

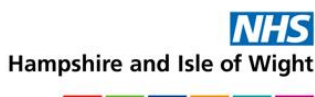
# safer new forest

Targeting Crime and Antisocial Behaviour

## Safer New Forest Strategic Assessment 2022



**Hampshire  
& Isle of Wight**  
FIRE & RESCUE SERVICE



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## 1. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The aim and purpose of this document is to assist the partnership in understanding patterns and trends relating to crime, disorder, ASB and community safety issues affecting residents, visitors and business sector within the district. This assessment will enable the partnership to identify and agree its strategic priorities for the next 12 months. These priorities will inform New Forest Community Safety Partnership's 2023/24 Action Plan which will assist in the allocation of appropriate resources to tackle the issues identified.

In the spring of 2021 and following the delivery of the Covid vaccination programme, the country continued with the roadmap out of lockdown restrictions. Children returned back to education, outdoor gatherings were allowed, retail shops and outdoor hospitality reopened with all restrictions lifted on 19<sup>th</sup> July.

During the extended period of social restrictions and lockdown during 2020-2021, this saw a significant change in the volume of crime and crime types. This period saw decreases in the vast majority of crime types i.e. burglary, thefts, criminal damage, theft from shops etc. Recorded increases were in areas including public order, drug related detections and violence without injury, many of which are domestic related.

With the full relaxation of social restrictions covering the majority of the data obtained within 2021-22 report, comparative data to previous years will be challenging. To support a better understanding data within this year's strategic assessment covers the period 2019-2022.

Strategy & Delivery Group members to discuss changes in crime figures during January's quarterly update on Monday 9<sup>th</sup> January 2023 and consider appropriate analysis and influencing factors of the captured data.

## **2. DEMOGRAPHIC PROFILE**

The New Forest District Council area covers over 750 square kilometres of southwest Hampshire and is the largest of the 11 Hampshire local authority districts by area and also by size of population being 175,800\* (decrease of 0.4% from 176,500 in 2011). However, there is no single major settlement rather a number of market towns, villages and hamlets.

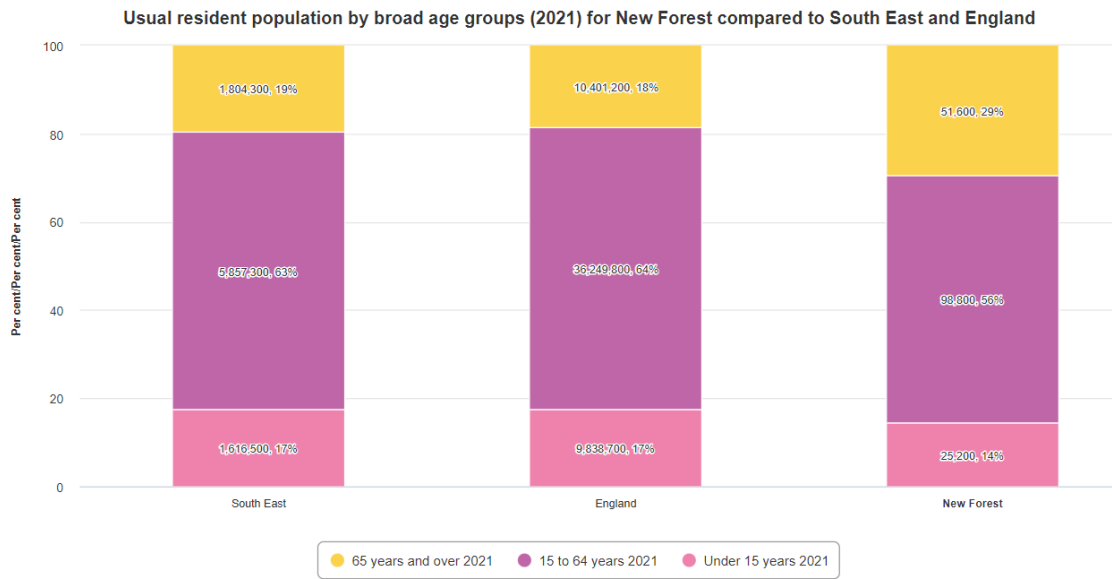
The landscape is dominated by forest and heath in the New Forest National Park and by coastal areas along Southampton water and the Solent.

The core forest and coastal is the largest area in geographic size but not by population. The north and central area lie mostly within the National Park and includes the district town of Lyndhurst and the village of Brockenhurst. The coastal area from Beaulieu to Barton also includes the market towns of Lymington and New Milton.

Totton and Waterside is the smallest of the sub areas by geographic coverage but the largest in terms of population. This area is mostly urbanised stretching from Totton in the north to Fawley in the south. It is the most industrialised with manufacturing and marine activities in Totton and Hythe and the oil refining at Fawley.

The New Forest is visited by millions of people every year to the National Park, the coastline and sailing facilities, numerous market towns and several major themed attractions.

The New Forest is one of the least deprived local authority areas in England and is ranked 241 out of 326 districts and unitary authorities with 1 being the most deprived. However, the district summary masks a few localised hotspots of neighbourhood deprivation.



*Figure 1: Resident population by age group 2021*

The very special nature of the New Forest makes it an extremely attractive place to live; both for those in work and those wishing to retire. Figure 1 above shows that 29% of the population in the New Forest is over 65.

\*figures taken from 2021 census

### **3. SOURCES OF INFORMATION**

3.1 The New Forest Community Safety Partnership is made up of the following statutory responsible authorities:

- New Forest District Council
- Hampshire Constabulary
- Hampshire & Isle of Wight Fire and Rescue Service
- Probation Service
- Hampshire & Isle of Wight Integrated Care Board (NHS)

3.2 In addition, throughout 2022, the responsible authorities have been supported by the following non-statutory members of the Partnership:

- Hampshire County Council (Councillor Representative)
- Hampshire County Council Children's Services
- Hampshire County Council Youth Offending Team
- Hampshire County Council Adult Services
- New Forest National Park Authority

### **4. REVIEW OF THE PARTNERSHIP PLAN 2022/2023**

4.1 The Partnership Plan 2022/23 was formally agreed by the Partnership on 7<sup>th</sup> March 2022. It was published on the Safer New Forest website for public viewing following this date.

4.2 The Partnership Plan identified the following priorities with a named responsible Lead Partner:

- Drug & alcohol related harm – Hampshire Constabulary
- Domestic abuse – Community Safety, New Forest District Council
- Prevention of risk and exploitation of vulnerable people – Hampshire & Isle of Wight Fire & Rescue Service

4.3 Each designated Lead Partner was responsible for developing more detailed targets, identifying resources and a strategy for the delivery of the actions throughout the year.

4.4 The Strategy and Delivery Group scrutinised the progress of each priority throughout the year to ensure its objectives were being achieved.

- 4.5 This Partnership Action Plan is a living document and may be amended over the course of the year to reflect the ongoing work addressing the priorities.
- 4.6 Between 1<sup>st</sup> April to July 2022 the government roadmap out of Covid 19 restrictions continued to be followed resulting in the expansion of online service delivery.

#### **4.6.1 Drug and Alcohol related harm - Lead Partner Hampshire Constabulary**

The District Commander chairs a multi-agency drug related harm forum focusing on individuals and areas. Police intelligence helps inform the group in order to enable members to review data involving substances, look at individuals and families to consider appropriate actions. From this forum actions are formulated to address locations and individuals identified as being at risk or involved in the commissioning of offences. Plans are held by a lead agency with a wider partnership review every 6 weeks.

The forum continues to meet every 6 weeks with positive attendance and participation from partners. Police continue to utilise dedicated and targeted operations to engage with users to divert them to support services, re-education rather than enforcement.

County Lines is a term used to describe organised criminal networks involved in exporting illegal drugs out of bigger cities into smaller towns, including those within the New Forest area. They are likely to exploit children and vulnerable adults to move and store drugs and money. They will often use coercion, intimidation, violence and weapons. County Lines Intensification week takes place bi-annually and continues with intervention work from partners such as education, housing, British Transport Police and targeting areas including train stations. The week is used to engage with local residents in order to share information about county lines drug dealing in the area, to reassure, and to raise awareness of the issues surrounding county lines.

The pub watch initiative continues to be well supported. This is a partnership where licensees form local, independent groups aiming to pre-empt crime and anti-social behaviour within their licensed premises. The group works closely with the district council and police in order to maintain a safe and secure social environment for customers and staff.

For increased awareness and preventative measures against the theft of cycles, New Forest District Council with the participation with our colleagues from Hampshire Constabulary facilitated 8 bike register events across the district.

The aim of the events was to provide advice on bike security, which included a free bike marking initiative. 200 bikes were marked with a unique reference number which is then registered onto the national Bike Register database to enable owners to be reunited with their bikes if they are stolen and recovered. This can also be seen as a deterrent due to the visibility that this bike has been marked.

#### **4.6.2 Domestic Abuse (DA)- Lead Partner New Forest Domestic Abuse Forum**

The Domestic Abuse Forum meets quarterly and is chaired by the District Councils Community Safety Manager. The forum is regularly attended and supported by a diverse range of agencies with all partners supporting the needs of vulnerable victims and contributing to the reduction of domestic abuse.

Forum members submit data quarterly that is collated by NFDC Community Safety, highlighting gaps in service delivery or under representation or participation of specific groups to enable the forum to focus any training needs. Data collated identified service users aged 55+ were less likely to reach out, request support or be referred for domestic abuse support services.

In recognition of this, the forum through the expertise of Yellow Door, provided training to a wide range of professionals, on the subject of 'No Age for Abuse' programme. The Safer New Forest Partnership have been able to offer this training as two webinar sessions during 2022 to support professionals with identifying and responding to Domestic Abuse in a consistent manner. This year's webinar was attended by over 100 delegates.

In responding to victims and survivors of domestic abuse, 1:1 sessions form the majority of support with clients demonstrating a preference for telephone contact. This in part may be due to the victim experiencing difficulty in initially accessing services without alerting the perpetrator. It is also recognised that victims of domestic abuse may not have access or control of their own finances or access to vehicles. Agencies acknowledge that face to face support may be more beneficial in assessing and developing a clients safety plan due to visual prompts (body language, facial expressions), however the choice and preference must also remain with the client. When appropriate, face to face sessions are encouraged to build on relationships with clients and facilitating access to group sessions.

Hampshire Constabulary have provided a breakdown of crimes where domestic abuse was a factor. Figure 2 below in column 1 shows crime by type with the overall number of recorded incidents relating to that offence in column 2. Column 3 shows the number of these recorded offences which were domestic abuse related.

- 34% (1075) of violence without injury reports were related to domestic abuse incidents

- 42% (67) of reported rape cases were from a current or previous domestic abuse relationship
- 35% (420) of violence with injury were related to domestic abuse.

Crime Type	01/04/2021 – 31/03/2022	Domestic abuse related
Violence with injury	1196	420
Violence without injury	3197	1075
Rape	158	67
Other Sexual Offences	304	29
Robbery of Personal Property	42	1
Residential Burglary	740	12
Theft from person	42	1
All other theft offences	862	53
Criminal Damage	1243	111
Arson	64	3
Public Order Offences	1423	87
Miscellaneous Crimes Against Society	177	14

Figure 2: domestic abuse crimes 01/04/2021 – 31/03/2022

The **Stop Domestic Abuse** service within the New Forest supports women, men and children affected by domestic abuse, including access to refuge service. The service provides targeted support to children and young people who live in a home where domestic abuse is a factor.

Figure 3 below shows a comparison of referrals to Stop Domestic Abuse Service by month

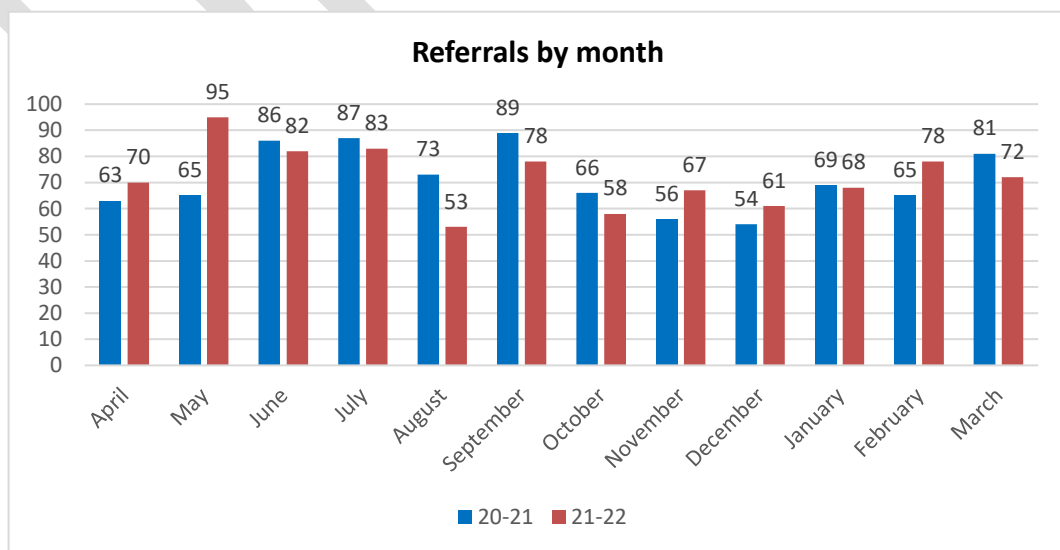


Figure 3: Stop Domestic Abuse referrals by month 2020/2021 compared to 2021/2022

To highlight the impact of social restrictions and lockdown had upon clients accessing services, figure 4 below shows that there was a recorded reduction in clients access to services in 4 out of 5 of these months.

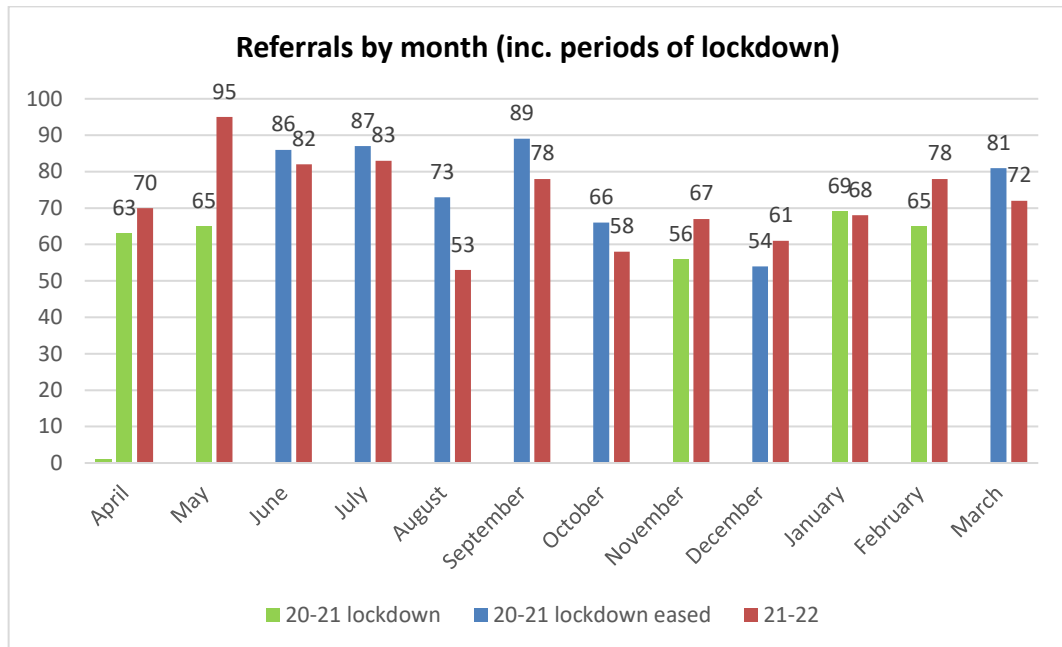


Figure 4: Number of referrals 2020/2021 compared to 2021/2022 with Lockdown referrals

Referrals for male victims of domestic abuse have remained at a similar level for 2020/21 to 2021/22.

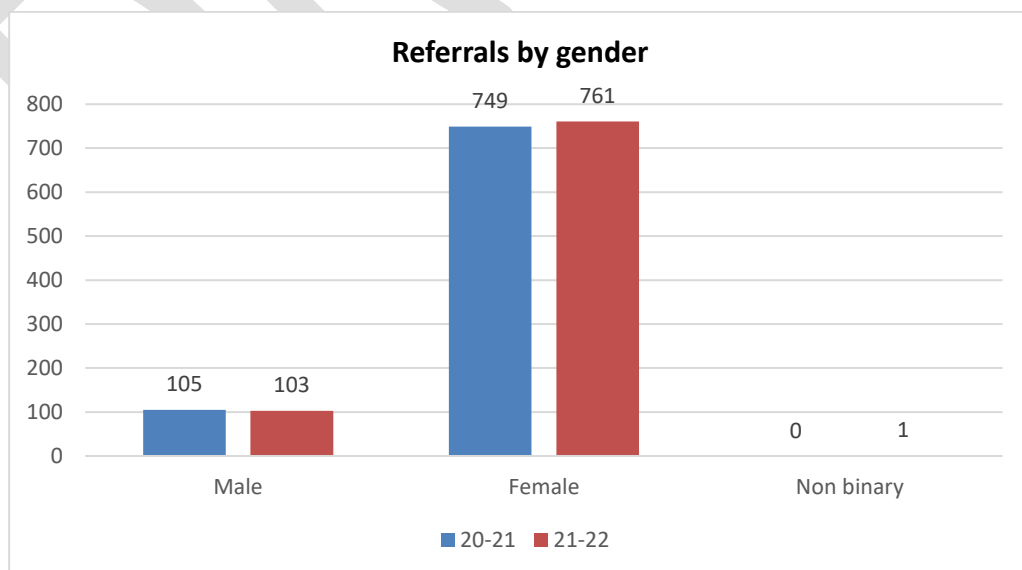


Figure 5: Referrals by victim's gender 2020/2021 compared to 2021/2022

## Age

As a service, Stop Domestic Abuse provides holistic support for all family members living in an environment where domestic abuse is perpetrated. It is recognised that adverse childhood experiences (ACEs) can have a lasting and negative impact on a child's development into adulthood. Following the full relaxing of restrictions and opening of educational establishments, this has seen an increase in referrals for children aged up to 15yrs (71%).

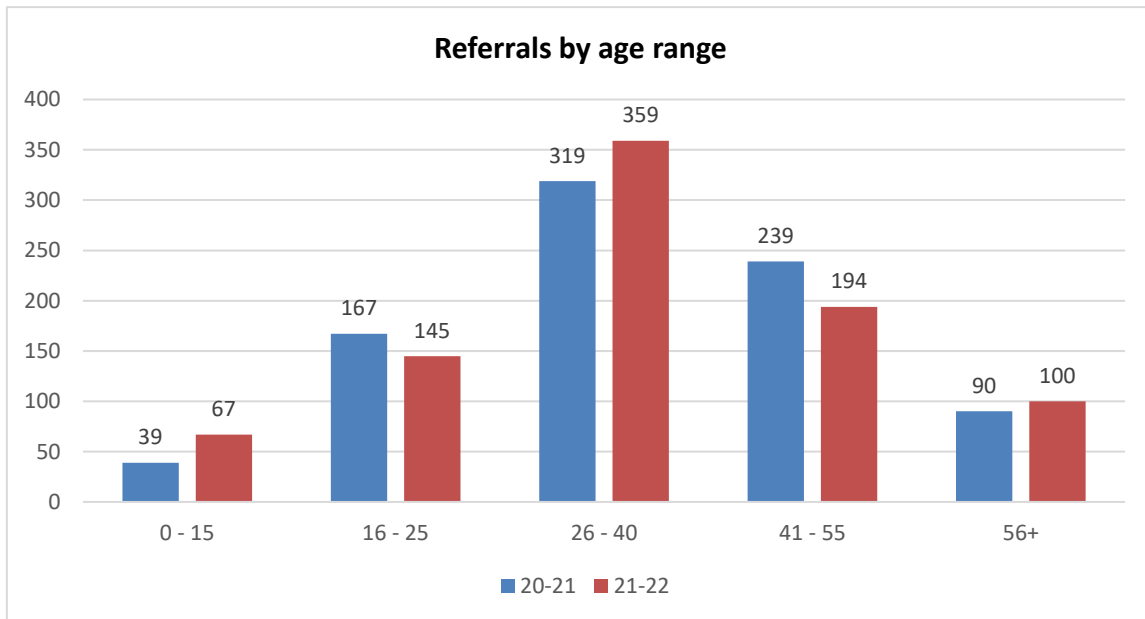


Figure 6: Referrals in by victim's age-range 2019-2020 compared to 2020-2021

## Yellow Door

Also available to New Forest residents is the specialised support from Yellow Door who are a Southampton based charity that offers a wide range of therapeutic support and prevention services to anyone at risk from or affected by domestic abuse or sexual violence. They offer a range of services including 1:1 and group support for adults, families and children/young people. They also support people from the New Forest who have experienced an unwanted sexual experience – their Independent Sexual Violence Advisors help people make informed choices about what happens next, including providing support throughout the criminal justice system should someone wish.

To support this much needed service, New Forest District Council awarded Yellow Door a community grant to provide prevention and education workshops to children and young people at schools across the New Forest. Their specialist advocates work

with people who may be marginalised or disadvantaged and support people with complex needs.

#### **4.6.3 Prevention of risk and exploitation of vulnerable people – Hampshire & Isle of Wight Fire & Rescue Service (HIWFRS)**

Hampshire & Isle of Wight Fire and Rescue Service successfully run the Princes Trust scheme for the New Forest. This is a 12-week course for unemployed young people aged 16-25 who are not in education and are unsure about their future goals. The programme helps to boost confidence, increase motivation and help the young people gain the new skills and experiences needed to turn their lives around whether they choose to find employment or access further education. The young people are pushed out of their comfort zone to help them realise their potential., through team challenges, hands-on workshops and bite-sized taster courses for various roles in the emergency services.

Fire Cadets continue to run successfully at Ringwood Fire Station with one of the cadets being selected to attend the National Firefighters Memorial Trust Remembrance Service in London in September 2022.

Following a spate of potentially deliberate fires affecting areas of gorse and grassland, a Community Safety event was held at Pennington Common. The aim of this event was to provide community reassurance and fire safety advice. Ongoing work with Lymington Parish Council continues to reduce incidents of arson within the area.

From April 2022, 489 Safe and Well visits were completed to people's homes in the New Forest. 30 of these visits and assessments have been following Fire Service incidents, with the remaining requests from partner agencies. Through this collaborative approach, a number of these referrals have resulted in safeguarding measures being implemented to reduce risk and improve client personal safety. A key outcome of these visits is to identify areas of vulnerability and mitigate through the installation of additional fire detection, provision of fire-retardant bedding and onward referral to other support agencies where identified.

HIWFRS team of dedicated fire safety inspectors help to keep businesses across the district protected from fire through fire safety inspections and audits.

During these inspections, fire safety inspectors work with business owners or responsible persons to ensure their business complies with the Regulatory Reform Fire Safety Order (2005). This applies to virtually all non-domestic premises in England and Wales and is enforced as a means of fire prevention. It covers general fire precautions and other fire safety duties which are needed to protect people in case of fire in and around most premises.

The fire safety inspectors assess the workplace, the activities undertaken there and the management of fire safety. This approach includes an audit of fire risk assessments. All audits are carried out following nationally agreed guidelines so that any advice given is consistent and proportionate to any risk in premises.

## **5. COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT**

**5.1** During 2022 links continued with the New Forest District Association of Local Councils (NFALC) and Town and Parish Councils in the area. Representatives from Hampshire Constabulary and Community Safety team alongside members of NFALC worked collaboratively to obtain the views of local communities to better understand priorities and emerging trends for the Partnership to consider and support.

**5.2** Town and Parish Councils were invited to complete a survey pertaining to local views on crime and disorder within their communities. This centred on three key questions around local initiatives, concerns and areas of development:

- What is going well within your Town/Parish area?
- What (if any) are your concerns regarding crime and anti-social behaviour?
- What could improve your area?

**5.3** In response to the question ‘what is going well within your Town/Parish?’, the majority of responders continue to maintain good levels of local community engagement, utilising local volunteers and the use of social media for communications on crime prevention advice to residents.

In response to ‘What (if any) are your concerns regarding crime and anti-social behaviour?’, Parish Councils report ad hoc ASB in local designated recreational parks ranging from occasional loud music, littering and sporadic acts of vandalism. Speeding is reported as an issue in rural areas in Copythorne, Sandleheath & Hordle alongside an increase in outbuilding theft. The NFDC Road Safety Co-Ordinator liaises with and supports the local community in the operation and delivery of community speedwatch events, alongside additional road safety initiatives (please see section 7.1 for more details).

When asked, ‘What could improve your area’ all answers requested additional police liaison and ad hoc police patrols for visibility, alongside road speeding measures.

**5.4** New Forest District Council Community Safety team and the Local Neighbourhood Policing teams, during the course of their work, visit towns and villages across the

district. The partnership is keen to ensure participation and representation is balanced with additional visits to foodbanks, market days and crime reduction awareness events. These provided an opportunity for members of the public to undertake a crime and disorder survey, learn about the work of the Partnership and for representatives of the Strategic Group to engage with the community. With the inclusion of these additional visits, completed surveys were increased by 83% on the previous year.

To ensure data collected is comparative year on year, the same questions were posed as last year. Figure 7 below shows 96% of residents continue to feel either very satisfied or satisfied within the New Forest reinforcing the overarching message that the New Forest is a safe place to live, work and visit.

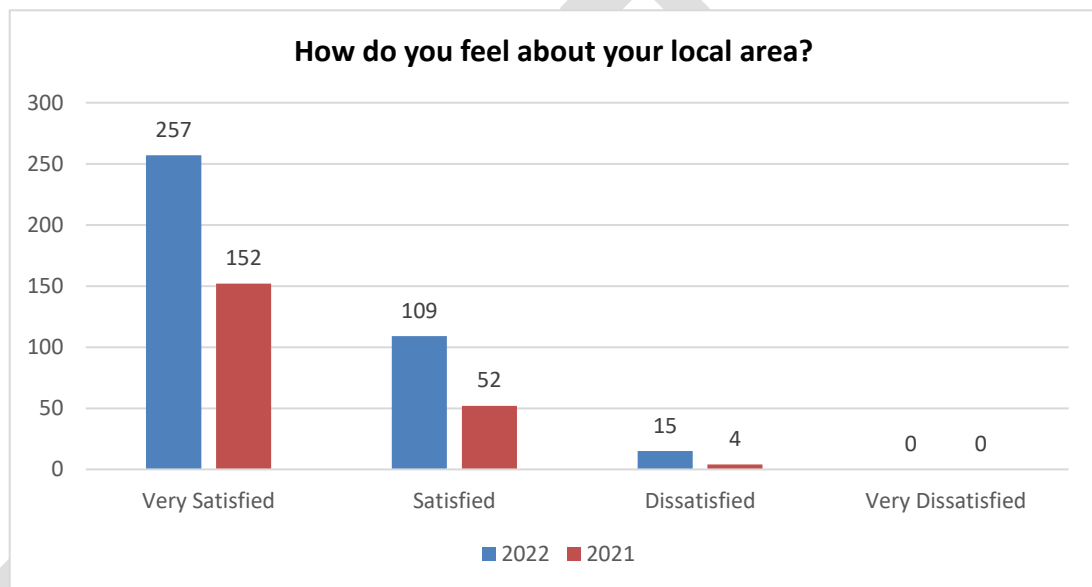
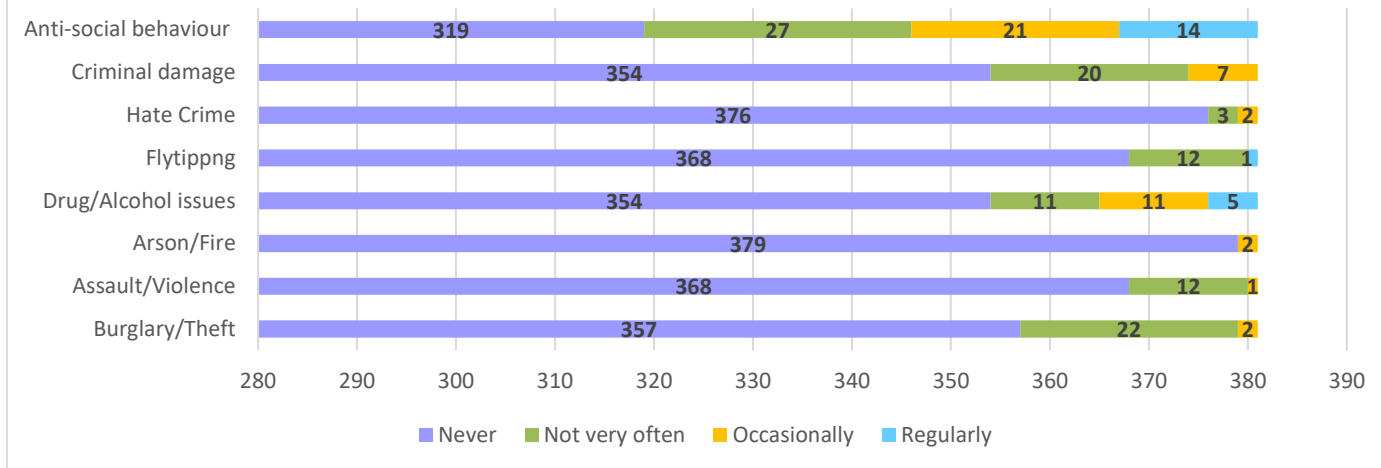


Figure 7: Residents satisfaction with living in the New Forest area 2021 compared to 2022

**From your experience of living, working or visiting the New Forest are you affected by any of the below issues  
2022**



*Figure 8: Residents currently affected by crime/ASB (2022)*

Residents report that although they feel safe and love living within their community, they do have a fear of crime. Further discussion disclosed this fear was driven, not from personal experience, but from social media, news and hearsay. When asked ‘describe one thing which would improve your local area in relation to crime and disorder’ a recurring response was the wish for more Police presence with regular patrols for reassurance and to act as a deterrent. The request was not due to personal experience or witnessing of crime but driven by fear and reassurance.

Other areas of concern raised by residents include speeding within residential areas and country roads and also a lack of parking within residential areas.

Local speedwatch community groups, co-ordinated by Hampshire Constabulary, are being supported by the Councils Community Safety team, increasing collaboration and direct working with policing partners and community groups through targeted operations. With the integration of the council’s speed indicator display function within Community Safety, this localised data helps inform local needs and concerns (Section 7.1)

**5.5** The Safer New Forest partnership wanted to ensure the voice and views of young people within the district were heard and contributed to the assessment and priorities. Working alongside our partners in education through the Head Teachers Forum, an online survey was distributed to all secondary schools and colleges in the New Forest.

83% (123) of young people surveyed said they felt safe where they lived and went to school which is consistent to the feedback received in 2020 (82%). Due to disruption in education in 2021 surveys were not completed.

Comments on what young people most liked about their communities being:

- It's really peaceful and not many crimes happen
- Friendly community
- Amenities are close by
- Being in the forest and by the sea
- Calm and relaxed
- Having fun places to go with friends
- Near school and is quite quaint
- Open and green, expansive walking and cycling routes
- It has a skate park, which is the most popular place to hangout
- It's pretty, and there are not too many people

84% of young people responded they had not been affected by any criminal activity or anti-social behaviour within the last 6 months.

17% (25) young people reported they did not feel safe. Of the 25, 8 young people had been personally affected by criminal activity or anti-social behaviour within the last 6 months. Some reasons of why they felt unsafe being:

- Horrible kids around out late
- Something bad might happen but I don't know what
- Alone outside at night
- Because of lots of the people at my favourite places
- Sometimes I don't feel safe
- Very dark and opposite large woods
- I'm afraid of attacks from other young people
- Groups of teenagers loitering in the park, street corners and local shops
- I don't feel safe outside after 5pm
- Train bridge is unsafe, a lot of drug dealers
- There have been lots of break ins in the area recently

**5.6** The Partnership continues to host a website under the banner of Safer New Forest, providing topical information for members of the public and professionals on community safety issues. Whilst hosted by the Council, it is the combined effort of the partnership to utilise the website for sharing of information to both residents and professionals.

## 6. NEW FOREST COMPARATIVE CRIME DATA

Crime can be split into numerous categories. The table below shows crime trends by type that were committed within the New Forest from 01/04/2019 to 31/03/2022. The three-year comparison is in acknowledgement that from March 2020 to July 2021 there were various lockdown measures affecting the New Forest due to the covid pandemic and the year 2020/2021 reflects these lockdown measures.

Crime Type	01/04/2021 – 31/03/2022	01/04/2020 – 31/03/2021	01/04/2019 – 31/03/2020	Variation By incident
<b>VIOLENCE AGAINST THE PERSON</b>				
Homicide	3	0	2	+3
Violence with injury	1196	1105	1262	+91
Violence without injury	3197	2584	2496	+613
Total	4396	3689	3760	+707
<b>SEXUAL OFFENCES</b>				
Rape	158	114	129	+44
Other Sexual Offences	304	243	242	+61
Total	462	357	371	+105
<b>ROBBERY</b>				
Robbery of Business Property	6	6	4	-
Robbery of Personal Property	42	29	56	+13
Total	48	35	60	+13
<b>BURGLARY*</b>				
Residential	740	637	830	+103
Business and Community	276	253	407	+23
Total	1016	890	1217	+126
<b>THEFT OFFENCES</b>				
Theft from Vehicle	1006	773	1025	+233
Theft from Person	42	41	41	+1
Bicycle Theft	171	127	124	+44
Shoplifting	450	401	566	+49
All other Theft Offences	862	625	893	+237
Total	2531	1967	2649	+564
<b>CRIMINAL DAMAGE &amp; ARSON OFFENCES</b>				
Criminal Damage	1243	1084	1412	+159
Arson	64	32	56	+32
Total	1307	1116	1468	+191
<b>DRUG OFFENCES</b>				
Trafficking of Drugs	65	90	40	-25
Possession of Drugs	265	316	242	-51
Total	330	406	282	-76

Possession of Weapons Offences	92	105	96	-13
Public Order Offences	1423	1096	1013	+327
Miscellaneous Crimes Against Society	177	164	181	+13

For a further explanation on these definitions of crime types, APPENDIX C is included at the end of this report.

The overview of incidents by type and comparison of crimes year on year at sector level (New Milton, Lymington, Fordingbridge & Ringwood, New Forest Heart, Waterside and Totton) can be found in Appendix B.

Strategy & Delivery Group members to discuss changes in crime figures during January's quarterly update on Monday 9<sup>th</sup> January 2023 and consider appropriate analysis and influencing factors of the captured data.

Reports of violence without injury increased to 3197 incidents ↑ 24% and includes incidents of harassment, stalking, neighbour disputes, domestic abuse and malicious communications. 34% (1075) of reports were domestic abuse\* related (please see 5.6.3 Domestic Abuse updates).

\*Domestic abuse – victim known to perpetrator in current or former relationship.

Figure 9 shows a breakdown of violence without injury category:

Violence without injury	Total
Abduction of child by other persons	1
Assault on other emergency service worker: Common assault & battery	24
Assault on police: Common assault & battery	40
Breach of restraining order	27
Common assault and battery (no injury or lasting pain)	1396
Cruelty to and neglect of children	74
Disclose private sexual photographs and films with intent to cause distress	7
Engage in controlling and coercive behaviour in an intimate family relationship	48
False imprisonment	4
Harassment of a person within the home	5
Hijacking	3
Hold person in slavery or servitude	2
Kidnapping	2
Protection from Harassment Act (Section 2) – Protection from harassment	645
Protection from Harassment Act (Section 4) – Putting people in fear of violence	26
Pursue course of conduct in breach of Section 1 which amounts to stalking	153
Racially/religiously aggravated (Section 2) - Protection from harassment, harassment without violence	10
Racially/religiously aggravated common assault or beating	10

Require person to perform forced or compulsory labour	4
Sending letters with intent to cause distress or anxiety	620
Stalking involving fear of violence	7
Stalking involving serious alarm/distress	35
Threats to kill	54

Figure 9: Violence without injury crimes broken down 01/04/21-31/03/22

## Anti-social behaviour

Anti-social behaviour for the New Forest is recorded under East and West areas based on policing borders, managed by the Area Inspector.

New Forest East – Totton, Hythe, New Forest Heart

New Forest West – Lymington, New Milton, Ringwood and Fordingbridge

ASB	01/04/2021 – 31/03/2022	01/04/2020 - 31/03/2021	01/04/2019 - 31/03/2020	Variation
New Forest East	1074	1456	1247	-382
New Forest West	779	1049	1153	-270

Figure 10: Comparison of ASB incidents 2019/20 – 2022/23

Figure 10 shows an overall decrease of 26% in reported ASB incidents compared with the previous year 2020/2021.

The term anti-social behaviour (ASB) has no clear definition in terms of specific behaviour or act. As described within the Crime and Disorder Act 1998, it covers a wide range of unacceptable activity that causes or is likely to cause harm to an individual, to their community or to their environment. This could be an action by someone else that leaves you feeling alarmed, harassed or distressed. It also includes fear of crime or concern for public safety, public disorder or public nuisance.

The police, local authorities and other community safety partner agencies, including Fire & Rescue and social housing landlords, all have a role when dealing with anti-social behaviour and to help people who are suffering from it. The Safer New Forest Partnership recognises that the impact of ASB on individuals and communities can be the most intrusive and upsetting form of behaviour affecting the individual's quality of life. Partner agencies come together to problem solve and action plan appropriate responses to problematic areas or individuals.

In a vast number of complaints that are logged, when the source of the nuisance is advised of their behaviour and of its impact, this is often sufficient to stop any repetition of the behaviour.

Hampshire Constabulary host various platforms for the reporting of crime and ASB. Where an individual is in immediate danger, or the offence is in progress, reports should be directed via 999. However, in the event of a non-emergency matter, calls can be routed via the single non-emergency number 101. Hampshire Constabulary have also introduced an online tool for reporting ASB incidents:

<https://www.hampshire.police.uk/ro/report/asb/asb/report-antisocial-behaviour/>

## 7. Rural Crime – Country Watch

Rural crime, when commissioned, can affect isolated areas of the district. When unreported, this can impede local resources and confidence within local policing. Rural crime tends to fall into one of four categories:

- Agricultural - covers working farms, farm machinery, farm buildings and smallholdings. Offences include theft of equipment or fuel, damage to property and livestock worrying.
- Equine - covers working stables and equestrian centres and includes offences like tack theft and livestock worrying
- Wildlife - includes hare coursing, poaching and interfering with protected species
- Heritage - defined as 'any offence which harms the value of England's heritage assets and their settings to this and future generations' (That can include offences like lead theft from churches, damage to ancient monuments and illegal metal detecting)

Neighbourhood policing teams are at the forefront of local policing supported by the dedicated Country Watch team, ensuring they meet the needs of our rural communities. Within Country Watch there are specialist wildlife crime officers and drone operators to support a number of policing operations. This includes police officers, police staff, specials and volunteers.

The Hampshire rural strategy has been updated for 2022, recognising some of the unique challenges faced by rural communities.

The strategic aim is 'to reduce crime and build confidence in policing within rural communities.

The objectives are:

- **Partnerships** – Work in partnership to protect rural communities and wildlife
- **Victims** - Improve support to victims affected by crime in rural areas especially those who have an increased fear of crime and vulnerability

- **Intelligence** – Improve intelligence and information sharing among partners and enforcement agencies to support our objectives
- **Technology** – Use technology and innovation to protect communities and wildlife and prevent crime.
- **Resources** – Improve the capability of our assets and resources to achieve our objectives.
- **Governance and performance** – Implement governance and reporting to demonstrate value for money and service improvement
- **Organised crime** – Pursue organised criminals focusing joint effort to reduce harm
- **Communication** – Develop communication and engagement plans to listen to communities and improve our service

Hampshire's rural priorities remain as:

- Agricultural & business crime
- Rural isolation
- Game sports and wildlife crime
- Tackling criminal networks and organised crime in rural location
- Environmental & heritage crime
- Rural community crime and road safety

The Rural Strategic Partnership remain committed to improving engagement opportunities to ensure the needs of rural communities are understood. This commitment is crucial and only through an effective partnership can the building of public confidence within rural communities develop.

The New Forest Rural Policing Tactical Group continues to deliver the strategic aim and priorities and has representation from Police, New Forest District Council Community Safety Team, Estate Managers, Forestry England, National Park Association, Verderers, Neighbourhood Policing Team, local neighbourhood watch scheme to name a few.

The aim of the Tactical Group is to:

- Coordinate and drive consistency in the local delivery of Hampshire Constabulary's rural policing strategy
- Work in partnership to tackle criminality and strengthen public confidence in how we address rural policing issues within our communities
- Take an intelligence led, targeted approach to rural crime prevention and detection in respective policing areas
- Provide transparency and invite scrutiny through the sharing of localised policing plans and operations
- Drive communication at a local level which complements, supports and better informs rural communities and stakeholders.

As part of the communication strategy, barn meets have been introduced which provide an opportunity for people living and working in rural areas to meet and discuss issues of concern affecting their community. This also provides a forum to share the work of the police, alongside partner agencies, in their aims to help tackle rural crime.

Hampshire rural crime partnership have launched a reporting system (DISC) for farmers, landowners, river and game keepers and other specific rural businesses. This provides a platform which is managed by Police where information of concern or community led intelligence is shared. The system was implemented in Hampshire following feedback that rural communities did not feel engaged with Police and associated services. This system allows eligible individuals to report crimes, incidents and share intelligence. It also provides the police with a quick and easy way to contact members who have enrolled and provide them with updates and alerts, enabling community members to take preventative action. There are now over 400 members of the Hampshire rural crime partnership reporting system from rural businesses across Hampshire.

Over the last year police have participated in joint operations and community events across the forest. These events have been attended and supported by partner agencies, rural neighbourhood and the country watch teams with a focus on tackling crime and anti-social behaviour.

A multi-agency operation (Op Mountie) was launched to combat and reduce the number of animal collisions and deaths across the New Forest, in particular on rural roads. Nearly 100 drivers have been stopped and educated about the dangers of speeding on New Forest roads since November 2021.

This targeted approach comes after a high number of road traffic incidents involving New Forest ponies and wild deer on Roger Penny Way and surrounding roads in the New Forest. The police-led multi-agency approach was launched in conjunction with the New Forest Animal Accident Group which is supported by a number of partners including Forestry England, New Forest National Park Authority and New Forest District Council.

Between 1<sup>st</sup> November 2021 and 1<sup>st</sup> February 2022:

- 86 vehicles were stopped for speeding offences
- 16 people were processed for speeding offences and having an invalid licence
- 69 motorists received educational advice from partner agencies who form the New Forest Accident Group
- 3 vehicles were seized due to no insurance or valid driving licence being held.

The operation is also supported by the Safer Roads Unit Mobile Camera Team and resulted in a further 112 fixed penalty notices being issued for speeding offences

along Roger Penny Way, the B0379 and the A31 between Stoney Cross and Emery Down.

With the support of the Hampshire Police Crime Commissioner funding has been agreed for a 12-month rural crime analyst and researcher. This role is to establish and clarify data counting rules and processes in line with rural crime definitions, to collectively identify and review rural crime with more accuracy. Initial data highlights around 30% more rural crime offending is recorded under other crime types (e.g., hare coursing within criminal damage). Further work is being completed to support improvement of data integrity issues such as improving the quantitative measure of the cost of rural crime, including working with commercial partners such as National Farmers Union (NFU) Mutual. With the support of the analyst, it is envisaged recording of rural crime will increase as data accuracy improves.

The Constabulary recognises the importance the community has in crime prevention and awareness. To support and manage volunteers, a Rural Coordinator has been appointed to develop recruitment and training, particularly in relation to mounted rural patrol and humane animal dispatch. The coordinator is also managing the new DISC system as mentioned above.

Country Watch continue to support volunteers and active citizenship. Dog watch was initially set up pre-pandemic in the New Forest and to improve participation it has been relaunched this year increasing public awareness. The scheme encourages dog walkers to be proactive and vigilant in their area while out walking their dogs. This includes spotting suspicious activity or vehicle, anti-social behaviour, fly tipping, dog related incidents including hare coursing and livestock worrying. Members are not authorised or trained to intervene directly but to report via 101.

## **8. ADDITIONAL NEW FOREST DATA**

### **8.1 Road Safety and Community Speedwatch Initiative**

New Forest District Council is committed to the reduction of road related incidents and driver compliance with designated speeds. The Council undertake speed measurements across the district where speeding is identified as a factor or contributing issue to road incidents. Evidence is gathered through the deployment of fixed terminal displays or speed indicators.

To inform driver awareness and reduce incidents of speeding, the Council utilise three types of devices. These devices are normally deployed for a period not exceeding one week and can be redirected capturing alternative flow of traffic and where required, reinstated to the same location throughout the year.

Speed Limit Reminder (SLR) – This device is a large sign that flashes the speed of the approaching vehicle. This does not collect any data.

Speed Indicator Device (SID) – This unit displays the speed of the approaching vehicle. Data is stored demonstrating the number of vehicles which failed to comply with the designated speed, including date and time of incident. This does not record vehicle index number or vehicle characteristics.

Speed Detection Radar (SDR) – This is a discreet black box that is used to measure and record the speed of vehicles and overall volume of traffic including dates and times. This does not have a visual display advising motorists as the data is to inform on further interventions.

Data obtained from the SIDs and SDRs help inform decision making by Hampshire Highways who have operational responsibility for the setting of speed restrictions and signage on public highways.

Following any incident of a road fatality, where there is a suitable and safe location identified, a Speed Indicator Device may be deployed to identify if speeding is an issue and to support a better understanding of vehicle use and demand.

Other factors for deployments of SIDs are:

- Serious reported accidents
- Slight reported accidents
- Community speedwatch
- Requests/areas of concern through collaborative work with Town and Parish Councils.

Figure 11 below shows deployments or the year 1<sup>st</sup> April 2021 to 31<sup>st</sup> March 2022:

	SID	SLR	SDR
Target	46	25	20
Programmed	51	25	21

Figure 11: Deployments for 1<sup>st</sup> April 2021 - 31<sup>st</sup> March 2022

The NFDC Road Safety Co-Ordinator liaises with and supports the local community in the operation and delivery of community speedwatch events. This joint approach is supported by Hampshire Constabulary with the aim of achieving safer driving across the district. [Community Speedwatch | Hampshire Constabulary](#)

## 8.2 Fly-tipping

Fly-tipping is the illegal dumping of any waste, no matter how large or small, onto any land or at any site that does not have a licence to accept the waste. It can damage the environment and pose a danger to public health. Fly-tipping is an offence under the Environmental Protection Act 1990. Offenders can face an unlimited fine, a criminal record and a prison sentence.

Fly-tipping can be divided into large scale industrial waste, such as building and refurbishment of premises and the smaller fly tips which tend to be room or house clearance. In addition, there is a significant amount of 'green' fly tipping which can seriously affect the biodiversity of a local area.

NFDC have a dedicated team led by an Environmental Enforcement Officer and, working with NFDC waste teams, attend sites of fly tipping. The Enforcement team have been trained to retrieve and obtain any evidence from the waste identifying persons responsible for the Environmental Enforcement team to follow up and undertake action where appropriate.

Since 1<sup>st</sup> April 2021-31<sup>st</sup> March 2022 (period covered within this assessment) this has resulted in the issue of over 103 Fixed Penalty Notices for fly tipping and 8 for littering offences.

In addition, the NFDC enforcement team have been undertaking proactive visits to businesses to ensure they are complying with commercial/business waste disposal regulations. This approach has resulted in an additional 154 waste collection arrangements being put in place. 127 fixed penalty notices were issued to businesses for failing to provide details of their business waste collection arrangements following 7 days production notice being issued.

To prevent the illegal carrying and disposal of waste material, a number of joint operations between New Forest District Council, Hampshire Constabulary, National Park Authority, Environment Agency and also Vehicle and Operator Services Agency (VOSA) were undertaken. Through the setting up of pre-designated stop check zones, a number of services were able to check for vehicle condition, licence to carry waste and driver documents. This proactive approach resulted in 2 vehicles found illegally carrying waste were seized and subsequently destroyed due to the drivers being unable to provide relevant documentation. Each targeted intervention results in the engagement with 60 to 80 trucks, vans and other vehicles, ensuring compliance and safety are being adhered to.

### **8.3 New Forest District Council Environmental Health**

The Safety Advisory Group (SAG) is a collective of agencies with a function or interest in public safety that come together to assess plans for events where there might be issues for public safety. Core members of the SAG in the New Forest include New Forest District Council, Hampshire Constabulary, Hampshire and Isle of Wight Fire & Rescue Service, Licensing, Traffic/Highways Agency, New Forest National Park Authority.

The Safety Advisory Group reviews event plans, including risk management and operational measures and offers advice to ensure high standards of public safety is maintained. Members are able to consider the wellbeing of those likely to be affected by such events, both those attending or participating, and those in the surrounding area.

For the year 1<sup>st</sup> April 2021 – 31<sup>st</sup> March 2022 86 applications were submitted for review and consideration by the Safety Advisory Group prior to approval.

The SAG process is not designed to consider all events in the New Forest. It is primarily for larger events in terms of expected attendees, events with the potential hazards such as firework displays, and events which may impact local people with consideration also being given to the profile of the audience.

There is no legal requirement for organisers to participate, but it is seen as good practice, providing event organisers with expert advice by SAG members.

### **8.4 Probation Service**

The Probation Service is a statutory criminal justice service that supervises individuals who have been convicted of criminal offences and have subsequently been sentenced to Community Orders / Suspended Sentence Orders or periods of imprisonment. When a person has been in prison, they are usually released on a “licence” that contains both standard and bespoke conditions to mitigate the identified risks. Licensees face a return to prison for the remainder of the sentence if any of these conditions are breached, or if evidence emerges to suggest that risks are increasing and a further offence could occur.

Further to partial privatisation of Probation Services in 2014, the National Probation Service and the Hampshire and Isle of Wight Community Rehabilitation Company (CRC) were reunified on 26<sup>th</sup> June 2021 to become the Probation Service. Previously,

the National Probation Service had undertaken the assessment and supervision of all registered sex offenders, irrespective of assessed risk level, and had also managed other offenders assessed as posing a high risk of serious harm; whilst the CRC had supervised those assessed as posing a Low or Medium risk of serious harm. Further to reunification, the local Service has undergone extensive restructuring and the Southampton, Eastleigh and New Forest Probation Delivery Unit (PDU) is now established. Within the New Forest, those subject to Probation Service supervision report to their supervisors at premises in either Lymington or Southampton, with other contacts taking place in the community as required.

The priorities of the Probation Service are to reduce reoffending and to protect the public through the robust management of Court Orders and licences. Sentence Management activity involves the delivery of structured intervention work alongside activities and programmes focussed on rehabilitation, to improve the criminogenic needs of offenders subject to management. The Probation Service work closely with a number of other agencies to manage the risks posed by those under their supervision, and commission a wide range of bespoke services from partnership agencies in order to address areas of need that influence offending behaviour.

The Probation Service manage any individual over the age of 18, convicted of a criminal offence that has led to a sentence of a Community or Suspended Sentence Order and any period of custody exceeding one day.

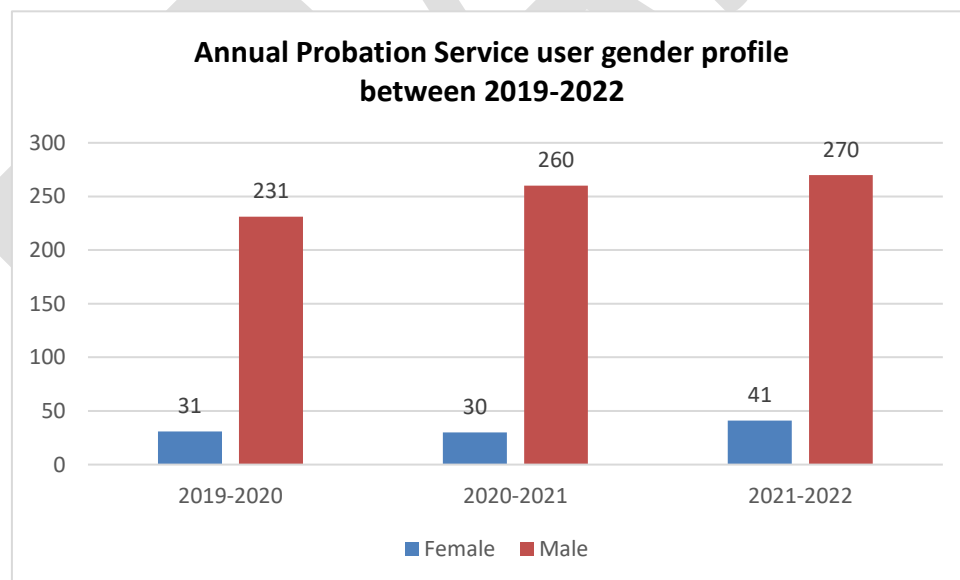


Figure 12: Service user by gender comparison 2019/20, 2020/21 & 2021/22

Figure 12 above shows that the number of male to female cases remains relatively static with the significant proportion of individuals subject to offender management being male. This mirrors the long-term national picture.

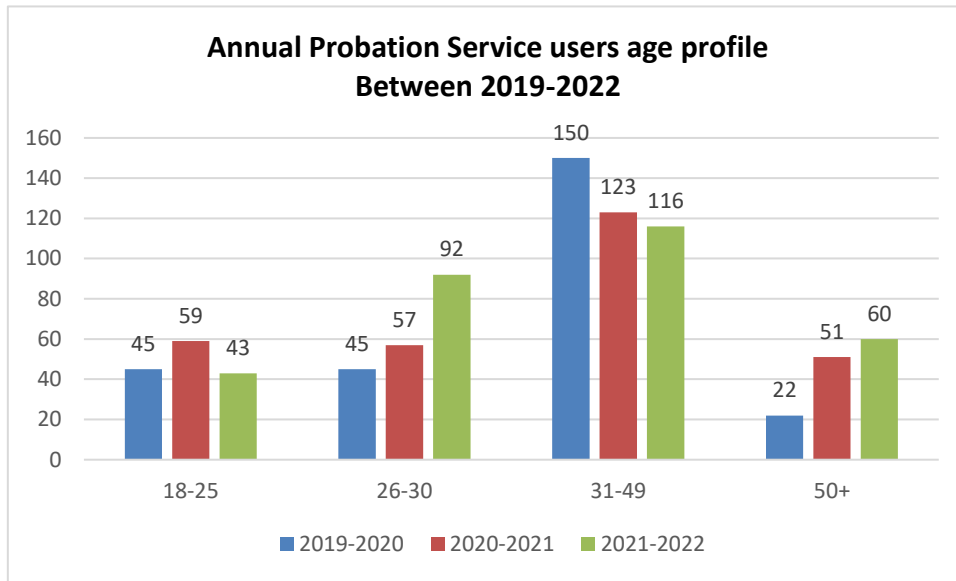


Figure 13: Service users by age comparison 2019/20, 2020/21 & 2021/22

Figure 13 above shows there have been small decreases in the 18-25 profile and 31-49 profile. Figures between 2020-21 to 2021-22 demonstrates an increase in management of offenders aged 26-30 and 50+. Overall, this shows an annual increase of 7% of offender management cases.

Further aggregation of data is required to identify any common or influencing factors in particular between offenders aged between 26-30 which shows an increase of 61% within that age profile.

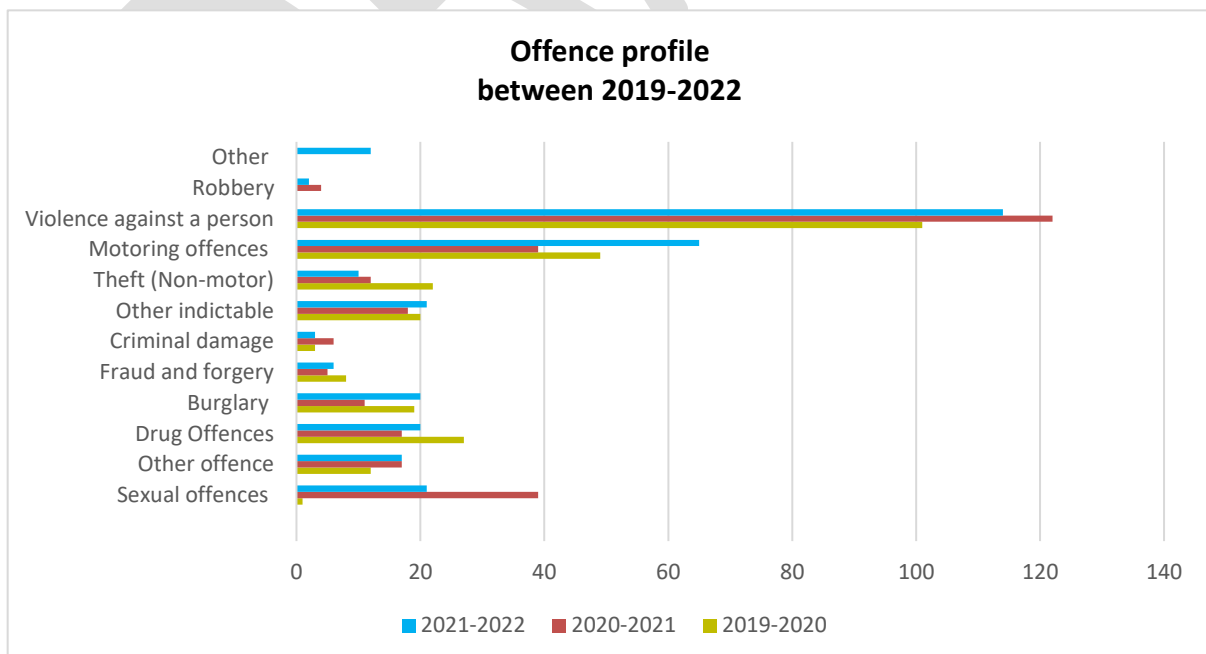


Figure 14: Service User by offence category comparison

Persons subjected to a conviction and under offender management for the period 2021-22 indicate the following reductions:

- Violence against a person ↓6.5%
- Robbery ↓ 50%
- Theft ↓ 16%
- Criminal damage ↓50%
- Sexual offences ↓46%

The offender management period covered April 2021 to March 2022 coincides with the lifting of full social covid restrictions in the first quarter, commencing July 2021. Offence profiles are commensurate with these changes:

- Burglary ↑ 81%
- Motoring ↑ 66%
- Drug ↑ 17%

## 8.5 Hampshire Youth Offending

Hampshire Youth Offending Team (HYOT) is a multi-agency team comprising of staff from Children's Services, Probation, Police, Health and volunteers.

Hampshire Youth Offending Team's objectives are to see fewer children and young people involved in the criminal justice system. This will reduce the number of potential victims of crime and promote the confidence and safety of our local communities.

The service aim to maximise the potential of every child and young person delivering quality assessments and interventions which will supporting the reduction of reoffending and protect the public by:

- Supporting and supervising children and young people who have been made the subject of a court order because they have committed a criminal offence.
- Assessing and providing interventions for children and young people who are at risk of offending, or who have received a youth restorative disposal, final warning or youth conditional caution administered by the Police.
- Acting as an appropriate adult (in the absence of a parent/guardian) for children and young people held in custody at a police station.
- Providing support for young people on bail.

- Preparing reports and other information for courts in criminal proceedings so that informed judgements can be made by the judiciary.
- Working with parents to help them develop better parenting skills.
- Offering the victims of crime the opportunity to get involved in restorative processes and meet the young person who offended against them. This can help the young person understand the impact of their offending behaviour and most importantly repair the harm caused to the victim.

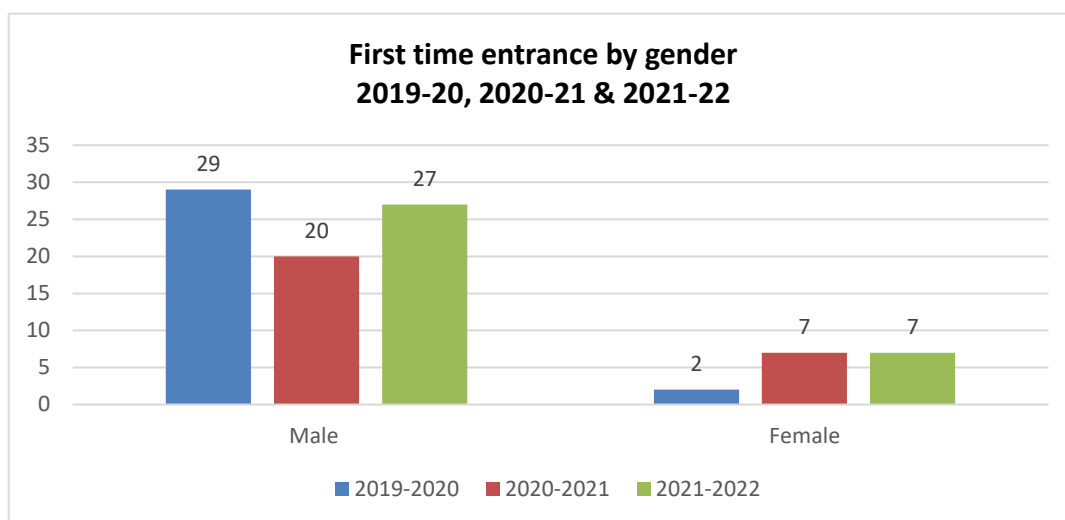


Figure 15: Gender of young person for first entrant data 2019-2022

AGE	2019-2020	2020-2021	2021-2022
11	1	1	1
12	1	2	2
13	4	1	7
14	4	6	9
15	6	6	7
16	9	8	5
17	6	3	3
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>34</b>

Figure 16: Age of young person for first entrant data 2019-2022

First Entrant Data - Offences by type & gender			
	2019-2020	2020-2021	2021-2022
Arson	0	0	2
Criminal damage	2	5	5
Drugs	3	2	4
Fraud & Forgery	0	1	0
Motoring offences	0	2	2
Non-domestic burglary	5	0	1
Domestic burglary	0	1	0

Other	0	0	1
Public order	0	2	2
Racially Aggravated	1	0	1
Robbery	1	0	0
Sexual offences	1	0	3
Theft and handling	1	1	0
Vehicle theft	0	0	0
Violence against the person	17	13	13
<b>Total</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>34</b>

Figure 17: First time entrant data by offences and gender, 2019/20, 2020/2021 & 2021/22

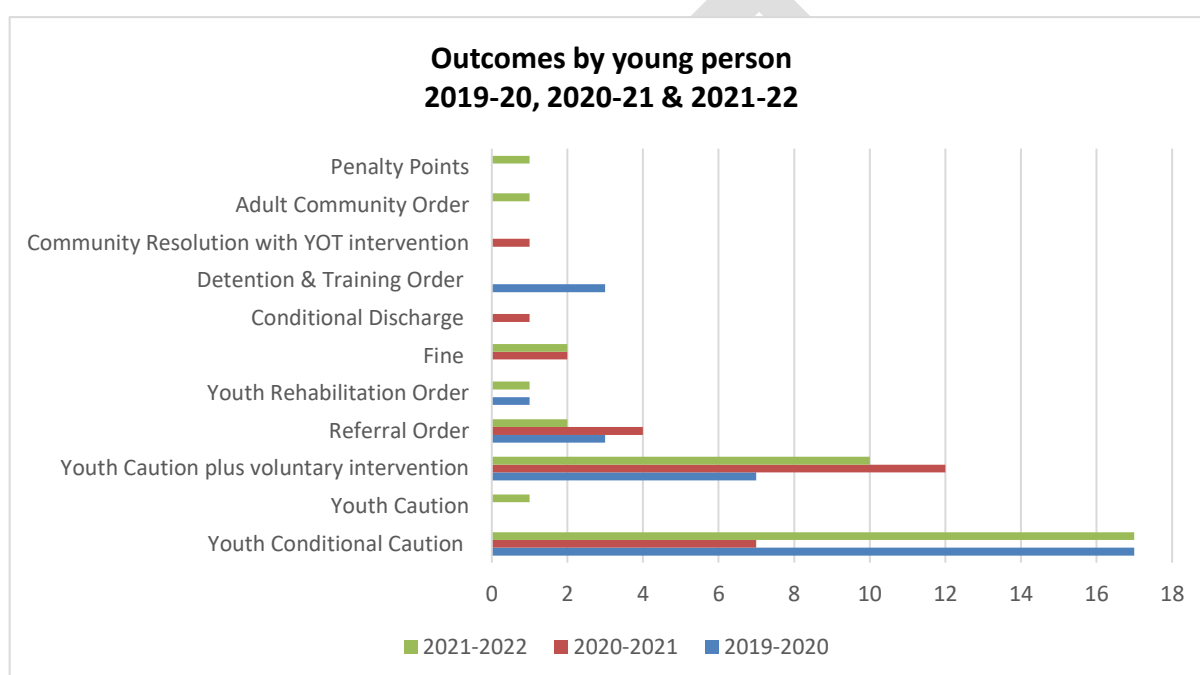


Figure 18: Outcomes by young person

## Youth Crime Prevention Teams (YCP)

The Youth Crime Prevention Team work alongside and support young people aged 10-16 identified as being at risk of offending or committing anti-social behaviour. If a young person has been involved with the police at a low level, YCP aim to divert them from developing patterns of persistent and more serious offending in the future. Engagement with YCP is on a voluntary basis agreed with the family.

## 8.6 Hampshire & Isle of Wight Fire & Rescue Service

This is Hampshire and Isle of Wight Fire and Rescue Service’s performance report for April 2021 to March 2022. The information contained within this report identifies how we have performed over the last financial year 2021/2022 and explores comparisons made against previous years and to Hampshire, where relevant and applicable.

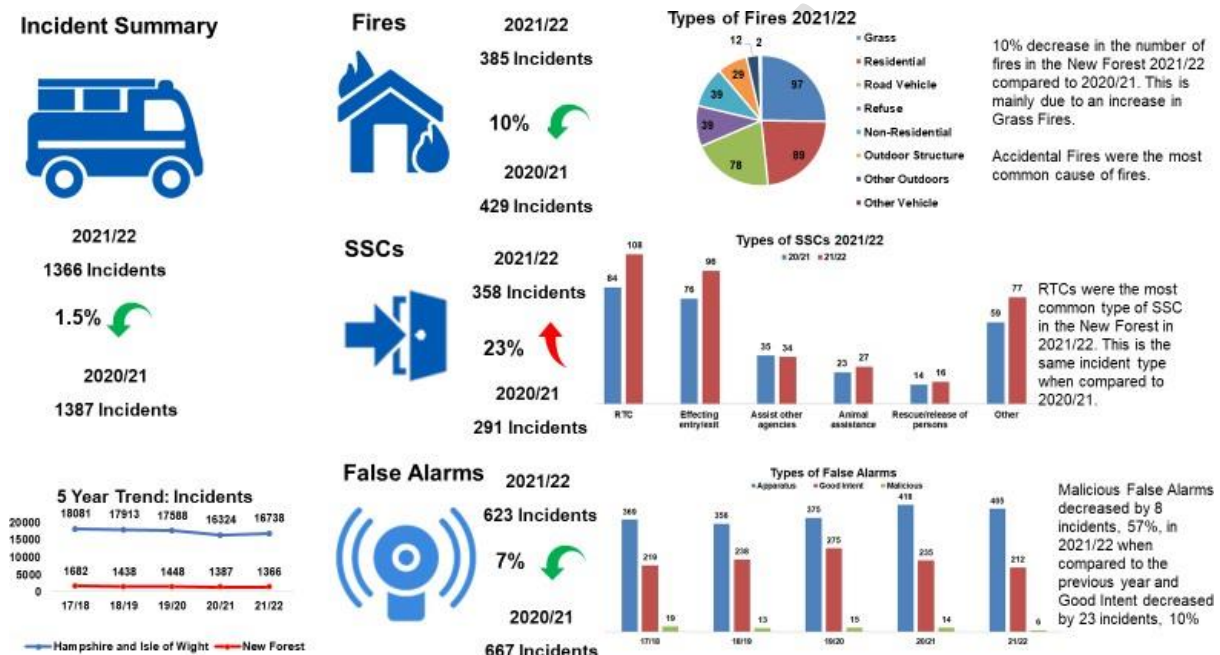


Figure 19: New Forest incident summary 2021-2022

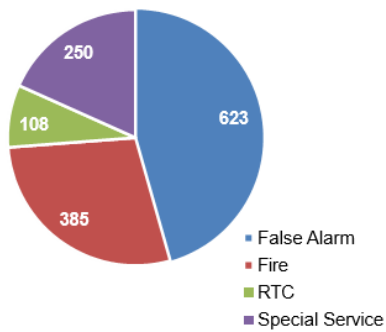
### Incident Types

The New Forest Group attended 1,366 incidents in 2021/2022. Just under half of these were False Alarm incidents with 623, 46%. The second largest incident type was Fire incidents with 385, 28%, followed by SSC (Special Service Calls) incidents with 250, 18%, and the smallest incident type was RTCs (Road Traffic Collisions) with 108, 8%.

In Comparison, nearly half of all incidents within Hampshire and Isle of Wight were also False Alarms with 8,353 incidents, 50%. This is followed by 3,947 Fire incidents, 24%, 3,501 Special Service Call incidents, 21%, and 937 Road Traffic Collisions, 6%.

Figure 20 overleaf shows consistency between the New Forest and Hampshire incidents.

**Types of incidents in the New Forest 2021/22**



**Types of incidents in Hampshire & the IoW 2021/22**

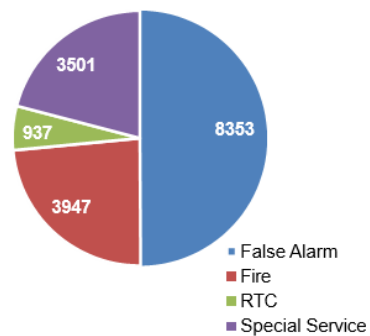


Figure 20: Comparison of types of incidents in New Forest compared to Hampshire

## Fires

*Primary fires are generally more serious fires occurring in one or more of the following locations, buildings, caravans or trailers, vehicles and other methods of transport (not derelict). Outdoor storage, plant, machinery, agricultural, forestry property, other outdoor structures including post boxes, tunnels, bridges, etc.*

*Secondary fires are generally small fires, which start in, and are confined to, outdoor locations. Typically, they are fires in grass or heathland, involving rubbish, street or railway furniture or in derelict buildings and derelict vehicles.*

There were 385 fire related incidents in the New Forest Group in the 2021-2022 period. This is a decrease of 44 incidents compared to last year, 10%. In 2021-2022 there were 223 primary fires and 162 secondary fires. The table below shows the breakdown of fires by primary and secondary, for the past 5 years. The table also shows the percentage increase or decrease from the previous year (green = decrease, red = increase).

The total number of fires attended in the New Forest Group showed an increase from 2017-18 to 2018-19. 2019-20 saw a decrease, 2020-21 saw a slight increase and 2021-22 saw a decrease.

Year	Primary Fires	% Change	Secondary Fires	% Change	Total Fires
2021-22	223	25.3%	162	-35.5%	385
2020-21	178	-9.6%	251	11.1%	429
2019-20	197	-7.1%	226	-20.7%	423
2018-19	212	-0.5%	285	40.4%	497
2017-18	213	9.2%	203	31.0%	416

Figure 21: Primary and Secondary fires in the New Forest

The table shows that the number of primary and secondary fires within the New Forest Group have fluctuated over the last five years with this year seeing an increase in Primary Fires and a reduction in Secondary Fires.

### Causation Factors of Fires

Accidental fires were the most common cause of fires within the New Forest Group over the last five years, which comprised over half of the total fires in that financial year. This was followed by deliberate fires.

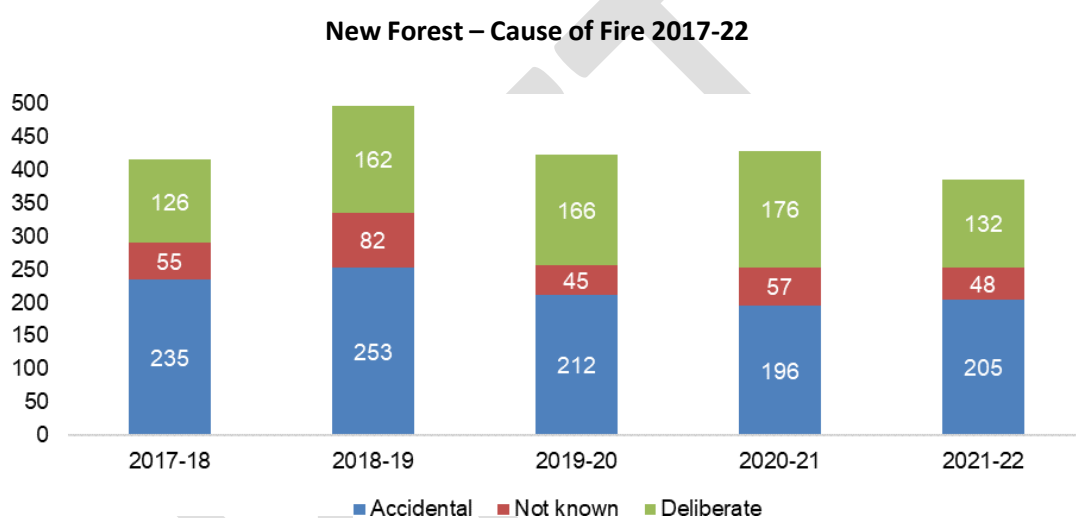


Figure 22: New Forest causes of fire 2016-2022

There was an increase in accidental fires in 2021-2022 and a decrease in deliberate fires compared to the same period in the previous year.

### Causes of Fires in Dwellings and Commercial Buildings

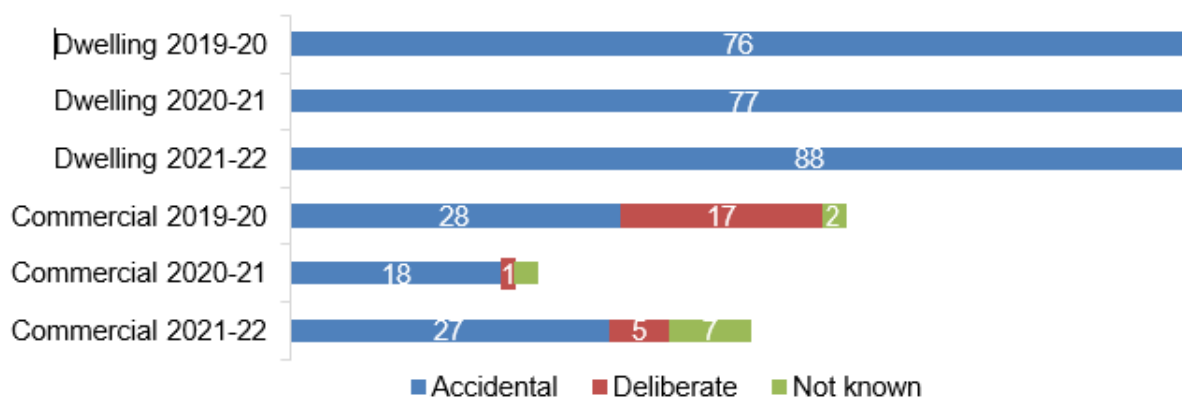


Figure 23: Cause of fires in the New Forest Group by dwellings and commercial buildings

Figure 23 shows that a larger proportion of the fires in commercial and dwelling properties are accidental. There are far more fires in dwellings compared to commercial properties and both dwelling and commercial fires have increased this year compared to last year.

### Outdoor Fires

The number of outdoor fires has decreased in 2021/2022 compared to the previous year, by 104 incidents, 37%. Since outdoor fires are classified as secondary fires minimal data is recorded in relation to this incident type.

Grass and Outdoor Structure fires showed an increase, from 2019/20 to 2020/21, but then decreased, from 2020/21 to 2021/2022. Whereas all other outdoor fire types have shown a steady decrease over the last three years.

### Types of Outdoor Fires in the New Forest

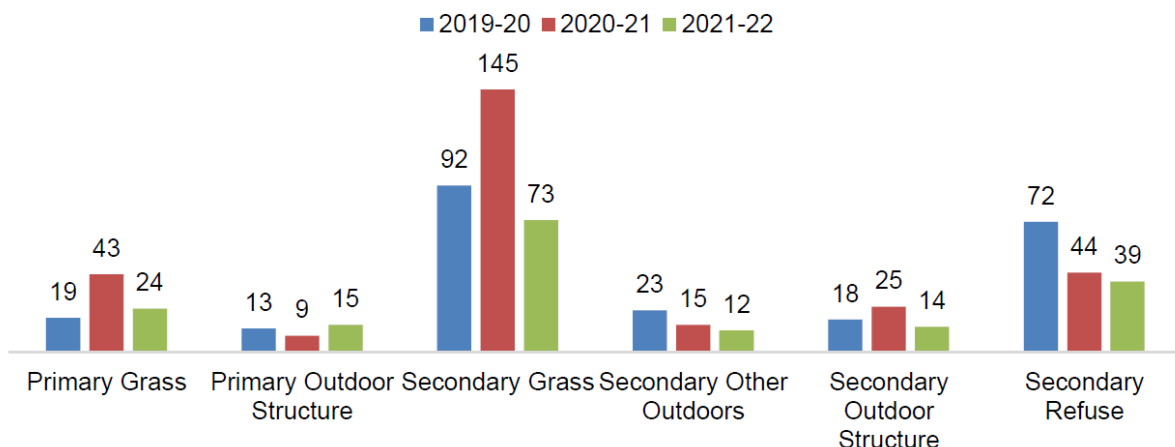


Figure 24: Types of outdoor fires

### Grass Fires

The number of Grass fires have fluctuated over the last three years. 2021/2022 reduced by 48% when compared to the previous year (from 188 to 97 incidents). All three cause types (accidental, deliberate and not known) decreased in 2021/2022 when compared to the same period in the previous year. Accidental decreased by 21 incidents (49%), Deliberate decreased by 52 incidents (47%) and not known cause by 18 incidents (51%).

Grass fires have decreased in 2021/2022 from 188 to 97 when compared to the previous year. Out of the 97 incidents, 58 were started deliberately, 22 were accidental and 17 cause not known. The highest number of grass fires in this financial year occurred in April (30 incidents), June (11 incidents) and September (10 incidents); Of these three months, 55% (28 incidents) were deliberate, 23.5% (12 incidents) were recorded as accidental, and 21.5% (11 incidents) cause not known.

### Three Year Comparison of Grass Fires by Cause

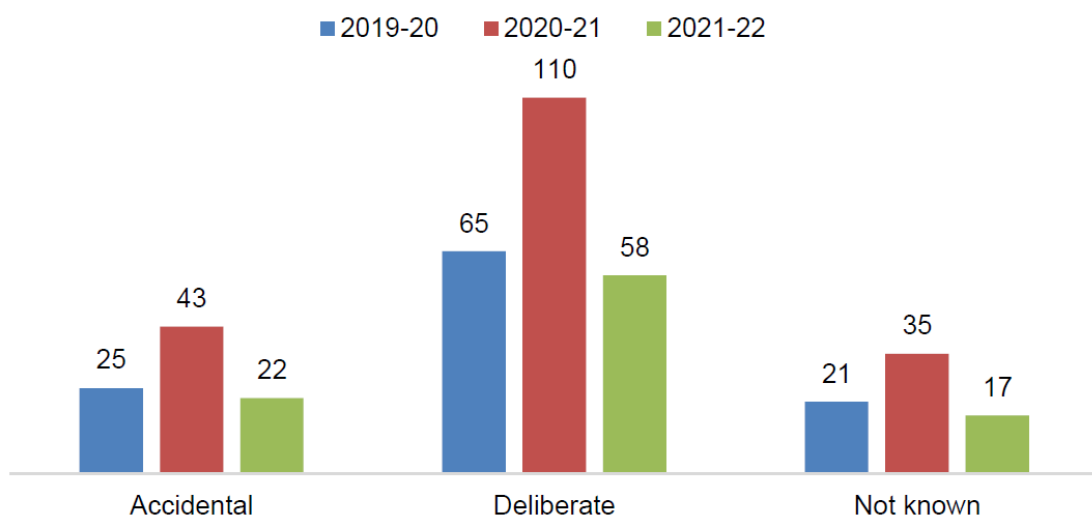


Figure 25: Comparison of grass fires by cause in the New Forest over a three-year comparison period

The decrease in the number of secondary grass fires is likely the result of the easing of the lockdown restrictions where less people than the previous year were spending time outdoors and in the open as it wasn't as much of a novelty. Grass fires still display seasonality, with more occurring in the hotter, drier months.

### Safe and well visits

Hampshire & Isle of Wight Fire and Rescue provide safe and well visits to residents of the New Forest. The visits are tailored to an individual's needs, relating to their health and lifestyle choices.

Free visits are available and offered to the most vulnerable people in our community or for anyone aged over 65. The visits include a custom-made information pack, existing smoke alarms are checked, and new smoke alarms can be installed. Fire retardant bedding, furniture throws, and nightwear can be issued where necessary. Referrals to other services can also be made for extra support. New Forest District

Council Housing Services work collaboratively with HIWFRS in identifying and referring residents and tenants to this preventative and supportive service.

Figure 26 shows an overview of Safe & Well visits across the New Forest group during the past 3 years. The data provided is broken down to fire station areas and shows that there has been a 24% decrease in the number of visits carried out over the last financial year.

Station Ground	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22
Beaulieu	1	5	8
Brockenhurst	4	20	24
Burley	2	23	17
Fordingbridge	20	40	35
Hardley	27	66	48
Hythe	84	76	51
Lymington	82	110	99
Lyndhurst	25	38	24
New Milton	74	201	126
Ringwood	17	61	58
Totton	80	133	100
<b>Total</b>	<b>416</b>	<b>773</b>	<b>590</b>

Figure 26: Safe & well visits carried out in the New Forest group

### Road Traffic Collisions (RTCs)

Since 2017/2018 RTCs have fluctuated each year, with the highest number of incidents recorded in 2021/22. There is a large increase in 2021/2022 when compared to the previous year, 2020/21.

There is an increase over the five-year trend, but on average the New Forest Group has 94 RTCs per year. Owing to the serious nature, these incidents have been analysed separately to the other SSC incidents.

#### RTCs in the New Forest 2017-2022

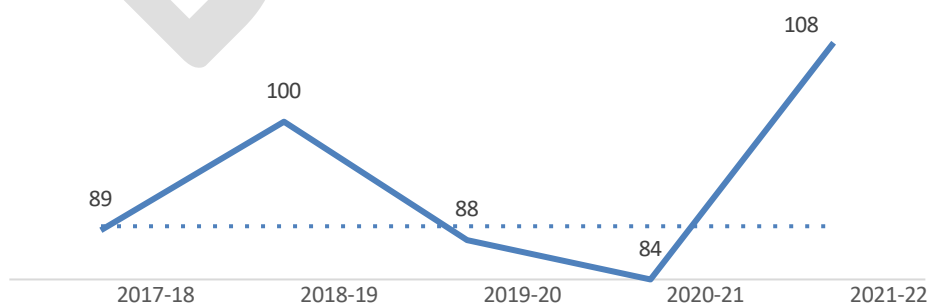


Figure 27: RTCs in the New Forest group between 2017/18, 2018/19, 2019/20, 2020/21 & 2021/2022

Figure 27 shows incidents have increased by 24 (29%) in 2021/2022 when compared to 2020/21.

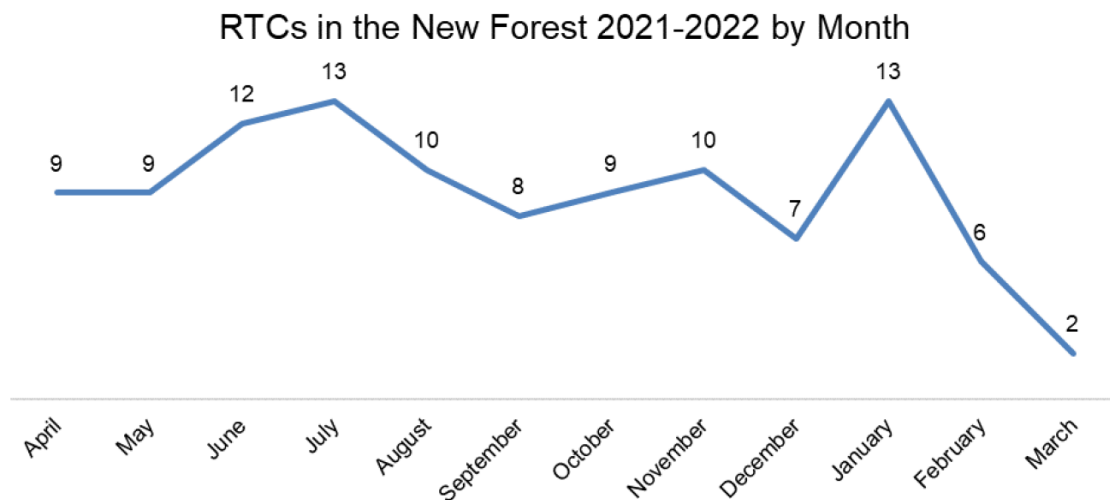


Figure 28: RTCs in the New Forest group during 2021/2022 by month

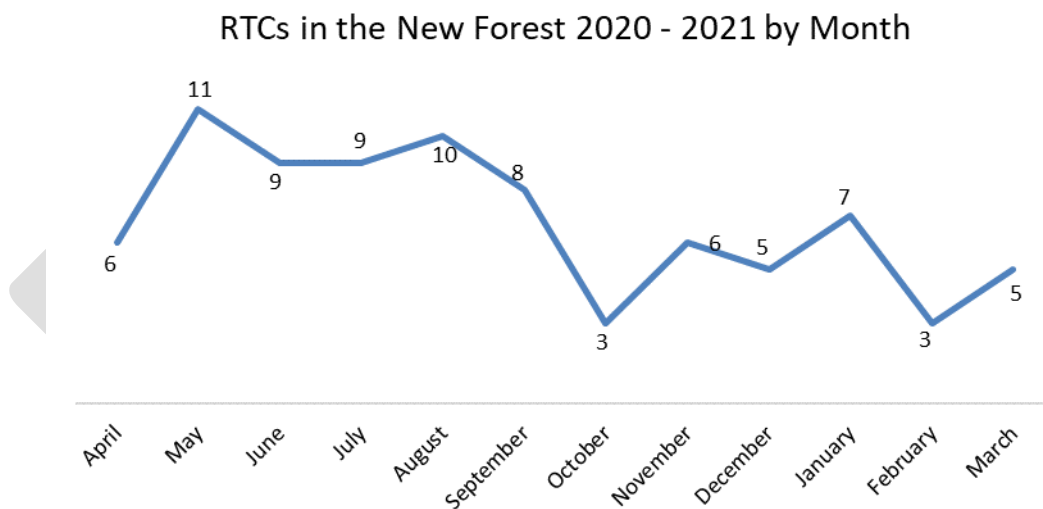
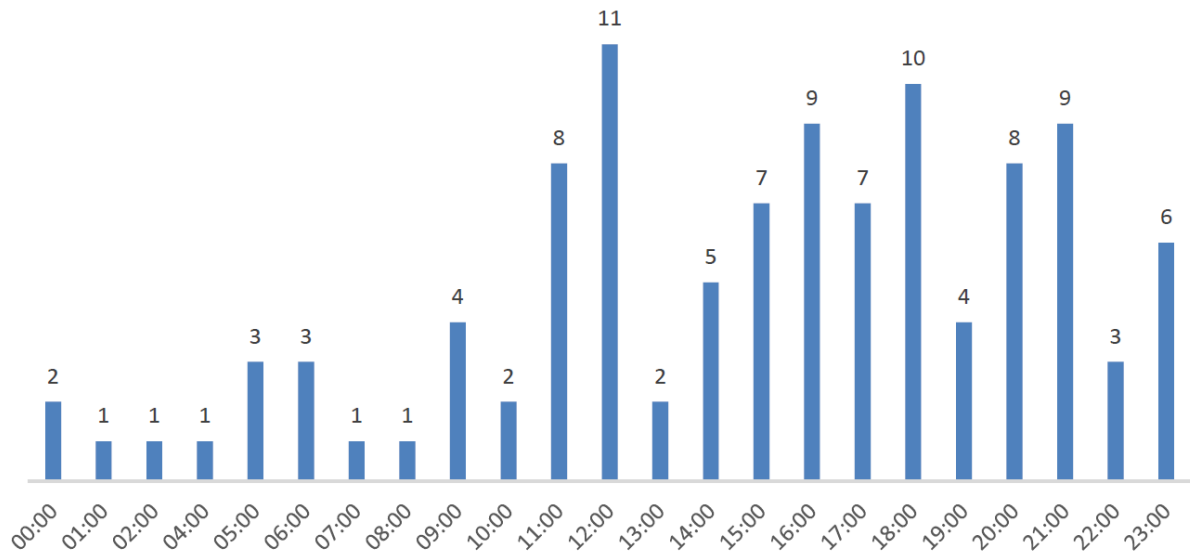


Figure 29: RTCs in the New Forest group during 2020/2021 by month

Figure 29 shows that June and July 2021 and January 2022 experienced the highest number of Road Traffic Collisions in the New Forest area.

## Number of RTCs Throughout the Day in the New Forest 2021-22



30: Times of RTCs in the New Forest group during 2021-22

Figure 30 above shows the peak times for RTCs in the New Forest were between 12:00-13:00 and 18:00-19:00 hours.

### Casualties and Fatalities

The total number of casualties has fluctuated over the last five years in the New Forest.

It is important to note that the split between casualties with slight injuries and those with serious injuries should be considered with caution. This is because the data is taken from the IRS (Incident Recording System), which records severity of the injury at the time the report is written and therefore a slight injury can evolve into serious injuries (or vice versa) after the report has been written this is not reflected in the data in this report.

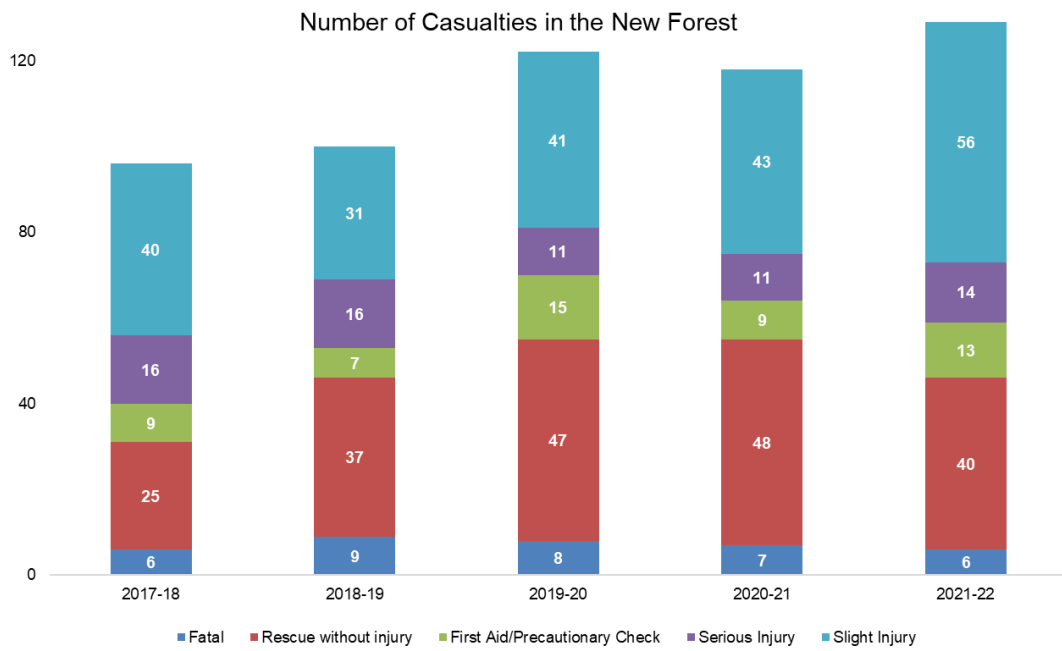


Figure 31: Casualties within the New Forest between 2017-2022

Figure 31 shows the largest group of rescues are with casualties without injury and slight injury.

## 9 POLICE & CRIME COMMISSIONER PRIORITIES

The Hampshire Police Crime Commissioner, Donna Jones, was elected in May 2021 and has published her Police and Crime Plan 'More Police, Safer Streets' which sets out the strategic direction and priorities for policing across Hampshire and the Isle of Wight, including the New Forest district, for three years (2021-2024).

The Crime Plan features nine priorities for policing:

- Recruit 600 more police officers by 2023
- Improve police visibility
- Tackle Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB)
- Making it easier to report crime through 101
- Prevent young people from committing crime
- Zero tolerance approach to knife crime
- Crack down on unauthorised encampments
- Improved outcomes for victims
- Targeting rural crime

For details of the full plan please click on the attached link: [OPCC PCP | MORE POLICE SAFER STREETS](#)

New Forest Hampshire Constabulary priorities for 2022/23:

- Drug related harm
- Domestic abuse & Violence Against Woman & Girls
- Rural crime
- Non-dwelling burglaries?

### Safer New Forest Partnership Plan 2022/2023 – Action Plan

	Priority area	Lead Forum	Action		Measurement of Action	Resource Allocation
1	Drug and Alcohol Related Harm	Drug & Alcohol Related Harm Forum  Chaired by Helen Andrews, District Commander, Hampshire Constabulary, New Forest Area	1.1	Enhance, build and develop accessible pathways for improved data sharing between partner agencies and the community on vulnerable persons at risk of exploitation (adult and child).	Increased and improved intelligence sharing through CPIs, 101 service and Crimestoppers.	Police Probation Safer New Forest Partnership (SNFP) Probation Service Education Headteacher Forum Digital comms, SNFP, Town & Parish Councils, Community Groups (faith & non-faith) Foodbanks Citizens Advice
			1.2	Identify geographical trends and problem profiles to co-ordinate enhanced local resolutions and support.	Earlier intervention and problem solving through community informed and led initiatives for local ownership and development.	Tactical Planning Meeting Missing Exploited & Trafficked Group Dug Related Harm Forum Housing, Local Authority &

					Registered Social Landlord (RSL) providers Town & Parish Councils Inclusion Catch 22 Community Groups/individuals Housing Tenancy Involvement Groups /Neighbourhood Watch Probation	
			1.3	Build upon and enhance policing resources through the identification of vulnerable individuals affected through the distribution and use of illicit substances.	Improved awareness, understanding and insight of character and behavioural traits and effects of substance dependency i.e. whole person approach.	SNFP Housing Teams Probation Service NFDC Services i.e. Housing, Community Safety, Environmental Health, Licensing, Enforcement Team Multi Agency Risk Management meetings (MARM) Probation Child Protection/Child in Need meetings Catch 22/Inclusion

			<p>1.4 Promote and create access to prevention and support services via street warning and arrest referral process.</p>	<p>Increase in referrals and access to therapeutic services at the earliest point of contact.</p> <p>Voluntary referral programme for alternative disposals for first time offenders.</p>	<p>Youth Offending Team/Youth Crime Prevention          Probation Service          Childrens Services, Early Help Hub          Catch 22          Adult Services Substance Misuse Team/Inclusion          Police          NFDC, Community Safety, CCTV          Police          Probation</p>
			<p>1.5 Create a hostile environment against opportunistic acquisitive crime through the development of target hardening measures and community led initiatives.</p> <p>Collaboration, positive action and support within the commercial sector i.e. retail service and tourism.</p>	<p>Development of pilot shopwatch scheme in collaboration with CCTV, Community Safety and Policing Partners.</p> <p>Cross sectional collaboration with holiday sites and retail sector for increased awareness and preventative measures against the theft of cycles and theft from vehicles.</p>	<p>SNFP Community Engagement Days          Town &amp; Parish Councils          Comms Departments          National Park Authority          Forestry England          Third sector youth groups (cadets etc)          Probation</p>

2	Domestic Abuse (DA)	Domestic Abuse Forum Chaired by Nikki Swift, Community Safety Manager, New Forest District Council	2.1	<p>Awareness raising and training of Domestic Abuse Act 2021.</p> <p>Embed new duty and protocols in working practices by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Recognising children as victims in their own right and supporting ACEs</li> <li>- Ensuring a whole family approach</li> <li>- Ensuring Housing support.</li> </ul>	<p>Voice of the child to be heard through access to DA support child service referrals.</p> <p>Rights of victim to be heard i.e. remain in current accommodation, retain secure tenure, target hardening of vulnerable properties.</p>	<p>Stop Domestic Abuse Service (SDAS)</p> <p>Hampton Trust</p> <p>Housing Providers – NFDC/RSL</p> <p>Domestic Abuse Forum</p> <p>Education Providers</p> <p>Early Help Hub</p> <p>Violence Against Women &amp; Girls Group</p> <p>Hampshire Domestic Abuse Partnership</p> <p>Probation Service</p>
			2.2	<p>Enhance awareness of access to DA support within hard to reach and rural communities through:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Localised information</li> <li>- Local DA champions within public service provision e.g. education, health and retail sector</li> <li>- Licenced taxi/hackney.</li> </ul>	<p>Facilitating access to support services.</p> <p>Improved understanding on the effects of DA and with clearer pathways of early intervention support.</p>	<p>Stop Domestic Abuse Service</p> <p>Aurora New Dawn – Rural DA Cars</p> <p>'Ask Me' Ambassadors</p> <p>Dragonfly Project</p> <p>Barn Meets</p> <p>Educational settings</p> <p>Pharmacies/retail sector</p> <p>GP surgeries</p>

			2.3	<p>Raise the profile in identifying the non-stereotypic Domestic Abuse perpetrator and victim and impact within the older age population.</p> <p>Educate on signs and contributing factors:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Carer stress</li> <li>- Substance misuse/dependency</li> <li>- Financial dependency</li> <li>- Emerging illness</li> <li>- Co-dependency</li> <li>- Stigma</li> <li>- Social isolation</li> </ul>	<p>Embed knowledge and learning across all strategic partners to improve front line awareness and operational response in recognition of domestic abuse.</p> <p>Developing learning material with the Hampshire Domestic Abuse Partnership for wider distribution.</p> <p>Domestic Abuse Forum data analysis.</p>	<p>Hampshire Domestic Abuse Partnership</p> <p>No age for abuse training</p> <p>Yellow Door</p> <p>Town and Parish Councils</p> <p>Citizens Advice</p> <p>Probation</p> <p>Safer New Forest Partnership</p> <p>Community Groups</p> <p>Carer Groups</p> <p>Care Providers</p> <p>CCTV Careline</p>
3	Reducing Risk to Vulnerable people and property	Lawrence Mackrell, Station Commander, Hampshire & Isle of Wight Fire & Rescue Service (HIWFRS)	3.1	<p>We will work with our communities to prevent fires</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- We will work with young people and run courses, such as Fire Cadets and the Prince's Trust Programme</li> </ul>	<p>Instilling positive values, develop skills, build confidence and promote healthy living.</p> <p>Reducing the four risk factors of mental health – alcohol, drugs, smoking and frailty.</p>	<p>Educational settings</p> <p>Princes Trust</p> <p>HIWFRS cadets team</p> <p>Firewise programme</p> <p>HIWFRS volunteers</p> <p>SNFP Community Engagement Partnership Comms</p> <p>Probation Service</p> <p>Town &amp; Parish Councils</p> <p>Youth Crime Prevention</p>

			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- In schools, the HIWFRS Education team will provide fire safety education</li> <li>- We will regularly engage with the community at events, after incidents and via social media channels</li> <li>- Our Firewise Intervention Programme will help young people understand their feelings and the circumstances that lead them to fire setting, as well as teaching them general fire safety awareness</li> <li>- Our volunteers will carry out joints patrols with Forestry England to reduce and mitigate the risk of fires in the open and wildfire within the New Forest.</li> </ul>	<p>Raising awareness about fires risks, how to safe and arson in Key Stage 3 children.</p> <p>Changing behaviour to reduce risk of fire caused by arson.</p> <p>Educate members of the public about the risks of wildfire.</p>	<p>National Park Authority Forestry England Campsites/B&amp;B/Hotels Arson Forum</p>
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			<p>3.2 We will help people to stay safe in their own homes</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Our Safe and Well visits reduce the risks for vulnerable people to keep them safe in their own homes</li> <li>- The new Home Fire Safety Check risk assessment tool on our website will help support those who aren't eligible for a Safe and Well visit</li> <li>- The 'safety at home' pages on our website will help to educate members of our community how best to stay safe and prevent fires in their homes.</li> </ul>	<p>Reduction in accidental fires within domestic property. Reduction in injury caused by fire in domestic property. Reduction in damage to property caused by fire.</p>	<p><a href="http://www.hantsfire.gov.uk/safety/home-safe-home/home-fire-safety-check">www.hantsfire.gov.uk/safety/home-safe-home/home-fire-safety-check</a> <a href="http://www.hantsfire.gov.uk/safety/home-safe-home/">www.hantsfire.gov.uk/safety/home-safe-home/</a> HIWFRS Community Safety Officers HIWFRS Website Housing Providers Social Services Citizens Advice Probation</p>
			<p>3.3 We will undertake inspections of buildings based on risk</p>	<p>Reduce the risk of fires in non-domestic premises.</p>	<p>HIWFRS risk-based inspection teams</p>

			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- As part of our protection work, we will undertake inspections of buildings where others have a statutory duty to consider fire risks. Where necessary, we will enforce fire safety legislation and use it to make people safer.</li> <li>- We will prioritise inspections of non-domestic premises assessed as those most likely to have a fire or most likely to have fire safety issues.</li> </ul>	<p>Ensure responsible persons know their responsibilities under the fire safety order.</p> <p>Use enforcement to ensure people remain safe from fire, in the workplace and at leisure.</p>	<p>HIWFRS fire safety protection inspectors  NFDC Licensing Team  NFDC Environmental Health  Hampshire Constabulary  Town &amp; Parish Councils</p>
		3.4	<p>Develop and enhance awareness of the term 'vulnerable to exploitation' and the impact it can have on individuals, families and communities by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Creating consistent communications and publications across all services</li> </ul>	<p>Earlier identification of exploited persons and improved intelligence sharing between services.</p> <p>Increase in referrals to support services.</p>	<p>HIWFRS  Combined communications departments and resources of strategic partners.  Community Engagement Events  Connect to Support Hampshire  Community First  Hampshire Trading Standards  Friends against Scams  Town &amp; Parish Councils</p>

			<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Standardised and consistent response to all at risk of exploitation</li><li>- Signposting individuals to effective support services.</li></ul>	Increase in reported concerns or incidents to protective services. Referrals to HIWFRS Safe & Well visits.	
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**APPENDIX B - Overview of incidents by type and comparison of crimes year on year:**

**Crimes by Sector Level**

**Crime - New Milton Sector**

Crime Type	01/04/2021 – 31/03/2022	01/04/2020 - 31/03/2021	01/04/2019- 31/03/2020	Variation
<b>VIOLENCE AGAINST THE PERSON</b>				
Homicide	1	0	0	+1
Violence with injury	193	162	193	+31
Violence without injury	463	382	392	+81
Total	657	544	585	+113
<b>SEXUAL OFFENCES</b>				
Rape	19	22	16	-3
Other sexual offences	37	32	21	+5
Total	56	54	37	+2
<b>ROBBERY</b>				
Robbery of business property	0	0	0	0
Robbery of personal property	10	5	11	+5
Total	10	5	11	+5
<b>BURGLARY</b>				
Residential	88	80	75	+8
Business and Community	24	29	46	-5
Total	112	109	121	+3
<b>THEFT OFFENCES</b>				
Theft from Vehicle	104	87	106	+17
Theft from person	7	2	5	+5
Bicycle theft	7	11	9	-4
Shoplifting	37	67	122	-30
All other theft offences	90	78	87	+12
Total	245	245	329	0
<b>CRIMINAL DAMAGE &amp; ARSON OFFENCES</b>				
Criminal damage	153	150	190	+3
Arson	4	2	11	+2
Total	157	152	201	+5
<b>DRUG OFFENCES</b>				
Trafficking of drugs	14	21	10	-7
Possession of drugs	46	85	62	-39
Total	60	106	72	-46
Possession of weapons offences	17	18	16	-1
Public order offences	213	149	156	+64
Miscellaneous crimes against society	16	15	18	+1

## Crime - Lymington Sector

Crime Type	01/04/2021 – 31/03/2022	01/04/2020- 31/03/2021	01/04/2019- 31/03/2020	Variation
<b>VIOLENCE AGAINST THE PERSON</b>				
Homicide	1	0	0	+1
Violence with injury	194	168	193	+26
Violence without injury	477	371	408	+106
Total	672	539	601	+133
<b>SEXUAL OFFENCES</b>				
Rape	16	13	16	+3
Other sexual offences	40	39	31	+1
Total	56	52	47	+4
<b>ROBBERY</b>				
Robbery of business property	1	2	0	-1
Robbery of personal property	7	2	19	+5
Total	8	4	19	+4
<b>BURGLARY</b>				
Residential	146	77	93	+69
Business and Community	40	48	84	-8
Total	186	125	177	+61
<b>THEFT OFFENCES</b>				
Theft from Vehicle	83	71	94	+12
Theft from person	10	6	9	+4
Bicycle theft	27	35	14	-8
Shoplifting	112	100	125	+12
All other theft offences	117	112	138	+5
Total	349	324	380	+25
<b>CRIMINAL DAMAGE &amp; ARSON OFFENCES</b>				
Criminal damage	135	150	225	-15
Arson	3	4	8	-1
Total	138	154	233	-16
<b>DRUG OFFENCES</b>				
Trafficking of drugs	10	26	4	-16
Possession of drugs	28	39	35	-11
Total	38	65	39	-27
Possession of weapons offences	15	12	22	+3
Public order offences	226	202	191	+24
Miscellaneous crimes against society	40	32	25	+12

## Crime - Ringwood and Fordingbridge Sector

Crime Type	01/04/2021 – 31/03/2022	01/04/2020- 31/03/2021	01/04/2019- 31/03/2020	Variations
<b>VIOLENCE AGAINST THE PERSON</b>				
Homicide	0	0	0	0
Violence with injury	184	183	198	+1
Violence without injury	502	478	381	+24
Total	686	661	579	+25
<b>SEXUAL OFFENCES</b>				
Rape	28	20	13	+8
Other sexual offences	49	30	32	+19
Total	77	50	45	+27
<b>ROBBERY</b>				
Robbery of business property	2	0	0	+2
Robbery of personal property	11	3	5	+8
Total	13	3	5	+10
<b>BURGLARY</b>				
Residential	206	209	214	-3
Business and Community	85	85	155	-
Total	291	294	369	-3
<b>THEFT OFFENCES</b>				
Theft from Vehicle	268	213	266	+55
Theft from person	5	4	7	+1
Bicycle theft	24	18	17	+6
Shoplifting	44	57	62	-13
All other theft offences	167	150	212	+17
Total	508	442	573	+66
<b>CRIMINAL DAMAGE &amp; ARSON</b>				
Criminal damage	280	265	311	+15
Arson	20	8	8	+12
<b>DRUG OFFENCES</b>				
Trafficking of drugs	15	16	3	-1
Possession of drugs	39	34	26	+5
Total	54	50	29	+4
Possession of weapons offences	19	22	15	-3
Public order offences	280	166	196	+114
Miscellaneous crimes against society	20	21	21	-1

## Crime - New Forest Heart and East Sectors

Crime Type	01/04/2021 – 31/03/2022	01/04/2020- 31/03/2021	01/04/2019- 31/03/2020	Variations
<b>VIOLENCE AGAINST THE PERSON</b>				
Homicide	0	0	1	0
Violence with injury	69	53	65	+16
Violence without injury	155	125	124	+30
Total	224	178	190	+46
<b>SEXUAL OFFENCES</b>				
Rape	17	10	20	+7
Other sexual offences	31	26	18	+5
Total	48	36	38	+12
<b>ROBBERY</b>				
Robbery of business property	0	0	2	0
Robbery of personal property	1	1	1	0
Total	1	1	3	0
<b>BURGLARY</b>				
Residential	93	81	65	+12
Business and Community	33	20	49	+13
Total	126	101	114	+25
<b>THEFT OFFENCES</b>				
Theft from Vehicle	233	110	134	+123
Theft from person	7	6	2	+1
Bicycle theft	57	12	34	+45
Shoplifting	3	3	21	0
All other theft offences	85	52	71	+33
Total	385	183	262	+202
<b>CRIMINAL DAMAGE &amp; ARSON</b>				
Criminal damage	107	77	85	+30
Arson	9	2	7	+7
Total	116	79	92	+37
<b>DRUG OFFENCES</b>				
Trafficking of drugs	3	5	2	-2
Possession of drugs	29	20	15	+9
Total	32	25	17	+7
Possession of weapons offences	6	4	7	+2
Public order offences	109	82	69	+27
Miscellaneous crimes against society	14	16	16	-2

## Crime - Hythe Sector

Crime Type	01/04/2021 – 31/03/2022	01/04/2020- 31/03/2021	01/04/2019- 31/03/2020	Variation
<b>VIOLENCE AGAINST THE PERSON</b>				
Homicide	0	0	1	0
Violence with injury	311	283	342	+28
Violence without injury	845	627	672	+218
Total	1156	910	1015	+246
<b>SEXUAL OFFENCES</b>				
Rape	42	30	36	+12
Other sexual offences	82	71	62	+11
Total	124	101	98	+23
<b>ROBBERY</b>				
Robbery of business property	1	2	1	-1
Robbery of personal property	6	4	7	+2
Total	7	6	8	+1
<b>BURGLARY</b>				
Residential	83	104	120	-21
Business and Community	54	32	55	+22
Total	137	136	175	+1
<b>THEFT OFFENCES</b>				
Theft from Vehicle	125	119	155	+6
Theft from person	8	9	5	-1
Bicycle theft	17	20	22	-3
Shoplifting	138	72	84	+66
All other theft offences	158	94	183	+64
Total	446	314	449	+132
<b>CRIMINAL DAMAGE &amp; ARSON OFFENCES</b>				
Criminal damage	321	206	306	+115
Arson	24	11	15	+13
Total	345	217	321	+128
<b>DRUG OFFENCES</b>				
Trafficking of drugs	10	8	14	+2
Possession of drugs	40	49	30	-9
Total	50	57	44	-7
Possession of weapons offences	18	30	14	-12
Public order offences	277	267	229	+10
Miscellaneous crimes against society	40	43	56	-3

## Crime - Totton Sector

Crime Type	01/04/2021 – 31/03/2022	01/04/2020- 31/03/2021	01/04/2019- 31/03/2020	Variation
<b>VIOLENCE AGAINST THE PERSON</b>				
Homicide	1	0	0	+1
Violence with injury	245	256	271	-11
Violence without injury	755	601	519	+154
Total	1001	857	790	+144
<b>SEXUAL OFFENCES</b>				
Rape	36	19	28	+17
Other sexual offences	65	45	78	+20
Total	101	64	106	+37
<b>ROBBERY</b>				
Robbery of business property	2	2	1	0
Robbery of personal property	7	14	13	-7
Total	9	16	14	-7
<b>BURGLARY</b>				
Residential	124	86	187	+38
Business and Community	40	39	74	+1
Total	164	125	261	+39
<b>THEFT OFFENCES</b>				
Theft from Vehicle	193	173	270	+20
Theft from person	5	14	13	-9
Bicycle theft	39	31	28	+8
Shoplifting	116	102	152	+14
All other theft offences	245	139	202	+106
Total	598	459	665	+139
<b>CRIMINAL DAMAGE &amp; ARSON OFFENCES</b>				
Criminal damage	247	236	295	+11
Arson	4	5	7	-1
Total	251	241	302	+10
<b>DRUG OFFENCES</b>				
Trafficking of drugs	13	14	7	-1
Possession of drugs	83	89	74	-6
Total	96	103	81	-7
Possession of weapons offences	17	19	22	
Public order offences	318	230	172	+88
Miscellaneous crimes against society	47	37	45	+10

## GLOSSARY OF CRIME TYPES

### Crime Types and Drug Offences

#### 1 - VIOLENT CRIME

Violent crimes are those where the victim is intentionally stabbed, punched, kicked, pushed, jostled, etc., or threatened with violence whether or not there is any injury.

In published crime statistics, violent crime – both as measured by the British Crime Survey (BCS) and by recorded crime – is grouped into two broad, high-level categories of violence with injury and violence without injury. However, these categories are not directly comparable between BCS and recorded crime: for example, the BCS violence categories include robbery, but the police recorded crime violence categories do not (recorded robbery figures are shown separately).

Just over half of all BCS violent incidents and just under half of all police recorded violence against the person, resulted in injury to the victim.

- Violence with injury includes all incidents of wounding, assault with injury and (BCS only) robbery which resulted in injury. Homicide is only included for police recorded crime. Police recorded crime also includes attempts at inflicting injury, although the BCS would not include these if no actual injury occurred.
- Violence without injury includes all incidents of assault without injury and (BCS only) incidents of robbery which did not result in injury. Police recorded crime also includes possession of weapons offences and a number of public order offences, such as harassment.

Police recorded crime statistics for violence, especially less serious violence, are particularly affected by changes in recording practice over time; for the population and crime types it covers, the BCS is the best measure for long-term national trends in violence. Police statistics are important for showing the mix of violent crimes dealt with and recorded by the police. They are an important measure of activity locally and a source of operational information to help identify and address local crime problems, at a lower geographical level than is possible using the BCS. Police statistics also provide more reliable information on less common crimes, such as robbery, and are currently the only source of data on homicides and offences against those not resident in households.

#### British Crime Survey (BCS) violence

BCS violent crime is categorised in two other ways: by offence type and according to the victim-offender relationship. BCS offence types are as follows (estimates for wounding, assault with minor injury, assault without injury and robbery add up to overall violence):

- Wounding: the incident results in severe or less serious injury, e.g. cuts, severe bruising, chipped teeth, bruising or scratches requiring medical attention or any more serious injuries.

- Assault with minor injury: an incident where the victim was punched, kicked, pushed or jostled and the incident resulted in minor injury to the victim, e.g. scratches or bruises.
- Assault without injury: an incident (or attempt) where the victim was punched, kicked, pushed or jostled but resulted in no injury.
- Robbery: an incident in which force or threat of force is used in a theft or attempted theft.

The categories of BCS violence according to the offender-victim relationship are as follows:

- Domestic violence comprises wounding and assaults which involves partners, ex- partners, other relatives or household members.
- Stranger violence includes wounding and assaults in which the victim did not have any information about the offender(s) or did not know and had never seen the offender(s) before.
- Acquaintance violence comprises wounding and assaults in which the victim knew one or more of the offenders, at least by sight. It does not include domestic violence.

Figures are also presented for mugging which is a popular rather than a legal term and is the total number of robbery, attempted robbery and snatch theft incidents combined. Snatch theft is excluded from all BCS violence since it includes no violence or minimal threat of force (e.g. just enough to pull a bag away from someone).

In the BCS, the previously used common assault (or attempted assault) category, which had been inconsistent with the police recorded offence category, was replaced with assault with minor injury and assault without injury categories in 2006/07. This change was made to align BCS categories more closely with those used by the police.

#### Police recorded violence against the person

Violence against the person offences contains the full spectrum of assaults, from pushing and shoving that result in no physical harm, to murder. Even within the same offence classification, the degree of violence varies considerably between incidents.

Trends in police recorded violent crime can be very difficult to interpret, as they are influenced by a number of factors. It is important to consider the following issues when interpreting trends:

Police recorded crime data are subject to changes in the levels of public reporting of incidents. The proportion of violent crimes estimated to be reported to the police has increased from the first BCS results in 1981 but has been reasonably stable since 2002/03 (see Chapter 2 of the annual crime statistics publication).

Local policing activity and priorities affect the levels of reported and recorded violent crime. Where the police are proactive in addressing low-level violence and anti-social behaviour, this can lead to more of these crimes being brought to their attention and being recorded. For example, research by the Cardiff Violence Research Group showed an association between the introduction of CCTV surveillance and increased police detection of violence (Sivarajasingam et al., 2003).

Police recorded crime data are subject to changes in police recording practices. The 1998 changes to the Home Office Counting Rules had a very significant impact on the recording of violent and

sexual crime; the number of violence against the person offences recorded by the police increased by 118 per cent as a result of the 1998 changes (Povey and Prime, 1999). Much of this increase resulted from a widening of the offence coverage to include assaults with little or no physical injury and offences of harassment (again with no injury).

The National Crime Recording Standard (NCRS), introduced in April 2002, again resulted in increased recording of violent and sexual crimes particularly for less serious offences, as well as for some other offences. There was an estimated NCRS effect of 23 per cent on violence against the person offences in the first 12 months of implementation, although it was recognised that this effect was unlikely to be complete within the first 12 months (Simmons et al., 2003).

Audits undertaken by the Audit Commission on behalf of the Home Office indicate substantial improvements in crime recording across forces in the two to three years following NCRS introduction, which would particularly impact on violence against the person and result in increases in recorded crimes for this category.

Incidents of violence against the person recorded by the police include the following categories as described below:

- Homicide including murder, manslaughter and infanticide.

The published figures do not separately identify between these individual offences as, when a homicide is initially recorded by the police, the full circumstances of the incident may not be known. Furthermore, the precise nature of an offence may only become clear once a suspect has been apprehended and appears at court.

The Home Office receives two sources of information on homicide from the police forces of England and Wales (including the British Transport Police where the incident occurred within England and Wales). These are:

- The monthly aggregated recorded crime return (see Section 3.1)
- A more detailed statistical return for each recorded homicide containing additional information, including victim and suspect details and the circumstances of the offence. This is used to populate a Home Office database called the Homicide Index.

The Homicide Index contains details about homicides recorded in England and Wales since 1977. In contrast to the aggregated recorded crime return, the Homicide Index is continually being updated with revised information from the police as investigations continue and as cases are heard by the courts. As the Homicide Index is continually updated and provides more detailed information, Home Office Statisticians view the Index as a better source of data than the separate monthly aggregated recorded crime return. However, due to the time permitted for police forces to submit the individual returns (within 30 days of recording an incident as homicide) and the complexities in checking the data, it is not possible to use the Homicide Index figures for the annual crime bulletin. Instead, figures from the monthly aggregated recorded crime return are presented as a provisional homicide estimate, with full analysis published in a supplementary bulletin approximately six months' later. Care should therefore be taken when using the provisional figures for homicide as these are subject to change.

- Death by driving offences (includes by dangerous driving, careless or inconsiderate driving, driving under the influence of drink or drugs and while being an unlicensed or uninsured driver).

- Corporate manslaughter where an organisation is deemed responsible for a person's death.
- Grievous bodily harm (GBH) includes injury resulting in permanent disability, more than minor permanent disfigurement, broken bones, fractured skull, compound fractures, substantial loss of blood, lengthy treatment or serious psychiatric injury (based on expert evidence).

GBH with intent occurs when there is clear evidence of a deliberate attempt to inflict serious bodily harm regardless of level of injury sustained.

GBH without intent occurs when serious bodily harm results but there is no evidence of a deliberate intent to inflict such an injury. Prior to April 2008, GBH without intent was not separated out from a much broader category of less serious wounding that mostly consisted of Actual Bodily Harm (ABH).

The definition of GBH with intent rests upon whether "the actions of the offender clearly show a deliberate attempt to inflict serious bodily harm". The clarification to the rules from

April 2008 makes this clear and that "the gravity of the injury resulting is not necessarily the determining factor". The rules were clarified as there had previously been some confusion as to whether the degree of injury sustained, rather than intent, should be the sole determining factor in the recording of these offences (see Section 3).

- Actual Bodily Harm (ABH) relates to any assault with injury which is not GBH (with or without intent) and includes internal injury and shock (when accompanied by expert psychological evidence)
- Threats to kill where an individual fears that the offender's threat is real and may be carried out
- Possession of weapons offences include possession of firearms with intent, possession of other weapons and possession of article with blade or point. If a weapon is used, then the police will normally record a more serious notifiable offence. Possession of firearms with no intent offences are recorded under other miscellaneous offences.
- Harassment offences are those incidents where no other substantive notifiable offence exists, but when looked at as a course of conduct are likely to cause fear, alarm or distress. Public fear, alarm or distress offences are where a course of conduct is not present.
- Assault without injury offences are those where at the most a feeling of touch or passing moment of pain is experienced by the victim.

The other violent offences recorded by the police include attempted murder, conspiracy to murder, poisoning or female genital mutilation, cruelty or neglect to children, abandoning a child under two years and child abduction.

Recorded crime statistics do not specifically identify offences of domestic violence since it is not a legal definition. Such offences would be recorded in accordance with the intent of the offence and any injuries sustained e.g. GBH with intent.

Police recorded crime figures for violence against the person quoted in the text and charts also include assault on a constable and racially or religiously aggravated assault, which are both separate categories within recorded crime. Such incidents are not treated separately in the BCS and would fall within the BCS assault with minor injury or without injury categories.

## Sexual Offences

Due to the small numbers of sexual offences identified by face-to-face BCS interviews, results from the main BCS are too unreliable to report; these data are not included within the overall count of violence (except for the categories of serious wounding with sexual motive and other wounding with sexual motive which are included in the offence type of wounding).

Respondents may not wish to disclose sensitive information face-to-face and so interviews since 2004/05 (and prior to this in 1996 and 2001) have included self-completion modules on intimate violence (see Section 2.3). These figures have previously been published separately from the annual volume (Mirrlees-Black, 1999; Walby and Allen, 2004; Finney, 2006; Coleman et al., 2007; Povey et al., 2008, 2009; Smith et al., 2010). Headline figures are also presented in the annual crime statistics bulletin for 2009/10.

Intimate violence is the collective term used to describe domestic violence, sexual assault and stalking and the categories are defined as follows:

- Any domestic abuse: non-sexual emotional or financial abuse, threats, physical force, sexual assault or stalking carried out by a current or former partner or other family member.
- Partner abuse (non-sexual): non-sexual emotional or financial abuse, threats or physical force by a current or former partner.
- Family abuse (non-sexual): non-sexual emotional or financial abuse, threats or physical force by a family member other than a partner (father/mother, step-father/mother or other relative).
- Emotional or financial abuse: includes being prevented from having a fair share of household money, stopped from seeing friends or relatives or repeatedly belittled.
- Threats are classified as an affirmative response to the statement 'frightened you by threatening to hurt you/someone close'.
- Minor force is classified as an affirmative response to the statement 'pushed you, held you down or slapped you'.
- Severe force involves being kicked, hit, bitten, choked, strangled, threatened with a weapon, threats to kill, use of a weapon or some other kind of force
- Sexual assault: indecent exposure, sexual threats and unwanted touching ('less serious'), rape or assault by penetration including attempts ('serious'), by any person including a partner or family member.

- Rape is the legal category of rape introduced in legislation in 2003. It is the penetration of the vagina, anus or mouth by a penis without consent.
- Assault by penetration is a legal offence introduced in 2003. It is the penetration of the vagina or anus with an object or other body part without consent.
- Stalking: two or more incidents (causing distress, fear or alarm) of obscene or threatening unwanted letters or phone calls, waiting or loitering around home or workplace, following or watching, or interfering with or damaging personal property by any person including a partner or family member.

The police recorded crime category of most serious sexual crime encompasses rape, sexual assault, and sexual activity with children. The Sexual Offences Act 2003, introduced in May 2004, altered the definitions of all three categories so comparisons around this time should be made with caution.

The group of other sexual offences recorded by the police covers unlawful sexual activity, mostly involving consenting adults and is therefore particularly influenced by police activity in investigating such crime. It includes among other offences, exploitation of prostitution and soliciting, but not prostitution itself (which is not a notifiable offence). The Sexual Offences Act

2003, introduced in May 2004, introduced certain offences such as sexual grooming which is included in this group. Offences of indecent exposure have been retrospectively reclassified to sexual offences back to 2002/03 to aid comparisons over time.

## 2 ACQUISITIVE CRIME

BCS acquisitive crime covers all household and personal crime where items are stolen and can be split into household and personal acquisitive crimes.

Household acquisitive crime: Personal acquisitive crime:

Burglary

Attempted burglary in a dwelling

Theft in a dwelling

Theft from outside a dwelling

Theft and attempted theft of and from vehicles

Theft of pedal cycle Snatch theft (Theft from the person)

Stealth theft (Theft from the person)

Attempted theft from the person

Other theft of personal property and other attempted theft of personal property

Robbery and attempted robbery

## Burglary

The BCS covers domestic burglary only, which is an unauthorised entry into the victim's dwelling but does not necessarily involve forced entry; it may be through an open window, or by entering the property under false pretences (e.g. impersonating an official).

BCS domestic burglary does not cover theft by a person who is entitled to be in the dwelling at the time of the offence; this is called theft in a dwelling and includes thefts committed inside a home by someone who is entitled to be there e.g. party guests, workmen.

The police record an offence of burglary if a person enters any building as a trespasser and with intent to commit an offence of theft, GBH or unlawful damage. Aggravated burglary occurs when the burglar is carrying a firearm, imitation firearm, offensive weapon or explosive.

Recorded crime figures are provided separately for burglaries that occur in domestic properties and those which occur in commercial or other properties.

- Domestic burglaries include burglaries in all inhabited dwellings, including inhabited caravans, houseboats and holiday homes, as well as sheds and garages connected to the main dwelling (for example, by a connecting door).
- Non-domestic burglaries include burglaries to businesses (including hotels and similar accommodation) and also some burglaries of sheds and outhouses where these are not clearly connected to the inhabited property.

Using the BCS it is possible to differentiate between burglaries with entry and attempted burglaries and also between burglary with loss and burglary with no loss (including attempts). Burglary with entry plus attempted burglary add up to total burglary. Burglary with loss plus burglary with no loss (including attempts) also add up to total burglary. These are defined below.

An attempted burglary is recorded by the police and in the BCS if there is clear evidence that the offender made an actual, physical attempt to gain entry to a building (e.g. damage to locks, or broken doors) but was unsuccessful.

Burglary with entry is a term used in the BCS and comprises burglary where a building was successfully entered, regardless of whether something was stolen or not.

Burglary with loss is a term used in the BCS and comprises burglary where a building was successfully entered and something was stolen.

In the BCS, burglary with no loss includes attempted entry to a property and cases where a property was entered but nothing was stolen. In making comparisons with police recorded crime, BCS burglary with no loss (including attempts) is used as a proxy for attempted burglary, though there will be some instances with no loss where entry has been gained.

## Vehicle offences

The BCS includes offences against private households only and includes cars, vans, motorbikes, motor-scooters or mopeds used for non-commercial purposes. It identifies three vehicle theft categories:

- Theft of vehicles where the vehicle is driven away illegally, whether or not it is recovered.

- Theft from vehicles refers to both theft of parts and accessories of motor vehicles and to theft of contents.
- Attempted thefts of and from vehicles No distinction is made between attempted theft of and attempted thefts from motor vehicles, as it is often very difficult to ascertain the offender's intention.

If parts or contents are stolen as well as the vehicle being moved, the incident is classified as theft of a motor vehicle.

The police recorded crime category of offences against vehicles covers private and commercial vehicles (although does not distinguish between the two) and comprises:

- Thefts and attempted thefts of vehicles where the intent is to permanently deprive the owner.
- Unauthorised taking of a vehicle where intent to permanently deprive the owner is not evident – this would typically include 'joyriding' where the car is later recovered.
- Aggravated vehicle taking where a vehicle once taken is known to have been driven dangerously, damaged or caused an accident.
- Thefts and attempted thefts from a vehicle targeting property in or on the vehicle.
- Interfering with a motor vehicle which includes attempts to drive away without apparent intent to permanently deprive the owner. This mostly includes recorded crime offences where there is evidence of intent to commit either theft of or from a vehicle or taking without consent (TWOC), but there is either:
  - i. No evidence of intent to commit one of these three offences specifically, or
  - ii. There is evidence of intent to commit TWOC (TWOC is a summary offence but, under the provisions of the Criminal Attempts Act 1981, it is not legally valid to have an attempted summary offence).

Interfering with a motor vehicle offences as presented in the annual crime statistics publication are equivalent to the offence class formerly referred to as 'vehicle interference and tampering'. The BCS cannot separately identify this category. In comparisons with the BCS it is included in the attempted vehicle theft category but in some instances could be viewed as criminal damage or even a nuisance.

The taking of vehicles during robberies (often termed 'car-jacking') is included within the robbery offence group.

## **Robbery**

A robbery is an incident or offence in which force or the threat of force is used either during or immediately prior to a theft or attempted theft. As with violence against the person, police recorded robberies cover a wide range of seriousness from armed bank robberies to muggings for mobile phones or small amounts of money. Recorded crime offences also distinguish between robbery of personal property (personal robbery) and business property (business robbery).

Robbery of business property is a recorded crime classification where goods stolen belong to a business or other corporate body (such as a bank or a shop), regardless of the location of the robbery. The taking of vehicles during robberies (often termed car-jacking) is also included as robbery. Supplementary data on this offence have been collected in a supplementary collection by the Home Office since 2007/08.

The BCS covers robberies against adults resident in households; these are included in the violent crime count

## **Theft**

Theft from the person covers theft (including attempts) of a handbag, wallet, cash etc. directly from the victim, but without the use of physical force against the victim, or the threat of it. This BCS category breaks into two components:

- Snatch theft where there may be an element of force involved but this is just enough to snatch the property away; and
- Stealth theft where no force is used and the victim is unaware of the incident (pick-pocketing). Stealth theft makes up the larger share (over 80%) of the total.

For recorded crime, theft from the person offences are those where there is no use of threat or force. Stealth theft is included as part of this recorded crime category and cannot be separately identified from snatch theft.

Other theft of personal property covers thefts away from the home where no force is used, there was no direct contact between the offender and victim and the victim is not holding or carrying the items when they are stolen (i.e. thefts of unattended property).

Other household theft cover a number of theft types: Theft in a dwelling includes thefts that occurred in the victim's dwelling, by someone who was entitled to be there; theft from outside a dwelling covers incidents where items are stolen from outside the victim's home and the category also includes burglaries to non-connected buildings, for example, garden sheds.

The recorded crime offence group of other theft offences covers thefts that are not covered by other property crime offence groups (i.e. thefts from vehicles is included in offences against vehicles). Offences included are theft from a person, thefts of bicycles, shoplifting and other theft or unauthorised taking.

## **Bicycle Theft**

The BCS covers thefts of bicycles belonging to the respondent or any other member of the household. Police recorded crime also includes offences where a pedal cycle is stolen or taken without authorisation, within the other theft offences category.

This category does not include every bicycle theft, as some may be stolen during the course of another offence (e.g. burglary) and are therefore classified as such by the police and in the BCS:

- Burglary; if anything else was stolen, or an attempt was made to steal something else, from the household's dwelling.

- Theft from a dwelling; when a bicycle is stolen from inside a house by someone who was not trespassing.
- Theft from a vehicle; if the bicycle is one of a number of things stolen.

### **3 VANDALISM AND CRIMINAL DAMAGE**

In the BCS, criminal damage is referred to as vandalism and is defined as the intentional and malicious damage to either the home, other property and vehicles. Vandalism shown in the BCS ranges from arson to graffiti. Cases where there is nuisance only (e.g. letting down car tyres) or where the damage is accidental are not included. Where vandalism occurs in combination with burglary or robbery, the burglary or robbery codes take precedence over the damage codes in offence coding.

The BCS produces estimates both for vandalism to the home and other property and against vehicles. Vandalism to the home and other property involves intentional or malicious damage to doors, windows, fences, plants and shrubs, for example. Vandalism to other property also includes arson where there is any deliberate damage to property belonging to the respondent or their household (including vehicles) caused by fire.

The BCS defines vandalism of vehicles as any intentional and malicious damage to a vehicle such as scratching a coin down the side of a car or denting a car roof. It does not, however, include causing deliberate damage to a car by fire. These incidents are recorded as arson and, therefore, included in vandalism to other property. The BCS only covers vandalism against private households; that is, vehicles owned by any member of the household and company cars which count as belonging to the respondent. Recorded crime includes all vehicle vandalism under the offence classification of criminal damage to a motor vehicle.

Police recorded criminal damage results from any person who without lawful excuse destroys or damages any property belonging to another, intending to destroy or damage any such property or being reckless as to whether any such property would be destroyed or damaged. Damage which is repairable without cost, or which is accidental, is not included in police recorded crime statistics. Separate recorded crime figures exist for criminal damage to a dwelling, to a building other than a dwelling, to a vehicle and other criminal damage. Figures are also published for racially or religiously aggravated criminal damage.

Arson is the act of deliberately setting fire to property including buildings and vehicles. In the BCS this is any deliberate damage to property belonging to the respondent or their household caused by fire, regardless of the type of property involved. The only exception is where the item that is set on fire was stolen first (this is coded as theft). Arson is included in vandalism to other property and includes arson to vehicles.

For vehicle crime, if a vehicle is stolen and later found deliberately burnt out by the same offender, one crime of theft of a vehicle is recorded by the police and in the BCS. If there is evidence that someone unconnected with the theft committed the arson, then an offence of arson is recorded by the police in addition to the theft. For the BCS, only an offence of theft of a vehicle would be recorded as in practice it would often not be possible to establish that the arson was committed by someone unconnected with the theft.

#### 4 FRAUD AND FORGERY

The measurement of fraud is challenging as fraud is known to be very substantially under-reported to the police. Better information can be derived from other sources. For example, figures for plastic (credit, debit or bank) card fraud are obtained from The UK Cards Association, which is the leading trade association for the cards industry in the UK. For more information on the various sources of fraud including administrative data and on the nature, extent and economic impact of fraud in the UK, see Hoare (2007), Levi et al. (2007) and Wilson et al. (2006).

Plastic card fraud among individuals resident in households in England and Wales is also covered in a module within the BCS. Stolen plastic cards (i.e. credit, debit or bank cards) are included in the main BCS crime count under the relevant offence, such as burglary or theft from the person, but incidents of fraud are not covered. However, the BCS has included questions on experience of plastic card fraud in a separate module of questions since 2005/06.

Offences of fraud and forgery are recorded by the police, but figures from 2007/08 onwards are not comparable with previous years due to the introduction of the Fraud Act 2006, which commenced in January 2007 and saw significant changes to offences in the fraud and forgery offence group.

For offences prior to January 2007, fraud is defined as dishonestly deceiving to obtain either property or a pecuniary advantage. Recorded crime statistics were collected for: fraud by company director; false accounting; cheque and credit card fraud; other frauds; bankruptcy and insolvency offences; forgery or use of false drug prescription; other forgery and vehicle/driver document fraud.

Under the Fraud Act 2006, fraud is defined as dishonestly making a false representation to obtain property or money for themselves or another. Recorded crime statistics are collected for: fraud by company director; false accounting; other frauds; failing to disclose information; abuse of position; obtaining services dishonestly; making or supplying articles for use in fraud; possession of articles for use in fraud; bankruptcy and insolvency offences; forgery or use of false drug prescription; other forgery and vehicle/driver document fraud.

The Counting Rules changes in January 2007 also changed recording of fraud so that in most cases cheque and plastic card fraud is counted on a 'per account' rather than 'per transaction' basis. If an account is defrauded only one offence is recorded rather than one offence per fraudulent transaction on each account (as was the practice prior to January 2007). For example, previously if a person had their credit card stolen and it was subsequently used on ten separate occasions to buy goods fraudulently from ten different shops there would be a requirement for one crime record for theft and ten for deception. Now there is a requirement to record one theft and one fraud by false representation. The result of this change means that fewer crimes of plastic card and cheque fraud were recorded by the police during 2007/08, 2008/09 and 2009/10 compared with previous years and recorded fraud and forgery figures prior to 2007/08 are not comparable with more recent figures.

This change was made to reduce significant bureaucracy in recording crime (possibly involving several police forces) and to reflect the fact that in the cases when this counting basis is used, the financial loss is generally borne by the financial institution at which the account is held rather than by the merchants who process a transaction or by the account holder.

From April 2007, where a financial institution makes full financial recompense to an account holder, the financial institution (rather than the account holder) can report the crime directly to a single point of contact within the police.

These changes have been supported by The UK Cards Association and ACPO as they have resulted in significant reductions in bureaucracy in relation to the reporting of cheque and plastic card fraud. This has focused police effort on reports of fraud most likely to lead to a suspect being brought to justice and also introduced single points of contact within police forces for the financial institutions to report cases directly to. As victims of fraud are mainly commercial organisations, it is not covered in the same way as other crimes. The government's Fraud Review (2006) also specifically welcomed the changes that were being put in place:  
[http://www.aasbni.gov.uk/pubs/FCI/fraudreview\\_finalreport.pdf](http://www.aasbni.gov.uk/pubs/FCI/fraudreview_finalreport.pdf)

The 2006 Fraud Act also resulted in the creation of a National Fraud Authority (NFA). One of the key objectives of this new body is to support better reporting of fraud crimes and their subsequent investigation. During 2009/10 the NFA opened a single national point of reporting for a wide range of frauds, in particular those arising from the growing use of the internet and email. This new means of reporting sits outside the police service as a call centre (Action Fraud) with an associated online reporting tool. At the same time the police have established a National Fraud Intelligence Bureau (NFIB) to receive reports from Action Fraud as well as those from the banks and other financial institutions and to analyse them to identify positive investigatory opportunities which will then be referred to individual forces to follow up. The creation of these new bodies has had little or no impact on police recorded crime data for 2009/10 as they only commenced operation in early 2010.

## **5 RACIALLY OR RELIGIOUSLY AGGRAVATED OFFENCES**

Used in recorded crime, racially aggravated offences are legally defined under section 28 of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998. The Anti-terrorism, Crime and Security Act 2001 (section 39) added the religiously aggravated aspect. Racially and religiously aggravated offences are categorised together in police recorded crime and cannot be separately identified. BCS respondents are asked whether they thought the incident was racially motivated and from 2005/06 whether they thought the incident was religiously motivated. Figures on racially and religiously motivated crimes from the 2005/06 and 2006/07 BCS are reported in Jansson et al. (2007).

## **6 DRUG OFFENCES**

Recorded crime figures for drugs offences are published in Table 2.04 of the annual crime statistics publication. With effect from April 2004, ACPO issued guidance to forces over the recording of warnings for cannabis possession (these were termed 'formal warnings' for cannabis possession prior to January 2007). These were incorporated into the Home Office Counting Rules (see Section 3 for more information). From January 2009 it has also been possible to issue a Penalty Notice for Disorder for cannabis possession (this detection method was not separated from Cannabis Warnings in statistics for the period to the end of March 2009).

In addition, the Home Office produces a separate National Statistics bulletin on Drug Seizures for England and Wales, covering seizures made by the police, HM Revenue and Customs, and the UK Border Agency.

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