

BIRMINGHAM COMMUNITY SAFETY STRATEGY

2025–2028



BIRMINGHAM COMMUNITY
SAFETY PARTNERSHIP

WORKING TOGETHER FOR A SAFER CITY

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FOREWORD

A successful community safety strategy is not only necessary to ensure the wellbeing of Birmingham's residents; but also to support the city's wider aspirations of economic growth and regeneration. Crime - and fear of crime – affect the day-to-day lives of citizens and the willingness of visitors to come to the city.

Violence, particularly violence against women and girls, affects those feelings of security more than any other crime-type. We want public spaces in Birmingham to be free from knife-crime in particular, as part of our bid to continue to reduce the number of incidents of violence that result in hospital admissions. We want our bustling night-time economies to feel safe, especially for women, who should be able to enjoy the world-class entertainment our restaurants and bars have to offer without fearing sexual violence. We want our young women and girls to be protected from the risks posed by online and real-world predators, alike. It remains sadly true that for many, violence is a phenomenon more likely experienced in the supposed safety of their own homes; escape from which often leads to vulnerability and risk. For this reason, domestic abuse remains a specific aspect of violence that is worthy of dedicated attention. We continue to tackle head-on the shop-theft, drug use and general anti-social behaviour that can make our town-centres feel hostile and threatening to visitors. Finally, we will work together to disrupt and dismantle those groups whose organised criminality causes not only serious violence, but also significant economic harm.

The challenge of issues such as those above is that no-one agency working alone can solve them. Victims of violence are often made vulnerable by experience of trauma and need specialist support from dedicated third-sector agencies. Locations where crime and ASB prevail do so often because of environmental design factors. Reducing offending requires more than an effective criminal justice system. Only by working in collaboration can we provide the systemic solutions to such complex problems.

Birmingham City Council, West Midlands Police and the wider Community Safety Partnership are committed to making Birmingham a place that feels secure and welcoming to visitors, and its citizens alike. As joint chairs of the Partnership, we commend this strategy, which sets out the roadmap for how we will work together between now and 2028.

Chief Superintendent Tom Joyce

1. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Birmingham Community Safety Strategy 2025-8 is a comprehensive plan designed to enhance the safety and well-being of all residents in Birmingham. This strategy is a statutory obligation under the Crime and Disorder Act 1998, ensuring that we have a robust framework to reduce crime and disorder in our area. It outlines how the statutory partners within the Community Safety Partnership (CSP) will collaborate to deliver the agreed strategic priorities.

The primary purpose of this strategy is to create a safer Birmingham by addressing key issues such as crime, anti-social behaviour, and community cohesion. It meets our statutory objectives by providing a clear roadmap for reducing crime and disorder, safeguarding vulnerable individuals, and promoting a sense of security among residents. The strategy is aligned with the West Midlands PCC Police and Crime Plan, ensuring that our local efforts contribute to broader regional goals.

Our strategy is evidence-led, based on a thorough strategic assessment of risk. This assessment involves analysing data, consulting with stakeholders and our community, and understanding the unique challenges faced by our community. By grounding our actions in evidence, we can ensure that our interventions are effective and targeted, addressing the root causes of crime and disorder.

Delivering this strategy requires a collaborative effort from all CSP partners, including West Midlands Police, Birmingham City Council, His Majesty's Prison and Probation Service, NHS Birmingham and Solihull Integrated Care Board and West Midlands Fire Service. Partners will work together as appropriate with communities, businesses, and the voluntary sector to deliver this strategy.

The strategy identifies five key priorities:

- 1. Violence Reduction:** Developing and overseeing strategies to prevent and reduce all forms of serious violence within the city.
- 2. Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG):** Driving initiatives to prevent VAWG, support victims, and hold perpetrators accountable.
- 3. Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB):** Coordinating multi-agency responses to address ASB and its impact on community well-being.
- 4. Serious Organised Crime and Exploitation:** Leading efforts to identify, disrupt, and prevent various forms of exploitation, including sexual exploitation, modern slavery, and criminal exploitation.
- 5. Domestic Abuse:** Strategically addressing domestic abuse through prevention, protection, and support services for victims and interventions for perpetrators.

Our commitment to working together is central to the success of this strategy. By fostering strong partnerships, sharing data and resources, and working with the community, we aim to create a safer and more cohesive Birmingham for everyone.

2. STRATEGIC NEEDS ASSESSMENT SUMMARY

This strategic assessment analyses crime and disorder in Birmingham between January and December 2024 to inform the Birmingham Community Safety Partnership's (BCSP) priorities. It utilises data shared from the statutory partners of the BCSP as well as national and comparative datasets.

Overall Crime Trends:

- Total Recorded Crime (TRC) in Birmingham decreased by 7% in 2024 compared to 2023, contrasting with a 12% national increase.
- Violence Against the Person (VAP) offences fell by 9%, and robbery decreased by 16%.
- However, shoplifting increased significantly by 34%, exceeding the national rise.

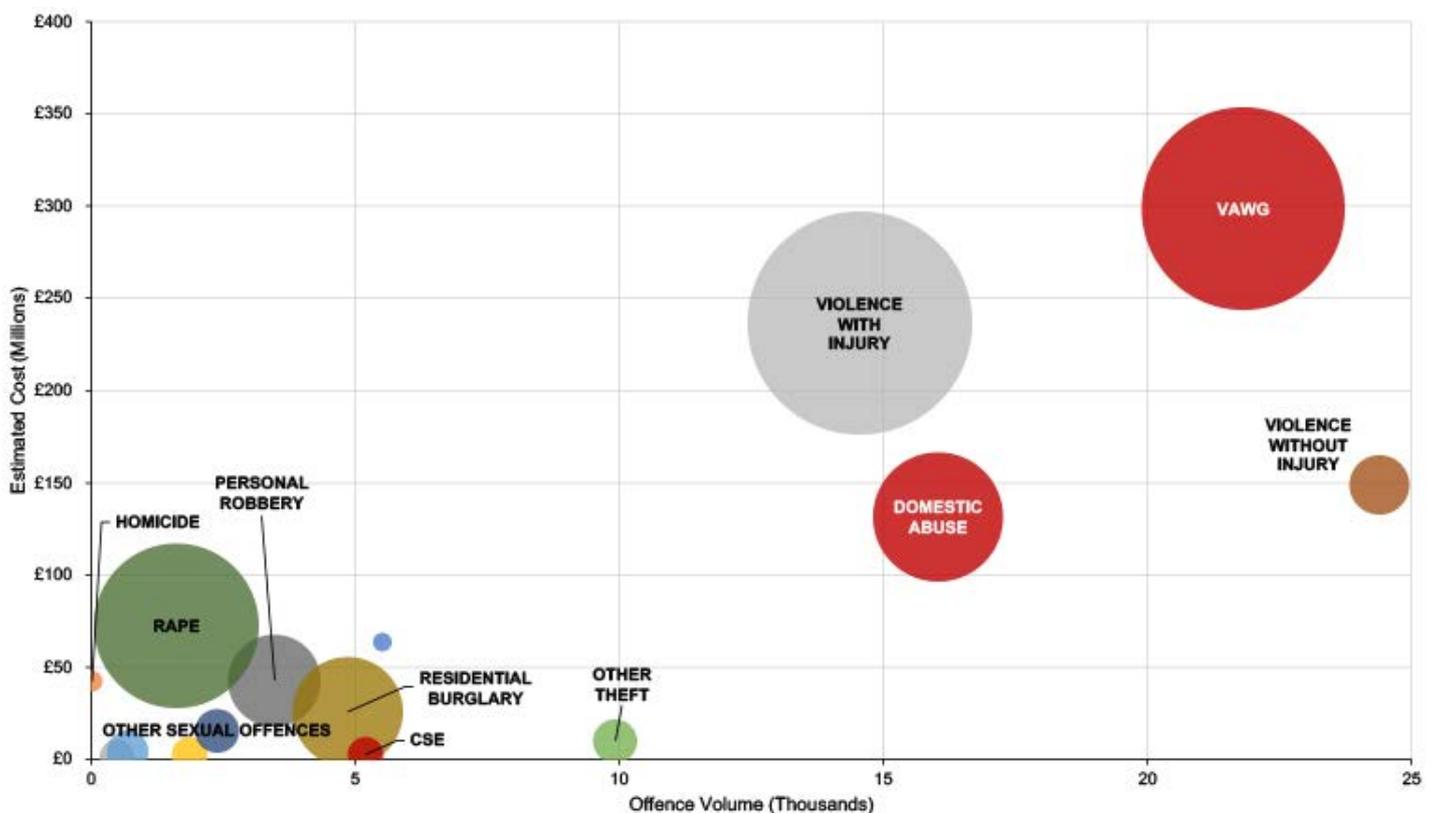
Highlighted Threats & High Harm Areas:

- **Violence Against the Person (VAP):** Remains the largest contributor to recorded crime volume (39%). While overall VAP reduced, specific categories like Violence with Injury still represent the highest crime harm according to the Cambridge Crime Harm Index (CCHI) (38% of total harm). Hospital admissions for assault remain significant, though trending slightly downwards.
- **Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG):** Identified as a major cross-cutting threat, contributing significantly to the overall crime harm. Although VAWG offences recorded a 13% reduction in 2024, they remain a strategic priority. Offences peak on weekday afternoons (3-5 pm) and during late-night weekend hours associated with the Night Time Economy (NTE).

- **Domestic Abuse:** Also highlighted as a key cross-cutting, high-harm area. These offences primarily occur in residential settings. While showing a 10% reduction, it remains a core focus.
- **Shoplifting & Acquisitive Crime:** Shoplifting saw a major increase (34%). Retail theft nationally cost £2.2bn, with increased violence against staff. This rise is linked partly to the cost-of-living crisis. Repeat victimisation is highest for businesses/retailers. Mobile phones, bank cards, and specific foodstuffs (confectionery, meat, alcohol) are common targets.
- **Robbery:** Personal robbery decreased by 19%, but Birmingham ranks worst (15th) among similar areas for this crime rate. Robbery is a high-harm category (6% of CCHI harm). Young people aged 14-18 are the most overrepresented victims.
- **Motor Vehicle Crime:** Decreased by 10%, but Birmingham ranks poorly (14th/15th) for rates of vehicle theft among similar areas. Ford Fiestas, Transit vans, and specific Toyota/Mercedes models are highly targeted, partly due to keyless entry vulnerabilities.
- **Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB):** High volumes are reported, primarily neighbour disputes, vehicle nuisance, aggressive behaviour, and youth ASB. Peak times are early evenings (5-7 pm). Persistent ASB can cause significant harm, especially to

- **Exploitation (Child Sexual Exploitation - CSE & Modern Slavery):** CSE offences decreased but are recognised as heavily underreported. Females aged 12-17 are predominant victims. Online grooming is a significant factor. Modern Slavery offences saw a slight increase.

- **Wider Socio-Economic Factors:** High deprivation (43% in the most deprived 10% nationally), child poverty (51%), lower employment rates, the cost-of-living crisis, and homelessness are noted as contributing factors to crime patterns. Financial management issues were a particularly prevalent criminogenic need identified among Birmingham offenders on probation.



The chart above shows the relationship between the estimated cost of crime (calculated as social and economic costs, including to the Criminal Justice System, the economy, and victim harm) and the volume of crime – the wider the circle, the higher the harm. This shows that VAWG offences excluding domestic abuse have the most harm, the highest cost, and the second highest volume. Violence without injury offences have the highest volume, but lower harm, and violence with injury has similar harm but with less volume. This has been used as a comparator tool to help partners agree priorities for the partnership.

Following the evidence provided through the strategic assessment, partners have agreed five priority areas for the strategy. These are:

1. VIOLENCE REDUCTION

Violence reduction has been selected as a priority for Birmingham due to several key factors highlighted in the 2025 Strategic Assessment:

- 1. High Volume:** Violence Against the Person (VAP) offences were the largest single contributor to Total Recorded Crime (TRC) in Birmingham in 2024, accounting for 39% (51,567 offences).
- 2. Significant Harm:** Despite reductions in volume, violent crime categories contribute disproportionately to the overall harm experienced in the community. According to the Cambridge Crime Harm Index (CCHI) analysis, Violence with Injury alone accounts for 38% of the total crime harm in Birmingham, making it the highest harm category. Other violent offences like Rape (30%), Robbery of Personal Property (6%), and Possession of Weapons (4%) are also among the top five highest harm categories.
- 3. Public Concern:** A 2024 survey by the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner (OPCC) found that Birmingham residents identified “preventing knife crime” (72% selection) and “preventing violence against women and girls” (58% selection) among their top five policing responsibilities.

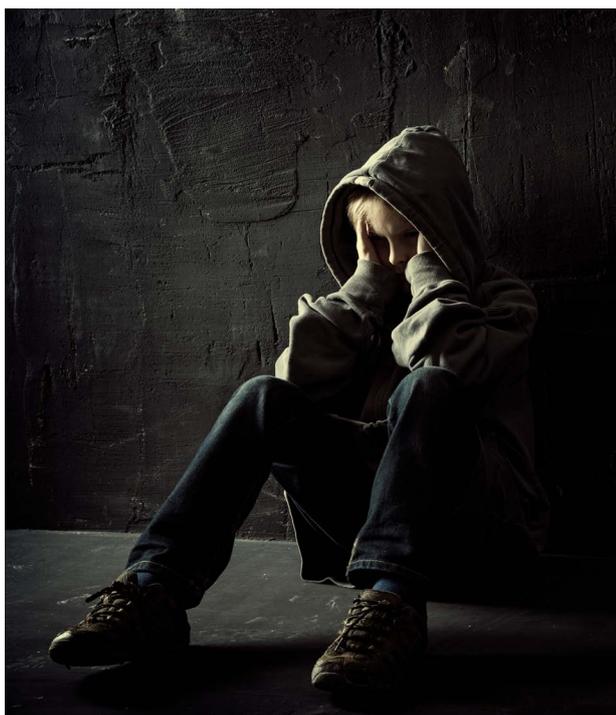
Although overall VAP offences decreased by 9% between 2023 and 2024, the sheer volume, the severity of harm caused (particularly by violence with injury), and resident concerns provide a strong evidence base for its prioritisation.

The Problem of Violence in Birmingham

Victims

- **Age:** Individuals aged 20-55 are generally overrepresented as victims of crime. Specifically for violent crimes:
 - Violence without Injury victims peak between ages 22-40.
 - Violence with Injury victims peak between ages 21-39.
 - Robbery victims are predominantly aged 13-28, with 14–18-year-olds being the most overrepresented group.
 - Rape victims peak between 15-33 years old, with 23–27-year-olds most overrepresented.
 - Victims under 18 experience a spike in victimisation post-15:00 hours (after school).
 - Victims aged 18-24 peak during evening/ NTE hours.
- **Gender:** Overall crime victims are split fairly evenly (53% male, 47% female). However, females are disproportionately victims of Domestic Abuse (73%) and Sexual Offences (85%), while males are more likely victims of Robbery (81%).

- **Ethnicity:** Based on available data (SDE recorded for 31.4% of victims), White British victims are slightly overrepresented overall (49.9% of victims vs 48.7% population). The most overrepresented group overall are those identifying as Caribbean (6.9% victims vs 3.9% population). Black/Black British individuals are notably overrepresented as victims of Robbery and Hate Crime. White British individuals are slightly overrepresented as victims of VAP and Sexual Offences but underrepresented in Robbery.
- **Repeat Victimization:** VAP has the highest number of unique victims but a relatively low average re-victimisation rate (1.4), suggesting violence is widespread but less likely to repeatedly affect the same individual compared to theft. Robbery shows moderate repeat victimisation (1.3 average rate).



Offenders

- **Age:** Individuals aged 18-40 are overrepresented among those accused, peaking around age 27 and again at 36-37. Specific violent crime offender age peaks include:
 - o Violence (with and without injury): Predominantly offenders aged 21-40, most overrepresented group is 35-39.
 - o Robbery: Predominantly offenders aged 12-19, most overrepresented group is 14-19.
 - o Rape: Predominantly offenders aged 19-34, most overrepresented group is 26-30.
 - o Weapon Possession: Varies by weapon; 10-19 year olds account for the highest proportion of knife crime accused (34%), while 20-29 year olds account for the highest proportion of firearm crime accused (45%).
- **Gender:** Males account for the vast majority (80%) of accused persons overall. This holds true across violent crime categories, including VAP, Robbery, Possession of Weapons, and Sexual Offences. (See Figure 4.4).
- **Ethnicity:** While White British individuals account for the largest proportion of accused overall (38%), this is an underrepresentation compared to their population share (49%). Groups significantly overrepresented as offenders include Caribbean (8% accused vs 4% population), White and Black Caribbean (4% vs 2%), and White and Black African (4% vs 0.5%). Black offenders are particularly overrepresented in Robbery, Possession of Weapons, and Drug Offences relative to other crime types.

- **Criminogenic Needs:** For offenders assessed by probation services who committed VAP offences, the most prevalent needs identified were 'thinking and behaviour', 'attitudes', 'lifestyle & associates', 'emotional wellbeing', and 'alcohol misuse'. Financial need was less commonly linked to VAP compared to robbery.
- **Weapon Use:** Weapons were used in 9.4% of TRC (12,553 offences). Bladed articles featured in 43.9% of these, and firearms in 4.6%. VAP (specifically violence with injury) was the most common offence class involving weapons, though often 'other weapons'. Robbery of personal property was the sub-class where firearms or knives were most frequently used.

Locations

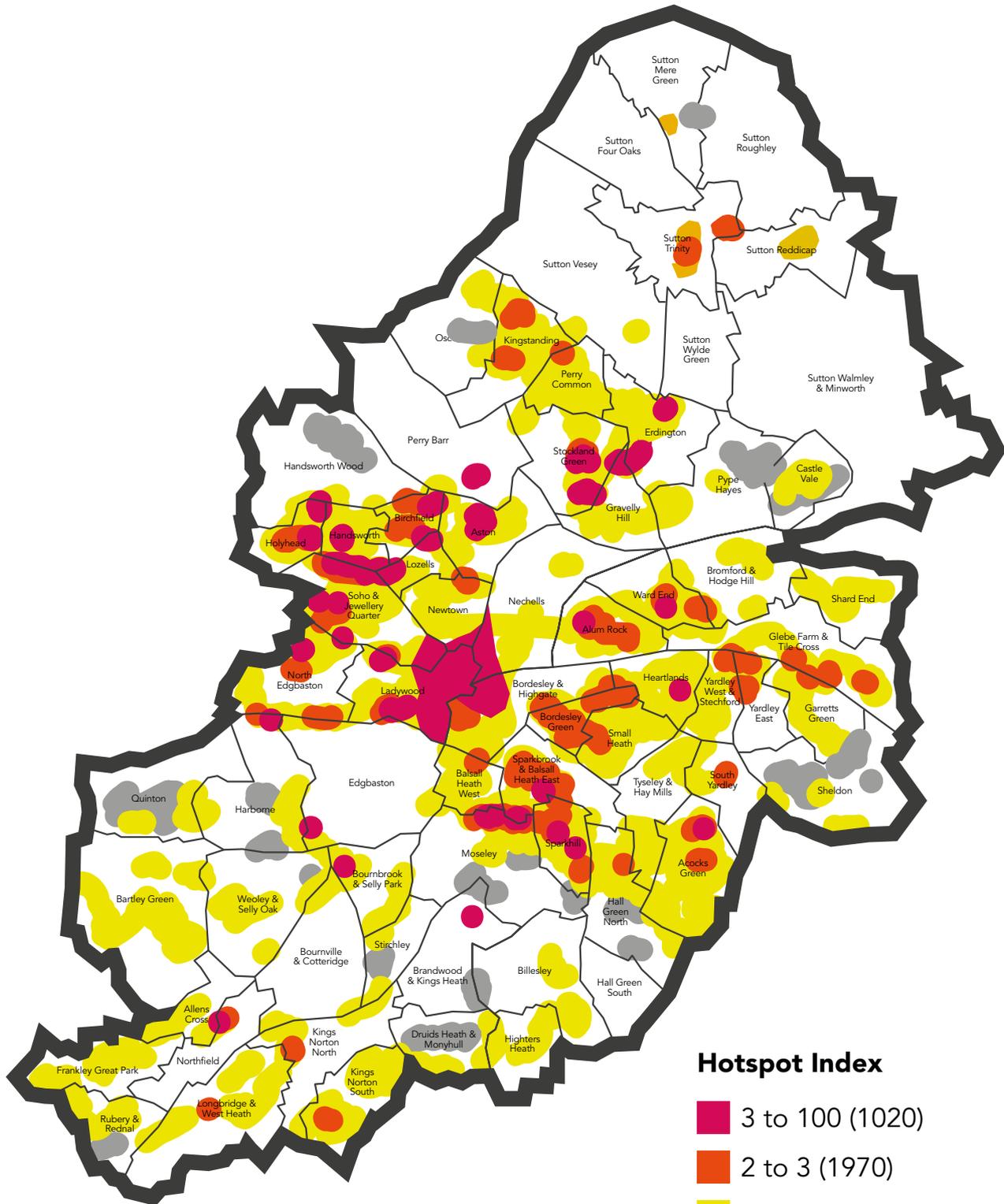
- **Hotspots:** Personal/violent crime is highly concentrated in the City Centre, particularly around retail areas (Bullring), the Night Time Economy (Broad Street), and transport hubs (New Street, Digbeth). Other neighbourhood hotspots for VAP include Lozells and East Handsworth, Aston, Stockland Green, and Sparkbrook. Hotspots for victims aged 18-24 align strongly with NTE areas (City Centre, Westside, Selly Oak).
- **Venue Types:** VAP offences are most likely to occur at residential addresses (terraced houses, semi-detached houses, flats) when location type is recorded. Many offences linked to the NTE occur at licensed premises (pubs/clubs).

Times

- **Peak Hours:** VAP offences peak between 12:00 and 15:59 hours. Violence with injury also peaks around 15:00 but remains elevated through the evening and NTE hours, reducing in the early morning. Offences linked to alcohol are highest during NTE hours (18:00-06:00). Domestic abuse reporting is most frequent around midday and remains consistent until evening. VAWG offences peak weekday afternoons (15:00-17:00) and late-night weekends.
- **Peak Days:** Violent offences show a higher percentage occurring on Fridays and weekend days, likely linked to increased social activity and alcohol consumption within the NTE. Domestic abuse reporting is highest on Mondays, possibly reflecting delayed reporting after weekend incidents.

This data collectively illustrates that violence in Birmingham is a complex issue involving specific demographic groups (both victims and offenders), concentrated in particular locations (City Centre, NTE, residential areas, specific neighbourhoods), and occurring at predictable times (afternoons, evenings, weekends), thereby supporting the need for a targeted Violence Reduction strategy.





Hotspot Index

- 3 to 100 (1020)
- 2 to 3 (1970)
- 1 to 2 (7032)
- 0.5 to 1 (6640)
- 0 to 0.5 (13641)

2. VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN AND GIRLS (VAWG)

Evidence Base for Prioritising VAWG

The Birmingham Strategic Assessment 2025 identifies VAWG as a significant strategic priority and a persistent, cross-cutting threat. Although WMP data showed a 13% reduction in offences flagged as VAWG (defined by WMP as any violent or sexual offence with a female victim) between 2023 and 2024, the category remains a major concern due to:

- **High Harm:** Offences like Rape are the second highest contributor to overall crime harm in Birmingham (30% of CCHI harm).
- **Significant Volume:** In 2024, 21,802 offences flagged as VAWG occurred. Sexual offences specifically increased by 9% (3,997 offences).
- **National Context:** VAWG constitutes nearly 20% of police-recorded crime nationally, with a 37% increase over five years. National strategies and frameworks (NPCC Tackling VAWG Framework 2024-2027) emphasise its importance.
- **Public Concern:** Birmingham residents ranked “preventing violence against women and girls” as a top police responsibility (58% selection in OPCC survey).

Our VAWG strategy excludes domestic abuse. Whilst the majority of domestic abuse in Birmingham has a male offender and female victim, the scale of the issue provides a rationale to manage domestic abuse separately, allowing specific work to take place to target VAWG.

VAWG Problem Profile (Excluding Domestic Abuse)

Victims

- **Gender:** By definition, the victims are female. Females are overwhelmingly the victims of Sexual Offences (85%).
- **Age:**
 - Teenagers and young women (15-18) are particularly vulnerable to sexual offences. The most frequently victimised age for Rape was 18, and for Other Sexual Offences it was 15.
 - Women aged 34 were most often victims of Stalking and Harassment.
 - For Violence with Injury (where the victim was female), the most victimised age was 29.
 - For Violence without Injury (female victim), the most victimised age was 35.
- **Ethnicity:** Based on the 25% of VAWG offences where victim SDE was recorded, women/girls from White ethnic backgrounds were overrepresented as victims compared to their population share. This may reflect reporting differences rather than true prevalence, as underreporting is suspected among ethnic minorities due to stigma or mistrust. Specific offences like honour-based abuse disproportionately affect ethnic minority women (e.g., 13 of 18 honour-based abuse victims with recorded ethnicity were non-White). Asian/Asian British individuals were the least likely to be recorded victims of Sexual Offences relative to their population share.
- **Repeat Victimisation:** Sexual Offences show a moderate repeat victimisation rate (1.6 average rate).

Offenders

- Gender: Males account for the vast majority of accused persons for relevant offences: Sexual Offences (over 93%), Robbery (approx. 88%), Possession of Weapons (approx. 85%), and VAP (approx. 80%).

Age:

- For Rape, the accused are predominantly aged 19-34, with the 26-30 group most overrepresented.
- For Other Sexual Offences, accused are predominantly aged 13-31, with the 13-17 group most overrepresented.
- For Robbery (often targeting females for items like phones), accused are predominantly 12-19, most overrepresented 14-19.
- For VAP, accused are predominantly aged 21-40, most overrepresented 35-39.

Ethnicity:

- For Sexual Offences, the proportion of accused offenders across White, Black, and Asian groups roughly mirrors the overall crime profile.
- For Robbery and Possession of Weapons, there is a higher proportion of Black offenders accused compared to other crime types.
- Weapon Use: Weapons were used in 2.4% of offences flagged as VAWG, predominantly knives/bladed articles (2.1% of total VAWG offences).

Locations

- Hotspots: General VAWG offence hotspots mirror overall violent crime, concentrated in the City Centre (retail, NTE, transport hubs), Selly Oak, Sparkbrook/Springfield, and areas with high NTE activity.
- Venue Types: Sexual offences most commonly occur in residential locations (terraced houses, flats, semi-detached houses). Hotels/motels were also identified as one of the top five location types for sexual offences, aligning with national concerns about exploitation in such settings. Street/road locations and shops/supermarkets feature prominently for VAP and Robbery offences more broadly.

Times

- Peak Hours: VAWG offences show peaks during weekday afternoons (15:00-17:00), coinciding with post-school/work travel, and late-night weekend hours (linked to the NTE and alcohol). Rape and Other Sexual Offences peak times align with these broader patterns, though specific hourly data isn't broken out for these sub-types beyond the overall VAWG temporal map.
- Peak Days: VAWG offences, like overall VAP, tend to increase slightly on Fridays and weekends, associated with NTE activity.

This profile highlights that VAWG (excluding domestic abuse) in Birmingham particularly impacts young women and teenagers regarding sexual offences, and women across a broader age range for other forms of violence and harassment. Offences are concentrated in city centres, NTE locations, and residential settings, often occurring during specific afternoon and late-night/weekend periods. Male offenders are predominant across these crime types.

3. ANTI-SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR, CRIME AND COMMUNITIES

Evidence Base for Prioritising Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB)

ASB is highlighted as a key concern within the Birmingham Strategic Assessment 2025, supporting its selection as a priority:

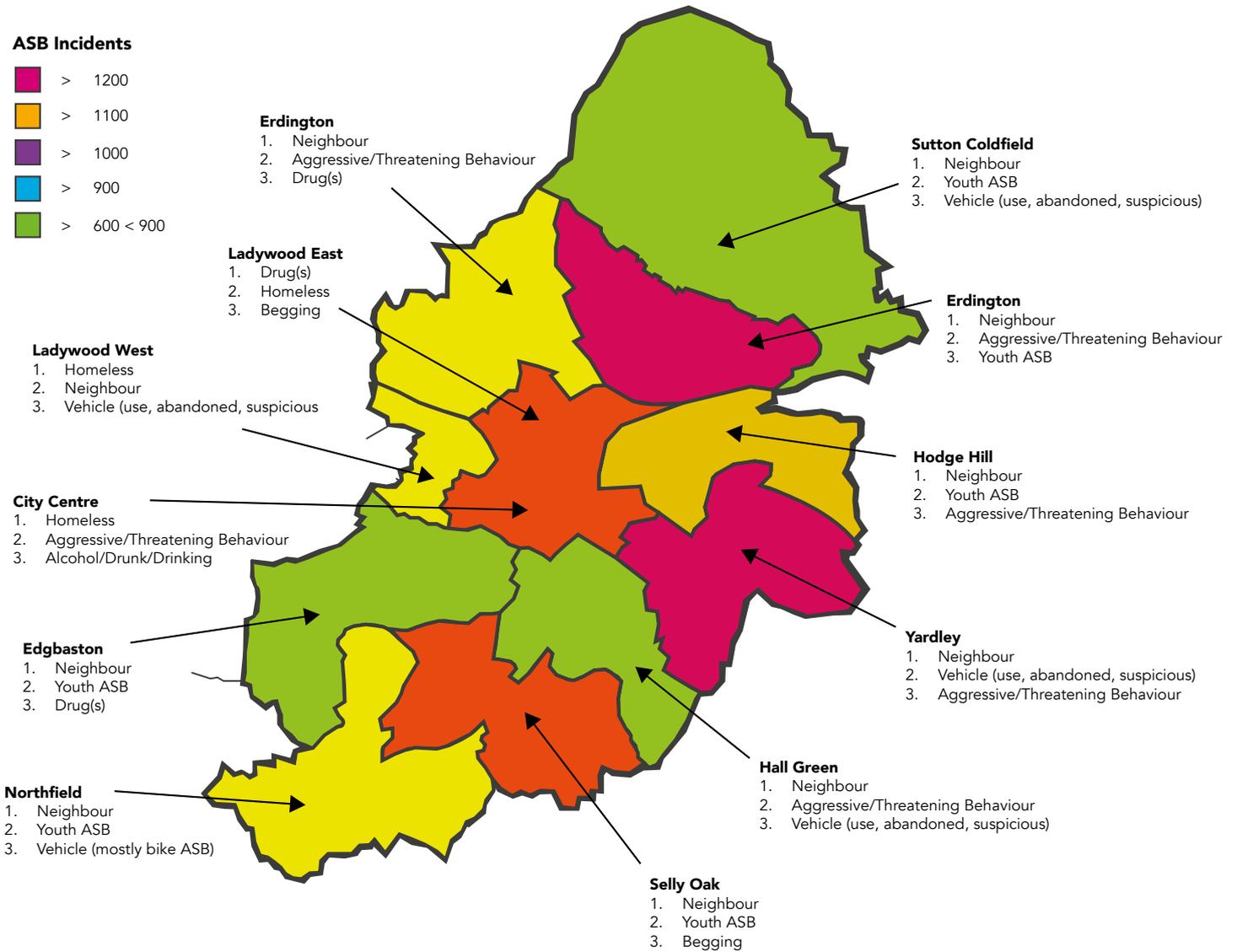
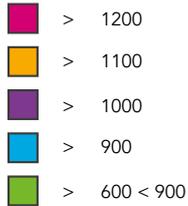
- 1. Public Concern:** In the 2024 OPCC survey, Birmingham residents ranked “preventing anti-social behaviour” among their top five policing responsibilities (56% selection).
- 2. Potential for Harm:** While not always classified as serious crime, the assessment explicitly notes that persistent ASB can result in significant harm, particularly to vulnerable groups like older people or those with disabilities. Repeated incidents can cause emotional distress, fear, and reduced feelings of safety, even if incidents seem minor in isolation.
- 3. Volume of Reports:** The WMP receives a large volume of ASB-related calls for service, indicating it is a prevalent issue affecting communities.

ASB Problem Profile

- **Reporting Sources:** Most ASB incidents (90%) are reported to WMP via Calls for Service. Data is also collected from Birmingham City Council (BCC) Housing and ASB intervention teams.
- **Geographic Distribution:** ASB calls to WMP are distributed across Birmingham, with the highest volumes reported in the Erdington, Yardley, and Ladywood East sectors, which together account for 30% of calls. Sutton Coldfield sector reported the lowest volume.
- **Specific Hotspots:** Analysis by BCC ASB intervention teams highlighted the City Centre as having a high volume of ASB interventions, particularly concerning begging and rough sleeping. Operation Guardian sessions (multi-agency ASB interventions) were most frequent in the City Centre, Lozells, Acocks Green, and Northfield during the latter half of 2024.

Thematic map of ASB in Birmingham by sector

ASB Incidents



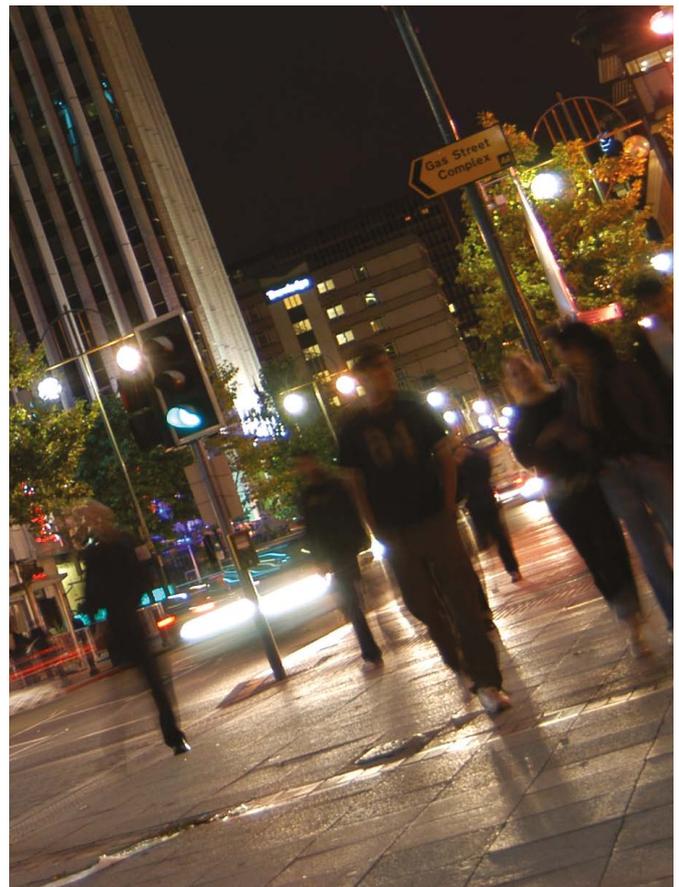
Times

- **Peak Hours:** ASB reports peak in the early evening, specifically between 17:00 and 19:00 hours. Reports are lowest during the early morning hours.
- **Peak Days:** Nuisance ASB (the most common type reported to WMP) occurs relatively consistently throughout the week, with only a slight increase noted on Saturdays.

Types of ASB

- WMP categorises ASB calls broadly as 'nuisance', 'personal', or 'environmental'.
- Keyword analysis of WMP call logs suggests the most common themes are:
 - Neighbour-related issues (20% - covering noise, disputes, safety concerns)
 - Vehicle nuisance (15% - including cars, bikes, parking)
 - Aggressive/Threatening Behaviour (15%)
 - Youth ASB (10%)
 - Homeless-related issues (including begging/rough sleeping) (8%)
- Data from BCC Housing shows decreases in reports related to criminal damage, domestic noise, drug use, harassment, illegal property use, vehicle nuisance, and youth ASB between 2023 and 2024. However, increases were noted for aggressive begging, hate crime, neighbour nuisance, and prostitution-related ASB.

This profile indicates ASB in Birmingham is a high-volume issue, particularly concerning neighbours, vehicles, and general nuisance behaviour, peaking in the early evenings. While data on specific victims and offenders is limited in this assessment, public concern is high, and the potential cumulative harm necessitates its prioritisation. Geographic hotspots exist, particularly in the City Centre and areas like Erdington, Yardley, and Ladywood East.



4. ADULT EXPLOITATION

Evidence Base for Prioritising Adult Exploitation

The strategic assessment provides evidence supporting the prioritisation of Adult Exploitation through several interconnected issues:

- 1. Modern Slavery & Human Trafficking (MSHT):** Recorded Modern Slavery offences increased by 16% in Birmingham between 2023 and 2024 (160 to 186 offences), indicating a recognised and potentially growing problem.
- 2. Serious and Organised Crime (SOC):** The presence of numerous Organised Crime Groups (OCGs) and Urban Street Groups (USGs) actively involved in exploitation-linked activities like Class A drug supply demonstrates a significant underlying structure for criminal exploitation.
- 3. Drug Crime Links:** Drug offences, particularly trafficking, are often linked to exploitation (e.g., county lines, debt bondage). Recorded drug trafficking offences are significant, and drug possession offences increased by 16%. Drug misuse is a key criminogenic need for many offenders. Positive drug tests (cocaine/opiates) were high among those arrested for acquisitive crimes, suggesting drug dependency funded by crime, a potential indicator of exploitation or vulnerability.

- 4. Sexual Offences:** While not exclusively adult sexual exploitation, the high volume and harm associated with sexual offences (3,997 offences in 2024, 30% of CCHI harm from Rape) includes adult victims and provides context for potential exploitation. Hotels/motels were identified as top locations for sexual offences, a known risk area for exploitation.

Adult Exploitation Problem Profile

Victims

- Modern Slavery:** Specific victim demographics for the 186 recorded MSHT offences in 2024 are not detailed in the provided text. National context suggests victims often come from vulnerable backgrounds and may have been trafficked into the UK to be exploited for labour.
- Sexual Exploitation:** Adult victims are included within the broader sexual offences category. The most common age for Rape victims was 18, and victims up to age 33 accounted for nearly 50% of cases. Women are the vast majority (85%) of sexual offence victims. White women/girls were overrepresented in reported VAWG cases, though underreporting among ethnic minorities is suspected. Honour-based abuse (often linked to exploitation/control) disproportionately affects ethnic minority women.

- **Criminal Exploitation:** Vulnerable adults, particularly those with substance dependencies or financial issues, may be exploited by OCGs/USGs for activities like drug running (county lines), shoplifting, or committing other offences. The assessment notes high rates of positive drug tests (cocaine/opiates) among those arrested for acquisitive crimes like shoplifting, potentially indicating individuals exploited to fund dependencies.

Offenders

- **Sexual Exploitation:** Offenders in sexual offence cases are overwhelmingly male (over 93%). Age ranges vary; for Rape, accused peak at 26-30 years old, while for Other Sexual Offences, the accused profile is younger (peaking 13-17).
- **Organised Crime Groups (OCGs):** 31 OCGs are tracked in Birmingham, involving 199 nominals. Nominals are majority male, average age 35. Ethnically, 53% are Pakistani heritage, 15% White, 12% Black Afro-Caribbean. Primary activities include Class A drug supply, money laundering, firearms, and violent offences.
- **Urban Street Groups (USGs):** 18 USGs are tracked, involving 188 nominals. Nominals are majority male, average age 21. Ethnically, 46% are Black, 22% Asian, 19% White. Primary activities include Class A drug supply, acquisitive crime, firearms, and violent offences.
- **Drug Offenders:** Trafficking offenders represented 6.7% of probation assessments. Offenders testing positive for cocaine/opiates were predominantly White males aged 35-45.

Locations

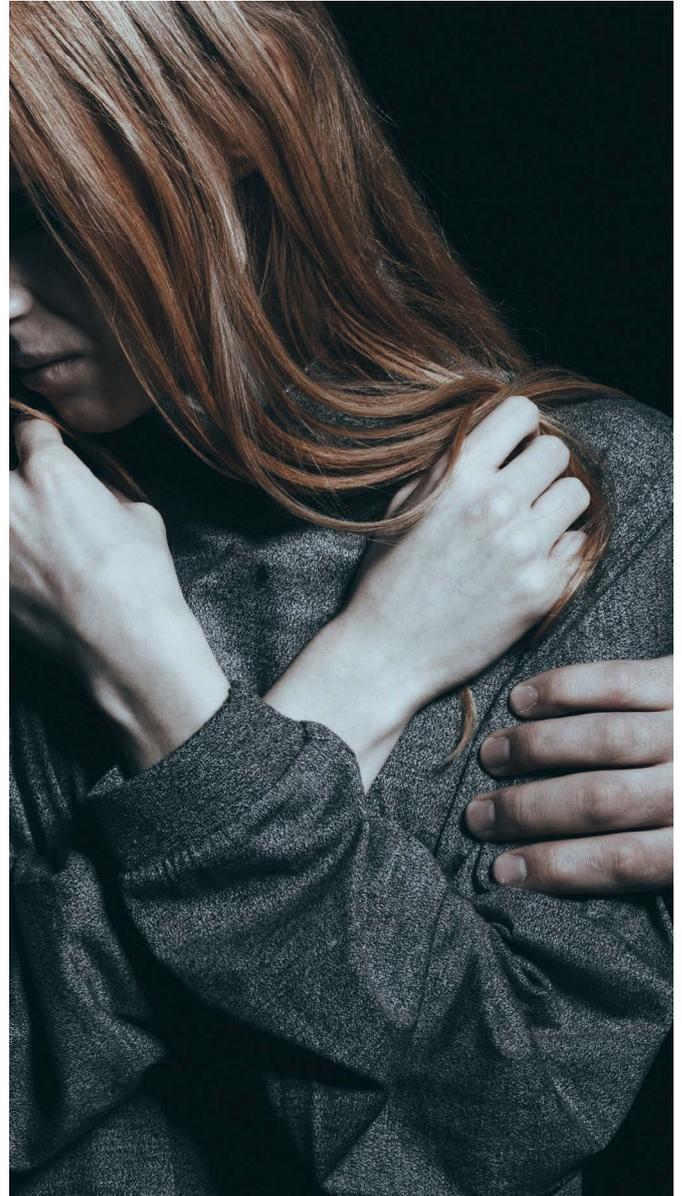
- **Sexual Exploitation:** Residential locations related to on street sex workers and hotels/motels are key sites for sexual offences.
- **OCG/USG Activity:** Peak neighbourhoods for mapped OCG nominals include Aston, Washwood Heath, and Bordesley Green. Peak neighbourhoods for USG nominals include Tyburn, Washwood Heath, Shard End, and Aston. Hotspots for offender home addresses (linked to various crimes including those associated with exploitation like drug offences) include Lozells and East Handsworth, Aston, Washwood Heath, Stockland Green, and Bordesley Green. Drug offences are concentrated in Lozells and East Handsworth, Aston, and Washwood Heath based on offender residence.

This profile highlights adult exploitation in Birmingham as closely linked to organised crime, particularly drug supply networks operated by OCGs and USGs concentrated in specific neighbourhoods. Modern Slavery is a recorded issue, and sexual exploitation occurs within the broader context of high-volume sexual offences. Vulnerable adults, potentially those with substance misuse or financial issues, are likely targets for criminal exploitation.

5. DOMESTIC ABUSE

Evidence Base:

- Domestic abuse accounted for 3,192 recorded offences in 2024 (2% of TRC), but the true incidence is significantly higher due to underreporting. The estimated cost of domestic abuse is £150 million.
- There has been a decrease in domestic abuse offenses, with 348 fewer offenses (-10%) recorded. While progress is being made, the issue remains a significant concern.
- Domestic Abuse was highest in Lozells and East Handsworth (597 offences), followed by Washwood Heath and Acocks Green.
- Domestic abuse overlaps heavily with other priority areas, especially VAWG and serious youth violence.
- Domestic abuse offences were largely persistent throughout the week, although a slight increase was observed on Sunday, with Monday being the day with most reported.
- Peak times for domestic abuse are 1200
- Victims are overwhelmingly female (73%), often with repeat victimisation, and concentrated in areas of high deprivation. Women in their late 20s to mid-30s are the most victimised age group for domestic-related crimes



CROSS-CUTTING CONTEXTUAL FACTORS

Birmingham is characterised by its diversity and a young population, yet it faces significant socio-economic challenges that contribute to the complexity of crime and disorder. Several cross-cutting contextual factors, ranging from socio-economic conditions to national and international events, shape the landscape of crime in the city.

Socio-Economic Factors

- **Deprivation and Inequality:** Birmingham has high levels of deprivation, with a significant portion of its population living in the most deprived areas in England. This deprivation is evident in child poverty and disparities in educational outcomes, which creates an environment where crime and social exclusion can prevail.
- **Unemployment and Economic Inactivity:** The city's employment rates are lower than the national average, with persistent unemployment and economic inactivity, particularly among young people and ethnic minority communities. These economic challenges can contribute to social exclusion and drive individuals towards crime.
- **Cost of Living Crisis:** The increasing financial strain on households due to the rising cost of living is a significant concern. This economic pressure is linked to an increase in retail thefts, indicating a direct impact of financial hardship on crime rates.

- **Housing Crisis and Homelessness:** Birmingham is grappling with a growing homelessness crisis, exacerbated by rising rents and a shortage of social housing. Homelessness is identified as a factor increasing the likelihood of involvement in criminal activities, further straining community safety.

Social and Political Factors

- **Community Cohesion:** Issues such as deprivation, inequality, and the rise of far-right extremism can undermine social cohesion. These factors can create divisions within communities, affecting the social bonds that typically deter crime.
- **Rise of Extremism and Civil Unrest:** The increase in far-right extremism and resulting civil unrest demonstrates the potential for social instability to fuel crime. Misinformation and social tensions can be exploited, leading to violence and disorder.
- **National and International Events:** Broader events such as the COVID-19 pandemic, government policy changes, and international conflicts have had ripple effects on local crime trends. For example, the economic repercussions of international conflicts have contributed to the cost-of-living crisis, indirectly influencing crime.

3. STATUTORY DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

The Birmingham Community Safety Partnership (CSP) is governed by a suite of legislation that sets out how statutory and voluntary agencies must work together to reduce crime, support victims, and improve community wellbeing. These legal frameworks ensure that the CSP not only focuses on enforcement but also on prevention, early intervention, safeguarding, and victim

CRIME AND DISORDER ACT 1998 (AS AMENDED)

This Act created CSPs and made it a statutory requirement for “responsible authorities” – including the police, local authorities, fire and rescue service, probation, and health – to work together to:

- Reduce crime and disorder
- Tackle anti-social behaviour (ASB)
- Address substance misuse and reoffending

It also introduced two key partnership tools:

- **Strategic Assessments** to identify local priorities and emerging threats
- **Community Safety Plans** to set out a joint response and measure progress.

This document delivers our requirement to set out a response to community safety issues and is informed by our Strategic Assessment.

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE, CRIME AND VICTIMS ACT 2004

This Act is critical to the CSP’s safeguarding role. It requires the CSP to:

- Lead and coordinate **Multi-Agency Risk Assessment Conferences (MARACs)** for high-risk domestic abuse victims
- Support **Multi-Agency Public Protection Arrangements (MAPPA)** for violent and sexual offenders
- Oversee and commission **Domestic Homicide Reviews (DHRs)** where the death of a person aged 16 or over is, or appears to be, the result of domestic violence, abuse or neglect by a family member, partner or household member.

DHRs – now known as Domestic Abuse Related Death Reviews (DARDRs) - are a statutory duty under Section 9 of the Act. The CSP is responsible for initiating, coordinating and publishing these reviews, with the aim of identifying lessons to prevent future deaths and improve multi-agency responses.

CHILDREN ACT 2004 AND WORKING TOGETHER TO SAFEGUARD CHILDREN

CSP members have a duty to work together to safeguard and promote the welfare of children. This includes sharing intelligence, participating in serious case reviews, and contributing to joint strategies on exploitation, serious youth violence, and missing children.

POLICE AND JUSTICE ACT 2006

This legislation strengthened partnership governance by:

- Requiring the establishment of a **Crime and Disorder Scrutiny Committee** to hold the CSP to account
- Formalising community involvement mechanisms such as the **Community Call for Action** (now the ASB Case Review), increasing the focus on transparency and responsiveness to local concerns

The Birmingham Crime and Disorder Scrutiny Committee holds the CSP to account for delivery against its objectives.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT AND PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT IN HEALTH ACT 2007

This Act encourages integration and collaboration between local government, health services, and other partners to promote wellbeing and reduce inequalities. Key implications for CSPs include:

- Supporting **joint strategic needs assessments (JSNAs)** and health and wellbeing strategies that incorporate community safety issues
- Aligning crime reduction and safeguarding work with public health objectives (e.g. reducing substance misuse, improving mental health, preventing violence)
- Encouraging better use of **shared intelligence, joint commissioning, and pooled budgets**

DOMESTIC ABUSE ACT 2021

This Act broadens the legal definition of domestic abuse and strengthens statutory requirements on local partners, including:

- Recognising **coercive control, economic abuse, emotional harm, and the impact on children** as victims in their own right
- Requiring CSP partners to support the **Domestic Abuse Local Partnership Board** and ensure safe accommodation for victims
- Supporting the delivery of **specialist services**, particularly for marginalised or high-risk victims (e.g. those with insecure immigration status or multiple vulnerabilities)

CARE ACT 2014

This Act sets out a statutory framework for safeguarding adults. CSP partners must work with the **Safeguarding Adults Board (SAB)** to prevent abuse, neglect and exploitation.

This includes:

- Promoting multi-agency responses to modern slavery, cuckooing and coercive control
- Ensuring that community safety planning considers adults with care and support needs, even if those needs are not being met by statutory services

ANTI-SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR, CRIME AND POLICING ACT 2014

CSPs are legally responsible for implementing local responses to ASB. This includes:

- Using enforcement powers such as Civil Injunctions, Criminal Behaviour Orders, and Public Space Protection Orders (PSPOs)
- Operating the **Community Trigger (ASB Case Review)** process to give victims the right to demand a multi-agency review where a problem persists

POLICE, CRIME, SENTENCING AND COURTS ACT 2022 – SERIOUS VIOLENCE DUTY

This new duty requires CSP members and other specified authorities (e.g. education, youth offending, health) to work together to:

- **Understand the causes and impacts of serious violence**
- Develop a local **Serious Violence Strategy**
- Coordinate early intervention and prevention activity

This approach is embedded in public health principles and aligns with safeguarding responsibilities for children and vulnerable adults.

4. OUR PARTNERSHIP APPROACH

The Birmingham Community Safety Partnership (CSP) operates under a robust strategic framework designed to foster a collaborative and effective approach to reducing crime and enhancing community safety across the city. This framework is structured across distinct tiers to ensure strategic coherence, operational efficiency, and rigorous oversight.

Strategic Oversight: The Executive Group

At the apex of the CSP's governance structure is the Executive Group. This body comprises senior leaders from statutory agencies (including West Midlands Police and Birmingham City Council), health organizations, and key voluntary sector representatives. The Executive Group holds ultimate responsibility for setting the overarching strategic direction of the CSP, establishing clear priorities, and ensuring effective resource allocation to achieve shared safety objectives.

Strategic Delivery: Thematic Priority Groups

Underpinning the Executive Group are dedicated Thematic Priority Groups, each focused on a specific strategic priority identified as critical to enhancing community safety in Birmingham. These groups provide strategic leadership and coordination for targeted action in the following key areas:

Violence Reduction: Developing and overseeing strategies to prevent and reduce all forms of violence within the city.

Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB): Coordinating multi-agency responses to address ASB and its impact on community well-being.

Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG): Driving initiatives to prevent VAWG, support victims, and hold perpetrators accountable.

Exploitation: Leading efforts to identify, disrupt, and prevent various forms of exploitation, including child sexual exploitation, modern slavery, and criminal exploitation.

Domestic Abuse: (Lead by Birmingham Domestic Abuse Partnership) Strategically addressing domestic abuse through prevention, protection, and support services for victims and interventions for perpetrators.

The Thematic Priority Groups are responsible for translating the strategic objectives set by the Executive Group into actionable plans. Their core functions include:

Oversight: Monitoring the progress and effectiveness of operational delivery within their respective priority areas.

Performance Management: Establishing key performance indicators and rigorously evaluating the impact of interventions.

Accountability: Holding operational groups and partner agencies accountable for the delivery of agreed outcomes.

Support: Providing guidance, expertise, and resources to support the effective functioning of operational groups.

Operational Implementation: Operational Groups

At the operational level, Operational Groups form the frontline of the CSP's delivery mechanism. These multi-agency teams are responsible for the practical implementation of strategies and interventions. Their key functions include:

Case Management: Collaboratively managing complex cases requiring multi-agency input.

Problem Solving: Employing evidence-based problem-solving methodologies to address local crime and safety issues.

Intervention Design and Delivery: Developing and implementing targeted interventions aimed at preventing crime, supporting victims, and changing offender behaviour.

Underpinning Principles:

The Birmingham CSP is committed to operating under the following core principles:

Evidence-Based Practice: The partnership prioritises the adoption of interventions and strategies that are supported by robust research and evaluation demonstrating their effectiveness in achieving desired outcomes.

Trauma-Informed Approach: Recognising the pervasive impact of trauma, the CSP adopts a trauma-informed lens across all its work. This involves understanding and responding to the signs and symptoms of trauma, aiming to avoid re-traumatisation and promote safety, trust, and empowerment for individuals and communities.

Co-production and Lived Experience: The CSP actively seeks opportunities to co-produce interventions and strategies in meaningful partnership with the diverse communities of Birmingham. Recognising the invaluable insights derived from lived experience, the partnership is committed to incorporating the perspectives and expertise of residents and those directly affected by crime to ensure solutions are relevant, effective, and sustainable.

This strategic framework provides a clear and coherent structure for the Birmingham Community Safety Partnership, enabling effective collaboration, targeted action, and a commitment to evidence-based and trauma-informed practices in pursuit of a safer Birmingham for all.

Birmingham Community Safety Partnership Strategy 2025-28



SAFER NEIGHBOURHOODS BOARD

- Reduce ASB in neighbourhoods
- Reduce neighbourhood crime
- Prevent hate crime
- Cohesion & tension monitoring
- Road safety - ASB
- Reduce ASB & crime in NTE
- Governance of the LCSP's
- ASB Case reviews
- Reducing substance misuse associated to ASB



VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN & GIRLS

- Sexual violence (including rape and sexual assault)
- Stalking and harassment
- Online abuse
- Female genital mutilation (FGM)
- Honour-based violence (HBV)
- Sexual exploitation (including sex work coercion and trafficking) & modern slavery
- Forced marriages

Relations with other Statutory Boards and Partnerships

West Midlands Violence Reduction Partnership Strategic Board

Birmingham Safeguarding Children's Partnership

Health and Wellbeing Partnership

Adult Safeguarding Partnership

Birmingham Youth Justice Partnership Board

Health and Wellbeing Board

Birmingham Combatting Drugs & Alcohol Partnership



EXPLOITATION AND SERIOUS ORGANISED CRIME

- Disruption
- Criminal exploitation
- Adult exploitation
- Modern slavery & human trafficking
- Serious & organised crime
- Organised crime groups



VIOLENCE REDUCTION BOARD

- Serious Violence Duty inc OWHR
- Early intervention and protection from social harms
- Strengthening prevention with a placed-based approach in communities, schools and settings
- Partnerships development and collaboration
- Disruption - Law enforcement, serious and organised crime, county lines and

5. OUR FOUR STRATEGIC PRIORITIES

Each priority should have a common sub-structure, the Birmingham BCSP have put in place four thematic boards to delivery on Reducing Violence, VAWG, Safer Neighbourhoods and Serious Organised Crime and Exploitation, the fifth priority Domestic Abuse will be discharge through the DA Partnership Board:



SAFER NEIGHBOURHOODS BOARD

- Reduce ASB in neighbourhoods
- Reduce neighbourhood crime
- Prevent hate crime
- Cohesion & tension monitoring
- Road safety - ASB
- Reduce ASB & crime in NTE
- Governance of the LCSP's
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EXPLOITATION AND SERIOUS ORGANISED CRIME

- Disruption
- Criminal exploitation
- Adult exploitation
- Modern slavery & human trafficking
- Serious & organised crime
- Organised crime groups
- Supported expt accommodation



VIOLENCE REDUCTION BOARD

- Serious Violence Duty inc OWHR
- Early intervention and protection from social harms
- Strengthening prevention with a placed-based approach in communities, schools and settings
- Partnerships development and collaboration
- Disruption - Law enforcement, serious and organised crime, county lines and

5.1. VIOLENCE REDUCTION

The West Midlands Violence Reduction Strategy (WMVRS) sets out how we will work together across the West Midlands, and in our local places, to prevent and reduce the likelihood of children and young people under the age of 25, becoming a victim or perpetrator of violence. The strategy's strategic objectives include:

- influence systems to deliver prevention across the life course
- development of a sustainable, community led, and youth led approach to violence reduction
- building regional and local partnerships that enhance collaboration and innovation
- development of a West Midlands wide movement that aims for a violence free region
- influence delivery of evidence-based programmes in educational settings

The West Midlands Violence Reduction Strategy sets out the regional response to the Serious Violence Duty and a regional strategic plan to prevent and reduce violence between 2023 to 2026. The strategy recognises the increasing incidents of serious violence and the need for a better understanding of its nature and scale. It highlights the importance of addressing social and economic challenges that contribute to violence, such as inequality, poverty, abuse, neglect, lack of opportunity, low educational attainment, and exploitation. Key areas of focus include early intervention, prevention, and addressing the needs of vulnerable groups. This strategy will build on the work that already takes place in Birmingham, whilst supporting opportunities for closer collaboration.

The *Birmingham Response Plan* is the long-term commitment by a range of agencies, individuals and communities to prevent the physical and psychological damage that violence can cause for:

- individuals
- families
- our communities
- wider society

We have taken a balanced approach to our response:

- working together to understand the problem
- treating serious violence as a disease
- understanding the root causes we will need to tackle to prevent violence occurring in the future

The West Midlands VRP strategy directly aligns with the Serious Violence Duty by promoting a multi-agency approach to violence reduction.

It emphasises collaboration between local authorities, police, health services, and other relevant partners, which is a key requirement of the Duty.

The strategy's focus on prevention, early intervention, and addressing the root causes of violence also aligns with the Duty's emphasis on a public health approach.

By addressing the specific challenges and needs of the West Midlands, including Birmingham, the strategy supports the CSP in fulfilling its responsibilities under the Serious Violence Duty to develop and implement effective violence reduction strategies within their local area.

5.2. VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN AND GIRLS (VAWG)

We have developed a separate VAWG strategy which seeks to deliver the CSP's objectives under this priority. Our strategy addresses VAWG, acknowledging it as a violation of human rights. It's recognised that VAWG takes many forms, including:

- Rape and sexual violence (including sexual harassment, assault, abuse and exploitation)
- Stalking
- So-called "Honour Based Violence"
- Forced marriage
- Female Genital Mutilation (FGM)
- Modern slavery
- Prostitution and sexual exploitation

What We Are Going to Achieve

The core aim is to bring about a "true trauma-informed, multi-agency approach towards ending male violence against women and girls". The strategy envisions a shift towards a culture that actively challenges and rejects such violence, creating a hostile environment for perpetrators.

How We Are Going to Deliver This

- **Multi-agency approach:** The strategy emphasises that ending VAWG requires coordinated efforts across all agencies, residents, and communities.
- **Public health approach:** The strategy adopts a public health model, recognizing VAWG as a systemic and societal issue that requires addressing of the root causes.

- **Ecological model:** Interventions will be developed at multiple levels: individual, community, institutional, and societal, to create wider cultural change and better support individuals.
- **Coordinated Community Response (CCR):** Ensuring effective collaboration and information sharing between all relevant services and organisations to provide holistic support to victims/survivors.
- **Evidence-based practice:** The strategy aims to be evidence-based and achievable.

Emphasis on Cultural Change and Prevention

- **Addressing toxic cultures:** The strategy highlights the need to challenge the "toxic cultures and narratives" that normalize sexism and misogyny.
- **Prevention:** Alongside supporting victims, there's a strong focus on preventing these crimes from happening in the first place, disrupting offenders and implementing early interventions.
- **Communications and campaigns:** The strategy recognises the need for multi-lingual and accessible services, campaigns, communications, and resources to create change. The West Midlands Violence Reduction Partnership also commits to developing a clear counter narrative and using social media to challenge attitudes to violence.

Support for Victims and Bringing Perpetrators to Justice

- **Trauma-informed support:** The strategy prioritises a trauma-informed approach in supporting victims/survivors.
- **Holistic support:** The Domestic Abuse Hub model, which provides one-stop holistic support for survivors, is highlighted as a key initiative that can be built upon for victims of VAWG.
- **Holding perpetrators accountable:** The strategy emphasises the importance of disrupting offenders and ensuring they are held accountable for their actions.

Outcomes

The overarching outcomes the partnership seeks to achieve include:

- Ending male violence against women and girls.
- Reducing and ultimately ending offending of this kind.
- Improved support for women and girls subjected to male violence.
- Creating a culture that is hostile to perpetrators of male violence.
- A reduction in violence and its impact across the West Midlands

5.3. ASB, CRIME AND COMMUNITIES

Overseen by the Building Safer Neighbourhoods board, this priority seeks to address the harm caused by anti-social behaviour, neighbourhood crime, and crime and disorder associated with town centres and the night-time economy.

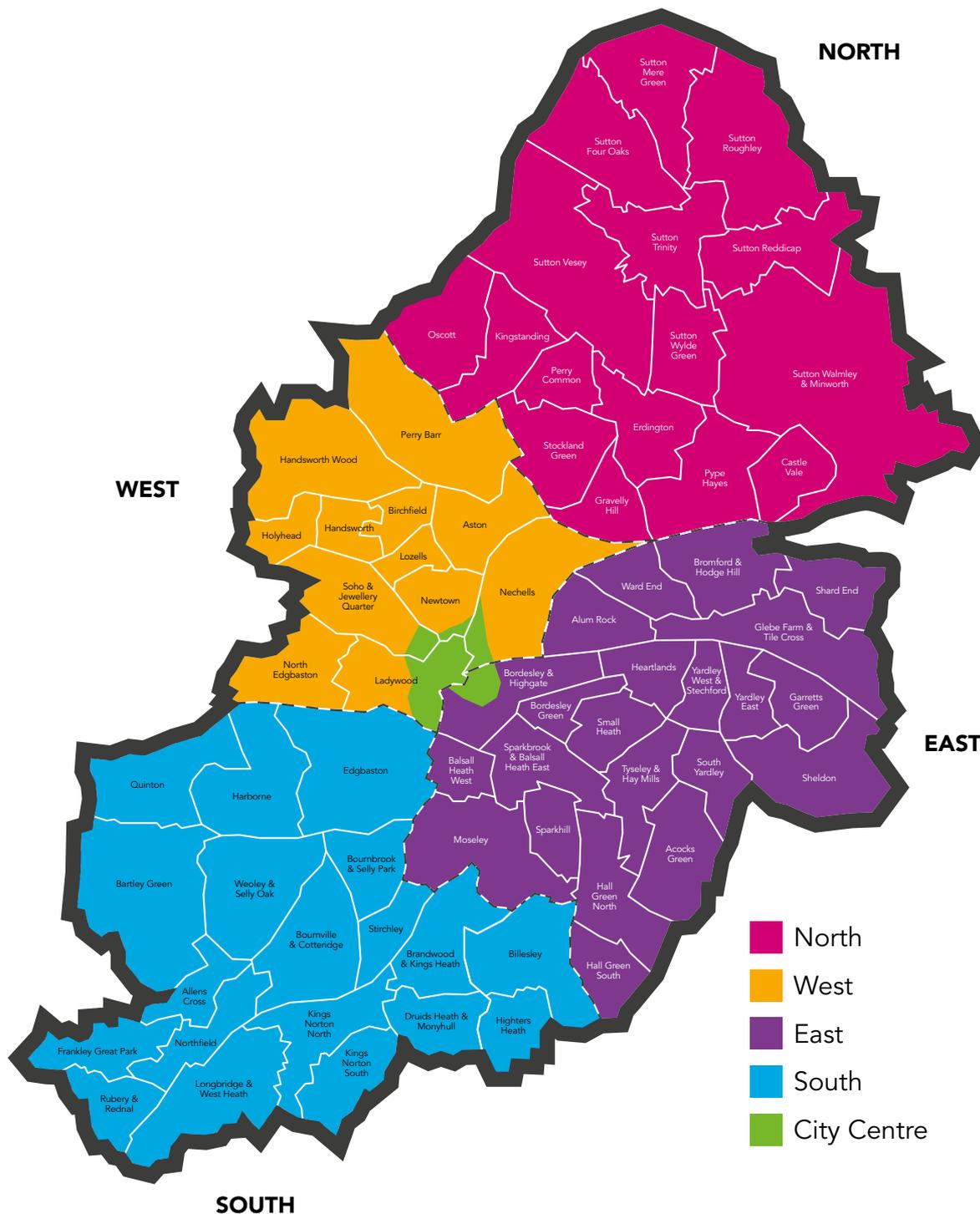
ASB often leads to increased fear and insecurity among residents, eroding the social fabric and trust within neighbourhoods. By addressing ASB, the partnership can prevent the escalation of minor incidents into more serious crimes, thus maintaining public order and promoting a sense of safety and wellbeing in the community.

Tackling ASB is essential for fostering community cohesion and resilience. Persistent ASB can lead to the marginalisation of vulnerable groups and create divisions within communities, which in turn can exacerbate social problems and strain public services. Prioritising ASB in the strategy ensures that resources are allocated to areas where they can have the most significant impact, supporting early intervention and the development of effective, long-term solutions to improve community safety.

Oversight and delivery of ASB will be through the Building Safer Neighbourhoods Board. The board will support practitioners to develop consistent approaches to managing ASB, working together and jointly problem solving, and use the appropriate tools and powers to tackle the issues affecting Birmingham residents.

Operational delivery of this work is undertaken through five Local Community Safety Partnerships (LCSPs). These are partnerships which operate on a locality model, bringing partners together to identify emerging crime and ASB issues, sharing data and planning interventions in a problem-oriented approach.

BIRMINGHAM LOCAL COMMUNITY SAFETY PARTNERSHIP (LCSP)

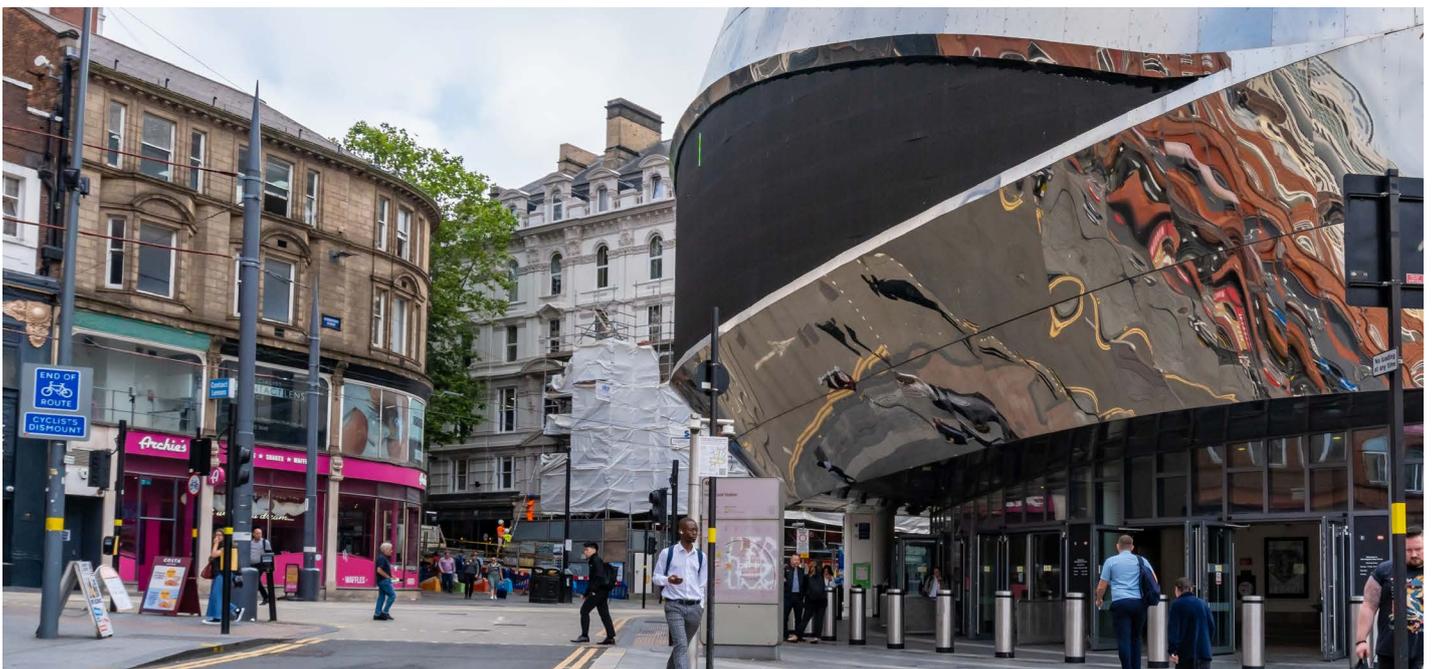


As well as identifying and addressing individuals who are causing the most harm in communities, the LCSPs work in partnership to identify those victims of ASB and neighbourhood crime who have increased vulnerability and provide supportive interventions around them to better manage their risk.

The LCSPs will also address **Business and Retail Crime**. Shoplifting has increased 34% in Birmingham, exceeding the national average. Business and retail crime has a significant economic impact, threatening the viability of local businesses and the broader economy. Retail theft, fraud, and vandalism not only result in direct financial losses but also increase operational costs through higher insurance premiums and the need for additional security measures. By focusing on this area, the partnership can help create a safer, more stable environment for businesses to thrive, supporting economic growth and employment in the community.

Addressing business and retail crime is crucial for maintaining public confidence and community well-being. High levels of crime in commercial areas can deter customers, reduce foot traffic, and lead to the decline of local shopping districts. This not only affects the businesses but also diminishes the vibrancy and attractiveness of the community as a whole. A strategic focus on business crime prevention can foster a safer shopping environment, encourage investment, and enhance the overall quality of life for residents and visitors alike.

We will work together through the LCSPs to provide a safer Night Time Economy, identifying risky localities and working with licensed premises as appropriate. We will provide additional visible resources across the partnership to increase reassurance and provide support to those enjoying Birmingham's vibrant nighttime economy.



5.4. SERIOUS ORGANISED CRIME AND ADULT EXPLOITATION

Exploitation, in all its forms, poses a significant threat to vulnerable across Birmingham. County lines drug trafficking, cuckooing, adult sexual exploitation, modern slavery, and human trafficking are serious crimes that devastate lives and communities. Exploitation is generally, but not exclusively, driven by Serious and Organised Crime (SOC); we have mapped 31 Organised Crime Groups (OCGs) in Birmingham, who are often involved in the supply and distribution of drugs, weapons and counterfeit goods, as well as organised illegal immigration and the provision of illegal and unsafe accommodation. In turn these are often distributed by Urban Street Gangs (USGs), of which we have mapped 19.

Our agreed definition of exploitation is:

“A form of abuse where an individual or group takes advantage of an imbalance of power to coerce, manipulate or deceive a child, young person or adult into any activity that results in financial or other advantage for the perpetrator or facilitator(s)”

Those involved with OCGs and USGs are more likely to become victims of serious violence, sexual exploitation, modern slavery and human trafficking, and can be both victims and offenders.

Birmingham’s Community Safety Strategy is committed to identifying, disrupting, and prosecuting those who perpetrate exploitation, while safeguarding victims and providing them with the support they need. County lines operations, in particular, often target people to transport drugs across borders, exposing them to violence and coercion, while vulnerable adults are at risk of being exploited for sexual purposes or forced labour. Sex workers can be exploited by organised crime groups and individual perpetrators.

Early identification of those at risk, especially for vulnerable adults, is key to prevention efforts. Training for frontline professionals, alongside multi-agency collaboration, ensures that signs of exploitation are quickly recognised and addressed. By prioritising victim safeguarding and aggressively pursuing perpetrators, Birmingham aims to break the cycle of exploitation and build safer communities.

Partners will work together to share data around vulnerable people, those suspected of being at risk of being drawn into organised crime, and details of locations and perpetrators of organised crime and exploitation in Birmingham. We will map referral pathways and ensure we have adequate support services for those at risk, and work together to disrupt organised crime and exploitation where it occurs. We will work with service providers to ensure that there is adequate provision to support those at risk.

We will take a “4 P” approach to tackling exploitation:

The “4 P’s” - **Pursue, Prevent, Protect, and Prepare** - provide a strategic framework for tackling serious and organised crime. In Birmingham, this translates to:

- **Pursue:** Relentlessly disrupting and prosecuting organised crime groups through law enforcement operations. This could involve targeting drug trafficking networks operating across the city or dismantling gangs involved in violent crime.
- **Prevent:** Stopping people from becoming involved in serious and organised crime in the first place. In Birmingham, this means addressing root causes like inequality, poverty, and lack of opportunity, which can make young people vulnerable to exploitation.
- **Protect:** Strengthening our defences against serious and organised crime. This includes safeguarding vulnerable individuals from exploitation.
- **Prepare:** Reducing the impact of serious and organised crime when it occurs. This involves having effective emergency response plans – for example, being able to deal with the discovery of a significant number of victims of trafficking - and ensuring that support services are available for victims.

Clear, Hold, Build

The “Clear, Hold, Build” initiative is a strategy used to address serious violence in specific areas.

In Birmingham, this involves:

- **Clear:** Police and partners conduct targeted operations to disrupt violent groups and remove them from a specific area.
- **Hold:** Maintaining a visible presence and working with communities to prevent the groups from returning.
- **Build:** Investing in long-term community development, providing support services, and creating opportunities for residents to build resilience against crime.

Outcomes:

We aim to achieve three overarching strategic outcomes:

- Adults across the partnership are prevented from becoming victims of exploitation
- Adults are protected from exploitation
- Adults are not perpetrators and / or groomed to facilitate exploitation

Activities:

- We will seek:
 - To improve our response times to referrals and concerns
 - To improve prosecution outcomes for crimes associated with exploitation
 - To increase referrals to the National Referral Mechanism (NRM)
 - To decrease the number of adults who are re-referred due to exploitation concerns following disruption and/or safeguarding interventions

5.5. DOMESTIC ABUSE

The Birmingham Domestic Abuse Local Partnership Board has published its Domestic Abuse Prevention Strategy 2024-2029. This board operates in conjunction with the BCSP, and the strategy is summarised below. Scale and Complexity of Domestic Abuse in Birmingham:

- Domestic abuse is a serious and growing issue in Birmingham, with rising numbers of incidents straining public services.
- In Birmingham, from April 2011 to March 2024, there were 56 Domestic Homicide Reviews.
- The COVID-19 pandemic and subsequent cost of living crisis have worsened the situation.
- In 2023, domestic abuse was the third highest cause of homelessness in the city and the second highest reason for referrals to Birmingham Children’s Trust.
- The complex nature of domestic abuse often leads to survivors seeking help at crisis point, increasing the demand for costly interventions.
- Birmingham is the third most deprived core city, with 90% of wards more deprived than the national average and over 40% of children living in poverty, which increases the risk.
- In 2022/23, domestic abuse was the main reason for 17.3% of Housing Needs Assessments.
- Domestic abuse crimes reported to the police in Birmingham more than doubled from 13,664 in 2018/19 to 27,770 in 2022/23.

- In the 2022-23 school year, there were 14,394 Operation Encompass notifications sent to Birmingham schools. Operation Encompass is a police and education partnership that shares information with schools when a child is present at a domestic abuse incident.
- Birmingham is a superdiverse city with a high number of different cultures, identities, languages and faiths, representing more than half of the population.

Requirements Under the Domestic Abuse Act 2021:

- The strategy is written in the context of the Domestic Abuse Act 2021, which defines domestic abuse and recognizes children who witness abuse as victims.
- The Act emphasises abuse beyond physical violence, including emotional, controlling, coercive, and economic abuse.
- The strategy incorporates new statutory responsibilities outlined in the Act.

Activities to Support Victims and Survivors:

- The strategy emphasises survivor-centred and trauma-informed support, prioritizing safety and the survivor’s pace.
- It aims to provide tailored support to survivors, including children, recognizing their resilience.
- **Support services:** This includes the commissioning of the first Domestic Abuse Hub to provide one-stop holistic support for survivors.
- **Health settings:** Embedding domestic abuse support in health settings, such as the IRIS program in GP surgeries and specialist Domestic Abuse Safeguarding Leads in sexual health and hospitals.

- **Refuge provision:** Commissioning children and family work in refuges and recognising the impact of domestic abuse on children.
- **Housing:** The Housing Strategy 2023-28, Temporary Accommodation Strategy and Homelessness Prevention Strategy outline plans to improve housing provision for those experiencing domestic abuse, and residents from refuges contributed their lived experience towards the development of Birmingham’s Housing Strategy.

Perpetrator Interventions:

- The strategy focuses on holding perpetrators accountable for their actions.
- It recognises various forms of abuse, including post-separation abuse and the use of children to control or monitor the non-abusive parent.

Preventative Activity:

- The strategy aims to prevent domestic abuse and its escalation through early intervention and public awareness.
- It also seeks to shift cultural attitudes to no longer tolerate domestic abuse.

Local DA Partnership and MARAC

Arrangements:

- The strategy is created in partnership with key organisations across the city, recognising that no single agency can stop domestic abuse alone.
- The strategy acknowledges the importance of multi-agency working and having strong and simple pathways to quality-assured support services.
- Multi-Agency Risk Assessment Conferences (MARACs) bring organizations together to undertake comprehensive assessments of victims’ and their children’s needs and link them and perpetrators to appropriate services.

Outcomes:

- The strategy seeks to provide effective, coordinated support to survivors of domestic abuse and hold perpetrators accountable.
- Outcomes include preventing the escalation of domestic abuse and providing tailored support at the point of need for survivors.
- The strategy also aims to improve the safety, health, and wider life chances of women, children, and families affected by domestic abuse.
- There is a focus on early help to prevent survivors from experiencing more severe impacts, and to save lives.

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6. MEASURING SUCCESS

To ensure the effectiveness of the Birmingham Community Safety Strategy 2025-8, we will implement a robust performance management framework that oversees our agreed Key Performance Indicators (KPIs). This framework will track and report on our progress, ensuring that we remain accountable and transparent in our efforts to enhance community safety.

Performance Management Framework

Our dedicated performance management framework will be responsible for monitoring and evaluating the success of our initiatives. This framework will include regular assessments of our KPIs, which have been carefully selected to reflect the strategic priorities and objectives of the BCSP. These KPIs will provide measurable indicators of our progress and help us identify areas for improvement.

Shared Outcome Frameworks

We will utilise shared outcome frameworks in collaboration with other multi-agency partnerships, statutory partners, and regional providers such as the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner (OPCC). These frameworks will enable us to align our efforts with broader regional and national goals, ensuring a cohesive approach to community safety.

Transparency and Community Accountability

We are committed to maintaining transparency and accountability to the community. The Birmingham Crime and Disorder Scrutiny Committee will hold us to account for our performance, ensuring that we remain focused on delivering our strategic priorities. Additionally, we will host at least one public meeting per annum of the CSP, providing an opportunity for residents to engage with us, ask questions, and provide feedback on our progress.

7. MONITORING AND REVIEWING THIS STRATEGY

To ensure the ongoing effectiveness of the Birmingham Community Safety Strategy 2025-8, we will implement a comprehensive monitoring and review process. This process will include an annual review informed by the annual refresh of the strategic assessment. The strategy may be altered in response to emerging threats or new statutory obligations placed upon it by the Government. We are committed to being flexible and adaptive in the face of emerging risks and changing evidence.

Annual Review Process

Each year, we will conduct a thorough review of the strategy, taking into account the latest data and insights from the annual refresh of the strategic assessment. This review will help us evaluate our progress, identify areas for improvement, and ensure that our initiatives remain aligned with the evolving needs of the community.

Adapting to Emerging Risks and Evidence

We recognise that the landscape of community safety is constantly changing. Therefore, we will remain vigilant and responsive to emerging threats and new evidence. Our strategy will be flexible and adaptive, allowing us to make necessary adjustments to address new challenges and meet any new statutory obligations imposed by the Government.

Commitment to Flexibility and Adaptability

Our commitment to flexibility and adaptability is central to our approach. By continuously monitoring and reviewing our strategy, we will ensure that we can respond effectively to new risks and evidence, maintaining the safety and well-being of Birmingham's residents.

