



Gosport CSP Strategic Assessment

1.0 Introduction

This assessment has been produced by the Gosport Community Safety Partnership (CSP) as a legal requirement and it will be used to inform its strategic priorities for the 2024/2025 financial year.

This report contains a summary of the key statistics and issues regarding Crime and Disorder, including Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB). These have been identified through a high level analysis of information from a range of national and local information sources as well as community feedback.

2.0 Demographic Overview

The Borough of Gosport is a peninsula situated on the Solent coastline and lies between the cities of Portsmouth and Southampton. The population of Gosport is 82,285.¹ Deprivation is seen at a local level within the wards of Grange, Forton and Leesland ranked in the 20% most deprived areas in the country and Town in the 10% most deprived areas in the country.² Approximately 14.0% (2,056) children live in absolute low-income families.³ Life expectancy for both men and women is similar to the England average.⁴

3.0 Performance Overview

A range of data sources has been used to help provide a picture of Crime and Disorder (including ASB). However these data sources will have their limitations for example the Crime Data only reflects reported crime. The data included in this assessment will be influenced by a range of additional parameters including changes in police recording practices, policing activity/focus, Covid-19. Willingness of victims to report crime is also a key factor and sometimes an increase in reported crime can be a positive result if it is due to greater awareness, or higher confidence in, the reporting processes.

Gosport has seen an overall decrease in recorded crime of 10.3%⁵.

¹ Office for National Statistics (ONS), Census Mid 2022 Population Estimates

² The Index of Multiple Deprivation (IMD), 2019 – IMD report is produced every 4-5 years

³ DWP Children in low income families: local area statistics, financial year ending 2023

⁴ Hampshire and Isle of Wight 2021 Joint Strategic Needs Assessment (JSNA) for Gosport 2018-2022

⁵ Data.Police.Uk

4.0 Gosport's Crime Statistics

	GOSPORT				
12-month Period	2021/2022	2022/2023	2023/2024	Difference*	% Difference*
1a Homicide	1	1	1	0	0%
1b Violence with Injury	1003	955	692	-263	-27.5%
1c Violence without Injury	2535	2654	1749	-905	-34%
2a Rape	90	105	63	-42	-40%
2b Other Sexual Offences	192	236	152	-84	-35.5%
3a Robbery of Business Property	3	4	5	+1	+25%
3b Robbery of Personal Property	33	41	38	-3	-7.3%
4a1 Burglary Residential	144	177	154	-23	-12.9%
4a2 Burglary Business and Community	52	54	43	-11	-20.3%
4b Vehicle Offences	300	304	253	-51	-16.7%
4c Theft from the Person	32	26	32	+6	+23%
4d Bicycle Theft	124	102	91	-11	-10.7%
4e Shoplifting	317	384	418	+34	+8.8%
4f All Other Theft Offences	398	488	402	-86	-17.6%
5a Criminal Damage	691	714	485	-229	-32%
5b Arson	14	31	21	-10	-32.2%
6a Trafficking of Drugs	43	41	55	+14	+34.1%
6b Possession of Drugs	165	136	120	-16	-11.7%
7 Possession of Weapons Offences	80	102	76	-26	-25.4%
8 Public Order Offences	917	864	512	-352	-40.7%
9 Miscellaneous Crimes Against Society	112	123	92	-31	-25.2%
Total	7246	7542	5378	-2164	-28.6%
ASB	1588	1217	891	-326	-26.7%

*Difference and % Difference relates to the 2022/2023 and 2023/2024 data. The 2021/2022 statistics have been included to provide further context.

5.0 Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB)

Gosport's data for 2023/2024 statistics showed a decrease of 26.7% from 2022/2023⁶.

6.0 Domestic violence

In 2023/2024 Stop Domestic Abuse received 373 (324 in 2022/2023) medium risk and 325 (303 in 2022/2023) high risk referrals for victims of domestic abuse in Gosport. This shows an increase in both medium and high risk referrals since 2022/2023 with medium risk referrals increasing by 15.7% since 2022/2023 and high risk increasing by 7.2%.

⁶ Data.Police.Uk

Total referrals in both Gosport and the rest of Hampshire have seen an increase since 2022/2023, with Hampshire referrals increasing by 12% and Gosport by 7%.

Referrals in Gosport were primarily females (89%) and 22% of referrals were for those under 25 years old compared to the Hampshire average of 15%. 67% of referrals were made by Police, slightly lower than the picture we saw across the county where 71.65% of referrals were made by the Police.

7.6% of referrals were self-referrals (Hampshire average 7.5%). With the introduction of the co-located Domestic Abuse Housing Specialist, we have seen an increase of referrals from Housing, rising from 1.54% if all referrals in 2022/2023 to c.4% of all referrals in 2023/2024.

In 2023/2024 Stop Domestic Abuse received 120 referrals to their Children and Young Person's (CYP) Service which is a 14% increase in 2022/2023 and equates to 14% of all Hampshire CYP referrals.⁷

7.0 Serious Violence⁸

In January 2023 the Government enacted legislation introducing a new Serious Violence Duty (SVD), which requires a range of specified authorities to work together, to share information to target interventions, to collaborate and produce plans to reduce serious violence in their community. This SVD focuses on tackling root causes of violent through a programme of early intervention, sharing knowledge/information to support an evidence based multi-agency 'public health approach' to tackling violent crime.

The Police, Crime, Sentencing and Courts Act 2022 identifies the crimes of concerns allowing a local definition of Serious Violence: 'Most Serious Violence (MSV): robbery, possession of a weapon, violent disorder, riot and violence with injury where a bladed weapon was used.

In Hampshire, the Serious Violence Reduction Unit facilitates a countywide response and has produced a strategic needs assessment and response strategy and SVR is an explicit priority for the Gosport Community Safety Partnership.

Gosport Serious Violence Data

Gosport has a high level of deprivation and ranks worse or similar than the Hampshire average for all identified risk and protective factors.

In the previous twelve months, violence with injury is the only offence category to have recorded a decrease in offences. Homicide increased from nil offences to n1 occurrence in the past year. Outside of this, the greatest increase was in possession of weapons offences, which increased by 25% (n25), robbery of personal property increased by 23% (n10) and robbery of business property increased from n3 occurrences to n5.

⁷ Stop Domestic Abuse

⁸ Gosport Serious Violence JNSA Oct 2023

In Gosport there were 211 serious violence offences in 2022/23 a rate of 2.6 per 1,000 population, which is the same as the Hampshire, Isle of Wight, Portsmouth and Southampton (HIPS) average. For the Hampshire area there has been an increase of 10% from last year and levels of serious violence are at their highest for the last five years.

In 2022/23, 101 possession of a weapon offence were recorded by the police, a rate of 1.23 per 1,000 population: the third highest HIPS rate and higher than the England averages of 1.1.

Of the n212 serious violence offences recorded in Gosport in 2022/23,⁹ 47% (n100) were possession of weapons offences. This is the most prominent offence classified as serious violence and higher than the HIPS rate (42%). In Gosport, 85% (n85) were classified as offensive weapons occurrences, while the HIPS percentage was 89%. Following possession of weapons offences, violence with Injury (30%, n64) and robbery of personal property (20%, n42) were the most prominent serious violence offences recorded. The same pattern was also recorded across the HIPS area.

In 2022/23 a total of n136 individuals were suspects of serious violence and where details were recorded 88% were male with the common age band for males and 10-17 for females,

Victims of Serious Violence, for females, were most commonly aged 55+, and males aged 25-34 and 16% of all victims were aged 10-17.

The offender/victim relationship was stranger 24%, then victimless 22% and then 18% acquaintance.

A total of 9% of individuals were recorded as suspects linked to more than 1 occurrence and only 1% of individuals were recorded as aggrieved of more than 1 crime.

Higher levels of serious violence occurred in parts of the Forton, Grange, Rowner & Holbrook, and Brockhurst and Privett wards and levels tend to be higher in late spring and summer and on Saturday nights. Most serious violence occurs in public spaces and 8% was linked to licence premises, 8% involved alcohol use by the suspect and 4% involved drug use.

8.0 Violence against Women and Girls (VAWG)

The Home Office defines Violence against Women & Girls (VAWG) as: "Acts of violence or abuse that we know disproportionately affect women and girls. Crimes and behaviour covered by this term include rape and other sexual offences, domestic abuse, stalking, 'honour'-based abuse as well as many others, including offences committed online. While we use the term 'violence against women and girls', it refers to all victims of any of these offences."¹⁰

⁹ Using the raw data.

¹⁰ Hampshire & Isle of Wight Constabulary VAWG Force Action Plan 2022-2023

In Hampshire in 2022 there was a total of 48815 VAWG crimes (224 different crime types) which is an increase on the previous year of 9.7% (44459 VAWG crimes). The proportion of VAWG crime by crime type in 2022 shows the most common type was Actual Bodily Harm (18.3%) 8946 compared to 8119 in 2021.

Gosport VAWG crime in 2022 was 31% and the third highest in the County. The majority of incidents recorded in Hampshire pertain to Actual Bodily Harm (ABH) and Public Order causing Harassment, Alarm or Distress, in Gosport the proportion of these crime types recorded were 19% ABH and 15% Public Order.

The volume of VAWG spiking in 2022 was up 30.7% (204 in 2022 and 156 in 2021). Reported spikings in Gosport is considerable low (2 in 2022 and 1 in 2021).¹¹

The Government's strategy sets out its plan to tackle VAWG and highlights Prioritising Prevention, Supporting Victims, Pursuing Perpetrators and a co-ordinated system. The Domestic Abuse Act 2021 and Plan 2022 aims to reinforce victim protection and ensure perpetrators face the law. Violence against Women and Girls has been added to the Strategic Policing Requirement.

9.0 Substance Misuse

Substance misuse contributes considerably to the overall burden of disease, social need and impacts community safety.

The Hampshire Substance Misuse Needs Assessment was undertaken in autumn 2022. Gosport compared to other Hampshire District, for drugs, has the highest rate of interventions for young people (33.6 per 10,000 population¹²), ambulance call out rates (128.4 per 100,000 population) and related hospital admissions (14.8 per 100,000 population¹³) and the second highest intervention rate for adults (42.2 per 10,000 population).

Gosport has the highest level of rates of alcohol specific deaths (22.4 per 100,000 population) and highest rate for adult alcohol interventions (37.9 per 10,000 population). For substance misuse in general, Gosport has the highest schools exclusion rates, highest level of need for those working with probation¹⁴ and high rates for homelessness presentation¹⁵ which included substance misuse.

10.0 Community engagement

The Gosport Community Safety Partnership uses a range of engagement activities to link in with its community, to understand local priorities and to promote Community Safety. This includes online channels and participation in neighbourhood level activity such as surgeries and community led events.

¹¹ VAWG Taskforce – May 2023

¹² NHS Inclusion data – unpublished

¹³ NHS Digital – Drug related hospital admissions, 2020

¹⁴ Data supplied by South East and Eastern Probation Services - unpublished

Social media

The Partnership has a good social media presence including a dedicated Facebook page for Gosport Police which posts information regarding patrols, neighbourhood news stories, specific local crimes/incident, awareness of safety schemes/messages and appreciation.

Customer feedback

Gosport Borough Council receives a number of telephone calls, emails, letters or visits regarding Community Safety. The majority of reports relate to ASB at various parks and open spaces and neighbour issues.

Police beat surgeries

Gosport Police holds beat surgeries in local areas tying in with Key Individual Networks and partners. It continues to engage with resident associations and neighbourhood watches and hopes to reinstate Local Action Groups to inform priority setting.

101 reports

The 101 reporting system informs the Partnership Action Group (PAG) process including tasking and deployment of resources. These reports show key themes of ASB at various parks and open spaces and vehicle nuisance in waterfront car parks.

StreetSafe Reports

This service allows anonymous reporting of places where people have felt unsafe because of environmental issues (e.g. street lighting, abandoned buildings or vandalism) or because of some behaviours (e.g. being followed or verbally abused).

Let's Talk Initiative

The Let's Talk initiative was launched on 06/03/2024. Over 13,000 people, Force wide, have completed the Let's Talk survey and had the chance to shape the Policing that occurs in their Neighbourhood.

Sample data from between 01/03/24 and 31/05/24 provides a reflection of what respondents are saying in Gosport.

Gosport District priorities (457):

1. Anti-Social Behaviour
2. Drugs and Related Issues
3. Speeding
4. Parking Issues
5. Dog fouling

11.0 Current CSP Priorities

The CSP has been working towards an agreed action plan developed to deliver on the overarching aim of improving community safety in Gosport. The focus is on three priority areas and progress updates are provided below:

¹⁵ Hampshire County Council, homelessness services, 2021/22 - unpublished

Community Crime Prevention and Public Safety:

The campaign, 16 Days of Action against Domestic Violence, was supported in November 2023, utilising materials provided by Hampshire Domestic Abuse Partnership, to promote awareness of all types of Domestic Abuse. In addition Stop Domestic Abuse led and invited conversations about victim blaming, healthy relationships and empowering survivors of domestic abuse to come forward for support.

E-Learning Bystander training and Safer Spaces training was promoted, five premises in Gosport have received the Safer Spaces training.

The use of technologies to improve the feelings of personal safety, in particular the Hollie Guard app, has been promoted via social media. The app allows the user to activate an alert with a saved contact by shaking their phone.

The Partnership continued to actively support the Prevent Board and Channel Panel Process to reduce extremism and radicalisation. Activity included awareness-raising, specific communications and the promotion of training opportunities.

Safer Streets 5 funding was successfully obtained for situational measures at Leesland Park. Measures include CCTV and environmental improvements at the Play Park and skate park.

Digital resources and campaigns for cyber-crime, on-line safety, substance misuse, modern slavery, Crimestoppers, Fearless and crime prevention messages were promoted to a range of audiences and National Hate Crime Awareness Week was supported.

In support of Op Sceptre week, communications were shared across the partnerships social media. A knife amnesty bin is now permanently located at the Gosport Police front desk.

Anti-Social Behaviour:

Summer Passport was coordinated by Motiv8 in 2023 and was delivered in 8 locations across the Borough. Over 700 young people registered for the scheme. Funding, through a collaborative bid, helped to facilitate food provision and additional activities. CSP partners including Hampshire and Isle of Wight Fire and Rescue Service, Gosport Police and Stop Domestic Abuse actively supported the scheme.

The Partnership Action Group continued to meet monthly to coordinate multi-agency support and enforcement to assist with vulnerable individuals, persistent offenders of ASB and problematic locations. PAG now also discusses the Gosport Habitual Knife Carriers.

Motiv8 were successful in obtaining the contract for delivery a detached youth outreach provision from May – September 2023. The teams had 2910 separate contacts with young people during the sessions and had multiple conversations with young people around education, wellbeing, safety in the community and family life.

Details of The Big Red Chair Project and the Street Link website were promoted via Social Media during the Autumn and Winter months when concerns for street homeless increase.

Community Wellbeing and Cohesion:

The CSP met its statutory requirement to provide a community engagement opportunity by attending two local community engagement events held in March 2024, one in the High Street and the other in Alver Village. CSP partners including Community Safety, Gosport Police and Hampshire & Isle of Wight Fire Service were in attendance. At these events, we asked members of the public to share their thoughts on community safety. At the event in Alver Village, 54 responses were received with 29 mentioning they felt safe. Key themes from these responses were street lighting, lack of Police presence / patrols and groups of young people gathering. At the event in the High Street, 61 responses were received with 29 mentioning they felt safe. Key themes from these responses were lack of Police present / patrols and drug and alcohol use.

The Street Homeless webpage on the Safer Gosport website was regularly updated. Homelessness Action Group meetings continued to co-ordinate local support services and address any problematic street activity. Two Saints and Gosport Housing Advice are overseeing the Housing First Provision within the Gosport area, at present the provision has supported 11 individuals. Housing and support is fundamental and wider multi-agency partnerships are vital to ensure this model continues to be a success.

12.0 Future Challenges

Globally, nationally and locally society with its new norms and lifestyle shifts has resulted in increased vulnerability, poverty, isolation and has impacted health and wellbeing. The digital legacy provides benefits but also offers criminal opportunities, assists with organised crime, increases the perception of crime/anti-social behaviour and presents exploitation risk.

Service delivery organisations have had financial and operational challenges and new service delivery models have been developed in light of this and often increased need.

There may be challenges ahead from rising inequality, social fragmentation, reduced connectivity, technological changes, how information is accessed and who and what is trusted.

It is likely that recent economic uncertainty, financial pressures and the 'cost of living crisis' will increase deprivation, a wider determinant of crime, which impacts Community Safety along with wider outcomes such as health and education.

13.0 Gosport CSP Priorities

The mission of the CSP is to 'improve the safety of Gosport communities'. The Partnership will aim to deliver this by continuing to focus on the following priorities, with underpinning actions reflective of the findings of this strategic assessment:

- Community Crime Prevention and Public Safety
- Community Wellbeing and Cohesion
- ASB