

# **Community Safety in Bath and North East Somerset**

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# Background

- This panel has responsibility under the Crime & Disorder Act to scrutinise the Responsible Authorities Group (RAG or 'community safety partnership') regarding crime & disorder functions.
- The RAG is a multi agency partnership chaired by Cabinet member for Communities.
- All RAG partners agree a joint action plan which compliments the Police Crime Commissioner's priorities.

# PCC priorities

1. Reduce the impact that anti-social behaviour has in our communities.
2. Prevent and reduce domestic violence and sexual violence, particularly violence towards women and children.
3. Prevent and reduce burglary and fear of burglary in your area.
4. Improving road safety for all road users.
5. Ensure victims are at the heart of the criminal justice system.

# B&NES area of focus

1. Work in partnership to tackle local issues of concern including anti-social behaviour.
2. Prevent and reduce domestic and sexual violence, particularly violence towards women and children.
3. Ensure victims are at the heart of the criminal justice system.
4. Actively work together on wider national agendas including Prevent and anti-slavery & people trafficking.

# Crime and disorder

Overall crime rates are low however perception of crime includes:

- Hotspot issues in Bath city centre, retail crime, public concerns re street drinking, begging and alcohol-related violent crime and disorder concentrated around the night time economy.
- Issues of concern raised in local communities, particularly anti-social behaviour and speeding traffic.
- Domestic abuse, particularly under-reporting and support for victims.

# Example programmes

Bath & North East  
Somerset Council

- Lighthouse integrated victim and witness care programme; co-location of IDVA, Police and Curo resources. Comprehensive hate crime services & case review panels.
- Business Improvement District extending to city centre marshallng potential to consolidate all funding to BID; integration of CCTV into 'night-watch'; purple flag status and reduction in night time economy crimes.
- Redesign of domestic abuse services = more focussed services for victims. Intro of IRIS making clear referral path for GPs re: domestic abuse. Three year joint PCC and CCG funding.
- Community alcohol partnership in Midsomer Norton
- Safe zones for vulnerable people

# New and emerging issues

- 'Prevent' agenda extended.
- Anti-slavery and people trafficking: B&NES is an active member of regional groups.
- Domestic homicide reviews.
- Support for victims of sexual violence.

# Cross cutting issues

- Financial challenges faced by all partner agencies.
- Working with partners and local communities to 'co-produce' solutions.
- Investing in prevention and early intervention.
- National funding is now paid to PCC for re-allocation.