

People & Health Overview Committee

21 September 2026

Dorset Community Safety Plan 2026-29

For Recommendation to Cabinet

Cabinet Member:

Cllr M Bell, Public Health, Prevention & Communities

Local Councillor(s): All

Senior Leadership Team:

S Crowe - Executive Director, Housing, Prevention and Communities

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Statutory Authority: Crime and Disorder Act 1998

Report status: Public (the exemption paragraph is N/A)

1. Executive summary

- 1.1 Dorset Council is under a legal duty to work with specific partners through the Dorset Community Safety Partnership (CSP) to identify and tackle community safety issues in its area.
- 1.2 CSPs are required to produce three-year community safety plans that are refreshed annually. It is a legal requirement for the plans to be formally adopted by the local authority for the area.
- 1.3 This report presents the latest Community Safety Plan covering the period 2026-2029 for adoption by Dorset Council.

2. Recommendation

- 2.1 That the People & Health Overview Committee recommend to Cabinet that the Community Safety Plan 2026-2029 be recommended to Dorset Council for adoption.

3. Reason for the recommendation(s)

- 3.1 To ensure Dorset Council meets its statutory duties as set out in relevant legislation.

4. Community Safety Plan 2026-2029

4.1 Dorset Council is under a legal duty to work with the following partners (responsible authorities) to identify and tackle community safety issues in its area:

- Dorset Police
- NHS Dorset
- Dorset & Wiltshire Fire & Rescue Authority
- Probation Service

4.2 It does this through the Dorset CSP, a statutory partnership under the Crime & Disorder Act 1998.

4.3 CSPs are required to produce three-year community safety plans that are refreshed annually. Community safety plans should be formally adopted by the local authority for the area. Adoption must be by Full Council.

4.4 The Dorset CSP and its community safety plan are co-terminous with the Dorset Council area (there is a separate CSP and plan for the Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole local authority area).

4.5 The Partnership's latest community safety plan is appended. It was agreed by partners at their CSP meeting on 18th June 2026.

4.6 The Plan sets out partners' priorities and how they will be tackled in broad terms based on an assessment of community safety issues in the area. The priorities included in the plan are:

- Domestic Abuse and Stalking
- Sexual Offences
- Serious Violence
- Anti-social Behaviour
- Rural Crime

4.7 They are complemented by the following cross cutting issues:

- Mental health
- Substance misuse
- Complex cases / multiple need
- Violence against women and girls
- Hate related crime

- 4.8 Including hate related crime as a cross cutting issue in the latest plan ensures partners respond to the prevalence and impact of issues and link with related areas of work including community cohesion and Preventing Violent Extremism.
- 4.9 The broad range of activity to address priorities set out in the Plan is complemented by more detailed delivery plans.
- 4.10 The CSP and Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC) are legally required to have regard to each other's priorities when setting their plans. The PCC's current Police & Crime Plan has been considered when writing the latest community safety plan.
- 4.11 The CSP is responsible for developing and delivering the community safety plan. The CSP is held to account for delivery of its statutory duties by Dorset Council's formal Crime & Disorder Committee (People & Health Scrutiny Committee).

5. Alternative options considered

- 5.1 Not applicable. It is a legal requirement for the statutory three year community safety plan to be formally adopted by the local authority.

6. Legal considerations

- 6.1 It is a legal requirement for CSPs to have three year community safety plans and for them to be formally adopted by the local authority.

7. Financial implications

- 7.1 The Dorset CSP does not receive funding directly, however partners' plans and strategies clarify where they will focus their time and effort and their broad activity to meet priorities.
- 7.2 Central government funding has been made available to partners to help deliver their duties relating to serious violence, which links to the Community Safety Plan.
- 7.3 Funding has also been made available to local authorities to deliver their duties relating to domestic abuse, which links to the Community Safety Plan.

8. Natural environment, climate & ecology implications

- 8.1 None.

9. Well-being and health implications

- 9.1 Tackling crime and the fear of crime has a significant impact on health and wellbeing.

10. Other implications

- 10.1 Community safety as set out in the report.

11. Risk implications

- 11.1 HAVING CONSIDERED: the risks associated with this decision; the level of risk has been identified as:

Current Risk: Low

Residual Risk: Low

12. Equalities

- 12.1 An EqIA has been completed in relation to the new Community Safety Plan. The EqIA helped identify several positive impacts on those with protected characteristics.

13. Appendices

- 13.1 Dorset Community Safety Plan 2026-2029

14. Background papers

- 14.1 None.

15. Report sign-off

- 15.1 This report has been through the internal report clearance process and has been signed off by the Director for Assurance & Governance (Monitoring Officer), the Executive Director for Corporate Development (Section 151 Officer) and the appropriate Portfolio Holder(s)