

**Bath & North East
Somerset Council**



**AVON &
SOMERSET**
POLICE & CRIME
COMMISSIONER

Joint Community Safety Plan

**Bath & North East Somerset
Community Safety Partnership
(‘Responsible Authorities Group’)**

and

**Avon and Somerset Office of the Police and
Crime Commissioner**

2018 – 2021

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1 Joint Introduction

- i. Councillor Bob Goodman, Cabinet member for Neighbourhoods and Chair of Bath & North East Somerset Responsible Authorities Group and Sue Mountstevens, Police and Crime Commissioner for Avon and Somerset
- ii. The PCC and the Community Safety Partnership have a clear shared aim - to take every opportunity to protect the public and help keep us safe. Our success and that of our other partner agencies depends on dedicated teams of staff working together, whether that is to safeguard children and vulnerable people, tackle domestic abuse or address local anti-social behaviour.
- iii. For the Police, as an emergency service, this means responding efficiently and effectively to calls from the public and utilising our resources in a cost effective manner. Protecting vulnerable people and preventing and reducing crime in partnership with others is our core activity.
- iv. For the Council, this could mean anything from identifying and stopping rogue traders, catching fly-tippers or using CCTV to help the Police to identify suspects. We can only do all this effectively by working in partnership. This Plan sets out how we will protect vulnerable people, tackle crime and build strong, resilient communities. It focuses on our collective priorities where a shared vision is needed, and on the actions that we - by working together - will take to achieve the best outcomes for individuals, families and communities.
- v. There is a lot of work to be done, but we should be proud of our achievements so far through our work together for the good of all. We should also be justly proud of the staff who continue to work so hard to improve our quality of life and keep us safe, to support victims of crime and bring those that cause us harm to justice.
- vi. This joint Community Safety Plan sets out the Partnership's Community Safety objectives and planned activities for the next three years. It fulfils a specific recommendation of the recent Bath & North East Somerset Council

Scrutiny Enquiry Day on Community Safety, which identified the benefits of such a partnership approach. It identifies the key issues we will focus on as we tackle crime, disorder and anti-social behaviour in Bath and North East Somerset. The Bath and North East Somerset Responsible Authorities Group (RAG), which is our Community Safety Partnership, and the Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC), have worked closely together to prepare this document, alongside the other key partners involved in keeping us safe. As such, it reflects their shared priorities and serves as both the Community Safety Plan and the local Police & Crime Plan for Bath and North East Somerset.

- vii. The local forums are in receipt of regular reports that detail local crime and anti-social behaviour statistics. We use these reports to monitor our progress.
- viii. This plan asks for your support - because together we can keep our communities in Bath and North East Somerset safe and feeling safe

2 Bath and North East Somerset – a description

- i. Bath & North East Somerset is a diverse area which includes the World Heritage Site City of Bath as well as vibrant towns, villages and rural communities.
- ii. Generally, our communities are healthy and safe with overall levels of deprivation that are significantly below the national average. However, we have a number of communities with significant levels of deprivation, particularly in the south and southwest of Bath, in Radstock and in Keynsham. There are areas of rural isolation as well as a high and growing student population.
- iii. Our Connecting Communities programme has seen the creation of five Area Profiles for areas in Bath & North East Somerset, as below:

Bath Area Profile

Somer Valley Area Profile

Chew Valley Area Profile

Keynsham Area Profile

Bathavon Area Profile

3 Partnership Working in Bath & North East Somerset

- i. Our Community Safety Partnership is led by the Responsible Authorities Group (RAG) and comprises: Bath and North East Somerset Council; the B&NES Clinical Commissioning Group; Lighthouse, Avon & Somerset Police; the Bristol, Gloucestershire, Somerset and Wiltshire Community Rehabilitation Company Ltd; Avon Fire and Rescue Service and Curo. The Responsible Authorities Group regularly welcomes the PCC and representatives to attend and be involved in discussions and joint working.
- ii. The RAG works at a strategic level and links with a very wide range of partners and across the whole community safety field. Recent and emerging issues for the Partnership include Prevent (the aim of which is to stop people becoming terrorists or supporting terrorism), Modern Slavery and Serious and Organised Crime. The RAG monitors issues and concerns at a high level whilst delivering through thematic groups such as the Night Time Economy Group, the Task and Targeting Group (which deals with issues such as rough sleeping), the Domestic Abuse Partnership and – increasingly - our Area Forums. In the next section, we set out our joint assessment of the key community safety challenges facing our area.

4 Police and crime: local context and challenges¹

- i. Overall, our area remains a safe place but in the context of all public agencies facing immense challenges maintaining this, with rising crime trends and changing crime patterns, this puts a pressure on resources. We are required to prioritise our work according to our strategic assessment of crime and disorder in our area which is built on a range of data including recorded crime and feedback from local agencies and communities, and is set out below:
- ii. The scale of identified vulnerability in Avon and Somerset is significant and placing increasing demand upon public sector services. Neighbourhood policing teams have an important role to play in supporting and protecting vulnerable people, through reassurance, monitoring and, where necessary, intervention, either in partnership with other agencies or as the lead agency.
 - a) In 2017/18 recorded crime in B&NES rose by 3.4% compared against the previous year (397 more offences)². Reports of anti-social behaviour increased by 8.4% (310 extra reports).
 - b) Arson and theft reduced by -16% (10 offences less) and -5.9% (218 offences less).
 - c) Burglaries increased by +22.7 % (198 more offences),
 - d) Robbery by +32% (29 more offences).
 - e) Sexual offences increased by +25% (67 more reports) and offences involving violence rose by +7.5% (343 more reports).
 - f) Offences classed as Hate Crime rose by +20.7% (53 more offences).
 - g) Over 40,000 “requests for service” were made to the Police in the 12 months to April 2018 with customer satisfaction in the B&NES area at 77%³.
 - h) Lighthouse is an integrated victim care service. It supports victims who are vulnerable, intimidated, persistently targeted or experience serious crime⁴. In

¹ Data from Avon & Somerset ‘Business Objects’

² This would appear lower than rises elsewhere in the country; recorded crime levels are linked to factors including the accuracy of recording practices which all forces are seeking to improve. Other factors are actual levels of crime and the levels of confidence victims have in reporting.

³ Data from satisfaction survey of victims of: burglary, hate crime, violent crime and ASB.

2017/18, around 21% of victims of crime and ASB who live in the BaNES area (2183 people) were assessed as eligible for enhanced victim support and referred to the service.

- i) For the calendar year 2017, there was a further small reduction in young people entering the youth justice system for the first time, continuing a long term trend. However, the reduction was at a slower rate as it included, unusually, a large cohort of young people arrested for a spate of anti-social behaviour and violence in the centre of Bath in the autumn of 2017; thirteen of these young people were charged directly to Court.

⁴ Victims are offered practical support and guided through the criminal justice process by specially-trained staff. The service includes police staff, working with independent organisations.

5 Feedback from local communities

- i. The Police provide regular policing updates to the Connecting Communities Area Forums and this allows for local concerns to be raised and projects identified. An analysis of Connecting Communities Forum reports and feedback has identified a number of differences in concerns raised across our Forum areas, and these are set out below:

1 In Bath, key issues raised included:

- a) Drug offences particularly the outcome of “Operation Hydra” (now replaced by Operation Cabbotage) which focuses on tackling the Bath drugs market.
- b) Thefts from vehicles
- c) Street issues - including begging, street drinking and rough sleeping
- d) Improving Police visibility, particularly in Bath city centre

2 In Somer Valley, key issues raised included:

- a) Anti-social behaviour, particularly in Gullock Tynning in Midsomer Norton. The introduction of a dispersal zone here resulted in a significant reduction in anti-social behaviour.
- b) Speeding traffic, we will work with the constabulary Roads Policing unit to reduce the number of persons killed or seriously injured on our roads. We will use community feedback to target danger hotspots via community speedwatch, road signage, traffic speed enforcement or other traffic calming measures.

3 In Chew Valley, key issues raised included:

- a) Burglary, particularly non-dwelling burglaries such as from garden sheds
- b) Road safety, particularly on the A37. A new safety scheme has been put in place along the length of the A37 in B&NES.

4 In the Keynsham area:

- a) Anti-social behaviour in the town, including setting fire to bins at the Memorial Park and significant issues in the area around the civic centre, was the key issue raised. This led to a special session of the Forum in September 2017. A partnership (Keynsham Community Spirit) has now been set up to tackle these issues. Offenders have been targeted and offences have reduced significantly.

consultation draft July 2018

6 Strategic and emerging issues across the area

- i. RAG meets quarterly and its agenda reflects the changing crime patterns and addresses local concerns. It also takes a strategic overview of the emerging priorities raised by local partners particularly those where there may be gaps or where demands are increasing due to external pressures and legislative changes. RAG then co-ordinates partnership resources to address new and emerging concerns. RAG is clear that this plan should be delivered in the context of the capacity which the various partners have to deliver.
- ii. In 2017-18, the group focused on the following key issues:
 - A. “Street” based issues, including supporting the Task and Targeting Group to address rough sleeping and aggressive begging. Our Task and Targeting Group meets monthly to provide targeted action on rough sleeping and other related issues, supported by our Assertive Street Outreach team. Julian House provides 30 direct access hostel beds and there is a dedicated outreach worker for female rough sleepers. Our partnership with the Business Improvement District has extended city centre marshalling, and our Bath and District Crime Reduction Partnership reduces the impact of crime and anti-social behaviour on businesses particularly regarding anti-social behaviour including rough sleeping in doorways.
 - B. Domestic Abuse - particularly supporting the Independent Domestic Violence Adviser service and conducting Domestic Homicide Reviews. Our Domestic Abuse Partnership has been successful in an ambitious bid for national funding to expand our Independent Domestic Violence Advisor (IDVA) service to better deal with complex cases and provide better information and advice to help victims “navigate” through the system. The Partnership has secured long-term funding for the RUH IDVA through contributions from public health, CCG and Wiltshire Council. The RUH IDVA saw 134 referrals between April 2016 and April 2017. The IRIS project (which creates a clear referral pathway for domestic violence for GP surgeries) has seen 92% of GPs receiving

training to August 2017 and there have been 270 referrals. The Partnership has also secured funding to provide 10 new beds of refuge provision.

- C. Serious and Organised Crime - establishing cross-agency links to disrupt organised crime gangs operating in our area, including Disrupt and modern slavery and people trafficking. Our multi-agency Disrupt Panel brings together Council, Police, and others to tackle serious and organised crime in our area.
- D. Protecting vulnerable people - linking with the Safeguarding Boards and focusing on hate crime
- E. Linking with wider Avon and Somerset initiatives, such as the Avon and Somerset Reoffending Strategy

7 What we can deliver together

- i. Historically, significant central Government funding was available to support the work of Community Safety Partnerships. However, external funding for community safety has declined significantly in recent years and the only dedicated funding of this type is now allocated by the PCC. In 2018/19, RAG received £64,589 from the PCC to support activities to address local priorities. This is an annual sum that has been provided as a three year commitment (2018/19 is year 2). This has been invested in our IDVA Domestic Abuse project, currently delivered by Southside Family Project domestic violence and abuse (DVA) commission; the Compass youth crime prevention service and the young people's substance misuse service.
- ii. Local partner organisations agree the level of resources they commit to the work of the Responsible Authorities Group against a backdrop of financial challenges for all partners. In some cases, the level of support can be quantified - for example, investment by the Council in our CCTV control room operations – and in other cases support is “mainstreamed” through the day-to-work of services such as:
 - a) Our Local Safeguarding Boards for Children and Adults. Our Local Safeguarding children Boards co-ordinates a multi-agency approach to reducing harm to vulnerable children and young people.
 - b) Our multi-agency Youth Offending Service brings together staff from a range of backgrounds including Police, Health, Social Care, Education and the National Probation Service. In early 2017, the Youth Offending Service was awarded the Restorative Service Quality Mark in recognition of its work with victims.
 - c) Our Trading Standards team, which takes firm action against illegal businesses and those selling counterfeit and other illegal products.
 - d) Public Protection team working alongside Avon & Somerset police on tackling modern slavery and rural exploitation.

- e) Licensing and enforcement, which deal with a wide range of local concerns including fly-tipping and noise
 - f) Our extensive network of public space CCTV cameras
- iii. Our RAG partners such as Curo also provide significant resources to address anti-social behaviour through their specialist Tenancy Compliance and Support team. In many cases, partners also provide significant “in kind” support and partner resources, for example in sharing data. 105 parents/carers were identified in Bath and North East Somerset experiencing all three of what are sometimes called the “complex trio” i.e, mental ill health, domestic abuse and substance abuse. We then used this data to ensure that people were offered the support they needed.
 - iv. However, public service agencies are operating under significant financial challenges. The Council’s Operational Plan 2018-19 identifies a funding gap to 2020 which has resulted in the establishment of a programme, ‘Changing Together’ to look at how savings can be delivered continuing to protect our most vulnerable residents. The programme also provides a framework for working with staff and our communities to establish what services should take priority (and what we can do less off), and how communities can help to manage demand.
 - v. Partner agencies are facing similar challenges and this, along with the removal of national funding directly for Community Safety Partnerships, has put increasing pressure on partners to address the assessed needs set out above. This means that we need to:
 1. Prioritise our resources based on **helping those who most need our help**, particularly targeting our work on helping and protecting the most vulnerable people.
 2. **Involve our communities more** in what we do and support them in addressing local concerns.
 3. **Work better together** to share resources and identify new ways of working.

8 Involving our Communities More

- i. In recent years we have provided for local community discussions on community safety to be channelled through our Connecting Communities Area Forums. The Police provide updates to the Forums on local crime patterns, receive feedback and publish up to date local priorities.
- ii. This process of working together to identify local priorities has provided a catalyst for local community action, including:
 - a) The formation of “Keynsham Community Spirit” in response to the significant concerns raised in the town about anti-social behaviour. Keynsham Community Spirit held its inaugural meeting at Keynsham Methodist Church on 22nd February 2018 and saw Council, traders, residents, Police, and head teachers, alongside community and church groups, come together to find solutions. There was a recognition at the meeting that there was no “quick fix”, but that there were many local people willing to work together, particularly on projects for young people
 - b) The formation of a new Midsomer Norton Public Safety Group. This has built on the success of our ground-breaking Community Alcohol Partnership which included the use of Street Marshalls and restrictions which allowed for the seizure of alcohol being consumed on the streets. The area has seen a significant reduction in reported violence and criminal damage since 2012.
 - c) 35 “Safe Zones” have been introduced across Keynsham, Midsomer Norton and Bath City to provide support for vulnerable people
 - d)** The establishment of Community Speedwatch schemes across the area. Bathampton Community Speedwatch is a team of around eight volunteers who carry out speed checks on drivers through the village. The Chew Valley Forum is currently identifying interest in starting-up a Community Speedwatch across the Valley area.

9 Our Priorities

10 Priority 1:

Protect the most vulnerable from harm

1 Why this is a priority

- a) Complex crimes with high levels of associated risk, such as Child Abuse, Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE), modern slavery and human trafficking, are increasing and this rise is expected to continue
- b) It is widely acknowledged that children and young people experiencing Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACES) are more likely to develop complex trio behaviours / dependencies in adulthood.
- c) The local specialist domestic abuse agency Southside, reporting through their 'Insights' data shows 69% of survivors having children in the household and 50% presenting with mental ill health. Early intervention (particularly in 'complex trio' work focussing on substance and alcohol misuse, mental ill health and domestic abuse / violence) is a key factor in reducing service dependency in later life.
- d) Hate crime reports in B&NES have increased by around 20% in the last 12 months
- e) It is believed that only 5% of mass marketing fraud is reported. It is recognised that there is significant under reporting in relation to mass marketing fraud – and that vulnerable people due to age or capacity are more likely to be targeted.

2 Key Objectives of priority 1

- 1. Implement, monitor and evaluate our new partnership investment from the Violence Against Women and Girls Fund. domestic abuse and hate crime
- 2. Strengthen the role of the Hate Crime and Community Cohesion Partnership
- 3. **Continue to take enforcement action against scammers and rogue traders, working in partnership with the National Scams Hub.**

1	Implement, monitor and evaluate our new partnership investment from the Violence Against Women and Girls Fund.
	Between partners we will continue to Chair the Domestic Abuse Partnership and use this group to monitor the efficacy of the VAWG funding into the area.
	Continue to respond to and manage Domestic Homicide Reviews.
	Learn from the outcomes of Domestic Homicide reviews and implement changes to working practices where necessary.
	Continue to identify opportunities for longer-term funding to reduce domestic abuse and improve outcomes for survivors
	Work together with other Community Safety Partnerships in Avon and Somerset to finalise and implement the review of MARACs in a way that (1) reflects the financial challenges faced by councils and other agencies (2) mainstreams the work of MARAC and (3) improves outcomes for survivors (4) addresses perpetrators
2	Strengthen the role and effectiveness of the Bath and North East Somerset Hate Crime and Community Cohesion Partnership. <i>The Partnership's remit is to provide an integrated, proactive approach to monitoring patterns and trends and using this challenging, influencing and championing change needed in services to tackle hate crime and incidents effectively</i>
	Between partners we will continue to administer and chair the Hate Crime Case Review Panel.
3	Continue to take enforcement action against scammers and rogue traders, working in partnership with the National Scams Hub.
	We will advise vulnerable local residents on how to spot and report scams and rogue traders. <i>The Council, in partnership with the National Trading Standards Scams Team recently offered vulnerable residents call-blockers to prevent nuisance callers. Over an 18 month period 5,649 nuisance calls were made to ten local residents who had call blockers installed, just 11 got through.</i>

11 Priority 2:

Strengthen and improve local communities to improve outcomes for local people

1 Why this is a Priority

- a) A high proportion of people report feeling safe in their local area (88%). However, local residents say they require more 'reassurance' through visible policing.
- b) Work with our Connecting Communities Forums and our experiences in Midsomer Norton and Keynsham shows the benefits of local communities coming together to address local concerns
- c) The #NeverOK Campaign on anti-harassment and bullying shows the benefits of tapping into local networks such as our student communities.

2 Key Objectives of priority 2:

- 1. Reduce the impact that anti-social behaviour has in our communities
- 2. Continue the commitment to support neighbourhood policing
- 3. Strengthen the resilience of local communities

1	Reduce the impact that anti-social behaviour has in our communities
Work through the Connecting Communities programme to develop partner responses to local priorities and promote community cohesion and resilience	
2	Continue the commitment to support neighbourhood policing
Co-ordinate and administer the Night Time Economy Group to reduce impacts on local residents, and continue to undertake multi-agency enforcement visits to licensed premises to ensure they are safe and do not create nuisance.	
Continue commitment to active participation in local community forums	
3	Strengthen the resilience of local communities
Continue to promote the “Got Ya Back” River Safety campaign with partners and students. <i>We worked with Avon Fire and Rescue to develop and install 14 robust, vandal-proof cabinets for life-saving equipment along the River Avon.</i>	
Work closely with the Student Community Partnership on a range of projects to promote safety	
Continue to develop the #NeverOK Campaign organised by the Student Community Partnership on Anti-harassment and Bullying. <i>The campaign has now been extended beyond the University of Bath to Bath Spa University and is being integrated into sports clubs and societies. The next step is to work with Bath College and Sixth Forms to involve them with the campaign</i>	
Work alongside community groups to facilitate closer working to problem solve – in partnership - local issues	
Work together on hate crime and encourage families to report concerns.	

12 Priority 3:

Work together effectively to respond to community safety challenges

1 Why this is a Priority

- a) The nature of crime is changing. We need to be open to new ways of working which deliver outcomes in a smarter way, including greater working across boundaries. For example
- b) Child Sexual Exploitation continues to rise, with reports increasing over the last year. The PCC has brought together contributions from across the force area to provide specialist support to address for Child Sexual Exploitation. Our LSCB has an outcome for staff to be confident in responding appropriately to these issues. Similarly, addressing Modern Slavery also requires significant regional co-ordination and specialist support including working with organisations such as the Gangmasters Licencing Authority.
- c) The Counter Terrorism and Security Act 2015 places a duty to “have due regard to the need to prevent people from, being drawn into terrorism” It applies to a range of public bodies including colleges, universities, councils, health, probation and police. Again, local activity depends on access to regional and other intelligence. Avon and Somerset Counter Terrorism local Profile informs partners of threats, vulnerabilities and risks. Prevent is part of Contest which aims to reduce the risk to the UK from terrorism. Prevent’s aim is intercept radicalisation, to stop people becoming terrorists or supporting terrorism. “Lone Actors” present the highest threat to Avon and Somerset. We work closely to protect “crowded places” with work ongoing on designing and securing protective measures.

2 Key Objectives of priority 3:

- 1. Continue to actively work across the Avon & Somerset partnerships on CSE, modern slavery etc.**
- 2. Comply with legislative changes regarding responsibility for Prevent**

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1	Continue to actively work across the Avon & Somerset partnerships on CSE, modern slavery etc.
	Support and enable the reporting of, discovery of, and response to, incidents of modern slavery and exploitation
	Actively participate in the Avon and Somerset Anti-Slavery Partnership and develop proportionate local initiatives across partner organisations and with services to identify and respond to incidents.
2	Comply with legislative changes regarding responsibility for Prevent
	<p>Meet our Prevent duties and help other partners to do so, including</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (1) raising awareness of reporting method for online extremist material (2) working with community groups to raise awareness of radicalisation and in particular the role of social media

13 Measures

- i. Indicators will be regularly reviewed in order to understand the impact of the Plan's activities, noting the challenges that present in interpreting these as measures of performance

Police recorded total crime for the B&NES area
Police recorded serious cases involving young people as victims of abuse, CSE, Modern Slavery
Police recorded hate crime
Police recorded fraud with vulnerable victims
The number of domestic abuse incidents reported to the Police
The number of domestic abuse prosecutions
Police recorded ASB
NTE incidents recorded by Police from licensed premises
Victim satisfaction
Victim outcomes following support interventions

14 Glossary

ACES	Adverse Childhood Experiences
B&NES	Bath and North East Somerset
CCG	Clinical Commissioning Group
CCTV	Closed Circuit Television
CSE	Child Sexual Exploitation
CSP	Community Safety Partnership
DVA	Domestic Abuse and Violence
IDVA	Independent Domestic Abuse Advisor
LSAB	Local Safeguarding Adults Board
LSCB	Local Safeguarding Childrens Board
OPCC	Office of the Police and crime Commissioner
PCC	Police and crime Commissioner
RAG	Responsible Authorities Group
RUH	Royal United Hospital
VAWG	Violence Against Women and Girls

15 Appendix 1

Links to Other Plans, Strategies, web pages and Partnerships

Police and Crime Commissioner [Avon and Somerset PCC](#)

Avon and Somerset Constabulary [Avon & Somerset Police](#)

Bath & North East Somerset Council [Bath and North East Somerset Council](#)

LSAB [Safeguarding Adults](#)

LSCB [Safeguarding Children](#)

Crime Prevention and Community Safety [Crime Prevention and Community Safety](#)

Youth offending [Youth Offending Service](#)

Anti-Social behaviour [Anti-social Behaviour](#)

Trading standards rogue traders [Trading Standards](#)

Children and Young People [Children and Young Peoples plan 2018-2021](#)

Reoffending Strategy [reoffending strategy avon and somerset PCC](#)

Bath & NE Somerset Youth Justice Plan [youth justice plan](#)

Anti-slavery partnership [Anti Slavery Partnership](#)

[Health and Wellbeing Strategy 2015-19](#)

[Child Sexual Exploitation Strategy](#)

Early Help Strategy [Early Help Services](#)

Prevent [Counter-terrorism strategy 2018](#)

Crowded Places [crowded places uk](#)

CTE PDS Panel Scrutiny Enquiry Day [Community Safety Inquiry Day 2018](#)