



# Gosport Community Safety Partnership 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 2025/2026 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 82,385.<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 2,915 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 and policing activity/focus. 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.

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<sup>1</sup> Office for National Statistics (ONS), Census Mid 2023 Population Estimates

<sup>2</sup> The Index of Multiple Deprivation (IMD), 2019 – Next update is planned for late 2025

<sup>3</sup> DWP Children in low income families: local area statistics 2023/2024

<sup>4</sup> Office for National Statistics (ONS), Life expectancy for local areas, 2020 - 2022

#### 4.0 Gosport's Crime Statistics

	GOSPORT			
12-month Period	2023/2024*	2024/2025	Difference	% Difference
1a Homicide	1	1	0	0%
1b Violence with Injury	874	780	-94	-10.8%
1c Violence without Injury	2163	2215	+52	+2.4%
2a Rape	81	93	+12	+14.8%
2b Other Sexual Offences	176	221	+45	+25.6%
3a Robbery of Business Property	4	3	-1	-25%
3b Robbery of Personal Property	47	22	-25	-53.2%
4a1 Burglary Residential	173	148	-25	-14.5%
4a2 Burglary Business and Community	53	49	-4	-7.5%
4b Vehicle Offences	281	302	+21	+7.5%
4c Theft from the Person	39	28	-11	-28.2%
4d Bicycle Theft	110	89	-21	-19.1%
4e Shoplifting	505	521	+16	+3.2%
4f All Other Theft Offences	475	423	-52	-10.9%
5a Criminal Damage	597	553	-44	-7.4%
5b Arson	33	32	-1	-3%
6a Trafficking of Drugs	63	42	-21	-33.3%
6b Possession of Drugs	150	182	+32	+21.3%
7 Possession of Weapons Offences	84	89	+5	+6%
8 Public Order Offences	654	588	-66	-10.1%
9 Miscellaneous Crimes Against Society	115	135	+20	+17.4%
<b>Total</b>	<b>6678</b>	<b>6516</b>	<b>-162</b>	<b>-2.4%</b>
<b>ASB</b>	<b>1070</b>	<b>850</b>	<b>-220</b>	<b>-20.6%</b>

\*The 2023/2024 statistics within this strategic assessment are slightly different to the figures included in the 2024/2025 strategic assessment. This is due to a transition of the Police performance data system.

#### 5.0 Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB)

Gosport's data for 2024/2025 ASB statistics showed a decrease of 20.5% from 2023/2024. This was the largest such reduction in Hampshire.

#### 6.0 Domestic violence

Whilst the number of referrals to adult community-based services in 2024/2025 (n. 693) compared to 2023/2024 (n. 698) is consistent, Stop Domestic Abuse has seen a change in the risk at referral. In 2023/2024 373 (53%) were medium risk referrals and 325 (47%) high risk referrals, in 2024/2025 415 (60%) were medium risk referrals and 278 (40%) high risk referrals. 76% of referrals were received from the police, this is slightly lower than the picture county wide where 79% of referrals were made by the police. Referrals were primarily for females (86%) which is consistent with 2023/2024 (89%).

Of those supported Stop Domestic Abuse has seen an increase in victims-survivors with additional vulnerabilities compared to 2023/2024.

<b>Vulnerability</b>	<b>2023/2024</b>	<b>2024/2025</b>
Mental health	52%	55%
Physical health	11%	21%
Substance use	1%	5%
More than one vulnerability	16%	24%

In 2024/2025 102 referrals were received for children and young people in Gosport. Of those referred 21% were referred by Children's Social Care, 22% were referred following the non-abusive parent engaging with Stop Domestic Abuse and 18% were from schools/colleges.<sup>5</sup>

## **7.0 Serious Violence**

In January 2023 the Government enacted legislation introducing a new Serious Violence Duty (SVD), which requires a range of specified authorities to work together, to share information to target interventions, to collaborate and produce plans to reduce serious violence in their community. This SVD focuses on tackling root causes of violent through a programme of early intervention, sharing knowledge/information to support an evidence based multi-agency 'public health approach' to tackling violent crime.

The Police, Crime, Sentencing and Courts Act 2002 identifies the crimes of concerns allowing a local definition of Serious Violence: 'Most Serious Violence (MSV): robbery, possession of a weapon, violent disorder, riot and violence with injury where a bladed weapon was used.

In Hampshire, the Serious Violence Reduction Unit facilitates a countywide response and has produced a strategic needs assessment and response strategy and SVR is an explicit priority for the Gosport Community Safety Partnership.

### **Gosport Serious Violence Data<sup>6</sup>**

Gosport has a high level of deprivation and is ranked 133 out of 317 local authority districts across England and ranks worse than the Hampshire average.

Gosport has ranked worse or similar than the Hampshire average for all of the identified risks and protective factors.

In 2023/2024, 867 violence with injury offences were recorded by police, giving a rate of 10.5 per 1,000 population. This is higher than the majority of the other Hampshire, Isle of Wight, Portsmouth and Southampton (HIPS) areas. The HIPS average is significantly higher than the England average (9.6 and 8.8 per 1,000) respectively. The rate of violence with injury in Gosport has been gradually decreasing since 2021/2022.

<sup>5</sup> Stop Domestic Abuse

<sup>6</sup> Gosport Serious Violence Strategic Needs Assessment Feb 2025

There were 52 robberies recorded in Gosport (0.63 per 1,000) which is similar to the HIPS average and significantly lower than the England average (0.61 and 1.34 per 1,000 respectively). In 2023/2024 Gosport was the third highest district across HIPS in the rate of robberies. The rate of robberies in Gosport has been broadly stable since 2017/2018 and the rate has remained consistently lower than the England average.

The rate of possession of a weapon offence in Gosport has been steadily increasing over the last decade. It is likely to be influenced by Police activity and it is not possible to say with certainty that this represents more weapons in the community.

In the previous twelve months, the only decrease in recorded offences was for possession of weapons offences, which saw a decrease of 12% although it remains the most prominent serious violence offence in Gosport in 2023/2024. The greatest increase numerically was robbery of personal property which saw a small increase of 14% from 2022/2023, followed by violence with injury which recorded a 3% increase. Homicide saw 1 occurrence in 2023/2024 which was an increase from zero occurrences recorded in 2022/2023.

In Gosport there were 208 serious violence offences in 2023/2024. Gosport accounts for 4% of the total volume of serious violence in the HIPS area. This gives a rate of 2.5 per 1,000 population, which is the third highest rate and equal to the HIPS average.

In 2023/2024, 88 possession of a weapon offences were recorded by Police, a rate of 1.07 per 1,000 population. This is similar to the HIPS average and slightly higher than the England average. The rate of possession of a weapon offence in Gosport has been steadily increasing over the last decade. It is likely to be influenced by Police activity and it is not possible to say with certainty that this represents more weapons in the community.

Of the 208 serious violence offences recorded in Gosport in 2023/2024, 42% were possession of weapons offences. This is the most prominent offence classified as serious violence. This was slightly lower than the wider HIPS figures, which recorded 45% of all serious violence offences as possession of weapon offences. Following possession of weapons offences, violence with Injury (32%) and robbery of personal property (23%) were the most prominent serious violence offences recorded. The same pattern was also recorded across the HIPS area.

In 2023/2024 there were a total of 161 individuals identified as suspects of serious violence. Where suspect details were recorded 81% were male and 19% were recorded as female. Those male suspects of serious violence aged 18 – 24 and 25 – 34 are most likely to be identified as suspects, while for females the most common age band are 10 – 17 and 25 – 34.

There were a total of 141 individuals identified as victims of serious violence. Where victim details were recorded, 75% were recorded as being male, while 23% were recorded as female. It is likely occurrences recorded as NOT STATED or THE STATE link to possession of weapons offences which often do not have victim details recorded. Among males, those aged 35 – 44 are most likely to be recorded as victims of serious violence, followed by 18 – 24. For females, those aged 25 – 34 and 18 – 24 are most likely to be recorded as a victim in Gosport.

The offender/victim relationship was acquaintance 23%, stranger 22% and then 9% partner/ex-partner.

A total of 20% of individuals were recorded as suspects linked to more than 1 serious violence occurrence. Of all victims of serious violence in 2023/2024, 16% were recorded as aggrieved of more than 1 occurrence.

Higher levels of serious violence occurred in parts of the Forton, Grange, Rowner & Holbrook, and Brockhurst and Privett wards. Levels of serious violence tend to be higher in late spring and summer (particularly July) and on Saturday nights. Most serious violence occurs in public spaces and 6% was linked to licence premises, 12% involved alcohol use by the suspect and 9% involved drug use. Of all serious violence in Gosport, 36% involved the use of a bladed implement.

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

The Home Office defines Violence against Women & Girls (VAWG) as: “Acts of violence or abuse that we know disproportionately affect women and girls. Crimes and behaviour covered by this term include rape and other sexual offences, domestic abuse, stalking, ‘honour’-based abuse as well as many others, including offences committed online. While we use the term ‘violence against women and girls’, it refers to all victims of any of these offences.”

In February 2023, the Home Secretary included violence against women and girls in the Strategic Policing Requirement (SPR), reclassifying VAWG as a national threat. This is defined as a threat to national security, public safety, public order or public confidence, such is the impact these offences have on victims, on young people that may be exposed to the violence and society as a whole due to the suffering and repercussions of VAWG-related harm for children into adulthood.<sup>7</sup>

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.

## **9.0 Substance Misuse**

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

Whilst the impact of drug and alcohol use can affect anyone, people living in more deprived areas are at greater risk of harm<sup>8</sup>. The highest levels of alcohol and drug-related deaths in Hampshire occur in our areas of highest deprivation (Rushmoor, Gosport and Havant).

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<sup>7</sup> Hampshire & Isle of Wight Constabulary VAWG Force Action Plan 2024-2027

<sup>8</sup> Hampshire Health and Wellbeing Board - Drug and Alcohol Strategy Update Report 2024

Data is not available at a Local Authority Level, however in Hampshire (2022/23) 61.7 young people aged 15-24 per 100,000 were admitted to hospital for substance misuse. For substance misuse in general, Gosport's fixed period exclusion rates increased from 18.87% in 2021/2022 to 43.35% in 2022/2023<sup>9</sup>.

Data shows that the number of deaths related to drug poisoning, for Gosport was 10 in 2023 and 8 in 2022 and the number of deaths related to drug misuse, was 9 in 2023, 7 in 2022<sup>10</sup>.

## **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 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.

### **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, nuisance vehicles and neighbour issues.

### **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 in waterfront car parks.

## **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 2024, utilising materials provided by Hampshire Domestic Abuse Partnership, to promote awareness of all types of Domestic Abuse. In addition Stop Domestic Abuse led and invited conversations about the pivotal role men play in driving cultural change and promoted Community Ambassador Training, targeting health settings and worked with Primary Care Mental Health Networks to explore training for Social Prescribers and support staff based in GP surgeries.

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<sup>9</sup> LG Inform fixed period exclusion rates

<sup>10</sup> Office for National Statistics (ONS) Deaths related to drug poisoning and drug misuse 1993-2023

Vista Gosport has been supporting women involved in the sex industry to access money management, legal advice, support services and counselling. Vista Gosport has been included in the latest Directory of Services and was promoted at the Safer Gosport Community Day 2024.

The use of technologies to improve the feelings of personal safety, in particular the Hollie Guard app, has been promoted via social media. The app allows the user to activate an alert with a saved contact by shaking their phone.

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.

Home Office GRIP and OPCC ASB funding was secured for the installation of additional CCTV in several Crime/ASB Hotspots across the Borough.

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

In support of Op Sceptre week, communications were shared across the partnerships social media including the Violence Reduction Partnership's Serious Violence and Knife Crime Survey. In addition the Serious Violence Reduction toolkit and associated resources were shared with educational and youth support service partners.

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

Summer Passport was coordinated by the Community Safety Team in 2024 and was delivered in 8 locations across the Borough. 471 individual young people attended the programme of which 18% were eligible for free school meals. The average daily attendance was 180 which was a 4.6% increase from 2023. Funding, through a collaborative bid, helped to facilitate food provision and additional activities. CSP partners including Hampshire and Isle of Wight Fire and Rescue Service, Gosport Police, Motiv8 and Stop Domestic Abuse actively supported the scheme. Police Education Partnership Officers attended Gosport Leisure Centre and delivered education to young people around knife crime awareness.

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 2024, the Hampshire and Isle of Wight Fire and Rescue Service IMPACT Early Intervention Programme was promoted to PAG partners to provide further support opportunities.

Motiv8 were successful in obtaining the contract for delivering a detached youth outreach provision from May – October 2024. The teams had 1988 separate contacts with young people during the sessions. As part of the provision, Community Partnership Information was submitted in relation to drink/drug related behaviours, underage drinking and theft. Staff also made two calls to the emergency services relating to fire setting and a physical fight in progress.

Eight young people who previously completed the Motiv8 Choices Programme were supported under their Choices+ programme. The young people completed targeted 1:1 work around their risks of exploitation, drug use and knife crime.

Substance misuse reduction campaigns and services which address these issues are regularly promoted.

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

The CSP met its statutory requirement to hold a community engagement opportunity by hosting the Safer Gosport Community Day in March 2025. CSP partners including Community Safety, Gosport Police and Hampshire & Isle of Wight Fire Service were in attendance. The 'one-stop' shop information area was located inside the Town Hall with a vehicle display located in Lawrence Square. Members of the public were asked to share their thoughts on community safety which primarily focused around key themes from street lighting, lack of Police presence / patrols and drug and alcohol use.

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 are overseeing the Housing First Provision within the Gosport area. Housing and support is fundamental and wider multi-agency partnerships are vital to ensure this model continues to be a success.

Home Office funding has been used to provide an ambassador security service in key ASB hotspot areas in the Borough since August 2024.

## **12.0 Future Challenges**

Globally, nationally and locally 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