



# 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 2023/2024 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 81,900.<sup>1</sup> 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.<sup>2</sup> Approximately 14.4% (2,118) children live in absolute low-income families.<sup>3</sup> Life expectancy for both men and women is similar to the England average.<sup>4</sup>

## 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 4%<sup>5</sup>. 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.

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<sup>1</sup> Office for National Statistics (ONS), Census 2021 Population Estimates

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

<sup>3</sup> DWP Children in low income families: local area statistics, financial year ending 2022

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

<sup>5</sup> Hampshire Constabulary Business Objects

#### 4.0 Gosport's Crime Statistics

	GOSPURT				
12-month Period	2020/2021	2021/2022	2022/2023	Difference*	% Difference*
1a Homicide	0	1	1	0	0%
1b Violence with Injury	739	1003	955	-48	-4.7%
1c Violence without Injury	1681	2535	2654	+119	+4.6%
2a Rape	83	90	105	+15	+16.6%
2b Other Sexual Offences	145	192	236	+44	+22.9%
3a Robbery of Business Property	6	3	4	+1	+33.3%
3b Robbery of Personal Property	39	33	41	+8	+24.2%
4a1 Burglary Residential	186	144	177	+33	+22.9%
4a2 Burglary Business and Community	47	52	54	+2	+3.8%
4b Vehicle Offences	307	300	304	+4	+1.3%
4c Theft from the Person	20	32	26	-6	-18.7%
4d Bicycle Theft	101	124	102	-22	-17.7%
4e Shoplifting	272	317	384	+67	+21.1%
4f All Other Theft Offences	371	398	488	+90	+22.6%
5a Criminal Damage	652	691	714	+23	+3.3%
5b Arson	19	14	31	+17	+121%
6a Trafficking of Drugs	55	43	41	-2	-4.6%
6b Possession of Drugs	210	165	136	-29	-17.5%
7 Possession of Weapons Offences	79	80	102	+22	+27.5%
8 Public Order Offences	715	917	864	-53	-5.7%
9 Miscellaneous Crimes Against Society	130	112	123	+11	+9.8%
<b>Total</b>	<b>5857</b>	<b>7246</b>	<b>7542</b>	<b>+296</b>	<b>+4%</b>
<b>ASB</b>	<b>1968</b>	<b>1588</b>	<b>1217</b>	<b>-350</b>	<b>-22.3%</b>

\*Difference and % Difference relates to the 2021/2022 and 2022/2023 data. The 2020/2021 statistics have been included to provide further context.

#### 5.0 Hate Crime

Gosport's data for 2022/2023 is 154 offences and the statistics showed a 15% decrease from 2021-2022 (182 offences).<sup>6</sup> Hate Crime England and Wales year ending March 2022 shows a national increase of 26% for such offences. This was the biggest percentage increase in hate crimes since year ending March 2017, where there was a 29% increase.

<sup>6</sup> InterAct Hate Crime records – Gosport district – awaiting figures

## 6.0 Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB)

Gosport's data for 2022/2023 statistics showed a decrease of 23% from 2021/2022 and Hampshire figures show a decrease of 22% from 2021/2022<sup>7</sup>. 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 2022/2023 was 118 offences showing a decrease of 32% from 2021/2022 (176 offences).

- **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 2022/2023 was 1045 offences showing a decrease of 19% from 2021/2022 (1294 offences).

- **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 2022/2023 was 50 offences showing an increase of 8% from 2021/2022 (54 offences).

## 7.0 Domestic violence

In 2022/2023 there were 1,484 recorded offences in Gosport which show a decrease of 2% from 2021/2022 (1,516 offences). Hampshire-wide there was a decrease of 2% (29,227 offences recorded in 2022/2023 compared to 29,929 offences recorded in 2021/2022).<sup>8</sup>

In 2022/2023 Stop Domestic Abuse received 324 (2021/2022 323) medium risk and 303 (2021/2022 223) high risk referrals for victims of domestic abuse in Gosport.

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<sup>7</sup> InterAct ASB records

<sup>8</sup> InterAct Domestic Violence records

Whilst medium risk referrals have stayed at the same level there has been an increase of 36% in high-risk referrals since 2021/22. Total referrals in both Gosport and the rest of Hampshire have seen an increase since 2020/21, with Hampshire referrals increasing by 6% and Gosport by 13%. Referrals were primarily for females (87%) and 19% of referrals were for those under 25 years old compared to the Hampshire average of 17%. Gosport demonstrates community understanding of and engagement with domestic abuse services with 7% of referrals being self-referrals (Hampshire average 3.9%).<sup>9</sup>

## **8.0 Violence against Women and Girls (VAWG)**

In Hampshire in 2022 there was a total of 48815 VAWG crimes (224 different crime types) which is an increase on the previous year of 10.9%. The proportion of VAWG crime by crime type in 2022 shows the most common type was Actual Bodily Harm making up 18.3%. Gosport VAWG crime % in 2022 was 31% and the third highest in the County.

Women and girls are disproportionately victims of crime, specifically violent crime: 1 in 4 women will experience domestic abuse and 1 in 5 sexual assault during their lifetime.

Violence against women and girls can take many forms, including domestic violence, stalking and 'honour based' violence. Over the last decade newly emerging crimes include 'up skirting' and 'revenge porn' and the expansion of the digital world means these instances are increasing.

The Government's strategy sets out its plan to tackle VAWG and highlights Prioritising Prevention, Supporting Victims, Pursuing Perpetrators and a co-ordinated system. The Domestic Abuse Act 2021 and Plan 2022 aims to reinforce victim protection and ensure perpetrators face the law. Violence against Women and Girls has been added to the Strategic Policing Requirement.

There have been improvements to women's safety resulting from government strategies, public initiatives and engagement with police, business and schools but there needs to a continuation of this whole society approach.

## **9.0 Substance Misuse**

Substance misuse contributes considerably to the overall burden of disease, social need and impacts community safety.

The Hampshire Substance Misuse Needs Assessment was undertaken in autumn 2022. Gosport compared to other Hampshire District, for drugs, has the highest rate of interventions for young people (33.6 per 10,000 population<sup>10</sup>), ambulance call out rates (128.4 per 100,000 population) and related hospital admissions (14.8 per 100,000 population<sup>11</sup>) and the second highest intervention rate for adults (42.2 per 10,000 population).

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<sup>9</sup> Stop Domestic Abuse

<sup>10</sup> NHS Inclusion data – unpublished

<sup>11</sup> NHS Digital – Drug related hospital admissions, 2020

Gosport has the highest level of rates of alcohol specific deaths (22.4 per 100,000 population) and highest rate for adult alcohol interventions (37.9 per 10,000 population). For substance misuse in general, Gosport has the highest schools exclusion rates, highest level of need for those working with probation<sup>12</sup> and high rates for homelessness presentation<sup>13</sup> which included substance misuse.

## **10.0 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.

### **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. The Gosport Police Facebook page reached over 1 million people for the second month running in March 2023 and this has generate a lot of support for Policing.

### **Customer feedback**

Gosport Borough Council receives a number of telephone calls, emails, letters or visits regarding Community Safety. The majority of reports relate to 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 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).

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<sup>12</sup> Data supplied by South East and Eastern Probation Services - unpublished

<sup>13</sup> Hampshire County Council, homelessness services, 2021/22 - unpublished

## **11.0 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:

### **Community Crime Prevention and Public Safety:**

The campaign, 16 Days of Action against Domestic Violence, was supported in November 2022, utilising materials provided by Hampshire Domestic Abuse Partnership, to promote awareness of all types of Domestic Abuse. In addition Stop Domestic Abuse had a billboard on Brockhurst Road publicising their helpline number from December 2022 – January 2023.

The use of technologies to improve the feelings of personal safety has been explored these will be promoted in the year ahead.

We Stand Together training linked to Violence against Women and Girls has been offered to a number of Night Time Economy premises and is being delivered by PARCS.

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.

Due to resourcing constraints, there has been a reduction in the number of Cycle Safe events held in 2022-2023. Two events were held in April and November in the High Street and Falkland Gardens.

Safer Streets 4 funding was successfully obtained for situational measures at Jackie Spencer Bridge and Elson Recreation Ground. Measures include additional CCTV and Detached Youth Provisions being delivered by Motiv8.

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.

### **Anti-Social Behaviour:**

Summer Passport was coordinated by Motiv8 in 2022 and was delivered in 8 locations across the Borough. Over 700 young people registered for the scheme. Funding, through a collaborative bid, helped to facilitate food provision and additional activities.

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.

In March 2023 the Government produced an ASB Action Plan which focuses on increasing the use of hotspot policing and enforcement, changing laws and systems to take a zero-tolerance approach to ASB and give Police and other agencies the

tools they need to discourage ASB. The CSP will continue to review Action Plan announcements.

### **Community Wellbeing and Cohesion:**

A low key Community Engagement event was held in November 2022 and the CSP will consider the level/style of community engagement for future engagements.

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. In January 2023 the meeting frequency was moved to every 8 weeks due to a reduction in individuals referred and resource demands. Two Saints and Gosport Housing Advice are overseeing the Housing First Provision within the Gosport area, at present the provision has supported 10 individuals. Housing and support is fundamental and wider multi-agency partnerships are vital to ensure this model continues to be a success.

Motiv8 will liaise with young people at their hub provisions to determine what they would like to see in a Youth Directory to promote existing mental health and wellbeing services.

### **12.0 Future Challenges**

Globally, nationally and locally the post Covid society with its new norms and lifestyle shifts has resulted in increased vulnerability, poverty, isolation and has impacted health and wellbeing. The digital legacy provides benefits but also offers criminal opportunities, assists with organised crime, increases the perception of crime/anti-social behaviour and presents exploitation risk.

Service delivery organisations have had financial and operational challenges and new service delivery models have been developed in light of this and often increased need.

There may be challenges ahead from rising inequality, social fragmentation, reduced connectivity, technological changes, how information is accessed and who and what is trusted.

It is likely that recent economic uncertainty, financial pressures and the 'cost of living crisis' will increase deprivation, a wider determinant of crime, which impacts Community Safety along with wider outcomes such as health and education.

### **13.0 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