

Community Safety Plan 2017-2020

Dorset Community Safety Partnership

2019/20 Refresh



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 refresh of the 2017-2020 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 Dorset County

In a national context, crime in Dorset is consistently very low, well below the average in England. Although total recorded crime has risen in recent years, this reflects a national trend and is partly 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 in the area 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.

The latest full year results from the Community Safety Survey conducted by Opinion Research Services (ORS) for Dorset Police discovered that¹:

- 97% of respondents felt safe living in their local area
- 99% of respondents felt safe walking alone during the day in their local area
- 84% of respondents felt safe walking alone after dark in their local area
- 31% of respondents felt the amount of crime in their local area had gone up in the past 12 months. Of these, 60% said that reporting in the media had caused them to think crime had increased.
- The crime that respondents were most worried about was financial crime (57%), followed by having their shed, garage or outbuilding burgled (45%) and having their house burgled (35%).
- 53% of respondents were worried about speeding / reckless driving, 46% were worried about cars parked illegally, dangerously or inconsiderately and 33% were worried about anti-social behaviour and disorder in general.
- 41% of respondents agreed that the police and local council are working in partnership to deal with anti-social behaviour and crime issues that matter in the area. This represented a seven percentage point drop from the previous year.

¹ Figures are for the former Dorset County Council area

- 17% of respondents disagreed that the police and local council are working in partnership to deal with anti-social behaviour and crime issues that matter in the area. This represented a five percentage point increase from the previous year.

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

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 2019/20:

- Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence
- Serious Violence and Criminal Exploitation
- Acquisitive Crime
- Public Order and Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB)
- Non-Domestic Violence Against the Person

Partners have also agreed to monitor and address Hate Crime.

The Dorset CSP is committed to helping tackle rural crime and leads on developing the partnership approach to tackling local community safety issues. Weymouth & Portland remains a priority locality due to the disproportionately high volumes of crime and anti-social behaviour in the area.

Other priority areas identified in the PSA include Modern Slavery and Human Trafficking, the national terrorism threat and killed or seriously injured on the roads. There are existing partnership arrangements in place to tackle these issues.

Reducing re-offending remains a cross cutting area of work for partners and they have developed a separate strategy to address this issue. There is also a separate Alcohol & Drugs Strategy 2016-2020 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 set out in partners' annual work plans.

Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence (overseen by the pan Dorset CSCJB)

Summary of Activity:

- Implement the pan Dorset Domestic Abuse Strategy 2017-20 and action plans
- Develop a whole systems approach to domestic abuse to ensure services meet need and pathways are clear
- Ensure learning from Domestic Homicide Reviews (DHRs) is implemented across the area
- Raise awareness of domestic abuse issues and available support services
- Implement partners' Sexual Violence Strategy 2017-2025 and action plans
- Ensure services and interventions to address sexual violence are fit for purpose and effective
- Work with the Safeguarding Boards to jointly address issues of sexual violence (and child exploitation) including against under 18 year olds

Serious Violence and Criminal Exploitation (overseen by the pan Dorset CSCJB)

Summary of Activity:

- Undertake work to clarify the approaches taken to County Lines by organisations, identify overlaps and determine lead organisations
- Support the development of pathways for children and adults at risk of exploitation
- Determine clear accountability and governance structures for this area of work

Acquisitive Crime (overseen by the Dorset CSP)

Summary of Activity:

- Develop a more co-ordinated approach to crime prevention, including an audit of current awareness programmes including mapping where services and interventions are already in place to support groups who are more likely to be victims of burglary
- Work to better understand the nature of the increases in residential burglary and the reasons for this
- Investigate the use of licencing schemes for Houses of Multiple Occupation and ensure minimum security standards are being met

Public Order and Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB) (overseen by the Dorset CSP)**Summary of Activity:**

- Work to address problems associated with disruptive behaviour by those who choose not to engage with services
- Map current services and interventions, identifying gaps and compare best practice from elsewhere to help address problems associated with improper street use
- Work with the Dorset Association of Parish and Town Council's (DAPTC) to facilitate the provision of information and intelligence about local issues
- Ensure there is a consistent response across Dorset when dealing with Youth ASB
- Work with partners, including Public Health Dorset and the Melcombe Regis Board, to explore options to address the problems associated with needles and drug paraphernalia in Weymouth
- Make use of Public Space Protection Orders to tackle specific locations

Non-Domestic Violence Against the Person (overseen by the Dorset CSP)**Summary of Activity:**

- Work with Public Health Dorset to better understand the issues associated with non-domestic violent crime
- Determine where alcohol is being purchased and ensure licenced premises are complying with their responsibilities
- Respond to emerging legislation on tackling serious violence and determine the implications for partnership working and individual agencies

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 Community Rehabilitation Company
- Dorset Clinical Commissioning Group

Other partners including the Dorset Association of Parish & Town Councils, the Dorset & Wiltshire Fire & Rescue Service and the Dorset Combined Youth Offending Service are also members of the CSP.

The Pan-Dorset Community Safety & Criminal Justice Board (CSCJB) was established by partners in 2016 to tackle strategic issues and work jointly on shared initiatives. Although statutory duties remain at the CSP level, some functions have been delegated to the CSCJB to deliver on the CSPs' behalf.

Find out more about the CSCJB here: [Pan Dorset Community Safety and Criminal Justice Board \(opens in a new window\)](#)

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.