

HOUSING & COMMUNITIES OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY PANEL – 17 JANUARY 2024

PORTFOLIO: COMMUNITY, SAFETY & WELLBEING

SAFER NEW FOREST PARTNERSHIP – CONSIDERATION OF CRIME AND DISORDER FIGURES

1. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 1.1 That the Panel considers and reviews the draft Safer New Forest Strategic assessment for 2023.

2. INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND

- 2.1 The Crime & Disorder Act 1998 requires District Councils to have a crime and disorder committee whose functions are to review or scrutinise decisions made, or other action taken, in connection with the discharge by “responsible authorities” of their crime and disorder functions. The Housing & Communities Overview & Scrutiny Panel fulfils the role of the crime & disorder committee for NFDC.

- 2.2 The “responsible authorities” for the area are:

- New Forest District Council
- Hampshire County Council
- Probation Services
- Hampshire & Isle of Wight Constabulary
- Hampshire & Isle of Wight Fire & Rescue Service
- Integrated Care Boards

- 2.3 These authorities form the nucleus of the “Safer New Forest Strategy & Delivery Group” which co-ordinates the delivery of the responsible authorities’ statutory crime and disorder functions. They are assisted in this by the following partners who are additional members of the Strategy & Delivery Group:

- New Forest National Park Authority
- Hampshire County Council Children’s Services
- Hampshire County Council Adult Services
- Hampshire County Council Youth Offending Team
- Education Representative (Secondary)

3. STATUTORY CRIME AND DISORDER RESPONSIBILITIES

- 3.1 The responsible authorities’ statutory responsibilities include preparing annual strategies for:

- The reduction of crime and disorder in the area (including anti-social and other behaviour adversely affecting the local environment); and
- For combating the misuse of drugs, alcohol and other substances in the area; and
- For the reduction of re-offending in the area

The Strategy & Delivery Group prepares an annual Partnership Plan setting out agreed strategies for the above.

- 3.2 The Strategy & Delivery Group is required to undertake an annual strategic assessment of crime and disorder using available data to assist in revising and developing the priorities for the following year.
- 3.3 The draft strategic assessment 2023 (Appendix 1) was considered and approved by the Strategy Group on 8 January 2024.
- 3.4 Safer New Forest partners will reconvene during February as a working group to develop the partnership priorities and action plan for delivery during 2024/25.
- 3.5 The Safer New Forest annual strategic assessment and supporting partnership plan will be supported in its delivery through the implementation of the Serious Violence Duty.

4. CONCLUSIONS

- 4.1 In its role, the Panel is asked to consider any matters arising from the 2023 Strategic Assessment and for their consideration of CSP priorities.

5. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 None arising directly from this report.

6. CRIME & DISORDER IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1 The Partnership Plan is directed at achieving the points set out in paragraph 2.1 and as such is an important tool in addressing crime & disorder issues in the district. The Strategic Assessment is an assessment of performance against the Plan and therefore is significant in assessing the value of initiatives undertaken.

7. ENVIRONMENTAL & EQUALITY & DIVERSITY IMPLICATIONS

- 7.1 Plans and strategies are developed in accordance with New Forest District Council's Corporate Equality Objectives. This assessment seeks to support the responses to crime, as well as the prevention of crime by seeking to promote a positive impact on the victims of crimes, vulnerable people and vulnerable communities within the district. Particular groups such as those identified in section 5 are a particular priority for the CSP and the outcomes of this assessment will prioritise addressing the identified needs of, and tackling issues experienced by protected groups in the New Forest.

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Background Papers:

Safer New Forest Strategic Assessment
2023 (Appendix 1)

safer new forest

Targeting Crime and Antisocial Behaviour

Strategic Assessment 2023



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



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1. FOREWARD

As Portfolio Holder for Community, Safety & Wellbeing and chair of the Safer New Forest Strategy & Delivery Group, on behalf of the partners it is my pleasure to introduce the 2022/23 Safer New Forest strategic assessment.

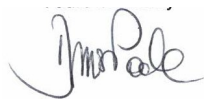
The Safer New Forest partnership brings together a range of statutory, public and voluntary organisations who work together to prevent crime, reduce the fear of crime and enable the communities to feel safe where they live, work and visit.

The New Forest will have its specific issues that need to be addressed and our strategic assessment will help identify those and formulate actions to combat them. However, it is also important that we remain alert to issues occurring more widely across Hampshire as these can quite quickly become local issues for us to address.

The assessment will include a summary of crime data, comparison of the levels based on previous years and patterns of crime and disorder.

Following the introduction of the Serious Violence Duty which was enacted in 2022 as part of the Police, Crime and Sentencing Act, it requires specified to work together and develop a targeted plan to prevent and reduce serious violence. To support the annual Safer New Forest strategic assessment and partnership action plan, a countywide response strategy on serious violence has been developed with the Office of the Police & Crime Commissioner. The response strategy published in January 2024 highlights that whilst the New Forest district area does not have a serious violence profile, it has identified areas of focus for a coordinated response from members of the Safer New Forest partnership who are also defined as specified authorities.

New Forest District Council along with its committed partners continues to work hard in tackling issues that affect our communities. A recent survey conducted on the perception of crime in the New Forest provided a high confidence rate of people feeling safe. Whilst encouraging, we will continue to work through 2024 with our partners to reduce fear and incidents of reported crime.



CLlr Dan Poole
Chair, Safer New Forest Partnership



2. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The aim and purpose of this document is to assist the partnership in understanding patterns and trends relating to crime, disorder and ASB which impact residents, visitors and the business community within the district. The assessment also enables the partnership to identify and agree its strategic priorities for the next 12 months covering the period 2024/25. The priorities once set will be published as the Safer New Forest partnership action plan.

Using a range of data sources this has helped to provide a picture of crime and disorder (including anti-social behaviour) within the New Forest. Data sources, whilst informative, will have their limitations as crime data only reflects reported crime. The data included in this assessment will be influenced by a range of additional factors including changes in Police recording practices and policing activity/focus. Willingness of victims to report crime is also a key aspect and increases in reported crime types can also be in part due to targeted resources, greater awareness or higher confidence in the reporting process.

Recorded crime for the period April 2022 to March 2023 shows a reduction in the following crime types:

- *Decrease in other sexual offences by 4% (12 incidents)*
- *Decrease in reports of rape by 18% (28 incidents)*
- *Decrease in theft from person by 12% (5 incidents)*
- *Recorded anti-social behaviour reports decreased by 27% (508 incidents) with ASB showing an overall reduction of 51% since 2018*
- *Decrease in theft from vehicle down by 15% (153 incidents)*
- *Recorded Public Order offences decreased by 5% (70 incidents).*

Areas of concern:

- *Reports of shoplifting offences show an increase of 39% (177 incidents)*
- *Criminal damage has increased by 8% (100 incidents)*
- *Possession of weapons has increased by 33% (30 incidents)*
- *Business & community burglary has increased by 16% increase (45 incidents).*

The priorities identified through the Strategic Assessment 2023 are:

To be agreed by the strategic partners in Q1 2024.

3. DEMOGRAPHIC PROFILE

The New Forest has a population of around 179,040, of which 8.9% are aged between 15 and 24. This is lower than the Hampshire average of 10.1%. The population density is 234 people per square kilometre, which is lower than the overall population density of Hampshire (381). The New Forest is a large district which is mainly rural with urbanised areas in Totton and Hythe to the east, Lymington and New Milton on the coast and Ringwood in the west. These areas hold 73% of the district population. A further 16% of the population live in rural towns and fringe areas, whilst the remaining 11% are in rural villages.

Within the Census 2021 protected characteristics were collated for the New Forest including, ethnicity and sexual orientation.

Residents self-identified their ethnicity as the following:

- White - 170,110 (96.7%)
- Asian, Asian British or Asian Welsh - 2,097 (1.2%)
- Black, Black British, Black Welsh, Caribbean or African - 700 (0.4%)
- Mixed or multiple ethnic groups - 2,230 (1.3%)
- Other ethnic groups - 643 (0.4%)

Residents identified their sexual orientation as the following:

- Straight or heterosexual – 91.3%
- Bisexual – 0.8%
- Gay or lesbian – 1.0%
- Not answered – 6.7%

The Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government calculate local measures of deprivation in England. The Index of Multiple Deprivation 2019 (IMD) provides a relative ranking of areas across England according to their level of deprivation. Overall, New Forest has a low level of deprivation. It was ranked 240 out of 317 local authority districts across England (where rank 1 had the highest level of deprivation) and ranks similar than the Hampshire average. There are very small areas of deprivation within the district, with pockets of higher levels of deprivation located in Totton, areas near to Hythe, Lymington and New Milton. New Forest ranks similar than the Hampshire average when looking at income deprivation affecting children.

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

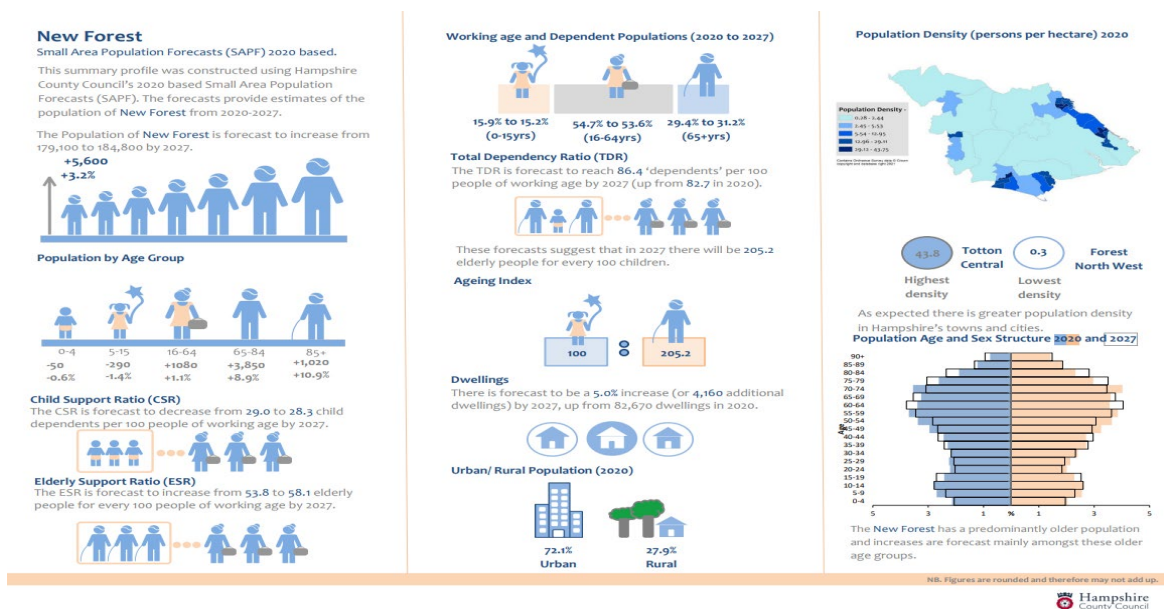


Figure 1: Demographics of the New Forest

4. SOURCES OF INFORMATION

4.1 The New Forest Community Safety partnership is made up of the following statutory responsible authorities:

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

4.2 In addition, throughout 2023, 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

5. REVIEW OF THE PARTNERSHIP PLAN 2023/2024

- 5.1 The Partnership Plan 2023/24 was formally agreed by the partnership on 6th March 2023. It was published on the Safer New Forest website for public viewing following this date.
- 5.2 The Partnership Plan identified the following priorities:
- Drug & alcohol related harm
 - Domestic abuse
 - Tackling crime and fear of crime through education, prevention and enforcement
- 5.3 As a collective, partner agencies are responsible for the development of priorities, identifying resources and a strategy for the delivery of the actions throughout the year.
- 5.4 The Strategy and Delivery Group scrutinised the progress of each priority throughout the year monitoring progress.
- 5.5 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.

5.5.1 Drug and Alcohol related harm

Police intelligence helps inform the Drug Related Harm forum, assisting members with reviewing behavioural trends relating to substance use, whilst taking a whole family response by considering individuals and family members when implementing appropriate actions. From this forum, actions are developed to address locations and persons 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 with positive attendance and participation from partners. Police continue to utilise dedicated and targeted operations to disrupt and engage with users and where appropriate, divert them to support services, re-education rather than enforcement.

County Lines is a term used to describe organised criminal networks involved in distributing illegal drugs out of bigger cities into smaller towns, including those within the New Forest area. Dealers (lines) are likely to exploit children and vulnerable adults to move and store drugs and money obtained through the selling of illicit substances. Compliance is often achieved using 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, active sharing of intelligence, to reassure and raise awareness of the issues surrounding County Lines.

During this period, actionable intelligence obtained through active partner and community collaboration, Police were able to execute warrants targeting offenders and seize drugs and cash proceeds of crime from networks operating in the New Forest. In particular, between Monday October 9th and Sunday October 15th, proactive and targeted work was undertaken by officers from within the New Forest Priority Crime Team and local Neighbourhood Policing Teams relating to drug-related operations. Further work and areas of development continue with a number of individuals subject to court bail and impending prosecution cases. Continued focus on active intelligence gathering and disruption of networks continues to develop and ensure the New Forest remains a hostile environment to offenders, both locally and nationally.

The Community Safety Partnership (CSP) recognise the role that all services and communities play in tackling the causes and effects of crime and addiction that are so detrimental to communities. Through the submission of a Community Partnership Intelligence forms (CPI), developing or actionable intelligence is shared. Such is the commitment from wider partnership, the New Forest remains one of the top reporting areas for CPI referrals when compared to our neighbouring authorities. It is through the active and regular sharing of intelligence between partners which enables the development of response profiles that not only interrupt offending behaviour, but also identify vulnerable individuals and locations within our communities. Submitted intelligence whilst confidential is also sanitised prior to review or sharing to protect the identity of the submitting person or agency.

Addiction and substance misuse is frequently funded thorough acts of criminality, often which appear to be opportunistic. For the increased awareness and preventative measures against the theft of cycles, New Forest District Council with the participation of our colleagues from Hampshire Constabulary facilitated 10 bike register events across the district.

The aim of the events was to provide owners practical advice on bike security, which included free bike marking. Bikes are marked with a unique reference number which on completion is registered onto the National Bike Register database. In the event of this being stolen and recovered by Police, it is through the national recording of the registered number which allows the item to be returned to their owner. As the bike mark is also highlighted with a visible alert on the frame, this also acts as a deterrent to any would be thief.

Early deterrence and positive activities are key to diverting young people away from crime or from being exploited by others to commit crime. Through the financial assistance from Office of Police & Crime Commissioner's (OPCC) violence reduction

fund, two successful bids were confirmed for the New Forest. AFC Bournemouth Community Sports Trust established a new open-access weekly football session in Ringwood based at their new Community Hub site. Timed and delivered to actively tackle peak ASB spikes and to raise aspirations of young people.

Youth Options through visiting New Forest secondary schools undertook group and 1:1 work within the educational setting. Knife crime awareness programmes form part of the intervention, equipping young people with positive knowledge on the dangers of possession and use of bladed articles.

Timing and location can be critical when intervening and engaging with persons responsible for offending behaviour. The Reset programme which is aimed at 18–25-year-olds starts in the custody suite which for many, can be seen as an intimidating and isolating environment. A Reset advocate can offer support to individuals in custody with employment, education, housing, family issues. Support is bespoke, with each advocate led package being tailored to the individual and their circumstance.

Following the implementation of the drug testing on arrest scheme within custody suites, this is continually proving to demonstrate positive outcomes. With an increase in transparent and open conversations on substance misuse, interactions and conversations with persons under detention, some who may feel it appropriate and ready to engage in therapeutic services are more likely to be taken up.

5.5.2 Domestic Abuse (DA)

The District Council lead and convene the New Forest Domestic Abuse Forum. Through the role of the District's Community Safety Manager who chairs the forum, partners convene on a quarterly basis with regular attendance from a diverse range of agencies. This collaborative approach of specialist and voluntary services work cohesively supporting the needs of vulnerable victims and contributing to the reduction of domestic abuse.

Through the forum, partners seek and support commissioning opportunities where there are gaps in service delivery or unmet needs. Utilising data and service analysis, this identifies under representation or participation of specific groups accessing services. Alongside this, Hampshire Domestic Abuse Partnership (HDAP) have a Data Analyst who attends the forum and created a domestic abuse countywide dashboard. Data compiled includes localised information pertinent to the New Forest which aids the forum.

Following the successful delivery of the 'No Age for Abuse' training in 2022, partners requested the forum commission LGBTQ+ awareness sessions which will be delivered in February 2024. Learning outcomes are to provide attendees with an increased awareness of barriers facing members of the LGBTQ+ community and improve access to support services.

A key priority of forum members is to raise awareness and understanding of domestic abuse on both individuals and communities. Participating in the national White Ribbon Day and 16 Days of Action campaign provided the platform for multiple services and agencies to utilise various media streams increasing awareness and access to support.

New Forest District Council through the work of the Safer New Forest partnership undertake a statutory review following a domestic related death. The review is to ensure that any learning outcomes are identified and embedded in future practice to support victims of DA. Whilst it has been some years since the New Forest has been required to undertake a review, partners are keen to ensure that best practice established nationally is understood and reflected in local practice within the New Forest.

Forum members review Domestic Homicide Reviews locally to ensure best practice is shared across partner agencies. Further work is ongoing with the Office of Police & Crime Commissioner to participate within a national pilot project of DHR reviews.

Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG)

Evidence data confirms, women and girls are disproportionately victims of crime, specifically violent crime: 1 in 4 women will experience domestic abuse and 1 in 5 sexual assault during their lifetime. Violence against women and girls can take many forms, including domestic violence, stalking and 'honour based' violence. Over the last decade newly emerging crimes include 'up skirting' and 'revenge porn' and the expansion of the digital world means these instances are increasing.

Whilst there has been improved focus to women's safety resulting from national and local strategies. Supported by public initiatives and engagement with Police, business and schools, it is recognised there needs to a continuation of this whole societal approach.

Through a combined submission to the Home Office, Safer Streets funding with our neighbouring authorities, NFDC secured additional funding for the provision of CCTV cameras. Deployments within rural locations are to deter crime and increase confidence for isolated communities.

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

Figure 2 below shows a comparison of referrals to Stop Domestic Abuse detailed by month. There are some noticeable fluctuations for certain months i.e. August 2022 which coincides with the UK's inflation rate rise of 10.1% (which continually rose throughout the year) also demonstrates an uplift in referrals. With associated increases in the cost of food and utilities, this may be a contributory factor to dynamics in the family home and possible increase in incidents of domestic abuse. In November 2022, where there is a 30% uplift in referrals to that of the previous year, which coincides with the start of the men's football world cup. It is widely acknowledged that increases in domestic abuse reports, correlate to larger sports events.

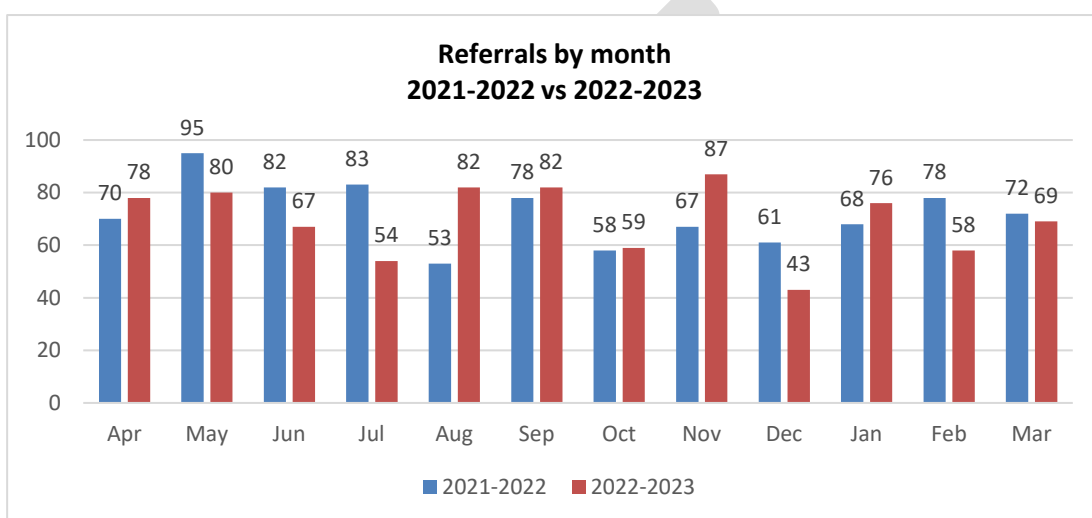


Figure 2: Stop Domestic Abuse referrals by month 2021/2022 compared to 2022/2023

Gender

Referrals for male victims of domestic abuse show an increase of 17 referrals (16%) for 2021/22 to 2022/23, this could be attributed to the highlighted work of the partners in raising awareness of support services for male victims. Referrals year on year for women have reduced by 6%. On reflection this show that referrals have returned to their average rate pre-covid.

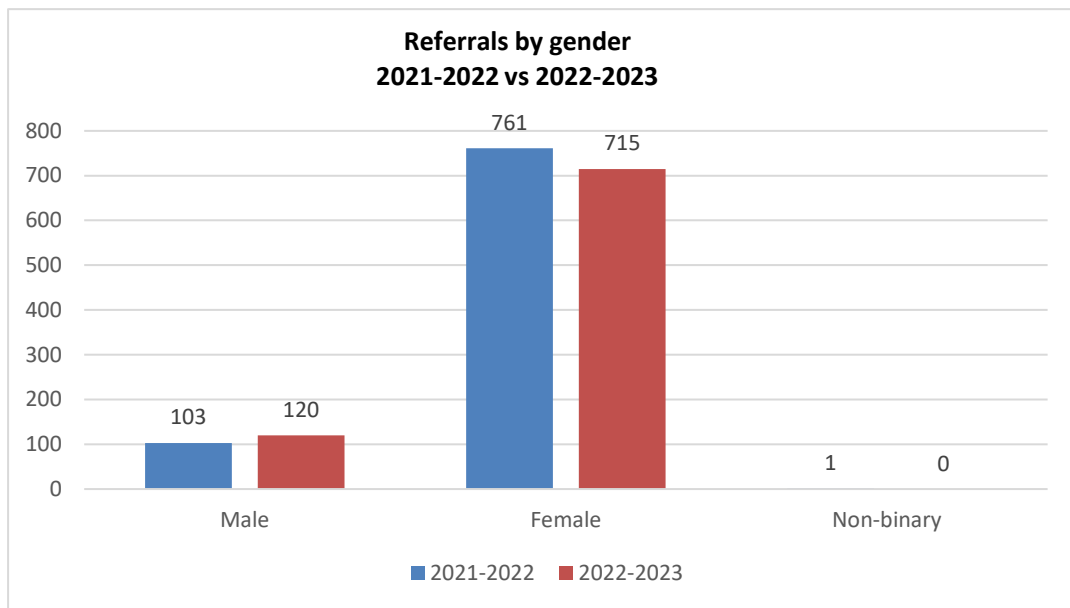


Figure 3: Referrals by victim's gender 2020/2021 compared to 2021/2022

Age

Stop Domestic Abuse provides holistic support for all family members living in an environment where domestic abuse is perpetrated. Referrals by age has remained level to a degree.

In 2021 partners of the Domestic Abuse Forum identified under reporting of DA incidents in the age group of 56+. In response to this and following delivery of the "No Age for Abuse" training across the wider partnership, the referral rate has seen an anticipated uplift of 8% in 2022-23.

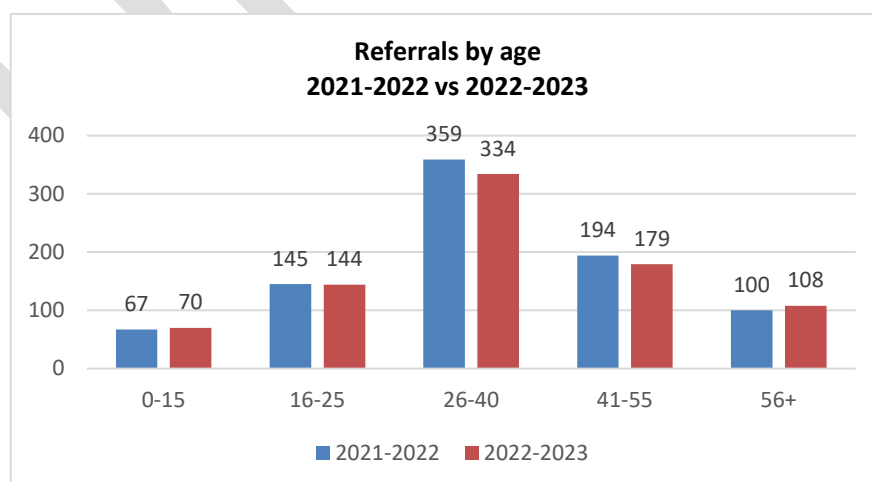


Figure 4: Referrals in by victim's age-range 2021-2022 compared to 2022-2023

Yellow Door

Yellow Door as a charity offers a wide range of therapeutic support and prevention services to anyone at risk or affected by domestic abuse or sexual violence. Offering a range of services including 1:1 and group support for adults, families and children/young people. Supporting people from the New Forest who have experienced an unwanted sexual experience their Independent Sexual Violence Advisors (ISVA) help survivors make informed choices about their next steps, including providing support throughout the criminal justice system should this be an avenue they wish to pursue.

Last year, Yellow Door supported over 180 people from the New Forest through their ISVA service and 200 people through their therapeutic services with delivery to both adults and young people.

To support the delivery of the service, New Forest District Council awarded Yellow Door a community grant for the provision of prevention and education workshops to children and young people at schools across the New Forest. In 2022/23, Yellow Door worked with over 1000 young people in schools across the New Forest.

5.5.3 Tackling crime and fear of crime through education, prevention and enforcement

Following concerns raised regarding animal welfare from the feeding and petting of free roaming New Forest animals and the setting of fires, the District Council undertook an extensive public consultation during 2023. After a review of the findings was undertaken, the District Council, under the Anti-Social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014 enacted two Public Space Protection Orders banning:

- **PSPO 1** - placing, throwing or dropping items likely to cause a fire; or lighting fires (of any type) or barbeques (including disposable barbeques and any outdoor temporary cooking facilities or equipment).
- **PSPO 2** - feeding or providing or depositing food for consumption by any New Forest pony, horse, mule or donkey; or petting or touching any New Forest pony, horse, mule or donkey.

Staff from Forestry England, the New Forest National Park Authority and the Verderers of the New Forest were granted delegated authority by the Council to educate visitors and residents and where appropriate, enforce the two new Public Space Protection Orders (PSPOs) introduced by the Council.

The orders are to protect the forest from damage caused through wildfires and BBQs and for public safety and animal welfare. Failure to comply can result in a fixed penalty notice or prosecution for non-payment.

NFDC developed and delivered training for our partners in Forestry England, the New Forest National Park Authority and the Verderers of the New Forest. Following the implementation of the orders, in the first three months whilst no fines were required to be issued, officers from the partner agencies engaged with more than 700 visitors and residents in relation to 152 separate incidents. The majority of which (120) related to animals. Through positive and educational engagement opportunities, evidence supports a high compliance rate with no repeat offenders identified.

To increase public awareness and compliance of the orders signage was created and erected in areas covered by the orders. Information leaflets were also developed for public dissemination and to help inform engagement opportunities with the public.

Partners of the Safer New Forest Strategy & Delivery Group value the views and opinions of residents and visitors to the New Forest as they help shape and direct the actions of the group. Young people, whilst also victims of crime, indicate they are less likely to report offences to Police or agencies in authority. Some responses indicate a lack of trust but also a lack of awareness in how to report. The Community Safety team have ensured that all secondary schools and town and parish councils have resources to ensure the Fearless reporting mechanism is widely advertised and used. The Fearless website contains useful guidance for young people. This information supports the Safe4Me educational package developed by Hampshire Constabulary which provides lessons plans and advice to frontline educational practitioners.

Research shows that children and young people not in education, employment and training (NEET) may experience reduced opportunities and be exposed to influences of unhealthy behaviours increasing their exposure to offending behaviour. Hampshire & Isle of Wight Fire and Rescue Service (HIWFERS) successfully deliver 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 young people gain new skills and experiences improving access to employment or further education. Candidates are provided opportunities and tasks to help them realise their potential through team challenges, hands-on workshops and bite-sized taster courses for various roles in the emergency services.

In addition to this, HIWFERS supported 25 cadets at Ringwood Fire Station with 20 new cadets starting this year. This localised successful scheme has been operating for 20 years and is resourced through the commitment of local officers. Candidates undertake community-based tasks developing skills of teamwork and problem solving which are transferable as they develop into young adults.

The National Park Authority coordinate quadrant meetings which complement the NFALC (New Forest District Association of Local Councils) meetings. These are not public events and are geographically focused. The Community Safety Manager attends these meetings on a topical basis with a view to engage and strengthen relationships with Town & Parish Councils.

Serious Violence Duty

In readiness for the implementation of the Serious Violence Duty in January 2024, Community Safety Partnerships (CSP) are required to develop and publish a response strategy to the impacts and to serious violence within the CSP area. In preparation for this, a strategic needs assessment has been undertaken covering offences which fall within this category. To support CSPs in the delivery of the response strategy, the Police & Crime Commissioner established a Violence Reduction Unit (VRU) which has been working alongside all district CSPs. Through this coordinated approach across the county, commissioned resources will provide additional resilience and support.

6. COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

- 6.1 During 2022 links continued to be developed with partners from within 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 sought the views of local communities to better understand priorities and emerging trends for the partnership to consider and support.
- 6.2 Town and Parish Councils were invited to complete a survey pertaining to local views on crime and disorder within their communities, focusing in 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?
- 6.3 In response to the question ‘What is going well within your Town/Parish?’:
- Good local community engagement – monthly parish newsletters, Facebook groups, village volunteers for the elderly and vulnerable, social events
 - Active Community Speedwatch teams in several areas
 - Regular liaison between local policing team and residents and parish council

- Litter picking by parish pickers
- Well supported local amenities

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 littering, graffiti and sporadic acts of vandalism.
- One council has concerns about rise in small fires, in particular bins being targeted.
- Speeding is reported as an issue in rural areas with concerns for darker evenings with reduced street lighting.
- Theft from outbuildings in rural parishes not receiving priority Police attendance.
- Fly tipping is also causing concern to some parishes.

When asked, 'What could improve your area':

- Greater police presence and ad-hoc Police patrols
- Holiday clubs/schemes for older children
- Additional speedwatch volunteers
- Targeted prevention of fires and arson
- Challenge litter and fly-tipping
- Support for introduction of lower speed limits and monitoring of speeding. 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 9.1 for more details).

6.4 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 being undertaken at foodbanks, market days and crime reduction awareness events. These provide the CSP partners with an opportunity to meet with members of the public and undertake a crime and disorder survey. Whilst also hearing first hand of the concerns from within the community, this also informs and shapes discussions and awareness raising about the work of the partnership to be explored and highlighted.

To ensure the survey response data is comparative year on year, the questions are consistent with previous years. Figure 5 below shows 98% 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.

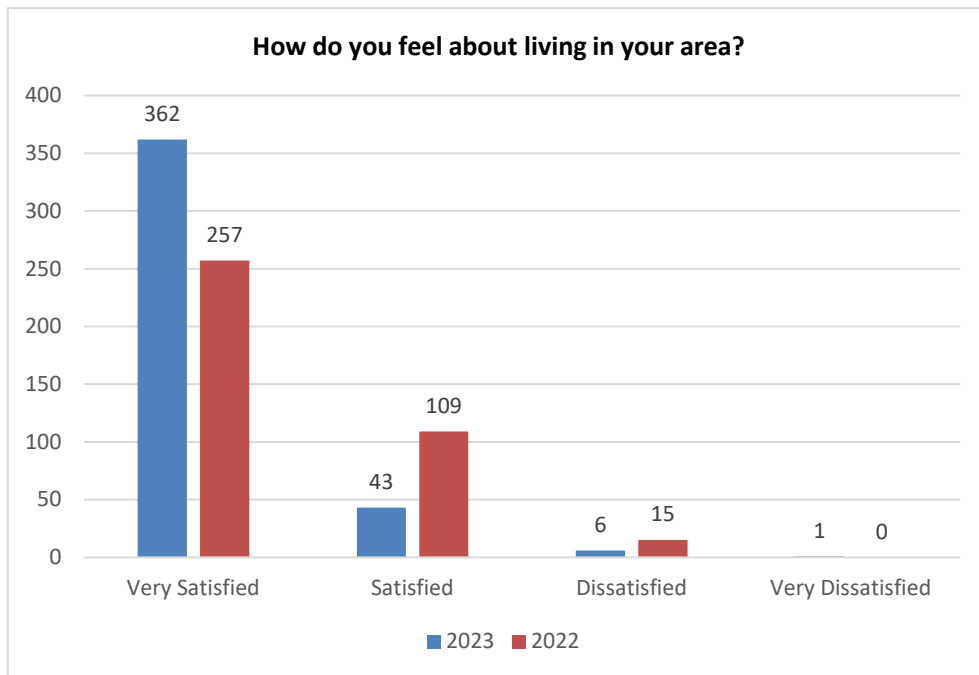


Figure 5: Residents satisfaction with living in the New Forest area 2022 compared to 2023

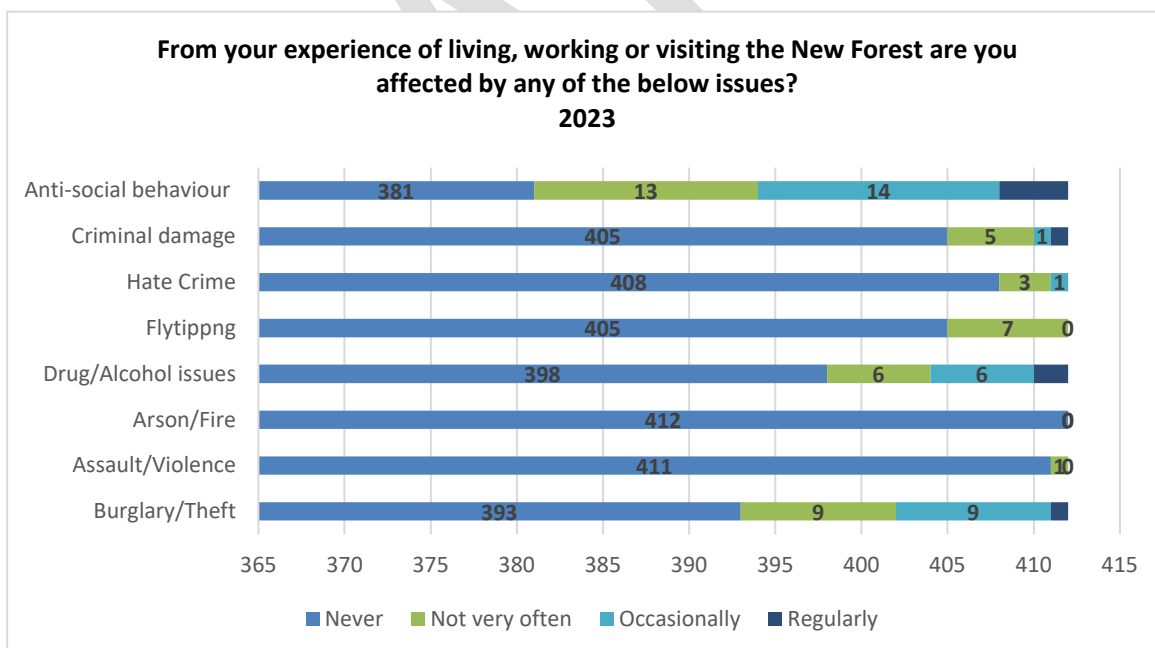


Figure 6: Residents currently affected by crime/ASB (2022)

Residents continue to report that although they do feel safe and are positive about living within their community, the overall fear being a victim of crime remains. When explored further this identifies fear is not driven from actual experience, but from external influencing factors i.e. social media, news and hearsay.

Other areas of concern raised by residents include speeding, increasing prevalence of electric scooters on public pathways, lack of parking within residential areas, littering and a desire to see more of a Police presence.

The District Council Community Safety team, through a dedicated Road Safety Co-Ordinator, support community led speedwatch groups, co-ordinated by Hampshire Constabulary. This approach increases local resilience, awareness and collaboration with members of the partnership and the communities with a focus of speed reduction through education and awareness. With management of the Council's speed indicator display function set within the Community Safety department, this ensures localised data informs emerging needs and concerns (see section 9.1).

- 6.5 The Safer New Forest website is a combined resource of the partnership providing topical information for members of the public and professionals alike 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.

7. 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 01/04/2022 to 31/03/2023 in comparison to year 01/04/21 – 31/03/2022.

Crime Type	01/04/2022 – 31/03/2023	01/04/2021 – 31/03/2022	Variation By incident
VIOLENCE AGAINST THE PERSON			
Homicide	0	3	-3
Violence with injury	1226	1196	+30
Violence without injury	3264	3197	+67
Total	4490	4396	+94
SEXUAL OFFENCES			
Rape	130	158	-28
Other Sexual Offences	292	304	-12
Total	422	462	-40
ROBBERY			
Robbery of Business Property	9	6	+3
Robbery of Personal Property	43	42	+1
Total	52	48	+4
BURGLARY*			
Residential	755	740	+15
Business and Community	321	276	+45
Total	1076	1016	+60
THEFT OFFENCES			
Theft from Vehicle	853	1006	-153
Theft from Person	37	42	-5
Bicycle Theft	177	171	+6
Shoplifting	627	450	+177
All other Theft Offences	945	862	+83
Total	2639	2531	+108
CRIMINAL DAMAGE & ARSON OFFENCES			
Criminal Damage	1343	1243	+100
Arson	59	64	-5
Total	1402	1307	+95
DRUG OFFENCES			
Trafficking of Drugs	56	65	-9
Possession of Drugs	280	265	+15
Total	336	330	+6
Possession of Weapons Offences	122	92	+30
Public Order Offences	1353	1423	-70
Miscellaneous Crimes Against Society	191	177	+14

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**.

Table 7 below shows a breakdown of offences which fall under the category of violence without injury:

Violence without injury 3264 incidents	Total	Variation from previous year
Abduction of child by other persons	3	↑ 2
Abduction of child by parent	1	-
Administering drugs or using instruments to procure abortion	1	-
Assault on other emergency service worker: Common assault & battery	24	No change
Assault on police: Common assault & battery	42	↑ 2
Breach of restraining order	27	No change
Common assault and battery (no injury or lasting pain)	1382	↓ 14
Cruelty to and neglect of children	74	No change
Disclose or threats to disclose private sexual photographs / film with intent to cause distress	14	↑ 7
Engage in controlling and coercive behaviour in an intimate family relationship	43	↓ 5
Kidnapping	1	↓ 1
Procuring drugs etc to cause abortion	1	↓ 0
Protection from Harassment Act (Section 2) – Protection from harassment	717	↑ 72
Protection from Harassment Act (Section 4) – Putting people in fear of violence	45	↑ 19
Pursue course of conduct in breach of Section 1 which amounts to stalking	169	↑ 16
Racially/religiously aggravated (Section 2) - Protection from harassment, harassment without violence	10	No change
Racially/religiously aggravated common assault or beating	4	↓ 6
Require person to perform forced or compulsory labour	4	No change
Sending letters with intent to cause distress or anxiety	602	↓ 18
Stalking involving fear of violence	6	↓ 1
Stalking involving serious alarm/distress	24	↓ 11
Threats to kill	70	↑ 16

Table 7: Violence without injury crimes broken down 01/04/22-31/03/23

A breakdown of crimes where domestic abuse was a factor is detailed below in table 8. Column 1 shows crime by type with the overall number of recorded incidents relating to that offence in column 2. The number of these recorded offences which were domestic abuse related are highlighted within column 3.

Crime Type	01/04/2022 – 31/03/2023	Domestic abuse related
Violence with injury	1226	395
Violence without injury	3264	1045
Rape	130	64
Other Sexual Offences	292	31
Robbery of Personal Property	43	1
Residential Burglary	755	14
Vehicle Offences	853	16
Theft from person	37	1
All other theft offences	945	54
Criminal Damage	1343	115
Arson	59	1
Trafficking of Drugs	56	1
Possession of Weapons Offences	122	4
Public Order Offences	1353	84
Miscellaneous Crimes Against Society	191	17

Table 8: domestic abuse crimes 01/04/2022 – 31/03/2023

- Of the 3264 incidents of violence without injury, 32% (1045) are classified as domestic abuse incidents
- 32%, (395 of 1226) violence with injury reports were related to domestic abuse
- 49% (64) of reported rape cases were from a current or previous domestic abuse relationship.

Shoplifting

Shoplifting, as an offence, has shown an increase of 177 incidents to that of the previous year 2021/22. In response to this, in October 2023, a named Inspector has been tasked with the district response in tackling offenders. Historically offences of shoplifting resulted in Police sending an evidential pack and statement to the store for self-completion and to exhibit any evidential CCTV. This process resulted in a low response rate from the business community which as a direct result affected detection rates as investigations would cease.

The role of the senior officer is to ensure targeted plans against repeated offenders are in place with a named single point of contact (SPOC) allocated. Following the change in October 2023, it is anticipated this will result in higher recording of incidents and improved detection rates of offenders. Insp Linda Davies who has operational responsibility for this area continues to develop relationships with the

business community. This will provide opportunities to enhance the partnership and joint work with the retail sector, in particular reviewing security and prevention measures where identified.

Anti-social behaviour (ASB)

ASB is categorised into three main types:

- **Personal** - incidents whereby the caller, call-handler, or anyone else perceives the behaviour or impact to be deliberately targeted at an individual or group rather than the community at large.

New Forest data for 2022/2023 was 138 offences showing a decrease of 57% from 2021/2022 (318 offences).

- **Community** - refers to incidents affecting the community, rather than an individual victim. This is when an act, thing or person causes the community trouble, annoyance, inconvenience, or suffering. These incidences can interfere with public interests such as health, wellbeing, safety and quality of life. For example, drug or substance misuse, vehicle-related nuisance, or animal-related problems.

New Forest data for 2022/2023 was 1138 offences showing a decrease of 25% from 2021/2022 (1508 offences).

- **Environmental** - Refers to incidents where individuals or groups impact their wider surroundings. It includes environmental damage and the misuse of public spaces or buildings. For example, criminal damage or vandalism, such as graffiti or damage to bus shelters or littering.

New Forest data for 2022/2023 was 69 offences showing a decrease of 46% from 2021/2022 (127 offences).

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	01/04/2022 – 31/03/2023	01/04/2021 - 31/03/2022	Variation
New Forest East	640	1074	-434
New Forest West	705	779	-74

Table 9: Comparison of ASB incidents 2021/22 – 2022/23

Table 9 shows an overall decrease of 27% in reported incidents of ASB compared with that of the previous year 2021/2022. When compared to the ASB reported data of 2018-2019, this shows a significant fall of 1375 incidents, equating to an overall reduction of ASB reports being just under 51%.

Police, local authorities and other community safety partner agencies, including Fire & Rescue and social housing landlords, all have a role to play when responding to the effects of anti-social behaviour. 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 individual's quality of life. In response and recognition of this, partner agencies come together to problem solve and implement support plans.

Hampshire Constabulary host various platforms for the effective 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 or online.

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

8. RURAL CRIME – COUNTRY WATCH

The New Forest as a predominantly rural district brings with it unique challenges to Policing. Country Watch is a dedicated team of specialist officers within Hampshire and Isle of Wight Constabulary working to overcome these challenges with the aim of making rural communities safer. The team work closely alongside the local neighbourhood policing teams when responding to rural and wildlife crime in the New Forest area. There are two designated officers and a Police Staff Investigator (PSI) that are specifically allocated to cover the New Forest District, with the ability to call upon additional resources from the wider team. Team resources consist of 1 sergeant, 8 officers, 3 PSIs, 1 Country Watch Co-ordinator and a number of volunteers.

With objectives to increase public confidence and trust within rural policing, when established this should correlate with an increase in reporting to police.

Rural crime trends at present are as follows:

- **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).

In the period January to August 2022, 155 rural & wildlife crimes were reported within the New Forest district, with 170 similar crimes being reported within the same period in 2023. Crime types in both years relate to metal theft and theft of farm and plant machinery and vehicle theft. These crime types fall within the Policing priorities for the New Forest and targeted work continues to focus on these areas with the support of local Neighbourhood Policing Teams. Following the roll out and increasing membership of DISC database where intelligence is shared with the farming community via a member only app, reporting of crime has gone up, especially around poaching. Poaching is seasonally targeted by Country Watch and local Neighbourhood teams through Op Traverse (fish poaching) and Op Galileo (hare coursing). To support the work of the Country Watch team and ensure an intelligence led approach is taken in response and prevention of crime, an intelligence Analyst and Researcher supports the work of the team.

The Hampshire rural and wildlife crime strategy of 2023-25 has been developed and published. Recognising the specific crime trends faced within rural communities as well as the unique impact of these offences. The theft of farming equipment is not isolated to the loss in the value of the machine itself but also results in the loss of income affecting the livelihood and the victim's emotional wellbeing.

Our aim is to reduce crime and build confidence in policing within rural communities.

Rural policing priorities of Hampshire and Isle of Wight are:

- **Agricultural & rural business crime** - Metal theft, livestock offences, theft of plant and farming machinery
- **Game sports and wildlife crime** - including hare coursing and fish poaching
- **Environmental & heritage crime** - including organised criminal gangs involved in fly tipping, damage to heritage sites
- **Rural isolation** - identifying isolated victims, encourage reporting and provide necessary support
- **Tackling criminal networks and organised crime in rural location** - targeting those who are working together to cause significant harm in rural locations
- **Rural community crime and road safety** - including speeding and ASB.

The strategy takes into account the local context and needs of the New Forest. Supporting this approach are national strategies set by The National Wildlife Crime and the National Rural Crime Unit. Country Watch work in partnership with a host of agencies, including the Environment Agency, Historic England, Defra, New Forest

National Park, National Farmers Union, New Forest District Council, Forestry England.

Co-ordinated and targeted activity forms much of the collective response to rural crime. During 2023 through active intelligence, with the assistance of NFDC, CCTV and Enforcement Officers, a number of commercial vehicle stop checks were undertaken in Lyndhurst. This approach ensured compliance with waste carrier licence, vehicle safety conditions and driver documents were being adhered to and also to identify the transit movements of any stolen goods. The outcome of which resulted in 80 vehicle stop checks, vehicle seizures and issuing of fixed penalty notices.

Public confidence, trust and collaboration is key and at the heart of rural policing. Opportunities to engage with the public increase intelligence and also facilitate opportunities for crime prevention advice to be undertaken. In particular Barn Meets are an organised public meeting, which include guest speakers from the force Firearms Licensing and Cyber Crime unit. Owing to the success of these events and appetite from the rural community, it is anticipated that more of these will be held in the coming year.

New Forest District Council organised and delivered the event 'Yarn in a Barn'. The focus of the event was to support the wellbeing of rural communities and delivery was supported by National Farmers Union, Natural England, National Institute of Agricultural Botany, Farming Community Network, Hampshire County Council and Hampshire Constabulary to name a few.

In July 2023, to support the work of the service, Country Watch were awarded funding through the Office of Police Crime Commissioner (OPCC) to increase the provision of Automatic Number Plate Recognition cameras (ANPR). Through this funding, the team are able to utilise ANPR cameras more effectively within the New Forest district. ANPR collects vehicle data information which is key to assisting in both the prevention and investigation of crime.

9. ADDITIONAL NEW FOREST DATA

9.1 Road Safety and Community Speedwatch Initiative

New Forest District Council remains committed to the reduction of road related incidents and driver speed compliance. As a Council through the role of the Road Safety Co-Ordinator, speed measurements across the district are undertaken where speed 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, repeatedly placed at 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.

To ensure devices are suitably deployed, accident statistics are analysed where contributory factors have been identified as:

- Exceeding Speed Limit
- Travelling too fast for conditions
- Aggressive driving
- Careless, reckless or in a hurry.

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.

Deployments during 2022-23:

	SID	SLR	SDR
Target	46	25	20
Programmed	46	25	9

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.](#)

9.2 Fly-tipping

Fly-tipping is the illegal dumping of any waste onto any land or site that does not have a licence to accept the waste. It can be a cause of damage to the environment and pose a danger to public health. Fly-tipping is an offence under the Environmental Protection Act 1990 with offenders on conviction facing an unlimited fine, a criminal record and a prison sentence.

Fly-tipping involves incidents which can be the disposal of large-scale industrial waste, such as building material or smaller scale incidents involving 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. The cost of clearance and damage to the environment is significant and depending on the location and material being disposed of, result in disruption of access to roads etc.

NFDC have a dedicated team whom under the leadership of an Environmental Enforcement Officer work alongside NFDC waste teams attending and assessing sites of fly tipping. During an inspection, officers 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 1st April 2022 to 31st March 2023, officers issued 368 Fixed Penalty Notices for fly tipping and 6 for littering offences.

In addition, NFDC Enforcement Officers undertake proactive visits to businesses to ensure they are complying with commercial/business waste disposal regulations. This strategy resulted in an additional 223 waste collection arrangements being put in place. Following 248 visits to businesses, 163 notices were issued to the person responsible to provide details of their business waste collection arrangements with a high rate of compliance. 9 fixed penalties notices were issued for failing to produce those details.

To prevent the illegal carrying and disposal of waste material, 7 joint operations between New Forest District Council, Hampshire Constabulary, National Park Authority, Environment Agency and Vehicle and Operator Services Agency (VOSA) were undertaken. Through the setting up of a pre-designated stop check zone, a number of services are able to undertake checks for vehicle condition, licence to carry waste and driver documents. This proactive approach resulted in the identification of vehicles found to be illegally carrying waste. Due to failure to provide relevant documentation, vehicles were seized and subsequently disposed of. These positive events provided interventions with drivers of over 260 trucks, vans and other vehicles, raising compliance and road safety awareness.

9.3 New Forest District Council Environmental Health – Safety Advisory Group

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 may be issues when considering 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.

Safety Advisory Group members review event plans, including risk management and operational measures and where required, offer advice to ensure high standards of public safety is maintained. Members from a collective view are able to consider the wellbeing of those likely to be affected by such events, persons attending or participating, and residents in the surrounding area.

For the year 1st April 2022 – 31st March 2023, 142 applications were submitted for review and consideration by members of the Safety Advisory Group prior to approval, an increase of 65% from the previous year of 86 applications.

The SAG process is primarily for larger events in terms of expected attendees, events with the potential hazards such as firework displays, and which may impact local people with consideration also being given to the profile of the audience.

Whilst there is no legal requirement for organisers to participate, it is seen as good practice which is evidenced through the 65% uplift in applications from the previous year.

9.4 Probation Service

Probation Service is a statutory criminal justice service with the responsibility for supervising individuals (aged over 18) who have been convicted of criminal offences and are the subject of a Community Orders/Suspended Sentence Orders or following a period of imprisonment. Following a period of imprisonment or detention, offenders are usually released on a “licence” that contains both standard and bespoke conditions to mitigate the identified risks. Compliance is required and Licensees face a return to prison or resentencing for the remainder of the outstanding period if any of these conditions are breached, or if evidence emerges to suggest that risks are increasing and a further offence could occur.

Within the New Forest, individuals under the management of Probation Service, report to their supervisors at premises in either Lymington or Southampton, with other contacts taking place in the community as required.

Key priorities of Probation as a 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 risks posed by those subject to supervision, and commission a wide range of bespoke services from partnership agencies in order to address areas of need that influence offending behaviour.

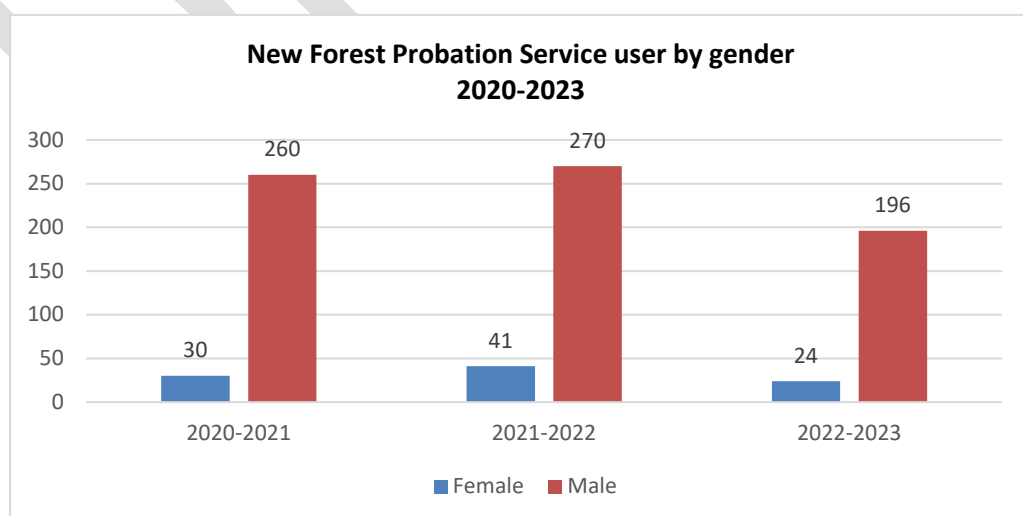


Figure 10: Service user by gender comparison 2019/20, 2020/21 & 2021/22

Figure 10 overleaf shows a 29% reduction overall in service users from the previous year. Male offenders whilst reducing by 27% year on year remain the dominant gender for offending behaviour which reflects the long-term national picture.

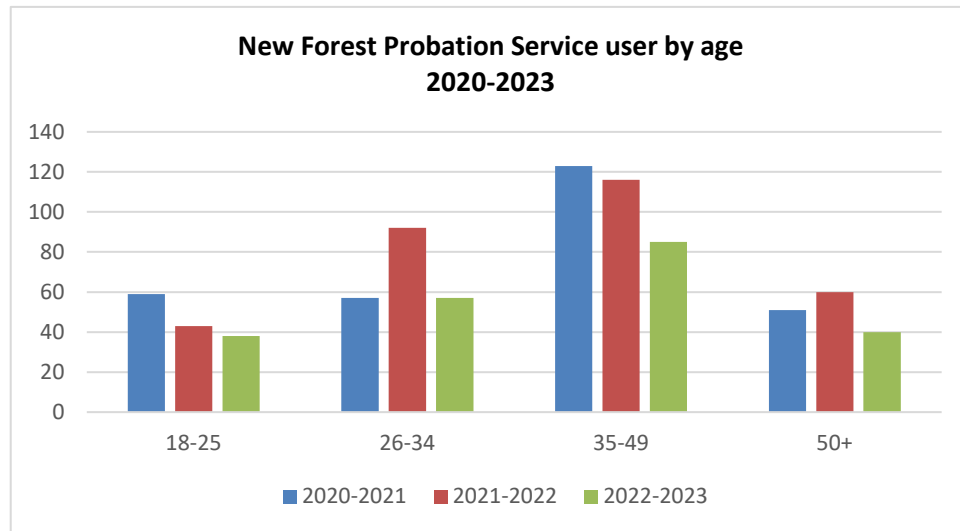


Figure 11: Service users by age comparison 2019/20, 2020/21 & 2021/22

Figure 11 above shows there have been decreases in all age profiles, the most significant in ages 26-34 which shows a 38% decrease (92 cases to 57). Ages 35-49 show a 27% decrease (116 to 85 cases). This shows an overall annual decrease of 29% of offender management cases.

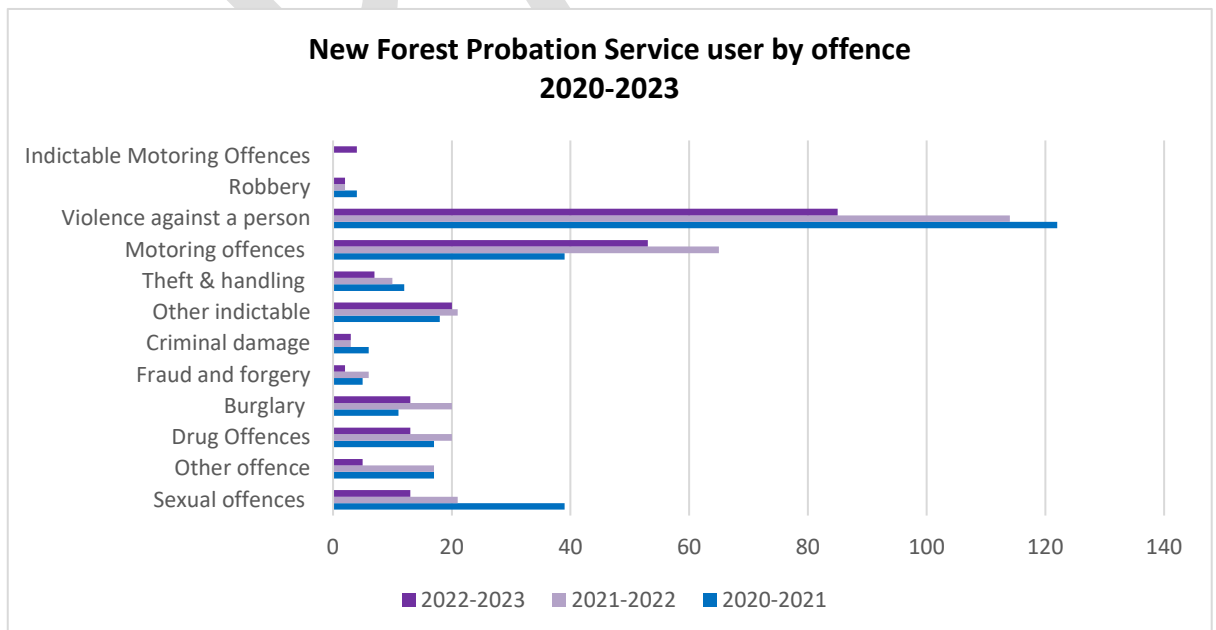


Figure 12: Service User by offence category comparison

Persons subjected to a conviction and under offender management for the period 2022-23 indicate the following reductions:

- Violence against a person ↓25%
- Robbery ↓ 50%
- Sexual Offences ↓ 38%
- Burglary ↓35%
- Drug Offences ↓35%
- Motoring Offences ↓18%

During the same period there was one category, indictable motoring offences*, which saw an increase with a total of 4 offences.

**An indictable road traffic offence is a motoring offence which is sent to court for trial, e.g. causing death by careless, dangerous or inconsiderate driving, wanton or furious driving or motoring offences involving a charge of manslaughter or murder.*

9.5 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.

Objectives of Hampshire Youth Offending Team are to see fewer children and young people entering the criminal justice system. Through this, it will reduce the number of potential victims of crime and promote confidence and safety of our local communities.

Aims of the service are to maximise the potential of every child and young person delivering quality assessments and interventions which will support the reduction of reoffending and protection of 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 be 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.

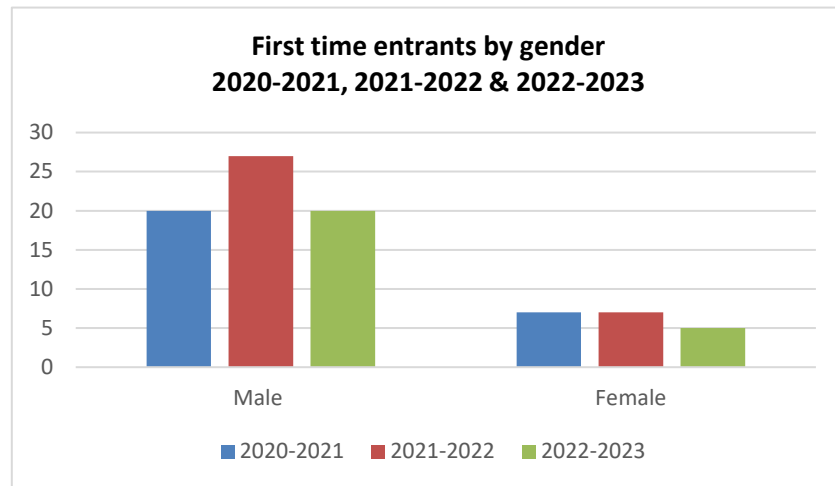


Figure 13: Gender of young person for first entrant data 2019-2022

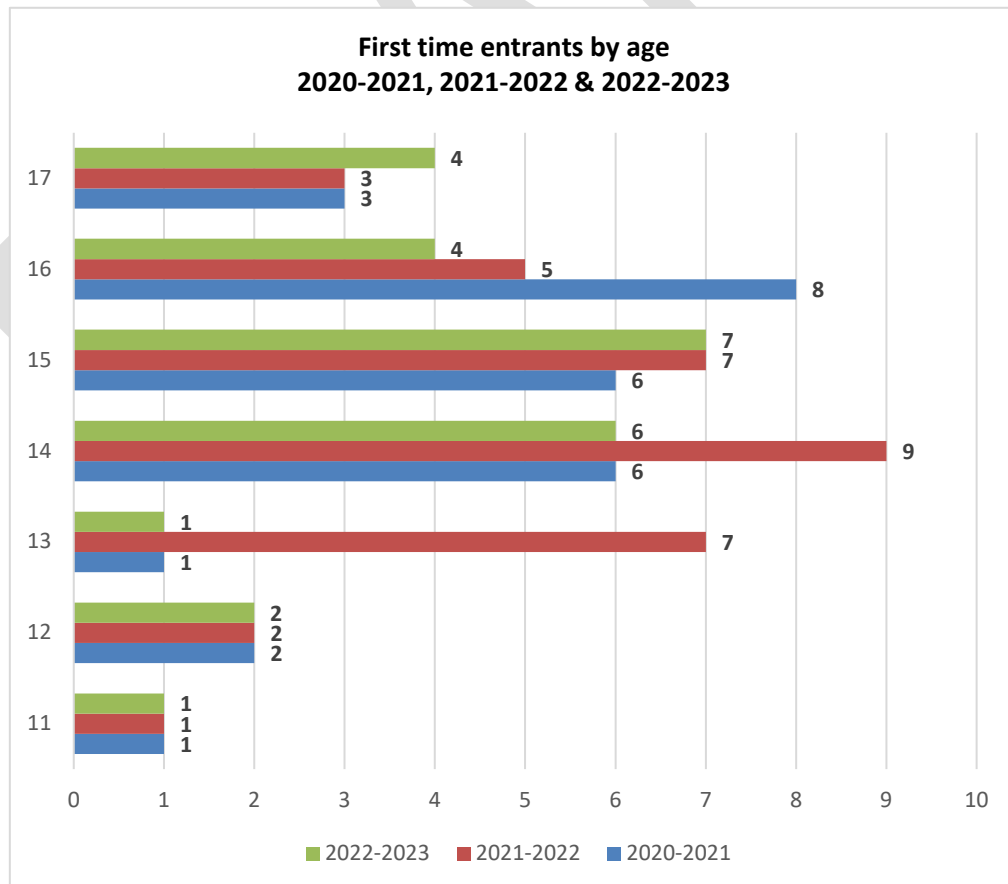


Figure 14: Age of young person for first entrant data 2019-2022

First Entrant Data - Offences by crime type			
	2020-2021	2021-2022	2022-2023
Arson	0	2	3
Criminal damage	5	5	2
Drugs	2	4	2
Fraud & Forgery	1	0	0
Motoring offences	2	2	4
Non-domestic burglary	0	1	1
Domestic burglary	1	0	0
Other	0	1	2
Public order	2	2	0
Racially Aggravated	0	1	0
Robbery	0	0	0
Sexual offences	0	3	0
Theft and handling	1	0	0
Vehicle theft	0	0	0
Violence against the person	13	13	13
Total	27	34	27

Figure 15: First time entrant data by offences and gender, 2020/21, 2021/2022 & 2022/23

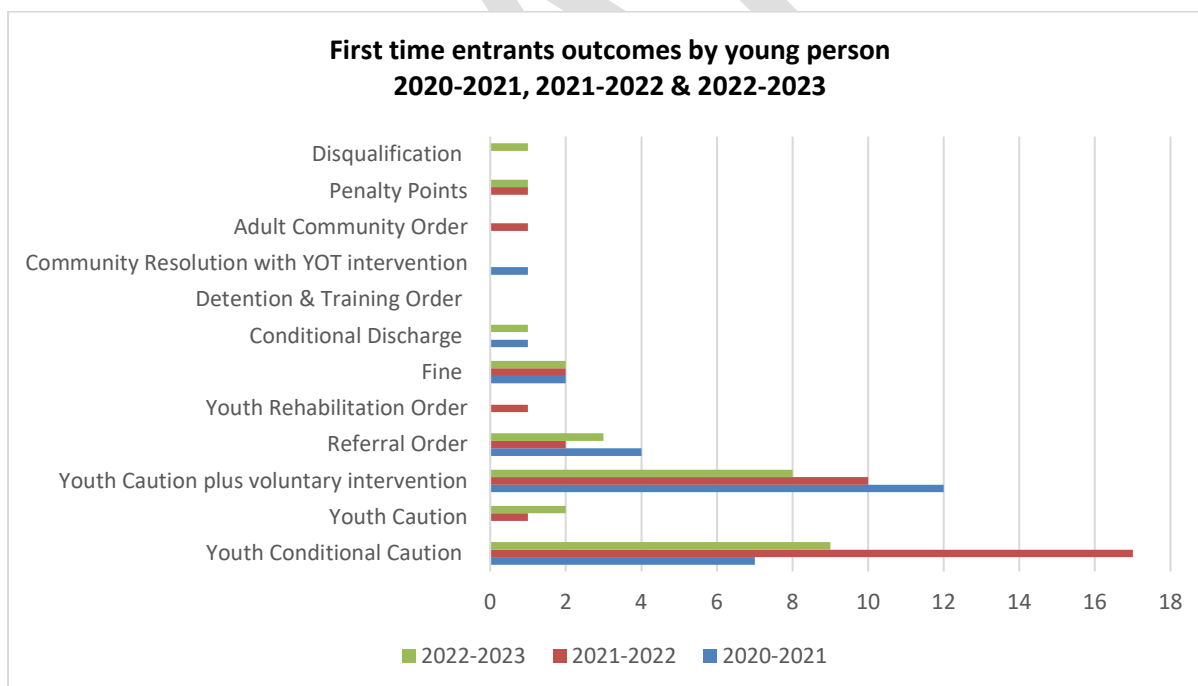


Figure 16: Outcomes by young person

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. Where a young person has been involved with the police at a low level or is identified as being at risk of offending behaviour, YCP aim to divert them through positive engagement strategy. Engagement with YCP is on a voluntary basis agreed with the family.

9.6 Hampshire & Isle of Wight Fire & Rescue Service

Hampshire and Isle of Wight Fire and Rescue Service's performance report for April 2022 to March 2023 identifies how the service through in a number of key areas performed over the last financial year. 2022/2023 explores local comparisons made against previous years and also against the Hampshire average, where relevant and applicable.

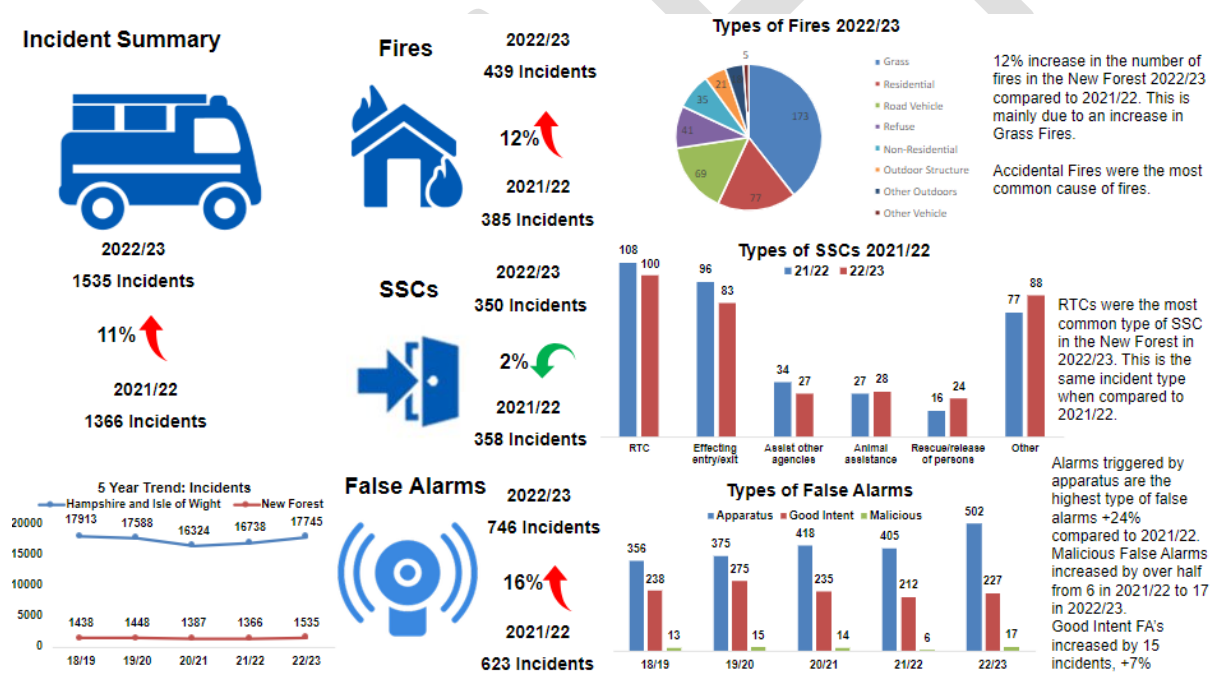


Figure 17: New Forest incident summary 2022-2023

Incident Types

The New Forest Group attended 1,535 incidents in 2022/23 with under half of these, 746 being confirmed as false alarm incidents equating to 49% all call volume. The second largest incident type was fire incidents with 439, 29%, followed by SSC (Special Service Calls) incidents with 249, (16%), and the smallest incident type was RTCs (Road Traffic Collisions) with 101, (7%).

When compared, nearly half of all incidents within Hampshire and Isle of Wight were also false alarms with 8,564 incidents, (48%). This is followed by:

- 4,764 fire incidents, (27%)
- 3,451 SSC incidents, (19%)
- 966 RTCs, (5%).

Figure 18 below shows consistency between the New Forest and Hampshire incidents.

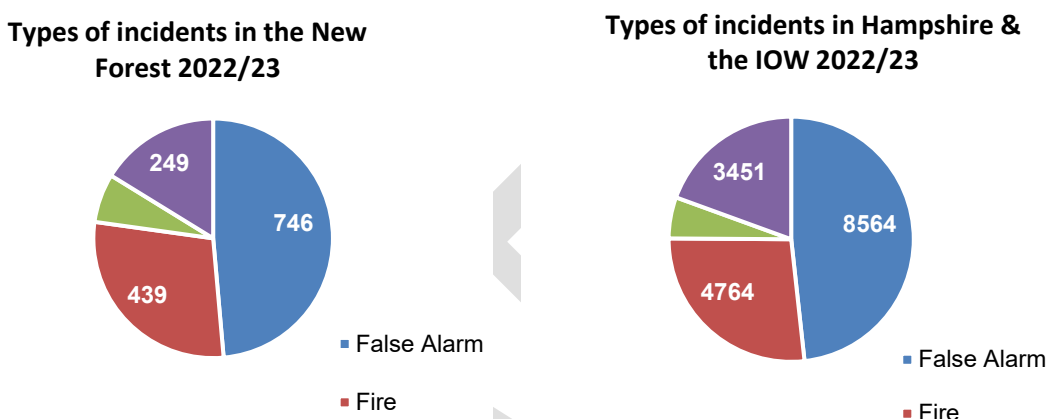


Figure 18: Comparison of types of incidents in New Forest compared to Hampshire

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 439 fire related incidents in the New Forest Group in the 2022-23 period, an increase of 54 incidents compared to the previous year. In 2022-23 there were 215 primary fires and 224 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).

Year	Primary Fires	% Change	Secondary Fires	% Change	Total Fires
2022-23	215	-3.6%	224	38.3%	439
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

Figure 19: 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 a decrease in Primary Fires and an increase in Secondary Fires.

Causation Factors of Fires

Accidental fires are the most common cause of fires within the New Forest Group over the last five years, comprising of 43% of the total fires in 2022-23.

New Forest - Cause of Fires 2018-23

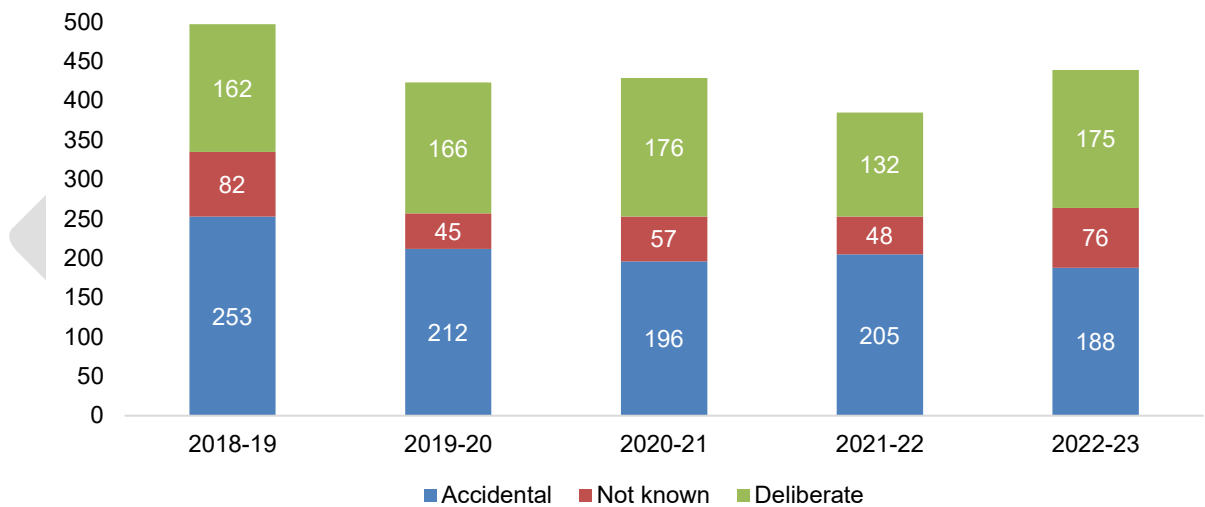


Figure 20: New Forest causes of fire 2016-2022

There has been a decrease in accidental fires in 2022-23, (8%) and a significant increase (32%) in deliberate fires to that of the previous year.

Causes of fires in Dwellings and Commercial Buildings

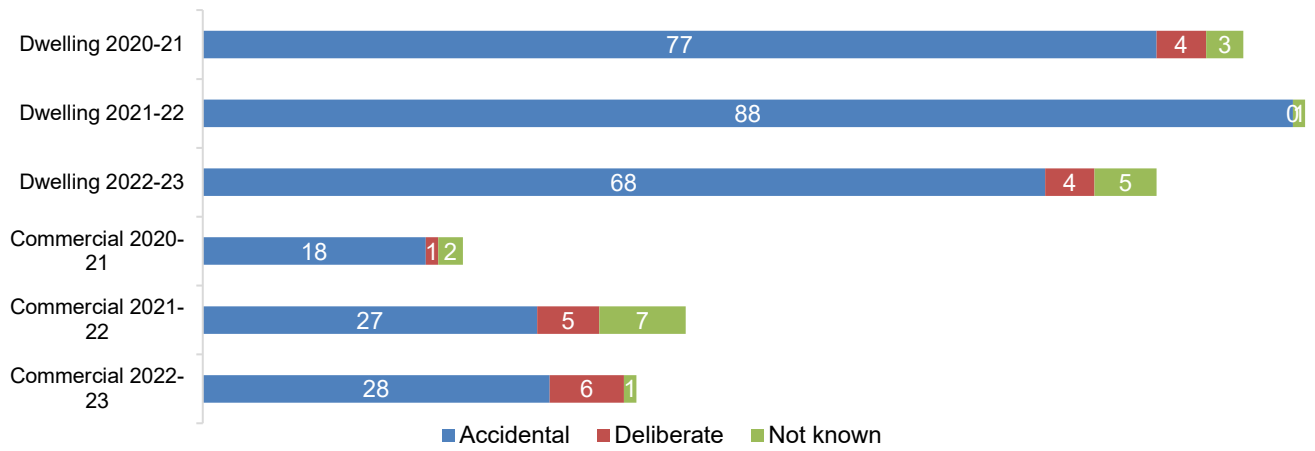


Figure 21: Cause of fires in the New Forest Group by dwellings and commercial buildings

Figure 21 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; the total number of fires in dwellings and commercial buildings have both decreased by 13% and 10% this year compared to last year.

Outdoor Fires

The number of outdoor fires increased significantly in 2022-23 by 76 incidents (43%). The extreme hotter weather conditions we experienced during 2022 have been the main cause of this due to the increased likelihood of spontaneous combustion in areas of dry grasses and forests & increased human outdoor activity such as BBQs and camping.

Grass fires have the highest increase this year from a total of 97 incidents in 2021/22 to 173 incidents this year, 78%. Other outdoor fires have also increased by 50% in comparison to last year. Primary fires involving outdoor structures have decreased by 40%.

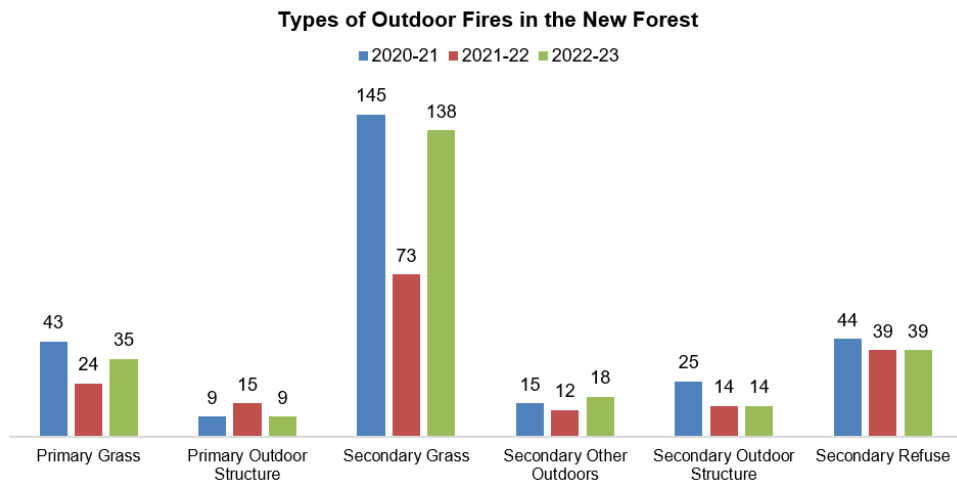


Figure 22: Types of outdoor fires

Grass Fires

The number of grass fires have fluctuated over the last three years. In 2022/23 these have increased by 78% when compared to the previous year (from 97 to 173 incidents). All three cause types (accidental, deliberate and not known) increased in 2022/23 when compared to the same period in the previous year. Accidental increased by 13 incidents (59%), deliberate increased by 32 incidents (55%) and grass fires where the cause was not known increased by 31 incidents.

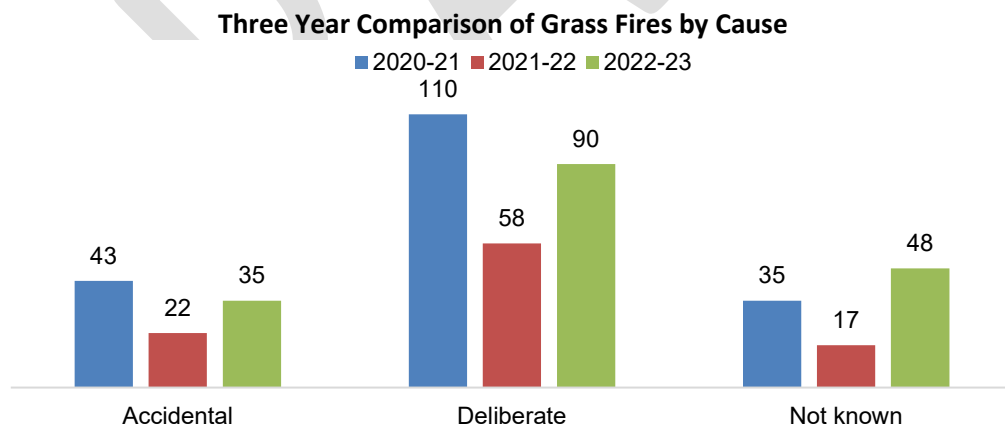


Figure 23: Comparison of grass fires by cause in the New Forest over a three-year comparison period

Out of the 173 grass fires in 2022/23, 90 were started deliberately, 35 were accidental and 48 cause not known. The highest number of grass fires in this financial year occurred in August (58 incidents), July (54 incidents) and June (16 incidents); Of these three months, 41% (53 incidents) were deliberate, 24% (31 incidents) were recorded as accidental, and 34% (44 incidents) the cause not known.

Grass fires volume are affected by the season, with more occurring in the hotter, drier months; with the extreme heat wave in the summer of 2022 impacting the increase. These incidents also spiked in 2020 where we also experienced higher temperatures especially in August 2020.

In July 2023 a Public Space Protection Order (PSPO) was introduced in restricted areas across the district, prohibiting the use of BBQs or lighting of fires. This follows repeated fire damage to the Forest caused by campfires and BBQs over recent years, and the growing risk of wildfires due to increasingly hotter and drier conditions. The PSPO prohibits the lighting of fires of any type including BBQs and any outdoor cooking facilities or equipment. It also makes it an offence to place, throw or drop items likely to cause a fire such as discarding lit cigarettes.

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 24 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 61% increase in the number of visits carried out over the last financial year.

Station Ground	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23
Beaulieu	5	8	10
Brockenhurst	20	24	32
Burley	23	17	23
Fordingbridge	40	35	46
Hardley	66	48	69
Hythe	76	51	116
Lymington	110	99	174
Lyndhurst	38	24	48
New Milton	201	126	200
Ringwood	61	58	99
Totton	133	100	131
Total	773	590	948

Figure 24: Safe & well visits carried out in the New Forest group

Road Traffic Collisions (RTCs)

Since 2018/19 RTCs have decreased each year in the New Forest, increasing significantly in 2021/22 compared to 2020/21; impacted by the start (March 2020) and end of lockdown and Covid 19 restrictions (March 2021).

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. The majority of all RTC's over the five years for the New Forest area involve making the scene safe and the extrication of persons.

Figure 25 shows RTC incidents have decreased by 7 incidents in 2022/23 when compared to 2021/22. 53% of RTC's this year involved making the scene safe and 20% involved the extrication or release of persons.

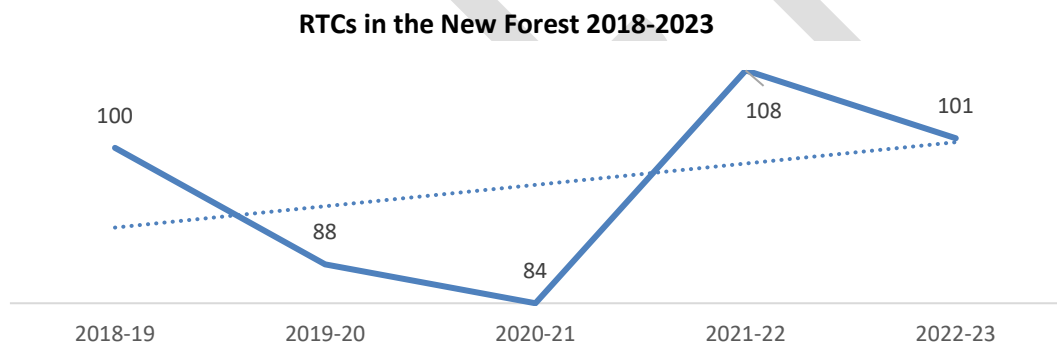


Figure 25: RTCs in the New Forest group between 2018/19, 2019/20, 2020/21, 2021/22 & 2022/2023

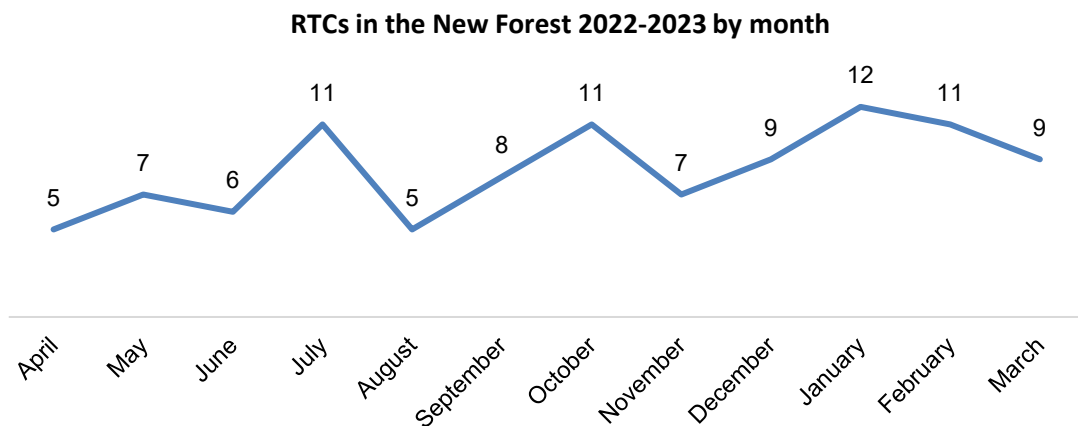


Figure 26: RTCs in the New Forest group during 2022/2023 by month

Figure 26 shows that January 2023 experienced the highest number of Road Traffic Collisions (RTC's) in the New Forest area. The winter months tend to have a higher number of RTCs due to poorer and wetter driving conditions.

Number of RTCs throughout the day in the New Forest 2022-23

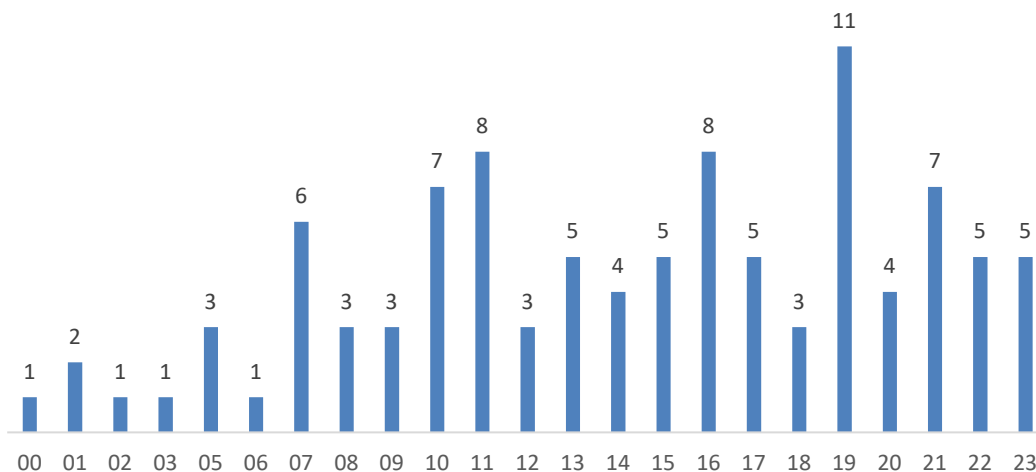


Figure 27: Times of RTCs in the New Forest group during 2022/23.

Figure 27 above shows the highest number of RTC's in the New Forest occurred between 18:00-19:00. They are also high between 10:00-11:00 hours and 16:00-17:00.

Casualties and Fatalities

The total number of casualties has fluctuated over the last five years in the New Forest; increasing slightly in 2022/23 aligning with the increase of incidents.

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.

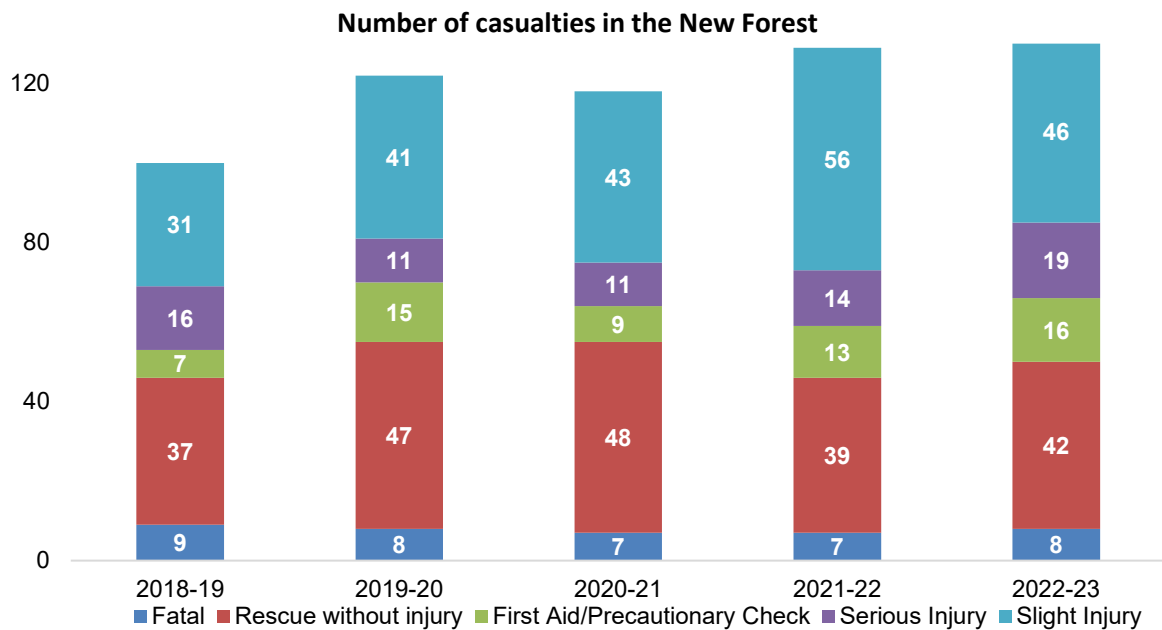


Figure 28: Casualties within the New Forest between 2017-2022

Figure 28 shows the largest group of rescues are with casualties without injury and slight injury.

The number of fatalities has increased by 1 in 2022-23 compared to the previous year. The number of serious injuries increased by 35% and there was an increase of 23% where first aid was provided, or a precautionary check was recommended by the Service. Casualties with slight injuries have decreased compared to the previous year by 17%.

There has been a higher number of male casualties over the 5-year period; in 2022-23, 74% of casualties that went to hospital with serious injuries were male vs 26% female.

10. 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 2023/24:

To be confirmed

Safer New Forest Partnership Plan 2023/2024 – Action Plan

	Priority area	Action	Measurement of Action	Date of Completion	Resource Allocation	
1	Drug and Alcohol Related Harm	1.1	<p>Through community intelligence, information sharing, collaboration between services and the Drug Related Harm forum, identify:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Locations and addresses - Offenders and exploited persons - Vulnerable people (cuckooing) and impacted communities. 	<p>Increase in intelligence from CPIs and members of the public via 101 and ASB surveys.</p> <p>Targeted use of enforcement powers i.e. closure orders, warrants, possession orders etc.</p> <p>Community trust in services through enhance intelligence sharing and cooperation.</p> <p>Identification of vulnerable people and locations.</p>		<p>CPIs Housing services Community Inclusion Catch 22 Children’s Services MET Group Willow Team Youth Offending Team Health i.e. GP surgeries Probation Hampshire Constabulary</p>
		1.2	<p>Develop localised protocol between policing and support services, complimenting enforcement action with therapeutic and diversionary services.</p>	<p>Increase in access to drug and alcohol prevent services.</p> <p>Shared, collaborative and managed approach to supporting the needs of persons with addiction.</p>		<p>Hampshire Constabulary Drug & alcohol services Mental health services Housing providers Probation Youth Offending Team Adult & Children Services Primary care services</p>

				<p>Sharing of information to identify vulnerable persons and locations.</p> <p>Improved confidence in criminal justice services.</p> <p>Long term desistance from crime.</p> <p>Reducing the negative impact of crime and offending behaviour on communities.</p>		Citizens Advice
		1.3	<p>Support homeless people with addiction and complex needs in accessing drug and alcohol treatment.</p> <p>Improve pathways for people with co-occurring substance misuse and mental health needs, encouraging the most hard to reach in accessing treatment and support services.</p>	<p>Identify people in drug and alcohol treatment, including, rough sleepers or those at risk of rough sleeping.</p> <p>Improved access and participation in treatment services.</p> <p>Provision of safe and supportive accommodation.</p>		<p>Housing services</p> <p>Drug & alcohol treatment services</p> <p>Hampshire Constabulary</p> <p>Probation</p> <p>Education</p> <p>Mental health services</p> <p>Primary care</p> <p>Adult & Children Services</p> <p>Third sector organisations</p>
2	Domestic Abuse	2.1	Protect and empower victims of domestic abuse at the earliest	Increase in DAPN/DAPOs.		<p>Domestic Abuse Forum</p> <p>Hampshire Constabulary</p>

	(DA)		<p>opportunity through the targeted use of legislation including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Clare's Law (Right to know, right to ask) - Domestic Abuse Protection Notice (DAPN) - Domestic Abuse Protection Order (DAPO) - Occupation order - Non-molestation order 	<p>Increase in applications for Clare's Law.</p> <p>Wider partnership understanding on available resources and awareness raising through webinar training and published literature.</p> <p>Increase in access to Blue Lamp Trust and HIWFRS safe and well assessments to ensure persons at risk are provided tailored risk reduction measures in place, and where safe, enabling victims and families to remain in the location of their choosing.</p>		<p>New Forest District Council Stop Domestic Abuse The Hampton Trust Yellow Door Victim Support Community First Town & Parish Councils Aurora New Dawn Hampshire & Isle of Wight Fire & Rescue Service OPCC Custody Intervention Scheme National Centre of Domestic Violence (NCDV)</p>
		2.2	<p>Utilising recorded and reported data for understanding, responding and supporting victims in relation to Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG) to include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Geographical areas 	<p>Improved understanding of contributing factors to offences and risk i.e. locations, timings, perpetrators etc.</p> <p>Improved ability to mitigate risk and protect vulnerable</p>		<p>New Forest District Council Licensing Team Hampshire Constabulary Town & Parish Councils Licensing establishments Aurora New Dawn Education</p>

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Vulnerable locations - Offences by crime type - Pattern of occurrences (times, days, locations) - Repeat victims and offenders 	<p>persons through known antecedents or environmental factors which contribute to offences.</p> <p>Managed approach to known or repeat offenders through existing offender/victim forums i.e MARAC (Multi-Agency Risk Assessment Conference) and MAPPA (Multi-Agency Police Protection Arrangements).</p> <p>Evidence base use of public space CCTV in known vulnerable locations.</p>		<p>Yellow Door – STAR Project</p> <p>Stop Domestic Abuse</p> <p>The Hampton Trust</p> <p>OPCC Custody Intervention Scheme</p> <p>Sanctuary Scheme</p> <p>New Forest District Council Health & Wellbeing Board</p> <p>Serious Violence Duty</p> <p>NFDC CCTV</p>
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		<p>2.3 Collaborative and consistent communications between partners, with a focus of raising public awareness of domestic abuse with an emphasis on understanding:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Coercive control - Perpetrator recognition - Support services and intervention to both victims and perpetrators 	<p>Monitoring of access to published information on websites, social media links and enquiries.</p> <p>Improved public access to support services.</p> <p>Improve reporting of domestic abuse incident and requests for access to supportive services.</p>		<p>New Forest Domestic Abuse Forum Hampshire Domestic Abuse Partnership Stop Domestic Abuse The Hampton Trust Hampshire Constabulary HIWFRS NFDC Health & Wellbeing Board Aurora New Dawn GP Surgeries Town & Parish Councils</p>
		<p>2.4 Develop learning material, based on local needs through the combined approach of the New Forest Domestic Abuse Forum and Hampshire Domestic Abuse Partnership.</p> <p>Provide webinar and seminar-based sessions for upskilling of local partners with an emphasis on gender neutral messages.</p>	<p>Active participation and development of training from wider partnership members.</p> <p>Cross agency participation in webinars and seminars</p> <p>Access to support services.</p>		<p>New Forest Domestic Abuse Forum Hampshire Domestic Abuse Partnership Stop Domestic Abuse The Hampton Trust Hampshire Constabulary Hampshire & Isle of Wight Fire & Rescue Service NFDC Health & Wellbeing Board Aurora New Dawn Town & Parish Councils Education Yellow Door</p>

		2.5	Implement learning from Domestic Homicide Reviews (pan Hampshire) across services to enhance and improve service delivery.	<p>Compliance with Domestic Abuse Act 2021.</p> <p>Implement learning outcomes for practice improvement.</p>		<p>Hampshire Domestic Abuse Partnership</p> <p>Office Police Crime Commissioner</p> <p>New Forest District Council</p> <p>Hampshire Constabulary</p> <p>Probation</p> <p>Health</p> <p>Hampshire & Isle of Wight Fire & Rescue Service</p>
3	Tackling crime and fear of crime through education, prevention and enforcement	3.1	Develop and enhance awareness of and participation within Youth Crime Prevention (YCP) diversionary and preventative support services for young people at risk of entering the criminal justice system.	<p>Access and participation within prevention and support services.</p> <p>Use of out of court disposals and reduction in first time entrants to Youth Offending Team.</p>		<p>Youth Crime Prevention (YCP)</p> <p>Youth Offending Team</p> <p>Probation</p> <p>Education</p> <p>Children's Services</p> <p>Hampshire Constabulary</p> <p>Housing providers</p> <p>Local Children's Partnership</p>
		3.2	Reduce neighbourhood crime and fear of crime through enhanced awareness and participation of offenders within the Integrated Offender Management (IOM) programme.	<p>Access to specialist services.</p> <p>Collective responsibility to offender management with a shared responsibility to local problems.</p>		<p>Probation</p> <p>Education</p> <p>Children's Services</p> <p>Hampshire Constabulary</p> <p>Housing providers</p> <p>New Forest District Council</p> <p>Mental Health Services</p>

		<p>Provide collaborative and specialist support services for persistent and priority offenders to address contributing factors linked with offending behaviour.</p>	<p>Long term desistance from crime.</p> <p>Reducing the negative impact of crime and reoffending.</p> <p>Helping to improve the public's confidence in the criminal justice system.</p>		<p>Drug and alcohol intervention services</p>
	3.3	<p>Raise awareness and understanding of the impact accidental fires have within non designated or rural settings.</p> <p>Enhance compliance with existing prohibitions or restrictions on the use of disposable BBQ'S or wildfires.</p>	<p>Participation from the retail sector in sharing fire prevention message.</p> <p>Reduction in reported accidental fires.</p> <p>Positive engagement with retail outlets selling disposable BBQs</p> <p>Creation and distribution of advice leaflet to accompany disposable BBQs when purchased.</p>		<p>New Forest District Council Hampshire & Isle of Wight Fire & Rescue Service (HIWFRS) Fire cadets Fire volunteer Police cadets PCSOs National Park Authority Rangers Forestry England Education / Headteachers Forum New Forest Campsites Town & Parish Councils OPCC</p>

			Completed partner engagement and public awareness events.		
	3.4	<p>Reduce incidents of opportunistic crime within rural areas and vulnerable locations through positive engagement, prevention advice and enforcement.</p> <p>Through partnership collaboration, develop and deliver evidenced based crime prevention engagement events for residents and visitors at known vulnerable locations.</p>	<p>Reduction in reported acquisitive crime.</p> <p>Enhanced preventative measures by residents and visitors.</p> <p>Through collaboration with tourism and leisure services, develop positive prevention and awareness messages.</p> <p>Reduce fear of crime.</p> <p>Enhanced partnership delivery and shared resource.</p>		<p>New Forest District Council</p> <p>Hampshire & Isle of Wight Fire & Rescue Service (HIWFRS)</p> <p>Fire cadets</p> <p>Fire volunteers</p> <p>Police cadets</p> <p>Hampshire Constabulary</p> <p>National Park Authority Rangers</p> <p>Forestry England</p> <p>Education / Headteachers Forum</p> <p>New Forest Campsites</p> <p>Town & Parish Councils</p> <p>InterAct database</p> <p>OPCC</p>
	3.5	Prevent incidents of environmental antisocial behaviour including littering and fly-tipping.	<p>Reduction of fly-tipping incidents at local “bring sites”.</p> <p>Reduction in environmental impact and associated clearance costs.</p>		<p>NFDC Enforcement</p> <p>NFDC CCTV</p> <p>Hampshire Constabulary</p> <p>Safer New Forest Partnership</p> <p>Forestry England</p> <p>National Park Authority</p>

		Utilise deployable cameras to prevent and deter incidents of illicit fly-tipping and disposal of commercial waste.	Improved identification of offenders and successful prosecution.		
	3.6	<p>Support vulnerable and repeat victims of ASB through localised and targeted interventions in response to local anti-social behaviour issues.</p> <p>Improve reporting of incidents via 101 in collaboration with Safer New Forest to highlight repeat locations and victims.</p>	<p>Increase in 101 and online reports identifying victim, offender and locations.</p> <p>Local resolutions to local problems through the coordination of services.</p> <p>Referrals to YCP and preventative programmes.</p> <p>Increase victim confidence and satisfaction in case resolution.</p>		<p>Accredited Community Safety Officers (ACSOs)</p> <p>Police Community Safety Officers (PCSO)</p> <p>Education</p> <p>Youth Crime Prevention / Youth Offending Team</p> <p>Probation</p> <p>Community Safety, NFDC</p> <p>Town & Parish Councils</p>

APPENDIX B - Overview of incidents by type and comparison of crimes year on year:

Crimes by Sector Level

Crime - New Milton Sector

Crime Type	01/04/2022-31/03/2023	01/04/2021-31/03/2022	Variation
VIOLENCE AGAINST THE PERSON			
Homicide	0	1	-1
Violence with injury	194	193	+1
Violence without injury	485	463	+22
Total	679	657	+22
SEXUAL OFFENCES			
Rape	24	19	+5
Other sexual offences	40	37	+3
Total	64	56	+8
ROBBERY			
Robbery of business property	0	0	-
Robbery of personal property	4	10	-6
Total	4	10	-6
BURGLARY			
Residential	80	88	-8
Business and Community	76	24	+52
Total	156	112	+44
THEFT OFFENCES			
Theft from Vehicle	67	104	-37
Theft from person	3	7	-4
Bicycle theft	18	7	+11
Shoplifting	96	37	+59
All other theft offences	89	90	-1
Total	273	245	+28
CRIMINAL DAMAGE & ARSON OFFENCES			
Criminal damage	205	153	+52
Arson	6	4	+2
Total	211	157	+54
DRUG OFFENCES			
Trafficking of drugs	15	14	+1
Possession of drugs	61	46	+15
Total	76	60	+16
Possession of weapons offences	16	17	+1
Public order offences	188	213	-25
Miscellaneous crimes against society	21	16	+5

Crime - Lymington Sector

Crime Type	01/04/2022 – 31/03/2023	01/04/2021 – 31/03/2022	Variation
VIOLENCE AGAINST THE PERSON			
Homicide	0	1	-1
Violence with injury	159	194	-35
Violence without injury	476	477	-1
Total	635	672	-37
SEXUAL OFFENCES			
Rape	17	16	+1
Other sexual offences	33	40	-7
Total	50	56	-6
ROBBERY			
Robbery of business property	1	1	-
Robbery of personal property	1	7	-6
Total	2	8	
BURGLARY			
Residential	146	146	-
Business and Community	55	40	+15
Total	201	186	+15
THEFT OFFENCES			
Theft from Vehicle	101	83	+18
Theft from person	7	10	-3
Bicycle theft	28	27	+1
Shoplifting	152	112	+40
All other theft offences	116	117	-1
Total	404	349	+55
CRIMINAL DAMAGE & ARSON OFFENCES			
Criminal damage	182	135	+47
Arson	4	3	+1
Total	186	138	+48
DRUG OFFENCES			
Trafficking of drugs	8	10	-2
Possession of drugs	33	28	+5
Total	41	38	+3
Possession of weapons offences	13	15	-2
Public order offences	208	226	-18
Miscellaneous crimes against society	25	40	-15

Crime - Ringwood and Fordingbridge Sector

Crime Type	01/04/2022 – 31/03/2023	01/04/2021 – 31/03/2022	Variations
VIOLENCE AGAINST THE PERSON			
Homicide	0	0	-
Violence with injury	203	184	+19
Violence without injury	503	502	+1
Total	706	686	+20
SEXUAL OFFENCES			
Rape	24	28	-4
Other sexual offences	51	49	+2
Total	75	77	-2
ROBBERY			
Robbery of business property	5	2	+3
Robbery of personal property	9	11	-2
Total	14	13	+1
BURGLARY			
Residential	167	206	-39
Business and Community	66	85	-19
Total	233	291	-58
THEFT OFFENCES			
Theft from Vehicle	226	268	-42
Theft from person	11	5	+6
Bicycle theft	19	24	-5
Shoplifting	78	44	+34
All other theft offences	198	167	+31
Total	532	508	+24
CRIMINAL DAMAGE & ARSON			
Criminal damage	346	280	+66
Arson	12	20	-8
DRUG OFFENCES			
Trafficking of drugs	8	15	-7
Possession of drugs	39	39	-
Total	47	54	-7
Possession of weapons offences	19	19	-
Public order offences	276	280	-4
Miscellaneous crimes against society	41	20	+21

Crime - New Forest Heart and East Sectors

Crime Type	01/04/2022 – 31/03/2023	01/04/2021 – 31/03/2022	Variations
VIOLENCE AGAINST THE PERSON			
Homicide	0	0	-
Violence with injury	83	69	+14
Violence without injury	147	155	-8
Total	230	224	+6
SEXUAL OFFENCES			
Rape	12	17	-5
Other sexual offences	31	31	-
Total	43	48	-5
ROBBERY			
Robbery of business property	1	0	+1
Robbery of personal property	3	1	+2
Total	4	1	+3
BURGLARY			
Residential	119	93	+26
Business and Community	39	33	+6
Total	158	126	+32
THEFT OFFENCES			
Theft from Vehicle	168	233	-65
Theft from person	3	7	-4
Bicycle theft	28	57	-29
Shoplifting	25	3	+22
All other theft offences	94	85	+9
Total	318	385	-67
CRIMINAL DAMAGE & ARSON			
Criminal damage	91	107	-16
Arson	4	9	-5
Total	95	116	-21
DRUG OFFENCES			
Trafficking of drugs	2	3	-1
Possession of drugs	46	29	+17
Total	48	32	+16
Possession of weapons offences	17	6	+11
Public order offences	91	109	-18
Miscellaneous crimes against society	10	14	-4

Crime - Hythe Sector

Crime Type	01/04/2022 – 31/03/2023	01/04/2021 – 31/03/2022	Variation
VIOLENCE AGAINST THE PERSON			
Homicide	0	0	-
Violence with injury	321	311	+10
Violence without injury	891	845	+46
Total	1212	1156	+56
SEXUAL OFFENCES			
Rape	25	42	-17
Other sexual offences	89	82	+7
Total	114	124	-10
ROBBERY			
Robbery of business property	1	1	-
Robbery of personal property	15	6	+9
Total	16	7	+9
BURGLARY			
Residential	82	83	-1
Business and Community	35	54	-19
Total	117	137	-20
THEFT OFFENCES			
Theft from Vehicle	91	125	-34
Theft from person	4	8	-4
Bicycle theft	17	17	-
Shoplifting	187	138	+49
All other theft offences	158	158	-
Total	457	446	+11
CRIMINAL DAMAGE & ARSON OFFENCES			
Criminal damage	217	321	-104
Arson	23	24	-1
Total	240	345	-105
DRUG OFFENCES			
Trafficking of drugs	7	10	-3
Possession of drugs	36	40	-4
Total	43	50	-7
Possession of weapons offences	29	18	+11
Public order offences	312	277	+35
Miscellaneous crimes against society	51	40	+11

Crime - Totton Sector

Crime Type	01/04/2022 – 31/03/2023	01/04/2021 – 31/03/2022	Variation
VIOLENCE AGAINST THE PERSON			
Homicide	0	1	-1
Violence with injury	266	245	+21
Violence without injury	722	755	-33
Total	988	1001	-13
SEXUAL OFFENCES			
Rape	28	36	-8
Other sexual offences	48	65	-17
Total	76	101	-25
ROBBERY			
Robbery of business property	1	2	-1
Robbery of personal property	11	7	+4
Total	12	9	+3
BURGLARY			
Residential	161	124	+37
Business and Community	50	40	+10
Total	211	164	+47
THEFT OFFENCES			
Theft from Vehicle	200	193	+7
Theft from person	9	5	+4
Bicycle theft	67	39	+28
Shoplifting	89	116	-27
All other theft offences	290	245	+45
Total	655	598	+57
CRIMINAL DAMAGE & ARSON OFFENCES			
Criminal damage	302	247	+55
Arson	10	4	+6
Total	312	251	+61
DRUG OFFENCES			
Trafficking of drugs	16	13	+3
Possession of drugs	65	83	-18
Total	81	96	-15
Possession of weapons offences	28	17	+11
Public order offences	278	318	-40
Miscellaneous crimes against society	43	47	-4

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 or 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

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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