

HOUSING & COMMUNITIES OVERVIEW & SCRUNITY PANEL – 17 JANUARY 2024

PORTFOLIO: COMMUNITY, SAFETY & WELLBEING

SERIOUS VIOLENCE DUTY NEEDS ASSESSMENT & RESPONSE STRATEGY

1. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 1.1 It is recommended that the Panel note the contents of the draft Serious Violence Strategic Needs Assessment and Response Strategy.

2. INTRODUCTION

- 2.1 This report presents the findings of the draft New Forest Serious Violence Strategic Needs Assessment (Appendix 1) undertaken by the Violence Reduction Partnership. The assessment consists of data extracted from Home Office Police recorded crime data and incident level data provided by Hampshire & Isle of Wight Constabulary.
- 2.2 Also attached within this report is the draft Hampshire Violence Reduction Partnership's Response Strategy (Appendix 2) which outlines the 4 key priorities for all specified authorities to work towards during 2024/25.

3. BACKGROUND

- 3.1 Following public consultation in July 2019, the Government announced its intention to bring forward legislation introducing a new Serious Violence Duty ("the Duty") on a range of specified authorities. This is to ensure relevant services work together, share information and target their interventions, where possible through existing partnership structures, to prevent and reduce serious violence within their local communities.
- 3.2 The Government also announced that it would amend the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 to ensure that serious violence is a standalone priority for Community Safety Partnerships. This places a further requirement that a strategy is developed to explicitly tackle serious violence.

4. AGENCIES WITH A DUTY TO COMPLY (SPECIFIED AUTHORITIES)

- 4.1 The Duty requires the following specified authorities within the New Forest district (local government area) collaborate and plan to prevent and reduce serious violence:
- Hampshire & Isle of Wight Constabulary
 - Probation Service, Youth Offending Team
 - Hampshire & Isle of Wight Fire & Rescue Service
 - Integrate Care Board
 - Local Authorities
- 4.2 The Duty does not specify a 'lead' authority to be responsible for coordinating activity or prescribe a structure within which specified authorities are expected to work. It is for the partners as a collective to come together to decide on the appropriate lead and structure of collaboration for their area.
- 4.3 To complement the overarching Duty, amendments to the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 ensure that Community Safety Partnerships have an explicit role in evidence based strategic action on serious violence. These amendments require CSPs to

formulate and implement strategies to prevent people from becoming involved in, and reduce instances of, serious violence in the area.

5. HAMPSHIRE APPROACH TO ASSESSMENT & RESPONSE STRATEGY

- 5.1 The Police and Crime Commissioner PCC Donna Jones, chairs and leads the Strategic Violence Reduction Partnership (SVRP) that brings together executive level leaders in the Violence Reduction Partnership (VRP).
- 5.2 To support each local authority area in meeting its duty, the PCC funded a small team under the banner of Violence Reduction Unit (VRU) consisting of professionals for the coordination of a collaborative response in tackling the root causes of violence. The VRU supports the Violence Reduction Partnership (VRP) made up of 25 different public sector bodies across the Hampshire, Isle of Wight, Portsmouth & Southampton (HIPS) area.
- 5.3 The VRU completed the Serious Violence Strategic Needs Assessment across all Hampshire Community Safety Partnership (CSP) areas (Appendix 1). For continuity purposes all completed assessments within Hampshire follow the same format and show comparable differences within each CSP area.
- 5.4 Specified partners within the New Forest CSP reviewed the data contained within the Strategic Needs Assessment in December 2023. Whilst it is recognised the complex nature of compiling the data within the report for 14 CSPs from a number of data sources, further clarity has been sought from the VRU on key areas.
- 5.5 Combined data of all assessments has been used to develop a single HIPS Violence Reduction Partnership Response Strategy (Appendix 2).

6. NEW FOREST RISK & PROTECTIVE FACTORS

- 6.1 Data findings used during the compilation of this report cover a number of calendar years, data sources and age groups dating back to and including 2017. This method used by the analysts requires the reader to interrogate the information fully.
- 6.2 New Forest generally ranked similar or better than the Hampshire average for most of the identified risk and protective factors and has a low level of deprivation overall, it is ranked 240 out of 317 local authority districts across England (where rank 1 has the highest level of deprivation).
- 6.3 New Forest compared more poorly than the Hampshire average for young people being suspended from education, assessed by the YOT and missing episodes for under 18s. This indicates that some children and young people within the New Forest may be at a higher risk of involvement in serious violence.
- 6.4 The New Forest ranks worse than the Hampshire and England average for alcohol specific hospital admissions for persons under 18s.
- 6.5 New Forest emergency hospital admissions for intentional self-harm (2021/22) ranks similar to the Hampshire average but worse than the England average. Recorded hospital admissions cover all ages, both juvenile and adult.

7. NEW FOREST STRATEGIC NEEDS ASSESSMENT FINDINGS

- 7.1 In 2022/23 the New Forest had lower rates of violence with injury, robbery, and possession of a weapon compared to the HIPS and England averages.

- 7.2 The New Forest had the second lowest rate of violence with injury (6.9 per 1000) compared to other HIPS and CSP areas and is significantly lower than the HIPS and England averages of 10.7 and 9.4 per 1000 respectively.
- 7.3 Serious violence offences recorded in the New Forest in 2022/23 account for 5% of the total serious violence recorded in HIPS area with the New Forest being significantly lower than the HIPS average.
- 7.4 It is acknowledged within the report that numbers are relatively low and the following profile should be interpreted with caution. There is a recorded 30% increase in possession of a weapon offences in the New Forest since 2021/22 (124 offences gives an incident rate of 0.70 per 1000). This is significantly lower than the HIPS and England average (1.1 and 9.6 per 1000 respectively).
- 7.5 The New Forest has the third lowest rate of robberies across the HIPS area (0.30 per 1000) and is significantly lower than the HIPS and England averages (0.68 and 1.28 per 1000 respectively).

8. DRAFT HAMPSHIRE RESPONSE STRATEGY

- 8.1 The Violence Reduction Partnership developed a draft countywide Response Strategy (Appendix 2) which is currently within the consultation period.
- 8.2 Statutory partners of the Safer New Forest CSP who are also specified authorities, have reviewed both documents and responded to the consultation with amendments and corrections.
- 8.3 It is anticipated the Strategy will be completed in early January 2024 and officially launched by the PCC on 11 January 2024.

9. CONCLUSIONS

- 9.1 As a specified authority, it is important to note the Council's role in meeting its new duty.

10. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 10.1 There are no direct financial implications identified at this time. Additional resources and financial support can be obtained through the OPCC grants for targeted interventions.

11. CRIME & DISORDER IMPLICATIONS

- 11.1 The assessment and Response Strategy are to support the coordinated role of the Safer New Forest CSP in addressing crime and disorder within the district.

12. ENVIRONMENTAL & EQUALITY & DIVERSITY IMPLICATIONS

- 12.1 This strategy 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 sections 6 and 7 are a particular priority for the CSP and this strategy will prioritise addressing the identified needs of, and tackling issues experienced by protected groups.

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Background Papers:

Draft Violence Reduction Partnership New
Forest Strategic Needs Assessment
(Appendix 1)

Draft Violence Reduction Partnership
Hampshire Response Strategy (Appendix 2)



New Forest Serious Violence Strategic Needs Assessment

October 2023

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1. Introduction

1.1 Serious Violence Duty

Nationally, violent crime overall has seen a substantial decline since its peak in the mid-1990s, although some types of violent crime have seen increases since late 2014.¹ Much of this increase has been attributed to improvements in police recording and increased willingness of victims to report crimes, but some of the increases, especially for some high harm offences including robbery, are thought to be genuine.²

Offences involving knives or sharp instruments increased by 84% between the twelve month period ending June 2014 and the twelve month period ending June 2020.³ Violent offences involving knives and firearms account for less than 1% of recorded crime nationally. However, despite accounting for a small proportion of overall recorded crime, violent crime can have long-lasting impacts for individuals, families, communities, and results in significant costs to the health services, the criminal justice system, and the wider economy.⁴

Following public consultation in July 2019, the Government announced that it would bring forward legislation introducing a new Serious Violence Duty (SVD) on responsible authorities which will ensure relevant services work together to prevent and reduce serious violence. The government also announced that it would amend the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 to ensure that serious violence is an explicit priority for Community Safety Partnerships (CSPs) and make sure they have a strategy in place to tackle violent crime.

The SVD focuses on tackling the root causes of violence through a programme of early interventions with young people and local communities. Statutory partners will work together to tackle serious violence and share local knowledge and data to support an evidence-based, multi-agency, 'public health' approach to tackling violent crime.

As part of the duty, areas need to produce a Strategic Needs Assessment (SNA) to understand the picture of serious violence in the local area, as well as understanding some of the causes of violence. Outputs from the SNA should inform the local strategy, which should contain bespoke solutions to prevent and reduce serious violence in the area.

¹ Home Office: Serious Violence Strategy (2018), Online available at:

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/698009/serious-violence-strategy.pdf

² [Crime in England and Wales - Office for National Statistics \(ons.gov.uk\)](https://ons.gov.uk)

³ Home Office: Serious Violence Duty (2022), Online available at:

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/1125001/Final_Serious_Violence_Duty_Statutory_Guidance_-_December_2022.pdf

⁴ World Health Organization: World report on violence and health (2002), Online available at:

https://apps.who.int/iris/bitstream/handle/10665/42495/9241545615_eng.pdf;jsessionid=E3274DB90E1A6AE274E60FF7986A5FB6?sequence=1

This local CSP SNA has been developed to feed into an overarching HIPS (Hampshire, Isle of Wight, Portsmouth, and Southampton) wide SNA, enabling local knowledge of the area to be fed into this work. Analysis of serious violence using police crime data supplied by Hampshire and Isle of Wight Constabulary was led by the Violence Reduction Unit (VRU) analyst to ensure consistency in analysis and outputs across the HIPS area.

1.2 Definition of Serious Violence

The SVD does not set out a national definition of serious violence. It does, however, state that specified authorities need to work together to identify the kinds of serious violence that occur in their area, accounting for the factors set out in the Police, Crime, Sentencing and Courts Act 2002. The primary guidance states that specified authorities do not have to focus on domestic violence, violence against women and girls (VAWG) or sexual violence; but states that there should be a focus on public space youth violence including homicide; violence against the person where it involves a knife or gun and areas of criminality where serious violence is a threat.⁵ This approach allows for local definitions to integrate geographical differences including the prevalence of violence in a specific area, the impact on the community and evidence-based SNAs.

In response to the SVD, a common definition of serious violence was agreed at the HIPS Strategic Violence Reduction Partnership to enable consistency. Where data is presented that differs from the below definition of serious violence it will be flagged.

The agreed HIPS wide serious violence definition used in this needs assessment is:

1. Most serious violence – existing definition (1a and 1b where it is GBH and above incl. death by dangerous driving). A full list of these offences can be found in Appendix 1.
2. Robbery (3a and 3b).
3. Possession of a weapon offences (7).
4. Public order (violent disorder [65] and riot [64/1] only).
5. Any violence with injury (1b) not included under MSV where a bladed implement was used.

It has been agreed that additional VAWG and domestic abuse crimes will not be included in the definition and SNA as there is already strategic focus and governance on these crime types across the HIPS area. This includes the Hampshire and Isle of Wight VAWG Task Group, Portsmouth Domestic Abuse Strategy⁶ and Southampton Domestic Abuse and VAWG Strategy. The decision is also in line with the primary VRU focus on violence by under 25s in public places.

⁵ Serious Violence Duty 2023: [*Serious Violence Duty - Statutory Guidance \(publishing.service.gov.uk\)](https://publishing.service.gov.uk), pg. 15.

⁶ Which is currently being reviewed and updated following the recent national VAWG Strategy

1.3 About the Data

This Serious Violence SNA brings together information from a range of data sources, which will be outlined in relevant sections below. Where there are caveats around data and sources used, this will be included in the narrative.

The two main sources of data used in this report to understand the picture of serious violence are Home Office police recorded crime data for CSPs⁷ and incident level data provided by Hampshire and Isle of Wight Constabulary. Due to the nature of ongoing police investigations, crime data may be subject to change and inconsistencies may exist between published and live data. The data provided by Hampshire and Isle of Wight Constabulary has been processed by the same analyst to ensure consistency across the different areas, therefore practices and subsequent figures produced may differ to what is produced by the police and local authorities. However, data cleaning constants have been agreed for consistency of this SNA and these are listed in Appendix 2.

Police recorded crime data only includes those crimes that have been reported to and recorded by the police, with 'hidden' crimes such as domestic abuse and hate crime more likely to be underreported than other offences, such as burglary.

Data sources data covering the period of April 2020 to March 2021 are likely to have been significantly affected by the coronavirus pandemic. Therefore, this should be considered when examining trends.

Where rates have been calculated, the ONS mid-year population estimates⁸ have been used unless otherwise stated. 95% confidence intervals for rates have been calculated where possible in an attempt to account for natural variation and to robustly evaluate if any differences between geographical areas are statistically significant.

1.4 A Public Health Approach

The aim of a public health approach is to use evidence to understand the underlying causes of a problem and then to target interventions to address the causes, focussing on both long-term and short-term solutions.

Adopting a public health approach to tackling the root causes of violence not only reduces the likelihood of individuals becoming a victim or perpetrator of violent crime, but also may improve long

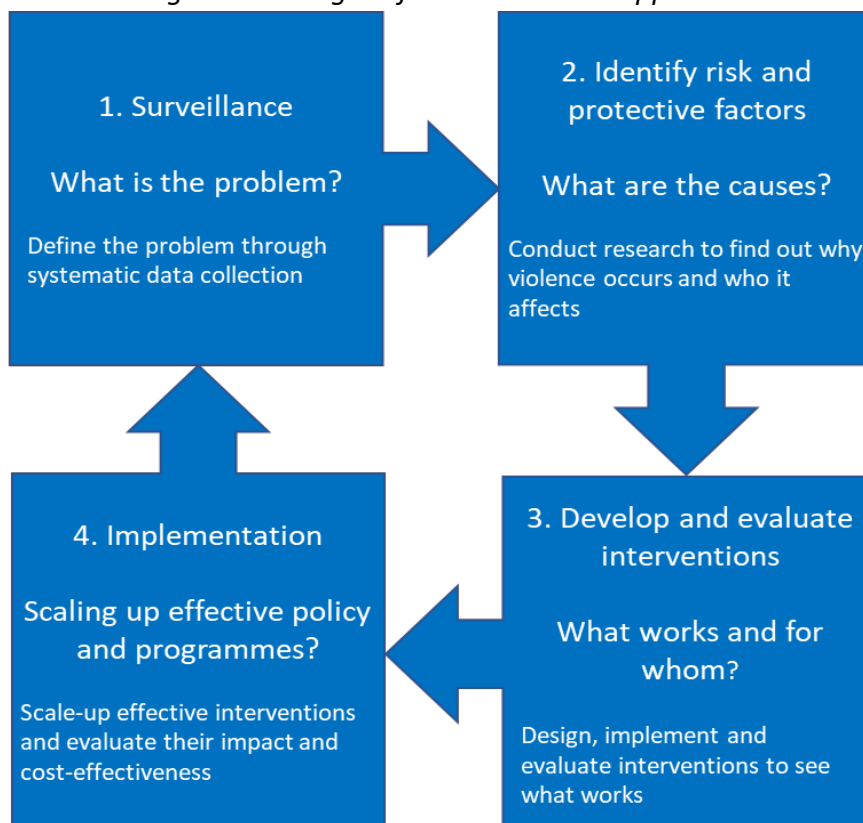
⁷ [Police recorded crime and outcomes open data tables - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk)

⁸ [All data related to Population estimates for the UK, England, Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland: mid-2021 - Office for National Statistics \(ons.gov.uk\)](https://ons.gov.uk)

term health, education, and employment outcomes for individuals and across communities.⁹ There may also be positive impacts for the economy and wider society.¹⁰

The public health approach can be broken down into four key stages outlined in Figure 1.1; of which this SNA will cover stage 1 and 2.

Figure 1.1: Stages of a Public Health Approach



A public health approach aims to prevent violence by exposing a broad segment of the population to prevention measures to reduce and prevent violence at a population level. The approach also involves working with partners and other organisations to develop a multi-agency response.

Under a public health approach there are three levels of violence prevention. The target population decreases in size with progression from primary to tertiary prevention:

- Primary – focused on preventing violence before it happens; to reduce the number of new cases of violence in the population. Interventions usually target the general population or broad population groups such as young people of school age and are often aimed at increasing awareness or providing information about an issue.

⁹ Local Government Association: Public health approaches to reducing violence (2018). Available at: https://www.local.gov.uk/sites/default/files/documents/15.32%20-%20Reducing%20family%20violence_03.pdf

¹⁰ Public Health England: A whole-system multi-agency approach to serious violence prevention (2019), Online available at: https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/838930/multi-agency_approach_to_serious_violence_prevention.pdf

- Secondary – groups at risk of being a victim or perpetrator of violence. Individuals are likely to already be engaging in risky behaviours and may be known to a number of services. This is an opportunity to intervene to reduce the risk of further escalation at this stage.
- Tertiary – individuals already at harm or committing harm and experiencing poor health outcomes as a result. Individuals will be known to a range of services. At this level the focus is to minimise harm and prevent further involvement in violence.

1.5 Local Context

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 which has around 10.1% of the population aged between 15 and 24. 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 urban 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 town and fringe areas, whilst the remaining 11% are in rural villages.

More information about the New Forest population and its characteristics can be found within the JSNA Demography report produced by the Hampshire and Isle of Wight Council Public Health Intelligence team. The demography report is a live website and is routinely updated when new data becomes available. The link to the report can be found here: [Microsoft Power BI](#).

2. Risk and Protective Factors Associated with Violence

Evidence reviews have been conducted which have identified the risk and protective factors of violence. Risk factors are those which are associated with an increased likelihood of being a victim or perpetrator of violence, whilst protective factors are associated with a reduced likelihood of violence.

¹¹ ¹² ¹³

Figure 2.1 outlines risk and protective factors of violence. These factors can also be set out in an ecological framework (Figure 2.2 overleaf), which emphasises that no single risk or protective factor can explain why someone, or groups of people, are at higher risk of violence than others. It is the interaction between the different risk factors at the individual, relationship, community, and societal

¹¹ Houses of Parliament: Early Interventions to Reduce Violent Crime. (2019) Available at:

<https://researchbriefings.files.parliament.uk/documents/POST-PN-0599/POST-PN-0599.pdf>

¹² World Health Organisation: Preventing violence (2004). Available at: <http://whqlibdoc.who.int/publications/2004/9241592079.pdf>

¹³ McNeish, D. & Scott, S. Tackling and preventing serious youth violence: a rapid evidence review (2018). Available at:

level that influences the level of risk.¹⁴ It should be noted that some indicators could fit into multiple categories within the ecological framework (Figure 2.2).

Figure 2.1: Risk and Protective Factors for Violence

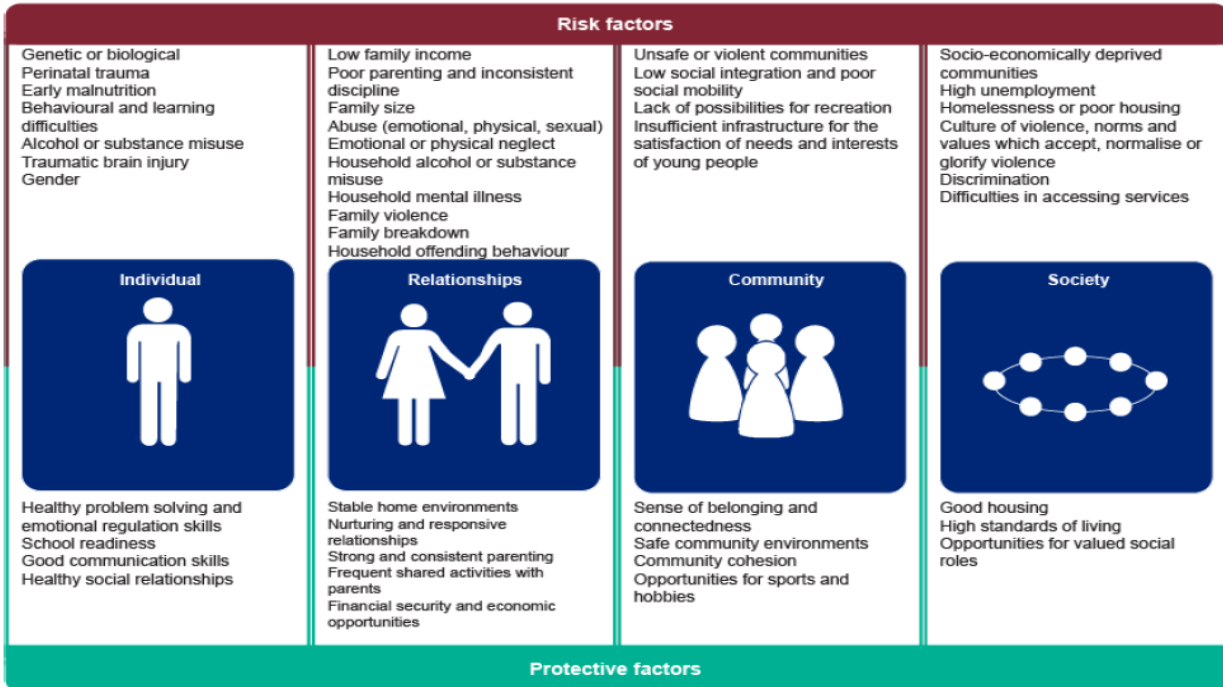
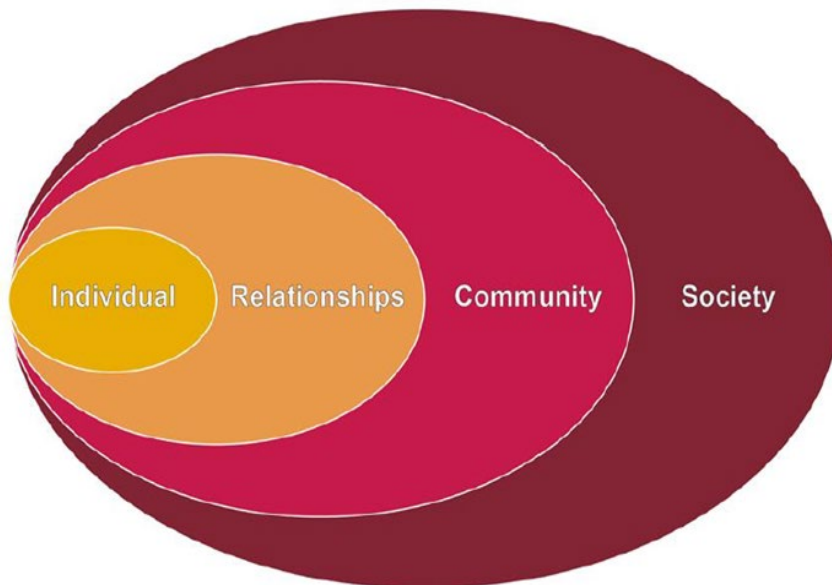


Figure 2.2: Ecological Framework for Violence



¹⁴ Local Government Association – Public Health Approaches to reducing violence (2018) – Online Available at: <https://www.local.gov.uk/public-health-approaches-reducing-violence>

One set of risk factors which have been highlighted by multiple studies is Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs).^{15 16 17} Research into ACEs suggests that these risk factors are cumulative, meaning that the more factors that are experienced, the greater the risk of all forms of violence. In addition to those outlined above, ACEs include:

- Emotional, physical, and sexual abuse.
- Emotional or physical neglect.
- Violence against household members.
- Living with household members who were substance abusers, mentally ill, suicidal, or imprisoned.
- Having one or no parents or experiencing parental separation or divorce.
- Bullying or exposure to community or collective violence.

Risk factors have also been suggested which relate specifically to serious youth violence¹⁸ and knife crime:¹⁹

- Individual factors: past exposure to violence, impulsiveness, low school achievement, poor problem-solving skills, and, for knife crime only, fear of crime and to increase social status.
- Relationship factors: delinquent peers, parental conflict, limited parental monitoring and supervision.
- Community factors: housing instability, poor neighbourhoods, gang activity and crime.
- Societal factors: norms about the acceptability of violence, limited education and economic support and opportunities.

It should be emphasised that many children and young people experience these risk factors and do not become involved in or develop a propensity for violence. However, risk and protective factors outlined in this section have been found to increase or decrease the likelihood of an individual or groups becoming involved in violence at a population level. It is important to monitor the risk factors, as if these worsen, we may see subsequent increases in serious violence. Research and collaborative working by HIPS analysts have contributed to a framework to monitor risk and protective factors, allowing CSPs to identify issues which may require focus.

¹⁵ Local Government Association: Public health approaches to reducing violence. (2018) Available at:

https://www.local.gov.uk/sites/default/files/documents/15.32%20-%20Reducing%20family%20violence_03.pdf

¹⁶ Bellis *et al.* *Adverse childhood experiences and sources of childhood resilience: a retrospective study of their combined relationships with child health and educational attendance*, *BMC Public Health* (2018), 1:18

¹⁷ Anda *et al.* The enduring effects of abuse and related adverse experiences in childhood. A convergence of evidence from neurobiology and epidemiology, *Child: Care, Health and Development* (2006), 2:32

¹⁸ McNeish, D. & Scott, S. Tackling and preventing serious youth violence: a rapid evidence review (2018). Available at:

<https://www.dmss.co.uk/pdfs/addressing-serious-youth-violence-in-london-a-rapid-evidence-review.pdf>

¹⁹ The Scottish Centre for Crime and Justice Research (2013) Knife Crime interventions 'What works?' Available at:

https://www.sccjr.ac.uk/wp-content/uploads/2014/01/SCCJR_Report_No_04.2013_Knife_Crime_Interventions.pdf

2.1 Monitoring Risk & Protective Factors

This section provides information about risk and protective factors associated with violence. The most recent data has been benchmarked using 95% confidence intervals where there is comparator data. Upper Tier Local Authorities (UTLAs) have been benchmarked with the England average where possible, while Lower Tier Local Authorities have been benchmarked with the Hampshire County average (Excluding UTLAs).²⁰

Table 2.1: Benchmark Key

	Better
	Similar
	Worse

Table 2.2: Community and Societal Measures

Community / Societal Measures	IMD 2019 - Average Score	Income deprivation affecting children	Anti-social behaviour incidents rate per 1,000	All crime rate per 1,000	Victims of crime (aged 0-17 years) per 1000
Age group	All	All	All	All	0-17 years
Year	2019	2019	2022/23	2022/23	2022/23
Source	DLUHC	DLUHC	InterAct	InterAct	Interact
England				113.0	
Hampshire	12.7	0.10	9.7	69.6	46.7
New Forest	13.0	0.11	7.7	69.2	47.7

The Index of Multiple Deprivation 2019 (IMD) provides a relative ranking of areas across England according to their level of deprivation.²¹ 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 pockets of deprivation within the district, with pockets of higher levels of deprivation located in Totton, near to Hythe, in Lymington and New Milton. New Forest ranks similar than the Hampshire average when looking at income deprivation affecting children. Focusing on police recorded crime, New Forest ranks significantly better with a lower rate, than the Hampshire average for incidents of anti-social behaviour. New Forest ranks similar to the Hampshire average for total crime rate and children who were victims of crime.

²⁰ Excluding Isle of Wight, Portsmouth and Southampton unless specified that the average is across the total HIPS area.

Table 2.3: Family and Relationship Measures

Family / Relationship Measures	Lone parent households with dependent children (per 1,000)	Homelessness - households with dependent children owed a duty under the Homelessness Reduction/ Household owed a duty due to domestic abuse	% Children in relative low income families	Eligible for school meals
Age group	All	<18	Under 16 years	Under 16 years
Year	2021	2021/22	Year end 2021	Autumn Term - 2020/21
Source	Census	GOV.UK	Gov.UK	DfE
England	69.0	14.4	18.7	19.7
Hampshire	54.1	9.2	12.6	14.6
New Forest	46.9	14.2	14.2	16.2

Family / Relationship Measures	Unemployed: Percentage of people claiming universal credit who are out of work	Domestic abuse related incidents and crimes (per 1,000)	Children whose parents are receiving DA support (0-16) (rate per 10,000)	Percentage privately owned property
Age group	All	16+ years	0-16 years	All
Year	2023	2022/23	2022/23	2021
Source	Nomis	InterAct	Stop Domestic Abuse	Census
England	3.7			61.3
Hampshire	2.3	14.6	68.2	69.6
New Forest	2	12.4	42.1	74.2

New Forest ranks better than both the Hampshire and England average for rate of lone parent households with dependent children, percentage of children in relative low-income families, unemployment rate and the percentage of properties which were privately owned. New Forest ranks worse than the Hampshire average and similar to the England average for the rate of households with dependent children who were owed a homelessness duty. New Forest ranks similar to the Hampshire average and better than the England average for the rate of children eligible for free school meals. New Forest ranks better than the Hampshire average for the rate of children whose parents are receiving domestic abuse support and the rate of domestic abuse related crimes and incidents.

Table 2.4: Education Factors

Education	Percentage of sessions missed recorded as unauthorised absence at state-funded primary, secondary & special schools	Percentage of pupils who had been suspended at state-funded primary, secondary & special schools	Percentage of pupils who were permanently excluded at state-funded primary, secondary & special schools	Average attainment 8 score for all pupils in state-funded schools
Age group	Under 16 years	Under 16 years	Under 16 years	16 years
Year	2020/21	2020/21	2020/21	2020/21
Source	LAIT/GOV.UK	LAIT/GOV.UK	LAIT/GOV.UK	LAIT/GOV.UK
England	1.3	4.3	0.05	48.9
Hampshire	0.7	3.8	0.02	51.8
New Forest	0.7	4.6	0.02	52.4

New Forest ranks better than both the Hampshire and England average for percentage of sessions missed for unauthorised absence and the average attainment of pupils at the end of key stage 4. New Forest ranks worse than the Hampshire average for suspension rate. New Forest ranks similar to the Hampshire average for percentage of pupils who were permanently excluded.

Table 2.5: Young People at Risk Factors

Youth offending	Proportion of young offenders who re-offend (% , from cohort)	Children assessed by YOT (10-18) (rate per 1,000 aged 10-18)
Age Group	10-17 years	10-18 years
Year	2020/21	2019-21
Source	Gov.UK	HCC Youth Offending Teams
England	30.5	
Hampshire	28.2	6.2
New Forest	30.4	8.6

New Forest ranks similar to the Hampshire average for the proportion of young offenders who re-offend. New Forest ranks worse than the Hampshire average for the rate of children assessed by youth offender teams.

Table 2.6: Mental Health and Vulnerability Factors

Mental Health, Self harm & Vulnerability	Emergency hospital admissions for intentional self-harm	Smoking prevalence 15+	Percentage of missing episodes (under 18 years)	Missing episodes for adults (per 1000)
Age Group	All ages	15+	Under 18s	18+
Year	2021/22	2021/22	2022/23	2022/23
Source	Fingertips	Fingertips	InterAct	InterAct
England	163.9	15.4	N/A	N/A
Hampshire	230.2	13.2	1.5	2.4
New Forest	243.8	12.3	1.7	2.2

New Forest ranks better than both the Hampshire and England average for smoking prevalence in those aged 15 plus. New Forest ranks similar to the Hampshire average but worse than the England average for emergency hospital admissions for intentional self-harm. New Forest ranks worse than the Hampshire average for the rate of missing episodes for under 18s and similar for missing episodes for adults.

Table 2.7: Substance Misuse Factors

Substance Misuse	Alcohol specific hospital admissions under 18yrs	Admission episodes for alcohol related conditions per 100,000 population (Narrow)	Deaths from drug misuse
Age Group	Under 18s	All ages	All
Year	2018/19 - 20/21	2021/22	2018-20
Source	Hospital Episode Statistics via OHID	Fingertips	Fingertips
England	29.3	494	5.0
Hampshire	34.5	397	3.7
New Forest	46.9	423	3.7

New Forest ranks similar to the Hampshire average and worse than the England average for alcohol specific hospital admissions for under 18s. New Forest ranks similar to the Hampshire average but better than the England average for admission episodes for alcohol related conditions, where the alcohol-related condition was the main reason for admission. New Forest ranks similar to both the Hampshire and England average for deaths from drug misuse. This trend remains similar to what was observed in 2017-19.

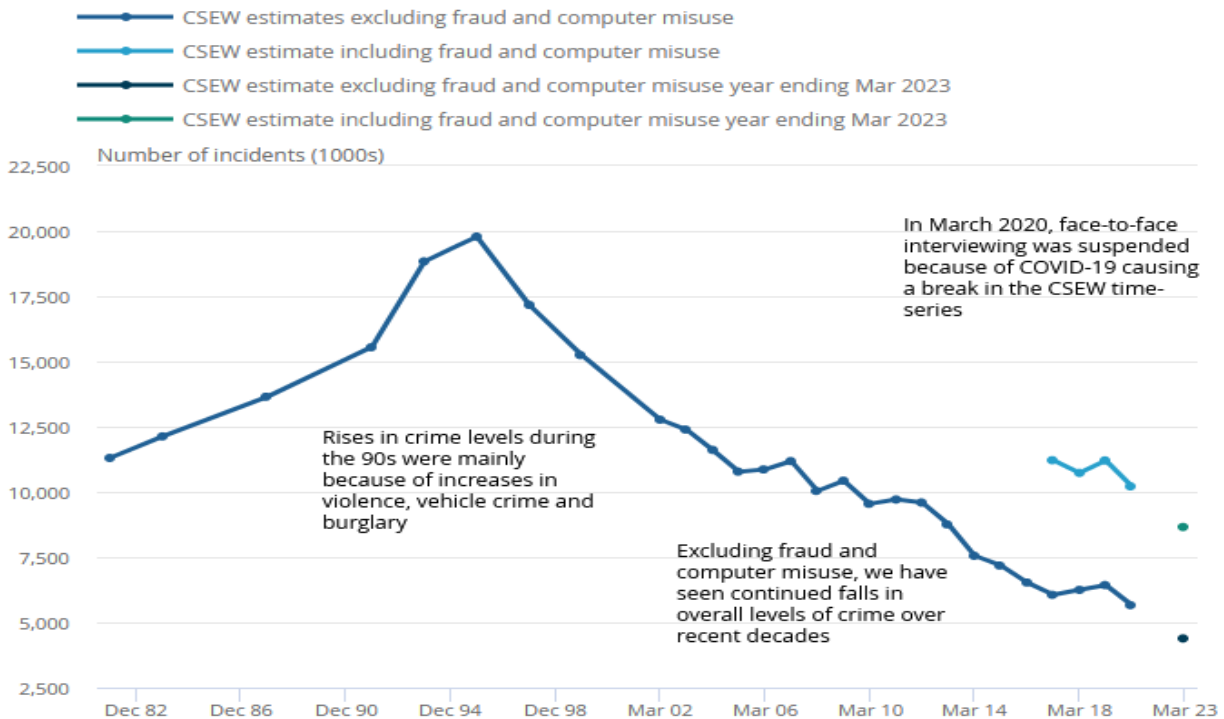
In summary, New Forest generally ranked similar or better than the Hampshire average for most of the identified risk and protective factors. However, New Forest compared more poorly than the Hampshire average for young people being suspended, assessed by the YOT and missing episodes for under 18s. This indicates that there are still children and young people within the New Forest who will be at a higher risk of involvement in serious violence, with pockets of greater risk of involvement

likely to occur in the small pockets of deprivation in Totton, near to Hythe, in Lymington and New Milton.

3. National Trends

Police recorded crime trends can be impacted by changes to recording practices, policing activity, and public reporting of crime.²² It is therefore important to incorporate other sources of information, such as the Crime Survey for England and Wales (CSEW), when examining national trends in crime. However, police recorded crime can give more insight into lower-volume but higher-harm offences, for example, robbery, offences involving knives or sharp instruments, offences involving firearms and homicides.

Figure 3.1 - Crime Estimates from the CSEW, Years Ending December 1981 to March 2023
England and Wales, annual estimates



Since the mid-1990s there have been long-term falls in overall CSEW crime estimates (Figure 3.1), but these vary by crime type. Rises in crime levels during the 90s were primarily driven by increases in violence, vehicle crime and burglary.²³

²² Office for National Statistics – Crime in England and Wales: year ending March 2022. Available online via: <https://www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/crimeandjustice/bulletins/crimeinenglandandwales/yearendingmarch2022>

²³ Office for National Statistics – Crime in England and Wales: year ending March 2023. Available online via: <https://www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/crimeandjustice/bulletins/crimeinenglandandwales/yearendingmarch2023>

Latest estimates from the CSEW suggest that total crime decreased by 15% in the year ending March 2023 compared with the year ending March 2020 (pre-covid pandemic year). Key headlines for crime in England and Wales in the year ending March 2023 include:²⁴

- The police recorded 2.1 million offences of violence against the person across England and Wales in the year ending March 2023, which is a 20% increase compared to the pre-covid year (ending March 2020) and a 1% increase with the year ending March 2022. However, it is important to note that some of the increase over recent years will be driven by changes in counting rules for stalking and harassment, as well as better identification and recording of these offences.
- Police recorded robbery offences increased by 13% compared with the year ending March 2022.
- Police recorded offences involving knives or sharp instruments (excluding Devon and Cornwall Police) increased by 5% since the year ending March 2022. However, some of the increase over the last year will likely be influenced by introduction of a new methodology for identifying and recording knife crime offences.
- The number of offences involving firearms (excluding Devon and Cornwall Police) increased by 13% increase compared with the year ending March 2022 (5,639 offences); this rise was largely attributed to an increase in offences involving imitation firearms, which rose 19% since the year ending March 2022, and was the most prevalent principal weapon used in these offences in the last year.
- The number of homicides decreased by 14% since the year ending March 2022 (697 offences); however, it is important to note that numbers of homicides are relatively small, therefore will fluctuate year on year.

²⁴ Office for National Statistics – Crime in England and Wales: year ending March 2023. Available online via: <https://www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/crimeandjustice/bulletins/crimeinenglandandwales/yearendingmarch2023>

4. New Forest Summary

New Forest generally ranked similar or better than the Hampshire average for most of the identified risk and protective factors and has a low level of deprivation overall. However, New Forest compared more poorly than the Hampshire average for young people being suspended, assessed by the YOT and missing episodes for under 18s. This indicates that there are still children and young people within the New Forest who will be at a higher risk of involvement in serious violence, with pockets of greater risk of involvement likely to occur in the small pockets of deprivation in Totton, areas near to Hythe, in Lymington and New Milton.

Nationally there has been an increase in police recorded violence over the last decade, but other data sources, such as the Crime Survey for England and Wales and hospital admissions for violence show a downward or stable trend over this time. This suggests that the increase in police recorded violence has been driven by better identification of offences, increased willingness of victims to report and police recording practices.

Despite evidence suggesting that overall levels of violence are likely to have reduced slightly over the last decade, some categories of serious violence are thought to have been less affected or unaffected by changes in recording practices, such as robbery and homicide offences.²⁵ The rate of robberies in New Forest has remained broadly stable year on year since 2018/19 and has consistently remained lower than that of the HIPS and England rate. There were no homicides in New Forest in 2022/23, compared with three in 2021/22, but because these are very small numbers there does tend to be quite a bit of variation.

In 2022/23, New Forest had lower rates of violence with injury, robbery, and possession of a weapon compared to the HIPS and England averages.

There were 253 serious violence offences in New Forest in 2022/23, which accounted for 5% of the total serious violence in the HIPS area. New Forest's rate of serious violence was significantly lower than the HIPS average. There has been a 14% (n31) increase from last year, but levels are still lower than 2019/20.

Since there are relatively low numbers of serious violence offences, the following profile should be interpreted with caution as patterns are more susceptible to change, and percentage changes will be large even when the numerical change is small. The main offences that make up serious violence in New Forest are possession of a weapon (42%), violence with injury (32%), robbery of personal property (17%). There has been a 30% increase in possession of a weapon offences in New Forest since 2021/22, although this is influenced by police activity, and it is not possible to say with certainty that this represents a similar increase in weapons in the community.

The highest levels of serious violence were in some areas of Totton and New Milton, and 60% were known to have taken place in public areas. There are no clear seasonal trends, although there are

²⁵ [Crime in England and Wales - Office for National Statistics \(ons.gov.uk\)](https://www.ons.gov.uk/crime-in-england-and-wales) and [Crime in England and Wales QMI - Office for National Statistics \(ons.gov.uk\)](https://www.ons.gov.uk/crime-in-england-and-wales-qmi)

higher levels on Wednesday, Saturday, and Fridays mostly between 6pm and 11pm. 11% of serious violence flagged as linked to licenced premises, 11% involved alcohol use by the suspect and 4% involved drug use by the suspect.

The most common victim and suspect relationships for serious violence was acquaintance (29%) and victimless crimes (29%), followed by stranger (21%) and partner/ex-partner/family (16%). 11% of offences were flagged as domestic in nature.

Most suspects are male (87%), 44% were under 25 years of age. Males were also more likely to be the victims (74%) compared to females (23%) and 36% were under the age of 25 years. There has been an increase in numbers of suspects and victims aged 10-17 years. There was also an increase in suspects aged 18-24 years.

5. Comparison with Other Areas and Long Term Trends

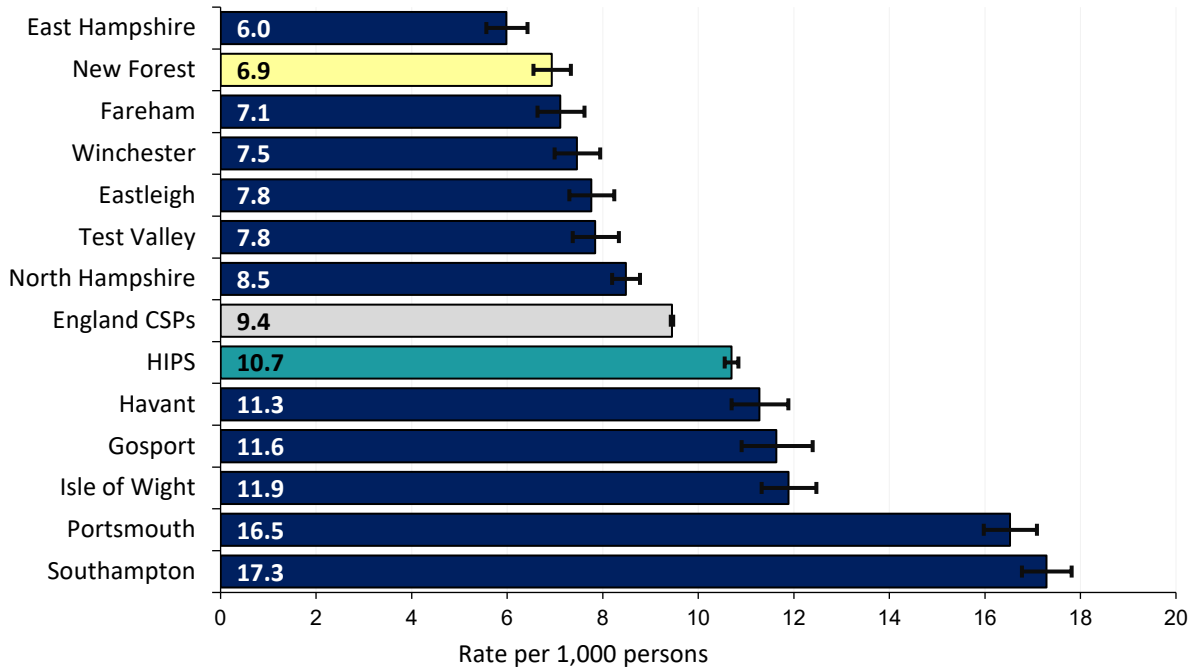
This section compares the rate of some key violence categories for New Forest with other CSPs in Hampshire, the HIPS average, and the England average. The rates were calculated using Home Office data for crimes²⁶ and population estimates from the Office for National Statistics²⁷ and may not exactly match data from local extracts used in section 5. Furthermore, the total for HIPS is higher than the sum of all the districts due to a number of crimes that were unassigned to districts.

In 2022/23, 1,222 violence with injury offences were recorded by the police, giving a rate of 6.9 per 1,000 population (Figure 4.1). This is the second lowest rate compared with the other HIPS CSPs and is significantly lower than the HIPS and England averages (10.7 and 9.4 per 1,000 respectively).

²⁶ [Police recorded crime and outcomes open data tables - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk)

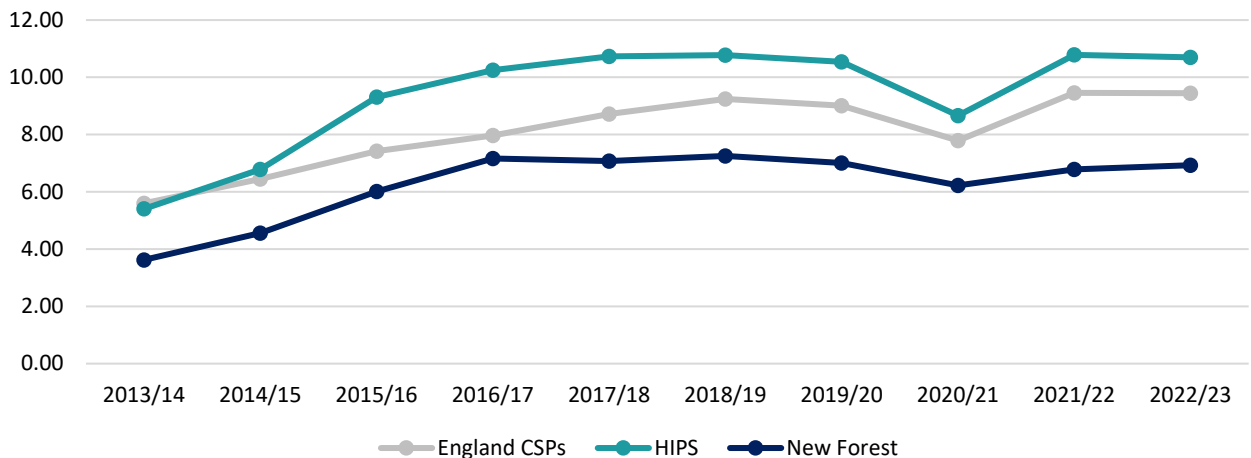
²⁷ [Estimates of the population for the UK, England, Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland - Office for National Statistics \(ons.gov.uk\)](https://ons.gov.uk)

Figure 4.1 Police recorded violence with injury, rate per 1,000 persons, Hampshire CSPs and England: 2022/23



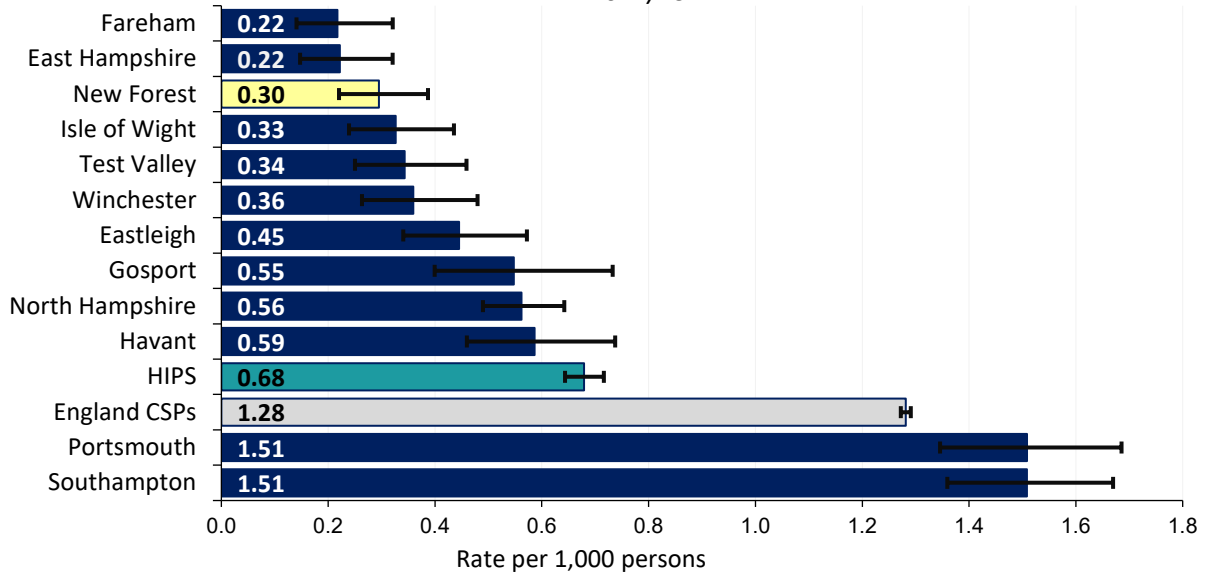
New Forest has had a broadly stable rate since 2016/17 and has consistently been substantially lower than the HIPS and England averages (Figure 4.2).

Figure 4.2: Police Recorded Violence with Injury, Rate per 1,000 for New Forest, HIPS and England: 2013/14 - 2022/23



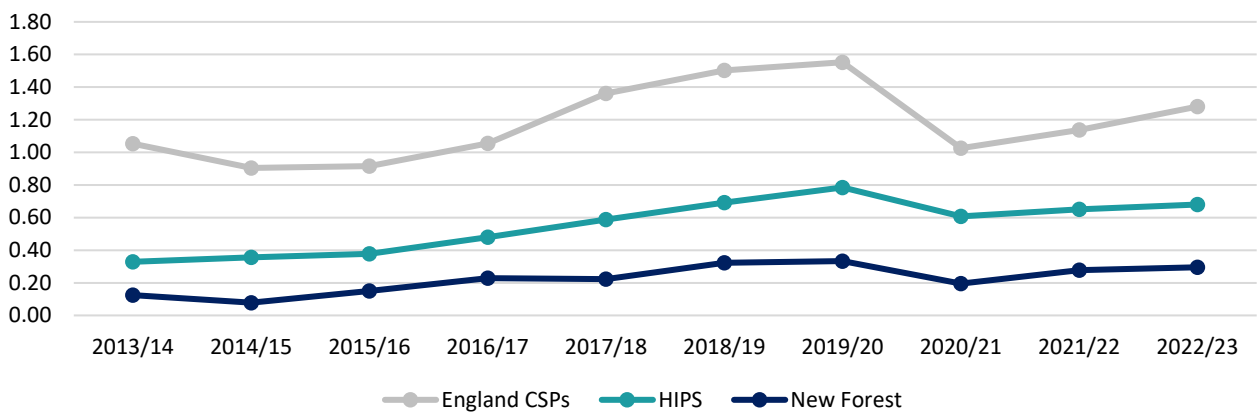
There were 52 robberies recorded in New Forest, giving a rate of 0.30 per 1,000. This is the third lowest rate along compared with the other HIPS CSPs and is significantly lower than the HIPS and England averages (0.68 and 1.28 per 1,000 respectively, Figure 4.3).

Figure 4.3: Police recorded robbery, rate per 1,000 persons, Hampshire CSPs and England: 2022/23



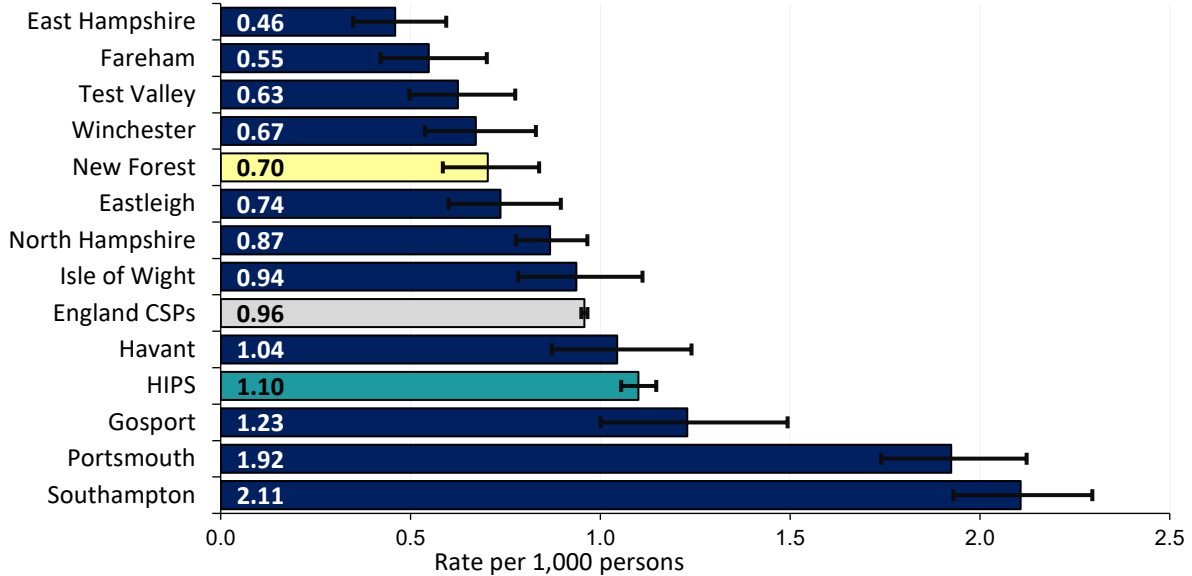
The rate of robberies in New Forest has remained broadly stable year on year since 2018/19, with the exception of a reduction during 2020/21 when the HIPS and England rates also dropped, most likely due to the Covid-19 pandemic. The New Forest rate has consistently remained lower than that of the HIPS and England rate.

Figure 4.4: Police Recorded Robbery, Rate per 1,000 for New Forest, HIPS and England: 2013/14 - 2022/23



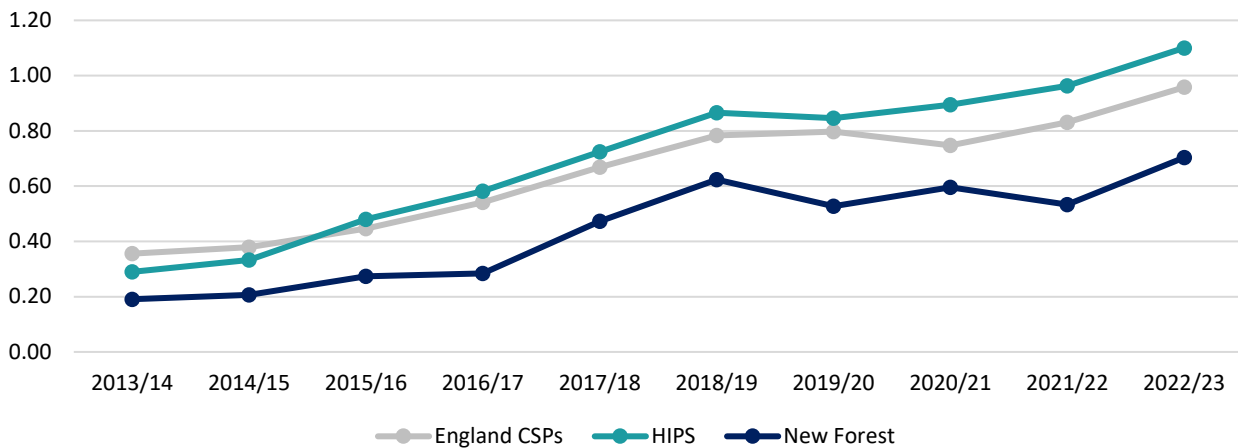
In 2022/23, 124 possession of a weapon offences were recorded by the police, giving a rate of 0.70 per 1,000 population (Figure 4.5). This is significantly lower than the HIPS and England averages (1.1 and 9.6 per 1,000 respectively).

Figure 4.5: Police recorded possession of weapons offences, rate per 1,000 persons, Hampshire CSPs and England: 2022/23



The rate of possession of a weapon offences for New Forest has been increasing over the last decade but has been remained lower than the HIPS and England averages during this time (Figure 4.6). The rate of possession of a weapon offences is likely to be influenced by police activity and it is not possible to say with certainty that this represents more weapons in the community.

Figure 4.6: Police Recorded Possession of a Weapon, Rate per 1,000 for New Forest, HIPS and England: 2013/14 - 2022/23



6. Local Picture of Serious Violence

6.1 How Does the New Forest Compare to Other Areas?

Using the definition for serious violence set out in 1.2 of this document there were 253 serious violence offences in 2022/23 for the New Forest, which accounts for 5% of the total volume of serious violence in the HIPS area. The number varies slightly from the total used in the rest of this chapter as it came from a Dashboard, where the raw data was extracted at a different time to the dataset used for the analysis. This gives a rate of 1.4 per 1,000 (Figure 5.1), which is lower than the HIPS average.

There has been a 14% (n31) increase from last year, but levels are still lower than 2019/20 (Figure 5.2).

Figure 5.1: Police recorded serious violence, rate per 1,000 persons, Hampshire CSPs: 2022/23

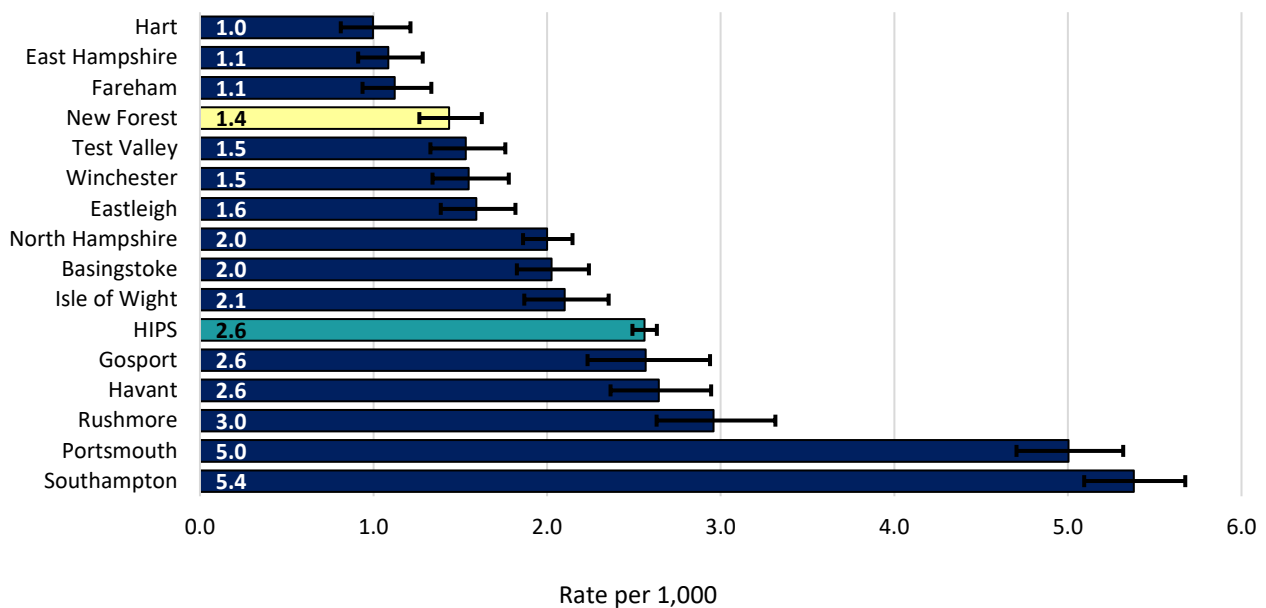


Figure 5.2: Police recorded serious violence for New Forest: 2018/19 - 2022/23

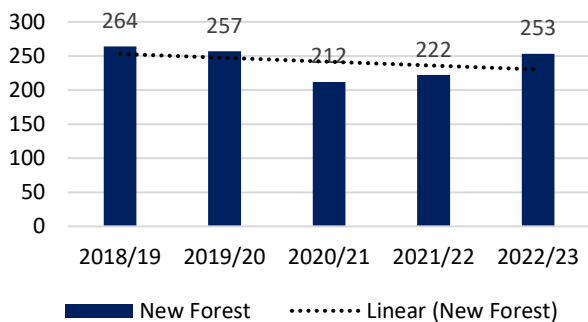
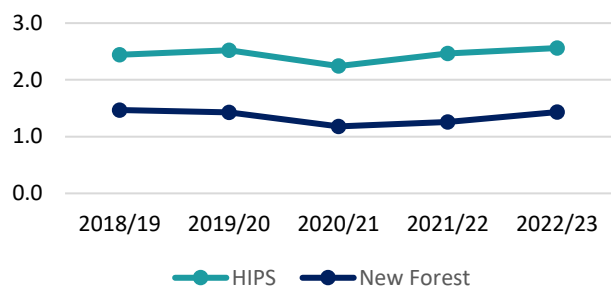
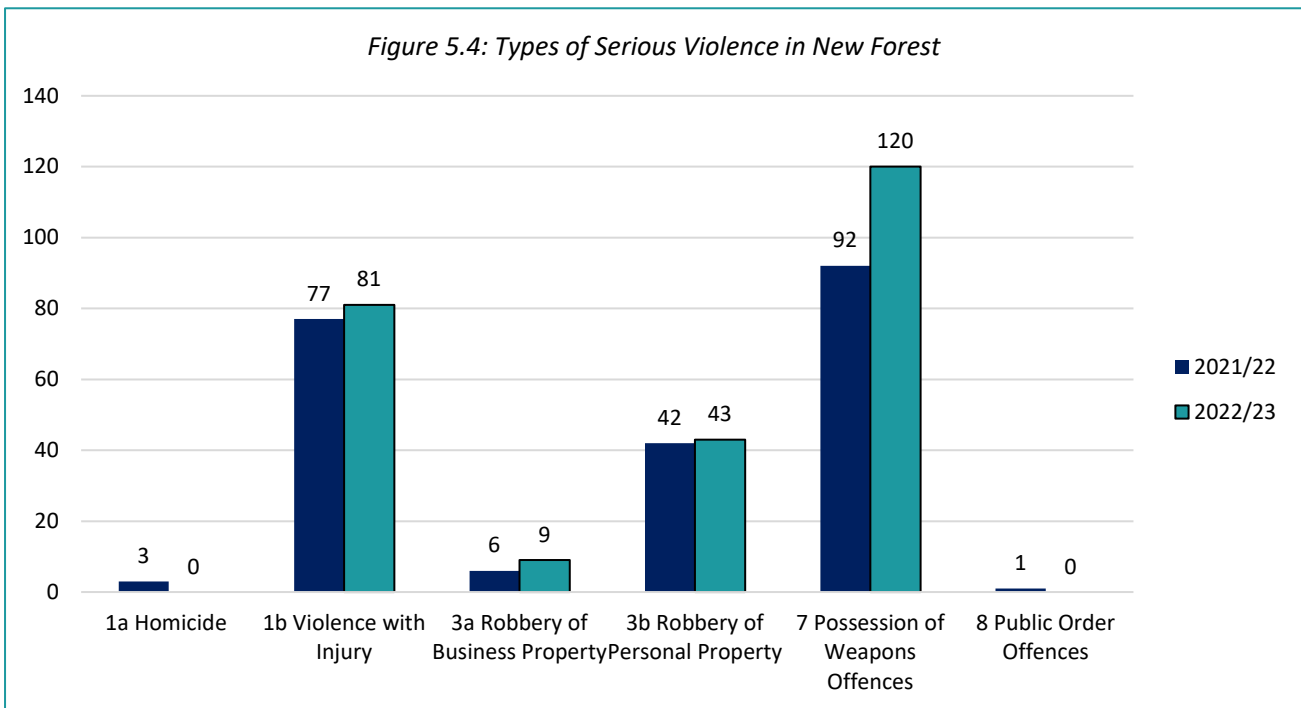


Figure 5.3: Police recorded serious violence for New Forest and HIPS: 2018/19 - 2022/23



6.2 What has Happened in the Last Year?

Of the n253 serious violence offences recorded in the New Forest during 2022/23, 47% (n120) were possession of weapons offences. This is the most prominent offence classified as serious violence. This was higher than the wider HIPS figures, which recorded 42% of all serious violence offences as possession of weapons offences. In the New Forest, 87% were classified as offensive weapons occurrences, while 89% were recorded as such across HIPS. This demonstrates that the New Forest recorded a higher rate of possession of weapons offences but a lower percentage of these were offensive weapons incidents, compared to the wider HIPS area. Following possession of weapons offences, violence with injury (32%, n81) and robbery of personal property (17%, n43) were the most common serious violence offences recorded. The same pattern was also recorded across the HIPS area.



When compared to the previous twelve months, possession of weapons offences recorded the greatest increase in offences, rising by 30% (n28). Violence with injury increased by 5% from n77 offences in 2021/22 to n81 offences in 2022/23. Moreover, both robbery of business property and robbery of personal property both recorded more occurrences in 2022/23, increasing by n3 and n1 occurrence(s) respectively. Finally, both public order offences and homicide decreased from n1 and n3 occurrences to no occurrences in 2022/23. Since homicide is a low volume, high severity crime, however, any decrease like this is important to note, even if the initial number is small.

6.3 Where is Serious Violence Happening?

Figure 5.5 below depicts the count of serious violence occurrences broken down by lower super output area (LSOA). Each LSOA has a population of between 1,000 and 3,000 persons.²⁸ White coloured areas demonstrate LSOAs where no serious violence occurrences were recorded in the last year, while the darker blue areas recorded the greatest number of serious violence occurrences across the year. Levels were higher in some areas of Totton and New Milton.

Figure 5.5: Number of Serious Violence Offences per LSOA: 2022/23

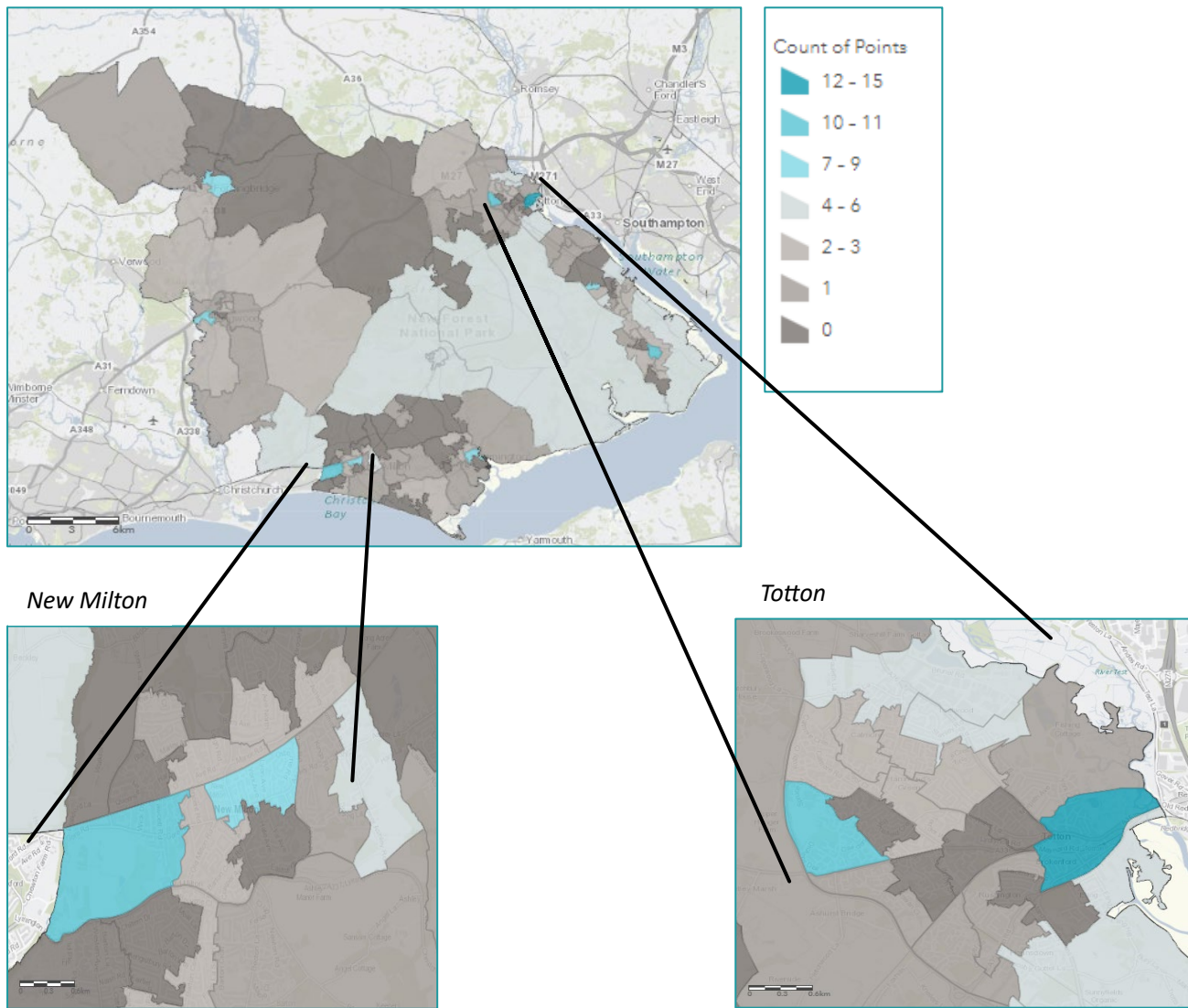
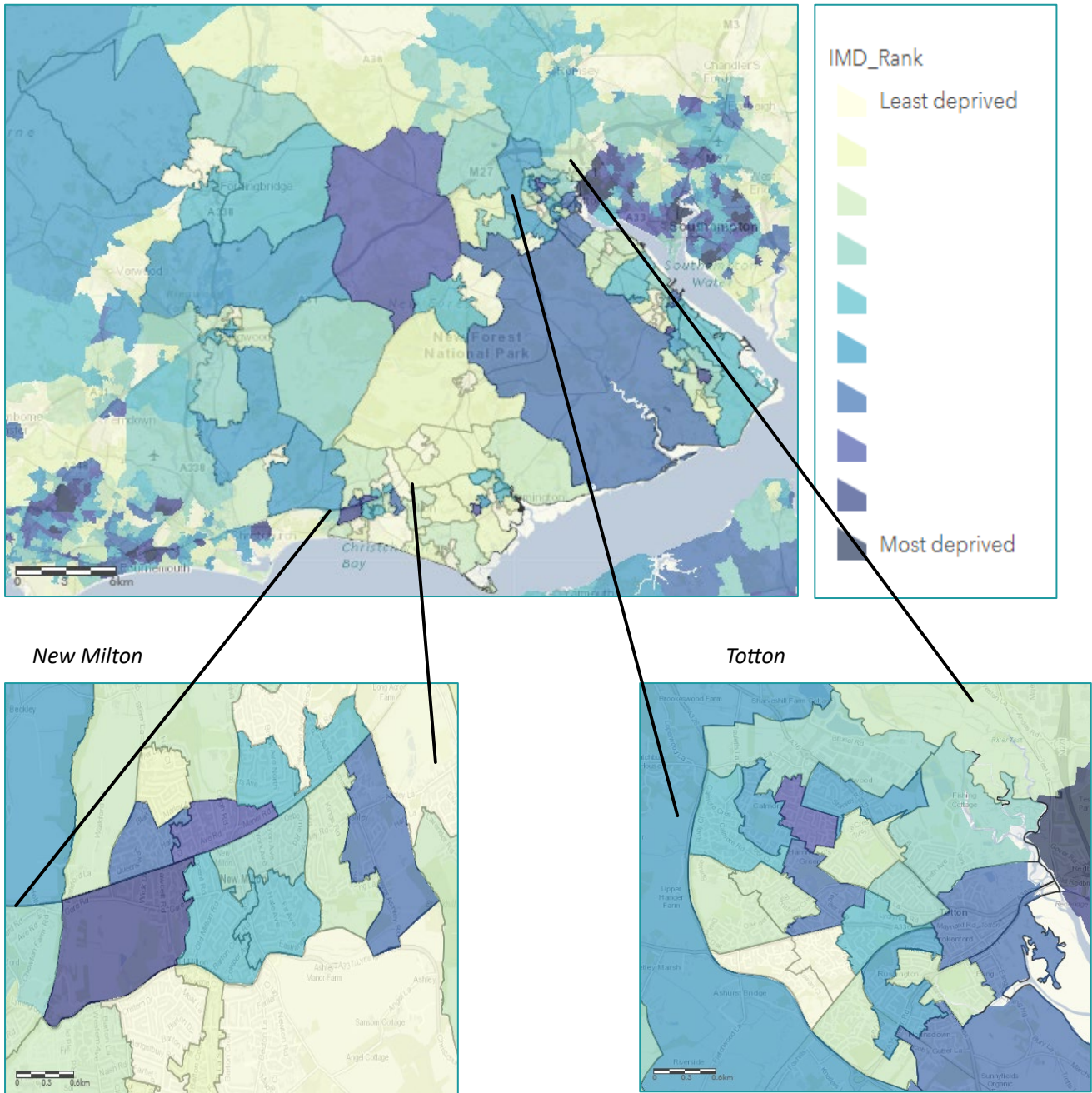


Figure 5.6 shows indices of multiple deprivation (IMD) data in the New Forest. IMD data is a relative measure of deprivation, meaning it shows whether an area is more deprived than another, but does not quantify the data. The indices themselves are comprised of seven distinct indicators, including income, education and living environment.

²⁸ Census 2021 Geographies - [Census 2021 geographies - Office for National Statistics \(ons.gov.uk\)](https://ons.gov.uk/census/2021-geographies)

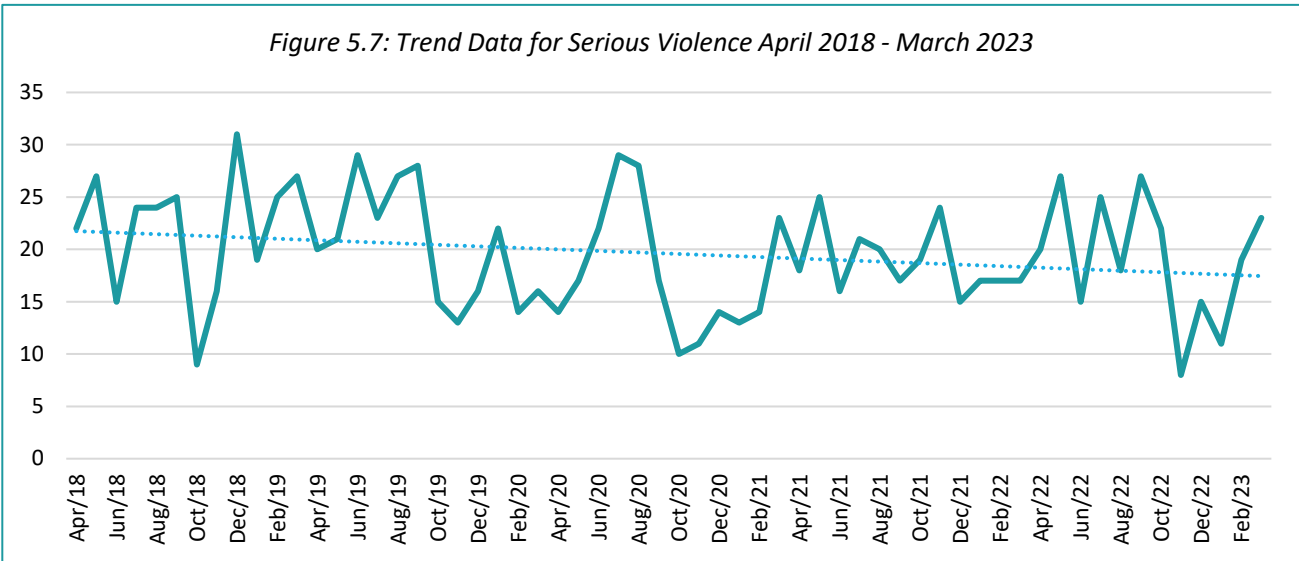
When the IMD map of the New Forest is compared to the above map of serious violence occurrences, areas with high levels of deprivation are not necessarily the only contributing factor of serious violence. On reviewing the maps below, it is evident that not all areas of deprivation have recorded incidents of serious violence.

Figure 5.6: Map of the New Forest Showing the Indices of Multiple Deprivation Rank by LSOA.



6.4 When Is Serious Violence Happening?

The below chart demonstrates the trend in serious violence occurrences in the New Forest district in the five year period between April 2018 and March 2023, covering offences committed by individuals of all ages. Although there are clear dips aligning with Covid-19 lockdowns in 2020 and 2021, there are further dips in occurrences including in October 2018 and November 2022, indicating the pandemic was not the only factor to cause a decrease in serious violence. There is, moreover, no consistent seasonal pattern, although there is often an increase in serious violence occurrences during the summer months. The most prominent peak was in December 2018, but this figure is not repeated. Overall, long-term trend analysis demonstrates serious violence fluctuates across the year with no consistent substantial peak months or seasonality consistently represented.



During 2022/23, more serious violence took place in the months of May, September and October than any other month. Unlike some districts, these peaks do not correlate with school holidays. The monthly peaks may be influenced by short-term police operations or areas of focus, driving up specific occurrences due to increased attention on one issue. The range across the year is n16 occurrences, which shows there is substantial change in the rates of serious violence recorded in the New Forest district across the year.

When considering serious violence across the New Forest district, the most occurrences happen on Wednesday (n43), Saturday (n39) and Friday (n35). There is also an increase in occurrences between 18:00-23:00, with the greatest number of occurrences taking place between 18:00-19:00. The greatest number of offences in a single hour took place between 18:00-19:00 on Wednesday. Although there is some increase in offences in the evenings and overnight, likely due to night time economy in the area, the offences are far more evenly distributed across the late afternoon and evening in comparison to some other HIPS areas. This is likely due to a low number of late night venues in the district.

Figure 5.8: Serious Violence by Day and Time, 2022/23

Weekday	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	Total	
Mon			1				1				1	1	1		6	2	2	2	3	4	2	1	2	3	32	
Tue				1	1		1			1		2		3	2	3	3	1	2	2			1	4	2	29
Wed		2	1		1	1	1	1	2		1	2	2	2	1	2	6		3	7	2	1	3	1	1	43
Thu		1	3	1						1	1	2	1		1	2	3	2	4	2	4	1	2	1		33
Fri			2		4	1				1	1	2	3		2		2	3	1	2	2	5	1	3		35
Sat		1	1	2	1					1	2		4	3		1	3	3	2	3	1	5	4	2		39
Sun		3	5	1		3				3	1	1	1			2	1			1	3	5		4		34
Total	7	12	5	3	9	2	4	2	3	6	8	10	11	7	15	15	13	14	20	18	15	16	18	12	245	

6.5 What are the Associated Factors?

During the 2022/23 financial year, a total of n253 serious violence occurrences were recorded in the New Forest. The following is a breakdown of the associated factors linked to these serious violence occurrences, and a comparison to the 2021/22 period. These factors, however, are not consistently applied to occurrences and should, therefore, be considered only a representation of associated factors in the area.

Figure 5.9: Table Showing Factors Associated with Serious Violence.

	Serious Violence Occurrences			
	2021/22 (New Forest)	Change from 2021/22 (New Forest)	2022/23 (New Forest)	2022/23 (HIPS)
Public Place	130 (59%)	+17% (n.22)	152 (60%)	3115 (61%)
Bladed Implement	55 (25%)	+67% (n.37)	92 (36%)	1708 (33%)
Domestic Flag	26 (12%)	+12% (n.3)	29 (11%)	551 (11%)
Licensed Premises	15 (7%)	+80% (n.12)	27 (11%)	422 (8%)
Alcohol	26 (12%)	+4% (n.1)	27 (11%)	508 (10%)
Drugs	10 (5%)	=	10 (4%)	225 (4%)
Hate Crime	1 (0.5%)	=	1 (0.4%)	52 (1%)

Figure 5.9 contains the number of times each associated factors flag was applied to an occurrence during the last financial year. It also includes the 2021/22 financial year for comparison. The middle column represents the change in usage of the flag between the 2021/22 financial year and 2022/23. The final column contains the number of times the flag was attached to occurrences across the HIPS area in the 2022/23 financial year.

In comparison to the wider HIPS figures, there are no substantial differences between the percentages of offences each flag is applied to in the New Forest. For both the domestic flag and drugs, the flags were applied to the same percentage of offences as the wider HIPS area (11% and 4% respectively).

The largest difference was for the bladed implement and licensed premises flags, both of which were applied to a greater percentage of offences in comparison to the wider HIPS area.

The public place flag is the most commonly applied associated factor, indicating the majority of serious violence occurrences in the New Forest take place in a public setting. This flag is particularly important as the Serious Violence Duty highlights specific focus on offences that occur in a public place, although the definition used here does not exclude domestic offences. When looking at all occurrences in 2022/23, 60% (n152) were recorded as happening in a public place. This is a 17% (n22) increase in comparison to the previous financial year.

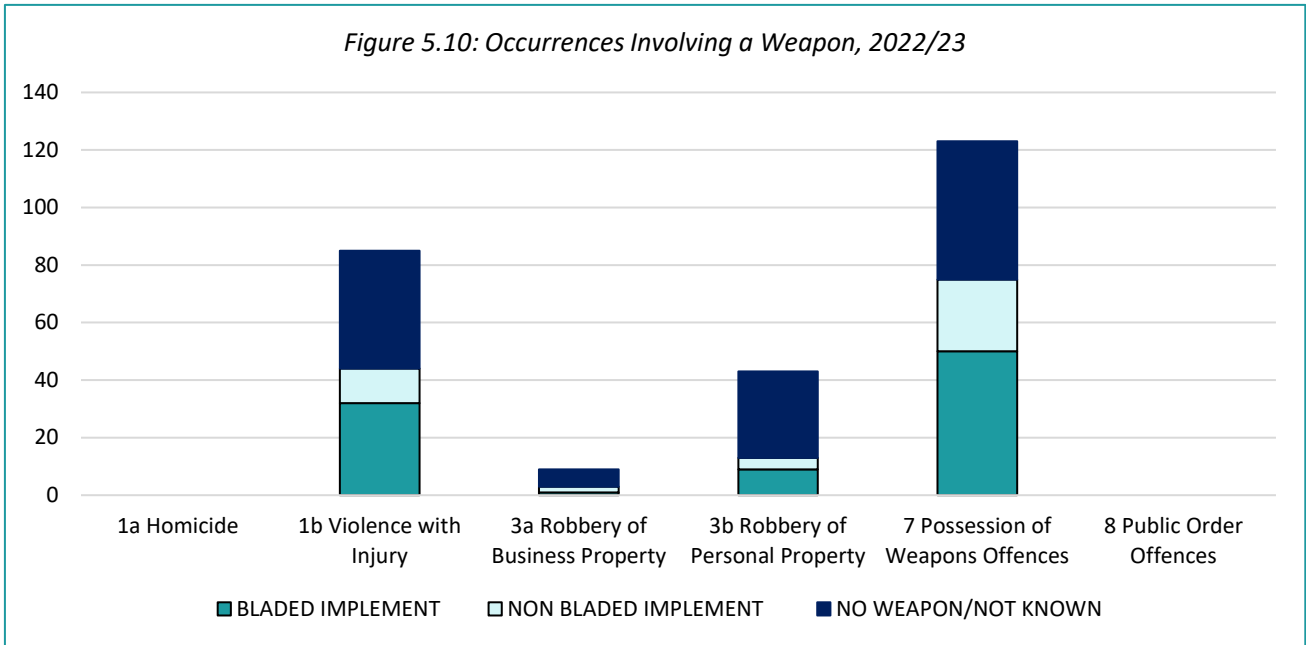
11% (n29) of all serious violence incidents in the New Forest had the domestic flag applied, suggesting they are in some way linked to domestic violence. Compared to the 2021/22 financial year, there was a 12% (n3) increase in the number of domestic flags applied to occurrences in the New Forest.

There was an increase in the number of licensed premises flags applied to occurrences in the New Forest. In 2021/22, 7% (n15) of all serious violence occurrences in the New Forest were flagged as involving licensed premises; in 2022/22, this increased to n27 (11%). While this is a substantial increase, these numbers demonstrate a continued relatively low rate of serious violence occurrence taking place in licensed premises and the wider night time economy in the New Forest. An increase of this size, however, is greater than most other HIPS districts.

The alcohol flag was applied to 11% (n27) of occurrences in 2022/23; this is an increase of n1 (4%) compared to the previous year. By comparison, the drugs flag (which, like alcohol, is linked to the 'substance used' field) was applied to n10 (4%) occurrences; this was equal to the previous financial year.

Application of the hate crime flag also remained consistent with n1 use of the flag across the financial year. It is known, however, that hate crime is consistently underreported and this may not, therefore, be representative of the true number of hate crimes that took place.

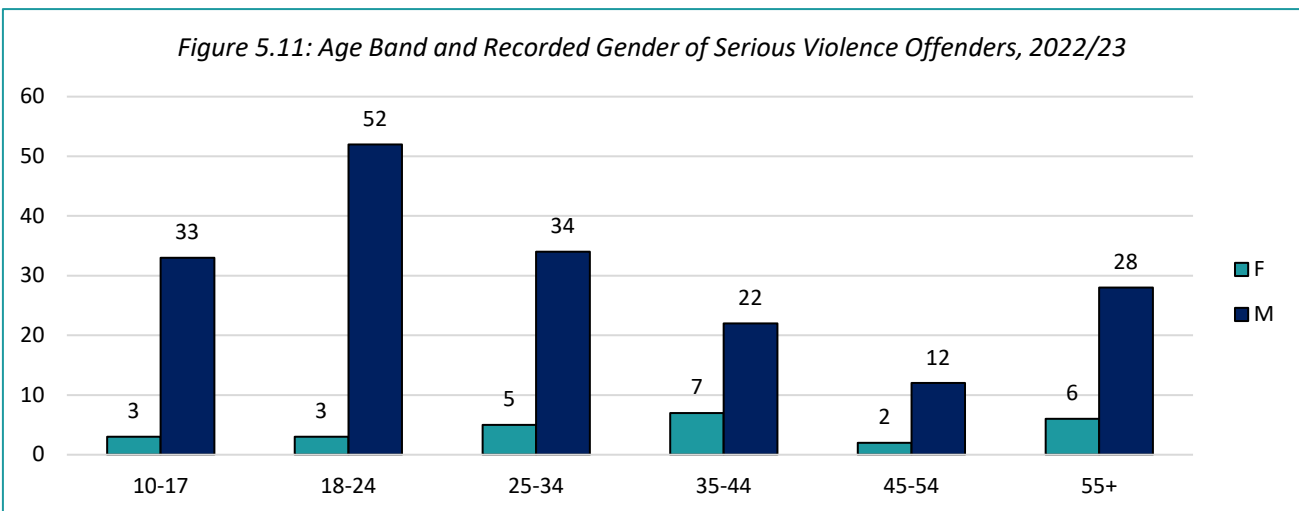
Finally, 36% (n92) of all serious violence occurrences in the New Forest were recorded as involving a bladed implement of some kind in 2022/23. Of these, 92% (n85) included only a bladed implement, while the remaining n7 (8%) involved both a bladed implement and a further weapon. This demonstrates that, even though all violence with injury involving a bladed implement is included in the serious violence definition (even where the offence would not otherwise be counted), most serious violence in the New Forest does not include a bladed implement of any kind.



6.6 Who is Committing Serious Violence

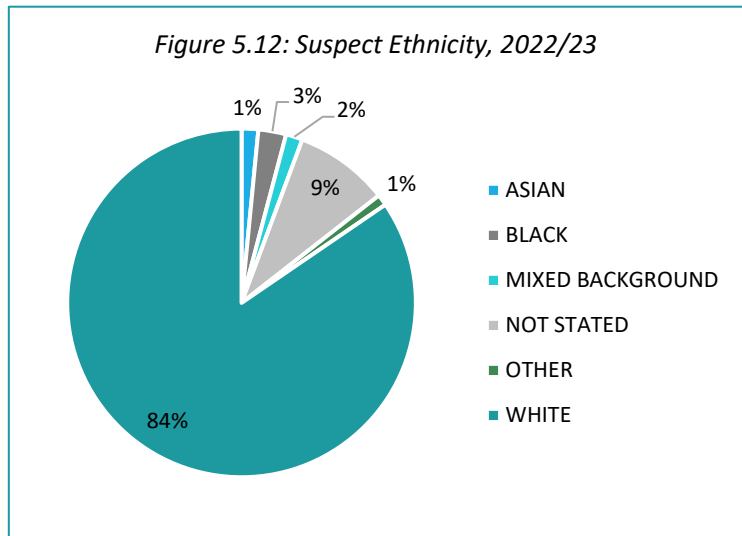
Across the 2022/23 financial year, there were a total of n209 individuals identified as suspects of serious violence. Where suspect details were recorded, 12% (n26) were recorded as being female, while 87% (n181) were recorded as males, suggesting males are considerably more likely to be involved in serious violence in the New Forest.

This is lower than the wider HIPS trend, which recorded 17% of all identified suspects as female. Among females identified as suspects of serious violence, however, those aged 35-44 were the most commonly recorded as a suspect of a serious violence offence. The most common age band for males was 18-24, followed by 25-34 and 10-17 years.



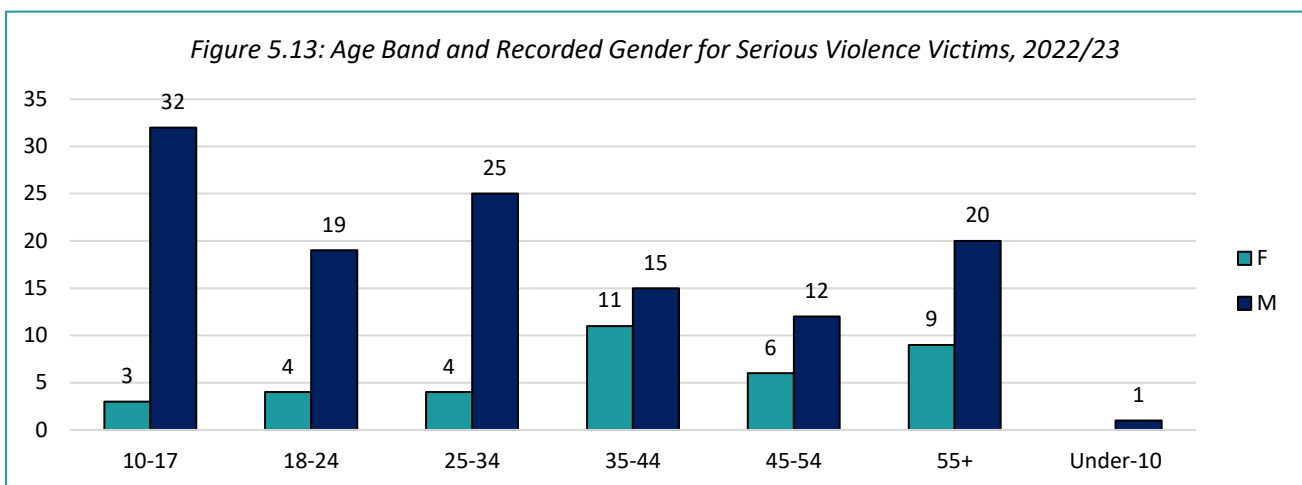
Of these individuals, 44% (n91) were recorded as being under the age of 25. This is a 30% (n21) increase compared to the 2021/22 financial year. Individuals aged 10-17 and 18-24 were recorded as suspects of serious violence more frequently in 2022/23, increasing by n5 (16%) and n16 (41%) respectively. Conversely, individuals aged 45-54 were recorded in n13 fewer occasions in 2022/23; while both the 25-34 and 35-44 age bands were also recorded in n6 and n3 more incidents compared to the 21/22 financial year. Finally, the 55+ age band increased by n18 (100%) offences. Based on this, the most significant increase was among the 55+ age band, although it is important to note that these numbers are small and therefore any change appears more substantial compared to other HIPS districts.

Where ethnicity is recorded for suspects of serious violence, 85% (n164) are defined as white, including both officer-defined and self-defined fields. This was followed by 9% (n17) of individuals where their ethnicity was not defined at all. It is important to note, however, that 64% (n125) of suspects of serious violence refused (or were not asked) to self-define their ethnicity. Where this is the case, officer-defined ethnicity is used if available.



6.7 Who are the Victims of Serious Violence?

Across the 2022/23 financial year, there were a total of n169 individuals identified as victims of serious violence. Where victim details were recorded, 23% (n37) were recorded as being female, while 74% (n125) were recorded as male, suggesting males are considerably more likely to be victims of serious violence in the New Forest.

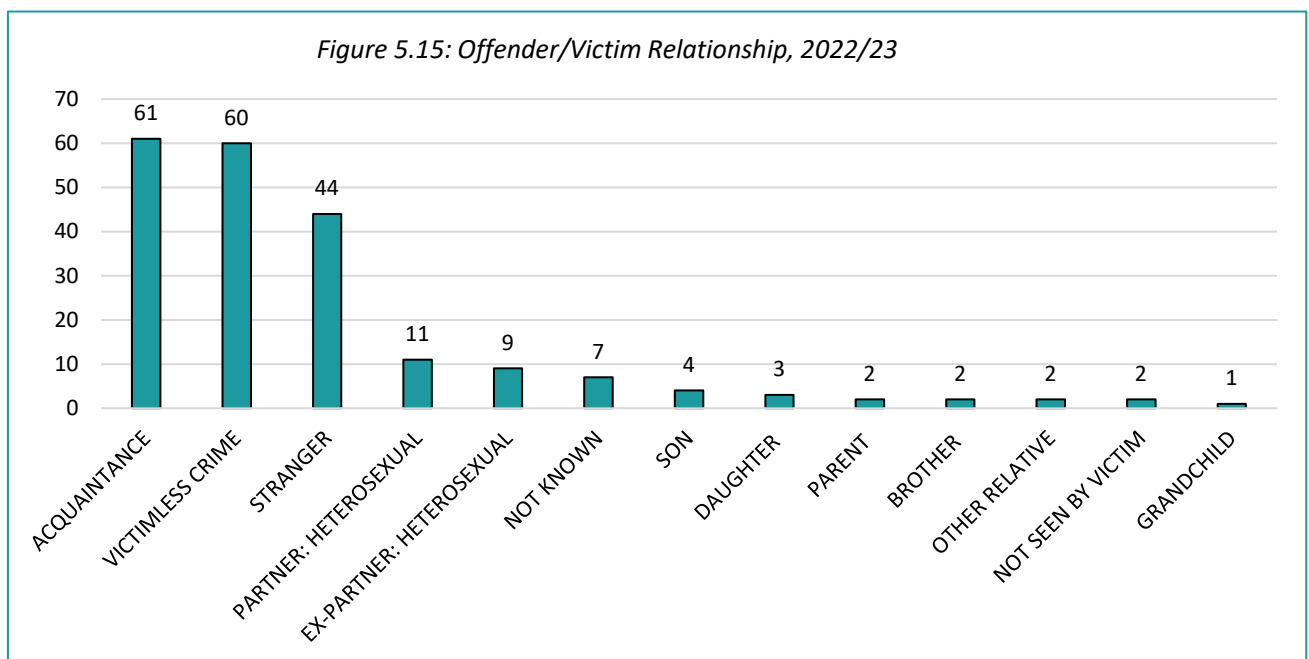
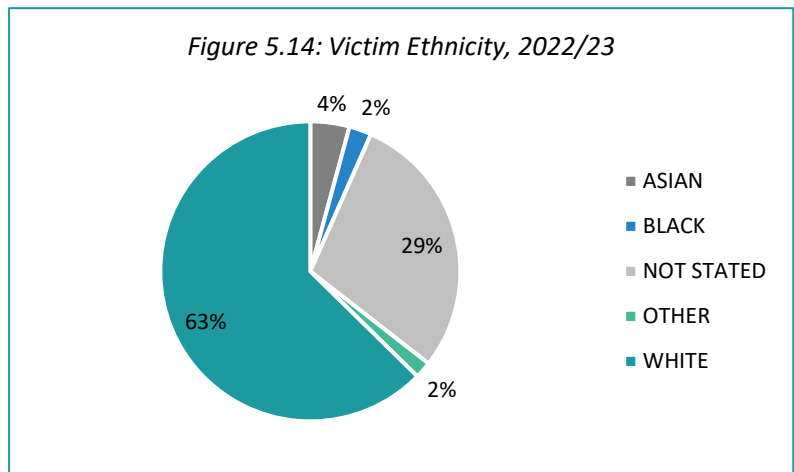


The remaining 4% (n7) of victims either have no gender recorded or are local businesses or property in the New Forest. Across the year, n77 occurrences recorded the victims as either 'NOT STATED' or 'THE STATE', this is likely due to the high number of possession of weapons offences recorded, which often do not have victim details.

Among females identified as victims of serious violence, those aged 35-44 were most commonly recorded as victims of a serious violence offence. For male victims of serious violence, the most commonly recorded age band was 10-17, followed by 25-34. This shows that, in the New Forest, male victims of serious violence are more likely to be under the age of 25, although more male victims were recorded for all age categories.

Of these individuals, 36% (n60) were recorded as being under the age of 25. This is a 40% (n17) increase compared to the 2021/22 financial year. There was, moreover, an increase of 71% (n15) in the number of 10-17 year olds recorded as victims of serious violence. In 2021/22, n21 individuals aged 10-17 were victims, accounting for 15% of the total number. However, in the 2022/22 financial year, the number increased to n36, or 21% of the total number.

Where ethnicity is recorded for victims of serious violence, n104 (63%) individuals are defined as white, either by self-defined or officer-defined ethnicity. This was followed by n48 (28%) of individuals where no ethnicity was recorded. It is important to note, however, that 98% (n161) of victims of serious violence did not self-define their ethnicity.



The offender/victim relationship was recorded for n208 serious violence occurrences in the New Forest. The most common offender/victim relationship recorded was acquaintance, accounting for 29% (n61) of all serious violence offences where the relationship was recorded. This shows that a large portion of serious violence offences in New Forest are committed by an individual known to the victim, rather than a stranger or a relative. The second most common category recorded was victimless crime (n60). Victimless crime is any criminal offence that has no identifiable victim. In the case of the serious violence definition, a key victimless crime is possession of weapons offences. Since possession of weapons offences account for 47% (n120) of all serious violence occurrences in the New Forest district, it is unsurprising that victimless crime accounts for 29% of all occurrences where the offender/victim relationship is recorded. Following this, 21% (n44) of occurrences were by strangers and 16% (n34) were by partners/ex-partners/family.

6.8 Who are the Repeat Victims and Suspects?

A total of n29 (14%) individuals recorded as a suspect of a serious violence offence have been linked to more than one serious violence occurrence in the 2022/23 financial year. Among these individuals, the most common age range is 18-24 (n12). Moreover, 90% (n26) are male.

Figure 5.16: Age Band and Recorded Gender of Repeat Serious Violence Suspects, 2022/23

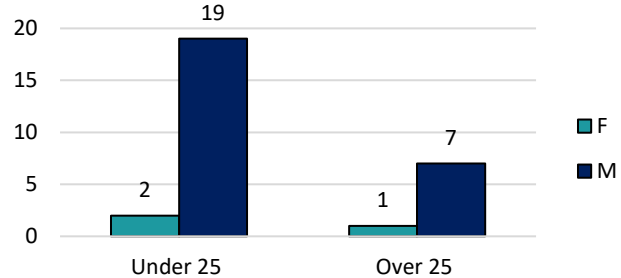
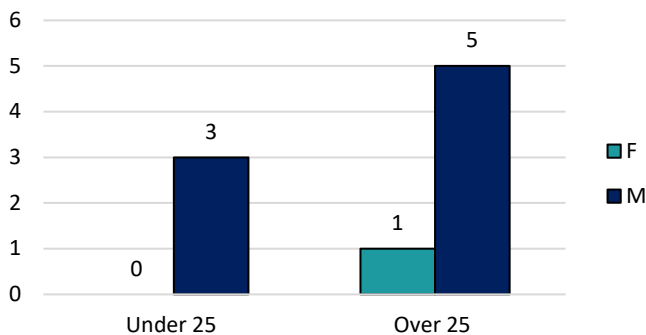


Figure 5.17: Age Band and Recorded Gender of Repeat Serious Violence Victims, 2022/23



By contrast, 8% (n13) of individuals or premises recorded as victims of serious violence were aggrieved of more than one crime. Among these, there were n9 individuals identified as repeat victims, while the remaining n5 were businesses and properties in the New Forest district.

Appendix A: Definition of Serious Violence

Home Office crime code	Home Office crime description
1/1	Murder of persons aged 1 year or over; genocide or crime against humanity
1/2	Murder of persons under 1 year of age
4/1	Manslaughter
4/2	Infanticide
2	Attempted murder; attempted genocide or crime against humanity
37/1	Causing death by aggravated vehicle taking
4/12	Causing serious injury by dangerous driving.
4/13	Cause death by driving without due care/consideration over prescribed limit specified controlled drug
4/3	Child destruction
4/4	Causing death by dangerous driving
4/6	Causing death by careless driving when under the influence of drink or drugs
4/8	Causing death by careless or inconsiderate driving (w.e.f 18.08.08)
5/1, 5/1D	Wounding with intent to do GBH
5/1S	Wounding with intent to do GBH - PC / PCSO
5/1T	Assault on emergency worker (not police): wound/cause GBH W/I to GBH or resist arrest
5/27	Torture
5/6	Causing bodily injury by explosion
8/1, 8/1N	Malicious wounding: wounding or inflicting GBH
8/1S	Malicious wounding: wounding or inflicting GBH - PC / PCSO
8/1T	Assault on emergency worker (not police): malicious wounding or inflict GBH with or without weapon.
8/33	Racially aggravated malicious wounding or GBH
8/46	Racial/religious aggravated malicious wounding or GBH (only use if both or can't determine whether racial or religious)
8/59	Racially and/or religiously aggravated wounding/GBH

Appendix B: Notes About Data Cleaning & Processing

Data fields to be included in the following were agreed in partnership to ensure the effective completion of a series of community safety partnership (CSP) level SNAs and a HIPS wide SNA built from the same data and analysis. This ensures a more sustainable approach to partnership working moving forwards.

Data was extracted according to valid review date (VRD), which means all crimes categorised as such during the 2022/23 financial year are included. However, the temporal analysis and five year trend data is based on the start date of these occurrences, excluding historic offences from these sections only. All data was extracted from Business Objects. Several steps were taken by the VRU Analyst to ensure the data quality was maximised for partnership SNA purposes:

- Duplicate occurrence numbers were excluded from the data set.
- Victim and suspect data was extracted using the cleansed occurrence numbers.
- All start times of 00:00 changed to 'NOT STATED'.
- Time band columns were added to group start times into 6 hour and 1 hour time bands for temporal analysis purposes.
- The day of the week is identified using the start date data field for temporal analysis and a new column was added to reflect this. This process was then repeated for the month.
- Easting and Northing values were isolated in order to map the occurrences on CMS. Where there are missing data points, '0' was added.
- Trend data ranging from April 2018-March 2023 was extracted to track long term trends.
- Key word searches of occurrence summaries were conducted to identify missing domestic violence flags, and these are added in.
- In all associated factor data fields, where there was missing data, 'NOT STATED' was added.
- Where missing, the district location of an offence is identified using other data fields and added. Where this was not possible, 'NOT STATED' was added.
- All missing dates of birth for victims and suspects changed to 'NOT STATED'.
 - DOB used to calculate the age of the victims and suspects. These are used to group into age bands in order to sort individuals into over and under 25 years old.
 - These were then used to isolate occurrences involving suspects under 25 years old.
- Victim and suspect self-defined and officer-defined ethnicity are extracted using unique identification numbers.
- Isolated individuals identified as repeat victims or suspects based on unique identification numbers.
- Victim and suspect data were sorted by district according to the data field connecting to the unique occurrence number.
- Pivot tables were created for all appropriate data fields and visualisations of the data were created.

Hampshire, Isle of Wight, Portsmouth and Southampton (HIPS)

Violence Reduction Partnership (VRP)

Response Strategy



Foreword

To be completed.

DRAFT

Executive Summary

To be completed.

DRAFT

Introduction

Why must the Violence Reduction Partnership (VRP) reduce Serious Violence?

The underpinning idea behind violence prevention and reduction is that a systems approach, including statutory and non-statutory partners, is better than working individually. This means that all partners have a role to play in reducing and preventing serious violence, especially since the commencement of the Serious Violence Duty - this statutory responsibility is an opportunity for all partnerships.

Introduced as part of the Police Crime Sentencing and Courts Act 2022, the Serious Violence Duty requires specified authorities to work together to prevent and reduce serious violence in their local area (this Duty is supported by national [guidance](#), finalised in December 2022). These specified authorities are:

- Police
- Probation
- Youth Offending Teams
- Fire and Rescue
- Health
- Local Authorities

Relevant authorities include prisons, youth custody and education and are able to co-operate with the specified authorities as necessary.

The Serious Violence Duty requires local partnerships to take a multi-agency, public health approach to understand the causes and effects of serious violence, develop a strategic response focusing on prevention and early intervention, and monitor the impact of this preventative work. The underlying principles of a public health approach applied to serious violence:

- Violence is preventable
- Interventions are guided by evidence where available and developing the evidence base where it is absent, and informed by data
- Focused on a defined population, often with a health risk in common. Victims, perpetrators and sometimes bystanders are all vulnerable to further involvement in violence
- The approach is with and for communities, reflecting the voices and experiences of the communities served. This should also involve taking a trauma-informed approach
- Commitment to a system-wide approach underpinned by mature and committed partnership arrangements
- Focused on long-term impact, acting on the root causes of the problem as well as short-term consequences and emphasising early intervention.



How is the VRP meeting the Serious Violence Duty?

Hampshire, the Isle of Wight, Portsmouth and Southampton (HIPS) will be meeting and delivering the Duty at a force-wide level through the VRP, supported by the Violence Reduction Unit (VRU) hosted by the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner (OPCC). A HIPS-wide Strategic Needs Assessment (SNA) was produced in March 2023 to meet the expectations set out in the Serious Violence Duty and a second iteration will be finished by November 2023.

How is the partnership defining serious violence?

There is no set definition of serious violence crime under the Duty. Therefore, the HIPS VRP has agreed to focus on reducing serious violence across the following areas:

- Most Serious Violence (MSV)
- Robbery
- Possession of weapons
- Violent disorder
- Riot
- Violence with injury where a bladed implement was used.

Domestic Abuse (DA) and violence against women and girls (VAWG) have not been included specifically due to existing strategies and governance arrangements which focus on these crime types and given the historic focus of the VRU on violence involving under 25s in public places. The scope of the definition will be iterated in line with the evidence base to ensure it adequately captures the extent and nature of serious violence locally which might see types of offending included or excluded from the definition (such as violence against women and girls).

How do partners plan on preventing and reducing serious violence?

Partners have agreed to focus on preventing and reducing serious violence so that people can live their lives free from violence and the fear of violence, supported by four strategic objectives.

Strategic Vision	Strategic Objectives
For Hampshire, the Isle of Wight, Portsmouth and Southampton to be a place where people can live their lives free from violence and the fear of violence.	The partnership will promote multi-agency working and drive systems change.
	The partnership will create a data sharing environment that supports useful analysis and insight.
	The partnership will engage and communicate with a range of voices, including those most affected by serious violence.
	The partnership will commission evidence-based interventions.

What does serious violence look like in Hampshire, the Isle of Wight, Portsmouth and Southampton?

One of the core elements of the Serious Violence Duty is for areas to carry out a SNA to identify the kinds of serious violence that occur locally and, where possible, the causes of that serious violence. An SNA will also help to identify the drivers of serious violence in the local area and the cohorts of people most affected or at risk.

In March 2023 HIPS VRP published an SNA focusing on data from January to December 2022.¹ A collaborative and co-produced, SNA is currently in production for the period April 2022 – March 2023 which includes more localised assessments of serious violence at a CSP level and will be finished in November 2023 .

Serious violence offences saw a 9.1% increase between 2021 and 2022 in the area, with 5,049 offences recorded in 2022. This increase is thought to be due in part to lockdown periods in place during the first half of 2021.

Youth serious violence	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Serious violence offences (including knife enabled offences and homicide) where the victim was under 25 years old increased by 3% in 2022, at 1348 offences. • Conversely there has been a 6.2% decrease in non-domestic serious violence offences (including homicides) involving a bladed instrument where the victim was under 25.
Possession of weapon offences	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Possession of a bladed weapon accounts for the highest proportion of serious violence offences, at 1704 offences (33.7%).
Robbery	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There were 1281 robbery offences in 2022, accounting for 25.4% of serious violence offences.
Wounding / Grievous Bodily Harm	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There were 1277 wounding / GBH offences in 2022, representing 25.3% of serious violence offences.
Homicide	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There were 17 homicides in 2022, accounting for 0.3% of serious violence offences.
Juvenile First Time Entrants (FTEs)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Across Hampshire, Isle of Wight, Portsmouth and Southampton the rate of juvenile first time entrants to the criminal justice system is higher than the national average.

¹ The data referenced in this response strategy draft are sourced from Hampshire, Isle of Wight Portsmouth & Southampton Violence Reduction Unit (2023). *Strategic Needs Assessment March 2023*.

What is the VRP vision, mission and strategic objectives?

Our **vision** is for Hampshire, Isle of Wight, Portsmouth and Southampton to be a place where people can live their lives free from violence and the fear of violence.

Our **mission** is to prevent violence by building a collaborative, courageous and sustainable Partnership which will drive the change required to successfully address the causes and consequences of violence.

There is a shared commitment to reducing serious violence as defined by the partnership. To support this strategic objective of reducing serious violence, the partnership has agreed on four strategic priorities. These priorities will be delivered through Home Office Serious Violence and Grip funding as well as through existing resources available to the partnership.

Strategic Objectives

SO1

- Multi-agency and Systems Change

SO2

- Data and Analysis

SO3

- Engagement & Communications

SO4

- Interventions, Evaluations and Opportunities

SO1

• Multi-agency and Systems Change



Focusing on developing a whole-systems multi-agency approach to serious violence, the partnership will make responding to serious violence a priority and business-as-usual for organisations, particularly ensuring a system response to those identified as most affected in serious violence.

A public-health approach to reducing and preventing serious violence requires extensive and embedded multi-agency working. Partners in Hampshire, Portsmouth and the Isle of Wight are committed to working together to deliver a localised, joined-up, and effective response to serious violence through the HIPS VRP. Key evidence of success will be ensuring the Response Strategy is co-produced with partners and there is regular and meaningful representation from specified and relevant authorities in governance arrangements.

Key outcomes of this approach are:

- ✓ To create a sustainable partnership environment through a whole-systems approach.
- ✓ To encourage organisational and professional cultural change towards serious violence, especially to ensure the Police are more trauma-informed.
- ✓ To be evidence-based and evidence-led when developing the strategic response, aiming towards streamlined identification, management and support of at-risk cohorts and target locations.
- ✓ To involve and create a sense of ownership among young people and communities in the response.



This will be achieved by ensuring partnership governance and decision-making is:

- Place-based and joined-up:

- Local partnerships delivering the Serious Violence Duty will bring together existing mature partnership arrangements. Gaps in local work will be identified and closed
 - A whole-system response will bring all key partners from specified and relevant authorities together at a strategic level
 - Partners will consider each local authority area equally when working collaboratively and making decisions about activities and service provision; areas with lower demand of serious violence will not lose out to those with higher demand
 - The partnership will aim to utilise any areas of thematic overlap between local authorities, avoiding working in silo. Opportunities will be taken to collaborate over varying geographies when working on similar priority areas
 - The Partnership will utilise areas of strategic overlap with Domestic Abuse and Drugs and Alcohol Partnerships and others. Strategy and delivery plans will complement action points included in other strategies, and opportunities for mutual delivery will be taken.
- Clear roles, responsibilities and governance:
- The roles and responsibilities of each partner will be understood and respected. The contribution of specified authorities will be clear and coordinated
 - Those with a leadership role within their organisation will coordinate the involvement of specified authorities in the partnership
 - Expectations around delivery will be agreed between all partners, so all are clear on actions, deliverables, and accountability.
- Co-production among partners:
- The VRP will coordinate engagement with other strategic local partnerships to ensure a system-wide approach. This will enhance the serious violence response and avoid duplication of work.

Existing work to support system change and multi-agency working:

An example of activity to facilitate a mature partnership environment is the Tactical Violence Reduction Partnership (TVRP) which will lead on a problem solving partnership response and track progress on the identified people and places supported by a serious violence and VRP Analyst.

A further example is the appointment of place-based VRP Managers whose role includes supporting multi-agency working and the Grip funded Violent Crime Taskforce (VCT).



Actions

- Set clear expectations in terms of the contribution of all specified authorities to the Serious Violence Duty. In order to ensure consistency between activities in each local authority area, a central concordat / terms of reference will be sent to practitioners in each area, clearly defining the roles, responsibilities and remits under the Duty for each partner authority
- Co-produce the response, including the Response Strategy, among a range of partners, including the voluntary community sector (VCSE) and local communities (including children and young people and those most affected by serious violence)
- Create a plan for sustainability with the aim of identifying opportunities for long-term systems change and to create an environment in which the partnership can exist without dependency on central funding
- Review governance to ensure the partnership is streamlined, with appropriate representation within the governance arrangements and positive engagement from all the specified and relevant authorities, as well as other stakeholders as required
- Move towards using data to automatically identify cohorts at risk, emerging serious violence hotspots, and serious violence risk factors. This will allow a whole-system approach to responding to and managing identified areas of need.

Partnership involvement under this strategic priority:

Partners are inherently important to creating a whole-systems approach and may be expected to:

- ✓ Help to identify and manage risk across the area. For example, the Integrated Care Board may be able to better identify at risk individuals in health settings and support their referral to existing support. Sharing their data could contribute to a wider data environment that identifies and targets risk more effectively and if the infrastructure supports it, automatically/ habitually.
- ✓ Collaborate. Partners involvement in designing and delivery of the local response, including commissioning interventions, is also evidence of this whole-systems approach, especially if there is a range of voices involved in these discussions. For example, engagement with voluntary and community sector organisations.
- ✓ Have active and meaningful roles in these partners including identifying the right individuals to participate in the governance arrangements and lead on serious violence, as well as seeking senior leadership buy-in and support from within their own organisations.

SO2

• Data and Analysis



Developing a comprehensive evidence base of the local picture of serious violence is integral to a public-health approach, and key to generating an effective response.

Partners recognise the need to gather evidence, intelligence, and analysis in order to understand the local picture of serious violence, target resources effectively and efficiently and monitor the impact of the local response. The VRP has expressed the commitment to closing data gaps identified in the SNA, matching data gathering with robust analysis, and using this insight to improve the service provision in Hampshire, the Isle of Wight, Portsmouth and Southampton.

Key outcomes of this approach are:

- ✓ To ensure partners have a deeper, on-going understanding of the nature of serious violence and cohorts and locations impacted and to focus the response of serious violence on priority locations and cohorts. Robust analysis and research will turn data into insight and provide a better understanding of the serious violence problem at a local and HIPS-wide level. The partnership is committed to further developing an evidence-led response to serious violence. Analysis and research will build a strategic and usable data picture which is supported by granular understanding - answering the 'so what' question.
- ✓ To develop the strategic response based on evidence, including evidence of the impact of current activities and 'What Works' to prevent and reduce serious violence. Evidence-led decision making will ensure that all needs are catered for.
 - Interventions and actions will be commissioned according to the findings of analysis, providing each target cohort or theme with a tailored response.
 - Best practice will be gathered and shared between partners via the partnership, as a means to share knowledge and learning.
- ✓ To create a data environment in which access to data requires less resources and is more streamlined. The VRP will facilitate data sharing between all specified authorities across Hampshire, Portsmouth and the Isle of Wight. A coordinated approach will ensure efficient and effective data and information sharing.



What?

HIPS VRP have made progress in a number of areas to improve data sharing and analysis so far. This includes:

- Recruiting a dedicated VRP Analyst with access to Police Systems: from March 2023 the VRP has a dedicated Analyst who is co-located within the Police Intelligence and Tasking Directorate (ITD)
- A monthly multi-agency Data & Analysis Working Group (DAWG) has been established to review the progress of developing key partnership data with a VRP Manager responsible for coordinating this work
- Hampshire & Isle of Wight Together (HIOWT) – Approval to adopt Thames Valley Together (TVT) as a data sharing platform in Hampshire. There will now follow an implementation programme and a staged approach to using the platform to share police data then overlay partnership data
- The OPCC hosts InterACT, a data sharing platform that holds data from Community Safety Partnerships (CSPs), YouGov, commissioned services and open sources. Data is aggregated and reaches ward level. It includes crime and other incident levels, offender and victim characteristics, levels of risk factors for violence such as education factors and children services contact. InterACT is accessible to the VRP and CSPs
- Southampton Data Observatory: Open source and unpublished data, partnership meetings, local needs assessments
- Work is on-going to establish sharing of Health, Fire and Youth Justice data: Information Governance arrangements are progressing.



How?

Actions

- Establish Data and Analysis Working Group (DAWG) and use this group to facilitate an understanding of partnership serious violence data through the use of a Partnership Data Tracker
- Work with information governance leads through the DAWG to work through barriers to data sharing
- Produce a template for evidence that will support the co-production of a HIPS-wide SNA (including local chapters) and to ensure consistent use of data
- Conduct deep dives to answer important lines of enquiry raised in the SNA and / or by partners

- Develop a data sharing platform (HIOWT) and review opportunities for data science, including AI and machine learning, to inform the partnership. Consider how existing data dashboards (Insights) can contribute to this work
- Review the Theory of Change with partners and develop an associated outcome-based performance framework (OBPF) which complements partners' existing monitoring and evaluation work
- Monitor outcomes on an ongoing basis at a programme and project level using dedicated VRP analytical capacity
- Understand disproportionality in the context of serious violence in Hampshire, the Isle of Wight, Portsmouth and Southampton, specifically around ethnicity but also other protected characteristics
- Connect with population health management programme with the Hampshire and Isle of Wight Integrated Care System to understand how data can inform the serious violence partnership SNA.

Partnership involvement under this strategic priority:

Partners will need to:

- ✓ Identify appropriate individuals to sit on the Data and Analysis Working Group to help build the data sharing environment locally
- ✓ Respond to data requests for the purposes of meeting this priority. The Duty allows data sharing between specified authorities, the PCC and relevant authorities, and allows the Police and Crime Commissioner to request information from specified and relevant authorities. The scope of the data sharing is broad, including to improve the evidence base, support the multi-agency response and support partnership working - ultimately the aim in Hampshire, the Isle of Wight, Portsmouth and Southampton is to use innovative methods to use data to identify, manage and support people and places most affected by serious violence
- ✓ Share data to help the partnership understand and monitor the impact of its strategy on preventing and reducing serious violence. For example, the police may have to report on trends using the partnership definition of serious violence and the youth justice services may have to report on outcomes for children and young people subject to interventions commissioned by the partnership.

SO3

• Engagement and Communications



The partnership will seek to work with and involve the community, based on an understanding of the value of the community in supporting the local response to serious violence.

The local response to serious violence will be developed with and for the community, to ensure communities in Hampshire, the Isle of Wight, Portsmouth and Southampton feel safer. Community consensus is a key part of a public health approach and the HIPS VRP is working towards a partnership that values the voice of local communities and local communities feel that they are involved in the direction of the partnership.

Key outcomes of this approach are:

- ✓ To build trust in the VRP, namely the specified and relevant authorities delivering the Serious Violence Duty.
- ✓ To nurture a willingness with young people to engage in support and help them away from involvement in serious violence.
- ✓ To have a positive impact on perceptions of community safety.



HIPS VRP have made progress in a number of areas to build on work done to engage communities, including making the most of existing assets and routes into the community, such as:

- Making use of existing forums, such as the OPCC Youth Commission.
- Encouraging partners to work with young people, such as:
 - Using the Be well mental health survey for year 8 and 10 in HIPS area to find views on children's feelings of happiness and safety
 - Localised youth engagement events linking young people with organisations offering activities for young people.

- Using the consistent set of questions developed through the VRP working collaboratively with Greater Manchester VRP, Portsmouth University and HIPS partners which can be used by partners and collated by the VRP.



Actions

- Use engagement and communications working group to inform the development of communications strategy, including opportunities for meaningful engagement and co-production which will contribute to counter-narrative development
- Develop marketing and branding approach in line with communication strategy
- Develop method of engagement to survey HIPS communities on their perceptions serious violence and analyse the results to support the ongoing development of the evidence base
- Continue and identify new opportunities for localised engagement with young people communities, and those affected by serious violence as well as engaging individuals through key authorities (e.g. youth offending teams)
- Embed the views and voices of communities and young people into the strategy and governance arrangements, as well as considering when to use communities to support the design of interventions
- Understand gaps and barriers in engagement to ensure more meaningful, inclusive and frequent engagement opportunities
- Consider commissioning key voluntary and community sector organisations to work with local communities
- Engage specified and relevant authorities to scope the development of community hubs and spaces, and opportunities to partner with local community assets.

Partnership involvement under this priority:

Partners will be expected to:

- ✓ Help provide access through identified assets to support collaborative working around serious violence. Some organisations may even be able to identify individuals who can contribute to discussions held within the HIPS governance arrangements, such as adding lived experience membership to the Board terms of reference or establishing a lived experience forum that is consulted by the partnership on a regular basis

- ✓ Support messaging around the partnership strategy and associated delivery, to make the most of the reach of the organisations represented within the specified authorities
- ✓ Be aware of previous and ongoing work barriers to engagement locally and will be able to support the partnership to identify and remove these barriers in any planned engagement. For example, the voluntary and community sector may be able to ensure planned engagement reaches certain communities.

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SO4

• Interventions, Evaluation and Opportunities



Through an intelligent and sustainable commissioning approach, the partnership will be able to coordinate and target resources at the people, places and times most affected by serious violence across Hampshire, the Isle of Wight, Portsmouth and Southampton.

The VRP will focus on commissioning evidence-based interventions to ensure that those at risk of being affected by serious violence are supported and the police are better able to respond to this cohort which will be achieved through trauma-informed training and supervision. This will complement the work of the Trauma Informed Executive Board - it is important the partnership does not duplicate this work but builds on it. Given the strategic objective, commissioned interventions focused on those at risk of being affected by serious violence need to be targeted at areas of need and priority cohorts identified in the SNA. Partners have identified key principles to delivery this strategic priority:

- ✓ Place-based: Intervention commissioning and delivery will be place-based, ensuring local authorities are involved in the design and delivery of interventions in line with their understanding of their local area.
- ✓ Coordinated: Commissioning and decision making will be coordinated. Opportunities for co-commissioning on common themes will be utilised including with specified authorities, and a balance will be maintained between ensuring a universal service provision for residents in all areas, and tailoring approaches to each local authority.
- ✓ Sustainable: Every action will be viewed with sustainability in mind, prioritising cost-effectiveness and economies of scale. The partnership will aim to provide long-term funding and project sustainability as far as possible, adopting a 'public health approach' to commissioning through identifying 'what works', gaps in provision, and evaluating the impact of commissioned work.
- ✓ Evidence-led / driven: Any interventions or activities commissioned will be evidence-led or evidence-driven - either relying on our understanding of 'What Works' through tools such as the Youth Endowment Fund Toolkit, College of Policing Crime Reduction Toolkit and Practice Bank and the Early Intervention Foundation Guidebook, or ensuring that innovation is supported by robust evaluation to understand impact.



What?

Existing interventions have already been funded by the VRP to support the delivery of this strategic priority, such as:

- CHOICES: Social skills and awareness sessions for year 6 and 7 school children - around peer relationships, knife crime, gang violence, county lines and exploitation, delivered by Artworks & Bearface
- A&E Navigators, delivered by No Limits
- RESET: A voluntary custody navigator intervention for 18-25 year olds, delivered by Society of St James
- Trauma informed practitioners (TIPS), delivered by Rock Pool.

There are also a range of interventions that have been supported since the start of the VRP. Partners also discussed other initiatives that have been put in place to support the delivery of this priority by specified authorities and others such as:

- Hotspot policing, identifying risky cohorts and communicating with CSPs
- Youth Justice Service Turnaround Project.



How?

Actions
➤ Roll-out trauma-informed trauma informed training and supervision to the police and others across the partnership, complementing the work of the Trauma Informed Executive Board and adhering to the Trauma Informed Concordat
➤ Identify gaps in commissioned interventions based on need of different cohorts within the priority group (aligned with the four most common risk factors identified in the SNA) and on the evidence of 'What Works'
➤ Review commissioning intentions with other planning, for example local Health and Wellbeing Strategies to ensure priorities, resources and capacity are aligned
➤ Share the results of the evaluation of commissioned interventions to understand their future, including their ability to be funded sustainably by the partnership
➤ Create a commissioning strategy or framework to support coordinated commissioning across the partnership

- The Subgroup for Interventions, Evaluations and Opportunities will facilitate a consortium-based approach to commissioning around shared themes and initiatives. CSP representation at this group will enable place-based decision-making in line with key principles above. The partnership will learn from practice in other areas who have adopted this approach (for example, in Thames Valley).

Partnership involvement under this strategic priority:

Action to tackle and prevent serious violence can only be achieved if undertaken collaboratively by the partnership and stakeholders. Partners will be expected to:

- ✓ Contribute to the design and delivery of interventions under this strategy, especially where an organisation or organisations are best able to intervene or access the people, places or times most affected by serious violence. This will be primarily through active and meaningful input via partnership governance arrangements, namely the Subgroup for Interventions, Evaluations and Opportunities.
- ✓ Contribute to commissioning discussions, including identifying gaps and opportunities across the local landscape. For example, where to target resources. For example, Community Safety Partnerships will have a deep understanding of local demand and need and will be in a good position to share data and information with the partnership.
- ✓ Use their organisational planning and commissioning understanding to inform the partnership discussions. For example, Integrated Care Boards may be able to leverage their commissioning process to support the partnership.
- ✓ Help the partnership to access individuals or organisations who may be able to inform the design of interventions, such as children and young people, service users and the voluntary and community sector. For example, youth justice services and probation services may be able to connect the partnership with lived experience voices who are involved, or are at risk of being involved, in serious violence.
- ✓ Support delivery where appropriate. For example, the police will be able to target hotspots identified by the partnership (potentially using Grip funding). Also, they can help contribute to understanding the impact of commissioned interventions by collecting and sharing data with the partnership and others (such as independent evaluators).

How will the VRP monitor impact?

In line with Home Office expectations of VRU areas, the HIPS VRP have produced a Theory of Change which sets out medium and long-term outcomes that support the strategic objective and the activities of the VRP. Evaluations and performance monitoring will provide accountability and a means to demonstrate impact. Interventions and actions will be evaluated at a HIPS and CSP level, and findings will be fed into discussions about impact and value for money.

Inputs	Activities	Outputs	Outcomes (Medium-term)	Impacts (Long-term)
<p>Financial</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> £1,654.13 Home Office funding 2024 £1,641.25 reduction in Home Office funding 2025 £565,992.61p funding 2024 <p>VRP model</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Violence Reduction Partnership (VRP) - inter-agency or multi-agency Violence Reduction Unit and Violence Reduction Partnership (VRP) Violence Reduction Partnership (VRP) Violence Reduction Partnership (VRP) Violence Reduction Partnership (VRP) <p>Resources</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Multi-agency working Existing multi-agency partnerships Specialist and relevant authorities Third sector and community organisations Violence Reduction Unit <p>Existing Partners</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Research with local authority analysts Existing data sharing agreements and arrangements Thames Valley partnership to establish Hampshire and Isle of Wight Together (HIT) <p>Partnerships and communities</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Existing forums including CRIC Toxic Communication Partners working with young people <p>Interventions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> VRU and local authority coordinated interventions National evidence of effective interventions including VRP Toolkit <p>Support</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Guidance from the Home Office VRU shared networks VRU peer working CRIC advising on response strategy support VRU Resourcing <p>Measurement/evaluation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Multi-agency systems leadership Use of evidence and evaluation The effective sharing of data between partners 	<p>1. Multi-agency and Systems Change</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Engage executive level leaders in the Serious Violence Reduction Partnership (SVRP) to drive and support multi-agency local delivery which is a strategic, trauma-informed and builds on existing initiatives & resources. Coordinate and jointly support delivery of a response strategy to reduce harm and meet the SD Duty in respect to the Strategic Needs Assessment. Tactical Violence Reduction Partnership (TVRP) will promote the development of multi-agency systems to produce of local problem solving to support at-risk individuals, communities and geographical hotspots Seek to embed sustained, data-led system responses <p>2. Data & Analysis</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Specialist and relevant authorities attend and collaborate at Data and Analysis Working Group (DAWG) Coordinate and coordinate Strategic Needs Assessment (SNA) which meets the needs of specialist authorities and CSAs. Develop a partnership data tracker to increase understanding of partnership data relevant to SV and DASHers Work with Information Governance to break down barriers to data sharing and where necessary formalise arrangements Develop Outcomes Based Performance Framework in partnership to monitor progress Develop Hampshire and Isle of Wight Together (HIT) common data platform and data sharing automation Use partnership data to identify individuals, communities and geographic hotspots/increased risk of SV <p>3. Engagement</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Specialist and relevant authorities attend and collaborate at Engagement and Careers working group Map and carry out gap analysis of existing partnership engagement with communities and young people Work in partnership to ensure that the community voice is consistently represented and informs activity Ensure community voice captures where most impacted by violence <p>Communications</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Create VRP brand and website to communicate with partners and public Celebrate and highlight work of communities, and the VRP working together Develop a strategic de-escalation narrative <p>4. Interventions, Evaluation & Opportunities</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Conduct gap analysis of existing provision within communities Use the academic evidence base to inform commissioning decisions Develop interventions with and for communities Carry out joint commissioning for effective and effective delivery Submit joint bids that promote broad provision by a consortium of providers Develop an evidence based approach which evaluates interventions to understand 'what works' Incorporate learning from performance data and evaluations into the VRP strategy 	<p>Multi-agency & Systems Change</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Specialist and relevant authorities' attendance at SVRP meetings Response strategy to drive VRP activity Partners' attendance at TVRP meetings Multi-agency evidence, response to at-risk individuals, communities and geographical hotspots Specialist and relevant authorities attending and sharing data via Hampshire and Isle of Wight Together <p>Data & Analysis</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Specialist and relevant authorities' attendance at DAWG meetings Strategic Needs Assessment to understand the local picture of violence and to form priorities within the response strategy Partnership data tracker to monitor data sharing, barriers and actions Outcomes Based Performance Framework to monitor progress against the VRP strategic objectives Comprehensive and Isle of Wight Together shared data platform Use of at-risk people, communities and locations <p>Engagement</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Specialist and relevant authorities' attendance at Engagement and Careers working group Report capturing meeting partnership engagement Survey for use across HIPS Young people, including most impacted cohorts, contributing their views across HIPS <p>Communications</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Website and products using VRP branding Regular communications between VRU and partners via website <p>Interventions, Evaluation & Opportunities</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Report capturing existing provision within communities Evidence based interventions commissioned and delivered with and for communities Jointly commissioned interventions Joint bids produced in partnership Young people, families and professionals reached through interventions Robust evaluation reports and lower level monitoring reports of interventions 	<p>Multi-agency & Systems Change</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Partnership and account ability to deliver the public health response to SV is shared across the partnership and specialist and relevant authorities understand their role Outcome reduction of harm is sustained in the longer term Multi-agency working is strengthened and evaluation is reduced Effectiveness of public health response to violence increases Reduced risk to public Increased protective factors and decreased offending in at-risk individuals Culture of streamlined and rapid data access to inform decisions <p>Data & Analysis</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Specialist and relevant authorities maintain a comprehensive and ongoing understanding of the nature and drivers of SV, and the cohorts and locations impacted Access to data to inform and inform response interventions VRP performance against outcomes is improved Partnership response strategy is focused on priority levels, locations and cohorts <p>Engagement & Communications</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Partners have a shared responsibility and clear roles in Engagement and Careers using a consistent communication narrative Partners working relationships and collaboration has improved Partners maintain a shared and ongoing understanding of the views and needs of diverse VRP and communities which is reflected in the partnership response to violence Trust is built between partners and public Partners and public are better informed about SV and the partnership response <p>Interventions, Evaluation & Opportunities</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increased risk factors and increased protective factors for young people and communities through evidence based interventions Communities and building resilience are strengthened through interventions Evaluation evidence informs the national evidence base for violence reduction Developments in the response to violence, including future interventions commissioned, are informed by evidence of the impact of current activities 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Partnership response to violence is embedded and sustained through the wider system, public health approach Effective multi-agency working process is embedded Reduction in hospital admissions for assaults with a knife or sharp object Reduction in police recorded knife-enabled serious violence Reduction in all non-domestic homicide Home Office trends Reduction in locally defined serious violence Reduction in risk factors Increase in protective factors Increase in public trust in the VRU and partners Increase in VRP's willingness to engage in support Increase in feelings of safety

How will the VRP review the strategy?

To be completed.

DRAFT