

**Staffordshire
Community Safety
Agreement
2023 – 2026**

Forward

As Chair of the Staffordshire Community Safety Partnership, I am pleased to present the latest Staffordshire Community Safety Agreement (CSA).

The Community Safety landscape is ever changing and the problems we face are becoming increasingly more complex. We will continue to work with partners to address the priority issues identified within the agreement and recognise that success can only be achieved with the support of all the partners around the table.



Councillor Victoria Wilson,
Cabinet Member for Communities and Culture

1 Introduction

1.1 The Community Safety Agreement (CSA) outlines the key community safety priorities for Staffordshire. The CSA is reviewed and refreshed every three years.

1.2 The CSA is mandatory for two tier authorities such as Staffordshire and helps us to meet our statutory duty under Section 17 of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 (as amended by the Police and Justice Act 2006) in which responsible authorities are required to consider crime and disorder in the delivery of all their duties.

1.3 Its membership reflects this with all statutorily required partners (including Staffordshire Police, Staffordshire Police and Crime Commissioners Office, Staffordshire County Council, Staffordshire District and Borough Councils, Fire & Rescue Authority, Probation and Health) represented, in addition to other agencies who contribute to developing stronger, safer, and more resilient communities.

1.4 This agreement aims to develop a more joined-up approach to public service delivery, to enable more effective and co-ordinated strategic planning across partner agencies and to ensure sustainable and lasting improvements in delivering outcomes. It recognises that community safety issues do not always respect district boundaries, and that coordination of effort can lead to economies of scale, joined up working, and more effective outcomes.

1.5 Whilst Stoke-on-Trent City Council does not form part of this agreement, it undertakes a similar process. Where appropriate Staffordshire County Council works with Stoke-on-Trent City Council to tackle common priorities.

2 Legislation

The following Chapter outlines the key pieces of legislation and statutory duties that direct the work of the Staffordshire Community Safety Partnership.

2.1 The Crime and Disorder Act 1998 gave statutory responsibility to local authorities, the police, and key partners to reduce crime and disorder in their communities. Under this legislation the responsible authorities, referred to as Community Safety Partnerships (CSPs), were required to carry out three yearly audits and to implement crime reduction strategies.

2.2 The Police Reform and Social Responsibility Act 2011 introduced directly elected Police and Crime Commissioners (PCCs) to replace Police Authorities in England and Wales. This brought a requirement for the PCC to have regard to the priorities of the responsible authorities making up the CSPs and for those authorities to have regard to the police and crime objectives set out in the Police and Crime Plan. The legislation also brought with it a mutual duty for the PCC and the responsible authorities to act in co-operation with each other in exercising their respective functions.

2.3 The requirement for Community Safety Partnerships (CSPs) to conduct Domestic Homicide Reviews (DHR) came into effect on 13th April 2011 as a result of the Domestic Violence, Crime and Victims Act (2004). The process is managed, coordinated centrally by the Staffordshire Community Safety Team on behalf of the District and Borough CSPs.

2.4 The Domestic Abuse Act 2021 received Royal Assent on 29th April 2021. The DA Commissioner has powers to compel public bodies to cooperate with her office and make recommendations for public bodies to respond to within 56 days.

2.5 Part 4 of the DA Act requires Tier 1 authorities to; create a Local Partnership Board with responsibility for conducting a needs assessment, complete a Domestic Abuse Strategy on safe accommodation and undertake commissioning activity in relation to accommodation-based services.

2.6 **Serious Violence** created a new duty on organisations to collaborate, where possible through existing partnership structures, to prevent and reduce serious violence. In addition, there was an intention to amend the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 to ensure serious violence is an explicit priority for Community Safety Partnerships, in recognition of the significant role of CSPs. The new duties have been progressed through Parliament as part of the 'Police, Crime, Sentencing and Courts Bill,' which received Royal Assent on 28th April 2022.

2.7 **Fire Safety: The Fire Safety Act 2021** received Royal Assent on 29th April 2021. The Act was introduced to clarify who is responsible for managing and reducing fire risks in different parts of multi-occupational residential buildings to prevent future tragedies, such as the Grenfell Tower. In addition, the Government is also looking to introduce a Building Safety Bill which would give

residents and homeowners more rights, powers, and protections – making homes across the country safer.

Key Changes to the Community Safety Landscape

3.1 Coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic has had an unprecedented global and local impact. While restrictions have been lifted for some time now, a vaccine has been deployed, and both transmission and severity of Covid have reduced, the country is in a stage of recovery and the impact of the pandemic is still being felt. The pandemic has changed the way that partners are able to deliver services, with the working practices of many organisations changing. Community safety partners will continue to respond to the needs of the community and adapt their services and priorities as necessary,

3.2 Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG) is an umbrella term used to cover a wide range of abuses against women and girls such as domestic homicide, domestic abuse, sexual assault etc. While men and boys also suffer from many of these forms of abuse, they disproportionately affect women. The Home Office has published a Strategy on Tackling Violence Against Women and Girls following several recent high-profile cases.

3.3 UK Strategies to Tackle Drugs and Crime: Since our last community Safety Agreement, the Home Office published the Beating Crime Plan ‘Fewer victims, peaceful neighbourhoods, safe country.’ The Government has invested in several programmes and funding schemes to help strengthen the ability to tackle these issues, including Safer Streets Fund, Violence Reduction Units, Supporting Families Fund, and tackling drugs supply and county lines.

3.4 In December 2021 the Government published ‘From Harm to Hope’ a 10-year drugs plan. The plan is the first Drugs Strategy which commits the whole Government along with public services to work together and share responsibility for creating a safer, healthier, and more productive society. The main aims are to break drug supply chains; deliver a world-class treatment and recovery system; and reduce the demand for drugs through changing attitudes in society.

3.5 War in Ukraine: The Russian invasion of Ukraine has so far led to at least 2.5 million people fleeing the country with EU officials predicting up to five million refugees. The UK alongside other countries across Europe and the rest of the world in terms of supporting the migration of refugees, Staffordshire has welcomed Ukrainian refugees fleeing the war. It is important to be aware of any changes in community tensions, such as protests or demonstrations and impacts on community relations.

3.6 Migration and Resettlement: At a national level, in 2021 the Government published a New Plan for Immigration (NPI) and Nationality and Borders Act 2022. The UK currently runs a number of resettlement schemes and Staffordshire is a participant of these e.g., the Afghan resettlement scheme. Some migrants who arrive in the UK are ‘unaccompanied asylum seeking children’ (UASC) and as such are placed in the care of the local authority. There is a possibility of both pro and anti-migrant related tensions occurring in Staffordshire.

3.7 Protect Duty - The Protect Duty will require owners and operators of public spaces and venues to put in place measures to keep the public safe from a terrorist attack. The Draft Bill was published on 2 May 2023 and reflects lessons learned following the terrorist attacks and is known as Martyn's Law.

4 Governance

4.1 The Staffordshire Community Safety Partnership, known as the Safer and Stronger Communities Strategy Group (SSCSG) is responsible for the delivery of the Staffordshire Community Safety Agreement priorities, with membership taken from senior officers across the responsible authorities (see below), local Community Safety Partnership (CSP) Chairs the County Council portfolio holder together with non-statutory other agencies who contribute to the Partnership

4.2 The Responsible Authorities are: Staffordshire Police, Staffordshire District & Borough Councils, Staffordshire County Council, Staffordshire Fire & Rescue Service, NHS, and the Probation Service.

4.3 Partners aim to effectively and efficiently deliver the priorities outlined in this agreement and to comply with statutory responsibilities.

5. County Priorities

5.1 The priorities within this Community Safety Agreement have been identified using the findings of the Staffordshire Community Safety Strategic Assessment and the 8 District and Borough Strategic Assessments. These assessments drew upon data held by partners and included emerging issues with input from a wide range of stakeholders, including District Community Safety Partnerships. The Staffordshire Community Safety Strategic Assessment is attached as an appendix to this CSA.

5.2 The areas identified as Local Community Safety County Wide Priorities are as follows: -

- **Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB)**
- **Community Cohesion & Tackling Extremism**
- **Domestic Abuse**
- **Drug Supply & County Line**
- **Fraud**
- **Serious Violence and Violence against Women and Girls**
- **Safeguarding Vulnerable Persons (incl. Alcohol, Drugs and Mental Health) and Child Exploitation**

5.3 The following areas identified in the strategic assessment affect some District/Borough Community Safety Partnerships significantly more than others. These will form part of the appropriate District/Borough partnership plans and as such will not be included in the county wide priorities.

- **Modern Slavery**
- **Vehicle Crime**
- **Rural Crime**

6 Priorities by Locality

6.1 A considerable piece of work has been undertaken by the Knowledge Hub at Staffordshire Police in order to identify localities within Staffordshire & Stoke-on-Trent which would benefit the most from a strong partnership focus, in order to address long-standing challenges and vulnerabilities.

6.2 Areas have been identified through a combination of different elements of local area data (including crime, ASB and police intelligence and insight) covering multiple years, including pre-pandemic. Assessment of areas has considered levels of crime and disorder over time and the overall levels of vulnerability and risk in each area.

6.3 Due to levels of crime, disorder, vulnerability, and risk, some areas are considered a high priority at a force-wide level and are included below. Other areas experience challenges which are a priority for their local Safety Partnership area and will therefore be included in local District/Borough plans where appropriate.

6.4 Areas which are identified at a force-wide level as a priority reflect those selected by Staffordshire Police as in need of a 'Precision Policing' / Precision Community Safety approach. These are areas in the following Districts and Boroughs, East Staffordshire, Cannock, Stafford, and Newcastle-under-Lyme.

East Staffordshire	Priority Type	Rationale for selection
Burton Town & Uxbridge Burton Urban Winshill & Stapenhill	High – force-wide	As one of the largest urban areas in Staffordshire and Stoke-on-Trent, these neighbourhoods have experienced a number of challenges relating to crime and vulnerability over a period of time.

Stafford	Priority Type	Rationale for selection
Stafford Town Stafford South	High force-wide	The most central part of the force experiences some high levels of crime and vulnerability – particularly around the town centre and some vulnerable communities in the immediate vicinity.

Newcastle-under-Lyme	Priority Type	Rationale for selection
Newcastle Town	High force-wide	Similarly, to other town centre areas, the neighbourhood experiences a disproportionate volume of crime (including some which is high risk) in addition to public space ASB.

Cannock Chase	Priority Type	Rationale for selection
Cannock South & West Cannock East & North	High force-wide	These neighbourhoods experience some high levels of crime and vulnerability – particularly around the town centre and some vulnerable residential areas, which rank amongst the 30% most deprived nationally.

7 Staffordshire Community Safety Agreement Priorities 2023-2026 Mapping

7.1 Several of the identified priorities already have existing multi-agency partnership arrangements in place that are ensuring a coordinated approach across organisations at a strategic level. There is no desire to duplicate work where governance arrangements are in place with appropriate strategic direction, a performance framework and good partnership attendance and engagement.

7.2 Where priorities already have existing partnership arrangements in place to facilitate and enable delivery, regular updates and assurances will be provided to the Safer and Stronger Communities Strategy Group via a named lead.

7.3 For clarification purposes, for priorities in 7.2, the Lead Officer named in the table below is the member of the Safer and Stronger Communities Strategy Group who provides the regular updates to the SSCSG meeting.

7.4 The themes coloured yellow in the table below indicate those priorities where the Safer and Stronger Communities Strategy Group will be responsible for monitoring performance against the delivery of the partnership priority.

Theme	Governance arrangements	Officer responsible for provision of performance updates to the SSCSG
Domestic Abuse	Domestic Abuse Commissioning and Development Board	Alice Walters Staffordshire County Council –
Tackling Extremism & Community Cohesion	Prevent - Staffordshire Prevent Board – CONTEST Board	Prevent – Fiona Chapman Staffordshire County Council
Tackling Extremism & Community Cohesion	Community Cohesion - Safer and Stronger Communities Strategy Group	Community Cohesion– Sandra Payne - Support Staffordshire
ASB	Safer and Stronger Communities Strategy Group	Staffordshire Police Elliott Sharrard-Williams

	(ASB Partnership Task and Finish group reporting into the Community Safety Strategic Forum)	
Serious Violence and Violence against Women and Girls	The Violence Reduction Executive Board	Joint - Elliott Sharrard-Williams Staffordshire Police – Naomi Smith- SCO
Safeguarding Vulnerable Persons (incl. Alcohol, Drugs and Mental Health) and Child Exploitation	Drug and Alcohol Executive Board/ Health and Wellbeing Board Child Exploitation Task Group/ Children’s Safeguarding Board	Tony Bullock- Staffordshire County Council Simon Scott-Staffordshire County Council
Fraud	Safer and Stronger Communities Strategy Group	Elliott Sharrard-Williams- Staffordshire Police
Drug Supply and County Lines	There is a national approach to this work via the National Crime agency, with local strategic ownership sitting at Detective Chief Superintendent level. This work is police led and partners are engaged as appropriate.	Reporting of activity has not been included in this CSA, ad-hoc reporting if as required by Elliott Sharrard-Williams
LOCALITY Priorities 1. East Staffs 2. Stafford 3. Newcastle 4. Cannock	Safer and Stronger Communities Strategy Group	District/Borough CSP Lead and Staffordshire Police Elliott Sharrard-Williams

8 Performance

8.1 Successful interventions against the priorities will result in a reduction in overall crime across Staffordshire. At each meeting performance will be a standing agenda item to ensure appropriate focus. Lead officers for each of the priorities have the responsibility for developing, with partners, the action plans to address the countywide priorities where these are not already documented under existing governance arrangements. The leads will also act provide regular progress updates for the Safer and Stronger Communities Strategy Group.

9. Links to Partner Plans

9.1 The priorities set out in this Community Safety Agreement link to and assist in the achievement of a number of national and local partnership plans and strategies.

9.2 Police and Crime Plans are a core planning tool for Police and Crime Commissioners (PCCs) and were introduced as a statutory requirement for all police force areas as part of the Police Reform and Social Responsibility Act 2011. The Plan includes the PCC’s police and crime objectives for the area.

9.3 Staffordshire’s Police & Crime Commissioner Police and Crime Plan for Staffordshire 2021/2024 outlines five priorities as follows:

- A flexible and responsive service
- Support victims and witnesses
- Prevent harm and protect people.
- Reduce offending and reoffending.
- A more effective criminal justice system

9.4 Staffordshire Fire and Rescue Service Safety Plan 2020-2024 outlines the following priorities:

- Prevention and early intervention
- Protecting Staffordshire and its people
- Public confidence
- Service reform

9.5 Other Plans and strategies include:

- Prevent Duty Delivery Board Action Plan
- Counter Terrorism Situational Risk Assessment
- Staffordshire and Stoke Domestic Abuse Strategy
- Local Community Safety Partnership (CSP) Community Safety Plans

Appendix – Staffordshire Community Safety Strategic Assessment- Dec 2022



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Staffordshire & Stok