

Community Safety Plan 2020-2023

Dorset Community Safety Partnership



Introduction

The Dorset Community Safety Partnership (CSP) aims to:

- Reduce crime and the fear of crime;
- Address risk, threat and harm to victims and local communities; and
- Facilitate the strengthening of Dorset's communities in the delivery of local initiatives.

Find out more about the CSP here: [Dorset Community Safety Partnership](#)

CSPs are required to have three-year Community Safety Plans that are refreshed annually. This latest Plan sets out partners' current priorities based on the most recent assessment of community safety issues.

The Community Safety Plan should be read in conjunction with partners' annual work plans which can be found here: [Annual Work Plans](#)

Crime in the Dorset Community Safety Partnership Area

Total crime in the Dorset Community Safety Partnership area is a lot lower than the average rate across the UK. Although total recorded crime has risen in recent years, this is largely due to improved crime recording practices and changes to Home Office recording standards. These help to provide a better picture of crime levels and issues.

Crime levels are usually higher across the summer months and crime rates vary according to location.

Detailed information can be found here: [Dorset Statistics Crime Statistics](#)

Consultation and Engagement

Partners use the findings of consultation and engagement exercises to help inform their understanding and work to tackle community safety issues.

Dorset Council undertakes a residents survey every year. The survey includes questions on how safe residents feel in their local area. The latest survey was completed in the autumn 2019. 2,635 surveys were completed. The results showed that:

- 93% of respondents felt either very safe or fairly safe when outside in their local area during the day
- 77% of respondents felt either very safe or fairly safe when outside in their local area after dark

In January 2020, a series of questions were given to members of Dorset Council's People Panel. 155 responses were received. They showed that:

- The vast majority of respondents felt that crime where they lived did not have a significant impact on their daily life (approx. 89% of respondents said that either 'crime isn't an issue where I live and doesn't affect my daily life' or 'there are some issues but they don't have much impact on my daily life'. None of the respondents felt that crime was a big issue where they lived and had a serious impact on their daily life).
- In relation to anti-social behaviour, 32% of respondents felt anti-social behaviour wasn't an issue where they lived and didn't affect their daily life. 48% of respondents felt there were some issues where they lived but they didn't have much impact on their daily life.
- 8% of respondents had been a victim of crime in the last 12 months.
- The issues that respondents were most concerned about were rural crime and anti-social behaviour.

The National Rural Crime Survey is organised by the National Rural Crime Network which was formed in 2014 to bring greater recognition and understanding of impact and problems of crime in rural areas. The Network brings together 30 Police and Crime Commissioners from across the country along with a number of other interested bodies.

Although the National Rural Crime Survey is not specific to Dorset, it includes 654 responses from the Dorset Police Force area and aims to reflect the views of rural communities. The 2018 National Rural Crime Survey can be found here: [National Rural Crime Survey 2018](#)

The findings include:

- That the perception of policing in rural communities is poor, and much worse than in urban areas
- Some of the most common concerns are not solely policing matters, like flytipping and speeding – too many partners, like local authorities, are less able to respond to the needs of rural communities
- Crime is not just an inconvenience - crime, and the fear of crime, is leading to emotional strain and a loss of confidence within rural communities, particularly among young people, families and farmers
- Communities believe crime in rural areas is a big problem – and is getting worse
- Many crimes in rural communities go unreported – especially by business owners, because they don't feel the offence will be taken seriously or anything will be done
- Residents and businesses in rural communities believe they are being specifically targeted – and, on balance, most believe the crime is organised
- Farmers and agricultural businesses are facing huge challenges – and they don't feel there is enough being done to support them
- The financial impact of crime is substantial – for residents and, particularly, for businesses who are the lifeblood of the rural economy
- Rural victims feel angry and annoyed that they are not taken seriously by those in positions of power – and the extent of crime is making communities feel vulnerable
- Ultimately, rural communities are not understood and services do not match need – if nothing is done there is a risk of a wholesale loss of trust in rural policing

Members of the public were encouraged to provide feedback on priorities for inclusion in this plan via the Dorset Council website. There was overwhelming support for the priorities with several respondents emphasising the importance of preventative work.

Findings from further consultation exercises undertaken over the course of the year, including with the People Panel for Dorset Council, will be used to inform future revisions of this plan.

Community Safety Priorities

Partners carry out an annual Partnership Strategic Assessment (PSA) using evidence from a variety of sources to assess crime and disorder issues in the area. The assessment is used to set and review partners' priorities. When setting and reviewing priorities consideration is also given to the local Policing objectives in the area. Priorities are reviewed regularly.

The following priorities have been agreed by partners for 2020/21:

- Modern Slavery and Human Trafficking
- County Lines
- Serious Sexual Offences
- Domestic Abuse
- Rural Crime
- Fraud
- Public Place Violence
- Anti-Social Behaviour

Partners have also agreed to monitor and address Hate Crime including in the wider context of community cohesion.

Reducing re-offending remains a cross cutting area of work for partners and they have a separate strategy to address this issue. There is also a separate Alcohol & Drugs Strategy that covers the pan-Dorset area.

A summary of the type of activity partners will take to address priorities is provided below. Full details are included in partners' annual work plans.

Modern Slavery and Human Trafficking
<p>Summary of Activity:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop our understanding of modern slavery in Dorset and raise awareness of the issues. • Ensure there are effective processes in place to identify and support victims and people vulnerable to modern slavery. • Work together to stop perpetrators of modern slavery.

County Lines
<p>Summary of Activity:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Use work already completed to raise awareness of issues, focusing on specific groups and organisations that may come into contact with those vulnerable to County Lines exploitation. • Further develop our knowledge and understanding of County Lines issues locally including areas that are vulnerable to County Lines activity. • Ensure support is available for victims and people vulnerable to County Lines exploitation.

Serious Sexual Offences
<p>Summary of Activity:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Undertake training and awareness raising focusing on those most vulnerable. • By working with partners including the Children's Safeguarding Partnership, ensure children and young people have access to education on healthy relationships. • Work with male and female victims to ensure we have the right services in place. • Ensure support is available for historical victims of sexual violence. • Work with partners, including those in the criminal justice system, to ensure offenders are brought to justice. • Explore opportunities to reduce offending and reoffending by perpetrators.

Domestic Abuse
<p>Summary of Activity:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop initiatives that focus on prevention, early help and education. • Develop interventions for perpetrators to reduce offending and prevent risk and harm. • Further develop the whole systems approach to domestic abuse to ensure services are working together effectively. • Continue to develop partners’ response for high risk victims including implementing learning from the High Risk Domestic Abuse (HRDA) pilot. • Respond to any legislative requirements emerging from the Domestic Abuse Bill. • Implement learning from Domestic Homicide Reviews.

Rural Crime
<p>Summary of Activity:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Communicate and engage with rural communities, building on the work already undertaken. • Increase awareness of the need to report rural crimes. • Further develop intelligence gathering to enhance understanding of rural crime issues.

Fraud
<p>Summary of Activity:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Raise awareness of fraud and cyber-crime issues focusing on those most vulnerable and / or at risk. • Develop initiatives that aim to prevent fraud from happening. • Work with businesses to understand and help address the issues they are facing.

Public Place Violence
<p>Summary of Activity:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop our understanding of public place violence issues including working with Public Health and using intelligence from the Cardiff Model project. • Respond to any requirements emerging from the government’s Serious Violence Strategy and any related legislation. • Partnership Coordinating Groups to develop specific actions and initiatives in response to local public place violence issues.

Anti-Social Behaviour**Summary of Activity:**

- Undertake work to respond to offenders who will not engage with services.
- Develop initiatives that respond to people with lower level support needs who don't meet thresholds for statutory services.
- Partnership Coordinating Groups to develop specific actions and initiatives in response to local anti-social behaviour issues.

Performance Management

Partners use performance information and data coupled with an assessment of progress against their agreed actions at each meeting, to determine whether they are delivering against their priorities.

Partners' intend to gather a wide range of information and data to complement Police statistics and develop a comprehensive understanding of community safety issues.

Governance

The Dorset CSP is the statutory Community Safety Partnership for the local area. It brings together senior officers and elected members from:

- Dorset Police
- Dorset Council
- Dorset & Wiltshire Fire & Rescue Authority
- National Probation Service
- Dorset, Devon and Cornwall Probation
- Dorset Clinical Commissioning Group

Many other partners such as Public Health Dorset, the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner, the Dorset & Wiltshire Fire & Rescue Service and the Dorset Combined Youth Offending Service also contribute to the work of the CSP.

At a local level, there are Partnership Co-ordinating Groups (PCGs) that come together to identify solutions to local issues. The PCGs feed into the Dorset CSP.