



Community Safety Strategic Assessment

Executive Summary

Tamworth Refresh Assessment

The Centre for Public Innovation

February 2025

The Centre for Public Innovation is a Community Interest Company that provides research, training, support and advice in the fields of health, social care, criminal justice and community development.

Our mission is to improve the outcomes of services for their users, with a particular emphasis on the most disadvantaged.

Executive Summary

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'.

It is a statutory obligation for CSPs to produce an annual localised Strategic Assessment providing a strategic evidence-base that identifies future priorities for the partnership and evaluates year-on-year activity.

This Strategic Assessment is being produced as a refresh assessment. The previous full assessment was undertaken and published in 2021/22.

Strategic context

The wider framework for addressing crime across Staffordshire is set by the Staffordshire Commissioner's Office. The Commissioner's priorities are:

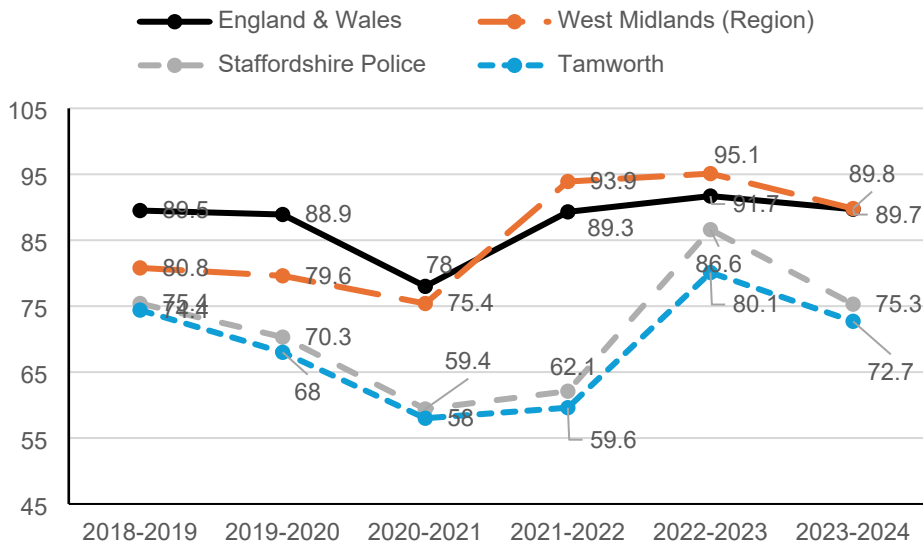
- An outstanding Police service,
- Supporting victims and witnesses,
- Preventing and protecting
- Impactful partnerships.

Staffordshire Police have also set a number of priorities which CSPs should seek to align with where appropriate:

- Ensure safe and confident communities,
- Develop an exceptional workforce,
- Develop active and productive partnerships,
- Build an outstanding organisation.

Overall crime in Tamworth

The key finding from this refresh assessment is that levels of crime are lower in the district and are lower than the rates for West Midlands and for England as a whole, even though it has the second highest crime rate in Staffordshire.



Anti Social Behaviour (ASB)

Rates of ASB in Tamworth are some way **below the national average of 17 per 1,000** of population and slightly below the regional rate of 11 and the force rate of 12. **This rate is dropping with a fall of 28% between 2023-23 and 2023-24.**

There is a very clear hotspot of ASB in the district with a little under a quarter (23%) of ASB in Tamworth occurring in Tamworth Town. A wide range of initiatives have been put in place to address ASB across the district including diversionary activities, the use of engagement officers and positive working relationships with local housing/Neighbourhood Impact officers. However local residents still report being concerned about the issue with ASB being flagged as the top priority in the PCC's perception survey.

Specific crimes

The most prevalent crimes in Tamworth are:

- Violence Against the Person (32.6 incidents per 1,000 residents),
- Theft Offences (16.8),
- Stalking and Harassment (12.7),
- Vehicle Offences (6.4).

Local priorities

Violence against the person

This offence constitutes 45% of all offending locally and so – by some margin – is the most prevalent type of crime with a hotspot being Tamworth Town Centre where over a fifth (21%)

of these offences occur. Unlike most forms of crime in the district **rates of violence with injury are on the increase.**

Given the overall trend with regard to crime in Tamworth (i.e. that it is on a downward trajectory), the issue of violence is something of an outlier and therefore warrants further scrutiny.

Theft

The most common theft offences were vehicle offences and **shoplifting which make up over half (54)% of theft offences in Tamworth** however this form of crime is on the decline and **has experienced a 20% drop.**

Vehicle theft is down by 23% but is higher than the force area rate.

Shoplifting, while on a downward trajectory, are on a par with the force-wide rate of 5.3 per 1,000 with a clear hotspot in the town centre.

Domestic abuse

There is a strong link between domestic abuse, the Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG) agenda, and rates of violence locally thereby validating the decision by the CSP and local partners to prioritise this issue. There is merit in further analysis of violence and domestic abuse data to determine the extent to which local rates of violence are being driven by domestic abuse.

Community cohesion

We note the CSP is actively seeking to understand and address the underlying causes of local community tensions via its community cohesion group and research carried out with more marginalised communities. We believe that there is merit in sharing the findings of this work and the research with the PCC's office to see if there are messages and lessons that can be shared across Staffordshire more widely.

Road safety

There has been a **clear increase in road casualties** which have seen a steep rise since 2022. There would appear to be a need to explore the issue of road safety across the district to understand the rate of increase and whether there are specific causal factors that can be addressed or hotspots.

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