



## DOCUMENT DETAILS

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## I. INTRODUCTION AND CONTEXT

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### I.1 BACKGROUND

The Strategic Assessment is produced annually, and forms part of the partnership problem solving process. The Strategic Assessments produced in 2010 adopted a 'problem oriented approach' as pioneered by the Jill Dando Institute of Crime Science. This placed a greater focus on an understanding of the problems, rather than the symptoms and consequences. This also resulted in a more strategic approach to priority setting and as a consequence it is not necessary to repeat the Strategic Assessments in as much detail during 2011. Therefore this 2011 Strategic Assessment should be viewed as a 'companion' to the 2010 document.

The aim of this Strategic Assessment is to provide Tamworth Community Safety Partnership (CSP) with a review of their current 2011/12 community safety priorities. This will enable them to determine whether they should continue as priorities, be modified or replaced during the next financial year. This report will also consider any new or emerging trends.

The Strategic Assessment forms part of the partnership problem solving process. A problem can be identified by a recurring set of related harmful events; problem solving can not be applied to a single event, and therefore this strategic analysis is essential to understand the priority problems affecting Tamworth. Analysing the specific details of a problem can reveal the circumstances that generate the problem, and solving problems involves changing one or more of these small details.

### I.2 STRUCTURE

In order to provide a holistic representation of problems across the borough, the Strategic Assessment draws on a wide range of data that is shared across the partnership. The Strategic Assessment is set out in four main sections:

- Overview of Crime and Disorder in Tamworth
- Tamworth Community Safety Priorities
- Emerging Trends and Current Exceptions
- Conclusion, Summary and Recommendations for Strategic Priorities

Following the previous Strategic Assessment, Tamworth CSP has adopted the problem oriented approach to service delivery and the prioritisation of issues. The CSP community safety priorities will therefore be analysed according to this structure.

**Priority Locations:** Tackling priorities pertinent to each of the following five locality areas; Tamworth town centre, Amington, Glascoate Heath, Stonydelph and Belgrave. Emphasis on reducing alcohol related crime, violent crime, ASB, criminal damage, deliberate fires, serious acquisitive crime, and environmental issues.

**Offenders:** Young people as offenders/perpetrators and victims of crime and anti-social behaviour with emphasis on tackling violent crime, criminal damage, shoplifting and tackling substance misuse, in particular alcohol. This also includes reducing re-offending by adults and young people, with emphasis on reducing acquisitive crime and related substance misuse.

**Vulnerability:** Protecting vulnerable people, with emphasis on protecting those who are most at risk of anti-social behaviour, domestic and sexual abuse and other violent crimes.

This Strategic Assessment is the starting point of the wider partnership business planning process, ultimately informing local partnership action plans, which are reviewed and updated on a continual basis.

## 2. KEY FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

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### 2.1 KEY FINDINGS

- All crime recorded in Tamworth has decreased by 15% during 2010/11. Although some neighbourhood areas have recorded an increase in crime, this generally relates to small numbers and no further hotspot areas have been identified as requiring a strategic focus.
- Overall violent crime has reduced by 10% during 2010/11, although the current rate is above the county rate.
- The severity of violence in Tamworth town centre has reduced, with just 37% resulting in injury, compared to 41% across the borough as a whole (the lowest rate recorded across Staffordshire).
- Around 8% of residents of Tamworth feel that the level of ASB in their local area has increased over the last 12 months, although this is significantly lower than the rate recorded countywide.
- The top issues raised for local community problems are nuisance neighbours, street gangs, parking, drug issues, street drinking and mini-motorbikes.
- In summary, adults most likely to re-offend in Tamworth are male, aged 18 to 25 years old, on licence, with needs identified in relation to employment, financial management and drugs. They live in the most deprived areas and areas to record the highest rates of crime.
- The top hotspots for adult offenders in Tamworth are in Amington, Glascote, Belgrave, Stonydelph, Bolehall and Leyfields.
- Just over 1 in 5 young people committing shoplifting offences live in areas described as 'vulnerable young parents needing substantial state support'.
- A significant proportion of crime committed by young offenders occurs within the town centre and Ventura Retail Park, although no young offenders live within these areas. Young offenders live across most areas of Tamworth, with the highest concentrations recorded in Bolehall, Belgrave, Amington, Glascote, Stonydelph and Leyfields.
- Reported domestic violence increased by 144 offences during 2010/11, and long term trends are up, with the number of reported crimes increasing by 60% over the past four years.
- The most over-represented, and largest group of domestic violence victims in Tamworth is 'families in low-rise social housing with high levels of benefit need'.

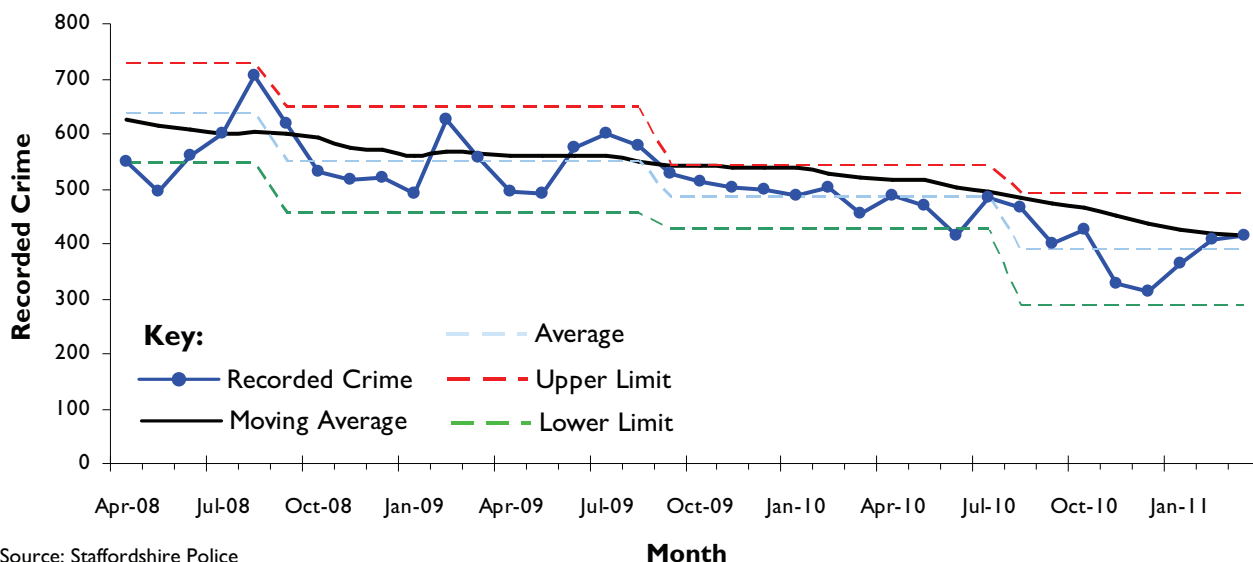
### 2.2 SUMMARY OF RECOMMENDATIONS

- It is recommended that a locality focus remains on the top five areas identified in this section. Considerable improvements have been recorded across all of these areas, however they remain as the top hotspots for crime, anti-social behaviour, substance misuse and offending within Tamworth borough. Although some neighbourhood areas have recorded an increase in crime, this generally relates to small numbers and no further hotspot areas have been identified as requiring a strategic focus.
- It is recommended that reducing re-offending continues to be prioritised in Tamworth and is tackled through a partnership approach to Integrated Offender Management. This would provide an opportunity to reduce rates of adult re-offending which have remained fairly static over the last 18 months. In Tamworth there are clear links between high rates of re-offending and offender need in relation to drugs, employment and finance. There has also been a slight increase in the number of young people committing crime for the first time, particularly violent crimes.
- It is recommended that the most vulnerable residents and communities in Tamworth continue to be prioritised, with a particular emphasis on tackling domestic and sexual abuse and repeat victims of anti-social behaviour. A large proportion of domestic violence victims live in areas described as 'families in low-rise social housing with high levels of benefit need' and understanding how to engage with these communities most effectively can help to reduce under-reporting and signpost victims (and those at risk) towards the most appropriate support services available.

### 3. OVERVIEW OF CRIME & DISORDER IN TAMWORTH

During 2010/11 there were 5,061 crimes recorded in Tamworth, equal to a rate of 67 crimes per 1,000 population. This is a reduction of 860 crimes (15%) compared with the previous year and 30% lower than the number recorded during 2007/08. The direction of travel (as demonstrated in figure 1) shows a clear downward trend from March 2008, with a current average of approximately 390 crimes per month.

Figure 1 - Long-term trend of crime recorded in Tamworth, April 2008 to March 2011



Source: Staffordshire Police

There have also been considerable reductions in reported incidents of anti-social behaviour (ASB). During 2010/11 there were 2,868 reported incidents of ASB in Tamworth, equal to a rate of 38 per 1,000 population. This represents a 24% reduction (or 901 fewer incidents) on the previous year, and a 39% reduction over four years. However, the borough rate is above the current county rate of 32.3 incidents per 1,000. In many instances, incidents of rowdy and inconsiderate behaviour have reduced, whilst other types of ASB have increased. A consideration may be that increased accuracy is correctly classifying incidents which may previously have been recorded under the 'catch all' category of rowdy and inconsiderate behaviour.

Overall violent crime has reduced by 10% during 2010/11 in Tamworth, although the current rate is approximately 20 crimes per 1,000 population; 38% higher than the county rate (14.5 crimes per 1,000). The severity ratio of violent crime (the proportion that involves injury or serious injury) has reduced in Tamworth, falling from 45% in 2009/10 to 42% in 2010/11.

During 2010/11 a third of all violent crime was recorded as being domestic related, a fifth profiled as alcohol related (where the offender is profiled as being under the influence), and just over 1 in 10 recorded as both alcohol and domestic related. Although this represents an increase from the previous year (3%), it is still considerably lower than may be expected, and infers a significant level of under-reporting which still needs to be improved to fully understand the impact of alcohol on this type of offence.

Serious acquisitive crime has reduced by 26% across Tamworth during 2010/11 and has more than halved over the past four years. There have been large reductions in vehicle crime, with more modest reductions in burglary offences, although long-term trends are clearly down. Criminal damage offences have also experienced large reductions in recent years, falling by 32% since 2007/08 and by 16% in the last year alone.



## 4. TAMWORTH COMMUNITY SAFETY PRIORITIES

### 4.1 PRIORITY LOCATIONS

The first priority for community safety in Tamworth is tackling priorities pertinent to each of the following locality areas; Tamworth town centre, Amington, Glascote Heath, Stonydelph and Belgrave, with emphasis on reducing alcohol related crime, violent crime, ASB, criminal damage, deliberate fires, serious acquisitive crime, and environmental issues. This section will explore these priority locations, as identified by Tamworth following the 2010 Strategic Assessment process. It will identify changes in community safety problems during 2010/11, with a particular emphasis on priority issues for the borough, and make recommendations based on these findings.

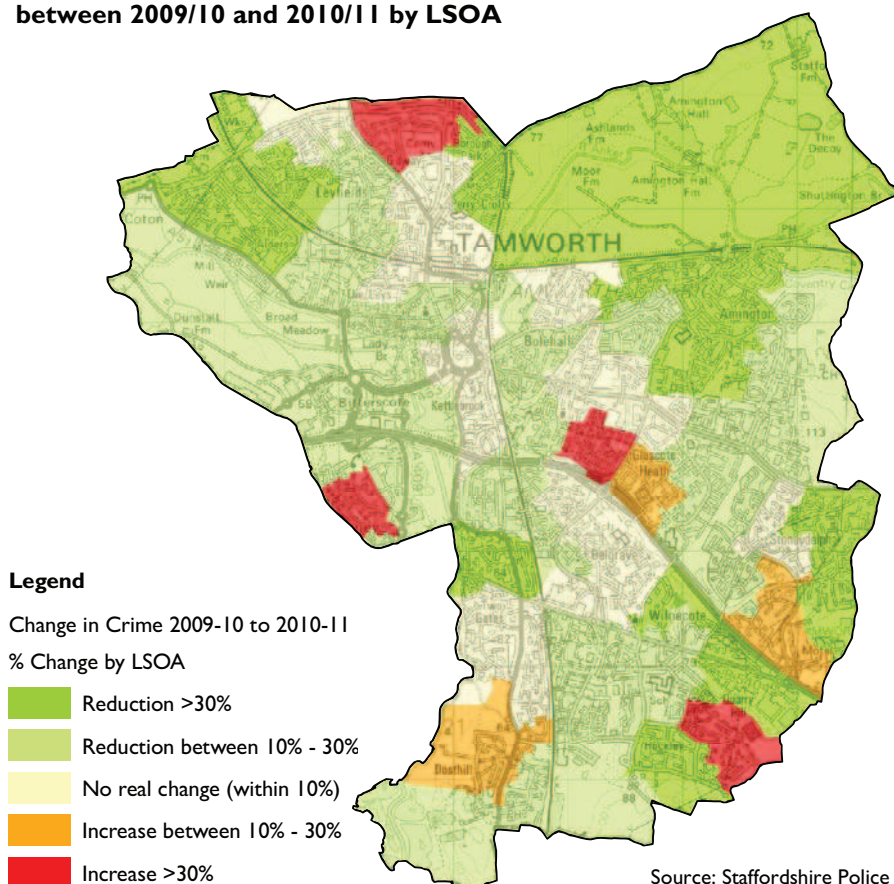
It is recommended that a locality focus remains on the top five areas identified in this section. Considerable improvements have been recorded across all of these areas, however they remain as the top hotspots for crime, anti-social behaviour, substance misuse and offending within Tamworth borough. Although some neighbourhood areas have recorded an increase in crime, this generally relates to small numbers and no further hotspot areas have been identified as requiring a strategic focus.

#### Change in Crime by Neighbourhood

Although there has been an overall reduction in recorded crime across Tamworth, this varies at a local level. The map in figure 2, below, shows that the majority of areas have recorded a fairly constant level of crime between 2009/10 and 2010/11. However, a small number of areas (seven in total) have recorded an increase in offences.

The biggest proportionate increase in crime has been recorded in the Leyland Road area of Glascote. There were 38 crimes recorded in this area during 2010/11 compared with 23 in the previous year; an increase of 65%. Despite this increase, the number of recorded offences is

**Figure 2 - Change in the level of crime recorded in Tamworth between 2009/10 and 2010/11 by LSOA**



relatively low and there are no significant patterns in the types of crime recorded. The second biggest increase was recorded in the Perry Crofts area of North Tamworth. There were 69 offences recorded in this area during 2010/11, a 57% increase on the 44 crimes recorded in the previous year. Crime in this area has mostly occurred around Queensway, Cedar Drive and Cherry Tree, where the majority of offences were violent crimes and criminal damage.

There have also been increases in the Goldcrest Road area of Hockley (32 crimes, up from 22) and Fazeley Road estate (23 crimes, up from 16).

### Priority Neighbourhoods

During 2010/11 there were 392 crimes recorded in **Tamworth town centre**, which represents a 15% reduction from 2009/10. During 2009/10 there were an additional 140 offences recorded relating to trafficking of controlled drugs, following a proactive operation in the town centre to target the handling of illegal substances. If these additional offences were to be removed from the 2009/10 total, there would be a reduction of approximately 5% during 2010/11, which was lower than that experienced across the borough as a whole (15%).

There were nominal changes in serious acquisitive crime, shoplifting and criminal damage offences, however there was a 19% reduction in the number of violent offences recorded, or 75 crimes. The severity of violence in the town centre has reduced, with 37% resulting in injury, compared to 41% across the borough as a whole (which is the lowest rate recorded across Staffordshire). The number of serious violent offences has reduced from 18 to 11 crimes (a 39% reduction) and the number of offences that were domestic in nature has remained stable.

There has also been a considerable reduction in the number of ASB incidents recorded in the town centre. Overall reported incidents have reduced by over a fifth, from 497 in 2009/10, to 392 in 2010/11. This has been driven by a reduction in reports of rowdy and inconsiderate behaviour, which have reduced by almost a quarter in the past year, whilst ASB street drinking has almost halved.

In **Amington**, crime has reduced by more than a third, falling from 767 in 2009/10 to 510 during 2010/11. Serious acquisitive crime reduced by almost half, criminal damage offences by a third and violent crime has decreased by 27%. These are considerably higher than reductions observed across the borough as a whole. The highest concentrations of crime are still located in the area of Kerria Road and adjoining streets, with smaller hotspots around the Abelia and Woodhouse High School areas.

Both violence with injury, and other violence have experienced reductions, most notably in terms of serious violent crimes, which fell from 10 crimes to four during 2010/11. The number of domestic violence offences in the area did not change, which means that the proportion of all violence identified as being domestic increased to 28%. Just 14% of all violent crime in Amington was profiled as being alcohol related, compared with 20% across the whole of Tamworth.

There has also been a considerable reduction in the level of ASB in the Amington area, with reported incidents falling from 579 in 2009/10, to 346 during 2010/11, a reduction of 40%. There were 134 fewer incidents of rowdy and inconsiderate behaviour reported, and 85 fewer reports of nuisance vehicles (a reduction of 78%).

Within **Glascote**, the highest concentrations of crime are still in the Chapelon, Dunedin, Farringdon and Gresley, and Ivatt Maitland and Bancroft areas. During 2010/11, there were 342 crimes recorded in Glascote, a reduction of 11% on the previous year's total of 386 crimes. The most notable reduction was in serious acquisitive crime which reduced by over a half. Violent crime also reduced, with no serious violent offences being recorded in the area during 2010/11. The proportion of violent crime that was domestic in nature also increased to 32%, and as these crimes are subject to proactive efforts to increase reporting, this increase could be viewed as a success. However, almost a quarter of all violent crime in Glascote was profiled as being alcohol related.



There was an increase in recorded criminal damage offences, which rose from 90 offences, to 106 over the course of the year. This increase has been most predominant on Ivatt, where the number of damage offences has more than doubled from eight to 17 offences. Criminal damage in this area is a mix of damage to dwellings and vehicles. Despite an increase in damage, there has been a small reduction in reported incidents of ASB in the Glascote area, with reports of nuisance vehicles falling from 26 in 2009/10, to nine in 2010/11.

Within **Stonydelph** the highest concentrations of crime remain clustered around Edale, Ellerbeck and Camhouses. Stonydelph has experienced a 10% reduction in crime during 2010/11, although there is variation between crime categories. Serious acquisitive crime has experienced a reduction of almost 40%, largely through a reduction in vehicle crime, but also a reduction in domestic burglaries. There have been slight increases in the numbers of criminal damage and violent offences, however serious violent crime has reduced by a half during 2010/11, from 12 offences in 2009/10, to six. Just over 16% of violent crime in Stonydelph was recorded as being alcohol related.

There has also been a reduction in the number of reported incidents of ASB in the area, with a 22% fall in the number of incidents of rowdy and inconsiderate behaviour being reported, driving a 17% reduction (or 80 fewer incidents) throughout the year.

In the **Belgrave** area of Tamworth, there has been a reduction in crime of 5%, or nine fewer crimes. However, there has been some variation in the types of crime occurring in the area. Overall violent crime has remained relatively unchanged in the area, although the severity of offences appears to have reduced. Violent crime with injury has decreased by 36% (to 14 crimes), while other violent offences, not involving any injury, have increased from 20 offences to 35. Criminal damage and serious acquisitive crimes have experienced reductions of 17% and 14% respectively. However, whilst burglary in a dwelling has reduced, burglary in a building other than a dwelling has increased by 6 offences. Within Belgrave the highest concentrations of crime remain around Medway, Irwell, Kennet, Hayle, Honeybourne and Hamble locations.

There has also been a reduction in reported incidents of ASB, with 24 fewer incidents (a reduction of 13%) in the Belgrave area. However, this reduction is less than that achieved across the whole of the borough.

### Neighbourhood Perceptions

Around 8% of residents of Tamworth feel that the level of ASB in their local area has increased over the last 12 months, although this is significantly lower than the rate recorded countywide (12%). The majority of residents who feel it has increased have seen a change in ASB in their local area (for example 'slightly more people hanging about' and 'it's getting worse here'). 45% of residents make reference to young people being behind an increase in ASB ('a lot of youths being a nuisance and anti-social in the area') and 11% feel that misuse of alcohol is behind the increase ('youths by bus shelter, more drinking and vandalism' and 'kids drunk and rowdy').<sup>1</sup>

During 2010/11 just over 1,600 residents of Tamworth were asked to identify their top community safety issue in their local area. Reassuringly, over half (54%) said that there were no issues to report; the same proportion reported in the previous year. Out of the 741 residents who did identify a problem in their local area, the top issues raised were nuisance neighbours, street gangs<sup>2</sup>, parking, drug issues, street drinking and mini-motorbikes.

<sup>1</sup> Source: Staffordshire Police Feeling the Difference survey, Waves 8 to 11 combined. Quotes are taken from free-text responses asking why respondents chose their answer to the question 'to what extent has the level of ASB in your local area changed over the last 12 months?'.  
<sup>2</sup> The term 'street gangs' should be interpreted with caution and is most likely to represent the presence of groups of young people.

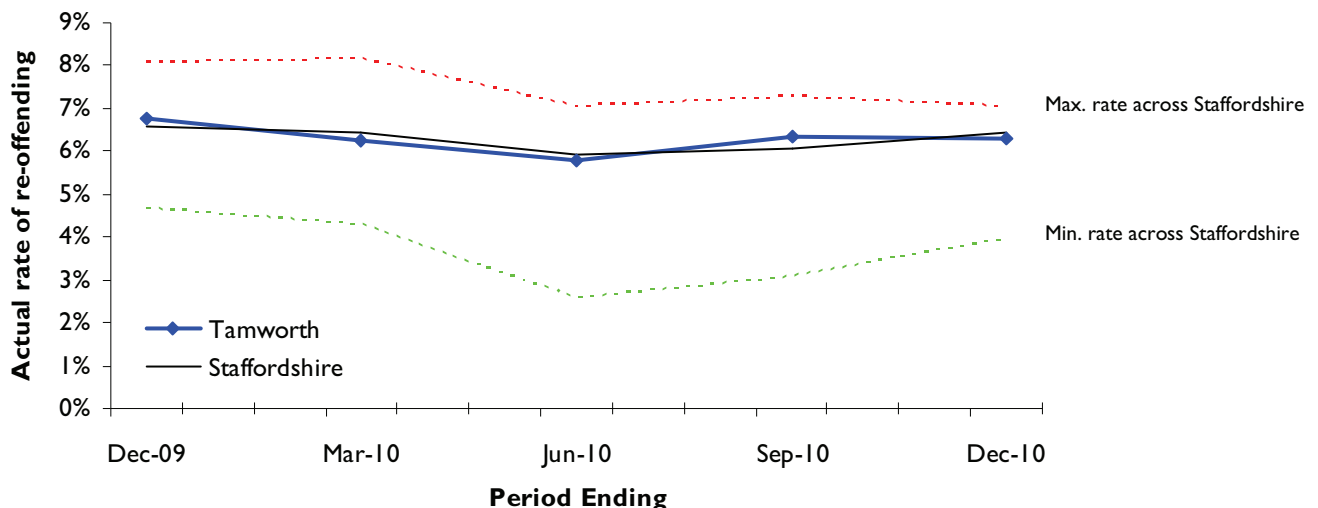
## 4.2 OFFENDING

The third priority for community safety in Tamworth is to reduce re-offending of adults and young people. This will be achieved through an integrated approach to offender management, driven by a strong partnership focus. In order to achieve sustainable reductions in re-offending of both adults and young people, it is important to focus on the demographic and lifestyle risk factors that are most strongly associated with repeat offending.

It is recommended that reducing re-offending continues to be prioritised in Tamworth and is tackled through a partnership approach to Integrated Offender Management. This would provide an opportunity to reduce rates of adult re-offending which have remained fairly static over the last 18 months. In Tamworth there are clear links between high rates of re-offending and offender need in relation to drugs, employment and finance. There has also been a slight increase in the number of young people committing crime for the first time, particularly violent crimes.

The levels of adult re-offending in Tamworth have remained fairly constant over the last 12 months, with the latest results showing a re-offending rate of **6.3%** (27% below the predicted rate for the same period). The graph below shows that this rate is in-line with the Staffordshire average, which is performing well when compared with other areas across both the West Midlands and nationally.

**Figure 3 - Adult re-offending rates in Tamworth to December 2010**



Source: Ministry of Justice and NOMS West Midlands

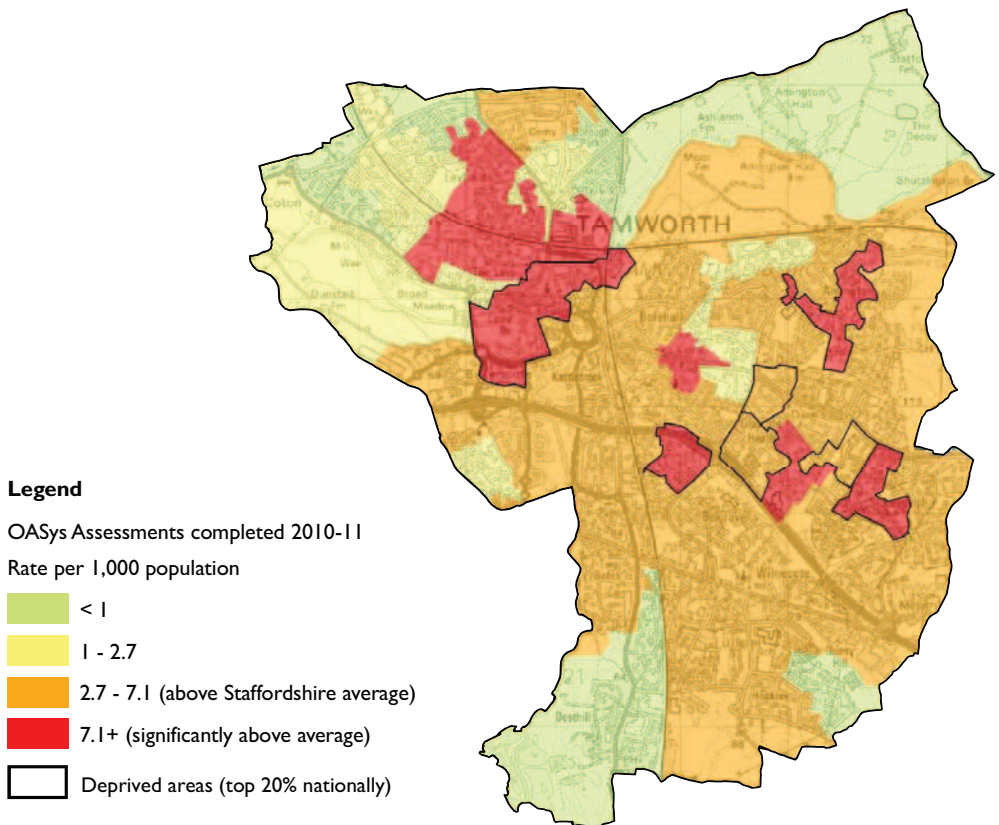
The level of youth re-offending in Tamworth is slightly above the Staffordshire average, although the low number of young offenders within the cohort mean that this difference is not significant. There were 32 young offenders from Tamworth included within the youth re-offending cohort tracked during 2010/11, 11 of which (34%) went on to re-offend within nine months (compared with 31% across Staffordshire county).

### Adult Offenders

There are some strong correlations between certain demographic characteristics and needs of offenders and rates of re-offending. In summary, adults most likely to re-offend in Tamworth are:

- Male, aged 18 to 25 years old
- On licence
- Needs identified in relation to employment, financial management and drugs
- Committing acquisitive crimes, criminal damage and breach of orders
- Living in the most deprived areas and the areas to record the highest rates of crime
- Living in areas described as 'lower income workers in urban terraces in often diverse areas' and 'residents with sufficient incomes in right-to-buy social houses'.

**Figure 4 - Hotspots of adult offenders in Tamworth (OASys assessments completed 2010/11)**



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 Data source: NOMS West Midlands and CLG Indices of Deprivation 2010

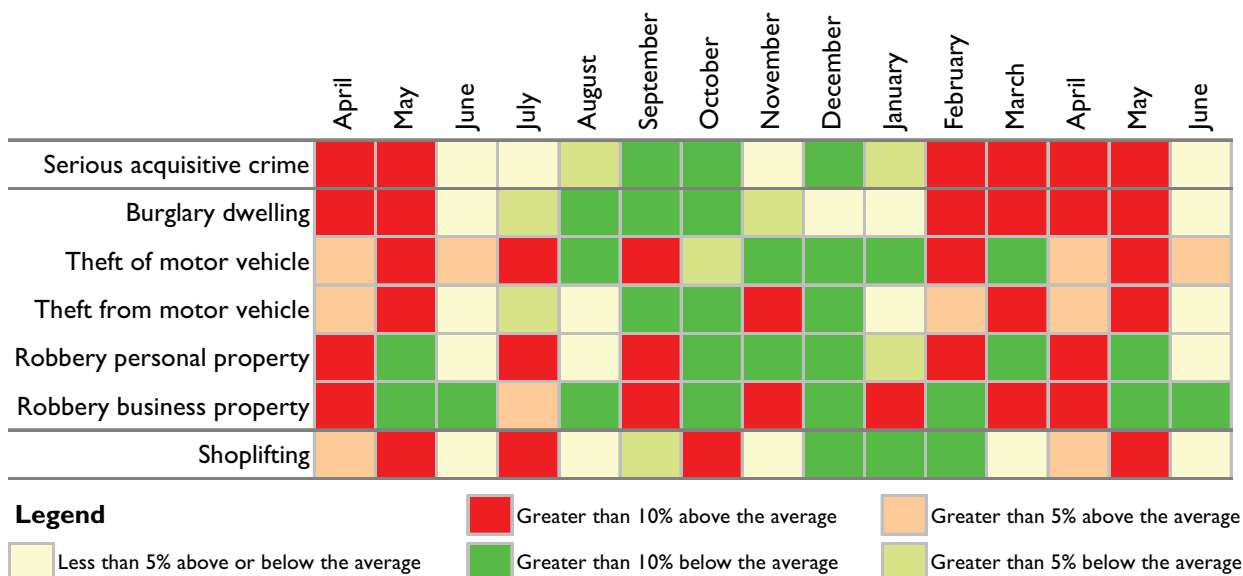
The top hotspots for adult offenders in Tamworth are in Amington, Glascote, Belgrave, Stonydelph, Bolehall, town centre and Leyfields. Many of these areas are within the top 20% most deprived areas in England and are also the hotspots for young offenders receiving a substantive outcome during 2010/11. This suggests a correlation between levels of deprivation and offending behaviour and also the increased likelihood of offending within generations of families.

The identified ‘needs’ of adult offenders in Tamworth are in-line with those observed countywide, with the highest proportion of offenders having needs in relation to thinking and behaviour (92%), followed by lifestyle and associates (57%), alcohol misuse (52%) and attitudes (46%).

Rates of re-offending are highest for adult offenders with need in relation to employment (12.1%), financial management (11.5%) and drugs (10.9%) - all above the overall adult re-offending rate in Tamworth of 6.3%. Offenders with other needs all record a rate of re-offending that is below the borough average.

Re-offending rates for both adults and young people are highest for those committing acquisitive crimes, particularly those within the definition of ‘serious acquisitive crime’ (burglary of dwellings, theft off/from motor vehicles and robbery) and shoplifting. The number of serious acquisitive crimes recorded in Tamworth has decreased significantly over the last 12 months and the 604 crimes recorded during 2010/11 is less than half the total recorded three years previously. Despite this reduction, the number of serious acquisitive crimes recorded in Tamworth is still slightly above the county average. The following table shows the peak months for acquisitive crime in Tamworth, based on analysis of crime recorded over the last three years.

**Figure 5 - Seasonality of serious acquisitive crime in Tamworth**



Source: Staffordshire Police

### Young Offenders

The number of first time entrants (FTEs) to the Youth Justice System has remained fairly constant over the last three years, with 51 FTEs recorded in Tamworth during 2010/11. However, when measured relative to the number of young people within the borough, this is the highest rate recorded across Staffordshire; 647 per 100,000 10 to 17 year olds compared with 535 countywide. Just over two-thirds of FTEs are male, with a peak age of between 16 and 17 years old. These young offenders also live within the hotspots identified for adult offenders.

The types of crime committed by FTEs has remained generally unchanged over the last two years, however there has been an increase in the number of young people committing a violent crime as their first offence. During 2010/11, violent crimes accounted for 59% of all those committed by FTEs in Tamworth, an increase from 40% in the previous year. Over half of all young offenders committing a violent crime in Tamworth were male and aged either 16 or 17 years old. Just over 46% of these young offenders have issues with their education (either statutory or further) that has some association with their offending behaviour and a quarter have issues in relation to substance misuse (drugs and/or alcohol).

Young people aged between 10 and 17 years old account for 19% of all offenders suspected or accused of committing crime in Tamworth. However, this figure increases to 30% of the total for those committing criminal damage. The number of young people committing criminal damage has decreased by 23% during 2010/11, although there are still significant hotspots within priority neighbourhoods; specifically the town centre, Amington, Glascote, Stonydelph and Belgrave. Young people responsible for committing criminal damage in Tamworth are most likely to live in Amington, Bolehall and Belgrave (although this is only based on the young people who have been arrested or charged by the police).

Almost 24% of all offenders responsible for shoplifting in Tamworth are below the age of 18 years old. Although the vast majority of shoplifting offences occur within the town centre and Ventura Retail Park, young offenders responsible for shoplifting live across all parts of the borough with no specific hotspots. A third of all young offenders committing shoplifting are male aged 16 or 17 years old, although there is also a peak in female offenders aged 14 to 16 years old (30% of the total). Just over 8% of offenders were described as being 'White - South European' and most offenders of this ethnicity were female.



Just over 1 in 5 young people committing shoplifting offences live in areas described as ‘vulnerable young parents needing substantial state support’ (a sub-set of Group O):



Source: Experian, Mosaic Public Sector

**Key features:**

- Vulnerable households
- Unemployment
- Single parents
- Young people
- Bus travel
- Alcohol and tobacco use
- Purchase second hand goods
- Watch TV

**Communication preferences:**

**Access information**

- SMS text, face to face, national papers
- Not internet or magazines

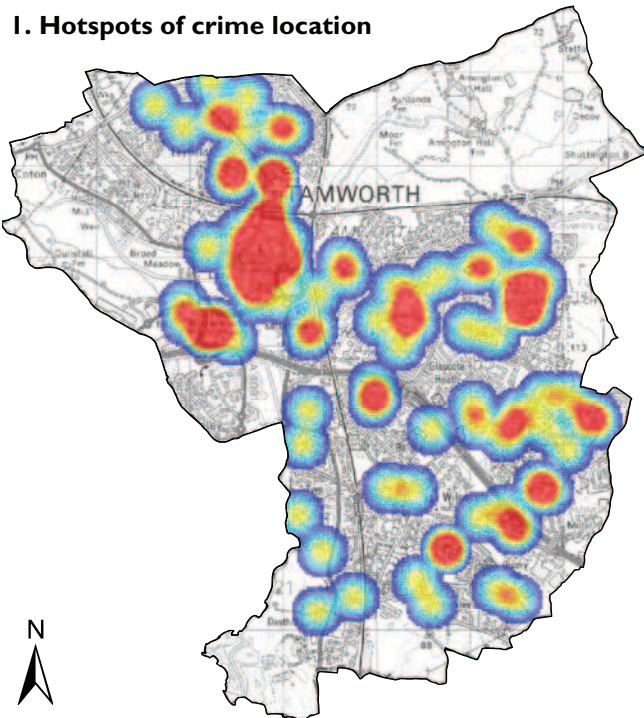
**Service Channels**

- Face to face
- Not internet, telephone/mobile or post.

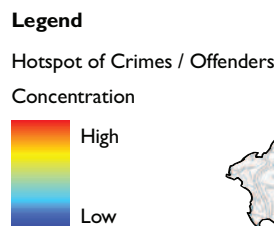
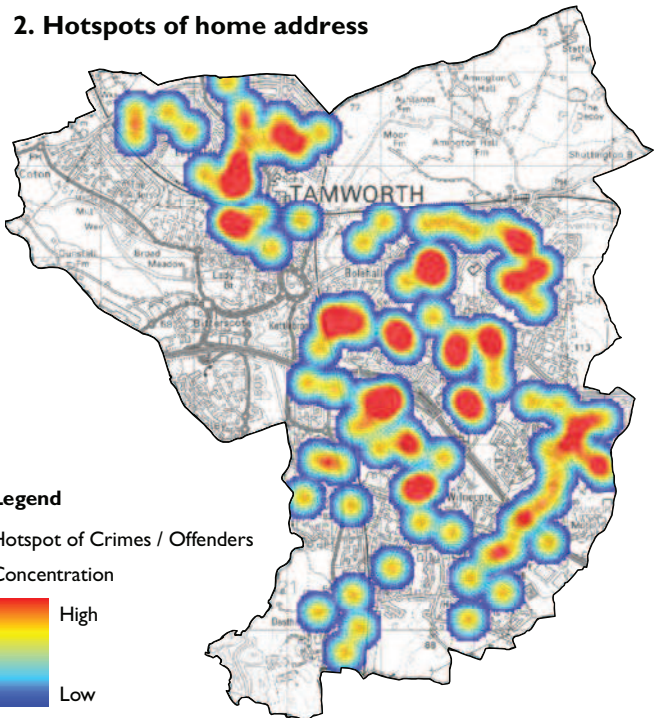
The following maps show the hotspots for all crime committed by young offenders (where the offender suspected or accused of committing a crime is below 18 years old). The first map shows the hotspots based on where the crime occurred and the second map shows the hotspots of where these young offenders live within the borough.

**Figure 6 - Young People (<18 years) suspected or accused of committing crime in Tamworth 2010/11**

**1. Hotspots of crime location**



**2. Hotspots of home address**



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A significant proportion of crime committed by young offenders occurs within the town centre and Ventura Retail Park, although no young offenders live within these areas. Young offenders live across most areas of Tamworth, with the highest concentrations recorded in Bolehall, Belgrave, Amington, Glascote, Stonydelph and Leyfields.

The identified needs of young offenders in Tamworth are generally in-line with those recorded across Staffordshire. Compared with the county average there are a slightly higher proportion of young offenders assessed as having emotional and mental health issues (65% of young offenders) and substance misuse issues (63%) that show some association with their offending behaviour, although this is not significantly higher than the proportions recorded across Staffordshire (both 60% of the total).



## Alcohol Misuse

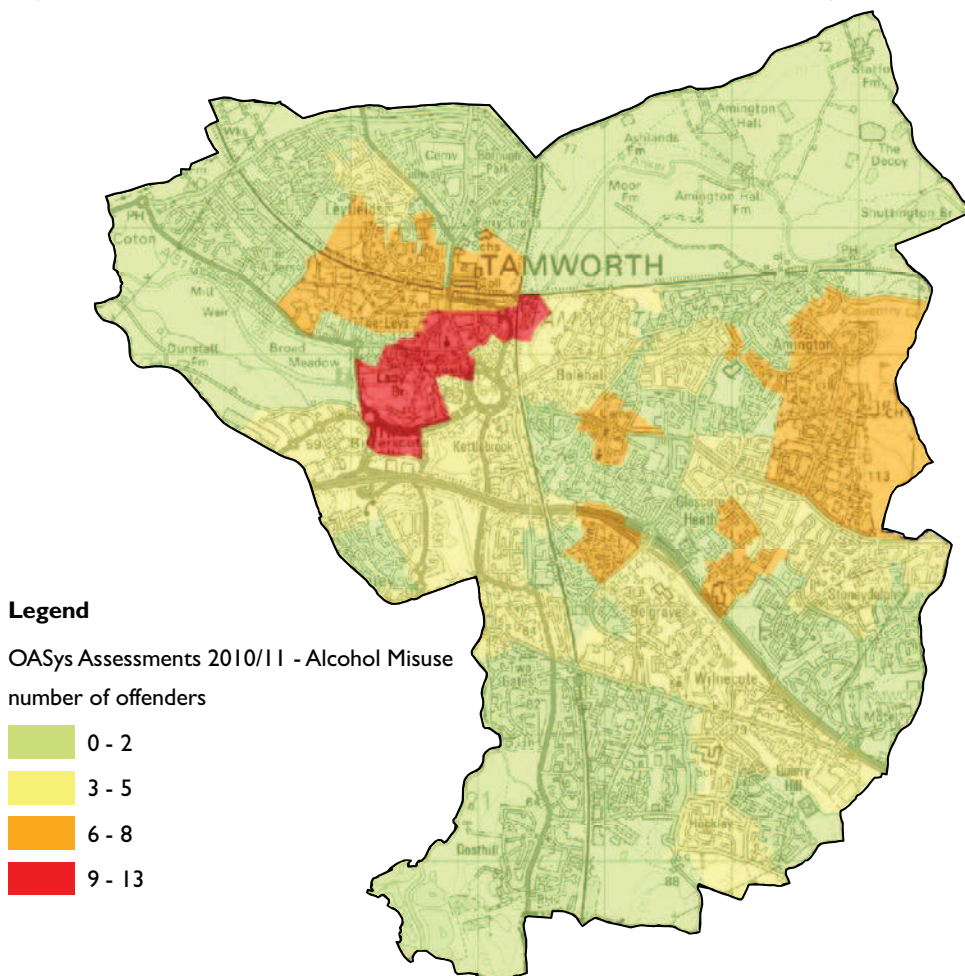
Alcohol is a clear motivational factor in offending, with 53% of adult offenders having need in relation to alcohol misuse. Offenders committing motoring offences are most likely to have issues with alcohol misuse (82% of offenders), followed by offenders committing criminal damage (81%), violence against the person (67%) and robbery (67%). Tackling alcohol misuse and therefore reducing the likelihood of re-offending is likely to have the greatest impact on these offence types.

Almost a third of all offenders with need in relation to alcohol were male and aged between 18 and 25 years old. Just over 10% of adult offenders with alcohol needs had a 'high' or 'very high' risk of re-offending in relation to violent crimes, compared with 6% of all offenders. This infers that offenders with alcohol misuse issues are more likely to go on to commit further violent crimes than other offenders.

The map in figure 7 (below) shows where all offenders with alcohol needs live, with the biggest hotspots located in Tamworth town centre, Amington, Glasgote Heath, Belgrave, Bolehall and Leyfields (north of the town centre).

Alcohol related violent crime has increased by 5% during 2010/11 and now features in a fifth of recorded violent crimes. Outside of Tamworth town centre, the top hotspots for alcohol related crime are in Amington, Stonydelph and Leyfields, all of which feature as hotspots for offenders with alcohol misuse needs. These areas are also home to a number of young people accessing treatment services for substance misuse, with six out of the eight young people living in these three areas.

**Figure 7 - Adult offenders with need in relation to alcohol misuse (OASys Assessments completed 2010/11)**



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### 4.3 VULNERABILITY

A further priority for community safety in Tamworth is protecting vulnerable people, with emphasis on protecting those who are most vulnerable, including victims of anti-social behaviour, domestic abuse and sexual offences, and other violent crimes.

It is recommended that the most vulnerable residents and communities in Tamworth continue to be prioritised, with a particular emphasis on tackling domestic and sexual abuse and repeat victims of anti-social behaviour. A large proportion of domestic violence victims live in areas described as 'families in low-rise social housing with high levels of benefit need' and understanding how to engage with these communities most effectively can help to reduce under-reporting and signpost victims (and those at risk) towards the most appropriate support services available.

There were 3,170 known victims of crime recorded in Tamworth during 2010/11. The degree of vulnerability varies by age, with those between 15 and 49 years of age being more vulnerable than we would expect from the population, with the most disproportionate vulnerability amongst the 20 to 24 years age group.

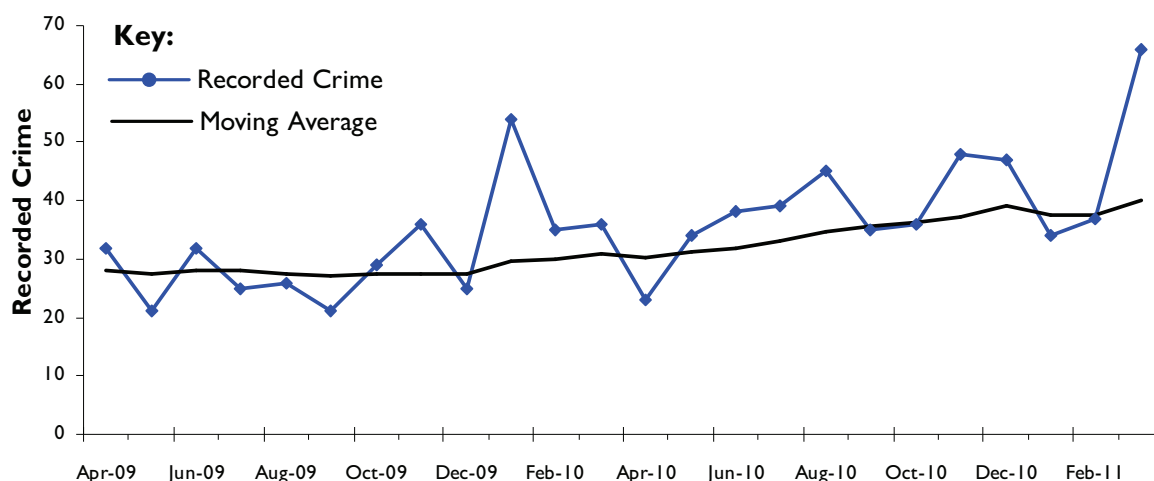
In terms of violent crime, it is males who are most vulnerable, experiencing 53% of all crime whilst accounting for 49% of the population. This is a slight change from 2009/10, where females in the borough were most vulnerable to violent crime, highlighting the potential sporadic nature of these offences. However, it is younger people of both genders, between the ages of 15 and 19 years of age, who are most at risk of violent offences. Vulnerability also changes by the nature of the offence, with males being most vulnerable to violence with injury, and for females, offences where no injury was involved.

There is a recognition that the addition of alcohol can increase a person's vulnerability to crime. During 2010/11, there were 133 crimes recorded in Tamworth where the victim was profiled as being intoxicated. Young adults (between 20 and 24 years old for males and between 25 and 29 years old for females) are most vulnerable to crime whilst under the influence of alcohol.

#### Domestic Violence

In recent years domestic violence has been the subject of much proactive activity aimed at increasing reporting of this 'hidden' crime. Reported domestic violence increased by 144 offences during 2010/11 in Tamworth, and long term trends are up, with the number of reported crimes increasing by 60% over the past four years. Domestic violence is subject to short term peaks and troughs in reporting; however the average number of crimes has increased from 28 per month in

**Figure 8 - Domestic Violence crimes recorded in Tamworth with trend (12 month moving average)**



Source: Staffordshire Police

April 2009 to 40 per month in March 2011. More than a third of all domestic violence in the district is alcohol related, inferring that this continues to be a key contributory factor with these offences.

Females are more than four times likely to be the victim of domestic violence than males, with females between the ages of 20 and 28 being most vulnerable. The distribution of offences across the district suggests that a broad range of people are vulnerable to domestic violence, and whilst there are clusters of offences in the previously identified crime hotspot locations, it is evident that domestic violence occurs across all communities.

The Pathways Project is based in Lichfield and provides essential support for women and children experiencing domestic abuse in the home. As domestic violence is often a 'hidden crime', the Pathways Project can provide a valuable insight into the victims of domestic violence. During 2010/11, the project received approximately 1,700 calls, an increase of 18% from 2009/10. Of those calls where location details were recorded, almost 23% were from the Tamworth area. The available data does not enable further analysis by district, but of the calls received by the project the peak age group is 21 to 30 years.

Mosaic is a social classification tool that can provide us with an understanding of resident's socio-demographic and socio-cultural lifestyles and behaviours. Mosaic Public Sector classifies consumers by allocating them to one of seven Super-groups, 15 Groups and 69 Types. Analysis illustrates that all socio-demographic groups are represented within the victims of domestic violence, however there is significant variation between groups.

The 'treemap' in figure 9 shows the proportion of domestic violence recorded within each Mosaic Super-group in Tamworth during 2010/11. The size of each box represents the proportion of the total offences recorded, and the shading represents the difference from the population of the borough; the darker green, the greater the level of under-representation in cases of domestic violence, and the darker the red, the larger the over-representation.

**Figure 9 - Domestic Violence recorded in Tamworth by Mosaic, 2010/11**



Source: Staffordshire Police and Mosaic Public Sector (© Experian)

The most over-represented, and largest Super-group for victims of domestic violence in Tamworth is 'social housing tenants' and more specifically, Group O, 'families in low-rise social housing with high levels of benefit need'. Victims in this group make up over a fifth of victims of domestic violence, whilst constituting just 8.5% of the Tamworth population. This group contains many of the most disadvantaged people who have grown up in families that have been dependent on welfare benefits for many generations. The circumstances of these communities are so complex that they tend to be dependent on agents of the state to arrange their public service requirements, which is often done face to face. Few people have access to the internet, and they are non-receptive to telephone, mobile or direct mail communications.<sup>3</sup>

The second largest group of domestic violence victims in Tamworth is Group K, 'residents with sufficient incomes in right-to-buy social housing' within the category of 'lower income residents'. Many of these people live on former council estates where a large proportion of the properties have been purchased under the government's right to buy legislation. People in this segment feel more comfortable communicating face to face. The internet is used for shopping and entertainment, but is not necessarily seen as an appropriate tool for researching information on public services. People in this group tend to be non-receptive to mobile phone communications and direct mail.<sup>4</sup>

### **Sexual Violence**

Over the past four years, there have been sporadic changes in the levels of sexual violence reported to the police, due in part to the fact that like domestic violence, sexual offences are hidden crimes which may be subject to under reporting. According to those offences reported to the police in Tamworth during 2010/11, females were considerably more likely to be the victim of sexual violence than males (just three offences against males were recorded in 2010/11), with females between the ages of 11 and 17 most vulnerable. One in five offences was a rape offence, and almost two in five offences involved a child under the age of 16 years.

Savana, based in North Staffordshire, is a registered charity providing support for anyone who has experienced or is affected by any form of sexual violence including rape, sexual violence, domestic violence, 'honour' related violence and childhood sexual abuse. Only a small proportion of referrals to Savana were from Tamworth, however the data they collect can provide a valuable insight into the true extent of sexual violence issues across our communities.

During 2010/11, there were 796 individuals referred to Savana, an increase in referrals of 38% (or 217 referrals) on the previous year. A large proportion were repeat victims: many have been victims of abuse for several years. 8% were of Black/Minority/Ethnic origin, twice the proportion than those reporting to the police (4%). 20% stated that alcohol and drugs were a factor in the abuse, whilst a quarter stated they had some sort of disability. Of those referrals where an answer was provided, 40% had not reported the matter to the police.

The data provided by Savana also indicates that a much wider age range of victims are vulnerable to sexual violence than the police data suggests. Over 15% of referrals were under the age of 18, and more than a quarter were between the ages of 20 and 29 years, although people of all ages are demonstrated to be vulnerable.

### **Vulnerability to Anti-Social Behaviour**

Due to the way that ASB is recorded, it is not possible to identify those people who are directly vulnerable. ASB is a subjective measure, where behaviours that may be deemed as unacceptable by one person/community may be tolerated by others. However, social profiling allows us to examine the communities within which the hotspots of ASB occur.

<sup>3</sup> and <sup>4</sup> - Source: Mosaic Public Sector (© Experian) Interactive Guide



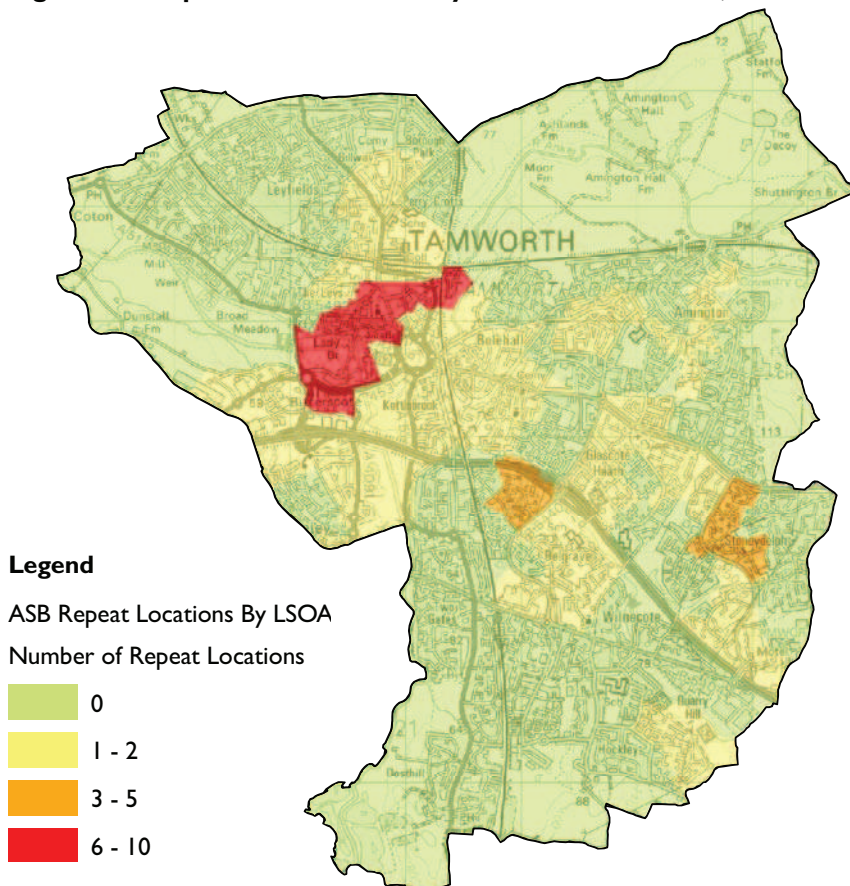
Within Tamworth, almost two-thirds of ASB incidents occur in areas described as 'lower income residents' or 'social housing tenants'. The most disproportionate levels of incidents occur in post codes profiled by Mosaic as Group O, 'families in low-rise social housing with high levels of benefit need', accounting for more than 17% of incidents whilst making up just 8% of the population. According to the British Crime Survey, people in these areas are 1.8 times more likely to be very worried about becoming a victim of crime, and are 1.7 times more likely to perceive that ASB has become a much larger problem in their area within the last two years.

The Mosaic Group N, 'young people renting flats in high density social housing' also experience a disproportionately high level of ASB in Tamworth, with 10% of all incidents reported in these postcodes, compared to under 2% of the resident population. These communities contain 'people on limited incomes mostly renting small flats from local councils or housing associations'. Typically these are young single people or young adults, but may also include older single working age people, or lone pensioners.

These neighbourhoods tend to experience relatively high levels of crime and disorder. These are neighbourhoods where it is relatively easy for groups of people to disperse through crowded thoroughfares and where people are more than twice as likely to be very worried about the effects of crime and disorder.

The map in figure 10 shows the areas of Tamworth Borough that experience the highest number of repeat locations for anti-social behaviour over the last 12 months. The highest number of repeat locations occurred within the town centre in largely commercial areas. There were also a number of repeat locations in the residential areas of Stonydelph, Glascote and Belgrave. Within these areas, between two and four locations recorded multiple incidents of ASB over the last 12 months. It is recommended further analysis is conducted in these areas to fully understand why this is so.

**Figure 10 - Repeat ASB Locations by LSOA in Tamworth, 2010/11**



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A third of repeat locations occur in areas profiled as Group O, 'families in low-rise social housing with high levels of benefit need' and 15% in postcodes profiled as Group N, 'young people renting flats in high density social housing'. These are areas which are also hotspots for crime, as identified previously.

### **Hate Crime**

Protecting people vulnerable to hate crime is a key priority for Tamworth. During 2010/11 there were 63 hate crimes recorded in Tamworth, the third highest volume in Staffordshire, but a reduction of 6% or four fewer incidents from 2009/10. The majority of these offences (83%) were race hate related, with a further nine offences transgender/homophobic. Just two offences were disability hate crimes. The majority (87%) were violence or public order offences. Where the ethnicity of the victims was known, more than half were classified as white. From the age profile of victims of hate crime, it is apparent that no one age group is particularly at risk, with the ages between 12 and 70 represented, and in terms of race and homophobic offences, males and females were equally vulnerable.

The hotspot location in the borough is the town centre, however, there are further clusters of offences in the previously identified crime and ASB hotspot areas of Amington, Glascote and Stonydelph. More than a third of hate crimes are committed against people who live in areas described as 'lower income residents', particularly Group K, 'residents with sufficient incomes in right-to-buy social housing'.

## 5. EMERGING TRENDS AND CURRENT EXCEPTIONS

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The overall trend for community safety in Tamworth is positive, with the majority of reported crimes showing a downward trend and improvements recorded in residents' perceptions. However, analysis of partnership performance has highlighted some areas of exception that may benefit from short-term interventions:

**Burglary of dwellings** - during the first four months of 2011/12 (April to July) there has been an increase of 54%, with 117 offences recorded compared with 76 during the same period in the previous year. Increases have occurred across most parts of the borough, with the largest number of offences recorded in Spital (23 offences, compared with 6 during the same period in the previous year), Stonydelph (15 offences, up from 5) and Glascote (11 offences, up from 5). Despite this considerable increase in offences, Tamworth has recorded the best detection rate for burglary dwellings across Staffordshire.

It is also important to keep track of major developments and events, both across Staffordshire and nationally, that may influence future partnership performance and/or working arrangements.

**Integrated Offender Management** - is currently being rolled out across Staffordshire, following a successful pilot across Cannock Chase, Stafford and South Staffordshire. A strategic vision for IOM in Staffordshire has been developed by the IOM Strategy Group: "Together with our partners and based on a better understanding of re-offending behaviour, we will use recognised pathways out of crime to take a problem solving approach in 'controlling' and 'changing' offenders; finding long lasting solutions and breaking the cycle of crime. Proven methods of punishment and rehabilitation will be used to repair consequences and to reduce overall levels of crime. It will keep our communities safe, whilst enabling us to reduce demand and deliver excellent, value for money services."

**Domestic Abuse** - 'Breaking the Cycle', a domestic abuse strategy for Staffordshire is currently out for consultation, and will be launched in Autumn 2011. The strategy provides a context for domestic abuse across the county and sets out how Staffordshire's Safer and Stronger Communities Strategy Group (the Partnership) intends to tackle domestic abuse in Staffordshire.

**Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC)** - The Police Reform and Social Responsibility Bill will provide that, in May 2012, 42 of the 43 Police Authorities in England and Wales will be abolished and in 41 force areas, replaced with a PCC. PCCs will not become a responsible authority on Community Safety Partnerships. There will however be a reciprocal duty for PCCs and responsible authorities to co-operate with each other and have regard to each others priorities for the purposes of reducing crime and disorder (including antisocial behaviour), reducing reoffending and reducing substance misuse. Advice from the Home Office suggests that local CSPs should be preparing for the arrival of PCCs. From an analysis and evidence perspective, this includes considering whether the partnership has evidence of the success and value for money demonstrated by existing programmes to support PCC investment decisions.<sup>5</sup>

## 6. CONCLUSION

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Other than general reductions in the overall volume of incidents recorded, the majority of key findings and recommendations made in the 2010 Strategic Assessment for Tamworth are still relevant and should continue to form the basis for community safety activity in the borough. Despite the often significant reductions in overall crime and anti-social behaviour, it is important to maintain the emphasis on community safety, both in terms of continuing to reduce the levels of crime and disorder, and in identifying and tackling any emerging issues.

<sup>5</sup> Police & Crime Commissioners - Update No. 1, July 2011 (Home Office)

**APPENDIX A - COMMUNITY SAFETY DATA MATRIX**

Issue/Problem	2007/08	2008/09	2009/10	2010/11	Annual Change	4 Year Change	Volume (% of crime)	2007/08 Rate	2010/11 Rate	County Rate	Diff from County
<b>ALL RECORDED CRIME</b>	7,187	6,723	5,921	5,061	-860	-14.5%		94.93	66.85	55.72	20%
<b>Anti-Social Behaviour</b>	4,715	4,560	3,769	2,868	-901	-23.9%		62.28	37.88	32.25	17%
<b>Violent Crime</b>	1,790	1,681	1,687	1,517	-170	-10.1%	30.0%	23.64	20.04	14.54	38%
Serious Violent Crime	75	30	65	36	-29	-44.6%	0.7%	0.99	0.48	0.53	-11%
Assault With Less Serious Injury (3 Year Change)	-	727	703	588	-115	-16.4%	11.6%	9.60	7.77	5.96	30%
Violence With Injury (3 Year Change)	-	757	768	624	-144	-18.8%	12.3%	10.00	8.24	6.64	24%
Alcohol related violence (2 Year Change)	-	-	294	308	14	4.8%	6.1%	-	4.07	2.85	43%
Domestic Violence (3 Year Change)	-	311	353	497	144	40.8%	9.8%	4.11	6.56	4.30	52%
Sexual Violence	73	99	105	80	-25	-23.8%	1.6%	0.96	1.06	0.77	37%
<b>Acquisitive Crime</b>	3,107	2,653	2,246	1,935	-311	-13.8%	38.2%	41.04	25.56	24.85	3%
Serious Acquisitive Crime	1,225	1,048	817	604	-213	-26.1%	11.9%	16.18	7.98	7.82	2%
Theft of Motor Vehicle	239	180	142	88	-54	-38%	1.7%	3.16	1.16	1.26	-8%
Theft from Motor Vehicle	516	414	310	222	-88	-28.4%	4.4%	6.82	2.93	3.55	-17%
Burglary of Dwellings (Rate Per Households)	391	374	296	245	-51	-17.2%	4.8%	13.15	8.24	6.71	23%
Burglary other Buildings	395	280	262	216	-46	-17.6%	4.3%	5.22	2.85	4.00	-29%
Robbery Personal	59	57	65	40	-25	-38.5%	0.8%	0.78	0.53	0.29	81%
Shoplifting	520	524	452	438	-14	-3.1%	8.7%	6.87	5.79	3.73	55%
Theft of pedal cycle	133	115	119	98	-21	-17.6%	1.9%	1.76	1.29	0.96	35%
Theft from Person	92	67	58	39	-19	-32.8%	0.8%	1.22	0.52	0.61	-15%
Other theft	562	470	353	442	89	25.2%	8.7%	7.42	5.84	6.58	-11%
<b>Business Crime</b>	1,004	914	695	651	-44	-6.3%	12.9%	13.26	8.60	6.43	34%
<b>Hate Crime</b>	68	70	67	63	-4	-6.0%	1.2%	0.90	0.83	0.57	45%
<b>Criminal Damage</b>	1,589	1,598	1,285	1,079	-206	-16.0%	21.3%	20.99	14.25	10.92	31%
Arson	91	65	55	56	1	1.8%	1.1%	1.20	0.74	0.47	57%
<b>First-Time Entrants to YJS (3 Year Change)</b>	-	43	48	51	3	6.3%			5.26	5.35	-2%
<b>Deliberate Ignitions</b>	374	254	307	325		5.9%		4.94	4.29	2.39	80%
<b>False alarm malicious calls</b>	22	14	15	21		40.0%		0.29	0.28	0.24	17%
<b>Dwelling fires no smoke alarm</b>	28	14	26	13		-50.0%		0.37	0.17	0.19	-7%
<b>Casualties Killed or Seriously Injured</b>	10	9	14	9		-35.7%		0.13	0.12	0.26	-54%
<b>Children Killed or Seriously Injured</b>	0	0	3	0		-100.0%		0.00	0.00	0.02	-100%
<b>Motorcycle casualties</b>	20	27	11	16		45.5%		0.26	0.21	0.34	-38%
<b>Casualties Young people 16-25 years</b>	90	47	68	66		-2.9%		1.19	0.87	1.32	-34%
<b>Drug Offences</b>	231	233	440	235	-205	-47%	4.64%	3.05	3.10	2.40	29%
<b>Drug users - Young people (new referrals)</b>	46	32	33	33	0	0%	-	0.61	0.44	0.46	-5%
<b>Street Drinking (ASB)</b>	153	80	100	86	-14	-14%	-	2.02	1.14	1.01	13%

\* Domestic Violence Figures According to 2009/10 Family member Only Definition

## APPENDIX B - KEY MOSAIC GROUPS: COMMUNICATION PREFERENCES

This section outlines the key features and general communication preferences of the Mosaic Groups identified within this analysis. There are three groups which experience above average levels of crime and vulnerability for a variety of issues, outlined below:

### Group K: Residents with sufficient incomes in right-to-buy social housing

Most likely to experience domestic violence and hate crime in Tamworth.



#### Key features:

- Council tenants
- Comfortable lifestyles
- Few qualifications
- Hard workers
- Self-reliant
- Focus on value for money

#### Communication preferences:

##### Access information

- Face to face, local papers
- Not magazines

##### Service Channels

- Face to face
- Not mobile phone or post.

### Group N: Young people renting flats in high density social housing

Most likely to experience anti-social behaviour and hate crime.



#### Key features:

- Young singles
- Low incomes
- High unemployment
- Low qualifications
- Low car ownership
- High ethnic diversity

#### Communication preferences:

##### Access information

- SMS text, national papers
- Not internet, telephone, local papers

##### Service Channels

- None significant
- Not internet, telephone/mobile or post.

### Group O: Families in low-rise social housing with high levels of benefit need

Most likely to experience domestic violence, anti-social behaviour and hate crime, and be responsible for offences of shoplifting in Tamworth.



#### Key features:

- Disadvantaged
- Low incomes
- Unemployment
- Long-term illness
- Low-rise council housing
- One parent families
- High TV watching
- Dependent of state

#### Communication preferences:

##### Access information

- Local papers, face to face
- Not internet

##### Service Channels

- Face to face
- Not internet, telephone/mobile or post.