

Community Safety Plan 2020-2023

2021-22 Refresh

Dorset Community Safety Partnership



Introduction

The Dorset Community Safety Partnership (CSP) aims to:

- Reduce crime and the fear of crime;
- Address risk, threat and harm to victims and local communities; and
- Facilitate the strengthening of Dorset's communities in the delivery of local initiatives.

Find out more about the CSP here: [Dorset Community Safety Partnership](#)

CSPs are required to have three-year Community Safety Plans that are refreshed annually. This is the latest refresh covering 2021-22. The Plan sets out partners' priorities based on the most recent assessment of community safety issues.

The Community Safety Plan should be read in conjunction with partners' annual work plans which can be found here: [Annual Work Plans](#)

Crime in the Dorset Community Safety Partnership Area

Total crime in the Dorset Community Safety Partnership area is a lot lower than the average rate across the UK and has decreased slightly over the last three years.

Crime in Dorset follows a seasonal pattern with numbers peaking in the summer months and falling away during winter. Crime levels in Dorset vary according to location.

It would seem the first nation-wide Covid 19 lockdown had a significant impact on reducing total crime in Dorset in late winter, early spring.

Detailed information on crime levels in Dorset can be found here: [Dorset Statistics Crime Statistics](#)

Consultation and Engagement

Partners use the findings of consultation and engagement exercises to help inform their understanding and work to tackle community safety issues.

Dorset Council undertakes a residents survey every year. The survey includes questions on how safe residents feel in their local area. The latest survey was completed in the autumn 2020. 2,619 surveys were completed. The results showed that:

- 10% of residents felt unsafe when outside after dark in their local area
- 76% of residents felt either fairly or very safe outside after dark in their local area
- 96% of residents felt either fairly or very safe outside in their local area during the day

In early 2021, a series of questions were given to members of Dorset Council's People Panel. 151 responses were received. They showed that:

- The two community safety categories of highest concern were anti-social behaviour and drug dealing.
- None of the people responding felt that crime was a big issue where they lived and had a serious impact on their daily life.
- 7% of respondents had been a victim of crime in the last twelve months.
- 24% of respondents had been a victim of anti-social behaviour in the last year.

The National Rural Crime Survey is organised by the National Rural Crime Network which was formed in 2014 to bring greater recognition and understanding of impact and problems of crime in rural areas. The Network brings together 30 Police and Crime Commissioners from across the country along with a number of other interested bodies.

Although the National Rural Crime Survey is not specific to Dorset, it includes 654 responses from the Dorset Police Force area and aims to reflect the views of rural communities. The 2018 National Rural Crime Survey can be found here: [National Rural Crime Survey 2018](#)

The findings include:

- That the perception of policing in rural communities is poor, and much worse than in urban areas
- Some of the most common concerns are not solely policing matters, like flytipping and speeding – too many partners, like local authorities, are less able to respond to the needs of rural communities
- Crime is not just an inconvenience - crime, and the fear of crime, is leading to emotional strain and a loss of confidence within rural communities, particularly among young people, families and farmers
- Communities believe crime in rural areas is a big problem – and is getting worse
- Many crimes in rural communities go unreported – especially by business owners, because they don't feel the offence will be taken seriously or anything will be done
- Residents and businesses in rural communities believe they are being specifically targeted – and, on balance, most believe the crime is organised
- Farmers and agricultural businesses are facing huge challenges – and they don't feel there is enough being done to support them
- The financial impact of crime is substantial – for residents and, particularly, for businesses who are the lifeblood of the rural economy
- Rural victims feel angry and annoyed that they are not taken seriously by those in positions of power – and the extent of crime is making communities feel vulnerable
- Ultimately, rural communities are not understood and services do not match need – if nothing is done there is a risk of a wholesale loss of trust in rural policing

Findings from further consultation exercises undertaken over the course of the year will be used to inform future revisions of this plan.

Community Safety Priorities

Partners carry out an annual Partnership Strategic Assessment (PSA) using evidence from a variety of sources to assess crime and disorder issues in the area. The assessment is used to set and review partners' priorities. When setting and reviewing priorities consideration is also given to the local Policing objectives in the area. Priorities are reviewed regularly.

The following priorities have been agreed by partners for 2021/22:

- | | |
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| • Modern Slavery and Human Trafficking | • Rural Crime |
| • County Lines | • Fraud |
| • Serious Sexual Offences | • Public Place Violence |
| • Domestic Abuse | • Anti-Social Behaviour |

Partners have also agreed to monitor and address Hate Crime including in the wider context of community cohesion.

Reducing re-offending remains a cross cutting area of work for partners and they have a separate strategy to address this issue. There is also a separate Alcohol & Drugs Strategy that covers the pan-Dorset area.

A summary of the type of activity partners will take to address priorities over the course of the year is provided below. Full details are included in partners' annual work plans.

Modern Slavery and Human Trafficking	
Activities	Measures
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop our understanding of modern slavery in Dorset and raise awareness of the issues. • Ensure there are effective processes in place to identify and support victims and people vulnerable to modern slavery. • Work together to stop perpetrators of modern slavery. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increased understanding of issues amongst professionals. • Increase in referral rates from first responder organisations other than the Police. • Joint operations to tackle modern slavery are well organised and effective.

County Lines	
Activities	Measures
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Raise awareness of issues, focusing on specific groups and organisations that may come into contact with those vulnerable to County Lines exploitation. • Ensure support is available for victims and people vulnerable to County Lines exploitation. • Further develop our knowledge and understanding of County Lines issues locally including areas that are vulnerable to County Lines activity. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fewer vulnerable adults exploited due to County Lines. • Identified locations see less County Lines activity.

Serious Sexual Offences	
Activities	Measures
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work with partners in the criminal justice system to take action to increase the positive outcome rate for sexual offences • Undertake awareness raising campaigns including in schools. • Undertake a communications campaign to complement sexual violence awareness week • Ensure good promotion of sexual violence services so people know where to get help 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increase in the positive outcome rate for sexual offences. • Awareness of sexual violence issues is increased.

Domestic Abuse	
Activities	Measures
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop initiatives that focus on prevention, early help and education. • Develop interventions for perpetrators to reduce offending and prevent risk and harm. • Further develop the whole systems approach to domestic abuse to ensure services are working together effectively. • Continue to develop partners' response for high risk victims including implementing learning from the High Risk Domestic Abuse (HRDA) pilot. • Respond to any legislative requirements emerging from the Domestic Abuse Bill. • Implement learning from Domestic Homicide Reviews. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increased prevention and support activity including for children and young people. • The number of perpetrator programmes is increased and work in this area is well coordinated. • Compliance with government requirements relating to the Domestic Abuse Act 2021.

Rural Crime	
Activities	Measures
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reduce opportunities for Agricultural Theft to thrive • Reduce Livestock Offences including theft of and worrying/attacks • Increase awareness of Poaching and the devastating effect that this has on our Rural Communities • Work with partners to share information and bring offenders to justice for Fly-Tipping offences • Protect our European Protected Species and Habitats • Protection of our most vulnerable Farming community members 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Agricultural theft reduced • Reduction in livestock offences • Reduction in fly tipping

Fraud	
Activities	Measures
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support awareness raising activities to ensure people understand how to spot potential fraud. • Support and promote 'Friends Against Scams' including dissemination of advice and information across organisations • Incorporate scams advice into Safe & Well visits by the Fire & Rescue Service 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increased awareness of fraud and scam issues especially amongst the most vulnerable victims

Public Place Violence	
Activities	Measures
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop our understanding of public place violence issues including working with Public Health and using intelligence from the Cardiff Model project. • Respond to any requirements emerging from the government's Serious Violence Strategy and any related legislation. • Partnership Coordinating Groups to develop specific actions and initiatives in response to local public place violence issues. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Incidents of public place violence reduced within specific localities • Compliance with any statutory requirements relating to serious violence

Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB)	
Activities	Measures
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support vulnerable and repeat victims of ASB • Develop initiatives for people who don't engage with services • Partnership Coordinating Groups to develop specific actions and initiatives in response to local anti-social behaviour issues. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increased engagement in services • Reductions in ASB within specific localities

Performance Management

Partners use performance information and data coupled with an assessment of progress against their agreed actions at each meeting, to determine whether they are delivering against their priorities.

Partners intend to gather a wide range of information and data to complement Police statistics and develop a comprehensive understanding of community safety issues.

Governance

The Dorset CSP is the statutory Community Safety Partnership for the local area. It brings together senior officers and elected members from:

- Dorset Police
- Dorset Council
- Dorset & Wiltshire Fire & Rescue Authority
- National Probation Service
- Dorset, Devon and Cornwall Probation
- Dorset Clinical Commissioning Group

Many other partners such as Public Health Dorset, the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner, the Dorset & Wiltshire Fire & Rescue Service and the Dorset Combined Youth Offending Service also contribute to the work of the CSP.

At a local level, there are Partnership Co-ordinating Groups (PCGs) that come together to identify solutions to local issues. The PCGs feed into the Dorset CSP.