowns also affected the crime figures in other ways for example domestic incidents (violence with or without injury and other sexual offences) increased.

¹ Office for National Statistics (ONS), Mid-2020 Population Estimates – Next release of Population Estimates is not due until September 2022

² The Index of Multiple Deprivation (IMD), 2019 – IMD report is produced every 4-5 years

³ <https://gov.uk/government/statistics/children-in-low-income-families-local-area-statistics-2014-to-2021>

⁴ Hampshire and Isle of Wight 2021 Joint Strategic Needs Assessment (JSNA) for Gosport 2018-2022

⁵ Hampshire Constabulary Business Objects

⁶ InterAct Crime records – Hampshire

4.0 Gosport's Crime Statistics

	GOSPORT				
12-month Period	2019/2020	2020/2021	2021/2022	Difference*	% Difference*
1a Homicide	3	0	1	+1	+100%
1b Violence with Injury	910	739	1003	+264	+35.7%
1c Violence without Injury	1765	1681	2535	+854	+8.8%
2a Rape	86	83	90	+7	+8.4%
2b Other Sexual Offences	132	145	192	+47	+32.4%
3a Robbery of Business Property	5	6	3	-3	-50%
3b Robbery of Personal Property	41	39	33	-6	-15.3%
4a1 Burglary Residential	224	186	144	-42	-22.5%
4a2 Burglary Business and Community	121	47	52	+5	+10.6%
4b Vehicle Offences	416	307	300	-7	-2.2%
4c Theft from the Person	38	20	32	+12	+60%
4d Bicycle Theft	211	101	124	+23	+22.7%
4e Shoplifting	583	272	317	+45	+16.5%
4f All Other Theft Offences	528	371	398	+27	+7.2%
5a Criminal Damage	687	652	691	+39	+5.9%
5b Arson	41	19	14	-5	-26.3%
6a Trafficking of Drugs	37	55	43	-12	-21.8%
6b Possession of Drugs	117	210	165	-45	-21.4%
7 Possession of Weapons Offences	71	79	80	+1	+1.2%
8 Public Order Offences	622	715	917	+202	+28.2%
9 Miscellaneous Crimes Against Society	116	130	112	-18	-13.8%
Total	6754	5857	7246	+1389	+23.7%
ASB	1893	1968	1567	-401	-20.3%

*Difference and % Difference relates to the 2020/2021 and 2021/2022 data. The 2019/2020 statistics have been included within the table to show the pre-pandemic crime and ASB figures.

5.0 Hate Crime

Gosport's data for 2021/2022 is 182 offences and the statistics showed a 63.9% increase from 2020/2021.⁷ Hate Crime England and Wales year ending 2021 shows a national increase of 8.97% for such offences.

⁷ InterAct Hate Crime records – Gosport district

6.0 Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB)

Gosport's data for 2021/2022 statistics showed a decrease of 20.3% from 2020/2021 and Hampshire figures show a 20.9% decrease from 2020/2021⁸. 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 2021/2022 was 236 offences showing a decrease of 39% from 2020/2021.

- **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 2021/2022 was 1281 offences showing a decrease of 13.7% from 2020/2021.

- **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.

Gosport's data for 2021/2022 was 50 offences showing a decrease of 47.9% from 2020/2021.

7.0 Domestic violence

In 2021/2022 there were 1,516 recorded offences in Gosport which show an increase of 34.2% from 2020/2021 (1,129 offences). Hampshire-wide there was an increase of 19.9% (29,929 offences recorded in 2021/2022 compared to 24,954 offences recorded in 2020/2021).⁹

⁸ InterAct ASB records

⁹ InterAct Domestic Violence records

In 2021/22 Stop Domestic Abuse received 323 medium risk and 223 high risk referrals for victims of domestic abuse. Although this is a reduction in referrals compared to 2020/21 this is reflective of a change in police reporting processes. Referrals in Gosport have seen less of a reduction in comparison to other Hampshire districts. Referrals were primarily for females (84%) and 23% of referrals were for those under 25 years old compared to the Hampshire average of 20%.¹⁰

8.0 Violence against Women and Girls (VAWG)

It is widely recognised that women and girls are disproportionately victims of crime, specifically violent crime: 15% of all recorded crime is related to domestic abuse and from 2009-2021 on average a woman was killed by a man every three days. The Government Strategy 2016 – 2020 resulted in gradual legislative changes.

The murder of Sarah Everard (2021) and an increase in domestic abuse has galvanized women to speak out and demand change.

The Government's new strategy in 2021 sets out its plan to tackle VAWG and highlights Prioritising Prevention, Supporting Victims, Pursuing Perpetrators and a co-ordinated system

[Tackling violence against women and girls \(publishing.service.gov.uk\)](https://www.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/95421/2021-03-23-VAWG-Strategy-2021-2025.pdf)

The Government has invested in the Safer Streets Fund and the College of Policing has launched a National Delivery Framework for policing violence against women and girls. The the Police, Crime, Sentencing and Courts Bill will place new duties on a range of agencies, to work collaboratively to prepare a strategy for preventing and reducing serious violence.

9.0 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 online channels and participation in neighbourhood level activity such as surgeries and community led events.

Safer Gosport Community Day

Due to the Covid19 the community engagement format for 2022 is being reviewed.

Social media

The Partnership has a good social media presence including a dedicated Facebook page for Gosport Police which posts information regarding patrols, neighbourhood news stories, specific local crimes/incident, awareness of safety schemes/messages and appreciation. Community Facebook pages show a variety of posts made by residents about local issues with key themes of bicycle thefts, speeding/road safety, concerns for homelessness, damage to property and ASB.

¹⁰ Stop Domestic Abuse

Customer feedback

Gosport Borough Council receives a number of telephone calls, emails, letters or visits regarding Community Safety. Key themes are concerns around rough sleeping and begging in the High Street and surrounding areas and ASB at various parks and open spaces.

Police beat surgeries

Gosport Police holds beat surgeries in local areas tying in with Key Individual Networks and partners. It continues to engage with resident associations and neighbourhood watches and hopes to reinstate Local Action Groups to inform priority setting.

101 reports

The 101 reporting system informs the Partnership Action Group (PAG) process including tasking and deployment of resources. These reports show key themes of ASB at various parks and open spaces and vehicle nuisance.

StreetSafe Reports

This pilot service allows anonymous reporting of places where people have felt unsafe because of environmental issues (e.g. street lighting, abandoned buildings or vandalism) or because of some behaviours (e.g. being followed or verbally abused).

10.0 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

The campaign, 16 Days of Action against Domestic Violence, was supported in November 2021, utilising materials provided by Hampshire Domestic Abuse Partnership, to promote awareness of all types of Domestic Abuse. Support has been widely publicised via radio adverts, multiple printed press, beer mats, billboards, and radio and television interviews raising the awareness of domestic abuse and how to access support. Stop Domestic Abuse leaflets are available in 18 languages.

Stop Domestic Abuse has trained 60 Professionals on the use of the DASH (Domestic Abuse, Stalking and Honour-based violence) risk identification checklist.

Safe at Home Domestic Abuse Ambassadors project has trained over 110 Hair and Beauty professionals and 100 library professionals to help communities to recognise, discuss and signpost domestic abuse.

Stop Domestic Abuse has worked with Portsmouth Football Club to encourage men to stand up, take action and work together to end male violence against women.

The Domestic Homicide Review process was reviewed and improved based on training and insight from the charity Advocacy After Fatal Domestic Abuse which provides specialist and peer support.

The Partnership continued to actively support the Prevent Board and Channel Panel Process to reduce extremism and radicalisation. Activity included awareness-raising, specific communications and the promotion of training opportunities.

Digital resources and campaigns for cyber-crime, on-line safety, substance misuse and modern slavery were promoted to a range of audiences and National Hate Crime Awareness Week was supported.

The Community Trigger Protocol has been reviewed to reflect latest Government Guidance.

Anti-Social Behaviour

The Partnership Action Group continued to meet monthly to coordinate multi-agency support and enforcement to assist with vulnerable individuals, persistent offenders of ASB and problematic locations.

The Gosport and Town Centre Public Space Protection Order (PSPO) 2020 for the control of anti-social behaviour and alcohol came into effect on 20th October 2020 for a period of three years. The PSPO signage was updated in the Ferry Gardens, High Street and Stoke Road to reflect the changes to the order.

Delivery of mediation services was successfully reconfigured to a virtual offer.

Summer Passport was delivered face to face, taking into account social distance and additional public health safety protocols whilst entering the recovery phase of the pandemic. Over 590 young people registered for the scheme. Nearly a quarter were from families who received free school meals and Passport was delivered in 8 locations across the Borough. Funding, through a collaborative bid, helped to facilitate food provision and additional activity. The programme was co-ordinated with Let's Get Connected and Operation Wavebreak which targeted police patrols, youth support and diversionary activity at hotspot areas.

The development of a school panel concept to identify and support young people at risk of exclusion when transitioning to secondary school was further developed.

Community Confidence

The Street Homeless webpage on the Safer Gosport website was regularly updated. Homelessness Action Group meetings continued to co-ordinate local support services and address any problematic street activity. Two Saints and Gosport Housing Advice oversaw the Housing First Provision within the Gosport area for six properties. Housing and support is fundamental and wider multi-agency partnerships are vital to ensure this model is a success.

Due to Covid restrictions, there was a reduction in the number of Cycle Safe events held in 2021-2022. The local Police Teams and representatives from the Community Safety Team attended Falkland Gardens, HMS Sultan, St Vincent College and Halfords during the year to offer free cycle coding and crime prevention advice. In total, 78 bikes were security-marked.

Youth engagement opportunities were explored and Youth Voice is now being delivered by Motiv8.

Digital service provision showed continued uptake with more services moving online (e.g. advertising, shopping, customer services). Services that facilitate hybrid working were still widely used (e.g. Microsoft Teams and Google Drive). Social media, TikTok and Instagram continued to grow in popularity, especially among a younger demographic.

While there is limited research into feelings of safety specifically for the local area, there is national research/reports which identify general key trends. The main change in feelings of safety are a decrease in concerns regarding Covid-19 (as restrictions lift) although there are concerns about 'going back to normal' and personal safety .

11.0 Future Challenges

Covid-19 has had a significant impact globally, nationally and locally. Lifestyle changes have increased vulnerability in the home, poverty, isolation and health and wellbeing impacts. Service delivery has altered and the pandemic has produced a substantial digital legacy which not only brings benefits but increases vulnerability, provides criminal opportunities, assists with organised crime, increases the perception of crime/ASB issues and provides exploitation risk.

The Community and Voluntary Organisations that provide vital support to communities are facing financial and operational challenges due to changes in income, volunteer capacity, service demand and delivery models.

Lifting of restrictions in the UK and 'living' with Covid-19 will see new 'norms' establish in society and service providers. The cost of living crisis will also bring challenges.

The challenges ahead reflect a national picture of a changed society, a post-Covid-19 position, a fall in real incomes with complex and organised criminality, a rise in higher harm violent crime, a focus on domestic violence, violence and intimidation towards women and continued threat of terrorism.

12.0 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:

- Community Crime Prevention and Public Safety
- Community Wellbeing and Cohesion
- ASB