

Community Safety Strategic Assessment Annual Refresh Report

Tamworth

2021

Produced on behalf of



and



Working in partnership with



Title	Tamworth Community Safety Partnership: Community Safety Strategic Assessment Refresh Report (2021)
Description	This Community Safety Strategic Assessment provides evidence and intelligence to inform the strategic decision-making process - helping commissioners and partners to determine the priorities that require particular attention in their local area.
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Introduction and Context

Under the Police and Justice Act 2006 (England & Wales) local authorities are duty-bound to 'provide evidence-based data to support Community Safety Partnerships (CSPs) in their planning and duties'.

Evidence-based data is required to relate to crime and disorder taking place within the local area, which includes; Recorded crime, Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB), Alcohol, Drug and Substance misuse.

It is a statutory obligation for Community Safety Partnerships to produce or procure an annual localised Strategic Assessment (SA), providing a strategic evidence base that identifies future priorities for the partnership and evaluates year on year activity. The approach and format of these is not prescribed by legislation.

SAs should be used to underpin a local area Community Safety Plan which is made publicly available through the partnership's and Commissioner's Office websites by 1st April each year. In Staffordshire agreement has been reached that Community Safety Plans will be produced three yearly and refreshed annually in line with the SA.

This SA (2021) is being produced as an annual refresh of the full three yearly assessment, produced in 2019. The next full assessment will be undertaken and published in 2022.

Coronavirus (COVID-19) Pandemic

Over the last 18 months the coronavirus (Covid-19) pandemic has had a considerable and unprecedented global and local impact; affecting the lives of everyone in the UK, including those in Staffordshire and Stoke-on-Trent.

Since the first locally recorded death from Coronavirus in March 2020, at the time of this report (October 2021) approximately 3,700 people in Staffordshire and Stoke-on-Trent have lost their lives as a result of Covid-19.

Although lockdown restrictions were lifted in July 2021 and around 78% of Staffordshire and 70% of Stoke-on-Trent residents have received two doses of a Covid vaccine¹, there is still a degree of transmission of the virus within local communities, and the wider impact of coronavirus is still being felt by many. The virus and measures to control rates of infection (such as the national lockdowns, systems to limit social contact, and the temporary closure of education settings) have had a significant impact; directly affecting individual's physical health, mental health and well-being, education and employment.

In September 2020 a survey of local residents (n=3,921) carried out by Staffordshire County Council² highlighted that more than 3-out of-5 people (63%) felt that the pandemic has had a negative impact on their life overall – with those with a disability or limiting illness, and those on furlough, being more negatively impacted than residents overall.

While Covid-19 has had a profound impact on society and local communities, the pandemic itself does not present as a single specific priority or risk to community safety; instead the impact of the pandemic has been considered and discussed where it appears as a relevant factor within other key areas of priority. As such, there is no specific priority within Community Safety Strategic Assessments relating solely to Covid-19.

Impact of pandemic on Strategic Assessments

The effective and accurate identification and assessment of Community Safety challenges and risks relies heavily on the analysis and interpretation of a considerable amount of data, which usually (as a minimum) covers the previous financial year.

In the 2020 refresh of CSSAs, the latest financial year 2019-20 included one week which was spent under full nationwide lockdown restrictions, affecting approximately 2% of all data for the year.

This has been significantly different for the 2020-21 financial year; a considerable proportion of the period has been spent under national and local lockdown restrictions, or with social distancing measures in place; by comparison, around 75% of the financial year was spent with some degree of Covid-related measures in place.

In practice this means that while rates and figures published in this assessment may show significant change in comparison to previous years statistics, it cannot be assumed that figures show improving or worsening medium or long-term trends unless this is explicitly stated in the text (having been confirmed with further insight and intelligence).

¹ UK Government Coronavirus Vaccine Statistics – as at 27th October 2021 - <https://coronavirus.data.gov.uk/details/vaccinations>

² <https://www.staffordshire.gov.uk/Coronavirus/Covid-19-residents-survey-results.aspx>

Key findings and comparison to previous (2019) assessment

Significant overall changes and findings

Restrictions imposed as part of the government approach to controlling the Coronavirus pandemic resulted in significant reductions in recorded crime and disorder at the time of the first UK Lockdown in March 2020. Many reductions which were becoming initially evident in the previous (2020) refresh, have continued during 2020-21.

The data for the period from April 2020 to March 2021 has shown significant reductions in most types of crime since the last assessment. While there appears to have been some increase in levels of crime since the end of lockdown restrictions, locally this increase seems to be happening at a slower pace than that observed nationally.

Rates of all major types of crime in Tamworth are similar to national levels, with the exception of Public Order offences, which are particularly low. Reductions in overall offending in the CSP area (-17% in 2020-21) are similar to those seen across Staffordshire and Stoke-on-Trent (-15%).

There have been reductions across all major crime types, with the exception of Violent Offences which have increased by around 6% in 2020-21 compared to the previous year. This increase appears to be driven largely by improvements in recording and visibility of Stalking & Harassment offences, which is also reflected at a national level. In the same time, there has also been an increase in violent offences without injury (such as Common Assault and Malicious Communications) – much of this appears to be domestic-related, and may be indicative of greater visibility of DA crime in Tamworth rather solely an increase in the amount of offending taking place.

There has been no significant shift in the composition of any of Safety Partnership area in Staffordshire and Stoke-on-Trent, and demographic analysis of Tamworth within the previous (2019) Strategic Assessment remains relevant.

Key changes against priorities

Community Cohesion & Tackling Extremism

- Increases in the visibility of right-wing and far-right extremism seen last year have continued through 2021.
- Community tensions during the early pandemic appear to have eased, although friction during recent fuel shortages (September 2021) suggests that there are still on-going Community Cohesion risks.
- The UK terror threat level has returned to “severe” from “substantial” following the terror incident at Liverpool Women’s Hospital (November 2021).

Domestic Abuse (DA)

- Rates of domestic-related crime have increased in 2020-21, while crime overall has reduced. This has been the case across much of the force-area, not only in Tamworth.

Public Place Violence and Serious Violence

- Public Place Violence has reduced considerably (-42%) during 2020-21, largely as a result of restrictions on access to public space and the closure of the night-time economy.
- While much other crime has reduced, Serious Violence incidents have remained consistent across the last year, and have only seen a very limited reduction in Tamworth (-4%).

Vulnerable persons (all)

- There is growing concern that the wider impact of Covid will result in considerable increases in demand relating to all major vulnerabilities (alcohol, drug and substance misuse, mental health, safeguarding)
- Analysis³ found that mental health worsened substantially (by 8.1% on average) because of the pandemic. Young adults and women – groups with worse mental health pre-pandemic – have been hit hardest.
- Claimant Counts for Stafford have increased significantly (more than doubled) during the first lockdown – and as at September 2021 remained higher than pre-pandemic (February 2020).

³ Institute of Fiscal Studies (IFS) - The mental health effects of the [first] lockdown and social distancing during the Covid-19 pandemic in the UK

New and revised recommendations

A full list of recommendations, including those still in place from the previous (2019) three-yearly full Strategic Assessment, as well as recommendations made below, can be found in Appendices A & B at the end of this report.

Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB)

[New and emerging] There should be consideration for how partnerships can support and develop a coordinated response to ASB across agencies. This should include work to develop the understanding and use of available tools and powers as part of a joint response to ASB.

Domestic Abuse (DA)

[New and emerging] Safety Partnerships should consider the implications of the Domestic Abuse Act (2021), which has provided a legal definition of Domestic Abuse, defines children who witness or experience DA as victims in their own right. The Act further adds statutory duties around the provision of support within DA-related Safe Accommodation.

Responsible authorities are required by the act to form DA Local Partnership Boards, which include oversight over support delivered within Safe Accommodation: CSPs should ensure that they engage with these accordingly.

It is essential that Safety Partnerships remain engaged with relevant pan-Staffordshire DA boards and commissioners, in order to shape how the changes introduced within the act will support local residents and their children.

County Lines

[See recommendation below relating to Vulnerable Persons]

Vulnerable Persons

Given the impact of the Coronavirus pandemic; on physical health, mental health and well-being, employment, and education – it should be considered that over the medium-term there will increases in numbers of people and families considered to be vulnerable. Partnerships must consider that this will not only increase demand on support services and partners, but also increase numbers of individuals who may be at increased risk of criminal exploitation. It is important that mechanisms to document, share, and escalate concerns around exploitation and vulnerability can cope with increased pressure.

Recommendations linked to additional considerations

Fire and Rescue:

[NEW] As Fire and Rescue Services (FARS) continue to evolve and begin to go through a period of more formal reform, Safety Partnerships should be engaged with this process and remain sighted on strategic developments within FARS and might create new opportunities across the wider pan-Staffordshire partnership.

Safer Roads:

[NEW] While roads in Staffordshire and Stoke-on-Trent are largely very safe, continuation of proactive preventative work remains key; Safety Partnerships should continue to engage with the Staffordshire Safer Roads Partnership (SSRP) around community engagement and prevention/education activity and ongoing risk assessment activity.

Partnership areas with rural road networks should consider whether there are specific communities which may benefit from being supported to engage with and volunteer as part of the Community Speed Watch scheme.

Where Safety Partnerships have concerns about road use in specific locations within their partnership area, they should engage with the SSRP to discuss whether there is a need and opportunity for targeted enforcement activity.

Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG):

[NEW] Recently published strategies from both the UK Government and Staffordshire Police have a renewed focus on tackling and ending Violence Against Women and Girls. Given the role of the wider partnership in achieving this, Safety Partnerships should remain engaged with developments in VAWG strategy, and where appropriate and relevant, should contribute to the development of any related delivery plans.

Staffordshire Commissioner's Office Priorities

It is recommended Safety Partnerships consider their approach to community safety challenges in the context of the priorities identified in the Staffordshire Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner's 2021-24 Police and Crime Plan;

A Local and Responsive Service: Understand and deal with what matters to communities, respond promptly to incidents and work with partners to solve problems and prevent them from getting worse. This will mean that crime and ASB reduces, our roads are safer and confidence in Staffordshire Police increases.

Prevent Harm and Protect People: Prevent harm and protect people (particularly children and those that are vulnerable) by ensuring they are appropriately safeguarded and receive the help and support they need.

Support Victims and Witnesses: Ensure victims and witnesses are provided with exceptional specialist support services so they feel able to cope and recover from the impact of crime and ASB.

Reduce Offending and Re-offending: Ensure people are challenged and supported to make life choices that will prevent them from offending and perpetrators don't reoffend. Doing so will mean fewer victims of crime.

A More Effective Criminal Justice System: Ensure Staffordshire Police, the Crown Prosecution Service, Courts, the National Probation Service and HM Prison Service all work seamlessly so that effective justice is delivered quickly.

The Staffordshire Commissioner's Office recommends that the approach to tackling priorities should be; *Community Focussed*, consider *Prevention and Early Intervention*, use partnership to *Solve Problems Together*, provide *Value for Money* and be *Open and Transparent*.

Summary of Local Community Safety Priorities

A review of the priorities identified and confirmed in the three-yearly full CSA has taken place, in order to identify any changing or emerging key strategic priorities and risks for the local area. These have been cross referenced against known existing local priorities and findings for the locality. Where priorities are changed or amended from the 2019 full assessment, this has been highlighted. The identified priorities are as follows;

- Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB)
- Domestic Abuse and Stalking & Harassment
- Community Cohesion & Tackling Extremism
- Car Key Burglaries and Vehicle Theft
- County Lines⁴
- Public Place Violence (including Knife Crime)
- Vulnerable Persons and Contextual Safeguarding⁵ (including Drugs)

The following are not considered a main priority for Tamworth, but they are recommended for additional consideration due to their volume, impact on communities and level of public expectation;

- Repeat and Persistent Offending

In addition, there are some challenges which, while not necessarily overly present in the partnership area, require the work of the whole partnership to address. It is important for each partnership to consider how they can contribute to the force-wide approach and strategy. These challenges are highlighted as;

- Fire and Rescue
- **[New!] Safer Roads** *[added as a consideration]*
- **[New!] Violence Against Women and Girls** *[emerging area of significant national priority]*
- Business Crime
- Modern Slavery

⁴ County Lines refers to organised drug supply and trafficking routes into and out of 'county' and rural areas from metropolitan areas.

⁵ Contextual Safeguarding regards the practice of safeguarding individuals (particularly young people) within the context of the environment and setting that they are in, particularly in environments outside of their usual family environment, such as school and public places.

People and Communities at Greatest Risk

Vulnerability is cross-cutting; many of those considered vulnerable for a range of concerns (including general safeguarding, social isolation, economic stress, and health and mental health concerns) are also additionally vulnerable to criminal exploitation and victimisation through crime and ASB.

It is considered, based on existing UK research (IFS and ONS), that the wider impact of the Coronavirus pandemic will be an increase in the numbers of vulnerable persons in the UK, rather than a dramatic shift in reasons for vulnerability. However, anecdotally, it is considered that pressures as a result of the pandemic are already being observed by front-line services, and that the needs of those who are vulnerable are becoming increasingly complex.

Those considered to be particularly vulnerable to experiencing crime, safeguarding concerns or being criminally exploited tend to be consistent over time. There is no change to these groups from the 2019 Strategic Assessment, and in high-risk groups remain as;

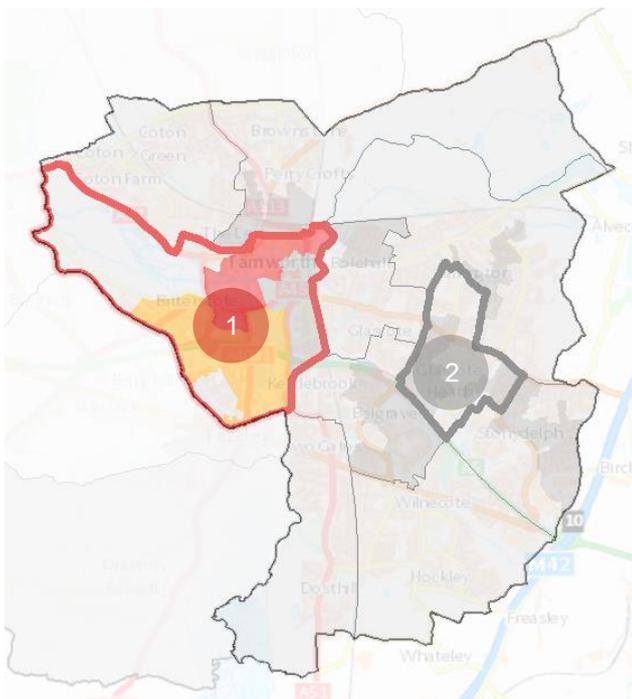
- Socially isolated individuals with mental health needs and learning difficulties
- Socially isolated adults with alcohol and/or drug dependencies
- Offenders with known drug dependencies or previous drug-related offending
- Children (under 10s) in areas with high levels of Domestic Abuse and/or drug-related offending
- Children and young people (aged 10-19) in areas of high deprivation

Those who belong to the 'Family Basics' demographic Mosaic group tend to be the most disproportionately affected by almost all aspects of crime and anti-social behaviour in Tamworth (17% of population, 30% of all victims).

These are primarily younger families (aged 25-40) with infant or primary school-aged children, living in lower-cost housing, in areas with higher levels of deprivation. Adults in these communities tend to have limited qualifications; many are employed in lower-paid and lower-skilled jobs resulting in limited financial resources and high levels of economic stress, with many requiring an element of state support, particularly through access to social housing and through universal credit.

Places at Greatest Risk

It should be noted that there has been no reassessment of high-risk localities and wards using data from the 2020-21 period, as reductions in recorded crime and disorder as a result of the Coronavirus pandemic may potentially distract from areas with long-standing challenges. Locality data will be fully re-assessed in the 2022 full Strategic Assessment.



1. Castle (Tamworth Town) (All crime and ASB) – Highest priority ward

Castle ward; above average rates of crime overall and crimes across almost all crime types (excl. Burglary). As a town-centre ward, Castle sees high levels of Theft and Shoplifting, Alcohol-related offending, ASB, and Public-place Violence. Drug Possession offences are significantly higher than force-wide levels, and some of the highest of any ward in Staffordshire and Stoke-on-Trent.

Although not flagged as a priority ward through overall offending rates or volume of incidents, the following may need consideration;

2. Glascote

The ward sees the highest level of Domestic-flagged crimes in the area, as well as a high proportion of Neighbour Dispute ASB incidents and instances of Criminal Damage. Rates of violent offences without injury and Stalking & Harassment offences are amongst the highest in the Partnership area. Glascote experiences some high levels of children's safeguarding concern; with rates of Child Protection Plans and Looked-after Children previously far higher than national levels.

Overview of Crime and Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB)

Overall rates of recorded Crime and ASB in Tamworth are the second-highest in the force-area, but are in line with the overall force-wide rate, and below the rates for the West Midlands region and England & Wales.

Rates of Vehicle Offences in Tamworth are above the force average, but are not above rates for England & Wales or the West Midlands region. Theft offences in the CSP area are slightly above the force-wide level, but well below regional and national comparators. Some Theft offences, particularly Shoplifting, have been above the force-wide level in the past, but these are now in line with national and regional levels.

Pre-pandemic, rates of crime overall in all wards were below or in line with the Staffordshire & Stoke-on-Trent level, with the exception of Castle ward (Tamworth town centre) which experiences significantly high levels of crime and disorder – which is consistent with other town/city centre wards in the force-area. This comprises largely of incidents in public spaces in the town centre, rather than residential parts of the ward.

Rates of Recorded Crime – Staffordshire Police (April 2020- March 2021)

	Rate per 1,000 residents			
	Tamworth	Staffordshire (Force Area)	West Midlands (Region)	England & Wales
Total crime (excl. fraud)	58.0	59.4	75.4	77.6
Criminal damage and arson	5.9	7.2	5.8	8.0
Robbery	0.7	0.5	1.3	1.0
Sexual offences	2.1	2.1	2.6	2.5
Theft offences	16.7	15.9	20.8	21.9
Burglary	2.6	2.8	4.7	4.5
Residential burglary	1.9	1.9	3.5	3.3
Non-residential burglary	0.7	1.0	1.2	1.2
Vehicle offences	5.4	3.4	6.1	5.7
Theft from the person	0.2	0.2	0.4	0.8
Bicycle theft	0.7	0.7	0.7	1.3
Shoplifting	3.5	3.6	3.7	3.8
All other theft offences	4.3	5.0	5.1	5.8
Violence against the person	26.7	26.9	33.7	29.9
Homicide	0.03	0.02	0.02	0.01
Death or serious injury - unlawful driving
Violence with injury	5.8	6.1	8.9	7.8
Violence without injury	10.0	9.2	12.3	11.4
Stalking and harassment	10.9	11.5	12.4	10.6
Drug offences	1.5	1.4	2.0	3.5
Possession of weapons offences	0.4	0.5	0.9	0.7
Public order offences	3.5	3.8	6.6	8.1
Miscellaneous crimes against society	0.6	1.2	1.7	1.9
Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB)	38.8	42.5	30.8	34.2

Indicates higher than force-wide rate

Community Safety Strategic Priorities

Anti-social Behaviour (ASB)

Volume and potential harm:

High volume / Moderate individual harm / Severe community harm

CSPs with priority:

Cannock Chase, East Staffordshire, Lichfield, South Staffordshire, Stafford, Staffordshire Moorlands, Stoke-on-Trent, Tamworth

Summary:

From April 2020 onwards, instances where Covid-related legislation was breached were recorded locally and nationally as a category of ASB. As a result, rates of total ASB recorded in 2020-21 were considerably higher than those seen in other years.

In Tamworth in 2020-21 there were a total of 2,980 ASB incidents recorded, equivalent to a rate of 38.8 per 1,000 residents. This is just below the force-wide rate (41.0) but higher than both regional (30.8) and national (34.2) levels.

Excluding Covid incidents from ASB, there were 1,685 incidents of what would be considered “traditional” ASB within the same time period. This is equivalent to a rate of 21.9 per 1,000 population and is a reduction of 2.7 ASB incidents per 1,000 compared to levels recorded in the 2019-20 financial year.

ASB in Tamworth remains dominated by reports of incidents of ‘Rowdy and Inconsiderate Behaviour’ (61% of ASB) and to a lesser extent ‘Neighbour Disputes’ (21% of ASB). Tamworth tends to experience slightly more ASB as a result of nuisance vehicles, compared to the force-area overall; accounting for 11% of local ASB (9% force-wide).

Similarly to crime overall, ASB tends to disproportionately affect the most deprived and disadvantaged communities, and town and city centres. Previous risk assessment concludes that repeat victims of ASB tend to experience the same levels of psychological harm as victims of less-serious violent crime.

Tamworth – ASB Incidents, three years to October 2021, Staffordshire Police:



Comparison to Force: Overall rate similar / Some ward rates high

Local rate (per 1,000 people): 21.9 (excl. Covid)

Force rate (per 1,000 people): 24.9 (excl. Covid)

Direction of travel: Decreases during period of lockdowns and Covid restrictions.

Public expectation: Moderate

Local hotspot wards:

Castle Ward: primarily Rowdy and Inconsiderate Behaviour in town centre spaces.

Glascote: average levels of ASB overall. High levels of Neighbour Disputes.

At risk groups: Deprived and disadvantaged communities – particularly those in high housing density areas and with high proportions of social housing. Town centre areas are also high risk, particularly from alcohol-related and drug-related ASB. Castle ward and Stonydelph see additional issues with ASB from Nuisance Vehicles.

Community Cohesion⁶ & Tackling Extremism

Volume and harm – Community Cohesion: Low volume / Substantial individual harm / Moderate community harm

Volume and harm – Extremism: Minimal volume / Risk of mass loss of life / Critical community harm

CSPs with priority: Cannock Chase, East Staffordshire, (Lichfield), Newcastle-under-Lyme, South Staffordshire, Stafford, (Staffordshire Moorlands), Stoke-on-Trent, Tamworth

Summary:

Nationally, levels of Hate Crime have been increasing steadily since the year of the EU referendum/Brexit (2016-17).

Locally there were around 1,535 recorded Hate Crimes in 2020-21 – with a notable spike in monthly Hate Crime in June 2020 as lockdown restrictions were eased. While the change seen in 2020-21 is a very small increase (less than +0.5%) on the previous year, it should be recognised that while crime overall has decreased by around 15%, levels of Hate Crime have remained consistent.

Local Hate Crime is dominated by offences relating to race or religion (73% of all Hate Crime) which is similar to the national picture. Locally, LGBTQ+ Hate offences accounted for 18% of Hate Crime in 2020-21, offences on the grounds of disability accounted for 9% of offences. Hate offences committed on the grounds of sexual orientation, being transgender, or having a disability have increased by more than a quarter (+26%) in the past year.

The Covid-19 pandemic has also had an effect on Community Cohesion; while the pandemic has strengthened many communities within Staffordshire and Stoke-on-Trent, with people providing support to those in their local area, it has also exacerbated and highlighted issues within a small number of more fragmented communities – with local outbreaks and compliance with government guidance proving to be a source of friction for some.

The cost of Covid-19 to society and state has been significant. Opportunities for social mixing, one of the most powerful forms of reducing prejudice and promoting empathy, have been severely limited over the last 18 months. As the full impact of the pandemic unfolds, government decision-making has the potential to affect social and political trust, which can be exploited by extremist groups.

Following the Liverpool Women's Hospital bomb in late 2021 the UK national terror threat level has increased to Severe (the second highest threat level): meaning that a future attack in the UK is considered 'highly likely'.

The terror attack on London Bridge in 2019, which was carried out by an individual from the Staffordshire force-area, highlights the need for all partners to continue to deliver against our statutory obligations to create stronger, more cohesive and safer communities. Stoke-on-Trent has been a Home Office Prevent priority area with the city council receiving additional support from the Home Office for its work to tackle to extremism.

Comparison to previous assessment:

- Increasing evidence of Extreme right-wing radicalisation through Prevent and Channel.
- Risk and concerns around Al-Qaeda/ISIL-inspired extremism remain high.
- Increase in National terror-threat level from 'Substantial' up to 'Severe'.
- Community friction around supply shortages (such as fuel shortages observed in Sept' 2021).

Local hotspots: (Where appropriate see Staffordshire Police Counter-Terror Local Profile)

Direction of travel: Growing concern

Public expectation: Critical / National expectations

At risk groups: Hate Crime offenders are predominantly young men and more likely to be under 18 than offenders overall. Female Hate Crimes offenders tend to be in the 30-39 age group. Victims are predominantly males aged over 18, and particularly those aged 30-39. Although most victims are male, there are more female victims than female offenders. Those with Asian or Black ethnicity are disproportionately likely to be victims of Hate Crime.

Based on recent Prevent referrals, those at greatest risk of being radicalised remain younger males (aged under 20 years) although a growing number are in older age groups, including those aged 50 and over. In the last year, around 1 in 25 of those referred through Prevent in Staffordshire and Stoke-on-Trent was female.

⁶ As per the Local Government Association (LGA) definition of cohesive community as one where; There is common vision and a sense of belonging for all communities; The diversity of people's different backgrounds and circumstances are appreciated and positively valued; Those from different backgrounds have similar life opportunities; and, Strong and positive relationships are being developed between people from different backgrounds in the workplace, in schools and within neighbourhoods

Domestic Abuse and Stalking & Harassment: Domestic Abuse

Volume and potential harm:

Moderate volume / Severe individual harm / Substantial community harm

CSPs with priority: All Safety Partnership Areas

Summary:

DA is any incident or pattern of incidents of controlling, coercive, threatening behaviour, violence, or abuse between those aged 16 or over who are, or have been, intimate partners or family members regardless of gender or sexuality.

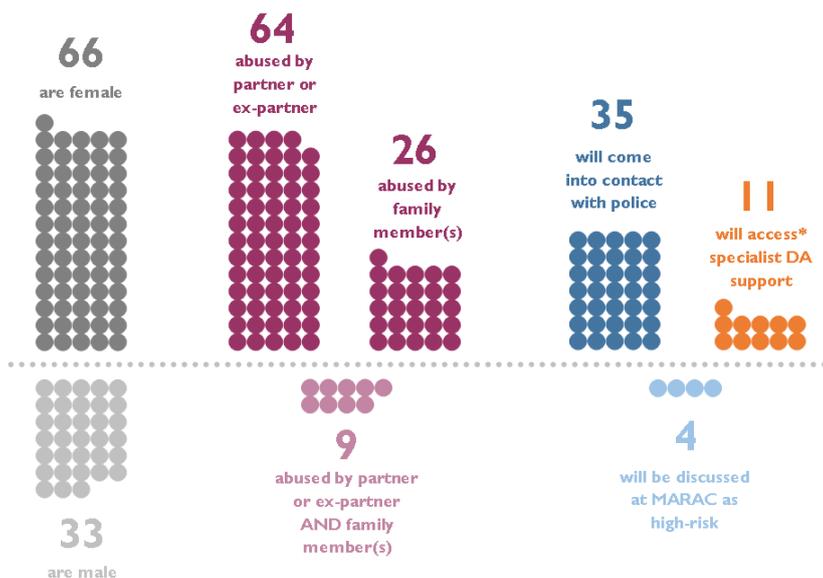
Domestic Abuse affects all communities to some extent and is not unique to any one part of Staffordshire or Stoke-on-Trent. DA presents a significant risk to victims, but also has a wider impact where children are present. With the passing of the DA Act (2021) there is now a clear legal definition of DA and the recognition of children who witness or experience such abuse as victims of DA in their own right.

In 2020-21 there were 1,370 DA-related crimes in Tamworth; equivalent to a rate of 17.8 per 1,000 population and accounting for 29% of recorded crime in the CSP area. This rate is the second highest amongst local CSP areas, although only slightly higher than the rate for the force-area (16.7).

Domestic offences in Tamworth are increasingly dominated by Violent offences (82% in 2020-21, 76% previous year), although there has been a slight reduction in the proportion which are violent offences with injury (14% compared to 19% previously). Around 30% of all DA locally are instances of Common Assault, 20% are Harassment or Malicious Communications offences, 14% are incidents of Actual Bodily Harm (Sec.47 ABH) and 11% are Stalking offences.

Not all DA offences are violent crime; around 5% are incidents of Criminal Damage, 3% are Acquisitive crimes (such as Theft) and around 2% are Sexual Offences (half of which are incidents of Rape).

Of every 100 domestic abuse victims in Staffordshire and Stoke-on-Trent (as at 2021)



Comparison to Force: Overall rate similar / One ward above average

Local rate (per 1,000 people): 17.8

Force rate (per 1,000 people): 16.7

Direction of travel: Some increases despite reductions in crime overall

Public expectation: Moderate

Local hotspot wards: Glascote - reduction since 2019, but still high pre-pandemic (17.7 per 1,000 pop.)

At risk groups: Disproportionately younger women (aged under 30), and those who live in already disadvantaged communities. However, anyone can become a victim of DA, and there are male victims in the area, and victims who are older adults. Households where there are high levels of economic stress and alcohol/drug use and dependency are at particularly high risk. Offenders are also disproportionately younger (aged under 40) and male, although there are also female offenders.

Domestic Abuse and Stalking & Harassment: Stalking & Harassment

Volume and potential harm:

Moderate volume / Substantial psychological harm

CSPs with priority: Cannock Chase, Stoke-on-Trent, Tamworth

Summary:

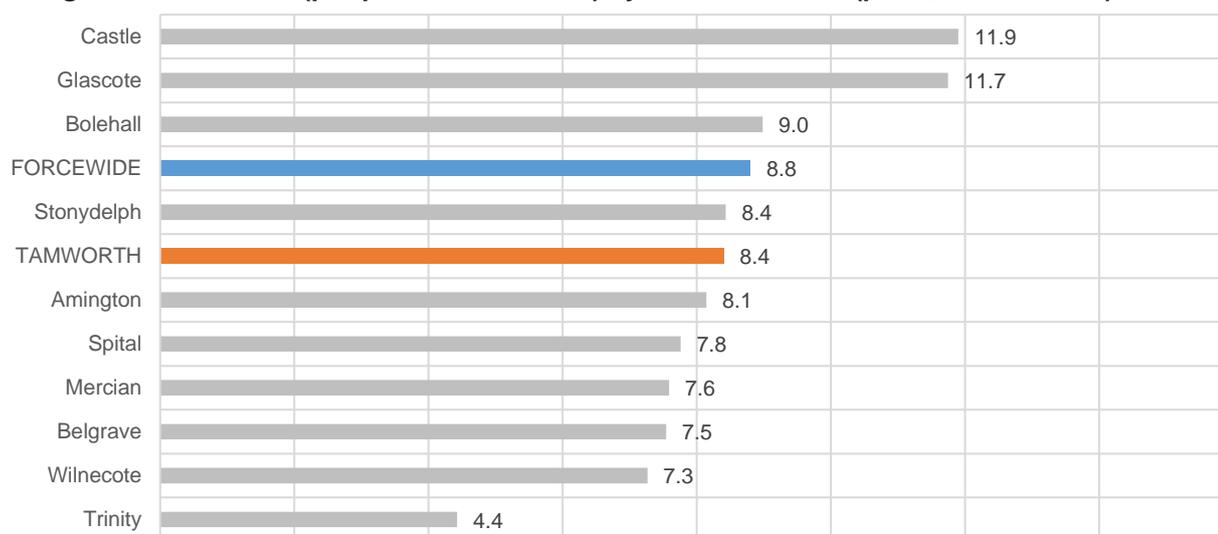
In 2020-21 there were a total of 840 incidents of Stalking and Harassment which took place in Tamworth; equivalent to a rate of 10.9 per 1,000 population – and a 30% increase on the year pre-pandemic (2019-20). However, even accounting for this increase, the rate is in line with that for England & Wales (10.6) and is fractionally below that seen across the force area (11.5).

Due to considerable changes in the recording and visibility of Stalking offences in Staffordshire and Stoke-on-Trent (as well as nationally) these now make up around 22% of all combined Stalking & Harassment offences (prev. 9%).

It is considered that significant increases in recorded Stalking & Harassment offences are the result of focused training and development, and represent improved detection, reporting and recording of such offences – rather than representing solely and increase in the number of offences being perpetrated locally.

The correlation between Stalking & Harassment and Domestic Abuse remains very strong. This link is strongest in Stalking offences; while around 43% of Malicious Communications are domestic-related, this increases to 50% in incidents of Harassment, and increases significantly to 86% of Stalking offences – these are compared to 29% of crime overall, which is flagged as being DA-related.

Stalking and Harassment (pre-pandemic 2019-20) by Tamworth ward (per 1,000 residents) Staffordshire Police



Comparison to Force: Overall rate similar / Two wards high (but not statistically above average)

Local rate (per 1,000 people): 10.9

Force rate (per 1,000 people): 11.5

Direction of travel: Considerable increases in visibility of Stalking offences

Public expectation: Increasing

Local hotspot wards: None significantly above force average (*threshold for significantly above=17.8 per 1,000*)

At risk groups: Victims are disproportionately younger women (aged 20-34) who account for 34% of S&H victims, and particularly those within the 'Family Basics' Mosaic group – living in less-advantaged areas with younger children. Around 70% of S&H victims are female, and 30% male, however, victims do span all age ranges from 10 years up to 75+ and there is some disproportionality of victims amongst males aged 25-30 (7% of all S&H victims).

Car Key Burglary (CKB) / Vehicle Theft

Volume and potential harm: Low volume / Moderate individual harm / Low community harm

CSPs with priority: (Cannock Chase), Lichfield, South Staffordshire, Tamworth

Summary:

As anti-theft technology in vehicles has improved, approaches to vehicle theft have changed. With many modern vehicles unable to be driven without their keys, criminals are increasingly using burglary to facilitate vehicle theft; entering properties purely to steal vehicle keys and key fobs - driving the stolen vehicle away from the scene.

While in the past there have been issues with the use of keyless thefts (KLT) or 'relay attacks' (where criminals use a device to amplify the signal from a car key inside someone's home in order open and start a vehicle without needing the key in hand) these types of thefts have fallen recently. It is not possible to know whether this is mainly the result of individuals becoming more cautious about where they store car keys or criminals moving away from this approach.

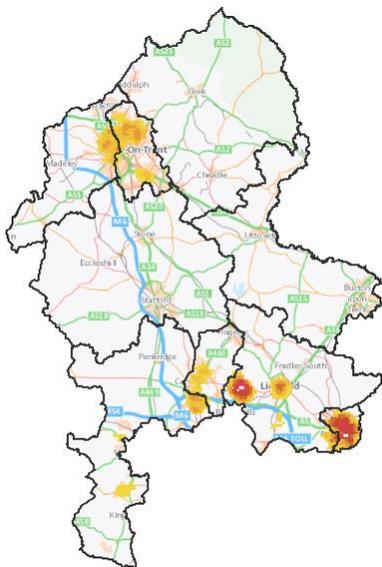
Although less common, and lower volume, changes in anti-theft technology have also resulted in some increases in aggravated vehicle-taking or "car-jacking" – where a vehicle is stolen whilst in use, usually on the road. There have been a number of such offences locally in recent years, although these are infrequent.

Historically, Tamworth has experienced particularly high proportions of burglaries which have resulted in vehicle theft. These offences have typically been focussed in the south-east of the force-area, with Tamworth and Lichfield particularly affected compared to other CSP areas, although recently this has started to impact Cannock Chase.

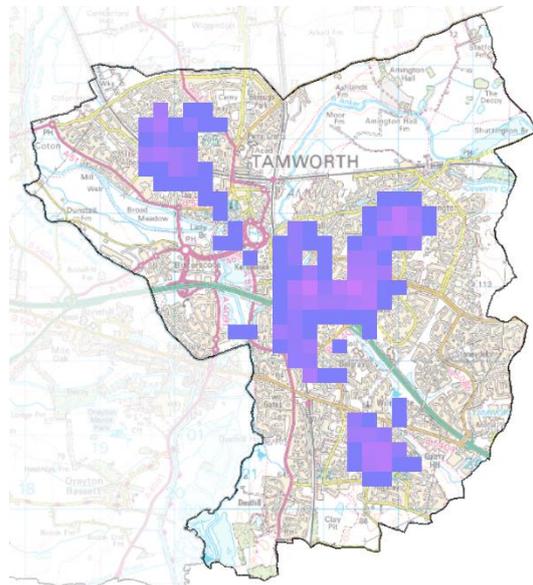
The pandemic has seen a considerable reduction in both Burglaries and Vehicle Offences in Tamworth, both of which have reduced by over a quarter in 2020-21 (-27% and -26% respectively). It is not possible to say whether this is indicative of an ongoing reduction, or reduced criminality as a result of the Coronavirus pandemic.

Offences appear to be particularly targeted and have affected areas and communities which typically do not experience high levels of overall crime. Some of the wards which have experienced high levels of vehicle thefts, such as Wilnecote and Amington, generally experience below average levels of crime overall.

Heat Map of Car Key Burglaries (2018-19)



Heat Map of Vehicle offences (2019-20)



Comparison to Force:

Highest level of Vehicle Crime in the force-area

Rate of Vehicle Offences

Local rate: 5.4 per 1,000 pop.

Force rate: 3.4 per 1,000 pop.

Direction of travel: Persistent challenge

Public expectation: Moderate

At risk groups: Communities in higher-value suburban areas with detached homes and lower-levels of overall housing density. Analysis across the force-area suggests that households in the most affluent parts of affected CSP areas have been disproportionately affected by car key burglaries.

County Lines

Volume and potential harm:

Small volume / Substantial individual and community harm

CSPs with priority:

Cannock Chase, East Staffordshire, Lichfield, Newcastle-under-Lyme, (South Staffordshire), Stafford, (Staffordshire Moorlands), Stoke-on-Trent, Tamworth

Summary:

The use of County Lines to traffic drugs from urban areas into rural areas, causes significant issues for communities; particularly through the degradation of local areas through use of properties for drug use, drug supply and other criminal activity, and as a result of violent disorder and disputes between Organised Crime Groups (OCGs) and Urban Street Gangs (USGs) over control of particular County Lines and Drug Supply in specific areas.

The use of County Lines by OCGs is not limited to the supply and movement of drugs; the same criminal infrastructure is linked to Modern Slavery and People Trafficking, Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE) and Child Criminal Exploitation (CCE), Serious Violence, Money Laundering and the supply of illegal weapons.

County Lines activity often relies on 'cuckooing'; a practice where criminals take over a vulnerable person's home and use that property for criminality. Victims are often people who misuse substances such as drugs or alcohol, but there are cases of victims with learning difficulties, mental health issues, physical disabilities or who are socially isolated. People who choose to exploit will often target the most vulnerable in society and will establish a relationship with the vulnerable person in order to access their home. Cuckooed addresses are commonly used to store or distribute drugs, but can also be used in people trafficking and modern slavery, supply or storage of illegal firearms, sex work, or as 'safe houses' for criminals themselves who are trying to avoid detection by the Police.

OCGs involved in County Lines also exploit vulnerable young people (predominantly young men and boys) by "recruiting" them into County Lines activity, and in particular using these individuals for high-risk activity such as street dealing of drugs and the recovery of drug debts from drug users.

There is no significant positive or negative shift from the previous refresh or full assessment in terms of the risks presented to communities by County Lines activity. A level of County Lines risk exists in all CSP areas in Staffordshire & Stoke-on-Trent – with known risks around organised drug supply through County Lines as well as People Trafficking / Modern Slavery offences, in addition to elements of weapons offences. There is additional risk in several areas in Staffordshire & Stoke-on-Trent, due to high proportions of children in care, who are at elevated risk of being criminally exploited and recruited into organised crime by both OCGs and USGs.

At this point in time (November 2021) it appears that the Covid-19 pandemic has had little direct impact on drug supply (or demand) overall. Impact on drugs offending locally has been the result of significant long-term targeted operations conducted by Staffordshire Police and in partnership with neighbouring police forces.

Direction of travel: Long-term risk

Public expectation: Critical / National expectations

Local hotspots: (See Staffordshire Police's Serious and Organised Crime Assessment)

At risk groups:

Criminal exploitation:

Young males (aged 10-19) in disadvantaged communities and in care (LAC) or attending Pupil Referral Units (PRUs) are at particularly high risk of being criminally exploited through organised crime and gang membership.

'Cuckooing' risk:

Adults with existing drug or alcohol dependency, and adults and young adults with learning difficulties and/or mental health needs – particularly those who are living independently but who are socially isolated. There are significant levels of repeat drug possession offences in a number of wards across the force-area, and it is likely that many of the vulnerable individuals known to services in these areas for Class A drug use are at increased risk of cuckooing.

Public Place Violence (including Knife Crime)

Volume and potential harm:

Moderate volume / Moderate individual harm / Substantial community harm

CSPs with priority: East Staffordshire, Newcastle-under-Lyme, Stoke-on-Trent, Tamworth

Summary:

There have been some significant reductions in Public Place Violent (PPV) offences during periods of Covid restriction. Across Staffordshire and Stoke-on-Trent overall, PPV crime fell by over half (-51%) in 2020-21 and fell by around two-fifths in Tamworth (-42%).

There were 375 violent offences in Public Spaces in Tamworth during 2020-21, compared to 650 in the previous year pre-pandemic. This is currently equivalent to a rate of 4.9 per 1,000 population, which is in line with the force-area (4.4) although the third highest amongst the nine local CSP areas.

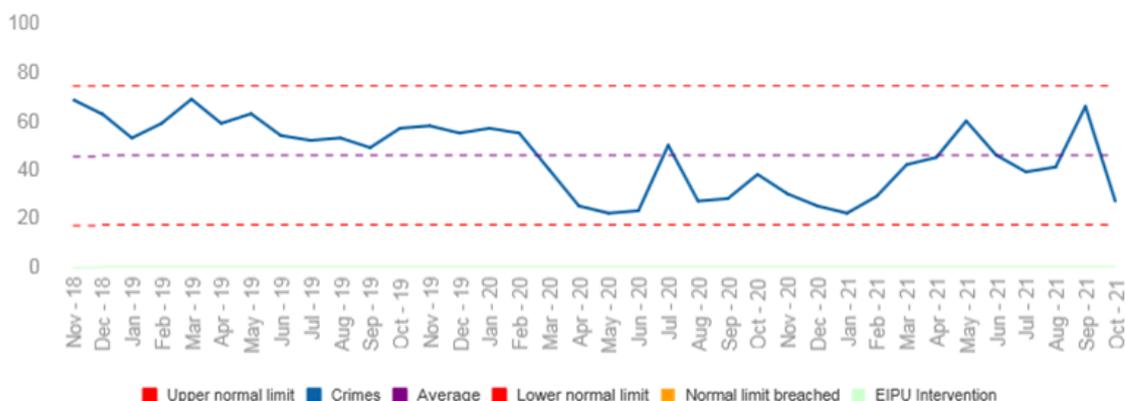
However, in the year to date (ending October 2021) the easing of lockdown restrictions have seen some increases in PPV offences (see figure below). Increases have not been outside of normal expected levels, but there have been particular spikes in May and September 2021.

There are evidenced links between alcohol and violent offences, and particularly those in public spaces; while around 7% of all crime in Tamworth in 2020-21 was alcohol-related, this increases to 15% amongst PPV offences. However pre-pandemic (2019-20) closer to a fifth (19%) of all PPV featured alcohol as a factor.

Nationally there has been recent concern about Knife Crime, although this is a present, but limited concern in Staffordshire and Stoke-on-Trent – with very low observed rates (less than 0.5 per 1,000 people) across most CSP areas, with the exceptions of Newcastle-under-Lyme (0.5), Tamworth (0.7) and Stoke-on-Trent (1.1).

While generally low in number, overall there has been little impact on Knife Crime as a result of the pandemic. Across the force-area overall there have only been ten fewer incidents in 2020-21 compared to the previous year. In Tamworth there has been a very small increase (+10 incidents) compared to the previous year, but this is not considered to be of concern.

Public Place Violent Crime – Three years ending October 2021 – Tamworth



Comparison to Force: Overall rate similar / One ward rate high

Direction of travel: Consistent but significantly affected by COVID

Public expectation: Moderate

At risk groups:

Public Place Violence offenders are predominantly young men (aged 18-29), although there are some female offenders, mainly aged under 40 years. Knife Crime offenders are also mainly young men (aged under 30 years) with a particularly high proportion of Under 18s (mostly aged 14+).

With both PPV and Knife Crimes – both offender and victim are mainly young men, in particular those aged under 30 years. In many instances, the offender and the victim are of the same age group.

Public place violence is polarised towards town centres and commercial areas, and poses the greatest risk to the public between 21:00-04:00hrs, particularly where alcohol is a factor.

Vulnerable Persons: Drug use and possession

Volume and potential harm:

Small volume / Substantial individual harm / Severe community harm

CSPs with priority: Cannock Chase, East Staffordshire, Lichfield, Newcastle-under-Lyme, Staffordshire Moorlands, Stoke-on-Trent, Tamworth

Summary:

Drugs can be a factor in a range of crimes – although drugs are less-prevalent as a factor compared to alcohol. Similarly to crime overall, the pandemic has seen reductions in Drugs Offences at a force-wide and local level.

In 2020-21 around 3% of recorded crime in Staffordshire and Stoke-on-Trent was flagged as being drugs-related, compared to about 7% which is flagged as alcohol-related. In Tamworth however, drugs-related offences are less frequent, with around 2% of crime flagged for drugs in 2020-21 – the lowest amongst the nine local CSP areas.

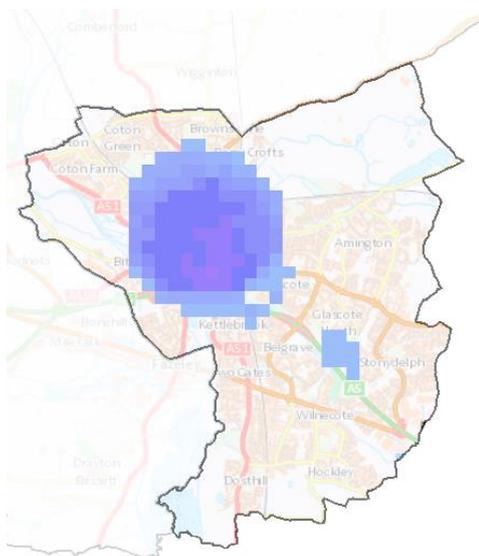
Drug users themselves are a particularly vulnerable group, and as well as facing significant health, housing and employment challenges, drug users often also experience Domestic Abuse. Children in families where drug use is prevalent are often at significantly increased need of safeguarding and support.

Drug users are at significant risk of being criminally exploited through County Lines and other aspects of organised crime; often drug dealers/suppliers will allow users to accrue substantial levels of drug-related debt, and use this as leverage to have the user conduct criminal activity on their behalf or use their home for criminal activity (cuckooing).

Tamworth does not experience particularly high levels of Drugs Offences overall (1.5 per 1,000 people compared to 1.4 force-wide) - however prior to the pandemic (2019-20) the rate of Drugs Possession offences in Castle ward (8.0) was the fourth highest rate out of 201 wards in Staffordshire and Stoke-on-Trent.

While drug-related offending does not appear to be a significant problem for Tamworth overall, levels of Drugs Possession offences in some areas suggest that there may be a proportion of long-term persistent drug-users.

Drug Possession hot spots, Tamworth, (pre-pandemic) 2019-20, Staffordshire Police



Comparison to Force: Overall rate similar / One ward in Top 5 for Drugs Possession offences

Drugs Offences

Local rate (per 1,000 people): 1.5

Force rate (per 1,000 people): 1.4

Direction of travel: Consistent concern

Local hotspots:

Castle ward: Possession offences (8.0 per 1,000)

At risk groups: Adults with known drug dependencies, particularly those who have previously accessed or who are presently accessing treatment programmes for Class A drug use or dependency.

Vulnerable Persons: Mental Health

Volume and potential harm:

Small volume / Moderate to severe individual harm / Low community harm

CSPs with priority: Cannock Chase, East Staffordshire, Lichfield, Newcastle-under-Lyme, Stafford, Staffordshire Moorlands, Stoke-on-Trent, Tamworth

Summary: Mental Health is a cross-cutting theme, with links to a range of other vulnerabilities. Many with mental health needs appear in other high-risk cohorts; including those with drug and/or alcohol challenges, those socially isolated and living in poor quality housing, as well as young people and adults who are at risk of criminal exploitation.

Vulnerable people, including those experiencing mental health issues, are often at greater risk of being a victim of crime - targeted by criminals who exploit vulnerabilities and take advantage through financial or criminal exploitation.

Early indications suggest that the Covid-19 pandemic is having an impact on mental health and wellbeing. Staffordshire Police data shows that while crime rates have fallen, although low in number, the rate of offences where Mental Health is considered a factor has increased by four-fifths (+80%) in Tamworth in 2020-21. Around 8% of all crime in Tamworth in 2020-21 had mental health as a factor – a considerable increase on the 4% observed previously.

This is of some concern within Tamworth, as the rate of offences where Mental Health is considered a factor has increased from being one of the lowest in the force-area (and below the force average) pre-pandemic (2.5 per 1,000 population in 2019-20) to the highest (4.6) in 2020-21 and well above the force level (3.5 per 1,000 population).

Local⁷ and national⁸ COVID surveys have highlighted that more than two-thirds of people feel that the pandemic has had a negative impact on their life, with many feeling stressed and anxious. Further analysis⁹ found that, taking account of pre-pandemic trajectories, mental health has worsened substantially (by 8.1% on average) as a result of the pandemic. Young adults and women – groups with worse mental health pre-pandemic – have been hit hardest.

Levels of GP depression diagnoses in 2020-21 for Tamworth residents were higher than national levels, with 14.6% of the adult population having a diagnosis of depression, compared to 12.3% across England.

Public Health England (PHE) estimates for Tamworth suggest that around 9.8% of children aged 5 to 16 years (approximately 1,100 children) in the area are likely to have a mental health disorder. This is the 2nd highest proportion in the force area, and falls within the top 20% of highest rates in Local Authorities in England.

Estimated prevalence of common mental disorders (Public Health England):

		% of population
Children (age 5-16)	England	9.2
	Force-wide	9.5
	Tamworth	9.8
Adults (age 16+)	England	16.9
	Force-wide	16.4
	Tamworth	16.6
Older adults (age 65+)	England	10.2
	Force-wide	10.2
	Tamworth	10.5

Comparison to Force: Rates of recorded crime where Mental Health is considered to be a factor have increased significantly in 2020-21 and are currently the highest in force. However, rates of Mental Health diagnoses are largely similar to force-wide and national levels.

⁷ Staffordshire County Council – Residents Survey

⁸ Office of National Statistics (ONS) - Coronavirus and the social impacts on Great Britain

⁹ Institute of Fiscal Studies (IFS) - The mental health effects of the [first] lockdown and social distancing during the Covid-19 pandemic in the UK

Vulnerable Persons: Contextual Safeguarding

Volume and potential harm: Moderate volumes / Moderate to Severe individual and community harm

CSPs with priority: Cannock Chase, Newcastle-under-Lyme, Stoke-on-Trent, Tamworth

Summary: CSPs with priority: Cannock Chase, East Staffordshire, Lichfield, Newcastle-under-Lyme, (Stafford), Stoke-on-Trent, Tamworth

Summary:

The 'toxic trio' of risks that are most likely to result in home or family safeguarding concerns – parental mental ill-health, drug and alcohol misuse, and domestic abuse are particularly present in parts of Tamworth, resulting in an elevated level of need for safeguarding of young children (under 11 years of age).

The large majority (63%) of children in Staffordshire and Stoke-on-Trent who are subject to a Child Protection Plan are primarily being safeguarded as a result of neglect, followed by just under a third (31%) who have experienced emotional abuse. Compared to England, the force-area sees a greater proportion of children subject to a plan as a result of neglect, with lower proportions experiencing emotional, physical or sexual abuse.

It is considered, that similarly to many other areas of vulnerability – the COVID-19 pandemic will result in considerable increases in demand for safeguarding services. In an assessment conducted by the NSPCC¹⁰ it is considered that the Coronavirus pandemic will considerably intensify a range of risk factors that children face, particularly as a result of;

- **Increase in stressors to parents and caregivers**
- **Increase in children and young people's vulnerability**
- **Reduction in normal protective services**

While it is important to consider the safeguarding of young children and risk of harm within the family environment, as young people move from childhood and into adolescence, they spend increasing amounts of time socialising independently of their families. During this time the nature of young people's schools and neighbourhoods, and the relationships that they form in these settings, inform the extent to which they encounter safeguarding risks in settings outside their families.

There are some concerns in Tamworth relating to the safeguarding of young people outside of their family contexts – particularly the risk of criminal exploitation by Urban Street Gangs (USGs) and organised criminals of vulnerable young people, who can be lured into criminality with the promise of financial gain, and perhaps the appeal of fraternity.

Young people who are Looked After Children (LAC) and who have been placed in care, or who attend pupil referral units (PRUs) are at particularly increased risk due to their level of vulnerability and often unstable social networks and networks of support. Once groomed, these young people are then often used for high-risk activities, increasingly linked to County Lines drug supply activity, such as street dealing and transporting drugs and recovering drug debts.

Rates of Children's Safeguarding referrals and Looked After Children in Tamworth have been a historical concern, and have been a particular issue in Glascote ward.

Direction of travel: Ongoing concern

Local hotspots: Glascote (Rates of Child Protection and Looked After Children)

At risk groups:

Criminal exploitation:

Males aged 10 to 19 in disadvantaged communities (particularly including LAC and those in PRUs)

Children's safeguarding:

Children (birth to 17) living in communities with high levels of deprivation, domestic abuse, drug and alcohol use.

¹⁰ NSPCC - Social isolation and the risk of child abuse during and after the coronavirus pandemic (2020)

Additional Challenges for Consideration

Repeat and Persistent Offending

Priority: Re-offending

Priority sub-type: Repeat and Persistent Offenders

Volume and potential harm: High volume / Moderate individual harm / Substantial community harm

CSPs with priority: Cannock Chase, East Staffordshire, Lichfield, Newcastle-under-Lyme, Stafford, Staffordshire Moorlands, Stoke-on-Trent, Tamworth

Summary:

Repeat and persistent offenders are consistently disproportionately responsible for crime in Staffordshire, with the minority of offenders responsible for the majority of offences.

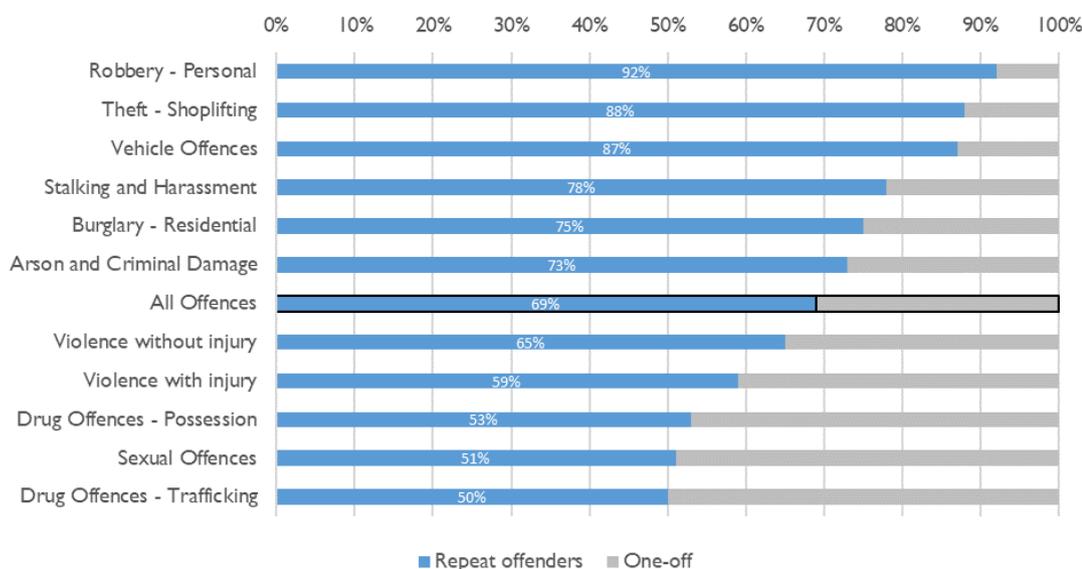
Latest available analysis (2018-19) found that around 44% offenders living in Tamworth were considered repeat or persistent, and they were responsible for 68% of recorded crimes where an offender was identified.

All major types of crime saw more than half of all incidents committed by repeat offenders, however, acquisitive crimes, such as Burglary, Vehicle Offences, Theft and Robbery tend to see the highest proportion of repeat offenders, while the proportion of Domestic-flagged offences committed by repeat offenders was in line with crime overall (69%).

Offenders with known drug offences or offences where drugs were considered a factor in their recent offending history, are substantially more likely to be repeat and persistent offenders. Around 55% of those flagged for drug-related offending in Tamworth were repeat and persistent offenders, compared to 43% of those with no recent drug-related offending. While offenders with previous drug-related offending tend to be responsible for a disproportionate amount of acquisitive offending across the force area (committed 25% of acquisitive crime, 17% of crime overall) this is not the case in Tamworth; with drug-related offenders responsible for about 11% of crime overall, and 13% of acquisitive crimes.

Youth offenders (those aged under 18) are not disproportionately likely to be repeat and persistent offenders (around 46%), however younger adult offenders, particularly young men, are consistently the most likely to be repeat offenders; of those aged 20-25 years in Tamworth, 54% were Repeat or Prolific Offenders and accounted for 80% of the crime committed by 20-25 year olds.

Proportion of total offences (by type) committed by Repeat Offenders, Staffordshire Police 2018-19



Comparison to Force: Overall rate similar

Local proportion: 44% offenders, 68% crime

Force proportion: 45% offenders, 71% crime

Direction of travel: N/A

Public expectation: Substantial

At risk groups: Younger males (aged 25-29 and 30-34) particularly those from disadvantaged communities, and adults with drug dependencies are highly likely to repeatedly offend.

Fire and Rescue

Volume and potential harm: Small volume / Moderate to severe individual harm / Low community harm

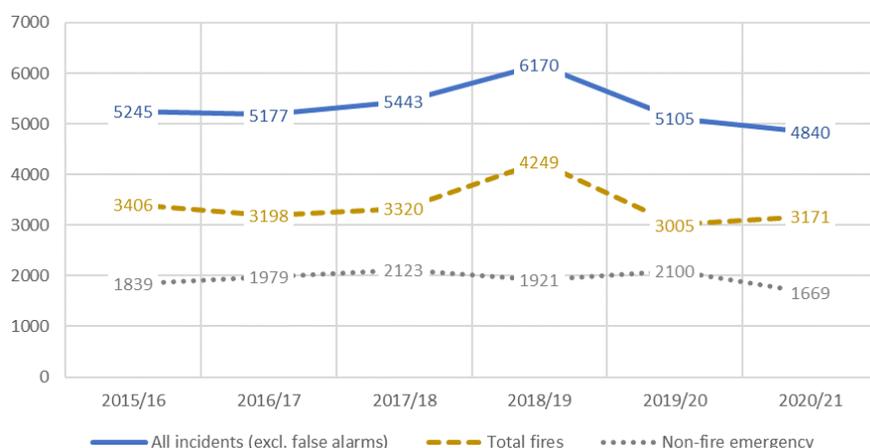
CSPs with consideration: Cannock Chase, East Staffordshire, Lichfield, Newcastle-under-Lyme, South Staffordshire, Stafford, Staffordshire Moorlands, Stoke-on-Trent, Tamworth

Summary:

The work that Fire & Rescue Services (FARS) do has changed significantly over the last twenty years, with a shift in the types of incidents attended at both a national and local level. Broadly while nationally and locally FARS have seen considerable reductions in fires (particularly vehicle and dwelling fires) the number of non-fire incidents attended have increased considerably. While across England total incidents attended have fallen by around two fifths (-40%) between 1999-2000 and 2019-2020, the proportion of Non-Fire Incidents attended have increased by around 11% over the same period.

At a local level FARS demand across Staffordshire and Stoke-on-Trent had remained largely consistent across the five years pre-pandemic, with the exception of considerable and complex wild-fires in 2018-19, which lasted for over a month. It is considered that extreme weather events as a result of climate change will see incidents such as large scale fires in open areas and flooding becoming more frequent.

Fire and Rescue Incidents, Staffordshire Fire and Rescue Service, 2015-16 to 2020-21



Some pockets of the force-area have a high proportion of residential properties in areas of high housing density which may carry some fire risk. The majority are areas with higher proportions young families with limited resources and areas with older-persons (65+) who are living alone.

There are a range of factors which appear to disproportionately result in casualties these are primarily; incidents involving chip-pan or deep-fat fryers, fires that are started by smoking materials (such as cigarettes), fires in dwellings where no alarm system is present, fires where the main occupant is under the influence, and fires where the main occupant has an underlying medical condition or illness. Risk can often be considerably higher for individuals as a result of their age, infirmity, physical disability, mental health or drug and alcohol abuse.

As well as vulnerable people, there is a need to focus its efforts on vulnerable locations. The tragic events at Grenfell Tower have increased the emphasis on technical fire safety audits, inspections of premises and the use of enforcement powers. Legislation is expected imminently which will formalise these. Staffordshire Fire & Rescue Service is already responding positively to this challenge with the recruitment of more specialist staff. It is already clear that protection work will be an increasing priority for future investment and resource allocation

Fires affecting businesses can have significant impact; causing difficulties for suppliers, retailers and affecting employees either temporarily or sometimes permanently. Up to 60% of small businesses do not recover from a severe fire. It is incredibly important that new businesses engage with the Fire & Rescue business support service team to receive fire safety advice and guidance.

Direction of travel: Consistent demand. Increasing complexity.

Public expectation: Substantial

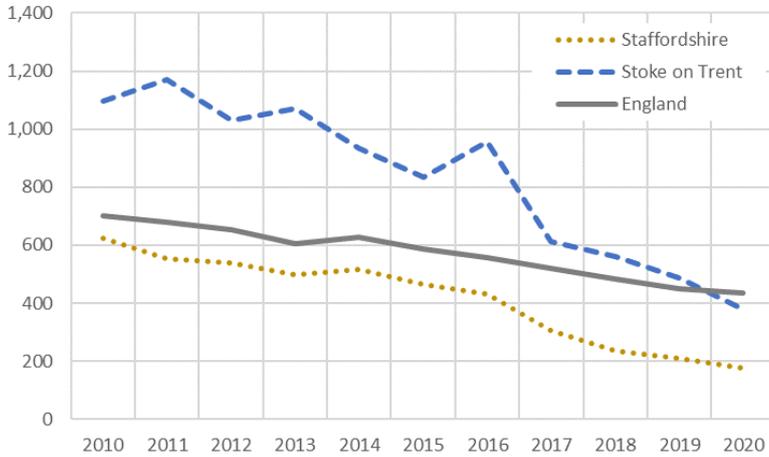
At risk groups: Older adults as well as those with physical disability, mental health challenges, or on going drug or alcohol challenges are considered to be at particularly high risk. Following the Grenfell Tower tragedy there is ongoing work to identify any physical premises locally which may be considered high risk.

Safer Roads

There have been considerable reductions in road casualties at a national and local level over the past decade; while the rate of casualties per billion vehicle miles has fallen by around two fifths nationally (-38%) they have fallen by almost two-thirds (-65%) in Stoke-on-Trent and by close to three-quarters (-72%) in Staffordshire in the same period.

Casualties per billion vehicle miles in Stoke-on-Trent have reduced by a significant amount, from being far above the national average up until 2016, to slightly below in 2020.

Department for Transport (DfT) STATS-19 reporting: Casualties per billion vehicle miles



The vast majority of injuries that occur on roads in the force area are non-serious and non-fatal. Out of 1,146 casualties on local roads in 2020 around 86% (985) resulted in slight injury, around 13% (149) resulted in serious injury, and just under 1% (12) were fatal. These proportions have remained largely consistent over time; in 2019 around 85% of casualties were non-serious and non-fatal, and in 2018 around 87% of casualties were 'slight'.

The pandemic and national lockdowns have had considerable impact on road use in 2020, with significantly fewer vehicles using the roads between March and June 2020. Locally the result has been a 35% reduction in casualties overall, a 46% reduction in serious casualties and a 56% reduction in fatal casualties.

While local roads are in general very safe and see a decreasing number of casualties, amongst road casualties there are some groups which are disproportionately likely to experience serious or fatal injuries; over the last four years in Staffordshire and Stoke-on-Trent motorcyclists, pedal cyclists and pedestrians have been disproportionately likely to be seriously or fatally injured when involved in collisions. This is also the case at a national level.

Although there is a significant motorway network which flows through and around the force area, collisions on motorways account for no more than 5% of all road casualties in Staffordshire and Stoke-on-Trent, and roughly 2-3% of casualties which resulted in serious or fatal injury.

Serious and fatal collisions in Staffordshire are more likely to occur on rural roads than on urban roads/streets or on the motorways network. DfT data¹¹ suggests that over the past three-years the majority of fatal road casualties have occurred on rural roads; while 37% of local road casualties overall occur on rural roads, around 46% of all serious casualties occur in rural areas, and in 2019 approximately 78% of fatal casualties occurred in rural areas.

Recent local analysis suggests that drivers aged over 60 who live in rural areas are more likely to be involved in collisions than younger drivers and those who live in urban areas.

Direction of travel: Consistent improvement.

Public expectation: Substantial

At risk groups:

Where collisions occur on rural roads they are more likely to result in serious or fatal injuries than those that occur on urban roads or local sections of motorway. Cyclists, motorcyclists and pedestrians are also more likely than average to experience serious or fatal injuries when involved in collisions.

¹¹ Department for Transport – Interactive Road Casualties data: <https://maps.dft.gov.uk/road-casualties/index.html>

Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG)

It is clear that many women do not feel safe in public or online; recent government research has shown that girls do not feel safe at school or in other educational establishments, and many women and girls in the UK have experienced verbal abuse, intimidation and sexual harassment in public spaces.

While a proportion of violent offences experienced by women and girls in Staffordshire and Stoke-on-Trent are domestic-related, a considerable amount are not. In the 12 months to October 2021, while non-domestic violent offences with a victim of any gender saw no change on the previous year (+/- 0%), non-domestic violent offences with a female victim increased by around 7% in the same period.

There is clear focus on improving confidence in reporting VAWG offences; notably in recent years (and particularly the last 18 months) locally there has been considerable improvement in the visibility and recording of Stalking offences.

In late 2020 a call for evidence was made by the Government, to inform a revised VAWG strategy, which was published in July 2021. The new VAWG strategy sets out some key objectives for the UK Government within the strategy, primarily to:

- Increase support for victims and survivors.
- Increase in reporting to the police, in addition to;
- Increased victim engagement with police, leading to;
- Increases in the number of perpetrators brought to justice, and;
- Reduce the prevalence of violence against women and girls overall.

The intent of the VAWG Strategy (2021) is to achieve these through improved earlier intervention and prevention and improving and strengthening existing systems.

Business Crime

The total price tag of burglary, shoplifting, robbery, criminal damage, theft and other offences against businesses in Staffordshire is estimated at over £7,300 per hour. Fraud alone costs companies £9.1 billion nationally a year. Over a third (39%) of businesses do not report crime to police.

In the 12 months to November 2021, there were around 560 instances of Fraud recorded by the National Fraud Intelligence Bureau (NFIB) affecting organisations in Staffordshire and Stoke-on-Trent, with total losses of around £3.7million. Unlike fraud committed against individuals, which has shown a local increase, fraud committed against businesses in Staffordshire has reduced by just over a tenth (-11%) compared to the previous 12 months.

Local research conducted on behalf of the Staffordshire Commissioner's Office has highlighted that many small businesses locally are particularly concerned about Fraud and Online crime, and this acts as a barrier to their development of online services.

Staffordshire has a high proportion of small and micro businesses, many of which do not have the same resilience as larger national and multi-national businesses. As a result, smaller businesses risk being significantly harmed and disrupted by experiences of crime. Business crime affects a broad range of businesses in Staffordshire; from incidents of criminal damage and arson, to large businesses who are victims of fraud and cyber-crime, and farms who are victims of machinery and thefts of 'off road' vehicles used in farming and agriculture.

On a national scale there have been significant Cyber-Crime offences committed against large businesses, particularly linked to "Ransom-ware" based extortion, which still present a significant risk to businesses, particularly those who rely on less up-to-date information technology infrastructure and equipment. Businesses in Staffordshire & Stoke-on-Trent experienced a number of cyber-crime incidents in the last 12 months; including hacking of company emails and Malware attacks.

Modern Slavery

Modern Slavery refers to the offences of human trafficking, slavery, servitude, and forced or compulsory labour. This can then be considered as five sub threats: sexual exploitation of adults; trafficking of adults into conditions of labour exploitation; trafficking of adults into conditions of criminal exploitation; trafficking of minors into conditions of sexual, criminal or labour exploitation; and other forms of exploitation¹².

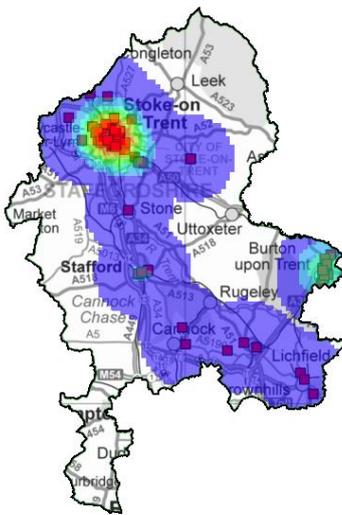
The scale of Modern Slavery is consistently and gradually increasing and it is likely to continue to do so¹³. Modern Slavery is a highly complex and hidden crime which makes it challenging to accurately measure in terms of prevalence; however there have been year on year increases in the number of victims identified. Staffordshire has seen a gradual increase in the reporting of Modern Slavery which is in line with the national picture.

Known victims and perpetrators of Modern Slavery offences in Staffordshire and Stoke-on-Trent are predominantly White British, although there have been increases in cases with victims who are Albanian. There remain a small number of Romanian, Slovakian and Vietnamese victims and perpetrators. Perpetrators often target those with the same geographic origin – and as such the ethnicity of the victim and perpetrator are usually the same.

British victims tend to be those who have fallen on difficult times, making them vulnerable to promises of well-paid work complete with decent accommodation. Non-British victims are brought into the UK from areas of conflict and/or economic hardship, with the promise of a new life, usually paying significant sums of money for transportation. Frequently traffickers will add debt on to the money already paid and expect those being illegally trafficked to either pay additional money or work for the traffickers until the additional ‘debt’ has been paid – in some instances this is linked to County Lines drug supply, with victims expected to manage cannabis farms/cultivations.

Although numbers are low, the level of OCG activity related to Human Trafficking (related to Modern Slavery and Exploitation) and Organised Immigration Offending is of some concern in limited parts of the force-area – with criminals involved in these offences also often involved in the smuggling of other commodities and money laundering.

Modern Slavery recorded by Staffordshire Police



¹² NCA – National Strategic Assessment of Serious and Organised Crime 2018

¹³ <https://nationalcrimeagency.gov.uk/what-we-do/crime-threats/modern-slavery-and-human-trafficking>

Quality of Life and Wider Determinants

There are a range of factors which affect individual quality of life, life chances and overall vulnerability. The factors considered to be of most concern within Tamworth are; deprivation and economic stress, drug and substance misuse, mental health and children and young people at risk of safeguarding.

It is considered that the impact of the Coronavirus pandemic will be a lasting one, with potentially greater impact on those in society who were already considered to be vulnerable.

Child safeguarding demands have been particularly high in Tamworth, with the area experiencing rates of Child Protection Plans (CPP) and rates of Looked-after Children (LAC) in recent years which are statistically higher than the rates for England. Glascote ward is of particular concern, with the highest rates of both CPP and LAC in the area.

While rates of conceptions amongst under 18 year olds had previously been an area of concern, latest available data (2019) shows that these are now in line with national levels (15.2 per 1,000 U18s locally, 15.7 nationally).

School attainment at KeyStage 4 (previously GCSE) is below the national level, and has been for a period of time, which may have links to slightly higher local levels of universal credit claims amongst younger people. Latest attainment data (2019-20) shows that average Attainment 8 scores in Tamworth (46.1) are well below national levels (50.2) and the joint lowest of Local Authority district and borough areas in the West Midlands region. Missing the national standard for KS4 can be particularly problematic, as it can act as a barrier to accessing college and sixth form learning and as a barrier to securing apprenticeships. There are risks that this might result in limited employment opportunities and make some young people more vulnerable to being criminally exploited.

The pandemic and lockdowns have had a considerable impact on Universal Credit claims both nationally and locally. In Tamworth, during the first lockdown the Claimant Count (percentage of working age adults claiming universal credit) doubled within two months between February 2020 (3.2%) and May 2020 (6.4%). This is in line with rates seen nationally. As at the end of September 2021 this rate had reduced (4.8%) but remains higher than pre-pandemic.

While a good proportion of adults are in work, earnings are generally lower than average for those who live in Tamworth. Pre-pandemic gross yearly pay for a Tamworth resident in full-time work remains around £1,600 lower than the national average, with wage increases locally not keeping up with national increases over the past five years. This is likely to have a growing impact on the lives of local residents, with considerable inflation levels observed in 2021.

Healthy lifestyles are a significant concern for Tamworth; particularly healthy weights for adults. Latest data (2019-20) shows that 71% of adults in Tamworth have a BMI score which sits in the Overweight or Obese range. This is significantly higher than the national level (63%)

While alcohol-dependency and related concerns have reduced in Tamworth in recent years, latest Public Health data (2019-20) shows that hospital admissions for alcohol related conditions have not increased since the previous Strategic Assessment, but still remain significantly above the national level. While hospital admissions for alcohol-related conditions are high, alcohol-specific deaths in Tamworth are in line with national levels.

There are some concerns around older adults in Tamworth. The rate of hospital admissions for falls amongst those aged 65 years and older are very high (3,039 per 100,000 adults over 65) and significantly above national levels (2,222 per 100,000). Concern is greatest amongst those aged 80 and older, where presently (2019-20 data) Tamworth has the highest rate of admissions due to falls in England (8,392 per 100,000 adults over 80). It is possible that this may be the result of a growing elderly population, in line with increases in overall life expectancy, and more people for long but not in good health.

Public Confidence & Feeling the Difference

It should be noted, that in 2019, the decision was made to redevelop it's approach to a Staffordshire and Stoke-on-Trent public confidence residents' survey. As such the Feeling the Difference survey ceased.

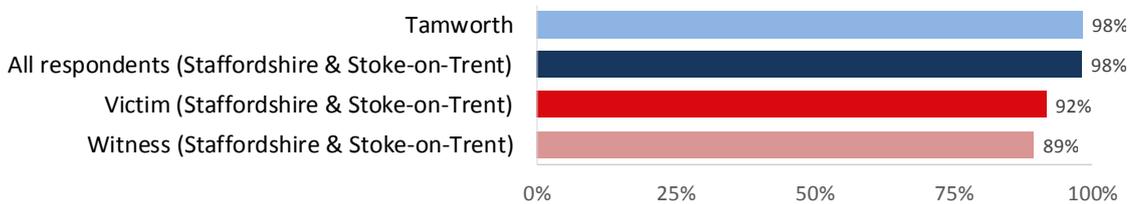
The final wave of the Feeling the Difference surveys were completed in late 2018 (referenced below) with a new approach surveys in development. Findings from new surveys will be shared, as relevant, once available.

In previous analysis a high proportion of residents were satisfied with Tamworth as an area to live (93%) and the large majority are satisfied with their quality of life (92%).

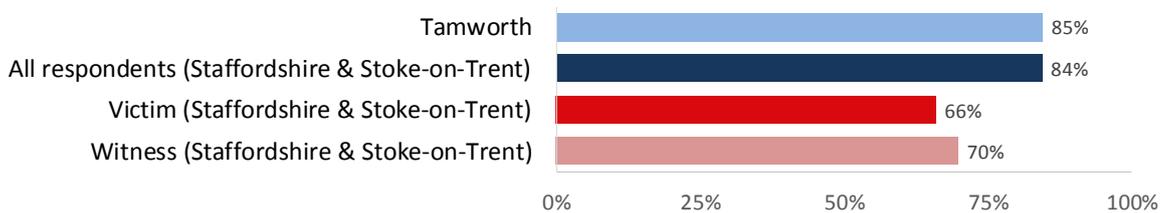
Around half (46%) of residents appear to be satisfied with the level of police presence in the local area, while overall feelings of safety in Tamworth are high; local residents report that they feel very safe in Tamworth during the day (98%) and the very large majority also feel safe after dark (85%). Most residents (87%) feel that it's unlikely that they will be a victim of crime at any point in the future.

Data shows us that those who have previously experienced crime first-hand, as either a victim of crime or a witness to a crime, generally feel less safe than the population overall. This is particularly acute when considering how safe residents feel at night or after dark.

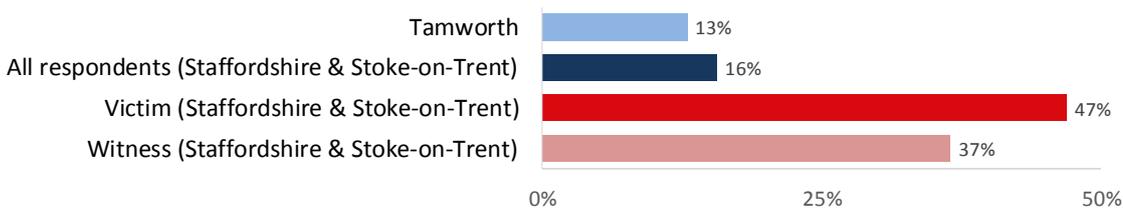
Feelings of safety during daylight hours



Feelings of safety at night/after dark



Feel likely that they will be a victim of crime



Appendices

Appendix A: Overall recommendations

Ensure that partnerships maintain links with Staffordshire Police, through the Knowledge Hub and local Policing Commanders, in order to identify emerging risks and priorities in 'real time' as they occur throughout the year – including making use of available Business Intelligence resources such as the Staffordshire Police Knowledge Hub BRAIN Gateway, and making use of relevant emerging risk assessment and strategic documents.

Partnerships should engage with Police Thematic Leads for each of their identified areas of priority in order to engage with and influence the Police response to priority challenges.

Ensure that partnerships remain engaged with relevant Needs and Risk Assessments developed through the Staffordshire Commissioner's Office, through Local Authorities, and in other Safety Partnership areas, so that emerging learning and recommendations can be reflected in ongoing partnership strategy and delivery.

Where services have been commissioned centrally, Safety Partnership areas and services should engage with one-another in order to share knowledge and expertise, to ensure that delivery is appropriately meeting local demand, and compliments any existing delivery and services.

The full partnership should explore approaches which will allow young people to anonymously report concerns around crime, radicalisation or extremist behaviour, and criminal exploitation - which can then be escalated through mechanisms such as Multi-Agency Risk Assessment Conferences (MARAC) or similar. In particular, but not limited to, giving young people an opportunity to communicate concerns that they may have about;

- Potential criminal exploitation of themselves or others (incl. gang-related activity/recruitment)
- Knowledge of weapons possession or 'stashing'¹⁴ amongst their peers
- Drug or alcohol misuse (their own, or that of others)
- Potential radicalisation or extremism, or other concerning hate-related behaviour
- Knowledge of other criminal behaviour in the community which is a cause for concern

Appendix B: Specific recommendations for key priorities

As this report considers the current position in the context of the priorities and recommendations set out in the full three-yearly Strategic Assessment (issued last year, 2019) many recommendations and priorities remain unchanged from the previous full SA. Where recommendations are new additions or revised compared to the previous report, these are clearly highlighted with a prefix.

Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB)

[New and emerging] There should be consideration for how partnerships can support and develop a coordinated response to ASB across agencies. This should include work to develop the understanding and use of available tools and powers as part of a joint response to ASB.

Recommendations added in the previous refresh:

Work is needed to better understand where Hate is a factor in ASB and identify if there are communities where Hate-related ASB is of particular concern. Where there are concerns that ASB is hate-related, Partnerships should consider whether this is significant enough to refer perpetrators in to Prevent.

Existing recommendations for the duration of the three-year assessment period:

The pan-Staffordshire ASB Strategy group should continue to engage with Safety Partnerships and vice versa to help improve our knowledge and understanding of ASB in the force-area There is a need to continue to develop understanding around risk and protective factors affecting young people and their involvement in ASB.

Partnerships should continue to share information on perpetrators and particularly repeat and younger perpetrators (of both public place ASB and Neighbour Disputes) to ensure that individuals receive multi-agency support where appropriate in order to reduce re-offending. [Cross-cutting to Repeat & Persistent Offending recommendations]

As much ASB is public-place Rowdy & Inconsiderate Behaviour, Partnership areas should continue to consider options to limit ASB in hot-spot areas, including the use of provisions such as Public Space Protection Orders.

¹⁴ Stashing refers to the practice of hiding knives and other weapons in public places, such as parks or undergrowth, so that they are available for individuals to use in violent offences – without the additional risk of being in possession of the weapon.

Community Cohesion & Tackling Extremism

Recommendations added in the previous refresh:

There should be additional consideration for children who receive home education, including those who have started to be home educated throughout the COVID-19 pandemic, to ensure that they are receiving a well-rounded education in order to prevent any extremist teachings.

Safety Partnerships should engage with the development of Community Cohesion partnership work through the Safer & Stronger Communities Strategic Group, which will link in to existing strategic Hate Crime work and the Prevent board. Partnerships should also strongly consider whether there is a need to work with local partners and stakeholders (such as voluntary sector partners) to develop local Community Cohesion strategy for their local area.

As people spend more time online as a result of COVID-19-related restrictions on social contact, it should be considered that there is increased risk around online radicalisation. Partnerships should continue to raise awareness of extremism and potential signs of radicalisation within communities, and particularly in those communities at risk of emerging extreme right-wing and far-right extremism. Young people, parents/guardians and community members should have an awareness of prevalent extremist groups.

Existing recommendations for the duration of the three-year assessment period:

All Safety Partnership areas must continue with Prevent activity and the work of the Prevent Board; maintaining and building further positive engagement between communities, police and partners; to enable identification of key individuals who may be radicalising others, and to safeguard any vulnerable persons.

There should be central consideration about whether there may be a need for enhanced mechanisms to allow young people to raise concerns if they feel they or their peers are becoming radicalised or showing extremist behaviour.

There remains a need for the Prevent Board and Safety Partnership areas to support partner agencies with low Prevent referral rates, including supporting their understanding of the referral mechanism to improve referral quality.

Safety Partnerships and Prevent partners should continue raising awareness of existing and emerging far-right and extreme right-wing groups and encourage reporting of concerns through usual channels such as Prevent.

Safety Partnerships should engage with other partners to improve knowledge and understanding of hate crime amongst groups who are less present in recorded incidents, in particular; the LGBTQ+ community, those with disabilities and/or learning difficulties, and those with mental health needs.

Domestic Abuse (DA)

[New and emerging] Safety Partnerships should consider the implications of the Domestic Abuse Act (2021), which has provided a legal definition of Domestic Abuse, defines children who witness or experience DA as victims in their own right. The Act further adds statutory duties around the provision of support within DA-related Safe Accommodation.

Responsible authorities are required by the act to form DA Local Partnership Boards, which include oversight over support delivered within Safe Accommodation: CSPs should ensure that they engage with these accordingly.

It is essential that Safety Partnerships remain engaged with relevant pan-Staffordshire DA boards and commissioners, in order to shape how the changes introduced within the act will support local residents and their children.

Existing recommendations for the duration of the three-year assessment period:

There is a continued need for collaborative working across the whole force-area to support the DA agenda, led by established pan-Staffordshire governance arrangements and delivered through the DA Strategy and Action Plan.

There is a continuing need for partners in front-line service to have a strong awareness and understanding of signs of non-physical types of domestic abuse, (e.g. coercive control, financial abuse, psychological abuse including stalking). There is a need to continue to raise public awareness around these types of domestic abuse.

Reaching out to hard to engage cohorts; including men, BME, LGBTQ+, those with Learning Difficulties, Mental Health needs, those in rural areas, as well as those from isolated or marginalised communities is vital in order to give individuals the confidence to come forward and seek support. This should remain linked to other services such as mental health, drug and alcohol misuse and homelessness, as well as education providers from age 14 and up.

Safety Partnerships should engage with partners to develop and improve understanding of Stalking and Harassment offences, and continue to improve awareness and understanding of the Stalking Protection Act (2019) and how the Police can apply for Stalking Protection Orders (SPOs) to address offending and protect victims.

Car Key Burglary and Vehicle Theft

Existing recommendations for the duration of the three-year assessment period:

There is a need to raise awareness of measures that individuals can take to reduce the risk of becoming victims of such types of crime, particularly in high risk and hot-spot areas, and amongst high risk groups. This is equally the case for business and small business owners who rely on vehicles as a business asset.

Safety Partnerships should continue to engage with Staffordshire Police to identify emerging hot-spot areas and vehicle makes/models which are at particular risk, in order to direct relevant preventative activity as appropriate.

County Lines

Recommendations added in the previous refresh:

Given the impact of the Coronavirus pandemic; on physical health, mental health and well-being, employment, and education – it should be considered that over the next 12-24 months there will increases in numbers of people and families considered to be vulnerable. Partnerships must consider that this will not only increase demand on support services and partners, but also increase numbers of individuals who may be at increased risk of criminal exploitation. It is important that mechanisms to document, share, and escalate concerns around exploitation and vulnerability can cope with increased pressure. [Duplicated within Vulnerable Persons recommendations]

Existing recommendations for the duration of the three-year assessment period:

Safety Partnerships should continue to develop and enhance partner and community awareness and sharing of concerns linked to County Lines; primarily the signs of criminal exploitation of young people through organised crime and gang activity, and the signs of criminal exploitation of vulnerable adults through cuckooing activity. Partnerships should continue to promote and encourage community use of Crime Stoppers to allow anonymous reporting.

Safety Partnerships should continue to develop and embed an approach which primarily treats vulnerable individuals who have been criminally exploited as victims in need of support, and ensure that there are targeted early intervention and prevention opportunities in place for individuals who are being or who have been criminally exploited.

There is an ongoing need to continue education in secondary schools and pupil referral units (PRUs) around risks attached to gang membership and organised crime, including ensuring that the mechanisms exist to allow young people to appropriately and anonymously raise concerns about the criminal exploitation of themselves or their peers. Centrally there is a need to ensure that those working with children in care (LAC) such as Care Homes and Foster Carers are aware of signs of criminal exploitation and feel confident in reporting concerns as appropriate.

Public Place Violence and Serious Violence (including Knife Crime)

[Revised] As COVID restrictions have become more relaxed, activity in public places (including activity linked to the night-time economy) has increased, however not to the extent which was initially anticipated. It is highly recommended that Safety Partnerships continue to anticipate that as public confidence grows and the night-time economy recovers, related-incidents will return to pre-pandemic levels.

Existing recommendations for the duration of the three-year assessment period:

All Safety Partnerships should remain engaged with the development and delivery of the Staffordshire and Stoke-on-Trent Serious Violence Reduction Strategy.

Partnerships should continue work with licensing authorities to identify and tackle heavy drinking in areas with high levels of alcohol-related disorder and public place violence. Authorities should work with licenced premises to support staff in recognising signs of potential violence amongst individuals/groups and take appropriate preventative action.

There remains a need for pubs, clubs and bars to have mechanisms whereby those who feel at risk of harm for any reason, can covertly raise concerns and be supported to safely leave the premises to a place of safety. It is important that mechanisms are well-publicised and available to anyone who feels concerned for their safety for any reason.

There are a number of areas which see repeat instances of public place violence, there may be value in exploring options for expanding the 'Safer Places' scheme to allow younger people who feel at risk of violence or harm to use the scheme to find a place of safety while Police are contacted.

To reduce re-offending, joined-up multi-agency support should exist for first-time violent offenders (including those who do not progress through the criminal justice system) in order to support and address relevant behavioural needs and/or any needs relating to mental health, in addition to relevant needs relating to alcohol or substance misuse.

Partnerships should continue to focus on early intervention for young people at risk of gang involvement and should to continue to engage in the delivery and development of gang prevention and disruption strategy as appropriate.

There is ongoing need to work with education settings, pupil referral units, care homes, prisons, youth groups, other youth services, and housing associations to raise awareness of the dangers, risks and legal repercussions associated with carrying knives and other weapons. Local evidence suggests a need to focus on those aged 11-18 years.

There is ongoing need to work with education settings, pupil referral units, care homes, prisons, youth groups, other youth services, and housing associations to raise awareness of the dangers, risks and legal repercussions associated with carrying knives and other weapons. Local evidence suggests a need to focus on those aged 11-18 years.

Vulnerable Persons (incl. Alcohol, Drugs, Safeguarding and Mental Health)

Recommendations added in the previous refresh:

Given the impact of the Coronavirus pandemic on physical health, mental health and well-being, employment, and education – it should be considered that over the next 12-24 months there will be increases in numbers of people and families considered vulnerable. Partnerships must consider that this will not only increase demand on support services and partners, but also increase the number of individuals who may be at risk of criminal exploitation. It is important that mechanisms to document, share, and escalate concerns around exploitation and vulnerability can cope with increased pressure. [Duplicated within Drug Supply and County Lines recommendations]

Existing recommendations for the duration of the three-year assessment period:

Alcohol is a cross-cutting theme across a range of priorities – partners should continue to consider where alcohol may be a factor in offending behaviour or in levels of vulnerability, ensuring support and intervention includes alcohol-related support. Support should be particularly intensive for young people with identified emerging alcohol concerns.

Being under the influence of alcohol remains a factor that disproportionately leads to casualties in dwelling fires, it is vital that those delivering support to individuals around alcohol also assess their residences for fire-related risks.

Centrally there is a need to continue to promote activity to raise awareness of the significant risks attached to drug and substance misuse, including the significant health and psychological risks attached to psychoactive substances previously referred to as 'legal highs'. There is a need to ensure that there is appropriate multi-agency support for young people with drug-related and suspected drug-related offending, in order to deter drug use and provide early treatment where addiction or dependency may be a concern. This should include work with schools, education providers, children's homes and foster carers where appropriate, to ensure that there is a sound understanding of the early signs of substance misuse, so that young people can be supported at the earliest possible opportunity.

There is a need to continue work with appropriate partners, so that workers are able to identify those with drug and substance misuse needs who are at risk of, or may be the victims of, criminal exploitation through activities such as cuckooing or through gang or organised crime activity, and appropriately document, share and escalate concerns.

Stronger knowledge of contextual safeguarding is essential in protecting vulnerable people. Partnerships should help lead the way in moving thinking around safeguarding forwards to address extra-familial risk; including supporting businesses in developing awareness of risks to young people and developing confidence in reporting any concerns.

It is essential that young people are aware of signs of potential criminal exploitation, and that mechanisms exist to allow young people to safely communicate concerns about criminal exploitation of themselves or their peers.

There is an ongoing need to keep prevention and early intervention work at the heart of community safety strategy, particularly focussing on young people who are at risk of either offending or becoming victims of crime. This must include work with looked-after-children (LAC) who are a particularly at-risk group and children in Pupil Referral Units (PRUs) who are greater risk of coming into contact with the criminal justice system and increased risk of exploitation.

Mental health is a cross-cutting area of need, with many of the most vulnerable victims and offenders (including those under 18) experiencing mental health challenges. It is recommended that partners continue to consider the impact of mental health on individual's levels of vulnerability and on their behaviour, ensuring that there are packages of appropriate multi-agency support for those with appropriate levels of need.

Recommendations against additional considerations

Repeat and Persistent Offending:

Existing recommendations for the duration of the three-year assessment period:

Continue to engage with partners and Offender Management (as appropriate) to ensure that are appropriate packages of multi-agency support for offenders, particularly those with drug and substance misuse and dependency. Support should be particularly intensive for younger offenders (under 21) who have drug dependencies or drug and substance misuse challenges.

Partnerships should consider that those who commit repeat acquisitive offences in order to sustain drug or alcohol misuse or dependency are at high risk of criminal exploitation and may need additional support and consideration at multi-agency risk assessment meetings.

Partnerships should continue to share information on perpetrators and particularly repeat perpetrators (of both public place ASB and Neighbour Disputes) to ensure that individuals receive multi-agency support where appropriate. It is particularly important that young people who are repeat perpetrators of ASB are identified and supported appropriately to prevent further patterns of offending. [Duplicated within ASB recommendations]

Continue activity with domestic abuse perpetrator programme providers. Approaches should consider additional support needs for offenders around alcohol and drug/substance misuse, mental health, and behavioural and emotional needs and challenges. Support should be particularly intensive for those who are first-time domestic offenders, and domestic offenders who are under 21 years old.

Fire and Rescue:

[NEW] As Fire and Rescue Services (FARS) continue to evolve and begin to go through a period of more formal reform, Safety Partnerships should be engaged with this process and remain sighted on strategic developments within FARS and might create new opportunities across the wider pan-Staffordshire partnership.

Existing recommendations for the duration of the three-year assessment period:

Support partners in front-line services to be able to recognise fire-risk in homes and recognise where factors are present that have links to disproportionate levels of fire-related casualties. Partners should make appropriate referrals to Fire and Rescue, or provide appropriate information, advice and support to individuals to reduce risk. This should also extend to partners who engage with businesses and the agricultural community.

Safer Roads:

[NEW] While roads in Staffordshire and Stoke-on-Trent are largely very safe, continuation of proactive preventative work remains key; Safety Partnerships should continue to engage with the Staffordshire Safer Roads Partnership (SSRP) around community engagement and prevention/education activity and ongoing risk assessment activity.

Partnership areas with rural road networks should consider whether there are specific communities which may benefit from being supported to engage with and volunteer as part of the Community Speed Watch scheme.

Where Safety Partnerships have concerns about road use in specific locations within their partnership area, they should engage with the SSRP to discuss whether there is a need and opportunity for targeted enforcement activity.

Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG):

[NEW] Recently published strategies from both the UK Government and Staffordshire Police have a renewed focus on tackling and ending Violence Against Women and Girls. Given the role of the wider partnership in achieving this, Safety Partnerships should remain engaged with developments in VAWG strategy, and where appropriate and relevant, should contribute to the development of any related delivery plans.

Business Crime:

Recommendations added in the previous refresh:

Preliminary findings from Staffordshire Commissioner's Office report on Business Crime suggests that there may be a need for greater engagement with smaller businesses in partnership areas, in order to better understand their needs and how they are impacted by crime and disorder..

Existing recommendations for the duration of the three-year assessment period:

Continue to engage with Business Crime Advisors at the Staffordshire Chambers of Commerce as appropriate. Engage with the development and delivery of pan-Staffordshire Business Crime strategy.

Modern Slavery:

Existing recommendations for the duration of the three-year assessment period:

Safety Partnerships should continue with co-ordinated partnership activity to tackle modern slavery, including the implementation of consistent training packages to improve awareness and knowledge of the factors which may highlight victims and perpetrators and to increase our understanding of the scale and scope of this threat.

Safety Partnerships should contribute to the multi-agency Anti-Slavery Partnership Tactical Group; to assist with early intervention for victims, disruption of offender networks and support a co-ordinated approach to enforcement activity. It is important for partners to remain engaged and in tune with national discussion around Modern Slavery, and developments to make the National Referral Mechanism better tailored for victimised children and young people.

It is important for partners and front-line services to have strong awareness of the range of offending included under Modern Slavery including that many victims and perpetrators of Domestic Servitude and Forced Labour offences in Staffordshire & Stoke-on-Trent are British. Safety Partnerships should remain engaged with Staffordshire Police and the Police Knowledge Hub in order to become aware of any shifts or emerging changes in Modern Slavery.

Appendix C: Methodology

The prioritisation setting process for 2020-21 has taken account of existing priorities, analysis, reporting and intelligence to identify any shift in, or emerging key priorities - validated through discussion with individual CSP leads.

In this final refresh in the current cycle of strategic assessments, the impact of the Coronavirus on crime, disorder and Anti-social Behaviour has been considered, and care has been taken to not add or adjust existing priorities unless there is clear evidence of need for a change.

Existing priorities have been identified through reviews of strategic risk and threat assessments, analysis of local data, local and force-wide intelligence, as well as intelligence from partners, stakeholders and relevant national bodies.

Appendix D: Data tables

NB: Ward level rates have not been refreshed in this iteration. This is due to the impact of the pandemic on crime and disorder over the past 18 months. It has been considered that any refocussing on localities based on data from April 2020 onwards would distract from communities and areas with long-established challenges.

In the full Strategic Assessment due in the year following this report, priority wards will be re-assessed.

Overall Crime: Ward-level count and rate, 2019-20 (wards where rate is above average)

Ward Name	Partnership Area	ALL CRIME	Arson and Criminal Damage	Burglary	Drug Offences	Misc. Crimes Against Society	Possession of Weapons	Public Order Offences	Robbery	Sexual Offences	Theft	Vehicle Offences	Violence against the Person
Castle	Tamworth	198.7	15.2	5.3	8.7	2.3	1.9	10.4	2.9	4.4	79.8	11.5	56.2
Belgrave	Tamworth	70.4	7.4	3.1	1.5	1.4	0.8	2.8	0.6	2.4	16.5	11.1	22.9
Bolehall	Tamworth	63.4	6.4	4.8	1.4	0.9	0.4	2.7	0.9	1.8	13.5	6.2	24.2
Spital	Tamworth	61.9	6.7	2.6	0.7	1.2	0.7	2.3	0.3	2.2	18.5	4.8	22.0
Glascote	Tamworth	59.9	7.5	1.4	1.8	0.9	0.4	2.8	1.7	1.4	7.4	6.0	28.5
Stonydelph	Tamworth	57.7	6.2	3.8	1.3	0.4	0.7	3.0	0.5	1.3	9.5	6.3	24.6
Amington	Tamworth	51.3	7.9	3.9	0.9	0.7	0.1	2.4	0.5	1.3	3.9	6.8	22.5
Wilnecote	Tamworth	48.6	7.0	5.3	1.0	0.7	0.4	3.9	0.2	0.9	4.1	7.2	18.0
Mercian	Tamworth	43.5	5.0	3.1	1.5	1.0	0.6	1.9	0.1	1.8	3.9	5.1	19.4
Trinity	Tamworth	42.3	1.5	2.6	0.4	0.6	0.0	1.9	0.0	0.7	16.0	5.8	12.7
Key			Significantly above average					Above average					

Appendix E: Mosaic Groups (Source: Experian Mosaic, Grand Index v3.00)

Group/Type	Group/Type Name	One-Line Description
A	Country Living	Well-off owners in rural locations enjoying the benefits of country life
B	Prestige Positions	Established families in large detached homes living upmarket lifestyles
C	City Prosperity	High status city dwellers in central locations pursuing careers with high rewards
D	Domestic Success	Thriving families who are busy bringing up children and following careers
E	Suburban Stability	Mature suburban owners living settled lives in mid-range housing
F	Senior Security	Elderly people with assets who are enjoying a comfortable retirement
G	Rural Reality	Householders living in less expensive homes in village communities
H	Aspiring Homemakers	Younger households settling down in housing priced within their means
I	Urban Cohesion	Residents of settled urban communities with a strong sense of identity
J	Rental Hubs	Educated young people privately renting in urban neighbourhoods
K	Modest Traditions	Mature homeowners of value homes enjoying stable lifestyles
L	Transient Renters	Single people renting low cost homes for the short term
M	Family Basics	Families with limited resources who budget to make ends meet
N	Vintage Value	Elderly people with limited pension income, mostly living alone
O	Municipal Tenants	Urban residents renting high density housing from social landlords

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